

Community Survey Results

Medford Area School District

Final Report
April 15, 2020

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize and use data to make strategic decisions.

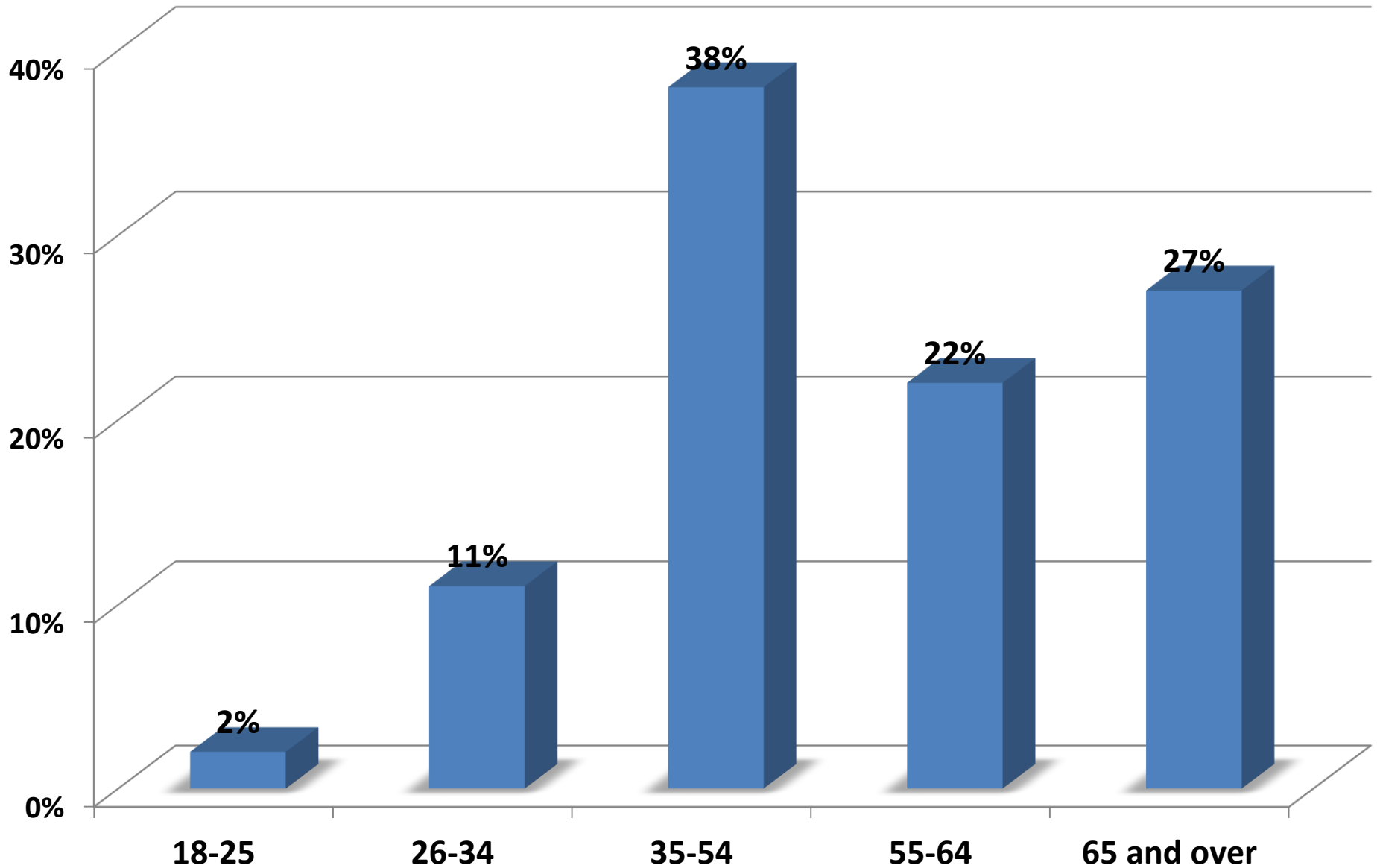
- Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research
- Conducted over 10,000 staff, parent, student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than 600 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

Survey Summary

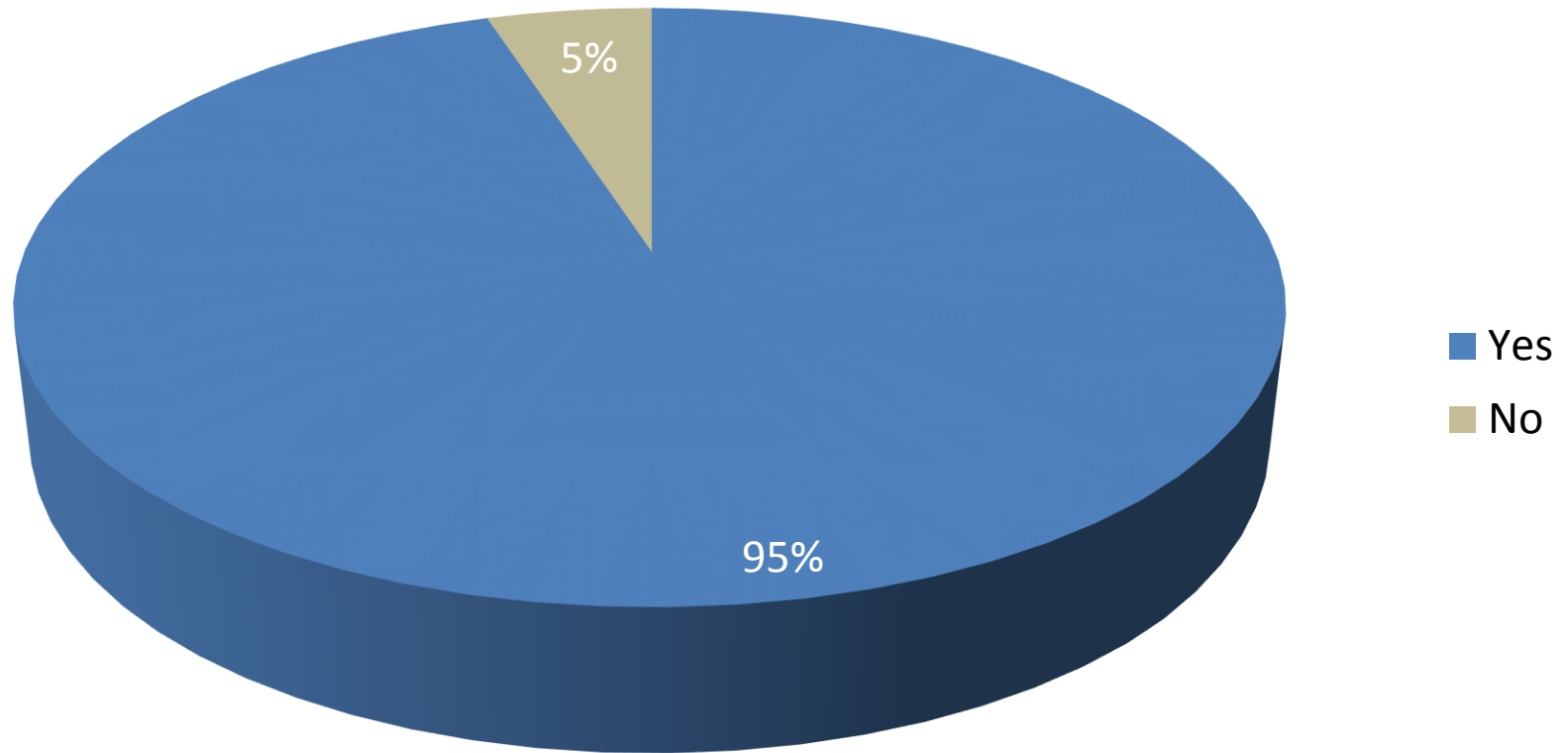
- The survey was conducted in late March – early April of 2020.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 1,596 (666 paper)
- Participation rate = 25%
- Margin of error = +/- 2.5%

Respondent Information

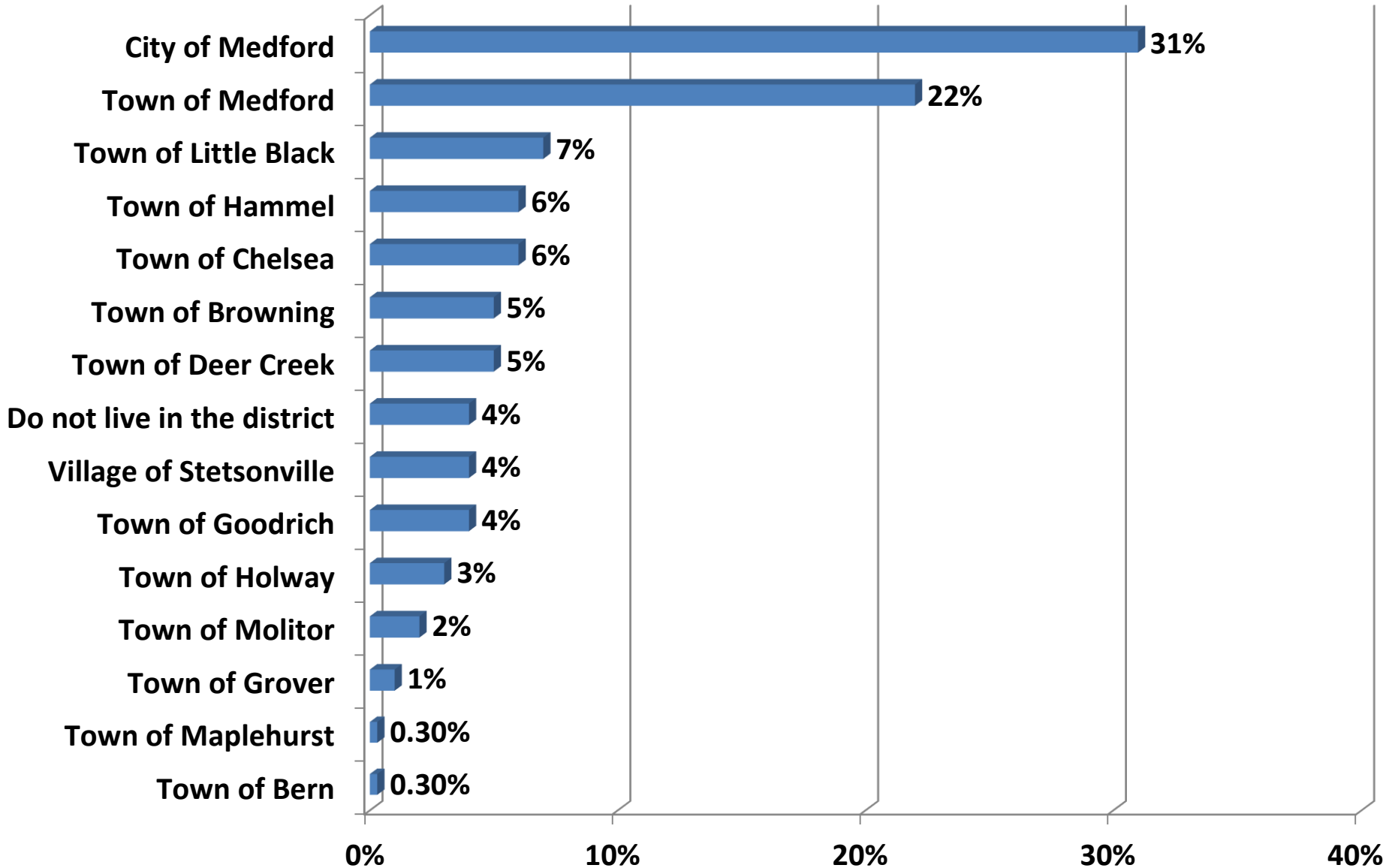
What is your age?



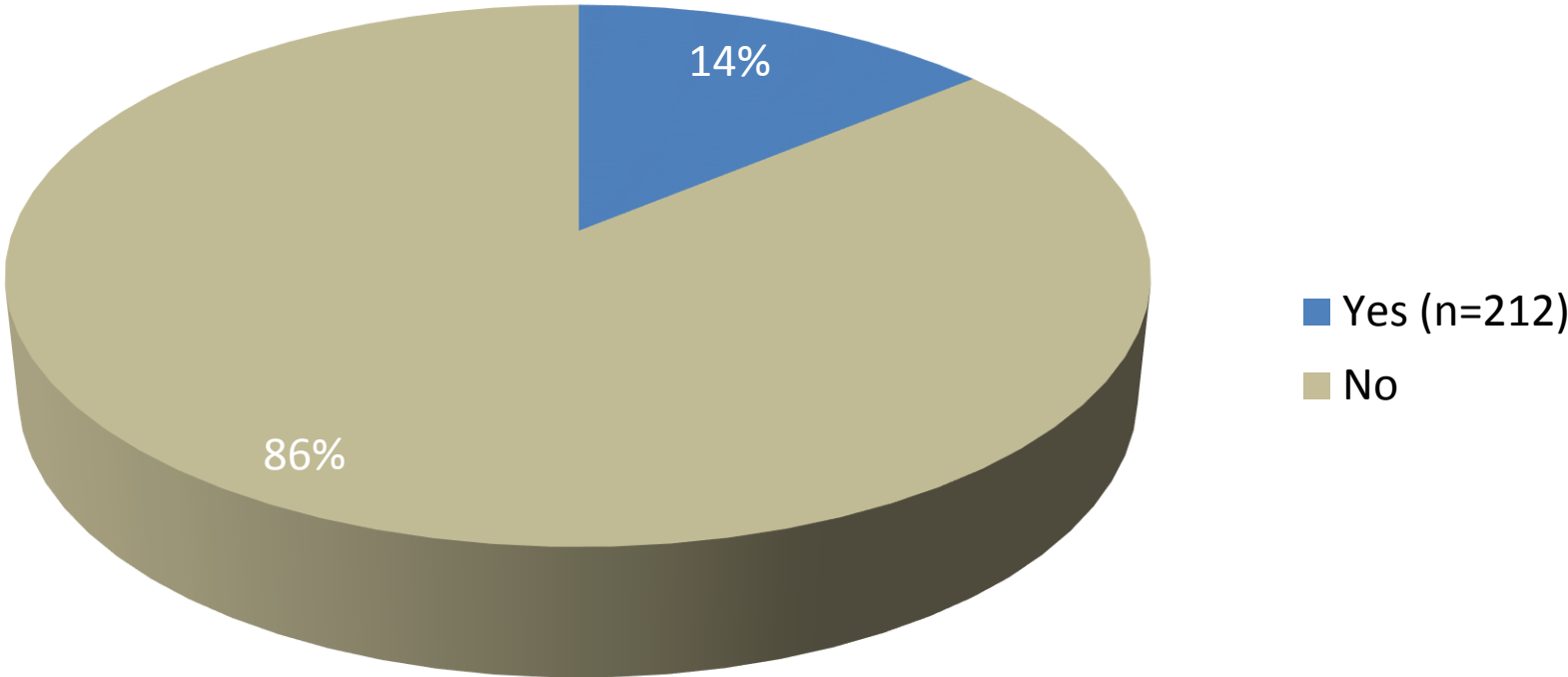
Do you live in the Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD)?



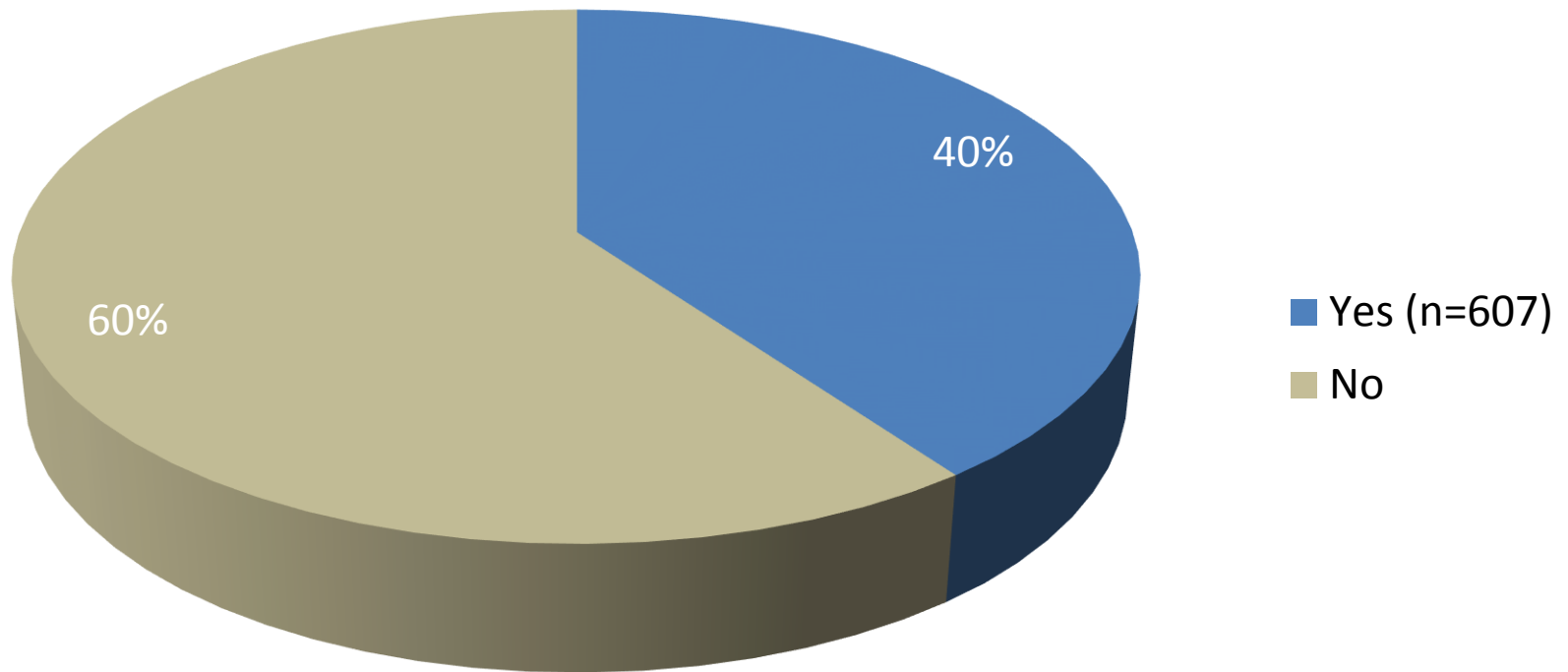
In which municipality do you reside?



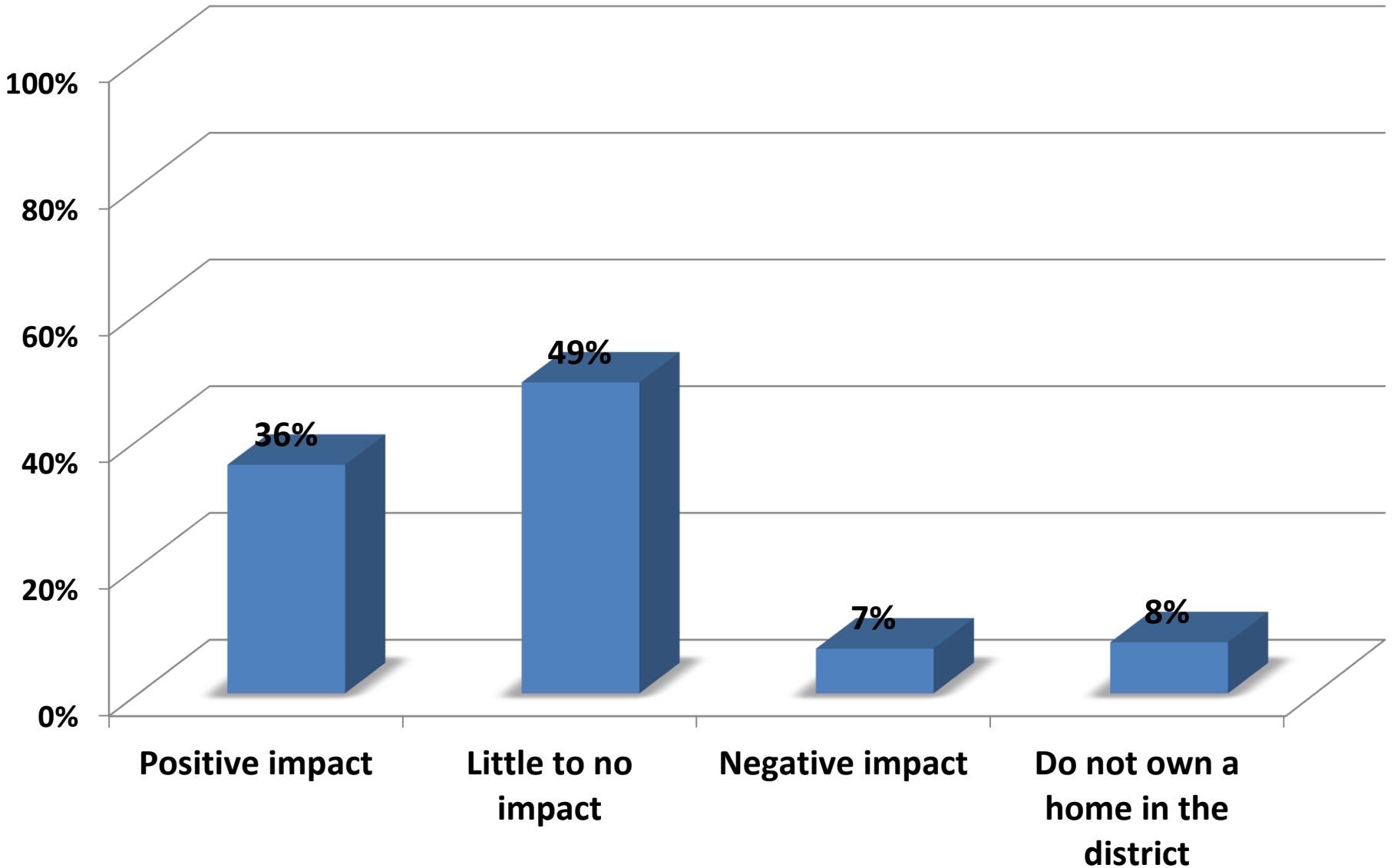
Are you an employee of the MAPSD?



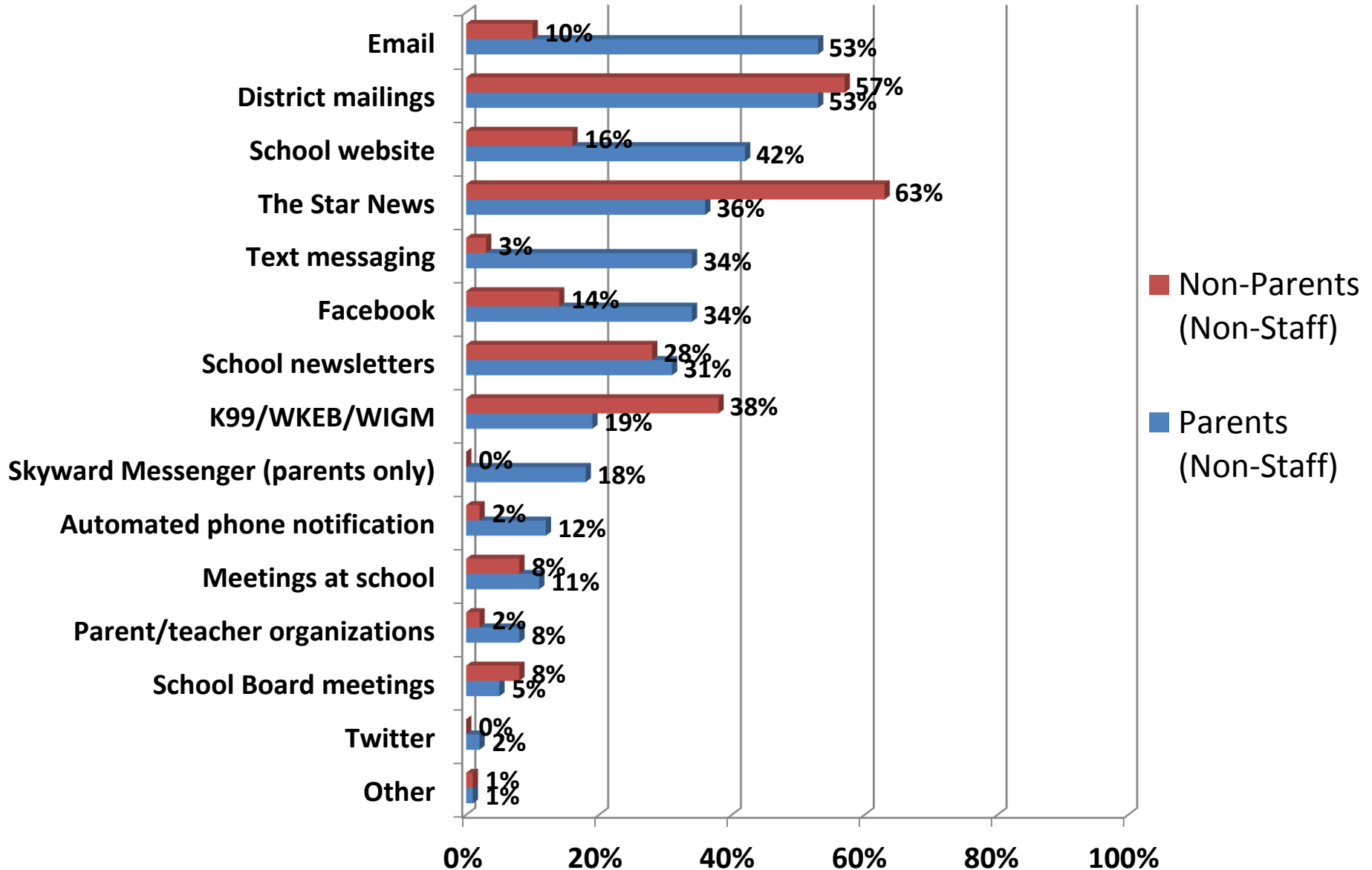
Do you have a child(ren) attending MAPSD?



What impact do you believe the quality of the MAPSD has on your home value?



How would you like to receive school/district information?



Facility Background Information

In May 2016, the district completed a strategic planning process. Approximately 60 Medford area stakeholders participated, including community members, parents, and district staff. The plan identified seven goals, including the need to update and build new structures (if necessary) to satisfy the needs of our students and community. The plan identified Medford Area Senior High (MASH) as the highest priority issue.

Last June, Plunkett Raysich Architects and J.H. Findorff & Son, our construction manager, completed a facility assessment to evaluate the condition, capacity, and educational adequacy of MASH. Key findings of the report include:

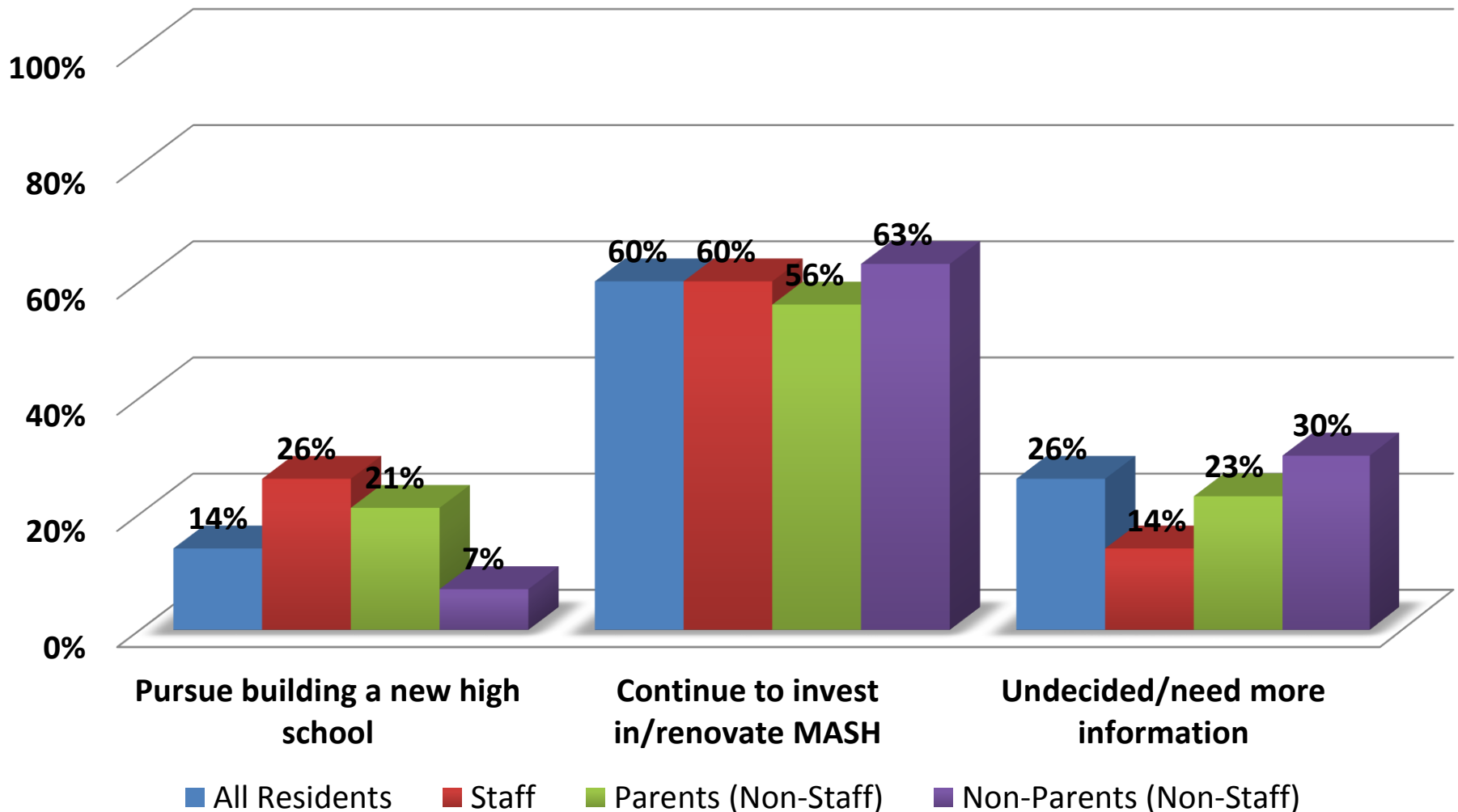
- The main entrance should be modified to better monitor and control visitor access.
- Due to their age, classroom floors, lighting, ceilings, and casework need updating.
- Some of the major building systems, including plumbing, heating/ventilation, and electrical, have exceeded their service life and need to be replaced.
- The technical education (shop) and science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) areas lack the space and equipment to support welding and small engine repair to better prepare our students for careers in our region.
- The science labs are too small and lack proper ventilation and storage.
- The family and consumer education, world language, and art classrooms are small, lack natural daylight, and need flexible space for small group instruction.
- The theater lacks adequate seating for the entire student body, and the stage is undersized for many student performances.
- The kitchen and cafeteria are too small, resulting in congestion and students spending extended time in serving lines.
- Updates are needed to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance issues.
- More gym spaces are needed to meet physical education, co-curricular, and community programming.

Some people have asked if now is the time to consider building a new high school. The estimated cost is \$80 to \$85 million. A new school would be built on the existing campus and have access to recently updated athletic facilities.

The current building is structurally sound, and the site can support future expansion. Therefore, an estimated investment of \$55 million could extend the service life of the building for 40 to 60 years.

What advice would you give the district regarding the Medford Area Senior High School building?

(MAPSD Residents Only)



Potential Projects

1. Improve Safety and Security

One of the main priorities identified is to better secure the main entrance and eliminate the ability for visitors to enter the school before checking in. This project would also relocate all high school offices to the main entrance area to improve efficiencies.

Estimated Cost: \$2.75 million

2. Update Major Building Systems/Infrastructure

The high school has been well maintained. However, some of the building's infrastructure is more than 50 years old and has reached the end of its useful life, resulting in inefficiencies and ongoing costly repairs. The cost to address these projects, including replacing roof sections as well as major heating/cooling, electrical, and plumbing systems are too large to be covered in the annual operating budget. This project would also address the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.

Estimated Cost: \$7.35 million

3. Update Career and Technical Education (Shop) Classrooms and Labs

There is a growing demand for employees in the construction, engineering, and manufacturing fields. However, our current classrooms and labs are too small and limit our ability to expand course offerings in woods, metals, welding, and small engines. This project would update and improve hands-on learning opportunities in science, engineering, art, music, and family/consumer science.

Estimated Cost: \$8 million

4. Update/Expand General and Special Education Classrooms

Many of the high school classrooms have not been updated since opening in 1968, and some are too small, lack natural light, and need additional space for student collaboration and small group projects. In addition, based on current programming, there is a need for additional classrooms. This project would renovate a majority of the general and special education classrooms.

Estimated Cost: \$7.05 million

5. Update/Expand Kitchen and Cafeteria

The existing cafeteria is undersized, resulting in crowding during lunch periods. An expanded cafeteria and kitchen would allow for more efficient food preparation and provide students with more time to eat. This project would also provide needed space for large group instruction and meetings outside of the lunch periods.

Estimated Cost: \$2.7 million

6. Add Physical Education/Gym Space

The district no longer has enough gym space to reasonably meet the needs of the school and community. As a result of limited gym capacity, team practices are being held early in the morning and late in the evening throughout the school year. Community use for recreational programming is also very limited.

The project would maintain Raider Hall and add space for physical education classes, practices, athletic events, community programming (e.g., senior walking, evening basketball, volleyball, etc.). This project would also include adding toilets, updating locker rooms, and relocating tennis courts.

Estimated Cost: \$15.3 million

7 & 8. Relocate/Replace the Red White Theater and Expand the Library Media Center

The current theater seats 300 people. It is too small for many school events and to adequately serve the greater Medford community. The theater stage needs to be increased in size, and significant investment is needed to update seating, curtains, and electrical systems. The area also lacks dressing rooms, storage, and backstage space. Large school performances often require the use of the high school gym to provide enough seating and performance space, which creates scheduling conflicts for physical education and athletic events.

Today's school libraries are utilized differently than in previous generations. No longer just used for quiet, independent study, these spaces are now the central space used for student collaboration, research, and technology access.

This project would relocate and replace the Red White Theater. The new theater would have seating capacity for 700. This would allow the library media center to expand into the old theater space.

Estimated Cost: \$12.5 million

How likely would you be to support a plan that provides funding to...

Very likely (3), Somewhat likely (2), Not likely (1)

| Item | All Residents | Staff Residents | Parent Residents (Non-Staff) | Non-Parent Residents (Non-Staff) |
|--|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| improve safety and security? Est. Cost: \$2.75 million | 2.37 | 2.64 | 2.53 | 2.20 |
| update major building systems? Est. Cost: \$7.35 million | 2.31 | 2.70 | 2.42 | 2.15 |
| update career and technical education classrooms and labs? Est. Cost: \$8 million | 2.22 | 2.49 | 2.37 | 2.06 |
| update and add classrooms? Est. Cost: \$7.05 million | 1.98 | 2.45 | 2.16 | 1.76 |
| update the cafeteria/kitchen? Est. Cost: \$2.7 million | 1.90 | 2.24 | 2.05 | 1.73 |
| relocate the Red White Theater and expand the library media center into the current theater space? Est. Cost: \$12.5 million | 1.80 | 2.24 | 2.01 | 1.58 |
| add physical education and gym space? Est. Cost: \$15.3 million | 1.83 | 2.26 | 2.10 | 1.57 |

Funding Support

The Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) will soon make the final payments on a loan that funded past building projects. As a result, the debt portion of the school tax levy will drop. Using a homeowner analogy, we are about to pay off the mortgage of our home. This reduction of loan payments will minimize the tax impact of any new spending and is included in the tax calculations below. With that debt retired, MAPSD believes this is a good time to consider investing in our schools. Also, interest rates remain near historic lows, allowing us to maximize our borrowing.

The estimated cost to build a new high school is \$85 million. The cost to complete all of the projects outlined in the survey to update MASH is estimated at \$55.6 million. Given the cost, we may have to complete the projects in phases. It is important to note that due to the increasing cost of construction and the likelihood that interest rates will rise, future phases will likely be more expensive than the cost listed in the survey.

| Item | Estimated Cost |
|--|------------------------|
| Improve Safety and Security | \$ 2.75 million |
| Update Major Building Systems/Infrastructure | \$ 7.35 million |
| Update Career and Technical Education (Shop) Classrooms and Labs | \$ 8.00 million |
| Update/Expand General and Special Education Classrooms | \$ 7.05 million |
| Update/Expand Kitchen and Cafeteria | \$ 2.70 million |
| Add Physical Education/Gym Space | \$15.30 million |
| Relocate/Replace Red White Theater/Expand Library Media Center | <u>\$12.50 million</u> |
| Total | \$55.65 million |

The following table shows the estimated annual tax impact for various referendum amounts.

| Referendum Amount | \$35 million | \$40 million | \$45 million | \$50 million | \$55.65 million | \$85 million (new high school) |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Estimated net tax increase per \$100,000 of property value | \$46 per year (\$3.83/month) | \$72 per year (\$6/month) | \$99 per year (\$8.25/month) | \$126 per year (\$10.50/month) | \$156 per year (\$13/month) | \$312 per year (\$26/month) |

How much of a tax increase would you support through a referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?

(MAPSD Residents Only)



What did we learn?

- ✓ A majority (60%) of all respondents support a plan to continue to make investments in the current high school.
- ✓ A majority of staff and parents would likely support all projects, including a new theater and adding gym space.
- ✓ Parents, representing approximately 25% of the voters, would likely support a referendum for \$45 million.
- ✓ Non-parent (non staff), representing approximately 75% of the voters, would likely support a referendum for nearly \$35 million.

Thank you!



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