

# The **status** of Wisconsin villages and cities, 2015

Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance ■ January – May, 2016





# Overview

- About WISTAX . . . and the study
- Financial trends from external sources (revenue, spdg, debt)
- Service levels and satisfaction using survey data
- Municipal employment (all survey data)
- Community economic health
- Civic health





# About the study

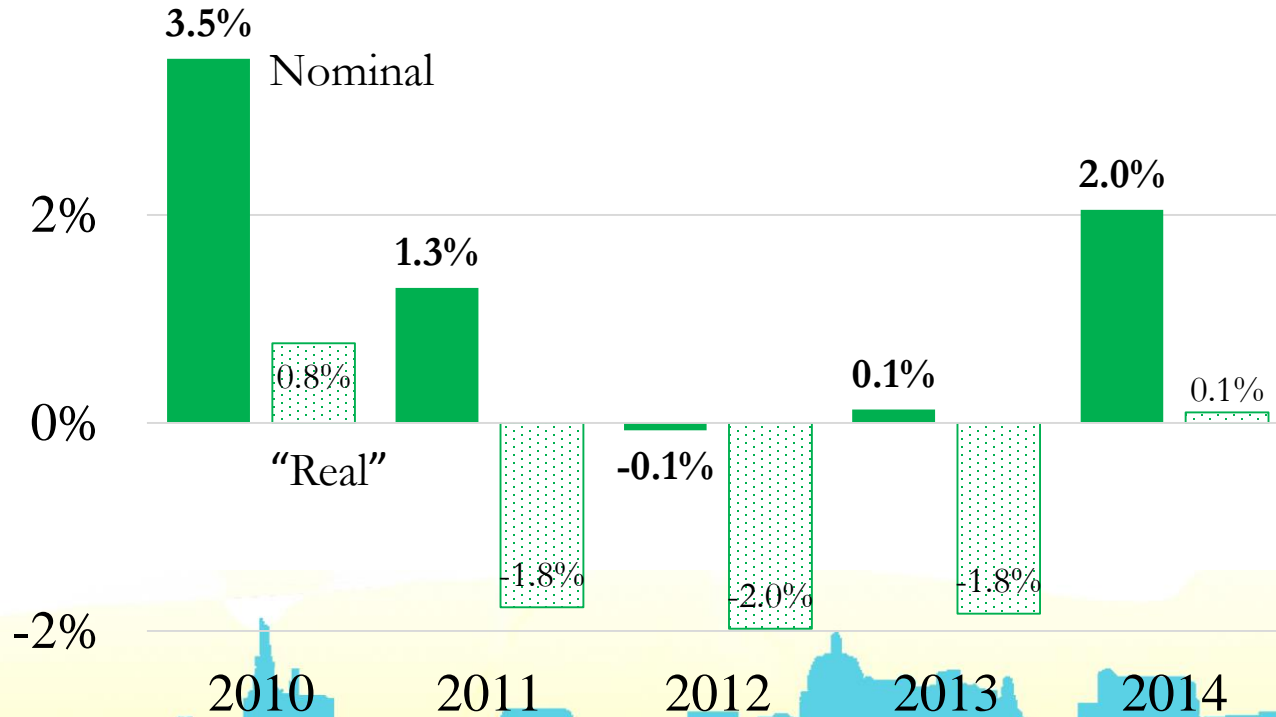
- Preliminary discussions; city-village focus
- Goal: Multi-year status tracking
- Uses: League, self study, press and political discourse
- External/secondary data: state/federal sources
- Primary survey data: contents, response rates
- Next steps





# City/village revenues growing little

Annual Pct. Change in Revenues, Nominal and “Real” Dollars



Underlying reasons:

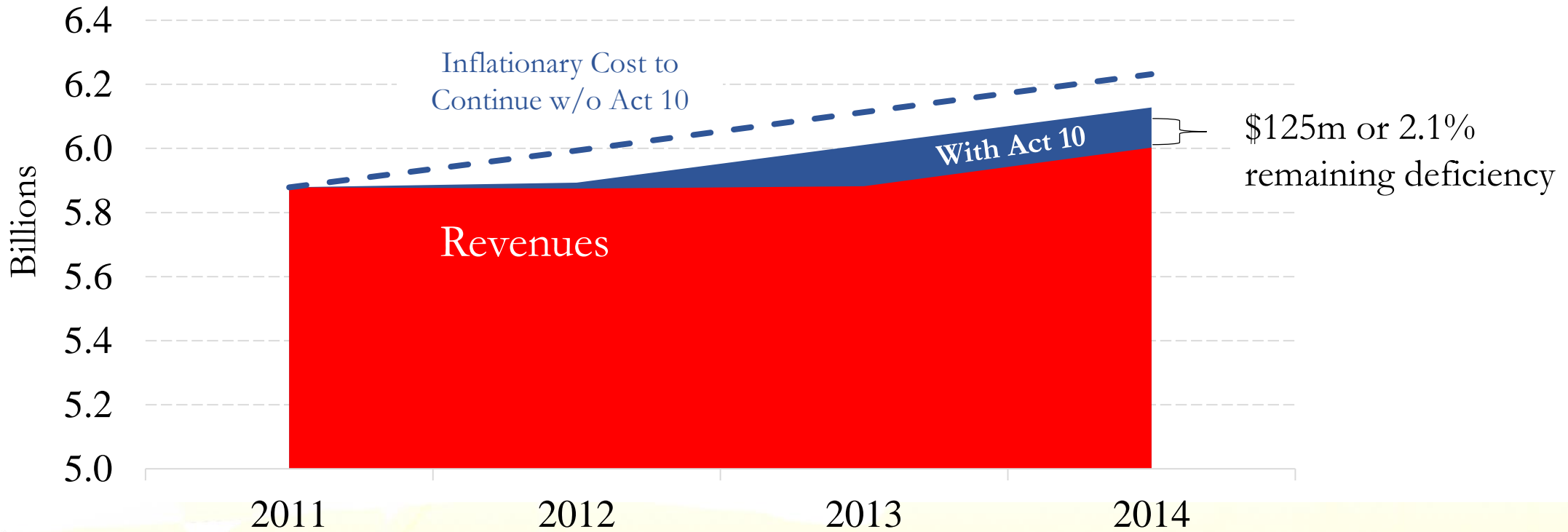
- Levy quasi-“freeze”
- Shared revenue/road aid stagnation/decline
- Offsetting Act 10 help





# Municipal revenues vs. inflation

Muni. Rev's: Actual dollars (\$b), cost-to-continue with inflation, and same with Act 10





# Perceived financial health

Rating your muni's financial health in 2015: vs. peers, yourself in 2014 and in 2010

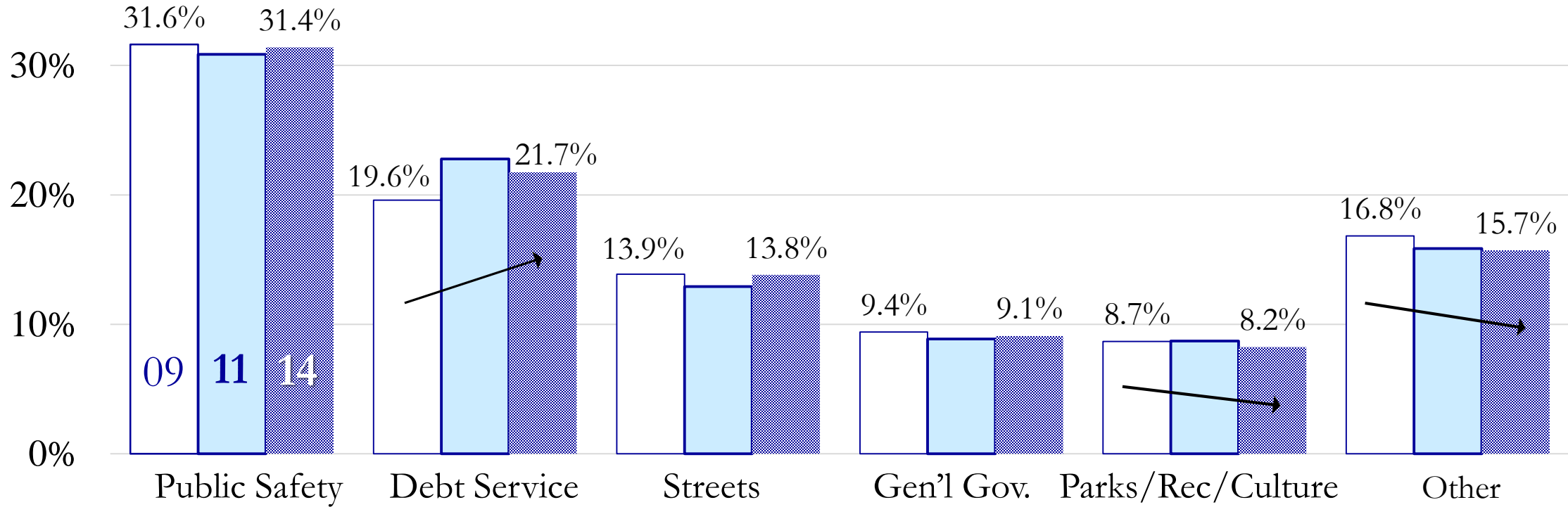
|                                     | N   | ←-----→     |                 |                |                |            |      |       |       |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------|-------|-------|
|                                     |     | Much better | Somewhat better | About the same | Somewhat worse | Much worse |      |       |       |
| Comp. muni's                        | 133 | 9.0%        | 38.3            | 44.4%          | 15.0%          | 2.3%       | 17.3 | +11.0 |       |
| <u>Your muni in 2014</u>            | 133 | 25.6        | 2.3%            | 23.3%          | 60.2%          | 13.5%      | 0.8% | 14.3  | +11.3 |
| <u>Your muni in 2010</u>            | 128 | 39.0        | 10.9%           | 28.1%          | 29.7%          | 25.0%      | 6.3% | 31.3  | + 7.7 |
| <i>Population 10,000 or Greater</i> |     |             |                 |                |                |            |      |       |       |
| Comp. muni's                        | 33  | 15.2%       | 42.4%           | 42.4%          | 0.0%           | 0.0%       |      | +57.6 |       |
| Your muni in 2014                   | 33  | 6.1%        | 36.4%           | 57.6%          | 0.0%           | 0.0%       |      | +42.5 |       |
| Your muni in 2010                   | 31  | 6.5%        | 38.7%           | 32.3%          | 22.6%          | 0.0%       |      | +23.2 |       |
| <i>Population &lt; 10,000</i>       |     |             |                 |                |                |            |      |       |       |
| Comp. muni's                        | 100 | 7.0%        | 25.0%           | 45.0%          | 20.0%          | 3.0%       |      | + 9.0 |       |
| Your muni in 2014                   | 100 | 1.0%        | 19.0%           | 61.0%          | 18.0%          | 1.0%       |      | + 1.0 |       |
| Your muni in 2010                   | 97  | 12.4%       | 24.7%           | 28.9%          | 25.8%          | 8.2%       |      | + 3.1 |       |





# Spending priorities shifting

Shares (%) of City/Village Spending Totals, Selected Years: 2009, 2011, 2014

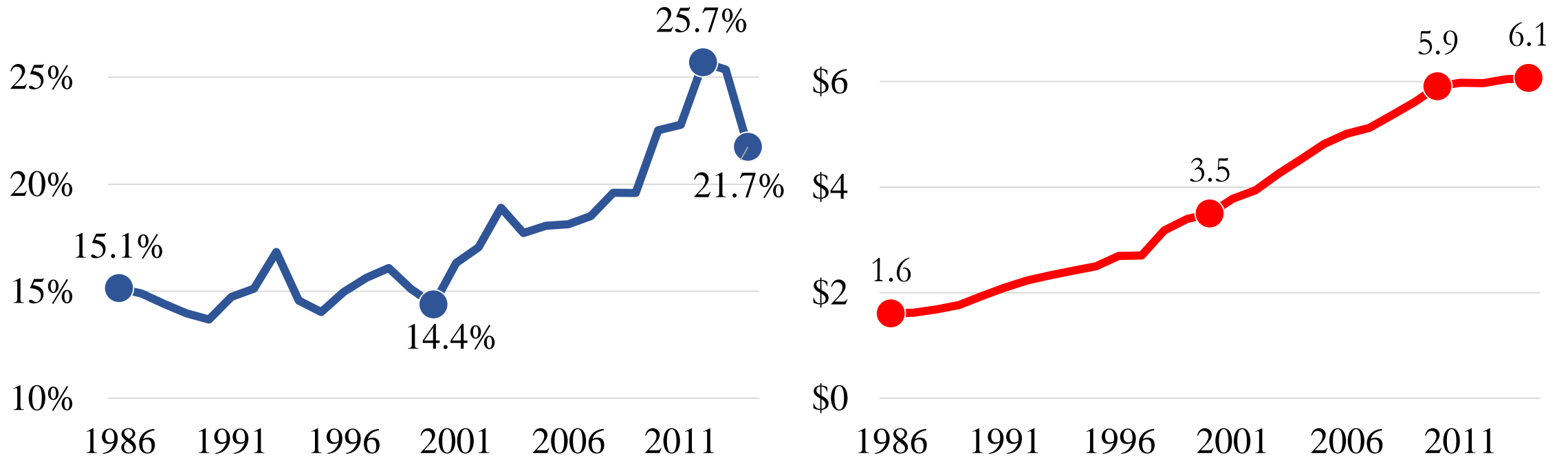




# Financial pressure and use of debt



Long-Term City/Village Debt Service: (1) As Pct. Of Total Municipal Spending . . . and (2) In Total Dollars (Billions)

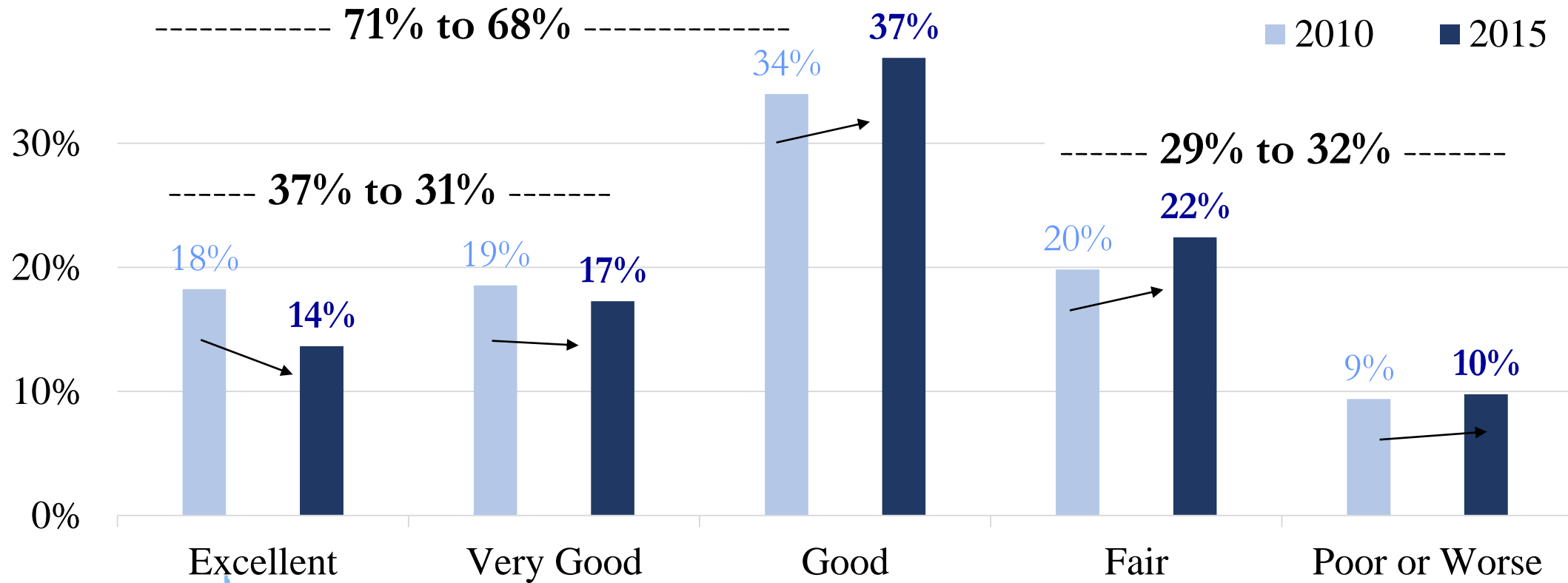






# Changing street conditions

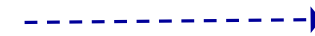
Pct. Of City/Village Streets at Various Condition Levels, 2010 vs. 2015  
(WI DOT Pavement Ratings 1 – 10)





# Change in service levels

Change, if any, in Service Levels/Frequency, 2014 vs. 2105



**More Frequently/Faster**

**Less Frequently/Slower**

**Much More Somewhat  
Freq. more Freq.**

**Somewhat Much less  
less Freq. Freq.**

N

*All Responses*

|                 | N   |      | More Frequently/Faster<br>Much More Freq. | Somewhat more Freq. | No Ch. | Less Frequently/Slower<br>Somewhat less Freq. | Much less Freq. |      |
|-----------------|-----|------|---|---------------------|--------|---|-----------------|------|
| Lawn Mowing     | 127 | 4.8  | 2.4%                                      | 2.4%                | 86.6%  | 7.1%  | 1.6%            | 8.7  |
| Snow Plowing    | 133 | 0.8  | 0.0%                                      | 0.8%                | 88.0%  | 10.5%   | 0.8%            | 11.3 |
| Street repair   | 129 | 10.1 | 0.0%                                      | 10.1%               | 65.1%  | 18.6%   | 6.2%            | 24.8 |
| Bus/Transit     | 55  |      | 0.0%                                      | 10.9%               | 80.0%  | 7.3%  | 1.8%            |      |
| Police Response | 120 | 7.5  | 0.0%                                      | 7.5%                | 86.7%  | 5.8%  | 0.0%            | 5.8  |
| Fire Response   | 122 | 10.6 | 0.8%                                      | 9.8%                | 86.9%  | 1.6%  | 0.8%            | 2.4  |





# Change in citizen attitudes, too?

Reported Citizen Attitudes Towards Various Services and Issues, 2015 vs. 2010

←-----→

|                      | N   | Don't know/na | Much more favorable | more favorable | No chang | less favorable | Much less favorable |
|----------------------|-----|---------------|---------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|---------------------|
| <i>All Responses</i> |     |               |                     |                |          |                |                     |
| + Stree maintenance  | 131 | 4.6%          | 4.6%                | 23.7%          | 44.3%    | 18.3%          | 4.6%                |
| + Fire protection    | 128 | 10.9%         | 2.3%                | 19.5%          | 63.3%    | 3.9%           | 0.0%                |
| -- Property taxes    | 131 | 1.5%          | 2.3%                | 13.0%          | 51.1%    | 29.8%          | 2.3%                |
| + Police protection  | 127 | 11.8%         | 3.1%                | 22.8%          | 51.2%    | 9.4%           | 1.6%                |
| + Library services   | 117 | 19.7%         | 6.0%                | 27.4%          | 42.7%    | 4.3%           | 0.0%                |
| + Park conditions    | 130 | 5.4%          | 7.7%                | 28.5%          | 48.5%    | 9.2%           | 0.8%                |
| + Snow removal       | 128 | 3.9%          | 2.3%                | 16.4%          | 67.2%    | 8.6%           | 1.6%                |
| Bus/transit          | 98  | 66.3%         | 0.0%                | 7.1%           | 20.4%    | 5.1%           | 1.0%                |



# Recent developments in staffing



Municipal Employment Trends by Category: 2015 vs. 2014

|                      | N   | More in 2015 than 2014 by |         |       | No Ch. | Less in 2015 than 2014 by |        |      |
|----------------------|-----|---------------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------------------------|--------|------|
|                      |     | >10%                      | 6% -10% | 0%-5% |        | 0%-5%                     | 6%-10% | >10% |
| <i>All Responses</i> |     |                           |         |       |        |                           |        |      |
| Police officers      | 110 | 0.9%                      | 0.9%    | 13.6% | 76.4%  | 4.5%                      | 0.9%   | 2.7% |
| Firefighters         | 85  | 1.2%                      | 0.0%    | 4.7%  | 87.1%  | 5.9%                      | 1.2%   | 0.0% |
| Parks/Rec staff      | 102 | 0.0%                      | 0.0%    | 10.8% | 85.3%  | 3.9%                      | 0.0%   | 0.0% |
| Streets/Pub. Works   | 128 | 1.6%                      | 0.8%    | 6.3%  | 82.0%  | 7.0%                      | 1.6%   | 0.8% |
| Public library       | 95  | 1.1%                      | 2.1%    | 7.4%  | 83.2%  | 5.3%                      | 1.1%   | 0.0% |
| Gen'l admin/support  | 128 | 0.8%                      | 1.6%    | 10.9% | 77.3%  | 7.8%                      | 0.8%   | 0.8% |
| Total                | 119 | 1.7%                      | 0.0%    | 21.8% | 61.3%  | 11.8%                     | 2.5%   | 0.8% |





# Changes in employee health insurance?

4a. Did your municipality change health insurance provider for your largest employee group...

|                      | N   | Yes                  | No    |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-------|
| in 2015?             | 117 | 10.3%                | 89.7% |
| Within past 5 years? | 113 | 38.9%                | 61.1% |
|                      |     | <i>All Responses</i> |       |

4b. What percent of your total health insurance premium was paid by the employee . . .

|          | N   | 0%                   | 1%-5%         | 6%-10% | 10%-25% | >25%  |
|----------|-----|----------------------|---------------|--------|---------|-------|
| in 2015? | 116 | 15.5%                | 24.1<br>8.6%  | 19.0%  | 45.7%   | 11.2% |
| In 2010? | 115 | 33.9%                | 47.8<br>13.9% | 27.8%  | 13.9%   | 10.4% |
|          |     | <i>All Responses</i> |               |        |         |       |

4c. By how much did your municipality's total health insurance costs change. . .

|             | N   | 0% or less           | 1%-5% | 6%-10% | 10%-25% | >25% |
|-------------|-----|----------------------|-------|--------|---------|------|
| in 2015?    | 108 | 27.8%                | 35.2% | 23.1%  | 11.1%   | 2.8% |
| Before 2011 | 94  | 9.6%                 | 29.8% | 44.7%  | 16.0%   | 0.0% |
|             |     | <i>All Responses</i> |       |        |         |      |



# Job prospects in your community



Municipal Employment Trends by Category: 2015 vs. 2014

|                                       | N   | Much better | Somewhat better | No change | Somewhat worse | Much worse |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------|------|
| <i>All Responses</i>                  |     |             |                 |           |                |            |      |
| Over the past year                    | 129 | 4.7%        | 45.7%           | 36.4%     | 7.8%           | 5.4%       | ]    |
| Over the past 5 yrs.                  | 128 | 6.3%        | 46.1%           | 26.6%     | 17.2%          | 3.9%       |      |
| ▶ <i>Population 10,000 or Greater</i> |     |             |                 |           |                |            |      |
| Over the past year                    | 33  | 3.0%        | 78.8%           | 12.1%     | 6.1%           | 0.0%       | 9.1  |
| Over the past 5 yrs.                  | 33  | 81.8        | 21.2%           | 60.6%     | 9.1%           | 0.0%       |      |
| ▶ <i>Population &lt; 10,000</i>       |     |             |                 |           |                |            |      |
| Over the past year                    | 96  | 5.2%        | 34.4%           | 44.8%     | 8.3%           | 7.3%       | 25.3 |
| Over the past 5 yrs.                  | 95  | 42.2        | 1.1%            | 41.1%     | 32.6%          | 5.3%       |      |





# Civic health: Local candidates



8b. Over the past three years, for each seat, how many candidates have there been, on average?

|                                     | N   | 1 or less | Between 1 and 2 | Two or more |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| <i>All Responses</i>                |     |           |                 |             |
| Candidates per Seat                 | 132 | 56.1%     | 39.4%           | 4.5%        |
| <i>Population 10,000 or Greater</i> |     |           |                 |             |
| Candidates per Seat                 | 32  | 28.1%     | 65.6%           | 6.3%        |
| <i>Population &lt; 10,000</i>       |     |           |                 |             |
| Candidates per Seat                 | 100 | 65.0%     | 31.0%           | 4.0%        |





# Civic health: Electoral choice



8c. Thinking about the trend over the past five to ten years, how has competition for board seats been changing?

|                               | N   | Dec. a lot | Dec. somewhat | No change | Inc. somewhat | Inc. lot |
|-------------------------------|-----|------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Competition                   | 131 | 10.7%      | 34.4%         | 43.5%     | 11.5%         | 0.0%     |
| <i>All Responses</i>          |     |            |               |           |               |          |
| Competition                   | 32  | 0.0%       | 34.4%         | 40.6%     | 25.0%         | 0.0%     |
| <i>Population &lt; 10,000</i> |     |            |               |           |               |          |
| Competition                   | 100 | 14.1%      | 34.3%         | 44.4%     | 7.1%          | 0.0%     |





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