

Town of Olds Citizen Budget



Introduction

From September 1 to October 2, 2020, the Town of Olds ran a budget engagement campaign using the Citizen Budget eDemocracy tool. The purpose was to learn about the priorities of local residents and to give them a say on where they would cut or increase spending, and how they would raise or lower taxes.

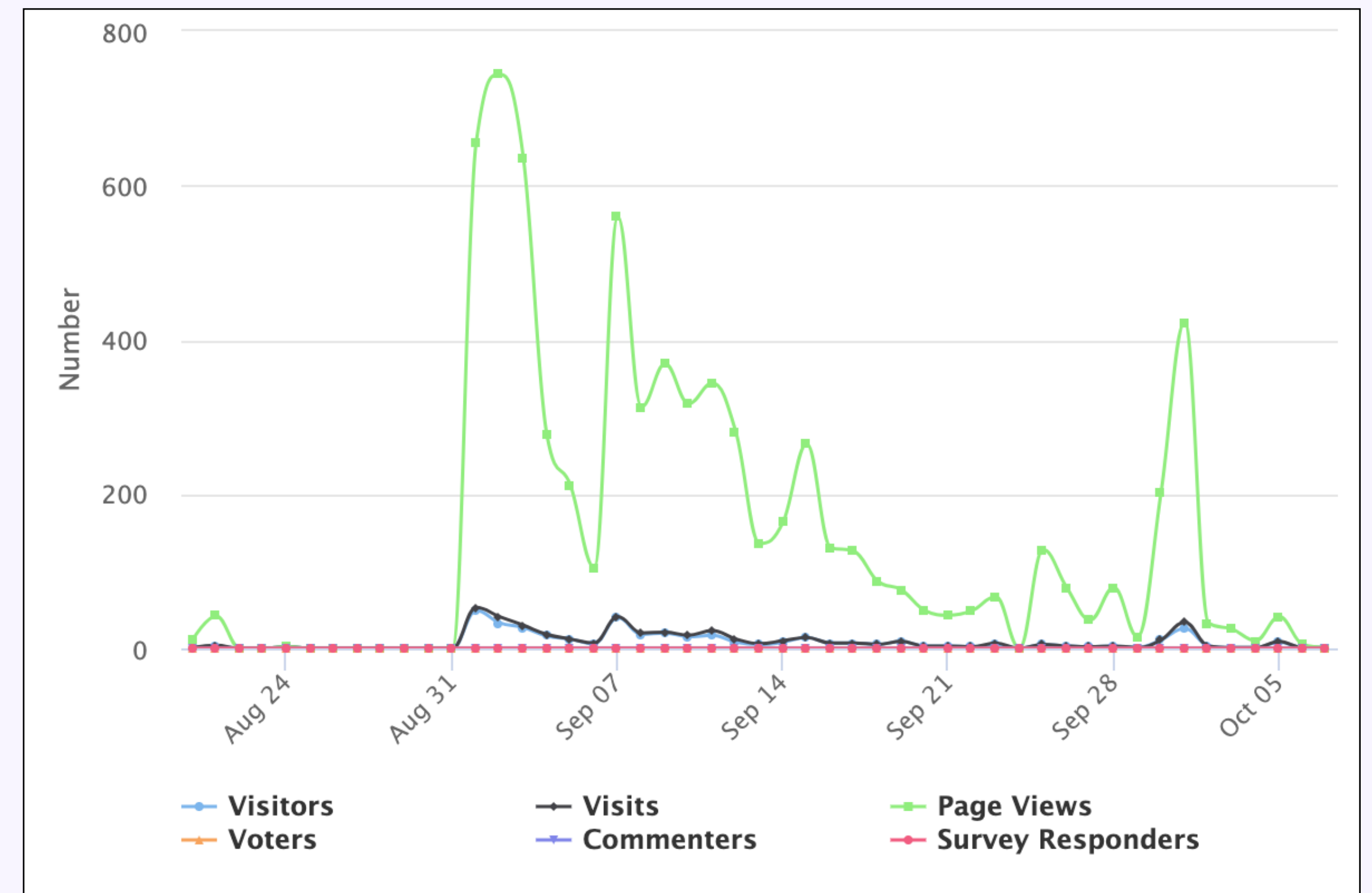
- Participants were tasked with increasing, decreasing or maintaining their property tax funding for different budget categories, with the added constraint of staying within a balanced budget. They were also asked to rank their top five areas of focus for future Town priorities.
- The process both educated the population on the various town services, while asking them to make trade-offs in the same way that a elected official would to stay within budget.
- Real-time results showed participants how their priorities compared to the rest of the group.



Participation

Participation

- Number of visitors: **332**
- Number of voters: **202**
- Comments gathered: **260**
- Average time on platform: **12.5 minutes**



Voting Results



E·THELO Recommended Scenario

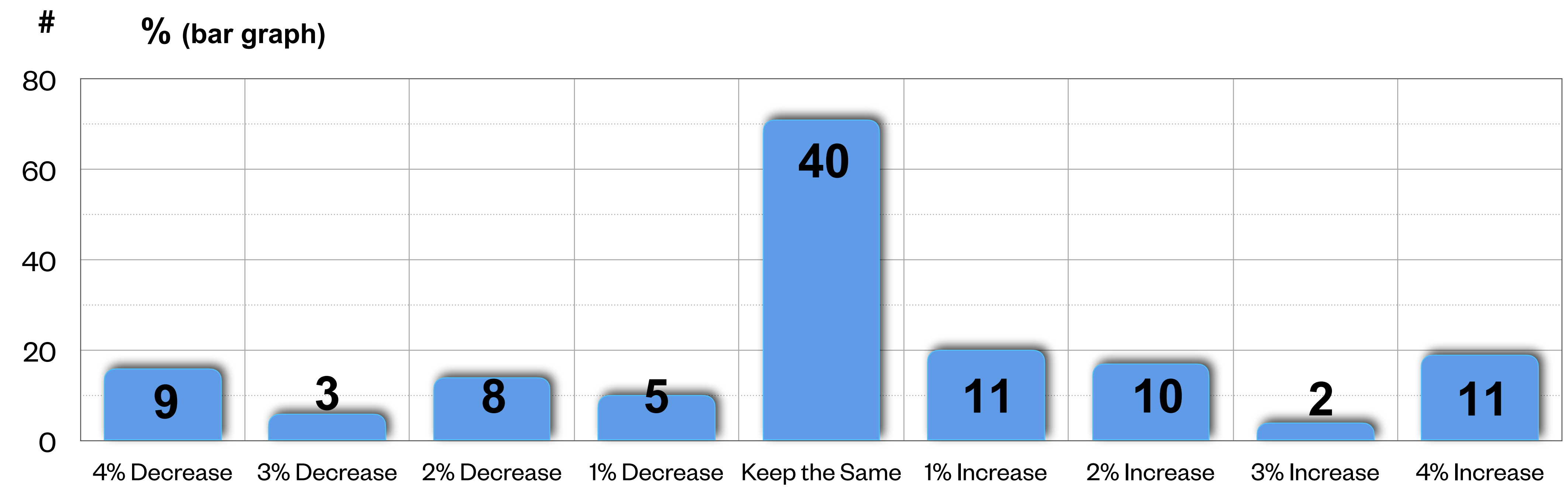
For each service area, participants were asked how they would adjust their property tax funding based on their current level of satisfaction with the service. The following slides outline voter support for each funding area.

Funding Area	Percent Change	% Approval
Operational Services	Keep the Same	75%
Protective Services	Keep the Same	77%
Parks and Trails	Keep the Same	68%
Economic Development	Keep the Same	69%
Community Services	Keep the Same	71%
Planning and Development	1% Decrease	79%



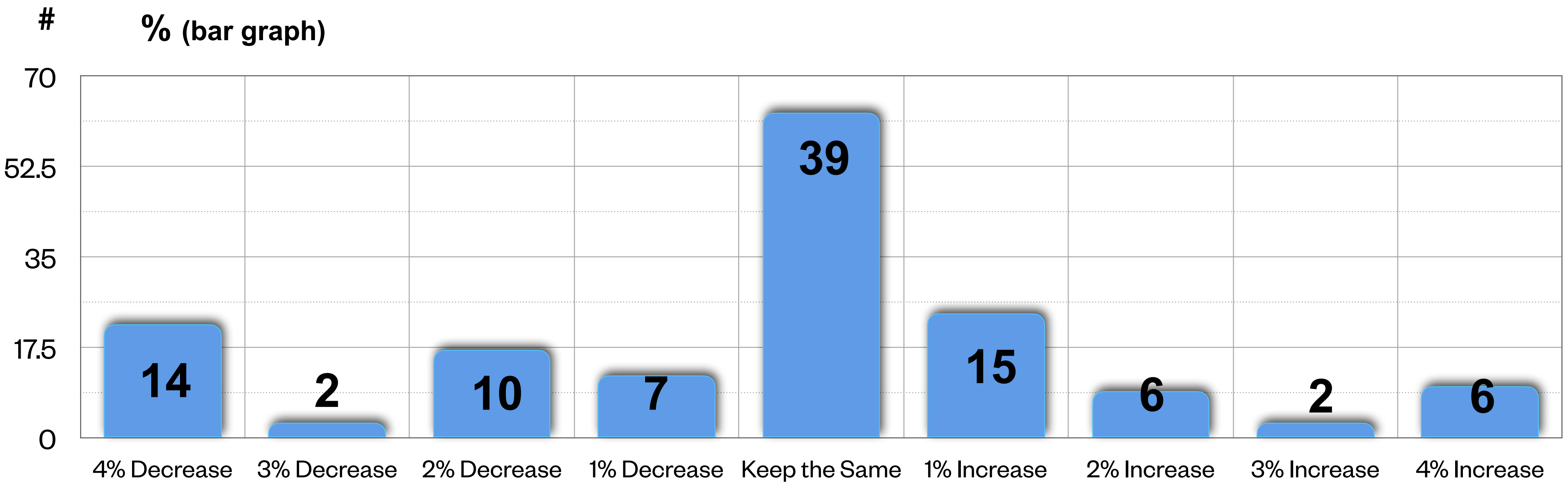
Total Scenario Support: 100%

Funding Operational Services



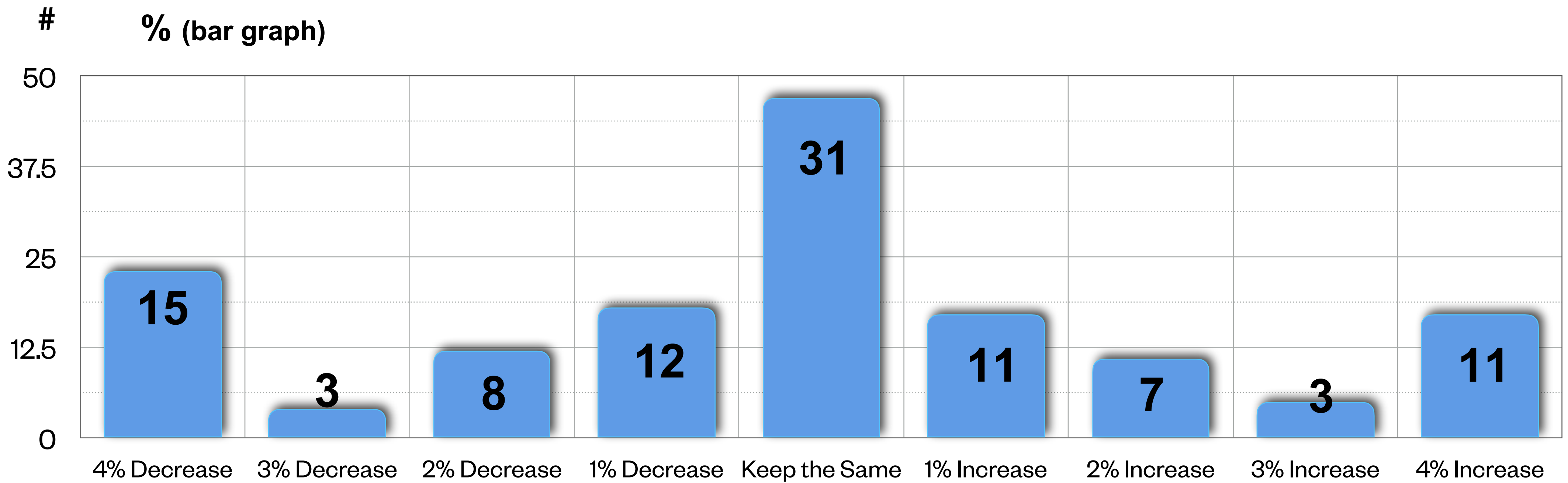
Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
177	34%	25%	Keep the Same (40% of total voters)

Funding Protective Services



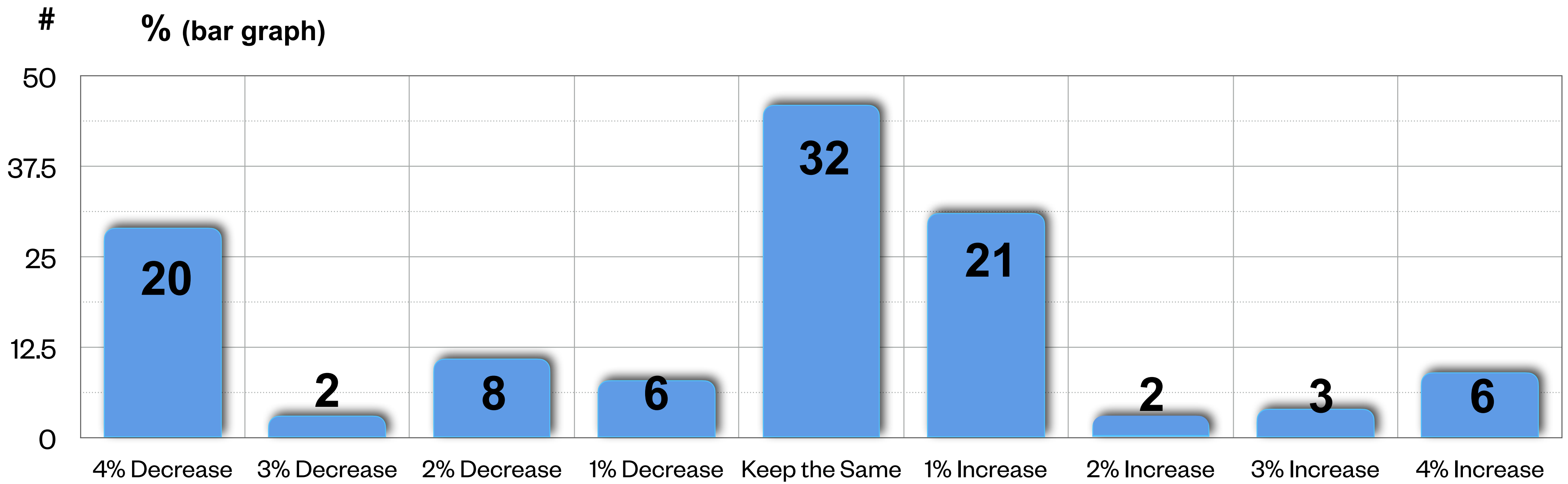
Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
163	29%	33%	Keep the Same (39% of total voters)

Funding Parks and Trails



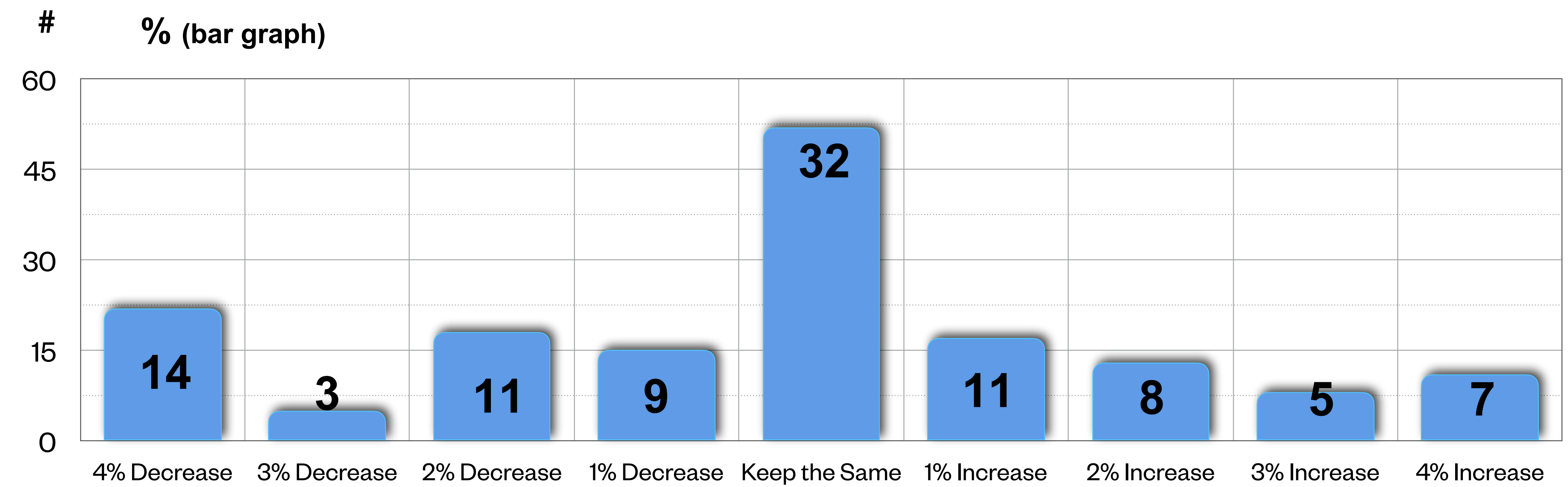
Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
154	32%	38%	Keep the Same (31% of total voters)

Funding Economic Development



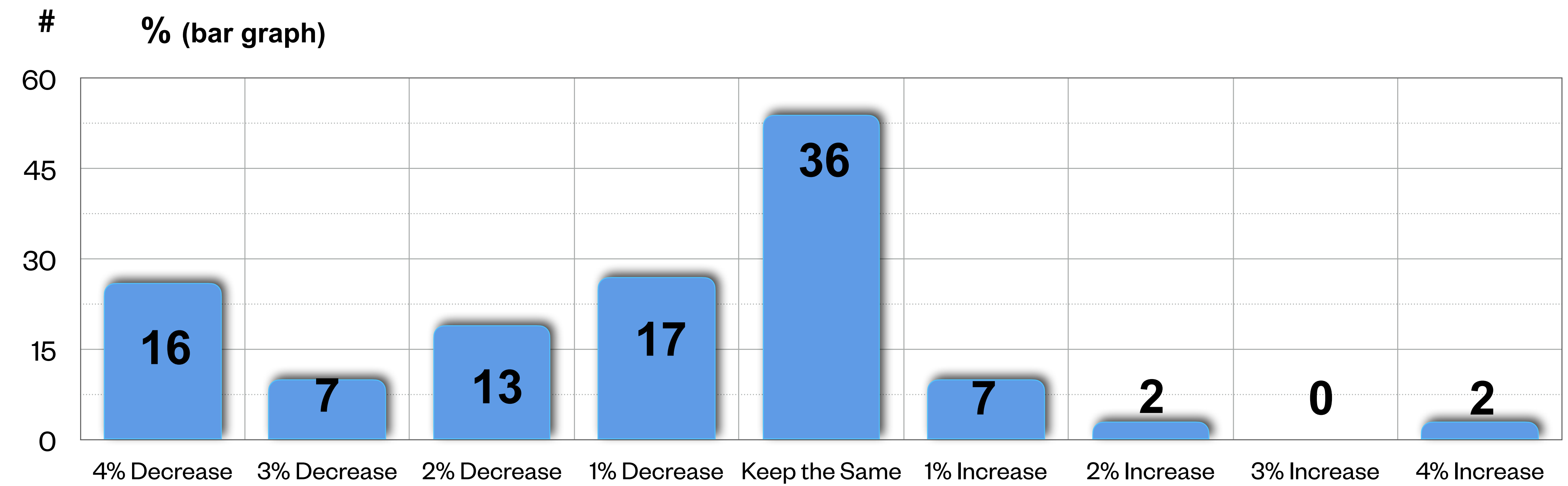
Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
144	32%	36%	Keep the Same (32% of total voters)

Funding Community Services



Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
161	31%	37%	Keep the Same (32% of total voters)

Funding Planning and Development



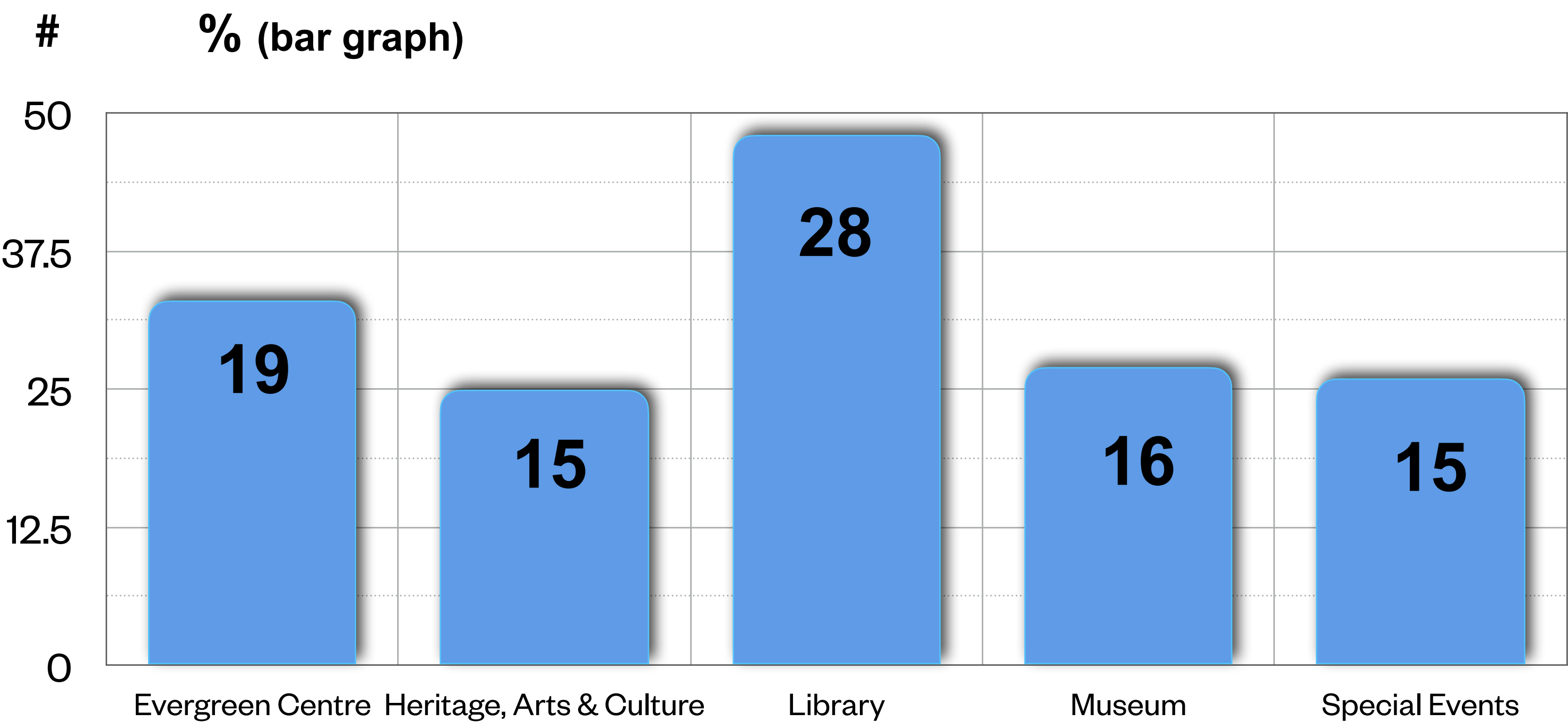
Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
152	11%	53%	Keep the Same (36% of total voters)



Heritage, Arts, and Culture

Heritage, Arts, and Culture Overview

Overview of support towards current franchise fee allocations. The following slides outline the support of each individual area.

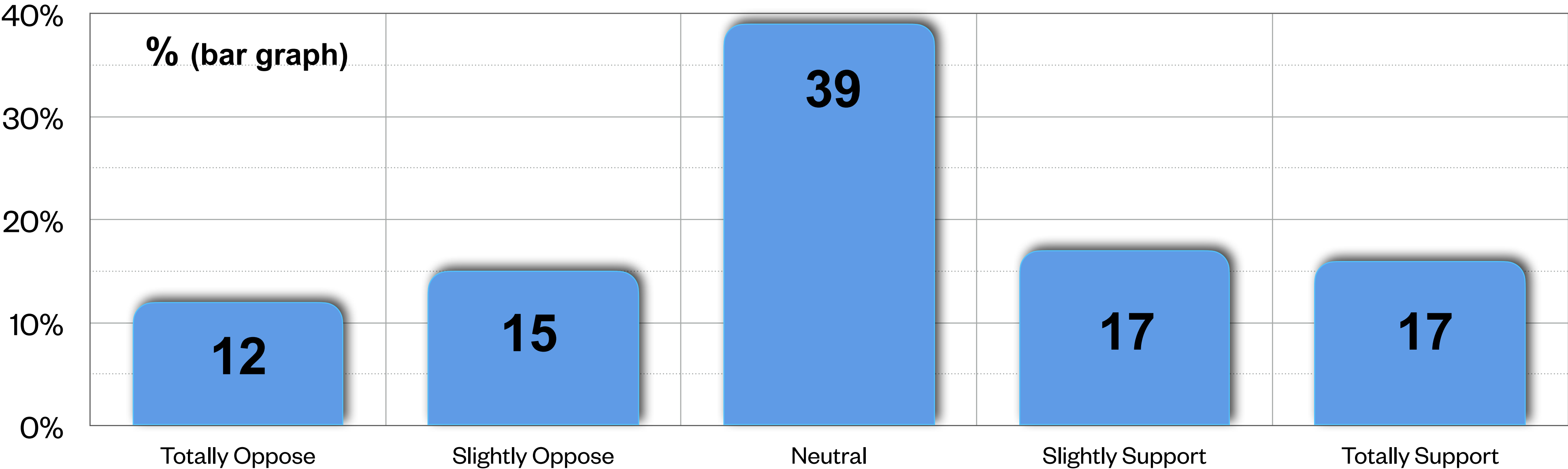


Total Responses	Most Popular
173	Library (28% of total voters)

Evergreen Centre	Heritage	Library	Museum	Special Events
\$4,653	\$104,352	\$485,869	\$61,092	\$26,380

Heritage, Arts, and Culture

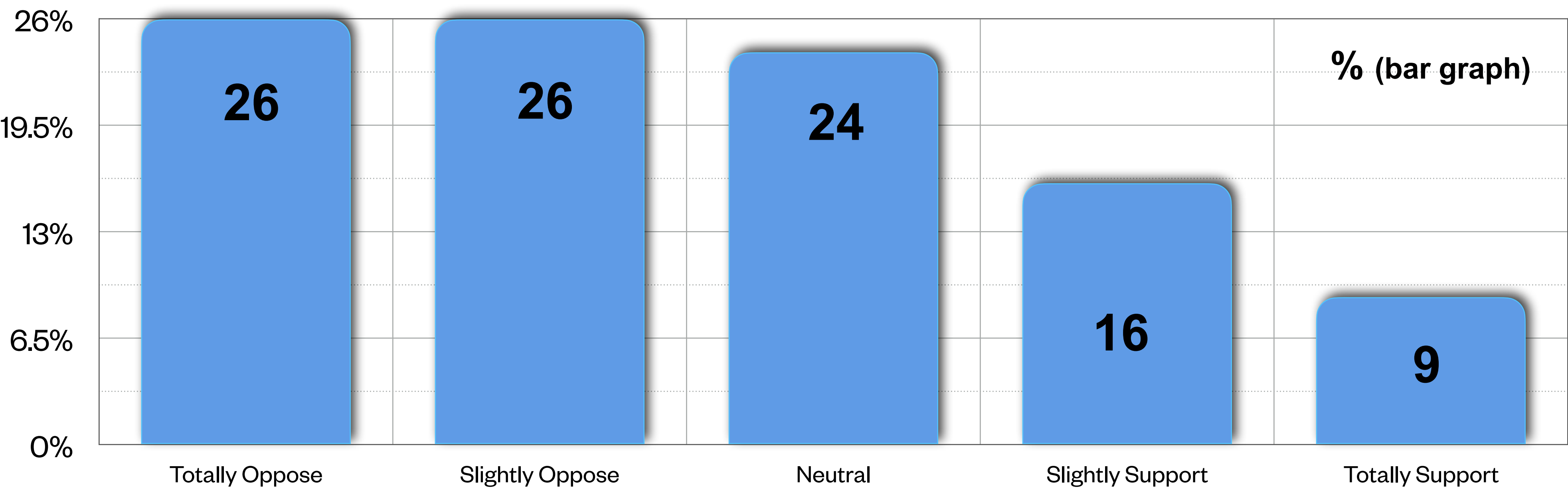
Evergreen Centre - \$4,653



Total Responses	Support	Oppose	Most Popular
162	34%	27%	Neutral (39% of total voters)

Heritage, Arts, and Culture

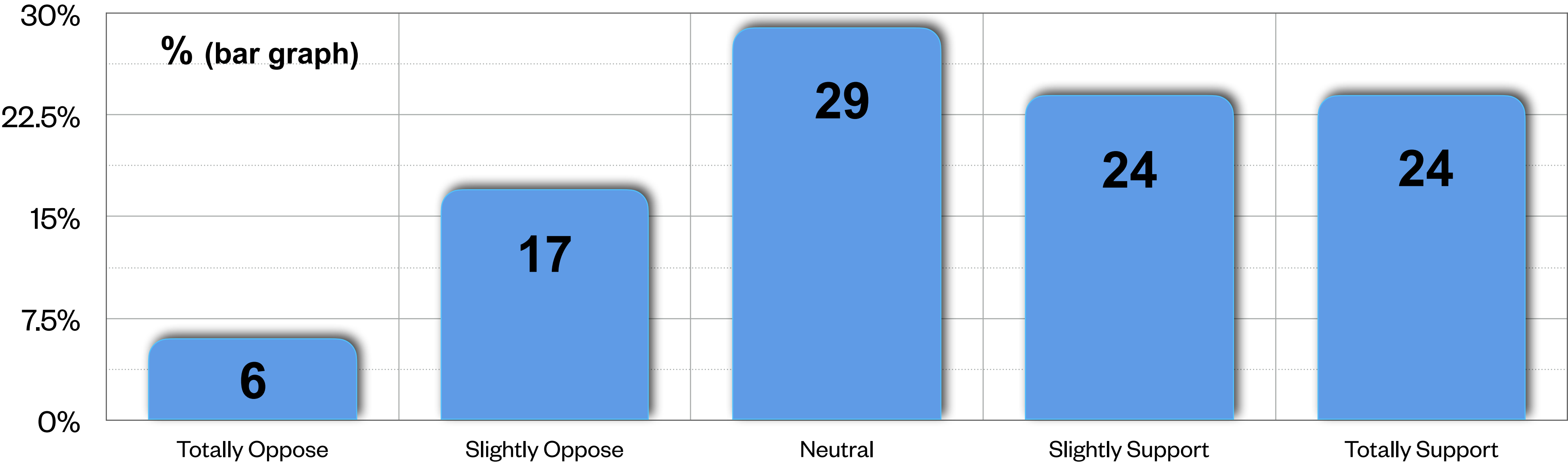
Heritage - \$104,352



Total Responses	Support	Oppose	Most Popular
159	25%	52%	Oppose (52% of total voters)

Heritage, Arts, and Culture

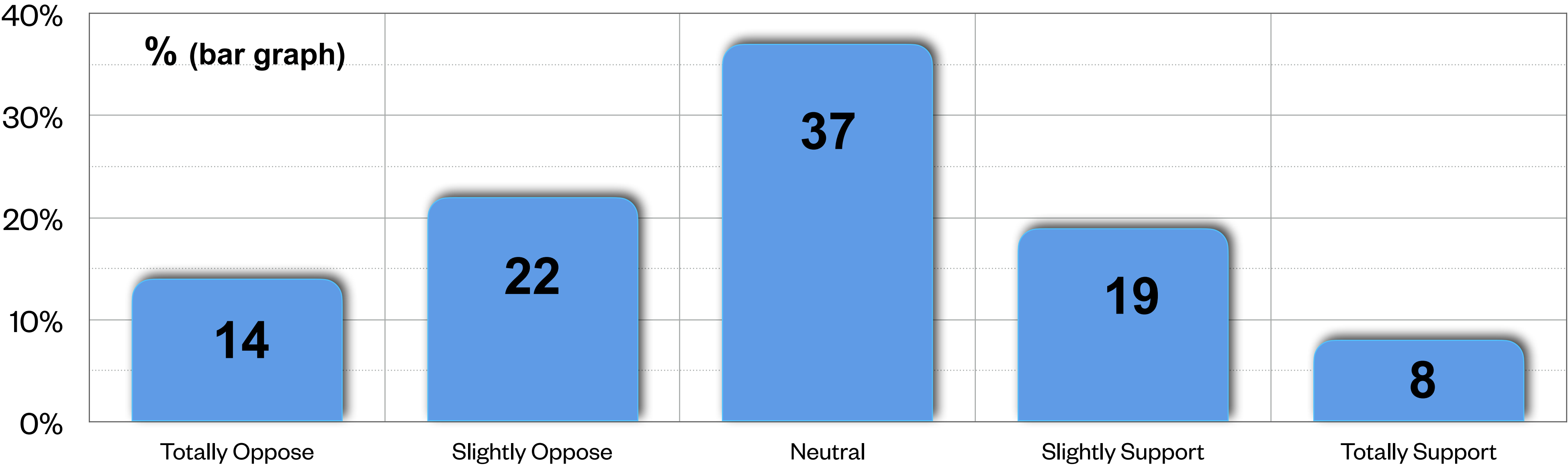
Library \$485,869



Total Responses	Support	Oppose	Most Popular
156	48%	23%	Neutral (29% of total voters)

Heritage, Arts, and Culture

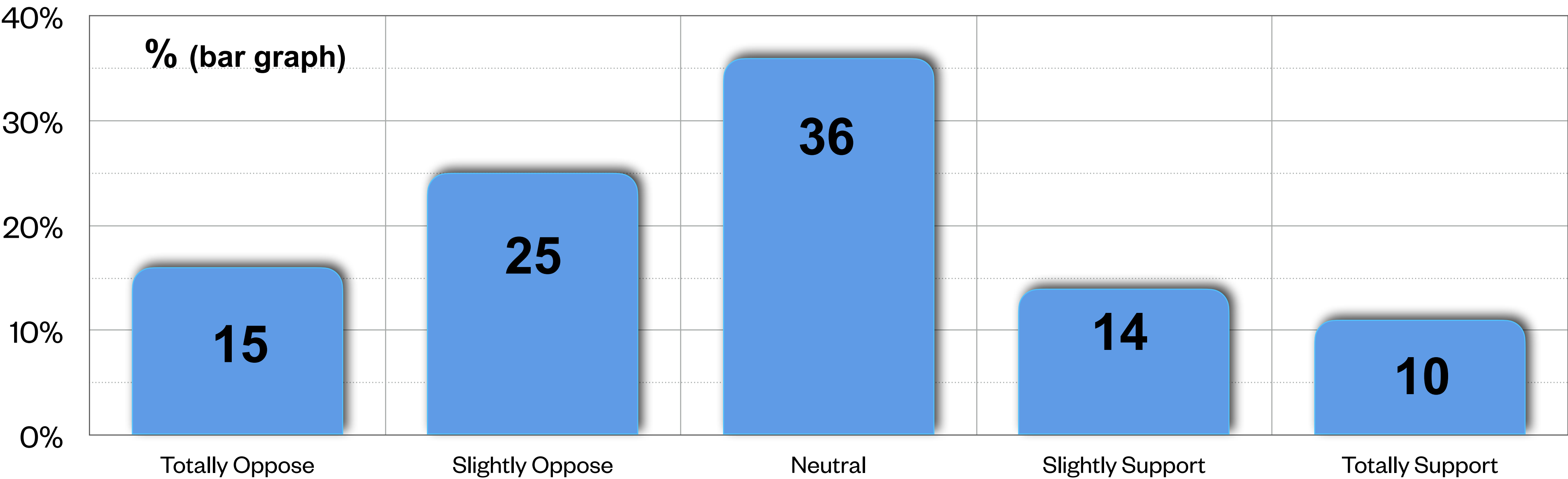
Museum \$61,092



Total Responses	Support	Oppose	Most Popular
158	27%	36%	Neutral (37% of total voters)

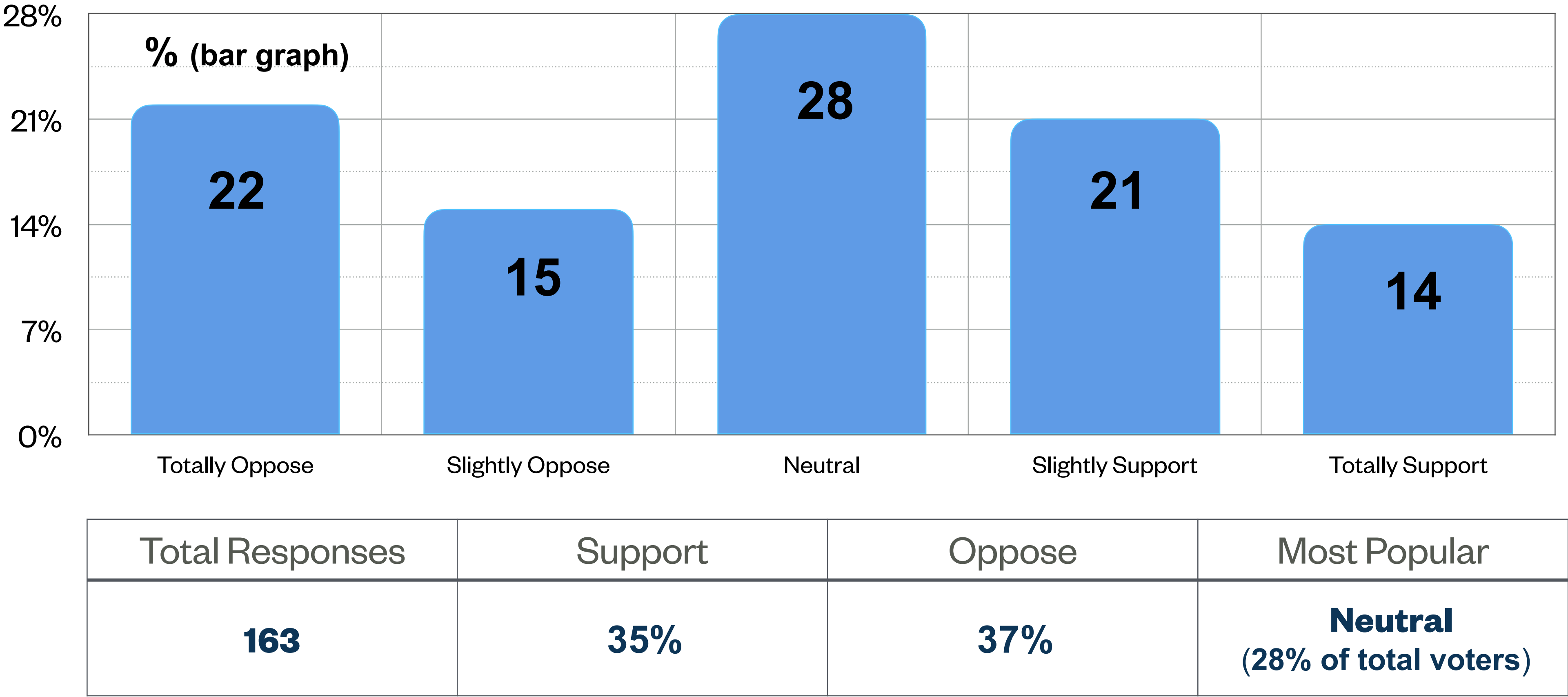
Heritage, Arts, and Culture

Special Events \$26,380



Total Responses	Support	Oppose	Most Popular
155	24%	40%	Neutral (36% of total voters)

Funding Non-Profit Groups



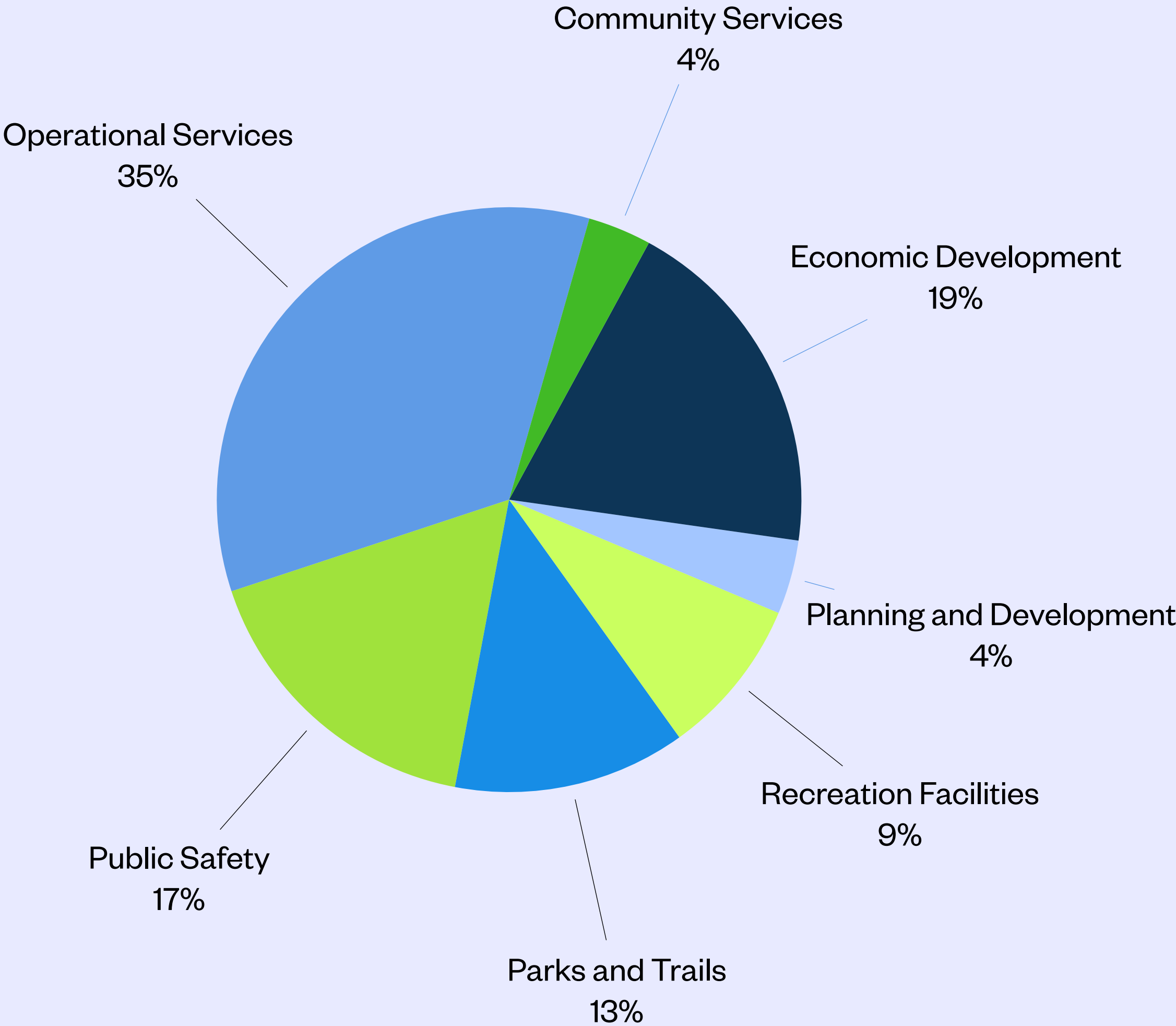


Survey Results

For services primarily funded directly from your tax dollars, what area do you feel should receive the greatest attention from your municipal leaders?

Service	Response
Community Services	6
Economic Development	33
Planning and Development	7
Recreation Facilities	15
Parks and Trails	22
Public Safety	29
Operational Services	59

Total Responses: 171



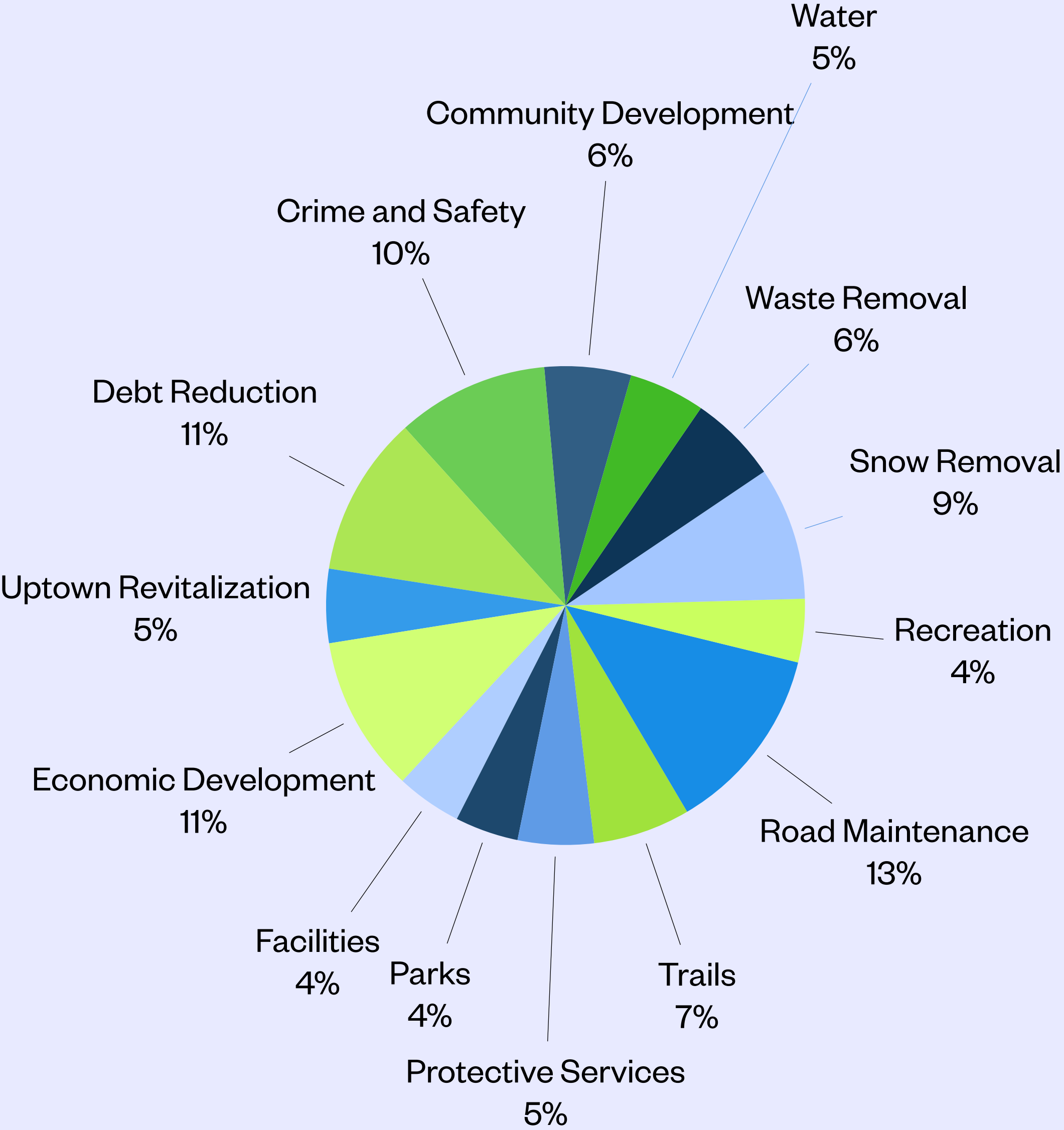
* Percents in chart add up to 101, due rounding

Thinking about future priorities for the Town of Olds over the next 3-5 years, what do you feel should be the top five areas of focus?

Service	Response
Water	36
Waste Removal	42
Snow Removal	63
Recreation	30
Road Maintenance	89
Trails	46
Protective Services	36
Parks	30
Facilities	31
Economic Development	74
Uptown Revitalization	35
Debt Reduction	76
Crime and Safety	72
Community Development	41

Total Responses: 817*

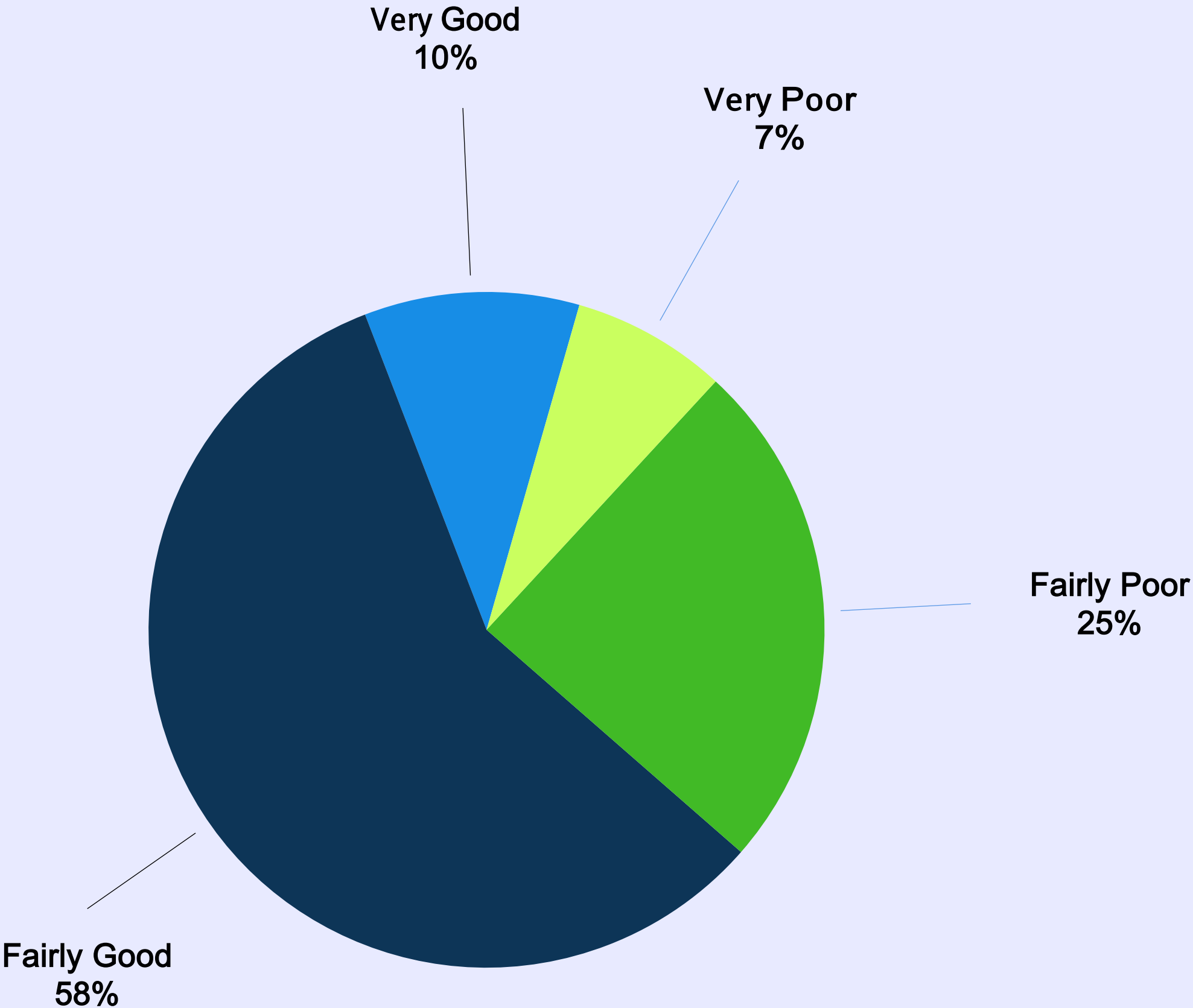
* not included results with > 26 responses: Report a Problem (4), Public art (4), Sports Fields (6), Wheelchair accessibility (9), Playgrounds (16), Events and Festivals (16), Green Initiatives (18), Curbside Recycling (18), Communication (25)



Thinking about programs and services you receive from the Town of Olds, would you say overall you get:

Value	Response
Very poor value for your tax dollar	13
Fairly poor value for your tax value	43
Fairly good value for your tax dollar	101
Very good value for your tax dollar	18

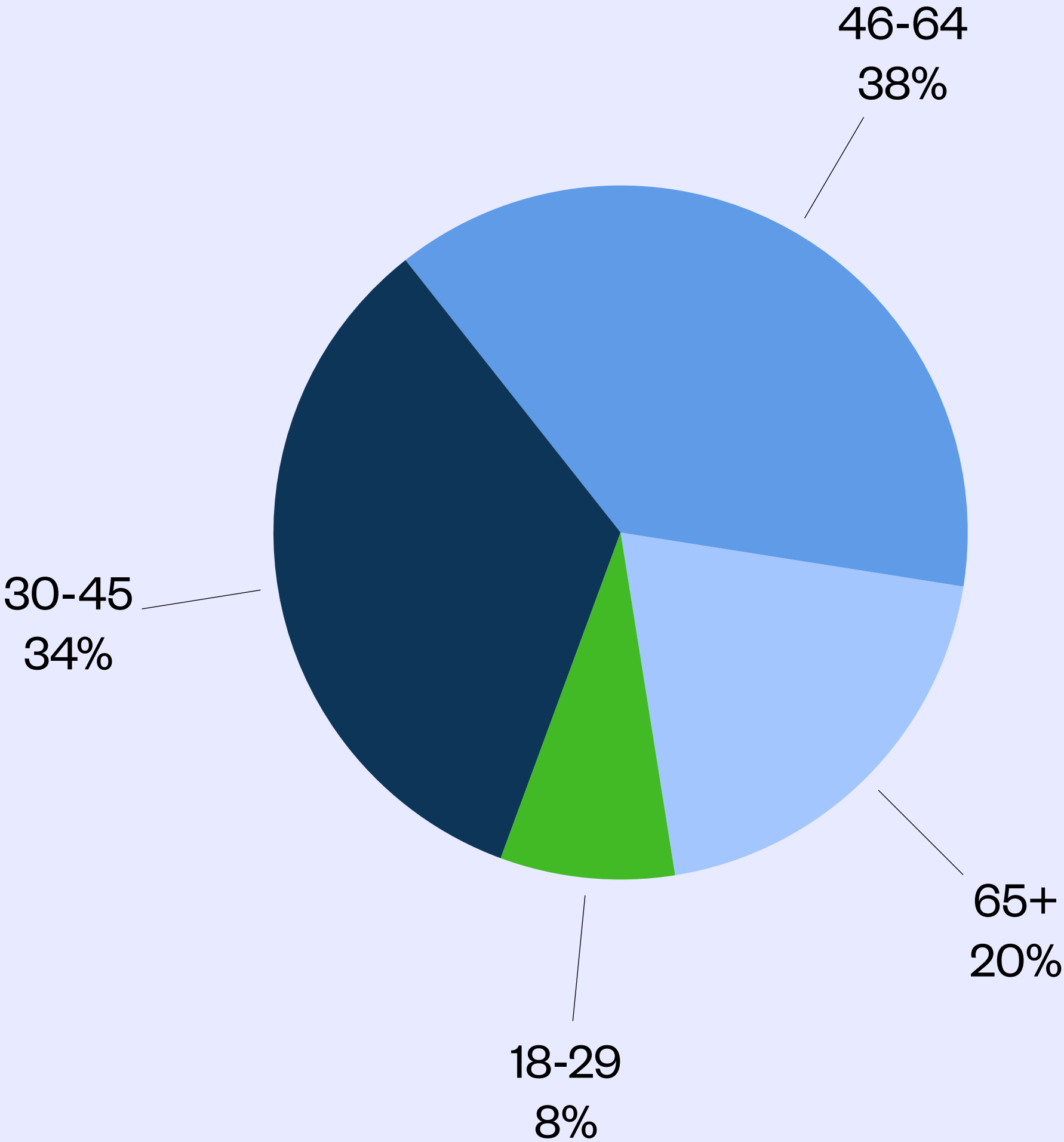
Total Responses: 175



Respondent Age

Age	Response
18-29	13
30-45	54
46-64	61
65 +	32

Total Responses: 160

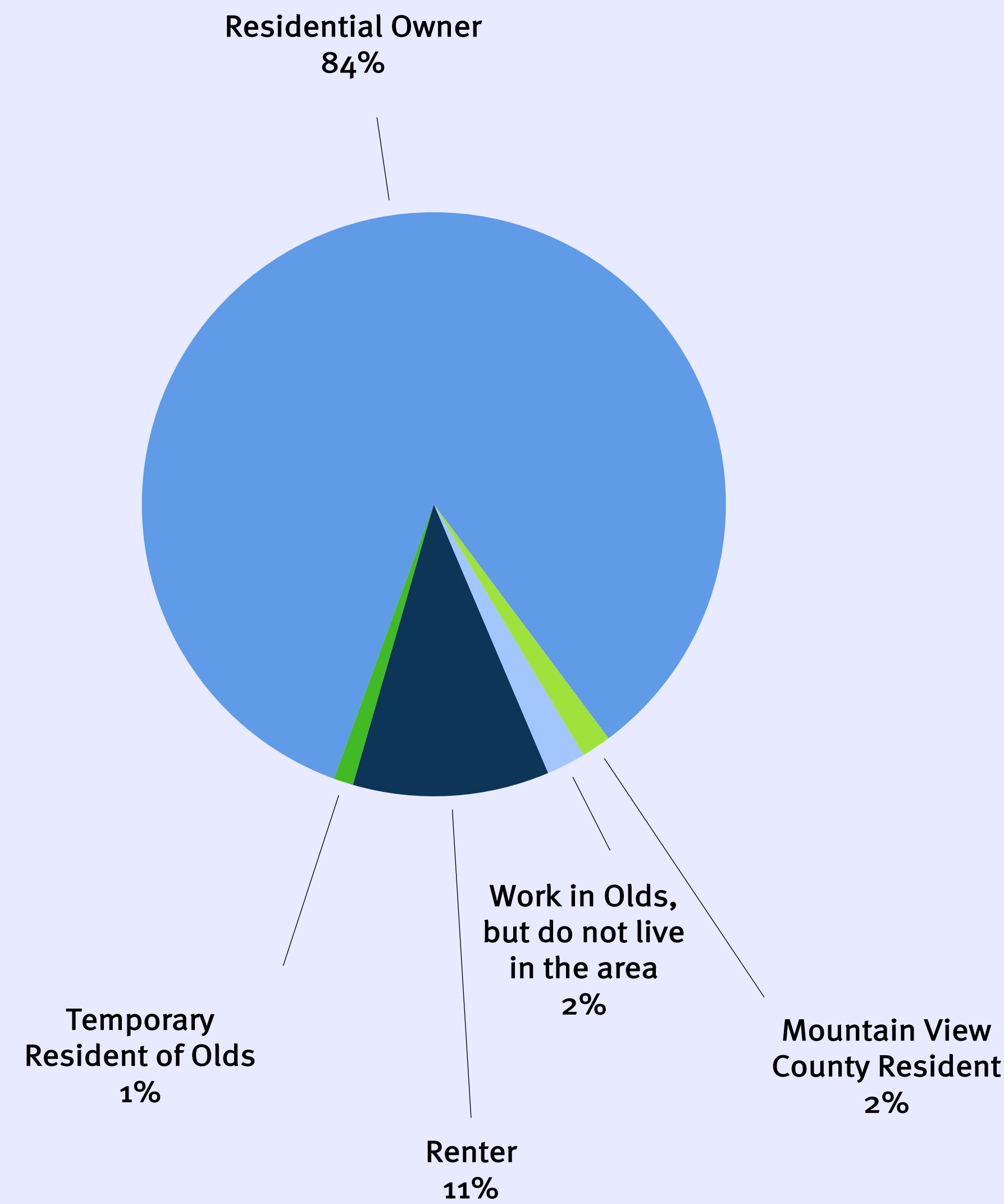


* Not included: 17 and under (0)

Which Category Describes You?

Category	Response
Mountain View County resident	3
Work in Olds, but do not live in the area	4
Residential owner	155
Renter	20
Temporary resident of Olds	2

Total Responses: 184



Thank you!

