

Community Survey Results

Neenah Joint School District

Fall 2019

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

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

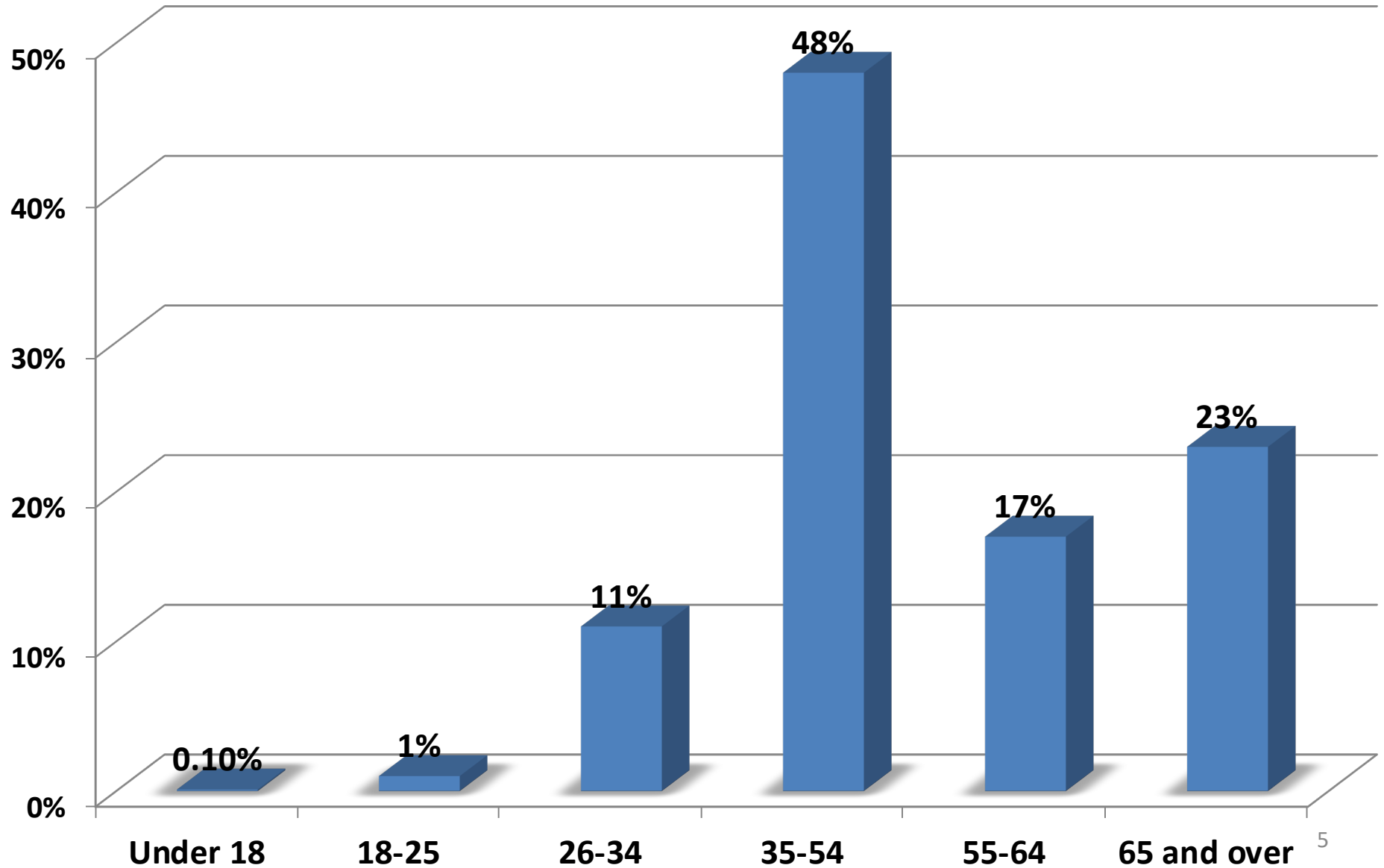
- Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research
- Conducted over 10,000 surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Summary

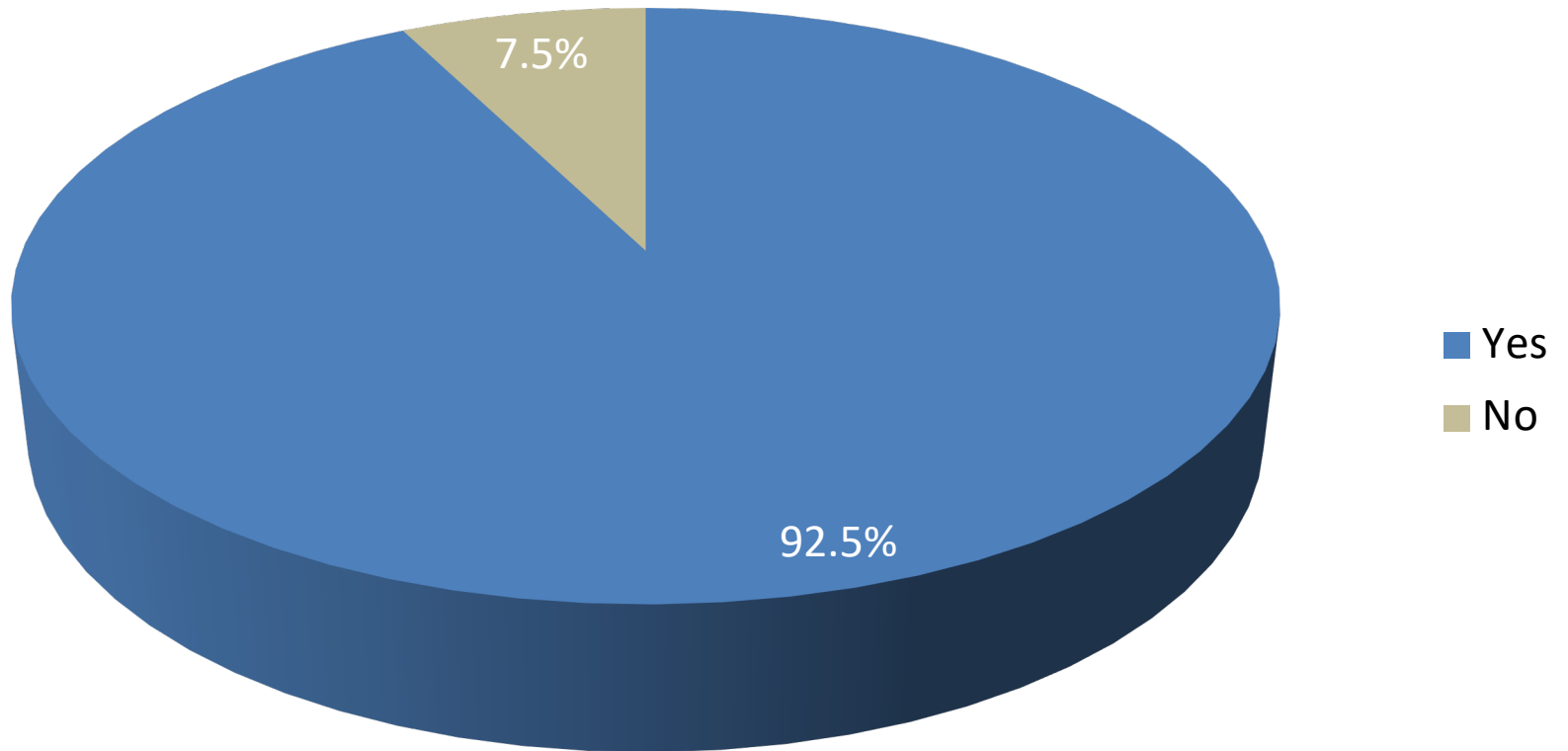
- The survey was conducted in late October through mid-November of 2019.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Fall 2019 total responses = 4,504 (1,355 paper)
 - Fall 2018 total responses = 3,657
- Participation rate = 20%
- Margin of error = +/- 1.5%

Respondent Information

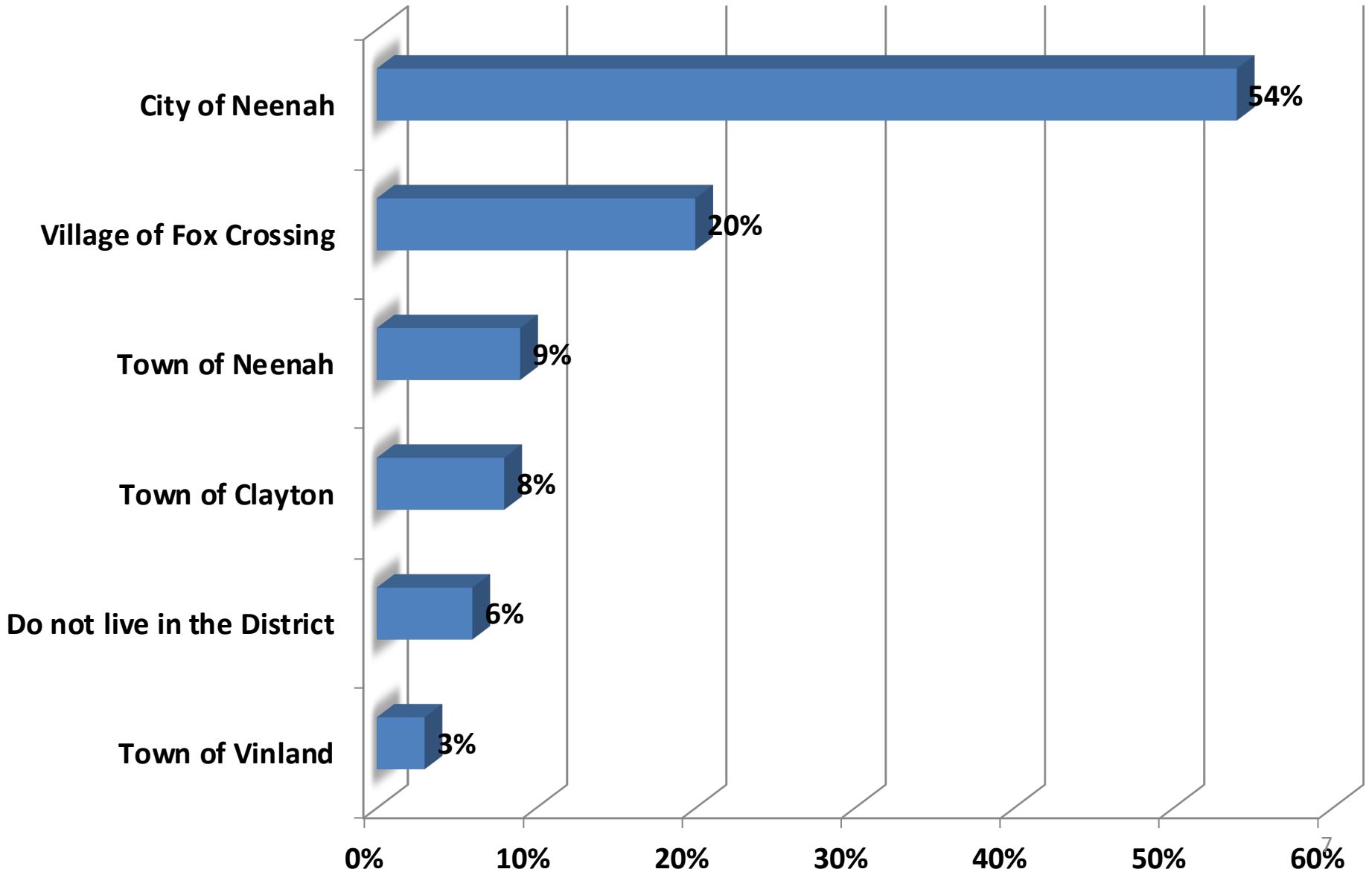
What is your age?



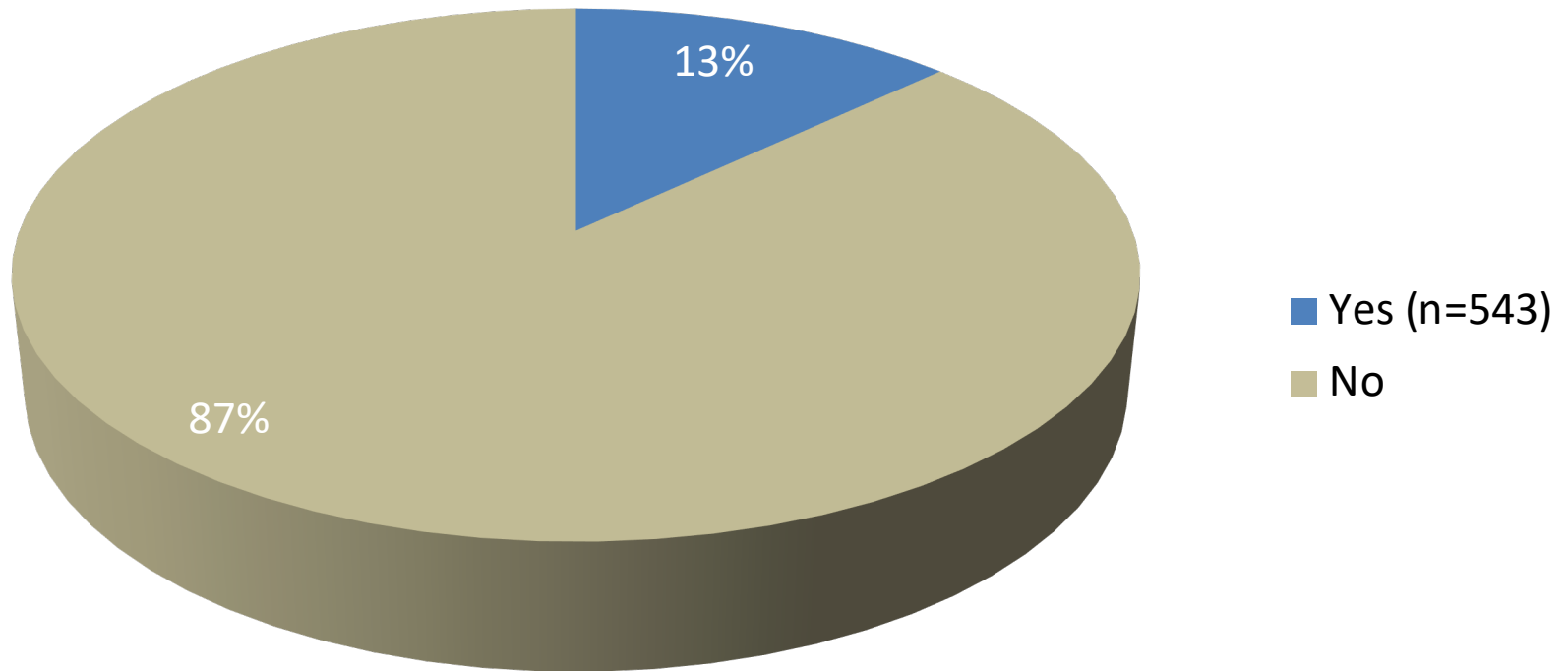
Do you live in the Neenah Joint School District?



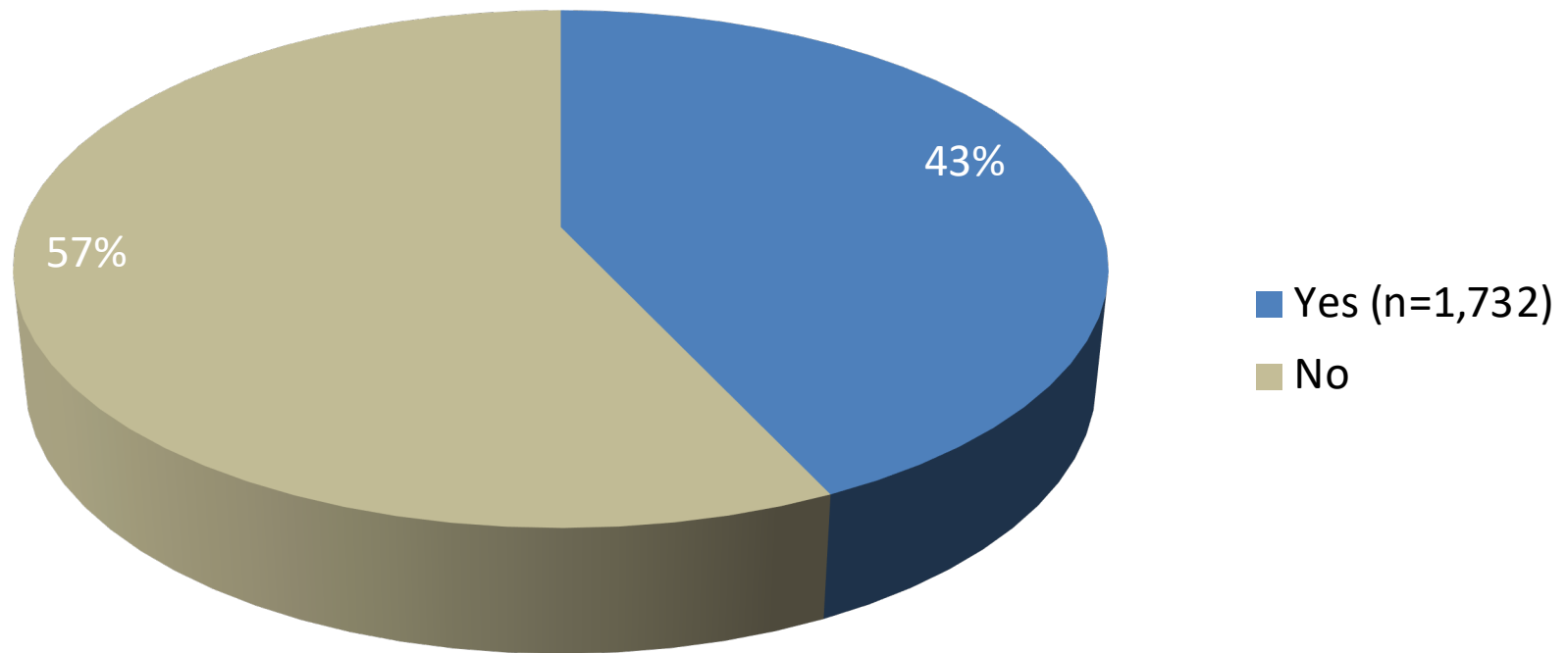
In which municipality do you reside?



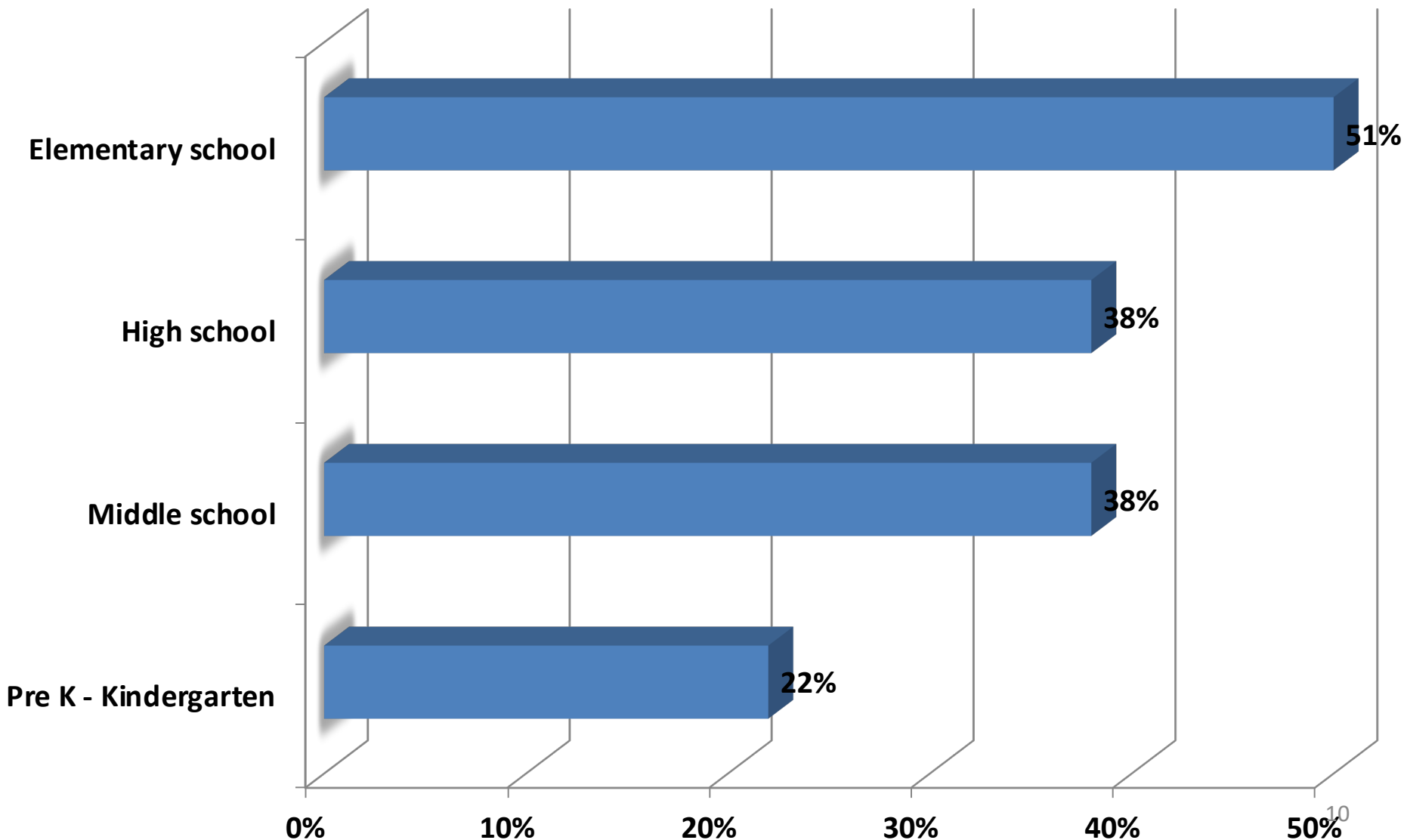
Are you an employee of the Neenah Joint School District?



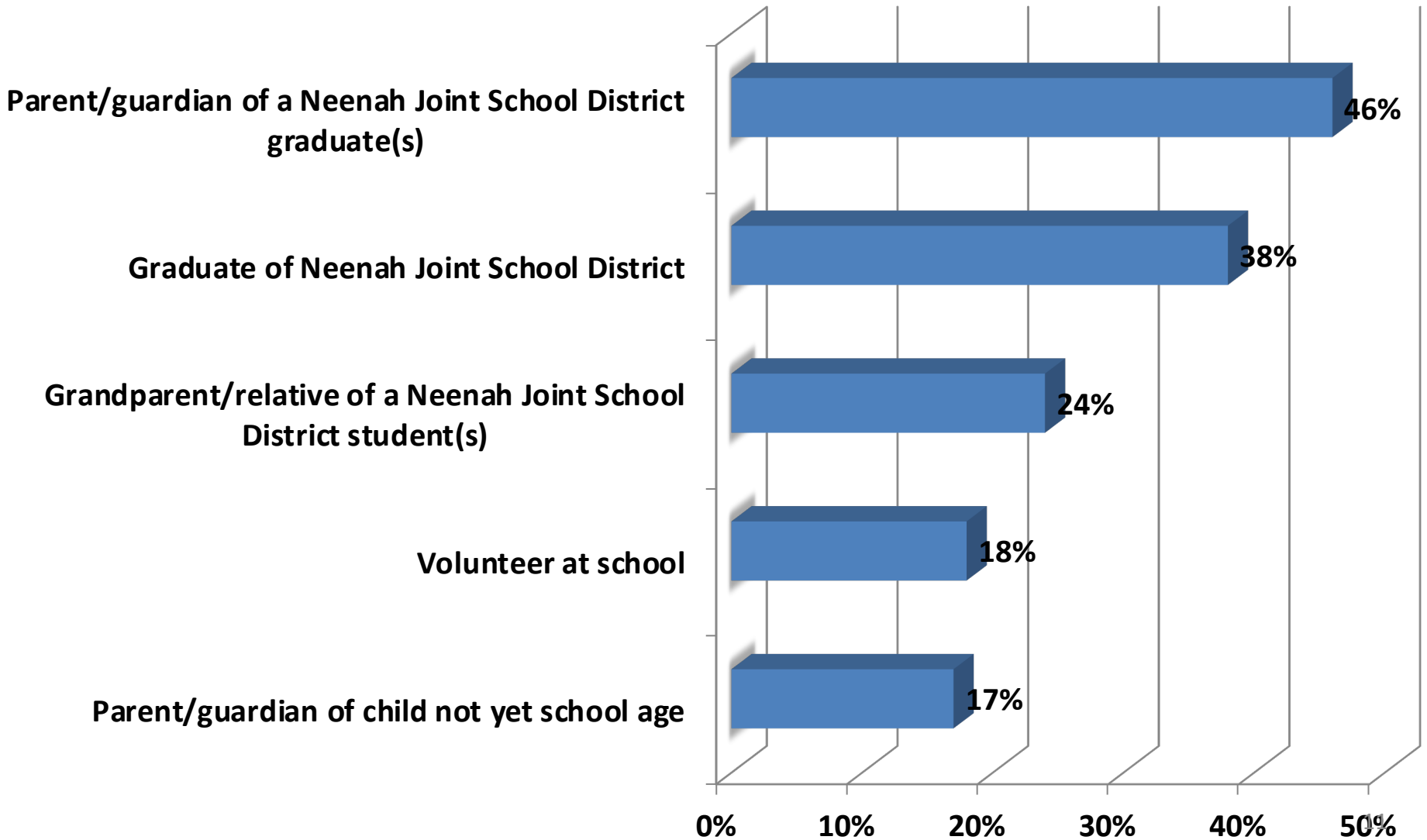
Do you have child(ren) attending schools in the District?



If you have school-age children, please check all grade ranges that apply:



Please check all other relationships you have with the District:

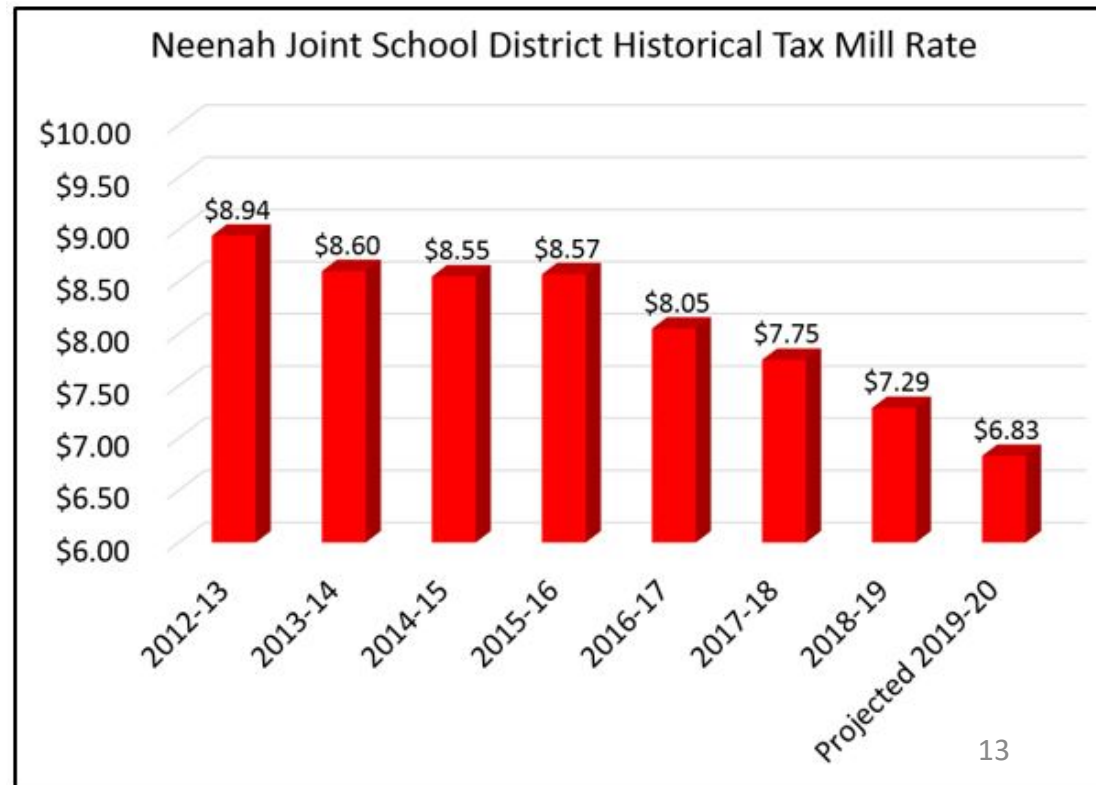


Financial Background Information

We are often asked how the Neenah Joint School District's tax mill rate, which is used to calculate the District's portion of your property taxes, has changed over the years and how it compares to others in the area. As detailed below, the District has consistently been a good steward of taxpayers' dollars.

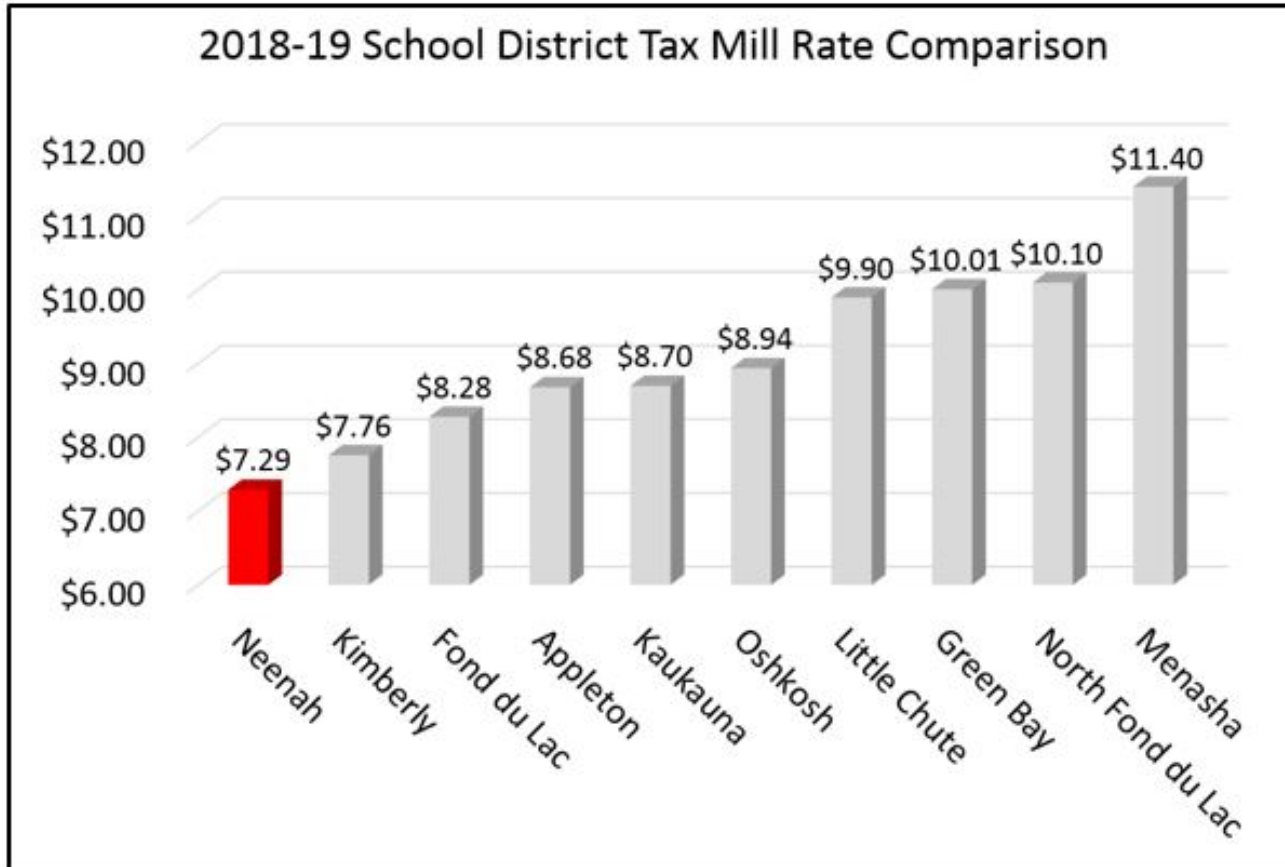
Historical School Tax Mill Rates

In the graph to the right, the District's tax mill rate has been steadily declining. Next year's budget is projecting an additional decrease of \$0.46 (\$46.00 per \$100,000 of property value), which will result in the lowest mill rate in more than 30 years, at a projected rate of \$6.83.



School Tax Mill Rate Comparison

In the graph below, the District's tax mill rate is the lowest in our region.



District Contribution for Facilities Projects

In 2009, the District was allocating \$458,000 annually to maintain all of our schools. Since that time, the District has increased the budget for capital improvements to more than \$2 million annually in an attempt to keep up with the most urgent needs that arise in our aging schools.

Next year, the District will pay off a financial obligation created more than 15 years ago. With no long-term debt, the District has the ability to contribute towards the cost of potential facilities projects through non-referendum borrowing. It will also reduce the overall amount needed for approval by voters.

District Facility Priorities

The Neenah Joint School District is comprised of one high school (grades 9-12), two middle schools (grade 6 and grades 7-8), nine elementary schools, one school of early learning and one charter school. These 14 schools are housed in 13 buildings, with Roosevelt Elementary and Alliance Charter sharing a building. The average age of our school buildings is over 70 years old.



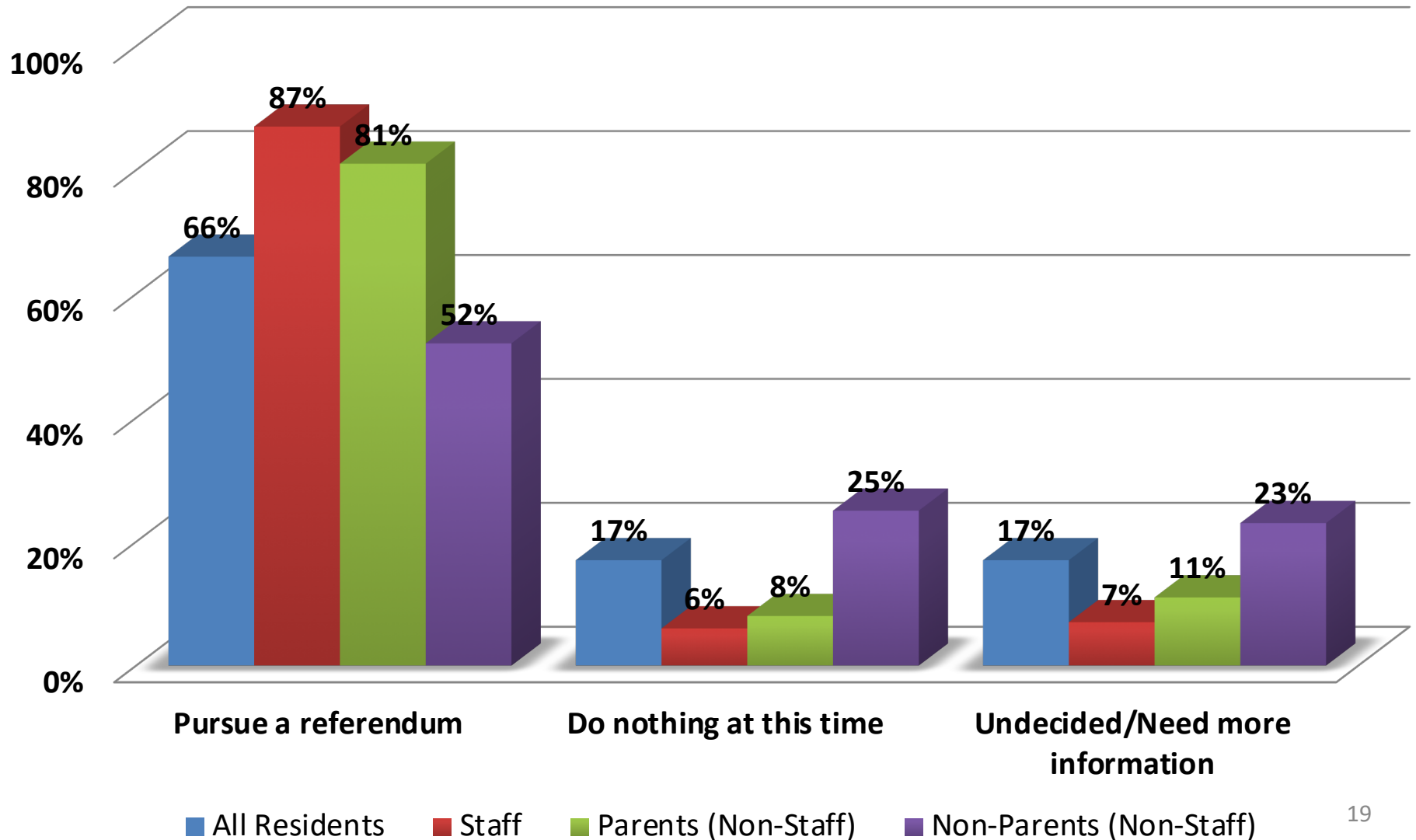
While facility issues exist throughout the District, the most pressing needs are in the following four areas:

- 1. District-wide safety, security and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements –**
Many of our schools need better monitoring and control of visitor access, as well as other life safety improvements, such as fire alarms and public address systems. In addition, updates are needed to address ADA issues such as improving bathroom and building access.
- 2. Shattuck Middle School –** Based on the facility assessment, a significant investment will be needed to update the school. After gathering feedback from the last community survey and recent community engagement sessions, the District believes that replacing instead of updating the aging building should be a priority.
- 3. High school updates –** Updates are needed to modernize classrooms and labs to support small group, collaborative and hands-on learning. In addition, the current technical education (shop) area lacks the space needed for educating students in the areas of engineering, welding, automotive and art. Improvements are also needed in the cafeteria, kitchen and music areas, including renovating Pickard Auditorium. Portions of the plumbing, heating/ventilation and electrical systems are past their service life.
- 4. Elementary school space –** Throughout the District, our elementary schools lack dedicated spaces for art, music and small group instruction, as well as special education classes. In addition, due to space shortages, areas and rooms are being used for functions other than their intended purposes, including instruction occurring in hallways and storage rooms.

In order to fund these facility priorities, the Neenah Joint School District will need to pursue a referendum.

What advice would you give the District?

(Neenah Joint School District Residents Only)



Roadmap to Excellence

Nearly 300 people attended four community engagement sessions and provided feedback on six potential pathways to update our schools. In addition, we received feedback on our website's community input page. Each possible pathway, along with estimated costs, is available at www.neenah.k12.wi.us/pathway.

Based on feedback, the Board of Education identified two long-range plans, Pathway #2 and Pathway #5, as the most viable options. Due to the total cost, either pathway would be completed in phases; both would address the District's four most pressing needs:

- **Improve safety, security and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues District-wide**
- **Replace Shattuck Middle School**
- **Address the needs at Neenah High School**
- **Create elementary school space by relocating 5th grade students**

Regardless of the pathway selected, the Board of Education is asking the community to consider a \$125 million referendum. In addition, the Board of Education would have to approve non-referendum District borrowing for up to \$47 million. This \$47 million contribution would not increase the current school portion of your tax bill.

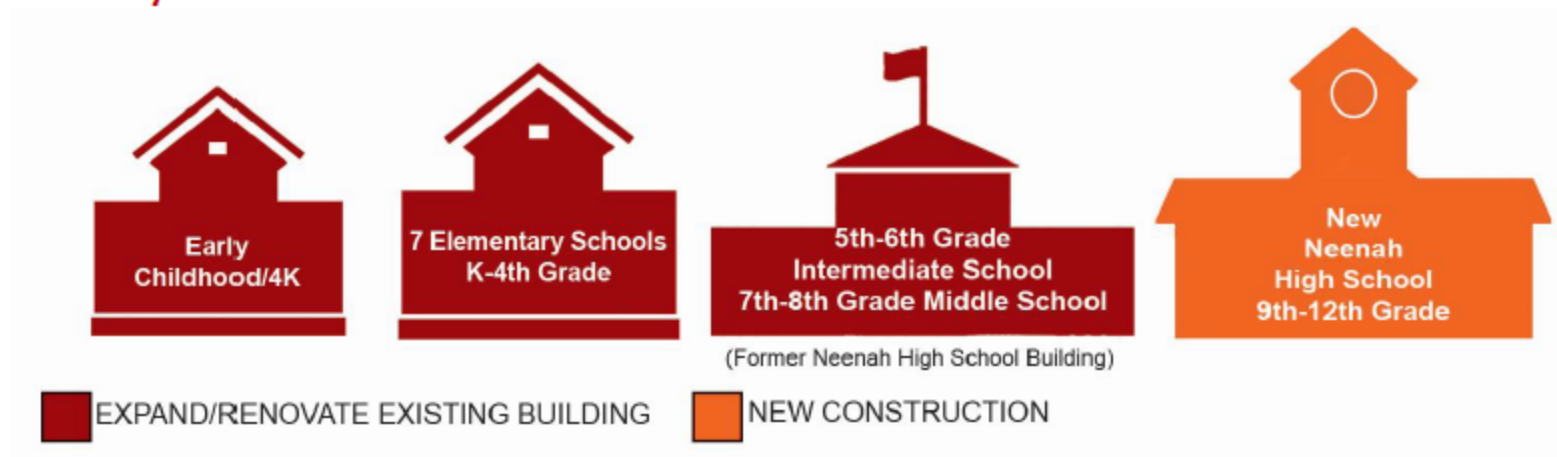
Pathway #2



Pathway #2 will be completed <u>in phases</u> :	Phase 1	Future Phase(s)
Address District-wide safety, security and ADA needs.	✓	
Build a 7 th -8 th grade middle school on the Shattuck Middle School site.	✓	
Build a 5 th -6 th grade intermediate school on the west side.	✓	
Renovate/update the high school, including:		
Modernize classrooms and upgrading building infrastructure, including plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems, with the most pressing needs completed in Phase 1.	✓	✓
Renovating the career, technical education (shop) and art areas to better support course offerings in engineering, welding, automotive and family/consumer education.	✓	
Building a new cafeteria, kitchen and connecting corridor.		✓
Building new band, choir and orchestra areas.		✓
Renovating Pickard Auditorium.		✓
Convert Horace Mann Middle School into an elementary school.	✓	
Reconfigure and update elementary schools. <i>(Note: It has not been determined which schools could be expanded, renovated or closed. This phase cannot be completed until additional space at the new intermediate school is available to house all 5th grade students.)</i>		✓
Renovate and add space at Washington School of Early Learning to serve all early childhood and 4K students.		✓

Estimated cost for all phases of Pathway #2: \$313 to \$345 million

Pathway #5



Pathway #5 will be completed <u>in phases</u> :	Phase 1	Future Phase(s)
Address District-wide safety, security and ADA needs.	✓	
Build a new high school on the property the District is in the process of acquiring on the west side.	✓	
Repurpose the existing high school into two schools to serve 5 th -6 th grade students and 7 th -8 th grade students. The 5 th -6 th grade students would be located in the Conant section/north end, and the 7 th -8 th grade students would be located in the Armstrong section/south end. Both schools would have separate entrances, cafeterias, gyms and other support areas.	✓	
Convert Horace Mann Middle School into an elementary school.	✓	
Reconfigure and update elementary schools. <i>(Note: It has not been determined which schools could be expanded, renovated or closed. This phase cannot be completed until additional space is available to house all 5th grade students at the former Neenah High School building.)</i>		✓
Renovate and add space at Washington School of Early Learning to serve all early childhood and 4K students.		✓

Estimated cost for all phases of Pathway #5: \$238 to \$263 million

Pathway #5 Support:

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
I would support either Pathway, but my preference is Pathway #5	25%	34%	34%	16%
I would only support Pathway #5	18%	22%	18%	18%
I would support either Pathway and have no preference	8%	10%	10%	7%
I would support either Pathway, but my preference is Pathway #2	11%	12%	14%	8%
Pathway #5 Support	62%	78%	76%	49%
Undecided/Need more information	10%	7%	7%	13%
I would not support either Pathway	22%	7%	11%	33%

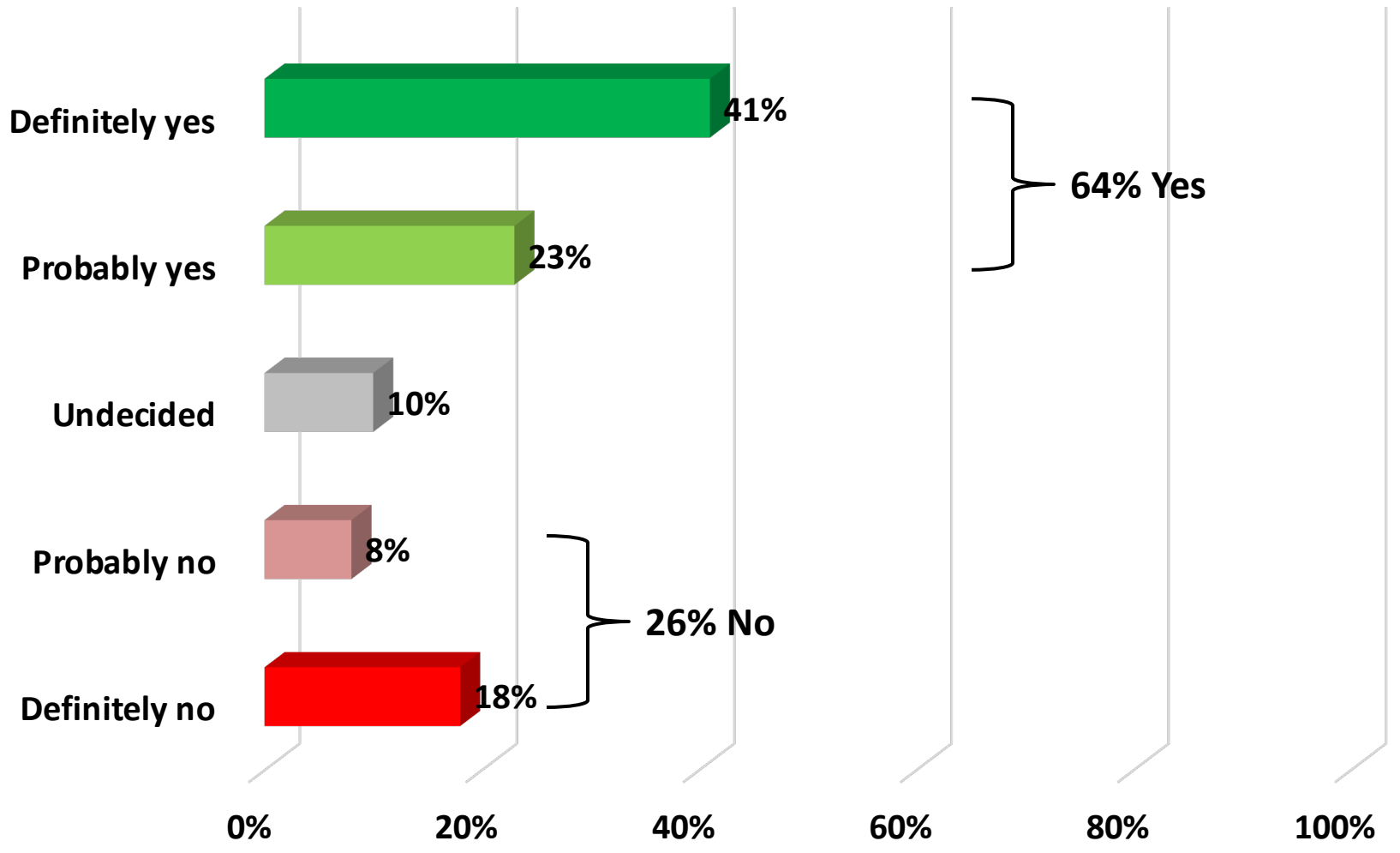
Pathway #2 Support:

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
I would support either Pathway, but my preference is Pathway #2	11%	12%	14%	8%
I would support either Pathway, but my preference is Pathway #5	25%	34%	34%	16%
I would only support Pathway #2	6%	8%	6%	6%
I would support either Pathway and have no preference	8%	10%	10%	7%
Pathway #2 Support	50%	64%	64%	37%
Undecided/Need more information	10%	7%	7%	13%
I would not support either Pathway	22%	7%	11%	33%

Assuming the pathway chosen is acceptable to you, would you support a \$125 million referendum to help fund the first phase of a project?

This represents an average annual estimated tax increase of \$121 for each \$100,000 of a home's value with a 20-year loan repayment period.

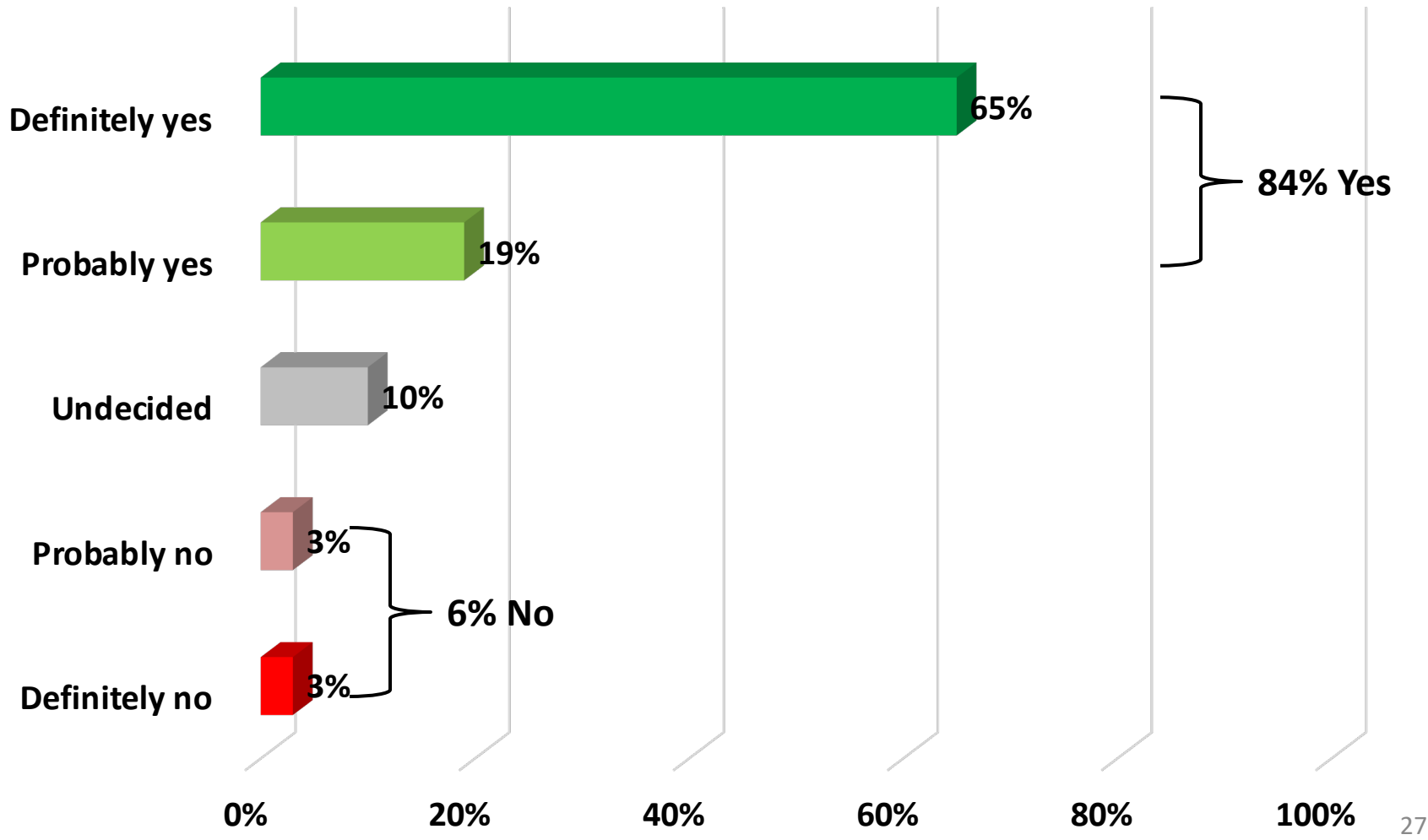
All Residents



Assuming the pathway chosen is acceptable to you, would you support a \$125 million referendum to help fund the first phase of a project?

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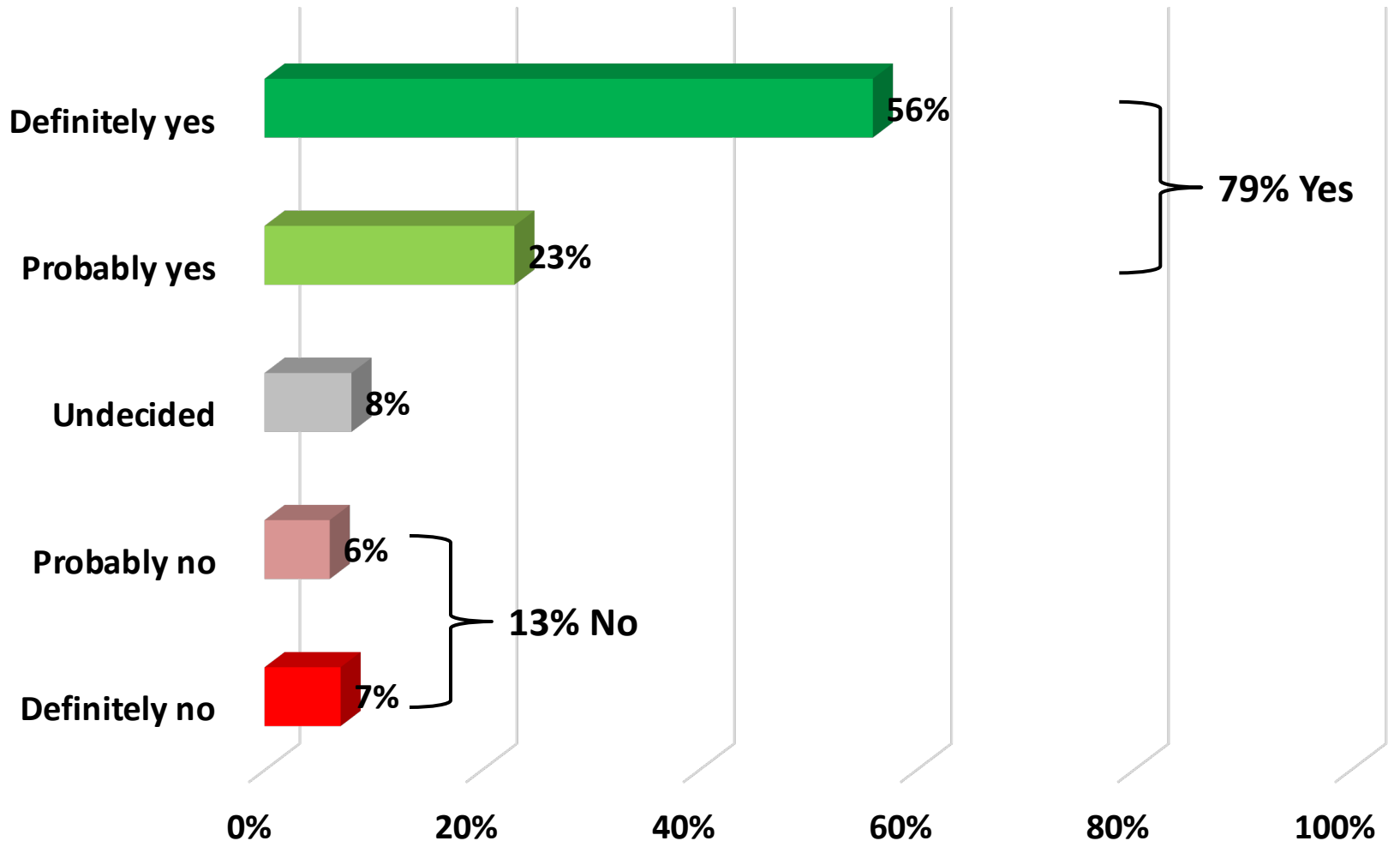
Staff Residents



Assuming the pathway chosen is acceptable to you, would you support a \$125 million referendum to help fund the first phase of a project?

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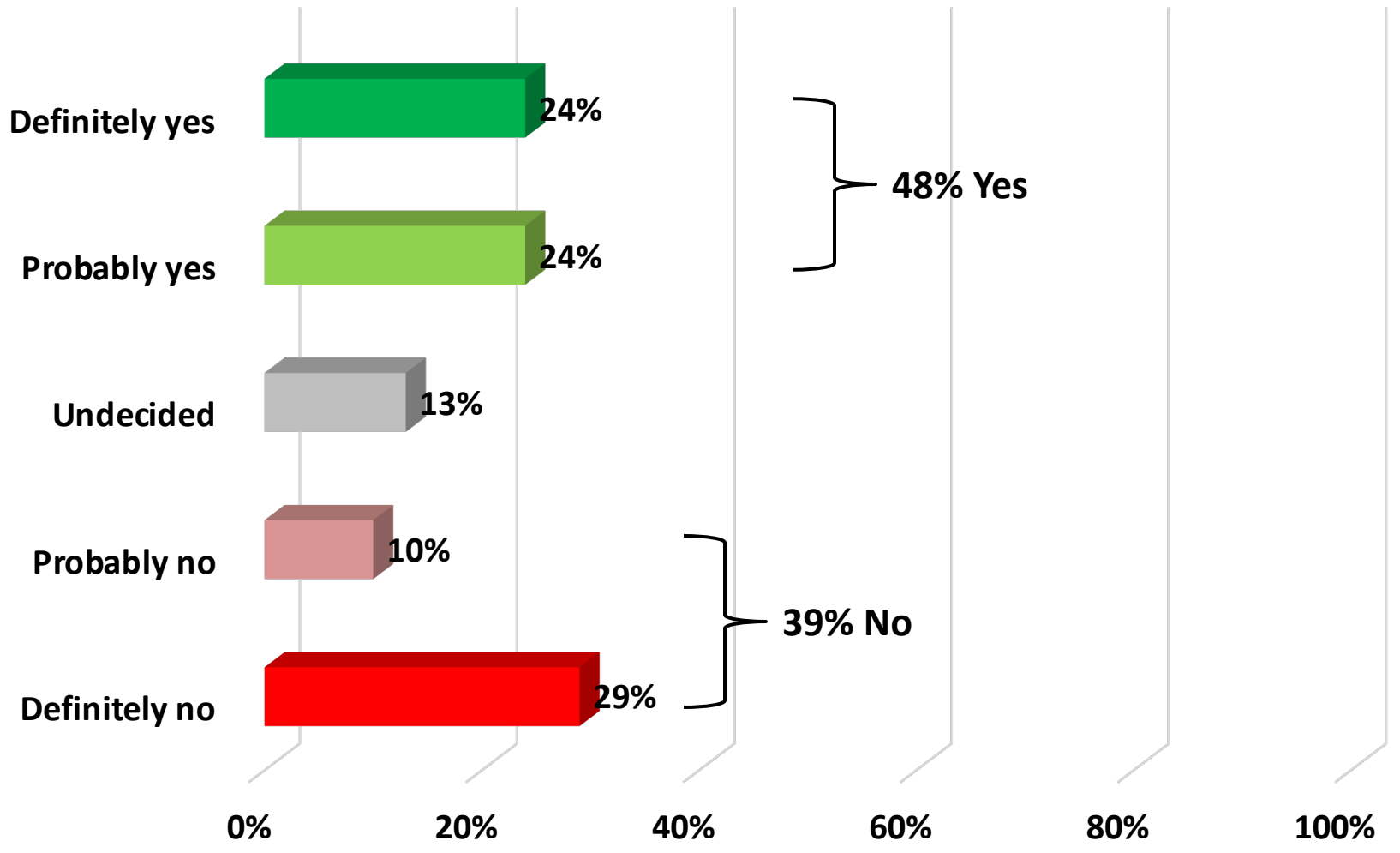
Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



Assuming the pathway chosen is acceptable to you, would you support a \$125 million referendum to help fund the first phase of a project?

This represents an average annual estimated tax increase of \$121 for each \$100,000 of a home's value with a 20-year loan repayment period.

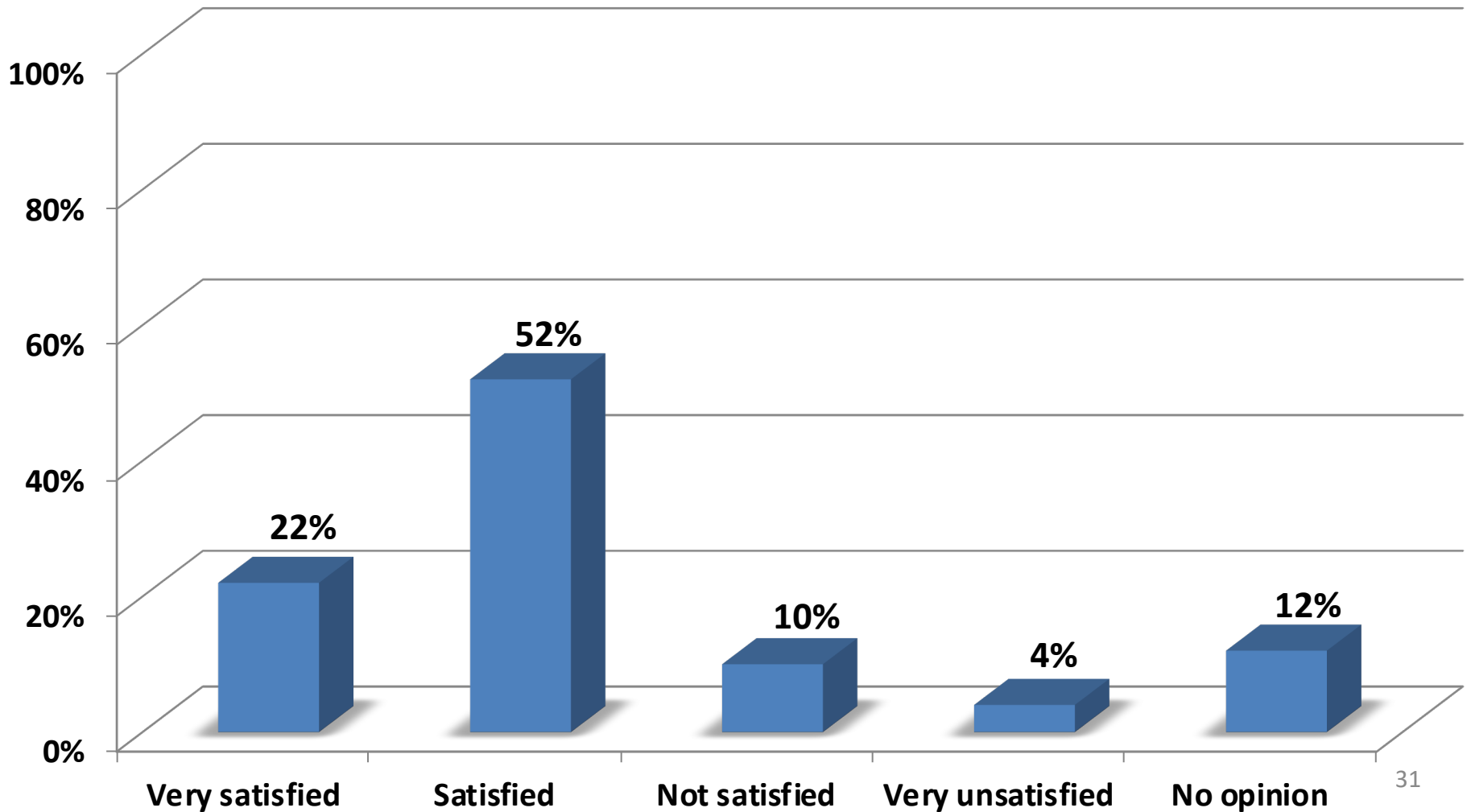
Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



Overall Satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied are you with the Neenah Joint School District?

(All Respondents)



What did we learn?

- ✓ A majority of all subgroups and 66% of all respondents encourage the District to pursue a referendum.
- ✓ All subgroups prefer Pathway #5 (building a new high school) versus Pathway #2.
- ✓ While there appears to be financial support for a referendum, respondents are concerned with the overall cost and anything that could be done to reduce the cost and tax impact of Pathway 5 would likely increase support.

Thank you!



Parent Surveys - Staff Surveys - Student Surveys - Community Surveys
www.schoolperceptions.com
(262) 644-4300