

Boro of optimists, but...: Survey shows majority of residents fear being priced out of their nabes in

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Sure, Brooklynites are optimistic about the future of their borough. Trouble is, they're not sure they'll be able to afford it, a new survey has found.

A [Citizens Committee for New York City](#) quality of life report found that while 56% of borough residents think their neighborhoods will become cleaner and prettier, 53% are worried about being priced out.

"I've been living here since '82. I've seen crime go down and I've actually felt the tension drop," said [Bedford-Stuyvesant](#) teacher [Thomas Webb](#), 36. "My rent just went up. It went up significantly."

Yet, the survey found Brooklynites were the most optimistic compared with New Yorkers in other boroughs.

As worried as Brooklynites are about being priced out, the fear is greater in other boroughs: 57% of [Manhattan](#) residents and 58% of [Bronx](#) locals are not sure they'll be able to stay put.

"People say, 'It's getting better, but will I be able to afford to live there in five years?' It's a double-edged sword," said Citizens Committee president [Peter Kostmayer](#).

Still, for all their optimism about the future, [Brooklyn](#) residents weren't as content with their current lives as people in [Queens](#).

While more than half of Queens residents said they were "very satisfied" with their quality of life, only 27% of Brooklynites felt that way, second in dissatisfaction only to the Bronx's 24%.

Besides being the most optimistic borough, Brooklyn also claimed the title of the friendliest, with 77% of residents saying they want to get to know their neighbors. On [Staten Island](#), 60% said they didn't have any interest in meeting the neighbors.

But it was the thought of getting pushed out that got to most [Kings County](#) residents.

Former Bedford-Stuyvesant resident and [Crown Heights](#) pizza shop owner [Judy Brown](#) has watched her old neighborhood get safer in the last 10 years.

"At first, I would hear gunshots at night," she said. "There were a lot of fights, drugs, a lot of police activity, but in the past few years, things just quieted down."

But when Brown and her husband were ready to buy a house, they were priced out, even with a \$200,000 down payment.

"We looked for a long time. We looked in Crown Heights, the [Flatbush](#) area, even Bed-Stuy. We couldn't find anything. The prices were sky-high," she said. They now live in [Queens Village](#).

For [Rachelle Thereien](#), who's been living in [Park Slope](#) since 1991, the experience of watching her neighborhood's transformation has been bittersweet.

"It's nice to have so many nice, new restaurants moving in, but at the same time, it's getting so expensive to live around here," Thereien, 60, said. "When I first moved here, there was nothing. Now, it seems like it's almost overdone. There's a restaurant at every other door."

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