St. Charles Public Schools

Community Survey Report

June 12, 2025

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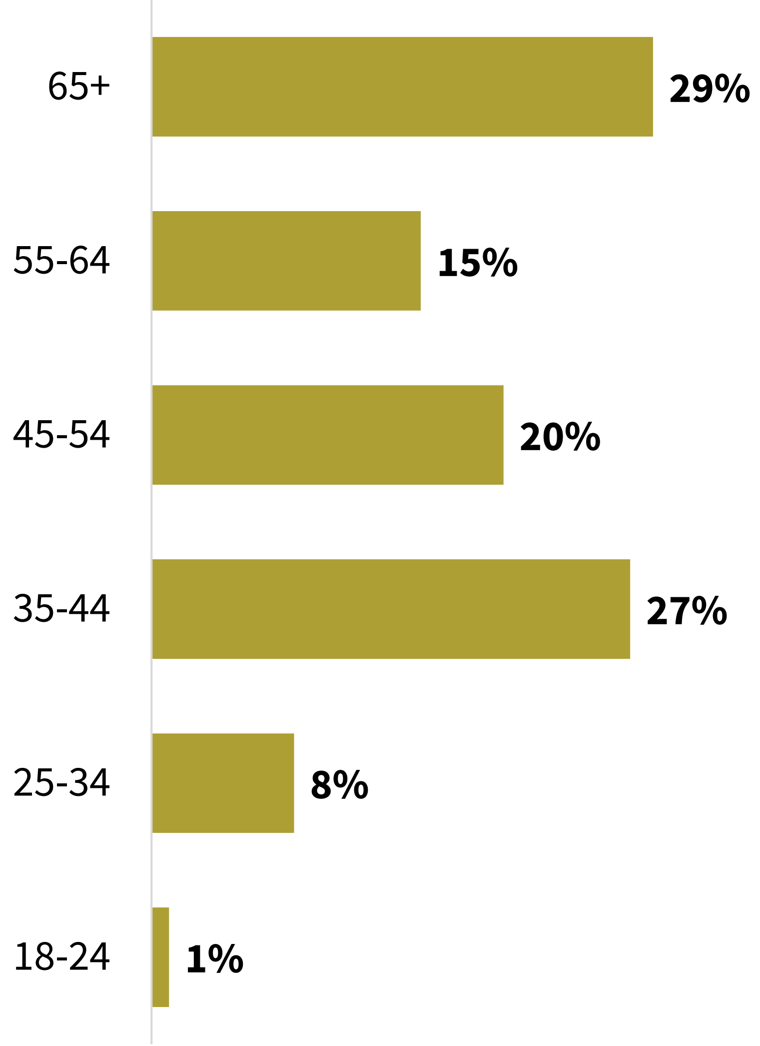
Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **3 million** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **1,000** school districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

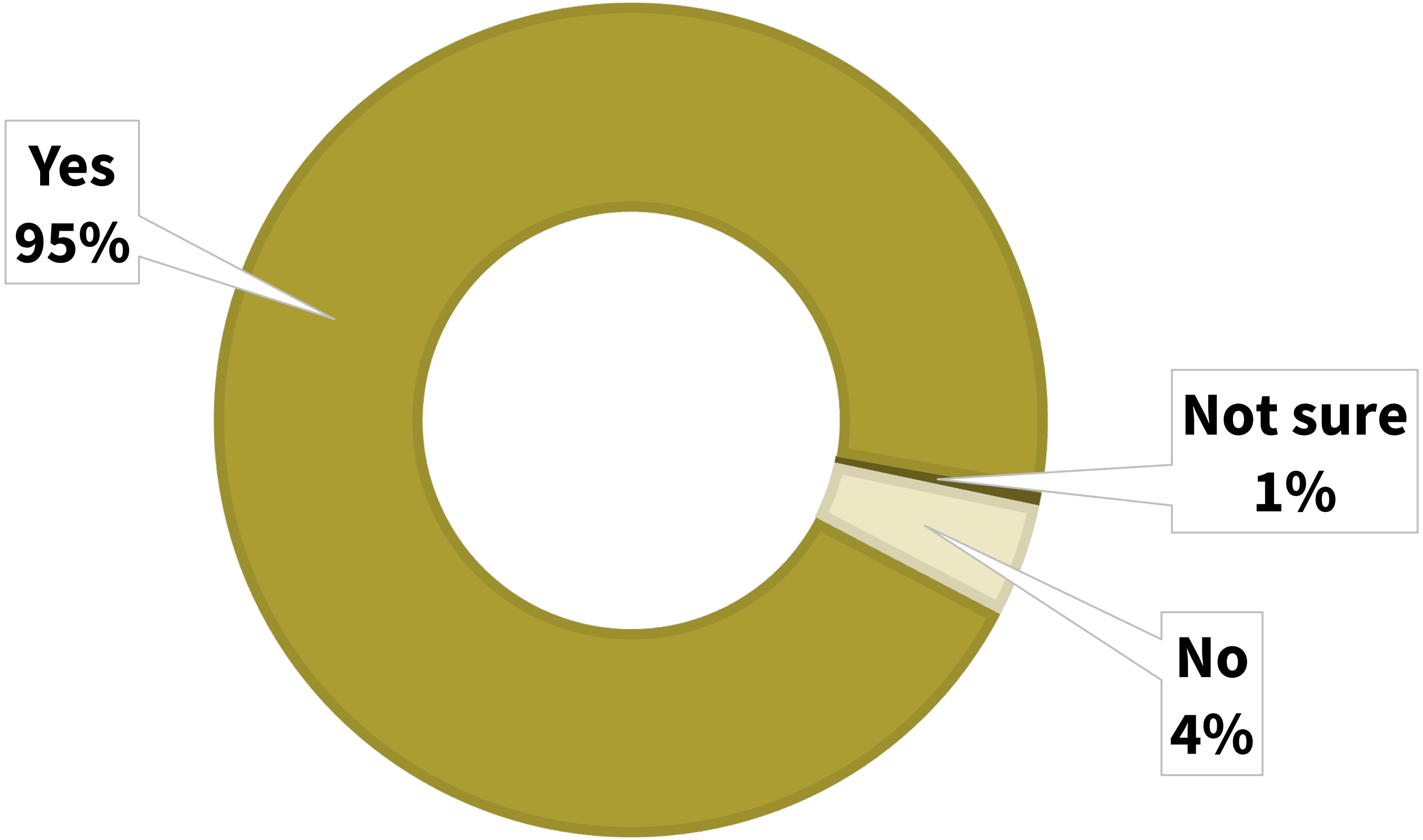
Survey Information

- **May 26, 2025** survey deadline
- **885** respondents
- **32.4%** response rate
- **+/- 3.36%** statistical margin of error

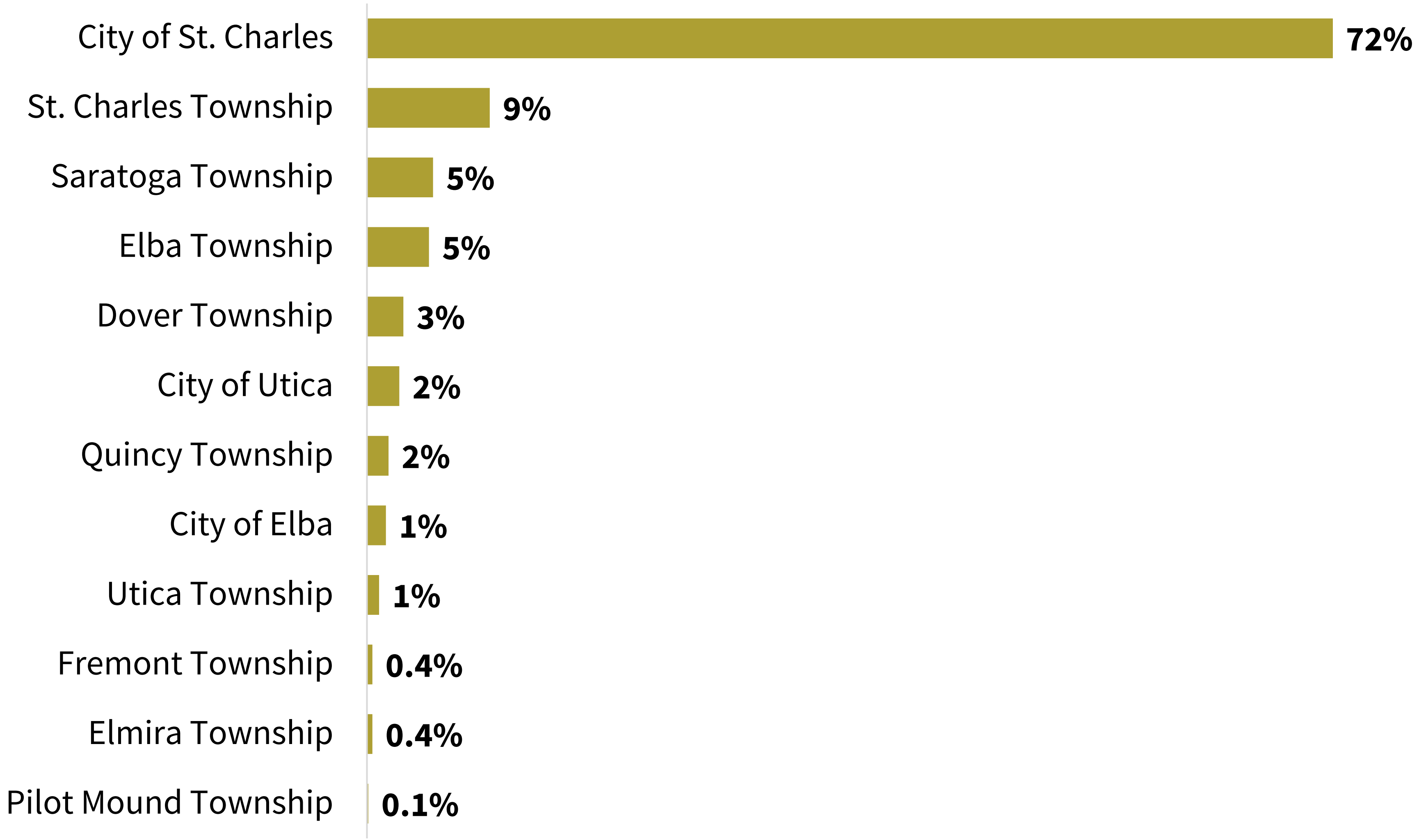
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in the District?

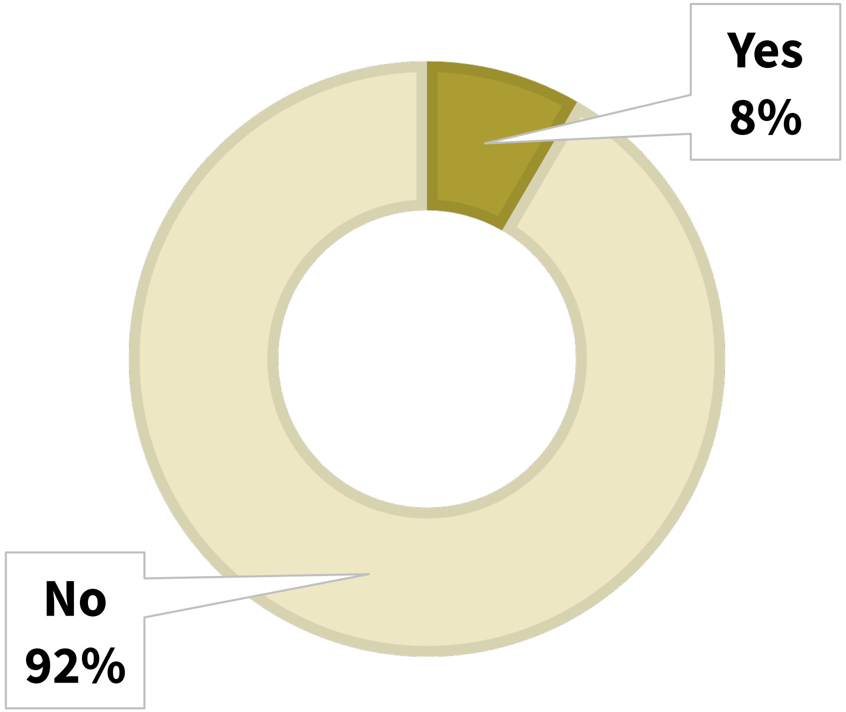


In which municipality do you live?

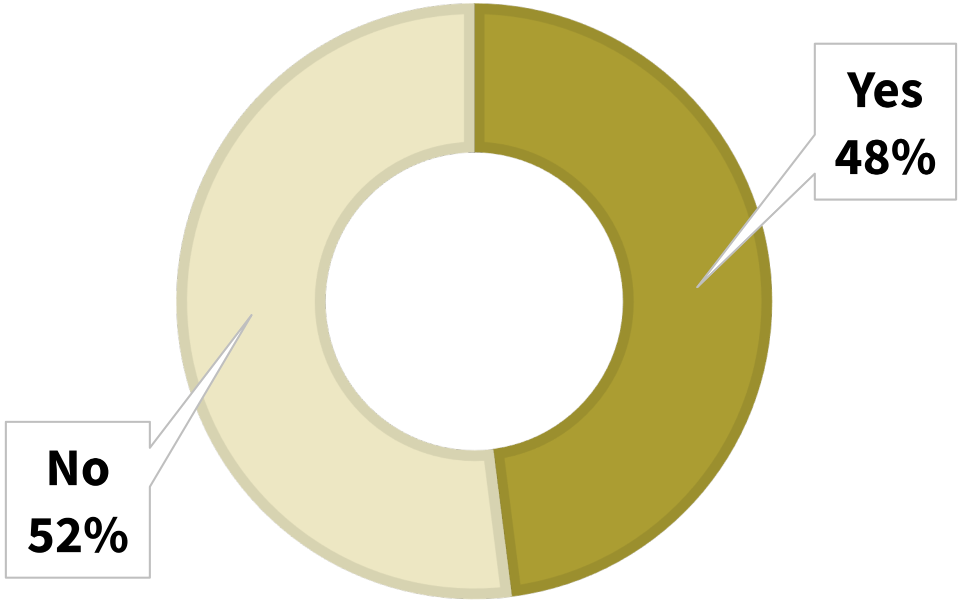


Respondent Information

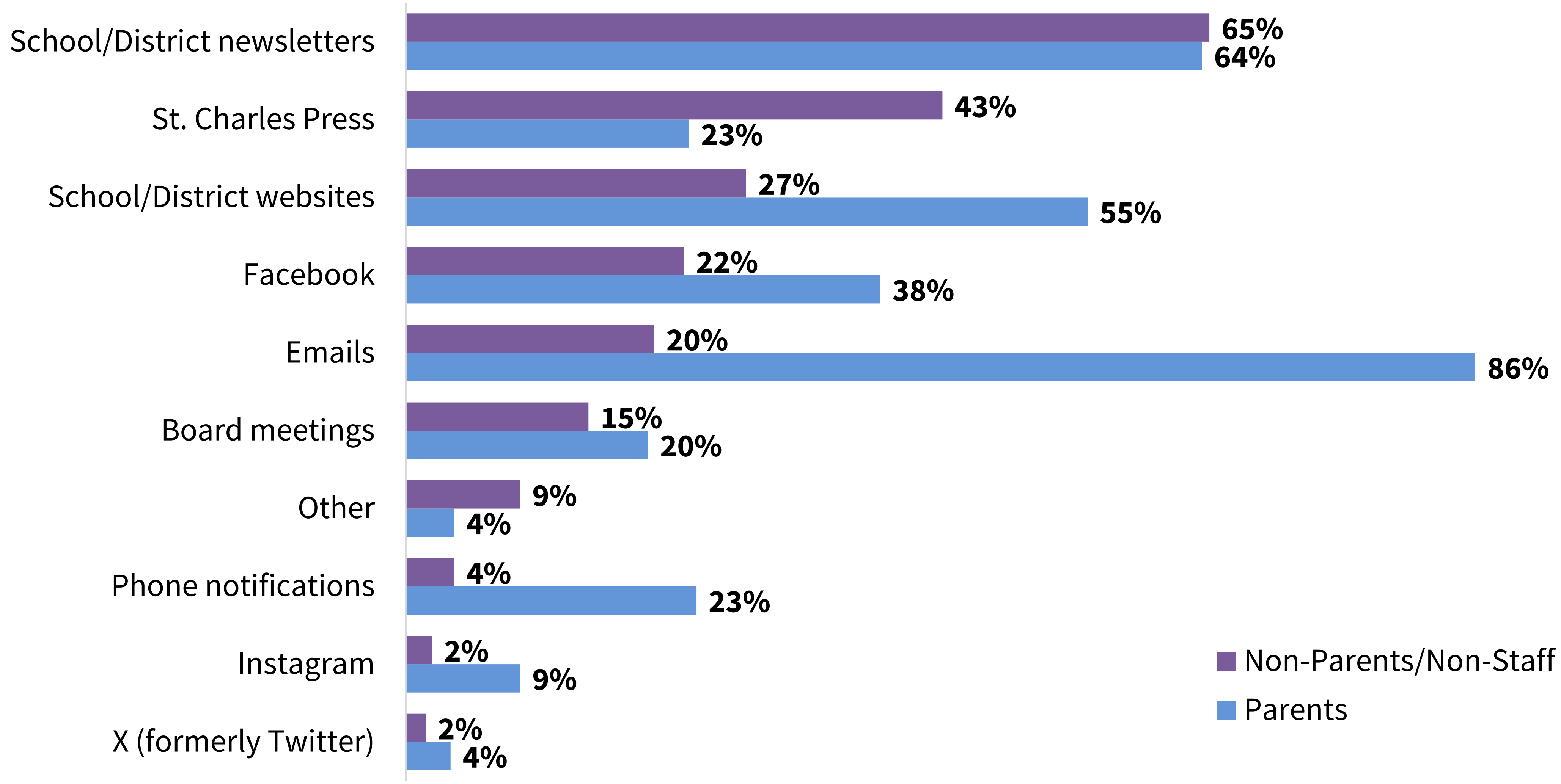
Are you an employee of St. Charles Public Schools?



Do you have children attending a school in the District?



How do you like to receive school/District information?



Operational Funding

There are three factors causing our budget challenges:

- **Increasing costs**: Transportation/fuel, utilities, staffing, insurance, and technology costs have increased significantly.
- **Lack of state funding**: State funding has not kept up with the increasing costs above.
- **Declining student enrollment**: State funding is tied to enrollment, and the fewer students we have, the less money we receive.

To help solve these challenges, *we are asking local voters to consider providing additional money through a levy.* We are not alone. **Approximately 74% of Minnesota school districts have secured additional operational funding from their taxpayers. St. Charles does not receive this type of funding.**

(This is different than what voters approved in 2019. That bond referendum provided funding for critical maintenance and building updates.)

Operational Funding

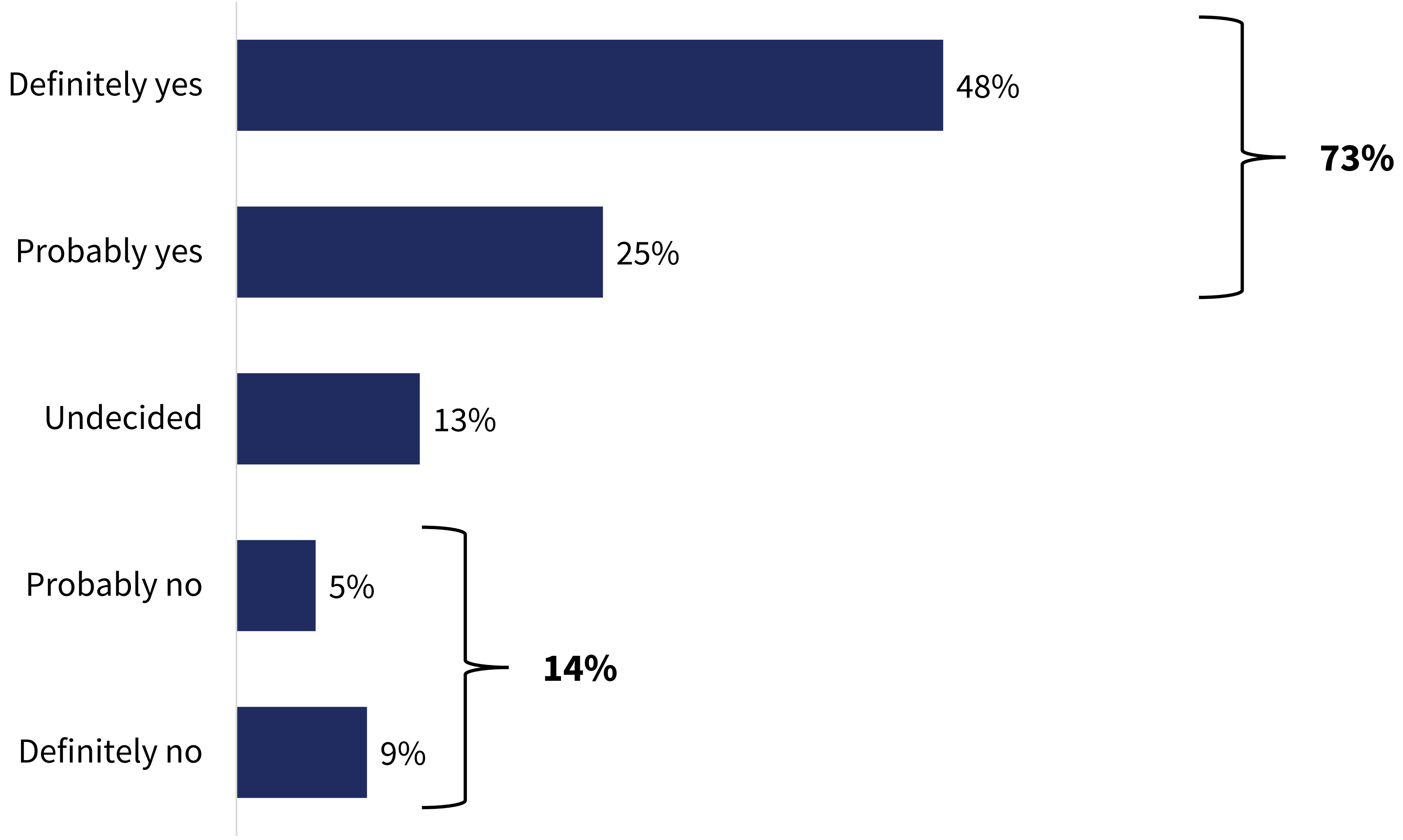
An operating levy that provides $700 per pupil each year for the next 10 years would allow us to:

- ✓ Maintain most programs, course options, and services for students.
- ✓ Improve Career and Technical Education (CTE or “shop”) programs in business, industrial arts, and agriculture.
- ✓ Increase compensation to more effectively recruit and retain staff.
- ✓ Maintain class sizes.
- ✓ Pay for annual building maintenance.
- ✓ Repair/replace roof sections as needed.
- ✓ Maintain/update technology (devices, networks, wiring, and security systems).

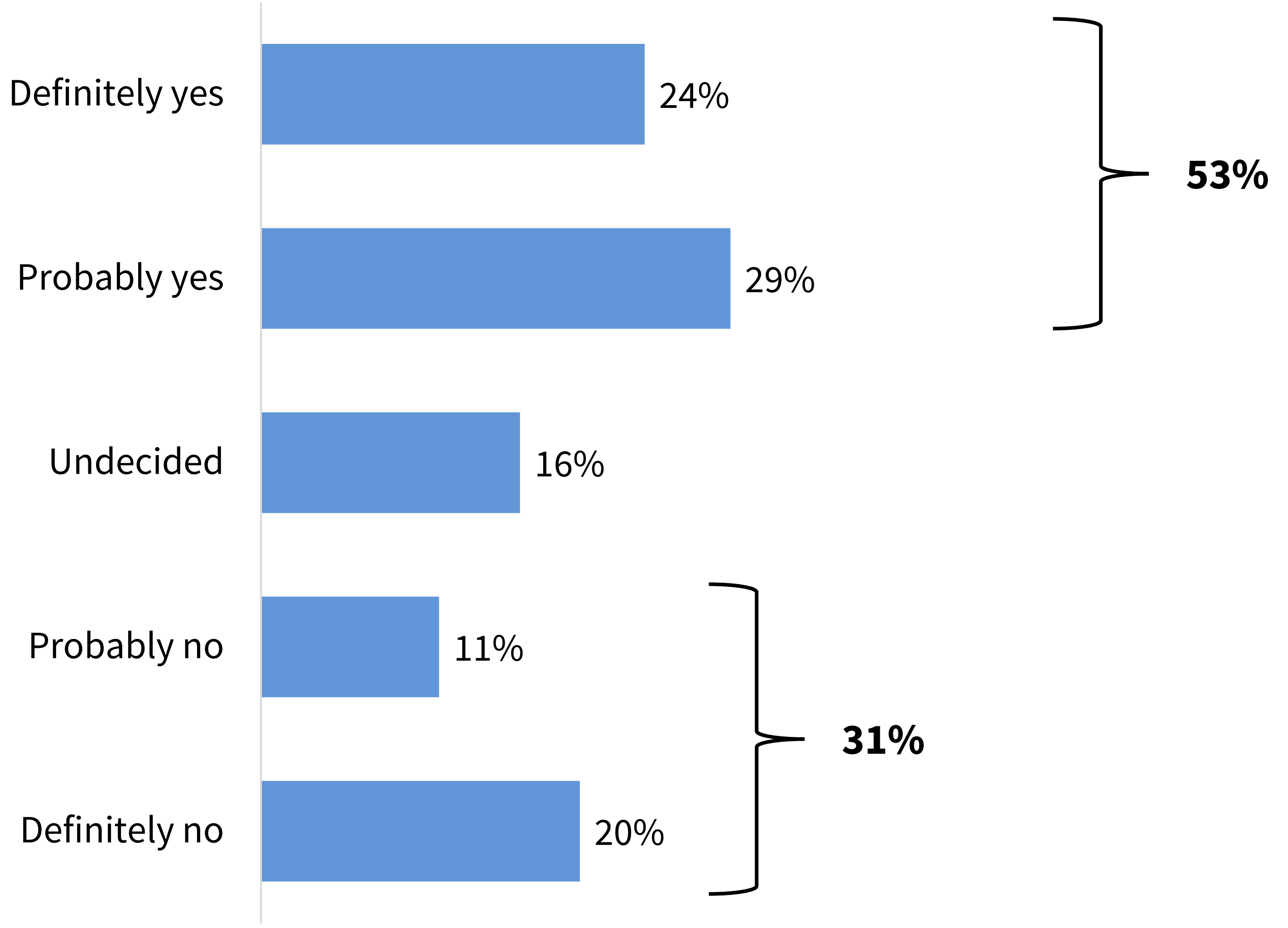
Operational Funding

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Annual Property Tax Increase
Taxable Property *(Residential homesteads, apartments, and commercial-industrial property)*	$150,000	$156 ($13 per month)
	$200,000	$208 ($18 per month)
	$250,000	$260 ($22 per month)
	$300,000	$312 ($26 per month)
	$350,000	$364 ($31 per month)
	$400,000	$415 ($35 per month)

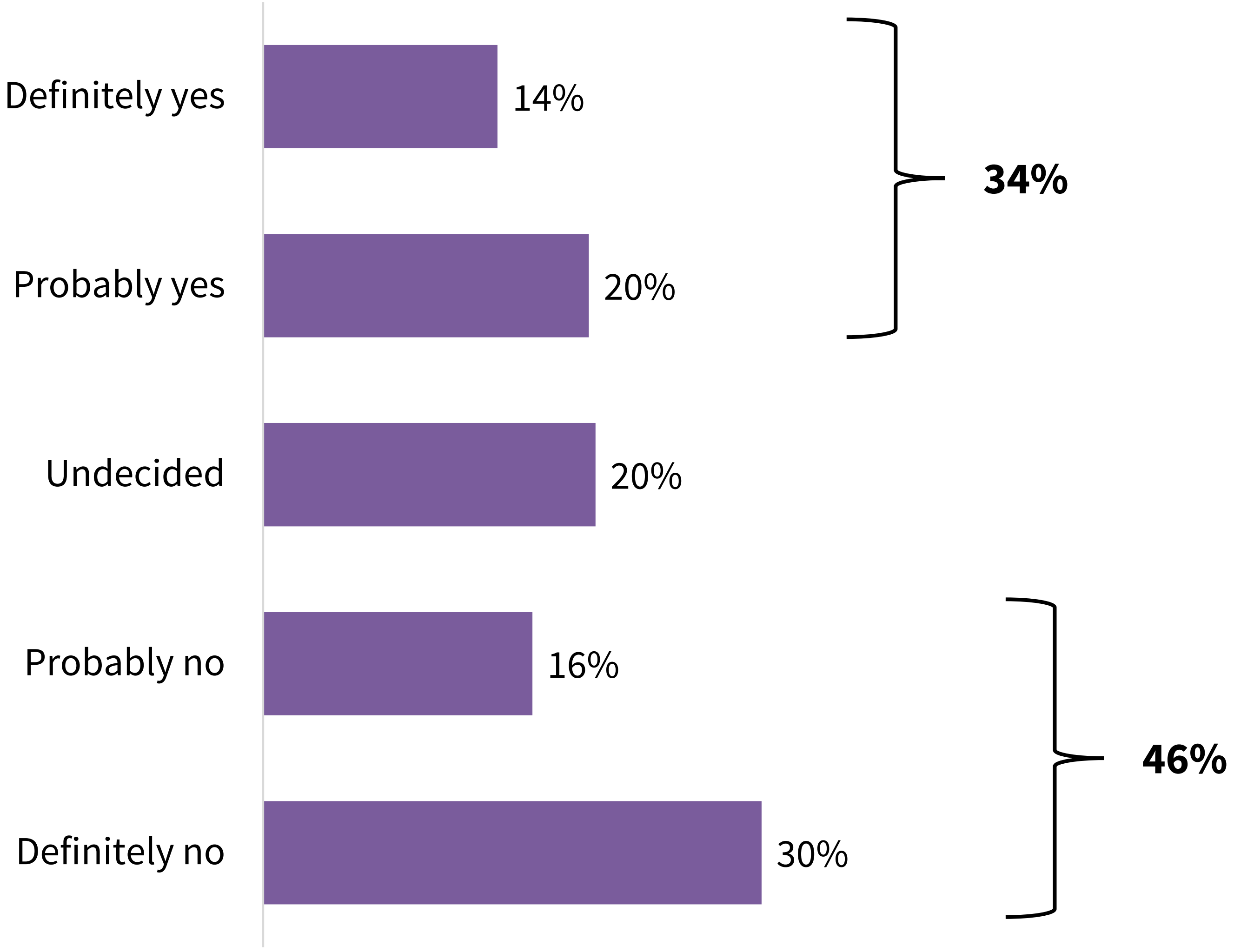
Would you support an operating levy that provides $700 per pupil each year for the next 10 years? (*Staff Residents*)



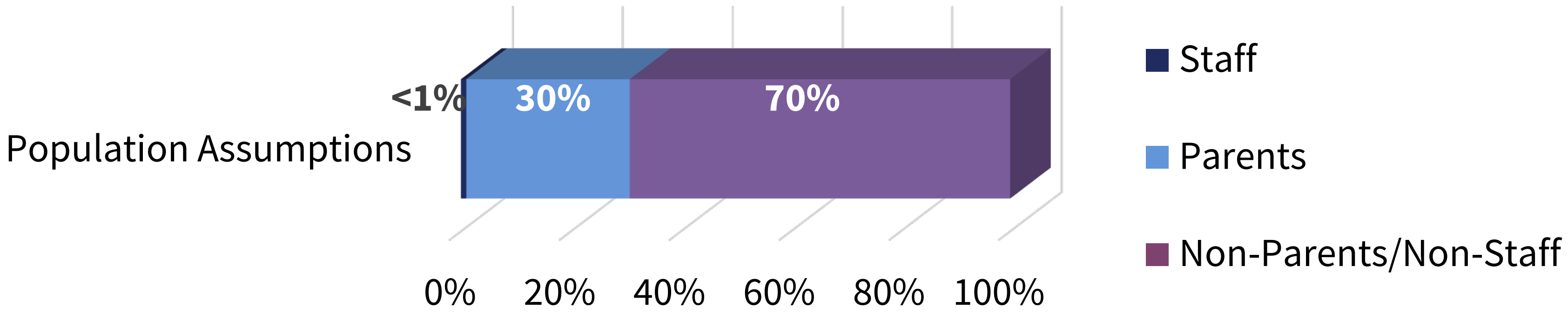
Would you support an operating levy that provides $700 per pupil each year for the next 10 years? (*Parent Residents*)



Would you support an operating levy that provides $700 per pupil each year for the next 10 years? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



Additional Analysis: Operating Levy Support



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes:*

0.30 (53%) + 0.70 (34%) = **<u>39.7%</u>**

Cost-Cutting Scores

Yes = 10 **No** = 1 **Median** = 5.5

Should the District…	**Staff**	**Parents/Caregivers**	**Non-Parents/ Non-Staff**
Increase class sizes?	2.06	3.53	5.29
Reduce middle/high school athletics and extracurriculars?	3.86	2.96	4.81
Delay updating computers, servers, and other technology?	3.63	5.35	4.86
Delay updates to textbooks and classroom materials?	3.88	4.39	4.82
Further reduce staffing to meet long-term budget projections?	1.78	2.82	4.80

Cost-Cutting Scores

Yes = 10 **No** = 1 **Median** = 5.5

Should the District…	Staff	Parents/Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Reduce transportation services?	4.33	3.84	4.84
Reconsider the 4-day week to save money?	6.17	3.24	3.84
Reduce middle/high school course offerings?	3.68	2.76	3.65
Reduce spending on routine building maintenance?	1.90	3.32	3.01
Reduce elementary school art, music, and physical education?	3.11	2.27	2.62

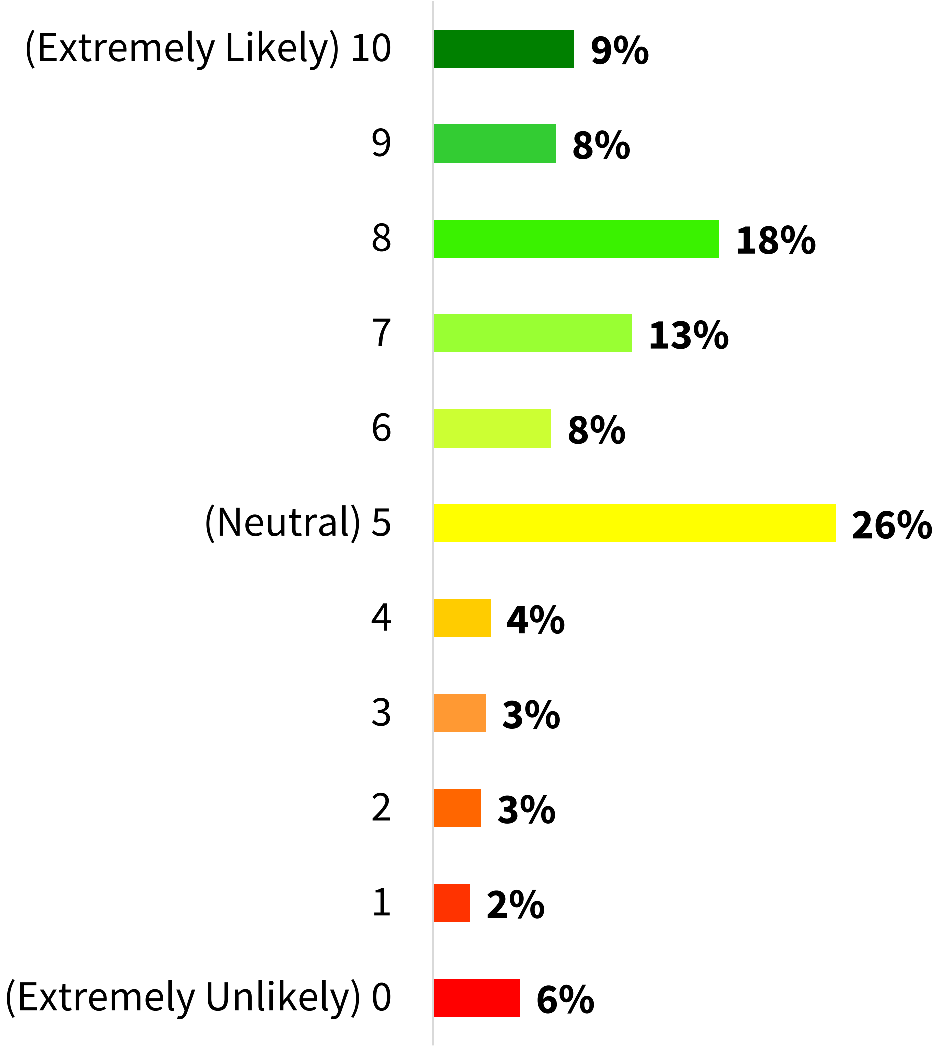
How is the District doing in each of the following areas? *Great = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1*

Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delivering a high-quality education	2.98	2.71	2.70
Keeping the public informed	2.45	2.17	2.17
Building pride in the community	2.60	2.35	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"*	Average	Comparison Percentile
Delivering a high-quality education	68%	2.73	16th
Keeping the public informed	39%	2.19	2nd
Building pride in the community	51%	2.48	4th

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



St. Charles Score: 6.07

Comparison Score: 7.17

Comparison Percentile: 6th

What did we learn?

- Weighted support (39.7%) indicates that if an election were held today, the operating levy would not be supported.
- The District had a higher-than-normal percent of undecided respondents, which is an indicator that more information on the budget challenges is needed.
- Generally, support increases as the cost and tax impact decrease.
- Therefore, the District could consider reducing the size of the levy, spending more time educating and communicating, and consider a revised levy this fall.

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Measuring what matters

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