

Board Meeting Information Now Available Online

A new web portal now allows citizens access to more information regarding upcoming and past Board of Commissioners meetings. The portal contains links to downloadable agendas, full agenda packets, summaries, minutes and videos.

To reach the portal, visit www.co.rice.mn.us (the home page) and use the drop-down menu: Government > Board of Commissioners > Agendas, Minutes & Videos. You can then search for meetings by date, and links to the available files will appear.

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www.co.rice.mn.us

Dundas • Faribault
Lonsdale • Morristown
Nerstrand • Northfield
Warsaw • Webster

Environmental Services Partners With Epic Enterprise for Summer Work Crew

Rice County Environmental Services and Parks/Facilities are pleased to begin a new partnership with Epic Enterprise, Inc. in Dundas. Epic is a private, non-profit agency dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities in the Northfield, Faribault and surrounding areas. Their mission is to invest in individuals with disabilities as they pursue opportunities to actively participate in the broader community.

Epic was looking for summer employment opportunities for one of their work crews and contacted the Parks/Facilities office – and a perfect connection was made. An Epic crew now works for the county, at the landfill and at the county parks. A job coach accompanies the crew and oversees each day's work. "Our crew members really love their work," says Epic Employment Liaison Kathy Topp. "This is a win/win situation for everyone involved."

Topp feels there is so much to be gained by both the employer and the workers in the work place. The people on the crews often bring enthusiasm, dedication and quality work to the jobs, and the employers often discover



The Epic crew working at King Mill Park, l-r: Dorothy Sherrill, Janelle Eiler, Bill Sorbel, Chris Montanye and Tyler Bleckwehl.

what a valuable resource they have gained. The experience for both the employer and the workers is often invaluable.

This partnership has been a great opportunity for Rice County to get a much-needed service accomplished. "The Epic crew has been great to work with, and they serve an important role in helping us provide waste management services and clean parks to the citizens of Rice County," says Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel.

County Residents Invited to Participate in Survey

The Rice County Board of Commissioners is interested in hearing from you. We are inviting all adult Rice County residents to complete the four-page survey found inside this newsletter. If you would prefer to take the survey online, you may use the link posted on the home page of the county website – www.co.rice.mn.us.

The purpose of the survey is to ask for opinions and observations related to Rice County, and learn how our citizens feel about the services they receive from the county.

You may respond to the survey in the following ways:

- Complete the printed survey and mail it to: Rice County Government Center, 320 3rd Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021.

- Complete the survey online at www.co.rice.mn.us.
- Pick up a survey at the Rice County Government Center and submit it there.
- Pick up a survey from a Rice County booth at the Rice County Fair and submit it at the fair.

Thank you for sharing your opinions and observations related to Rice County. Survey results will be tabulated and discussed publicly at a future Rice County Board of Commissioners meeting. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Rice County Administrator Tony Murphy at 507-332-6121 or by email at amurphy@co.rice.mn.us.

On The Web

Free Wi-Fi, Online Reservations at McCullough Park

For a nearby getaway this summer, visit McCullough Park, Rice County's campground on Shields Lake.

Located on the north side of Shields Lake, 11 miles northwest of Faribault, McCullough Park offers visitors much to explore, including 750 feet of shoreline, scenic bluffs, beautiful over-looks, natural trails, and a six-acre island bird sanctuary. An adjacent DNR boat access gets those who want to fish onto the 940-acre lake.

The park features 30 campsites (20 with electrical and water hook-up and 10 without water or electric), all with picnic tables and fire rings. Three of the camping sites are accessible to campers with disabilities. Park amenities include modern toilet and shower facilities, an RV dump station, a picnic shelter, children's play area, a new dock, as well as free Wi-Fi access.

Visit www.webreserv.com/ricecountyenvironmental servicesmn to make online reservations. For traditional reservations, call 507-332-6112 or email RCCamping@co.rice.mn.us.

For more information about McCullough and other Rice County parks, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/parks-facilities.

Recycling/Landfill 2014 Summary and Facts

2014 Summary

- The Rice County landfill took in over 41,000 tons of solid waste. That's equivalent to the weight of over 8,200 elephants!
- Rice County recycled 2,606 appliances, 205.23 tons of electronics and eight semi loads of tires.
- Single stream/co-mingled recycling from Rice County households accounted for 7,135.57 tons of material recycled, keeping it out of the landfill. Add to that the 3,452 tons of cardboard recycled, and the number climbs to 10,587.57 tons.
- The Rice County landfill recycled 57.3 tons of ferrous metal.

Recycling Facts

- Preventing one ton of paper waste saves between 15 and 17 mature trees.
- Paper can account for as much as 60 percent of school waste.
- It takes 95% less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials.

- Recycling one aluminum beverage can saves enough energy to run a computer for three hours or a TV for two hours. Recycling one plastic bottle will power a computer for 25 minutes.
- If don't recycle your plastic, it can take 100 to 400 years for it to break down in a landfill. It takes a glass bottle approximately one million years to break down in a landfill.
- According to the Steel Recycling Institute, steel recycling in the United States saves the amount of energy required to power about one-fifth of American households for one year.
- Each year, more than 350 million inkjet and laser cartridges are thrown away, and 35 million cell phones are disposed of.
- Instead of throwing away your old and unused junk, consider upcycling. Upcycling is the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value.

'Tis the Season; Be Prepared for Road Construction

Law enforcement, safety and transportation officials nationwide are drawing attention to the problems that impaired and/or distracted driving causes, and accident rates prove that construction zones are dangerous places. The Highway Department reminds everyone to slow down in construction zones, plan for extra time and expect delays. Because state, county and city agencies have different resources and responsibilities, you may not always know in advance that the route you use for going to

work, home or recreational travel has now become an active construction zone.

The Rice County Highway Department presents its construction projects on the county website, www.co.rice.mn.us/construction-projects, and most counties across the state do the same. MnDOT (www.dot.state.mn.us), also lists active construction projects. In a few keystrokes, you can usually get information on your pending travel routes and be prepared for any road construction along the way.

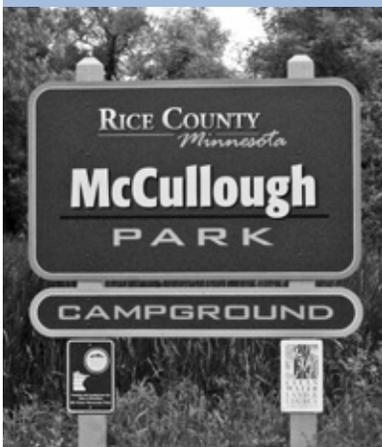
Visit us at the 2015 Rice County Fair!

Do you want to know more about what is going on in county government? Visit this year's Rice County Fair, where these departments will be on hand with displays, handouts and giveaways.

- **Environmental Services**
- **Rice County Public Health** – The theme this year is "healthy homes." The key purpose is to promote healthy housing for all Minnesotans with a goal to empower residents to live in homes that are dry, clean, safe, well ventilated, pest-free,

contaminant-free and well maintained. Staff will also cover the health effects of tobacco/second-hand smoke and the importance of preventive health care.

- **The Sheriff's Office** will be present in the usual location (across from the 4-H building near the parking lot) in a new Mobile Command bus, which replaced their 30-year-old camper trailer. Staff will be available to answer any questions you have, and provide public safety and first aid to those in need at the fair.



Attend The 2015 Rice County Fair!

It's time for the Rice County Fair – some of the most exciting days of the summer! Every year, members of the Fair Board work hard to bring different events and exhibits to the fair.

Admission to the Rice County Fair is free. Parking on the grounds costs \$5 per day or a weekly fee of \$20.

You will be able to see more than 100 commercial exhibits, lots of animals and exciting entertainment all week long. This list is a

preview of just some of the great entertainment on tap this year. Visit our website and check the full schedule published just prior to the fair.

Please remember: Pets, skateboards, bikes, inline skates or roller skates are NOT allowed on the fairgrounds. (There are exceptions for service animals and pets allowed for exhibition, demonstration or show.) Please help ensure the safety of all our visitors. Enjoy the 2015 Fair!

2015 Entertainment Highlights

Grandstand

Tues., July 21	Night of Carnage Races – 7 p.m.
Wed., July 22	Enduro Auto Races – 7 p.m.
Thurs., July 23	Lawn Mower Racing – 7 p.m.
Fri., July 24	Professional Bull Riding – 7 p.m.
Sat., July 25	NTPA Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
Sun., July 26	Demolition Derby – 6:30 p.m.



Beer Garden Entertainment (Live Music: 8 p.m.–midnight; no cover charge)

Thurs., July 23	Old Country Boys
Fri., July 24	Devon Worley
Sat., July 25	Mister Peabody

Cannon Stage (Free Entertainment)

Wed., July 22	Patty Anderson – Noon, 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tuey, Juggler – 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tom Anderson, Magician – 6 p.m.
Thurs., July 23	Patty Anderson – 2–5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tuey, Juggler – 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tom Anderson, Magician – 7 p.m.
Fri., July 24	Patty Anderson – Noon, 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tuey, Juggler – 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tom Anderson, Magician – 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sat., July 25	Tom Anderson, Magician – 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Karaoke Finals – 5:30 p.m. Patty Anderson – 8 p.m.
Sun., July 26	Patty Anderson – Noon and 4:30 p.m. Bensons – 12:30 p.m., Don Grub – 1:30 p.m., Gretta Jakeubson – 2 p.m., Lisa Quimby – 2:30 p.m., Andy Tacket – 3 p.m., Barb Piper – 4 p.m.

Midway Stage (Free Entertainment)

Wed., July 22	Rockin' Hollywoods – 7–10 p.m.
Thurs., July 23	Lindon Peterson – 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Whitesidewalls – 7–10 p.m.
Fri., July 24	Czech Singers – 1 p.m. Czech Dancers – 2 p.m. Czech Concertina – 3 p.m. Concertina Talk – 4 p.m. Charlie Sticha Band – 7–10 p.m.
Sat., July 25	4-H Talent Show – 2 p.m. Sherwin Linten – 6 p.m.
Sun., July 26	Amateur Talent Contest – 12 p.m. 4-H Fashion Revue – 3 p.m. 4-H Parade of Champions – 4 p.m.

County Profile



Becky Aase

Clerk
Rice County Landfill

Becky Aase began working as a clerk at the Rice County Landfill in 1991. This was her first full-time job, and she is still here – and still loving it. She says, “I adore it here. I’ve known most of the haulers since I started, and it’s so nice to see the same faces every day. It’s such a relaxed atmosphere, out in the country, where most of our customers are happy to be here, getting rid of stuff that has been in their way.”

As a clerk, her main duty is the truck scale, weighing trash, recycling and demolition trucks. She also weighs in the public haulers and charges them for each load or any extra appliances, TVs, tires, etc. they bring, which is a full-time job during the warmer months. Her duties also include recording and vouchering the accounts payable, sending monthly hauler bills, and processing hauler rebates and recycling reimbursements.

Aase was born in Spooner, Wis., but moved to Faribault, where she graduated from high school and South Central Technical College. Her main hobbies are being in the sun as much as possible, camping and watching sports. “I love our home in the country, it’s a vacation just to be there with the peace and serenity. Add to that my beautiful daughter, Mercedes, my very patient husband, Tom, and my great friends, and my life is pretty much perfect.”

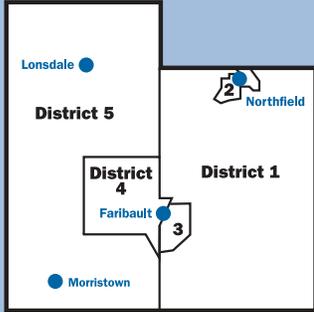


Rice County Report

Rice County Government Services Building
320 NW Third Street
Faribault, MN 55021

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Contacts



Rice County Board of Commissioners (as of January 1, 2015)

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dmiller@co.rice.mn.us

District 4
Steve Bauer
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sbauer@co.rice.mn.us

District 5
Jeff Docken
952-652-2876
jdocken@co.rice.mn.us

Phone Numbers

General Information 507-332-6100
Toll-Free Numbers (do not dial "1" or area code)
From Northfield 645-9576
From Lonsdale 744-5185

Rice County Standing Meetings

Board of Commissioners
Meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month as a Committee of the Whole/Work Session, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month as a Regular Board, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Board of Adjustment
Meets the first Thursday of the month; 7:00 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Planning Commission
Meets the first Thursday of the month, immediately following the Board of Adjustment meeting, Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Community Corrections Advisory Board
Meets the third Thursday of March, June, September and December, 3:30 p.m., Rice County Government Services Building.

Community Health Services Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meets the fourth Wednesday every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November), 6:30-8:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6111 for location.

Rice County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council
Meets quarterly, 7:00-9:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6119 for meeting date and location.

Mental Health Advisory Council
Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friendship House, located at 212-B Central Avenue, Faribault.

Rice County Departments

Administrator Tony Murphy
507-332-6101 amurphy@co.rice.mn.us
Assessor Paul Knutson
507-332-6102 pknutson@co.rice.mn.us
Attorney John Fossum
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Auditor/Treasurer Fran Windschitl
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Community Corrections Director Christine Curtis
507-332-6106 ccurtis@co.rice.mn.us
Court Administrator Hans Holland
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Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel
507-332-6113 jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us
Extension Regional Director LuAnn Hiniker
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507-333-3787 jwatson@co.rice.mn.us
Human Resource Manager Laurie Jandro
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Information Technology Director Kevin Schmidt
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Parks/Facilities Director Jake Rysavy
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Public Health & CHS Director Deb Purfeerst
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Recorder Judy VanErp
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Sheriff Troy Dunn
507-332-6010 tdunn@co.rice.mn.us
Social Services Director Mark Shaw
507-332-6115 mshaw@co.rice.mn.us
Veterans' Services Officer Tracy McBroom
507-332-6176 trmcbbroom@co.rice.mn.us



2015 Rice County Citizen Survey

The Rice County Board of Commissioners is interested in hearing from you!

Minnesota counties have been organized to be the administrative agencies of the state as well as a local government unit. Traditionally, counties perform state-mandated duties which include: assessment of property, record keeping (i.e., property and vital statistics), maintenance of rural roads, elections, judicial functions, poor relief, maintaining the peace, social services, veterans services, corrections, child protection, library support, public health services, planning and zoning, economic development, parks, water quality and solid waste management.

In many cases, the State of Minnesota mandates both “what” services and programs that counties must provide and “how” those activities are delivered, including: maintenance of effort requirements, cost shares and performance standards. However, the most important consideration should be how the citizens of Rice County feel about the services they receive from the county.

Therefore, we are inviting all adult Rice County residents to complete this survey. You may respond to the survey in the following ways:

- 1) Complete the survey contained in this newsletter and mail it back to:
Rice County Government Center
320 Third Street NW
Faribault, MN 55021
- 2) Complete the survey online through a link posted on the home page of the Rice County website – www.co.rice.mn.us.
- 3) Pick up a survey at the Rice County Government Center and submit it at the Government Center.
- 4) Pick up a survey from a Rice County booth at the Rice County Fair and submit it at the fair.

Thank you for sharing your opinions and observations related to Rice County. Survey results will be tabulated and discussed publicly at a future Rice County Board of Commissioners meeting. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Rice County Administrator Tony Murphy at 507-332-6121 or by email at amurphy@co.rice.mn.us.

1. In which city or township do you live?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dundas | <input type="checkbox"/> Webster Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Cannon City Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faribault | <input type="checkbox"/> Erin Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheeling Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lonsdale | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Morristown Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morristown | <input type="checkbox"/> Bridgewater Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Warsaw Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nerstrand | <input type="checkbox"/> Northfield Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Walcott Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Shieldsville Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Richland Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheatland Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Wells Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

2. Select the category that best describes your age.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 to 24 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 years and over |

3. Approximately how many years have you lived in Rice County?

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 to 20 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 30 years | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 30 years | |

4. How would you rate the overall quality of life in Rice County?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | |

5. What one thing do you like most about living in Rice County?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to family | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to Minneapolis/St. Paul | <input type="checkbox"/> People | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life in general | <input type="checkbox"/> Small town feel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe | <input type="checkbox"/> No Reason |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open space | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

6. For each listed issue, to what extent do you see the issue as a concern in Rice County?

	Major concern	Moderate concern	Minor concern	Not at all a concern	Don't know
Affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Affordable property	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Child abuse and neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Condition of bridges	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Condition of roads	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Crime	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Drinking and driving	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Economic growth/development	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Gang activity	<input type="checkbox"/>				

(continued on next page)

6. (continued) For each listed issue, to what extent do you see the issue as a concern in Rice County?

	Major concern	Moderate concern	Minor concern	Not at all a concern	Don't know
Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Keeping agriculture industry	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of business/attracting business	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of recreational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Loss of rural feel	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Politics/political issues	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Preserving natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Quality housing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Racism	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teen drug/alcohol abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teen pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Traffic congestion	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Traffic law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Zoning laws	<input type="checkbox"/>				

7. How would you rate the job the county does of informing its citizens?

Excellent Fair Don't know
 Good Poor

8. How do you rate the following services provided by Rice County?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not sure or No opinion
County parks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Road construction/maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sheriff services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Section 8 housing	<input type="checkbox"/>				

(continued on next page)

8. (continued) How do you rate the following services provided by Rice County?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not sure or No opinion
Veteran services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Environmental protection	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public health services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Services to seniors	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Services to youth	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Services to low income residents	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Child protection services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Snow and ice removal on county roads	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Records, vital statistics and passport services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Land use and planning	<input type="checkbox"/>				
County fair	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Landfill/recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>				

9. How safe do you feel living in Rice County from ...

	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neutral	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Violent crimes (e.g., assault, robbery, rape)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Nuisance crimes (e.g., vandalism, noise)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Traffic (e.g., speeding/violations/road rage)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Drugs/narcotics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Juvenile crime	<input type="checkbox"/>				

10. To what degree would you support or oppose an increase in your county property tax to maintain county services at their current levels?

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat oppose | <input type="checkbox"/> It depends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat support | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

11. On a scale of 1 to 5, how likely is it that you would recommend Rice County to a friend as a place to live?

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Not likely at all | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Very likely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | |