



Whitnall School District

Community Survey Report

June 10, 2024

Contents



Background Info



**Survey/Respondent
Information**



Results & Analysis



Wrap-up/Questions





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



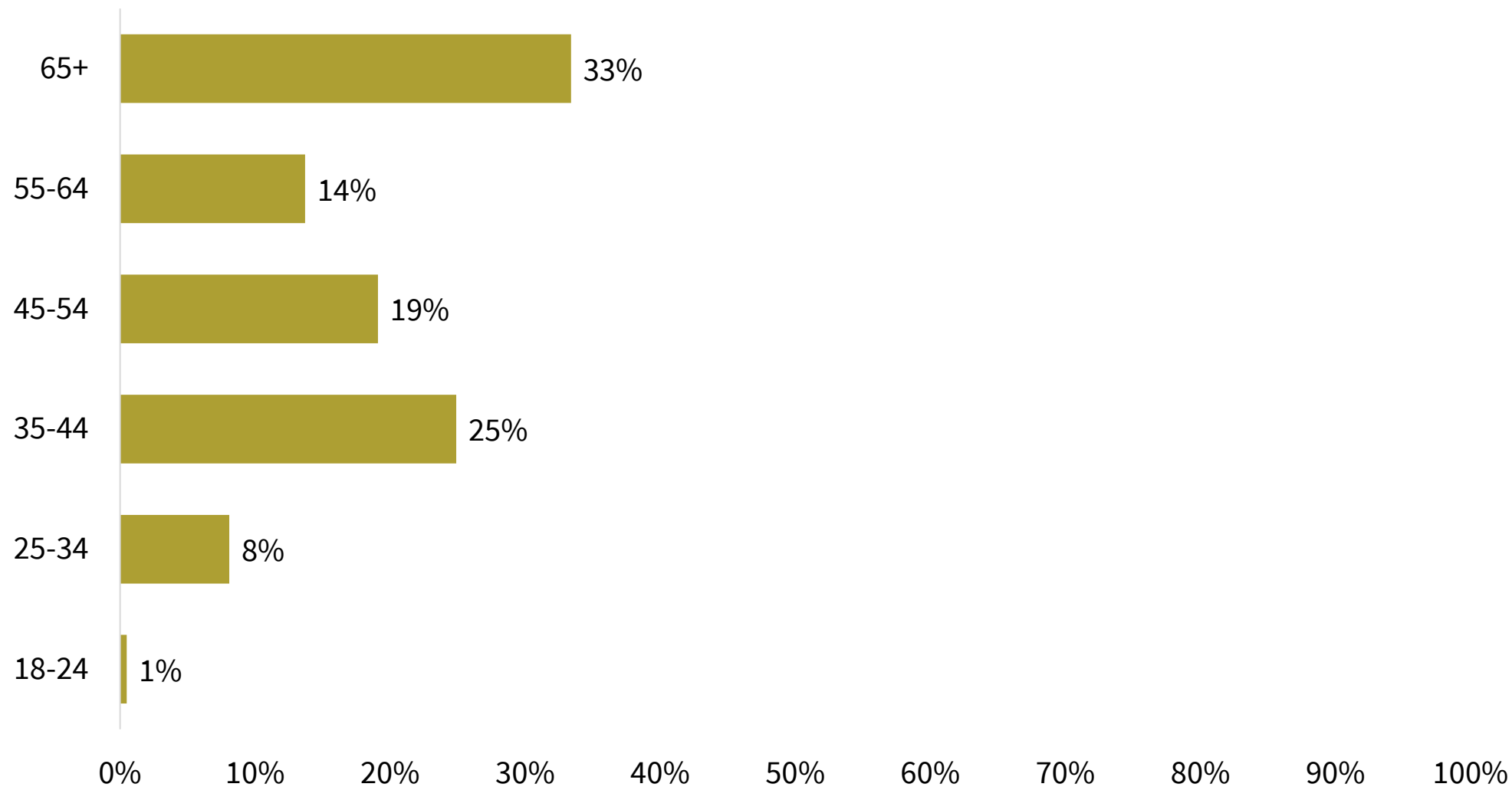
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Information

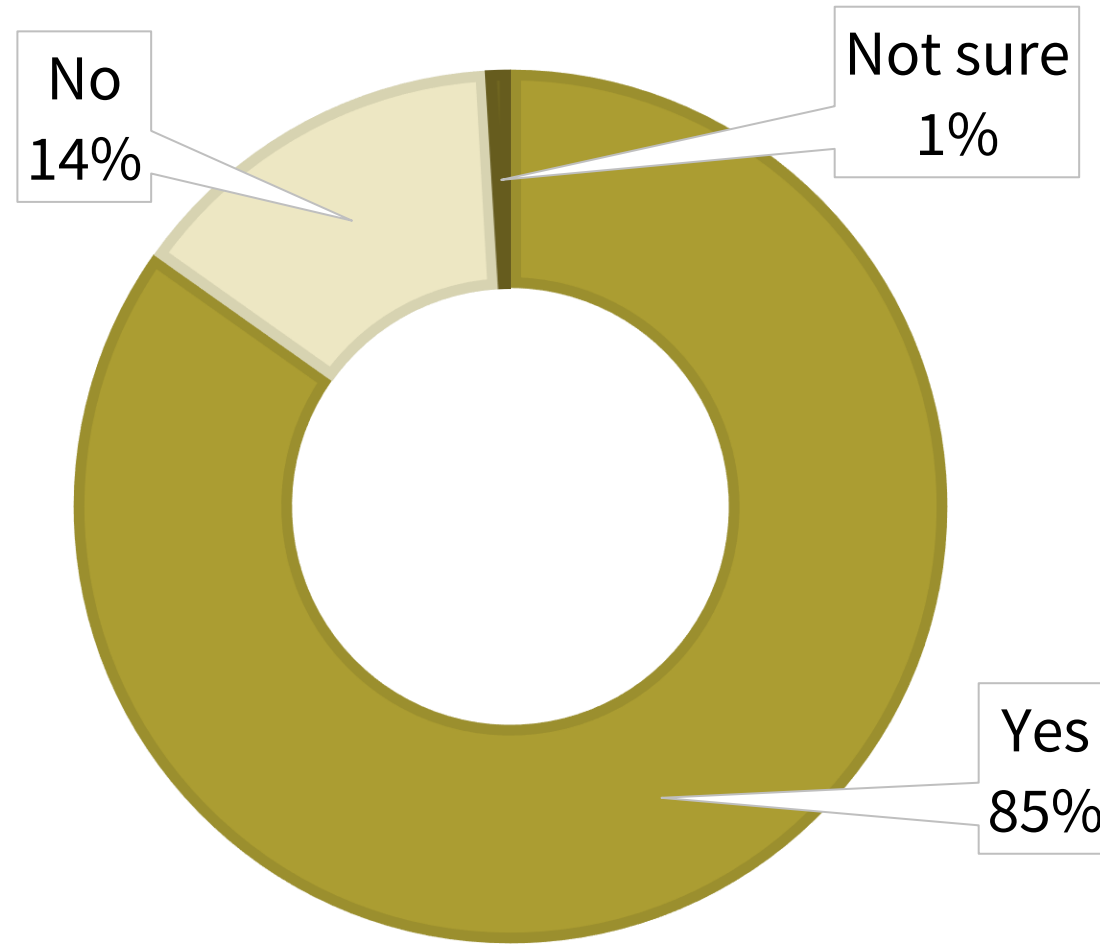
- **May 15, 2024** survey deadline
- **1,492** total respondents (908 in fall 2023)
- **18%** response rate
- **+/- 2.59%** statistical margin of error



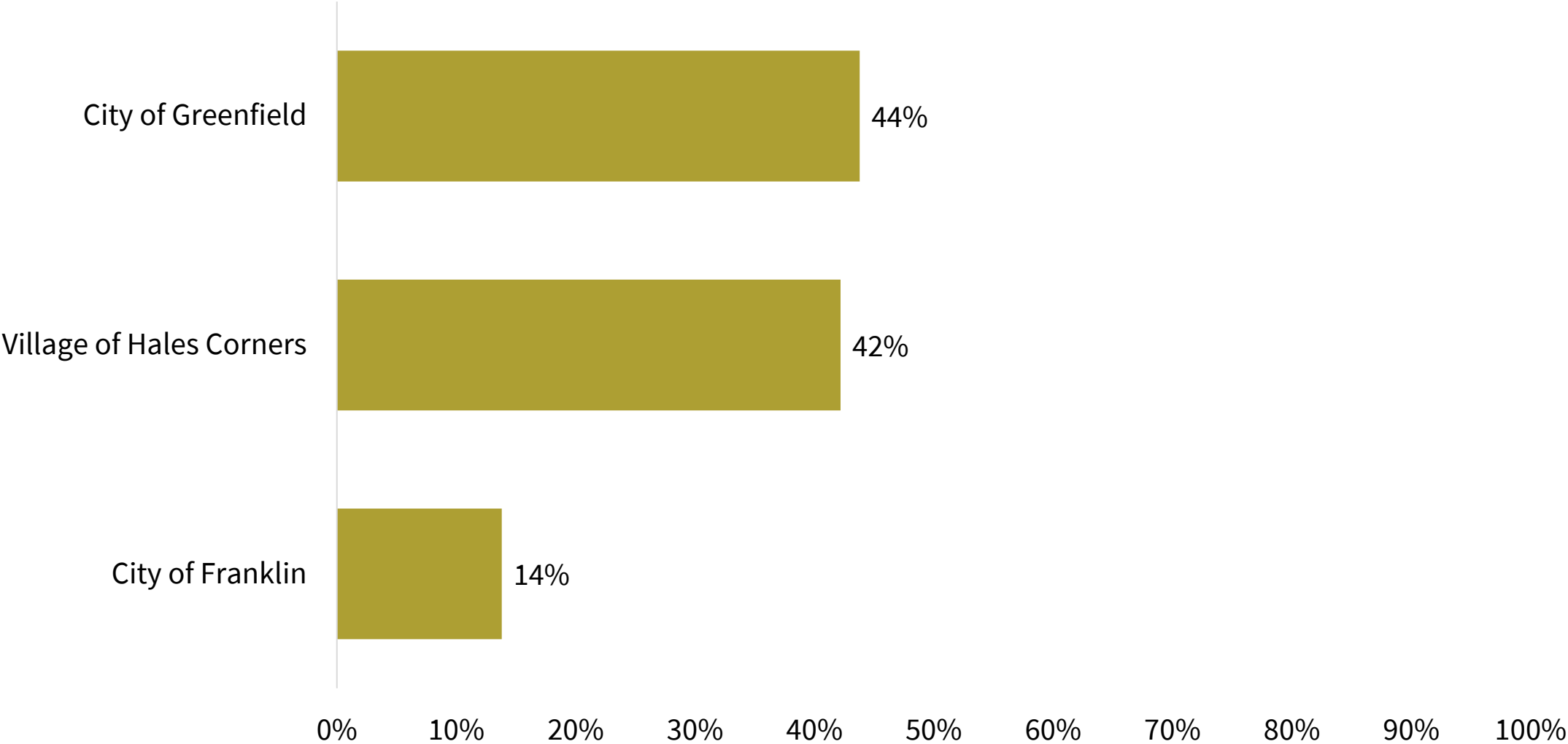
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in the District?



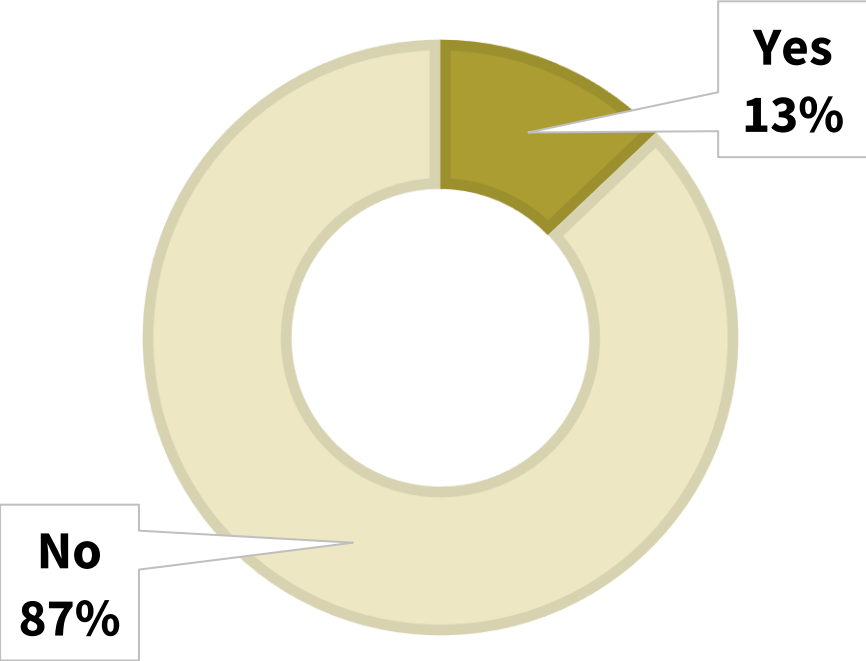
In which municipality do you live?



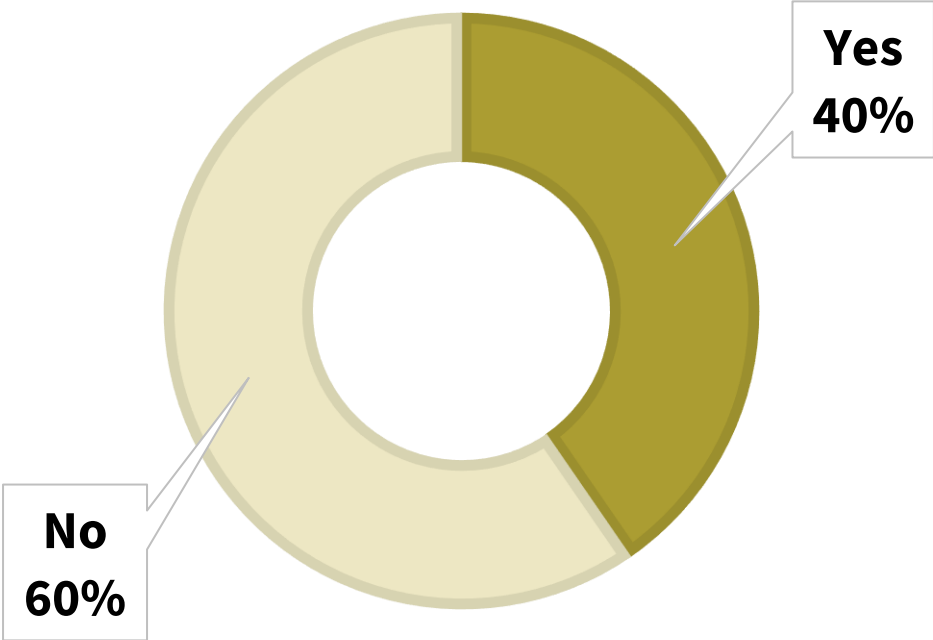
Respondent Information



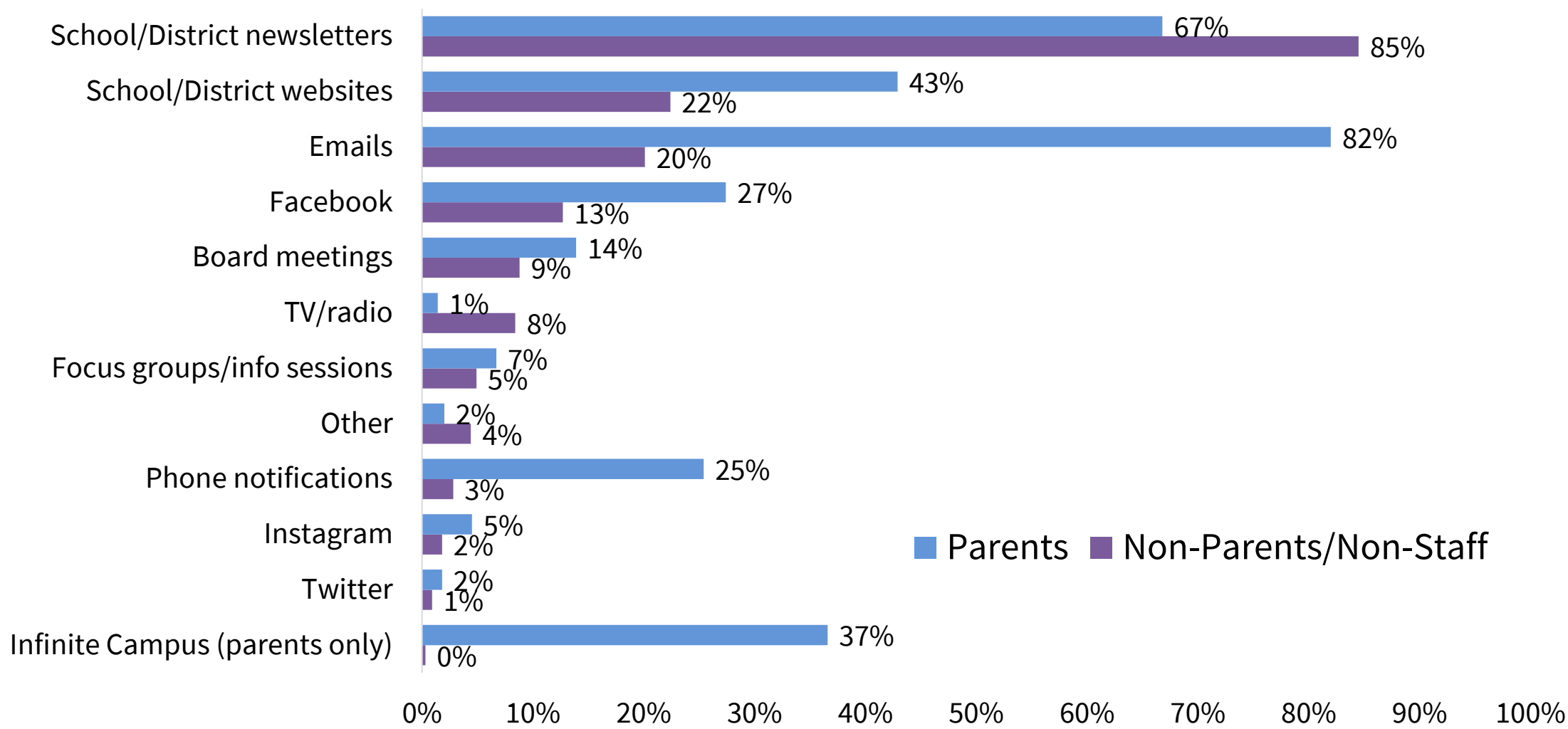
Are you an employee of the District?



Do you have children attending a school in the District?

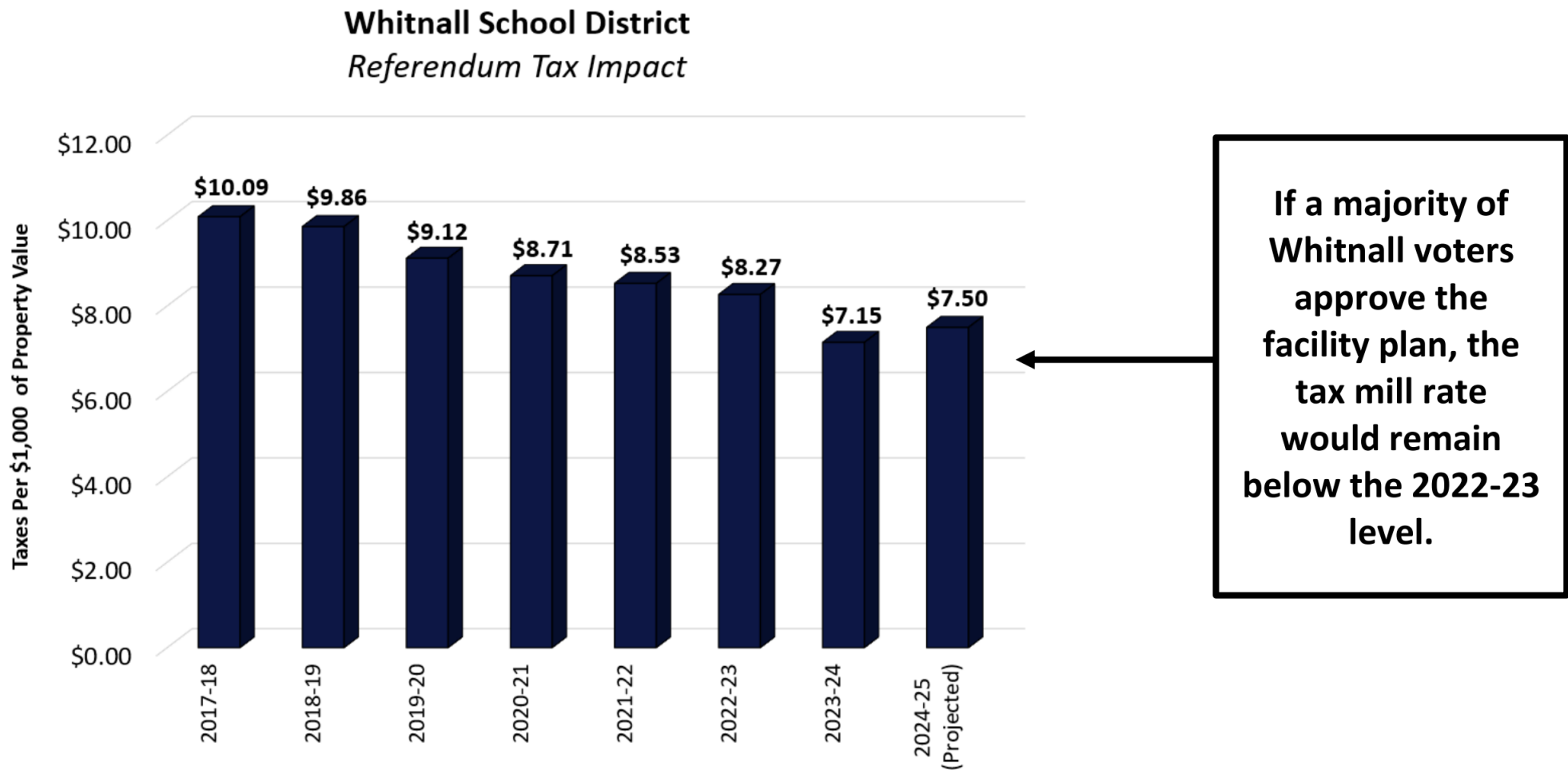


How do you like to receive school/District information?

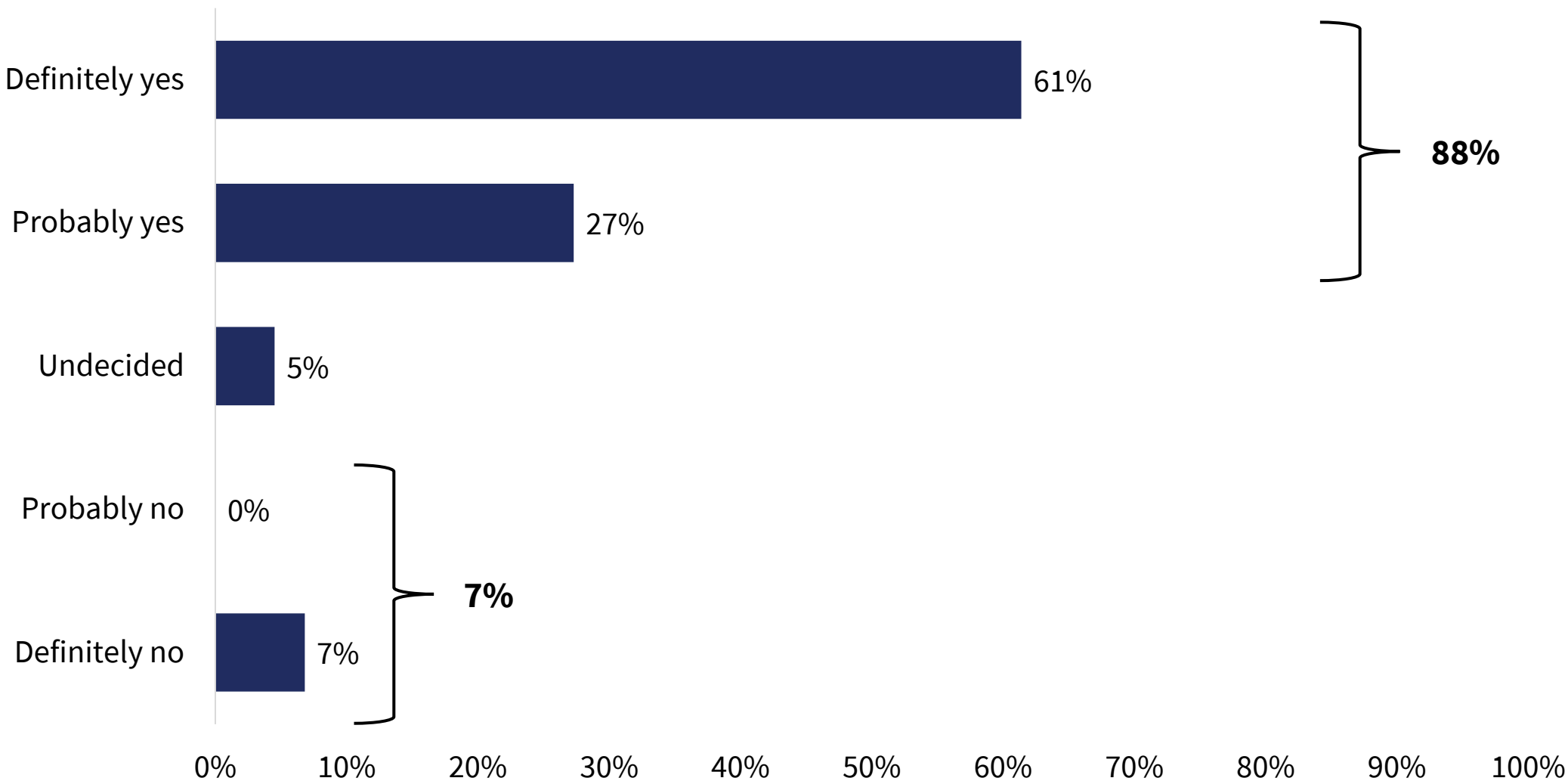


Funding Support

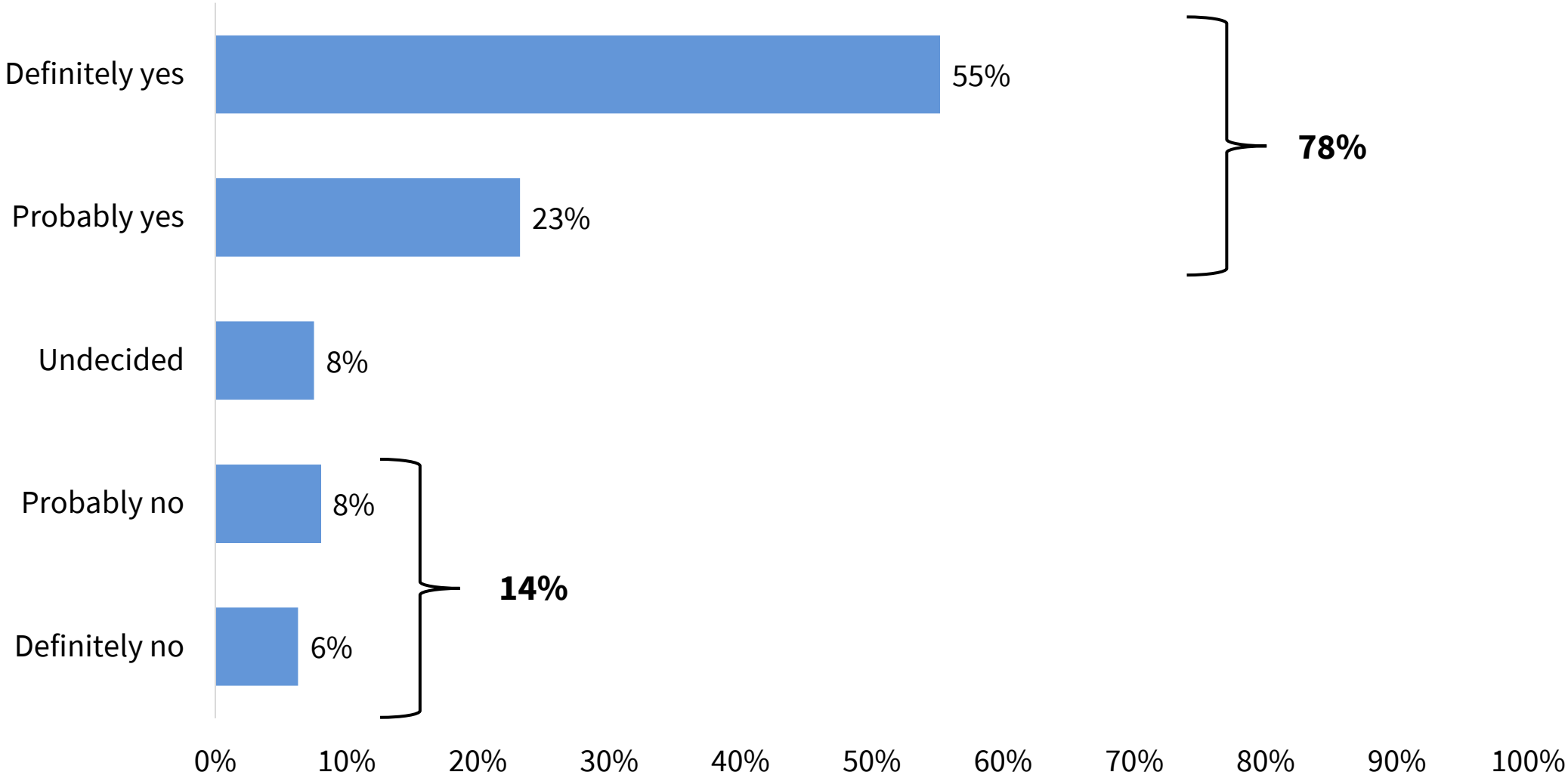
The estimated cost to address the projects outlined in the survey is \$79.1 million. If approved, this would increase the tax mill rate by \$0.35, representing \$35 for every \$100,000 of property value.



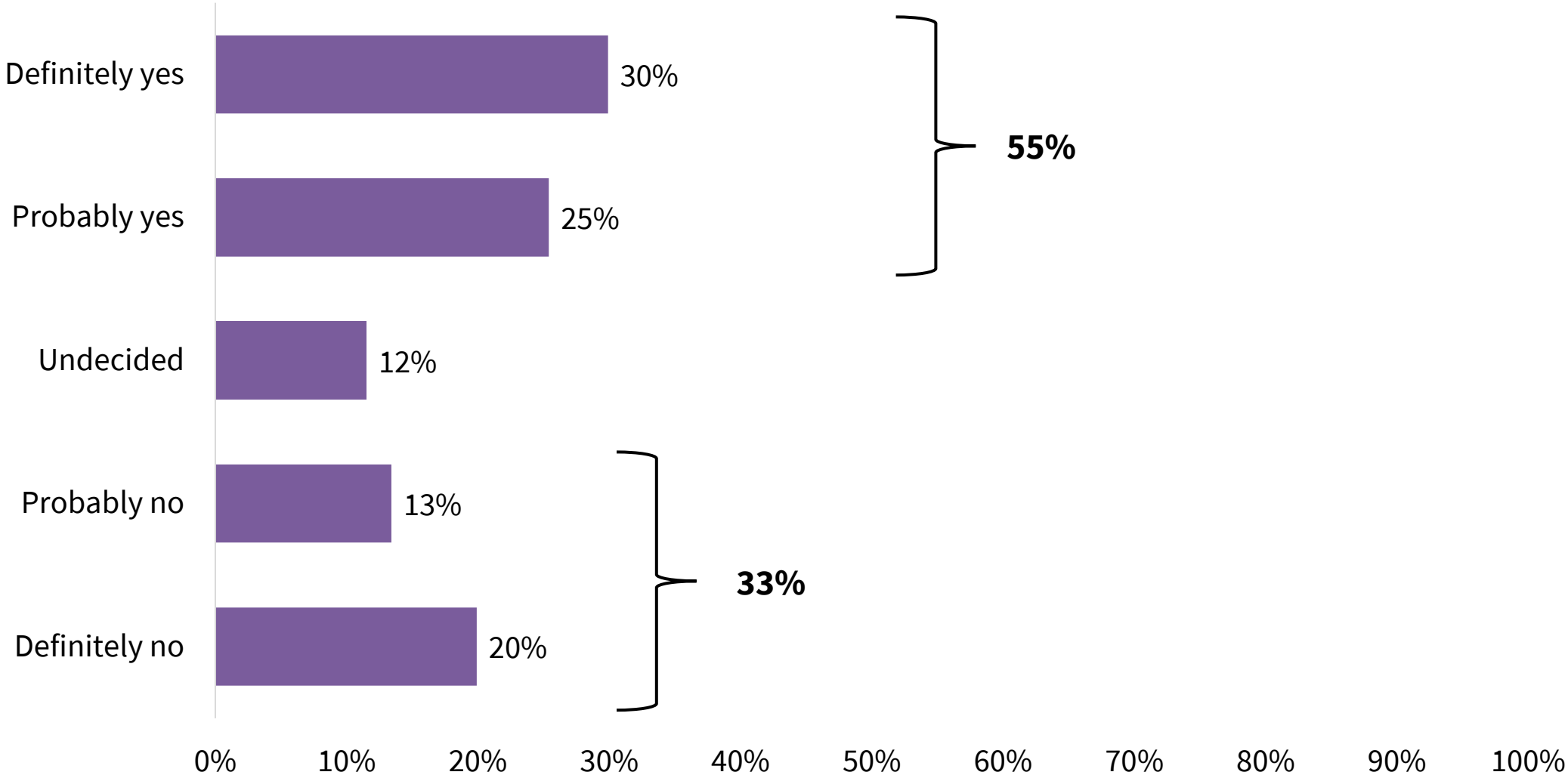
Would you support a \$79.1 million referendum to fund the facility plan? (*Staff Residents*)



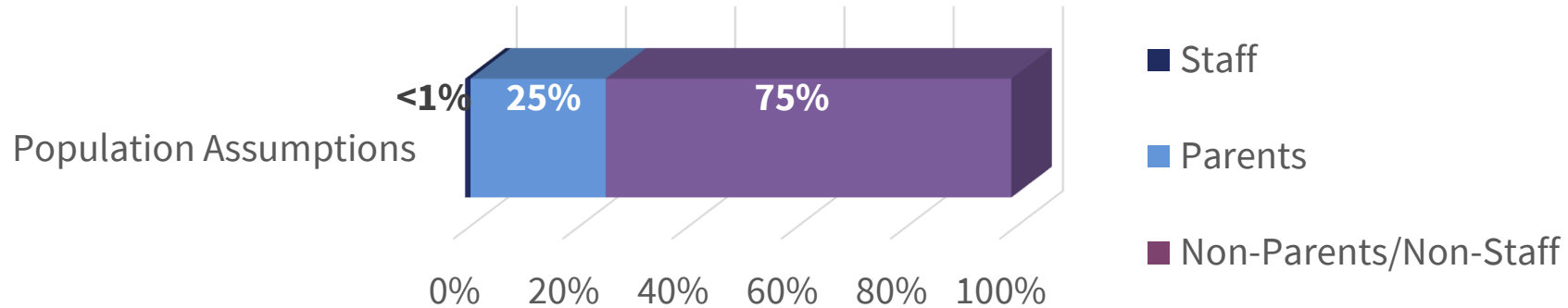
Would you support a \$79.1 million referendum to fund the facility plan? (*Parent Residents*)



Would you support a \$79.1 million referendum to fund the facility plan? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



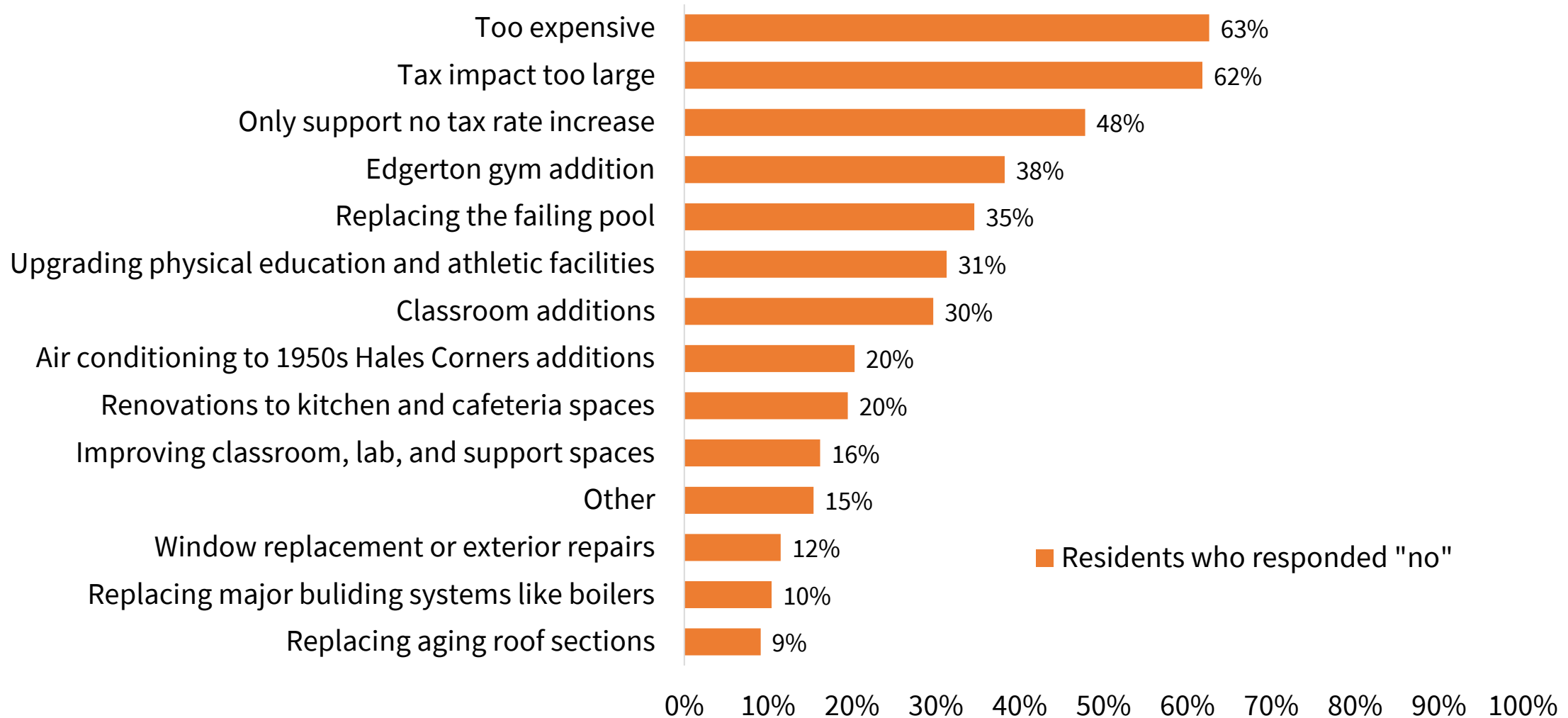
Additional Analysis: Would the \$79.1 million referendum be supported?



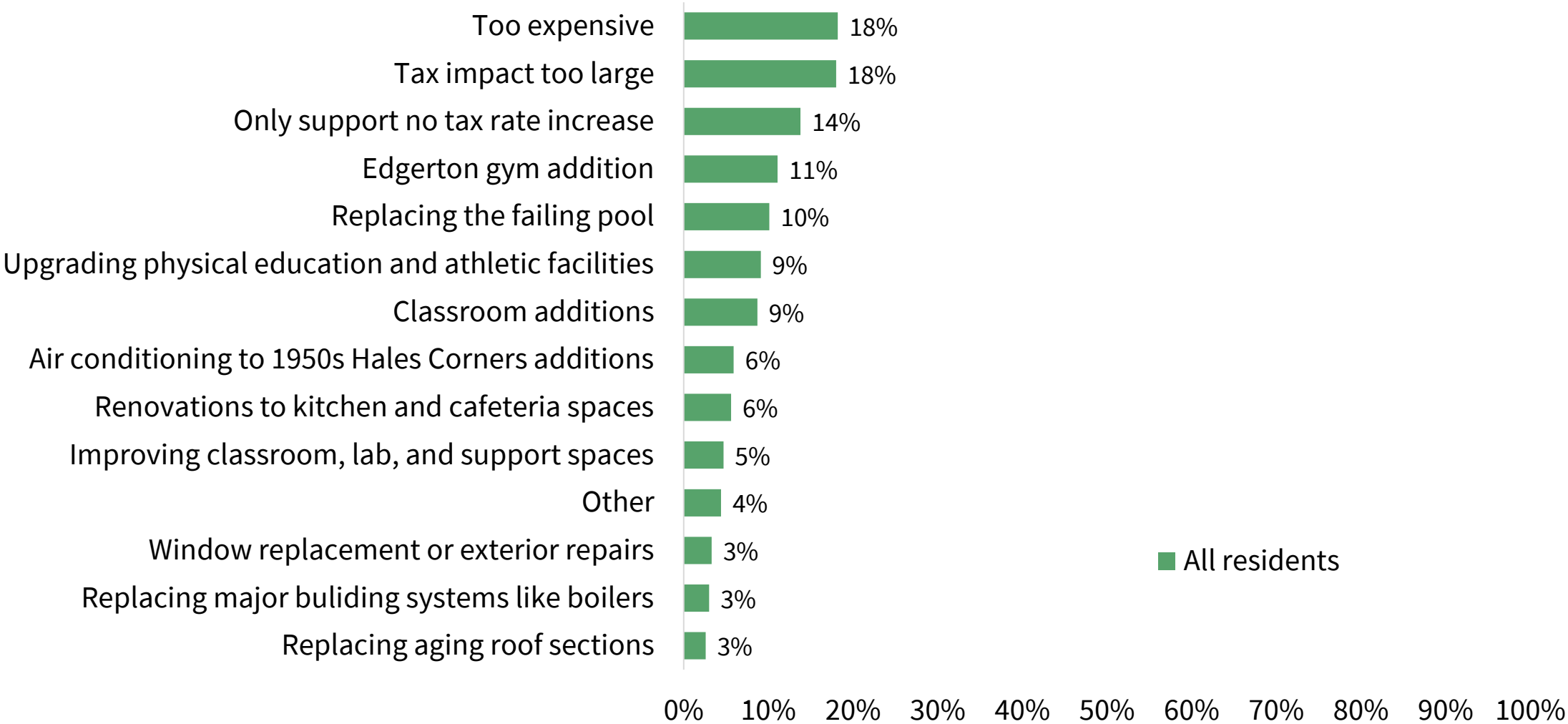
Weighted support for *Definitely yes* and *Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (78\%) + 0.75 (55\%) = \underline{\underline{60.8\%}}$$

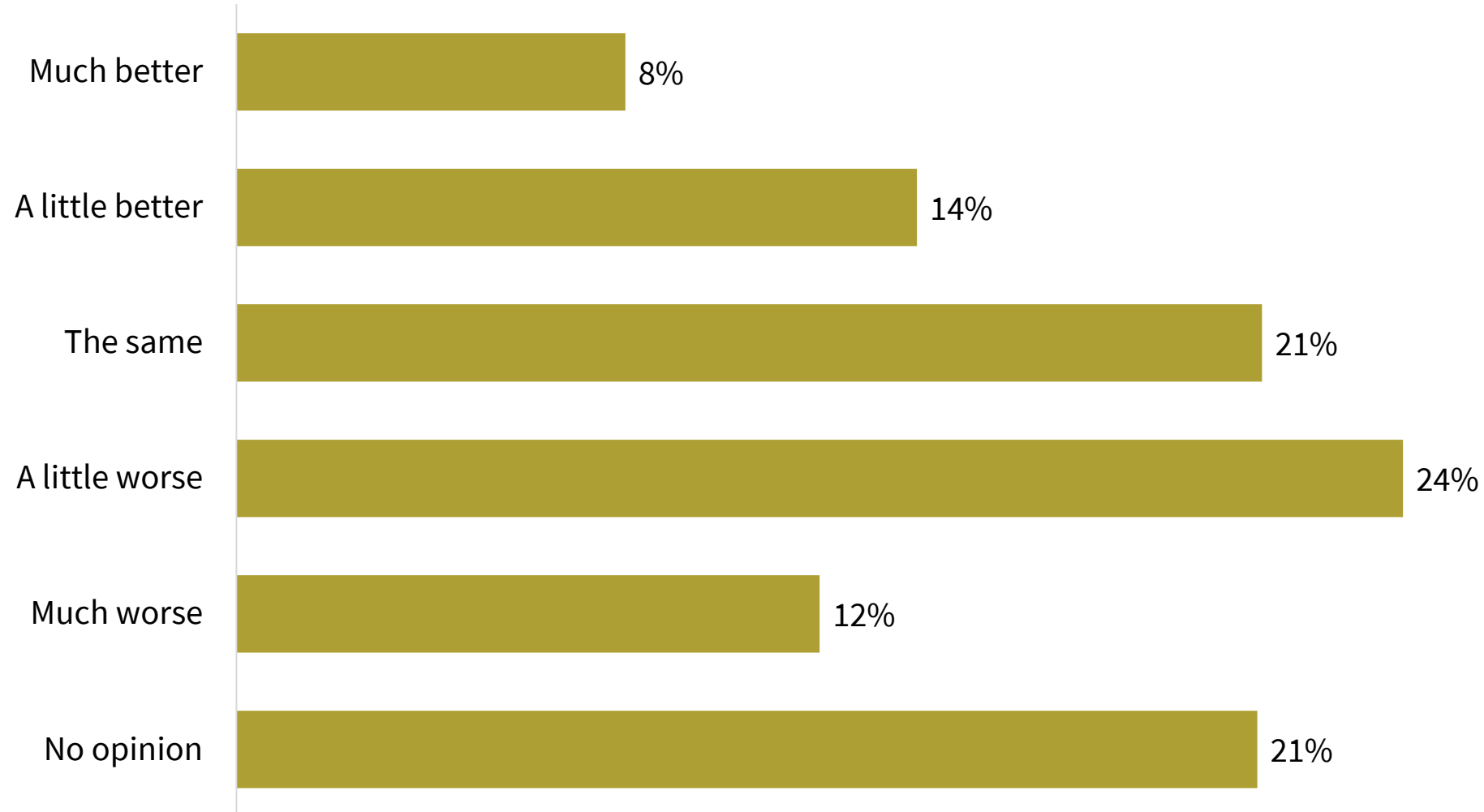
Reasons for opposition among residents who responded “Probably no” or “Definitely no” (*Select all that apply*)



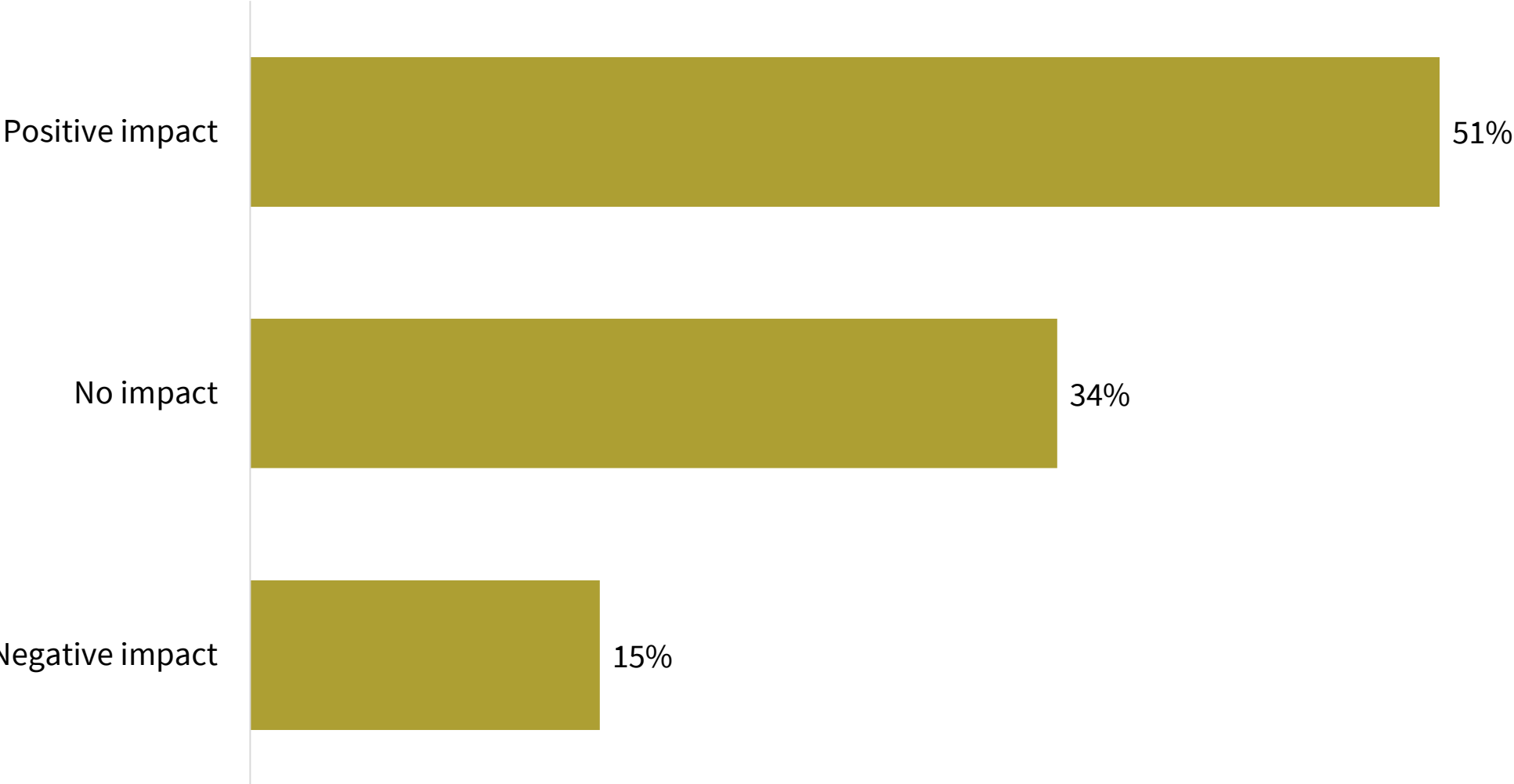
Reasons for opposition among all residents *(Select all that apply)*



How would you rate the Whitnall School District's facilities compared to neighboring districts?



How do you feel the quality of the Whitnall School District is affecting your home value?



What did we learn?

- If an election were held today, the weighted support indicates voters would support the base plan.

Next Steps:

- Based on the level of weighted support, the Board could consider taking a resolution question to ballot that reflects the projects in the base plan.





SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Measuring what matters

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Appendix



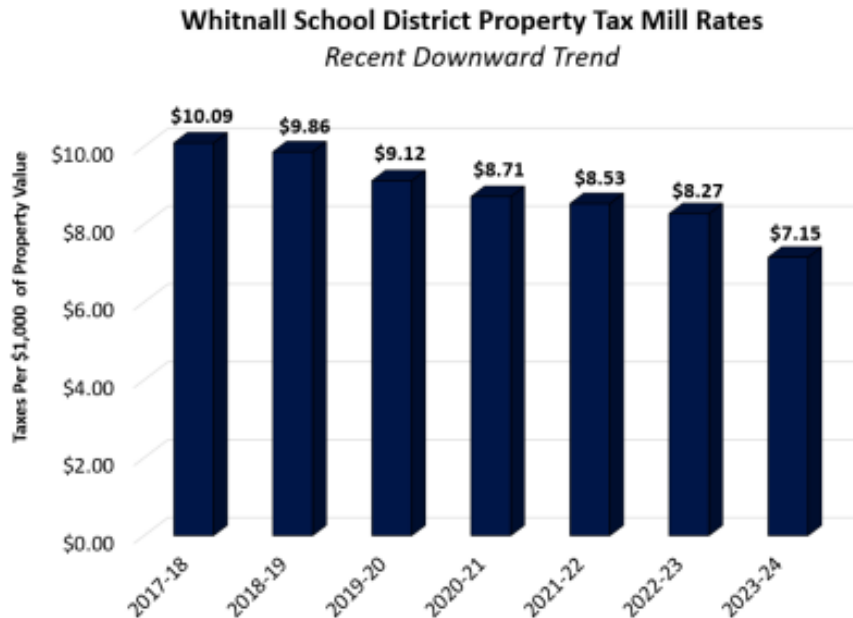
Background Information

In 2017, Whitnall implemented a long-range facility plan. In 2018, voters approved a referendum to update a portion of each building (example projects include improvements to safety and security, classrooms/labs, and major building systems).

The District has been prepaying debt from the 2018 referendum early, saving more than \$2.6 million in interest expenses.

In addition, the mill rate (which is used to calculate a school district's share of local property taxes) has declined 29% from the 2017-18 level.

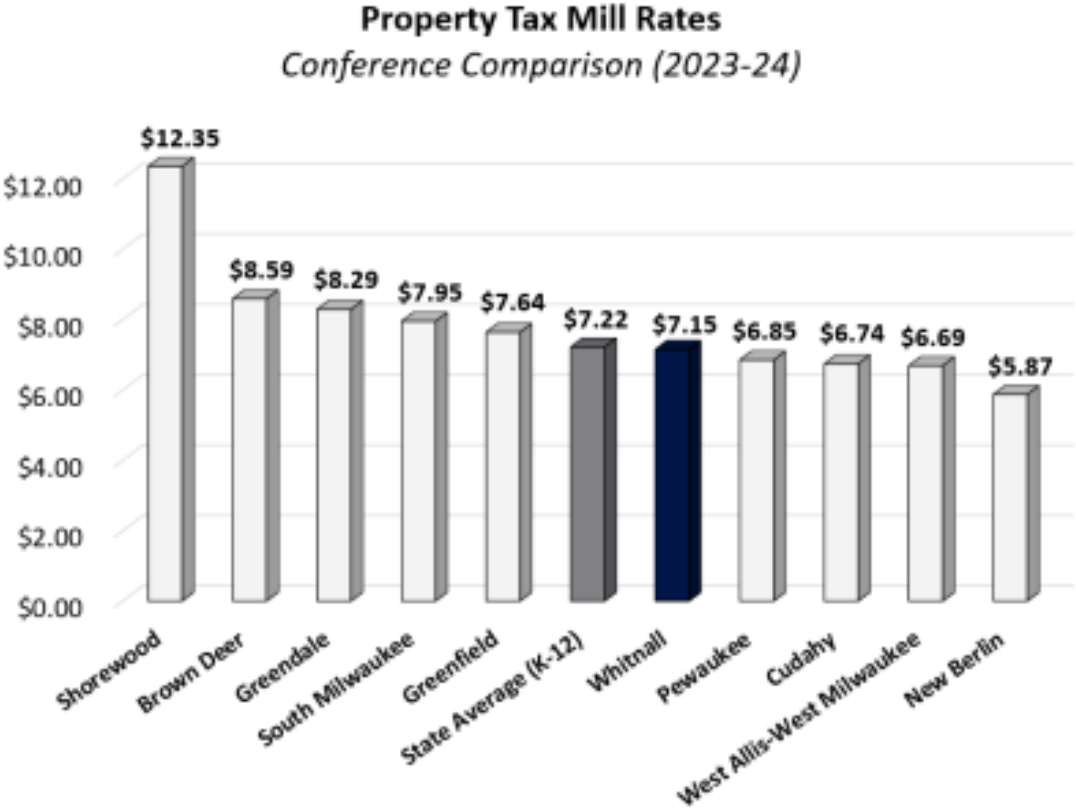
Combined, these efforts will help reduce the tax impact of any new referendum spending.



Background Information



Our tax rate is also below the state average and in the middle among our conference peers.



Facility Plan



The School Board allocates some of each year's budget to ongoing maintenance. To pay for major facility improvements, school districts in Wisconsin seek funding from a capital referendum. Approval requires majority support from voters.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee and District staff reviewed our needs and prioritized potential projects. Based on their work, the School Board is considering the following projects. For more information on our facility needs, visit www.whitnall.com/district/referendum2024.cfm.

Facility Plan



Edgerton Elementary School

1. Build larger kindergarten classrooms
2. Build a dedicated gym for physical education and community use
3. Create larger four-year-old kindergarten (4K) classroom
4. Reconfigure the main office to better monitor and control access
5. Renovate shared gym/cafeteria space into a dedicated cafeteria and update the kitchen

The project would also:

- ✓ Replace major building systems, including boilers, chiller, and emergency generator
- ✓ Renovate restrooms to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations
- ✓ Replace aging roof sections
- ✓ Replace windows to improve energy efficiency



Facility Plan



Hales Corners Elementary School

- ✓ Add air conditioning to the 1950s sections of the building
- ✓ Replace failing windows and wall panels in 1950s sections of the building
- ✓ Renovate second-floor restrooms to comply with ADA regulations
- ✓ Replace aging roof sections

Whitnall Middle School

- ✓ Renovate locker room restrooms and aging east gym bleachers to comply with ADA regulations
- ✓ Replace aging roof sections

Facility Plan



Whitnall High School

1. Renovate science labs that are over 60 years old
2. Renovate the kitchen, which is over 60 years old
3. Update auditorium by providing ADA access and replacing the stage flooring, theater curtains, lighting, and sound systems
4. Replace aging bleachers to comply with ADA regulations, the wood floor, and lighting in gyms
5. Renovate locker rooms (which are over 55 years old) and restrooms to comply with ADA regulations
6. Renovate current pool into a weights and fitness area, wrestling room, and multi-purpose space
7. Build a new 8-lane competition pool with diving boards and spectator seating (see next page)



The project would also:

- ✓ Replace major building systems, including air handling units, chiller, and emergency generator
- ✓ Replace aging roof sections
- ✓ Replace windows and wall panels to improve energy efficiency

Facility Plan



The District's swimming pool (built in 1966) is among the most-used spaces in our high school. The current pool is used for physical education classes, swim lessons, and both school and club swim teams.

The District has been researching potential updates to the pool and gathering community feedback since 2014. In 2018, the community approved a minimal investment to keep the facility functioning while the District studied a long-term solution.

The pool continues to have several issues:

- The liner is nearing the end of its service life and could fail at any time. It cannot be replaced again without replacing the entire pool.
- The facility does not meet current ADA requirements or current safety standards (such as deck clearance requirements).
- Whitnall is unable to host swimming and diving competitions and events due to the pool's size and depth.
- Visitors enter the facility through the girls' and boys' locker rooms, which creates safety and security concerns.

A majority of respondents on last fall's community survey supported expanding and updating the pool.