

# Community Survey Results

## Sturgeon Bay School District

Fall 2021

# SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

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

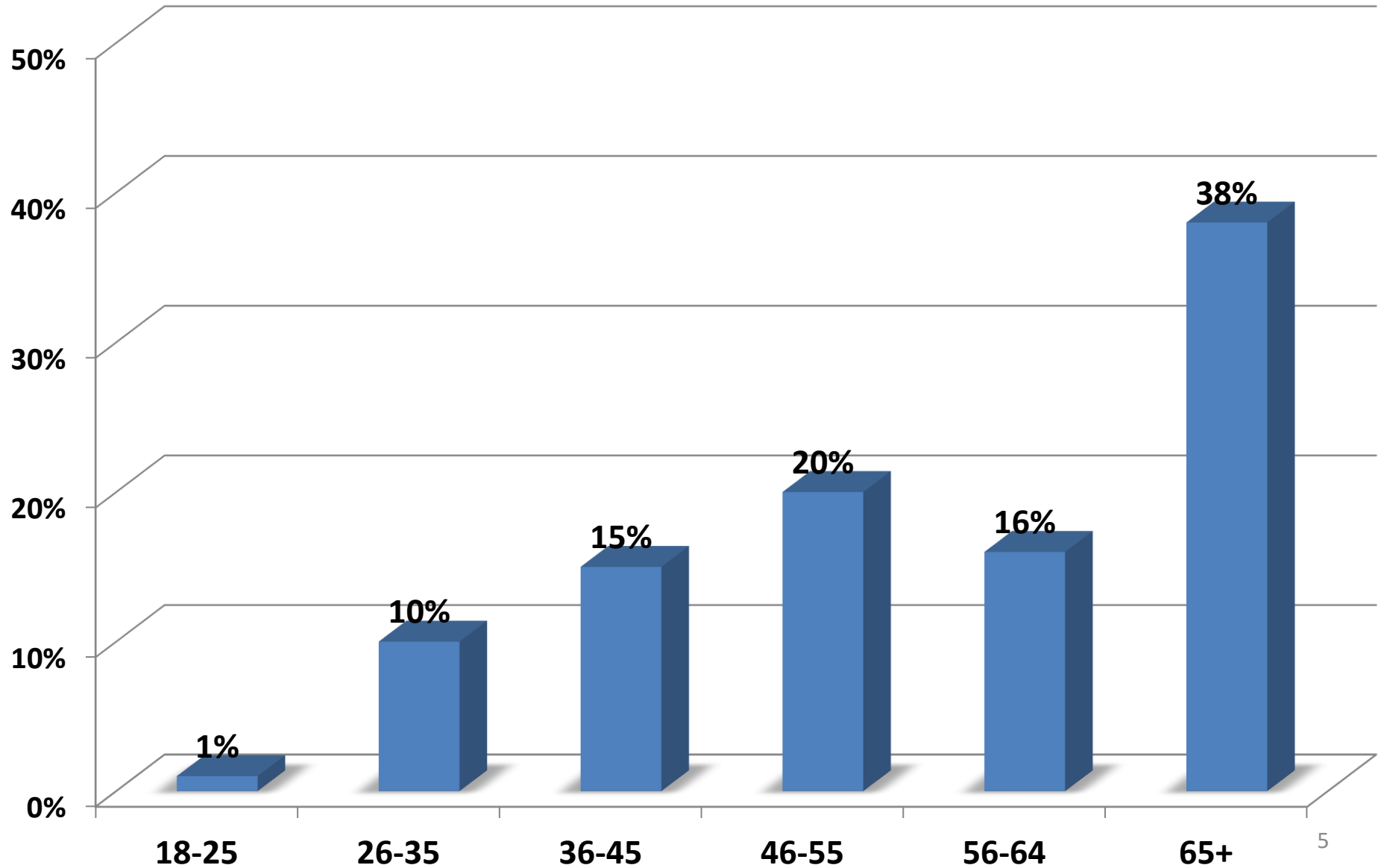
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted more than **10,000** staff, parent, student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **800** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

# Survey Summary

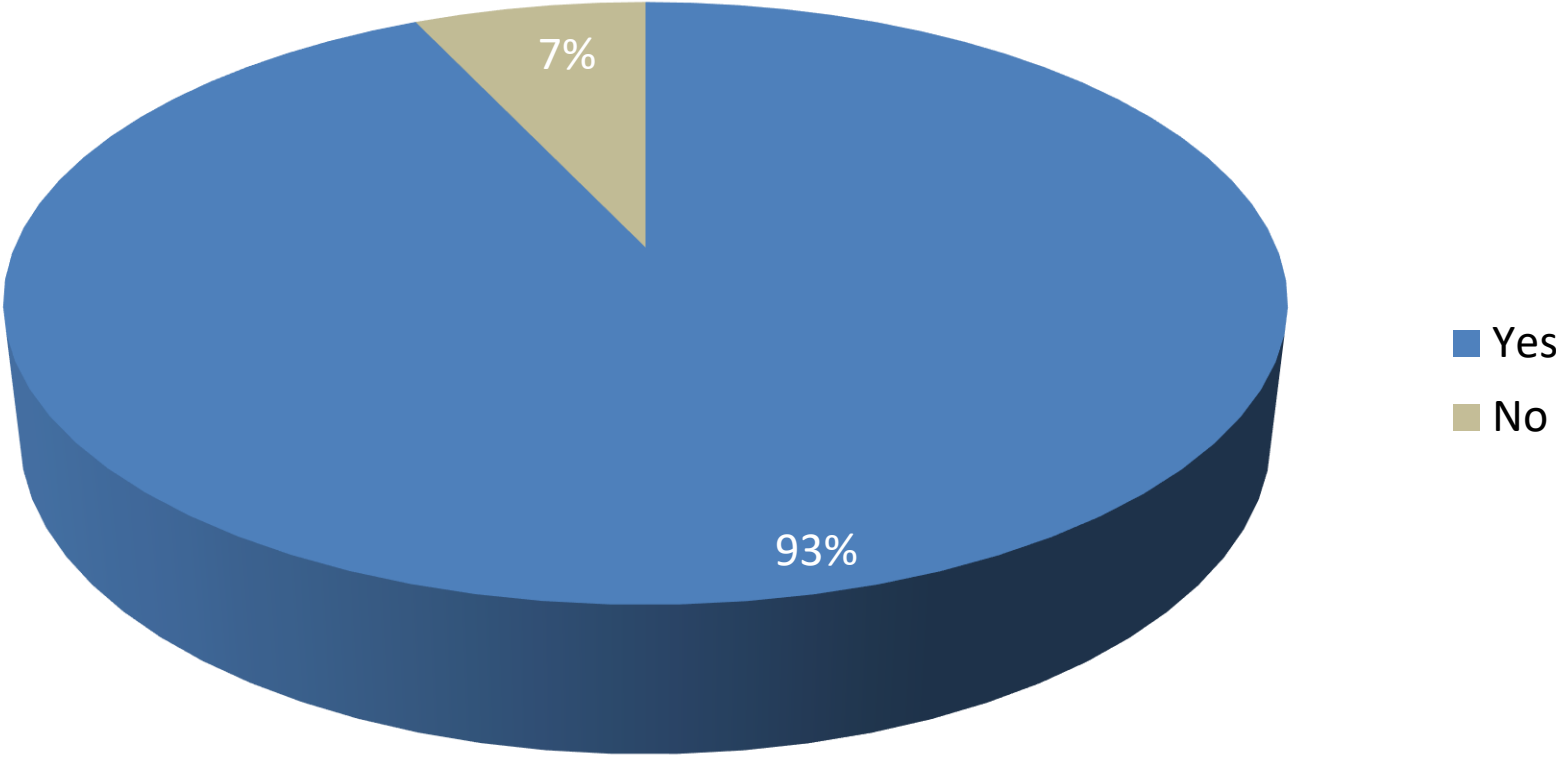
- The survey was conducted in November of 2021.
- District residents were mailed a paper survey.
  - Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 859 (465 paper)
- Response rate: 16%

# Respondent Information

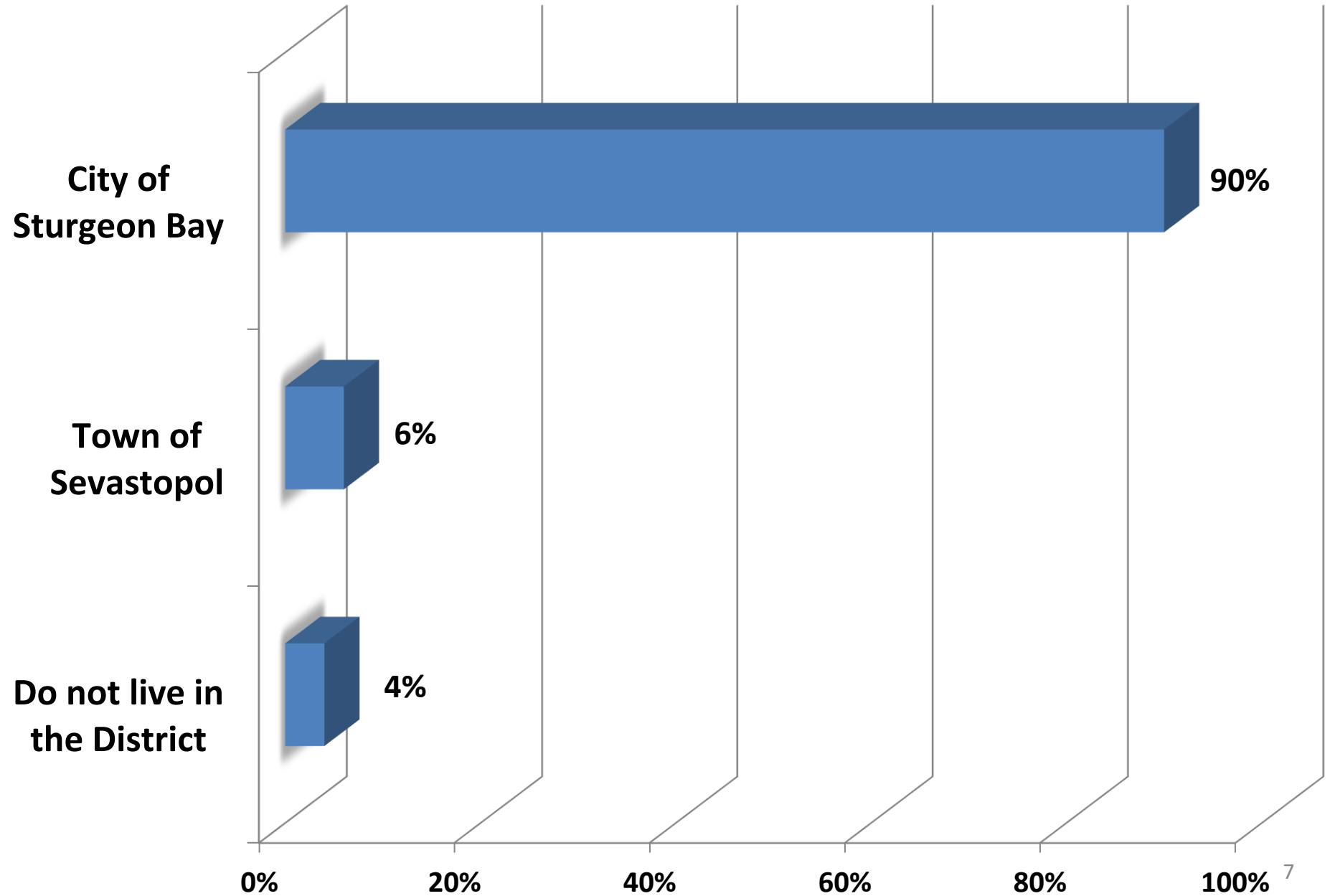
# What is your age?



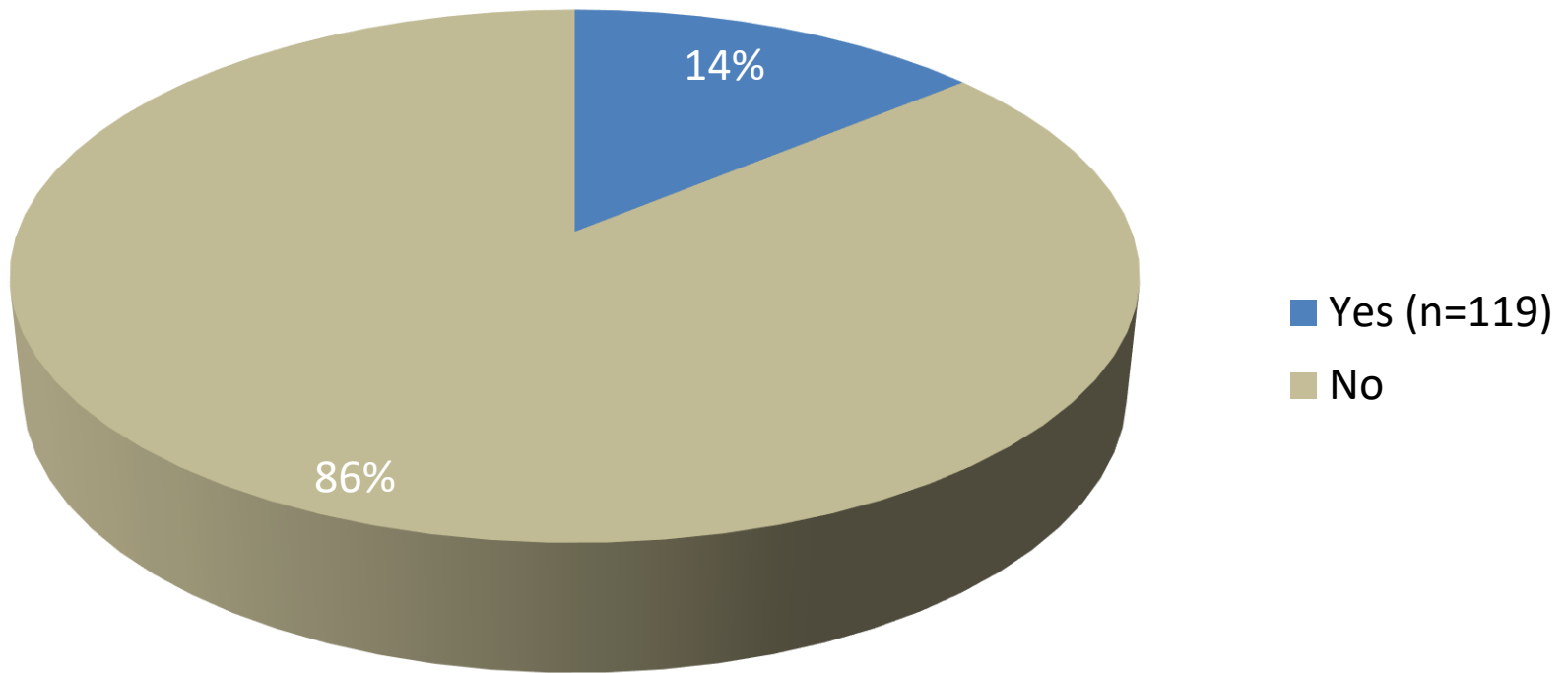
# Is your primary residence in the Sturgeon Bay School District?



# In which municipality do you live?

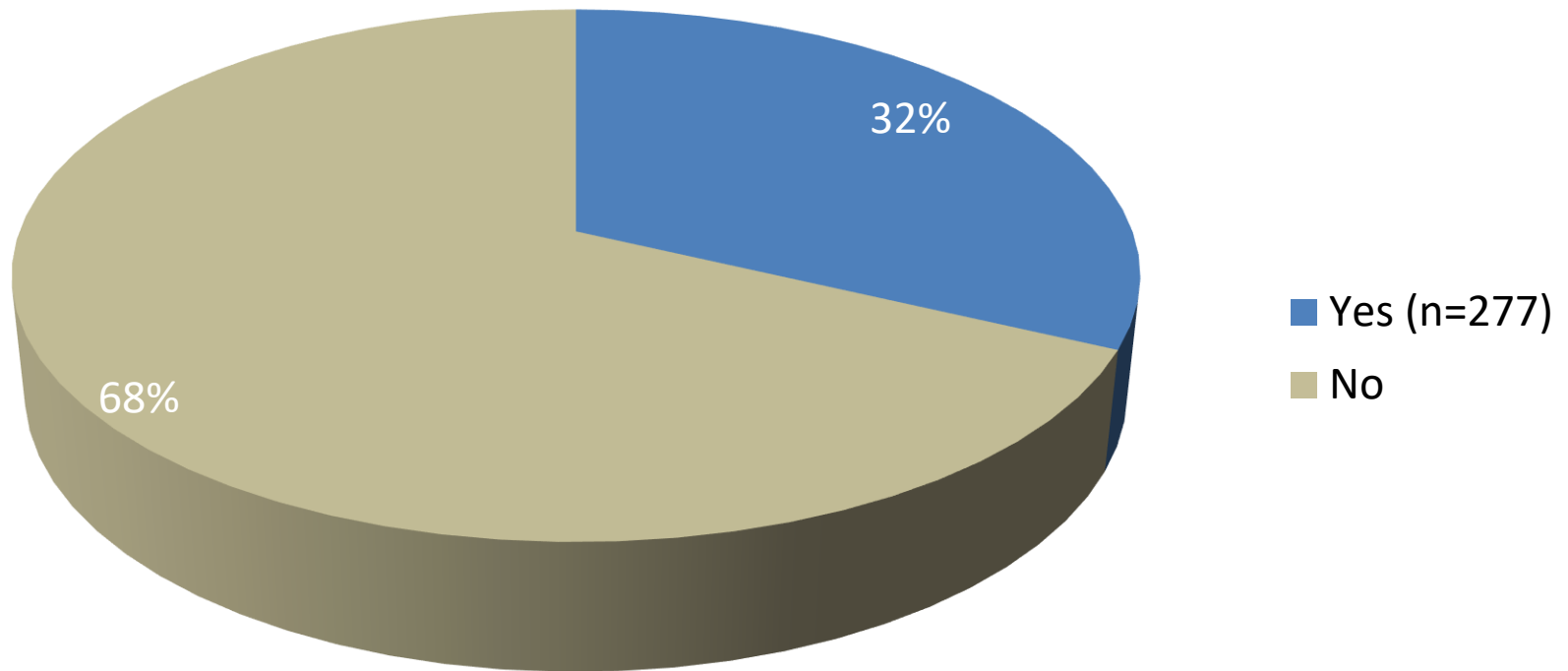


# Are you employed by the Sturgeon Bay School District?

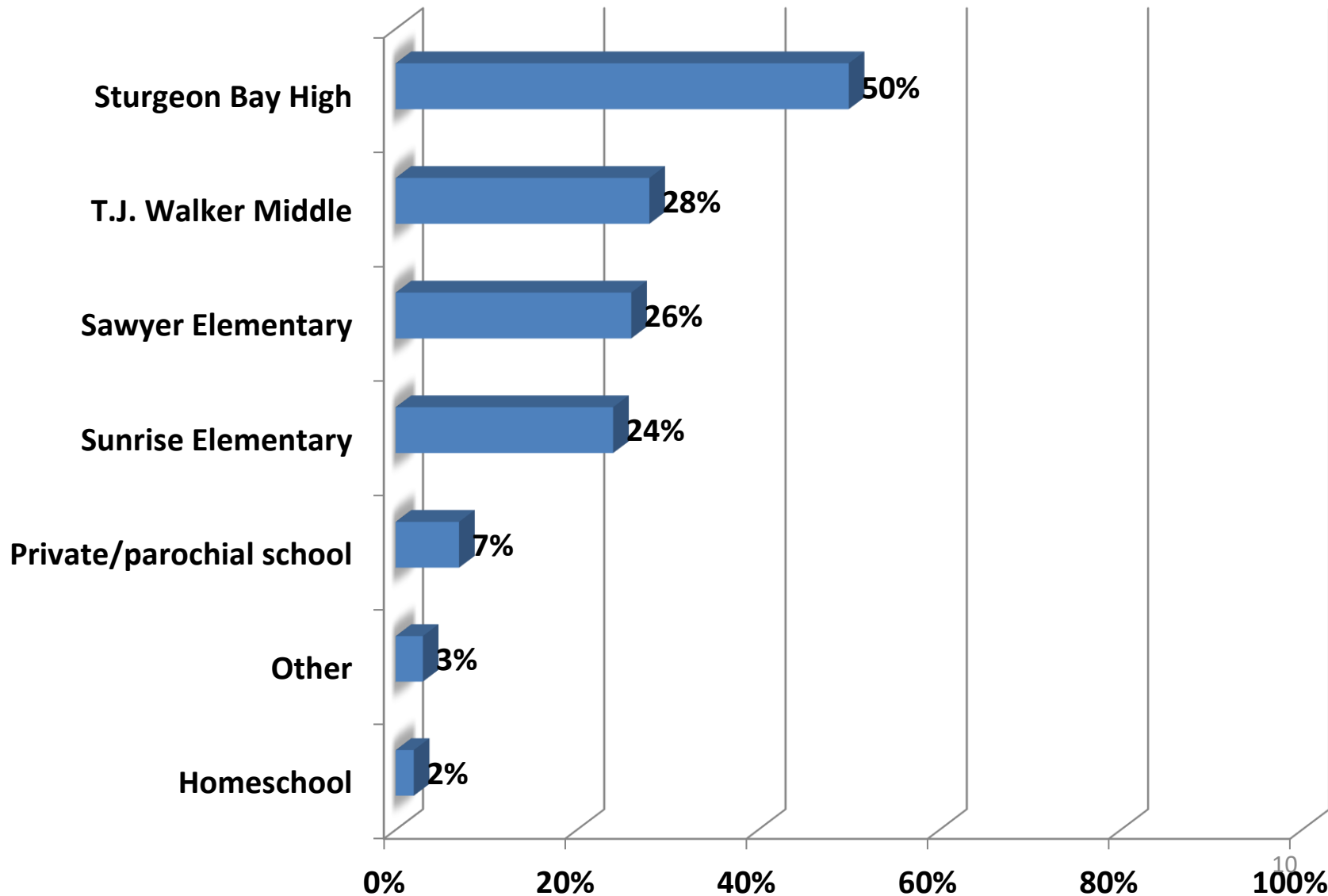




# Do you have children attending our schools?



# If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend? (Select all that apply)



# School Funding Sources

There are two types of funding Wisconsin school districts can pursue. Both require voter approval from local taxpayers.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Operational referendum (Educational programming referendum)</b>	This helps fund day-to-day operations, such as maintaining class sizes and student services. Funds secured are used within the year they are received.
<b>Capital referendum</b>	This allows a district to issue debt to pay for major building projects, such as building renovations. Much like a home mortgage, a capital referendum is typically financed over an extended period, often up to 20 years.

# Financial Planning Background

In 2020, Sturgeon Bay voters approved a capital referendum to update our facilities. This project is **on schedule and on budget**. Stay tuned for a community open house this fall.

Shortly after that referendum, the City of Sturgeon Bay reassessed properties. The tax mill rate increase from the School District's capital referendum was **lower than forecasted**. However, some Sturgeon Bay property owners saw an increase in their taxes because of the reassessment. We apologize for any confusion this caused.

Next year, the State of Wisconsin will not be increasing the revenue limit, and our School District will not receive additional funding. However, we are receiving COVID-19 relief funding from the federal government. The challenge is that the federal funding is a one-time source and does not address our long-term financial challenges. Furthermore, there are restrictions on how federal funds can be used.

### What is a revenue limit?

A revenue limit caps the amount of money districts receive from local property taxes and state aid.

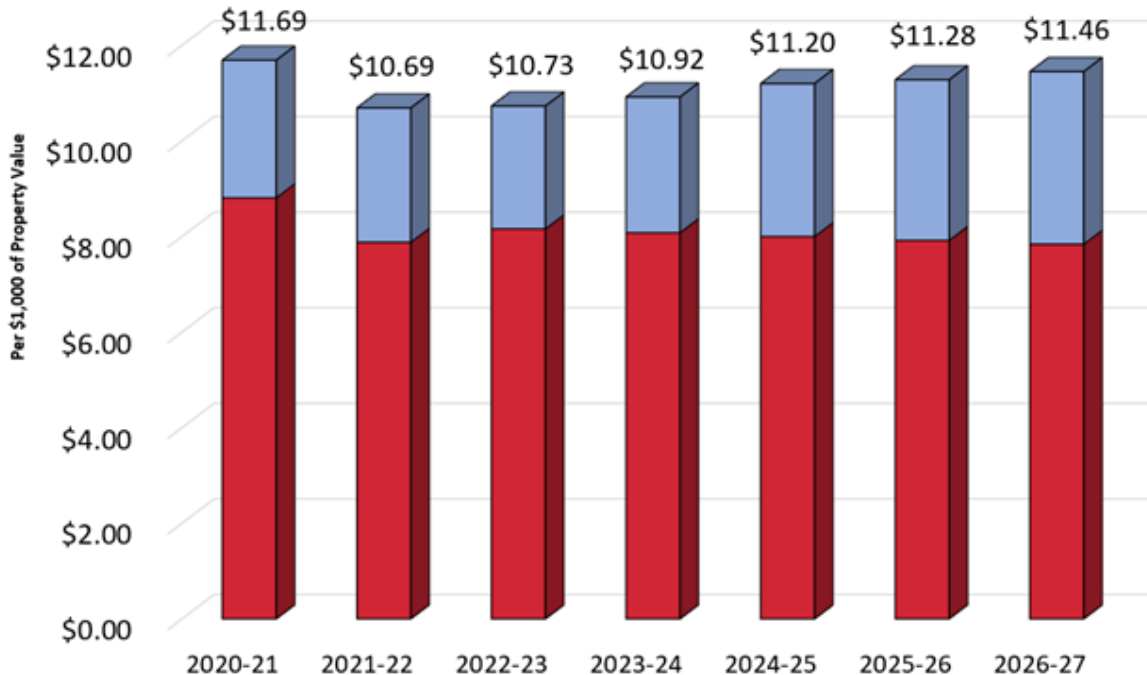
# Operational Funding Support

Since 2007, Sturgeon Bay voters have supported an educational programming referendum. This funding has allowed us to maintain reasonable class sizes and offer a variety of courses (such as art, music, business ed., Spanish, tech. ed “shop”, and advanced placement).

**Next year, funding from that referendum will end.**

Given the current funding situation as described on the previous page, including the one-time federal funding, the School Board is proposing **reducing the size** of a replacement educational programming referendum. This referendum would drop to \$2.6 million (2022-23), **down \$1 million** from what was approved as part of the last referendum for this year (2021-22). The proposed referendum would then slowly increase for each of the next five years and allow us to maintain educational programming and staffing levels.

**Projected Tax Mill Rate Impacts**  
*Operational Referendum*



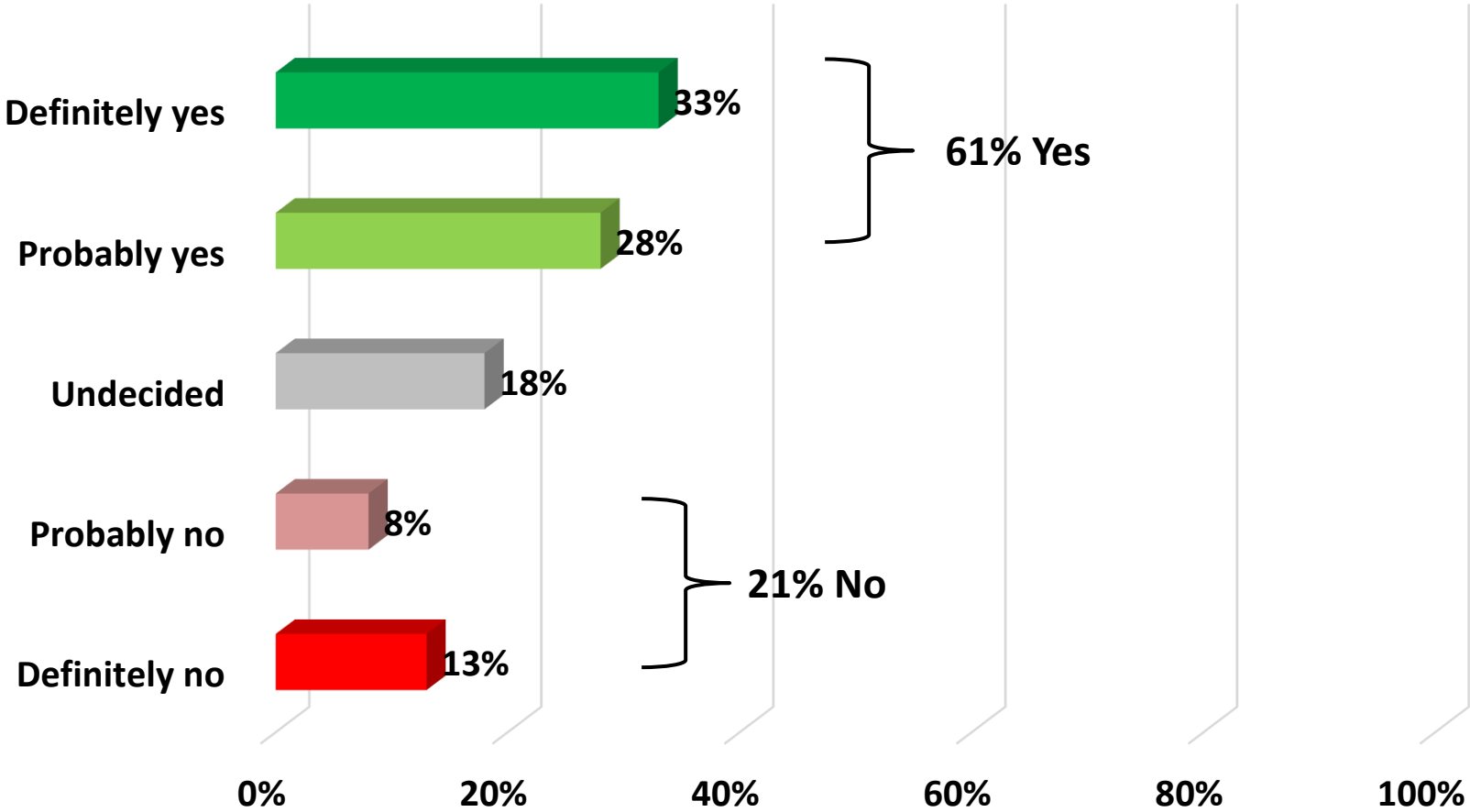
If voters approve renewing the operational referendum at the proposed levels, **the projected tax mill rate would be lower than the 2020-21 level for each of the next five years.**

■ Referendum Impact  
■ Base levy



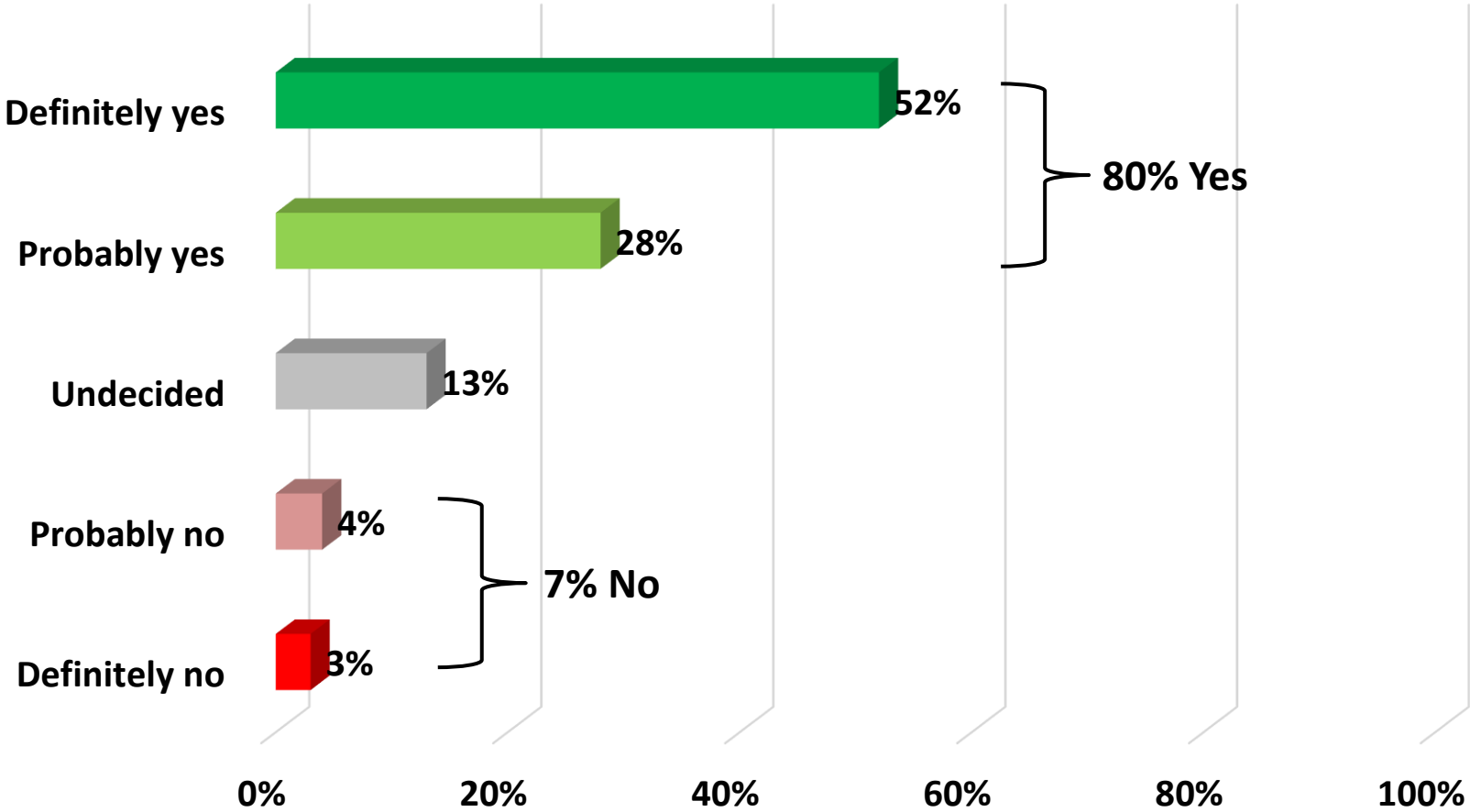
# Would you support the educational programming operational referendum?

All Residents



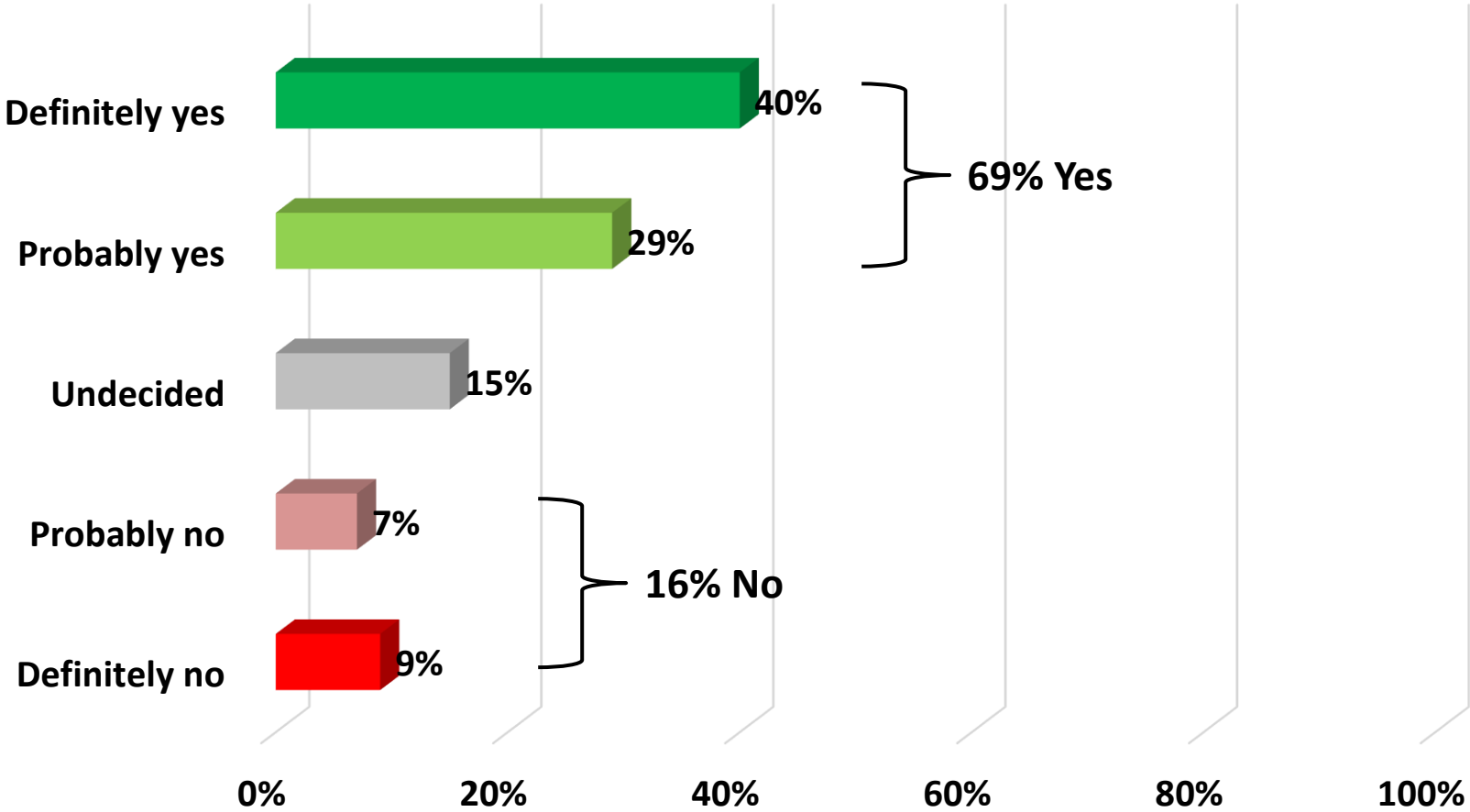
# Would you support the educational programming operational referendum?

Staff Residents



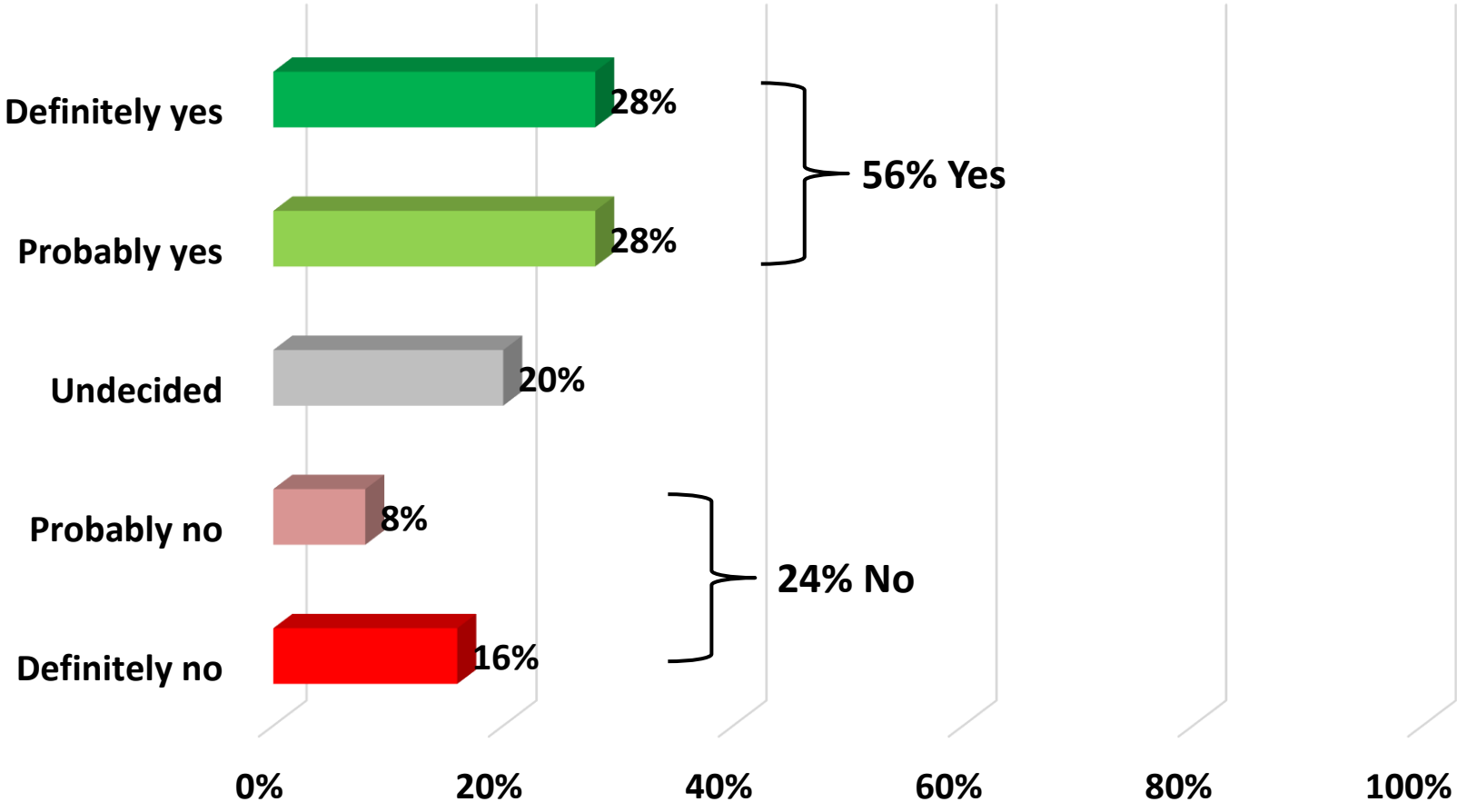
# Would you support the educational programming operational referendum?

Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Would you support the educational programming operational referendum?

Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Cost-Cutting Options

If voters do not support an operational referendum, the District will need to make significant budget cuts. While the District does not endorse any of the following, we must consider all options to reduce expenses.

**Elementary Class Sizes:** Average class sizes currently range from an average of 13 to 23 students at the elementary level.

**Course Offerings:** Elective, Advanced Placement (AP), and college courses are offered for high school students.

**Curriculum:** Our plan calls for major resource updates, such as literacy materials, supporting struggling readers, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

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

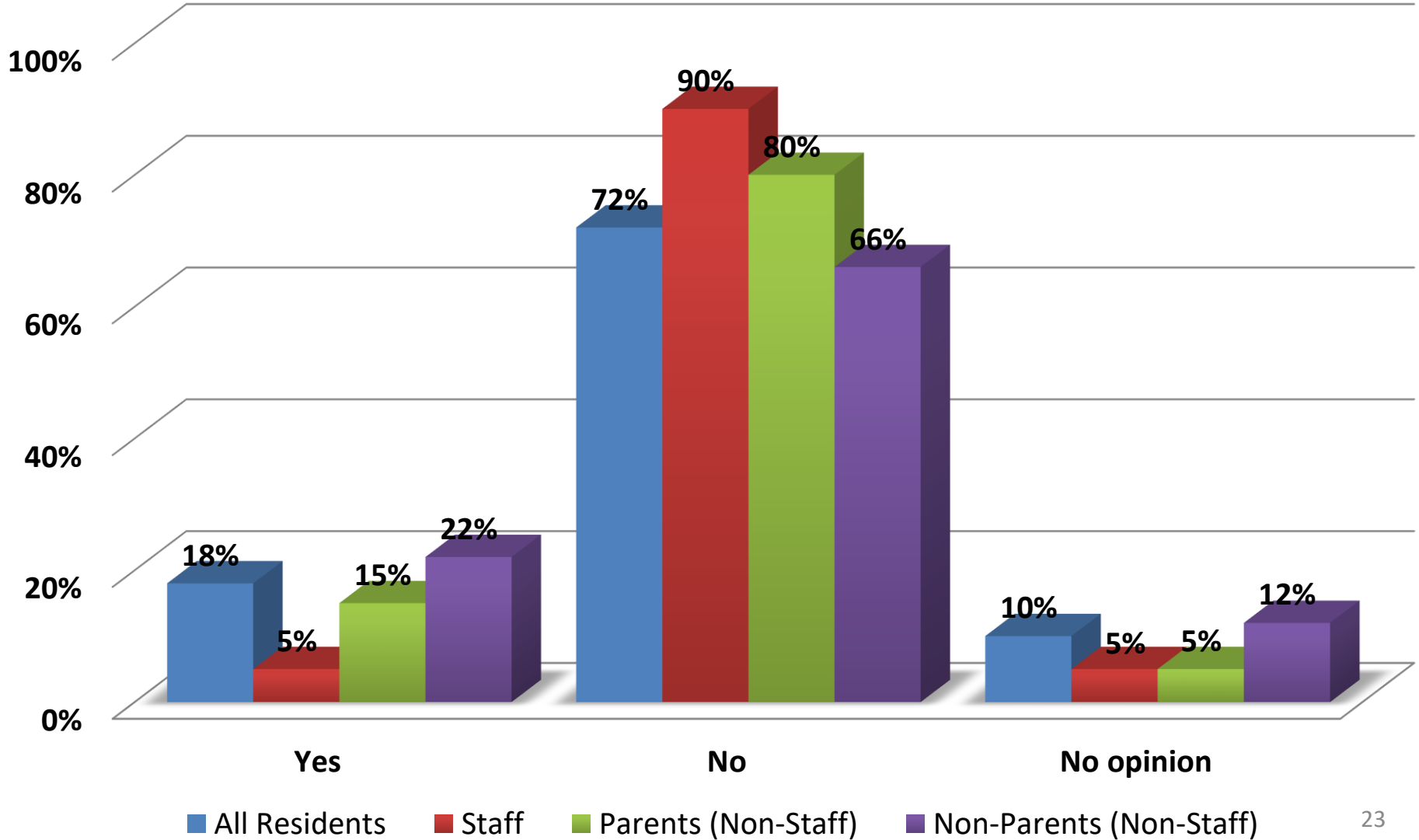
**Technology:** The District's technology infrastructure (including wireless access, servers, and classroom computers) needs regular maintenance to meet students' learning needs.

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

**Support Staff/Teacher Associates:** Instructional coaches, librarians, and teacher aides all play a critical role in helping our school function efficiently.

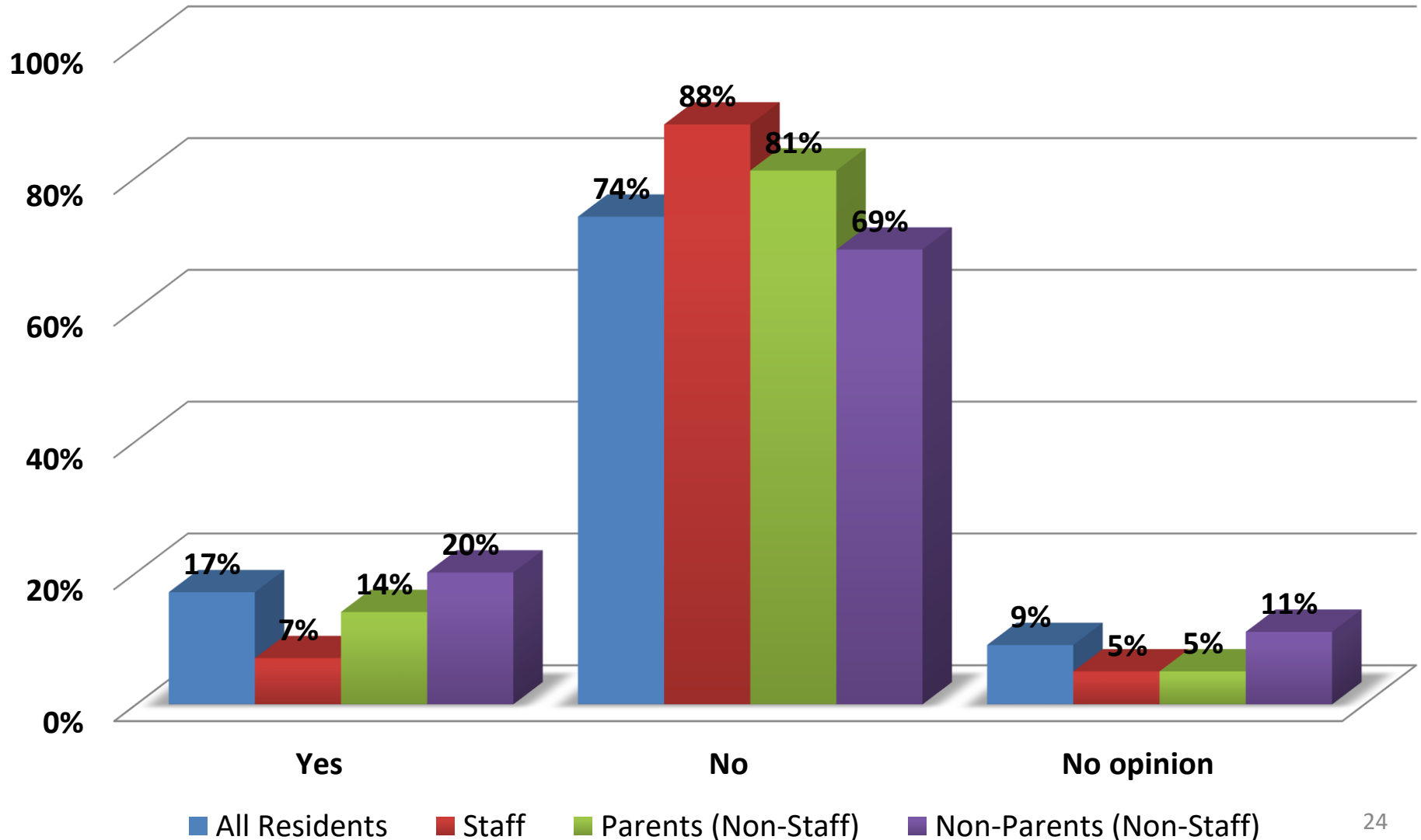
# Should the District reduce elementary teachers and increase class sizes?

*(School District Residents Only)*



# Should the District reduce high school course offerings?

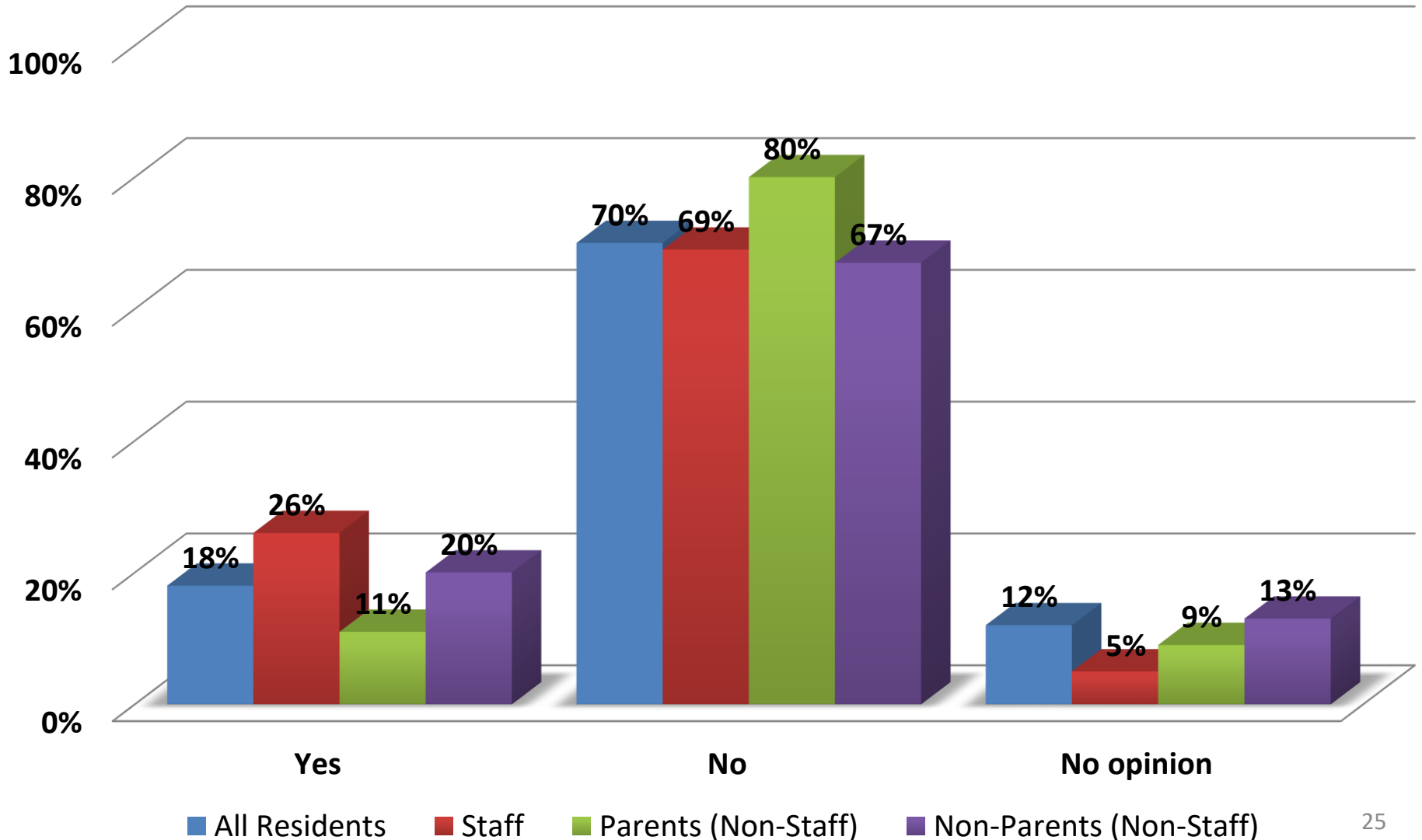
*(School District Residents Only)*





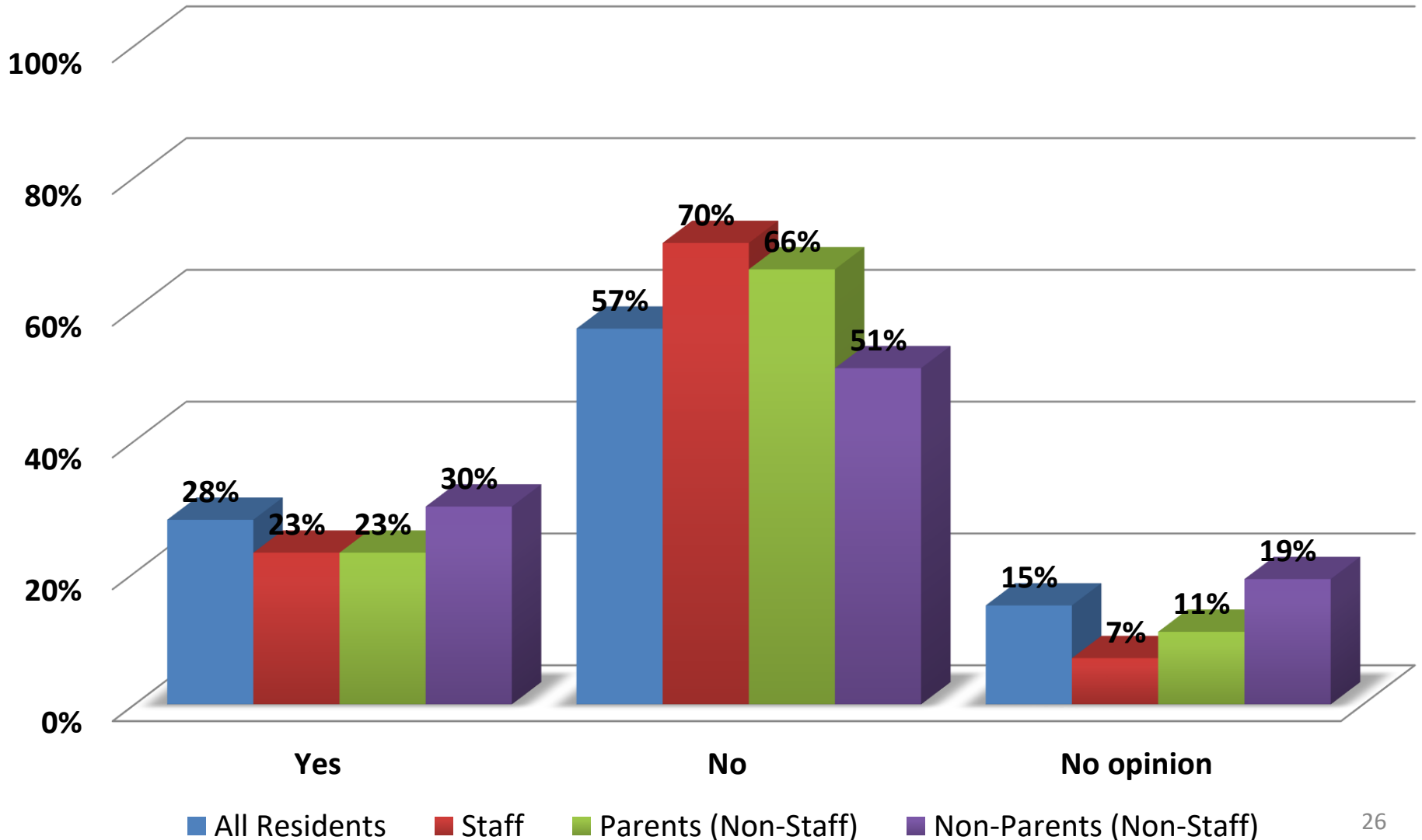
# Should the District reduce/postpone textbook/resource updates?

*(School District Residents Only)*



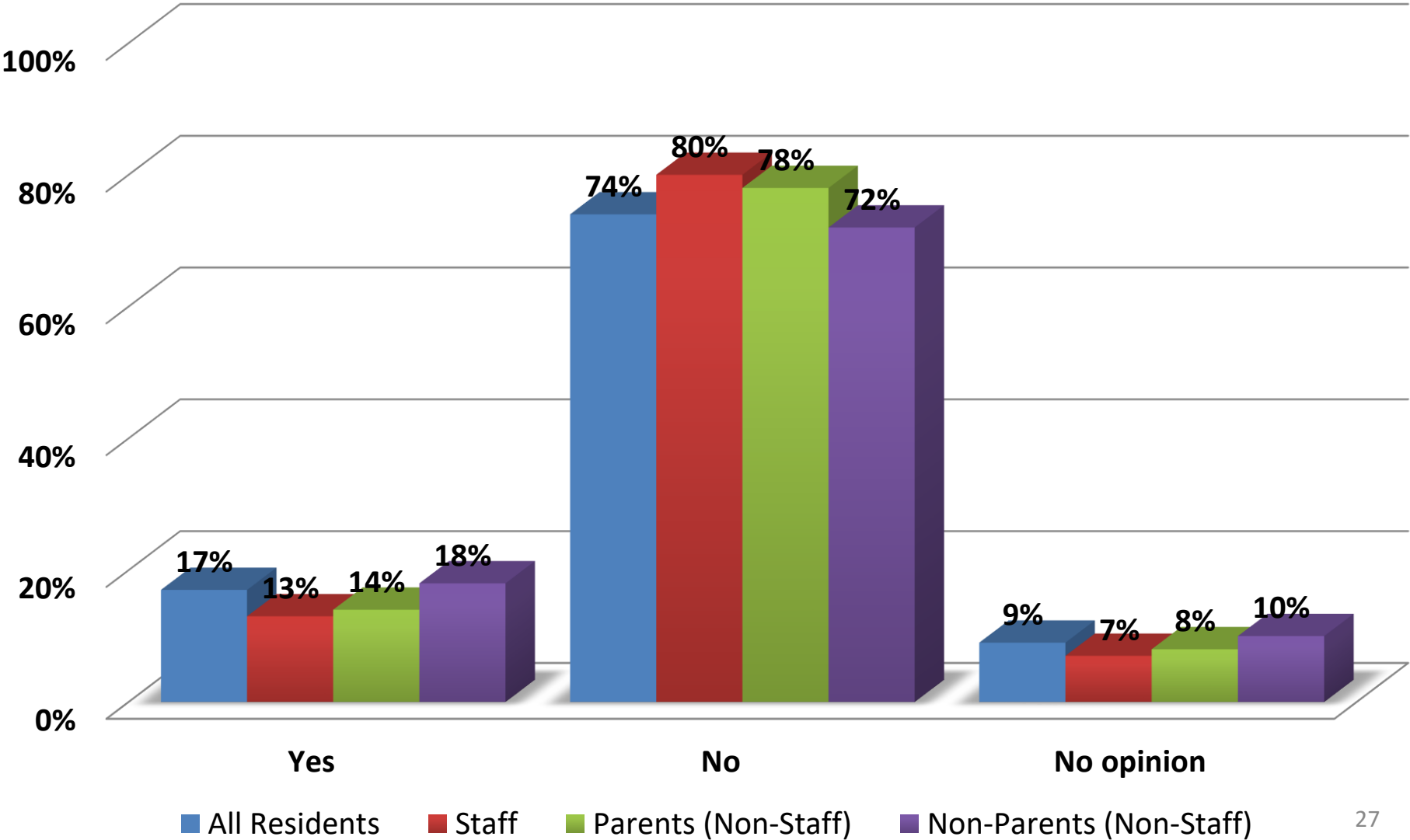
# Should the District reduce athletic/co-curricular offerings?

*(School District Residents Only)*



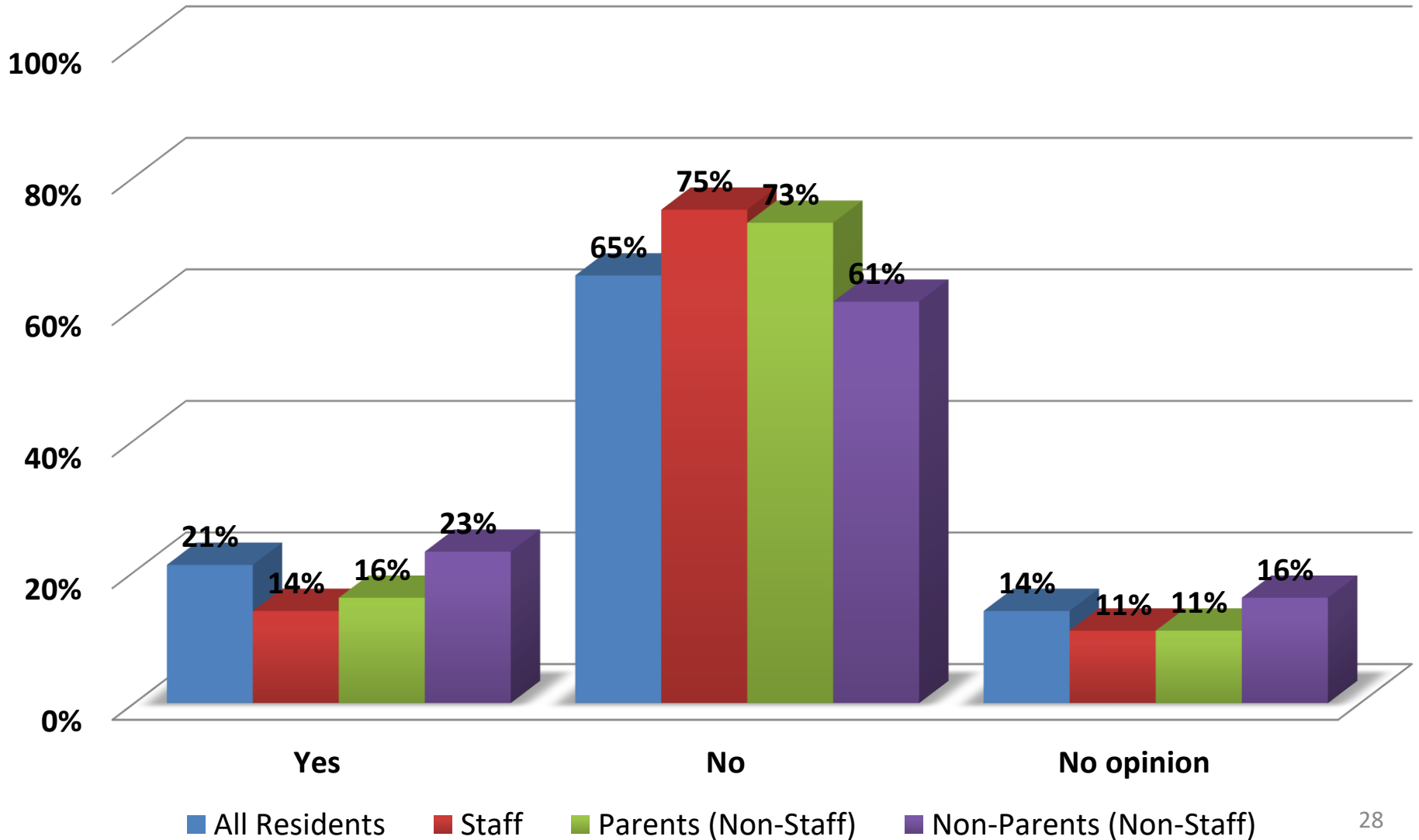
# Should the District delay technology updates?

*(School District Residents Only)*



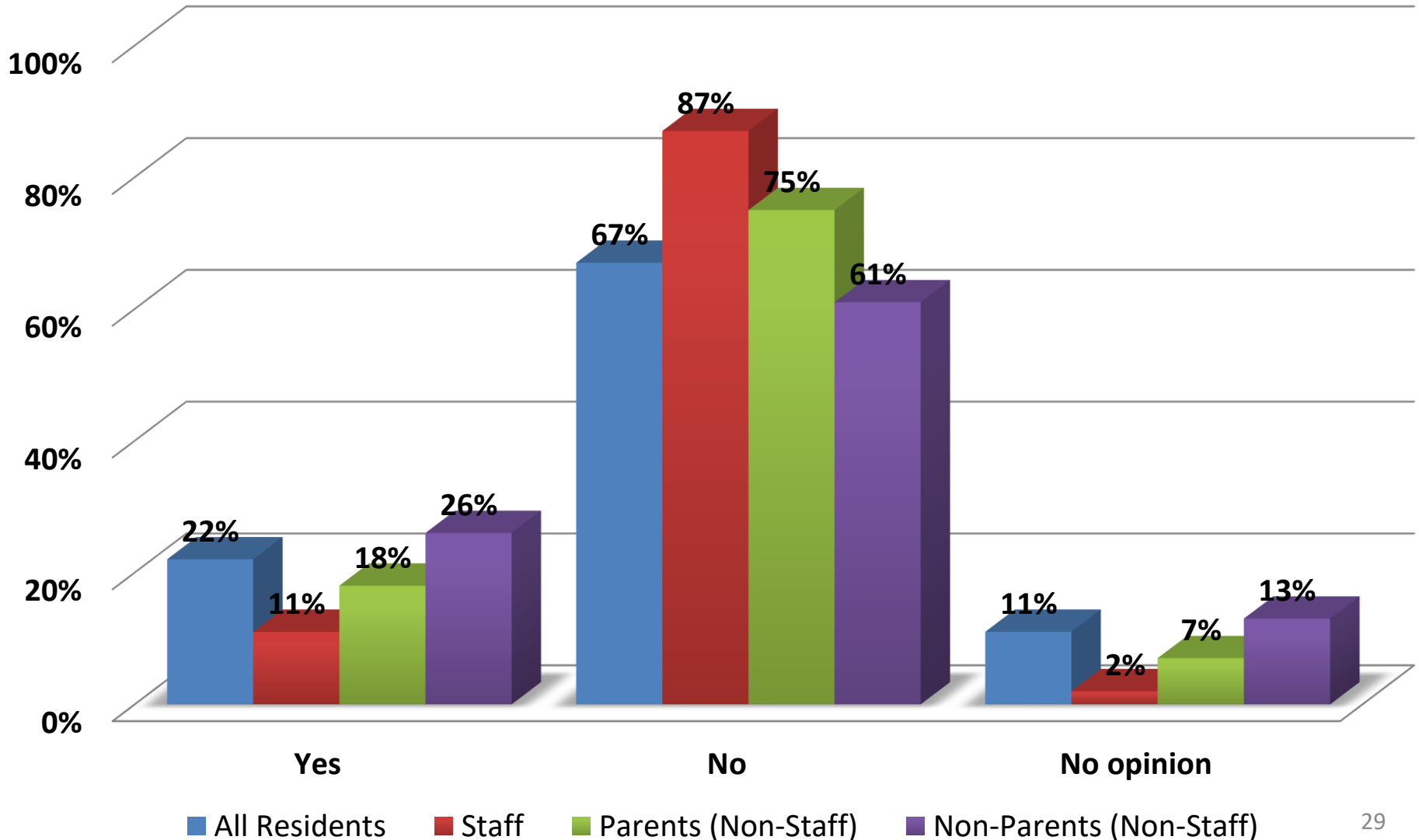
# Should the District reduce the annual maintenance budget?

*(School District Residents Only)*



# Should the District reduce support staff?

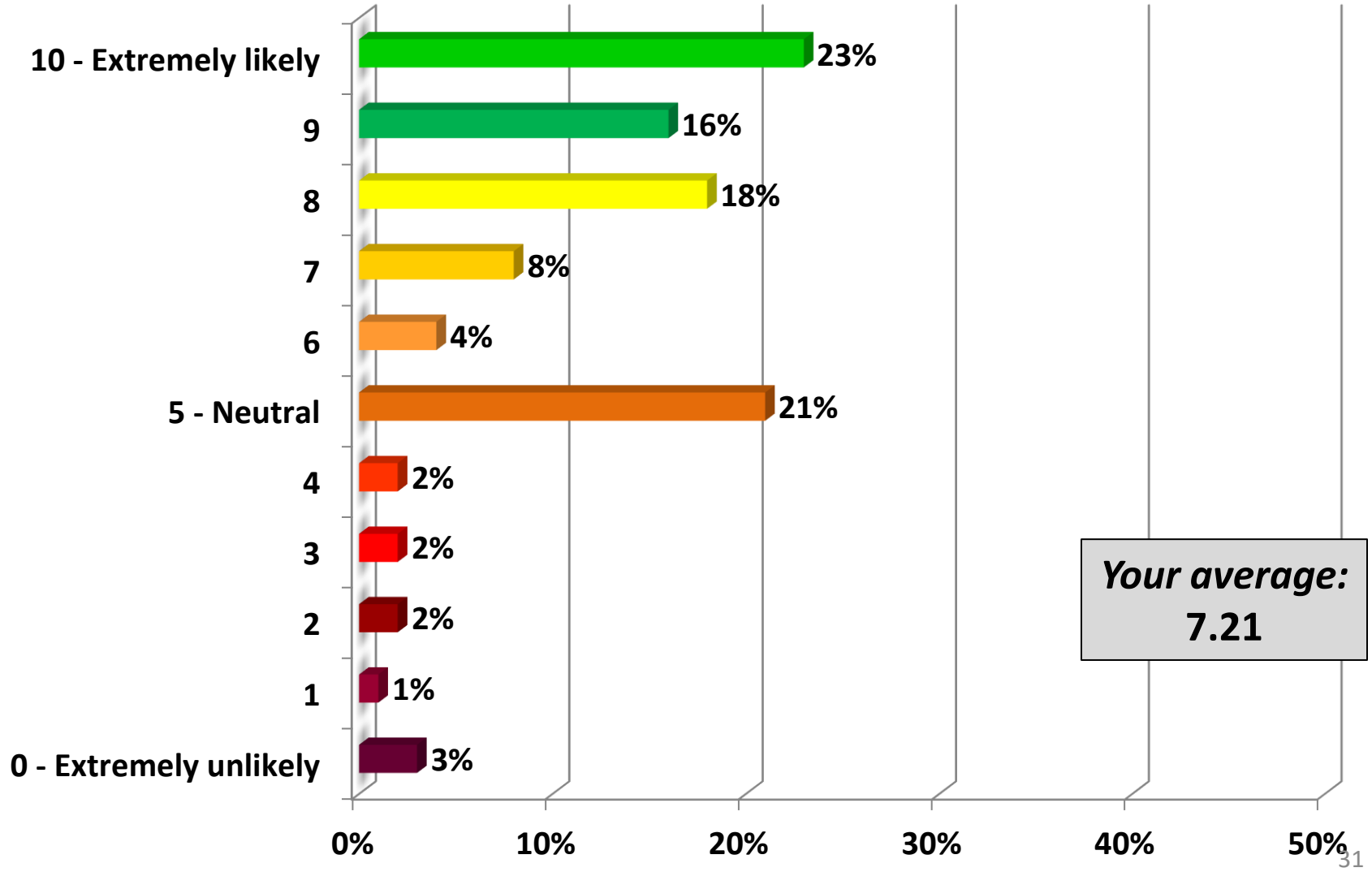
*(School District Residents Only)*



# Overall Satisfaction

# 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  
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