

# **Fond du Lac School District**

## **Community Survey Results**

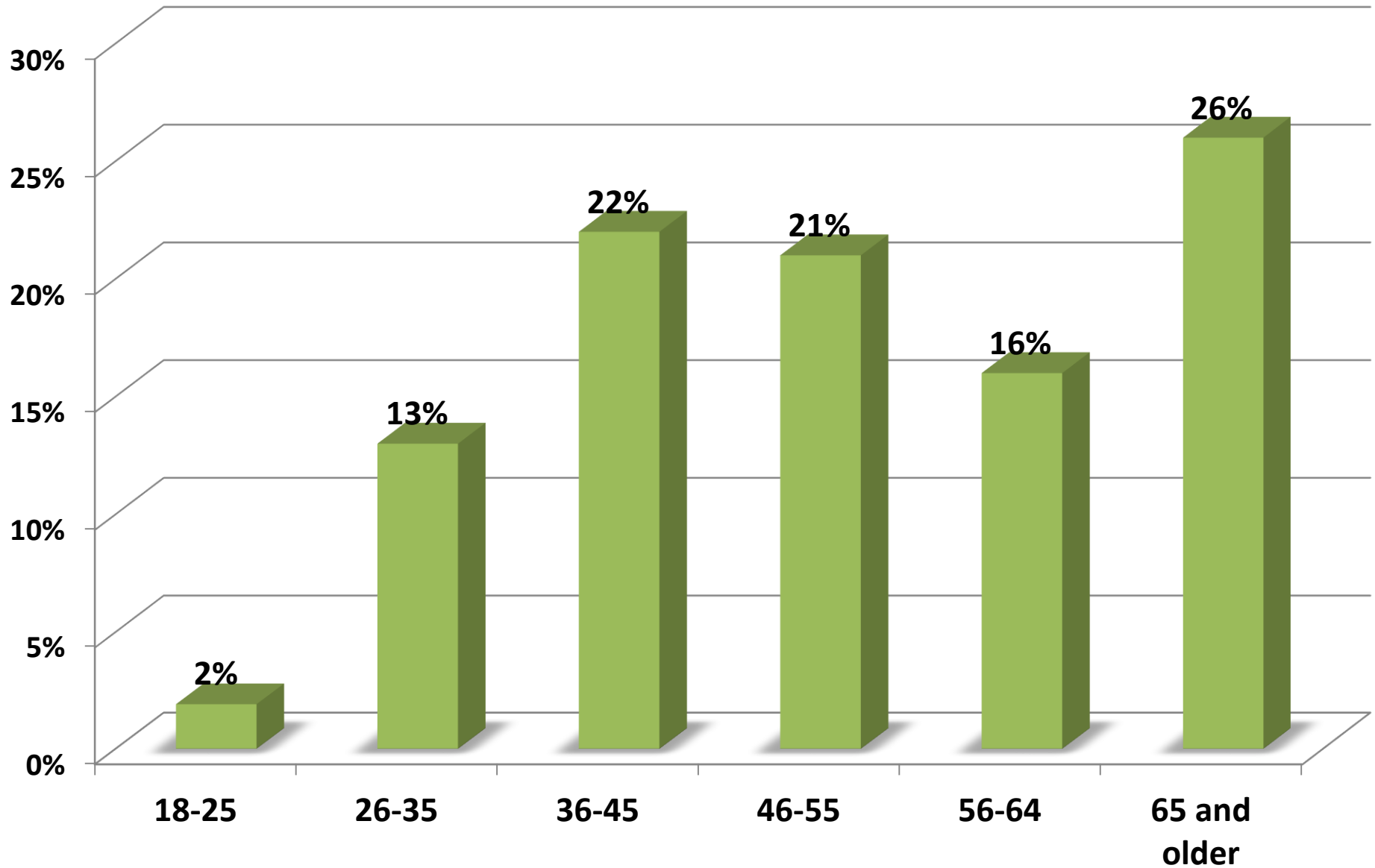
Fall 2018

# Survey Summary

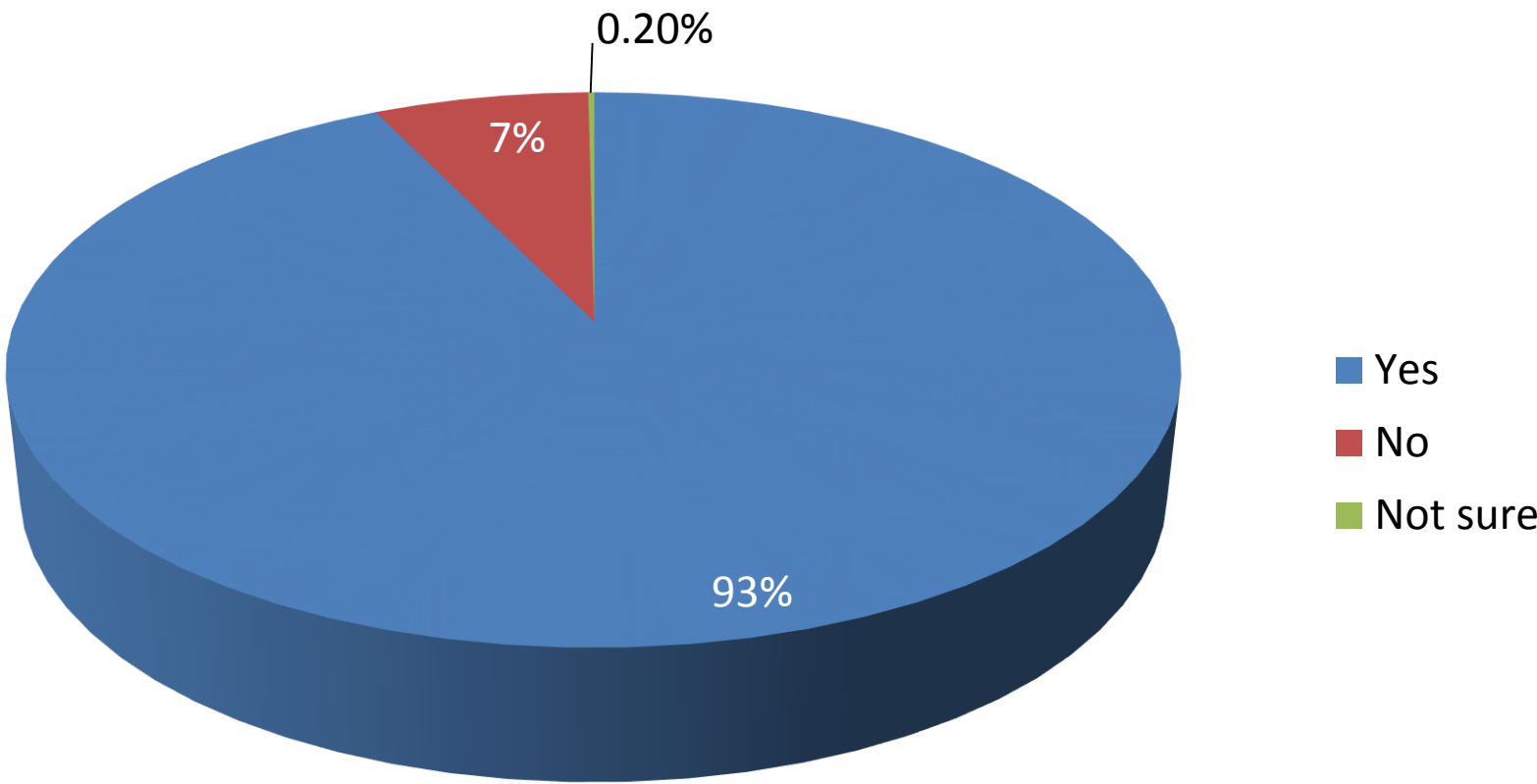
- The survey was conducted in October of 2018.
- Residents within the District were mailed a paper survey. Each survey included a unique survey access code for those who preferred to take the survey online.
- Total responses = 2,186 (796 paper)
- Margin of error = 2.1%

# **Respondent Information**

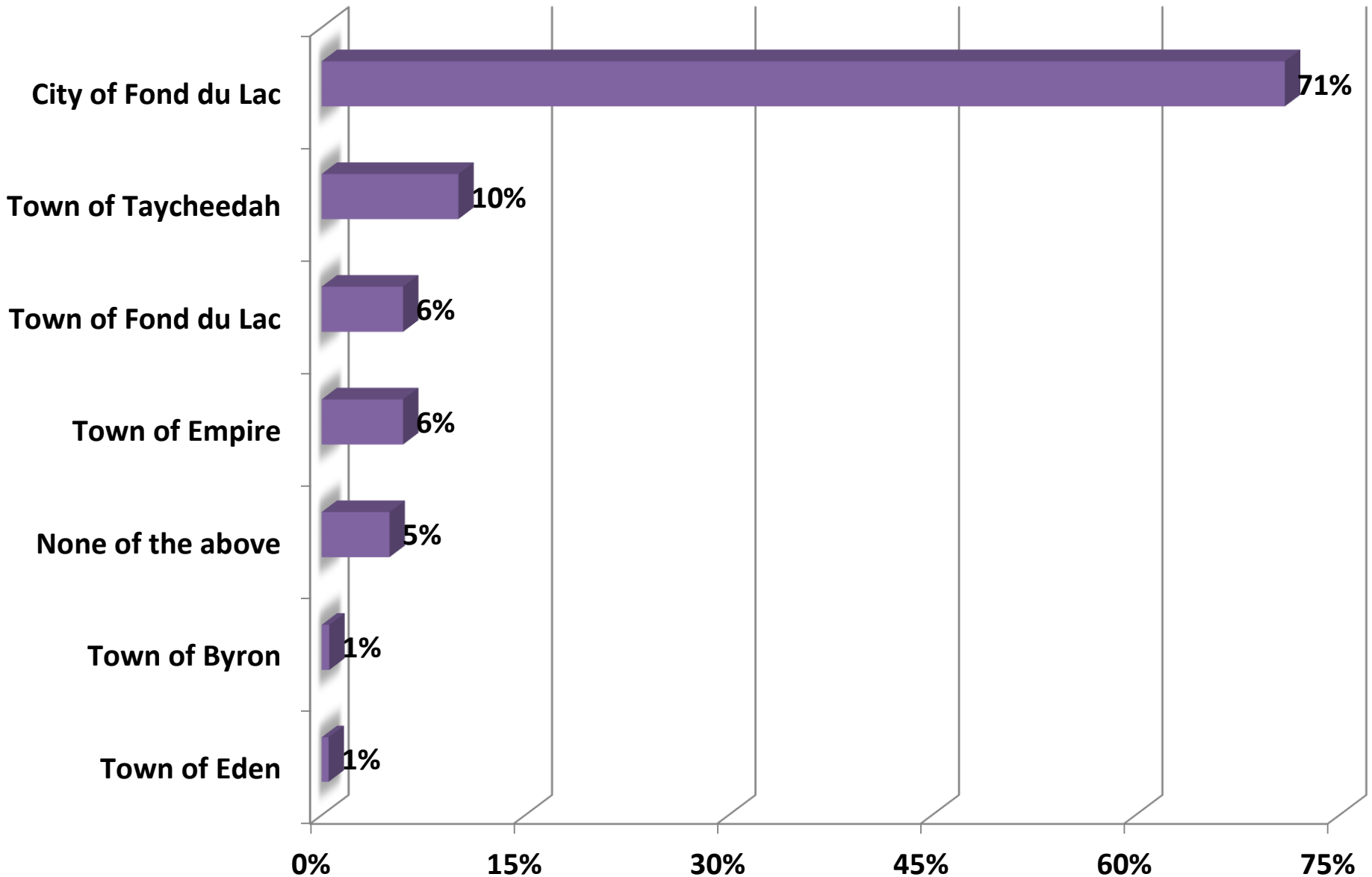
# What is your age?



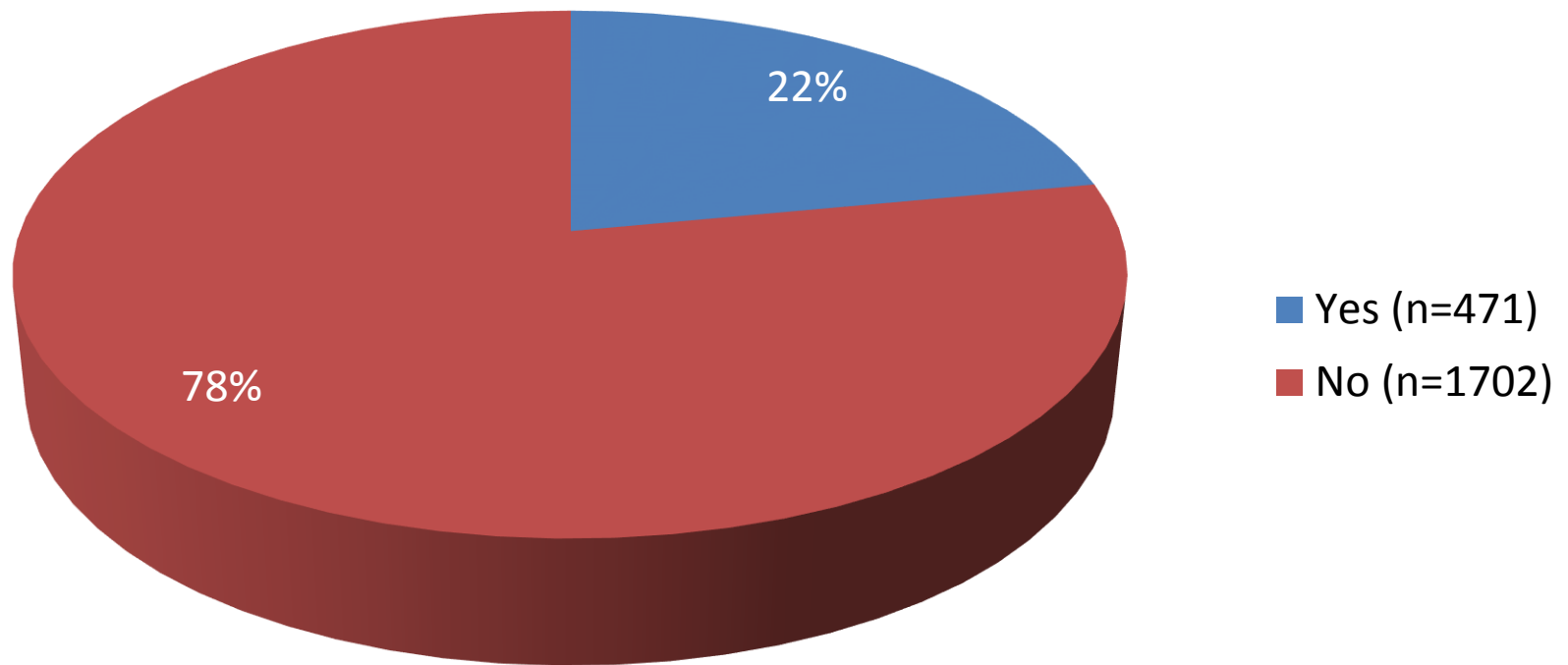
# Do you live in the Fond du Lac School District?



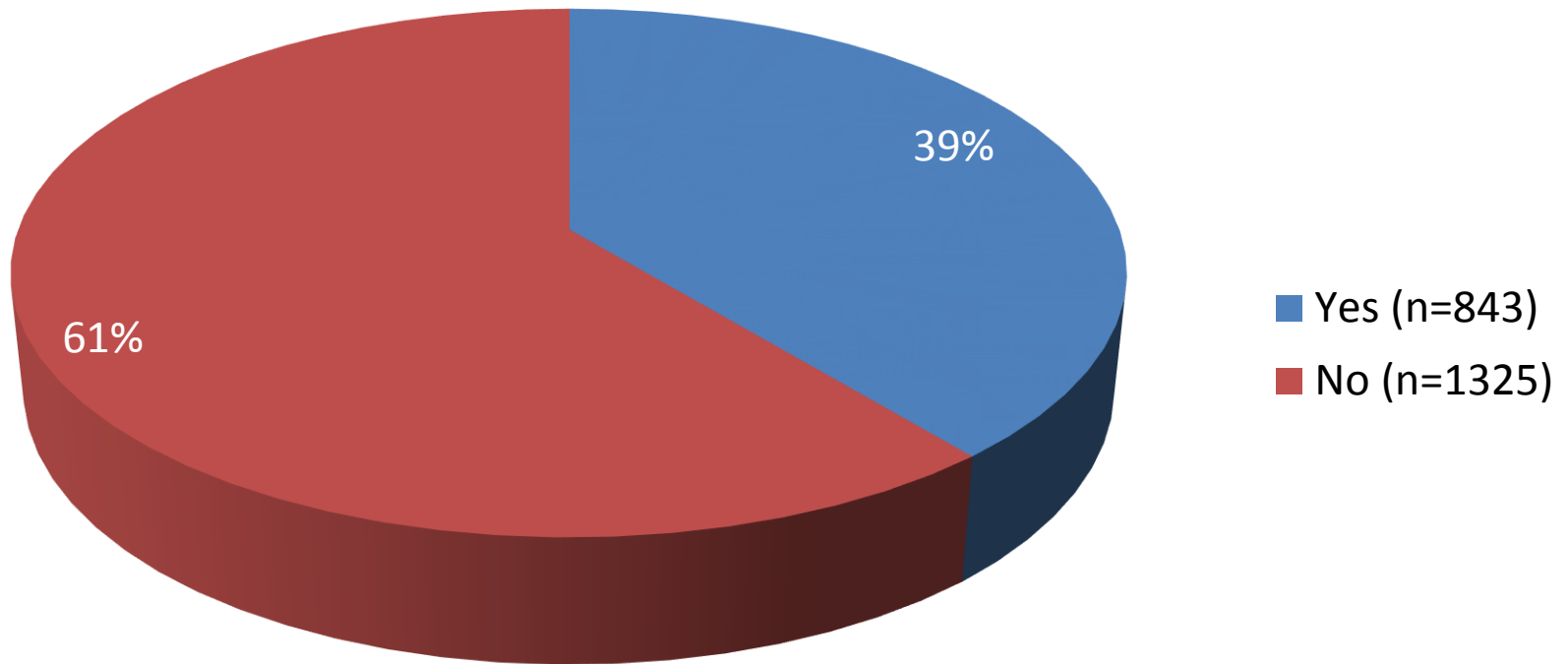
# In which municipality do you reside?



# Are you an employee of the District?

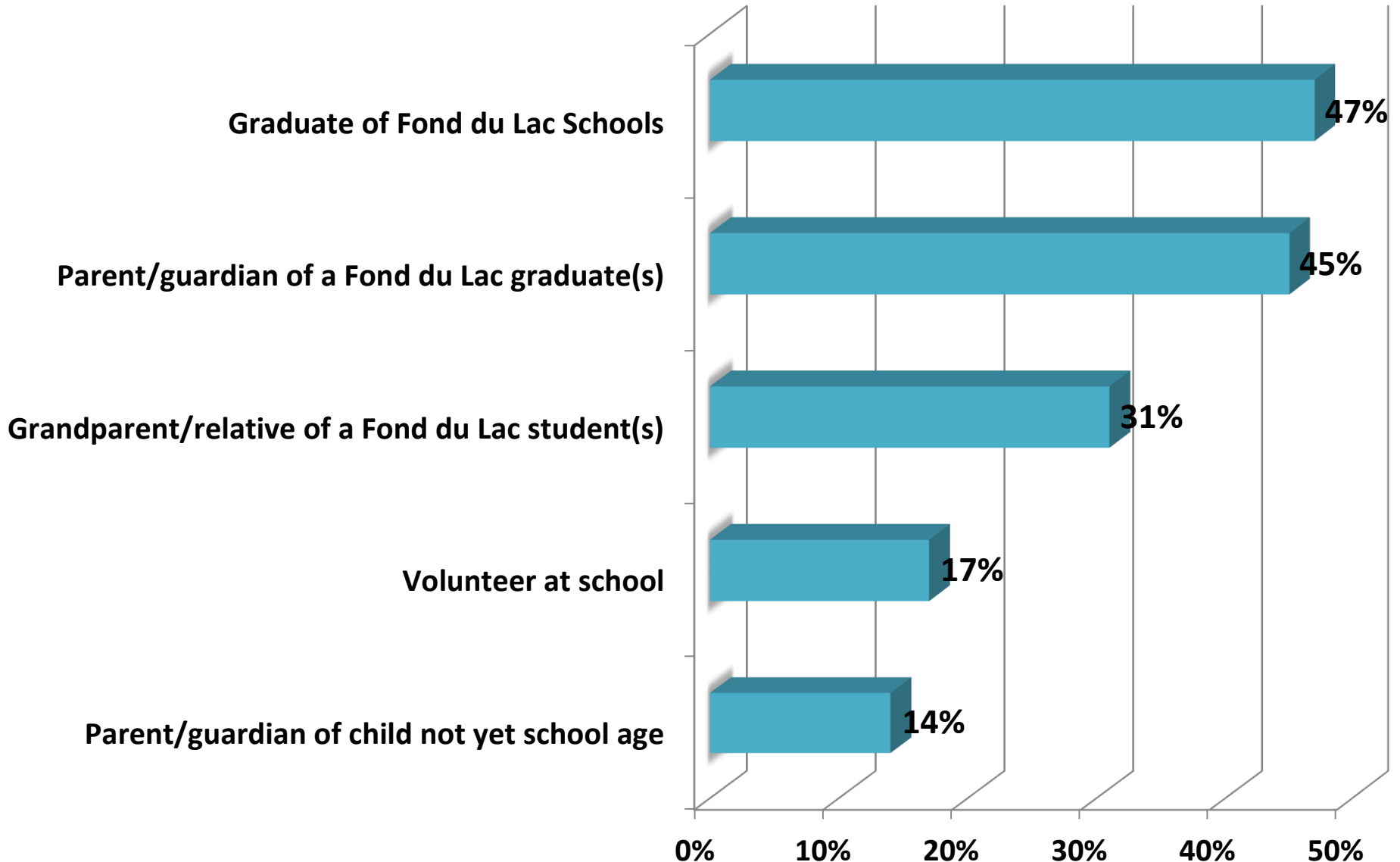


# Do you have children attending school in the District?

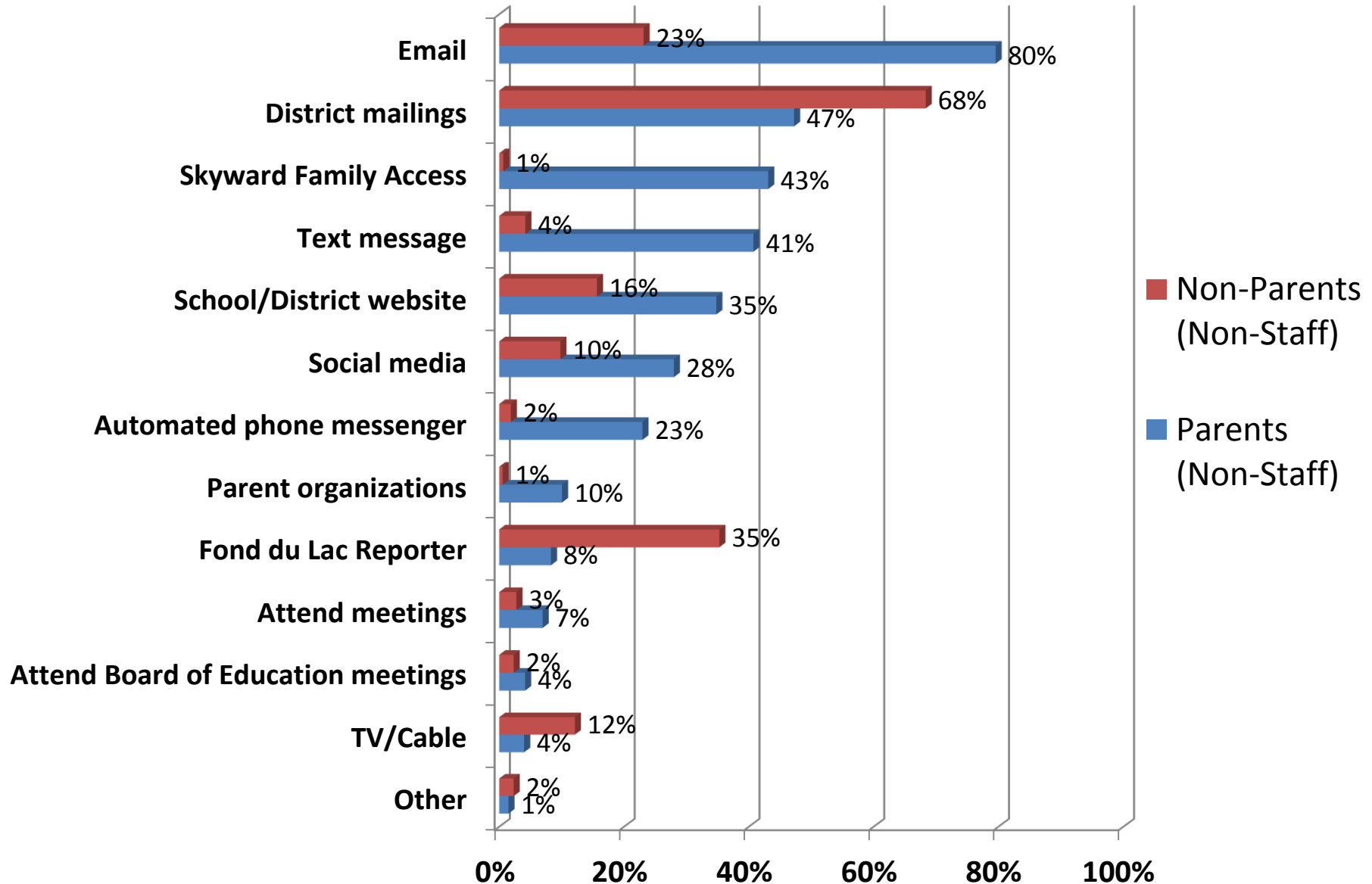




# Please mark ALL other relationships you have with the District:



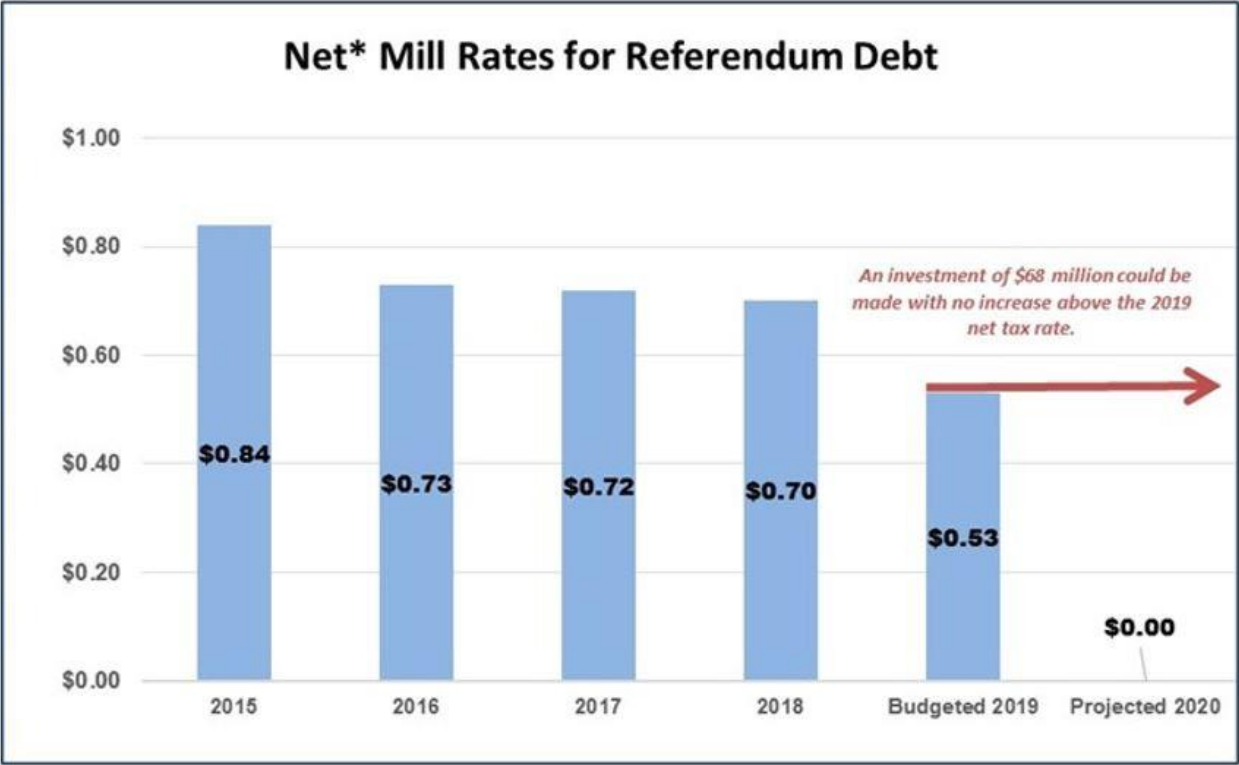
# How would you like to receive information from the District?



**Background**

The Fond du Lac School District tax mill rate, which is used to calculate local property taxes, has declined since 2015. In 1999, the District borrowed funds to build Fond du Lac High School. In 2019, the District will pay off this loan. Using a homeowner analogy, we are about to pay off our home mortgage. As a result, beginning in 2020, the District will be referendum debt free.

The chart shows that this reduction of loan payments will reduce the tax impact of any future investment in our schools, giving the community an opportunity to invest an estimated \$68 million in facility upgrades with no referendum debt tax increase over the current level.



\* Net mill rate reflects existing tax levy minus state aid payments.

The District serves approximately 7,200 students and maintains over 1.52 million square feet in 9 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, Fond du Lac High School and 2 STEM charter schools, as well as an alternative high school for at-risk students. While we have done our best to maintain these schools, a significant investment is needed to address the following:

- **Safety and Security:** Ability to control visitor entry and access once inside the building, as well as update life safety systems (e.g., fire alarm, public address, access control)
- **Building Systems:** Many of the major building systems (e.g., heating, electrical, plumbing) are from the original construction and have exceeded their service life
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance:** Accessibility of buildings, including elevators, ramps, restrooms and classrooms
- **Educational Support:** Capacity and effectiveness of classrooms and support spaces (e.g., cafeteria, kitchen, library, gym) to support the delivery of programs and curriculum

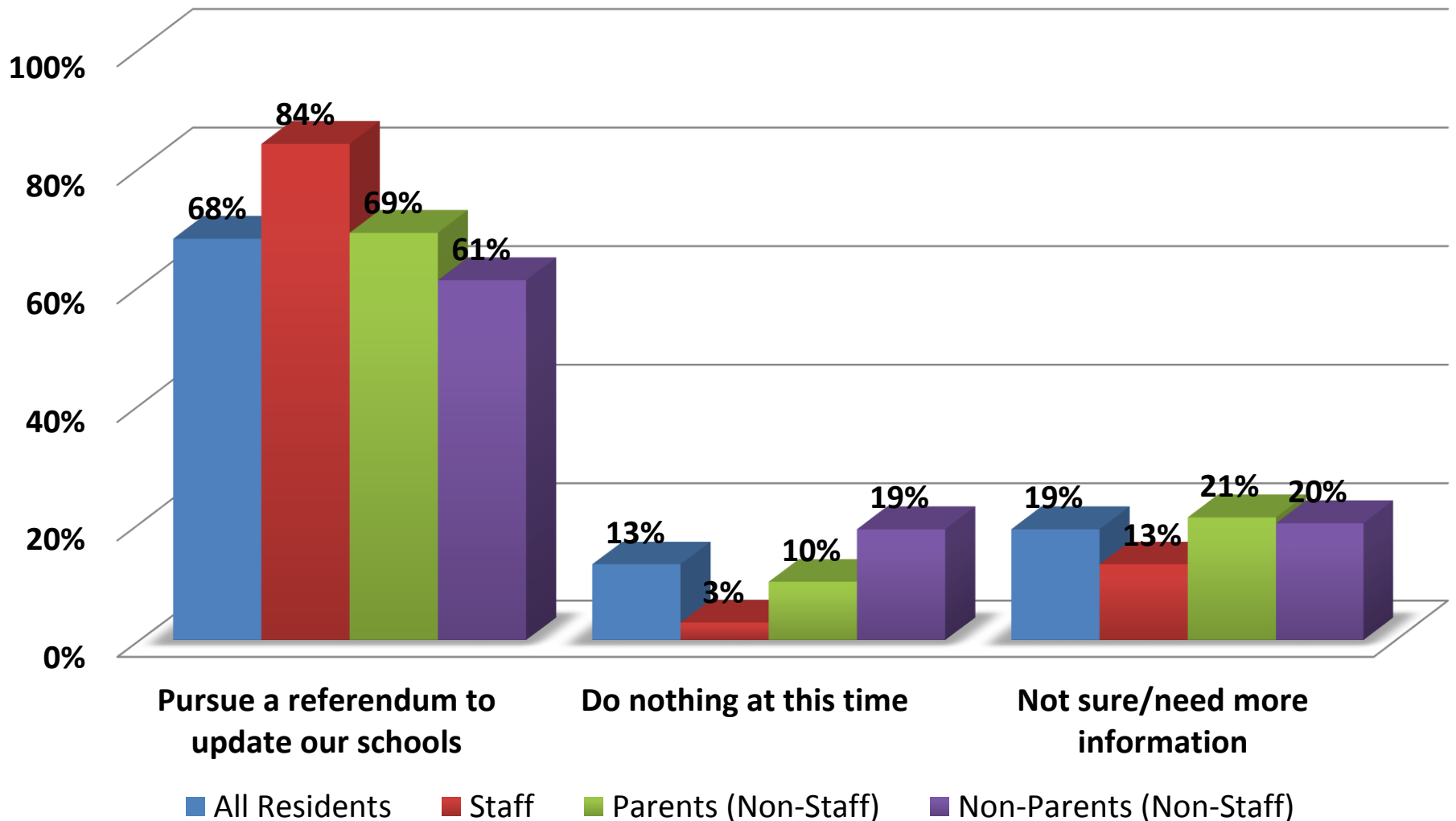
The District cannot address all of these projects through the annual operational budget. **If the community chooses to address these needs, the primary way to obtain funding is through a referendum.**

## Priority of Investment Needed at Each School

Elementary Schools	Year Built	Safety & Security	Building Systems	ADA Compliance	Educational Support
Chegwin Elementary	1970	High	Medium	High	High
Evans Elementary	1955	High	High	Medium	High
Lakeshore Elementary	1975	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
Parkside Elementary	1972	High	High	Medium	High
Pier Elementary	1954	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Riverside Elementary	1963	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Roberts Elementary	1963	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
Rosenow Elementary	1955	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
Waters Elementary	1950	Medium	High	High	Medium
Franklin/STEM School	1908	High	High	High	Low
Middle/High Schools	Year Built	Safety & Security	Building Systems	ADA Compliance	Educational Support
Sabish Middle School	1962	High	High	High	Medium
Theisen Middle School	1971	High	Medium	High	High
Woodworth Middle School	1962	High	High	High	Medium
Fond du Lac High School	2001	Medium	Low	Low	Low

# What advice would you give the District?

*(Fond du Lac School District Residents Only)*



# Potential Projects



## **School Safety and Security**

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. The main entrances at some of our schools need to be redesigned to better control visitor access. Schools also need additional lockable interior doors that can partition off sections of the school when needed. In addition, improvements are needed to the emergency and public address communication systems.

***Estimated cost: \$13.5 million***

## **Building Systems: Plumbing, Electrical, Lighting and Heating/Ventilation**

Many of our schools' building systems, including heating and ventilation (HVAC), electrical and plumbing, have reached the end of their useful life, resulting in inefficiencies and ongoing costly repairs. Many of these systems need to be completely replaced and/or major components updated.

***Estimated cost: Up to \$54.7 million***

## **Building Exterior: Roofs, Windows and Doors**

Many of our schools are more than 50 years old with original windows, doors and exterior components (e.g., siding, brick, etc.). As a result, roof sections, windows and doors are in need of replacement, and the buildings' exterior components are in need of repair.

***Estimated cost: Up to \$19.8 million***

## **Building Site Improvements**

Due to the age of the buildings, repaving is needed around many of the schools, including sidewalks and parking lots. Entrances and elevation changes need to be redesigned to include ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code requirements.

***Estimated cost: Up to \$4.9 million***

## **Classrooms, Support Areas and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements**

Teaching and learning has changed significantly since our schools were originally constructed. Because of their age, many classrooms lack the flexibility needed for small group instruction and hands-on learning. In addition, many of the schools are in need of interior improvements including paint, flooring and ceiling replacement, and updated interior doors.

***Estimated cost: Up to \$44.4 million***

## **Air conditioning**

Air conditioning helps dehumidify buildings, maintains technology and creates a better learning environment. There are several schools, including Franklin/STEM, Rosenow, Sabish, Woodworth, Pier, Waters, Riverside and Roberts, that are not air conditioned. Adding air conditioning in these buildings would improve learning conditions and allow greater flexibility for summer school programming.

***Estimated cost: Up to \$7.7 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)
<b>improve safety and security?</b> Estimated cost: \$13.5 million	2.49	2.79	2.58	2.32
<b>repair/replace roofs, windows and doors?</b> Estimated cost: \$19.8 million	2.40	2.67	2.43	2.28
<b>update building systems?</b> Estimated cost: \$54.7 million	2.42	2.75	2.49	2.25
<b>make building site improvements?</b> Estimated cost: \$4.9 million	2.25	2.57	2.30	2.09
<b>address classrooms, support areas and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at each of our schools?</b> Estimated cost: Up to \$44.4 million	2.24	2.60	2.33	2.05
<b>add air conditioning?</b> Estimated cost: Up to \$7.7 million	2.26	2.62	2.41	2.02

# **Funding Support**

The cost to address all the projects identified in the survey is estimated at \$145 million. Given the cost, it may not be realistic to complete all of these projects at one time. Therefore, the work may need to be completed in phases, based on the priorities of the community and its willingness to financially support the projects.

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Cost up to:</b>
School Safety and Security	\$13.5 million
Building Systems	\$54.7 million
Building Exterior	\$19.8 million
Building Site Improvements	\$ 4.9 million
Classroom, Support Areas and ADA Improvements	\$44.4 million
Air Conditioning	\$ 7.7 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$145 million</b>

The following table shows the estimated increase to the school portion of your local property taxes over the current level for various referendum amounts. The projected reduction in the tax mill rate, as described on page 2 of this survey, is reflected in the calculations.

<b>Referendum Amount</b>	<b>\$75 million</b>	<b>\$90 million</b>	<b>\$105 million</b>	<b>\$120 million</b>	<b>\$135 million</b>	<b>\$145 million</b>
Tax increase per \$100,000 of property value	\$11 per year (\$0.92/month)	\$33 per year (\$2.75/month)	\$54 per year (\$4.50/month)	\$77 per year (\$6.41/month)	\$99 per year (\$8.25/month)	\$114 per year (\$9.50/month)

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

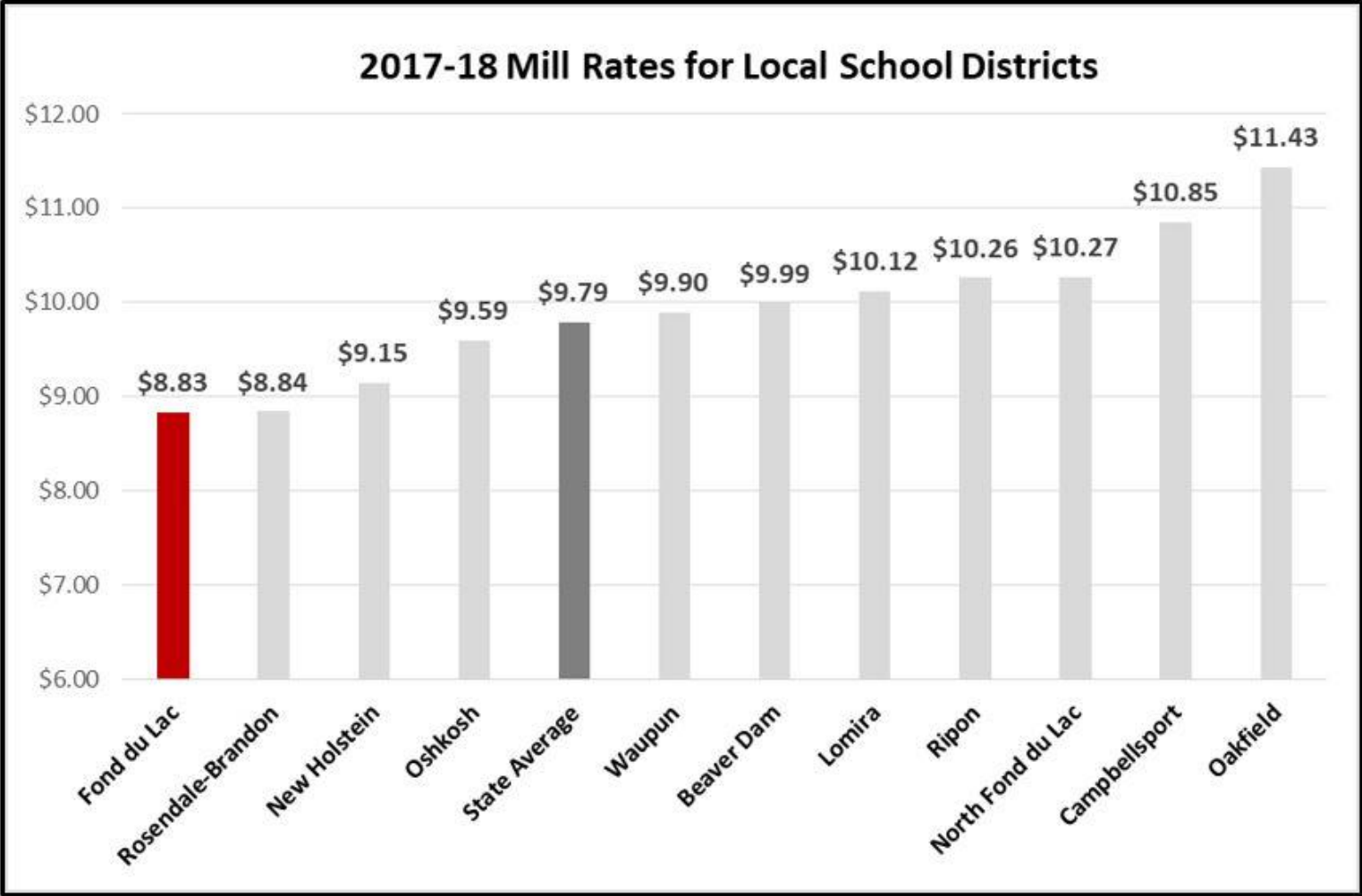
*(Fond du Lac School District Residents Only)*



# **Mill Rate Comparison**

The District works hard to be good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars. In fact, the District will be referendum debt-free in 2020.

The District’s tax mill rate, which is used to calculate property taxes, is the lowest when compared to neighboring school districts.





**Thank you!**