



Commissioners Office

4430 S. Adams County Parkway
5th Floor, Suite C5000A
Brighton, CO 80601-8204

phone 720.523.6100
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www.adcogov.org

Gil Reyes

Assessor

Karen Long

County Clerk / Recorder

Monica Broncucia-Jordan

Coroner

W.R. "Skip" Fischer

County Commissioner District 1

Alice J. Nichol

County Commissioner District 2

Erik Hansen

County Commissioner District 3

Don Quick

District Attorney

Carol Snyder

Public Trustee

Douglas N. Darr

Sheriff

Tim Thoms

Surveyor

Brigitte Grimm

Treasurer

Dear Adams County Resident:

We want to hear from you! We are conducting an Adams County Quality of Life Survey as part of the Open Adams strategic plan. Your opinions are crucial and will help us determine the direction to take in improving your county government and our community's quality of life.

Your household was randomly selected to receive this survey. We would also like to **randomly** choose an adult **within** the household to complete the survey. We ask that the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. The year of birth of the adult does not matter. This may sound strange, but it really does work to randomize who participates in the survey.

Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to National Research Center, Inc., the independent organization conducting this survey. Your answers are completely confidential and will be reported in group form only.

If you would prefer, you can complete the survey on the internet at:

www.n-r-c.com/survey/AdamsCounty.htm

If you choose to do the survey online, you will have to enter an access code. This code is printed on the top of this letter.

Thank you very much for taking a little time to share your thoughts and opinions. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Kristin Sullivan, Planning Manager in the Adams County Planning and Development Department at 720-523-6857 or KSullivan@adcogov.org.

You can learn more about Open Adams at the website:

www.adcogov.org/openadams

In addition to providing ongoing information about the project, the survey results will be posted there.

Sincerely,

W.R. "Skip" Fischer, *Chair of the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of all the elected officials, appointed officials, and department directors of Adams County*

¡Queremos oír de usted! Su hogar se ha seleccionado aleatoriamente para participar en la encuesta sobre la calidad de vida en el Condado de Adams. Si usted no puede terminar el examen incluido en inglés, por favor obtenga ayuda de un amigo o amiga, o de algún miembro de su familia. Después de llenar la encuesta devuelva la encuesta en el sobre que está incluido. Usted puede también tomar el examen en el internet en español. Vaya a www.n-r-c.com/survey/AdamsEspanol.htm

O usted puede también llamar al 720-523-6857 y pedir que un examen español sea enviado a usted. ¡Gracias!

Spring 2012



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Dear Adams County Resident:

About a week ago we sent you this survey that asks for your opinion about quality of life in Adams County. If you have already completed the survey and returned it, we thank you and ask you to disregard this letter. Please do not complete the survey a second time. If you haven't had a chance to get to the survey, we ask you to spend a few moments to complete it now. Your point of view is very important to us.

We want to hear from you! We are conducting an Adams County Quality of Life Survey as part of the Open Adams strategic plan. Your opinions are crucial and will help us determine the direction to take in improving your county government and our community's quality of life.

Your household was randomly selected to receive this survey. We would also like to **randomly** choose an adult **within** the household to complete the survey. We ask that the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. The year of birth of the adult does not matter. This may sound strange, but it really does work to randomize who participates in the survey.

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¡Queremos oír de usted! Su hogar se ha seleccionado aleatoriamente para participar en la encuesta sobre la calidad de vida en el Condado de Adams. Si usted no puede terminar el examen incluido en inglés, por favor obtenga ayuda de un amigo o amiga, o de algún miembro de su familia. Después de llenar la encuesta devuelva la encuesta en el sobre que esta incluido. Usted puede también tomar el examen en el internet en español. Vaya a

www.n-r-c.com/survey/AdamsEspanol.htm

O usted puede también llamar al 720-523-6857 y pedir que un examen español sea enviado a usted. ¡Gracias!

Adams County Quality of Life Survey

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Adams County:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Adams County as a place to live	1	2	3	4	5
Your neighborhood as a place to live	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County as a place to raise children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County as a place to work	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County as a place to start and/or operate a business	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County as a place to retire	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of life in Adams County	1	2	3	4	5

2. What do you like best about living in Adams County? _____

3. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Adams County as a whole:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Sense of personal safety	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency response times (fire, ambulance, sheriff, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Adams County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in unincorporated Adams County	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Adams County..	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation or enjoy nature.....	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Educational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of car travel in Adams County	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of bus travel in Adams County	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic flow on major streets	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality child care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of recycling services	1	2	3	4	5
Drinking water quality.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Adams County	1	2	3	4	5

4. How prepared are you and your household for a disaster or emergency (e.g., flood, tornado, blizzard, etc.)?

- Very prepared
 Somewhat prepared
 A little bit prepared
 Not at all prepared

5. To what degree, if at all, are each of the following a problem in Adams County?

	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Moderate problem</u>	<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles	1	2	3	4	5
Graffiti.....	1	2	3	4	5
Violent crime (e.g., sexual assault, robbery)	1	2	3	4	5
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	1	2	3	4	5
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste	1	2	3	4	5
Weeds and other noxious or invasive plants in open lands	1	2	3	4	5
Child abuse and neglect.....	1	2	3	4	5
Neglect, exploitation or mistreatment of at-risk adults	1	2	3	4	5

Adams County Quality of Life Survey

6. How well is Adams County retaining existing businesses and attracting new businesses?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Don't Know
 It is not the job of Adams County to retain and attract businesses

7. What kinds of jobs would you like to see remain or grow in Adams County? (Select all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Arts, entertainment and recreation | <input type="radio"/> Healthcare | <input type="radio"/> Professional and business services |
| <input type="radio"/> Construction | <input type="radio"/> Leisure and hospitality | <input type="radio"/> Real estate |
| <input type="radio"/> Education | <input type="radio"/> Information technology | <input type="radio"/> Retail |
| <input type="radio"/> Financial services and banking | <input type="radio"/> Manufacturing | <input type="radio"/> Transportation |
| <input type="radio"/> Government | <input type="radio"/> Media | <input type="radio"/> Utilities |
| <input type="radio"/> Other _____ | | |

8. Please tell us where most future development in Adams County should be located. (Please check only one.)

- Within already developed communities with available buildings or unused land
 On open land at the edges of existing cities and towns
 On rural land

9. What type of new development density would you be most interested in seeing in unincorporated Adams County?

- Housing should be on larger lots and buildings should be spread out, similar to the “typical” suburban neighborhoods and shopping areas
 Residential and commercial development should be more dense, and close to each other, making it easier to walk from place to place
 Housing and commercial development on very large lots within rural areas

10. Do you think the costs of new development should be paid for by the residents of new development, or should the county use general taxes to assist with the development?

- Development should pay for itself
 General county tax dollars should fund development
 Some of the costs for development should be paid by general county taxes
 Don't know

11. Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by other agencies (i.e., special districts and metro districts), not by Adams County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know or Not applicable</u>
Public school districts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fire services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Water and sanitation services	1	2	3	4	5
Street and drainage maintenance services	1	2	3	4	5
Library services	1	2	3	4	5
Park and recreation services	1	2	3	4	5

Adams County Quality of Life Survey

12. Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Adams County:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know or Not applicable</u>
a. Adams County open space, parks and trails system	1	2	3	4	5
b. Animal Shelter / Adoption Center	1	2	3	4	5
c. Building permits and inspections.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. Collection of property taxes.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. Community development (build the capacity of citizen groups and community organizations so they may enhance the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of our communities).....	1	2	3	4	5
f. County courts.....	1	2	3	4	5
g. Development standards and regulations (sets standards and regulations for the unincorporated areas of the county to guide development to protect and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the county).....	1	2	3	4	5
h. Drainage and storm sewer infrastructure (adequate to handle storm events and prevent flooding) in unincorporated Adams County	1	2	3	4	5
i. Economic development (identify and encourage investments by businesses, creating new jobs).....	1	2	3	4	5
j. Elections and voter registrations	1	2	3	4	5
k. Emergency management (coordinates the efforts in coping with emergencies, disasters and terrorist threats by preparing, responding, recovering and mitigating incidents).....	1	2	3	4	5
l. Employment assistance programs through the Workforce & Business Center.	1	2	3	4	5
m. Enforcement of county codes, ordinances and regulations (building codes, zoning and development regulations, Blight Ordinance enforcement for the removal of junk and weeds, graffiti removal)	1	2	3	4	5
n. Housing assistance services (emergency housing, rental assistance, down payment assistance for first-time home buyers, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
o. Long range planning (administers and updates the Comprehensive Long Range Plan, coordinates with both local and regional stakeholders in planning for the current and future needs of the county).....	1	2	3	4	5
p. Motor vehicle registration.....	1	2	3	4	5
q. Online (internet) property lookup	1	2	3	4	5
r. Public records and documents searches	1	2	3	4	5
s. Roadway maintenance of paved and graveled roads in unincorporated Adams County	1	2	3	4	5
t. Services provided to financially challenged families, programs like Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Military Assistance Program, Food Assistance (SNAP/Food Stamps), etc.....	1	2	3	4	5
u. Services provided to protect children suspected of being abused or neglected.....	1	2	3	4	5
v. Services provided to vulnerable adults suspected of being abused or neglected	1	2	3	4	5
w. Sheriff services	1	2	3	4	5
x. Snow and ice removal in unincorporated Adams County.....	1	2	3	4	5
y. Traffic control (street lights, signs, etc.) in unincorporated Adams County...	1	2	3	4	5

13. Looking at the services in Question 12, which FIVE (5) services do you think are MOST important for maintaining and improving the quality of life in Adams County? (Please write in the appropriate letter(s) for the services below.)

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

14. Looking at the services in Question 12, which FIVE (5) services do you think are LEAST important for maintaining and improving the quality of life in Adams County? (Please write in the appropriate letter(s) for the services below.)

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

Adams County Quality of Life Survey

15. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by Adams County?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Don't Know

16. How would you rate the value of services you receive from Adams County for the taxes paid?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Don't Know

17. How informed would you say you are about the job Adams County government is doing?

- Very well informed
 Informed
 Somewhat informed
 Hardly informed at all
 Don't Know

18. How much of the time do you think you can trust Adams County government to do what is right?

- Always
 Most of the time
 Only some of the time
 Almost never
 Never
 Don't Know

19. Overall, how would you rate the overall direction that Adams County is taking?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Don't Know

20. Have you had any in-person, phone or email contact with an Adams County employee, regardless of department or office, within the last 12 months (including sheriff, receptionists, planners, engineers or any others)?

- No → Go to Question 22
 Yes → Go to Question 21

21. What was your impression of the Adams County employee in your most recent contact?

(Rate each characteristic below.)

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Knowledge.....	1	2	3	4	5
Responsiveness.....	1	2	3	4	5
Respectfulness.....	1	2	3	4	5
Courtesy.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall impression.....	1	2	3	4	5

22. Pretend for a moment that you are responsible for making decisions about service provisions in Adams County that require difficult trade-offs. Now say you have a total of 100 "importance" points that you can distribute among 6 service categories. Please give each category the number of points you think it deserves based on how important you think this is to the quality of community life in Adams County. The most important category should receive the largest number of points. (You must use all but not more than 100 points. You do not have to give points to every category. In fact, if you would like to assign all of the points to 1, 2 or 3 categories and 0 points to all of the others, you may do so).

Community Services (includes development review, including long-range planning, fostering public / private partnerships, code enforcement, sustainability efforts to save taxpayer dollars and reduce the county's impact on the environment, funds to help rehab a home or business, public health services including immunization clinics, mosquito control, open space, parks, trails, etc.)..... _____ points

Economic Development (includes attracting and retaining businesses and jobs) _____ points

Human Services (includes unemployment assistance, workforce training, child protection, adult protection, services for financially challenged families, Head Start, etc.)..... _____ points

Law Enforcement (includes Sheriff patrol, crime prevention, jail, District Attorney, prosecution, courts, etc.) _____ points

Public Services (includes maintaining official public records, Clerk and Recorder functions such as marriage licenses, elections, Assessor's valuation of property, Coroner, Treasurer, etc.) _____ points

Transportation Infrastructure (includes maintenance and construction of roads, bridges, drainage systems; snow removal, sidewalk construction, etc.)..... _____ points

TOTAL..... 100 points

Adams County Quality of Life Survey

23. Please rate how well Adams County is currently doing in each of the following areas:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Welcoming resident involvement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being responsive to residents	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	1	2	3	4	5
Informing residents about issues facing the community	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility of elected officials	1	2	3	4	5
Being open and transparent to the public	1	2	3	4	5
Giving residents a chance to express their views before making decisions... 1	2	3	4	5	
Being honest	1	2	3	4	5
Treating residents with fairness and respect.....	1	2	3	4	5

24. How familiar are you with the Open Adams reform measures that Adams County is undertaking?

- Very familiar
 Somewhat familiar
 A little bit familiar
 Not at all familiar

25. In general, how well do you think Adams County is doing on implementing the reform measures?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Don't Know

26. Thinking of how you currently get information about events or issues, how likely would you be to obtain information about Adams County like public hearings, community meetings, upcoming programs and events like the fair or rodeo, etc. in the following formats?

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>A little bit likely</u>	<u>Not at all likely</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Adams County Annual Budget.....	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County Annual Report	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County Facebook site (www.facebook.com/AdamsCounty)	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County Twitter site (twitter.com/adams_county_co).....	1	2	3	4	5
Adams County website (www.adcogov.org).....	1	2	3	4	5
Emails from Adams County	1	2	3	4	5
Information provided at county facilities (e.g., the county government building, the fairgrounds, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Listserves (where you sign up to be part of a group receiving e-mails from the county)	1	2	3	4	5
Web blogs.....	1	2	3	4	5
Local press (e.g., television news, radio news, local newspapers, online versions of any of these)	1	2	3	4	5
Mailings to your home address.....	1	2	3	4	5
Community newsletters with information about Adams County	1	2	3	4	5
Word of mouth (from family, friends, or neighbors, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Are there any other ways you would like to receive information? _____					

27. Were you looking for work at any time during the last 2 years?

- No → Go to Question 29
 Yes → Go to Question 28

28. Did you use any of the job seeker services at the Adams County Workforce & Business Center?

- No → Why not?
 - Didn't know about them
 - Didn't think they would help me
 - Too difficult to access
 - Other _____
- Yes → How would you rate the quality of the services provided?
 - Excellent
 - Good
 - Fair
 - Poor

Adams County Quality of Life Survey

29. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make about quality of life in Adams County, or the way the county government operates or delivers services? (If you need more space, you can enclose your comments on separate paper, write on the back page of the questionnaire, or go to www.n-r-c.com/survey/AdCoComments.htm)

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely confidential and will be reported in group form only.

30. How many years have you lived in Adams County? _____ years

31. Which best describes where you currently live?

- An urban area A small town
 A suburban area A rural area

32. Do you rent or own your home?

- Rent Own

33. Do any children age 17 or younger live in your household?

- Yes No

34. Do you own a business in Adams County?

- Yes No

35. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the 2012? (Please include total income from all sources and all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$24,999
 \$25,000 to \$49,999
 \$50,000 to \$99,999
 \$100,000 to \$149,999
 \$150,000 or more

36. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

- Yes No

37. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan native
 Asian or Pacific Islander
 Black, African American
 White/Caucasian
 Other

38. How much education have you completed?

- 0-11 years
 High school graduate
 Some college, no degree
 Associate degree
 Bachelor degree
 Graduate or professional degree

39. What is your gender?

- Male Female

40. In which category is your age?

- 18-24 years 55-64 years
 25-34 years 65-74 years
 35-44 years 75 years or older
 45-54 years

41. Later this summer, Adams County will be conducting several focus group discussions about the direction the county should take in improving county government and our community's quality of life. If you would be interested in participating in one of these discussions, please provide your name (first or last name only is fine), and a phone number and/or email where we can contact you to invite you to the focus group discussion. Your information will remain completely confidential, and will only be used for the purpose of contacting you for these group discussions.

Name (First and/or Last) _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Your opinions and feedback are appreciated. Please return this survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to: National Research Center, Inc.; PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502

Adams County Mission, Vision, Values and Goals

The Adams County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in public hearing on Jan. 18, 2012, adopting the new Adams County Mission, Vision, Values and Goals as the framework by which the county operates and delivers services to the taxpayers and residents of Adams County.

MISSION

To responsibly serve the Adams County community with integrity and innovation.

VISION

To provide our community a safe, healthy environment to work, raise families and build businesses.

VALUES

A Positive Work Environment

We are committed to providing a respectful, professional work environment that will attract, retain and motivate a workforce that effectively and efficiently serves the Adams County community

Servant Leadership

We are committed to serving the Adams County community with accountability and responsibility

Teamwork

We are committed to working together on behalf of the Adams County community

Transparency

We are committed to engaging in open, honest and respectful practices and communication

Credibility

We are committed to earning the trust and respect of the Adams County community by acting with integrity and ethics in all we do

GOALS

Prosperity

Provide opportunity for economic growth, while respecting Adams County's important natural resources

Customer Service

Provide prompt, courteous, high-quality and cost-effective services, while continuously striving to improve our service delivery

Community

Work to build effective relationships within the community to assist in the pursuit of a high quality of life