

Community Survey Results

Gillett School District

Fall 2021



SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted more than **10,000** staff, parent, student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **800** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

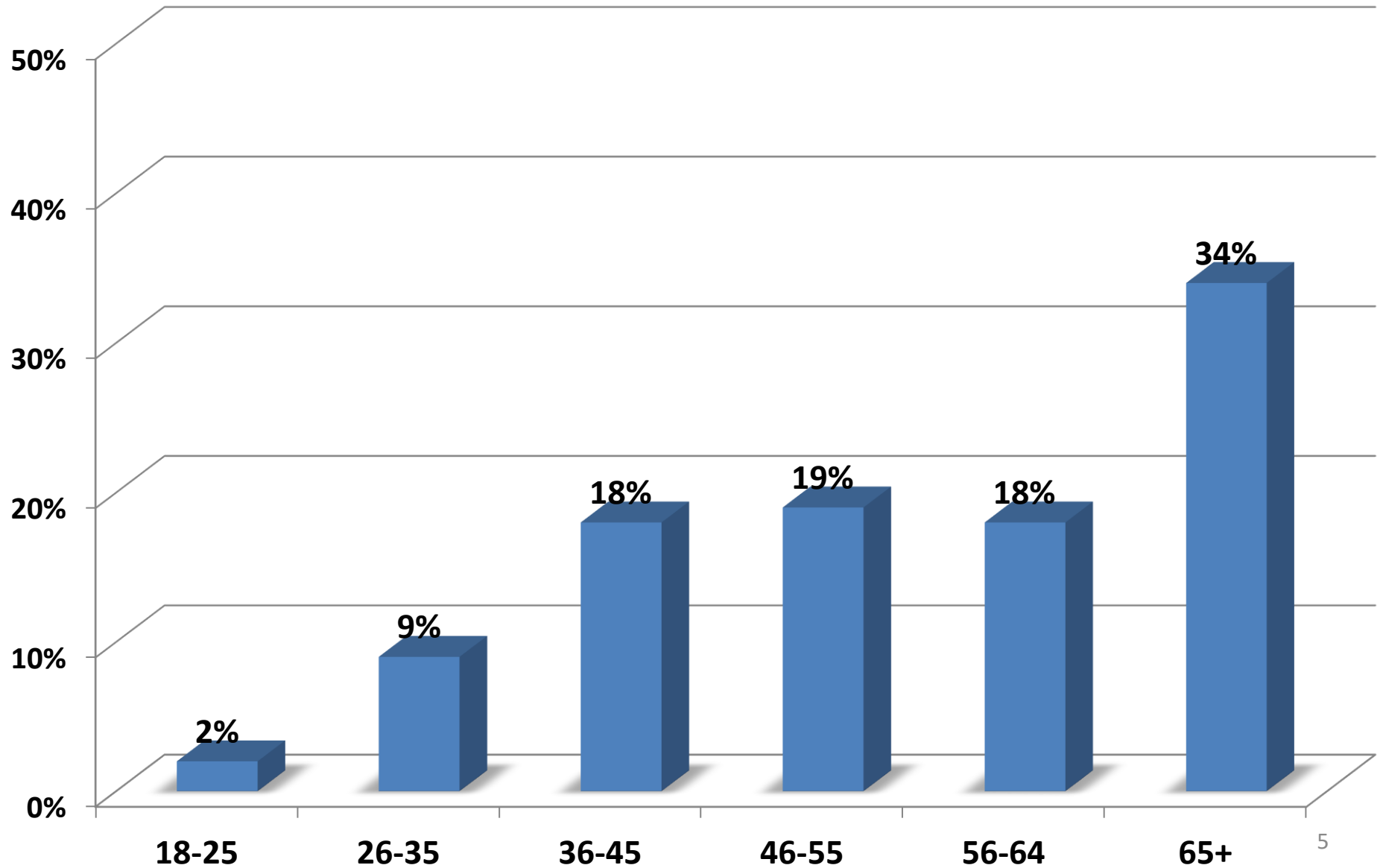
Survey Summary

- The survey was conducted in November of 2021.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey.
 - Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 426 (248 paper)
- Response rate: 20%

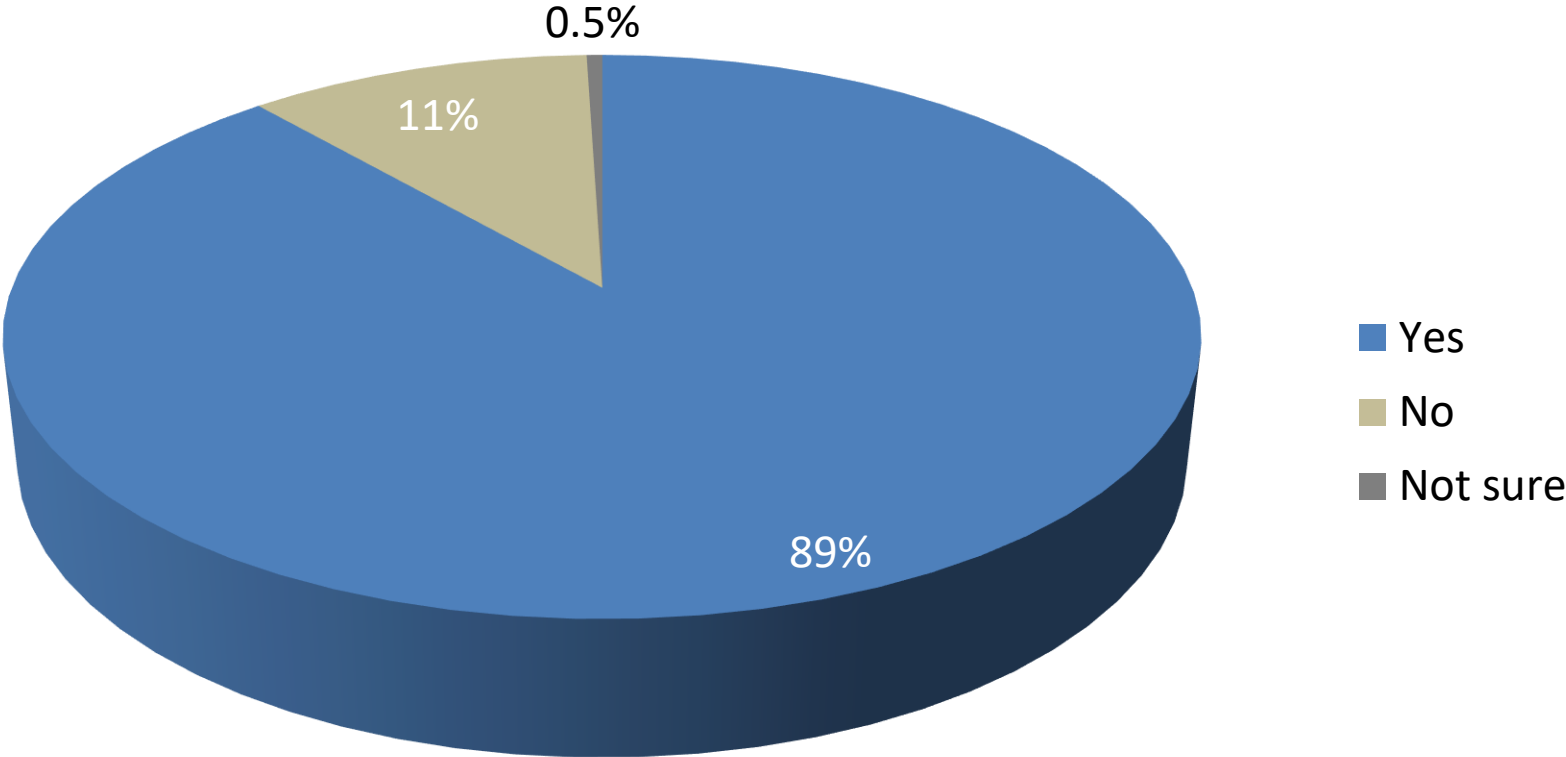
Respondent Information



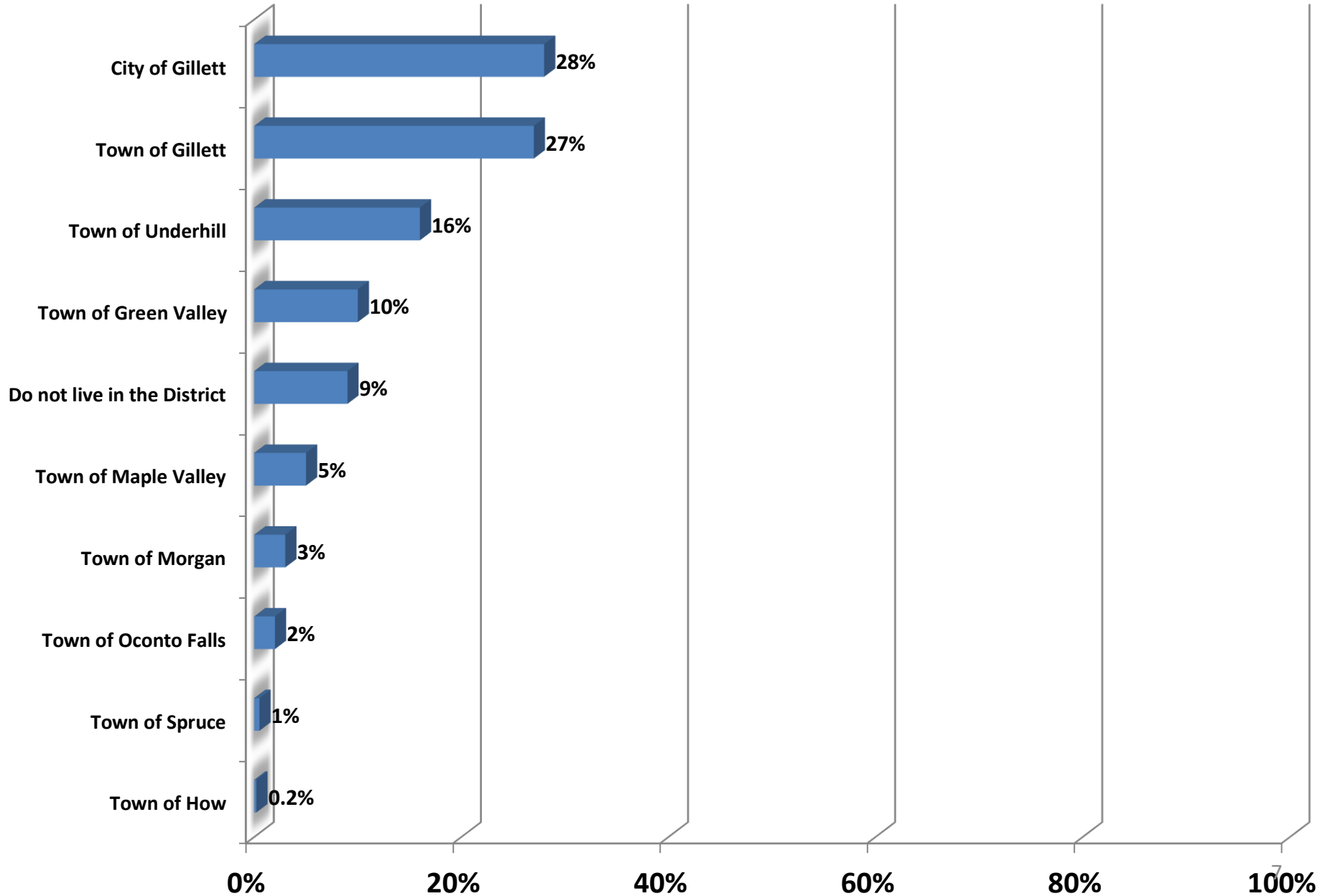
What is your age?



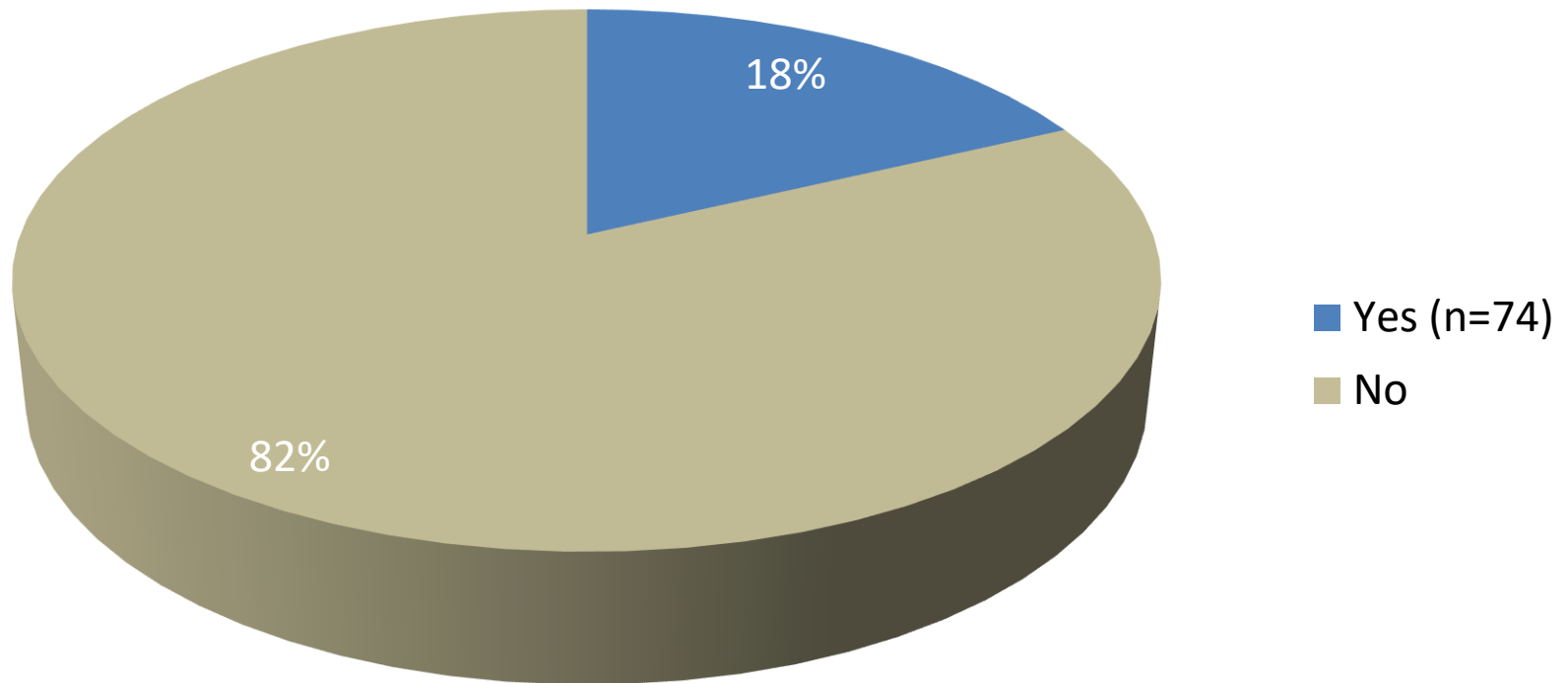
Do you live within the Gillett School District?



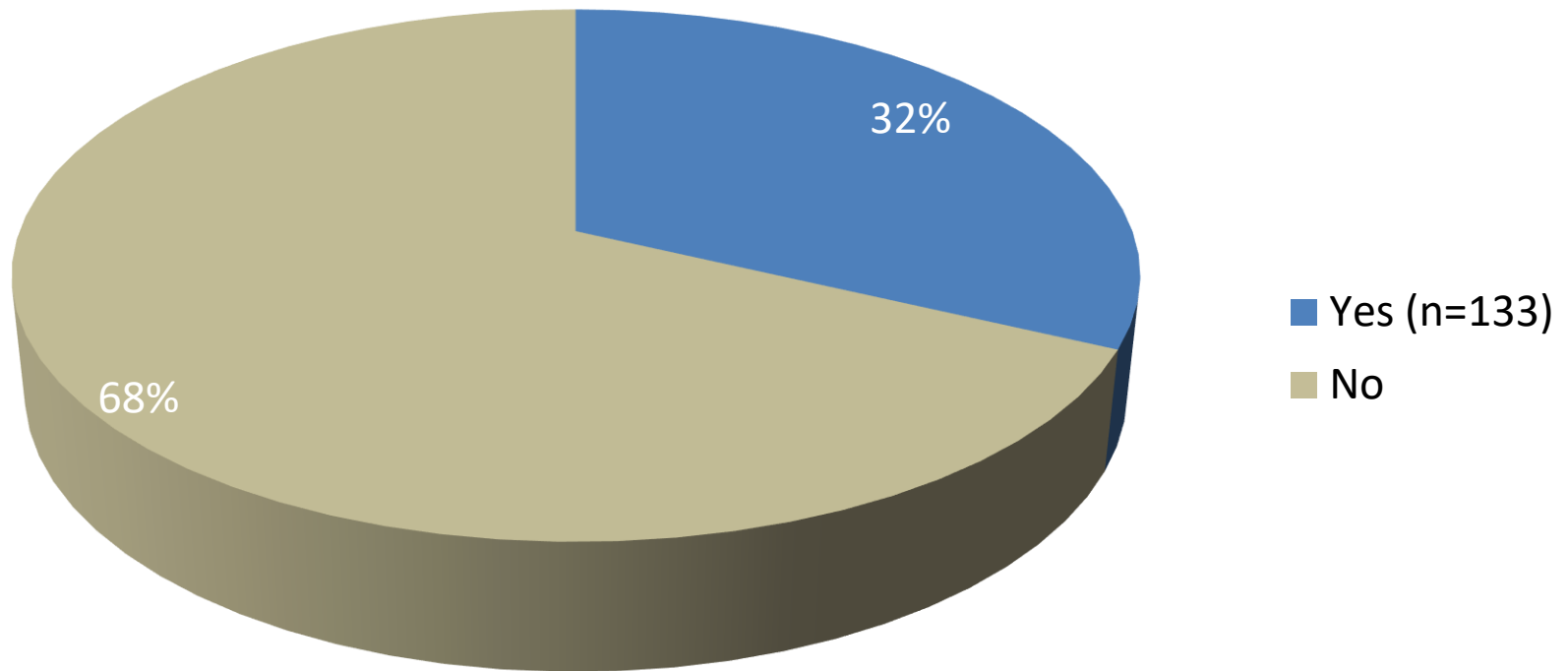
In which municipality do you live?



Are you employed by the Gillett School District?



Do you have children attending our schools?



Operational Funding



The operational referendum voters approved three years ago has helped Gillett maintain educational programming and student services. More specifically, this funding helps us support:

- ✓ Our **small class sizes**, helping increase individual instruction and support for students.
- ✓ Our **annual building budget**, allowing us to complete routine maintenance.
- ✓ Our **tech ed (“shop”) and agriculture programs**, including courses in small engines, metals, woods, fabrication, car repair, animal science, forestry, and veterinary science.
- ✓ Our **elective courses**, such as accounting, personal finance, marketing, music, Spanish, and child development.
- ✓ Our **partnership with NWTC**, allowing students to gain college credits while in high school.

This operational funding will end at the end of this school year. Therefore, the Board of Education is asking our voters to consider supporting an extension of the **operational referendum for another three years.** This would help us maintain the quality of our educational programs that our families, students, and community members have come to expect.

What is an operational referendum?

This provides funding to maintain class sizes and student services. Funds secured are used within the year they are received.

How has our funding changed?

- We are receiving COVID-19 relief from the federal government. However, this is a one-time source of funding and does not address our long-term financial needs.
- The recently passed state budget did not increase funding for our school.
- The District's tax mill rate (which is used to calculate the school district's share of local property taxes) has dropped over 15 percent since the 2013-2014 school year.
- We put aside approximately \$500,000 for facility maintenance, which helps us avoid taking out a loan and paying interest.

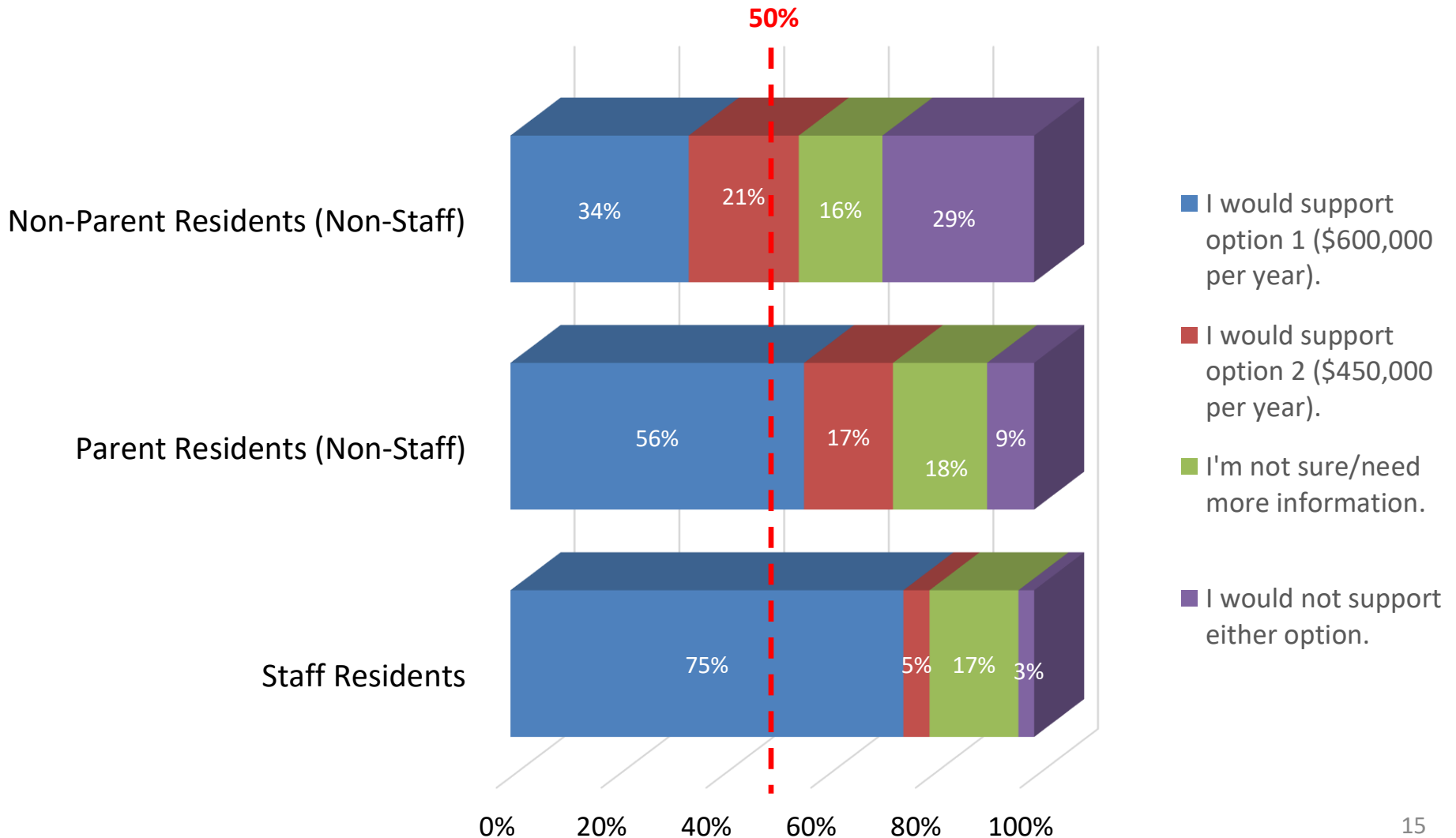
What is the District proposing?

When voters approved the previous \$600,000 per-year referendum, the Board of Education promised that we would only use the money that we needed. This is exactly what we did. We used \$450,000 per year. We are proposing the following options for your feedback:

Option 1: Renewal at \$600,000 per year for three years – This would allow us to maintain current programs and services, as well as keep our class sizes small, complete additional building maintenance projects, and explore the option of offering full-day, four-year-old kindergarten (4K) in Gillett. (No tax mill rate impact compared to the current \$9.17 level.)

Option 2: Renewal at \$450,000 per year for three years – This would allow us to maintain current programs and services. (Continued decline of the tax mill rate.)

Which operational referendum would you support? (School District Residents Only)



Cost-Cutting Options



Class Sizes: Average class sizes currently range from 18 to 21 students at the elementary level and 17 to 25 at the middle/high school level.

Course Offerings: Elective, Advanced Placement (AP), NWTC, and courses for college credits are offered for students.

Curriculum: Our plan calls for major resource updates in a variety of content areas to continuously improve teaching and learning.

Transportation: The District could reduce or eliminate another bus route, requiring students to be picked up earlier, further increasing ride time for some riders and eliminating busing services for others.

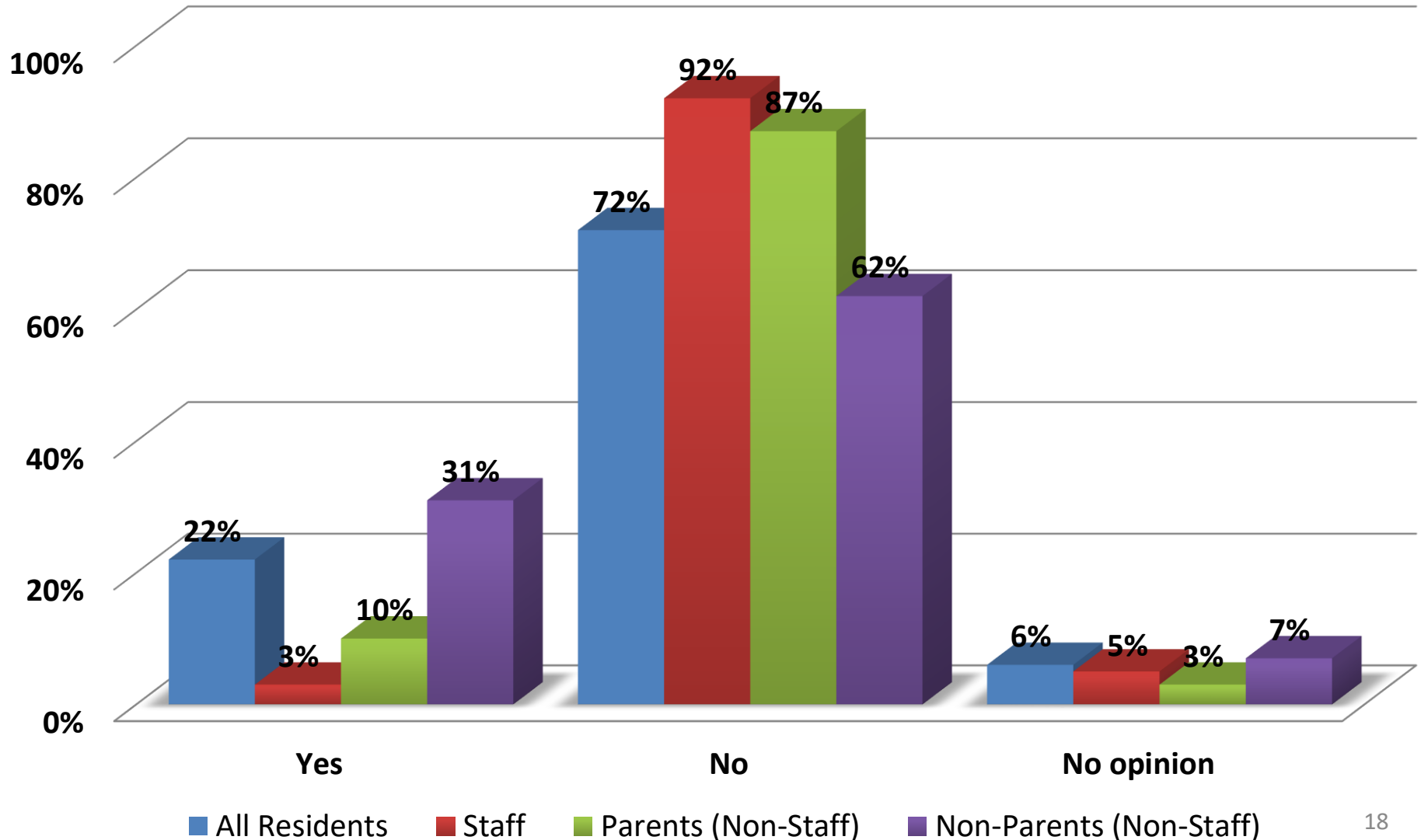
Athletic/Co-Curricular Offerings: The District offers a number of athletic and co-curricular offerings for middle and high school students.

Technology: The District's technology infrastructure (including wireless internet access, servers, and classroom computers) needs regular maintenance to meet students' learning needs.

Facilities: We set aside some of the annual budget to stay current with building maintenance, make routine security updates, and prevent project backlogs.

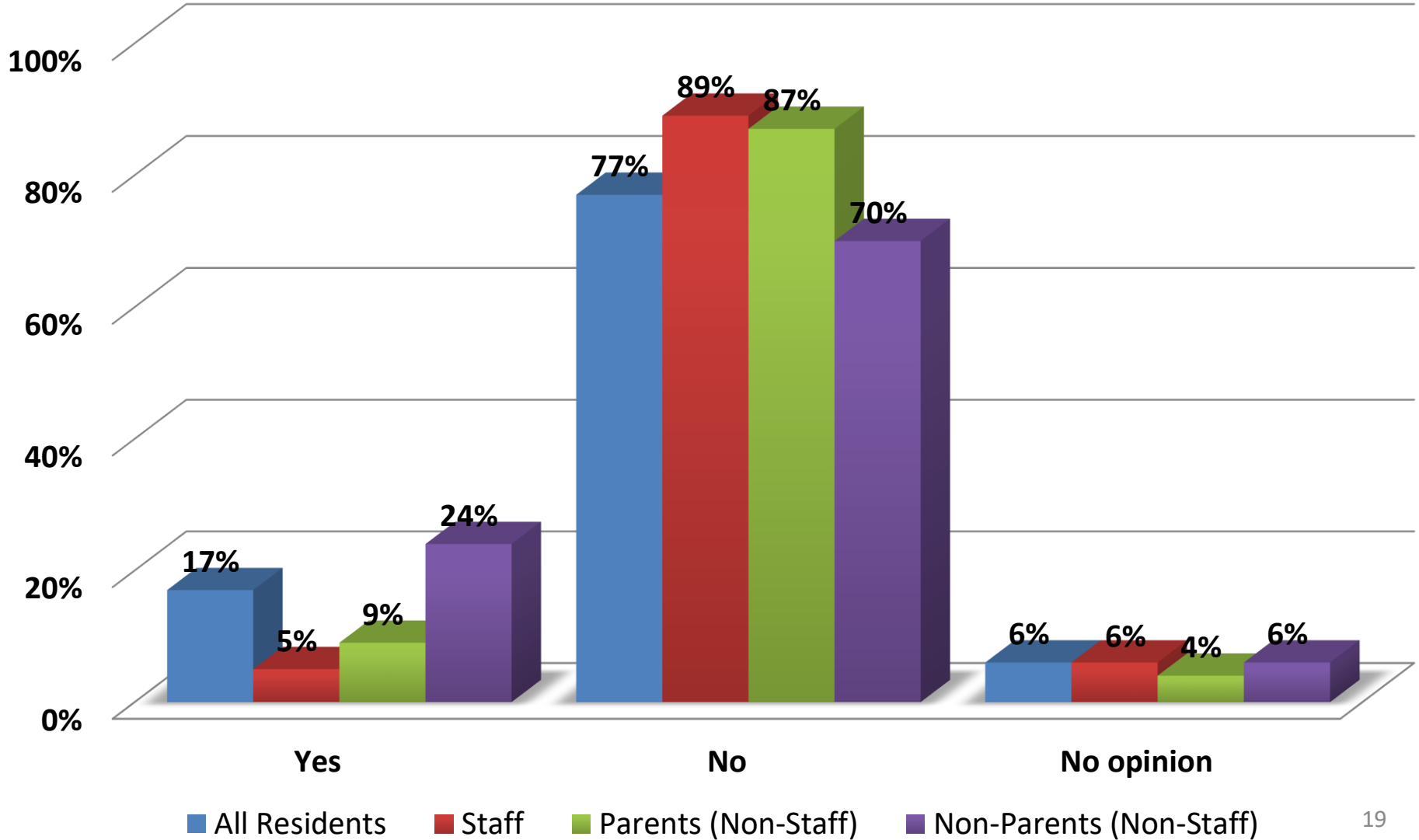
Should the District consider cutting teachers and increasing class sizes?

(School District Residents Only)



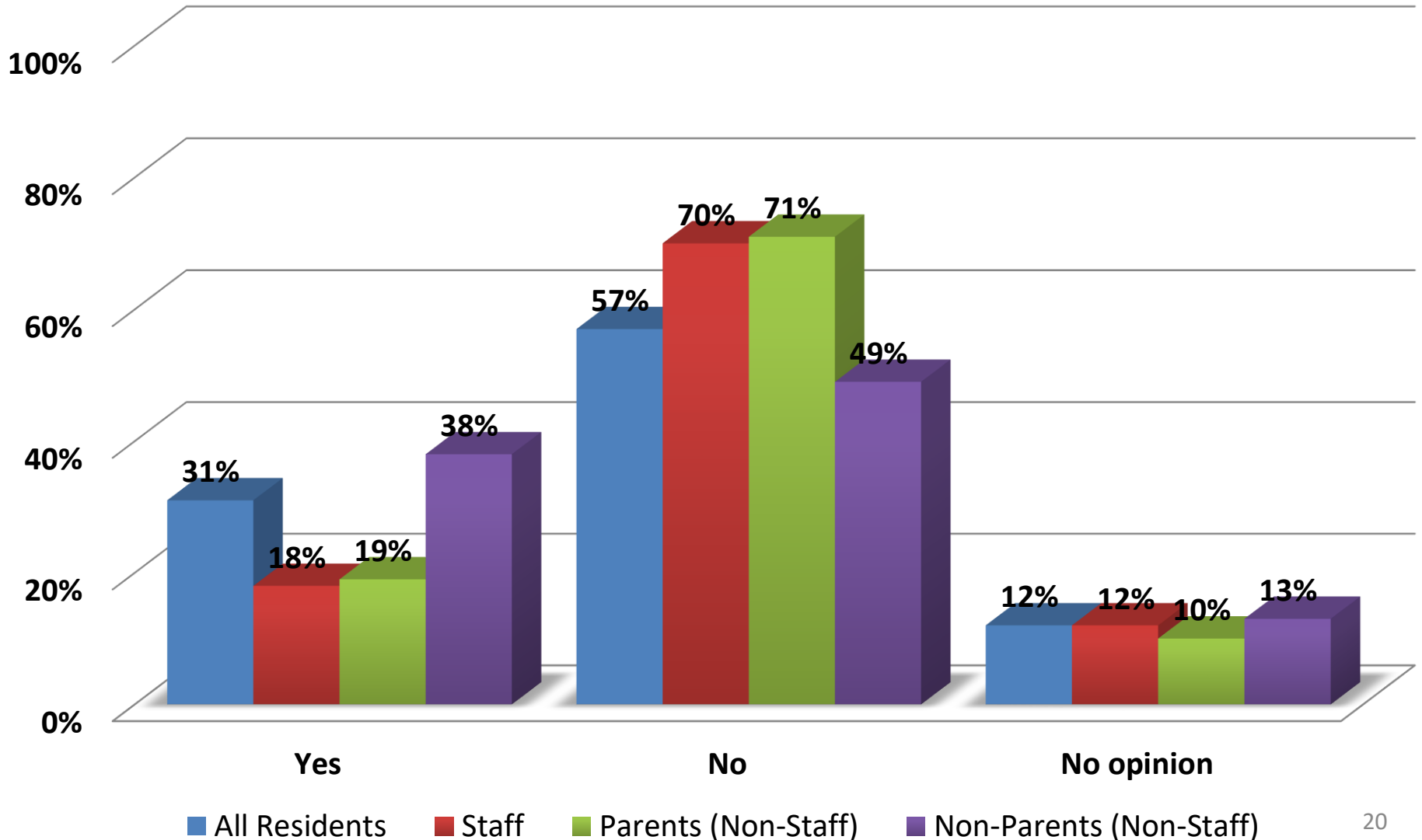
Should the District consider reducing college credit and elective courses?

(School District Residents Only)



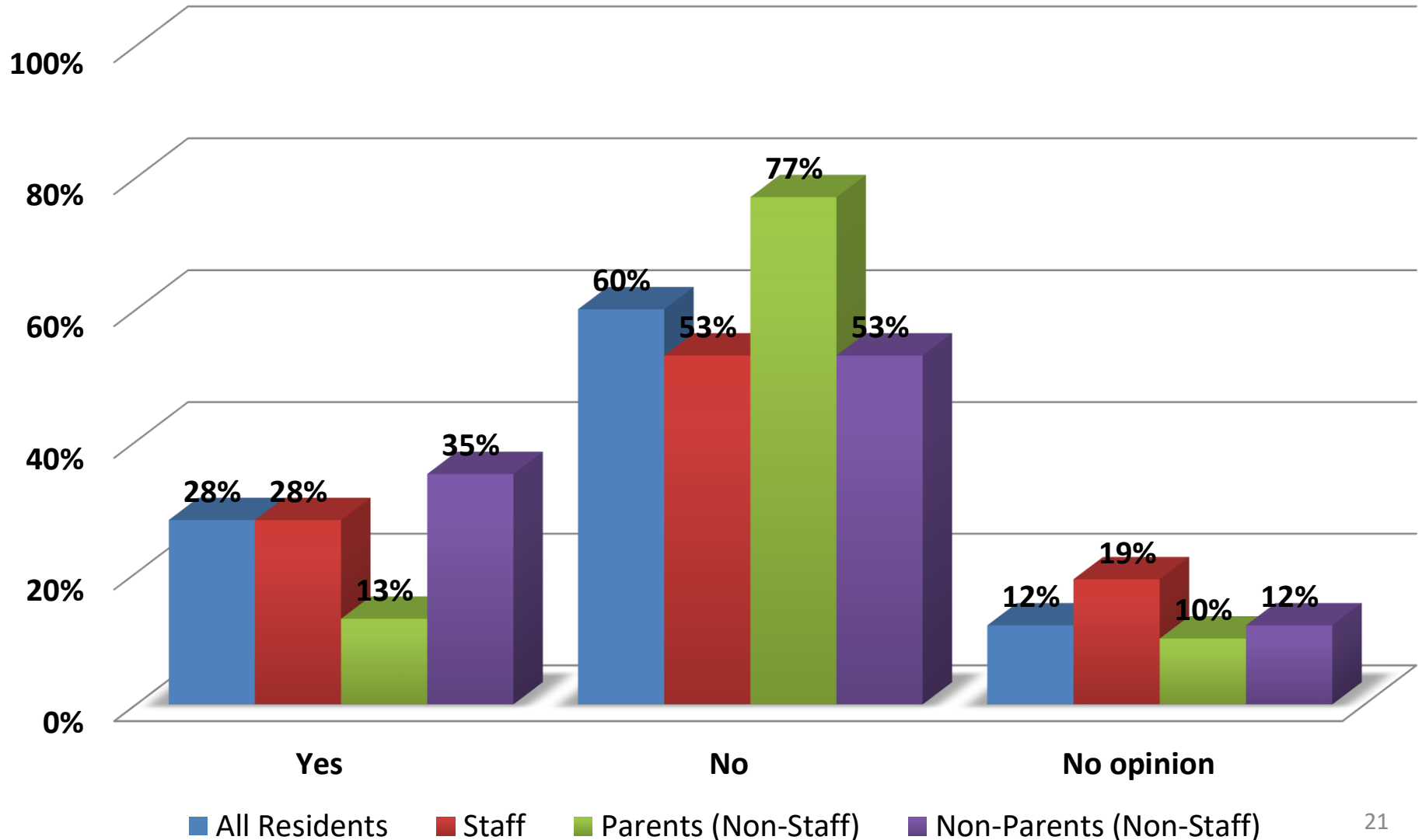
Should curriculum and textbook updates be reduced/postponed?

(School District Residents Only)



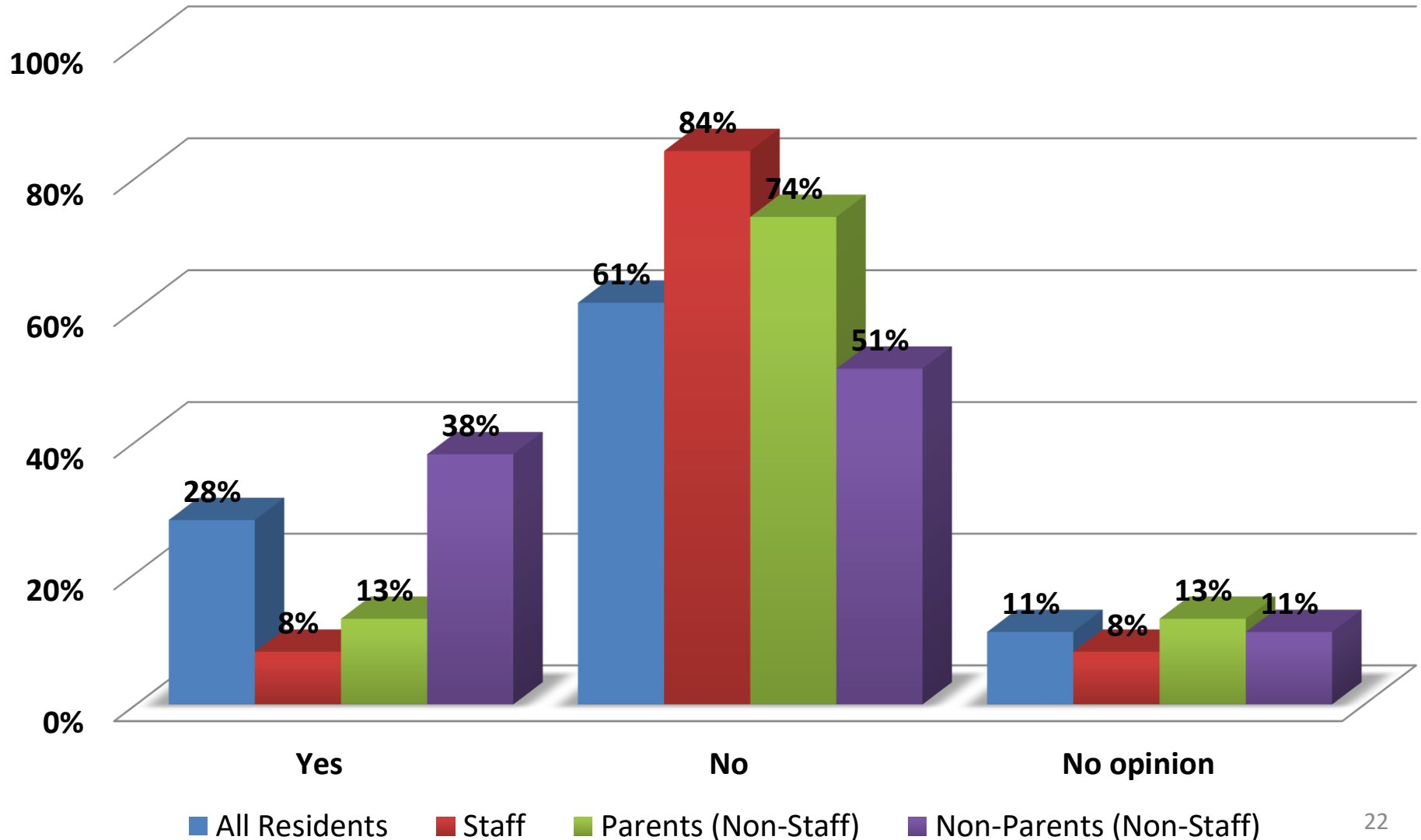
Should the District reduce busing services?

(School District Residents Only)



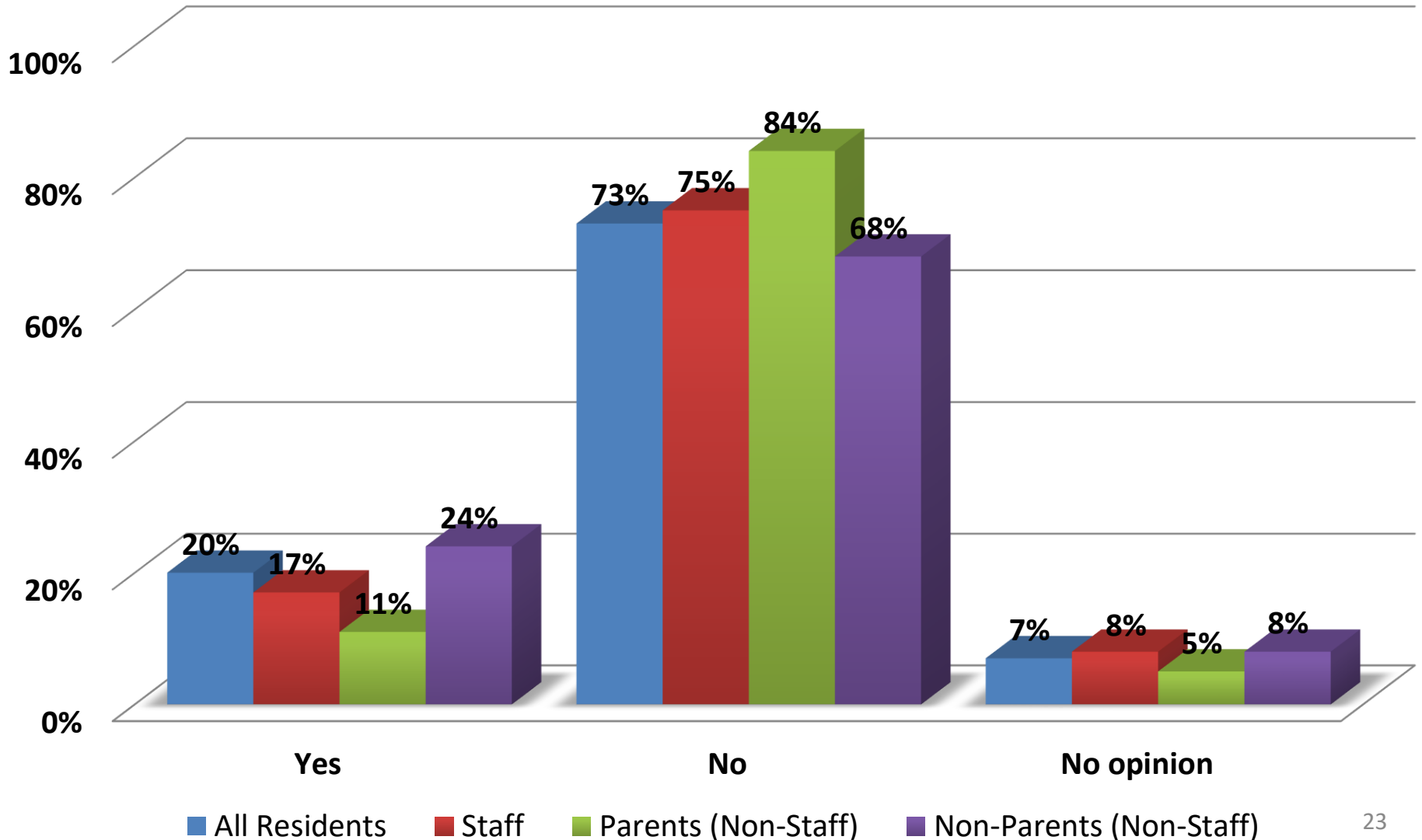
Should the District consider reducing athletic/co-curricular offerings?

(School District Residents Only)



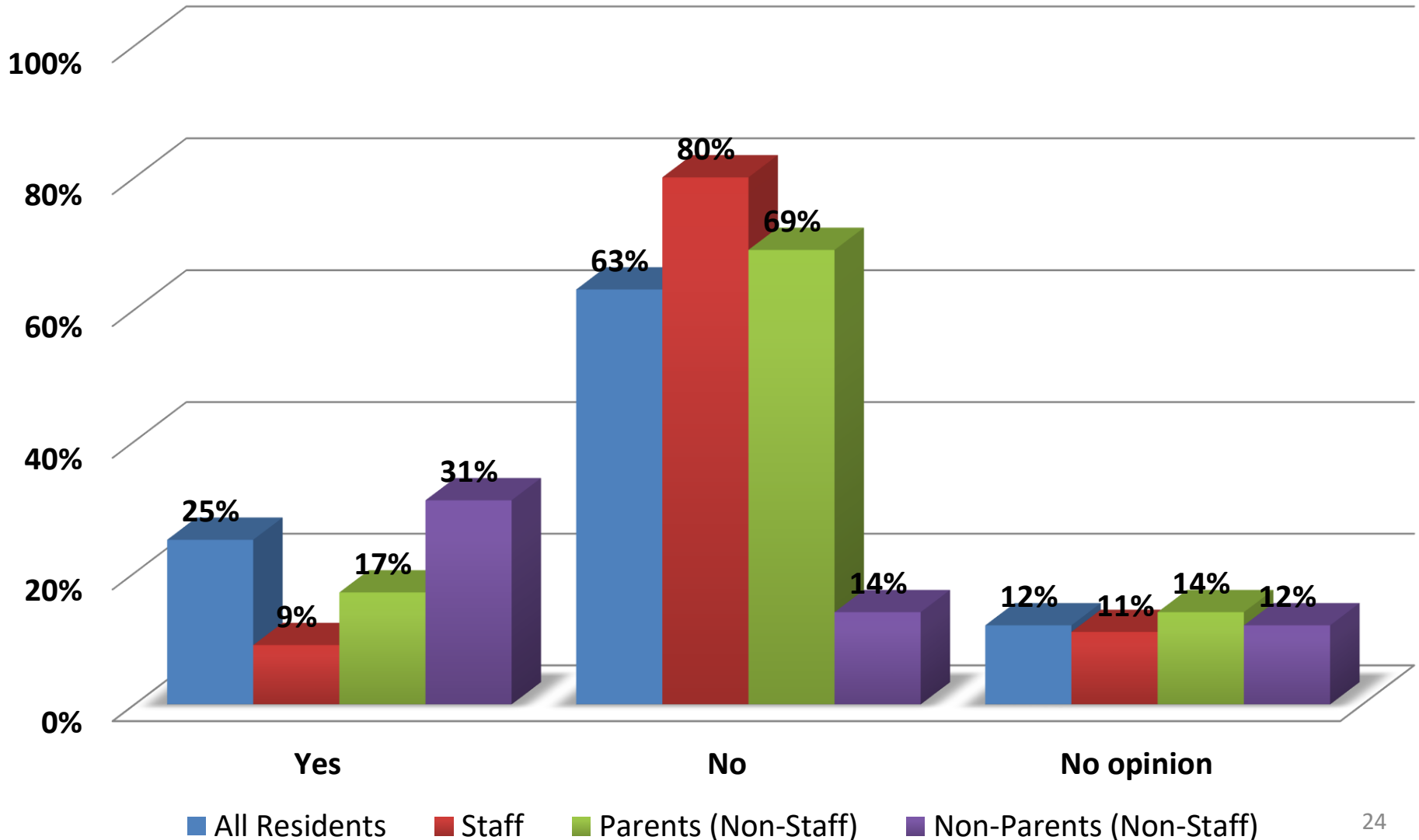
Should the District consider delaying technology updates?

(School District Residents Only)



Should the District reduce the annual maintenance budget?

(School District Residents Only)



Cost-Cutting Options

Yes (10), No (1), No opinion (0)

Item	All Residents	Staff	Parents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parents (Non-Staff) *
Should curriculum and textbook updates be reduced/postponed?	4.15	2.80	2.94	4.92
Should the District consider reducing athletic/co-curricular offerings?	3.86	1.82	2.31	4.86
Should the District reduce busing services?	3.87	4.10	2.35	4.54
Should the District reduce the annual maintenance budget?	3.58	1.87	2.80	4.19
Should the District consider cutting teachers and increasing class sizes?	3.15	1.26	1.90	4.03
Should the District consider delaying technology updates?	2.91	2.64	2.01	3.37
Should the District consider reducing college credit and elective courses?	2.68	1.53	1.81	3.26

Overall Satisfaction



How well are we doing in each of the following areas?

Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)

Item	Staff	Parents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parents (Non-Staff)
Delivering a high-quality education	3.24	3.25	2.79
Keeping the public informed	2.94	2.84	2.52
Managing funds appropriately	3.00	3.02	2.47
Building pride in the community	2.88	3.07	2.72

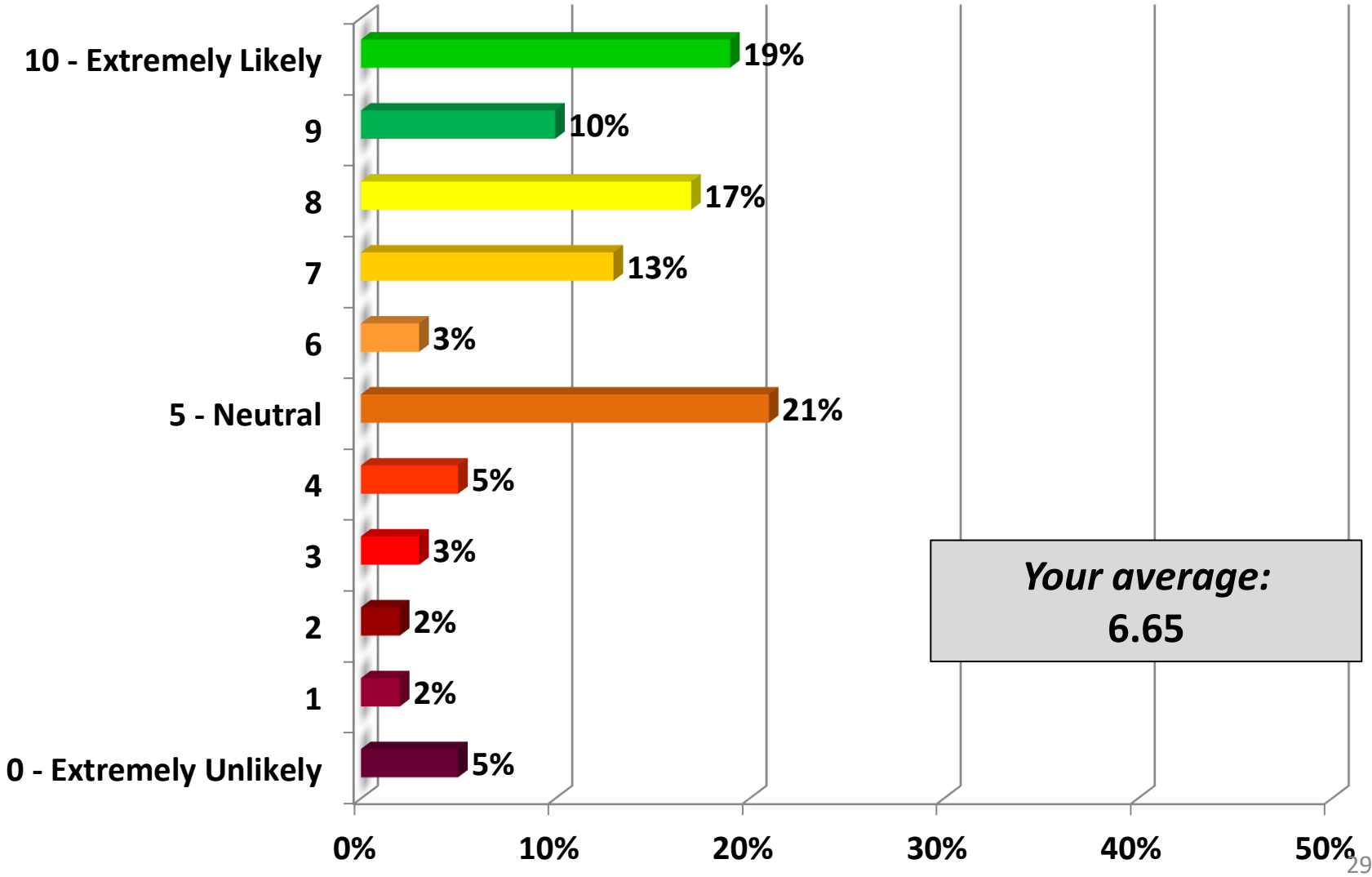
How well are we doing in each of the following areas?

Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)

Item	Agree Percent	Average
Delivering a high-quality education	79%	3.03
Keeping the public informed	66%	2.72
Managing funds appropriately	66%	2.76
Building pride in the community	71%	2.89

On a scale of 0 – 10, how likely would you be to recommend the District to a friend or family member?

(All Respondents)



Thank you!



Parent Surveys - Staff Surveys - Student Surveys - Community Surveys
www.schoolperceptions.com
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