



Belmont Community School District

Community Survey Report

June 17, 2024

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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.



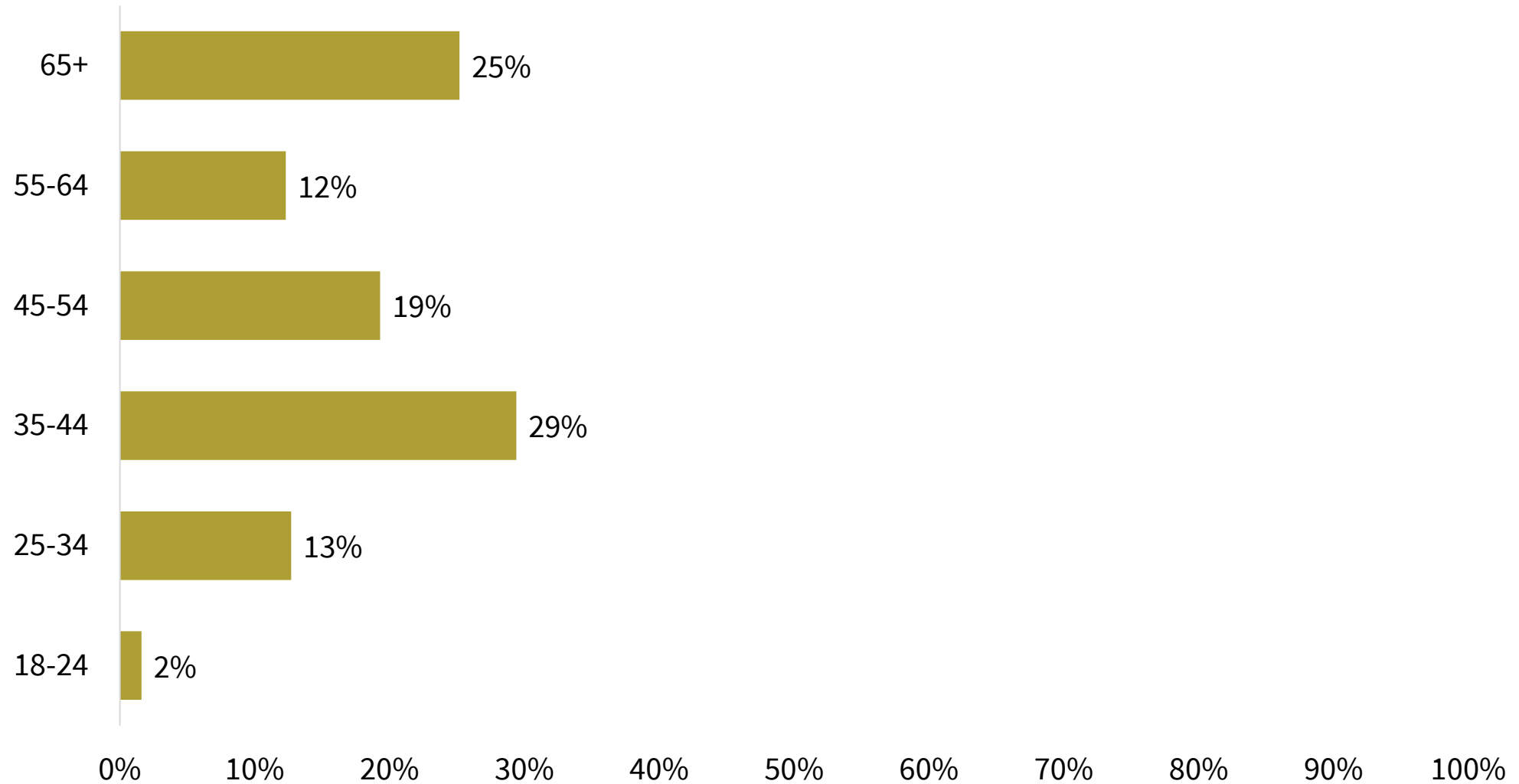
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Information

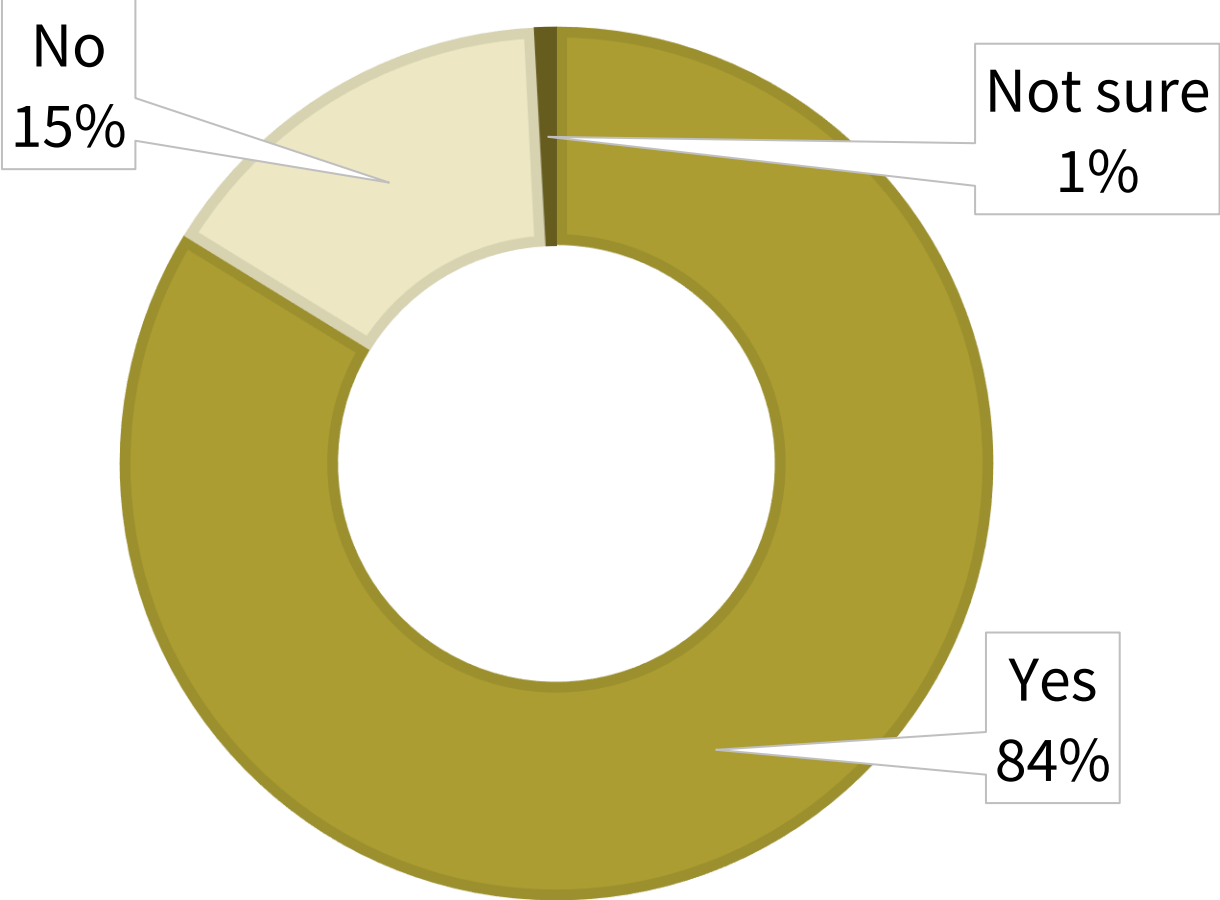
- **May 15, 2024** survey deadline
- **277** total respondents
- **36.5%** response rate
- **+/- 6.02%** statistical margin of error



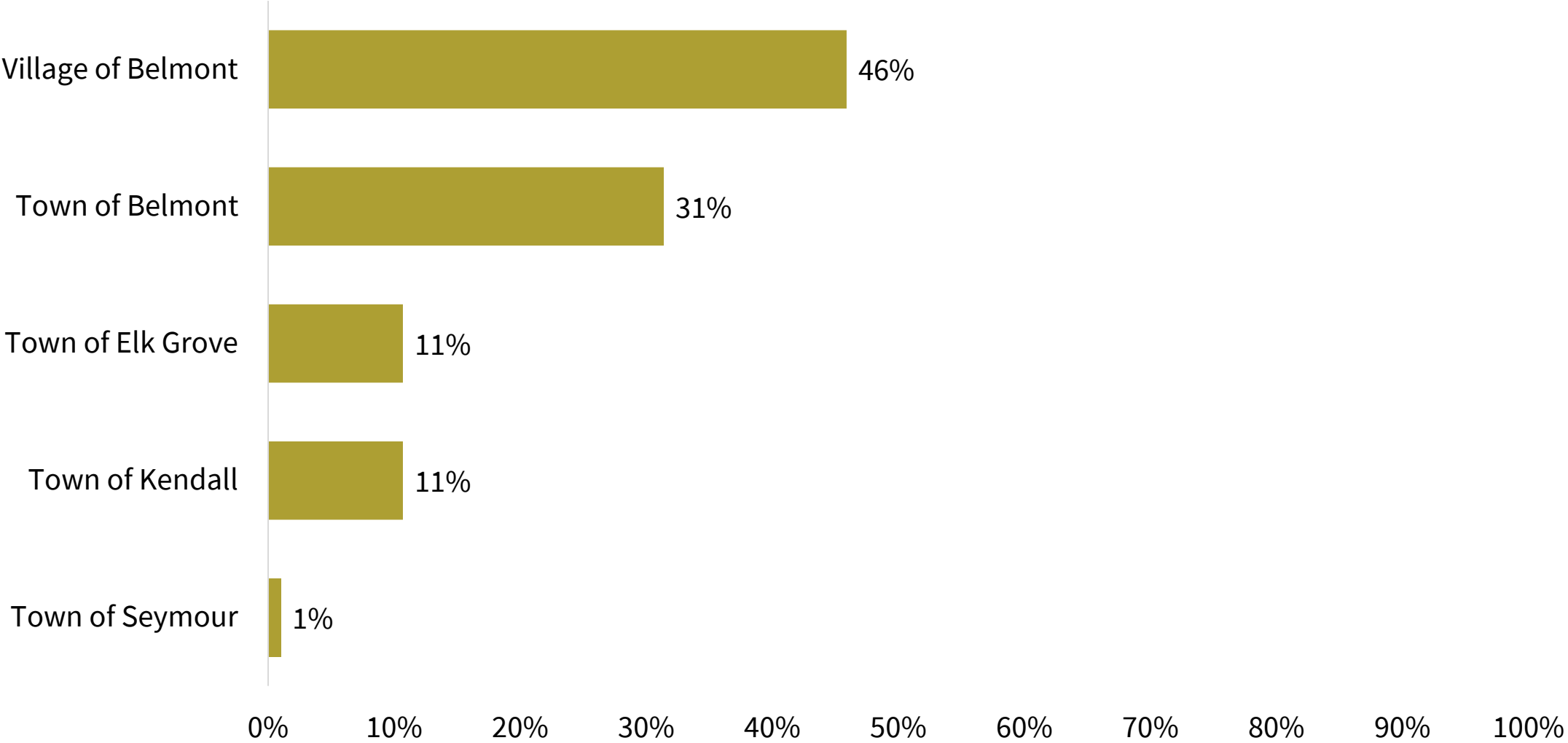
What is your age?



Is your primary residence in the District?



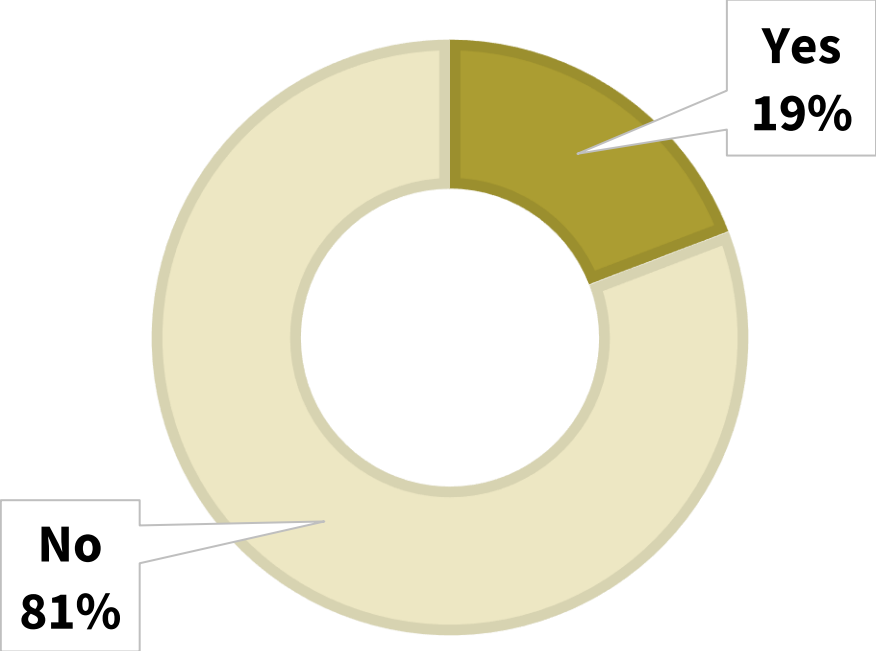
In which municipality do you live?



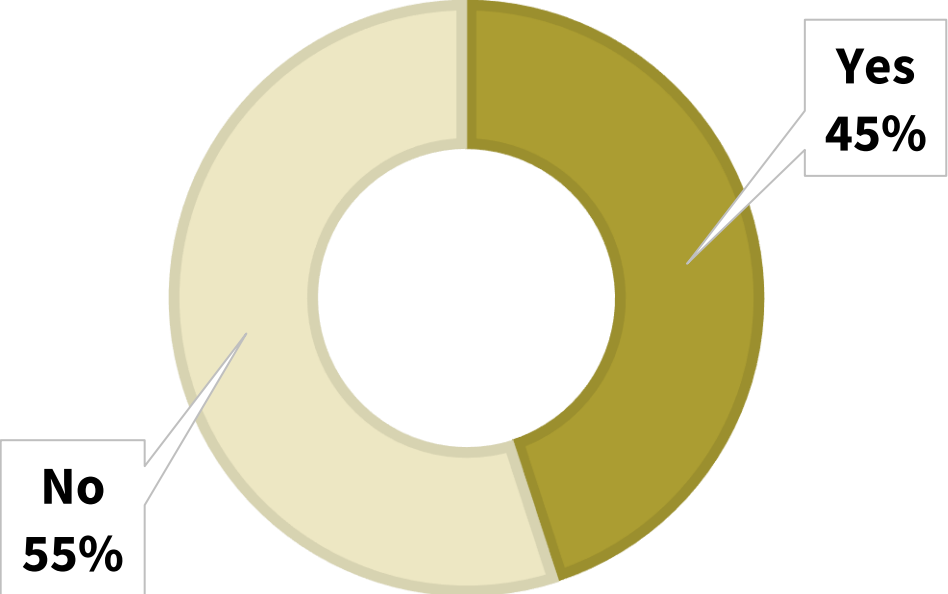
Respondent Information



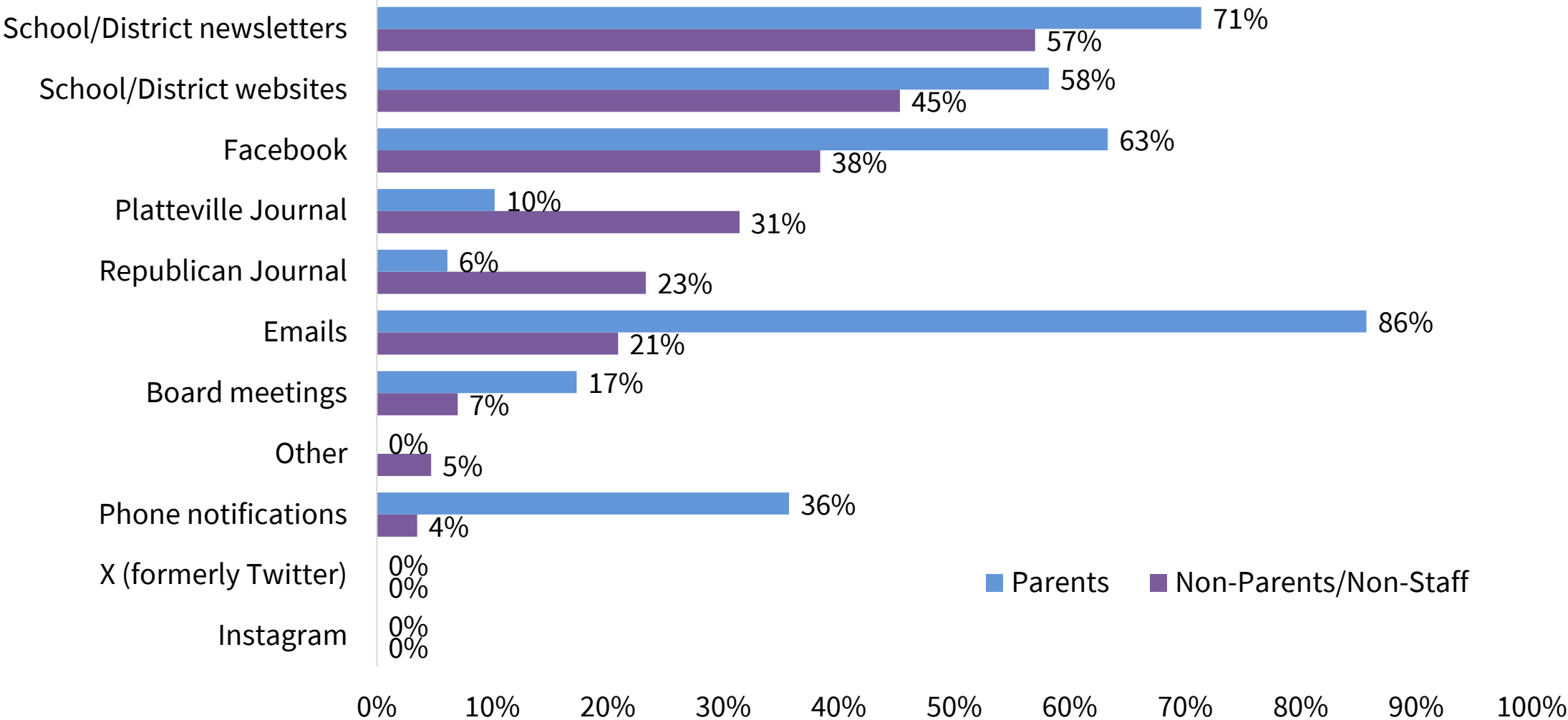
Are you an employee of the District?



Do you have children attending a school in the District?



How do you like to receive school/District information?



Funding Support



One of the most significant challenges facing rural school districts like ours is the lack of predictable, sustainable funding. To address this challenge, 84% of school districts in Wisconsin have secured additional funding through a voter-approved operational referendum. Belmont has not asked voters for this type of funding since 2008.

The District developed three options to help balance the budget over the next four years.

Option 1: If voters support a \$450,000 referendum, the District could:

- ✓ Maintain current programs and services.

Option 1 would increase taxes by approximately \$134 for every \$100,000 of property value for each of the next 4 years.*

Option 2: If voters support a \$600,000 referendum, the District could:

- ✓ Maintain current programs and services.
- ✓ Resurface the crumbling parking lot.

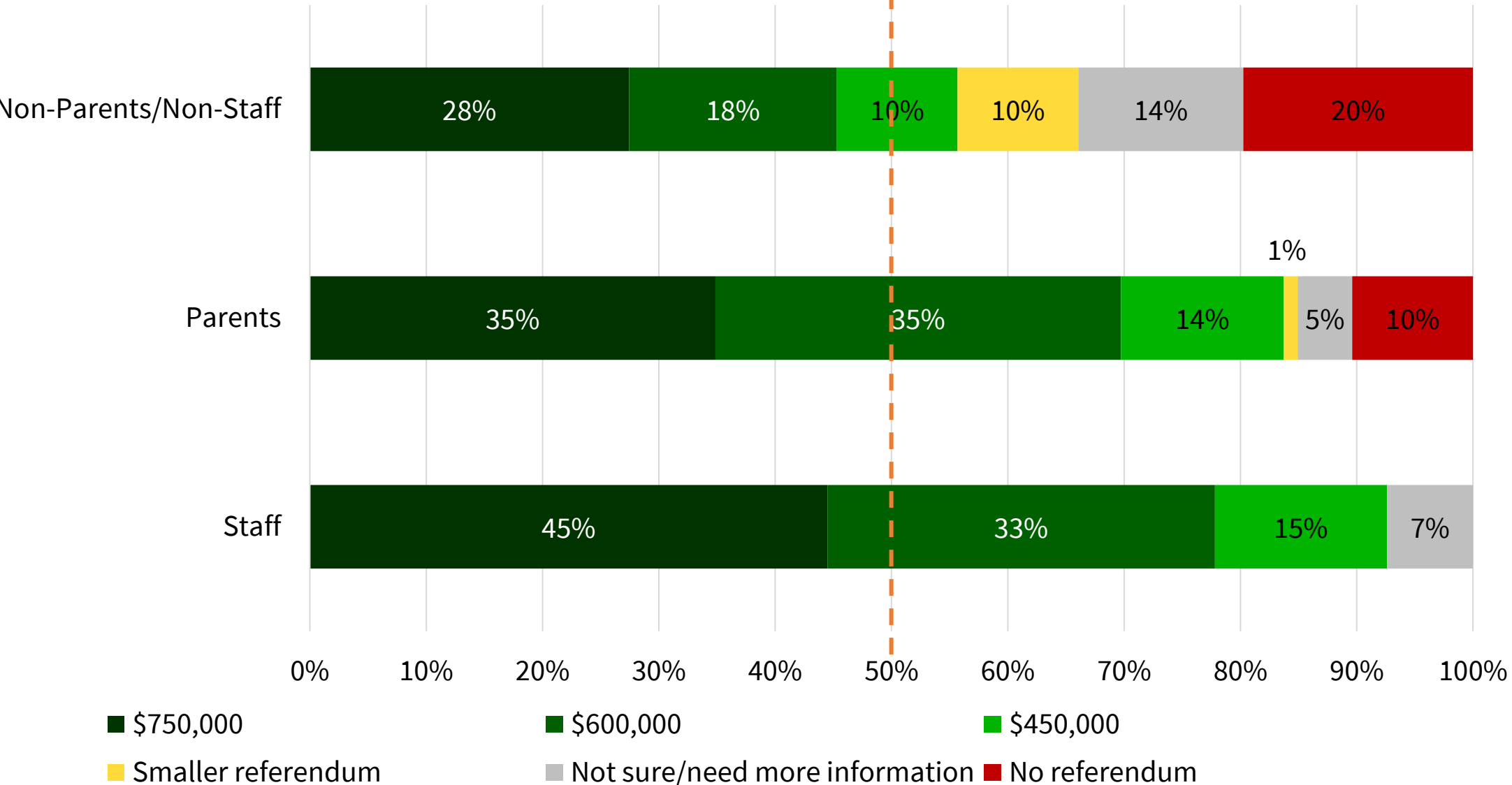
Option 2 would increase taxes by approximately \$194 for every \$100,000 of property value for each of the next 4 years.*

Option 3: If voters support a \$750,000 referendum, the District could fund Options 1 and 2 AND:

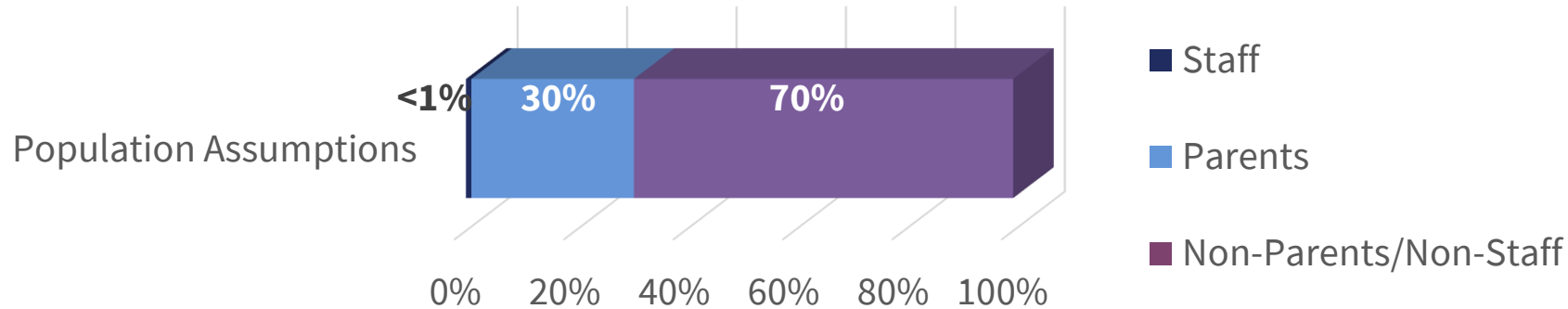
- ✓ Provide an additional \$150,000 for building maintenance.

Option 3 would increase taxes by approximately \$253 for every \$100,000 of property value for each of the next 4 years.*

Referendum support



Additional Analysis: Operating Referendum Support



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$\text{\$600,000: } 0.30 (70\%) + 0.70 (46\%) = \text{\underline{\underline{53.2\%}}}$$

$$\text{\$450,000: } 0.30 (84\%) + 0.70 (56\%) = \text{\underline{\underline{64.4\%}}}$$



Cost-Cutting Scores

Yes = 10 No = 1 Median = 5.5



<i>Should the District...</i>	Staff	Parents/Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Reduce transportation services?	2.43	2.78	4.43
Reduce middle/high school athletics and extracurriculars?	2.15	2.04	3.83
Consider increasing class size by cutting staff?	1.18	2.65	3.22
Reduce services like counseling, nursing, and social work?	2.13	2.82	3.11

Cost-Cutting Scores

Yes = 10 No = 1 Median = 5.5



<i>Should the District...</i>	Staff	Parents/Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delay updating class materials and textbooks?	3.11	3.50	2.82
Delay updating computers, servers, and other technology?	2.05	3.12	2.78
Reduce spending on routine building maintenance?	1.00	1.62	2.23
Reduce middle/high school course offerings?	1.82	1.39	2.14
Reduce elementary school art, music, and physical education?	1.37	1.28	1.97

Facility Planning



We are beginning to consider the next phase of facility projects. The costs to address these needs are too expensive to be covered in our annual budget. To fund these projects, the District will need to secure funding through a future capital (facilities) referendum.

The District is not planning to ask a capital question this year, but would like the community's input on how to best address its facility challenges, including the following:

- A backup boiler is no longer operating and needs to be replaced.
- Outdoor facilities lack sidewalks to meet ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) requirements.
- Locks/security systems need to be updated.
- Lighting at the middle school/high school is inefficient, which increases utility costs.
- Walls and flooring are aging and worn and need to be painted/updated.
- Sewer line from the building to the outdoor concession stand has had drainage issues.
- Athletic locker rooms that are original to the high school need to be remodeled.
- Lockers in the K-6 wing need to be updated/replaced.
- The upper softball field is not suitable for competition.
- We lack fitness space for both school and community use.
- The football field has outdated seating.

What comments, questions, and/or suggestions do you have for the School Board as we explore potential facility projects?

- **ADA Compliance**

Multiple comments suggest compliance is a top priority above any other improvements.

- **Needs vs. wants**

Some respondents want the District to prioritize what is needed for educational improvements over extracurriculars.

- **Seek grants**

Some respondents suggest looking at grants or alternative, non-taxpayer funding to pay for some improvements.



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	3.13	2.85	3.07
Keeping the public informed	3.11	2.85	2.88
Managing funds appropriately	2.93	2.75	2.87
Building pride in the community	3.33	3.11	3.25



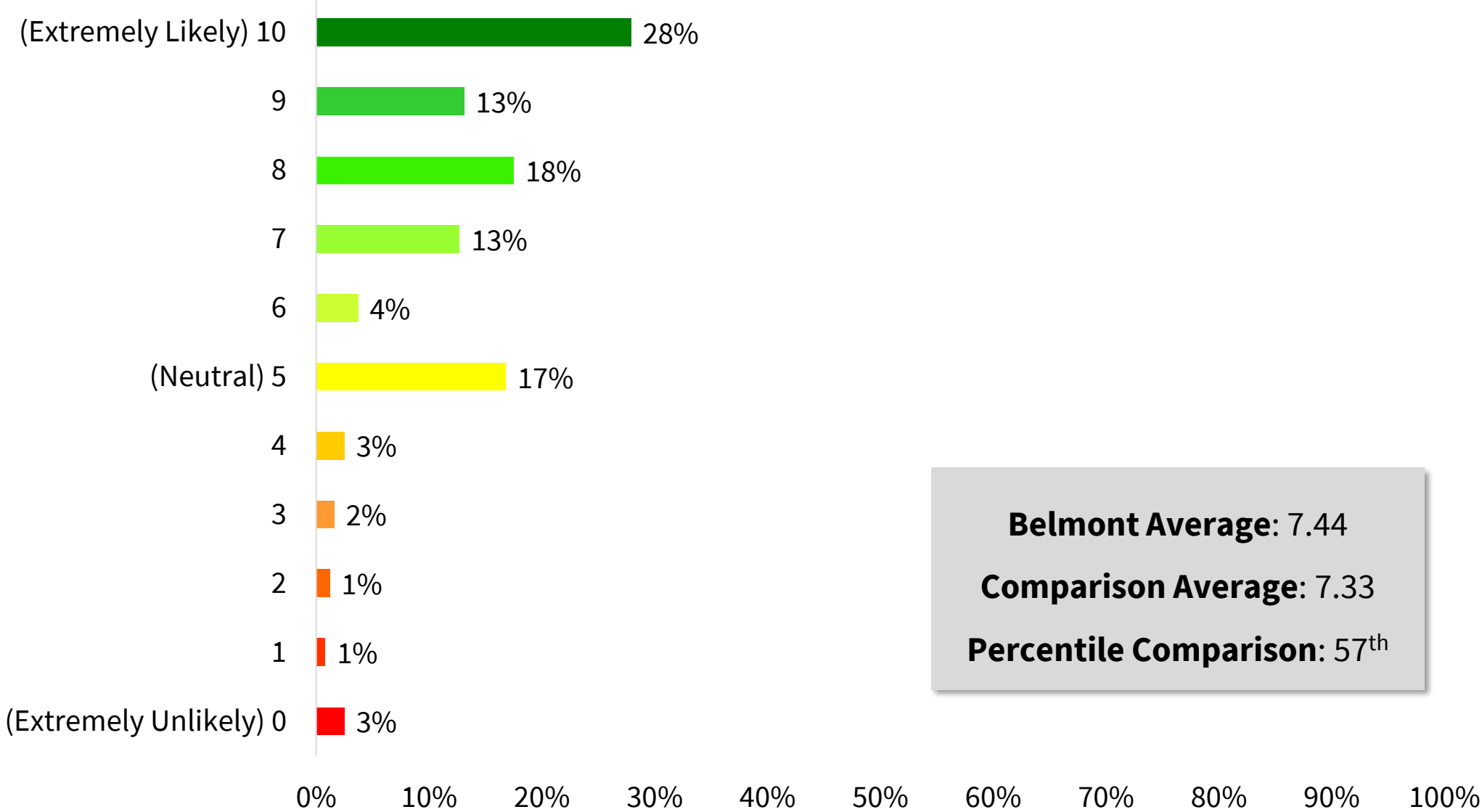
How is the District doing in each of the following areas?

Great = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1



Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	Average	Comparison Percentile
Delivering a high-quality education	80%	2.99	33 rd
Keeping the public informed	73%	2.91	63 rd
Managing funds appropriately	67%	2.82	56 th
Building pride in the community	87%	3.20	80 th

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





SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Measuring what matters

262.644.4300 | schoolperceptions.com



Appendix

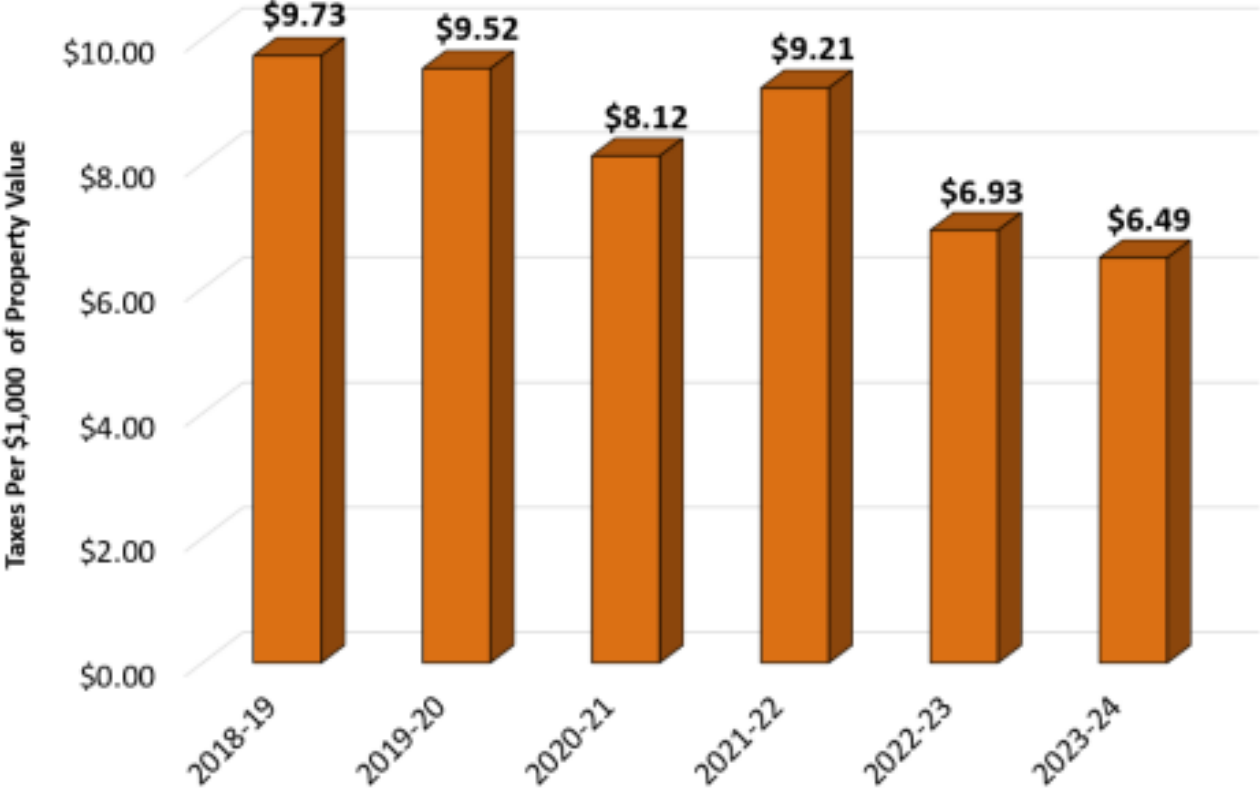


Financial Background



The District’s tax mill rate (which is used to calculate the District’s share of local property taxes) dropped to \$6.49 this school year, more than 33% below what it was in 2018-19.

Belmont Community School District Tax Mill Rates
Recent Trend



Financial Background



The District also has the second-lowest tax mill rate among districts in our area.

Tax Mill Rates
Area Comparison (2023-24)

