



Merritt Citizen Budget

Introduction

From February 22 to March 3 2021, the City of Merritt used a budget simulation exercise called Citizen Budget to gather public feedback on their annual budget. The purpose of this program was to show residents where their tax dollars are being spent and allow them to increase or decrease the levels of service provided by the City. In addition, the program allowed residents to see how these changes in service levels would raise or lower their taxes.

- The process educated residents on the City's various services, while asking them to provide feedback based on the City's current service levels and budget.
- Ethelo used the results to generate a particular set of funding changes that are predicted to have the most community support.

Fund Allocation Overview

Participants were given a hypothetical \$1,000 budget to allocate towards a selection of capital projects, ongoing programs or strategic initiatives. They were given the opportunity to distribute money as desired. Below shows the funding level allocation that is predicted to have the broadest public support.

Service Area	Fund Allocation
Airport Expansion	\$0
Downtown Revitalization	\$100
Roads and Infrastructure	\$200
Active Transportation	\$100
Water Conservation	\$100

Service Area	Fund Allocation
Attract Light Industries and Businesses	\$100
Parkland Acquisition	\$0
Increased Residential Attraction	\$100
Fund Reserve Accounts	\$100

Service Budgets Overview

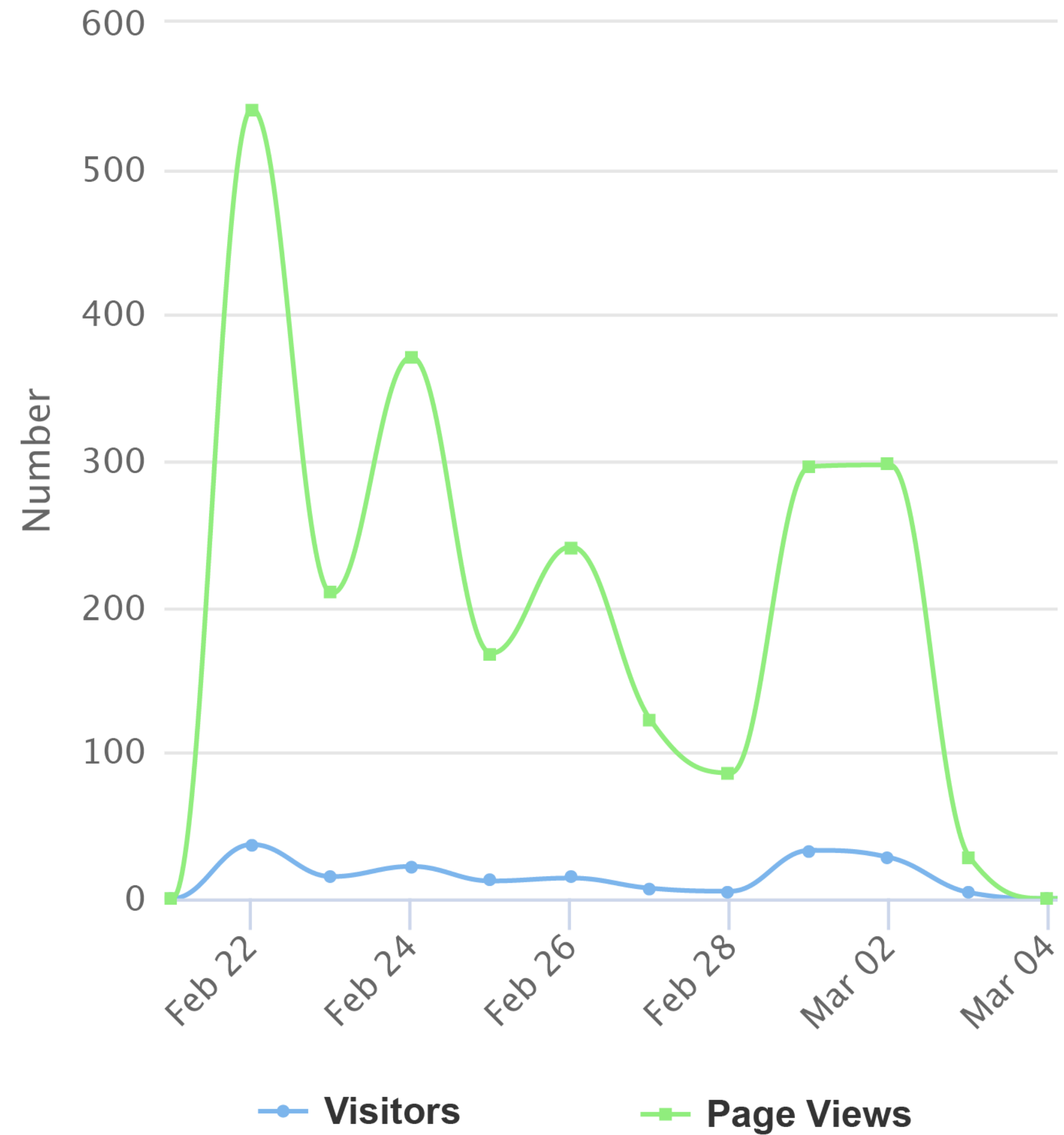
Participants were tasked with indicating how they would adjust property tax funding for various services (Higher, Same, or Lower,) based on their current satisfaction levels. Below, you can see the average voting tendencies across all participants.

Service Area	Importance
RCMP and Community Policing	Same
Fire and Emergency Services	Same
Bylaw and Inspection Services	Same
Public Works - Roads, Parks, and Infrastructure	Higher
Transit Services	Same

Service Area	Importance
Planning and Development Services	Same
Economic Development	Same
Recreation Programs and Facilities	Same

Participation

- Number of visitors: **231**
- Number of respondents: **76**
- Page views: **2,704**
- Average time on platform: **7.5 minutes**

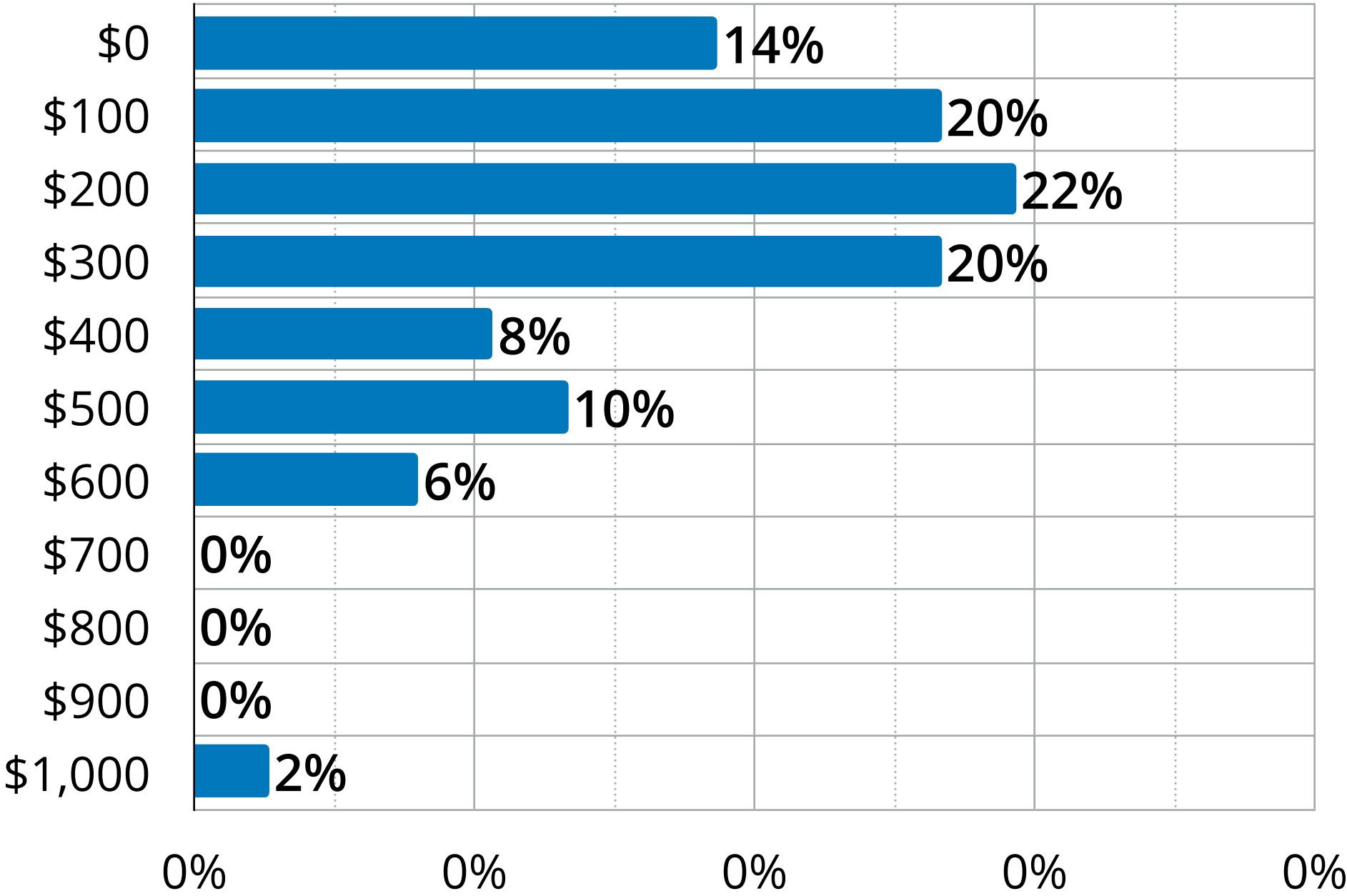


An aerial photograph of a valley. In the foreground, there's a town with various buildings and roads. Beyond the town, there are green fields and some smaller structures. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is a wide, open landscape.

Voting Results

Roads and Infrastructure

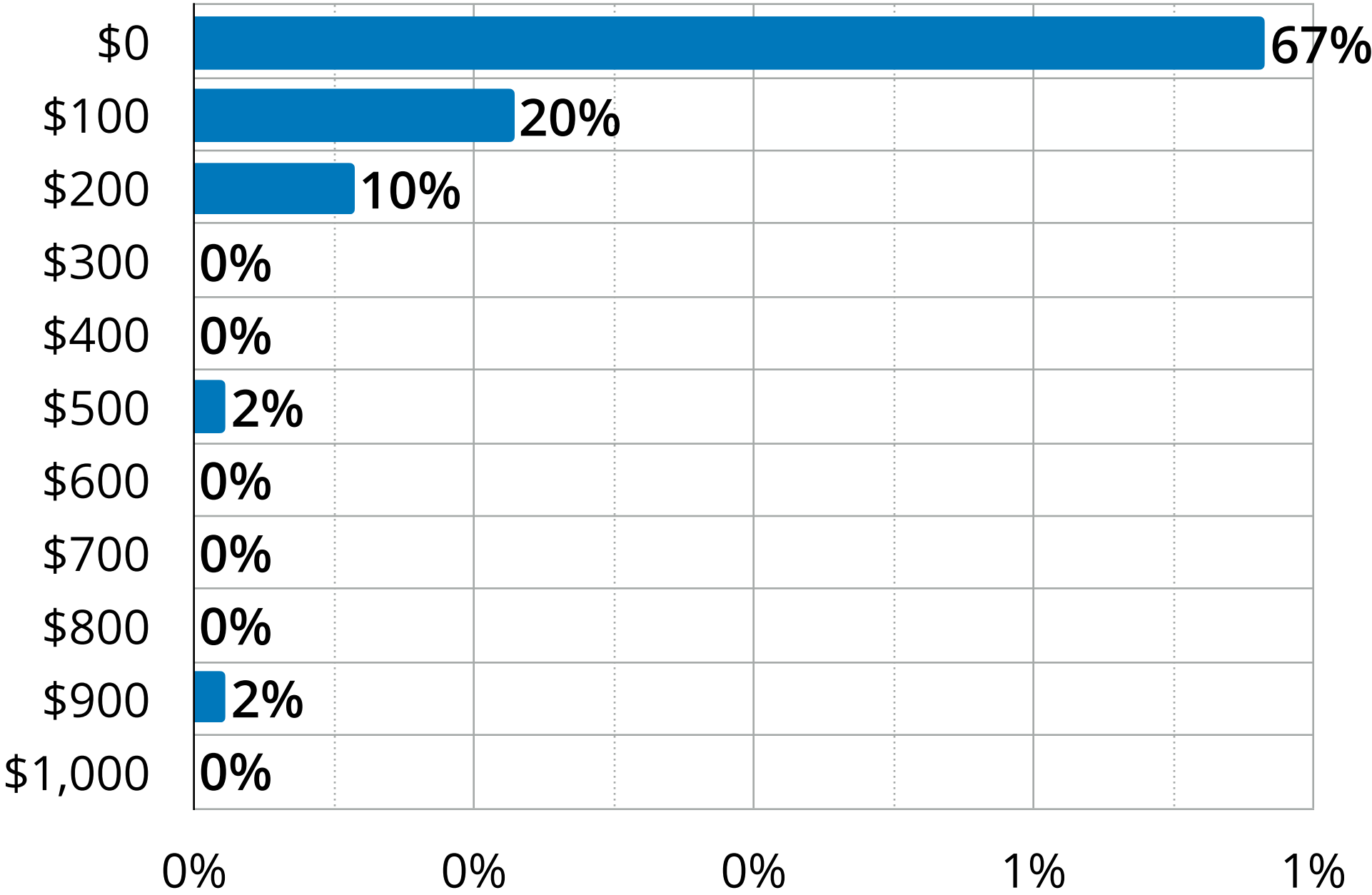
- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$200 (11 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$257**



*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Parkland Acquisition and Development

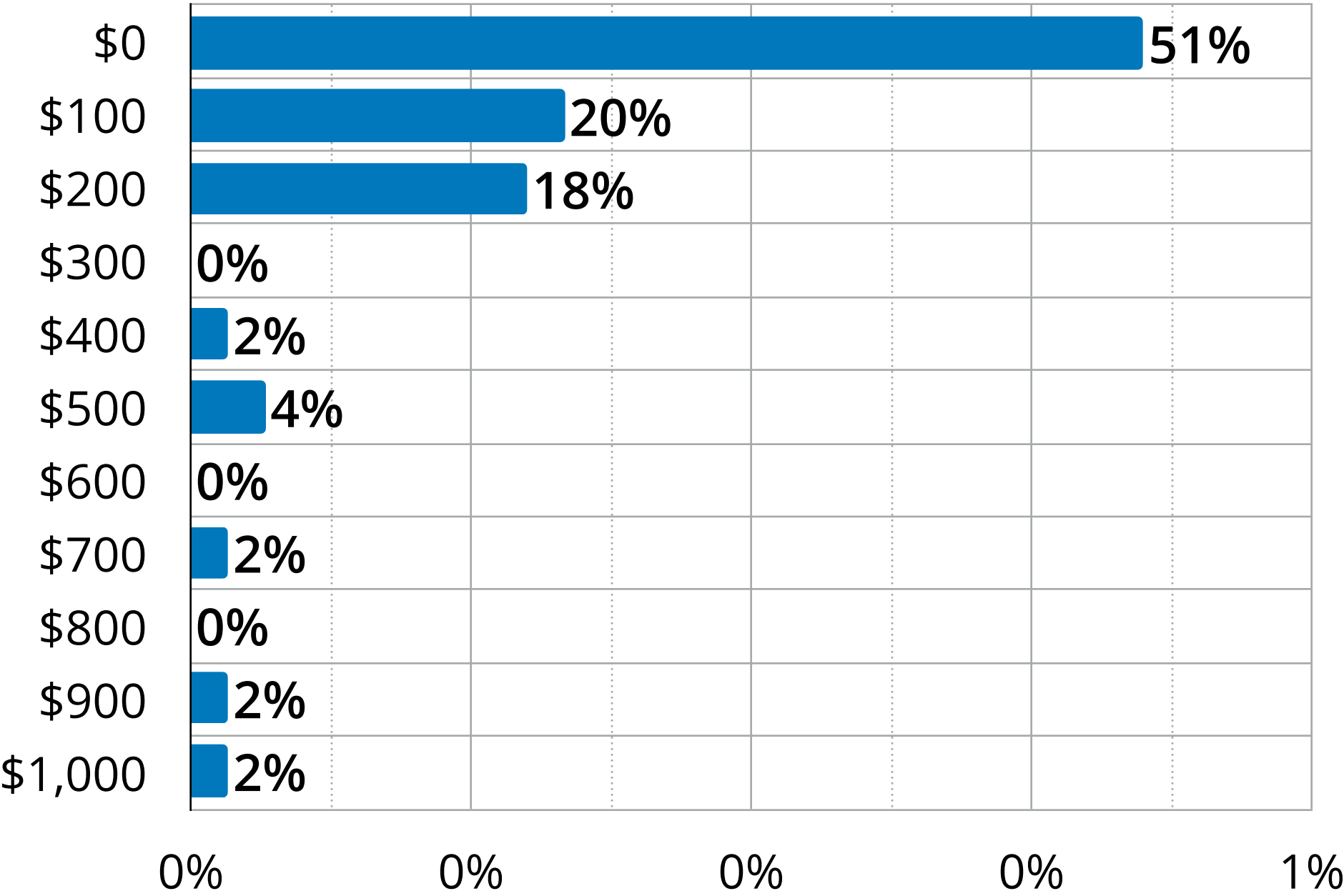
- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (34 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$67**



*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Increased Residential Attraction

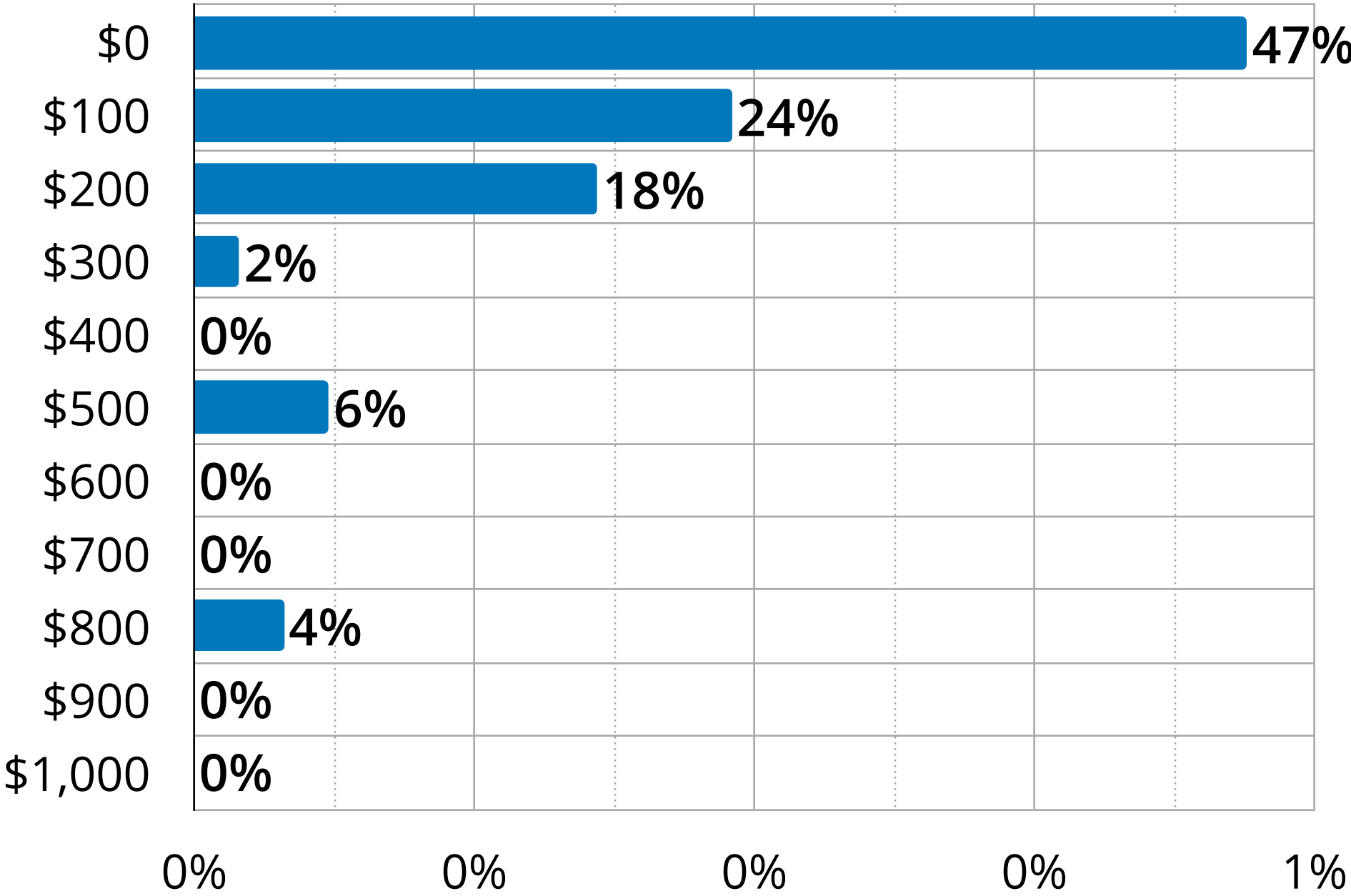
- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (26 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$133**



*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Fund Reserve Accounts

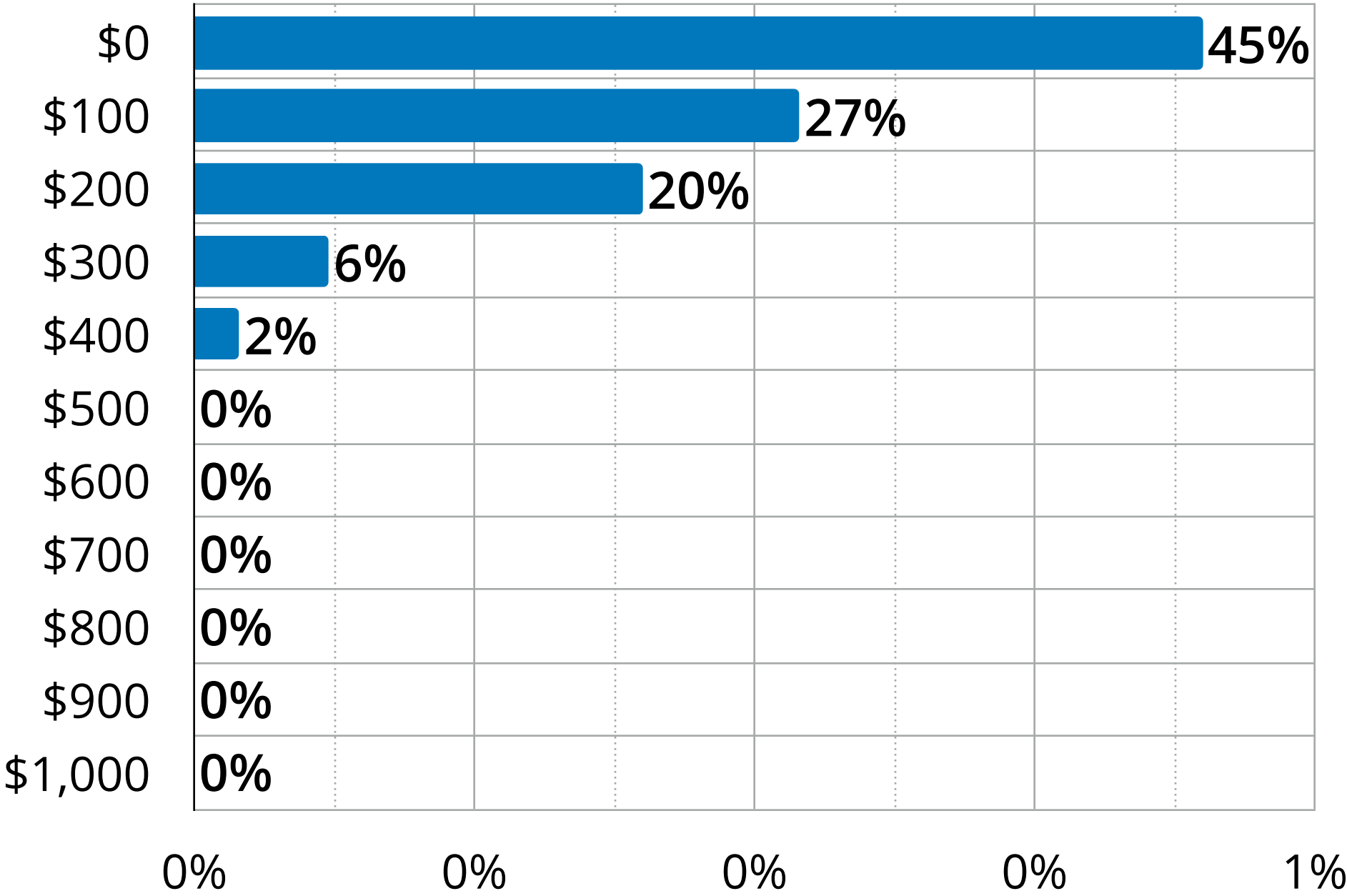
- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (24 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$125**



*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Attract Light Industries and Businesses

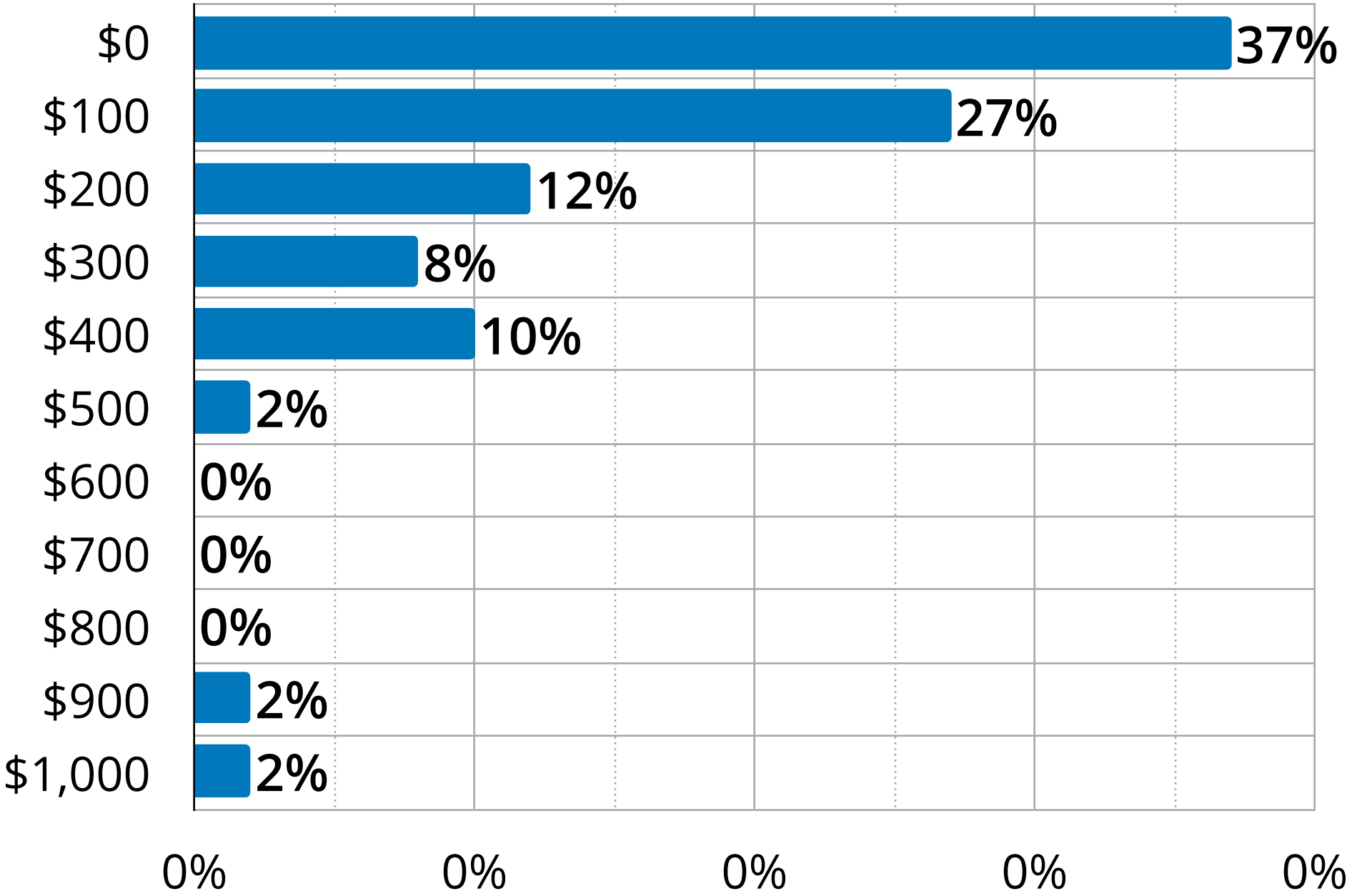
- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (23 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$92**



*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Active Transportation

- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (19 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$161**

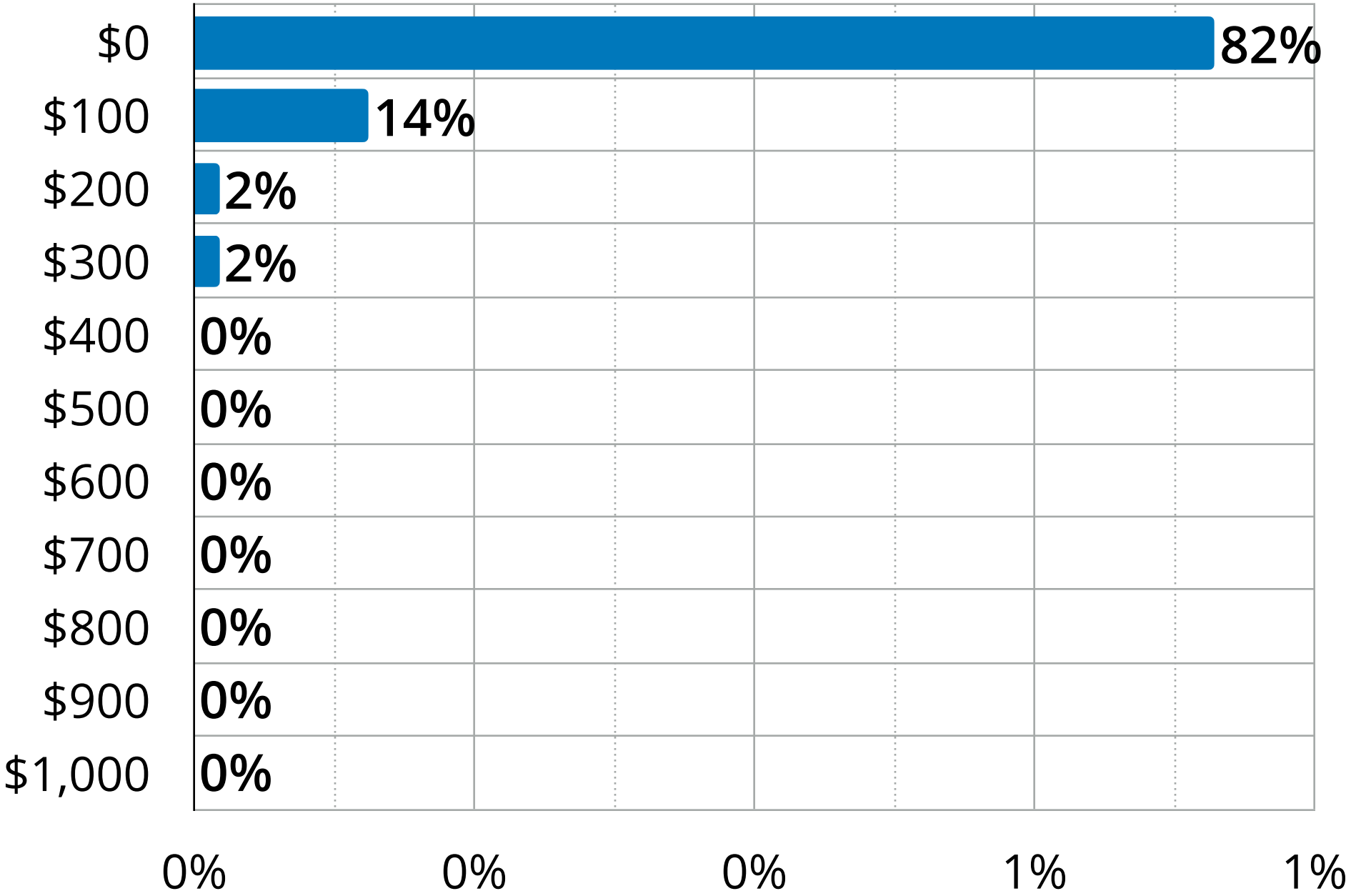


*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Voting Results

Airport Expansion

- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (42 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$24**

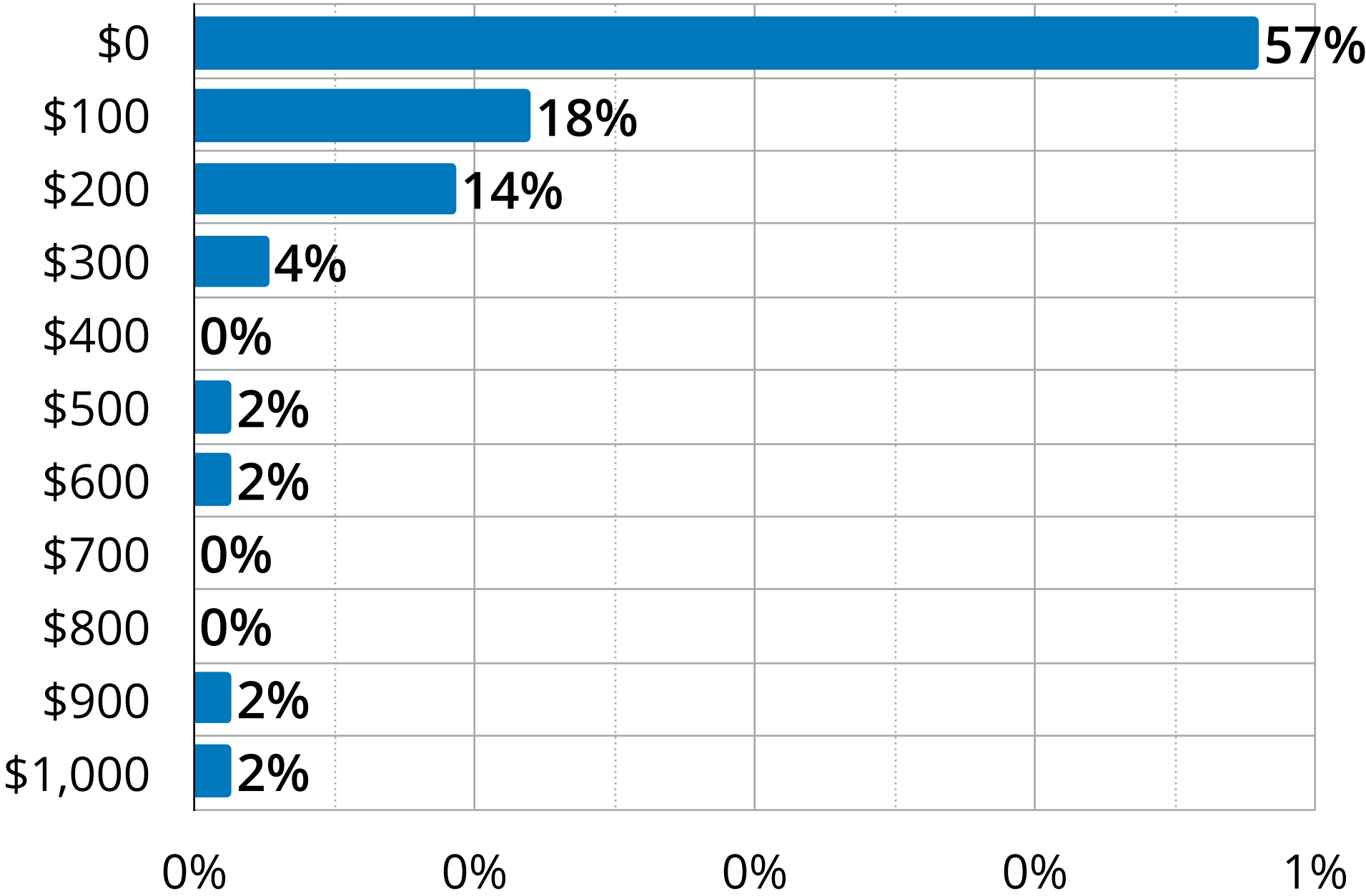


*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Voting Results

Water Conservation

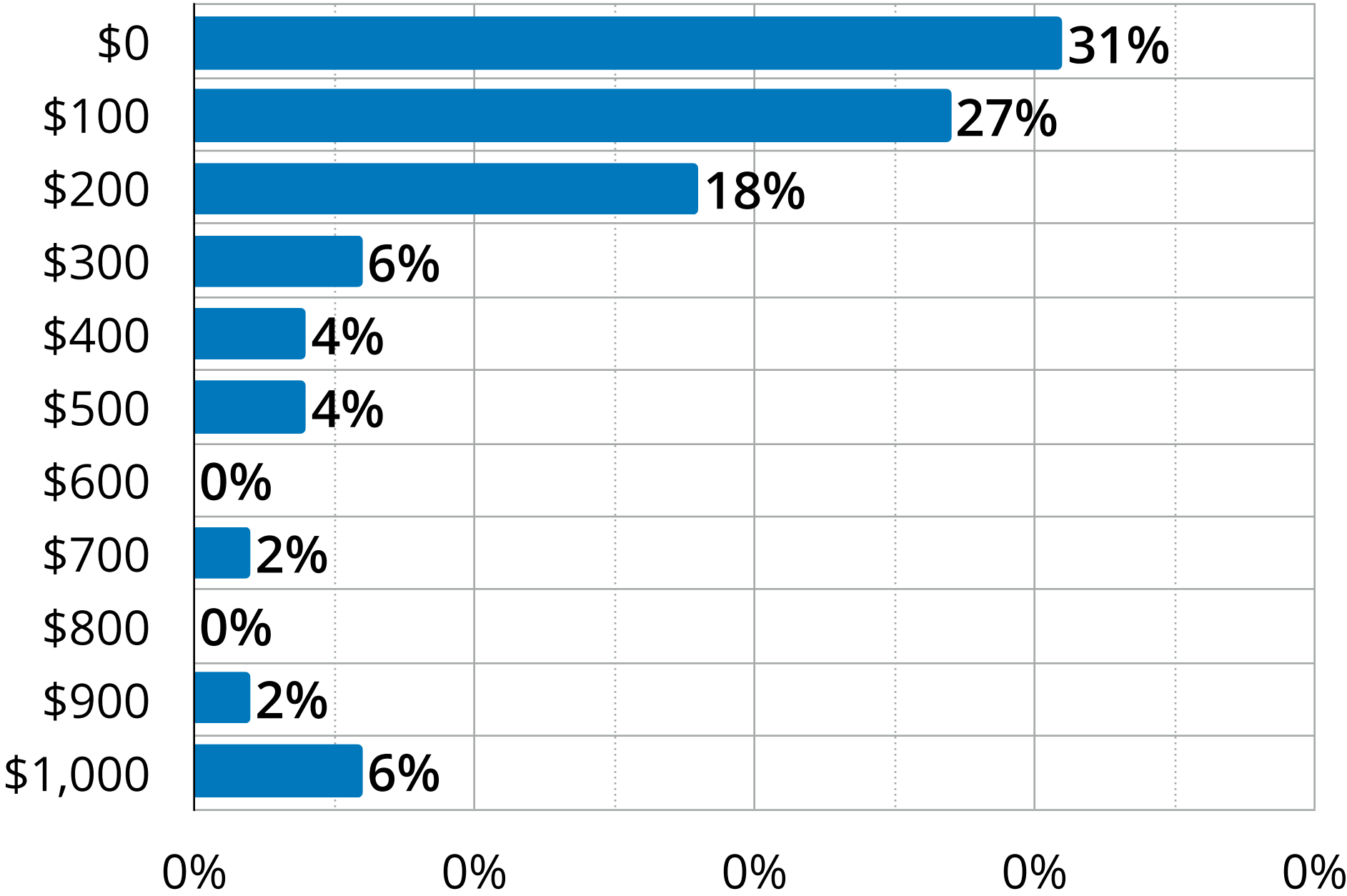
- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (29 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$116**



*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

Downtown Revitalization

- Total Number of Votes: **51**
- Highest Number of Votes: **\$0 (16 Votes)**
- Average Funding Amount: **\$206**



*Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$1,000 in additional funds with \$0-\$1,000 for each category. The funding level that received the most votes along with the average value of all votes is summarized.

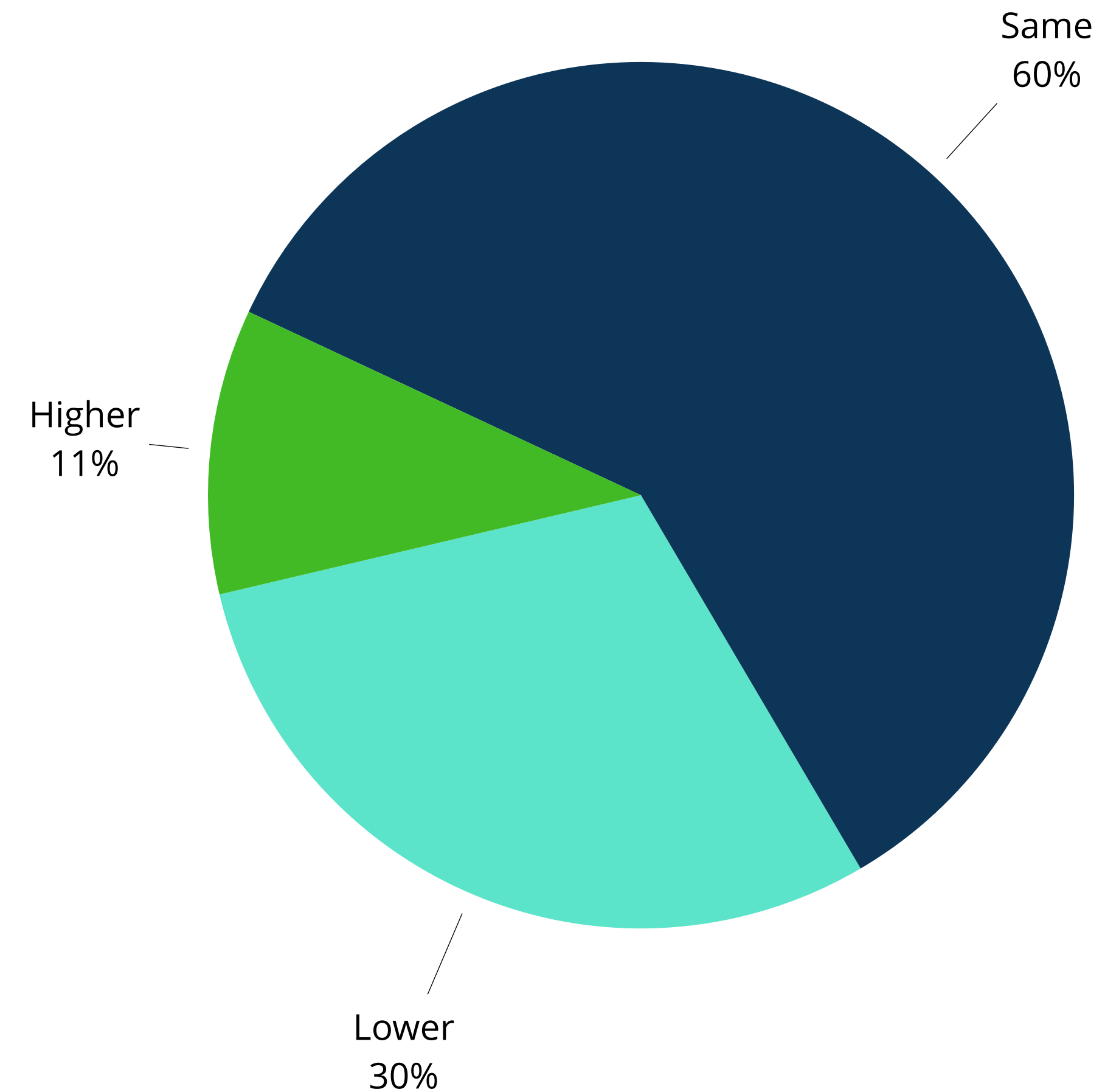
Survey Results



Voting Results

Bylaw and Inspection Services

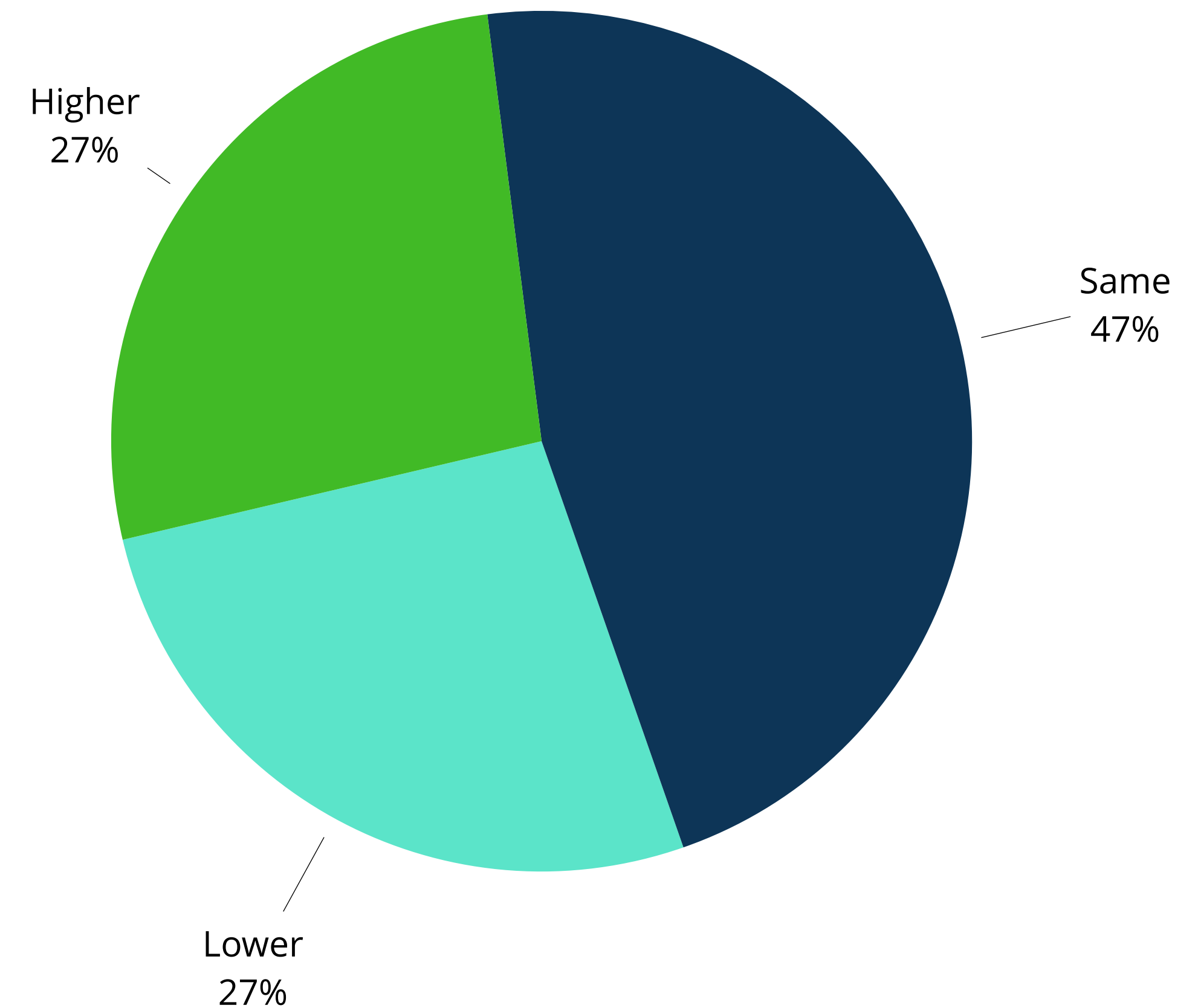
Importance: Same



*The Recommended option takes all votes into account, and identifies an option that is predicted to be both widely supported, and on-budget.

Economic Development

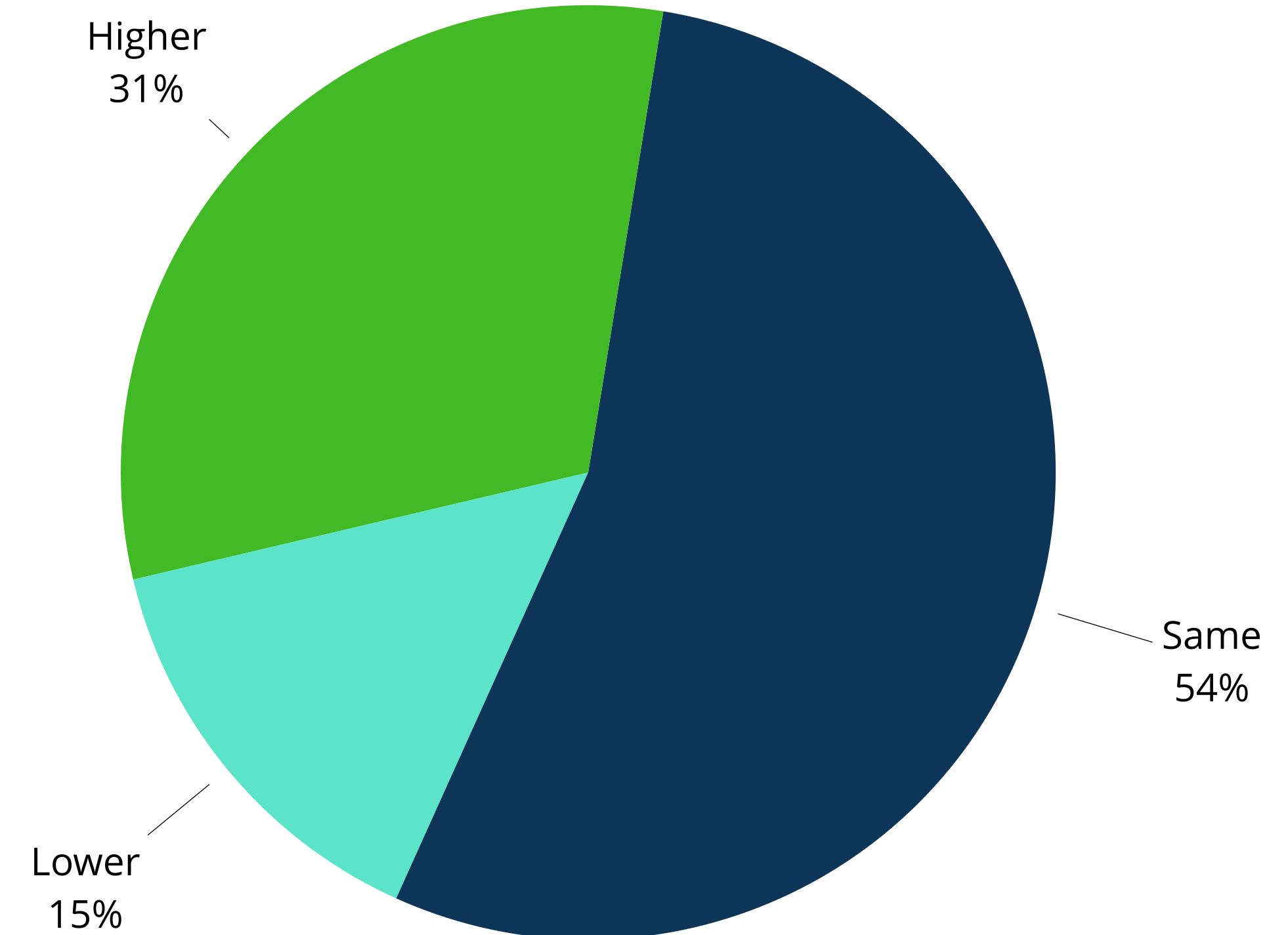
Importance: Same



Voting Results

Fire and Emergency Services

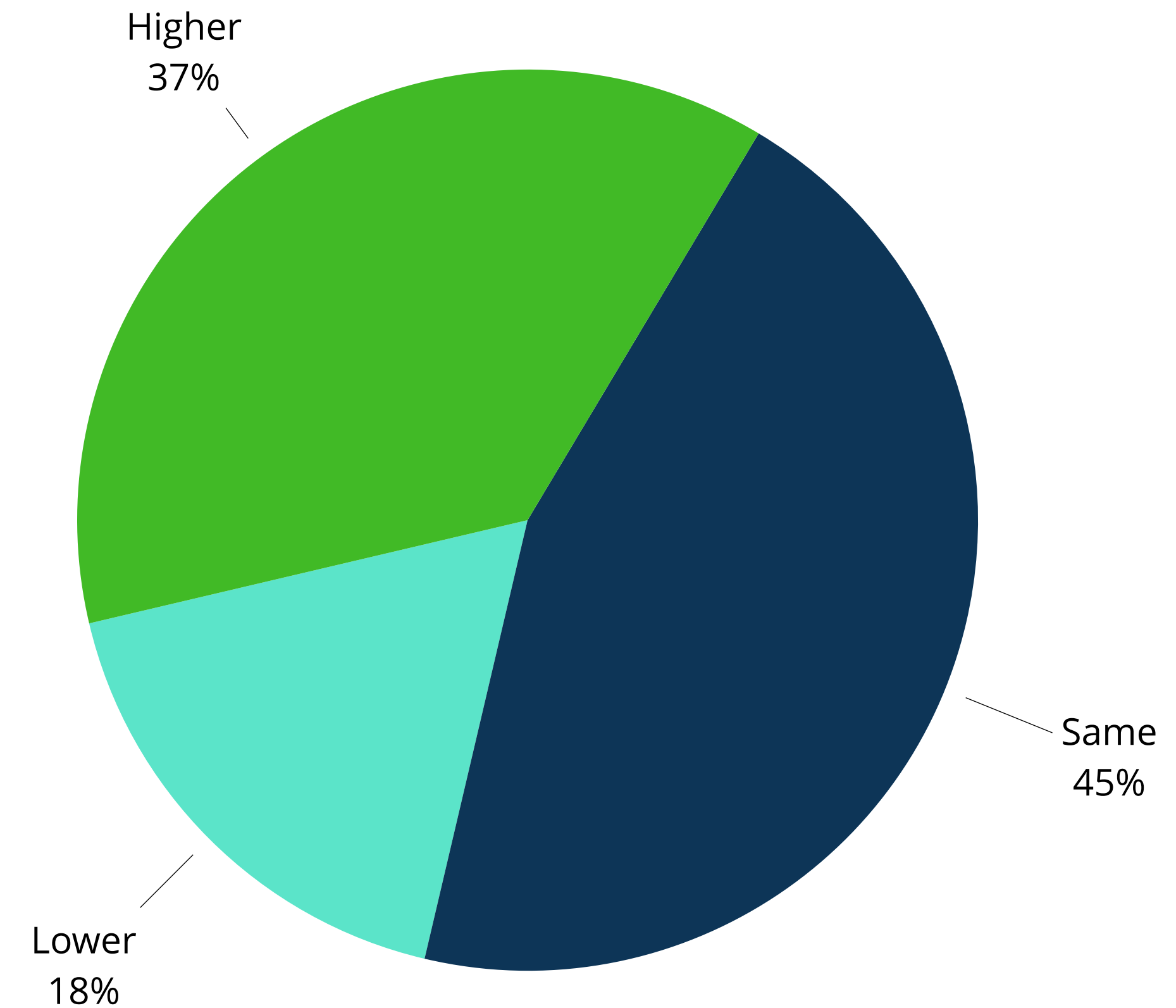
Importance: Same



*The Recommended option takes all votes into account, and identifies an option that is predicted to be both widely supported, and on-budget.

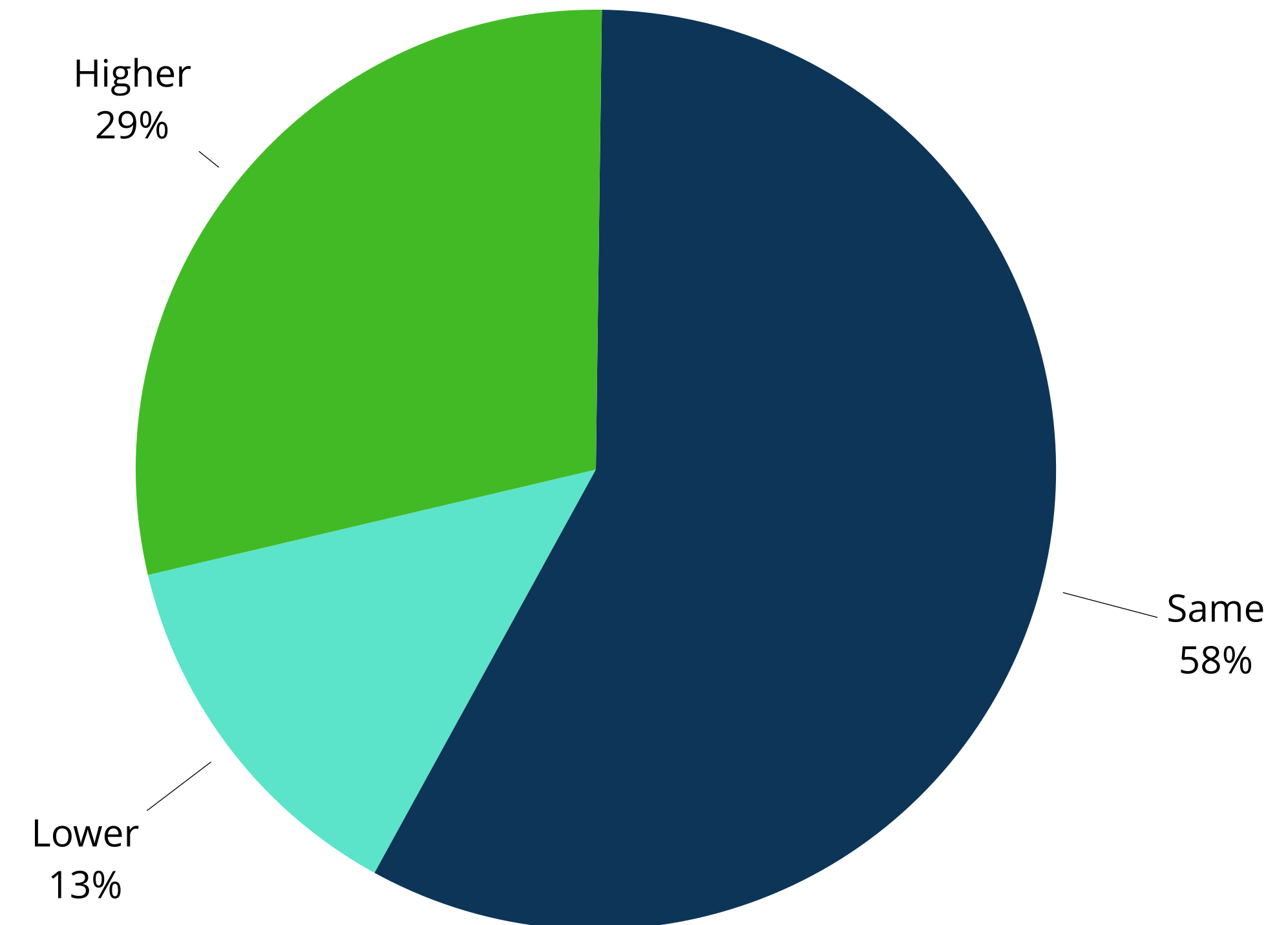
RCMP and Community Policing

Importance: Same



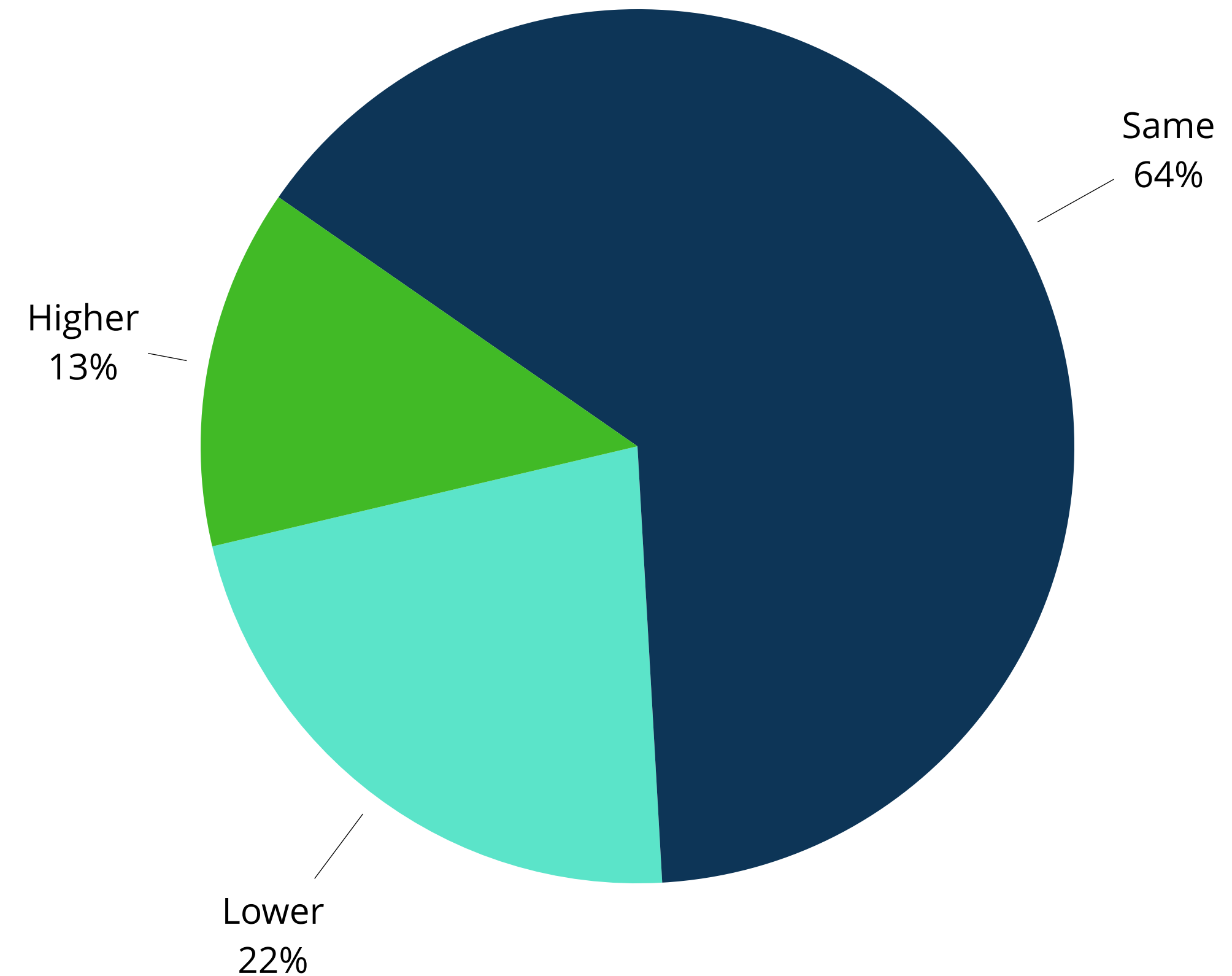
Recreation Programs and Facilities

Importance: Same



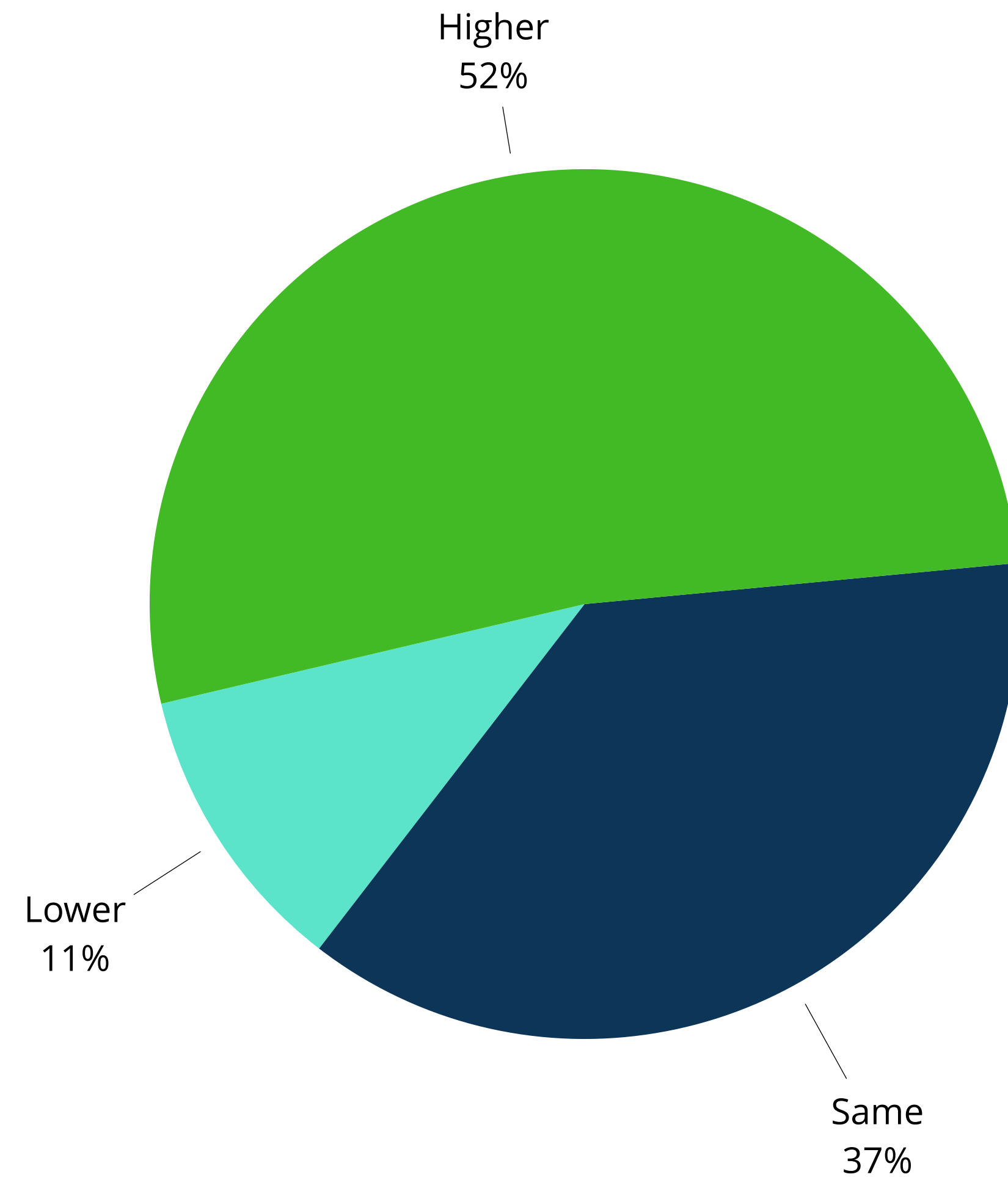
Planning and Development Services

Importance: Same



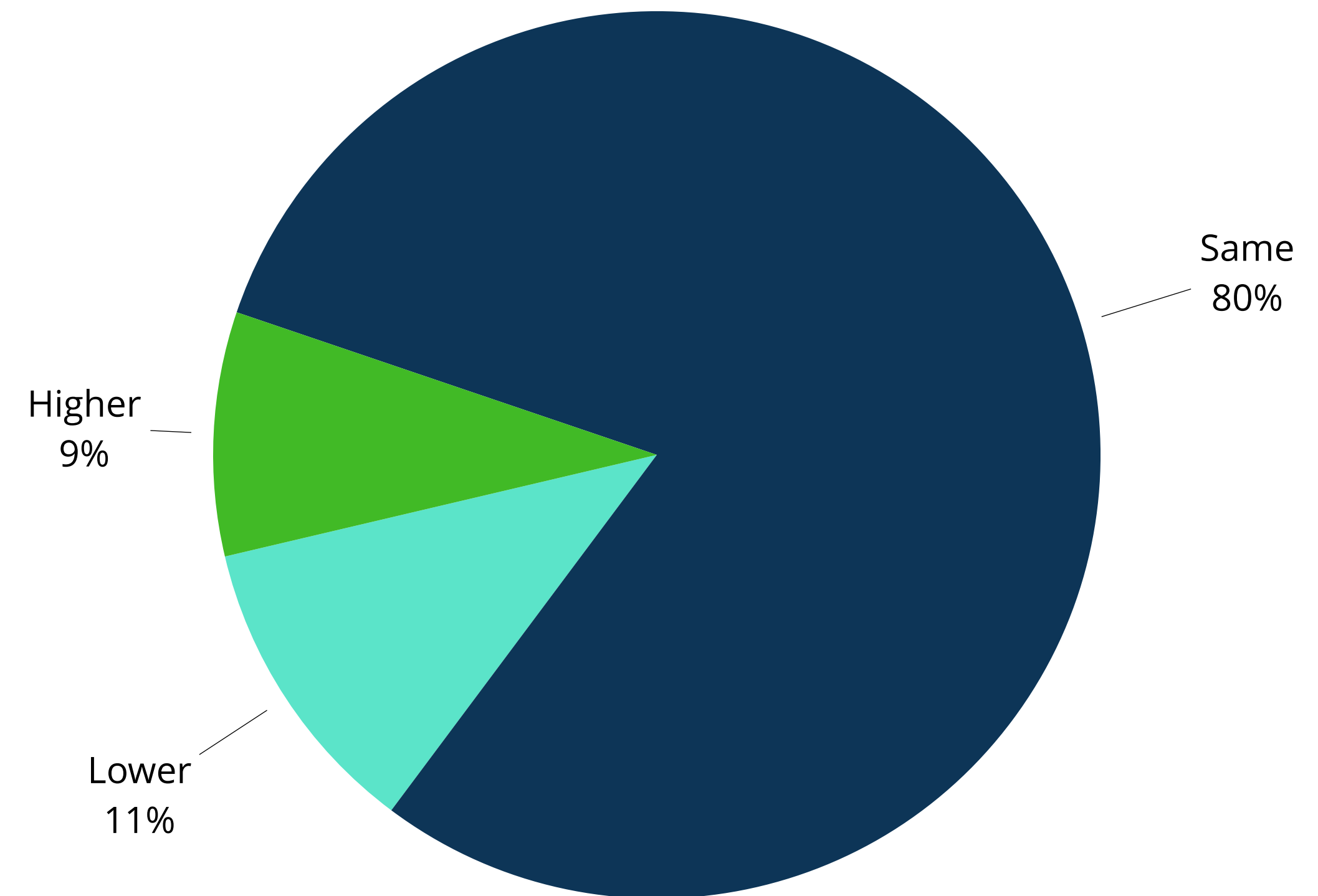
Public Works - Roads, Parks and Infrastructure

Importance: Higher



Transit Services

Importance: Same

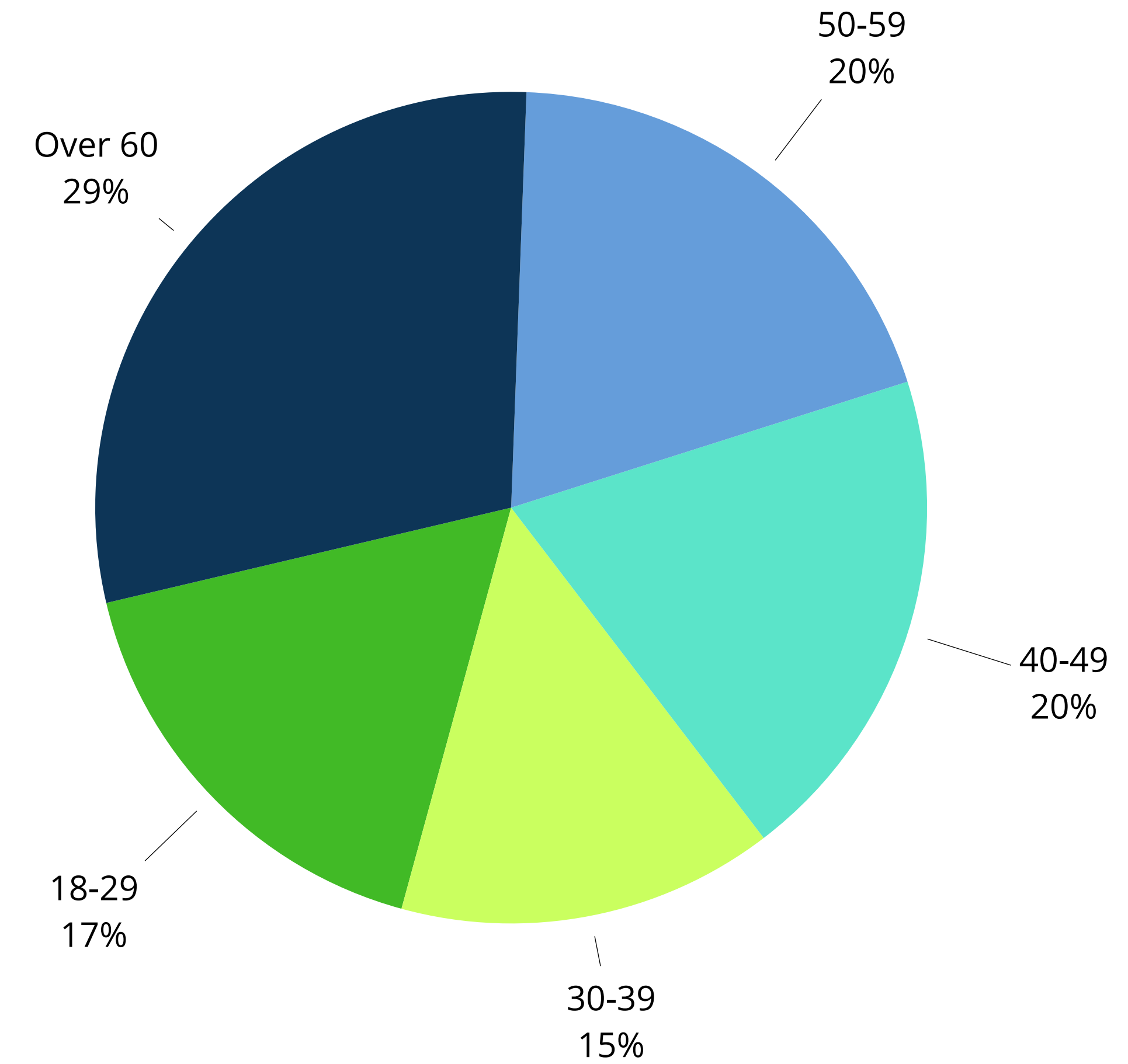




Demographic Information

Voting Results

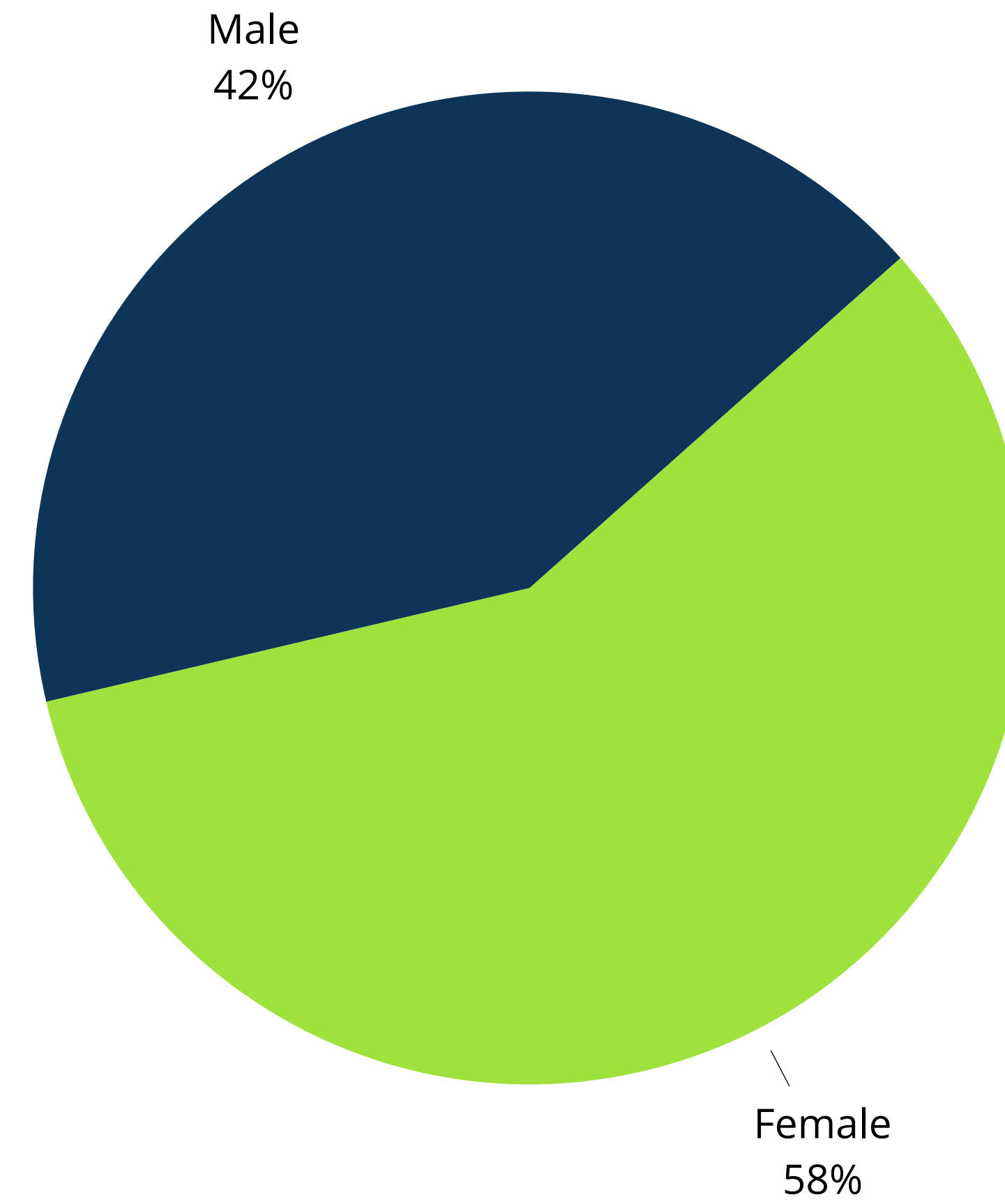
Age



* Not included: Under 18, <1%

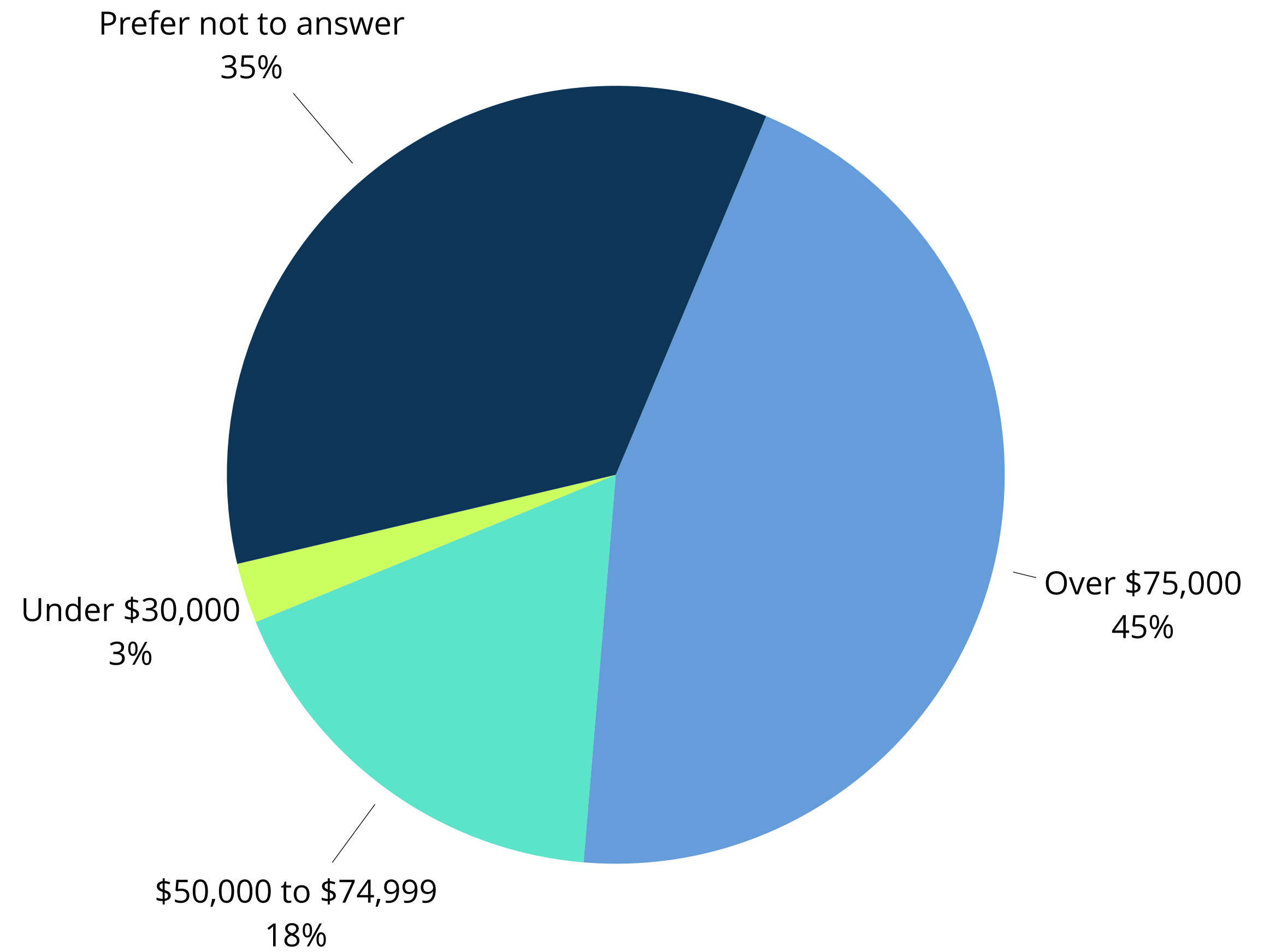
Voting Results

Gender



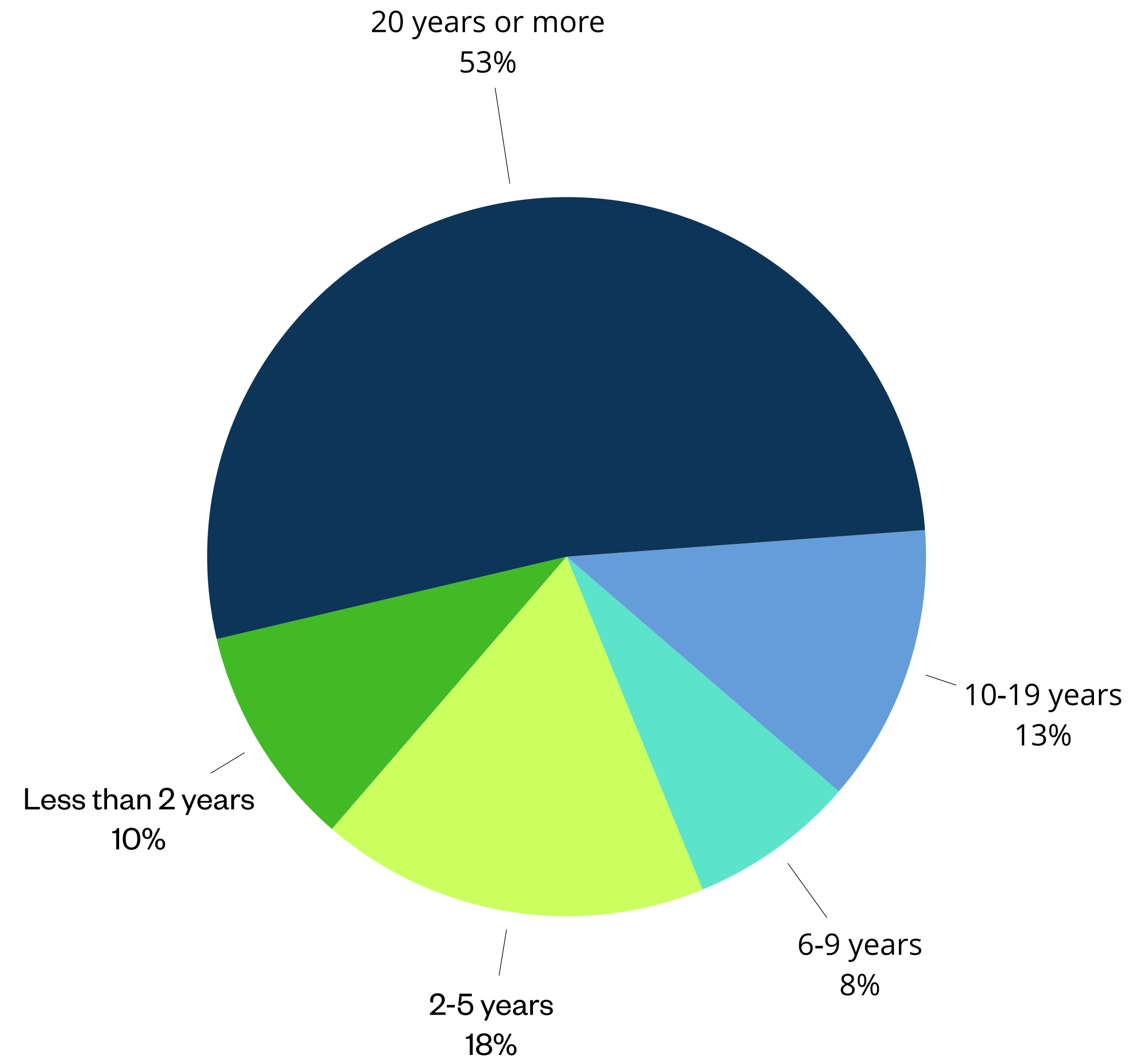
Voting Results

Income



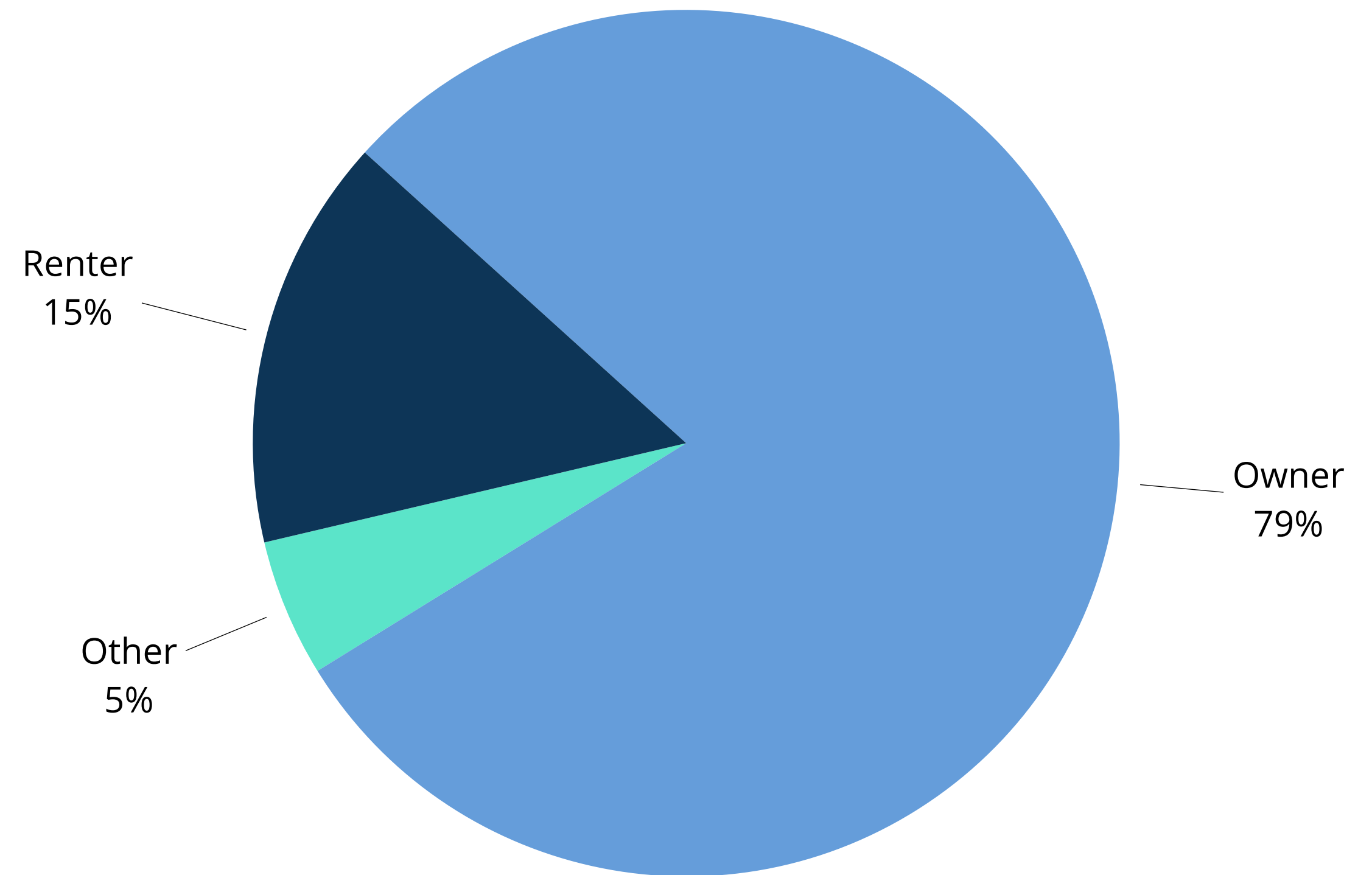
*not included: \$30,000 to \$49,999, <1%

Residency

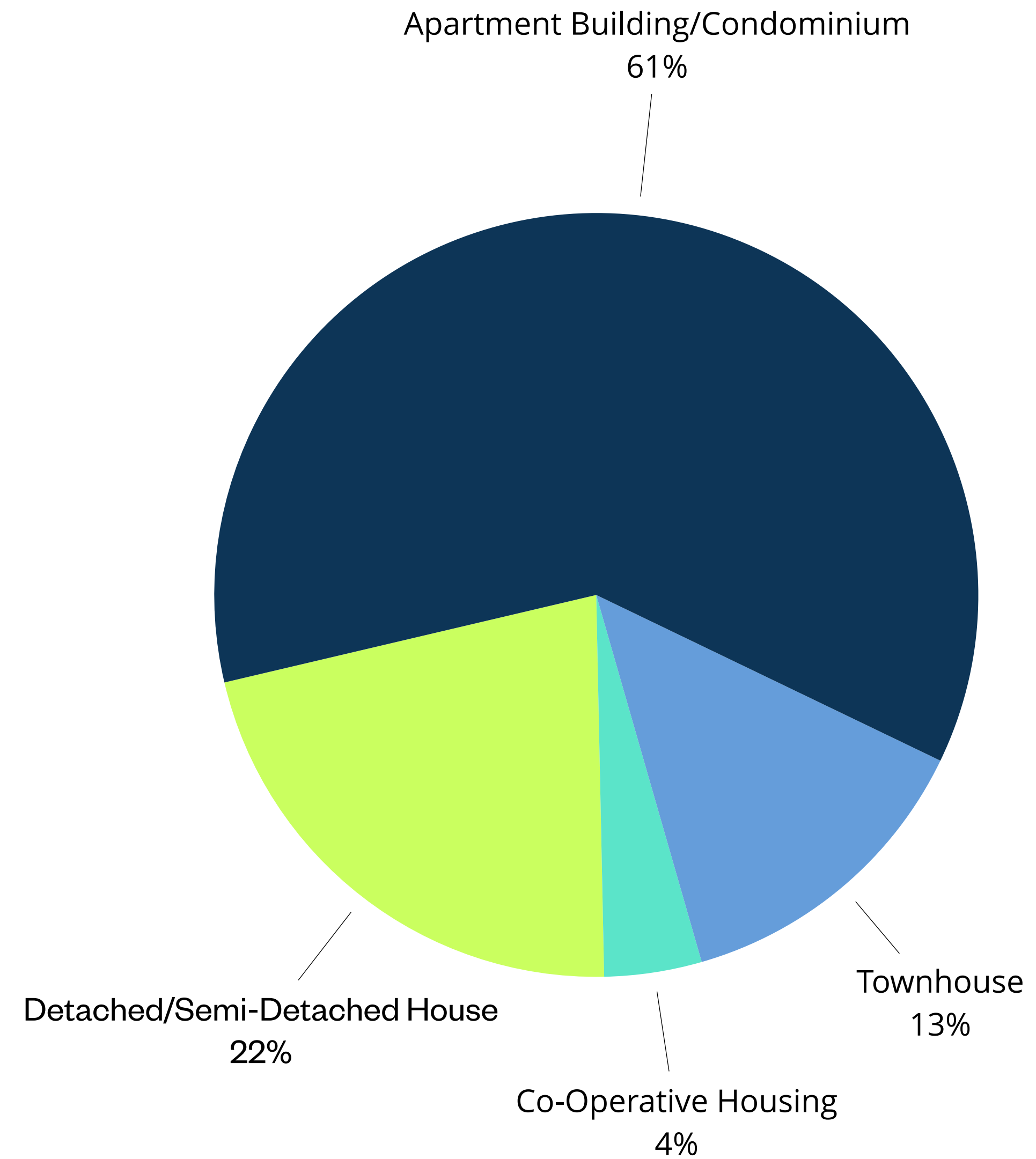


Voting Results

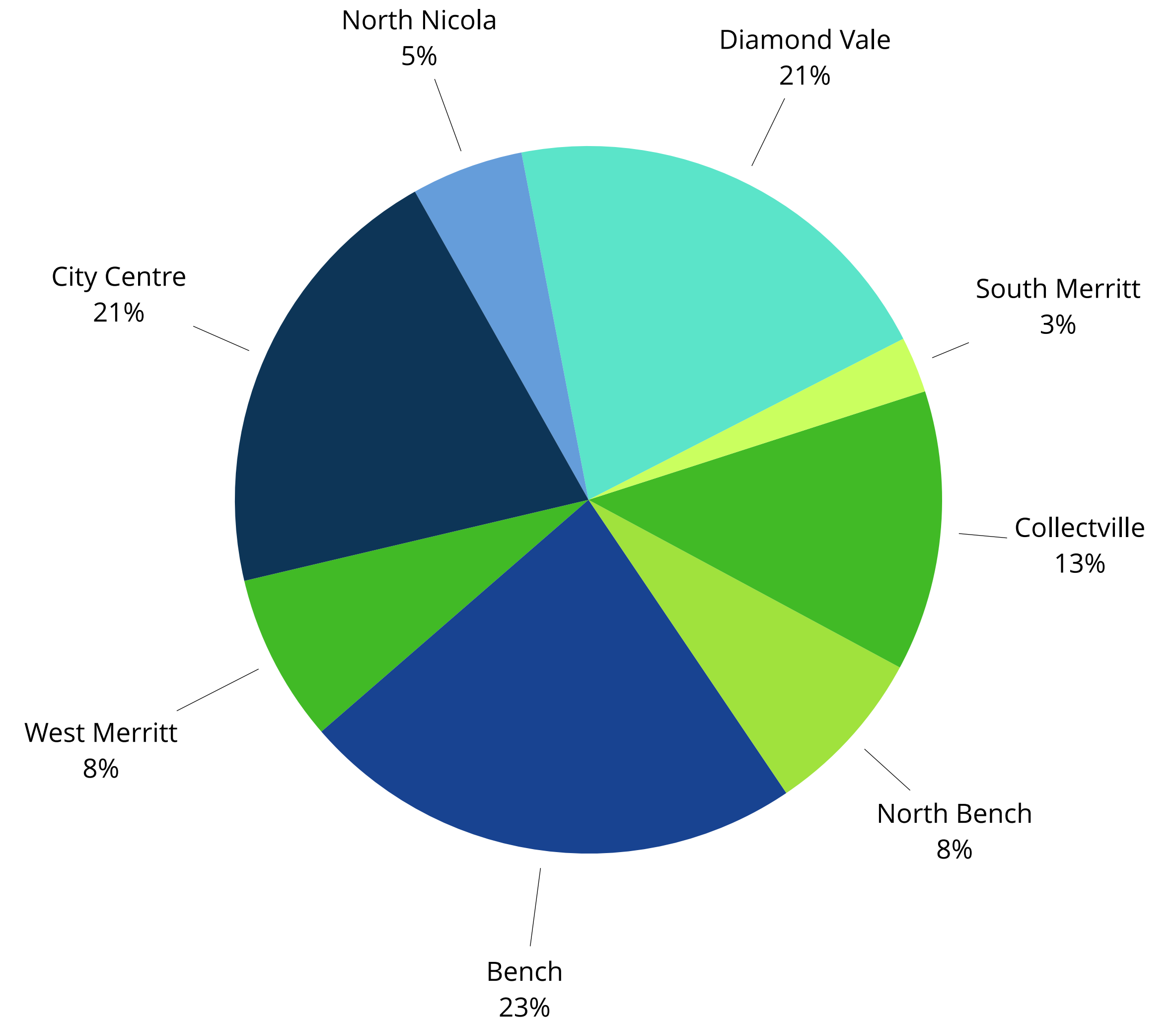
Status



Type of Residence



Which area do you live in?



ETHELO Merritt
FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN



Thank you!