



Magellan Strategies

Mesa County 2026 Community Survey Topline Results

Magellan Strategies is pleased to present the topline results of a survey of 1,227 residents in Mesa County, Colorado. The interviews were conducted from June 18th - July 6th, 2026. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.78% at the 95 percent confidence interval. The survey data were weighted to represent the voter registration demographics in Mesa County, Colorado.

T1. For statistical purposes only, can you please verify that you are at least 18 years old and a full-time resident of Mesa County, Colorado?

Yes..... 100%

T2. Please describe the top two or three issues, priorities, or problems that you think Mesa County should address in the next two or three years.

Homelessness/unhoused population — far and away the most mentioned issue, appearing in some form in a large share of responses. Sentiment splits between enforcement/removal ("clear the camps") and compassion/services ("build shelters, treat them with dignity"), with camps along the river, North Avenue, and the 6&50 corridor cited repeatedly.

Roads and road conditions — potholes, deferred maintenance, poorly sequenced construction projects, and specific trouble spots (Patterson, B½ Road in Orchard Mesa, D Road, 6&50 to Fruita).

Housing affordability and cost of housing — high rents, home prices out of reach for local wages, calls for genuinely affordable (not just "low-income") housing, concerns about overbuilt high-dollar apartments.

Growth and development management — too many subdivisions, loss of farmland and open space, development outpacing infrastructure and water, opposition to the pace of building in Fruita and the Redlands.

Water — scarcity, conservation, and rights — drought concerns, protecting Colorado River rights, questioning whether growth is sustainable given supply, opposition to water-intensive uses (golf courses, data centers).

Traffic and traffic enforcement — congestion on Patterson, and 6&50; speeding, red-light running, and aggressive driving with perceived lack of enforcement; complaints about roundabouts.

Cost of living and wages – low local pay, relative to housing and everyday costs; calls for better-paying jobs and economic development to close the gap.

Crime and public safety – property crime, drug-related crime, repeat offenders, calls for more law enforcement funding and presence (especially in Clifton, Orchard Mesa, and rural areas).

Taxes and government spending – rising property taxes, perceptions of wasteful county spending (29 Road interchange, buildings, roundabouts), calls for budget accountability and transparency.

Mental health and substance abuse services – lack of treatment facilities and inpatient care (Mind Springs closures cited), drug addiction tied to the homelessness issue, youth mental health.

The complete verbatim responses are in a separate document.

T3. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

	Excellent & Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
Mesa County	49%	7%	42%	33%	15%	3%
The State of Colorado	34%	4%	30%	32%	31%	3%
The Federal Government	21%	2%	19%	30%	46%	3%

T4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *"Mesa County residents receive a good value in County services and programs considering how much they pay in taxes."*

Total Agree..... 49%
Total Disagree..... 46%
Unsure or No Opinion 5%

Strongly Agree 7%
Somewhat Agree 42%

Strongly Disagree 20%
Somewhat Disagree 26%

T5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *"The current economic conditions in Mesa County are satisfactory."*

Total Agree..... 30%
Total Disagree..... 69%
Unsure or No Opinion 1%

Strongly Agree 2%
Somewhat Agree 28%

Strongly Disagree 35%
Somewhat Disagree 34%

T6. Compared to other counties in Colorado, how would you rate Mesa County as a place to live?

Total Better Place to Live 67%
Total Worse Place to Live 22%
Unsure or No Opinion 11%

Much Better Place to Live 22%
Somewhat Better Place to Live 45%

Much Worse Place to Live 5%
Somewhat Worse Place to Live 17%

T7. How likely or unlikely are you to do each of the following? [Ranked by Total Likely]

	Total Likely	Total Unlikely	Unsure	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely
Remain in Mesa County for the next five years.	78%	19%	3%	54%	24%	9%	10%
Recommend living in Mesa County.	56%	39%	5%	18%	38%	21%	18%

T8. For each of the following, please rate the extent to which you agree. [Ranked by Total Agree]

	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Unsure	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree
Mesa County is a good place to visit.	86%	11%	3%	44%	42%	3%	8%
Your neighborhood is a good place to live.	81%	18%	1%	43%	38%	6%	12%
Mesa County is a good place to have fun.	78%	19%	3%	35%	43%	6%	13%
Mesa County is a good place to live.	74%	24%	2%	27%	47%	6%	18%
Overall, Mesa County provides a good quality of life.	70%	28%	2%	22%	48%	8%	20%
Mesa County is a good place to retire.	58%	30%	12%	24%	34%	13%	17%
Mesa County is a good place to raise children.	54%	33%	13%	17%	37%	11%	22%
Mesa County is a good place to work.	48%	43%	9%	12%	36%	18%	25%

T9. We would like to know how familiar you are with various programs and services in Mesa County. For each of the following County programs and services, please indicate your level of familiarity. *[Ranked by Very and Somewhat Familiar Combined]*

	Very & Somewhat	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Familiar at All	No Opinion
Mesa County Motor Vehicle Office	97%	54%	43%	3%	
Landfill	84%	45%	39%	15%	1%
Fairgrounds	77%	25%	52%	21%	2%
Sheriff's Office	70%	27%	43%	27%	3%
Elections Office	68%	22%	46%	27%	5%
Health Department	64%	19%	45%	32%	4%
Animal Services	58%	17%	41%	37%	5%
Department of Human Services	56%	17%	39%	39%	5%
Grand Valley Transit	54%	12%	42%	42%	4%
Workforce Center	53%	18%	35%	42%	5%
Assessor	50%	13%	37%	45%	5%
District Attorney's Office (21st Judicial District)	43%	14%	29%	52%	5%
Behavioral Health	42%	12%	30%	53%	5%
Planning Department	40%	9%	31%	55%	5%
Building Department	39%	10%	29%	56%	5%
Road and Bridge Department	39%	7%	32%	57%	4%
Mesa County Attorney's Office	38%	11%	27%	58%	4%
Treasurer	36%	7%	29%	60%	4%
Code Compliance Services	35%	8%	27%	61%	4%
Coroner	32%	8%	24%	63%	5%
Surveyor's Office	29%	6%	23%	65%	6%

T10. Based on what you've heard about or experienced with the program or service below, what is your overall impression of that department? *[Ranked by Total Positive]*

	Total Positive	Neutral	Total Negative	Unsure	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Very Negative	Somewhat Negative
Mesa County Motor Vehicle Office	63%	24%	12%	1%	29%	34%	3%	9%
Landfill	62%	24%	4%	10%	29%	33%	1%	3%
Fairgrounds	49%	33%	4%	14%	19%	30%	2%	2%
Sheriff's Office	48%	28%	12%	12%	21%	27%	4%	8%
Health Department	33%	36%	10%	21%	10%	23%	4%	6%
Animal Services	32%	37%	9%	22%	11%	21%	3%	6%
Workforce Center	30%	36%	6%	28%	10%	20%	2%	4%
Grand Valley Transit	30%	35%	11%	24%	7%	23%	3%	8%
Elections Office	29%	33%	21%	17%	14%	15%	10%	11%
Department of Human Services	23%	37%	14%	26%	6%	17%	6%	8%
Coroner	21%	37%	2%	40%	9%	12%	1%	1%
Assessor	19%	41%	9%	31%	6%	13%	3%	6%
District Attorney's Office (21st Judicial District)	19%	36%	15%	30%	7%	12%	6%	9%
Road and Bridge Department	17%	36%	18%	29%	4%	13%	6%	12%
Treasurer	15%	42%	7%	36%	4%	11%	2%	5%
Behavioral Health	15%	35%	21%	29%	4%	11%	10%	11%
Mesa County Attorney's Office	13%	42%	11%	34%	5%	8%	5%	6%
Building Department	13%	34%	21%	32%	4%	9%	8%	13%
Planning Department	12%	30%	26%	32%	4%	8%	9%	17%
Surveyor's Office	11%	43%	5%	41%	4%	7%	2%	3%
Code Compliance Services	10%	39%	16%	35%	3%	7%	5%	11%

T11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *[Ranked by Total Agree]*

	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Unsure	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree
Mesa County employees provide excellent customer service.	68%	20%	12%	17%	51%	6%	14%
Mesa County residents have easy access to services and departments.	57%	30%	13%	12%	45%	10%	20%
Mesa County effectively uses technology and innovative tools to effectively provide the best customer service.	46%	28%	26%	8%	38%	10%	18%
Mesa County provides opportunities for meaningful community engagement.	44%	39%	17%	9%	35%	14%	25%
Mesa County residents can easily access information outlining County projects and services.	43%	34%	23%	10%	33%	12%	22%
Mesa County pays great attention to the quality of programs and services.	42%	39%	19%	7%	35%	13%	26%
Mesa County residents have a voice in identifying areas that need improvement.	35%	53%	12%	7%	28%	25%	28%
Mesa County officials understand potential future opportunities and adapt accordingly.	25%	52%	23%	4%	21%	28%	24%
Mesa County provides adequate support for vulnerable residents.	20%	57%	23%	3%	17%	35%	22%
Mesa County provides adequate support for mental health and substance abuse programs and services.	18%	53%	29%	4%	14%	33%	20%
Mesa County does a good job of identifying gaps and outlining strategies to address areas of critical need.	18%	56%	26%	2%	16%	28%	28%

T12. What are the communication outlets you prefer? *Select all that apply.*

Mesa County Website	60%
Direct Mail	44%
Facebook	42%
Web-Based News	41%
County Newsletter/Email	36%
Television	34%
Radio	25%
Print News.....	25%
Instagram	19%
Outdoor Signage.....	16%
YouTube	15%
Posted Notices	15%
NextDoor or Similar	9%
TikTok.....	7%
Informational Booths	7%
X (Twitter)	5%
Snapchat	3%
Other*	3%

T13. How important is it to you that Mesa County shows it is managing taxpayer money responsibly by adopting a balanced budget that does not rely on reserve funds or savings to cover regular operating expenses?

Very and Somewhat Important.....	94%
Very Important	78%
Somewhat Important	16%
Not Too Important.....	3%
Not Important at All	1%
Unsure or No Opinion	2%

T14. How important should these priority areas be to Mesa County government leaders in the next few years? On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being very important and 1 being not important at all, how would you rate the importance of each option below? *[Ranked by 10-Very Important]*

	10- Very Important	6-9	5- Neutral	2-4	1-Not Important At All
Financial Responsibility w/ Public Funds - Promote financial responsibility with public funds and tax dollars.	60%	33%	4%	3%	0%
Public Safety – Promote public safety.	48%	40%	8%	3%	1%
Air and Water Quality – Support policies to maintain or improve air and water quality.	46%	40%	9%	3%	2%
Public Land Use – Promote responsible use of public lands (recreational use, open space, commercial use).	44%	45%	8%	2%	1%
Local Business Growth – Help local businesses to grow.	40%	47%	8%	4%	1%
Public Health – Promote and protect public health.	40%	44%	10%	4%	2%
Transportation Infrastructure – Support efforts to improve transportation infrastructure across the Grand Valley (pedestrian, public, air, rail, and road).	36%	47%	9%	6%	2%
Infrastructure Development – Plan for projected community growth in infrastructure development to maintain quality of life.	36%	46%	10%	6%	2%
Diverse Employment Opportunities - Encourage a variety of industries to relocate to or remain in Mesa County to promote diverse employment opportunities.	32%	44%	12%	6%	6%
Housing Development – Facilitate diverse housing development.	32%	34%	13%	12%	9%
Riverfront Trail Connectivity – Complete connectivity of the Riverfront Trail.	27%	39%	15%	12%	7%
Parks Outside of Cities and Towns - Provide parks outside of cities and towns.	27%	42%	15%	11%	5%
Broadband Connectivity – Improve broadband connectivity in Mesa County.	24%	43%	21%	8%	4%

T15. Please indicate your opinion regarding the rate of growth for the following categories in Mesa County. *[Ranked by Total Too Slow]*

	Total Too Slow	Right Amount	Total Too Fast	Unsure	Much Too Slow	Somewhat Too Slow	Much Too Fast	Somewhat Too Fast
Jobs Growth	75%	14%	1%	11%	37%	38%	0%	1%
Retail Growth	50%	32%	12%	6%	14%	36%	3%	9%
Residential Housing Growth	47%	15%	33%	5%	24%	23%	17%	16%
Population Growth	6%	24%	65%	5%	1%	5%	35%	30%

T17. Do you use trails and/or parks within Mesa County?

Yes 89%
No 11%

T18. In the last 12 months, how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Mesa County?

	2 Times/Week or More	2-4 Times/Month	Once a Month/Less	Never
Visited a County park.	21%	32%	39%	8%
Used bus or other public transportation instead of driving.	2%	3%	11%	84%
Attended a County Town Hall or Round Robin event	1%	2%	23%	74%

T18. What other feedback would you like to provide that would be helpful to the County?

Homelessness – By far the most frequent topic, though split in direction. Many call for shelters, services, and mental health support for the unhoused (reopen the shelter, open Whitman Park, fund a large-capacity shelter), while others want encampments cleaned up and enforcement increased, especially along the I-70 Business Loop and Riverfront Trail. Both camps agree the current approach isn't working.

Growth outpacing infrastructure and water – Widespread concern that residential development is being approved faster than roads, water supply, and services can handle. Many call for slowing or pausing building, making developers pay their own way, and preserving agricultural land and open space. Water scarcity comes up constantly, including opposition to AI data centers.

Cost of living, housing affordability, and low wages – Respondents repeatedly say wages haven't kept pace with housing costs, rent, and property taxes; longtime residents and young workers say they can't afford to stay. Related calls for better-paying jobs beyond retail/service work and attracting quality employers.

Taxes and government spending – Frustration with rising property taxes, perceived wasteful spending (roundabouts are a recurring lightning rod, plus the 29 Road interchange, the rec center, and the church building purchase), and demands to focus dollars on basics like roads and public safety.

Roads, traffic, and transportation – Complaints about road conditions, traffic congestion, speeding enforcement, and slow/inefficient construction projects; a smaller but vocal group wants expanded GVT transit, bike/pedestrian infrastructure, and better regional connectivity.

And now, we have a few questions for statistical purposes only...

T20. What is your gender?

Female.....	51%
Male.....	49%
Identify Differently	<1%

T21. Are you between the ages of:

18 to 34	26%
35 to 44	17%
45 to 54	14%
55 to 64	15%
65 or Older	28%

T22. Are you married, in a domestic partnership, separated, divorced, or widowed, or have you never been married?

Married	62%
Single.....	16%
Divorced	9%
Domestic Partnership.....	7%
Widowed	5%
Separated.....	1%

T23. Do any children live in your household?

Yes	33%
No	67%

T24. Please select the age ranges of all children living in your household (years). *Select all that apply.* [Asked to respondents who have children in household, 406n]

0 to 2 (Infant and Toddler)	25%
3 to 5 (Preschool)	20%
6 to 10 (Elementary School)	37%
11 to 13 (Middle School).....	24%
14 to 17 (High School)	32%
18 to 25 (Young Adults Living at Home).....	25%

T25. What is the maximum education level you have attained?

4-Year Degree or More	37%
No College Degree.....	63%
Less than High School	1%
High School Diploma or GED	16%
Associate Degree or Technical Certificate	20%
Some College.....	26%
College Degree.....	22%
Advanced Level Degree.....	15%

T26. Are you working full-time, working part-time, going to school, managing the house, retired, or something else?

Full-Time	55%
Retired	27%
Part-Time	6%
Manage House	4%
In School	1%
Other*	7%

*Disabled, self-employed, looking for a job.

T27. What is your estimated total annual household income?

Less than \$25,000	4%
\$25,000 to \$34,000.....	6%
\$35,000 to \$49,000.....	9%
\$50,000 to \$74,000.....	19%
\$75,000 to \$99,000.....	15%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	19%
More than \$150,000	15%
Prefer Not to Say	13%

T28. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Yes	11%
No	84%
Prefer Not to Say	5%

T29. What race do you consider yourself to be?

White	89%
American Indian or Alaska Native	4%
Black or African American	1%
Asian.....	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<1%
Other	6%

T30. How long have you lived in Mesa County (in years)?

0 to 4	11%
5 to 9	16%
10 to 14	10%
15 to 19	9%
20 to 24	12%
25 to 29	10%
More than 30.....	32%

T31. Do you currently rent/own your housing?

Own	74%
Rent	21%
Other	2%
Prefer Not to Say	3%

T32. Have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes	11%
No	89%

T33. How would you best describe your political affiliation?

Independent/Unaffiliated	48%
Total Republican.....	36%
Total Democrat.....	14%
3 rd Party	2%
Republican	26%
Moderate Republican	10%
Democrat	10%
Moderate Democrat	4%

T34. Where do you live?

Grand Junction	57%
Fruita	11%
Clifton	8%
Redlands	6%
Fruitvale	5%
Orchard Mesa	4%
Palisade	4%
Loma	1%
Collbran	1%
Whitewater	1%
Glade Park	1%
De Beque	1%
Mack	1%
Mesa	<1%
Molina	<1%
Gateway	<1%
Other	1%

Survey Methodology

This survey utilized an MMS text data collection method to interview 1,227 Mesa County residents online. The survey data were weighted to represent the voter registration demographics in Mesa County. The interviews were conducted from June 18th to July 6th, 2026. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.78% at the 95 percent confidence interval.
