
Nina Barufaldi-St.Germain

Polco Administrator

Polco- Bar Harbor Vacation Rental Survey

April 15- May 5, 2021

OVERVIEW & METHODOLOGY

The Planning Department prepared the Bar Harbor Vacation Rental Survey to help gain insight into resident views about transferability of vacation rental use to new owners within different districts of Bar Harbor.

Survey received review and administrative assistance from Nina St.Germain.

Final review was performed by Polco staff survey scientist Cory Poris Plasch.

The survey ran from 4/15/21-5/5/21.

There was a Polco formatting error which made it difficult for some mobile users to read the options on Q4 and Q5, Nina contacted Polco and they corrected this issue.

While Polco verifies users against the voter rolls in Bar Harbor, verification only occurs when exact name and addresses correspond. Residents that may have not updated their voter registration cards after a change of address, a name change, or by using a simplification of a name (Tom v Thomas) are likely to not be verified but may also be residents.

Town Planner did an informative paper mailer alerting all postal patrons of the survey's existence online and subject matter.

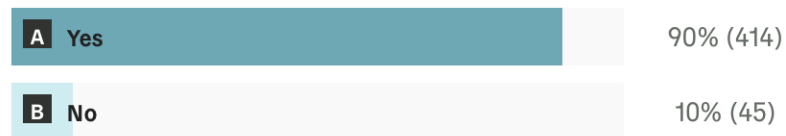
To date the highest participation had been 398 participants, this survey brought in 459 participants.

The mailer made a significant difference in participation.

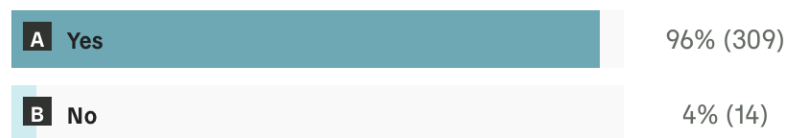
Result Highlights

Q 1. Are you a registered voter in Bar Harbor?

All Responses



Registered Voters



Q 2. Do you own or rent the home you live in?

All Responses



Registered Voters



Q 3. Do you have a registered vacation rental in Bar Harbor?

All Responses



Registered Voters



Q 4. For each of the following geographic areas do you support or oppose allowing the transfer of a vacation rental registration of a non-primary residence to a new owner?

Downtown Commercial:

All Responses

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| A Strongly support | 36% (159) |
| B Somewhat support | 16% (72) |
| C Somewhat oppose | 12% (54) |
| D Strongly oppose | 35% (156) |
| E Don't know | 0% (2) |

Registered Voters

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| A Strongly support | 32% (99) |
| B Somewhat support | 16% (50) |
| C Somewhat oppose | 14% (42) |
| D Strongly oppose | 38% (118) |
| E Don't know | 1% (2) |

In any of the shoreland areas:

All Responses

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| A Strongly support | 33% (148) |
| B Somewhat support | 13% (58) |
| C Somewhat oppose | 15% (65) |
| D Strongly oppose | 39% (172) |
| E Don't know | 1% (3) |

Registered Voters

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| A Strongly support | 30% (93) |
| B Somewhat support | 11% (36) |
| C Somewhat oppose | 17% (52) |
| D Strongly oppose | 41% (130) |
| E Don't know | 1% (3) |

In all other areas of Town:

All Responses

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| A Strongly support | 33% (148) |
| B Somewhat support | 11% (50) |
| C Somewhat oppose | 12% (55) |
| D Strongly oppose | 42% (190) |
| E Don't know | 1% (5) |

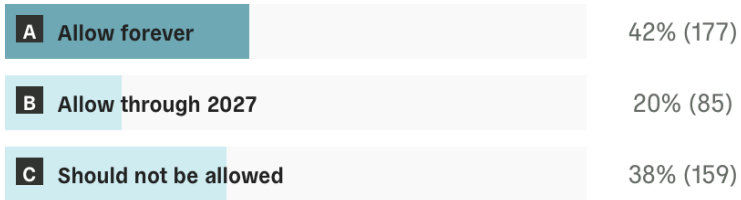
Registered Voters

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| A Strongly support | 29% (91) |
| B Somewhat support | 10% (32) |
| C Somewhat oppose | 14% (43) |
| D Strongly oppose | 46% (144) |
| E Don't know | 1% (4) |

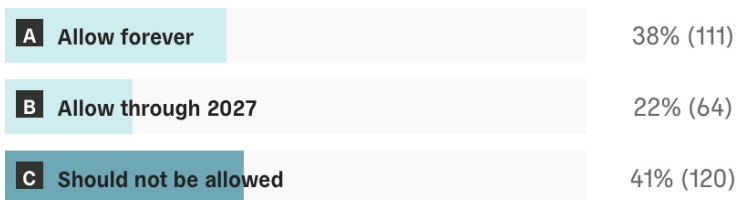
Q 5. If you support allowing the transfer of a vacation rental registration that is a second home or investment property to new owners in Bar Harbor, for how long in each of the following geographic areas should such transfers be allowed?

In the downtown commercial:

All Responses

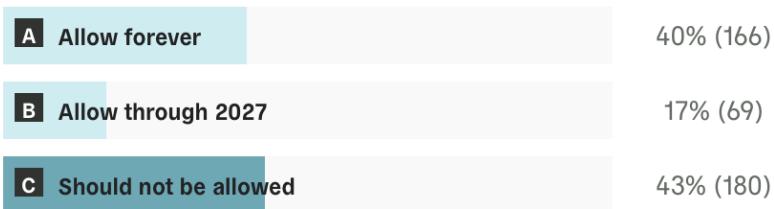


Registered Voters

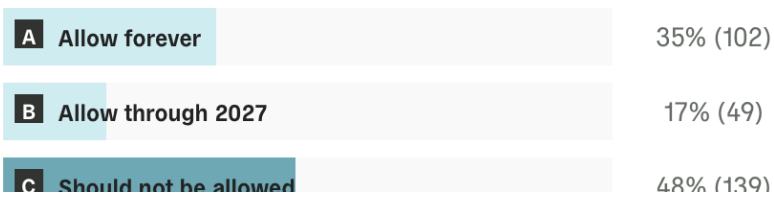


In all shoreland areas:

All Responses

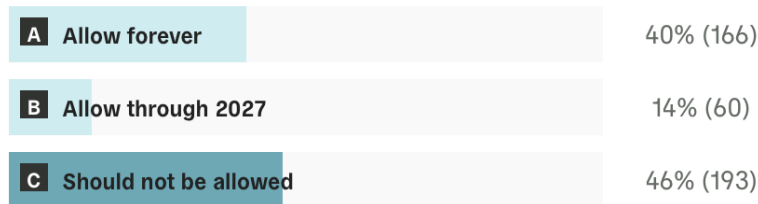


Registered Voters

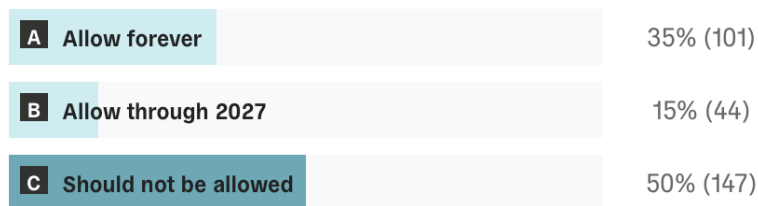


In all other areas of Town:

All Responses



Registered Voters



Admin Observations and Questions:

- 13% of the participants live in the downtown commercial area.
- 86% live in the other areas of Bar Harbor
- Despite the discrepancy of the verified v unverified but who self report to reside in Bar Harbor, the issue of transferability seems to be near 50/50 split in the Downtown Commercial areas.
 - 414 self report to be registered voters
 - 323 are verified registered voters
- Given this, it seems that further exploration and inclusivity of residents may gain the Town more community buy-in in order to gain traction in one direction or the other.
 - The Town of Bar Harbor has declared Housing to be a crisis and is a very mutually agreed upon notion throughout the community. Housing is the one crisis issue that does not have a task force or committee to support the work being done. Having a cross section of perspectives will likely support community buy-in.
 - The work done with the Parking Solutions Task Force was effective in creating change
 - The work done with the ZAG was effective for ELQ zoning

Respectfully submitted, Nina Barufaldi-St.Germain 5/7/21