



# Hillsboro Public Schools

Community Survey Report

June 8, 2023

# Contents



**Background Info**



**Survey/Respondent  
Information**



**Results & Analysis**



**Wrap-up/Questions**





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

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process



# Your School Perceptions Team

---



**Daren Sievers**  
*Project Manager*



**Rob DeMeuse, Ph.D.**  
*Research Director*

# Hillsboro Public Schools Community Survey Process



Households within the District were mailed a paper survey.  
Respondents could:

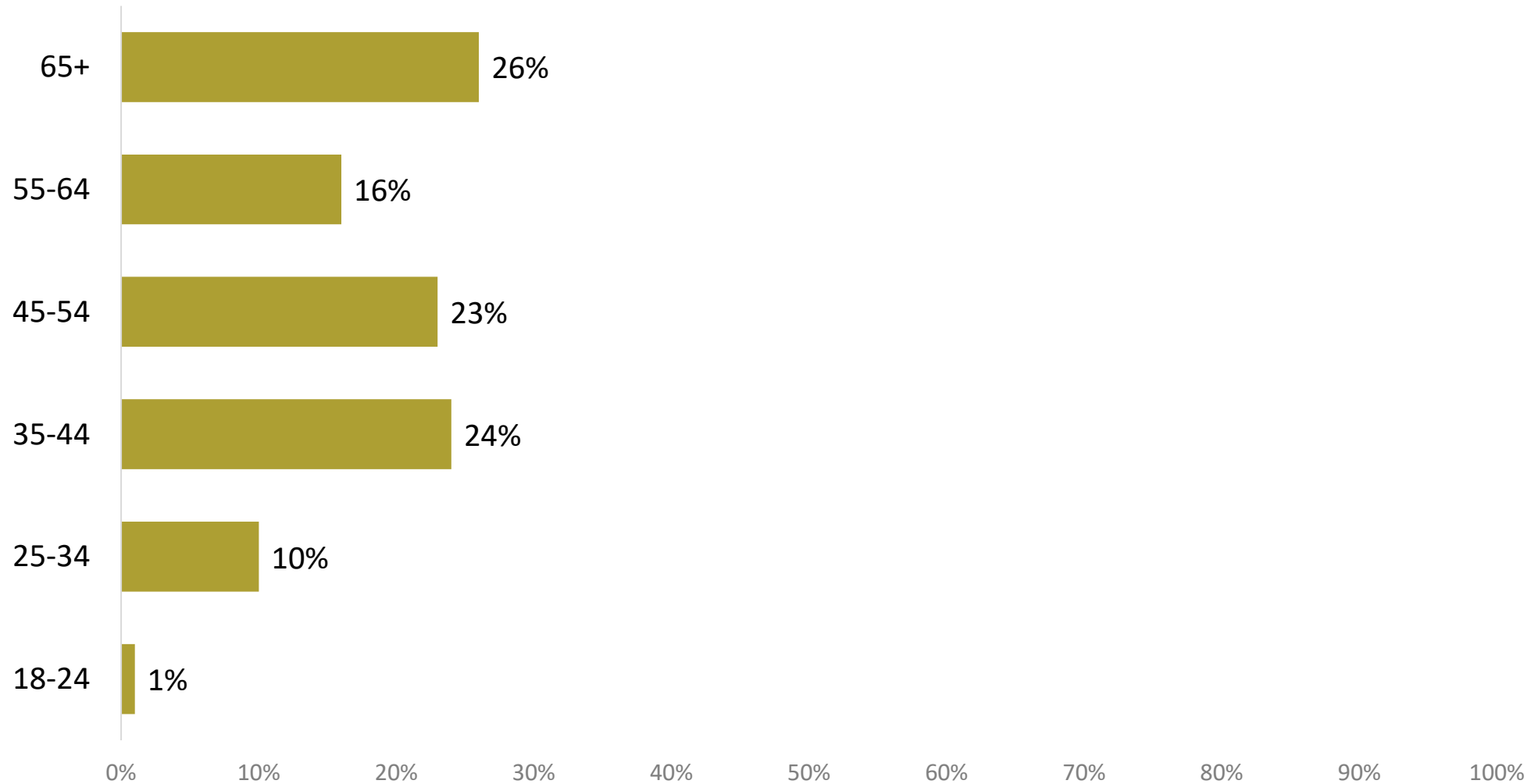
- 1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions  
or
- 2) Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

# Survey Information

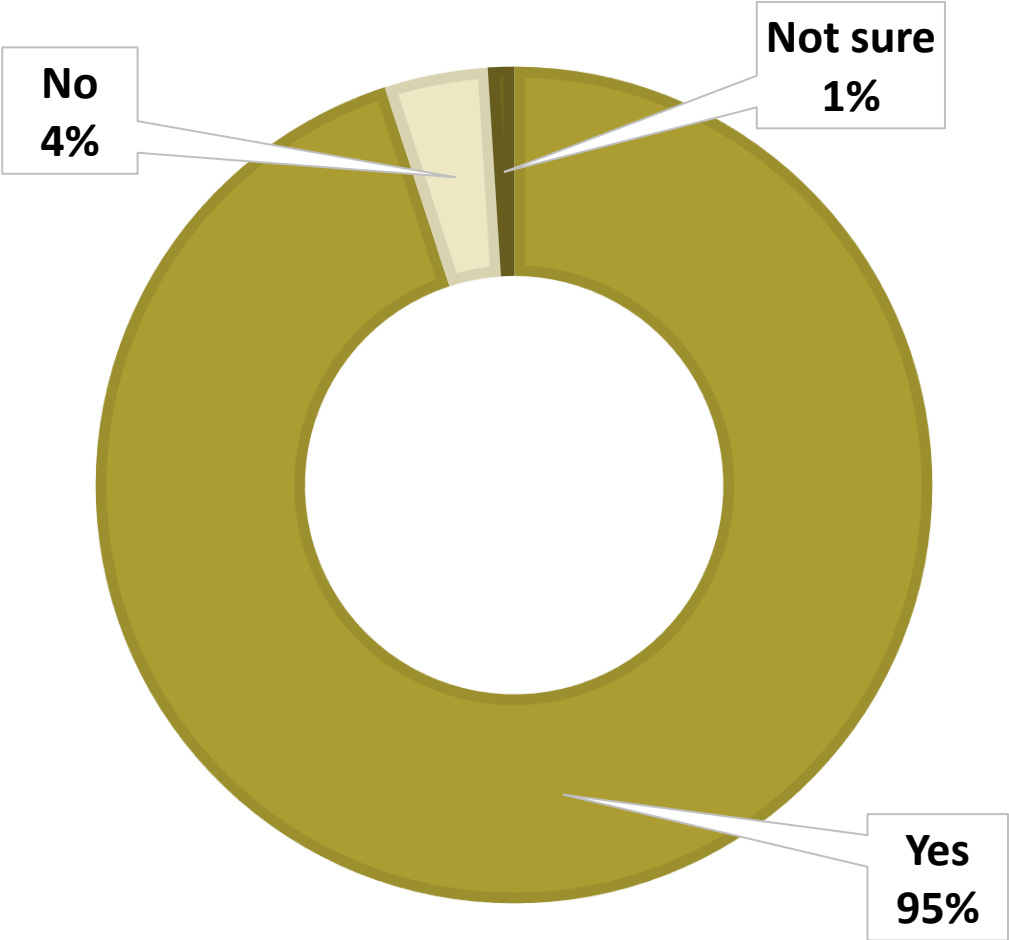


- **May 12, 2023** survey deadline
- **330** total respondents
- **22%** response rate
- **+/- 5.50%** margin of error

# What is your age?



# Is your primary residence in the Hillsboro School District?

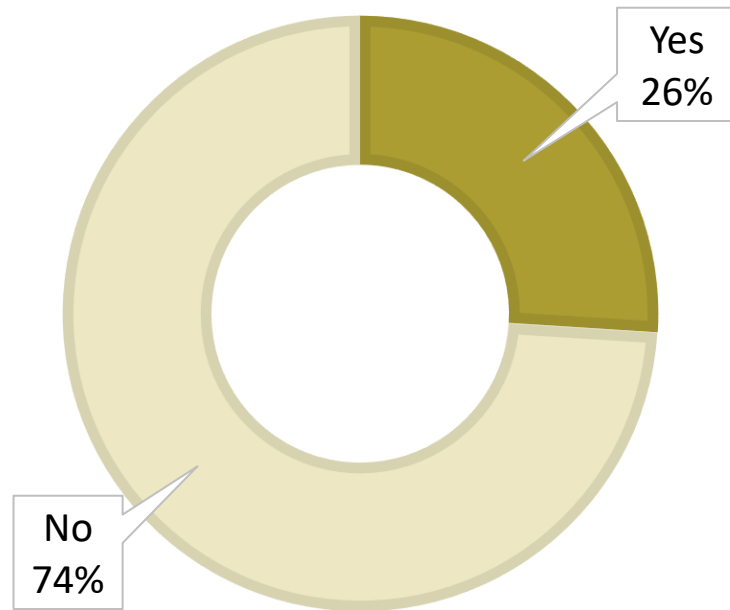




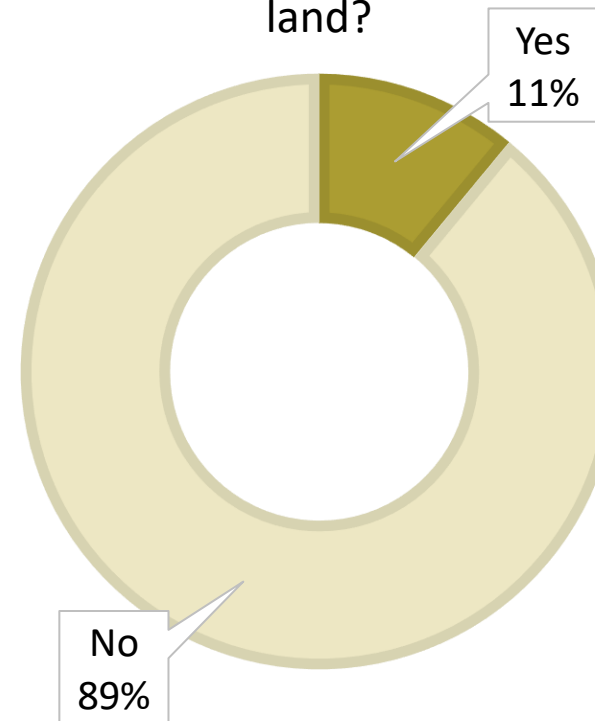
# Respondent Information



Do you own property within the District that is taxed as agricultural land?



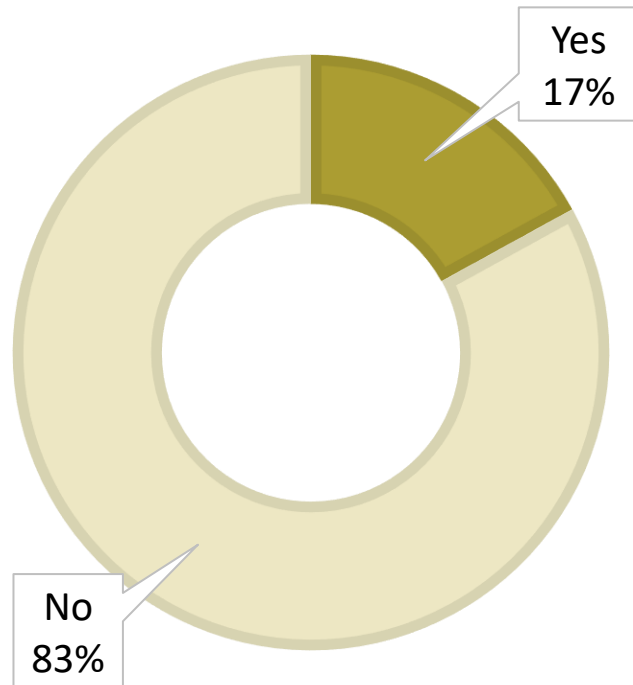
Do you own property within the District that is taxed as commercial land?



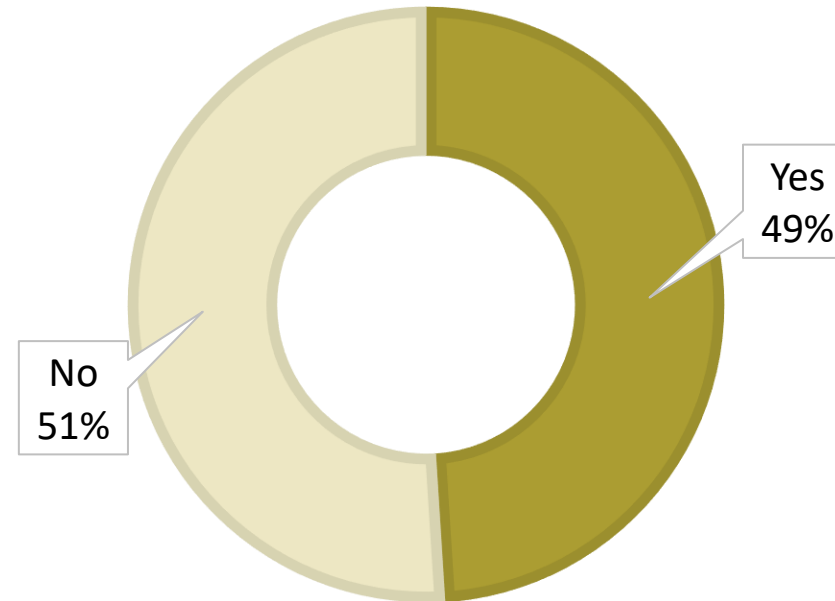
# Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the District?

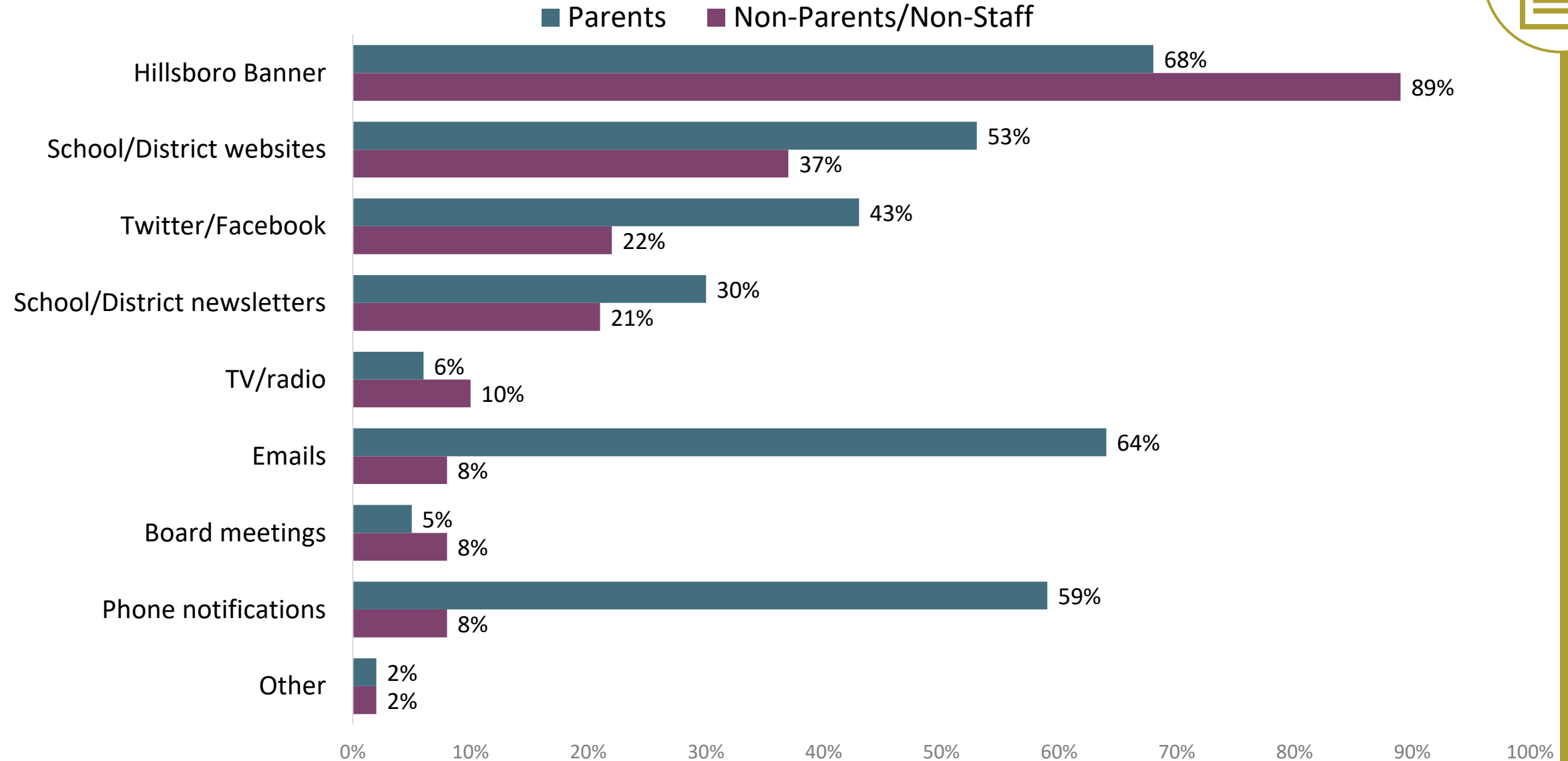


Do you have children attending school in the Hillsboro School District?



# How do you like to receive school/District information?

*(Mark all that apply.)*





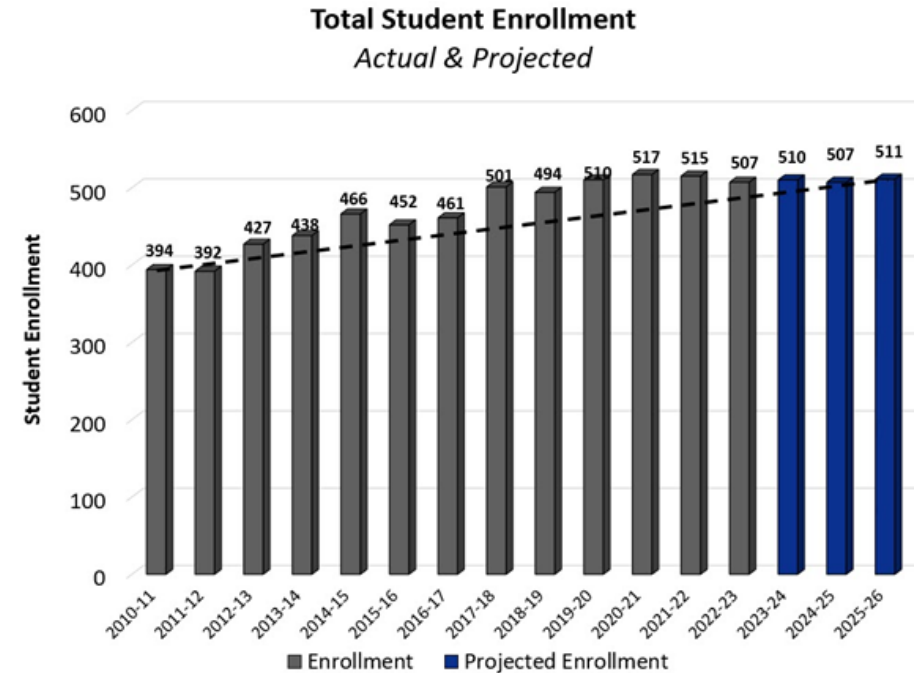
# Results & Analysis

## *Facility Planning*

# Facilities Background

## The most pressing needs are at the high school.

- All available spaces are already being used for instruction/additional classrooms.
- Classrooms are too small and have not been updated since the 1960s (except science).
- Exterior bricks and mortar are cracked and crumbling.
- One of the boilers is 70 years old and failing, and the room floods.
- Windows and insulation need to be replaced.
- Asbestos needs to be removed.
- There is no fire sprinkler system.
- Many areas do not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations (classrooms, restrooms, entrances, locker rooms, library, CTE space, and special education areas).
- The original 1894 area is in poor condition, floods, and needs a complete renovation/replacement.
- While there is a buzzer/key fob system, main entrances need to be modified to route all visitors through the office before gaining access to the rest of the schools.



# Facilities Background



Updates are also needed at the elementary school.

- Classrooms are too small and lack heating and cooling controls.
- There is no fire sprinkler system.
- Windows are past their life expectancy, and classrooms do not meet codes for natural light.
- Security at the main entrance needs to be improved.
- Bathrooms, door fixtures, and some entrances do not meet ADA codes.
- The drop-off/pick-up area needs to be reconfigured to better separate buses and improve pedestrian safety.

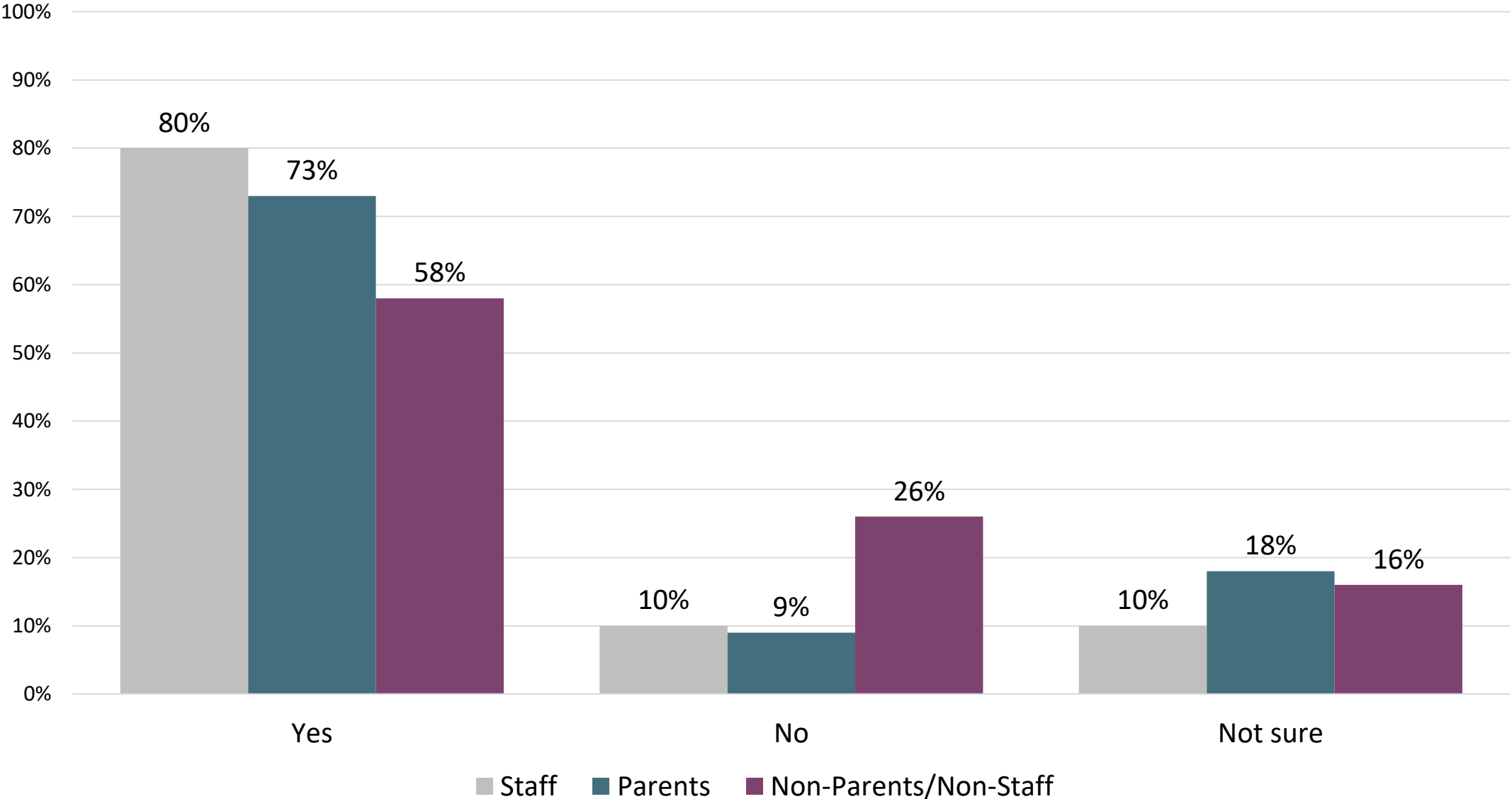


# Facilities Background



The cost to address these issues is beyond our annual budget. Therefore, we would need to secure funding through a bond referendum. Local voters would need to approve the District taking out a 20-year loan (issuing debt) to pay for these projects.

# Would you support the Hillsboro School District pursuing a bond referendum to update our schools? (All Respondents)



# Building Pathways



**If the community supports pursuing a referendum, we have two potential pathways to consider. Both pathways include an investment at the elementary school. Potential projects include:**

- ✓ Adding a secure entrance to better monitor and control visitor access
- ✓ Updating HVAC systems to improve air quality and add heating/cooling controls into classrooms
- ✓ Replacing windows to improve energy efficiency and update electrical systems
- ✓ Creating a dedicated bus drop-off area
- ✓ Renovating the kitchen with new preparation and serving equipment

# Building Pathways



## Pathway 1: Invest in our current high school

This pathway would include the following potential projects:

- ✓ Update HVAC systems to improve air quality
- ✓ Renovate classrooms, band room, locker rooms, and the 1894 section of the building
- ✓ Improve accessibility to comply with ADA regulations
- ✓ Upgrade electrical and fire alarm systems
- ✓ Replace windows to improve energy efficiency
- ✓ Add a secure entrance to better monitor and control visitor access

This pathway also includes the elementary projects listed above.

# Building Pathways



## Pathway 2: Begin to invest in a new school on land south of the elementary school

It is too expensive to move all junior high school and high school students to the land south of the elementary school at one time. In addition, school districts are also limited in how much they can borrow. Therefore, this pathway would need to be done in phases.

### Phase 1 could include the following projects:

#### *Land south of the elementary school:*

- ✓ Build career and tech ed (“shop”) classrooms/labs, family and consumer science classrooms/labs, music classrooms, and a student commons area

#### *High school:*

- ✓ Demolish the 1894 section but continue to use the academic wing
- ✓ Update HVAC systems to improve air quality
- ✓ Upgrade electrical and fire alarm systems
- ✓ Remodel the agriculture classroom into the girls’ locker room
- ✓ Repurpose the music room into the building’s heating/mechanical room

This pathway also includes the elementary projects listed above.

# Funding Support

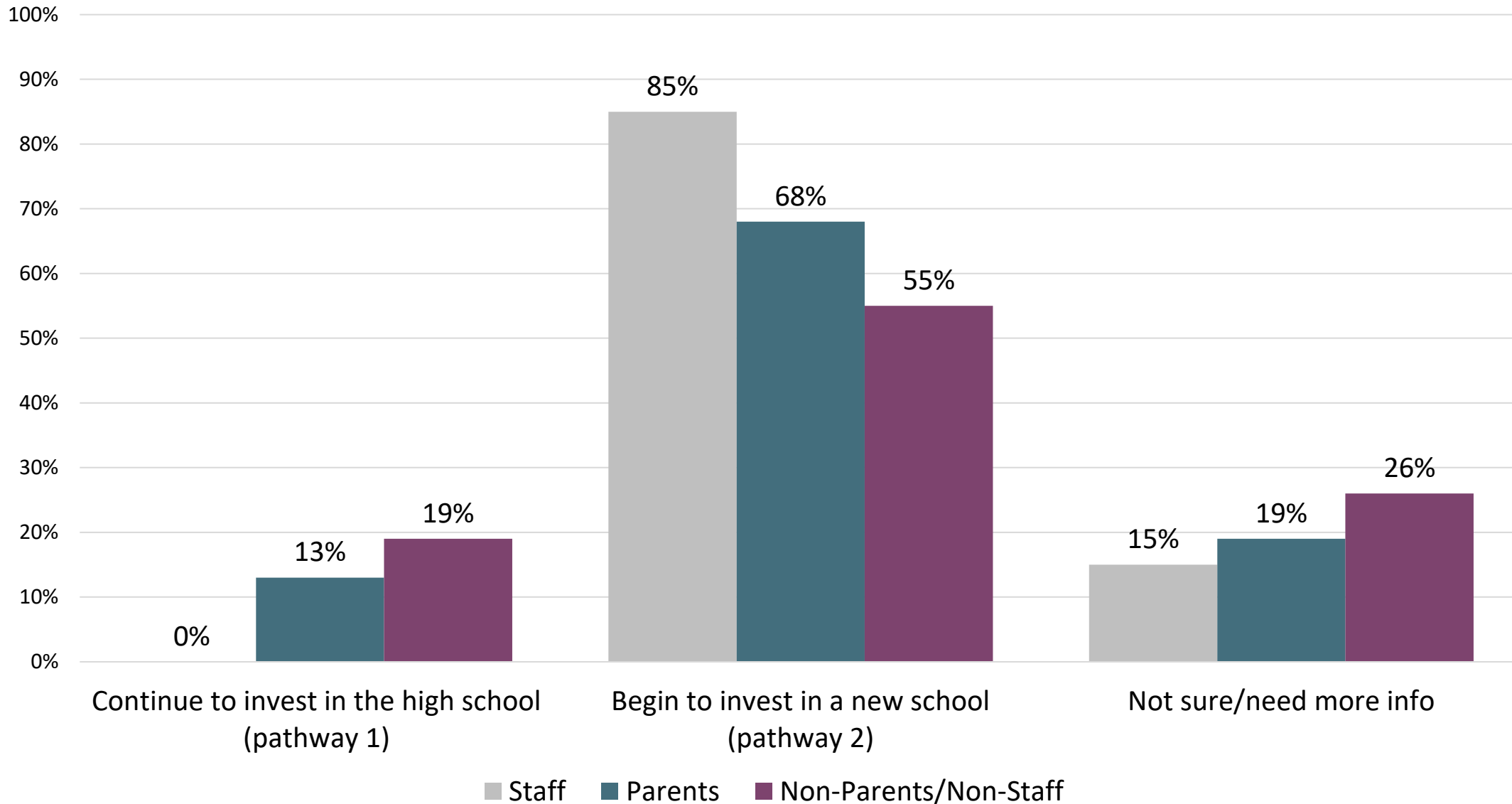


After studying our options, a community advisory committee recommends investing in a new school (pathway 2) because the property is large enough to support future growth. This will eventually allow the District to consolidate all operations onto one campus, which saves money. However, we would not move forward without community support.

The cost of pathway 1 and first phase of pathway 2 are the same (\$14 million).



# Which pathway do you support?

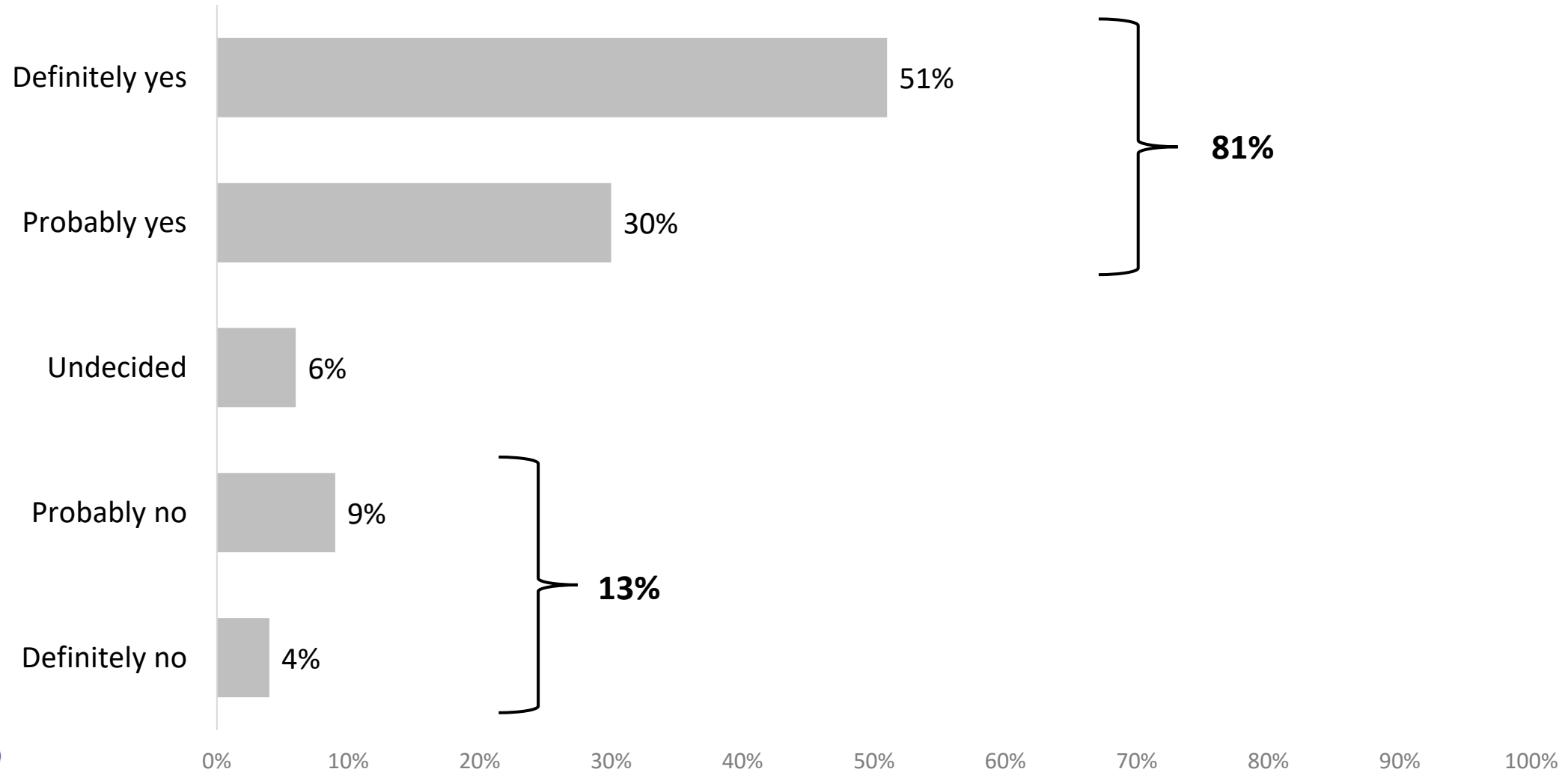


# Funding Support

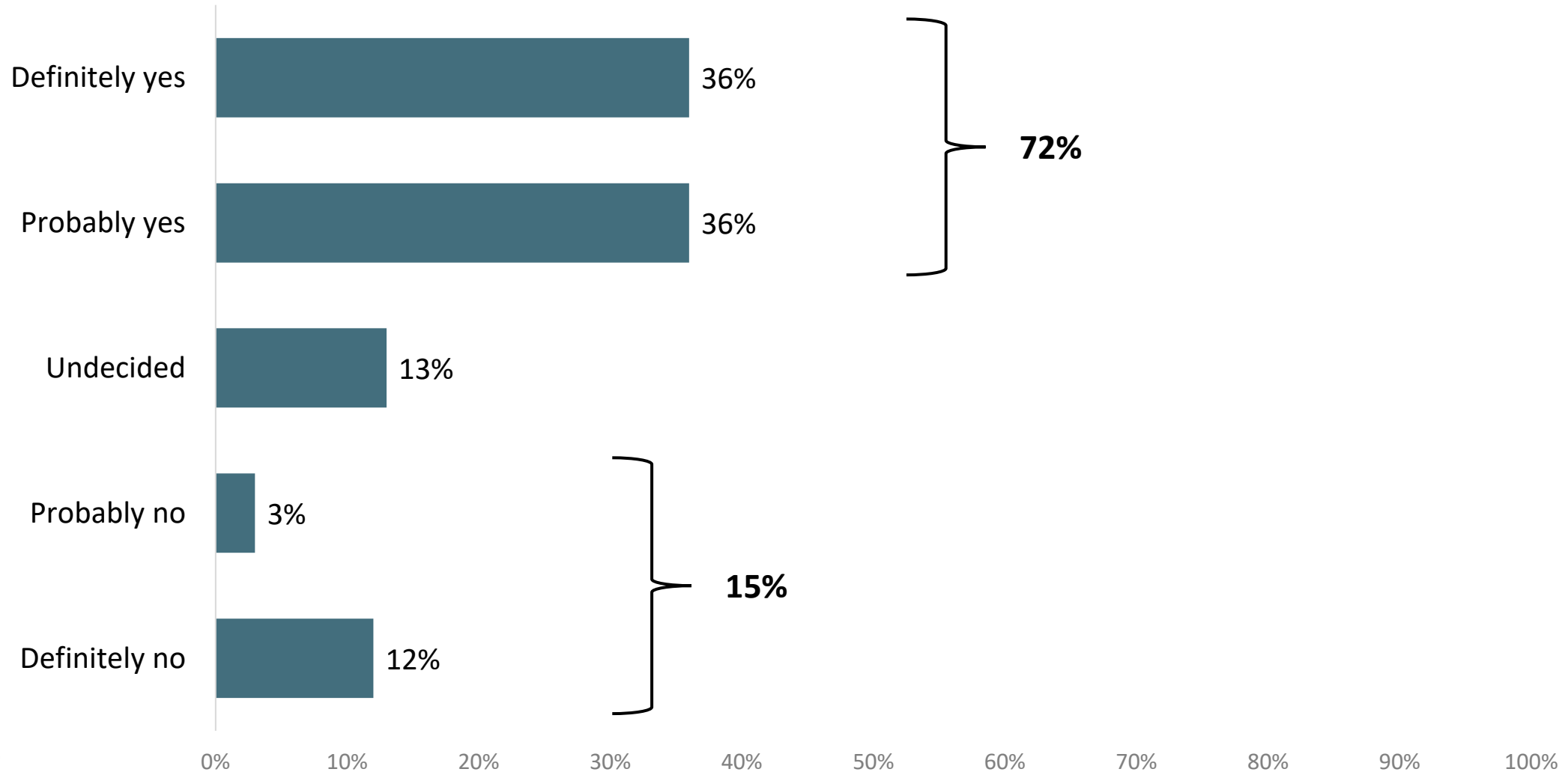


PROJECTED <u>ANNUAL</u> PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OVER THE CURRENT LEVEL			
Type of Property	True & Full Valuation	Taxable Valuation	\$14 million
Residential	\$100,000	\$4,500	\$195
	\$250,000	\$11,250	\$488
	\$500,000	\$22,500	\$976
Commercial	\$100,000	\$5,000	\$217
	\$250,000	\$12,500	\$542
	\$500,000	\$25,000	\$1,085
Ag Homestead/ Non-Homestead (per acre)	\$150	\$8	\$0.33
	\$500	\$25	\$1.08
	\$1,000	\$50	\$2.17
	\$2,500	\$125	\$5.42
The taxable valuation is 4.5% of the true and full valuation of residential property and 5% for commercial and agricultural property.			

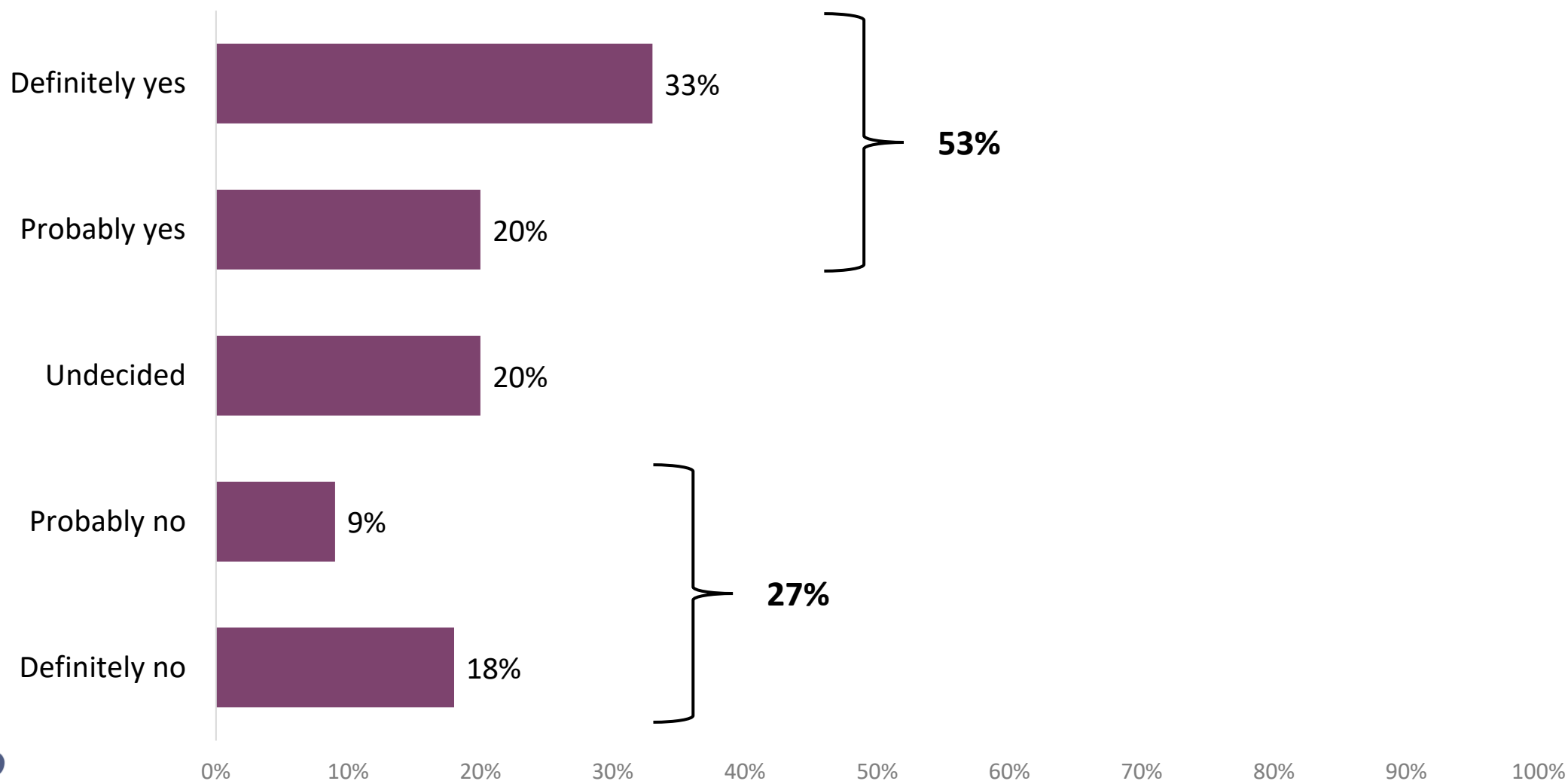
# Staff Support (Residents)



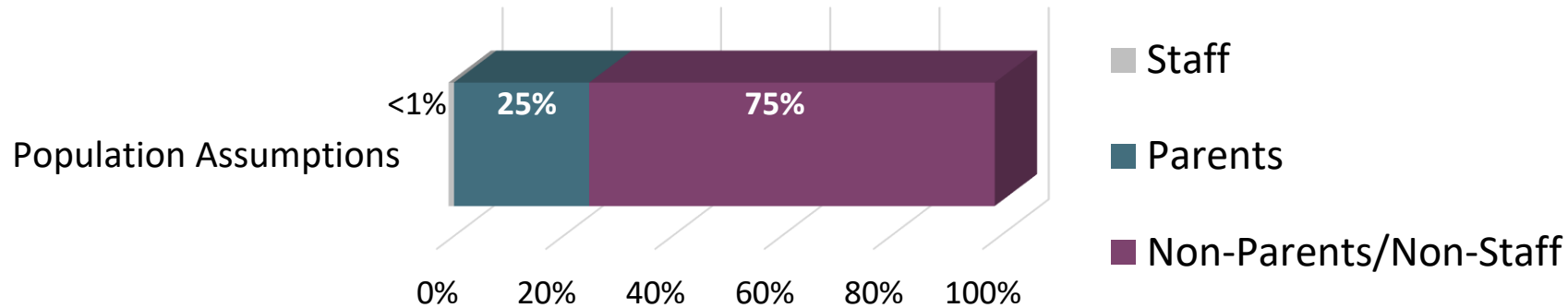
# Parent/Caregiver Support (Residents)



# Non-Parent/Non-Staff Support (Residents)



**Additional Analysis:** Assuming the pathway chosen is acceptable to you, would you support a \$14 million bond referendum to fund facility projects? (Residents)



Weighted support for \$14M:

$$0.25 (72\%) + 0.75 (53\%) = \underline{\underline{57.8\%}}$$

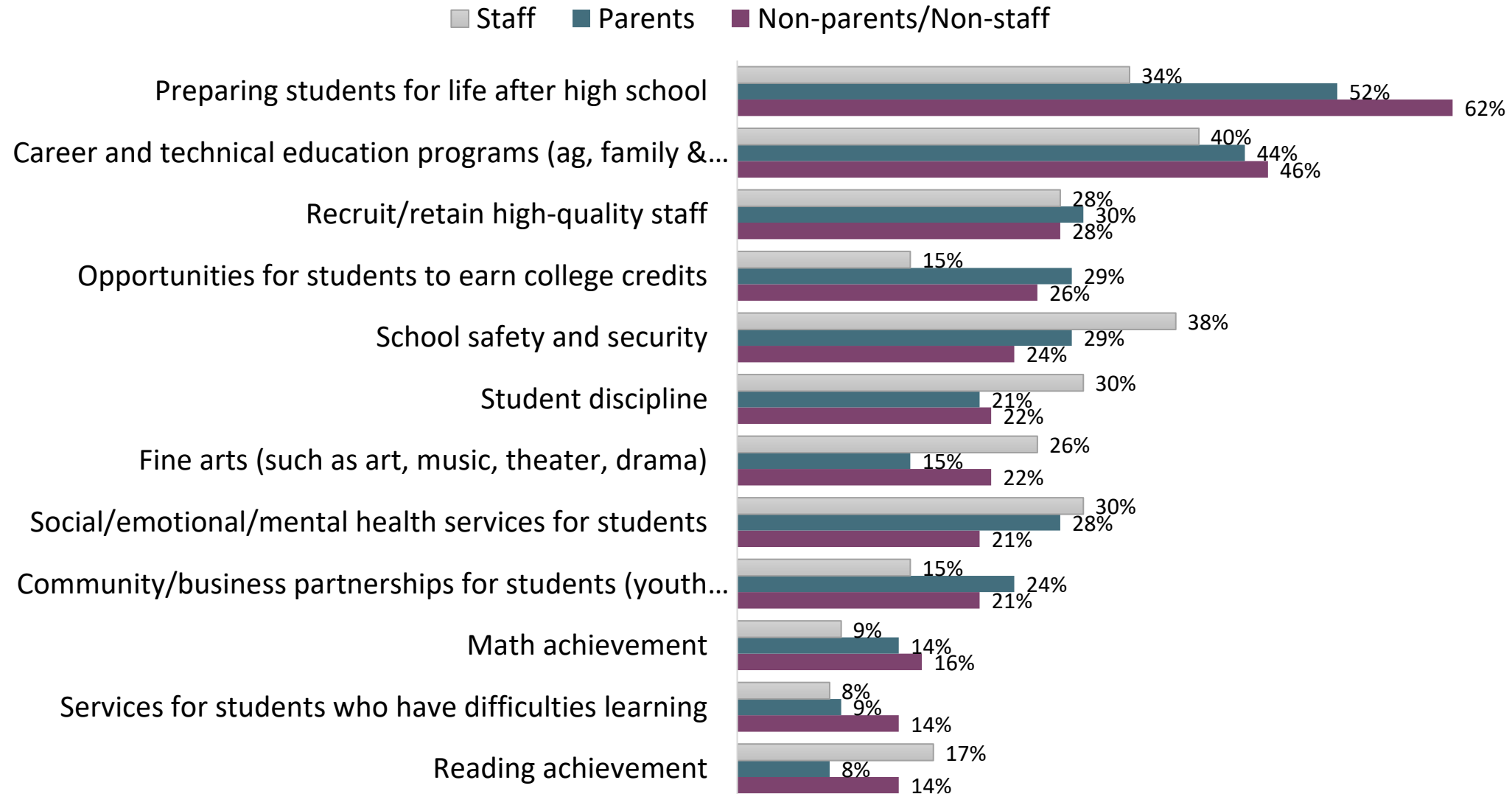




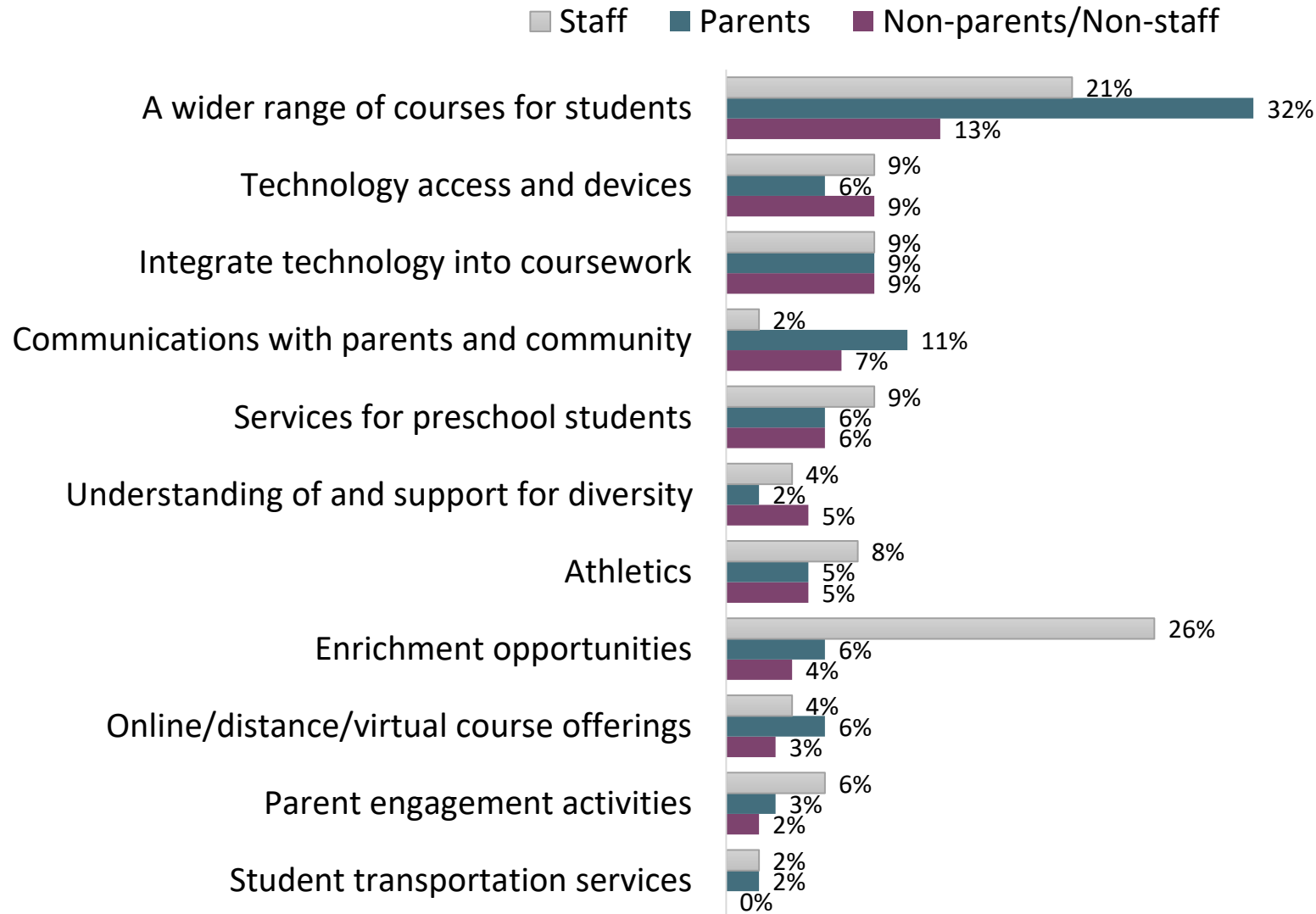
# Results & Analysis

## *Future Planning*

# Future Planning: Please choose up to four areas that you believe we should focus our planning efforts. (1/2)



# Future Planning: Please choose up to four areas that you believe we should focus our planning efforts. (2/2)





# Results & Analysis

## *Overall Satisfaction*

# How is the District doing in the following areas? (1/2)

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



Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/Non-Staff
Maintaining safe and secure schools	2.57	2.66	2.92
Having high expectations for students	2.25	2.35	2.52
Preparing students for college and careers	2.33	2.09	2.42
Providing access to student progress	2.85	2.67	2.77

# How is the District doing in the following areas? (2/2)

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



Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/Non-Staff
Keeping the public informed	3.06	2.65	2.56
Managing funds appropriately	3.09	2.63	2.64
Building pride in the community	3.02	2.96	2.90



# How is the District doing in the following areas? (1/2)

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



Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	Average
Building pride in the community	75%	2.95
Managing funds appropriately	65%	2.71
Keeping the public informed	62%	2.68
Providing access to student progress	68%	2.74

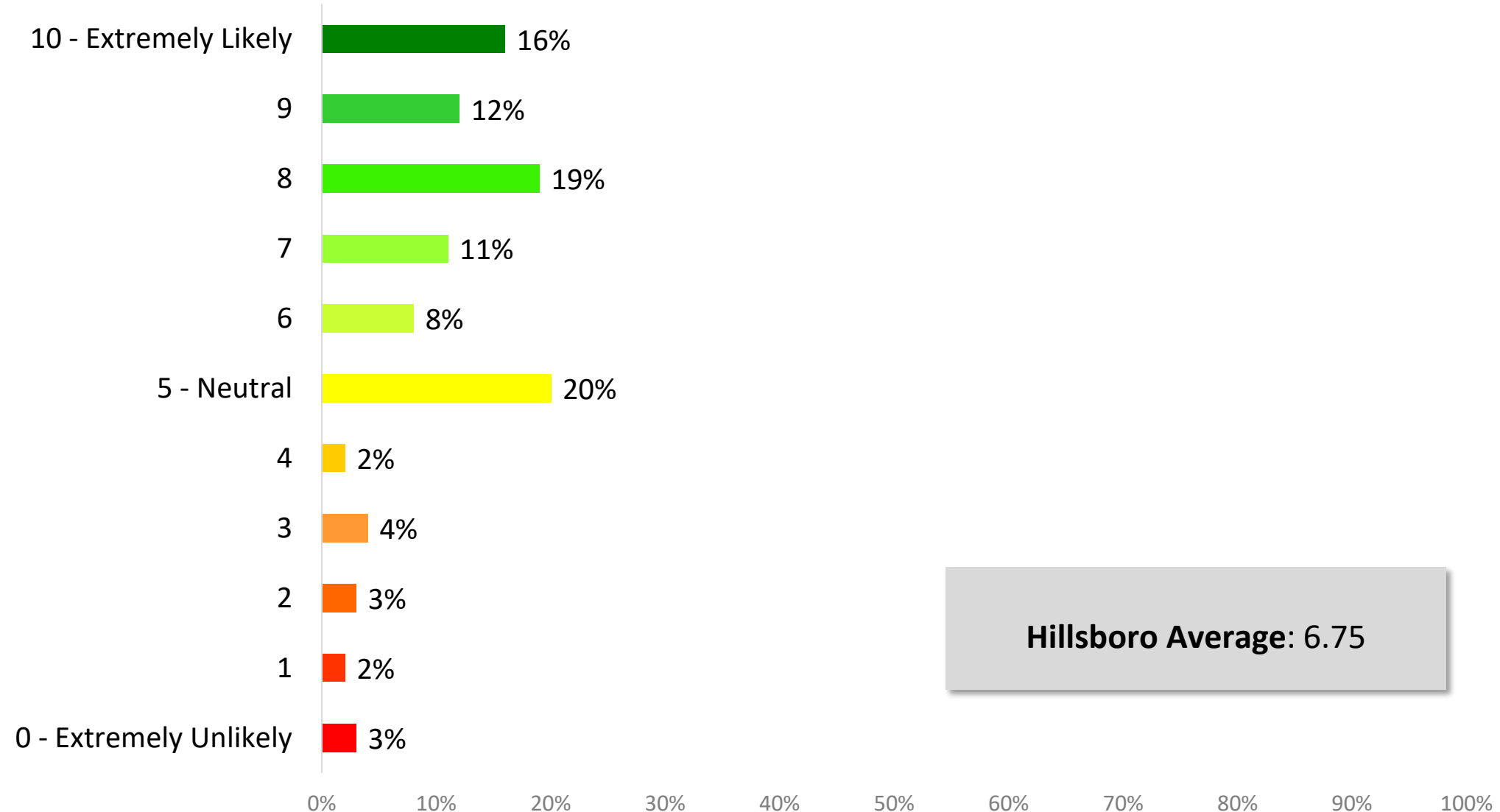
# How is the District doing in the following areas? (2/2)

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



Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	Average
Maintaining safe and secure schools	64%	2.73
Having high expectations for students	47%	2.40
Preparing students for college and careers	41%	2.27

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



# What did we learn?



- A majority of all subgroups support pursuing a bond referendum to update schools.
- A majority of all subgroups support investing in a new high school (as opposed to updating the current facility).
- The outcome of a \$14M bond referendum is too close to call.



# Questions or Comments?



**Thank you!**