



# Dickinson Public Schools

Community Survey Report

June 19, 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

# Dickinson's Community Survey Process



Households within the District were mailed a paper survey.  
Respondents could:

**1)** Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions

or

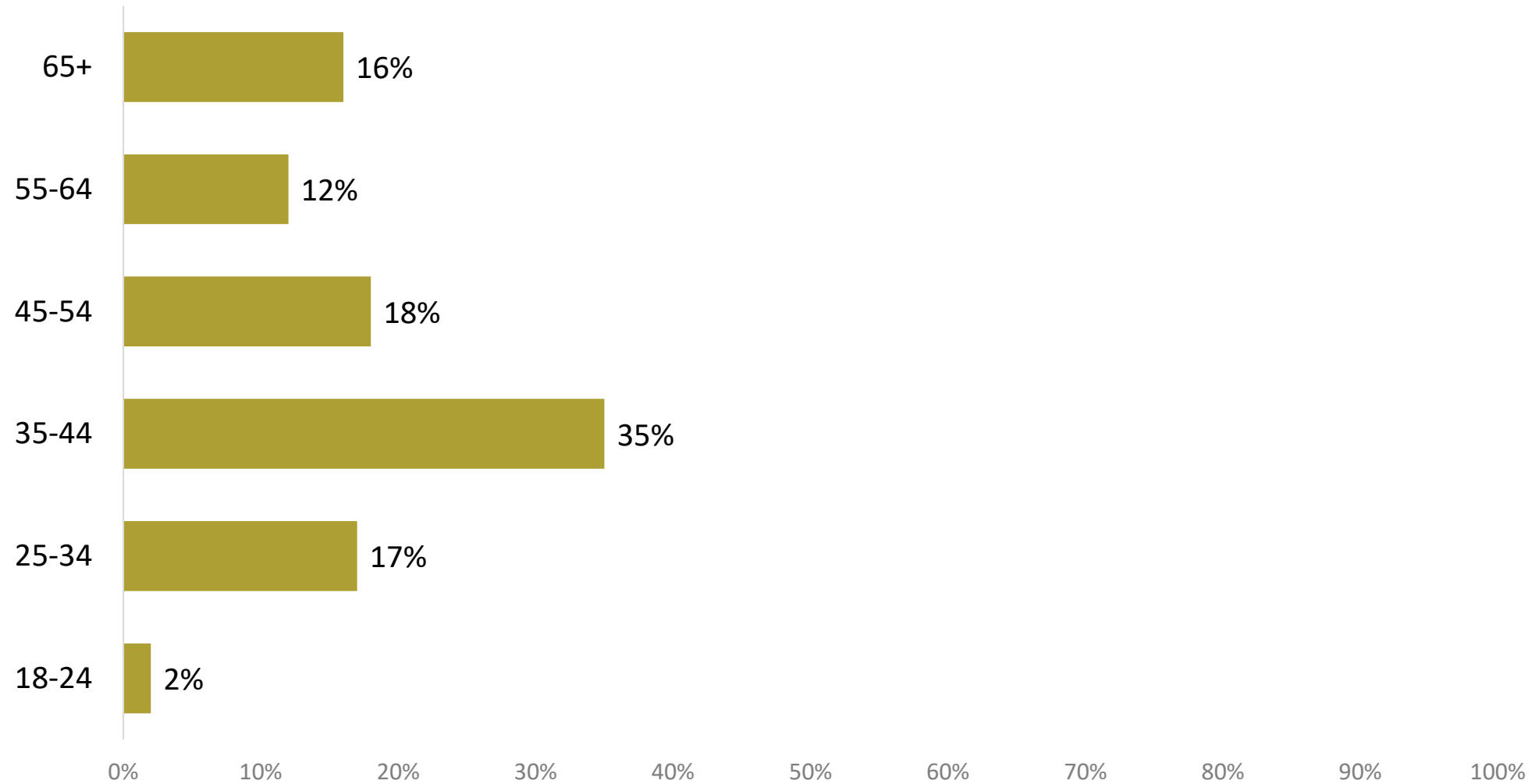
**2)** Take the survey online with a one-time-use code

# Survey Information

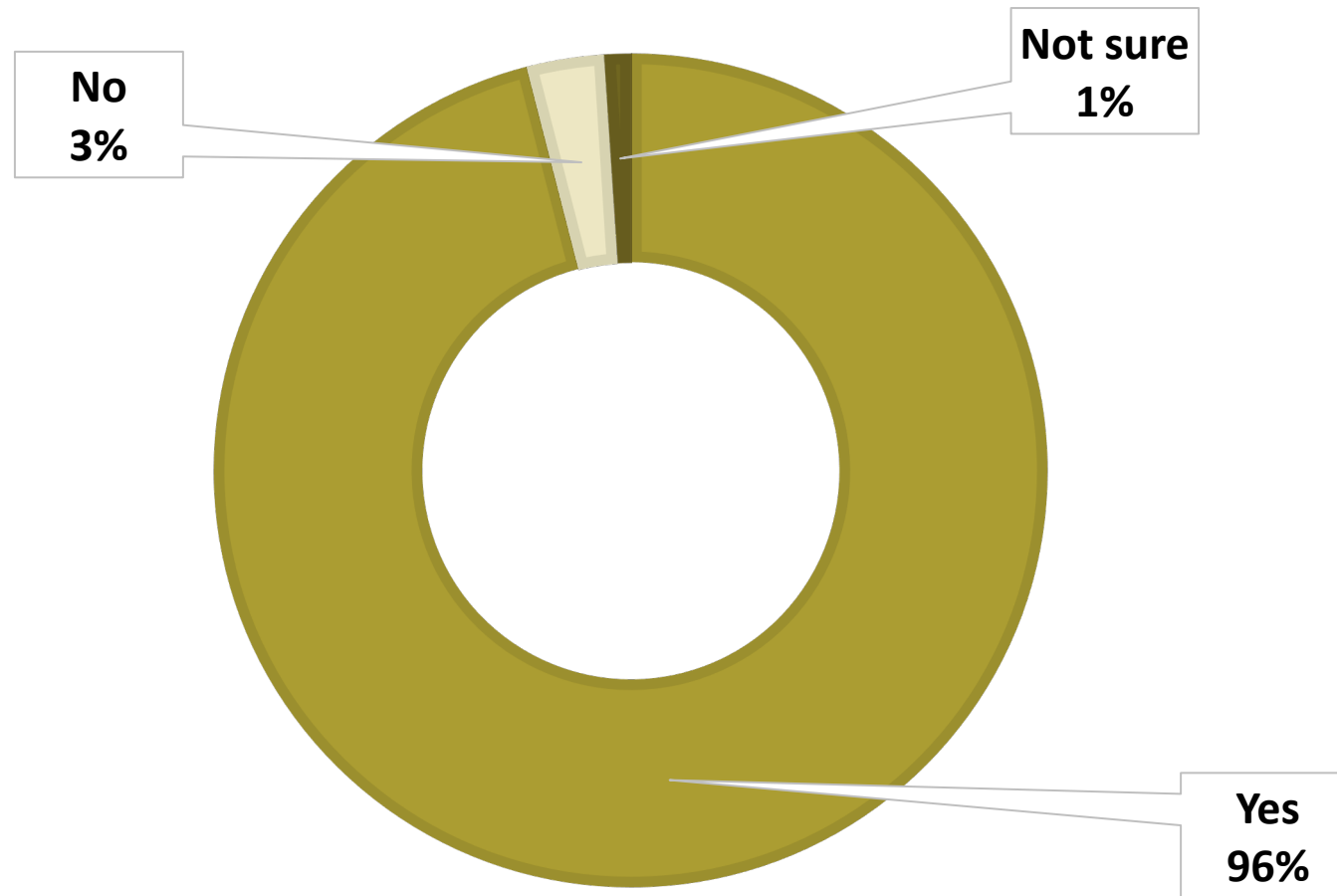
- **May 22, 2023** survey deadline
- **1,501** total respondents
- **+/- 2.6%** margin of error



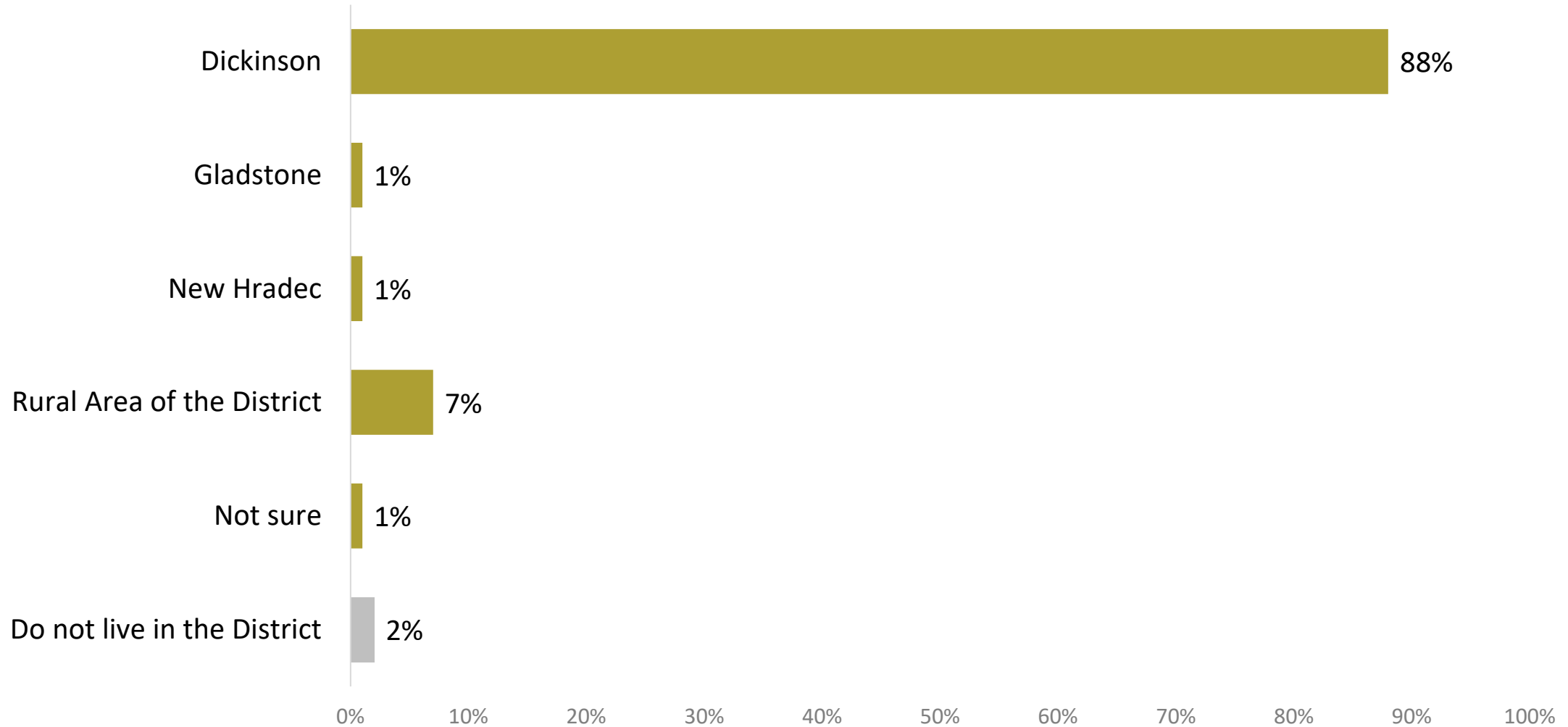
# What is your age?



# Is your primary residence in the District?



# In which municipality do you live?

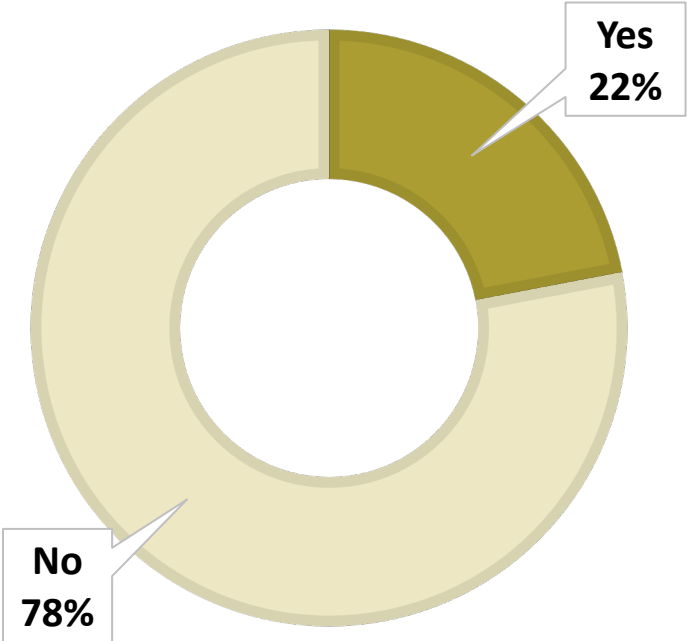




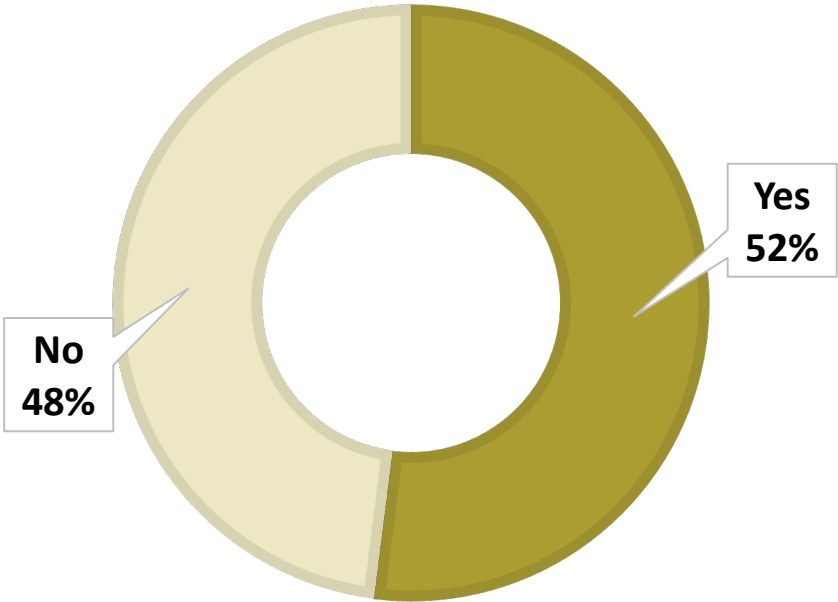
# Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the Dickinson Public Schools?



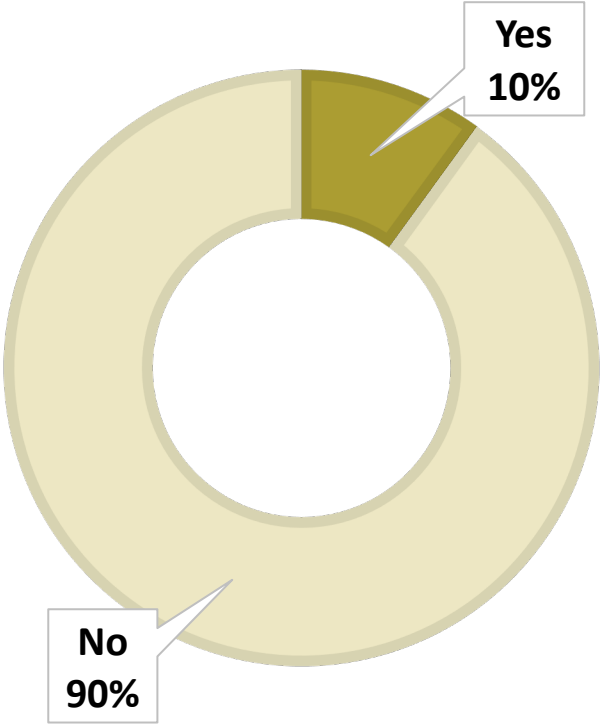
Do you have children attending a school in the District?



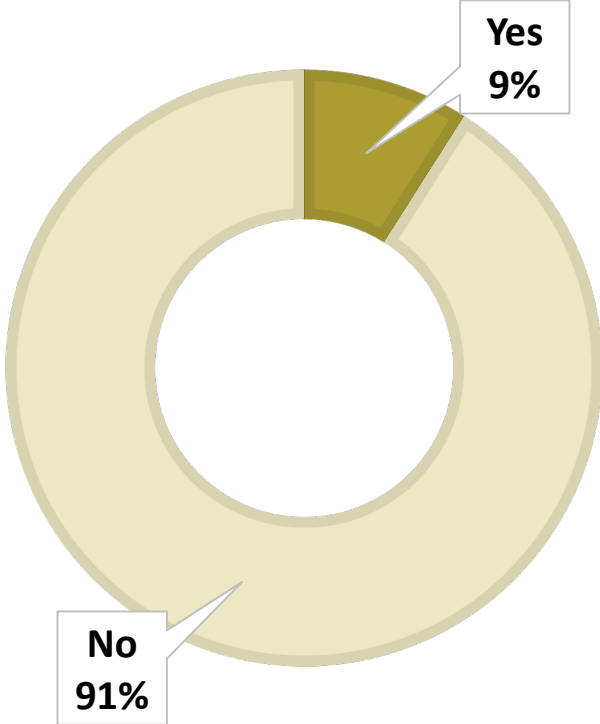
# Respondent Information



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

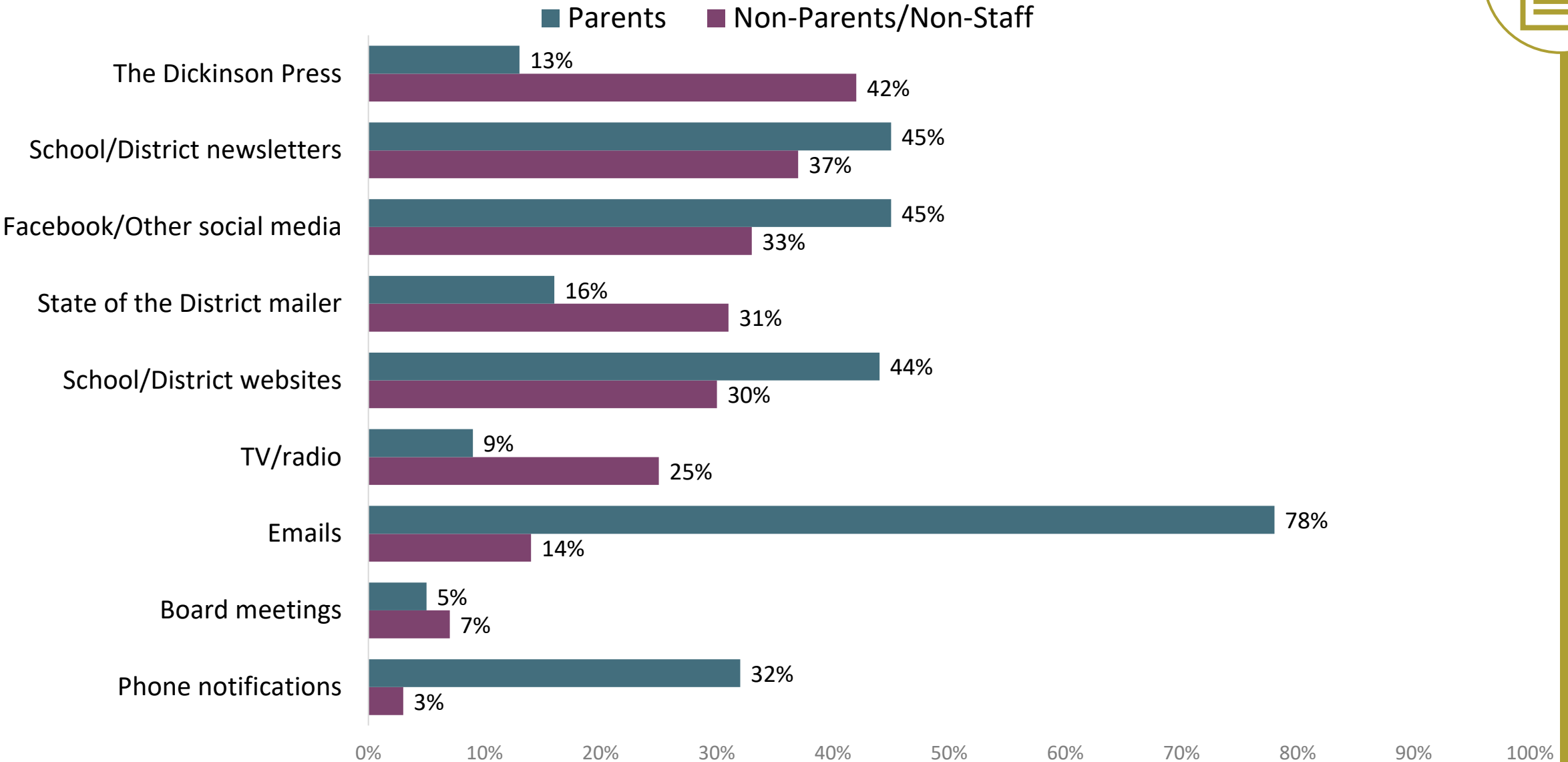


Do you own property within the District that is taxed as commercial land?



# How do you like to receive school/District information?

*(Mark all that apply.)*





# Results & Analysis

# Facility Background



The most pressing needs are at the high school.

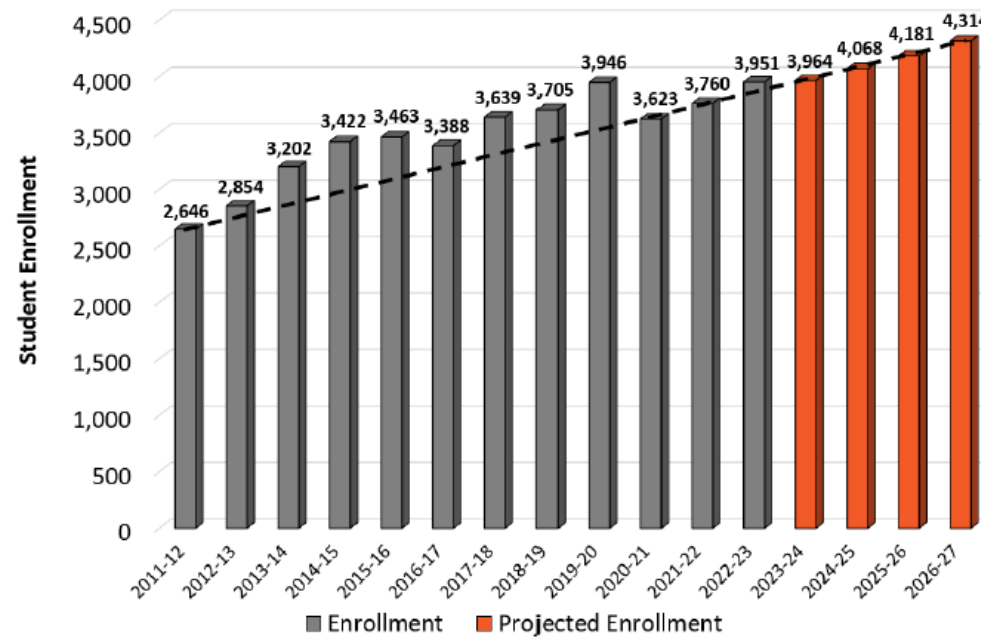
## Out of Space

- Our high school is expected to be over capacity next school year (2023-24).
- Incoming classes are larger than graduating classes.

## Failing Building Systems

- Fire alarm system is outdated/failing, and fire protection systems do not meet codes.
- Heating, cooling, and exhaust systems are failing.
- Electrical panels/distribution systems need to be updated.
- A secure, main entrance needs to be created to improve safety.
- Restrooms need to be renovated.
- Many areas do not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) codes.
- The roof leaks in multiple areas.

Total Student Enrollment  
Actual & Projected



# Facility Background (cont'd)



**In addition to the high school, updates are needed at the elementary level.**

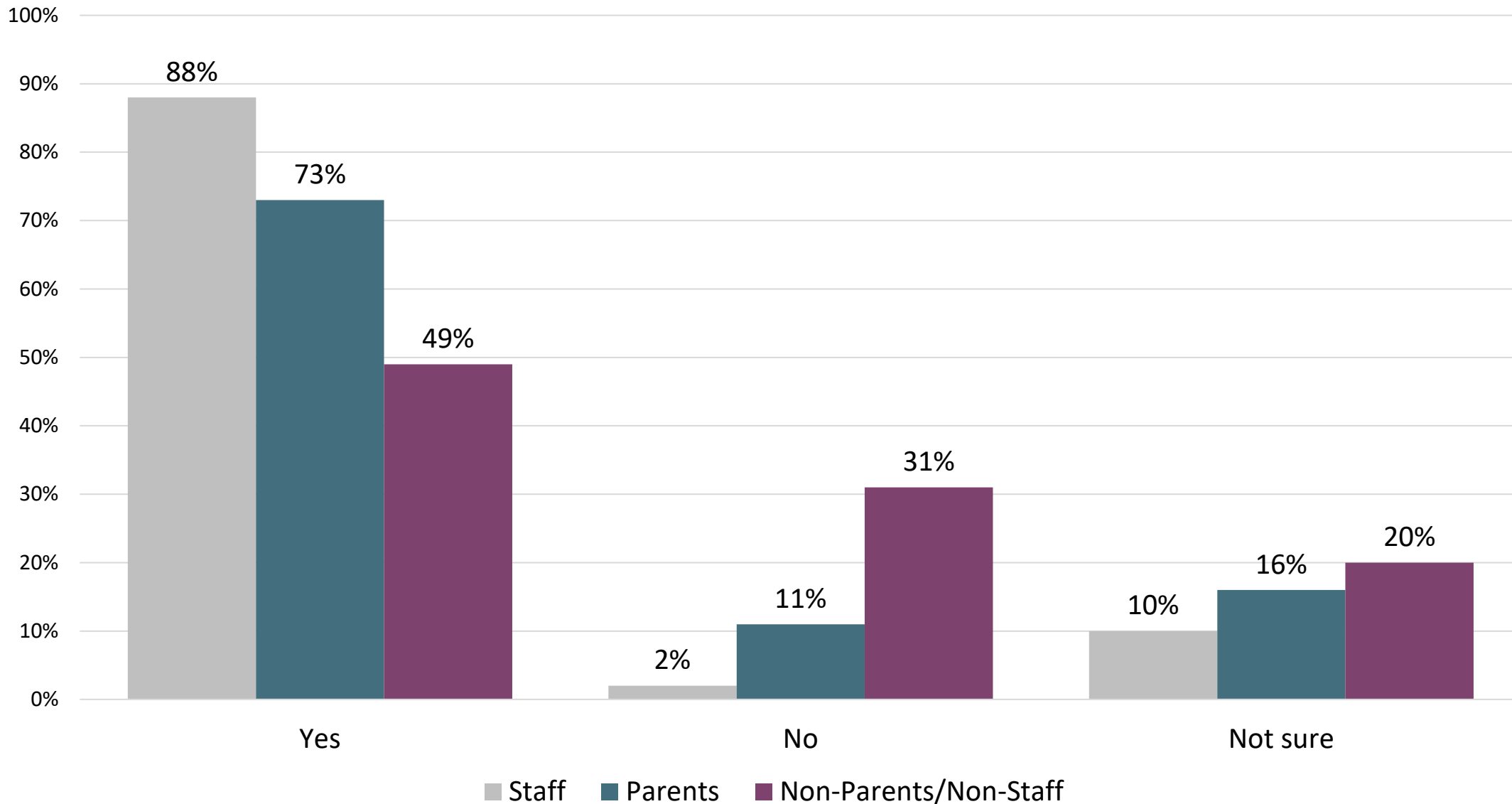
- Instruction is taking place in spaces that were not designed for learning (such as stages and administrative offices) because of enrollment growth.
- Four of our six elementary schools are out of space.
- Five elementary school main entrances need to be reconfigured to improve safety.

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Since the previous referendums failed, we began using other facilities in Dickinson, partnered with businesses, expanded online course offerings, and added courses for high school students at Dickinson State in an effort to better utilize our facilities and partially address space issues.

Despite these efforts, a significant investment beyond what we can cover in our annual budget is needed to update/expand our buildings. This would require 60% of our voters to approve a bond referendum.

# Would you support the District pursuing a bond referendum to update/expand our schools?



# Base Project

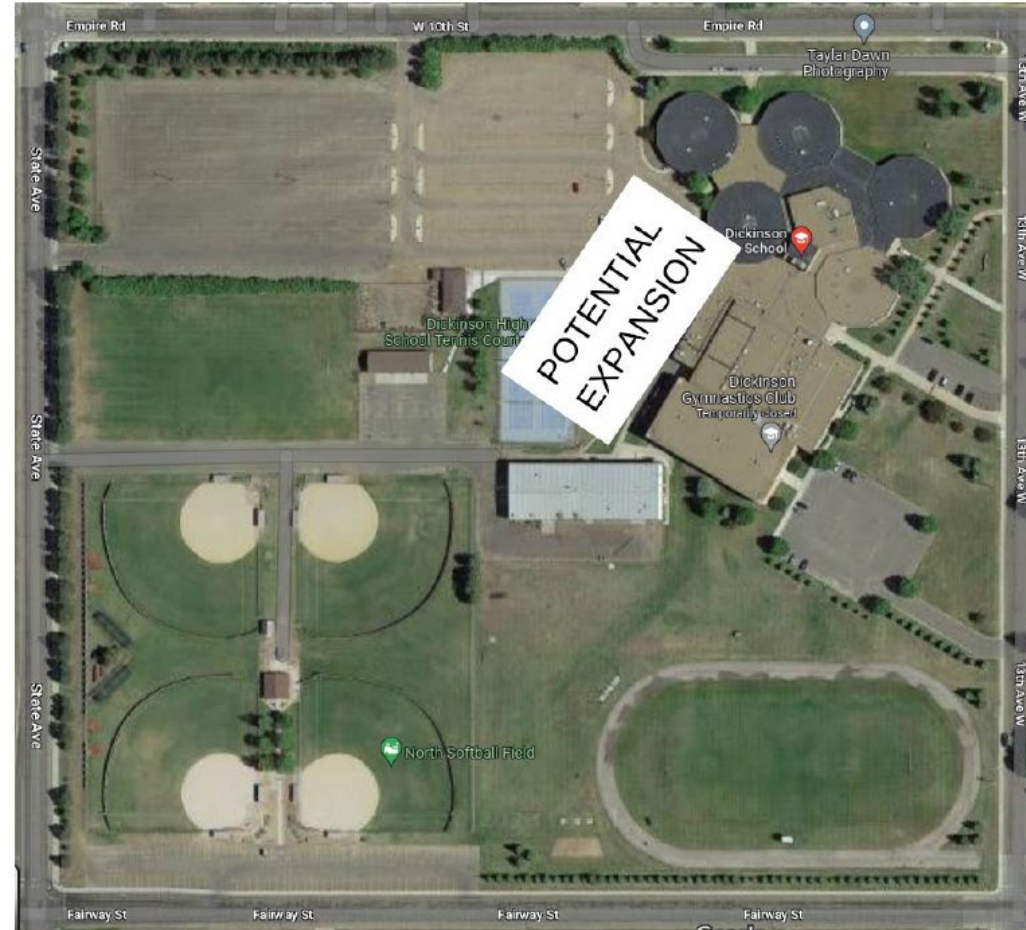


If the community supports pursuing a referendum, a base plan was developed to address the most pressing needs.

## Renovate and Expand the High School

- ✓ Remove the classrooms pods and expand the school to accommodate enrollment growth.
- ✓ Remodel classrooms in the 1996 addition.
- ✓ Create a secured main entrance.
- ✓ Update plumbing, HVAC, and electrical systems.
- ✓ Replace roof sections.
- ✓ Improve ADA accessibility.

***Estimated cost: \$69 million***





# Base Project (cont'd)



The District explored renovating the pods instead of removing them. However, this was not a wise use of tax dollars for several reasons:

- Costs to remodel the pods were similar to removing them and adding on to the building.
- The classrooms do not have an efficient layout, have wasted space (some are triangles), and most are too small for our class sizes.
- Remodeling would disrupt learning and require different classrooms in space that's already overcrowded. This makes the project timeline longer, which increases its cost.

# Base Project Funding Support

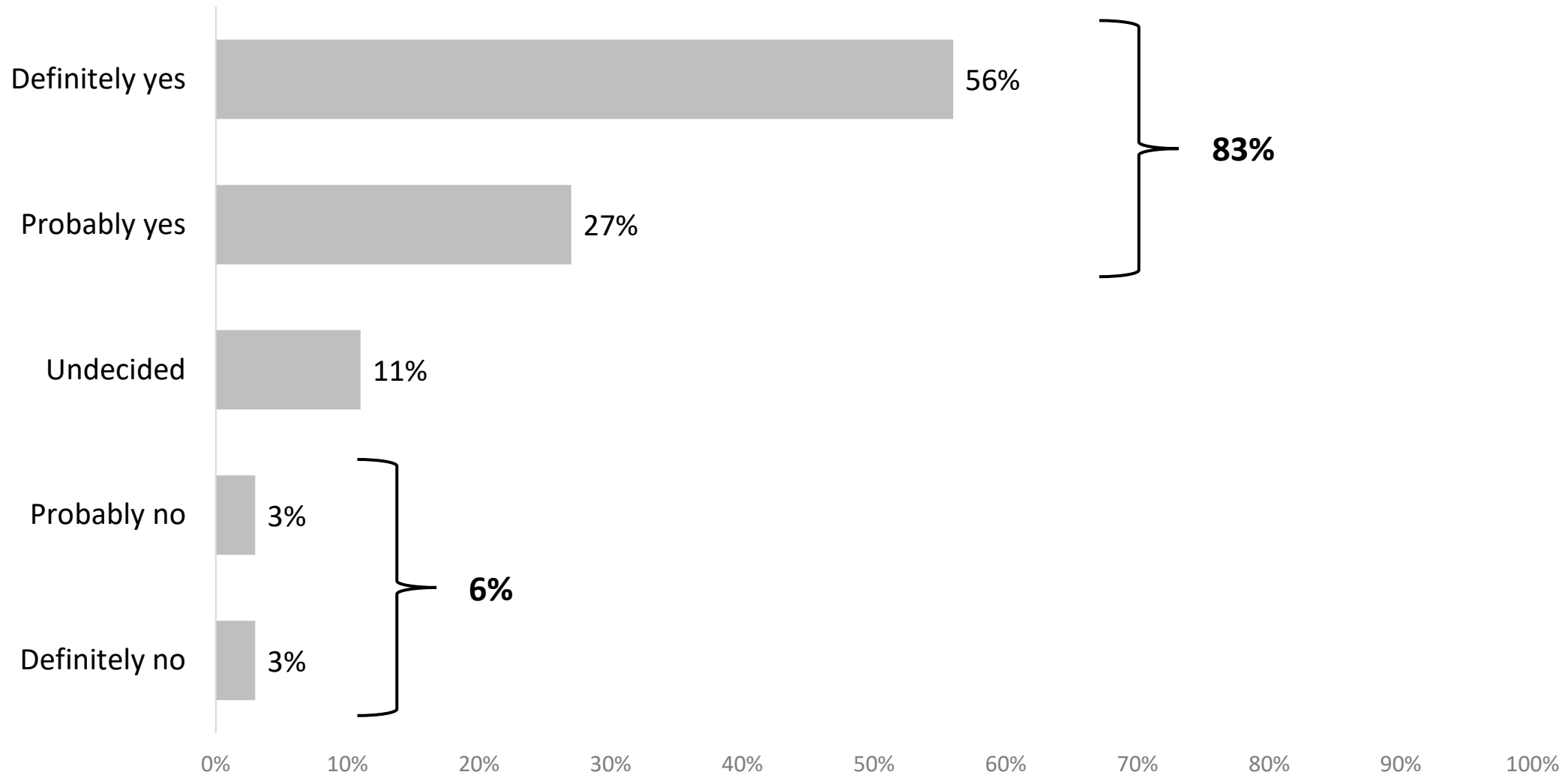


The tax impacts to fund the \$69 million base project are provided in the table below.

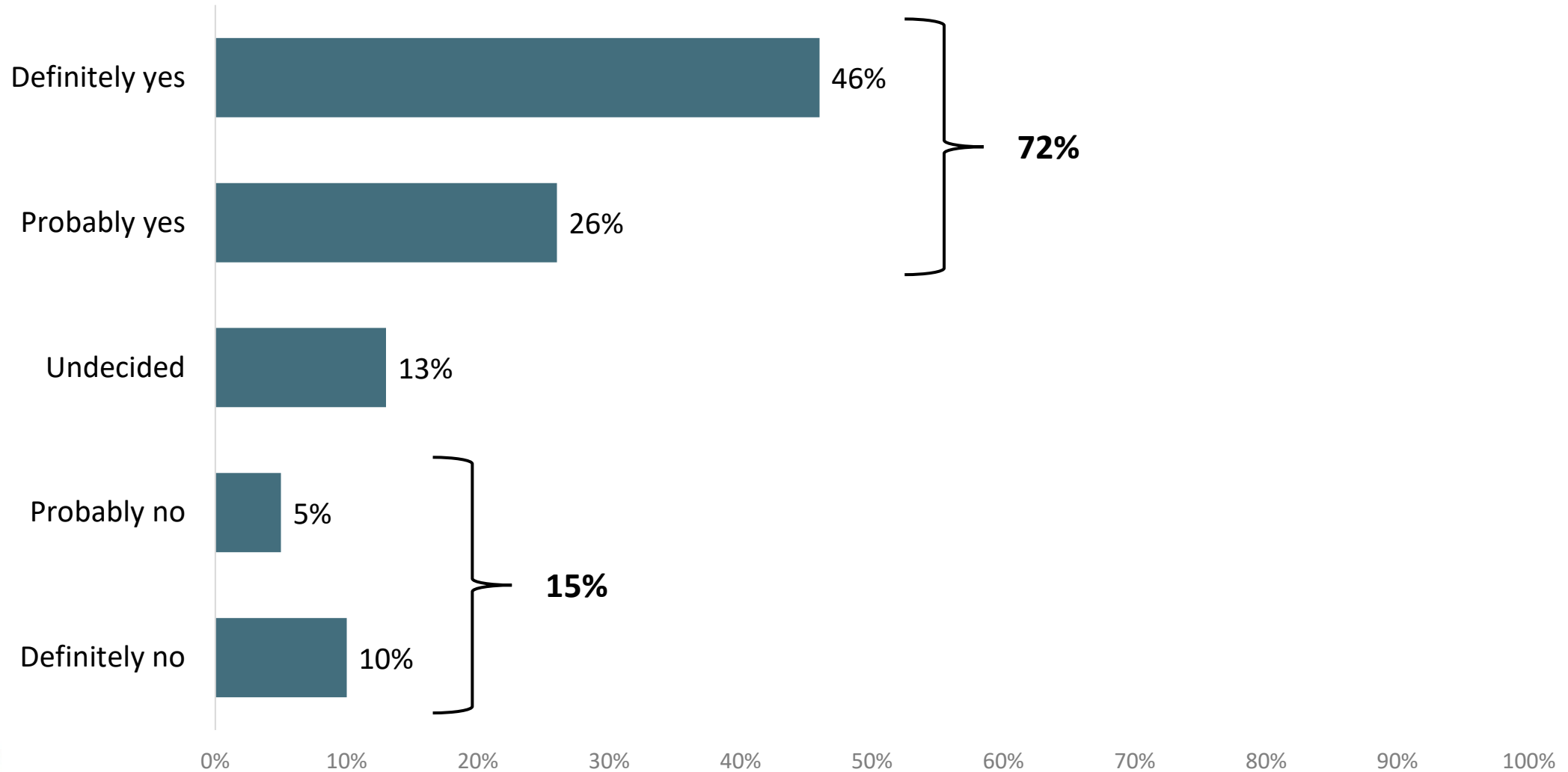
**NOTE:** *The North Dakota State Legislature is considering bill 2066. This bill has the potential to reduce the property tax impacts below. When this survey was printed, the bill was not finalized. If approved, we will post updated project tax impacts to our website ([www.dickinson.k12.nd.us](http://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us)).*

PROJECTED <u>ANNUAL</u> PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OVER THE CURRENT LEVEL			
Type of Property	True & Full Valuation	Taxable Valuation	Base Plan (\$69 million)
Residential	\$100,000	\$4,500	\$145
	\$200,000	\$9,000	\$290
	\$300,000	\$13,500	\$434
Commercial/ Industrial	\$100,000	\$5,000	\$161
	\$250,000	\$12,500	\$402
	\$500,000	\$25,000	\$804
Ag Homestead/ Non-Homestead (per acre)	\$150	\$8	\$0.24
	\$500	\$25	\$0.80
	\$676*	\$34	\$1.09
	\$1,000	\$50	\$1.61
	\$2,500	\$125	\$4.02

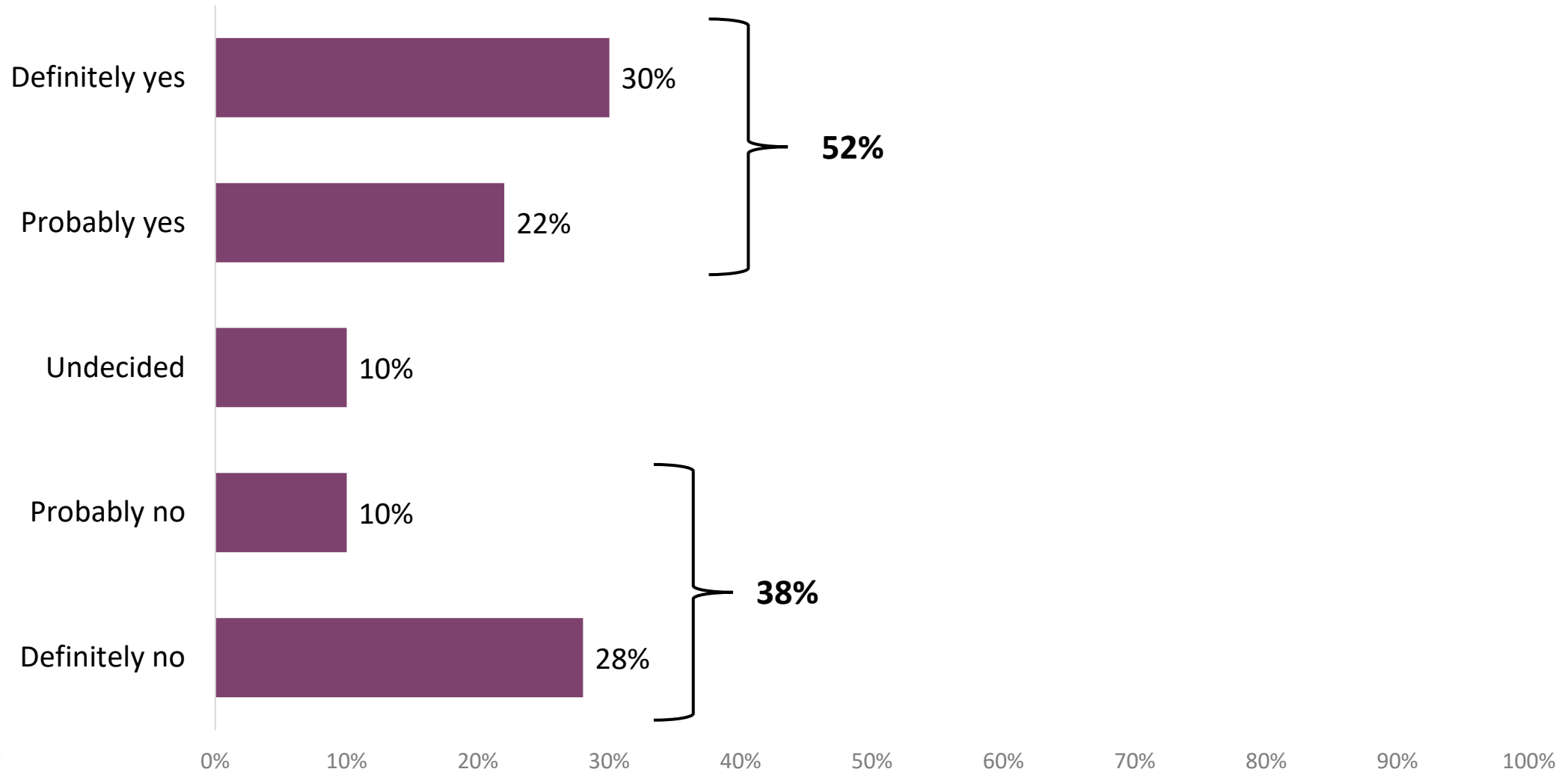
# Would you support a \$69 million bond referendum to renovate and expand the high school? (*Staff Residents*)



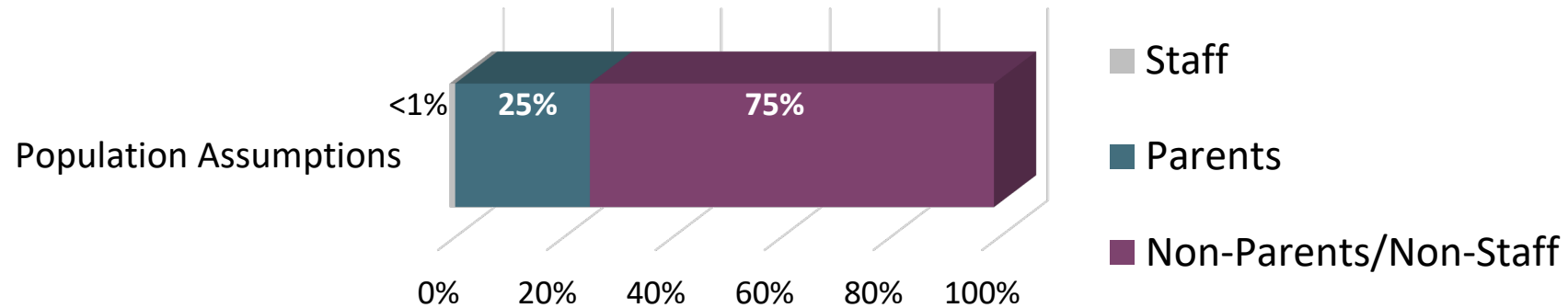
# Would you support a \$69 million bond referendum to renovate and expand the high school? (*Parent Residents*)



# Would you support a \$69 million bond referendum to renovate and expand the high school? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



# Additional Analysis: Base Plan Support



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

$$0.25 (72\%) + 0.75 (52\%) = \underline{\underline{57.0\%}}$$

# Elementary School Options



In addition to the base plan, there are two options to address the capacity challenges at our elementary level.

## Option 1: Expand Heart River Elementary School

- ✓ Add classrooms and restrooms.
- ✓ Build a secure entrance where all visitors would check in.
- ✓ Help maintain current class sizes at the elementary level.



# Elementary School Options (cont'd)



**Option 2: Build a new elementary school on the northwest side of town. This would include:**

- ✓ A decrease in class sizes at all elementary schools.
- ✓ Moving the preschool classrooms to elementary schools.
- ✓ Up-to-date safety and security systems.
- ✓ Dedicated gym and student commons area.
- ✓ Energy-efficient systems and natural lighting.
- ✓ Minimal disruptions to learning while the school is constructed.





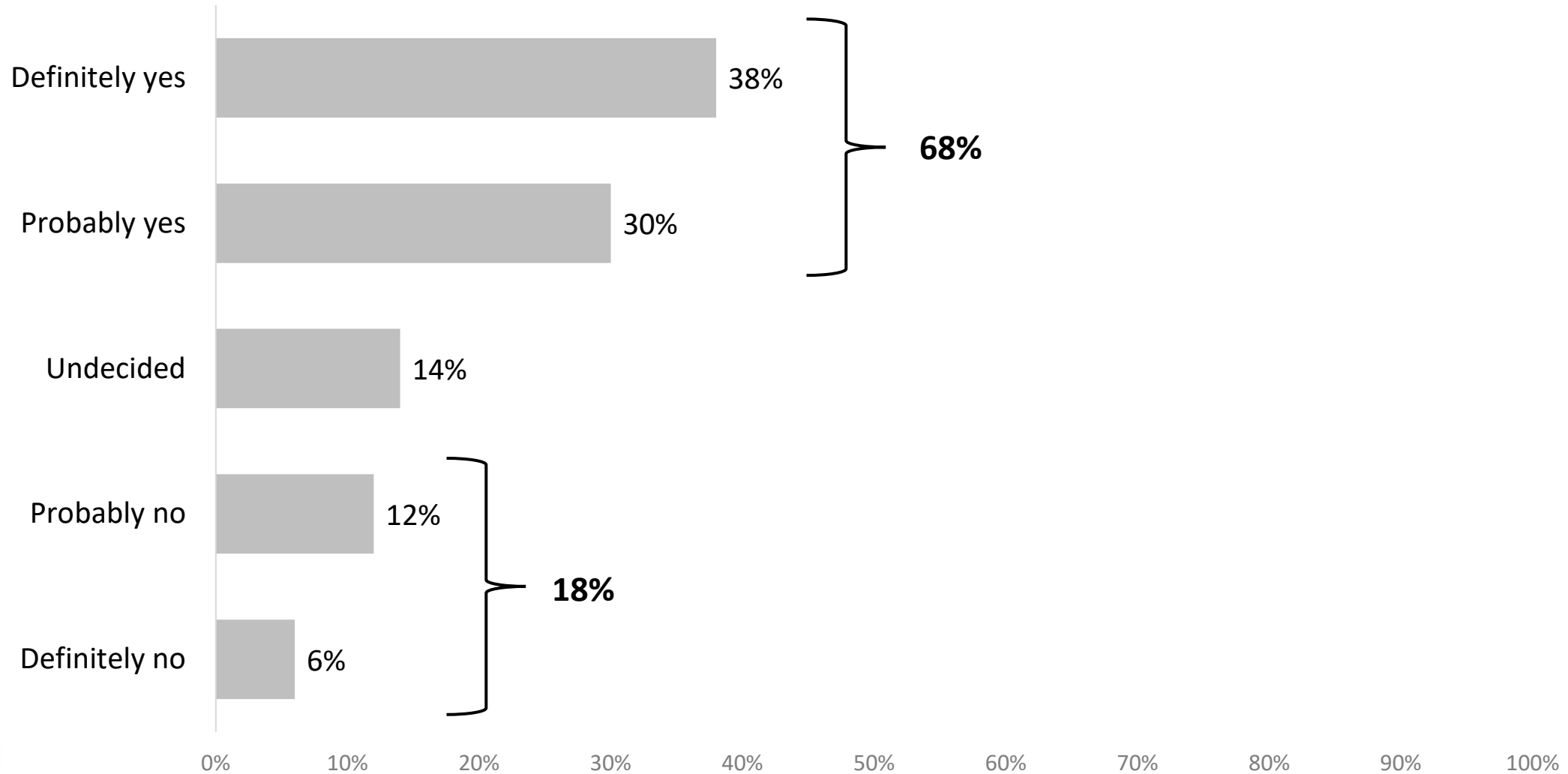
# Funding Support for Elementary Options



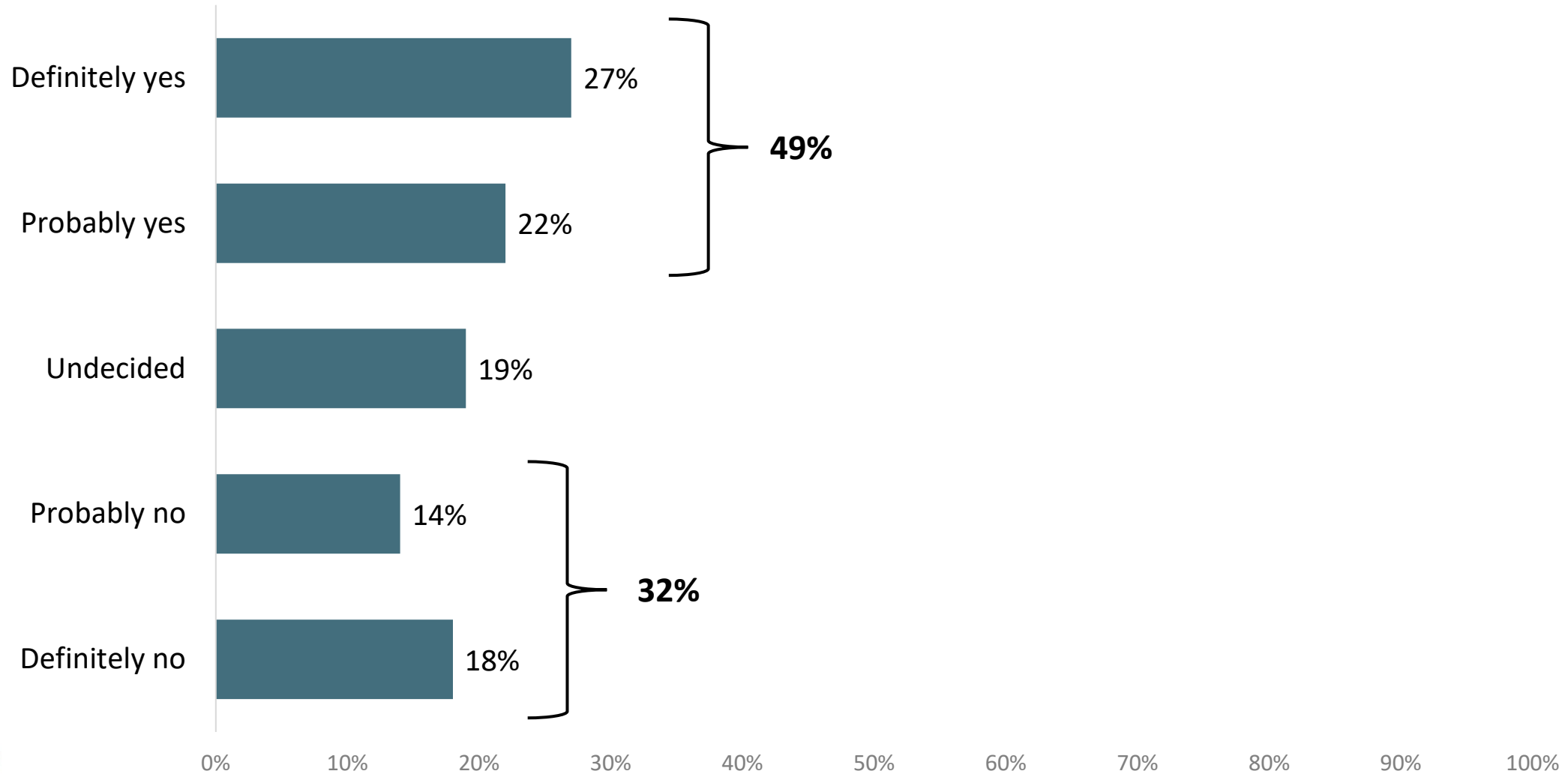
The tax impacts of the elementary options are in the table below. ***Please note that the impacts include the cost of the base project (renovating and expanding the high school).***

PROJECTED <u>ANNUAL</u> PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OVER THE CURRENT LEVEL				
Type of Property	True & Full Valuation	Taxable Valuation	Base Plan + Heart River Expansion	Base Plan + New Elementary School
Residential	\$100,000	\$4,500	\$156	\$198
	\$200,000	\$9,000	\$311	\$395
	\$300,000	\$13,500	\$466	\$592
Commercial/ Industrial	\$100,000	\$5,000	\$173	\$219
	\$250,000	\$12,500	\$431	\$548
	\$500,000	\$25,000	\$862	\$1,095
Ag Homestead/ Non-Homestead (per acre)	\$150	\$8	\$0.26	\$0.33
	\$500	\$25	\$0.86	\$1.09
	\$676*	\$34	\$1.16	\$1.48
	\$1,000	\$50	\$1.72	\$2.19
	\$2,500	\$125	\$4.31	\$5.47

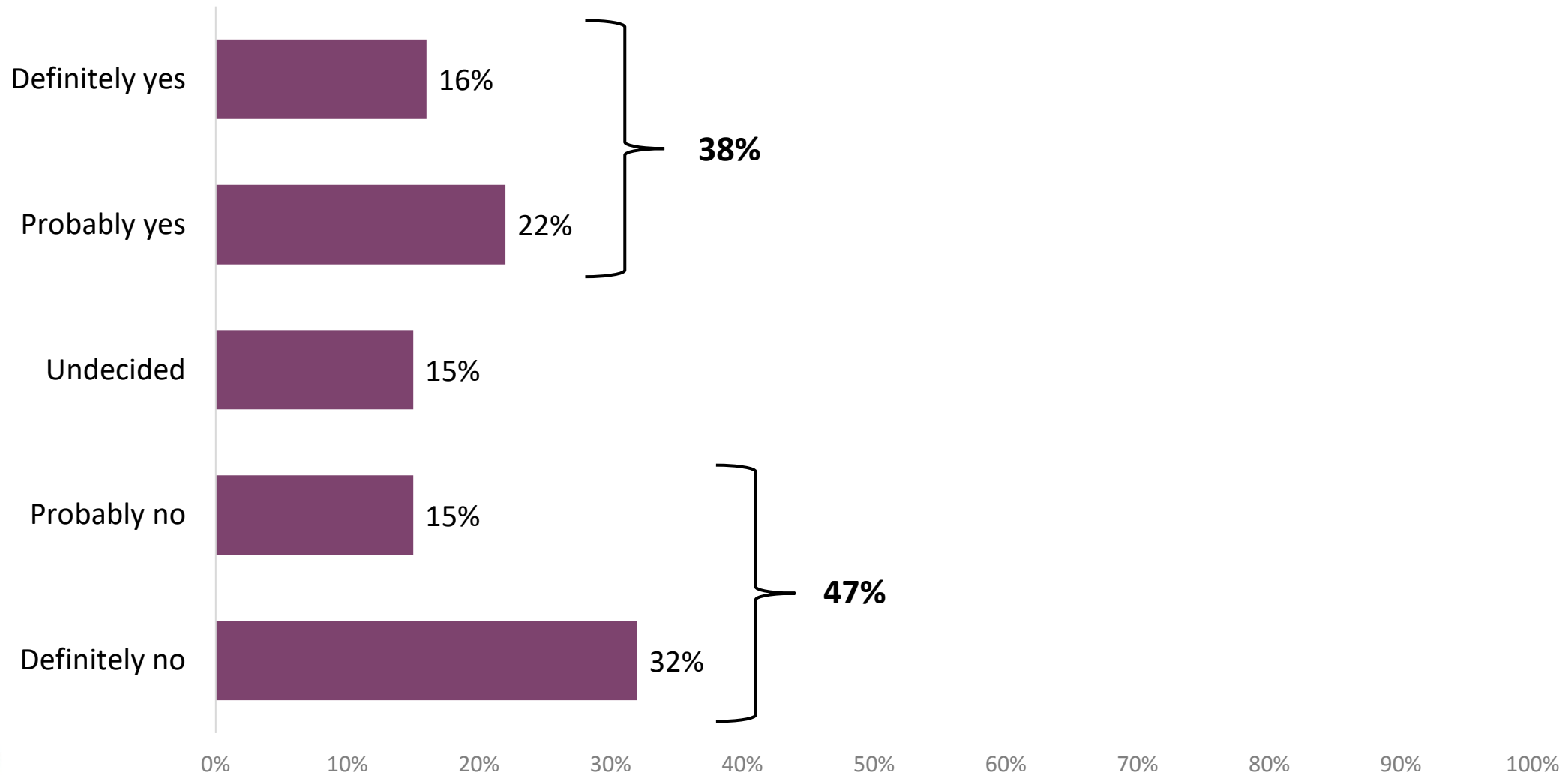
# Would you support expanding a bond referendum by \$5 million (for a total of \$74 million) to fund an addition to Heart River Elementary? (*Staff Residents*)



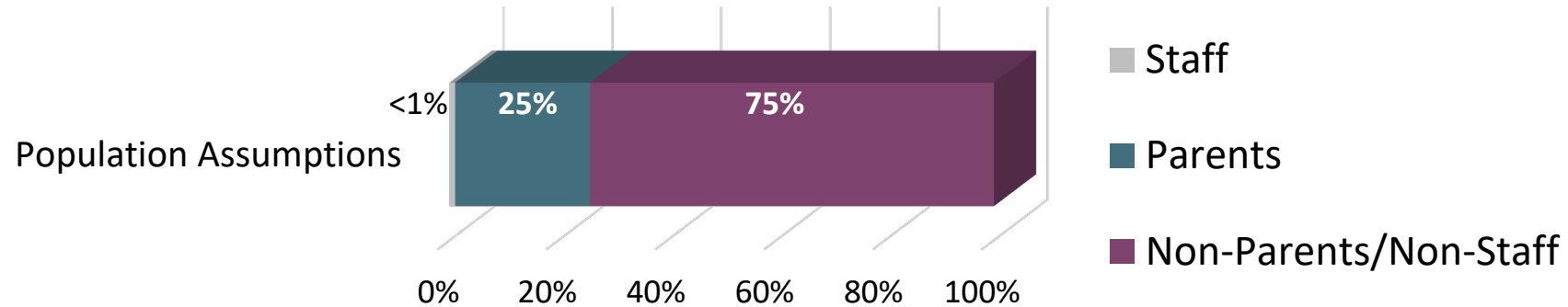
# Would you support expanding a bond referendum by \$5 million (for a total of \$74 million) to fund an addition to Heart River Elementary? (*Parent Residents*)



# Would you support expanding a bond referendum by \$5 million (for a total of \$74 million) to fund an addition to Heart River Elementary? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



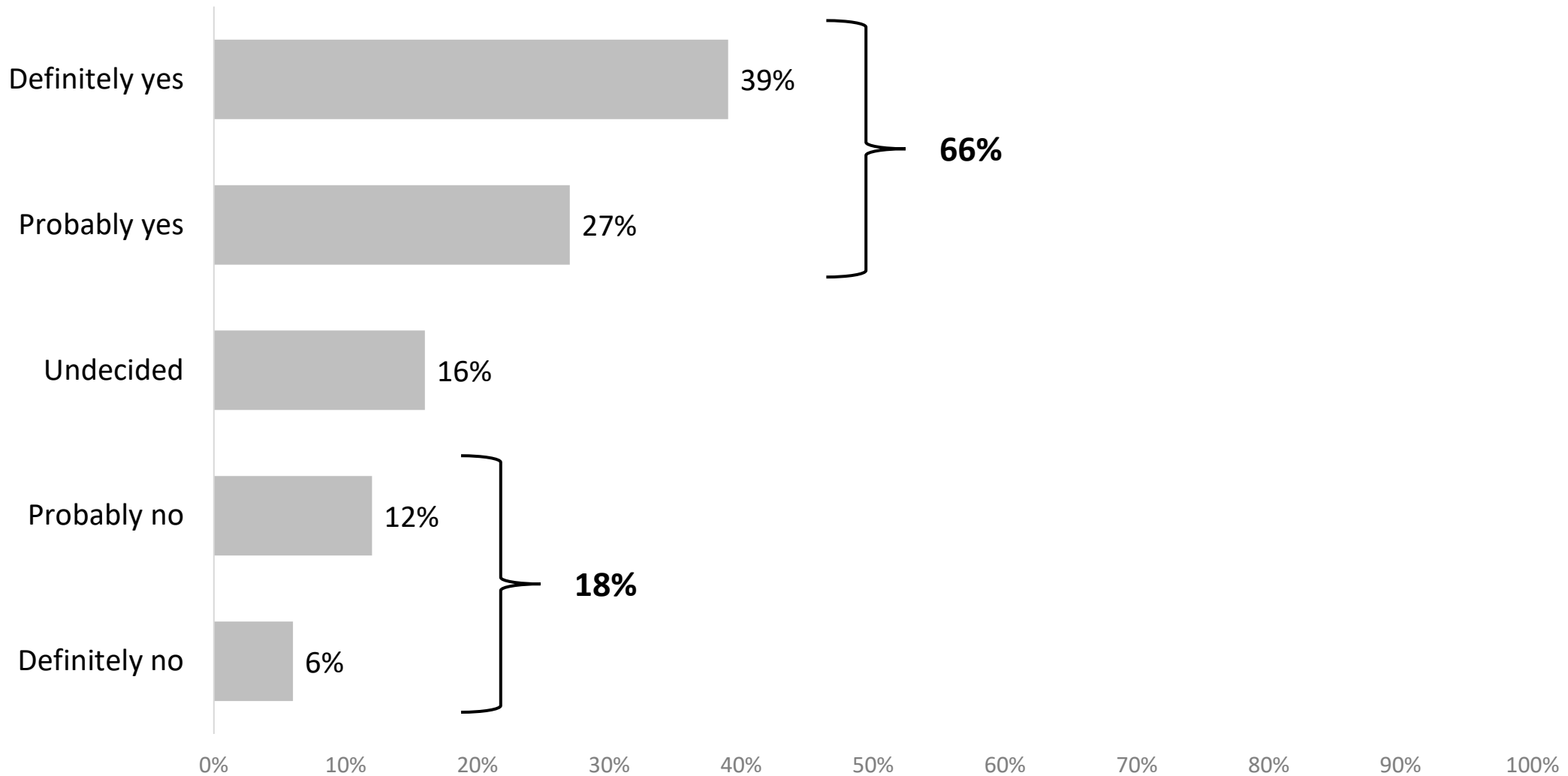
# Additional Analysis: Elementary Options (Addition)



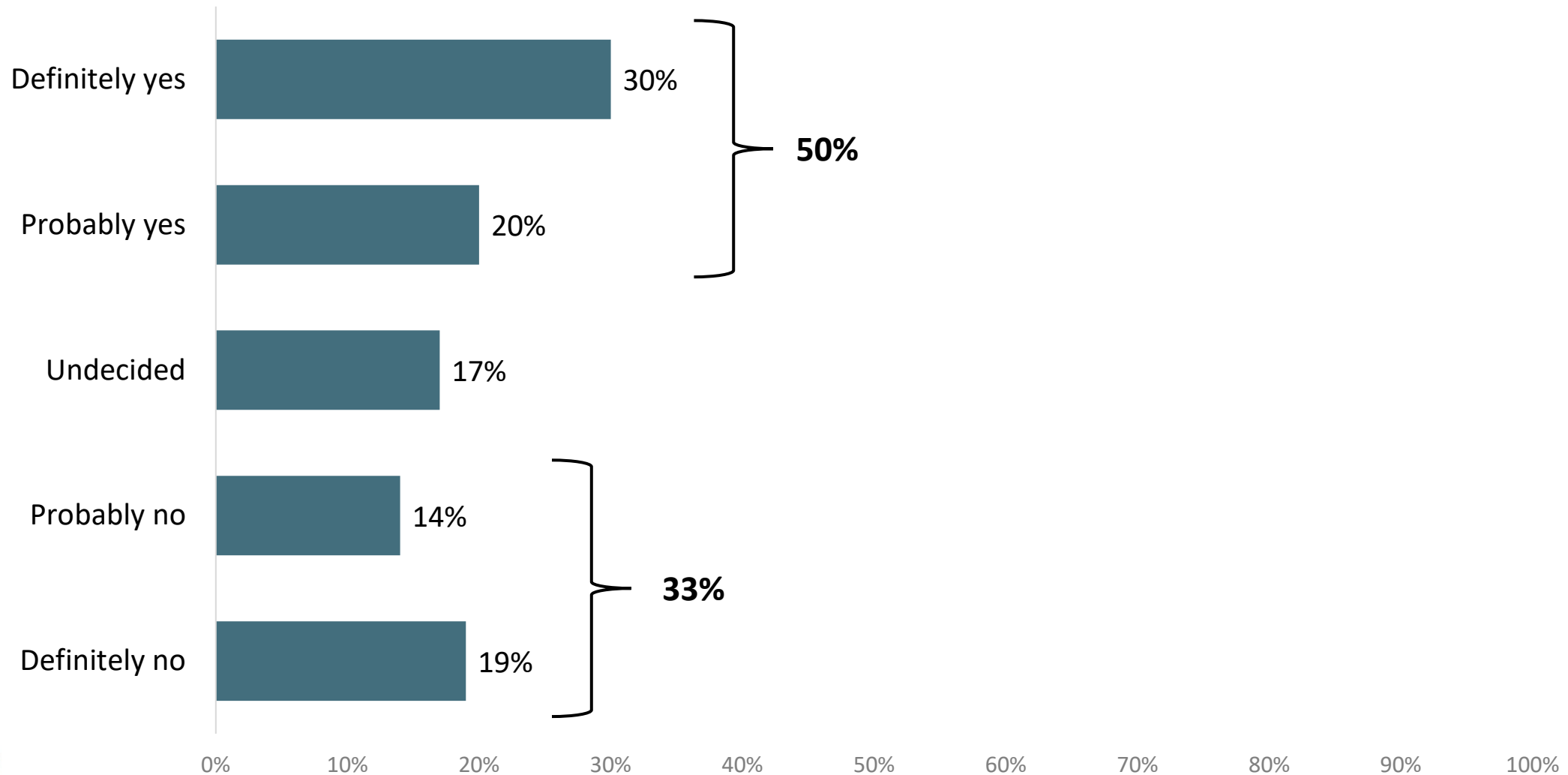
Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.25 (49\%) + 0.75 (38\%) = \underline{\underline{40.8\%}}$$

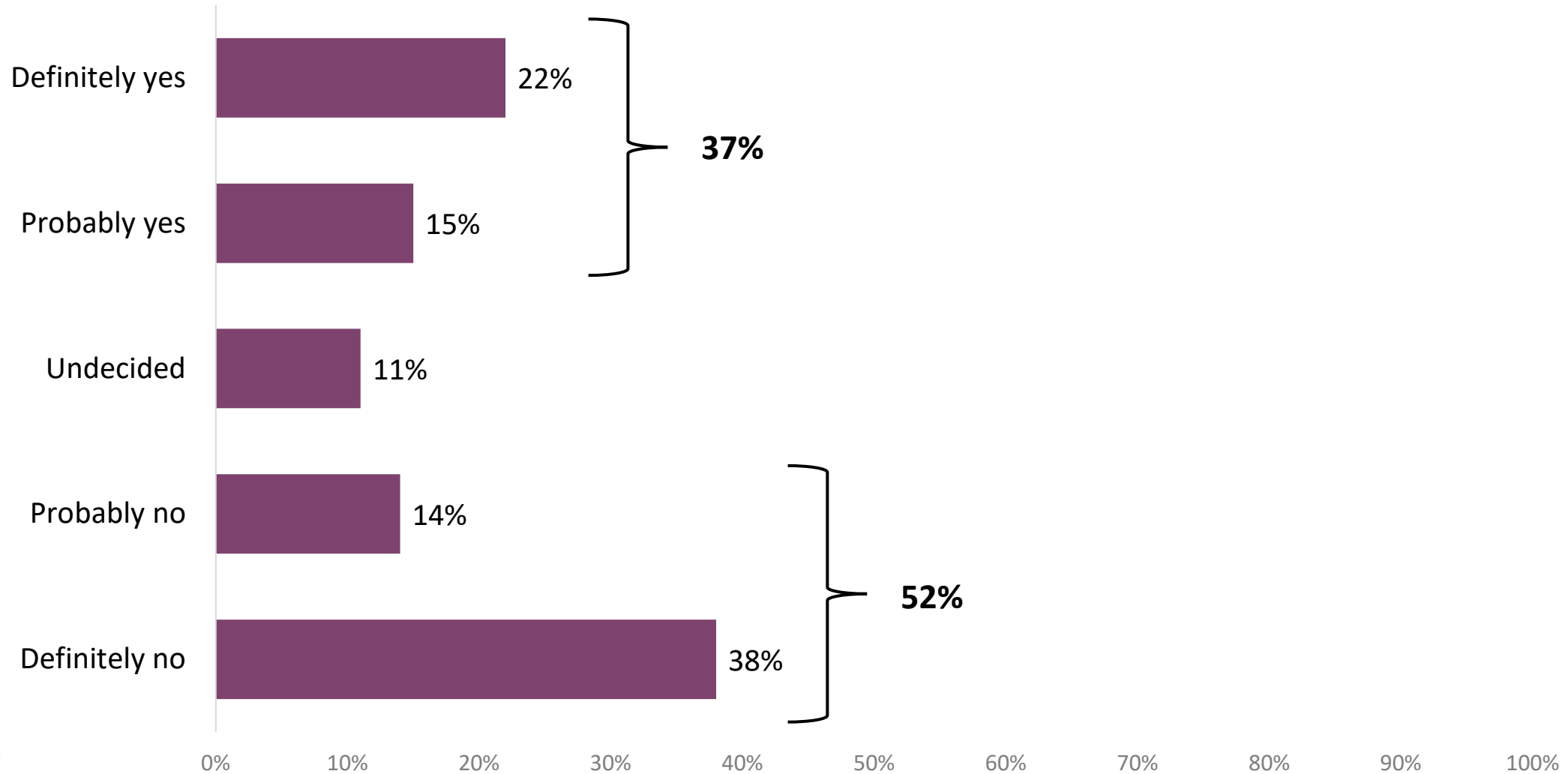
Instead of adding onto Heart River Elementary, would you support expanding a bond referendum by \$25 million (for a total of \$94 million) to build a new elementary school? (*Staff Residents*)



Instead of adding onto Heart River Elementary, would you support expanding a bond referendum by \$25 million (for a total of \$94 million) to build a new elementary school? (*Parent Residents*)

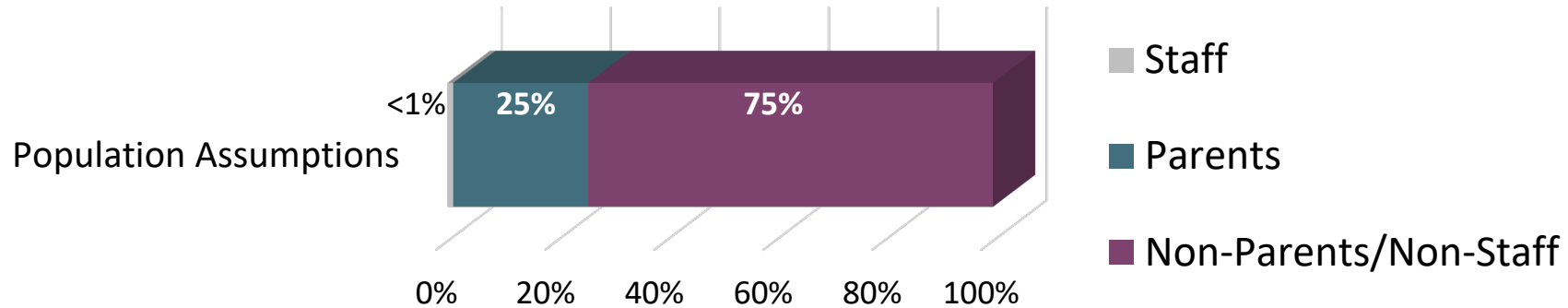


Instead of adding onto Heart River Elementary, would you support expanding a bond referendum by \$25 million (for a total of \$94 million) to build a new elementary school? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)





# Additional Analysis: Elementary Options (New)



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:  
 $0.25 (50\%) + 0.75 (37\%) = \underline{\underline{40.3\%}}$

# How is the District doing in each of the following areas?

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



Item	Staff	Parents	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delivering a high-quality education	3.03	2.72	2.61
Keeping the public informed	3.20	2.71	2.40
Managing funds appropriately	2.84	2.51	2.19
Building pride in the community	2.96	2.61	2.42

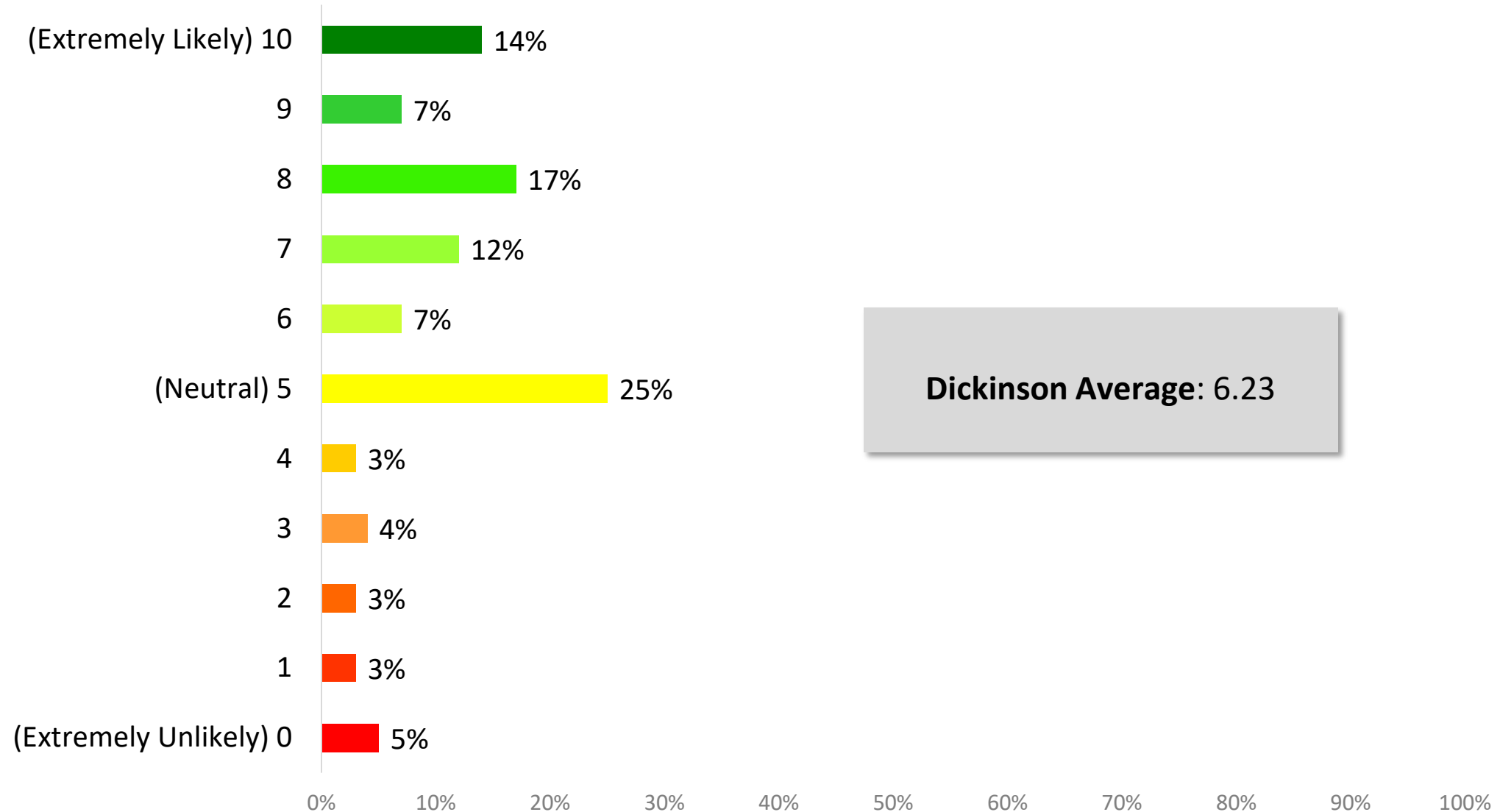
# How is the District doing in each of the following areas?

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



Item	Percent "Great" or "Good"	Average
Delivering a high-quality education	59%	2.76
Keeping the public informed	60%	2.73
Managing funds appropriately	45%	2.49
Building pride in the community	52%	2.64

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



# In summary: What did we learn about...



- **Pursuing a bond?**

- A majority of staff and parents and a plurality of non-parents/non-staff support the District pursuing a bond referendum to update/expand schools.

- **Base plan support?**

- A majority of all subgroups support a bond referendum to update the high school, but the weighted support remains slightly below the 60% approval threshold (57%).

- **Heart River plan support?**

- Neither elementary school option would be supported by the community at this time.



# Questions or Comments?



**Thank you!**