

# Community Survey Results

## Camanche Community School District

Fall 2019

# SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

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

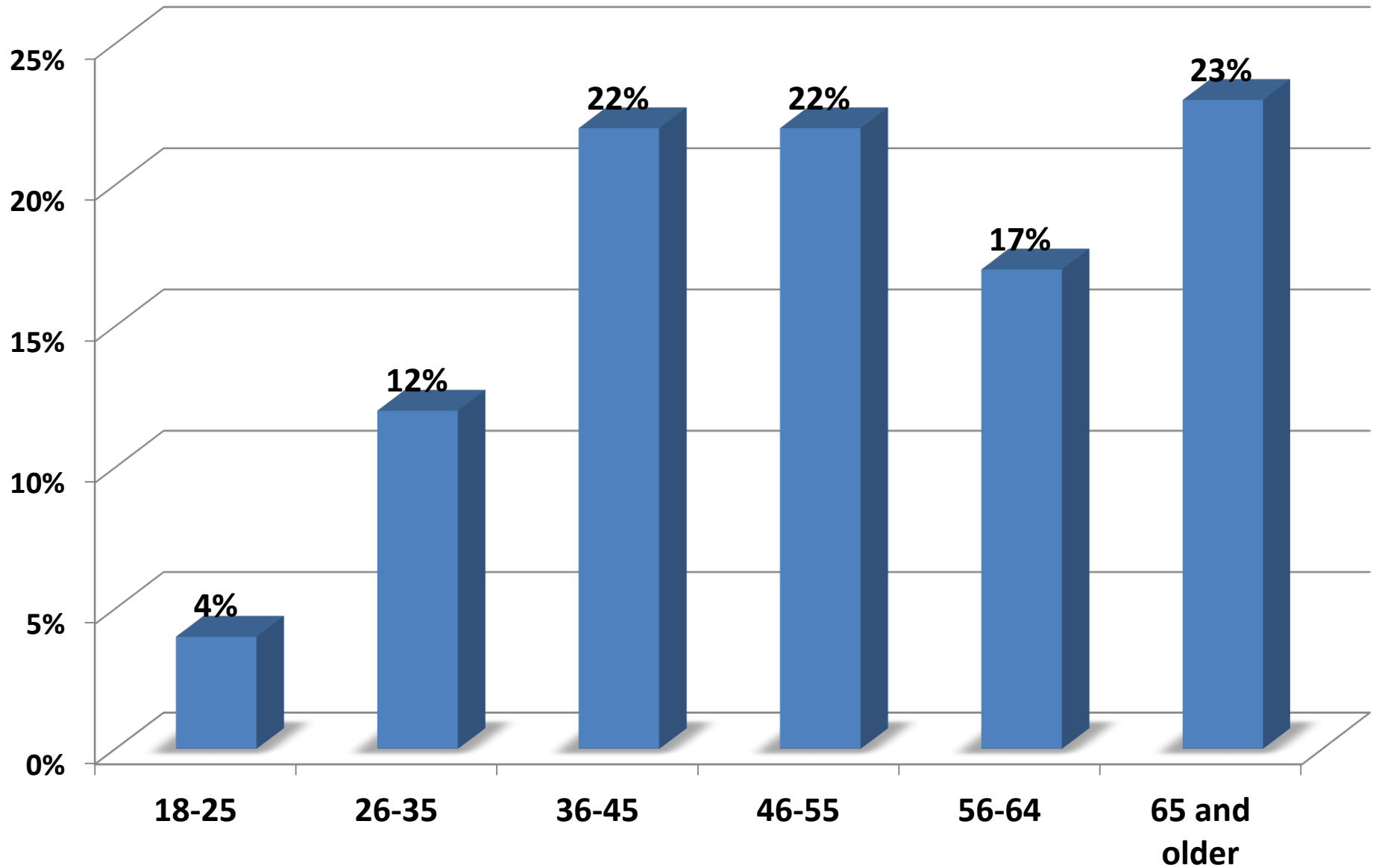
- Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research
- Conducted over 10,000 surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

# Survey Summary

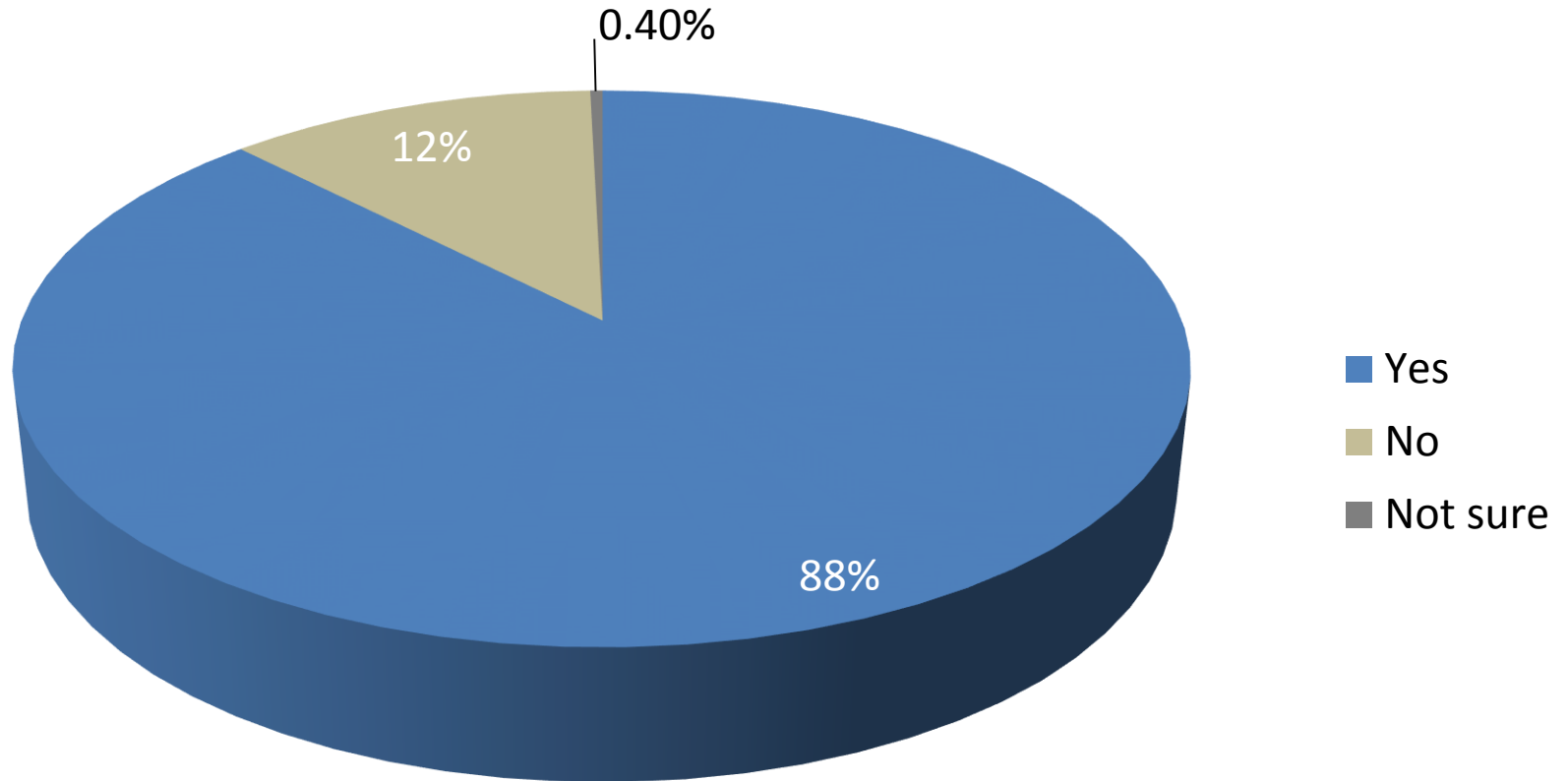
- The survey was conducted in November of 2019.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 492 (163 paper)
- Participation rate = 19%
- Margin of error = +/- 4.5%

# Respondent Information

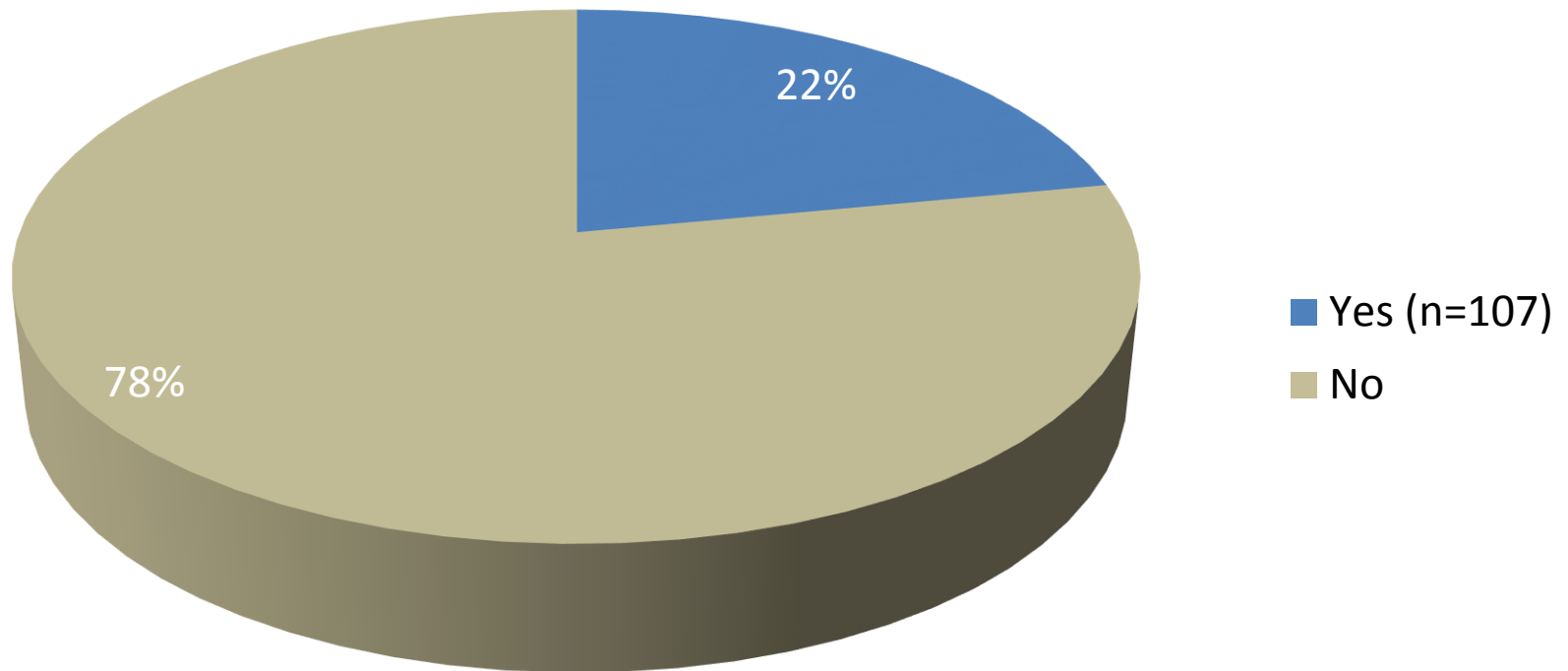
# What is your age?



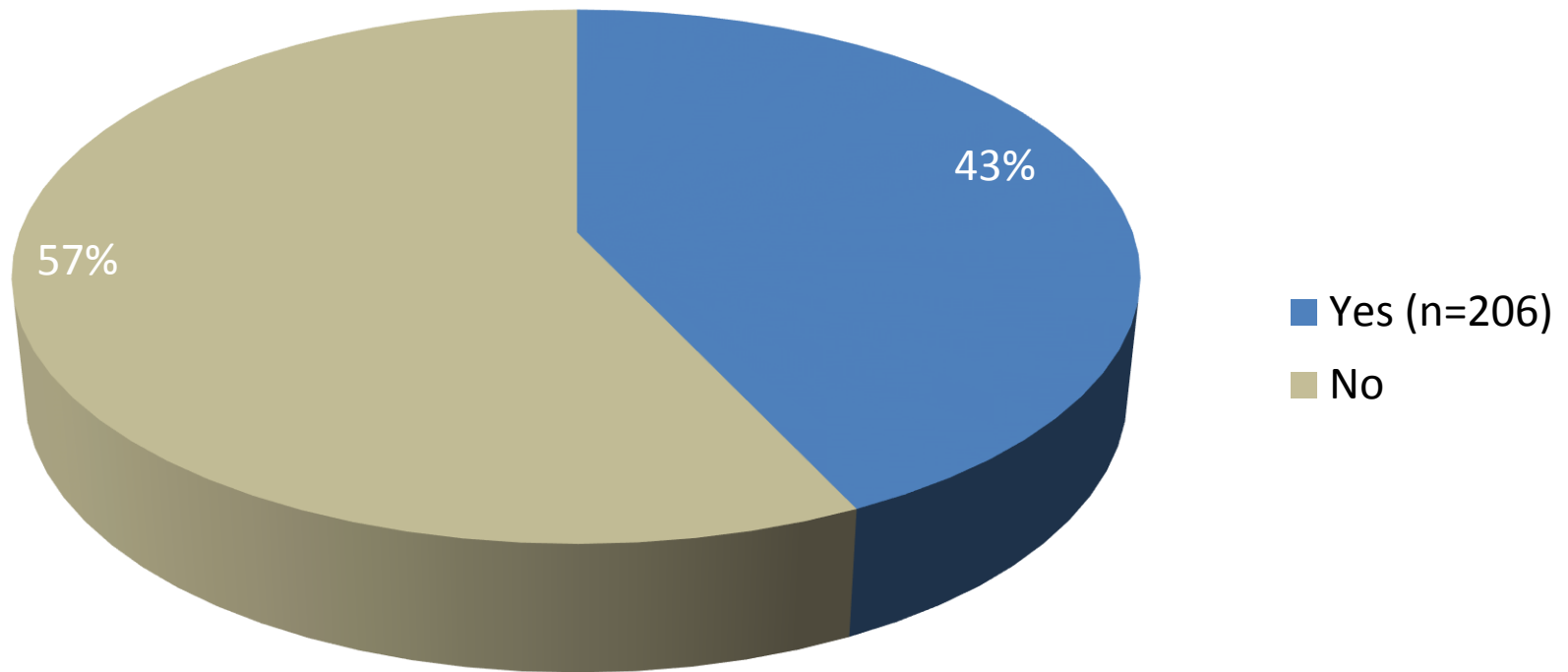
# Is your primary residence in the Camanche Community School District?



# Are you an employee of the Camanche Community School District?

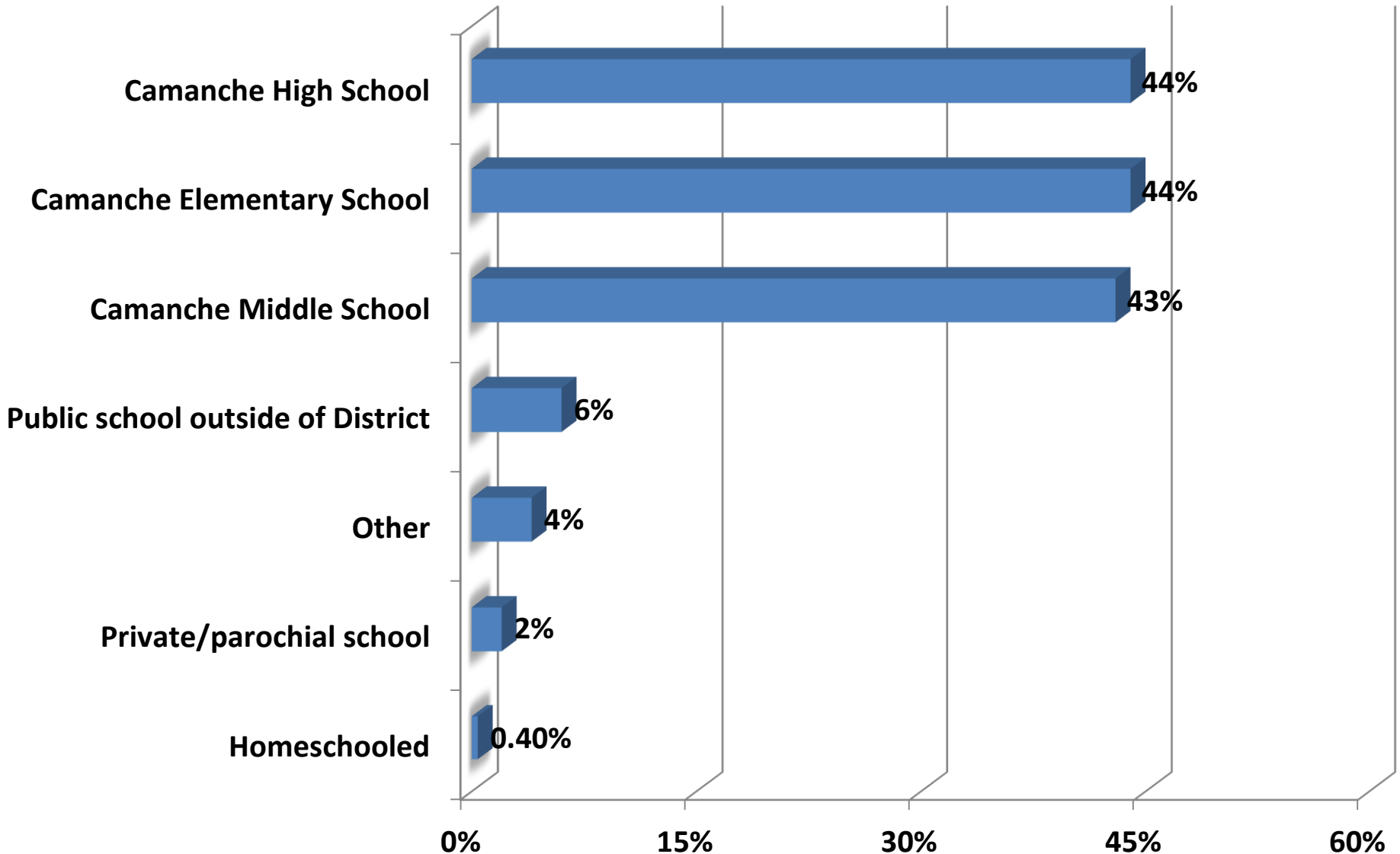


# Do you have children attending our schools?

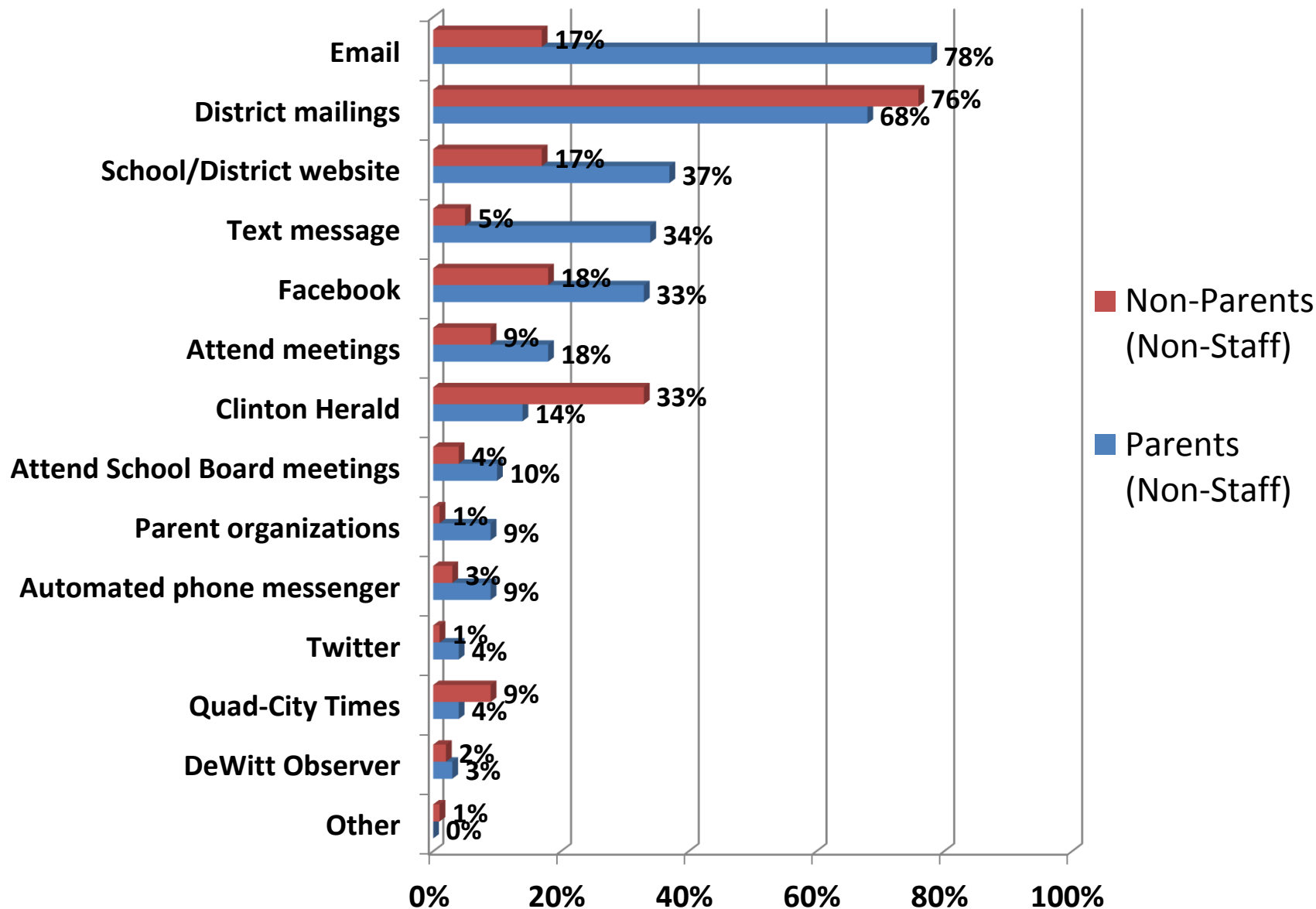




# If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend?



# How would you like to receive information from the District?



# Facility Planning Background

We are very thankful for the financial support our school district taxpayers have provided over the decades. Over the years, voter-approved funding and the penny sales tax funding (SAVE — Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) funds have allowed our district to make numerous updates that sustain the strong educational foundation of our schools. As a result of these investments, our current educational and support areas are in very good shape.

## Future Planning

In response to the community feedback gathered over the past two years, the District worked with Bray Architects to develop four potential projects that address the following issues:

**Improve School Safety and Security:** While security improvements are now complete at Camanche Middle School, improved safe and secure entrances, offices and reception areas are needed at both the elementary and high school buildings to better monitor and control visitor access.

**Add Gymnasium Space:** The District no longer has enough gymnasium space to reasonably meet the needs of athletic and co-curricular programs, including practices, competitions, tournaments, camps and clinics for boys and girls at the youth, middle school and high school levels. As a result of limited gym space, team practices are held early in the morning and late in the evening throughout the school year. Community use for recreational programming and club sports is also very limited.

**Replace and Expand the Theater:** The District's current theater at the high school is more than 40 years old and has received limited improvements since its original construction. The aging sound, lighting and stage systems are in need of replacement and many of the seats are beyond repair. With a capacity of 271, it is too small to accommodate many District and community events. Therefore, they must be held in the gym with suboptimal lighting and sound systems for fine arts events.

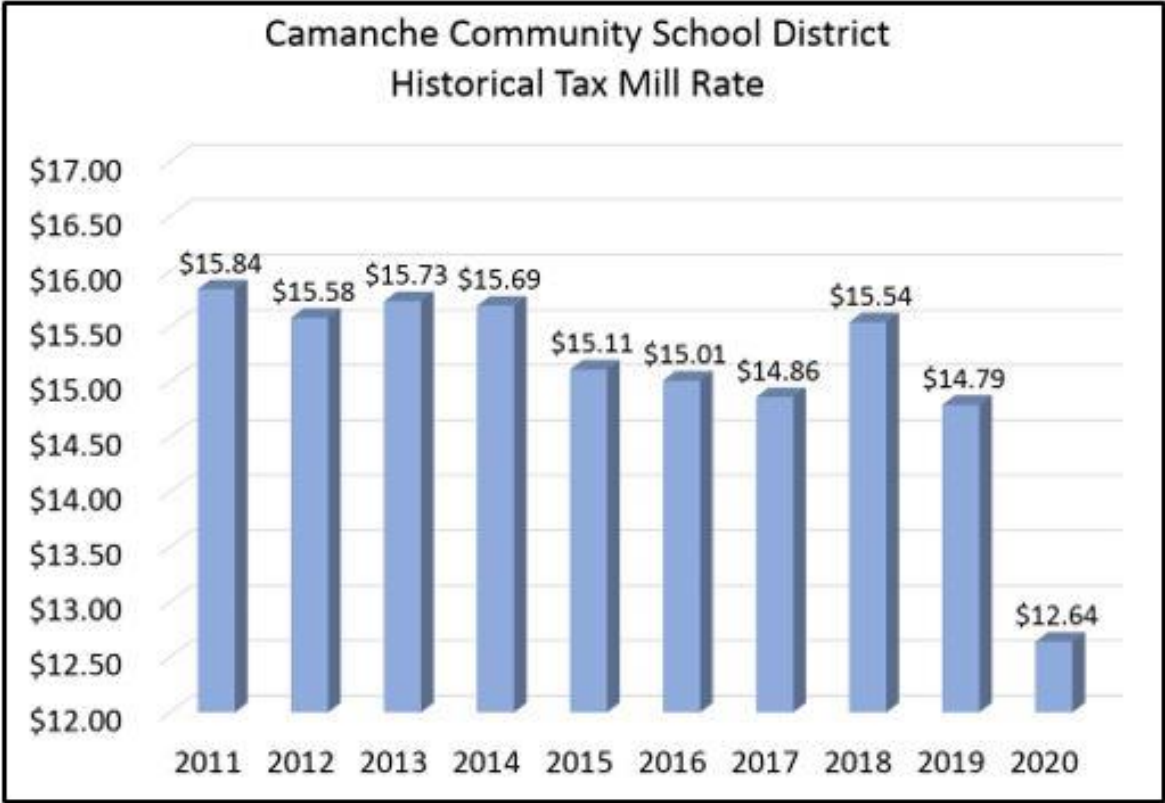
**Renovate the Pool Area and Weight Room:** The District's pool was built in 1980 and was shut down in 2018 due to safety and mechanical issues. The existing weight room is too small, lacks space for cardio and cross-training equipment and is not easily accessible to the public.

*For more information on the planning completed to date, please visit [www.camanche.k12.ia.us/](http://www.camanche.k12.ia.us/)*

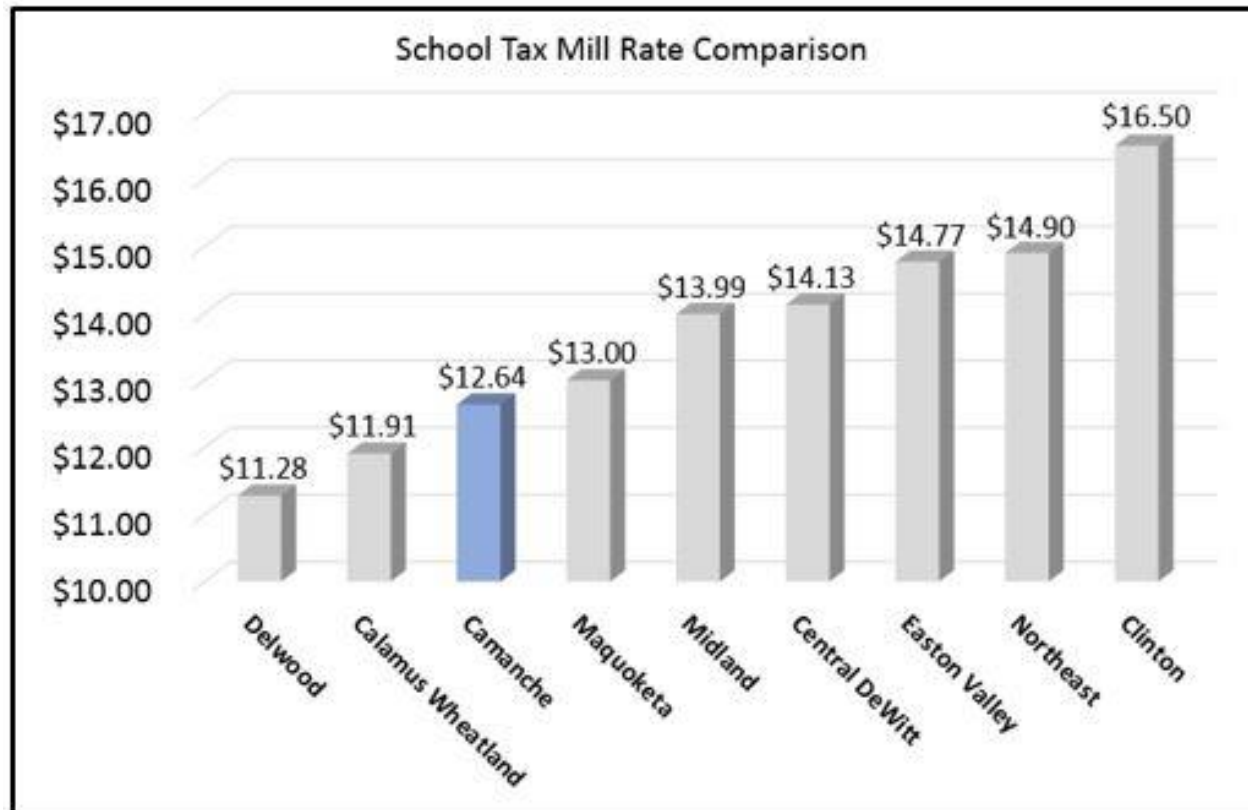
# Financial Planning Background

We are often asked how the school portion of the property tax rate has changed over the years and how it compares to others in the area.

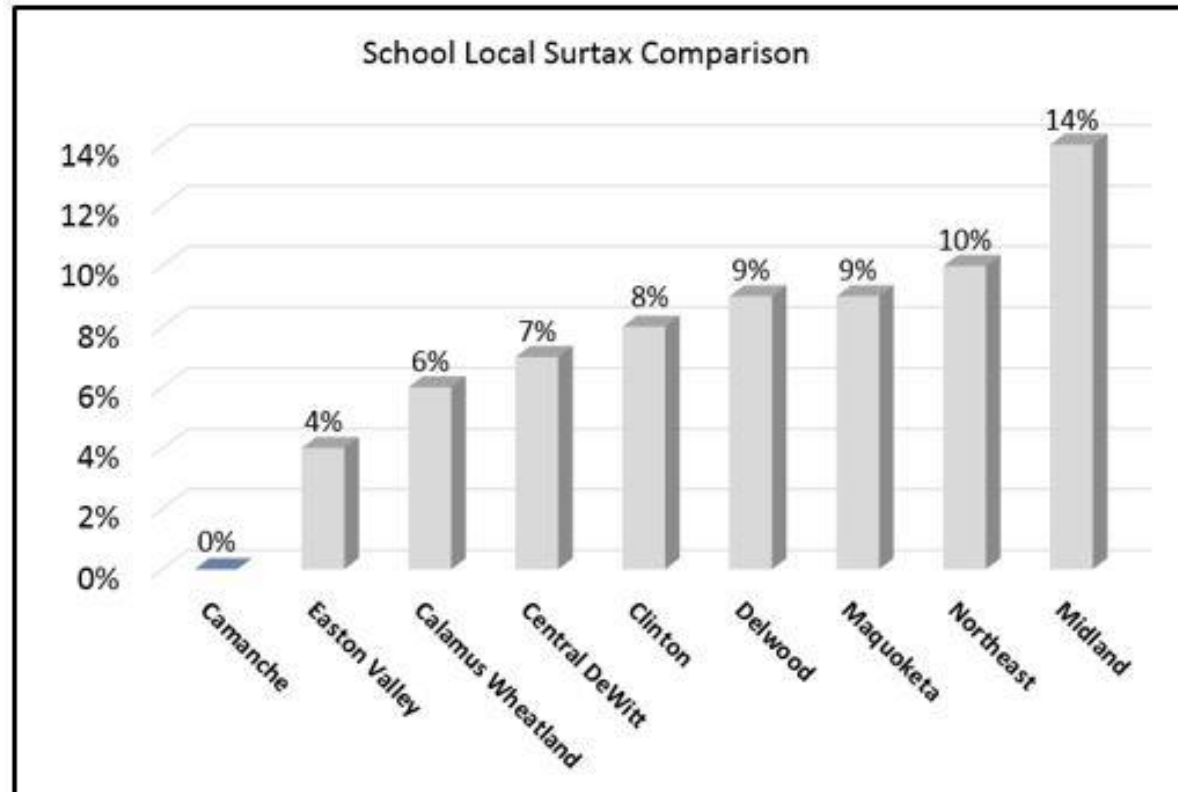
The District has worked very hard to control expenses. In 2016, the last capital bond (borrowing used for facilities improvements) was paid off. Since 2010, the total School District portion of local property taxes has dropped substantially, saving residential taxpayers \$320 on each \$100,000 of property value. As you can see in the graph below, the District's tax mill rate has declined to its lowest rate in 10 years.



Based on the tax levy rates, as published by the Clinton County Auditor's Office, the Camanche Community School District residents pay a lower school tax rate than many neighboring districts.



Based on the income surtax rates, as published by the State of Iowa, the Camanche Community School District does not levy an income surtax, unlike more than 80% of Iowa school districts.

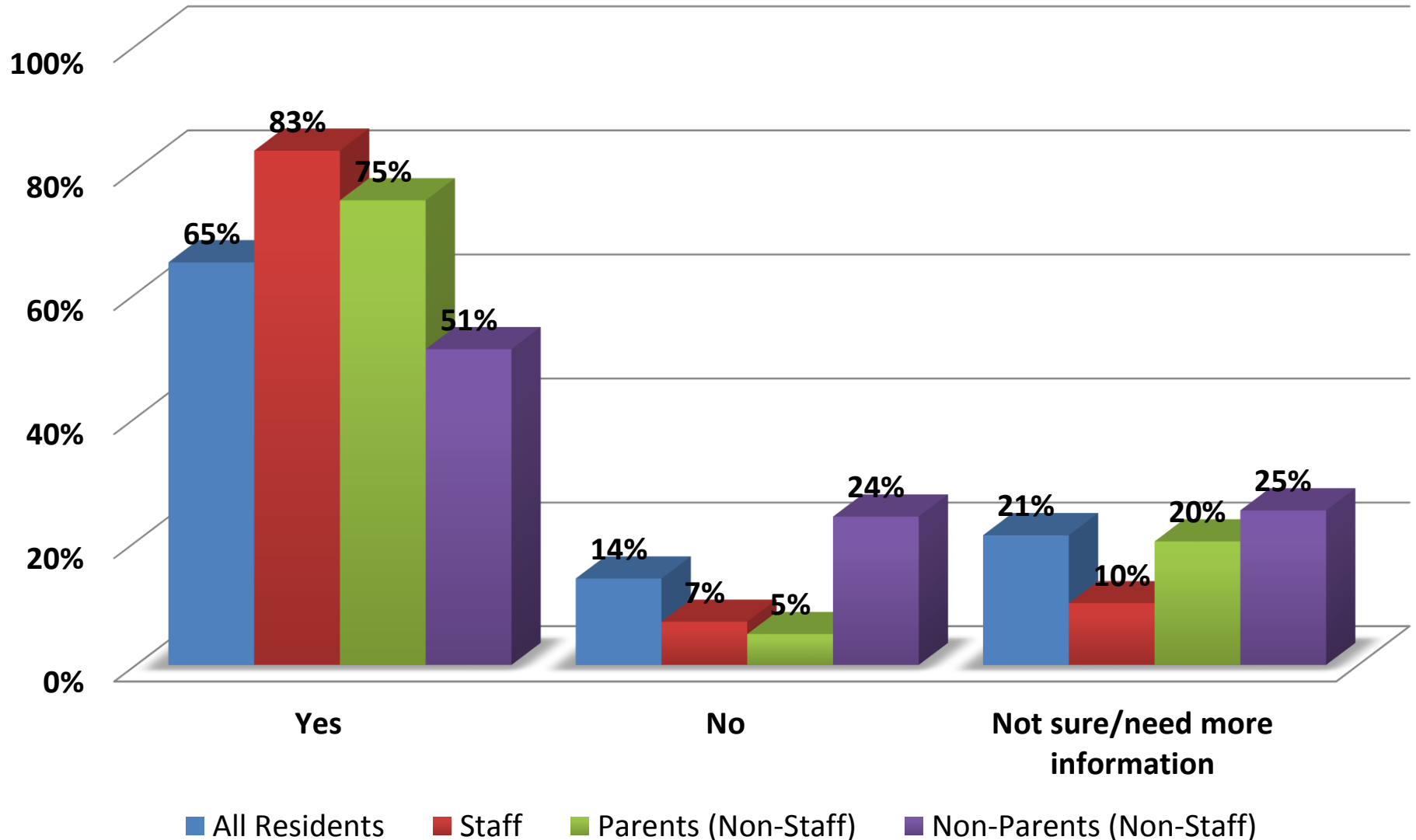


Careful planning has put the District in a unique position; we are now at a point where we can focus on co-curricular improvements and to better serve our community. The School Board believes this is a good time to consider a bond referendum because of the District's healthy financial situation and because interest rates are near historic lows.



# Would you support the District exploring a bond referendum to update and enhance the facilities?

*(Camanche Community School District Residents Only)*



# Potential Projects

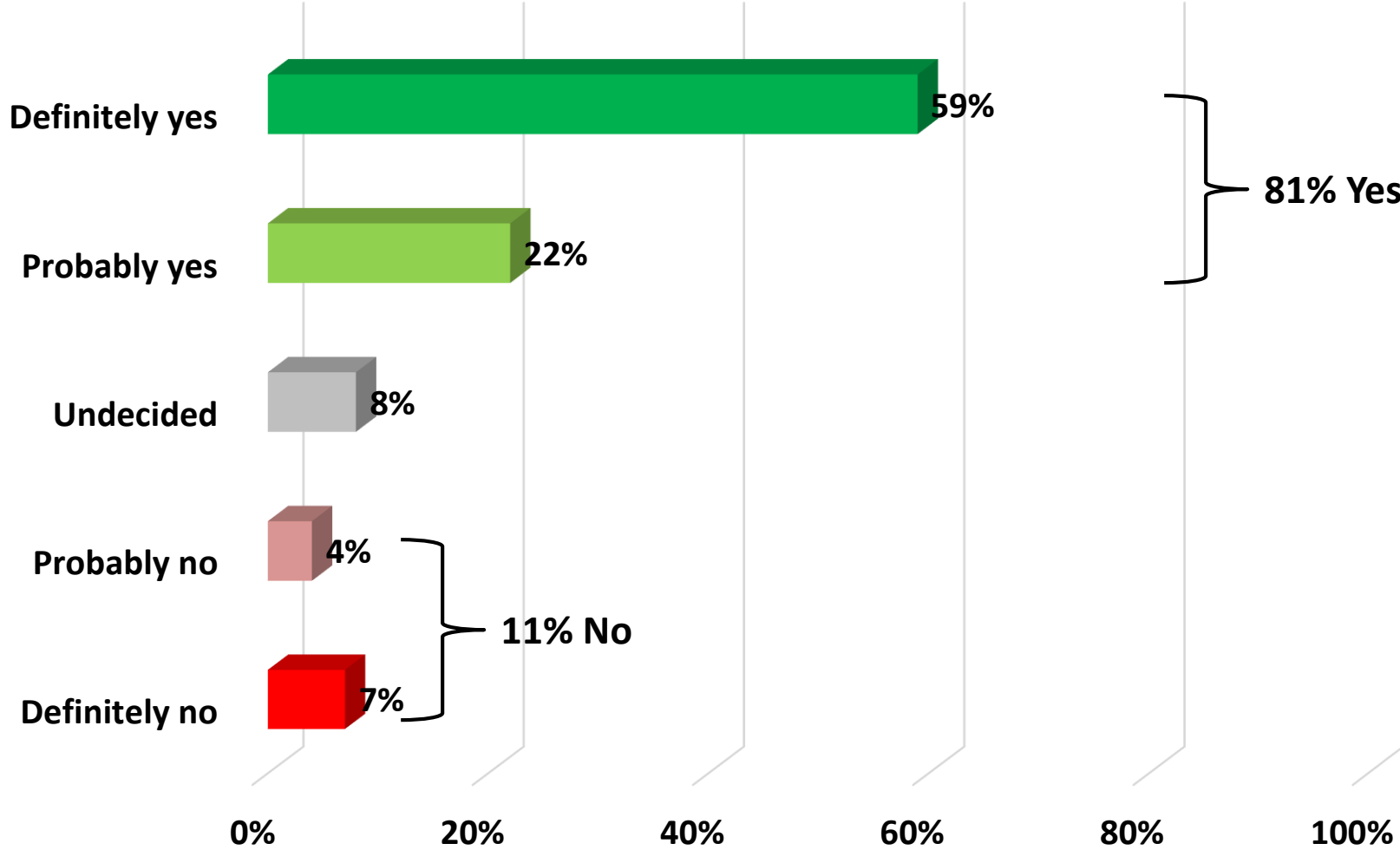
## Improve School Safety and Security

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. The elementary and high schools need security upgrades, including reconfigured entrances, reception areas and main office areas to provide appropriate security features and better control of visitor traffic flow.

Projected Annual Tax Increase		
Type of Property	Assessed Tax Value	\$600,000
Residential	\$100,000	\$6.25/yr
Commercial	\$250,000	\$27/yr
Agricultural	320 acres	\$50/yr

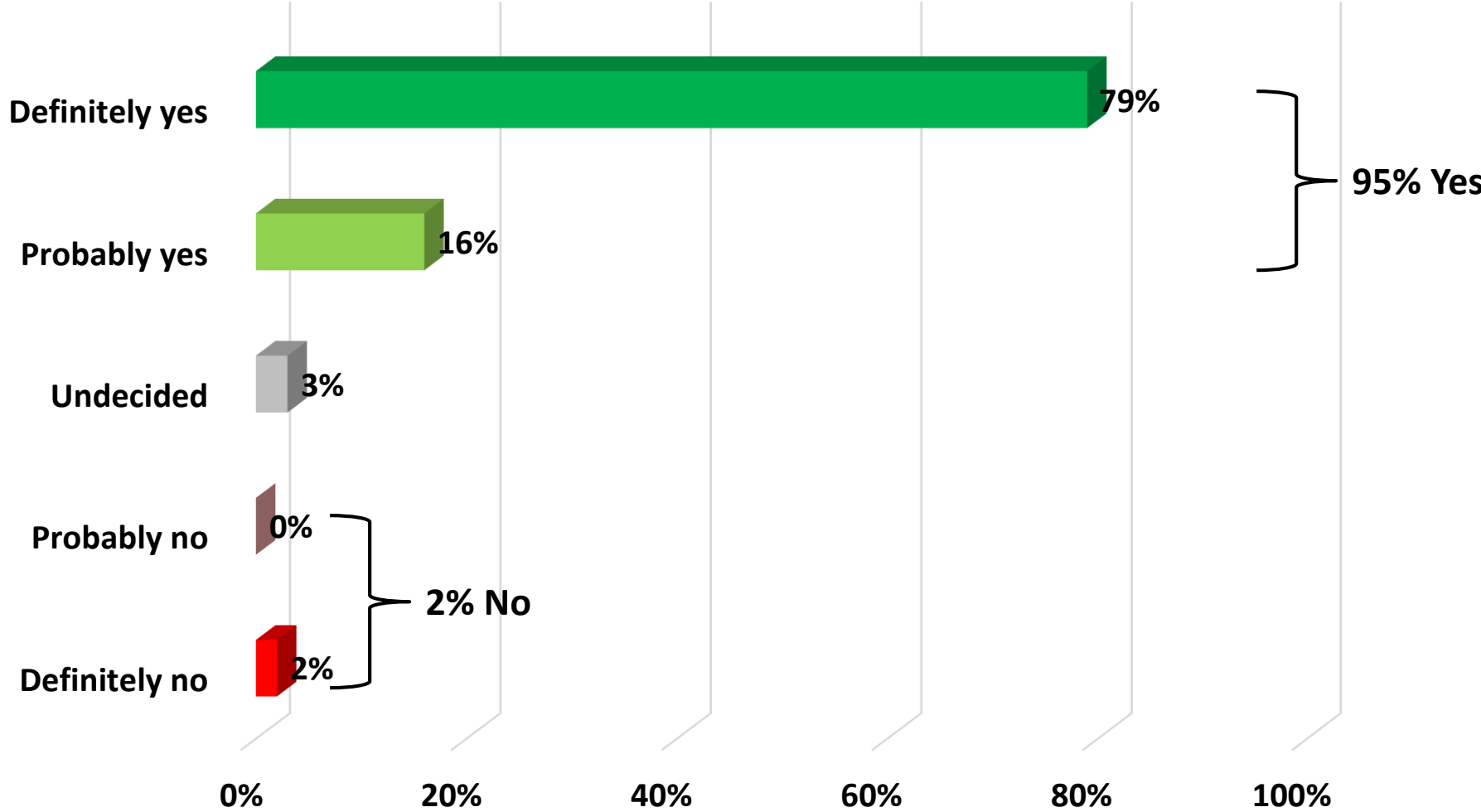
# Would you support a \$600,000 referendum to improve school safety and security at the elementary and high schools?

All Residents



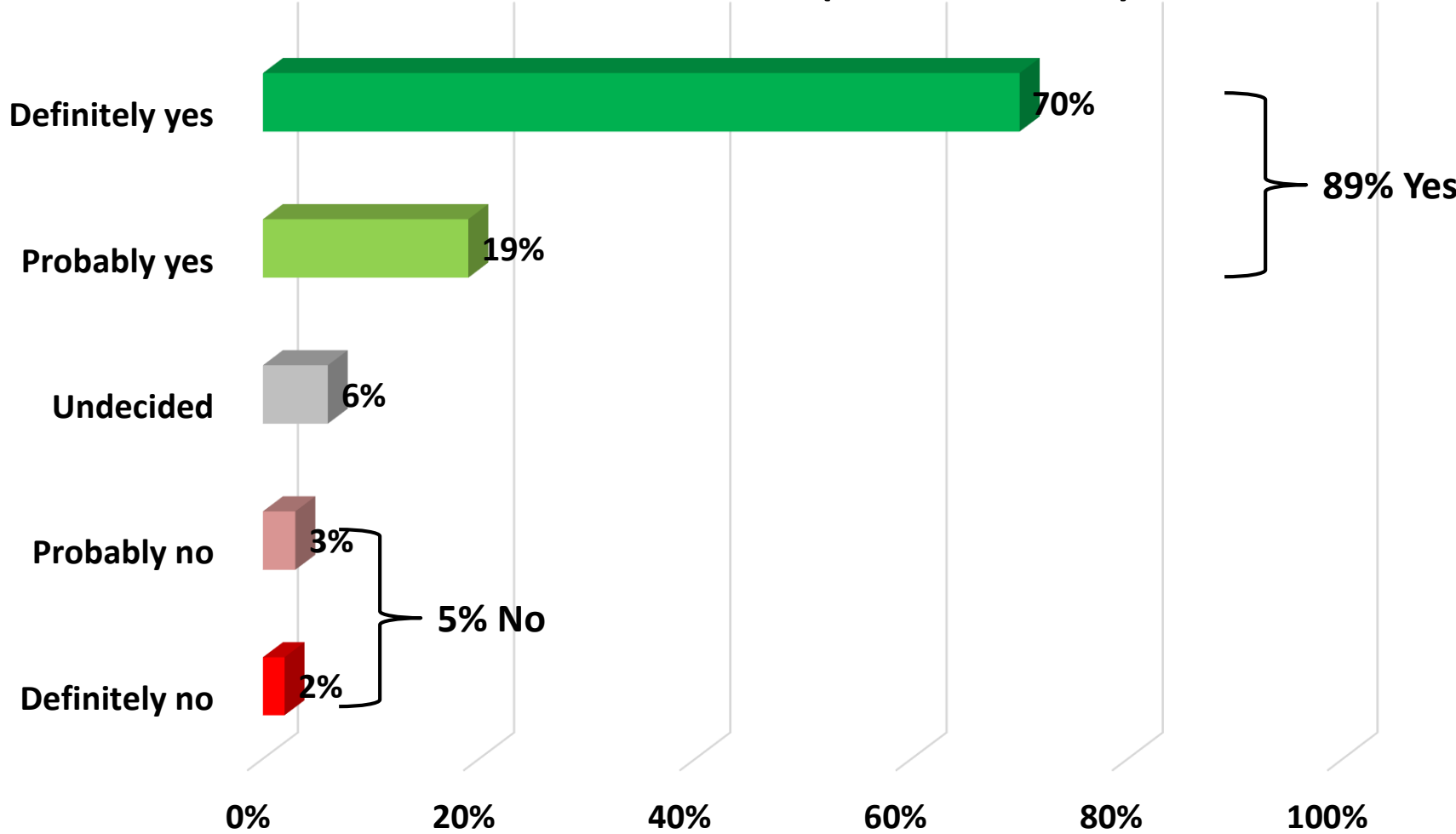
# Would you support a \$600,000 referendum to improve school safety and security at the elementary and high schools?

Staff Residents



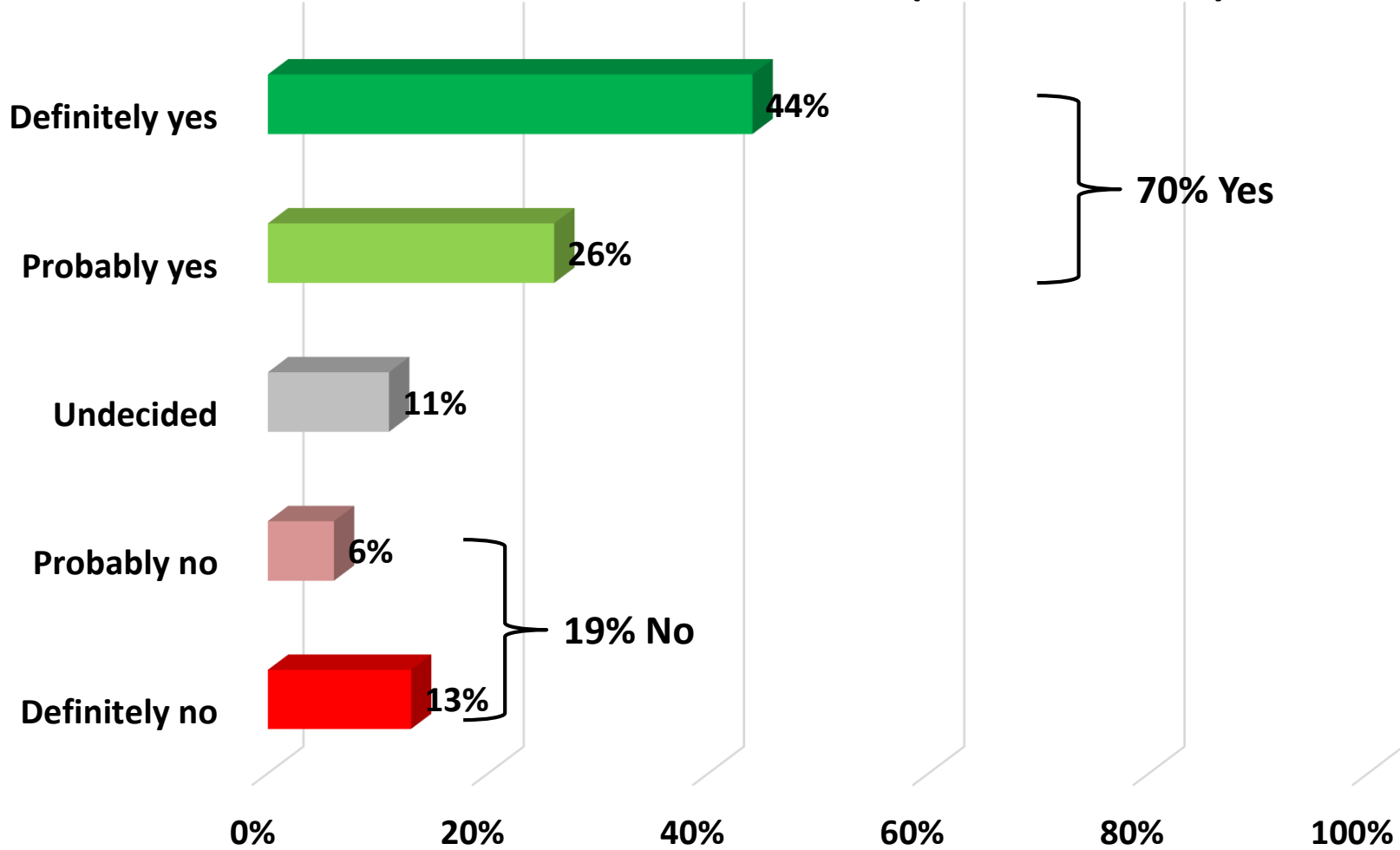
# Would you support a \$600,000 referendum to improve school safety and security at the elementary and high schools?

Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



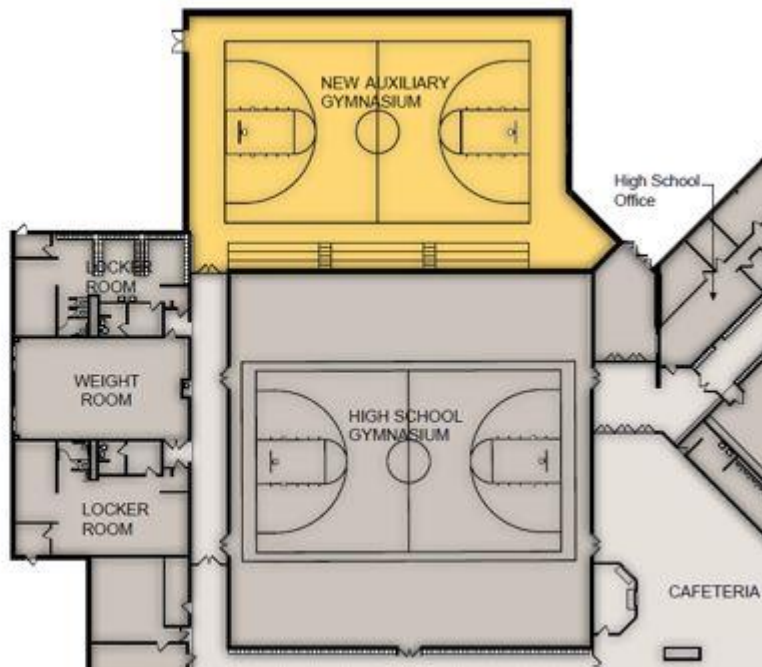
# Would you support a \$600,000 referendum to improve school safety and security at the elementary and high schools?

Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Add Auxiliary Gymnasium

The proposed project would add a single-court auxiliary gymnasium with a small set of bleachers to the north end of the existing high school. This gymnasium would be used for athletic, co-curricular and community programs, including practices, competitions, tournaments, camps and clinics for students and community members of all ages.

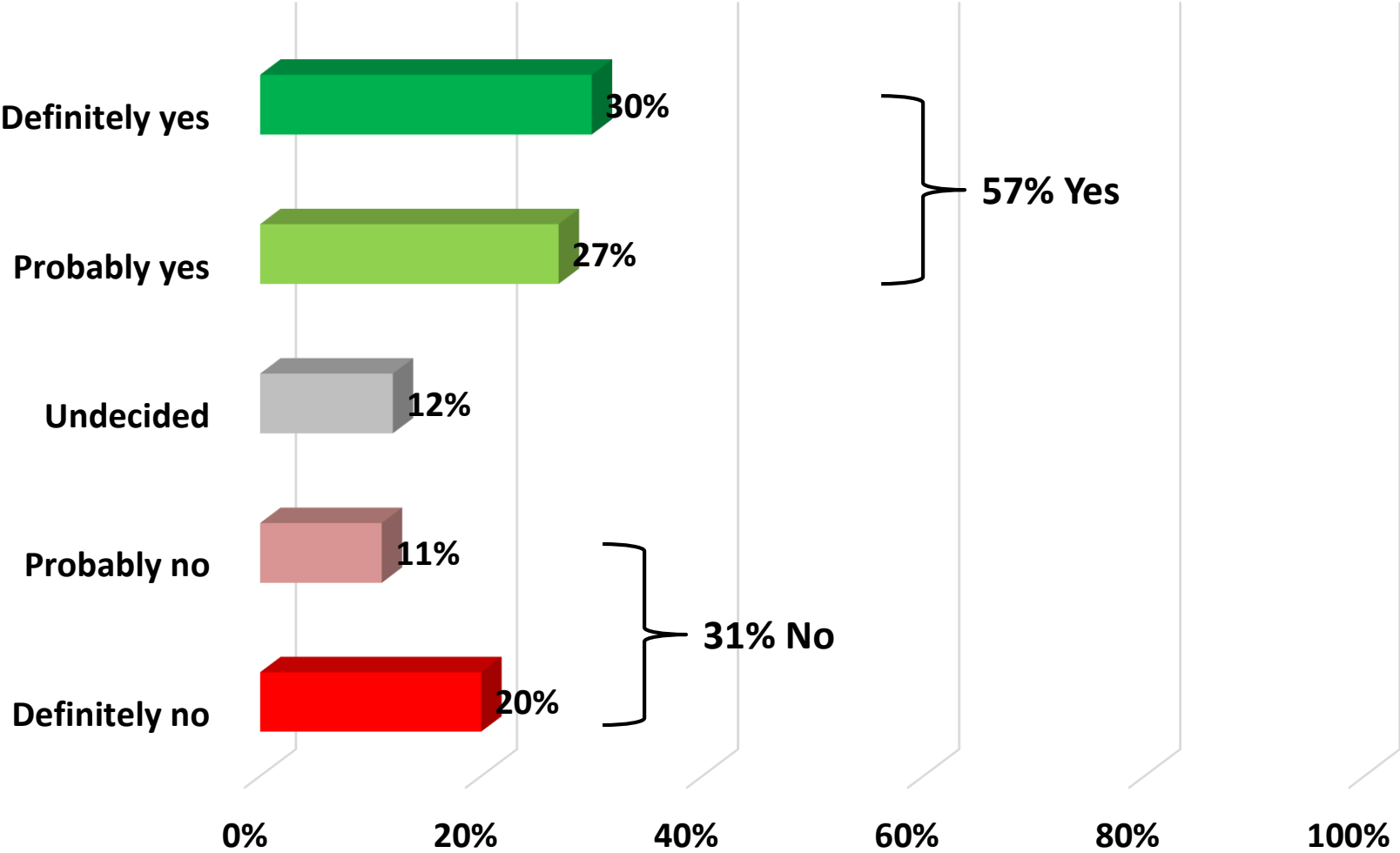


Projected Annual Tax Increase		
Type of Property	Assessed Tax value	\$2.4 million
Residential	\$100,000	\$26/yr
Commercial	\$250,000	\$113/yr
Agricultural	320 acres	\$210/yr



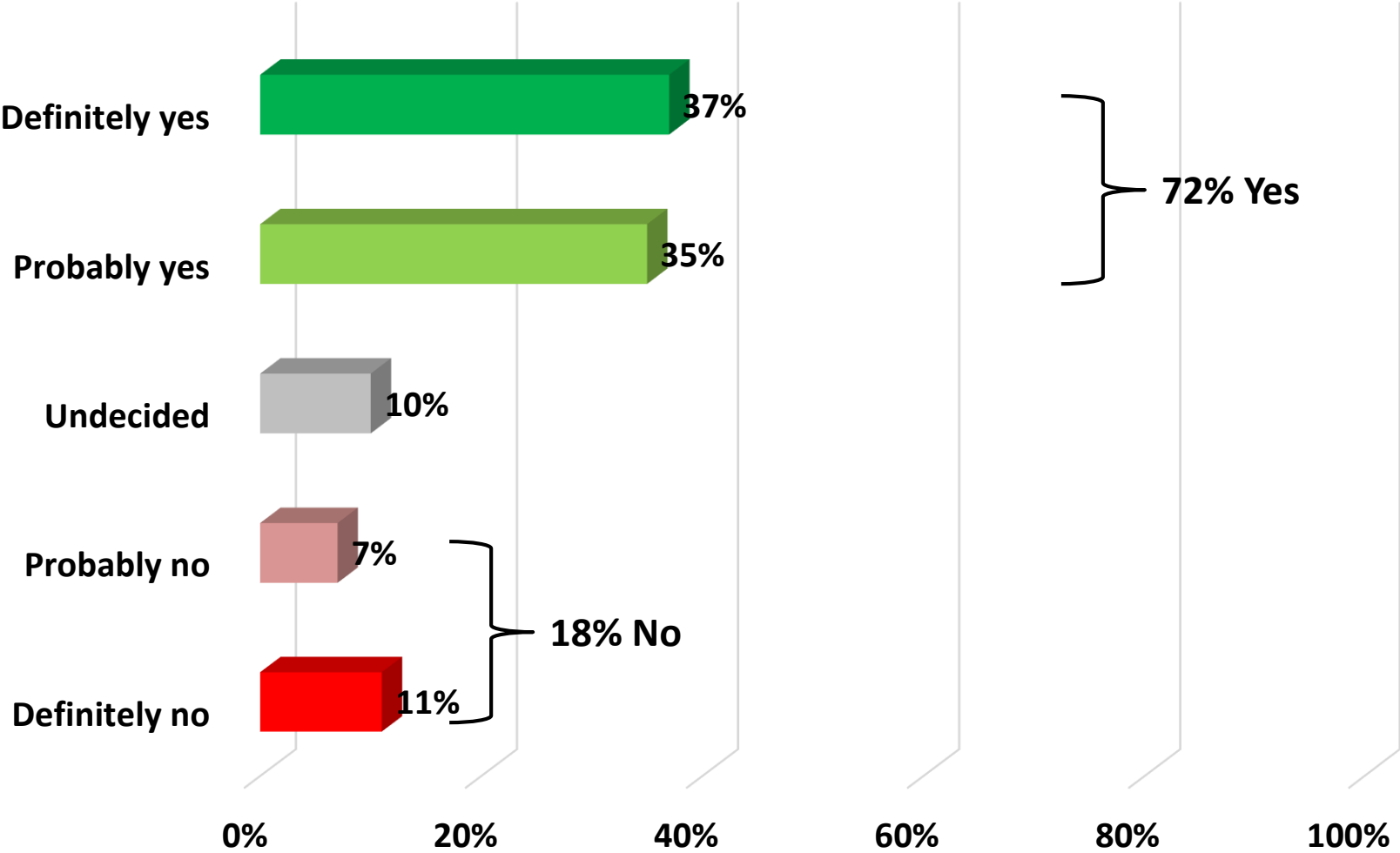
# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to add an auxiliary gymnasium to the high school?

All Residents



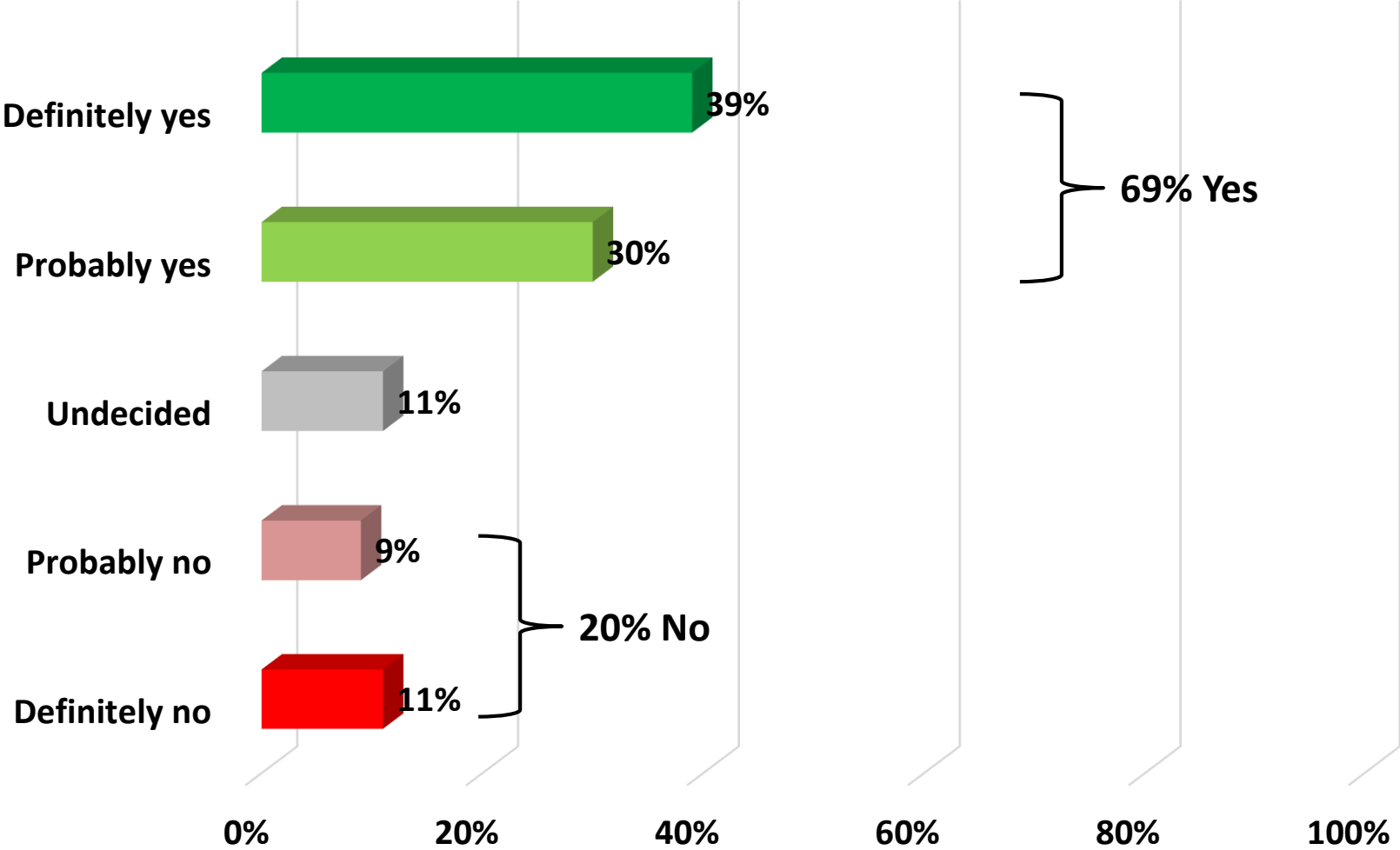
# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to add an auxiliary gymnasium to the high school?

Staff Residents



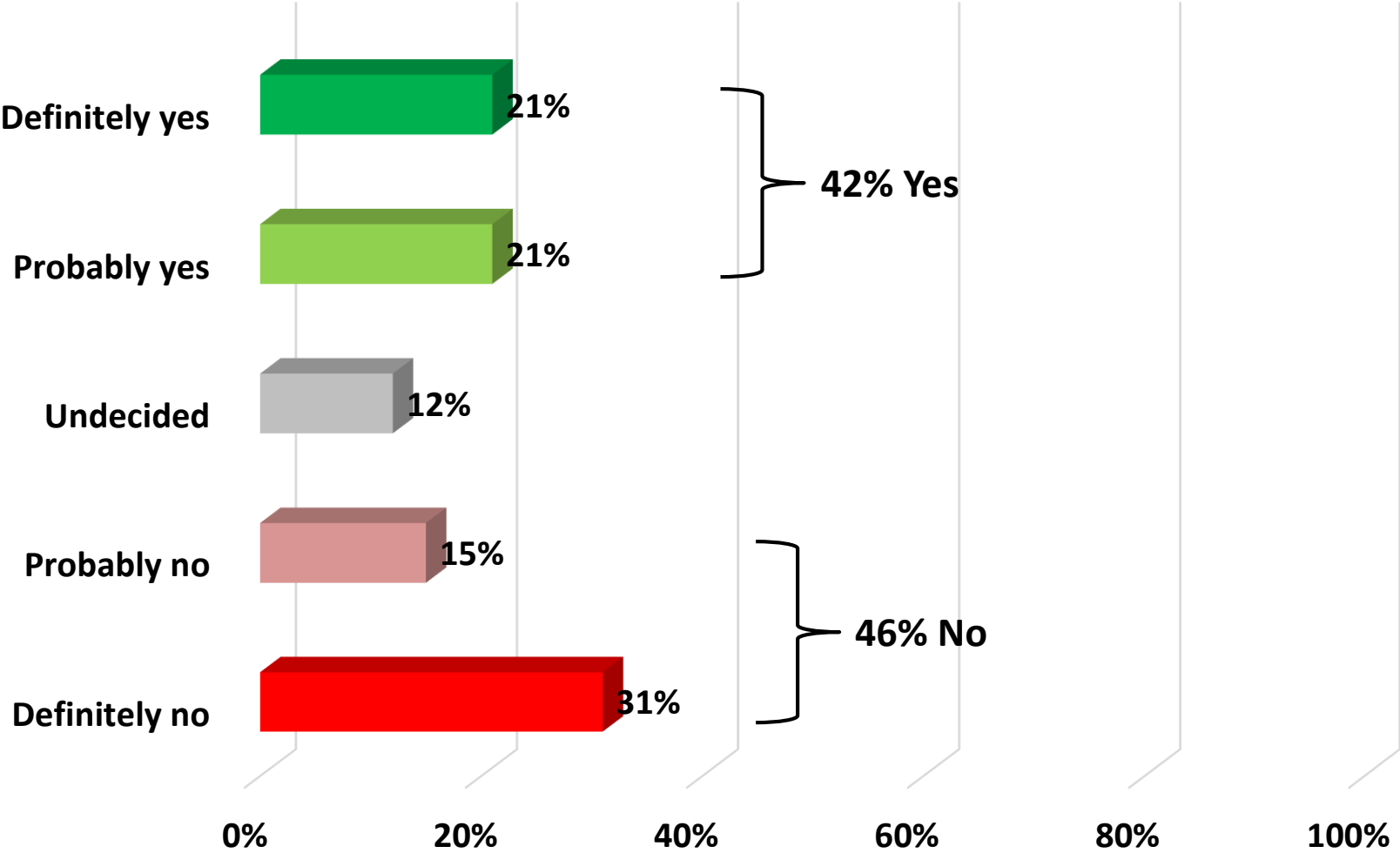
# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to add an auxiliary gymnasium to the high school?

Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to add an auxiliary gymnasium to the high school?

Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)

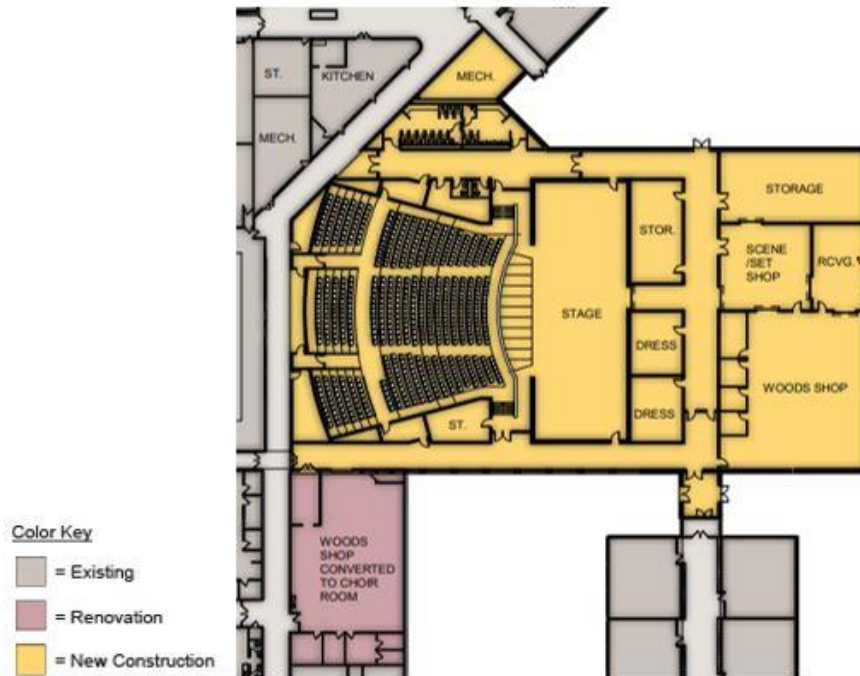


# Replace and Expand the Theater

The project would replace the current 271-seat theater with a 650-seat theater. The new theater would be built where the theater and choir room are currently located. The project would provide a larger stage, dressing rooms, set/scenery construction space, set/costume storage areas and restrooms.

The current woods shop would be remodeled into a new choir room, and a new woods shop would be built adjacent to the theater to provide an area for theatrical set building.

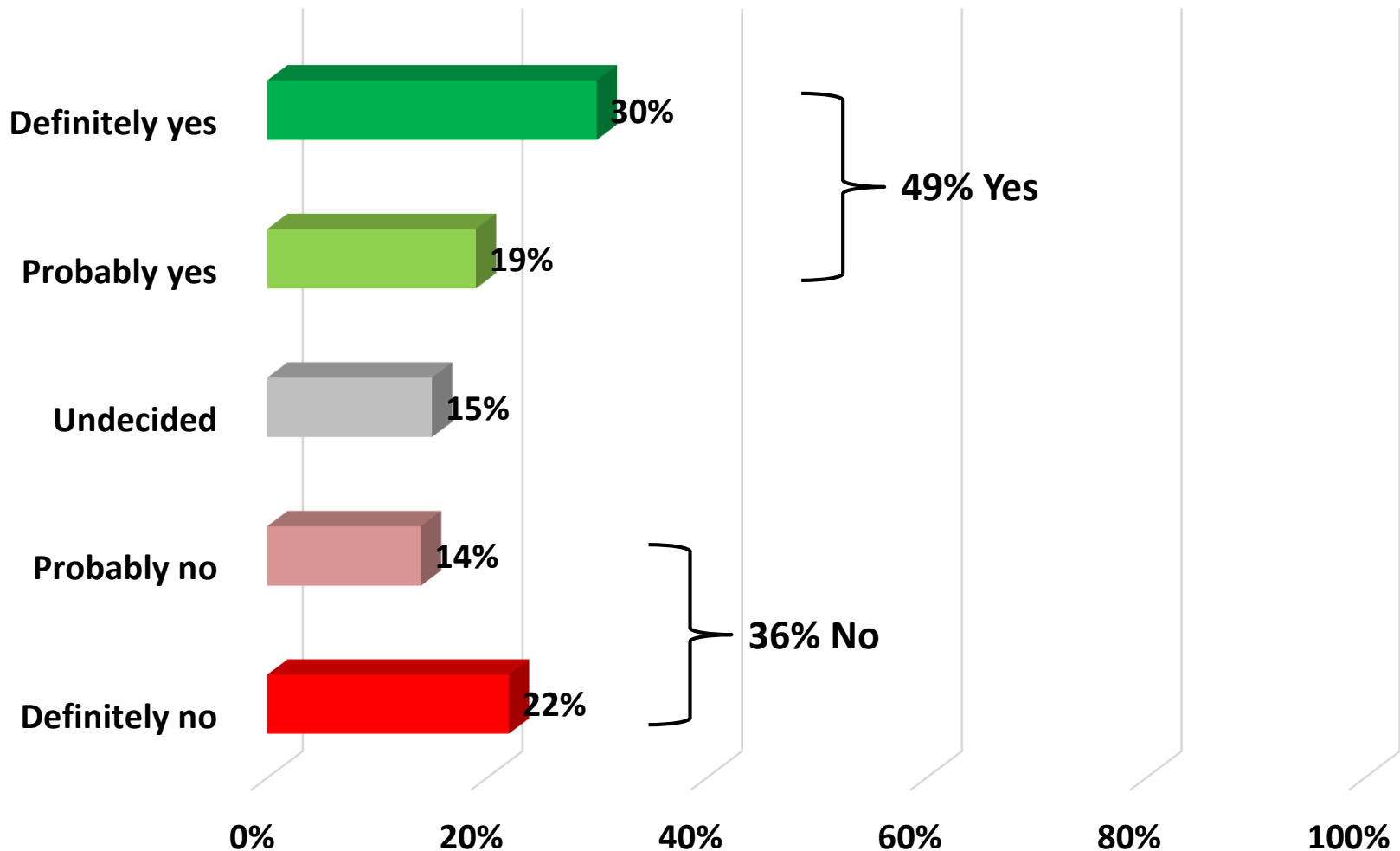
The larger theater would provide needed space for large-group instruction, presentations, concerts, performances, holiday programs and community events.



Projected Annual Tax Increase		
Type of Property	Assessed Tax Value	\$12.7 million
Residential	\$100,000	\$138/yr
Commercial	\$250,000	\$596/yr
Agricultural	320 acres	\$1,111/yr

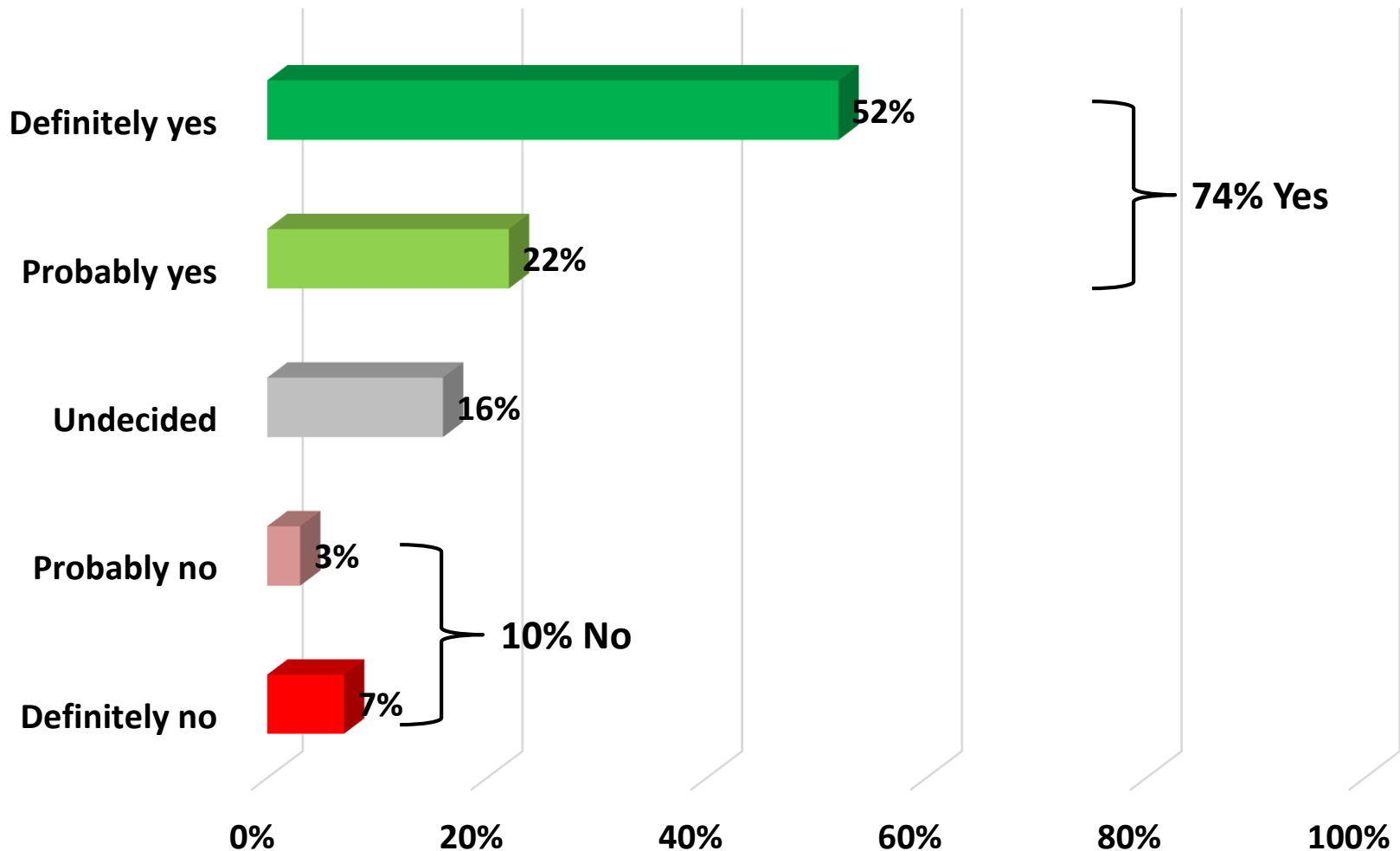
# Would you support a \$12.7 million referendum to replace and expand the theater?

All Residents



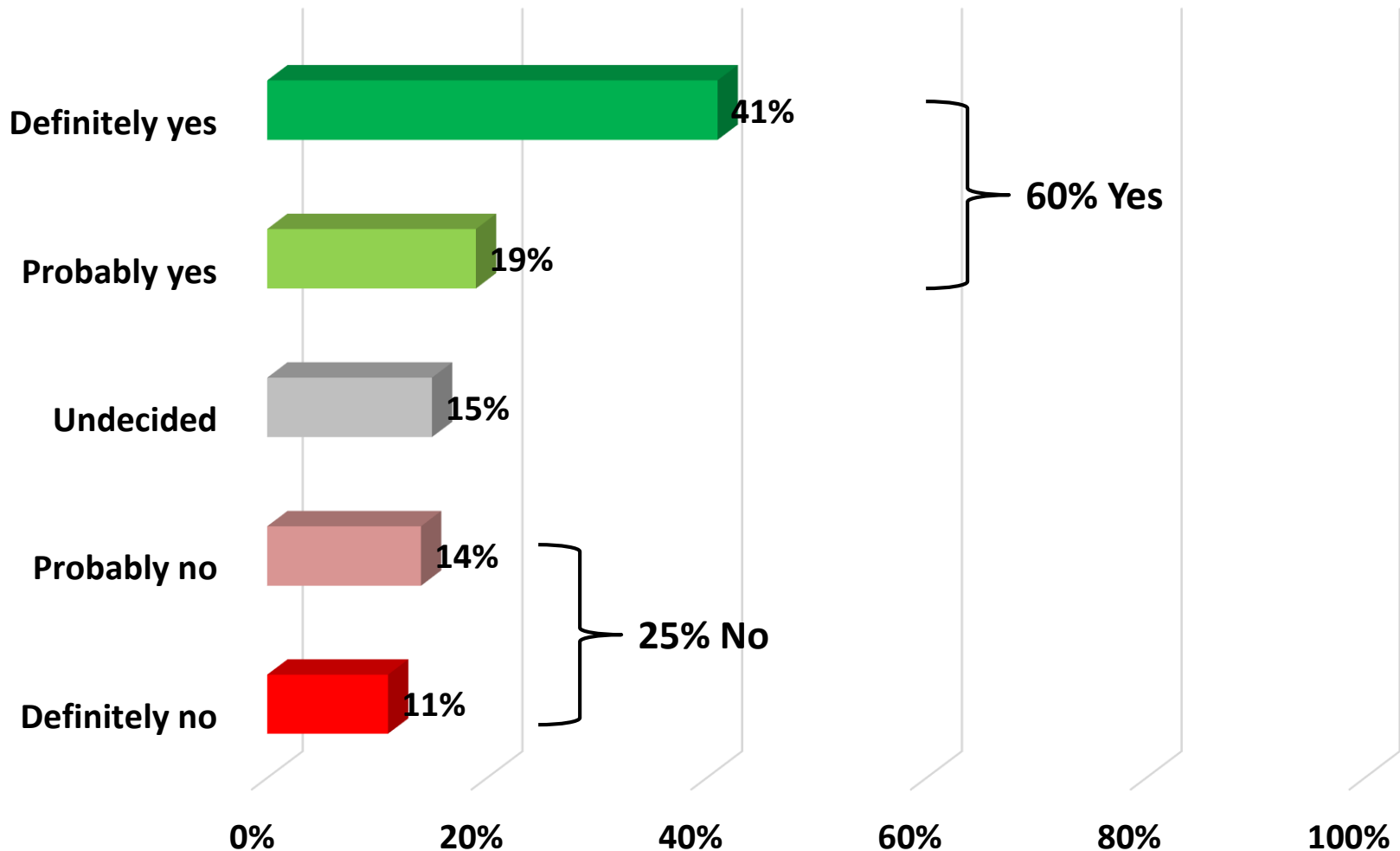
# Would you support a \$12.7 million referendum to replace and expand the theater?

Staff Residents



# Would you support a \$12.7 million referendum to replace and expand the theater?

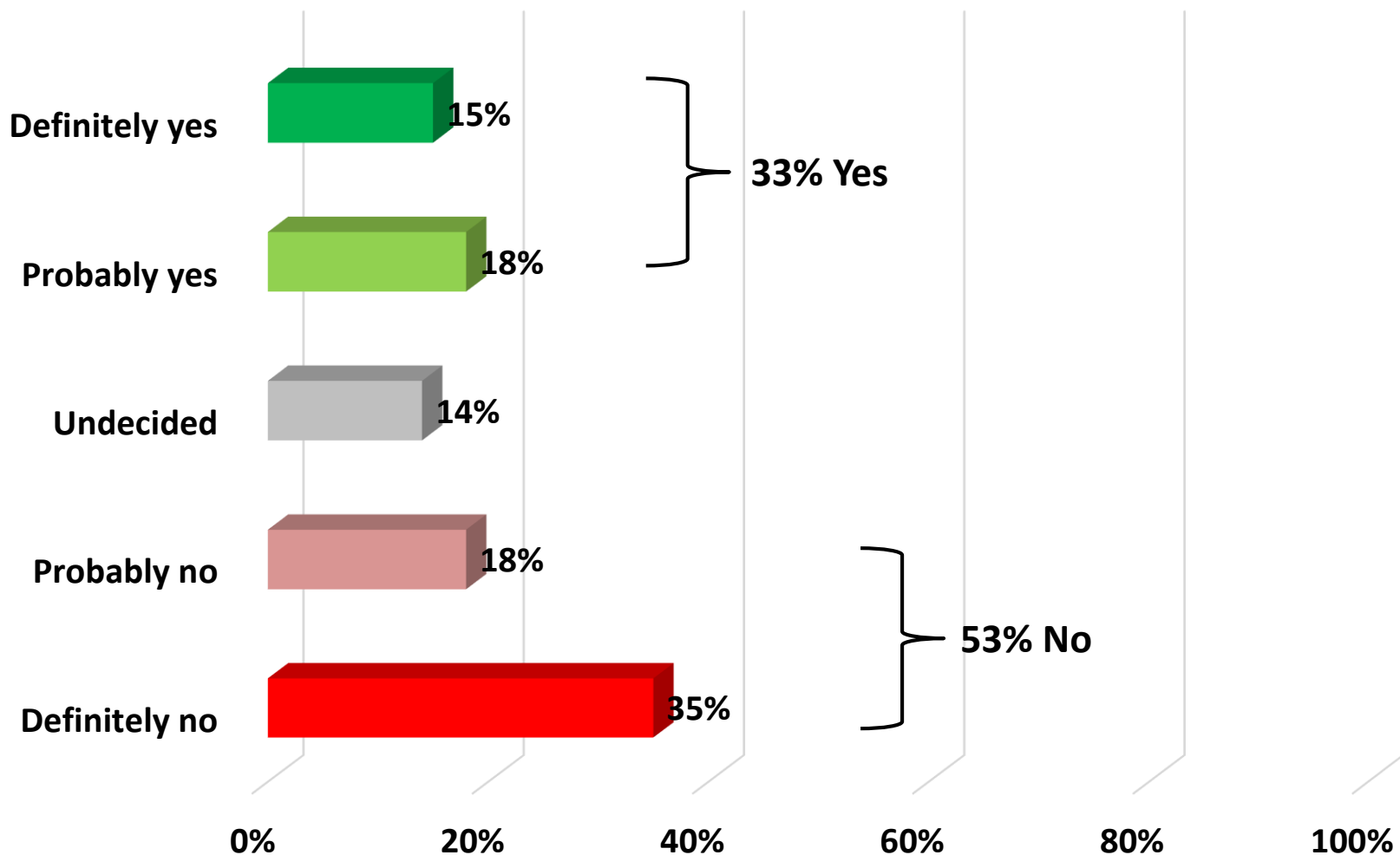
Parent Residents (Non-Staff)





# Would you support a \$12.7 million referendum to replace and expand the theater?

## Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# **Renovate the Pool Area and Weight Room**

The proposed project would create a multi-generational pool and fitness center for school and community use. This area would be available for all ages, from infants to senior citizens.

The existing pool space would be renovated into a three-lane multi-purpose pool for:

- Physical education
- Swim lessons
- Lifeguard certification classes
- Adult lap swimming and therapy
- Warm-water exercise programs
- Indoor fitness/exercise
- Cross-training and sports therapy for high school athletes

A portion of the existing pool space would be renovated into a school/community fitness center with:

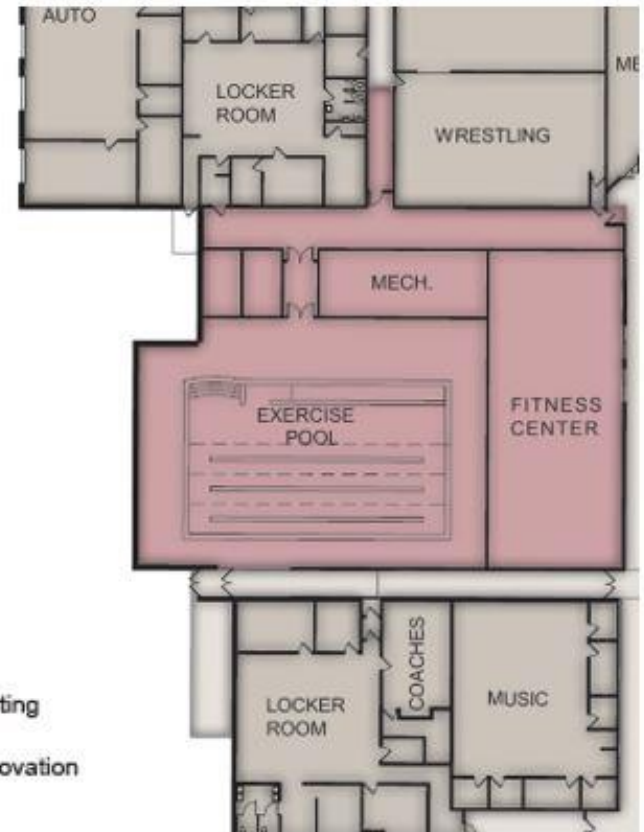
- Additional space for more weight, cardio and cross-training equipment
- Renovated locker rooms



Please note: The image above is similar in concept to the proposed renovation of the existing pool and does not reflect the final design or configuration proposed.

Color Key

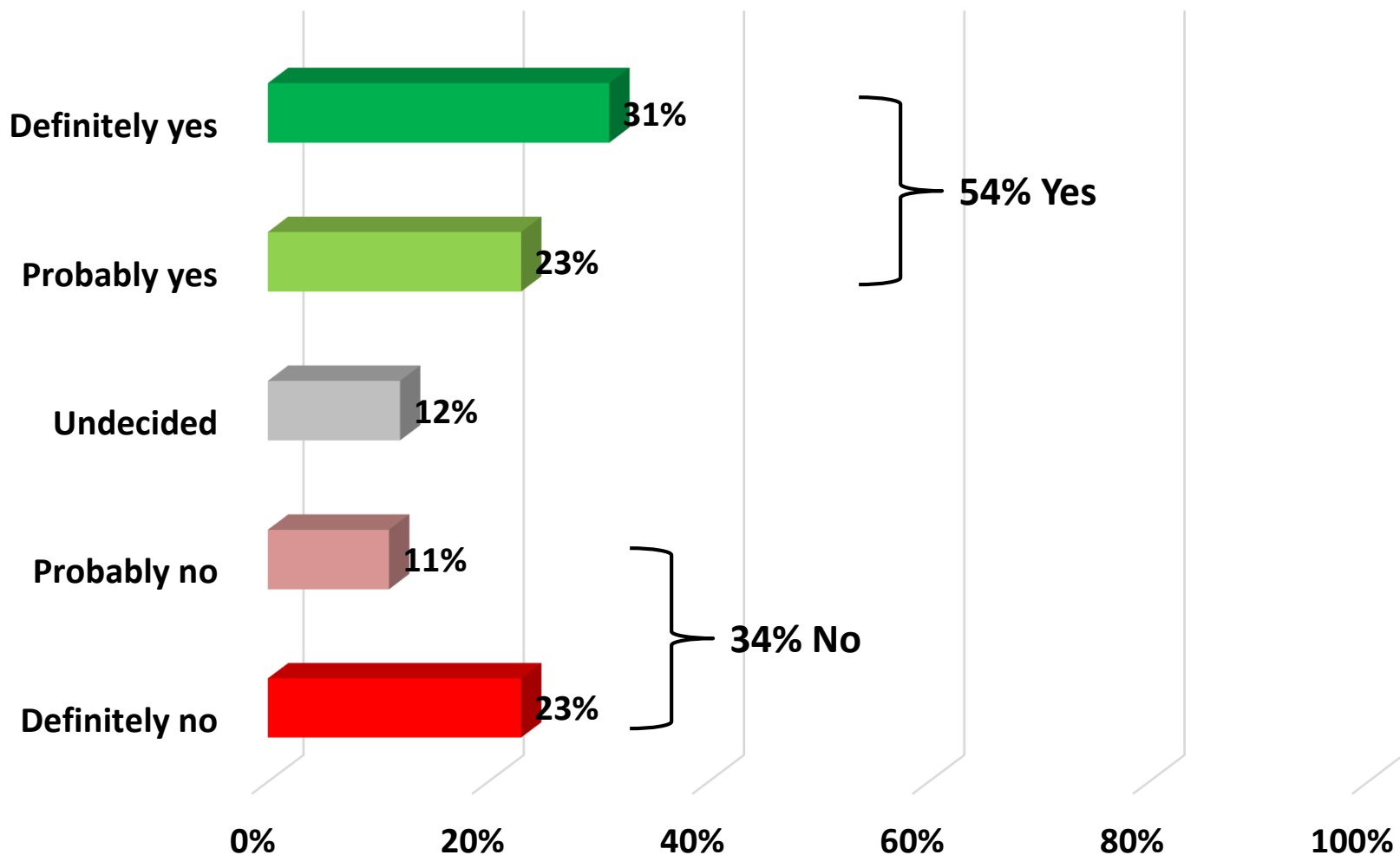
- = Existing
- = Renovation



Projected Annual Tax Increase		
Type of Property	Assessed Tax Value	\$2,400,000
Residential	\$100,000	\$26/yr
Commercial	\$250,000	\$113/yr
Agricultural	320 acres	\$210/yr

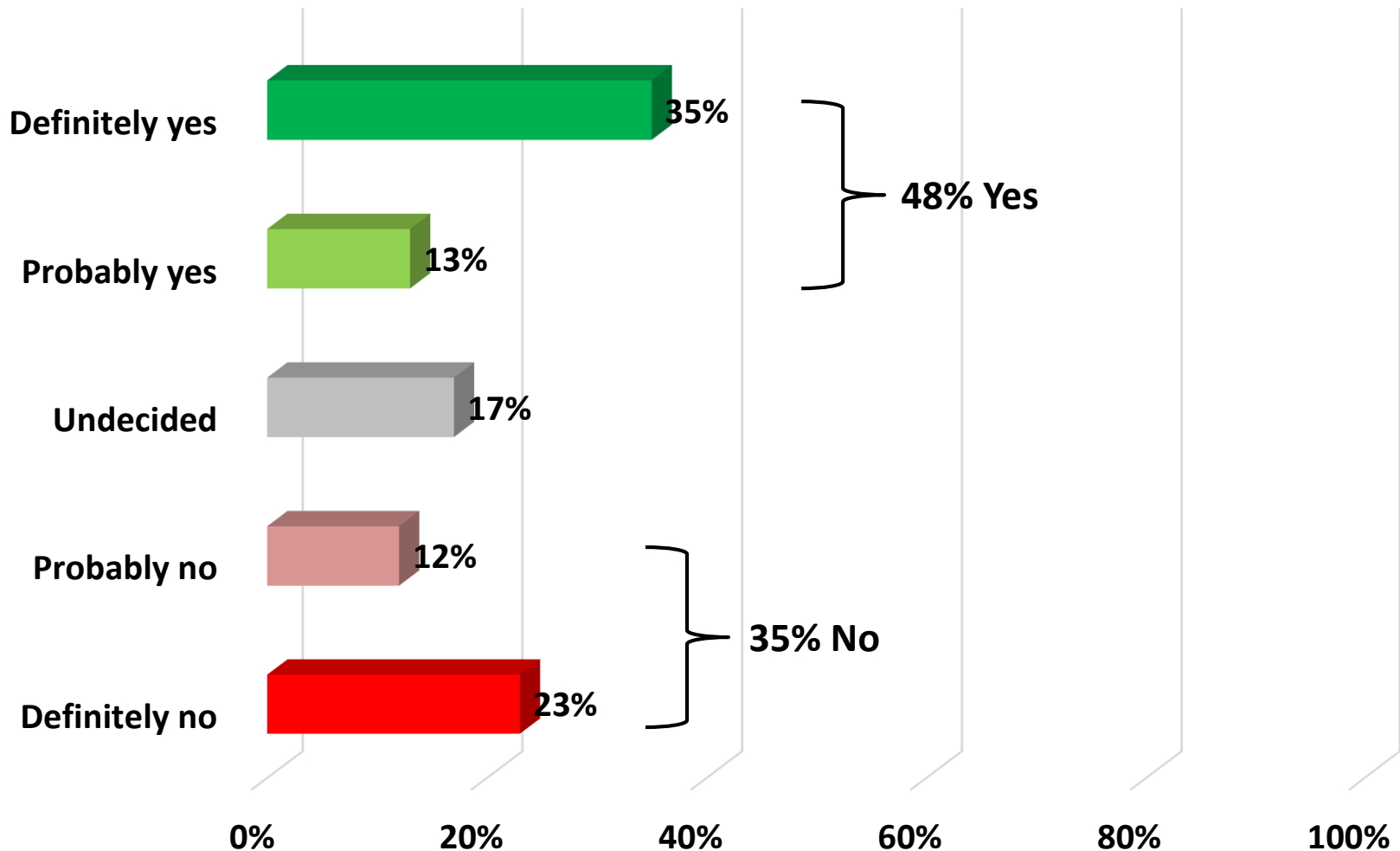
# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to renovate the pool and weight room?

All Residents



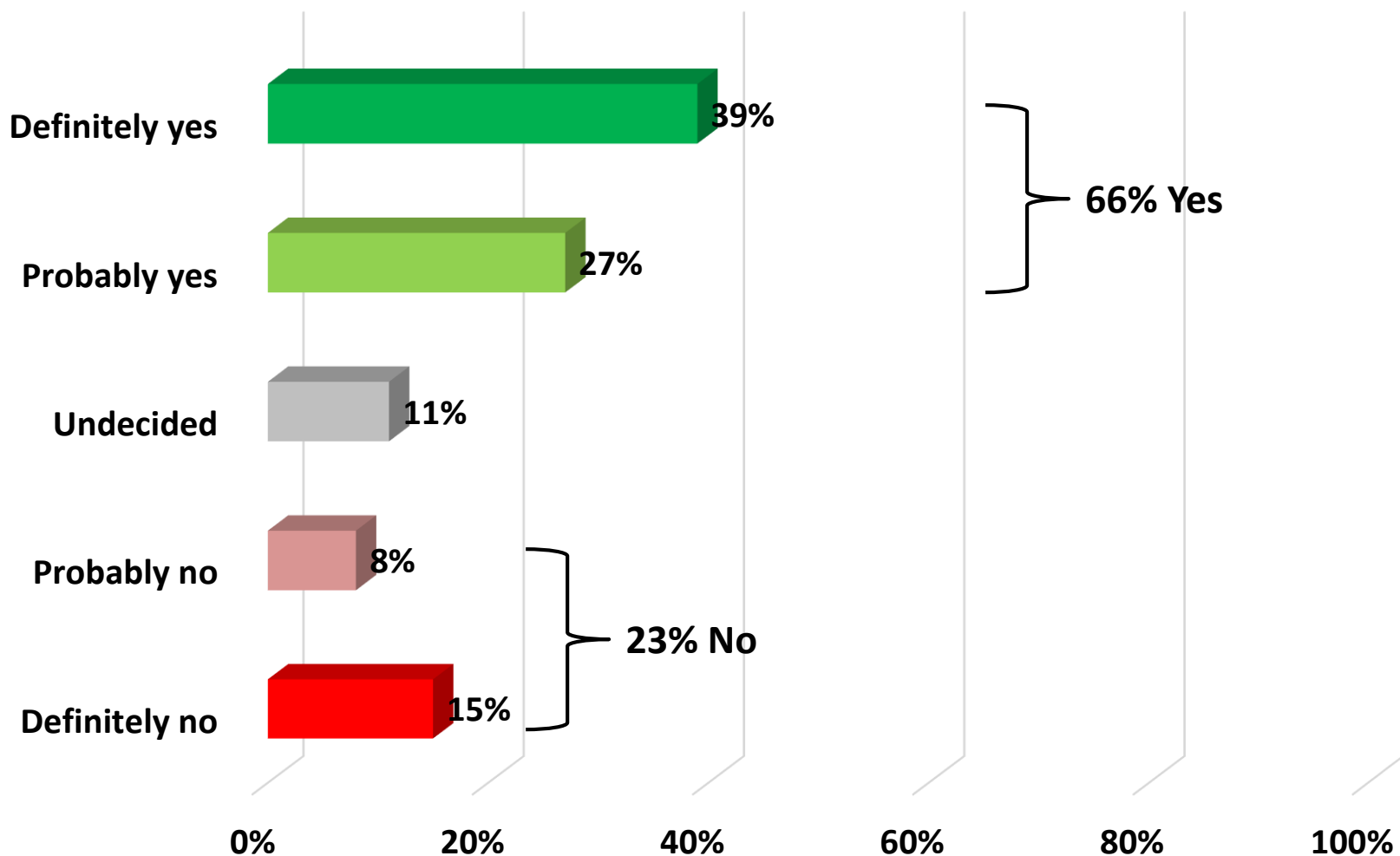
# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to renovate the pool and weight room?

Staff Residents



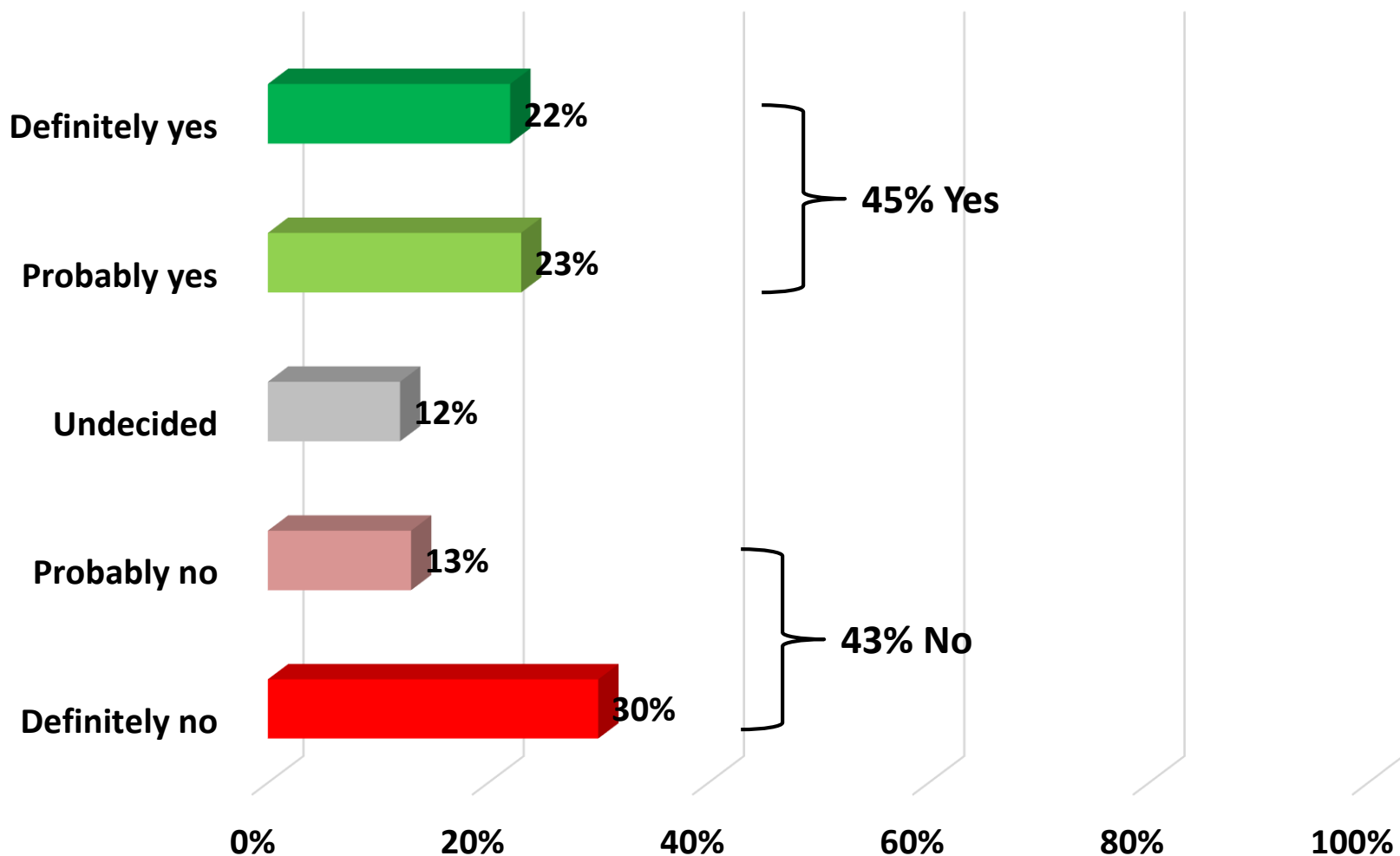
# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to renovate the pool and weight room?

Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to renovate the pool and weight room?

Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



# Potential Projects: Overall

*Definitely yes (5), Probably yes (4), Undecided (3), Probably no (2), Definitely no (1)*

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
Would you support a \$600,000 referendum to improve school safety and security at the elementary and high schools?	4.21	4.70	4.53	3.80
Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to renovate the pool and weight room	3.26	3.25	3.67	2.95
Would you support a \$2.4 million referendum to add an auxiliary gymnasium to the high school?	3.35	3.78	3.79	2.88
Would you support a \$12.7 million referendum to replace and expand the theater	3.20	4.08	3.66	2.58



# Overall Funding Support

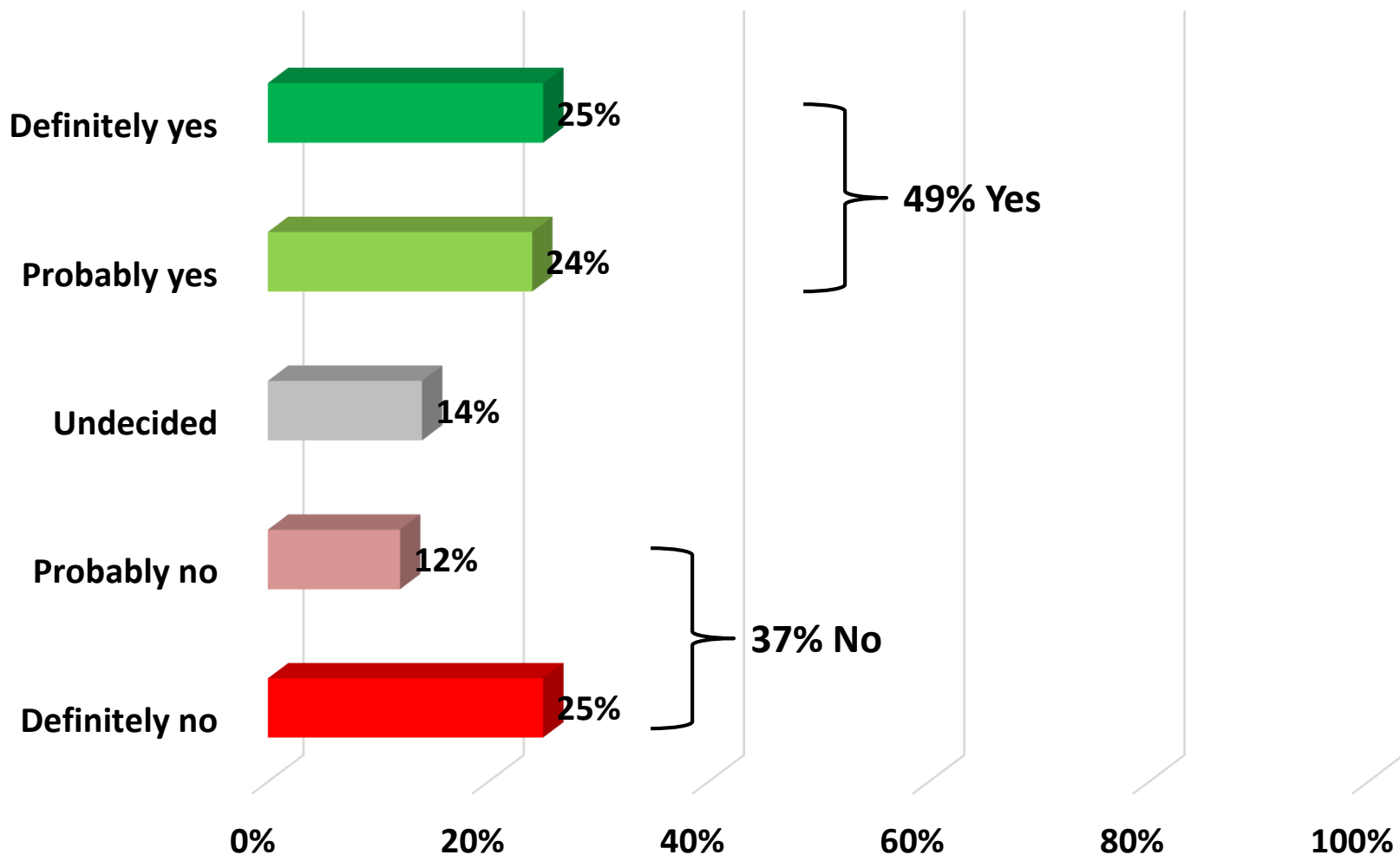
An investment to pursue all four projects covered in this survey would require Camanche Community School District voters to support an \$18.1 million bond referendum:

Improve school safety and security	\$600,000
Add an auxiliary gymnasium	\$ 2.4 million
Replace and expand the theater	\$12.7 million
Renovate the pool area and weight room	<u>\$ 2.4 million</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18.1 million</b>

Projected Annual Tax Increase		
Type of Property	Assessed Tax Value	\$18.1 million
Residential	\$100,000	\$196/yr
Commercial	\$250,000	\$848/yr
Agricultural	320 acres	\$1,580/yr

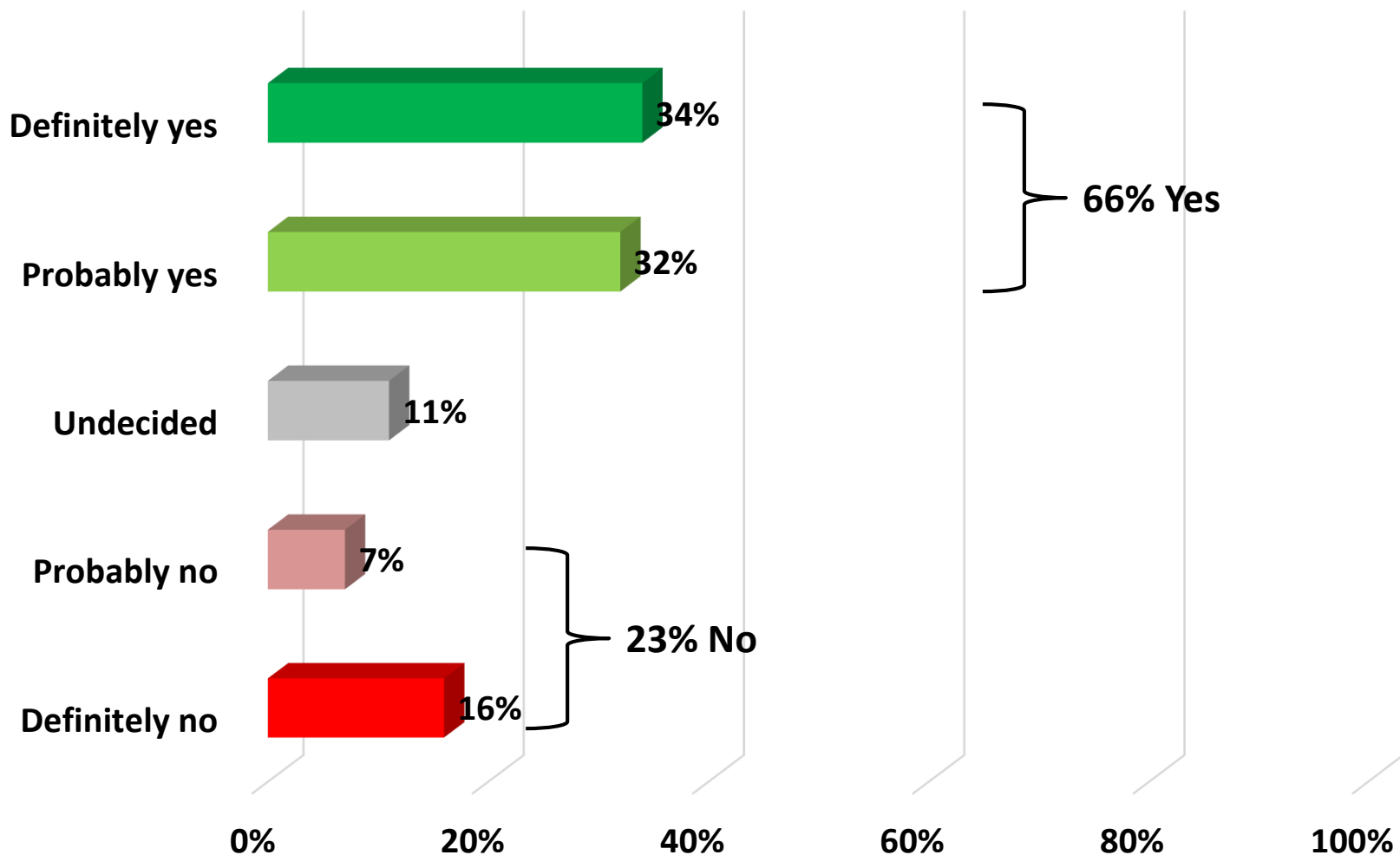
# Would you support an \$18.1 million referendum to fund all of the projects?

All Residents



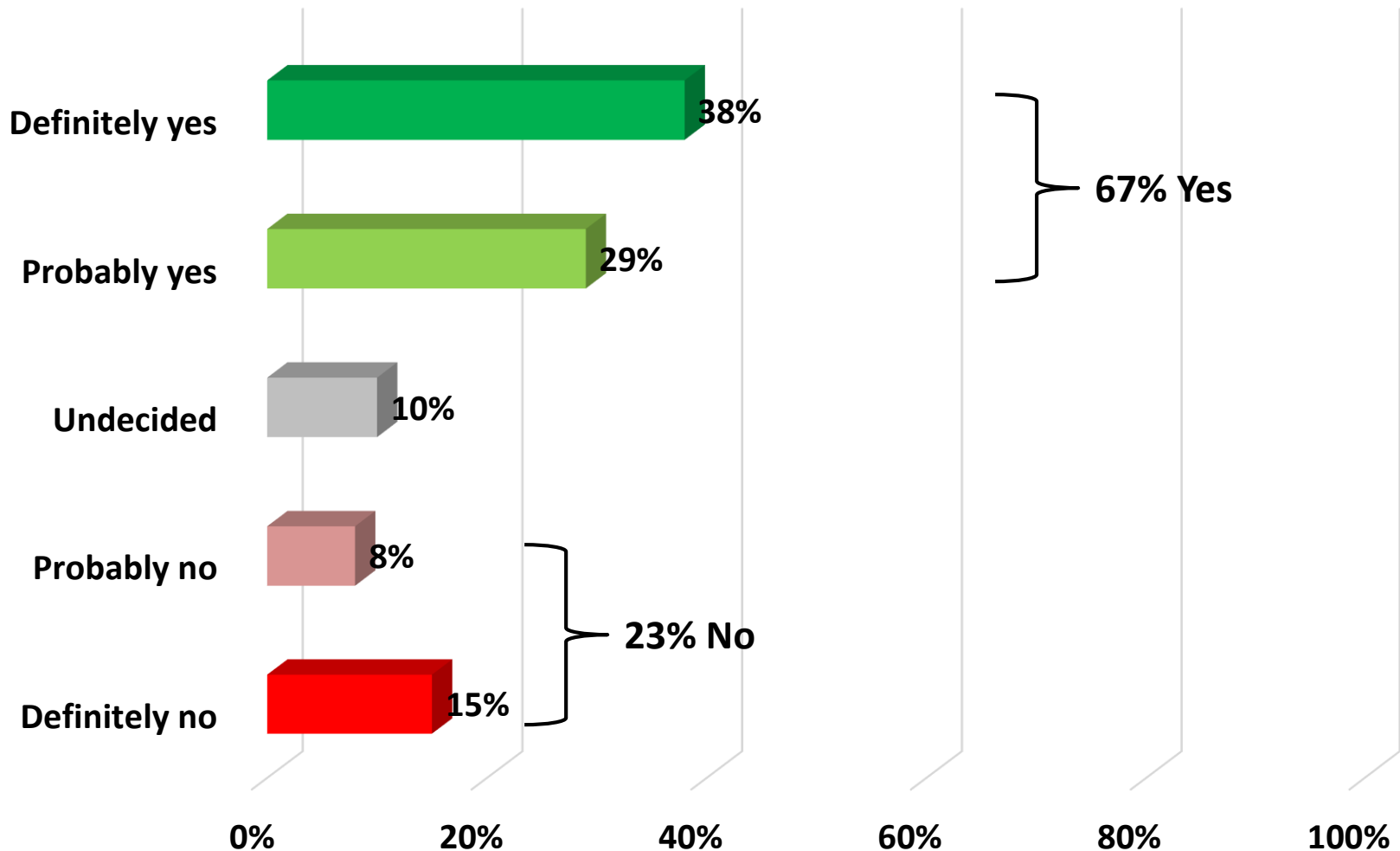
# Would you support an \$18.1 million referendum to fund all of the projects?

Staff Residents



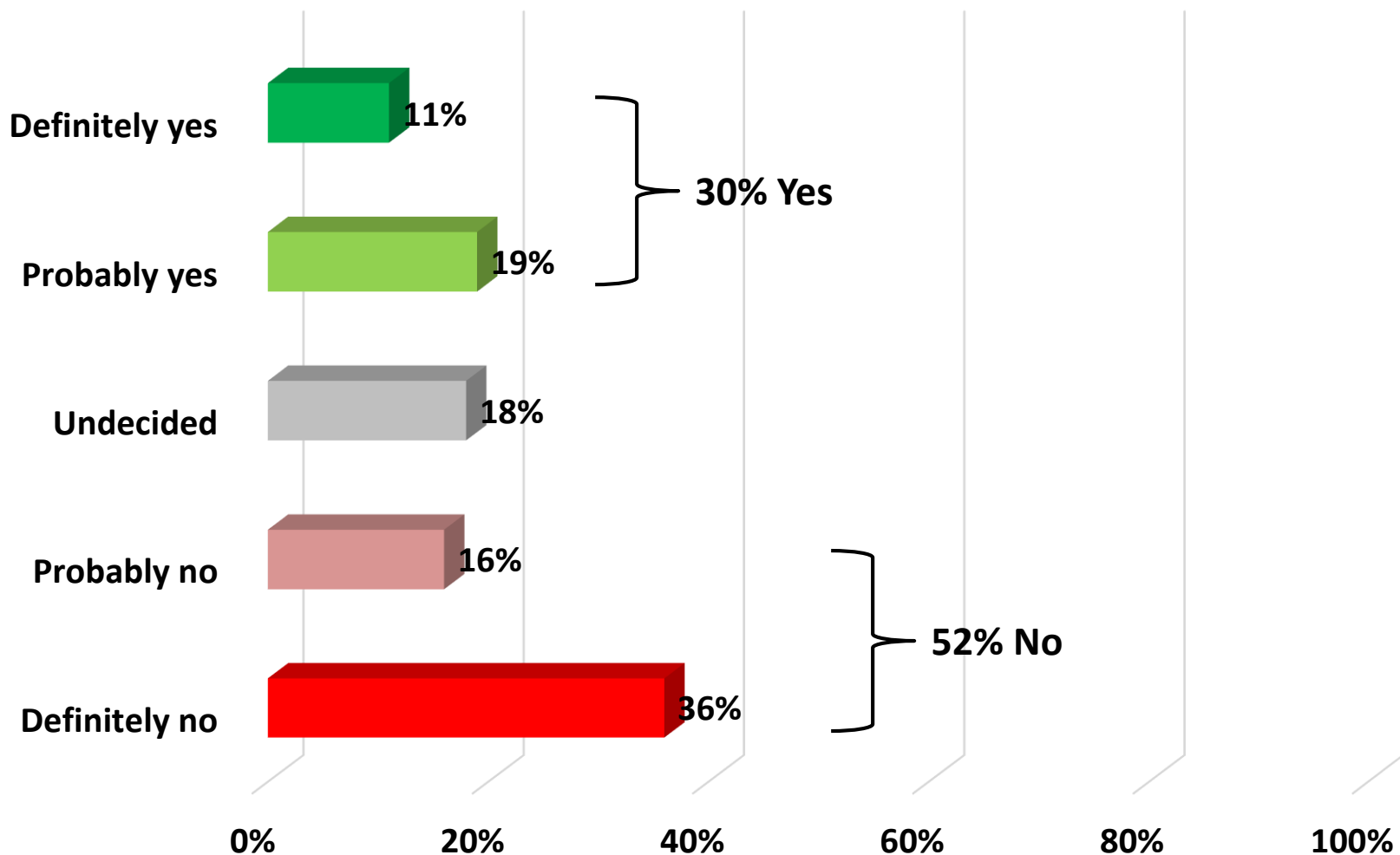
# Would you support an \$18.1 million referendum to fund all of the projects?

Parent Residents (Non-Parent)



# Would you support an \$18.1 million referendum to fund all of the projects?

Non-Parent Residents (Non-Parent)



# Please Remember

*When looking at the results:*

- *A large majority (likely 75%) of the community does not work in the district nor has children attending the district.*
- *About 25% of the community are parents.*
- *Staff represents less than 1% of the community.*

# **Additional analysis or the \$18.1 million plan:**

## **Resident Population Assumptions:**

Non-parent/non-staff = 75%

Parents = 25%

Staff < 1%

**Of those responding either Definitely yes, or Probably yes:**

.75 @30% (Non-parent/non-staff) + .25 @ 67% (Parents) = 39%

**Assuming 1/3 of Undecided respondents move to support the project:**

.75 @36% (Non-parent/non-staff) + .25 @70% (Parents) = 45%



# What did we learn?

- ✓ A majority of all subgroups and 65% of all respondents encourage the District to explore a bond referendum.
- ✓ If the \$18.1 million plan were placed on the ballot today, it would not likely be supported.
- ✓ Therefore, the recommendation would be to slow down (a March election is not realistic) and explore more cost-effective solutions, especially for the theater.

Thank you!



Parent Surveys - Staff Surveys - Student Surveys - Community Surveys  
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