

Chester Township  
Land Use Planning Committee  
Resident Survey, 2025

Let's start with some quick facts

Our Township Trustees have formed a committee of Chester Township residents to review our township's Land Use Plan. The current plan is 17 years old, and the last formal survey of the township's residents was conducted in 2002. We are now conducting an updated survey to measure public opinion on a variety of zoning issues.

**Introduction**

The Land Use Plan relates primarily to our township zoning. Ideally, it forms the basis of any necessary or appropriate changes to our zoning ordinance to conform to the wishes of our community. You can learn more about the current Land Use Plan and the Land Use Planning Committee from the Township Website at:

[Land Use Plan | Chester Township](#)

We are providing this survey to all of our residents ages 18 or older. We strongly desire to hear from as many of you as possible so that we can make appropriate recommendations to the township zoning commission and the trustees. We welcome input from different members of the same household. The purpose of the survey is to learn the opinions of our fellow citizens about our township and its future.

**Deadline: December 15, 2025**

The deadline for responses is December 15, 2025. At that time, we will analyze the results to formulate appropriate recommendations.

**Questions?**

Have any questions? We don't blame you. Please see the following FAQ's, which should address the most common questions we anticipate.

Chester Township  
Land Use Planning Committee  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **What is the Land Use Planning Committee?** The Land Use Planning Committee is made up of 16 township residents who responded to the request for applicants made public over the summer. Their names are listed on the township website. They are volunteering their time to assist in this process. We believe they represent a good cross-section of our township. They include both long-term and short-term residents, residents from every part of our township, business owners, and people of all age groups. All are dedicated to the township's future. They are working with the assistance of the Township Zoning Department.
2. **What is the purpose of this survey?** As noted above, the Committee is focused on zoning issues. The Committee and Trustees want to gain a better sense of what the residents of our community like or dislike about our current zoning and areas in which residents desire change (if any).
3. **Wasn't there a survey a few years ago?** A citizen-led group conducted a survey in 2020 with the help of the Maxine Goodman School of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. While the survey was helpful, many believed that its scope went beyond the land use plan. Perhaps more importantly, the survey was sent at the beginning of the unprecedented pandemic that may have affected the response rate and results. We are conducting a more focused survey now, with the goal of achieving the highest possible participation. The results of both that survey and the one conducted in 2002 are available at [Land Use Plan | Chester Township](#)
4. **What is the scope of the survey?** While the survey will ask basic questions to gauge the community's opinions on some township-wide issues, the focus here will likely be on the township's commercial areas along Mayfield and Chillicothe Roads.
5. **Is there some kind of agenda?** Not really, other than to determine whether our zoning ordinance can or should be changed to better address the wishes of the majority of our residents. Prior survey results have reflected a strong desire by residents to maintain our semi-rural atmosphere, low taxes, and low crime rate. While we will review the survey results with interest, we do not expect that to change.

6. **What about the schools?** The survey will concentrate on township zoning issues, and will not relate to the West Geauga School District. It is a different political entity and has residents in Russell and Newbury as well as Chester.
7. **Is this being done in secret?** Absolutely not! We want community participation. As noted on the township website, the committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The minutes are available online and are public. The meetings will continue through next summer when the Committee makes its final recommendation to the trustees. You are very welcome and invited to attend any or all of them.
8. **What if I have trouble responding to the survey electronically?** Contact Town Hall at 440-729-7058 for assistance taking the survey. We do not want technology issues to prevent us from hearing anyone's opinions.
9. **What is this costing the township?** Very little. Our committee members are volunteers, and we are using freely available software to track the survey results, assisted by our township staff. We are not incurring the fees of any consultants or third parties.
10. **What decisions have been made?** None. That is the purpose of the survey. Once the Committee learns the survey results, it will continue to meet to determine what the community wants and to make proposals, if any are appropriate, to the Trustees.
11. **What is the expected result?** Again, we are not entering this with any pre-conceived notions and will await the survey results. Once the results have been received and analyzed, the Committee will make formal recommendations to the Zoning Commission and Trustees to act upon (or not) as they find appropriate.
12. **So, is the Committee going to make changes?** No. The Committee's role is intended to engage with the community to find the preferences of its residents and to make an appropriate report and recommendations. The Committee itself has no power to make changes, but will only provide advice to the Zoning Commission and Trustees.
13. **More than one person lives at our address. Can we submit more than one survey response?** We encourage the participation of all of our residents, ages 18 or over. Each person within a household is free to submit their own responses.

14. **Will I have a chance to comment on the Land Use Plan?** Certainly. We have space for comments on the surveys, but you are also free to write the Committee at Town Hall, 12701 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland, OH 44026 or [zoning@chestertwp.org](mailto:zoning@chestertwp.org) as well. Most Committee members (names on the site) would welcome a talk with any resident about these issues. We also intend to hold public meetings to solicit additional opinions from the community. We want everyone's input!

