



MURRAY CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are Murray!

MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023 COMMUNITY SENTIMENT SURVEY

WELCOME TO
MURRAY
HIGH SCHOOL



ANALYTICS

METHODOLOGY



405 residents in Murray were sampled via the publicly available registered voter file. Invitations to participate in the online survey were sent via email and text message.



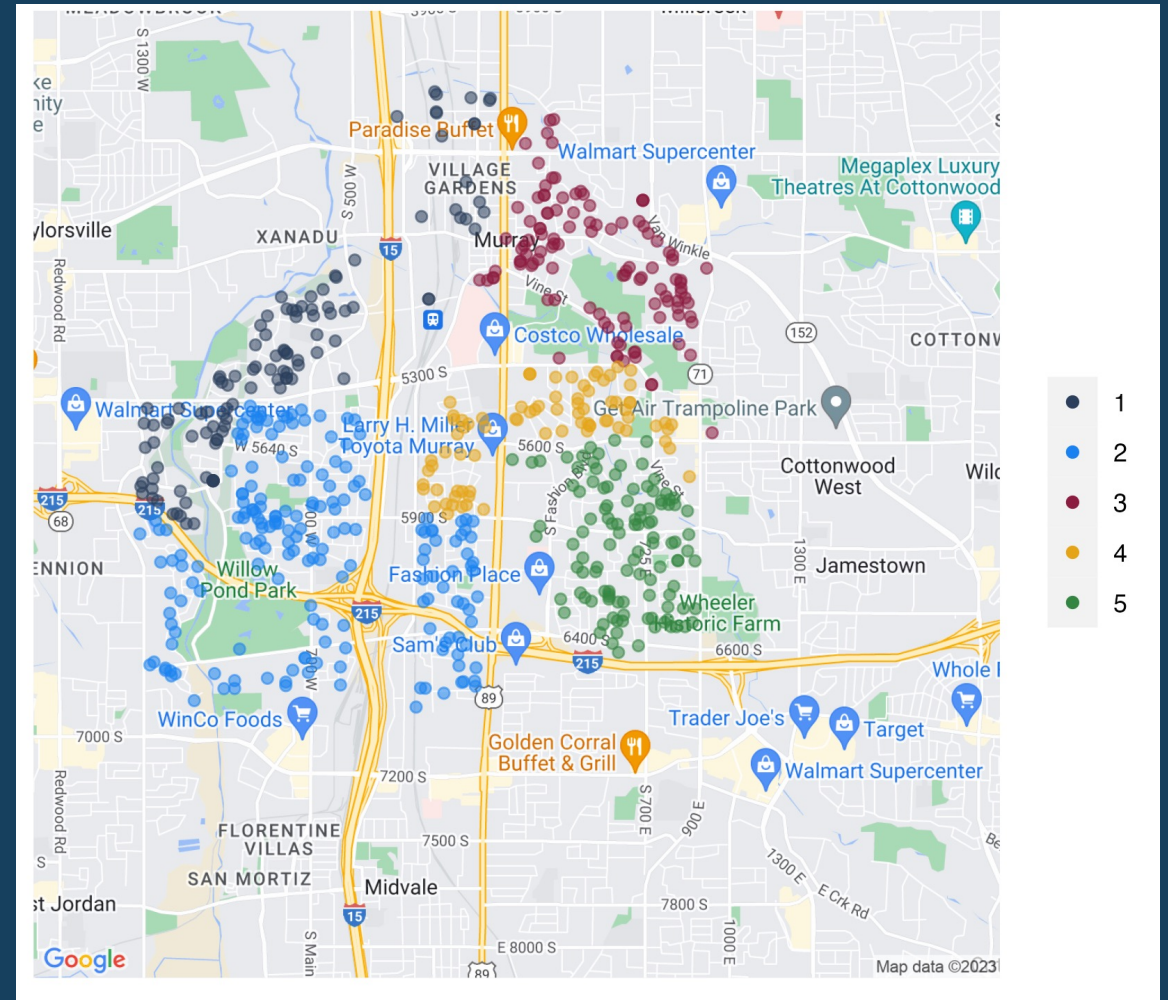
Online survey interviews were collected from September 20th through October 9th, 2023.



Margin of error \pm 4.9 percentage points.



Respondents are geographically representative of registered voters in Murray. The sample has been weighted by age, gender, city council district, and registered party based on population estimates from the US Census American Community Survey.





1. When considering Murray City School District's performance, *many residents express neutral feelings or do not have adequate information about MCSD to make an evaluation.* Among those who do express an opinion, residents are divided about the overall direction and quality of services provided by the District. Residents are generally satisfied with the quality of facilities and education in the District but are less pleased with the level of communication they receive from the District.
2. *A majority of residents believe District facilities will be adequate for at least the next 5 years.* Top considerations for District facilities include *safety/security, class size, and a comfortable learning environment.* Student-teacher ratios are by far the most important factor considered for school size. In addition, residents prioritize having highly qualified teachers/staff and opportunities for students to excel academically.
3. When it comes to grade reconfiguration, about 2-in-3 residents *support moving the 9th grade from junior high school to high school. Residents are less supportive of moving the 6th grade from elementary school to the junior high school (45%).* For those that oppose grade reconfiguration, the top concern is student maturity.
4. Residents are split on whether they prefer District funds be allocated towards *maintaining the two existing neighborhood junior high schools or closing those schools in favor of consolidating 7th and 8th grade students into one District-wide middle school.* Those who support the school consolidation are more likely to find a comfortable learning environment important while those who prefer maintaining the two schools find school location important.
5. In terms of other options the District is considering, *residents are most open to the idea of adjusting school boundaries to balance enrollment at existing schools and constructing a new elementary school.* Residents are comparatively *less enthusiastic about the options to consolidate existing schools.*

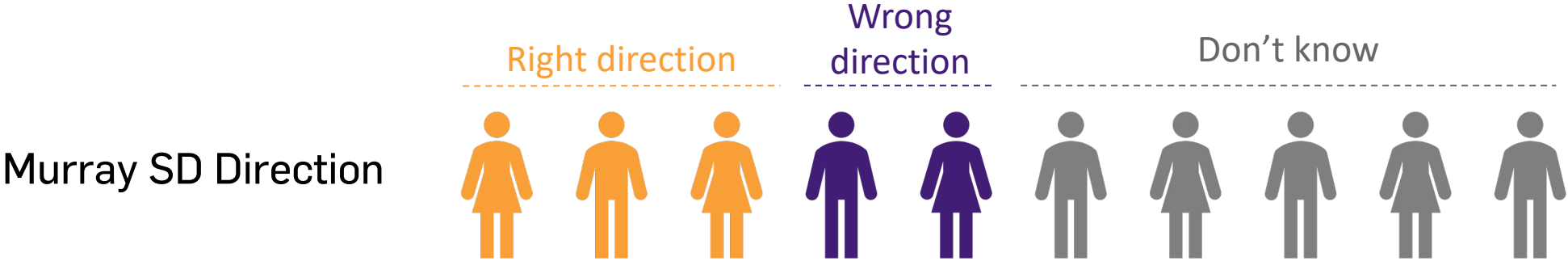
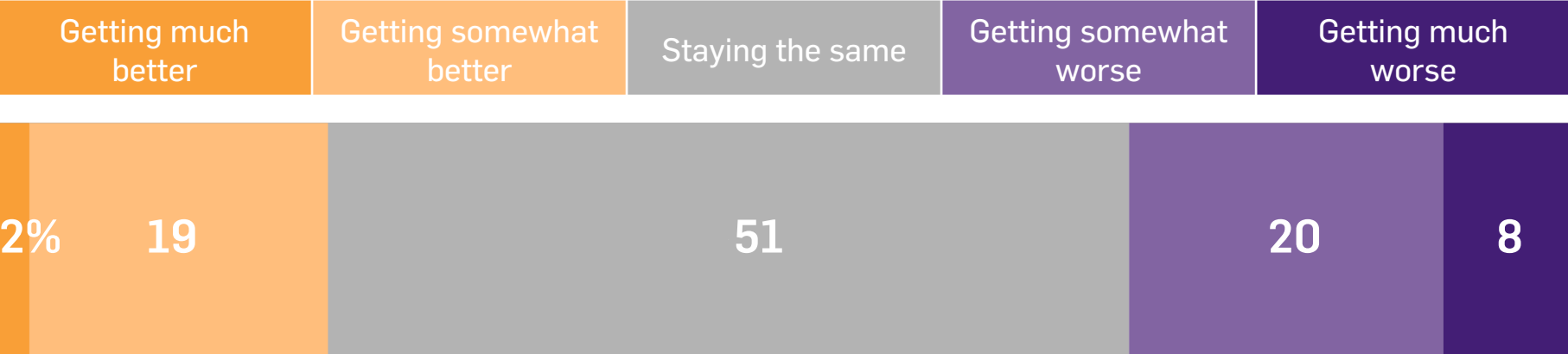
RESULTS AT A GLANCE

GENERAL DISTRICT SENTIMENTS

RESPONDENTS SPLIT ON DIRECTION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Over half of respondents say that the educational services provided by the schools in Murray City School District are staying the same, with more respondents saying that these services are getting worse than getting better. About 1/3 of residents believe that the Murray City School District is headed in the right direction.

Murray City SD Educational Services



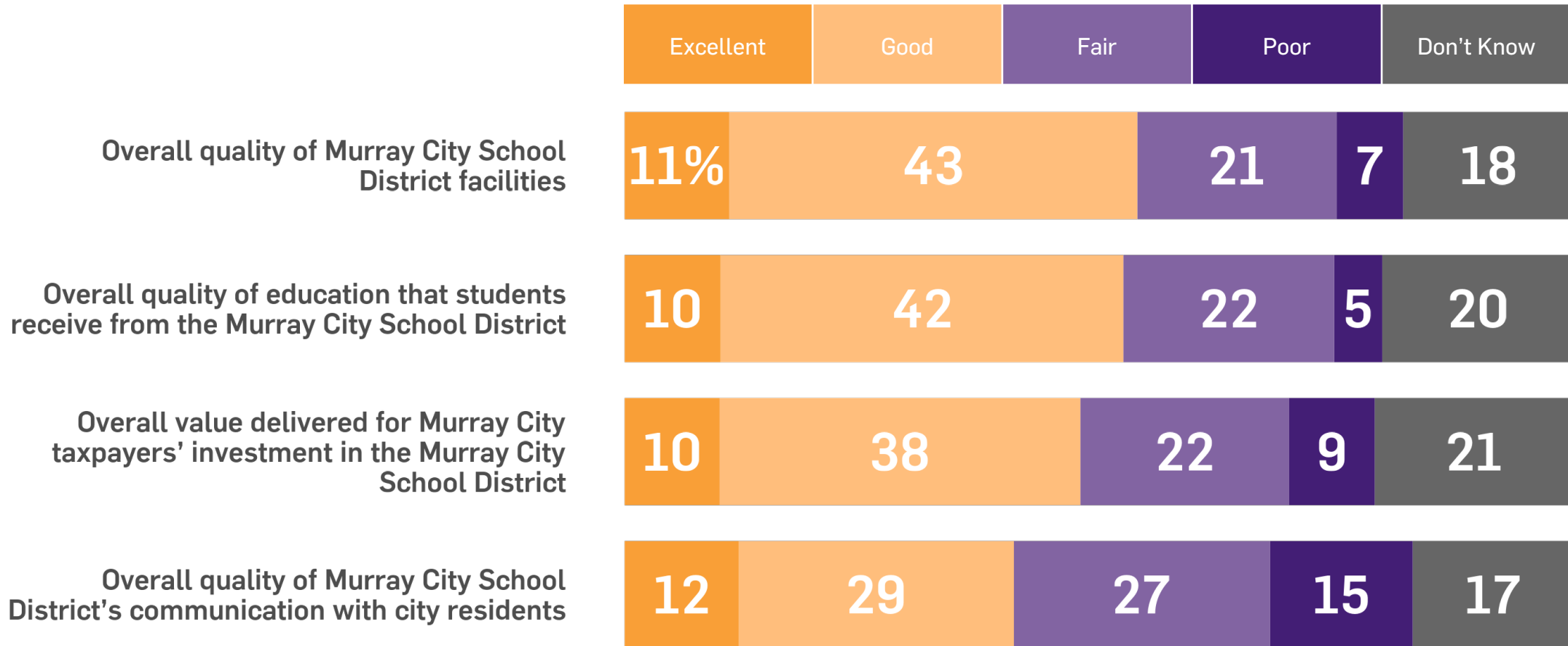
Q: Based upon what you know or have heard, would you say the educational services provided by the schools in Murray City School District are generally getting better, getting worse, or staying the same? (n = 388)

Q: Do you feel as though things in Murray City School District are going in the right direction or the wrong direction? (n = 404)

MAJORITY PLEASED WITH DISTRICT FACILITIES & QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Over half of respondents believe the overall quality of Murray City School District facilities and quality of education are good or excellent. The area in which residents see the most need for improvement is communication between the Murray City SD and city residents. Notably, about 1 in 5 residents say they do not know enough about the District to make an evaluation for each of the quality metrics.

Murray City SD Quality

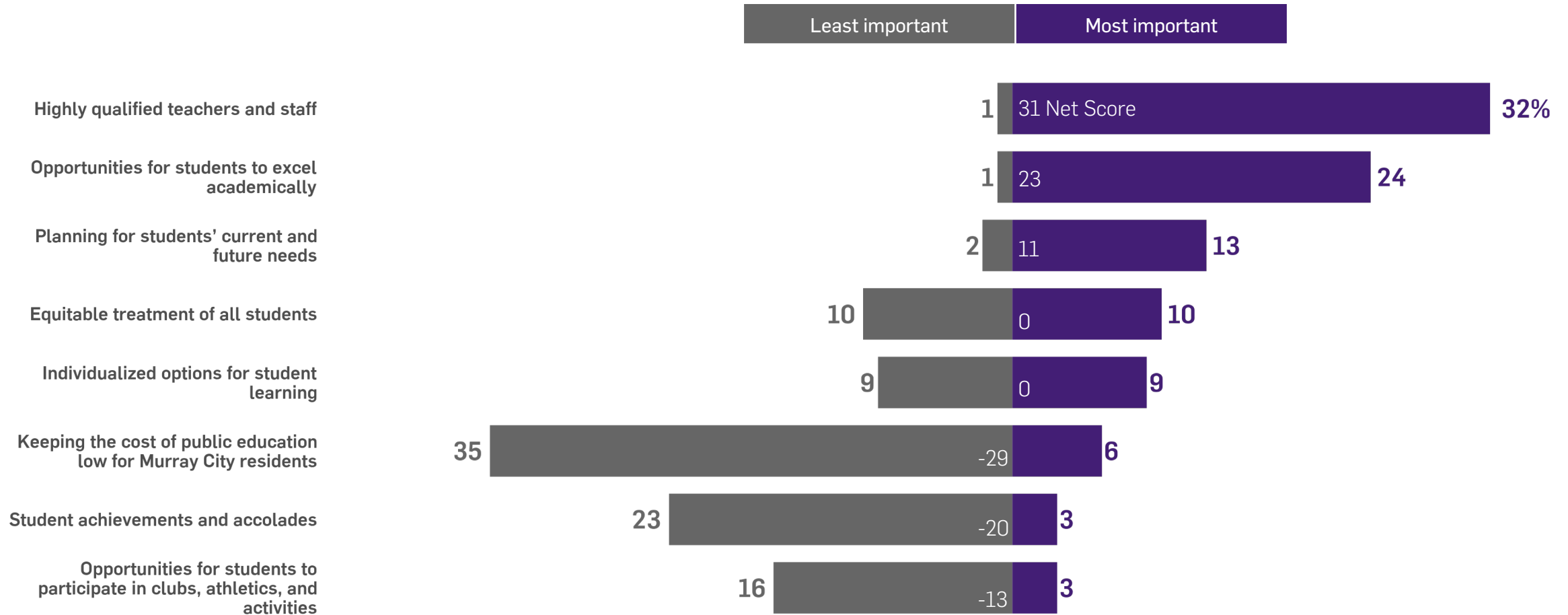


Q: Based on what you know or have heard, would you say that the quality of the following items are excellent, good, fair, or poor? (n = 402)

QUALITY TEACHERS & ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES ARE TOP PRIORITIES

A plurality of residents (32%) say highly qualified teachers and staff is the *most important* aspect of Murray School District performance. An equal proportion identify keeping cost of public education low as *least important*. Opportunities for students to excel academically (24%) is also considered a high priority, while student accolades and extracurriculars are seen as relatively less important.

Most/Least Important Aspects of Performance

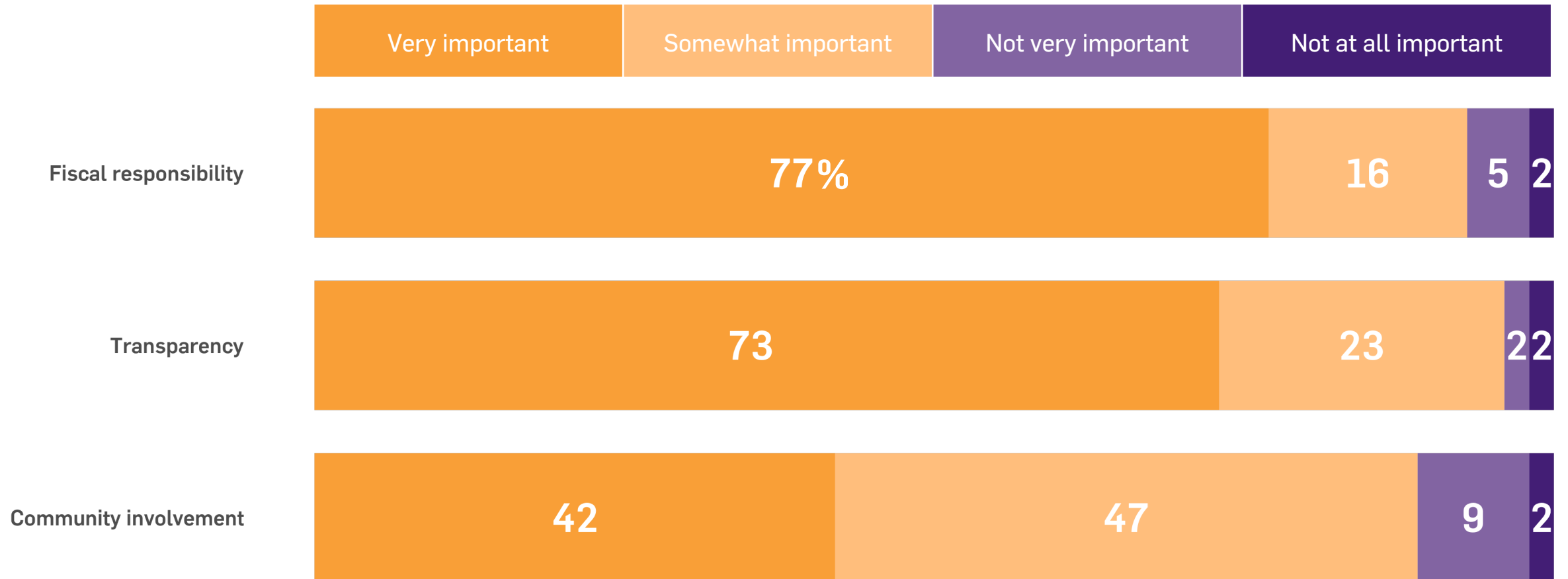


Q: In order to provide high quality public education services, which of the following aspects of Murray City School District performance is most important to you? Which is the least important? (n = 402)

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & TRANSPARENCY IMPORTANT TO RESIDENTS

When it comes to Murray City School District's overall district management, about 3/4 of respondents say that fiscal responsibility and transparency are very important. By comparison, community involvement is seen as relatively less important.

Murray City SD Management Importance



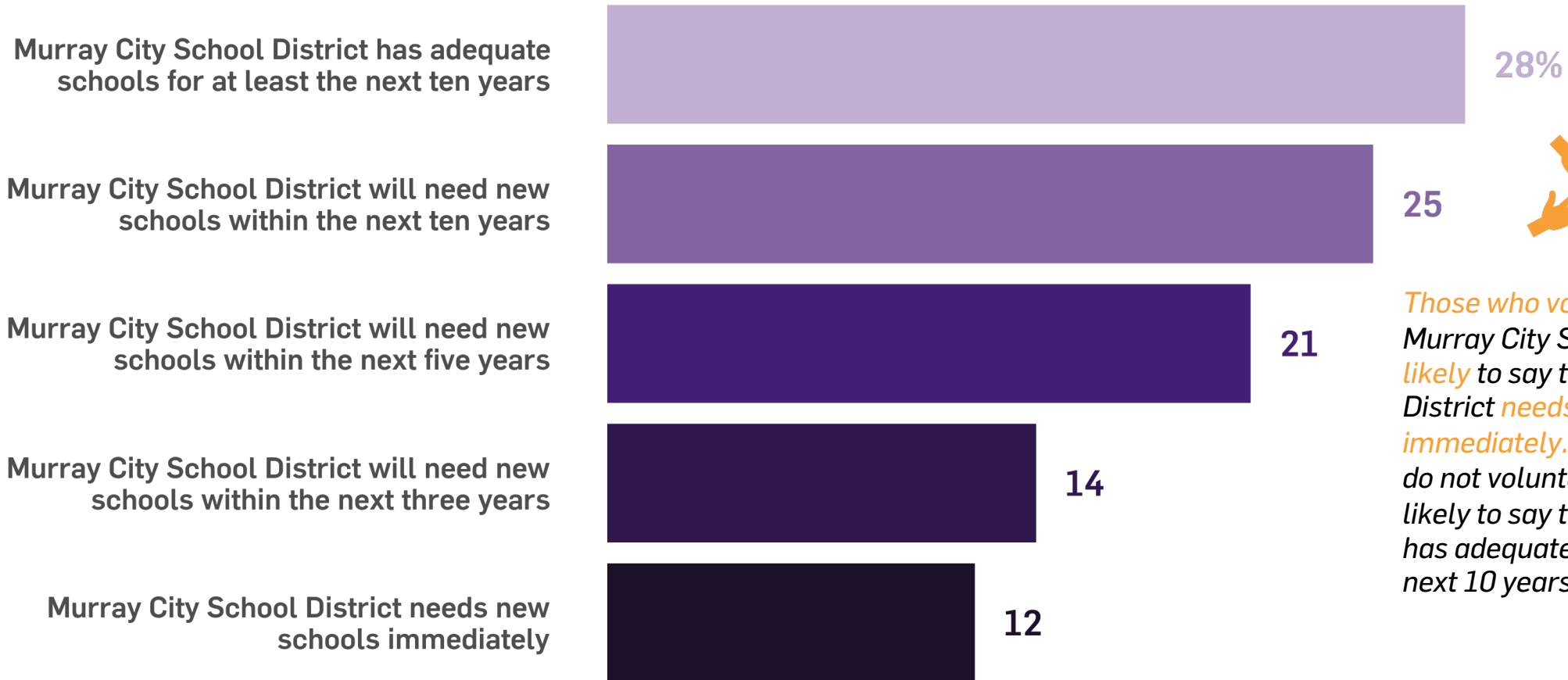
Q: How important to you are each of the following aspects of Murray City School District's overall district management? (n = 395)

DISTRICT DECISIONS

MURRAY SCHOOL FACILITIES SEEN AS ADEQUATE FOR NEAR FUTURE

A majority of residents believe Murray City School district has adequate schools for at least the five years, and many think the current facilities will last for at least another 10 years. Only a small proportion feel the District has an immediate need for new facilities, although those who volunteer in Murray SD schools are more likely to see a need for new facilities in the near future than those who do not.

Murray City SD School Conditions

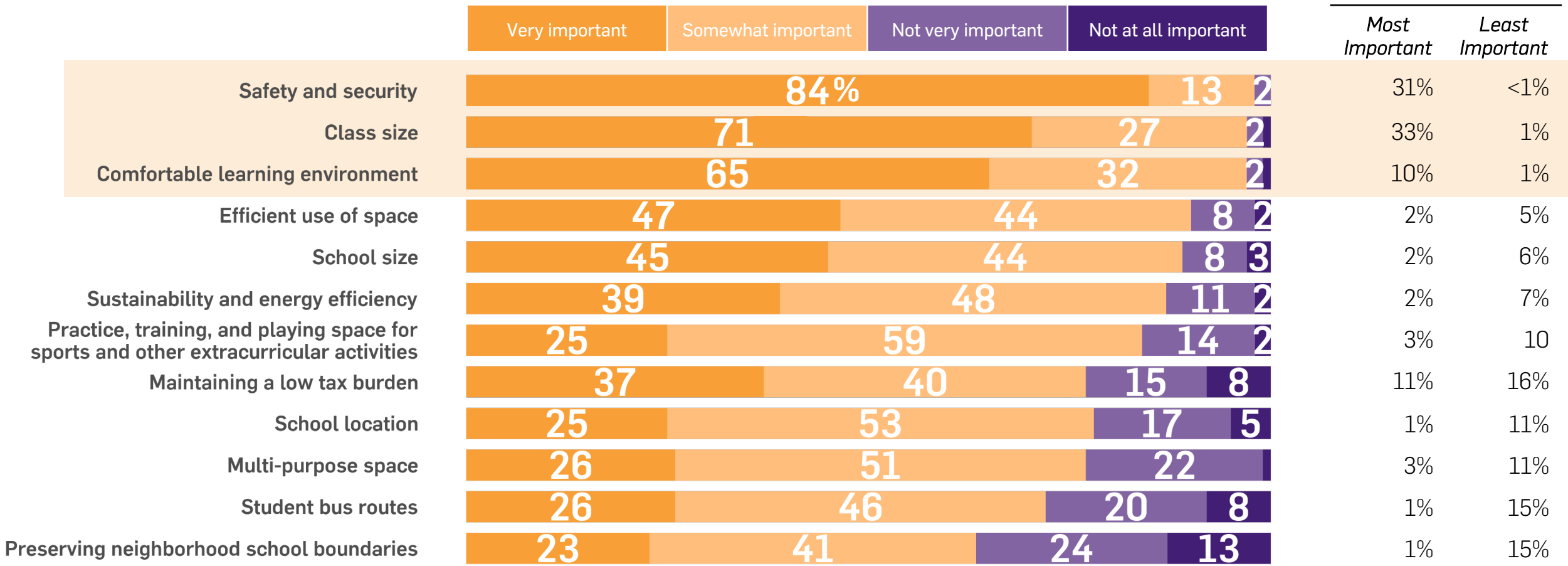


Those who volunteer within the Murray City SD are much more likely to say that the School District needs new schools immediately. While those who do not volunteer are much more likely to say the School District has adequate schools for the next 10 years.

SAFETY, CLASS SIZE, LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TOP CONSIDERATIONS

Nearly all residents consider safety and security, class size, and a comfortable learning environment important considerations for Murray City School District facilities. When asked what considerations were most/least important for the School District's facilities, security, class size, and learning environment were among the considerations identified as being most important.

Facilities Considerations



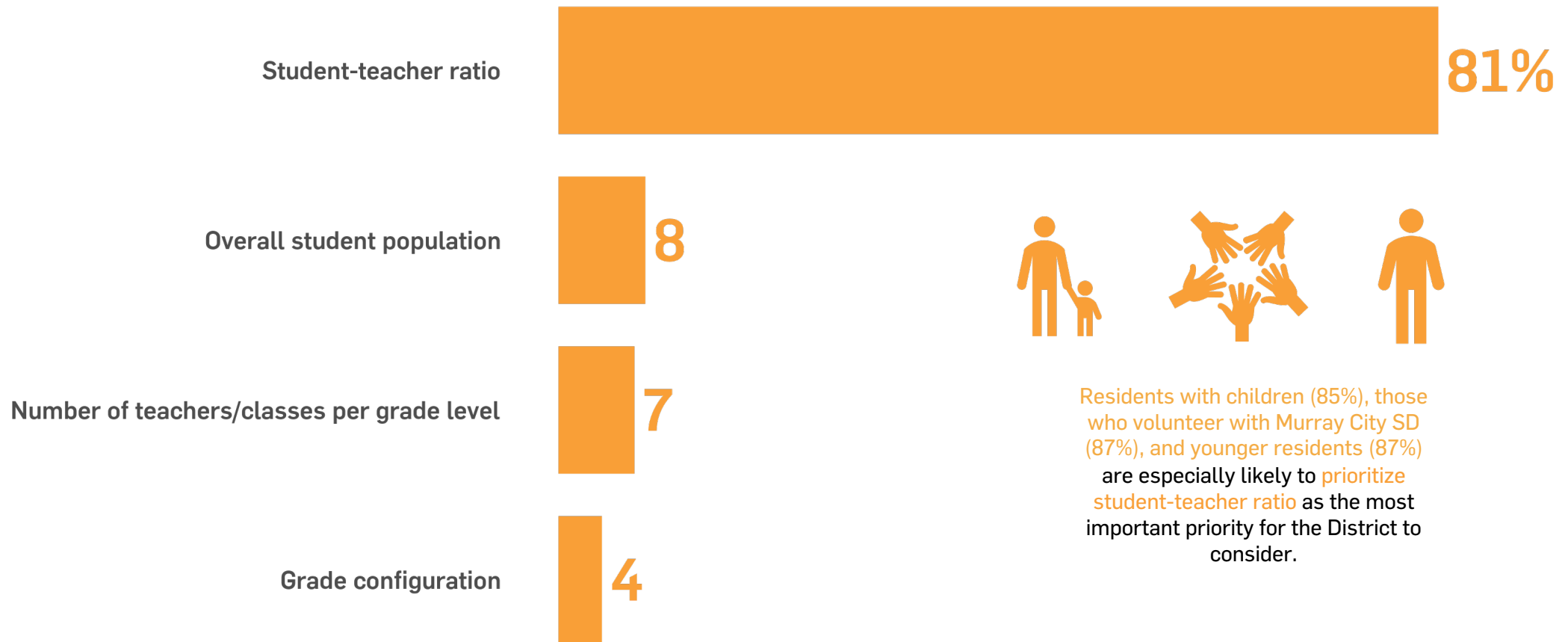
Q: How important to you are each of the following considerations for Murray City School District facilities? (n = 372)

Q: Thinking again about the following considerations for Murray City School District facilities, which of the following is the most important to you? Which is the least important? (n = 381)

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO MOST IMPORTANT SIZE CONSIDERATION

When it comes to class sizes in elementary schools, the vast majority of residents see student-teacher ratio as most important. This is especially true among residents with children, residents who volunteer within the District, and younger residents (ages 18-34).

Elementary Class Size Considerations

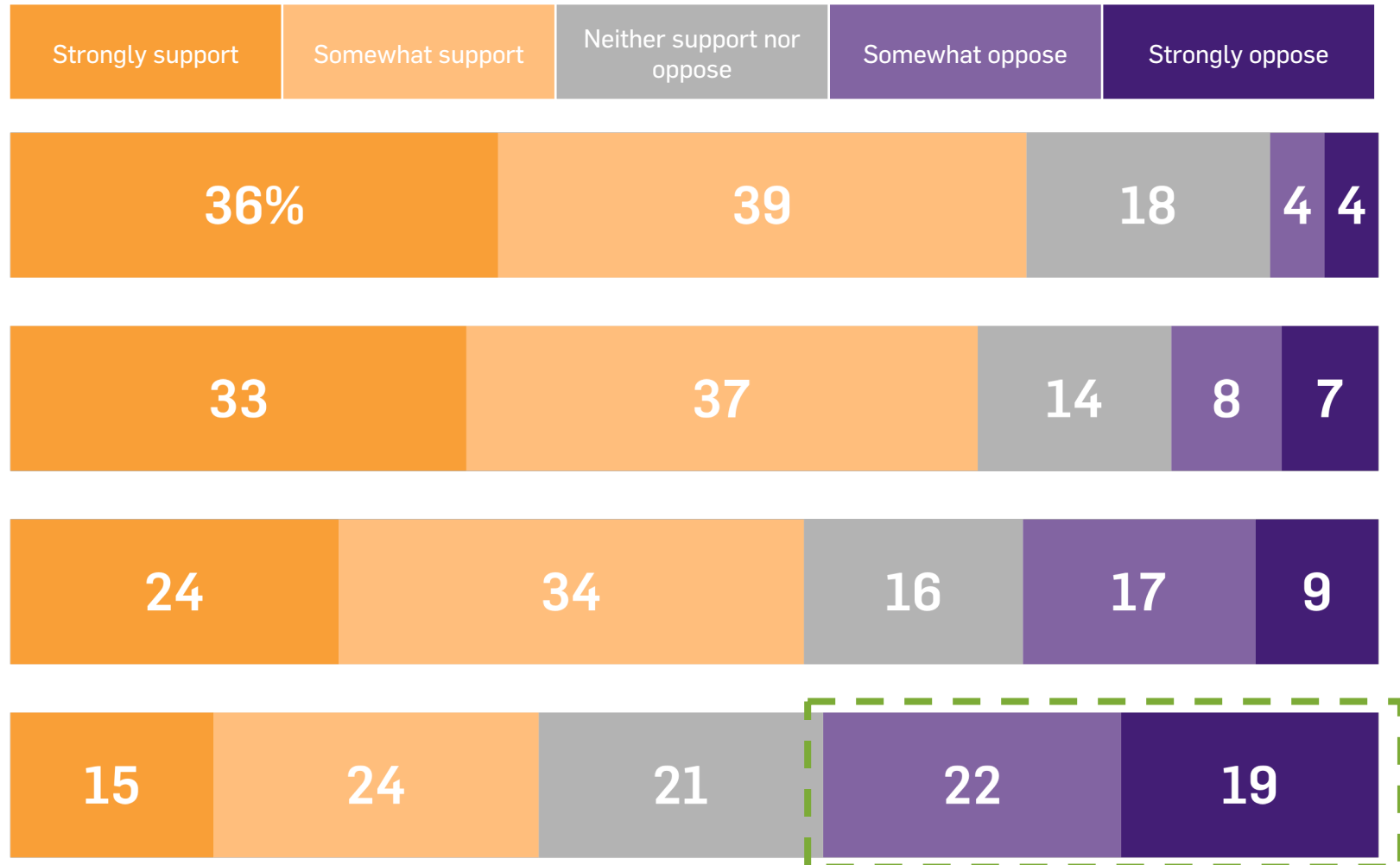


Q: Which of the following do you believe is most important for the District to consider when determining the appropriate school size for elementary schools in Murray City School District? (n = 375)

RESIDENTS SUPPORT ADJUSTING SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

When it comes to options the District might consider, residents express the most support for adjusting school boundaries to balance enrollment (75%) and constructing new elementary schools (70%) to replace old buildings. Residents are least in favor of the option to consolidate the two junior high schools into one.

District Facilities Possibilities

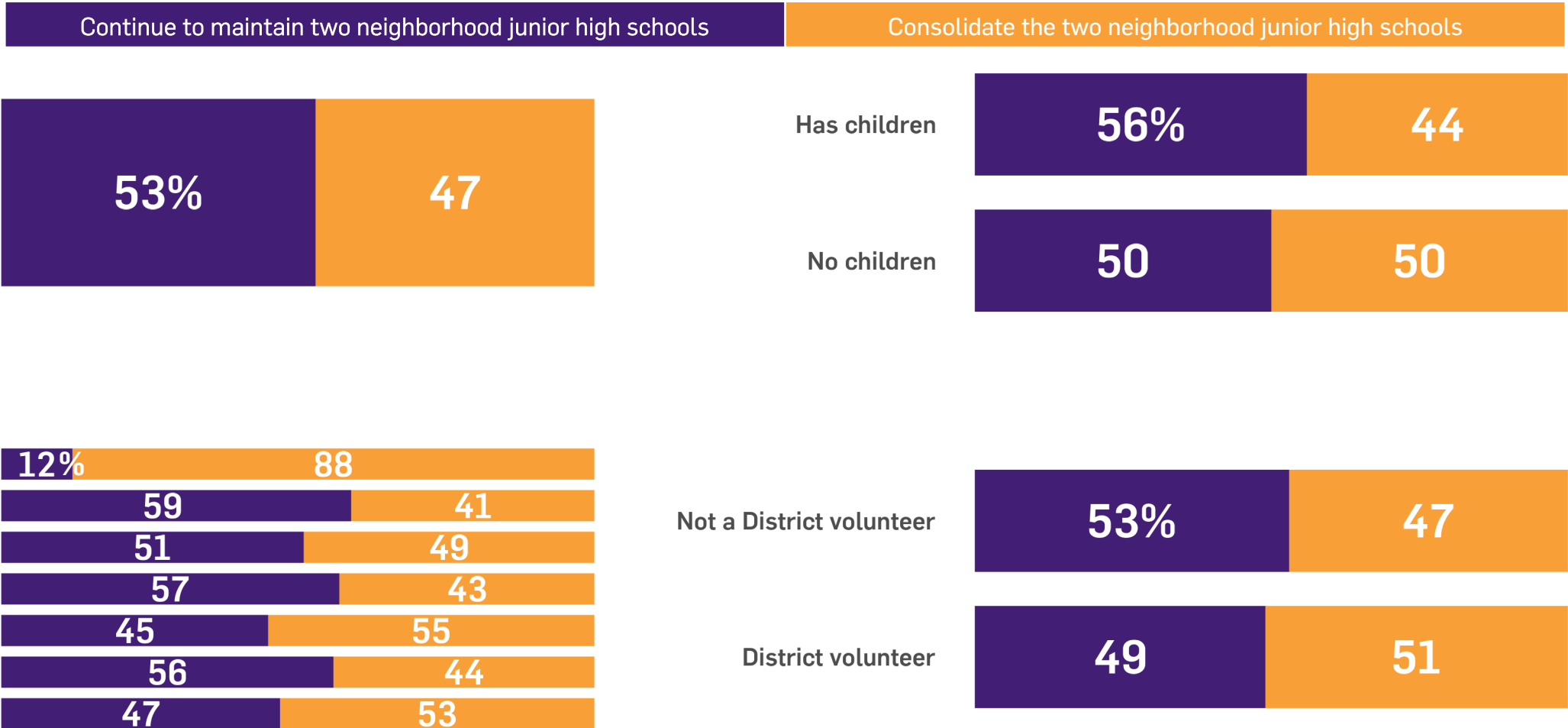


Please indicate your level of support or opposition to each of the following options the District may consider. (n=370)

RESIDENTS SPLIT ON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

Residents are evenly divided on whether they would prefer to allocate District funding towards maintaining the two neighborhood junior high schools the District currently has or closing the two schools and consolidating the 7th and 8th grade students into one District-wide middle school. Residents with children are more likely than their counterparts to opt for maintaining the two neighborhood junior high schools over consolidation.

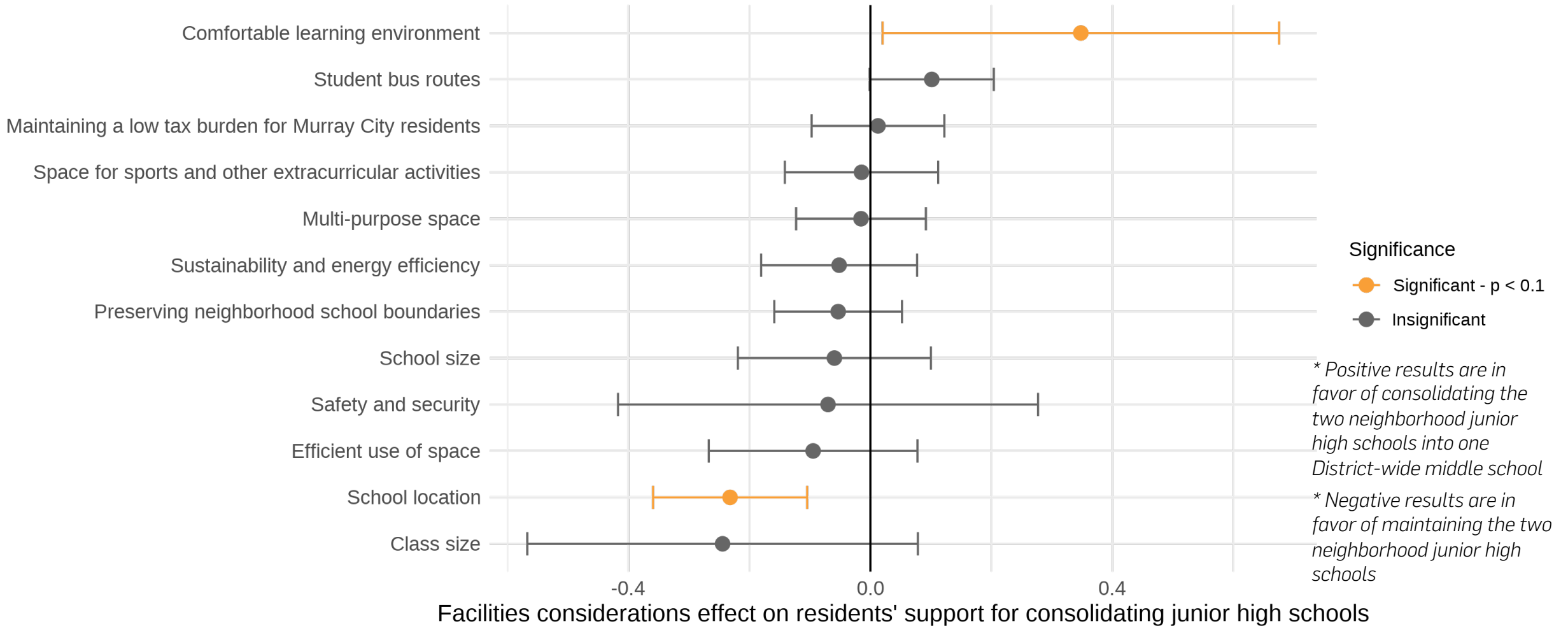
District Fund Allocation Tradeoff



Would you prefer that funds be allocated towards maintaining the two neighborhood junior high schools that the District currently has, or would you prefer that those neighborhood schools close in favor of consolidating 7th and 8th grade students into one District-wide middle school, located in the existing Hillcrest Junior High building? (n=363)

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IS BIGGEST DRIVER FOR CONSOLIDATION

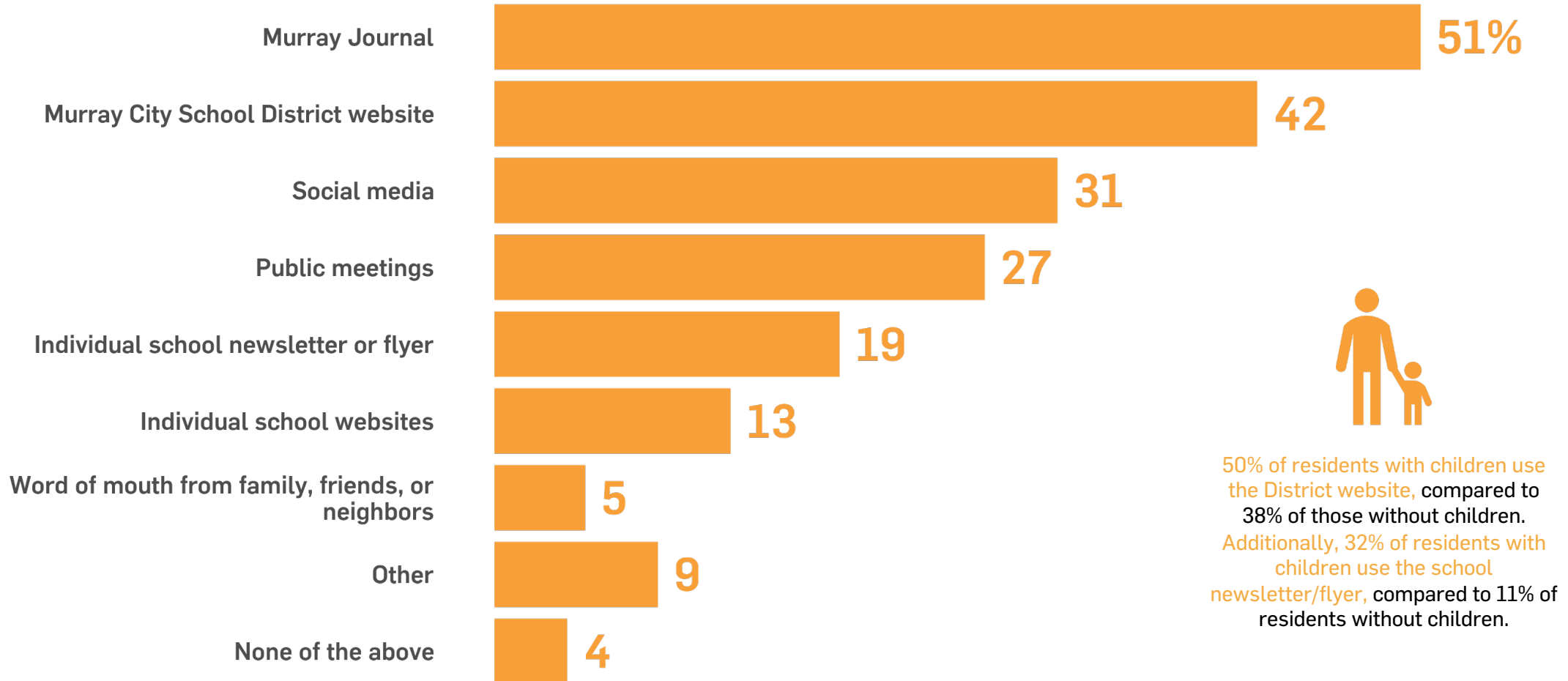
Respondents who report a comfortable learning environment as an important consideration for District facilities are more likely to express preference for consolidating the two neighborhood junior high schools into one District-wide middle school. Those who prioritize school location important are more likely to prefer maintaining the status quo



Would you prefer that funds be allocated towards maintaining the two neighborhood junior high schools that the District currently has, or would you prefer that those neighborhood schools close in favor of consolidating 7th and 8th grade students into one District-wide middle school, located in the existing Hillcrest Junior High building? (n=363)

MURRAY JOURNAL & DISTRICT WEBSITE IMPORTANT INFO SOURCES

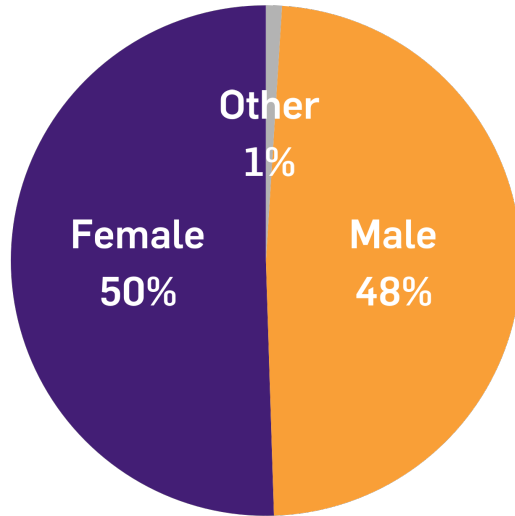
The Murray Journal is the most popular medium through which residents would prefer to receive information about Murray City School District's plan for future public education and facilities. Along with relying on the Murray Journal for information, residents with children are more likely to express interest in receiving updates via the District's website and individual school's newsletters than are their counterparts.



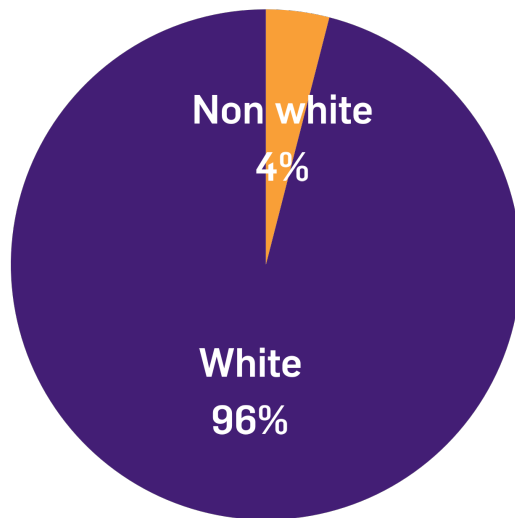
APPENDIX

SAMPLE COMPOSITION

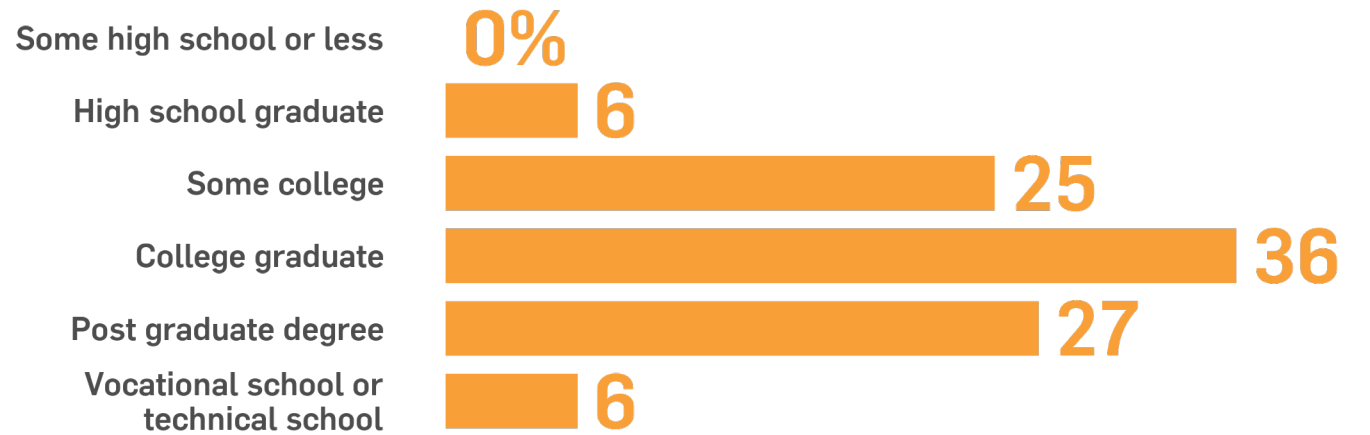
Gender



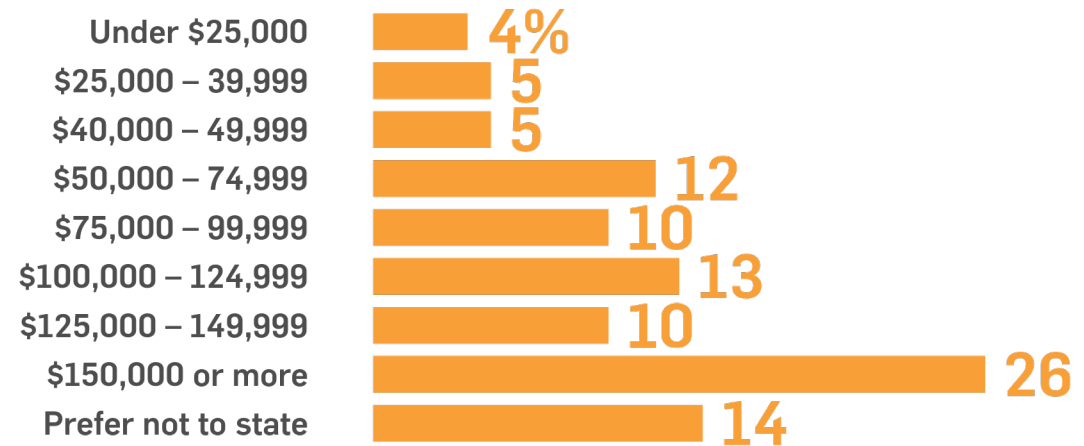
Race



Education

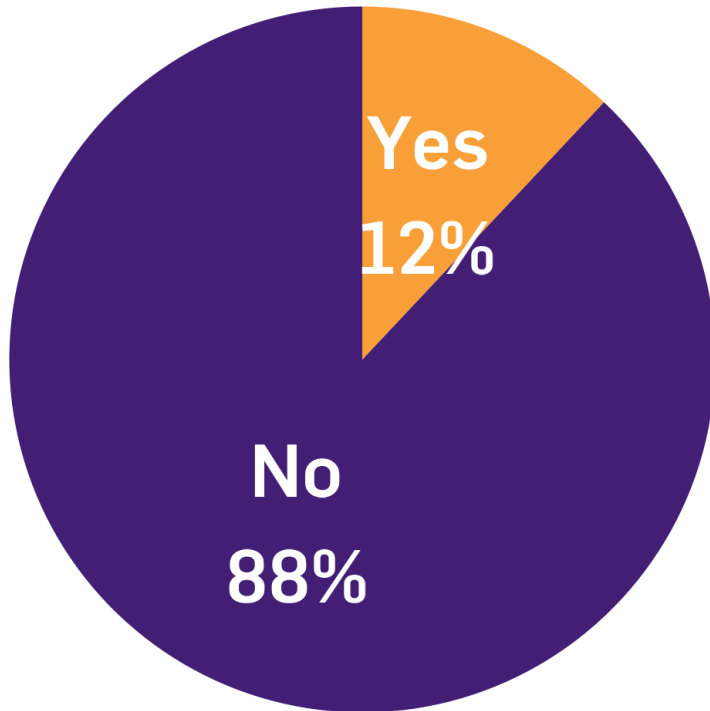


Income

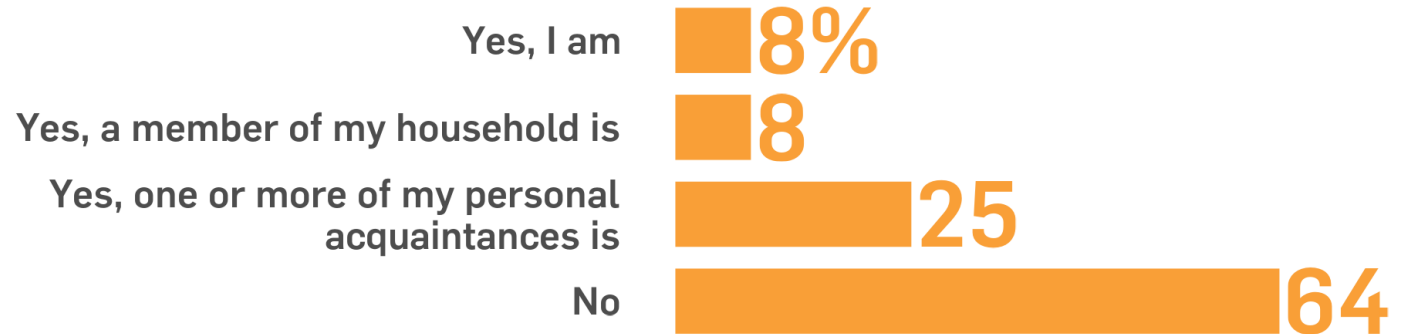


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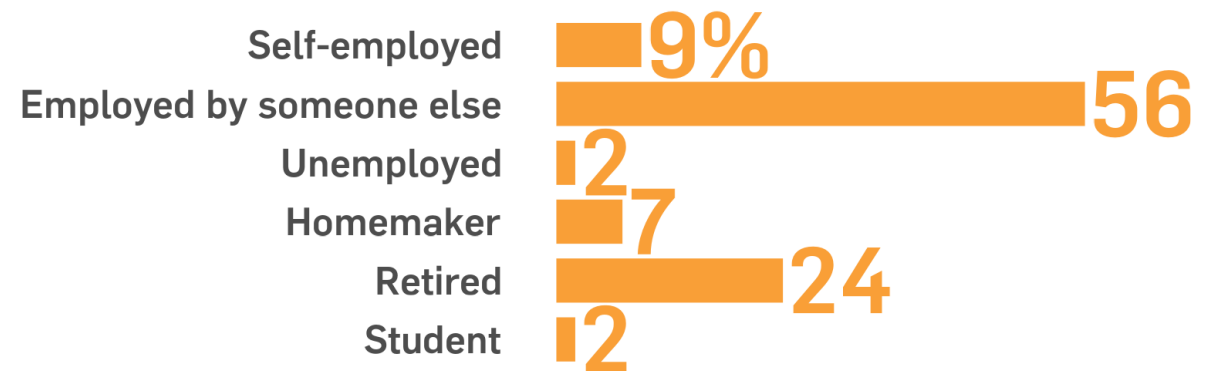
District Volunteer



District Employee

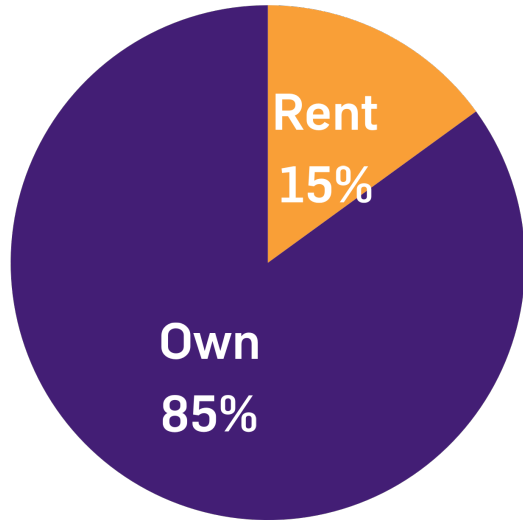


Employment Status

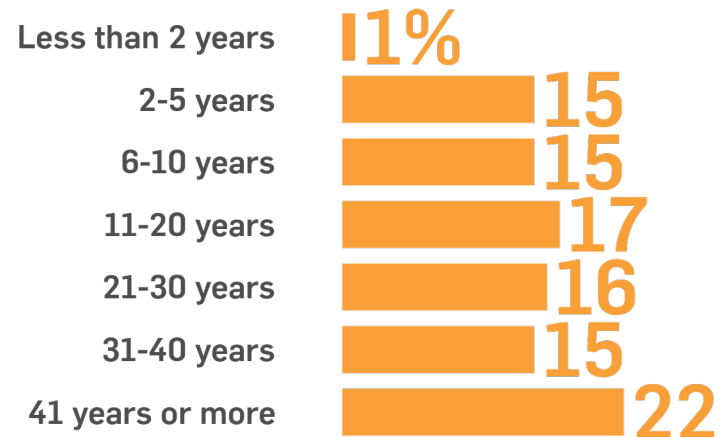


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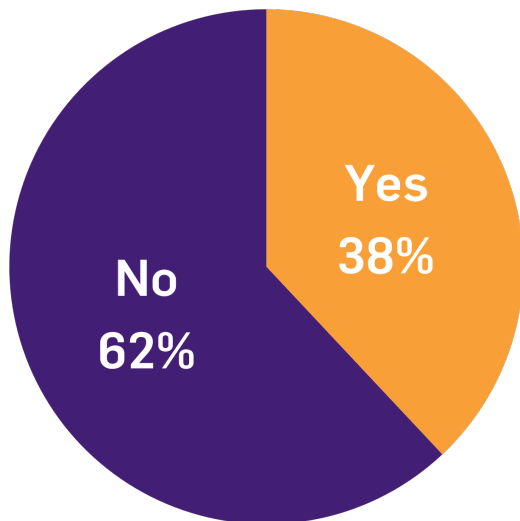
Home Ownership



Time Lived in Murray



Have Children Living at Home



Marriage Status

