



# CITY OF CORUNNA

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS AND

### OPINIONS SURVEY

### 2005

#### **A Message from the City of Corunna Citizens Budget Advisory Committee**

All registered voters in the City of Corunna are being asked to participate in an anonymous survey regarding your reactions to and perceptions of the community in which you live. Do not write your name on the survey. No code numbers have been used to identify respondents, and no follow-up contacts will be made. This anonymous survey approach should provide information that can be generalized across registered voters of the city.

Please follow the instructions throughout the survey, answering as best and as honestly as you can. Feel free to use the comment lines to provide additional information and feedback. Please do not give this survey to somebody else to complete.

When you are done, please return the completed survey to either Corunna City Hall (drop box available) or the Corunna branch of the Community District Library in the Olmsted Library Complex (book drop available). You may return the survey via mail to the **City of Corunna City Hall, Attn: Citizens Budget Advisory Committee 402 North Shiawassee Street, Corunna Michigan 48817.**

**Please take the time to complete this survey.** The results of the survey will be shared with city officials to shape planning and decision-making processes. Thank you in advance for your participation.

**Please return the survey on or by FEBRUARY 28, 2005.**

#### **Part One: Your Household Information**

To respond to Questions 1-14, simply circle the letter(s) that best represent(s) your answer.

1. How long have you lived in Corunna?  
A. Less than 1 year B. 1-5 years C. 6-10 years D. More than 10 years
2. How many people live in your household?  
A. One B. Two C. Three D. Four E. Five F. Six G. Seven or more
3. How many adults (18 & over) live in your household?  
A. One B. Two C. Three D. Four or more
4. How many wage earners live in your household? A. None B. One C. Two D. Three or more
5. Do you have children living at home? A. Yes B. No
6. If you have children living at home please indicate all the appropriate age groups:  
A. Pre-school thru elementary B. Middle thru high school C. Beyond high school D. N/A
7. Will you be living in Corunna 3 years from now? A. Yes B. No C. Unsure
8. Do you own or rent your place of residence? A. Own B. Rent

9. If you rent, do you have a written lease?    A. Yes            B. No            C. N/A
10. If you rent, does your landlord live in Corunna?    A. Yes            B. No            C. Unsure        D. N/A
11. How long have you lived in your current residence?  
       A. Less than 1 year    B. 1-5 years    C. 6-10 years    D. More than 10 years
12. Which of the following **best** describes your employment status?  
       A. Full-time            B. Part-time        C. Unemployed (job-seeking)        D. Not employed (not job-seeking)  
       E. Student            F. Retiree            G. Retiree working Full-time        H. Retiree working Part-time
13. If you are employed, do you work in the:  
       A. City Limits            B. Shiawassee County            C. Outside the county
14. I am an:    A. Adult male            B. Adult female
15. Did you vote in the last regular city election (November of 2003):    A. Yes        B. No        C. Unsure

Part 1 Comment:

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**Part Two: Your Perceptions of the City's Infrastructure & Facilities**

To respond to items in this section, simply circle the one number that best represents your answer.

How would you rate the following:	Excellent				Poor	No Opinion
1. City Hall Municipal Building	5	4	3	2	1	NA
2. Olmsted Public Library Complex	5	4	3	2	1	NA
3. Community Center (Casino)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
4. McCurdy Park	5	4	3	2	1	NA
5. Corunna Historical Village	5	4	3	2	1	NA
6. Heritage Park (Dam Site)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
7. Brady Street Boat Launch	5	4	3	2	1	NA
8. Mitchell Fields Softball Complex	5	4	3	2	1	NA
9. Pine Tree Cemetery	5	4	3	2	1	NA
10. State Owned Streets (M-71 & M-21)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
11. City Owned Streets	5	4	3	2	1	NA
12. City Sidewalks	5	4	3	2	1	NA
13. City Alleys	5	4	3	2	1	NA
14. Water Line Infrastructure	5	4	3	2	1	NA
15. Water Quality	5	4	3	2	1	NA
16. Water Pressure/Volume	5	4	3	2	1	NA
17. Sanitary Sewer Line Infrastructure	5	4	3	2	1	NA
18. Storm Sewer Infrastructure	5	4	3	2	1	NA
19. Pine Street Leaf/Brush Dump	5	4	3	2	1	NA
20. Public Works Facility	5	4	3	2	1	NA
21. James Miner River Walkway	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 2 Comment:

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### Part Three: Your Use of City Facilities and Services

To respond to items in this section, simply place a check mark (✓) in the column that best represents your answer.

In the past 2 years how many times have you	Never	1 or 2	3 to 12	13 to 26	27 or more
1. Used the Community District Library (Corunna-Caledonia branch)?					
2. Used the Community District Library (Bancroft, Byron, Lennon, Morrice, or New Lothrop branches)?					
3. Visited McCurdy Park?					
4. Visited Heritage Park?					
5. Visited the Corunna Historical Village?					
6. Used the Brady Street Boat Launch?					
7. Used the Community Center (Casino)?					
8. Used a park pavilion?					
9. Used the services of the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency (SATA)?					
10. Attended a meeting of the Corunna City Council?					
11. Attended other public meetings (Board, Commissions)?					
12. Volunteered your time to a group or activity in Corunna?					

In the past 5 years how many times have you	Never	1	2	3	4 or more
13. Participated in the Annual Easter Egg Hunt?					
14. Participated in the Annual 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Celebration?					
15. Participated in the Annual Halloween Party?					
16. Participated in the Festival of Trees?					
17. Participated in the Annual City Dinner?					
18. Participated in the Adult Softball Program?					
19. Participated in the Summer Youth Program?					

Part 3 Comment:

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### Part Four: Your Perceptions of City Services

To respond to items in this section, simply circle the one number that best represents your answer.

How would you rate the following:	Excellent				Poor	No Opinion
1. Corunna police services (overall)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
2. Corunna police traffic enforcement	5	4	3	2	1	NA
3. Corunna police crime enforcement	5	4	3	2	1	NA
4. General city code enforcement	5	4	3	2	1	NA
5. Corunna public works services (overall)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
6. Yard leaf and brush collection	5	4	3	2	1	NA
7. Street maintenance & repair	5	4	3	2	1	NA
8. Sidewalk maintenance & repair	5	4	3	2	1	NA
9. Alley maintenance & repair	5	4	3	2	1	NA
10. Snow removal from city streets	5	4	3	2	1	NA
11. Snow removal from city alleys	5	4	3	2	1	NA
12. Street sweeping	5	4	3	2	1	NA
13. Street lighting	5	4	3	2	1	NA
14. Trash and litter cleanup in public places	5	4	3	2	1	NA
15. Water system repairs	5	4	3	2	1	NA
16. Sewer system repairs	5	4	3	2	1	NA
17. Recreation programs	5	4	3	2	1	NA
18. Park maintenance	5	4	3	2	1	NA

**How would you rate the following:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
19. Park appearance	5	4	3	2	1	NA
20. Building inspection services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
21. Assessing services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
22. Planning/Zoning Services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
23. Fire services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
24. Ambulance services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
25. Library services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
26. Cemetery services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
27. Forest management services (trees)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
28. Economic Development efforts	5	4	3	2	1	NA

**29. On items 1-28 above, how would you rate the overall quality of services provided by the City?**

<u>Excellent</u>					<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
5	4	3	2	1	NA	

**How would you rate the quality of services provided by the following?**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
30. Charter Cable	5	4	3	2	1	NA
31. Consumers Energy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
32. Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency (SATA)	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 4 Comment:

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**Part Five: Your Perceptions of City Employees & Elected Officials**

To respond to items in this section, simply circle the one number that best represents your answer.

1. Have you had personal or phone contact concerning municipal services with city employees in the last 12 months?      A. Yes      B. No
2. Have you had personal or phone contact concerning municipal services with city council members or the mayor in the last 12 months?      A. Yes      B. No

**Based on your knowledge and experiences, how would you rate the following:**

**Public Works Department Employees:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
3. Knowledge	5	4	3	2	1	NA
4. Responsiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NA
5. Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
6. Showed concern for your issue(s)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
7. Professionalism	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 5 Comment 1:

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Based on your knowledge and experiences, how would you rate the following:

**Police Department Employees:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
8. Knowledge	5	4	3	2	1	NA
9. Responsiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NA
10. Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
11. Showed concern for your issue(s)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
12. Professionalism	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 5 Comment 2:

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**Fire Department Employees:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
13. Knowledge	5	4	3	2	1	NA
14. Responsiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NA
15. Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
16. Showed concern for your issue(s)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
17. Professionalism	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 5 Comment 3:

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**Park and Recreation Employees:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
18. Knowledge	5	4	3	2	1	NA
19. Responsiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NA
20. Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
21. Showed concern for your issue(s)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
22. Professionalism	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 5 Comment 4:

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**Community District Library (Corunna Branch) Employees:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
23. Knowledge	5	4	3	2	1	NA
24. Responsiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NA
25. Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
26. Showed concern for your issue(s)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
27. Professionalism	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 5 Comment 5:

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Based on your knowledge and experiences, how would you rate the following:

**City Hall Office Administrative Employees:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
28. Knowledge	5	4	3	2	1	NA
29. Responsiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NA
30. Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
31. Showed concern for your issue(s)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
32. Professionalism	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 5 Comment 6:

**Corunna City Council & Mayor:**

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
33. Knowledge	5	4	3	2	1	NA
34. Responsiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NA
35. Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	NA
36. Showed concern for your issue(s)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
37. Professionalism	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 5 Comment 7:

**Part Six: Your Perceptions of the Community**

To respond to items in this section, simply circle the one number that best represents your answer.

Please rate your satisfaction with the following:

	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1. Quality of Corunna as a place to live	5	4	3	2	1	NA
2. Quality of neighborhood parks	5	4	3	2	1	NA
3. Availability of neighborhood parks	5	4	3	2	1	NA
4. Parking availability in the downtown district	5	4	3	2	1	NA
5. Sidewalks in your neighborhood	5	4	3	2	1	NA
6. Sidewalks in the city generally	5	4	3	2	1	NA
7. Traffic flow/congestion on state streets (M-21 & M-71)	5	4	3	2	1	NA
8. Traffic flow/congestion on city streets	5	4	3	2	1	NA
9. Friendliness of the community	5	4	3	2	1	NA
10. Citizen participation in the community	5	4	3	2	1	NA
11. Value received for city tax rates	5	4	3	2	1	NA
12. Quality of Corunna Public Schools	5	4	3	2	1	NA
13. Private property maintenance & appearance	5	4	3	2	1	NA
14. Shiawassee County government services	5	4	3	2	1	NA
15. Downtown development and appearance	5	4	3	2	1	NA
16. Property owner snow removal from sidewalks	5	4	3	2	1	NA

Part 6 Comment 1:

**In the past five years, or since you first came to the City of Corunna, are things better, the same, or worse with respect to the following?**  
 Indicate your priorities by placing a check mark (☑) in the box that best represents your answer.

	Better	Same	Worse
17. Quality of your neighborhood.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Quality of the streets.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Sense of safety within your neighborhood.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Sense of community.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Traffic flow/congestion.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Quality of park facilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Quality of park/recreation events .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Water/Sewer infrastructure.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Economic development efforts.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. City government operations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. Appearance of our downtown.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Our community Image.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 6 Comment 2:

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**Part Seven: Your Opinion on Ordinance Considerations**

Indicate your agreement with the statements by placing a check mark (☑) in the box that best represents your answer.

**Note: Any new ordinance and/or the amendment to any existing ordinance would require that the Corunna City Council hold a public hearing for public review and comment. Your answers below would assist council in deciding if and how to proceed with a formal review of the topics listed.**

ORDINANCE ISSUES	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	No Opinion	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. I would like to see a citywide garbage pickup contract. (Monthly residential fee would be ~\$10-\$12 per month).					
2. I would like to see a citywide recycling program contract. (Program may require additional fee).					
3. I would like to see a complete ban on the discharge of firearms in city limits.					
4. I would like to see a complete ban on the discharge of bows in city limits.					
5. I would like to see alcohol allowed in the Community Center for rentals. (Assuming insurance & security requirements.)					
6. I would like to see legal fireworks allowed on specified holidays only.					
7. I support the current ordinance allowing for recreational fires.					
8. I support the current ordinance allowing for leaf and paper burning.					
9. I support a strong property maintenance ordinance.					

Part 7 Comment:

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**Part Eight: City Financial Situation**

Cities and villages across the state are operating in an era of serious and long-term financial constraints. Structural changes to Michigan’s tax policies as well as federal and state economic difficulties have created a growing gap between revenues and expenditures. In Corunna, revenues have been decreasing.

**Corunna General Revenue Collections:**

- State Revenue Sharing:** We receive \$58,292 less than we did 3 years ago.
- General Tax Revenues:** We receive \$5,531 less than we did 4 years ago.
- Law Enforcement Grants:** We receive \$25,613 less than we did 5 years ago.
- Investment Earnings:** We receive \$88,812 less than we did 5 years ago.

**Revenue Effect of State Laws:**

The Headlee Amendment has reduced the city’s operating millage by 1.6072 mills (-12%). Proposal A has reduced the city’s tax base by \$15,231,327(-27.89%). The combined effect of these laws is an annual revenue loss of \$316,248 (-43.24%).

Over the past 5 years, the taxable value of Shiawassee County has grown by 27.16%. Here in Corunna, our growth rate for the same period was the lowest of all cities and townships in the county. We grew by only 7.37%, compared to 45.27% in Laingsburg, 45.01% in Caledonia Township, 30.60% in Perry, 23.95% in Durand, 22.99% in Owosso Township, and 17.71% in Owosso City.

Current economic projections indicate that city revenues will continue to increase at a lower rate than expenditures. If current services and delivery methods remain unchanged, the city deficit will likely continue to grow. The Corunna City Council will need to formulate policy options and consider potential alternatives to confront the deficit. The city faces two unpopular choices, reduce services or increase revenues. The course of action we take will impact the quality of life in our community for many years to come.

To avoid elimination of (or reductions to) current services, how would you feel about;	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Undecided	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
1. consideration of a Parks & Recreation millage?					
2. consideration of a Public Safety (Police) millage?					
3. consideration of a Public Safety (Fire) millage?					
4. consideration of a Headlee Override millage?					
5. consideration of a City Earned Income Tax? (residents & non-residents, exempting retirement & social security)					

**6. If you had to eliminate or reduce city services, what would you eliminate or reduce?**

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**7. If you had an opportunity to add to or improve city services, what would you add or improve?**

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**Part Ten: Your Position on Budget/Staffing/Resource Priorities (Your Tax Dollars at Work)**

Indicate your priorities by placing a check mark (✓) in the box that best represents your answer.

<b>DEVELOPMENT and GROWTH SERVICES</b>	<b>Highest Priority</b>	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Moderate Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Lowest Priority</b>
1. The Growth of New Industrial Development.					
2. The Growth of New Commercial Development.					
3. The Growth of New Residential Development.					
4. Economic Development Efforts.					
5. Promoting Downtown Development.					
<b>PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES</b>	<b>Highest Priority</b>	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Moderate Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Lowest Priority</b>
6. Sanitary Sewer System Maintenance & Repairs					
7. Water System Maintenance & Repairs					
8. Storm Sewer System Maintenance & Repairs.					
9. Storm Sewer System Improvements & Extensions.					
10. Sidewalk Repair & Replacement.					
11. Local Streets Maintenance & Repairs.					
12. Gravel Street Improvements.					
13. Alley Maintenance & Repairs.					
14. Street Sweeping/Cleaning.					
15. Cemetery Maintenance & Repairs.					
16. Leaf and Brush Pickup.					
17. Municipal Facility Maintenance & Repairs.					
18. Municipal Facility Improvements.					
19. Forest Management / Re-Forestation.					
20. Repairs and Improvements to Maintain the Corunna Dam.					
<b>PARKS and RECREATION SERVICES</b>	<b>Highest Priority</b>	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Moderate Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Lowest Priority</b>
21. Maintenance of Current Activities & Events.					
22. Addition of New Activities & Events.					
23. Grounds and Lawn Maintenance					
24. Community Center (Casino) Maintenance & Repairs.					
25. Community Center (Casino) Improvements.					
26. Vehicular Parking Lot Maintenance & Repairs.					
27. Vehicular Parking Lot Development & Improvements.					
28. Park Facilities Maintenance & Repairs.					
29. Park Facilities Improvements.					
30. Park Drives/Roads Maintenance & Repairs.					
31. Park Drives/Roads Improvements.					
32. Heritage Park Maintenance & Improvements.					
33. Mitchell Fields Maintenance & Improvements.					
34. Brady Street Boat Launch Maintenance & Improvements.					
35. Historical Village Maintenance & Improvements.					
<b>GENERAL SERVICES</b>	<b>Highest Priority</b>	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Moderate Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Lowest Priority</b>
36. Maintaining 24-7 "Around the Clock" City Police Coverage.					
37. Maintaining the DARE Program.					
38. Enforcement of Corunna Codes & Ordinances.					
39. Maintain a Contingency Reserve and Fund Balance.					
40. Maintaining Monday thru Friday City Hall & Police Office Hours.					
41. Providing for Employee Safety.					
42. Maintaining Salary/Benefit Comparables/Competitiveness.					
43. Providing for Employee Development/Education/Training.					
44. Providing Tax Relief to Corunna Residents					
45. Community Promotion and Outreach (Newsletter, Web site, Etc.).					

**Thank you for your time and your thoughts.**

**Corunna Citizens Budget Advisory Committee**