



Kaukauna Area School District

Community Survey Report

June 24, 2024

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.



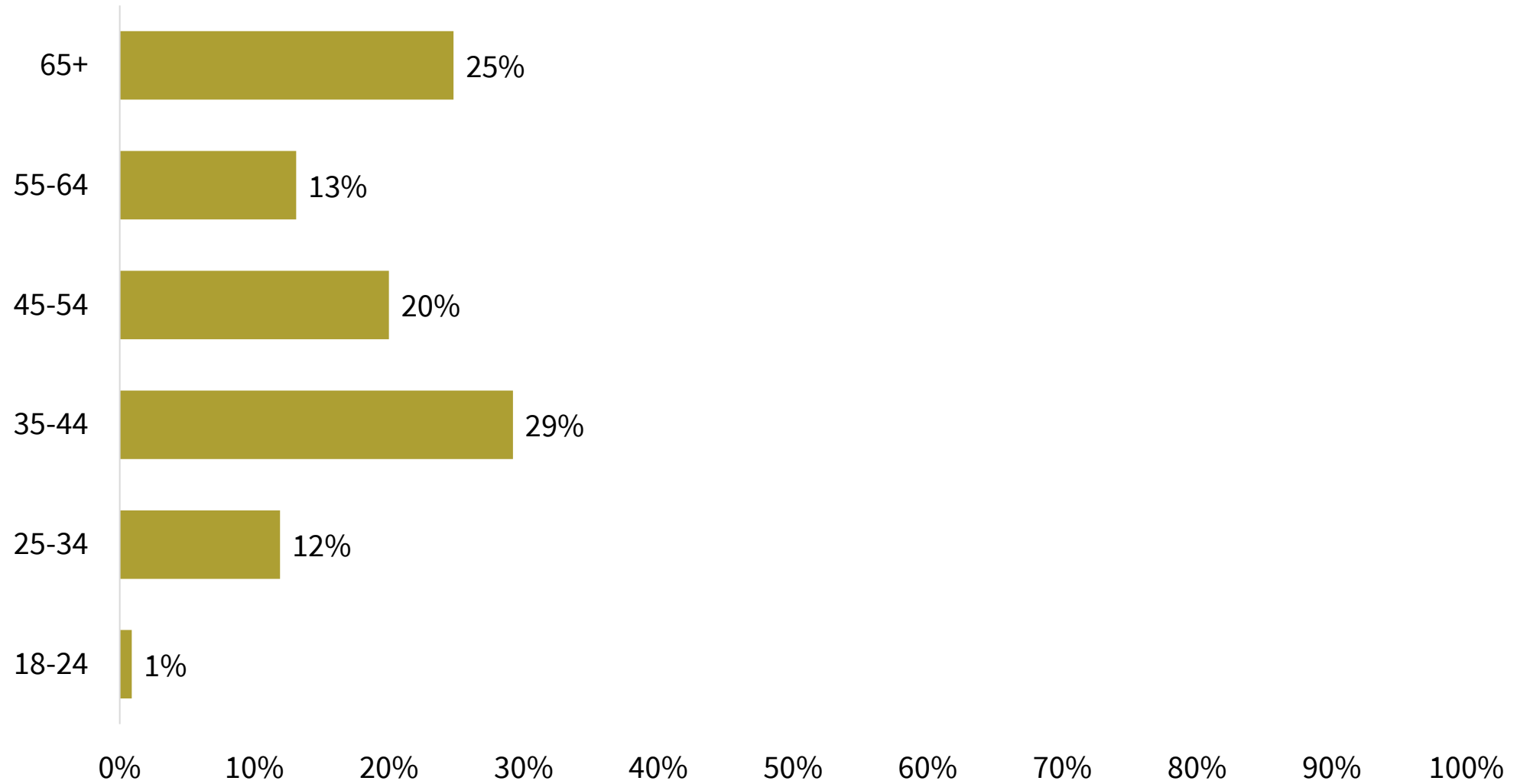
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Information

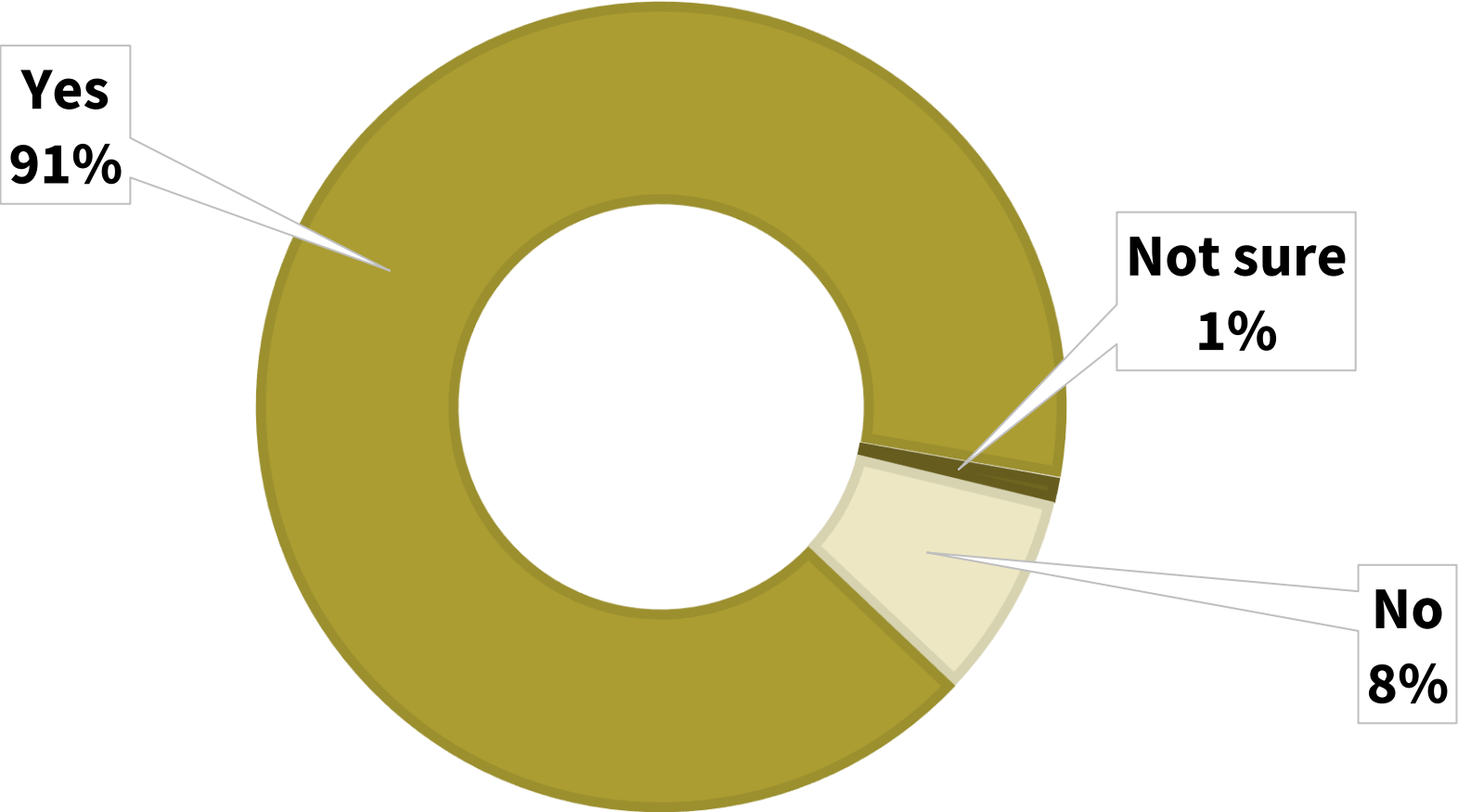
- **June 7, 2024** survey deadline
- **2,166** total respondents
 - 2022: 1,189
 - 2018: 1,614
 - 2016: 1,513
- **17%** response rate
- **+/- 2.15%** statistical margin of error



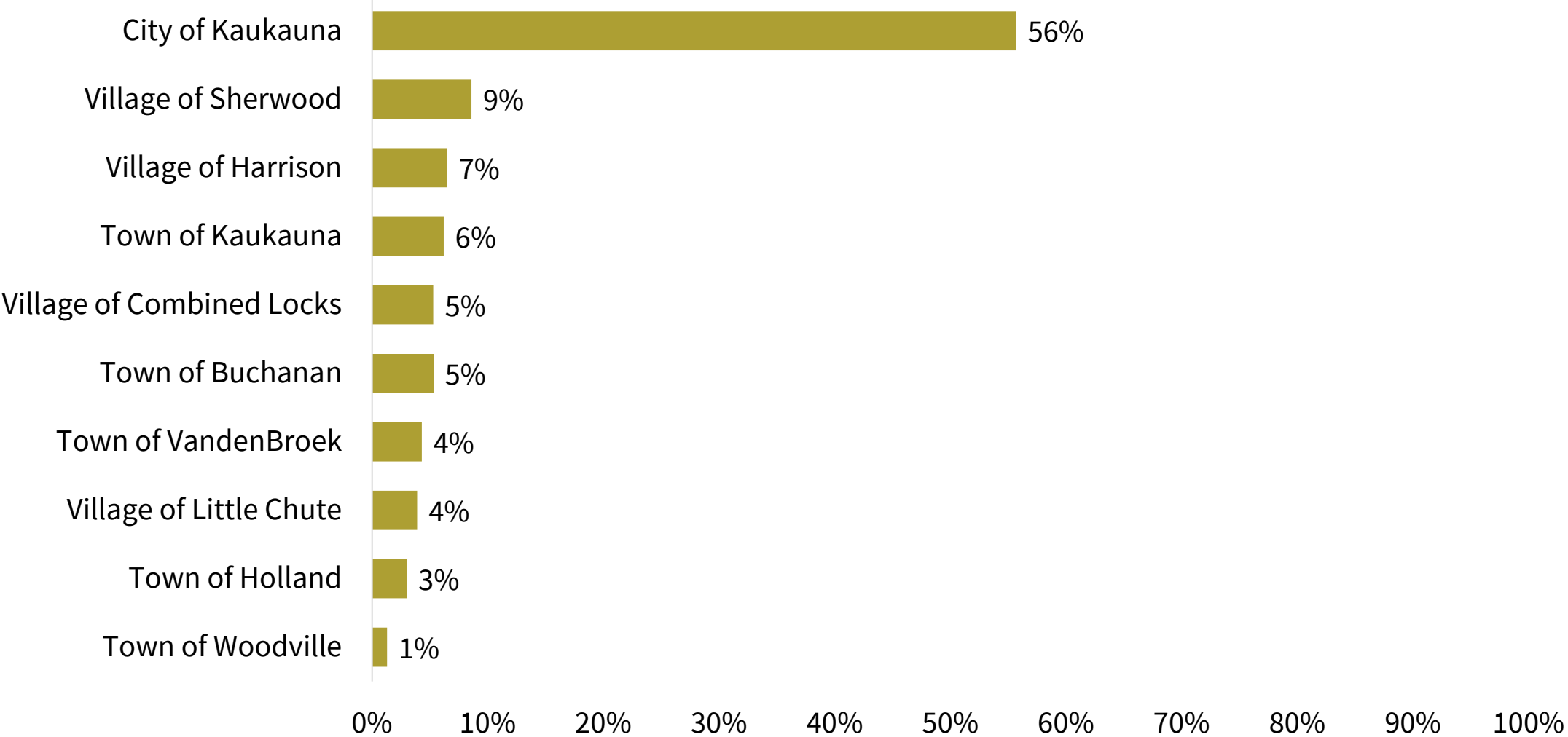
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in the District?



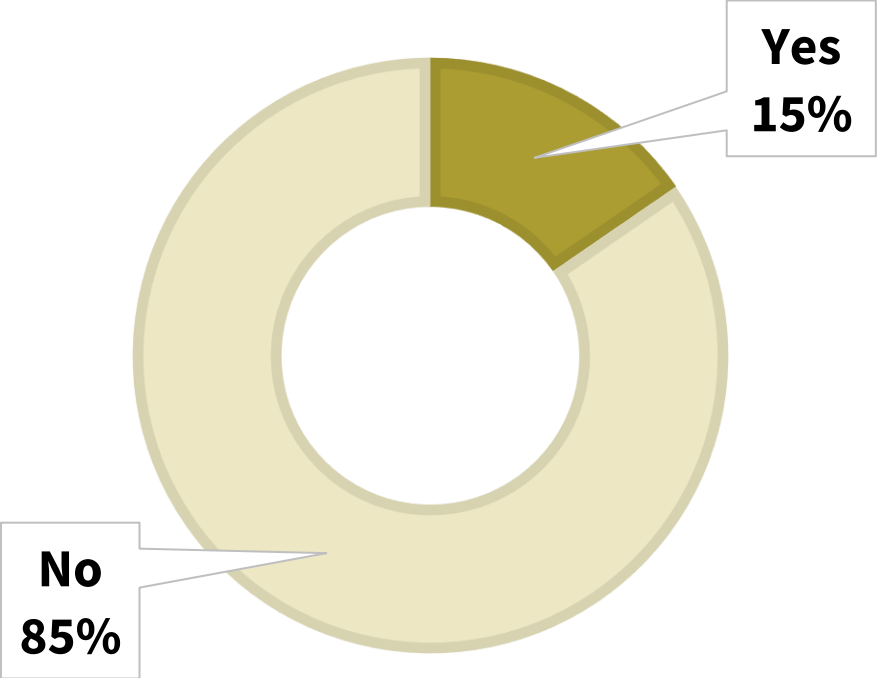
In which municipality do you live?



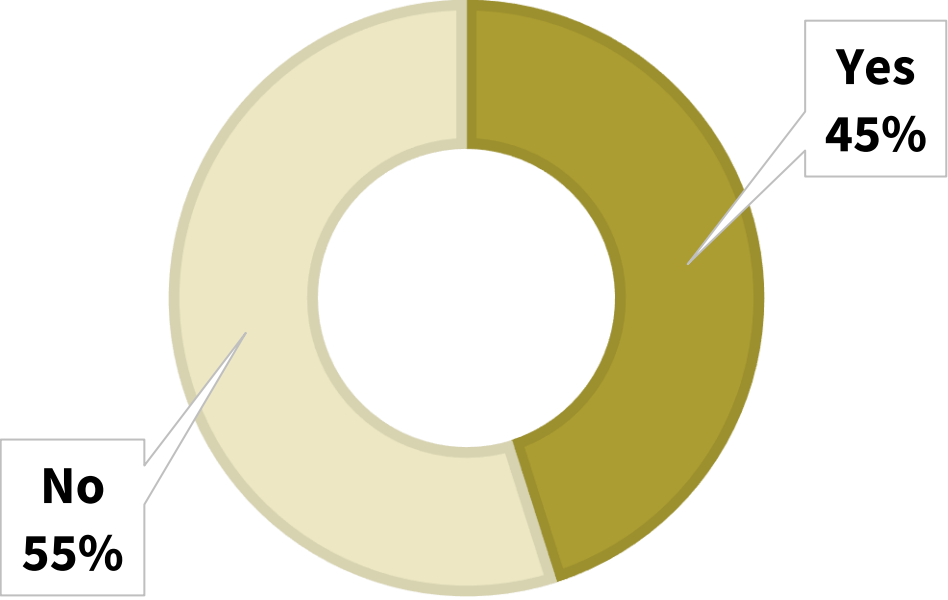
Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the District?



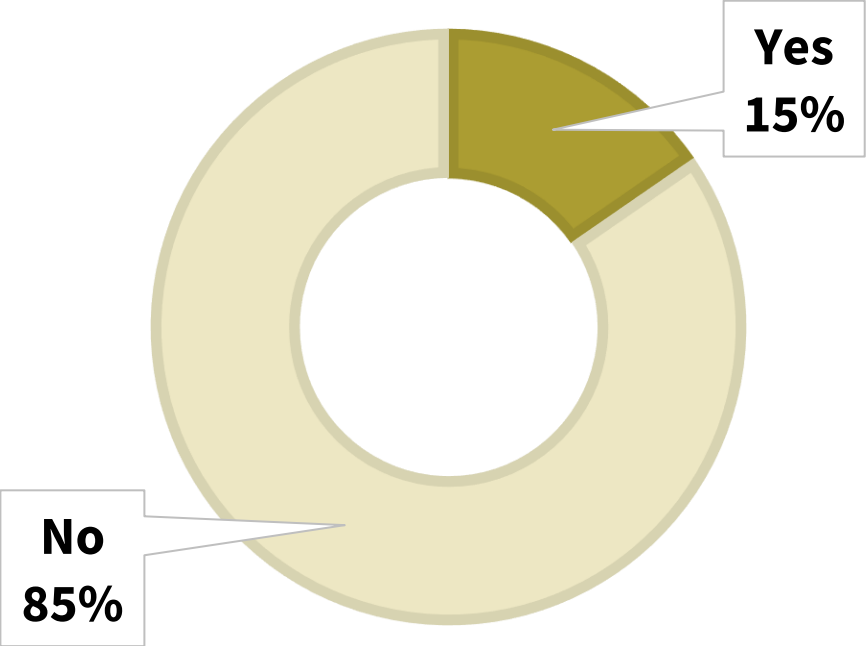
Do you have children attending a school in the District?



Respondent Information



Do you have children younger than elementary school age?



Funding Support

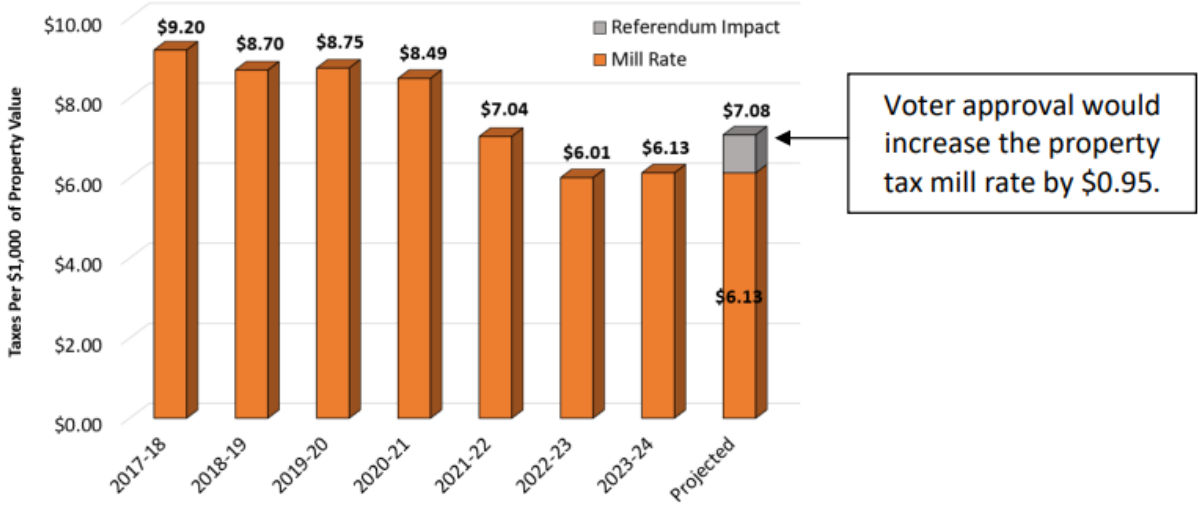


The District explored multiple options for completing these projects in phases. While we know the initial investment is significant, we determined the most financially responsible approach is to address all of our most pressing needs now and avoid potentially increasing costs. Kaukauna voters would need to approve a referendum to pay for these projects.

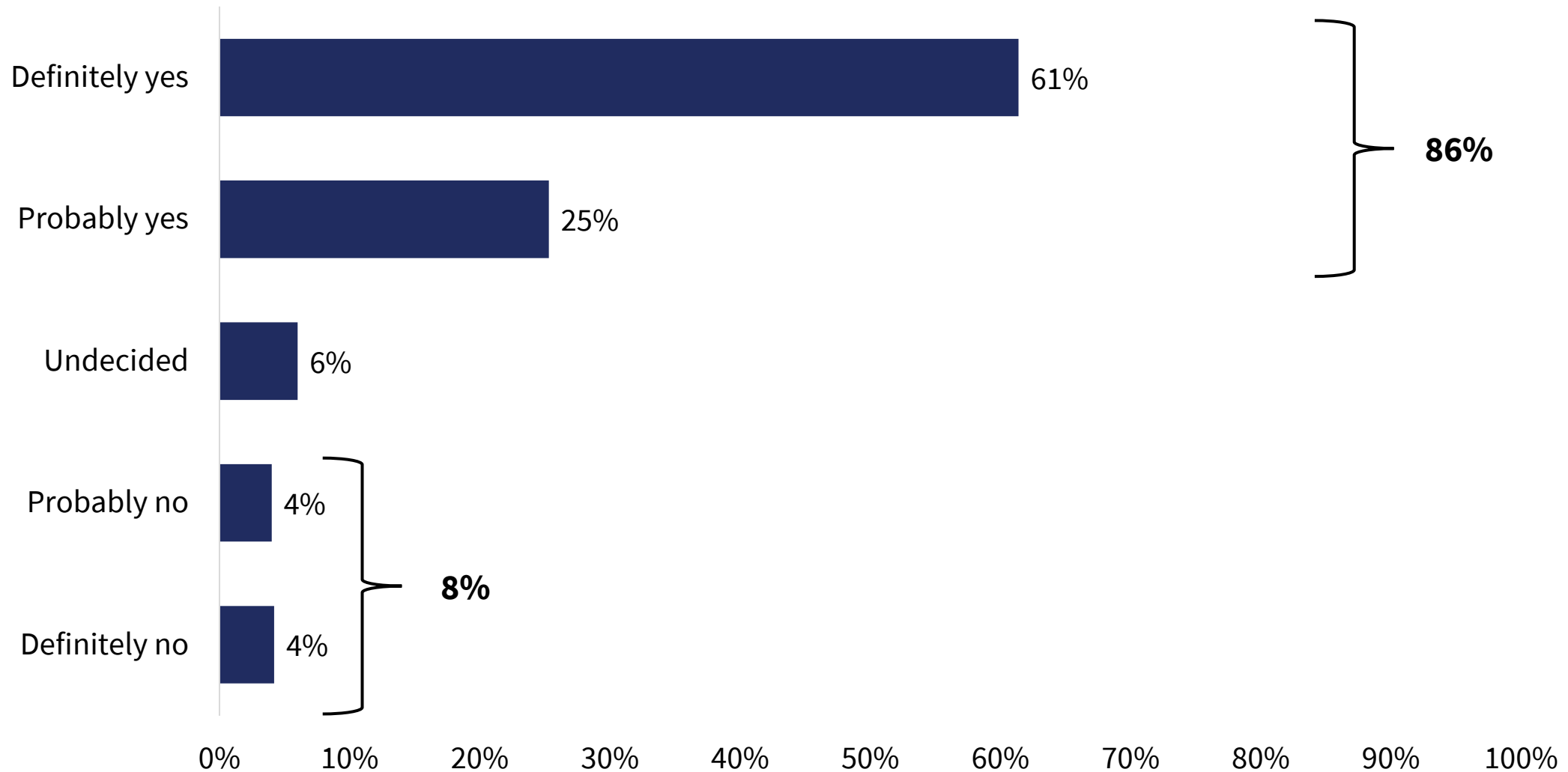
Cost Summary

Safety, technology, and building maintenance	\$14.5 million
Build a new middle school	\$173 million
Elementary school space	\$24.5 million
Childcare additions	\$8 million
Total	\$220 million

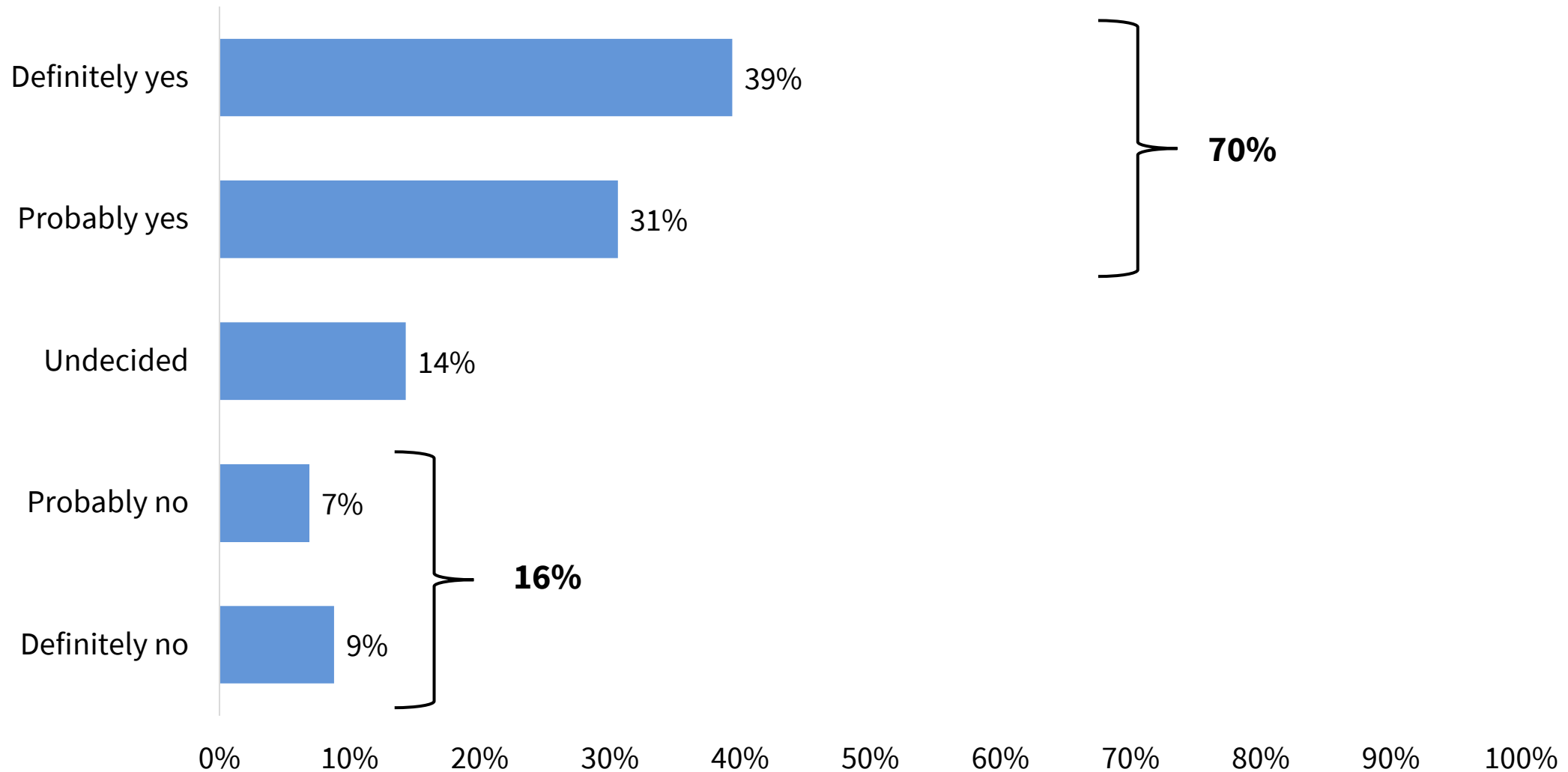
Referendum Property Tax Mill Rate Impact



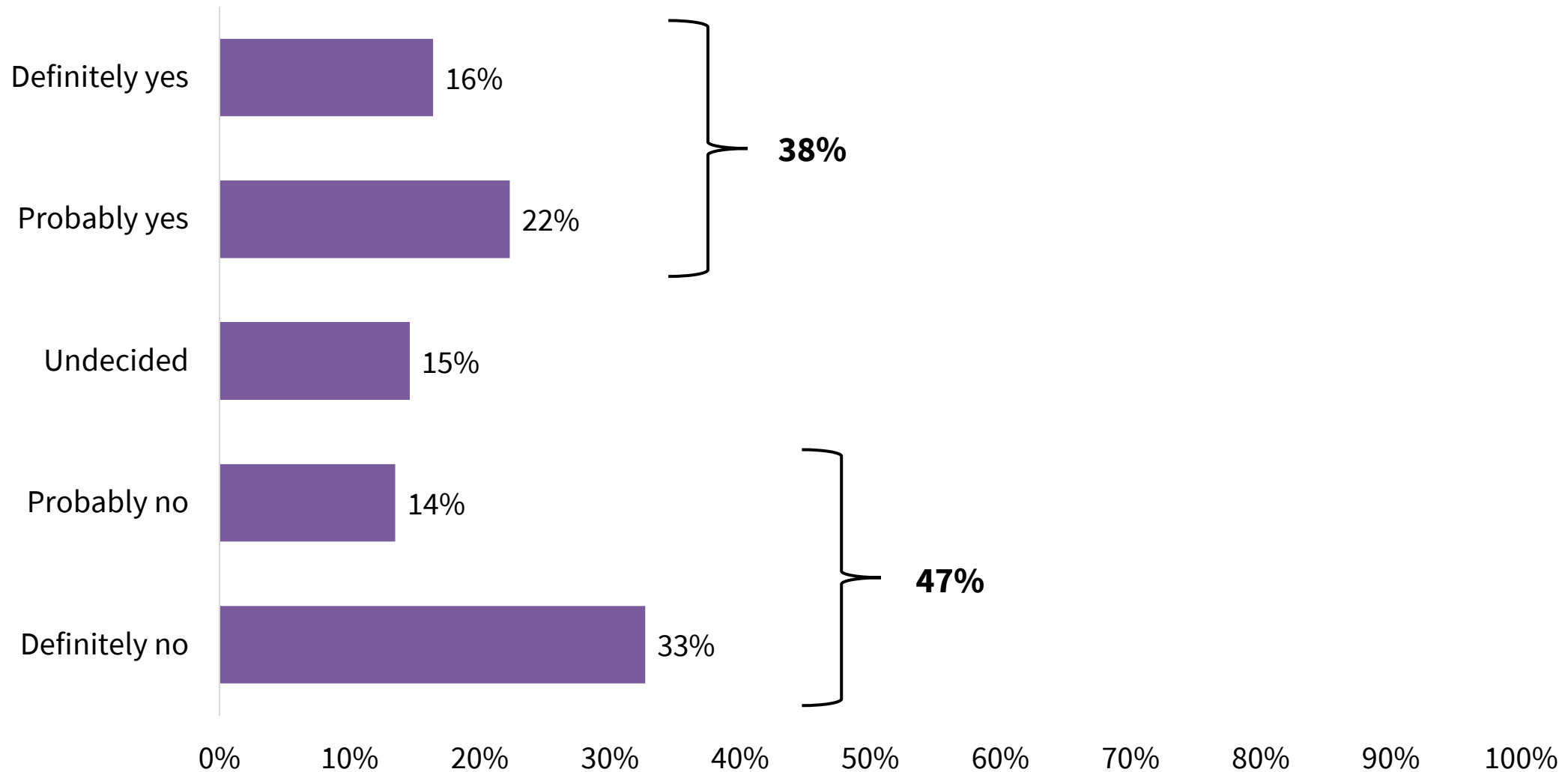
Would you support a \$220 million referendum to fund the facility plan? (*Staff Residents*)



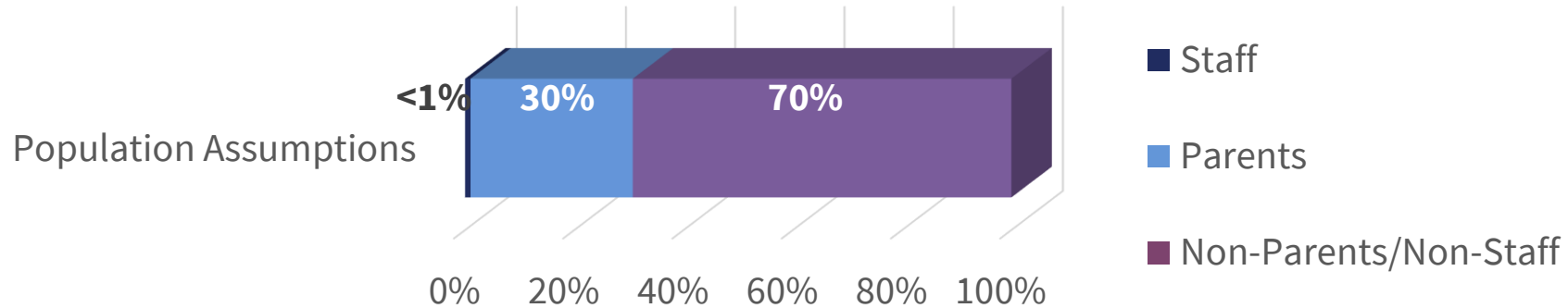
Would you support a \$220 million referendum to fund the facility plan? (*Parent Residents*)



Would you support a \$220 million referendum to fund the facility plan? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



Additional Analysis: Would the \$220 million referendum be supported?



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.30 (70\%) + 0.70 (38\%) = \underline{\underline{47.6\%}}$$



Facility Plan



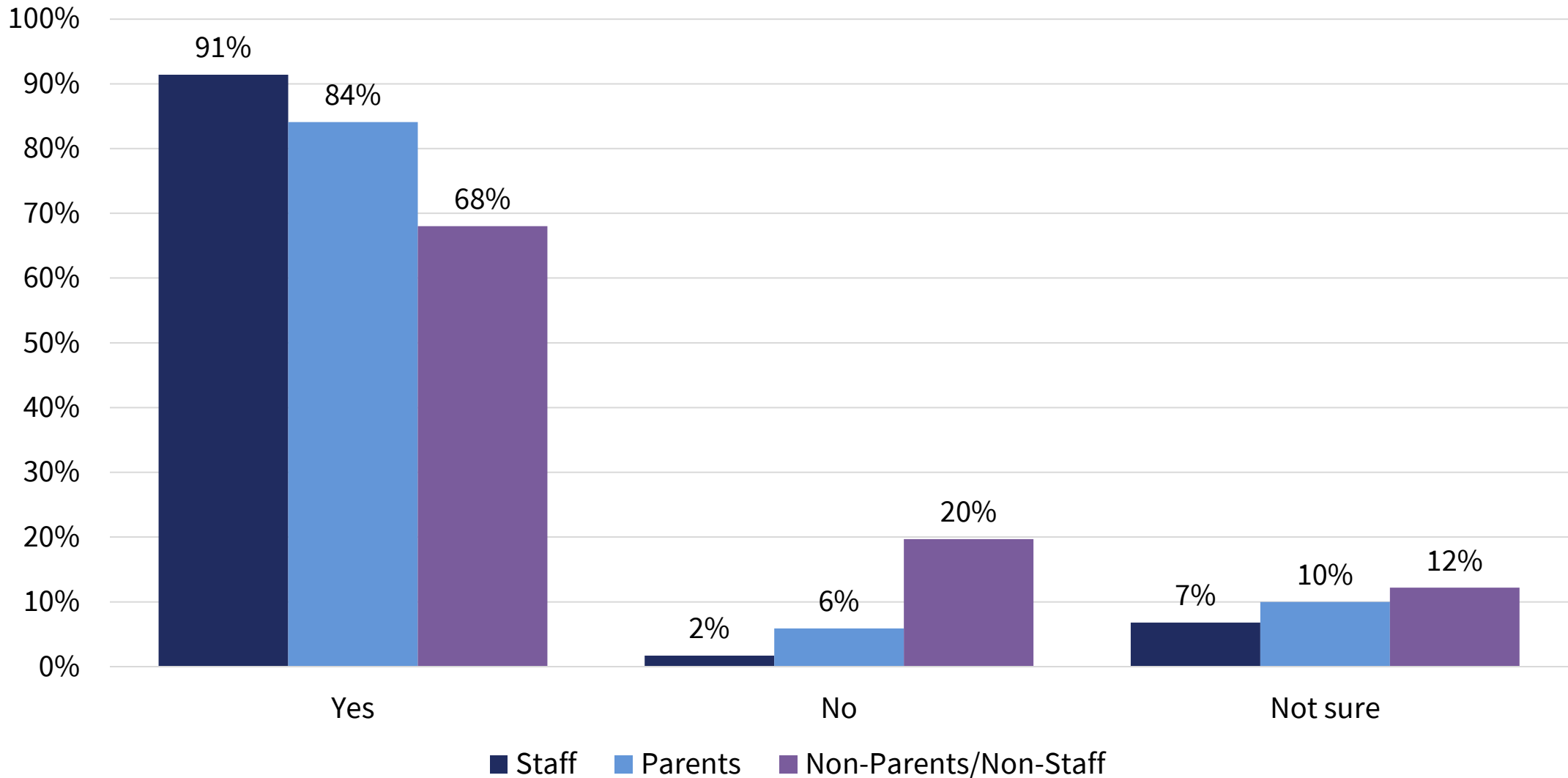
The District is recommending the following projects:

Safety, Technology, and Building Maintenance

This project would address the most pressing building maintenance needs:

- ✓ Update all schools to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- ✓ Replace the crumbling parking lot at Tanner Early Learning Center
- ✓ Fix cracked brickwork exterior at Tanner Early Learning Center
- ✓ Replace aging playground equipment at Quinney Elementary
- ✓ Upgrade worn furniture district-wide
- ✓ Replace the failing fire alarm system at Quinney Elementary
- ✓ Resurface the crumbling high school tennis court
- ✓ Reconfigure traffic to better separate vehicles and pedestrians at the high school
- ✓ Replace exterior doors at the high school
- ✓ Upgrading District technology infrastructure
- ✓ Move Park Elementary's library to the upper level to create space for a new main entrance with better security and ability to monitor and control visitor access

Do you support improving safety, upgrading technology, and completing building maintenance? (\$14.5 million)



Facility Plan



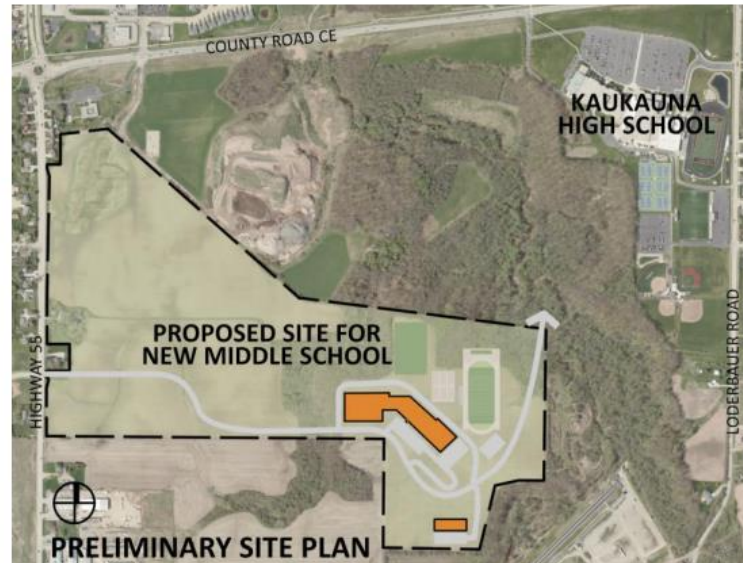
Residents at this spring's community conversations indicated River View Middle School fails to meet the long-term needs of our students.

The school was originally built in 1922 and updated/renovated five times, most recently in 2016. The site size and downtown location create traffic congestion/safety issues on neighboring streets. The building also does not provide appropriate learning spaces. For example, some classrooms are too small and others too large.

The Board does not believe further investment in this building is a good use of tax dollars. Therefore, based on feedback from community conversations, we are exploring building a new middle school on District-owned land on Highway 55 next to the high school.

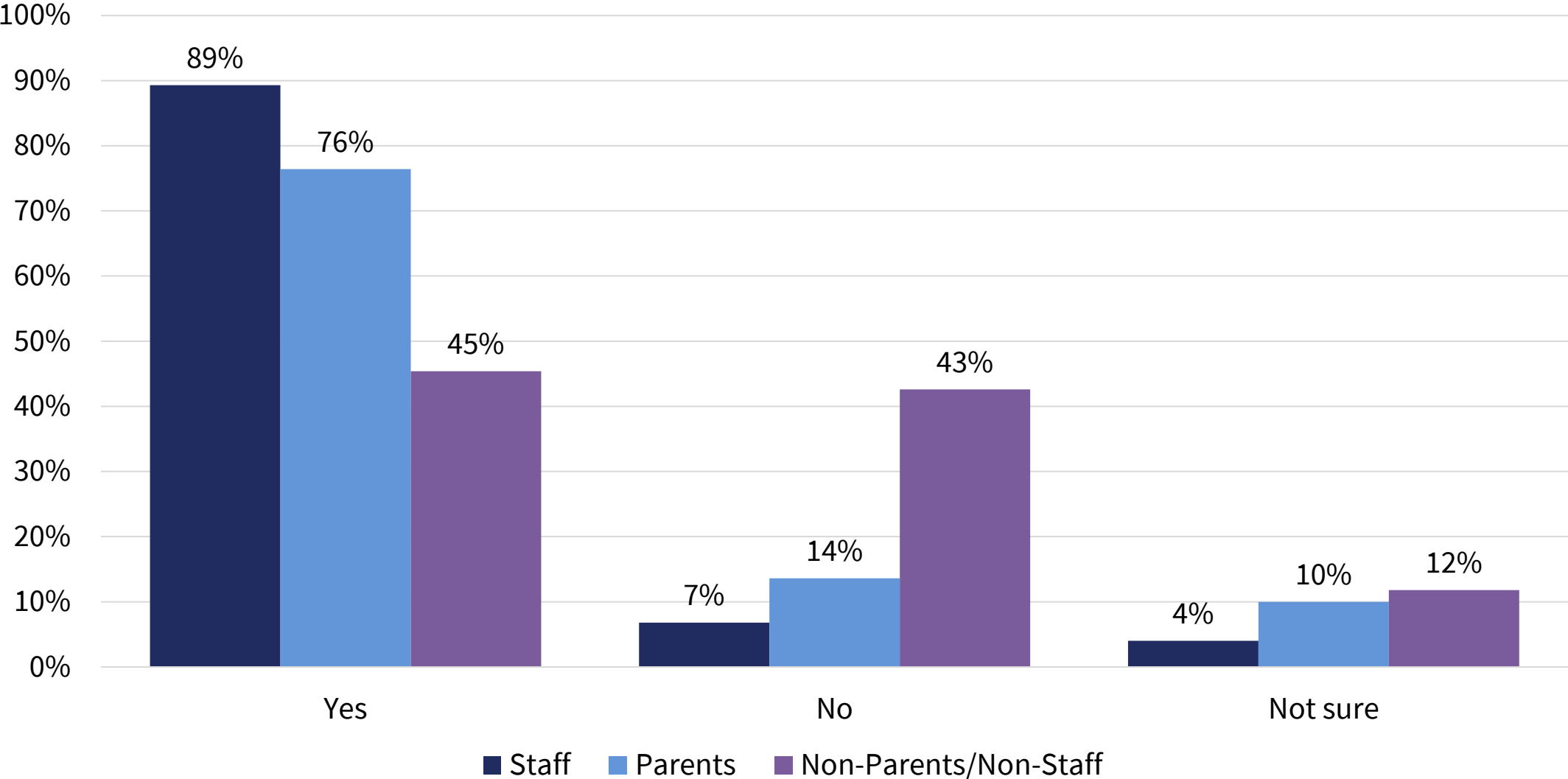
The new middle school would have:

- ✓ capacity to serve 1,200 students in grades 5-8.
- ✓ classrooms/labs for science, technology, and culinary courses.
- ✓ spaces for student collaboration/project-based learning.
- ✓ a commons/cafeteria, 3-court gym, and fitness area for students and community use.
- ✓ a 400-seat auditorium.
- ✓ outdoor physical education/practice fields.
- ✓ energy-efficient systems and natural lighting.
- ✓ a geothermal heating and cooling system to reduce utility costs.



The District will not be able to afford to keep the current middle school as a District-operated building once the new school is open. If we receive approval to build a new school, the District is committed to exploring options for the site, including community partnerships, rental, or selling the site.

Do you support building a new middle school? (\$173 million)



Facility Plan



For decades, one of KASD's biggest challenges has been students who live in the Kaukauna Area School District enrolling into a neighboring district rather than coming to our schools (called "open enrollment"). Because state funding is tied to enrollment, the fewer students we have, the less money we receive from the state. This can put an additional strain on local (KASD) taxpayers and reduces the services we can offer to our students.

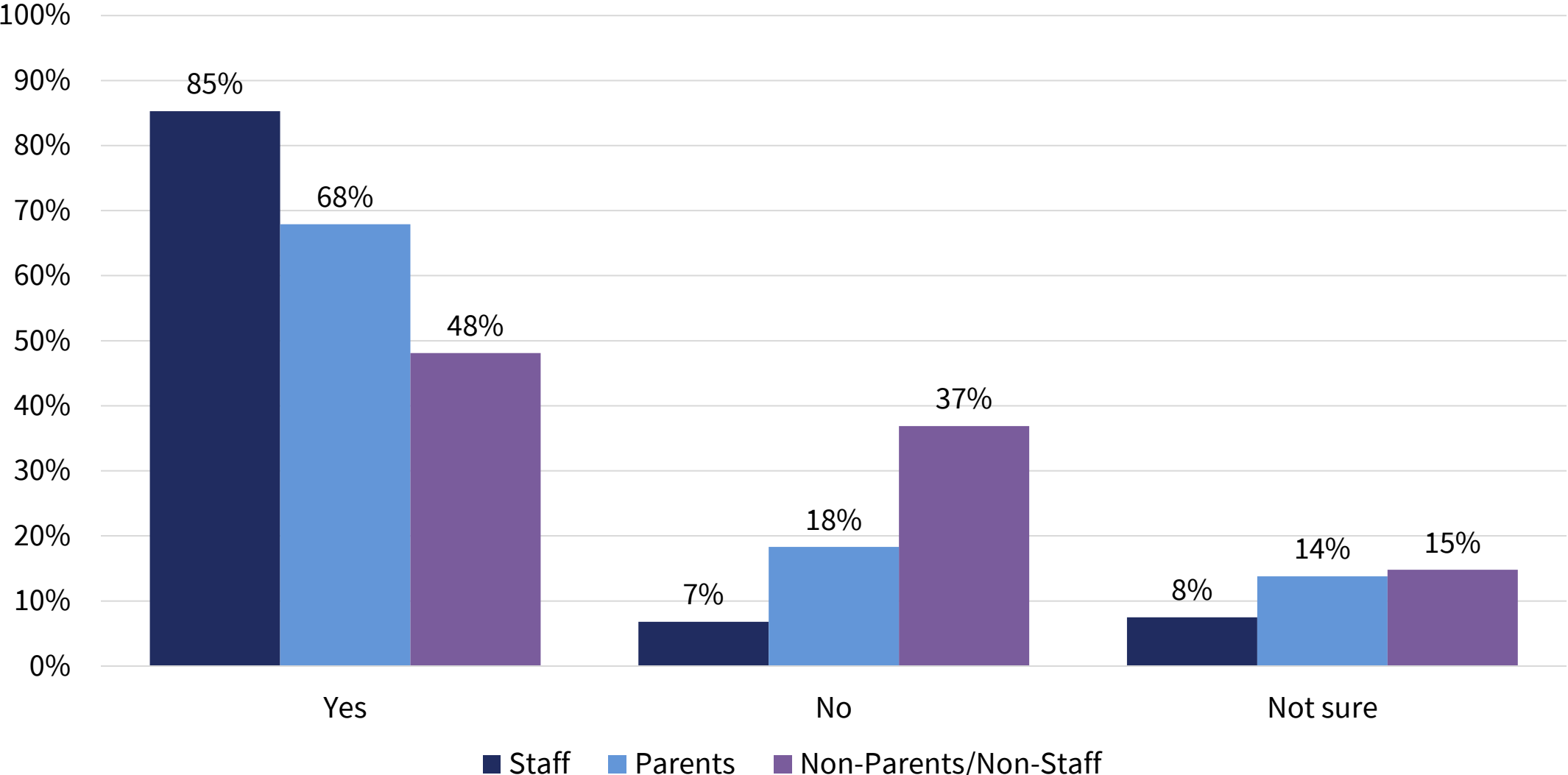
Most students who enroll in neighboring districts never set foot in a KASD school. We've learned that families who enroll their children in a neighboring district do so because these schools are closer to where they live and/or work or are closer to available childcare services. The following projects would address those challenges:

Elementary school space

This project would build an addition at Victor Haen Elementary for kindergarten (4K and 5K) students. This would allow students who live on the city's north side to stay in a single school longer and reduce transportation costs. To accommodate additional students, this project includes additional classrooms, support spaces, and a gym.

This project would also build a gym at Tanner Early Learning Center to allow for separate spaces for lunch and physical education classes.

Do you support adding elementary school space? (\$24.5 million)



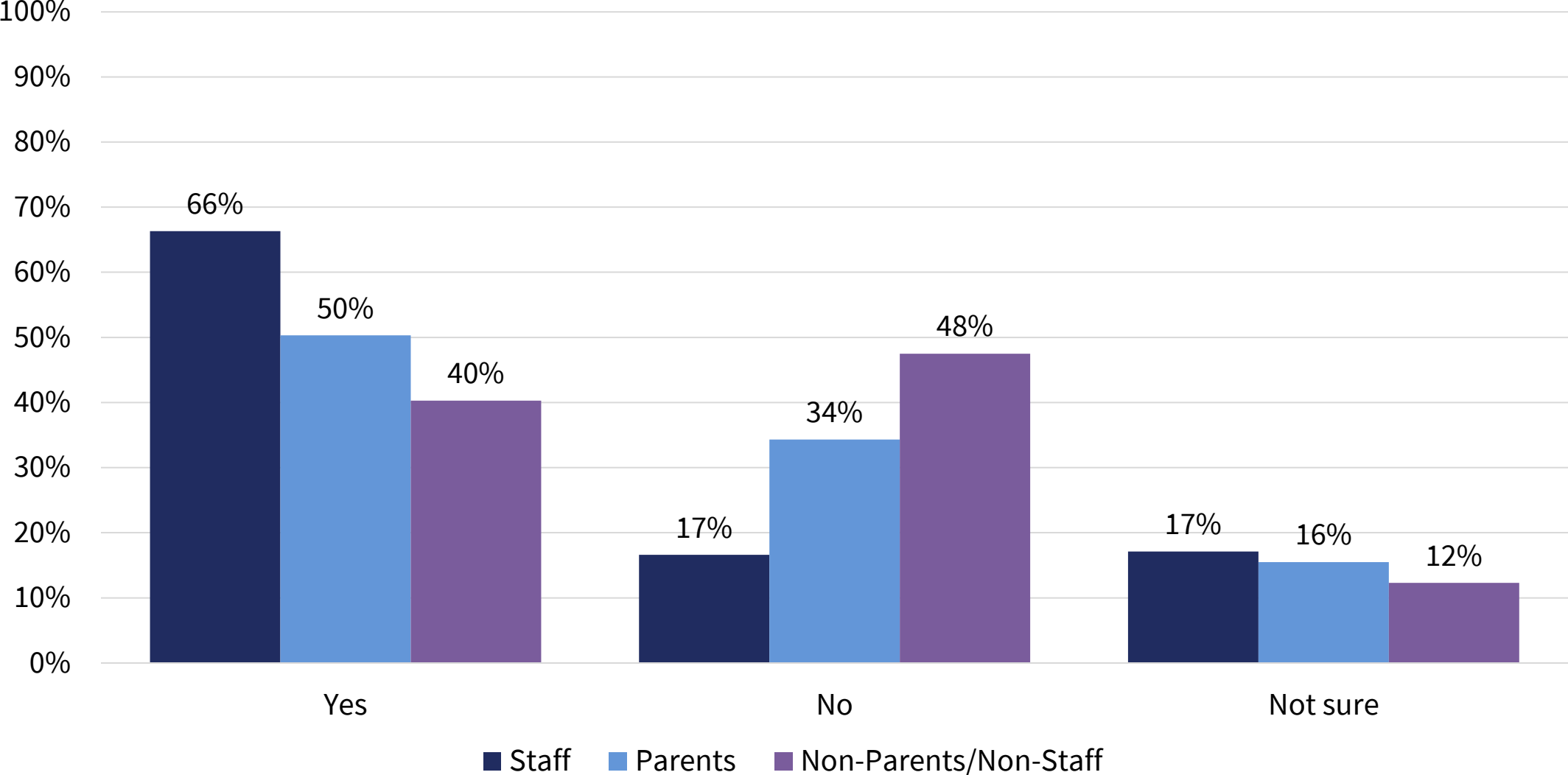
Facility Plan



Childcare additions

This project would build additions at Tanner Early Learning Center and Victor Haen Elementary to provide childcare for infants through age 3. Both schools currently lack childcare centers in their area. The District would seek community partners to operate these programs and families would pay tuition for a child to attend.

Do you support building additions for childcare services? (\$8 million)



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	3.43	3.10	2.98
Keeping the public informed	3.67	3.20	2.89
Managing funds appropriately	3.32	2.85	2.51
Building pride in the community	3.58	3.18	3.01

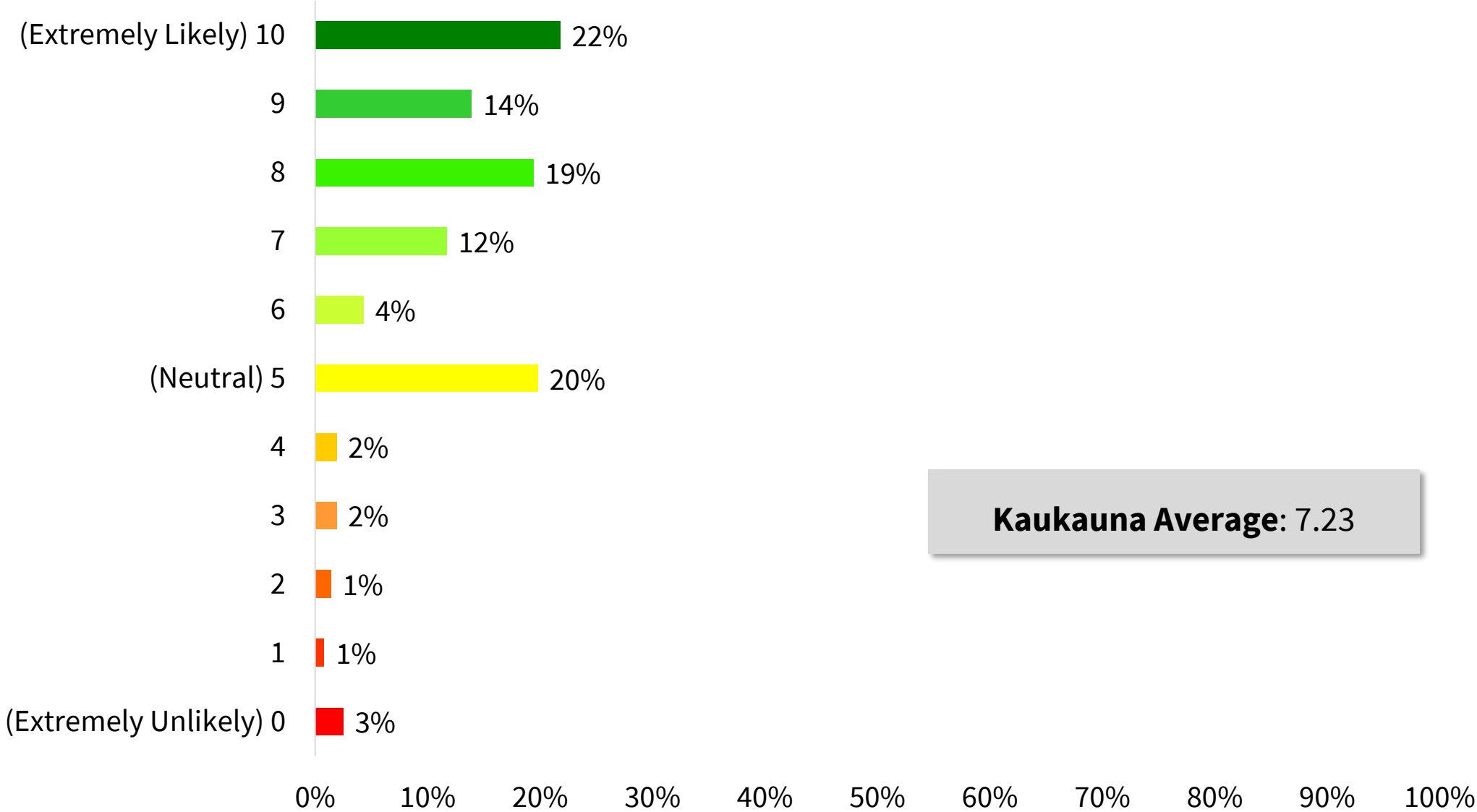
How is the District doing in each of the following areas?

Great = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1



Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	Average	Comparison Percentile
Delivering a high-quality education	83%	3.11	54 th
Keeping the public informed	80%	3.14	96 th
Managing funds appropriately	68%	2.79	54 th
Building pride in the community	82%	3.17	77 th

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?

- If the election were held today, the \$220 million referendum plan would not likely be approved (47.6% weighted support).
- Among all subgroups, the childcare project had the lowest support.

What's next?

- The Board could consider a less expensive referendum for the November ballot. Support generally increases as the cost decreases.
- There is enough support to let voters decide on a reduced facilities referendum in November.



SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Measuring what matters

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Appendix



Financial Background



The District's share of local property taxes is calculated using a mill rate. KASD's property tax mill rate has dropped by more than 33% since the 2017-18 school year.

Kaukauna Area School District Property Tax Mill Rates



The Board believes now is a good time to ask for the community's feedback because:

- We will be debt-free in the 2027-28 school year, which creates an opportunity to invest in our facilities.
- Construction costs continue to increase, making these projects more expensive if we wait.