



Northern Ozaukee School District

Community Survey Report
December 16th, 2022

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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 **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Northern Ozaukee School District Community Survey Process



Households within the District were mailed a paper survey.
Respondents could:

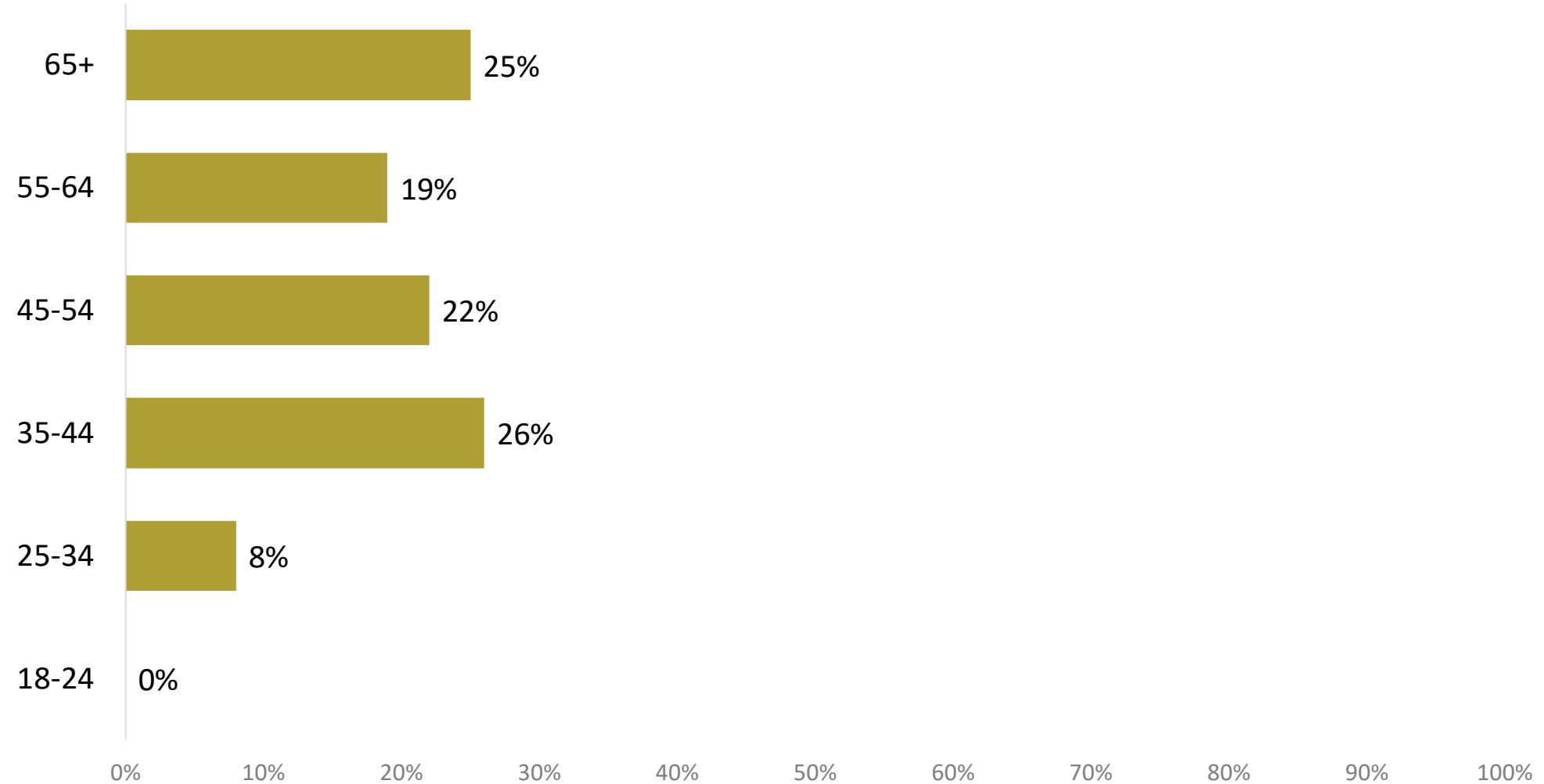
- 1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions
or
- 2) Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

Survey Information

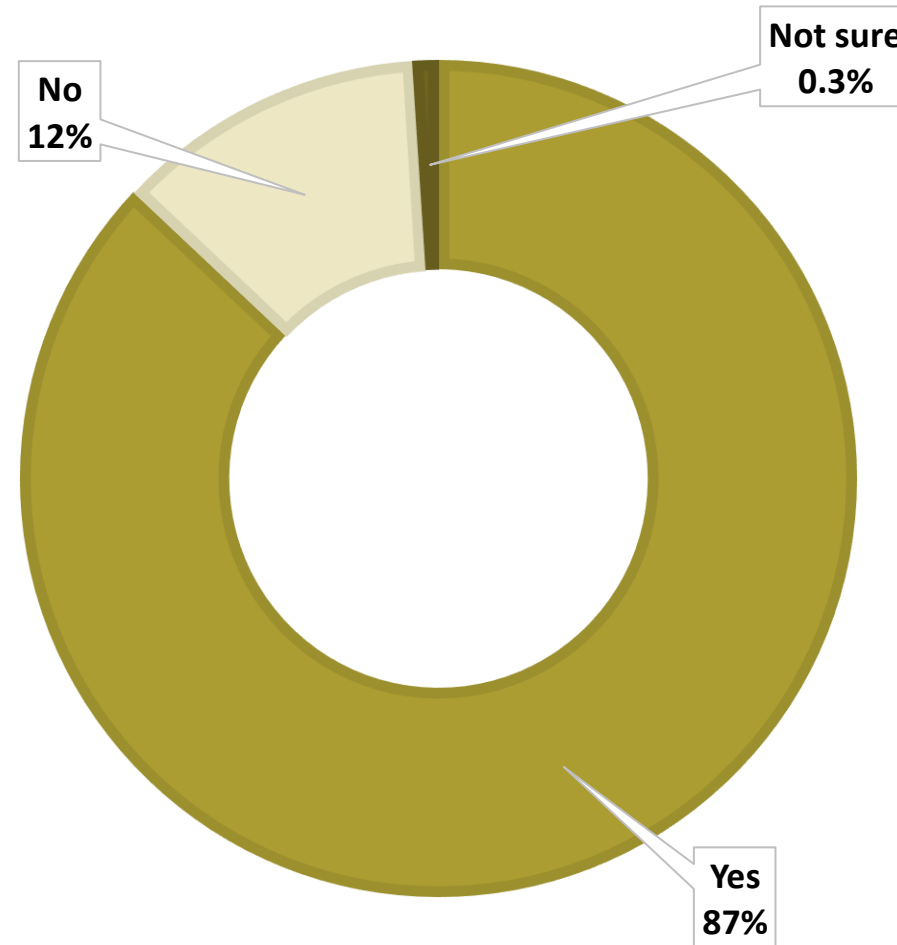


- Survey deadline **December 12, 2022**
- **640** total respondents
 - 2017: 534 total respondents
- **23.4%** response rate
- margin of error **+/- 3.95%**

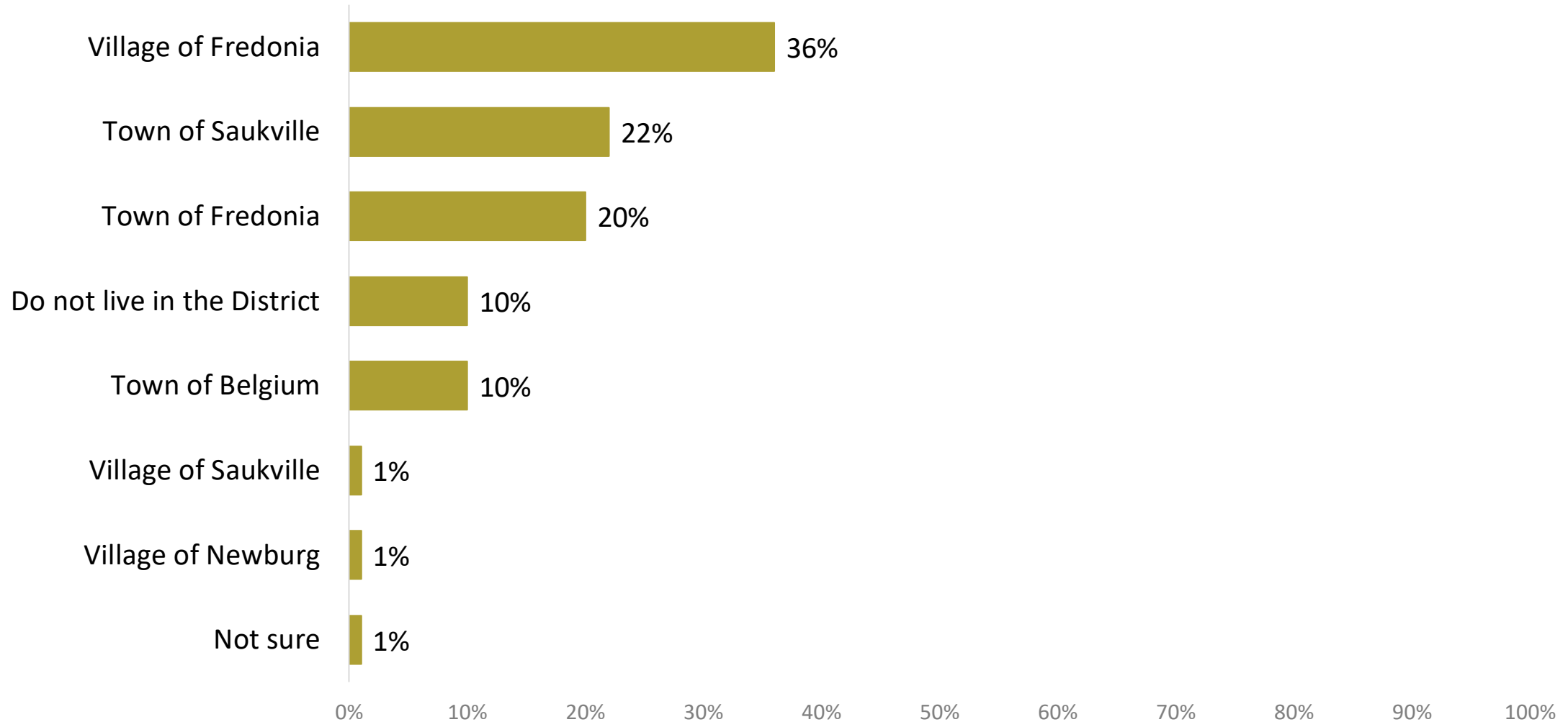
What is your age?



Do you live in the Northern Ozaukee School District?



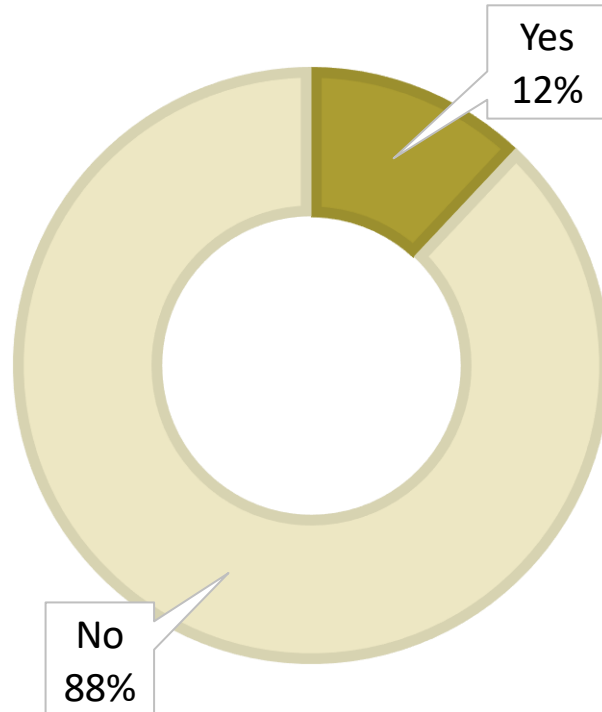
In which municipality do you live?



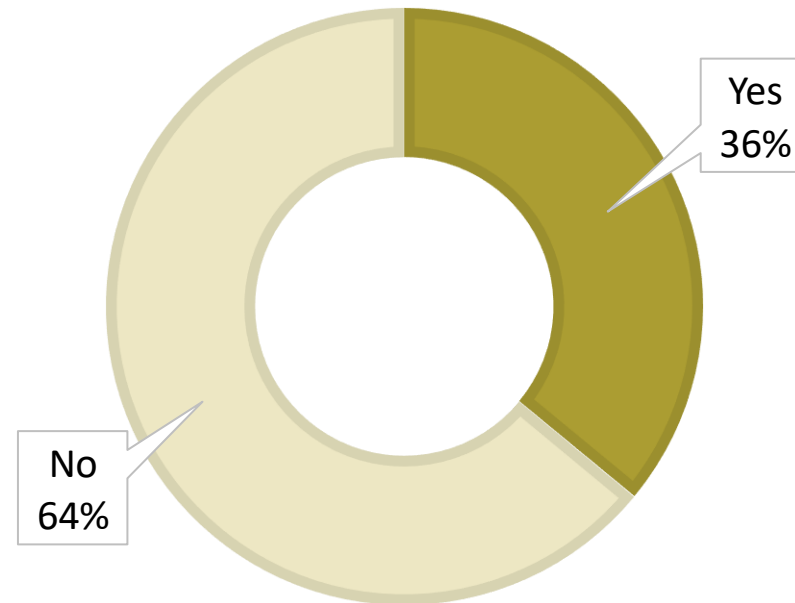
Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the
Northern Ozaukee School District?

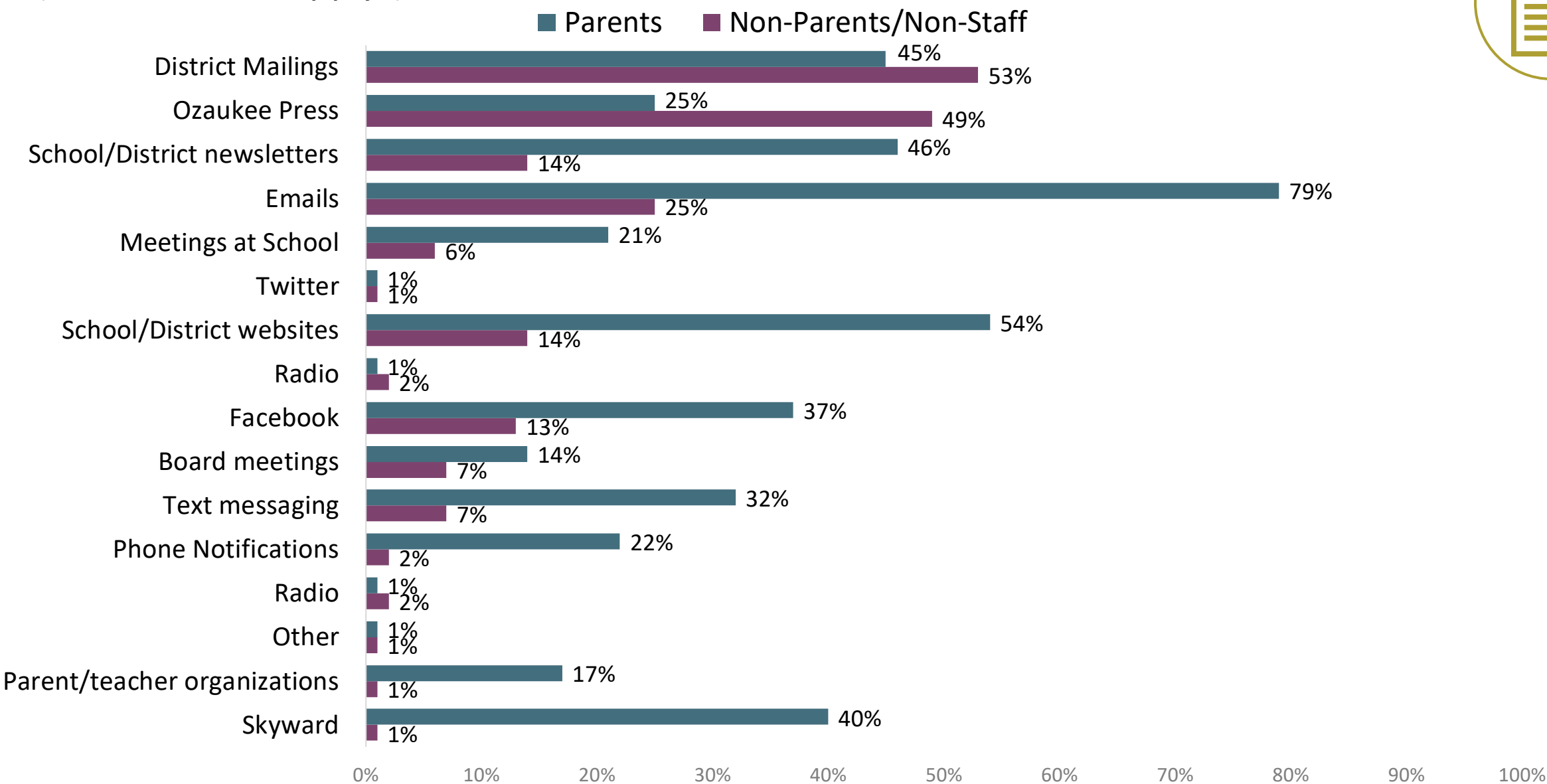


Do you have children attending a
school in the District?



How do you like to receive school/District information?

(Select all that apply.)



Local Funding Sources



Local Funding Sources

There are two types of referendums voters can approve to provide districts with additional funding:

1. A **capital referendum** asks voters to approve issuing debt (taking out a loan) to pay for major building projects, such as renovations or new construction. ***Northern Ozaukee School District voters supported this type of referendum in 2018 to update facilities.***
2. An **operational referendum** asks voters to approve funding above the annual revenue limit to maintain class sizes, programs, and student services. In the last 20 years, more than 300 districts across the state (approximately 73%) have pursued this type of referendum. ***The Northern Ozaukee School District has never secured funding from this type of referendum.***

Operational Budget Challenges



Budget Challenges

The Northern Ozaukee School District faces several financial challenges:

- Like many school districts across Wisconsin, our student enrollment has declined. Because state funding is tied to enrollment, the fewer students we have, the less money we receive.
- For the past two years, the state has not increased the amount of revenue school districts are allowed to receive on a per-student basis.
- Expenses for utilities, insurance, transportation, fuel, and technology have increased.
- It has become more difficult to attract, retain, and compensate high-quality staff.
- Federal ESSER funds helped us balance the budget. This funding will soon end, which puts the programs and staffing supported by these dollars in jeopardy.

Operational Budget Challenges



To balance the budget, the District cut more than \$1.75 million over the past four years by:

- ✓ Reducing administrator, teacher, and support staff positions.
- ✓ Reducing employee benefits.
- ✓ Reducing bus routes.
- ✓ Increasing class sizes.

Even with these cuts, the District is projecting significant budget deficits over the next five years.

Therefore, the District plans to explore a \$1.9 million annual operational referendum to:

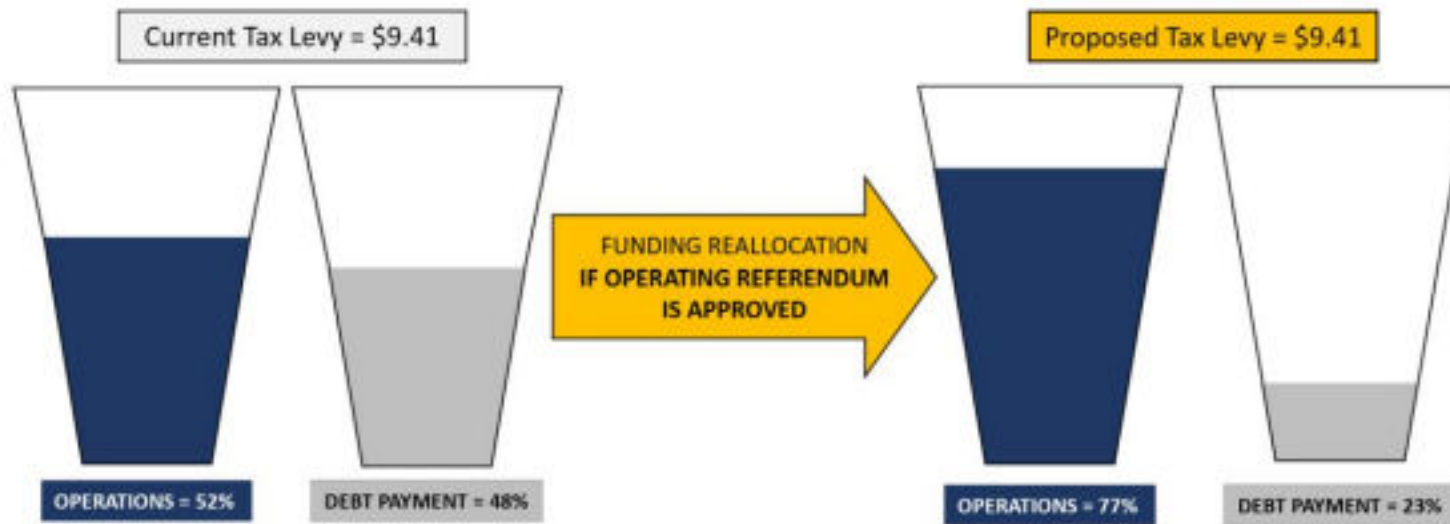
- Provide reasonable class sizes.
- Provide resources and help for struggling students.
- Maintain tech ed ("shop") courses to better prepare students for jobs and careers in our area.
- Address increasing costs for utilities, insurance, transportation, fuel, and technology.
- Provide salaries and benefits that are competitive with other schools and local businesses.
- Maintain the buildings and grounds.



Funding Support

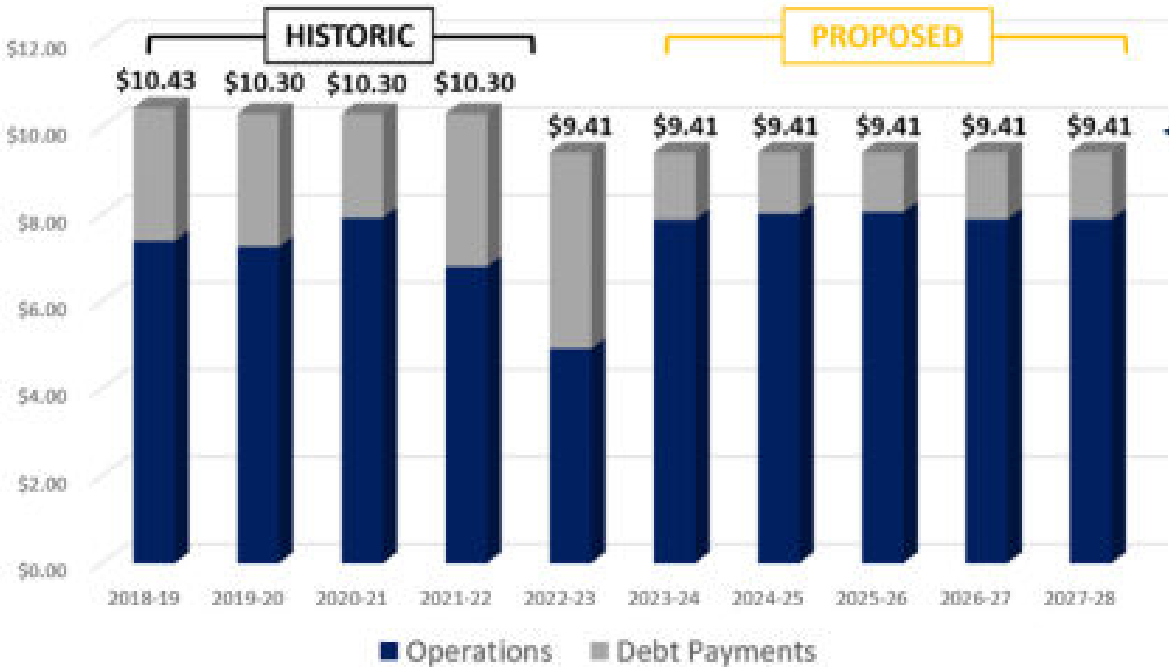
The Northern Ozaukee School District has maintained a relatively consistent property tax mill rate over the past four years. This practice has allowed us to pay debt early, saving over \$2.5 million in interest expenses. This year, the tax mill rate has dropped to \$9.41.

The District's goal is to maintain a consistent mill rate to help our community members, families, and local businesses plan their budgets. **Approval of an operational referendum is required to reallocate funds previously used for prepaying debt → to operational funds that maintain most current programs and services.**





Historical/Proposed Property Tax Mill Rates

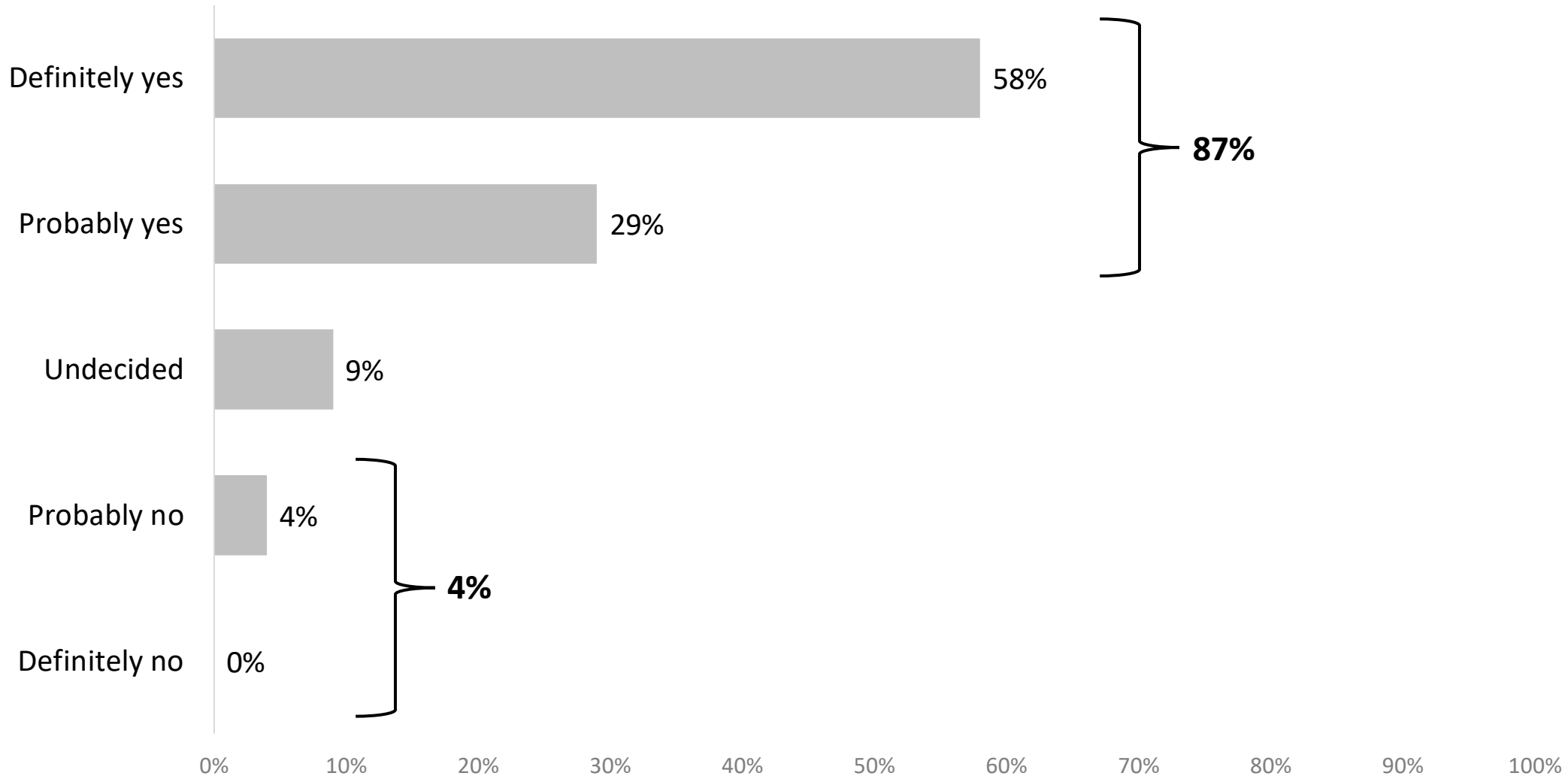


The proposed operational referendum would not increase the school property tax mill rate over the current level.

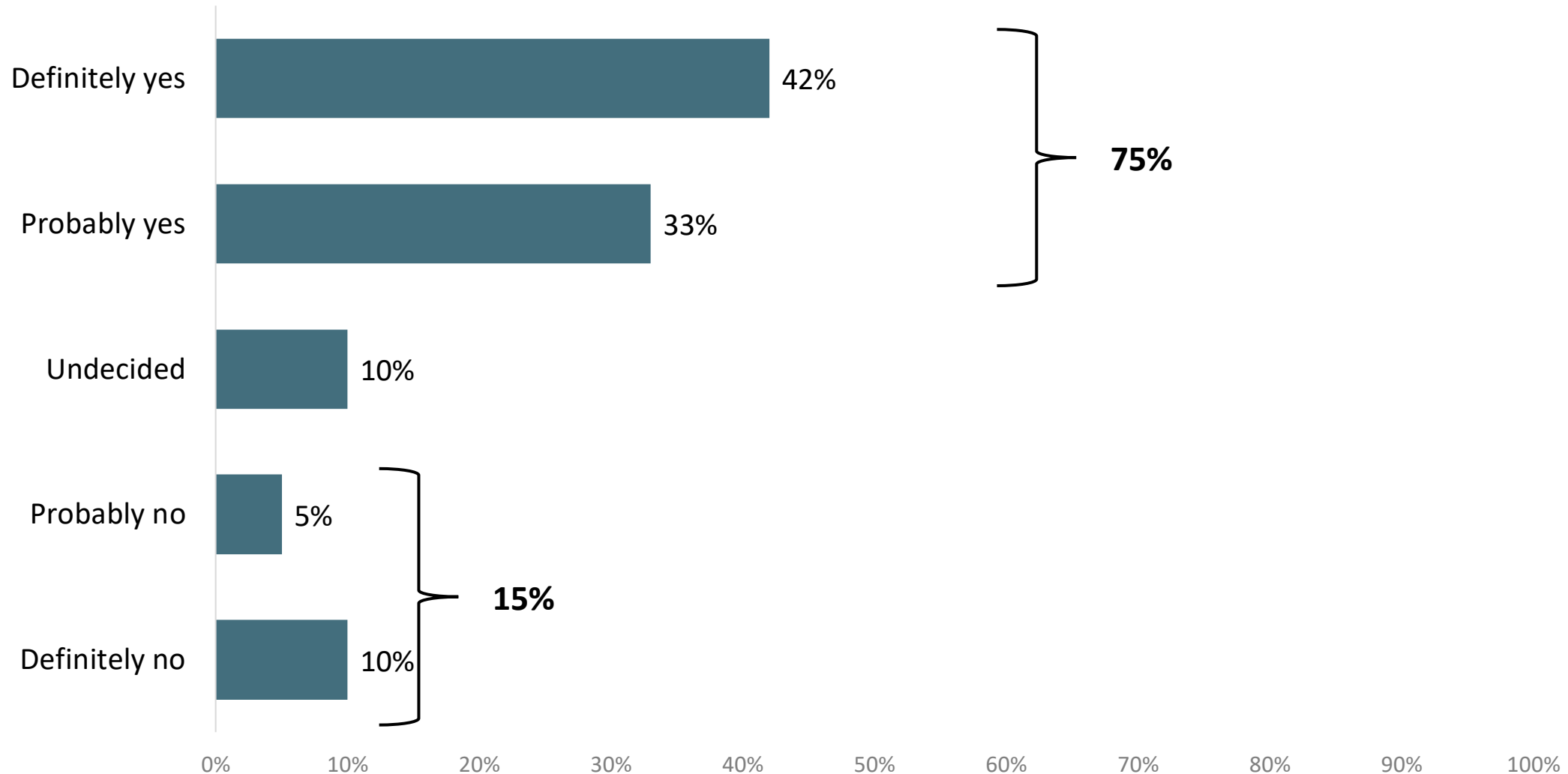


Results & Analysis

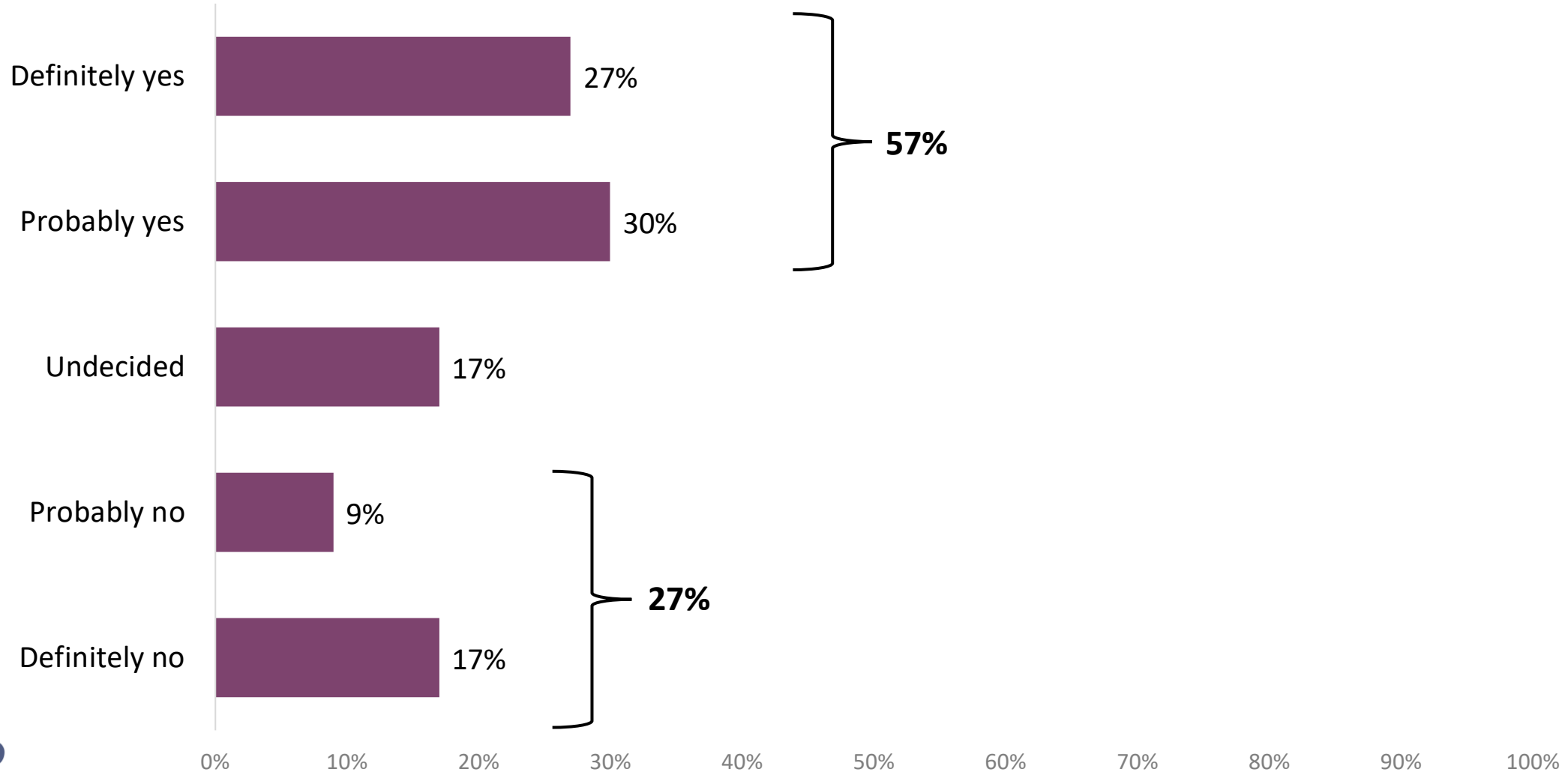
Would you support a \$1.9 million operational referendum to help maintain most programs and services for each of the next five years? Staff (Residents)



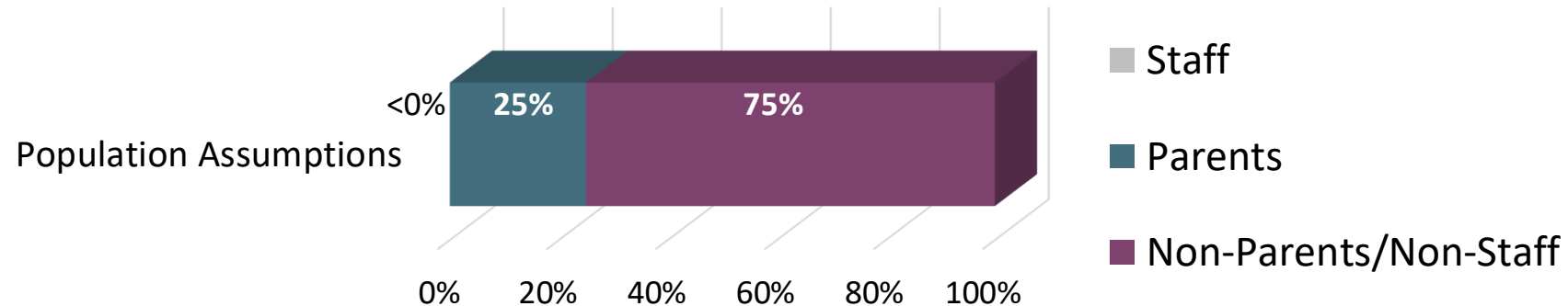
Would you support a \$1.9 million operational referendum to help maintain most programs and services for each of the next five years? Parents(Residents)



Would you support a \$1.9 million operational referendum to help maintain most programs and services for each of the next five years? Non-parent/Non-staff(Residents)



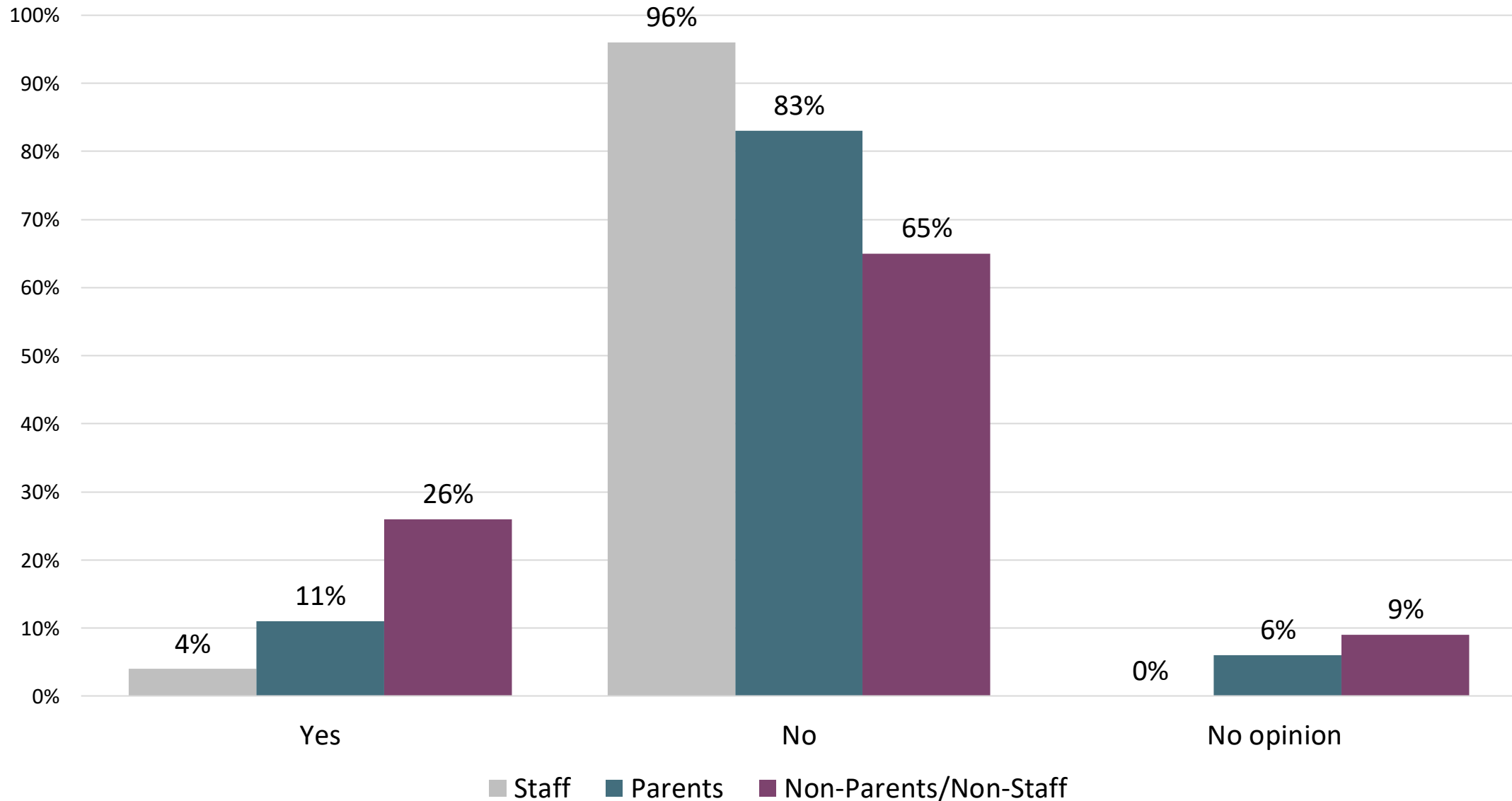
Would the \$1.9 million operational referendum to help maintain most current programs and services for each of the next five years be supported?



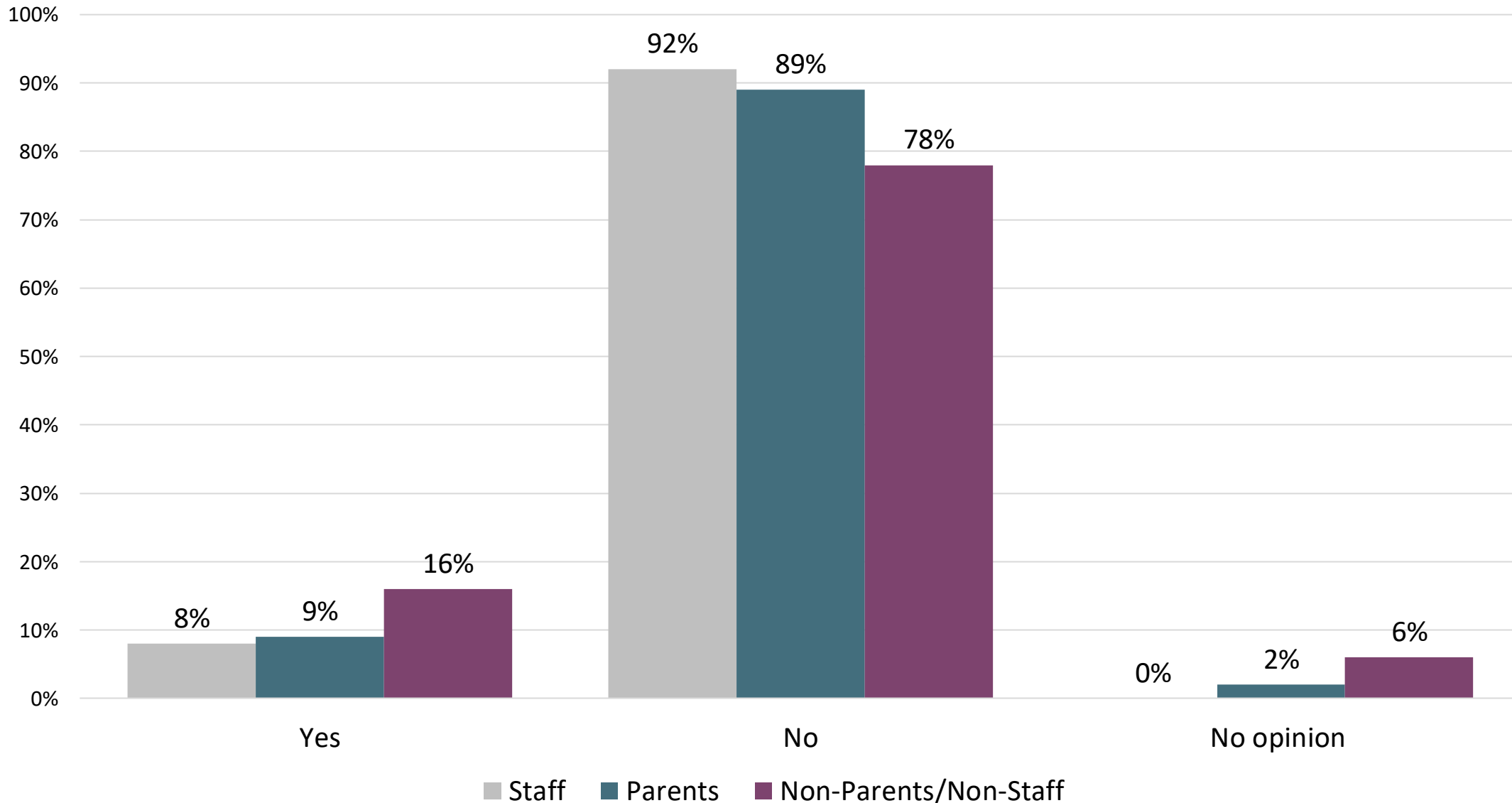
Weighted support for *Definitely yes* and *Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (75\%) + 0.75 (57\%) = \mathbf{61.50\%}$$

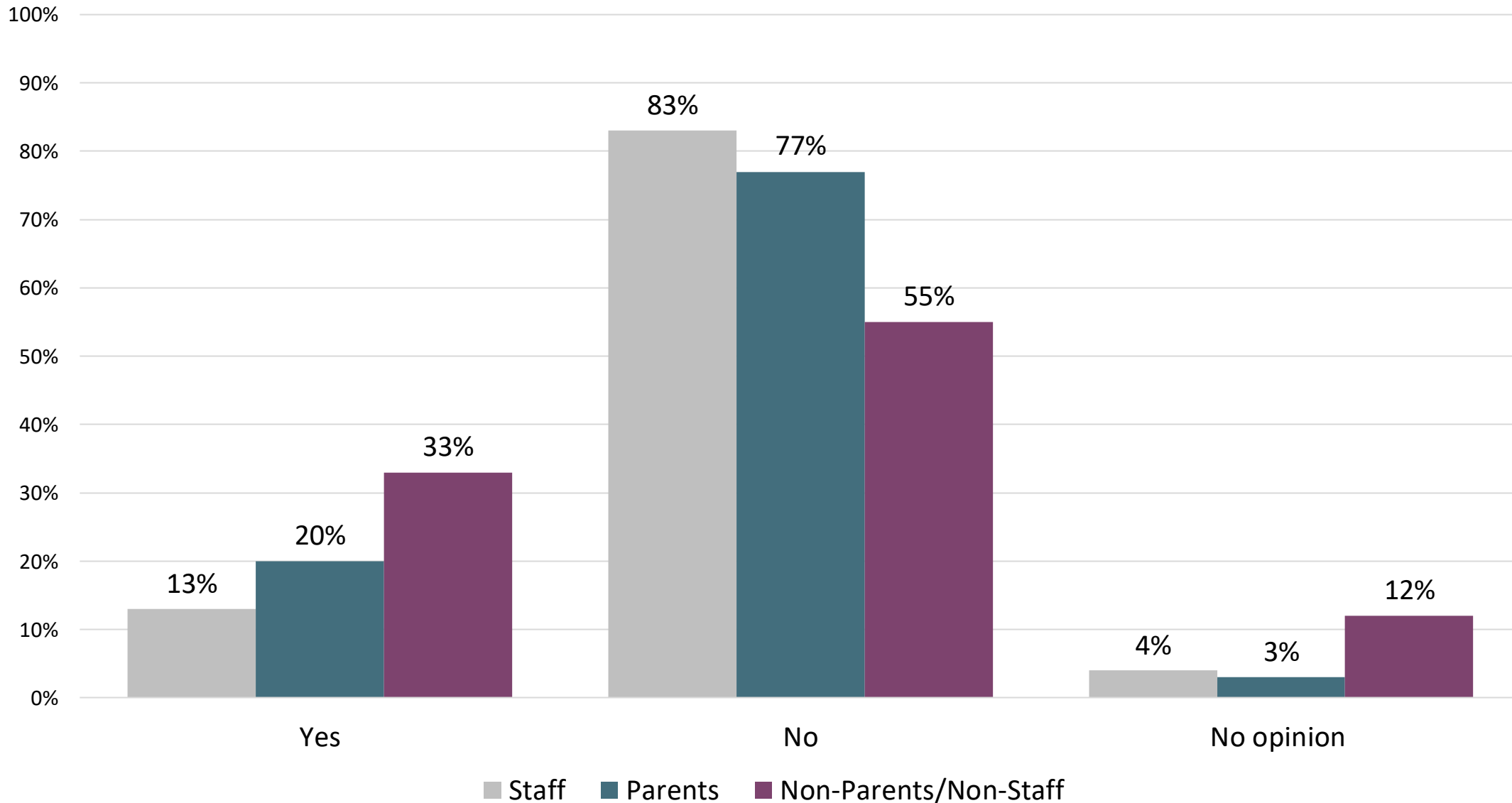
Should the District cut staff to increase class sizes?



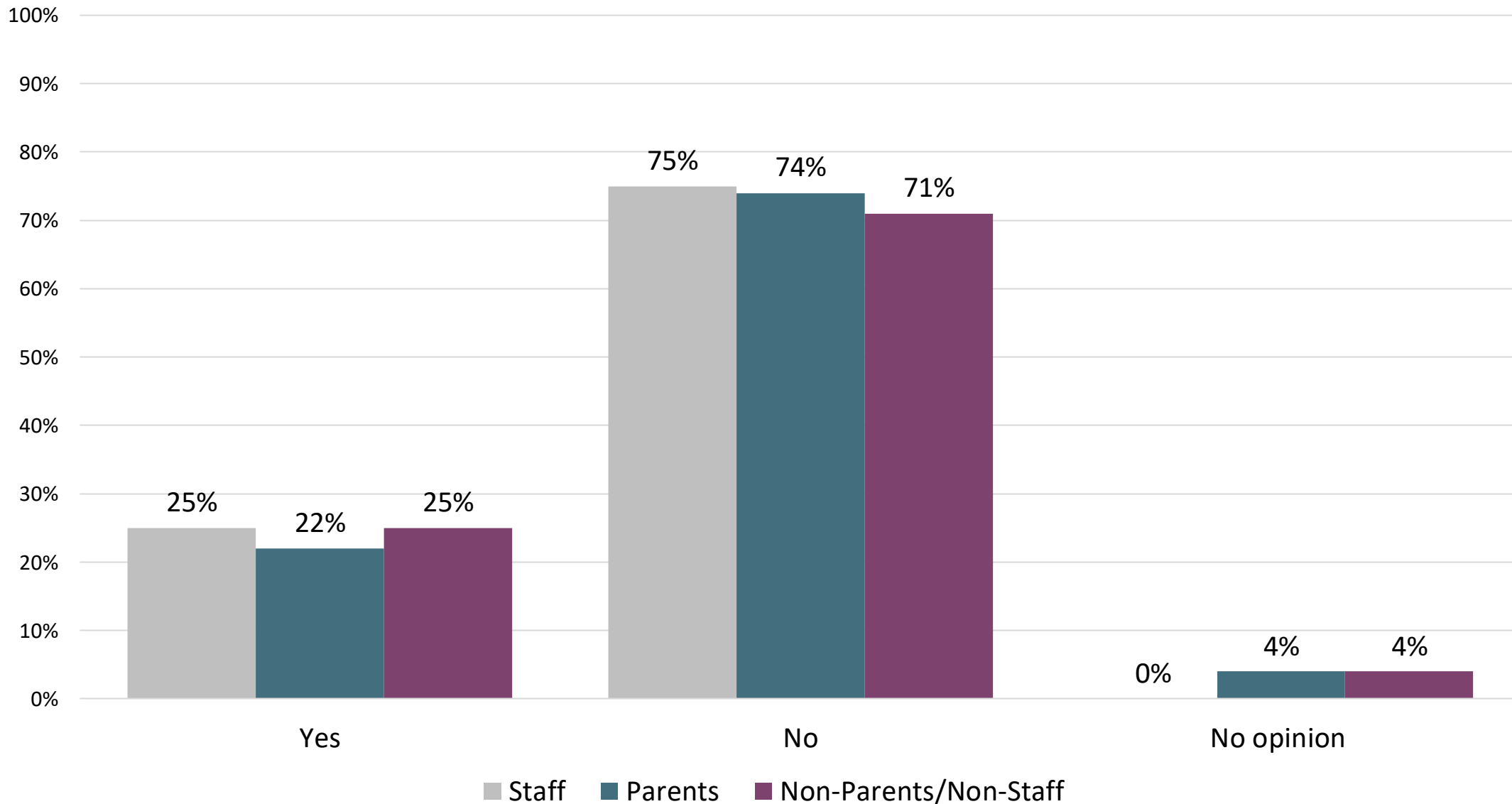
Should the District reduce course offerings (such as technical education, ability to earn college credits, and career preparation)?



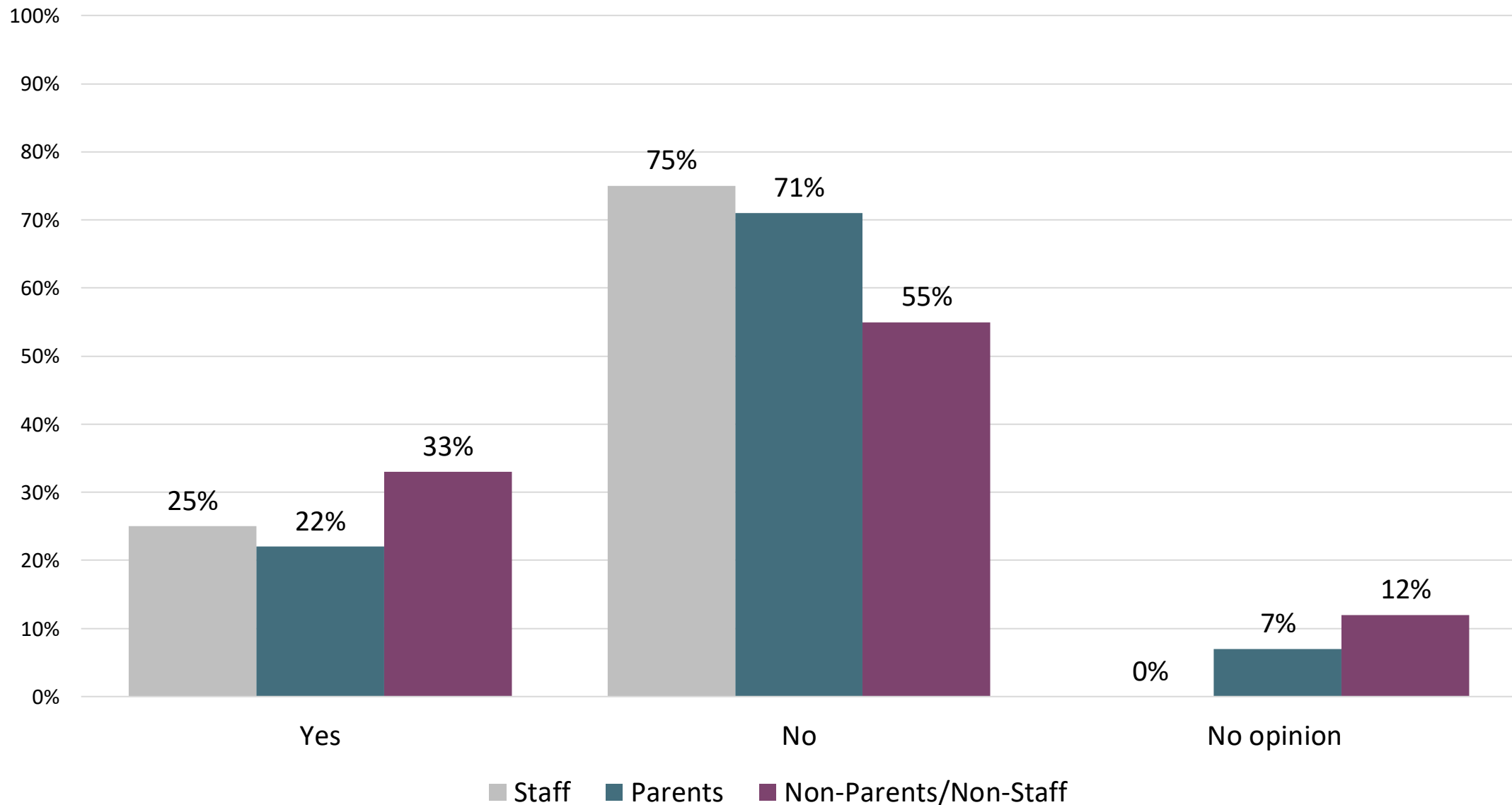
Should the District reduce athletics and extracurricular offerings?



Should the District delay technology upgrades and/or reduce student access to technology?



Should the District delay curriculum updates (textbooks, classroom materials, equipment, etc.)?



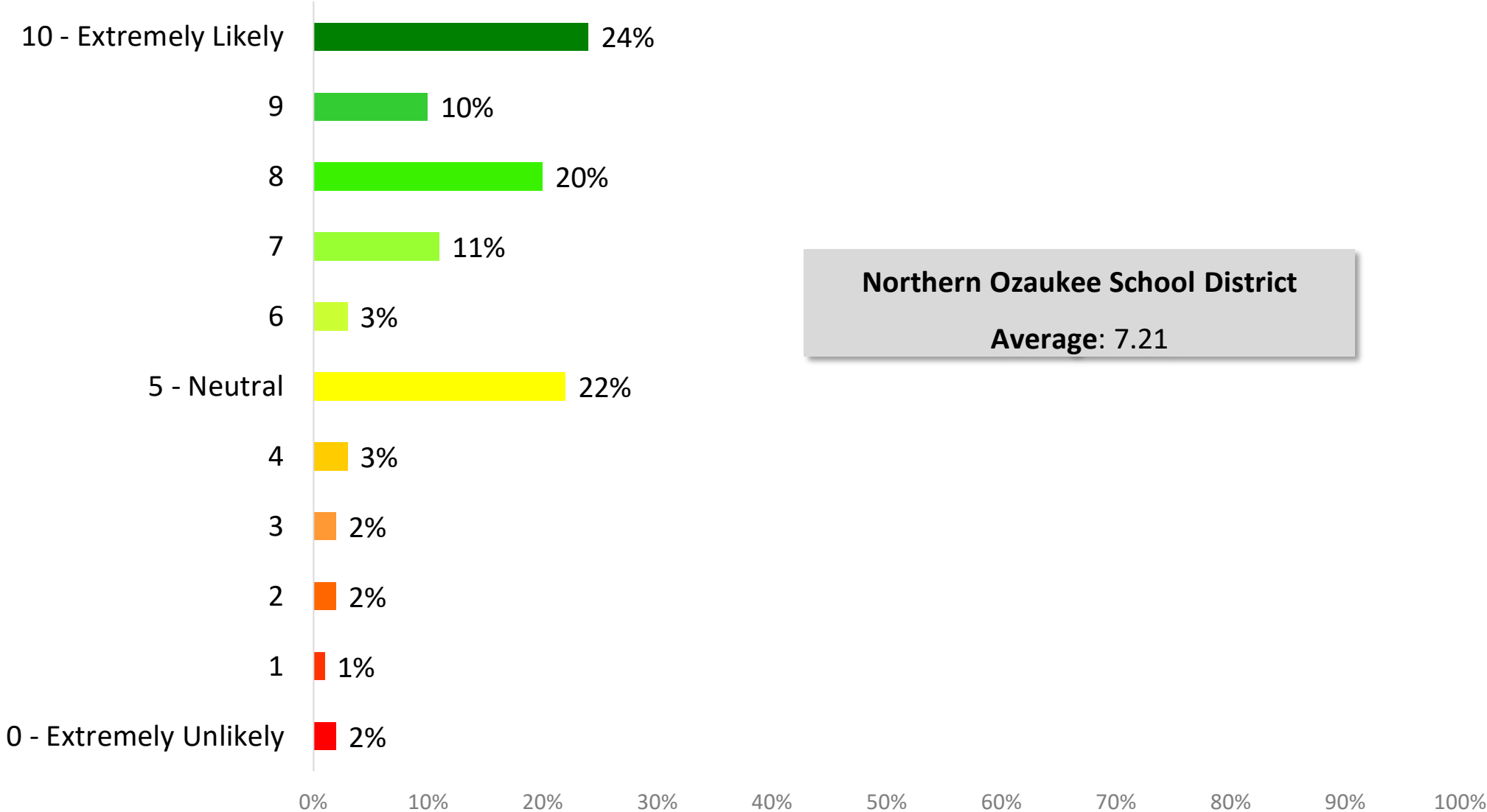
Cost-Cutting Scores

Yes = 10 No = 1 Median = 5.5



	Staff	Parents/Caregivers	Non-Parents/Non-Staff
Athletics & Extracurriculars	2.17	2.86	4.36
Curriculum Updates	3.25	3.14	4.40
Class Sizes	1.38	2.06	3.54
Technology	3.25	2.99	3.32
Course Offerings	1.75	1.87	2.49

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



What did we learn?

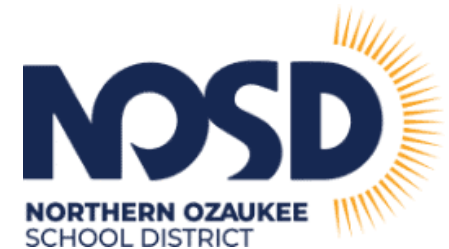


- If the \$1.9 million operational referendum were held today, it would likely be supported.
- Most respondents were not in favor of making budget cuts in any of the areas tested in the survey.





Questions or Comments?





Thank you!

