



***ISSUE ANALYSIS***  
Block Island, Rhode Island

prepared for  
The Block Island Land Trust

September 2011

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## **Methodology**

One hundred likely voters in Block Island, Rhode Island were interviewed in a random sample taken September 6-10, 2011. Respondents were screened for residency on Block Island, Rhode Island. The sample was balanced according to all known demographic factors. All interviews were conducted by telephone. With the adjustment for a small universe, the margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 6.4\%$ , with a 95% confidence level.

**\*\* NOTE: ALL COLUMNS MAY NOT EQUAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING OF DECIMALS.**

## **Views on Block Island**

### ***Do you favor protecting more open space on Block Island?***

<b><i>strongly favor</i></b>	<b>72%</b>
<b><i>somewhat favor</i></b>	<b>11%</b>
<b><i>somewhat oppose</i></b>	<b>9%</b>
<b><i>strongly oppose</i></b>	<b>5%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>3%</b>

Eighty-three percent (83%) of residents favor protecting more open space on Block Island. This view is most prevalent among 35-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who live on Block Island for less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island for 5-20 years, residents who retired to the area, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million or over \$2 million, and women.

***At this time, would you say Block Island is being developed too fast and we need to discourage some growth, developing at a good rate that is good for the community or not developing enough and growth needs to be encouraged?***

<b><i>being developed too fast</i></b>	<b>30%</b>
<b><i>developing at a good rate</i></b>	<b>54%</b>
<b><i>not developing enough</i></b>	<b>8%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>5%</b>

The majority (54%) of Block Island residents say the area is developing at a good rate for the community. This sentiment is strongest among 35-65 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$50,000, residents who live on Block Island for less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island for less than 20 years, residents who came to the island for a job opportunity, homeowners, residents who pay real estate taxes on Block Island, residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million or \$1.5-\$2 million, and women.

Thirty percent (30%) of Block Island residents say the area is being developed too fast. Groups interested in discouraging growth include residents over 65 years old, residents who live on Block Island for 6-9 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island more than 20 years or all their lives, residents who retired to the area, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, renters, residents who rent for part of the year, and residents with homes valued at \$1-\$1.5 million or over \$2 million.

***The Block Island Comprehensive plan sets a target of 50% of the land to be set aside as open space. Currently, about forty-three (43%) percent of the land has been conserved. Do you support the goal of preserving 50% of the land on the island?***

<b><i>strongly support</i></b>	<b>71%</b>
<b><i>somewhat support</i></b>	<b>14%</b>
<b><i>somewhat oppose</i></b>	<b>4%</b>
<b><i>strongly oppose</i></b>	<b>9%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>2%</b>

Eighty-five percent (85%) of Block Island residents support the goal of preserving 50% of the land on the island. Support is greatest among 35-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who have lived on Block Island for less than 20 years, residents who retired to the area, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1.5 million.

**Lyme Disease Concerns**

**Would you say you are concerned about you or your family's exposure to tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease?**

<b>very concerned</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>somewhat concerned</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>not really concerned</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>unsure/refused</b>	<b>0%</b>

Eighty-four percent (84%) of Block Island residents are concerned with tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease. Residents over 65 years old, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who live on Block Island for less than 6 months each year, residents who retired to the area, homeowners, residents who pay real estate taxes on Block Island, and residents with homes valued under \$500,000 or over \$1 million are most likely to be very concerned.

**Support for Reducing the Deer Population**

**Would you support significantly reducing the deer population on Block Island, even if that means using lethal means to do so?**

<b>strongly support</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>somewhat support</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>someone oppose</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>strongly oppose</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>unsure/refused</b>	<b>1%</b>

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of Block Island residents support significantly reducing the deer population even if that means using lethal means. Greatest support is found among residents with annual family incomes over \$50,000, residents who live on Block Island for less than 9 months each year, residents who retired to the area, and residents with homes valued at \$1 million or above.

**In order to reduce the deer population on Block Island would you support the following measures:**

***allowing weekend hunting***

<b>yes</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>no</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>unsure/refused</b>	<b>4%</b>

Sixty-four percent (64%) of Block Island residents support allowing weekend hunting to reduce the deer population. Strongest support for weekend hunting is found among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who live on Block Island for less than 9 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island for less than five years, residents who rent for part of the year, residents with homes valued under \$500,000 or at \$1.5-\$2 million.

***managed hunts***

<b>yes</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>no</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>unsure/refused</b>	<b>12%</b>

Eighty-five percent (85%) of Block Island residents support managed hunts to reduce the deer population. Support for managed hunts is greatest among 18-34 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who live on Block Island for less than 6 months each year, residents who live on Block Island because it is a good place to live, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, and residents with homes valued under \$1 million or over \$1.5 million.

***baiting***

<b>yes</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>no</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>unsure/refused</b>	<b>9%</b>

Seventy-one percent (71%) of Block Island residents support using baiting to reduce the deer population. Support for baiting is greatest among 51-65 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$20,000 or over \$100,000, year-round residents, residents who retired to the area, residents who are registered to vote on Block Island, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1million.

***allowing bow hunting on Block Island conservation lands?***

<b>yes</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>no</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>unsure/refused</b>	<b>3%</b>

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Block Island residents support allowing bow hunting on Block Island conservation lands. Greatest support for bow hunting is found among 18-34 year old residents, residents over 65 years old, residents with annual family incomes under \$20,000 or over \$100,000, residents who live on the island less than 6 months each year, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, part-time renters, residents with homes valued at \$1 -\$1.5 million, and women.

***allowing shotgun hunting on Block Island conservation lands?***

<b><i>yes</i></b>	<b><i>76%</i></b>
<b><i>no</i></b>	<b><i>19%</i></b>
<b><i>unsure/refused</i></b>	<b><i>05%</i></b>

Seventy nine percent (79%) of Block Island residents support allowing shotgun hunting on Block Island conservation lands to reduce the deer population. Support for shotgun hunting is strongest among 18-34 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$20,000 or over \$100,000, residents who have lived on the island 5-20 years, residents who live on Block Island because it is a good place to live, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, and residents with homes valued at over \$1.5 million.

**Importance of Land Trust Goals**

***How important is it for the Block Island Land Trust. . .***

***to buy land to protect the scenic rural views and landscapes on Block Island?***

<b><i>very important</i></b>		<b><i>65%</i></b>
<b><i>somewhat important</i></b>	<b><i>21%</i></b>	
<b><i>somewhat unimportant</i></b>		<b><i>4%</i></b>
<b><i>not really an important</i></b>		<b><i>10%</i></b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>		<b><i>0%</i></b>

Eighty-six percent (86%) of Block Island residents say it is important for the Block Island Land Trust to buy land to protect scenic rural views and landscapes. This sentiment is strongest among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$20,00-\$50,000 or over \$100,000, residents who live on Block Island less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on the island for less than 5 years, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, and residents with homes valued at \$1.5-\$2 million.

***to provide a safe habitat for many types of birds, as well as, rare and endangered plants and animals?***

<b><i>very important</i></b>		<b><i>57%</i></b>
<b><i>somewhat important</i></b>	<b><i>31%</i></b>	
<b><i>somewhat unimportant</i></b>		<b><i>4%</i></b>
<b><i>not really an important</i></b>		<b><i>7%</i></b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>		<b><i>1%</i></b>

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Block Island residents say it is important for the BILT to provide a safe habitat for birds and rare or endangered plants and animals. This view is strongest among 35-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000, residents who have lived on Block Island all their lives, residents who grew up in the area, renters, and residents with homes valued at \$1.5-\$2 million.

***to buy land which could be used for recreational purposes such as walking, fishing and bird watching?***

<b><i>very important</i></b>		<b>55%</b>
<b><i>somewhat important</i></b>	<b>29%</b>	
<b><i>somewhat unimportant</i></b>		<b>4%</b>
<b><i>not really an important</i></b>		<b>11%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>		<b>1%</b>

Eighty-four percent (84%) of Block Island residents say it is important for the BILT to buy land which can be used for recreational purposes. This view is most prevalent among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual household incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000, residents who have lived on the island 5-20 years, residents who came to Block Island because of a job opportunity, renters, year-round renters, residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1million or \$1.5-\$2 million.

***to buy land which could be used for parks and outdoor sports like baseball and soccer?***

<b><i>very important</i></b>		<b>24%</b>
<b><i>somewhat important</i></b>	<b>37%</b>	
<b><i>somewhat unimportant</i></b>		<b>10%</b>
<b><i>not really an important</i></b>		<b>28%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>		<b>1%</b>

Sixty-one percent (61%) of Block Island residents say it is important for the BILT to buy land which can be used for parks and outdoor sports. Support for parks is strongest among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000, residents who have lived on the island for 5-20 years, residents who came to Block Island for a job opportunity, year-round renters, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million or \$1.5-\$2 million.

***to purchase open space on the island to keep it from being developed?***

<b><i>very important</i></b>		<b>60%</b>
<b><i>somewhat important</i></b>	<b>22%</b>	
<b><i>somewhat unimportant</i></b>		<b>8%</b>
<b><i>not really an important</i></b>		<b>10%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>		<b>0%</b>

Eighty-two percent (82%) of Block Island residents say it is important for the BILT to purchase open space to keep it from being developed. This view is strongest among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who live on Block Island less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on the island less than 5 years, residents who retired to the area, residents with homes valued at over \$1.5 million, and women.

**to protect clean, freshwater resources?**

<b>very important</b>		<b>83%</b>
<b>somewhat important</b>	<b>13%</b>	
<b>somewhat unimportant</b>		<b>1%</b>
<b>not really an important</b>		<b>3%</b>
<b>unsure</b>		<b>0%</b>

Ninety-six percent (96%) of Block Island residents say it is important for the Block Island Land Trust to protect clean, freshwater resources. Nearly three-quarters of all significant subgroups say this is very important.

**to provide land for community gardens?**

<b>very important</b>		<b>25%</b>
<b>somewhat important</b>	<b>40%</b>	
<b>somewhat unimportant</b>		<b>11%</b>
<b>not really an important</b>		<b>21%</b>
<b>unsure</b>		<b>3%</b>

Sixty-five percent (65%) of Block Island residents say it is important for the BILT to provide land for community gardens. This sentiment is most prevalent among 51-65 year old residents, residents who live on Block Island for less than 6 months each year, residents who grew up on the island, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, renters, and residents with homes valued at \$1.5-\$2 million.

**Affordable Housing Views**

**Do you feel the availability of affordable year-round housing on Block Island is a serious problem?**

<b>very serious problem</b>		<b>34%</b>
<b>somewhat serious problem</b>		<b>37%</b>
<b>not really a serious problem</b>		<b>16%</b>
<b>not a problem</b>		<b>13%</b>
<b>unsure</b>		<b>0%</b>

Seventy-one percent (71%) of Block Island residents feel the availability of affordable year-round housing on the island is a serious problem. Residents most likely to say affordable year-round housing is a very serious problem include a higher percentage of 51-65 year old residents, residents who have lived on Block Island for 20 years or more, residents who grew up on the island or moved to Block Island because of a job opportunity, year-round renters, and residents with homes valued at \$1-\$1.5 million.

***Block Island has met the state's requirement of providing 10% affordable housing. Do you think there still needs to be more affordable housing built?***

<b><i>yes</i></b>	<b>58%</b>
<b><i>no</i></b>	<b>33%</b>
<b><i>unsure/refused</i></b>	<b>9%</b>

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of Block Island residents report that they think there still needs to be affordable housing built regardless that the state requirement of 10% has been met. This view is most prevalent among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, year-round residents, residents who have lived on the island for 20 years or more, residents who moved to Block Island because of a job opportunity, year-round renters, and women.

***Should Block Island build more affordable housing for seasonal residents or year round residents?***

<b><i>seasonal residents</i></b>	<b>0%</b>
<b><i>year round residents</i></b>	<b>97%</b>
<b><i>both</i></b>	<b>3%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>0%</b>

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Block Island residents say Block Island should build more affordable housing for year-round residents.

**Reaction to Statements**

***I think the size of houses being built on Block Island are too big and are changing the character of the island.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>53%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>23%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>16%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>6%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>2%</b>

Seventy-six percent (76%) of the residents think the size of the houses being built on Block Island are too big and are changing the character of the island. This view is strongest among 35-65 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, year-round residents, residents who have lived on Block Island less than 20 years, residents who retired to the area, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million.

***The Town should develop stricter regulations regarding the tearing down of existing homes.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>31%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>33%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>19%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>12%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>5%</b>

Sixty-four percent (64%) of Block Island residents report that they think the town should develop stricter regulations regarding the tearing down of existing homes. Young residents (18-34), residents with annual family incomes under \$20,000, residents who live on Block Island 6-9 months each year, residents who have lived on the island all their lives, residents who have lived on the island less than 5 years, residents who grew up on the island, residents who retired to the area, and residents with homes valued under \$500,000 or at \$1-\$1.5 million are the most likely to hold this view.

***The Historic District Commission's oversight should be expanded to include other historically important structures outside the historic district.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>30%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>28%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>17%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>22%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>3%</b>

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of Block Island residents think the Historic District Commission's oversight should be expanded to include other historically important structures outside the historic district. Groups most likely to hold this view include 18-34 year old residents, residents over 65 years old, residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, residents who live on Block Island less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on the island less than 5 years, residents who retired to the area, residents with homes valued at less than \$500,000 or at \$1.5-\$2 million, and women.

***While tourism is important, there are too many visitors coming to Block Island.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>20%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>25%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>22%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>29%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>4%</b>

Block Island residents are somewhat divided (45:51) with regard to tourism on the island. The majority (51%) disagree there are too many visitor coming to Block Island. This view is most prevalent among 35-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who have lived on the island for less than 5 years, part-time renters, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million or over \$2 million.

Forty-five percent (45%) of residents agree with the above statement. This sentiment is strongest among 18-34 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, residents who live on Block Island 6-9 months each year, residents who have lived on the island all their lives, residents who grew up on Block Island, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, year-round renters, and residents with homes valued at under \$500,000 or at \$1.5-\$2 million.

***The town should create its own Port Authority which can give Block Island control of its harbors and regulate the points of entry on the island.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>43%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>22%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>13%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>17%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>5%</b>

Sixty-five percent (65%) of Block Island residents think the town should create its own Port Authority which can give Block Island control of its harbors and regulate the points of entry on the island. This view is strongest among 18-34 and 51-65 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$20,000 or over \$100,000, residents who have lived on Block Island for 20 years or more, residents who retired to the island, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, and residents with homes valued at under \$500,000 or at \$1.2-\$2 million.

***About 43% of Block Island has already been set aside for open space. We do not need to acquire more land for open space.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>19%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>14%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>21%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>45%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>1%</b>

Two-thirds (66%) of the residents disagree with the above statement. Disagreement is strongest among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who live on Block Island less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on the island less than 5 years, residents who came to the island because of a job opportunity, residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million, and women.

***Growth, development and overcrowding are hurting the quality of life on Block Island.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>17%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>25%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>29%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>23%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>6%</b>

Fifty-two percent (52%) of residents do not agree that growth, development and overcrowding are hurting the quality of life on Block Island. Disagreement is strongest among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000, year round residents, residents who came to Block Island for a job opportunity, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1million or over \$1.5 million.

Forty-two percent (42%) of Block Island residents agree with the above statement. Strongest agreement is found among residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, residents who live on the island less than 9 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island all their lives, residents who grew up on the island, residents who retired to the island, year-round residents, and residents with homes valued at less than \$500,000.

***We owe it to our children and grandchildren to do more to protect the scenic views and landscape on Block Island.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>56%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>28%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>10%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>5%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>1%</b>

Eighty-four percent (84%) of residents agree they owe it to their children and grandchildren to do more to protect the scenic views and landscape on Block Island. This sentiment is most prevalent among 18-34 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$20,000-\$50,000, residents who live on the island less than 9 months each year, residents who are not registered to vote on Blocks Island, renters, and residents with homes valued at less than \$500,000 or at \$1.5-\$2 million.

***The Town should continue to resist expansion of marinas in New Harbor.***

<b><i>strongly agree</i></b>	<b>69%</b>
<b><i>somewhat agree</i></b>	<b>16%</b>
<b><i>somewhat disagree</i></b>	<b>1%</b>
<b><i>strongly disagree</i></b>	<b>9%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>5%</b>

Eighty-five percent (85%) of residents agree that the town should continue to resist expansion of marinas in New Harbor. This view is strongest among 35-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000, residents who live on the island less than 6 months each years, residents who have lived on Block Island 5-20 years, residents who retired to the area, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, part-time residents, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1,000,000.

**Electric Rate Proposals**

***Would you support building an offshore wind farm off the southeast coast of Block Island which would include a cable to the mainland?***

<b><i>strongly support</i></b>	<b>41%</b>
<b><i>somewhat support</i></b>	<b>22%</b>
<b><i>somewhat oppose</i></b>	<b>4%</b>
<b><i>strongly oppose</i></b>	<b>27%</b>
<b><i>unsure</i></b>	<b>6%</b>

Sixty-three percent (63%) of Block Island residents support building an offshore wind farm off the southeast coast of Block Island which would include a cable to the mainland. Support is strongest among 35-50 year old residents, year-round residents, residents who have lived on the island for more than 5 years, residents who grew up on the island, and residents with homes valued at under \$1 million.

**Would you support the town building a municipal wind turbine to help reduce the cost of electricity?**

<b>strongly support</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>somewhat support</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>somewhat oppose</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>strongly oppose</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>unsure</b>	<b>11%</b>

Sixty-two percent (62%) of residents support the town building a municipal wind turbine to help reduce the cost of electricity. Greatest support for a municipal wind turbine is found among 18-65 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes less than \$50,000, year round residents, residents who have lived on Block Island all their lives or less than 5 years, residents who grew up on the island, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, and residents with homes valued at under \$1 million.

**Fertilizer Types**

**Do you support the Land Trust policy of only using organic and natural fertilizers as opposed to synthetic fertilizer on its properties?**

<b>strongly support</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>somewhat support</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>somewhat oppose</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>strongly oppose</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>unsure</b>	<b>13%</b>

Over half (52%) of Block Island residents support the Land Trust policy of only using organic and natural fertilizers as opposed to synthetic fertilizer on its properties. Support for this policy is strongest among 18-65 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$20,000-\$50,000 or over \$100,000, residents who have lived on Block Island all their lives or less than 5 years, residents who grew up on the island, residents who think Block Island is a good place to live, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, and year-round renters.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) strongly oppose this policy.

## Views on Groups

### *The Nature Conservancy*

<i>excellent</i>	<b>49%</b>
<i>good</i>	<b>36%</b>
<i>fair</i>	<b>10%</b>
<i>poor</i>	<b>2%</b>
<i>recognize but can't rate</i>	<b>3%</b>
<i>don't recognize</i>	<b>0%</b>

Eighty-five percent (85%) of Block Island residents have a positive view of the Nature Conservancy with nearly half (49%) of the residents saying they have done an excellent job in terms of protecting the environment or determining land use policy on Block Island. Residents who think they have done an excellent job include higher percentages of 18-50 year old residents, residents with homes valued under \$50,000 or over \$100,000, year-round residents, residents who have lived on Block Island for 20 year or less, residents who live on the island because it is a good place to live, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, homeowners, year-round renters, residents who pay taxes on Block Island, residents with homes valued at \$1 million-\$2 million, and women.

### *The Town Council*

<i>excellent</i>	<b>6%</b>
<i>good</i>	<b>44%</b>
<i>fair</i>	<b>24%</b>
<i>poor</i>	<b>22%</b>
<i>recognize but can't rate</i>	<b>2%</b>
<i>don't recognize</i>	<b>2%</b>

Block Island residents are fairly evenly divided (50:46) in their support of the Town Council. Half (50%) of residents give the council positive ratings with greatest support found among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$100,000, residents who have lived on the island less than 6 months, residents who came to Block Island because of a job opportunity, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1.5 million, and women.

Forty-six percent (46%) of residents do not feel the Town Council is doing a good job in terms of protecting the environment or determining land use policy on Block Island. This sentiment is strongest among 51-65 year old residents, residents who live on the island 6-9 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island all their lives or less than 5 years, part-time residents, and residents with homes valued at under \$500,000 or at \$1.5-\$2 million.

### ***The Block Island Land Trust***

<b><i>excellent</i></b>	<b>31%</b>
<b><i>good</i></b>	<b>43%</b>
<b><i>fair</i></b>	<b>16%</b>
<b><i>poor</i></b>	<b>7%</b>
<b><i>recognize but can't rate</i></b>	<b>3%</b>
<b><i>don't recognize</i></b>	<b>0%</b>

Seventy-four percent (74%) of Block Island residents feel the Block Island Land Trust is doing a good job in terms of protecting the environment or determining land use policy on Block Island. This view is most prevalent among 35-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes over \$50,000, residents who have lived on Block Island less than 5 years, residents who live on the island because it is a good place to live, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$2 million, and women.

### ***The Block Island Conservancy***

<b><i>excellent</i></b>	<b>46%</b>
<b><i>good</i></b>	<b>41%</b>
<b><i>fair</i></b>	<b>8%</b>
<b><i>poor</i></b>	<b>4%</b>
<b><i>recognize but can't rate</i></b>	<b>1%</b>
<b><i>don't recognize</i></b>	<b>0%</b>

Eighty-six percent (86%) of residents report that they feel the Block Island Conservancy is doing a good job in terms of protecting the environment or determining land use policy on Block Island. Residents most likely to feel this way include 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, year-round residents, residents who have lived on the island less than 20 years, residents who retired to Block Island, residents who live on the island because it is a good place to live, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, year-round renters, residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million or \$1.5-\$2 million, and women.

### ***The Block Island Planning Board***

<b><i>excellent</i></b>	<b>7%</b>
<b><i>good</i></b>	<b>37%</b>
<b><i>fair</i></b>	<b>30%</b>
<b><i>poor</i></b>	<b>15%</b>
<b><i>recognize but can't rate</i></b>	<b>8%</b>
<b><i>don't recognize</i></b>	<b>3%</b>

Block Island residents are fairly evenly divided (44:45) as to whether or not The Block Island Planning Board is doing a good job in terms of protecting the environment or determining land use policy on the island. Forty-five percent (45%) of residents do not feel the planning board is doing a good job. This sentiment is strongest among 35-50 year old residents and residents over 65, residents with annual family incomes of \$20,000-\$30,000 or over \$100,000, residents who live on the island 6-9 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island for more than 20 years, residents who retired to the area, residents with annual family incomes under \$500,000, and residents with homes valued at over \$1.5 million.

Forty-four percent (44%) of residents give the planning board positive ratings with greatest support found among 18-34 year old and 51-65 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$20,000-\$50,000 or over \$100,000, residents who live on the island less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island for less than 5 years, residents who grew up on the island, residents who came to Block Island because of a job opportunity, and residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1.5 million.

### ***The Block Island Zoning Board***

<b><i>excellent</i></b>	<b>3%</b>
<b><i>good</i></b>	<b>42%</b>
<b><i>fair</i></b>	<b>36%</b>
<b><i>poor</i></b>	<b>14%</b>
<b><i>recognize but can't rate</i></b>	<b>3%</b>
<b><i>don't recognize</i></b>	<b>2%</b>

Half (50%) of Block Island residents feel the Block Island Zoning Board is not doing a good job in terms of protecting the environment or determining land use policy on the island. This view is strongest among residents with annual family incomes under \$20,000, residents who live on the island 6-9 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island for more than 20 years, residents who came to the island for a job opportunity, residents who are not registered to vote on Block Island, renters, and residents with homes valued at under \$500,000 or over \$2 million.

Forty-five percent (45%) of residents give the zoning board positive ratings with greatest support found among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000, residents who live on the island less than 6 months each year, residents who have lived on Block Island all their lives, residents who grew up on the island, residents who pay real estate taxes on Block Island, and residents with homes valued at \$50,000-\$2 million.

### ***The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

<i>excellent</i>	11%
<i>good</i>	46%
<i>fair</i>	12%
<i>poor</i>	9%
<i>recognize but can't rate</i>	16%
<i>don't recognize</i>	6%

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of Block Island residents feel the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is doing a good job in terms of protecting the environment or determining land use policy on the island. This sentiment is strongest among 18-50 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, residents who have lived on Block Island for less than 20 years, residents who retired to the area or came to the island for a job opportunity, year-round renters, residents with homes valued at \$1.5-\$2 million, and women.

### ***Block Island Conservation Commission***

<i>excellent</i>	15%
<i>good</i>	38%
<i>fair</i>	19%
<i>poor</i>	6%
<i>recognize but can't rate</i>	16%
<i>don't recognize</i>	6%

Fifty-three percent (53%) of residents think the Block Island Conservation Commission is doing a good job. This view is strongest among 18-34 year old residents, residents with annual family incomes under \$50,000, residents who live on the island 6-9 months year, residents who have lived on Block Island for more than 20 years, residents who are not registered to vote, residents with homes valued at \$500,000-\$1 million, and women.

### **Conclusions**

- **A large majority (83%) favor protection of more land on Block Island.**

More people feel the island is being developed too fast (30%) than too slowly (8%). A large majority of the residents (85%) favor meeting the goal of protecting 50% of the land on Block Island.

- **Eighty-four percent (84%) are concerned about Lyme disease.**

The concern for Lyme disease is reflected in the residents support for reducing the number of deer on Block Island. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the residents say the number of deer should be reduced. The most acceptable solutions in rank order are bow hunting (87%), managed hunts (85%), allowing shot gun hunting on conservation land (76%), baiting (71%), and permitting weekend hunting (64%).

- **There are three strong reasons residents feel more land must be preserved.**

The top reason residents favor preservation of land is to protect the fresh water supply on Block Island (96%, with 83% very important). The second strongest reason is to preserve the scenic beauty and rural landscape (86%, 65% very important). The third strongest reason is to keep the remaining open space from being developed (82%, 60% very important)

- **Seventy-one percent (71%) say affordable housing is a problem, but only 34% say it is a very serious problem.**

A majority of residents (58%) say there needs to be more affordable housing on Block Island. Virtually everyone (97%) say the housing should be for year round residents.

- **The strongest attitude about the future relates to New Harbor.**

The only idea tested which reached near a consensus is the opposition to the expansion of New Harbor. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the residents agree the Town should continue to oppose the expansion, with 69% strongly agreeing with the statement.

- **There is majority support for wind power, but not great intensity in the support.**

Sixty-three percent (63%) of residents support having an off-shore wind farm, but only 41% strongly support the idea. Sixty-two percent (62%) of residents support building a municipal wind turbine, but only 34% strongly support this idea.

- **The non-profit groups have much more credibility with the residents than any governmental group.**

The three groups with the highest positive ratings are the Block Island Conservancy (86%), The Nature Conservancy (85%), and the Block Island Land Trust (74%).