



Center for Community Studies' 5th Annual North Country Resident Opinion Survey Regarding *Current Issues*

Local Issues: *Child Care, the Cape Vincent to Wolfe Island Ferry, Air Travel*
Statewide Issues: *Advanced Nuclear Energy Technology, Smart Phone Ban in
Schools- One Year Later, Use of AI, Affordability Challenges, Electric School
Buses*

National and Global Issues: *ICE Tactics, the War in Iran, Satisfaction with
President Trump's Performance Addressing Issues*

Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties, New York

May 27, 2026

The Study:

The Organization of the Survey Instrument/Questions

Local Issues

- 1. Prevalence of Need for Child Care Among North Country Residents**
- 2. Child Care – Who's Helping Friends and Family Now, and the Impact**
- 3. The Cape Vincent to Wolfe Island Ferry – Awareness, Use, and Perception**
- 4. Air Travel Among All Participants – Frequency and Perceived Value of Expanding Number of Flights and/or Airlines Locally**
- 5. Among Those Who Use Air Travel – Reasons for Travel, Airlines and Airports Most Often Used, and Most Important Considerations in Air Travel Choices**
- 6. Among Those Who Do Not Use Air Travel – Factors that Might Increase One's Air Travel**

Statewide Issues

- 7. Advanced Nuclear Energy Technology**
- 8. Smart Phone Ban in Schools - One Year Later**
- 9. Electric School Buses in NY State**
- 10. Use of AI by North Country Residents**
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National and Global Issues

- 12. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Tactics**
- 13. The War in Iran**
- 14. Satisfaction with President Trump's Performance Addressing Issues**

The Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College, located in Watertown, New York, annually completes two separate regional surveys of adult residents of the North Country (historically this has been represented by Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties, however, since the April 2025 study, Oswego County has been added to the “North Country” population of interest). Each fall, the Center completes an annual Quality-of-Life survey, longitudinally tracking over twenty community indicators and other resident attributes. The goal of the autumn Quality-of-Life survey (first completed in 2000, with the 26th annual survey completed in October 2025) is to provide a long-term motion picture of life in the region, with a focus on changes in attitudes and behaviors over a quarter century. Each spring, the Center completes a regional community survey that has a primary focus that is not an exercise in trending community characteristics over time, rather, an investigation of current important and emerging issues in the North Country, right here and right now, creating more of a snapshot in time of life in the North Country. To address this Current Issues research objective in the spring of 2026, the professional staff at the Center for Community Studies enlisted leaders and representatives of all four counties to assist in the creation of the survey instrument by identifying a wide variety of current local, regional, statewide, and national/global issues. This survey development group included individuals from the College, local government, county leadership, education, healthcare, non-profit agency heads, and the local media. The brainstorming and identification of important current issues for surveying resulted with a very wide variety of topics (survey questions) which are intended to support the data needs of the associated community leaders and agencies. The determination of a singular most important survey question or theme included in this study would be an impossible task, with different community constituencies likely most interested in different survey questions. The overall goal of this exercise is to scientifically and representatively sample and measure local public opinion to better understand our communities and their residents, and assist local leaders and elected officials in making the best data-informed decisions.

In this 2026 Current Issues study, a total of 2,562 adult residents from the four-county Northern and Central New York region (that will for the purposes of this report be defined as the “North Country” region) were surveyed in March and April 2026. This representative sample includes 870 adult residents of Jefferson County, 596 from Lewis County, 541 from Oswego County, and 555 from St. Lawrence County. A four-modality mixed-mode sampling methodology was employed in this study to maximize the representativeness of the sample. The four sampling modes included live telephone interviews (470 completed surveys), random email invitations to complete the survey online (523 completes), random MMS and SMS text message invitations to complete the survey online (1,474 completes), and live intercept sampling on post at Fort Drum, New York (94 completes). The questionnaire for the study was comprised of a collection of approximately 40 survey questions regarding current issues. Approximately ten demographic characteristics were additionally recorded for each anonymous participant. The group of approximately 40 non-demographic survey questions for this study can be categorized into the three following groups: local issues, statewide issues, and national/global issues, and further subdivided and organized into the fourteen research question subsections shown on the preceding page.

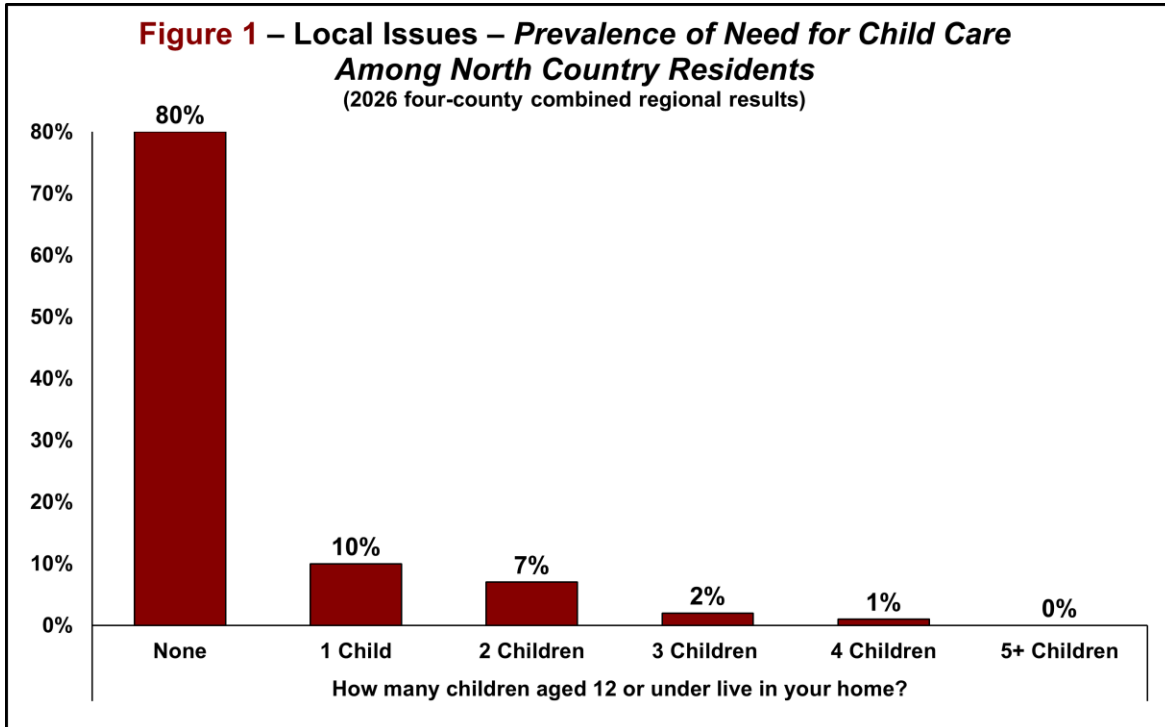
Detailed Study Results – Local Issues (Tables 1-27)

In the past 10-15 years, as a component of the annual longitudinal study of quality-of-life issues completed in the North Country, there has been a dramatic and statistically significant decrease in “availability of child care” among residents. In October 2017 the percentage of North Country residents responding “Excellent or Good” in each of the three sampled counties was over 40%. Over the next nine years this rate decreased to a North Country region rate of only 10% in October 2025 (with Oswego County and St. Lawrence County rates reaching single digits, at 7% and 8% responding respectively). Furthermore, in October 2025 the Center for Community Studies, for the first time since inception in 1999, completed a statewide study, with survey respondents representing every one of the 62 NY counties included. The statewide rate of “Excellent or Good” satisfaction with the availability of child care was reported to be 20%, double the North Country rate of 10%. Both the trend data described, and the statewide comparison data described, suggest that child care is a very critical current issue in the North Country. A task force of child care experts in the four-county North Country was convened in March 2026, and this group developed a very thorough set of approximately 60 child care related questions designed for current parents of children aged 12 or under. These parent-only questions essentially addressed:

- (1) What are you using now for childcare?
- (2) How satisfied are you with your current child care arrangements?
- (3) What are the most important factors to you in making your child care choices?
- (4) What are other needs that you have for non-traditional child care
- (5) How have child care issues impacted you and your family’s employment situation.

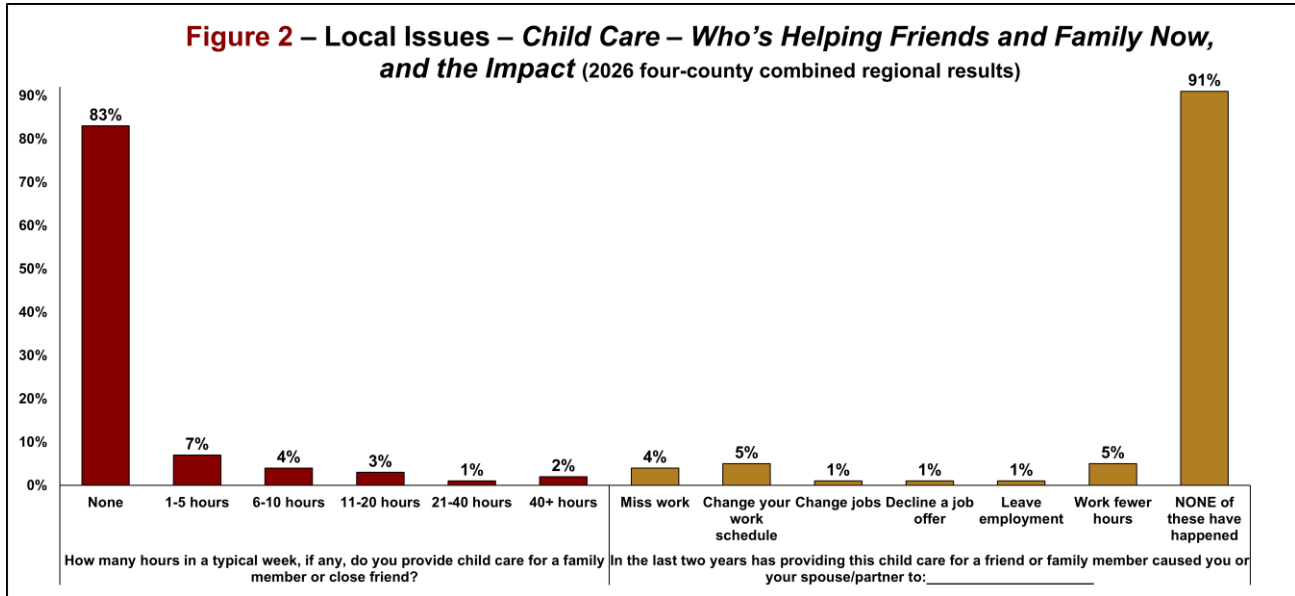
Again, these research objectives and sets of survey questions were only posed to the subset of study participants who indicated that they are a current parent of children age 12 or under. There are n=299 of these parent participants among the n=2,562 overall participants in this overall study. A sample of only n=299, of course, makes county-specific analysis extremely difficult and susceptible to margins of error within county that would be too large to be as effective as would be the case with larger sample sizes. Therefore, continued sampling of parents in the North Country was employed, and an additional 324 parents were surveyed to supplement the original random sample of 299 parents. The approximately 60 child care related questions will be analyzed and reported to the child care task force who developed the survey questions and then to the community later in the summer, as a separate more comprehensive Child Care Study final report.

1. Prevalence of Need for Child Care Among North Country Residents (Table 1)



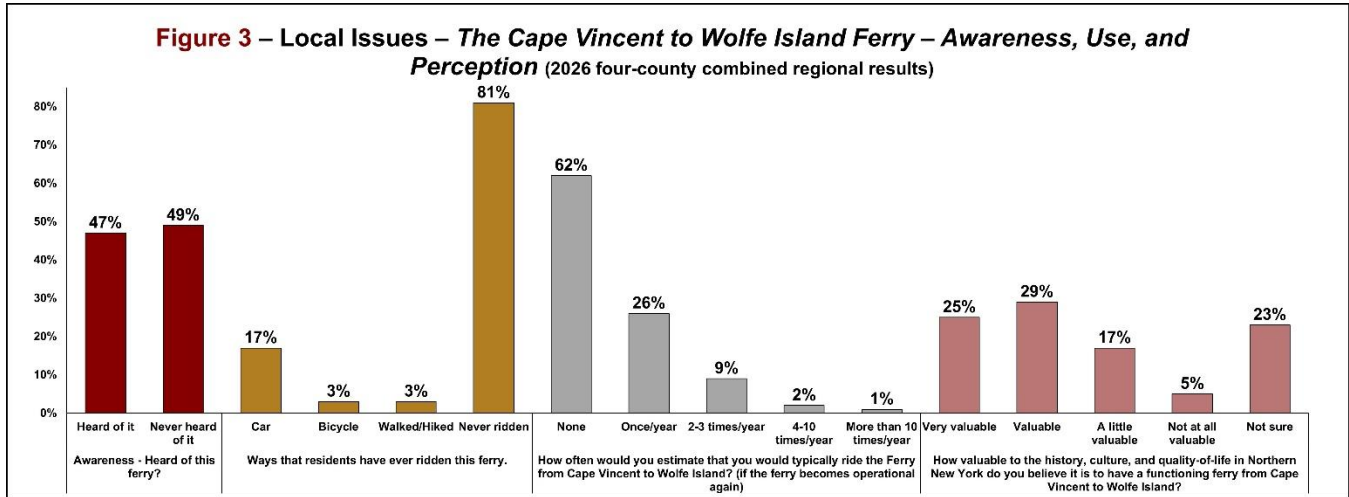
Three child care survey items were included in this initial random sample that provide helpful prevalence estimates that are valid to generalize to the population of all adult residents in the North Country. The first is simply an estimate of the percentage of adults in the region who meet the definition of those most likely to have child care needs by having at least one child age 12 or under living in their household. Results for the number of children aged 12 or under per household are summarized in Figure 1. Approximately one-in-five participating adults (20%) report to have at least one child aged 12 or under living in their household. There are approximately 285,000 adults in the four sampled counties combined, therefore, it may be extrapolated and estimated that about 57,000 adults in the North Country currently have child care needs that they must address in some fashion. **Readers are encouraged to observe the cross-tabulation presentations of results for this survey question, and every following survey question, in Appendix I.** For example, in the cross-tabulations one may easily identify Jefferson and Lewis Counties as the two among the four sampled counties with the highest rates of having children aged 12 or under in the home (25% and 26%, respectively), and those adults who report to have a member of active duty military stationed at Fort Drum living in the household are very likely to have children aged 12 or under in the home (37% among this subgroup). (Table 1)

2. Child Care – Who’s Helping Friends and Family Now, and the Impact (Tables 2-3)



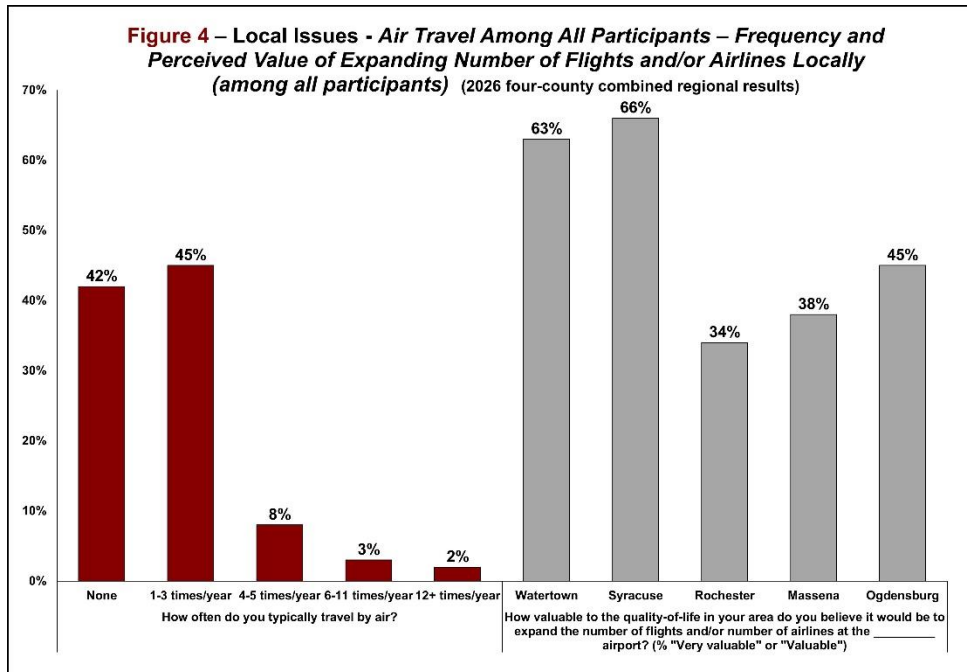
The second and third child care related survey items that were included in the survey for all participants (not just included for parents of children aged 12 or under) addressed **providing** child care for a family member or close friend. Approximately one-in-six adult participants (17%) is now providing child care to a family member or close friend, a rate that the cross-tabulations interestingly reveal to increase to 23% among those participants age 60-69. Almost one-in-ten participants has experienced a negative impact on their employment situation, with the most common impacts being that to provide this presumably no-or-low-cost child care, one must work fewer hours or one must change their work schedule. Among all survey participants, one-in-twenty has to work fewer working hours and change their work schedule. Among those who provide care, 30% are impacted by these two issues. (Tables 2-3)

3. The Cape Vincent to Wolfe Island Ferry – Awareness, Use, and Opinion (Tables 4-7)



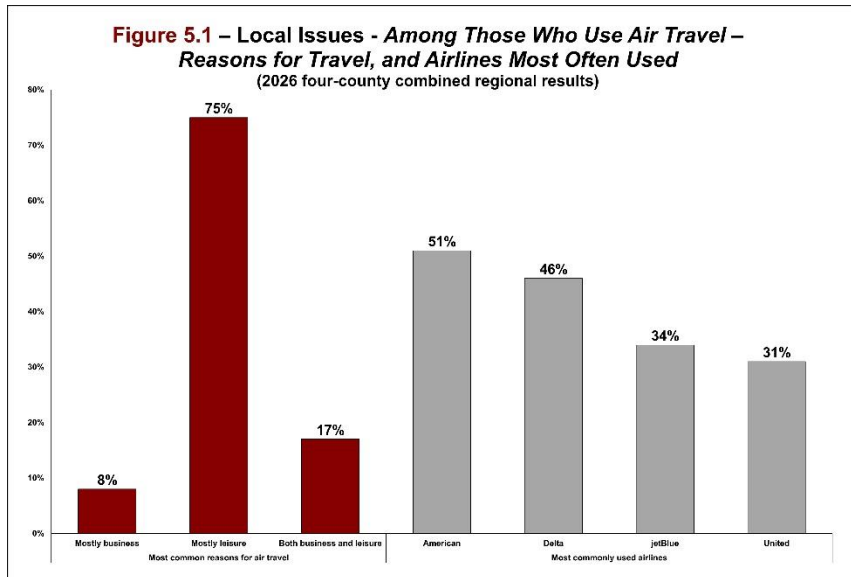
Jefferson County leadership provided four research questions in the spring of 2026 regarding the ferry from Cape Vincent (USA) to Wolfe Island (Canada) that has operated for over 200 years. This ferry is not currently operating, and future decisions must be made regarding the possibility of reopening the ferry. These ferry-related questions were designed to measure public opinion and provide survey data as one of many data sources to assist elected officials in decision-making regarding the future of the ferry. Approximately one-half of participants (47%) indicated that they had heard of this ferry, a rate that not surprisingly is highest in Jefferson County (63%). Approximately one-in-five participants in the four-county region indicated they had ridden the ferry (19% in the region, again increasing to 34% in Jefferson County). The most common way that residents ride the ferry by far is by car. When asked to estimate the number of times that one would typically ride the ferry if it became operational again 38% of respondents indicate that they would typically ride at least once per year (53% among Jefferson County adults). Finally, to assess the importance of the ferry and its impact upon North Country residents’ quality-of-life, participants were asked, “How valuable to the history, culture, and quality-of-life in Northern New York do you believe it is to have a functioning ferry from Cape Vincent to Wolfe Island in Canada?”, and the majority responded with valuable (29%) or very valuable (25%), with only 5% responding that the ferry is not at all valuable. Among Jefferson County residents this appreciation of the ferry increases from 54% to 69%, while only 2% responded not at all valuable. (Tables 4-7)

4. Air Travel Among All Participants – Frequency and Perceived Value of Expanding Number of Flights and/or Airlines Locally (Tables 8-13)

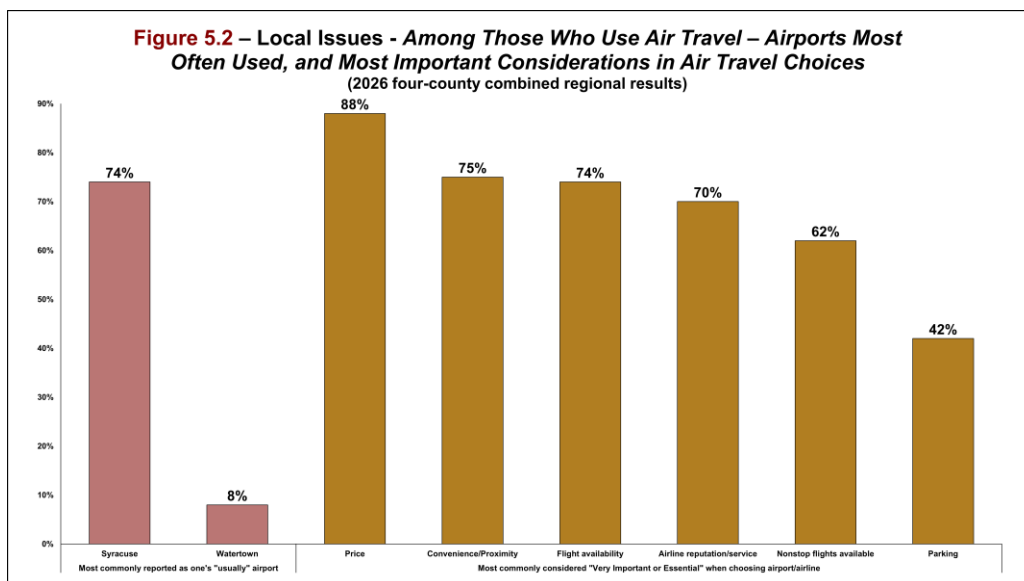


The leadership of the Watertown International Airport partnered with the Center for Community Studies in the spring of 2026 to develop a series of seven survey questions (approximately 40 items) for North Country residents regarding air travel. Two of the questions were posed to all participants, regardless of whether or not they currently travel by air. The first question allows estimation of the prevalence of air travel among local residents, and a majority of residents (58%) indicate that they typically travel at least once per year, with only 42% of adults indicating that they typically travel “none” by air. All participants were asked “How valuable to the quality-of-life in your area do you believe it would be to expand the number of flights and/or number of airlines at the following airports?” (five airports are listed in Figure 4). Without question the most support has been expressed for expansion at the Syracuse Airport (66% feel that this expansion would be valuable or very valuable, and only 6% respond with not at all valuable), followed by the Watertown Airport (63% feel that this expansion would be valuable or very valuable, and only 8% respond with not at all valuable). As expected, the locations generating the most support for expansion to improve quality-of-life change from county to county depending upon proximity. (Tables 8-13)

5. Among Those Who Use Air Travel – Reasons for Travel, Airlines and Airports Most Often Used, and Most Important Considerations in Air Travel Choices (Tables 14-26)

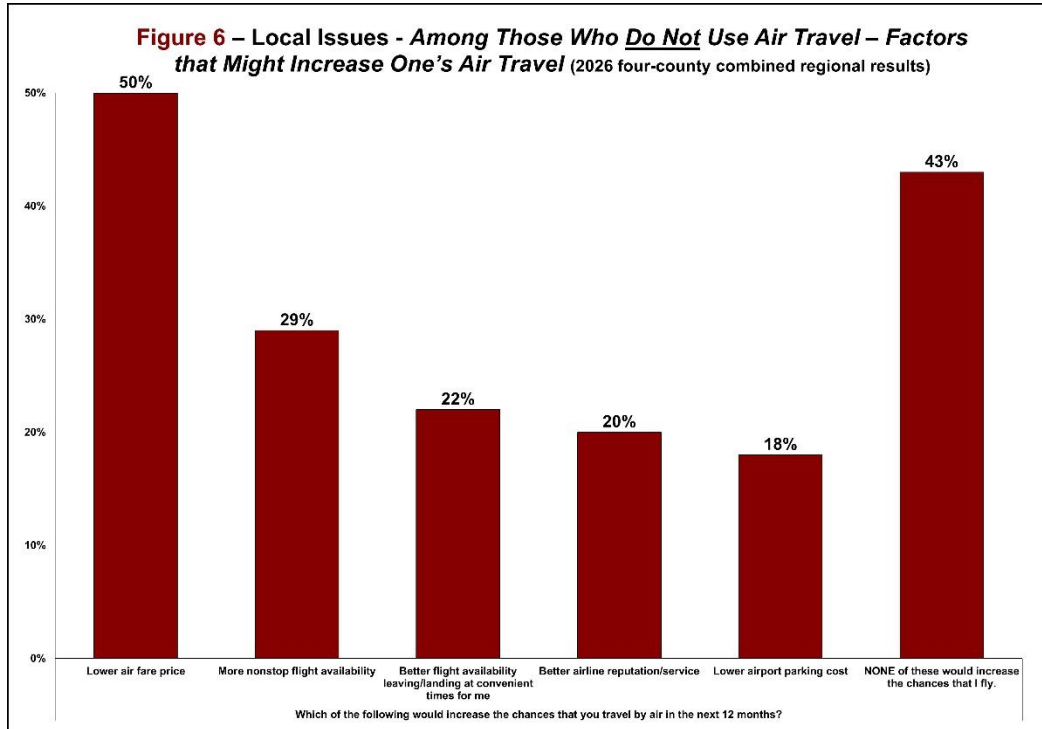


Residents who indicated that they typically travel by air at least once per year were further asked their most common reason for air travel and overwhelmingly “mostly leisure” is the top reason (75% of flyers). (Participants were provided a list of airlines that one could choose and asked to choose all that are their most commonly used, and American, Delta, jetBlue, and United are the most commonly used.) The airline choices are related to the airlines that fly in and out of various North Country airports, so again, responses are associated with airport proximity when comparing counties. (Tables 14-15)



Residents who indicated that they typically travel by air at least once per year were also asked the most common airport that they use and Syracuse by far is the most commonly cited as “usually” (by 74% of flyers). The rate of flying out of Syracuse is 91% among Oswego County flyers, approximately 75% in Jefferson and Lewis Counties, and only 56% in St. Lawrence County. The second most commonly cited as “usually” is Watertown International Airport (by 8% of flyers, and by 15% among Jefferson County flyers). When asked which factors are most important to flyers when choosing an airline and airport, by far “price” is most commonly cited as “essential” or “very important” (88%). (Tables 16-26)

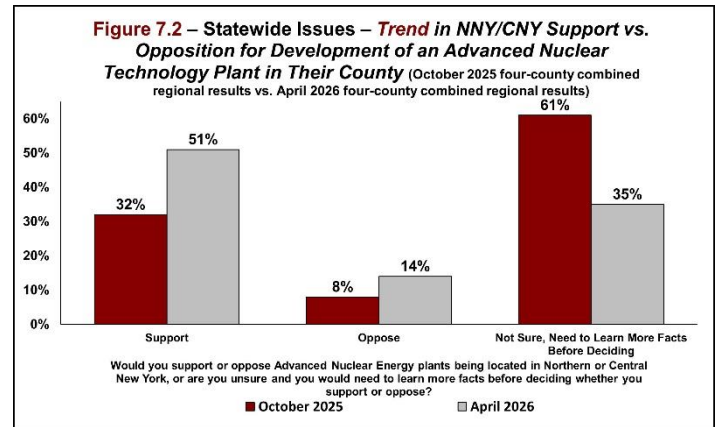
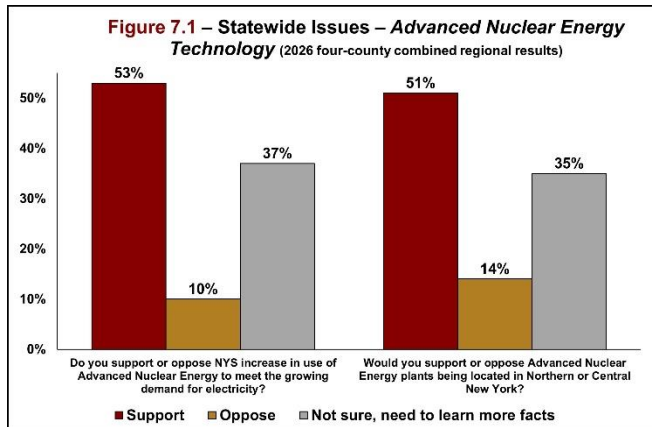
6. Among Those Who Do Not Use Air Travel – Factors that Might Increase One’s Air Travel (Table 27)



An additional question was posed to those who do not typically fly at least once per year (the non-flyers), with a goal of identifying the factors that may increase the chances that one might travel by air in the next 12 months. Again, similar to that which was found among flyers, the non-flyers suggest that it is predominantly a pocketbook issue with “lower air fares” being the most commonly cited factor (by 50% of the non-flyers). This rate is much higher than the percentage that responded any other factor (only 29% indicated more nonstop flights, the second highest rate of citation), and is a very high proportion among the 57% that indicated that they might consider (57%, due to 43% responding there is nothing that could increase their chances of flying). Almost 90% of those who cite at least one factor that could increase their chances of flying select “lower air fare” as a factor ($50\%/57\% = 88\%$). (Table 27)

Detailed Study Results – Statewide Issues (Tables 28-36)

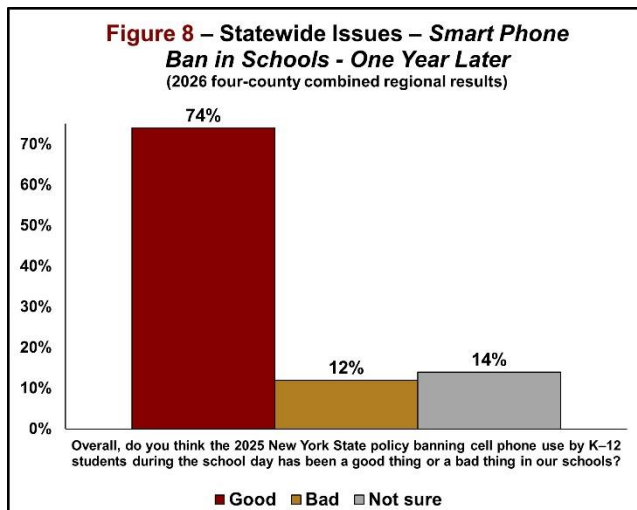
7. Statewide Issues – Advanced Nuclear Energy Technology (Tables 28-29)



North Country residents continue to be surveyed periodically by the Center for Community Studies regarding their opinions about the energy future of New York State. The current results for the two nuclear energy opinion items included in April 2026 are shown above in Figure 8.1. By more than a five-to-one ratio, North Country residents are more likely to support than oppose NY State’s increased use of Advanced Nuclear Energy to meet the state's growing demand for electricity (53% to 10%, respectively), with 37% indicating that they need to learn more facts before they decide whether or not they support or oppose the increased use of nuclear energy. Similarly, by almost a four-to-one ratio, North Country residents are more likely to support than oppose “Advanced Nuclear Energy plants being located in Northern or Central New York” (51% to 14%, respectively), with 35% indicating that they need to learn more facts.

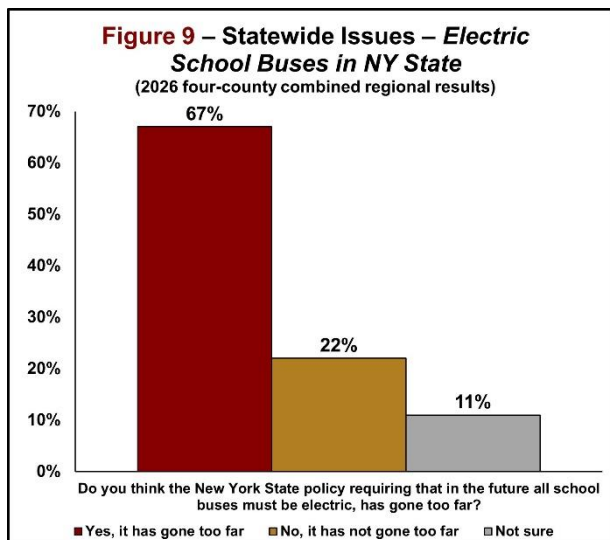
The second of these two questions was also included in the October 2025 quality-of-life omnibus community survey completed by the Center for Community Studies (using similar sampling methodology, with similar sample size and statistical analyses). The change in reported opinion among North Country residents regarding the further development of Advanced Nuclear Energy plants located in Northern or Central New York is significant. The rates of responding Support, Oppose, and Need to Learn More in October 2025 were 32%, 8%, and 61%, respectively. In summary, in October 2025 approximately three-in-five residents (61%) wanted to learn more, and among the remaining 40% who expressed an opinion, support outnumbered opposition by a four-to-one ratio (32% to 8%, respectively). Six months later, when sampled in April 2026, these rates have changed dramatically: “Learn More” decreased from 61% to only 35%, “Support” increased from 32% to a majority now of 51%, and “Oppose” also increased by a more modest degree from 8% to 14%. In summary, the rate of “need to learn more” decreased by 26%, and these residents who now express opinions appear to have landed much like the distribution that was found in October 2025 – the Support to Oppose ratio in October 2025 was 32% to 8% = 4, while in April 2026 this ratio is 51% to 14% = 3.6. The reasons for this decrease in “Not sure, need to learn more” between October 2025 and April 2026 have not been fully studied by any sort of designed experiments, however, the reasons are likely due to a combination of: (1) the survey instruments were not exactly the same in the two studies, with October 2025 including four nuclear related survey questions while April 2026 only including two nuclear questions, (2) heat and electricity bills in NY State reached unprecedented high levels in February and March of 2026 between the timing of these two studies, and/or (3) there has been tremendous effort by government, nonprofits, developers, colleges, and the media to discuss and cover the NY State energy crisis of increased demand and need for more supply in the future, and possibly these educational efforts have been effective in decreasing the “need to learn more” rate. (Tables 28-29)

8. Statewide Issues – Smart Phone Ban in Schools – One Year Later (Table 30)



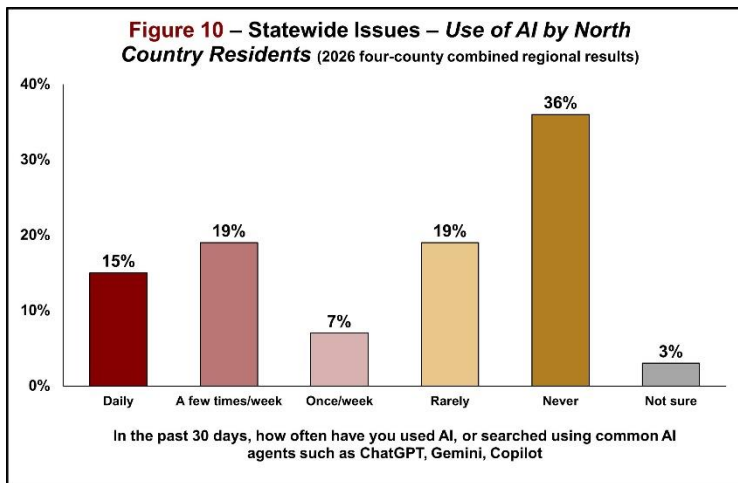
When North Country residents were asked whether overall they think the 2025 New York State policy banning cell phone use by K-12 students during the school day has been a good thing or a bad thing in our schools, by an overwhelming six-to-one margin residents feel that it has been a good thing. Approximately three-fourths of residents (74%) respond with “good thing”, while only 12% respond with “bad thing”. (Table 30)

9. Statewide Issues – Electric School Buses in NY State (Table 31)



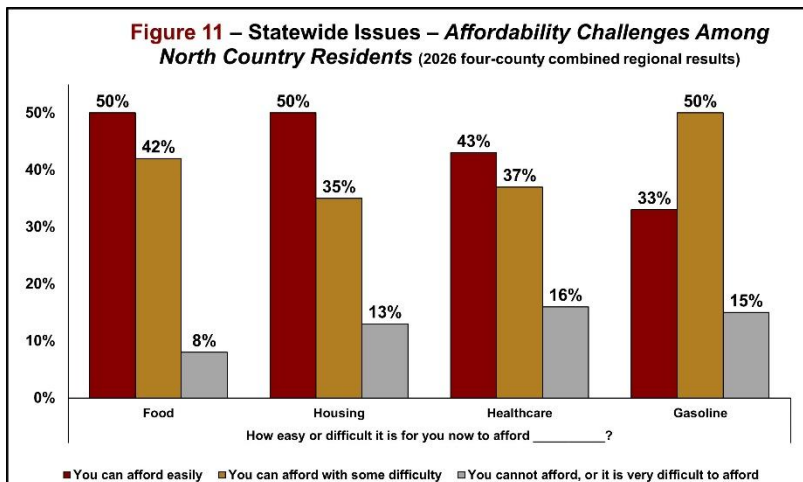
When North Country residents were asked whether they think that the New York State policy requiring that in the future all school buses must be electric has gone too far, by more than a three-to-one margin residents are much more likely to believe that the policy has gone too far rather than believe that it has not gone too far (67% to 22%, respectively). (Table 31)

10. Use of AI by North Country Residents (Table 32)



North Country adult residents were asked “In the past 30 days, how often have you used AI, or searched using common AI agents such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot?” Approximately three-in-five residents (60%) report to have used AI in the past month, with 34% using at least a few times per week, and 15% using daily. The rate of use of AI is rather consistent for those in age groups under the age of 70, and then significantly decreases among those age 70+. The rates of responding “never use AI” are 31% among those age 18-39, 33% among those age 40-59, and 37% among those age 60-69, however this rate increases significantly to 52% among those age 70 or older. (Table 32)

11. Statewide Issues – Affordability Challenges Among North Country Residents (Tables 33-36)



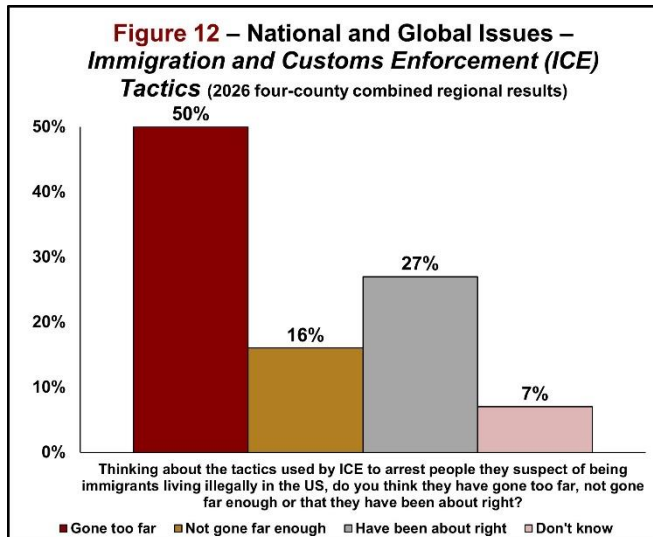
North Country residents continue to express serious concerns with affordability of the fundamental items that residents must purchase – food, housing, healthcare, and gasoline. A majority of residents responded either that they “can afford with some difficulty” or cannot afford at all or it is very difficult to afford”. Specifically, the rates of expressing that it is difficult to afford were:

- Gasoline 65%
- Healthcare 53%
- Food – 50%
- Housing 48%

Only one-in-three residents (33%) currently indicate that they can “easily afford” gasoline. (Tables 33-36)

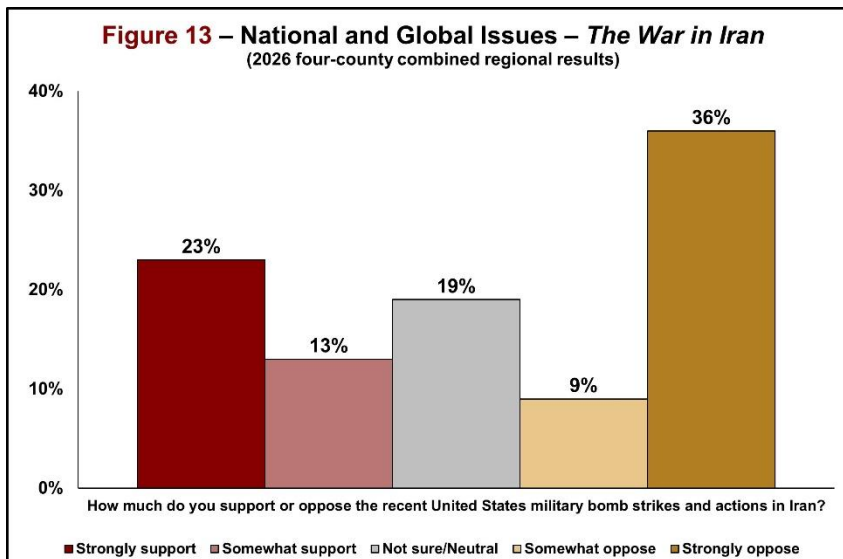
Detailed Study Results – National and Global Issues (Tables 37-43)

12. National and Global Issues – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Tactics (Table 37)



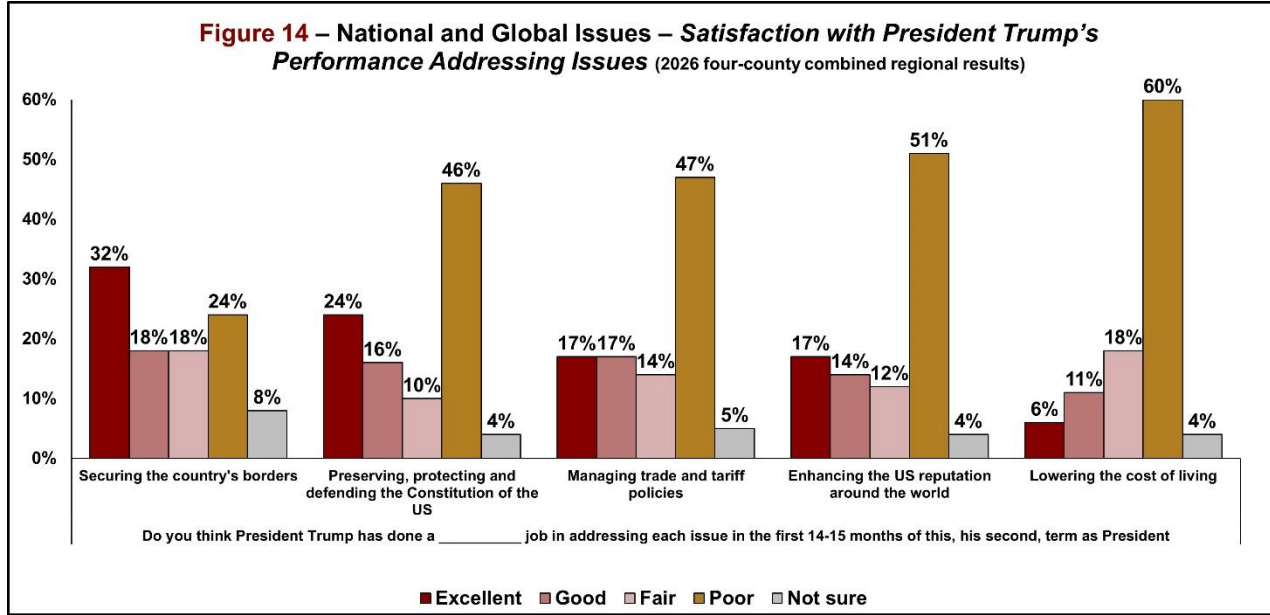
The tactics used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have been under much scrutiny and debate among Americans in 2026. To better understand North Country resident opinions regarding these tactics, the following question was posed: “Thinking about the tactics used by ICE to arrest people they suspect of being immigrants living illegally in the US, do you think they have gone too far, not gone far enough or that they have been about right?”. The most common response was “Tactics have gone too far” (a majority, 50% of participants), followed by “Tactics have been about right” (27%), and only 16% of participants feel that the “Tactics have not gone far enough”. Inspection of the cross-tabulations in Appendix 1 show tremendously strong evidence of these attitudes being linked to both one’s political ideology (beliefs) and one’s political affiliation (party). For example, 96% of those participants who self-identify as liberal feel that the ICE tactics have gone too far, while only 11% of those participants who self-identify as conservative express this “too far” opinion. This polarization between political ideologies is equally present if the political parties are compared, as well. (Table 37)

13. National and Global Issues – The War in Iran (Table 38)



Obviously one of the largest national and global issues affecting Americans as well as global citizens in the past two months (recall, sampling for this study occurred in April 2026) is the war between Iran and the USA and Israel. To gauge how North Country residents feel about this war, the following question was posed, “How much do you support or oppose the recent United States military bomb strikes and actions in Iran?” There is more opposition than support for the military bomb strikes and actions by the US military in Iran – 45% oppose, while only 36% support. Further, similar to that which is the case with attitudes about ICE tactics discussed earlier, it is very evident that attitudes about the war in Iran are strongly linked to political ideology (beliefs) and political affiliation (party), refer to Appendix I cross-tabulation for the granular details. For example, 93% of those participants who self-identify as liberal oppose the military bomb strikes and actions by the US military in Iran, while only 13% of those participants who self-identify as conservative express this opposition. This polarization between political ideologies is equally present if the political parties are compared, illustrated by 82% of those participants who are Democrats opposing the military bomb strikes and actions by the US military in Iran, while only 20% of those participants who are Republicans express this opposition. (Table 38)

14. National and Global Issues – Satisfaction with President Trump’s Performance Addressing Issues (Tables 39-43)



Fourteen to fifteen months into the second Presidency of Donald J. Trump, there are many issues facing Americans that he and his administration have attempted to address. When asked their satisfaction with the five important issues, it is clear that the only issue that a majority of North Country residents express satisfaction in is “securing the country’s borders”, while results for the other four studied issues all have at least a plurality, if not a majority, who indicate that they feel that President Trump has done a “Poor” job in addressing the issue in the first 14-15 months of his second term as President.

In summary, below are the five studied issues, and the percentages of surveyed North Country adults who rate the President’s job performance addressing each issue as “Excellent or Good” versus the percentage who rate his performance as “Poor”.

	Excellent or Good Percentage	Poor Percentage
Securing the US borders	50%	24%
Preserving, protecting and defending the Constitution of the US	40%	46%
Managing trade and tariff policies	34%	47%
Enhancing the US reputation around the world	31%	51%
Lowering the cost of living	17%	60%

Satisfaction with President Trump’s performance in addressing important issues facing Americans is extremely polarized by political ideology (beliefs) and political affiliation (party), as is the case with items 12 and 13 discussed previously (refer to the Appendix of cross tabulation tables for more details). For example, when asked “Do you think President Trump has done a _____ job in enhancing the US reputation around the world (Table 40) in the first 14-15 months of his second term as President?”, 95% of those participants who self-identify as liberal respond that his performance has been “Poor”, while only 17% of those participants who self-identify as conservative express this opinion that his performance has been “Poor”. This polarization between political ideologies is similarly present if the political parties are compared, illustrated by 86% of those participants who are Democrats responding “Poor”, while only 24% of those participants who are Republicans respond “Poor”.

When considering “Lowering the cost of living”, there remains a political polarization, but to a lesser degree or magnitude. For this issue the two ideologies and parties are much more similar in their opinions than for most other issues studied. To illustrate, from Table 43, when asked “Do you think President Trump has done a _____ job in lowering the cost of living in the first 14-15 months of his second term as President?”, 98% of those participants who self-identify as liberal respond that his performance has been “Fair or Poor”, while 56% of those participants who self-identify as conservative express this opinion that his performance has been “Fair or Poor”. This polarization between political ideologies is similarly present if the political parties are compared, illustrated by 97% of those participants who are Democrats responding “Fair or Poor”, while 62% of those participants who are Republicans respond “Fair or Poor”. (Tables 39-43)

Study Methodology

Methodology:

The Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College is one of approximately 1,500 colleges, universities, and polling businesses in North America that are members of the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). AAPOR is the leading public opinion professional association in the world. Further, the Center is one of approximately 100 AAPOR members that has been granted membership to the Transparency Initiative (TI) of AAPOR. As a member of TI, the Center pledges to utilize best practices in the industry in both data collection methodology and data analytics techniques. Additionally, the Center is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO), a professional association exclusive to colleges and universities in the United States that complete public opinion research in an academic (higher education, not profit-centered) setting.

A total of 2,562 Northern New York adult residents were interviewed (surveyed) in this study ($n_{\text{total}}=2,562$). The methodology used in this study of current issues includes a mixed-mode sampling methodology using a combination of live interviewer telephone interviews of residents on cell phones and landlines ($n_{\text{phone}}=470$), random email invitation of residents to complete the survey online via a nonprobability panel developed over the past decade at SUNY Jefferson ($n_{\text{email}}=523$), random MMS and SMS text messages sent to cellular phones with invitations to complete the survey online ($n_{\text{Text}}=1,474$), and intercept surveying of the difficult-to-access subpopulation of military members and their dependents on Fort Drum ($n_{\text{int}}=94$). All cellular phone numbers and email addresses were obtained from L2, www.l2-data.com. All interviews were completed between March 31 and April 11, 2026.

To adjust for sampling nonresponse error, the data were weighted within county for gender, age, education, and race, with further weighting for military affiliation in Jefferson County. All county-specific weight targets were sourced from the U.S. Census and the U.S. Department of Defense. A further weight for county population size was applied to generate North Country estimates as a region. The county-specific weighted demographic distributions of the characteristics, or nature, of the samples collected in this study are summarized in Table 44 of Appendix 1 of this report. The data were calibrated for sampling modality, and finally weights were trimmed to minimize the design effect, generating a final design effect for the study of 2.0.

After all data compilation, cleansing, transforming, weighting, calibrating, and trimming the overall approximate margin of error for this study when analyzing three-county region-wide results for 2,562 participants is $\pm 2.2\%$. When investigating on a county-specific basis the margin of error is greater due to smaller county-specific sample sizes. The approximate margins of error within each county are $\pm 3.8\%$ in Jefferson County, $\pm 4.5\%$ in Lewis County, $\pm 4.8\%$ in Oswego County, and $\pm 4.7\%$ in St. Lawrence County (county sample sizes are: $n_j=870$, $n_l=596$, $n_o=541$, $n_s=555$). Investigation of demographic subgroups, such

as only male participants, will also result with margins of error of greater than $\pm 2.2\%$. The margin error is a measurement of random error, error due to simply the random chance of sampling. When surveying humans there are other potential sources of error, sources of error in addition to random error (which is the only error encompassed by the margin of error). Response error, nonresponse error, process error, bias in sample selection, bias in question-phrasing, lack of clarity in question-phrasing, social desirability bias, acquiescence bias, satisficing, and undercoverage are common sources of other-than-random error. Methods that should be, and have been in this study, employed to minimize these other sources of error include: maximum effort to select the sample randomly, piloting and testing of utilized survey questions, extensive training of all data collectors (interviewers), thorough cleansing of data, calibration of data, and application of post-stratification algorithms to the resulting sampled data. Hence, when using this study data to make estimates to the entire North Country adult populations, as is the case in standard survey research practices, the margin of error will be the only error measurement cited and interpreted.

Validity checks including attention checks, logic checks, and excluded respondents who straight-lined or completed the survey under a prescribed time constraint were applied. Screening of content for evidence that it originated from bots or fabricated profiles was not employed due to the fact that no rewards or incentives are offered for participants in this study. No re-contacts to confirm that the interview occurred or to verify respondent's identity or both were used. Respondents are asked to verify that they have not completed the survey more than once directly after the voluntary informed consent statement and agreement/consent to participate. There has been no data imputation or other data exclusions or replacement. All open-ended text coding was completed by human coders, with no use of LLMs or AI tools. In the reporting of study findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total to more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

Detailed Cross-tabulations:

Complete analyses of all cross-tabulations for this study are included as Appendix I and are posted along with this summary at the [Center for Community Studies website](#). These cross-tabulations allow readers to investigate county comparisons, and demographic subgroup comparisons, for every survey question used in this study. These comparisons allow for a more rich and meaningful perspective and interpretation of the current North Country study results. The cross-tabulation results of this public opinion study are reported in detailed tabular format with statistical tests of significance included to facilitate readers' correct interpretation of the subgroup comparative results in the appendix. Following are two examples of using a *graph* to illustrate the cross-tabulation results that are provided in tabular format in Appendix I. If one is interested in any other specific graphic portrayals of the cross-tabulation results for any other survey questions included in this large omnibus study then please contact the professional staff at the Center for Community Studies.

Figure 15 found in the following page is the set of sociodemographic cross-tabulations associated with the survey item, "Do you think President Trump has done a _____ job in lowering the cost of living in the first 14-15 months of his second term as President?" (Table 43 in Appendix 1). One may easily observe that the golden-colored bars that associate with a response of "Poor" are rather ubiquitous, in that "Poor" is observed as the most common response for almost every studied subgroup. The two subgroups that do not result with "Poor" as a most common response are the two described on the preceding page – self described conservatives, and those who are registered Republicans.

Figure 15 – Do you think President Trump has done a _____ job in *lowering the cost of living* in the first 14-15 months of his second term as President? – The Cross-tabulations

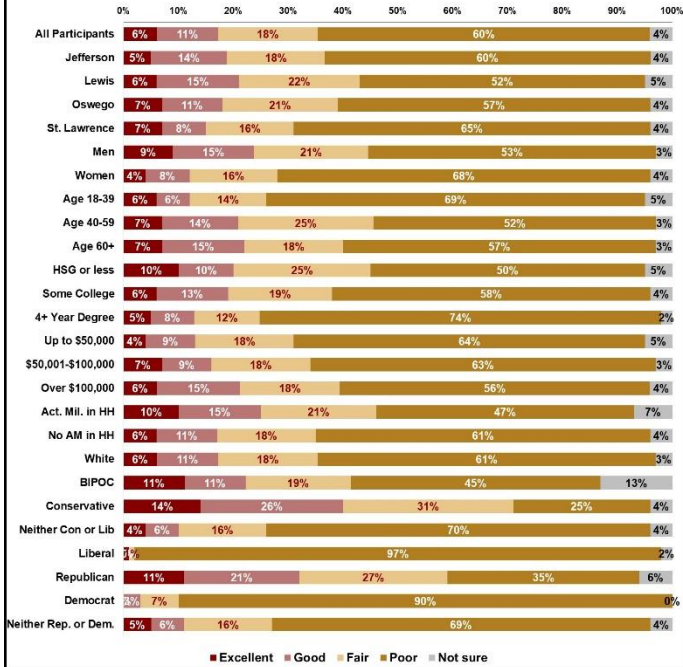
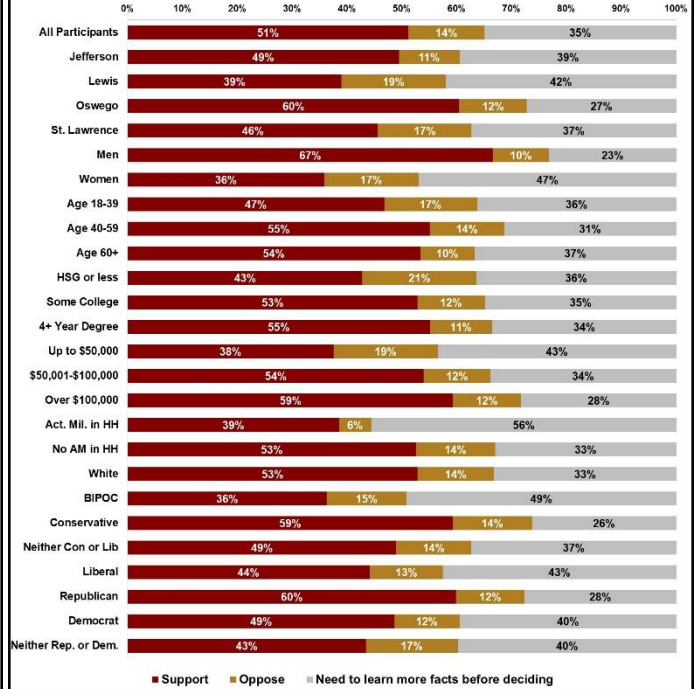


Figure 16 – Would you support or oppose Advanced Nuclear Energy plants being located in Northern or Central New York? – The Cross-tabulations



Another benefit to readers that is easily generated from the plots below is shown in Figure 16, where one may calculate within-response-distribution comparisons for all subgroups without difficulty. For example, these cross-tabulations for the following advanced nuclear energy technology survey question “Would you support or oppose Advanced Nuclear Energy plants being located in Northern or Central New York?” (Table 29 in Appendix 1) show that for all participants combined, the rate of “Support” is much greater than the rate of “Oppose” (51% versus 14%, respectively, a 3.6 to 1 ratio). Further deeper inspection shows that this difference holds true for every studied subgroup, regardless of age, gender, education, race, military affiliation, income level, political beliefs, or political party – the rate of “Support” is greater than the rate of “Oppose” in every studied socio-demographic subgroup. When else do the different political subgroups agree?

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