

## CITIES FACE THE FUTURE

Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire about your city, economic development, and the environment. As noted in our cover letter, your answers will be held in the strictest confidence.

If you would prefer to answer these questions online, please go to

**<Live URL Here>**

**Part I** *We start by asking some basic background questions about your organization.*

1. As no identifying information will be connected to this questionnaire, we need just a little bit of background information on your organization. First, could you check the description that best fits your organization? *Please check just one.*

Business association

Church or faith-based

Climate change

Other environmental

Nonprofit other than environmental

Labor union

Specific corporation

Neighborhood association

Other

2. In what city does your organization do most of its day-to-day work? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does your organization have members (defined as people or organizations that pay annual dues)?  Yes  No 3a. If yes, about how many? \_\_\_\_\_

3b. If yes, are these members:  Individuals  Organizations  Both

**Part II** *These questions concern policies and attitudes toward economic development and environmental protection.*

4. In every city there's always a lot of discussion about its economic climate. We know that cities differ considerably in the degree to which the city government tries to actively promote the growth and prosperity of the private sector.

*On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 indicating a strong commitment to promoting the private sector, and 1 indicating virtually no commitment to promoting the private sector, how would you rate your own city government? Please circle:*

*Level of commitment to promoting the private sector*

None  
1

Low  
2

Moderate  
3

High  
4

Very  
High  
5

5. One means that urban governments use to try to stimulate economic activity is to offer tax incentives to real estate developers or companies considering a move to or expansion within the city. Do you think your own city should rely more or less on this approach?

- We should increase the level of tax incentives for development
- We currently offer the right level of tax incentives for development
- We already offer too much in the way of tax incentives for development

6. Cities also vary considerably in their commitment to environmental protection. In your own estimation, how would you evaluate your local government's commitment to improving the natural environment of the city?

*Level of commitment to environmental protection*

|      |     |          |      |           |
|------|-----|----------|------|-----------|
| None | Low | Moderate | High | Very High |
| 1    | 2   | 3        | 4    | 5         |

7. We want to turn to another question about the environment, specifically *sustainability* and your city's level of commitment to balancing environmental degradation with environmental protection and improvement. Advocates of sustainability argue that we should meet the development needs of today's cities without compromising the needs of future generations. Thinking about all of the policies, programs, and initiatives of city government, how committed would you say your city is to this idea of sustainability?

*Level of commitment to sustainability*

|      |     |          |      |           |
|------|-----|----------|------|-----------|
| None | Low | Moderate | High | Very High |
| 1    | 2   | 3        | 4    | 5         |

8. It's sometimes the case that economic development and environmental protection come into conflict. Although each issue is unique in its own way, if you were to make a generalization about how city officials choose between competing visions of what is best for the city, how would you rate your local government?

*Please check the statement that comes closest to describing your city:*

- Strongly favors economic development
- Economic development somewhat more a priority
- Equal balance between economic development and environmental protection
- Environmental protection somewhat more a priority
- Strongly favors environmental protection

9. In recent years cities have been changing rapidly in terms of their local economies. Although new businesses emerge while older ones leave the city, they're not necessarily the same kinds of businesses. Today, what role do businesses play in city policymaking?

*Please check the statement that comes closest to describing your city:*

- Leaders from the business sector are highly involved in city policymaking
- Business is involved selectively on matters of importance to it
- Business is occasionally involved in city policymaking but its leadership role is clearly diminishing over time
- The business sector is generally not involved in city policymaking

10. To your knowledge, does your local government have a proposal or plan concerning how it will spend any economic stimulus funds received by the city from either the state or federal government?

- Yes       No       Don't know

10a. If you answered "yes" above, who was involved in formulating this plan? Please check any parts of city government and any nongovernmental organizations that were closely involved.

- Mayor       City council/commission       City administrators

- Business association
- Church or faith-based
- Climate change
- Other environmental
- Nonprofit other than environmental
- Labor union
- Specific corporation
- Neighborhood association
- Other

If you chose "other," please specify one that was most closely involved: \_\_\_\_\_

11. For each of these environmental problems, please indicate if you personally worry about it a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all.

|  | <i>Great Deal</i> | <i>Fair Amount</i> | <i>Only A little</i> | <i>Not At all</i> |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Pollution of drinking water                    | ___               | ___                | ___                  | ___               |
| Pollution of rivers, lakes and reservoirs      | ___               | ___                | ___                  | ___               |
| Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste | ___               | ___                | ___                  | ___               |
| Air pollution                                  | ___               | ___                | ___                  | ___               |
| The "greenhouse effect" or global warming      | ___               | ___                | ___                  | ___               |

**Part III** *We focus here on the relationship of city government to nongovernmental organizations.*

12. When you pick up the phone and call a city official, how likely is it that you'll either get through to that person or that your call will be returned?

- Almost always the case that I'll get through or my call will be returned
- Usually I'll get through or my call will be returned
- Usually I won't get through and my call won't be returned
- Almost never is it the case that I get through or my call is returned

13. When your city's government is formulating new policies, how would you describe that process? *Please check the statement that comes closest to capturing the process.*

- Policymaking is usually inclusive. Virtually all the stakeholders are brought into the process
- Sometimes the process is inclusive; other times participation by stakeholders is limited or nonexistent
- In most cases the process is closed to some stakeholders while open to other stakeholders who are favored by city officials
- The process is generally closed off to all stakeholders

14. In some cases contact with those in government comes about at the initiative of policymakers themselves. How often on average would you say that people in city government approach the executive director, staff, or members of the board of your organization to discuss matters of mutual interest?

- Never
- Once a month or less
- Two, three times a month
- Four or more times a month

**Part IV** *Our final set of questions concerns the policymaking process in city government along with some questions about your organization's capacity.*

15. Cities often mandate procedures designed to facilitate public involvement or citizen participation for economic development proposals, planning processes, or regulatory actions. Such programs vary greatly from agency to agency. Which of the following would you say generally characterizes such processes in most city agencies that try to facilitate public participation? *Check all that apply.*

- Slows everything down
- New information comes to light
- Privileges narrow interests over citywide interests
- Promotes compromise
- Favors the loudest, not the wisest
- Creates conflict
- Leads to thoughtful discussion/deliberation
- Creates learning process for participants

16. Considering all the nongovernmental organizations in your city who sometimes interact with government, which do you believe have the greatest influence with city policymakers? Please give us the specific names of up to three nongovernmental organizations. *No need to rank, any order is fine.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

17. Which of these sectors are most likely to be included in informal bargaining and negotiation with city officials? In situations where officials call in organizations to discuss project or program planning on economic development and/or environmental protection, who would they include?

|                                    | <i>Very Likely<br/>To Include</i> | <i>Maybe/<br/>Maybe Not</i> | <i>Not Very Likely<br/>To Include</i> | <i>Don't<br/>Know</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Business associations              | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |
| Climate change organizations       | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |
| Other environmental groups         | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |
| Nonprofit other than environmental | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |
| Church or faith-based              | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |
| Specific corporations/businesses   | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |
| Labor unions                       | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |
| Neighborhood associations          | ___                               | ___                         | ___                                   | ___                   |

18. Does your organization have any paid staff, or is it run entirely by volunteers?

\_\_\_All volunteers    \_\_\_Some or all paid staff

18a. If there is a paid staff, about how many are full time? \_\_\_

19. Is your organization part of a larger statewide or national organization?

\_\_\_Yes    \_\_\_No

19a. If you answered yes to the question above, do you receive any tangible support from the statewide or national organization? *Please check all types of such support that your local organization receives:*

- \_\_\_Direct financial support
- \_\_\_Employee training
- \_\_\_Joint fundraising
- \_\_\_Help in mobilizing members or supporters for advocacy campaigns
- \_\_\_Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

20. How would you evaluate the capacity of your organization to conduct issue research? 1 indicates your organization has no capacity to conduct research, while 5 denotes a very high capacity. Please circle.

|      |     |          |      |           |
|------|-----|----------|------|-----------|
| None | Low | Moderate | High | Very High |
| 1    | 2   | 3        | 4    | 5         |

21. Sometimes organizations working in civic affairs find themselves reacting to something government or another nongovernmental organization is proposing. Other times civic organizations like yours are working on a matter they've initiated. If you divided your organization's work into just these two categories, what are the relative proportions of time devoted to each? (A precise figure isn't necessary; a rough estimate is fine.)

Percent

\_\_\_ % of time working on issues initiated by the city or other organization

\_\_\_ % of time working on issues initiated by your group

Total 100 %

22. What is the approximate level of your organization's annual budget?

\_\_\_ Less than \$1,000

\_\_\_ \$1,000 to \$5,000

\_\_\_ \$5,000 to \$25,000

\_\_\_ \$25,000 to \$100,000

\_\_\_ More than \$100,000

23. Earlier we asked what city your organization primarily works in. Are there other cities in the metropolitan area that you work in at a significant level?

\_\_\_ No, our organization generally restricts itself to the one city identified earlier

\_\_\_ Yes, our organization works in other cities

23a. If you work in other cities, could you identify them? Please list up to three.

City 1. \_\_\_\_\_

City 2. \_\_\_\_\_

City 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!**

Please return this questionnaire to:

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