

**Town of Newcomb Community Survey  
Year Round Residents Responses  
97 Total Responses**

**1. How important are each of the following factors in your decision to live or own property in the Town of Newcomb? (Please rate each factor by checking the appropriate box).**

	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Too Important</b>	<b>Not At All Important</b>
a. Born or raised in Newcomb	<b>24/27.6%</b>	<b>10/11.5%</b>	<b>12/13.8%</b>	<b>41/47.1%</b>
b. Good schools	<b>66/68.8%</b>	<b>24/25.0%</b>	<b>0/0%</b>	<b>6/6.3%</b>
c. Good Town services	<b>72/77.4%</b>	<b>14/15.1%</b>	<b>3/3.2%</b>	<b>4/4.3%</b>
d. Reasonable taxes	<b>81/85.3%</b>	<b>8/8.4%</b>	<b>3/3.2%</b>	<b>3/3.2%</b>
e. Affordable housing	<b>57/60%</b>	<b>21/22.1%</b>	<b>6/6.3%</b>	<b>11/11.6%</b>
f. Housing selection/quality	<b>40/44.4%</b>	<b>36/40%</b>	<b>4/4.4%</b>	<b>10/11.1%</b>
g. Safe community	<b>86/90.1%</b>	<b>7/7.4%</b>	<b>0/0%</b>	<b>2/2.1%</b>
h. Proximity to job	<b>42/47.2%</b>	<b>24/27.0%</b>	<b>4/4.5%</b>	<b>19/21.3%</b>
i. Proximity to friends and family	<b>32/38.6%</b>	<b>33/39.8%</b>	<b>14/16.9%</b>	<b>4/4.8%</b>
j. Peace and quiet	<b>65/69.9%</b>	<b>22/23.7%</b>	<b>2/2.2%</b>	<b>4/4.3%</b>
k. Recreation opportunities	<b>49/53.8%</b>	<b>30/33.0%</b>	<b>8/8.8%</b>	<b>4/4.4%</b>
l. Natural beauty	<b>71/74.7%</b>	<b>17/17.9%</b>	<b>4/4.2%</b>	<b>3/3.2%</b>

**2. On the whole, how would you rate the overall quality of life in Newcomb?**

Excellent      27/29.3%  
 Good            52/56.5%  
 Fair             10/10.9%  
 Poor             3/3.3%

**3. On the whole, how is the overall quality of life in Newcomb changing?**

It is improving                      6/6.6%  
 It is staying about the same      33/36.3%  
 It is declining                        52/57.1%  
 No opinion                              0/0%

**3a. Please add reasons for your response to question 3.**

**Positive Responses**

EMT/health center medical services are good (5)  
 The golf course is a plus (3)  
 Senior programs/services are good (2)  
 Fire department is good  
 School is improving  
 There are many things to do in town  
 Summer youth program is good

Basic needs are met  
Dependence on volunteers has been consistent  
TNC lands will initiate economic growth

### **Negative Responses**

No jobs (15)  
No gas station (14)  
No restaurant/diner/coffee shop (10)  
Worried about possibility of losing school (8)  
No services/stores (6)  
Declining population with few services/no reason for youth to stay = fewer jobs = spiral of decline (6)  
No growth in jobs/services/residents (5)  
No grocery (5)  
No young adults/families (5)  
No businesses (4)  
Aging population (4)  
School system not as good as it used to be (3)  
Golf course is not important to the Town/a minus due to taxpayer support (2)  
No motel/inn/lodge (2)  
Declining population (2)  
Not much to do (2)  
Less participation in community events/projects  
Do not bring agencies for children at risk because of safety concerns  
Second home development brings tax dollars but adversely affects the Town as a whole. It does not allow the Town to be a viable year-round community.  
Losing permanent residents to second home growth doesn't help.  
Fewer year round residents  
Poor road to State campsite  
Finch Pruyn sale curtails snowmobile/ATV access  
No place for a cup of coffee  
Town government stinks  
Winters are too long  
More people means more crime, junkies, retards, pollution, noise, log trucks, buildings and minorities  
Infighting among organizations such as fire department  
Out-of-towners move to town and have too much influence/change things (2)  
Need more laxity on State land  
Town should plow driveways  
Poor water quality  
Little incentive to change things  
Roads in bad shape  
Need cell tower  
Fix up historical sites  
Rising taxes  
Water and sewer in bad shape  
Same people are on every committee/organization

### **Neutral responses**

B & Bs are important to the Town

## **4. Where applicable, how would you rate the following facilities and services?**

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>More Than Satisfactory</b>	<b>Less Than Satisfactory</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>No Opinion or N/A</b>
a. Town government	<b>24/24.7%</b>	<b>45/46.4%</b>	<b>17/17.5%</b>	<b>5/5.2%</b>	<b>6/6.2%</b>
b. Road maintenance	<b>11/11.7%</b>	<b>48/51.1%</b>	<b>28/29.8%</b>	<b>7/7.4%</b>	<b>0/0%</b>
c. Snow plowing	<b>26/28.0%</b>	<b>41/44.1%</b>	<b>19/20.4%</b>	<b>6/6.5%</b>	<b>1/1.1%</b>
d. Police protection	<b>5/5.6%</b>	<b>23/27.4%</b>	<b>29/34.5%</b>	<b>10/11.9%</b>	<b>17/20.2%</b>
e. Fire protection	<b>30/33%</b>	<b>49/53.8%</b>	<b>7/7.6%</b>	<b>3/3.3%</b>	<b>2/2.2%</b>
f. Emergency services	<b>39/42.4%</b>	<b>40/43.5%</b>	<b>9/9.8%</b>	<b>3/3.3%</b>	<b>1/1.1%</b>
g. Health services	<b>42/46.2%</b>	<b>36/39.6%</b>	<b>9/9.9%</b>	<b>0/0%</b>	<b>4/4.4%</b>
h. Municipal water/sewer	<b>6/6.7%</b>	<b>13/14.6%</b>	<b>16/18.0%</b>	<b>16/18.0%</b>	<b>38/42.7%</b>
i. Town park and recreation facilities	<b>41/44.1%</b>	<b>46/49.5%</b>	<b>3/3.2%</b>	<b>1/1.1%</b>	<b>2/2.2%</b>
j. Code enforcement	<b>17/19.1%</b>	<b>45/50.1%</b>	<b>10/11.2%</b>	<b>5/5.6%</b>	<b>12/13.5%</b>
k. Schools	<b>38/41.3%</b>	<b>36/39.1%</b>	<b>4/4.3%</b>	<b>5/5.4%</b>	<b>9/9.8%</b>
l. Senior services/activities	<b>35/37.6%</b>	<b>36/38.7%</b>	<b>3/3.2%</b>	<b>1/1.1%</b>	<b>18/19.4%</b>
m. Youth services/activities	<b>30/33.3%</b>	<b>41/45.6%</b>	<b>9/10%</b>	<b>2/2.2%</b>	<b>8/8.9%</b>
n. Commercial/Retail services	<b>3/3.4%</b>	<b>2/2.2%</b>	<b>30/33.7%</b>	<b>47/52.8%</b>	<b>7/7.9%</b>
o. Job opportunities	<b>0/0%</b>	<b>1/1.1%</b>	<b>28/30.4%</b>	<b>55/59.8%</b>	<b>8/8.7%</b>
p. Transfer Station	<b>24/27%</b>	<b>50/56.2%</b>	<b>6/6.7%</b>	<b>2/2.2%</b>	<b>7/7.9%</b>

**4a. Please add reasons for any of your responses to question 4.**

Need jobs (not retirees) (6)  
 Need businesses (4)  
 Bad roads to Goodnow Flow, state campsite and elsewhere (3)  
 No commercial/retail services (2)  
 Need (metered) water and sewer throughout the Town (2)  
 Highway Superintendent should not use truck for personal use (2)  
 Code enforcement should be uniform throughout Town/Town does not enforce codes (2)  
 Water/sewer maintenance inadequate (2)  
 Town government does not communicate/is poor (2)  
 Resurface and repair roads (2)  
 Roads not plowed until too late (in the day)/plow earlier (2)  
 Enforce and expand recycling (2)  
 Dump/Transfer Station is poorly run, especially with respect to recycling (2)  
 No restaurant  
 No gas station  
 No grocery  
 Water system not good  
 Spend money on water/sewer, not golf  
 Reduce and enforce speed limit on Rt. 28N  
 Make Town Supervisor part time  
 School is good  
 Health services are good

No snow plowing after 10 p.m.  
 Lack of emergency services is a good trade-off for remoteness; the local crews do a good job  
 Senior services such as bus, meals, medical and emergency response are good  
 More people would improve the Town  
 Lack of youth activities  
 No place to put snow  
 Need to make Town more attractive to those passing by  
 Plant trees in Town Hall, fire department and salt shed areas  
 Need to look at the value of small classes; exchange students will not change social isolation  
 Town gives jobs to relatives  
 Town Board not visionary  
 Little police presence  
 Limited opportunities for young people to move to Town

### 5. What do you like most about living in Newcomb?

Peace and quiet (31)	Church
Friendly/Nice/Caring people (29)	Less government interference
Beauty (21)	Affordable
Safe (13)	Reasonable travel distance to family
Low/reasonable taxes (12)	Change of seasons
(Outdoor) Recreational opportunities (10)	No tornados or hurricanes
Small town atmosphere/life (4)	Santanoni
Good school (4)	Services
Golf course (3)	Lots to do
Nature/Environment (2)	Snow-related activities
Wildlife (2)	Little traffic
Family (2)	Youth program
VIC (2)	Small population
Sense of community	Remote
Fishing	Senior services
Job is here	Slow life style
Close to my job	Fresh air
ATV opportunities	Town beach
Adirondacks	Lakes

### 6. What do you like least about living in Newcomb?

Distance to everything (35)	Lack of community involvement
No gas station (27)	Lack of economic base to create jobs and services
No stores/services (13)	Old time customs and traditions change
No diner/restaurant (12)	"We don't want to change" mentality
No grocery (11)	Kids could be more welcoming of international and new kids
Lack of jobs (5)	Few cultural events
Black flies (5)	School system
Snow/winter too long (4)	No library
Young adults cannot stay and raise a family (3)	No police
No cell phone service (3)	Location of salt shed
Condition of golf course (2)	Look of Town around Town Hall and Fire Department
Small Town gossip (2)	Unkempt properties
Possibility of negative impact to Town by possible change in industry	Inadequate snow plowing
Attracting businesses might change ambience of Town	Road to Goodnow Flow
Declining population does not support a vision for future	Town jobs are given to retired people to avoid paying benefits

Favoritism in hiring of Town employees  
 Too many people  
 Traffic  
 Too many airplanes  
 High prices at store  
 Not enough to do

Lack of diversity  
 Close minded mentality  
 Lack of social places  
 Town should offer free land and tax abatements to attract businesses

**7. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements. (Please mark only one response for each statement).**

<b>The Town of Newcomb Should Try to Attract the Following:</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
a. Small commercial businesses	70/75.3%	18/19.4%	1/1.1%	3/3.2%	1/1.1%
b. Forest product industries	40/43.5%	39/42.4%	5/5.4%	6/6.5%	2/2.2%
c. Mining industries	17/20%	29/34.1%	15/17.6%	13/15.3%	11/12.9%
d. Agriculture	15/17.2%	29/33.3%	19/21.8%	7/8.0%	17/19.5%
e. Year-round residents	58/62.4%	27/29.0%	1/1.1%	3/3.2%	4/4.3%
f. Seasonal residents	20/23.5%	32/37.6%	16/18.8%	8/9.4%	9/10.6%
f. Hikers, campers and paddlers	43/47.3%	40/44%	2/2.2%	3/3.3%	3/3.3%
g. Historic and cultural resource facilities and tourists	41/45.1%	40/44%	4/4.4%	1/1.1%	5/5.5%
h. Tourists interested in nature/natural beauty	44/49.4%	37/41.6%	5/5.6%	1/1.1%	2/2.2%
i. Recreation facilities	38/43.2%	41/46.6%	5/5.7%	1/1.1%	3/3.4%
j. Senior housing/facilities	51/55.4%	33/35.9%	4/4.3%	1/1.1%	3/3.3%
k. Youth facilities	32/36.4%	40/45.5%	6/6.8%	2/2.3%	8/9.1%
l. Health care facilities	40/46.5%	38/44.2%	3/3.5%	1/1.2%	4/4.7%
l. Affordable housing	45/51.7%	31/35.6%	3/3.4%	4/4.6%	4/4.6%
m. Telecommunications infrastructure	58/65.2%	25/28.1%	2/2.2%	3/3.4%	1/1.1%

**8. In regards to economic growth and the environment, please circle the number that is closest to your point of view:**

**Protecting the environment should be given priority, even if it causes slower economic growth and some loss of jobs.**

**Economic growth and creating jobs should be the top priority even if the environment suffers to some extent.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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9

**Average = 6.44**

**9. Of the following, what are the three most important issues facing Newcomb Over the next ten years? (Please mark no more than three).**

Lack of job opportunities	56
Declining population	49
Maintaining a viable school	46
Lack of Commercial Services	36
Rising taxes	30
Loss of Tax Base	16
Lack of telecommunications infrastructure	12
Lack of water/sewer infrastructure	7
Loss of open space	4
Development/Overdevelopment	4
Lack of housing/cost of housing	3
Lack of Senior Services/Facilities	1
Adequacy of parks and recreation facilities	0
Lack of Youth Services/Facilities	0
Other(s) – Please indicate the issue(s) in the space below	

Lack of gas station  
Lack of restaurant  
Don't want 18-hole golf course  
A company to hire young people  
Be more diligent with taxpayer money

**10. What kind of new commercial, municipal, social, recreational or educational facilities would you like to see located in the Town?**

Gas station (44)  
Restaurant/Diner (34)  
Grocery (14)  
Convenience store/Stewarts (9)  
Stores/shops (6)  
Small businesses (4)  
Motel/Inn/B&B lodging (4)  
Senior housing (3)  
YMCA (2)  
Deli (2)  
Museum (2)  
Hardware (2)  
Prison (2)  
Student dorms (2)  
More snowmobile trails (connector trail to Long Lake) (2)  
Community Center  
Farm stand  
Gift/craft shop  
Library  
Bank open five days/week  
Clothing store  
Non-traditional WWT  
Farm community  
Make the Santanoni Farm a seasonal working farm  
Develop Santanoni and Upper Works into cultural showpieces  
Get Santanoni into compliance with the ADA  
College courses  
Cell phone service  
Industrial park with pre-constructed building

Light or green industry  
 Youth facility  
 More students for school  
 Power plant – wind mills  
 Teen Challenge  
 Not Teen Challenge  
 Teen center  
 Nano-chip factory  
 Casino  
 Cabelas  
 Mental health facility  
 Scoops reopened  
 Pellet factory  
 ESF conference center  
 ESF/DEC master project  
 Affordable rental units (not senior housing)  
 Anything clean that does not impact the environment  
 Something that creates jobs like a wood chip plant or a bottle plant  
 Mountain bike trails  
 Cross country ski trails  
 Promote hiking/x-c skiing destinations  
 Develop school auditorium as a cultural establishment for the region  
 Community recreation center with pool  
 Cultural events

## 11. Demographics

a. Are you a: 97 Year Round Resident 0 Seasonal Resident 0 Landowner

b. Do you own or rent your home? 95 Own 2 Rent

c. If you rent, would you like to own a house in Newcomb? 1 Yes 1 No

d. If a year-round resident, how long have you lived in the Town? Average tenure = 31 Years

e. If a year-round resident, were you previously a seasonal resident, and if so, for how long?  
 46 Never a seasonal resident 20 were seasonal residents for an average of 17 years

f. If a seasonal resident, how long have you lived seasonally in the Town? N/A Years

g. If a seasonal resident, would you like to live in Newcomb year-round? N/A \_\_\_\_Yes  
 \_\_\_\_No

h. If you answered yes to question 11.g, what would it take for you to move to Newcomb?  
 N/A

h. How many people live in your household? 2.14 = average household size. Average number of persons Under 18 = 0.33/household. 22% were one person households.

i. What is your current work status?

Work Full Time 38/40.4%  
 Retired 36/38.3%  
 Work part time 16/17.0%

Unemployed	2/2.1%
Disabled	1/1.1%
Other	1/1.1%
Student	0/0%

j. If employed, where do you work?

Private employer	13/24.1%
Town government	12/22.2%
State government	11/20.4%
Self-employed	11/20.4%
Newcomb CSD	7/13.0%

k. About how far do you travel to work?

0-5 miles	30/57.7%
>40 miles	11/21.2%
5-20 miles	9/17.3%
20-40 miles	2/3.8%

l. What is your age?

65-75	26/28.9%
55-64	21/23.3%
45-64	20/22.2%
75-84	12/13.3%
35-44	9/10%
85 or over	2/2.2%
Under 18	0
18-25	0
26-34	0

**12. Please provide any other comments and suggestions below or on another sheet of paper.**

We love Newcomb (2)

We need jobs (2)

Classify the Hudson River Gorge as a wilderness area (2)

The Town should embrace new/futuristic technologies to demonstrate how we can live in harmony with the environment. Sell the Town as a green, low tech place

Encourage recycling

Become more self-sufficient (e.g. a community farm)

Don't use taxpayer money to support religious based groups

State politicians don't understand upstate

Town Board should attract more businesses such as Teen Challenge and developmentally challenged homes

Take greater advantage of the High Peaks and Santanoni

Need businesses to solve problems

The Town should attract retail facilities

Would not live here except for job

Too much travel for necessities

Highway Department does a great job

Parks and Rec Department does a great job

Newcomb is the most beautiful town in the Adirondacks

Want a multi-purpose store

Need to find a way to create jobs or we will become a retirement community

Need to maintain the state's tax payments on the Forest Preserve  
Newcomb is affordable and has three active churches  
If the school closes, the Town will shut down  
Unhappy about house that blocks view of Hudson from Dump Road  
Fire Department should shut their yaps  
Plan should recommend sites for a restaurant and gas station  
Retirees don't want change; we need change  
Town not plowing driveways makes it hard to attract residents  
Put golf course operation out to bid  
Town Board works hard  
Newcomb should develop recreational opportunities such as x-c skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, hiking, camping which would spur other development  
The environment is the key to Newcomb's economic development  
Need a co-op gas station  
Build a snowmobile trail to Indian lake  
Allow school to build a dormitory  
Riverfront land should be assessed the same as lakefront  
Do not expand the golf course unless the current one is profitable  
Need more stimulating cultural events