

School District of La Crosse

Community Survey Report
Spring 2022



Contents



Background Info



Survey Information



Results & Analysis



Wrap-up/Questions



Process



Households within the School District of La Crosse were mailed a paper survey. Respondents could:

1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions

or

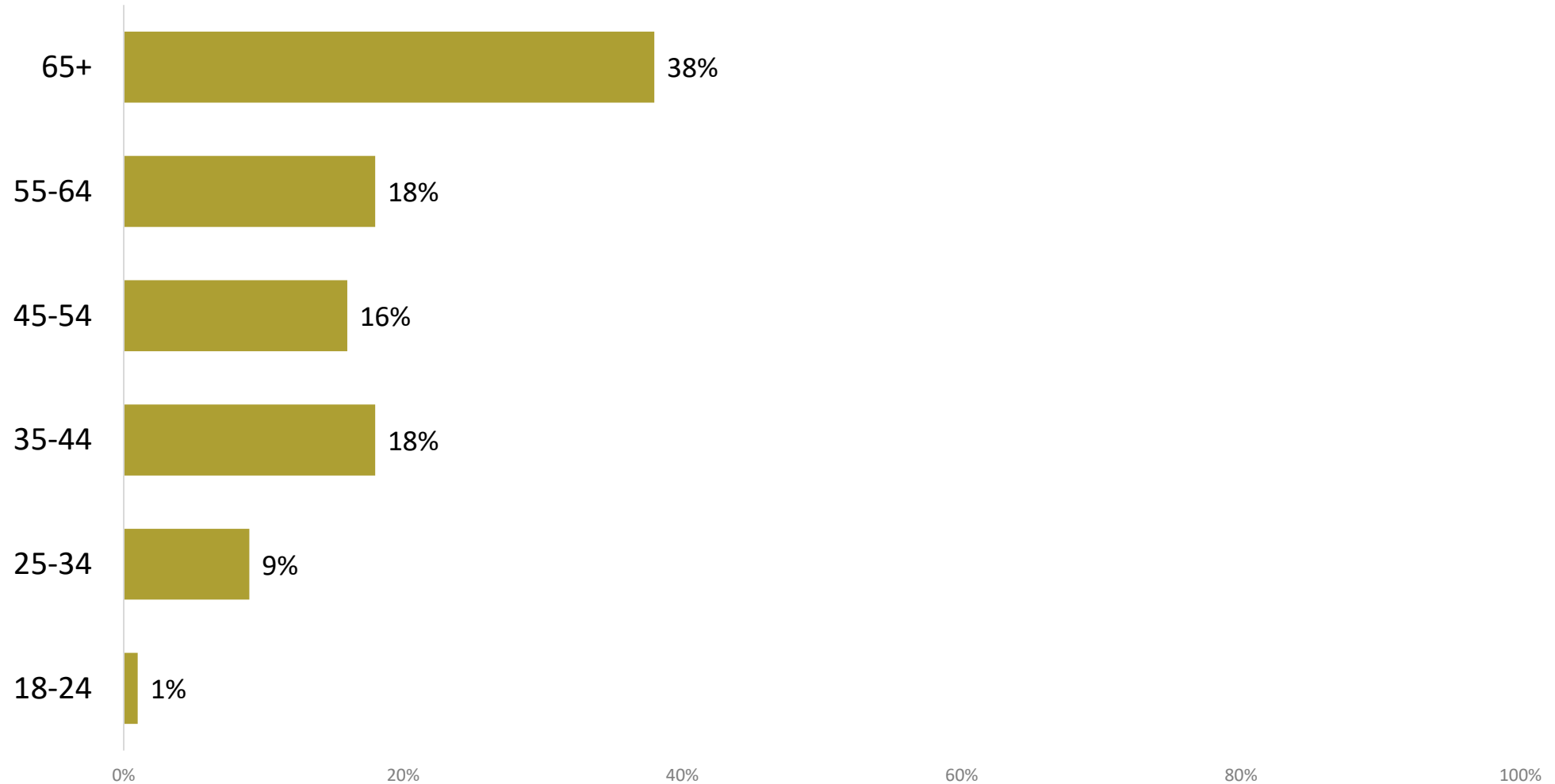
2) Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

Survey Information

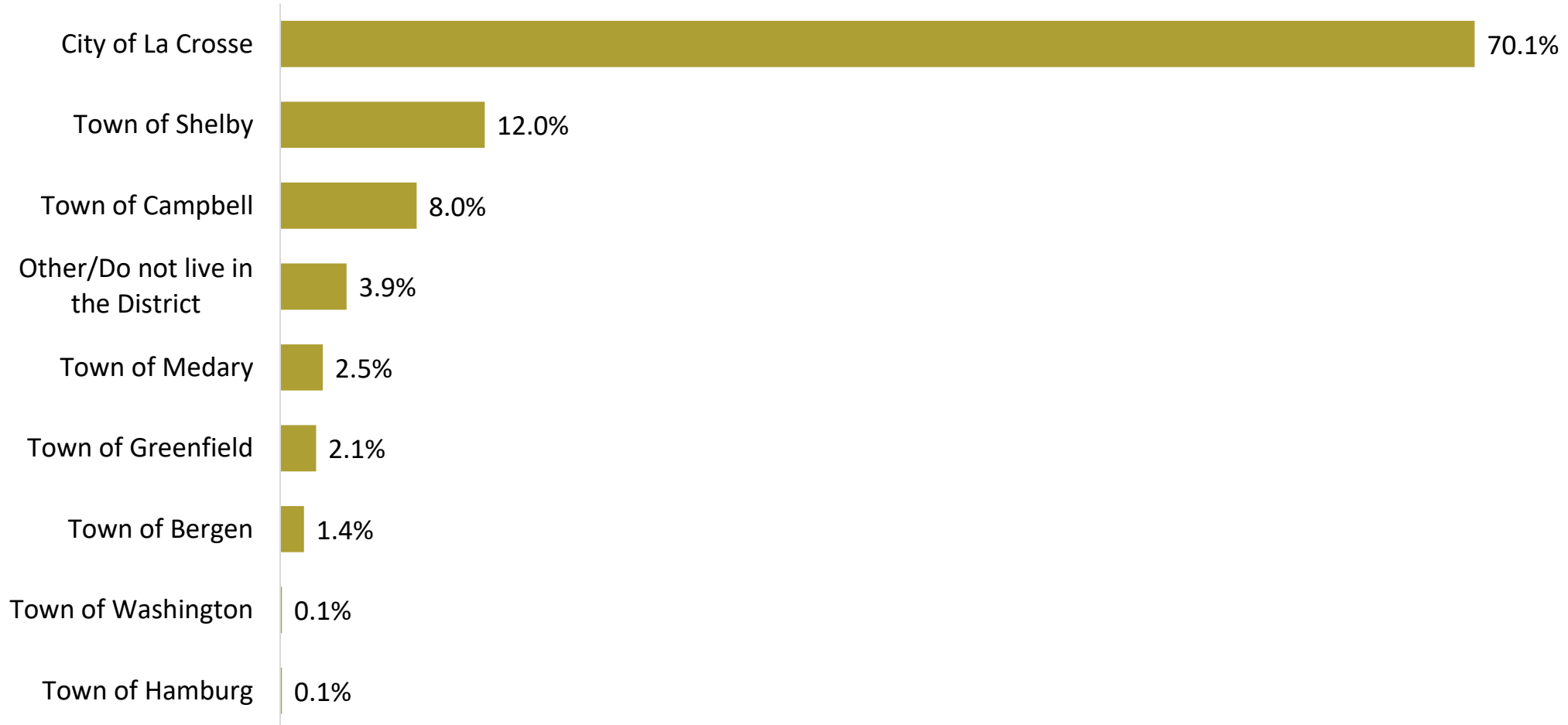


- **May 2022** survey window
- **5,859** total respondents (2,977 paper)
- **20.4%** participation rate
- +/- **1.31%** margin of error

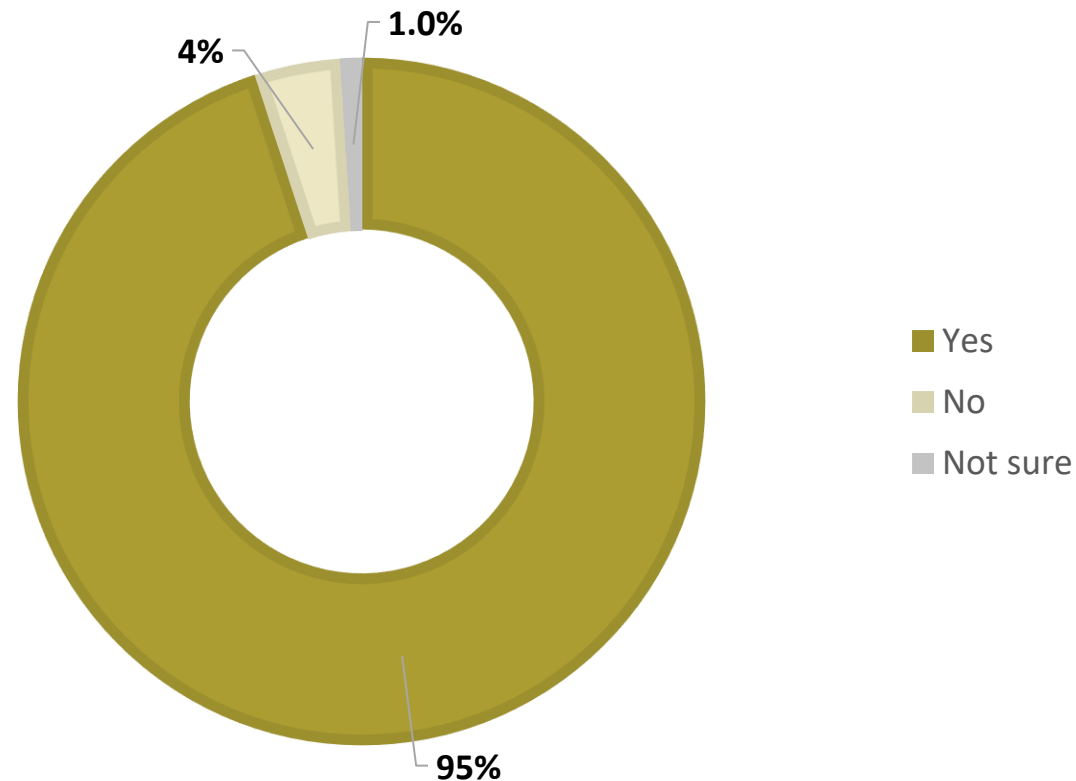
What is your age?



In which municipality do you live?



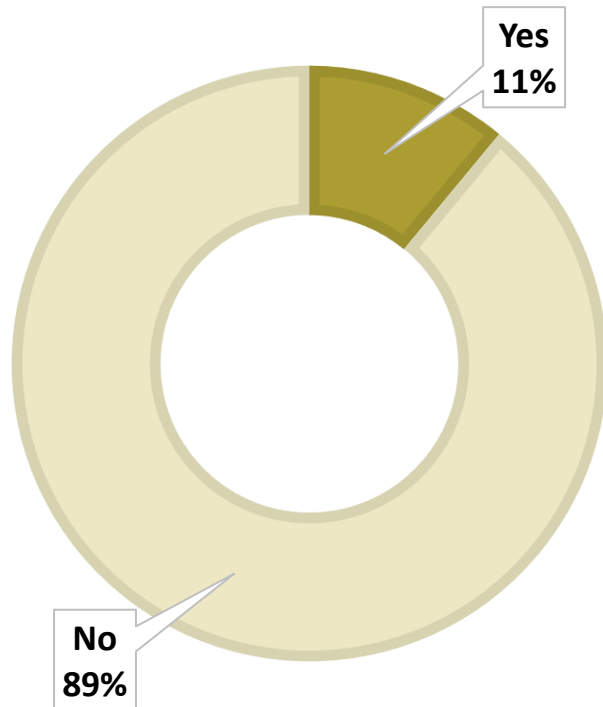
Is your primary residence in the School District of La Crosse?



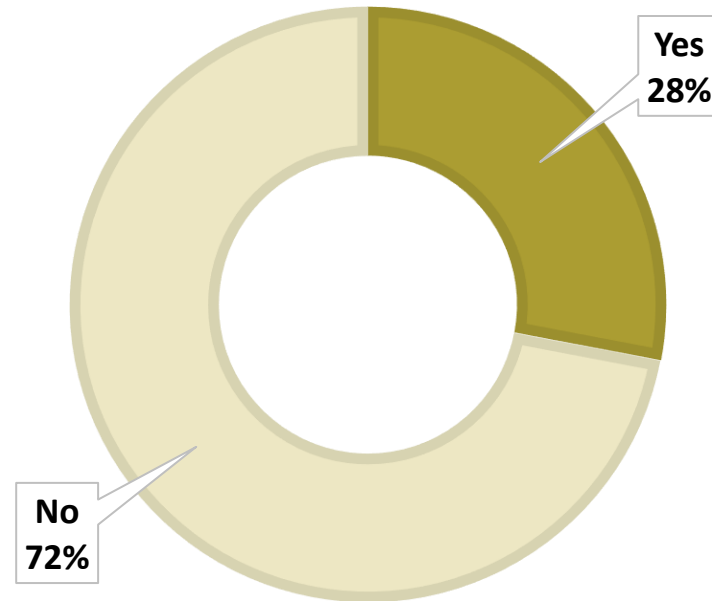
Respondent Information



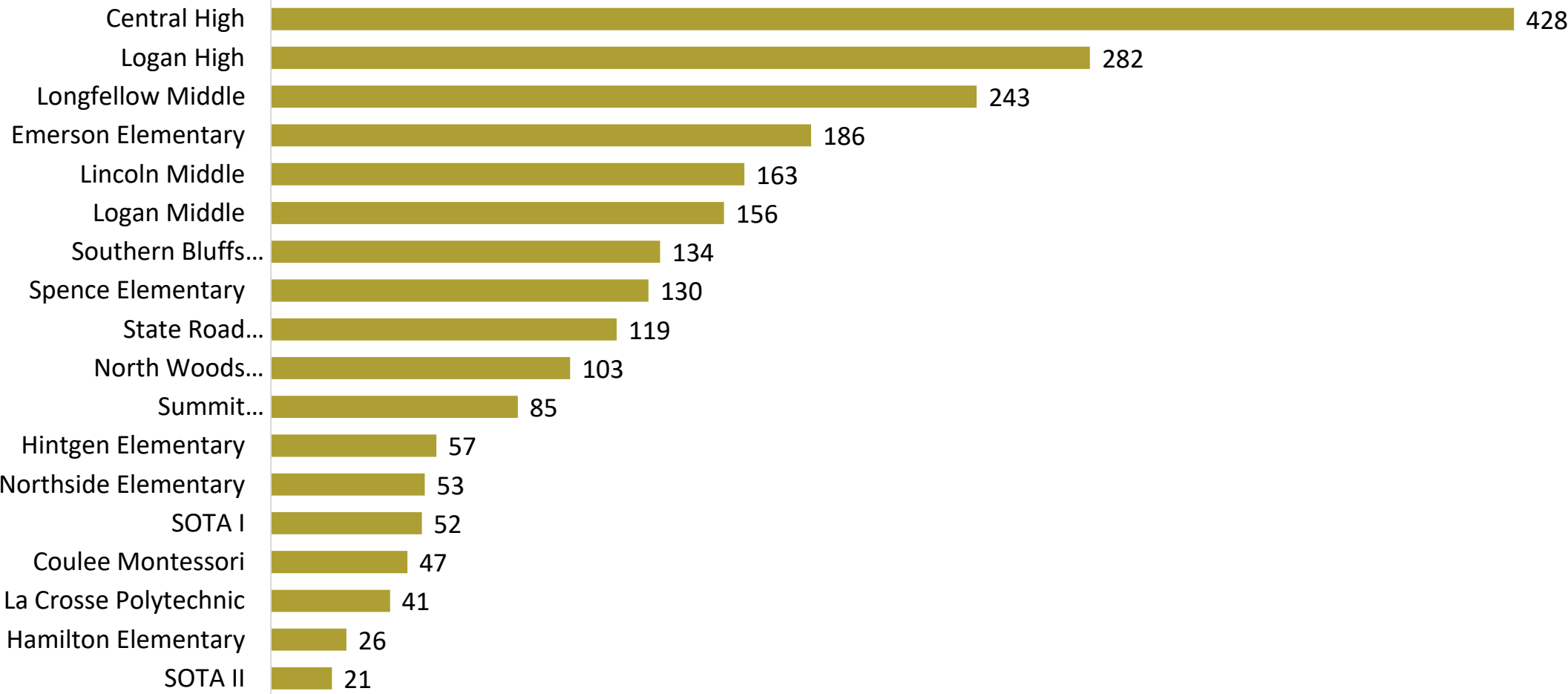
Are you an employee of the School District of La Crosse?



Do you have children attending a school in the District?



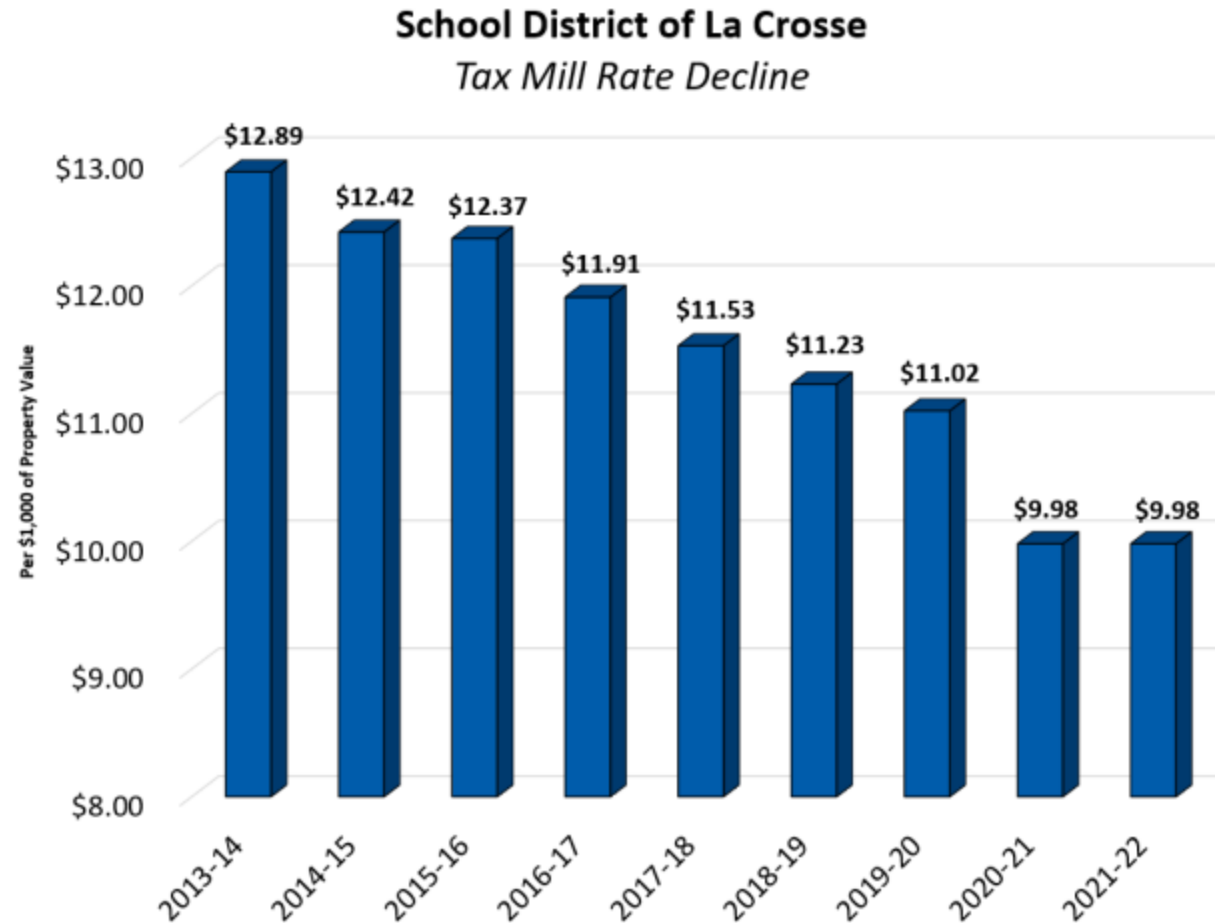
If you do have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend? (Mark all that apply)



Financial Background

The District's share of local property taxes is calculated using a tax mill rate. As seen in the chart to the right, **our tax mill rate has dropped by \$2.91 (or \$291.00 per \$100,000 of property value) since the 2013-2014 school year.**

The Board has also pre-paid debt, when possible, to save interest expenses. In addition, the District will soon be paying off a loan that funded past building projects. These actions will significantly reduce the tax impact of any new spending.





Right-sizing to Serve Students at the Middle and High School Level

Based on the feedback gathered from the last community survey, we developed a plan to consolidate to one high school. To accomplish this, we searched for a centrally located site that was at least 40 acres. We initially considered all district-owned property. However, no district-owned sites are large enough to support one high school.

We then met with City of La Crosse officials and private landowners. We explored 11 options and determined the best site is the Trane headquarters. We have not purchased this land but have secured the right to acquire the parcel if voters support a referendum.





High School Design

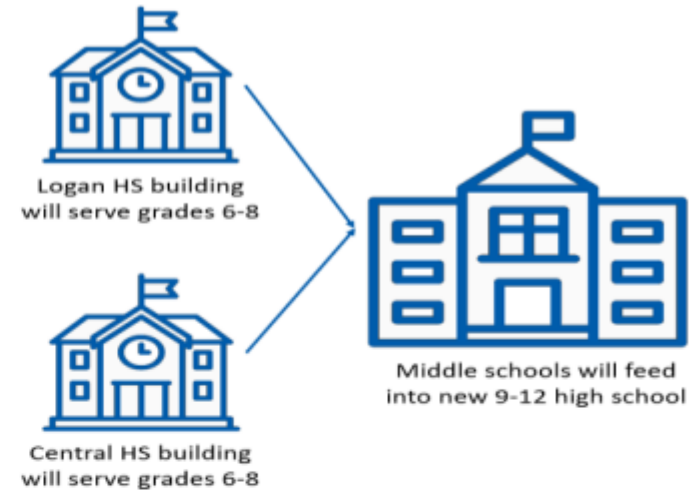
The new high school would serve all Logan High and Central High students and be built with:

- ✓ Classrooms and flexible spaces for student collaboration and project-based learning.
- ✓ Labs for hands-on learning for students exploring careers in healthcare, engineering, automotive, culinary, manufacturing, and construction.
- ✓ A fieldhouse and performing arts center.
- ✓ Sufficient parking and proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic.
- ✓ Energy-efficient systems, including geothermal and solar, as well as natural lighting.
- ✓ Outdoor practice and competition fields.

Consolidating to one high school would also provide access to elective courses, performance spaces, and collaborative learning areas, which are not equally accessible in our two high schools.

Consolidating into Two Middle Schools

After the new high school is built, the Logan and Central high school buildings would be converted into middle schools. This change would immediately improve the educational experience for our students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, including better access to career and technical education spaces, music classrooms, higher-quality athletic facilities, and more modern classrooms.



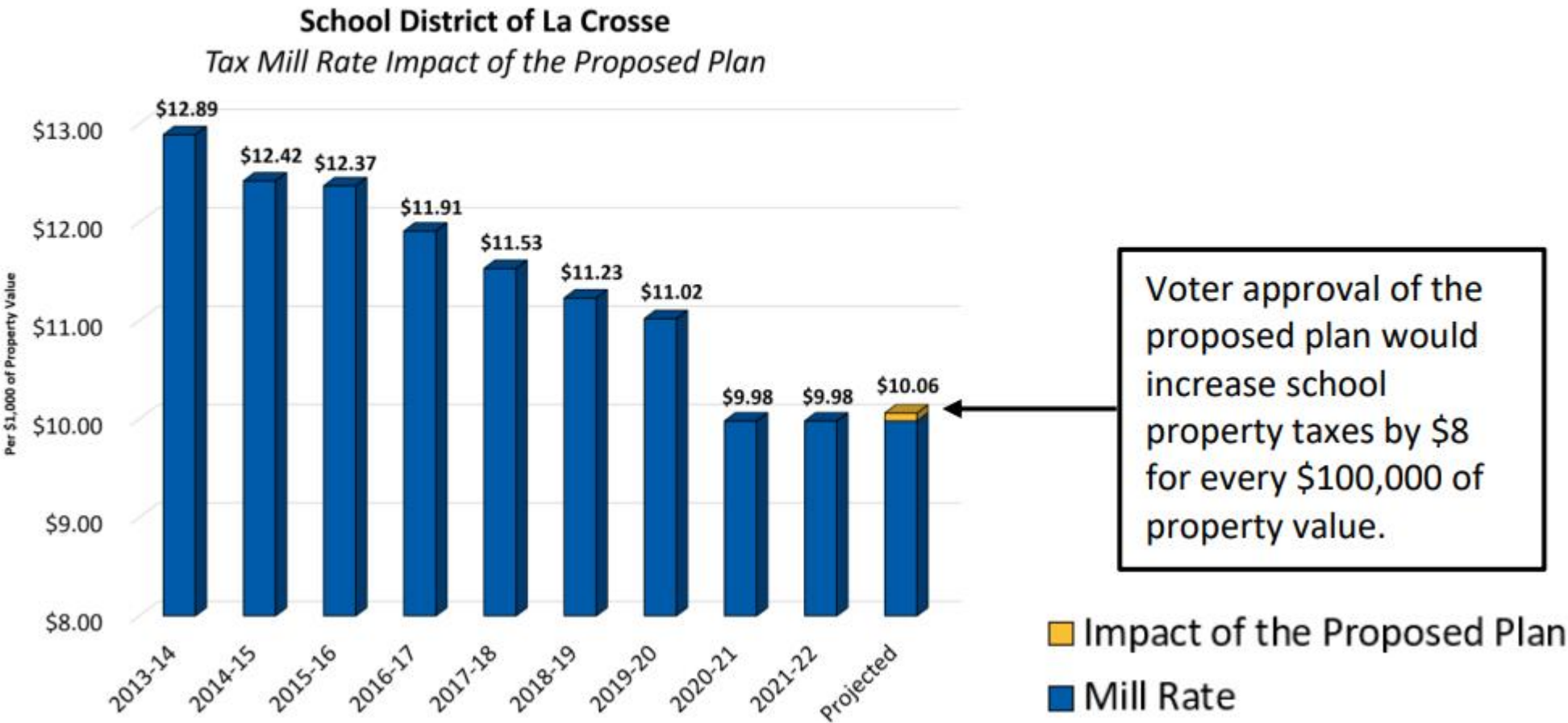
This plan would allow us to discontinue the use of the middle school buildings. We will work with the community to develop new uses for these sites.

We project a savings of \$4.5 million in annual operating expenses, and we won't need to spend \$18.5 million to update these buildings.

Middle School	Year Built Additions	Needed Maintenance
Lincoln MS	1924 1958, 1973, 1991, 1997	\$5.1 M
Logan MS	1939 1957, 1962, 1971, 1979, 1986, 1998	\$6 M
Longfellow MS	1939 1946, 1965, 1973, 1997, 2018	\$7.4 M
Total		\$18.5 M

Funding Support

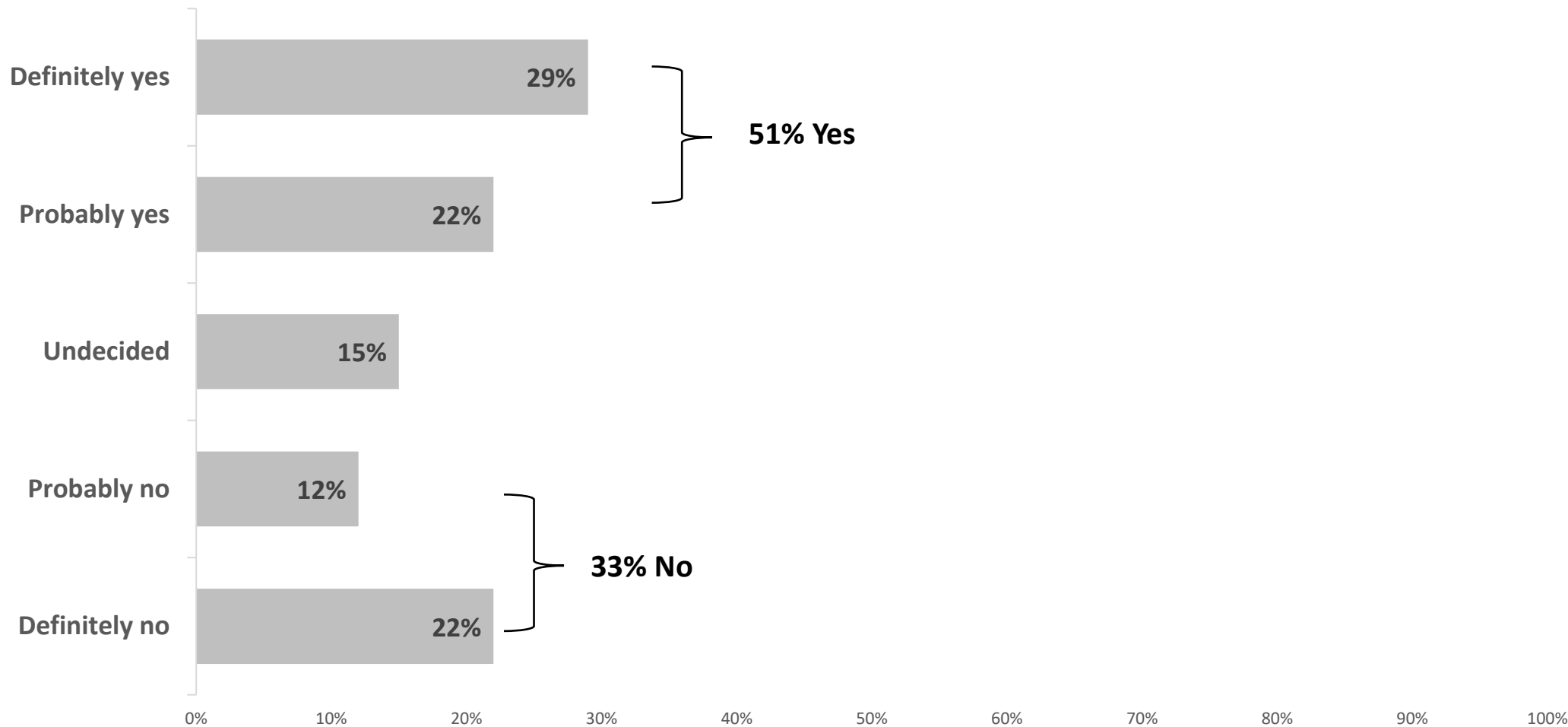
Voters would need to approve a \$194.7 million referendum to pay for the middle/high school plan as described on the previous page.



Would you support a \$194.7 million referendum to fund the proposed plan?



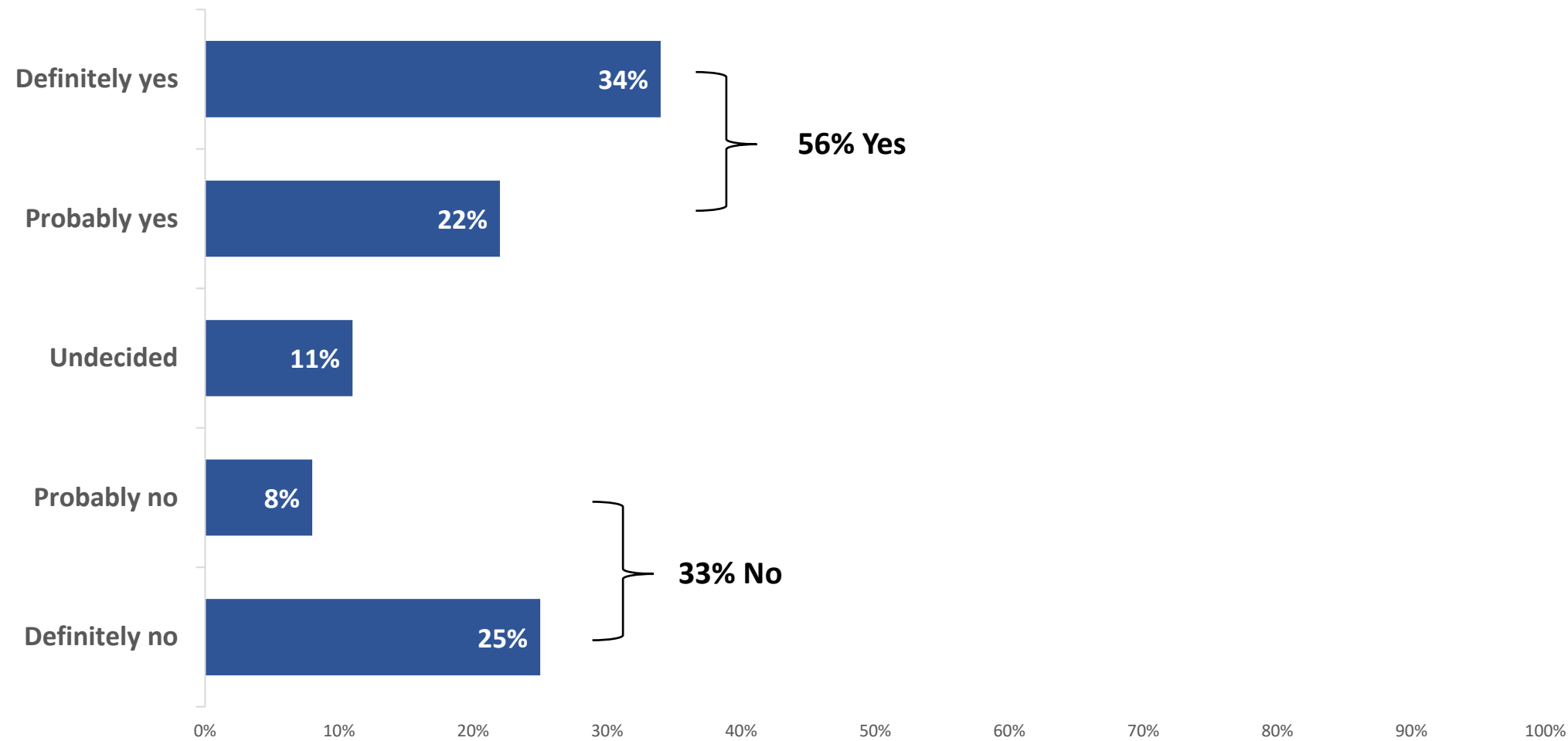
Staff Residents



Would you support a \$194.7 million referendum to fund the proposed plan?



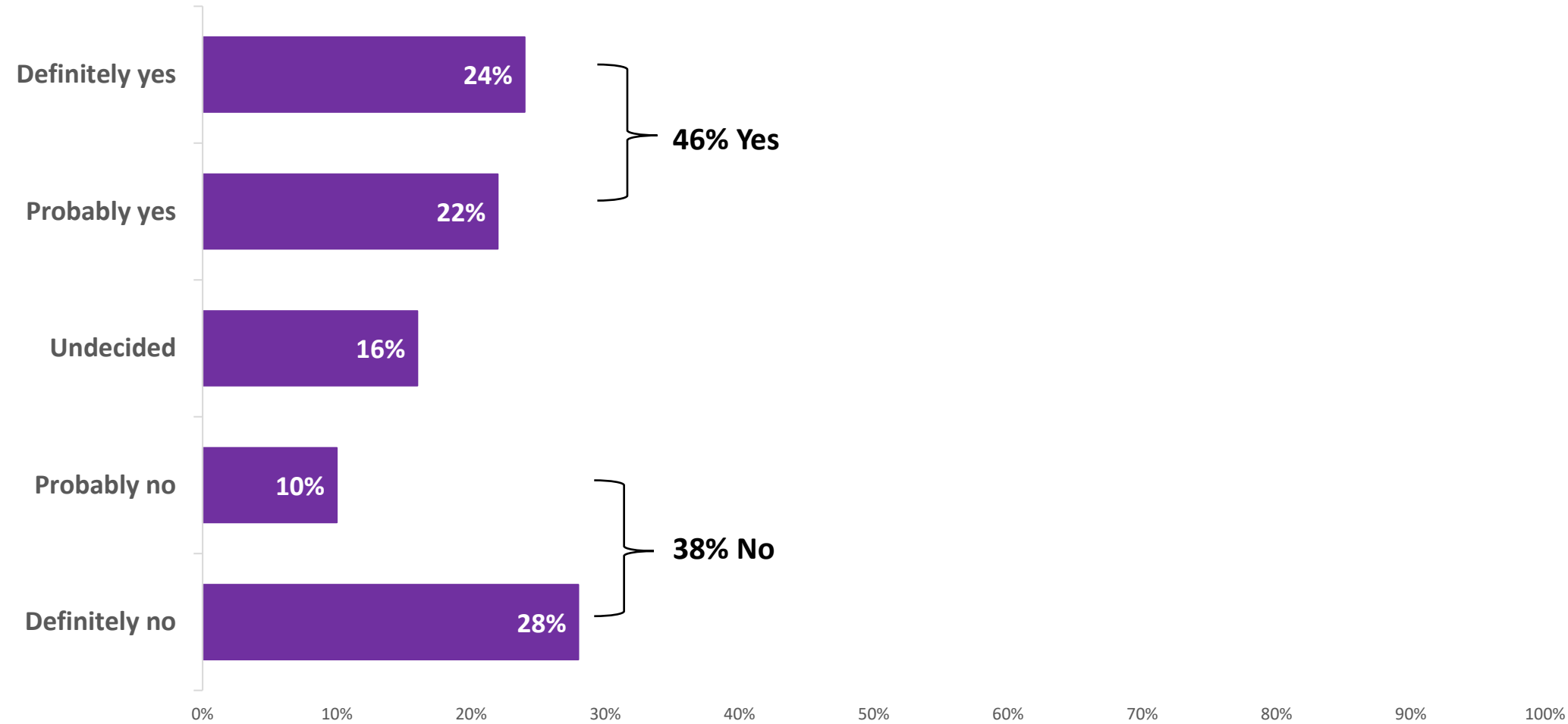
Parent Residents



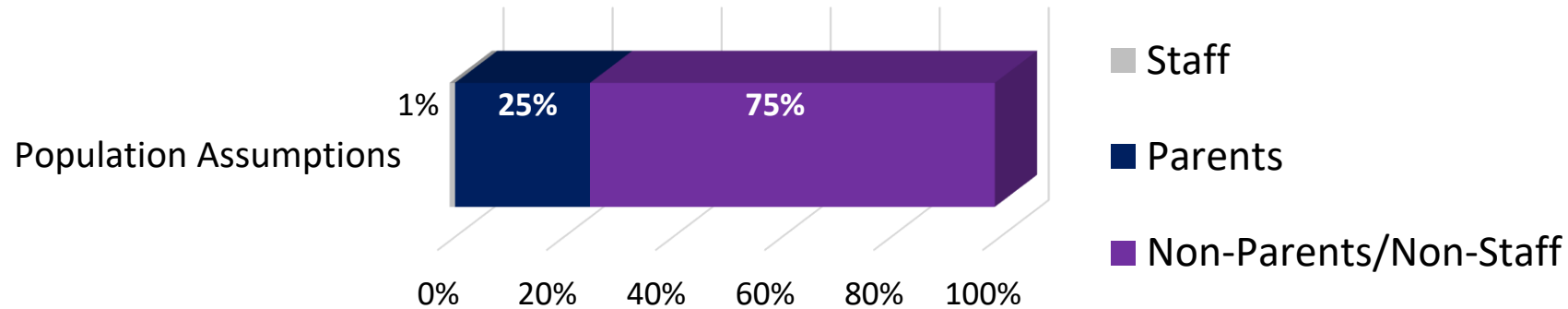
Would you support a \$194.7 million referendum to fund the proposed plan?



Non-parent/Non-staff Residents



Would you support a \$194.7 million referendum to fund the proposed plan?



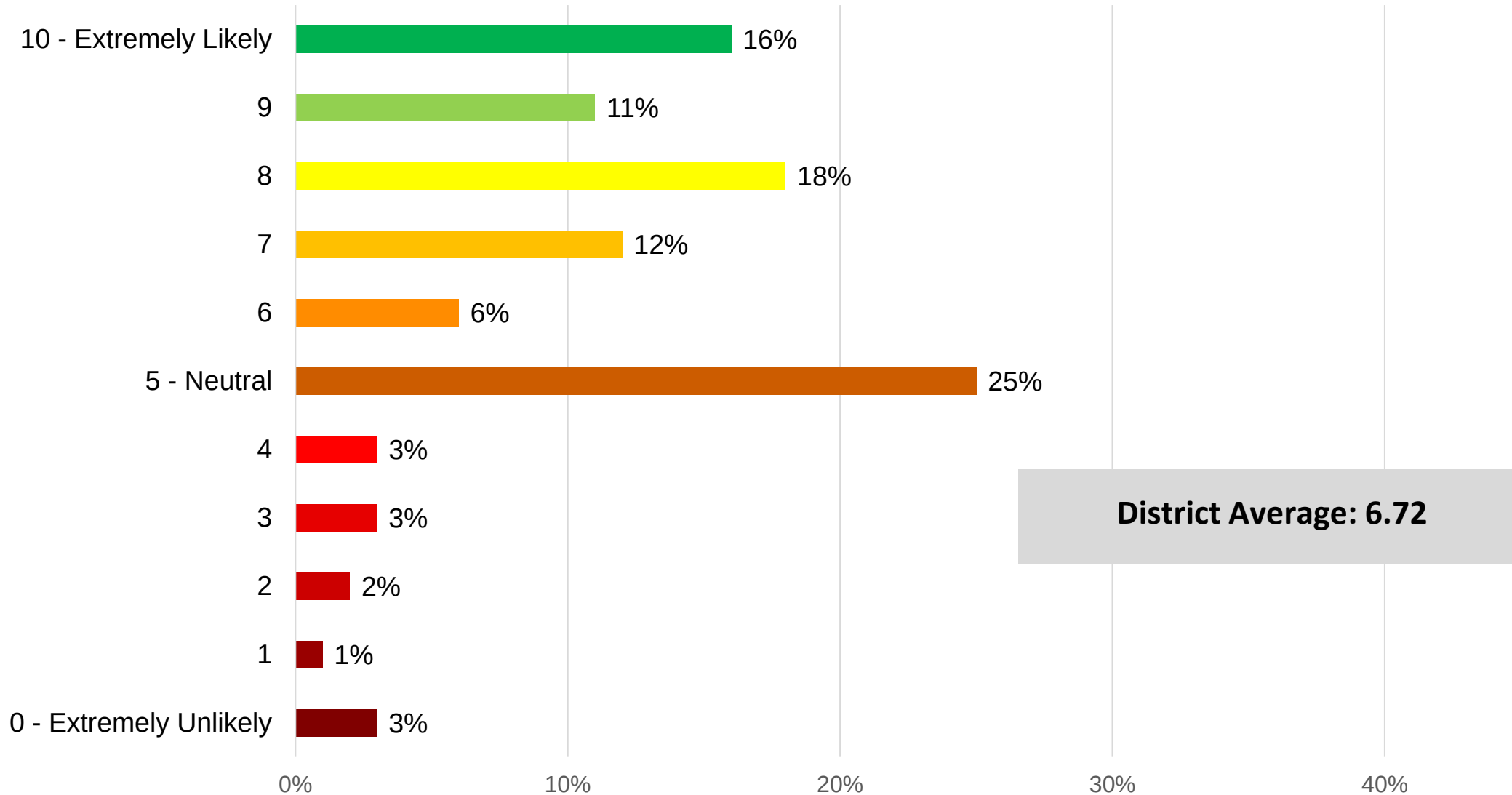
Of those responding “Definitely yes” or “Probably Yes”

$$0.75 (46\%) + 0.25 (56\%) = \mathbf{48.50\%}$$

Of those responding “Definitely yes” or “Probably Yes”
plus 1/3rd of undecided

$$0.75 (51\%) + 0.25 (60\%) = \mathbf{53.25\%}$$

How likely are you to recommend the District to a friend or family member? *(All Respondents)*





Questions or Comments?



Thank you!