



Melrose-Mindoro School District

DECEMBER 16, 2024



2,656

POSTCARDS

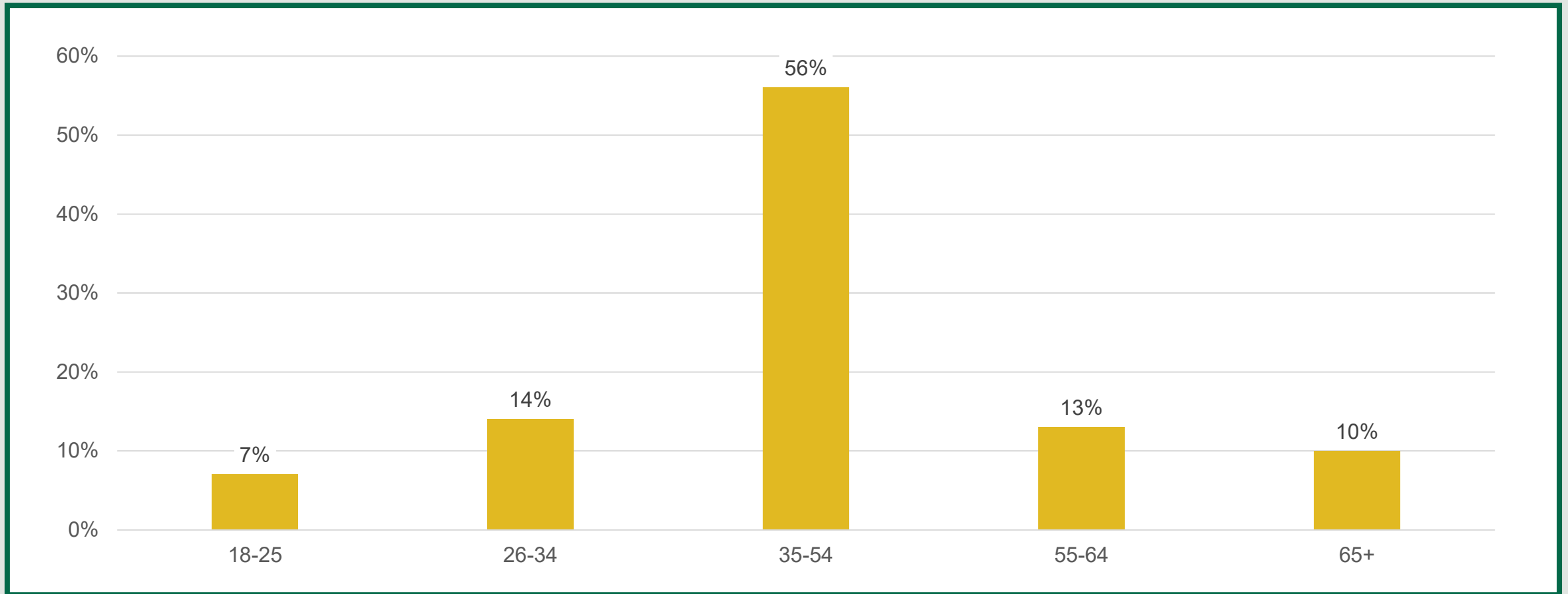
SENT TO THE COMMUNITY



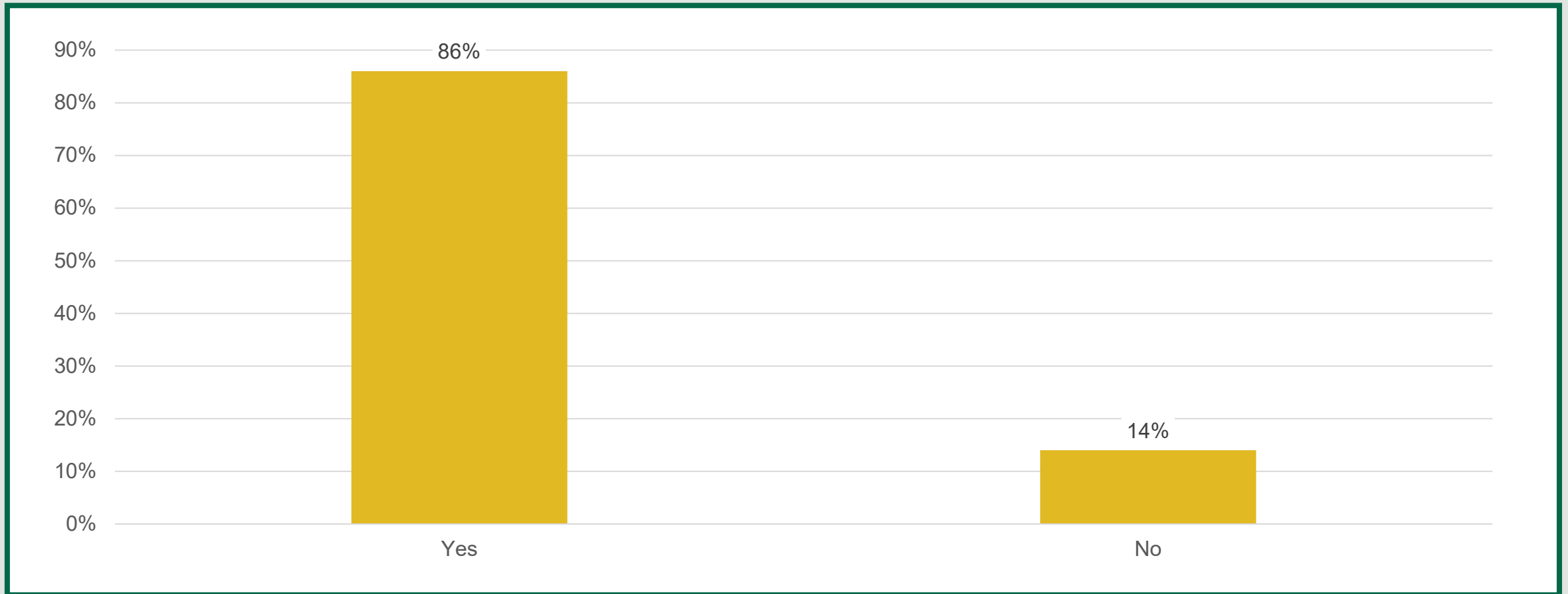
717

RESPONSES

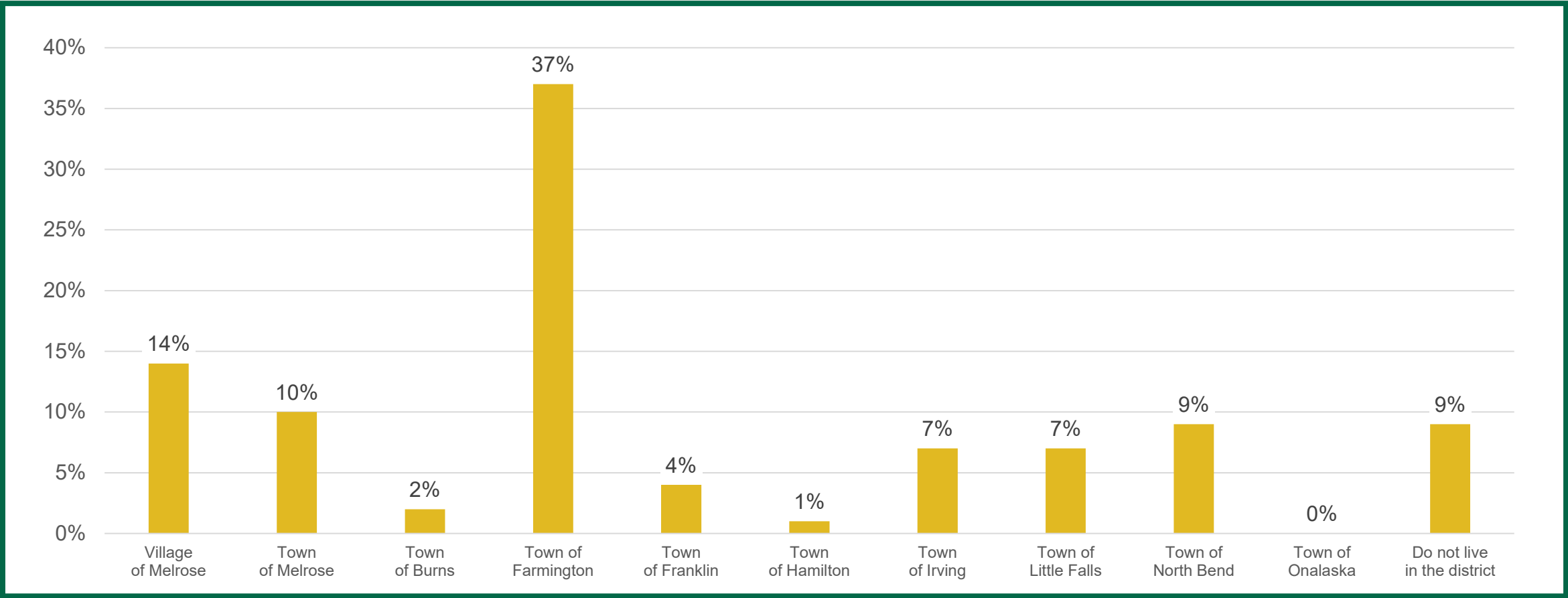
What is your age?



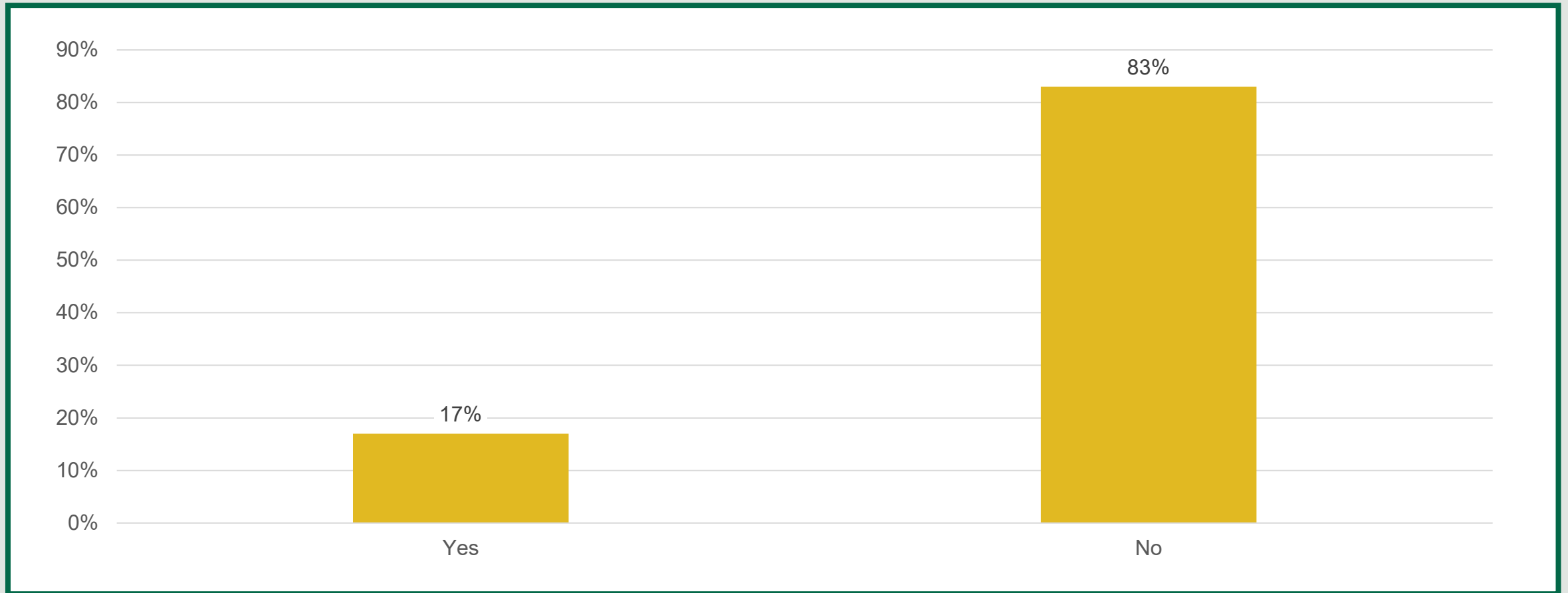
Is your primary residence in the Melrose-Mindoro School District?



In which city or township do you reside?



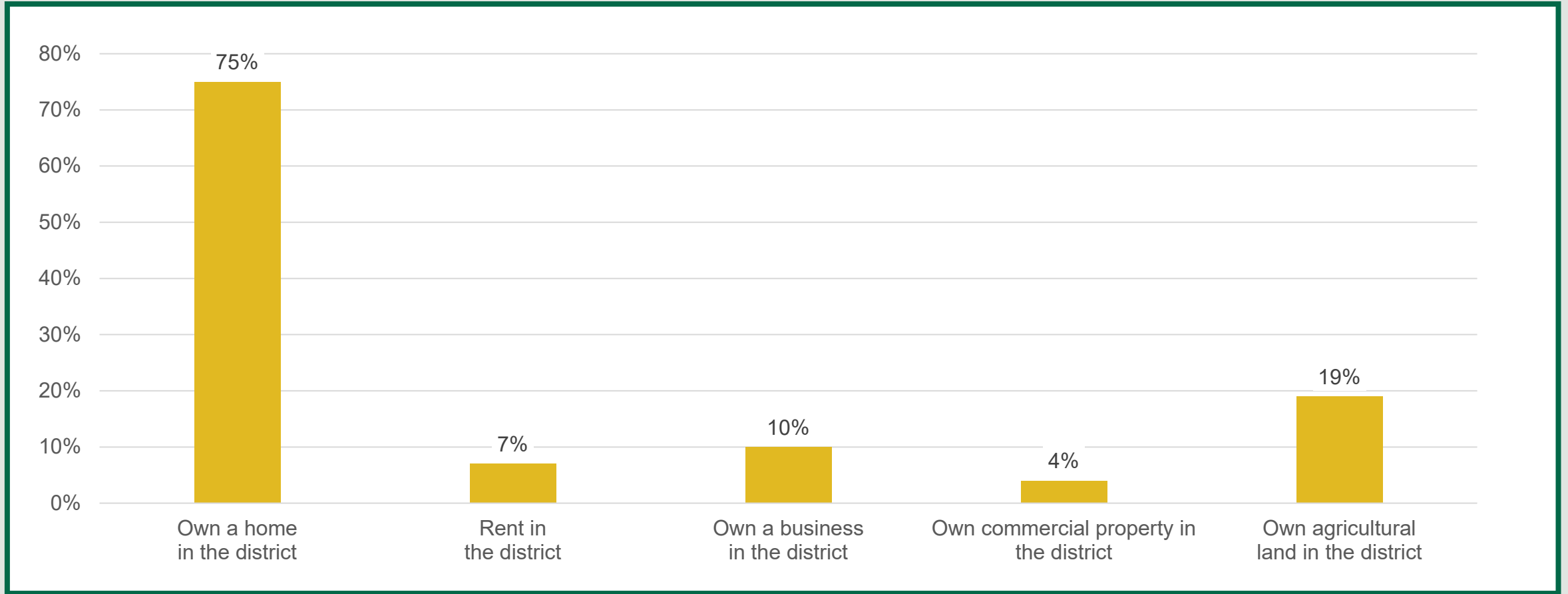
Are you an employee of the Melrose-Mindoro School District?



Do you have school-aged children?



Please select all that describe you.





Operational and Capital Referendum

There are two types of voter-approved referenda funding that school districts use: operational referendum and capital referendum.

Funds secured through an operational referendum are used to support the day-to-day operations of a District. These operations include staffing, educational programming, student services, and maintenance of District buildings. Funds secured through an operation referendum are used within the year they are received.

The Melrose-Mindoro School District has been very fiscally responsible over the years. In fact, it has been 14 years since Melrose-Mindoro voters have been asked to support an increase in District operations through an operating referendum, despite increasing expenses and inflation.

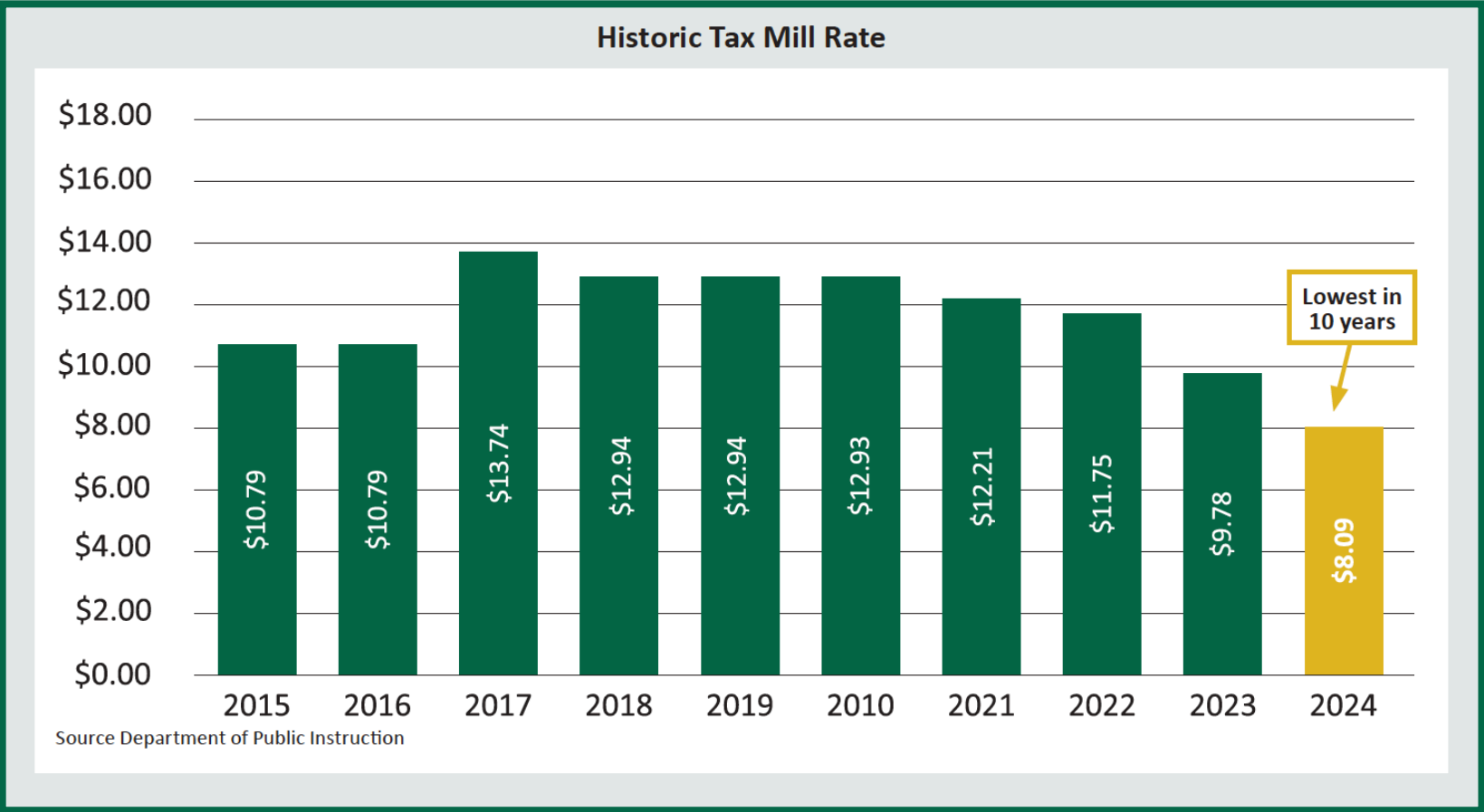


Funds secured through a capital referendum allow a District to issue debt to pay for major facility projects, much like a home mortgage. A capital referendum is typically financed over a series of years.

The 2016 referendum to build the elementary and junior high addition at the high school was funded through a capital referendum.



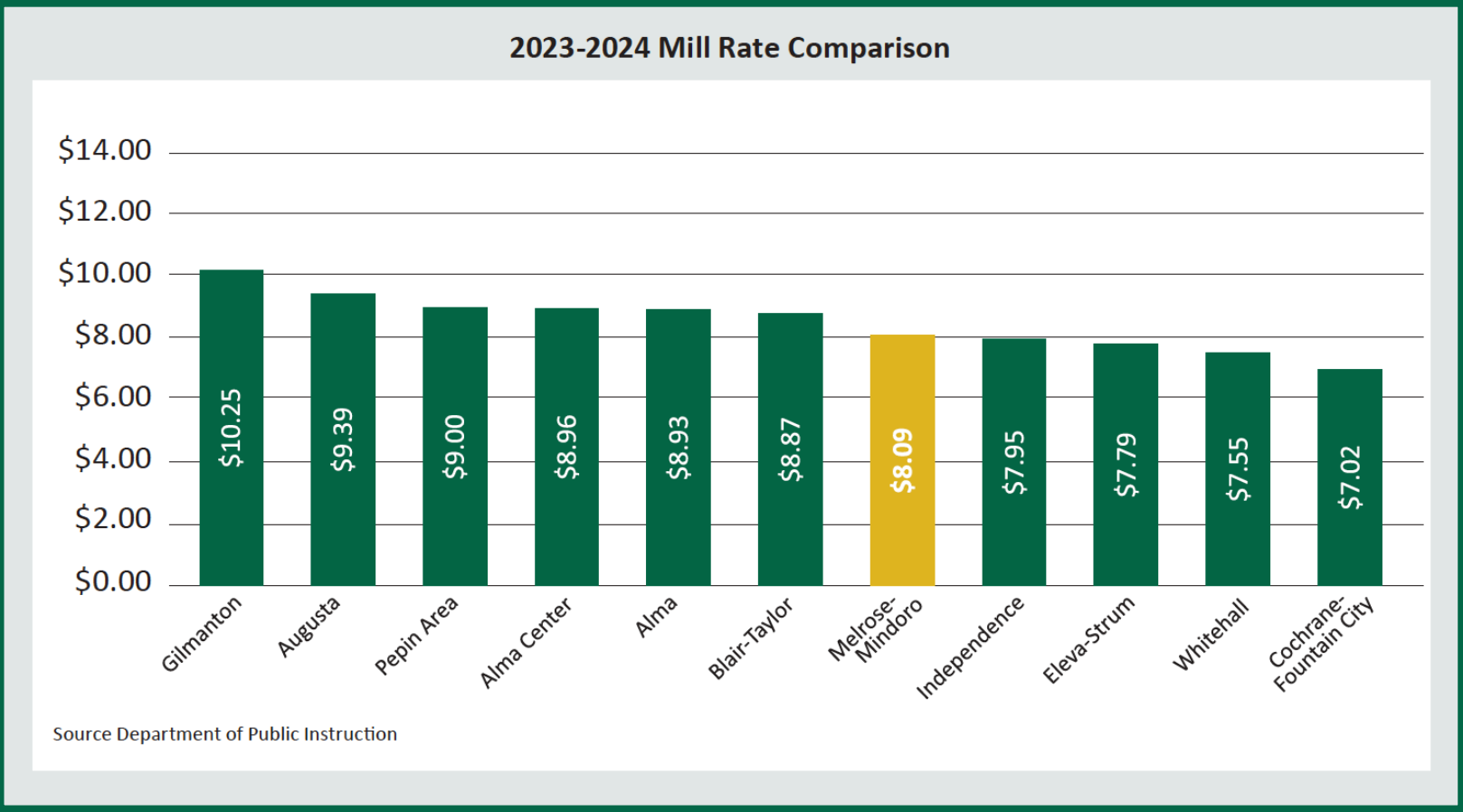
School Funding Background Information



The District works hard to be good stewards of taxpayer's dollars. As such, the District's tax mill rate is the lowest it has been in 10 years.



School Funding Background Information



In addition, the District's tax mill rate is near or lower than many of the school districts in our athletic conference.





School Operations

Funding Challenges

School districts receive the majority of their funding from the state. The largest portion of this funding, which comes from **the basic general education formula, has not kept up with inflation**, resulting in many school districts across the state facing significant budget challenges. In addition, there have been numerous **new mandates** for school districts, but not adequate funding to implement them without impacting other programs and services.

For the past four years, the District received additional funding called Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER). These federal funds were allotted through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This provided the needed funding to close the budget gap, allowing the District to maintain quality programs and services to ensure student success. **ESSER funding has now ended.**

The District is projecting an annual operating deficit of **more than \$1.2 million and growing** in the years ahead. The District will need to secure a voter-approved operating referendum in order to balance the budget or be forced to make additional cuts to programs and daily expenses.



Creative Solutions

Increasing Revenue and Grants

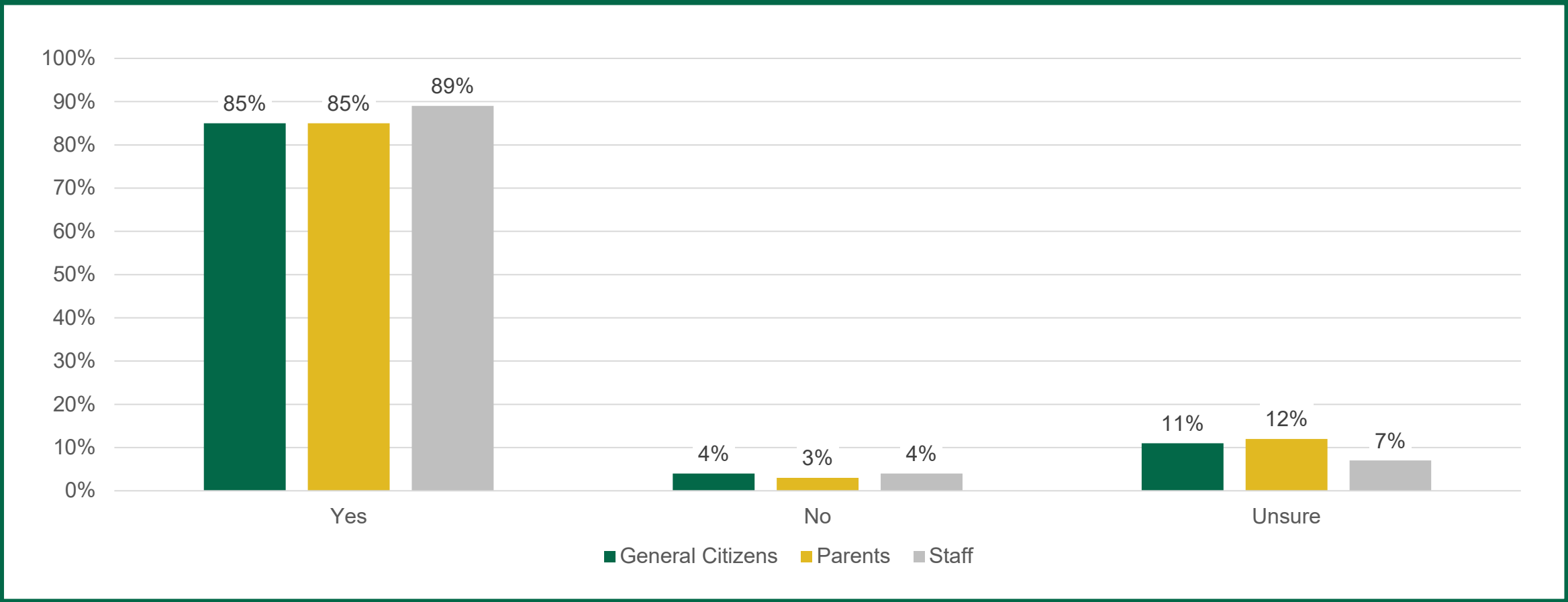
Before asking taxpayers for support, the District looked for ways to increase revenue.

To date, the District has done the following:

- Added full day 4K, 5 days per week, which increased enrollment
- Increased summer school enrollment, which generated more state revenue
- Secured grants to support District programs
 - Peer Mentoring Grant
 - Child Nutrition Program/School Meals Equipment Grant
 - Clean Bus Grant
 - Educator Effectiveness Grant



Should the District continue to explore other grants/partnerships to support district and community facilities, programs, and services?



Budget Restrictions

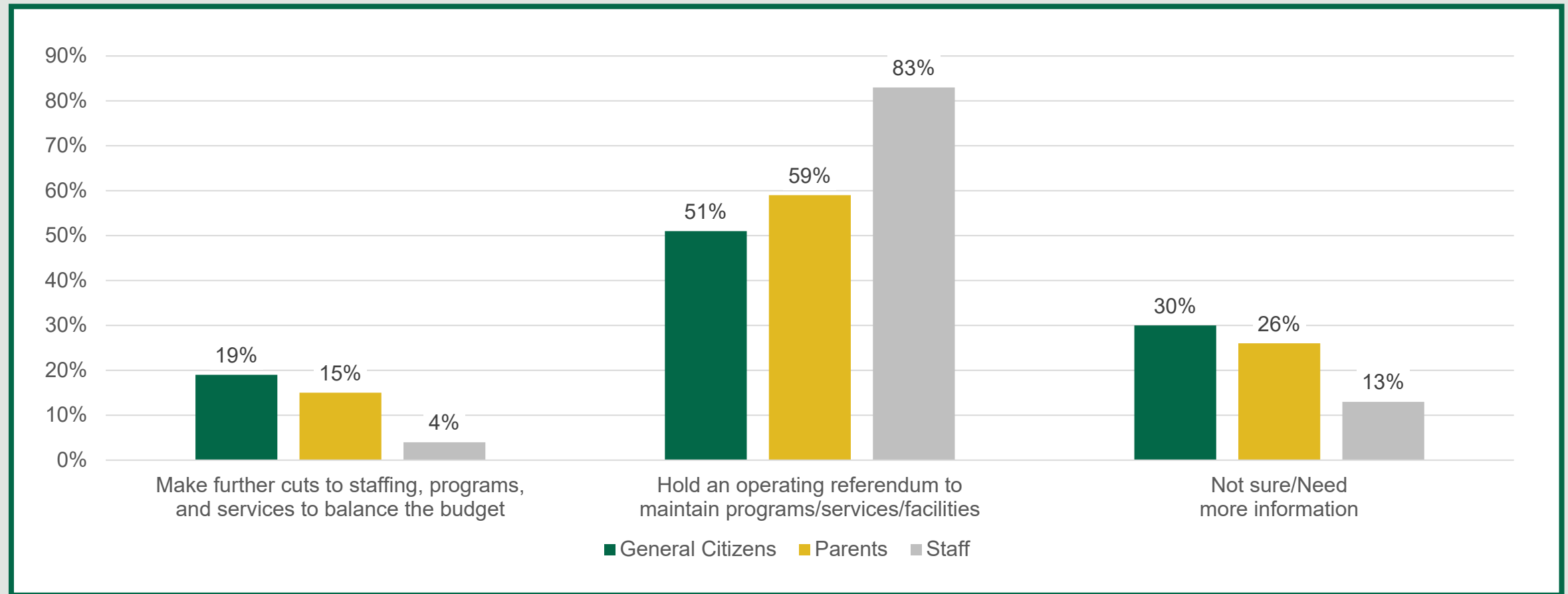
As a result of inadequate funding from the state and increasing costs, the District has been working to reduce expenses. To date, the District has done the following:

- Decrease staff by 6 positions this school year
- Reduced staff benefits
- Moved to self-funded health insurance
- Delayed facility maintenance projects
- Reduced contracted services outside of the District
- Rearranged in-service days to reduce substitute teacher expenses

We are concerned what additional cuts will mean to educating our students, attracting and retaining quality staff, and maintaining our facilities. Therefore, the District is exploring the option of asking voters to support District operations through an operating referendum.

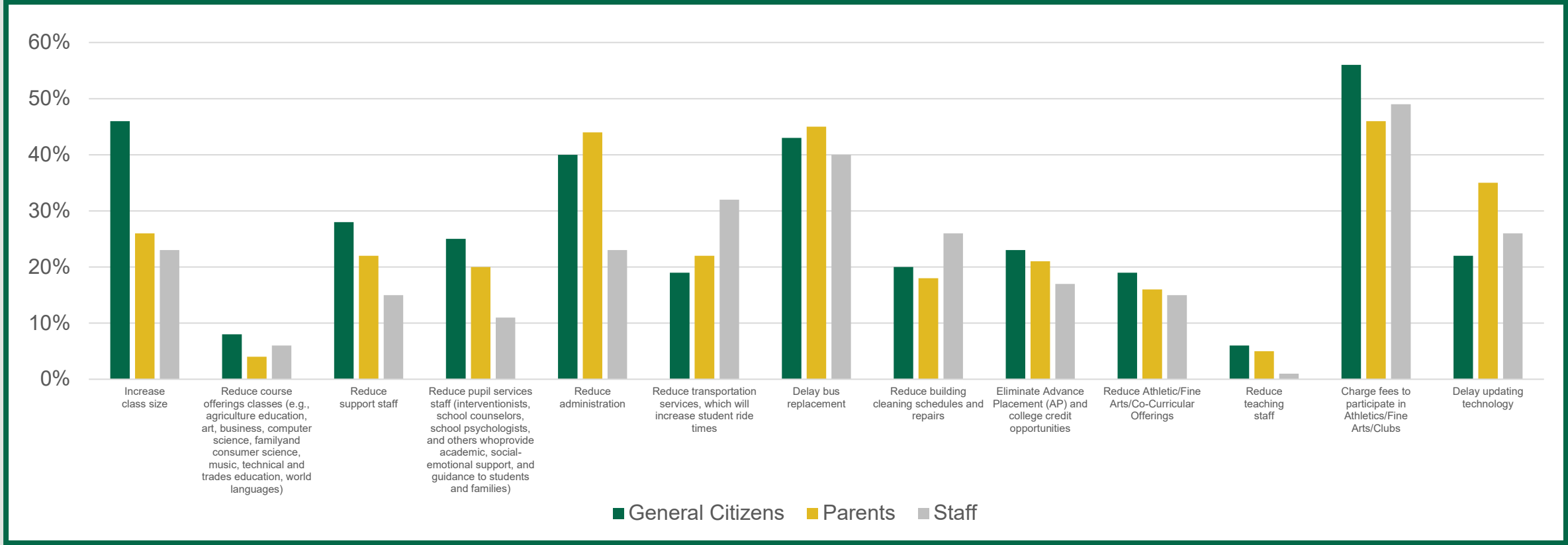


Based on the information on the previous slide, what advice would you give the District?



If voters do not support an operating referendum, the District will need to make further cuts to the budget.

If needed, what measures should the District take to save money?



Funding to Support Operations

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT				
	OPTION 1 No additional levy	OPTION 2 \$1.2 million	OPTION 3 \$1.5 million	OPTION 4 \$1.8 million
Estimated tax impact per \$100,000 of property value	No change	\$162	\$214	\$267

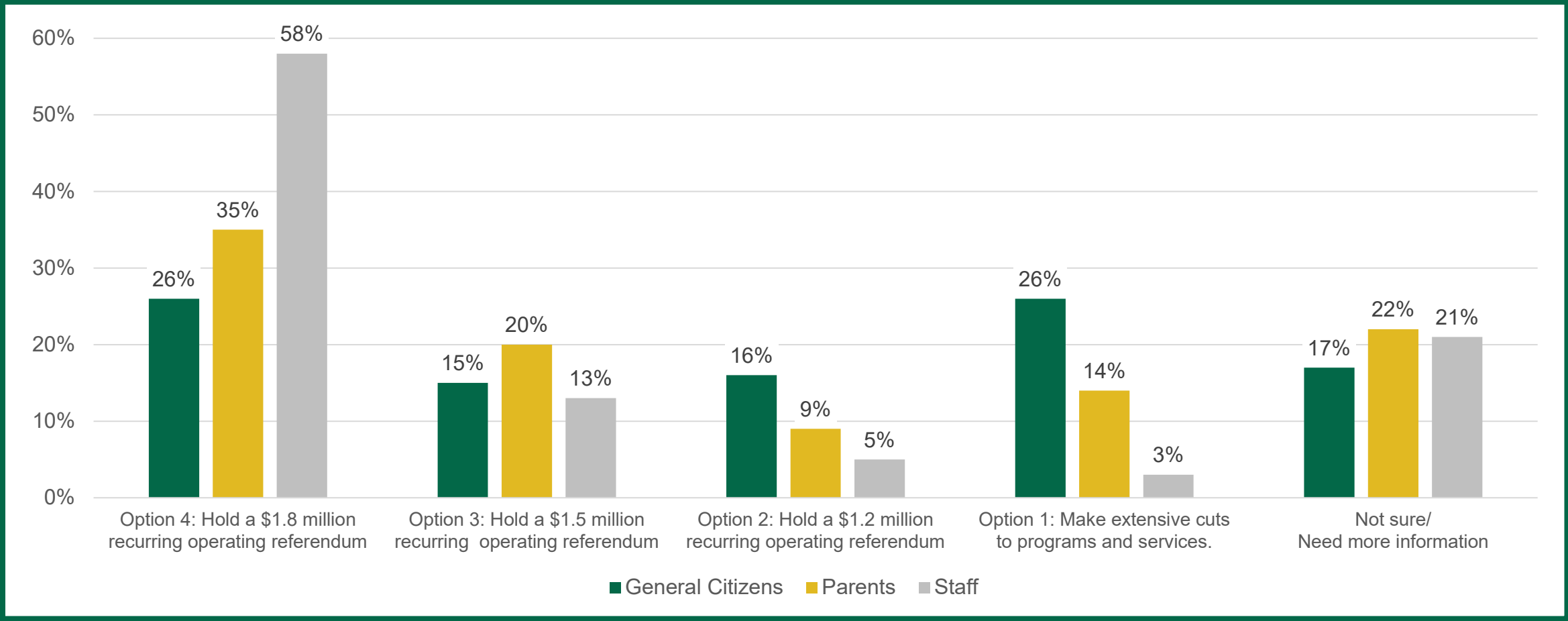
The District will develop a budget to operate our schools based on the community feedback received through this survey.

The following options have been developed:

- Option 1:** Make extensive cuts to programs and services.
- Option 2:** Hold a \$1.2 million recurring operating referendum, requiring the District to make annual, ongoing reductions to staff, programs, and services.
- Option 3:** Hold a \$1.5 million recurring operating referendum, allowing the District to maintain the 2024-2025 level of services and address some maintenance, building systems, safety, security and site improvement needs.
- Option 4:** Hold a \$1.8 million recurring operating referendum, allowing the District to maintain a balanced budget, address increases with inflation, and ensure funding to sustain programs, staffing, and facilities.



Which option would you support?





**THANK
YOU!**