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## Summary Report: MHCC Spring 2026 Survey



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## Contents

	Page No.
Summary of Findings	2
Details	
Engagement with MHCC & Media Use	6
Presence in Morningside Heights	9
Survey Methodology	10

## Summary of Findings

Morningside Heights residents **are keen to maintain the neighborhood** they know.

They **want the Gates** that are **blocking non-affiliates access to Columbia's Morningside campus open**.

- Among 10 issues asked about, **opening the Gates is the issue of most concern among two-thirds (67%)** of survey respondents.
- When asked directly if the Gates should be opened, a full majority (94%) responded affirmatively.
- Engagement with MHCC is most common for the organization's planned demonstrations related to Columbia's actions and policies.

**Issues of concern that are also rated above the average (35%)** reflect an interest in the continued well-being of the Morningside Heights neighborhood.

- Empty storefronts/fewer small businesses, 53%
- Lack of affordable housing, 47%
- ICE in the neighborhood, 40%

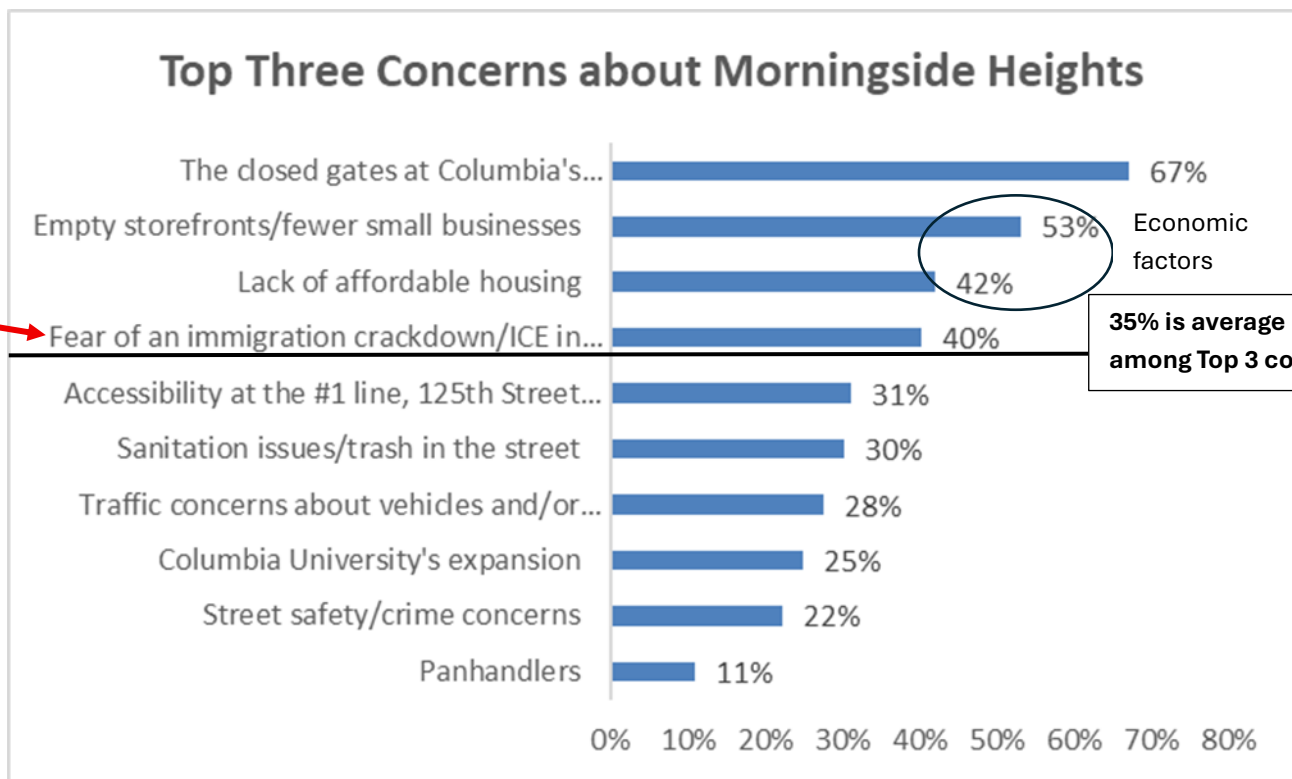
**Quality of life issues** in the neighborhood are currently less dominant concerns for the neighborhood.

- Sanitation/clean streets, 30%
- Vehicle and bike traffic, 28%
- Street safety/crime, 22%
- Panhandlers, 11%

**Columbia's expansion (22%)** is comparatively **less concerning** compared to the closed Gates (67%).

Mirroring increased reliance on web-based information, Morningside Heights residents are more likely to seek news from online news sources vs more traditional options. This is for news overall and local news, including MHCC's newsletter *The Morningsider*.

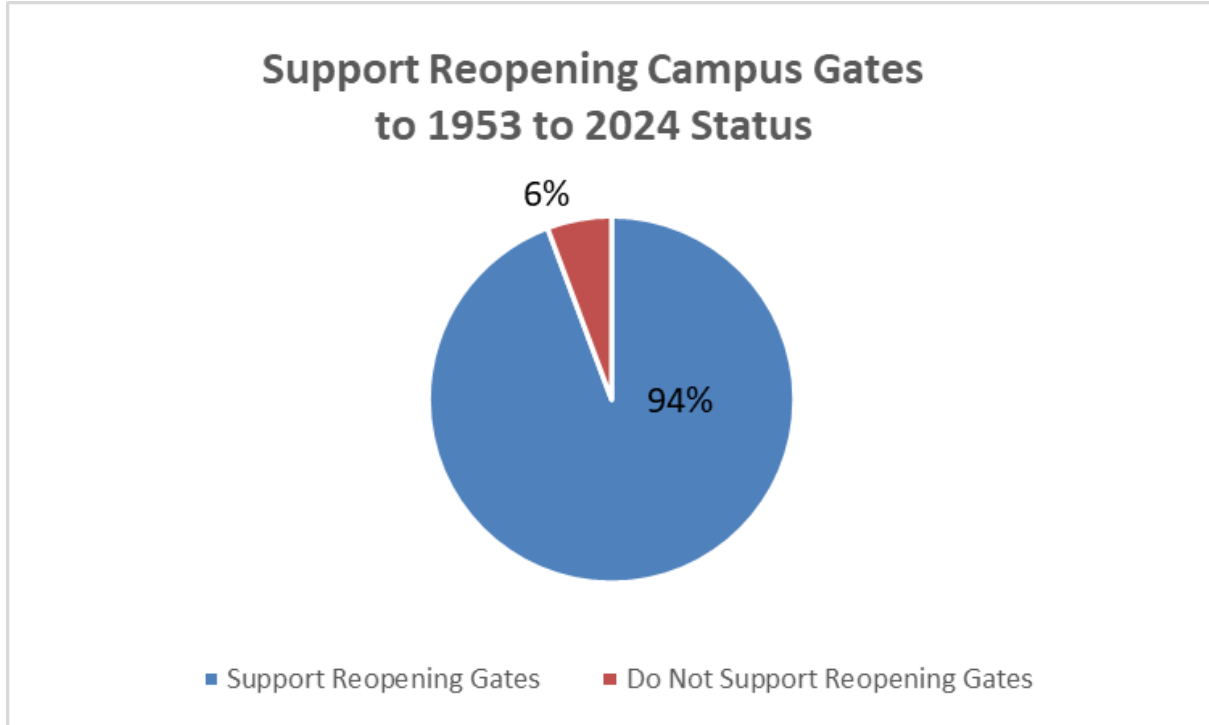
- Changes that have taken place in the neighborhood, especially actions taken by Columbia’s leadership, have shifted attention to Columbia separating itself from the neighborhood. That Columbia has turned its Morningside Heights campus into a “gated community” leads among neighborhood concerns.
- Economic stress points, *Affordable Housing and Local Small Businesses*, continue to be issues of concern.
- The welfare of immigrants in the neighborhood is comparatively more concerning than other quality-of-life issues like street cleanliness and traffic.



Base: Total Survey Respondents, n=228

Q. 5 Please indicate the top three areas of concern to you about the Morningside Heights neighborhood.

- **When asked directly, a full majority, 94%, want the gates at Columbia’s Morningside Campus open as they were for seven decades.**



Base: Total Survey Respondents, n=228

Q6. Do you support reopening the Columbia Morningside Heights campus, restoring the situation to that which existed from 1953 to 2024? (Opening the Gates)

## **The Survey Sample**

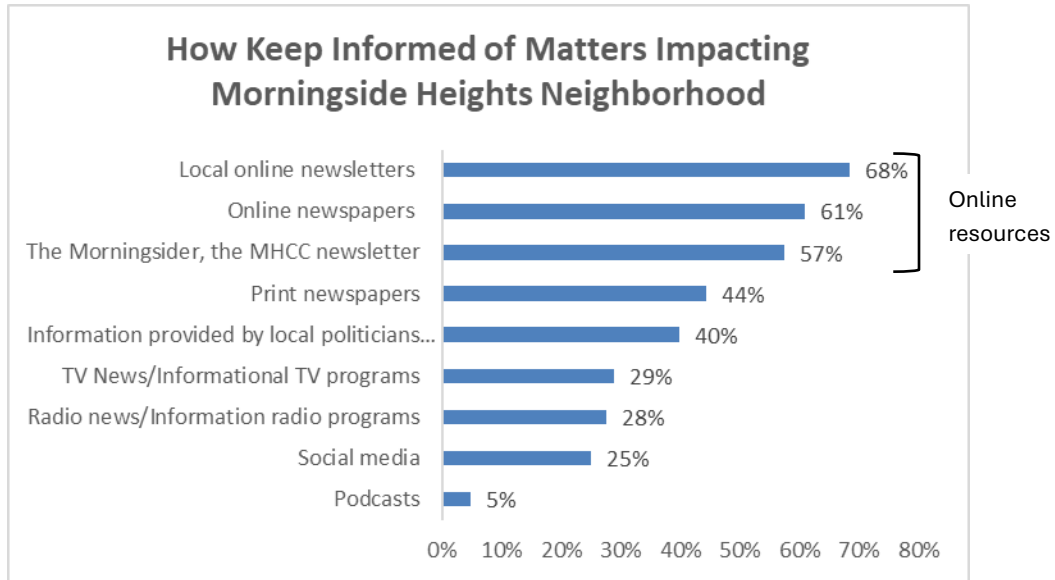
Engagement With MHCC

Media Use/Sources for News & Information

Presence in Morningside Heights

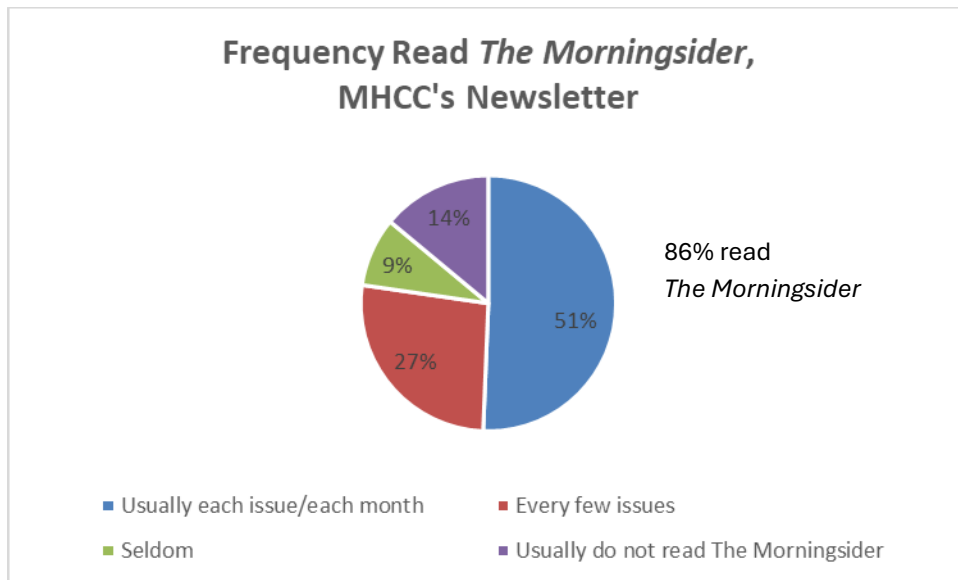
Survey Methodology

**Online resources, including the emailed *Morningsider Newsletter*, lead more traditional options for keeping informed about issues that pertain to the Morningside Heights neighborhood.**



Base: Total Survey Respondents, n=228

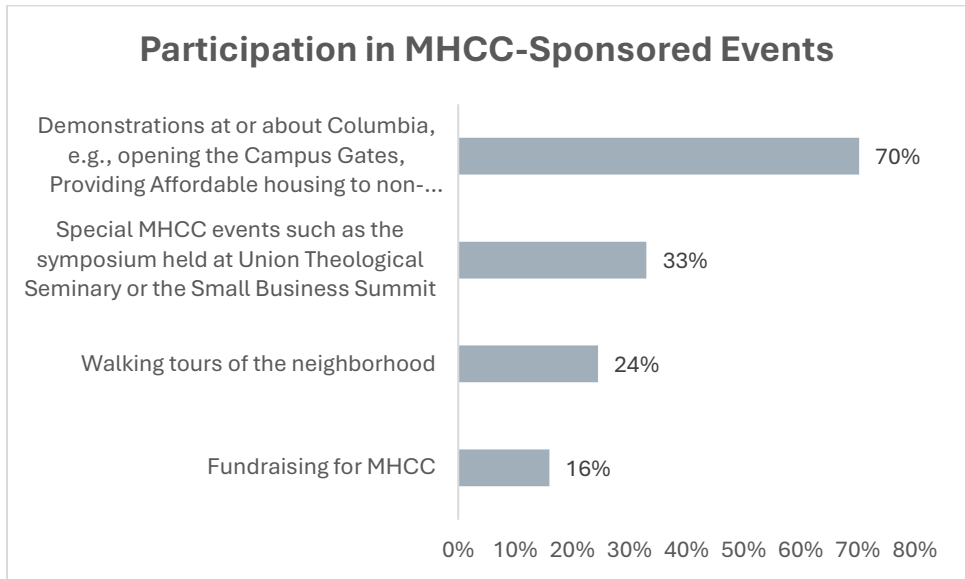
Q, 4 How do you keep informed about matters that may impact the Morningside Heights neighborhood?



Base: Total Survey Respondents, n=228

Q1. How often do you read *The Morningsider*, MHCC's newsletter sent by email?

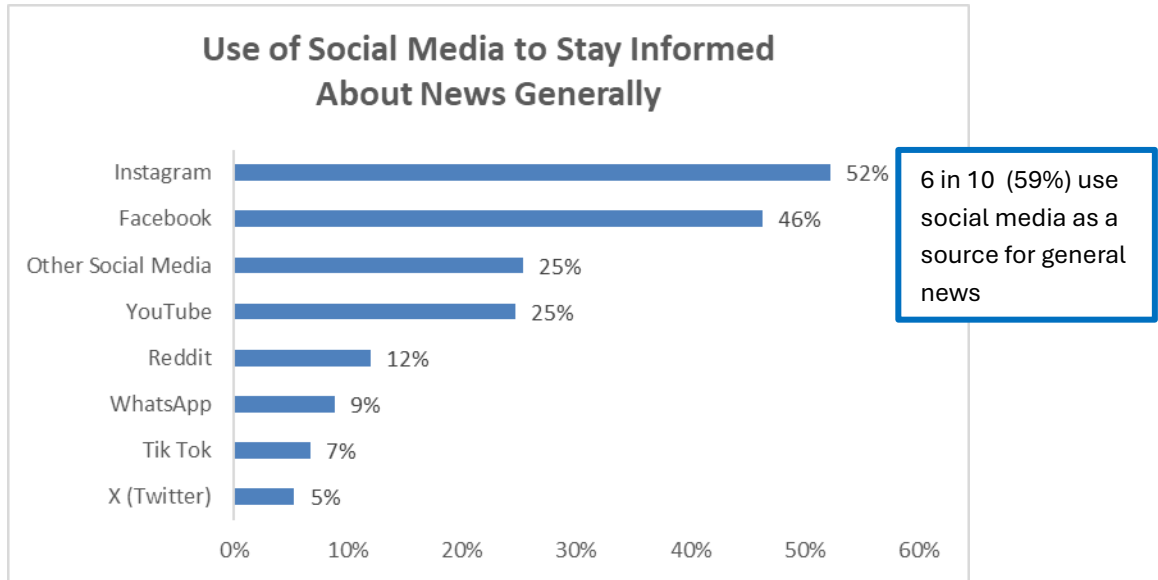
- While a majority of survey respondents (86%) read MHCC’s newsletter, *The Morningsider*, there is an opportunity for MHCC to increase participation in the organization’s events.
- Four-in-ten report participating in events led by MHCC. Specific events focused on Columbia, the dominant institution in the neighborhood.



Base: Have participated in MHCC-sponsored events, n=94.

Q6. Which, if any, events sponsored by MHCC have you participated in?

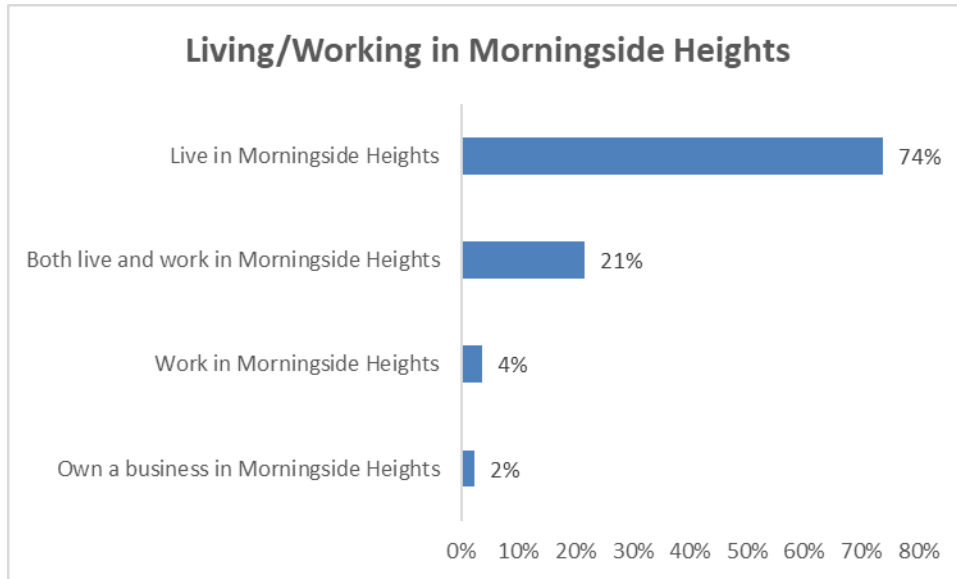
**Consistent with online sources for staying up to date, social media is used by more than half of those surveyed. Instagram and Facebook lead other social media sources.**



Base: Survey Respondents using Social Media, n=94

Q3. Which, if any, Social Media do you go to to stay informed about issues/news in general?

- **Most of those answering the survey live in Morningside Heights (91%), including those who also work in the neighborhood.**
- **The majority of survey respondents who live in Morningside Heights are long-term residents -- 60% have lived in the neighborhood 20 years or longer. Homeowners lead renters, two to one.**



Base: Total Survey Respondents, n=228

Q. 7 Do you live or work in Morningside Heights?

Base: Live in Morningside Heights	(209)
More than 30 years	47%
Between 20 to 30 years	21%
Between 10 to 20 years	13%
Between 5 to 10 years	8%
Between 1 to 5 years	11%
Less than 1 year	1%

Q. 8. If you live in Morningside Heights, for how long?

Base: Live in Morningside Heights	(209)
	%

Own (e.g., coop, condo)	69%
Rent	31%

Q.10. (If you live in Morningside Heights) do you own or rent your home?

## **Survey Methodology**

MHCC had used surveys during the Covid pandemic period when meeting in person and interacting with community members was not possible. The last MHCC online survey was conducted in the Fall of 2022.

In light of significant changes taking place since that time, MHCC conducted the current survey to get a snapshot of the experience in Morningside Heights.

The survey findings are limited to a self-select sample (not a random sample) and therefore not statistically projectible to any group or groups outside of this survey.

The SurveyMonkey online tool was used for survey design and data collection.

A link to the survey was included in the March issue of MHCC's newsletter, The Morningsider, sent by email to those who have opted in to receive it. The link for the survey was also included in social media, via Instagram and Facebook.

Data collection took place from March 24 through April 17, 2026.

A total of 228 respondents answered the survey that took 2 to 3 minutes to complete.