

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 20, 2020--6 PM—via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Jeffrey Diamond, Ed Fechner, Neal Pilson, Sean Wilson. Danielle Filleo acted as Zoom host for the meeting.

Absent: Tom Grizey, Jill Pompei, David Wyatt

The seventh meeting of the CAC was called to order by Committee Co-Chairs Neal Pilson and Ed Fechner at 6:02 PM via Zoom.

Neal Pilson opened the meeting by reading from Governor Baker's Executive Order regarding procedures for holding public meetings remotely during the COVID-19 health emergency. The remainder of the meeting was conducted according to those procedures.

As the first order of business, the Committee approved by unanimous vote the minutes of the July 16 meeting, which had been circulated previously.

Next, Sean Wilson reported on the responses to the SurveyMonkey feedback survey. There have been 23 responses, including 10 in the last week, although not all respondents chose to answer all questions. A summary of the results is attached to these minutes. Based on the responses so far, the Committee decided to leave the survey open and available for additional data collection.

Ed Fechner next reported that there have been no additional responses collected from emails to the CAC email address. Ed's report of the emails received so far was included in the minutes of the Committee's July 16 meeting.

Next, Neal Pilson proposed scheduling a public meeting as a next step to collect feedback from town residents before meeting with the Selectmen and requesting approval to begin negotiations with Charter/Spectrum and tentative timing for the meeting would be early October. It was noted that, in its June 4 meeting with Michael Mael, Municipal Liaison from the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC), the Committee learned the required notice period between presenting the draft license renewal agreement and action by the Selectmen is 120 days. Given these requirements, the Committee agreed that a short extension of the present license was in order and requested Ed Fechner to follow up with Mr. Mael for his advice on how to proceed with Charter/Spectrum for such an extension.

The Committee then discussed how best to use the relicensing process to make available town-originated programming for Richmond residents. Prime examples of

such programming would be meetings of the Board of Selectmen and student productions at Richmond Consolidated School (RCS). Jeffrey Diamond recapped his conversations with Pittsfield Community Television (PCTV) and with West Stockbridge town officials, on the pros and cons of hiring a third-party, such as PCTV, to record and distribute such programming versus operating a dedicated town channel on Charter/Spectrum's cable system. After discussion, it was generally agreed that using a third-party, such as PCTV, was the preferred solution based on the ability to distribute the content on PCTV's network as well as the internet, and on the cost to purchase and operate the equipment for a dedicated town channel, however more information is needed. The Committee requested that Jeff follow up with PCTV about the ongoing costs of distributing Richmond programming via their network and, potentially, invite a PCTV representative to the Committee's next meeting.

The Committee next discussed the cost required at Town Hall and RCS to support creating town-originated programming. Jeffrey Diamond summarized the results of his research, along with Dave Wyatt, on the required expenses for RCS, which total approximately \$7,500 and are attached to these minutes. Additional expenses would be required for town hall, as well as, potentially, dedicated "line drops" provided by Charter/Spectrum, but these costs have not been fully defined. A grant from the Richmond Cultural Council could be available to help with the costs at RCS, but the balance would need to be funded by the town or by Charter/Spectrum. Any grant required by Charter/Spectrum would be recovered through the monthly subscriber fee charged to town residents and it was noted that, even by a rough calculation and before interest, an grant of \$10,000 could require a subscriber charge of approximately \$.17/month to be amortized over the ten-year relicense period. Since Richmond's subscriber fee is already \$.07/month and the fees charged in towns similar to Richmond are reported by Charter/Spectrum to be in the \$.07-.14/month range, it was generally recognized that the Committee should be sensitive to any actions that result in an increase in subscriber fees. Neal Pilson, along with Jill Pompi, will follow-up on the availability of funding via the Cultural Council and Jeff Diamond and Dave Wyatt will continue to explore the cost requirements for town-originated programming.

Lastly, the Committee tentatively agreed to meet again on September 17 at 6pm (via Zoom) to continue with the steps described above. Neal Pilson will confirm the date and time and circulate the agenda before the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved and the meeting ended at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sean Wilson, Secretary

Q1

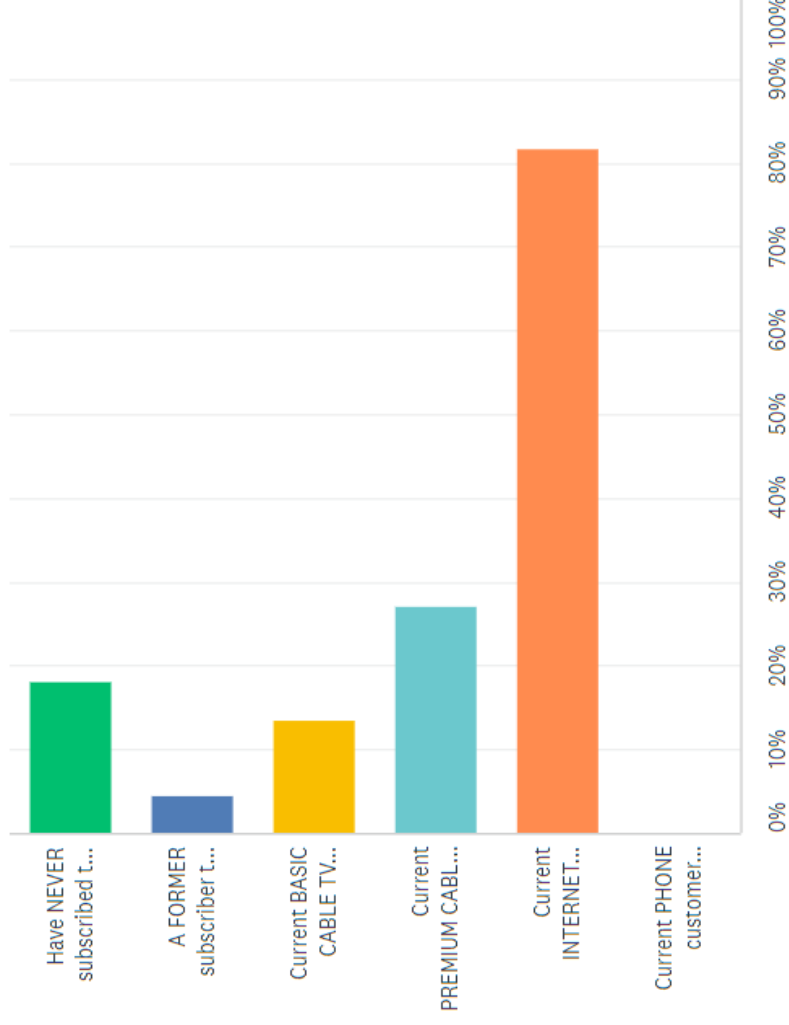


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Describe your status as a Spectrum subscriber (CHECK ALL that apply):

Answered: 22 Skipped: 1



Q2

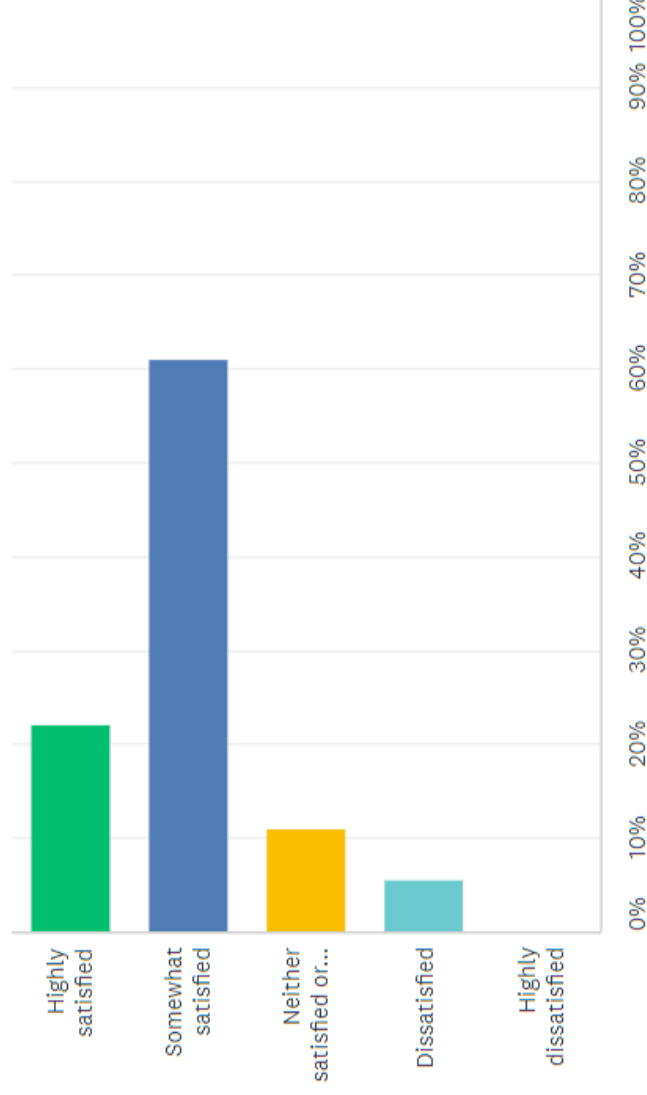


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For current Spectrum subscribers, how satisfied are you with the scope of services offered, e.g., digital recording, high-speed internet, community TV? (CHOOSE ONE)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 5



Q3

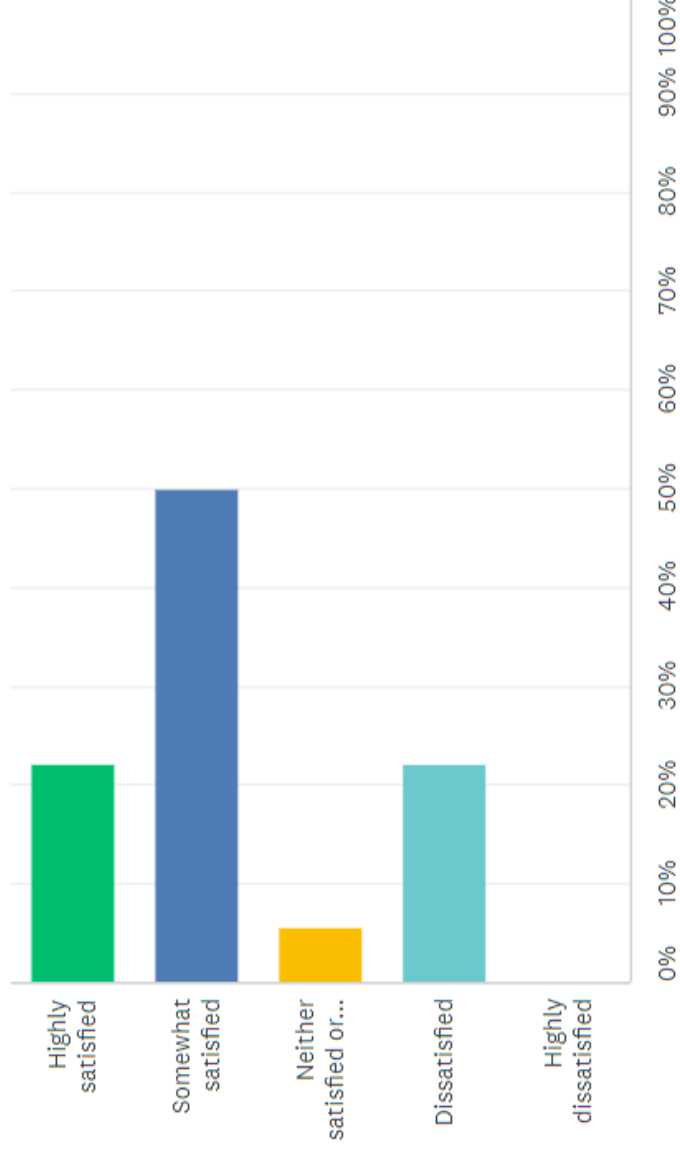


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For current Spectrum subscribers, how satisfied are you with the quality of service (i.e., signal strength, as opposed to program content)? (CHOOSE ONE)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 5



Q4

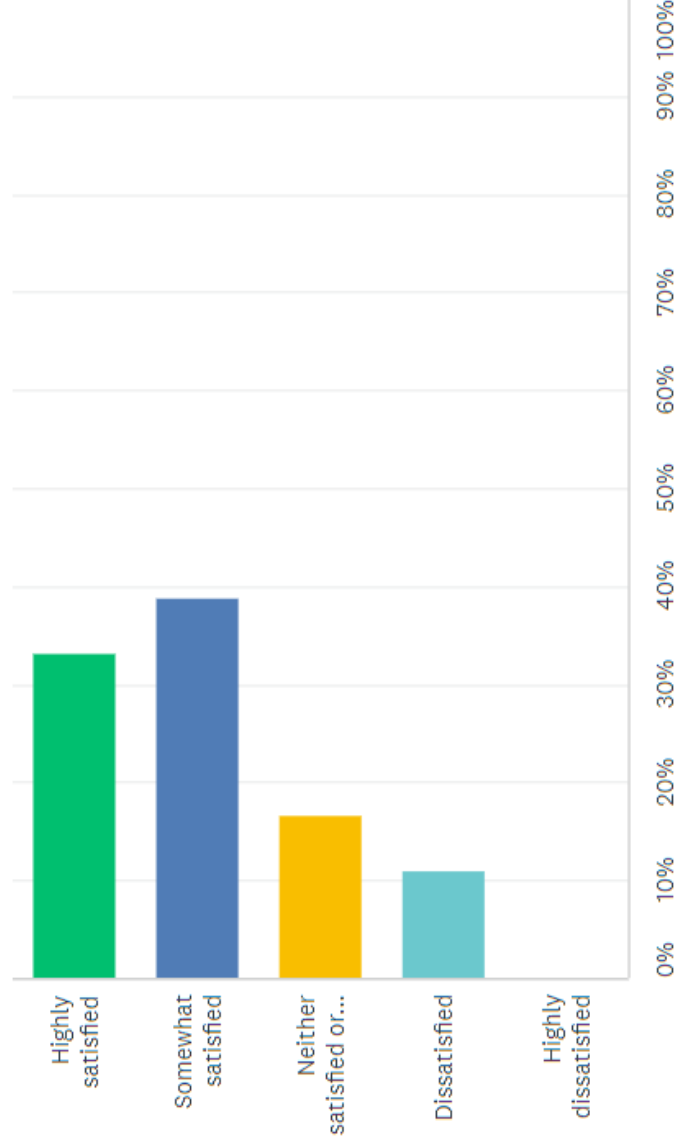


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For current Spectrum subscribers, how satisfied are you with reliability of service? (CHOOSE ONE)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 5



Q5

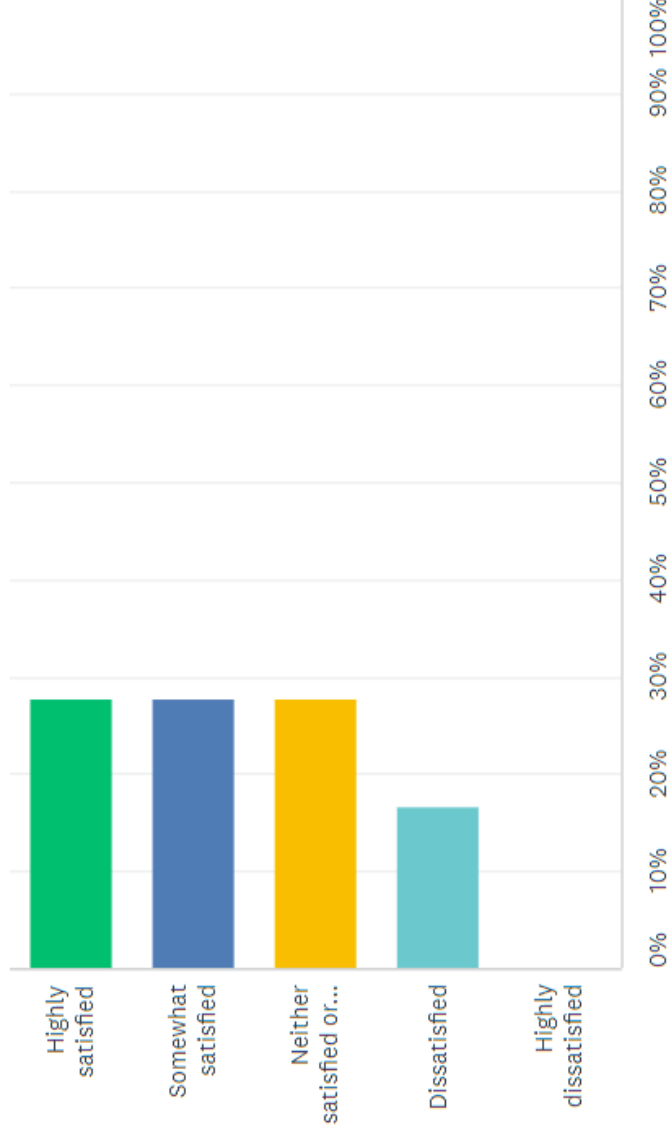


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For current Spectrum subscribers, how satisfied are you with the responsiveness in case of service requests? (CHOOSE ONE)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 5



Q6

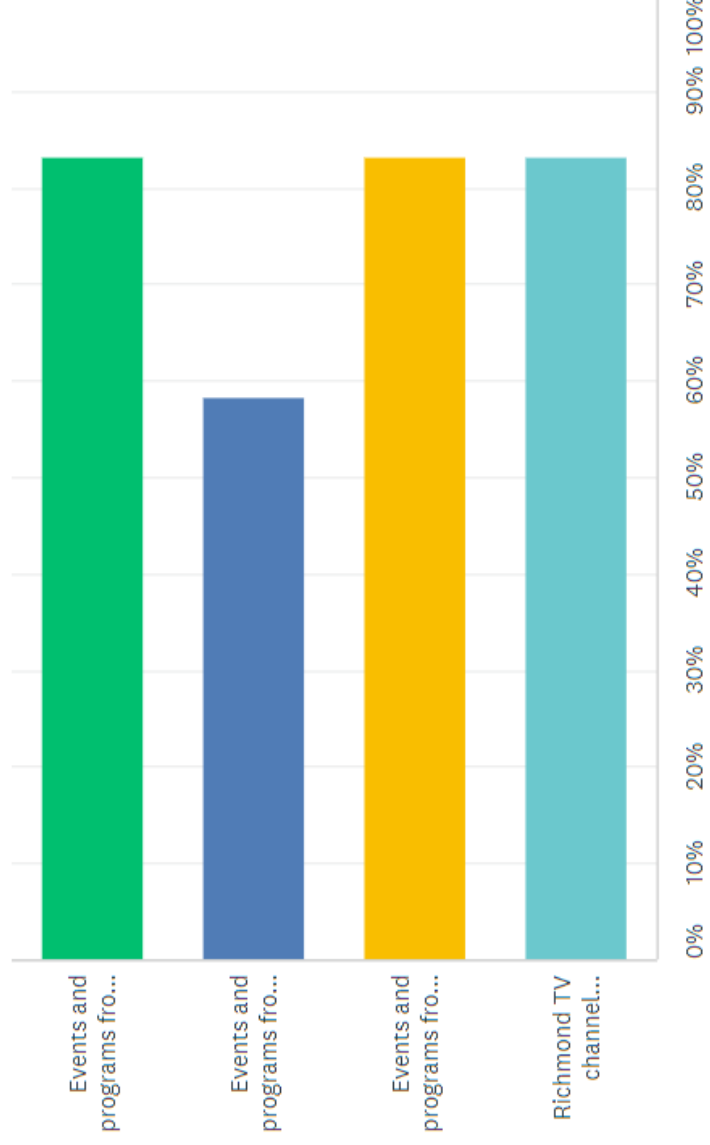


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If these were available via Spectrum, which of the following would you be interested in (CHECK ALL that apply)?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 11



Q7

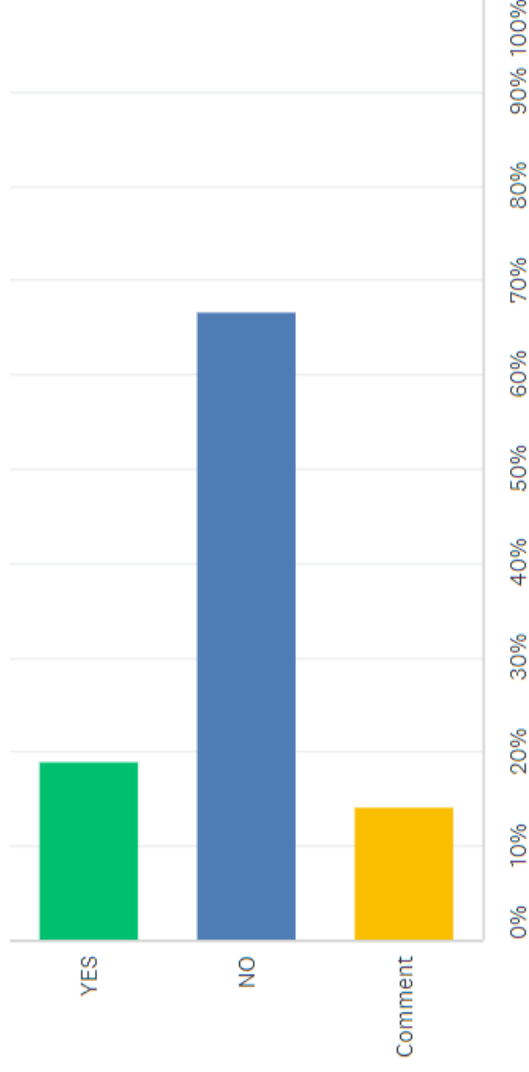


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Would you be interested in receiving landline PHONE SERVICE from Spectrum if it required you to be assigned a new phone number but qualified you for "triple play" bundle discount pricing?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 2



Q8

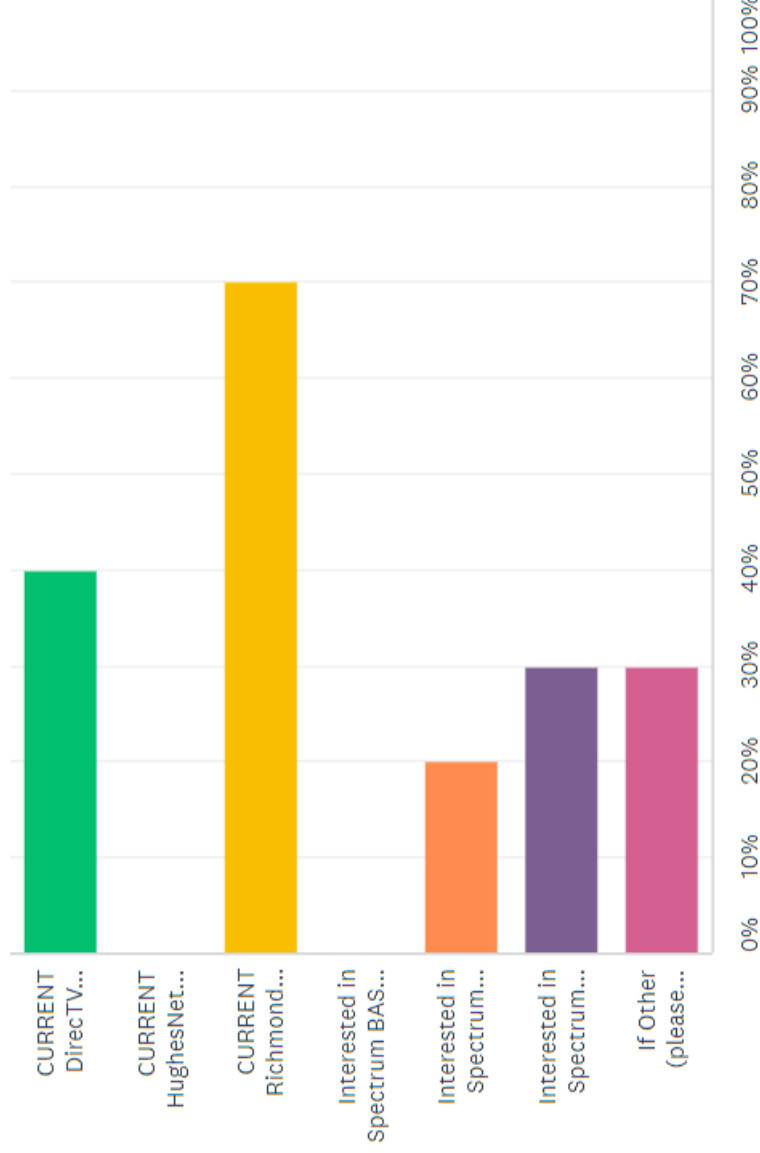


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For current non-subscribers, describe your status: (Please CHECK ALL that apply)

Answered: 10 Skipped: 13



Q9

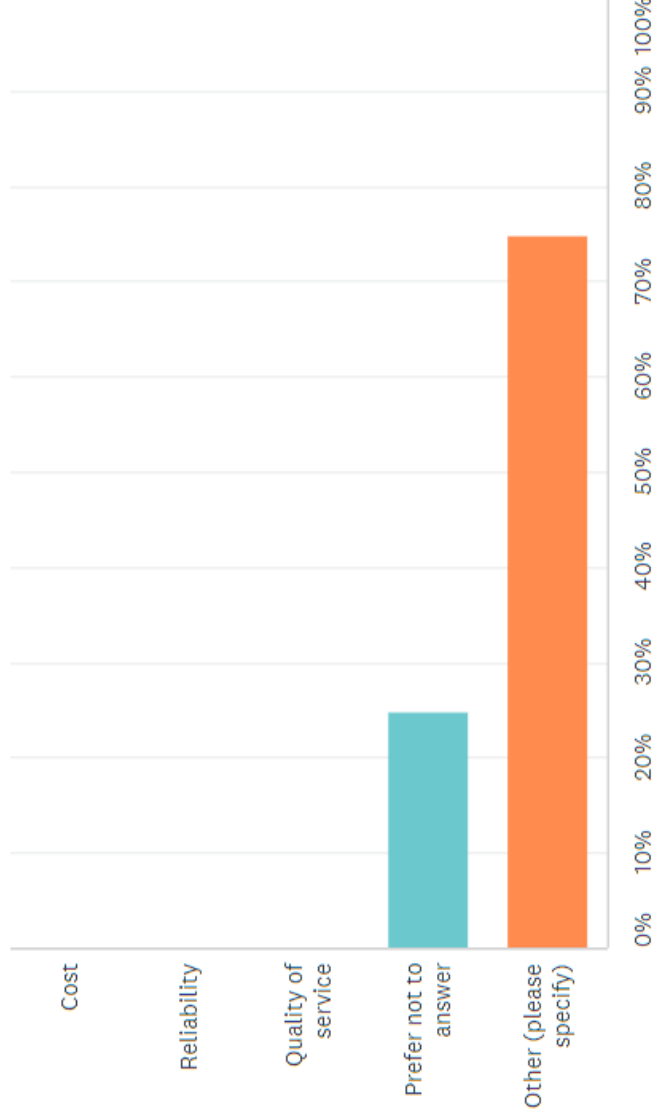


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For FORMER Spectrum subscribers, please indicate why you terminated your service (CHECK ALL that apply):

Answered: 4 Skipped: 19



Q10

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This survey is for use only by the Richmond Cable Committee. In order to make sure these answers are from Richmond, MA residents only, we need the following information. What is your name and address in Richmond?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Name	Responses 100.00% 23
Company	Responses 0.00% 0
Address	Responses 100.00% 23
Address 2	Responses 0.00% 0
City/Town	Responses 0.00% 0
State/Province	Responses 0.00% 0
ZIP/Postal Code	Responses 0.00% 0
Country	Responses 0.00% 0
Email Address (optional)	Responses 0.00% 0
Phone Number (optional)	Responses 0.00% 0

RCS Equipment List

Preliminary - June 29, 2020

Qty	Item	B & H Photo Link	Price	Total	Comments
1	ikan Elite V2 Universal Tablet Teleprompter	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1211379-REG/ikan_pt_ellie_v2_ellie_universal_tablet.html	\$649.00	\$649.00	iPad and Software not included (Possibly addtl' cost)
3	Sony UWP-D22 Camera-Mount Wireless Cardioid Handheld Microphone System	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1484179-REG/sony_uwp_d22_14_uwp_d22_camera_mount_wireless_cardioid.html	\$539.99	\$1,619.97	There are other options for lav/handheld combos
3	Manfrotto MVH500A Fluid Drag Video Head with MW502AM Tripod and Carry Bag	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/944776-REG/manfrotto_mvh500a_mvh500a_plus_mv502am_plus.html	\$379.00	\$1,137.00	
1	VIZIO D-Series D32f-G1 32" Class Full HD Smart LED TV	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1527812-REG/vizio_d32f_g1_32_d32f_g1_full_hd.html	\$199.00	\$199.00	
3	Panasonic AG-AC30 Full HD Camcorder with Touch Panel LCD Screen & Built-In LED Light	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1263853-REG/panasonic_ag_ac30_full_hd_camcorder.html	\$1,249.00	\$3,747.00	Option A
3	Canon XA11 Compact Full HD Camcorder with HDMI and Composite Output	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1364308-REG/canon_xa11_compact_full_hd.html	\$1,299.00	\$3,897.00	Option B
3	JVC GY-HM170UA 4KCAM Compact Professional Camcorder with Top Handle Audio Unit	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1194106-REG/jvc_gy_hm170ua_4kcam_compact_professional.html	\$1,295.00	\$3,885.00	Option C
3	Sony HXR-MC88 Full HD Camcorder	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1472910-REG/sony_hxr_mc88_full_hd_camcorder.html	\$1,298.00	\$3,894.00	Option D
Estimated Total:				\$7,460.74	