

# Town of Genoa 2011 Community Survey Results

... *An update from the Comprehensive Plan Committee*

From previous articles in the Genoa- King Ferry Tribune and meeting minutes, a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Genoa is and has been a work in progress since the original Board request in late 2007 to form a committee to update and refine the Town's 1987 Comprehensive Plan. Much work and many meetings later, the most recent survey was prepared and mailed to landowners and residents of the Town of Genoa in July of this year. This survey was also made available in digital format on line. Announcement of this mailing and availability of the community survey was published in local newspapers along with the due date for completed paper surveys to be returned to the Town offices.

Out of 985 surveys mailed, a total of 162 surveys were completed by Genoa residents and landowners in the allotted time period, a 16% representative sampling. The data from the survey was reviewed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and then given to Jeanie Gleisner, consultant and planner from CNY's Board of Regional Planning and Development. Gleisner indicates that she sees some clear conclusions that can be drawn by the results of this survey. Below you will find her summary analysis. This narrative along with detailed results and graphs compiled by her can be viewed at the Town of Genoa website Comprehensive Plan page - [http://www.co.cayuga.ny.us/genoa/comp\\_plan.html](http://www.co.cayuga.ny.us/genoa/comp_plan.html).

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## **DEMOGRAPHICS (who are we and what is important to us)**

Over 50% of the survey respondents were over the age of 55. Eleven percent were under the age of 35, and 36% of the respondents were between the ages of 36 and 55 years.

70% of survey respondents have lived in Genoa for over ten years. However, it is notable that over 29% have lived in Genoa less than 10 years, and 11% less than 5 years, reflecting a strong recent population growth in the Town of Genoa. Over 40% of survey respondents in Genoa swim or hike in the Town, 30% bicycle, 28% hunt or boat, 13% ski or snowmobile, and 21% participate in other recreational activities in the Town. 88% of survey respondents plan to be living in their current home 5 years from now.

Survey responses indicated that the most important issues to respondents included the need to: encourage protection of natural resources - air, water, wetlands, etc. (89%); encourage best agricultural practices (88%); encourage enhanced stewardship of Cayuga Lake, preserve scenic views; and retain the Town's rural character (77%). 76% of survey respondents do not want to encourage industrial mining in the Town. 70% of survey respondents indicated they are reliant upon a private well as their source of drinking water, and 24% indicated they are not satisfied with their drinking water.

## **GENOA AT PRESENT (what are the issues of greatest concern to Town residents and businesses?)**

*Things to improve in Genoa:* Survey results indicated that a majority of Genoa residents and business owners have concerns about: water quality; air quality; big truck traffic; current agricultural practices; and the loss or lack of public access to the lakefront in Genoa. The majority of survey respondents rated the availability of groceries, pharmacy, employment

opportunities, health services, internet services, recycling, and sports and recreation facilities as “poor” or “non-existent” in Genoa.

***Things that are good or adequate at present in Genoa:*** Ambulance service, drinking water quality and quantity, air quality, electric service, fire protection, affordable housing availability, police protection, public road maintenance, school district quality, snow removal, cellular and television service were all either “good” or “adequate” in the opinion of a majority of survey respondents.

### **THE FUTURE (what do we want for our Town in the future?)**

A majority of survey respondents indicated the types of development they want to encourage in Genoa in the future including: single family housing, and farmers’- artisans’ markets (over 85%); cottage [home] business, town historical society or museum, restaurants, professional services, public access to Cayuga Lake, picnic-park-playground areas, shopping [retail] business, renewable solar and wind energy facilities, light manufacturing, hiking-biking-skiing paths, and senior housing (over 70%); community center, outdoor athletic fields, and bio-energy (over 60%). 69% of respondents indicated that they do not want to encourage heavy industrial use, and 61% do not want to encourage natural gas exploration and development in the Town.

Genoa survey respondents registered strong positive opinions about the need to revise or develop local laws and land use regulation: where land use adversely impacts environmental quality; for protection of environmental quality; for vehicle weight limits or industrial use limits to protect Town roads; where land use significantly lowers surrounding land values; for effective code enforcement; for siting of commercial wind power facilities; for light industrial uses; for location and scale of agricultural processing uses; and for solid waste disposal (over 70%). The need to revise or develop local laws and land use regulation for: incompatible uses; public/community uses; siting for cellular towers; scale and location of farming operations; mobile home placement and siting; loss of rural character-scenic views-open space; preservation of farmland; siting for residential wind and solar power; and for negative visual impacts was supported by over 60% of survey respondents. 58% of respondents indicated they would like the Town to consider land use regulation or zoning.

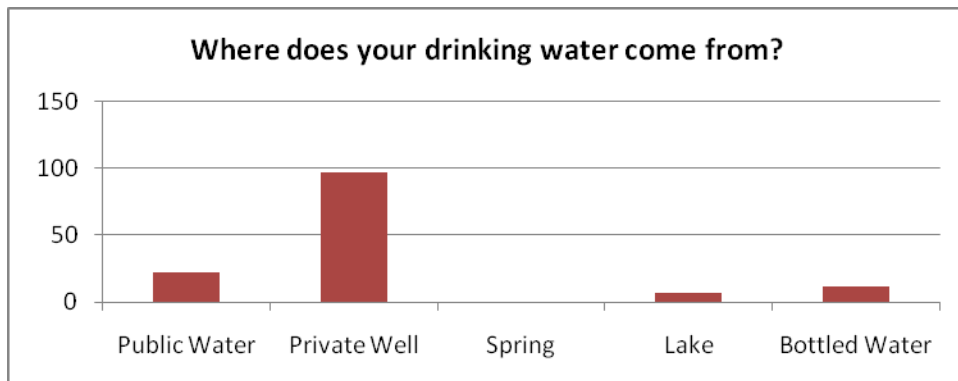
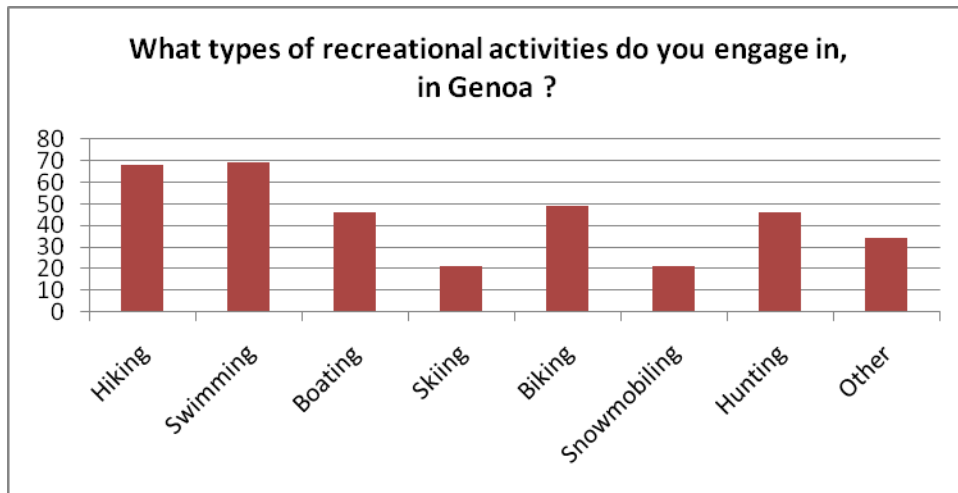
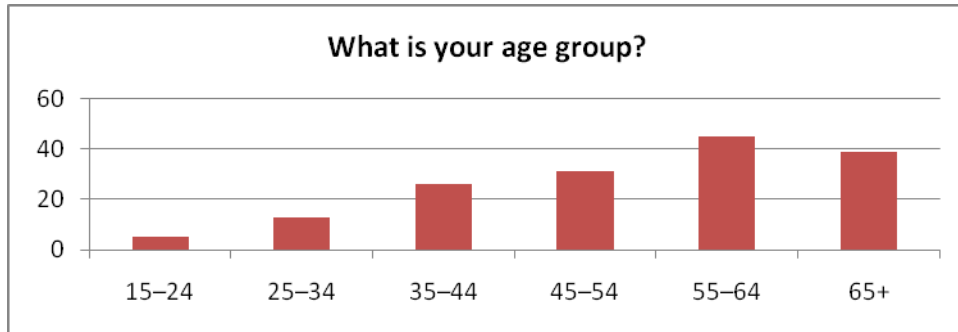
From these survey responses, some clear conclusions can be drawn. Genoa is a rural/agricultural town with valuable natural and cultural resources, some of which have already been compromised. Genoa’s future depends on the protection of its resources, both natural and cultural, and on improving land use regulations and town government policies with an eye toward accomplishing specific goals and objectives as identified in this community survey. These include: land-use regulation for the protection of the environment; preservation of the rural/agricultural character of the town and scenic views; enhanced stewardship of Cayuga Lake; public access to Cayuga Lake; ensuring the use of best agricultural practices; and protections from the impacts of heavy industrial uses in the Town.

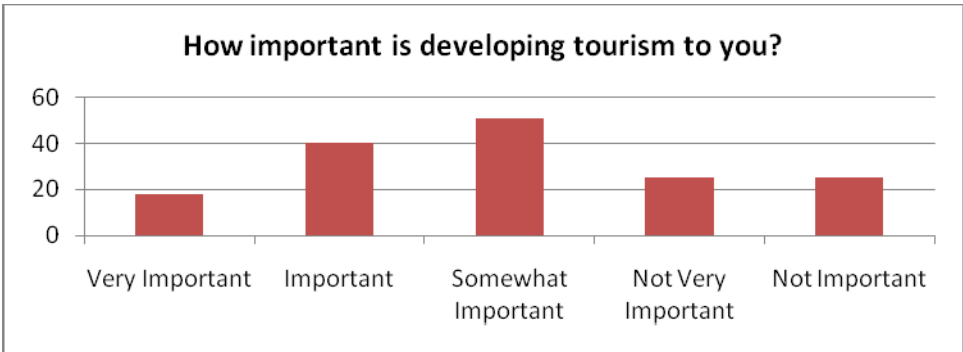
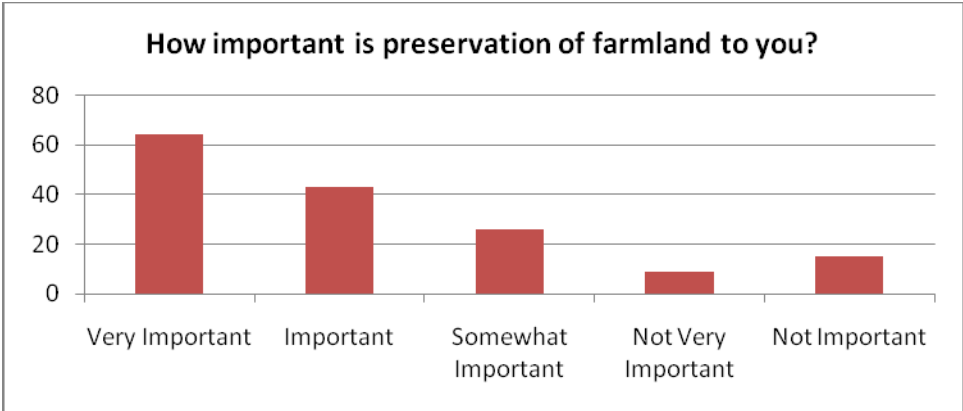
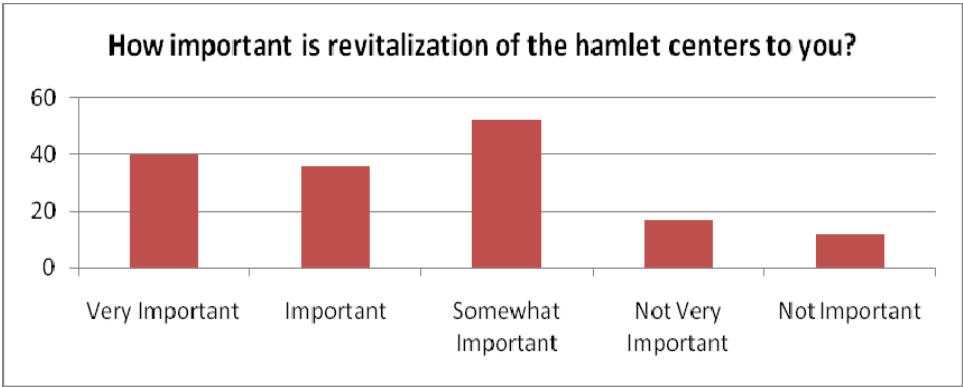
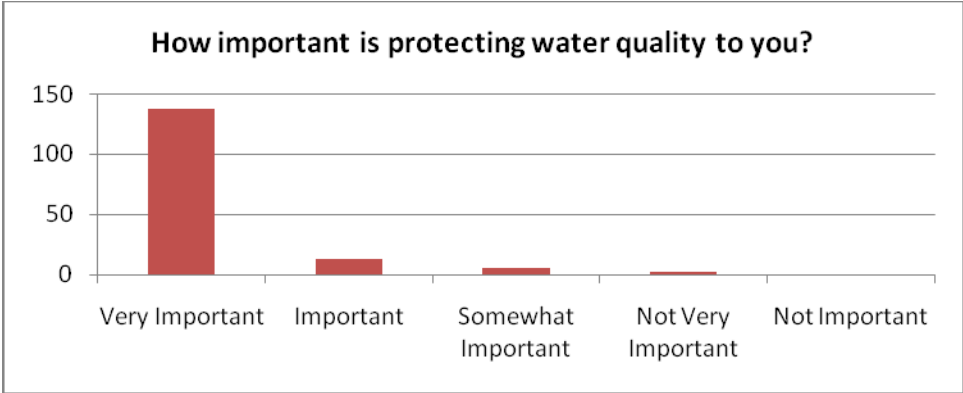
With the potentially competing goals of encouraging needed and desired development in the Town, and protecting the Town’s valued environmental and cultural resources; the Genoa community survey results point toward the necessity for thoughtful and effective implementation of land use tools that can ensure needed protections while allowing desired development to add to the quality of life in Genoa. The next step for local government is to

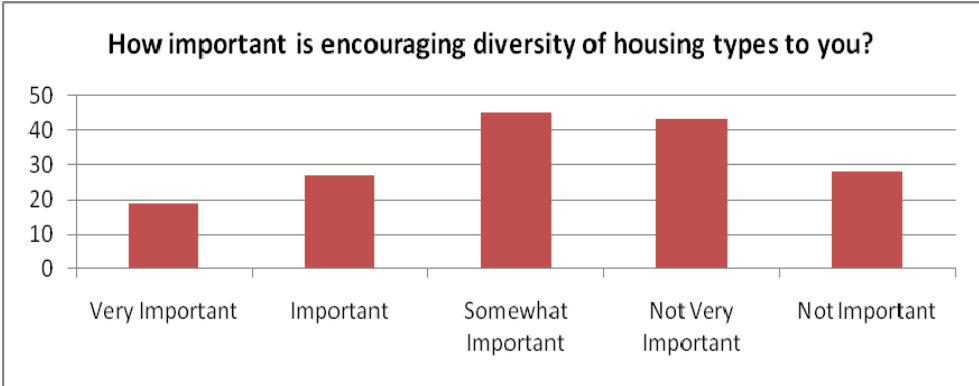
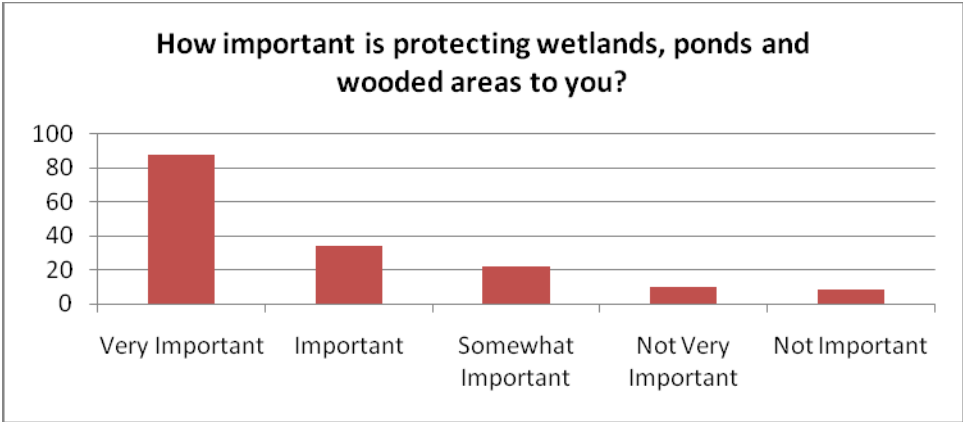
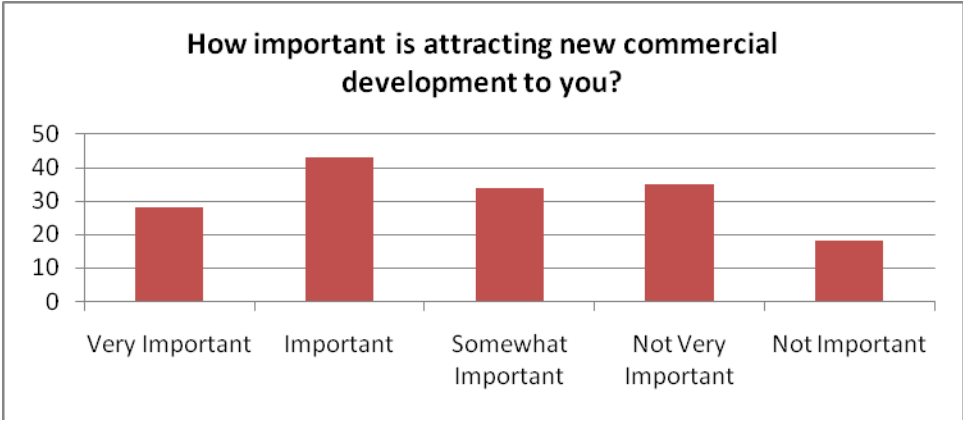
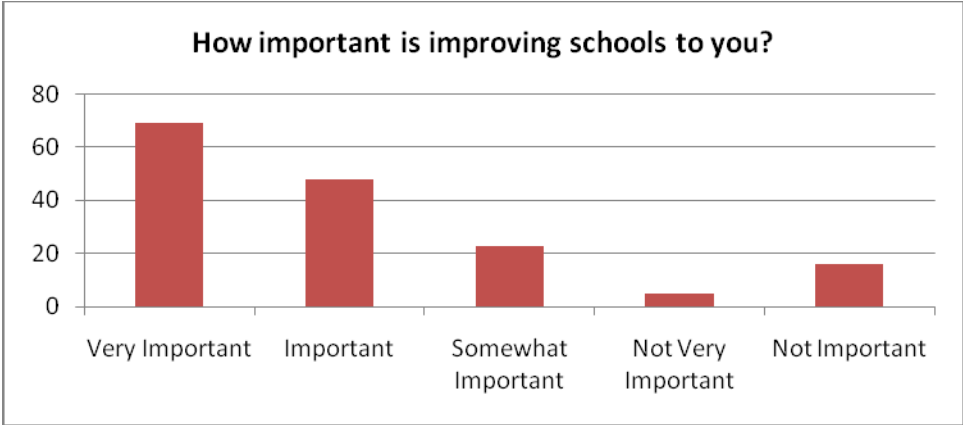
translate the results of the survey into recommendations for the Town of Genoa Comprehensive Plan, which becomes a valuable guide for the creation of Genoa's laws.

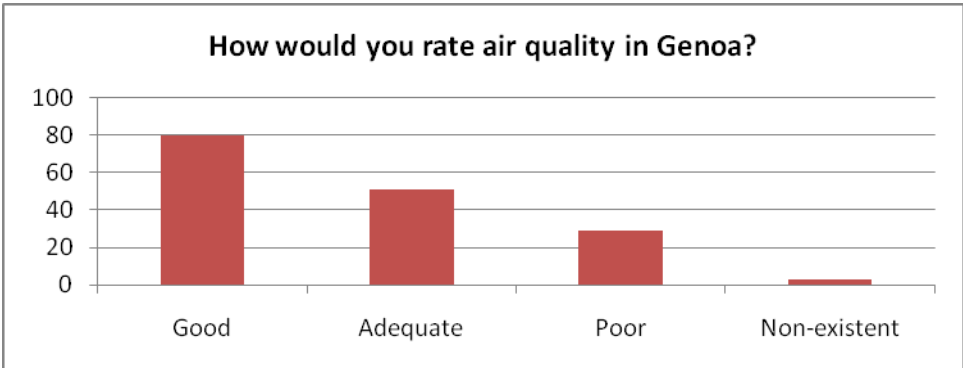
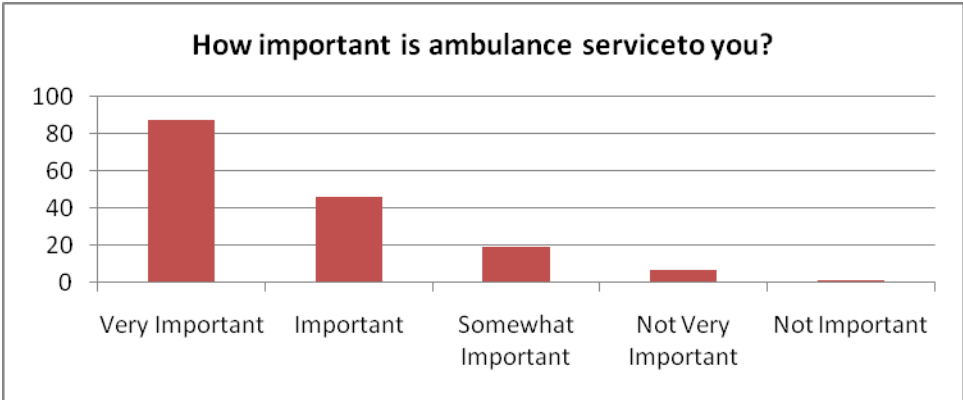
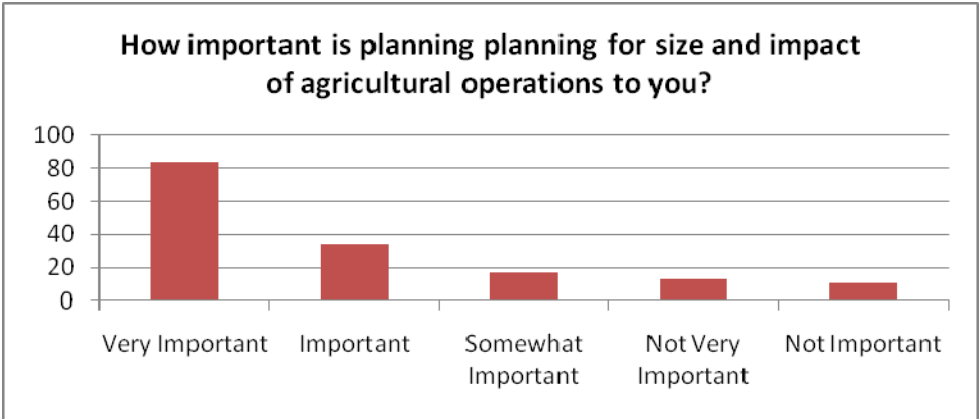
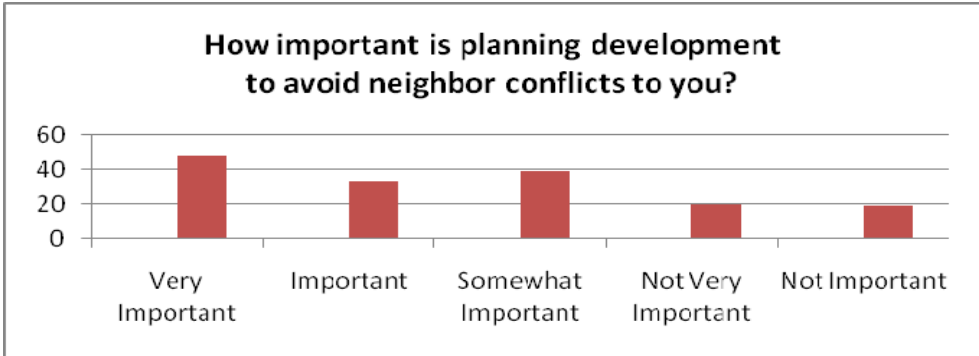
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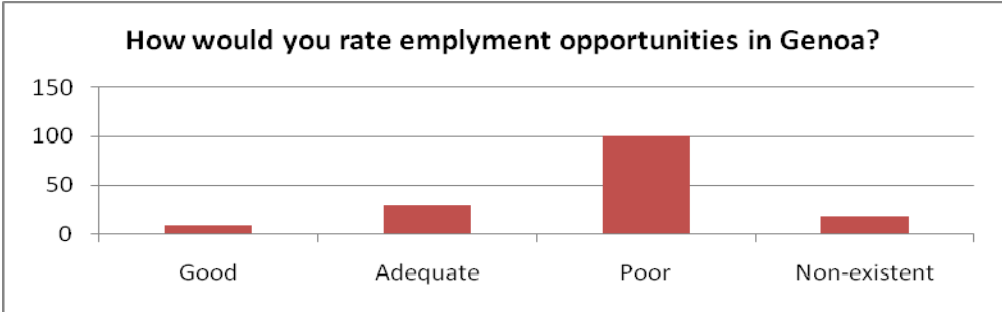
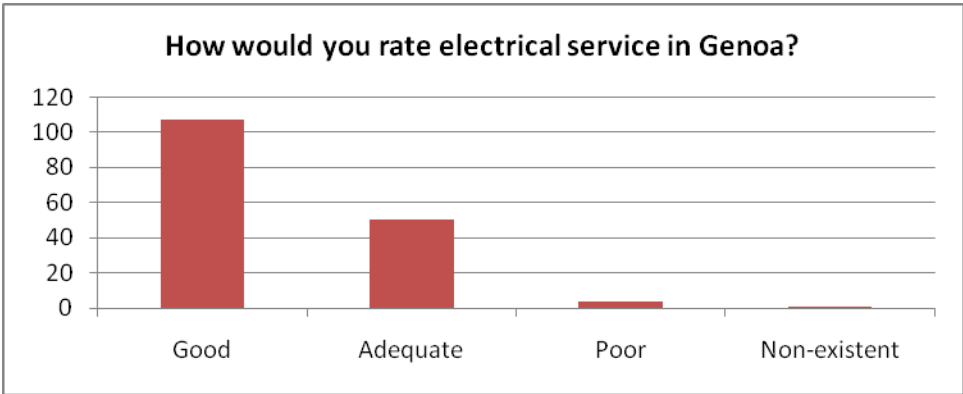
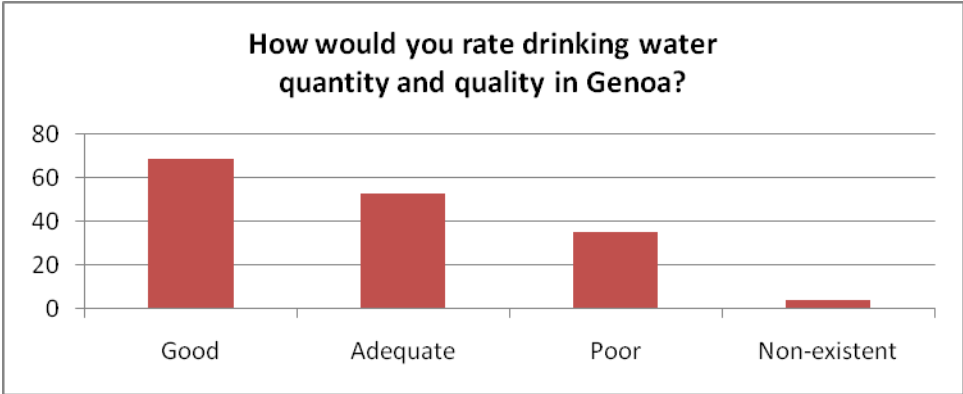
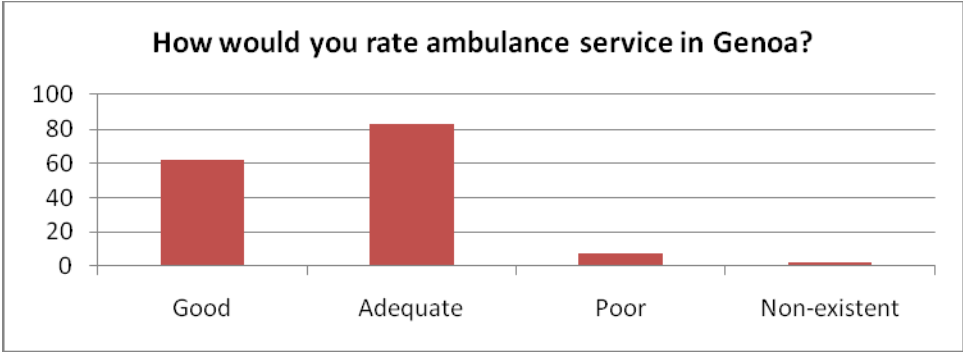
In closing, Gleisner has also submitted a draft of **recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan Committee** . **We, the Committee, are currently in the process of reviewing, revising and prioritizing these recommendations. A final recommendation document will be presented to the Town Board for their review most likely by the first of next year.**

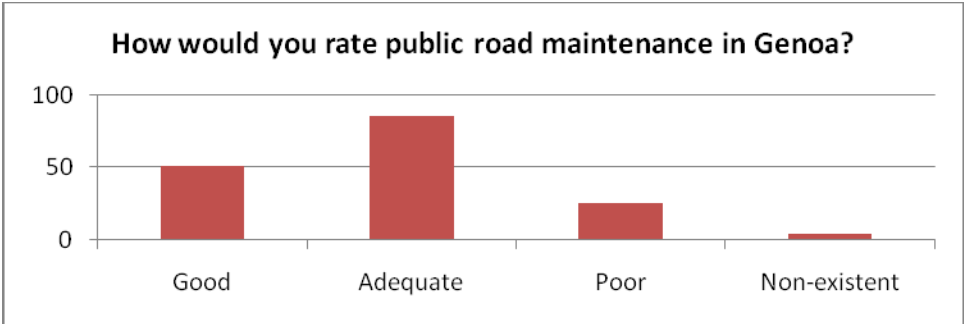
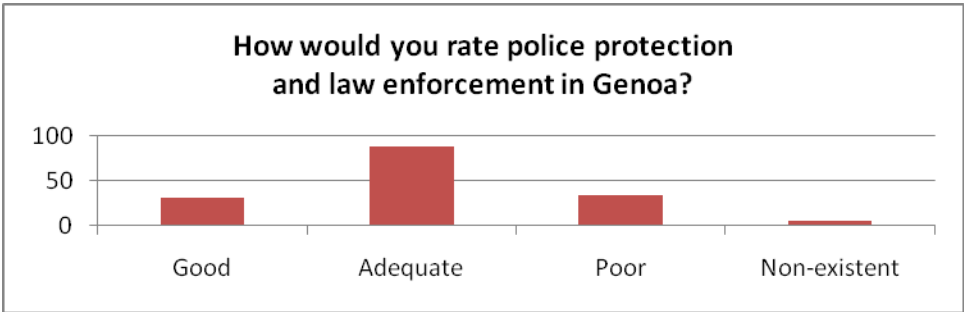
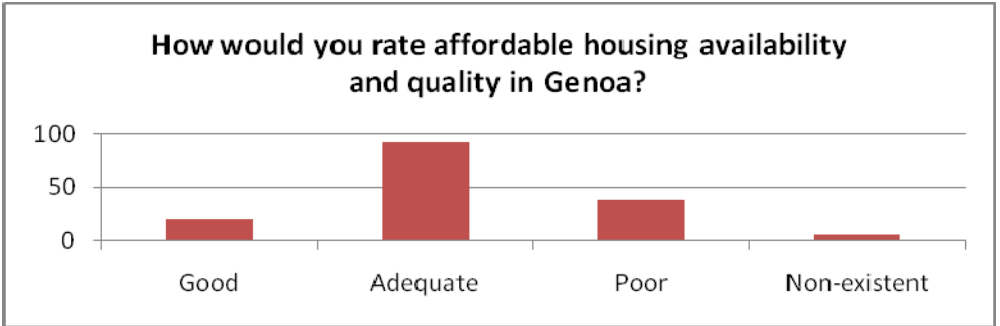
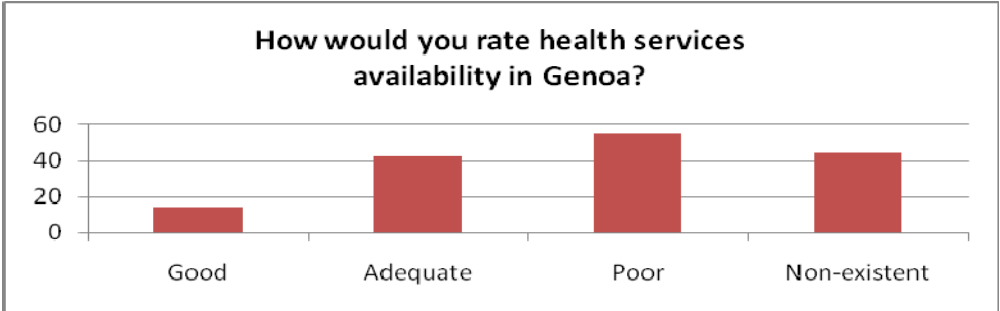
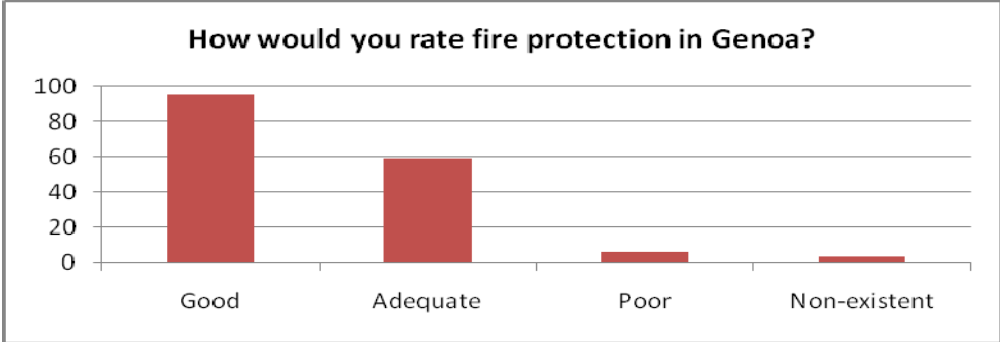


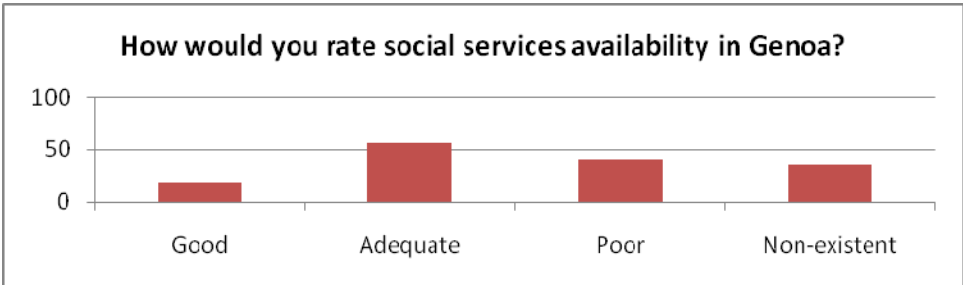
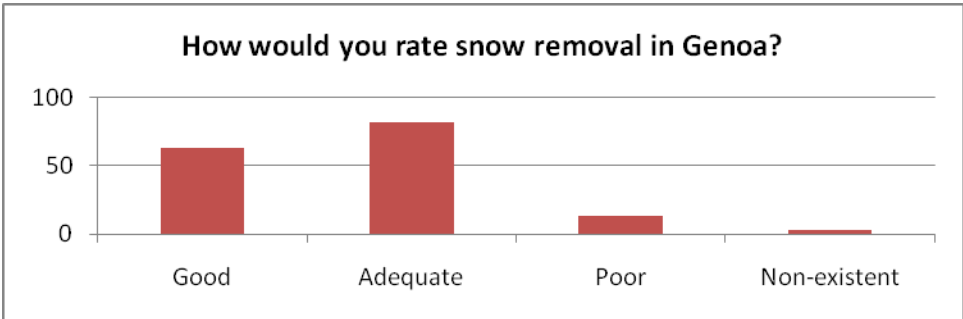
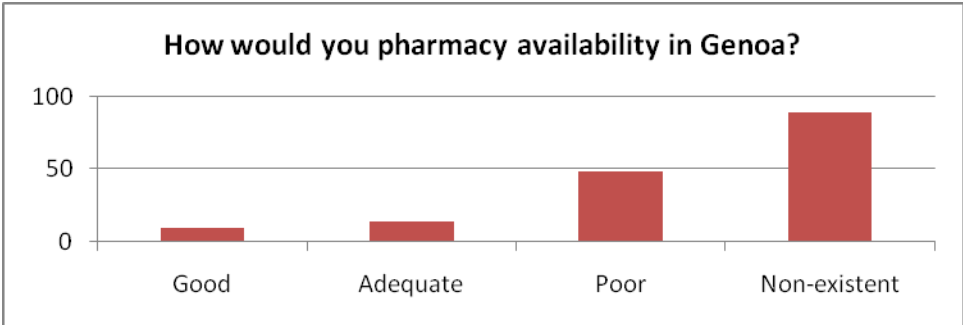
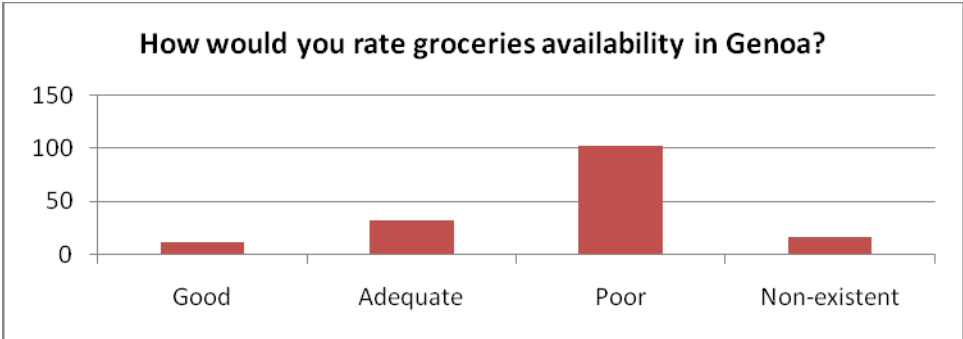
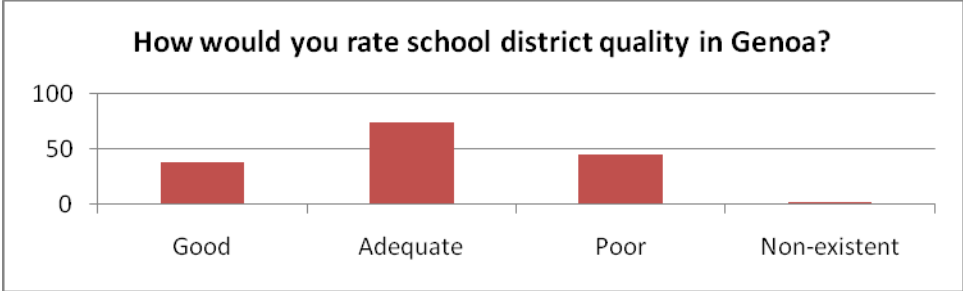


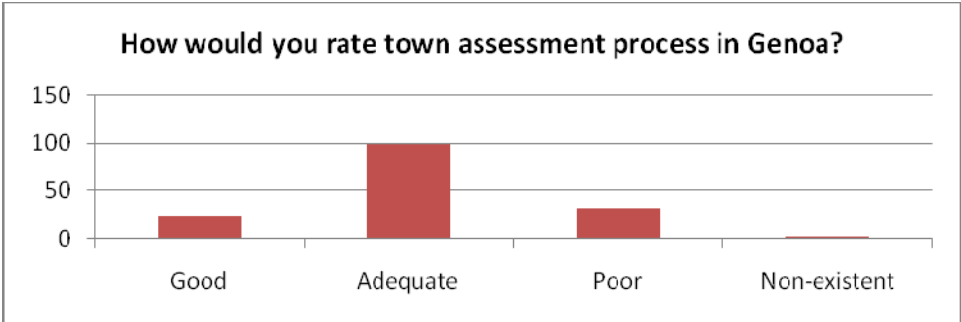
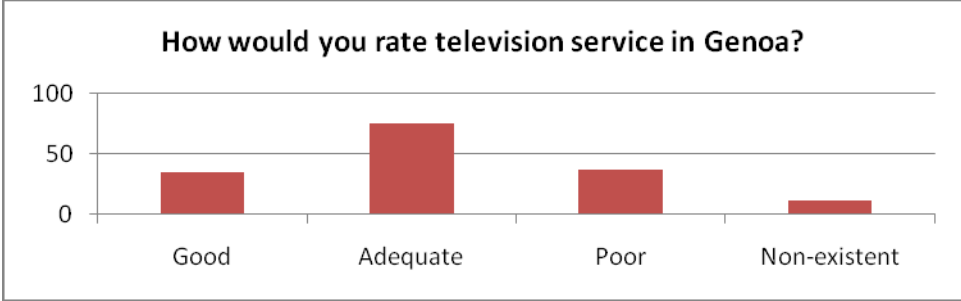
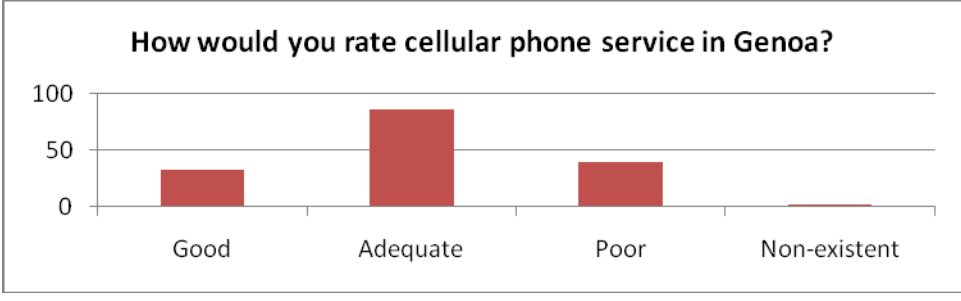
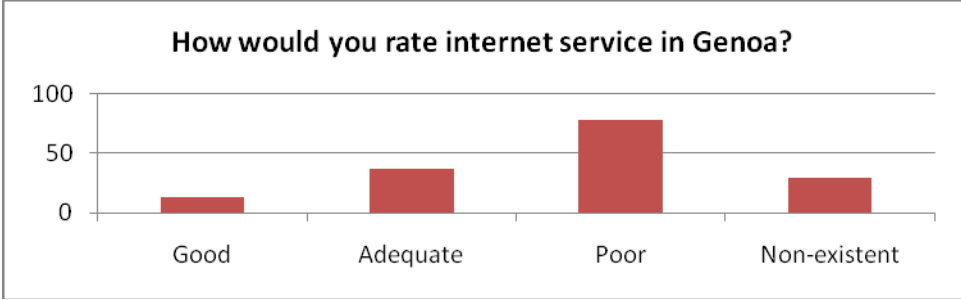
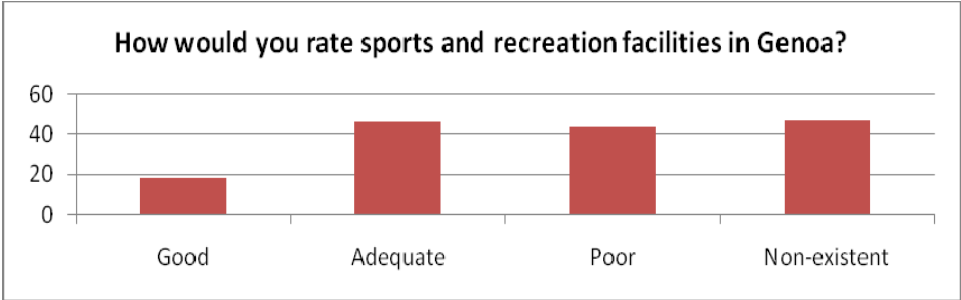


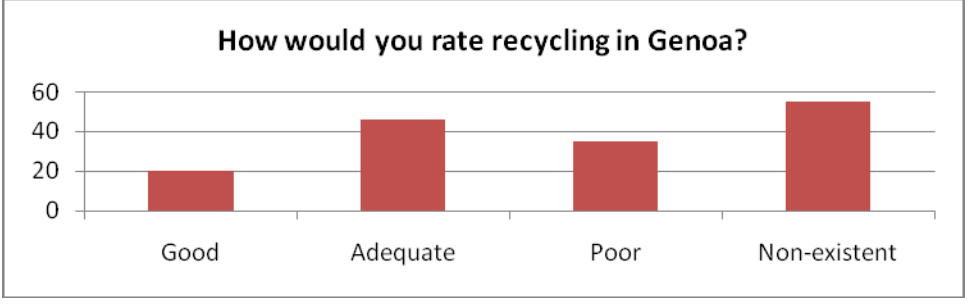
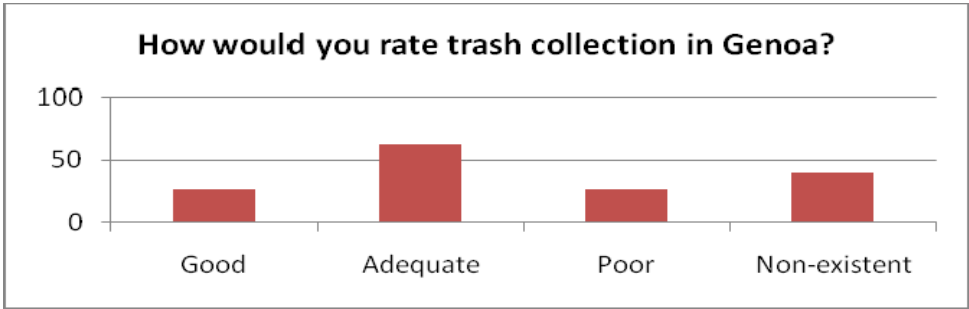
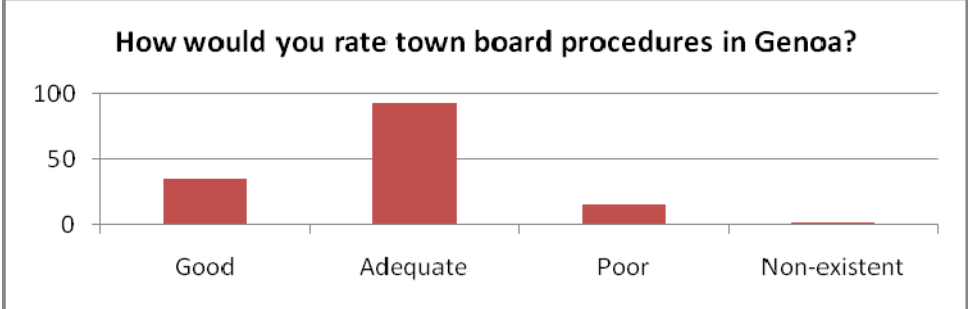
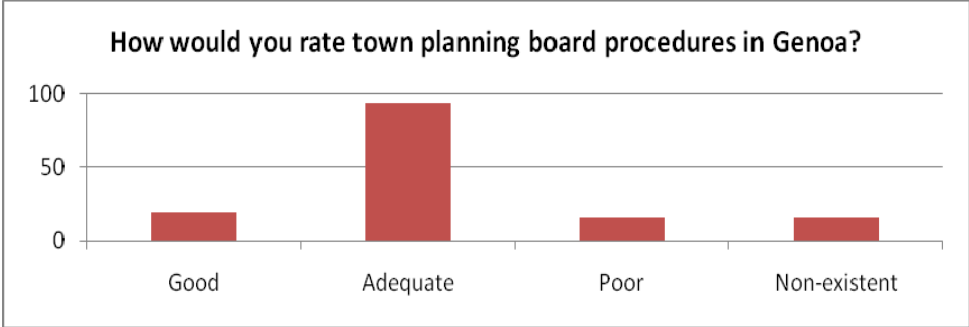


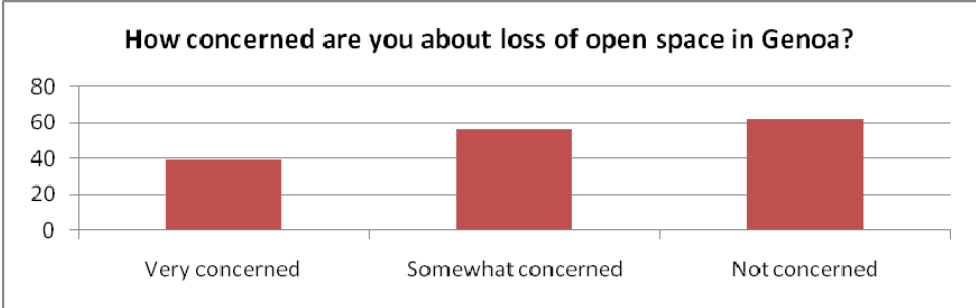
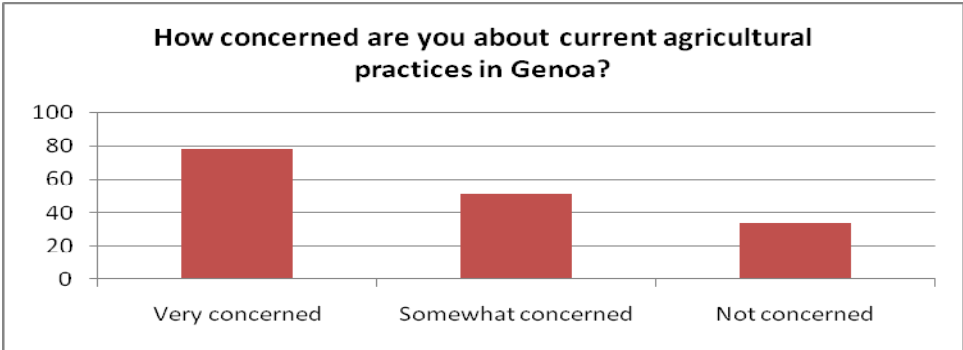
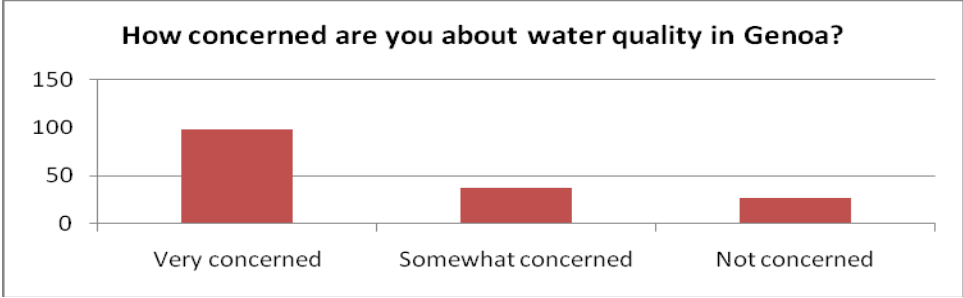
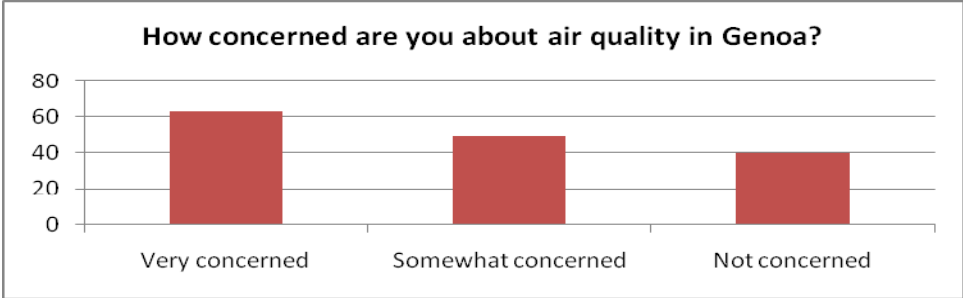


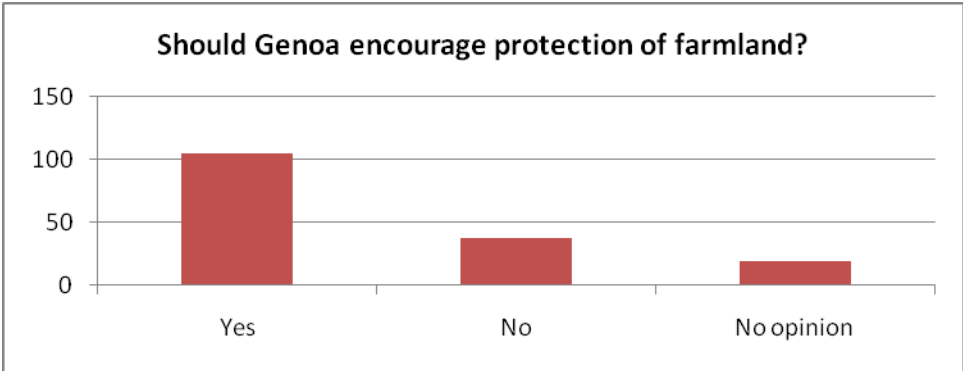
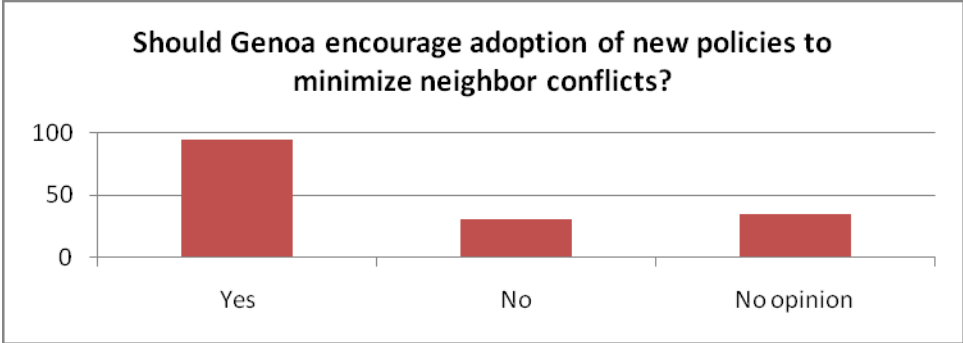
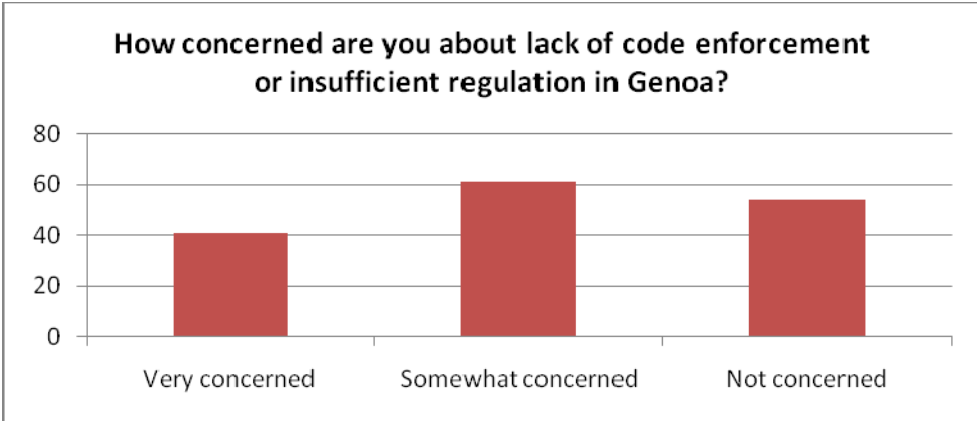
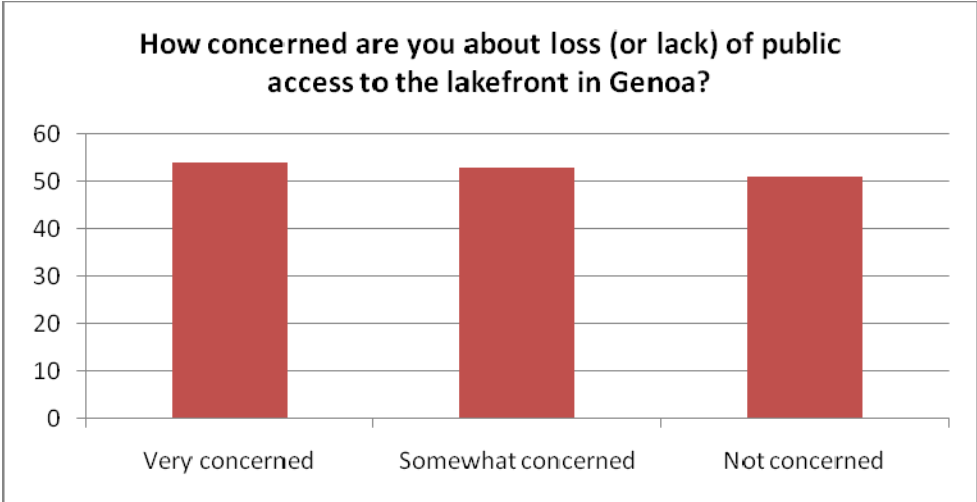


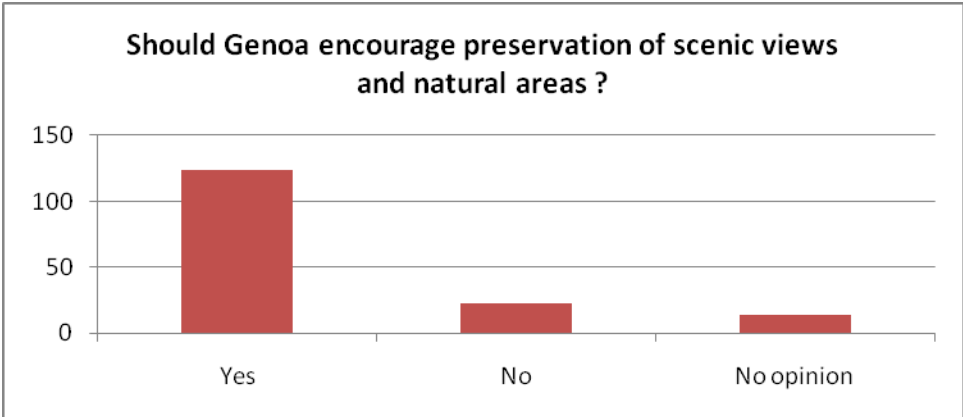
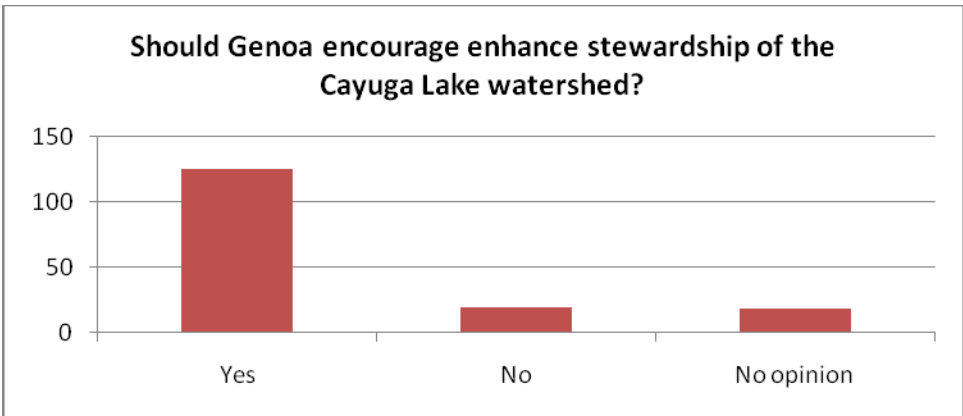
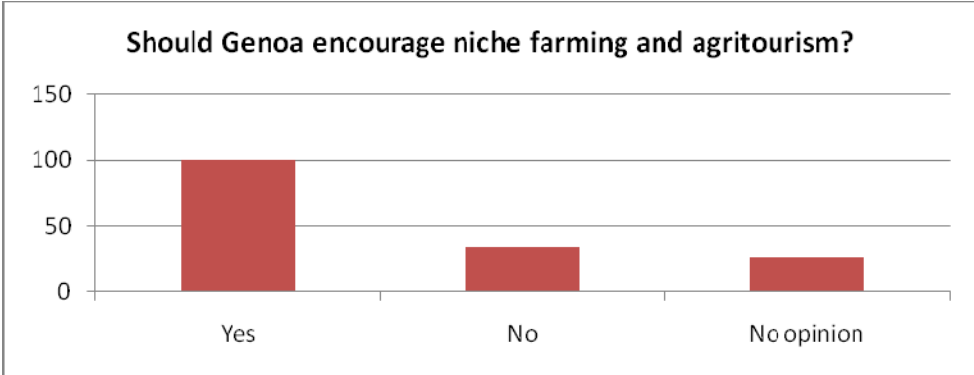
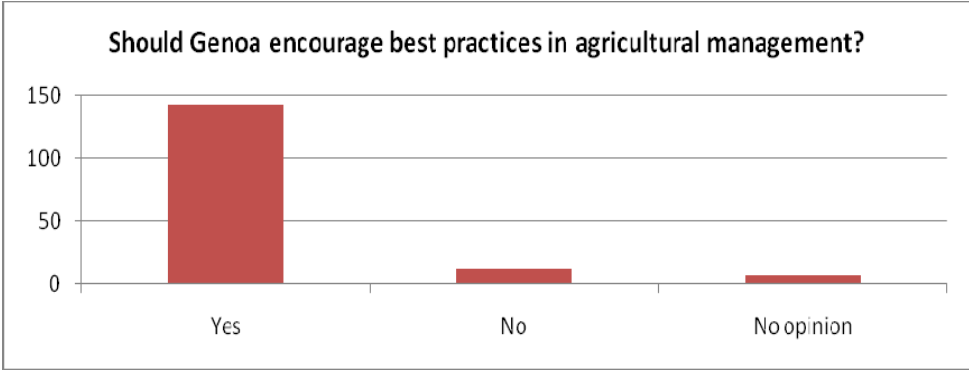


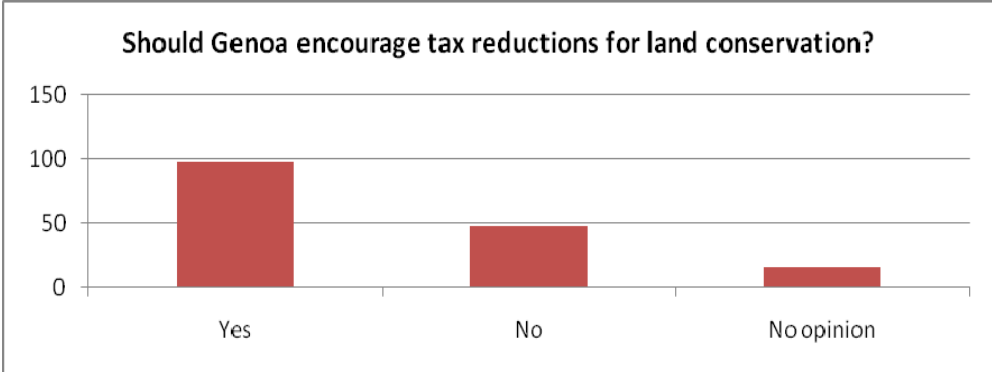
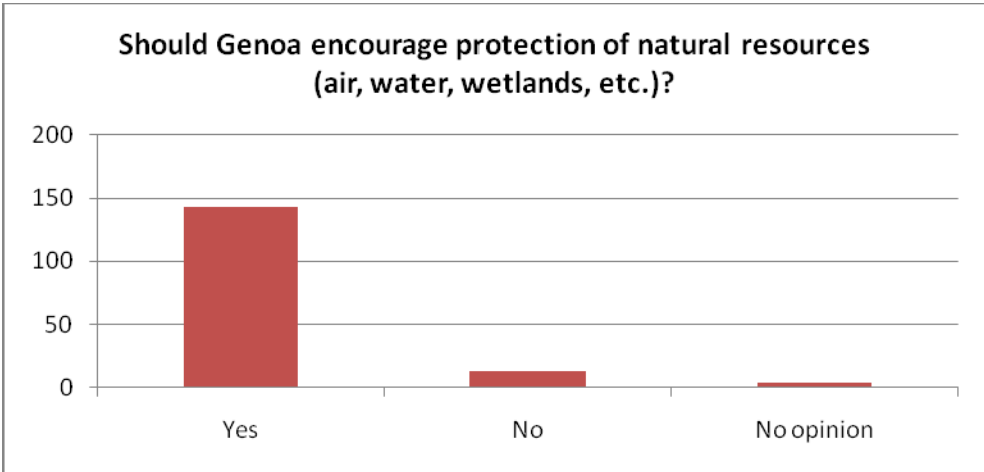
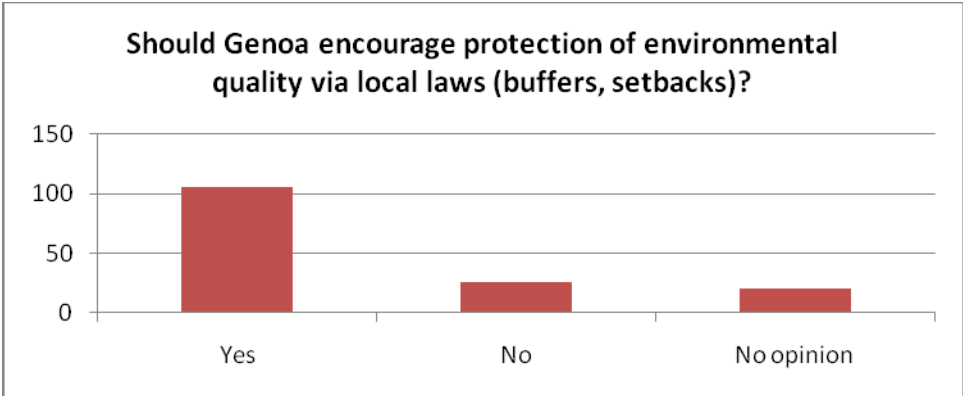
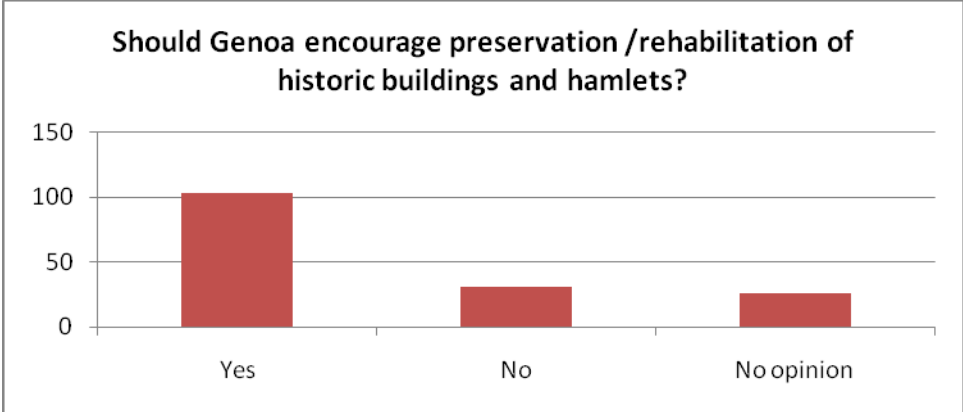


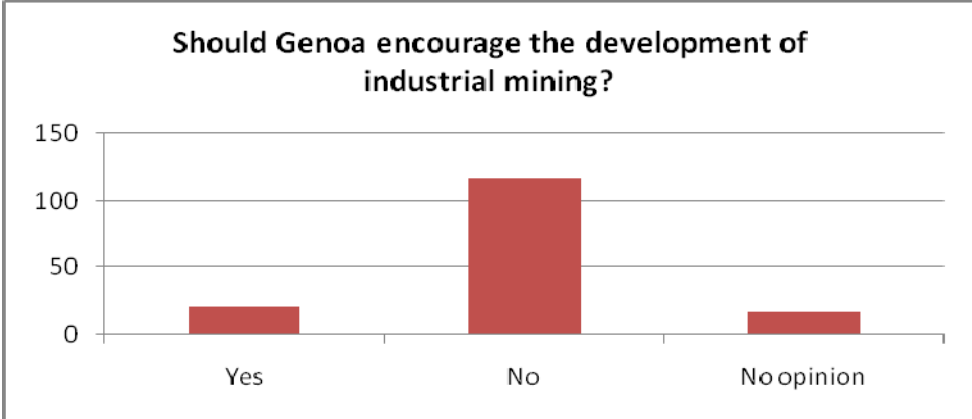
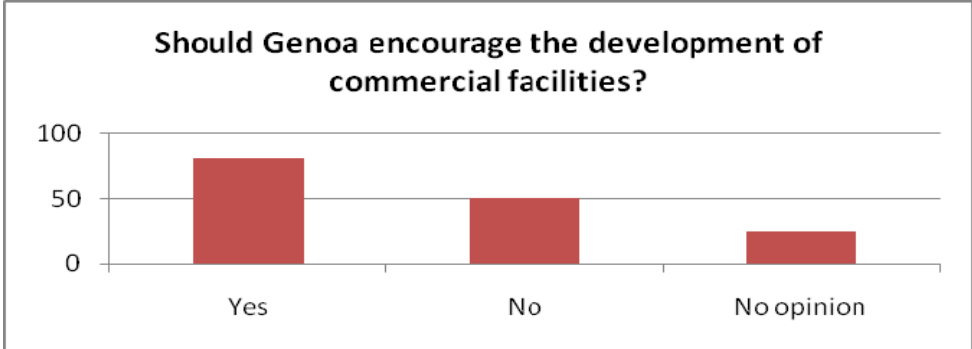
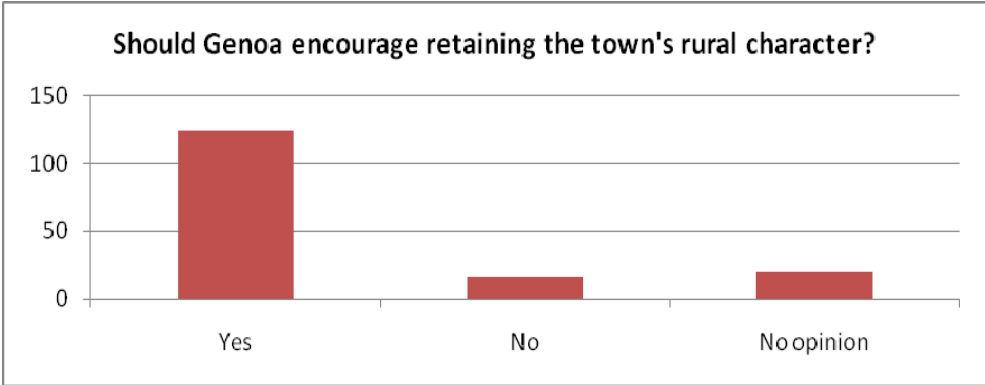
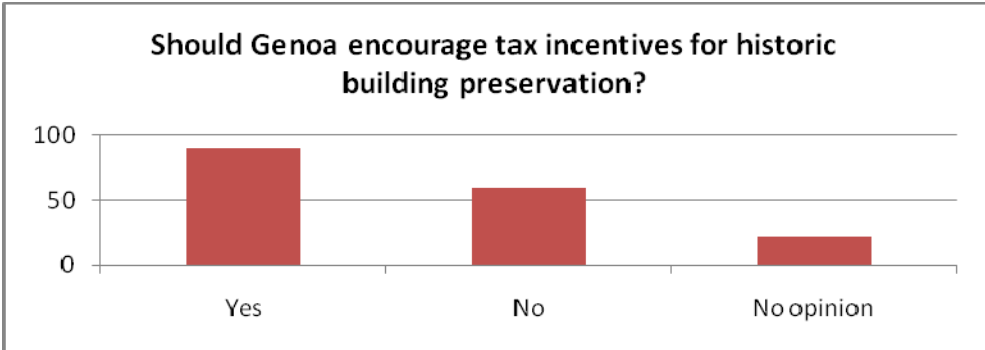


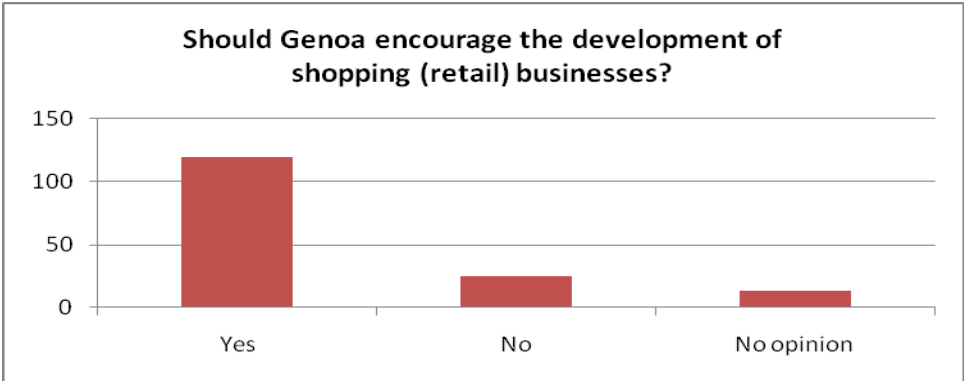
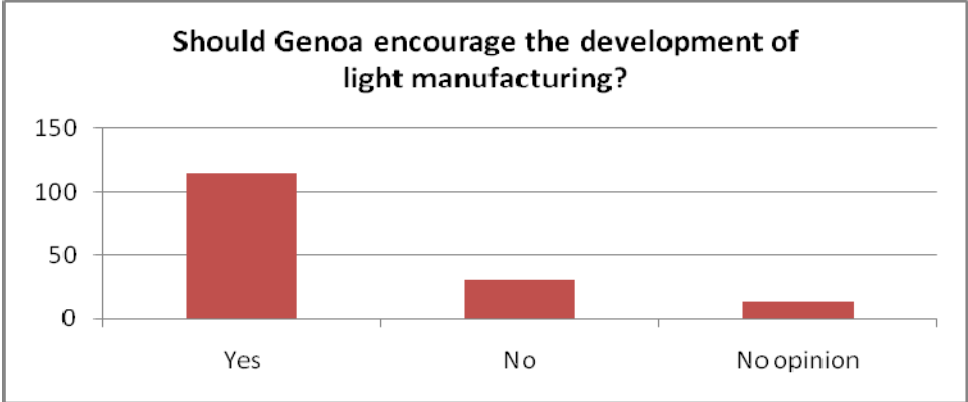
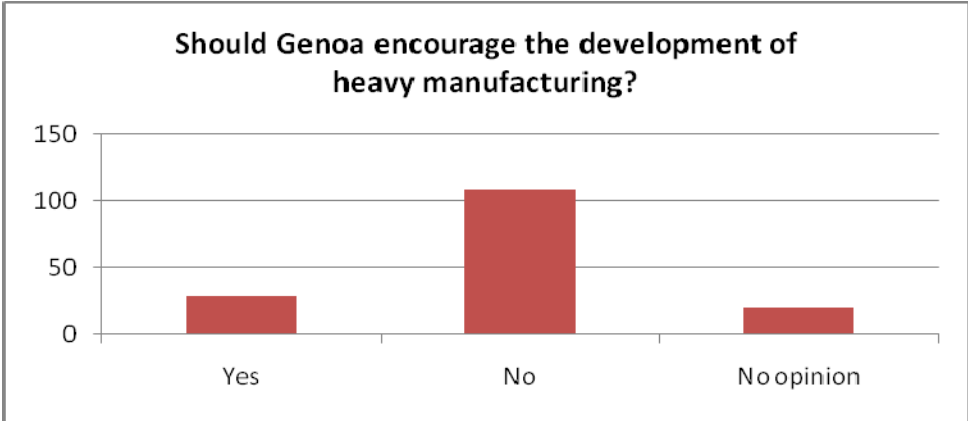
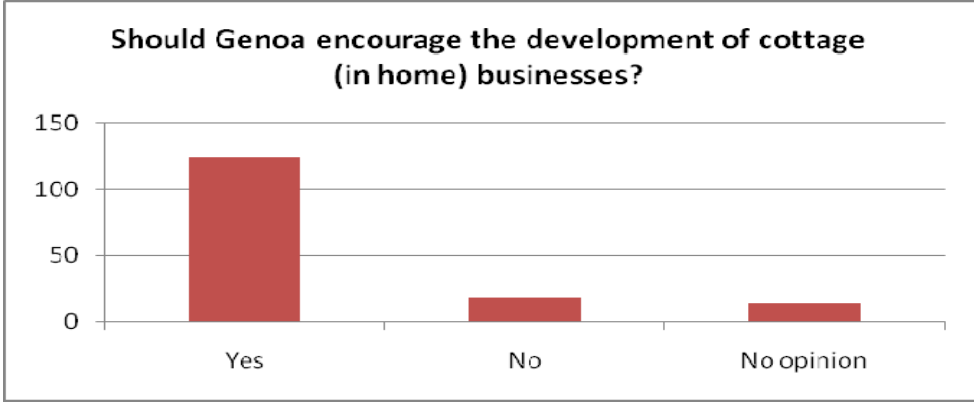


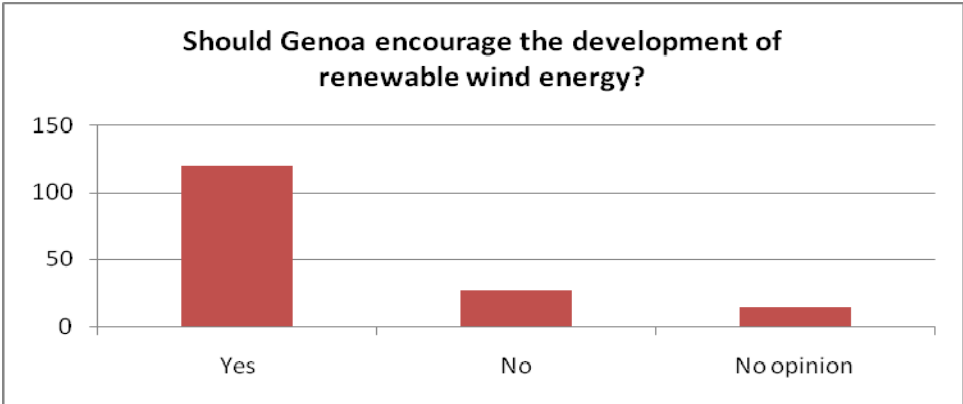
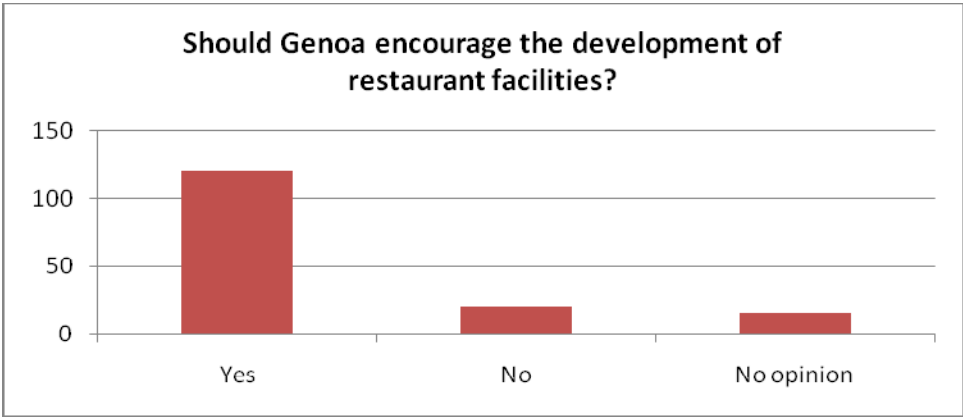
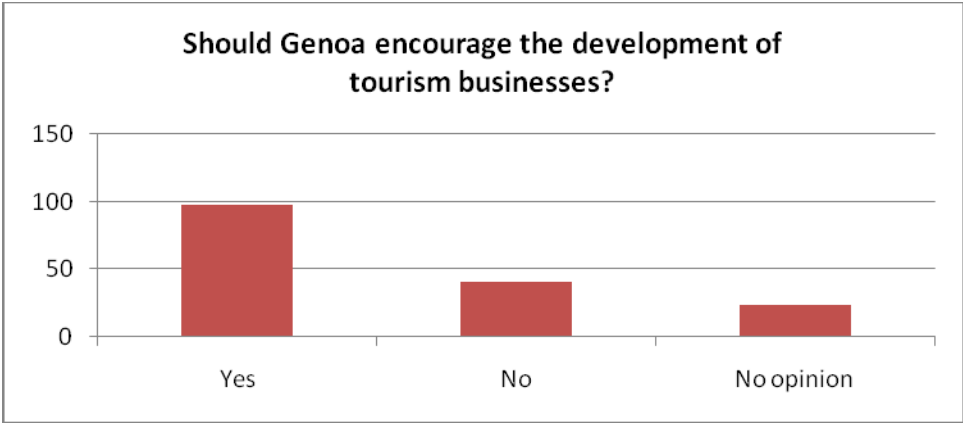
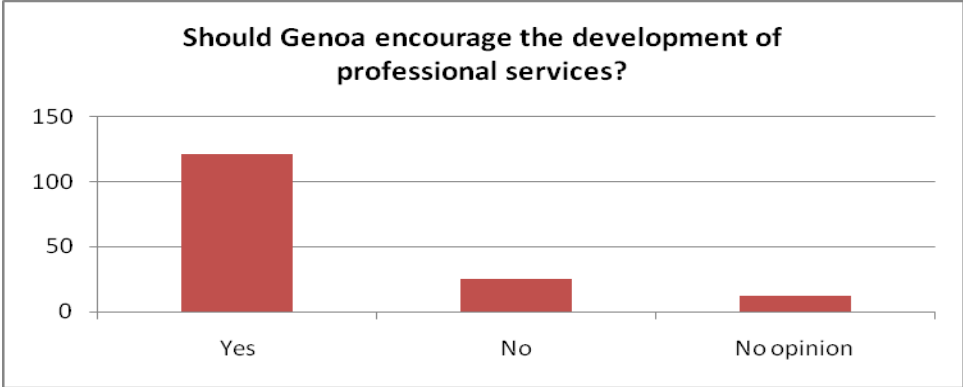


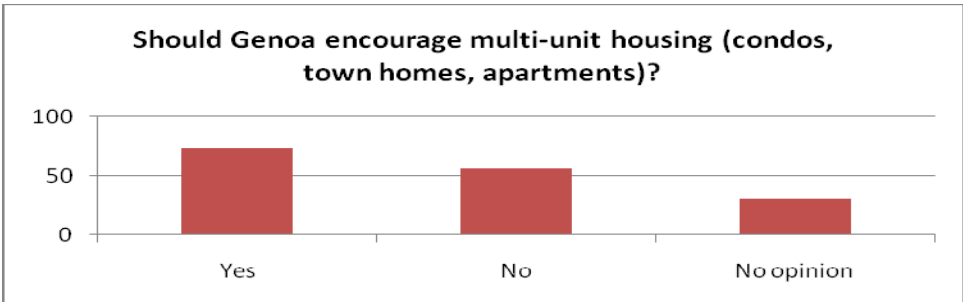
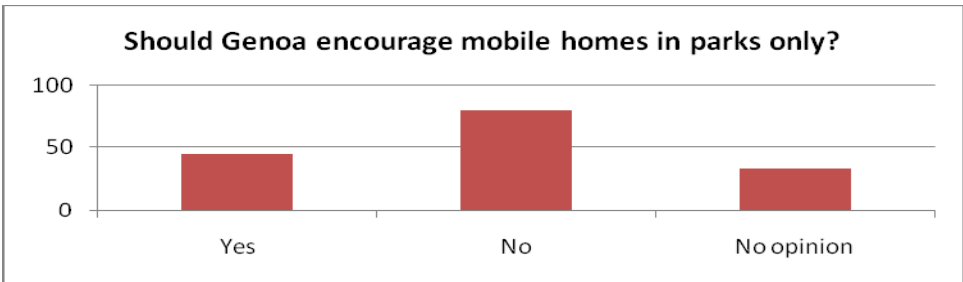
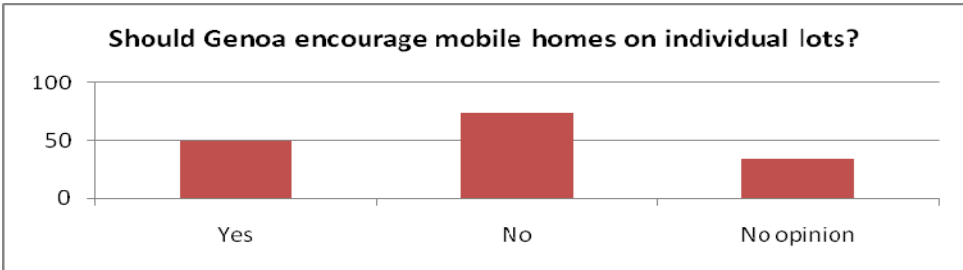
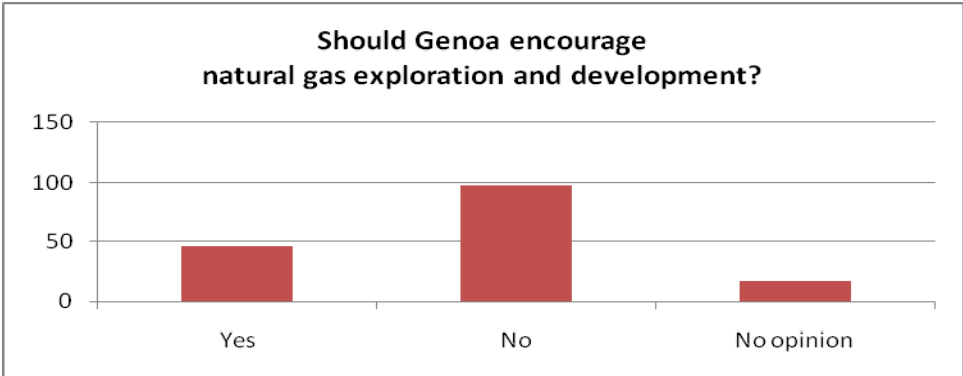
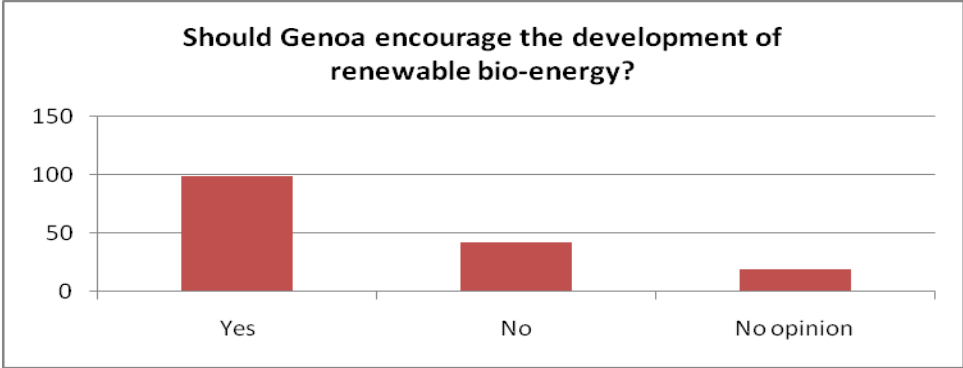


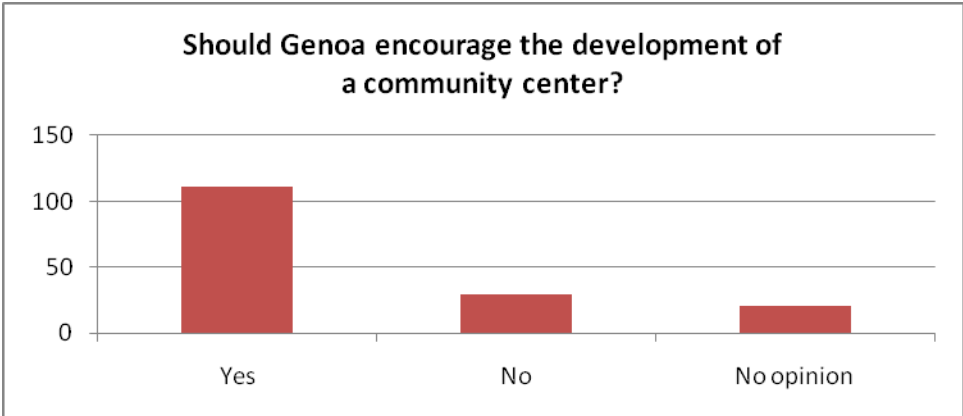
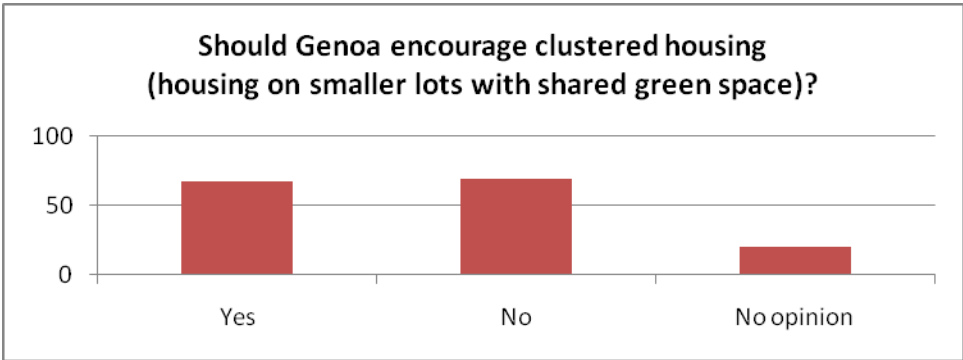
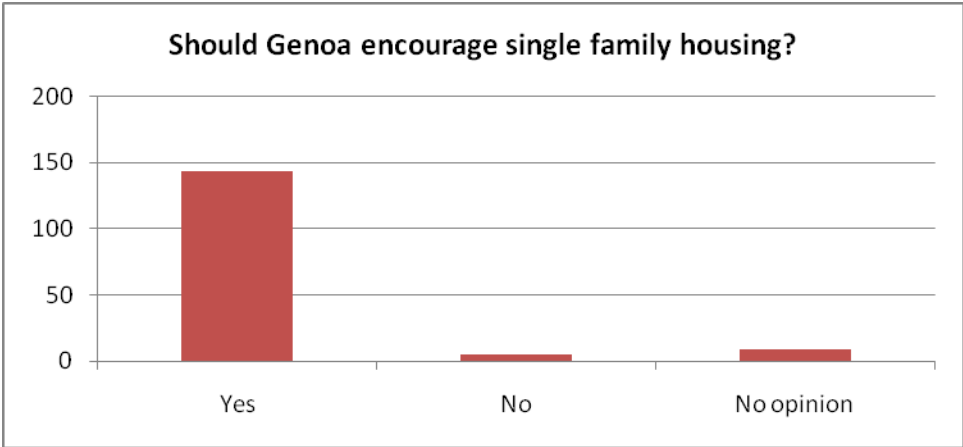
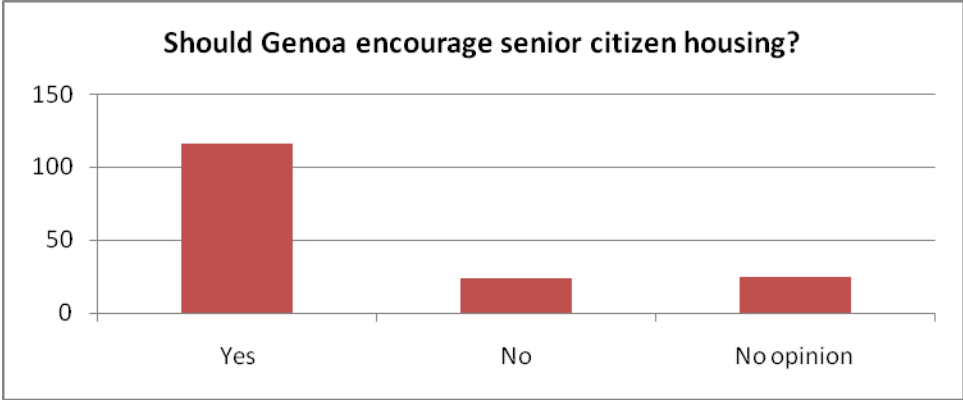


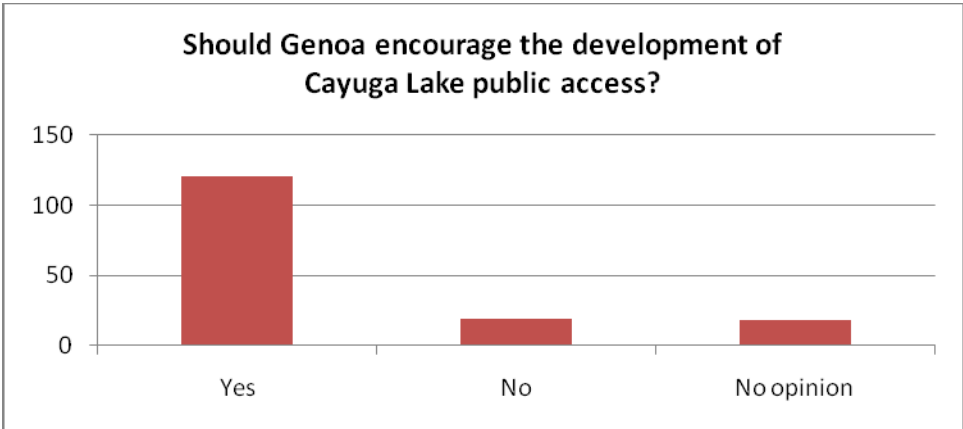
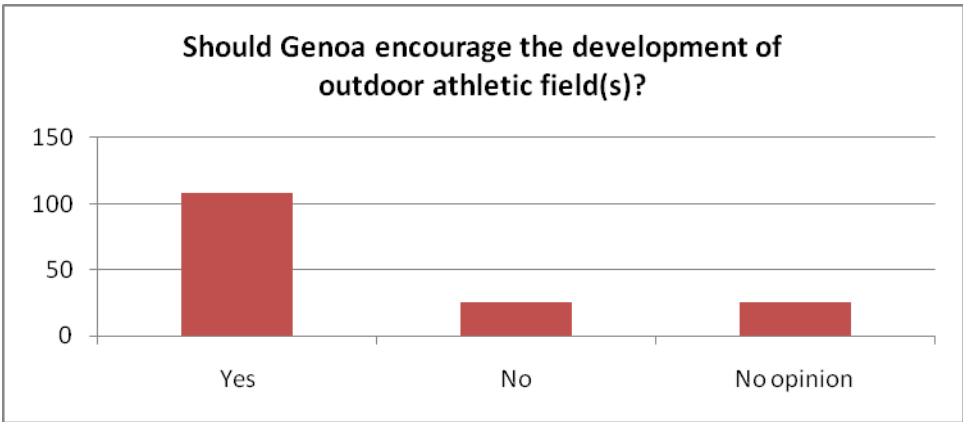
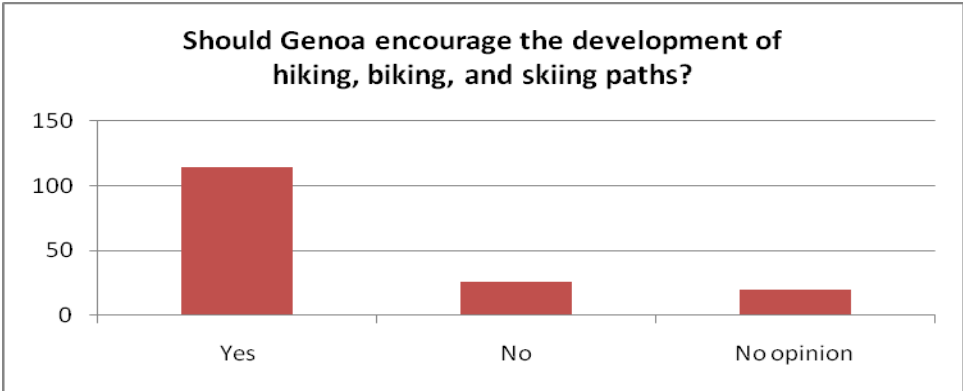
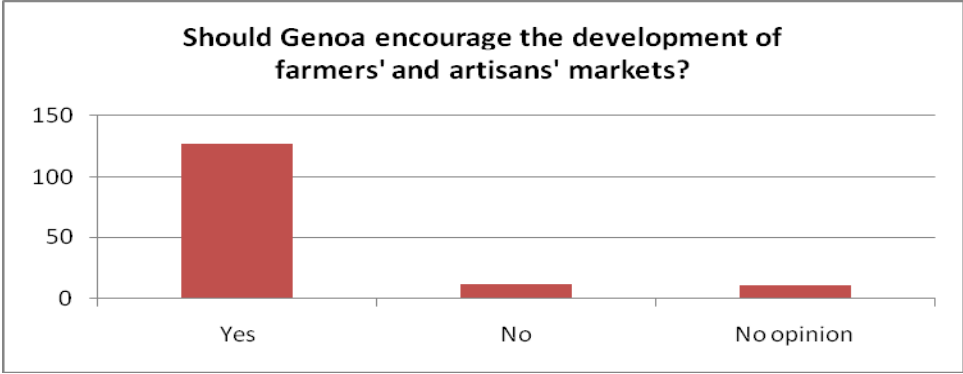


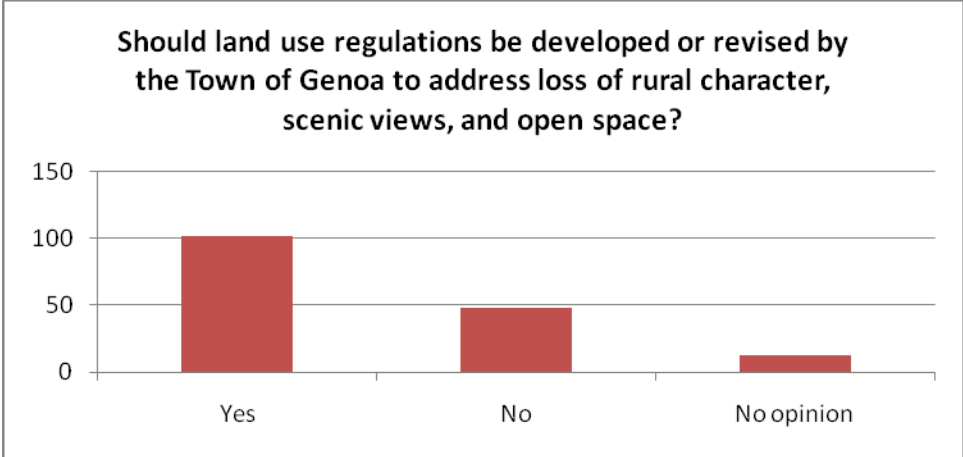
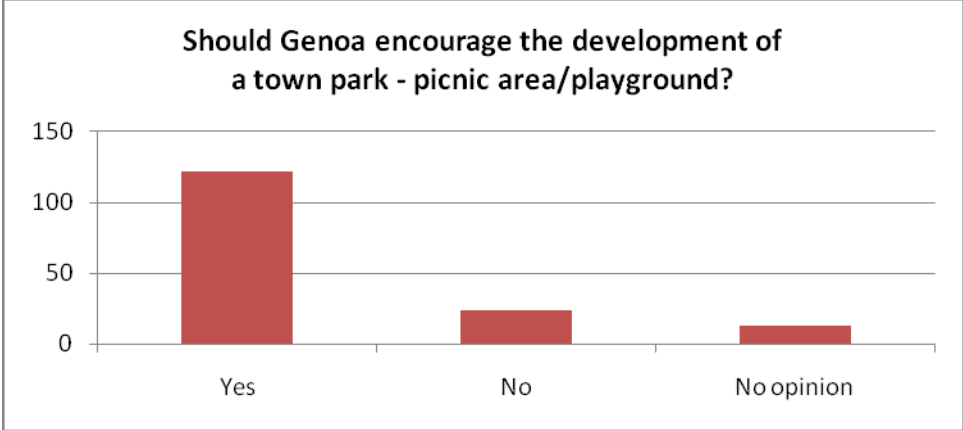
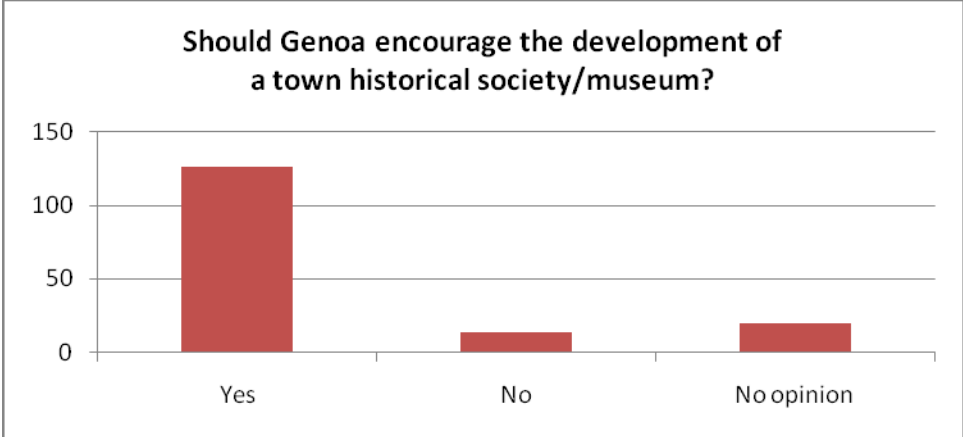
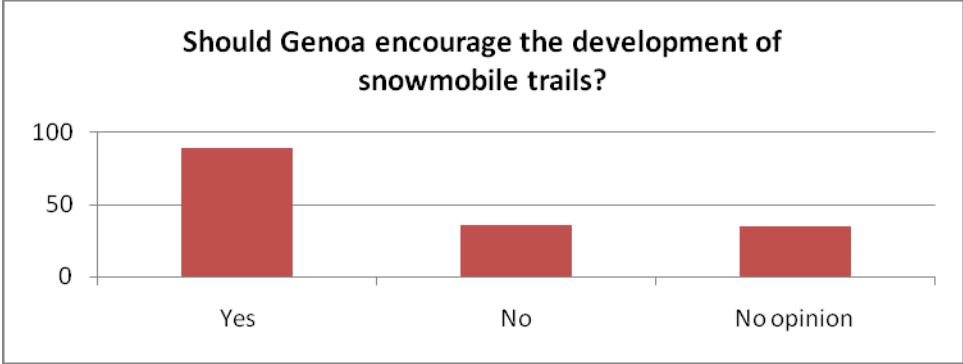


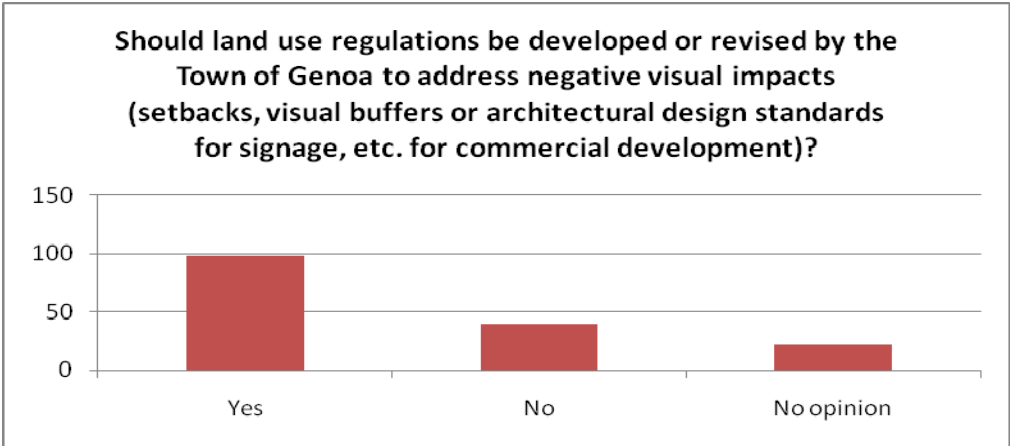
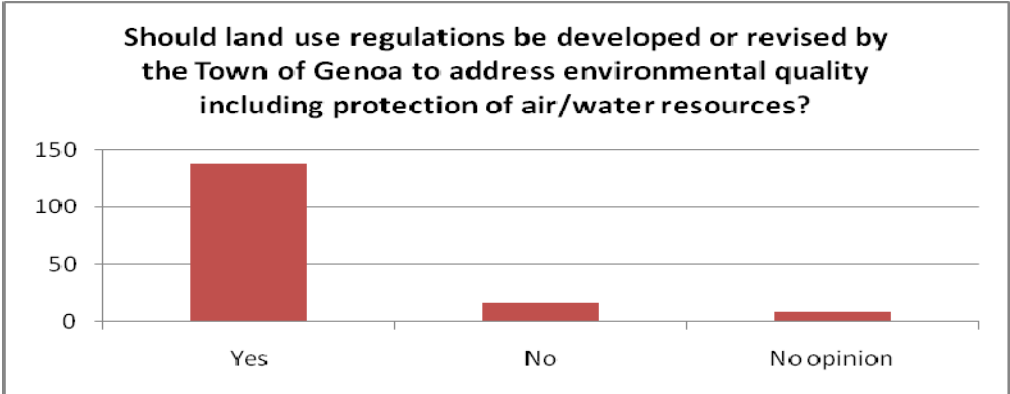
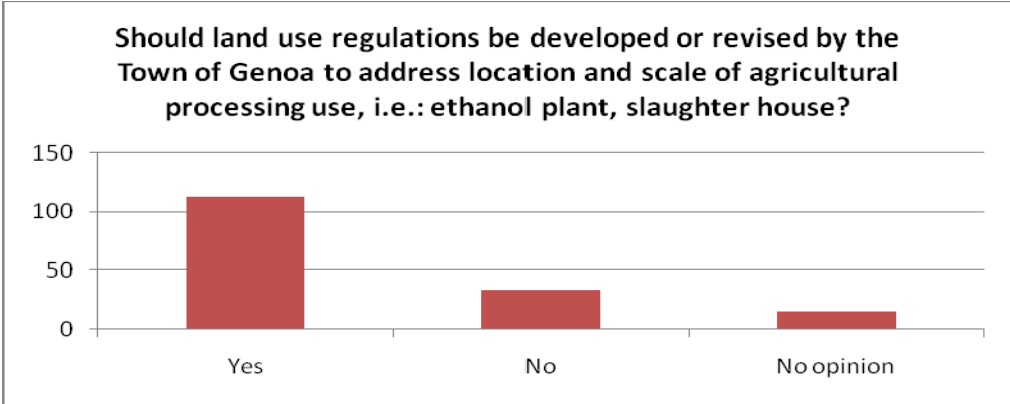
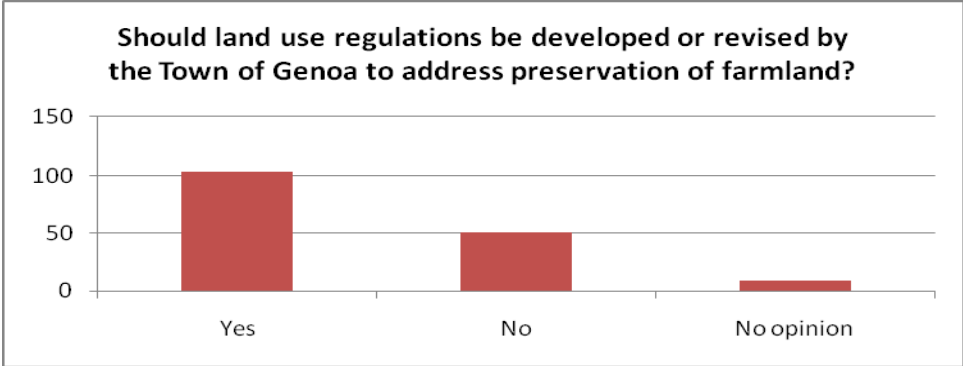


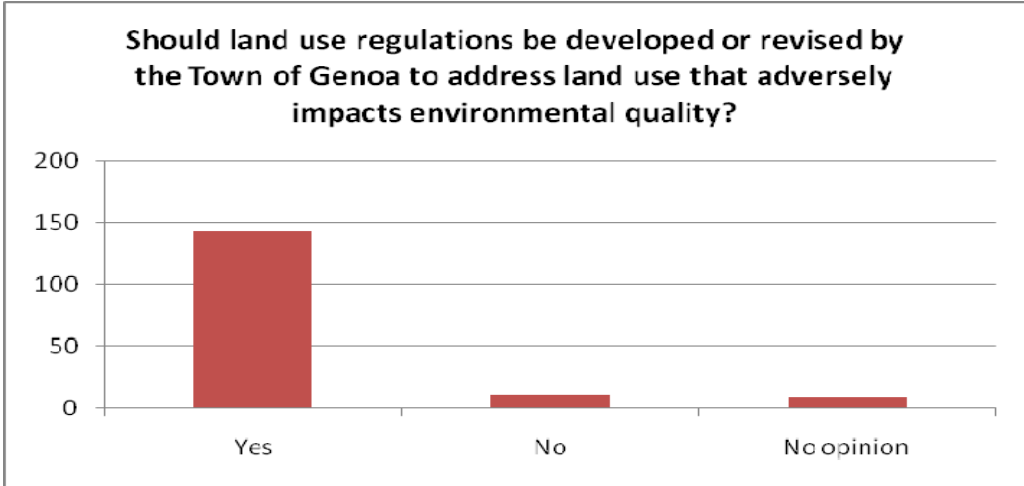
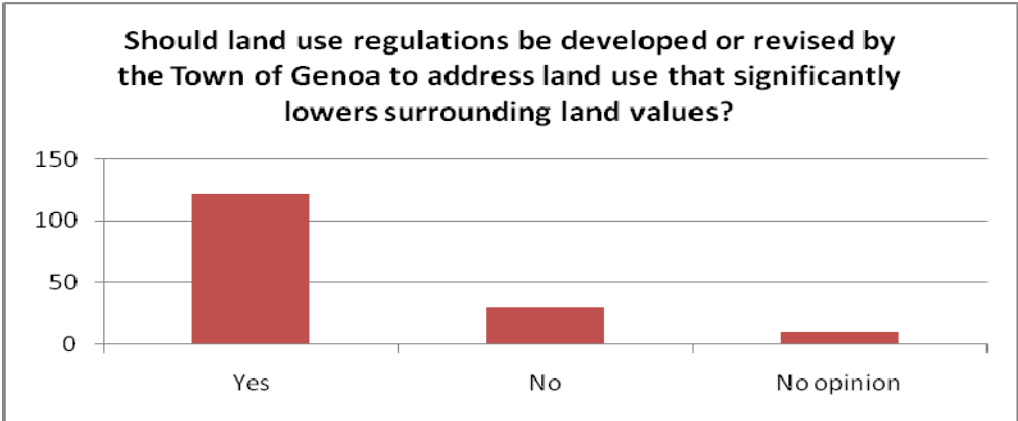
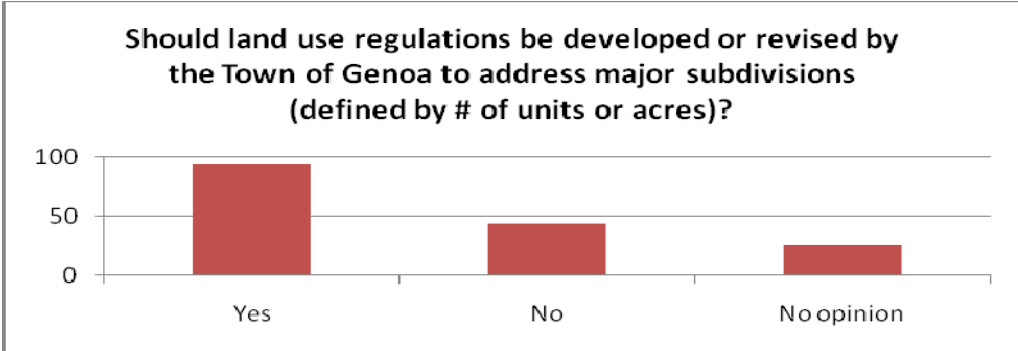
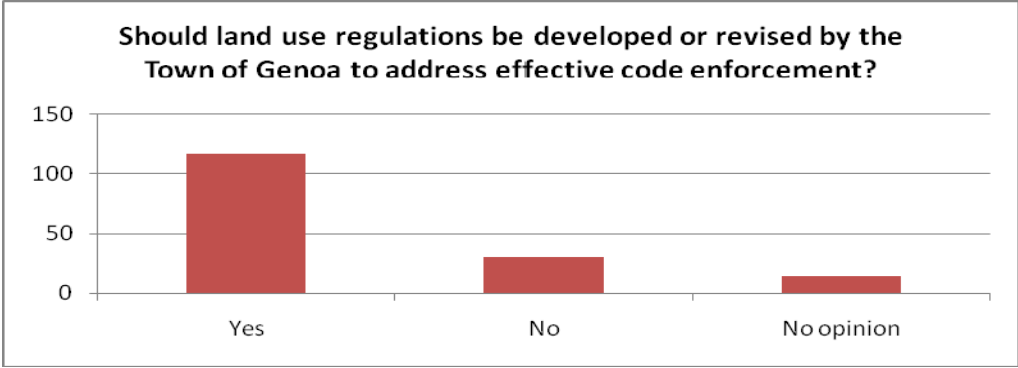




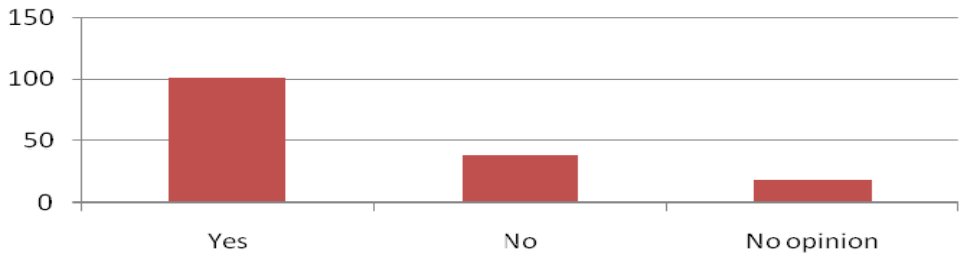




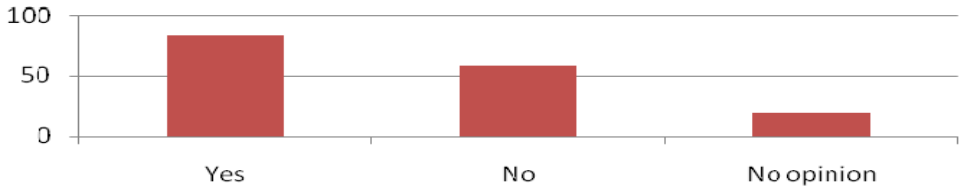




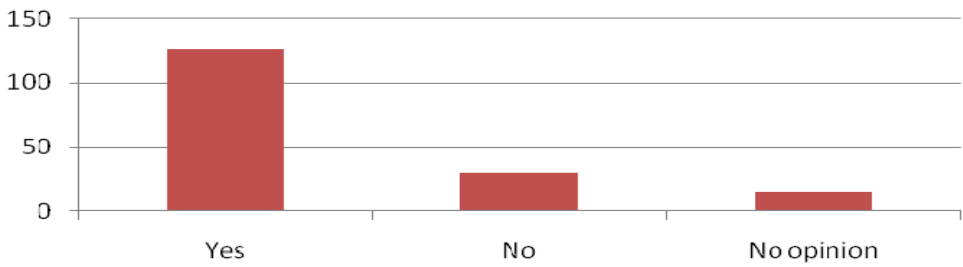
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address mobile home placement and site requirements?**



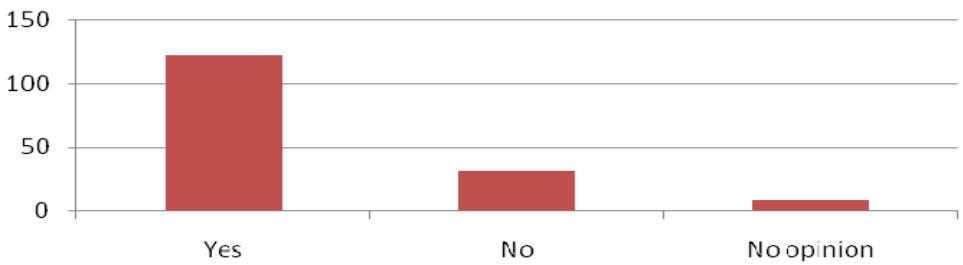
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address rental or seasonal housing inspections and landlord registration?**



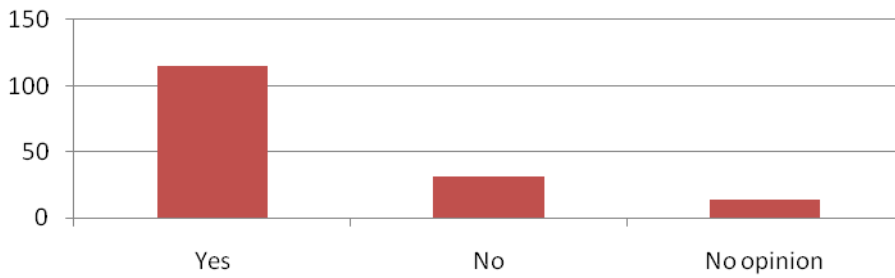
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address vehicle weight limits or industrial use limits to protect town roads?**



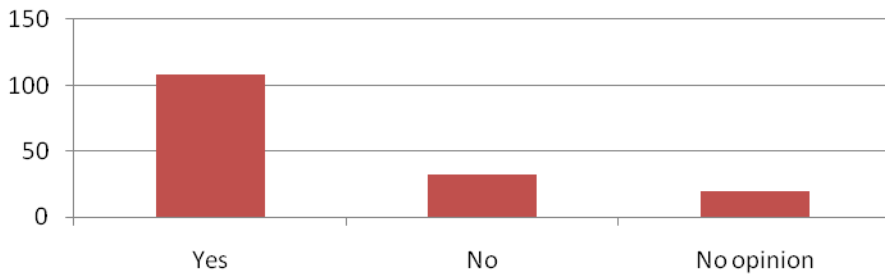
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address solid waste disposal?**



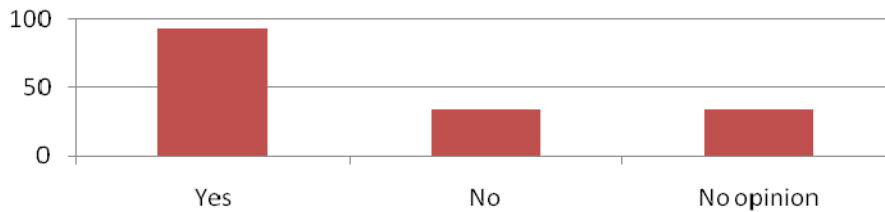
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address industrial land use?**



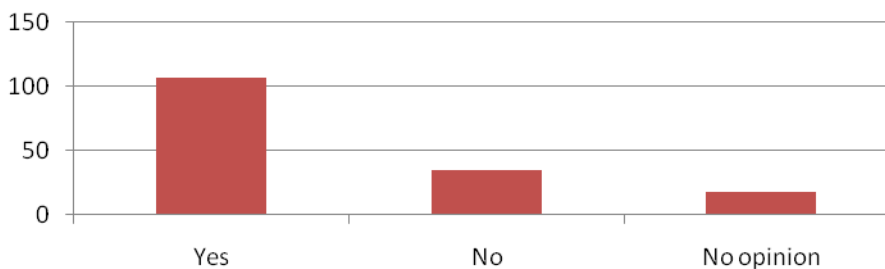
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address incompatible land use?**



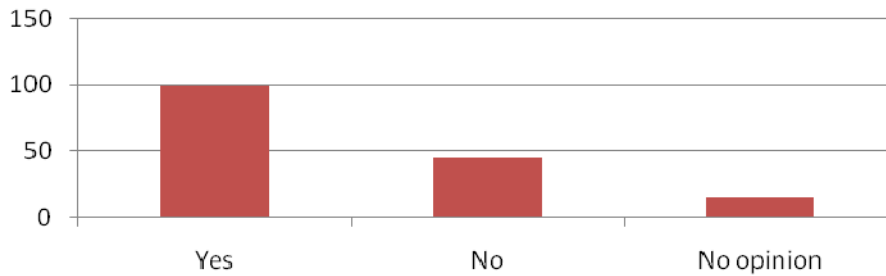
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address complimentary mixed land use?**



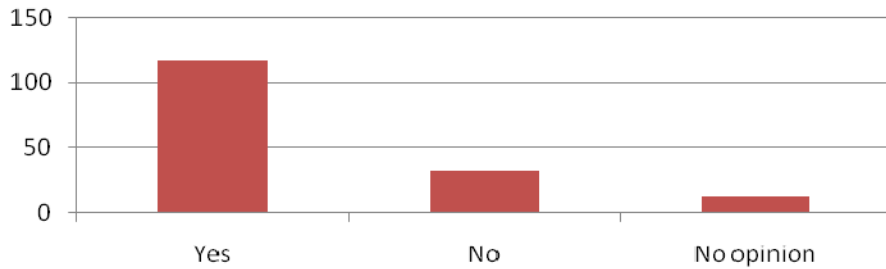
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address siting for cellular towers?**



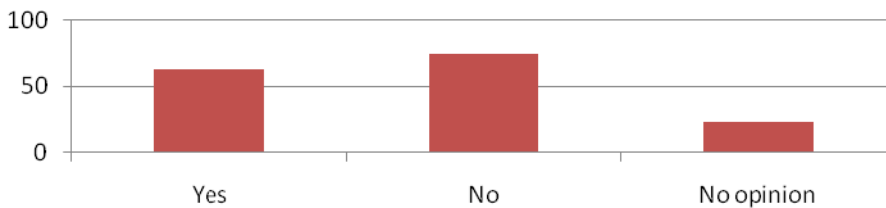
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address siting for residential wind and solar power?**



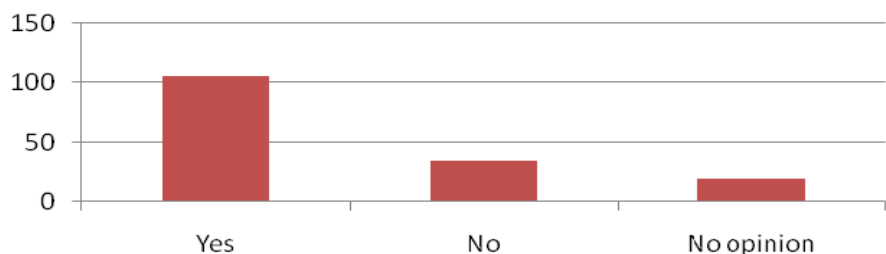
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address siting commercial wind power facilities?**



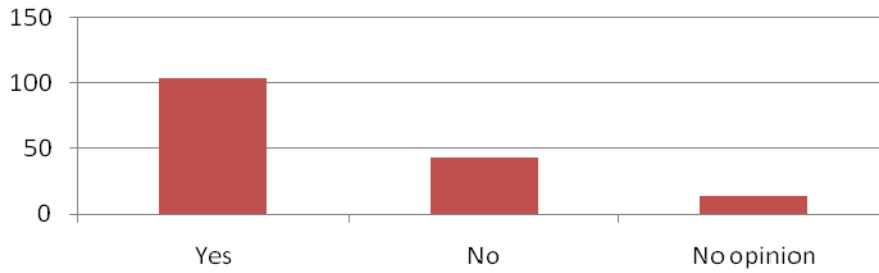
**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address cottage (home) business?**



**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address public/community land use?**



**Should land use regulations be developed or revised by the Town of Genoa to address scale and location of farm operations?**



**Should the Town of Genoa consider land use regulations or zoning?**

