



School District of Lodi

Community Survey Report

May 11, 2026

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.

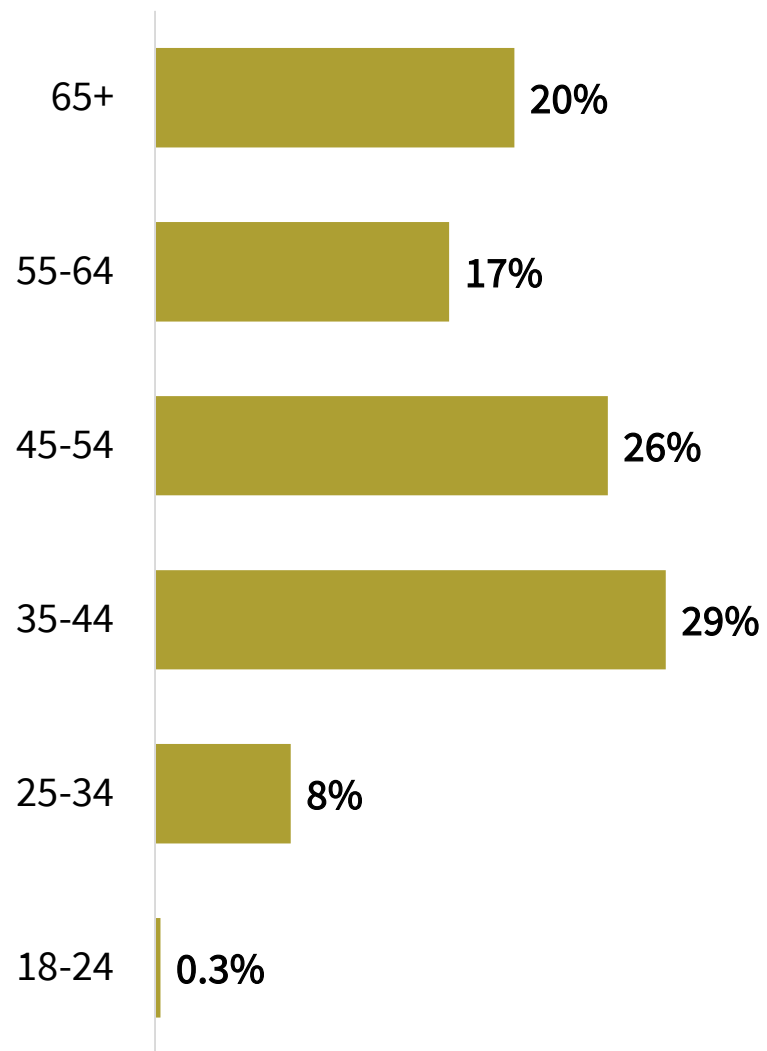
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **3 million** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **1,400** school districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Information

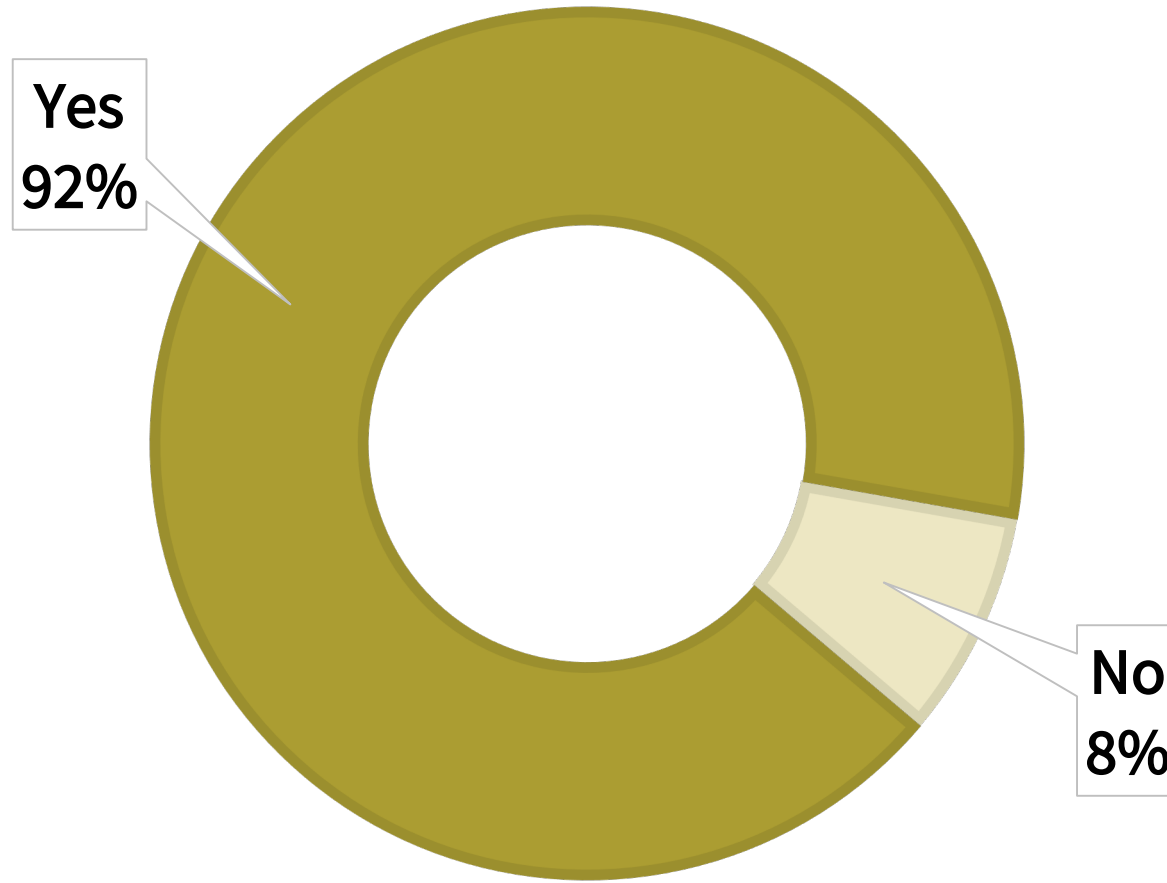
- April 22, 2026 survey deadline
- 1,029 respondents (*973 in 2021*)
- 23% response rate
- +/- 3.12% statistical margin of error



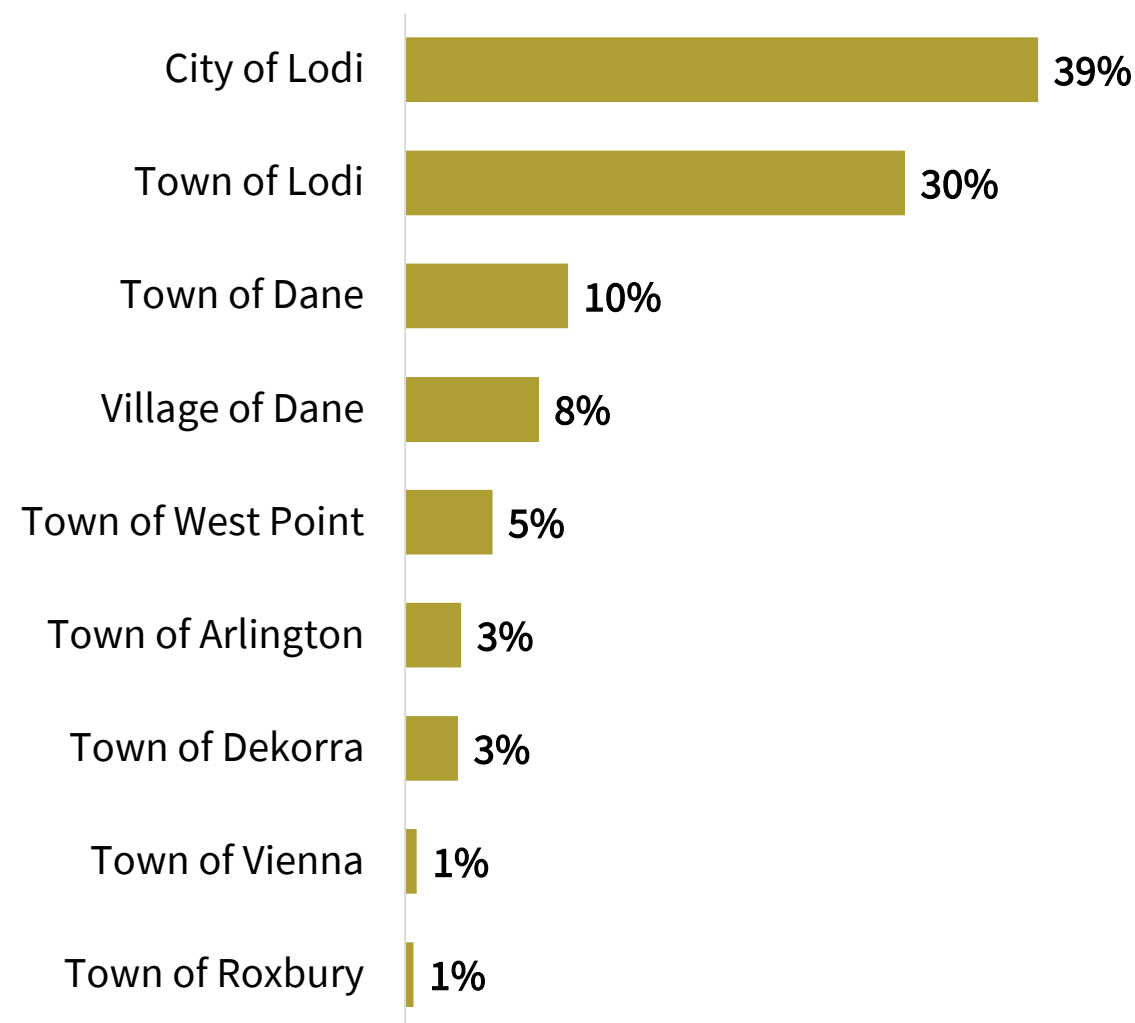
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in the School District of Lodi?



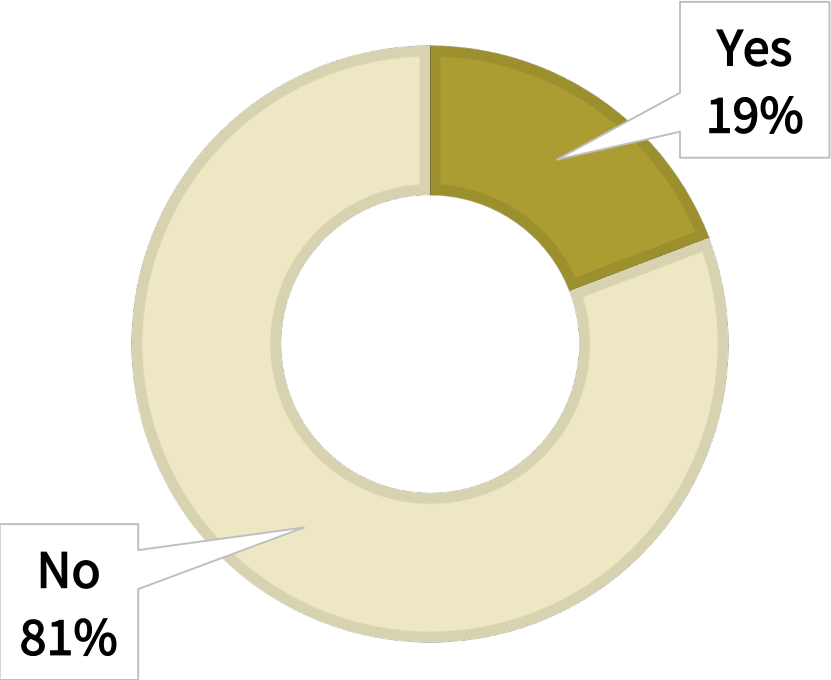
In which municipality do you live?



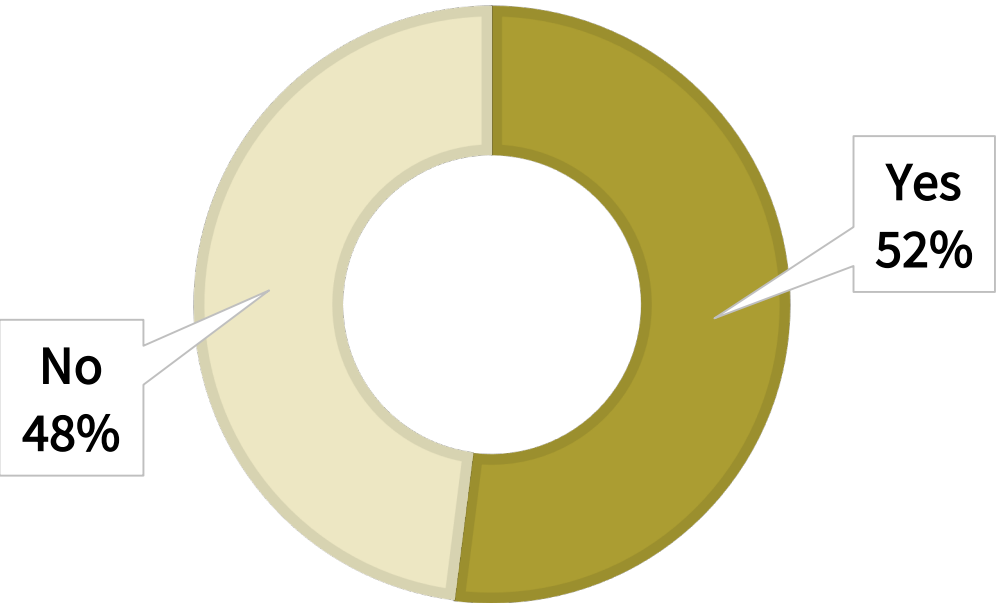
Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the
School District of Lodi?



Do you have children attending
a school in the District?

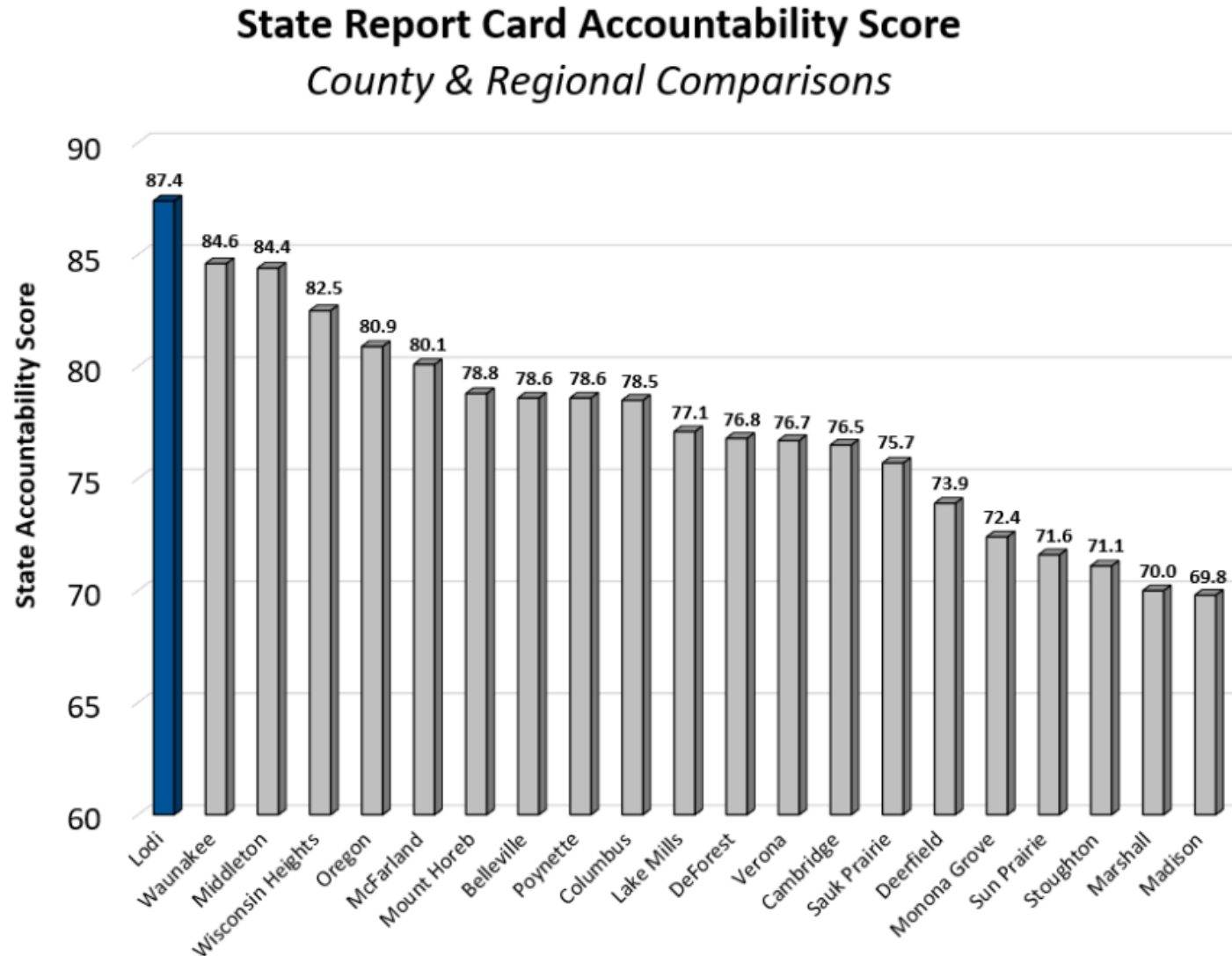


Academic Success



Lodi students continue to experience academic success.

Our state report card rating puts us ahead of our neighbors, all the school districts in Dane and Columbia counties, and similar schools in our region.



Financial Challenges



While we are proud of this academic success, there are challenges ahead:

- The \$5.98 million voters approved in 2022 will **expire next year**.
- At the same time, the District is experiencing **increasing costs**, but we are receiving less state aid and less federal funding.
- The **state limits how much money** the District can receive from state aid and local property taxes. This limit level used to increase with inflation, but the state ended that in 2009. If that had continued, Lodi schools would have approximately \$5.2 million in additional funds this year (\$3,573 more per student).
- A recent analysis showed that our **staff compensation is below average** compared to schools in our region.

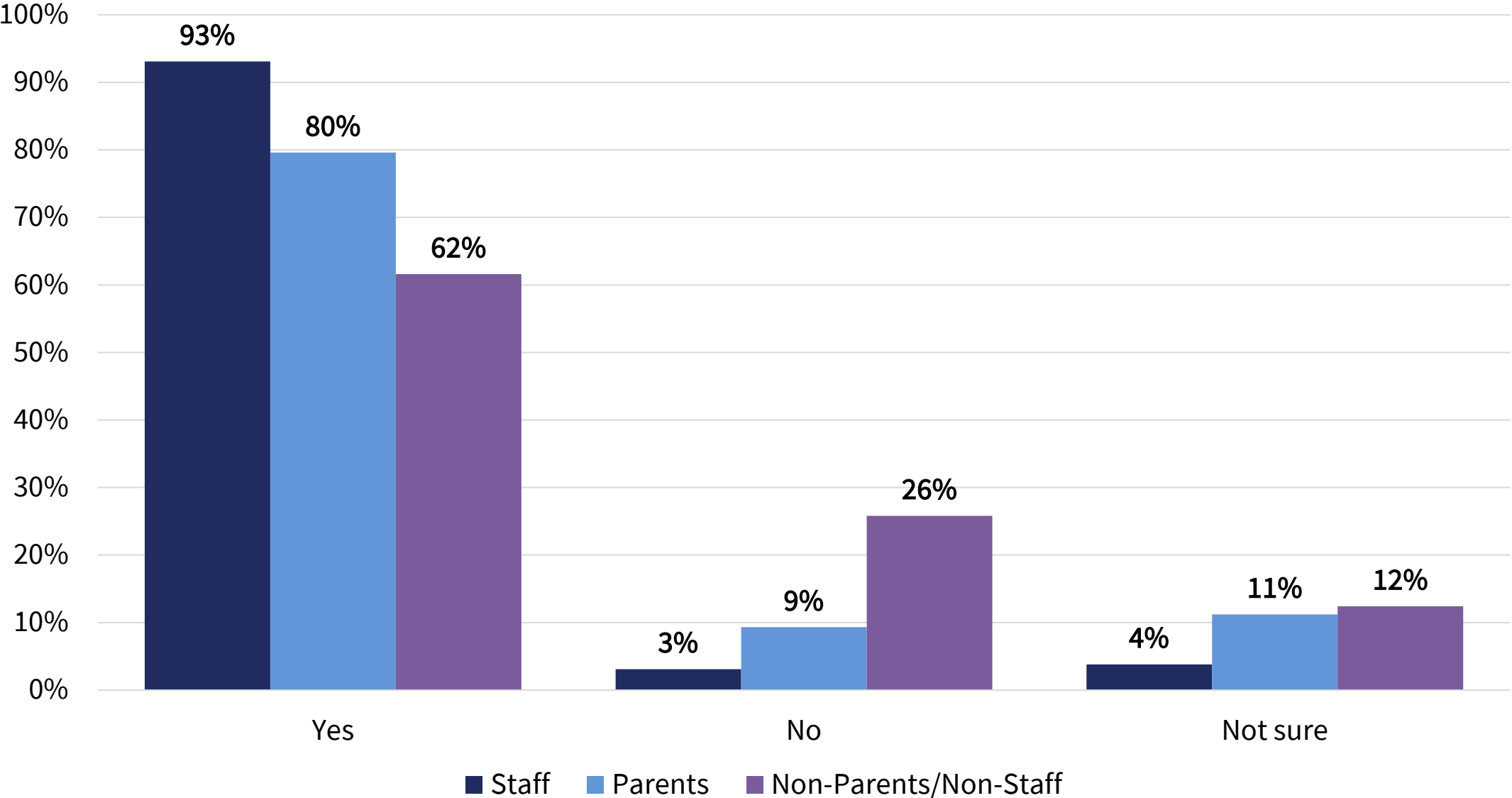
To help balance the budget over the past few years, Lodi has reduced positions (support staff, nurse, teacher, and administrator), required staff to pay more of their health insurance, reduced programming (such as high school Family & Consumer Education), and outsourced services like cleaning.

Even with these efforts, we are projecting a budget shortfall reaching nearly \$6 million in the next five years if voters do not support a replacement referendum.

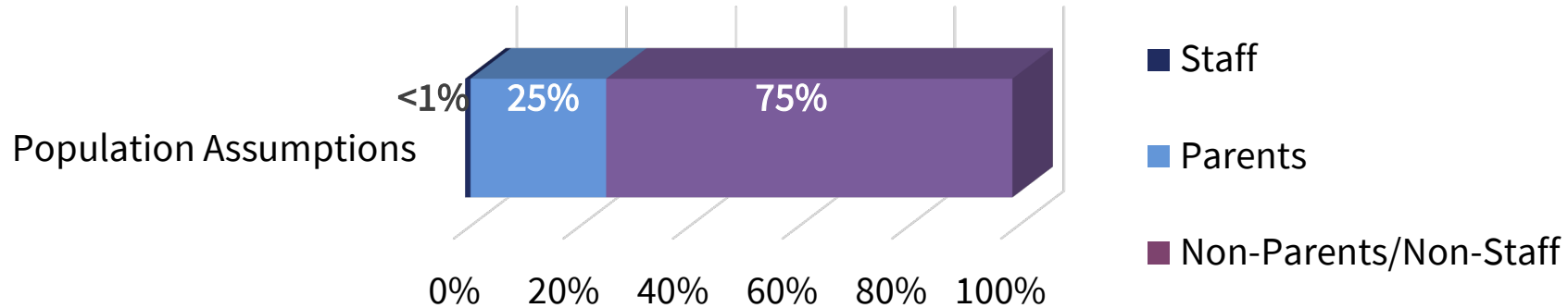
We are not alone. To address budget issues like these, most school districts in Wisconsin (87%) have asked their voters to increase funding through an operational referendum.

Local voters have regularly renewed operational referendums since 2008.

Would you support the School District of Lodi maintaining the current level of operational referendum funding?



Additional Analysis: Support to maintain the current level of operational referendum funding



Weighted support for *Yes*:

$$0.25 (80\%) + 0.75 (62\%) = \underline{\underline{66.5\%}}$$

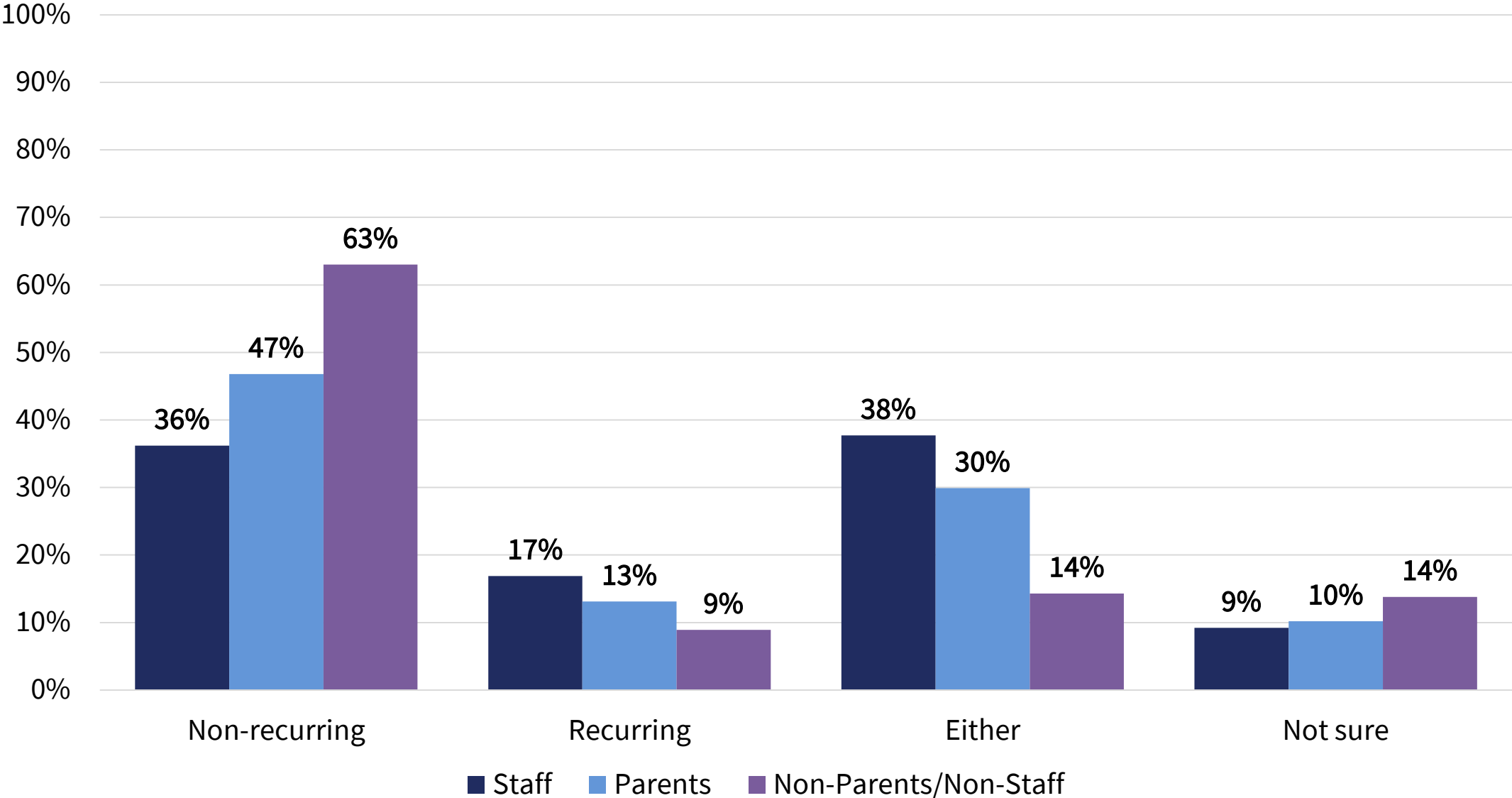
Replacement Referendum

The length of the operational referendum could be set up in two different ways.

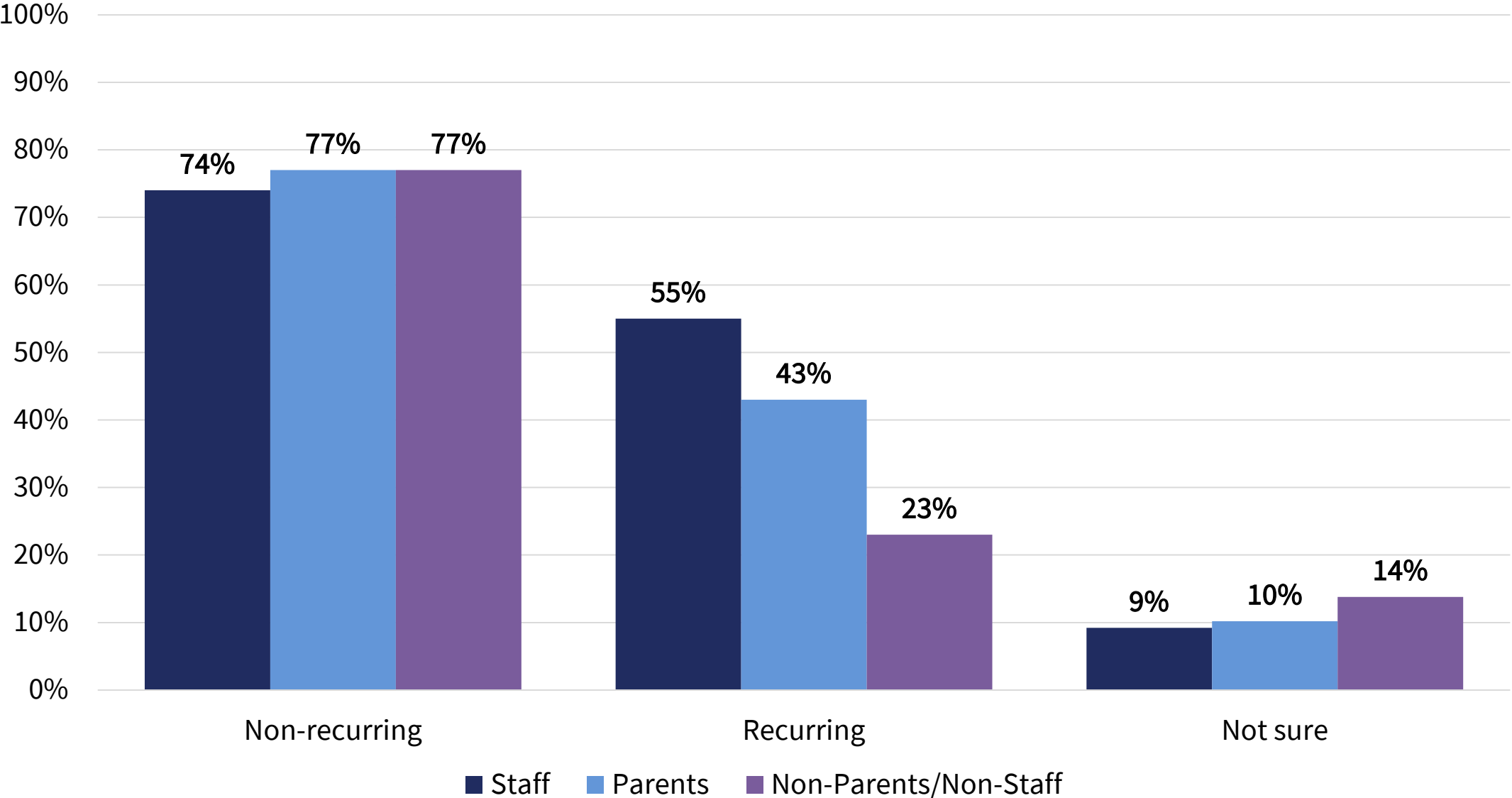
- ✓ **Non-Recurring:** This type of referendum has an expiration date. Funding would expire in 2032. If the District needs the funding again after 2032, we would have to ask voters' permission again. This is what voters have approved since 2008.
- ✓ **Recurring:** This type of referendum does not expire. The amount stays the same year after year. However, we may need to explore another referendum depending on future state budgets.



If the community supports replacing the referendum funding, how should the funding be set up?



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Additional Funding

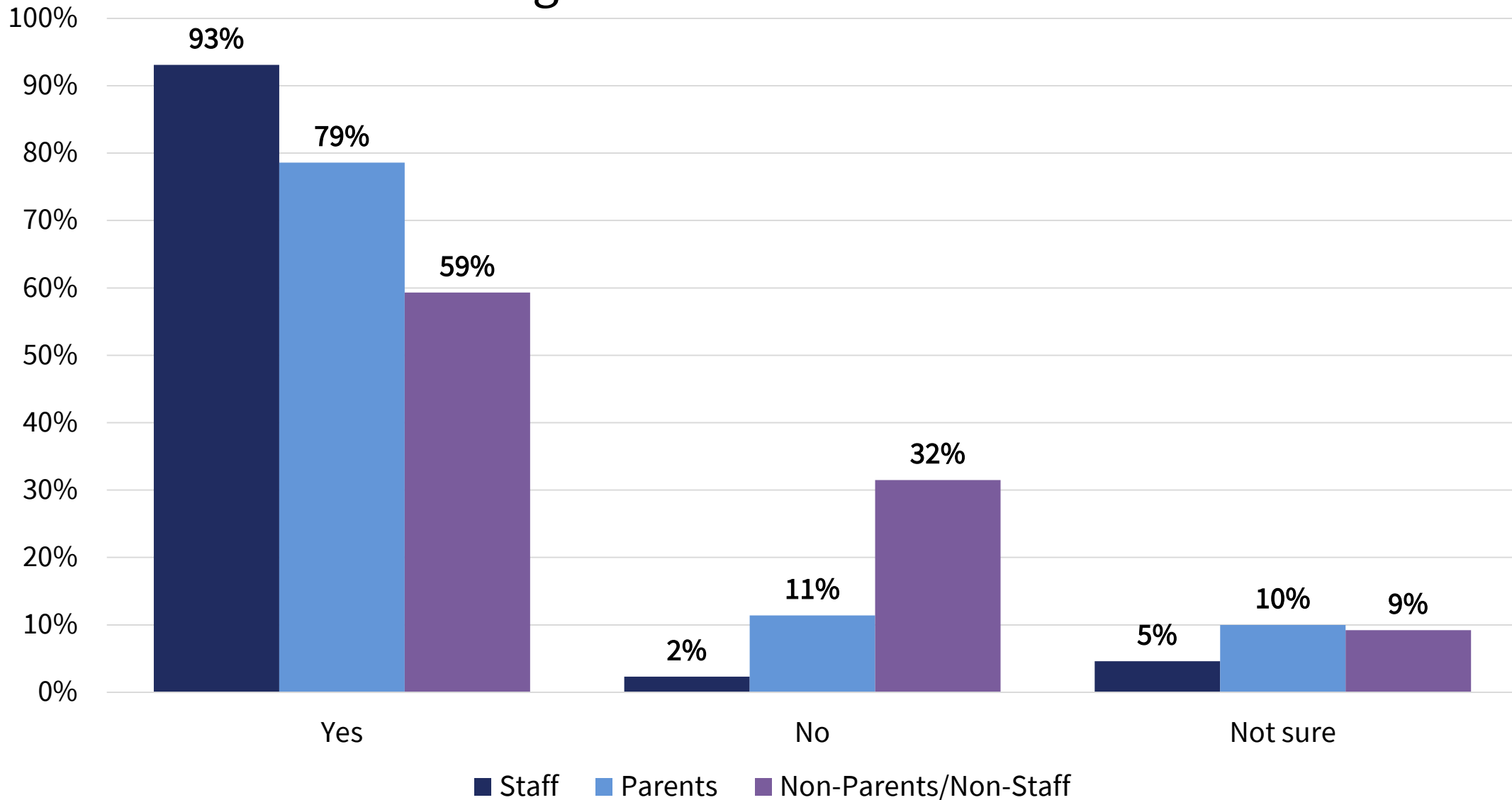
The District could expand the operating referendum to fund one additional project.

Staff Compensation

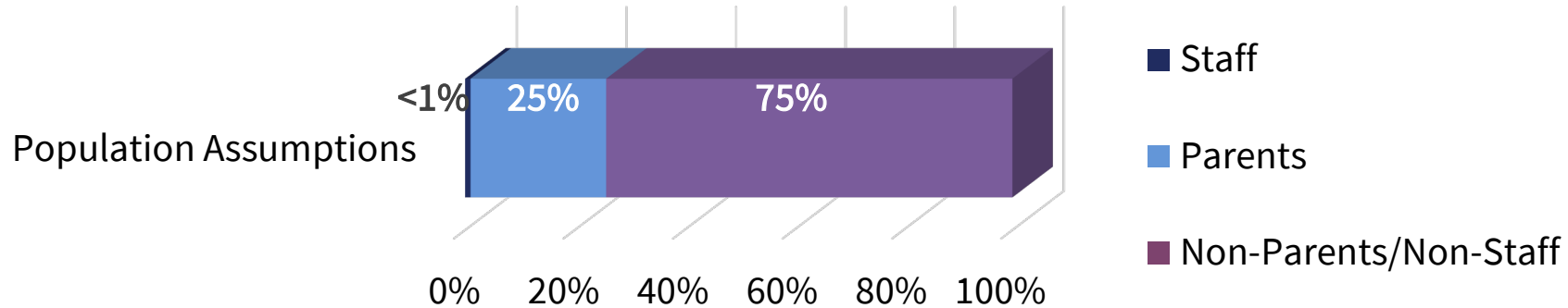
A recent study showed that Lodi's staff compensation is below many of our neighboring schools. This project would ensure our teachers are paid at least 90% of what teachers make in our neighboring districts and comparison conference schools (such as Lake Mills and Columbus). It would also provide a wage increase for all support staff.



Would you support a referendum that provides \$675,000 each year on an ongoing basis to help make staff compensation more competitive with schools in our region?



Additional Analysis: Compensation referendum support



Weighted support for *Yes*:

$$0.25 (79\%) + 0.75 (59\%) = \underline{\underline{64.0\%}}$$

Facility Planning

Last year, the District formed a committee made up of residents, taxpayers, staff, parents, and students to study our buildings and grounds. This group helped prioritize the projects below.

<i>Would you pay to complete each project below at this time?</i>	
Career & Technical Education <i>(Estimated cost: \$3.7 million)</i> The agriculture classroom is too small. The technical education (woods and metals) lab shares the same area, creating space and safety concerns. Fabrication equipment is located in a classroom rather than a lab/shop, which disrupts instruction. This project would expand the ag classroom, separate metals and woods into different rooms, relocate/separate the fab equipment to a nearby lab, and update the old greenhouse into a small-animal lab.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
Indoor Athletics <i>(Estimated cost: \$16.7 million)</i> The 25-year-old pool has corrosion from chemicals needed for operation. Wrestling and weight rooms are undersized, affecting safety and limiting school and community use. Lockers in the athletic areas are too small, and the facilities are aging. This project would repair and replace damaged pool systems, renovate the locker rooms, and build an addition for a new wrestling room (which will also create additional space for weights and fitness).	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure



Facility Planning



Performing Arts Center (PAC) <i>(Estimated cost: \$5.13 million)</i> The PAC is a source of pride in the Lodi community. However, the facility is more than 25 years old, and core systems need to be replaced (such as lighting, rigging, and sound). Space dedicated for changing and staging shows/concerts is too small. This project would update the PAC's core systems and build a small addition.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
Outdoor Athletics <i>(Estimated cost: \$7.8 million)</i> The baseball diamond does not meet varsity standards, requiring students to travel to Dane for practices and games. The high school tennis courts are cracked and in need of repair. The District lacks fields for practices. Consequently, existing areas get worn out quickly. This project would build a varsity baseball diamond in Lodi and create additional practice fields for youth sports and community use. The tennis courts would be rebuilt with a more durable surface and proper drainage.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

Would you pay to complete each project below at this time?

Priority score is calculated based on Yes = 10, No = 1

Career & Technical Education <i>Estimated cost: \$3.7M</i>		<i>Priority Score = 8.09</i>
Indoor Athletics <i>Estimated cost: \$16.7M</i>		<i>Priority Score = 6.32</i>
Outdoor Athletics <i>Estimated cost: \$7.8M</i>		<i>Priority Score = 6.30</i>
Performing Arts Center (PAC) <i>Estimated cost: \$5.13M</i>		<i>Priority Score = 5.80</i>

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure



	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/Non-Staff
	Priority	Priority	Priority
Career & Technical Education	1	1	1
Indoor Athletics	4	2	3
Outdoor Athletics	3	3	2
Performing Arts Center (PAC)	2	4	4



Funding for the Building Projects



To pay for any of the building projects, the District will need to ask voters to consider a capital referendum. This is different than the operational referendum explained earlier. A capital referendum allows the District to take out a loan (issue debt).

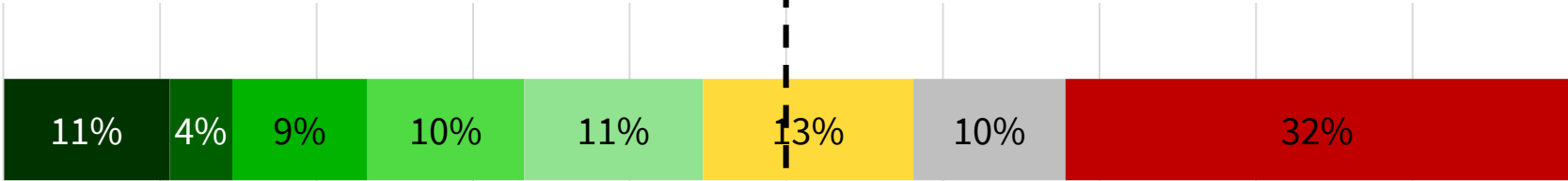
We realize paying for all the prioritized projects at one time may not be realistic. The District will establish a plan based on the community's input. (Financing assumes bonds over 21 years with interest rates at 5.25-5.50%.)

POTENTIAL BUILDING REFERENDUM AMOUNTS					
Referendum amount	\$15 million	\$20 million	\$25 million	\$30 million	\$33.3 million
Estimated annual property tax increase per \$100,000 of property value	\$48	\$63	\$78	\$92	\$106

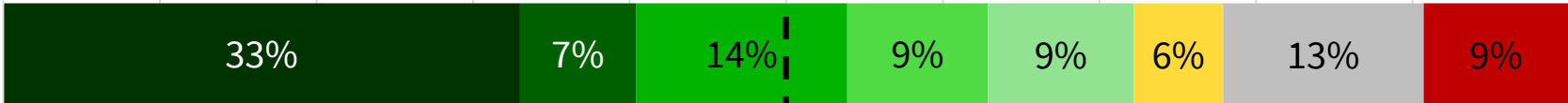
Assuming the projects included were acceptable to you, what referendum amount would you support?



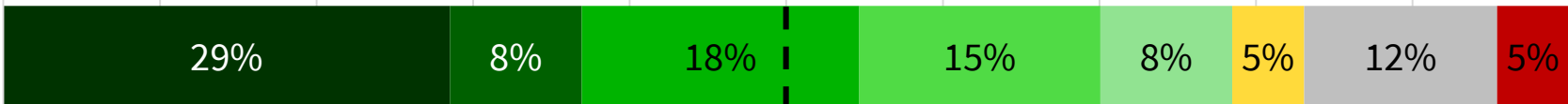
Non-Parents/Non-Staff



Parents

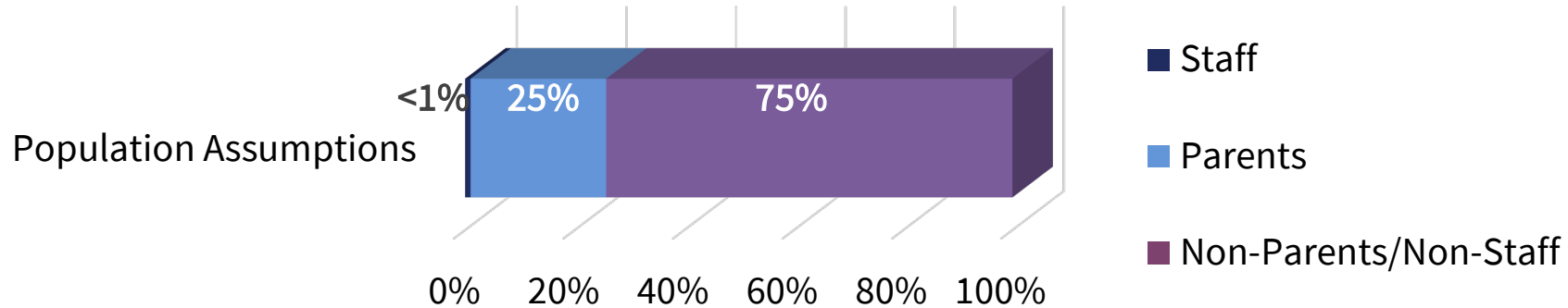


Staff



- \$33.3M
- \$30M
- \$25M
- \$20M
- \$15M
- Smaller referendum
- Not sure/need more information
- No referendum

Additional Analysis: Building referendum support



Weighted support:

$$\text{\$33.3M: } 0.25 (33\%) + 0.75 (11\%) = \underline{16.5\%}$$

$$\text{\$30M: } 0.25 (40\%) + 0.75 (15\%) = \underline{21.3\%}$$

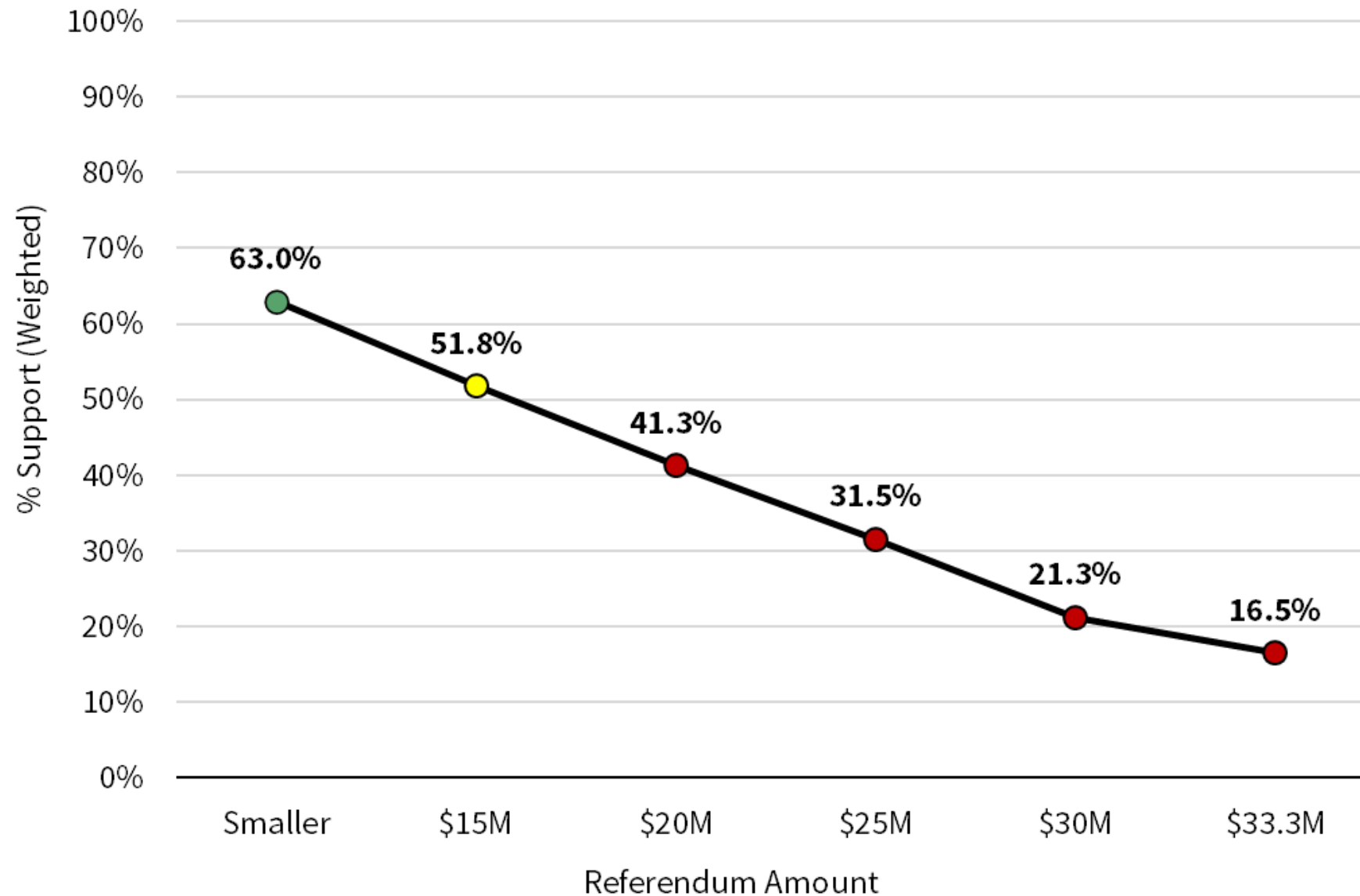
$$\text{\$25M: } 0.25 (54\%) + 0.75 (24\%) = \underline{31.5\%}$$

$$\text{\$20M: } 0.25 (63\%) + 0.75 (34\%) = \underline{41.3\%}$$

$$\text{\$15M: } 0.25 (72\%) + 0.75 (45\%) = \underline{51.8\%}$$

$$\text{Smaller: } 0.25 (78\%) + 0.75 (58\%) = \underline{63.0\%}$$

Building Funding Support Summary



Future Facility Planning

The committee also identified the projects below as future priorities. They would not be included in a November referendum. However, we need your input on when to address them.

Please use this scale when responding to the following items.

High: *Address as soon as possible*
Medium: *Important but address in the next 5-10 years*
Low: *Not a priority*



Future Facility Planning



What priority would you place on each project below?	
High School Gym <i>(Estimated cost: \$12.0 million)</i> There is not enough gym space across the District, resulting in younger students practicing later in the evening. This can impact sleep, homework, and family time. In fact, Lodi is the only high school in our conference with one gym. This project would add a second gym to the high school.	☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low
Softball & Baseball Support Areas <i>(Estimated cost: \$3.2 million)</i> None of the District's baseball, softball, or practice fields have lights, permanent restrooms, or concessions, which detracts from the player and spectator experience. This project would install lights, restrooms, and concessions at the varsity softball field and, if the community supports the project above, the varsity baseball field.	☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low
Varsity Softball and JV Baseball Regrade <i>(Estimated cost: \$814,000)</i> These fields are uneven and have drainage issues. The softball field is often too wet to use. The JV baseball infield-to-outfield transitions create safety concerns. This project would regrade fields and install drainage and irrigation on the softball field.	☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low

Future Facility Planning



Hwy 60 JV Baseball Field Facility <i>(Estimated cost: \$2.2 million)</i> Besides grading and drainage issues, uneven surfaces affect safety and playability; improvements must preserve space for youth football and soccer. The grading/drainage issues would be fixed, and the outfield would be redesigned to accommodate a full practice field for football and/or soccer.	☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low
Performing Arts Expansion <i>(Estimated cost: \$798,500)</i> Besides the issues explained earlier, the PAC also lacks space for a dedicated scene shop to safely build sets and props. This limits student involvement. This project would add a small scene shop addition.	☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low

Future Facility Planning

Priority score is calculated based on High = 3, Medium = 2, Low = 1

High School Gym <i>Estimated cost: \$12.0M</i>	34% 28% 38%	<i>Priority Score = 1.95</i>
Varsity Softball and JV Baseball Regrade <i>Estimated cost: \$814,000</i>	26% 37% 37%	<i>Priority Score = 1.90</i>
Softball and Baseball Support Areas <i>Estimated cost: \$3.2M</i>	25% 31% 44%	<i>Priority Score = 1.81</i>
Hwy. 60 JV Baseball Field Facility <i>Estimated cost: \$2.2M</i>	19% 38% 43%	<i>Priority Score = 1.76</i>
Performing Arts Expansion <i>Estimated cost: \$798,500</i>	20% 30% 50%	<i>Priority Score = 1.70</i>

■ High
 ■ Medium
 ■ Low



	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/Non-Staff
	Priority Score	Priority Score	Priority Score
High School Gym	1	1	2
Varsity Softball and JV Baseball Regrade	2	3	1
Softball and Baseball Support Areas	3	2	5
Hwy. 60 JV Baseball Field Facility	4	4	4
Performing Arts Expansion	5	5	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	3.77	3.48	3.35
Keeping the public informed	3.54	3.21	2.99
Managing funds appropriately	3.23	2.87	2.61
Building pride in the community	3.65	3.39	3.23



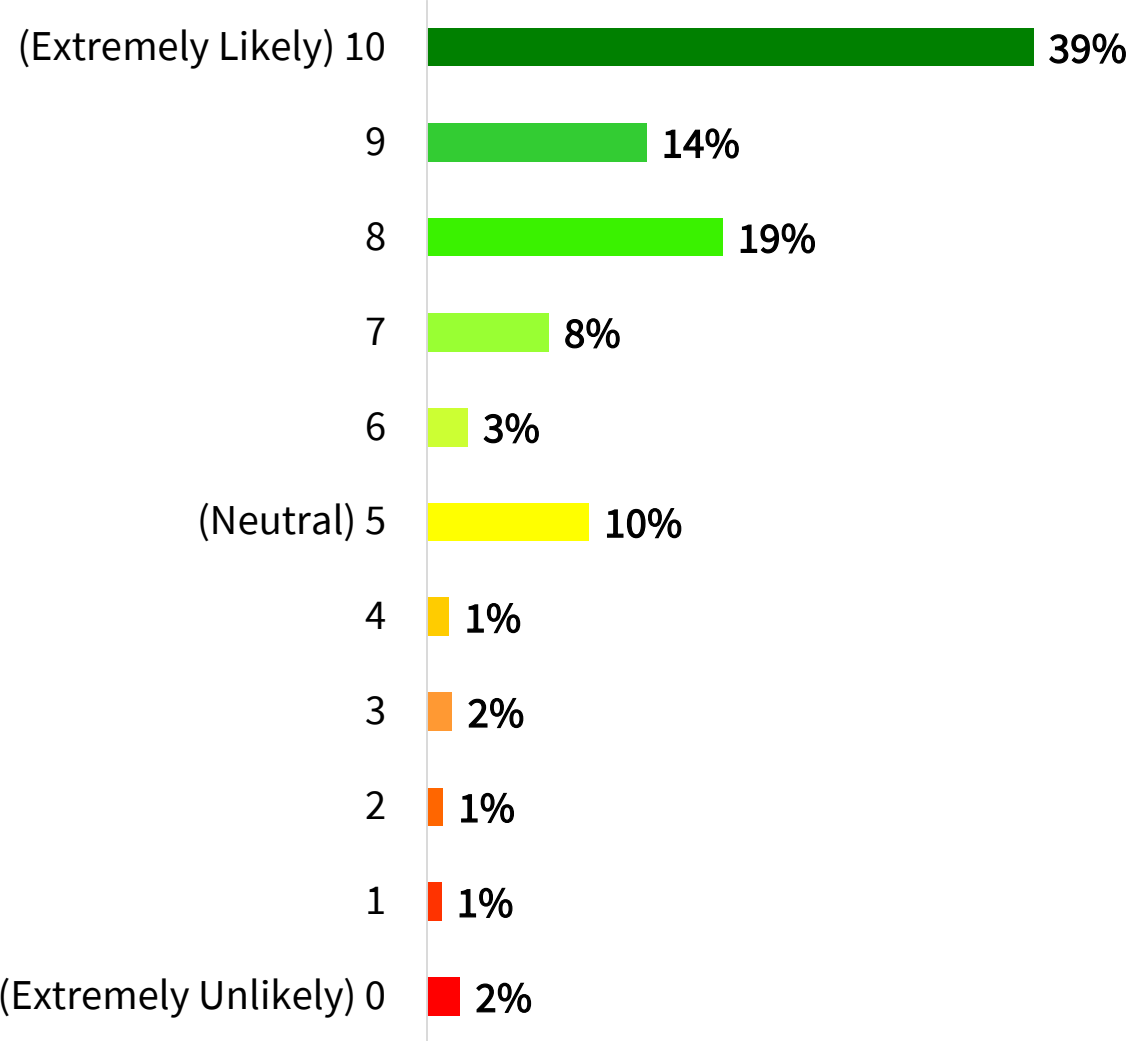
How is the District doing in each of the following areas?

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



Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	2026 Score	2021 Score	Comparison Percentile
Delivering a high-quality education	93%	3.50	3.19	99 th
Keeping the public informed	82%	3.20	2.89	99 th
Managing funds appropriately	69%	2.86	2.70	61 st
Building pride in the community	89%	3.39	3.15	95 th

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



Lodi's 2026 Score: 8.04
Lodi's 2021 Score: 7.30
Comparison Score: 7.26
Comparison Percentile: 95th

What did we learn?



- There is majority support for renewing the operating referendum at the current level.
- Respondents prefer a non-recurring referendum setup.
- There is majority support for additional compensation.
- Support for a \$15 million building referendum is above 50% but within the margin of error. Support grows to outside the margin of error for a “smaller” building referendum.
- The highest-priority building project among all three key subgroups is career and technical education.
- Lodi is outperforming their peers on all satisfaction metrics and increased from 2021 .



SCH%OL PERCEPTIONS

Measuring what matters

262.644.4300 | schoolperceptions.com







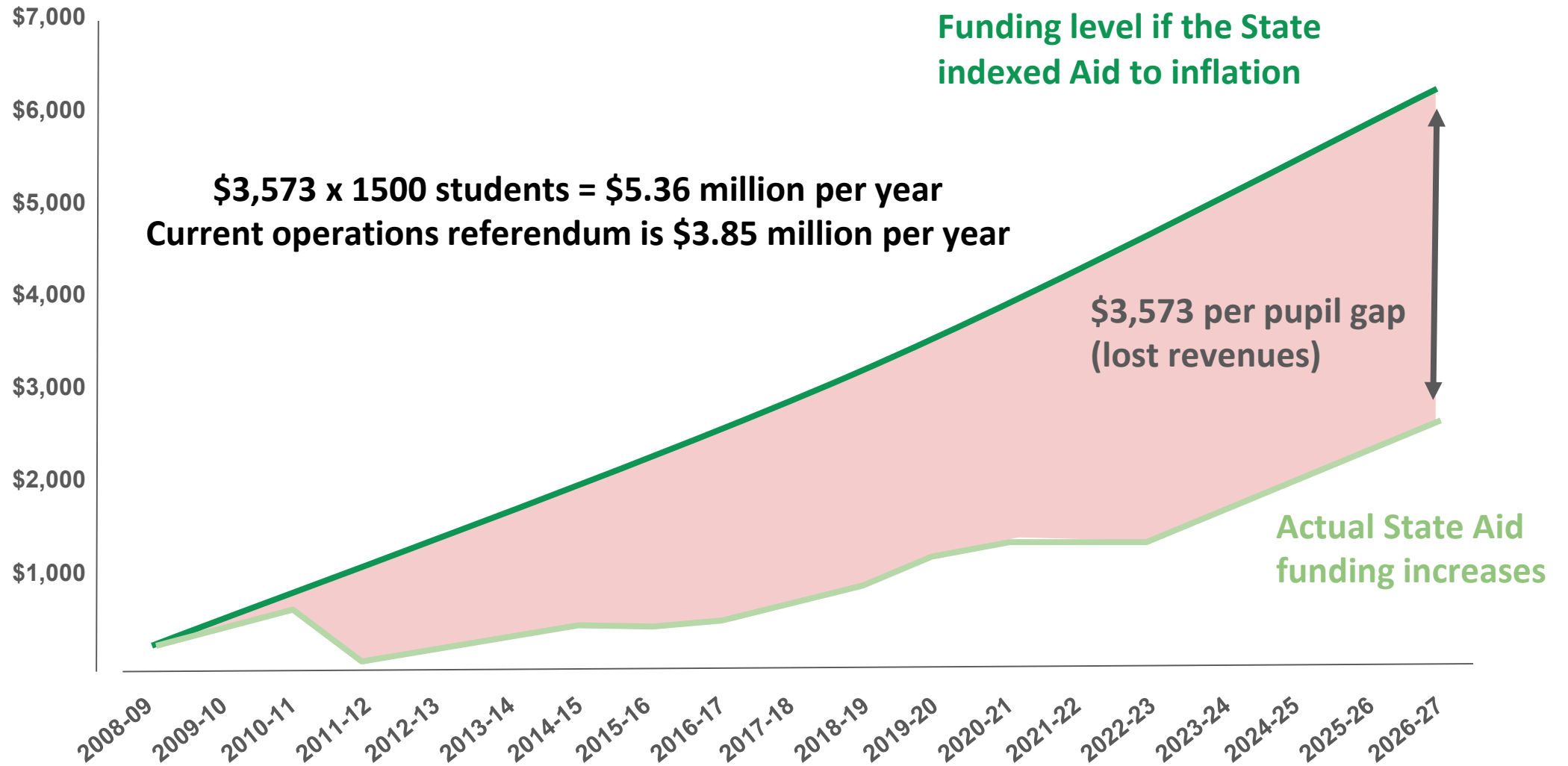
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LODI

Why Referendum

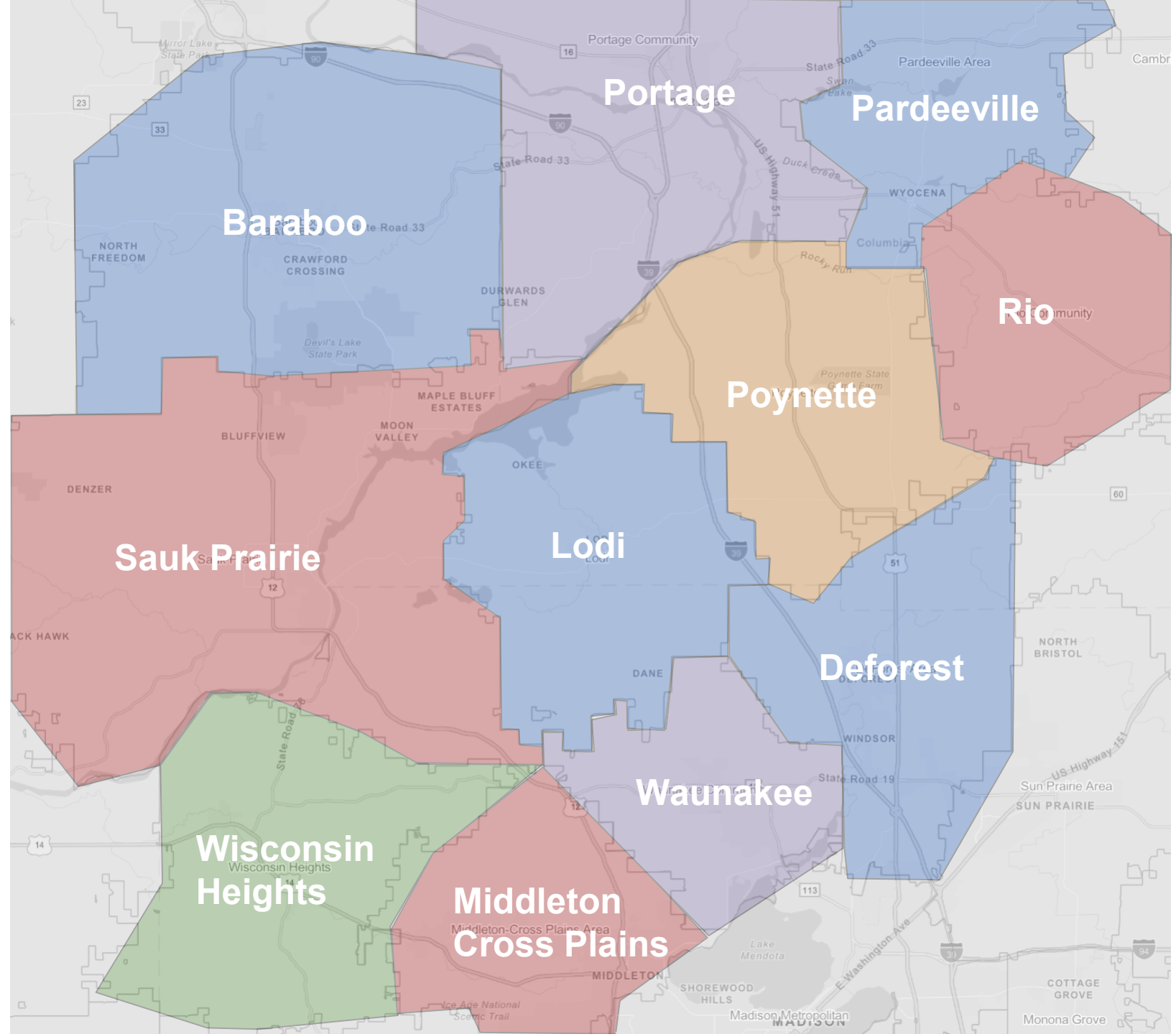


Why Referendum?

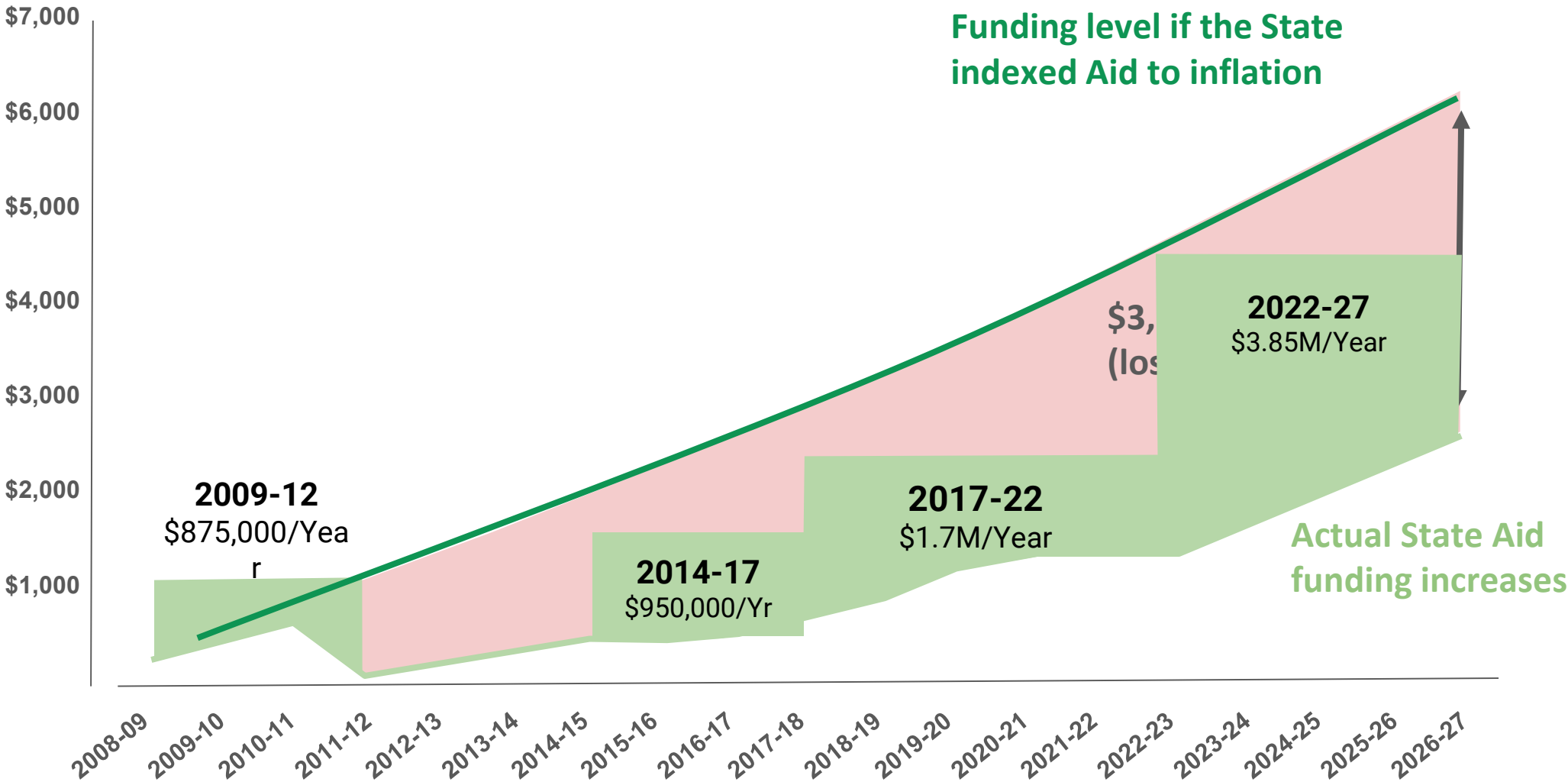
...not increasing State school aid with inflation rates



**Lodi is not
an island...**



Referendums make up for this gap in State funding





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LODI

Timeline

Already done

- Enrollment Study
- Strategic Plan Refresh
- Community Viability Team (reviewed facilities and greenspace)
- Budget reduction – \$310,000 of staff reduction
- Community Survey





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LODI

Timeline

June

- Make decisions about referendum

July

- Approve Official Referendum Language

August - November

- Community Education

November 3

- Vote





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LODI

Staff Role

Staff cannot use school resources (including their time) to advocate for or against referendum

- Staff can advocate for or against a referendum on their own time
- It is vital that staff members share with people the importance of this referendum and encourage people to vote
- Referendum cannot be just owned by Board or Vince





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LODI

Timeline

- Questions





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LODI

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence

Looking for staff members to represent the Primary School and LES/OSC on afternoon of July 27 to talk about

- AI disclosure
- Academic Honesty

Be looking for a survey from Nick Karls to share your interest

