



STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY

Listen, Learn, Adjust

Survey Results
March 5, 2024 - March 19, 2024

Total Respondents: 493



Cameron Arial | CEO

STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Purpose of Survey



- **Inform citizens about:**
 - Current District statistics
 - The impact of community growth on the District
 - The District's plans to address said growth
 - The financial considerations of running the District
- **Gauge support for:**
 - A permanent levy override
 - The District seeking a permanent levy override at the May 2024 election
- **Receive feedback on:**
 - Reasons for not supporting a permanent levy override
 - Preferred communication methods

STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Survey Development

Discovery

- Discovery
 - Meetings with District leaders
 - Data gathering and determination of priorities and timeline
- Implementation
 - Development of initial questions, feedback & edits, finalize
 - Deployment **March 5, 2024**
- Outreach Methodology: broad distribution with a public education focus
 - District website: survey link, information on About page
 - Email
 - Social media
 - Press release: **03.13.24**
 - Idaho Statesman article
 - Flyers for dissemination at events or through partners
- Analysis: check-in meetings, discussion of results, brainstorm future outreach and next steps



OUTREACH Press Release



Star Fire Protection District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION – Fire Chief Greg Timinsky – 208-229-9447 or gtiminsky@midstarfire.org

STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO TAKE PART IN SURVEY

Star, ID, March 13, 2024 – Star Fire Protection District released a community wide survey this week. The survey seeks to gather feedback on public safety services, funding constraints on the District due to legislative changes made in 2020 and the impacts of growth. The survey is available on the District’s website, <https://midstarfire.org/>, or directly at <https://bit.ly/starfiredistrictsurvey>. The survey takes approximately 5 to 7 minutes to complete.

The survey also serves to educate the community about facilities and District funding realities. The District’s population has increased 55% percent since 2018 to approximately 22,000 people and that growth is projected to continue. The number of buildings in the District boundaries has increased by more than 2,501 since 2018 to approximately 7,163 structures. Fire protection and EMS facilities have not increased since 2020 when the community passed a bond measure to refurbish the property West State Street into Station 51, District Headquarters and Apparatus Maintenance Division. Station 51 solved the District’s immediate needs at just \$93 per sq/ft. The District’s optimal response time for Fire Protection/EMS services is 5 minutes in order to minimize property loss and serious or fatal injury. The District’s current response time within the Station 51 and Station 52 service areas is up to 5 minutes. The current response times outside of those service areas can range from 5 to 20 minutes, particularly to the north and northeast of Station 51, where growth is projected to continue, and Highway 16 will be expanded.

Funding the District’s increasing service demands has been a challenge. With the passage and impact of [HB 389](#) in 2021, the District’s budget can only grow by 3% annually with a maximum of 8% depending on the amount of new construction, creating a funding gap between the amount the District receives in property taxes and the actual cost to provide fire protection and EMS services throughout the District’s 55-square mile service area. The District has implemented development impact fees, but those fees can only cover the cost of capital facilities due to growth, not the operational and personnel needs to staff and equip a needed fire station in the northeastern area of the District. On top of this, the costs associated with fire personal protection equipment and general operational expenses have increased from 30-100% due to inflation since 2020.

The District is planning to build a new Station 55 on Floating Feather Road to better serve residents in the northeastern portion of the District. The plan for building and staffing new facility to adequately serve the Station 55 service area can be found on the District’s website <https://midstarfire.org/>. Once complete, Station 55 will reduce response times in that area and reduce service demand on Station 51 and Station 52 that currently cover this area; thus, improving service coverage throughout the entire District. The District is asking for the community’s feedback on a potential permanent levy override to cover the increased operational costs unable to be funded by current property taxes. The estimated cost to a homeowner would be approximately \$53, or about \$4.50 per month, per \$100,000 of assessed value (less homeowner’s exemption) annually. Based on community feedback, the District Board may



Star Fire Protection District

consider placing an override levy ballot measure for the May 22 primary election date. A permanent levy override requires a 66.67% voter approval to pass.

“Many factors contribute to our budgetary challenges to keep our residents safe such as inflation, the cost of personnel safety equipment, growth, and the impacts of legislation enacted in 2021” said Chief Greg Timinsky. “Due to the impacts of the legislative changes, it limits our ability to increase our annual budget by the necessary amounts needed to operate, retain and increase staffing, and to equip the District’s facilities. For fire districts, more than 97% of funding for operational costs comes from property taxes. When property tax cuts are put into place it directly affects our operating budgets. Impact fees can be used to cover the cost to build Station 55, but without a permanent levy override, there won’t be any firefighters in that station rolling out to help people in need,” he added. “We’re exploring ways to keep our public safety service levels on pace with growth. The survey will identify community priorities to guide the District’s decisions.”

“We encourage residents to invest a few minutes to share their feedback,” said SFPD Board Chair, Jared Moyle.

###

About Star Fire Protection District:

Led by Chief Greg Timinsky, the Star Fire Protection District currently serves 22,000 residents from its two stations, Station 51, on State St. in Star and Station 52 on Kingsbury Road. Star Fire Protection District is one of the fastest growing districts in Idaho. The District provides public safety services including fire protection, emergency medical services assistance, public safety education programs, hazardous materials and natural disaster response, building safety inspections, and fire code compliance and plan review. The District is governed by a three-member Board of Commissioners elected by District residents. Current staffing consists of 23 full-time firefighters. The administrative staff is shared with the Middleton Rural Fire District. This shared administration agreement, often referenced as “Mid/Star Fire,” saves EACH District an estimated \$430,000 per year in personnel costs.



STATION 51, 11665 W State St.



STATION 52, 22585 KINGSBU




Star Fire Protection District

**SFPD GROWTH
2018 - 2023**

Population
2018: 14,200 +55%
2023: 22,000

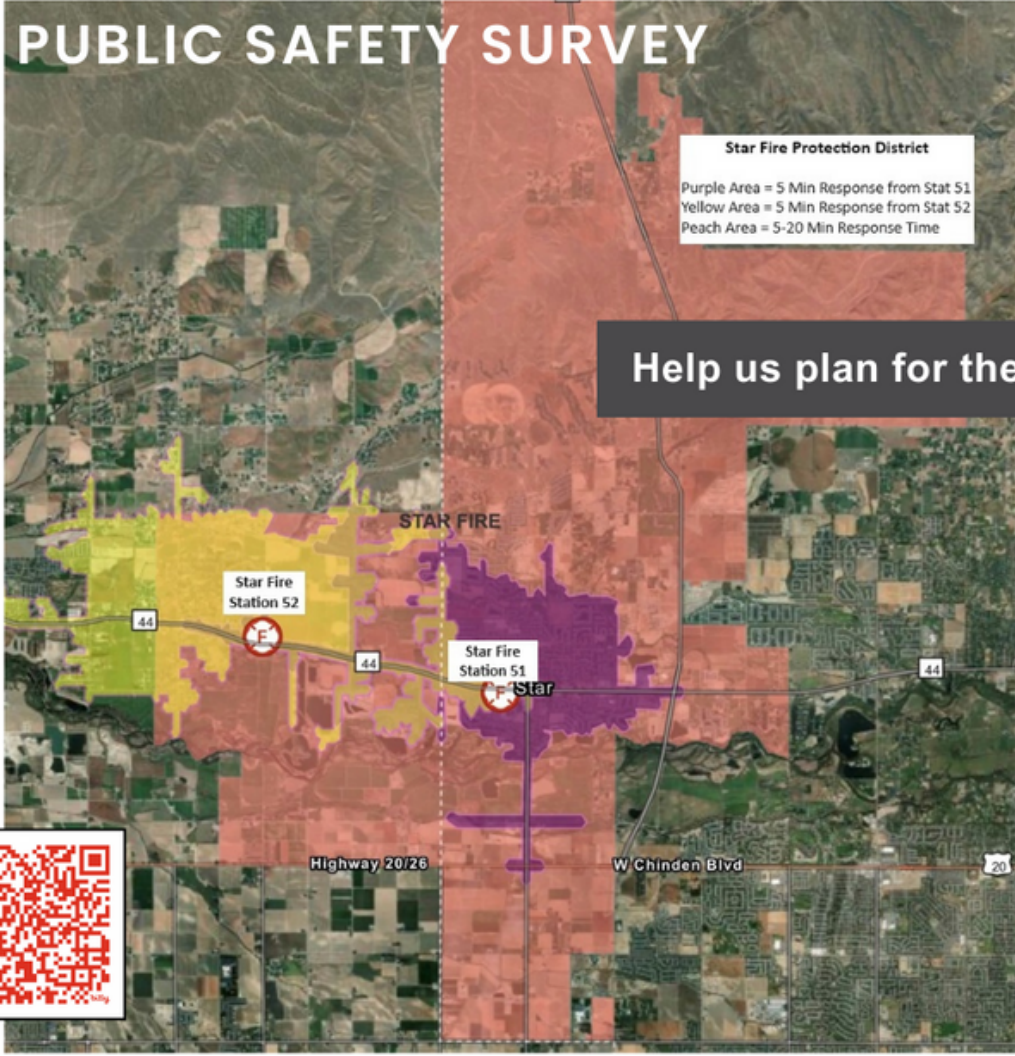
Structures
2018: 4,660 +53%
2023: 7,160

OUTREACH Social Media




**STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY**

We want to hear from you!



Star Fire Protection District
Purple Area = 5 Min Response from Stat 51
Yellow Area = 5 Min Response from Stat 52
Peach Area = 5-20 Min Response Time

Help us plan for the future.



Scan the QR code or visit: www.bit.ly/starfiredistrictsurvey



**STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY**

Share your feedback to help us plan for the future.



Scan the QR code or visit:
www.bit.ly/starfiredistrictsurvey

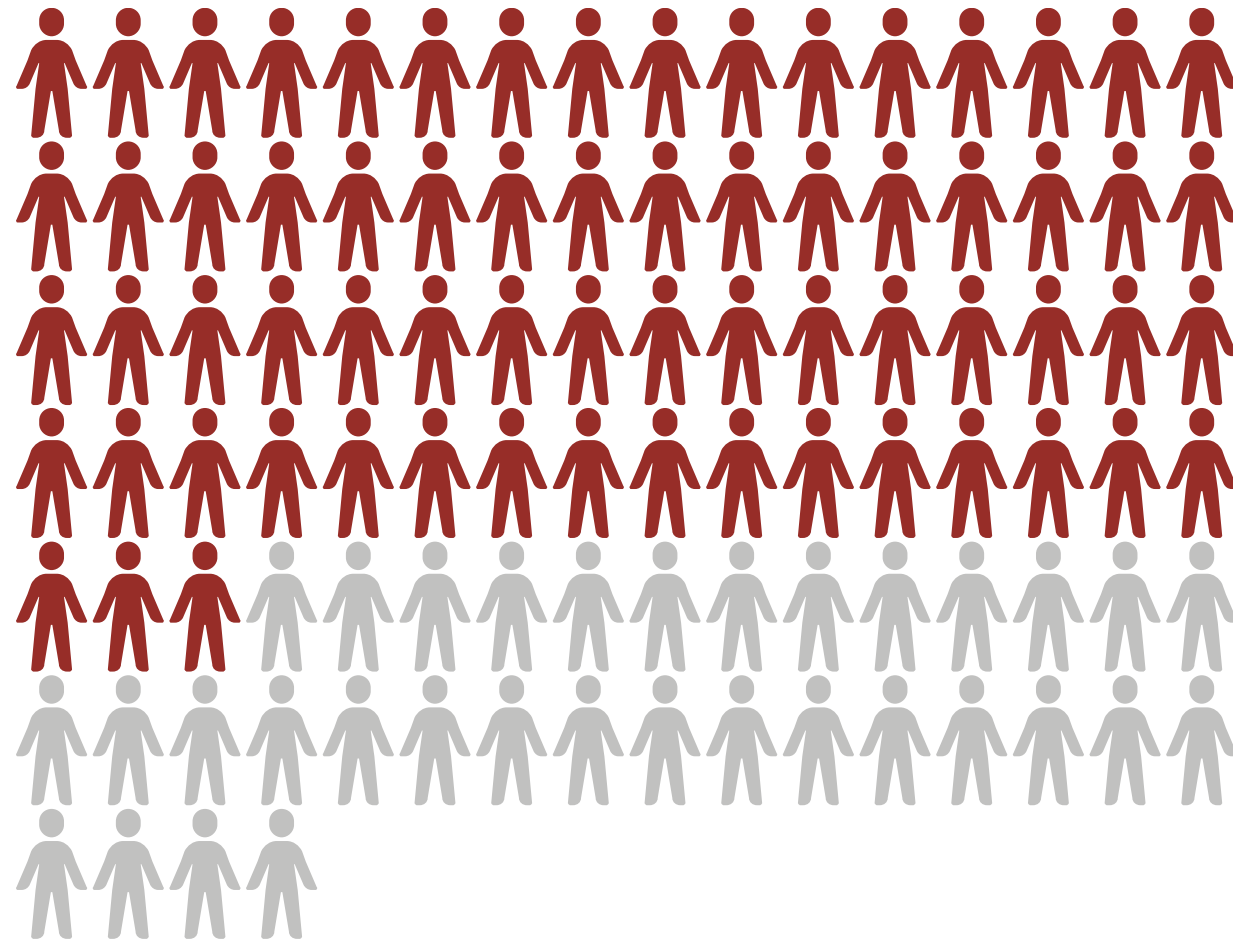


Visit www.midstarfire.org for more information

CONSIDERATIONS & SUMMARY



CONSIDERATIONS



MRFD Voter Demographic Summary

- Registered voters: **11,801**
- *Estimated voter turnout **25.2%**
 - ***2,976 ballots cast**
- # of votes required to pass permanent levy override
 - Supermajority: **66.67% yes votes**
 - Based on estimated 2,976 ballots cast, approval of override would require **1,985 yes votes**

** Based on past voter participation.*

CONSIDERATIONS

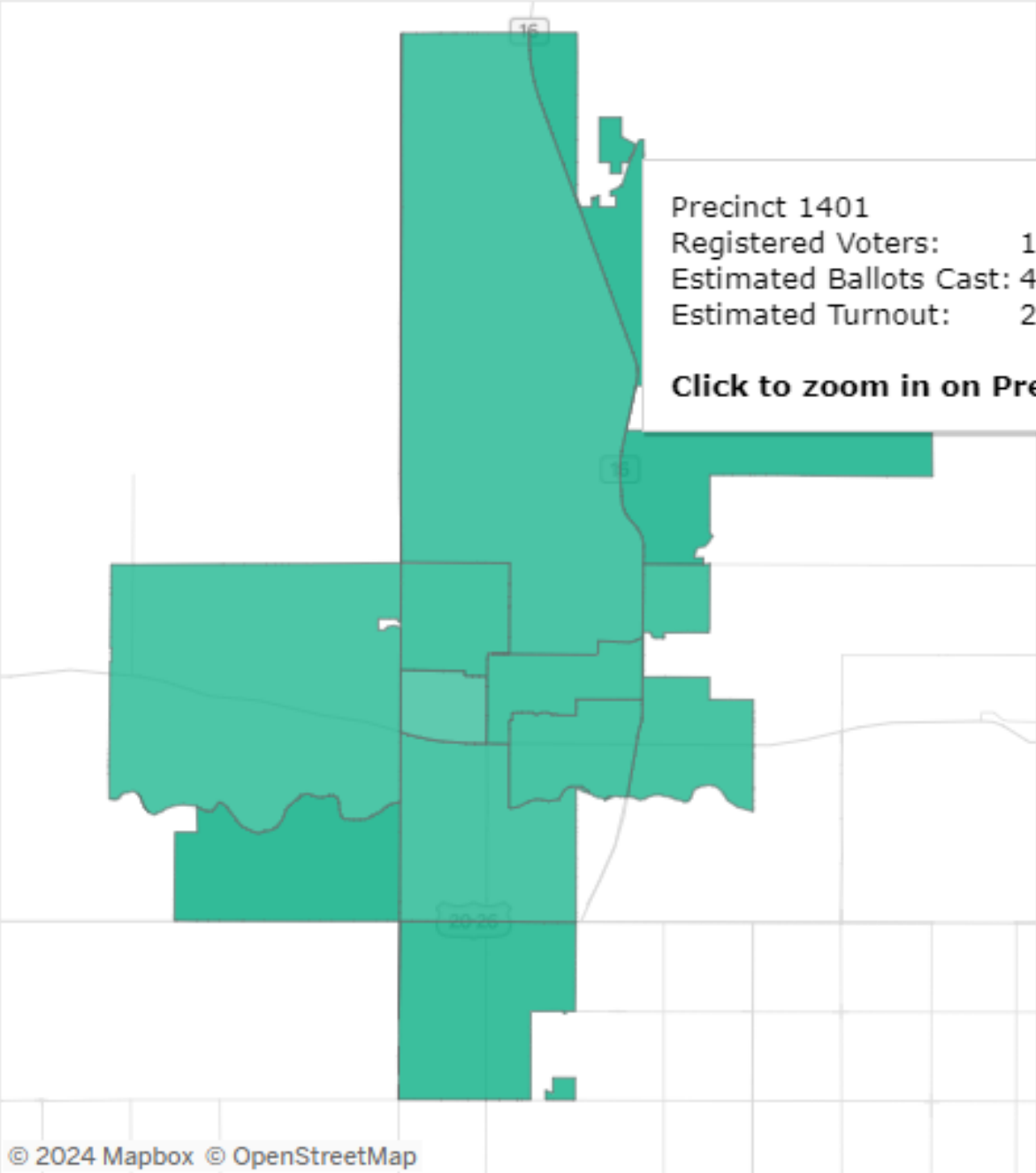
VOTER DATA

Star Fire District - May 2024

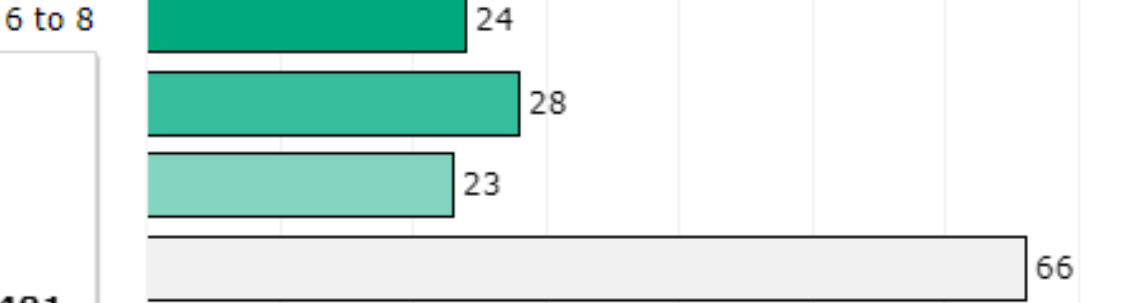
Registered Voters
141

Estimated Ballots Cast
42

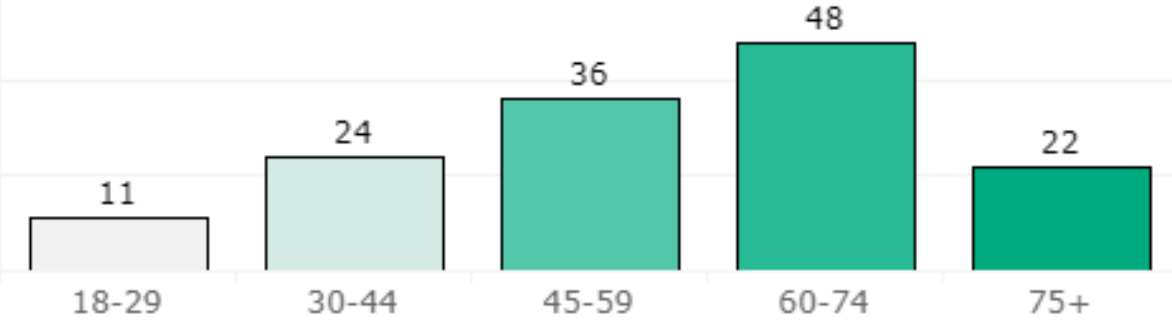
Estimated Turnout
29.8%



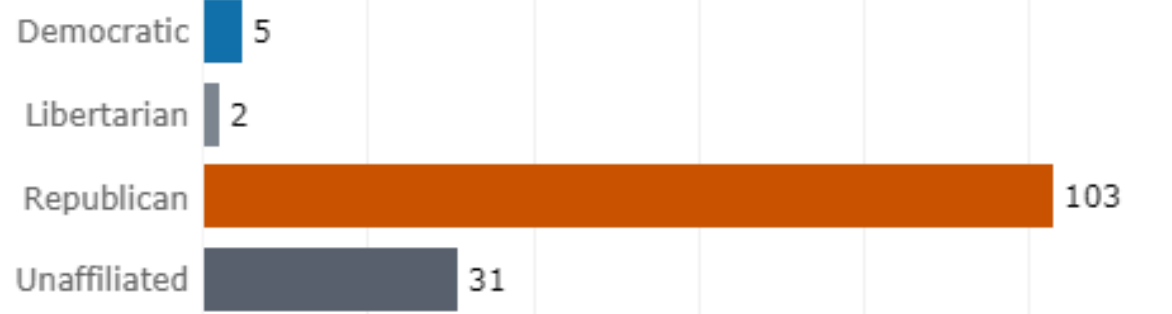
VOTER SCORES



Registered Voters by Age

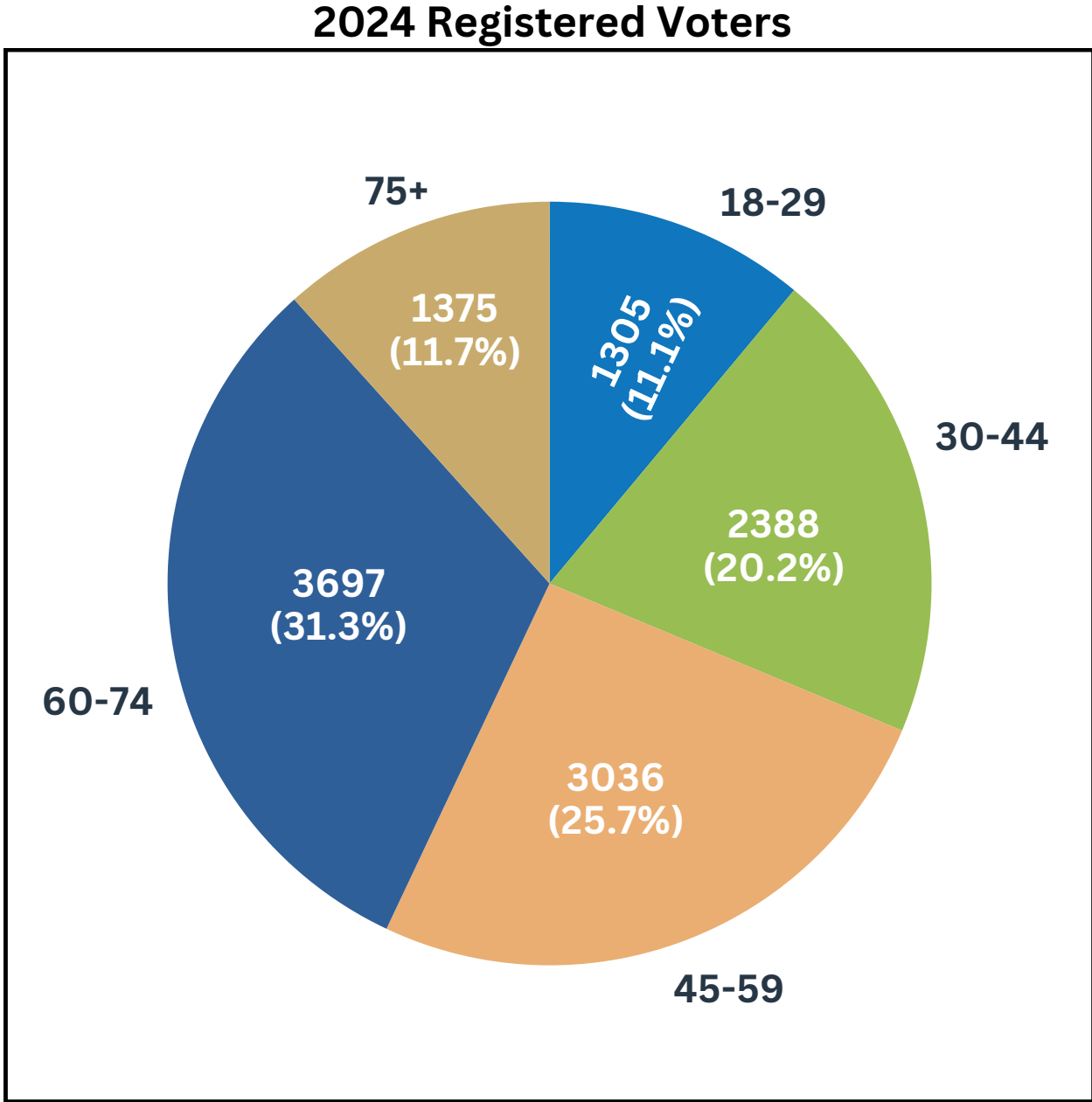
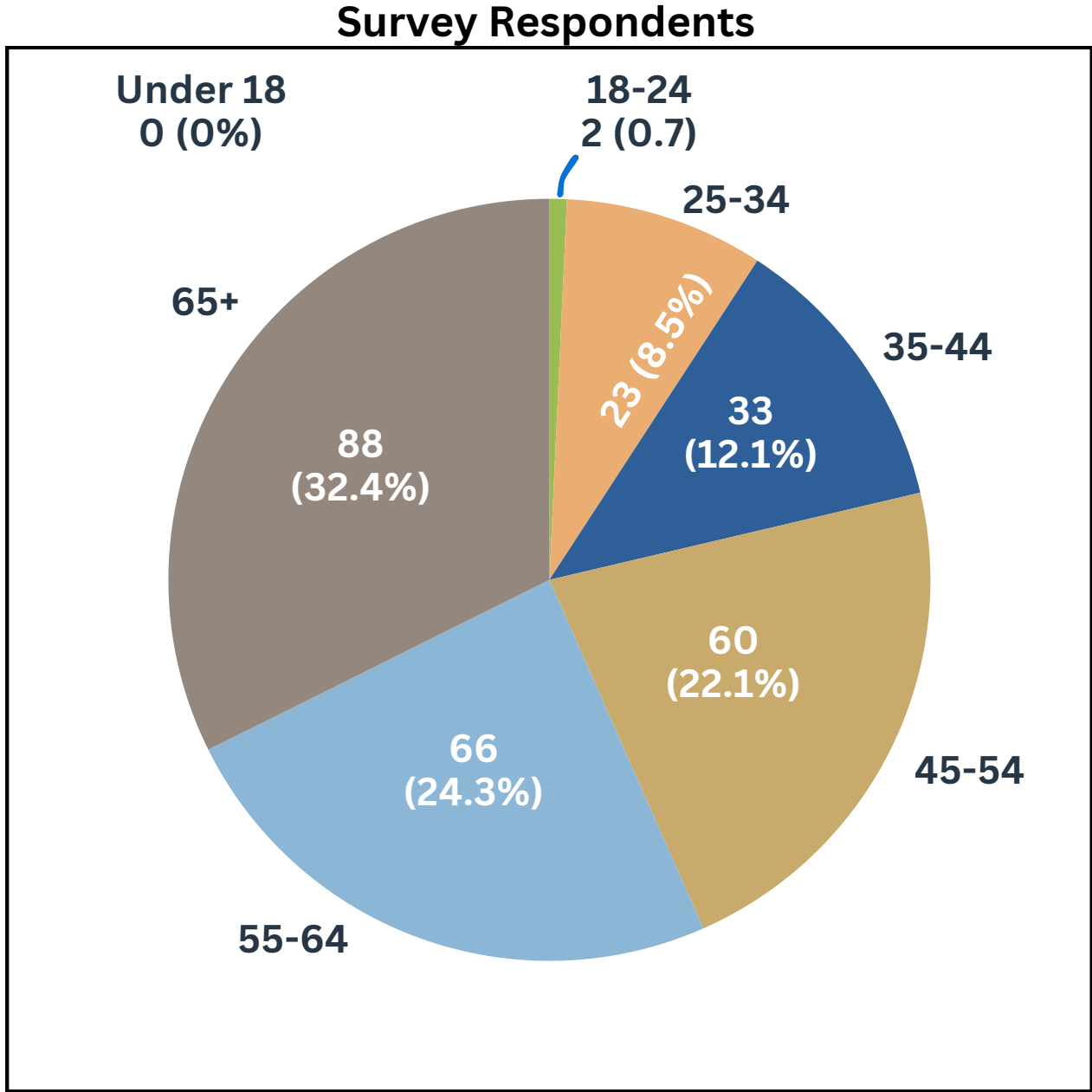


REGISTERED VOTERS BY PARTY



CONSIDERATIONS

CROSSTAB DATA: AGE



People aged 18-44 are **underrepresented in the survey** by 10.0%

People aged 45+ are **overrepresented in the survey** by 10.0%

Estimated turnout (%), estimated ballots cast by age group

- 18-29: 7.0%, 92 ballots cast
- 30-44: 15.3%, 365 ballots cast
- 45-59: 22.9%, 694 ballots cast
- **60-74: 35.7%, 1,321 ballots cast**
- 75+: 36.7%, 504 ballots cast

Estimated Total: turnout 25.2%, 2,976 ballots cast

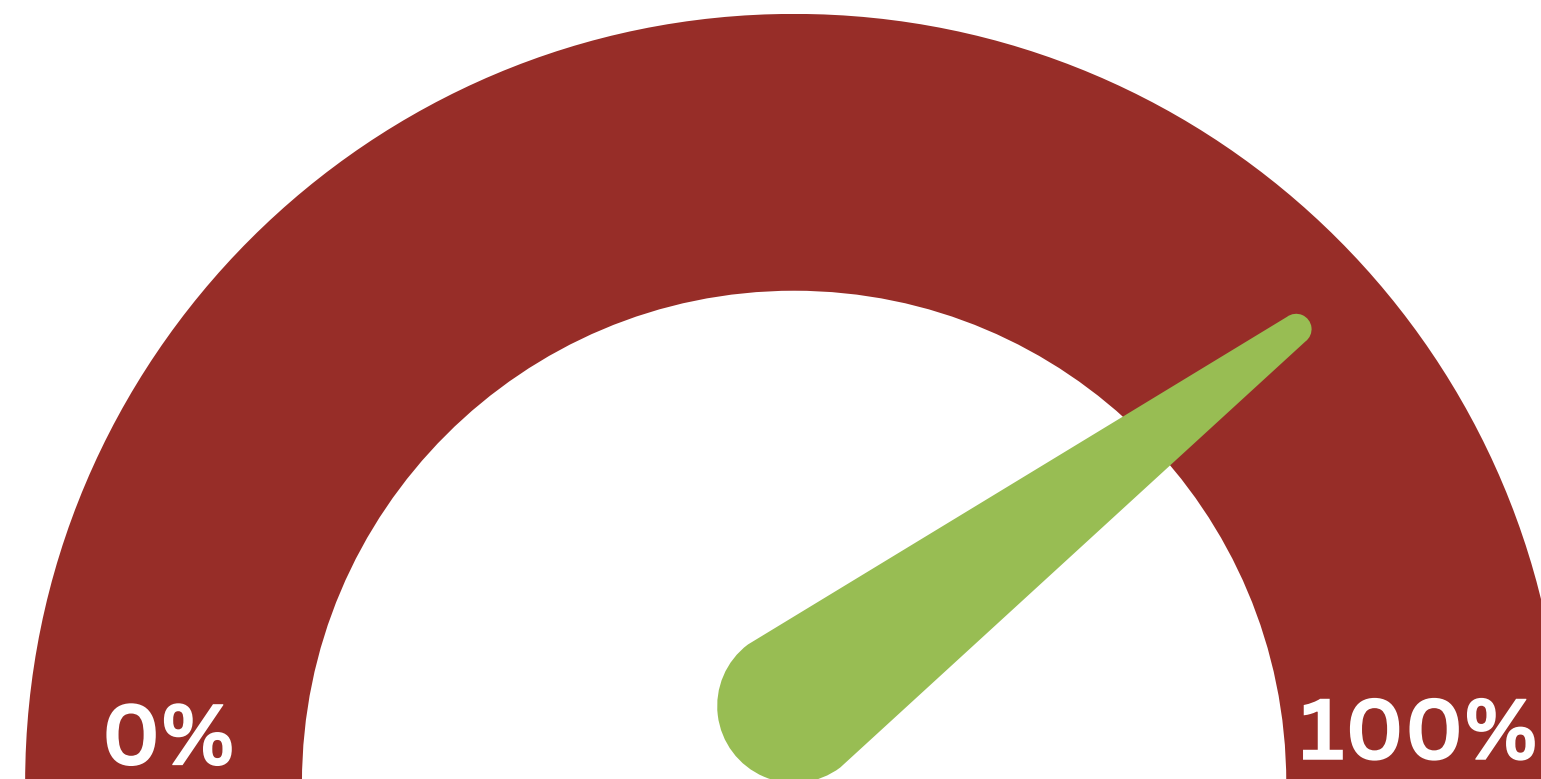
*Please note: Ages are categorized differently in the two data sets.

CONSIDERATIONS

Potential Levels of Support:

As reported in the survey results

- ***Permanent Levy Override in May 2024 Election***
 - # of Very Supportive and Supportive = **215 (77.6%)**
 - # of Neutral/Unsure = **31 (11.2%)**
 - # of Unsupportive and Very Unsupportive = **31 (11.2%)**



CONSIDERATIONS

Respondent Rates

- Some respondents did not answer all of the questions
- Results for each question should weigh the number of respondents when considering the level of potential community support
- May or may not be registered voters

Timing

- Survey has been open for a relatively short time, March 5 - Present

Number of survey respondents

- 4.2% of registered voters responded: 493 out of 12,144
- 16.6% of the anticipated voter turnout responded: 493 out of 2,976

SURVEY RESULTS



SURVEY QUESTIONS & DATA

The information presented on the following slides indicate:

- Each question asked
- The number of community members providing a specific rating on each question
- The average score for each question

The rating scale for each question was 0-4:

- 0: Very Unsupportive, 1: Unsupportive, 2: Neutral/Unsure, 3: Supportive, 4: Very Supportive

STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY

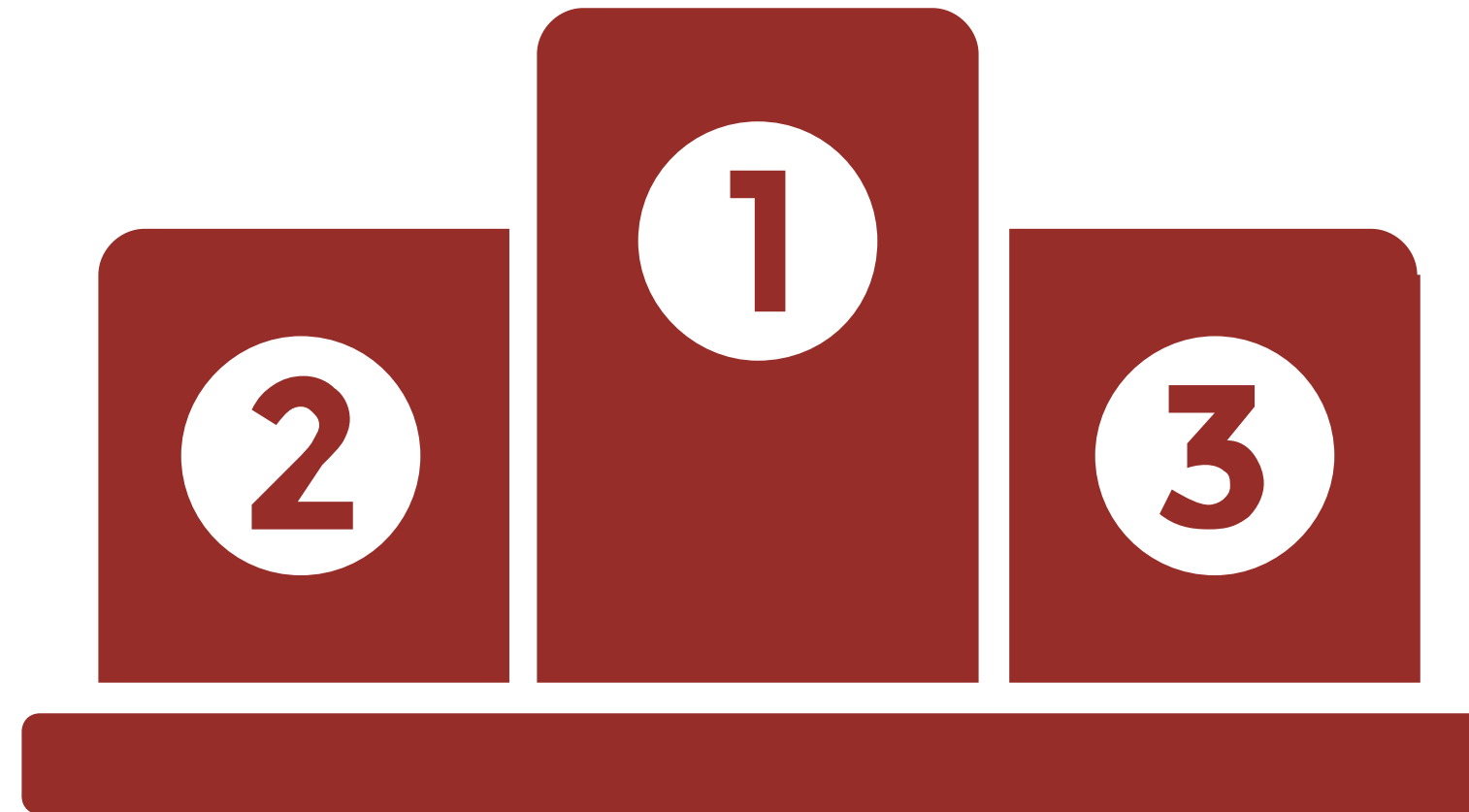


Star Fire Protection District Public Safety Survey

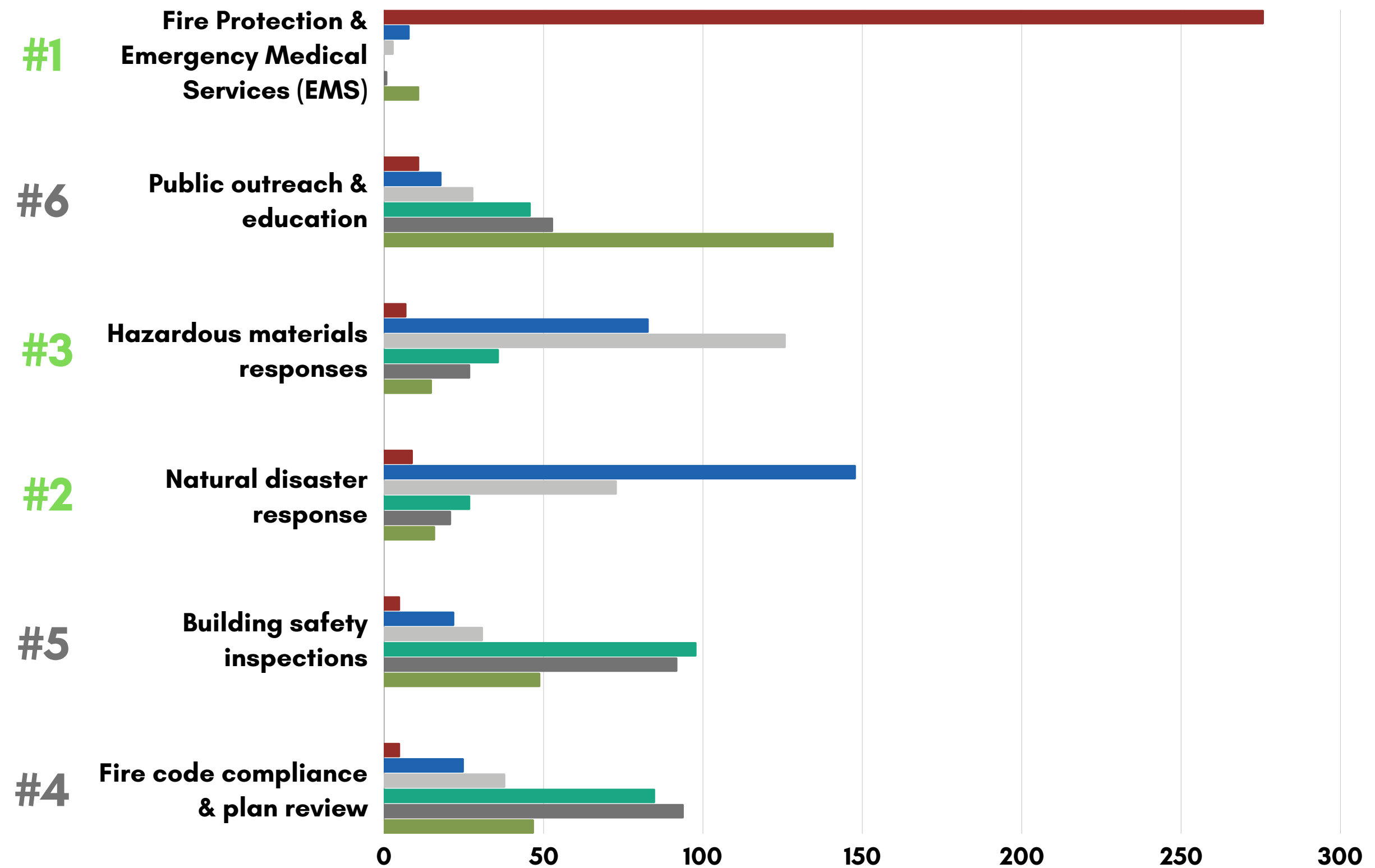
The [Star Fire Protection District](#) (SFPD or District) is seeking your feedback as it looks to address fire protection facilities and associated operational needs due to increased demands for emergency services and its inability to increase the budget authority needed to meet these needs due to [legislation](#) approved in 2020. The District will use your feedback to guide its plans to accommodate the community's emergency needs and to maintain quality public safety services. The survey takes 5-7 minutes.

[Begin Survey](#)

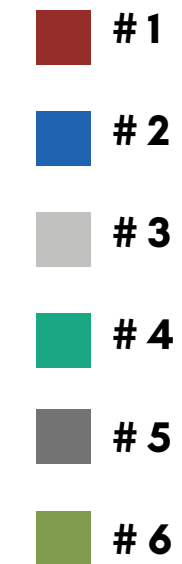
RANKING



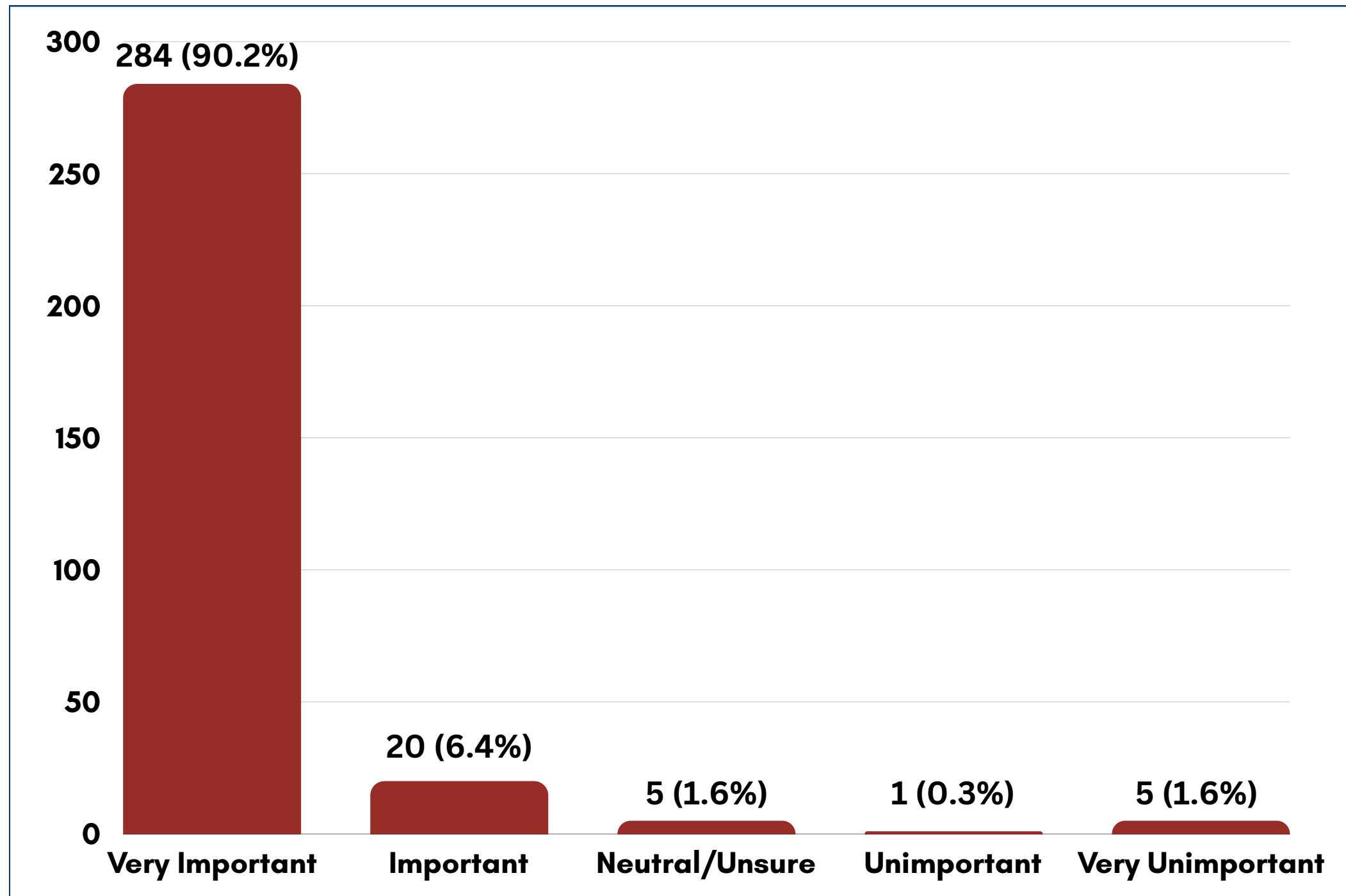
RANKING MIDDLETON FIRE SERVICES



Please rank the most important services the Star Fire District provides the community? (1= Most important; 6 = Least important)



How important are Fire Protection and EMS Services to you?



90.2% of respondents view Fire Protection and EMS Services as Very Important

Average Score: 3.83

of Responses: 315

SUPPORT

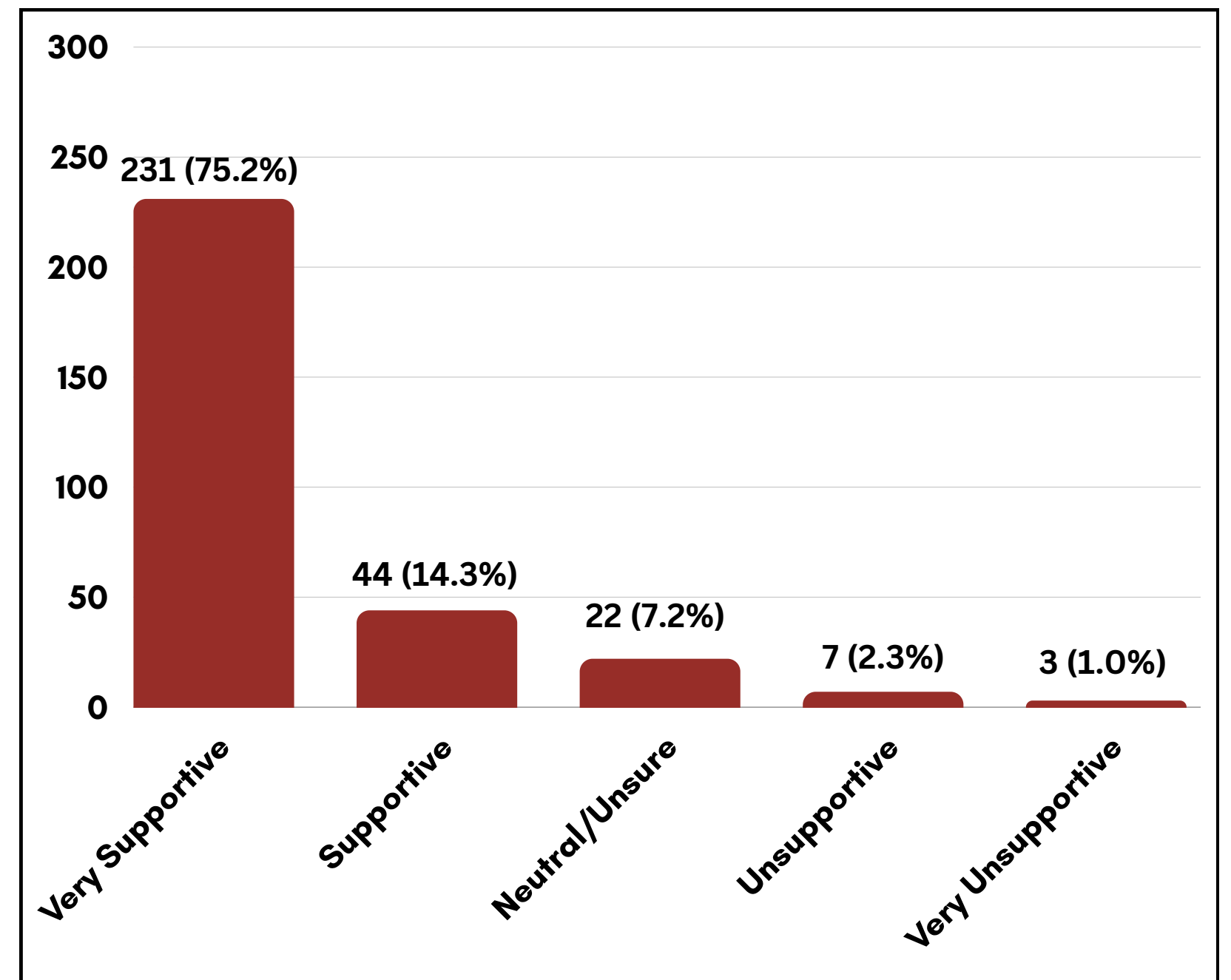
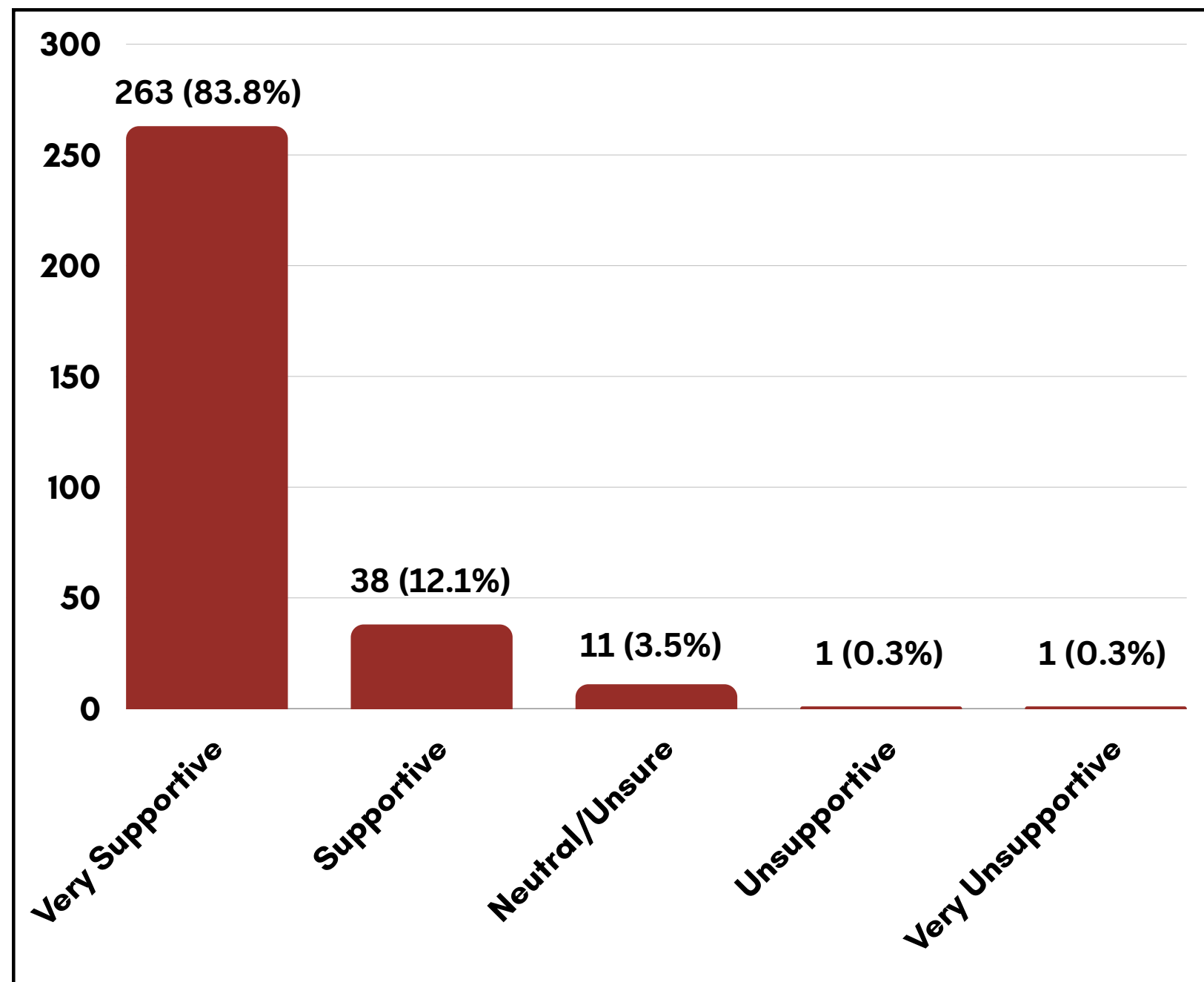


Knowing the following information, how supportive are you of the Star Fire District exploring ways to maintain and increase Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services and facilities?

0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive

In 2023, Star Fire District responded to approximately 1240 emergency calls for service.

The District's population has increased approximately 55% since 2018 to approximately 22,000 people. Fire Protection and EMS facilities have not increased since 2011 (Station 51 was moved to the current repurposed location in 2020).



Average Satisfaction Score: 3.79

of Responses: 314

Average Satisfaction Score: 3.61

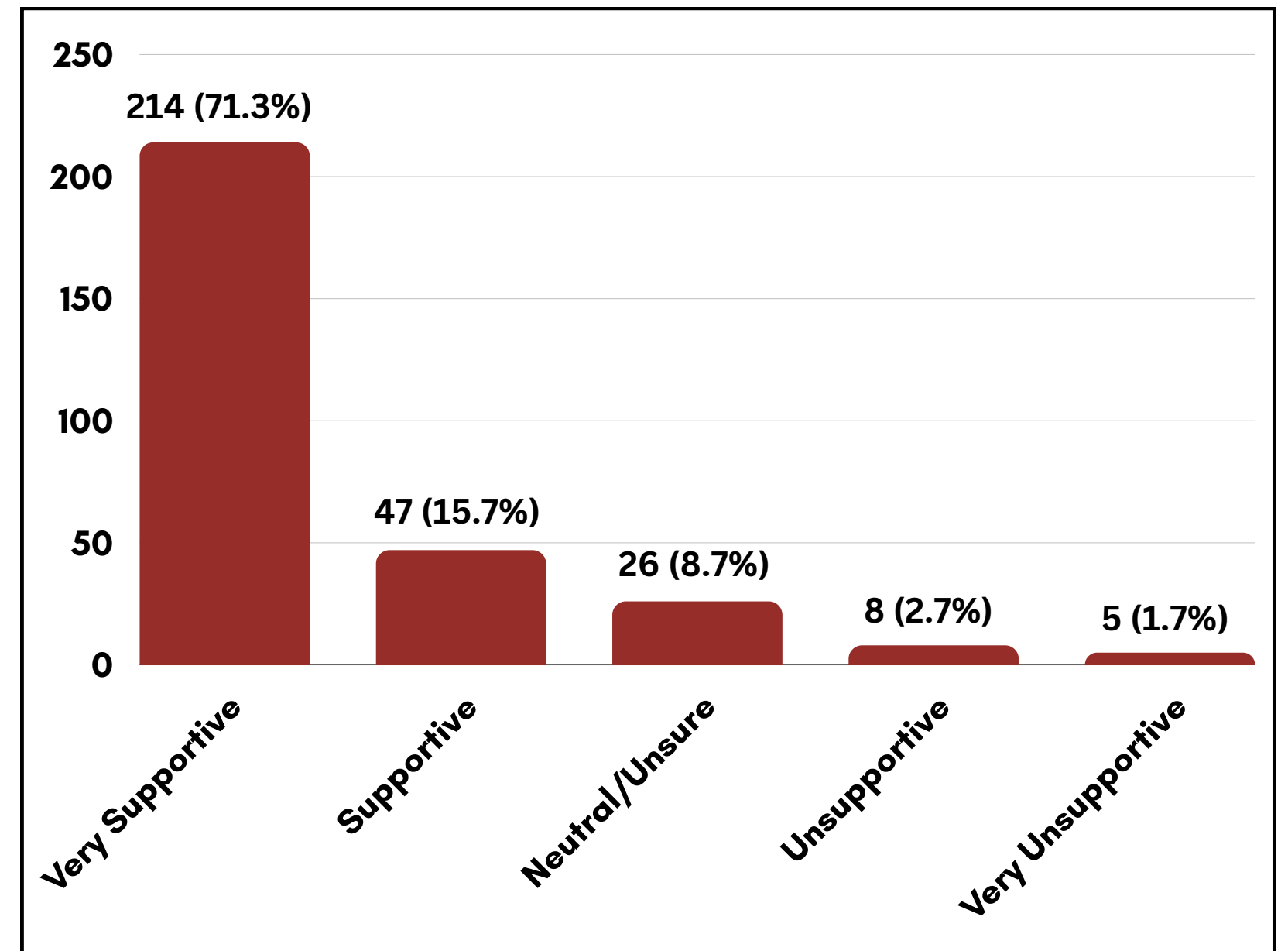
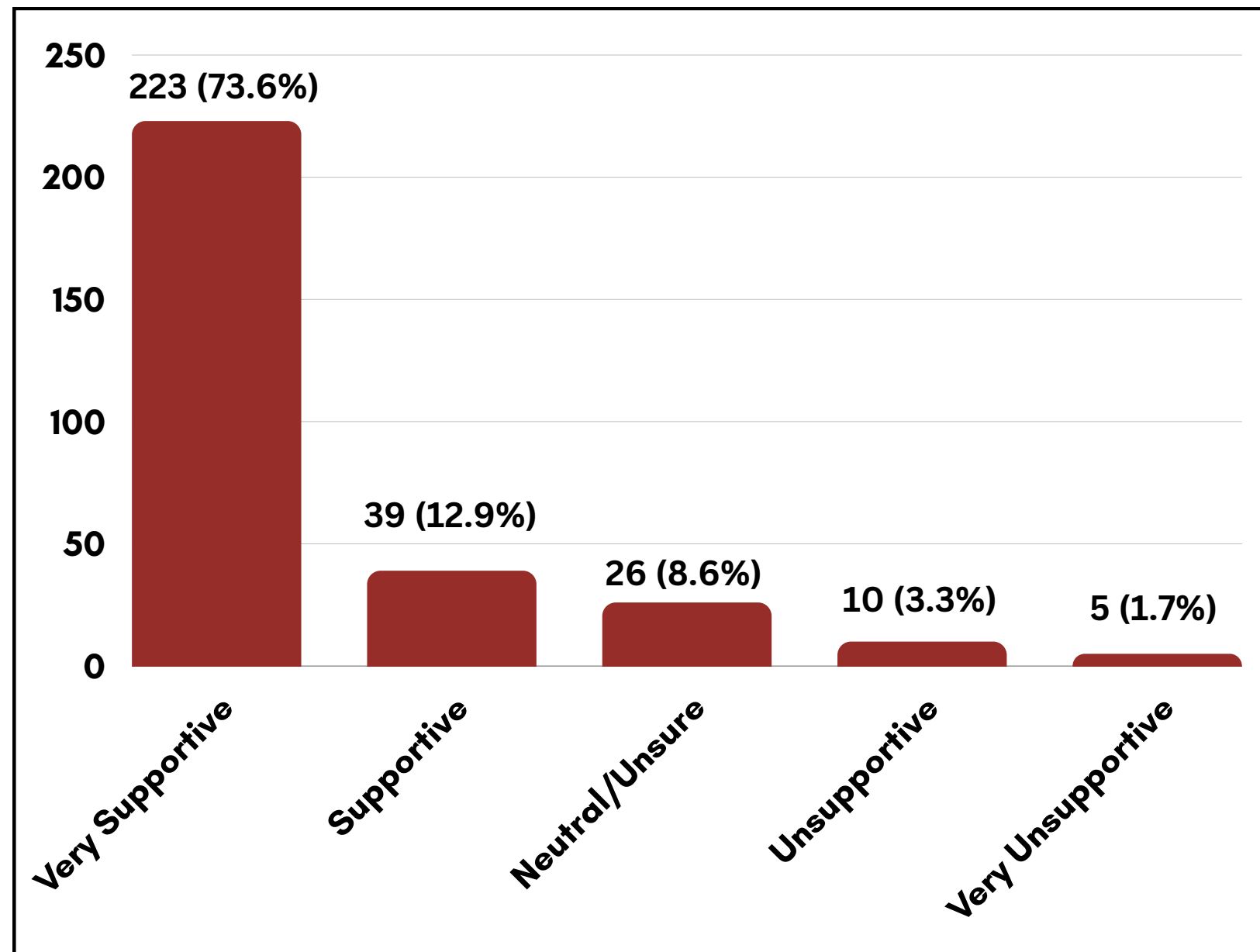
of Responses: 307

Knowing the following information, how supportive are you of the Star Fire District exploring ways to maintain and increase Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services and facilities?

0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive

The number of buildings in the District boundaries has increased by more than 2,501 since 2018 to approximately 7,163 structures. Fire Protection and EMS facilities have not increased since 2011 (Station 51 was moved to the current repurposed location in 2020).

The District's optimal response time for Fire Protection/EMS services is up to 5 minutes in order to minimize property loss and serious or fatal injury. The District's current response times within the downtown (Station 51) and Kingsbury Road on the west side of the District (Station 52) is up to 5 minutes. The response times outside of these service areas ranges from 5 to 20 minutes.



Average Satisfaction Score: 3.53

of Responses: 303

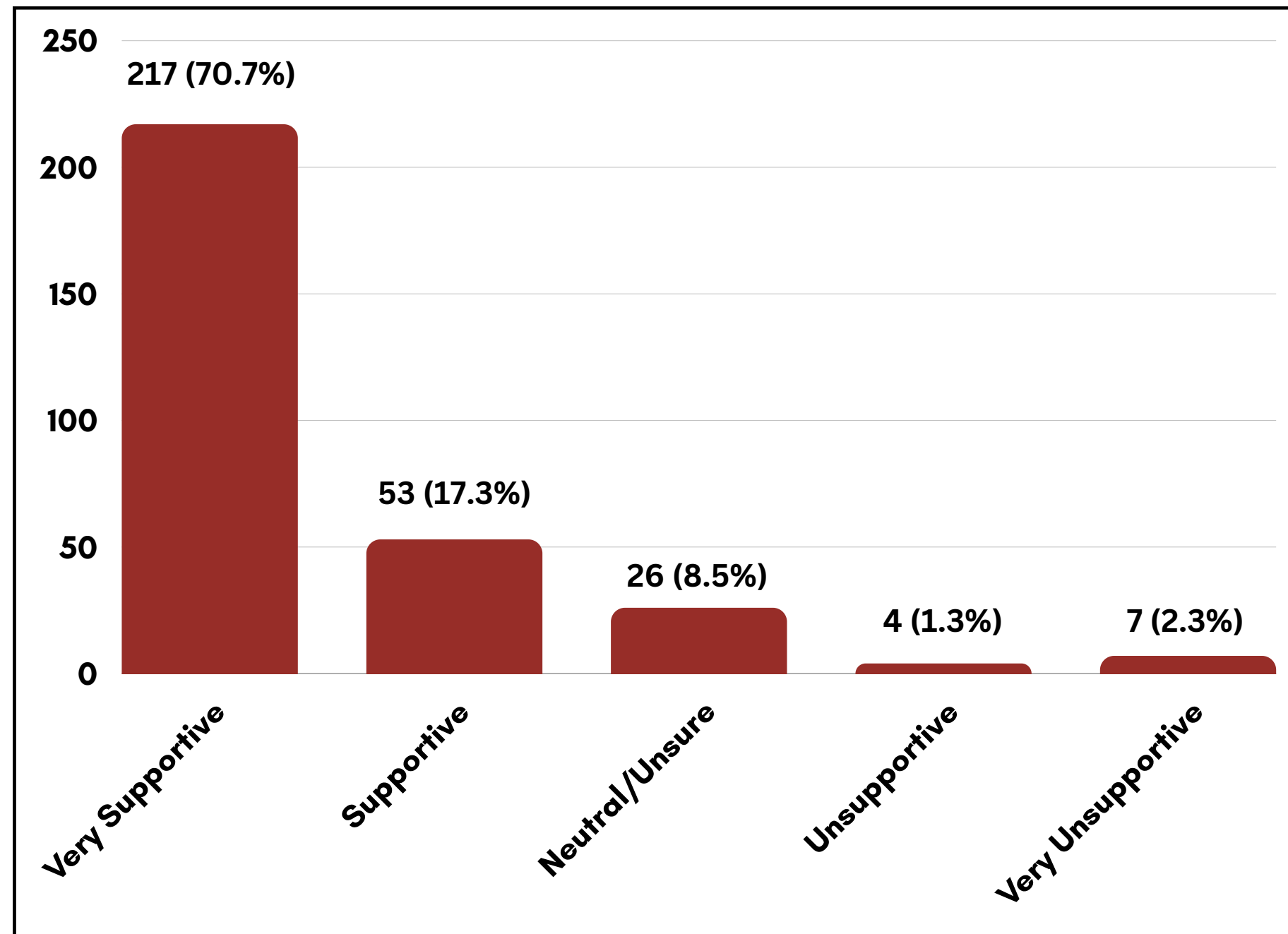
Average Satisfaction Score: 3.52

of Responses: 300

Knowing the following information, how supportive are you of the Star Fire District exploring ways to maintain and increase Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services and facilities?

0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive

ISO ratings are used in determining the liability insurance costs for homes and businesses. The number of firefighters and equipment available lowers the response time which can lower your ISO rating resulting in lower insurance costs.



Average Satisfaction Score: 3.53

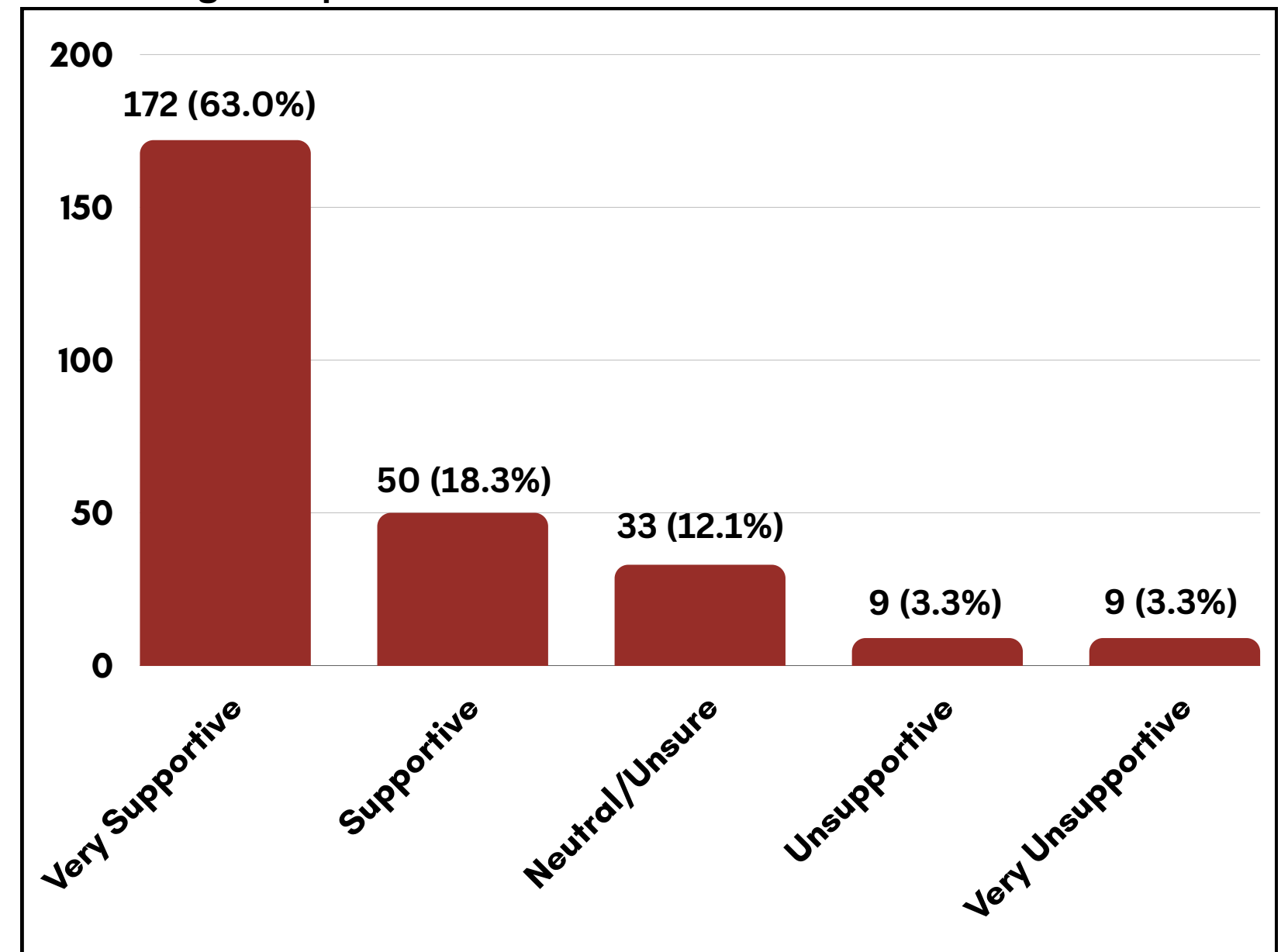
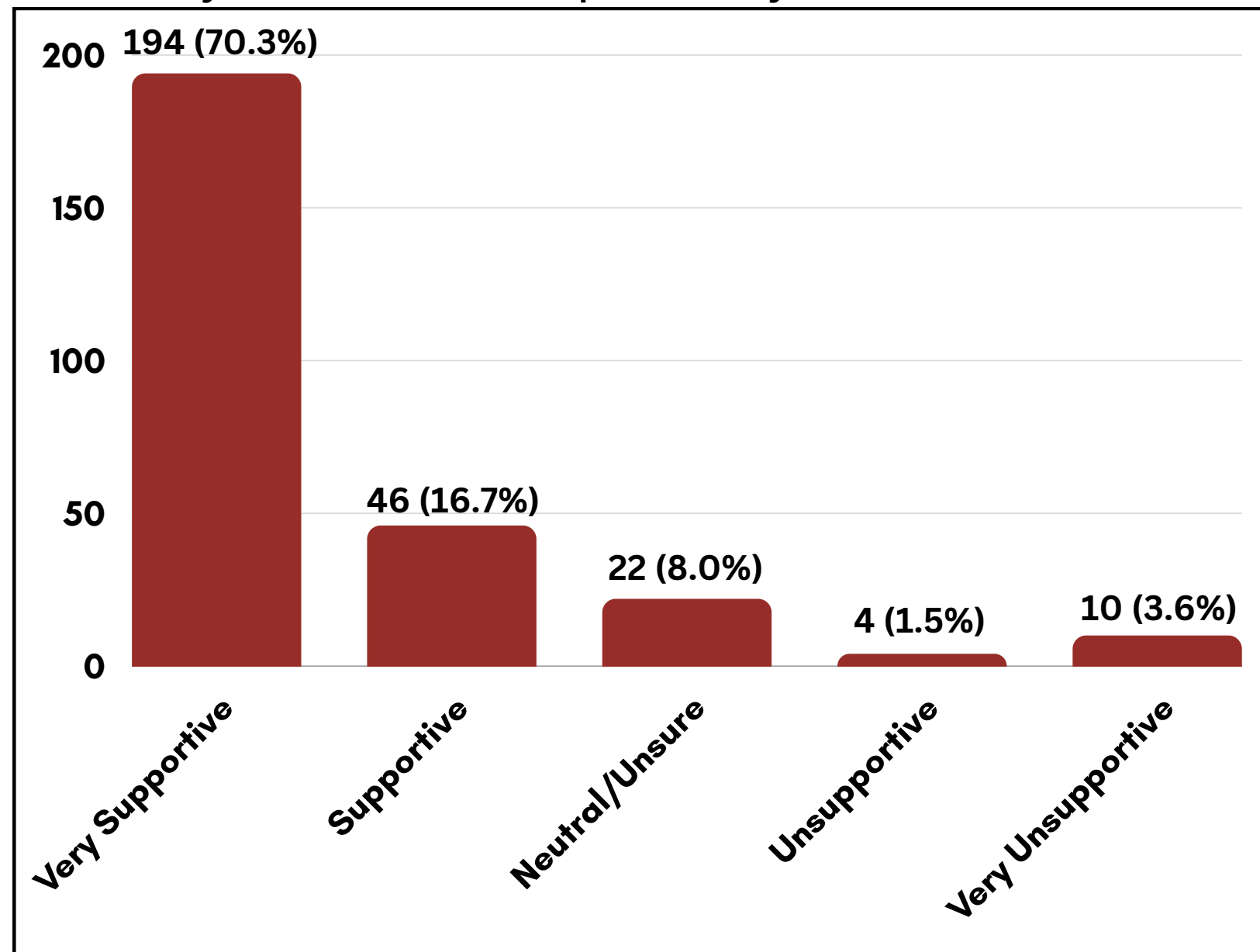
of Responses: 307

Knowing the following information, how supportive are you of the District pursuing a permanent levy override to fund the operational expenses associated with a new fire station?

0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive

The District is planning to build a new Station to better serve residents in 2024. The plan for the additional facility can be found on the District's website midstarfire.org. Once complete, Station 55 will reduce response times in that area and reduce service demand on Station 51 in downtown and Station 52 in the west that currently cover this area, enabling them to be more readily available to meet the public safety needs in those areas.

Impact Fees revenue will be used to pay for the new fire station in 2024. Impact fees may not be used to cover the cost of annual operational expenses (personnel, equipment, etc.). A levy Override is needed to fund the staffing and operations of the new fire station.



Average Satisfaction Score: 3.49

of Responses: 276

Average Satisfaction Score: 3.34

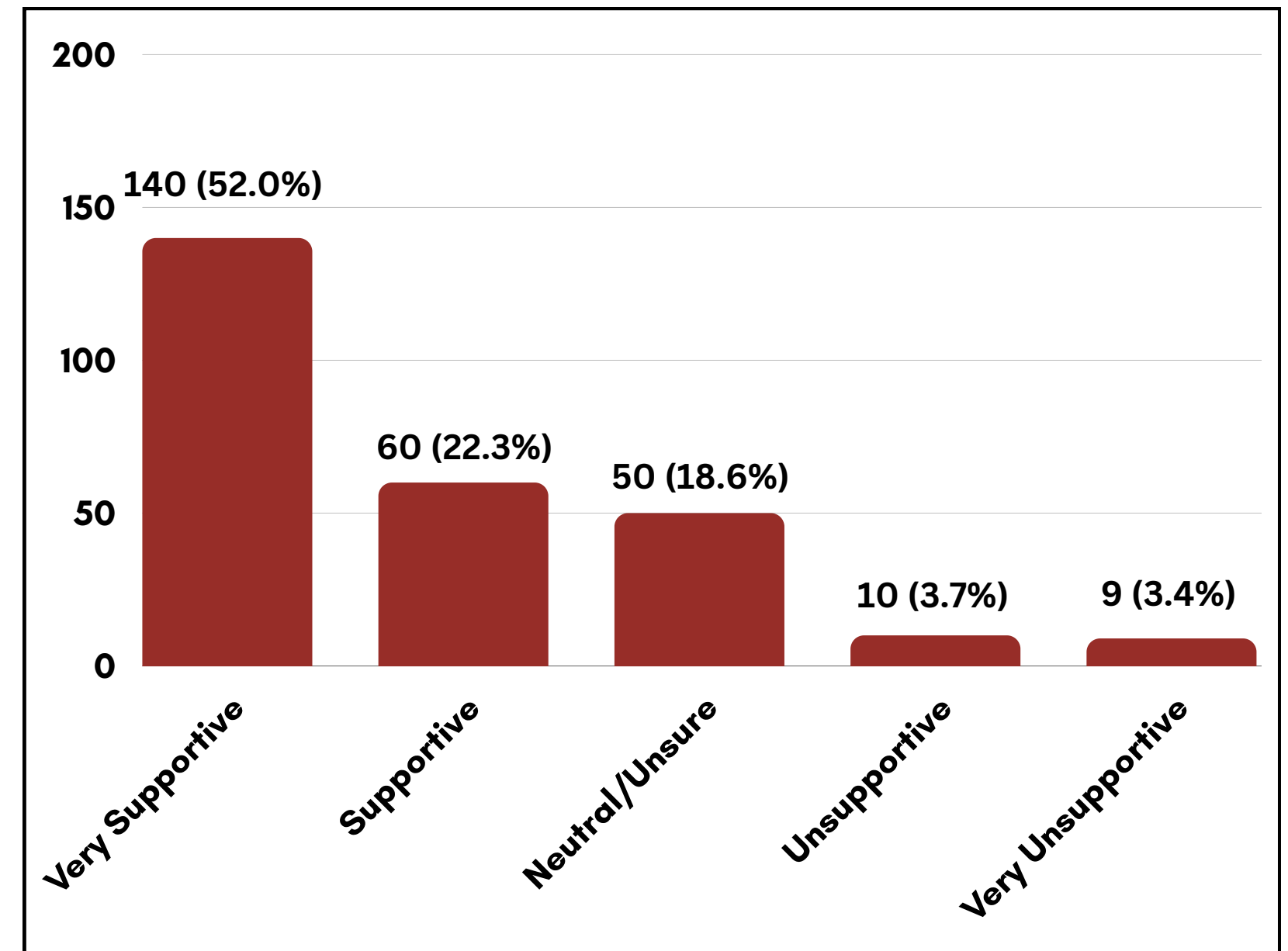
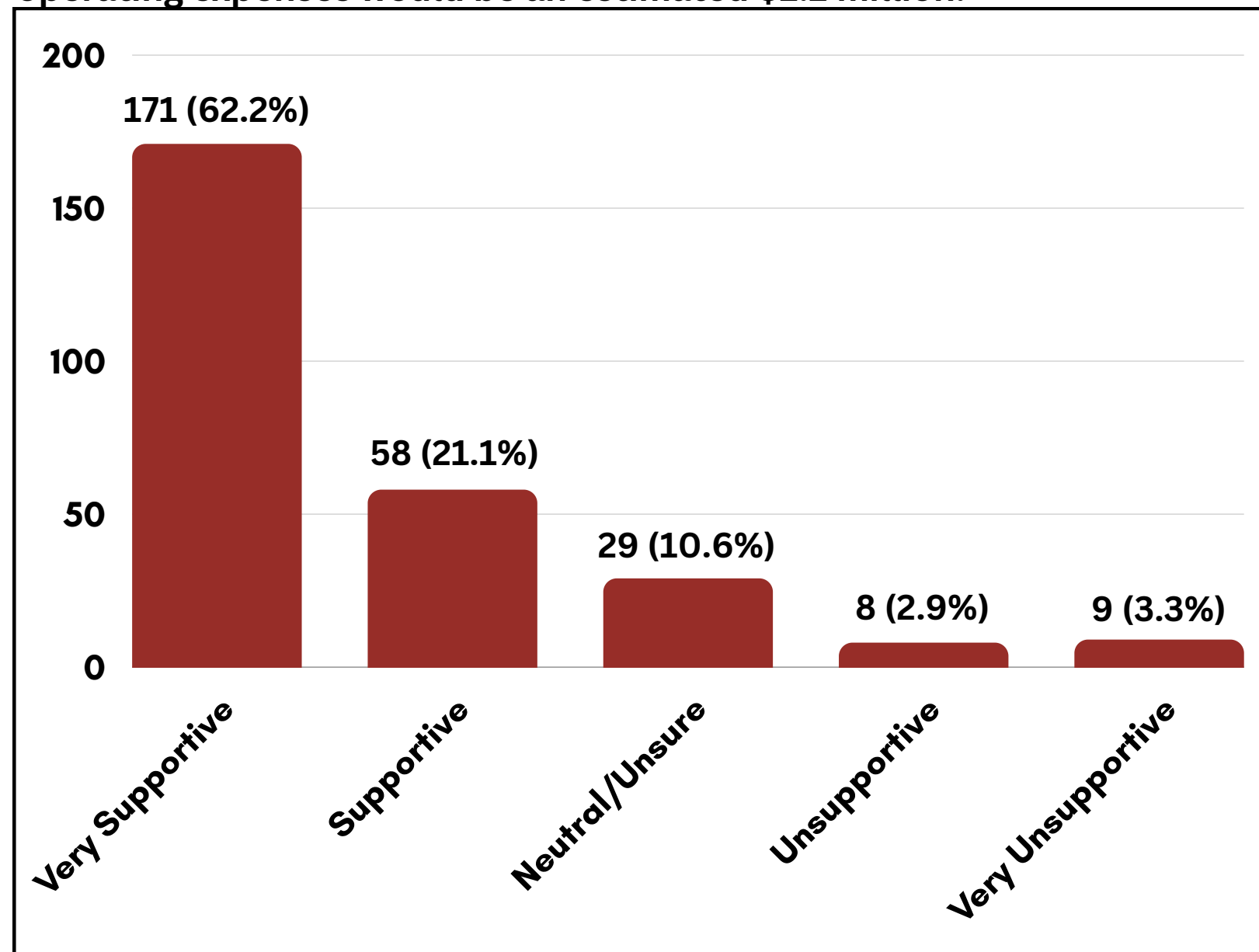
of Responses: 273

Knowing the following information, how supportive are you of the District pursuing a permanent levy override to fund the operational expenses associated with a new fire station?

0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive

The new station will require a minimum of 9 personnel to be properly staffed. The District needs a total of 12 additional personnel District wide to achieve optimal response times from Station 51, Station 52 and the new station service areas. The annual cost of additional staffing and operating expenses would be an estimated \$2.2 million.

Since 2020, the costs associated with fire personal protection equipment and general operational expenses have increased from 30-100% due to inflation.



Average Satisfaction Score: 3.36

of Responses: 275

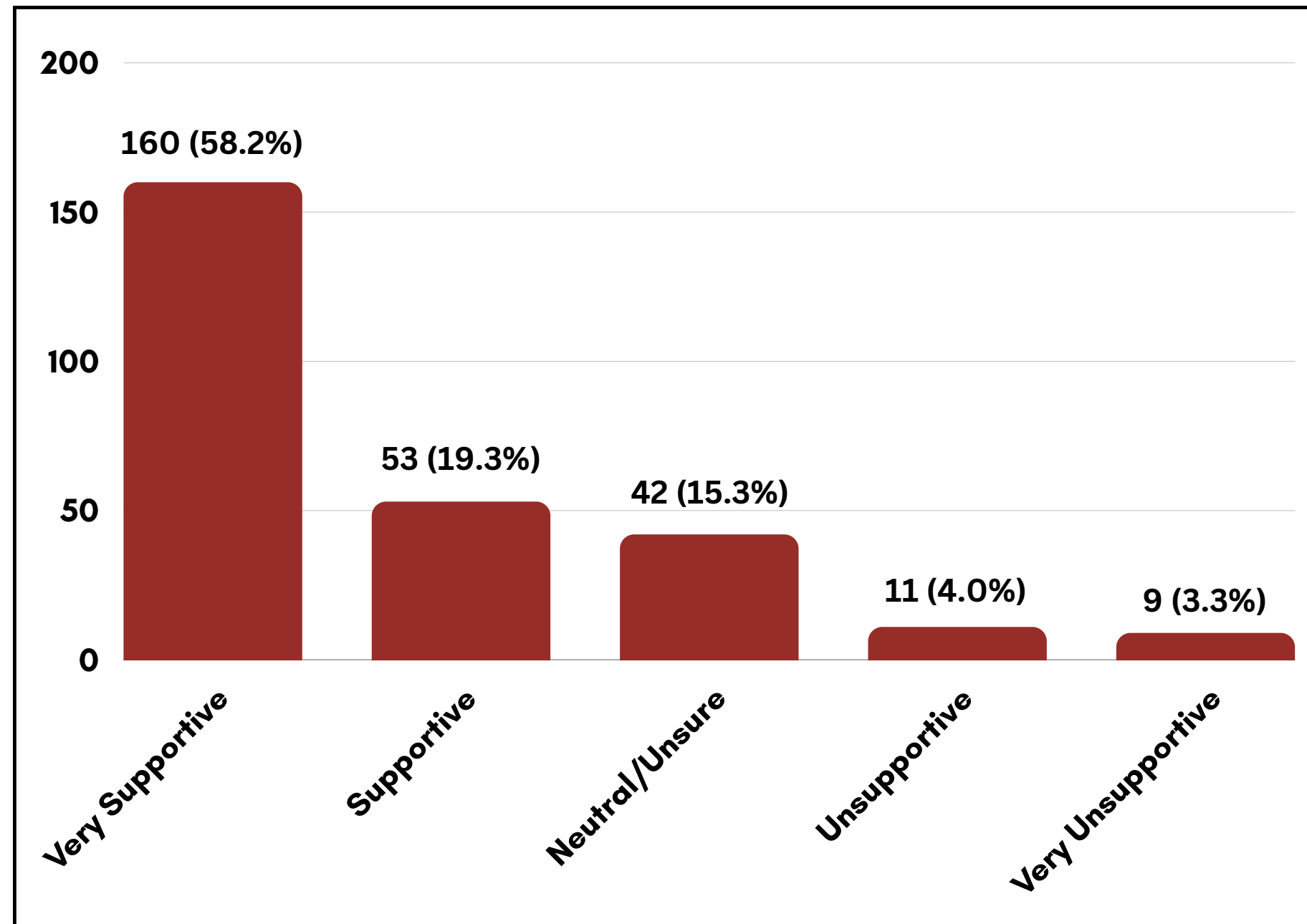
Average Satisfaction Score: 3.16

of Responses: 269

Knowing the following information, how supportive are you of the District pursuing a permanent levy override to fund the operational expenses associated with a new fire station?

0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive

Current State Statute limits the ability of Fire Districts to increase their budgets on an annual basis. Staffing and operating the new Station is estimated to increase the District's budget by 45-50%. The districts only source of revenue to cover the increased cost is a permanent levy override that must be approved by 66 2/3rd percent of voters.



Average Satisfaction Score: 3.25

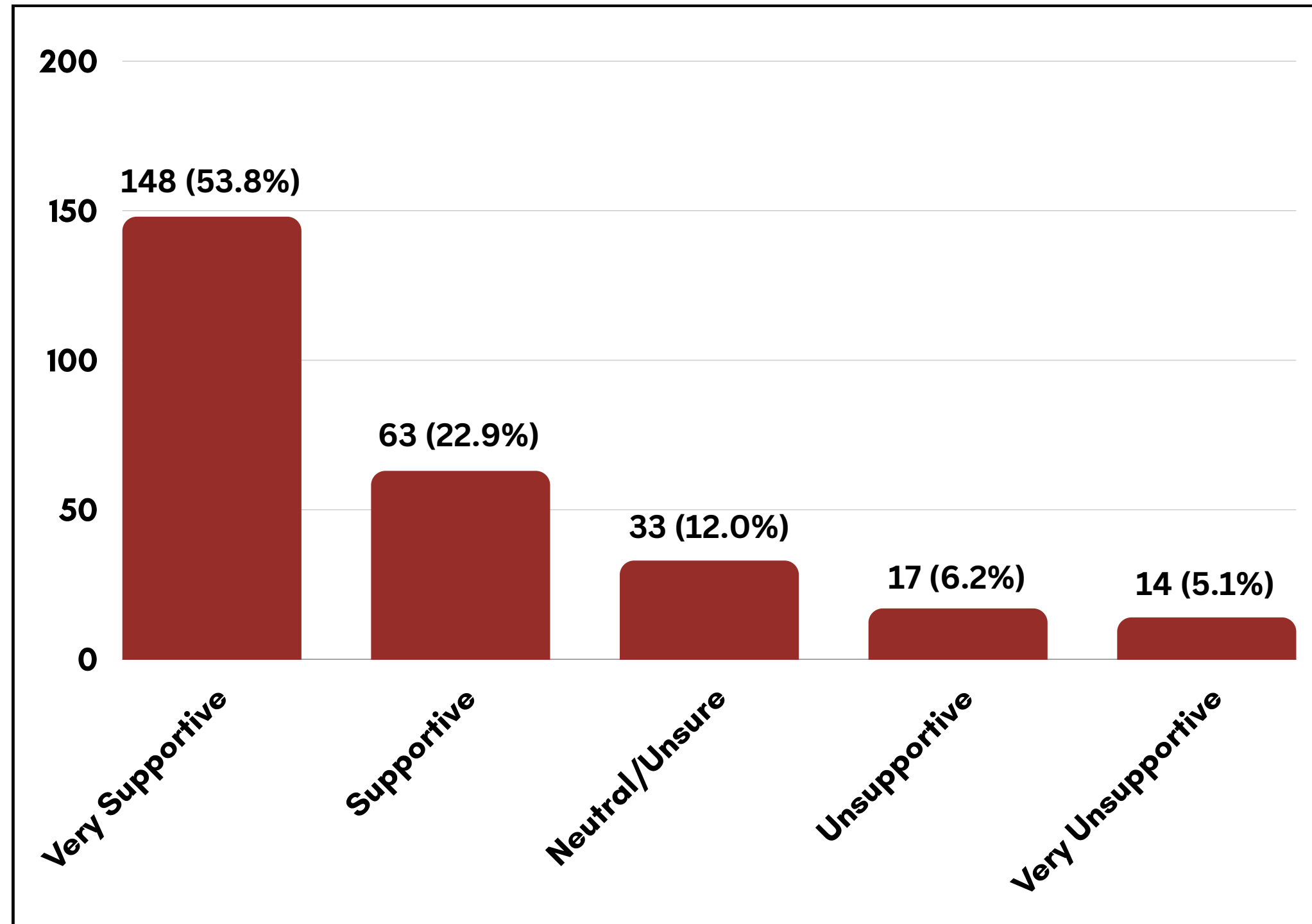
of Responses: 275

LEVY OVERRIDE



If you knew the annual tax impact for a homeowner would cost approximately \$53, or about \$4.50 per month, per \$100,000 of assessed value (in excess of homeowner's exemption), **how supportive would you be of a permanent levy override to fund the operational expenses associated with staffing the new Station?**

0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive

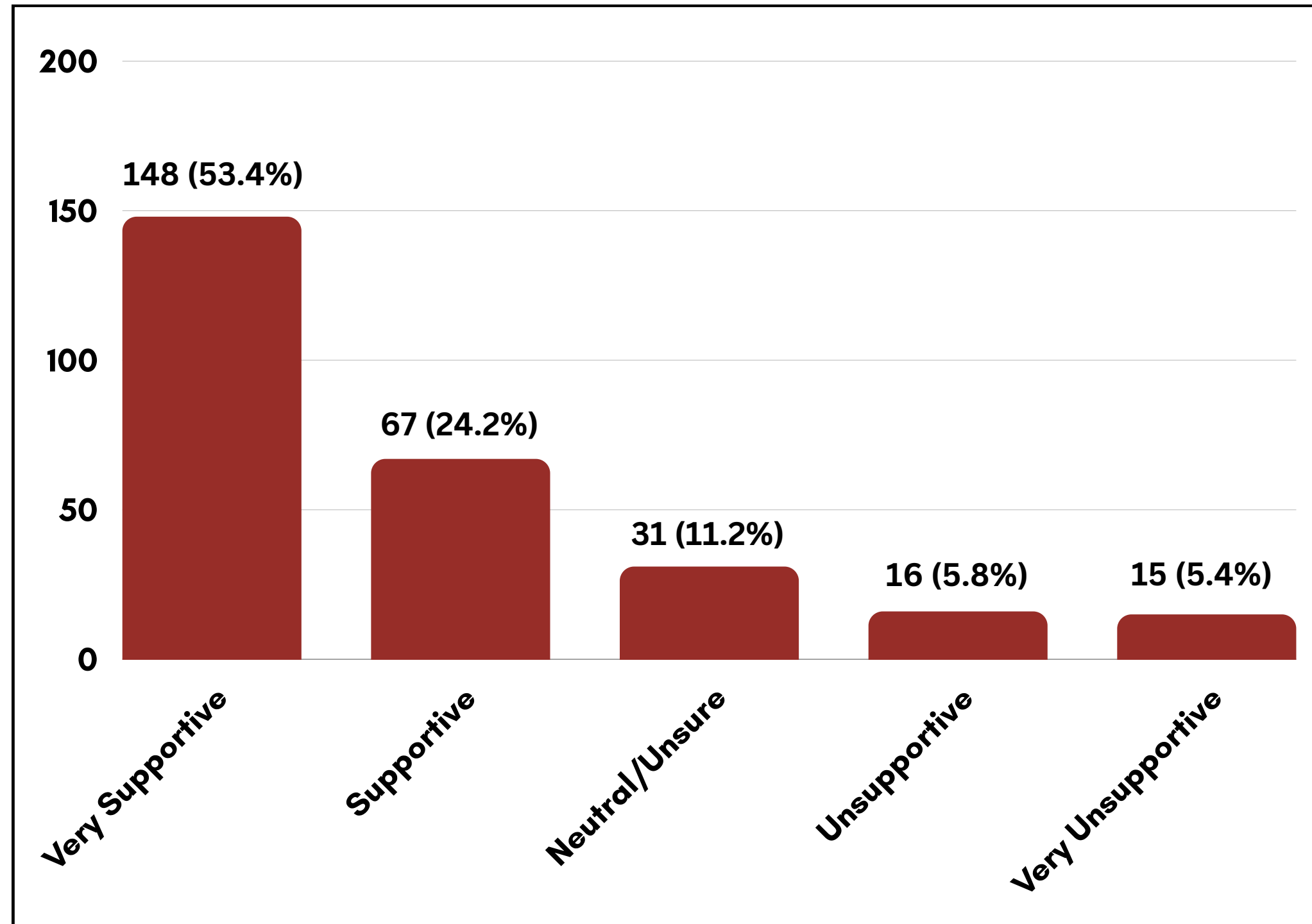


Average Satisfaction Score: 3.14

of Responses: 275

Given the information you have, how supportive are you of the District seeking a permanent levy override to fund the operational expenses associated with this new fire station at an election on May 21st?

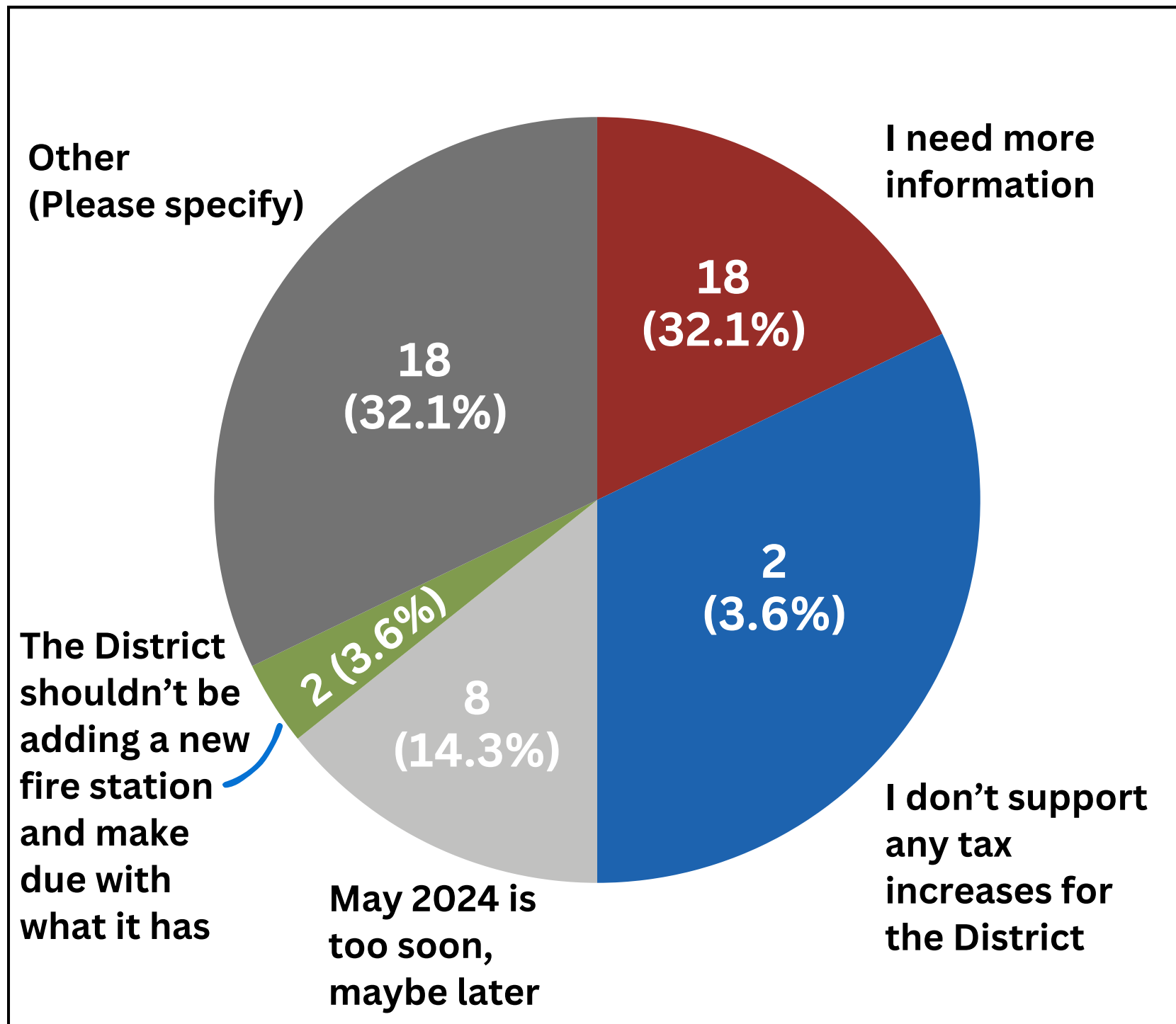
0 = Very Unsupportive; 1 = Unsupportive; 2 = Neutral/Unsure; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive



Average Satisfaction Score: 3.14

of Responses: 277

**Respondents who chose Unsure, Unsupportive, or Very Unsupportive on the previous questions were asked:
If you are neutral or unsupportive of the District seeking a permanent levy override to fund operational expenses,
please tell us why?**



of Responses: 56

Other (Please Specify)*

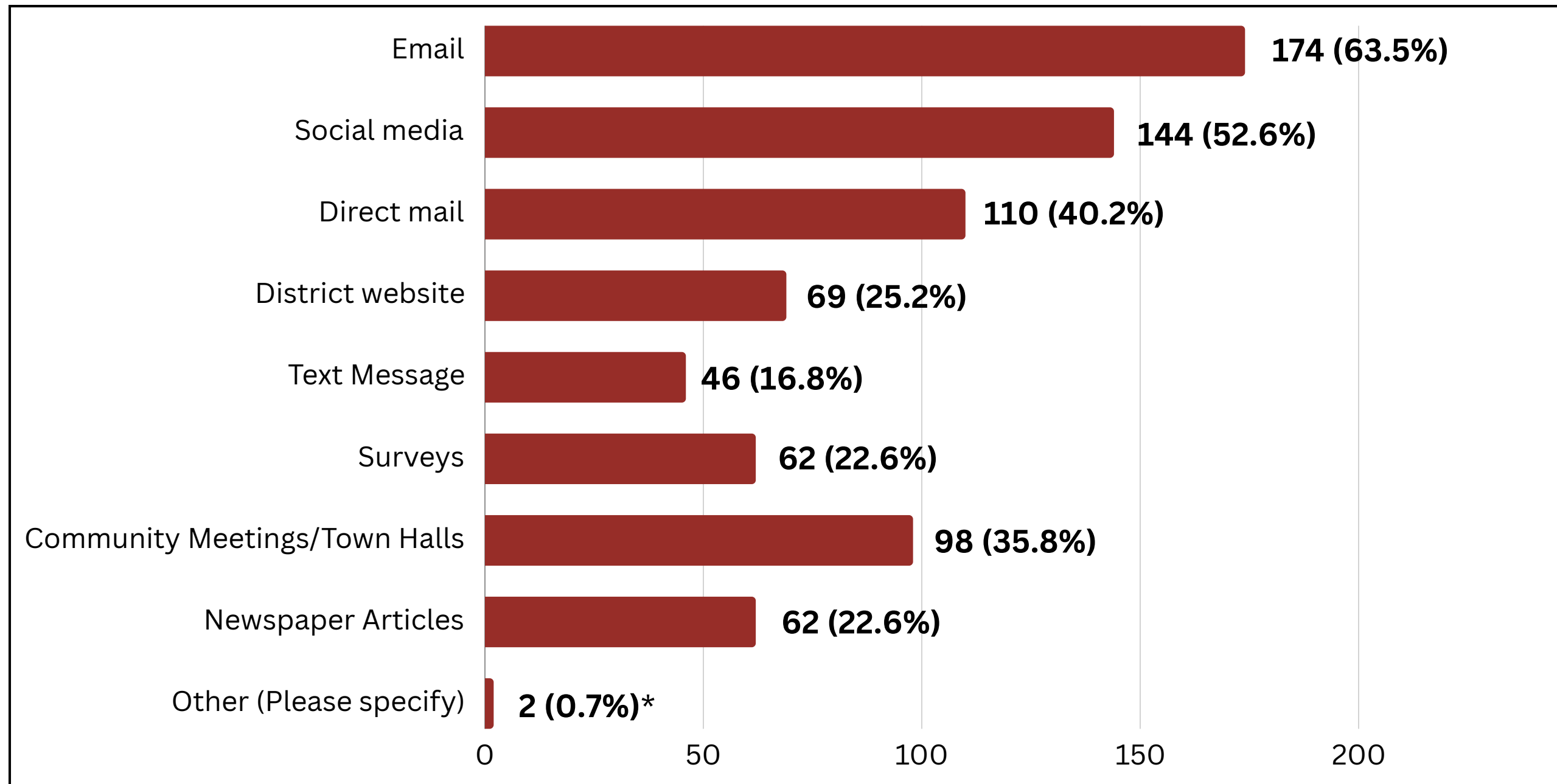
- Developer fees, not a levy, should cover station development, apparatus purchase, equipping, plus first year of staffing
- Developers should pay for infrastructure/additional fire stations
- Wondering why there is a 50% budget increase for a 33% facilities increase without a sunset date
- Doesn't think the new station is in a good location; will require another station sooner than later
- Where is the money from all the tax increases going? With all the growth, there has been more tax monies
- Get the state involved
- New people should pay for it
- Already covered by existing stations
- Live paycheck to paycheck
- Need more info; tired of money always coming from the tax payers
- Need to know length of time to retire 2.2M debt; \$53 per 100K for how many years?
- Better tax management needed
- Other ways to get funding should be exercised first
- Levy needs to focus on EMS

***18 respondents left a comment specifying "Other." This report summarizes the most common comments; it does not necessarily include every comment.**

COMMUNICATION



If the District moves forward with exploring ways to increase its Fire Protection and EMS services, what communication methods do you prefer to receive information?



of Responses: 274

Top 3 Preferred Methods:

#1 Email

#2 Social Media

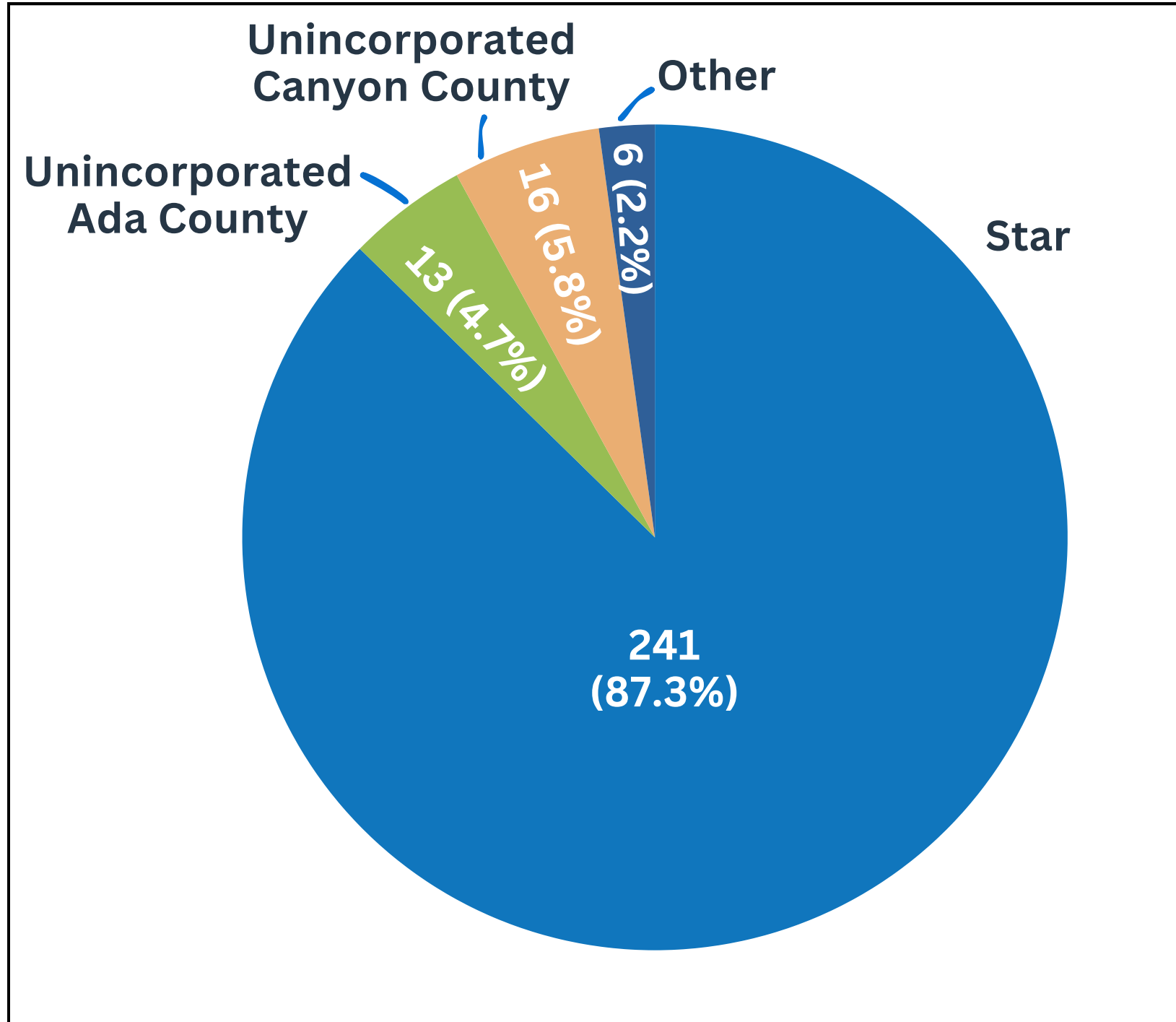
#3 Direct Mail

*Of the respondents who selected "Other", none of them specified what they meant by "Other".

DEMOGRAPHICS

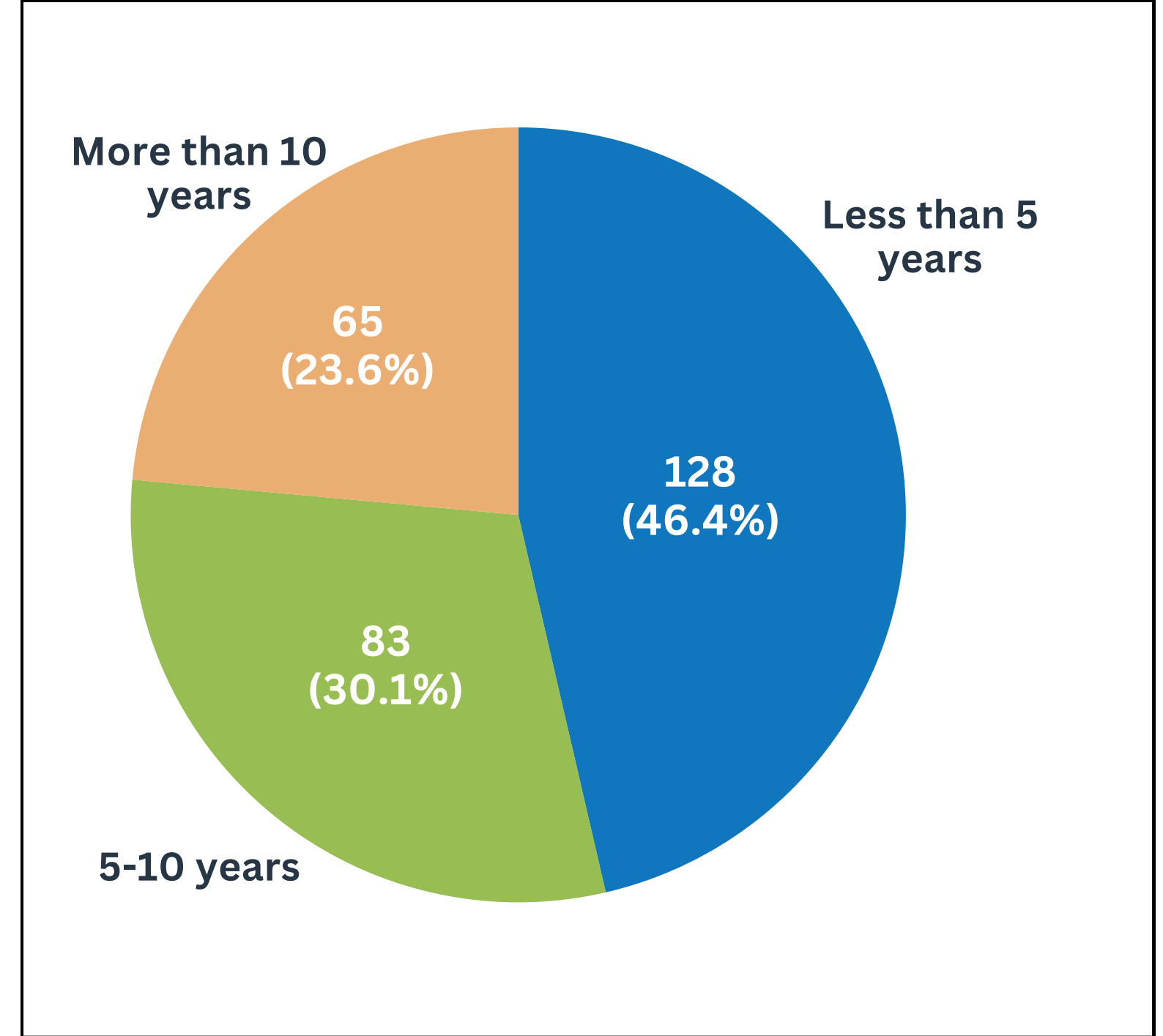


Where do you live?



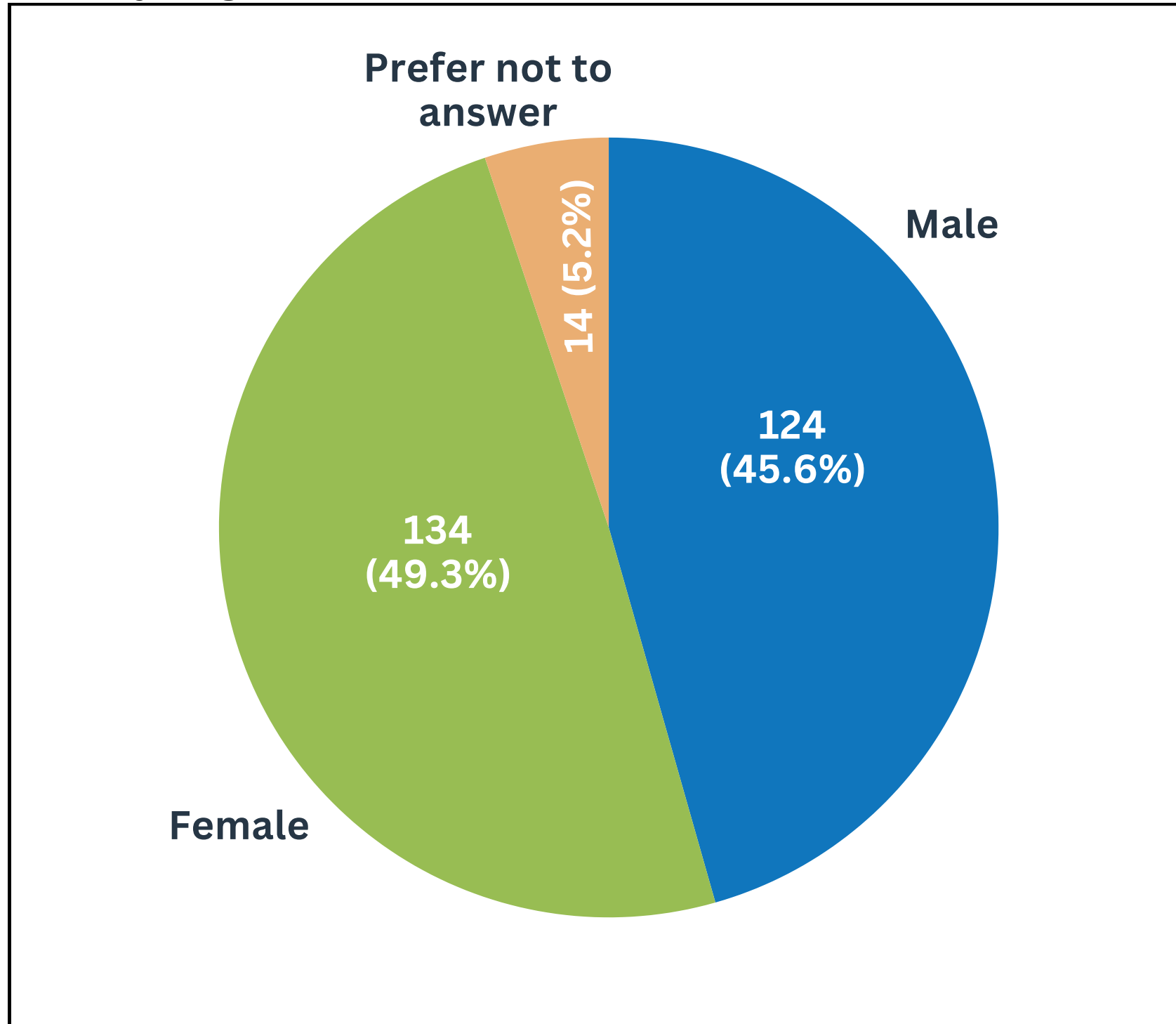
of Responses: 276

How long have you lived in the area?



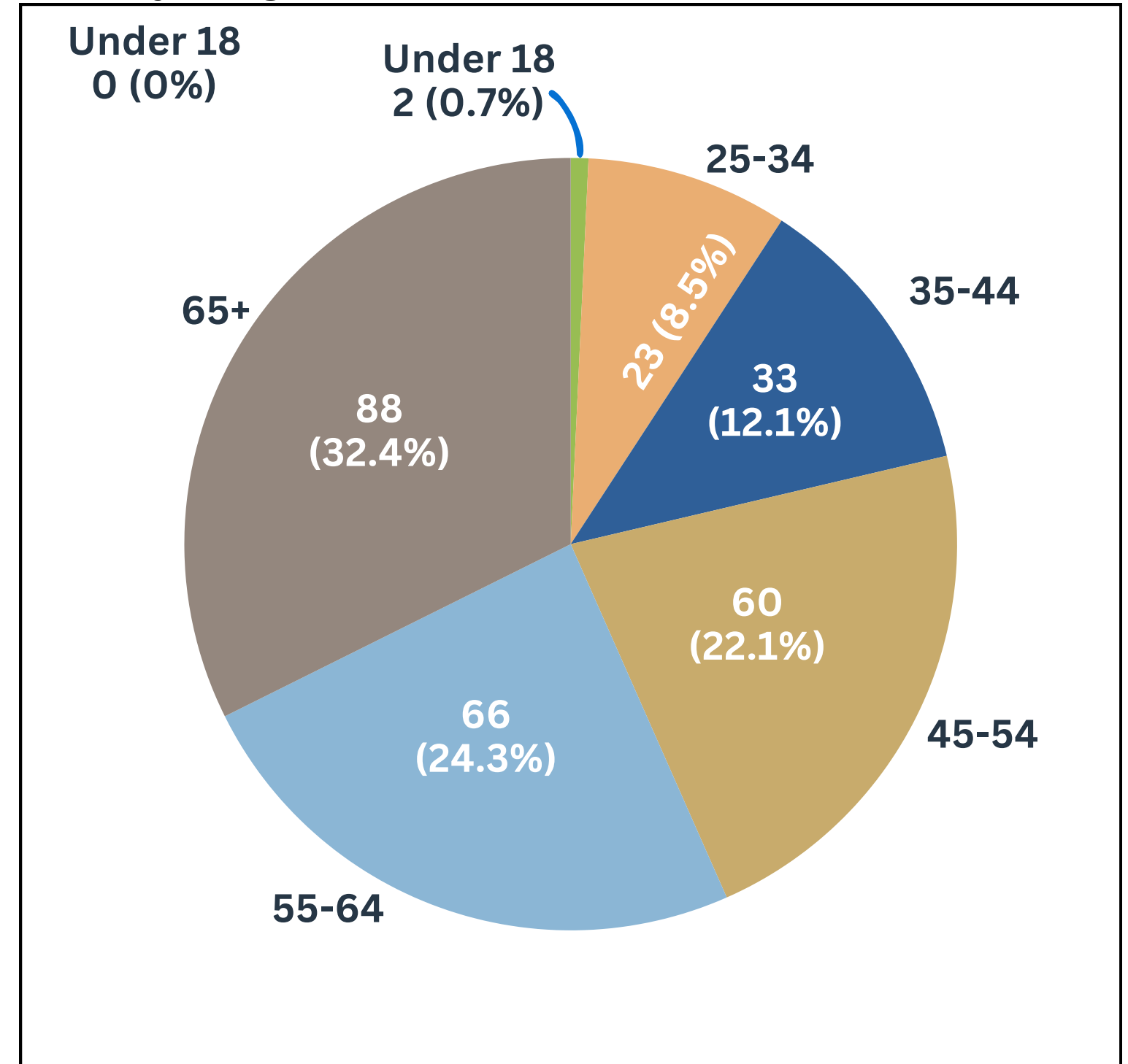
of Responses: 276

What is your gender?



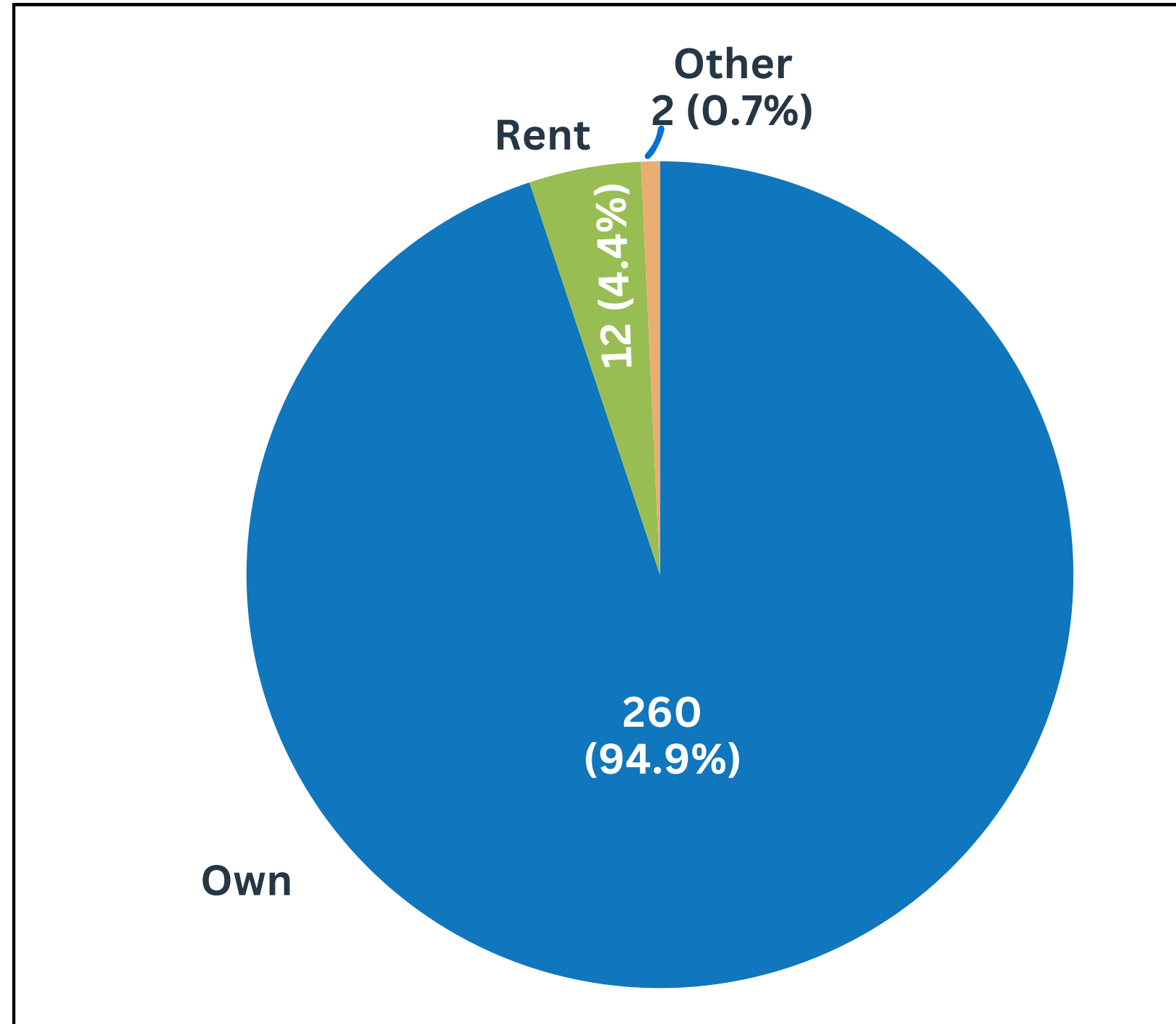
of Responses: 272

What is your age?



of Responses: 272

Do you own or rent your home?



of Responses: 274