

Community Survey Results

Monroe School District

Winter 2020

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

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

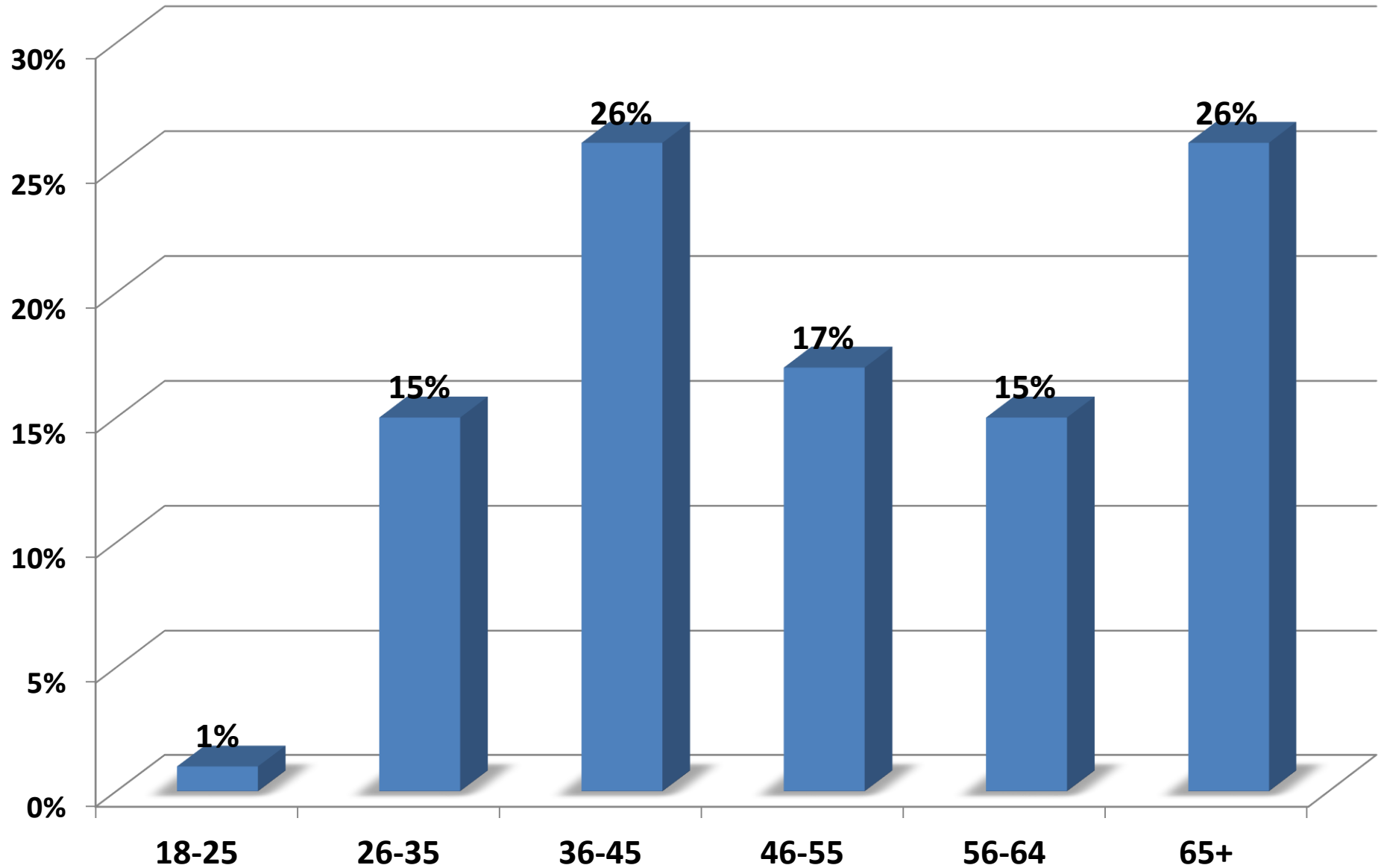
- Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research
- Conducted over 10,000 staff, student, parent, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Summary

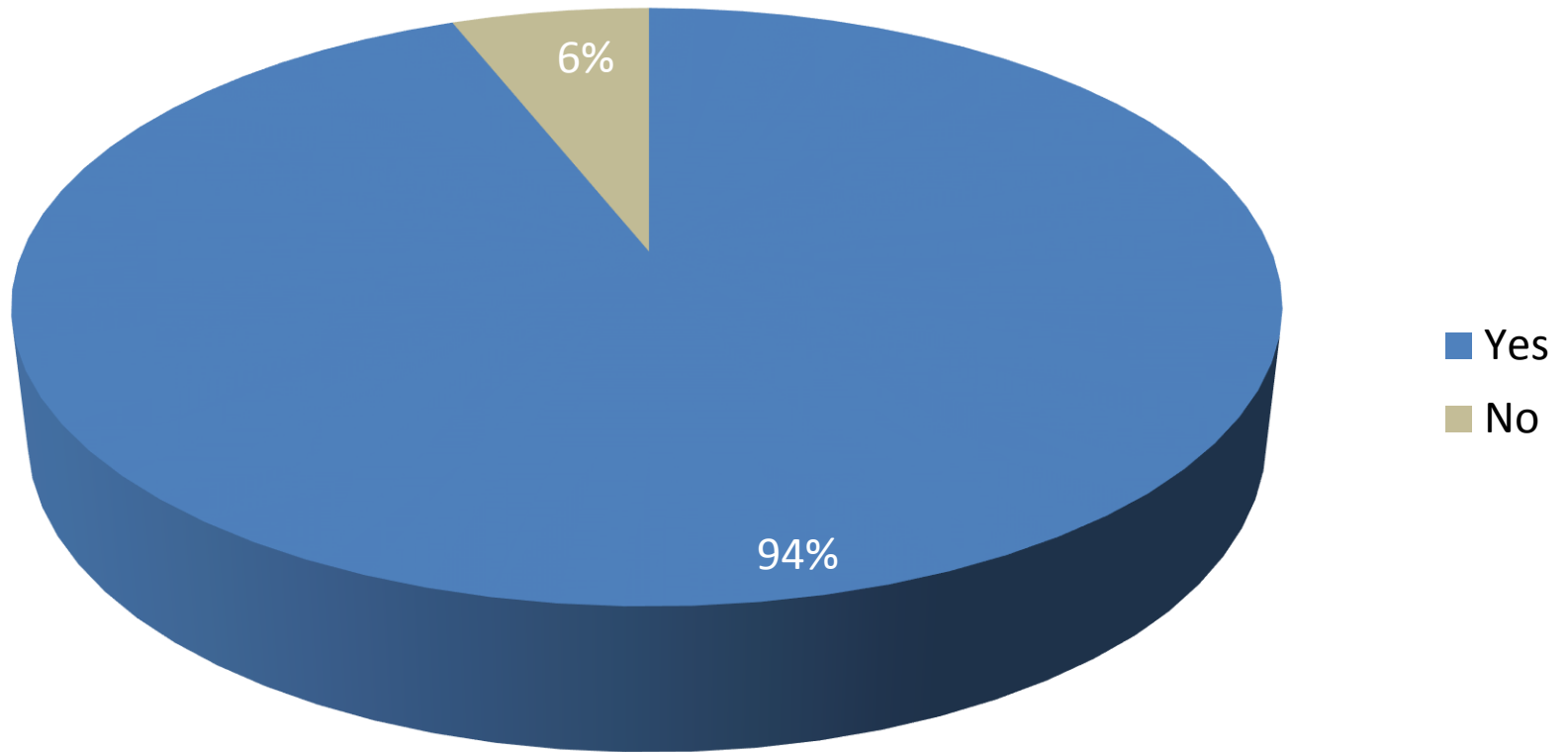
- The survey was conducted in February of 2020.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 1,431 (456 paper)
- Response rate = 20%
- Margin of error = +/- 2.6%

Respondent Information

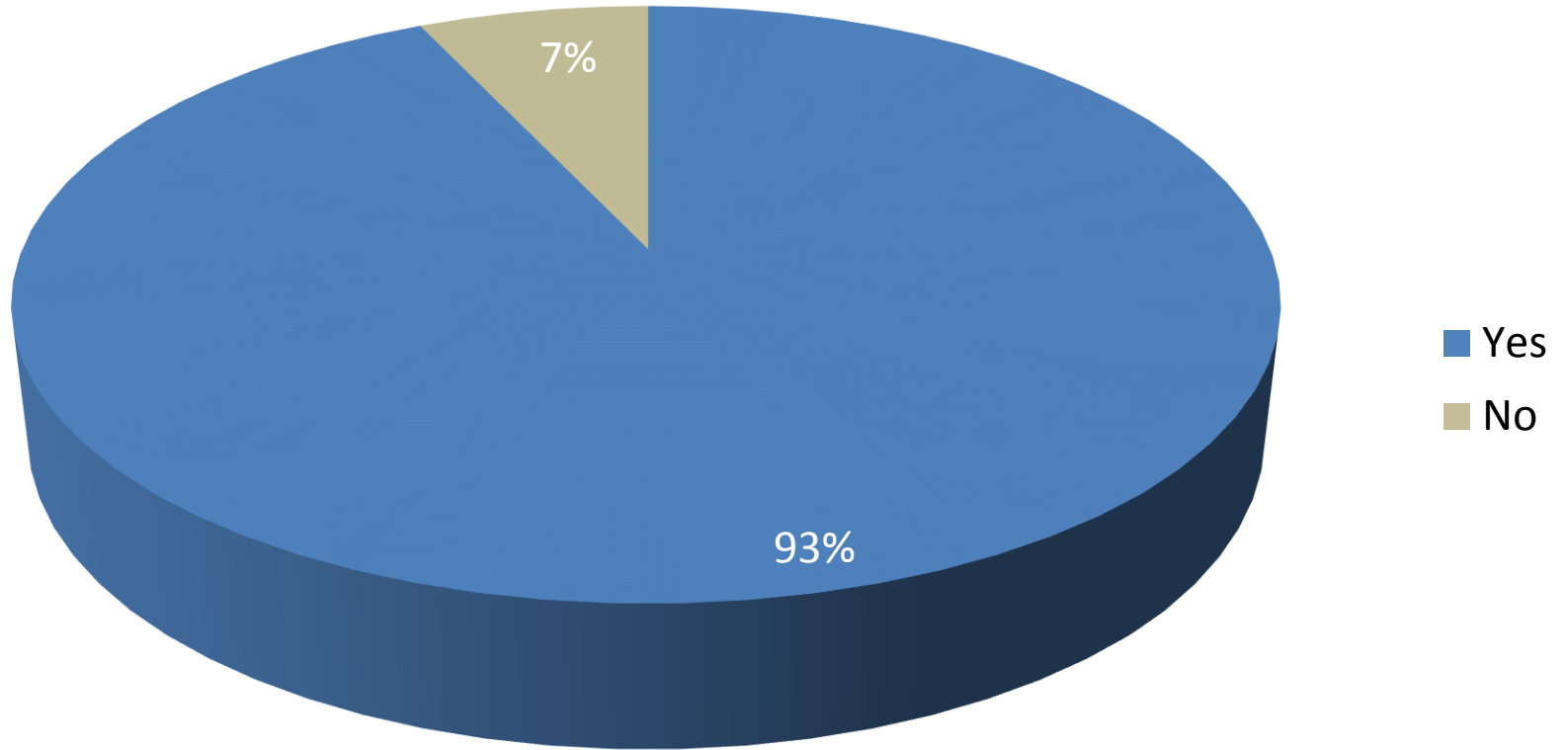
What is your age?



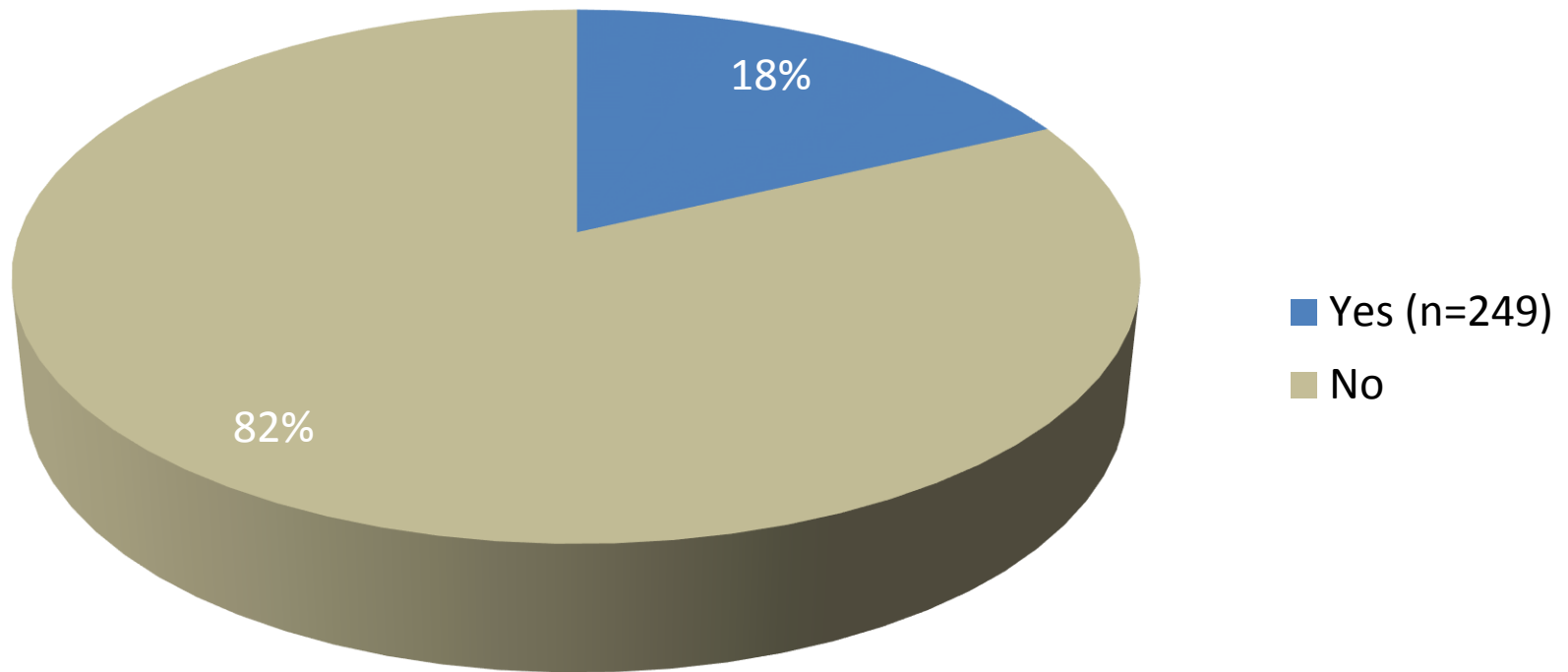
Do you live in the School District of Monroe?



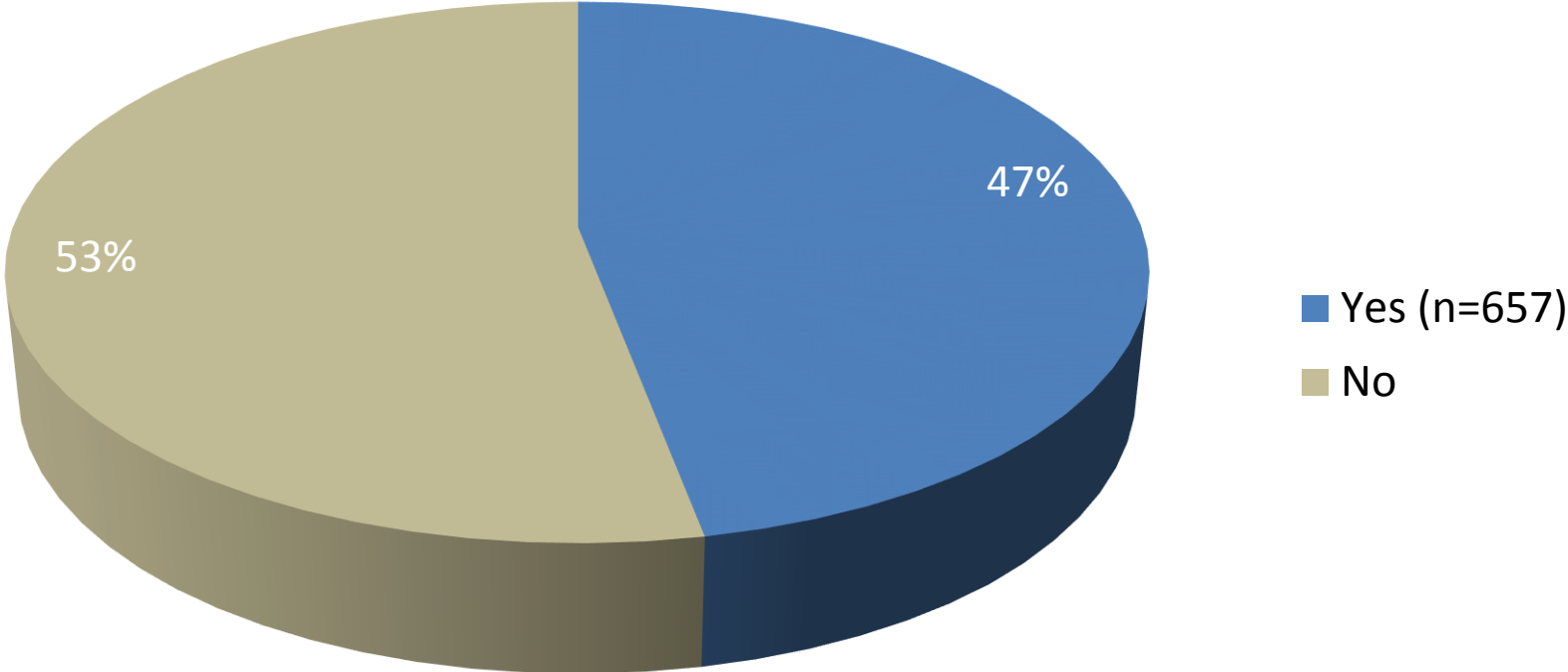
Do you normally vote in elections?



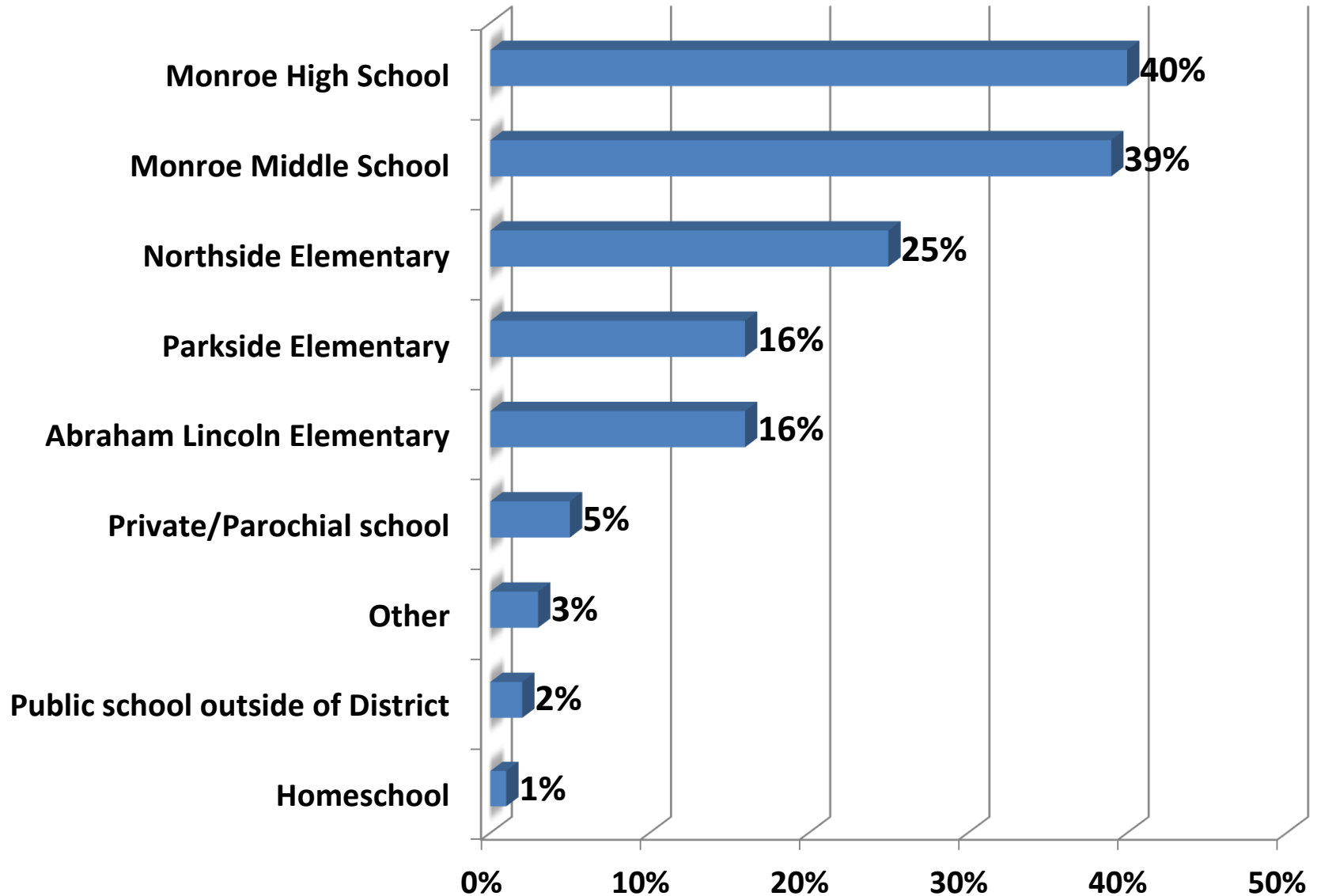
Are you an employee of the School District of Monroe?



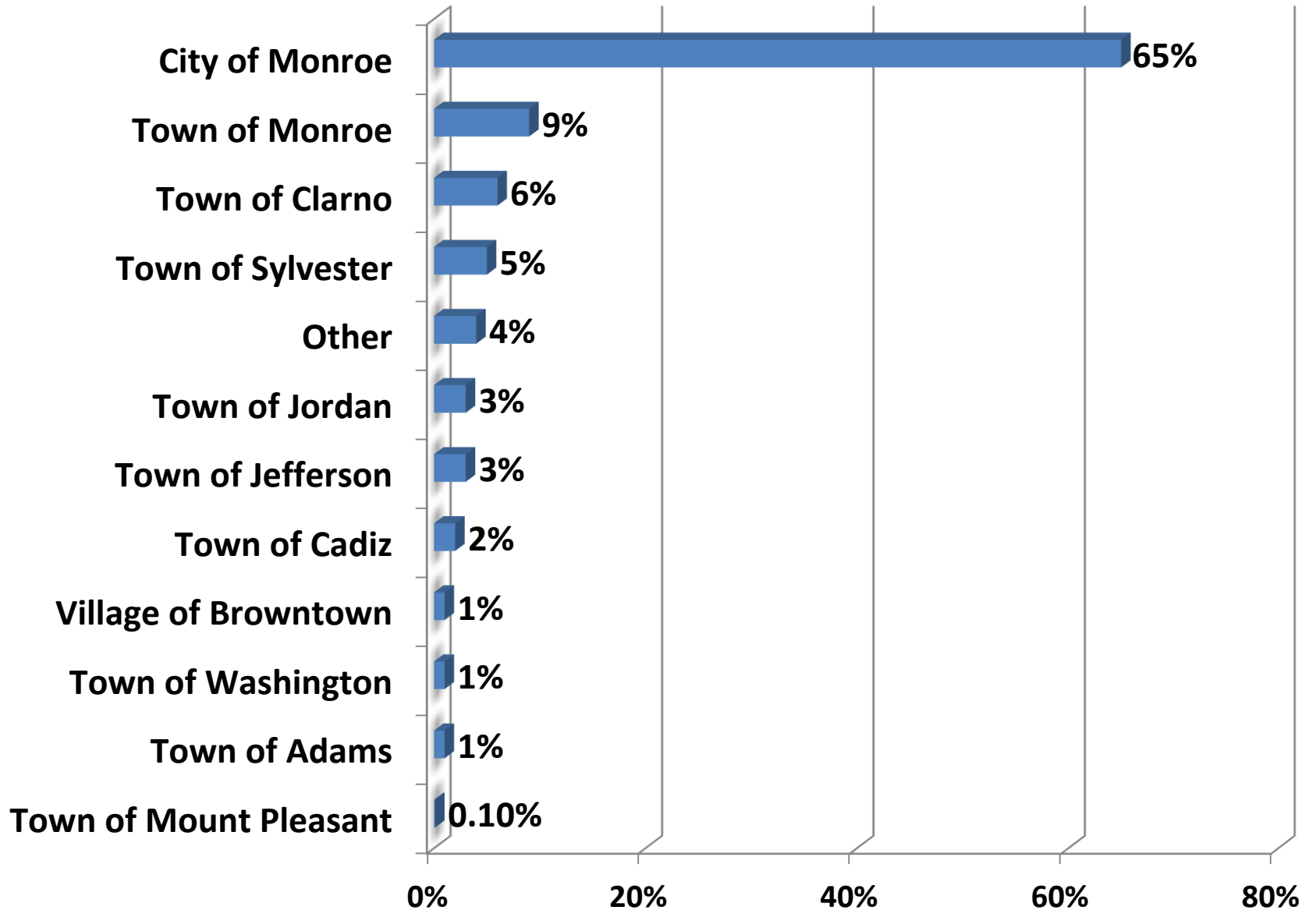
Do you have a child(ren) attending school in the District?



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



In which city or township do you reside?



Monroe High School

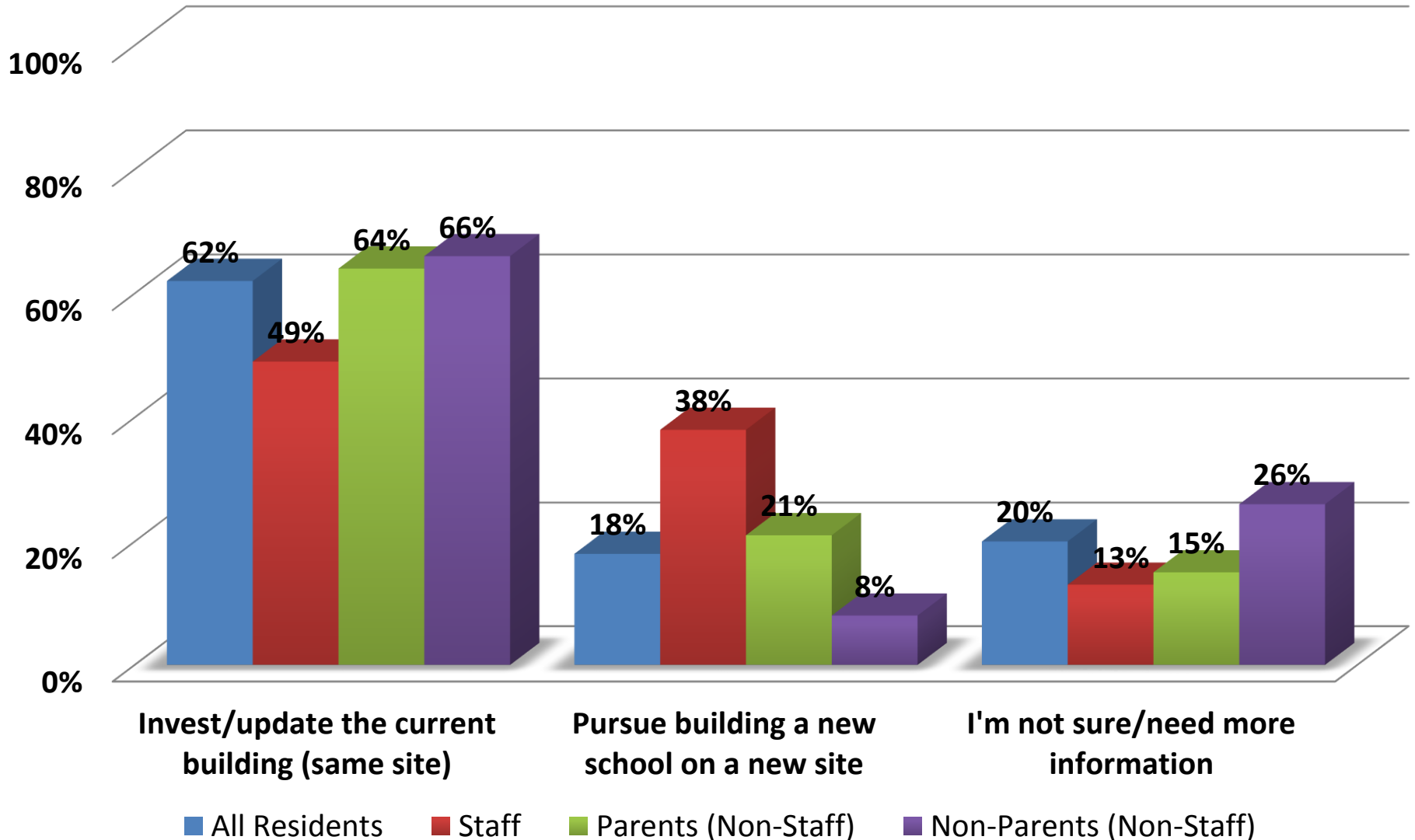
A comprehensive facilities study identified the following issues at the high school:

- Poor construction of the original foundation is causing walls in many classrooms and the West Science Wing to sag and crack.
- Electrical wiring is not up to code and poses an ongoing safety hazard; additional outlets are needed throughout the building.
- The building has significant Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance/accessibility issues.
- The cafeteria is undersized and inefficient for serving the current student population.
- Water infiltration is causing mold and impacting the air quality.
- The building lacks flexible areas for small- and large-group instruction and student collaboration.
- The technical education (shop) area lacks the space and equipment to support the future curriculum and better prepare our students for careers in our region.
- The building lacks a secure entrance to control visitor access properly.

Some people have asked if now is the time to consider building a new high school. To help answer this question, the District Facilities Committee toured high schools in Berlin, Brown Deer, Port Washington, and Ripon, as they have faced similar challenges. Because the newer parts of Monroe High School are structurally sound, and the site can support future expansion when needed, the Committee believes it makes good financial sense to continue to invest in the school to extend the service life another 40 to 60 years.

What advice would you give the District regarding the high school?

(Monroe School District Residents Only)



Abraham Lincoln Elementary

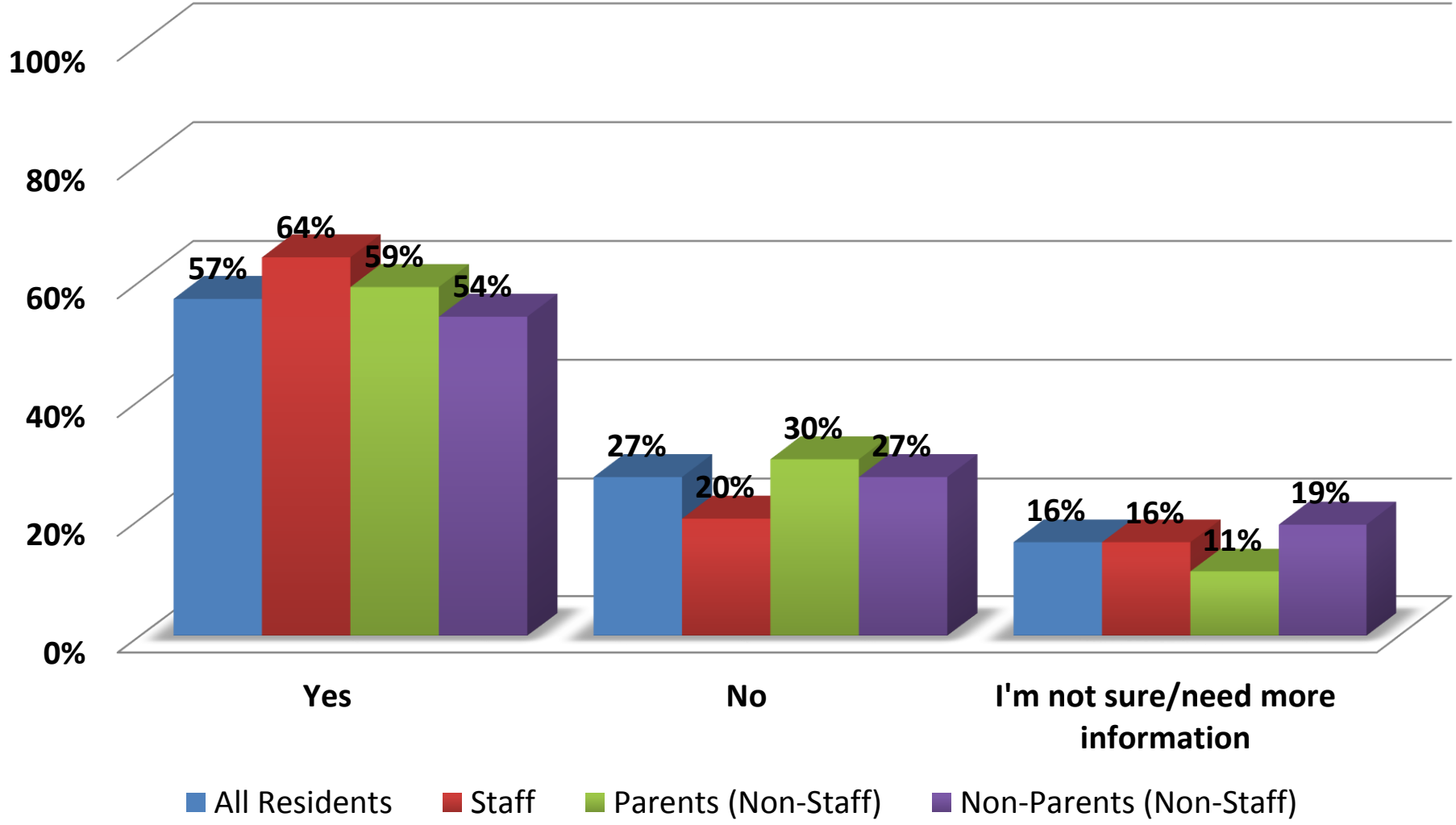
The facilities study also identified the following issues that will need to be addressed at Abraham Lincoln Elementary.

- A main/secure entrance is needed to better monitor and control visitor access.
- Many major building systems, including the plumbing, heating/ventilation, and electrical systems, have exceeded their service life and need to be replaced.
- Portions of the building's exterior, including windows and doors, need replacement.
- Due to their age, classroom floors, lighting, ceilings, and cabinetry need replacement.
- Air supply to classrooms does not meet current code requirements, and the building is poorly insulated.
- The gym floor is delaminating and needs to be replaced.
- The school requires updates to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance.
- Many classrooms are small and lack the flexibility for small-group instruction and student collaboration.

Based on student enrollment projections, the District could close a school. By operating one less school, the District would reduce annual operating expenses and make it easier to share staff and resources. Closing Abraham Lincoln Elementary would be the most logical choice because of its size and condition.

Would you support a plan that would close Abraham Lincoln Elementary and consolidate operations to four schools?

(Monroe School District Residents Only)



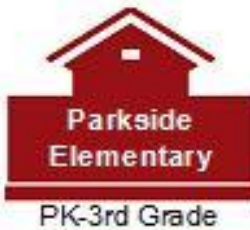
Option 1

Option 1 is recommended by both the Elementary Consolidation and District Facilities Committees. This option would close Abraham Lincoln Elementary and create a combined middle/high school serving students in grades 7-12.

CURRENT



PROPOSED

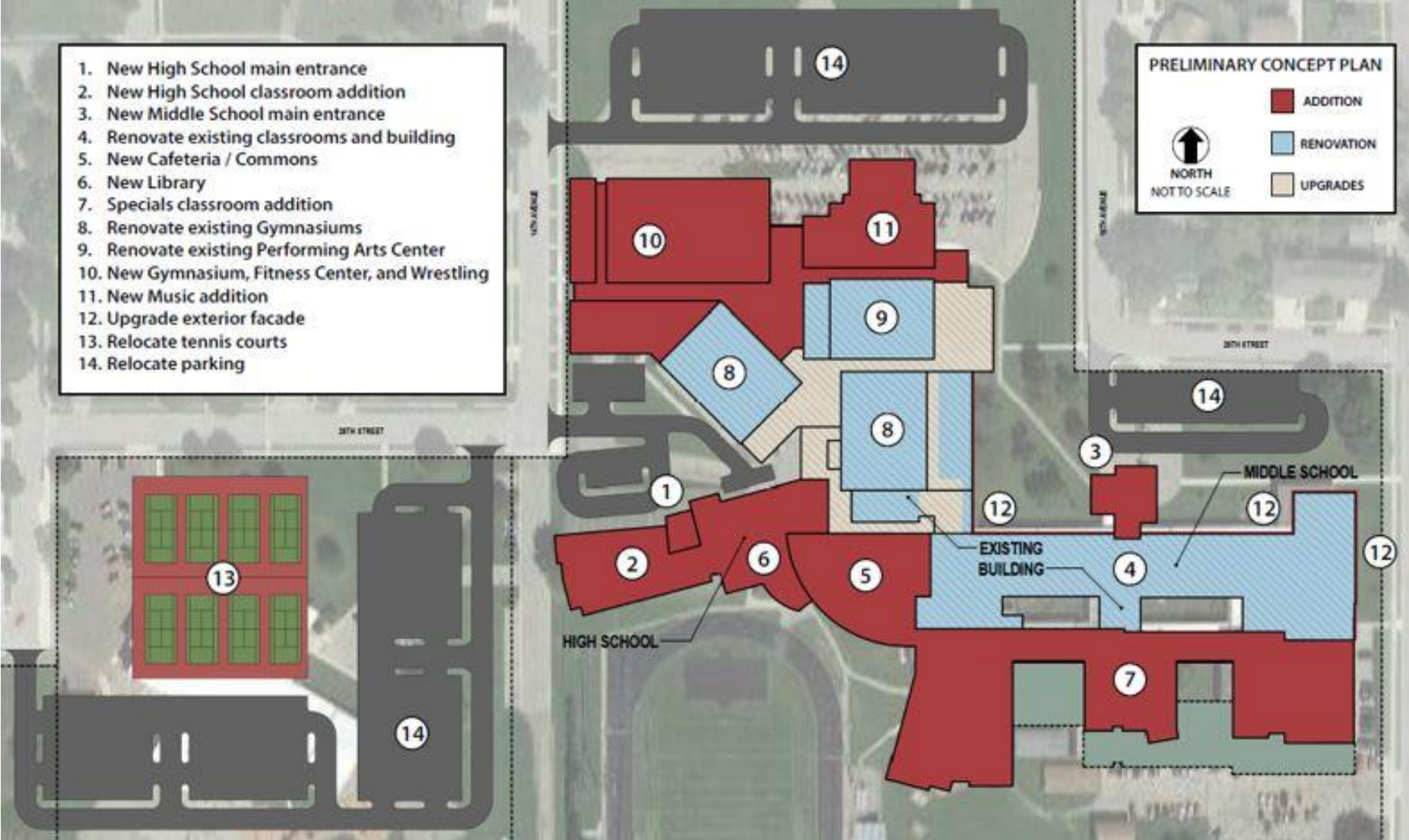


 RECONFIGURATION  ADDITION/RENOVATION

Option 1 is estimated to cost \$86 million and would:

- Reconfigure Northside Elementary and Parkside Elementary to serve students in Pre-K through 3rd grade.
- Convert the middle school to an intermediate school to serve all students in 4th through 6th grade. This project would improve the music rooms, science labs, and increase gym space.
- Renovate 144,500 square feet and add 227,000 square feet at Monroe High School to serve all students in 7th through 12th grade. This building would function as two schools under one roof. Both the middle school and high school would have a separate entrance and office. Specialty areas would be accessible and could be used by all grades.

The diagram below is a preliminary concept that would extend the life of the existing high school by 40 to 60 years.



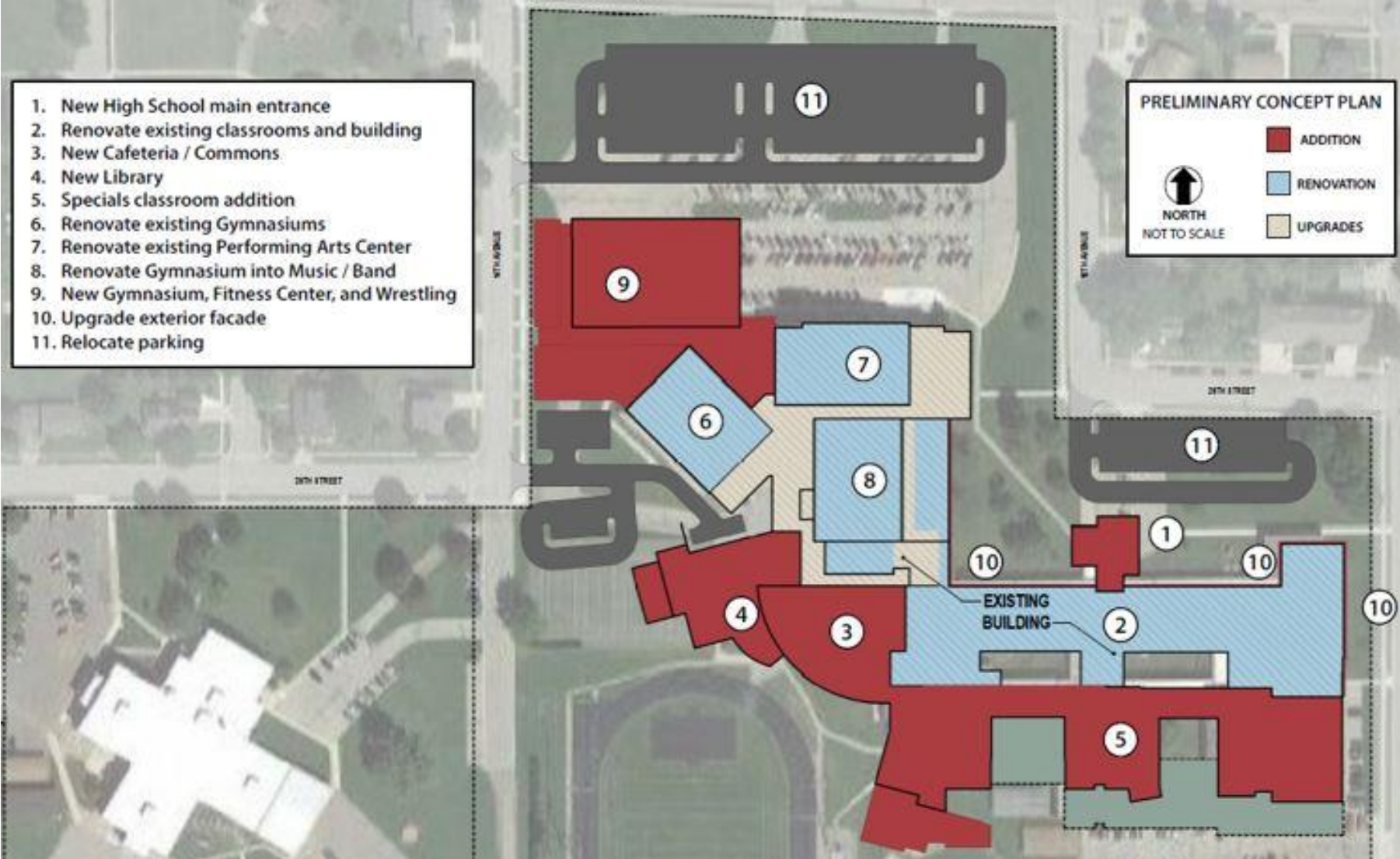
Option 2

Option 2 would continue to operate Abraham Lincoln Elementary and maintain the current school/grade configuration.

Option 2 is estimated to cost \$81 million and would:

- Update and renovate Abraham Lincoln.
- Renovate 147,500 square feet and add 191,600 square feet at Monroe High School to serve all students in 9th through 12th grade as described on the following slide.

The diagram below is a preliminary concept that would extend the life of the existing high school by 40 to 60 years.

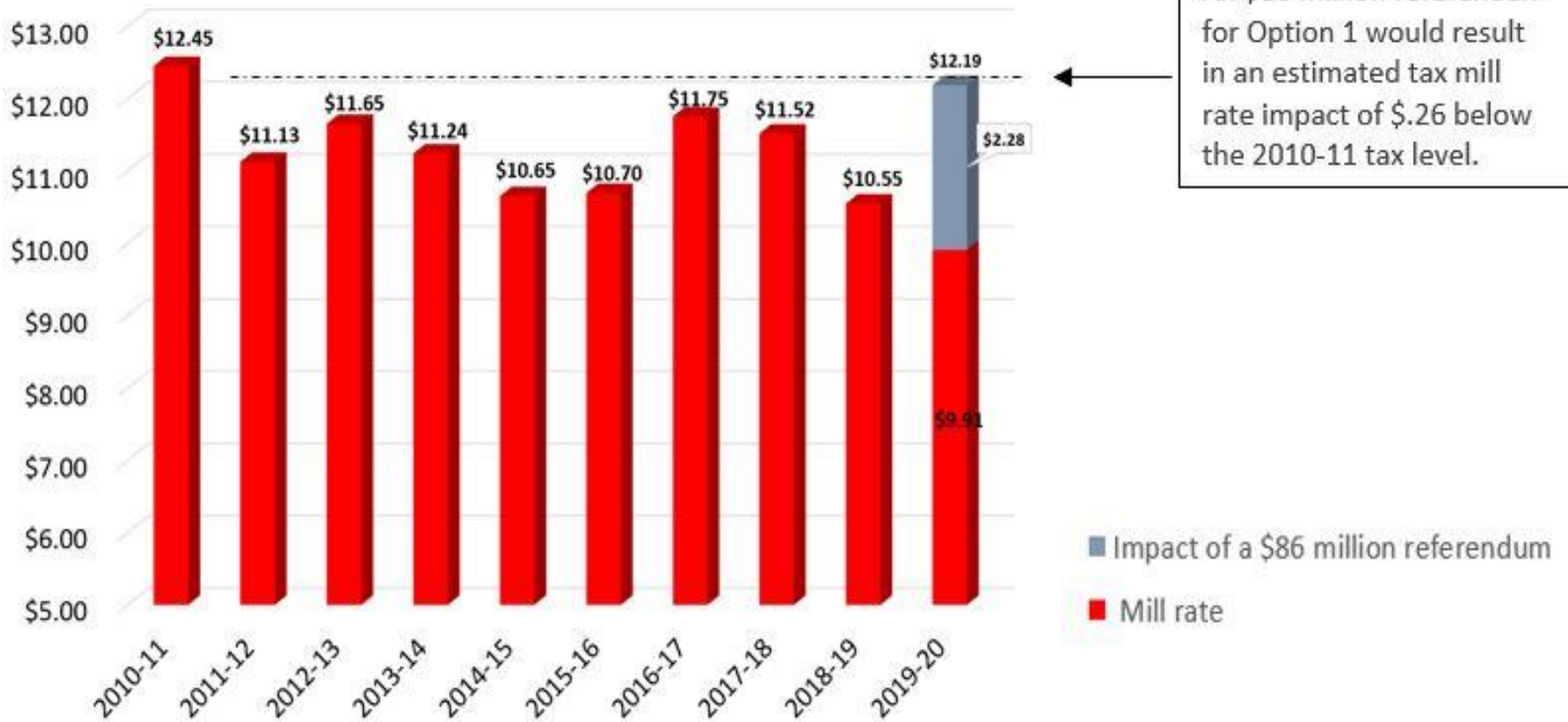


Funding Support

The District has made the final payment on a loan that funded updates to District facilities 20 years ago. Next year, the District will pay off the loan that was used to update Parkside Elementary and Monroe Middle School. As a result, the debt portion of the school tax levy will drop. Using a homeowner analogy, we are about to pay off the mortgage of our home. This reduction of loan payments will minimize the tax impact of any new spending and is included in the tax calculations below. With that debt retired, the District believes this is a good time to consider investing in our schools. Also, interest rates remain near historic lows, allowing us to maximize any necessary borrowing.

Since the 2010-2011 school year, the District's tax mill rate, which is used to calculate property taxes, has declined. The graph below shows the resulting tax impact of Option 1.

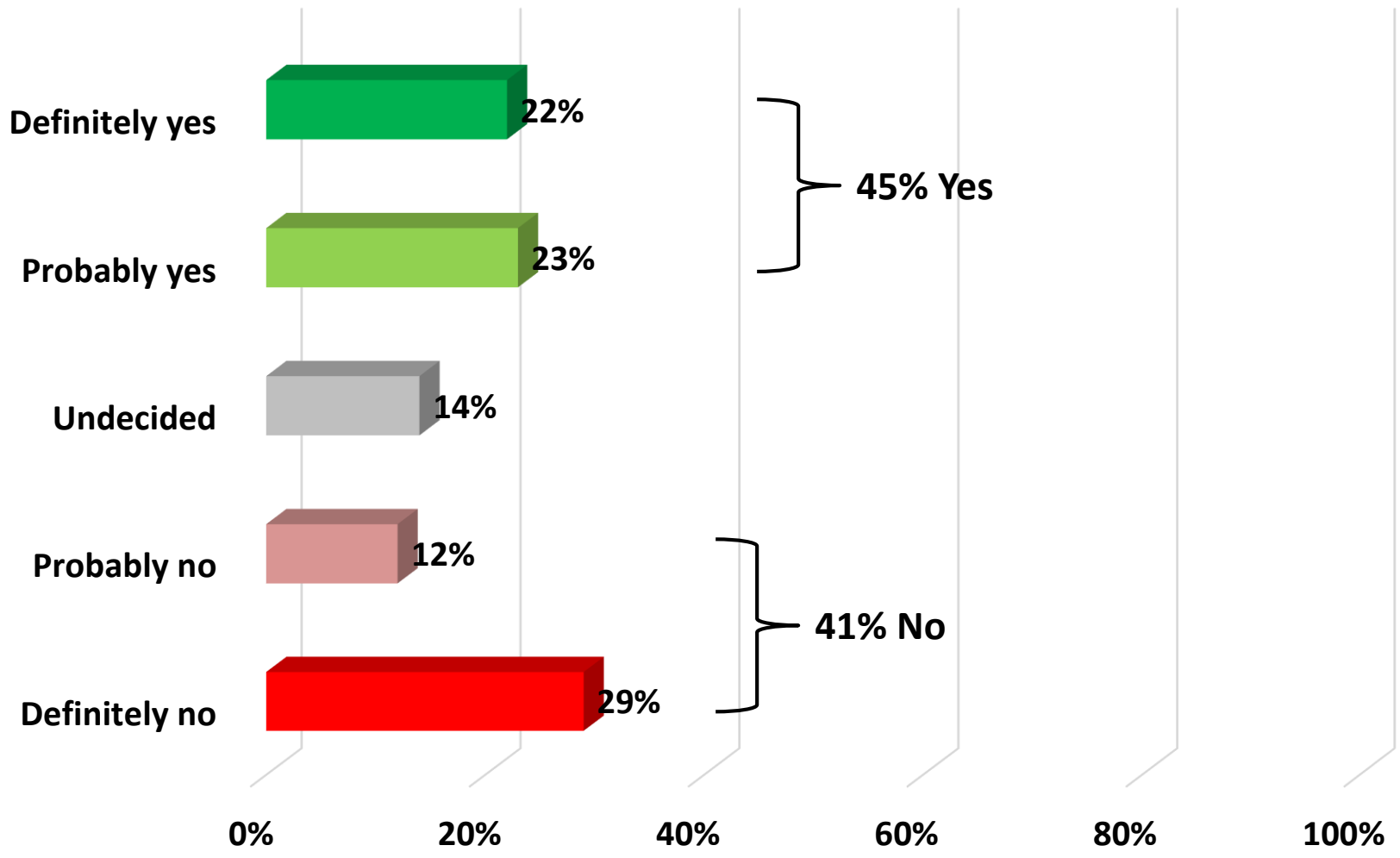
Monroe School District Historical Tax Mill Rate



Would you support an \$86 million referendum for Option 1?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$228 for each \$100,000 of property value.

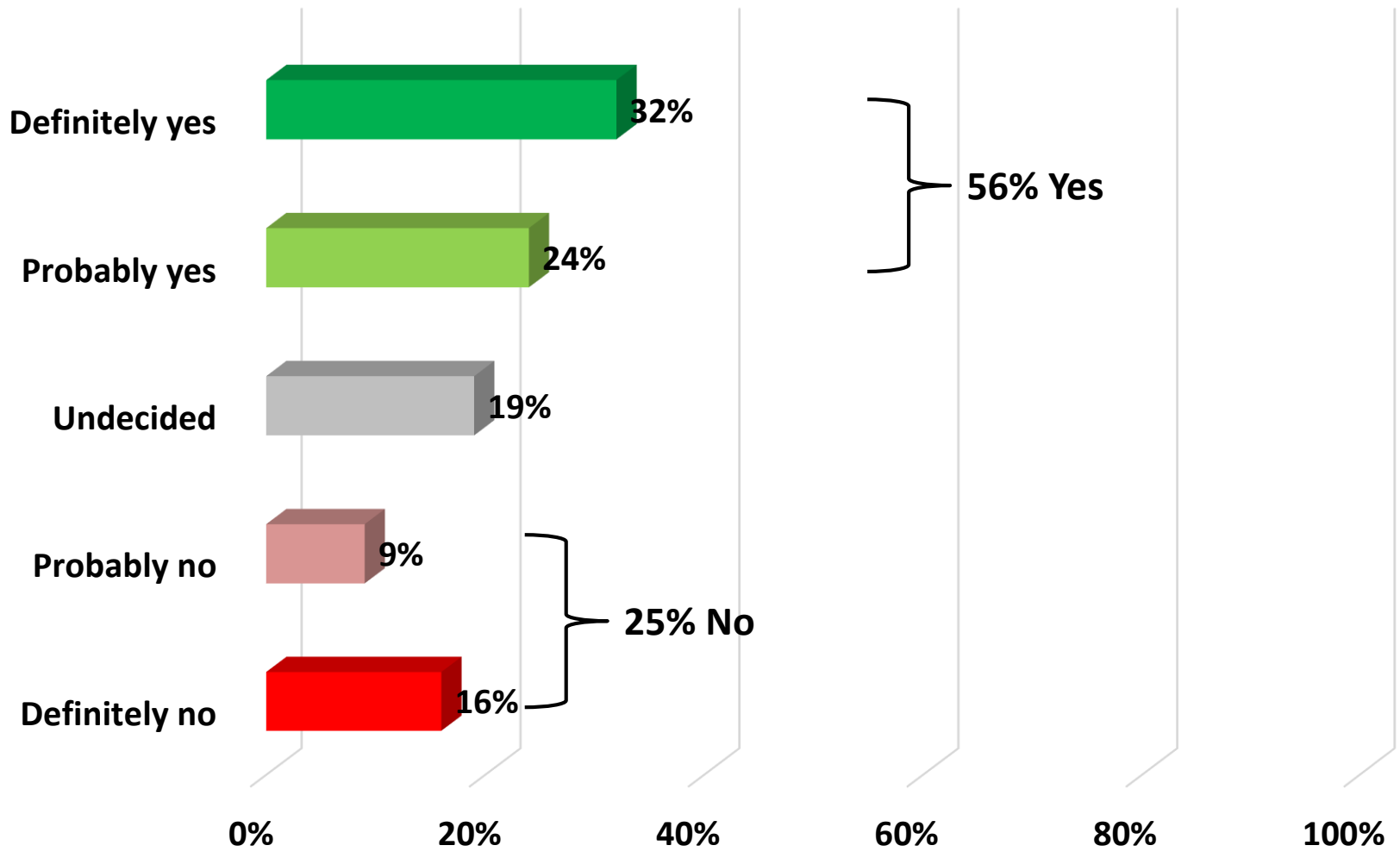
All Residents



Would you support an \$86 million referendum for Option 1?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$228 for each \$100,000 of property value.

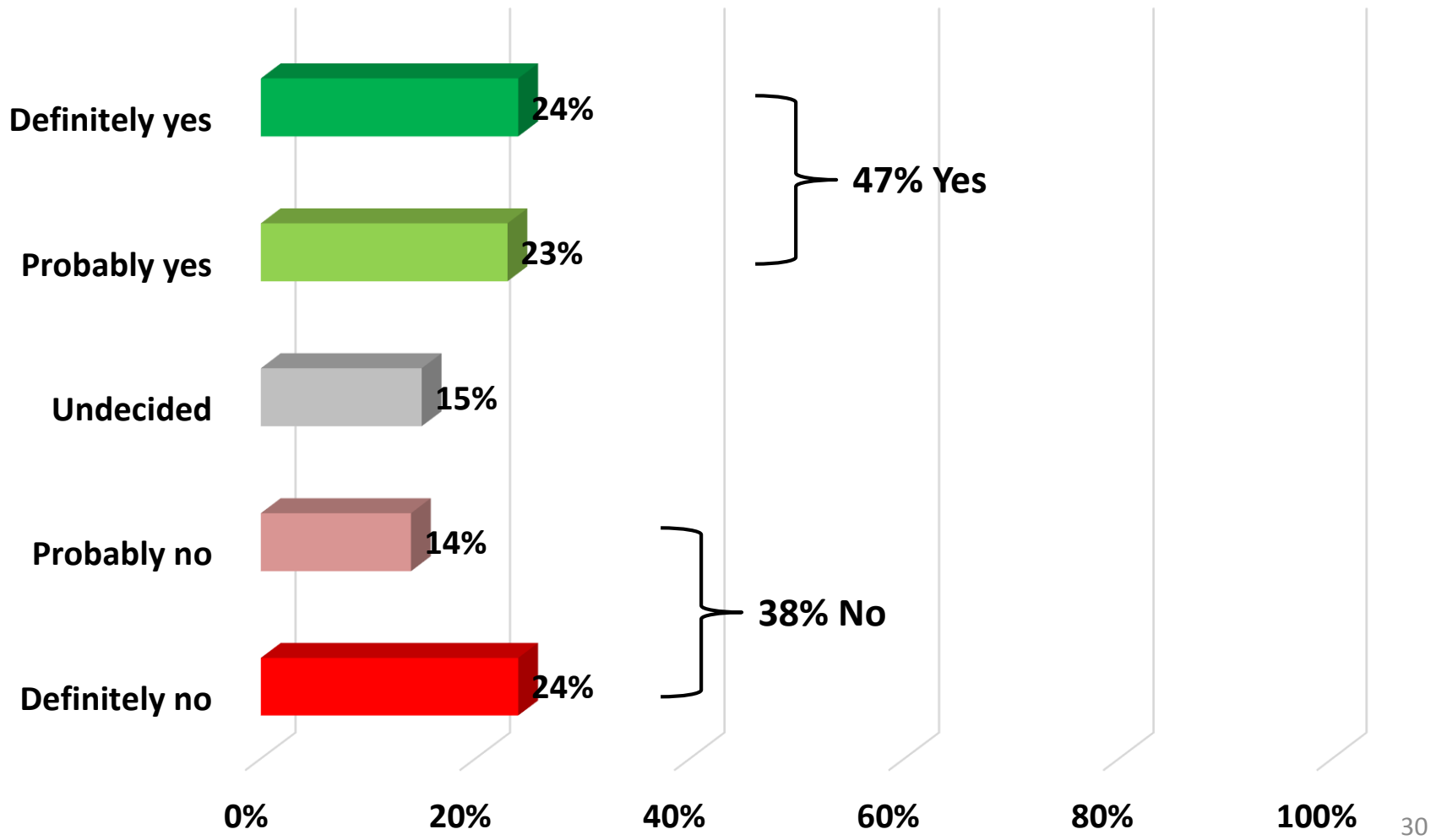
Staff Residents



Would you support an \$86 million referendum for Option 1?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$228 for each \$100,000 of property value.

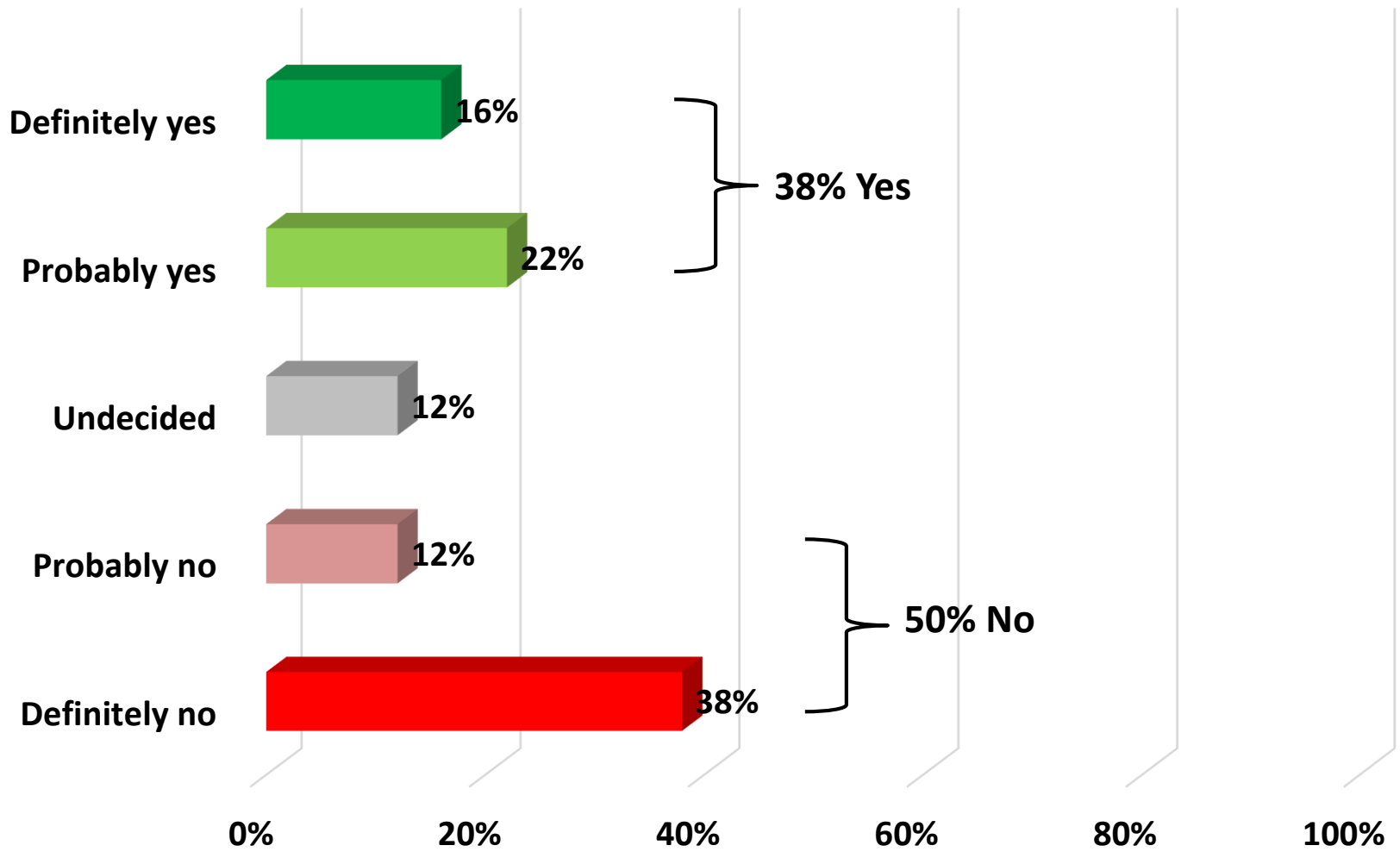
Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



Would you support an \$86 million referendum for Option 1?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$228 for each \$100,000 of property value.

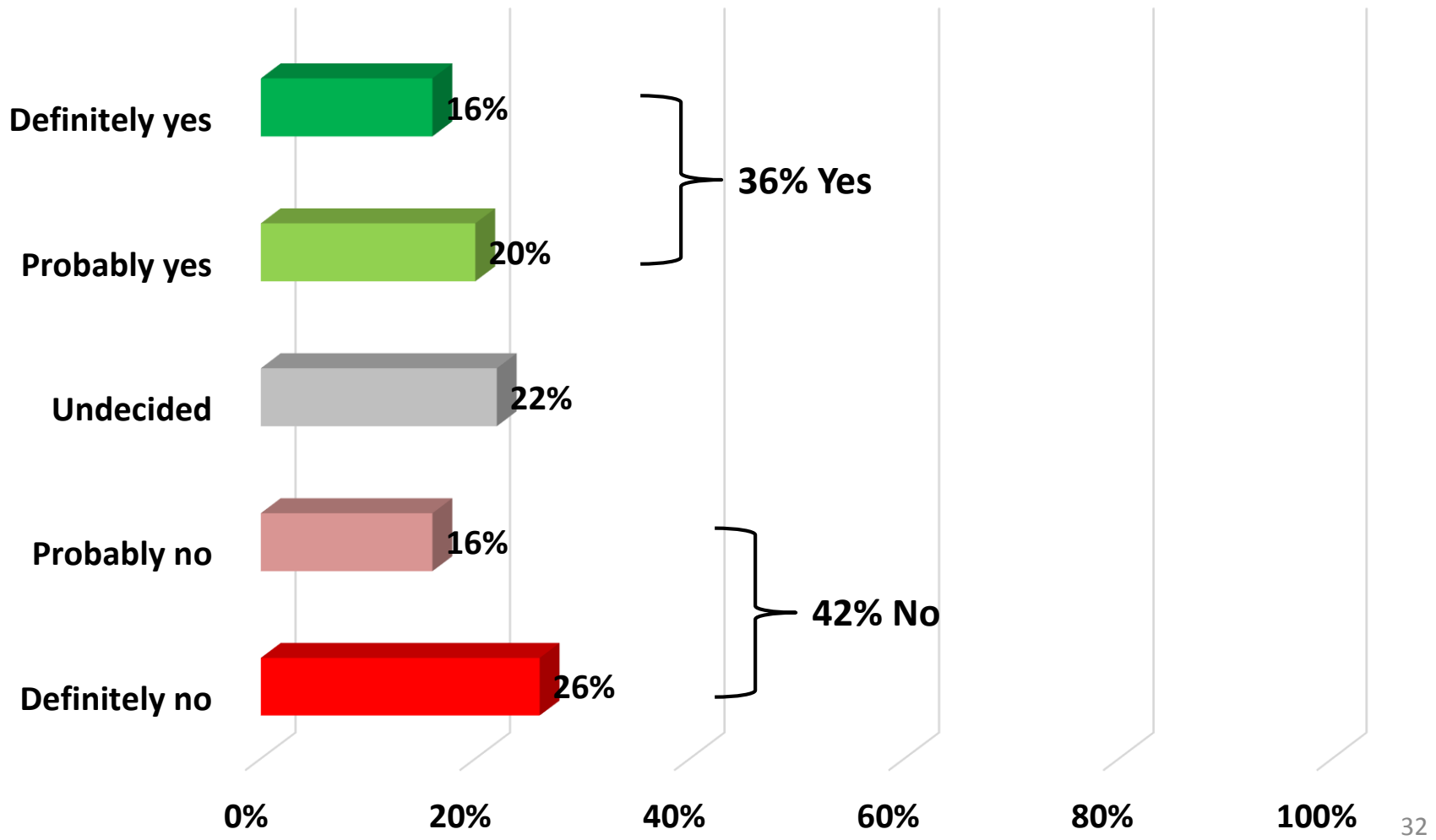
Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



Would you support an \$81 million referendum for Option 2?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$215 for each \$100,000 of property value.

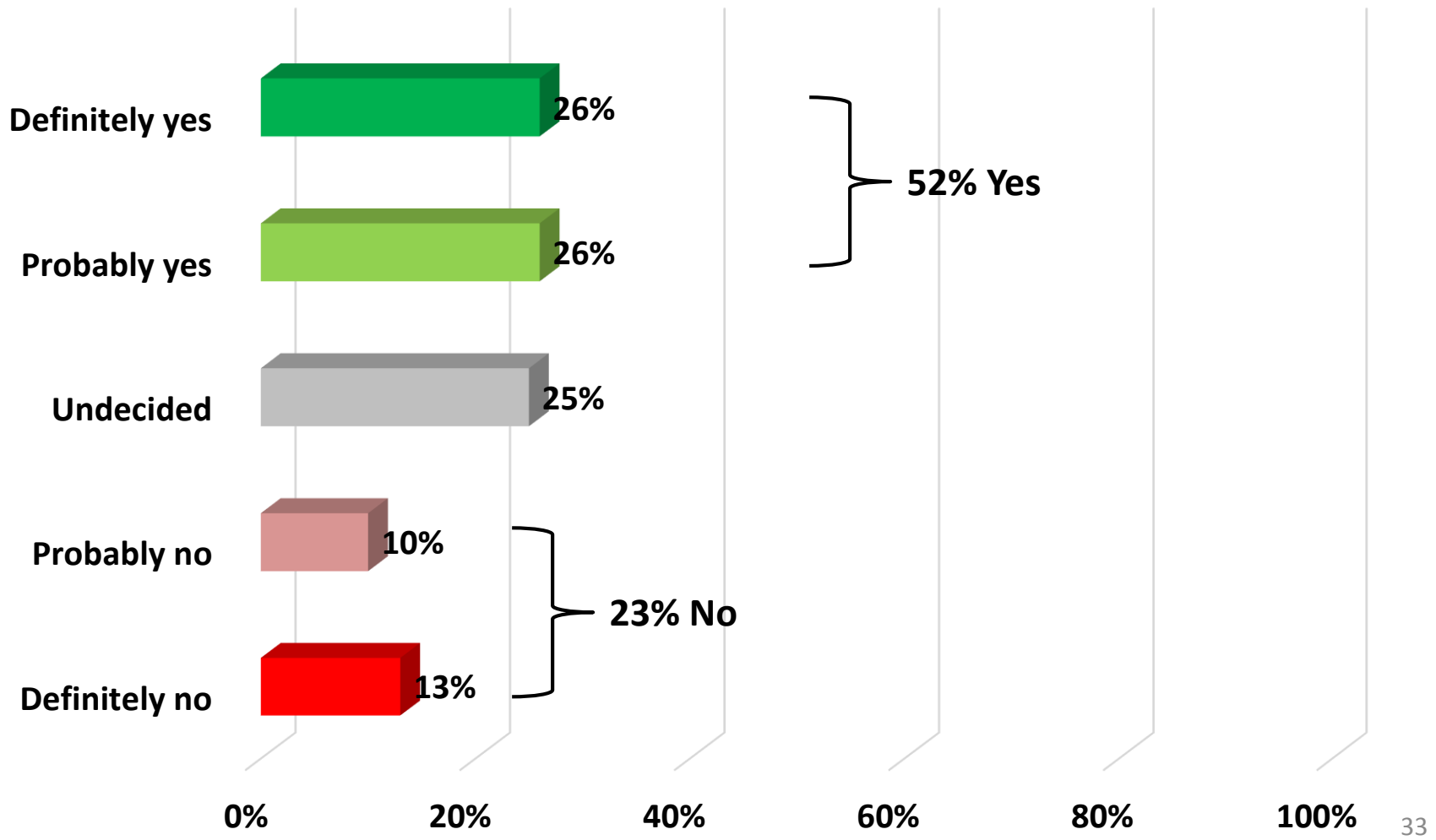
All Residents



Would you support an \$81 million referendum for Option 2?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$215 for each \$100,000 of property value.

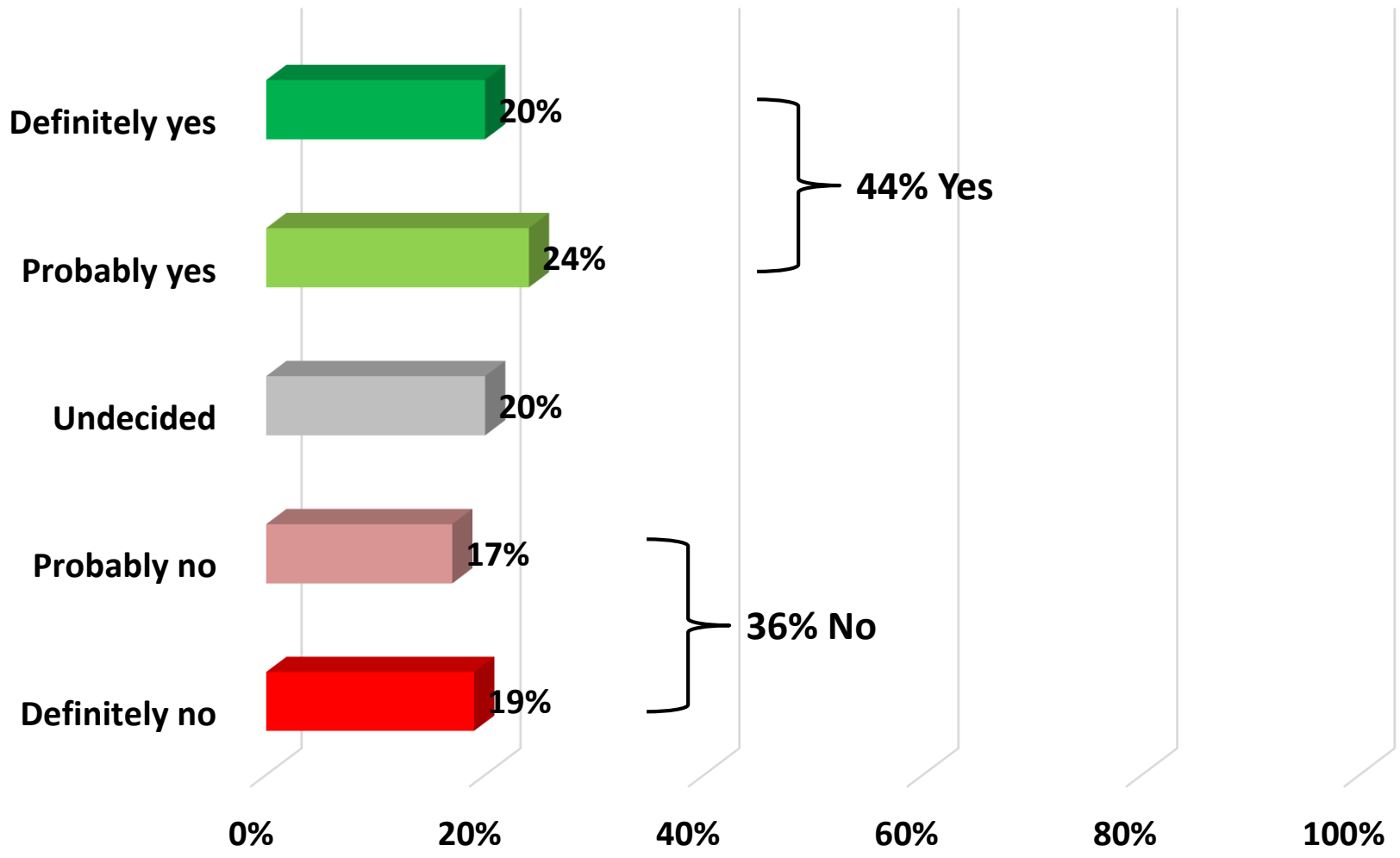
Staff Residents



Would you support an \$81 million referendum for Option 2?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$215 for each \$100,000 of property value.

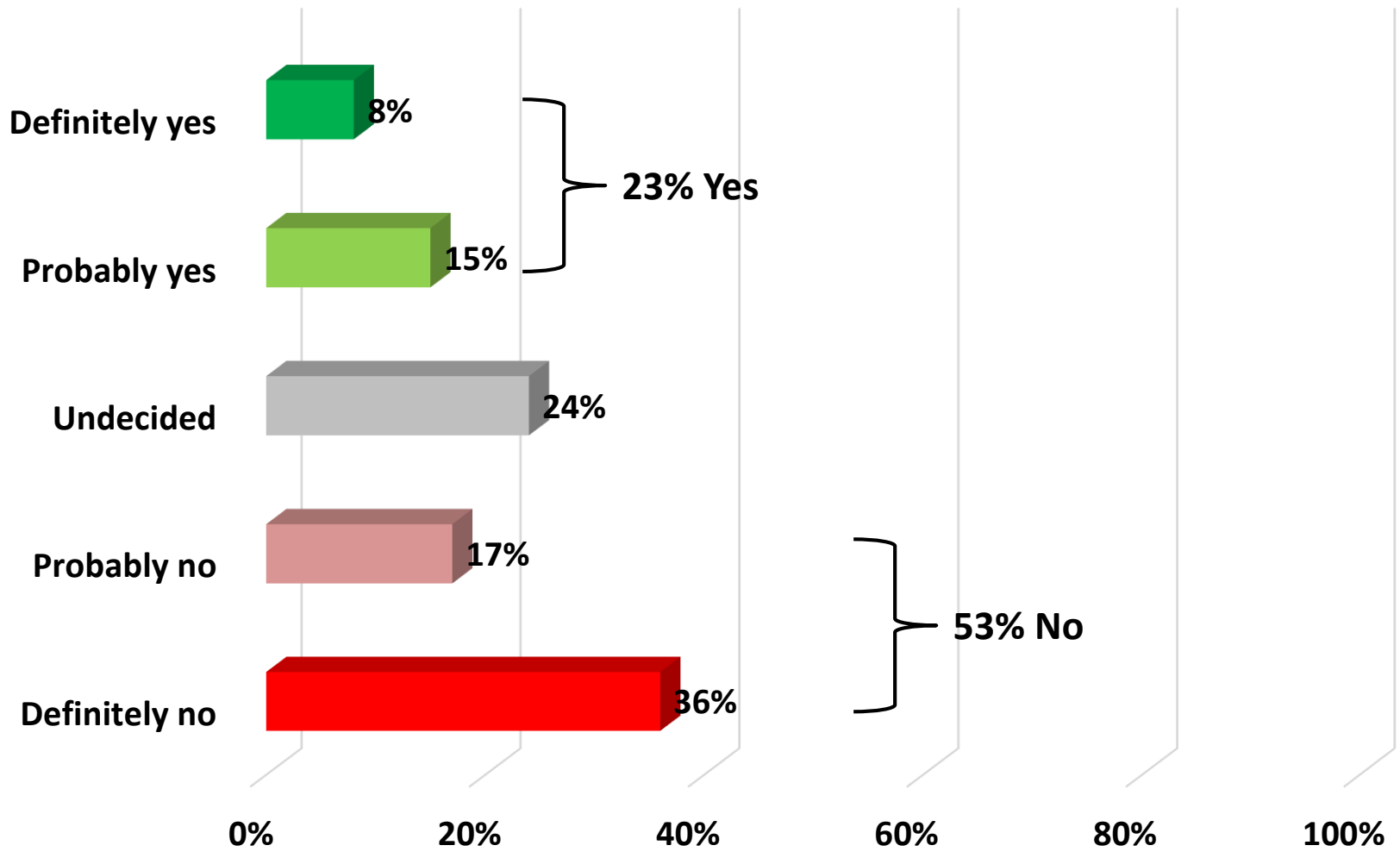
Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



Would you support an \$81 million referendum for Option 2?

Representing an estimated annual tax increase of approximately \$215 for each \$100,000 of property value.

Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)



What did we learn?

- ✓ A majority of all subgroups and 62% of all respondents would like to invest in/update the current high school.
- ✓ A majority of all subgroups and 57% of all respondents support closing Abraham Lincoln Elementary and consolidate operations to four schools?.
- ✓ Option 1, creating a combined middle/high school serving students in grades 7-12, had more support than Option 2, continuing to operate Abraham Lincoln Elementary and maintain the current school/grade configuration.

Would Option 1 be supported through a referendum?

Assuming percent of Resident Population Assumptions

- Non-parent/non-staff = 75%

- Parents = 25%

- Staff < 1%

Of those responding either Definitely Yes, or Probably Yes:

$$.25(47\%) + .75 (38\%) = \underline{40\%}$$

Assuming carrying 1/3 of Undecided:

$$.25(52\%) + .75 (42\%) = \underline{45\%}$$

What might help build support for Option 1?

- ✓ Lower the overall project cost and tax impact.
Consider a plan with a tax increase less than \$200 per \$100,000 of property value.
- ✓ Explore phasing, however, due to the increasing cost of construction and the likelihood that interest rates will rise, building in the future will likely be more expensive.
- ✓ Factor in the lower interest rate environment.

Thank you!



Parent Surveys - Staff Surveys - Student Surveys - Community Surveys
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