

Comments by Queens Civic Congress President Corey Bearak appear
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Survey - Queens politicians don't listen to resident concerns

BY LISA L. COLANGELO

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[Queens](#) residents are happy with their tree-lined borough, but they could do without some of their public officials.

In fact, the No. 1 gripe among Queens residents was public officials they view as unresponsive to their neighborhood needs, according to a newly released survey by the [Citizens Committee for New York City](#).

"I would agree," said [City Councilman Tony Avella \(D-Whitestone\)](#), mayoral hopeful and a frequent critic of his Council colleagues and city government.

"Too many politicians are interested in themselves more than the job they were created to do," Avella said.

But [Barbara Stuchinski](#), president of the [Forest Hills](#) Community and Civic Association disagrees.

"We've never had that problem in this community," she said. "We have too much traffic - that's our biggest problem."

The annual survey asks New Yorkers what they think of their home boroughs and which local issues are important to them.

More than 2,700 people took the survey, conducted last August and September.

Overall, 82% of Queens residents said their quality of life was good.

There are a lot of things Queens residents like about their borough: living close to public transportation as well as shops and restaurants, and being surrounded by a diverse mix of people and neighbors they can get along with.

On the downside, they believe the streets and sidewalks aren't clean enough and that there aren't enough open spaces in the borough. Decent, affordable housing is at a premium and they would like more programs for young people.

"Sometimes, newer arrivals to a neighborhood don't feel the same connection," said [Corey Bearak](#), president of the Queens [Civic Congress](#). "There needs to be more programming out there that is more sensitive to new ethnic groups in a community."

More than half of the people surveyed said they didn't have any free time to get involved with their neighborhood. But many of them said they would vote in local elections and share resources and information with their neighbors.

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