



**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Community Survey<sup>TM</sup>

## La Vista, NE

Trends over Time

2019



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# Summary

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report discusses trends over time, comparing the 2019 ratings for the City of La Vista to its previous survey results in 2007, 2013 and 2016. Additional reports and technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Trend data for La Vista represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time, especially, represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Meaningful differences between survey years have been noted within the following tables as being "higher" or "lower" if the differences are greater than eight percentage points between the 2016 and 2019 surveys, otherwise the comparisons between 2016 and 2019 are noted as being "similar." Additionally, benchmark comparisons for all survey years are presented for reference. Changes in the benchmark comparison over time can be impacted by various trends, including varying survey cycles for the individual communities that comprise the benchmarks, regional and national economic or other events, as well as emerging survey methodologies.

Overall, ratings in La Vista for 2019 generally remained stable. Of the 134 items for which comparisons were available, 104 items were rated similarly in 2016 and 2019, eight items showed a decrease in ratings and 22 showed an increase in ratings. Notable trends over time included the following:

- Within the pillar of Community Characteristics, ratings for 13 aspects increased from 2016 to 2019, with most concentrated within the facet of Economy, including overall economic health, shopping opportunities, employment opportunities, and vibrancy of the downtown/commercial area. Assessments of employment opportunities have increased by 27% since 2007. Other improvements in 2019 included new development in La Vista, ease of travel by walking, and La Vista's overall appearance, among others. Residents' evaluations of cost of living and availability of affordable quality child care/preschool decreased from 2016 to 2019.
- In Governance, evaluations for emergency preparedness, open space, natural areas preservation, and land use, planning, and zoning improved from 2016 to 2019. Additionally, assessments of economic development, recreation programs, special events, and services provided by the Federal Government increased over time. However, respondents were more critical of bus or transit services in 2019 than in 2016.
- However, rates of participation saw more declines than improvements. Respondents reported lower levels of carpooling instead of driving alone, conserving water, making efforts to make their home more energy efficient, and participating in physical activity. More residents were under housing cost stress in 2019. Conversely, residents were more likely to award high marks to sense of community in La Vista in 2019 compared to 2016.

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Table 1: Community Characteristics General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
	2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
Overall quality of life	89%	90%	89%	90%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Overall image	76%	72%	72%	83%	Higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Place to live	93%	95%	91%	95%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Neighborhood	85%	90%	85%	90%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Place to raise children	90%	92%	88%	95%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
Place to retire	65%	65%	72%	71%	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Overall appearance	73%	65%	67%	83%	Higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar

Table 2: Community Characteristics by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
		2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
Safety	Overall feeling of safety	NA	NA	90%	95%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Higher
	Safe in neighborhood	94%	98%	97%	97%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Safe downtown/commercial area	94%	93%	94%	96%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Overall ease of travel	NA	NA	89%	93%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
	Paths and walking trails	NA	57%	61%	72%	Higher	NA	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Ease of walking	69%	67%	71%	79%	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Higher
	Travel by bicycle	46%	48%	52%	58%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Travel by public transportation	NA	NA	32%	29%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Travel by car	NA	NA	88%	88%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
Mobility	Public parking	NA	NA	84%	82%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
	Traffic flow	76%	71%	79%	77%	Similar	NA	Much higher	Higher	Higher
Natural Environment	Overall natural environment	NA	NA	78%	77%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Cleanliness	NA	74%	82%	87%	Similar	NA	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Air quality	NA	NA	91%	92%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Built Environment	Overall built environment	NA	NA	58%	68%	Higher	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	New development in La Vista	84%	64%	56%	77%	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Higher
	Affordable quality housing	67%	70%	58%	60%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Higher
	Housing options	NA	74%	64%	70%	Similar	NA	Much higher	Similar	Higher
	Public places	NA	NA	54%	60%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar

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		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
		2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
Economy	Overall economic health	NA	NA	67%	80%	Higher	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	NA	NA	23%	35%	Higher	NA	NA	Much lower	Similar
	Business and services	NA	55%	54%	60%	Similar	NA	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Cost of living	NA	NA	61%	51%	Lower	NA	NA	Higher	Similar
	Shopping opportunities	51%	35%	41%	54%	Higher	Similar	Much lower	Similar	Similar
	Employment opportunities	33%	31%	43%	60%	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar	Higher
	Place to visit	NA	NA	51%	57%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Place to work	62%	63%	62%	69%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
Recreation and Wellness	Health and wellness	NA	NA	69%	74%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Mental health care	NA	NA	46%	54%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Preventive health services	NA	NA	68%	68%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Health care	55%	NA	68%	71%	Similar	Much higher	NA	Similar	Similar
	Food	NA	NA	63%	69%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Recreational opportunities	42%	46%	58%	56%	Similar	Much lower	Much lower	Similar	Similar
	Fitness opportunities	NA	NA	58%	65%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Education and enrichment opportunities	NA	NA	74%	76%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Religious or spiritual events and activities	NA	68%	62%	76%	Higher	NA	Much lower	Lower	Similar
	Cultural/arts/music activities	37%	31%	49%	54%	Similar	Much lower	Much lower	Similar	Similar
	Adult education	NA	NA	70%	68%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	K-12 education	NA	NA	85%	87%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
	Child care/preschool	56%	61%	77%	62%	Lower	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Social events and activities	NA	58%	57%	61%	Similar	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
Community Engagement	Neighborliness	NA	NA	67%	73%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Openness and acceptance	NA	70%	70%	79%	Higher	NA	Higher	Similar	Higher
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	NA	57%	62%	68%	Similar	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Opportunities to volunteer	NA	58%	55%	68%	Higher	NA	Much lower	Lower	Similar

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Table 3: Governance General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
	2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
Services provided by La Vista	83%	86%	81%	88%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Customer service	80%	89%	83%	87%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
Value of services for taxes paid	61%	67%	61%	57%	Similar	Higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
Overall direction	72%	66%	74%	78%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
Welcoming resident involvement	62%	55%	65%	66%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Higher
Confidence in City government	NA	NA	70%	68%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Higher
Acting in the best interest of La Vista	NA	NA	73%	74%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Higher
Being honest	NA	NA	77%	73%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Higher
Treating all residents fairly	NA	NA	78%	77%	Similar	NA	NA	Higher	Higher
Services provided by the Federal Government	45%	40%	36%	47%	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar

Table 4: Governance by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
		2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
Safety	Police	89%	90%	89%	94%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
	Fire	94%	91%	96%	97%	Similar	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Ambulance/EMS	93%	91%	96%	95%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Crime prevention	81%	85%	88%	86%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Higher
	Fire prevention	87%	84%	87%	89%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Animal control	75%	75%	75%	77%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Emergency preparedness	NA	70%	65%	74%	Higher	NA	Higher	Similar	Similar
Mobility	Traffic enforcement	76%	82%	80%	76%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar
	Street repair	65%	72%	56%	56%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Street cleaning	72%	77%	68%	69%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Street lighting	76%	77%	75%	81%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
	Snow removal	71%	79%	75%	74%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar

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		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
		2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
	Sidewalk maintenance	66%	66%	64%	67%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Traffic signal timing	61%	69%	60%	60%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Bus or transit services	NA	38%	44%	36%	Lower	NA	Much lower	Similar	Lower
Natural Environment	Garbage collection	NA	NA	83%	88%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Recycling	NA	NA	68%	70%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Yard waste pick-up	NA	NA	78%	75%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Drinking water	NA	NA	85%	83%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Natural areas preservation	NA	56%	58%	67%	Higher	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Open space	NA	NA	56%	65%	Higher	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Built Environment	Storm drainage	76%	78%	74%	69%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Sewer services	85%	83%	84%	81%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Power utility	NA	NA	82%	85%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Utility billing	NA	NA	72%	75%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Land use, planning and zoning	66%	55%	53%	66%	Higher	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Higher
	Code enforcement	67%	59%	53%	55%	Similar	Much higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar
	Cable television	NA	NA	58%	59%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Economy	Economic development	69%	51%	60%	70%	Higher	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Higher
Recreation and Wellness	City parks	80%	82%	78%	79%	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Recreation programs	78%	77%	64%	76%	Higher	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Recreation centers	78%	76%	64%	72%	Similar	Much higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Health services	NA	NA	75%	76%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Special events	NA	NA	69%	77%	Higher	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Public libraries	86%	87%	83%	91%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar
Community Engagement	Public information	74%	76%	70%	73%	Similar	Much higher	Higher	Similar	Similar

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Table 5: Participation General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
	2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
Sense of community	70%	70%	64%	73%	Higher	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Recommend La Vista	NA	95%	94%	97%	Similar	NA	Much higher	Similar	Higher
Remain in La Vista	NA	86%	87%	94%	Similar	NA	Similar	Similar	Higher
Contacted La Vista employees	47%	33%	30%	27%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Lower	Lower

Table 6: Participation by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
		2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
Safety	Stocked supplies for an emergency	NA	NA	30%	31%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Did NOT report a crime	NA	NA	81%	83%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Was NOT the victim of a crime	87%	92%	91%	92%	Similar	NA	Higher	Similar	Similar
Mobility	Used public transportation instead of driving	NA	NA	7%	3%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Much lower
	Carpooled instead of driving alone	NA	NA	41%	31%	Lower	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
	Walked or biked instead of driving	NA	NA	45%	43%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Lower
Natural Environment	Conserved water	NA	NA	77%	64%	Lower	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
	Made home more energy efficient	NA	NA	75%	62%	Lower	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
	Recycled at home	NA	60%	69%	66%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Lower	Much lower
Built Environment	Did NOT observe a code violation	NA	NA	58%	64%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	NOT under housing cost stress	NA	81%	82%	74%	Lower	NA	Much higher	Higher	Similar
Economy	Purchased goods or services in La Vista	NA	NA	96%	94%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Economy will have positive impact on income	14%	21%	26%	30%	Similar	NA	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Work in La Vista	NA	NA	24%	21%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Much lower
Recreation and Wellness	Used La Vista recreation centers	37%	46%	46%	40%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Lower	Lower
	Visited a City park	76%	77%	74%	74%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Similar	Similar
	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	NA	NA	74%	75%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar

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		Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)				2019 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark			
		2007	2013	2016	2019		2007	2013	2016	2019
	Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	NA	NA	86%	77%	Lower	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	In very good to excellent health	NA	NA	58%	59%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Used La Vista public libraries	60%	60%	52%	54%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Lower	Similar
	Participated in religious or spiritual activities	NA	25%	30%	23%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Lower	Much lower
	Attended a City-sponsored event	NA	NA	46%	42%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
Community Engagement	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	NA	NA	13%	12%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Lower
	Contacted La Vista elected officials	NA	NA	14%	11%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Volunteered	16%	16%	16%	19%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Much lower	Lower
	Participated in a club	NA	11%	12%	14%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Lower	Lower
	Talked to or visited with neighbors	NA	NA	89%	89%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Done a favor for a neighbor	NA	NA	76%	74%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Attended a local public meeting	17%	15%	12%	11%	Similar	NA	Much lower	Lower	Lower
	Watched a local public meeting	NA	NA	16%	10%	Similar	NA	NA	Lower	Lower
	Read or watched local news	NA	NA	86%	82%	Similar	NA	NA	Similar	Similar
	Voted in local elections	68%	74%	80%	82%	Similar	NA	Similar	Similar	Similar