



# Deerfield Community School District

Community Survey Report

July 30, 2024

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



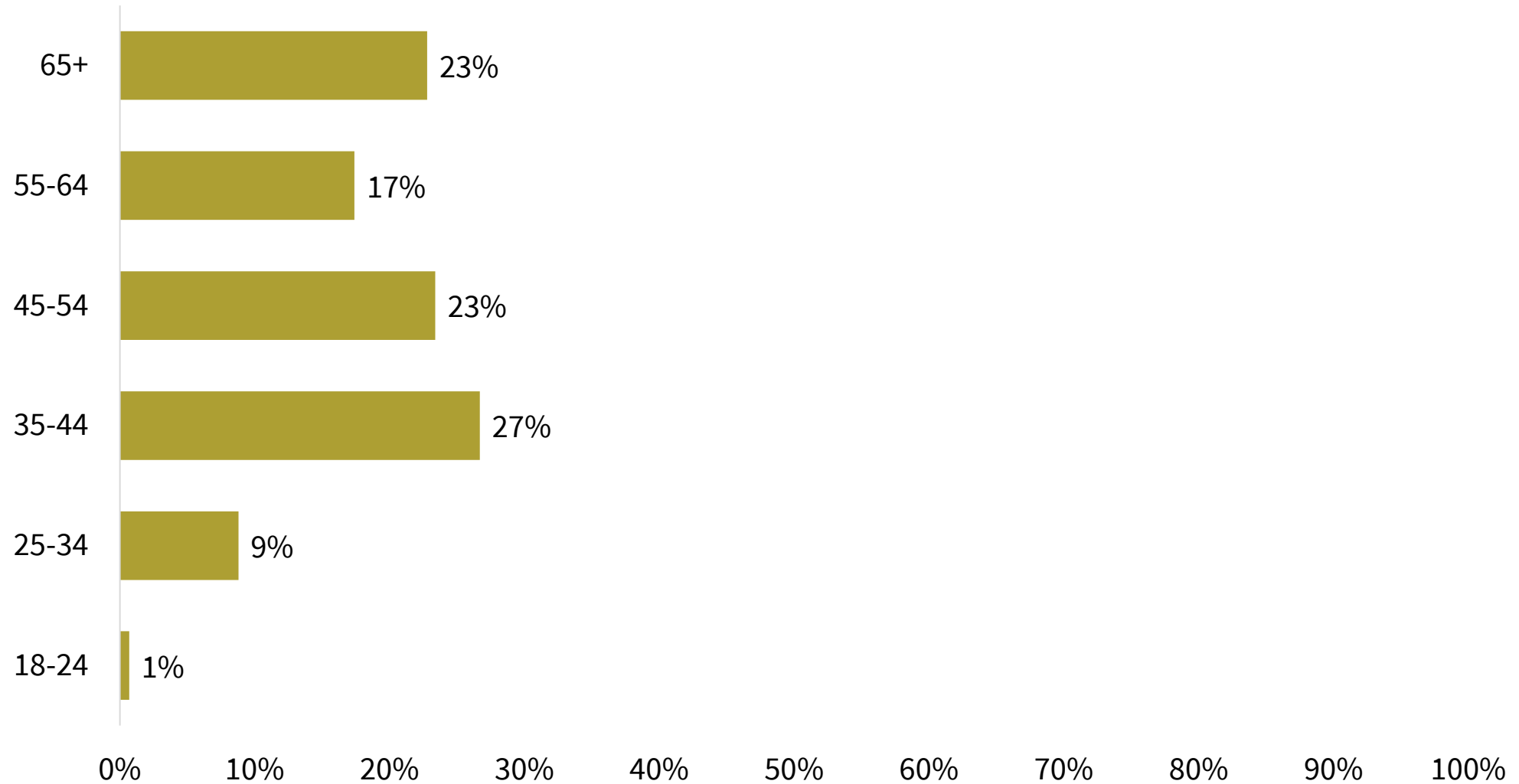
- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **900** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process

# Survey Information

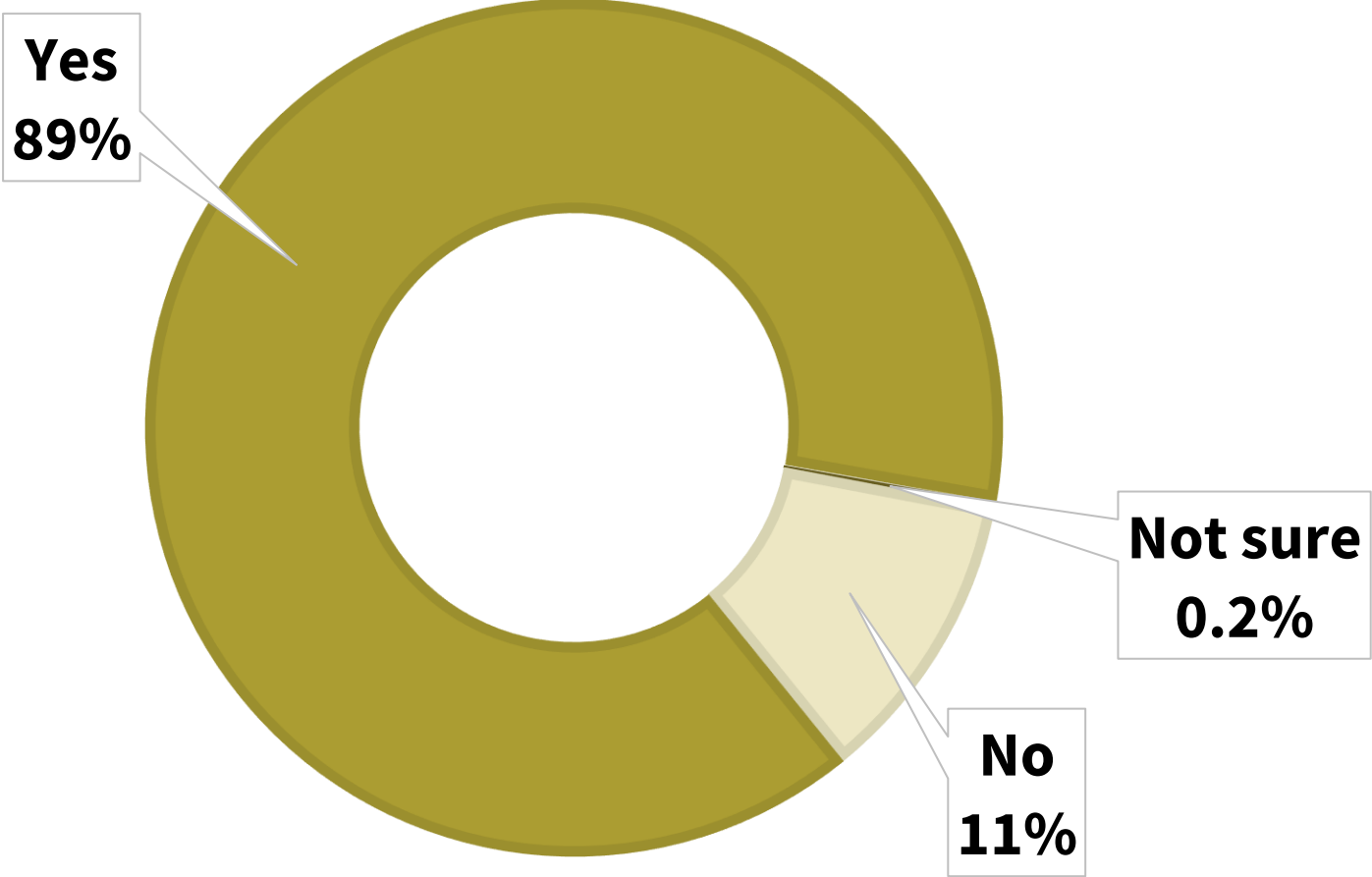
- **July 8, 2024** survey deadline
- **551** respondents (482 in 2022)
- **30%** response rate
- **+/- 4.3%** statistical margin of error



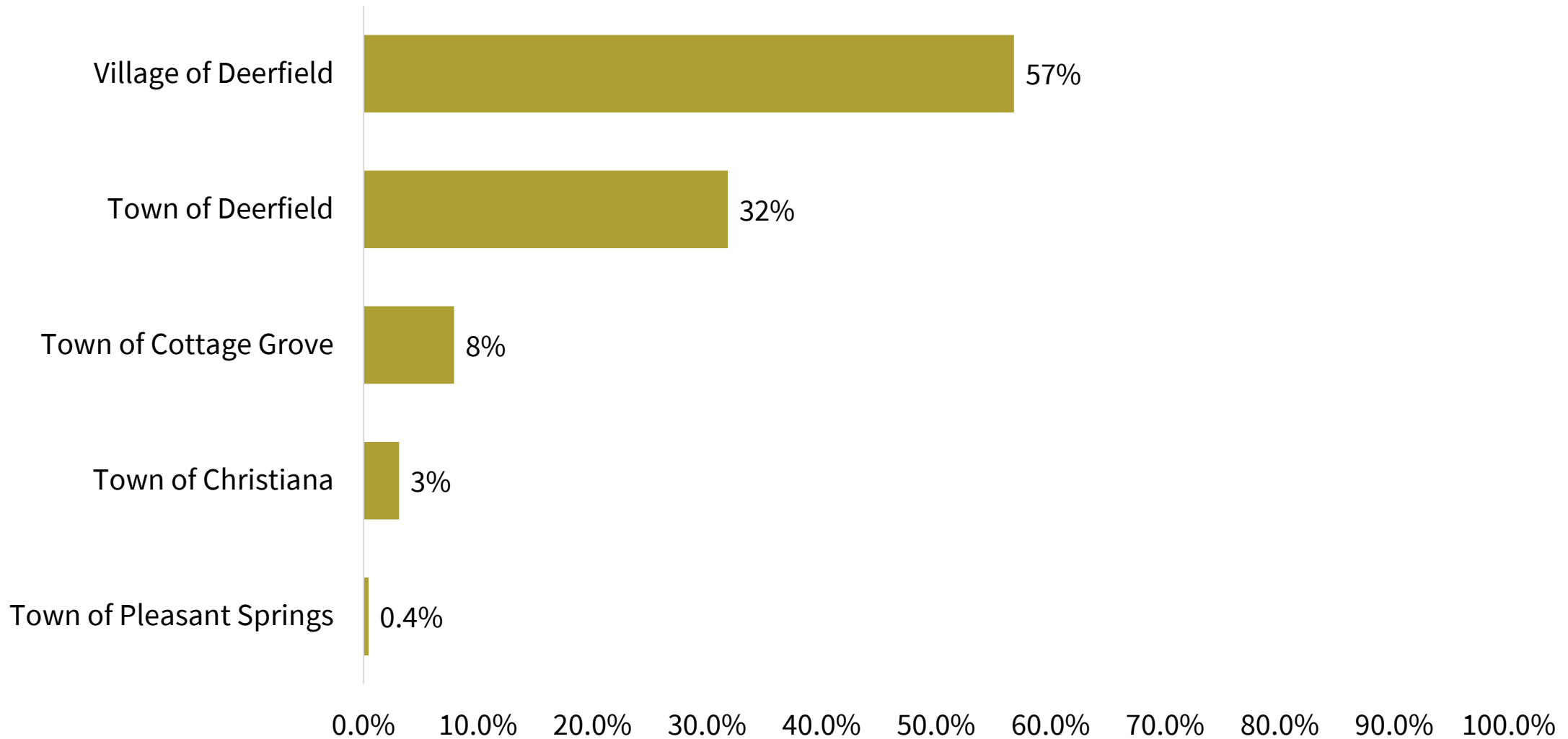
# What is your age?



# Is your primary residence in the District?



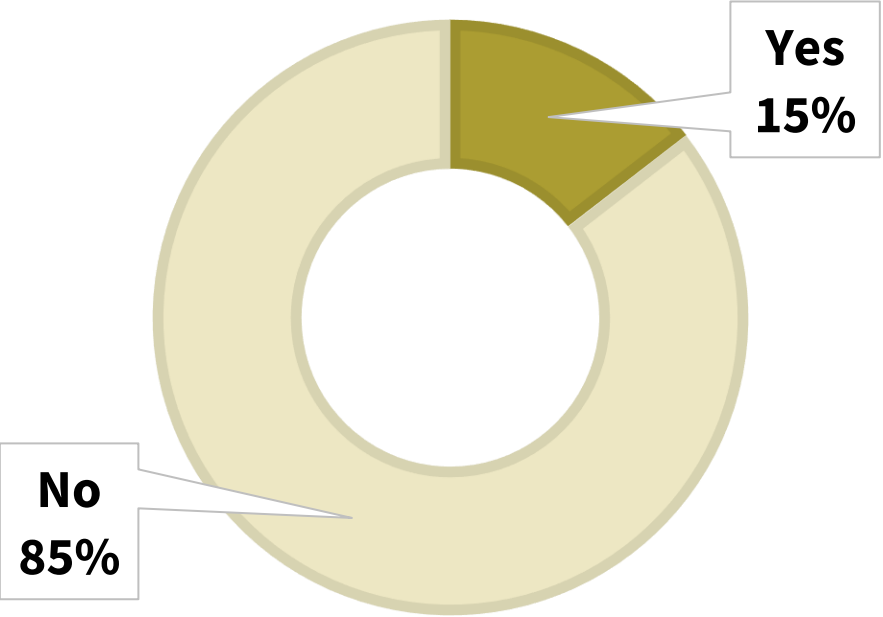
# Where do you live?



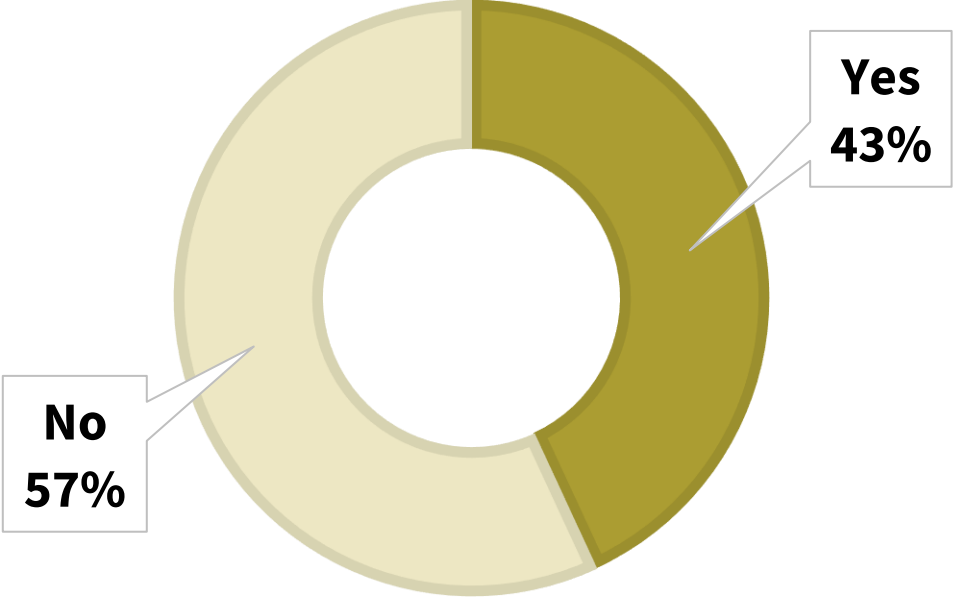
# Respondent Information



Are you employed by the District?

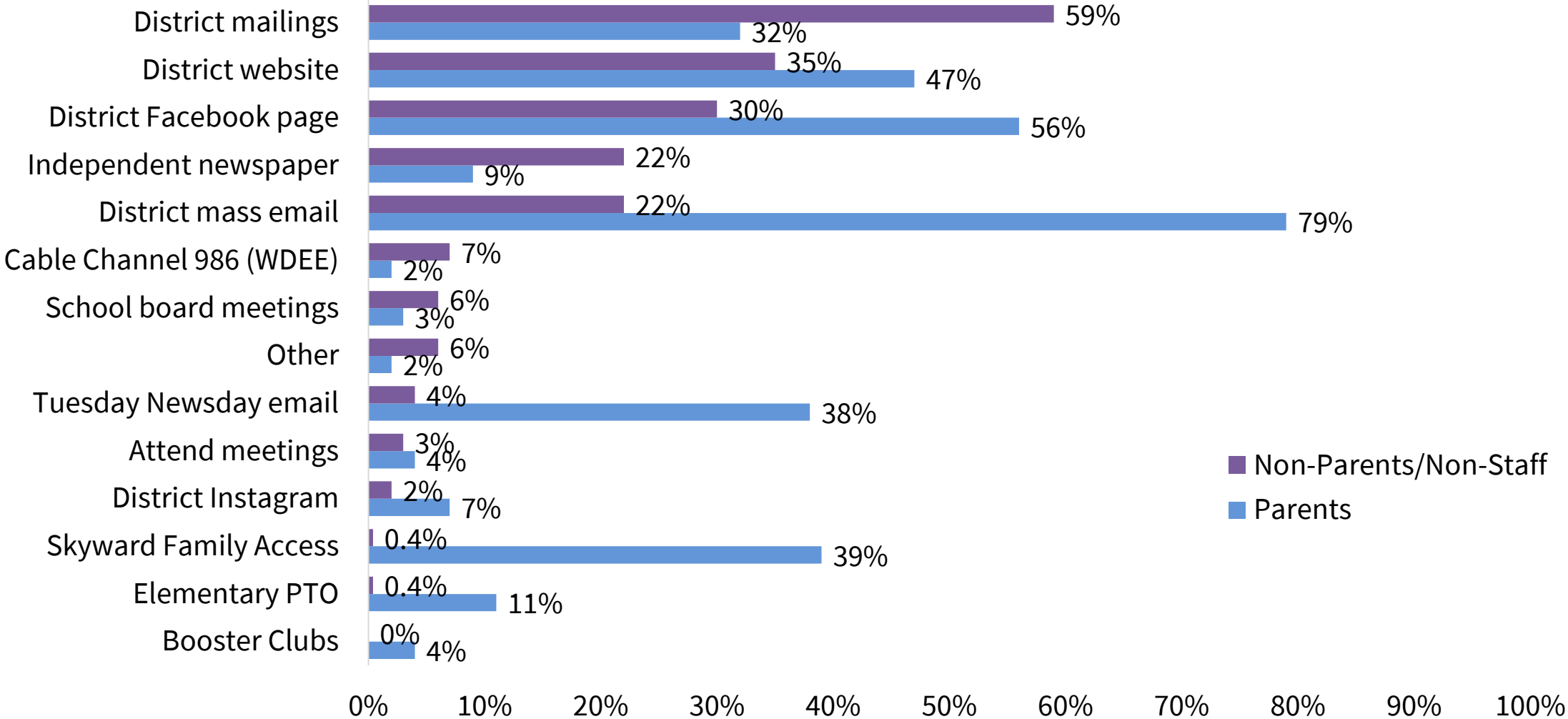


Do you have children attending a school in the District?





# How do you like to receive school district information?



# Operational Budget Challenges



- **Lack of state funding.** The District did not receive any increase in state funding on a per-student basis in 6 of the last 10 years. State funding has not kept up with increasing costs for such things as salaries, technology, curriculum, utilities, transportation, and student services.
- **Low revenue limits.** State law limits the amount of money school districts can receive from state aid and local property taxes (the "revenue limit"). Deerfield's revenue limit per student is the lowest among neighboring school districts and the lowest in the state. **Our revenue limit makes it difficult to attract and retain quality staff as well as maintain current student services.**
- **COVID-19 funds ended.** Federal COVID-19 funding, which helped bridge the deficit over the past three years, has ended.
- **Voter-approved funding expires soon.** The funding from the operational referendum approved in 2020 will expire next year.

Revenue Limit per Student (2023-24)	
Jefferson	\$12,330
Marshall	\$12,187
Stoughton	\$12,079
Cambridge	\$12,073
McFarland	\$12,046
Fort Atkinson	\$11,976
Monona Grove	\$11,621
<b>Deerfield</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>

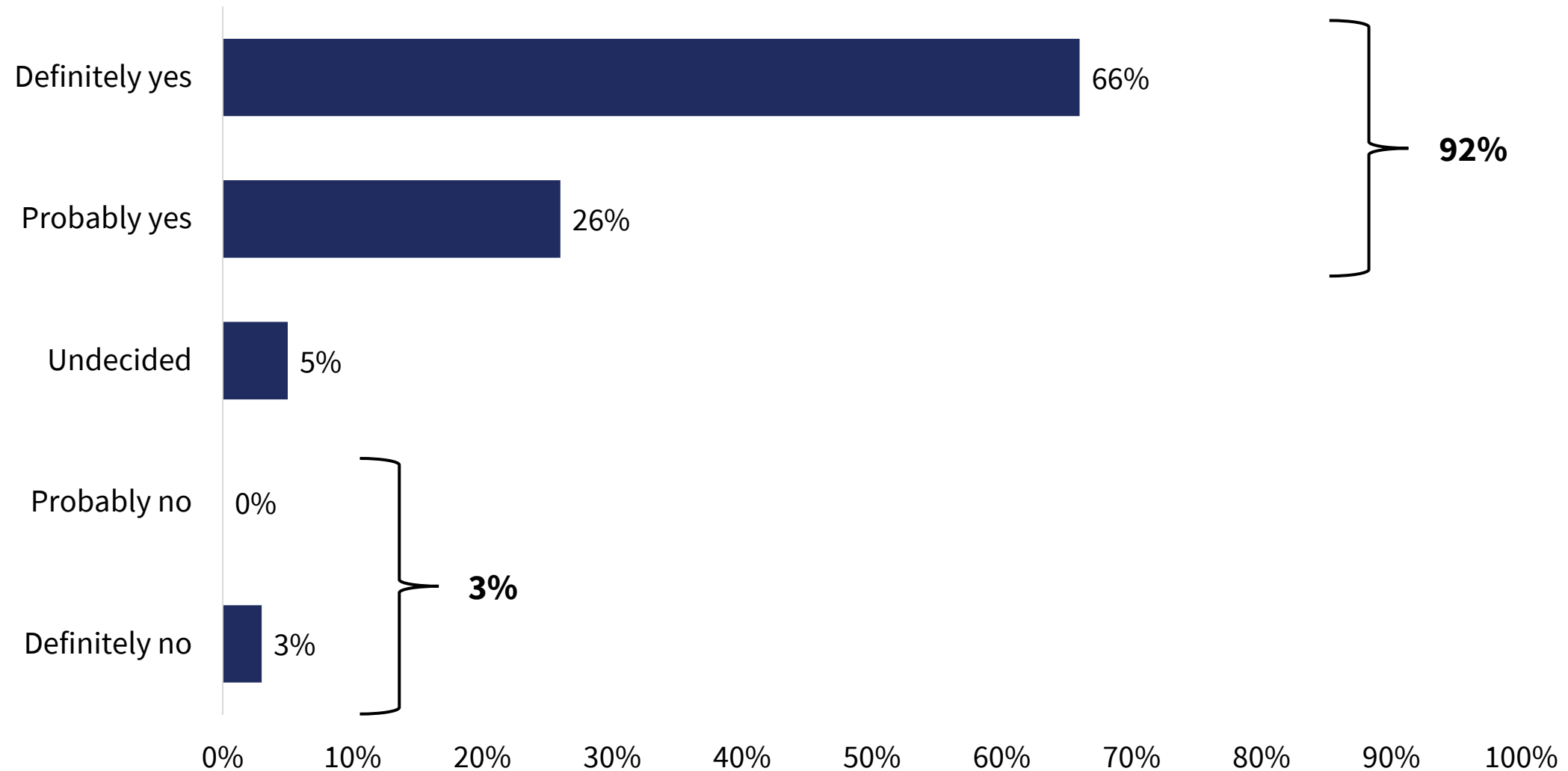
# Funding Support

The CAC developed two options for community feedback. Each would provide funding for daily expenses for each of the next five years.

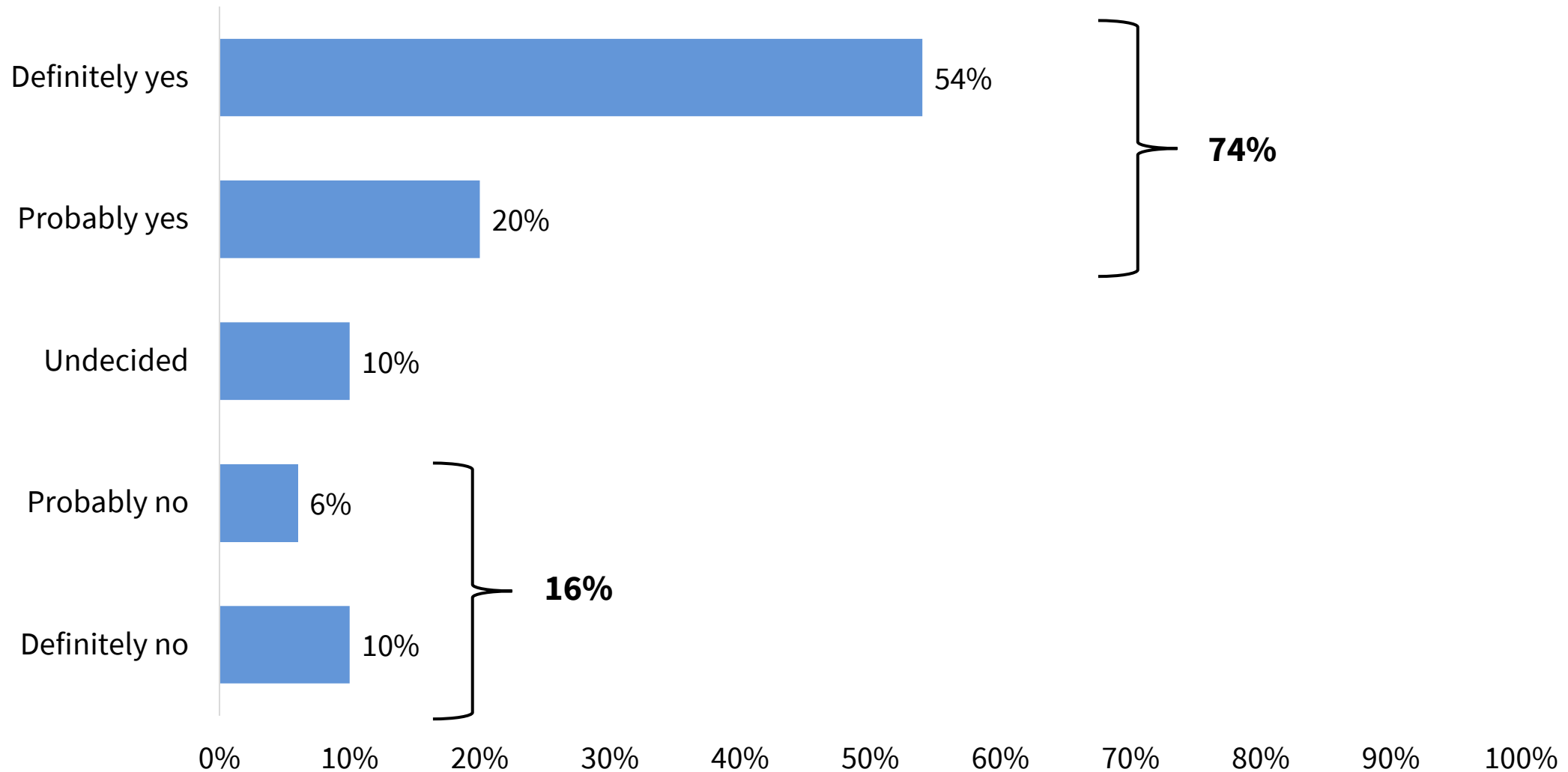
**Option 1: Maintain current levels.** If Deerfield voters support a \$1.0 million referendum for the 2024-25 school year and then \$1.5 million for each of the next four years, the District could maintain current programs, services, and staffing levels.



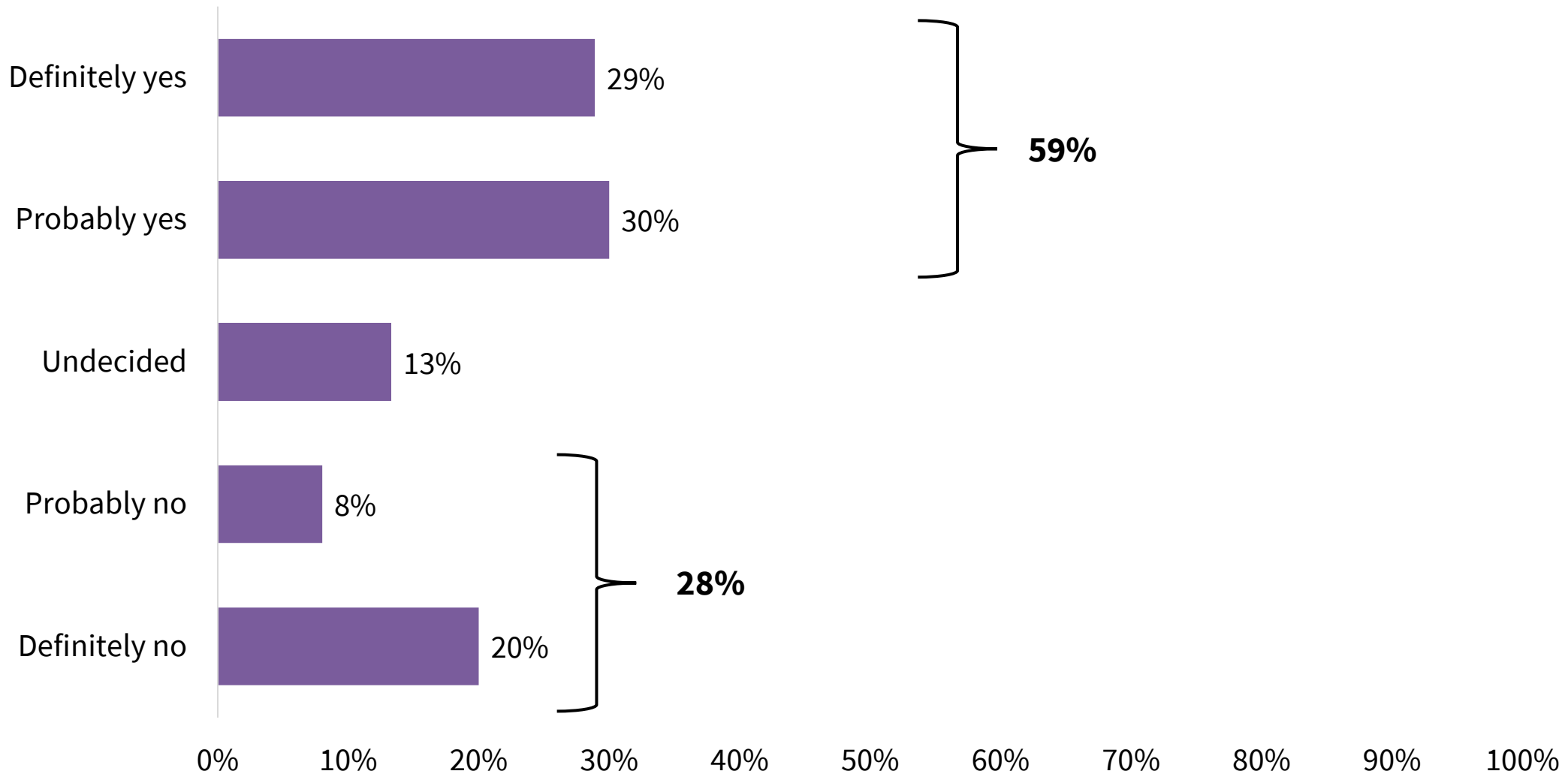
# Would you support an operational referendum to fund Option 1? (*Staff Residents*)



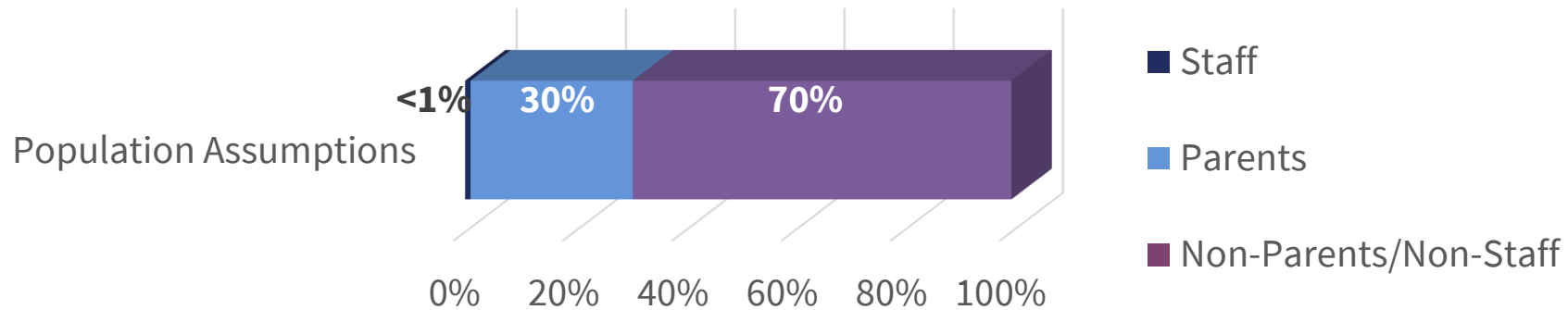
# Would you support an operational referendum to fund Option 1? (*Parent Residents*)



# Would you support an operational referendum to fund Option 1? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



# Would the operational referendum to fund Option 1 be supported?



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.30 (74\%) + 0.70 (59\%) = \underline{\underline{63.5\%}}$$



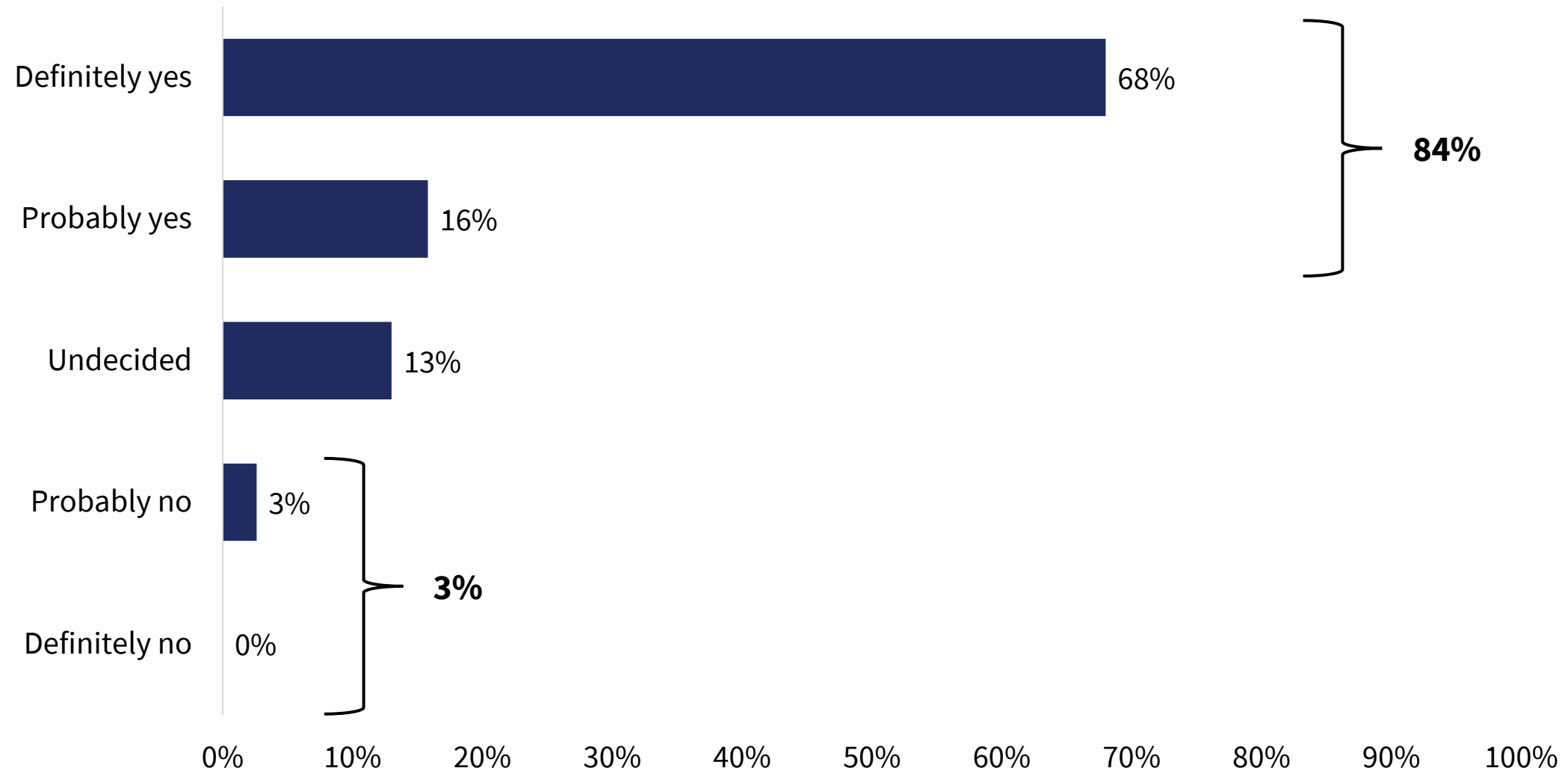
# Funding Support

**Option 2: Pay for increasing costs and compensate staff more competitively.** A recent review showed that Deerfield staff salaries are below average compared to neighboring districts. Increasing Option 1 by \$300,000 annually (to \$1.3 million for the 2024-25 school year and then \$1.8 million for each of the next four years) would help increase staff compensation and pay for increasing costs.

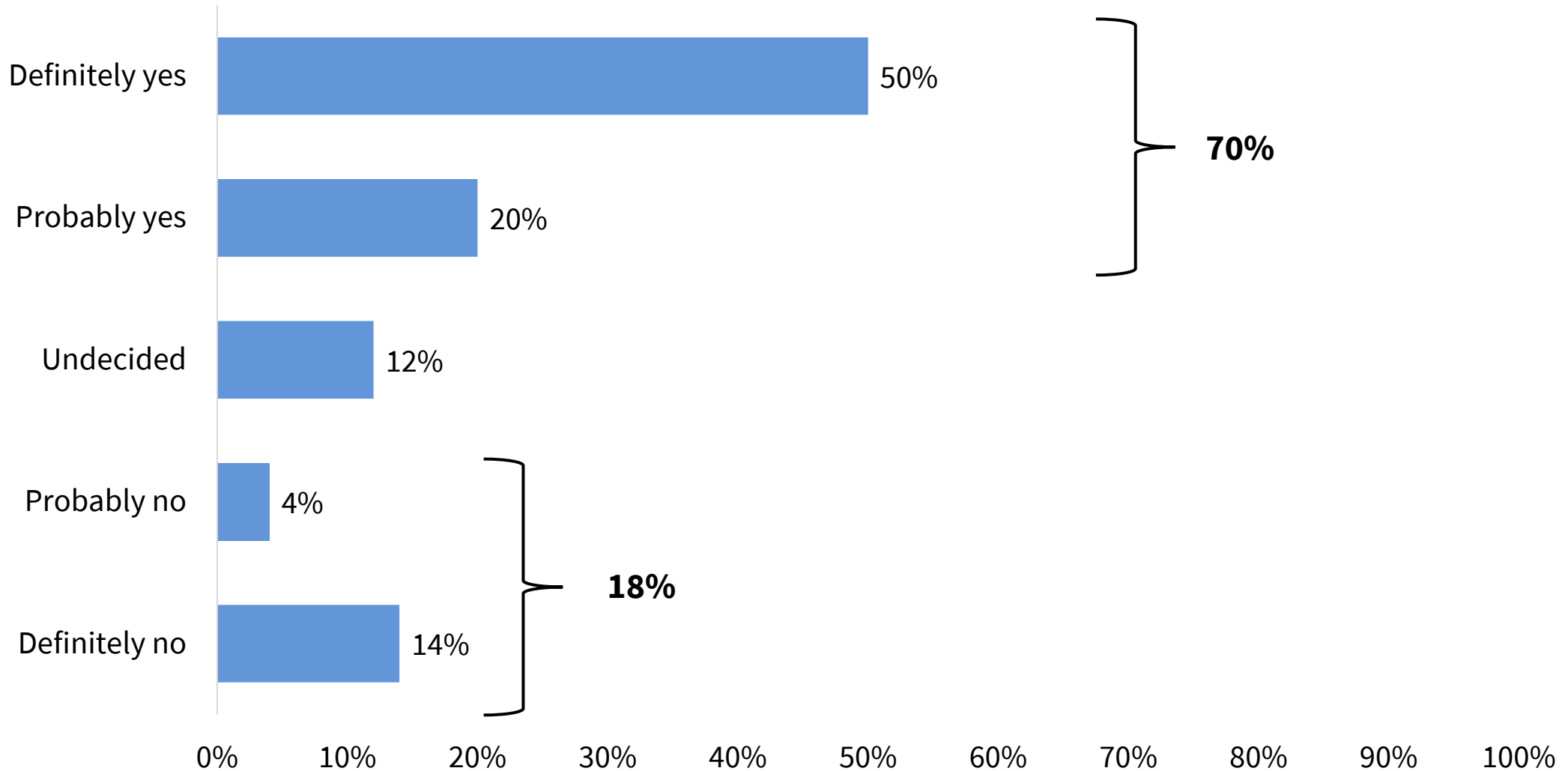




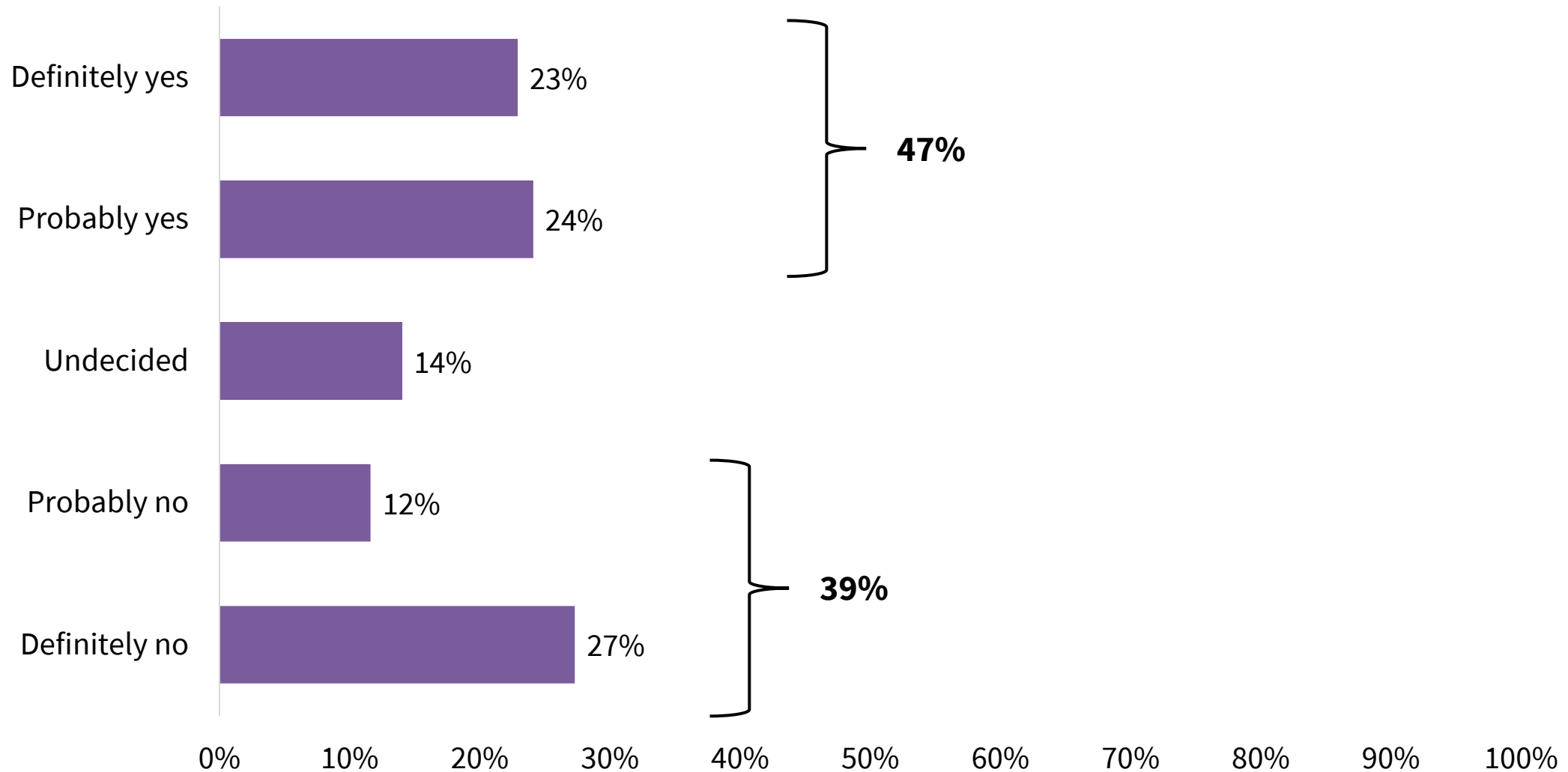
# Would you support an operational referendum to fund Option 2? (*Staff Residents*)



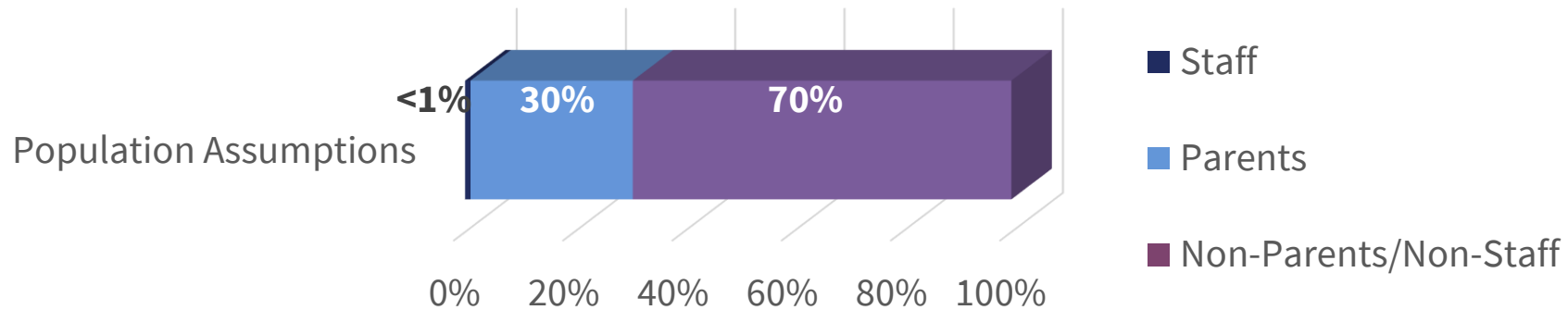
# Would you support an operational referendum to fund Option 2? (*Parent Residents*)



# Would you support an operational referendum to fund Option 2? (*Non-Parent/Non-Staff Residents*)



# Would the operational referendum to fund Option 2 be supported?



Weighted support for *Definitely yes and Probably yes*:

$$0.30 (70\%) + 0.70 (47\%) = \underline{\underline{53.9\%}}$$



# Cost-Cutting Scores

Yes = 10 No = 1 Median = 5.5



<i>Should the District...</i>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Parents/Caregivers</b>	<b>Non-Parents/ Non-Staff</b>
<b>Reduce transportation services?</b>	3.80	3.35	4.65
<b>Delay technology upgrades?</b>	2.71	3.44	4.18
<b>Increase class sizes to reduce staff?</b>	2.09	2.52	4.12
<b>Reduce spending on building and grounds maintenance?</b>	2.25	3.46	4.03
<b>Delay curriculum updates?</b>	2.74	3.25	3.95

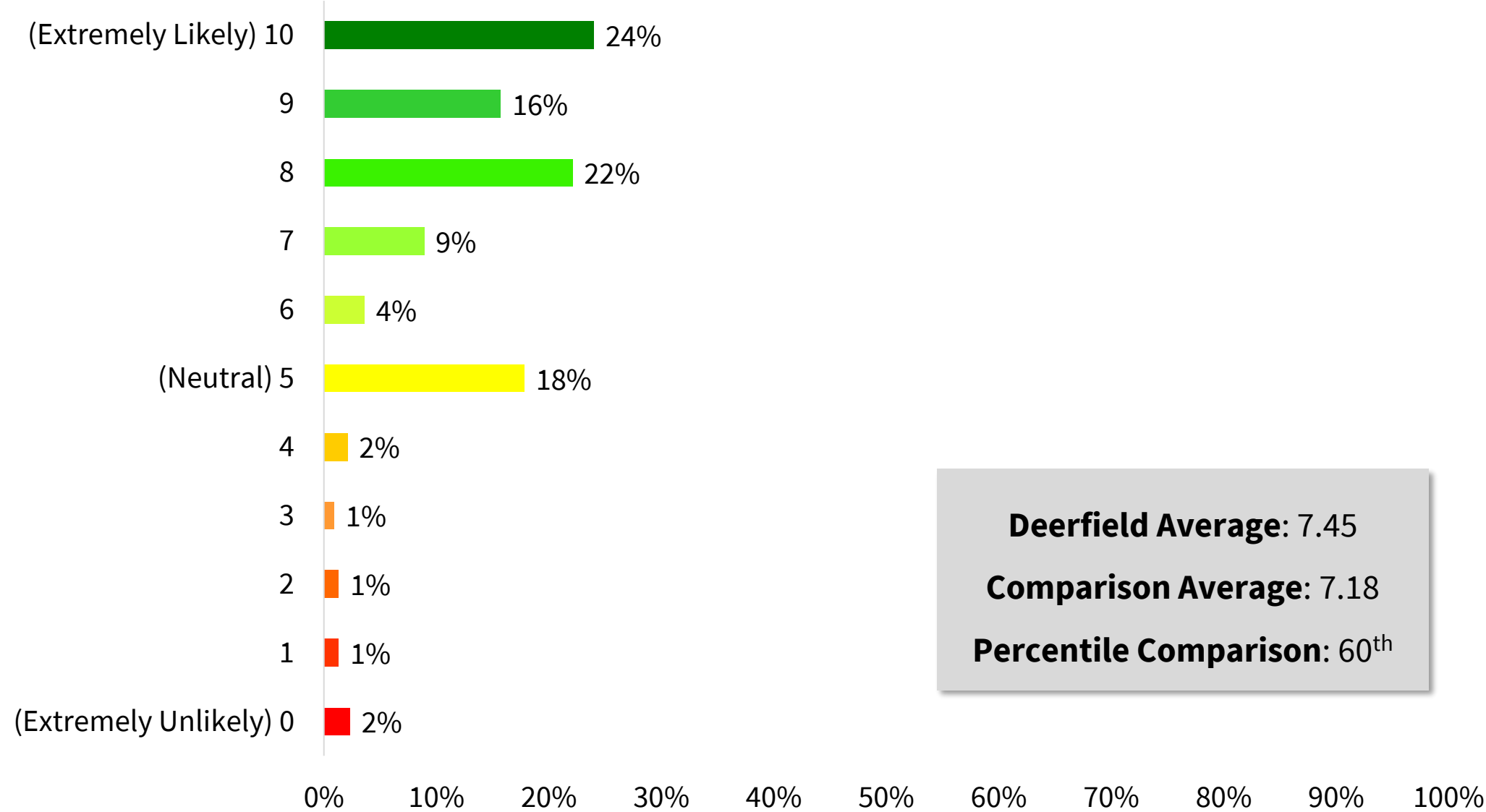
# Cost-Cutting Scores

Yes = 10 No = 1 Median = 5.5



<i>Should the District...</i>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Parents/Caregivers</b>	<b>Non-Parents/ Non-Staff</b>
<b>Reduce middle/high school course offerings?</b>	1.83	1.91	2.77
<b>Reduce student support services?</b>	1.13	1.73	2.63
<b>Reduce middle/high school athletics and fine arts offerings?</b>	1.67	1.78	2.54
<b>Reduce elementary school “specials”?</b>	1.24	1.48	2.13

# 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](http://schoolperceptions.com)

