

Agenda Summary

March 26, 2018

Agenda Item No. 8

Annual Meeting Survey Results

Summary: This time has been set aside to discuss the Annual Meeting survey results (see enclosed).

The Town received 552 completed surveys. Stowe had 174 voters attend Annual Meeting and 711 citizens vote by Australian ballot.

Town Plan Impact: Local Planning Process Policy #2: *Public opinion will be solicited on a regular basis.*

Fiscal Impact: Other than the cost of the parking garage, no numbers were attached to the questions, so the results may change as numbers are attached to the cost of the projects and/or a specific project proposal.

Recommendation: No action is necessary.

2018 TOWN MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

Number of Respondents: 552	
Gender: Female 55% Male 45%	
Average Age: 58	Children under 18 living in the household: 141 Respondents or 26% of Respondents
Average Years as a Stowe Resident: 27	Children in the school system: 139 (also 26%)

	Too Much	Too Little	Just Right
How do you feel about the rate of growth and development in Stowe over the past 5 years?	130	36	346
How do you feel about the number of community events held in town each year?	54	100	370
How do you feel about the number of visitors that have been coming to Stowe in recent years?	107	77	331
How do you feel about the amount of capital spending that the Town allocates in the capital budget each year?	76	104	282
How do you feel about the rate of land conservation activities over the past 5 years?	39	172	300

	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you find that locating a parking space in Downtown Stowe is a problem during the summer/early fall?	262	246	33
Do you find that locating a parking space in Downtown Stowe is a problem during the winter months?	178	328	37
With an estimated cost of \$20,000 +/-per space, do you support the development of a parking garage in downtown Stowe?	124	317	98
Do you support the Town purchasing and demolishing an existing downtown building to create an additional parking lot?	145	269	128
Do you support the development of a park-and-ride lot in Stowe even if it means paving over an existing open meadow or agricultural field?	139	301	96
Do you feel that the Town needs more recreation fields?	115	338	73
Do you support the relocation of recreational field space on Mayo Farm to existing agricultural areas on the farm?	186	208	142
Do you support additional recreational fields on and near the Polo Fields?	279	148	107
Do you support creating additional field space at the high school?	340	97	101
Do you support the Town buying additional land to support additional recreation field space?	179	232	125
Do you support the development of a park-and-ride lot in Stowe?	276	153	109
Do you support the undergrounding/relocation of the Main Street overhead utilities?	342	112	83

	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you support a summer Mountain Road Shuttle service even if it means that it would have to be fully funded by the Town and other local sources?	265	138	113
Do you support increasing local property taxes to do more paving?	176	247	67
Do you support the addition of bike lanes in connection with paving projects?	365	110	39
Do you support adding bike lanes to paving projects even if it significantly increases the cost of the project and increases the asphalt footprint?	235	193	85
Should the Town do more to protect open spaces, scenic properties and natural areas in Stowe?	365	88	67
Do you support the installation of large-scale solar arrays in Stowe?	205	199	107
Do you support the installation of large solar arrays in existing open meadows and agricultural fields in Stowe?	173	234	110
Do you support installing solar panels on the Town's historic buildings, including the Akeley Building, Helen Day/ Library and Ski Museum?	305	151	59
Do you feel that speeding is a problem in Stowe and that the Town should do more speed enforcement?	146	312	55
Are you overall satisfied with the performance of your local government and the provision of municipal services in Stowe?	445	24	42

	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you support adopting a local 1% sales tax on goods and services in addition to the current 1% local option tax on rooms, meals and alcohol?	134	288	85
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if the money was directed towards capital project(s) in general?	193	217	92
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if the money was directed towards a specific capital project?	205	192	109
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if they money was directed towards relocating / burying the Main Street overhead utilities?	207	224	74
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if the money was directed towards reconstructing and expanding the Town's sidewalk network?	238	195	70
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if they money was directed towards paving?	240	188	75
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if was not committed to a specific purpose other than creating fiscal capacity and/or reducing the need to raise property taxes?	162	237	99

Additional Comments:

- School safety, HS needs updating, betting more funding back to our school.
- Speeding on Main St. is crazy.
- Roads are in terrible shape.
- Local option taxes are a step in the right direction for tourists to pay their fair share.
- If we don't start planning on increase population by increasing downtown development and density our rural areas will look like suburbs.

- Very disappointed to see a lack of questions about the critical social services projects that need to be supported and funding to improve communities.
- More bike lands, more renewable energy!
- I would support a local 1% sales tax to support the implementation of renewable energy projects, solar installations on all rooftops of town buildings.
- High school/middles school needs update
- HS parking lot needs overhaul
- School taxes need to be revised so taxes go for students in the town that you reside.
- School safety.
- Board of Ed needs more transparency.
- Overall I'm very satisfied with the administration of the town. I do believe we need to do something about the appalling state of our roads. With the number of visitors we receive and a high percentage of them being cyclists/walkers enjoying the roads, we need to be putting more capital towards the upkeep of our roads.
- It would be nice to purchase and improve the Topnotch meadows for additional recreation fields.
- Open spaces need to be preserved.
- Support our schools.
- Expand the sidewalk network. Current lack of sidewalks on the north/south ends of the village and beyond the Stoweflake is dangerous.
- Fix the school auditorium. Everything is out of date.
- Adding option taxes even for specific projects results in a permanent new tax.
- Please install a 3rd lane on Mountain Road to ease traffic in winter and provide emergency access if needed.
- More sidewalks needed. Too many dark clothed people on the roads at night. Very dangerous.
- The rink should never have been constructed for such a huge sum. The Arena was a special project of a vocal few. We are stuck with it now. Let's just pay it down.
- Stowe does as best as can on budget issues. My issue is with the school budget – Act 60.
- A commuter lot with frequent shuttles up Mountain Road during winter and summer along with more frequent routes along Rte. 100 to Waterbury.
- Please consider moving town meeting to a Monday evening when restaurants are closed. You would get a much more diverse group of residents.
- Solar as we know it is rapidly becoming outdated. Solar arrays are an eye sour. Plus we live in the cloudiest county in the country.
- Taxes are now too high.
- Need a shelter at Soccer Field
- Need Parking at high school
- This questionnaire as written is awful! I Don't believe it can lead to any conclusions.
- I found this questionnaire poorly written and don't feel whatever results you find will be valid
- Thanks for all your efforts!
- Rec Fields on Mayo Farm if we do not lose ag land
- Buying additional land for Rec fields – how will this affect taxes?
- Speeding is a problem in some areas – Moscow/Shaw's

- I find spaces downtown if I am able to walk a ways
- How much would creating additional rec fields cost?
- Large solar arrays – how large and where? On buildings if discreetly placed
- Handicap parking downtown is a problem at times
- Parking garage underground or out of sight
- Do not support bike lanes that is what bike path is for.
- Solar arrays only if unseen
- Local Option Tax for overhead utilities – just for this project and then take it off
- Thanks Stowe!
- Reduce Road Salt = more money for paving
- Fix the track at the high school!
- Use Morrisville airport for park and ride
- The ice rink needs to make money like in the old days
- More money for community services and social services
- Thanks for your work
- Property taxes should be significantly reduced. Start tightening up the belt.
- Need structures at the fields for safety of children/adults using those facilities
- Too many police!!! For this town!!!
- The present way of resurfacing roads doesn't work – doesn't last. Have to go down much deeper. Look to alpine countries in Europe, their roads are wonderful.
- Village parking, paving , sidewalks and bury utility lines.
- Wee need a park and ride lot to be more efficient in the winter and encourage shuttle use. Some of the 1% or meals tax should go towards event procurement, area association. This is reasonable when you look at DMO funding practically everywhere else. Keep up the great work, we love Stowe!
- Paving! Paving! Paving!
- Speeding is a problem – only Massachusetts drivers
- I understand the Moscow Road/Route 100 traffic circle plan is on hold for now. I live on Points North Road and speeding on Route 100 is a major problem. Lowering the speed limit to 40mph by our road did nothing. I have to cross Route 100 onto Moscow and back several times a day, or turn onto Route 100 and it is a major safety issue. This is with my 3 children in the car.
- Current road conditions are an embarrassment!
- If money is needed for the above projects which I do support in theory, I'd prefer funding be obtained through either a grant or through allocations of taxes. Another 1% spike in day to day taxes in Stowe will hurt locals and drive business to neighboring towns.
- Additional land purchases for rec fields – depends on the parcel, no current ag land
- Bike lanes on even if it increases the cost and footprint – yes on Luce/West Hill and Barrows Road.
- I definitely don't feel there is a speeding problem on Maple Street. Big trucks have to climb the hill going north and they are going to make noise. The number that stands out to me is the number of cars that go by each door everyday.

- Why doesn't Spruce Peak Realty pay impact fees? Have you considered the effects on infrastructure directly caused by the development by Spruce Peak Realty? Enough is enough. It is already too much!
- I think Stowe should expand the sidewalk on the Mountain Road (108) and 100 to support runners and walkers
- Thank you for allowing our voices to be heard
- Not enough affordable housing in Stowe. People that work in Stowe cannot afford to live here.
- Do more with the large amount of money you already get through taxes. Scale down the police force. Bury the utility lines, please!!!
- All of my answers are really unsure because I don't know the numbers behind each answer. But good ideas – figure out how to give us data that lets us compare options.
- I would prefer my taxes go to infrastructure and not to the schools
- Speeding is not a problem except on Edson Hill!!
- Keep preserving our village and keep making Stowe a destination choice for all!
- No more taxes or lower property taxes!!!!
- Feel the infrastructure is neglected. Sidewalks, roads, etc. Can we in any way reduce the losses from the Arena?
- Sterling Gorge is being destroyed by too many visitors. We need to make sure conserved lands are not destroyed. Preservation and maintenance of the land and homeowner issues around the land are poorly taken care of by the town.
- Better to increase property taxes instead of sales tax – tourists are already angry when they see the sales/rooms & meals/alcohol tax we already have – they think it is too high, that they are being “ripped off”. Preserving open space is CRITICAL.
- Thank you for asking!
- If you are going to tax – do it on alcohol, not food. We have an alcohol problem and food should not be taxed. Let's look at the homes that are 2nd homes for out of state and what those taxes are for the 2nd homes, and what burden those call are to our 911 system for false alarms before taxing local citizens.
- Obviously we all have our own ideas about how money should be spent but I find that money that has already been spent by road department on all the excessive reflectors and road signs in the last few years was a waste of money and would like to see better use and notifications in place.
- Paving is a must!
- Intersection at Cape Cod/Weeks Hill Road needs lines indicating where to stop. Turning left off CC onto WH can be treacherous!
- Please add “soccer field” to the Polo Fields Sign.
- You really need a sidewalk to Shaw's. Somebody's going to get killed and a lot of people have to walk to get groceries.
- Need more information on 1% tax increase re aforementioned projects
- Please pave the Mountain Road and North on Route 100. Needs immediate attention, so pressure the State!
- Need more visitors. Need more land conservation. Stowe Loves Sports! Absolutely no parking in fields! I like the new condos at the mountain! The Mountain has been working hard! We love dirt roads! We as Vermonters prefer dirt roads! Share the road

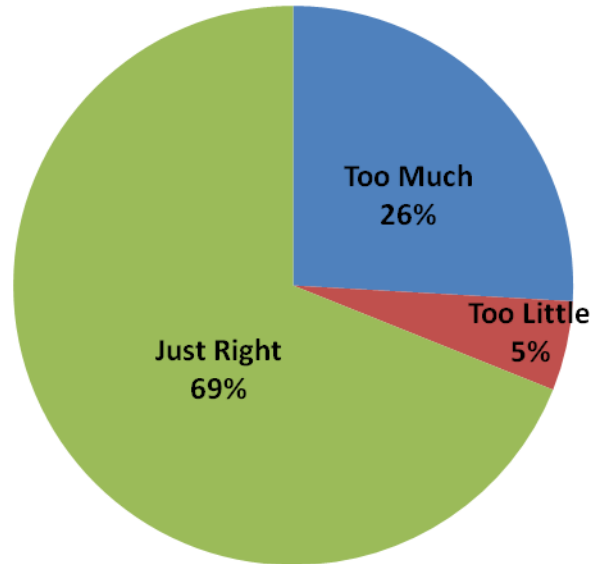
program and use the bike path! Wind power on Mt. Mansfield! Postpone overhead wires. Very pleased how much effort everyone utilizes! Thank you!!

- The Town should think about construction of a parking garage where GMTA now parks their bus. Visitors can be transported up and down the mountain by bus.
- Sidewalk on Route 100 to Stowe. Recreational opportunities for school-age children other than athletics – drama, art, etc. Consider a senior activities center for the exploding baby-boom age group.
- It is too bad the VT Country Store didn't happen. It would have been an asset to the community and economy.
- Limit # of participants to lacrosse tournaments.
- Stop with new taxes already
- Too much speeding on Stowe Hollow Road. No police ever! Plenty in Moscow! Come to Stowe Hollow!
- The Town needs to explore tram service to the Mountain. Building a tram with contributions from Vail/SMR, the State and local financing is critical in addition to private funding. Also, a better effort to get local to be involved with local commissions would be appreciated.
- Having been a business owner in hospitality industry in Burlington, the city tax infuriates tourists. VT Taxes are already high. Definitely do not support town/local taxes.
- The growth and development up at Mount Mansfield is very concerning to me as a resident. I feel it takes away from the local economy and creates significant traffic issues.
- Our kids need more rec space and more to do in Stowe. If they get bored they could get into trouble. Stowe is wonderful all year round let's get them out all year!
- Roads are awful.
- Hard to answer a lot of these questions without more specifics.
- Maintaining newly paved roads does not occur. Cracks appear 2 hours after paving and are never filled with hot liquid tar like other towns do. This would limit the hydraulic rising during freeze thaw cycles and paving would last much longer. Labor intensive – yes. Material intensive – no. but a lot cheaper than re-paving!
- The police budget is out of control!!!
- Way too much police!
- Tax money to police to maintain a locker for anyone to place their dangerous weapons like AR-15s in. (like a library).
- I believe one can usually find a parking space in town, even when fairly busy. Park street has helped. Frankly I don't believe there is enough downtown to justify the money for a parking lot.
- Town is admin top heavy. School too. Reduce employees. Too many aides, everyone pay more of their own health insurance. Be like a private industry.
- More recreation and less tree hugging.
- Park and ride lot especially for mountain employees. Summer Mountain Road Shuttle has been done before, correct? Speed enforcement depends on the road. Adding a local 1% would take some of the financial burden off local residents and onto the visitors regardless of what it is used for. Local fields are needed. I would much rather see our local youth on the fields than walking the streets. Also we need a covered area

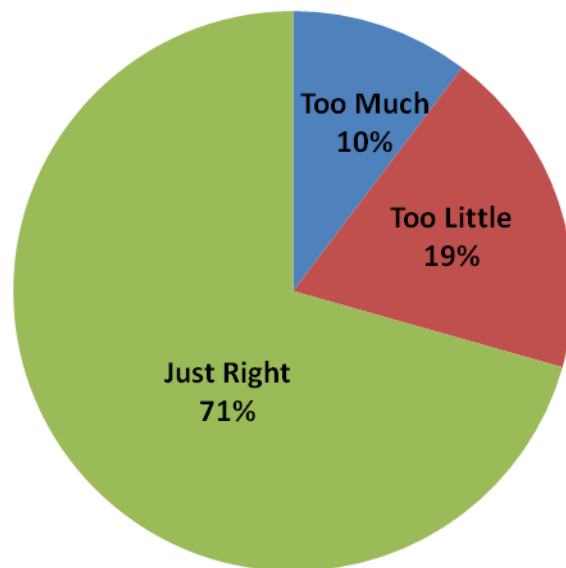
regardless of which fields. Storms pop up quite often while kids are on the fields – they need some sort of “safe zone.”

- Solar panels on historic buildings only if not visually offensive. Temporary 1% sales tax? Yes, if no increase in property taxes.
- Budget for skating rink too large. Need more infrastructure improvement (i.e. roads, etc).
- Library/HDAC Building needs to be better maintained. Painted for sure – the front of the building (porch) is an embarrassment! The building needs and deserves attention.
- The question about relocating athletic/recreation fields is misleading. Gives the impression that ag fields use would be reduced. Plan from rec commission would increase ag space.

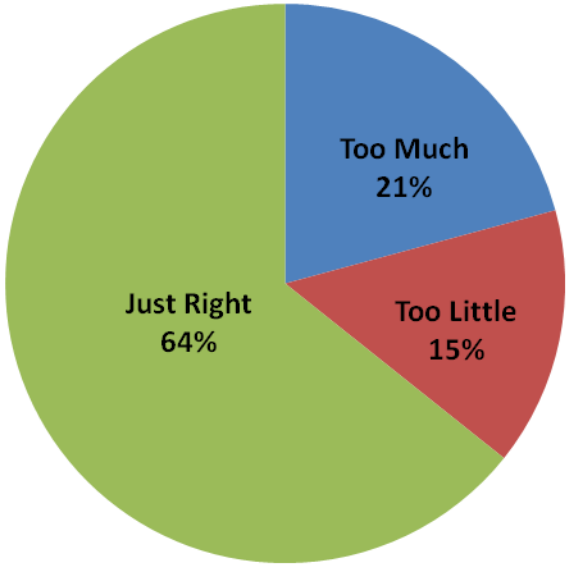
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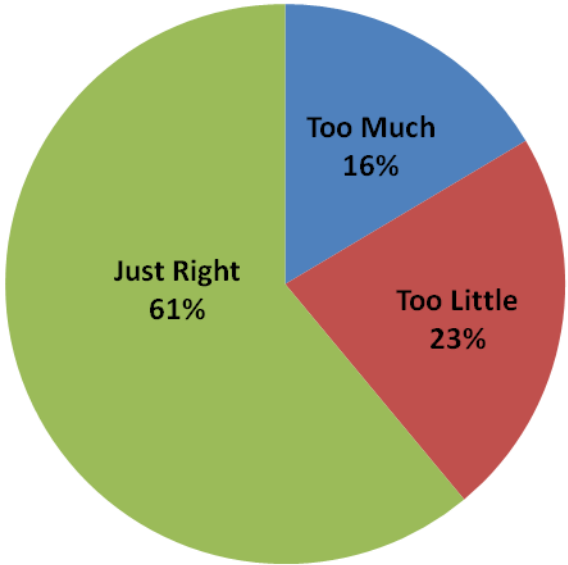
How do you feel about the number of community events held in town each year?



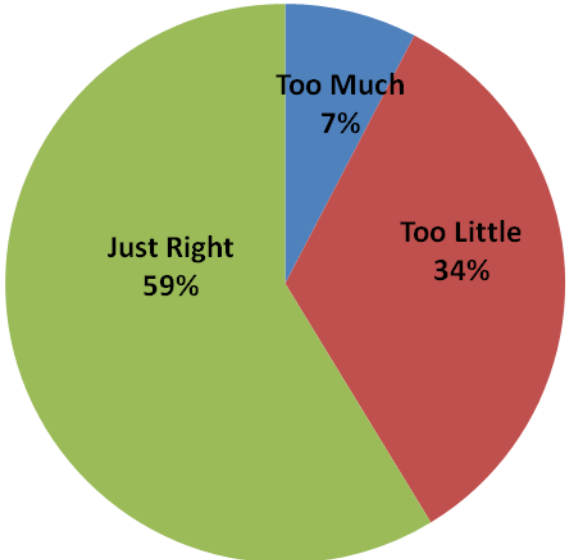
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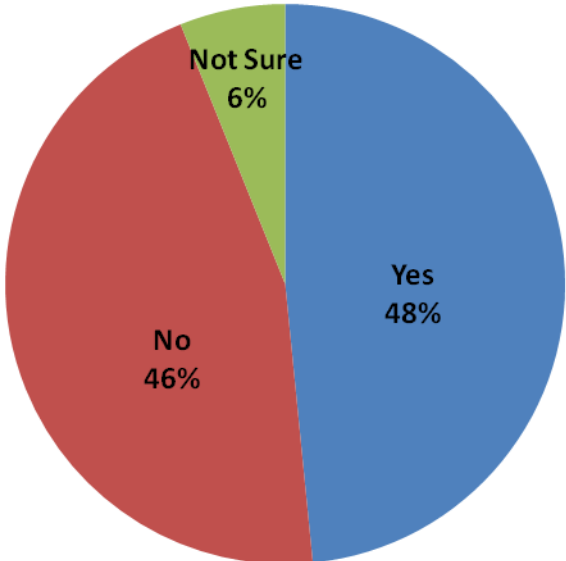
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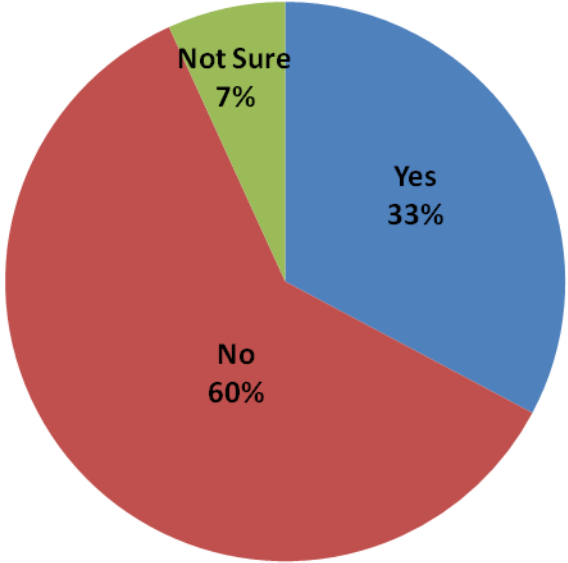
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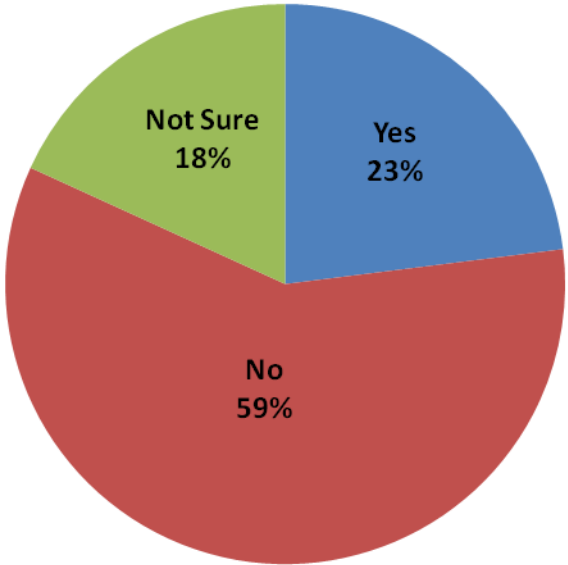
Do you find that locating a parking space in Downtown Stowe is a problem during the summer/early fall?



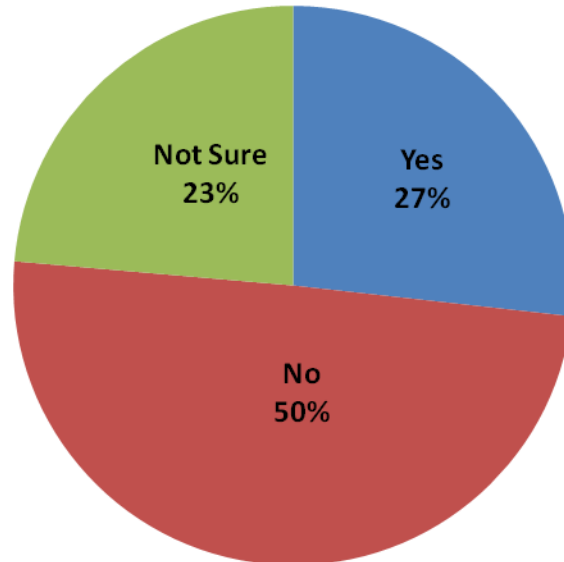
Do you find that locating a parking space in Downtown Stowe is a problem during the winter months?



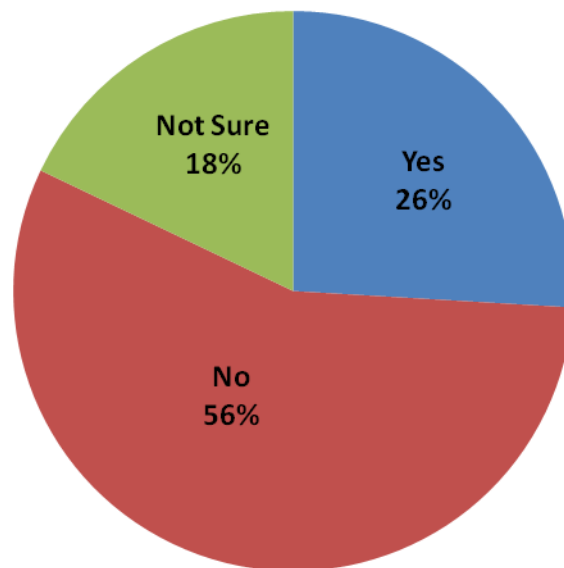
With an estimated cost of \$20,000 +/- per space, do you support the development of a parking garage in downtown Stowe?



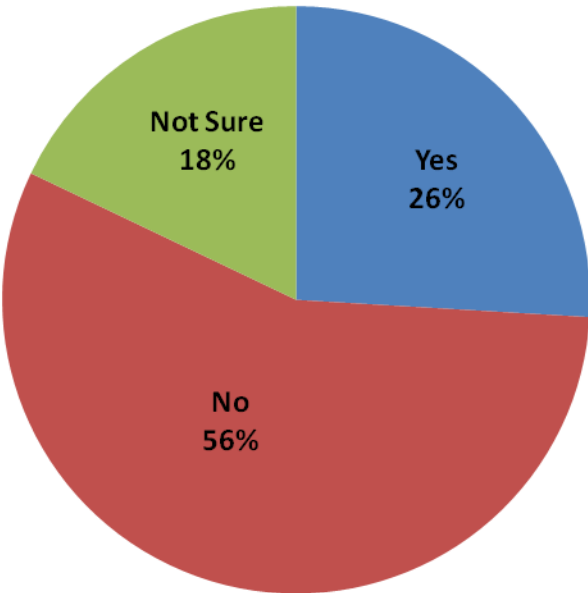
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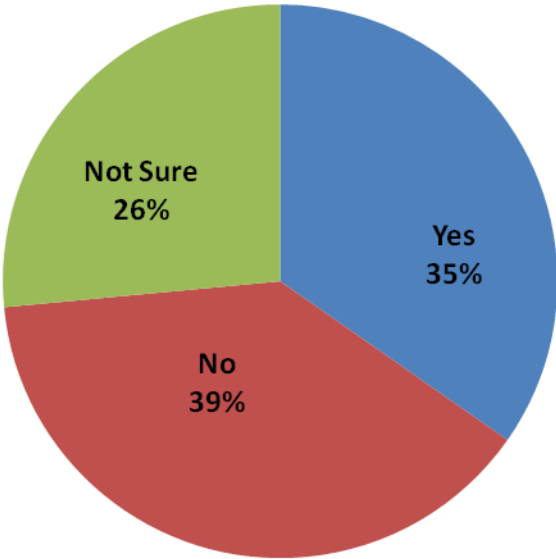
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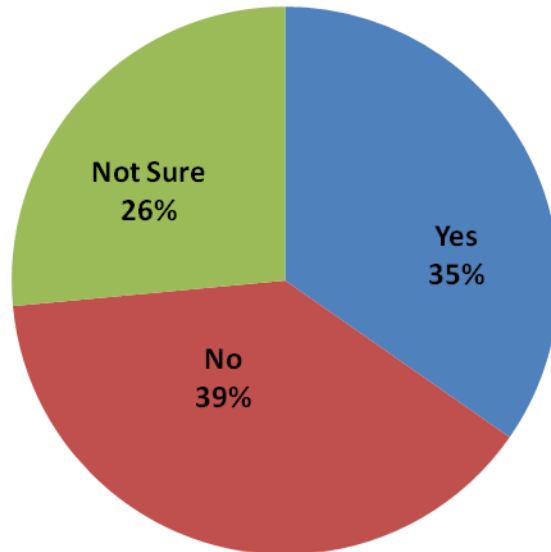
Do you feel that the Town needs more recreation fields?



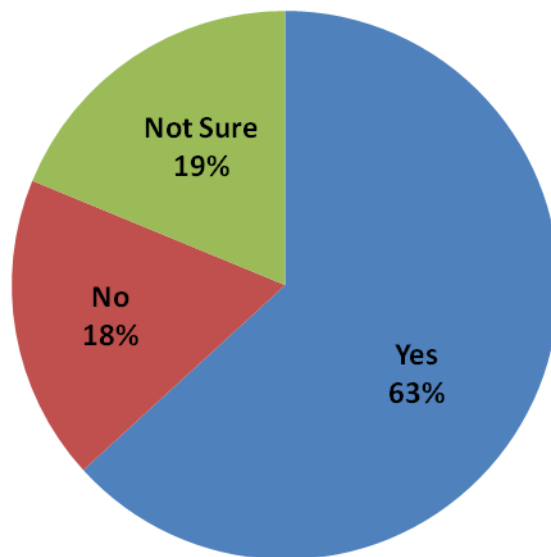
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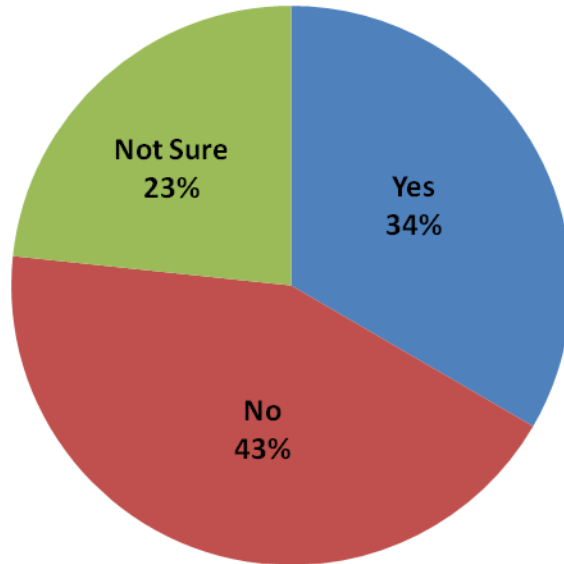
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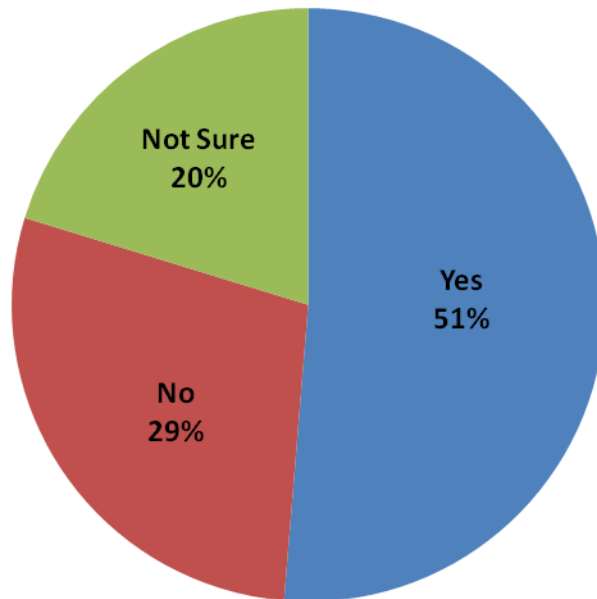
Do you support creating additional field space at the high school?



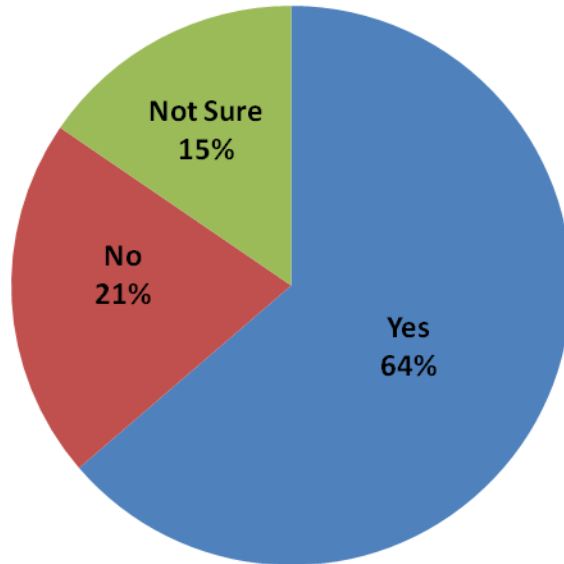
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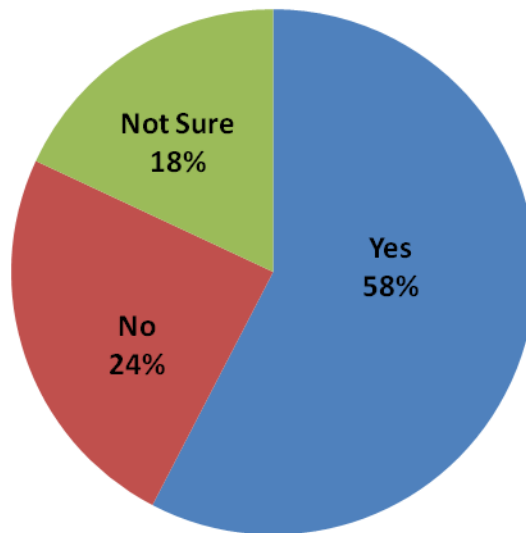
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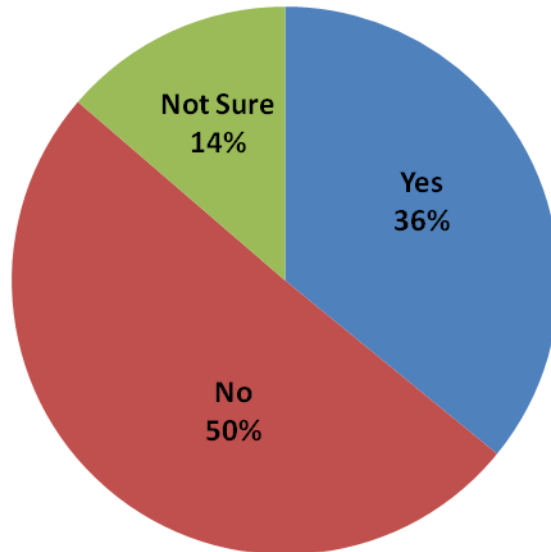
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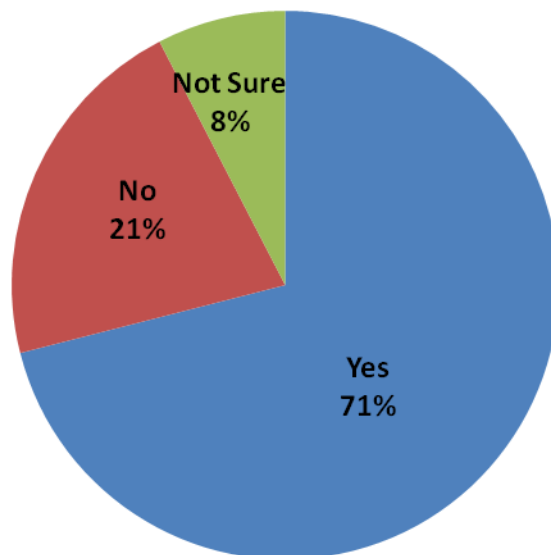
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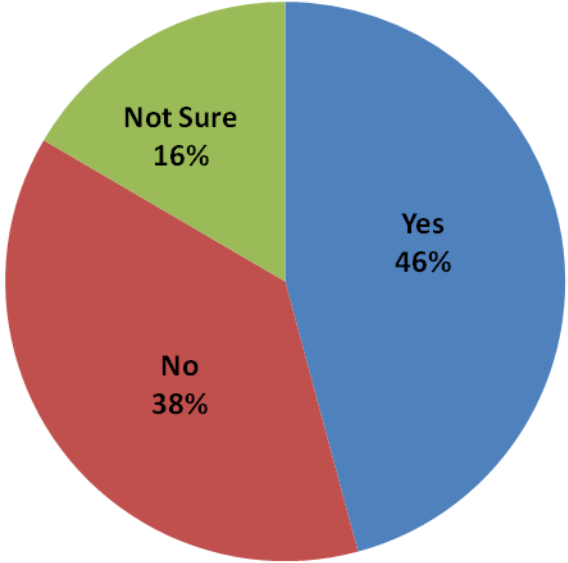
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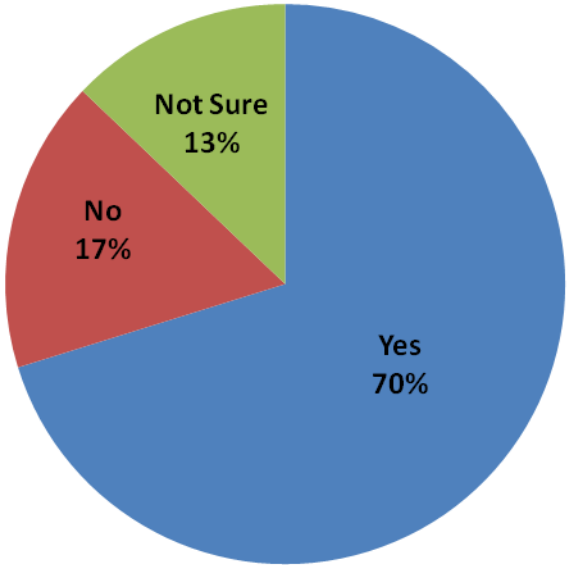
Do you support the addition of bike lanes in connection with paving projects?



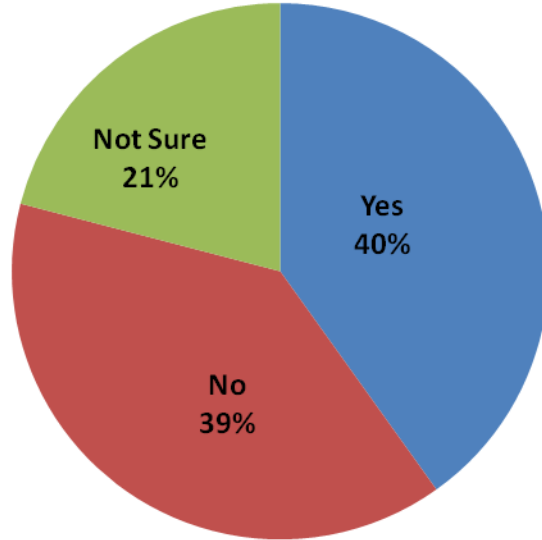
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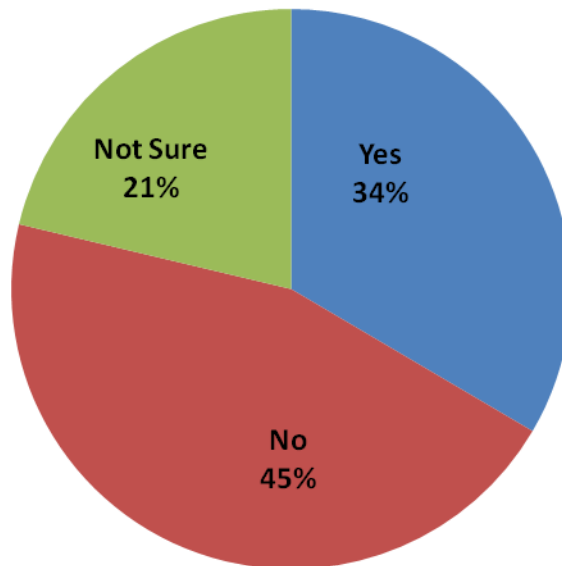
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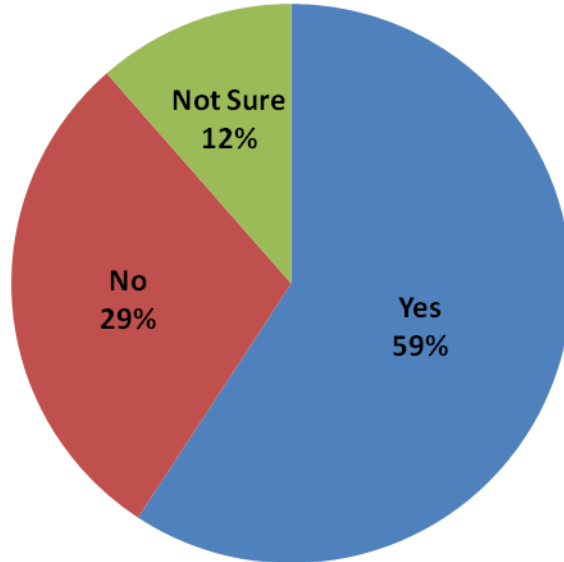
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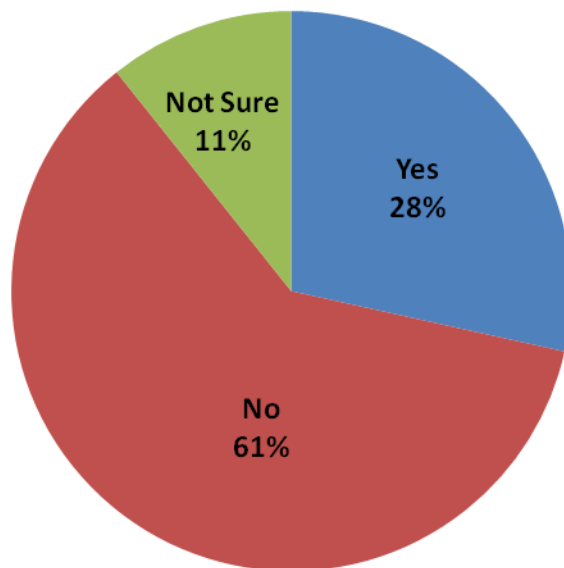
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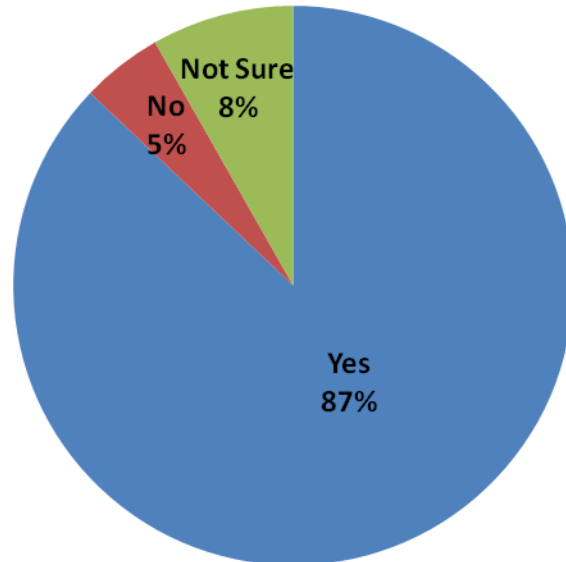
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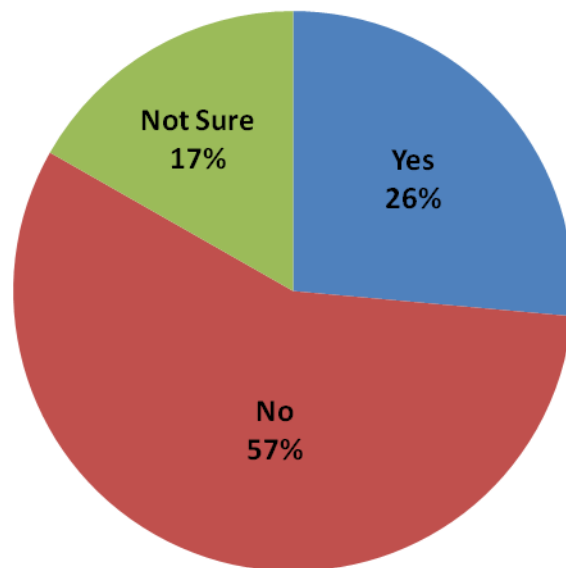
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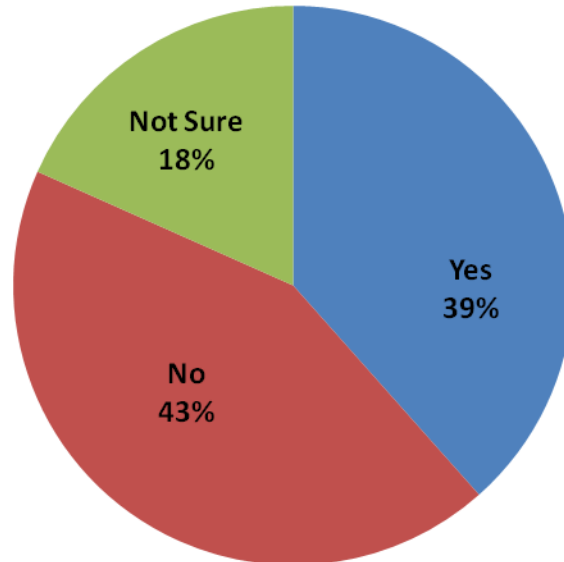
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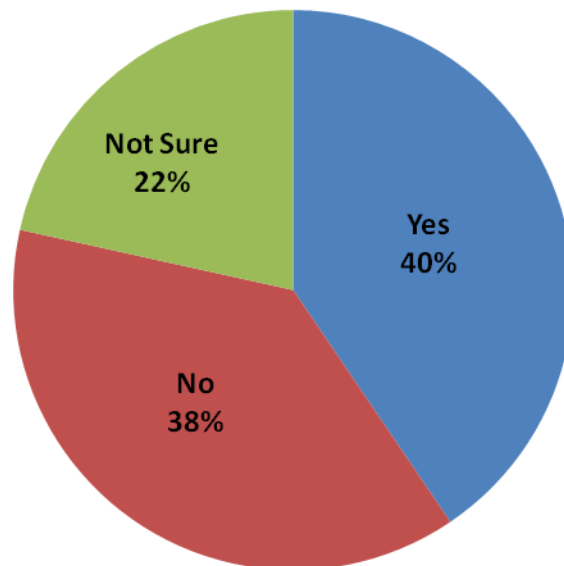
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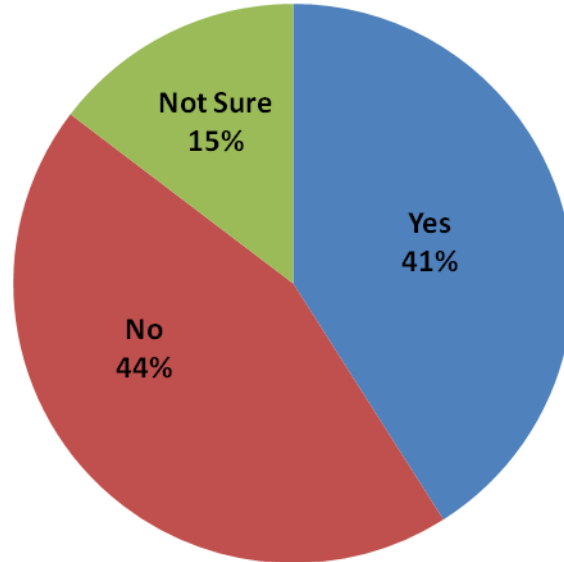
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if the money was directed towards capital project(s) in general?



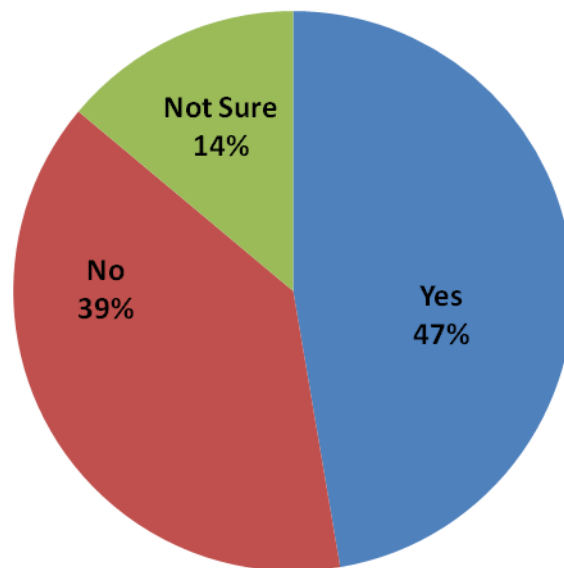
Would you support a local 1% sales tax if the money was directed towards a specific capital project?



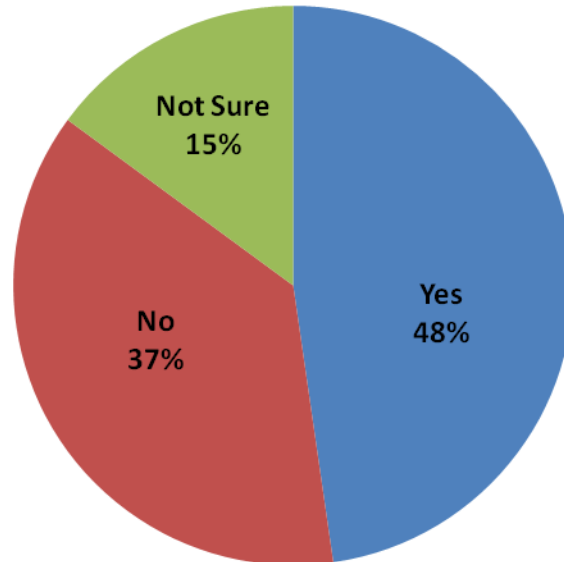
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Would you support a local 1% sales tax if the money was directed towards reconstructing and expanding the Town's sidewalk network?



Would you support a local 1% sales tax if they money was directed towards paving??



Would you support a local 1% sales tax if was not committed to a specific purpose other than creating fiscal capacity and/or reducing the need to raise property taxes?

