

## Berkshire Town Survey Spring 2014

Mailed to All Berkshire Addresses  
123 Questionnaires Returned  
4 Non-Berkshire Residents Not Used

6223 Question Responses  
520 Comments

1

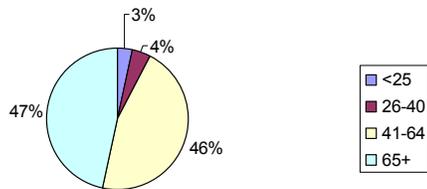
## Berkshire Town Survey 7 Topics

1. Demographic Information
2. What I Like About Living in Berkshire
3. Community Projects
4. Community Events
5. Town Services and Communications
6. Town Laws
7. Business Development

2

## Berkshire Town Survey 1.0 Demographic Information

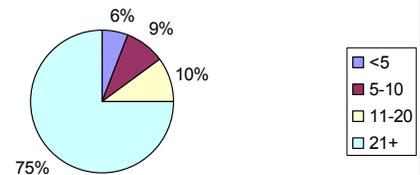
Age Group



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## Berkshire Town Survey 1.0 Demographic Information

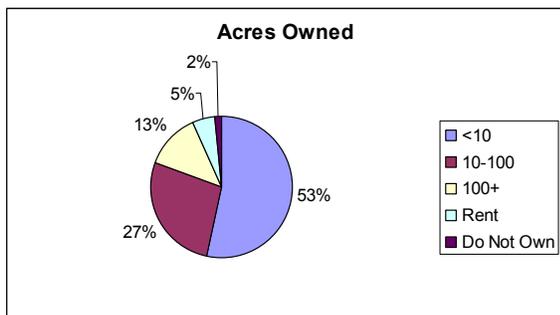
Years Lived in Berkshire



4

### Berkshire Town Survey

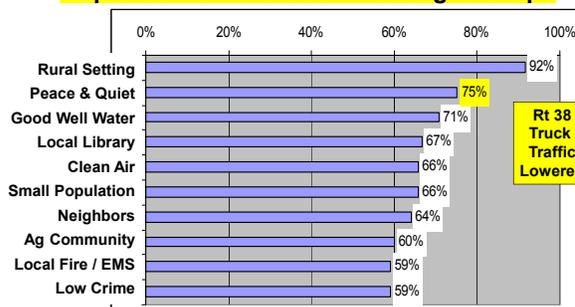
#### 1.0 Demographic Information



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### Berkshire Town Survey

#### 2.0 What I Like About Living in Berkshire: Top 10: Consistent Across All Age Groups

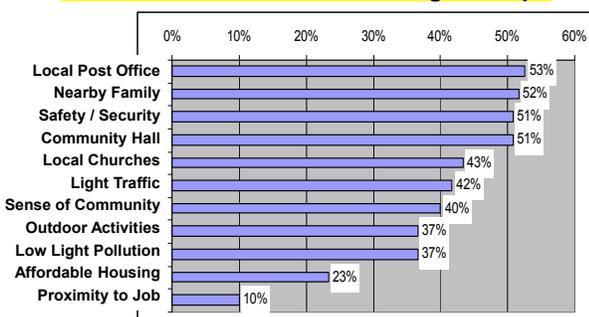


Rt 38  
Truck  
Traffic  
Lowered

6

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### 2.0 What I Like About Living in Berkshire: #11-21: Consistent Across All Age Groups



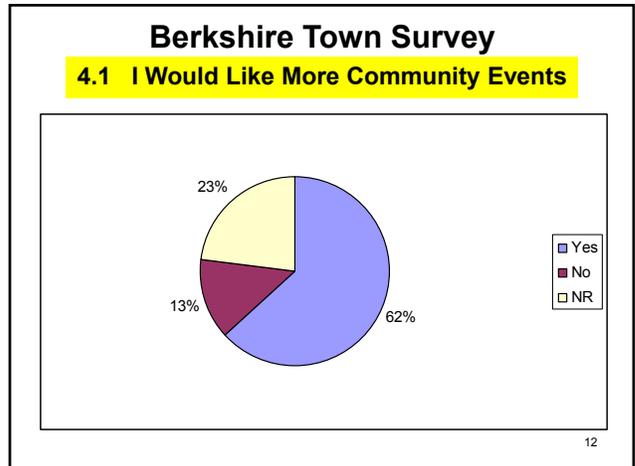
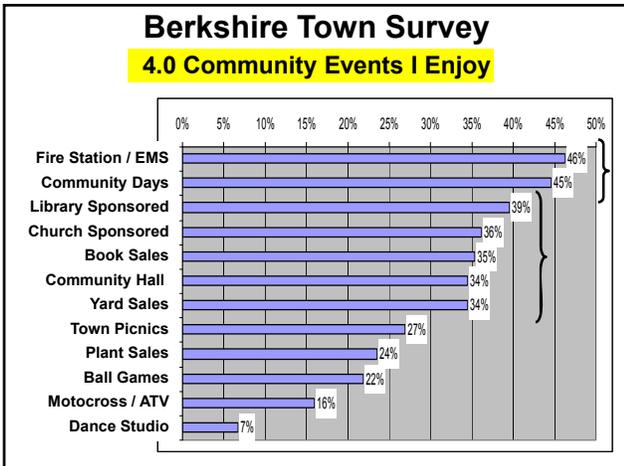
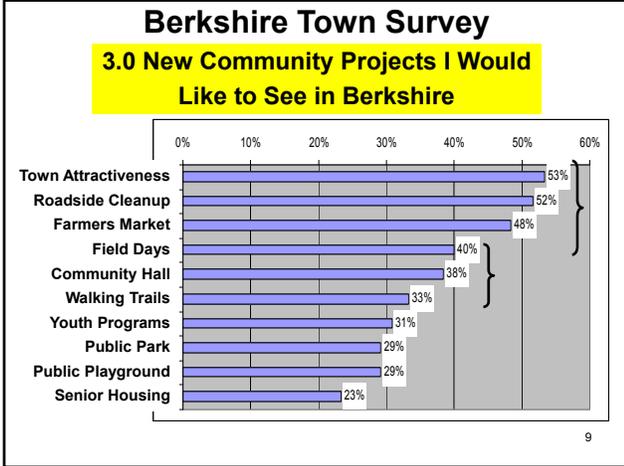
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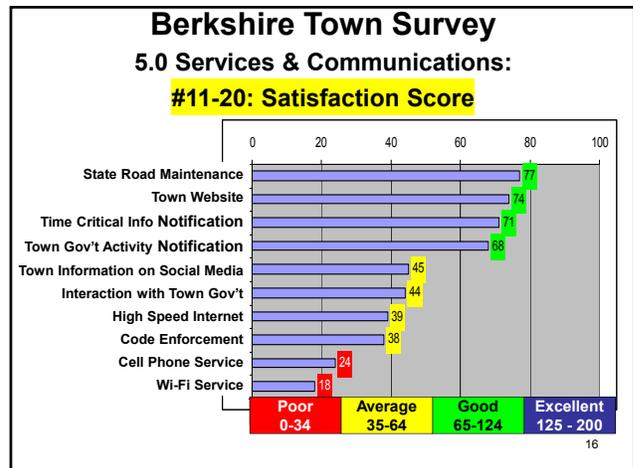
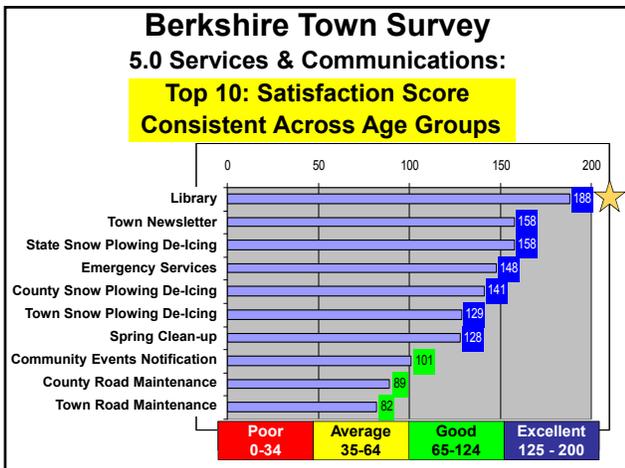
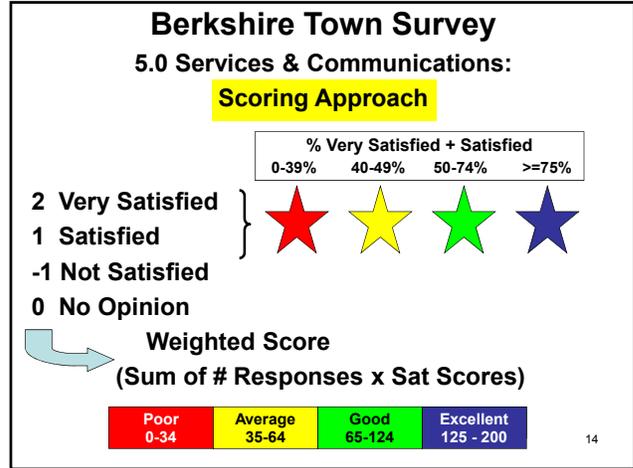
### Berkshire Town Survey

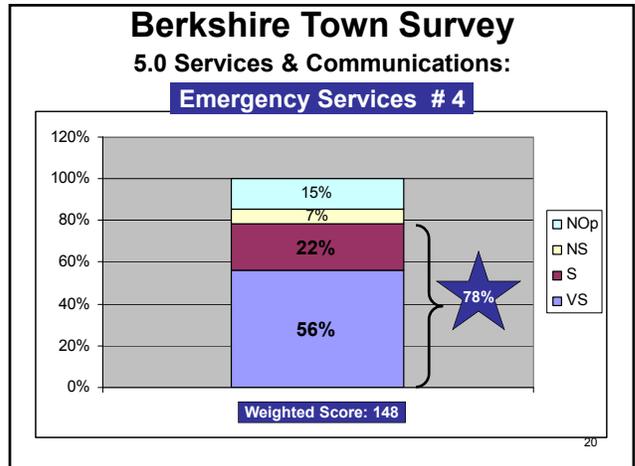
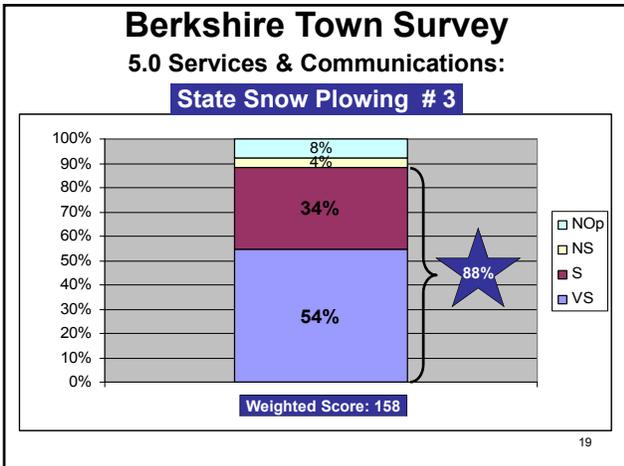
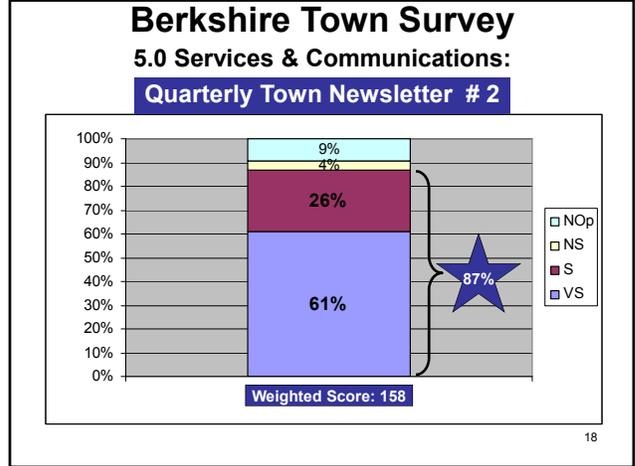
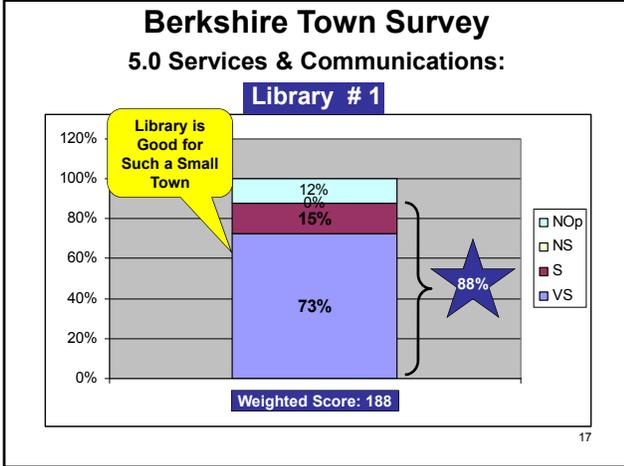
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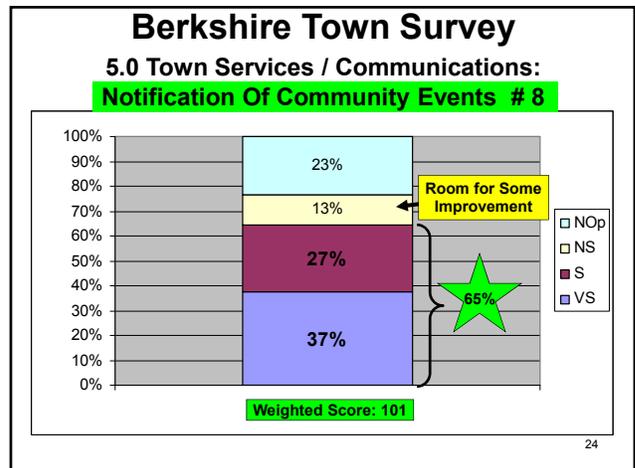
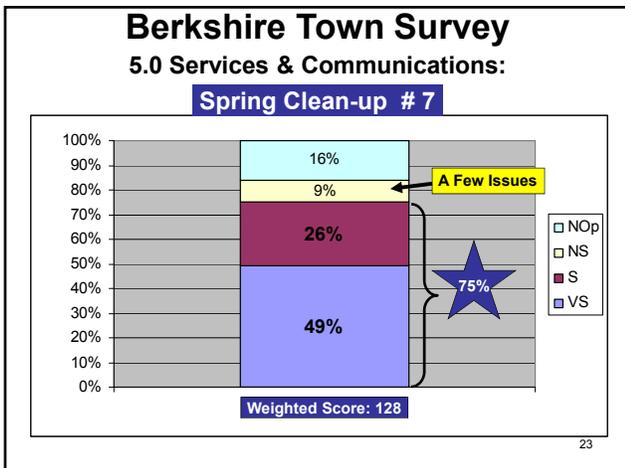
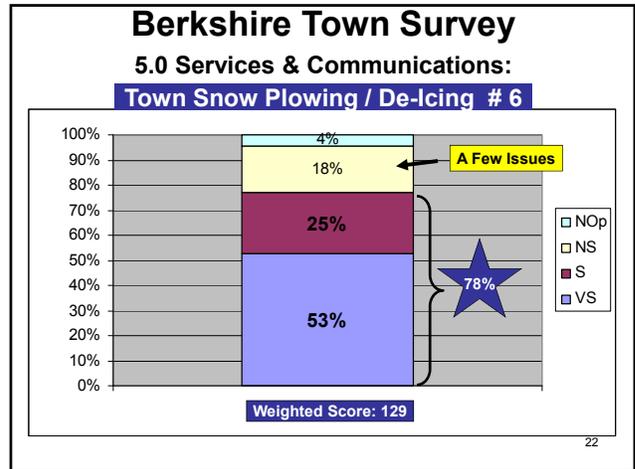
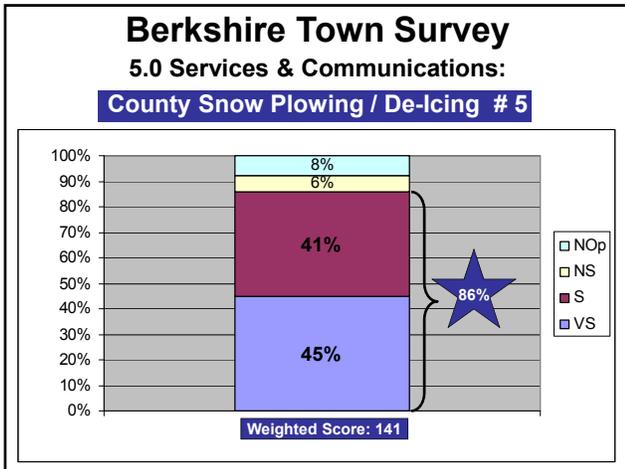


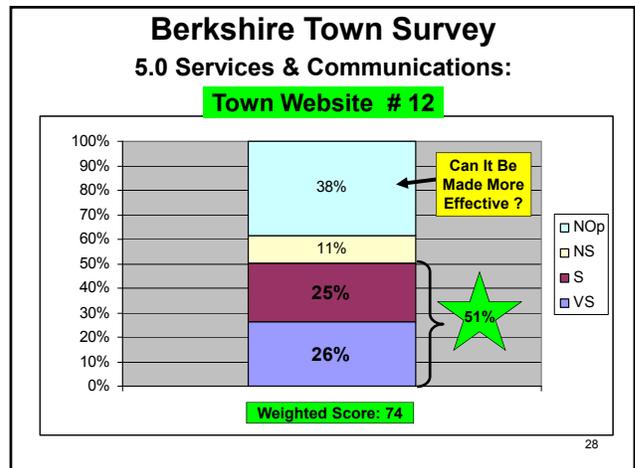
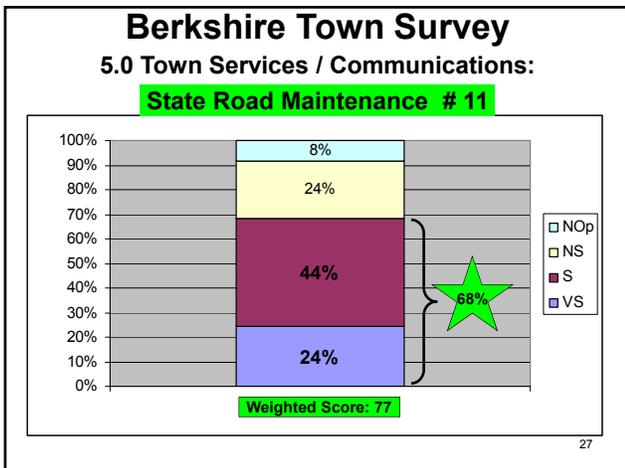
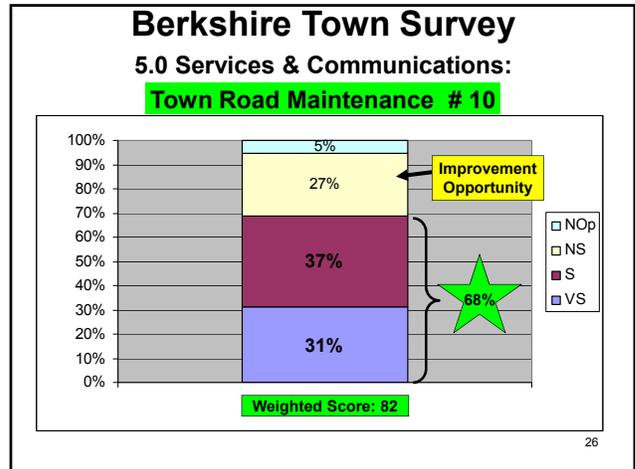
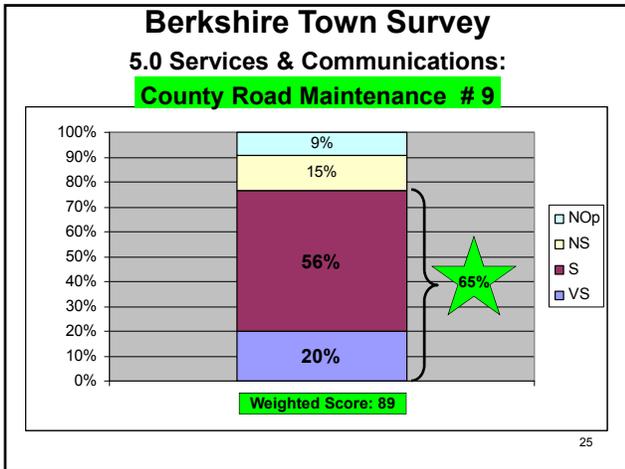
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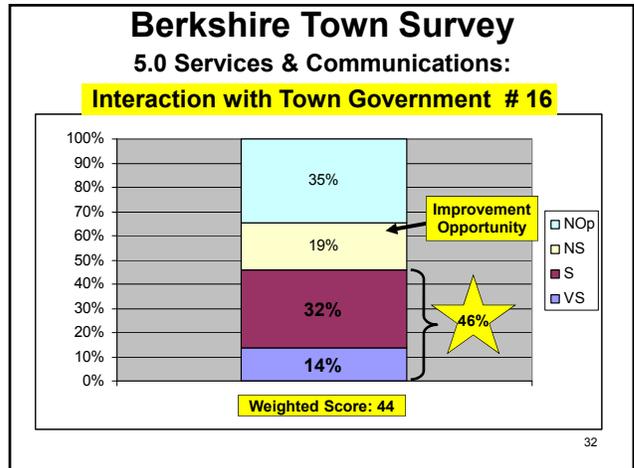
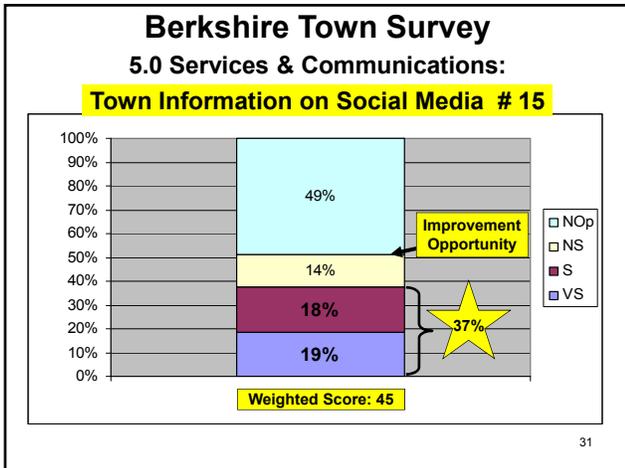
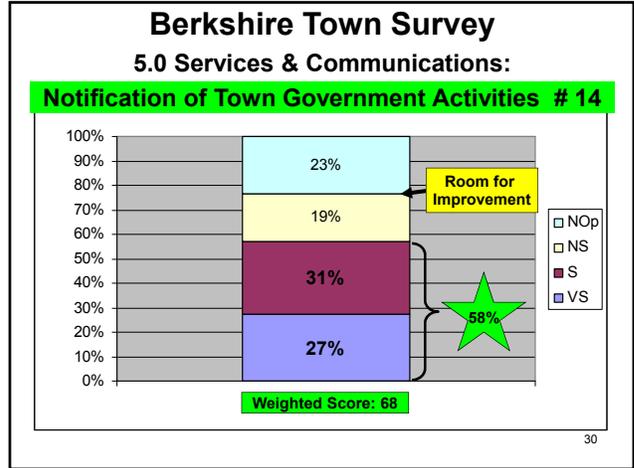
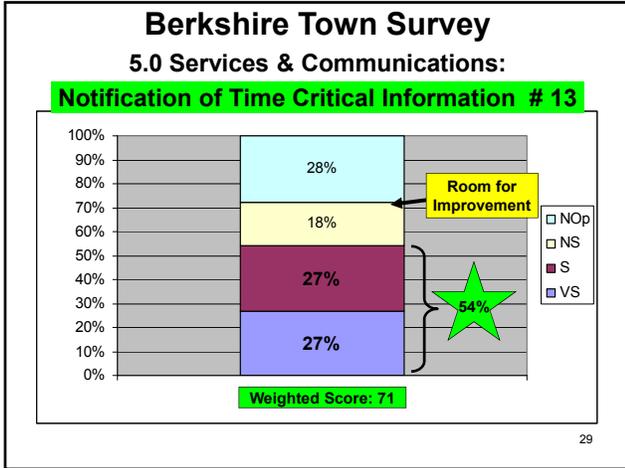


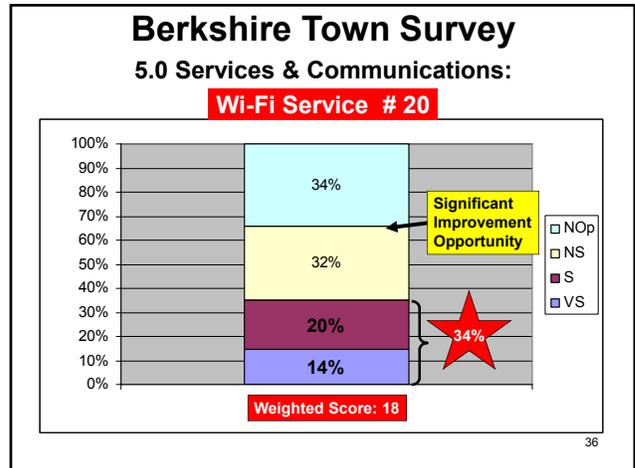
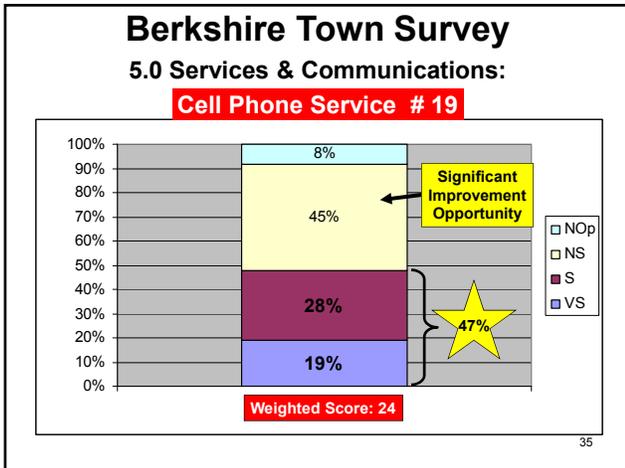
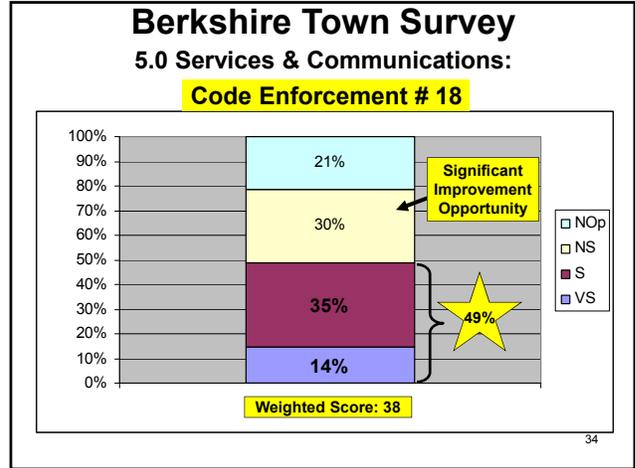
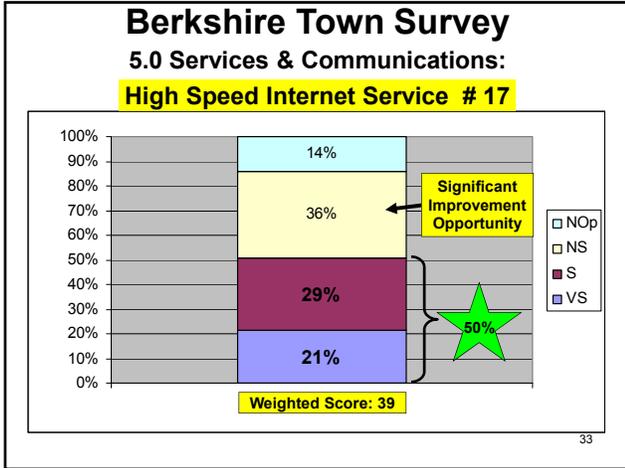


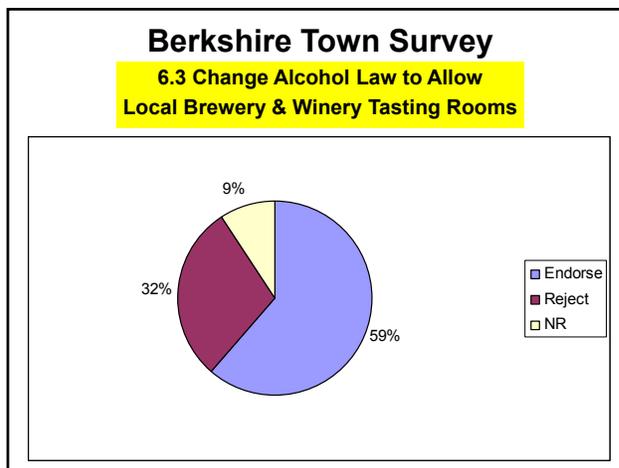
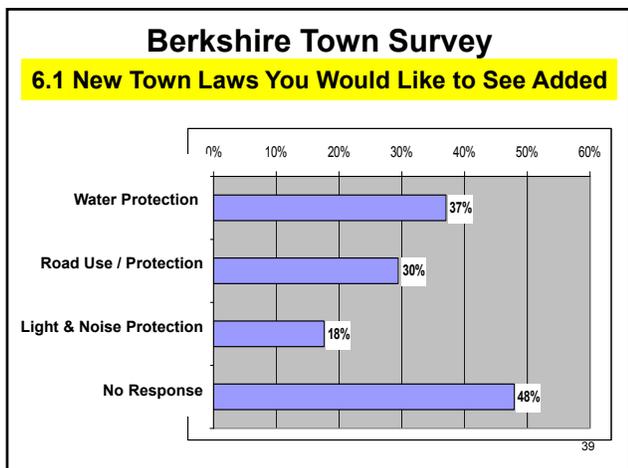
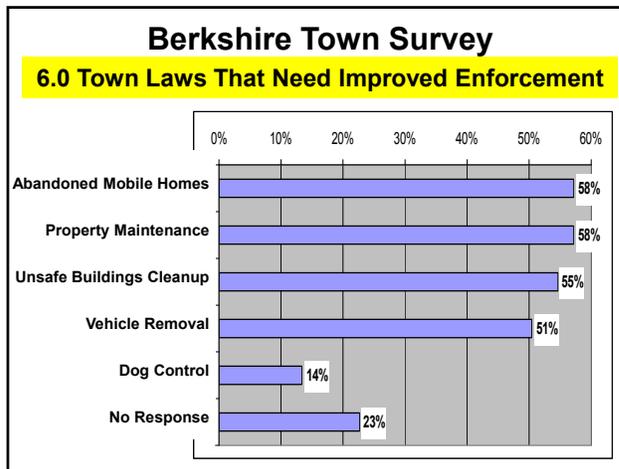
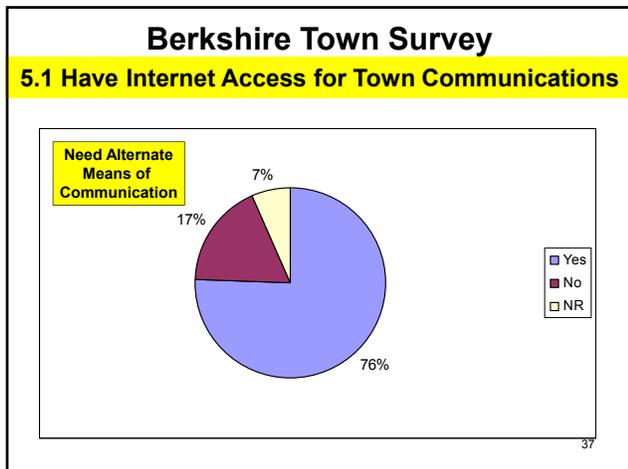


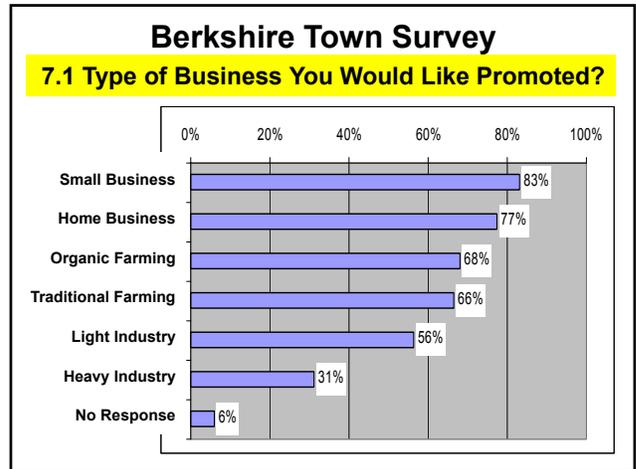
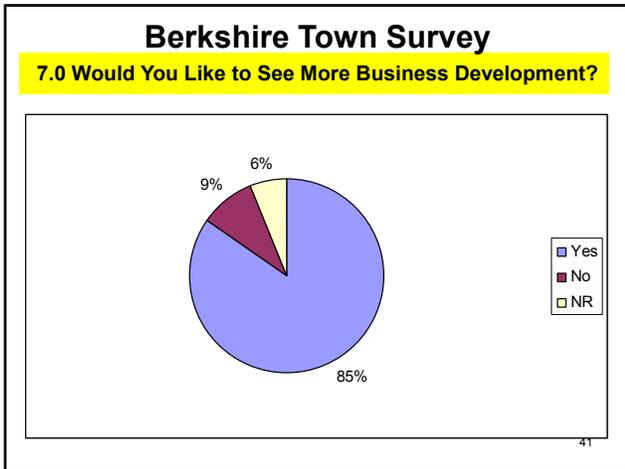












10 Minute Break

43

- ### Berkshire Town Survey
- Top Issues / # Comments**
- Laws (108)**
    - Enforcement, No New Laws, New Laws, Traffic Noise
    - Speed Limits / Safety, Dog Control, Alcohol Licensing / Sales
  - Business Development (69)**
    - Business Preferences, Business Development
  - Cleanup (45)**
    - Town, Properties, Roadsides, Vehicles / Mobile Homes, Creeks
  - Town Communications (43)**
    - Town-wide, E-mail, Events, Website
    - Cell Phone, Internet, Social Media
  - Roads (23)**
  - Taxes (11)**
- 44

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Law Enforcement: 40 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
The Gov't Should Not Pick & Choose Who They Enforce Laws On	Enforce the Laws We Have
We Seem to Have Different Rules for Different Organizations	More Coordination Between Town Officials, Code Enforcer, Justice
	Enforce Laws Regulating Un-registered Vehicles & Abandoned Mobile Homes

45

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**No New Laws: 24 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
We Have Way Too Many Now	Don't Make New Laws That Exist At County or State Level
The Fewer Laws the Better	Quit Making New Laws
	Stop Passing Laws
	Quit Making Laws For Specific Problems
	Reduce Red Tape & Regulatory Burden

46

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**New Laws: 11 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Water Wells Too Close to Septic Systems	Municipal Water Needed Due to High Water Table and High Concentration of Septic Systems
Discussions Have Begun About Road and Water Use, PA not Ready When Fracking Started	Road Use / Preservation And Water Protection Laws In Preparation for Fracking
Wouldn't Worry About Water EPA, DEC and Chesapeake Bay Commission Have It Covered	Berkshire Needs Its Own Water Protection Laws
State & Federal Agencies Are Not Responsible for Local Water Protection	

47

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Traffic Noise: 12 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Big Truck Noise Ruining Peace and Quiet	Prohibit use of jake brakes
Peaceful when trucks are not running non-stop	Lower town speed limit
Used to be quiet on Rt 38, now truck traffic is horrible	
Motorcycles and motorbikes up and down roads	

48

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Speed Limit / Safety: 14 Comments

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Big trucks are tearing up roads	Need Speed Limit Enforcement
Not safe to walk along Rt 38	More Police Presence To Reduce Speeding
Children or older adults will be hurt someday crossing road	Need to lower Rt 38 Speed Limit in Town
Fearful to have kids ride bikes by street	Automatic Speed Checker at Either End of Town
No Police Enforcement Of Speed Limits	

49

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Dog Control: 9 Comments

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Neighbors Dog Barks Non-stop	Prohibit Barking Dogs
Dog License Stuff is Completely Un-necessary	Control Nuisance Barking, Ruining Every Neighbor's Lives
Don't Need Dog Control	Control Dogs & Domestic Animals Day & Night, Not OK to Come on Our Property
Neighbor Dogs Attacked And Nearly Killed Our Horse	

50

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Alcohol Licensing / Sales: 9 Comments

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Can't Sell Beer? REALLY !!	Have Referendum to Vote Town Wet
Feels Like We Live In the Movie Footloose !	Allow Beer and Wine Sale For Local Growers
Would Be Good to Allow Sales of Alcohol	Allow Sales of Alcohol So the Convenience Store Has a Chance
Current Law Does Not Restrict the Sale of Crops	
We are proudly one of the last dry towns in NY	

51

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Business Preferences: 49 Comments

Want Gas Drilling <u>Sample Comments:</u> Approve, Support, Friendly toward, DRILL, Best chance to keep my farm	Small, family-owned businesses
Do Not Want Gas Drilling <u>Sample Comments:</u> Ban, Very Concerned, NO FRACKING, Highly Opposed To, NOT WORTH RISK, Businesses That Don't Pollute, Support a ban on all heavy industry	Farm & agriculture based business and others that would support it
	No business growth

52

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Business Development: 20 Comments

<p>Don't discourage Business with Over-regulation</p> <p>Need a person assigned to just promoting Berkshire</p> <p>Let the county and Southern Tier provide business development capability, Berkshire not capable</p> <p>Business Growth Not Compatible with Maintaining Rural Lifestyle</p>	<p>Provide tax incentives for new locally owned businesses</p> <p>Encourage / advertise Berkshire as a place to bring your business</p> <p>Create Northern Tioga County Chamber of Commerce to Work with Planning Board &amp; Promote Business Development</p>
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53

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Cleanup Town: 10 Comments

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
<p>Our community in areas looks like a disaster</p> <p>Let's cleanup what we have before continuing with new projects</p> <p>Spring cleanup is so limited on what can be picked up</p> <p>Berkshire used to be a nice town! Now looks like a garbage area</p>	<p>Make Our Town More Attractive</p> <p>Need curbside pickup again</p> <p>Town could clean up around office, set an example</p>

54

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Cleanup / Maintain Properties: 22 Comments

<u>Cleanup Priorities</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howland's Mill</li> <li>• Railroad Ave &amp; Mill St</li> <li>• Abandoned Eyesore Buildings</li> <li>• Old town buildings</li> <li>• Junky Yards, Trash in yards</li> <li>• Farms no longer in business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Owner Cleanup Plan</li> <li>• Make help available to elderly who can't cleanup</li> <li>• Fine people who have junky yards</li> <li>• Replace falling down buildings with empty lots for new business</li> <li>• Get grants to take down old buildings</li> </ul>

55

### Berkshire Town Survey

#### Cleanup Roadsides / Creeks: 6 Comments

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
<p>Litter on Berkshire roads is unreal</p>	<p>Cleanup town &amp; county roads</p> <p>Create a network of "adopt a roadside" teams</p> <p>Volunteer roadside cleanup crews</p> <p>Cleanup Creeks</p>

56

**Berkshire Town Survey**

**Cleanup Vehicles / Mobile Homes: 5 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Too many junk cars	Enforce Junk Car Removal
2 mobile homes have been sitting for over 10 years	Enforce Mobile Home Code
Lots of Abandoned Mobile Homes & Un-registered Vehicles being an eyesore	Enforce the ordinances or don't have them

57

**Berkshire Town Survey**

**Communications – Town-wide: 13 Comments**

Suggestions

Monthly town newsletter	Annual Town Meeting
Let people know when a new business comes to town	Town clerk to be available to public more often, answer phone calls for information
Articles in Pennysaver from board and/or Supervisor, planning board	Community sign as you come into town
	Want to know how the survey will help the town board to help Berkshire

58

**Berkshire Town Survey**

**Communications – Events: 8 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Rarely hear about events except through neighbors	Make better use of billboard in front of Town Hall
Only hear about events from quarterly newsletter	Make fire station for use of communication services
Not enough advance notice of community events because we have plans made in advance	Place bulletin board somewhere on main street to note community news
	A monthly newsletter with rundown of up-coming events would be helpful

**Berkshire Town Survey**

**Communications – E-Mail: 8 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Skip sends e-mails, is superb	Send out monthly town meeting minutes by e-mail similar to town happenings
Not many people know about Skip's e-mail	Send more e-mails on items of interest
Town-wide communications should not be limited to one volunteer	Find a way for older people & others who have no computer access
Communications via the town-wide e-mail is great, but it should be coming from an elected official rather than a private citizen	

60

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Communications – Cell Phone: 8 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Cell Phone Service is terrible	New AT&T Cell Phone Tower would be awesome
Need better Cell Service	Need a Cell Tower
Cell phone service is high priority	Need more options for Cell Phone Service

61

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Communications – Website: 5 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Town website is good, but needs to be kept current	Town Fire District needs to put information on the website
Website needs to be publicized better	Residents should be able to get all information about the town from one site
	Advertise events on website, plus through Courier newspaper

62

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Communications - Internet: 5 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
I hate Frontier	Get Roadrunner
DSL is slow	Higher bandwidth would be great
Internet provider could use some competition	Would like to have better options for cable TV, internet, call phone service

63

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Communications – Social Media: 6 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Is the Town on Facebook?	Create a Facebook page and use it
To heck with Social Media, they only want to start trouble (in a big way)	If you have a Facebook page publicize it
	Find community members who are experienced with social media to promote events

64

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Roads: 23 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Roads Poorly Maintained	Hard Top Roads Need to Be Re-tarred & chipped to avoid further deterioration
Mediocre Road Maintenance	
Road Conditions Are Deplorable	Town Highway Needs to Work 5 Days/Week, 8 Hours/Day
Pipes Under Town Roads Need to Be Kept Clear	
Need Good Roads To Attract New Businesses	

65

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Taxes: 11 Comments**

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>
Taxes Too High	Lower Property Taxes !
Senior Citizens Need a Break on Taxes	Lower Taxes !
	Lower the .... Taxes !
I Do Not Favor Tax Credits To Promote Businesses	Reduce the Tax Burden !!!
	Lower Taxes to Help Businesses Keep Going

66

**Berkshire Town Survey**  
**Predominant Themes**

**Preserve & Improve What We Like (Top 10)**

- Rural Setting, Peace & Quiet, Small Population,
- Good Well Water, Clean Air, Friendly Neighbors, Low Crime
- Local Library, Local Emergency Services, Local Agriculture

**Improve Town Attractiveness / Pride**

- Comprehensive Roadside, Property, & Town Space Cleanup

**Re-build Sense of Community**

- Community-sponsored Projects & Events

**Expand Local Businesses**

- Small, Family-owned, Home-based, Agriculture-based

67