



School District of Reedsburg

Community Survey Report

May 1, 2024

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

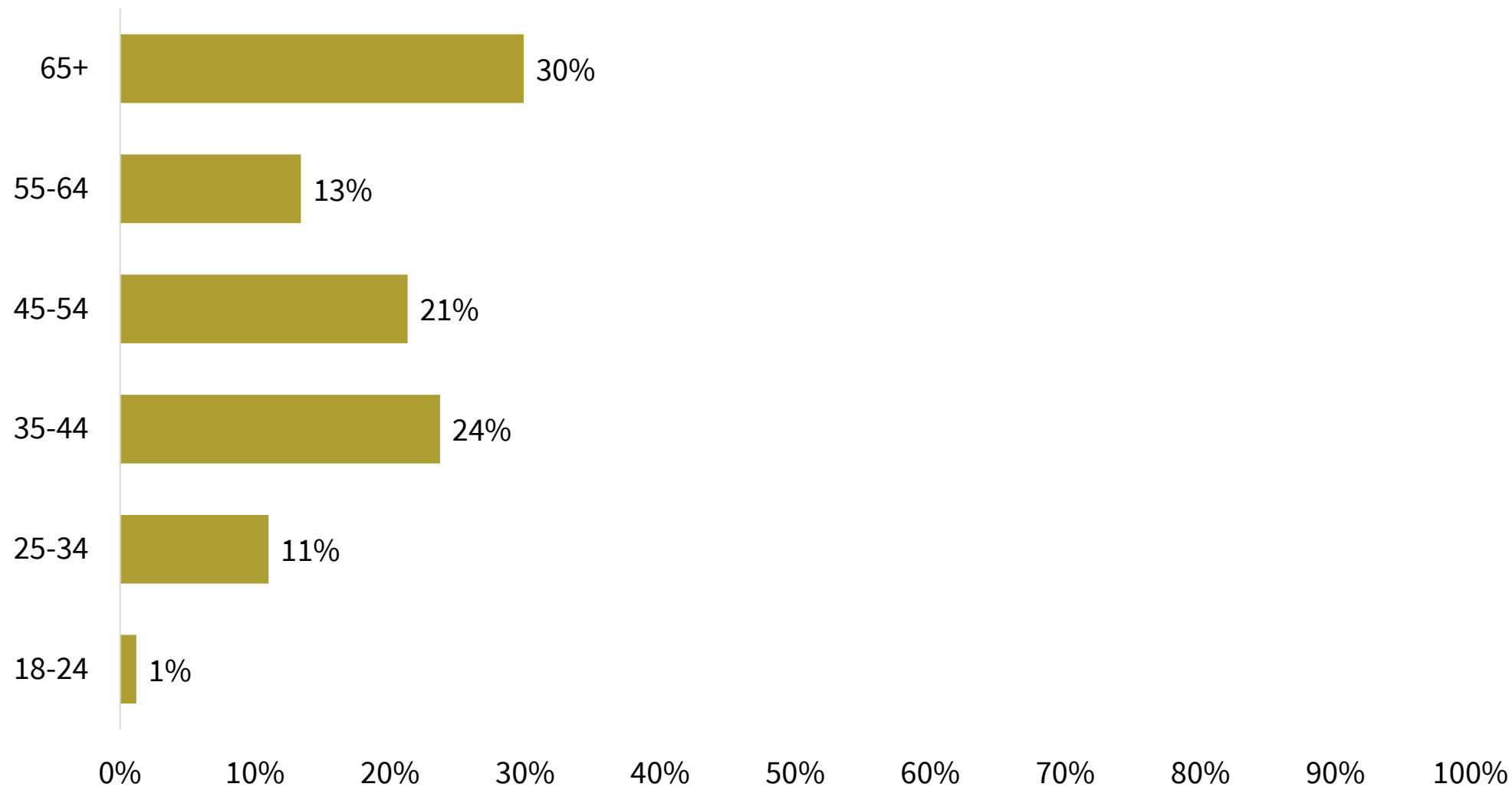
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Information

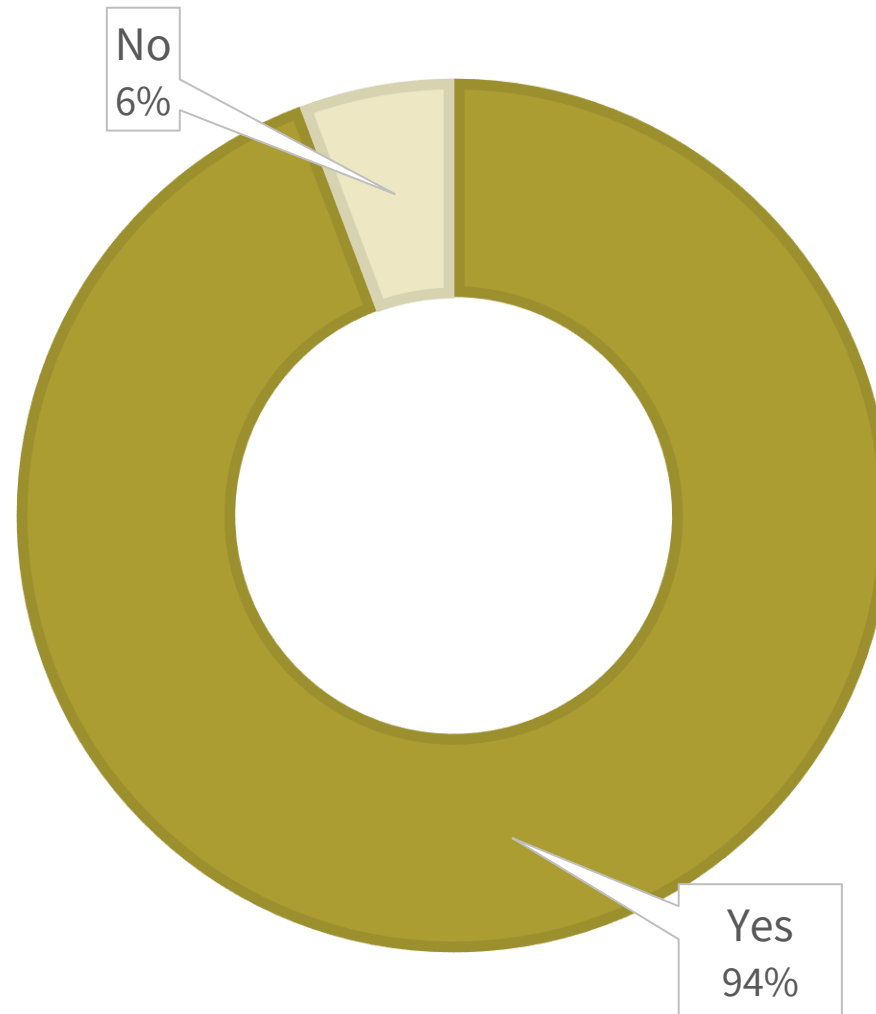
- Survey deadline **March 22, 2024**
- **1,334** total respondents
- **16%** response rate
- **+/- 2.74%** statistical margin of error



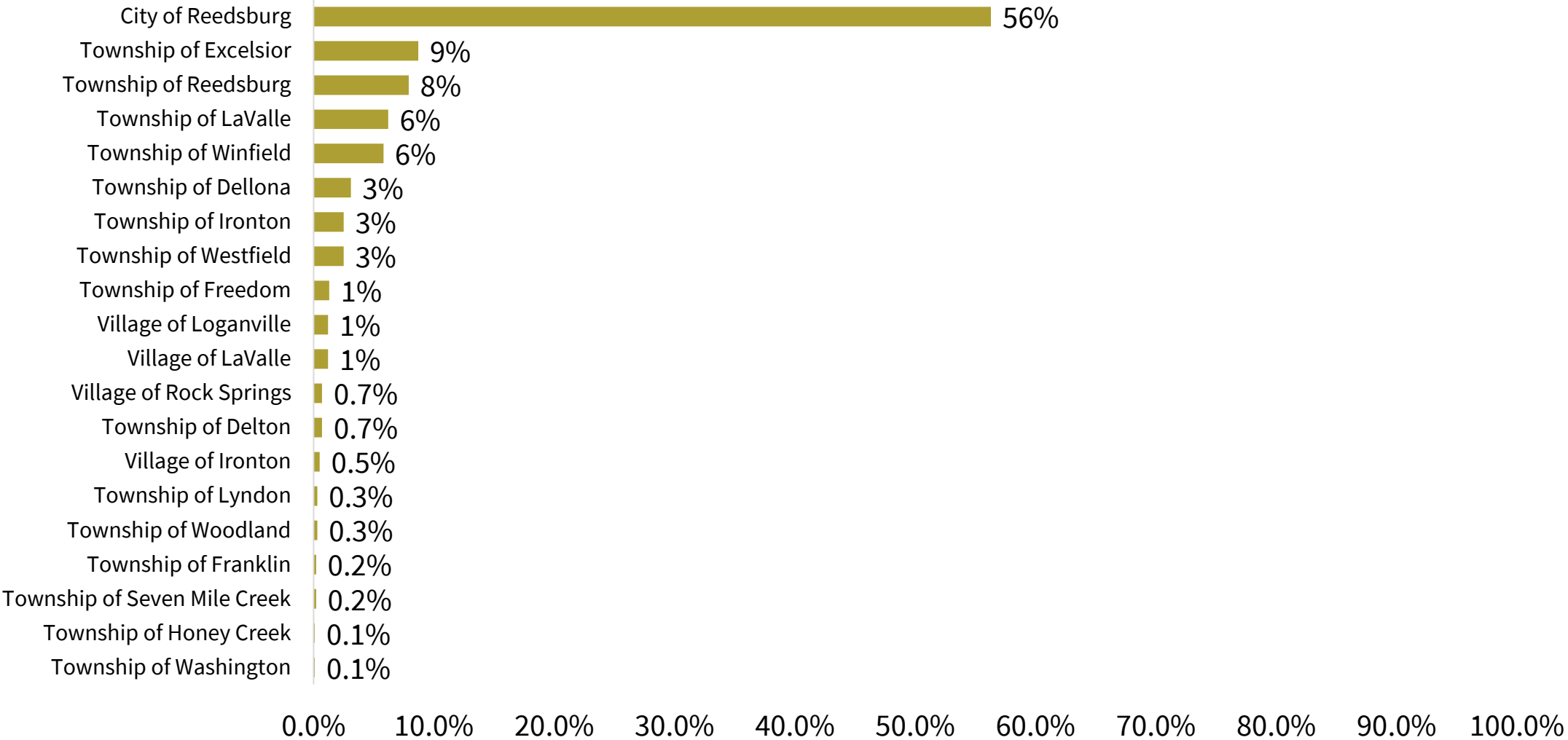
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in the District?



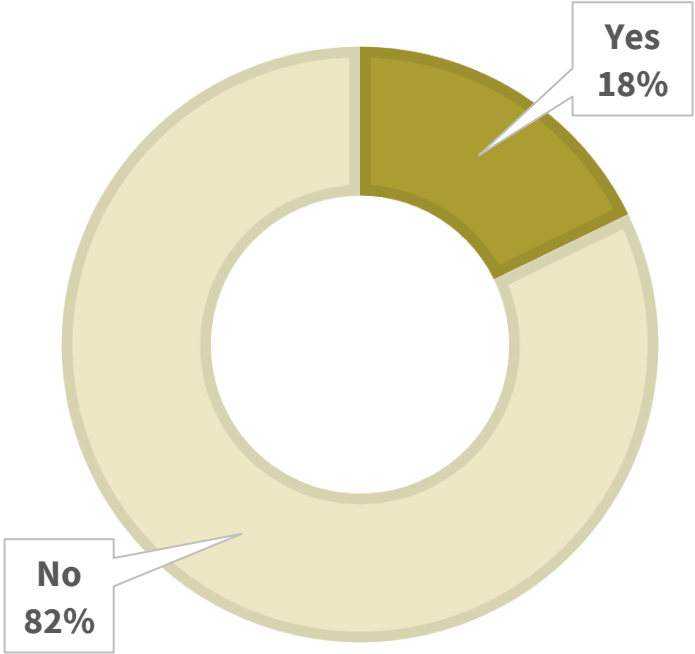
In which municipality do you live?



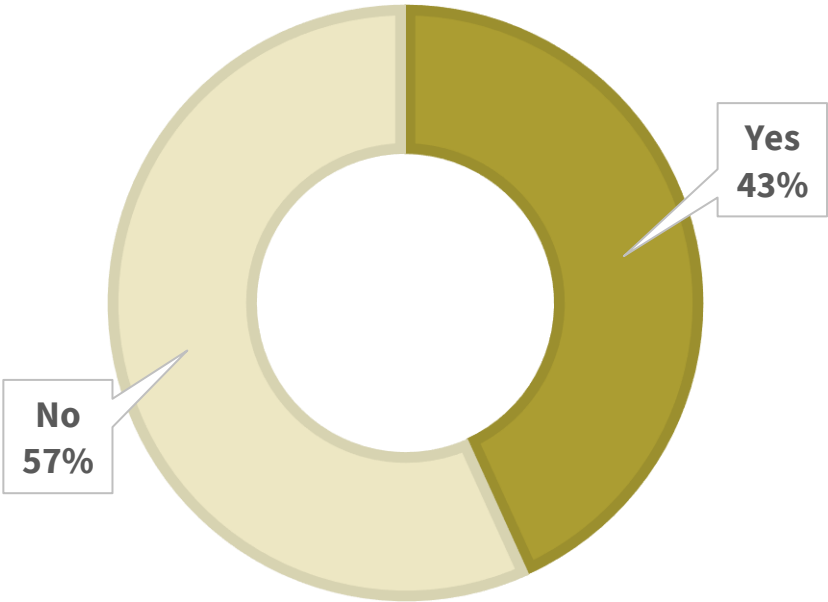
Respondent Information



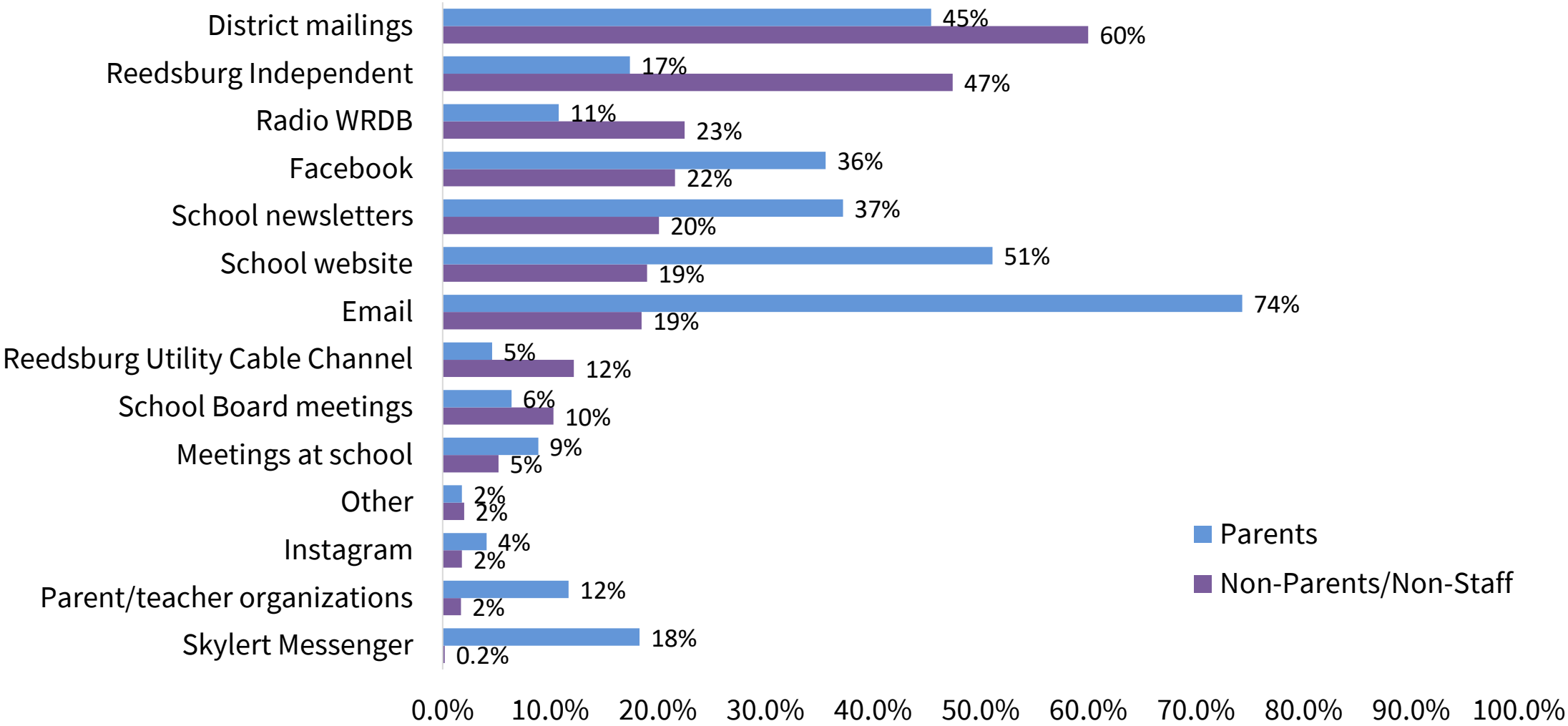
Are you an employee of the District?



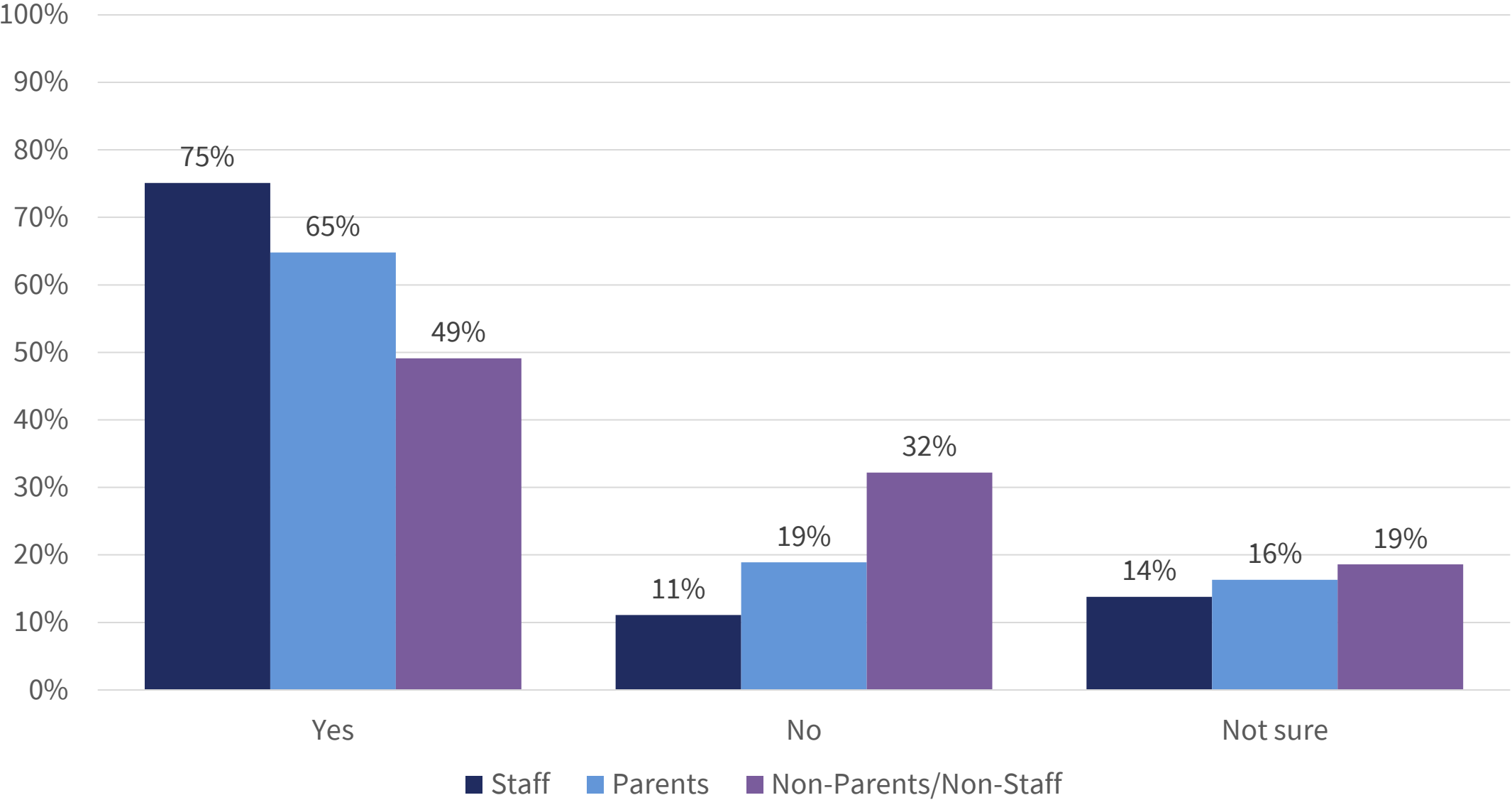
Do you have children attending a school in the District?



How do you like to receive school/District information?

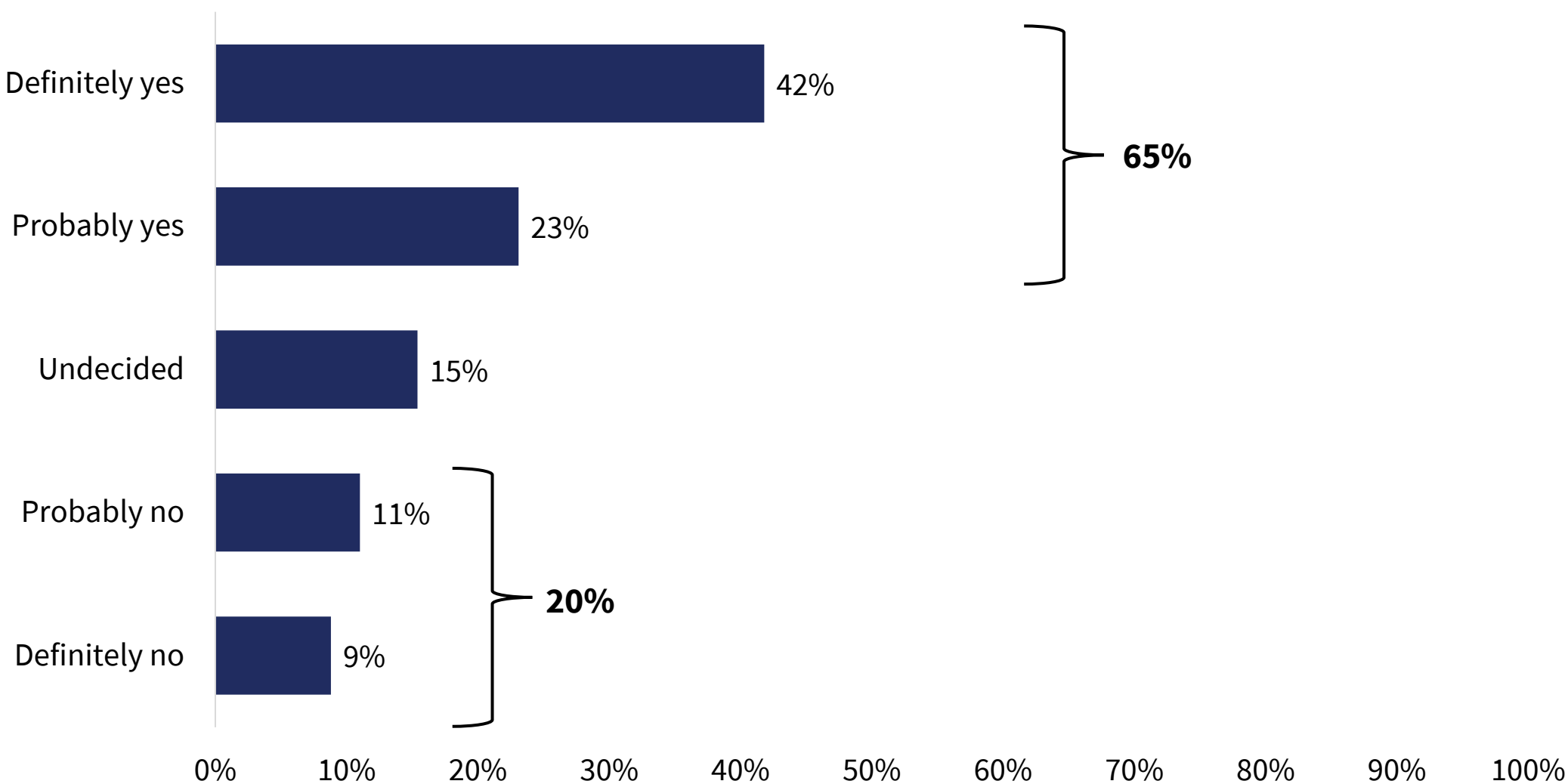


Would you support the District exploring a capital (facilities) referendum?



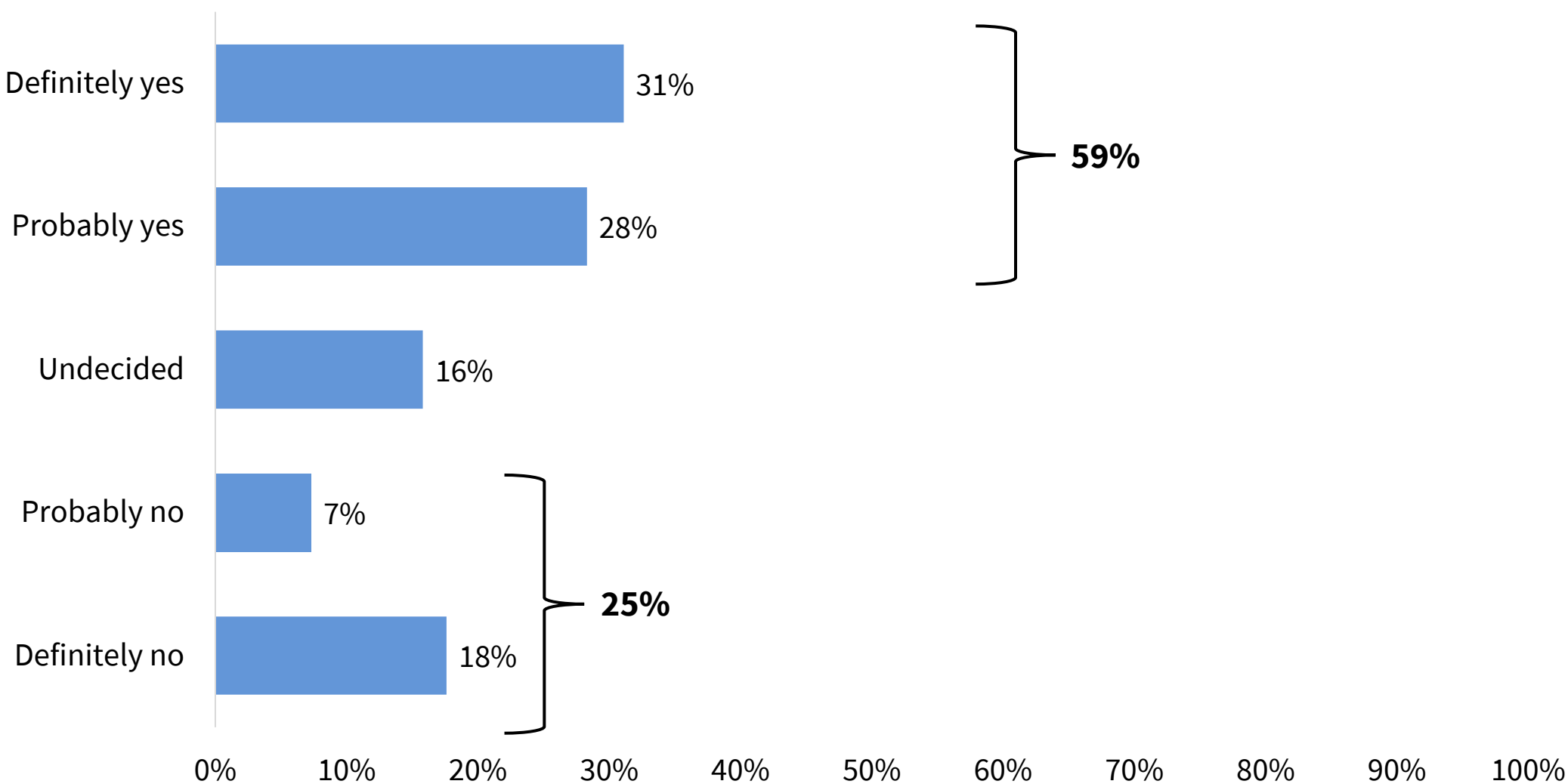
Would you support a \$122.9 million referendum to fund the recommended plan?

(Resident Staff)



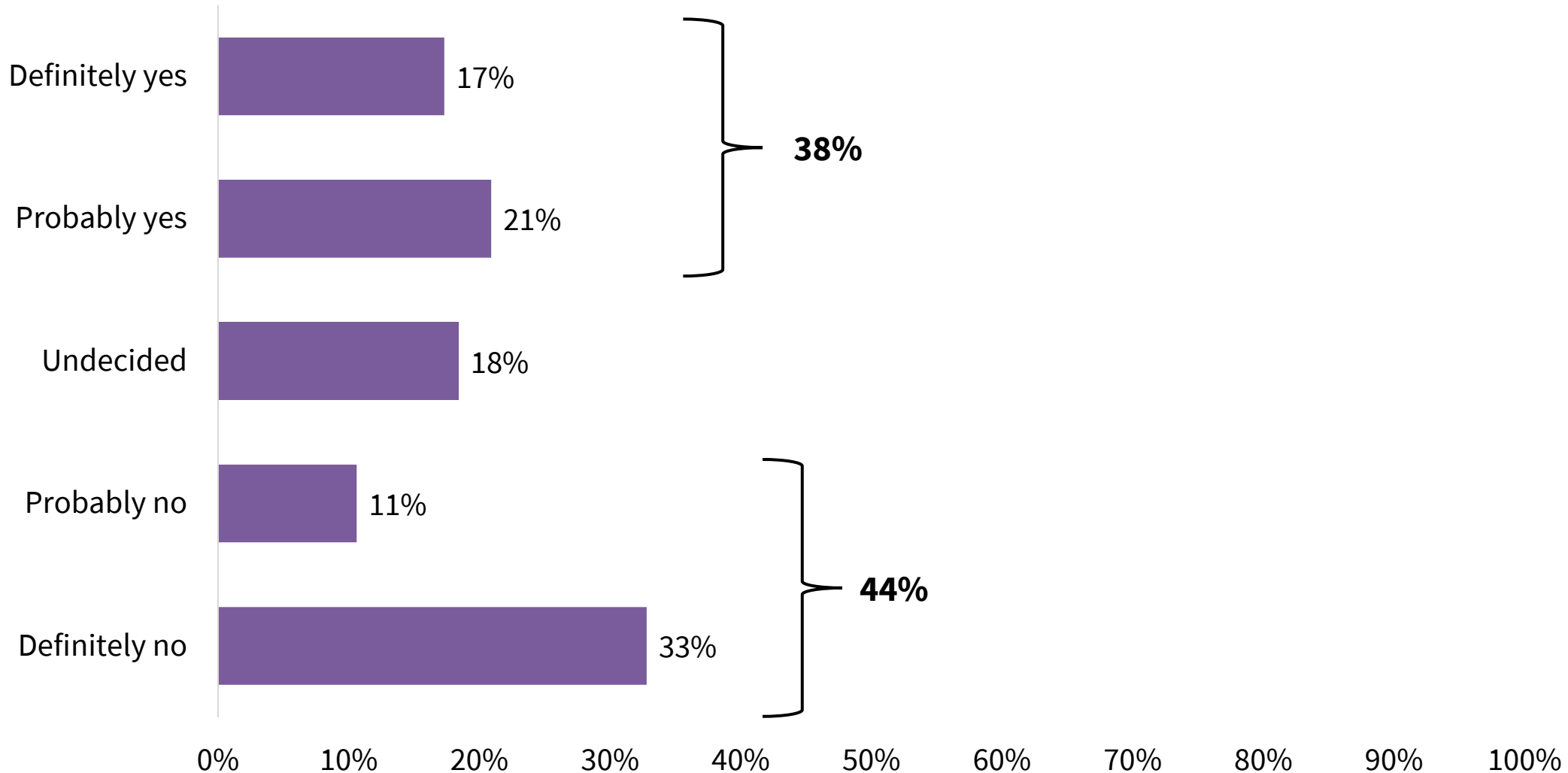
Would you support a \$122.9 million referendum to fund the recommended plan?

(Resident Parents)

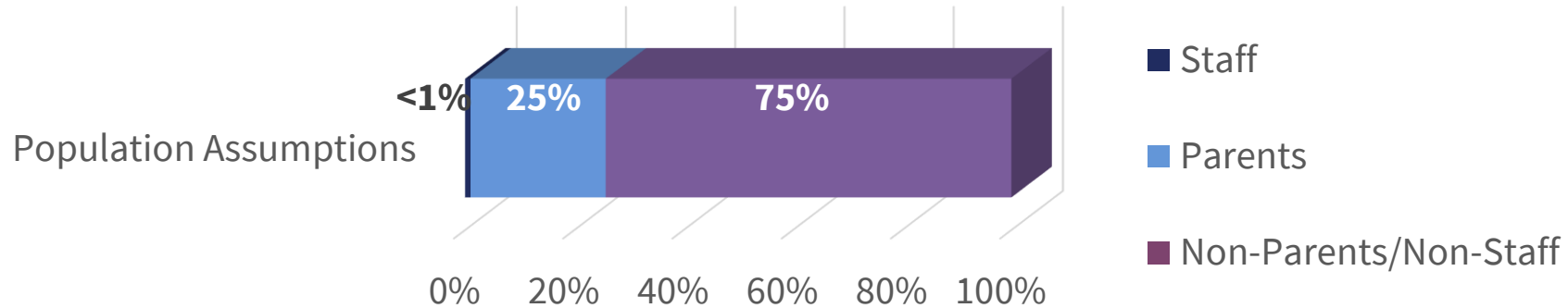


Would you support a \$122.9 million referendum to fund the recommended plan?

(Resident Non-Parent/Non-Staff)



Additional Analysis: Would the \$122.9 million referendum to pay for the recommended plan be supported?



Weighted support for *Definitely yes* and *Probably yes*:
 $0.25 (59\%) + 0.75 (38\%) = \underline{\underline{43.3\%}}$

How is the District doing in each of the following areas?

Great = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1



Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delivering a high-quality education	3.17	2.86	2.86
Keeping the public informed	3.08	2.87	2.63
Managing funds appropriately	2.78	2.66	2.40
Building pride in the community	2.97	2.90	2.90

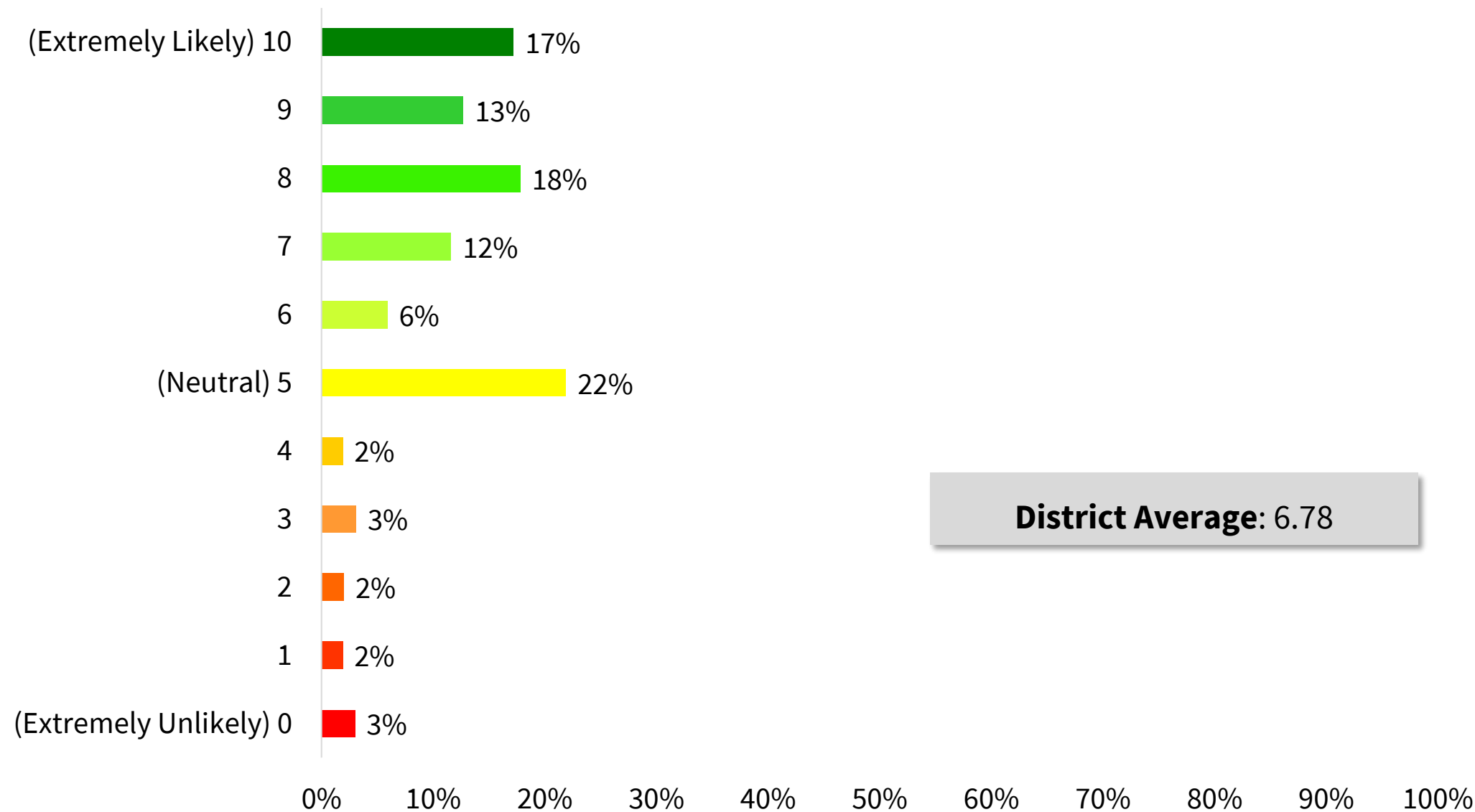
How is the District doing in each of the following areas?

Great = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1

Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	Average
Delivering a high-quality education	75%	2.92
Keeping the public informed	68%	2.81
Managing funds appropriately	57%	2.57
Building pride in the community	72%	2.91



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 plurality of all subgroups support the District exploring a capital (facilities) referendum.
- The \$122.9 million referendum had a weighted support of 43.5%. Therefore, it would not likely be supported at this time.
- Some respondents questioned the necessity of building a new middle school and others would like more information.
- Some respondents shared comments on the importance of preparing students for jobs (e.g. agriculture, the trades, and engineering).



Next Steps:

- Consider developing a plan to address the most urgent maintenance needs at the middle school to extend the service life for at least 5 years. This could be funded through an operational referendum.
- Consider focusing on the preliminary plan to improve the high school tech. ed. (shop) areas to better prepare students for jobs in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and engineering. This would likely require funding through a capital referendum.





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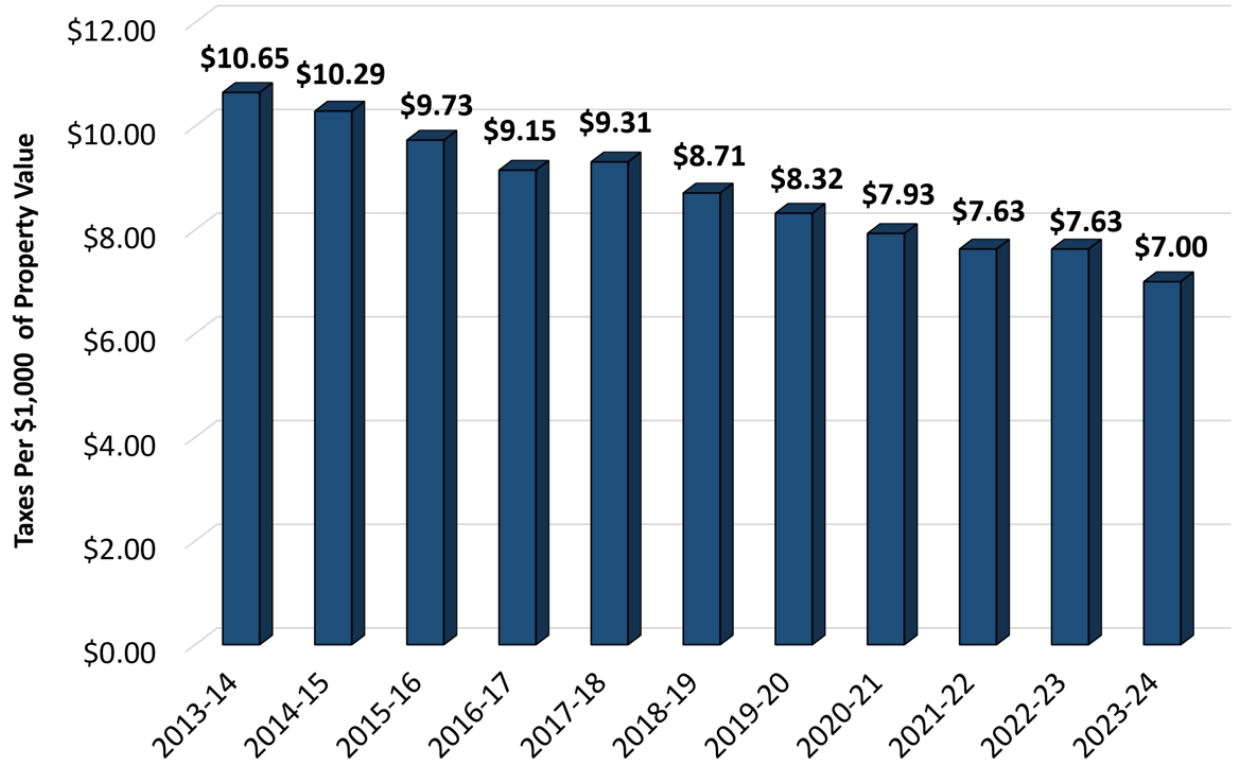


Financial Planning Background

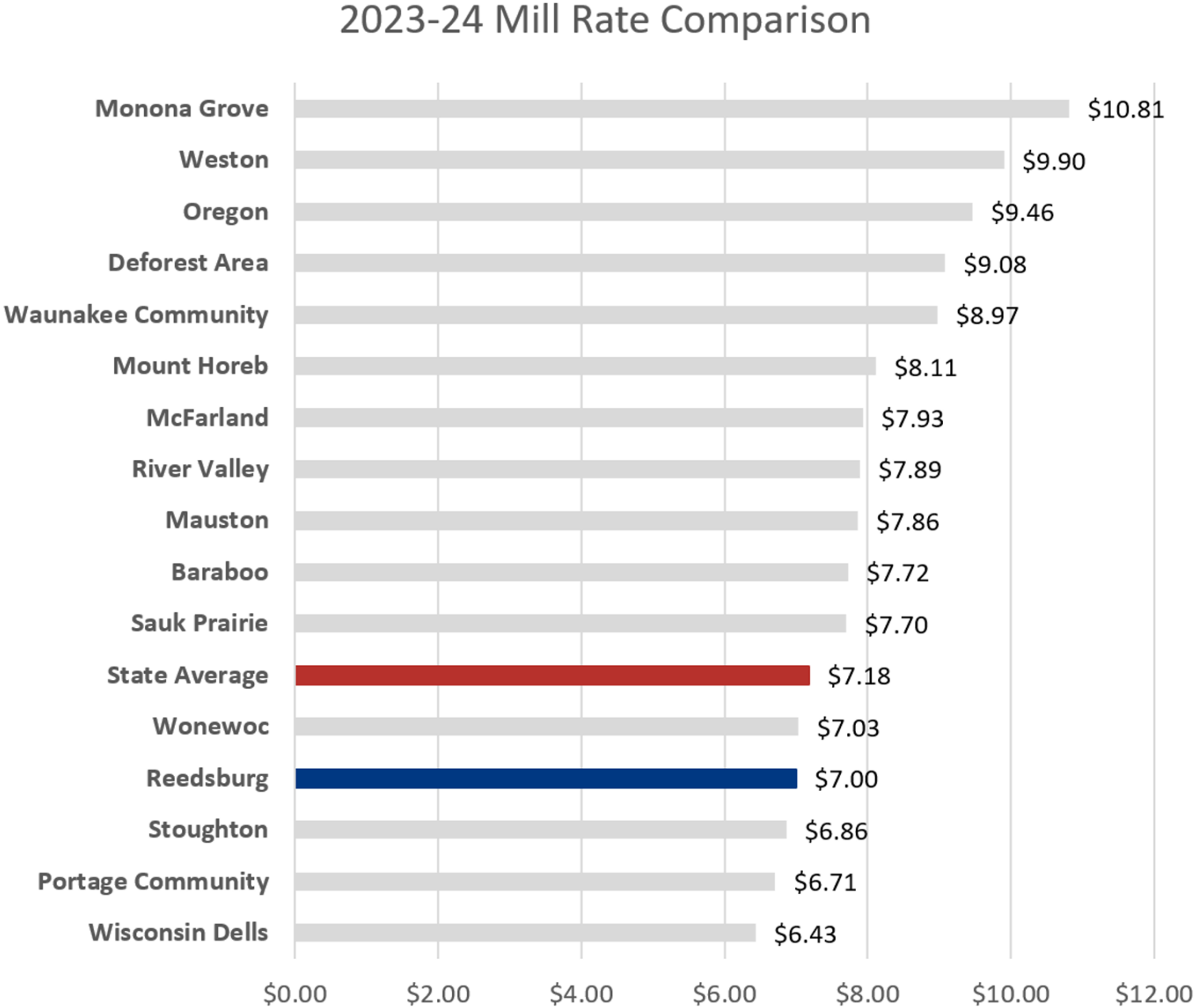
The District’s share of local property taxes is calculated using a mill rate. As seen in the chart below, the tax mill rate has dropped by more than 34% since the 2013-14 school year. In addition, the Board paid down current debt, saving more than \$3.3 million in future interest expenses.



School District of Reedsburg Property Tax Mill Rates
Recent Downward Trend



The District's current mill rate is below the state average and one of the lowest in our area.



Facility Planning Background



The facility plan was approved by the Board of Education last year after more than a year of research and several community input sessions. This process identified three primary challenges.

School Capacity

Based on enrollment projections, the elementary schools will be nearing capacity in three years. It is important to note that it will take two years after a referendum is approved before school construction is completed and additional space is available.

School	Grades	Enrollment	Capacity
Pineview Elementary	4K-2	308	346
Westside Elementary	4K-2	188	204
Prairie Ridge Intermediate	3-5	508	559
Webb Middle School	6-8	574	589
Reedsburg Area High School	9-12	890	1,112



Enrollment Growth

The City of Reedsburg is the fastest-growing community in Sauk County. A recent enrollment study projected that 1,200 housing units will be built over the next ten years.

Aging Educational Spaces

Teaching and learning have changed significantly since many of our schools were built. Today's classrooms need to support:

- Student collaboration and small-group instruction.
 - Hands-on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).
 - Project-based learning.
-

To address these challenges, local voters would need to approve a capital referendum.