

Gillette, Wright, and Campbell County
1% Sales Tax Survey Results
2018

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE
CAMPBELL COUNTY

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Background, Survey Development, and Response Rate:

In June of 2018, the Town of Wright, City of Gillette, and Campbell County Board of Commissioners contracted with the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce to survey all registered voters in Campbell County, with regards to funds generated by the 1% sales tax. Voters were asked to rank how their communities should prioritize the investment of these funds, in addition to being asked what, specifically, is their biggest priority.

The survey's content was provided by the City, Town, and County. Each of the projects were presented to respondents on a four-point matrix: "Do Not Fund," "Low," "Medium," and High" priorities.

A mailing list of registered voters was generated by the Campbell County Elections Office and transmitted to the Chamber via email on July 17. There were **18,840 registered voters** as of that date.

The approved survey document was sent to Simpson's Printing in Gillette, who randomly assigned each survey a registration number (to verify its authenticity) and then mailed out surveys the first week of August. An unknown number of those surveys were undeliverable.

Simpson's Printing reported that 27 addresses had been rejected by the USPS bulk mailing computer, and they were able to identify an additional 46 addresses that were in error. Simpson's was able to make the corrections needed in these 73 addresses, and then re-mailed those surveys as a courtesy.

Of some note: 43.8% of those addresses shown in error were in Recluse or Rozet.

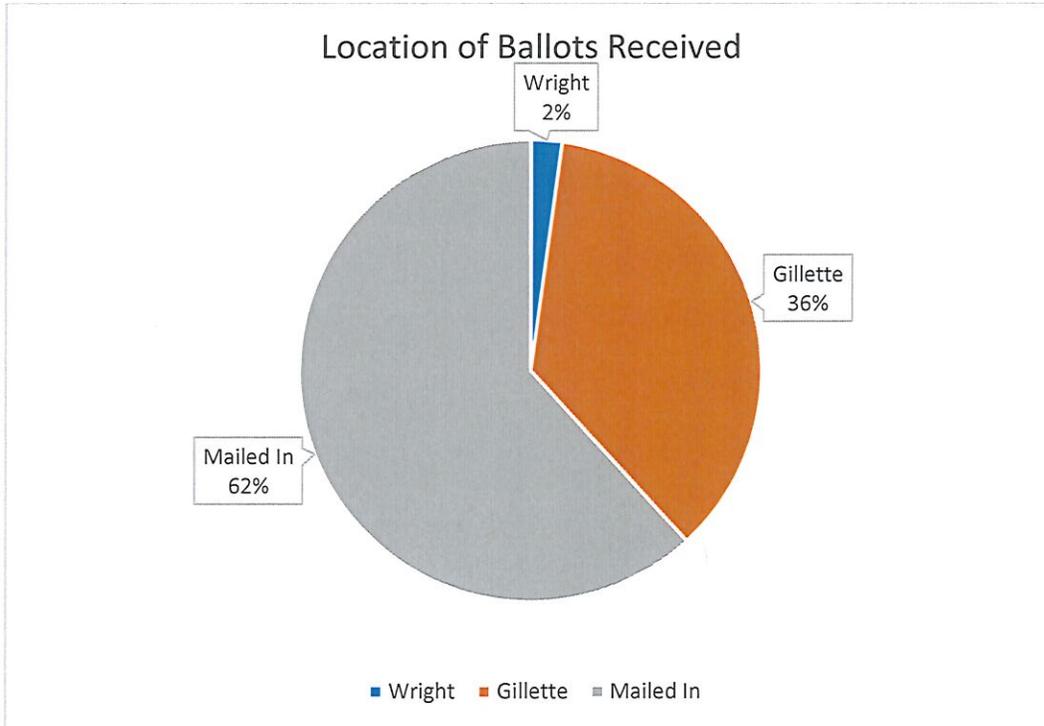
An additional 100 surveys with registration marks were printed by Simpson's and then distributed by the Chamber to those registered voters who -- for whatever reason -- did not receive, or were not able to complete, their original survey. Of those 100, eight (8) were returned.

In total, **2471 surveys were returned** to the Chamber, either via postal service or dropped off at one of ten locations around Campbell County. Though the return date was listed as September 15, survey boxes were not collected until Monday, September 17. Additional mailed in surveys were received and counted as late as September 27.

Some surveys were returned completely blank. There were 32 mailed-in surveys that did not have postage, but still made it to the Chamber to be counted. Of the surveys received, **2451** had results that were able to be tabulated.

The number of surveys returned would suggest a return rate of 13%, though the actual number is more than likely to be higher, if it were possible to calculate the number of surveys that reached their intended destination.

Survey Return Data:



Survey return boxes were available in the following locations:

Wright:

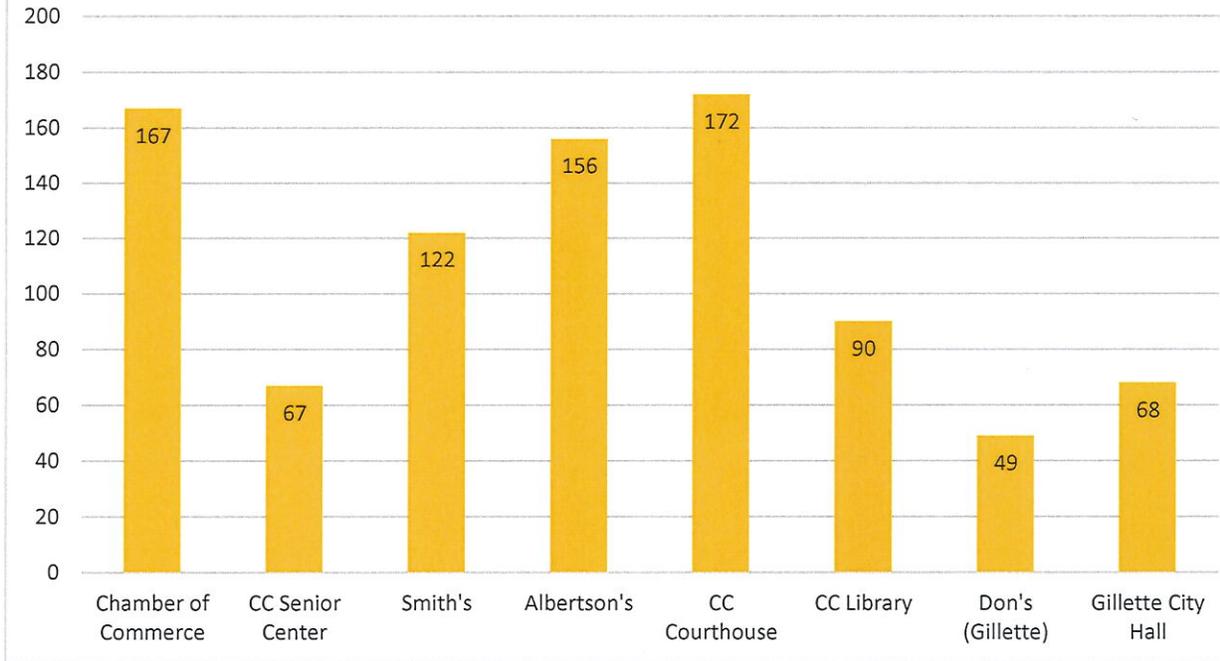
- Campbell County Public Library
- Wright Town Hall

Gillette:

- Campbell County Chamber of Commerce
- Campbell County Senior Center
- Campbell County Courthouse
- Campbell County Public Library
- Gillette City Hall
- Albertson's
- Don's
- Smith's

53 surveys were returned directly in Wright, **891** in Gillette, and **1527** mailed in.

Location of Ballots Received



Overall Survey Results:

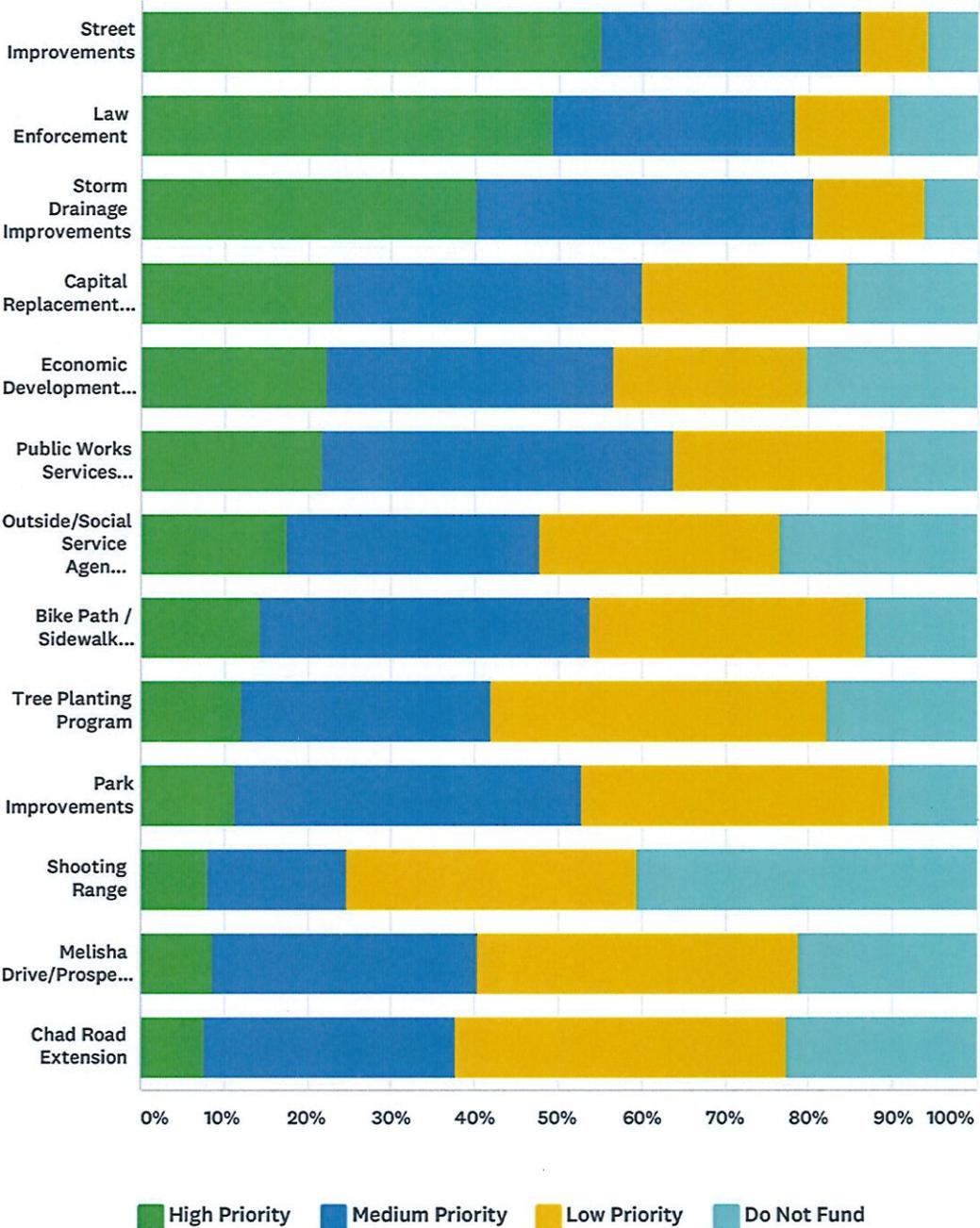
TOWN OF WRIGHT

Out of 2451 surveys, 1155 respondents (47%) ranked thirteen (13) different projects proposed by the Town to spend 1% sales tax funds on in the next four years.

	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	DO NOT FUND	TOTAL
Street Improvements	54.99% 617	31.19% 350	8.02% 90	5.79% 65	1,122
Law Enforcement	49.24% 548	29.02% 323	11.23% 125	10.51% 117	1,113
Storm Drainage Improvements	40.22% 442	40.40% 444	13.19% 145	6.19% 68	1,099
Capital Replacement Reserve	23.03% 248	36.95% 398	24.61% 265	15.41% 166	1,077
Economic Development Programs and Incentives	22.22% 244	34.43% 378	23.13% 254	20.22% 222	1,098
Public Works Services (Spring/Fall Cleanup)	21.75% 236	42.03% 456	25.44% 276	10.78% 117	1,085
Outside/Social Service Agency funding	17.54% 191	30.30% 330	28.74% 313	23.42% 255	1,089
Bike Path / Sidewalk Improvements	14.31% 157	39.47% 433	33.00% 362	13.22% 145	1,097
Tree Planting Program	12.08% 132	29.83% 326	40.26% 440	17.84% 195	1,093
Park Improvements	11.21% 123	41.66% 457	36.65% 402	10.48% 115	1,097
Shooting Range	8.00% 88	16.64% 183	34.73% 382	40.64% 447	1,100
Melisha Drive/Prospector Road improvements	8.61% 88	31.80% 325	38.26% 391	21.33% 218	1,022
Chad Road Extension	7.66% 78	30.06% 306	39.59% 403	22.69% 231	1,018

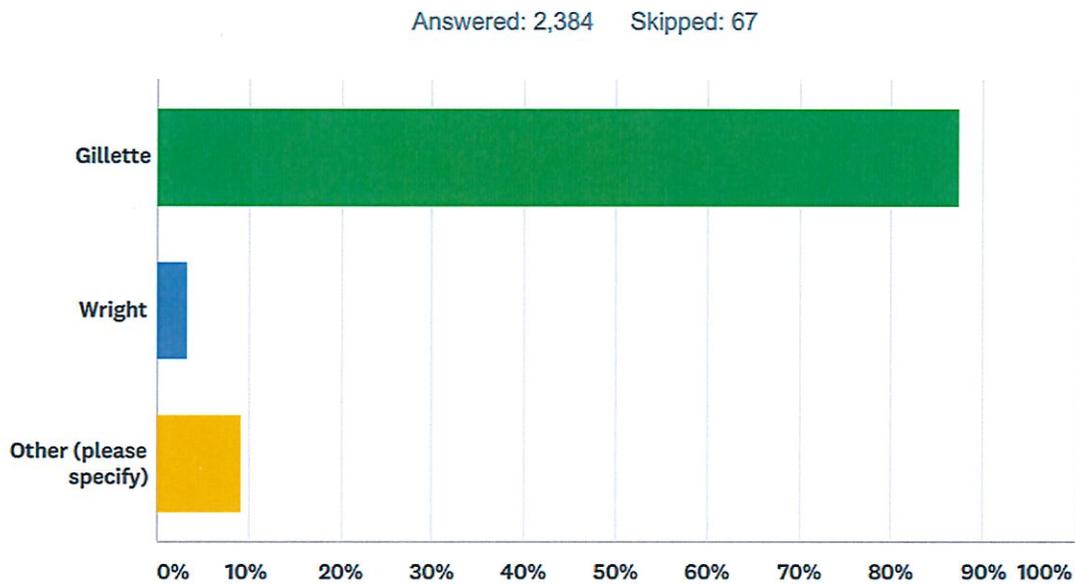
Q1 Town of Wright

Answered: 1,155 Skipped: 1,296



Geographic Data:

97.2% of respondents answered the question "Where do you live?"



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Gillette	87.37%	2,083
Wright	3.44%	82
Other (please specify)	9.19%	219
TOTAL		2,384

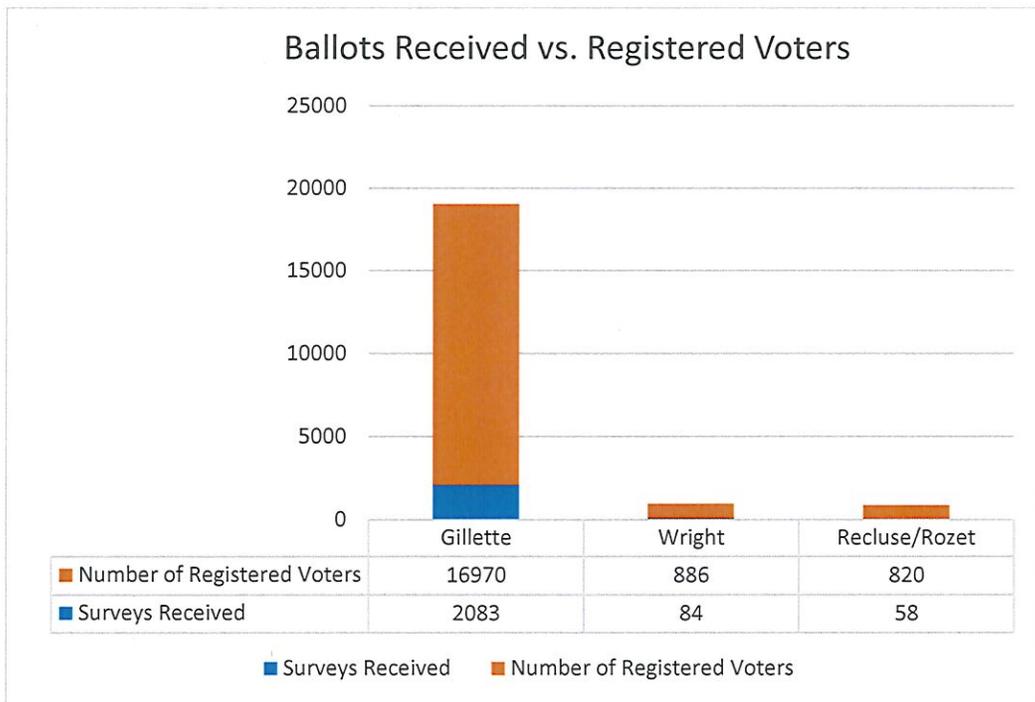
"Other":

Rozet	23.74%	52
Rural	10.96%	24
Campbell County	9.13%	20
Recluse	2.74%	6
Ranch	2.28%	5
Sleepy Hollow	1.37%	3
Outside Gillette	0.91%	2
Wright	0.91%	2

By our calculations, Gillette comprises 69% of the current population of Campbell County. Another 3% are in Wright, the remaining 28% within county limits.

However, of the 18,840 registered voting mailing addresses received, 16,970 (90%) reported they were in Gillette, 886 (4.7%) were in Wright, and a further 820 (4.4%) were in Recluse and Rozet. (167 respondents, or .9% of those registered, had mailing addresses outside of Campbell County and/or Wyoming.)

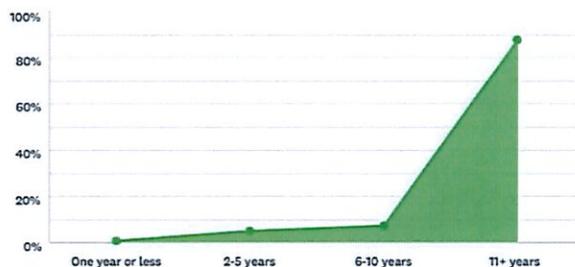
That means of the registered voters we contacted, 14% of Gillette residents responded, 7% of residents in Recluse/Rozet, and 4.7% of Wright.



There were 2391 respondents, or 97.5% of those surveyed, who answered the question “How long have you lived in Campbell County?”, with 87.54% having lived in Campbell County for over a decade.

Q8 How long have you lived in Campbell County?

Answered: 2,391 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One year or less	0.54%	13
2-5 years	4.81%	115
6-10 years	7.11%	170
11+ years	87.54%	2,093
TOTAL		2,391

Comments:

TOWN OF WRIGHT

These comments were written in on the first question regarding the Town of Wright, ranking projects from “Do Not Fund” through “High Priority.”

1	1% should not be used for wages and salaries
2	snow removal on rural routes
3	library
4	Library
5	Fire and emergency services
6	Fire and emergency services
7	drain the swamp
8	stop funding all the charities
9	fire department
10	Fire department equipment/services
11	No non profits
12	For spring/fall cleanup get local FFA and 4H and school organizations to help
13	Panther pond. Dredge and clean and add more picnic shelters
14	Fire department
15	Major water and sewer system repair
16	Weather radar
17	Fire department equipment
18	Attracting new business
19	Public transportation to and from Gillette with a small charge
20	STEM program for all schools
21	4 lane highway to/from Gillette
22	Immunization clinic funding
23	cut spending
24	cut spending
25	college
26	Fire department
27	Keep Wright safe
28	Wright needs a town dump
29	Fire department support
30	Gillette college Wright extension
31	More money for fire fighters

32	Parking lot at mall
33	Fire department
34	Fire dept funding
35	New bridge over 14/16 and rr tracks
36	Fire dept/emergency services
37	Abandoned homes/clean up
38	Fire/EMS
39	(Do NOT fund) baseball fields
40	Senior Center and Veterans
41	Youth programs
42	Better quality of water. Not drinkable now
43	Gillette College
44	Animal Control
45	Recycling
46	Pay for education for full time firefighters not just part timers.
47	Pay for education for full time firefighters not just part timers
48	Pay for education for full-time firefighters not part-time
49	Pay for education for full time fire fighters/employees
50	do not spend money!
51	Doppler Radar
52	Senior Citizens' Center and Services
53	Support senior center
54	Fire Department Staffing

The following comments were written in response to question sixteen (16), "Please enter any other comments here," from respondents who identified as being from Wright:

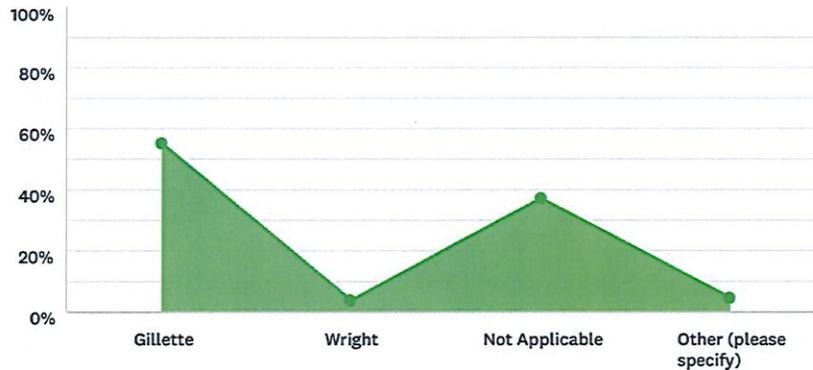
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I do not support the 1% tax simply because our elected officials have been spending irresponsibly. Our basic community infrastructure needs funding before studies and encouraging growth. I fully support diversifying our economy, but it's pointless if our emergency services can't support our current community. (For example, battalion 4 fire at CCFD had a broken engine for months and funding was refused. They finally have a used one even though they are the first responders for the southern portion of the county).	9/21/2018 10:40 AM
2	We support the community college, the .25% tax was voted down because of the monetary black hole of the Economic Development Board.	9/21/2018 9:57 AM
3	We own property in Gillette	9/21/2018 9:20 AM
4	Why does Wright have a separate water district, also why do they not have own police force.	9/20/2018 3:43 PM
5	The penny tax has afforded Wright to build nice bathroom facilities at parks, however they are always locked due to high rate of vandalism- put some money into security cameras and catch them and prosecute.	9/11/2018 2:48 PM
6	This county can think of more bullshit ways to spend money. I think most of the elected assholes are crooks that don't listen to the people. The rec center in Gillette/Wright, Field of Dreams, new high school and college are all poor ways to spend money.	9/4/2018 1:41 PM
7	Enough with spending money- How about saving some? I will be voting against any tax increase because it rarely comes to southern Campbell County	8/31/2018 9:30 AM
8	Need all new county commissioners	8/24/2018 4:00 PM
9	We need Doppler Radar!	8/20/2018 12:18 PM
10	Do not fund anything with Penny Power! I hate Penny Power!!!	8/20/2018 12:14 PM

Employment data:

We asked where employed respondents worked, to contrast with where they reside, which 96% of respondents answered. The majority (54.99%) of all respondents say they work in Gillette; (59.05%) of those that say they live in Gillette also work there.

Q9 Where do you work (if employed)?

Answered: 2,357 Skipped: 94



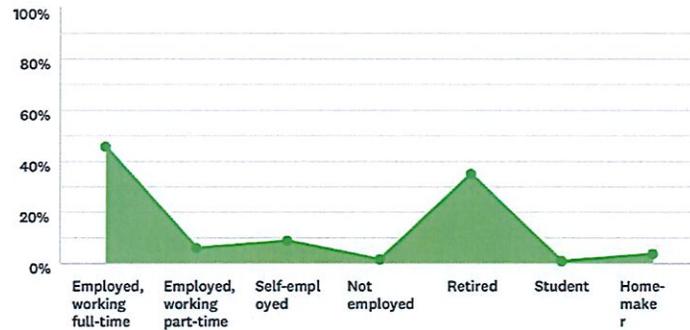
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Gillette	54.99%	1,296
Wright	3.61%	85
Not Applicable	37.00%	872
Other (please specify)	4.41%	104
TOTAL		2,357

Others:

County	19.23%	20
Ranch	12.50%	13
Self	9.62%	10
Rozet	7.69%	8
Retired	5.77%	6
Rural	5.77%	6
Black Thunder	2.88%	3
Moorcroft	2.88%	3
Oil Fields	1.92%	2
Gillette	1.92%	2
Rancher	1.92%	2
Sheridan	1.92%	2
Wyoming	1.92%	2

Q10 What is your current employment status?

Answered: 2,370 Skipped: 81

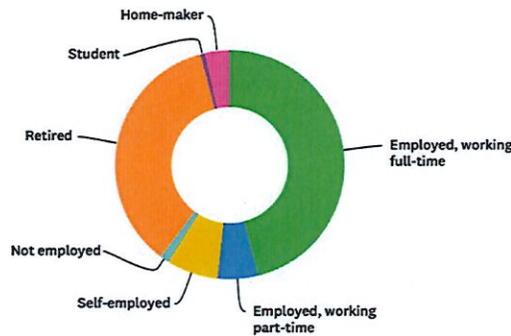


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed, working full-time	45.49%	1,078
Employed, working part-time	5.74%	136
Self-employed	8.61%	204
Not employed	1.31%	31
Retired	34.81%	825
Student	0.68%	16
Home-maker	3.38%	80
TOTAL		2,370

Out of 2451 surveys returned, 96.7% of respondents answered what their employment status was (above graph). The second highest majority of Gillette residents are retired. (This is also true for Wright, where 24.39% of respondents are retired.) The following graph constitutes only Gillette respondents:

Q10 What is your current employment status?

Answered: 2,059 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed, working full-time	45.94%	946
Employed, working part-time	5.78%	119
Self-employed	7.19%	148
Not employed	1.31%	27
Retired	35.60%	733
Student	0.68%	14
Home-maker	3.50%	72
TOTAL		2,059