

School District of Sheboygan Falls

Community Survey Report

May 18, 2026

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

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SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS
Measuring what matters

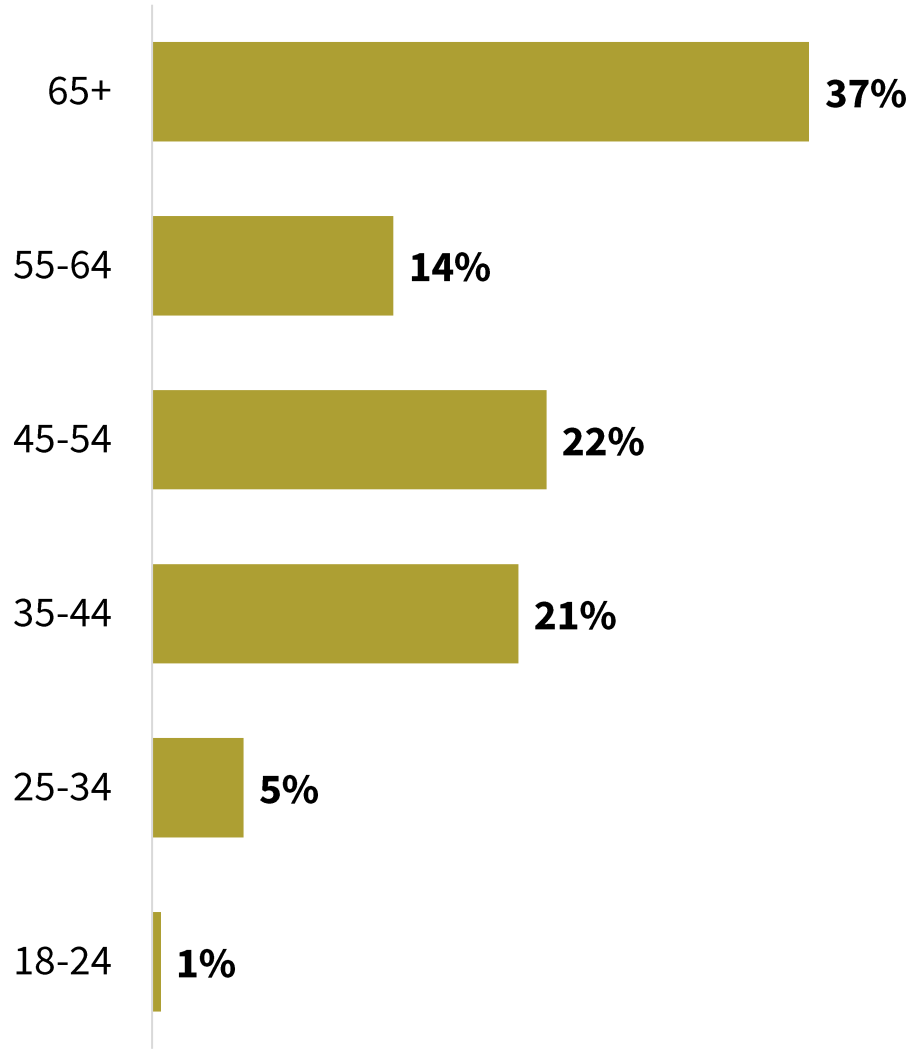
Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **3 million** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **1,400** school districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

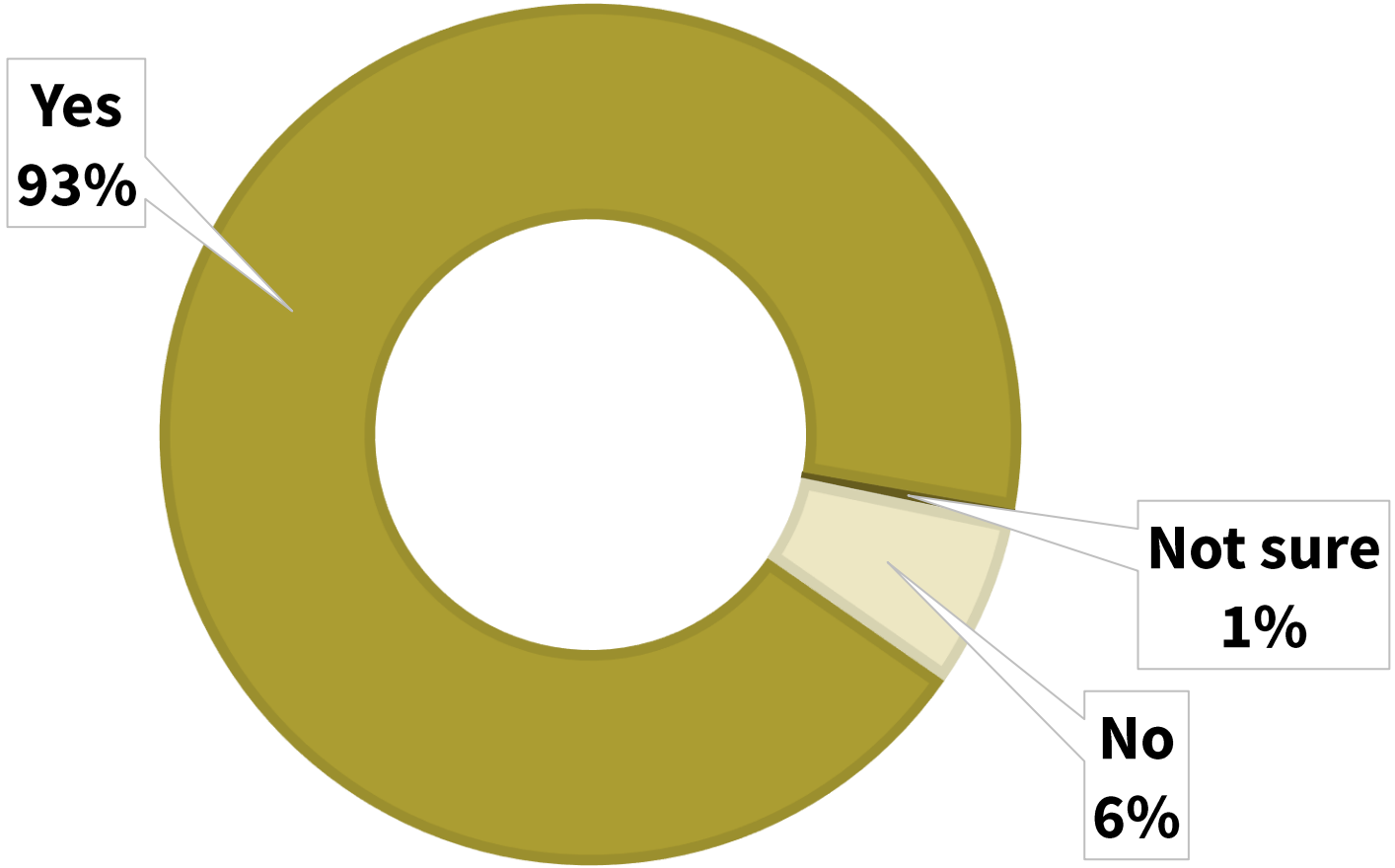
Survey Information

- **April 24, 2026** survey deadline
- **882** respondents
- **15.2%** response rate
- **+/- 3.37%** statistical margin of error

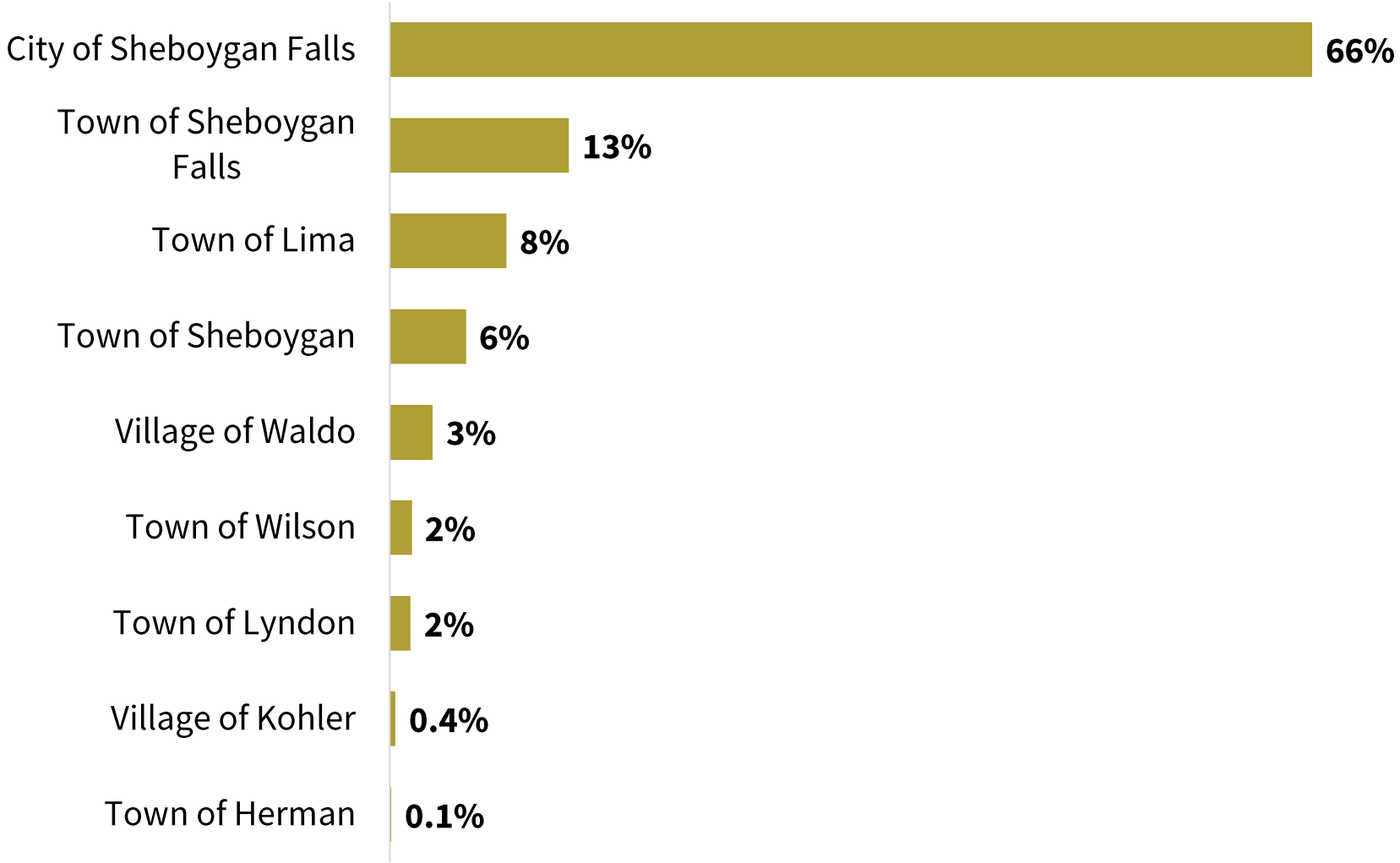
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in the School District of Sheboygan Falls?

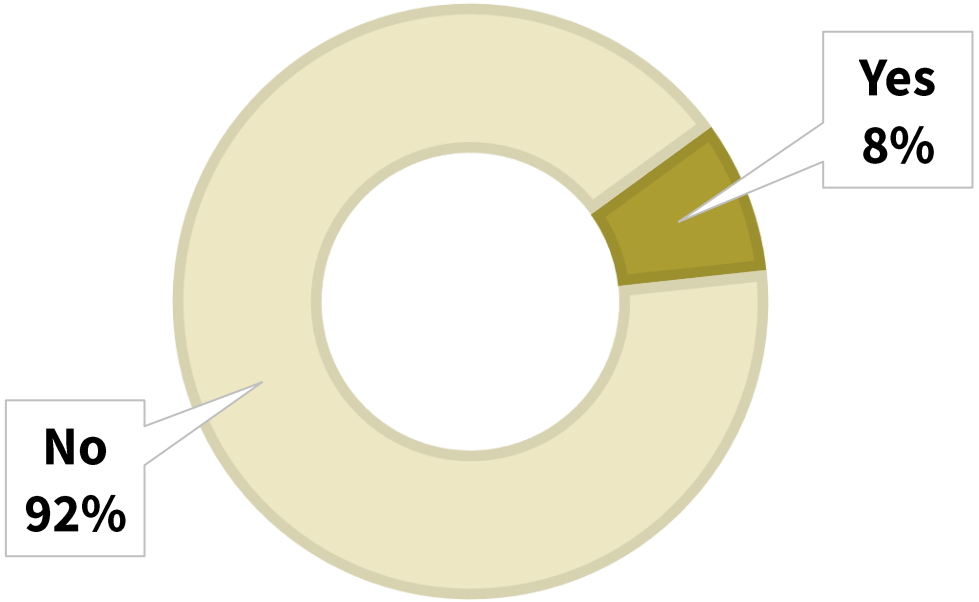


In which municipality do you live?

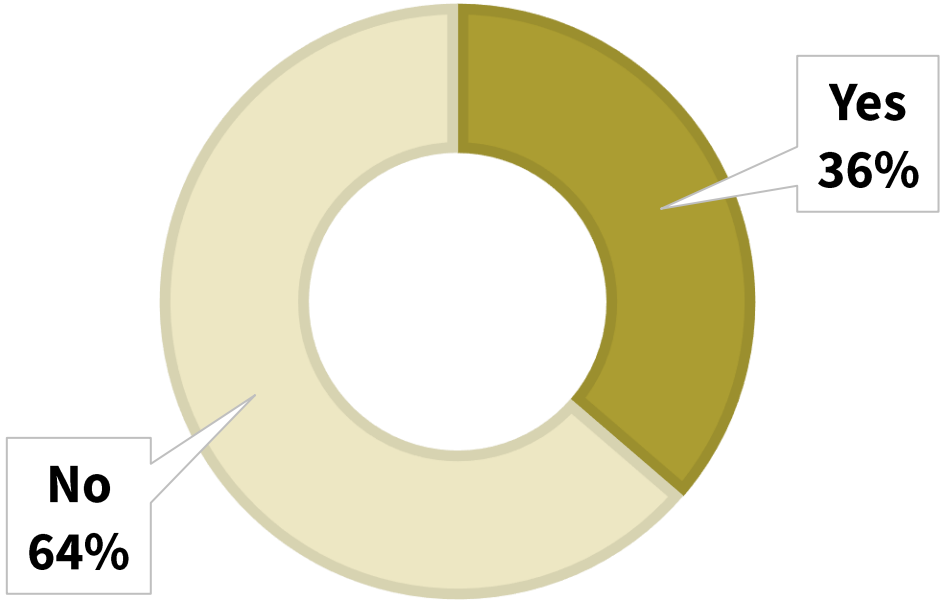


Respondent Information

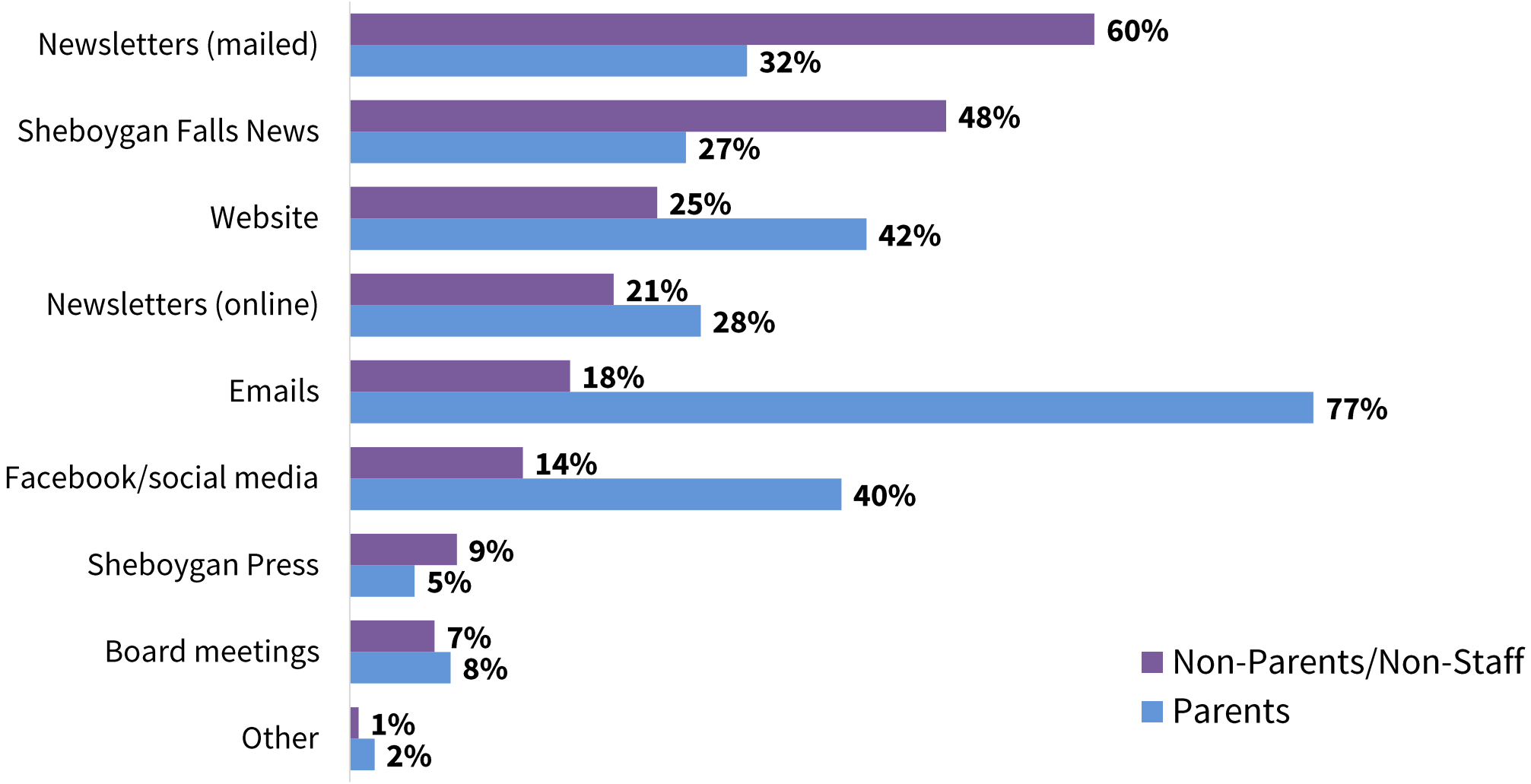
Are you an employee of the School District of Sheboygan Falls?



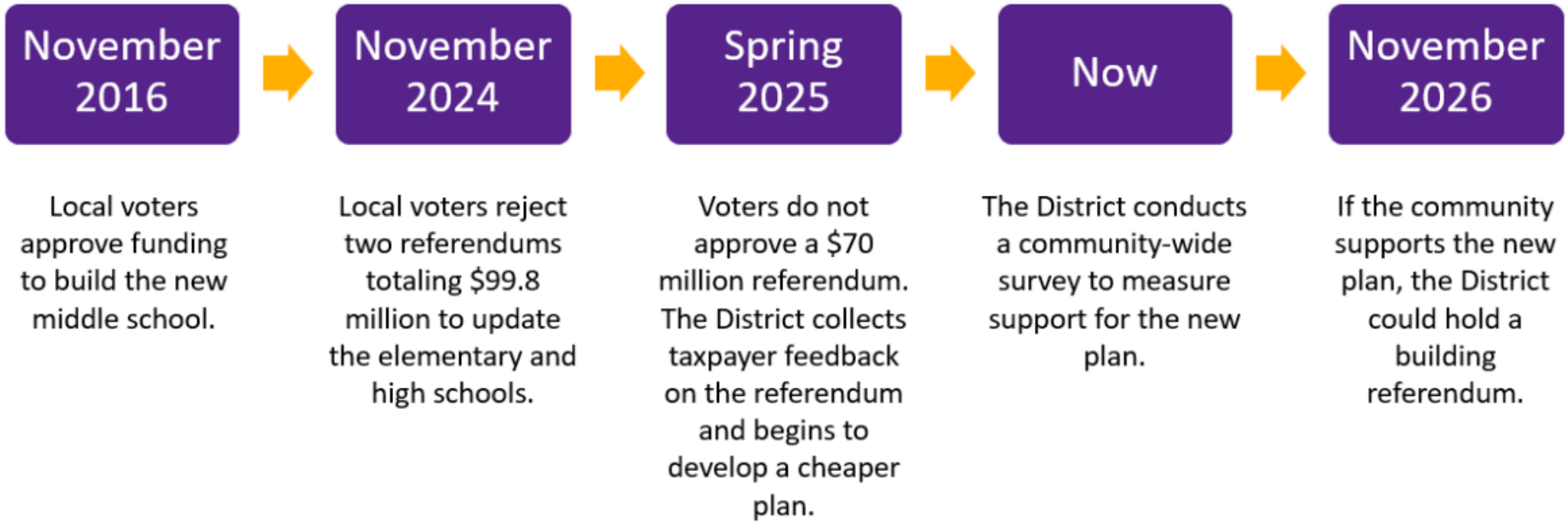
Do you have children attending a school in the District?



How would you like to receive information from us?



Planning Background



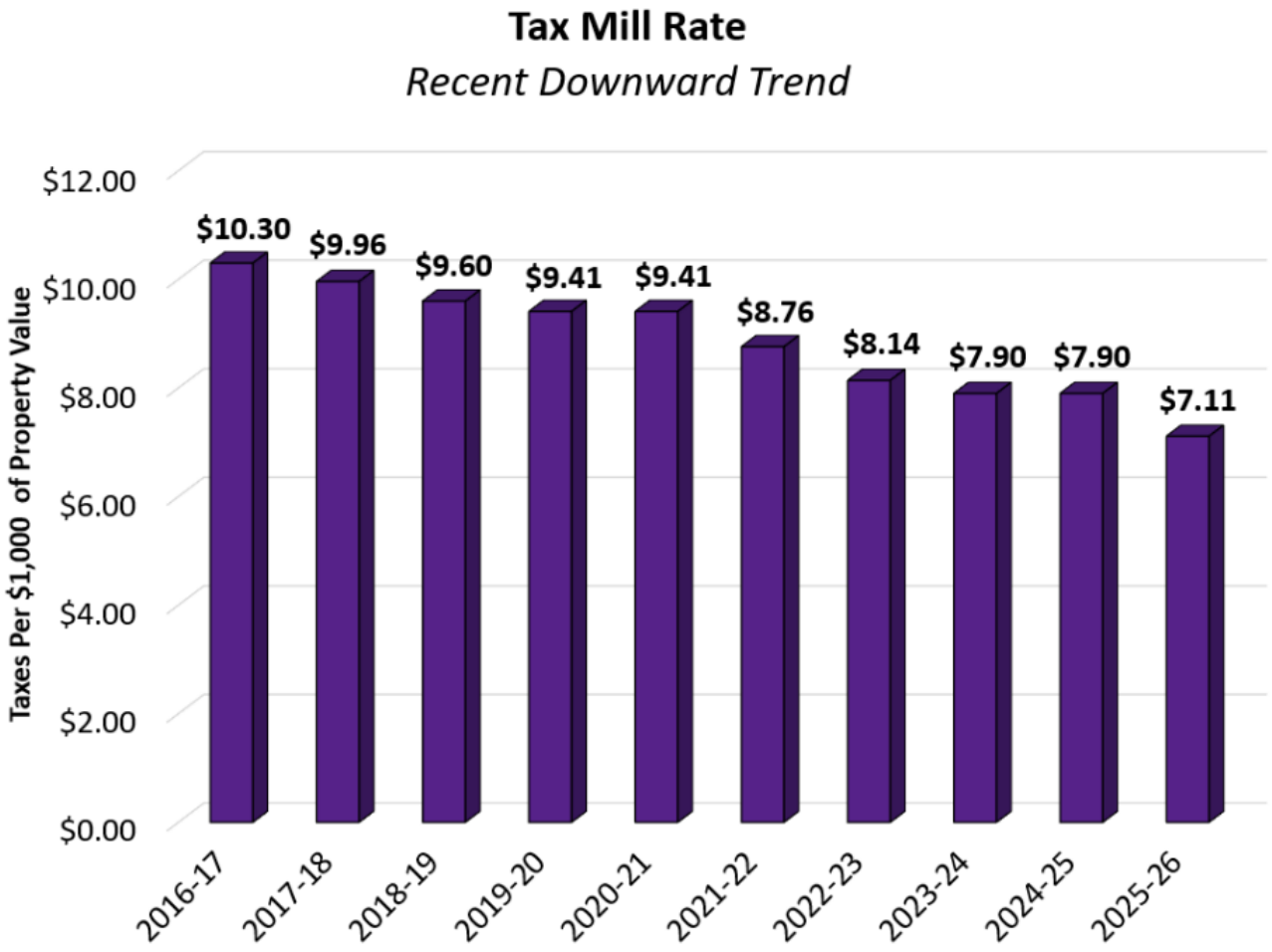
Background Information

Over the past ten years, the tax mill rate (which is used to calculate the District's share of local property taxes) has **declined 31%**.

In addition, we have been paying off debt from the 2016 building projects. This has **saved taxpayers nearly $5 million** in interest costs and **eliminated eight years of payments** (similar to paying off a home mortgage early). This careful planning gives our community **the opportunity to make an investment in our facilities while minimizing the tax impact for our residents.**

Most importantly, our students continue to excel both in and out of the classroom. Based on the latest state report cards, our district "***exceeds expectations***." We are proud of this combination of financial responsibility and student success.

Background Information



Facility Challenges

The District sets aside money each year for ongoing, routine maintenance. Over the past 12 years, we invested $5.3 million to improve school safety by partitioning the building and replaced roof sections, lighting, fire prevention systems, and parts of the HVAC systems and controls. However, the cost to address the issues below is too expensive to be paid for from our annual budget.

Elementary School (Built: 2000)

- Classrooms are not configured to support both small- and large-group instruction and breakout spaces for extra reading and math support.
- The building lacks appropriate spaces to serve students receiving special education services.
- The main entrance to the gym is through the cafeteria, which creates congestion. The cafeteria also has an unused stage.
- Some major building systems (such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and roofing) are nearing the end of their service life.

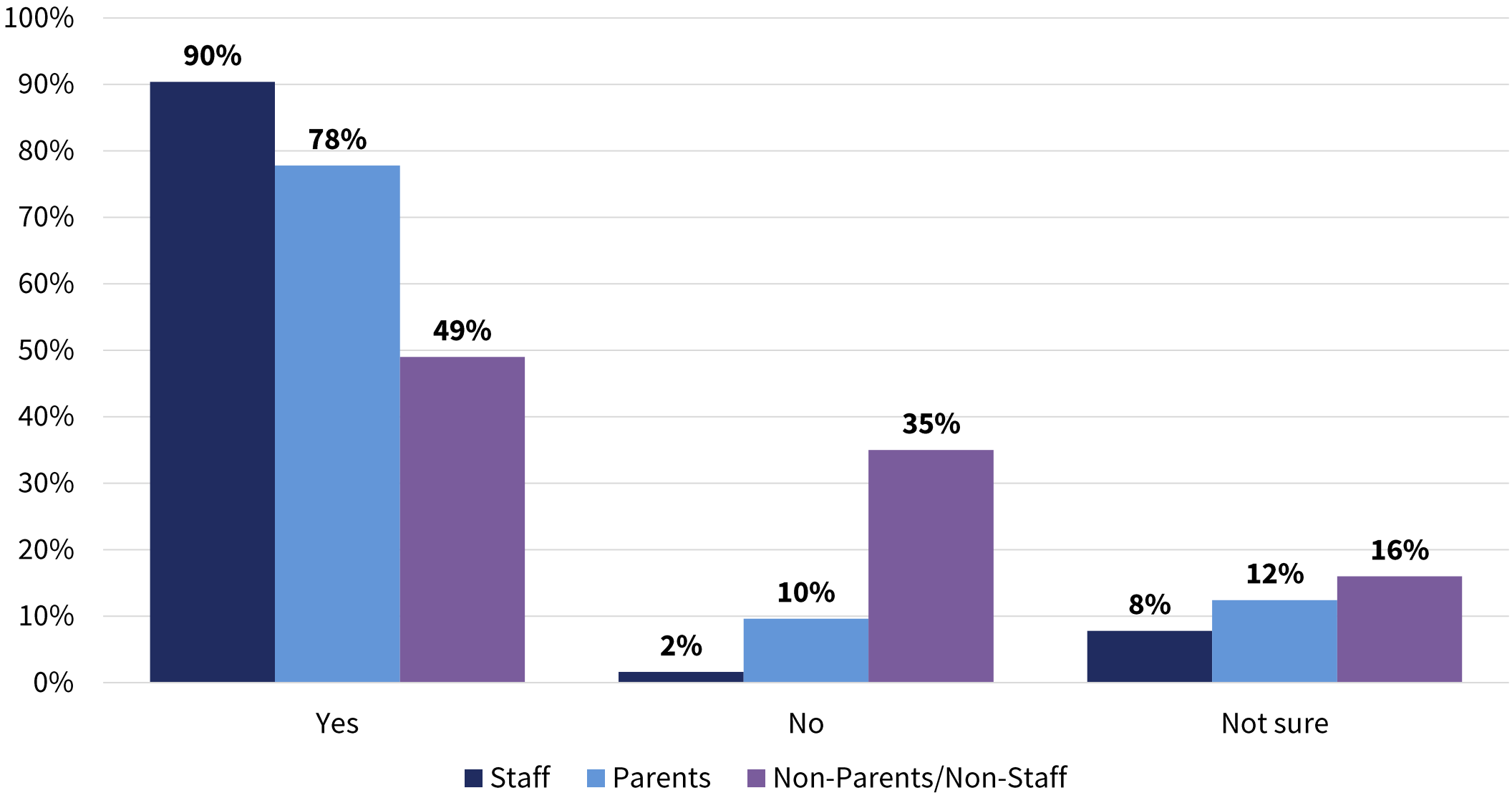
Facility Challenges

High School (Built: 1969)

- The career and tech ed ("shop") space is too small to support courses in agriculture, welding, and construction. In addition, equipment is also aging.
- Remaining security systems that were not updated from our own budget need to be replaced.
- Some major building systems (such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and roofing) are nearing the end of their service life. For example, sections of the roof leak and need to be replaced. Patching is no longer sufficient.
- Areas of the building (such as elevators, staircases, and bleachers) do not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- Science labs are outdated, too small, and lack appropriate ventilation.
- Girls' and boys' locker rooms are not equal, which does not meet federal Title IX requirements.
- The school lacks spaces for small- and large-group instruction and student collaboration/group project areas.
- Areas of the parking lot are cracked and crumbling.
- Drop-off and pick-up areas are congested, creating safety concerns for pedestrians.

To pay for the elementary and high school projects above, the District would need to ask voters to consider a capital/building referendum. This type of referendum allows us to take out a loan (issue debt).

Would you support the School District of Sheboygan Falls pursuing a revised building/capital referendum at this time?



Revised Building Plan

If the community supports the District pursuing a revised building referendum, the following plan was developed for community feedback. ***This plan is different than the previous plan in two primary ways. The elementary school will be renovated, not added onto, and the high school's E-wing will be renovated and not replaced.***

Elementary School:

① Renovate academic areas to create small-group instruction and student collaboration spaces for each grade level
② Update classrooms to improve services for students receiving special education
③ Remodel and expand the cafeteria and kitchen
④ Renovate and expand the library
⑤ Renovate the student services office area to accommodate before- and after-school programming/tutoring



Revised Building Plan

High School:

① Renovate and expand the E-wing for agriculture and automotive/small-engine repair lab
② Add onto the northeast side of the building for science classrooms and labs, career and technical education/shop areas, a STEM lab (science, technology, engineering, and math), and the library
③ Update classrooms throughout the building
④ Update the life skills classroom for students receiving special education
⑤ Update the auditorium with new seating, finishes, and curtains
⑥ Update the existing gym with a new floor, scoreboards, and bleachers
⑦ Renovate locker rooms for athletics and physical education
⑧ Relocate and expand the weight room and fitness area



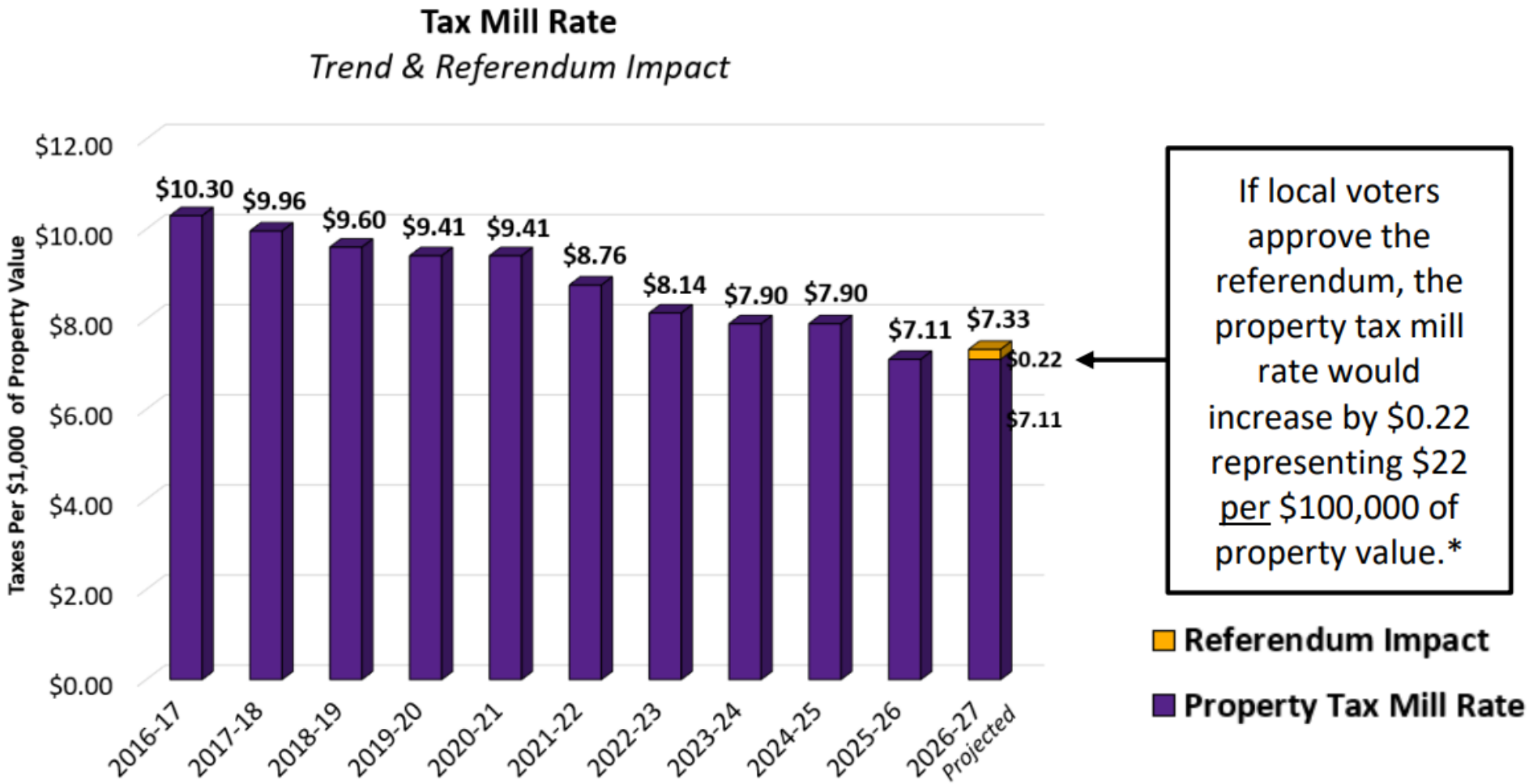
⑨ Relocate the tennis courts for the science room expansion
⑩ Replace plumbing and update restrooms to meet ADA requirements
⑪ Improve safety by reconfiguring drop-off and pick-up areas

In addition, we would update/replace major building and safety/security systems (as identified in our long-term maintenance plan).

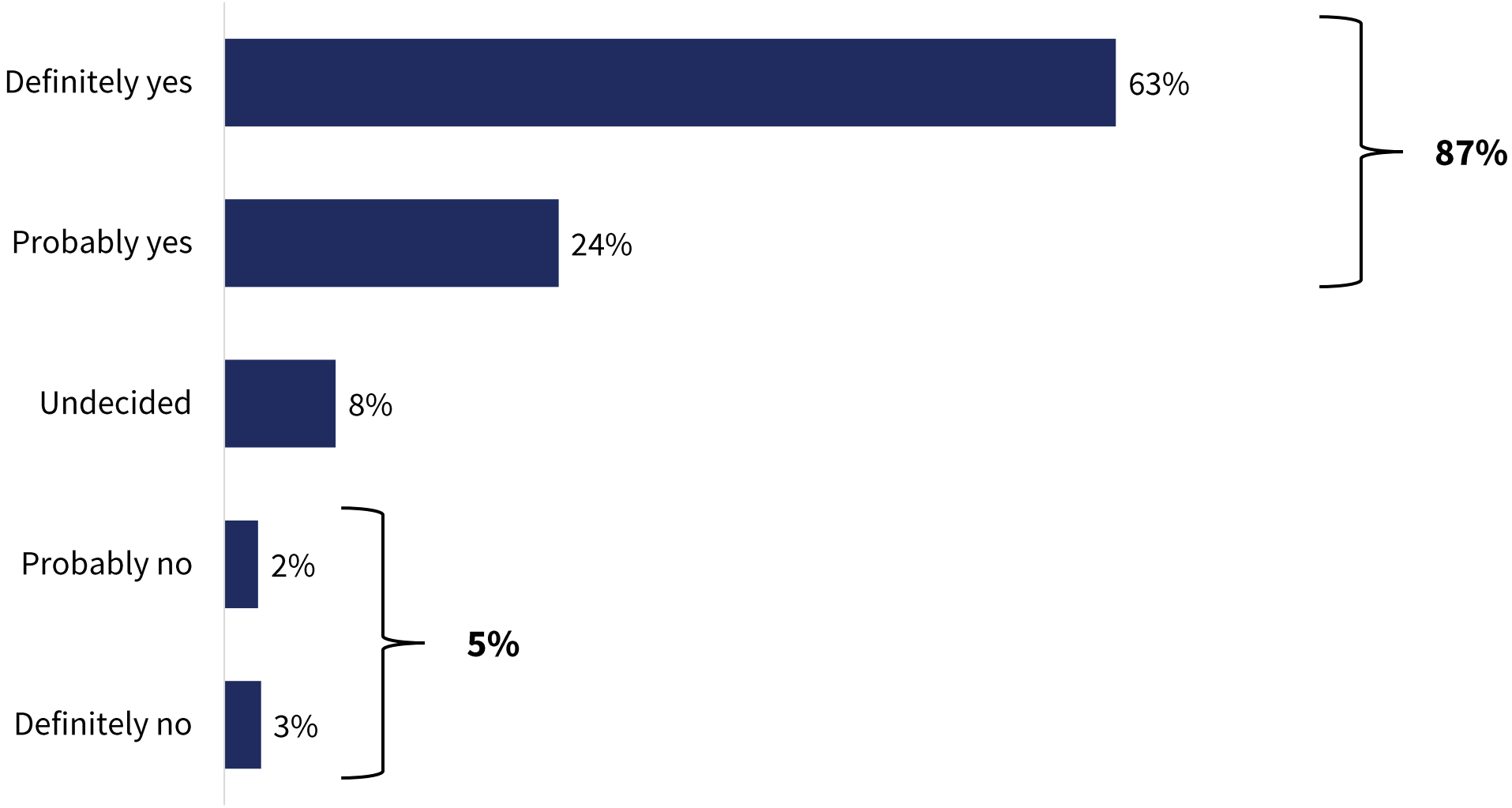
Note: Project #12 in the image above is a potential additional project that is explained later in this survey.

Funding Support

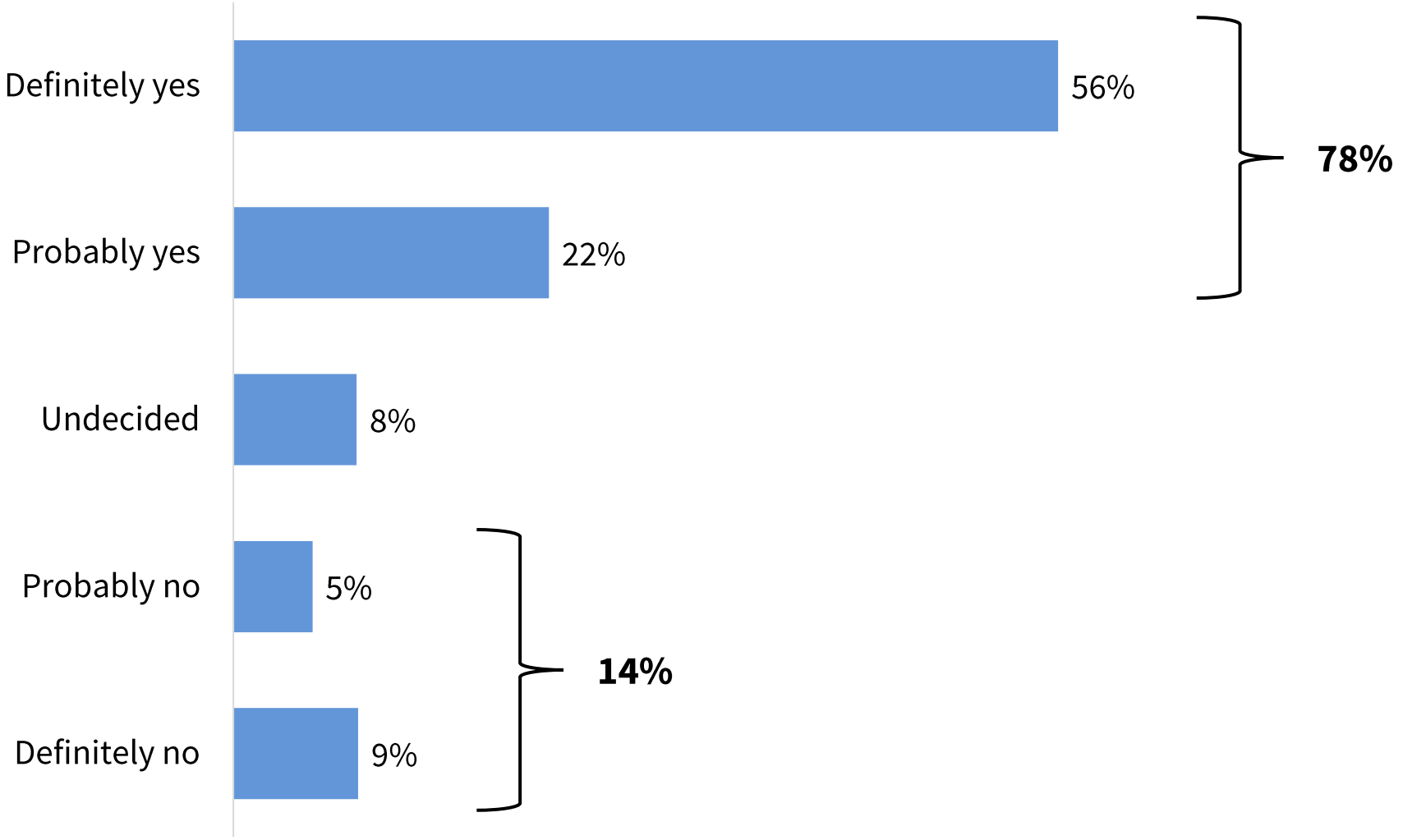
The estimated cost for the revised building plan is $65.7 million. The property tax impact is shown below.



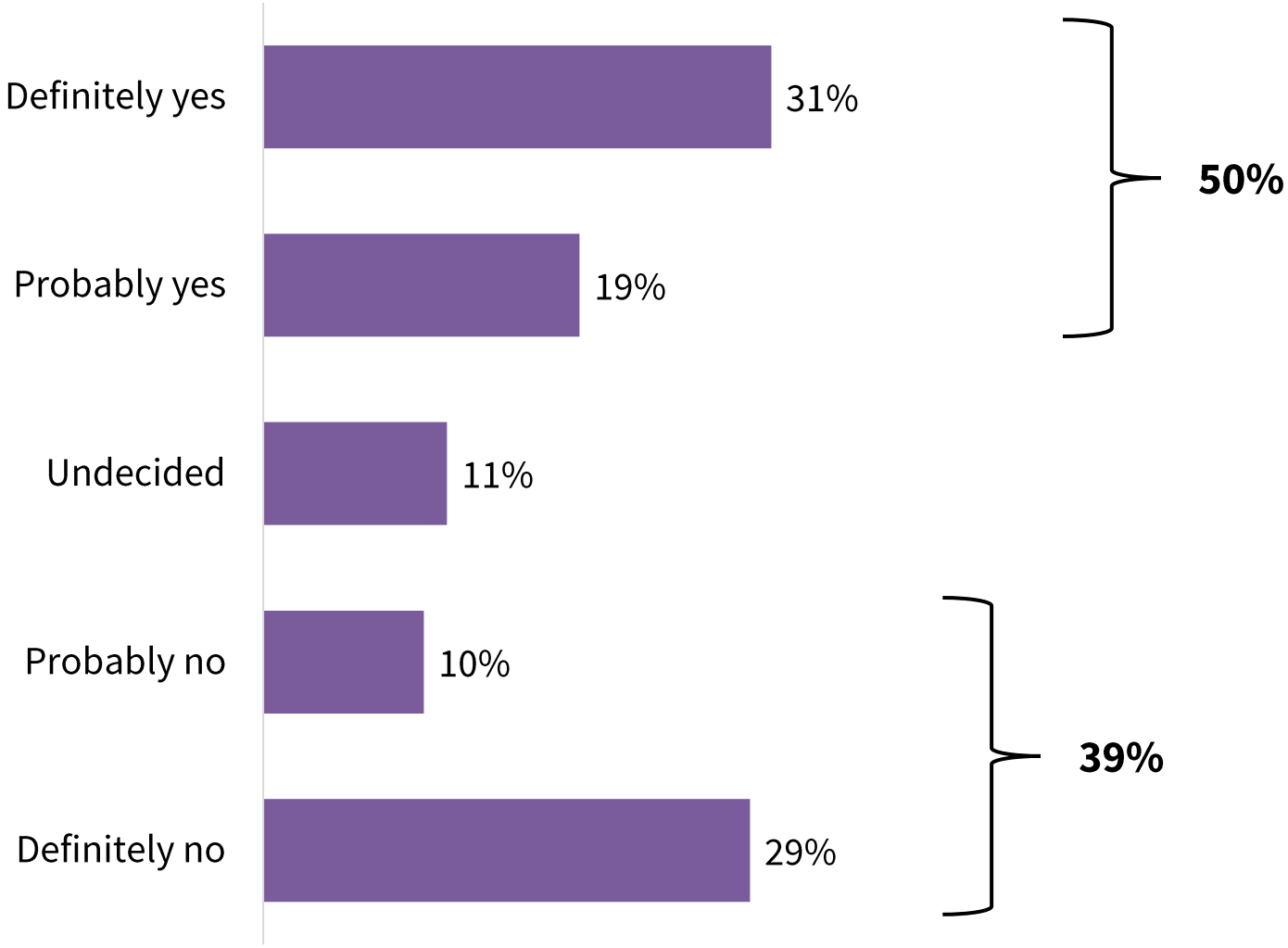
Would you support a $65.7 million building referendum to fund the new plan? (*Staff Residents*)



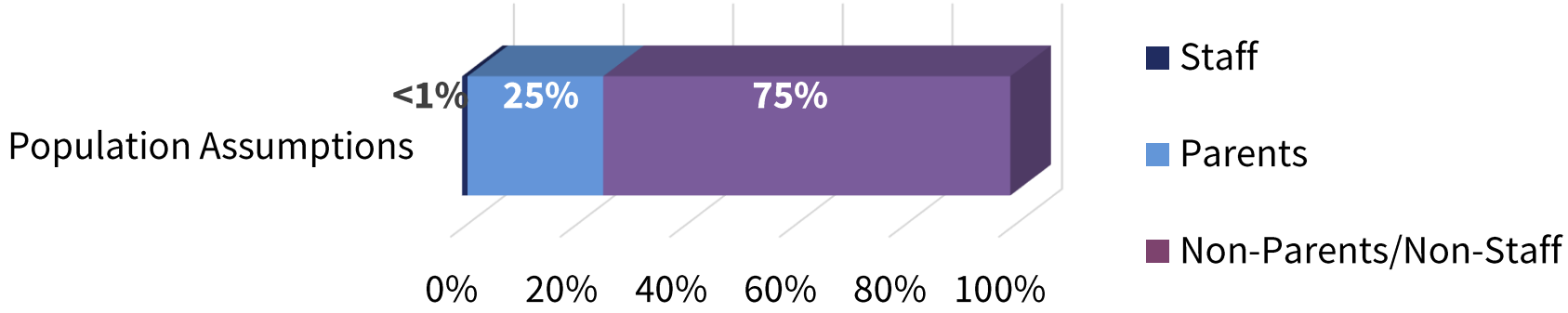
Would you support a $65.7 million building referendum to fund the new plan? (*Parent Residents*)



Would you support a $65.7 million building referendum to fund the new plan? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



Additional Analysis: $65.7 million building referendum



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes:*

0.25 (78%) + 0.75 (50%) = **<u>57.0%</u>**

Additional Project

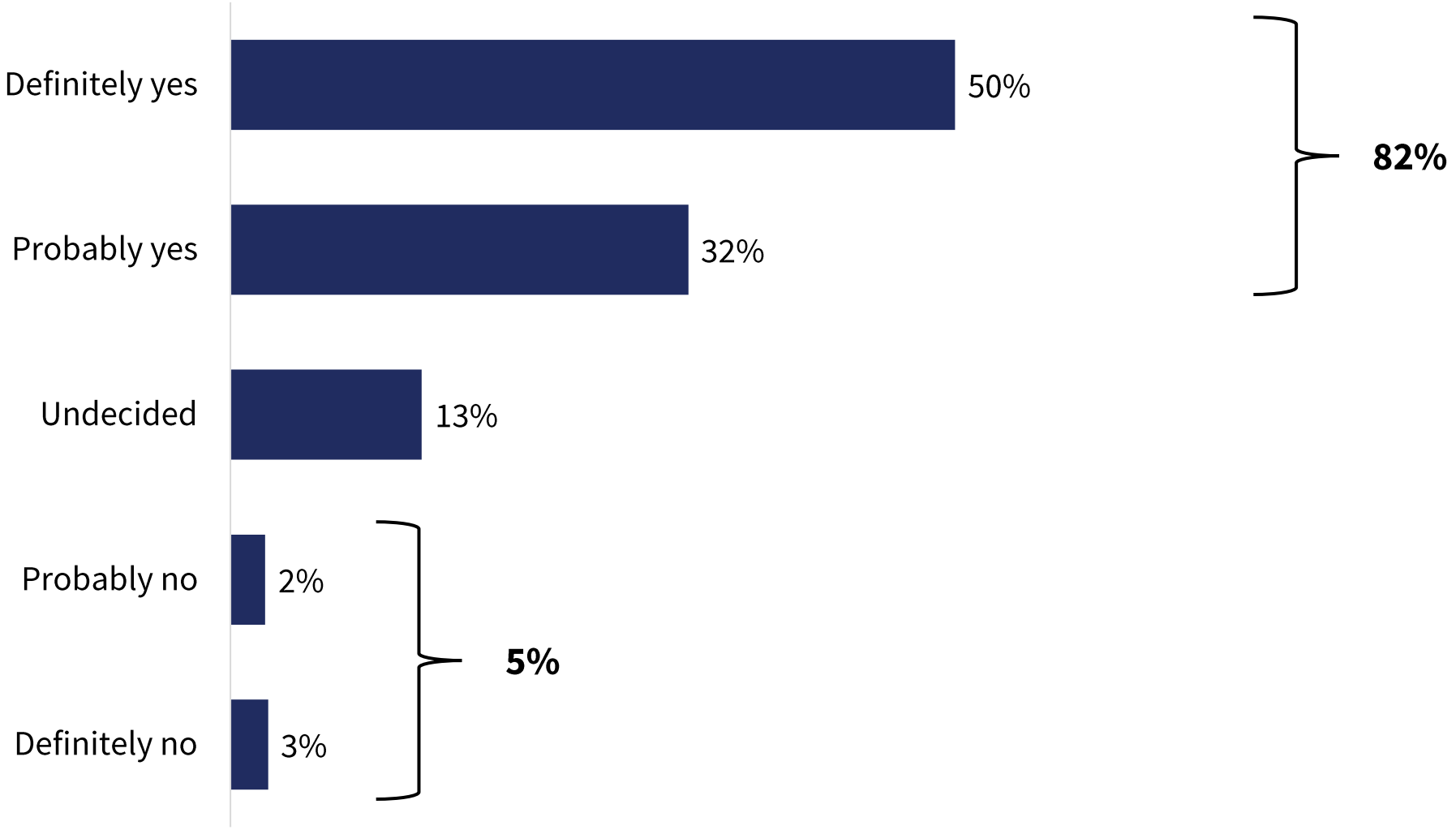
There are several issues with our current gym facilities:

- Having one gym creates scheduling challenges and limited programming for physical education.
- Student-athletes are practicing early in the morning and late at night.
- There is limited indoor space for student-athletes to practice during inclement spring weather.
- Students need to travel between buildings, which creates safety and supervision concerns.
- Because of how often the gym is used, there is limited access for community recreation and youth sports.

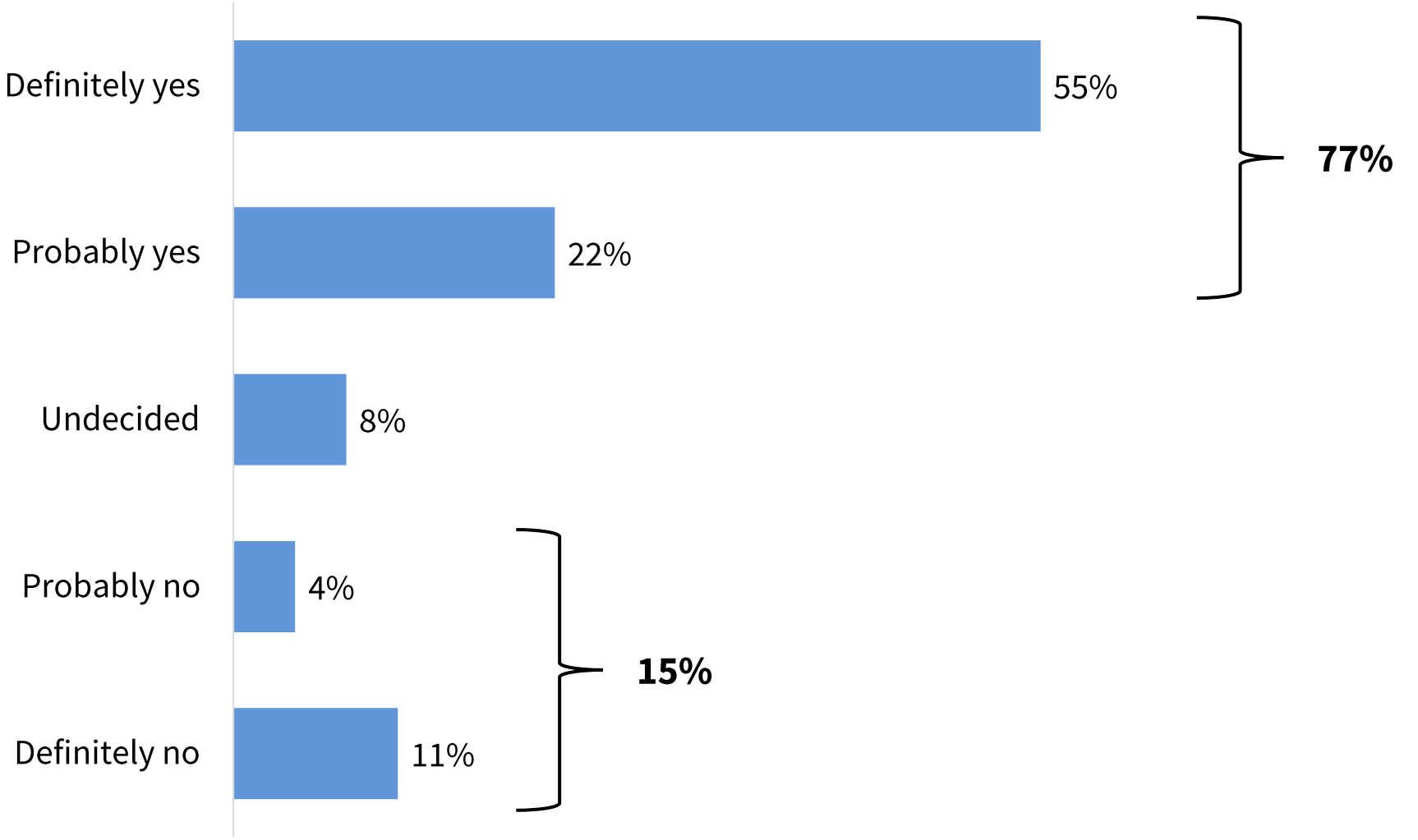
This project would build an additional gym on the west side of the building. (See project number 12 on the high school image shown earlier.)

Estimated cost: $4 million

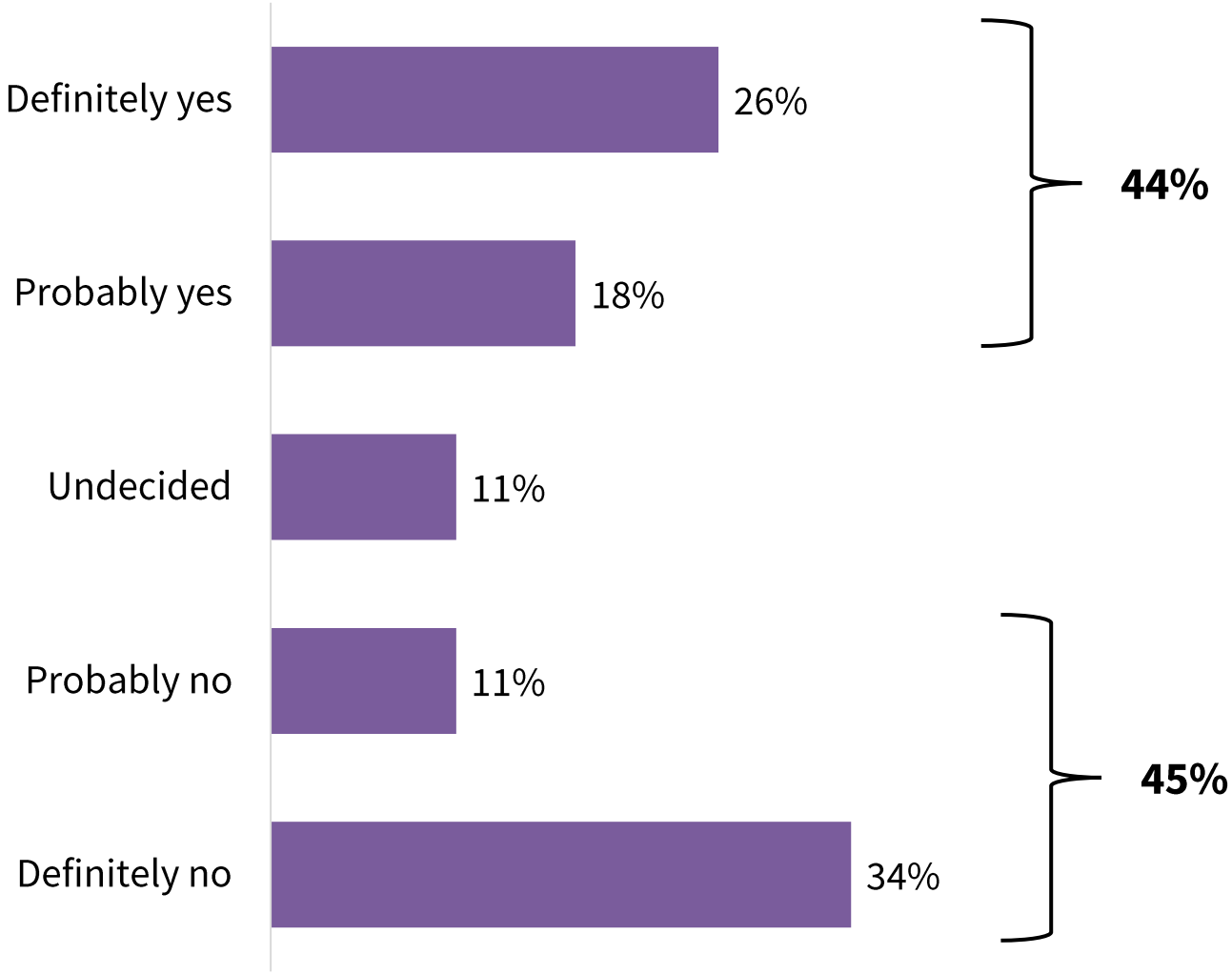
Would you support <u>expanding</u> the referendum by $4 million to pay for the gym project? (*Staff Residents*)



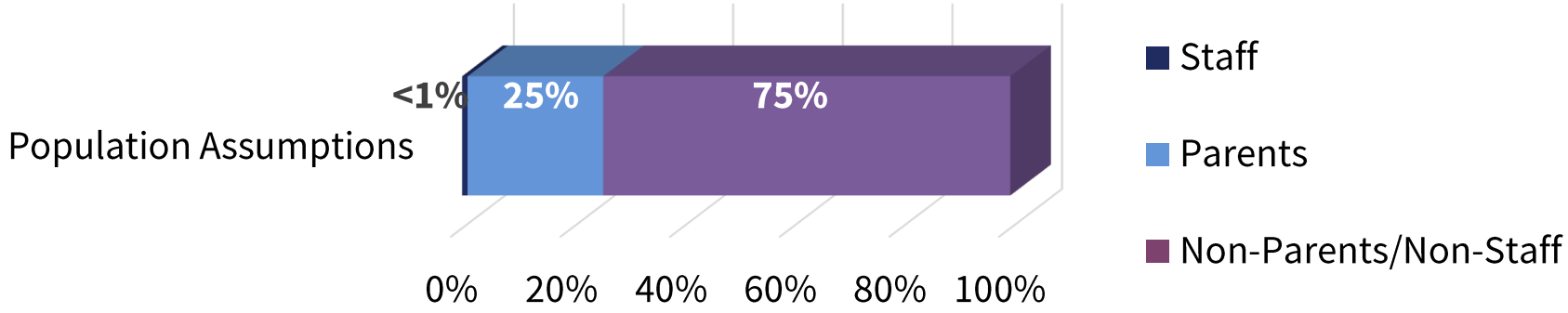
Would you support <u>expanding</u> the referendum by $4 million to pay for the gym project? (*Parent Residents*)



Would you support <u>expanding</u> the referendum by $4 million to pay for the gym project? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



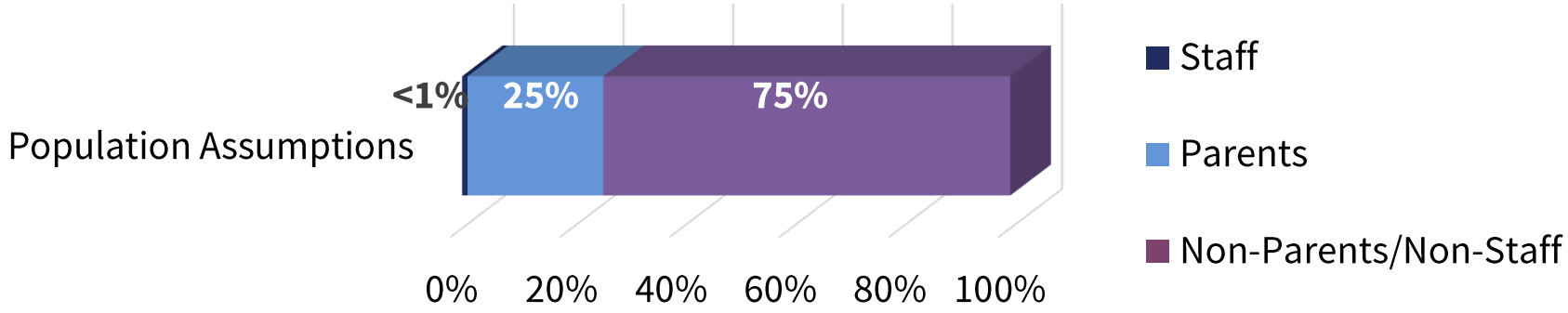
Additional Analysis: $4 million gym project



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes:*

0.25 (77%) + 0.75 (44%) = **52.3%**

Additional Analysis: One combined project/question



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes:*

0.25 (73%) + 0.75 (40%) = **48.3%**

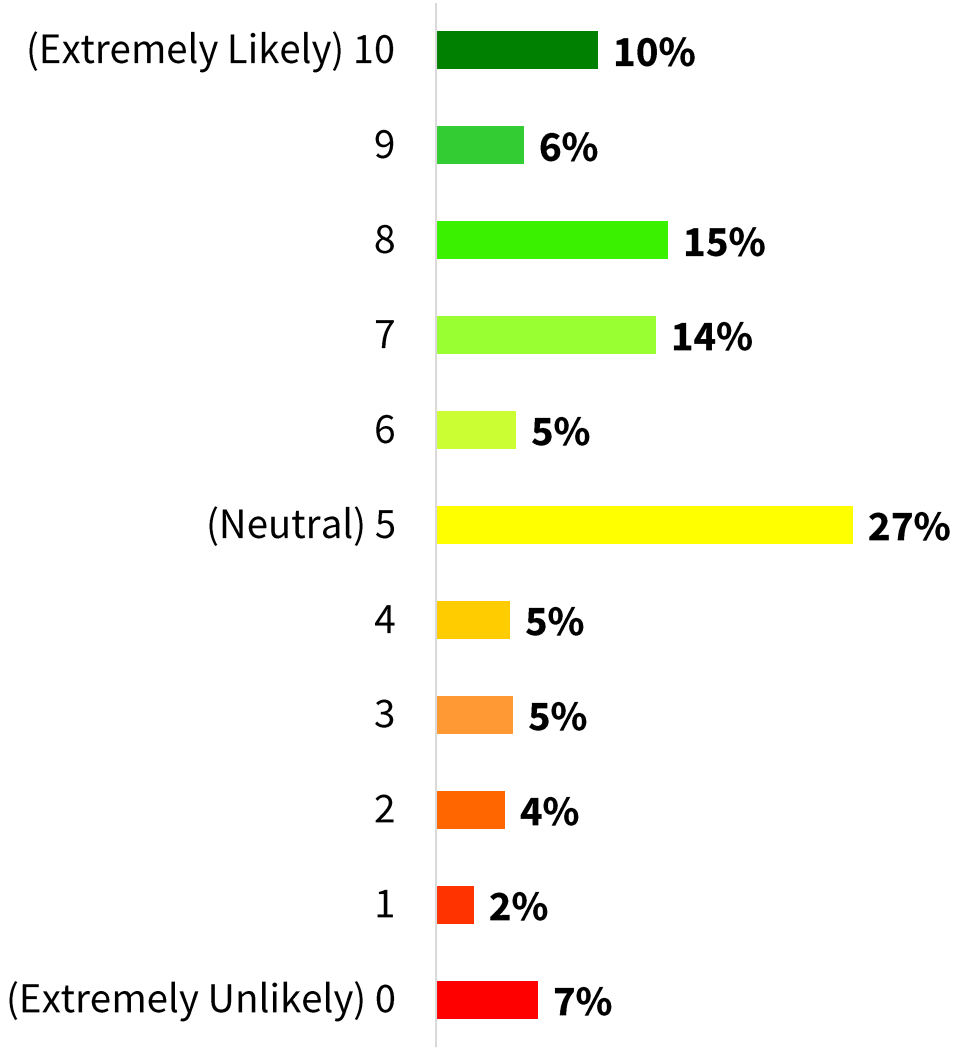
How is the District doing in each of the following areas? *Great = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1*

Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delivering a high-quality education	2.82	2.59	2.44
Keeping the public informed	3.02	2.77	2.57
Managing funds appropriately	3.02	2.67	2.41
Building pride in the community	2.68	2.54	2.59

How is the District doing in each of the following areas? *Great = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1*

Item	Percent *"Great"* or *"Good"*	Score
Delivering a high-quality education	56%	2.54
Keeping the public informed	61%	2.68
Managing funds appropriately	57%	2.56
Building pride in the community	56%	2.58

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



Sheboygan Falls Score: 5.82



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