



PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contacts (phone / email):

Jim Belt
Co-Founder, Downtown Living Advocates
919-606-0965
jimbelt@me.com

(In-person)

Leo Suarez
Downtown Living Advocates
919-601-2554
leo@dtraleigh.com

Downtown Living Advocates find that 70% of area residents, workers and visitors favor motorized scooters and 62% support regulations

RALEIGH, NC (September 3, 2018) – In a recent survey, the Downtown Living Advocates (DLA) found that nearly 70% of downtown Raleigh residents, workers and visitors have a favorable opinion of motorized scooters, and 62% favor the City developing use-regulations to protect safety and pedestrian access rather than allowing them to operate without any oversight (26%) or banning them altogether (5%).

Jim Belt, co-founder of the DLA said, “These scooters have been one of the hottest topics of conversation in our community this year. Understanding that the City of Raleigh is currently considering regulations that could change – or possibly end – the use of scooters, we wanted to proactively solicit the perspectives of the downtown community to ensure that the voices our City Council considers reflect the full spectrum of the local conversation.”

The survey was distributed to downtown residents via email on August 28th and shared extensively through social media thereafter. Within days, the survey garnered tremendous participation, totaling more than 1,700 responses. This level of response lends considerable statistical significance to the findings.

Other insights from the survey:

- The survey (n=1,757) captured the opinions of different types of downtown stakeholders, including downtown residents (926), downtown workers (811), downtown visitors (853), and other (40). In some cases, people identified as more than one of the aforementioned categories.
- Across all types of respondents:
 - 69% (1,211) were favorable or very favorable of the motorized scooters
 - 11% (188) were neutral, and
 - 20% (358) were unfavorable or very unfavorable.
 - More specifically, downtown residents had a slightly more favorable opinion of the scooters at 71% (659 of 926 residents participating in the survey).
- With regards to next steps for the City of Raleigh:
 - 62% (1,071) favor use-regulations that protect safety and access.

- 26% (456) would prefer that the motorized scooters be allowed to operate without additional regulation
- 5% (91) would prefer the City ban the scooters from downtown Raleigh.
- Specific to those that prefer a layer of regulations (1,071):
 - 74% (789) of respondents believe that the City should hold people legally responsible for breaking the rules, such as allowing minors to ride or blocking a pedestrian path of travel.
 - 75% (799) believe people should be required to ride the scooters on streets or in bike lanes and not on sidewalks.
 - 57% (601) believe that the scooters should be left in designated, marked zones that are located regularly throughout downtown.
 - Only 29% (310) believe that helmets should be required for riders.
- Respondents favorable or neutral toward the motorized scooters (1,381) cited a number of positive attributes of the scooters, including:
 - Improving connectivity within downtown and near neighborhoods (88%),
 - Providing an emission-free transportation alternative (79%),
 - Being fun to ride (79%),
 - Adding to Raleigh's 'cool' factor (75%), and
 - Relieving congestion (70%).
 - Additionally, more than 100 respondents added their own write-in thoughts about the benefits provided by the scooters.
- Respondents whom would like the City of Raleigh to ban the scooters (5%, 91) cited the following as key concerns:
 - Challenges created for pedestrians on sidewalks as the top concern (88%),
 - Irresponsible riders leaving them everywhere (82%), and
 - A general feeling that they are unsafe (75%).
- Nearly 60% of respondents have tried riding a scooter, with nearly 25% (426) riding the scooters 5 or more times. 40% (697) of respondents have not ridden a motorized scooter.
- Utilization of the motorized scooters appears to be correlated with favorability.
 - Among those whom have ridden a scooter 5 or more times, they share a 94% favorability against 5% unfavorable.
 - For those whom have ridden 2-5 times, the contrast is 88% favorable vs. 9% unfavorable.
 - Those whom have tried it once: 65% favorable vs. 20% unfavorable.
 - Last, those whom have never tried a scooter have a 43% favorable opinion vs. 37% unfavorable.
 - For those that want the scooters banned outright (91), only 22% (20) have ever tried to ride one.
- Similarly, personal opinions regarding scooters were improved following an individual's experience riding a scooter.
 - 72% (740) of people reported more favorable opinions of the scooters following their ride.
 - 24% reported an unchanged opinion, and
 - 4% (37) reported becoming more unfavorable after riding a scooter.

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About the Downtown Living Advocates:

The DLA is a citizen group focused on issues of interest to residents of Downtown Raleigh. The group was formed in February of 2009 by residents motivated by a desire to lend their voices to shaping the growth and character of Downtown Raleigh. Their mission is to be an organized voice for Downtown residents, working together with city agencies, concerned institutions and local businesses in supporting balanced and sustainable growth for Raleigh.