

# Community Survey Results

## Springfield School District

Fall 2019

# SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

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

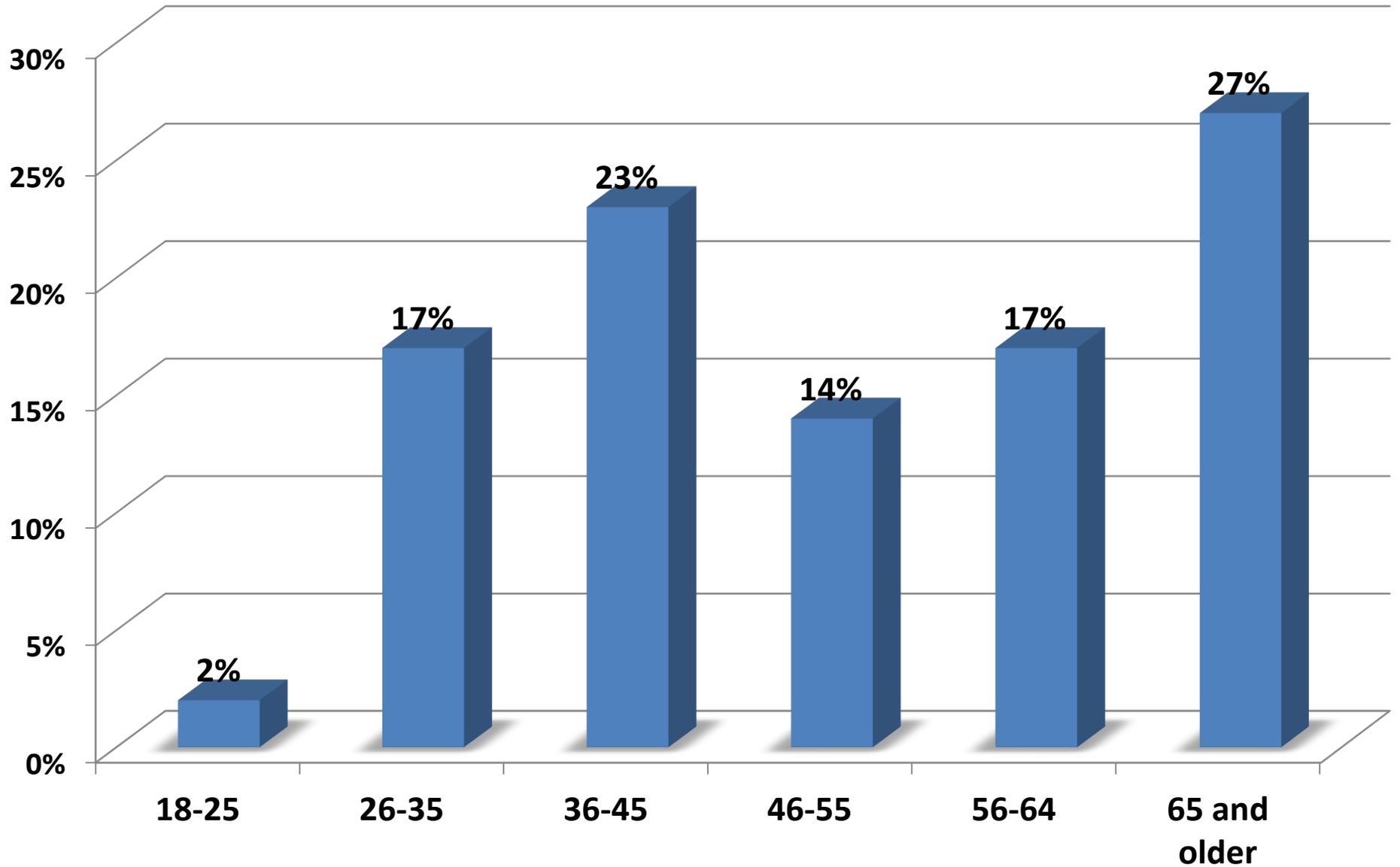
- Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research
- Conducted over 10,000 surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

# Survey Summary

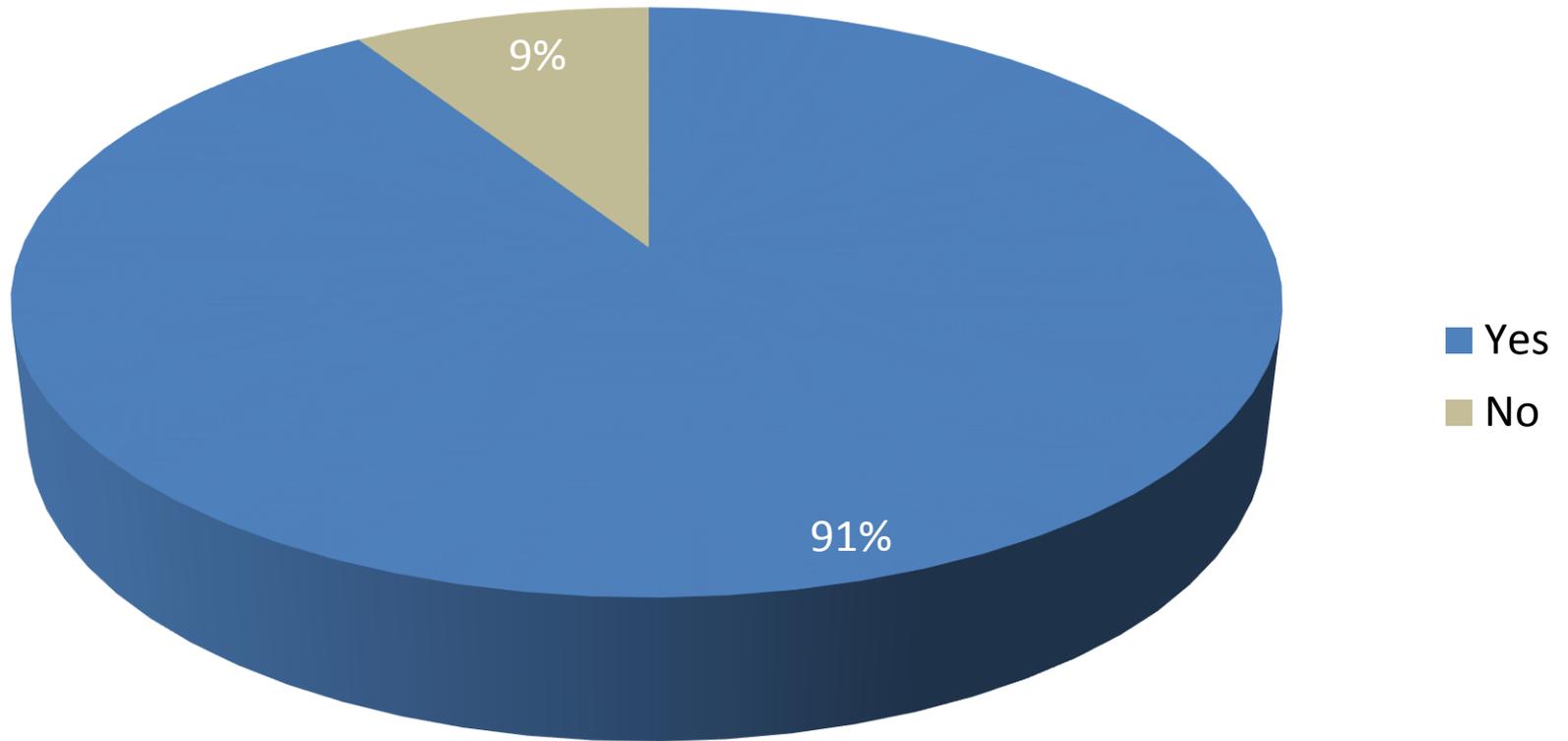
- The survey was conducted in mid-October through early November of 2019.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 631 (259 paper)
- Participation rate = 45%
- Margin of error = 3.9%

# Respondent Information

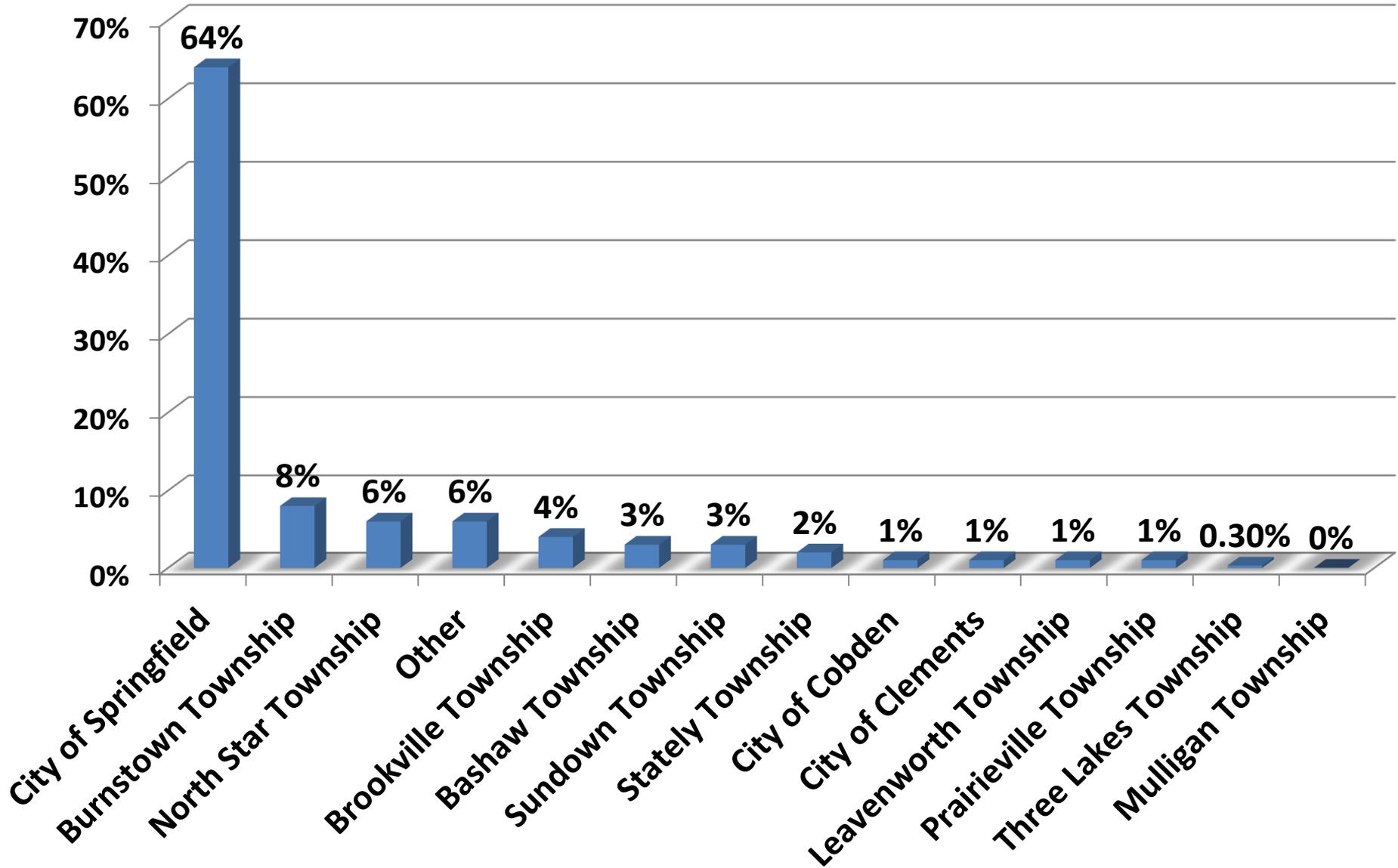
# What is your age?



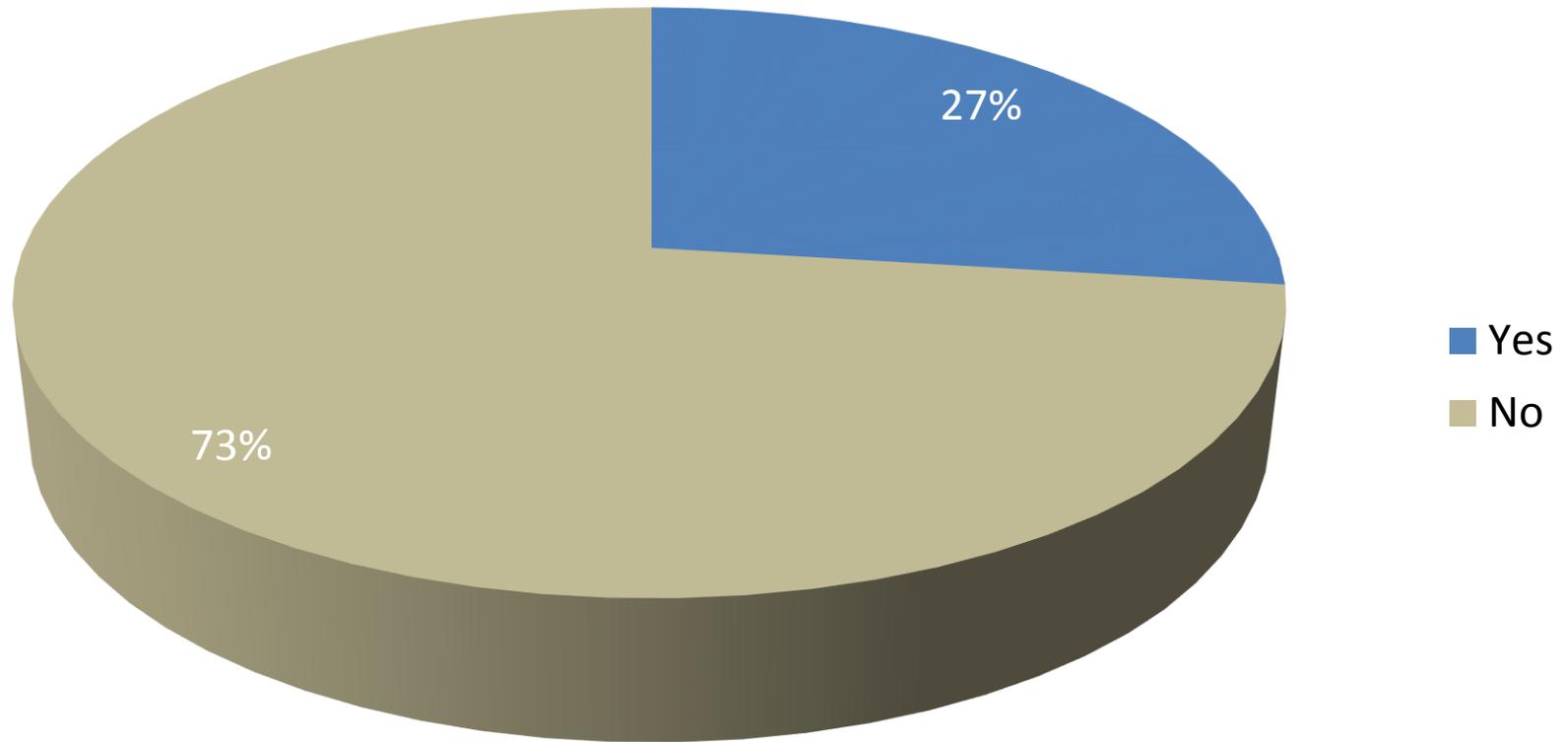
# Is your primary residence in the Springfield School District?



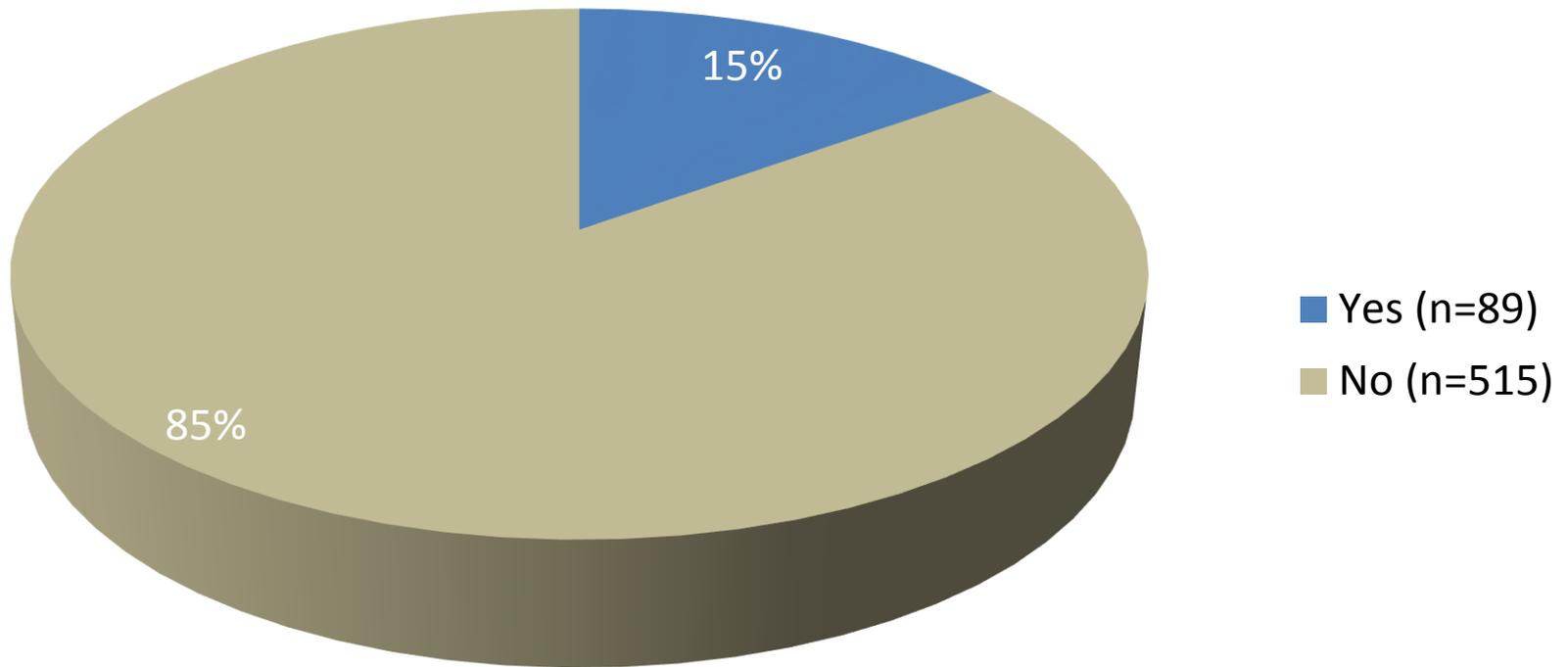
# In which municipality do you reside?



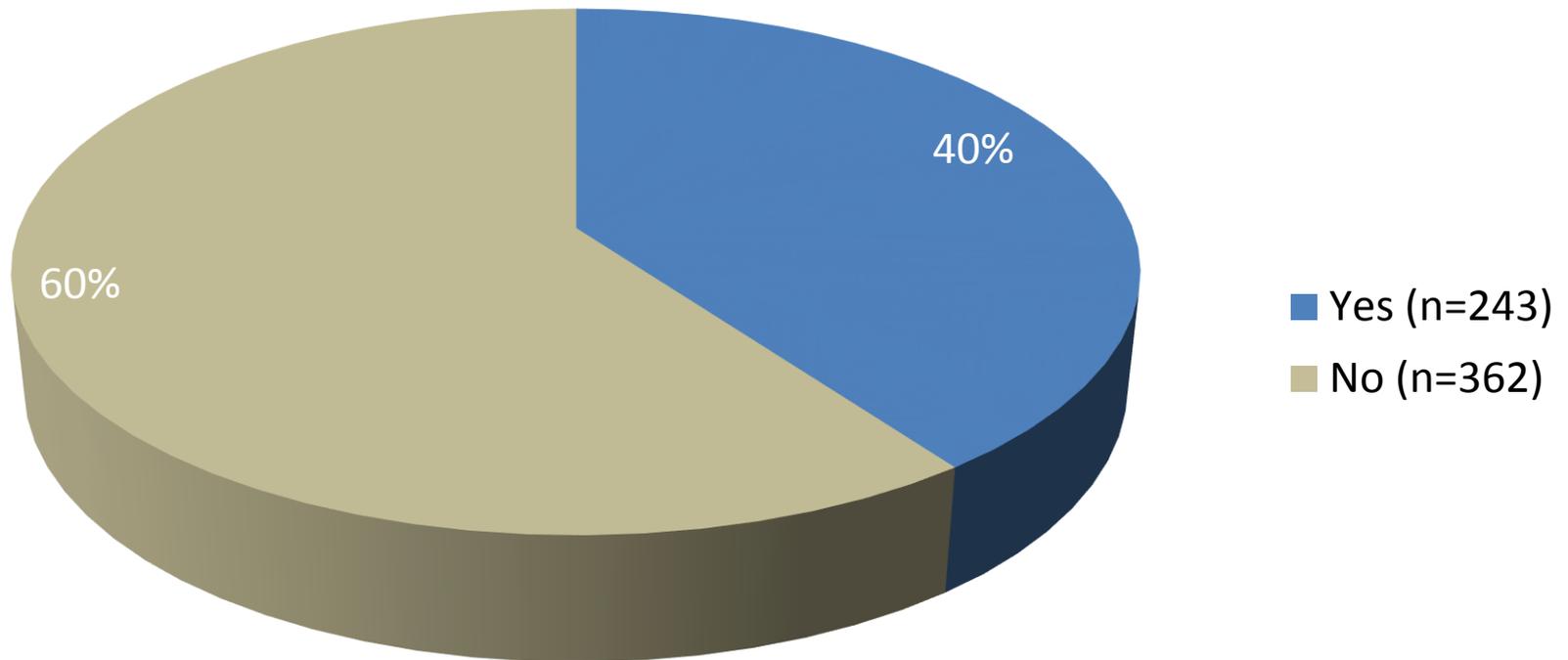
# Do you own property in the Springfield School District that is taxed as agricultural land?



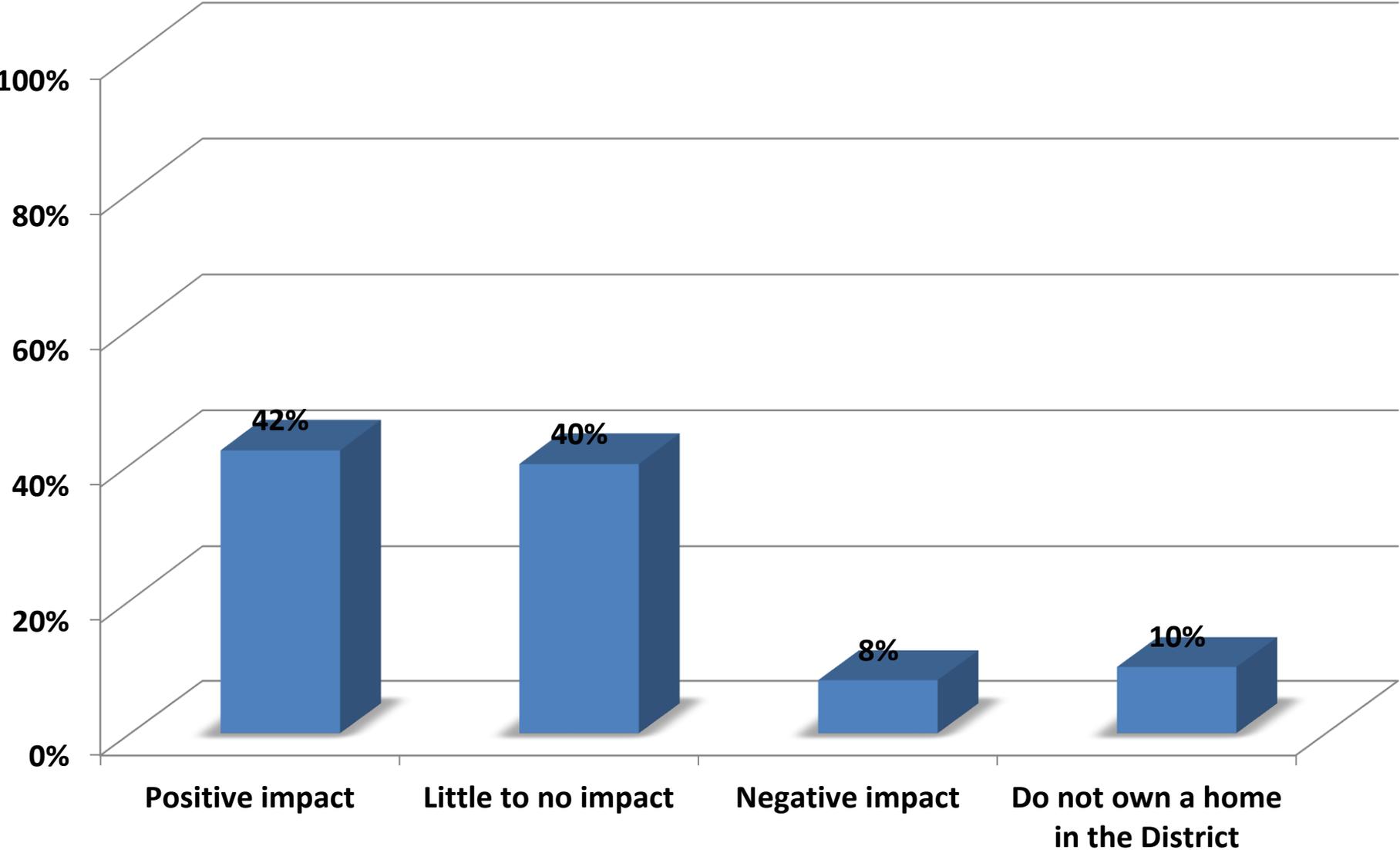
# Are you an employee of the Springfield School District?



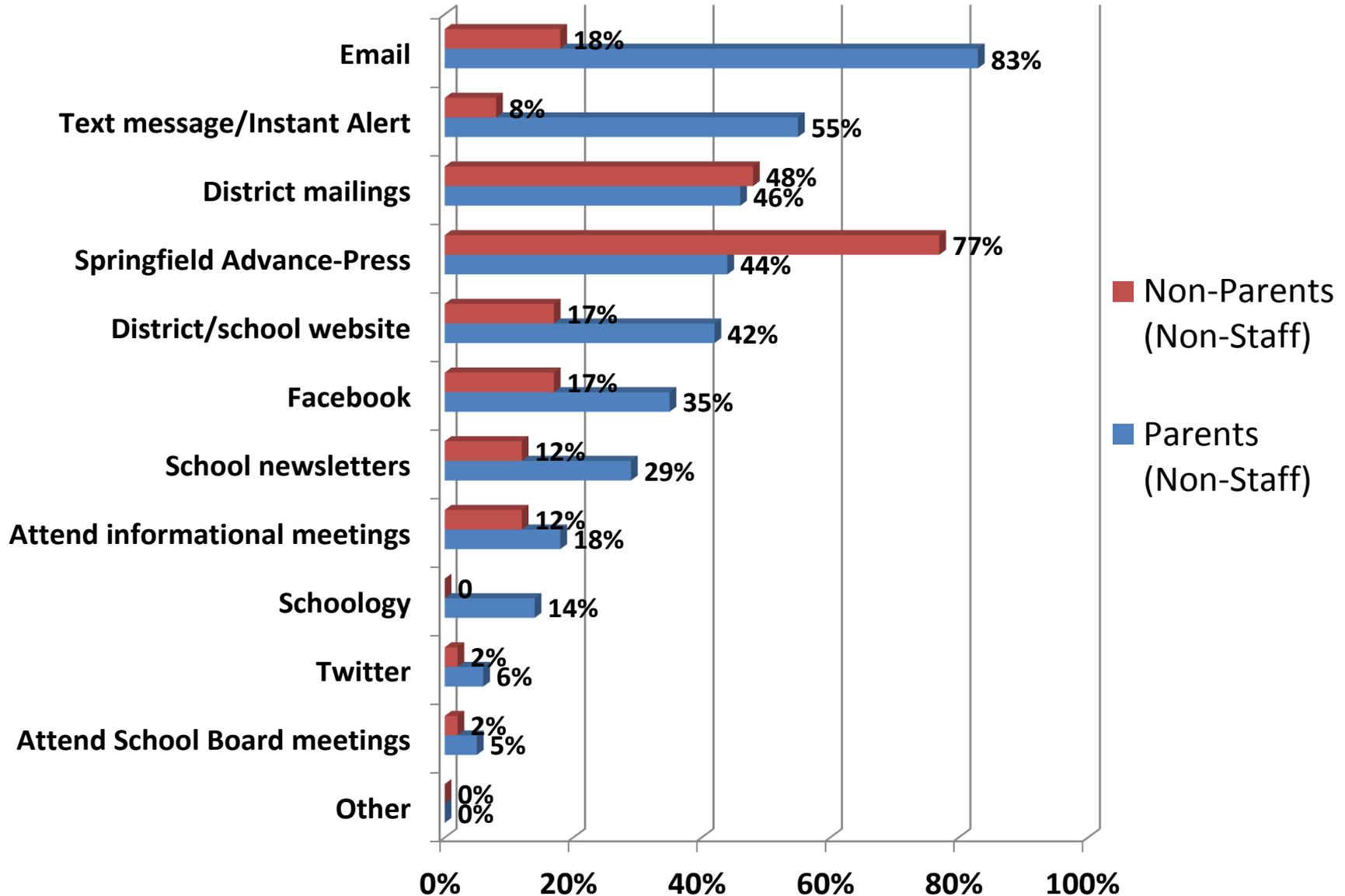
# Do you have children attending the Springfield School District?



# Overall, what impact do you believe the Springfield School District is having on your home value?



# How would you like to receive information regarding the Springfield School District?



# District Feedback

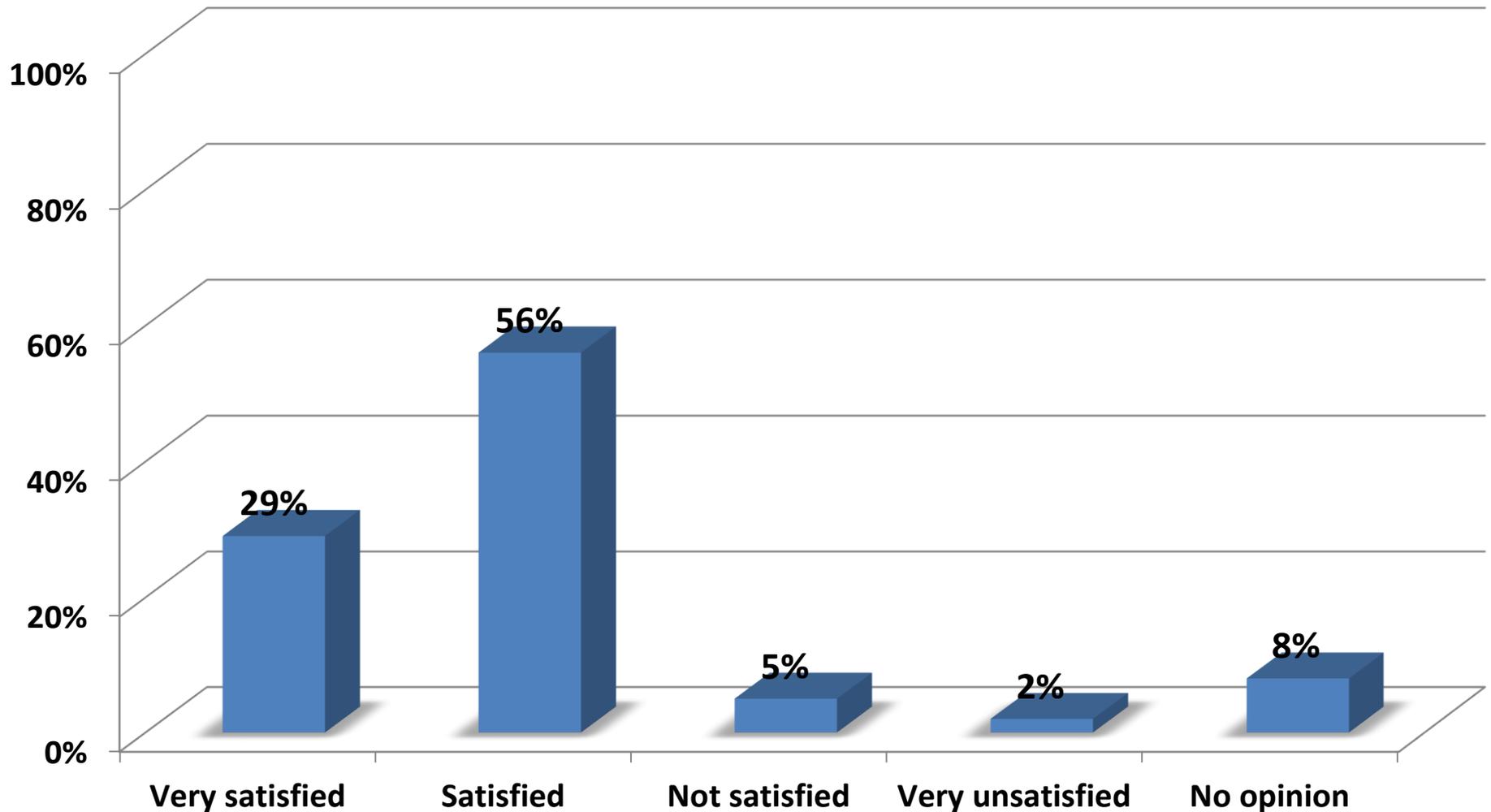
# Please tell us how well you believe we are doing in each of the following areas:

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

Item	Staff	Parents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parents (Non-Staff)
Delivering a high-quality educational experience	3.56	3.38	3.08
Providing a safe learning environment	3.14	3.13	3.03
Maintaining school facilities	2.74	3.05	2.90
Hiring and retaining high-quality faculty and staff	3.16	3.13	2.89
Keeping the public informed	3.25	3.13	2.73

# Overall, how satisfied are you with the Springfield School District?

*(All Respondents)*



# Facility Planning Background

A *Facility Assessment* was completed by ISG in February of 2016. The review evaluated building infrastructure, capacity and the adequacy of educational and support spaces. To read the entire *Facilities Assessment*, visit [www.springfield.mntm.org](http://www.springfield.mntm.org). The study identified the following needs:

### **Address Aging Infrastructure**

While we have worked hard to maintain our school, the heating and cooling (HVAC) system needs replacement. Our system does not meet current air exchange standards and is difficult to maintain as there is a lack of replacement parts available.

### **Improve Safety and Security**

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. There is a need to create a designated main entrance that is intuitive and better regulates visitor access to meet today's safety standards. In addition, there is a need for additional parking and the creation of dedicated bus and vehicle drop-off/pick-up lanes to better separate vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

### **Expand and Improve Classroom Space**

Currently, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) space does not meet today's programming standards and cannot functionally support existing equipment and provide the needed space for hands-on, project-based learning. This lack of space forces students to work outside even during the winter months, and more importantly limits course offerings and experiences related to key employment opportunities to meet our local needs in the automotive, construction, welding and agriculture trades.

### **Expand Support Spaces for School and Community Use**

The size of the school's cafeteria presents certain challenges to appropriately serve students around the noon hour. As a result, lunch is served over multiple periods beginning at 10:45, and the current design limits its use for other school and community purposes. The amount of gym space can no longer reasonably meet the needs of the school and community, impacting indoor recess, physical education classes and school and youth recreation athletic schedules. Finally, the current locker rooms need updating, and additional locker rooms are needed.

If the community chooses to address these needs, the primary way to obtain funding is through a bond referendum.

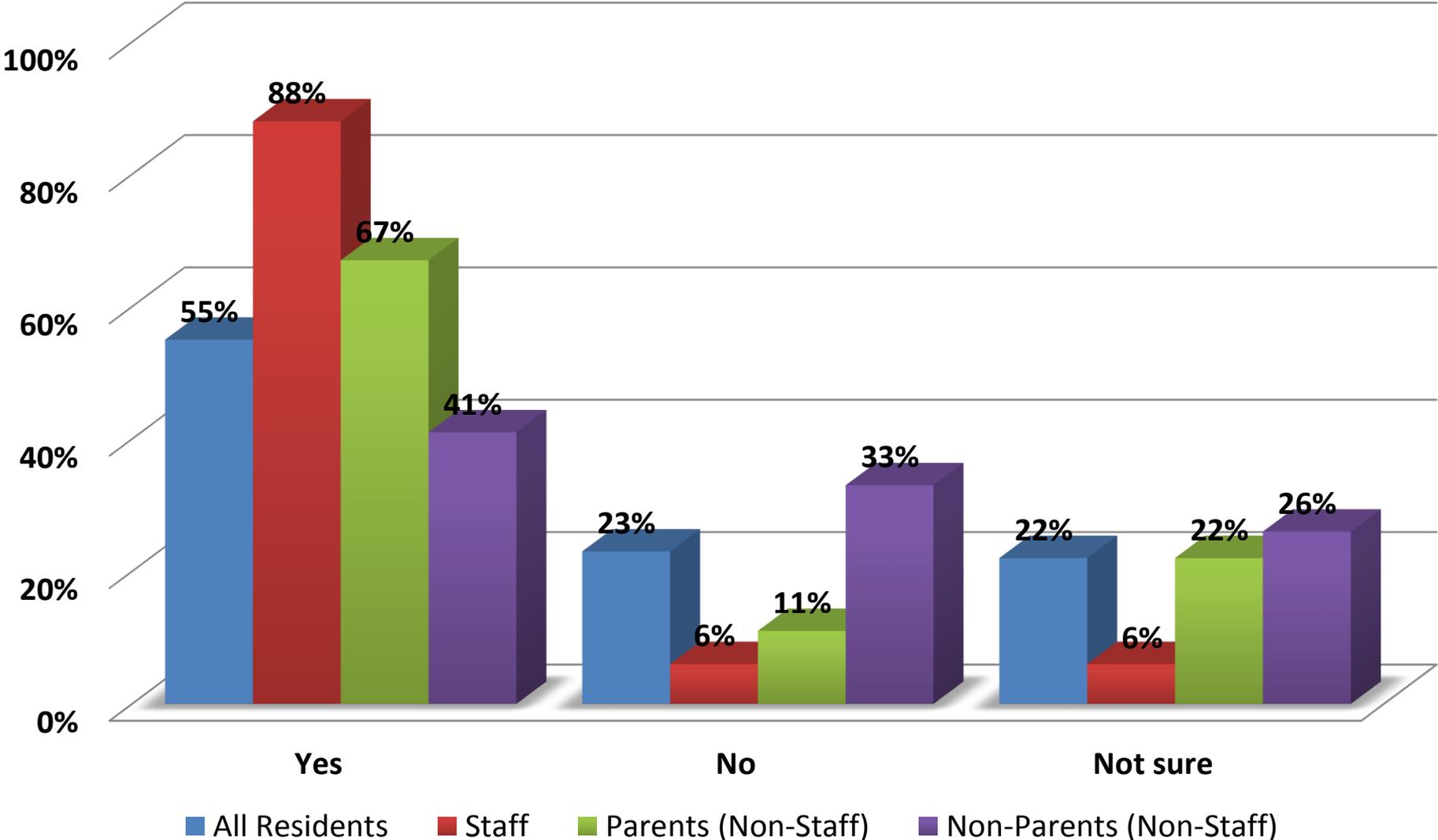
# The Right Time

**The District believes this is a good time to consider these necessary school facility projects because:**

- The District is debt-free.
- The District's revenue from local tax burden is in the bottom 5% of Minnesota School Districts.
- Interest rates remain at historic lows.
- These projects would qualify for the Ag to School Property Tax Relief Bill. This bill, passed in May 2019, will reduce property taxes paid on agricultural land for school improvements by 55% in 2021, 60% in 2022, and 70% for taxes payable in 2023 and beyond. The state's share of the tax burden of a 20-year bonded project benefiting our school community would exceed 50%.

# Would you support the School Board pursuing a bond referendum to address the District's facility needs?

*(Springfield School District Residents Only)*



# Potential Projects

Some people had encouraged the District to explore building a new school as the buildings' average age is 42 years old. After reviewing preliminary cost estimates of approximately \$61 million, and acknowledging the recent investments that have been made to the existing school, the Task Force believes **it does not make good financial sense to consider a new school at this time.** However, you will have the opportunity to express your opinion on a new PreK – 12 school on page 7 of this survey.

**If the community supports updating the existing school, the following projects could be funded through a bond referendum.**

*(Note: The image on the "Conceptual Plan" page shows how these projects could be configured.)*

## **Update Building Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning System**

Due to its age, the heating and cooling (HVAC) is in need of a complete replacement.

**Estimated cost: \$6.7 million**

## **Improve Safety and Security**

The District's elementary and administrative *entrances need to be redesigned* to route visitors through a regulated area before having access to students. A designated main entrance to the school needs to be created that is intuitive and easily accessible for guests during the school day and will allow for regulated access to the gym and auditorium outside the school day. This will require the high school office to be relocated to the school's first floor. In addition, the traffic patterns around the school need to be redesigned and include the *creation of dedicated bus and vehicle drop-off and pick-up lanes*. This will improve safety by better separating buses, cars and pedestrians.

**Estimated cost: \$3.75 million**

# Expand and Update the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Lab and Add Gym Space

There is a growing demand for employees in the construction, manufacturing, engineering and design fields in our region. However, our current Career and Technical Education (CTE) lab is too small and in need of expansion to improve safety and support new equipment. Currently, equipment needs to be rotated into the lab for various classes, and students are required to work outside (even in the winter months) due to the space shortage. The District would like to renovate and expand this space in order to:

- Expand course offerings to meet student interest and workforce demands
- Incorporate the latest tools and equipment
- Provide more job-like, project-based experiences
- Improve safety

The current gyms do not meet the District's physical education, indoor recess and co/extra-curricular program needs. When the last gym was built in 1961, the District had only offered a few boys' sports, and there were no youth programs. Today, our academic, co/extra-curricular and youth programming engages many more students than ever before, many of which have gym space demands. As a result of the lack of gym space, youth and community programs for our youngest learners need to be held late into the evening throughout the school year, and many gym usage requests cannot be accommodated. The small gym, built in 1926, regularly needs to be used for indoor recess, housing over 120 elementary students in the small space, and is utilized for junior high extra-curricular activities and youth programs. The functional use of this 1-court small gym is limited because of its size, and spectator viewing for many parents and grandparents is greatly limited and uncomfortable.

The small (1926) gym could be repurposed for CTE space, and a 2-court gym could be added to the southeast end of the school with a dedicated entrance to allow the space to be used outside of the school day.

**Estimated cost: \$8.3 million**

## **Expand Fitness/Wellness Space and Update Locker Rooms**

The school's fitness/weight room lacks natural light and is too small to fit an entire physical education class or athletic team at one time. A new, expanded fitness and weight room would allow for additional weights/cardio equipment (stationary bikes, treadmills, ellipticals) as well as needed space for physical education classes and athletic teams.

The existing locker rooms have plumbing and fixtures that need to be replaced and do not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code requirements. In addition, visiting team locker rooms need to be built.

**Estimated cost: \$1.3 million**

## **Community Accessible Walking Track**

The gym project could be expanded to include an indoor walking track for school and community use. This walking track would improve the multi-purpose use of that space and be accessible to the community during the day and evening throughout all 12 months of the year.

**Estimated cost: \$1.3 million**

## **Add Theater Support Space**

Our auditorium is used by both the school and community. There is a lack of support spaces, including storage and dressing rooms. As a result, classrooms are used as make-up stations, dressing rooms, prop storage, and so on, impacting needed instructional space.

**Estimated cost: \$350,000**

## **Expand the Cafeteria and Build New Music Classrooms**

The cafeteria is used daily and creates difficulties in effectively meeting our students' needs. Due to the lack of seating, lunch is served beginning with kindergartners eating as early as 10:45 a.m. and the oldest students as late as 12:55 p.m. To meet this serving window, students must be crowded into the cafeteria, creating a consistently uncomfortable environment. In addition, the cafeteria's current size does not work well for large group activities/instruction nor for use as our community early childhood and parent education gathering space. Therefore, the District would like to:

- Build a larger cafeteria that would extend into the adjacent choir room, maximizing its capacity
- Include flexibility in its design to serve as a commons area for student collaboration and studying after school
- Design the space to also be used for large group activities by the school and community

The current music classrooms are too small, including the band room that is used for both the elementary and secondary band, causing teachers to set up and take down equipment multiple times a day. In addition, they lack adequate storage and proper acoustics.

If the cafeteria is expanded, the existing music room could be repurposed into cafeteria space. Then, larger band and music classrooms could be added near the auditorium and include:

- Space designed for general music, choir and band with proper acoustics and flexible seating
- Practice rooms and storage space for instruments and equipment

**Estimated cost: \$2.9 million**

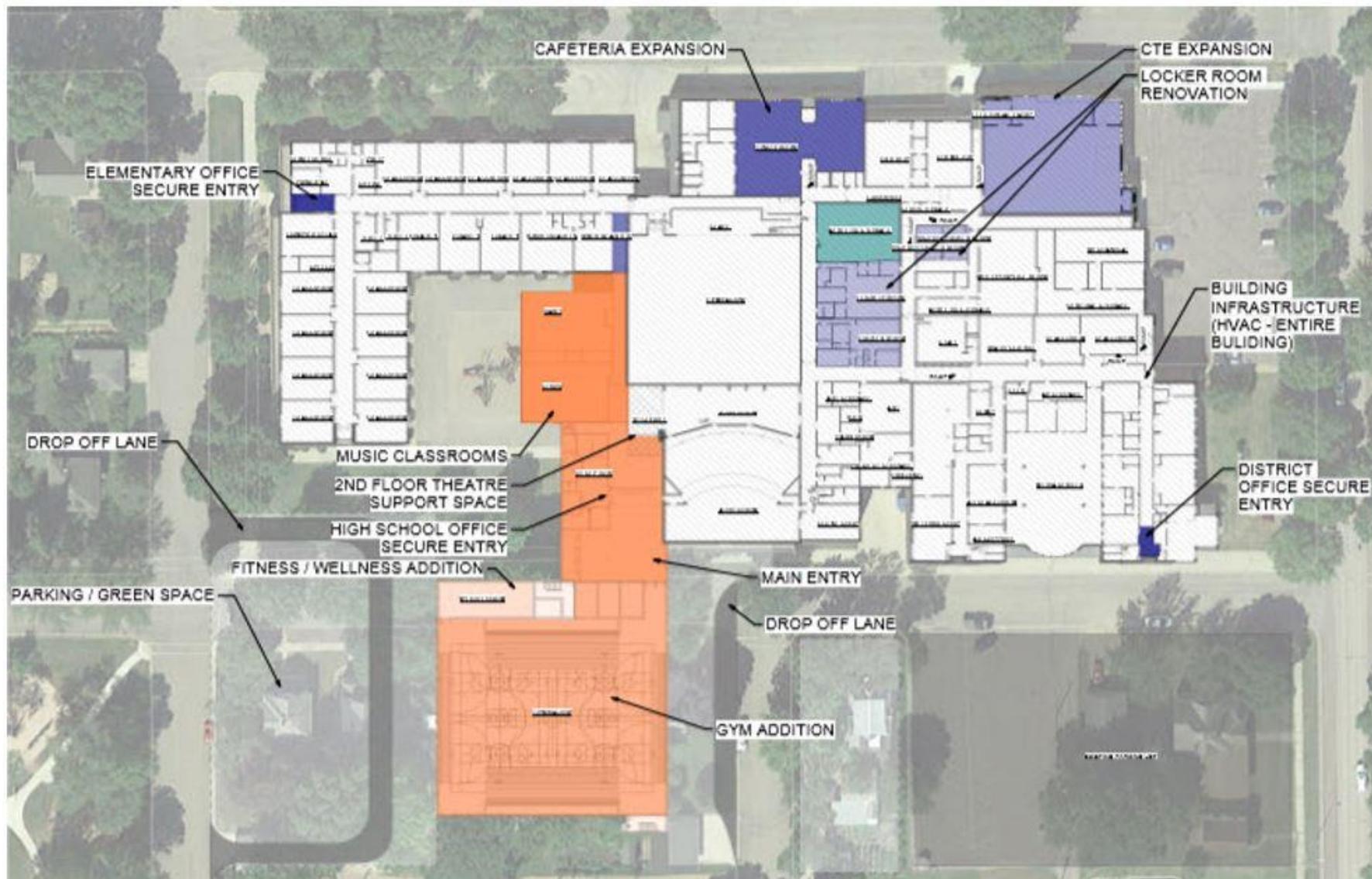
# Would you support a referendum that provides funding to...

*Yes (10), No (1)*

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
<b>update building HVAC?</b> Estimated cost: \$6.7 million	8.73	9.74	9.51	8.00
<b>improve school safety and security?</b> Estimated cost: \$3.75 million	7.41	9.25	8.61	6.28
<b>expand the cafeteria and build new music classrooms?</b> Estimated cost: \$2.9 million	6.28	8.08	7.99	4.81
<b>expand and update the Career and Technical Education CTE Lab and add gym space?</b> Estimated cost: \$8.3 million	6.02	8.08	7.29	4.81
<b>expand the fitness/wellness space and update the locker rooms?</b> Estimated cost: \$1.3 million	6.13	8.80	7.52	4.73
<b>add theater support space?</b> Estimated cost: \$350,000	5.12	8.11	6.16	3.92
<b>expand the gym to include an indoor walking track?</b> Estimated cost: \$1.3 million	4.62	7.22	6.20	3.27

# Conceptual Plan

The image below is a proposed Conceptual Plan (not a final draft) to address all of the projects identified in this survey as well as the building infrastructure upgrades.



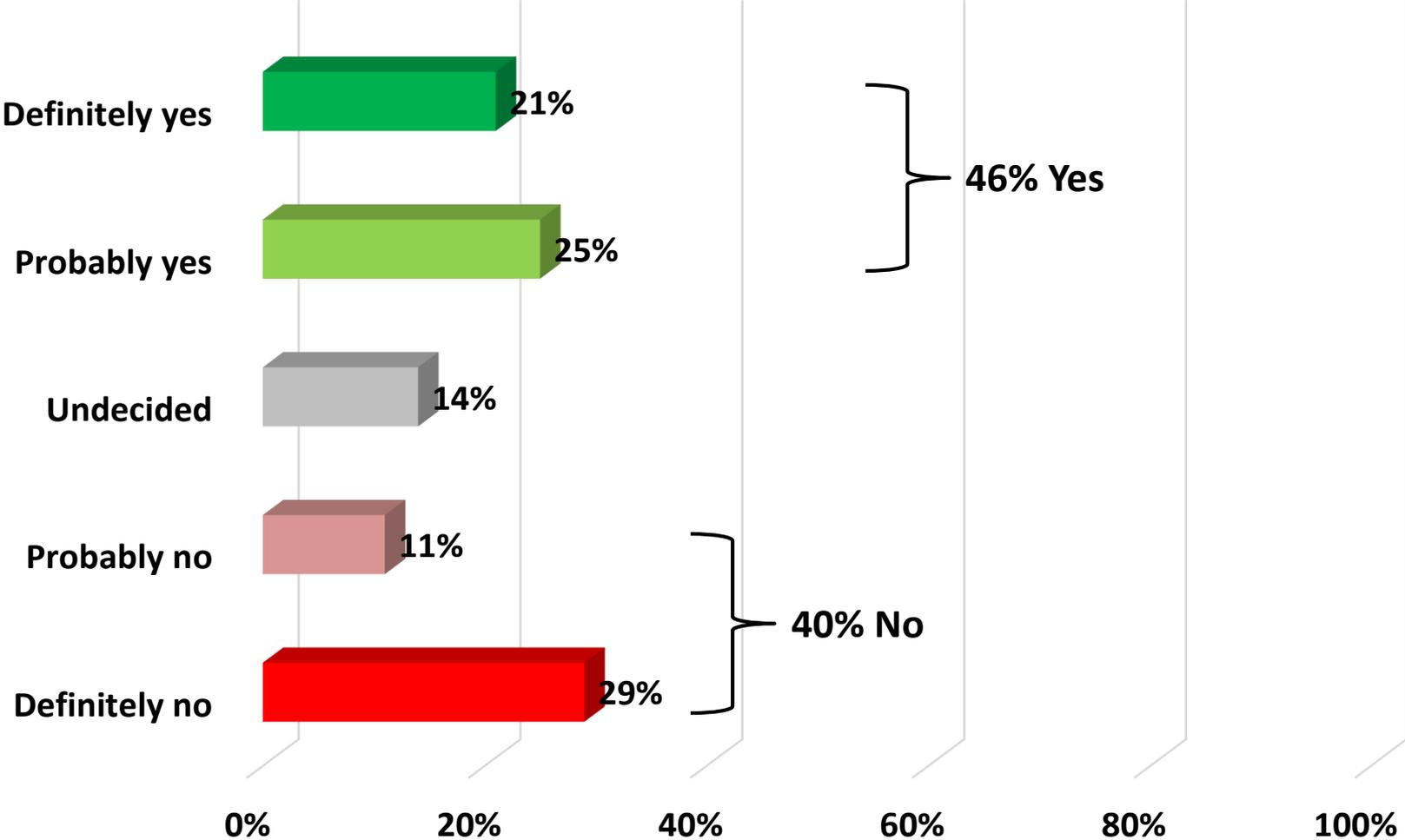
The cost to complete the Conceptual Plan and address the building infrastructure needs is \$24.6 million.

The chart shows the projected tax impacts.

<b>PROJECTED ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE ON A 20-YEAR BOND</b>		
<b>Type of Property</b>	<b>Estimated Market Value</b>	<b>\$24.6 million Conceptual Plan</b>
<b>Residential Homestead</b>	\$50,000	\$89
	\$75,000	\$133
	\$100,000	\$212
	\$150,000	\$373
	\$250,000	\$696
	\$300,000	\$857
<b>Commercial/ Industrial</b>	\$250,000	\$1,257
	\$500,000	\$2,736
<b>Ag Homestead</b> (average value per acre of land and buildings)	\$6,000	\$3.99
	\$7,000	\$4.66
	\$8,000	\$5.32
<b>Ag Non- Homestead</b> (average value per acre of land and buildings)	\$6,000	\$7.99
	\$7,000	\$9.32
	\$8,000	\$10.65

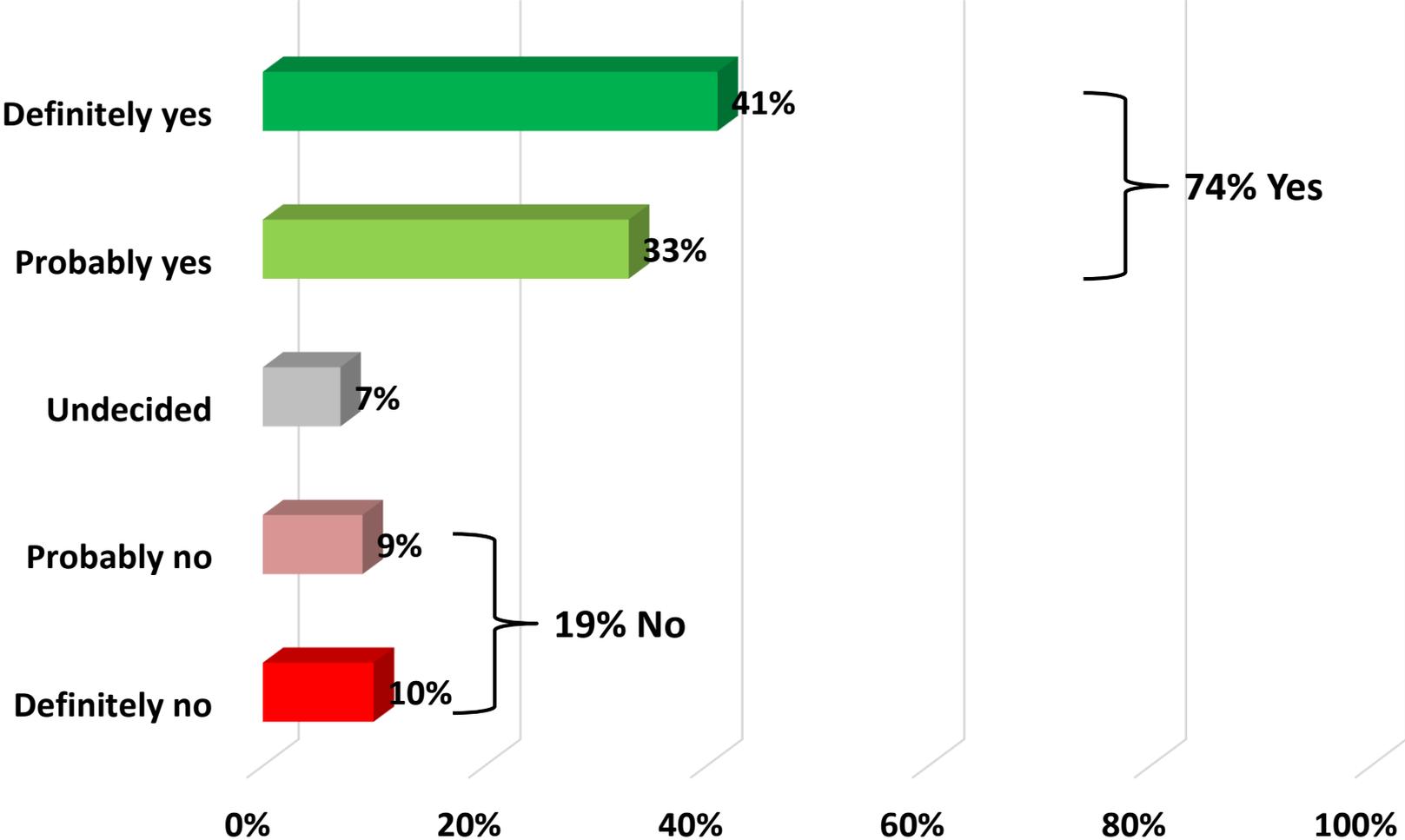
# Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Conceptual Plan?

All Residents



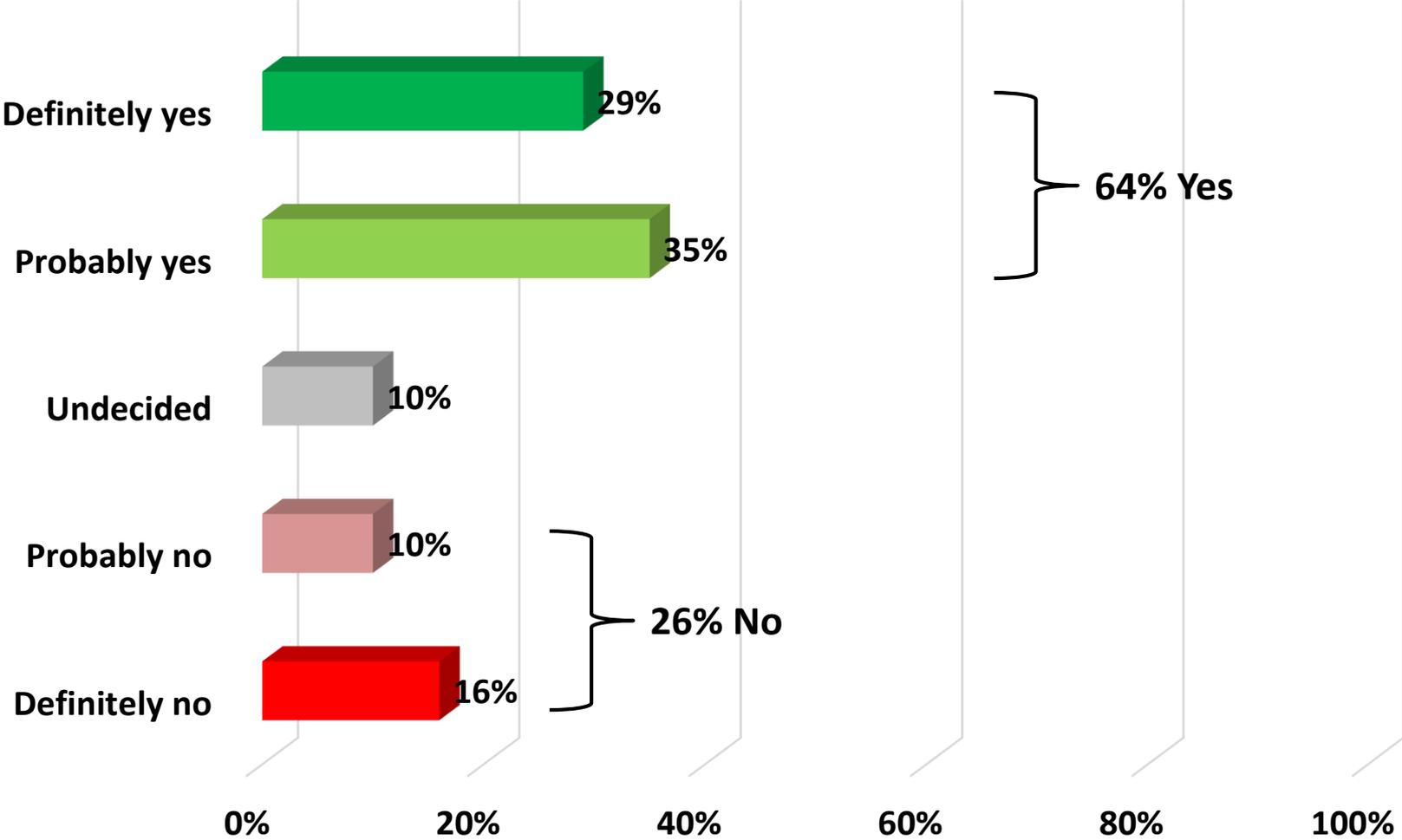
# Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Conceptual Plan?

## Staff Residents



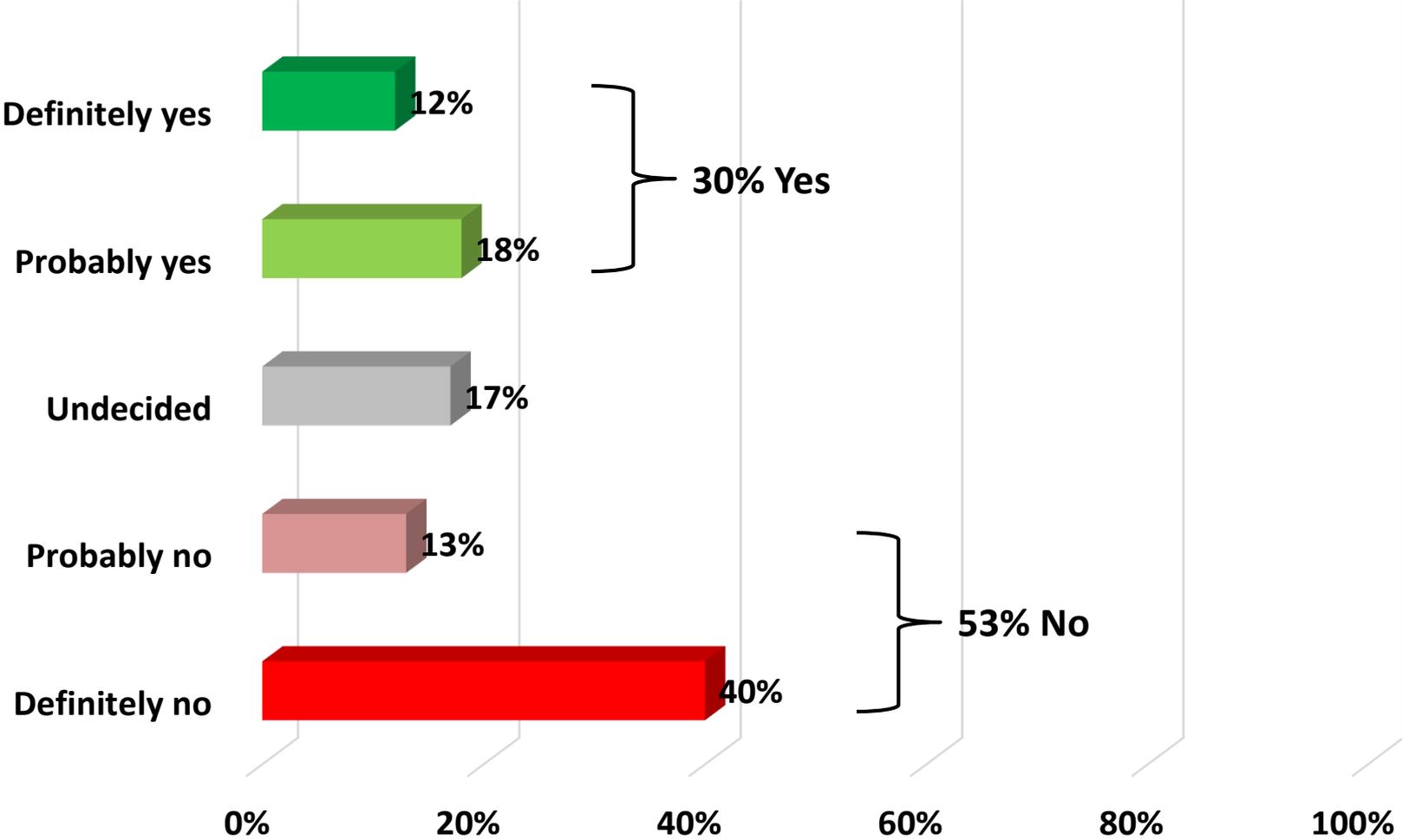
# Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Conceptual Plan?

## Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Based on the tax impacts shown, would you support a bond referendum for the Conceptual Plan?

## Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Funding Support

The cost to build a new PreK – 12 school is \$61 million. The cost to complete all of the identified projects to update our school is \$24.6 million. **If the community chooses to update the school, we may have to complete the identified projects in phases, based on the community’s priorities and willingness to financially support the projects.** It is important to note that it will likely cost more to complete projects in future years as a result of increasing costs.

The table shows the tax impact for various referendum amounts. The District would like to know your level of support.

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT ON A 20-YEAR BOND							
Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	PROJECTED ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE					
		\$16 million	\$18 million	\$20 million	\$22 million	\$24.6 million <i>Conceptual Plan</i>	\$61 million <i>New PreK-12 School</i>
<b>Residential Homestead</b>	\$50,000	\$58	\$65	\$72	\$79	\$89	\$220
	\$75,000	\$86	\$97	\$108	\$119	\$133	\$330
	\$100,000	\$138	\$155	\$172	\$190	\$212	\$525
	\$150,000	\$242	\$273	\$303	\$334	\$373	\$925
	\$250,000	\$452	\$508	\$565	\$622	\$696	\$1,723
	\$300,000	\$556	\$626	\$696	\$766	\$857	\$2,122
<b>Commercial/ Industrial</b>	\$250,000	\$816	\$918	\$1,021	\$1,123	\$1,257	\$3,112
	\$500,000	\$1,776	\$1,999	\$2,222	\$2,445	\$2,736	\$6,774
<b>Ag Homestead**</b> (average value per acre of land and buildings)	\$6,000	\$2.59	\$2.92	\$3.24	\$3.57	\$3.99	\$9.89
	\$7,000	\$3.02	\$3.40	\$3.78	\$4.16	\$4.66	\$11.53
	\$8,000	\$3.46	\$3.89	\$4.32	\$4.76	\$5.32	\$13.18
<b>Ag Non-Homestead*</b> (average value per acre of land and buildings)	\$6,000	\$5.18	\$5.83	\$6.49	\$7.14	\$7.99	\$19.77
	\$7,000	\$6.05	\$6.81	\$7.57	\$8.33	\$9.32	\$23.07
	\$8,000	\$6.91	\$7.78	\$8.65	\$9.51	\$10.65	\$26.36

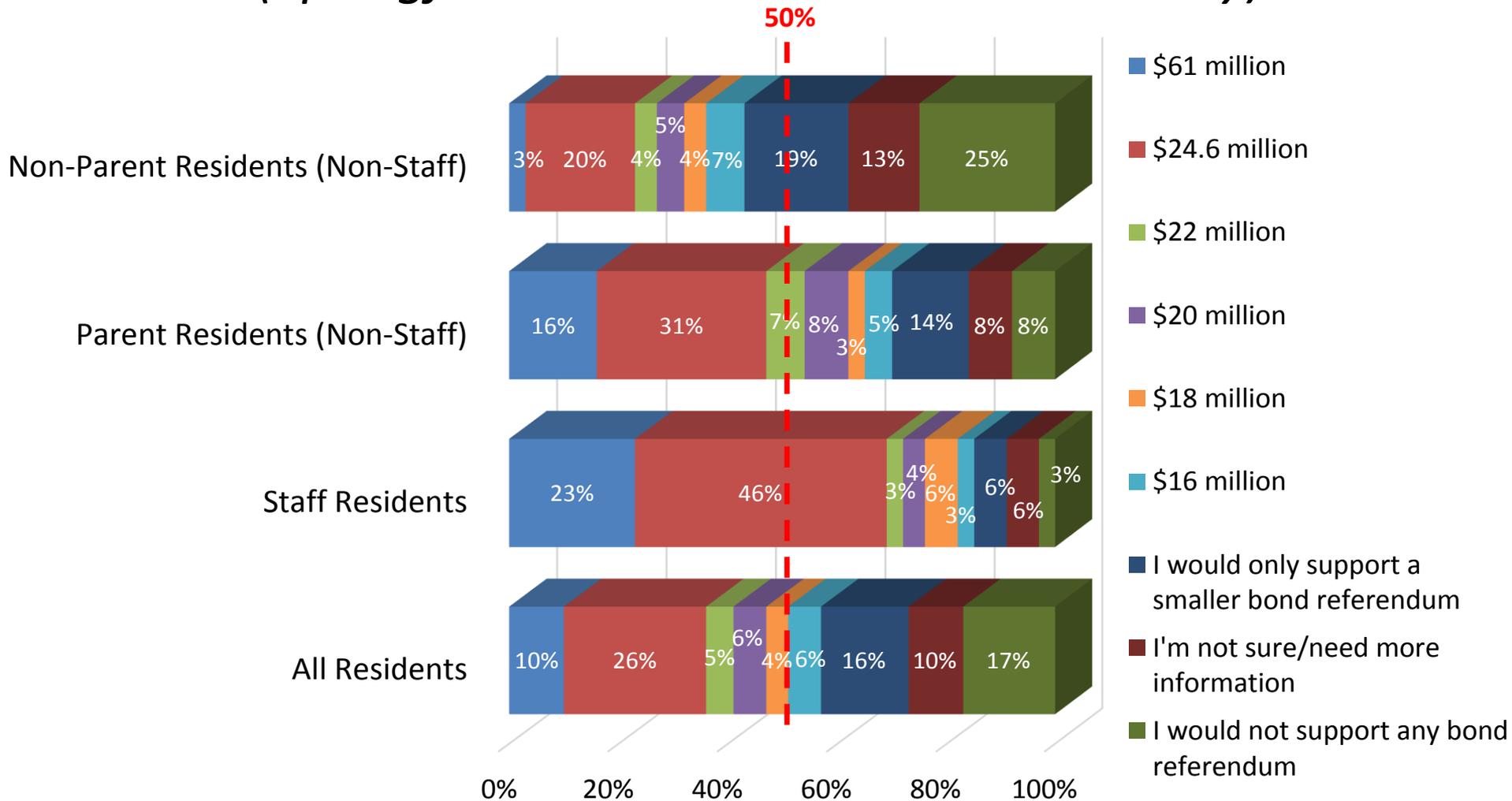
\*Ag2School Property Tax Relief Bill: Estimated tax impacts represent a 55% reduction due to the School Building Bond Agricultural Credit. The Ag2School Property Tax Relief Bill that was passed in May 2019 will further reduce property taxes paid on agricultural land for school improvements by 60% in 2022 and 70% for taxes payable in 2023 and beyond. This ongoing credit will be directly deducted from property taxes owed and applies to debt service taxes for all types of existing and future building bonds for construction and renovation projects. The credit is automatically deducted on the tax statement and is included in the tax impact estimates.

Read more at: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/ff0ef859-f36d-49a0-bd42-dcf861e1553c.pdf>

\*\*Homestead examples exclude the house, garage, and one acre, which has the same tax impact as a residential homestead.

# How much of a tax impact would you support through a bond referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?

*(Springfield School District Residents Only)*



Thank you!



Parent Surveys - Staff Surveys - Student Surveys - Community Surveys  
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