



Facility Assessment, Educational Assessment, and Pre-Bond/Planning Steering Team

Board of Education Update 06/29/2026



A group of approximately 15 children of various ages are posed in a classroom. Many of the children are wearing paper hats decorated with 'HAPPY 100th' and '100th Birthday' text. The background features a large '100th Birthday' banner, a calendar, and educational posters including a math problem 'Math: I can add and subtract two numbers.', a clock, and a list of names. The children are standing and sitting on a blue rug with colorful patterns and words like 'kite', 'lock', 'umbrella', and 'turtle'.

Community Survey + Polling Data



Midland Public Schools

Facilities Planning Survey

May-June 2026

Survey administered by

gmb

Methodology

The 2025 Facilities Planning Community Survey was conducted *May 22 - June 7* via *SurveyMonkey*.

The survey was distributed through district email and Facebook pages, posted on the district website, shared with community organizations, and mailed via postcard to all registered-voter households within MPS district boundaries.



Respondents

1,866 **Survey Responses**
Represented Groups: students, staff, parents of current students, parents of alumni, parents of future students, and non-parent community members

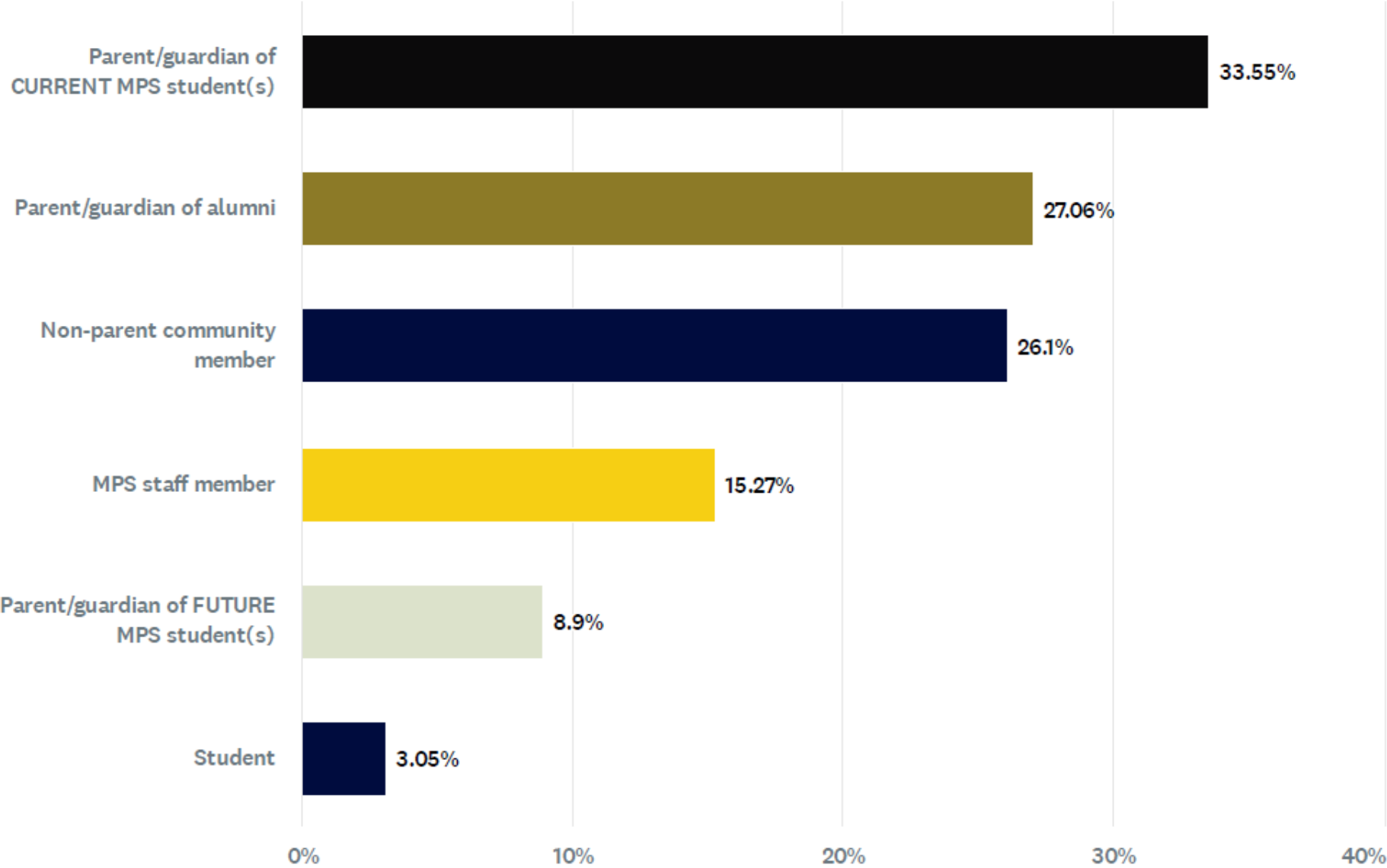
85% **Completion rate**

400+ **Respondents took the survey via postcard link or in person**

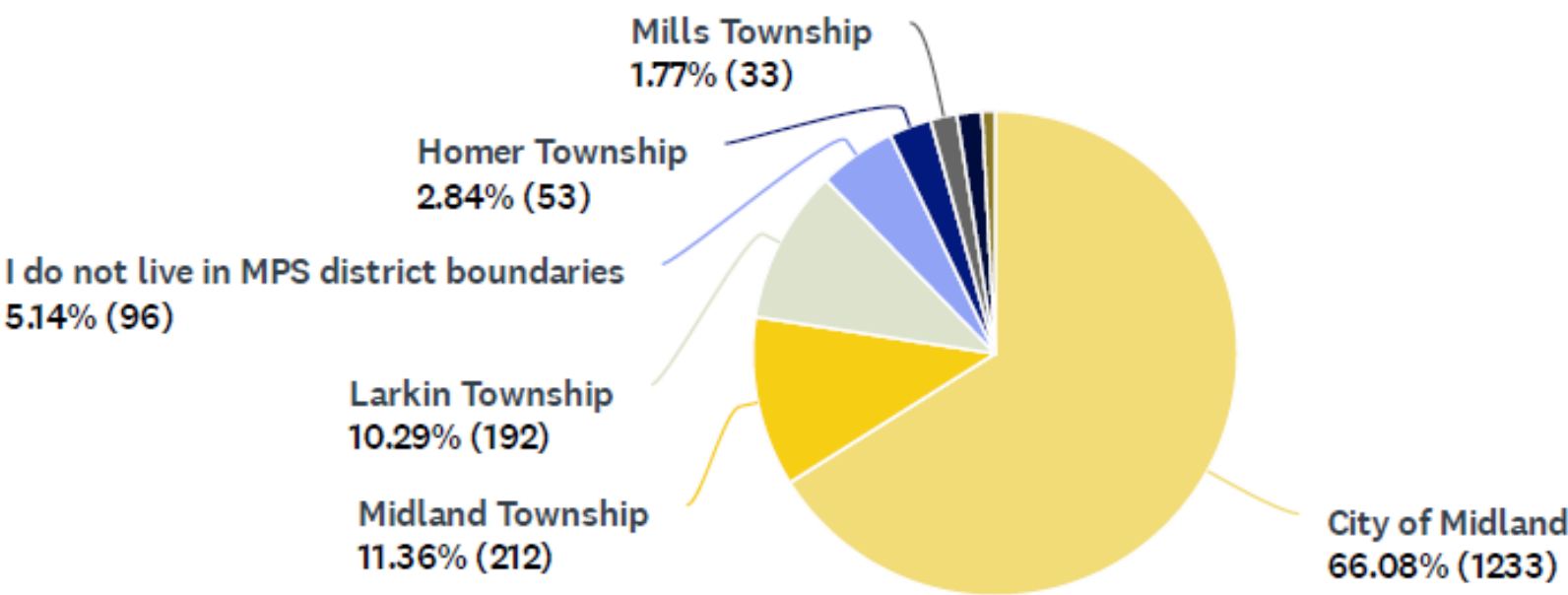
94.9% **Reside within MPS District Boundaries**

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

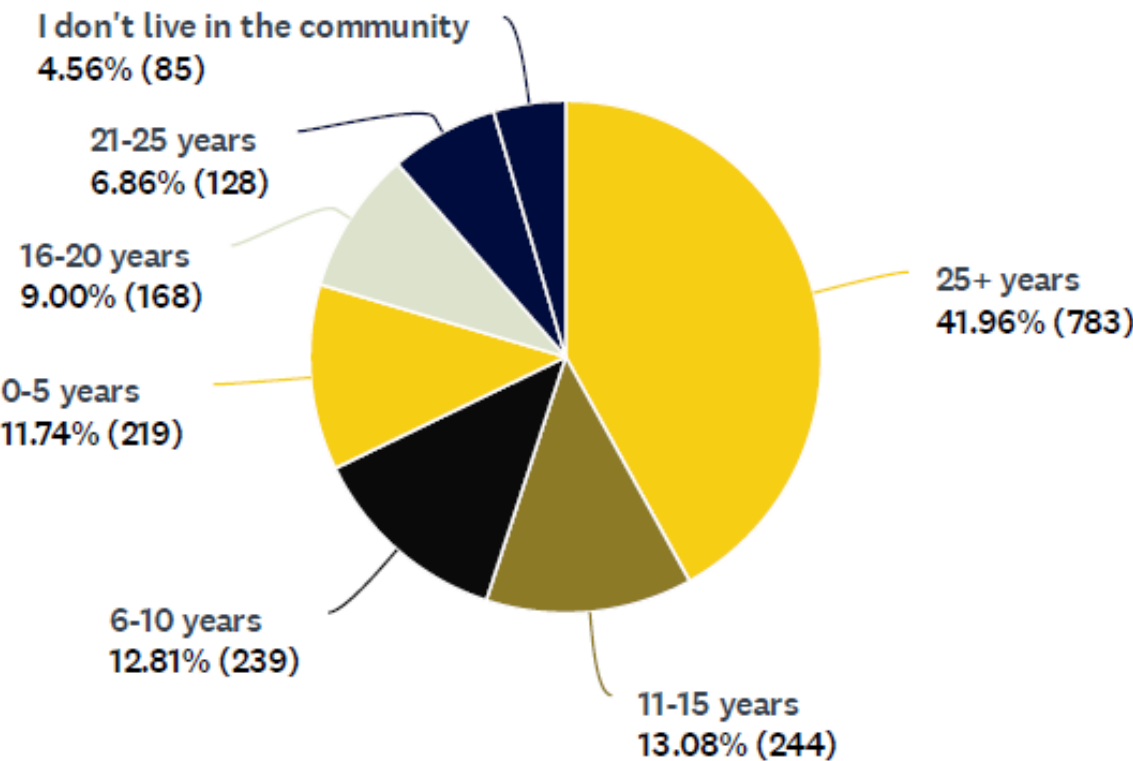
Connection to MPS



Geographies

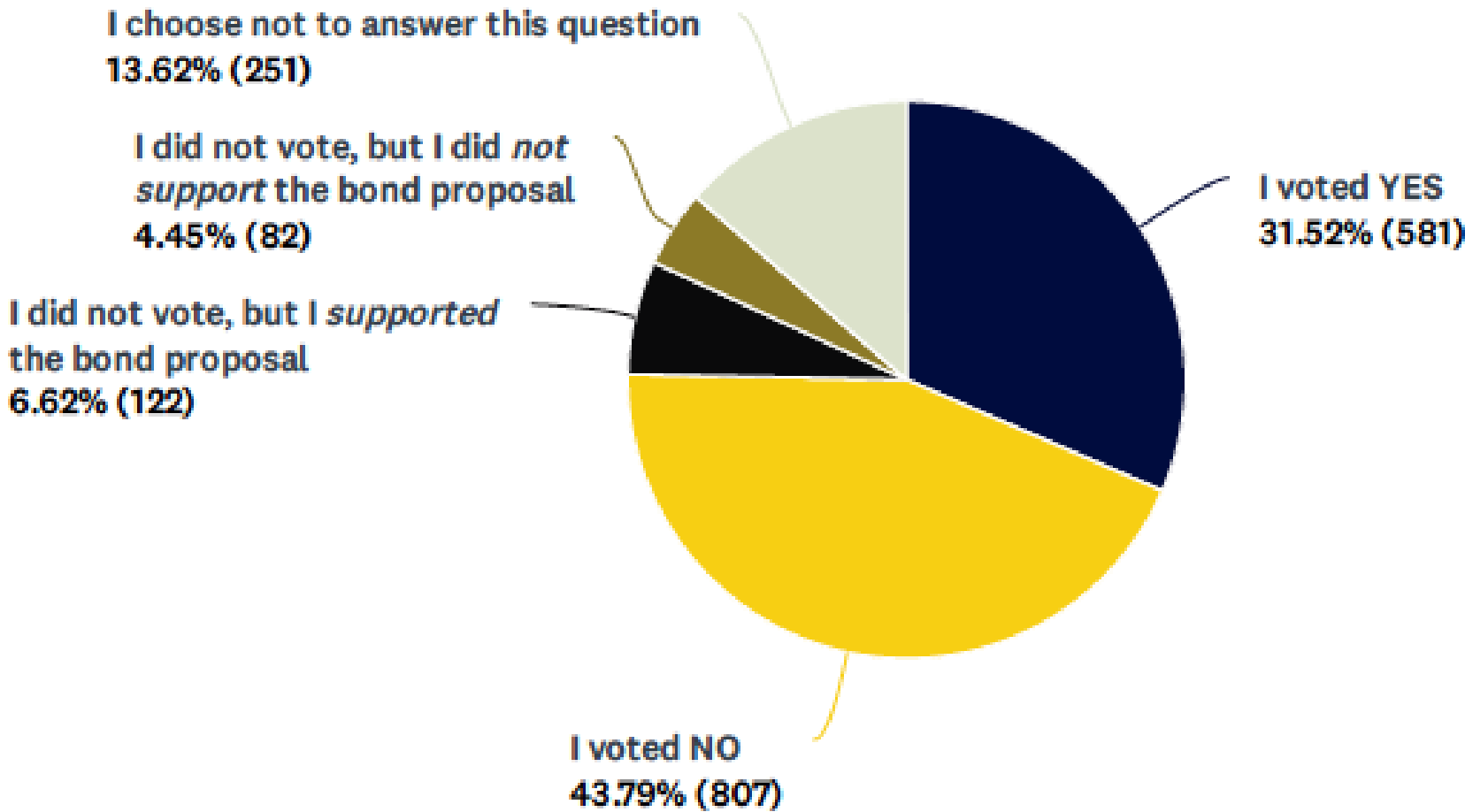


History in Community

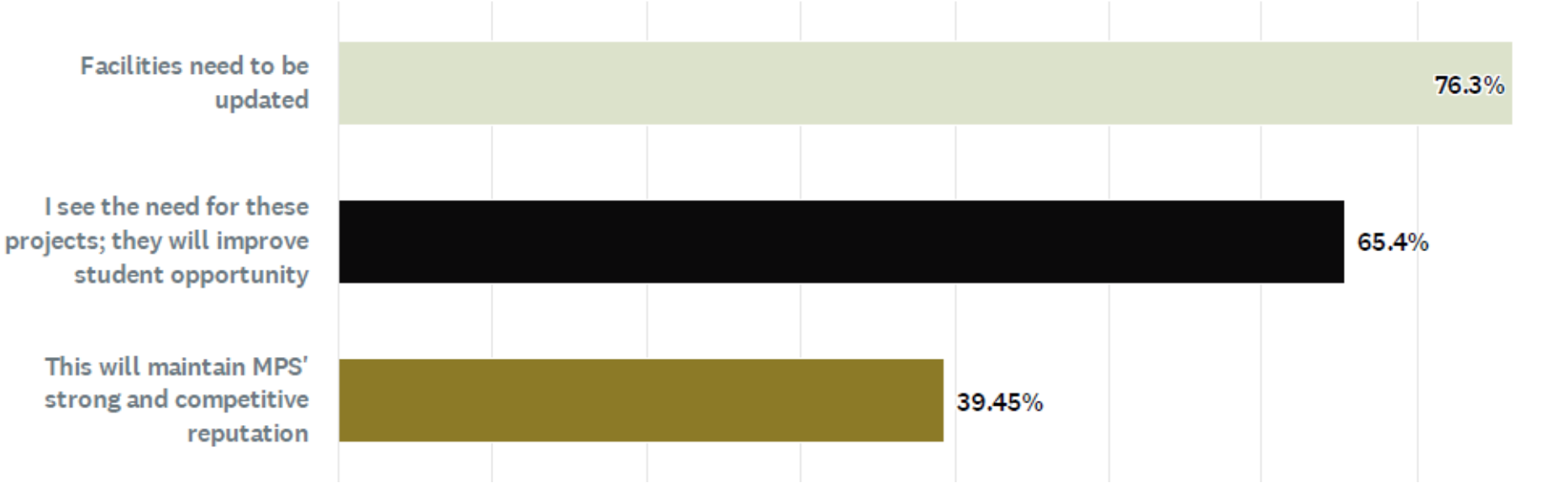


2025 BOND AWARENESS & VOTING BEHAVIOR

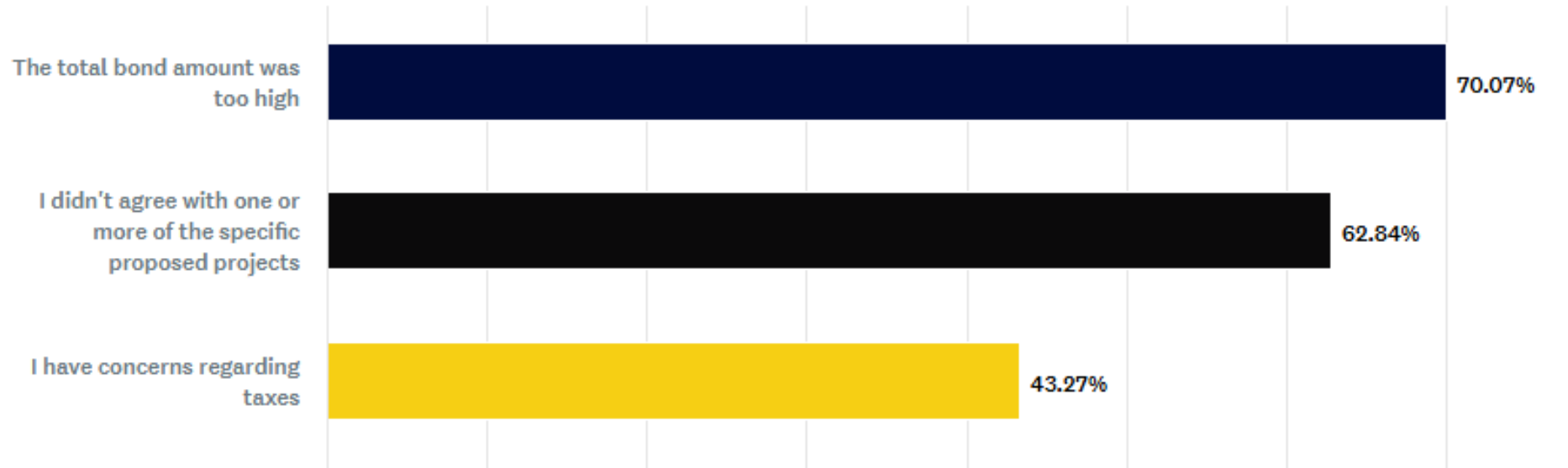
2025 Voting Patterns



Reasons for Voting YES



Reasons for Voting NO



2025 BOND AWARENESS & VOTING BEHAVIOR

Reasons for Voting YES

Open-ended Response Themes

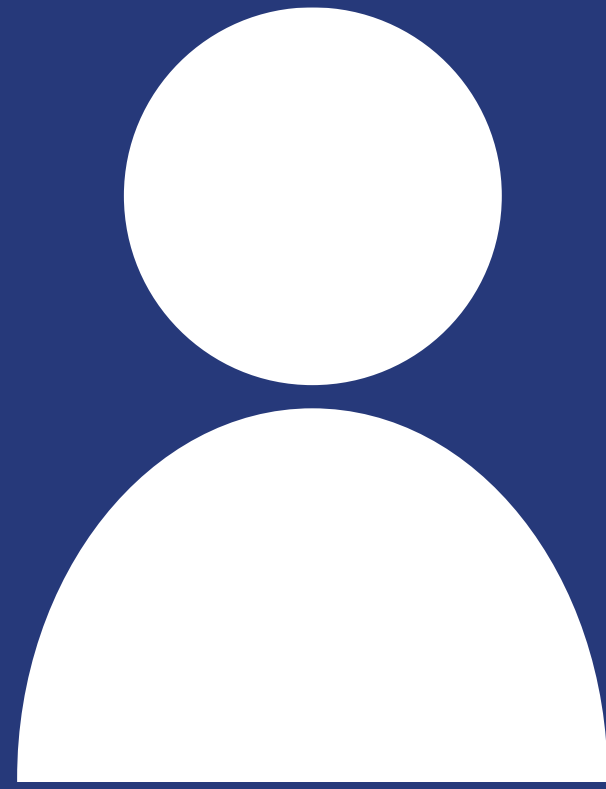
- ▶ Aging and deteriorating facilities
- ▶ Overcrowding and lack of space
- ▶ Better opportunities and learning environments for students
- ▶ Investment in the community's future
- ▶ Keeping up with other districts

Reasons for Voting NO

Open-ended Response Themes

- ▶ Cost and tax burden concerns
- ▶ Lack of trust and transparency
- ▶ Bond scope was too large and unfocused
- ▶ Disagreement with specific proposals (especially school consolidation)*
- ▶ Belief that spending won't improve student outcomes

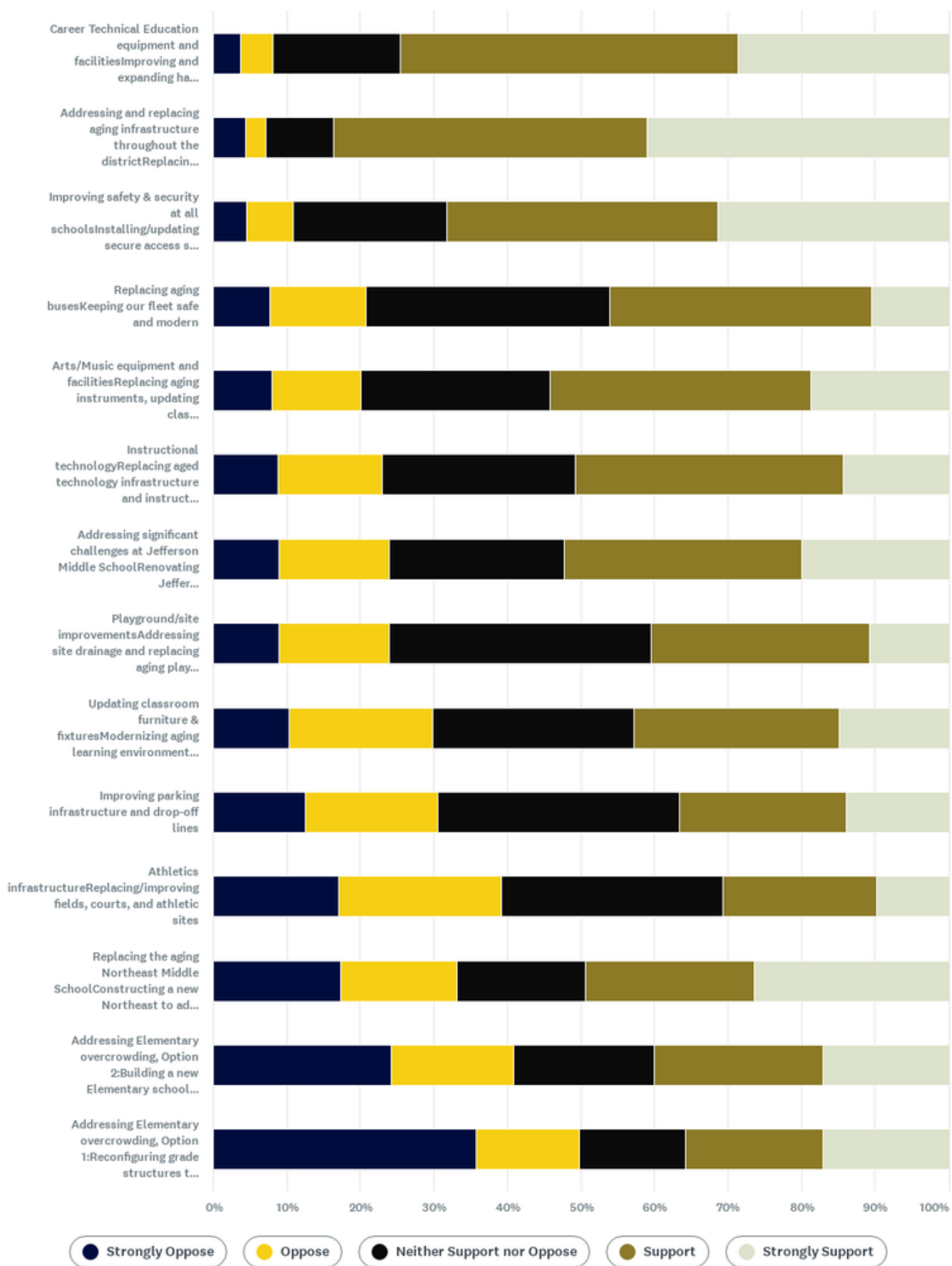
KEY TAKEAWAYS



Respondents

- ▶ Demographic, Geographic, and voting spread gives confidence in survey data, providing insight into the views of residents not directly connected to the schools.
- ▶ Geography and length of time in the community did not appear to have a significant effect on responses. *The role in the community was the largest differentiator.*
- ▶ Throughout the survey, non-parent community members and parents of alumni responded very similarly. This group (most likely to vote) should be highlighted collectively and is referred to as “non-parent community members” in this report.
- ▷ Polling data indicated that the majority of voters have a positive perception of both the quality of education that MPS provides and school facilities.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK



Most-Supported Projects

1. Addressing and replacing aging infrastructure throughout the district.
2. Career Technical Education equipment and facilities.
3. Improving safety & security at all schools.

Least-Supported Projects

1. Addressing Elementary overcrowding, Option 1: K-4, Unified 5-6, Unified 7-8, Unified HS Campus
2. Addressing Elementary overcrowding, Option 2: Building a new Elementary School to relieve overpopulation
3. Athletics Infrastructure



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Project Support

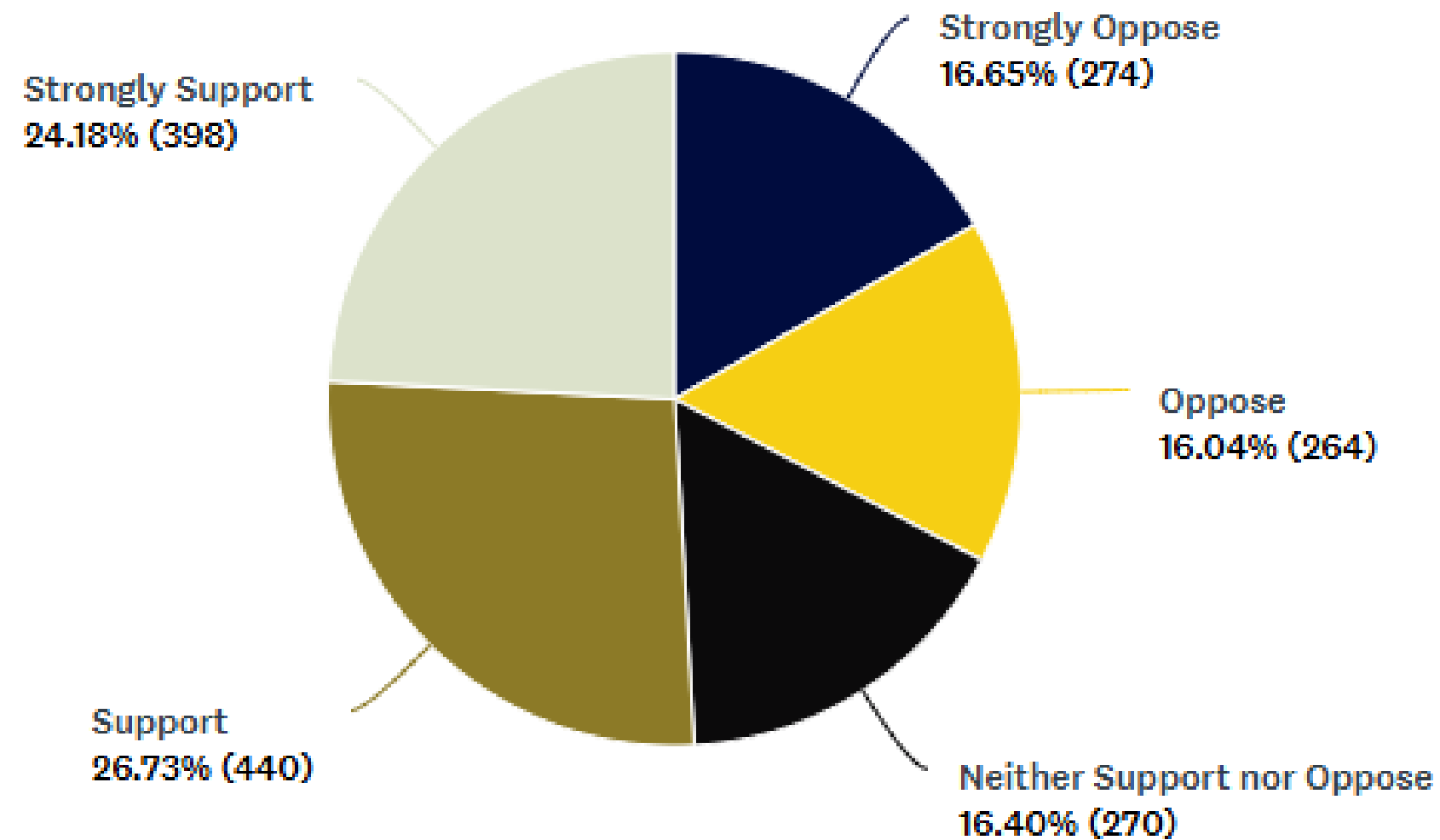


- ▶ Strong support exists for addressing core infrastructure needs, safety and security, and CTE.
- ▶ When presented as a possible solution for addressing overcrowding at the Elementary level, district reconfiguration and unification of secondary levels is controversial across all audiences.
- ▶ Among previous NO voters, the following projects received over 50% of support:
 - Addressing and replacing aging infrastructure
 - Career Technical Education
 - Improving Safety & Security
- ▷ Polling data confirmed these priorities.

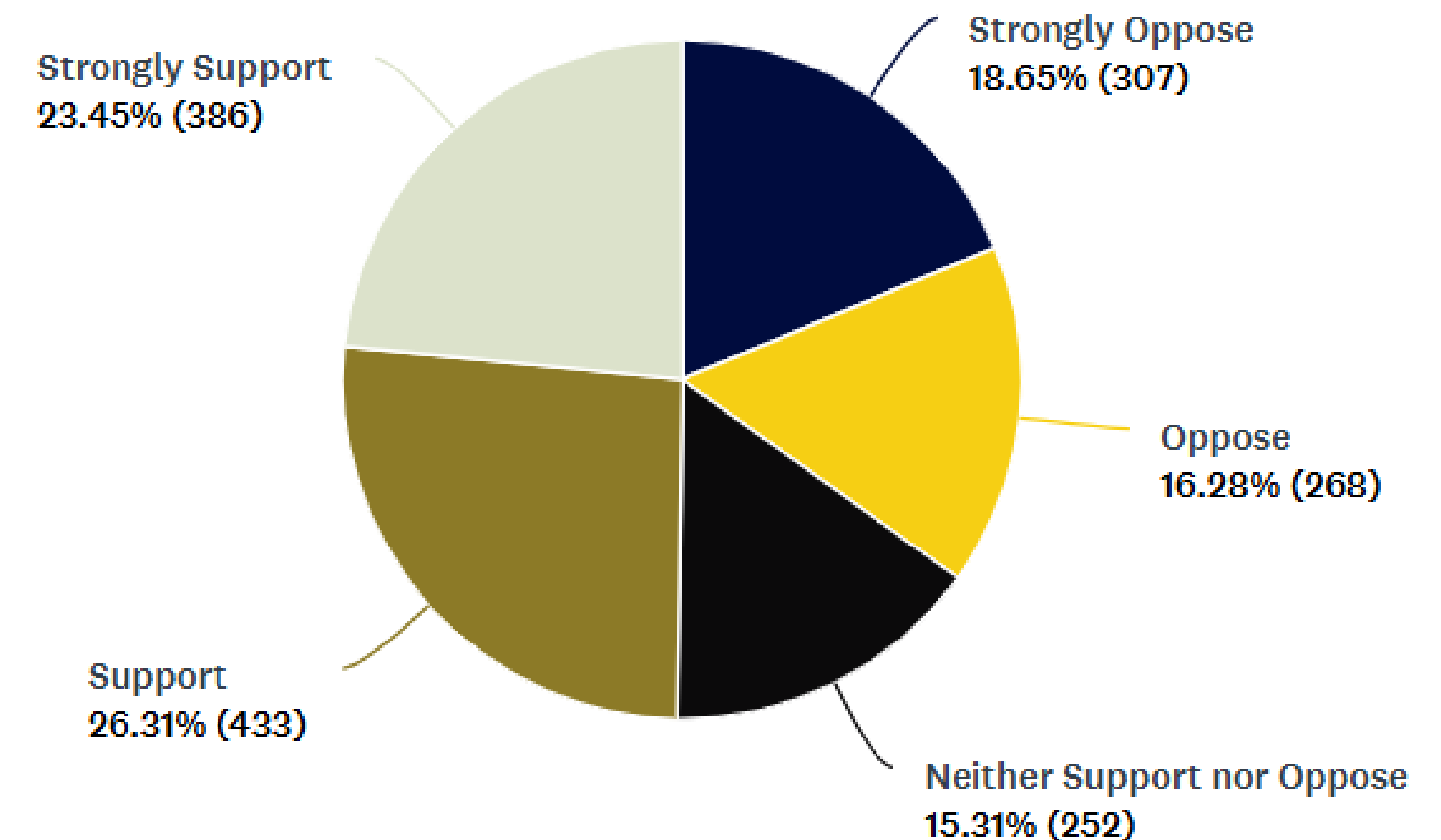
Overall, support for general improvements is lower than what GMB sees in other districts. Any proposal needs to be compelling to the top priorities of a broad audience.

SUPPORT FOR A 2.5-MILL, \$200M BOND PROPOSAL

TOTAL AMOUNT



MILLAGE/TAX IMPACT



Support varied very little when the bond was presented by total dollar value vs. by millage and tax impact.

SUPPORT FOR A 2.5-MILL, \$200M BOND PROPOSAL

Supported Tax Amount

Open-ended Response Themes

- ▶ Clear clustering around **~\$100M** as a **“palatable” starting point**
- ▶ **1.5 mills** is the most commonly acceptable rate mentioned
- ▶ **\$10–\$20/month** is a common psychological ceiling
- ▶ **Divide:**
 - One group = \$0 / no support
 - Another = moderate, targeted investment (~\$100M)

Reasons Impacting Support

Open-ended Response Themes

- ▶ **High school configuration remains the defining issue.**
- ▶ **There is broad agreement that Northeast Middle School needs attention.**
- ▶ **Trust and transparency continue to influence support.**
- ▶ **Support for facilities does not always translate to support for a large bond.**
- ▶ **Affordability remains a significant concern.**

KEY TAKEAWAYS



\$200M, 2.5-MILL BOND



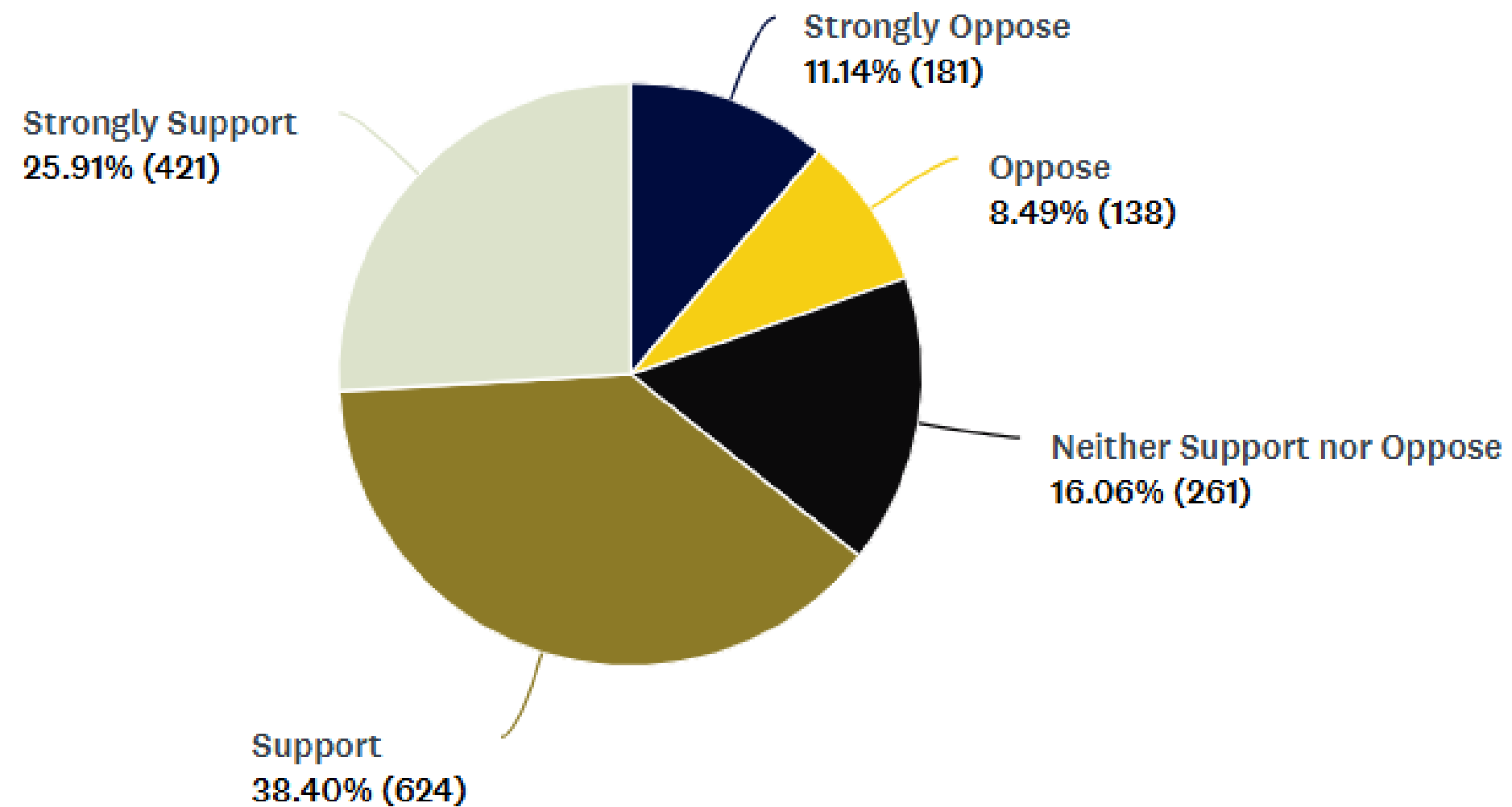
- ▶ Support hovers around 50% for all respondents, but drops between 35-45% among non-parent community members. Polling data aligns with this.
- ▶ Support varied very little when the bond was presented by total dollar value vs. by millage and tax impact.
- ▶ Support dropped significantly for a 3.6-mill bond, with over 50% opposition among non-parent community members.
- ▷ Polling data indicated a similar level of support, but greater level of opposition (fewer neutral respondents).

Typically, GMB would expect a district-administered survey to garner 60-70% support for a bond proposal.*

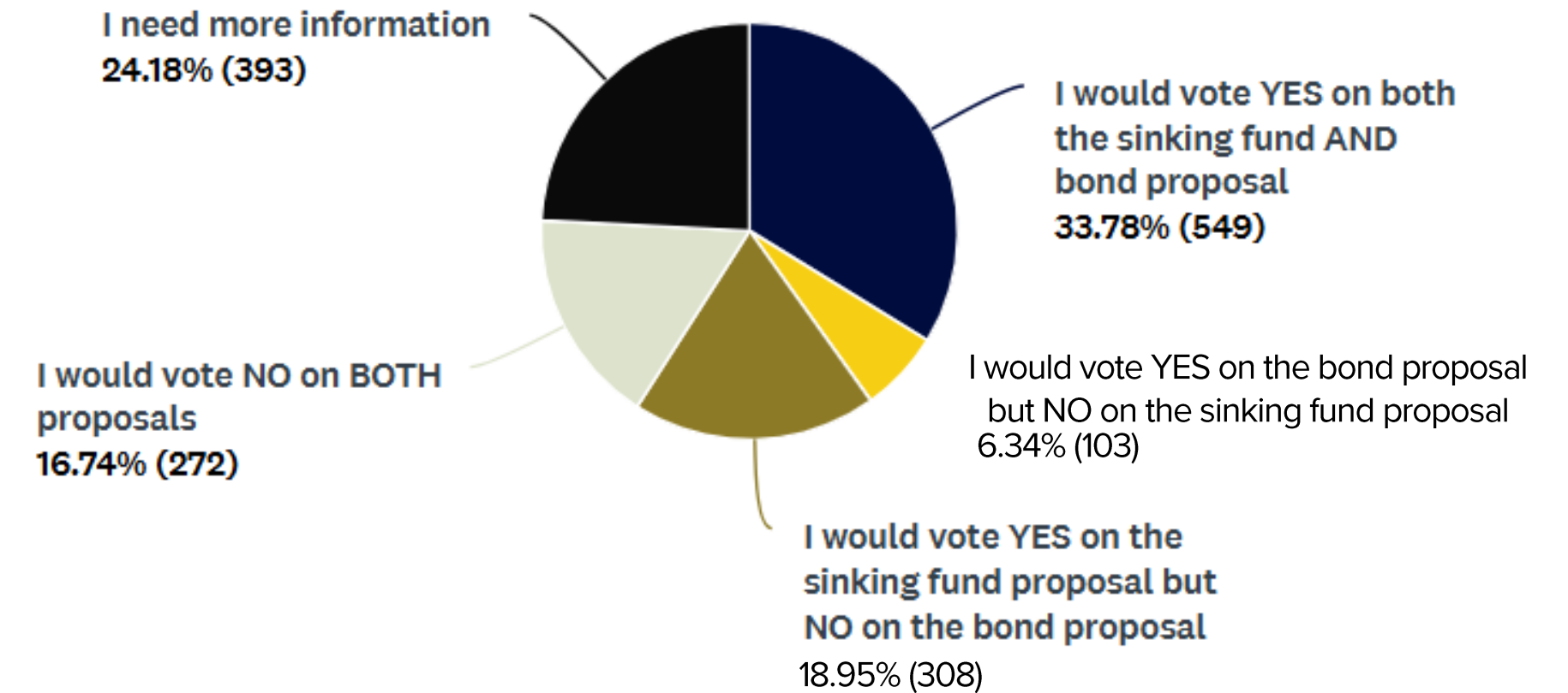
**However, this survey received a stronger representation of non-parent community members than most district surveys*

SUPPORT FOR A 1.0-MILL SINKING FUND

SINKING FUND SUPPORT



COMBINED PROPOSALS



SUPPORT FOR A 1.0-MILL SINKING FUND

Support for a Sinking Fund

Open-ended Response Themes

- ▶ **Respondents strongly favored clarity and specificity before offering support.**
- ▶ **A sinking fund was generally viewed more favorably than a large bond.**
- ▶ **Trust and transparency remain major barriers.**
- ▶ **Affordability continues to shape opinions.**
- ▶ **High school consolidation continues to divide the community.**
- ▶ **There is support for investing in schools, but priorities matter.**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

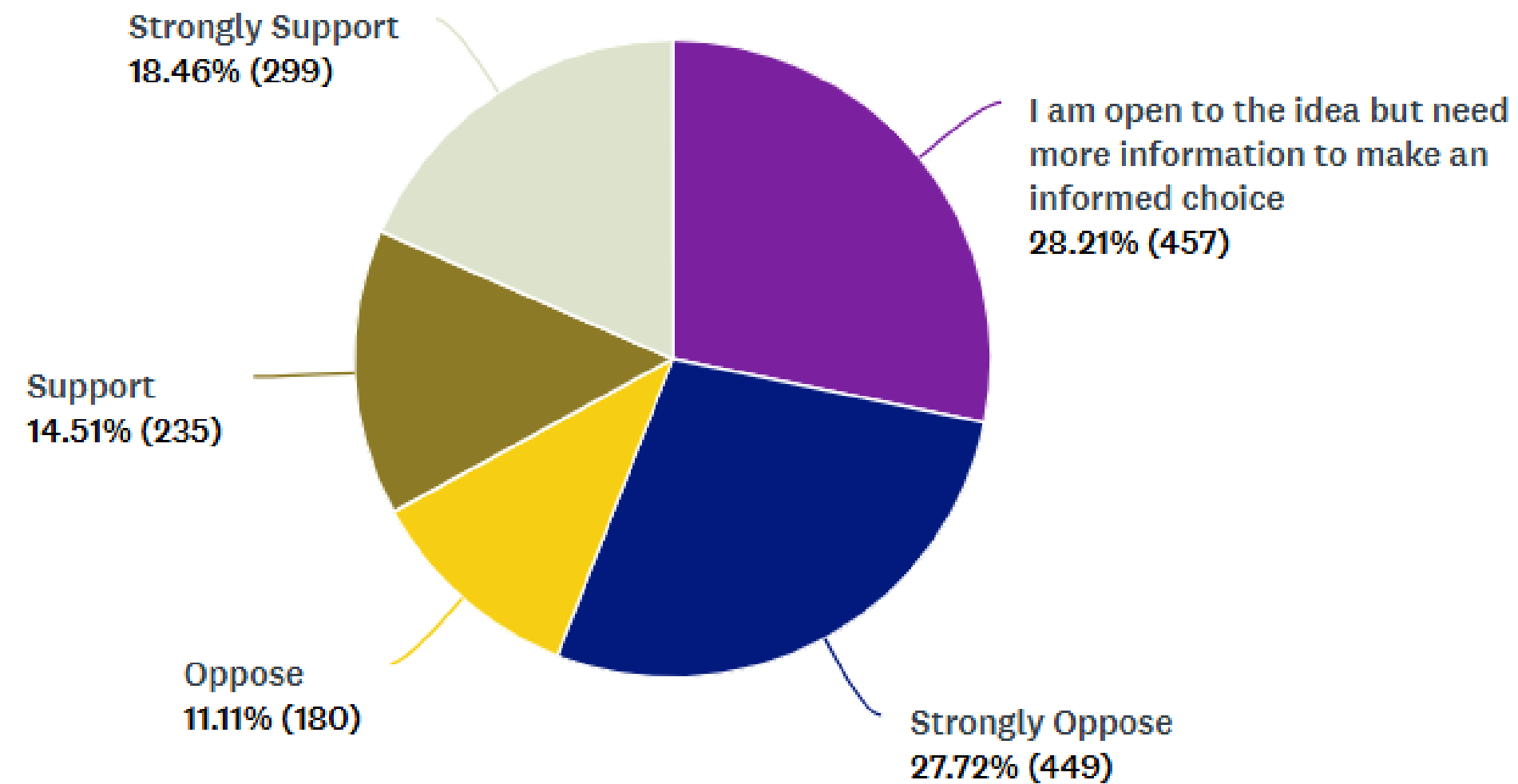


SINKING FUND

- ▶ Support exists for a sinking fund among all groups.
- ▶ 55-60% support exists among non-parent community members.
- ▷ Polling indicates lower support for a sinking fund, indicating that even though many have requested the district pursue a sinking fund, strategic communication is required to express the need.

SUPPORT FOR A UNIFIED HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

UNIFIED HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT



SUPPORT FOR A UNIFIED HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

Reasons for Support

Open-ended Response Themes

- ▶ Supporters see a unified high school as a **more efficient and sustainable long-term model.**
- ▶ Many supporters believe a unified high school **could increase equity and academic opportunities.**
- ▶ Some supporters believe **concerns about lost opportunities are overstated.**

Reasons for Opposition

Open-ended Response Themes

- ▶ **The most common concern was reduced student opportunities.**
- ▶ **Many respondents believe a single high school would simply be too large.**
- ▶ **Loss of school identity and community tradition was another major theme.**
- ▶ **A notable group expressed categorical opposition.**

KEY TAKEAWAYS



UNIFIED HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Total support and total opposition for a unified high school are almost equal, though “Strongly Oppose” outweighs “Strongly Support.”
- ▶ *However*, 61% are open to the idea, with non-parent community members being most open to the idea with more information.
- ▶ Of those who opposed the idea earlier in the survey, 28% support it later in the survey... indicating that with more information and bringing people along in the process, opinions may change.
- ▶ Open-ended responses on student opportunity before they touched on efficiency.
- ▷ Polling data confirmed the conflicted community response.

A Unified High School should *not* be included on the November ballot.

OVERALL KEY INSIGHTS

- ▶ The survey represents a reasonably accurate sample of the community.
- ▶ Broad support exists for addressing aging infrastructure, safety and improving CTE, even among former NO voters.
- ▶ There is a tension in facilities perception: the desire for infrastructure improvements is expressed, *but* the majority of voters have a positive perception of MPS facilities. There is a gap in awareness and a hesitancy about how to use funding to address this.
- ▶ While the poll shows slightly lower support, the survey shows higher support for a sinking fund bond among all community members.
- ▶ Support for a bond exists, but it is heavily concentrated in parents and staff.
- ▶ The November proposal should not include a unified high school. While support for a unified high school is growing incrementally, feelings toward a single high school are still mixed among community members.

OVERALL KEY INSIGHTS

- ▶ **Results showed that respondents have greater concern about infrastructural challenges over future-focused educational spaces.**
- ▶ **Tax and financial concerns are significant.**
- ▶ **Non-parent community members receive information about MPS primarily from (1) social media, (2) local news/media, and (3) word-of-mouth (friends and family).**
- ▶ **There is a lack of understanding of school funding, specifically staffing costs vs. facility improvements.**
- ▶ **There is a notable trust gap in the Board and administration. Respondents cited past facility decisions (school closure, 2025 proposal) and a perceived lack of responsiveness to input.**