



# Rib Lake School District

Community Survey Report  
October 25, 2023

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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



# Survey Deployment Process

- District households were mailed a survey with a one-time-use online access code.
- Parents and staff were also emailed a survey participation link.

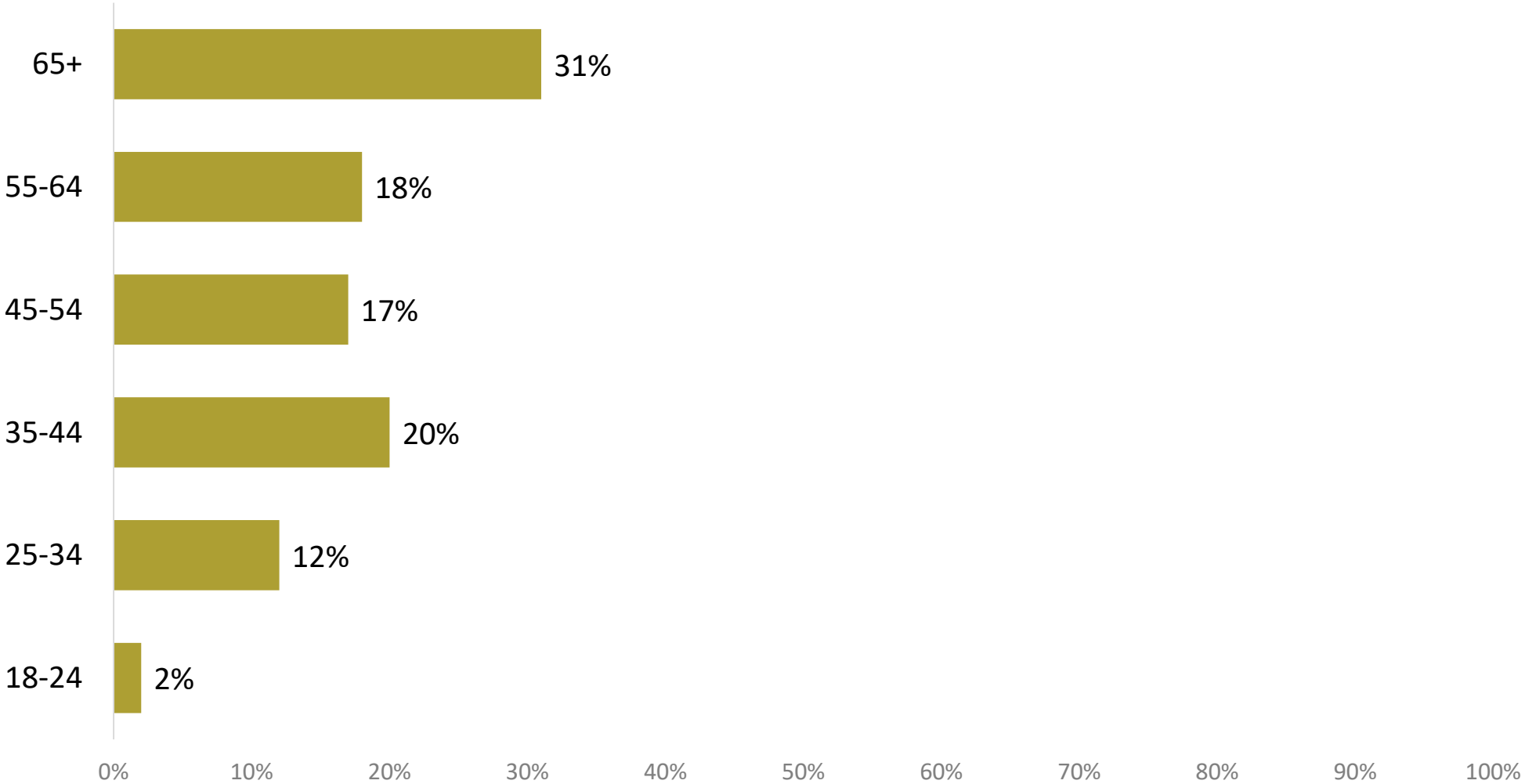


# Survey Information

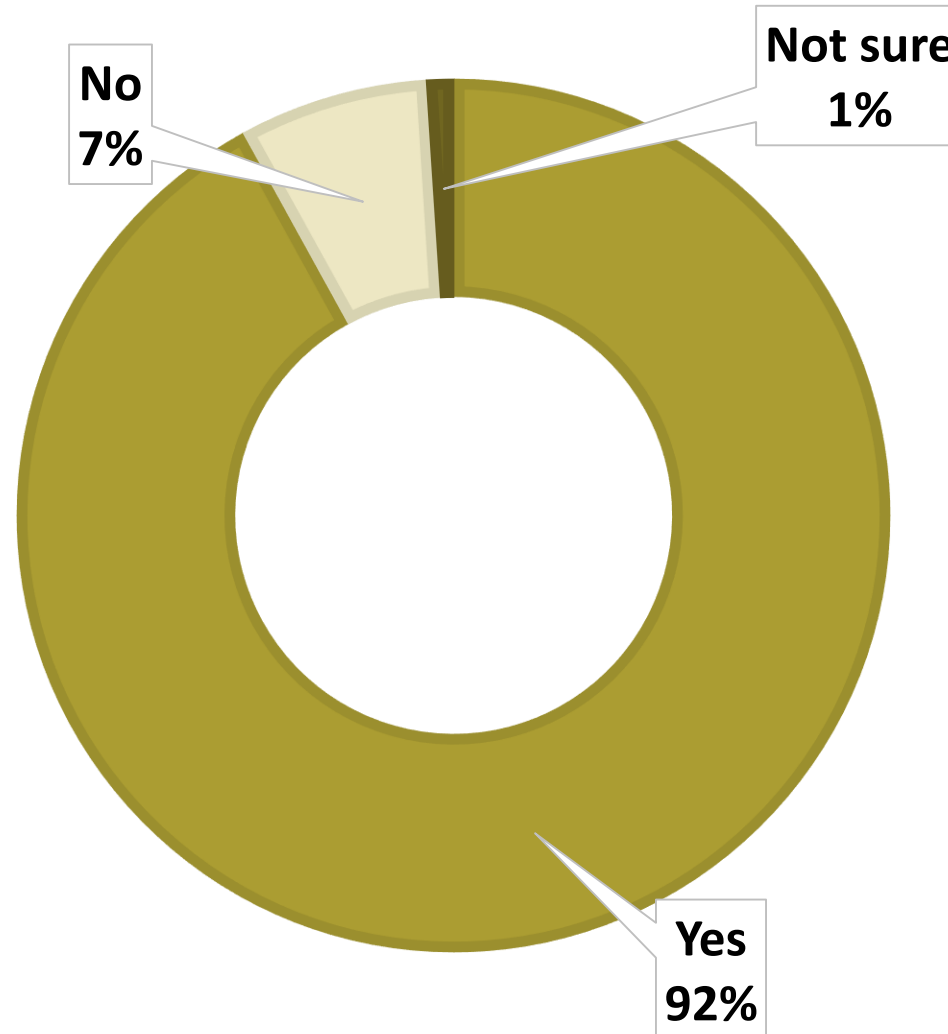
- Survey deadline **October 2, 2023**
- **378** total respondents
- **22%** response rate
- **+/- 5.14%** margin of error



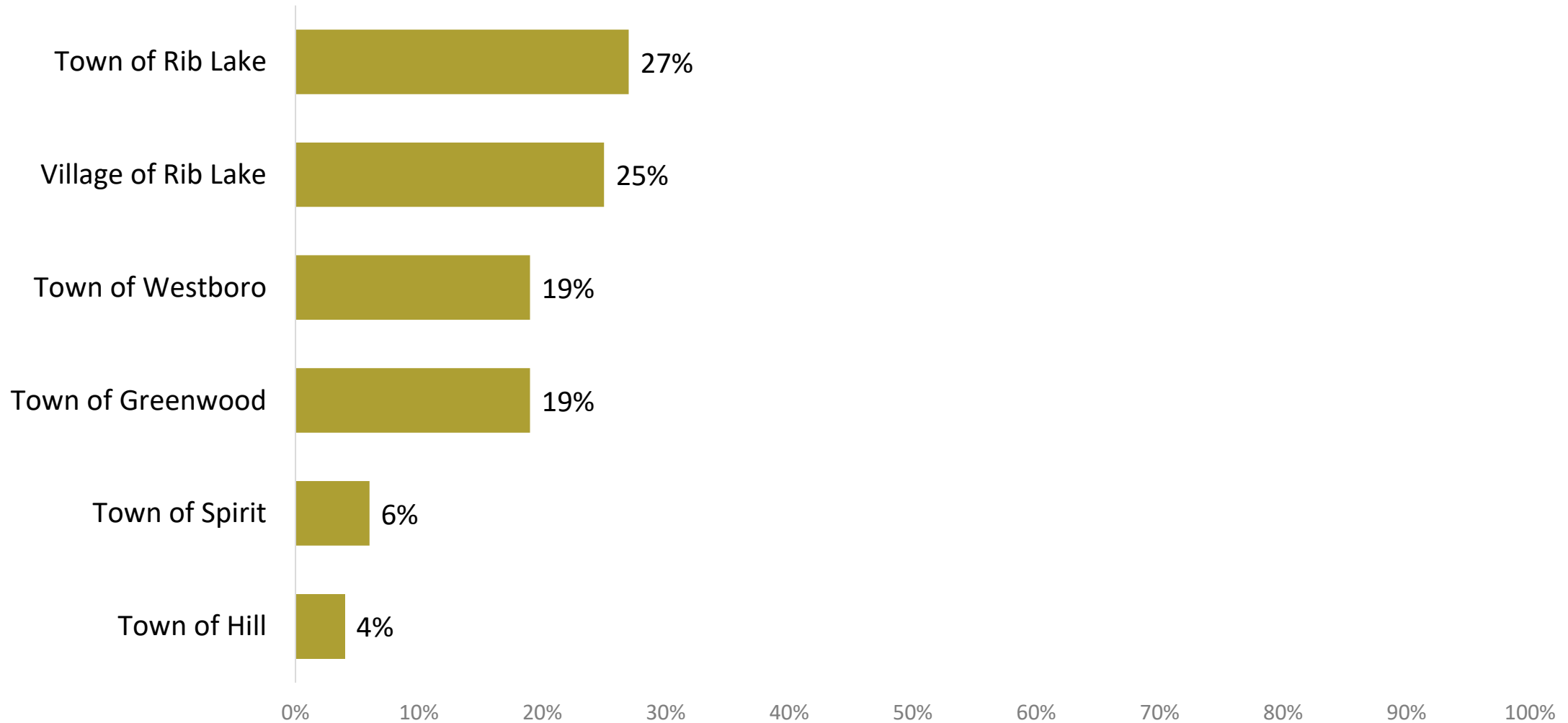
# What is your age?



# Is your primary residence in the Rib Lake School District?



# In which municipality do you live?

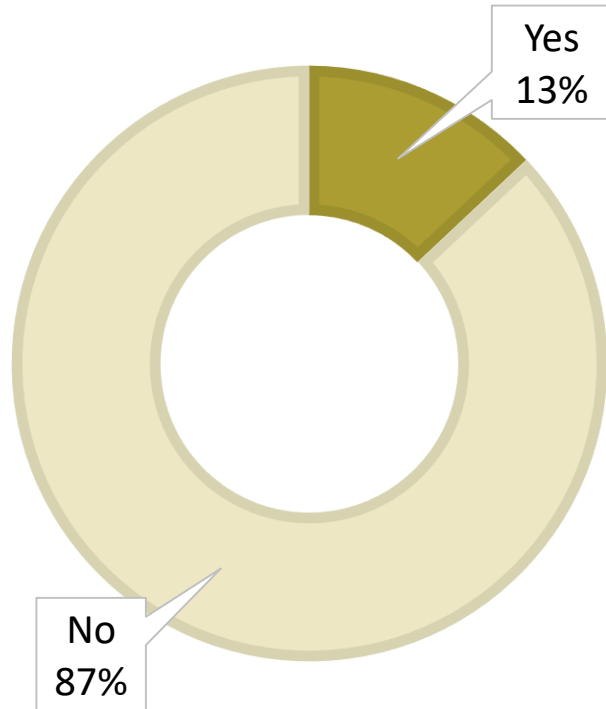




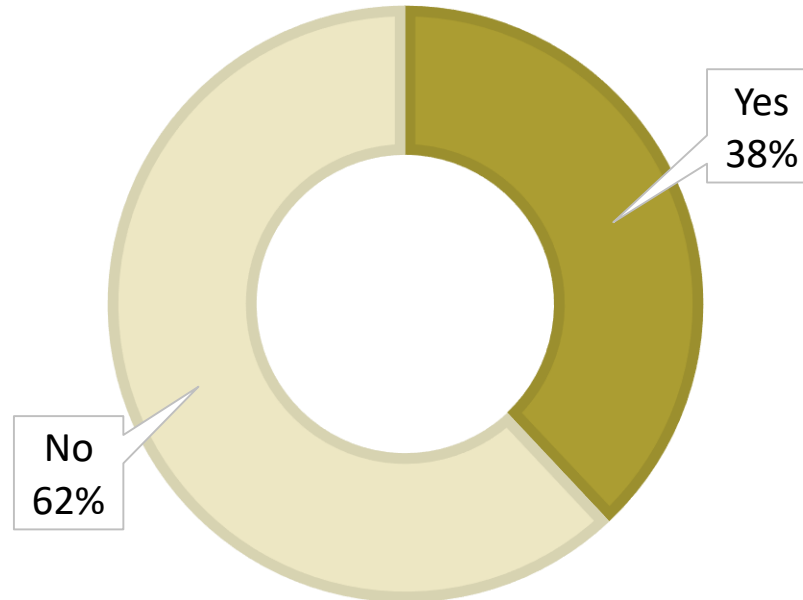
# Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the Rib Lake School District?

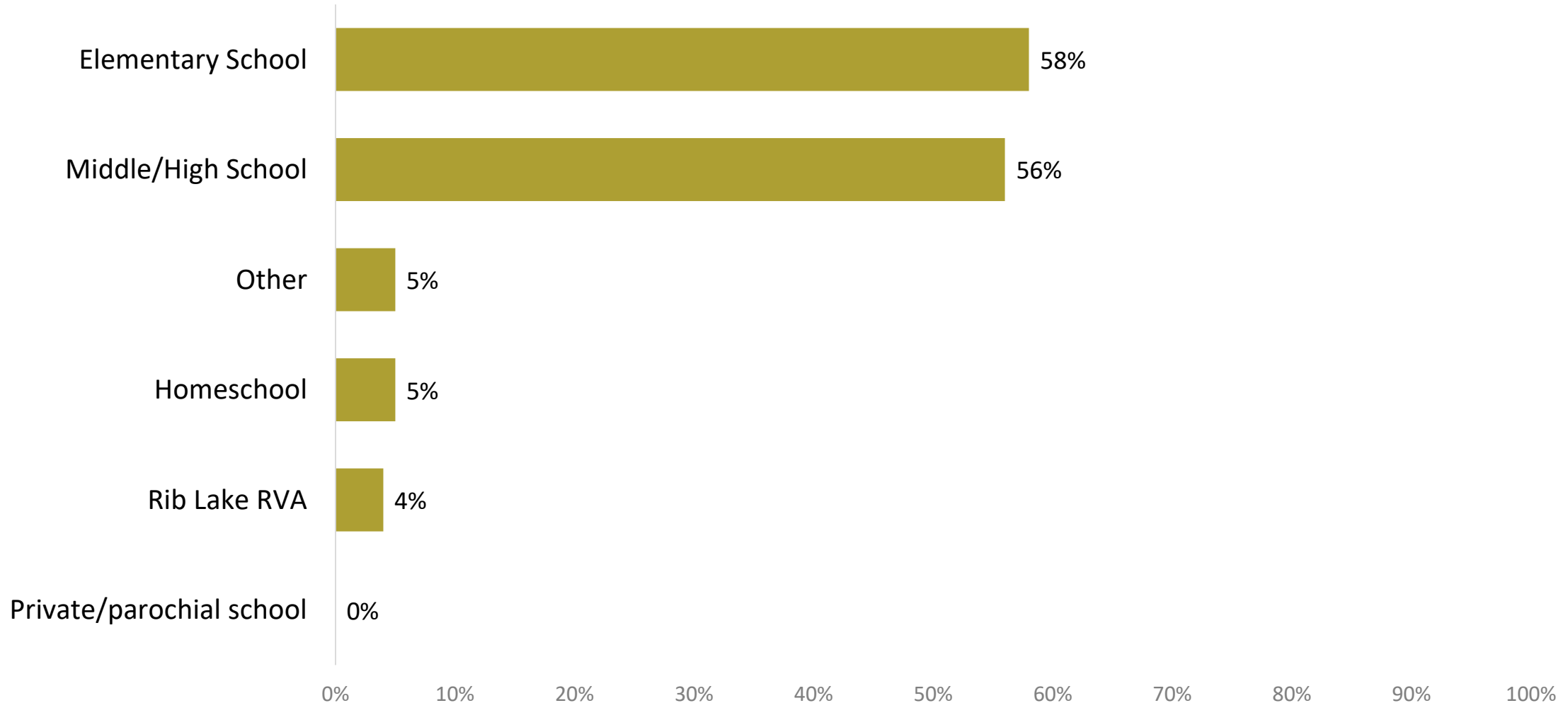


Do you have children attending a school in the District?

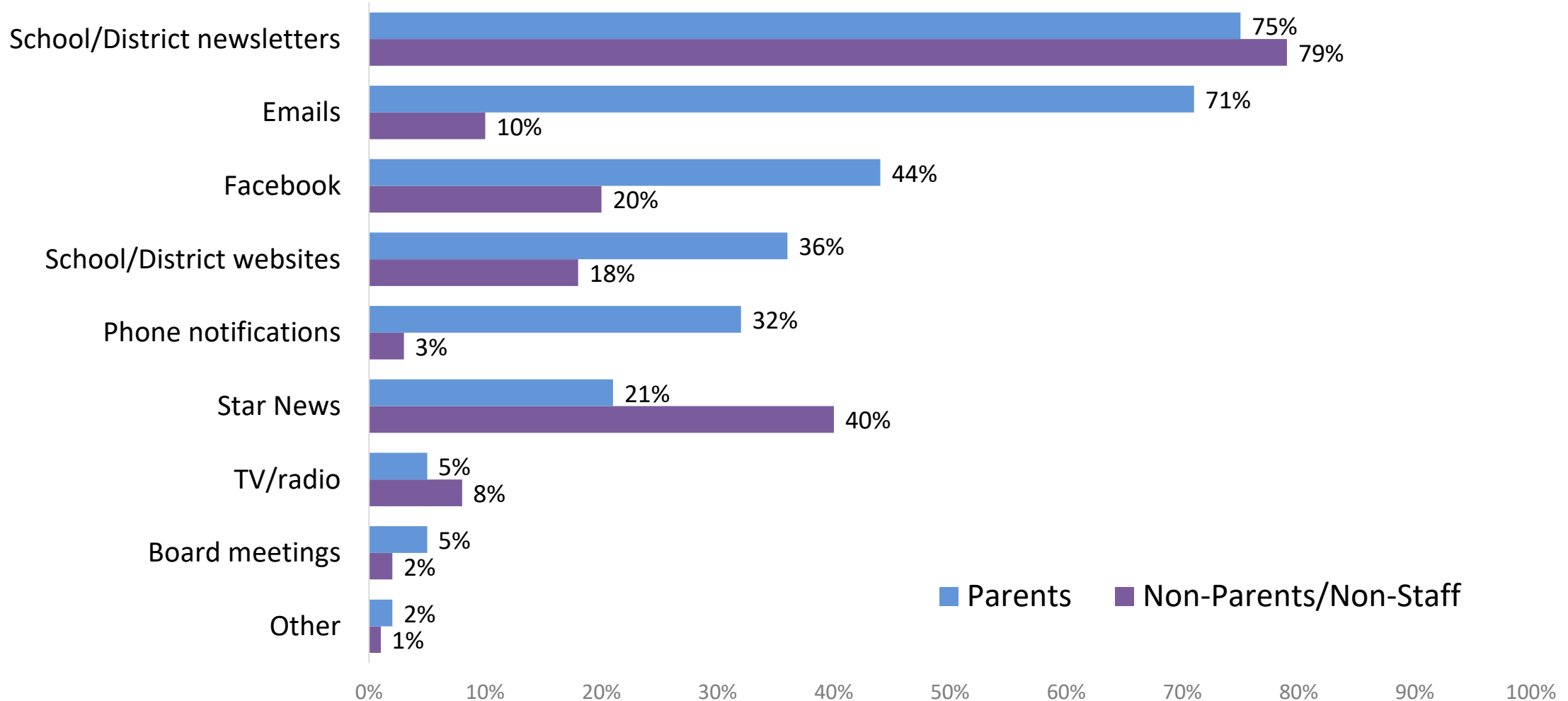


# If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend?

*(Mark all that apply.)*



# How do you like to receive school/District information?

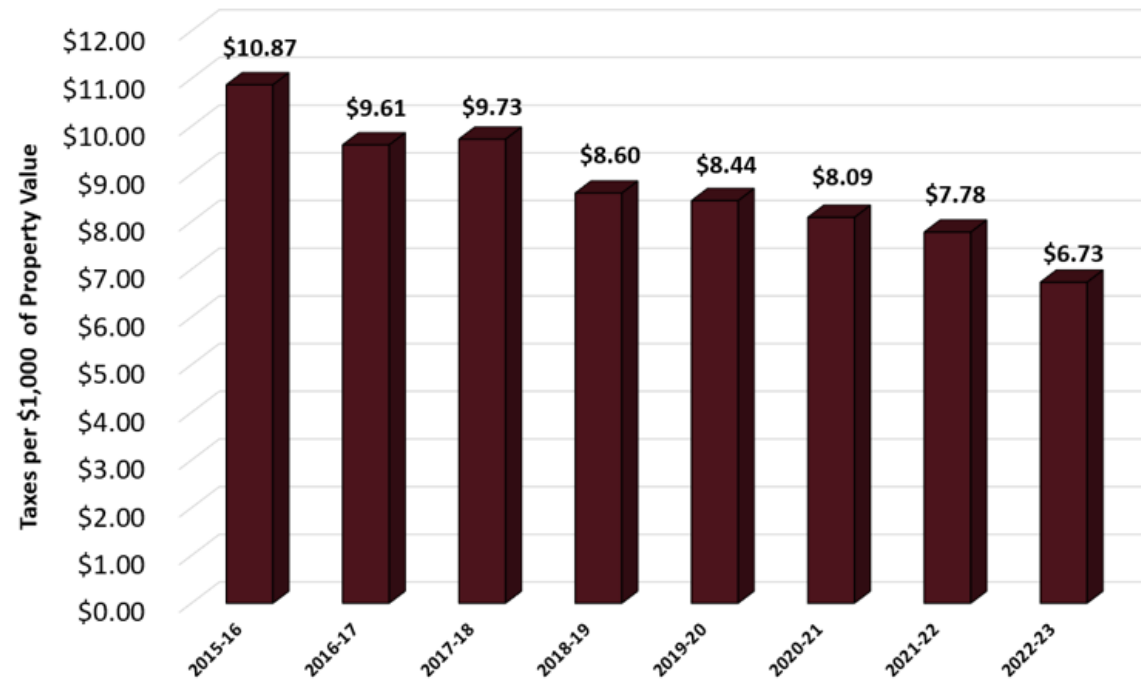


# Planning Background

## Financial

The District works hard to be good stewards of tax dollars, including paying off referendum debt early to save on interest costs. As seen below, our tax mill rate (used to calculate a school district's share of local property taxes) has declined over the past seven years.

**Rib Lake School District Property Tax Mill Rates**  
*Downward Trend*



# Planning Background

## Academic Achievements

According to the latest state report card, our district “Exceeds Expectations.”

**We rated above the state average in all of the following areas:**

**Student Achievement:** Performance on state reading and math tests.

**Student Growth:** Improvement over time in reading.

**Post-High School Readiness:** Readiness for graduation and life after school, such as college, career, and/or military.

In addition, the United States Department of Education recently named **Rib Lake Elementary** a Blue Ribbon School, which recognizes schools across the nation based on their overall academic excellence. Our school was **one of only eight schools in Wisconsin** last fall to receive this distinguished award.



# Facility Background

Some of the more significant facility challenges at the middle/high school are summarized in the following pages.

## **Safety and Security**

- The schools are not connected, creating security and supervision challenges with students traveling outdoors through a parking lot between buildings throughout the day.
- The school entrances need to be reconfigured to better monitor and control visitor access.
- Some areas of the buildings do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



# Facility Background



## Academic and Support Areas

- The band and choir rooms are too small for the number of students currently participating.
- The technical education (shop) areas are located in separate buildings.
- The gym is too small to host some WIAA playoff events.
- Each school has underutilized space and duplicated classrooms.
- The fitness center and weight room are too small for physical education and athletics.

# Facility Background



## Building Infrastructure

- The 1964 section of the high school needs significant repairs.
- The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are aging and inefficient.
- Building additions/reconfigurations have led to an inefficient layout.
- Classroom lighting is inefficient, resulting in high utility costs.
- The site has major drainage issues negatively impacting the buildings, parking lots, and sidewalks.

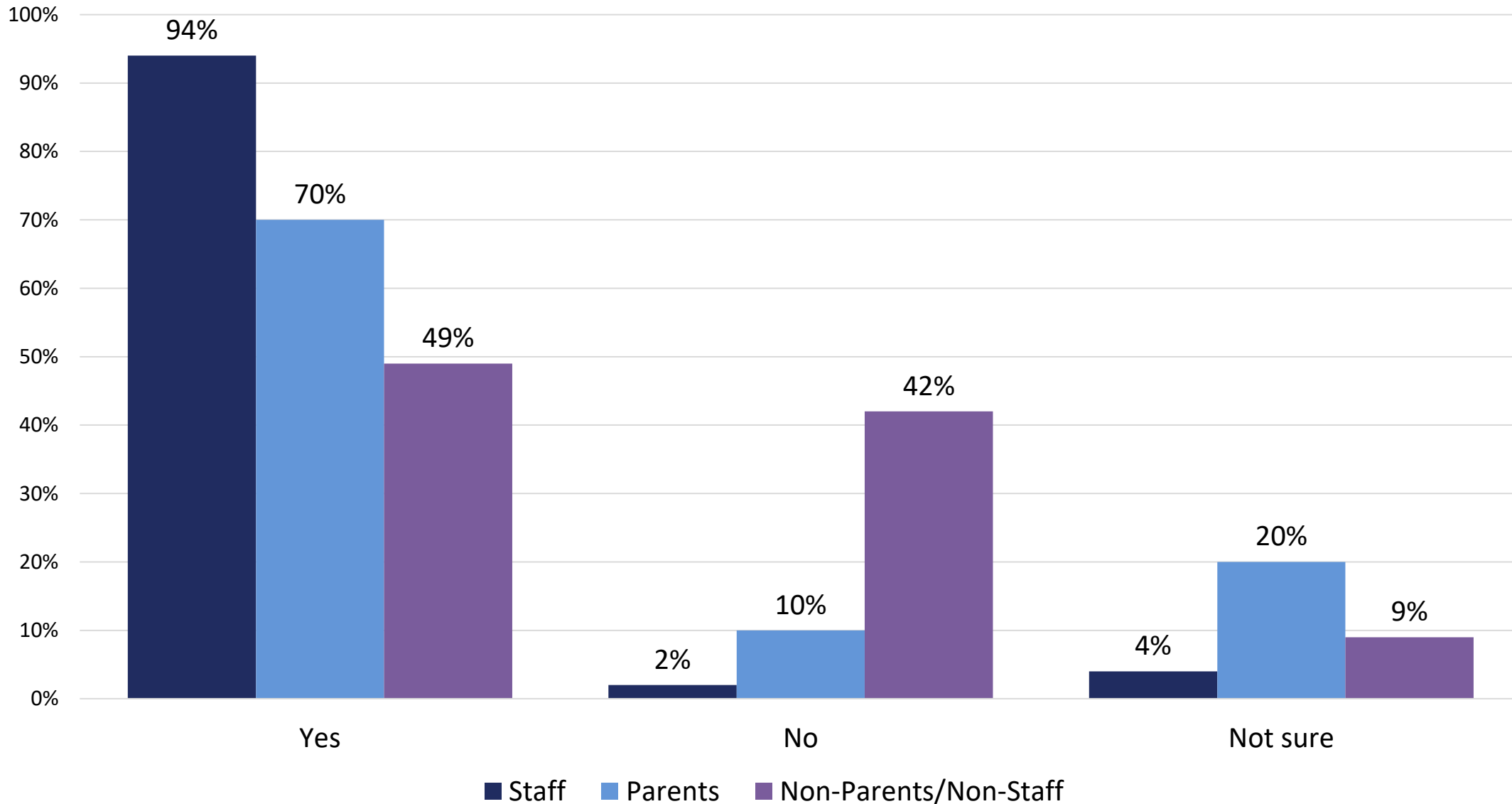


# Facility Background

The cost to address these challenges is too large to be covered in the annual budget. Rib Lake voters would need to approve a capital referendum, allowing the District to take out a loan (issue debt) to pay for these projects.



# Would you support the District pursuing a referendum to address the needs above?



# Base Plan

If the community supports pursuing a referendum, the following plan will address the most pressing middle and high school needs.

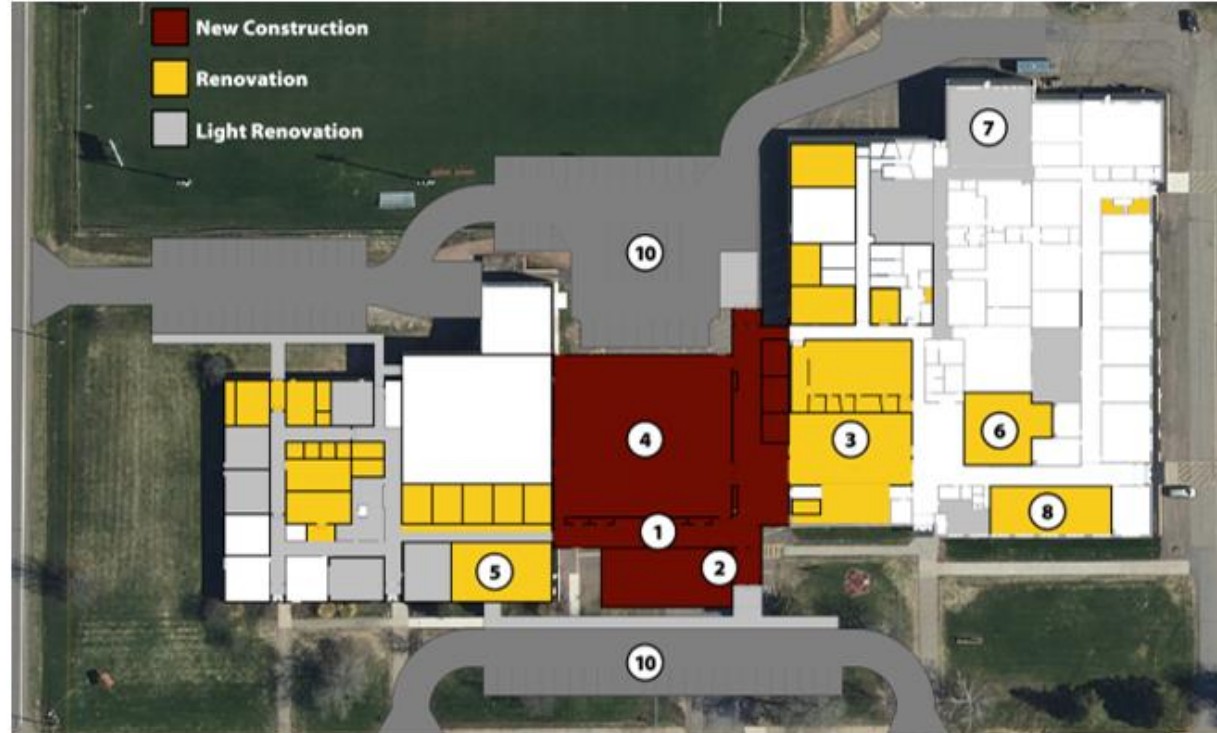
1. Connect the middle school and high school to improve safety and more efficiently share resources.
2. Create a secure main entrance and consolidate office space.
3. Convert the existing gym into a band room and multipurpose performance/cafeteria space.
4. Replace the gym with a regulation/competition-sized gym for school and community use.
5. Relocate/expand the fitness area and improve community access.
6. Update/expand the kitchen to serve all middle/high school students.
7. Connect/update the technical education areas (woods, metals, and small engines).
8. Consolidate to one library for all middle and high school students.
9. Address building-wide maintenance issues (HVAC, lighting, plumbing, and electrical).
10. Improve traffic flow and expand parking.



# Base Plan

At Rib Lake Elementary, the plan would:

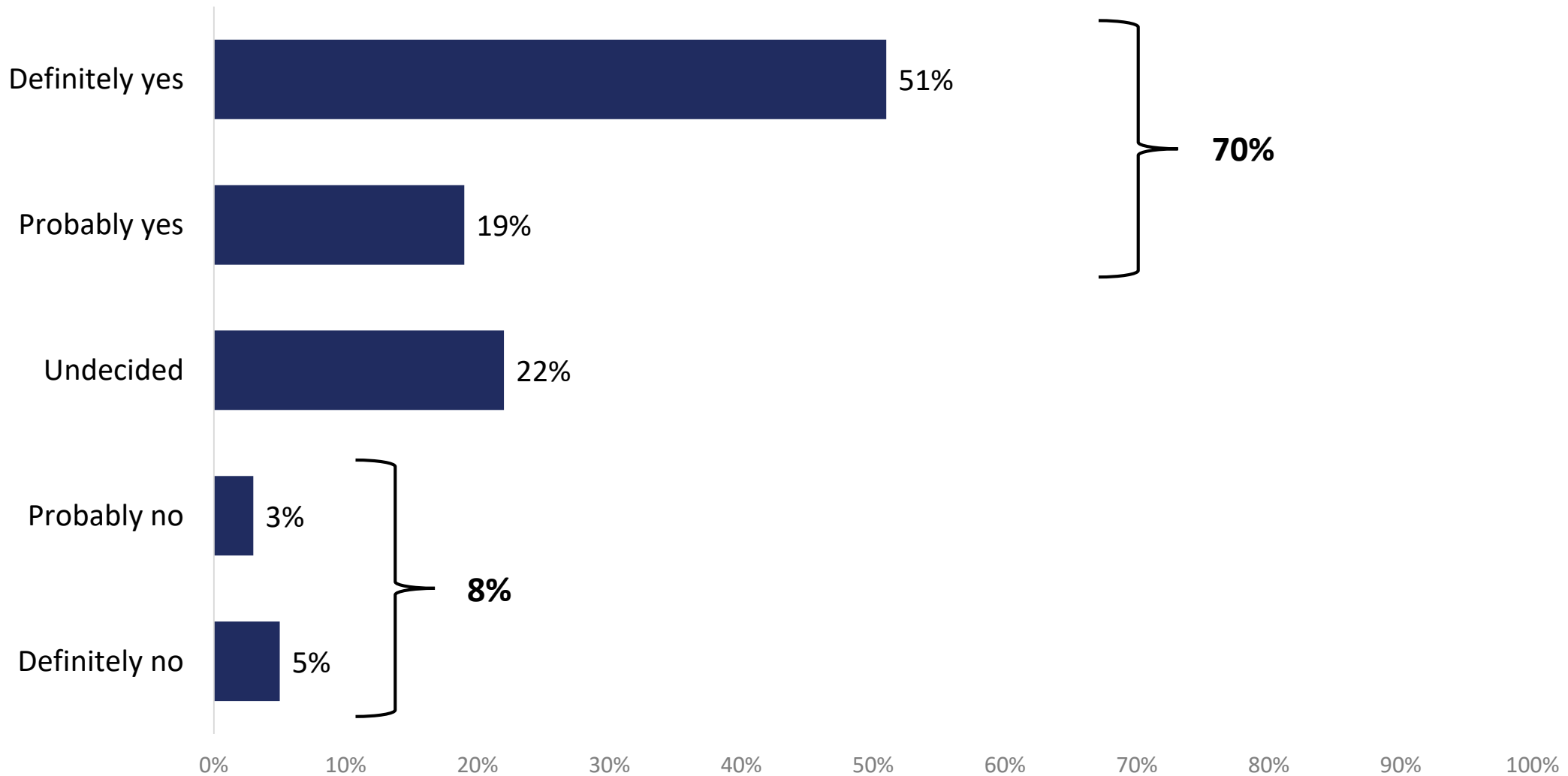
1. Create a secure main entrance.
2. Replace roof sections and update building systems.
3. Repurpose District Office space to provide four-year-old kindergarten.



# Would you support a \$22.7 million referendum to fund the base plan?



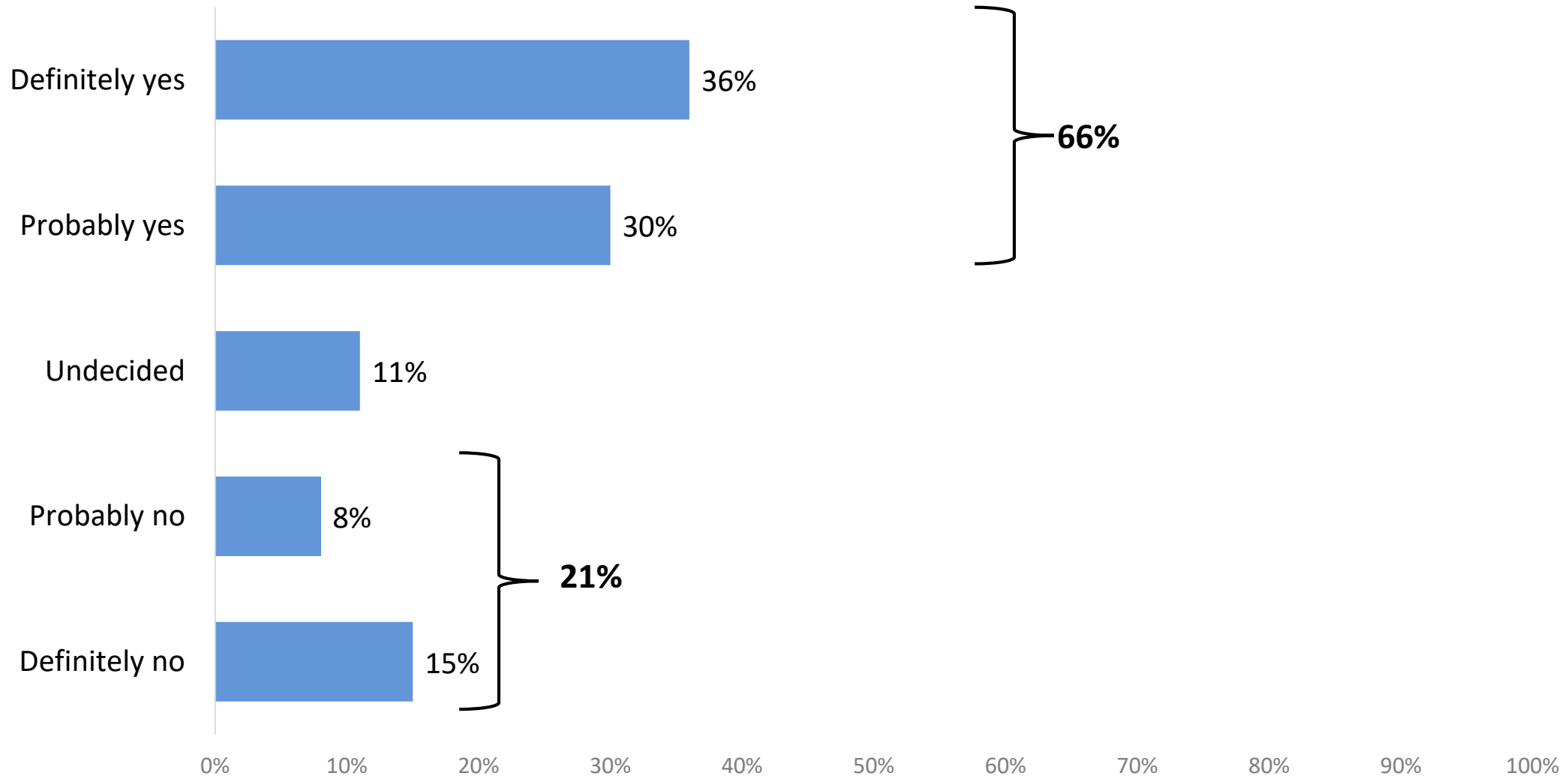
## *Resident Staff*



# Would you support a \$22.7 million referendum to fund the base plan?

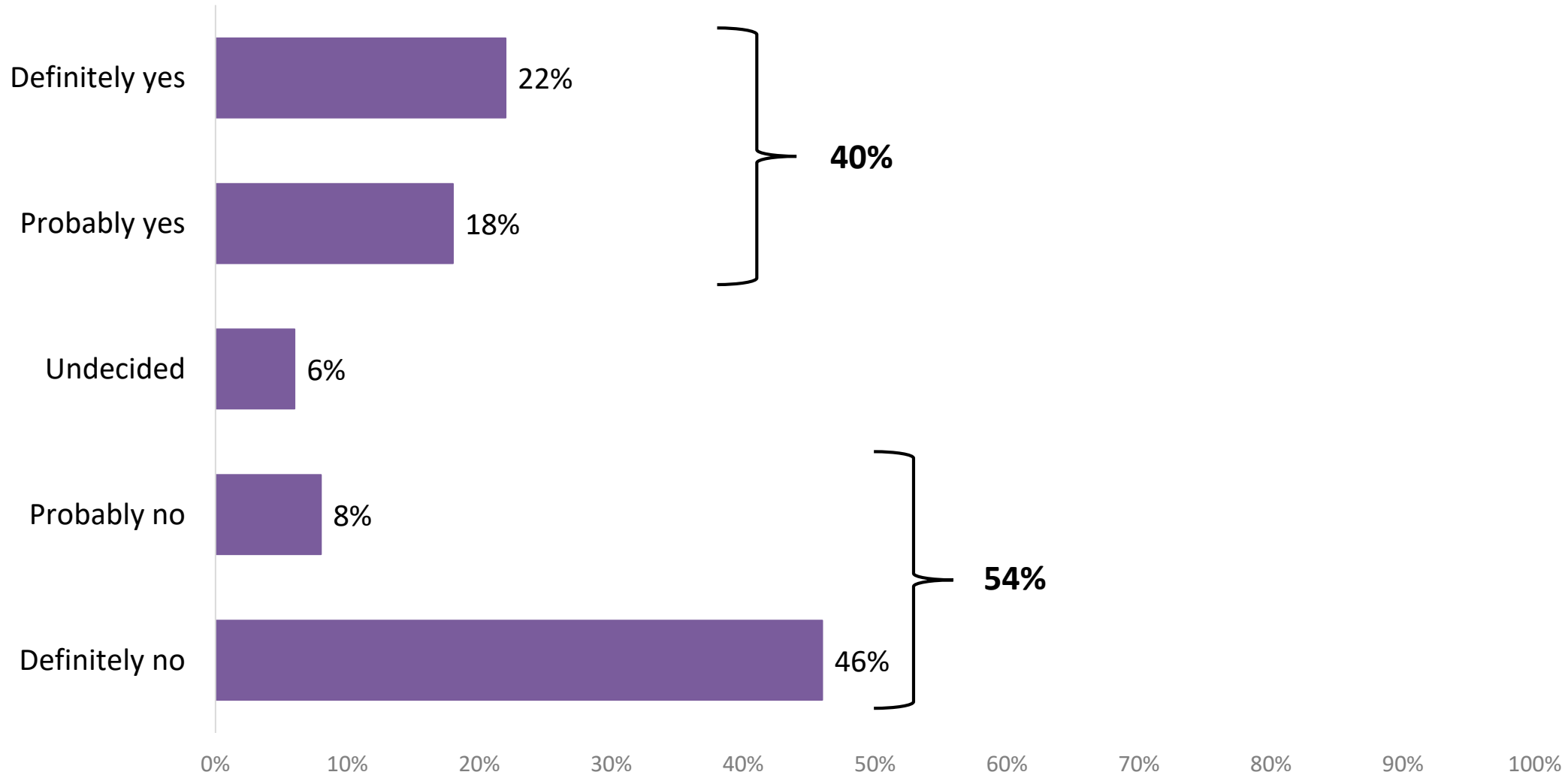


## *Resident Parents*



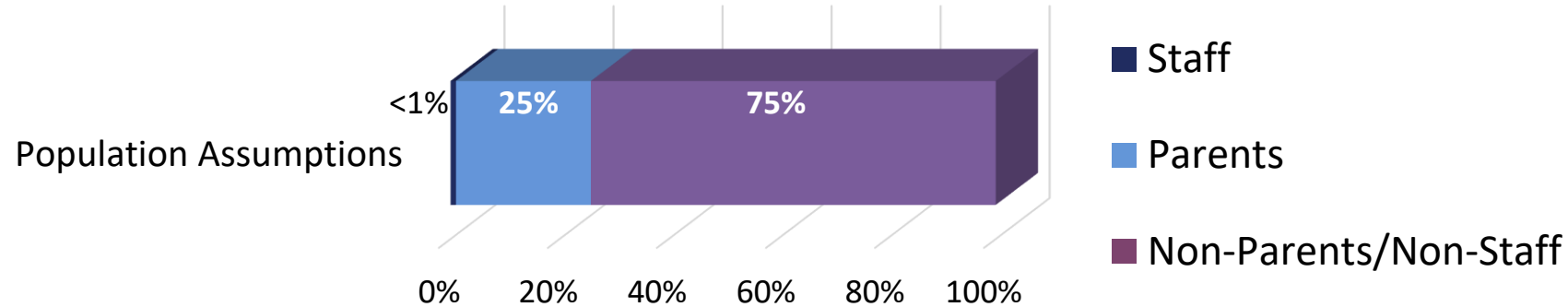
# Would you support a \$22.7 million referendum to fund the base plan?

## *Resident Non-Parents/Non-Staff*



## Additional Analysis:

Would the \$22.7 million referendum to fund the base plan be supported?



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (66\%) + 0.75 (40\%) = \underline{\underline{46.5\%}}$$





# Additional Projects

In addition to the base plan, the referendum could be expanded to pay for the following projects.

## **Community Daycare Facility**

Taylor County ranks 70th out of 72 counties in Wisconsin for providing access to daycare. Of that, the majority of the licensed daycares are in Medford. Gilman also has one licensed daycare. Across the Rib Lake School District boundaries, there are no licensed daycare facilities. Families unable to receive these services in Rib Lake may enroll their children in other districts, which reduces our state funding.

This project would renovate underutilized areas of the existing middle/high school to create a community daycare.

***Estimated cost: \$1.2 million***

## **Athletic Updates**

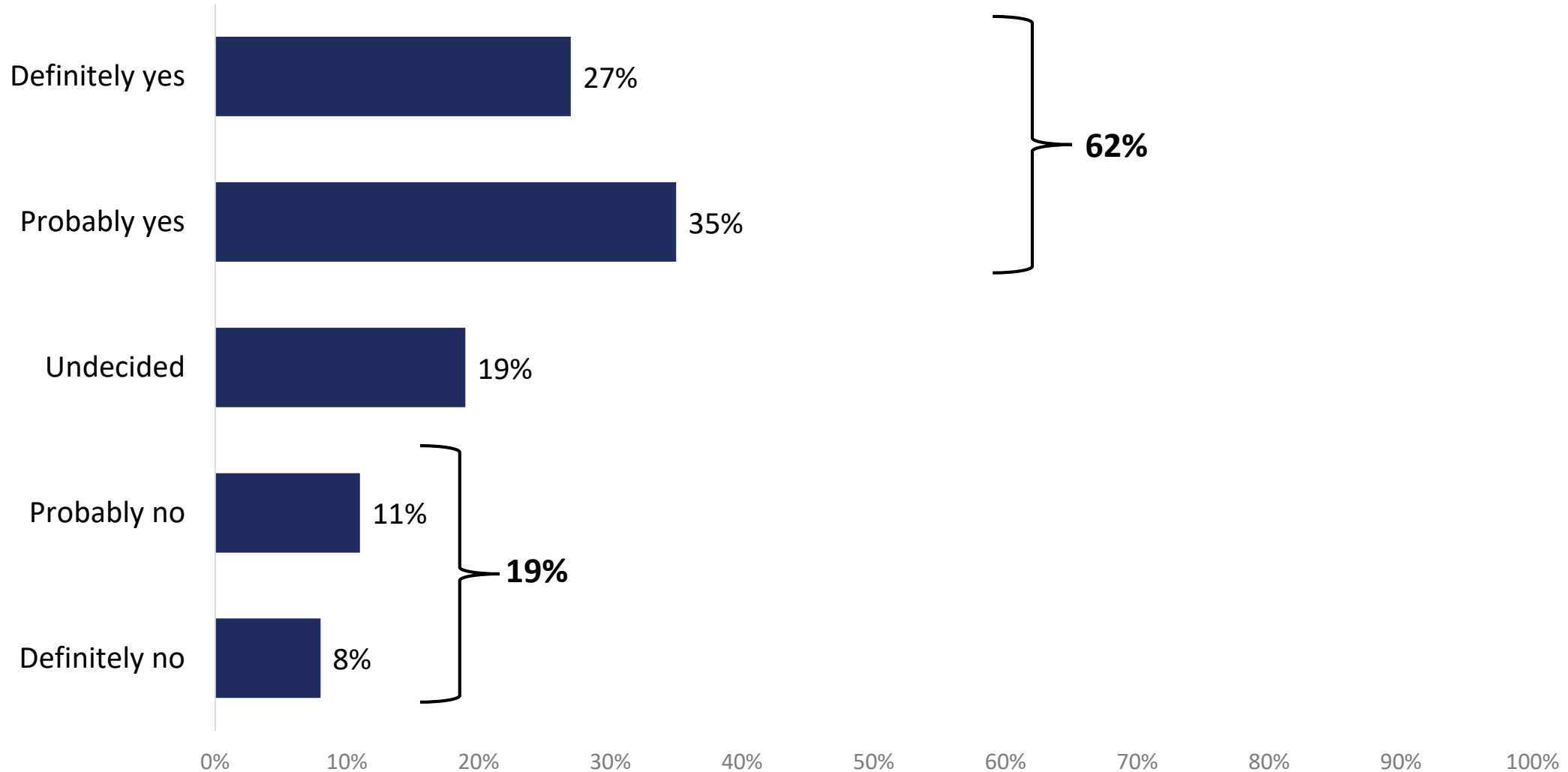
The facility study identified safety and performance issues with our outdoor athletics facilities. This project would improve our track and address drainage and safety issues at our softball field and tennis/basketball courts.

***Estimated cost: \$950,000***



# Would you support expanding the referendum by \$1.2 million to create a community daycare facility?

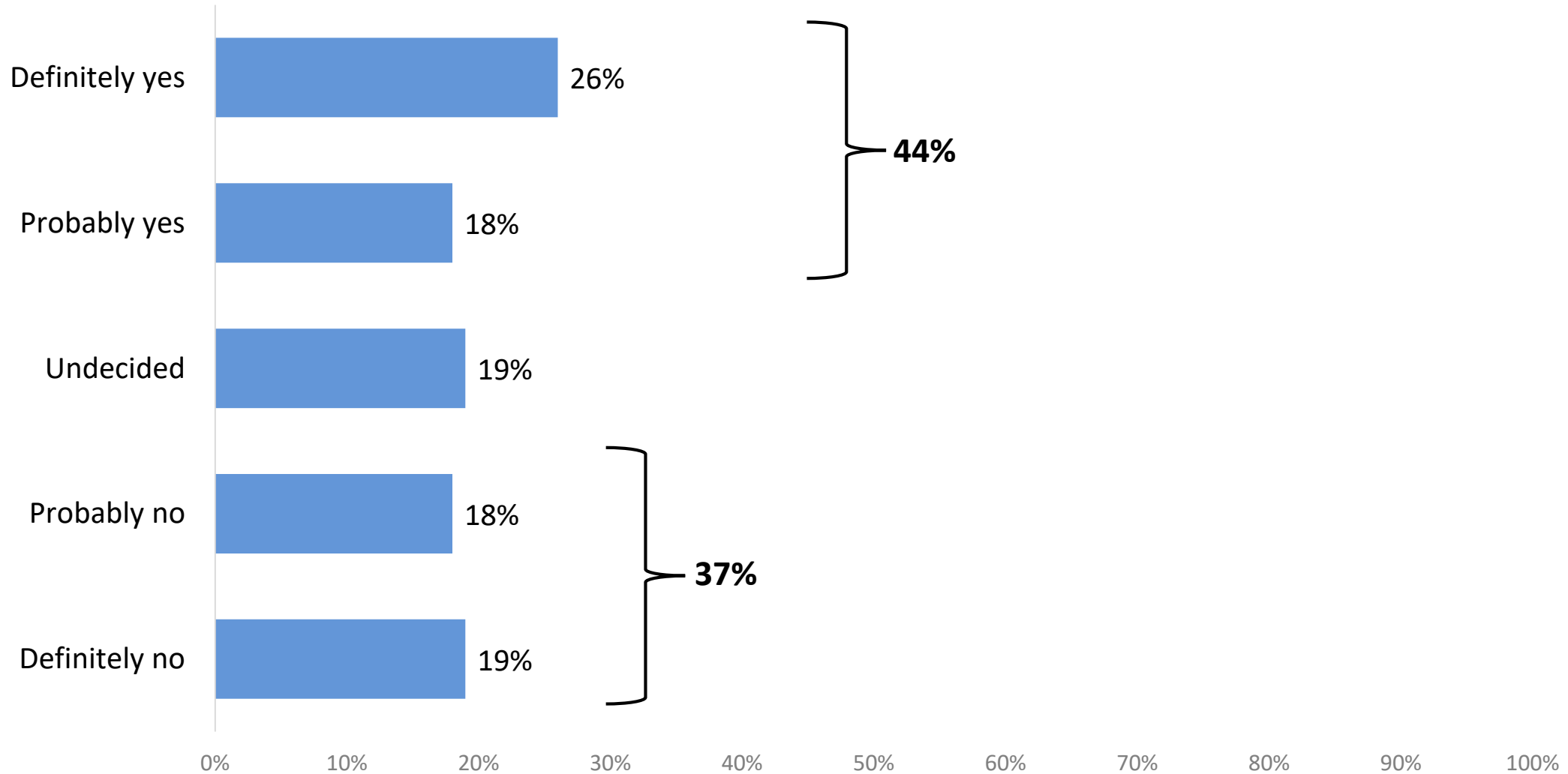
## *Resident Staff*



# Would you support expanding the referendum by \$1.2 million to create a community daycare facility?

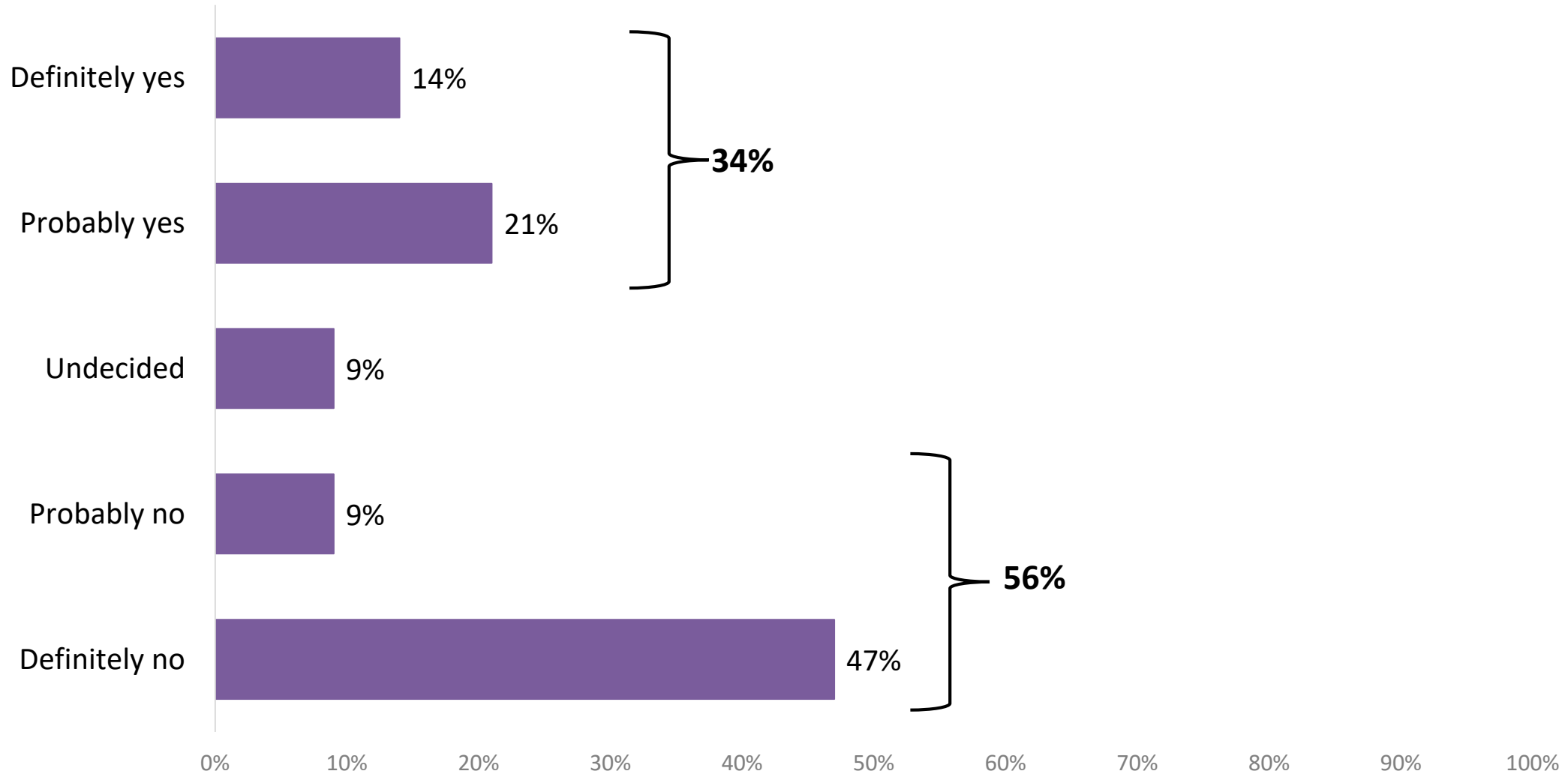


## *Resident Parents*

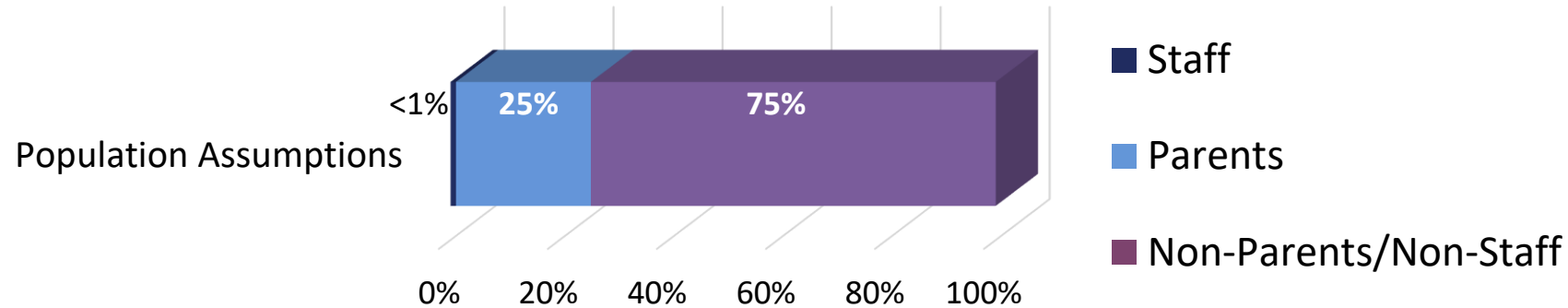


# Would you support expanding the referendum by \$1.2 million to create a community daycare facility?

*Resident Non-Parents/Non-Staff*



## Additional Analysis: Would you support expanding the referendum by \$1.2 million to create a community daycare facility?



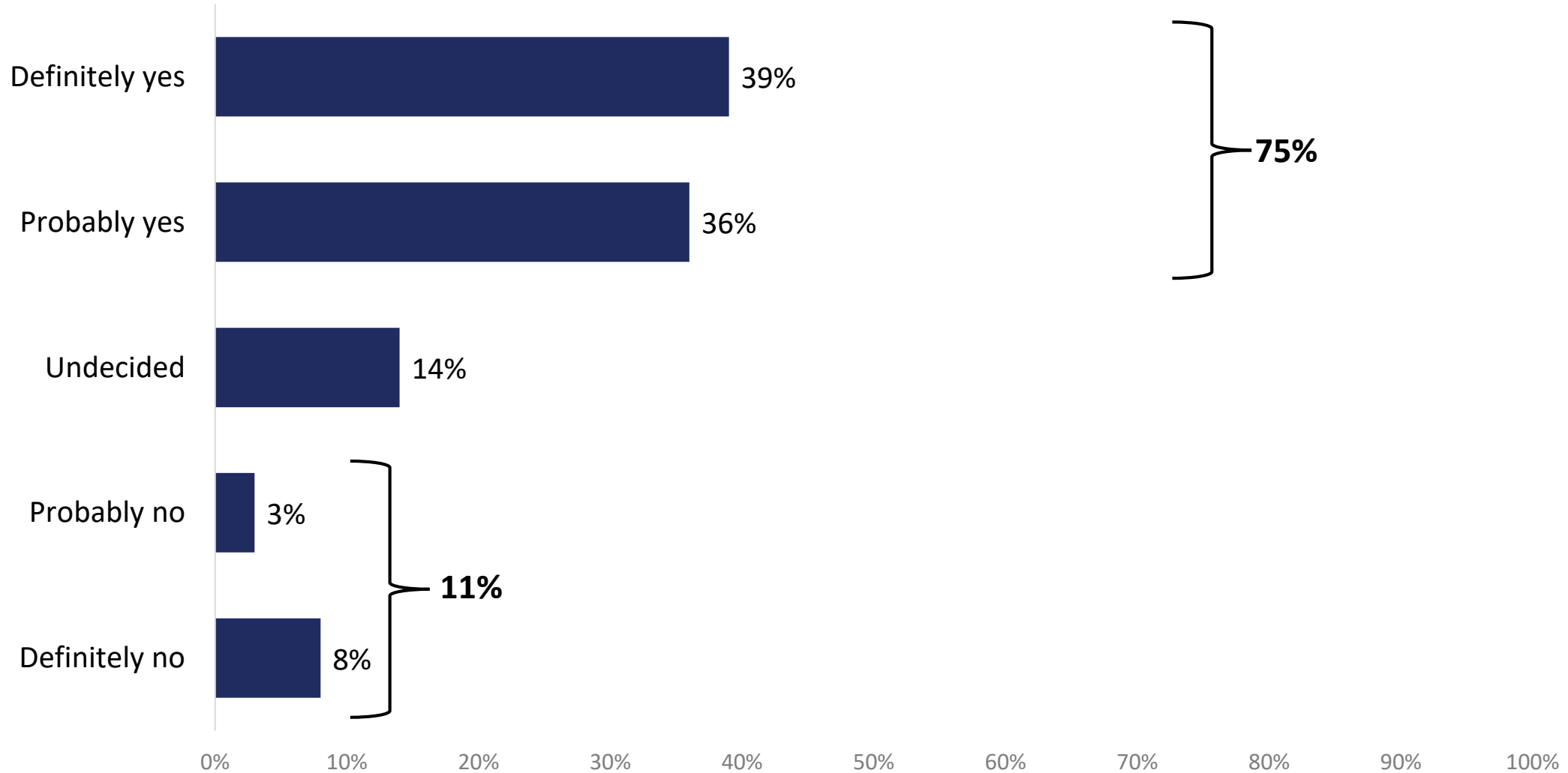
Weighted support for *Definitely yes* and *Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (44\%) + 0.75 (34\%) = \underline{\underline{37.75\%}}$$



# Would you support expanding the referendum by \$950,000 to update the athletic areas?

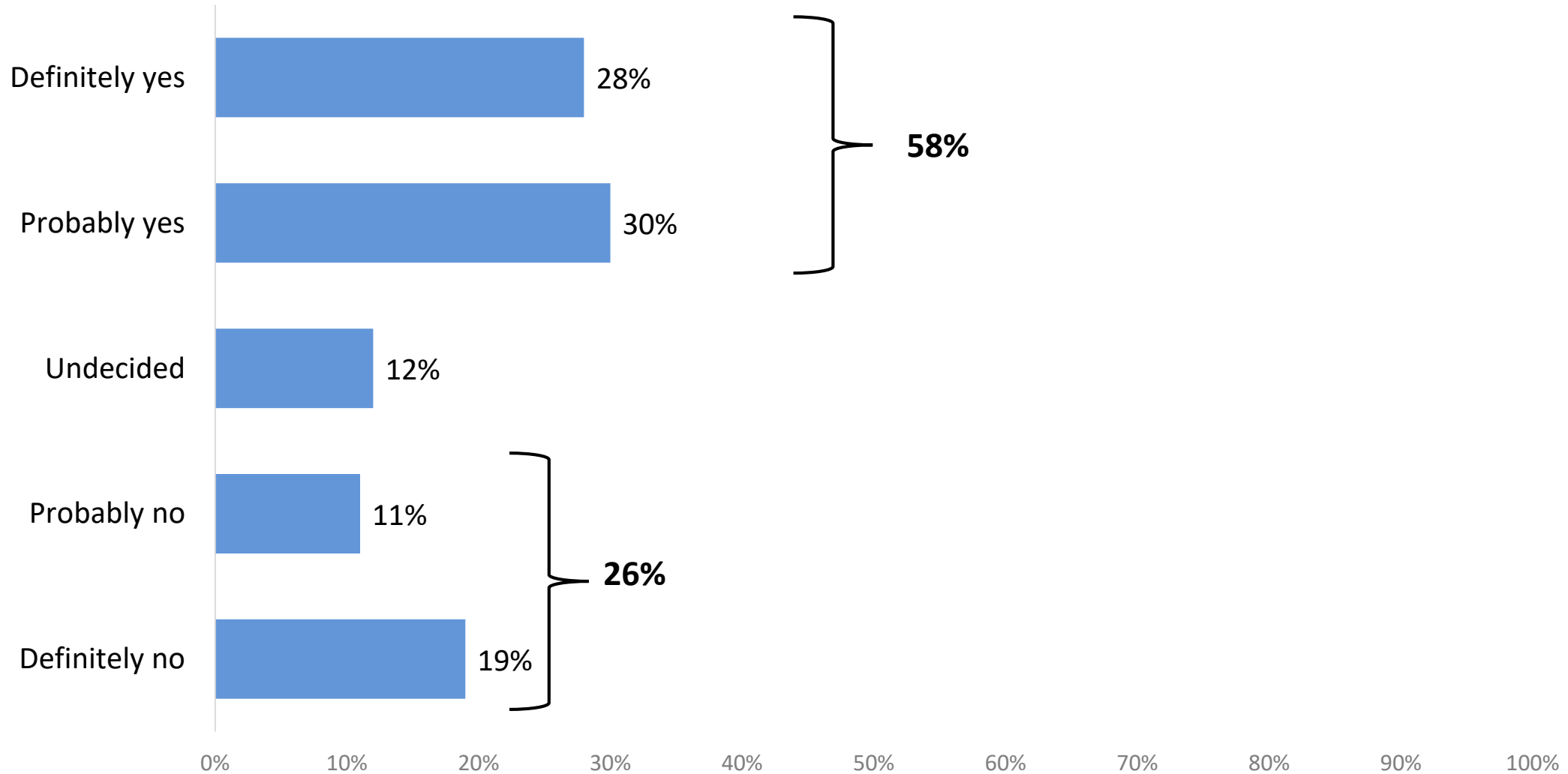
## *Resident Staff*



# Would you support expanding the referendum by \$950,000 to update the athletic areas?

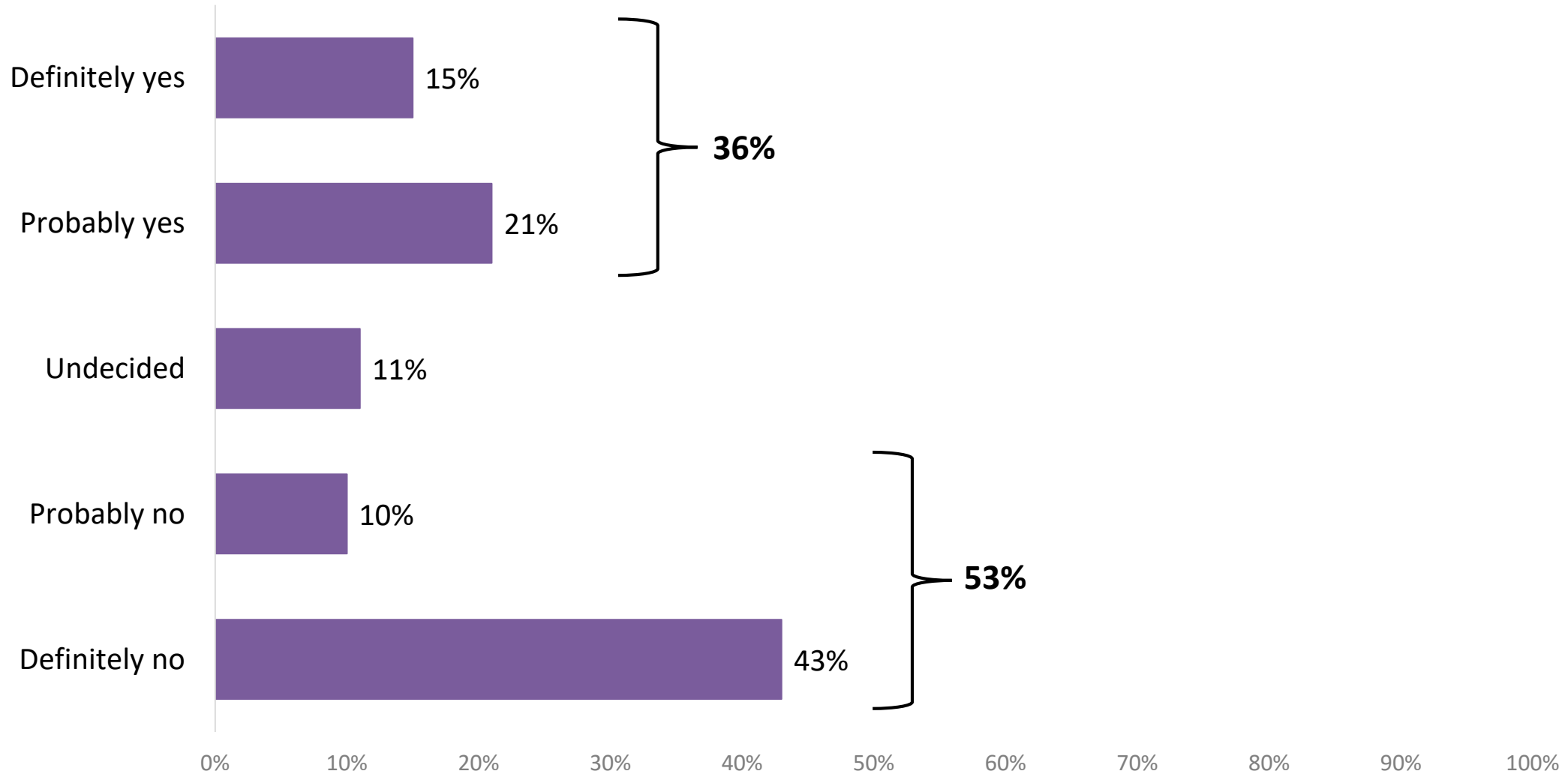


## *Resident Parents*



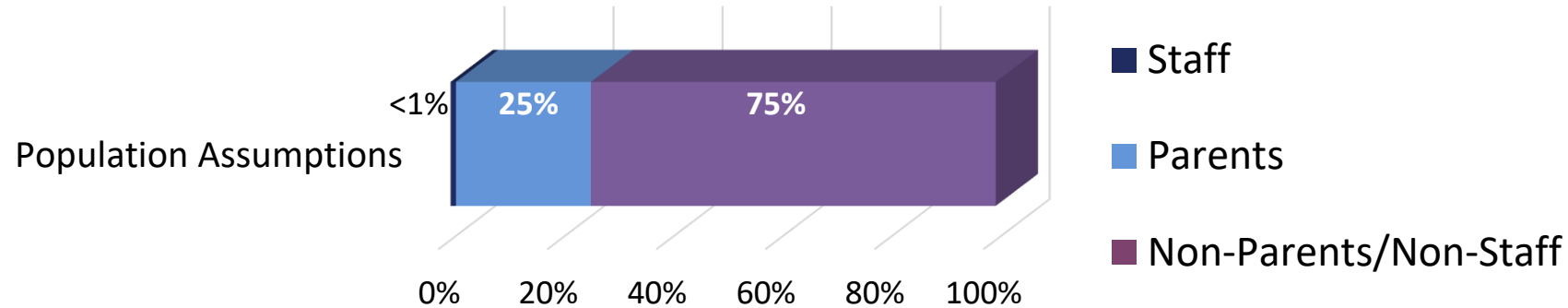
# Would you support expanding the referendum by \$950,000 to update the athletic areas?

*Resident Non-Parents/Non-Staff*





## Additional Analysis: Would you support expanding the referendum by \$950,000 to update the athletic areas?



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

$$0.25 (58\%) + 0.75 (36\%) = \underline{\underline{41.5\%}}$$



# How is the District doing in the following areas?

*Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)*



Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/Non-Staff
Delivering a high-quality education	3.46	3.24	3.18
Keeping the public informed	3.28	3.01	2.87
Managing funds appropriately	3.21	2.99	2.66
Building pride in the community	3.44	3.32	3.08

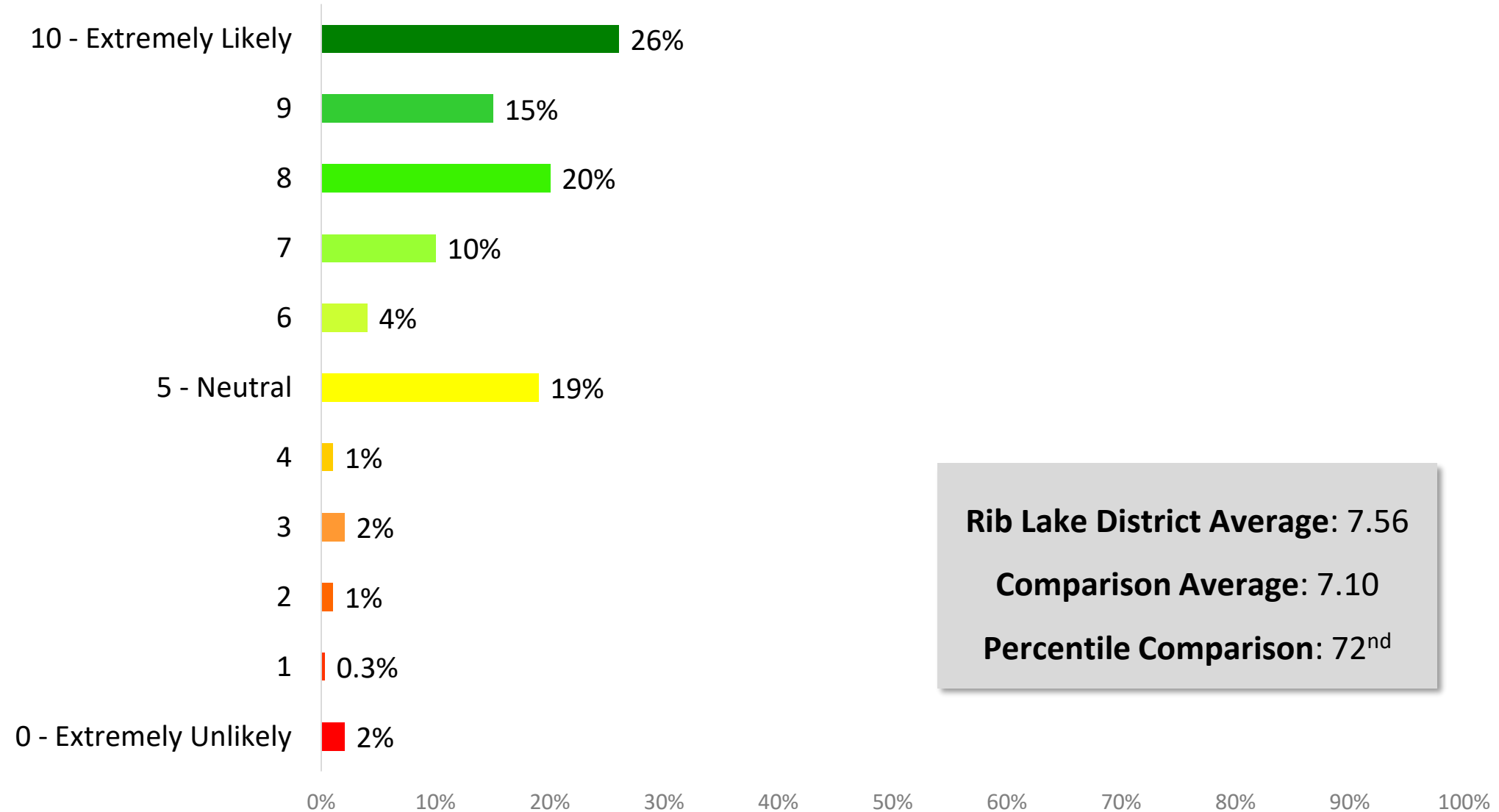
# How is the District doing in the following areas?

*Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)*



Item	Percent "Great" or "Good"	Average	Comparison Percentile
Delivering a high-quality education	89%	3.24	80 <sup>th</sup>
Keeping the public informed	75%	2.97	73 <sup>rd</sup>
Managing funds appropriately	71%	2.84	58 <sup>th</sup>
Building pride in the community	86%	3.21	83 <sup>rd</sup>

# 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?

- A majority of staff and parents support pursuing a referendum to update school facilities, but the non-parent/non-staff are more split.
- If held today, it would be close, but the \$22.5 million referendum (base plan) is unlikely to be supported.
- Of the two additional projects tested, updating the athletic areas had more support than construction of a community daycare, however both projects are unlikely to be supported.
- Respondents scored the District above the median on all satisfaction metrics.



# SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

*Measuring what matters*

262.644.4300 | [schoolperceptions.com](http://schoolperceptions.com)

