

Community Survey Results

Barron Area School District

Fall 2020

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

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

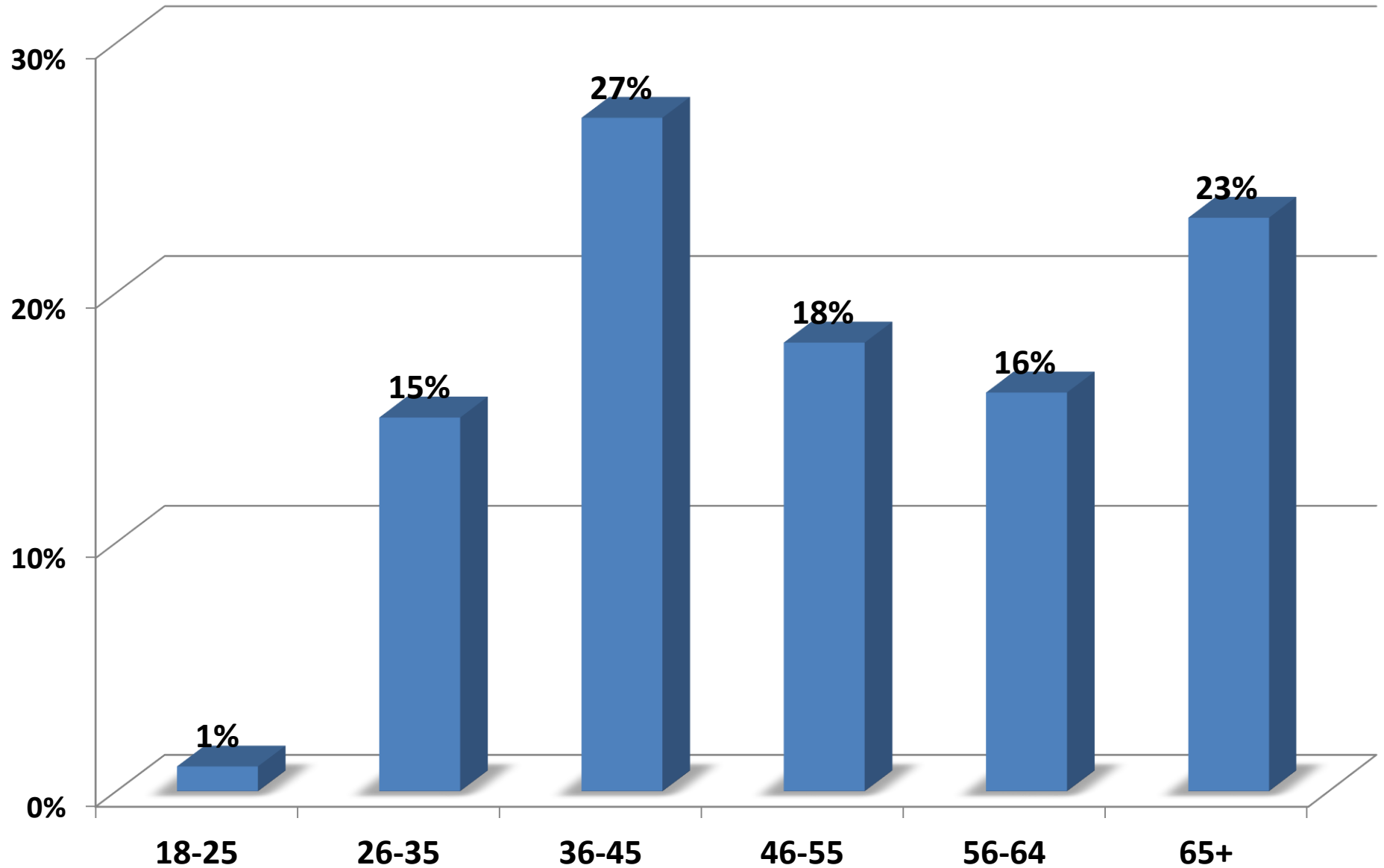
- Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research
- Conducted over 10,000 staff, parent, student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Summary

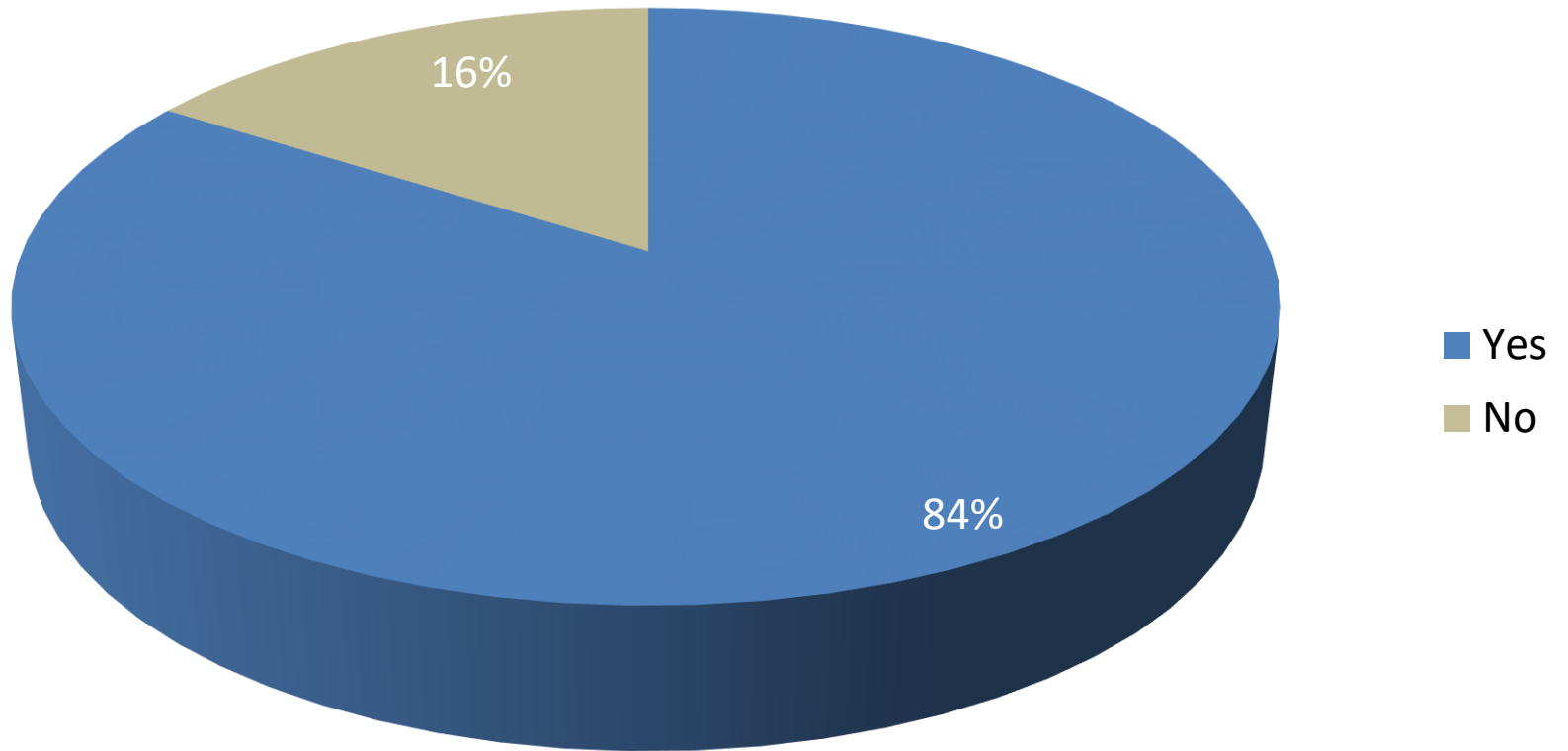
- The survey was conducted in October of 2020.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 545 (183 paper)
- Margin of error = +/- 4.2%

Respondent Information

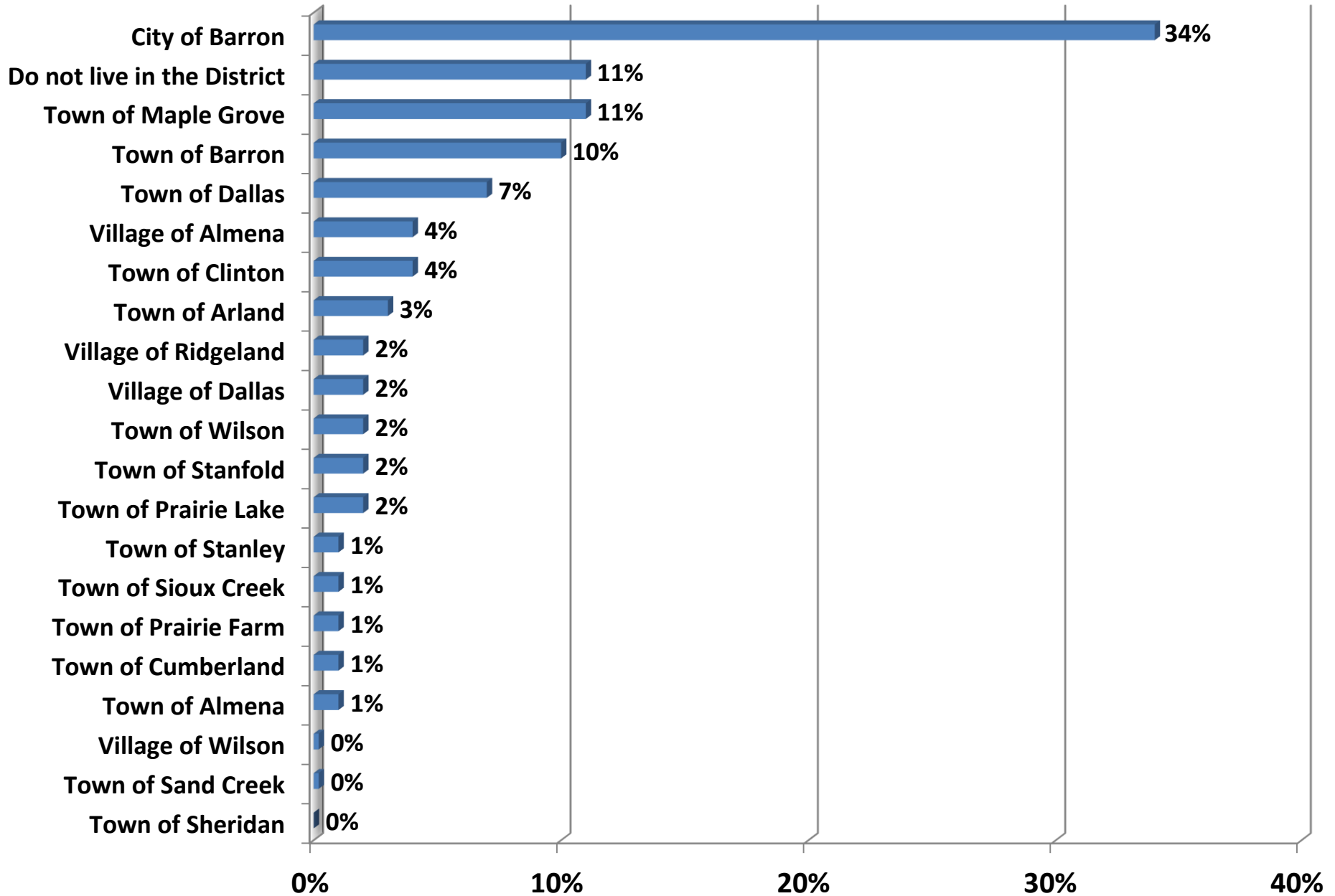
What is your age?



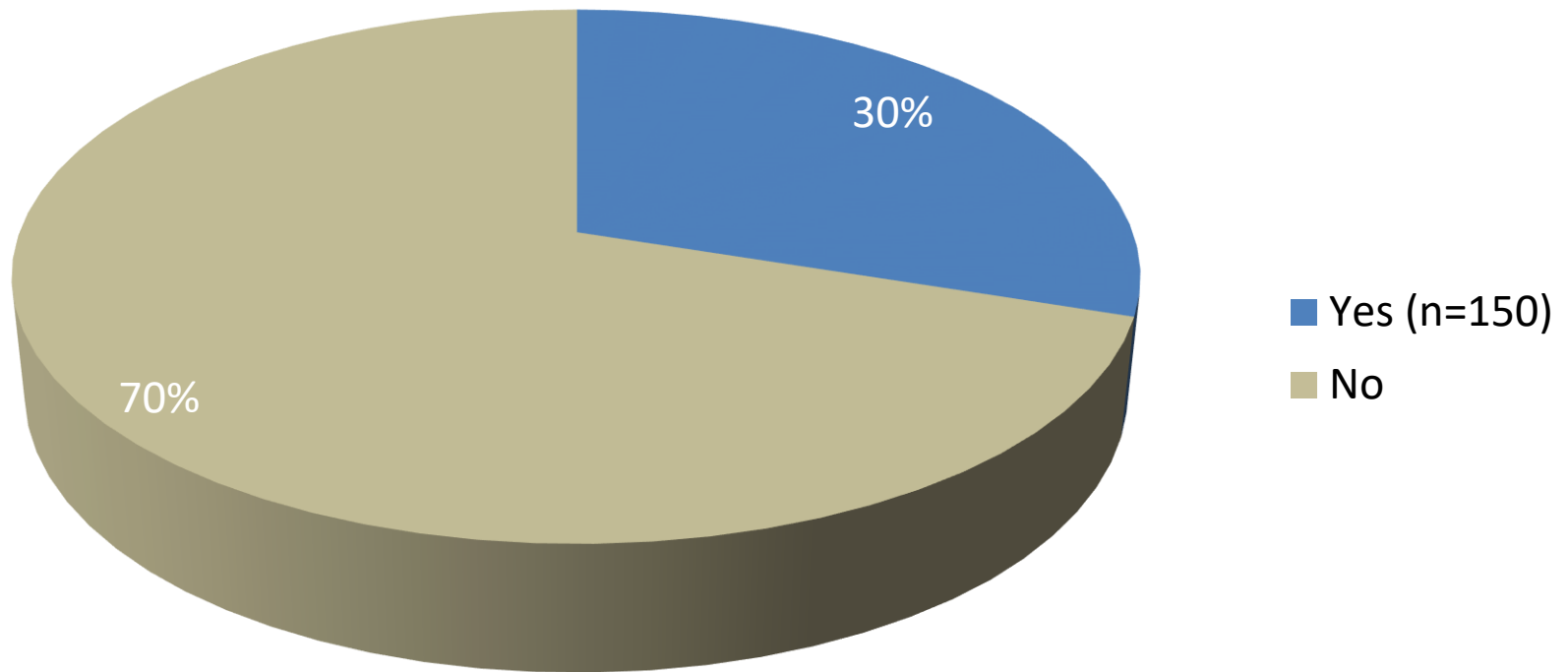
Is your primary residence in the Barron Area School District?



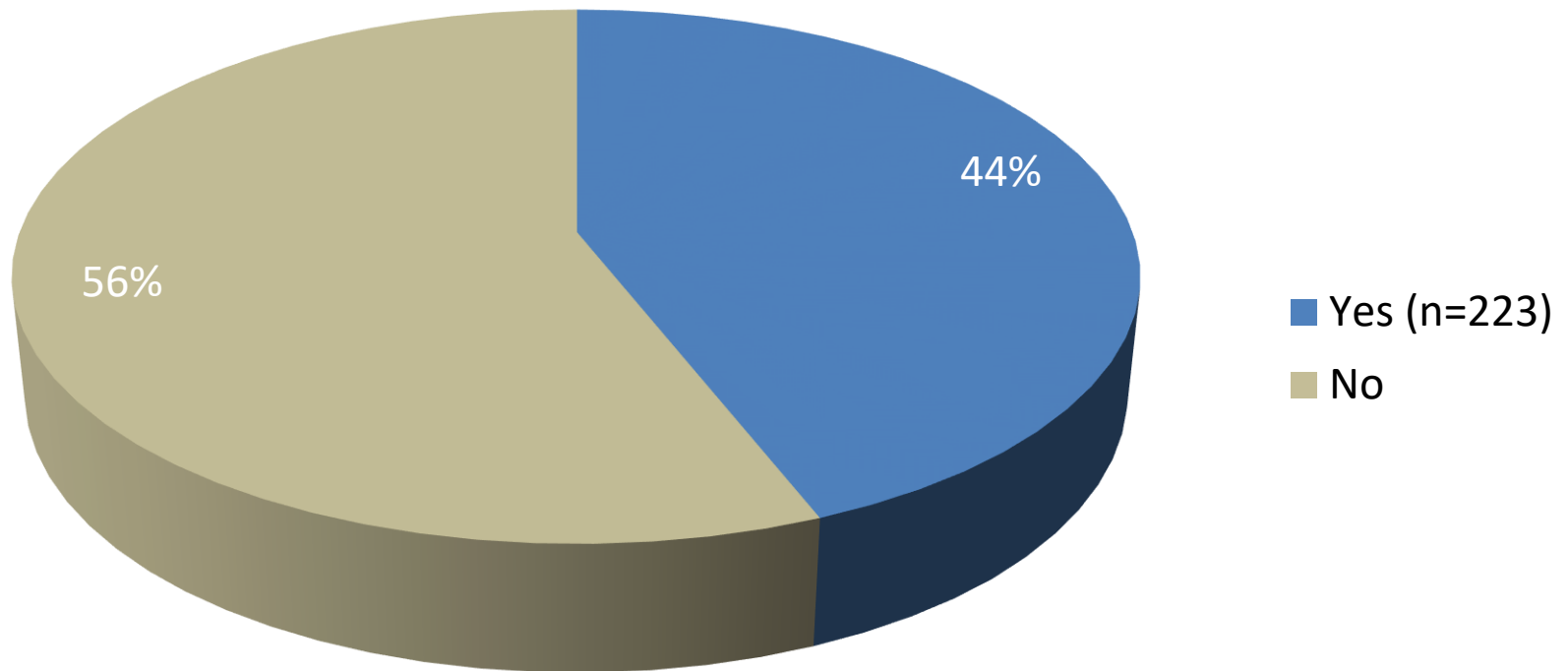
In which municipality do you live?



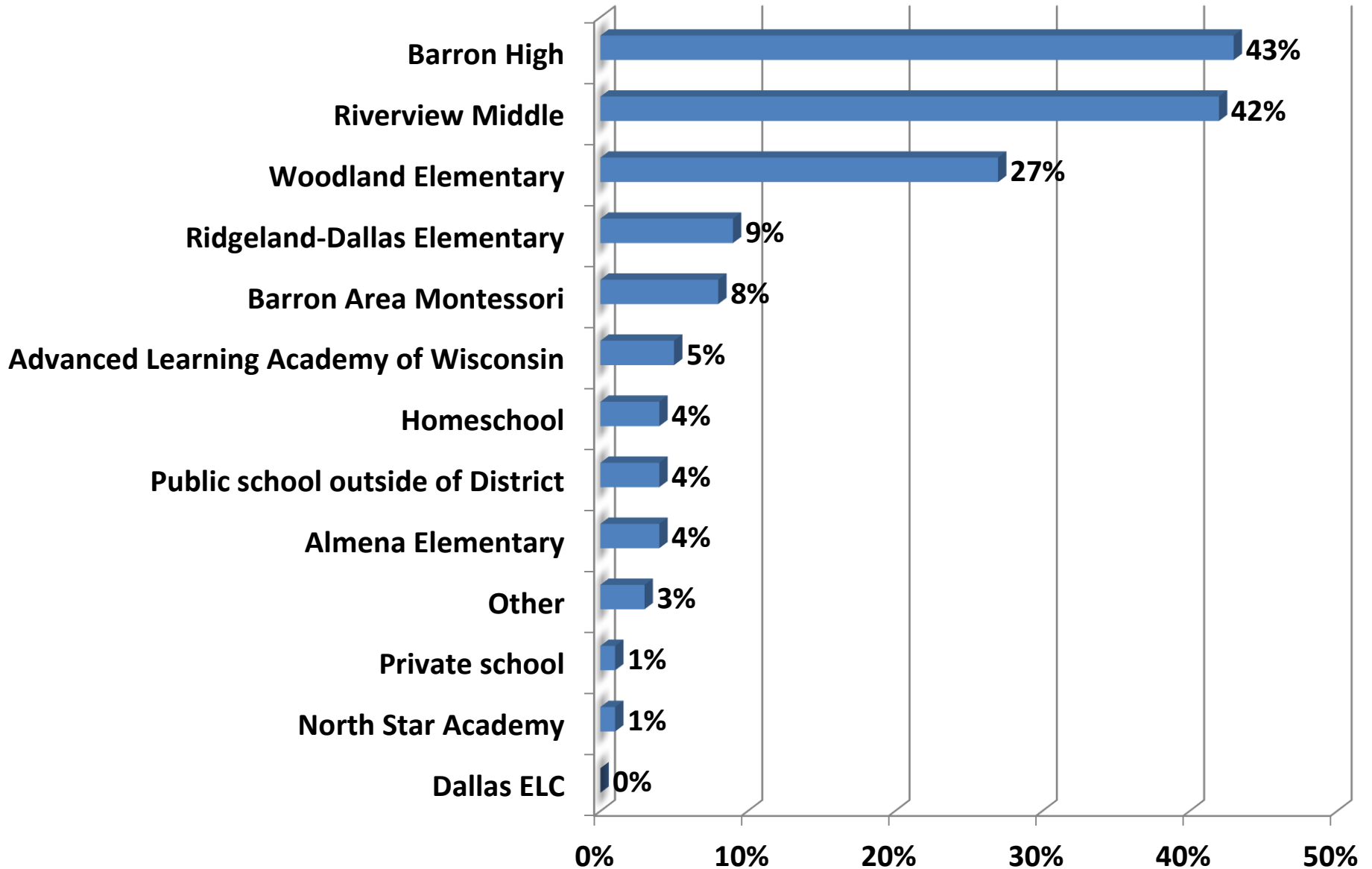
Are you an employee of the Barron Area School District?



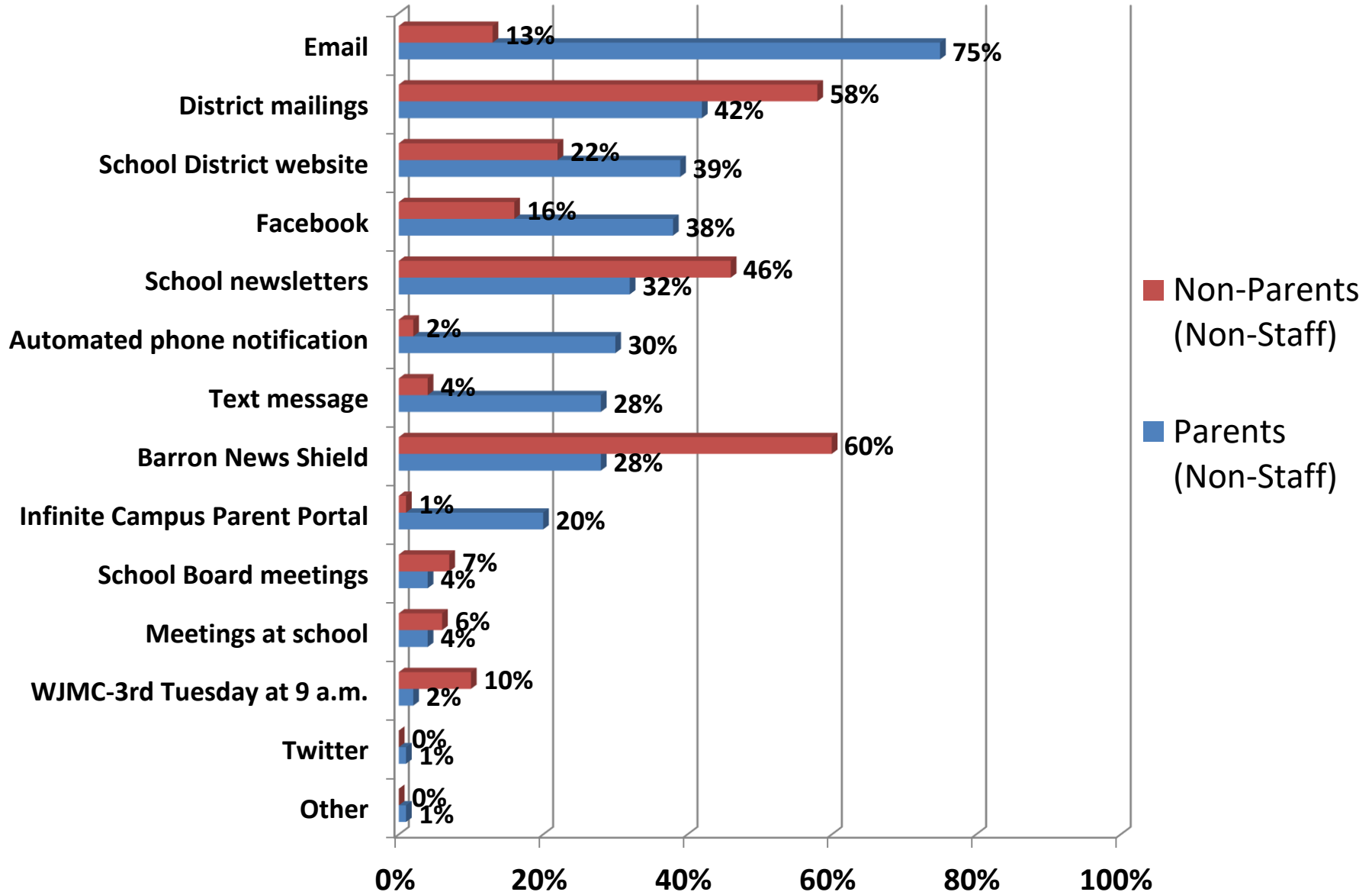
Do you have children attending school in the Barron Area School District?



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



How would you like to receive school/District information?



Overall Satisfaction

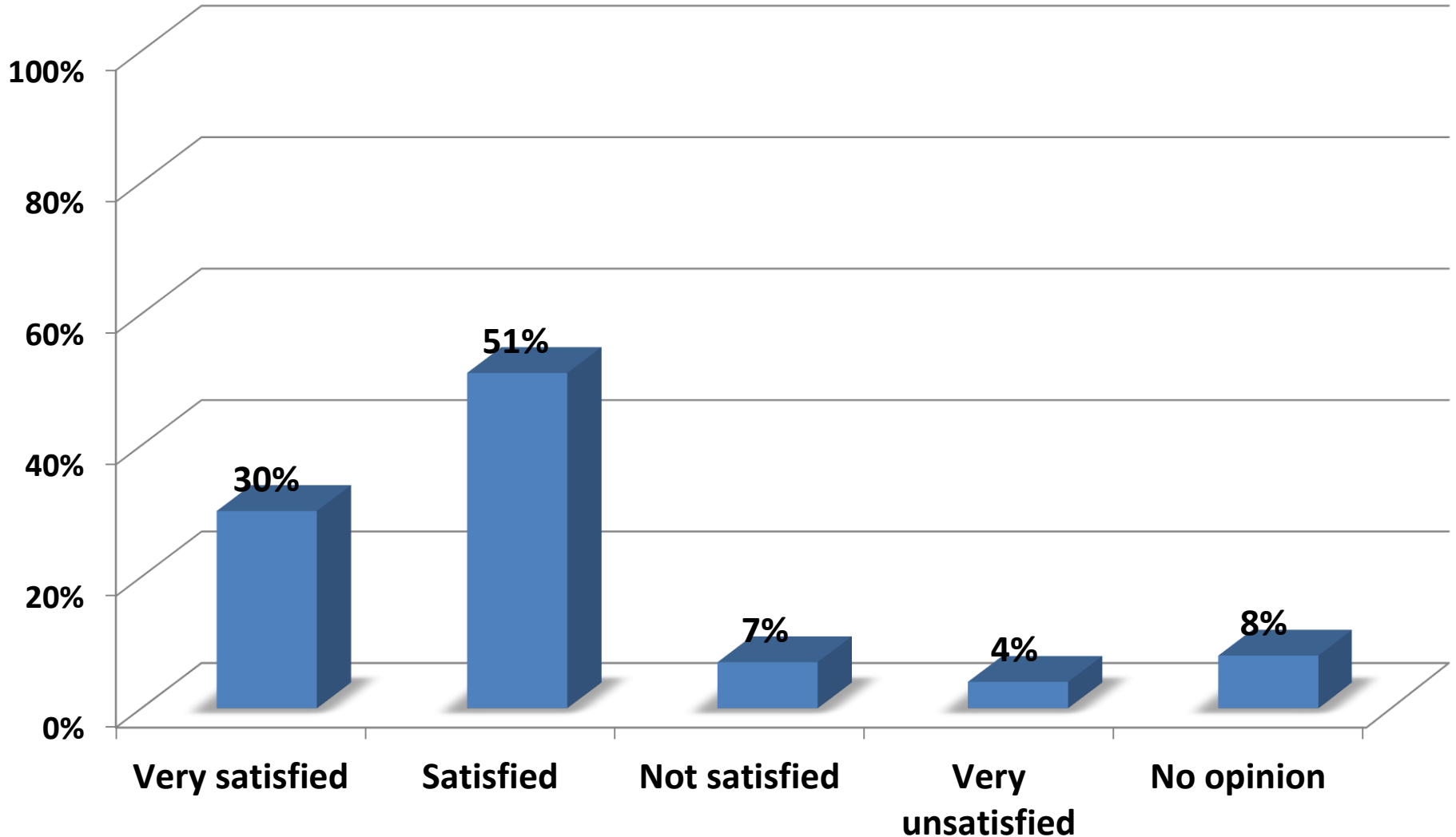
How well are we doing in each of the following areas?

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

Item	Staff	Parents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parents (Non-Staff)
Building pride in our community	3.51	3.15	2.85
Delivering a high-quality educational experience	3.43	3.04	2.76
Preparing students for life after high school	3.27	2.94	2.71
Keeping the public informed	3.27	2.98	2.70
Spending tax dollars wisely	3.21	2.80	2.34

Overall, how satisfied are you with the Barron Area School District?

(All Respondents)



Planning Background Information

A Facilities Assessment of our schools was completed by ISG Architects and Miron Construction. The review evaluated the condition of each school and identified a list of infrastructure and building system needs as well as educational and site deficiencies. In addition, the Focus Group reviewed a list of facility updates that would allow the schools to better support the Barron community.

The identified needs include:

Safety/Security

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. Some of our schools' main entrances need to be redesigned to better monitor and control visitor access. This would require all visitors to be routed through the main office before gaining access to the rest of the school. Additionally, some of the schools' door locking systems need to be updated to remotely monitor all entrances, and the life safety systems (i.e., fire alarms and emergency lighting) need to be replaced.

Aging Infrastructure

While our schools have been well maintained, the electrical and plumbing systems are in need of updates to components or complete replacement. Many of the heating and ventilation systems are original to the building, dating back nearly 60 years, and have significantly exceeded their useful life. The District is looking to gain efficiency and improve the indoor air quality with updated systems. In addition, the doors, ceilings, flooring, and casework are worn due to their age and need to be replaced.

Educational Inadequacies

Education has changed significantly in the past 50 years. Our schools now need flexible space for small group instruction, student collaboration, and project-based learning. Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) and science labs and classrooms at the middle school need to be expanded and redesigned to allow for greater hands-on learning opportunities. In addition, some of the instructional media centers (IMCs/libraries) are in need of renovations to better support flexible space for student collaboration and better access to technology.

Additional Gym and Fitness Space

Woodland Elementary has a shared space for the cafeteria and gym. This creates scheduling challenges for physical education classes and requires staff to set up/take down lunch tables each day. Space for spectators in the Woodland gym is also needed. The high school is also in need of a full-sized competition gym and dedicated entrance. The existing gym no longer meets the needs of the District, and the lack of gym space at the school creates scheduling challenges both during the school day and for athletic and community youth sports use.

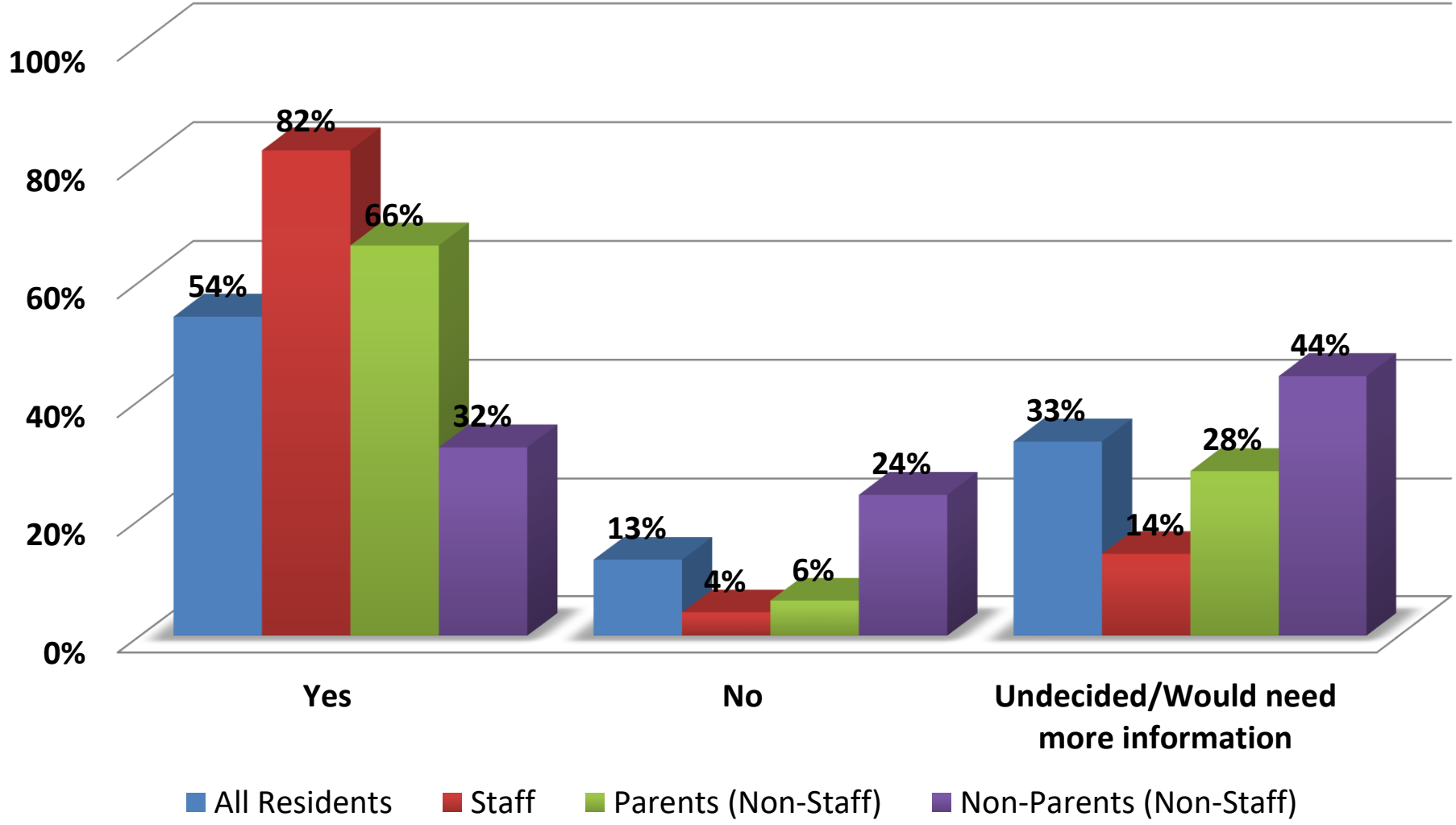
Childcare

There is an extreme need for childcare services in our community. As a result, families go to other communities for childcare and then enroll in their school systems. Losing students and families to other districts is costing the Barron Area School District money. In an effort to attract and retain students and families, the District would like to offer childcare at Woodland Elementary School. The District is working in partnership with local childcare centers and has studied several models that have worked well for other school districts.

If the community chooses to address the needs above, the primary way to obtain funding for these projects is through a capital referendum. A **capital referendum is the method a district must use to issue debt to pay for major facility projects above the revenue limit**. Much like a home mortgage, a capital referendum is typically financed over an extended period of time, often 20 years.

Do you support the School Board exploring a capital referendum to update and expand facilities to better meet the needs of our schools and community?

(Barron Area School District Residents Only)



Recommended Plan (Information Only)

After reviewing the facility assessment, educational and community programming needs, and feedback gathered from the Focus Group, the District acknowledged that it was not financially realistic to complete all of the updates. Therefore, District officials identified the **highest priority projects for each school and created a Recommended Plan that addresses the long-range needs at all of the schools.**

The District would like your feedback on each of the proposed projects.

Elementary School Updates

Almena Elementary was built in 1960 with additions and renovations in 1991 and 1998. An investment of \$525,000 would be needed to address various projects.

Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary was built in 1956 and has had multiple additions and renovations. An investment of \$575,000 would be needed to address various projects.

Woodland Elementary was originally built in 1949 and has had multiple additions and renovations, with the most recent update in 1998. An investment of \$7.5 million would be needed to address various projects.

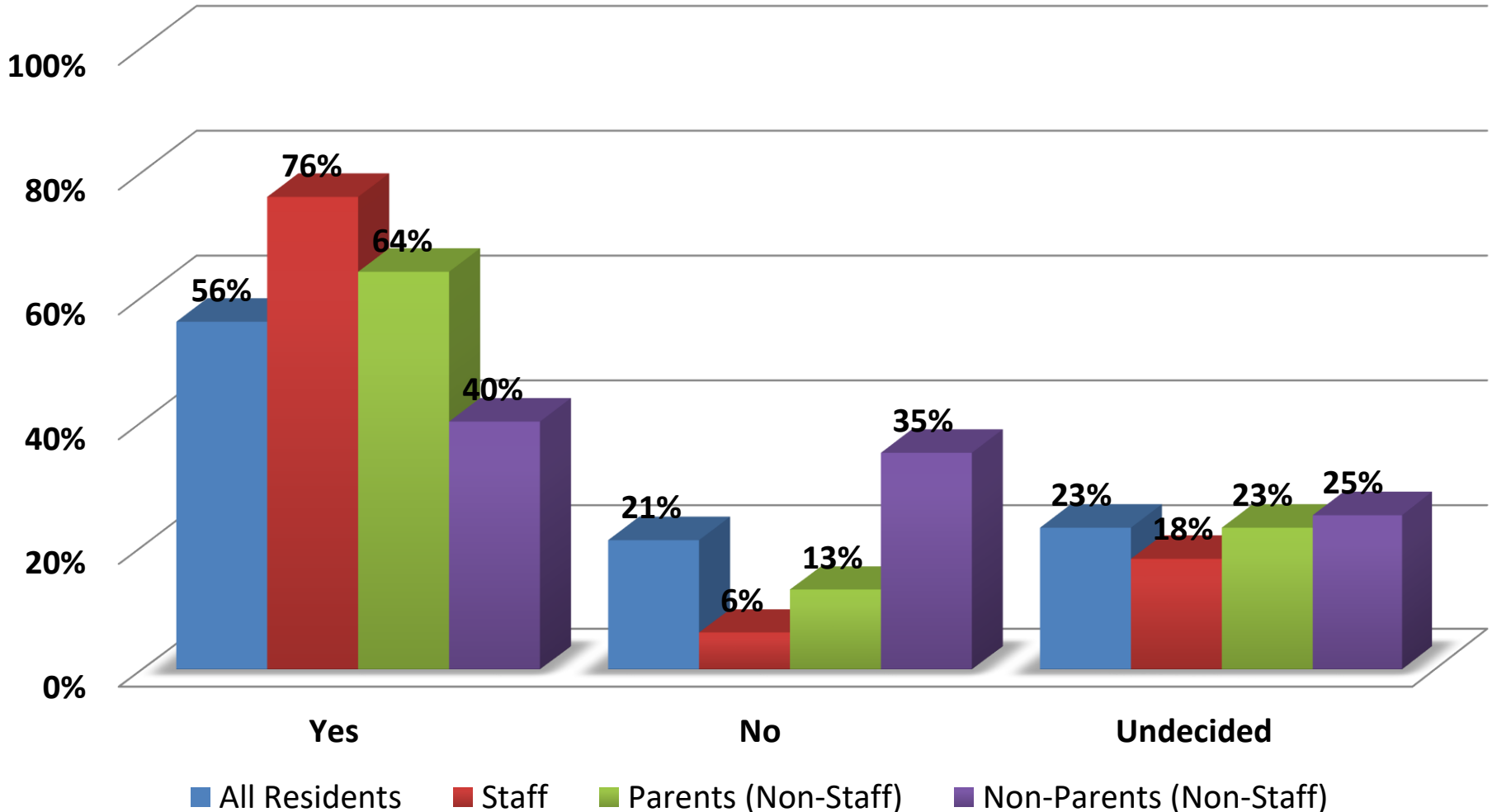
How important are the following updates?

Very important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)

Item	School	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
Replace heating/ventilation and electrical panel components, repair roof sections and fencing, address water infiltration issues. Replace fire alarm and emergency lighting systems.	Almena	2.50	2.63	2.54	2.39
Replace heating/ventilation components, repair exterior walls, fencing, playground pavement, as well as address water infiltration around the school.	Ridgeland-Dallas	2.49	2.63	2.55	2.36
Replace heating/ventilation components, renovate restrooms for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance, repair exterior walls and fencing, reconfigure and repave parking lot, and replace playground equipment. Replace fire alarm and emergency lighting systems.	Woodland	2.57	2.76	2.69	2.36
Modify existing entrance that allows visitors to check into the main office before having access to students and staff.	Ridgeland-Dallas	2.38	2.52	2.42	2.28
Create a secure main entrance that routes visitors through the main office before having access to students and staff. Repurpose existing office for small group instruction and hands-on, project-based learning.	Almena	2.39	2.58	2.43	2.26
Add space for childcare center to better serve our community.	Woodland	2.07	2.31	2.14	1.86
Expand the gym and add bleachers to provide needed space for physical education class, school-wide events, and youth recreation use.	Woodland	2.01	2.32	2.11	1.74
Modernize the library/media center to create an open, collaborative learning space.	Woodland	1.90	2.07	1.99	1.73
Update cabinetry and furniture that is worn and has exceeded its service life.	Ridgeland-Dallas	1.88	1.98	2.02	1.71
Create small group instruction spaces for hands-on, project-based learning.	Woodland	1.90	2.10	2.05	1.68

**Estimated cost for Almena, Ridgeland-Dallas, and Woodland Elementary Schools:
up to \$8.6 million**

**Would you support a referendum that includes funding to update
Almena, Ridgeland-Dallas, and Woodland Elementary Schools?
*(Barron Area School District Residents Only)***



Riverview Middle School

Riverview Middle School was built in 1963 with the most recent updates in 2015. An investment of \$9.2 million would be needed to address various projects.

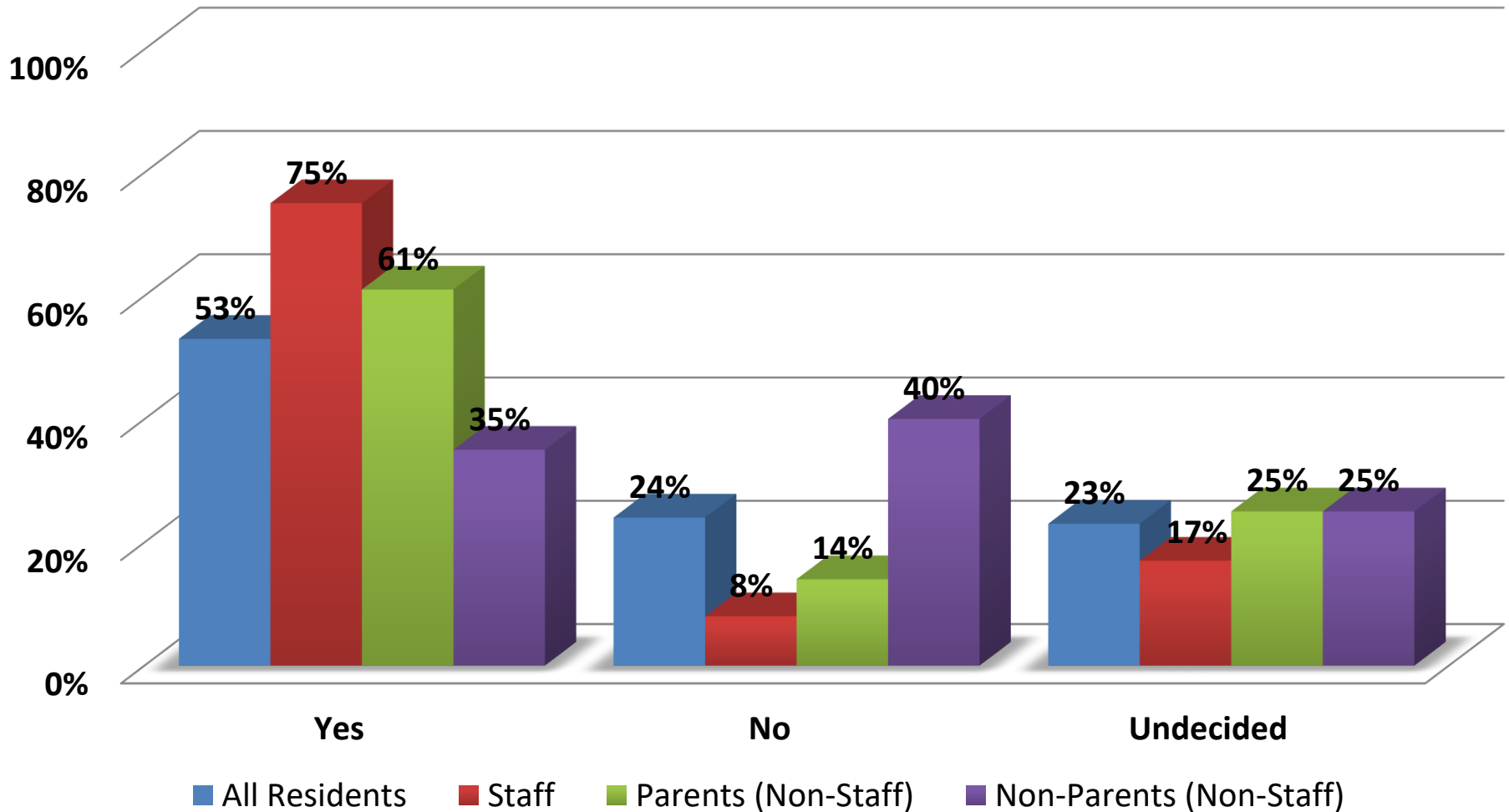
How important are the following updates?

Very important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
Replace heating/ventilation components, kitchen cooler, lighting, flooring, and plumbing fixtures; repair exterior walls and fencing; refinish gym floor; repave parking lot and sidewalks to improve ADA accessibility; replace fire alarm and emergency lighting systems.	2.55	2.73	2.63	2.37
Update technical education labs and classrooms to create more/better hands-on learning opportunities.	2.26	2.45	2.35	2.07
Reconfigure parking lot and traffic flow to create dedicated bus and vehicle drop-off/pick-up lanes and better separate vehicle and pedestrians.	2.05	2.26	2.25	1.75
Create small group instruction spaces for hands-on, project-based learning.	1.90	2.10	2.01	1.69
Build a weight/fitness room for school and community use.	1.55	1.70	1.71	1.35

**Estimated cost for Riverview Middle School:
up to \$9.2 million**

**Would you support a referendum that includes funding to
update Riverview Middle School?**
(Barron Area School District Residents Only)



Barron High School

Barron High School was built in 1958, the school has had multiple additions and renovations with the most recent in 2017. An investment of \$16.2 million would be needed to address various projects.

How important are the following updates?

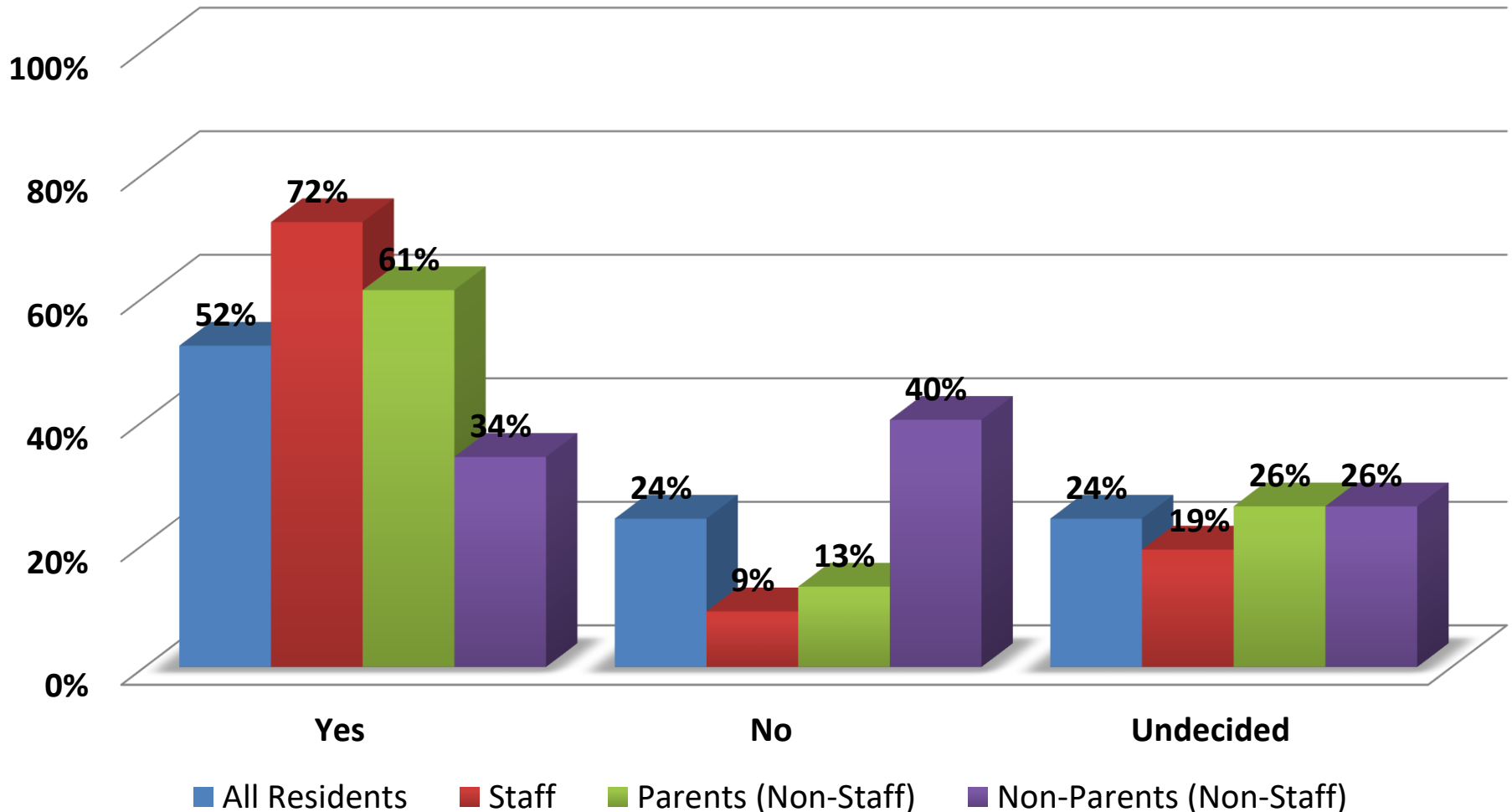
Very important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
Create a secure main entrance that routes visitors through the main office before having access to students and staff.	2.51	2.70	2.57	2.35
Replace heating/ventilation components, repair exterior walls and fencing, reconfigure parking lot, replace fire alarm and emergency lighting systems, add lighting at softball field, and add ADA accessibility to softball and baseball field.	2.42	2.62	2.52	2.21
Update science labs and classrooms to create more/better hands-on learning opportunities.	2.19	2.37	2.27	2.03
Add a competition gym and lobby to support the physical education curriculum and meet the growing demand for gym space for youth recreation and community needs.	2.02	2.33	2.19	1.70
Modernize the library/media center to create an open, collaborative learning space.	1.89	2.09	2.01	1.70
Create small group instruction spaces for hands-on, project-based learning.	1.84	1.99	1.95	1.69
Add a larger weight/fitness room and wrestling room onto the gym addition (above) and repurpose existing rooms into classrooms.	1.78	2.05	1.93	1.49

**Estimated cost for Barron High School:
up to \$16.2 million**

**Would you support a referendum that includes funding to
update Barron High School?**

(Barron Area School District Residents Only)



Funding Support

The cost to complete all of the projects identified in our schools is estimated at \$34 million.

The School Board believes now is a good time to consider addressing the District's long-range needs because:

- Interest rates remain near historic lows
- Construction costs are currently competitive
- With inflation costs averaging 3% annually, delaying projects today will likely cost more in the future

The following table shows the annual tax impact for various capital referendum amounts. **The District would like to know your level of support, should they consider a referendum.**

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE					
Referendum amount	\$26 million	\$28 million	\$30 million	\$32 million	\$34 million
Estimated increase for \$100,000 of property value	Tax increase of \$101 per year (\$8.42/month)	Tax increase of \$118 per year (\$9.83/month)	Tax increase of \$135 per year (\$11.25/month)	Tax increase of \$152 per year (\$12.67/month)	Tax increase of \$168 per year (\$14/month)

How much of a tax increase would you support through a capital referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?

(Barron Area School District Residents Only)



Additional Analysis

Percent of Resident Population Assumptions:

- Non-parent/non-staff = 75%
- Parents = 25%
- Staff < 1%

Support at \$26 million:

$$.75(37\%) + .25(68\%) = \underline{44.75\%}$$

What did we learn?

- Community is highly supportive of and impressed with the work the school district is doing.
- There are many projects the community highly supports.
- The tax increase is a concern of citizens and projects need to be prioritized.

Thank you!



Parent Surveys - Staff Surveys - Student Surveys - Community Surveys
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