

Maple River School District Community Survey Results

Summer 2019

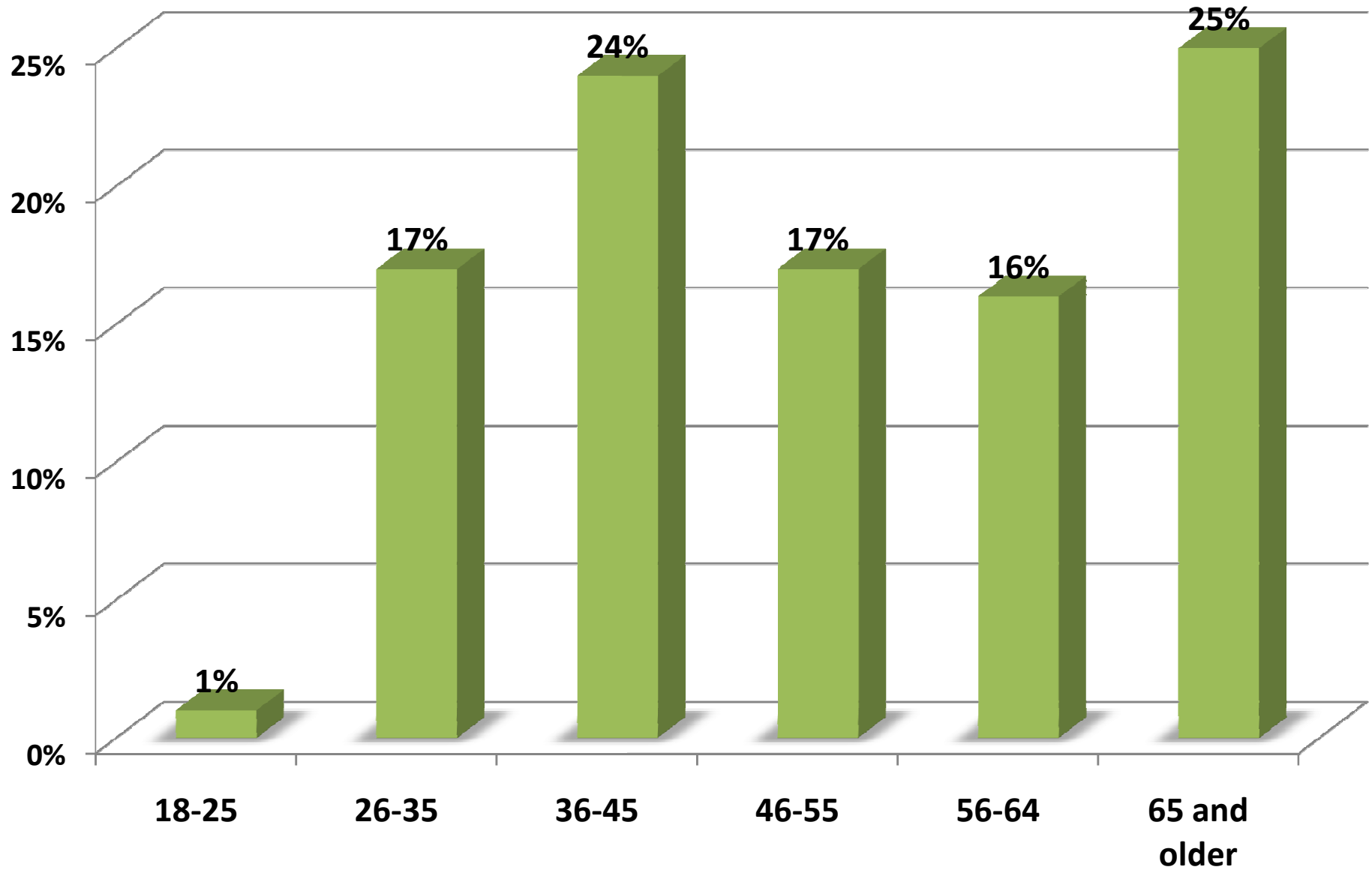


Survey Summary

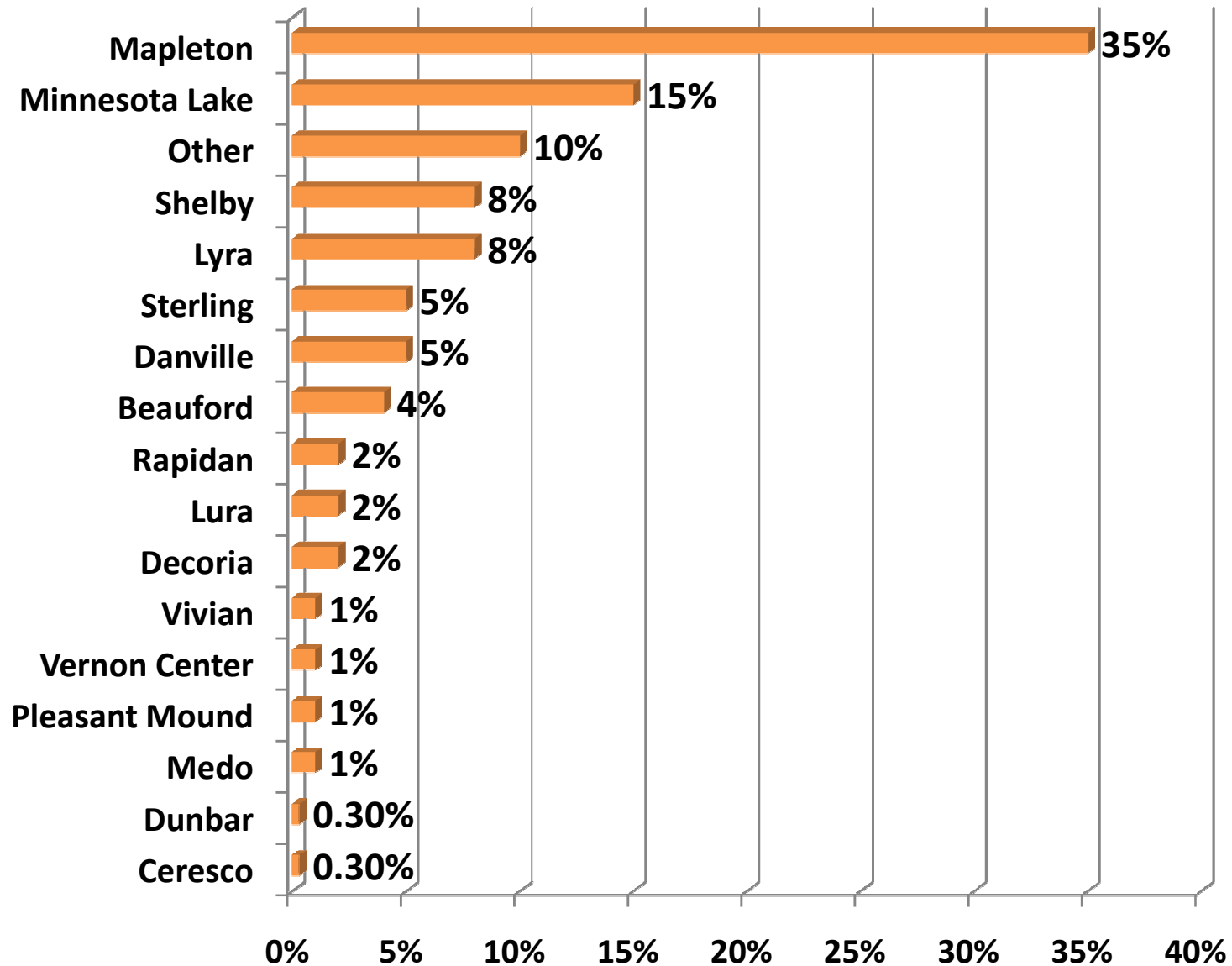
- The survey was conducted in mid-June through early July of 2019.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 648 (227 paper)
- Participation rate = 26%
- Margin of error = 3.9%

Respondent Information

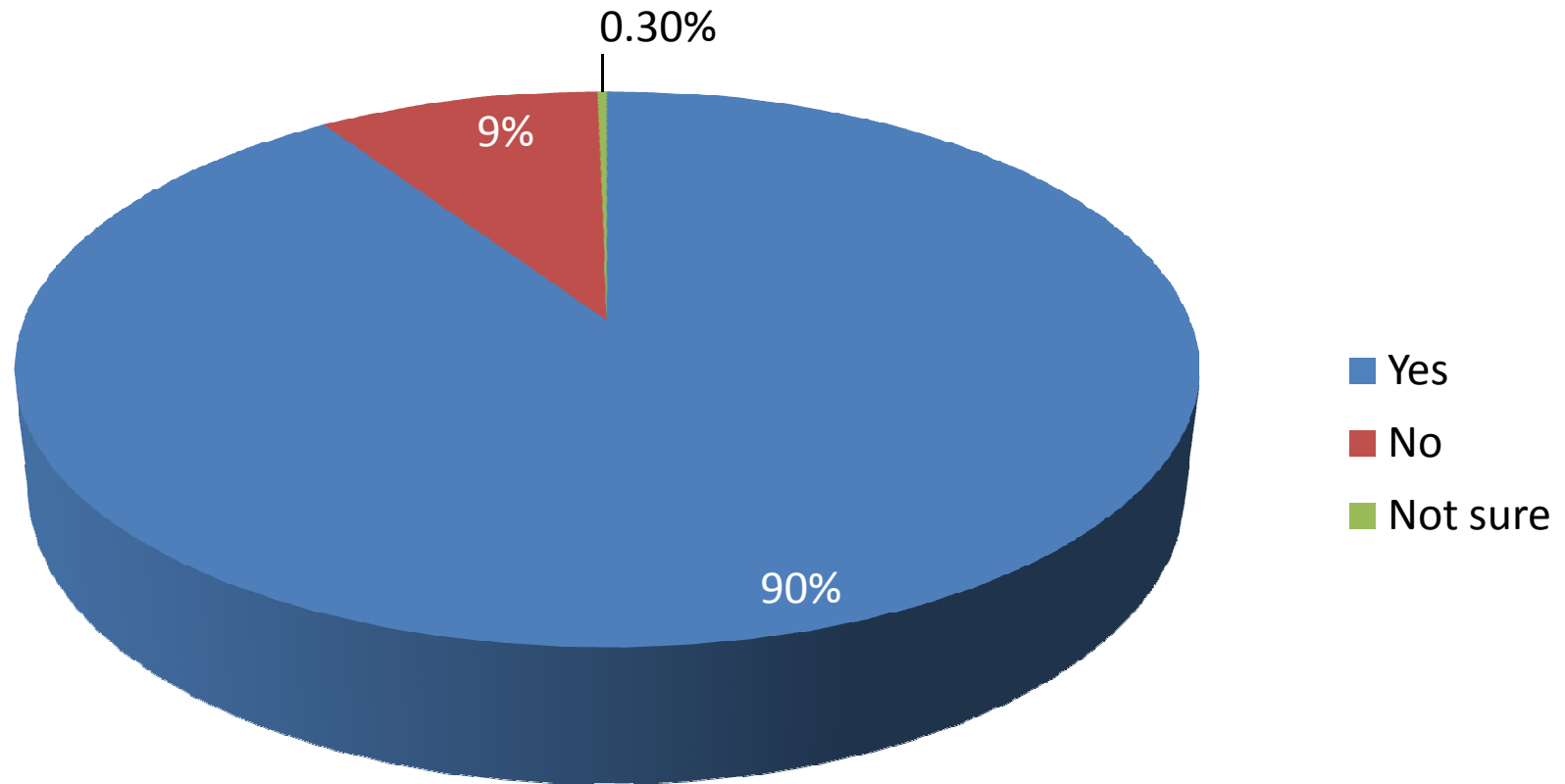
What is your age?



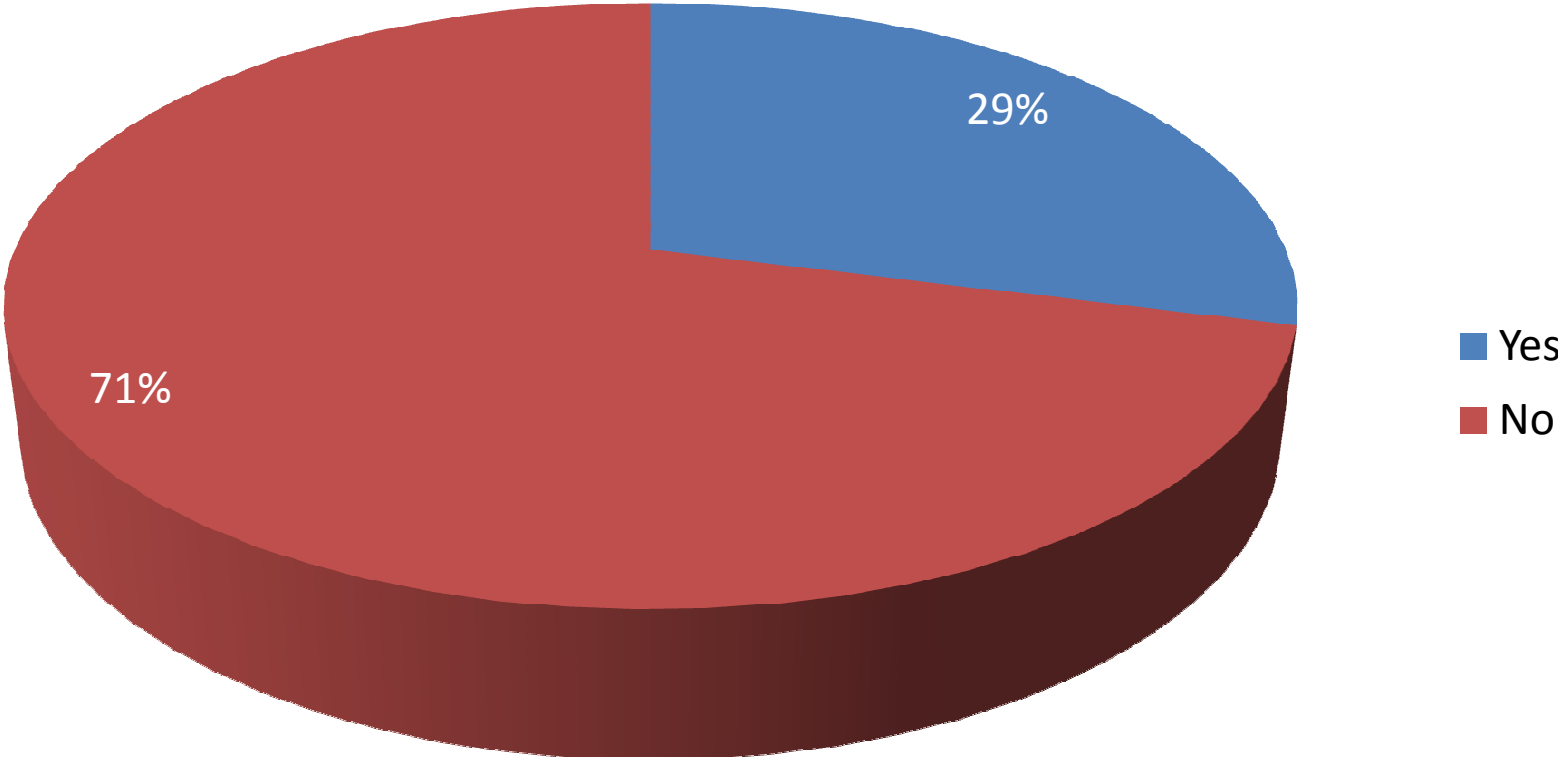
In which municipality or township do you reside?



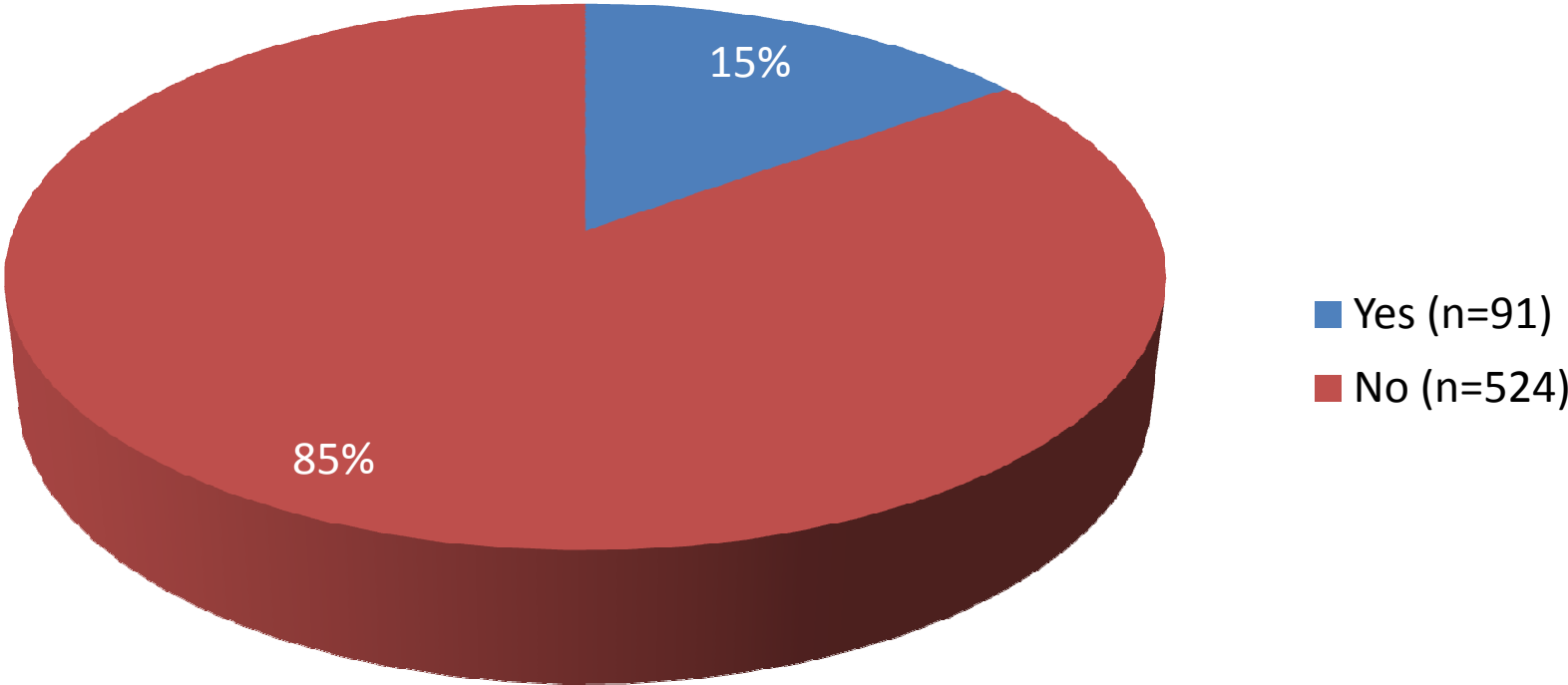
Is your primary residence in the Maple River School District?



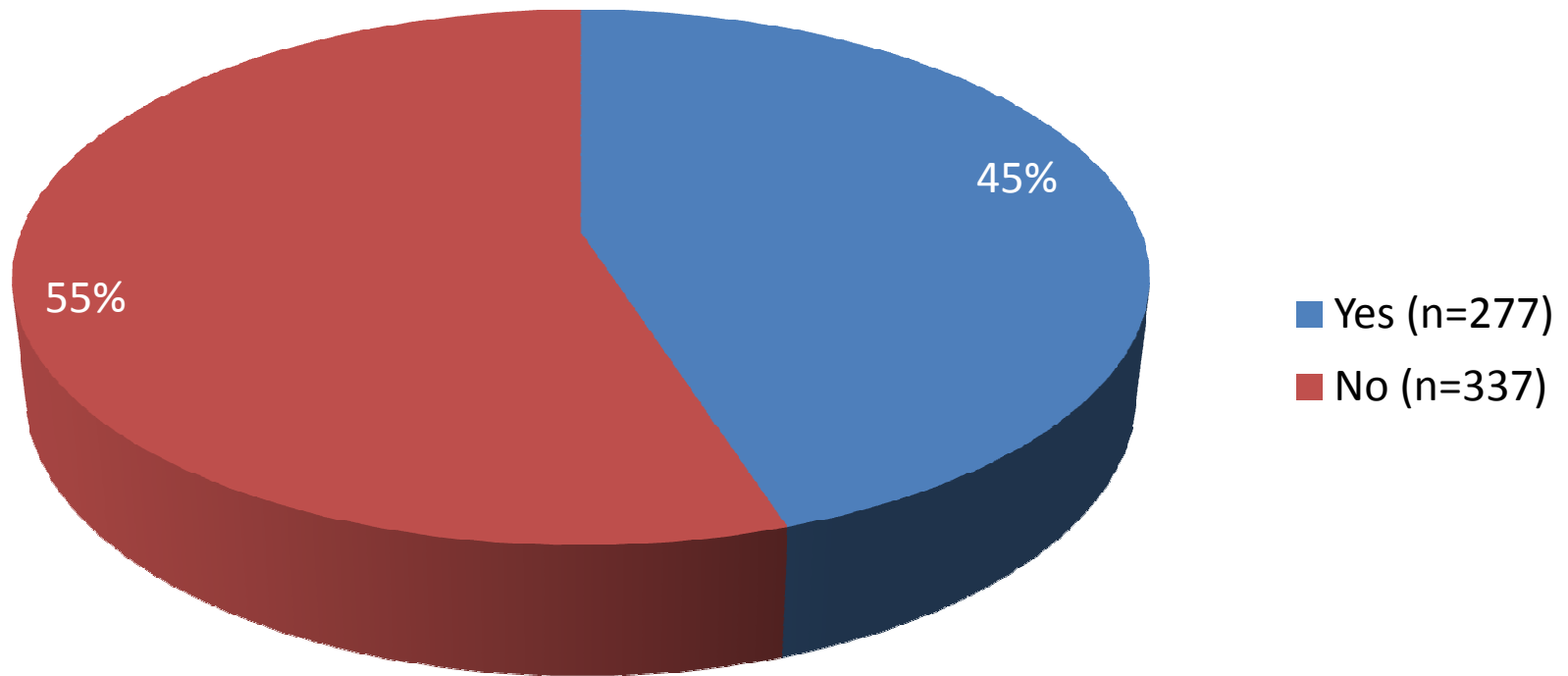
Do you own property within the District that is taxed as agricultural land?



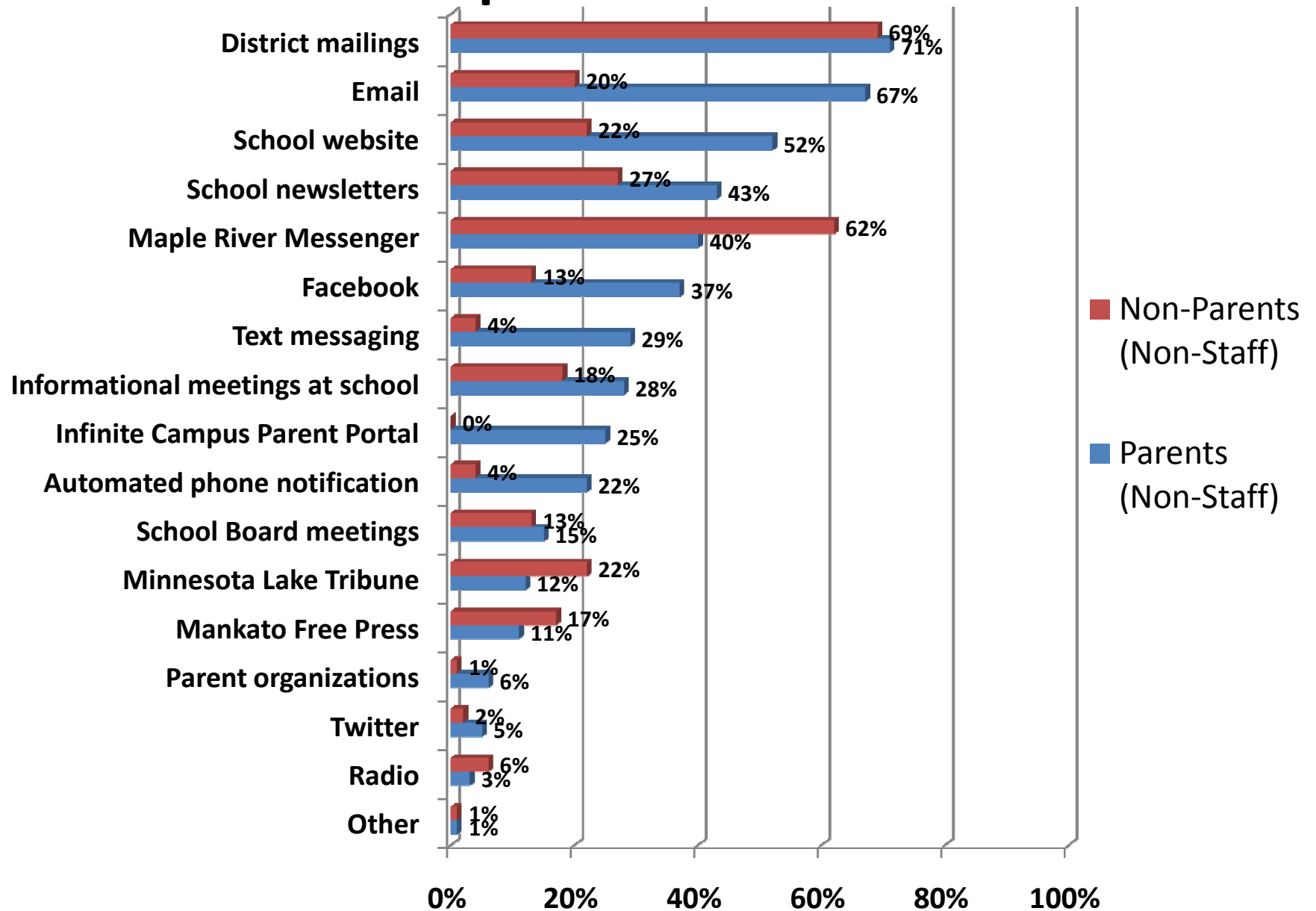
Are you an employee of the Maple River Schools?



Do you have children attending the Maple River Schools?



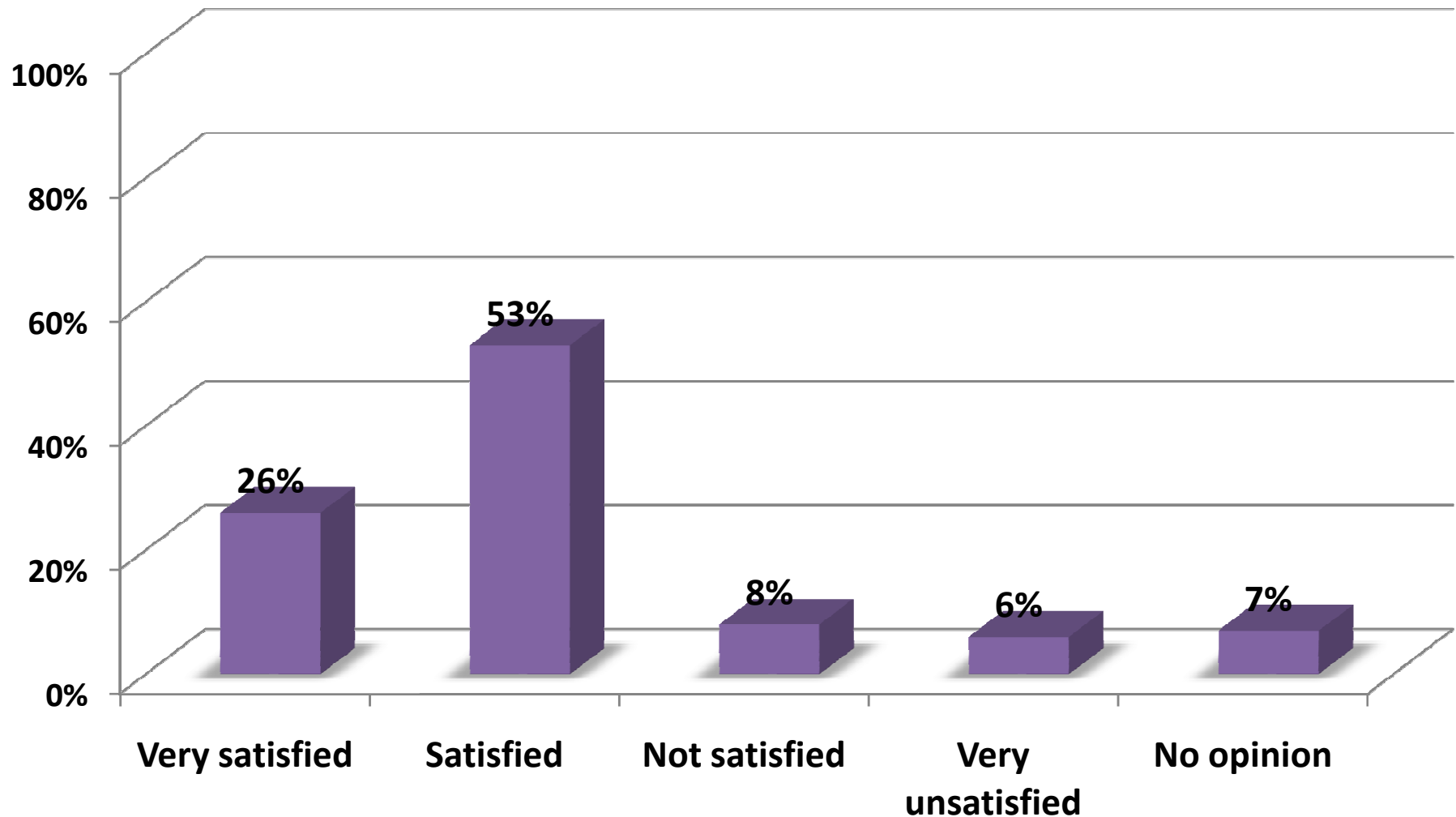
How would you like to receive information regarding the Maple River Schools?



Overall Satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied are you with the Maple River Schools?

(All Respondents)



Referendum Feedback

If you voted “No” for any of the three facility bond referenda, why?

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
Too expensive/felt the tax impact was too large	69%	40%	53%	79%
Lacked trust in the District’s planning process	51%	60%	37%	58%
Felt the current schools could be remodeled	45%	0%	35%	54%
Did not support closing a school	35%	0%	29%	41%
Concerned the current Ag2School Property Tax Relief Bill will be overturned	31%	10%	31%	33%
Lacked information regarding what was being proposed	25%	10%	15%	32%
Wanted to see a more detailed plan (blueprint)	25%	0%	22%	28%
I will never vote “yes” on any school building referendum	16%	0%	12%	19%
Other	16%	40%	23%	11%

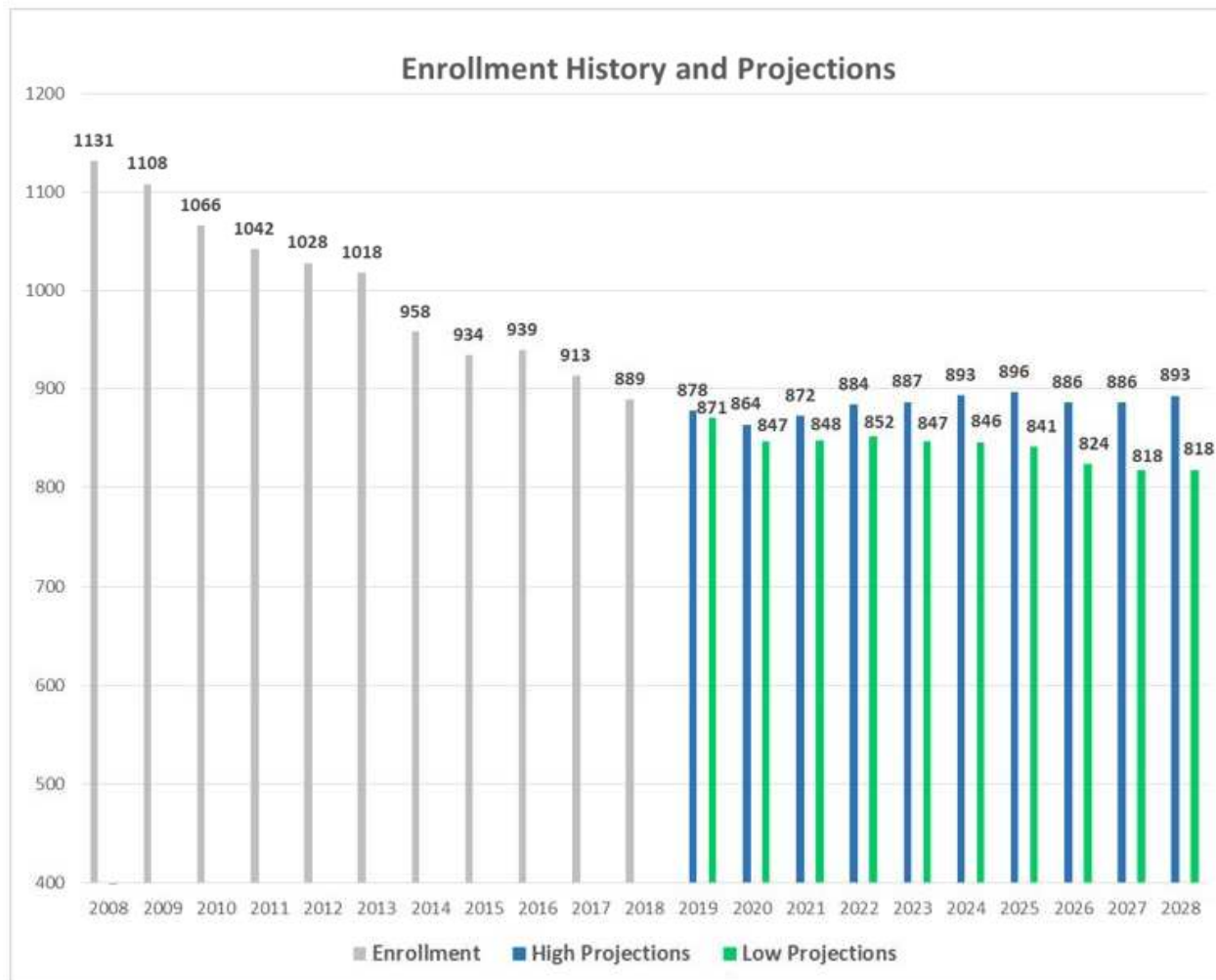
Facility Planning Background

Declining Student Enrollment

The District hired a demographer, a research group to provide K-12th grade enrollment projections.

Key findings of the study included:

- Since 2008, the district's enrollment has decreased by more than 21%.
- **Over the next 10 years, the enrollment decline is projected to stabilize.**



Inefficient Staffing

Because the number of students in each grade level at each elementary school can vary significantly, additional sections (classes) are sometimes needed. As a result, the District must use more teachers per grade level than are needed. Additionally, some staff members including the counselor, school nurse, psychologist and social worker are required to travel back and forth between the schools. This increases expenses and reduces the amount of time spent working with students.

Too Many Schools

Closing one or more schools would improve staff and program efficiencies, increase staff time with students and reduce duplication of resources. This would also lower operating costs by having fewer buildings to maintain, heat, clean and operate. This would help the District balance the budget as well as reduce future cuts to programs and services.

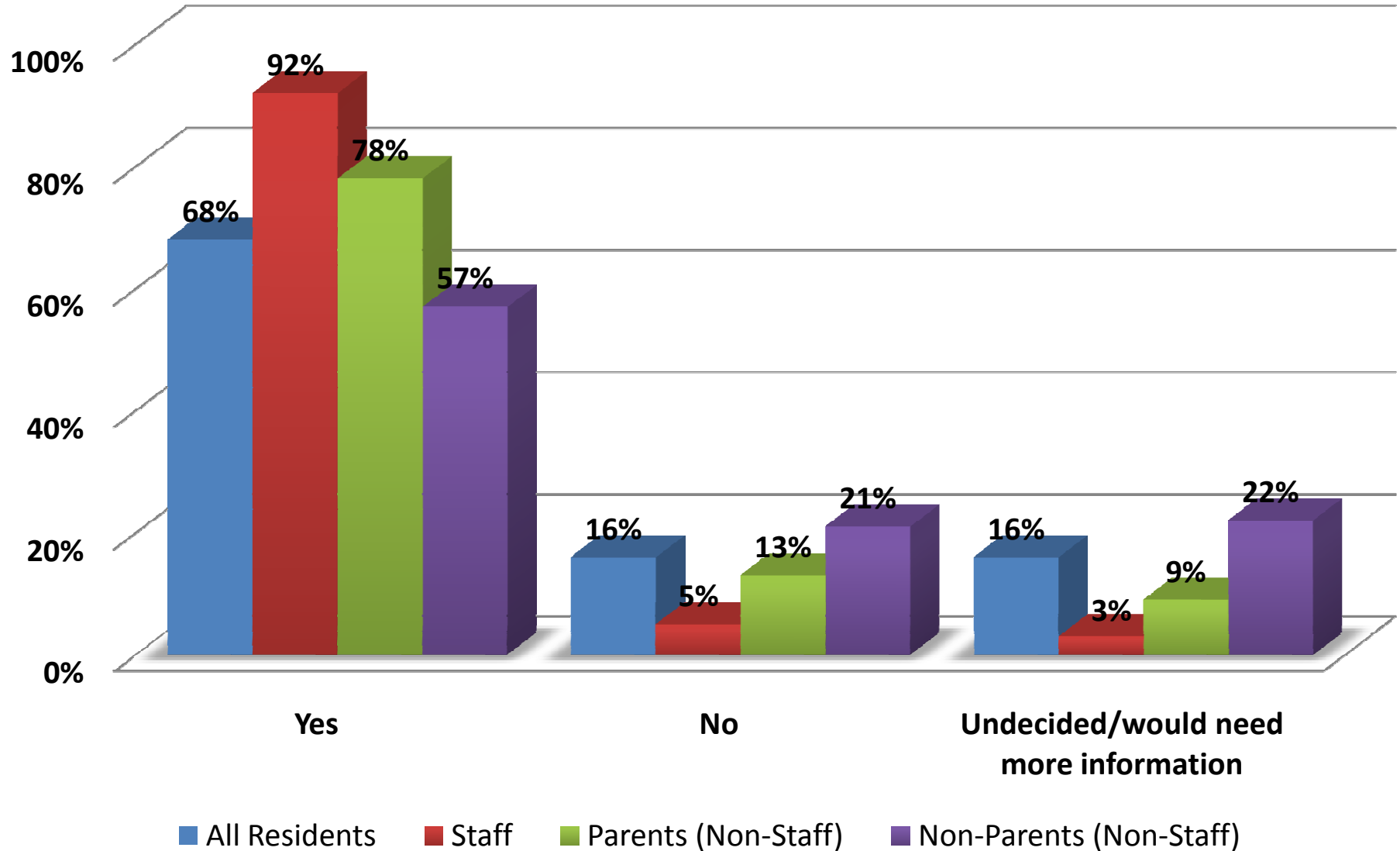
Aging Buildings

According to multiple facility studies, many of the schools' major building systems have exceeded their useful life, resulting in inefficiencies and ongoing costly repairs. There is a need to update/replace air handling units, controls, ventilators, roofs, windows, plumbing fixtures/systems, lighting and electrical systems. In addition, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance upgrades and safety and security enhancements are needed. **Completing just these updates is estimated at over \$32 million and would not renovate any classrooms and other learning spaces.**

The School Board has concluded that investing in all three schools does not make good financial sense given current and future student enrollment as well as the cost of updates needed. Therefore, we are at a crossroads and need to make a decision if, and how, to make an investment in our schools.

Do you support the District closing one or more schools?

(Maple River School District Residents Only)



What are the Options?

Based on the tax impacts shown on the following chart, do you support the District exploring...

Yes (10), No (1)

Item	All Residents	Staff Residents	Parent Residents (Non-Staff)	Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff)
OPTION 4? Build a PK-12th grade school to serve all students PK-12th grade <i>Estimated cost: \$63.3 million</i>	6.96	10.00	7.99	5.30
OPTION 1? Build a PK-8th grade school Address the most pressing building projects at Mapleton to serve students in 9th-12th grade <i>Estimated cost: \$47.2 million</i>	3.47	4.06	4.34	2.59
OPTION 2? Build a 9th-12th grade high school Address the most pressing building projects at Mapleton to serve all District students in PK-8th grade <i>Estimated cost: \$50.8 million</i>	3.30	3.93	4.08	2.51
OPTION 3? Repair/remodel and expand the Mapleton School to serve all students PK-12th grade <i>While this option is feasible, remodeling options are very limited due to the small site size and would eliminate nearly all green space.</i> <i>Estimated cost: \$55.3 million</i>	2.35	1.57	2.42	2.44

Funding Support

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value			Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
				\$47.2 million	\$50.8 million	\$55.3 million	\$63.3 million
Residential Homestead	\$50,000			\$72	\$77	\$84	\$96
	\$75,000			\$108	\$116	\$126	\$144
	\$100,000			\$172	\$185	\$201	\$230
	\$150,000			\$302	\$325	\$354	\$405
	\$200,000			\$433	\$466	\$507	\$580
Commercial/Industrial	\$100,000			\$359	\$386	\$421	\$482
	\$500,000			\$2,214	\$2,383	\$2,594	\$2,970
Ag Homestead*# (average value per acre of land and buildings)	\$/acre	Pay Year	% Ag. Credit				
	\$6,000	2021	55%	\$3.23	\$3.48	\$3.79	\$4.33
	\$6,000	2022	60%	\$2.87	\$3.09	\$3.37	\$3.85
	\$6,000	2023 and beyond	70%	\$2.15	\$2.32	\$2.52	\$2.89
	\$8,000	2021	55%	\$4.31	\$4.64	\$5.05	\$5.78
	\$8,000	2022	60%	\$3.83	\$4.12	\$4.49	\$5.14
	\$8,000	2023 and beyond	70%	\$2.87	\$3.09	\$3.37	\$3.85
Ag Non-Homestead* (average value per acre of land and buildings)	\$6,000	2021	55%	\$6.46	\$6.96	\$7.57	\$8.67
	\$6,000	2022	60%	\$5.75	\$6.18	\$6.73	\$7.70
	\$6,000	2023 and beyond	70%	\$4.31	\$4.64	\$5.05	\$5.78
	\$8,000	2021	55%	\$8.62	\$9.28	\$10.10	\$11.56
	\$8,000	2022	60%	\$7.66	\$8.24	\$8.97	\$10.27
	\$8,000	2023 and beyond	70%	\$5.75	\$6.18	\$6.73	\$7.70

*Ag2School Property Tax Relief Bill: Legislation passed in May 2019 expanding the Ag2school credit. This credit reduces the property taxes paid on agricultural land for bond indebtedness for school improvements by 50% in 2020, 55% in 2021, 60% in 2022 and 70% for taxes payable in 2023 and beyond.

Read more at: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/ff0ef859-f36d-49a0-bd42-dcf861e1553c.pdf>

*Homestead examples exclude the house, garage, and one acre, which has the same tax impact as a residential homestead.

Tax impacts assume a 30 year borrow.

New School Location

Three options involve building a school which would require the District to purchase land.

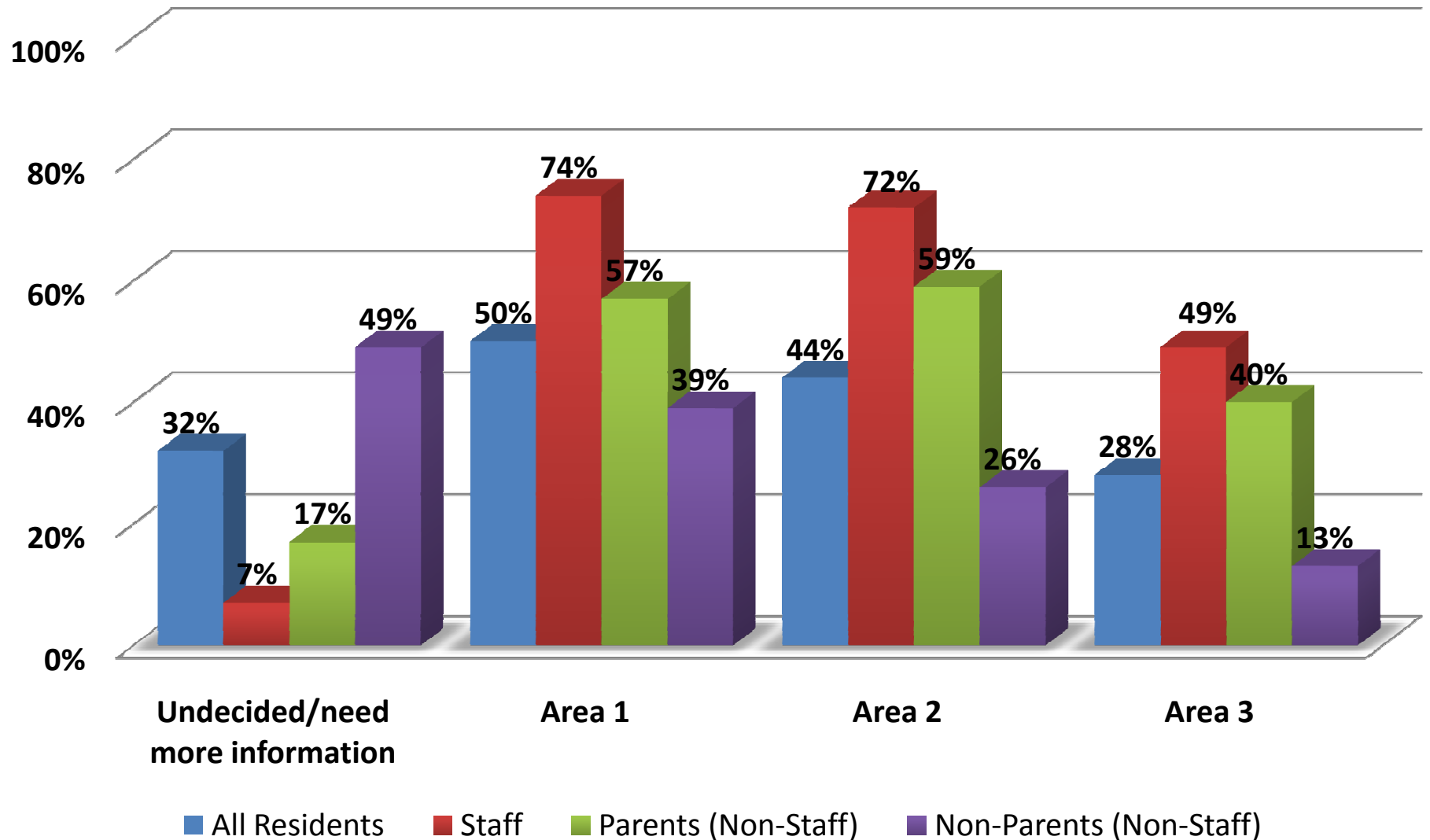
The District has not, and will not, commit to purchasing any property until the long-range facility plan has been finalized.

If the community supports building a new school, the Board is looking for your input in terms of the best area to search for land, based on the map to the right.



If a new school was built, please select ALL new areas that you would support:

(Maple River School District Residents Only)



Thank you!