

School District of Jefferson

Community Survey Summary Report

Spring 2022





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 **850** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

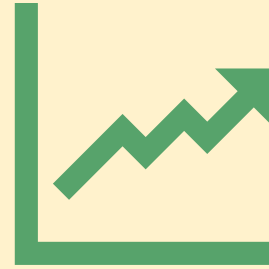
Contents



Background Info



Survey Information



Results & Analysis



Wrap-up/Questions



Our Process



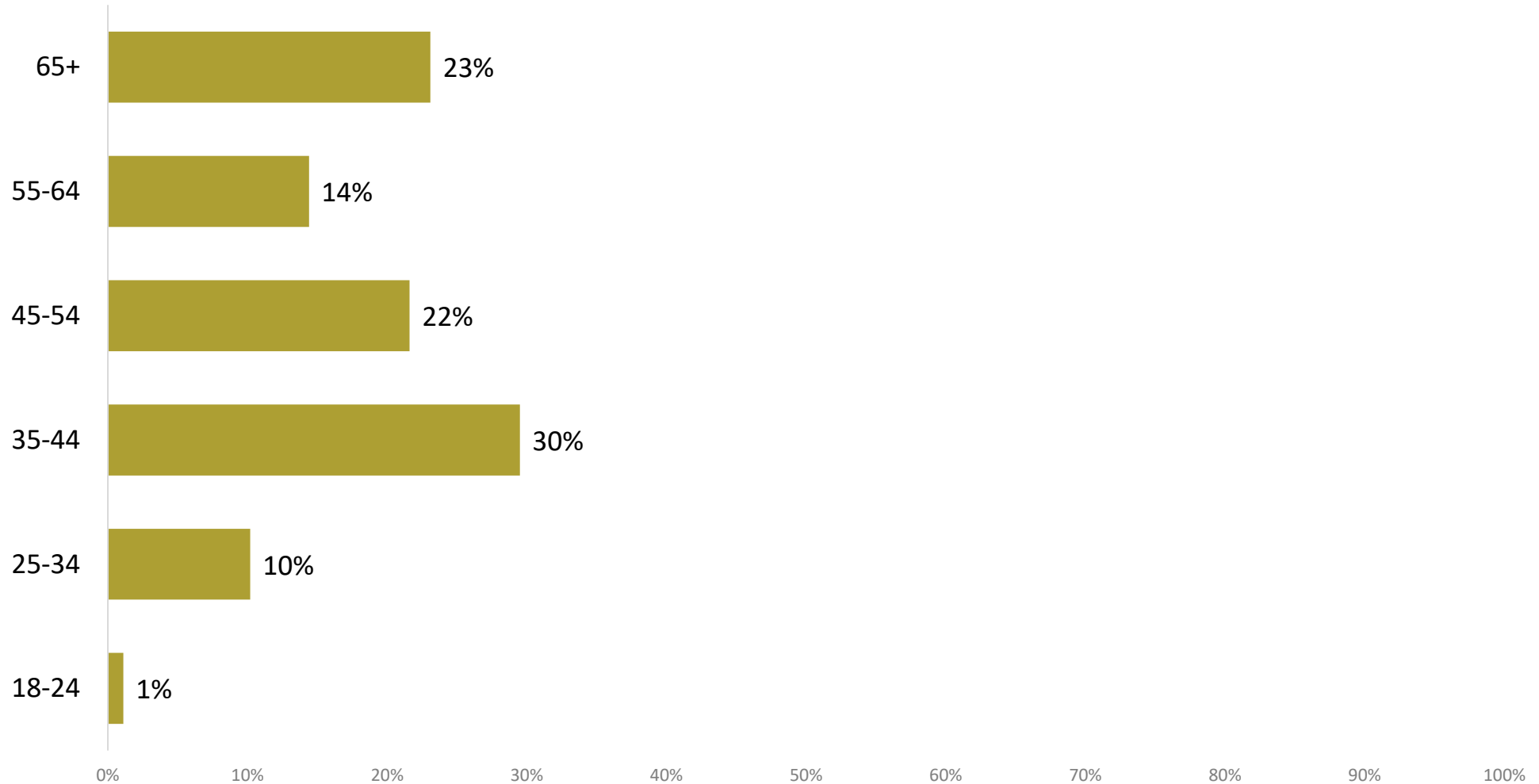
- Households within the District were mailed a paper survey.
 - 1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions
 - 2) Use the access code to take the survey online

Survey Information



- (**May 2022**) survey window
- (**1,108**) total respondents
- (**18.5%**) response rate
- (**+/- 3.00%**) margin of error

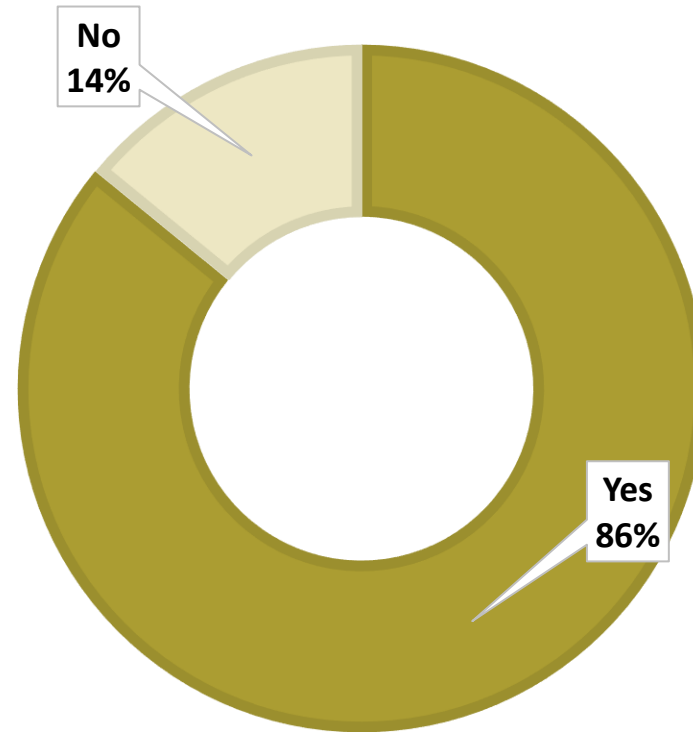
What is your age?



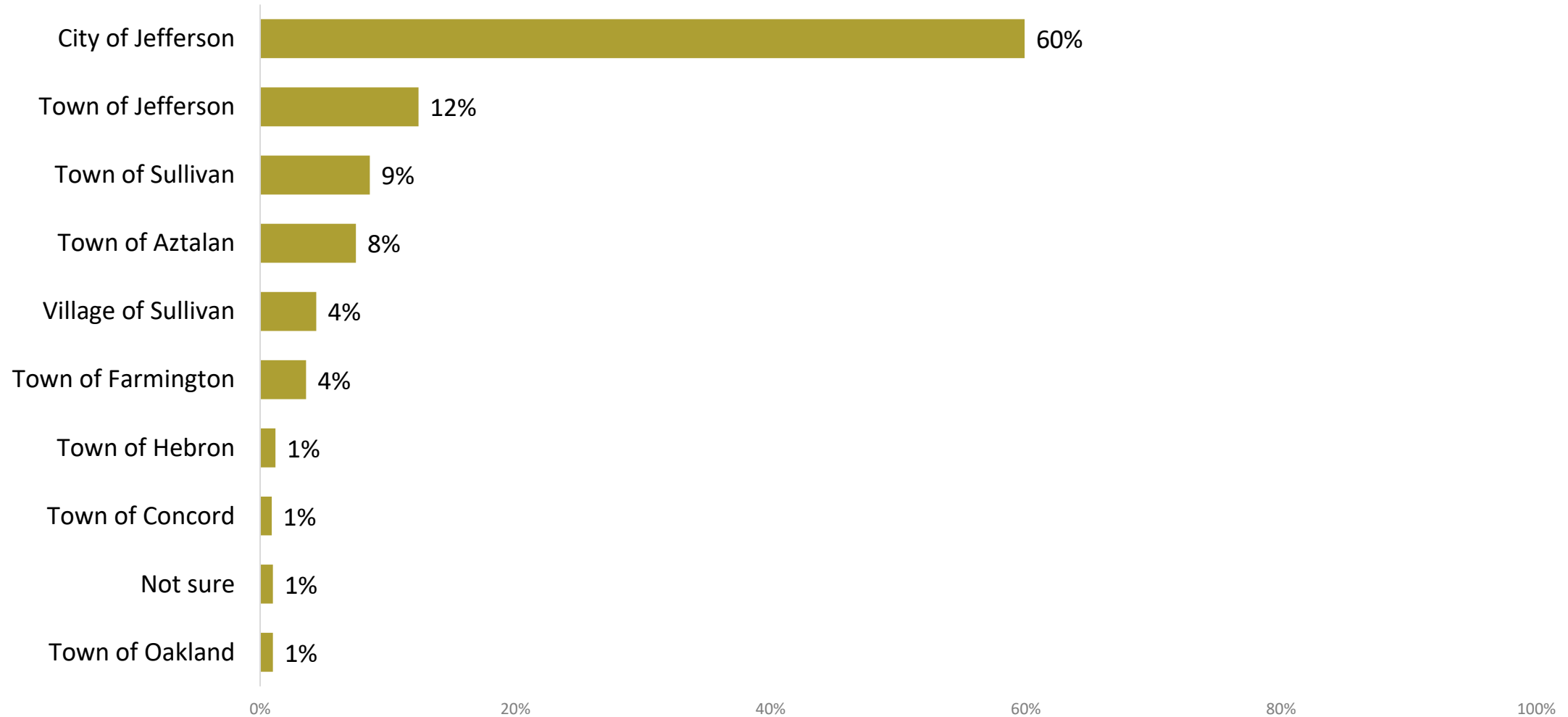
Respondent Information



Is your primary residence in the
School District of Jefferson?



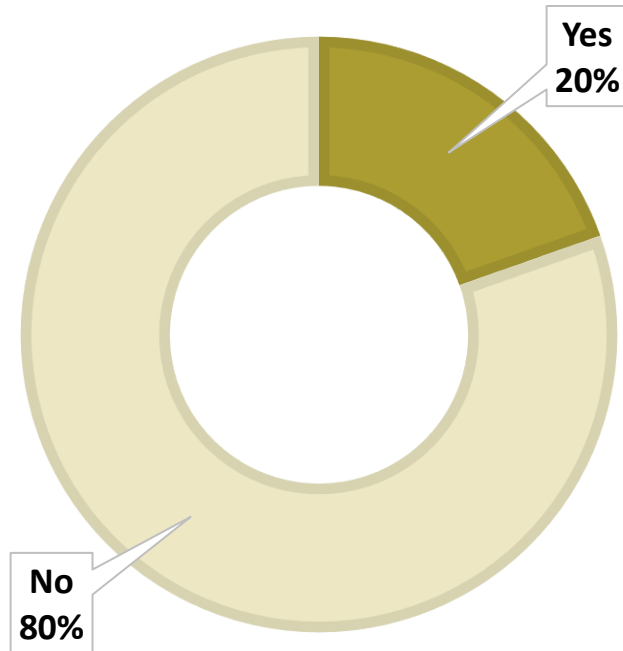
In which municipality do you live?



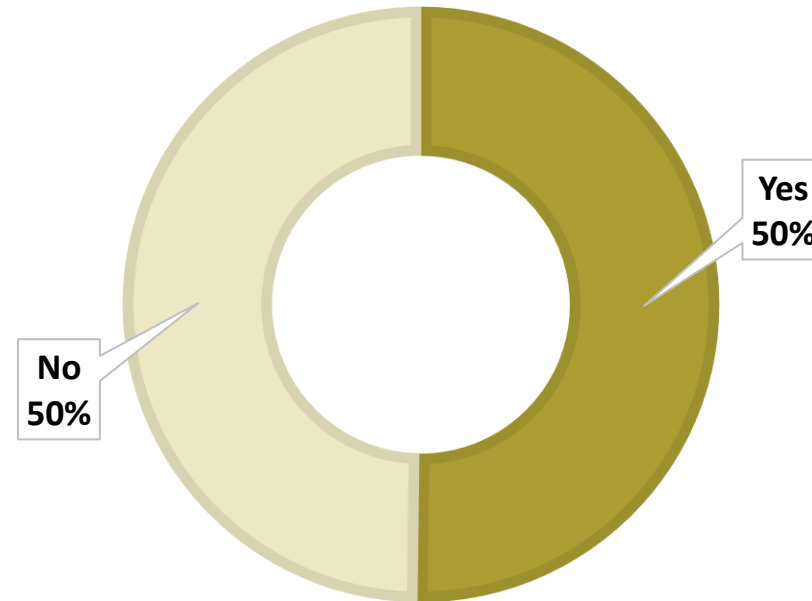
Respondent Information



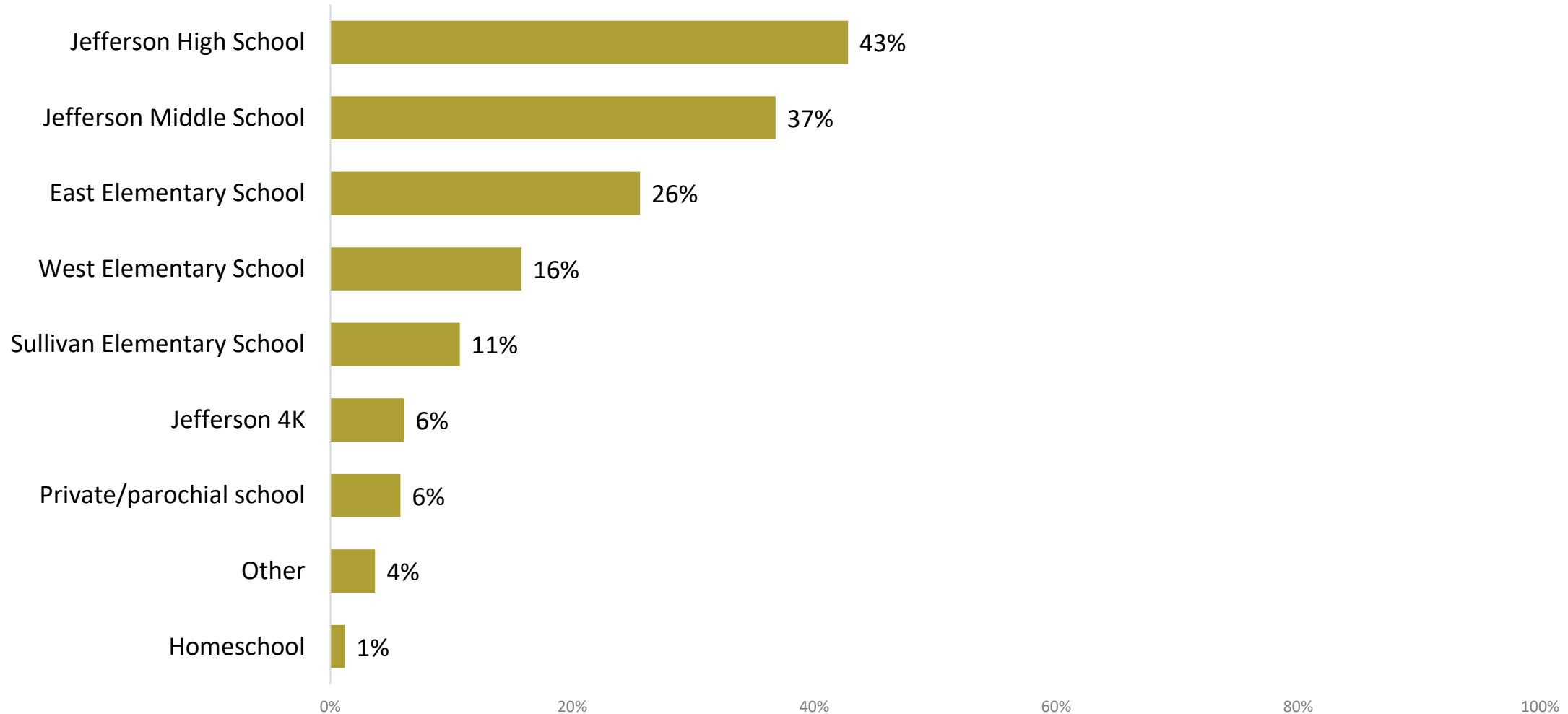
Are you an employee of the
School District of Jefferson?



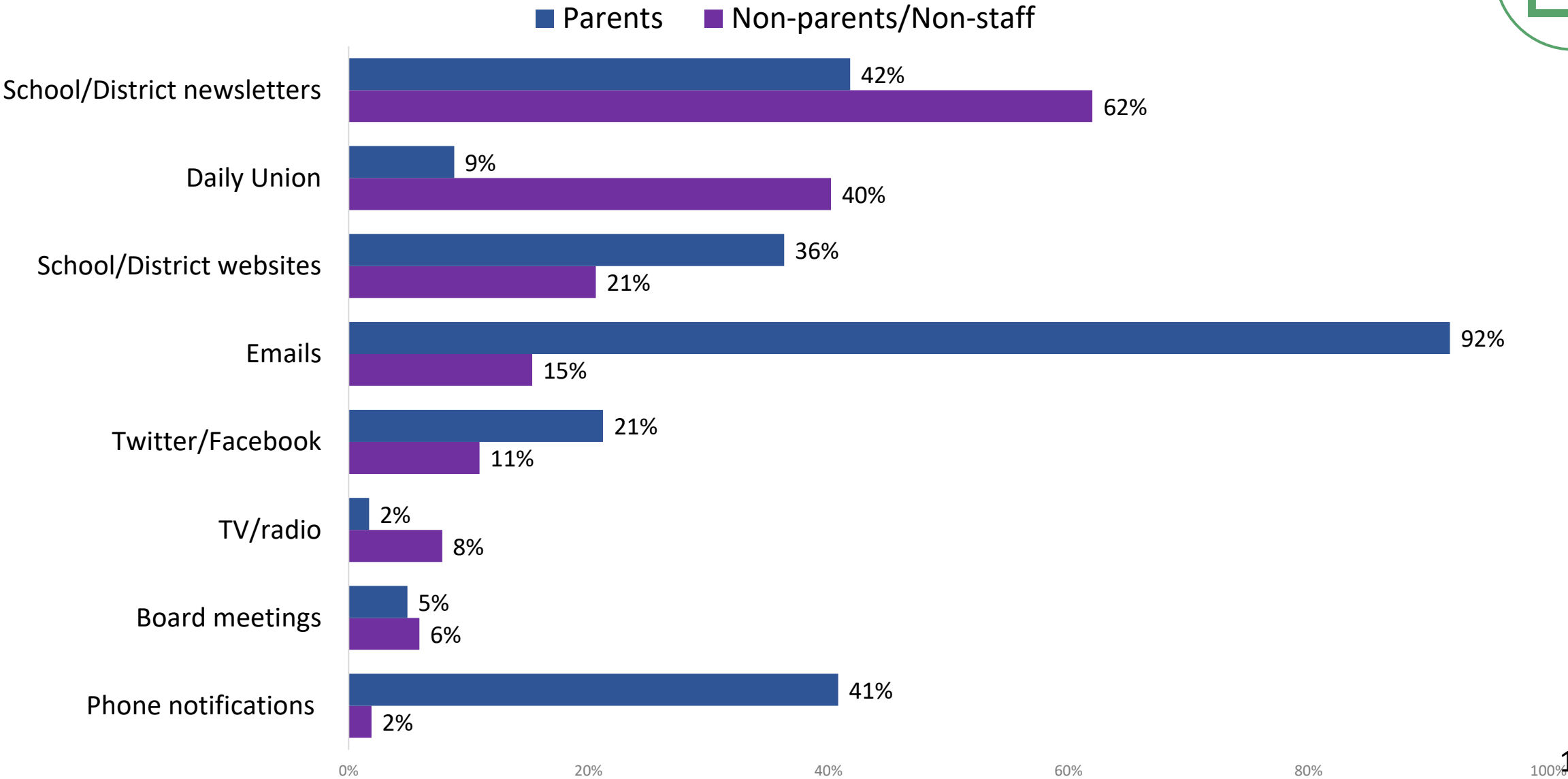
Do you have children attending a
school in the District?



If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend? *(Mark all that apply.)*



How do you like to receive school/District information? *(Mark all that apply.)*



Background Information



Facility Planning Background

In 2020, an external firm and district staff conducted a facility assessment of the quality of our buildings and learning environments. The issues from this assessment are summarized below.

Building	Issues
East Elementary <i>Built: 1938</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Our heating/ventilation/air conditioning, plumbing/sanitation, and other major mechanical systems are beyond their service life and must be updated.➤ The foundation leaks and creates water damage.➤ There is no sprinkler system for fire protection.➤ Many classrooms are too small for flexible small- and large-group instruction.➤ Classrooms for our youngest learners (4K & 5K) are too small, are on the lower level, and do not have age-appropriate restrooms.➤ Windows are several decades old, do not seal, and are inefficient.➤ The roof needs to be replaced.➤ A more secure entrance that funnels visitors through the office is needed.➤ Some areas of the building, including restrooms, do not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.➤ Many floors, doors, ceilings, and cabinets are worn and need to be replaced.

Background Information (cont'd)



West Elementary

*Built:
1969*

- Ceilings and inefficient lights need to be replaced.
- There is no sprinkler system for fire protection.
- Stormwater backs up during heavy rain.
- Some areas of the building, including restrooms, do not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.
- Electrical systems need to be upgraded and replaced.
- The generator and air circulation system need to be updated.
- The early childhood spaces do not have age-appropriate restrooms.

Sullivan Elementary

*Built:
1962*

- There is no sprinkler system for fire protection.
- Some areas of the building, including restrooms, do not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.
- The electrical system needs to be rewired throughout the building.
- The 4K program does not have age-appropriate restrooms.

Middle School

*Built:
2000*

- The fire alarm system needs to be updated.
- Parts of the HVAC system are approaching the end of their service life.

Background Information (cont'd)



- | | |
|----------------|---|
| High School | ➤ We do not have enough space in the agriculture and technical education wing to meet students' demand for these courses. |
| Built:
1962 | ➤ Some HVAC units, especially near the auditorium, do not function properly and need to be replaced. |
-

The estimated cost to address these issues is too large to be paid for from our annual budget. Therefore, voters in our district would need to approve a referendum to provide the funding. This type of referendum allows us to issue debt (i.e., take out a loan) to pay for major facility projects. Like a home mortgage, this is typically financed over an extended period, often 20 years.

Background Information (cont'd)



Base Plan Part I: Updates & Infrastructure Planning

In June 2021, the Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) was formed to study our district's needs. This community-driven group included business owners, staff, parents, and senior citizens. The FAC and District leaders believe the following projects would address our most pressing issues at Sullivan Elementary, the middle school, and the high school.

Sullivan Elementary School (*Estimated cost: \$2.1 million*)

- ✓ Add sprinklers for fire protection.
- ✓ Replace parts of the major building systems (including the water heater, air circulation units, and electrical).
- ✓ Update the main entrance to improve security, circulation, and visibility.

Jefferson Middle School (*Estimated cost: \$1.2 million*)

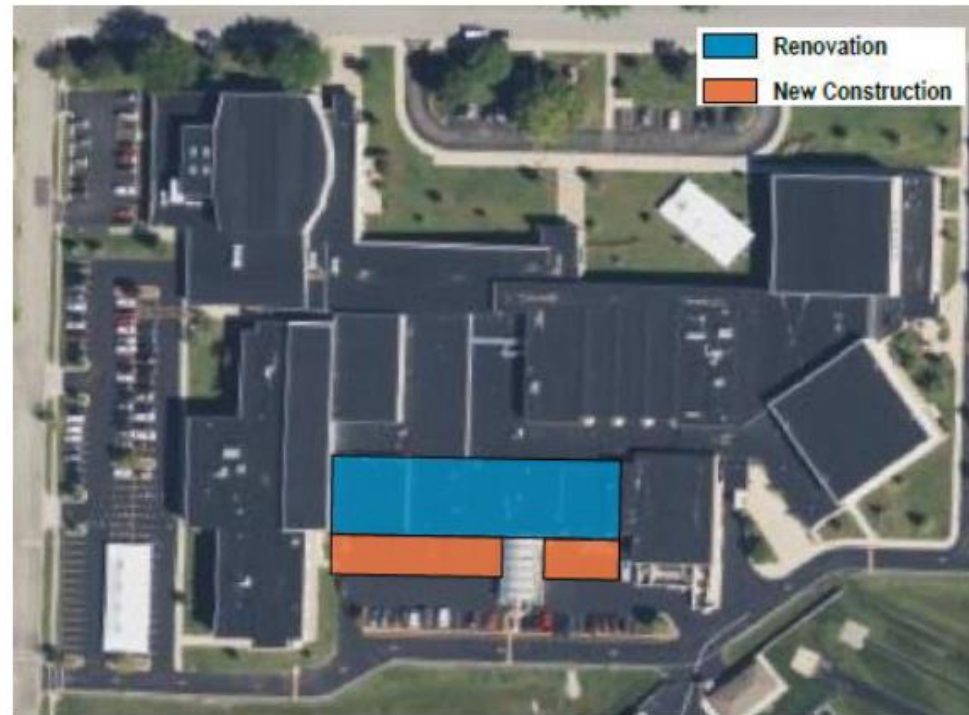
- ✓ Update the fire alarms.
- ✓ Replace parts of the major building systems (including the water heater and chillers).

Background Information (cont'd)



Jefferson High School (Estimated cost: \$10.1 million)

- ✓ Update the **HVAC systems** in the auditorium.
- ✓ Update **rigging and lighting** in the auditorium.
- ✓ Add a **staircase** in the academic wing to minimize congestion, especially in case of emergency.
- ✓ The project would also renovate and expand the high school's **agriculture and technical education** wing (shown in the image below). This investment would better prepare our students for high-demand jobs in the area. By adding this space, we could improve/expand programming in horticulture, vet science, meat processing, equine science, metals, woods, automotive repair, and FFA.



Background Information (cont'd)



Base Plan Part II: Elementary School Planning

In addition to the work at Sullivan, the middle school, and the high school, the FAC also studied the needs of East and West elementary schools. This group analyzed consolidating into two elementaries (Sullivan and Jefferson) or building a new elementary school. However, building new was too expensive. **Therefore, two options were developed for feedback.**

Background Information (cont'd)



Option 1: Renovate East & West Elementaries (Estimated cost: \$20.3 million)

- ✓ Replace the roof at East and better prevent water from leaking into the building.
- ✓ Replace windows at East to improve energy efficiency.
- ✓ Add a 4K classroom addition and repurpose existing rooms into learning support areas.
- ✓ Update major building systems, including HVAC, plumbing/sanitation, and electrical at East.
- ✓ Update generators, plumbing, and electrical systems at West.
- ✓ Replace floors, doors, ceilings, and other worn furnishings as needed at both buildings.
- ✓ Add sprinklers for fire protection and replace lights to improve energy efficiency.
- ✓ Reconfigure storm sewers to improve drainage at West.
- ✓ Ensure all bathrooms comply with ADA regulations at both schools.
- ✓ Improve safety and security by ensuring all visitors enter through the main office at East.

Background Information (cont'd)



Option 2: Renovate/expand West Elementary and close East Elementary (Estimated cost: \$33 million)

This option would close East, our oldest building and the one in most need of repair. Additionally, this school's classrooms, cafeteria, and gym are too small. If East were closed, we would save money each year because we would not need to heat, clean, maintain, and operate the building.

- ✓ Add a two-story classroom wing with support areas and restrooms.
- ✓ Renovate and expand the kitchen and cafeteria.
- ✓ Build a two-station gym and expand the library and music areas.
- ✓ Renovate existing classrooms to address 4K and resource space needs.
- ✓ Update major building systems, including HVAC, plumbing, and electrical.
- ✓ Replace floors, doors, ceilings, and other worn furnishings as needed.
- ✓ Add sprinklers for fire protection and replace lights to improve energy efficiency.
- ✓ Reconfigure storm sewers to improve drainage.
- ✓ Ensure all bathrooms comply with ADA regulations.
- ✓ Improve pedestrian safety by reconfiguring traffic flow.

Background Information (cont'd)



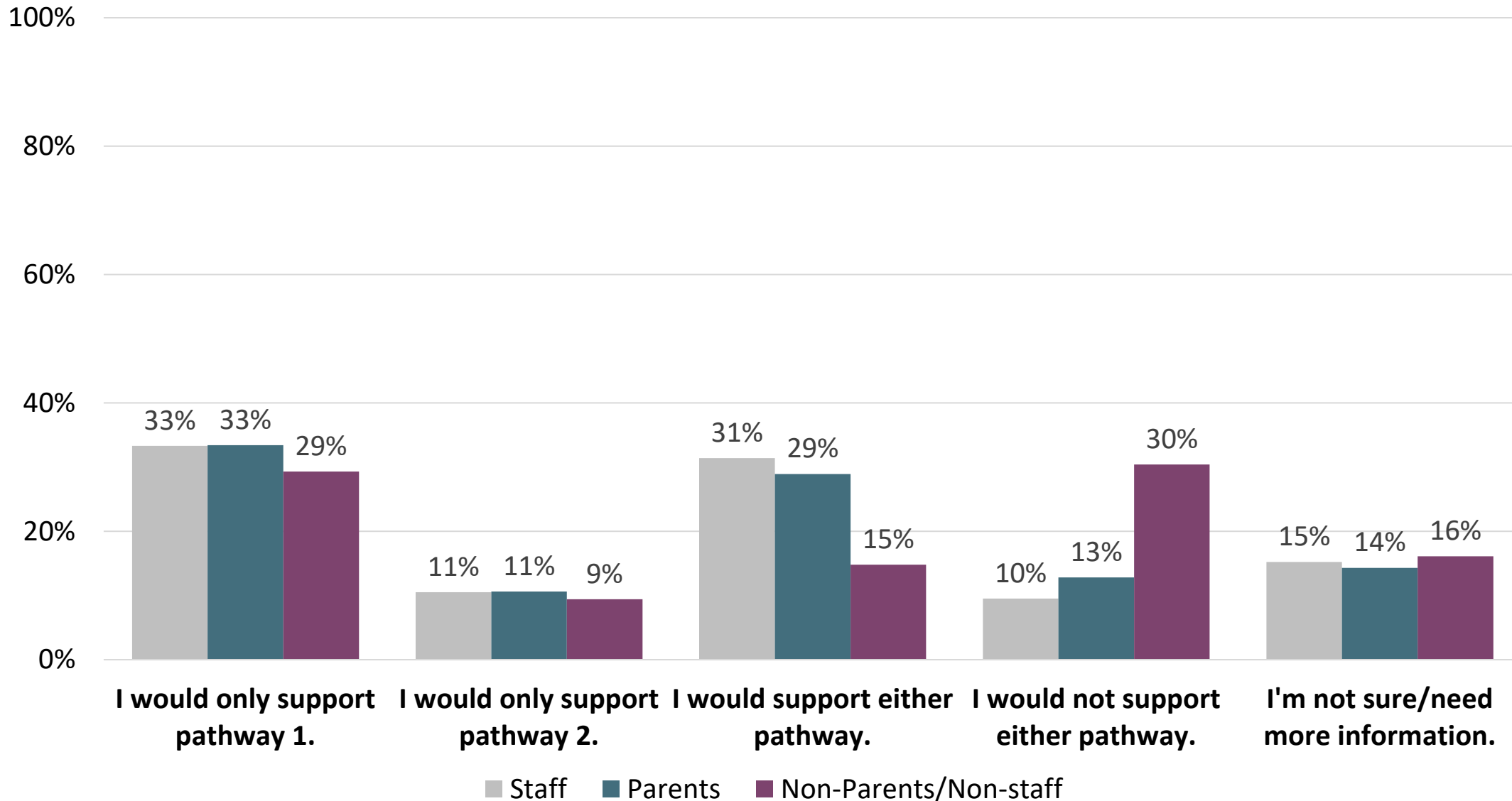
In summary, there are two potential pathways as we consider our district's needs.

- **Pathway 1**: Update Sullivan Elementary, the middle school, and the high school **AND** renovate East and West elementary schools (*estimated cost: \$33.7 million*). **OR**
- **Pathway 2**: Update Sullivan Elementary, the middle school, and the high school **AND** renovate/expand West Elementary and close East elementary (*estimated cost: \$46.4 million*).

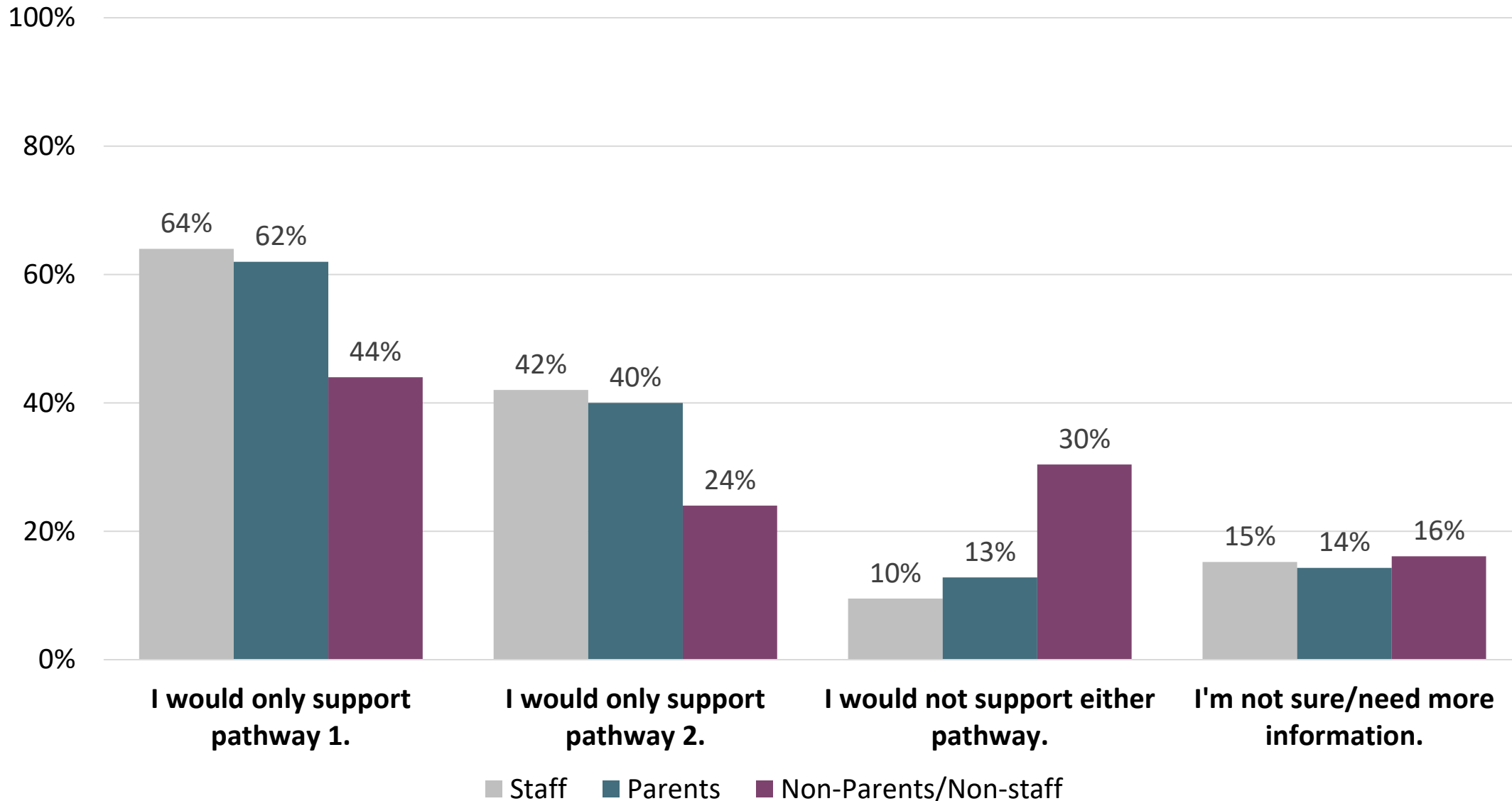


Results & Analysis

Which pathway would you support?



Which pathway would you support?



Comments related to pathway 1 support:



- “Best of both worlds”
- Desire to restore a well-appreciated, “staple,” “beautiful” building
- Pathway 1 is cheaper
- Job security
- West side traffic

Additional Projects



Additional Projects

The projects on the previous pages would address our most pressing needs. The facility assessment identified other potential projects that could be completed at the same time (and added to a potential referendum).

Please use this scale when responding to the following items.

High: Address immediately
Medium: Important, but address in a future project
Low: Not a priority, do not address in the near future

Additional Projects (cont'd)



What priority would you give each potential project below?

Building Updates: Sullivan Elementary lacks small-group collaboration space and age-appropriate bathrooms. This project would create breakout areas for groupwork, update the 4K area, relocate the kitchen so that it is next to the cafeteria, and ensure all restrooms comply with ADA regulations.

Estimated cost: \$1.8 million

Classroom & Collaboration Space: The middle school's classrooms do not have the flexibility for large- and small-group instruction. This project would reconfigure some classrooms for groupwork, collaboration, and tutoring.

Estimated cost: \$810,000

Fitness Area: Our fitness area has limited access for the community because it is in the interior. This project would build a new fitness space at the high school with direct outdoor access and replace the current area with additional education support areas.

Estimated cost: \$2.4 million

Additional Projects (cont'd)



<p>Performing Arts Center (PAC) Support Spaces: The high school PAC does not currently have “back-of-house space” for student performances (set design, a scene shop, storage/receiving, dressing rooms, etc.) because it is District Office space. Moving these offices to West Elementary would free up space for back-of-house space and provide additional, alternative classroom space.</p> <p><i>Estimated cost: \$5.3 million</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>Athletic Complex: Softball facilities are currently off-campus, creating supervision concerns and Title IX issues. The soccer fields are not regulation size, so we cannot host tournaments. This project would create an athletic complex on District-owned land with natural grass fields, two softball fields, regulation-sized soccer field, practice fields, concessions, and restrooms.</p> <p><i>Estimated cost: \$8.0 million</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>Elementary School Gym: Students practice early in the morning or late at night because of a lack of gym space. Because of these scheduling issues, our community has difficulty accessing the gym for fitness, recreation, and youth leagues. We also lack spectator space. This project would add gym space at the elementary level.</p> <p><i>Estimated cost: \$9.0 million</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low



The averages on the following slide are calculated based on the following weight:

High = 3

Medium = 2

Low = 1

Respondents that marked *Not sure* were not included in the calculation.

Therefore, if everyone one chose *High*, the Priority Score = 3.0. If everyone chose *Low*, the Priority Score = 1.0.

Additional Project Priorities



Project 1: Sullivan Building Updates	<div><div>25%</div><div>41%</div><div>34%</div></div>	Priority Score = 1.91
Project 2: Elementary School Gym	<div><div>19%</div><div>38%</div><div>44%</div></div>	Priority Score = 1.75
Project 3: Athletic Complex	<div><div>20%</div><div>32%</div><div>47%</div></div>	Priority Score = 1.73
Project 4: Classroom & Collab Space	<div><div>17%</div><div>37%</div><div>46%</div></div>	Priority Score = 1.72
Project 5: PAC Support Spaces	<div><div>12%</div><div>32%</div><div>56%</div></div>	Priority Score = 1.56
Project 6: Fitness Area	<div><div>14%</div><div>24%</div><div>63%</div></div>	Priority Score = 1.51

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low






Funding Support



Funding Support

The total cost of the building projects would exceed \$74 million. We realize that doing all the projects at one time is not realistic. The Board of Education and District leaders will establish a plan based on the community's priorities and willingness to support the projects financially.

Base Plan Pathways

						<i>Total</i>
Pathway 1	\$4.5 million	\$15.8 million	\$2.1 million	\$1.2 million	\$10.1 million	<i>\$33.7 million</i>
Pathway 2	\$33 million	Closed	\$2.1 million	\$1.2 million	\$10.1 million	<i>\$46.4 million</i>

Potential Additional Projects (School)

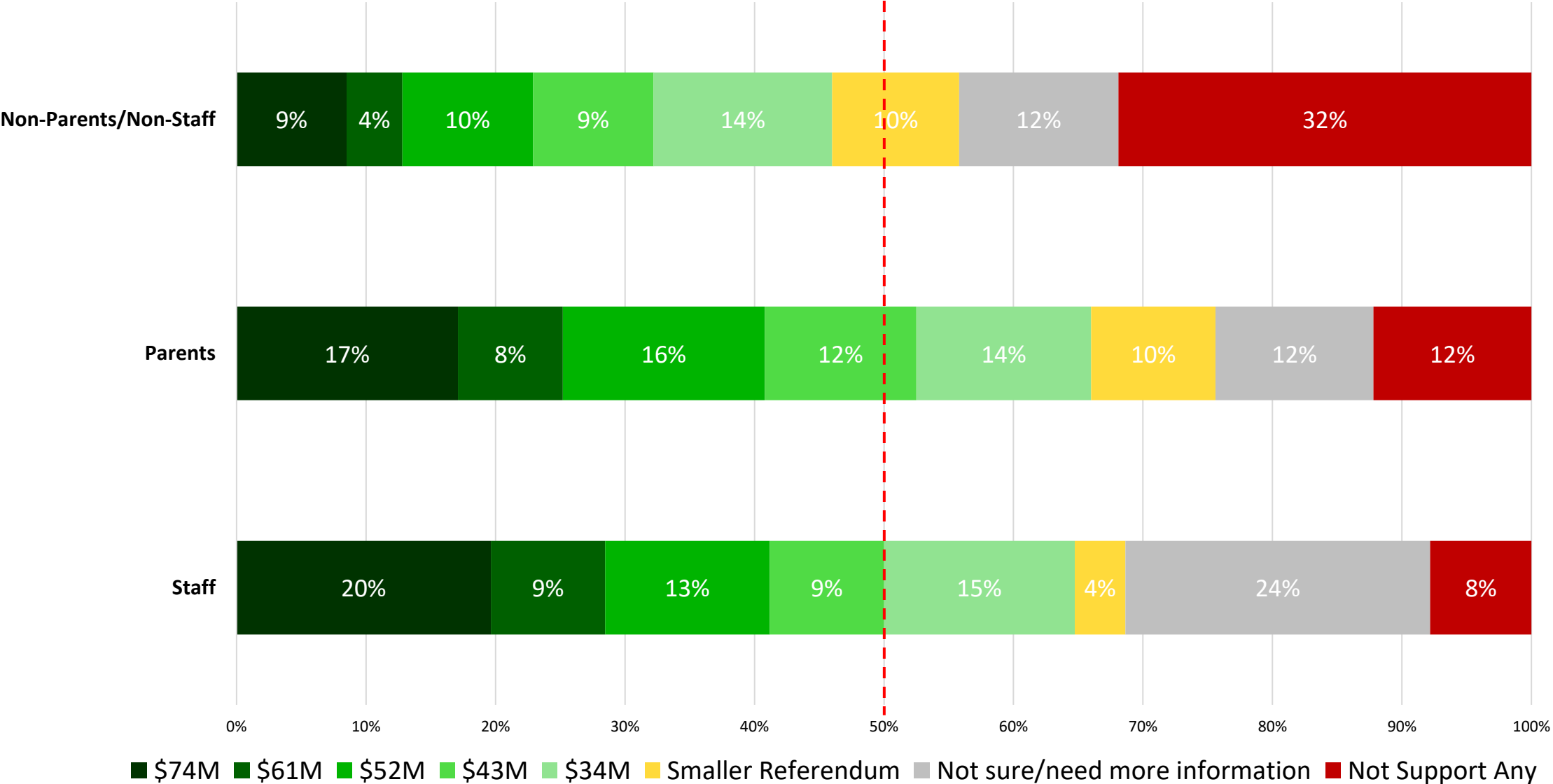
Building updates (Sullivan)	\$1.8 million
Classroom & collaboration space (Middle School)	\$810,000
Fitness area (High School)	\$2.4 million
PAC support spaces (High School)	\$5.3 million
Athletic complex (High School)	\$8.0 million
Gym space (Elementary-Level)	\$9.0 million

Funding Support (cont'd)

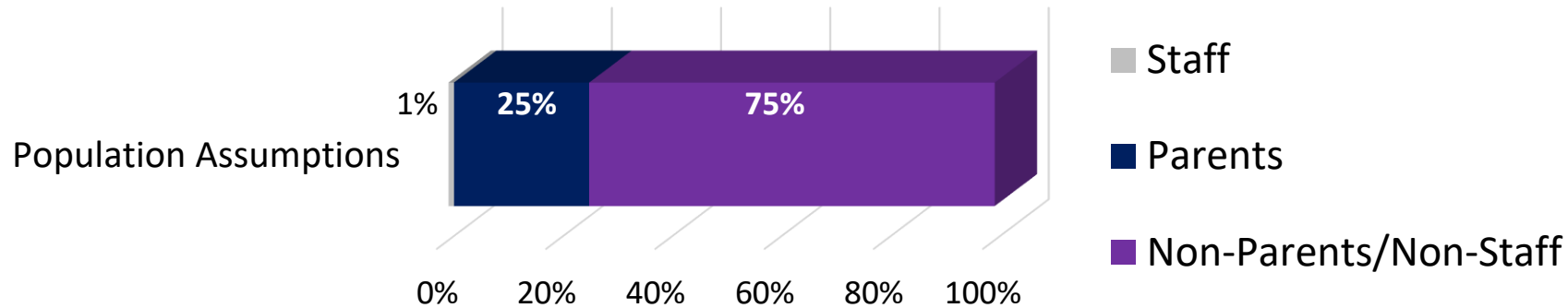


Referendum amount	\$34 million	\$43 million	\$52 million	\$61 million	\$74 million
Estimated tax impact per \$100,000 of property value over the current level	\$91 per year (\$7.58 per month)	\$121 per year (\$10.08 per month)	\$150 per year (\$12.50 per month)	\$180 per year (\$15.00 per month)	\$223 per year (\$18.58 per month)
<p>How much of a school tax increase would you support through a referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?</p> <p><i>Tax impacts assume multi-phased borrowing with interest rates at 4.5%.</i></p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$74 million referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$61 million referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$52 million referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$43 million referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would support a \$34 million referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would only support a smaller referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would not support any referendum.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/I need more information.</p>			

How much of a school tax increase would you support through a referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?



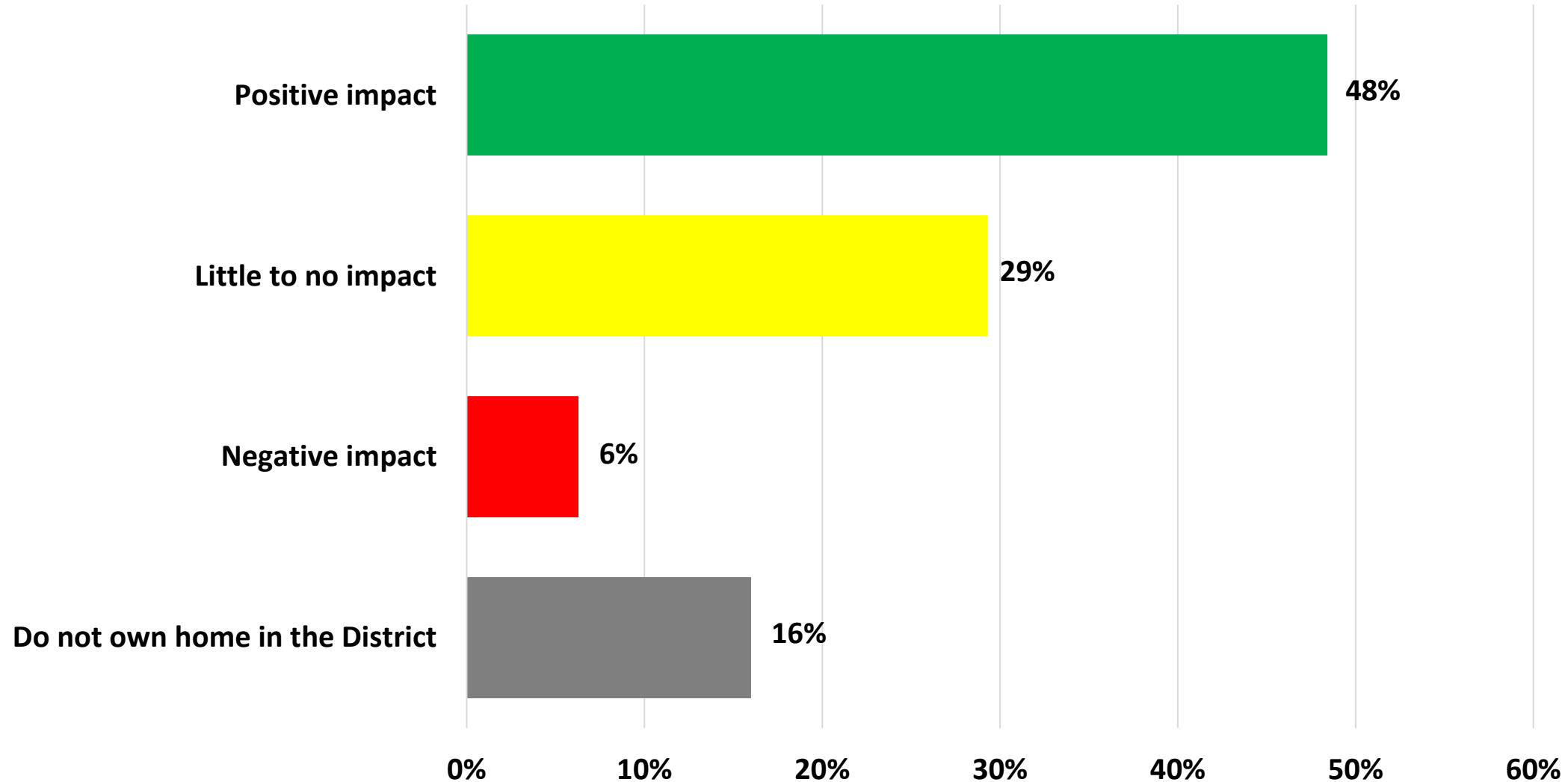
Funding Support: How much of a school tax increase would you support through a referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?



Weighted support at \$34M:

$$0.75 (46\%) + 0.25 (67\%) = \underline{\underline{51.3\%}}$$

What impact do you believe the School District of Jefferson has on your home value?





The averages on the following slide are calculated based on the weighting:

Great = 4

Good = 3

Fair = 2

Poor = 1.

Respondents that marked *Not sure/no opinion* were not included in the calculation.

Therefore, if everyone one selected *Great*, the score = 4.0.
If everyone selected *Poor*, the score = 1.0.

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



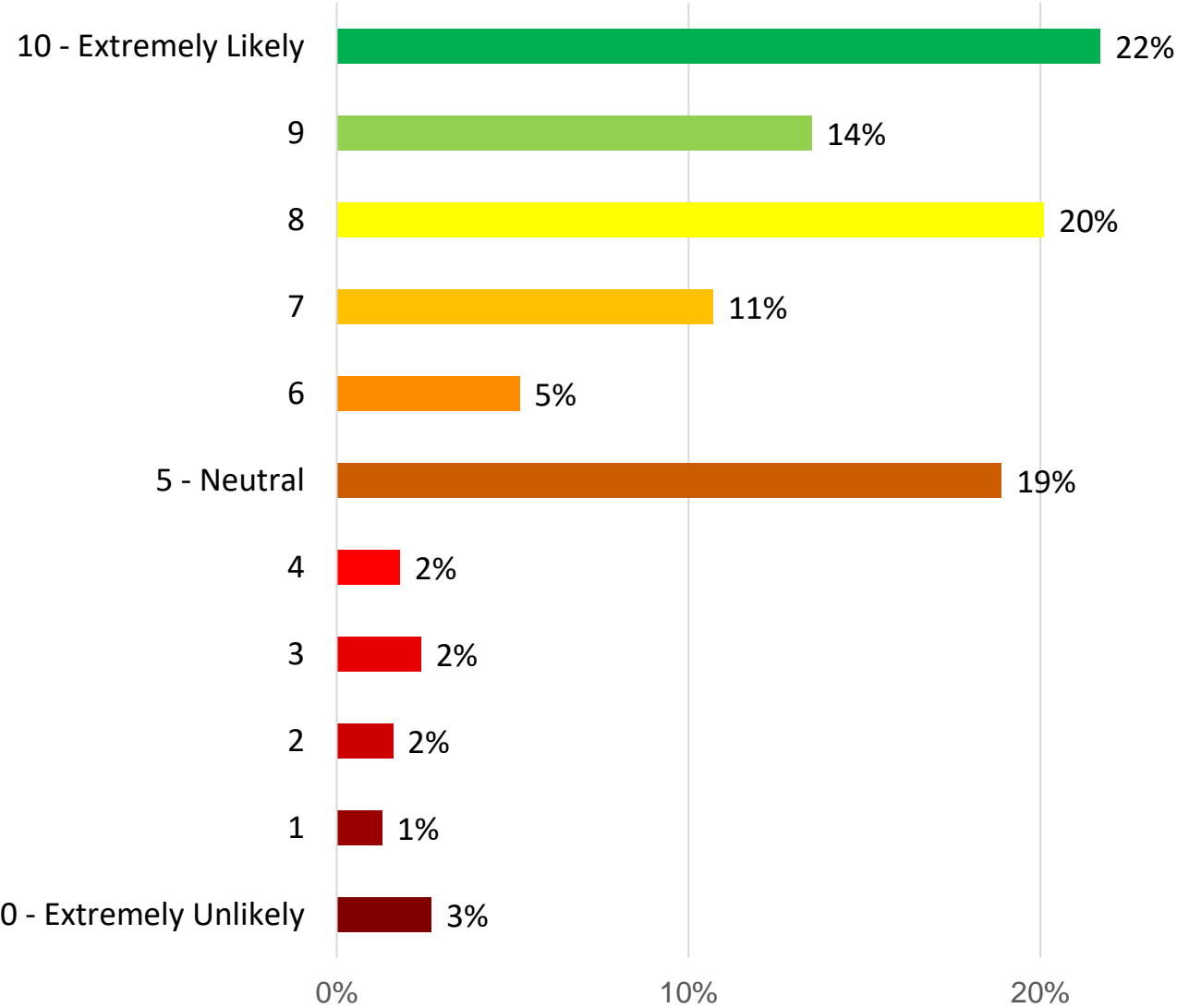
Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delivering a high-quality education	3.40	3.14	2.90
Keeping the public informed	3.22	2.99	2.48
Managing funds appropriately	3.16	2.84	2.17
Building pride in the community	3.33	3.12	2.78

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



Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	Average	Percentile
Delivering a high-quality education	85%	3.12	51 st
Building pride in the community	79%	3.05	45 th
Keeping the public informed	71%	2.86	43 rd
Managing funds appropriately	63%	2.68	23 rd

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



Average: 7.19
Percentile: 45th

What did we learn?



- Respondents preferred pathway 1 over pathway 2.
- The cost of pathway 1 is \$33.7M (respondents' preferred elementary option + and the most pressing needs at the remaining schools).
- Survey respondents (~51%) are willing to support up to \$34M of facility projects.
- The additional projects tested in this survey would need to be addressed in a future phase(s).



Questions or Comments?





Thank you!



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
JEFFERSON