Community Associations: Preferred Places to Call Home
The results are in!

For the sixth time in 11 years, Americans living in homeowners associations and condominiums say they’re overwhelmingly satisfied in their communities:

- **87%** of residents rate their overall community association experience as positive (65%) or neutral (22%).
- **84%** say members of their elected governing board “absolutely” or “for the most part” serve the best interests of their communities.
- **69%** say their community managers provide value and support to residents and their associations.
- **88%** say their association’s rules protect and enhance property values (66%) or have a neutral effect (22%); only 5% say the rules harm property values.

These findings objectively refute the unfounded and unsubstantiated myth that the community association model of governance is failing to serve the best interests of Americans who choose to live in common-interest communities.

Results from almost identical national surveys conducted in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2014 and 2016 are strikingly consistent and rarely vary a standard margin error for national, demographically representative surveys.

The 2016 survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics for the Foundation for Community Association Research. The following illustrations compare results from the six surveys conducted since 2011. Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding and “don’t know” answers.

For more information and data about community associations, visit www.caionline.org/aboutcommunityassociations
On a scale of one to five, with one being very bad and five being very good, how would you rate your overall experience living in a community association?

87% of residents rate their overall community association experience as positive (65%) or neutral (22%).

Overall, would you say you are on friendly terms with your current community association board, or would you say you are on unfriendly terms with them?

81% say they are on friendly terms with their association board.

Do you think the members of your elected governing board strive to serve the best interests of the community as a whole?

84% say members of their elected governing board “absolutely” or “for the most part” serve the best interests of their communities.
Association Assets: Community Managers

In your view, does your community manager provide value and support to residents and the community as a whole?

69% of residents say their community managers provide value and support to residents and their associations.

Was direct interaction with your community manager generally a positive experience?

82% of residents who had direct contact with their community manager say it was a positive experience.
Assessments: Acceptable Amounts

Thinking about the amount of your overall assessments that you pay for the services provided by your association, do you feel the amount of your assessments is too much, too little or just the right amount?

What do you think your community should do when residents neglect to pay their assessments?

62% of residents say their association assessments are “just the right amount”—or “too little”
Association Governance: Under the Right Control

The governance of community associations is subject to differing state laws and regulations. Would you like to see more or less government control of these associations, or would you prefer no change?

74% of residents prefer either no change or less government control within their association.

Do the rules in your community protect and enhance property values, harm them or make no difference?

88% of residents say their association’s rules protect and enhance property values (66%) or have a neutral effect (22%); only 5% say the rules harm property values.
Association Superlatives: Best and Worst

Best aspects of living in a community association

- Maintenance-free neighborhood
- Clean/attractive neighborhood
- Safe neighborhood
- Everybody knows the rules
- Responsible neighbors
- Property values
- Quiet neighborhood
- Amenities like swimming pools and tennis courts
- You have a say in the rules

Worst aspects of living in a community association

- Restrictions on exterior home improvements
- Paying dues
- The rules
- Restrictions on parking
- Dissatisfaction with board
- Restrictions on landscaping
- Meetings
- Dealing with neighbors/members
- Nothing bad

Nothing good

Other/not sure

2005
- Orange: 8
- Blue: 6
- Green: 6
- Red: 3
- Brown: 4

2007
- Orange: 6
- Blue: 4
- Green: 4
- Red: 2
- Brown: 2

2009
- Orange: 5
- Blue: 4
- Green: 4
- Red: 2
- Brown: 2

2012
- Orange: 7
- Blue: 5
- Green: 5
- Red: 3
- Brown: 2

2014
- Orange: 7
- Blue: 5
- Green: 5
- Red: 3
- Brown: 2

2016
- Orange: 6
- Blue: 4
- Green: 4
- Red: 2
- Brown: 2

Other/not sure

2005
- Orange: 8
- Blue: 6
- Green: 6
- Red: 3
- Brown: 4

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ABOUT CAI

With more than 34,000 members, CAI works in partnership with 60 chapters, including a chapter in South Africa, as well as with housing leaders in a number of other countries, including Australia, Canada, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. We work to identify and meet the evolving needs of the professionals and volunteers who serve associations, by being a trusted forum for the collaborative exchange of knowledge and information, and by helping our members learn, achieve and excel. Our mission is to inspire professionalism, effective leadership and responsible citizenship—ideals reflected in associations that are preferred places to call home. Visit www.caionline.org or call (888) 224-4321.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION RESEARCH

Our mission—with your support—is to provide research-based information for homeowners, association board members, community managers, developers and other stakeholders. Since the Foundation’s inception in 1975, we’ve built a solid reputation for producing accurate, insightful and timely information, and we continue to build on that legacy. Visit www.cairf.org