

# Weld RE-5J School District Perception Survey March 2018

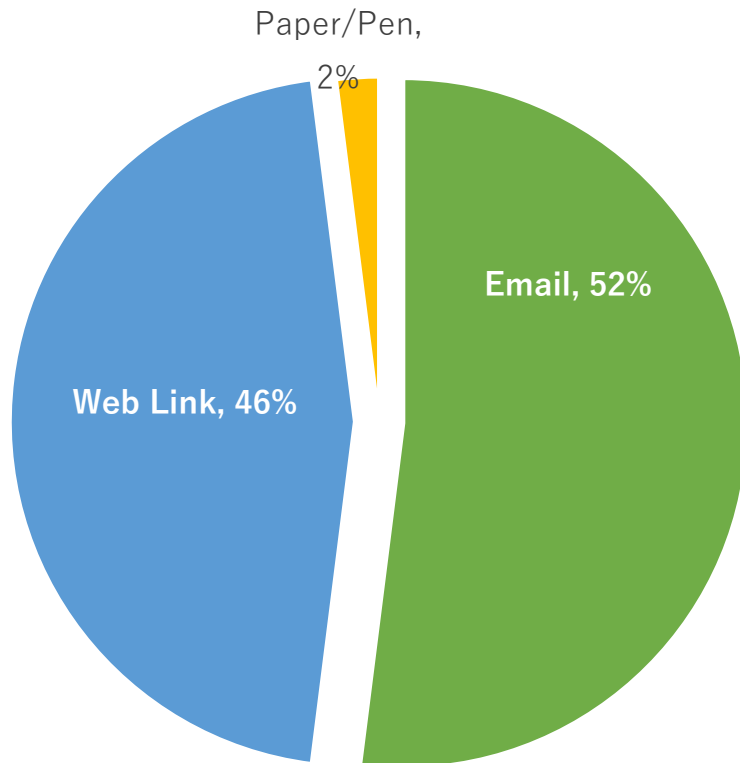
Presentation to the Board of Education  
March 7, 2018



# Survey Participation

	March 2018	April 2017
Total Respondents*	1,159	915
% of respondents work for Weld RE-5J**	17%	18%
% of respondents are parents**	69%	76%
% of respondents are community member***	21%	5%

## How participants accessed the survey:



- Access via web link was up significantly from April 2017, when just 14% accessed the survey via web link.
- This is likely due the fact that we mailed postcards and distributed flyers that provided the survey link.
- Paper/pen surveys were delivered to the senior centers in Johnstown and Milliken.

## Email response rate:

All district staff and parents received an email with a link to the survey, response rates from the email are indicated below:

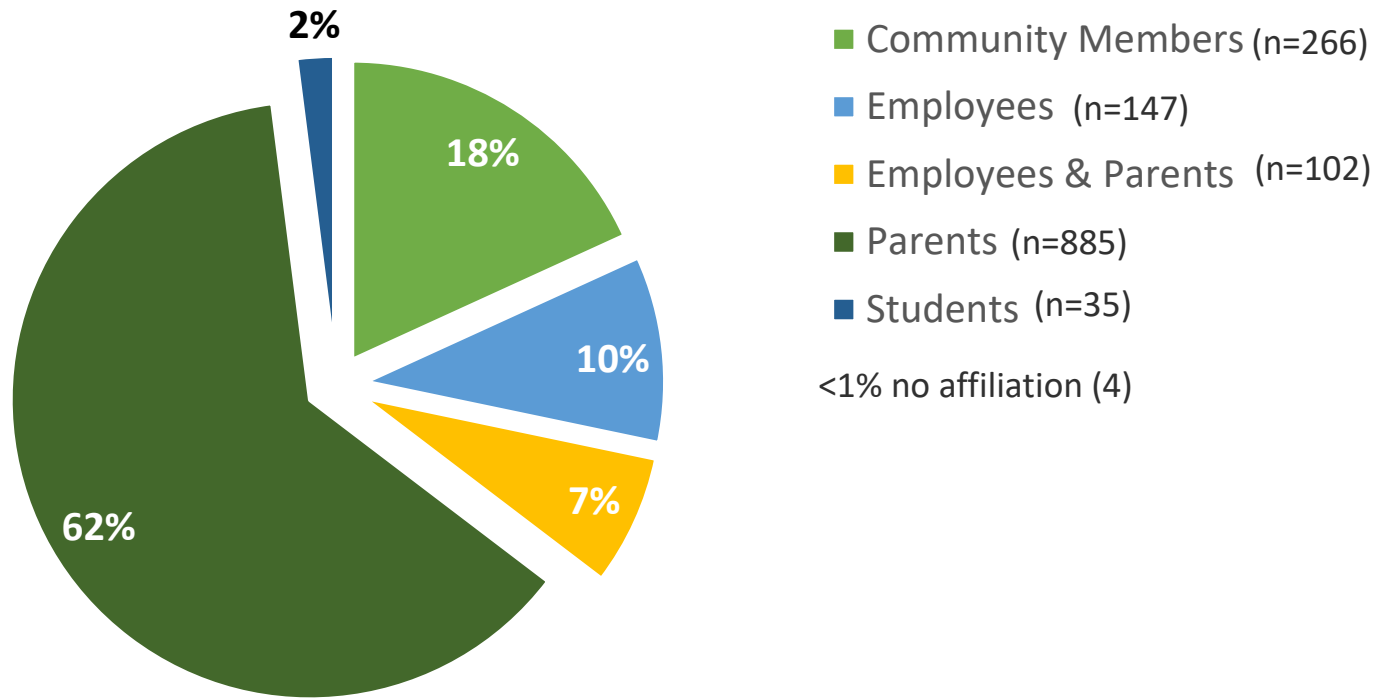
20% Parents (n=564)

54% Staff (n=190)

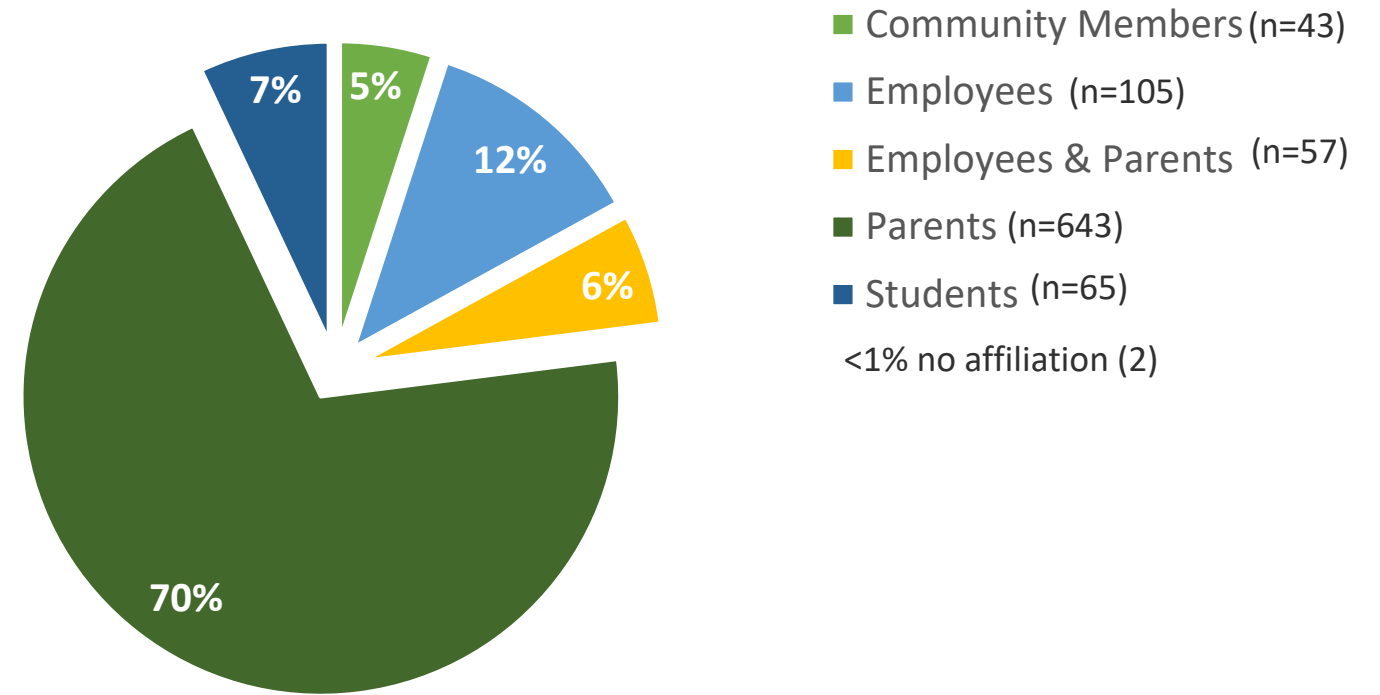
\* 1,439 respondents initially clicked into the question, but 267 of those respondents only answered question 1-3  
 \*\*Includes employees who are also parents in the district \*\*\*Includes 35 students

# Survey Participation

## March 2018 Respondents



## April 2017 Respondents



## Residence

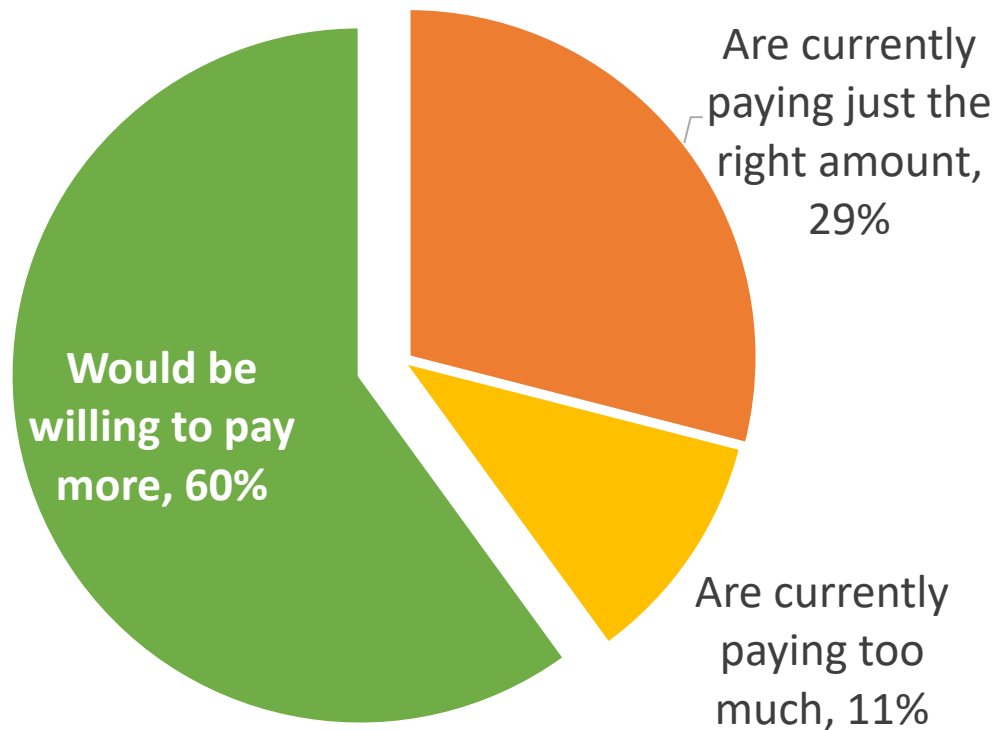
	March 2018	April 2017
Johnstown	64%	69%
Milliken	22%	22%
Other In-district	6%	--
Out-of-District/NA	9%	9%

- In 2018, 30% of employee respondents self-reported that they live out of district (about 41% of all district employees do not live in the district)
- In 2018, 5% of parent respondents self-reported that they live out of district

# Current Tax Burden

Total Question Responses: 1,430

**Q:** Residential property owners in the Weld RE-5J School District currently pay about \$30 a month or \$356 a year per \$200,000 in residential property value for school taxes. Do you feel Weld RE-5J residents:



	Currently, just the right amount	Currently paying too much	Would be willing to pay more
Employees	31%	2%	67%
Employees & Parents	21%	4%	75%
Parent	30%	9%	62%
<b>Community Members</b>	30%	<b>24%</b>	<b>46%</b>

	Currently, just the right amount	Currently paying too much	Would be willing to pay more
Johnstown	29%	10%	60%
Milliken	32%	12%	57%
Other in-district	20%	13%	68%

# Current/Additional Tax Burden

Home Value	Current School Taxes	Additional School Taxes			Current + Additional School Taxes (total)		
		Package 1 \$146M Bond & \$5M MLO	Package 2 \$73M Bond & \$3M MLO	Package 3 \$38M Bond	Package 1 \$146M Bond & \$5M MLO	Package 2 \$73M Bond & \$3M MLO	Package 3 \$38M Bond
\$200,000	\$356/yr \$30/month	\$488/yr \$41/month	\$234/yr \$20/month	\$38/yr \$3/month	\$844/yr \$70/month	\$590/yr \$49/month	\$394/yr \$33/month
\$300,000	\$534/yr \$45/month	\$732/yr \$61/month	\$351/yr \$29/month	\$57/yr \$5/month	\$1,266/yr \$106/month	\$885/yr \$74/month	\$591/yr \$49/month
\$400,000	\$712/yr \$59/month	\$976/yr \$81/month	\$468 \$39/month	\$76/yr \$6/month	\$1,688/yr \$141/month	\$1,180/yr \$98/month	\$788/yr \$66/month

# Additional Tax Burden

Total Question Responses: 993

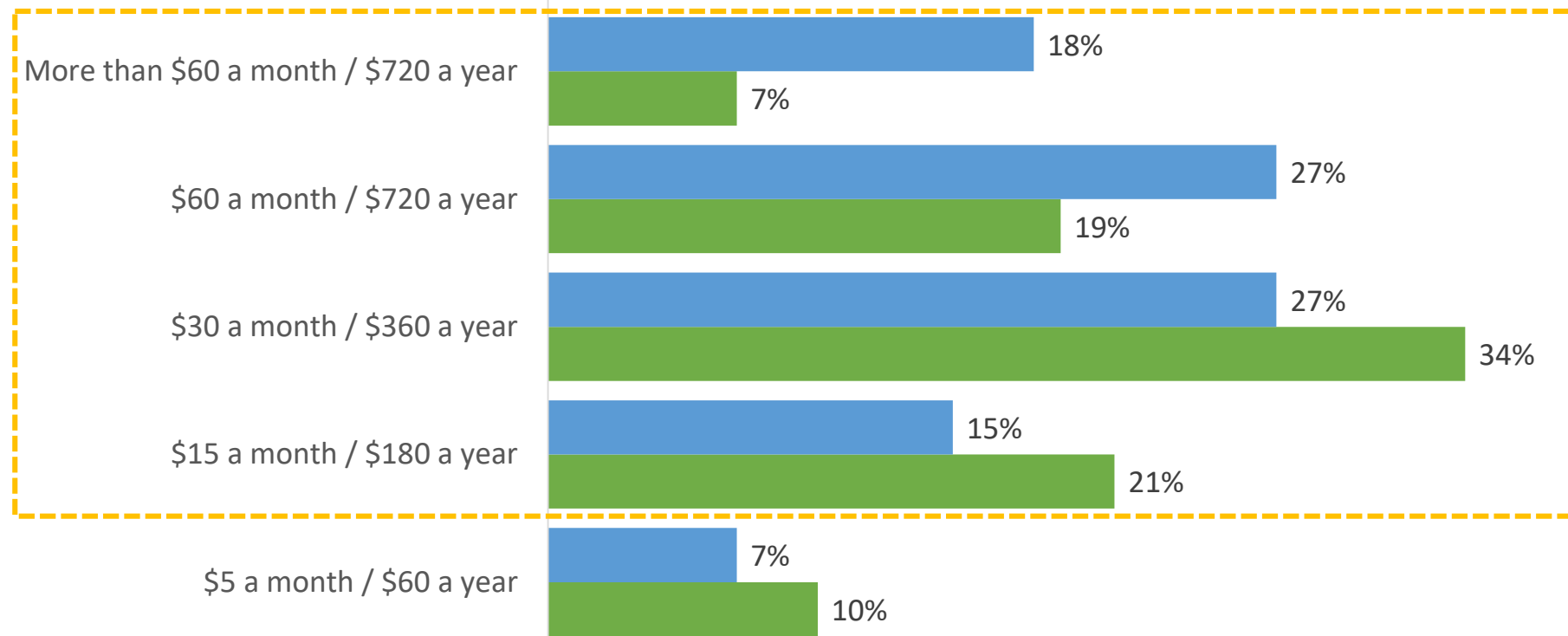
**Q1:** In addition to what you are paying now, how much more would **you** be willing to pay in residential property taxes to improve Weld RE-5J facilities and expand school programs?

Total Question Responses: 1004

**Q2:** What do you believe is a reasonable **tax increase for other residents**, including those who do not have children in RE-5J schools and retired members of our community?

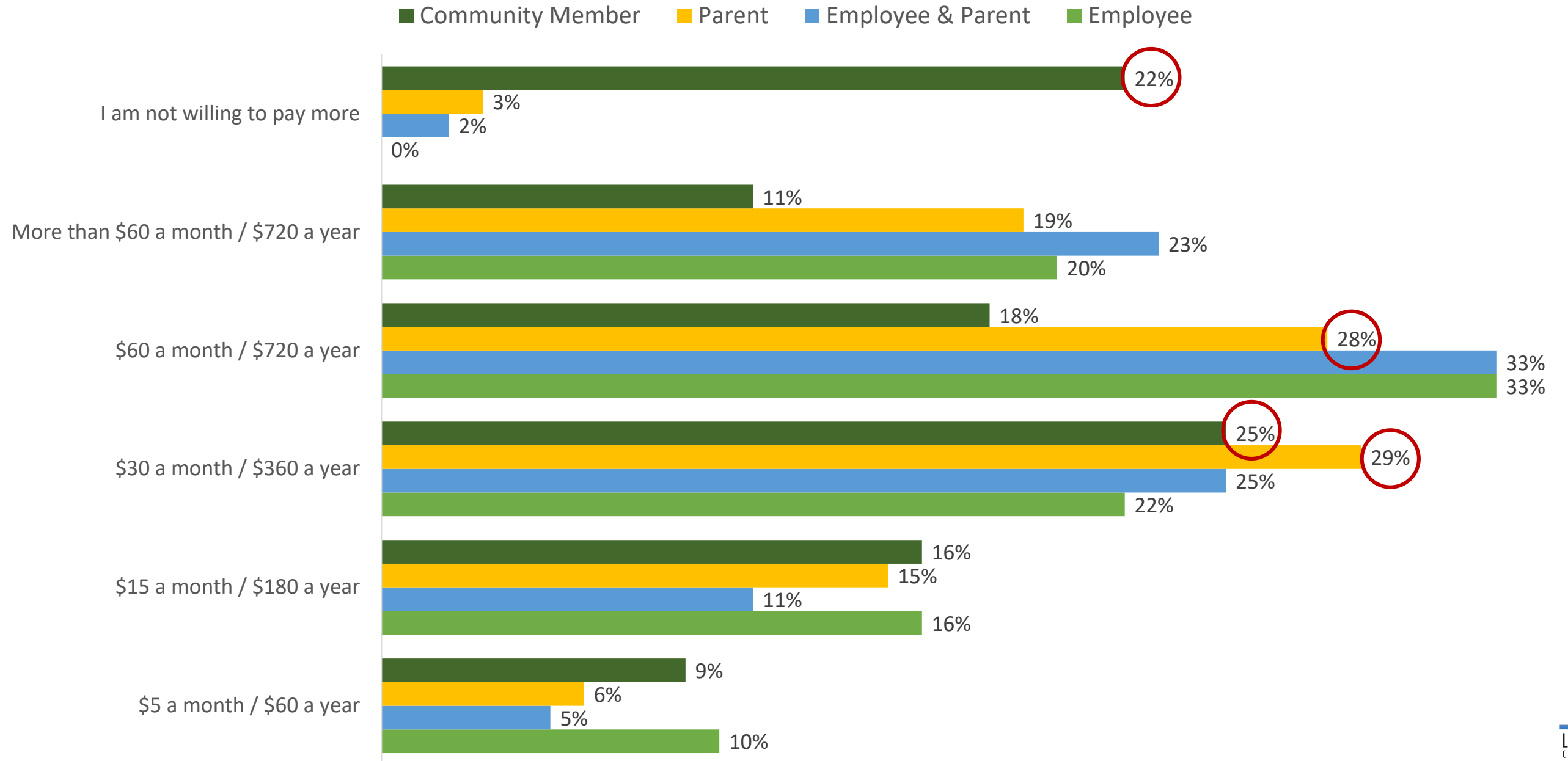
■ I am willing to pay   ■ Reasonable increase for others

I am not willing to pay more / should not ask them to pay more



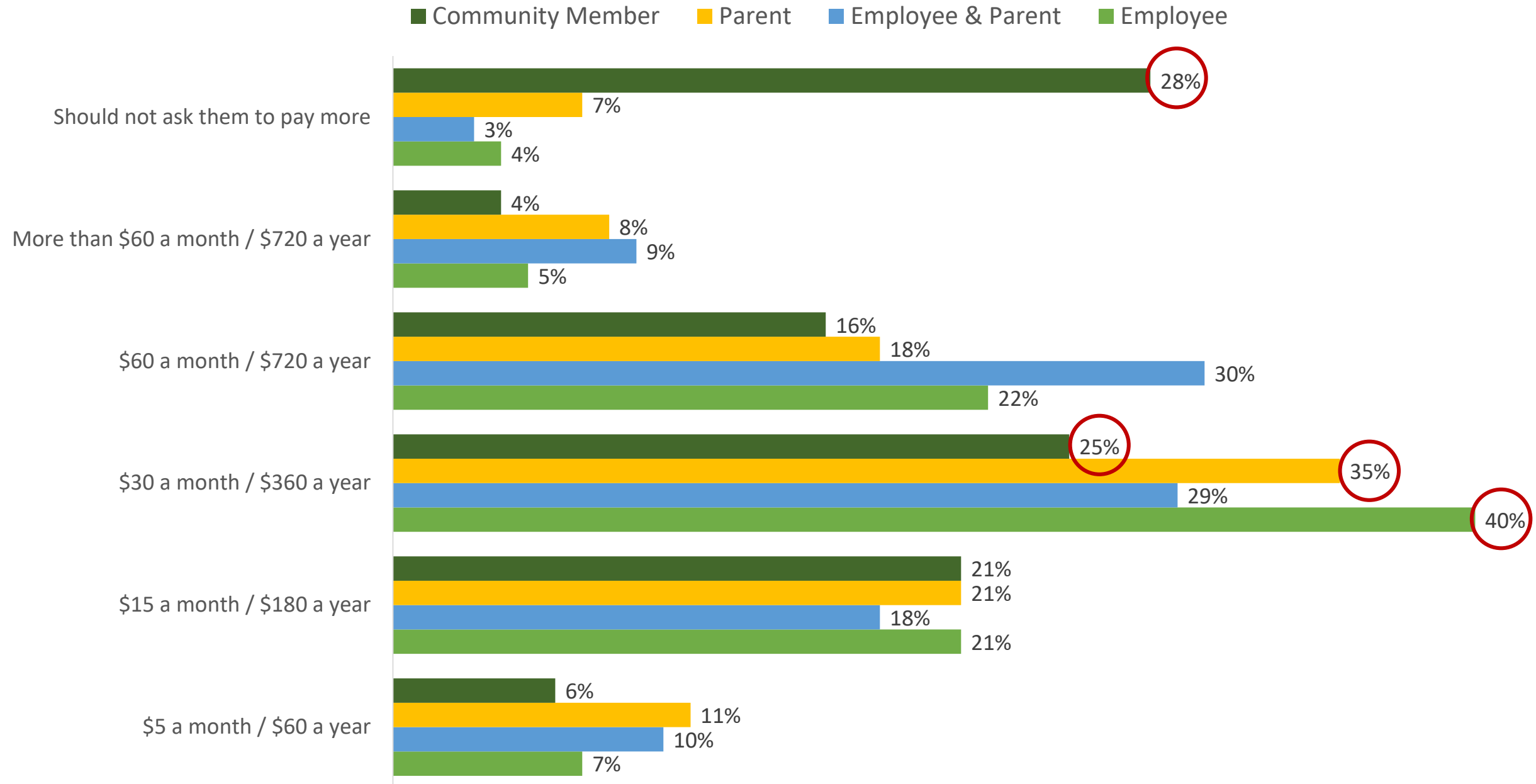
# Additional Tax Impact

Q: In addition to what you are paying now, how much more would you be willing to pay in residential property taxes to improve Weld RE-5J facilities and expand school programs?



# Additional Tax Impact

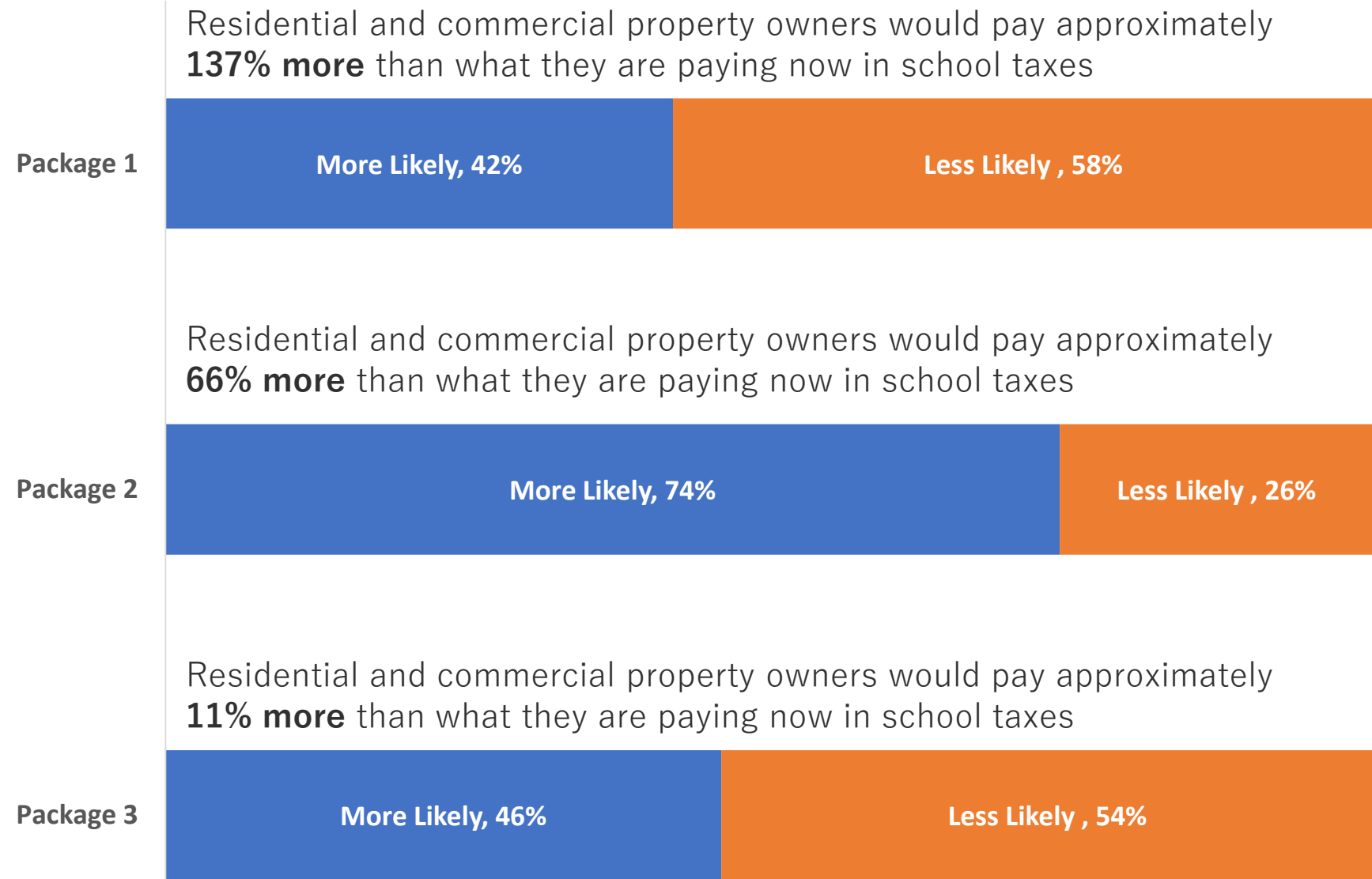
Q: What do you believe is a **reasonable tax increase for other residents**, including those who do not have children in RE-5J schools and retired members of our community?





# Additional Tax Impact Support

**Q:** Please share if the following statement would make you more likely or less likely to support the package.



# Overall Package Support

**Package 1: \$146 million bond.** The bond package would fund the construction of a new high school, transportation center, \$38 million in critical maintenance projects at all schools across the district, and projects at the charter school.

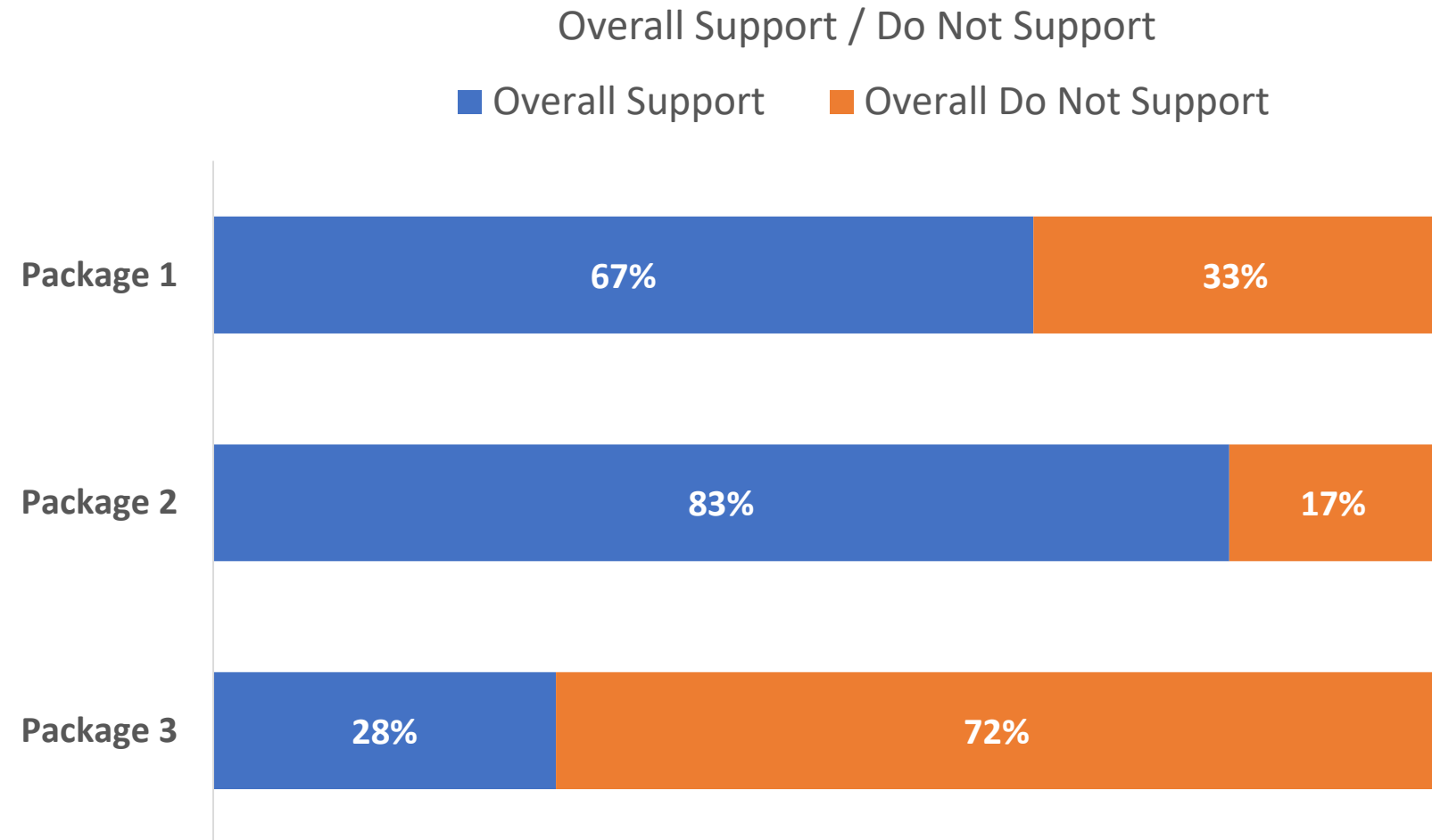
Total Question Responses: 1039

**Package 2: \$73 million bond.** The bond package would fund an addition to the high school, renovations to the middle school, a transportation center, \$38 million in critical maintenance projects at all schools across the district, and projects at the charter school.

Total Question Responses: 1040

**Package 3: \$38 million bond.** The bond package would only fund critical maintenance projects at all schools across the district, and projects at the charter school.

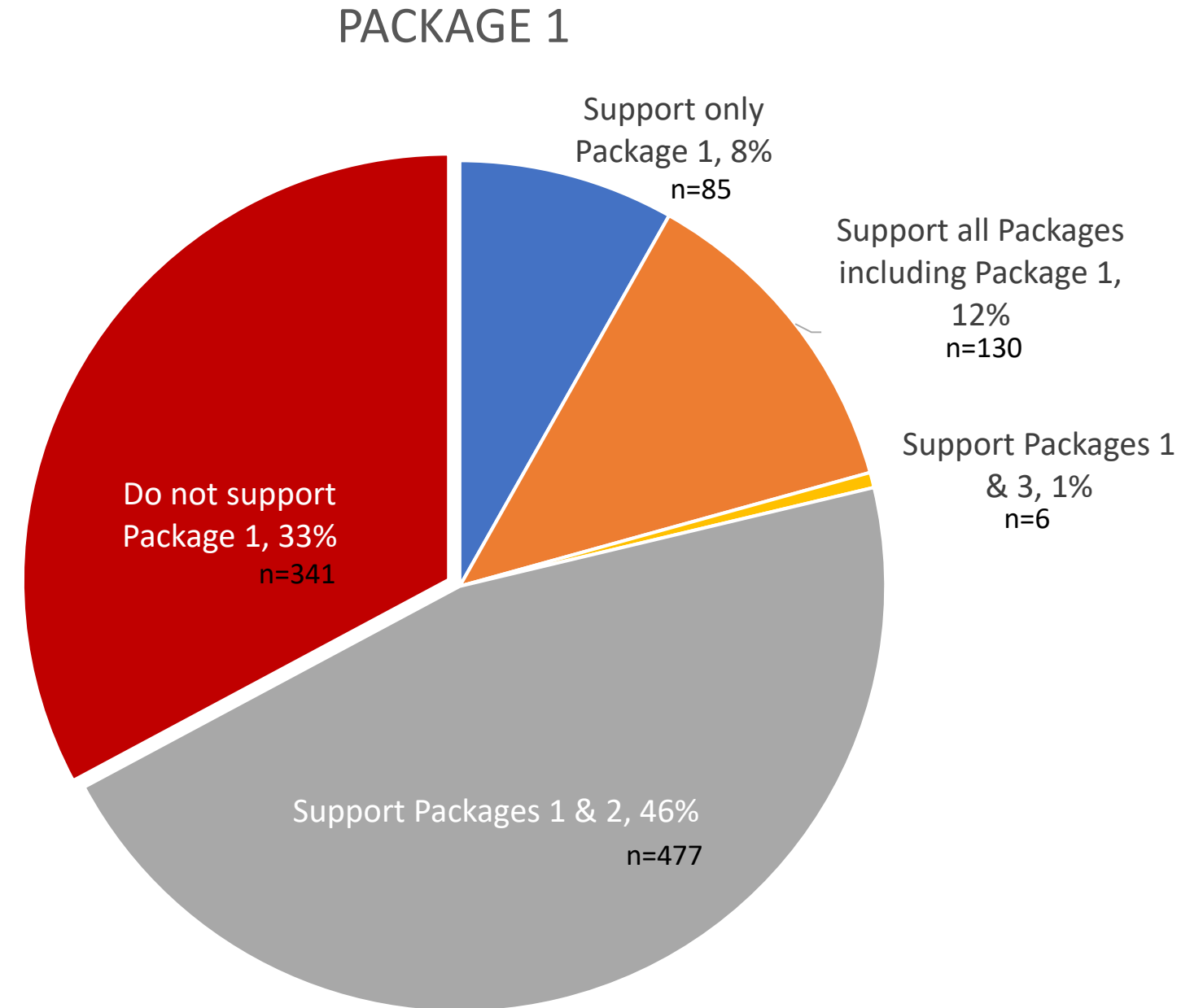
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# Overall Package Support

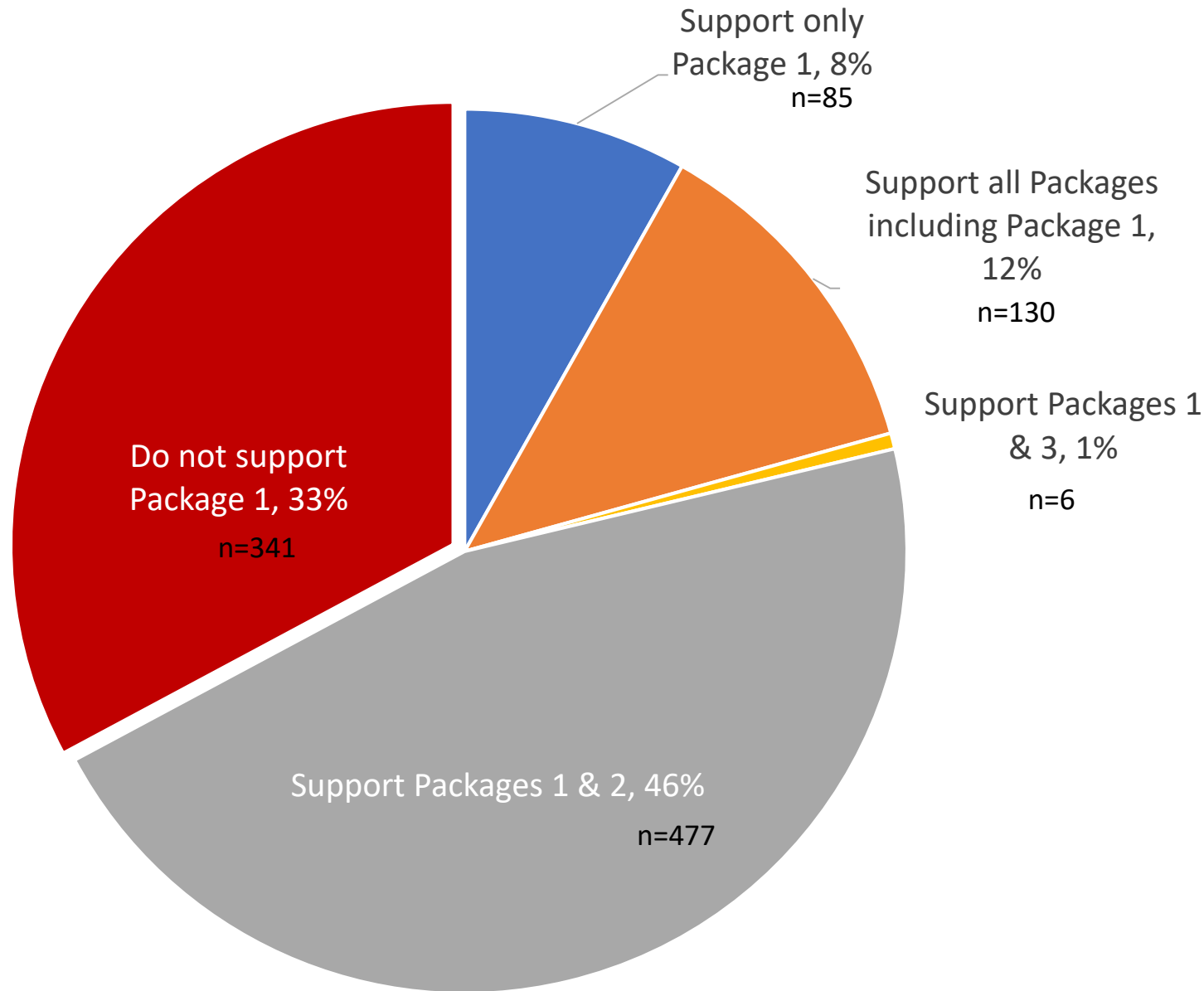
Participants were asked to share their support for each package independent of other packages. This means they could support (or not) multiple packages. Response options: Strongly Support, Support, Do Not Support, Strongly Do Not Support. Overall support includes strongly support and support responses. Included in the “do not support” numbers below are 37 respondents who do not support any package.

Total Question Responses: 1039

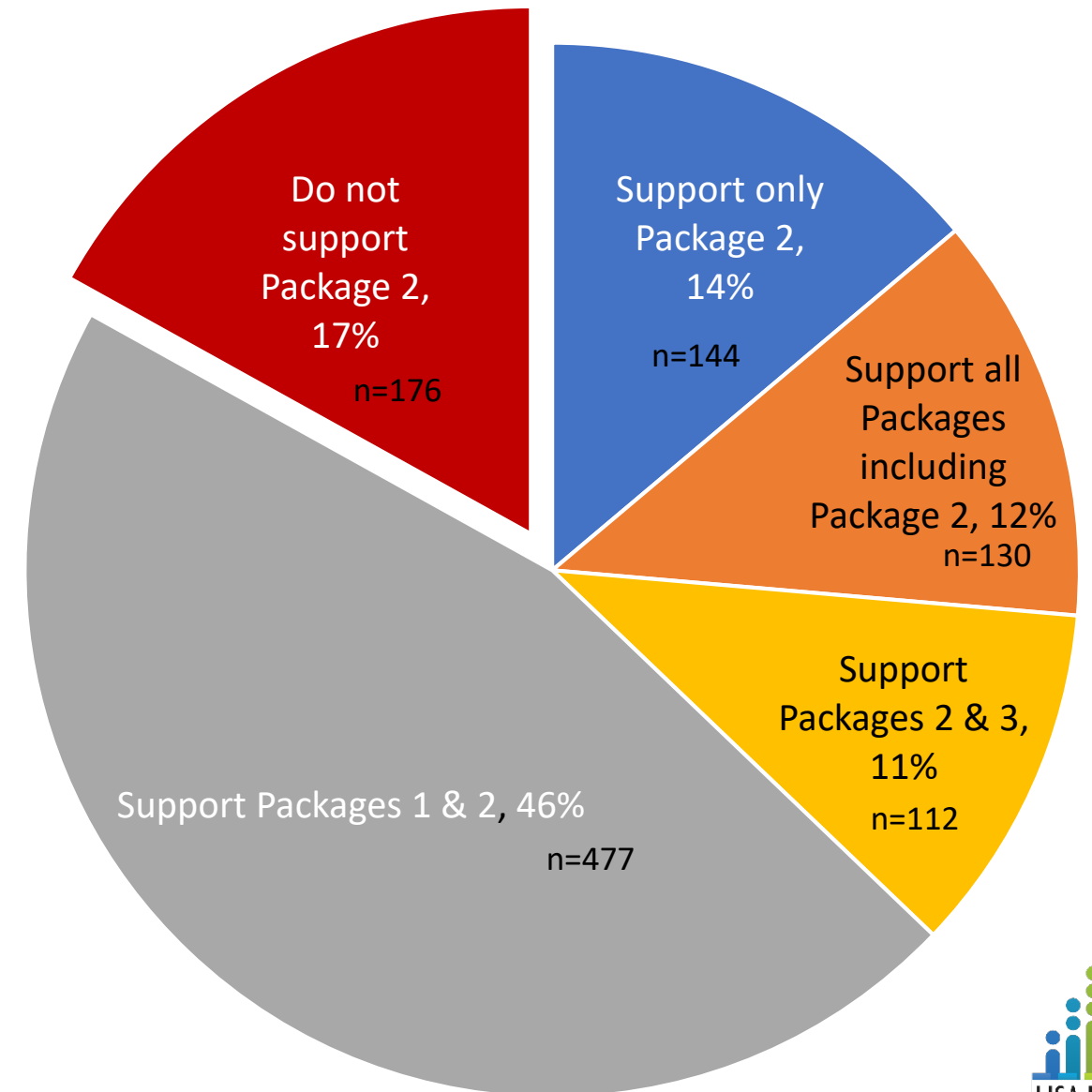


# Overall Package Support

## PACKAGE 1



## PACKAGE 2



# Overall Package Support

## PACKAGE 1

add'l \$732/yr  
per \$300,000 residential property value

Overall Support: 67%  
Overall Do Not Support: 33%

## PACKAGE 2

add'l \$351/yr  
per \$300,000 residential property value

Overall Support: 83%  
Overall Do Not Support: 17%

## PACKAGE 3

add'l \$57/yr  
per \$300,000 residential property value

Overall Support: 28%  
Overall Do Not Support: 72%

### Overall Support by relationship

Community Member	44%	Community Member	72%	Community Member	33%
Parent	76%	Parent	86%	Parent	25%
Employee & Parent	58%	Employee & Parent	81%	Employee & Parent	38%
Employee	59%	Employee	84%	Employee	38%

# Additional Tax Burden

Total Question Responses: 993

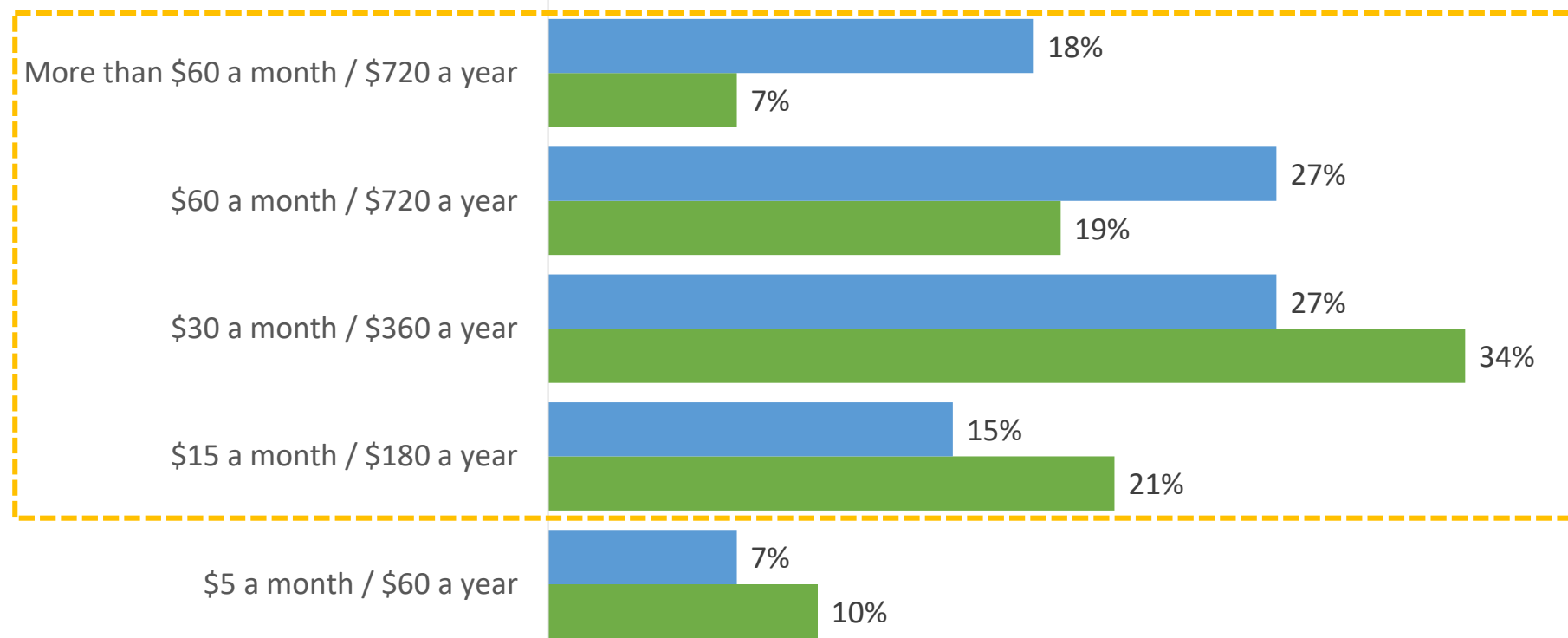
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■ I am willing to pay    ■ Reasonable increase for others

I am not willing to pay more / should not ask them to pay more



# Current/Additional Tax Burden

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# Package 1 Support

Total Question Responses: 1039

Q: Please share if the following statements make you more likely or less likely to support package 1.

*Note: statements below are abbreviated from how they appeared in the survey*

	More Likely to Support	Less Likely to Support
Roosevelt High School is currently at capacity. A new high school would be built to serve 1,200 students with the ability to expand to serve 1,600 students.	83%	17%
The cost of a new 1,200 student high school is approximately \$103.5 million.	57%	43%
The school district will purchase land for a new high school.	70%	30%
This package provides the district with the physical capacity to offer full-day kindergarten districtwide.	78%	23%
Building a new high school would create excess capacity	57%	43%
This package only addresses critical maintenance projects at the elementary schools and middle school	49%	51%
This package would take all of the district's current bonding capacity	55%	45%



# Package 1 Support

Total Question Responses: 1159

**Q:** Please share if the following statement makes you more likely or less likely to support package 1: **Building a new high school would require the school district to reconfigure grades at the elementary schools and middle school.**

More Likely to Support

Less Likely to Support

All respondents

56%

44%

Employee

59%

41%

Employee Parent

67%

33%

Parent

55%

45%

Community Member

48%

52%

# Package 2 Support

Total Question Responses: 1040

Q: Please share if the following statements make you more likely or less likely to support package 2.

*Note: statements below are abbreviated from how they appeared in the survey*

More Likely to Support

Less Likely to Support

Roosevelt High School is currently at capacity. An addition would expand the school's capacity to at least 1,350 students.

77%

23%

The addition to Roosevelt High School will significantly enhance the school's STEM programming.

80%

20%

This package funds significant facility updates to both the high school and middle school.

84%

16%

This package only addresses critical maintenance projects at the elementary schools.

51%

49%

This package takes half of the district's current bonding capacity.

60%

40%

# Package 3 Support

Total Question Responses: 1039

Q: Please share if the following statements make you more likely or less likely to support package 3.

*Note: statements below are abbreviated from how they appeared in the survey*

	More Likely to Support	Less Likely to Support
This package does not provide any additional capacity for students at the high school.	9%	91%
This package only addresses critical maintenance projects at all of the district's schools.	24%	76%
This package takes one-third of the district's current bonding capacity.	39%	61%

# Funding Priorities

Q Rank seven programs/services. #1 indicates the program you would most like to see receive funding and #7 indicates the program that you would least like to see receive funding.

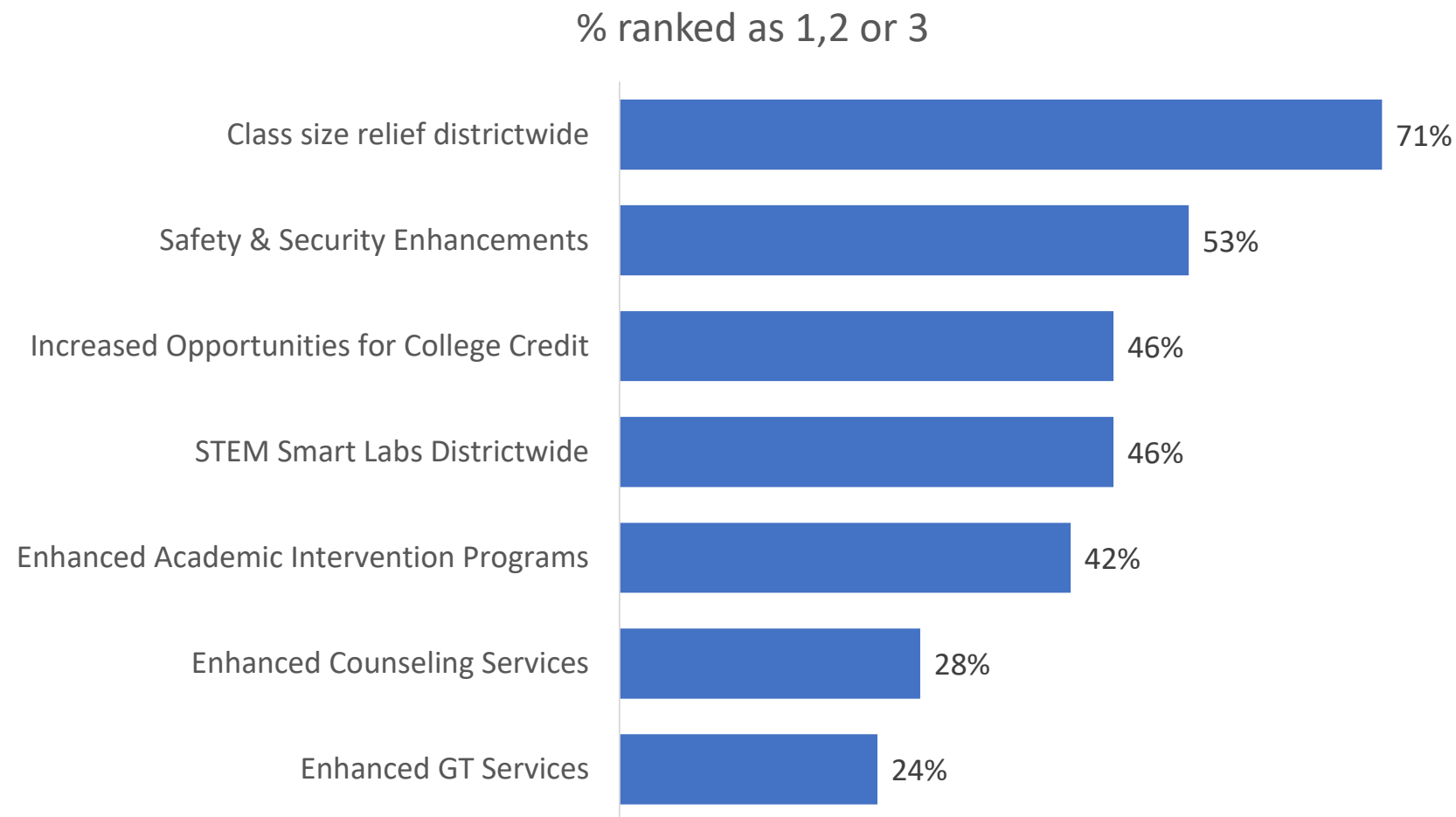
Total Question Responses: 1028

## Ranked #1

by a combined **63%** of respondents

37% Class size relief districtwide: Additional funding would allow the district to hire more teachers and/or paraprofessionals to decrease class sizes and/or increase educator to student ratios in schools.

27% Safety and security enhancements: Additional funding would improve communication systems within schools, and establish interior and exterior video surveillance and detection systems to improve the safety and security of campuses.



Class-size relief districtwide was ranked a 1,2, or 3 most frequently by employees, employee & parents, parents, and community members. Students ranked “increased opportunities to earn college credit” 1,2, or 3 most frequently.

# Messaging

Total Question Responses: ~1020

*Overall agreement is calculated by combining strongly agree and agree responses.*

- **89% overall agreement:** The \$38 million in critical maintenance projects that have been identified in all schools and facilities across the district needs to be taken care of right away.
- **84% overall agreement:** I would like to see district-wide implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum and laboratories.
- **83% overall agreement:** I would like to see improvements made at the district's older elementary schools, Milliken Elementary School and Letford Elementary School.
- **82% overall agreement:** We must make a significant investment in revitalizing Milliken Middle School.
- **79% overall agreement:** Quality of instruction is a priority for me over a new high school facility.
- **72% overall agreement:** We will eventually need a new high school facility in our community, so we should be proactive and build it now.
- **65% overall agreement:** Having full day Kindergarten should be a priority in our community.

# Messaging

*Overall agreement is calculated by combining strongly agree and agree responses.*

- **28% overall agreement:** We need to wait to see what happens with growth and development in our community over the next few years before asking taxpayers to invest in school additions or new construction.
  - Parents had the lowest level of overall agreement at 21%
  - Employee, employee parents, and community members' level of agreement was around 40%
- **24% overall agreement:** I am concerned about the economy and don't think now is the right time to increase taxes in our community.
  - Community Members had the highest level of overall agreement that they are concerned about the economy at 39%

# Open Ended Comments

Themes in order of prominence

## 1 The need to build a new high school

- Urgency was communicated around doing this now before it is too late, while the economy is strong, before costs go up etc.
- Some communicated that a new high school should have been built several years ago and would have cost less

## 2 Investing in the community

- Building a new high school, adding on to the existing school, critical maintenance, or other issues
- Examples of losing students and families to neighboring districts that had better facilities and educational offerings
- Several comments communicated the sentiment “build it and they will come” in reference to families coming back to the district if the facilities and educational offerings are improved

## 3 Increasing investments in classrooms

- Comments about instruction, teacher quality, and teacher supports

## 4 Concerns about raising taxes

- A tension was communicated between wanting to improve schools, but feeling like they can't take on more of a tax burden

## 5 Growth and the need for additional capacity

- More high school, middle school, and elementary capacity
- Concerns about class size.
- Comments about separating facilities by town
  - Inequity between the two towns in terms of benefit from the packages
  - Comments about the need for separate high schools and/or middle schools for each town.

# Open Ended Comments

Other themes in random order

## Concern about district stewardship of funds, transparency, and accountability

- Critical maintenance has been deferred and is now more of a problem.

## Proposals/questions about different ways of funding schools

### Fixed income residents

- Most communicated a desire to improve schools if possible.
- Some comments shared the opinion that retirees shouldn't have to fund schools.

## Grade reconfigurations unpopular with some

## STEM: Comments were close to evenly split between pro- and anti- STEM

- Anti: STEM not being applicable for everyone, not having a focus on liberal arts, and focusing on STEM while failing on basic skills
- Pro: Communicated an interest in increasing the program

## Charter School

- Tax money should not be used to fund the charter school because it doesn't serve all students.
- The charter school deserves funding because it has shown growth and good stewardship of funds.