Commission on Aging

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, June 26, 2026
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall
2:00 pm

Present: Chairman Ron Foligno, Mark Ryan, Linda Randall, Evelyn Wiesner, Kathleen Bordelon, Paul McGeary, Debra Gilbert Taylor

Absent: Eve Rothbard

Also Present: Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Officer and Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Mr. Foligno followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Past Minutes
Mr. McGeary motioned to approve the minutes of April 24, 2026; seconded by Ms. Wiesner. Approved with abstentions from Ms. Wiesner and Ms. Randall.

Mr. McGeary motioned to approve the minutes of May 29, 2026; seconded by Ms. Wiesner. Motion passed 3 (Foligno, Ryan, Randall)-0-4 (Wiesner, Bordelon, McGeary and Gilbert Taylor)

Mrs. Katske updated the following from the discussions at the May 29 meeting:

1. The Administration still recognizes the need for a new Senior Center. The $275,000 approved by the Town Council includes the funding for the telephone survey and other associated actions that may need to be taken in reference to the proposed Senior Center.
2. The Homestead Act is being reviewed by the Administration. Revaluation was discussed in regard to taxes, budget and mill rate. Appraisals are still being completed; new rates will be in the tax bills in 2027.

Reports

Senior Center Report

Ms. Jakab reported the following for Ms. Mogensen:

1. The garden at the Center is doing well with help from Senior Center and community members. Class on gardening is being held. All produce will be given to the Food Pantry for distribution.
2. September is Senior Center Month – theme is Birthdays. Special events are being planned.
3. Volunteer Lunch is scheduled for July 24. Invitations have been sent to the volunteers.
4. Two high school students have joined the seasonal staff. The purpose is to teach job and social skills. They will be helping in the Pantry and will return during school breaks and summers to help in the future.
5. A full time bus driver is being hired; passenger endorsement is required. GBT will provide some of the transportation until the new individual is on board. GBT also takes veterans to the VA Hospital through a grant.
6. Prom date is to be announced soon.
7. Trip policy has been changed to make it more accessible to members. A survey is being prepared to see what options should be considered.

Stern Village

Ms. Vega was unable to attend but submitted the following report:

1. At Stern Village**,** the current waitlist stands at 55 applicants**.** We have issued 20 additional full applications**,** with a return deadline of July 1, 2026**.** There are currently 12 vacancies**,** with 5 units ready for immediate occupancy**.**
2. At the Congregate**,** the waitlist is 29 applicants**,** and there are 2 units ready for housing.
3. Stern Village will continue to manage its waitlist accordingly and is anticipated to reopen the waitlist in January 2027 or sooner, if capacity allows**.** The Housing Authority will continue outreach and networking efforts and is planning to host an open house in early fall for individuals interested in viewing available units and learning more about the property. Additional details will be shared as the date approaches.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Foligno noted the following:

1. Construction on the new Veterans Building will begin next week with completion in January or February.

New Business

Discussion was held regarding the referendum strategy including survey results. Mrs. Katske noted the Town Council conducted a special meeting where the survey results were presented; Commissioners were encouraged to watch the meeting on TCTV/YouTube for full information, (Town Council minutes of June 17 and PowerPoint presentation are posted with these minutes). Additional meetings are expected to be held to discuss possible strategies. It was interesting to note the survey results indicated residents

now prefer a community center; this was the original concept but focus changed to just a senior center due to resident input at the time. Mrs. Jakab noted the Center is being utilized as a community center at this time.

Old Business

1. Update – Telephone Survey – previously discussed.
2. COACT Meeting Update – Mr. McGeary and Mr. Ryan updated the Commission on the previous meetings held. Mr. Ryan noted one particular discussion included Colchester and their process for approval of a new center. They hired a referendum strategist to assist them. Information has been forwarded to the First Selectman. Mr. McGeary noted other towns have a community center with a pool that attracts the younger families. The Center is currently being used by the Community Theater each night. Mrs. Jakab is speaking with Parks and Recreation regarding other program possibilities.
3. Update – Website Content – Ms. Bordelon and Ms. Taylor Gilbert discussed their progress noting the document is approximately 30 pages and is being edited to become a Senior Resource Guide. Once the content is fully approved, it will be placed on the Town website. Plan is to have a downloadable format so it can be printed.
4. Volunteer Program Evaluation – Mrs. Jakab noted her staff has been tasked to conduct a comprehensive review of all the senior tax programs. Mrs. Katske noted the volunteer program is an ordinance of the Town Council that can only be changed by the Council; would require public hearings. Findings will be presented to the Director of Finance and the Tax Assessor.

Mrs. Katske described the Fourth of July events planned in the Town and encouraged everyone to attend. Check the Town website for details.

Next Meeting

Friday, August 28, 2026.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Randall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 pm; seconded by Mrs. Gilbert Taylor and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Town of Trumbull

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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5000

MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the virtual special meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT:	Thomas Broderick	Carl Massaro	Nicole Satin
	Ashley Gaudiano	Christine El Eris	William Mecca
	Jason Marsh	Jennifer Winschel	John Foreman
	Joy Colon	Kelly Mallozzi	Mary Isaac
	Tony Scinto	Jerrod Ferrari	Matthew Dunn
	Michael Buswell	Richard Wolf	Brian Walsh
	Steven Spillane		
ABSENT:	Ann Sather	Anthony Dorsey	

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske, Economic & Community Development Director Rina Bakalar, Meghann Crawford of Siena Research Institute

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DISCUSSION:

- Presentation by Sienna Research Institute on the May 2026 Survey Results Regarding a Senior and/or Community Center

The Chair explained the purpose of the meeting is to present survey results from ReconMR/Siena Research Institute regarding public opinion on a potential senior/community center. The focus of the meeting is on the data from the survey, not project next steps. Public comment was encouraged but it must be related to the survey results and limited to two minutes per person.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were Two (2) people present to speak. (Public Comment Attached)

Presentation: Meghann Crawford from ReconMR/Siena Research Institute presented the survey results explaining the methodology and sample size. (Full Survey Presentation is attached)

- The survey was conducted between May 4 and May 8, with 654 adult residents participating. 400 participants were the goal, that number was surpassed.
- The survey aimed to understand public views on a new senior/community facility after the November 2025 referendum.
- Key findings include high engagement among residents, with 75% following local town issues closely.
- The referendum results were split, with slightly more residents opposed than supported, and political affiliation played a role in support levels.
- Crawford presented data on preferred facility types, with a majority favoring a community center used by people of all ages.
- Support for a new facility is higher among those who have visited the current senior center.
- Residents are split on spending $27 to $30 million for a new facility, with 42% opposed and 38% in favor.
- Core amenities like senior programming space, fitness areas, and youth space are strongly supported, while higher-cost features like an indoor pool are more divisive.
- The survey concluded with open-ended comments, revealing strong feelings about taxes and priorities. Over 50% of the participants left comments which unusually high. Comments were divided equally between those in favor of a community center and those opposed to a senior center.
- Data on preferred facility types was included, with a majority favoring a community center used by people of all ages.

Points of Discussion:
In response to the Council's questions Meghann Crawford explained the following:

Survey's Margin of Error

- The margin of error for 654 participants is +/- 4.5%, which means if this survey was done 100 times, 95 times out of 100 the results would be the same, plus or minus 4.5%. Siena does surveys like this often, for example they do a survey of New York State registered voters monthly. They speak to 800 people, the margin of error on that is about 3.5%, it's not necessary to talk to everyone in order to get a statistically valid result, as long as the way in which they were drawn was random.
- 45% are Opposed and in favor is 50% and then we would use 4.5% on either side of those numbers, and it was confirmed that brings those numbers very close and are not statistically significant enough. The spread would need to greater than 9, if not more than 10 points to draw a conclusion of statistical significance.

Perceptions & Messaging

- The top three were positive statements about the center, (a new facility would not only benefit seniors but the whole community, we need a new facility, and the town of Trumbull needs a safe place for youth to play indoors). The two in the middle are neutral statements, (the current senior center being outdated, and a new facility should have an indoor pool). The last three are more negative responses, (I don't want to bond a building and pay for it for 20 years, the town can't afford a new multi-million-dollar facility and construction

would negatively impact traffic). Overall, people agreed with the statements, both the positive and the negative ones. There was more support for those who were in favor of the referendum, their agreement was higher, and conversely, and those who were opposed were more in disagreement, particular in agreement of the negative statements as well. It followed that pattern. The Chair noted those statements were related to survey question 13 a, b, etc.

Open-ended Responses

- Generally open-ended responses are 30 to 40%, Trumbull's was over 50% at 56%.

Raw Data File & Comments from the Public Regarding Questionnaire Quality

- The survey was as fair and balanced as is possible, some people don't necessarily agree with phraseology of certain things and feel that maybe it should have been worded differently, or more information should have been provided. People like to give their feedback, and/or felt strongly enough that that that was necessary to be said.
- Question 7 didn't read as biased to Crawford. People can feel that something is important, and not feel that they want to also pay for it. If they can pay, they felt that, yes, it's important to have a facility in the town, however, if it's going to cost 27 to $30 million, they might not have agreed with it. That's public opinion, that's how people feel. People can feel what may sound and look like conflicting views.

Ranking of Issues Most opposed & If In-Favor Rankings of What Items Should Be Included

- The presentation details some of those, particularly among opponents, anything that had to do with costs, implications to taxes, and things like that did stand out. And there were others that were not as opposed to paying additional taxes. No one wants to pay additional taxes, so anything related to cost was a major driver for the opponents, whereas the supporters, they supported it. They want a new facility, whether it was a community center that was helpful versus just a senior center, and they liked the different aspects of it. One of the discussions was the addition of a public pool but that didn't really seem to be a major contributing factor. It was somewhat important but was not at the top.

Question 14 - Tax implications

- 40% across the board were not willing to pay additional taxes, that was consistent among all subgroups. Those with slightly higher incomes were a bit more willing to pay, but not significantly. The ones who were a bit more willing were Democrats.

- Among those opposed to the referendum, 67% did say that they would not be willing to pay any taxes. It was a smaller group among those opposed who did say that they would be willing to pay some taxes, but there were 2/3 who said they would not be willing to pay any. It's a plurality that say nothing, but there was a majority overall who said they would be willing to pay something, but among those who were opposed, it was a clear majority that said that they would not be willing to pay.

Question 8 – Are You In-favor of Or Opposed to Spending

- Among those who were in favor 78% are in favor of spending 27 to $30 million dollars for a new facility, and 5% of those people are opposed. Among those who were opposed to the referendum in 2025, 79% are opposed to spending 27 to $30 million for a new facility.
- Crawford crossed question 8 with support and the opposed. When looking at the support or opposed the referendum, the majority of the people who are opposed were to question 8 as well. The Chair further explained looking at question 13C, (Our town cannot afford a new multi-million-dollar facility?) one of the perceptions and messaging questions, you see similar trends when looking at that November 25 referendum in favor/opposed. You see people who are opposed strongly agreeing that we can't afford it, and those who are in favor are more evenly being split among all those things, but any of those money questions seem to track similarly.

People Who Started the Survey but Didn't Finish
(A question that came in from the public)

- The number was similar so other surveys that Siena has done. There were 834 people who passed through the screening questions, and those that dropped off was even among most of them. They saw the most drop off after the first question, we lost 29 people from the first substantive question, question 3 to question 4, and then it's single digits of people who were lost along the way. The next biggest drop was from question 9 to question 10, where there were 20 drop offs at that point.

The Chair noted she would send the open-ended questions to the council and requested the presentation be forwarded to her and it will be posted on the website and any additional comments or questions can be emailed to the council clerk.

The Chair concluded the meeting with a reminder of upcoming committee meeting(s) will be July 8th and the full council meeting on July 13th

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Mallozzi, seconded by Mecca the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 7:58 p.m. by unanimous consent

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Margaret D. Mastroni, clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were two (2) people present to speak:

1. Sherry Boyd. Of 16 Pinehurst Street feels strongly that it's time for common sense leadership here in Trumbull and giving residents what they want. There was a referendum in the fall. The referendum didn't pass, the majority of the town said no. She completely understands why the council members and other leaders in town may be interested in getting additional information about that but is not convinced this survey that only included 2% of the population was the way to go and believes soliciting input from residents via the first selectman's update feature would have generated more valuable information, and a higher percentage of the population than the survey. In addition, it's her understanding from friends who did fill out the survey, she was not contacted, that they were able to add comments at the very end of the survey, so in the interest of total transparency, and because this is a town-funded survey, believes those comments should be made available to the public for review.

2. Nate Gross of 4 Canterbury Lane noted the survey has shown some promising results in terms of having a senior and community center, but it seems like there is concern about the cost, and where it's going to go and thinks that is something that hopefully the town could come together and decide on at some point in the future. Our town needs a new senior community center, because the current senior center is not viable anymore. It's not a situation that can go on for much longer and thinks it's an even bigger waste of money to pour more money into the current center than it is to build a new one.





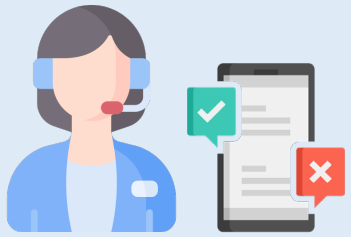
ReconMR Reconnaissance Market Research | SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Community Survey

Trumbull, CT

June 17, 2026

Methodology



SRI conducted a public opinion survey of residents of the Town of Trumbull from May 4th – 8th, 2026.



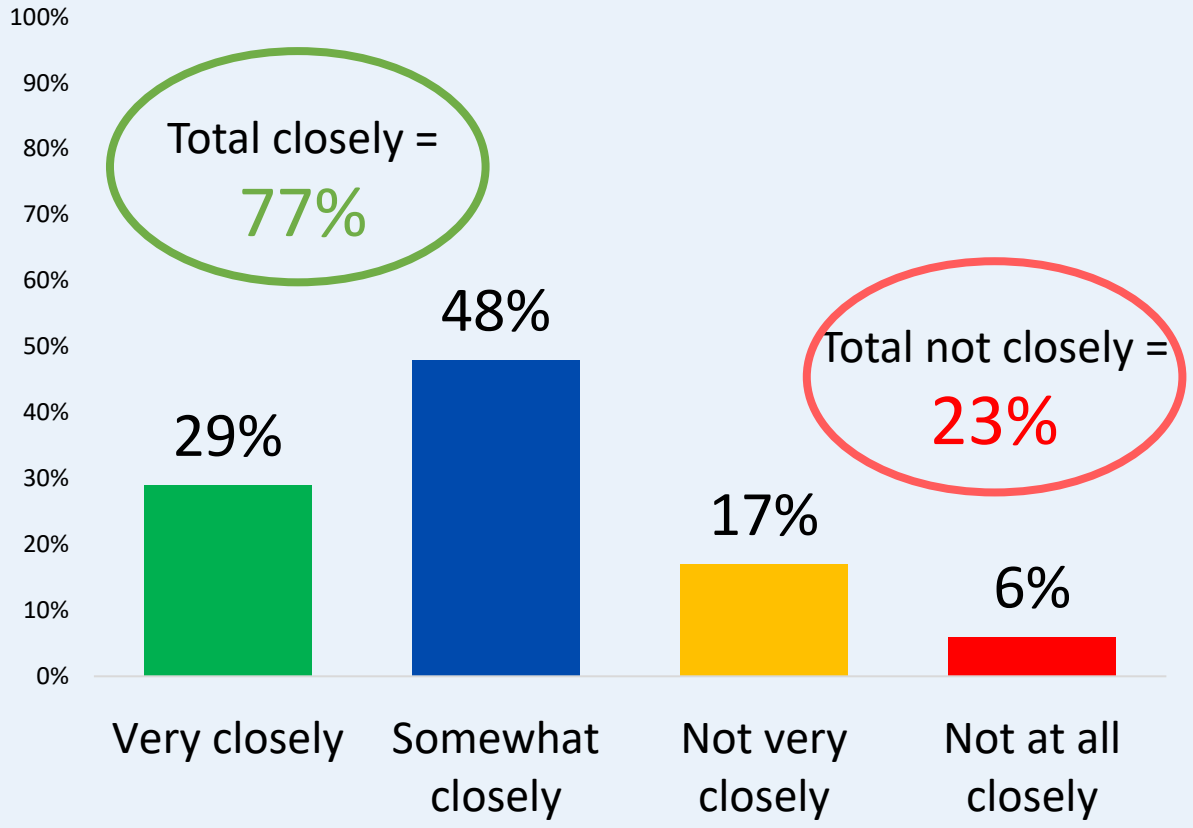
There were a total of 654 Trumbull, CT residents interviewed. The margin of error for the total sample of 654 is +/- 4.5% including the design effects resulting from weighting with a 95% confidence interval.



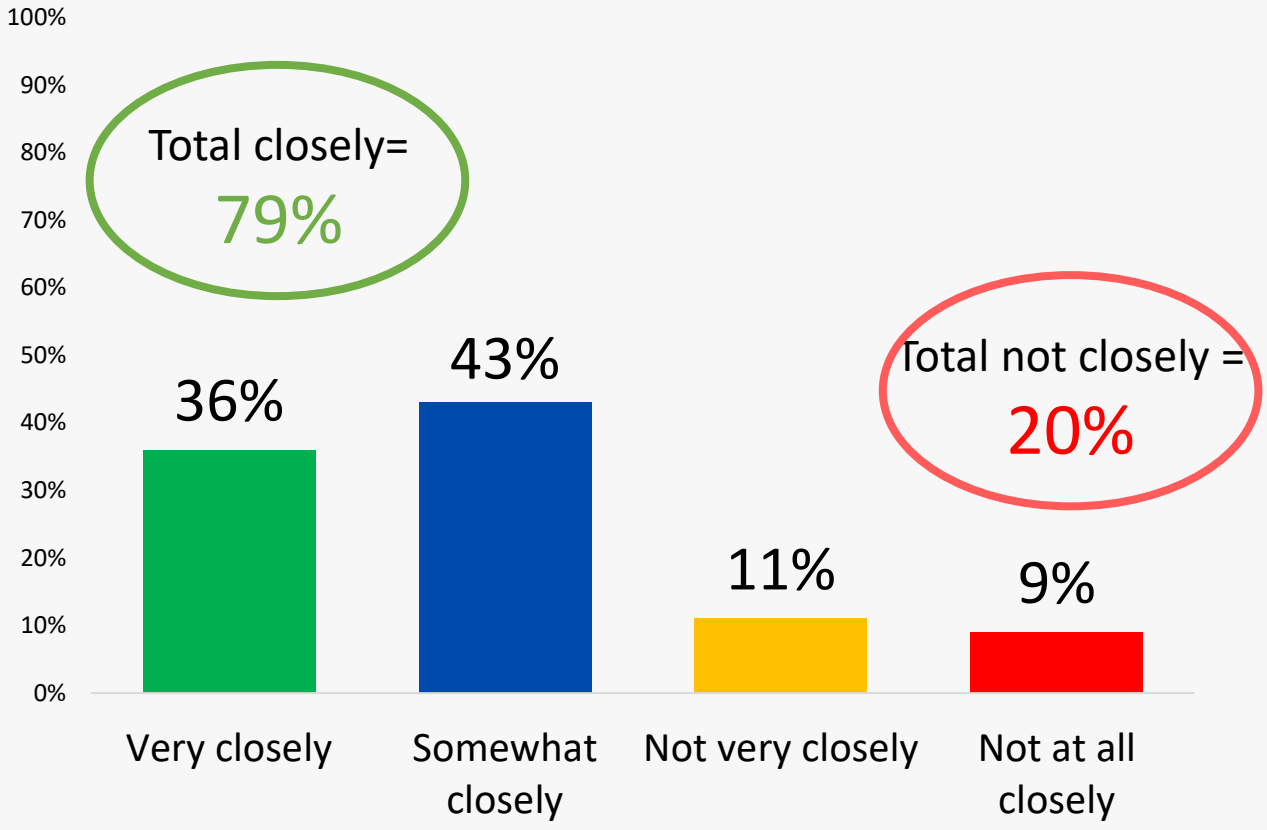
585 respondents completed the survey on a cell phone (338 completed it via text-to-web), and 69 completed it on a landline.

Awareness & Engagement

How closely would you say you follow local, town issues…

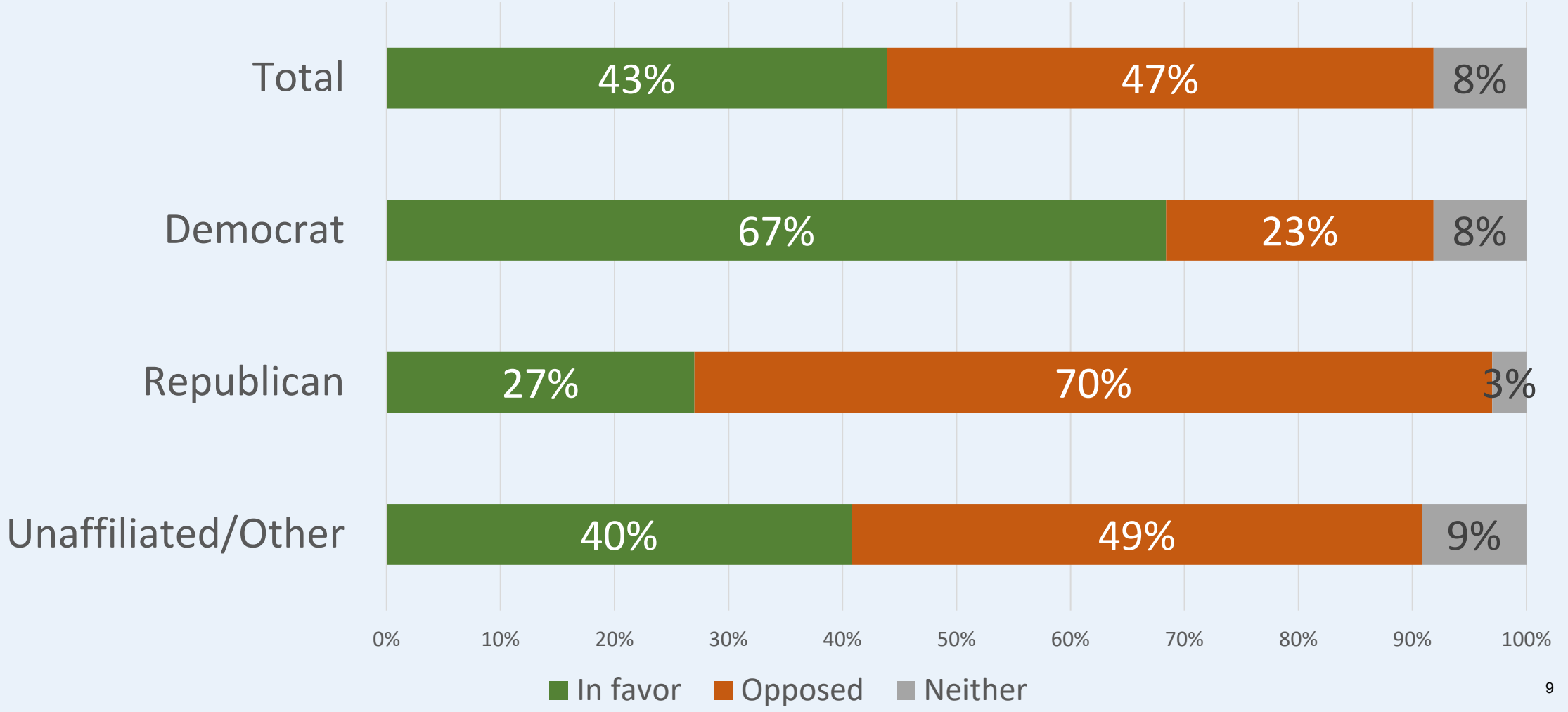


Over the past several years, there has been public discussion about the possible construction of a new Senior and Community Center in Trumbull. How closely have you followed these discussions?



November 2025 Referendum

Were you in favor or opposed to the 2025 referendum to build a new Senior and Community Center?



Preference of Use

Which of the following would you prefer: A new Senior Center OR A new Community Center

In favor of referendum

67%
Community Center

30%
Senior Center

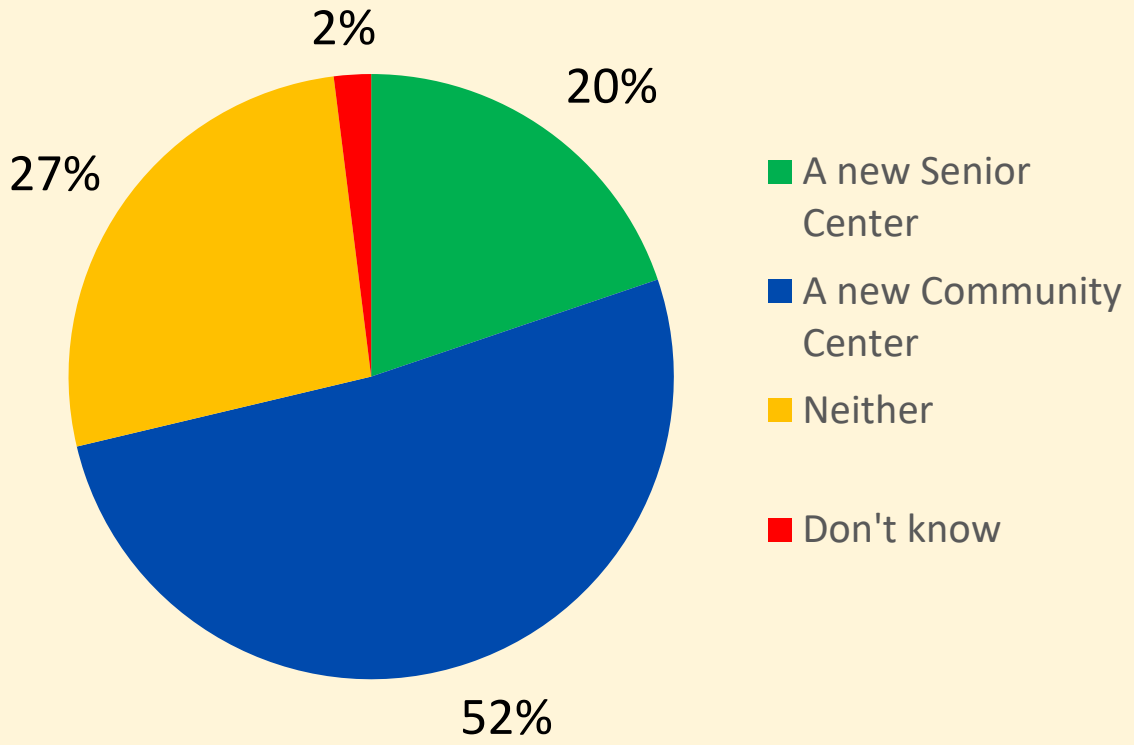
Opposed to referendum

36%
Community Center

8%
Senior Center

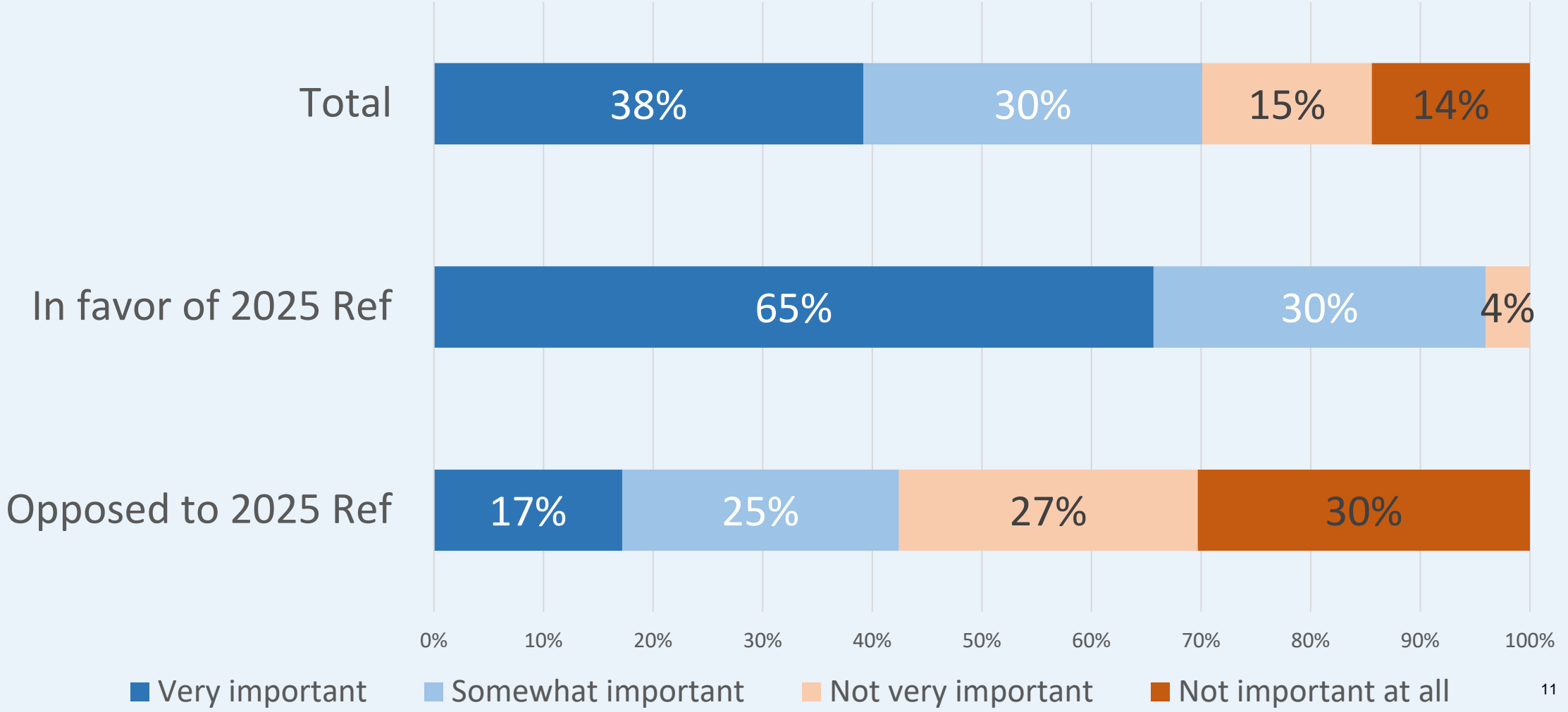
54%
Neither

All Residents



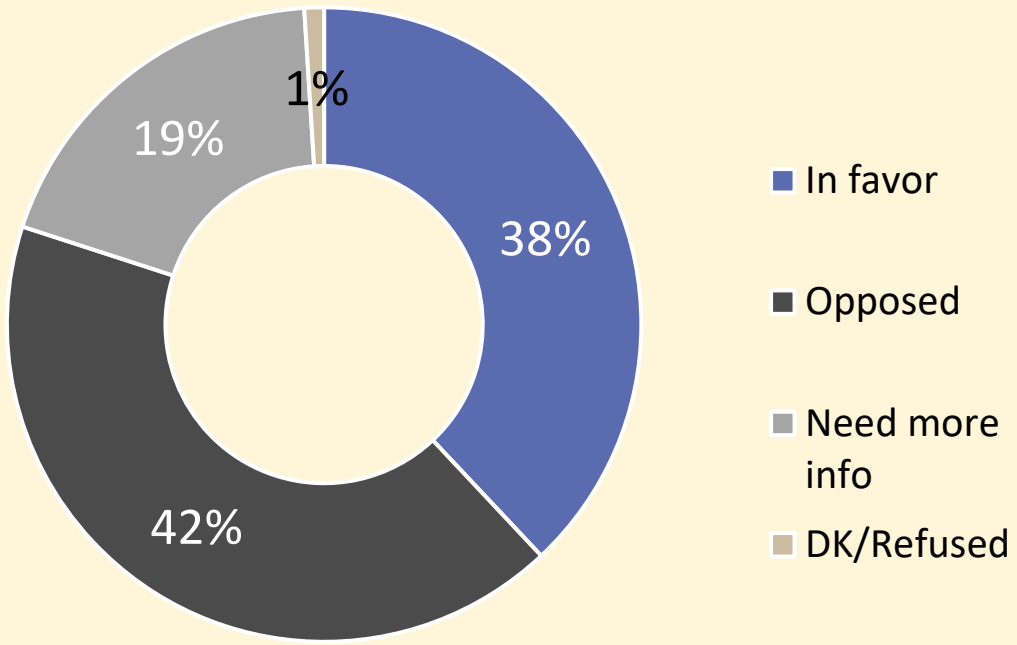
Importance of New Facility

How important is it to you to have a new facility that meets the needs of the residents and the Town?

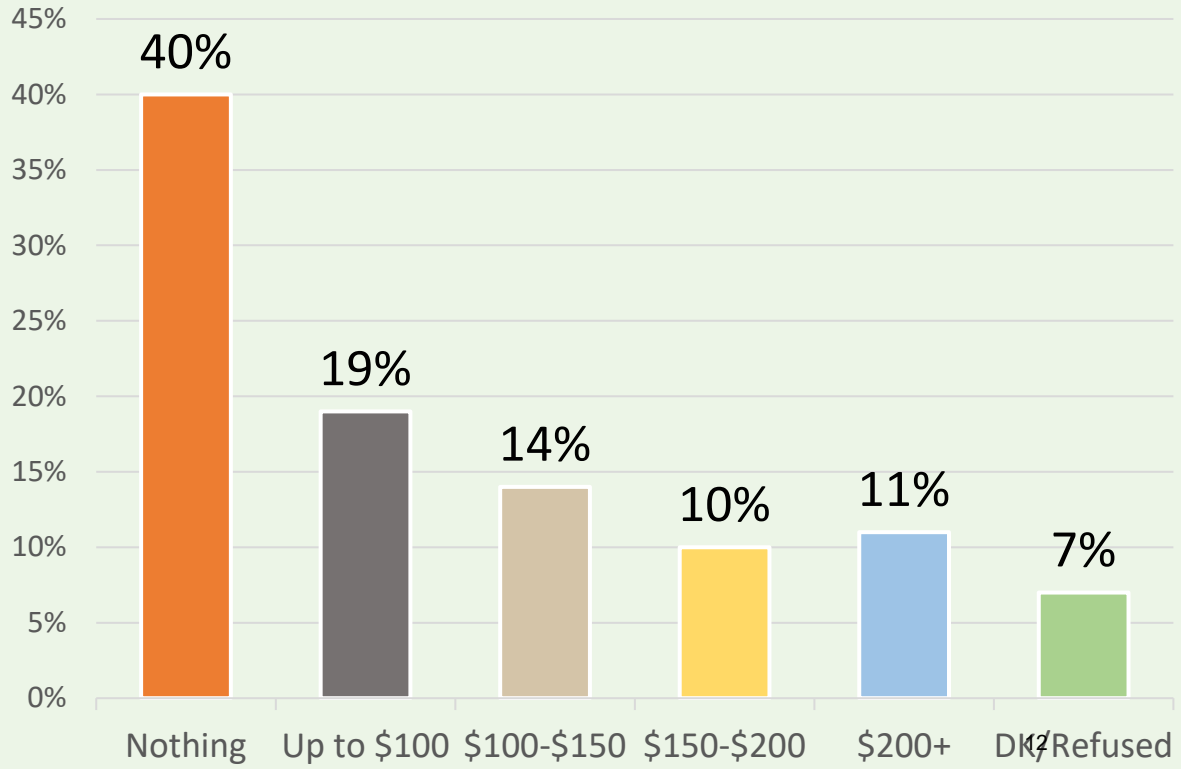


Funding & Taxes

In general, are you in favor or opposed to spending $27 to $30 million dollars for a new facility?

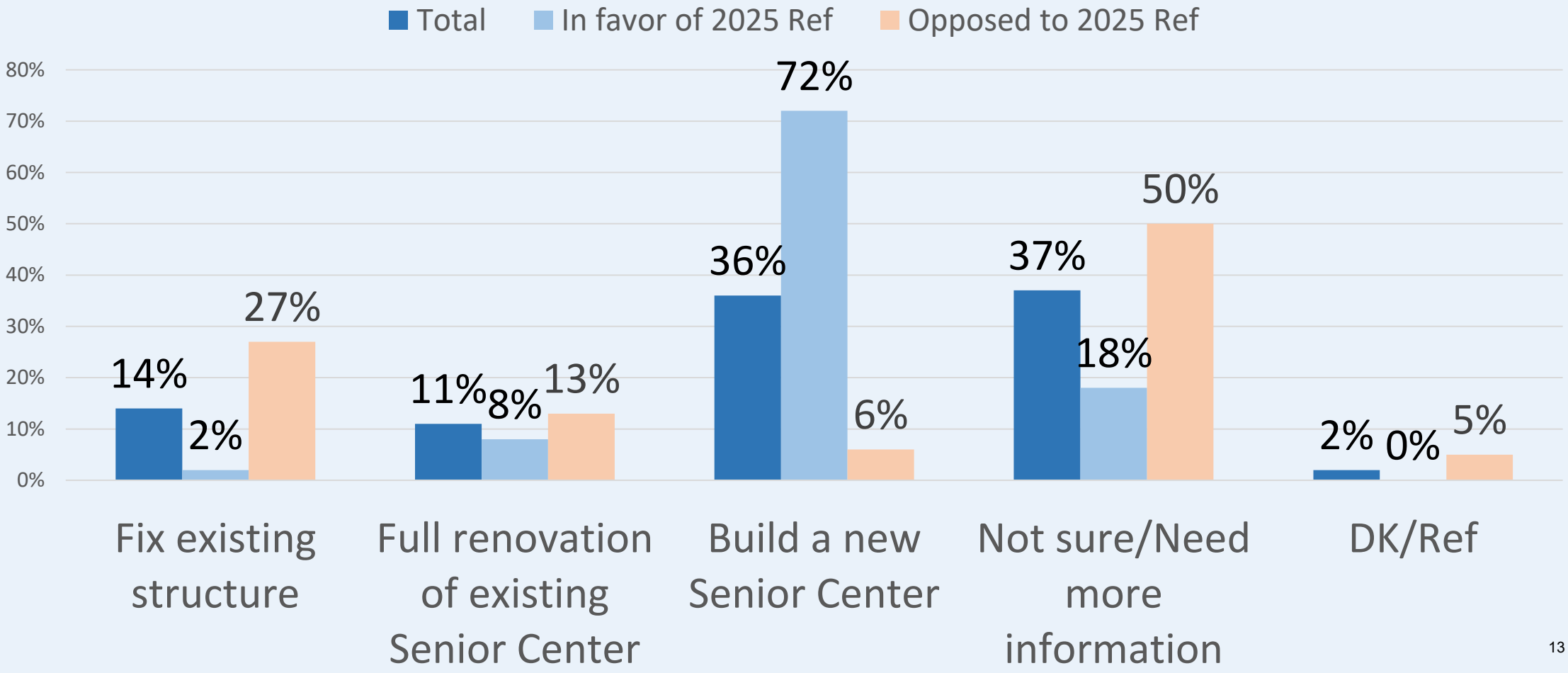


How much would you be willing to pay in additional property taxes per year to fund a new facility?



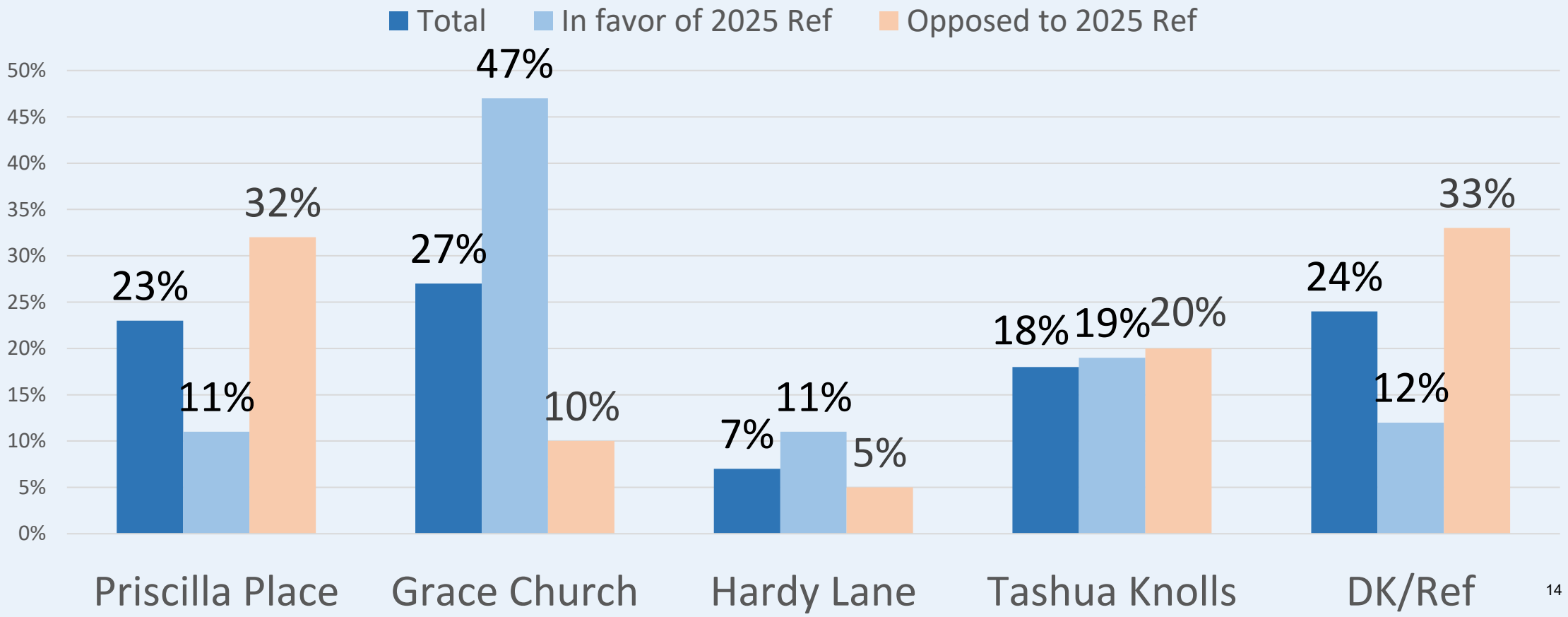
Renovate vs. Build New

Town officials say that the current Senior Center, which is 100-years old, is nearing the end of its useful life and would need repairs and updates to its systems. Which of the following three options do you prefer:

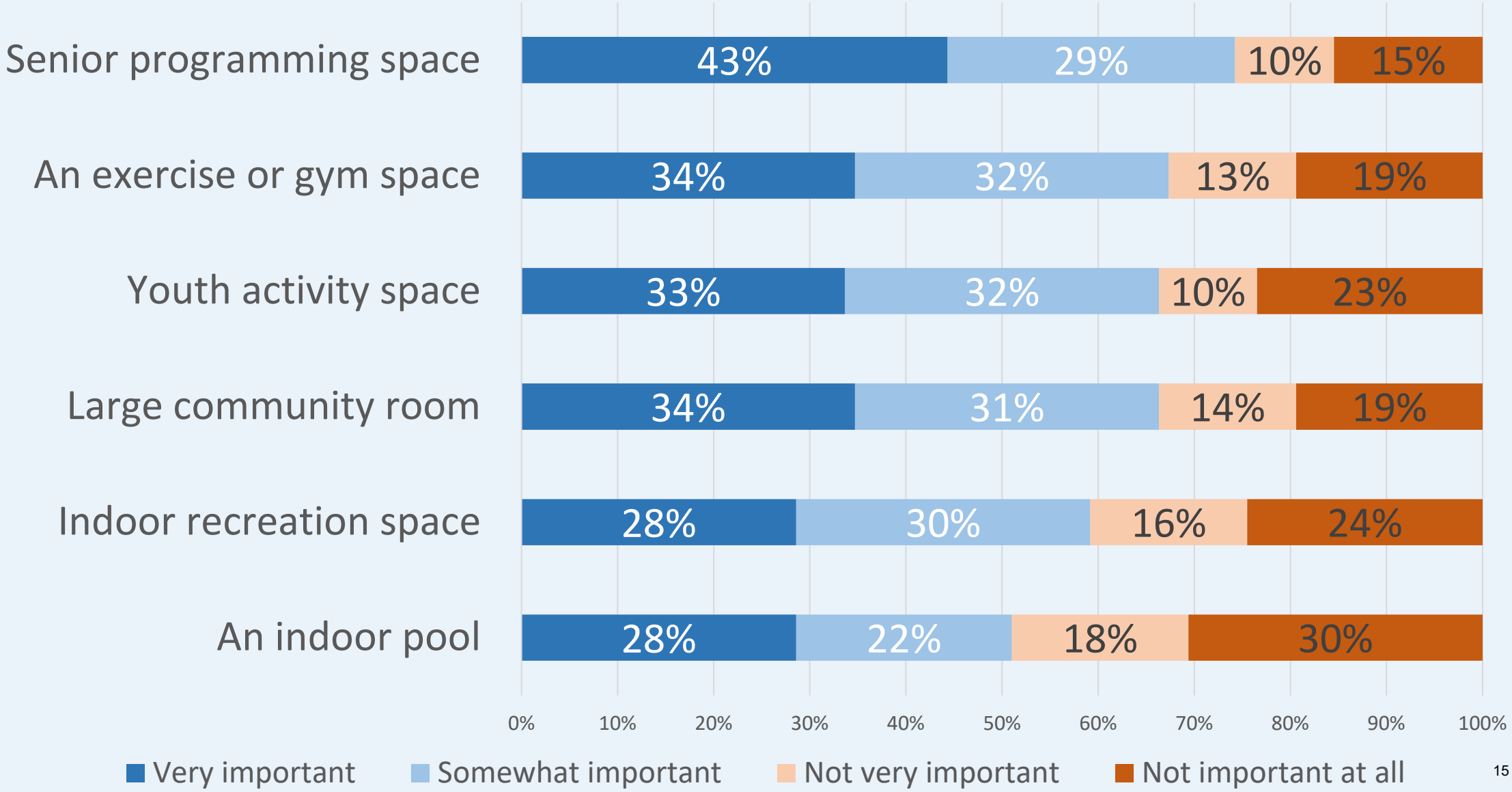


Location Preference

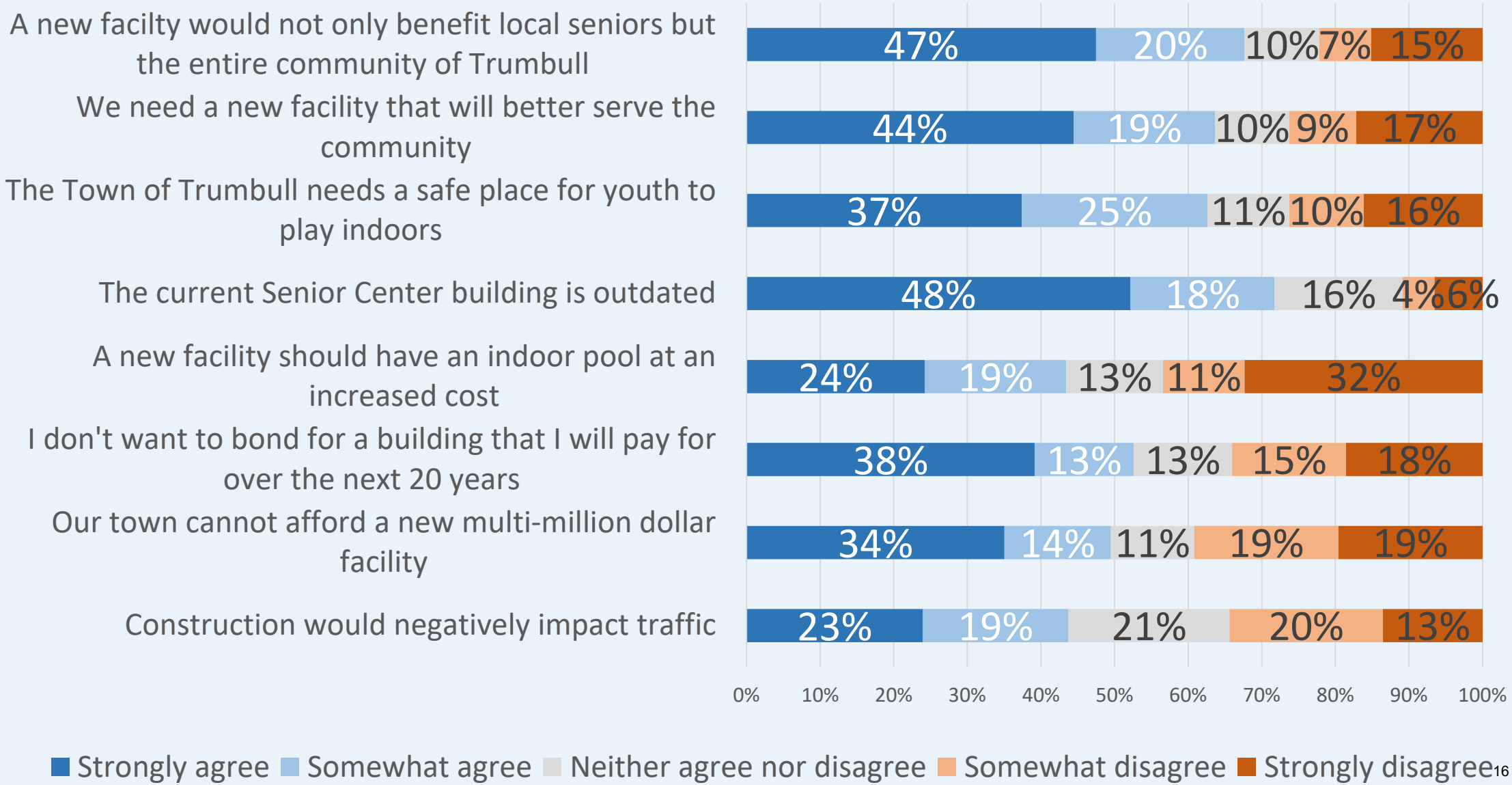
I'm going to read you a list of possible locations for a new Senior Center. Please keep in mind that each location may affect the overall cost of the project, and all options would require further study and review before any final decisions are made. With that in mind, which of the following would you prefer:



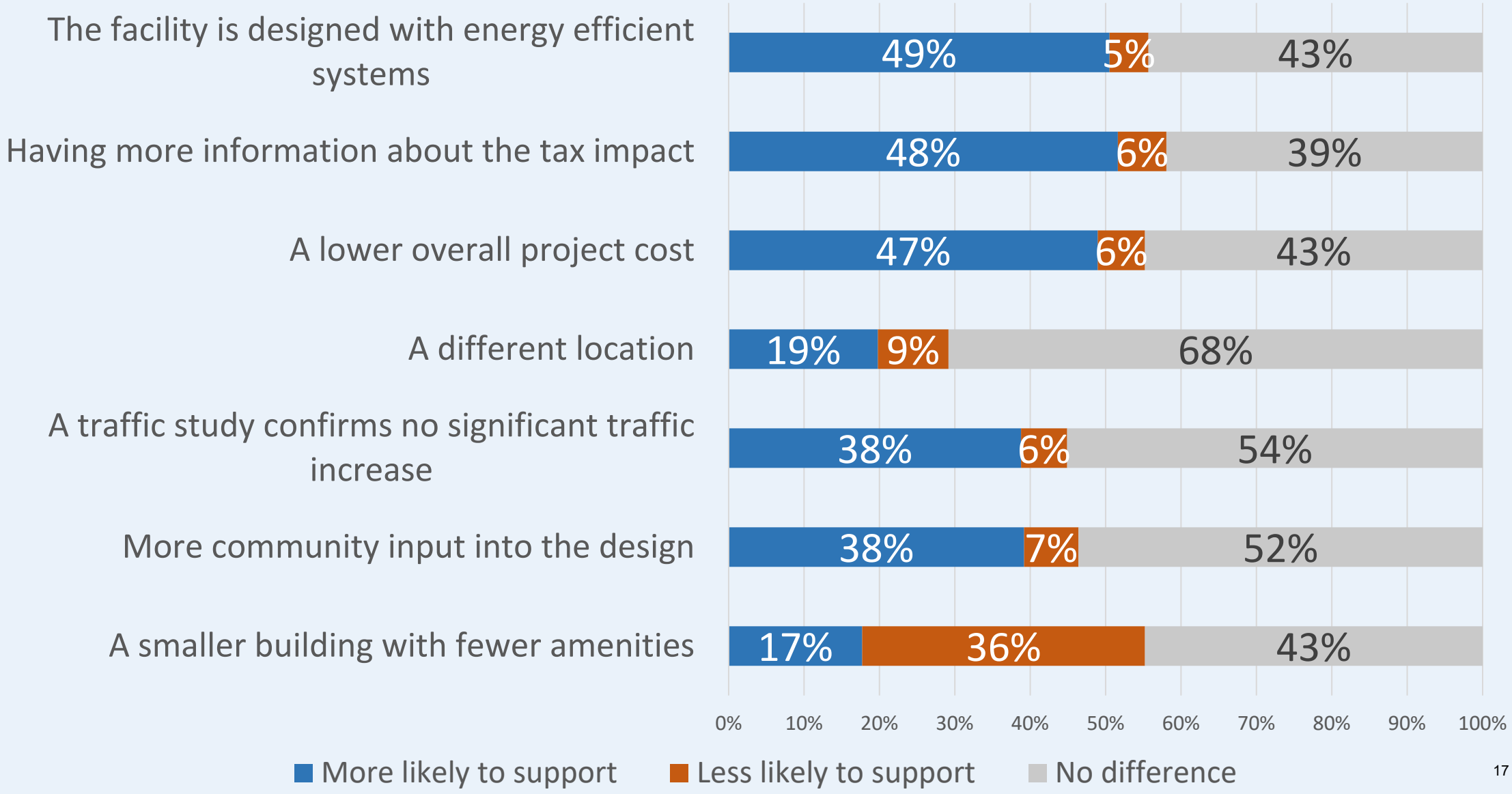
Importance of Amenities



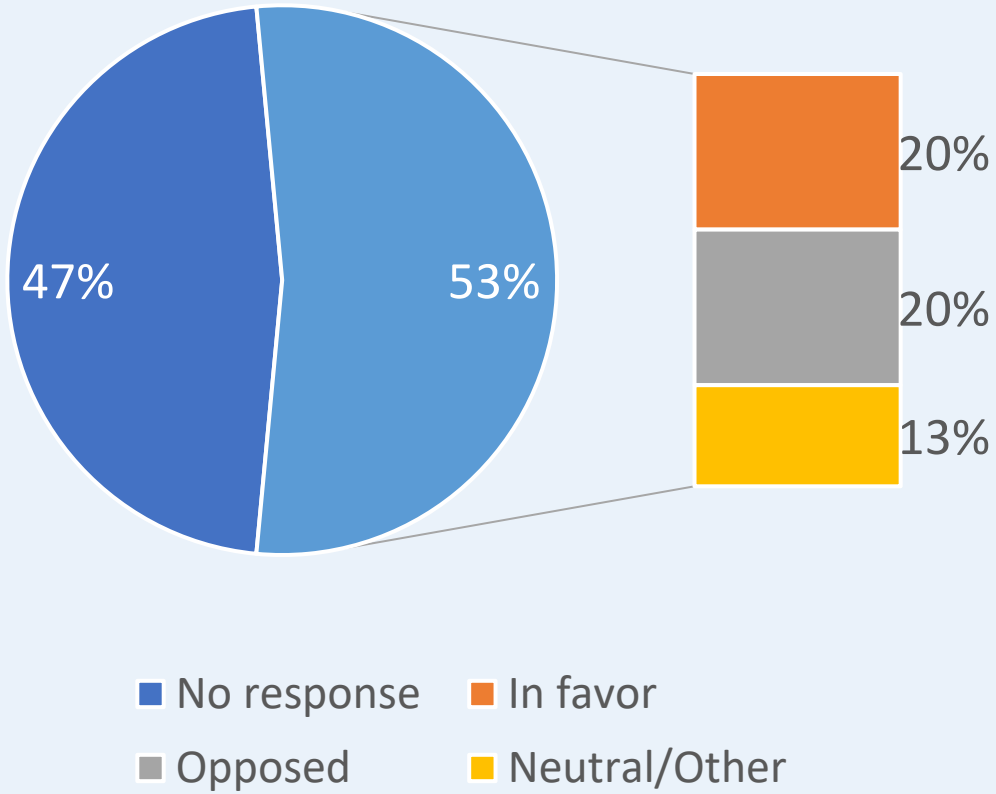
Perceptions & Messaging



Drivers of Future Support



Additional Thoughts from Residents



"How much money did you waste on this survey? The community said no. Listen to the voters. Put your egos aside and listen to the voters. We said no. Stop needlessly wasting our money on this and give it to the schools."

"I strongly support a new senior center. I do not support the community center. A community center is not necessary in Trumbull given the dozens of underutilized schools. Mixing seniors and youth is a bad idea."

"A new community center would be a huge asset to our town. For youth, for grownups, seniors. People move to and stay in Trumbull because of our fabulous parks and amenities and yes we can afford to invest in our future!!!"

"I am a senior- it is already hard enough for us to live in this town. We cannot pay any more in taxes. We already told you in November we do not want this. I don't know why the Democrats keep pushing it. They need to stop."

Conclusions

- The Referendum failed because the community is divided - not disengaged
- Cost and tax concerns are the primary barriers to support
- A large share of residents remain uncertain and want more information
- Community sentiment is strong - and residents want to feel heard
- Residents agree on the need, but not on the cost, scale, or funding approach

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