

Leigh High School Community Attitude Survey 2018

1. Do you plan to return to Leigh someday after graduating to live and raise a family?

Yes: 50%

No: 26%

Maybe: 24%

Reasons to Return

1. Enjoys Small Town Life/Leigh is Friendly Community
2. Family From Here
3. Wants to Work in the Family Business
4. Safe Community
5. Seeing Positive Change

Reasons Not to Return

1. Lack of Jobs/Opportunities
2. Doesn't Want Small Town Life
3. Lack of Decent Affordable Housing
4. Nothing Tying Them Here—Need a Change

2. What do you perceive to be the biggest issues facing Leigh?

1. Bad roads
2. Lack of Businesses/Job Opportunities
3. Lack of “presentable” or “attractive properties (businesses and/or homes)
4. Deteriorating High School
5. Drugs/Theft
6. Aging/stagnant population/Lack of consistent growth
7. (TIE) Lack of Community Togetherness
 - Apathy
 - Lack of Religious Officials
 - Lack of Recreation
 - City Financial Issues
 - Not Welcoming to Outsiders

3. What does the community need to do to survive in the long term?

1. Promote business growth
2. Improve roads/infrastructure
3. Improve quality and quantity of housing
4. Promote growth and find ways to bring in young people/outsideers

5. Keep traditions but embrace change
6. Need new high school
7. Improve recreation areas
8. Do more to bring the community together
9. Continue the strong education system

4. Would your future career allow you to live in Leigh?

Yes—78%

No—17%

Undecided Career—5%

5. If you HAD to open a business in Leigh, what type of business would you start?

1. Restaurant/Coffee Shop/Food Related
2. Kid Hangout/Panther Hut 2.0
3. Vet Office
4. Doctor's Office/Pharmacy
5. Fitness Center
6. Photography
7. Other (TIE)—Gas Station, Tech Repair shop, Daycare, Movie Theater, Craft Shop, Electrician Company, Uber)

6. Do you personally feel a sense of community pride?

Yes: 68%

Somewhat—15%

No—17%

7. What could the SCHOOL do to further promote community support and community pride?

1. Get kids more involved in community service and community programs—more community partnerships
2. Build a new high school
3. More pep rallies/school celebrations
4. Teach town history
5. (TIE) Winning school programs bring community pride
Need to have more school events in Leigh, not just Clarkson
Increase student involvement in activities

8. Regardless of the community you choose to live in, do you think it is *important* to be involved in your community?

Yes—90%

No—10%

9. Regardless of the community you choose to live in, do you feel that you have a *civic responsibility* to be involved in your community?

Yes—69%

No—31%

10. Which community groups, if any, can you see yourself being interested in serving on as an adult?

1. Church Council/Church Activity Groups/Knights of Columbus
2. Youth Coach/Youth Activities
3. Booster Club
4. School Board
5. Fair Board
6. Fire department/Rescue Unit
7. Community Development/Community Foundation
8. Community Club
9. Village Board
10. Golf Course Board
11. Library Board
12. American Legion/Sons of American Legion

11. From an outsider's perspective, what do you think is the general perception of Leigh?

1. Standard small town/doesn't stand out
2. Friendly Town (people are kind, hard-working, willing to help)
3. Unattractive appearance (too many dilapidated buildings/homes)
4. High school is old, falling down
5. People make the best of what they have
6. Above average recreation areas
7. A community trying to make improvements
8. (TIE) Bad Roads
Unwelcoming to outsiders
9. (TIE) Lots of community pride
Aging community
Clean town
Quality school district

Trends and Observations when Compared to 2014 Survey:

#1—About half our school wants to return to Leigh to raise a family someday. This is relatively the same as four years ago. Under reasons for returning, a few surveys noted “seeing positive change.” This was a new category that was not noted in 2014. Similarly, for “Reasons Not to Return,” “Too much apathy in the community” was not a reason.

#2—While bad roads and lack of opportunities were still the top issues as perceived by students, lack of attractive properties (homes and businesses) was much higher on the list. Also, “drugs/theft” was mentioned several times, whereas in 2014 it was not mentioned a single time.

#3—The responses to this question were very similar to 2014. Promote business growth was the overwhelming favorite.

#4—Significantly higher percentage of kids who believe their future career would allow them to live in Leigh.

#5—The responses to this question were very similar to four years ago.

#6—The percentage of students who said they feel community pride increased slightly from 63% to 68%. It is worth noting that not all students taking the survey live in Leigh or the surrounding community.

#7—For ways the school could promote community support and community pride, “getting kids more involved in community service and community programs” was still the top response by a large margin. However, the second most popular response “build a high school” was barely mentioned four years ago.

#8 and #9—The responses to these two questions were similar to four years ago. Nearly all of the school agrees that people should be involved in their community, but not as large of a percentage believes it is their duty as a citizen. However, the percentage of students who said YES to #9 was larger than four years ago.

#10—Nearly all students said they would be interested in serving on at least one community group.

#11—Again, the perception that the community needs a new school was very apparent on this question, after it wasn’t noted at all in 2014.

