

League of Women Voters of the  
Copper Country  
c/o MTU Regional GEM Center  
1400 Townsend Drive  
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

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**WANTED!** Your Input

**WANTED!** Your Help in Shaping the Future of Houghton County

Few have deeper affection and appreciation for their natural and historical surroundings than residents of the Copper Country. Public land-use meetings in 1994 showed that residents are concerned about change and its effect on what they value in their communities. Copper Country residents want to help shape the area's future.

A series of public programs in fall 1996, titled "Shaping Our Future: Growth Management & Land Stewardship," introduced area residents to tools and techniques they can use to guide their communities' development. Now, this survey asks all Houghton County residents, especially those unable to attend the public meetings, to express their views on community change, planning, development, open space preservation, and property rights. Results will be made public in April 1997. Township, village and city officials will receive overall results and summaries of their residents' responses. Your input will help guide planning and development into the next century.

- A. (1) I live in \_\_\_\_\_ township/village/city.  
 (2) I have lived in Houghton County for 0-5  5-10  10-30  over 30  years.  
 (3) My age is under 21  21-40  41-60  over 60  years.

B. Please express how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	agree strongly	agree somewhat	disagree somewhat	disagree strongly
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS</b>				
1. Developers should be allowed to develop with little or no restriction because it helps the local economy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Change brought by economic development should be balanced with actions to preserve community character.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Public costs for new water, sewer, and other services should be considered when any development is proposed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. "Big city" shopping and entertainment benefit the area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The benefits of recent commercial development along M-26 and Sharon Avenue outweigh any disadvantages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Similar commercial development along US 41 between Hancock and Calumet would benefit the area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Lack of jobs, especially for young people, is a problem in our area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Houghton MI 49931-9989  
1400 Townsend Drive  
Michigan Technological University  
MTU Regional GEM Center

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	agree strongly	agree somewhat	disagree somewhat	disagree strongly
8. Environmental impacts should be considered when creating new jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Tax incentives, such as tax abatements, should be used to attract new businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Tax incentives associated with land trusts, conservation easements, and purchase of development rights should be encouraged to help landowners keep their land in its present use if they prefer not to sell to a developer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. More recreational opportunities are needed in my township/city/village. If so, what kind? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**NATURAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTER**

12. The natural environment, scenic beauty, and "getting away from it all" are important to our quality of life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. The small-town feeling of the area is worth preserving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. The design and appearance of new buildings and signs are important to the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. New development would be acceptable to more people if it blended better with the historic buildings in the area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Improvement of existing properties, especially those of historic significance, should be encouraged as an alternative to developing more land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Some open space and undeveloped land should be protected from future development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Some roads should be designated as "scenic" and should retain their natural character. If so, which roads? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CONCERNS**

19. Property owners should have absolute and final say about what happens on their property.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Private property rights are more important than public interest when a development is proposed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. We need to balance private property rights and public interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Public access to waterfront areas is becoming too limited.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Property is becoming unaffordable for local residents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

24. I feel that I have a voice in shaping the future of my community/township/city	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Neighboring townships, cities, and counties should identify and work together toward shared goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Long-range planning is needed to manage growth and to protect our environment and natural resources such as drinking water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this survey by **January 31, 1997**. Just refold the form so that the Business Reply Mail panel shows and tape closed where indicated. No stamp is required.

**Thank you for your interest and input!**

This survey is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country, the Regional Groundwater Education in Michigan (GEM) Center at Michigan Tech, the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission, and the community leadership project (CLIMB), with the cooperation of the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Calumet Downtown Development Authority, and local units of government. Funding is provided by a mini-grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation through the Michigan Environmental Council Land Stewardship Initiative.