

Responses to property rights statements

Two statements that show significant differences by age, length of residence, and current residence (location) of respondents concern private property rights. A third statement regarding balancing private property rights and public interest shows significant differences by location but not by age or length of residence.

The first property rights statement on the survey, “Property owners should have absolute and final say about what happens on their property,” received 103 total points (see p. 3) for Houghton County overall. Respondents agree less strongly that “Private property rights are more important than public interest when a development is proposed” (86 total points) and slightly more strongly that “We need to balance private property rights and public interest” (106 points).

Respondents over age 60 and residents of more than 30 years favored the second statement (private rights) over the third statement (balance). All other groups, by age or length of residence, agreed more strongly with the balance statement, except the 16 respondents under age 21, who agreed equally with both statements (figs. 2, 3).

Locations whose respondents favor the last statement (balance) over the second (private rights) by more than 40 points are the Cities of Hancock and Houghton, and Stanton Township; Franklin Township residents favor balance by 24 points (fig. 4). The only location that favors the second statement (private rights) over the last (balance) by more than 40 points is Duncan-Elm River-Laird (D-E-L) Townships. Adams and Calumet Townships and the Village of Lake Linden favor private rights by at least 20 points.



