

# Whitnall School District Community Survey Results

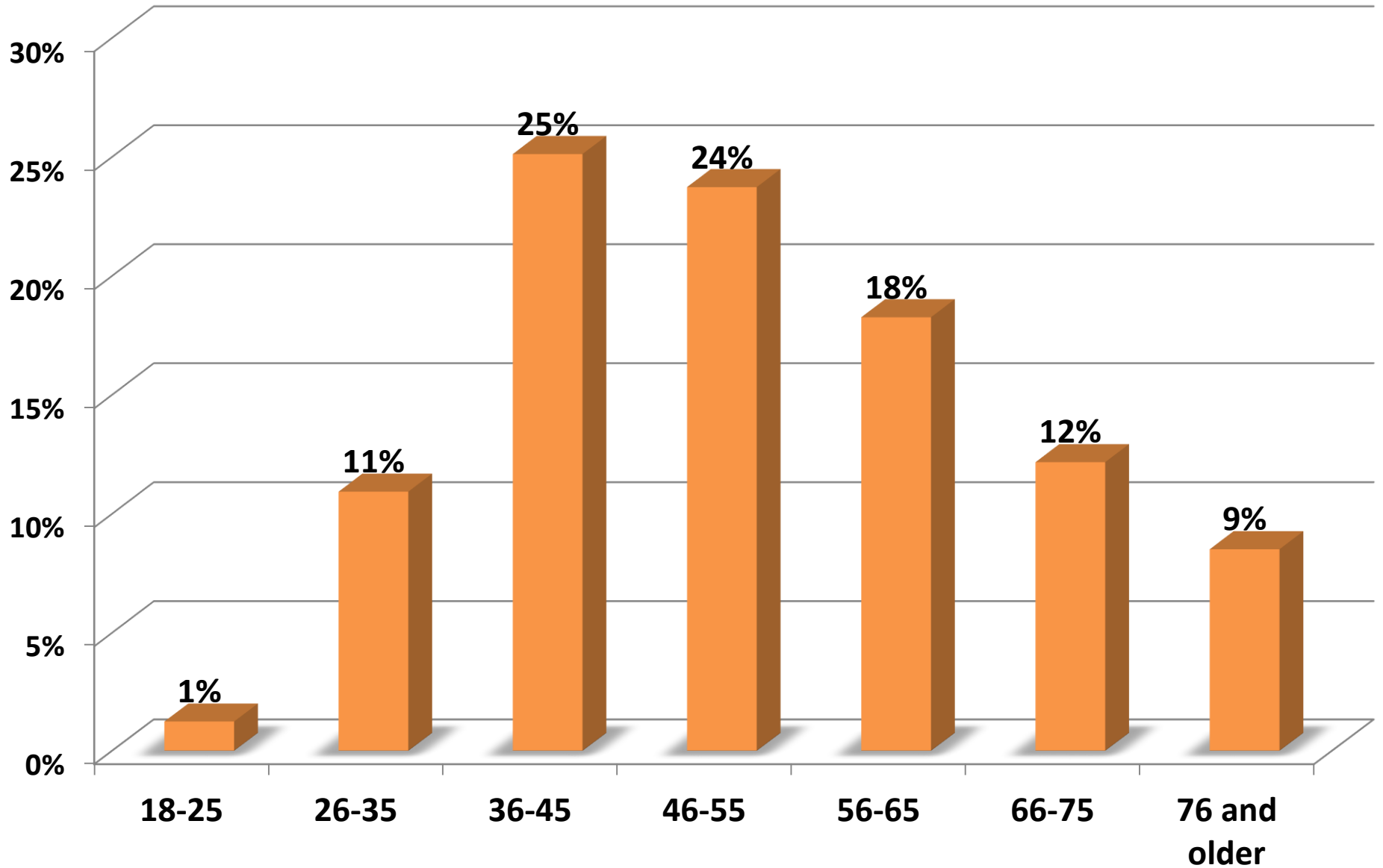
Fall 2017

# Survey Summary

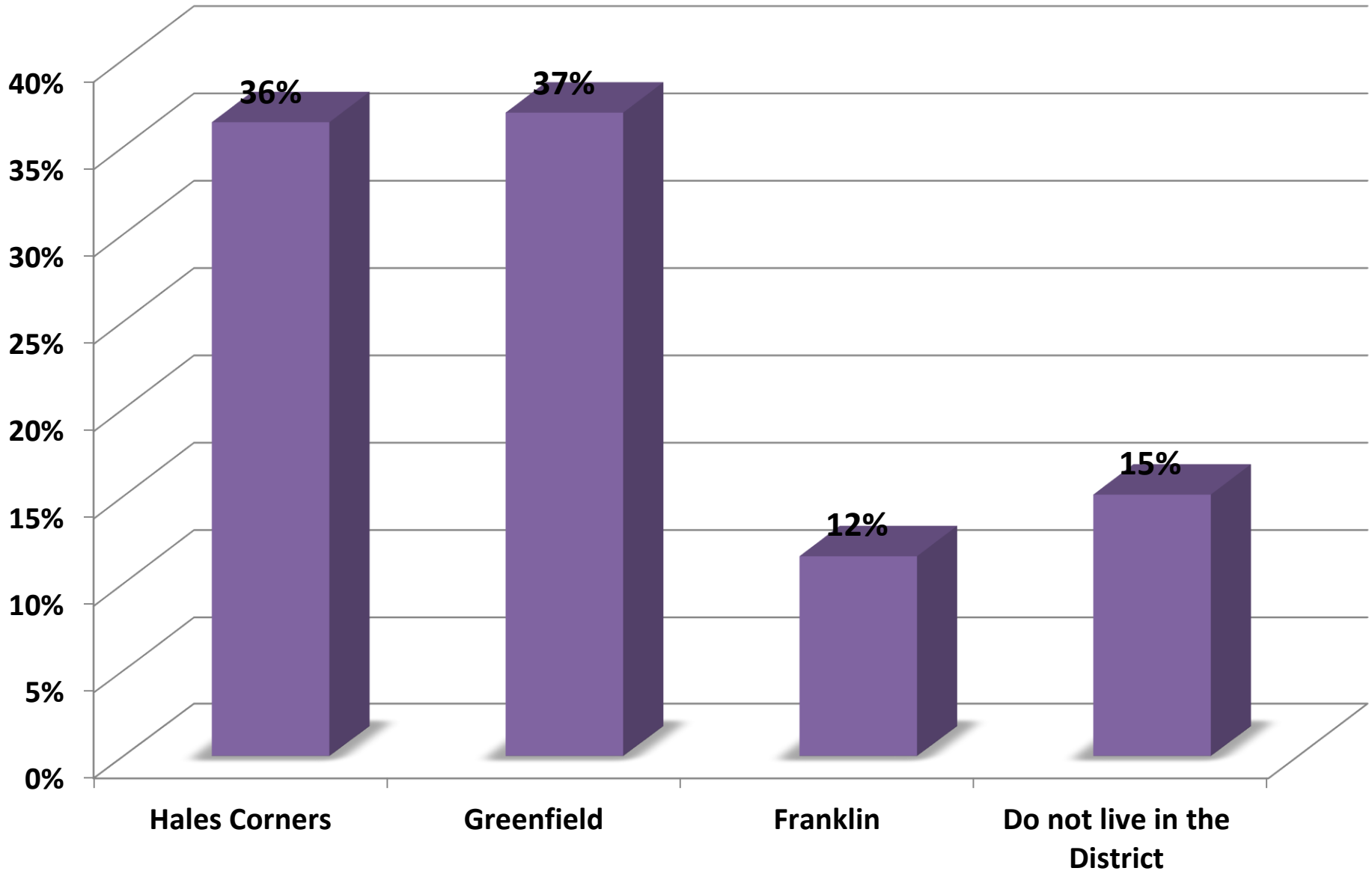
- The survey was conducted in October of 2017.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 1,479 (524 paper)
- Participation rate = 19%

# **Respondent Information**

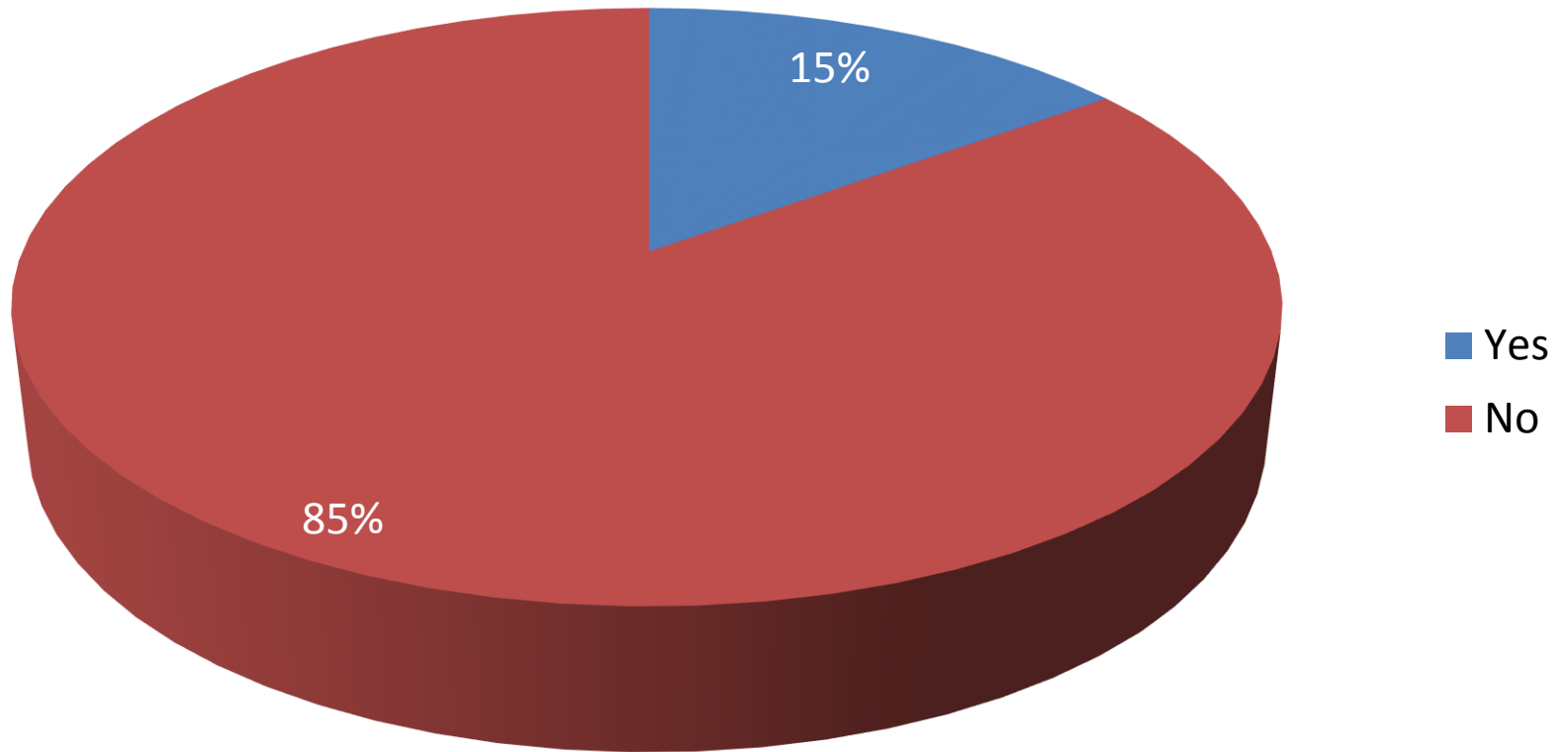
# What is your age?



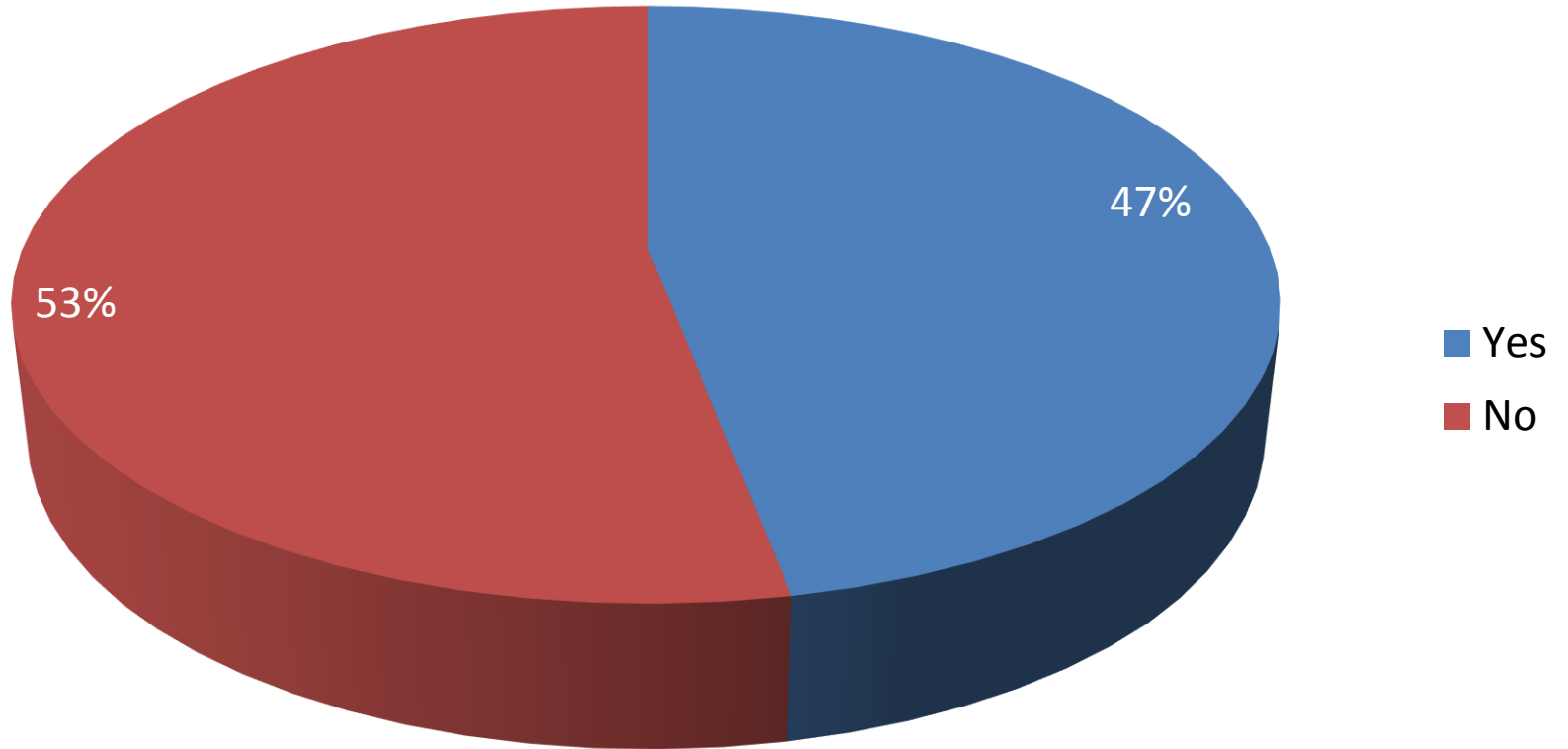
# In which municipality do you reside?



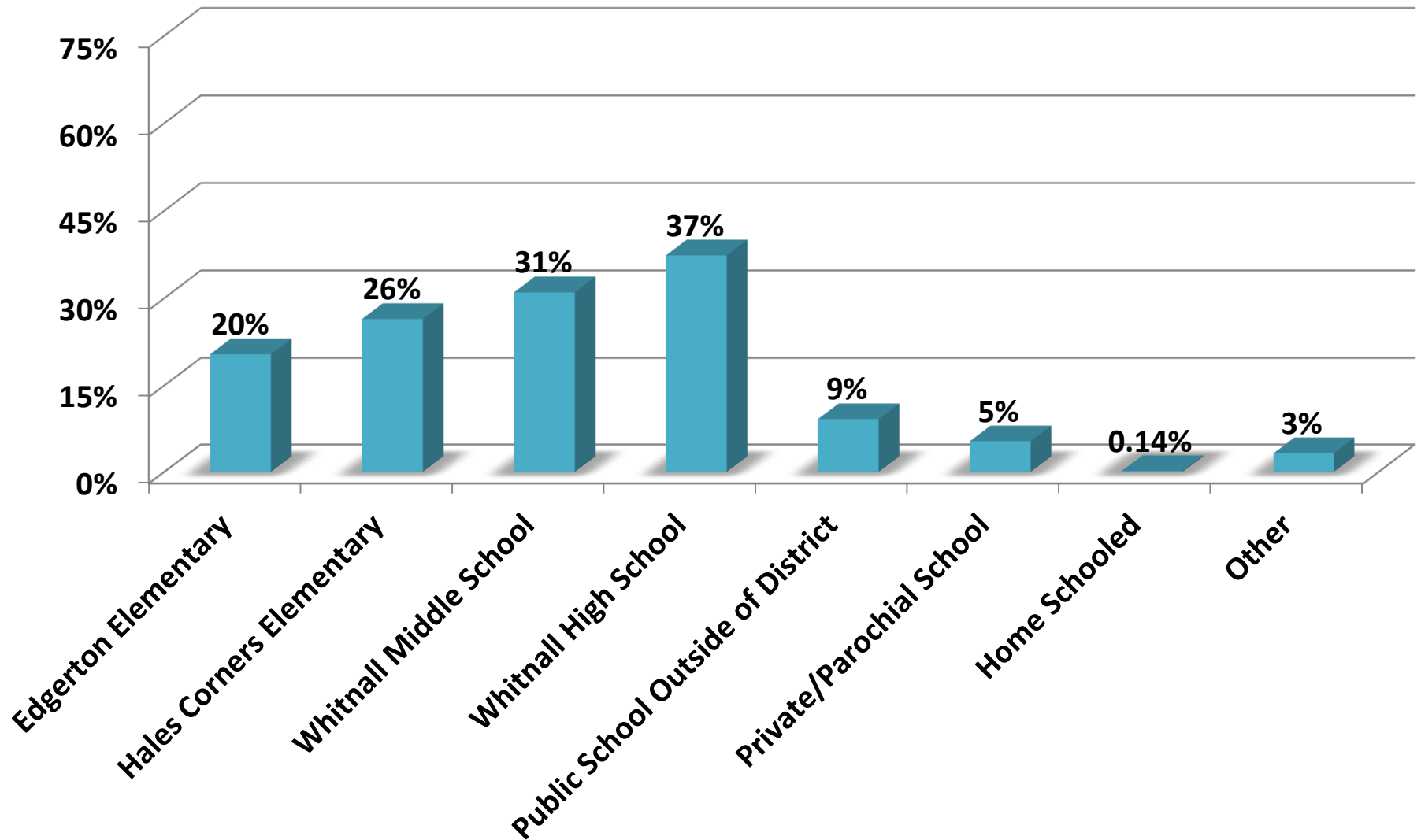
# Are you an employee of the Whitnall School District?



# Do you have school-age children?



# If "yes", which school(s) do your children attend?





# **Background Information**

Based on a recent Facility Condition Report created by Bray Architects, as well as community feedback, three areas of concern have been identified:

### **School Safety**

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Hales Corners Elementary lacks a properly secured and monitored building entrance. In addition, there is a need to modify vehicle and bus traffic flow to improve student and pedestrian safety at some of our schools.

### **Building Systems/Infrastructure**

While our buildings have been well-maintained, some major building systems, including heating, cooling, electrical and plumbing, are at the end of their service life. These older systems are less efficient and require ongoing repairs, and replacing them cannot be covered out of our annual operating budget.

### **Learning Spaces**

Teaching and learning has changed significantly in the past 70 years. As a result, our classrooms are not designed for the hands-on learning opportunities and small group activities that allow our students to explore and experiment. Additionally, some of these areas are difficult to access and do not meet current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) code requirements. Finally, our science, technology and engineering labs need updating, and outdated equipment needs replacing.

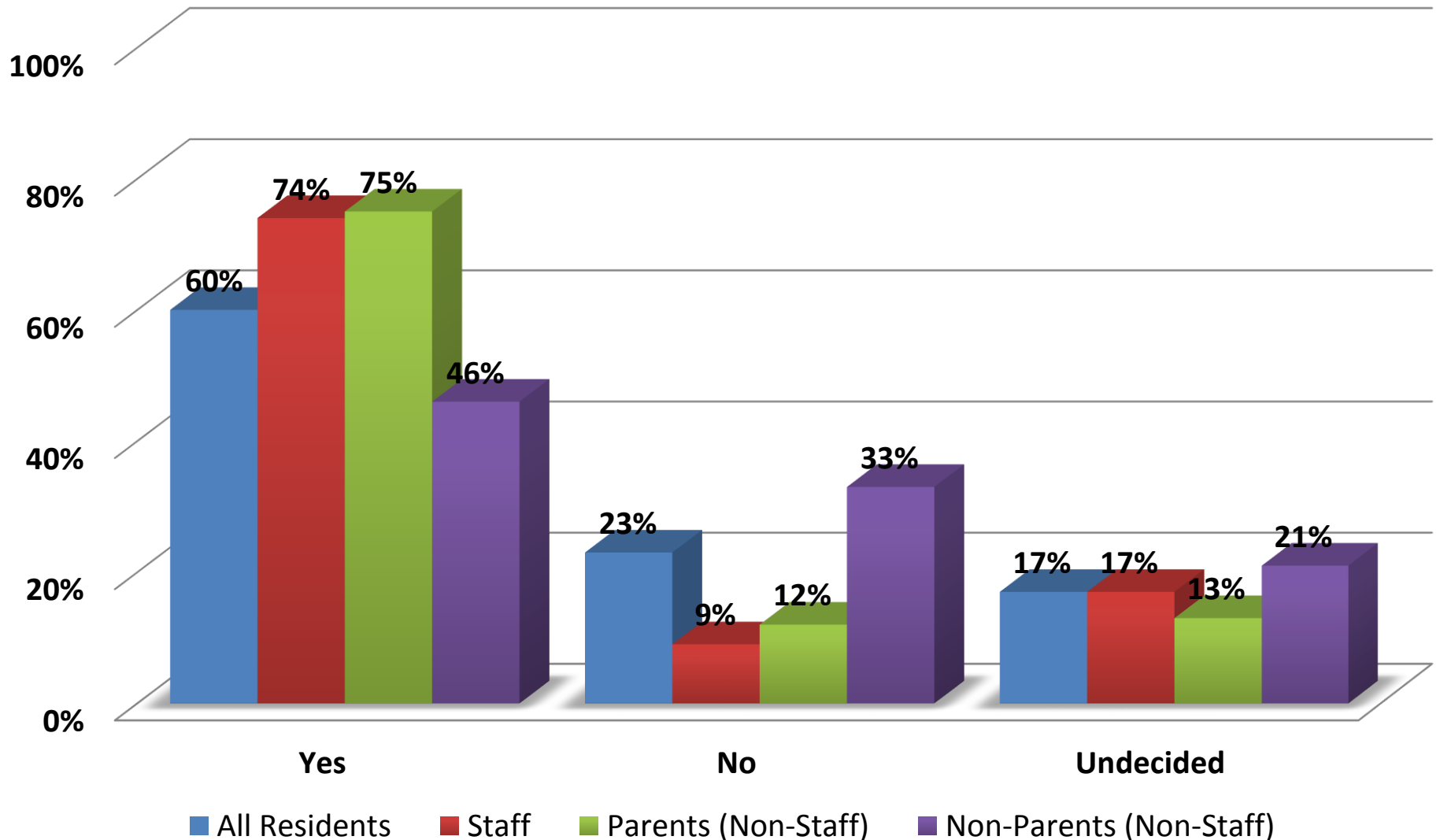
In 2017, the District was able to address the most pressing maintenance needs by using energy efficiency funding (ACT 32). Projects completed included:

- Replacing portions of the heating and mechanical systems at the high school
- Replacing the water heaters at the middle and high schools
- Retrofitting 65% of existing high school lighting with LED fixtures

The remaining projects cannot be funded through ACT 32 or out of the general operating budget without directly impacting instructional programs and services. **If the public chooses to address these needs, the primary way to obtain funding is through a referendum.**

# Would you support the District exploring a facilities referendum to update the schools at this time?

*(Residents Only)*



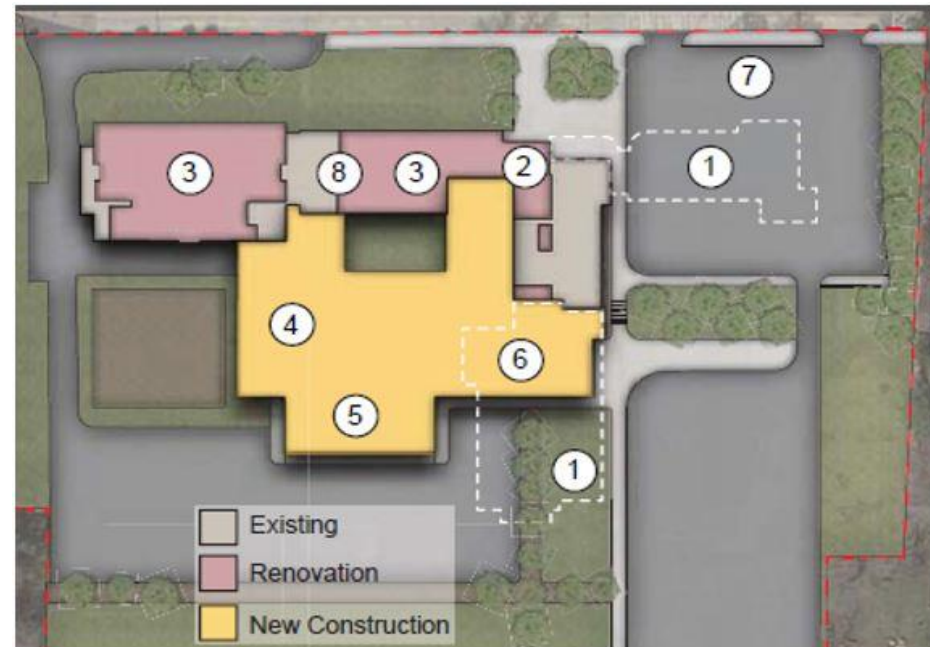
# **Hales Corners Elementary**

The original sections of Hales Corners Elementary (HCE) are the oldest of the District's four schools. Sections of the school are over 70 years old and are not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. These older sections of the school are more expensive to heat and maintain. Educationally, the school lacks the flexible learning and collaboration spaces found in current learning environments.

The following issues have been identified:

- There are seven different floor levels because the school has had multiple additions, creating accessibility challenges for handicapped students, staff and community members.
- The gym is too small to meet the needs of the physical education curriculum and for other large group presentations/performances.
- The existing library lacks flexible learning environments/furnishings.
- There are persistent student pick-up/drop-off issues, as well as limited parking.
- The heating system and boilers are well beyond their life expectancy.
- The current building layout makes it very difficult to monitor and control visitor access.

The image below depicts a concept of tearing down the oldest portions of the school and rebuilding classrooms and support areas on the current site. **The cost to address all of the items is \$17.2 million.** All ADA compliance issues will be addressed in renovated and newly constructed areas.



# What priority would you place on the following?

*High (3): Address in the first phase of any project*

*Medium (2): Important, but address in a future phase/project*

*Low (1): Not a priority, do not address in the near future*

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
(2) Enhance the security of the main entrance	2.40	2.56	2.56	2.26
(8) Update security and technology wiring/infrastructure, as well as mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems	2.40	2.61	2.57	2.25
(1) Demolition of 1948 and 1963 building sections and replace with new construction (see yellow areas above)	1.99	2.29	2.18	1.82
(3) Renovate general classrooms, including art and music	1.88	2.17	1.98	1.77
(6) Relocate/enhance cafeteria and kitchen	1.73	2.03	1.83	1.62
(4) Relocate/enhance kindergarten classrooms	1.73	2.18	1.81	1.62
(5) Relocate/enhance gym	1.75	2.18	1.92	1.59
(7) Create dedicated visitor parking and relocate playground	1.69	2.17	1.88	1.50

# **Edgerton Elementary**

Edgerton Elementary was built in 1966 with additions in 1991 and 2004.

While the school is generally in good condition, the following issues have been identified:

- The school lacks a dedicated cafeteria, resulting in lunch being served in the gym. This requires staff to set up and take down tables daily and creates scheduling challenges for physical education, performances and after-school programming.
- The restrooms and multi-purpose stage need updates to address ADA compliance issues.
- The gym is too small to meet the needs of the physical education curriculum and for other large group presentations/performances.
- Some windows are single pane glass and need replacement.
- The heating system, boiler and portions of the electrical systems are well beyond their life expectancy.
- The existing library lacks a flexible learning environment and furnishings.

The image below identifies potential areas of renovation, as well as new construction. **The cost to address all of the items is \$7.6 million.**





# What priority would you place on the following?

*High (3): Address in the first phase of any project*

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*Low (1): Not a priority, do not address in the near future*

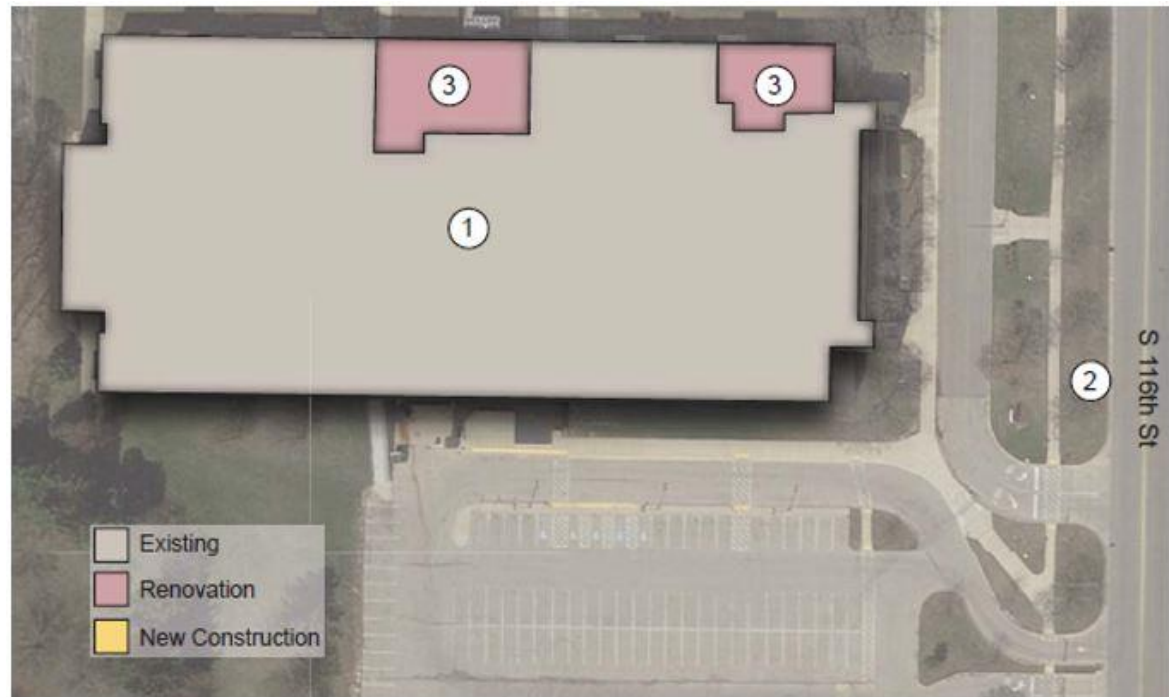
Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
(4) Update security and technology wiring/infrastructure, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems/fixtures, as well as address ADA compliance issues	2.39	2.34	2.57	2.27
(6) Update restrooms and classrooms to create ADA compliant space	2.13	2.22	2.27	2.01
(3) Create a dedicated cafeteria	1.85	1.89	2.02	1.72
(1) Add a dedicated gym	1.79	1.96	1.98	1.62
(2) Renovate library	1.66	1.59	1.75	1.60
(5) Relocate playground	1.35	1.29	1.44	1.29

# **Whitnall Middle School**

Whitnall Middle School was built in 1968 with additions in 1993 and 2009. While the school is generally in good condition, the following issues have been identified:

- Some of the school's interior finishes, including ceiling tiles, cabinetry and flooring, need replacement.
- Existing career and technical education spaces need updating to support emerging curriculum in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- The restrooms need updating to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.
- Concerns with vehicular traffic flow exist along South 116th Street.

The image below identifies potential areas of renovation. **The cost to address all of the items is \$3.4 million.**



# What priority would you place on the following?

*High (3): Address in the first phase of any project*

*Medium (2): Important, but address in a future phase/project*

*Low (1): Not a priority, do not address in the near future*

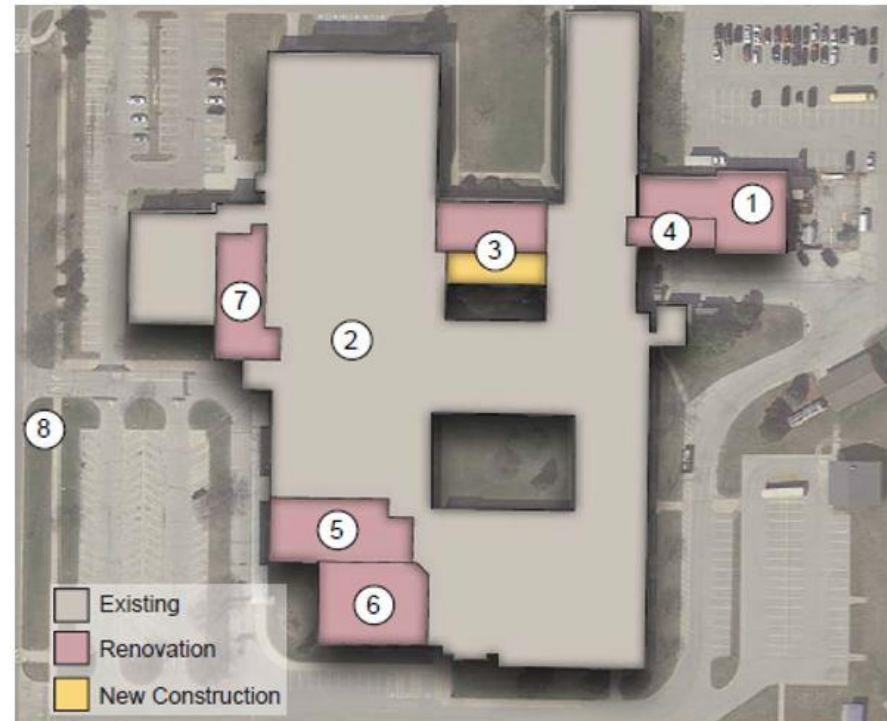
Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
(1) Update security and technology infrastructure, as well as mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems	2.34	2.15	2.53	2.21
(3) Renovate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) areas to better support curriculum	2.10	2.17	2.24	1.97
(2) Modify traffic and pedestrian flow to improve safety	1.91	2.23	2.24	1.61

# **Whitnall High School**

Whitnall High School was built in 1958 with additions in 1963, 1966, 1995 and 1999. The following issues have been identified at the high school:

- The school lacks adequate space and equipment for the technology education (shop) program.
- Currently, all students and visitors enter the swimming pool through the boys' and girls' locker rooms, which creates safety and security concerns.
- The pool is used for physical education, and the liner is leaking and needs replacement.
- The band and choir rooms lack proper acoustics, storage space and have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance concerns.
- The school lacks adequate special education classrooms and support areas.
- The existing library lacks flexible learning environments/furnishings.
- The cafeteria is small, requiring students to be served over 3 periods, creating scheduling challenges.
- The restrooms need updates to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.
- The site does not drain properly at the interior courtyard, resulting in water infiltration problems.
- Air conditioning is needed in the gym, and heating/ventilation components need replacement.

The image below identifies potential areas of renovation, as well as new construction. **The cost to address all of the items is \$16.3 million.** All ADA compliance issues will be addressed in renovated and newly constructed areas.



# What priority would you place on the following?

*High (3): Address in the first phase of any project*

*Medium (2): Important, but address in a future phase/project*

*Low (1): Not a priority, do not address in the near future*

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
(2) Update security and technology infrastructure, as well as mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems	2.39	2.29	2.60	2.23
(1) Renovate Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) areas to better support curriculum	2.16	2.30	2.33	2.01
(7) Renovate the pool locker rooms, create a dedicated pool entrance and replace pool liner (Only if a new pool is not built)	2.07	2.44	2.31	1.83
(4) Renovate special education spaces	1.86	2.03	2.00	1.74
(9) Add air conditioning to the gym	1.99	2.15	2.33	1.71
(5) Update music and fine arts classrooms	1.74	1.89	1.84	1.63
(8) Modify traffic and pedestrian flow to improve safety	1.84	2.08	2.15	1.57
(3) Renovate/expand cafeteria	1.70	1.84	1.90	1.53
(6) Renovate the library	1.60	1.52	1.72	1.52

# **Funding Support**



Voters would need to approve a referendum to pay for major renovations and facility upgrades. **The cost to complete all of the projects in the District’s master plan and included in this survey is \$44.5 million.** We realize that given the cost, *it is not realistic to complete all of these projects at one time.* Therefore, we will have to complete the projects in phases based on the priorities of the community and its willingness to financially support them.

The following table shows tax increases for various referendum amounts. The District would like to know your level of support should they consider a referendum in the future.

Referendum amount	\$15 Million	\$20 Million	\$25 Million	\$30 Million
Increase per \$100,000 of property value for the next 20 years	\$37 per year (\$3.08/month)	\$65 per year (\$5.42/month)	\$97 per year (\$8.08/month)	\$127 per year (\$10.58/month)

# What tax increase, if any, would you support assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?



# **Additional Project: Swimming Pool**

A referendum to update the schools could be expanded to include a swimming pool. The current high school is 50 years old, and the pool is in need of a significant investment. Some people question if this is a good time to consider replacing the pool. Because of the limited pool size and depth, the District cannot host any swim meets or WIAA events. The District could:

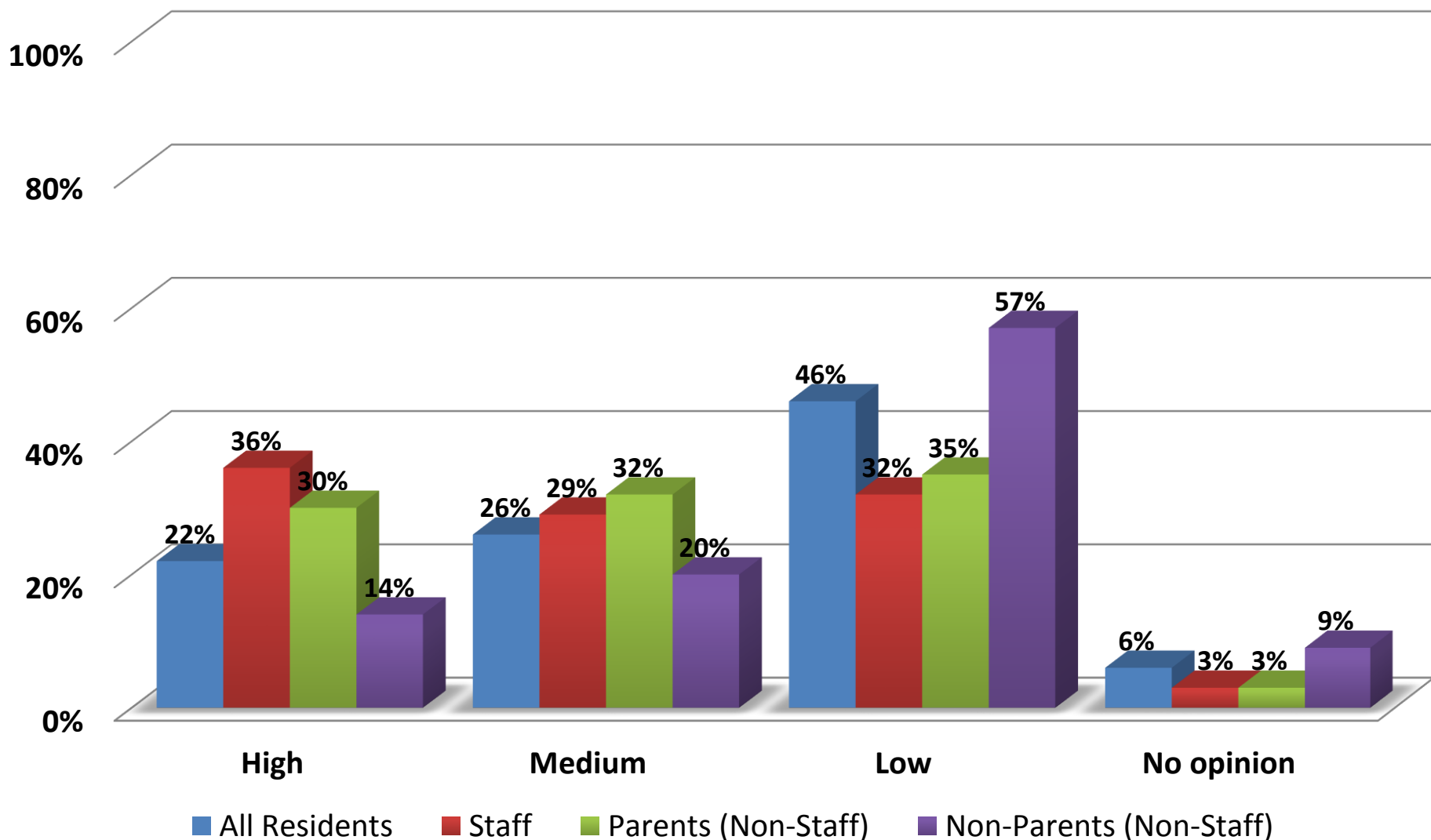
**Build a new pool at an estimated cost of \$7.8 million**, which would:

- Build an 8-lane, 25-meter pool with diving well
- Provide dedicated/separate spectator and team seating
- Provide dedicated/controlled community access to the pool

*The tax increase of the project in today's dollars is estimated at \$45 for each \$100,000 of a home's value for each of the next 20 years, which is proportionally higher than that for a next phase of the facility master plan, due to the effect of the borrowing in the state aid formula.*

# What priority would you place on building a new swimming pool?

*(Residents Only)*



**Thank you!**