



School District of Monroe

Community Survey Report

January 8, 2024

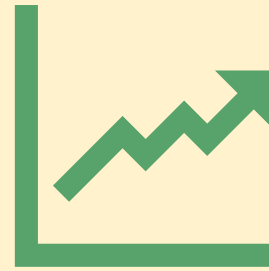
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Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.

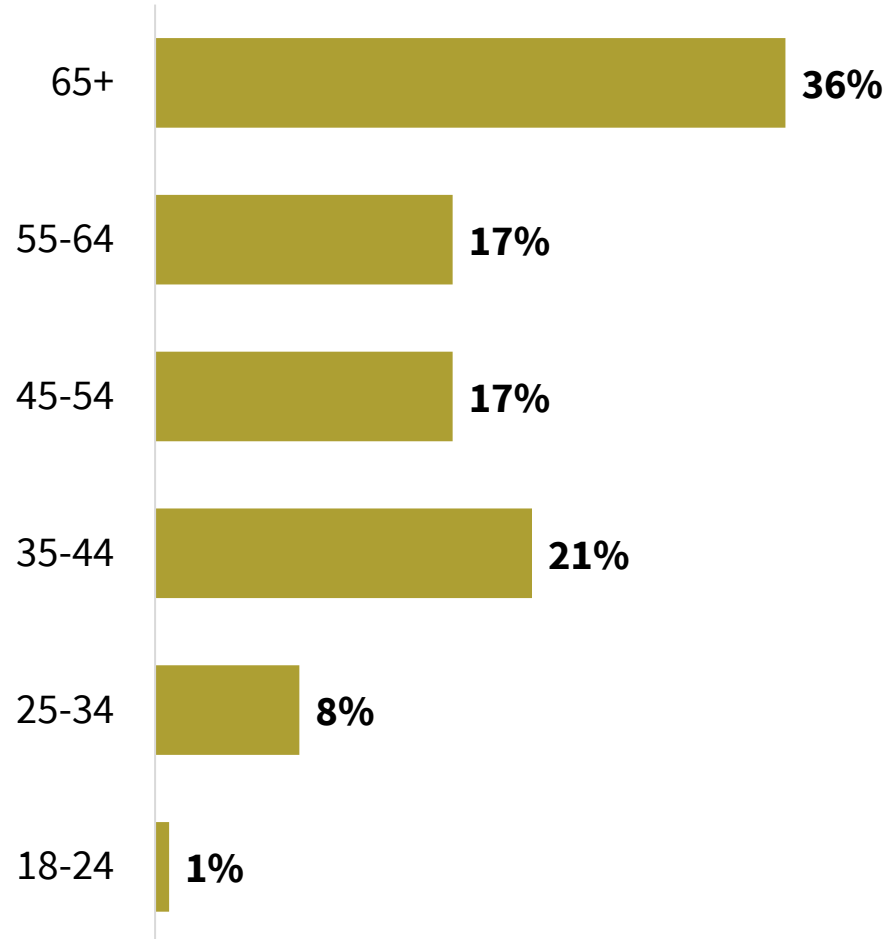
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **3 million** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **1,000** school districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Information

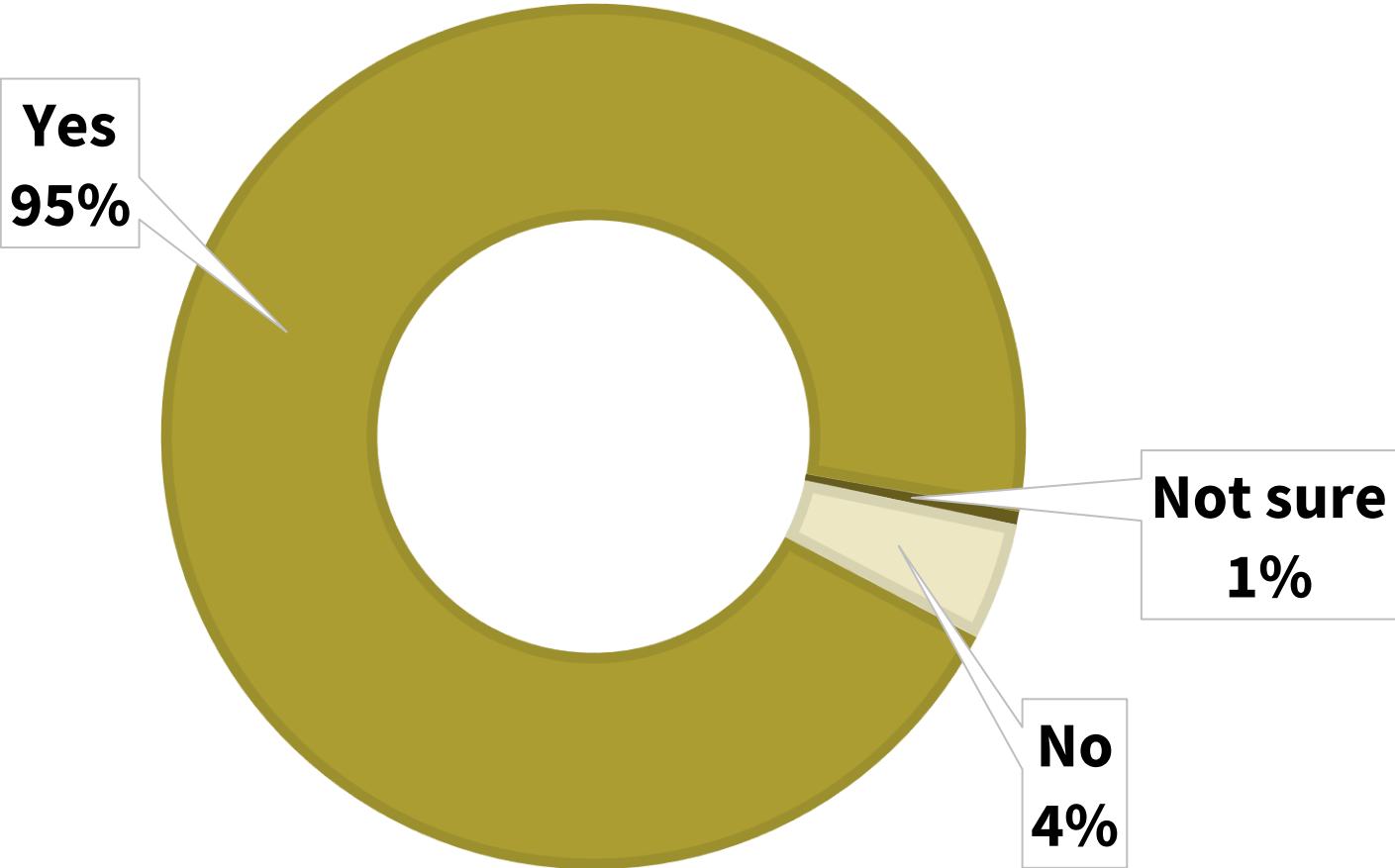
- **December 23, 2024** survey deadline
- **1,738** respondents
 - 1,338 in 2022
 - 1,437 in 2020
 - 1,110 in 2018
 - 1,628 in 2016
- **20.4%** response rate
- **+/- 2.40%** statistical margin of error



What is your age?



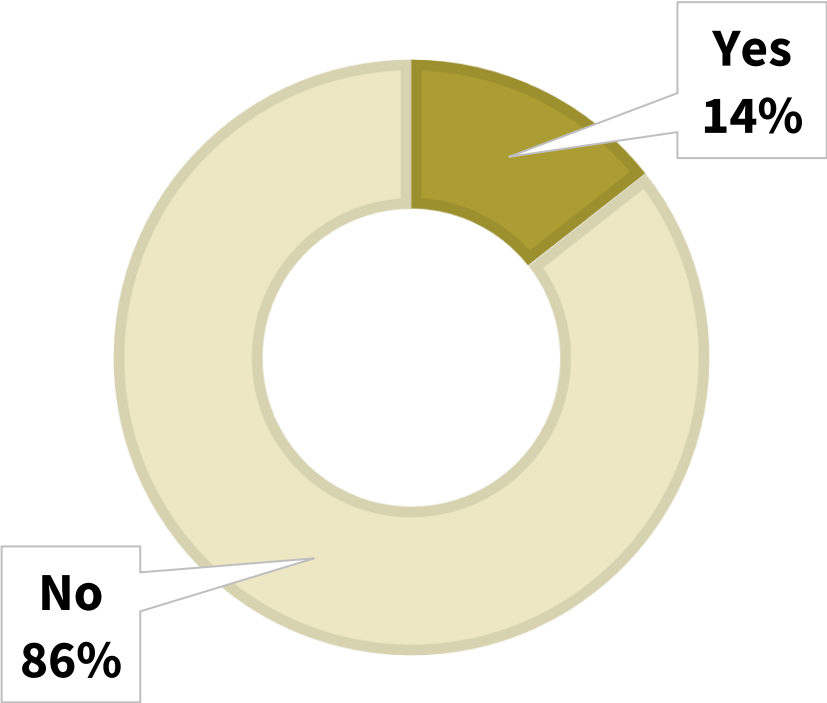
Is your primary residence in the School District of Monroe?



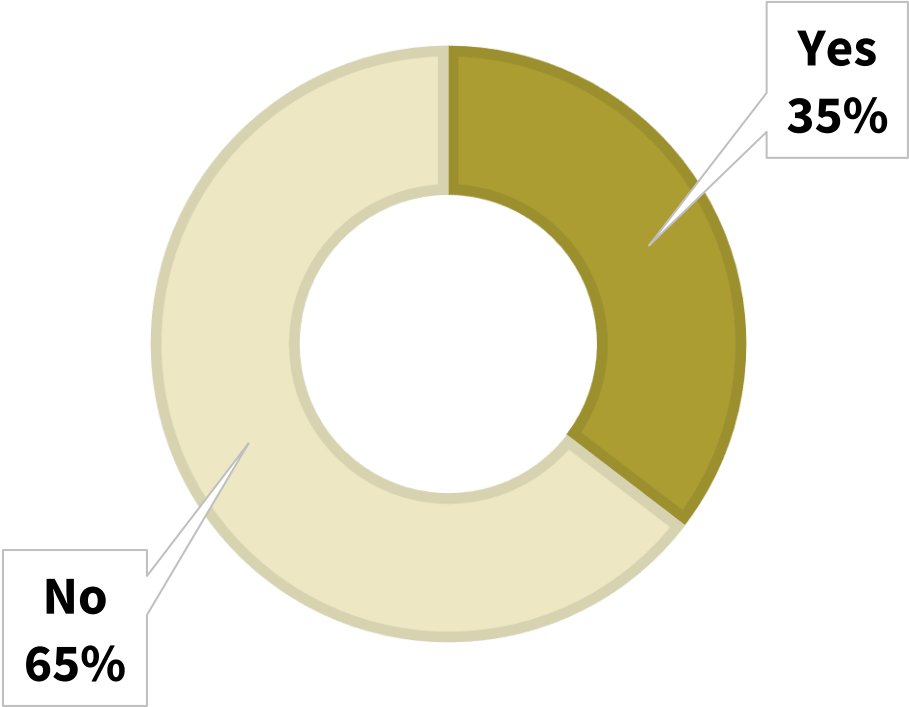
Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the District?



Do you have children attending a school in the District?



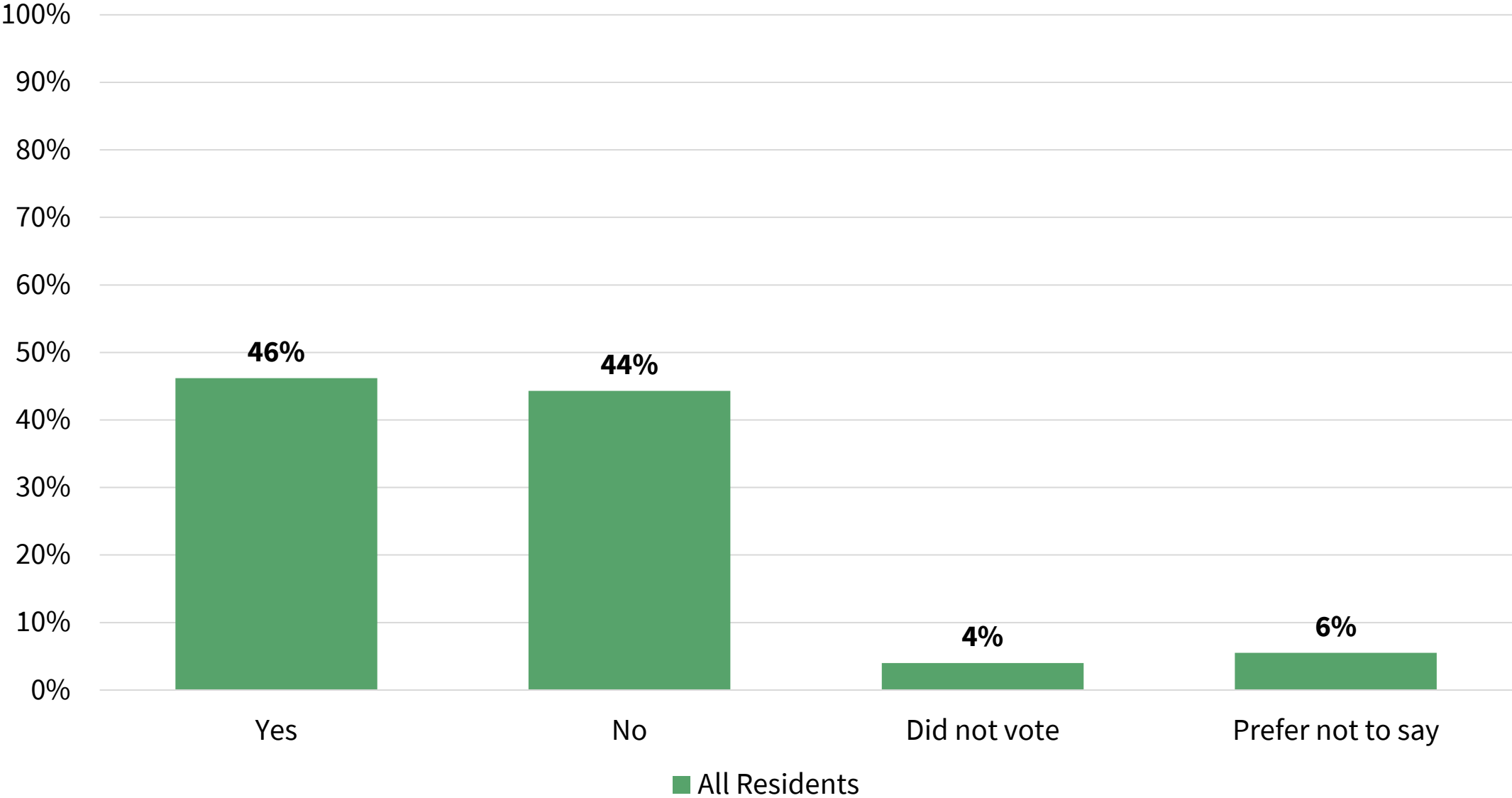
Operational Referendum Feedback

In November 2022, Monroe-area voters approved a **facilities referendum**, allowing the District to take out a loan (issue debt) to build the new high school. We are pleased the high school project is on budget. However, by law, we cannot use referendum funding for facilities for other purposes.

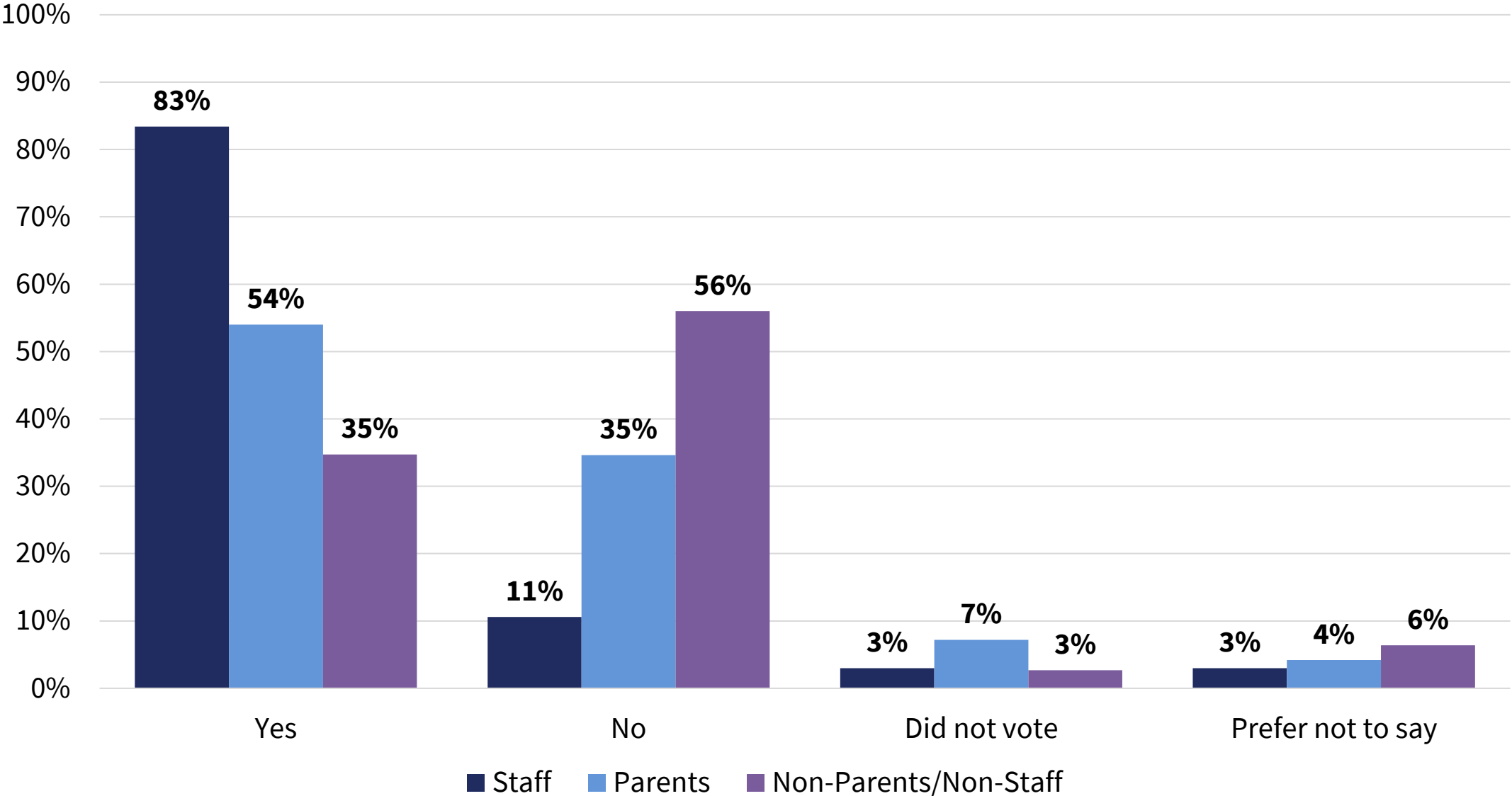
In November 2024, Monroe-area voters did not approve a \$1.5 million **operational referendum**. That funding would have been used to maintain class sizes, recruit and retain staff, and maintain current programs and services for students.



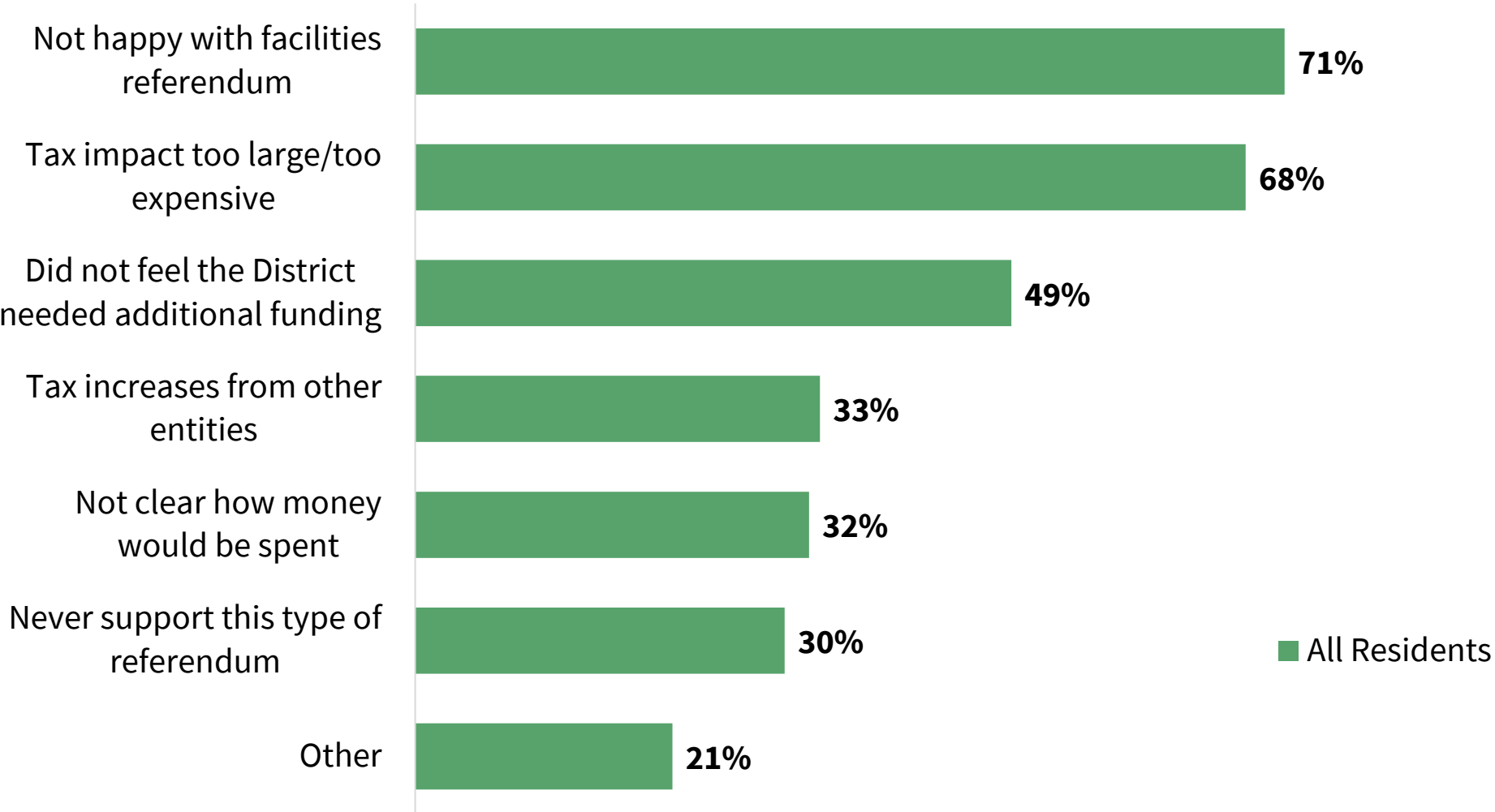
How did you vote on the November operational referendum?



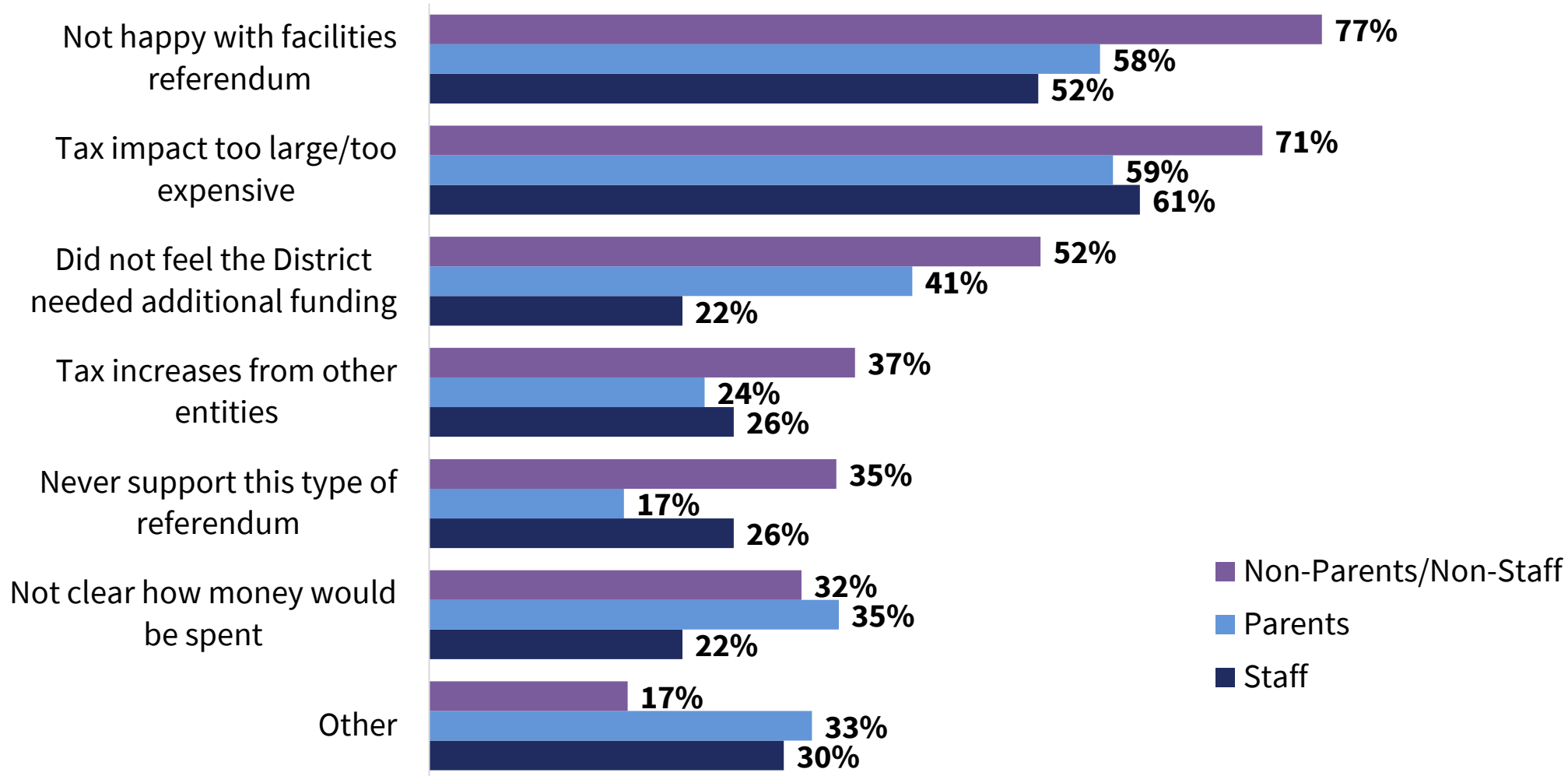
How did you vote on the November operational referendum?



If you voted no, what were the main reasons?



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Budget Challenges

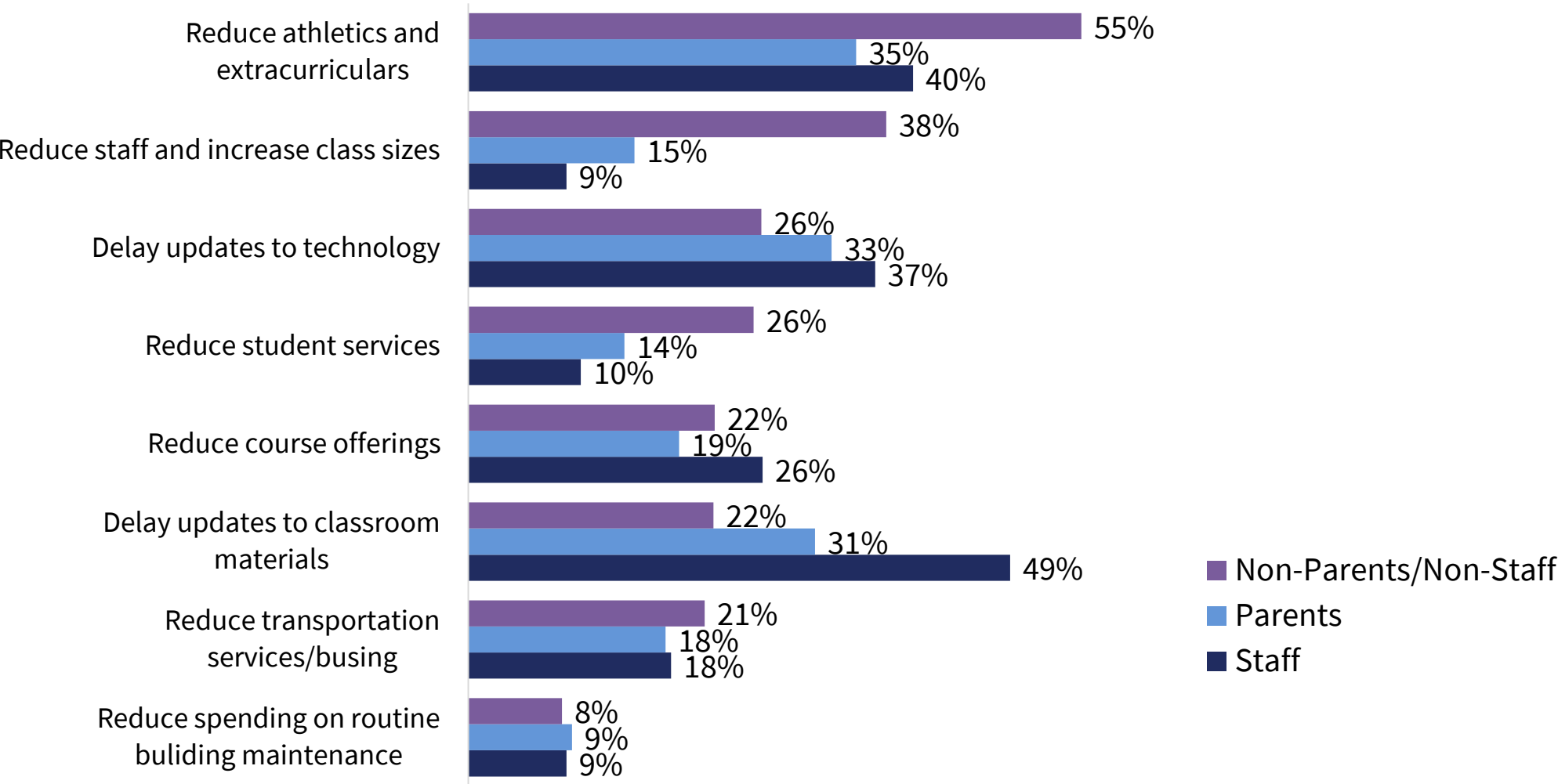


- The combination of state aid and local property taxes our schools receive used to increase with the rate of inflation. In 2009, the state budget ended this practice. If that had continued, the District would have more than \$7.2 million in additional funds this year (\$3,380 per student).
- The operational referendum voters approved in 2018 expired in June 2024. This means the District has \$1.5 million less for programs and services than last year.
- Student enrollment is declining. State funding is tied to enrollment. The fewer students we have, the less money we receive from the state. More specifically, enrollment has declined by 17% since 2002, but we've reduced staffing levels by 23%.

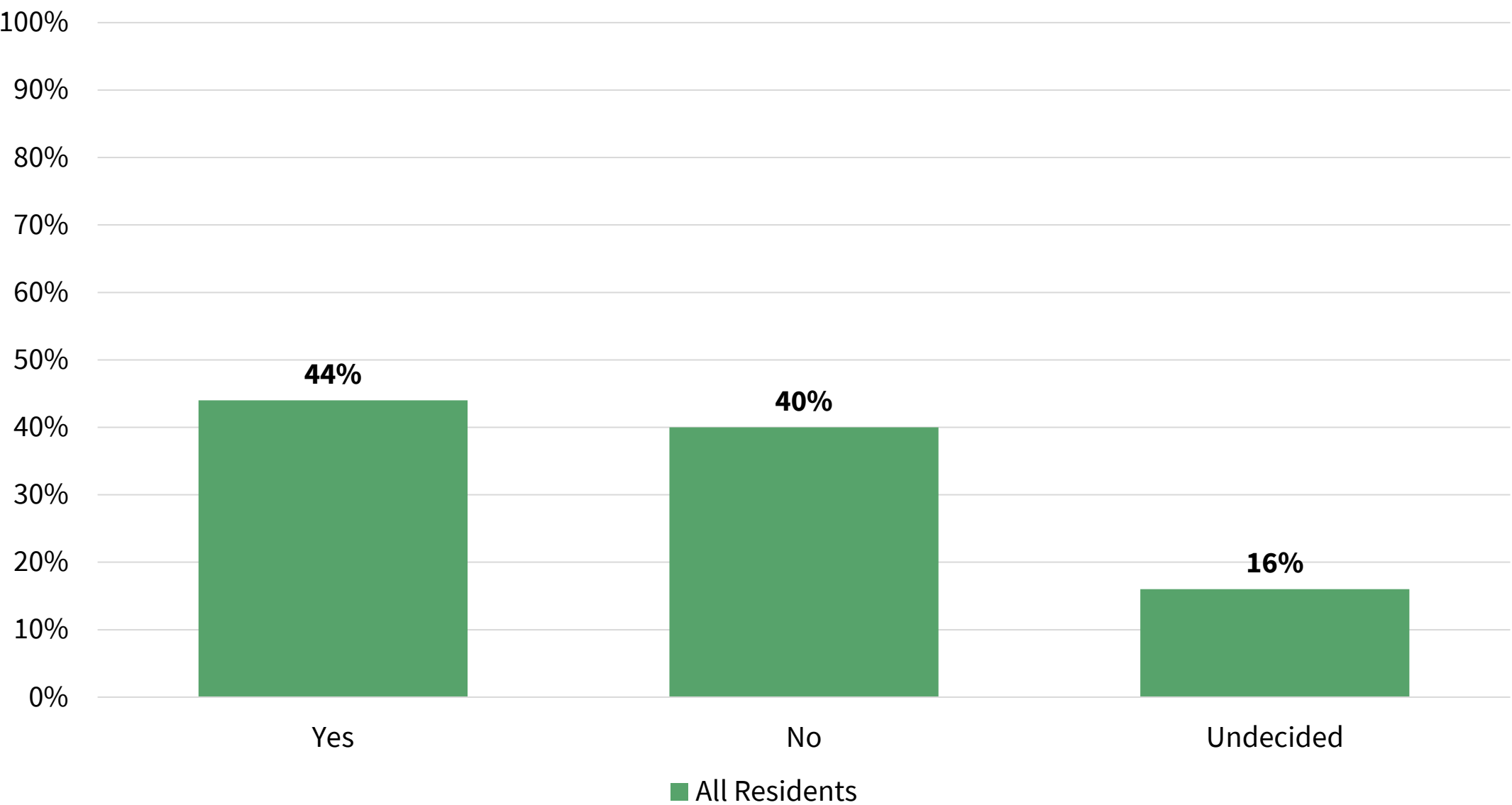
In response to these challenges, the District cut more than \$900,000 this year. Even with these cuts, the District is projecting a budget deficit averaging \$2.6 million for each of the next three years.

Because more than 70% of our budget goes to staffing, it would be very difficult to cut more from the budget without significantly impacting the educational opportunities this community expects.

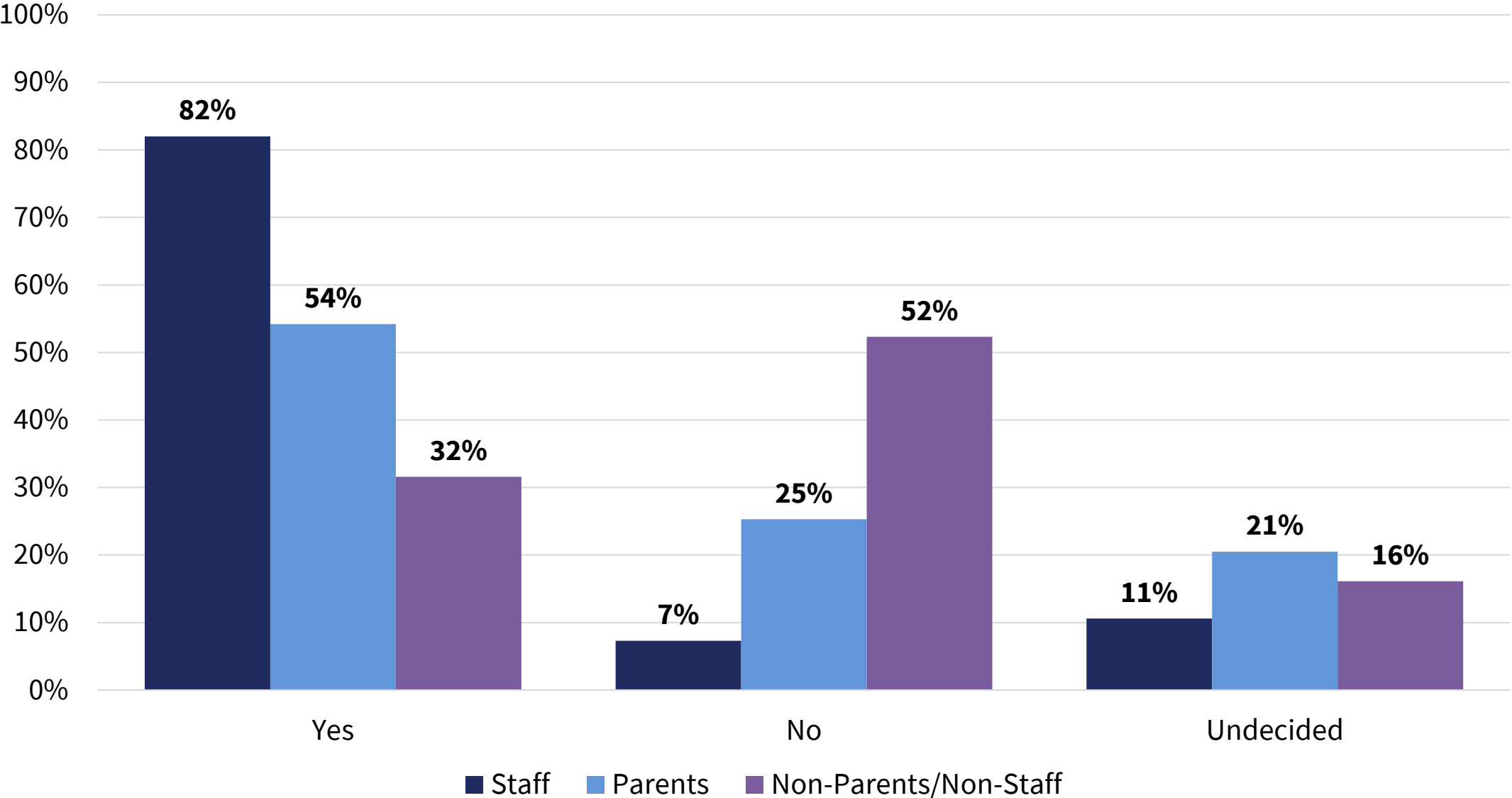
Additional budget reductions



Would you support the District pursuing another operational referendum?



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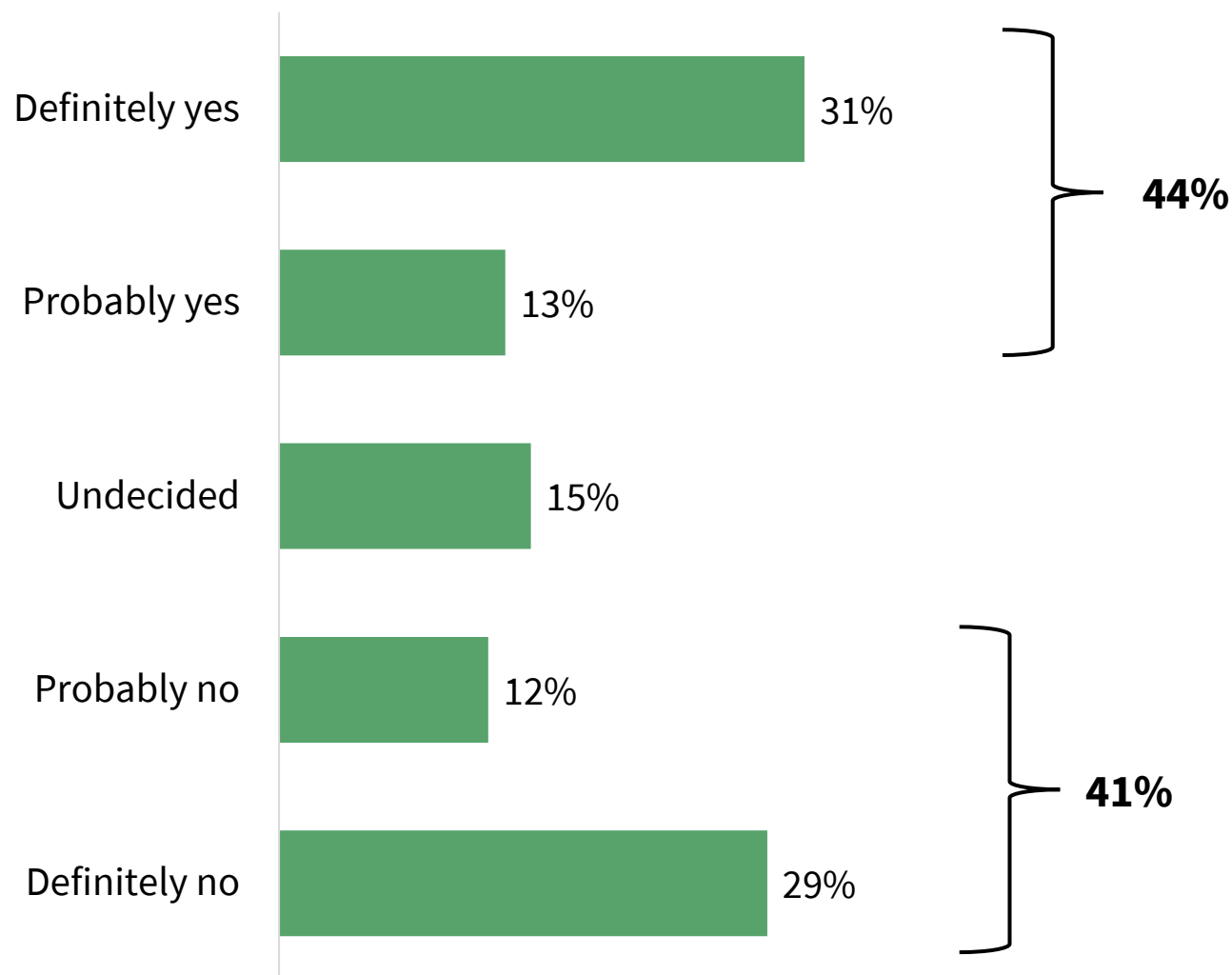


Maintain Some Current Programs and Services

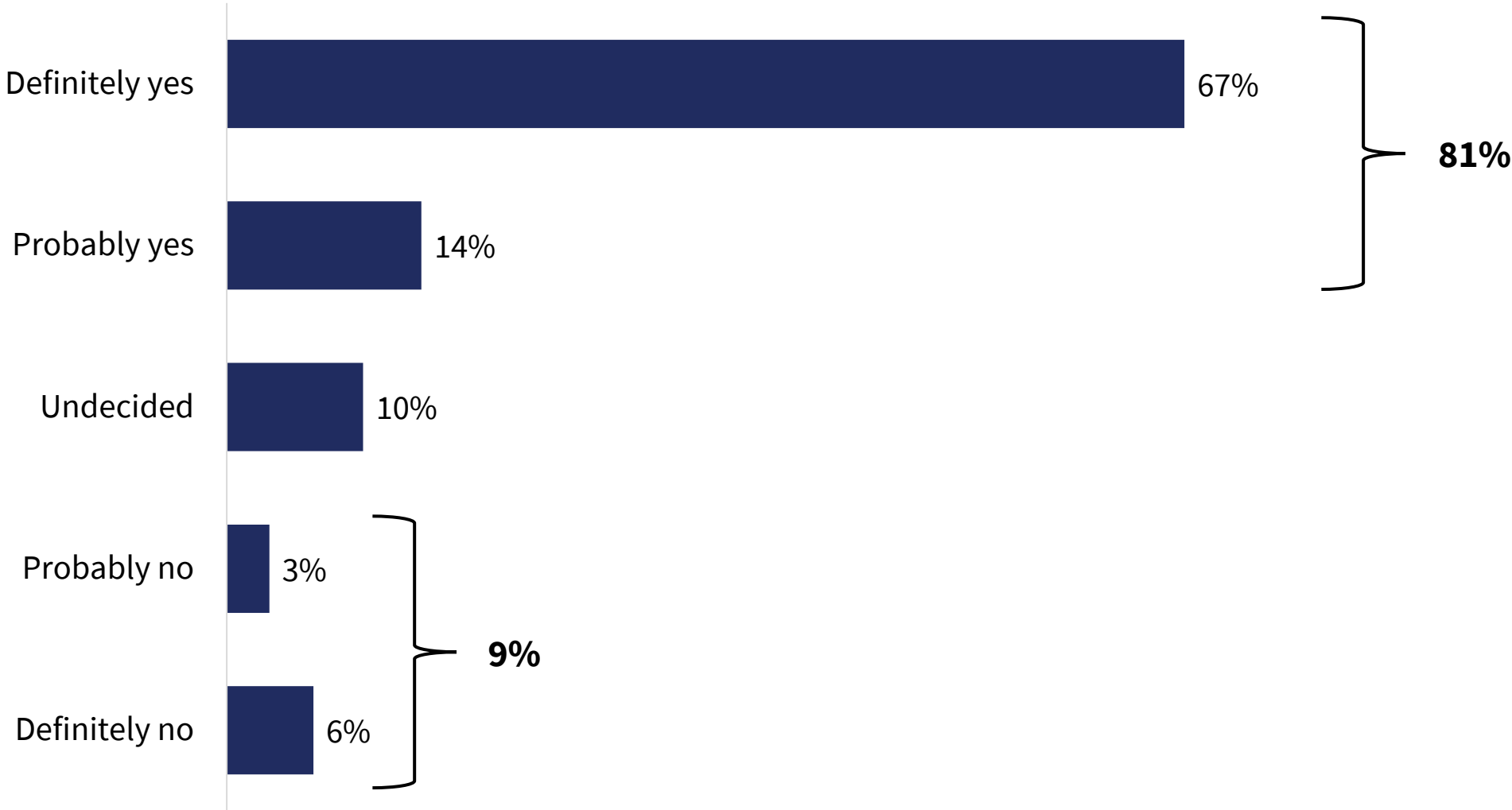


If the community supports pursuing another referendum, the following option was developed for feedback. **Even if this proposed \$1.25 million referendum were approved, it would still require a combination of cuts, attrition, and decreasing the fund balance by about \$1.35 million next year.**

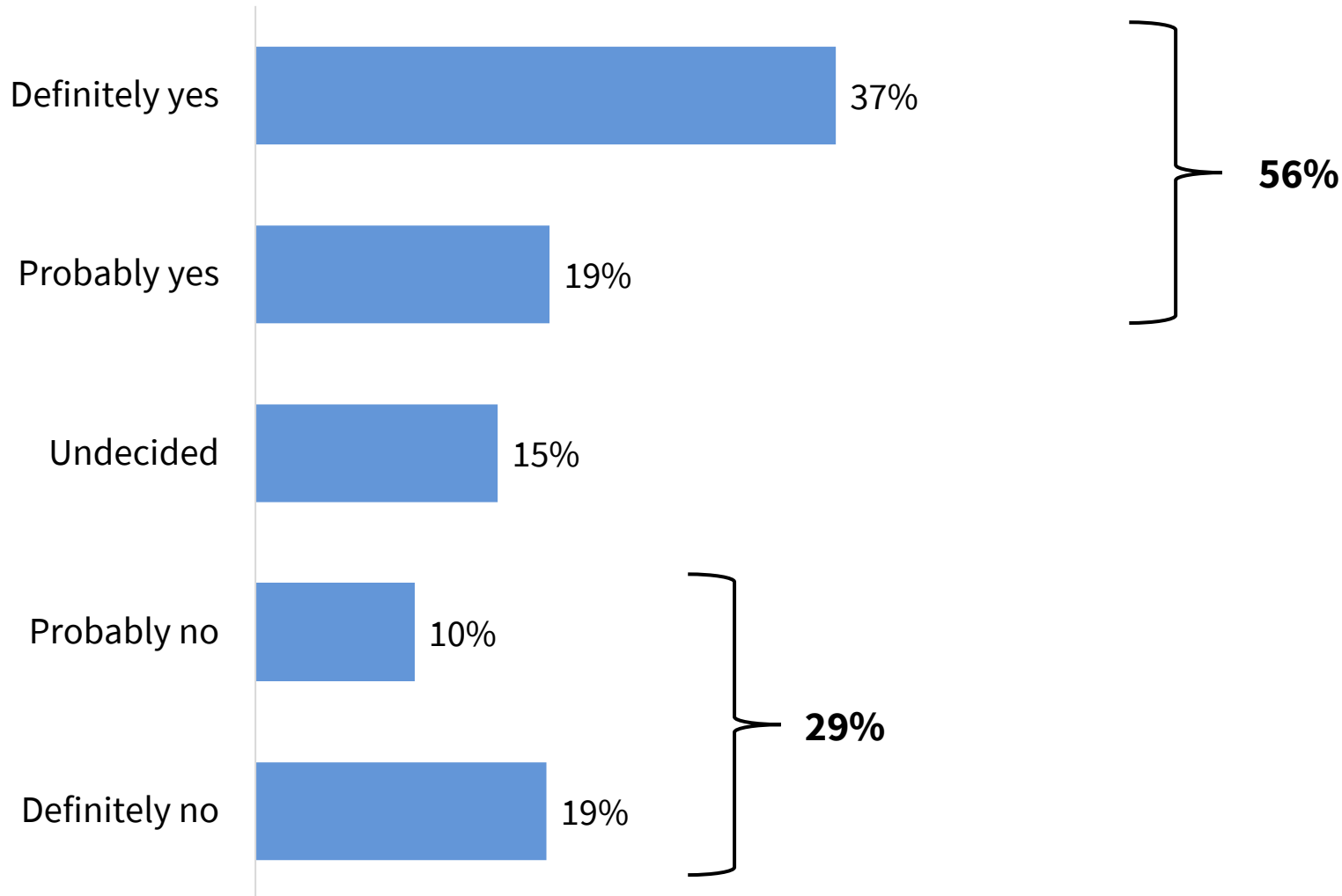
Would you support an operational referendum that provides the District \$1.25 million for each of the next three years? (*All Residents*)



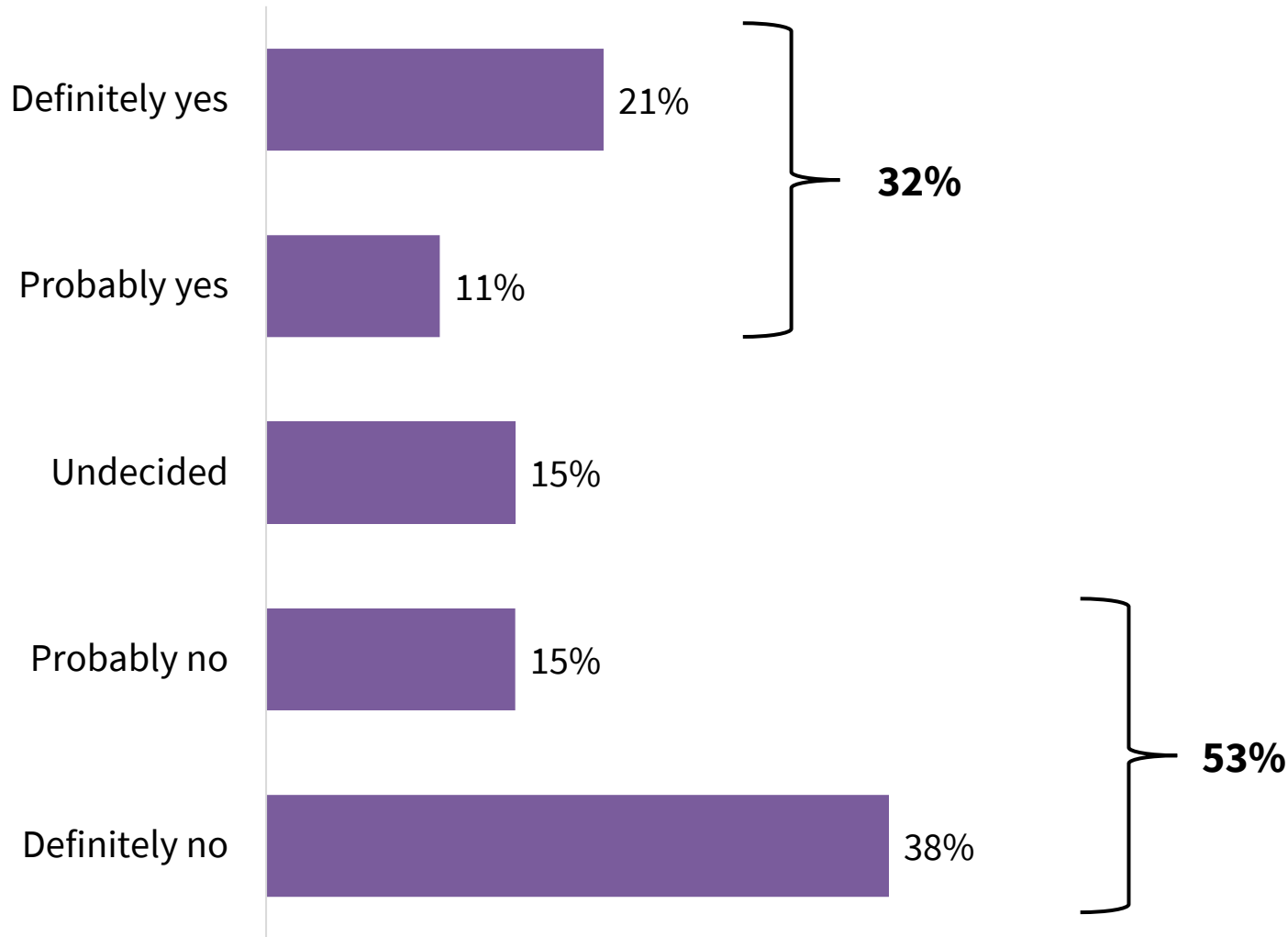
Would you support an operational referendum that provides the District \$1.25 million for each of the next three years? (*Staff Residents*)



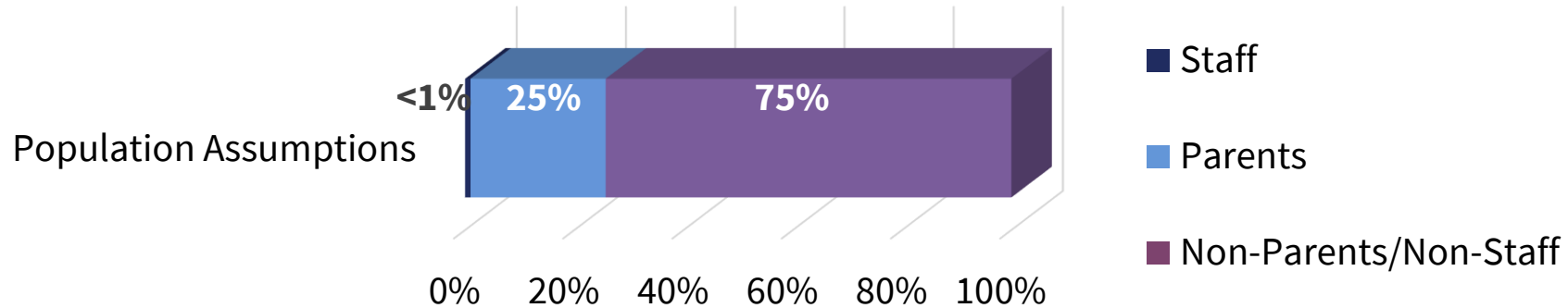
Would you support an operational referendum that provides the District \$1.25 million for each of the next three years? (*Parent Residents*)



Would you support an operational referendum that provides the District \$1.25 million for each of the next three years? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



Additional Analysis: Would the \$1.25 million referendum be supported?



Weighted support for *Definitely yes* and *Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (56\%) + 0.75 (32\%) = \underline{\underline{38\%}}$$

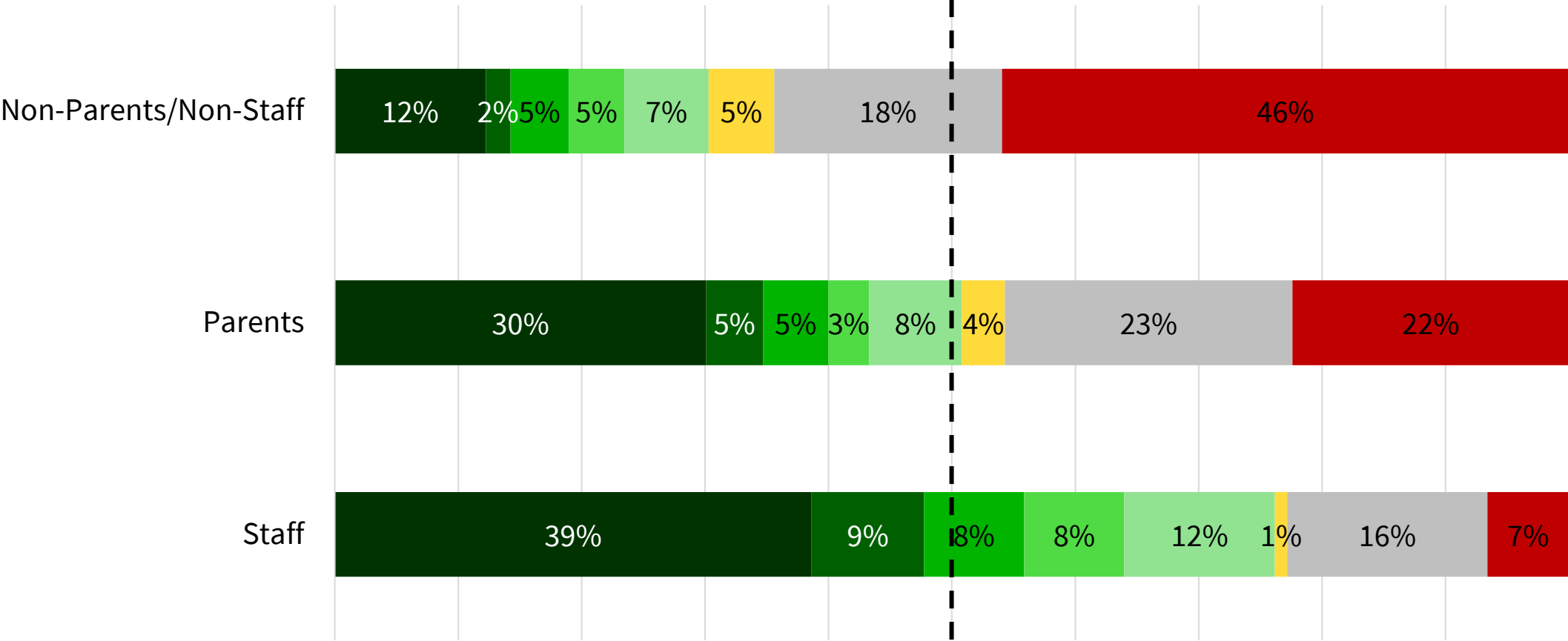
Maintain More Current Programs and Services

The referendum amount could be increased, allowing us to maintain more programs and services for students and reduce the size of the cuts.



POTENTIAL REFERENDUM AMOUNTS					
Base amount	\$1.25 million	\$1.25 million	\$1.25 million	\$1.25 million	\$1.25 million
Additional funding	\$0	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1 million
Total referendum amount	\$1.25 million	\$1.50 million	\$1.75 million	\$2.00 million	\$2.25 million
Remaining budget shortfall	\$1.35 million	\$1.1 million	\$850,000	\$600,000	\$350,000
ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE					
Estimated tax increase for each \$100,000 of property value	\$66 per year	\$80 per year	\$93 per year	\$106 per year	\$120 per year

Referendum Amount Support



- \$2.25M

\$2.00M

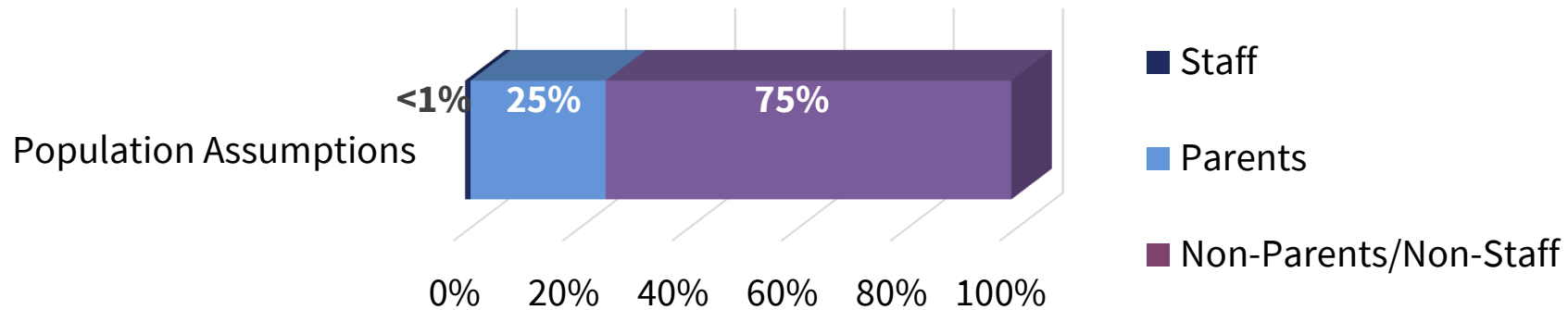
\$1.75M
- \$1.50M

\$1.25M

Smaller referendum
- Not sure/need more information

No referendum

Additional Analysis: Referendum Funding Support



Weighted support for a referendum less than \$1.25 million:

$$0.25 (55\%) + 0.75 (36\%) = \underline{\underline{40.8\%}}$$

Feedback

Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1



Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delivers a high-quality education	4.29	3.80	3.34
Employs high-quality teachers/staff	4.45	3.99	3.71
Administration is doing what it takes to make our district successful	3.85	3.20	2.70
School District is doing what it takes to make our district successful	3.95	3.21	2.72

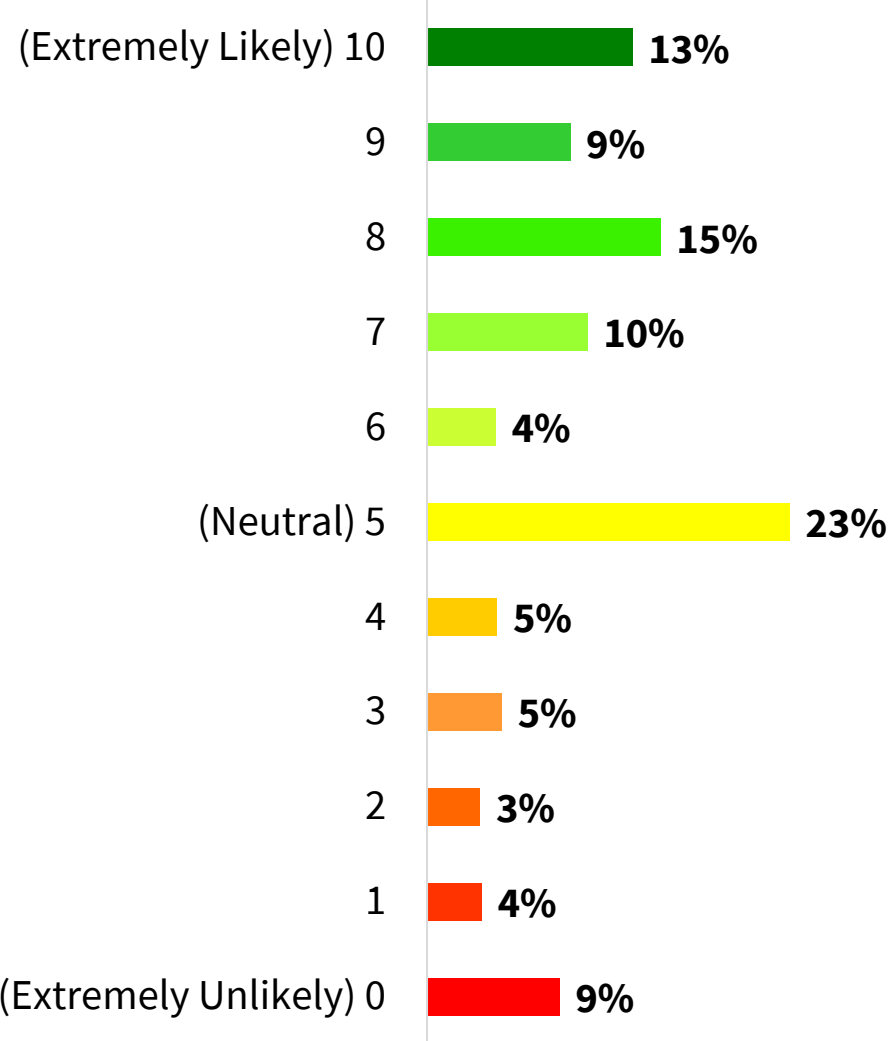
Feedback

Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1



Item	Percent Agree	Average
Delivers a high-quality education	76%	3.66
Employs high-quality teachers/staff	85%	3.93
Administration is doing what it takes to make our district successful	56%	3.06
School Board is doing what it takes to make our district successful	56%	3.08

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



Monroe Score: 5.91





SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Measuring what matters

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