

Vierbicher *Bulletin*

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Information for Municipal Officials

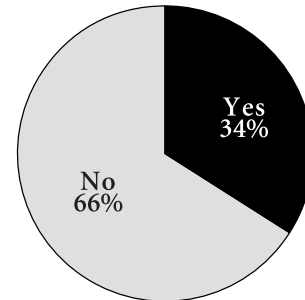
November 2001

And The Survey Says . . .

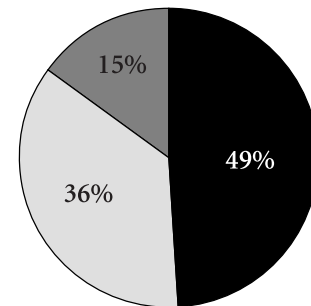
Municipal Building Survey Provides Useful Information

Community growth and increased demand for services has prompted many municipalities to implement municipal building projects. To learn from their experience, Vierbicher Associates conducted a survey of more than 400 cities and villages to obtain information regarding current issues and trends. Following are the results from the survey responses we received. Eighty-eight percent of the responses were from communities with a population less than 5,000.

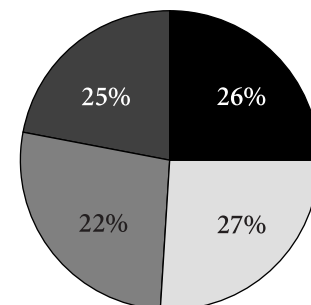
Are you currently in the process of planning or construction of a building project?



For buildings completed in the last ten years, what did they consist of?



How does your community plan for or prioritize building projects?



“Age and Adequacy of Buildings”

A summary of the survey showed the average age of municipal buildings and the average date of renovations are as follows:

Building Type	Original Construction	Renovation
Municipal Office	1964	1992
Police Station	1970	1997
Fire Station	1975	1995
EMS	1984	1997
Library	1968	1985
Senior/Com. Center	1978	1998
Utility	1978	1991
Public Works	1973	1996

Overall, the survey showed the adequacy of existing buildings are average to good. The buildings rating the best are fire stations, EMS and utility buildings. The buildings rated the worst are the municipal offices.

“Funding Is Barrier”

Ninety-four percent of respondents reported the lack of funding was a barrier to undertaking a needed building project. While public financial assistance programs are limited, the following programs can be used to fund building projects.

- ▼ **CDBG Public Facilities Program** can be used to finance community centers, senior centers, fire stations, ADA improvements, EMS facilities, and libraries.
- ▼ **Rural Development** has a Community Facilities Loan Program that can be used to fund any municipal building.
- ▼ **Brownfield Redevelopment Grants** can be used to assist with activities to redevelop deteriorated or contaminated properties on which a municipal building can be constructed.



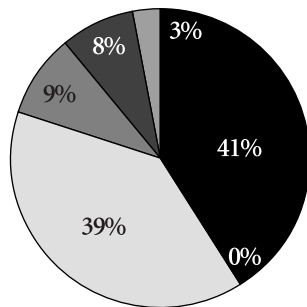
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“Building And Location Trends”

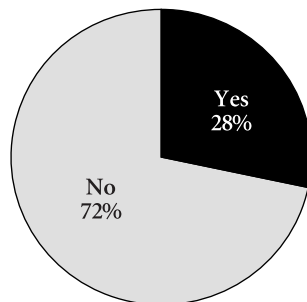
Communities who are currently planning or have completed a building project in the last ten years have reported the following trends.

Building Type	Building Trends			Location Trends		Ownership	
	Consolidate into Single Facility	Develop Campus Group of Facilities	Separate Facilities in Diverse Locations	Downtown	Outside Downtown	Owned	Lease
Municipal Offices	82%	8%	10%	81%	19%	98%	2%
Police Station	86%	9%	5%	86%	14%	100%	0%
Fire Station	64%	7%	29%	68%	32%	97%	3%
EMS	86%	0%	14%	60%	40%	96%	4%
Library	63%	0%	37%	67%	33%	97%	3%
Senior/Com. Center	73%	0%	27%	76%	24%	88%	12%
Utility	36%	12%	52%	27%	73%	100%	0%
Public Works	40%	14%	46%	35%	65%	100%	0%

Who is responsible for facility management and maintenance?



Do you currently or are you planning to provide services via the internet within the next year?



Larger communities are more apt to provide services via the internet. Sixty-two percent of communities over 5,000 population and 42 percent of communities between 1,000 and 5,000 population reported they are currently or are planning to provide services via the internet.

Vierbicher Can Help!

Vierbicher Associates offers significant experience with assisting municipalities implementing building projects. Our in house capability includes architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, environmental, planning and grant writing. This wide range of expertise allows us to develop creative solutions to your facility needs.

For more information return the enclosed business reply card or contact:

Jan R. Aslaksen, AIA at
800-261-6468, or by e-mail at
jasl@vierbicher.com.

Click on www.vierbicher.com to learn more about our firm!

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Engineering, Architecture, Environmental, Surveying, GIS, Community Development, Planning

400 Viking Drive, P.O. Box 379
Reedsburg, WI 53959
(608) 524-6468

6200 Mineral Point Road
Madison, WI 53705-4504
(608) 233-5800

P.O. Box 650
Scofield, WI 54476-0650
(715) 359-2003

P.O. Box 542
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821-0542
(608) 326-1051

www.vierbicher.com