

## HOUSING SURVEY OF LEVERETT RESIDENTS 55 and OVER SUMMARY

The Leverett Affordable Housing Trust conducted the survey in October, 2015. Surveys were distributed via the Town Newsletter, posted on the Town website, distributed by the Council on Aging at events, and were available in Town Hall

Population Data for Leverett according to the 2010 Census:

Total Population: 1,851 residents (percentages are rounded)

Ages 55 and older: 738; 40% of population

Ages 40 – 54: 397; 21% of population

Ages 20 – 39: 330; 18% of population

Ages 19 and younger: 386; 21% of population

Breakdown of the 55 and older category:

Ages 55 – 59: 224; 12%

Ages 60 – 64: 205; 11%

Ages 65 – 69: 133; 7%

Ages 70 – 74: 73; 4%

Ages 75 – 79: 54; 3%

Ages 80 and over: 49; 3%

Surveys Returned: 49

Age brackets of both the person who completed the survey and the partner/spouse:

55 – 59: 10

60 – 64: 11

65 – 69: 21

70 – 74: 22

75 – 79: 8

80 plus: 5

The Survey is attached with the number of responses in each category. Respondents did not all complete all of the questions. Many categories allowed more than one choice. Many people checked Yes or No as well as Maybe in questions with these options.

Comments are attached.

## HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LEVERETT RESIDENTS 55 AND OLDER

The Leverett Affordable Housing Trust is collecting information about the housing needs of residents in Leverett so as people age they can continue to live in Leverett if they choose to. We want to know what your needs, goals and plans are so we can research resources and programs that are most appropriate. No identifying information is requested.

Family members and caregivers are also encouraged to complete this questionnaire.  
Check here if you are a caregiver or family member NO REPLIES

Additional copies are available at Town Hall (front entrance) and on the Town website.

***PLEASE RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE BY OCTOBER 31 (details below)***

How long have you lived in Leverett:

Less than 10 years 3 10 – 20 years 7 more than 20 years 38

Live alone 12 With spouse/partner 32 With family or others 8

Your age and ages of others living with you: [See Overview for information](#)

Rent 1 Own Home 46 Mortgage: Yes 14 No 21

Do you plan to remain in your current residence as you age?

Yes 22 No 4 Maybe 30

If No or Maybe: Check all that may apply

- 19 Move to another Town/area with lower housing costs/taxes
- 19 Move to area with more accessible services (stores, transportation, etc.)
- 13 Move because of availability of Senior Housing with more services
- 8 Move to smaller residence in Leverett/smaller house
- 6 Move to be closer to, or live with, family
- Other/Comments:

If Yes or Maybe: what financial and/or support services might you need to remain in your home?

- Tax relief 28 Home repair/modification 22
- Home/Health Care 22
- Transportation help 23 Home maintenance help 31
- Other/Comments:

Would you choose to remain in Leverett (or seriously consider the option) if some type of Senior Housing facility was available at the same or lower cost to you?

Yes 22 No 13 Maybe 10

If Yes or Maybe, what type of housing would you be interested in? Check all that apply  
Rental unit \_\_12\_\_ Condominium\_\_18\_\_ Small Senior Community\_\_16\_\_  
Mixed age housing\_\_17\_\_  
Other/Comments:

What services would you like included:  
Transportation\_\_28\_\_ Maintenance\_\_30\_\_ Health assistance\_\_19\_\_  
Other services:

What is your (including spouse/partner) current annual income:  
under \$20,000\_\_3\_\_ \$20,000-\$50,000\_\_13\_\_ over \$50,000\_\_31\_\_

In the future my income is likely going to be:  
Under \$20,000\_\_5\_\_ \$20,000-\$50,000\_\_16\_\_ over \$50,000\_\_25\_\_

Are you aware of local and State tax relief and home repair/maintenance assistance programs for seniors?  
Yes\_\_17\_\_ No\_\_26\_\_

Have you ever received this assistance? Yes\_\_4\_\_ No\_\_42\_\_

Other Comments and Suggestions: As you, or your family member, plan for the future, what are your most critical needs, concerns, and mainly suggestions? Please provide as specific information as possible to help the Affordable Housing Trust consider options for Leverett. Please attach additional sheet with your comments.

**RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE BY OCTOBER 31 to the Senior Housing Survey Box  
Town Hall front entrance or mail to: Town of Leverett, Attn: Senior Survey,  
9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA 01054. Additional copies available at Town Hall front entrance and  
on the Town website.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

Leverett Affordable Housing Trust Survey of Residents 55 & Older  
Summary of Comments

Comments fell into 3 main categories:

- concerns about affordability;
- concerns about future health and physical capacity; and
- future planning.

There were also comments about services that are more applicable to the Council on Aging.

Concerns about Affordability:

Most of the concerns centered on taxes. This was expressed in the numbers as well as the comments. There were additional comments to those below expressing the same sentiments.

“Love Leverett and our home but taxes are high and services are not provided.” (ages 67 and 70)

“Our property taxes are \$8500 and this is our biggest expense; more than our mortgage, health care and utilities. Leverett has priced us out of living here.” (ages 58 and 57)

“We want to stay in our house as long as we can afford to do so.” (age 67)

“I would like to stay but high real estate taxes will make that impossible when I stop working.” (age 66)

“Would like to stay but do not see how I can afford a mortgage payment and taxes.” (age 60)

Concerns about Future Health and Physical Capacity:

“Our choice is to stay In place but we will need assistance.”

“Would like to stay but Leverett has a lack of services.”

“We’ll stay for about the next 15 years. I may get to the point where I can’t take care of the yard and want to live in Senior Housing.” (age 69)

“Vision eventually will result in driving problems.” (age 74)

“Depends on health and capacity” (age 78)

“I would like to stay as long as I can maintain my home and yard. Property taxes would be a big concern but my ability to maintain it would be the major concern.” (age 67)

“We’re considering moving to a condo style residence where maintenance would be at a minimum” (ages 76 and 74)

“We’ll stay as long as our health is reasonably good and we can drive and maintain house and live independently. May move to a warmer climate.” (ages 66 and 67)

“Stay until I am physically able to maintain home. Then move to elderly housing with services. Nice if it was in Leverett.” (ages 72 and 70)

Future Planning:

“No immediate plans.” (ages 71 and 70)

“Too early to tell.” (ages 61 and 63)

“Long terms answers not needed at present.” (ages 71 and 72)

“Built a house to support our aging-in-place in Leverett; one floor, easy maintenance; closer to Amherst, not hilly, etc.” (ages 69 and 69)

“I would love to add an accessible addition to my home, for me to live in after retirement. Then a family member and their family could live in the main part of the original house.” (age 63)

Comments relevant to needs other than housing availability and affordability:

“A more open and developed Senior Support System would be important addition to the Town; possibly a Senior Center and office?” (ages 70 and 73)

“Helping with food acquisition; perhaps tapping into the Stop & Shop service by doing a weekly or bi-weekly collection and delivery to elders. Also tapping into some of the carry out options to get food delivered.” (age 87)

“I would like an ombudsman to discuss my housing needs as they arise. I am unaware of services and programs that exist that could help with my maintenance, repairs, financial issues; people with integrity and lower prices I could call upon.” (age 72)