



Brown County Schools

Community Survey Report

December 4, 2023

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



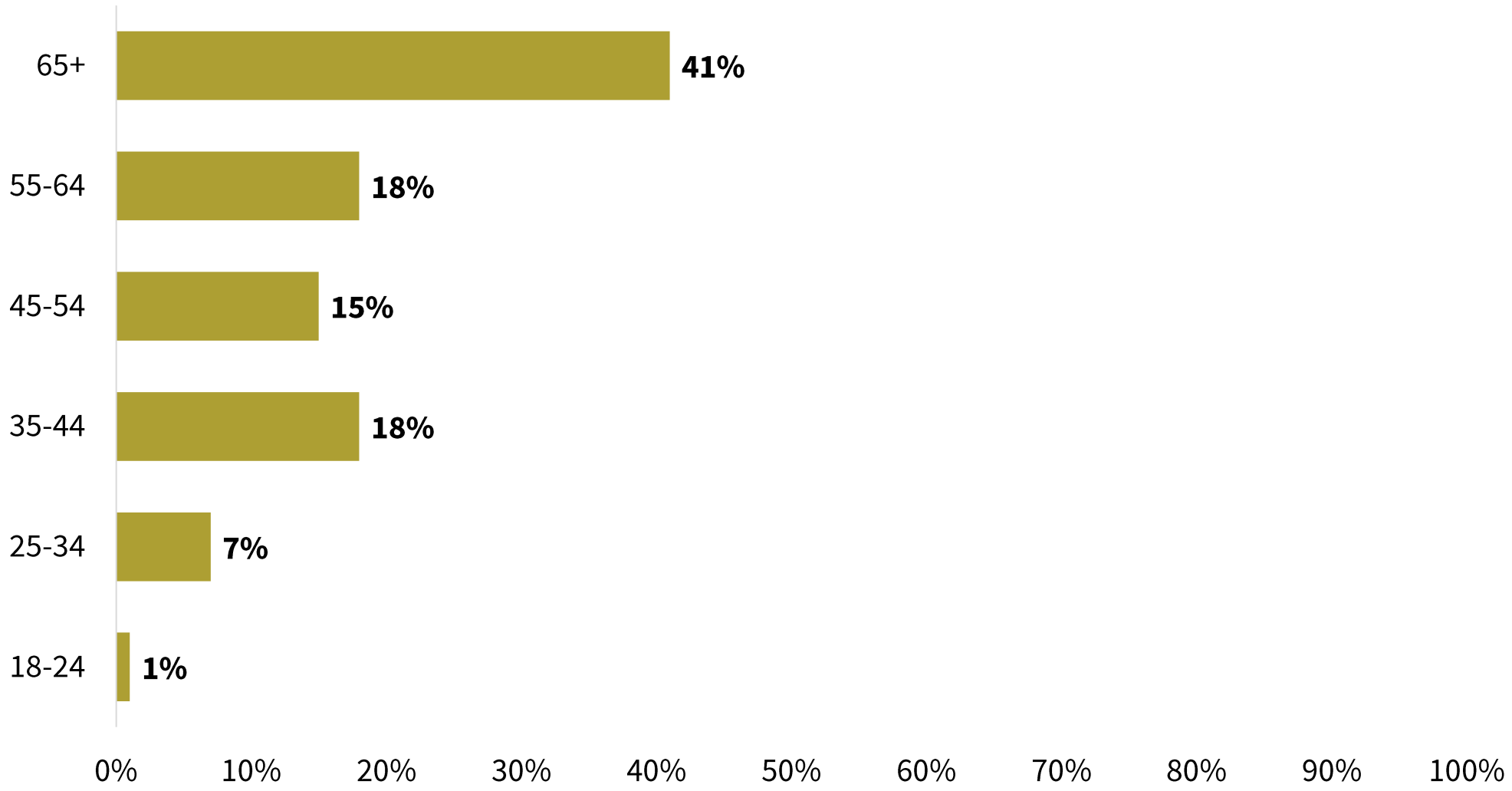
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Information

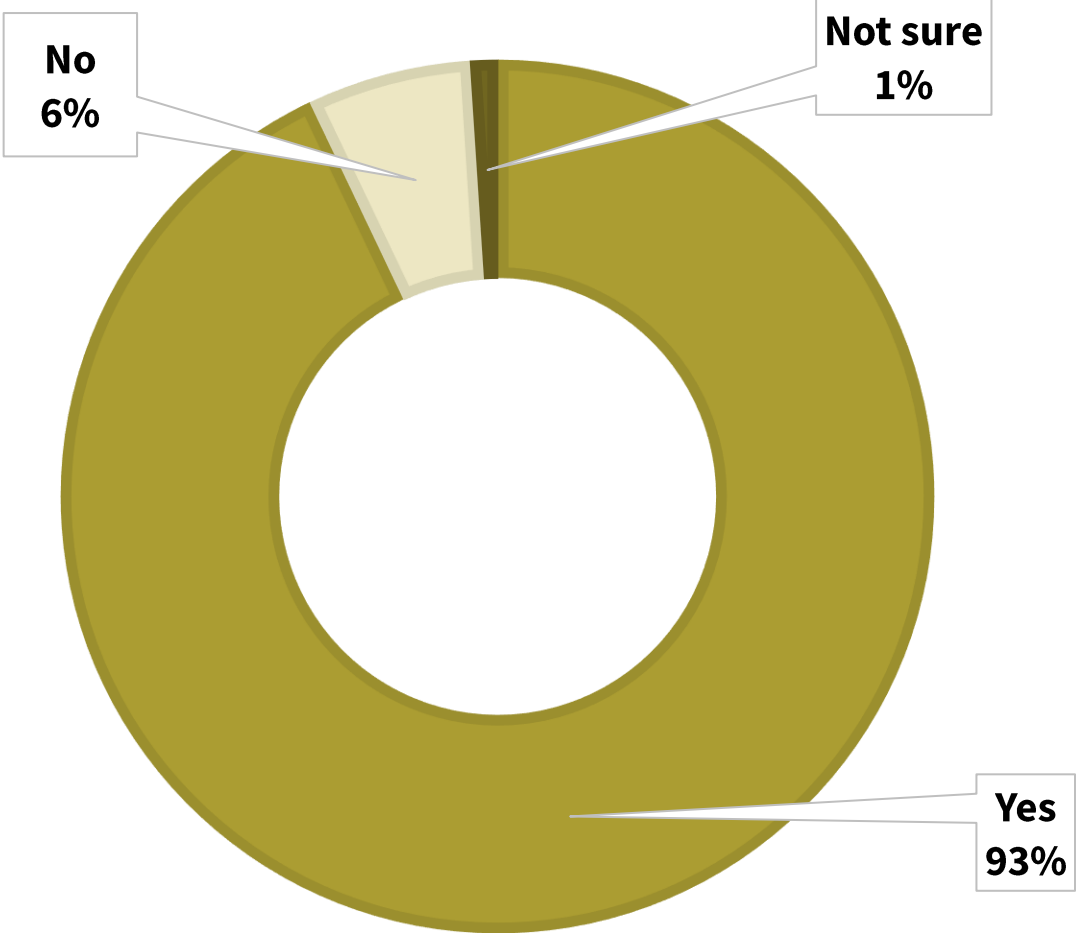
- **November 17, 2023** survey deadline
- **1,483** total respondents
- **18%** response rate
- **+/- 2.60%** margin of error



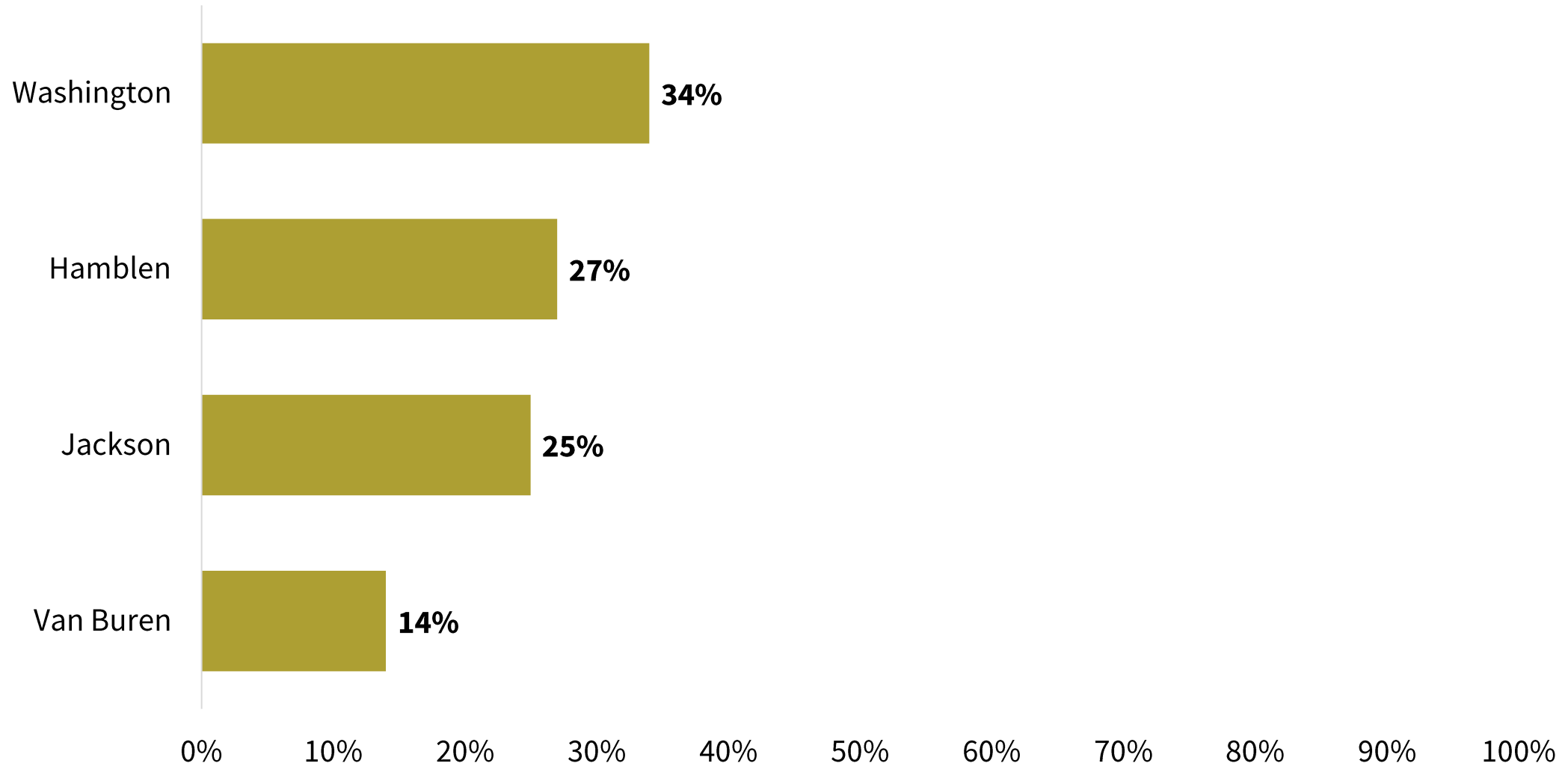
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in Brown County?



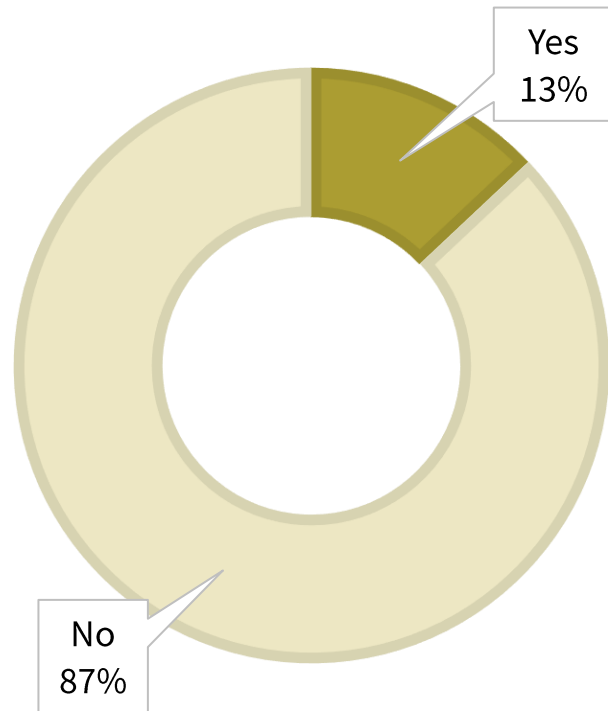
In which township do you live?



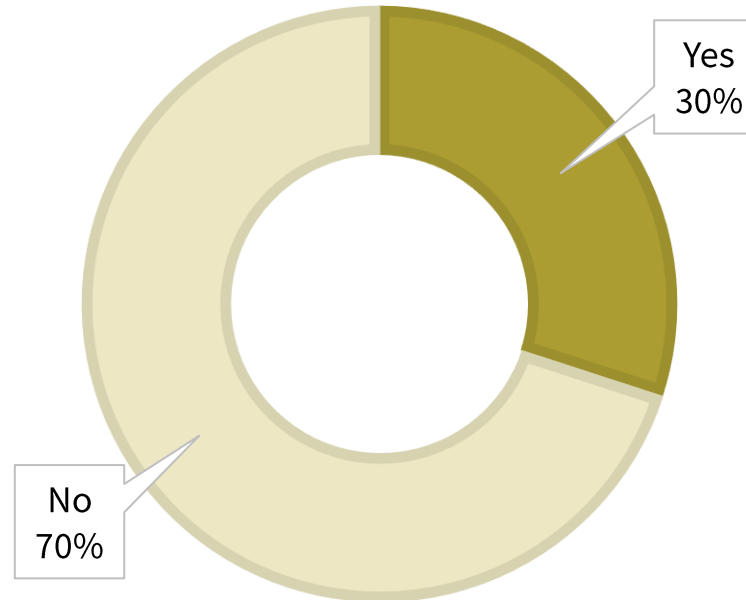
Respondent Information



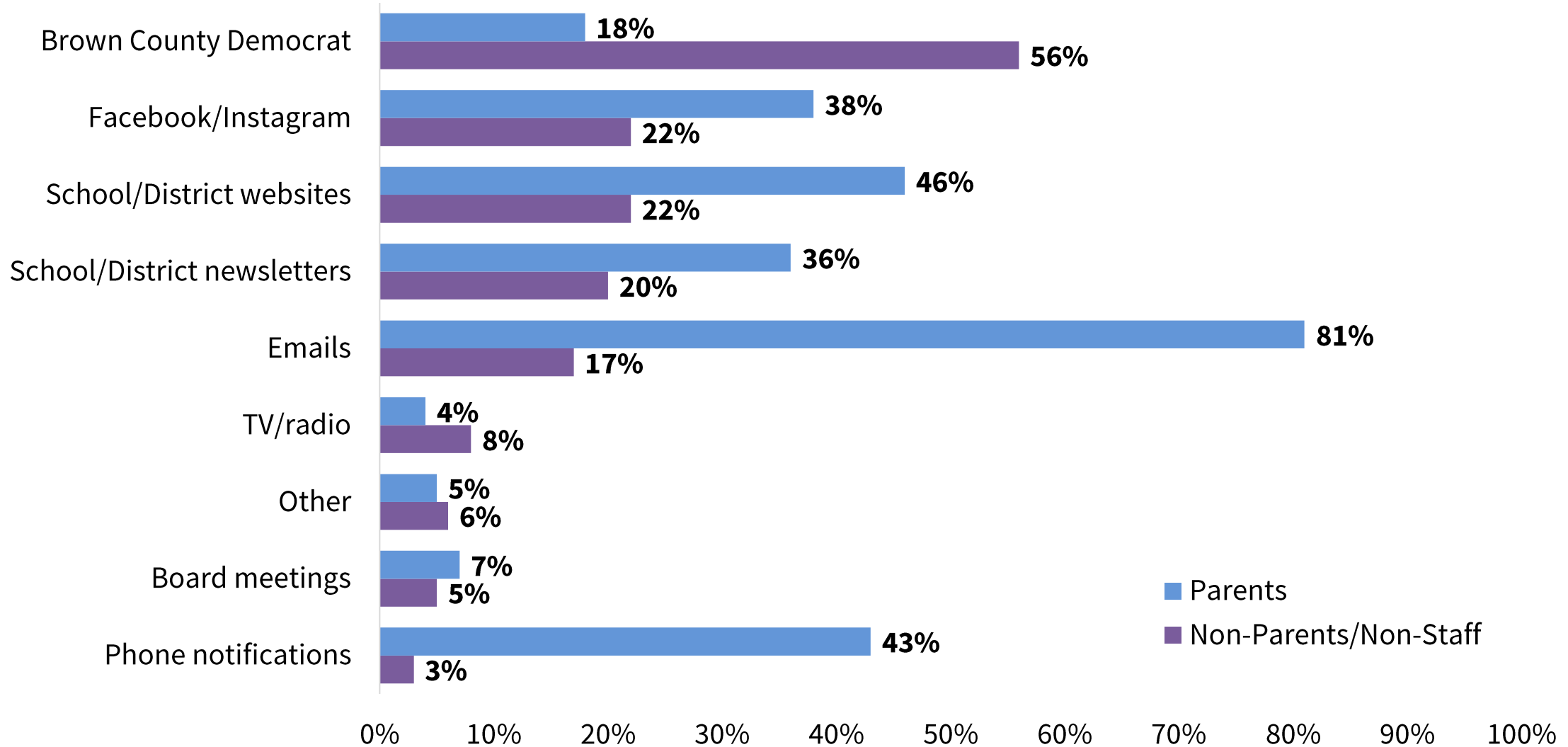
Are you an employee of the Brown County School Corporation?



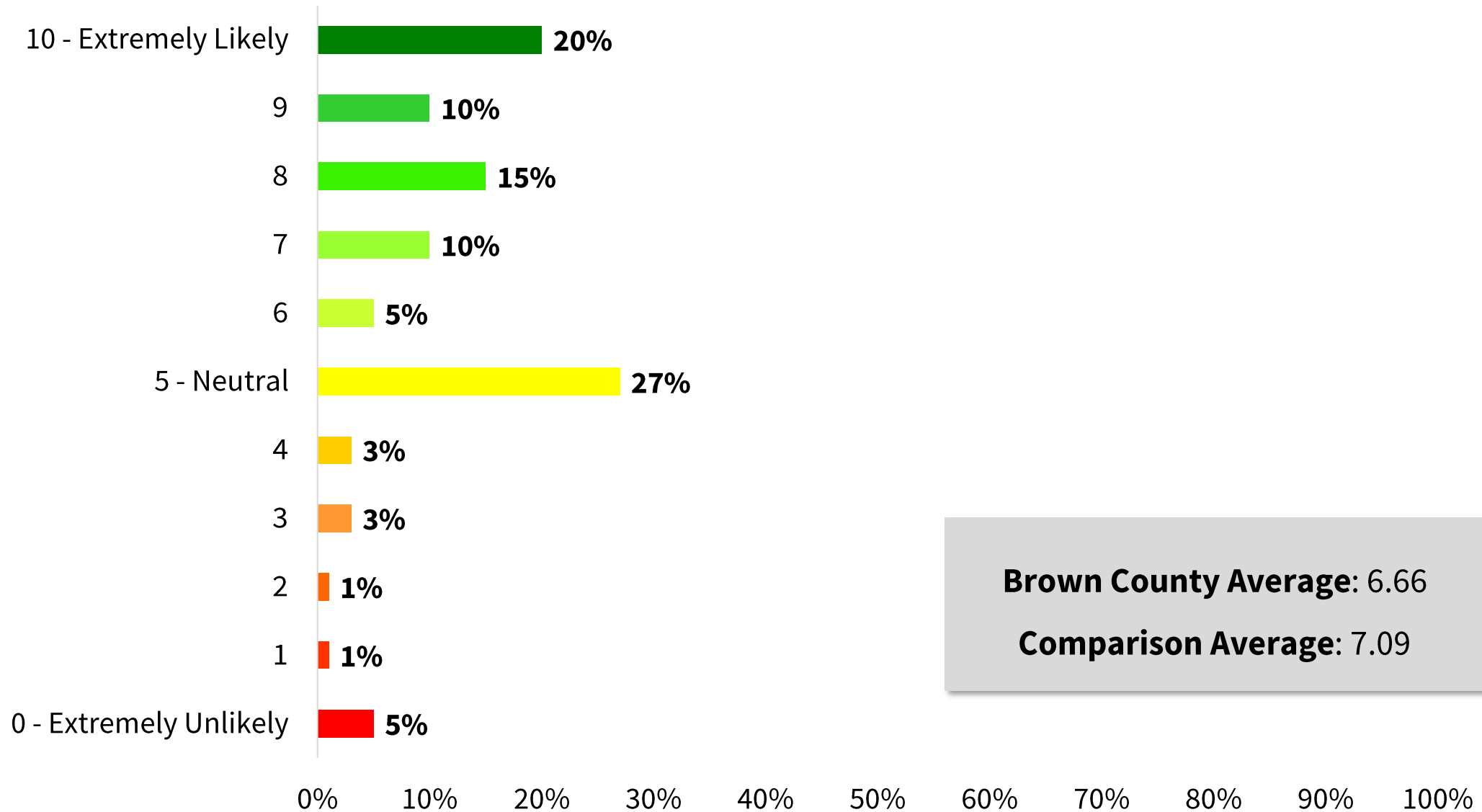
Do you have children attending a school in the District?



How do you like to receive school/District information?



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

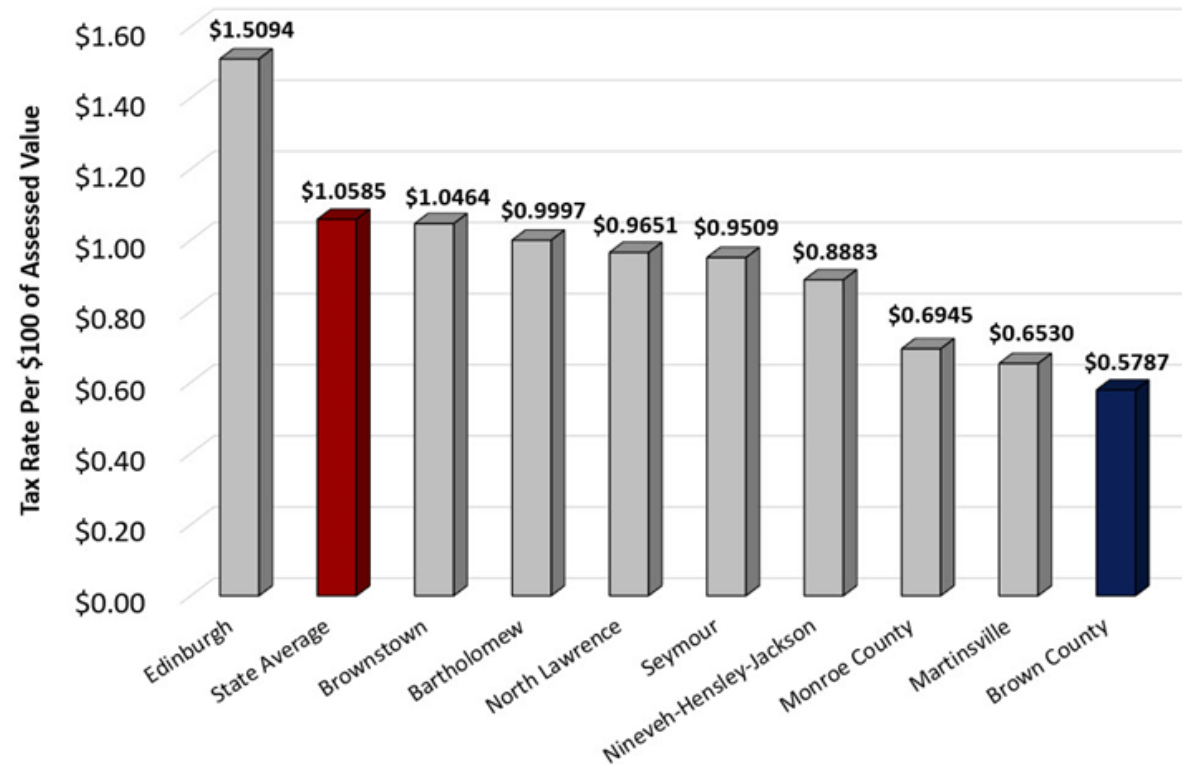


Financial Background

The Board of School Trustees works hard to be good stewards of your tax dollars. Brown County's school tax rate is near the bottom of the state (8th lowest), the bottom of comparison schools, and 15% below the level in 2021.

This situation makes it difficult to keep up with increasing costs for such things as transportation/fuel, curriculum/textbooks, staff compensation, insurance, utilities, technology, and special education services.

School Tax Rates
State & Regional Comparisons



Funding for Operations

One of the most significant challenges facing Brown County Schools is the lack of predictable, sustainable funding for rural school districts like ours. To help address our financial challenges, we developed several options for community feedback.

Funding Plan:

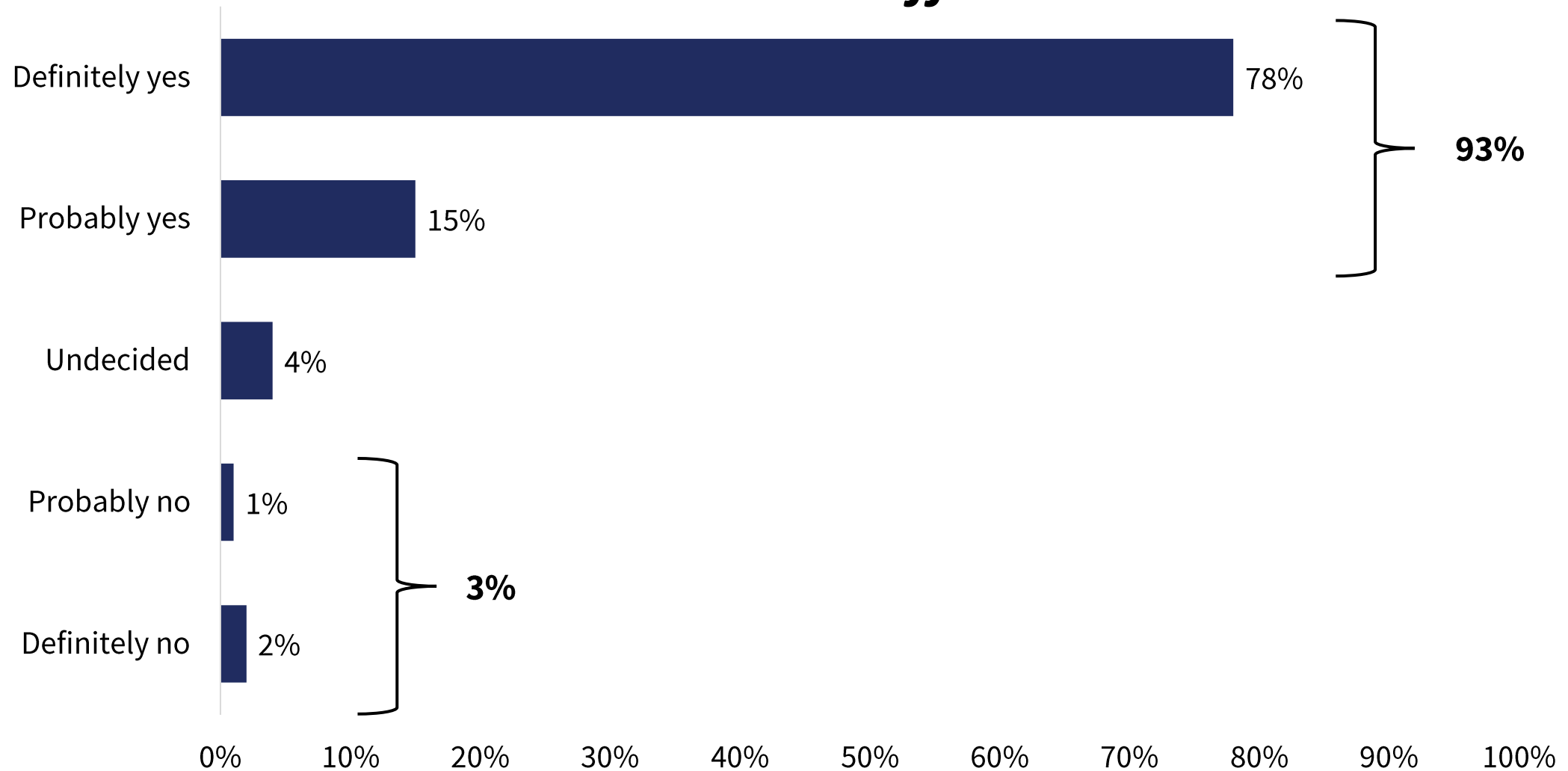
District voters approved a referendum in 2016 that provides the District a total of \$0.08 for every \$100 of assessed property value. That funding will expire at the end of 2023. If voters approve renewing that referendum at the same rate, we would be better able to:

- ✓ Keep our staff wages and benefits competitive in our region and attract and retain high-quality employees. Our starting compensation is below what bordering school districts offer.
- ✓ Maintain programs and services for students and the staffing needed to supervise them.



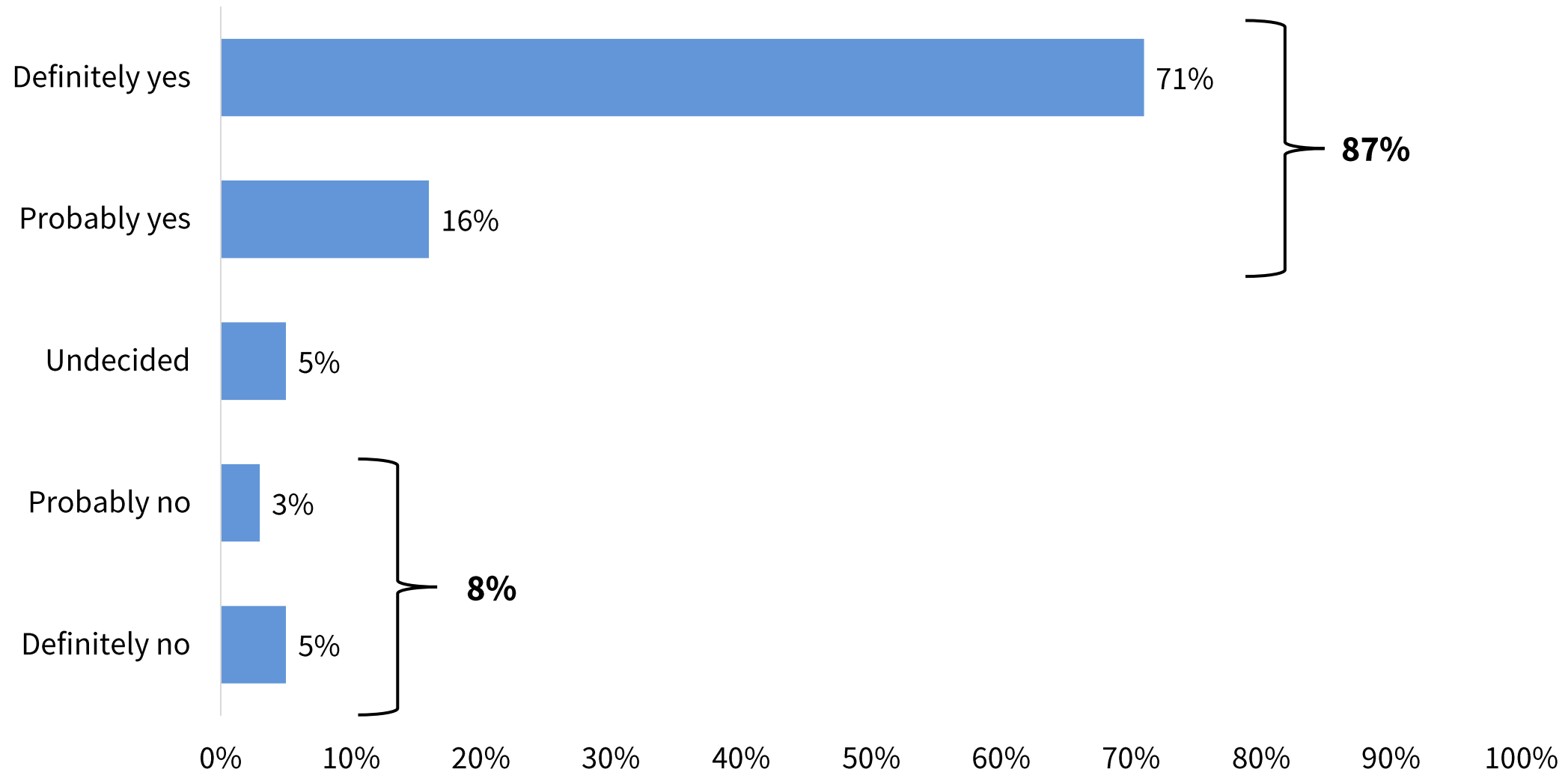
Would you support renewing the current referendum to maintain programs/services and compensation?

Resident Staff



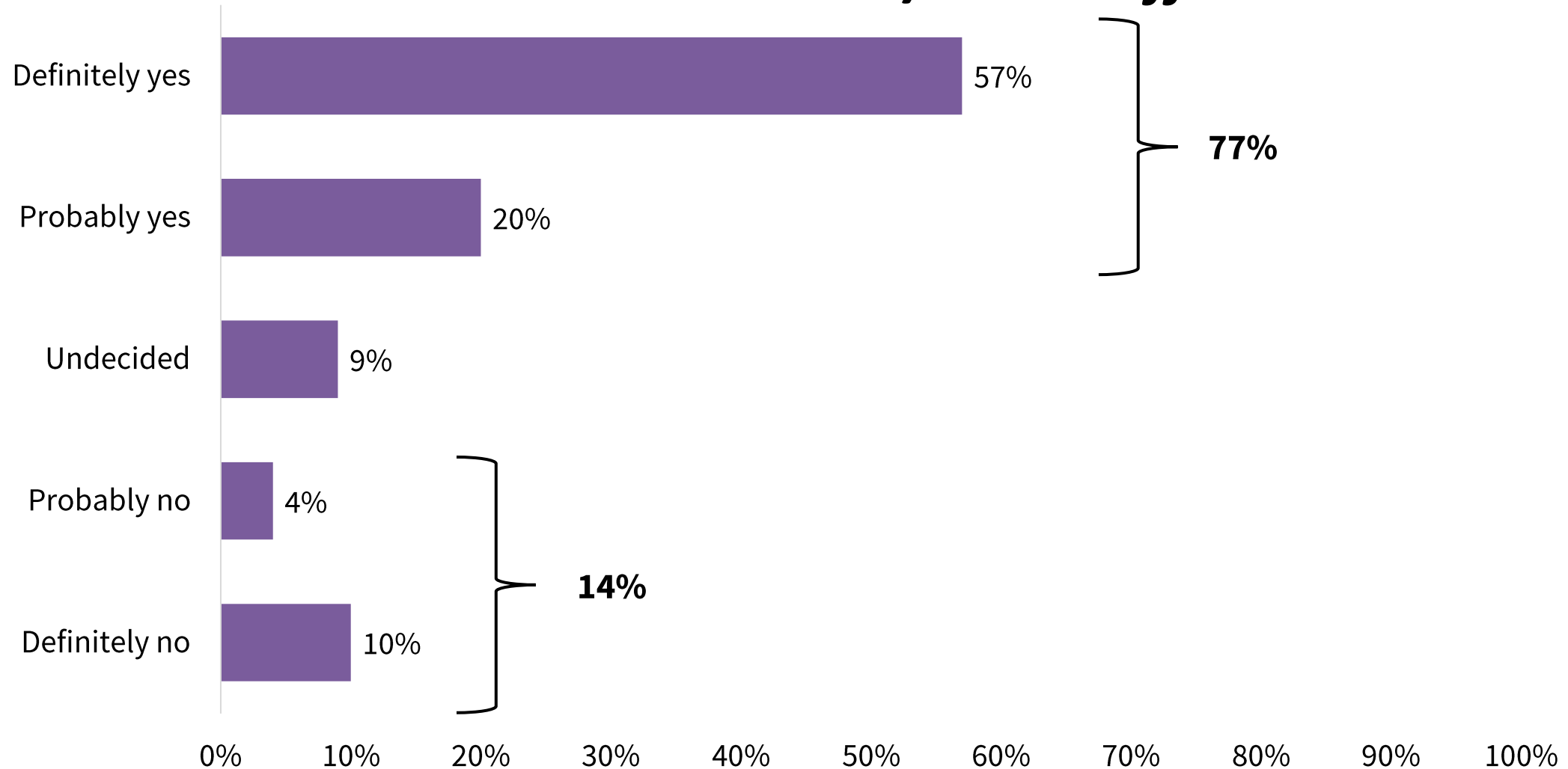
Would you support renewing the current referendum to maintain programs/services and compensation?

Resident Parents

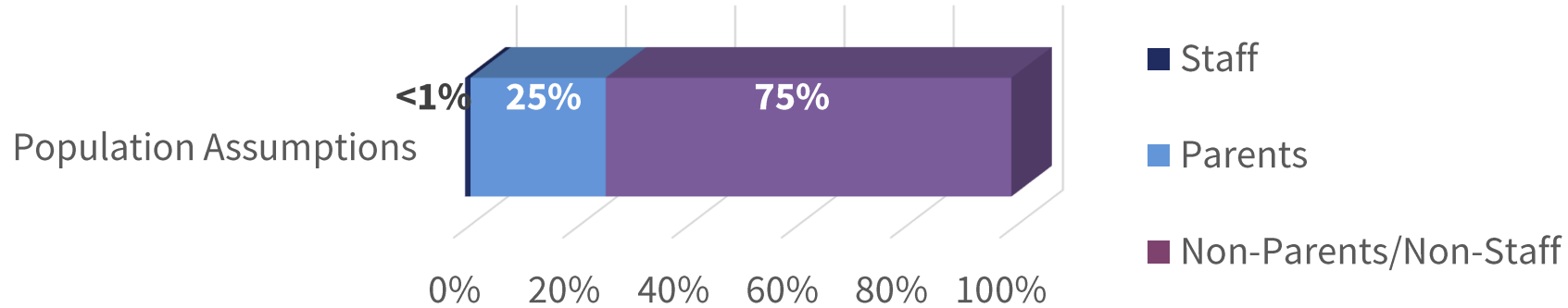


Would you support renewing the current referendum to maintain programs/services and compensation?

Resident Non-Parent/Non-Staff



Additional Analysis: Programs/Services & Compensation



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (87\%) + 0.75 (77\%) = \underline{\underline{79.5\%}}$$



Funding for Operations

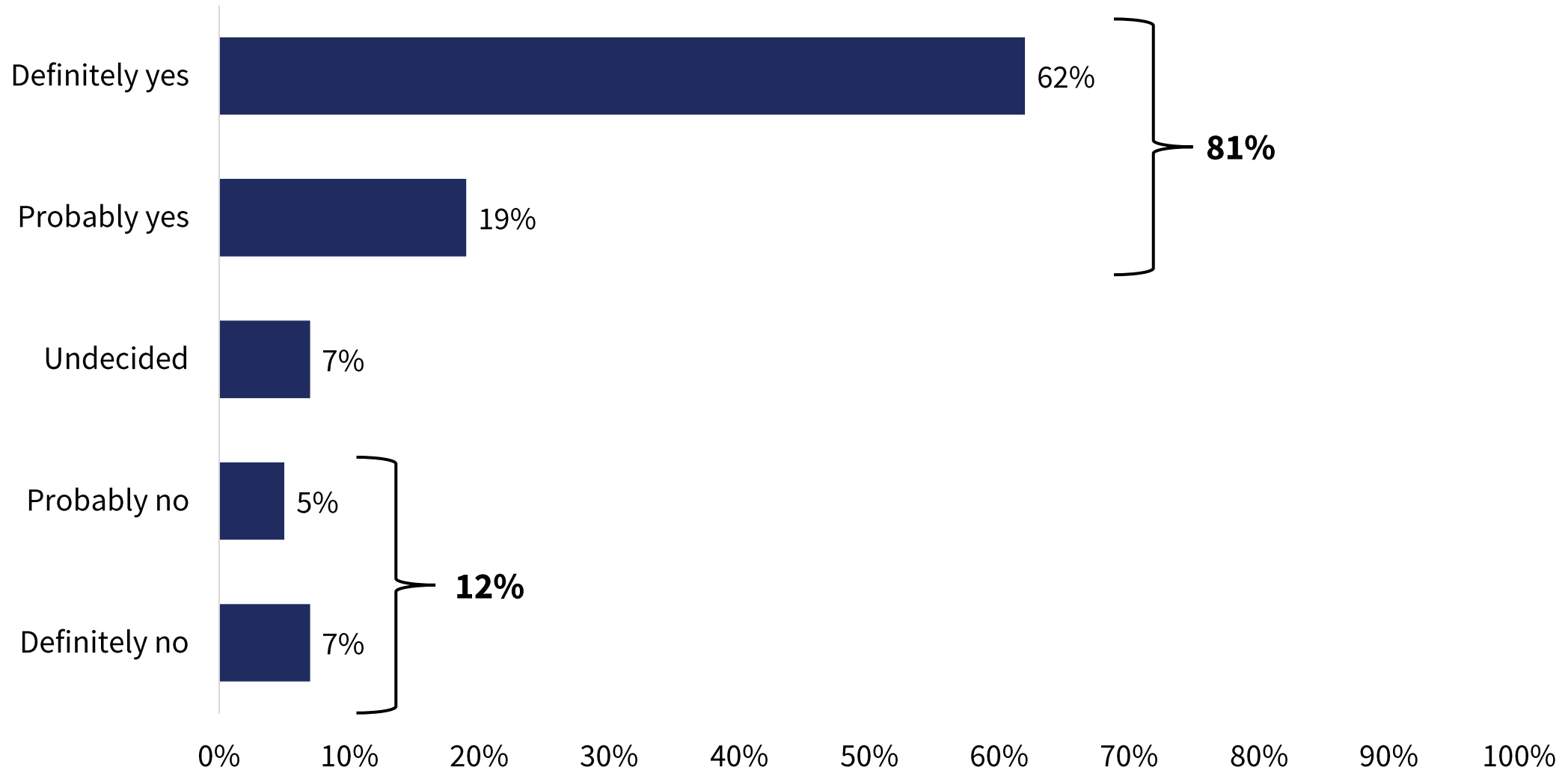
Funding Plan:

A portion of the referendum currently in place (\$0.01 for every \$100 of assessed property value) funds adult education programming/Career Resource Center (CRC). This includes such things as earning high school equivalency degrees, medical assistant training, and electrician training.



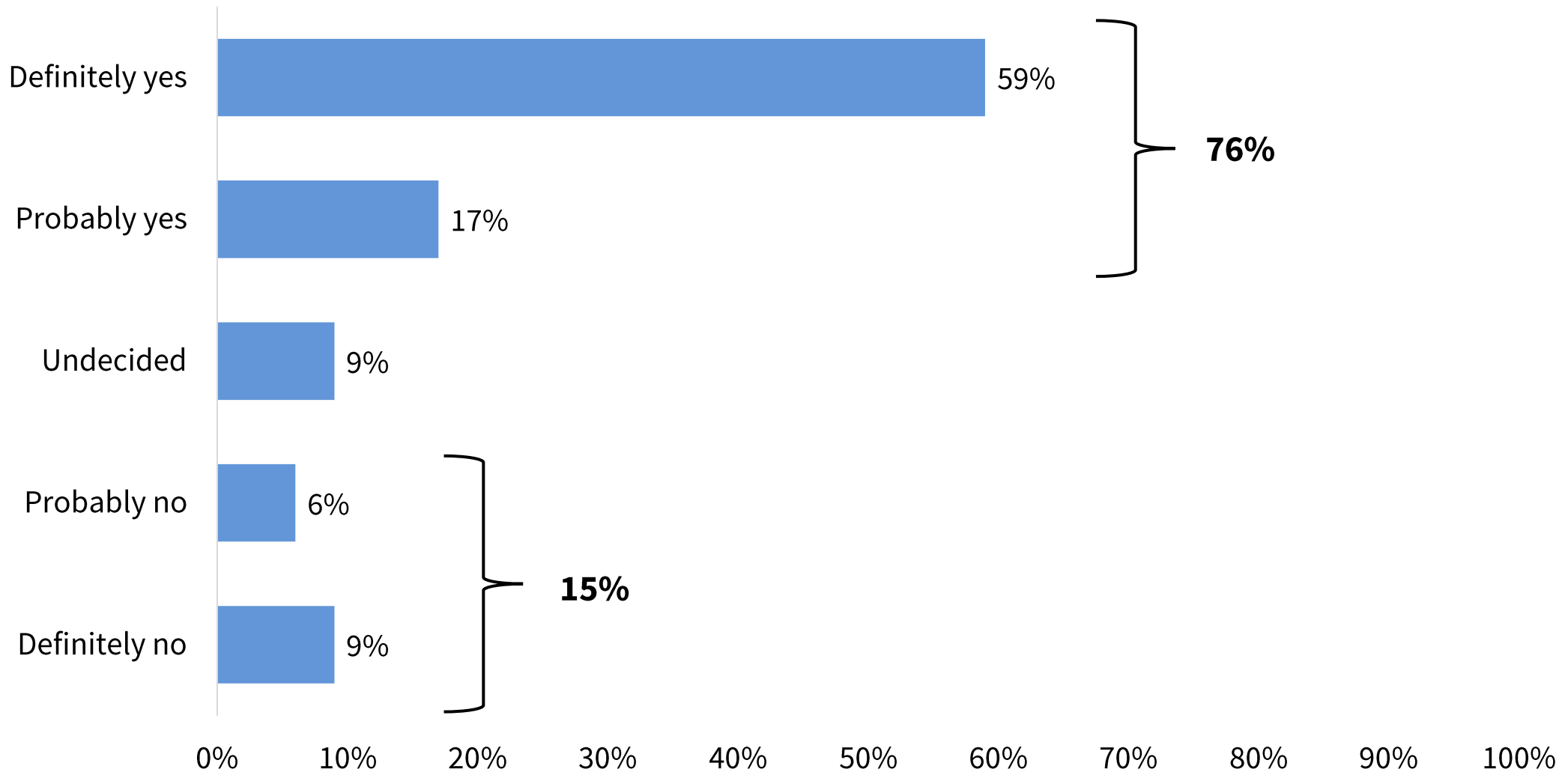
Would you support renewing the current referendum to maintain these programs/services?

Resident Staff



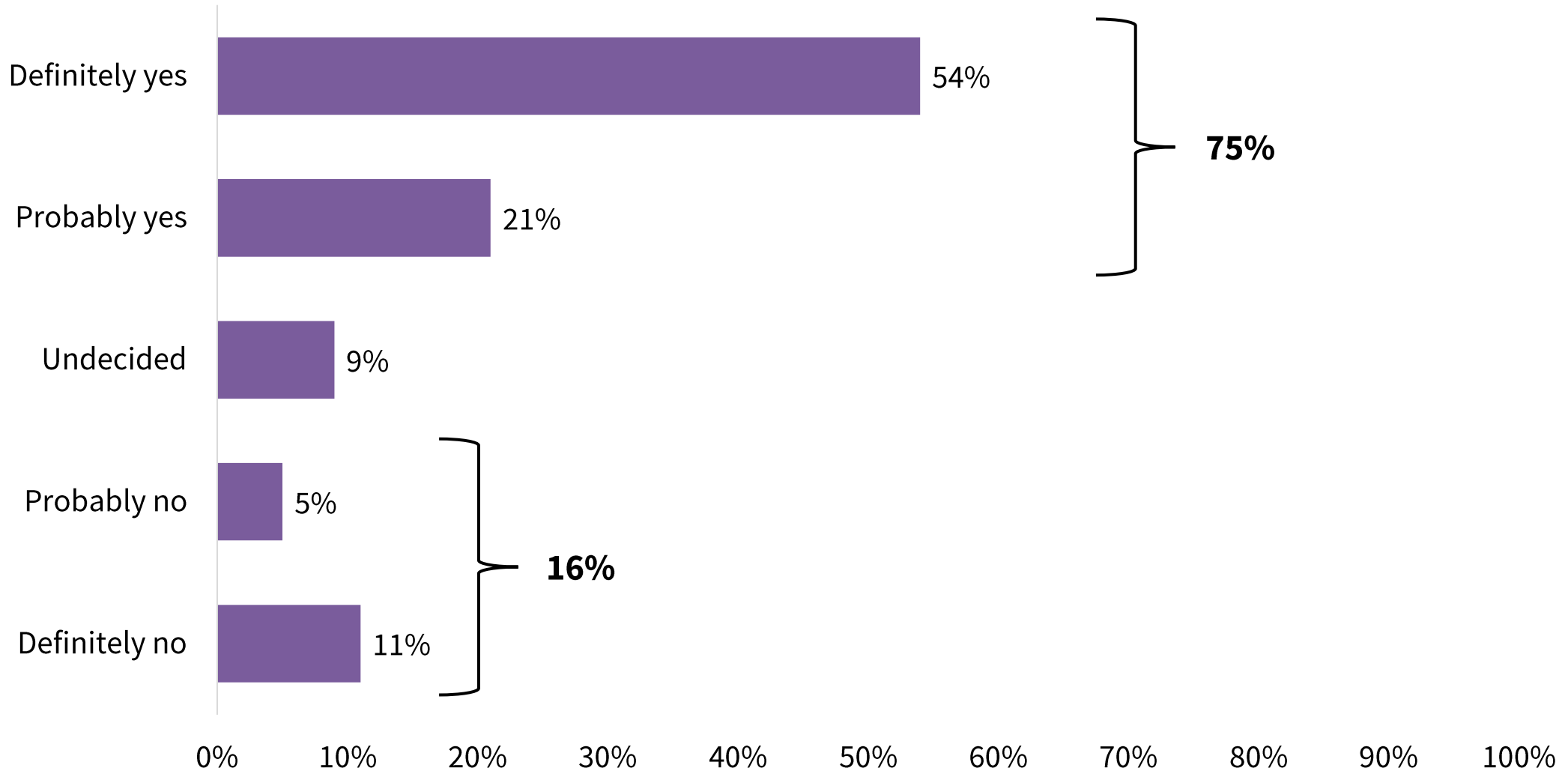
Would you support renewing the current referendum to maintain these programs/services?

Resident Parents

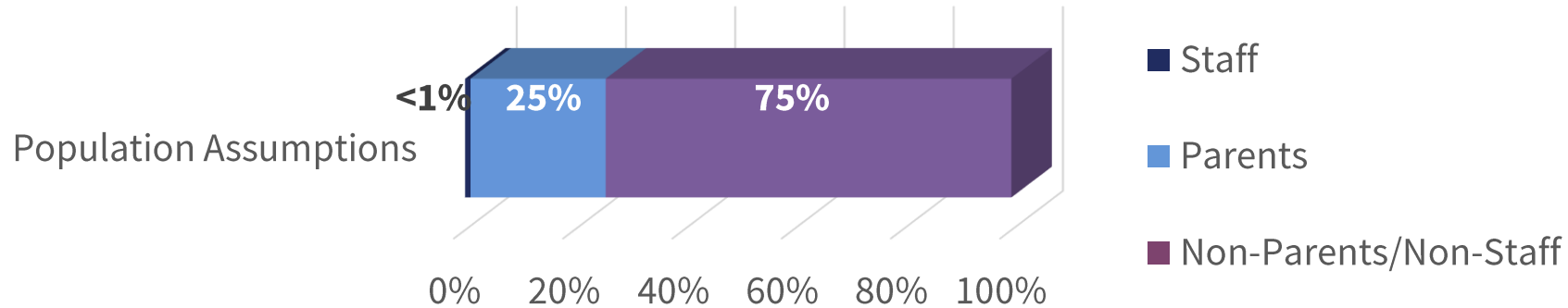


Would you support renewing the current referendum to maintain these programs/services?

Resident Non-Parent/Non-Staff



Additional Analysis: Adult Education/CRC



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (76\%) + 0.75 (75\%) = \underline{\underline{75.2\%}}$$



Funding for Operations

Additional Funding:

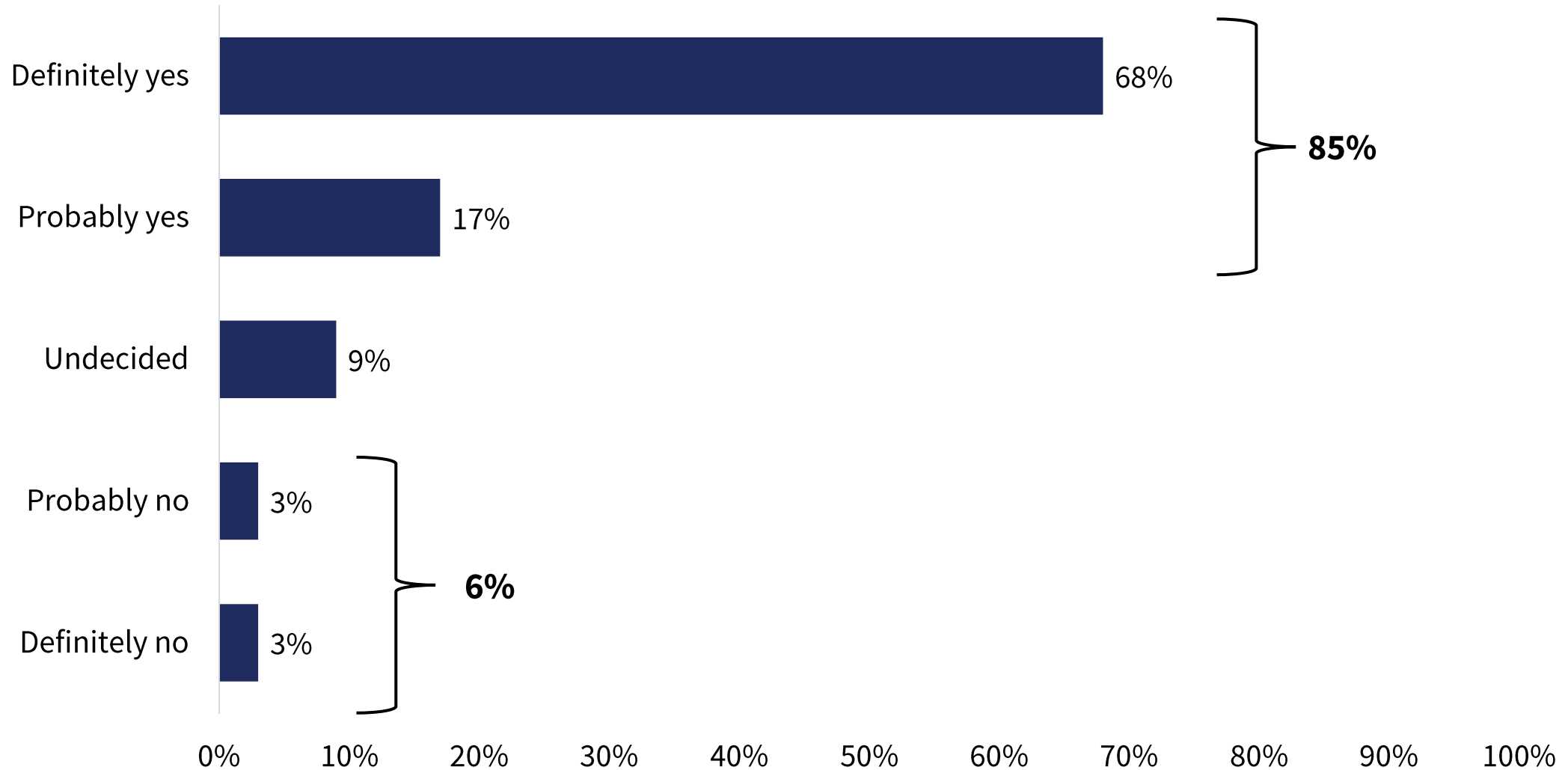
One other initiative could be funded by expanding the operational referendum.

Attracting & Retaining Staff: We could expand our staff compensation plan by putting us on par with nearby districts.



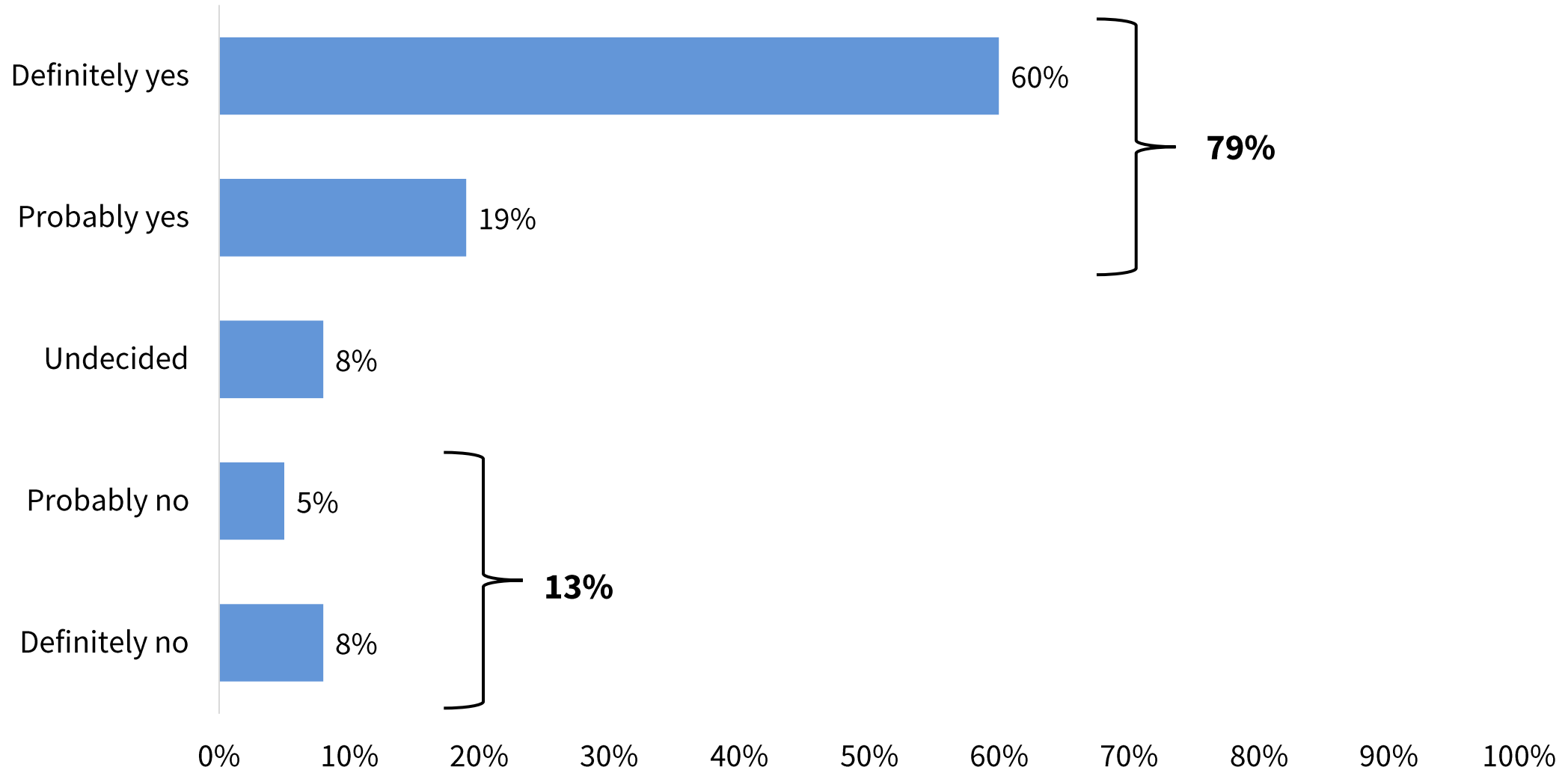
Would you support expanding the operational referendum by \$0.02 for every \$100 of assessed value to fund the staff compensation plan?

Resident Staff



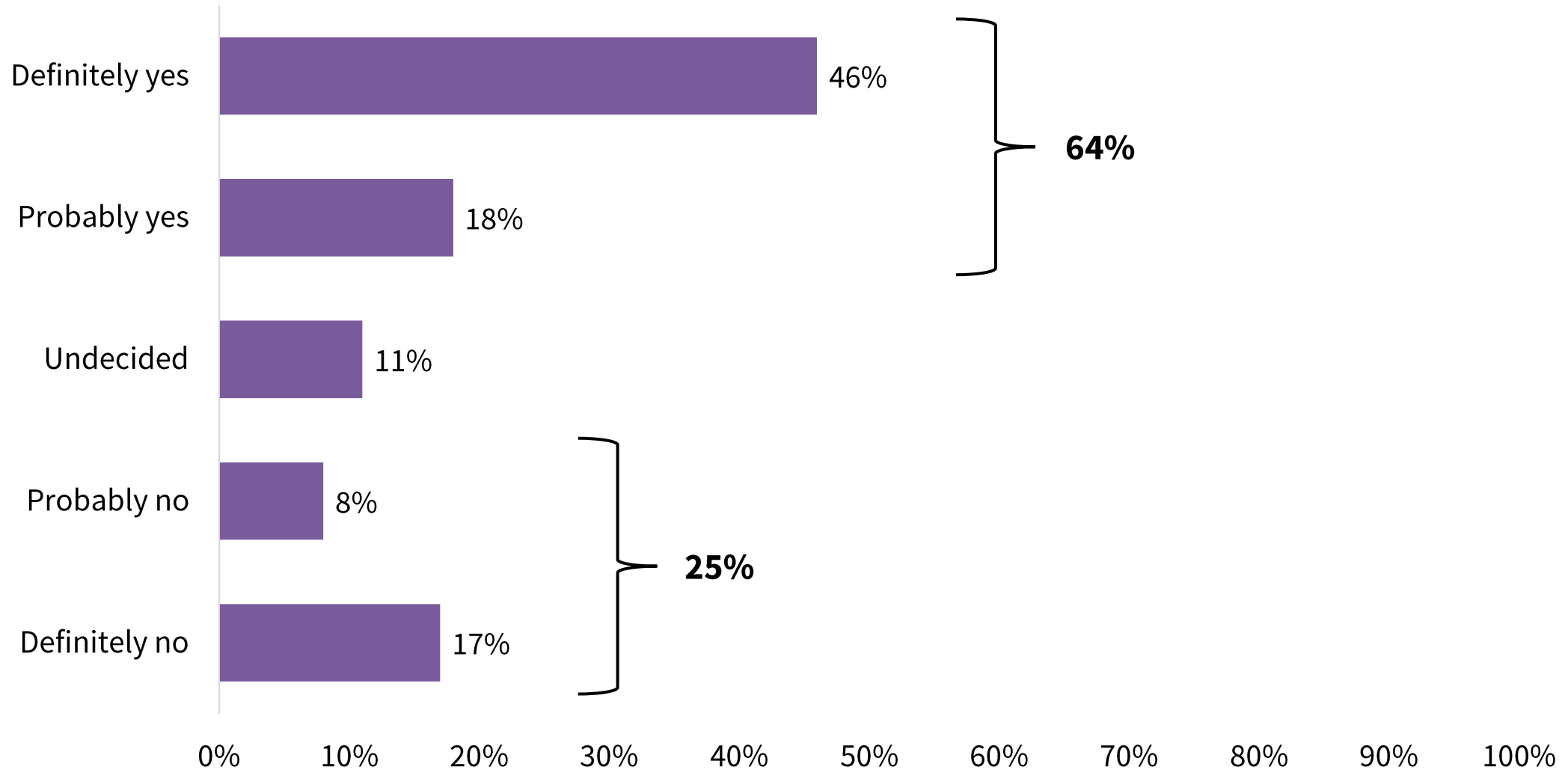
Would you support expanding the operational referendum by \$0.02 for every \$100 of assessed value to fund the staff compensation plan?

Resident Parents

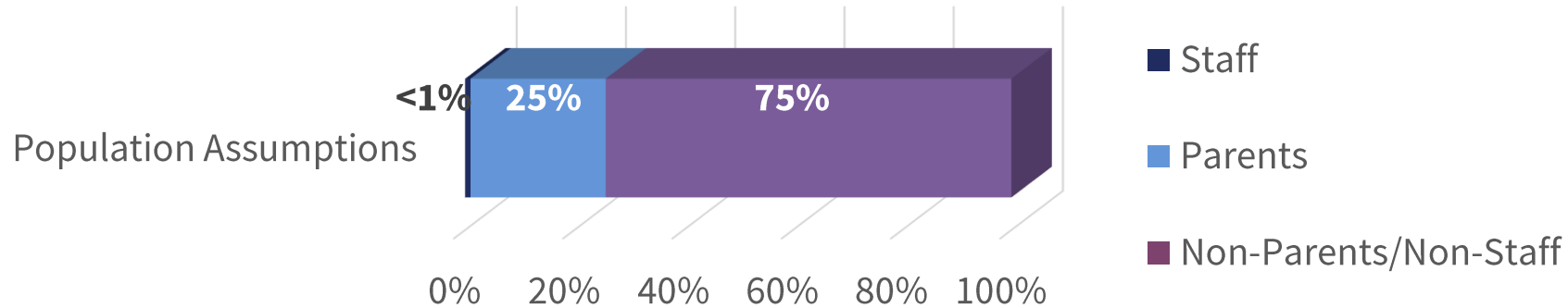


Would you support expanding the operational referendum by \$0.02 for every \$100 of assessed value to fund the staff compensation plan?

Resident Non-Parent/Non-Staff



Additional Analysis: Attracting & Retaining Staff Funds



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (79\%) + 0.75 (64\%) = \underline{\underline{67.7\%}}$$



Cost-Cutting Options

Yes = 10 No = 1 Median = 5.5

	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delay curriculum updates	2.97	2.60	3.35
Reduce transportation services	2.66	2.24	3.09
Delay technology upgrades	2.54	3.19	2.92
Increase class sizes	1.44	1.71	2.69
Reduce academic support services	1.45	1.95	2.54
Reduce middle/high school athletics and fine arts offerings	1.61	1.97	2.49
Reduce middle/high school course offerings	1.83	1.61	2.26
Reduce elementary school "specials"	1.22	1.69	2.13
Reduce spending on routine building maintenance	1.75	1.80	1.91





Questions?



SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Measuring what matters

262.644.4300 | schoolperceptions.com

