

**League of Women Voters
Straw Survey Results
Public Works Earth Day
4/21/2018**

	Yes	No	Undecided	No Answer
1) Do you usually expect a straw to be provided when you are served a glass of water or other beverage at a restaurant? (if No, go to Q.6)	17 (22%)	59 (78%)		
2) Would availability of straws in a restaurant be a factor in your decision to be a patron of such restaurant? If yes, Why?	2 (3%)	57 (75%)	3 (4%)	14 (18%)
3) Would you be willing to pay an additional ¢.10 at a restaurant in order to get a straw?	26 (34%)	34 (45%)		16 (21%)
4) Would you be willing to pay ¢.20 additional to have a non-plastic straw?	39 (51%)	22 (29%)		15 (20%)
5) Are you aware of the straw elimination campaign in the world and specifically Oak Park?	41 (54%)	19 (25%)		16 (21%)
6) Did you know plastic straws are made of a carcinogenic petroleum byproduct that harms our environment and wild life?	25 (33%)	49 (64%)		2 (3%)
7) Did you know plastics are contaminating our planet's water systems and ultimately our food sources?	69 (91%)	7 (9%)		
8) Would you encourage your family, friends, supervisors and co-workers to stop the use of plastic straws?	75 (99%)	1 (1%)		
9) Are you 18 or older?	76 (100%)	0		

Plastic straws at restaurants

Seventy eight percent of the Straw Survey responders do not expect to get a straw when going to a restaurant. Restaurants providing straws might be adding a service not necessarily sought by patrons. Two people of these 78% wrote:

- Do not want straws in restaurants
- Do not allow it

Among the 22% of people who said that they usually expect a straw to be provided when served a glass of water or other beverage at a restaurant, three of them made the following comments:

- Prefer no straws
- Paper only or re-usable
- NO STRAWS IN OAK PARK

In addition 76% of the responders do not seem to have the tendency to want to withdraw their restaurant patronage based on straws availability. One respondent directed his comment to his/her answer to question one which said: “Do not prefer straw”. Another respondent commented: “I prefer restaurants not serve plastic straws”.

Straws and additional pricing

Questions 3 and 4 refer to willingness to pay additional ¢.10 for a straw or additional ¢.20 for a non-plastic straw present interesting results. 45% of the respondents are not willing to pay ¢.10 more for straws and yet 51% are willing to pay ¢.20 more for a non-plastic alternative. It is important to notice that between 20% and 21% choose not to answer one way or the other. It could very well be that they do not require a straw and hence the question is not relevant for them.

What people know and are willing to do

Our survey showed that 64% of the respondents did not know straw are made of carcinogenic materials. It is a point worth exploring for further conversations with the public.

Questions 5, 7 and 8 present encouraging results with 54% of the respondents expressing knowledge of the straw campaign, 69% being aware of plastic contaminants and 99% being willing to promote the halt of plastic straws.

Points clarified as suggested by Environmental Committee Members:

It seemed that Questions 1 and 2 answers might be a bit misleading because some people said (and wrote on the survey) that they did not want to be offered a straw at all and got confused how to respond to Question 1 because of that.

Is there any way to write in the notes/summary section that X (whatever it was) number of respondents specified that they preferred not to even be offered a straw? (The survey did not include a specific question regarding respondents' preferences to not even be offered a straw. However, the comments of two people might be interpreted as having a preference for restaurants not even have a straw offered. On the other hand, the absence of such a question could be interpreted as merely speculation)