

VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA



City of Lake Stevens Vision Statement

By 2030, we are a sustainable community around the lake with a vibrant economy, unsurpassed infrastructure and exceptional quality of life.

January 9, 2023 - 7:00 PM

TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

In Person: The Mill, Sawyers Room, 1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens OR

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88061821198>

or call in at: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 88061821198

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. December 5, 2022
- 7. Discussion / Action Items**
 - A. Business Recognition (Kevin)
 - B. Community Survey (Debbie, Kevin, & Gene)
 - C. Newsletter (Kevin & Debbie)
 - D. Partner Network (Kevin & Kurt)
 - E. Purple Heart City (Kevin)
- 8. Activities on Hold**
 - A.
 - Adopt a Highway (Samara & Vern)
 - Coffee Klatch (Debbie & Kim)
 - Community Events (All)
 - Emergency Response Planning (Dennis)
 - Job Fair (Kim & Dennis)
 - Veterans Service Office (VSO) Support (Open)

- 9. New Business**
- 10. Upcoming Agenda Items**
- 11. Adjourn**

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

The City of Lake Stevens strives to provide accessible opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Please contact Human Resources, City of Lake Stevens ADA Coordinator, (425) 622-9400, at least five business days prior to any City meeting or event if any accommodations are needed. For TDD users, please use the state's toll-free relay service, (800) 833-6384, and ask the operator to dial the City of Lake Stevens City Hall number.

CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 5, 2022

HYBRID MEETING – The Mill, Sawyers Room or Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kim Daughtry, Vern Rasmussen, Kevin McLarnon, Debbie Welch, Marcus Tageant, Shawn Frederick, Eugene Gabrys, Samara Heydon, and Kurt Hilt.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dennis Ives

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kelly Chelin, City Clerk

Call to Order: The meeting was called together at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION. Commissioner Frederick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to excuse Councilmember Ives. The motion passed 9-0-0-1.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner McLarnon took time to thank Commissioner Frederick for all of his work on the Veterans Commission. This was Commissioner Frederick's last meeting.

Discussion – Current Activities:

Adopt a Highway – Another update will be provided in March.

MOTION. Commission Daughtry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to move the Adopt a Highway agenda item to March. The motion passed 9-0-0-1.

Business Recognition – no new updates.

Community Survey – Commissioner Welch reported that there are two weeks left for the survey. The results of the survey will be discussed at the next meeting.

Newsletter – no new updates.

Partner Network – no new updates.

Purple Heart signs – Commissioner McLarnon presented an invoice for the 5 signs.

MOTION. Commissioner Daughtry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Frederick, to approve and pay the invoice for \$186.17 for the purple heart signs. The motion passed 9-0-0-1.

Activities on Hold:

Veterans Services Office (VSO) will be in the Food Bank. More to come on this topic.

Veterans Commission Regular Meeting of December 5, 2022

New Business:

Veterans Foundation – Commissioner Frederick provided an update.

Adjourn: It was moved by Commissioner Tageant, seconded by Commissioner Frederick, to adjourn the meeting. On motion the vote carried (9-0-0-1). There being no further business, Commissioner McLarnon adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Kelly Chelin, City Clerk

Lake Stevens Veterans Commission 2022 Veteran Community Survey Results



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Introduction

Established in 2017, the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission's (LSVC) mission is to educate the community on Veterans' rights and needs, to recognize Veterans' contributions to the community, and to stimulate an awareness among the public and private sector of Veterans' full potential and of the importance of Veterans' contributions to the development of the community. The LSVC also has a duty to review, identify, and expand services available to Veterans, and to promote collaboration between service providers, employers, and our military Veterans.

The Commission has been focused since its inception to undertake work on programs and initiatives in support of the Lake Stevens Veterans Community. Notably, the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Commission's momentum and outreach efforts for the last couple of years. Nonetheless, the Commission continued with its work and on several lines of effort that include but are not limited to the following:

- Established a non-profit Veterans Foundation;
- Completed work to have Lake Stevens recognized as a Purple Heart City;
- Instituted a Business Recognition Awards program for Veteran-Owned and Veteran-Friendly Businesses;
- Coordinated Job Fairs as part of community events; and
- Hosted social gatherings for Veterans and their families.

One of the Commission's ongoing efforts is the hosting of a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in Lake Stevens. A long-standing request from the Veterans Community is the availability of information and assistance with Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. The Commission continues to pursue efforts to make VSO services more accessible to Lake Stevens Veterans.

In Spring 2022, the Commission began to plan for conducting a survey to better understand the current needs of the local Veteran Community. Review of public records indicated that there are approximately 1,000 Lake Stevens Veteran households. Plans for conducting a community survey were discussed during several Commission meetings and Commissioners were asked to provide ideas on the means and, most importantly, the construct of the survey.

A motion was passed at the October 3, 2022 Veterans Commission meeting to expend funds in support of a multi-week online survey to better understand which segments of the Lake Stevens Veterans Community need support as well as which types of support services are needed most. This included mailing 975 postcard flyers to 800+ homes in the 98258-zip code that had a VA loan plus approximately 150 residents of Constitution Park, a military housing community within Lake Stevens. An online focus group was then held with 12 participants to validate portions of the survey design and multiple-choice answer options.

The survey was conducted from November 3 to December 18, 2022 utilizing the Survey Monkey online survey tool. The survey consisted of nine questions -- two multiple-choice demographic questions, three multiple-choice questions prioritizing needs and wants, two open-ended questions soliciting

additional feedback, one multiple-choice question asking how respondents heard about the survey, and an optional, final question asking for contact information if the respondent was interested in learning more or volunteering. While the survey was targeted at Veterans living in Lake Stevens and the surrounding communities, the Commission also welcomed input from non-Veterans. Survey response was solicited through a variety of communication channels. In addition to the post card mailer, two News Flashes about the survey were sent out from the City's website, followed up by social media posts. Flyers were also shared on social media and posted in public locations such as the Lake Stevens Library.

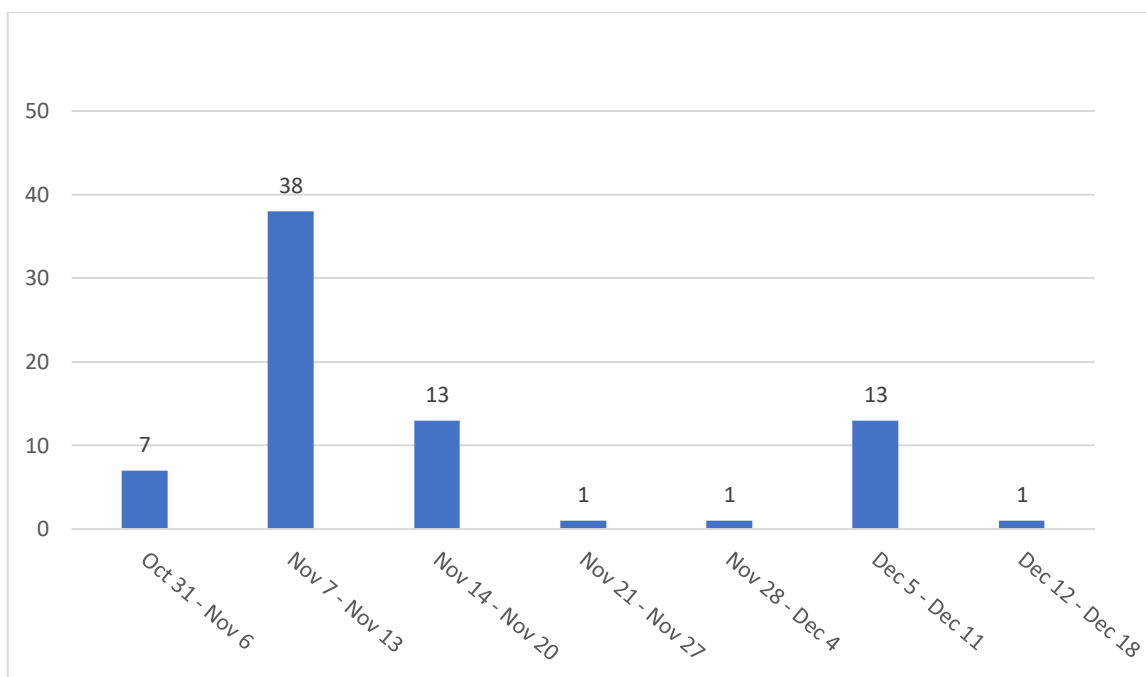
In order to reduce the potential for unintended bias impacting survey results, the multiple-choice options for question 3 (Primary Quality-of-Life concerns) and question 5 (Support Program priorities) were presented to survey participants in a random order. So, while the first respondent might see option A to the question, "My quality-of-life (or my family's quality-of-life) is most affected by", as "Financial or Affordability Issues", the next respondent would be presented with option A as something different, for example, "Social Biases". This avoids concerns that users were more likely to choose a specific response because of the order in which it was presented.

This document is a report of the outcome of the 2022 LSVC Veterans Community survey. It contains the survey questionnaire, an analysis of the response to questions and also the information derived from the focus group that enable members of the LSVC to refine the survey before it was made available for community response.

Summary

This document represents a final report of findings from the Commission's 2022 Veterans Community survey. A total of 82 surveys were initiated by individuals living in Lake Stevens or a surrounding community over the 6-week survey period from November 3, 2022 through December 18, 2022. Seventy-four surveys were completed, for a 91% completion rate. The majority of responses were submitted within the first 3 weeks of the survey and the average time spent completing a survey was under 5 minutes. See Chart 1 below. This report will be reviewed at the LSVC's January 2023 meeting with specific recommendations and actions to follow.

Chart 1 – Completed Surveys by Week



While caution is required when extrapolating from small data samples, several clear trends are evident. Based on the response to survey questions, the Lake Stevens Veterans Community:

- Is most challenged by Financial and Affordability issues;
- Seeks services geared towards Veterans and their families;
- Would like help navigating Veteran benefit programs; and
- Would like more programs geared towards support groups and social activities.

Also of significant note, a number of respondents provided suggestions for specific activities and events that could help the Commission get deeper Veteran Community engagement and a number of respondents indicated an interest in learning more or volunteering to assist the Commission. These individual responses are included in an unedited form as Tables within the 'Detailed Findings' section of this report.

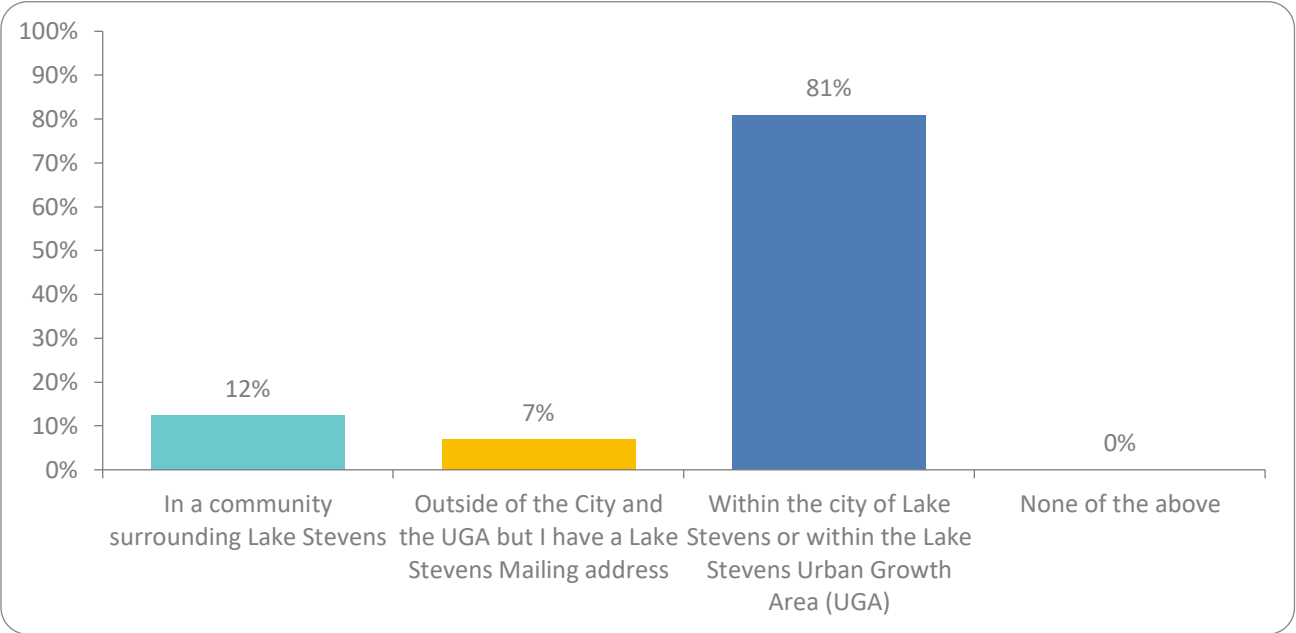
Finally, while 88% of survey responses were submitted by Active Duty service members, Reservists, and Veterans, this survey also includes nine responses (12%) from non-Veteran individuals. Those respondents may be family members of Veterans or simply individuals interested in helping Veterans. Similarly, 81% of respondents reported as living within the City of Lake Stevens or in its designated Urban Growth Area and 14 responses (19%) were submitted by Veterans who identified as living outside of Lake Stevens but within the 98258 zip code or in a community surrounding Lake Stevens. An analysis of results from the non-Veteran subgroup and the subgroup of individuals living in a surrounding community found no significant variance from the responses of Veterans living within the City of Lake Stevens. In fact, there was only two instances where results from the core Lake Stevens Veteran group varied from the results of all completed responses by more than 4%. (See 'Question 4 – I would like to see more focus on support for:' on page 9 and 'Question 5 – Support Program Priorities' on page 10.) The respondents are part of the community that the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission seeks to serve and accordingly, their completed surveys have been included in the survey report.

Detailed Findings

Question 1 – Residence Location

All survey respondents identified as being from Lake Stevens or a surrounding community. Eighty-one percent of respondents reported living in Lake Stevens, 5 individuals (7%) identified as living outside of the City but having a 98258 zip code, and 9 individuals (12%) identified as living in a surrounding community.

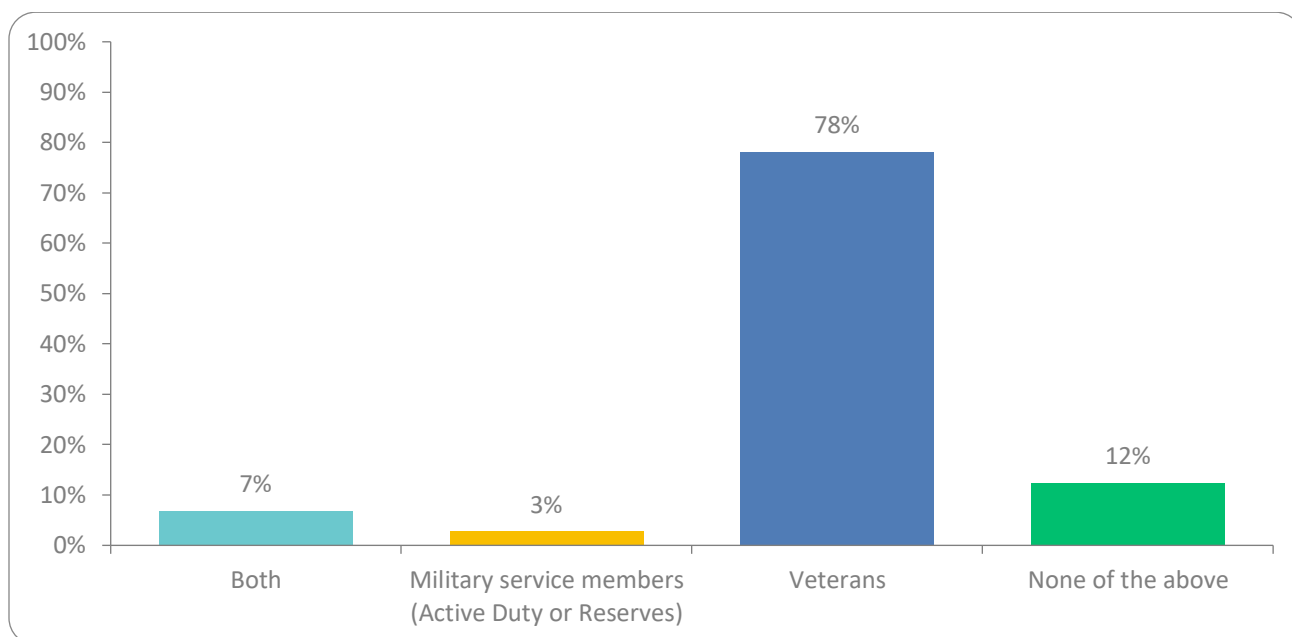
Chart 2 – Completed responses to Question 1
I live:



Question 2 - Household Profile

The majority of respondents (88%) came from households containing Veterans or military service members. (See Chart 3 below.) Nine respondents (12%) stated that their household did not contain a Veteran, Active-Duty service member or Reservist.

Chart 3 – Completed responses to Question 2
My household contains:



Question 3 - Primary Quality-of-Life Concerns

Financial or Affordability issues were identified by the majority of respondents as the top item currently affecting their quality-of-life. While the initial scoring was at 48%, 6 of the responses originally marked “Other” referred to things such as “inflation” or “taxes” and have been included in the ‘Affordability’ category, bringing the actual percentage to 55%. Medical and mental health matters was noted by 23% of respondents as the major issue affecting their quality-of-life.

Chart 4 – Completed responses to Question 3
My quality-of-life (or my family’s quality-of-life) is most affected by:

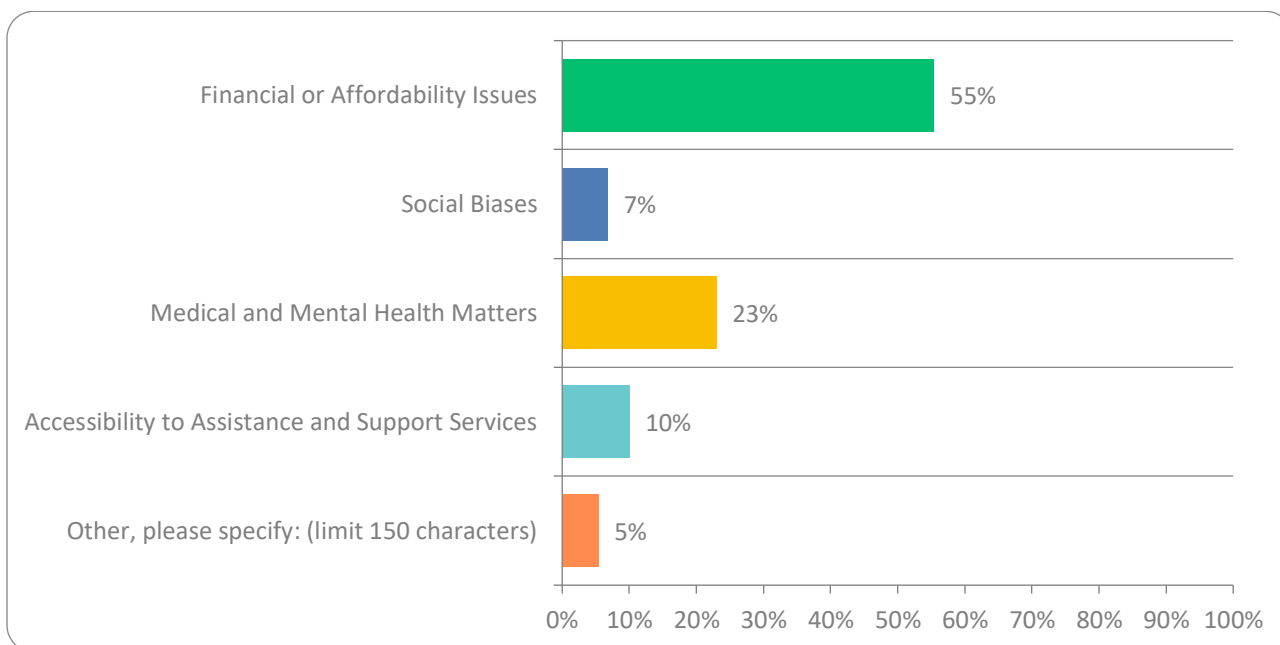


Table 1 – “Other” responses to Question 3

Other, please specify: (limit 150 characters)	
1	A combination of social biases and health care costs
2	NA
3	The question is unclear.
4	SIMPLY NOT RECIEVING SERVICES PROMISED WHEN ENLISTED

Question 4 - Focus Area Recommendations

Two-thirds of respondents (68%) indicated that they would like to see more support for Veterans and their families. Senior Veterans was the second highest response at 46%. It is also worth noting that this question may have been somewhat unclear to a number of respondents in that several of the “Other” responses describe specific programs more in line with the information objective of Question 5.

Question 4 is the first question where responses from Veterans who live within the City of Lake Stevens varied from the total responses received by greater than 4%. While the overall priority rankings were not affected, Lake Stevens Veterans rated ‘Senior Veterans’ at 53% (7% higher than the results from all completed surveys). Lake Stevens Veterans also differed slightly on the prioritization of ‘Veterans and their families’ (65% versus 68%) and ‘Transition from active duty service’ (25% versus 28%).

Chart 5 – Completed responses to Question 4
I would like to see more focus on support for: (Choose up to 2)

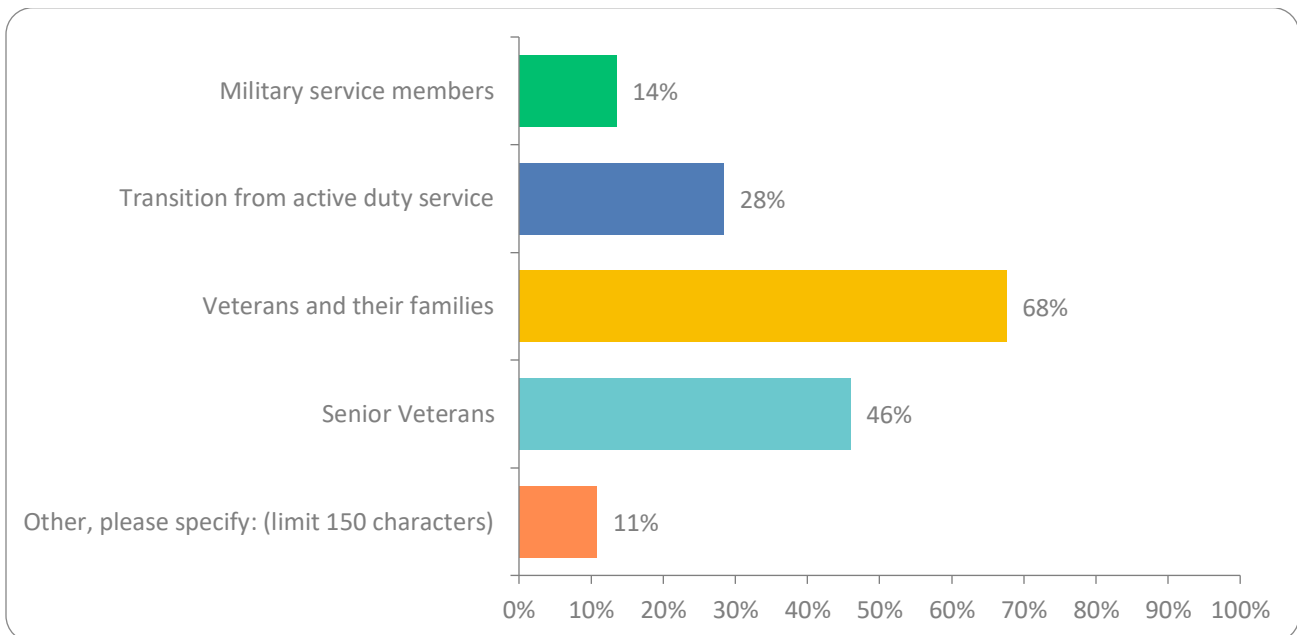


Table 2 – “Other” responses to Question 4

Other, please specify: (limit 150 characters)	
1	I do not know what others required. I need no additional support.
2	Drop in childcare for vets with appointments
3	The Machias Cemetery holds many Veterans and I'd like to see more Veterans Day and Memorial Day events held there.
4	Veterans with loan/mortgage debt
5	Both veterans and active duty
6	Education for the community about the loud explosions every weekend. It's unnerving
7	Veterans Day festivities
8	Access to public transportation and medical care

Question 5 - Support Program Priorities

The top two types of support programs were identified as ‘Help navigating VA and other benefit programs’ at 69% and ‘Social and Support Groups (including caregiver support)’ at 47%.

Question 5 is the other question where responses from Veterans who live within the City of Lake Stevens varied from the total responses received by greater than 4%. While the overall priority rankings were not affected, Lake Stevens Veterans rated ‘Employment / Career Fairs’ at 27% (7% lower than the results from all responses). Lake Stevens Veterans indicated a higher interest in ‘Youth and family events’ (22% versus 19%) and ‘Social and support groups’ (51% versus 47%).

Chart 6 – Completed responses to Question 5
I would like to see the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission support programs such as:
(Choose up to 2)

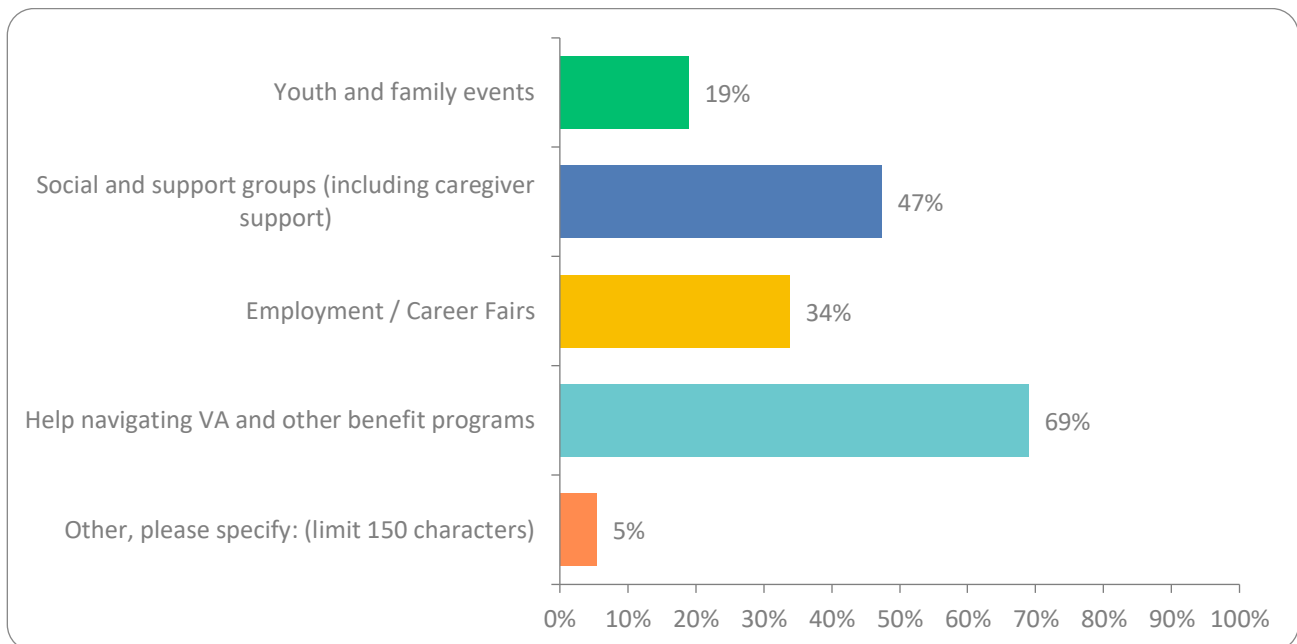


Table 3 – “Other” responses to Question 5

Other, please specify: (limit 150 characters)	
1	A combination of all of the above
2	I don't know what benefits the community most.
3	More veteran only based social events
4	Non service related disability

Question 6 - Additional Support Program Details

Twenty-two respondents (30%) provided specific program suggestions for the Commission to consider. While some of these ideas, such as establishing a nearby VA Medical Center, are beyond the Commission's ability to deliver in the short term, other respondent ideas may be feasible. For example, there are multiple suggestions for activities that would engage Veterans and their children. Details are provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Responses to Question 6
Are there any specific outreach programs or events that would help you and/or your family members?

Yes, please specify: (limit 250 characters)	
1	What benefits are available to retirees
2	I don't know but this is one of the most unfriendly places I have ever lived in 20 yrs.
3	Employment for veterans, specifically programs that assist in finding adequate & meaningful employment for veterans age 50+
4	Helping with veterans benefits.
5	Seminars or guest speakers that present on topics such as sleep issues, household budget management, and post-military service education programs.
6	Childcare for date nights etc
7	Drop in childcare
8	VA claims assistance
9	Programs to help navigate VA community care
10	Activities for children of Veterans, specifically hunting and fishing
11	The Veteran Outreach Program by Dustin Comey. It provides cash back at closing on a house and raises awareness of veteran suicide and other ailments. I would love to see more support for this individual and similar programs
12	Not that are available in this area
13	Kids sports programs
14	Help and support for caregivers of disabled veterans
15	Start a legitimate VFW and better established American Legion building
16	va medical facility nearby
17	I'm not sure but I would like to know more
18	Veteran's teaching youth marksmanship and civics
19	Pass regulations against fireworks and enforce ticketing of those who violate them
20	I don't know what to ask for
21	Activities outside the house that are free or low cost
22	4H camps or something for veterans and their sons

Question 7 - Additional Comments

As with question 6, a significant percentage of respondents (27%) provided additional ideas for the Commission to consider. Details are provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Responses to Question 7
Do you have any additional ideas or comments to share with the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission?

Yes, please specify: (limit 250 characters)	
1	I'm a Veteran, just recently retired. Would like to volunteer to help with programs. Part of the solution, I hope
2	Which business in the city are vet-owned? A directory would help. Also if there are local businesses w/jobs for military transitioning out of active duty, I would also like to know
3	It's difficult to find any veterans assistance in Lake Stevens
4	I feel there are a lot of veterans within Lake Stevens and there should be a more active role in becoming a part of the community.
5	I would like to see services for homeless vets and/or Vets in need.
6	A veterans park would be nice
7	Community outreach programs and pipeline career fairs would be beneficial for the community
8	I am and was not aware there was even a Lake Stevens Veterans Commission
9	Program to replace American flags flown in private residence within Lake Stevens. Every flag flying in our town should be un-tattered and un-worn.
10	Veterans with debts related to medical, student, and home loans are always worth considering. Homes are tremendously expensive around here, would love to see some support for vets with existing loans or who are considering a home in this area.
11	Currently, the city of Lake Stevens gets a no confidence vote from our family and friends.
12	simple discounts on utilities makes a difference in veterans lives. Most of us are fixed income or single/ disabled & available programs require you be married/have kids. What about rest of us vets ? no events for us or discounts
13	Veterans with non service related disabilities can't get any help are we not still veterans who served their country?
14	VA Prescription and clinic in Lake Stevens
15	Perhaps more social functions for Vets
16	Get together soon, potlucks, get to know the vets in the area. Help each other and help the vet families in need. Have vet senior days, card games and tell a few lies.
17	Social events.
18	Help vets with their claims
19	Education with all personal sidearms that residents walk around where everywhere. Makes me unhinged just waiting for someone to shoot someone
20	Activities for veteran children

Question 8 - Communication Channel Effectiveness

Leveraging the City of Lake Stevens’ existing communication channel of a News Flash followed by social media posts proved to be a successful approach to garner Veterans’ community participation in the survey accounting for over two-thirds of all responses (69%). Direct mail brought in 28% of the respondents and, as discussed in the ‘Other Findings’ section, the responses are helpful in identifying areas of focus based on the Veterans’ community interests. Seven “Other” responses have been re-coded to the appropriate category. Five respondents stated that they found out about the survey from the City’s website. This was included under the Lake Stevens News Flash category as the News Flash was the posting on the City’s website. Two responses referenced the Internet or social media on how they were made aware of the survey.

Finally, it appears that currently the Commission’s Newsletter does not have a significant reach into the Veterans’ community. This will be reviewed for potential changes on how the Newsletter is disseminated.

Chart 7 – Completed responses to Question 8
How did you hear about this survey: (Select all that apply)

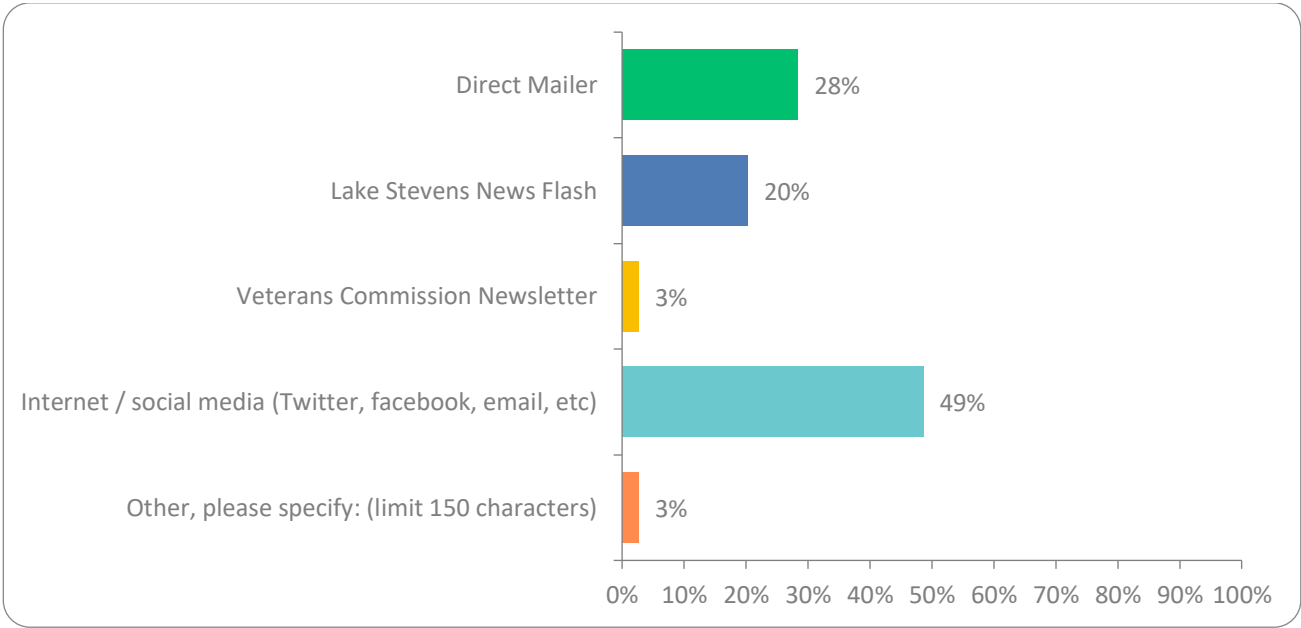


Table 5 – “Other” responses to Question 8

Other, please specify: (limit 150 characters)	
1	As a Commissioner
2	From a co-worker

Question 9 - Contact Details

Thirty-four percent of respondents (25 individuals) expressed an interest in learning more about or volunteering to help the Commission or Veterans Foundation. This is a positive result and leveraging this group should help the Commission going forward. For privacy reasons, response details are not shown here but have been made available to Commissioners.

Other Findings

Completion Rate and Excluded Responses

Overall survey completion rate stands at 91%, indicating that the question format was not an issue for most respondents. Only 7 of the 82 surveys were abandoned prior to the respondent answering all questions. Incomplete surveys are not included in the review of results. Excluded surveys include the following:

- Three respondents answered only demographic questions 1 and 2;
- One respondent answered through question 3;
- Two respondents answered through question 4; and
- One respondent answered through question 5.

Also, one survey response was received from a Veteran who identified as not living in Lake Stevens or a surrounding community. Since this individual lived outside of the Commission's focus area, they were not presented with the standard set of survey questions. Instead, they were provided an open-ended question asking them to share suggestions, comments, or concerns with the Commission. The respondent chose to submit the survey with no additional comments and, therefore, the survey has not been included in this review of results.

Direct Mail Campaign

Twenty-one respondents indicated that they found out about the survey from the postcard mailer. This represents 28% of the completed surveys received and just over 2% of the total postcards mailed. Available industry specifics vary widely for postcard direct mail return rates but low single-digit response rates appear to be the norm¹. Interestingly, while the direct mail effort yielded only 21 responses, the quality of these responses was higher than average indicating that we reached an important subgroup. Completion rate among them was 100% and detailed input rates consistently exceeded the norm. For example, 62% responded to question #6 with specific comments, double the response rate for all submissions.

Known Limitations

The concept of "ballot stuffing", when a person takes the survey more than once in order to affect the outcome, is always a concern when evaluating survey data. While there are no ways absolutely limit each person to a single response when conducting an anonymous survey, the Survey Monkey platform provides a combination of tools that help administrators identify the potential scope of problems due to ballot stuffing.

First, the Survey Monkey platform utilizes browser cookies to prevent a device from submitting multiple survey responses. This control can be bypassed by clearing cookies from the device's browser cache. However, Survey Monkey also records the IP address of the device associated with each survey

¹ The [posgrid.com website](https://posgrid.com) claims that "According to the [data and marketing association](https://dataandmarketingassociation.org), postcards receive the highest response rate of 4.25%, and letters get the lowest response at 3.5%." The referenced data is paywalled by the Association of National Advertisers (ANA). Several other websites reference an average 0.5-2% response rate for direct mail marketing campaigns and cite a source of "JWM Business Services". However, this source was not able to be located.

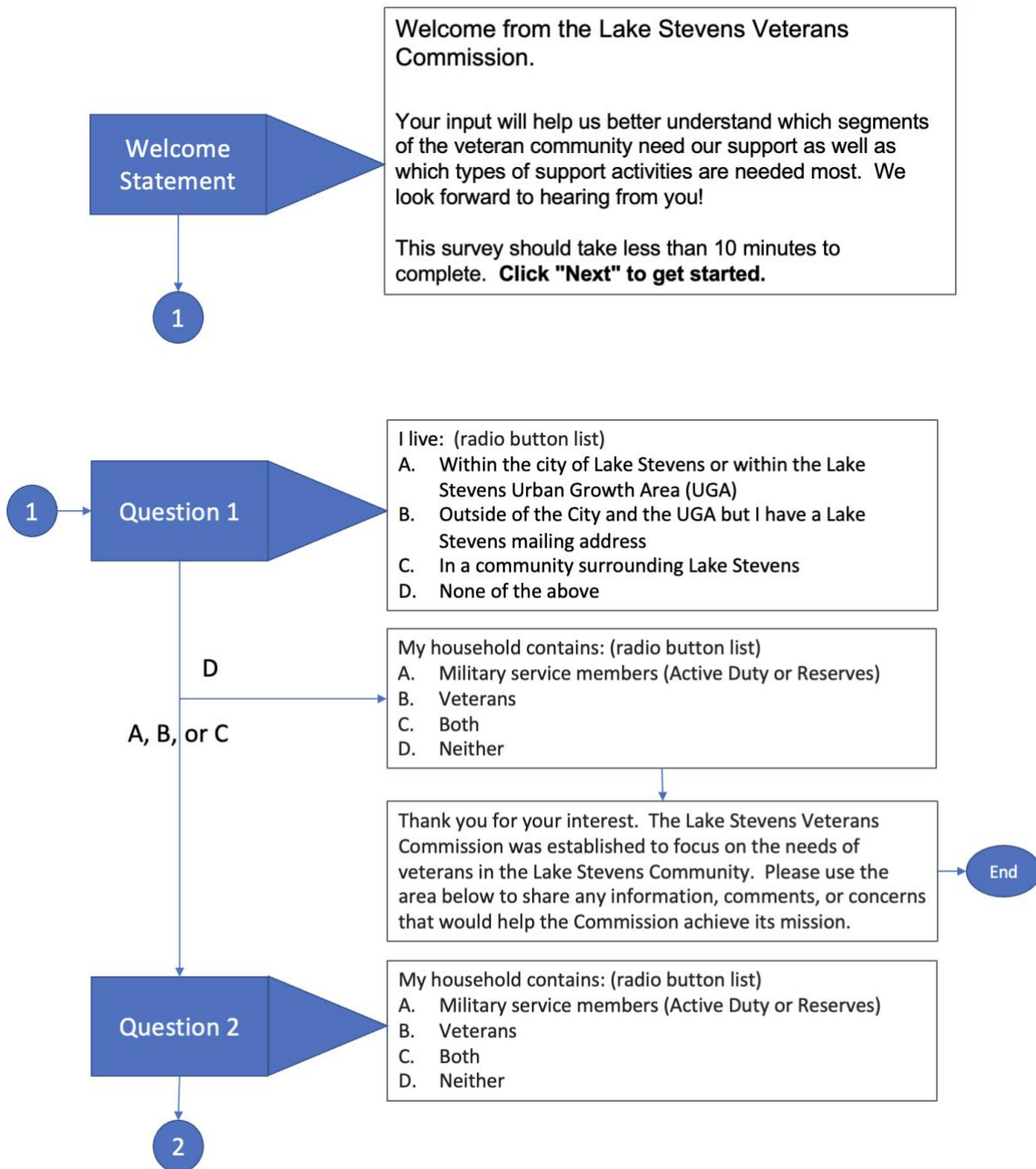
response. This log acts as a secondary control. As an example, there are no controls in place to prevent a person from responding to the survey once from their mobile phone and a second time from a laptop computer. However, it would be obvious if a person repeatedly submitted survey responses from the same device by clearing the browser cache because the same IP address would be associated with multiple survey responses. It should also be noted that there are legitimate instances when the same IP address would appear more than once in the survey data, for example, when people are sharing the same Wi-Fi network. This could be the result of more than one Veteran living in the same household or frequenting the same coffee shop.

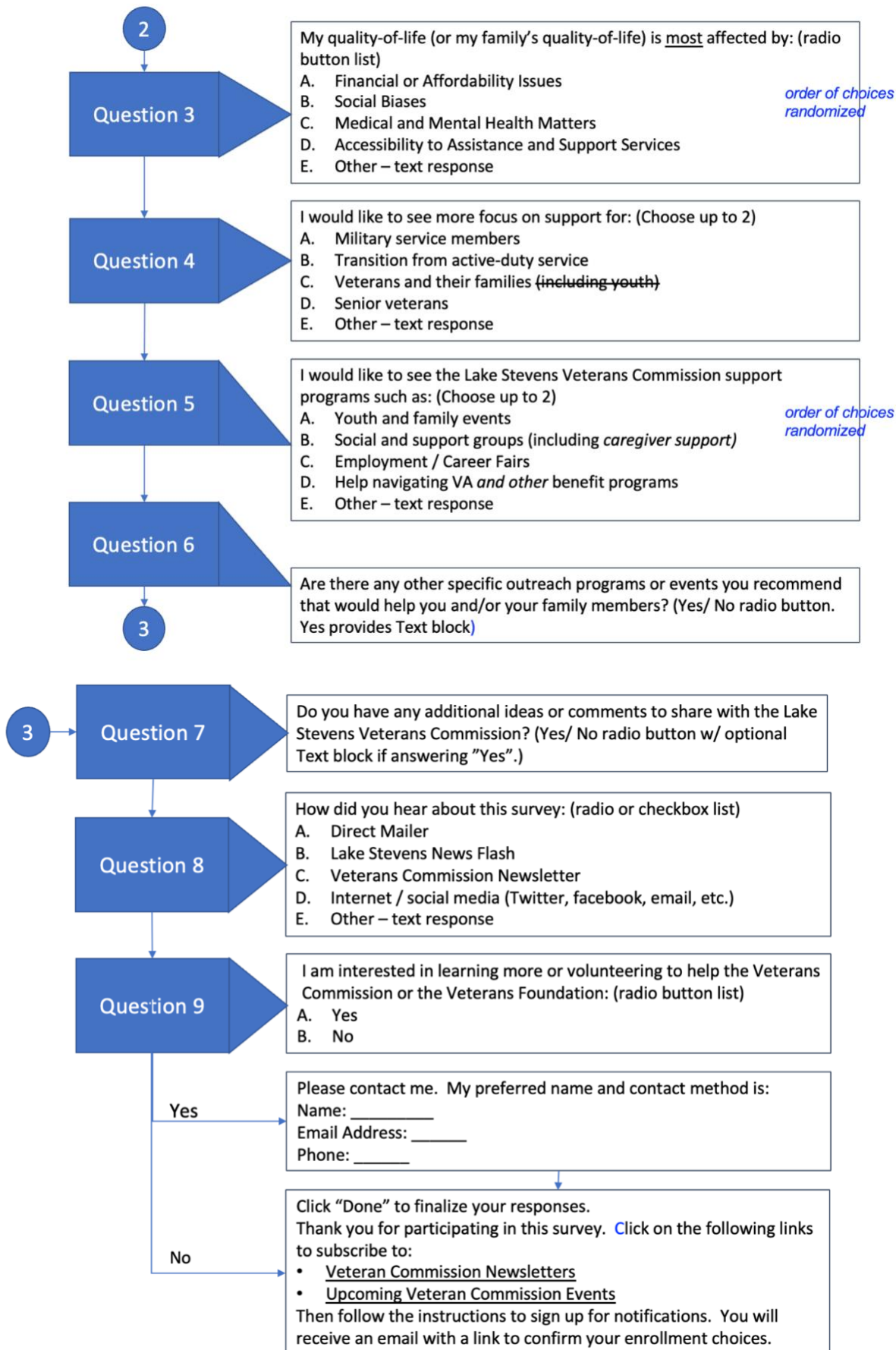
A review of the IP address log of all survey submissions identified only two instances where the same IP address appears more than once and, in both cases, the duplicate IP address is only associated with one other survey submission. Further, in both cases, the individual responses vary between the submissions, reducing the impact of ballot stuffing if, in fact, that was the intent.

The use of browser cookies combined with the low frequency of duplicate IP address submissions supports a finding of confidence in the integrity of the survey data.

Backup Data

Survey Question Flow Chart







**Military Veterans, Active Duty Service
Members, Reservists, and families:
Your voice matters!**

The Lake Stevens Veterans Commission invites you to participate in an online community survey to help us better understand which segments of our community need our support, as well as which types of activities are needed most. This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Thank you for your service and your time. We look forward to hearing from you!

You can access the survey via the QR code or the link below:

Survey QR Code:



Survey Link:

lsvc.link/survey



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veterans@lakestevenswa.gov

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Focus Group Results

In preparing survey questions, Commissioners decided to conduct a focus group survey in October 2022 in order to validate the response choices for Question #5 of the survey "I would like to see the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission support programs such as:". Twelve Veterans from Lake Stevens and surrounding communities participated in the online focus group survey. The question posed to them was "What programs or events would you like to see the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission focus their efforts on to help support our local Veterans, Active-Duty Military, and their families?".

Participant feedback supported the program direction that the Veterans Commission had already been pursuing. The number one requested item was help with benefits, both VA benefits and local programs (5 participants). Several other types of programs were mentioned more than once:

- Assisting homeless Veterans and affordable housing;
- Caregiver support;
- Veteran appreciation events; and
- Job fair / Training / Mentoring events and programs

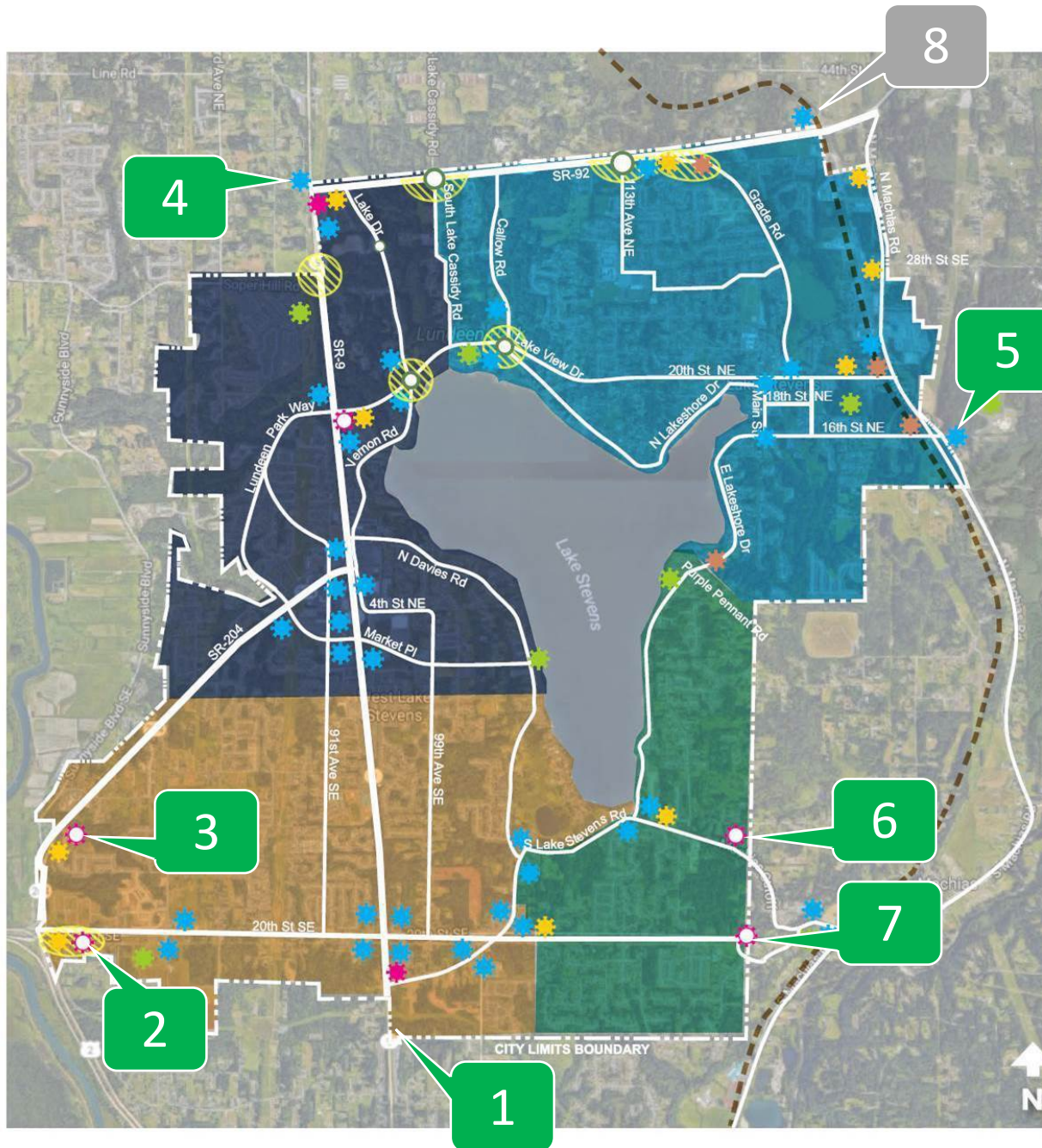
These suggestions were incorporated into the survey. Also of note, three respondents mentioned a lack of awareness of the Veterans Commission. There were several suggestions to partner with local Veterans groups in Monroe and Snohomish to help increase awareness of the Commission.

Below are the unedited responses from the twelve focus group participants.

	What programs or events would you like to see the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission focus their efforts on to help support our local Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families?	Do you have any additional comments or suggestions to help the Commission improve support for this community?
1	Job, Training, Benefits and Counseling	Excellent initiative and appreciated, some don't know where to turn?
2	Veterans benefits. Tax breaks for disabled veteran home owners. Notify parents LSHS is verified for CH 35 benefits. Support military families in our school systems.	Yes I am sure I do but hadn't heard of this till now.
3	Filing a VA Claim	
4	Affordable housing. So many of our vets, and others are priced out of the local markets, even if they have grown up here and returned after serving.	A shelter or tiny houses in the Lake Stevens or Marysville area would be great, but the nimby types will never let it happen, even for vets. Yes, I work in the field, in particular with homeless vets.

	What programs or events would you like to see the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission focus their efforts on to help support our local Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families?	Do you have any additional comments or suggestions to help the Commission improve support for this community?
5	I am currently active duty at JBLM, I'm two years away from retirement so I don't have much insight on what support veterans require. But, I think promoting the Facebook page is a great start, I didn't know there was one until I saw this post. I am a part of a few pages with people I have served with and they keep people connected and help promote events. The biggest issue I have seen with my friends who get out is suicide. I have lost multiple friends to suicide so anything to address this issue is important. An active Facebook page that promotes meet-ups and or events helps.	
6	Caregiver support	Becoming a Hidden Hero City
7	I wish there were options already to select from. I think a annual 5k and fair with military sources would be best appreciated. That's what Monroe does in conjunction with the VFW. The Snohomish Army National Guard unit has 170+ people in it and many live in lake stevens. Getting them involved in a 5k and annual fair would be incredible since they are involved with the VFW and can provide equipment and people. Every year they respond to wildfires, covid response, snow storms etc. Showing appreciation for them will help show that lake stevens supports active military. A lot of military kids attend LSHS so more volunteers could be recruited from there and I'm positive the Navy base family readiness would have great ideas as well.	No that's all.
8	Holding events to assist Veterans in obtaining their VA benefits and assist w/ other VA opportunities.	
9	Stop focusing on only active duty! You have more honorable retirees that need help in this community. A veteran is for life and should be honored as such. When you single out our disabled and retired vets that gave everything to serve and now deal with disabilities from serving your disrespecting them. Veteran focus should mean ALL veterans active or honorably retired.	I think my previous response says it all.
10	Build a home for a veteran. Provide a service dog for a vet. Help veterans who are homeless. Help active troops talk to loved ones.	No thank you

	What programs or events would you like to see the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission focus their efforts on to help support our local Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families?	Do you have any additional comments or suggestions to help the Commission improve support for this community?
11	Veteran hiring events. Active duty to civilian workplace transition or mentorship for veterans joining the current workplace environments and navigating the job hunt, interview, and acceptance/rejection. Highlight veterans in the community as we approach Veterans Day. Veterans Day celebration in our public schools again	
12	Refer only on the DD214 and VA disability letter when considering or processing property tax exemption.	More circulation/promotion. I've never heard of you and lived here over 8 years.



Beautification Plan

The Plan identifies the limits for each urban/neighborhood center within the City of Lake Stevens as well as beautification opportunities for potential future development, City ROW, public plazas, parks and open space improvements within those areas.

URBAN/NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

- West Lake Stevens (Frontier Village)
- Old Town (Downtown City Center)
- East Lake Stevens
- South Lake Stevens (Cavalero)

BEAUTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Future Development
- Streets
- Centennial Trail
- Large Roundabout
- Small Roundabout
- Existing Welcome Sign
- Monument City Gateway Sign
- Vertical City Gateway Sign

Purple Heart City sign (Installed)

Purple Heart City sign (Future)