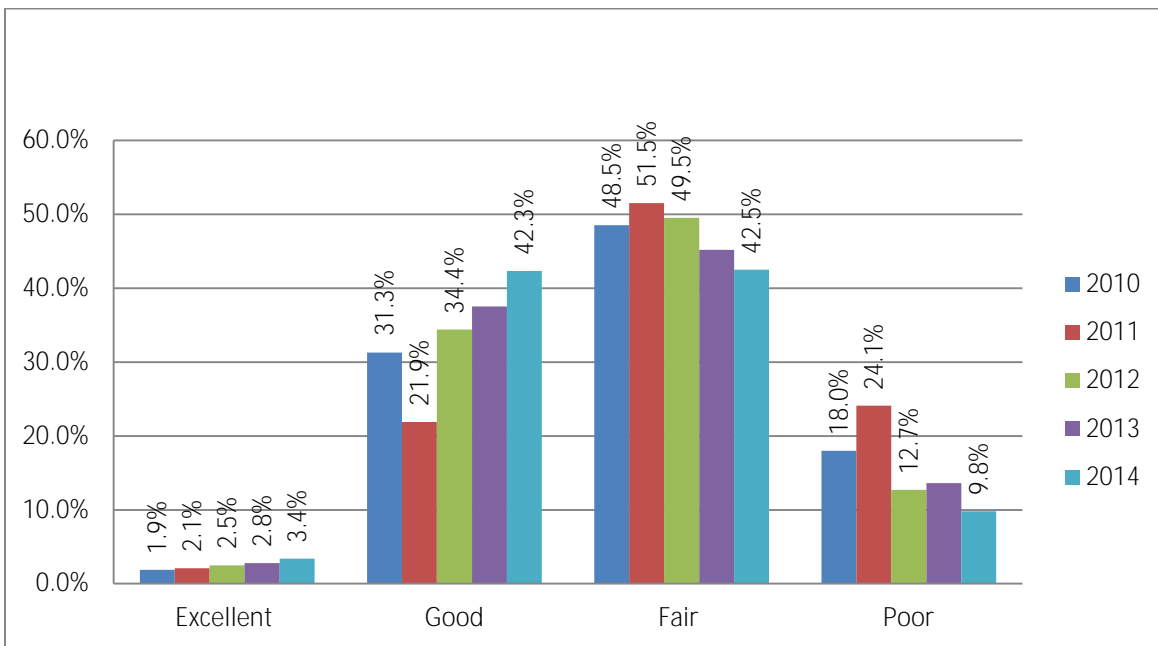


The percentage of respondents rating the economic conditions in Hampton Roads as excellent or good is at a five year high in 2014. In fact, the 42.3% that reported the economic conditions in Hampton Roads as good is almost 5% higher than in 2013 (37.5%) and is almost double the percentage from 2011 (21.9%). Additionally, the percentage of respondents reporting that the economic conditions in Hampton Roads are poor is also at a five year low (9.8%). This percentage is down from 13.6% in 2013. The highest percentage of respondents reporting poor economic conditions was in 2011 (24.1%).



Respondents were also asked whether or not they own or are in the process of buying their home, rent, or have some other arrangement. Similar to past years, the majority of residents reported that they

own or are in the process of buying their home (65.6%). Another 31.9% indicated that they rent, while only 2 percent reported having another arrangement.

Own or in the process of buying	72.5%	62.5%		71.4%	65.6%
Rent	23.3%	33%		25.5%	31.9%
Other arrangement	3.7%	4.4%		3%	2%
Don't know/Refused	0.4%	0.1%		0.1%	0.6%

Hampton Roads residents were asked about their employment status. The majority of respondents indicated that they were employed full-time (52.8%). Another 14.2 percent reported being employed part-time, while 18.7 percent reported being retired. Only 14.1 percent reported being unemployed and only 7.8 percent of those respondents indicated that they were not looking for work. The reported employment status of Hampton Roads residents has remained fairly consistent since 2010.

Employed <sup>1</sup>	65.6%				
Full-time		49.3%	53.3%	53.6%	52.9%
Part-time		14.3%	13.7%	13.7%	14.2%
Not employed	21.6%				
Looking for work		10.7%	8.3%	9.1%	7.8%
Not looking for work		6.1%	9.2%	4.5%	6.3%
Retired	12.8%	19.4%	15.3%	18.6%	

## *Local Government Spending*

Another important focus was local government resource use. Respondents indicated whether they think their local government uses public resources wisely or unwisely. More people reported that their local government uses public resources unwisely (45.3%) than reported that their local government uses public resources wisely (42.1%). Another 11.7% reported that they did not know.

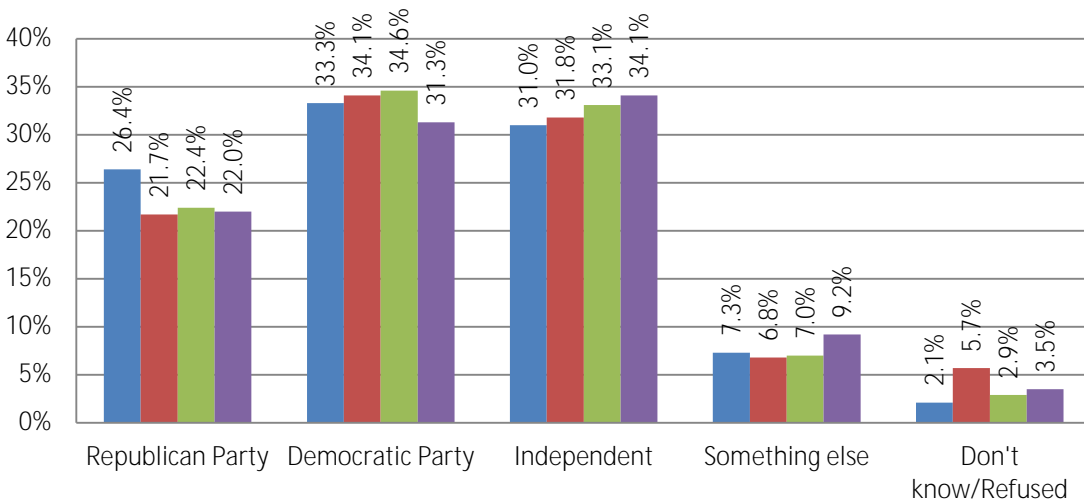
Comparing the data to previous years, more respondents reported that the local government uses resources wisely in 2014 (42.1%) than in any other year. That percentage is 20% higher than last year's percentage of people reporting that their local government uses public resources wisely (21.8%).

Although this appears to be good news for local governments, it may also reflect a shift in question wording.<sup>2</sup>

It is interesting to note that the groups least likely to indicate that local government uses resources wisely are those not affiliated with a political party. Among Democrats 53.6 percent believe local government uses public resources wisely, among Republicans that portion drops to 46 percent, but among all other respondents (independents, third party affiliation, etc.), only 32.4 percent believe resources are being used wisely.







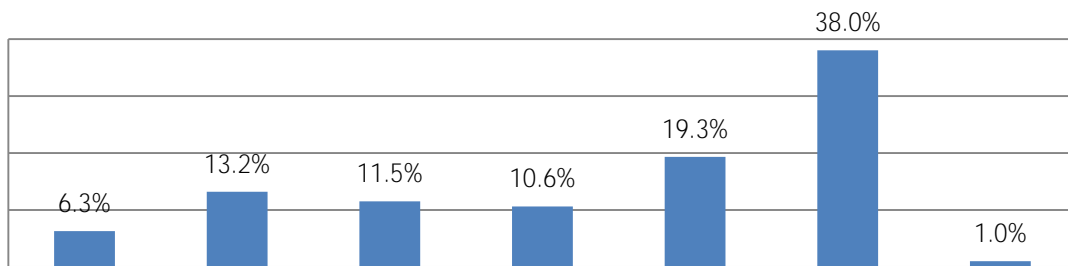
Next, respondents were asked to identify whether they usually think of themselves as extremely liberal, liberal, slightly liberal, moderate, slightly conservative, conservative, or extremely conservative. Not surprisingly, moderate was the most commonly given response (34.4%). However, despite the fact that more respondents identified with the Democratic Party (31.3%) than the Republican Party (22%), there were more respondents who reported being conservative (33.5%) than liberal (24.8%). In part this reflects the presence of non-white conservatives who rarely affiliate with the Republican Party. For instance, 22 percent of African American or Black respondents identify as conservative, but only 4.7 percent of these conservative respondents self-identify as Republicans. Those who reported being conservative was broken down as "conservative" (16.9%), "slightly conservative" (12.7%), and "extremely conservative" (3.9%). Those who reported being liberal were broken down as "liberal" (12.8%), "slightly liberal" (8.3%), and "extremely liberal" (3.7%).

Data for this question has remained fairly consistent over the past several years. The biggest change can be seen in the percentage of those reporting that they think of themselves as conservative, 22.1% in 2010 and down to 16.9% in 2014.

Respondents were also asked to give their view of the Tea Party movement. 29.9% viewed the Tea Party movement negatively



negative views of the Tea Party movement. 19.5% viewed the Tea Party movement positively, with 13.2% reporting somewhat positive and 6.3% reporting slightly positive views of the Tea Party movement. Additionally, 11.5% of respondents were neutral on their view towards the Tea Party movement. Republicans were the most likely to give a positive rating of the tea party movement (46.3%) while Democrats were the least likely to give a positive rating (4.2%). The last time the LIHR survey asked opinions about the Tea Party movement was in 2010. Reflecting the lower prominence of the movement today, many more respondents selected “don’t know” in 2014 (38.0%) versus 2010 (6.6%).



### *Voter Registration*

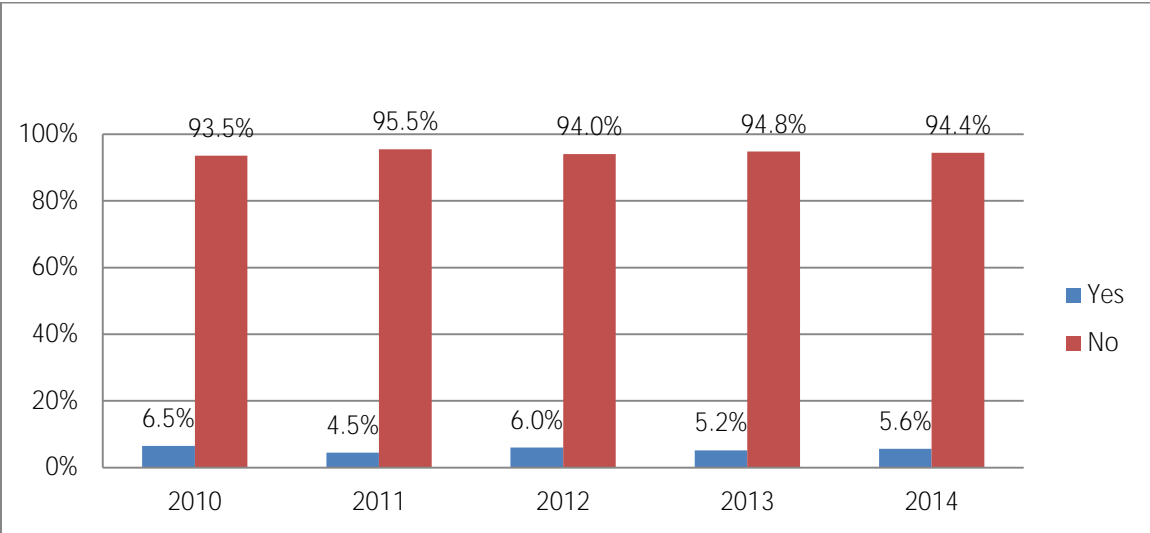
Finally, respondents were asked whether or not they were registered to vote. The vast majority of respondents said that they were registered to vote (91.6%). Conversely, less than 9% of respondents were not registered to vote at the time of the survey (8.4%).



household has been the victim of a serious crime in the last year to how satisfied respondents are with the local police. Despite the prominent place taken by crime among those who see the quality of life as fair or poor in Hampton Roads (it was the most commonly cited reason), only 5.6% of Hampton Roads residents reported being the victim of a serious crime, a figure essentially unchanged since the first year of the survey. Additionally, the respondents who reported they had been the victim of a serious crime in the last year were asked whether or not they reported that crime and of those 81.3% reported the crime to the police.

*Criminal Victimization*

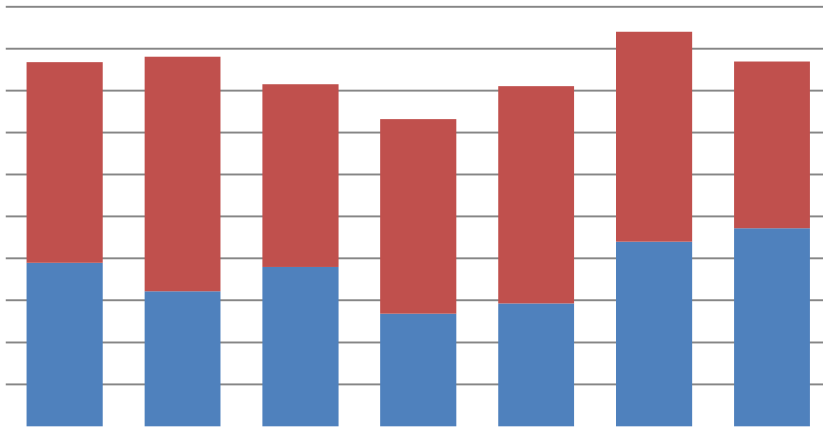
Respondents were asked if they or a member of their household had been the victim of a serious crime in the past 12 months and whether or not that crime was reported to the police. The vast majority (94.4%) reported that neither they, nor anyone in their household had been the victim of a serious crime. Of the 5.6% of respondents crime victimization, 80.7% reported that crime to the police, while only 19.3% did not report the crime.



### *Satisfaction and contact with local police*

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the local police in general. The majority of respondents reported being somewhat satisfied (45.8%) and very satisfied (38.2%). Only 8.9% reported being somewhat dissatisfied and 4.9% reported being very dissatisfied with the local police.





Respondents were also asked whether or not they had visited the official website or social media page for their local police department in the past year. About one-fifth of respondents (21.2%) reported that they had visited the official website or social media page of their local police department, while 78.4% reported they did not.

Of those who reported they had visited the official website or social media page for their local police department, 65.1% indicated that they visited the official website less than once a month. Additionally, 26.1% reported that that they visit the social media page of their local police department



## *Summary*

The economy and local politics are of central importance for the prosperity and success of the region. The percentage of respondents reporting that economic conditions in Hampton Roads are either excellent or good is up over 5% compared to last year. In fact, this year marks the highest percentage of respondents rating the economic conditions in Hampton Roads as either excellent or good in five years of LIHR surveys. Ratings of local government resource use also improved, although there is wide variation across cities in the degree to which residents believe resources are being used wisely. Despite significant concerns about crime, ratings of local police remain strong (although they are substantially stronger in some cities than others).

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All Life In Hampton Roads Data Analyses will be placed on the Social Science Research Center website as they are released ([www.odu.edu/ssrc](http://www.odu.edu/ssrc)). Follow-up questions about the 2014 Life In Hampton Roads survey should be addressed to:

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