

Poll: Decline in Local News Coverage

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engaged as news coverage declined, perhaps to find out what is happening in their towns, Froomjian said.

However, residents do feel largely uninformed about what goes on in their area. Asked about how well their news sources inform them about ways to get involved in their community, the majority (57%) gave a negative rating; 20% gave a neutral rating, and 18% gave a positive rating.

A plurality of almost half (49%) believe they don't have the information needed to get involved in their community while 40% do think the information is available for the most part.

Most residents have not volunteered locally (63%), have not attended or watched a meeting for a local board, council or organization (65%), and have not worked with fellow residents to solve a problem in their community (69%) in the past year.

Though civic engagement was low among residents overall, the people who said their news sources do provide local coverage had consistently higher rates compared to those who do not have local news sources, said Research Associate Alyssa Maurice.

	News sources provide local coverage	News sources do not provide local coverage
Volunteered for a local organization in the past 12 months.	38%	30%
Attended or watched a meeting for a local board, council, or organization in the past 12 months.	40%	23%
Worked with fellow residents to solve a problem in your community in the past 12 months.	34%	22%

"These results make it clear that local news is not only important to having an informed public. It's vital to the democratic process," Froomjian said.

Those who find their news sources the least informative, giving negative ratings of coverage of local government or how to get involved in their community, were also less likely to vote in local races, feel adequately informed about elections, attend local meetings, volunteer, or work with residents to solve problems by anywhere from 10-24 percentage points.

The vast majority (72%) have at least some trust in local news media organizations. Of those respondents, 13% said they have a lot of trust and 59% said some trust. Just under 1 in 4 (24%) said they have no trust.

Stockton University aims to support local journalism through its new Community Reporting Innovation Lab (CRIL), launched this fall in partnership with the Press of Atlantic City. The lab will be used by the Press of Atlantic City team and Stockton students to provide them with real-world experience, and through [Stories of Atlantic City](#) (SOAC), a community

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