

Budget 2027: Creating our Budget – Survey Results

Melissa Kopal, Director of Finance

Heather Kepran, Manager of Strategic Communications

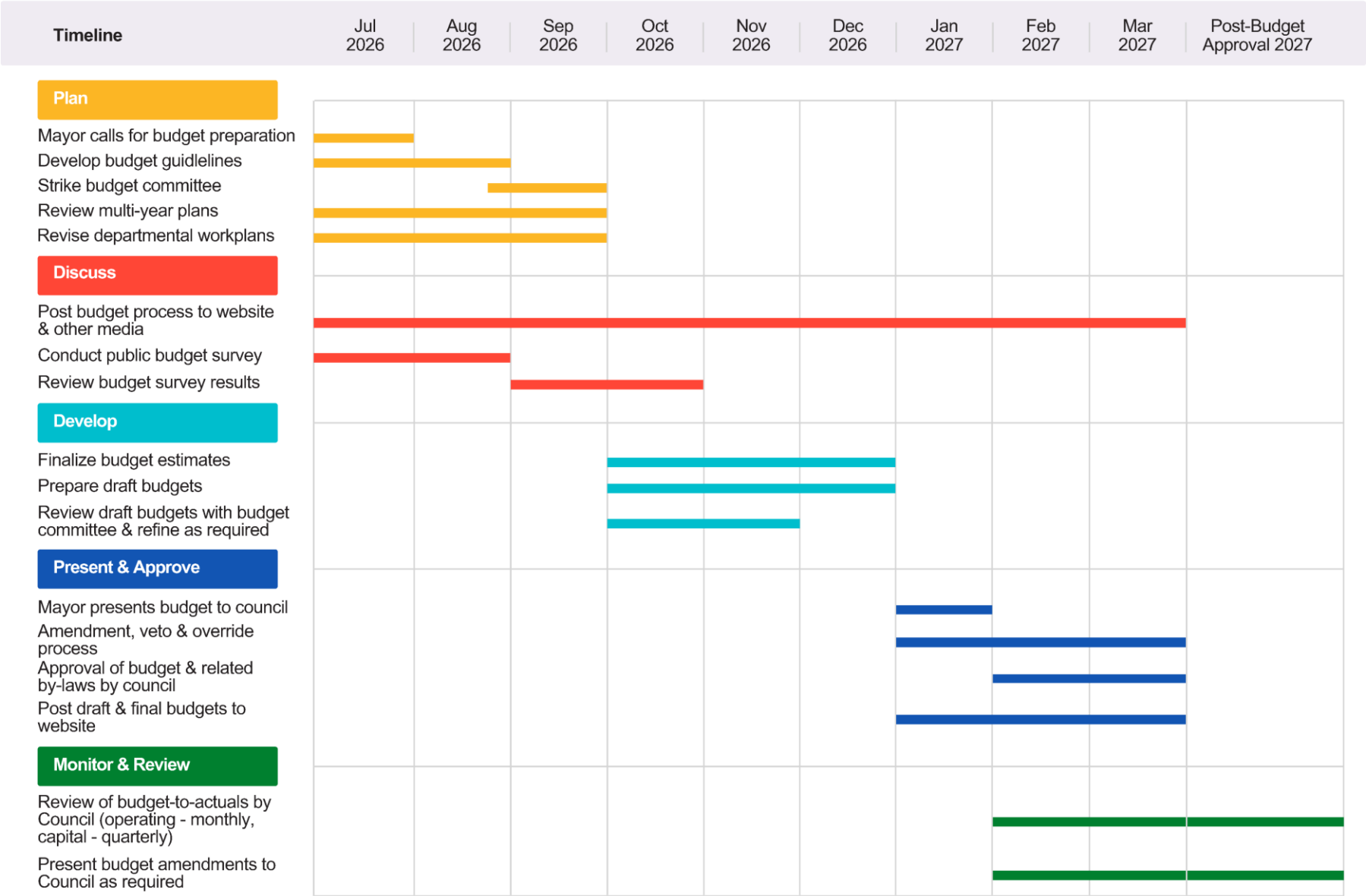
Middlesex Centre Municipal Council Meeting, October 7, 2026



About the 2027 Budget Survey

- 384 Responses
- **THANK YOU to everyone that completed the survey!**
- Open July 16 to August 31, 2026
- Advertised via tax bill insert, posters at Komoka Wellness Centre and main office, website, social media, e-newsletter and the municipal pages in Middlesex Banner and in the Kilworth-Komoka-Delaware Villager
- Results will inform the 2027 Capital and Operating Budgets for Middlesex Centre, as outlined in Budget Development Timeline

Proposed 2027 Budget Development Timeline



Timeline subject to change due to 2026 municipal election.

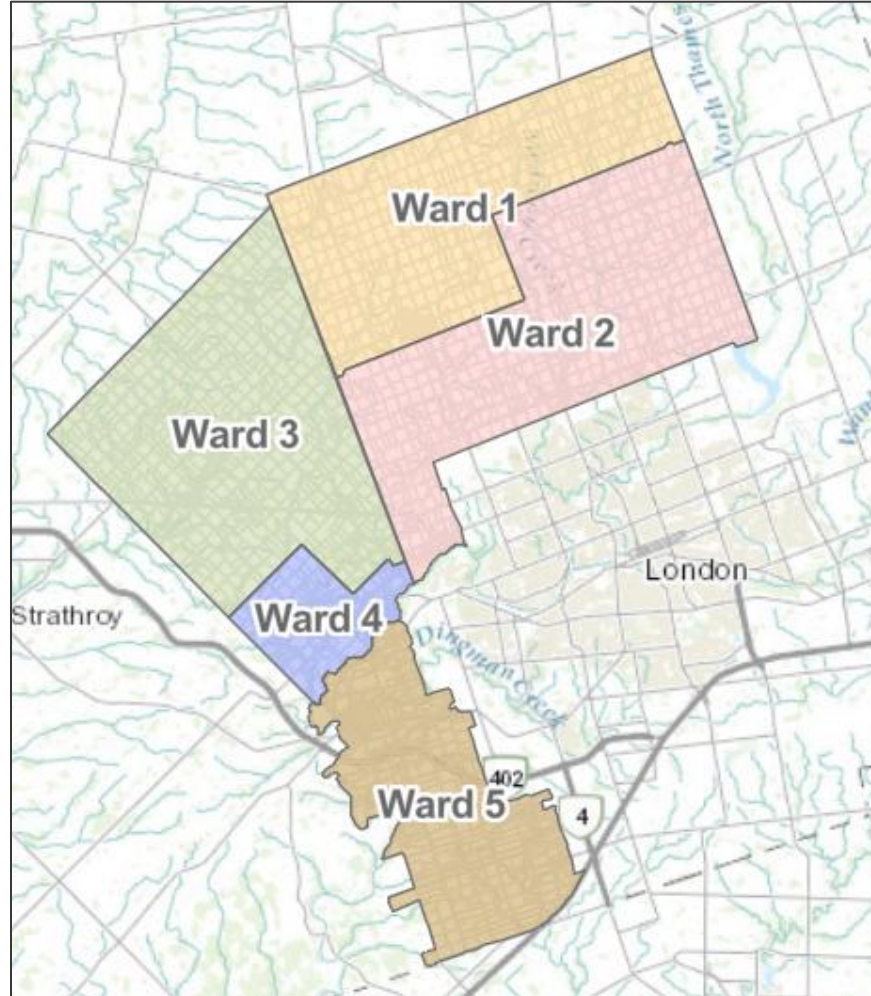


Budget Survey Structure

- Survey structure:
 - Similar to last year's survey, but with additional questions on roads and active transportation, and on the possibility of introducing an organic collection program.
 - Several questions provided space for written responses:
 - Provide an example of a municipal service that is working well and a service that could work better
 - A write-in "other" option for the question about how the municipality should spend a fictional \$275,000.
 - Any additional comments that should be considered during the 2027 budget deliberations.
- Additional section as questions about communications from the municipality. These results will be summarized for Council as part of the annual customer service update.
- Several questions provided demographic information.

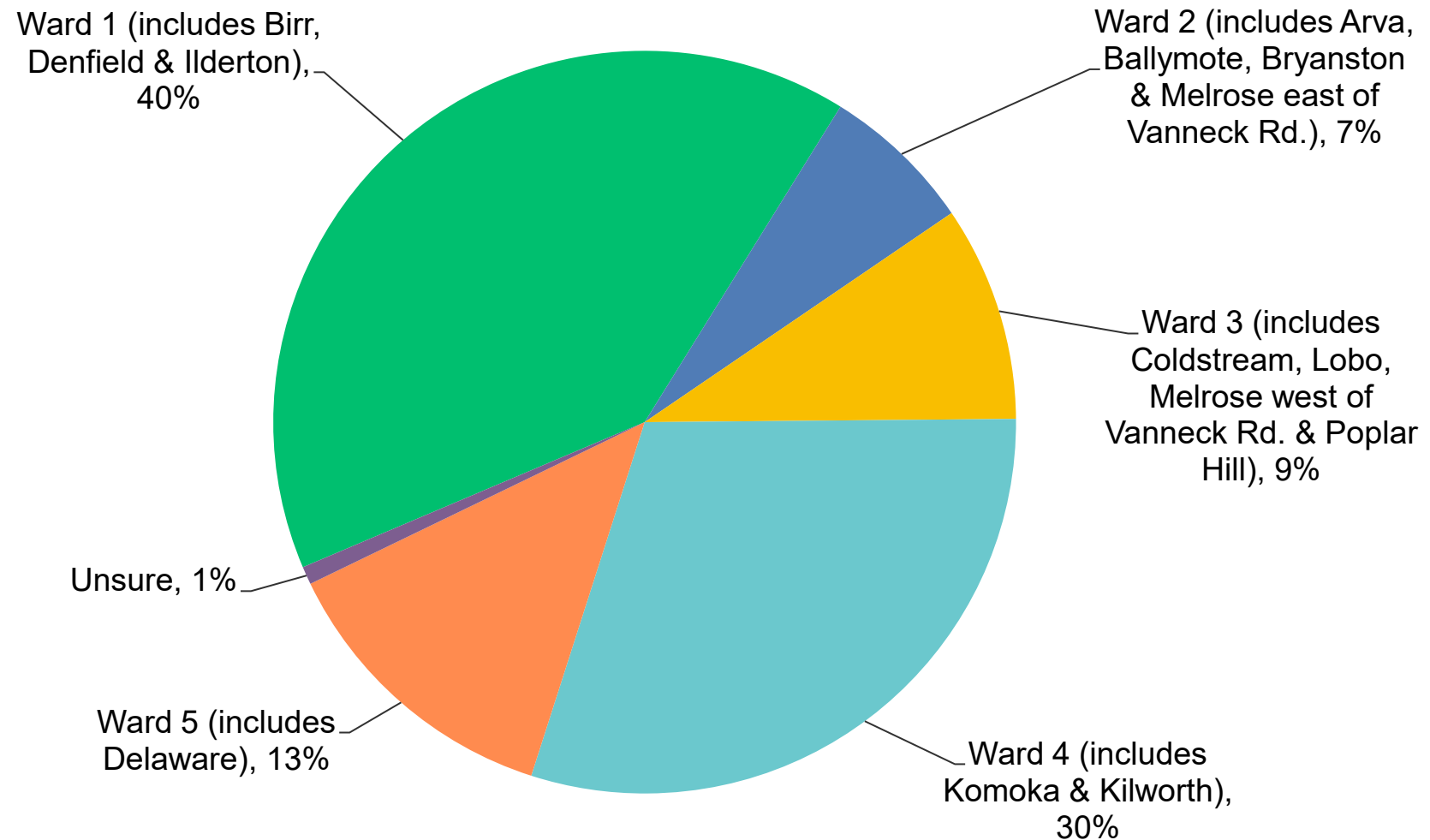


About the Residents Responding



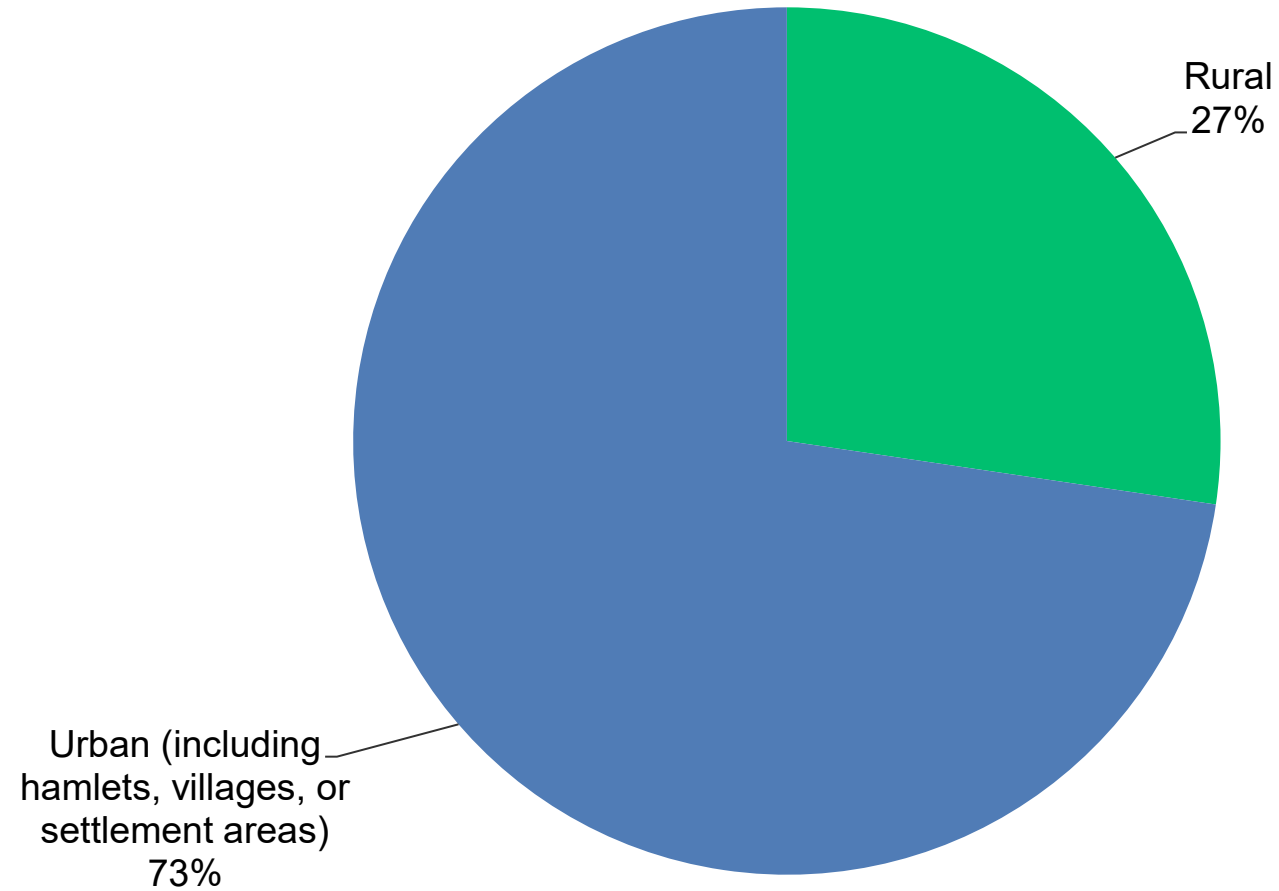
Q22: Where in Middlesex Centre do you live?

Answered: 256 Skipped: 128



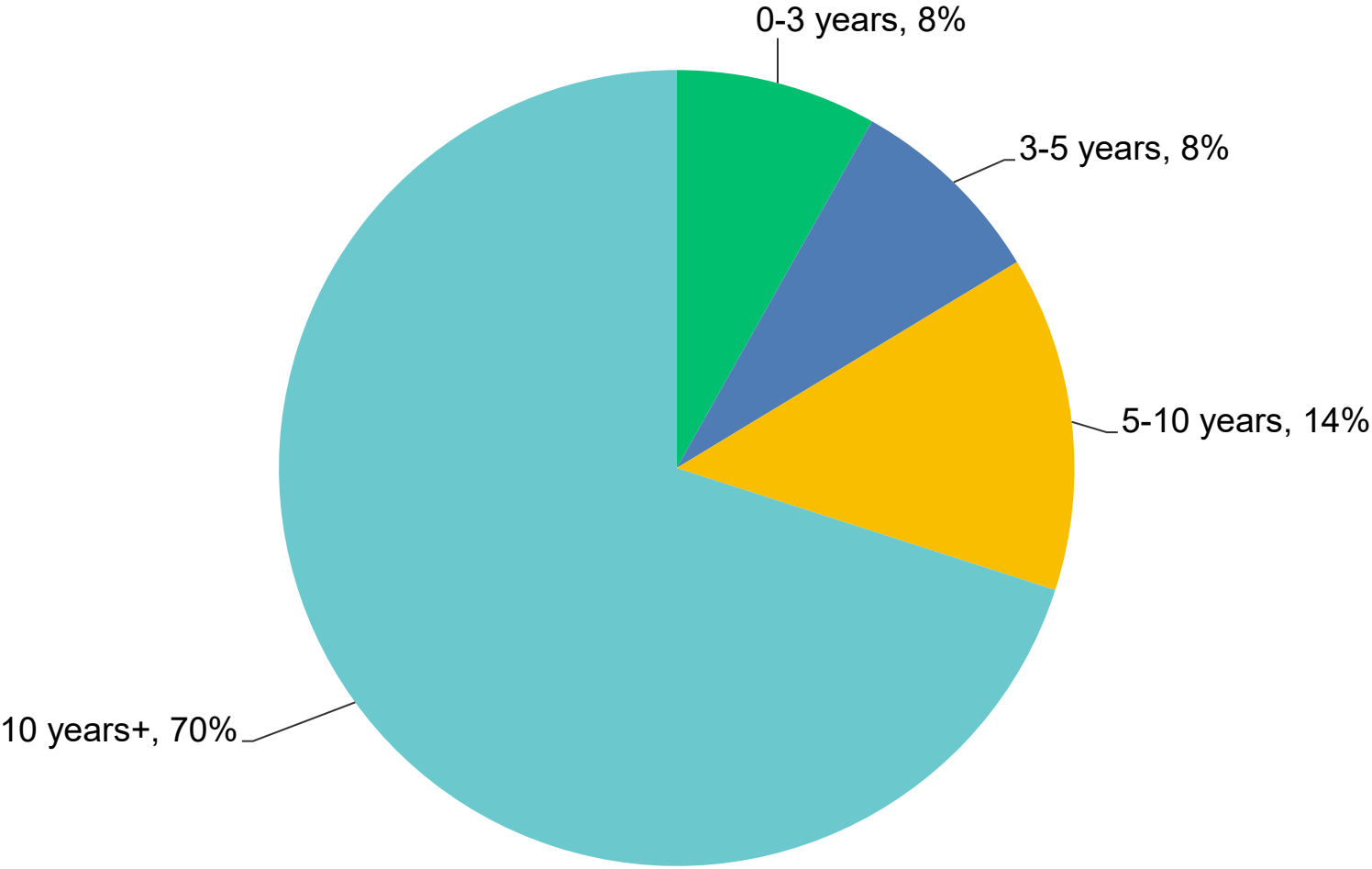
Q23: Would you describe your home as being in a rural or urban setting?

Answered: 256 Skipped: 128



Q24: How long have you lived in Middlesex Centre?

Answered: 257 Skipped: 127



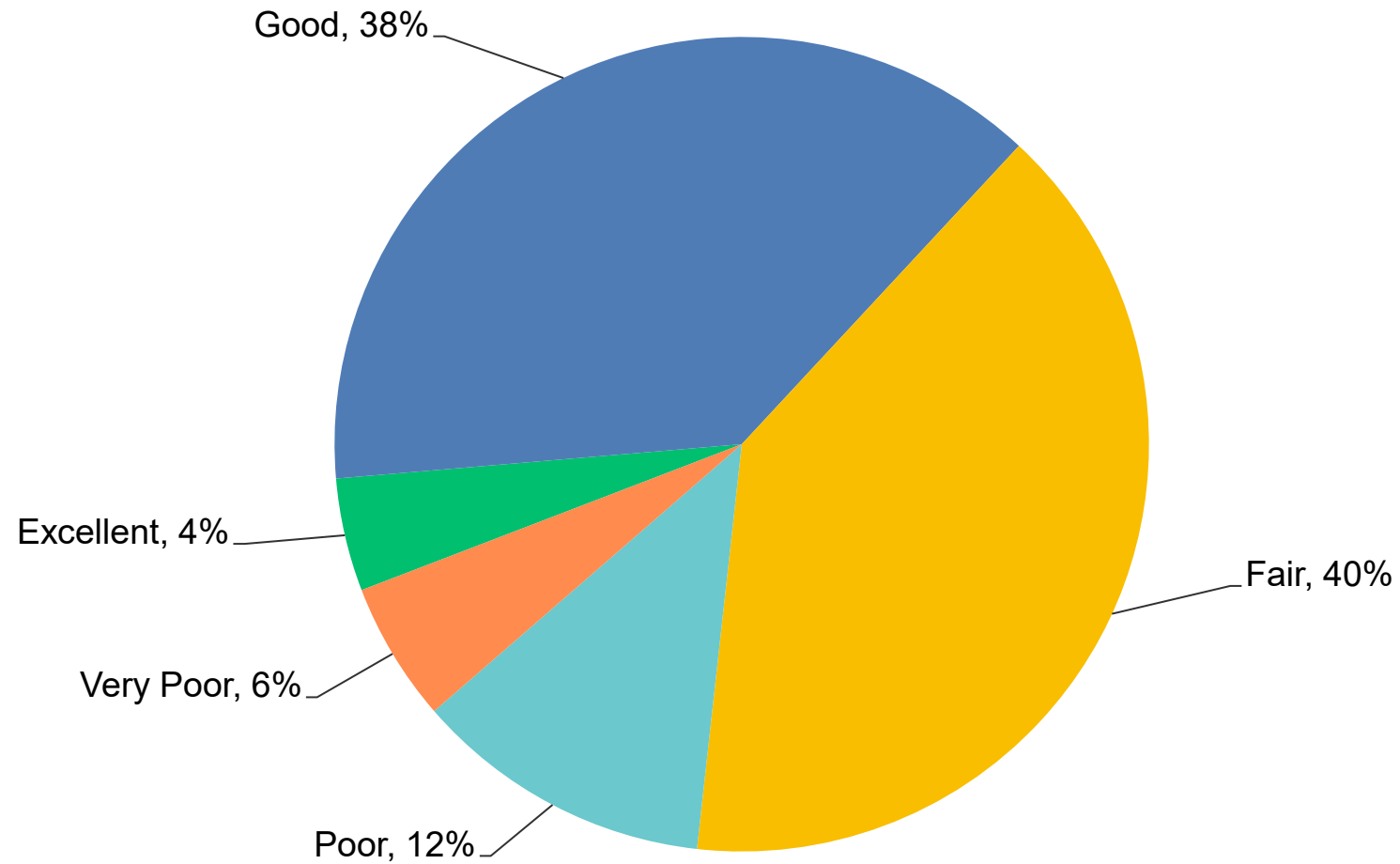


What We Heard



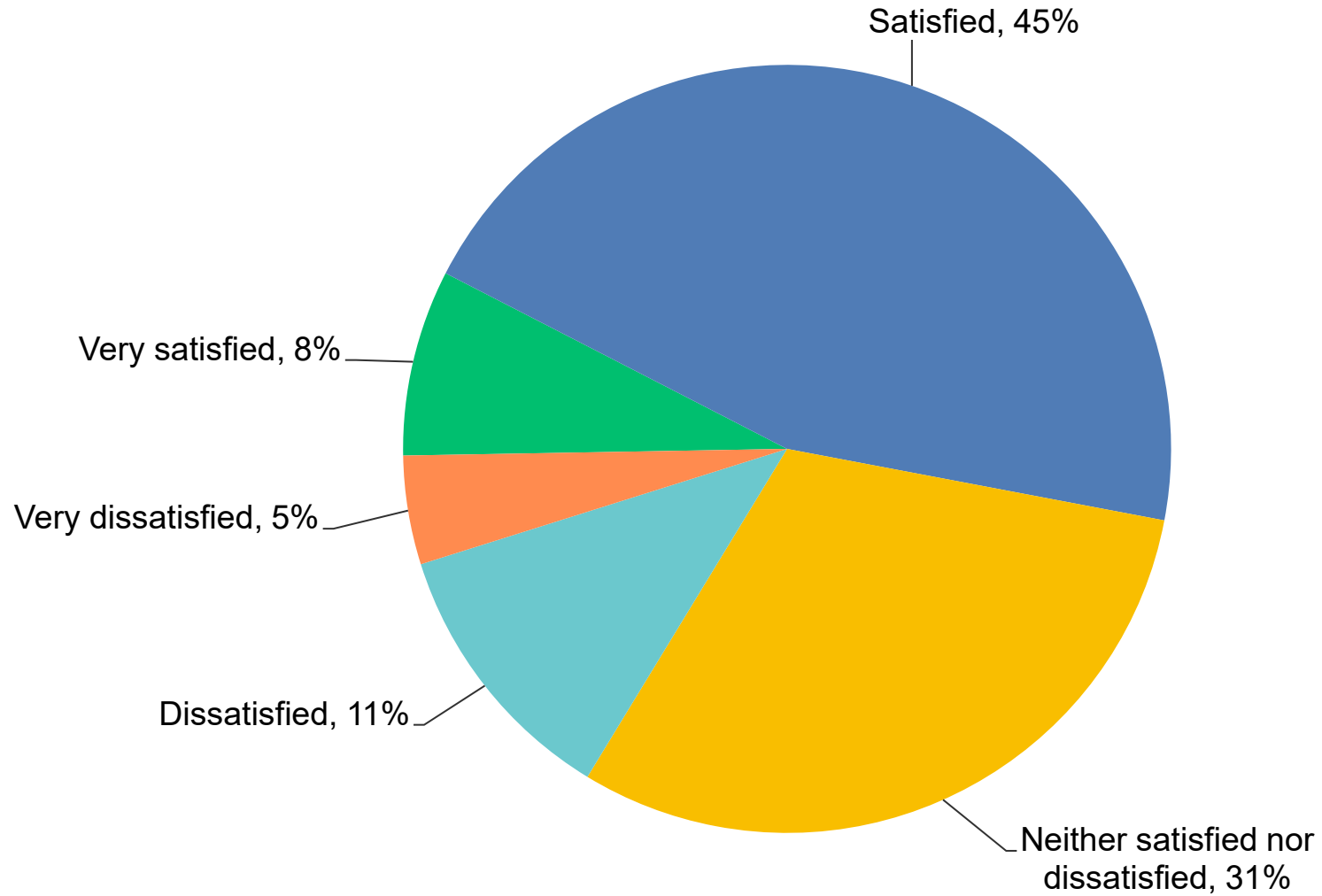
Q1: Thinking about the part of your taxes that go to Middlesex Centre, how would you rate the overall value you received for your tax dollars?

Answered: 379 Skipped: 5



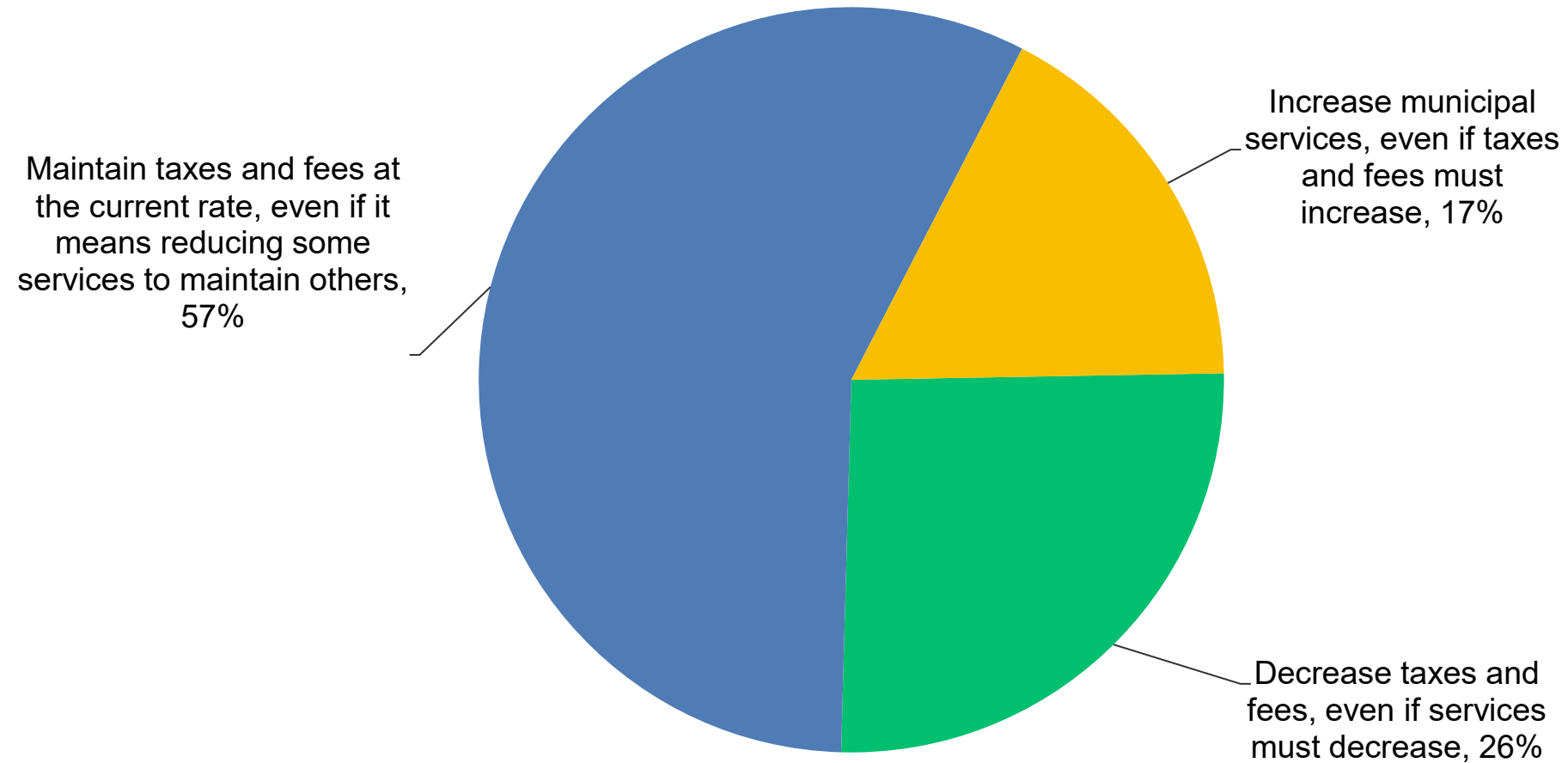
Q2: Overall, how satisfied are you with the delivery of all the services provided by Middlesex Centre?

Answered: 306 Skipped: 78



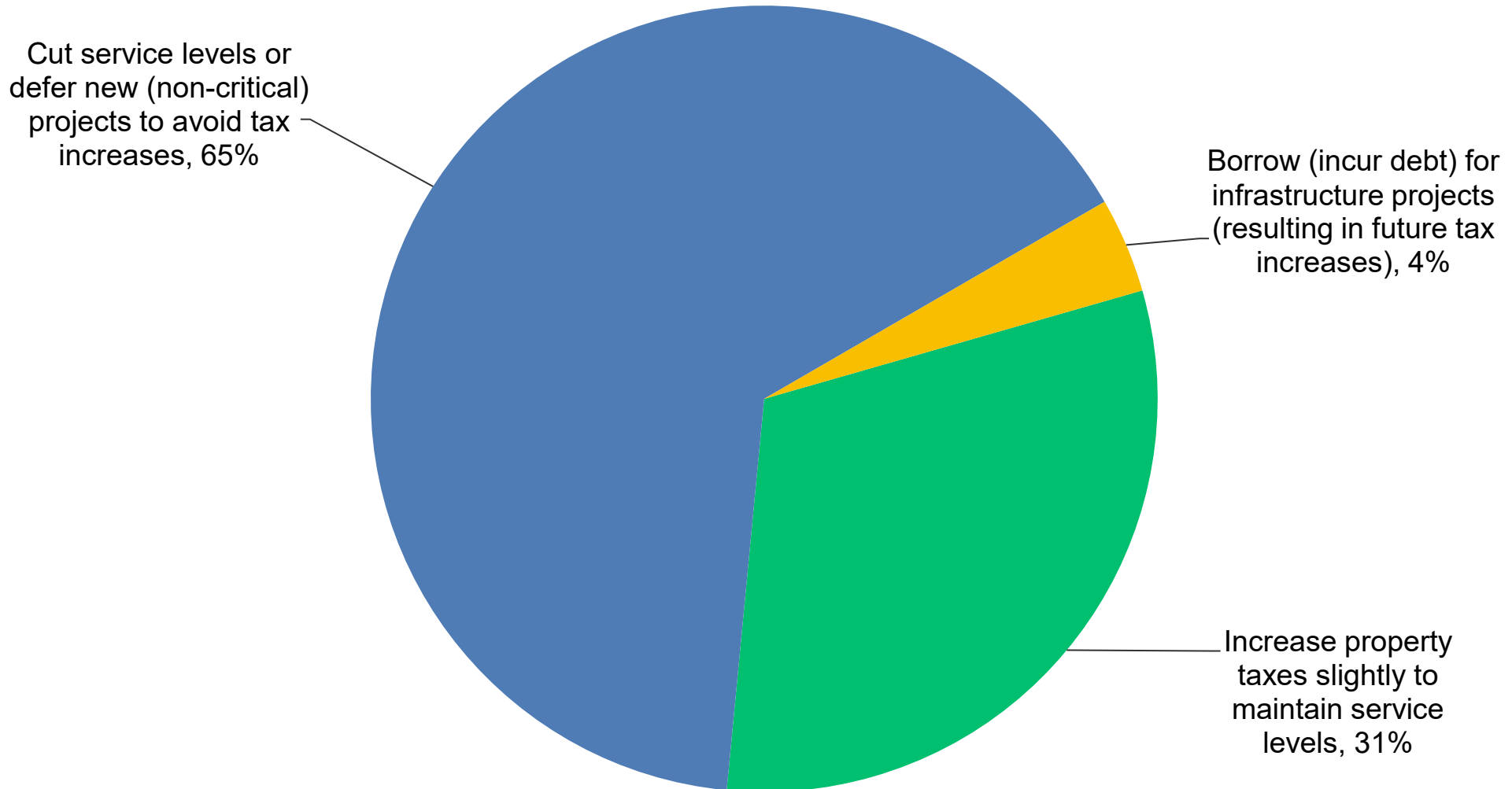
Q4: When thinking about the municipal budget and your tax dollars, which statement comes closest to your point of view?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 104



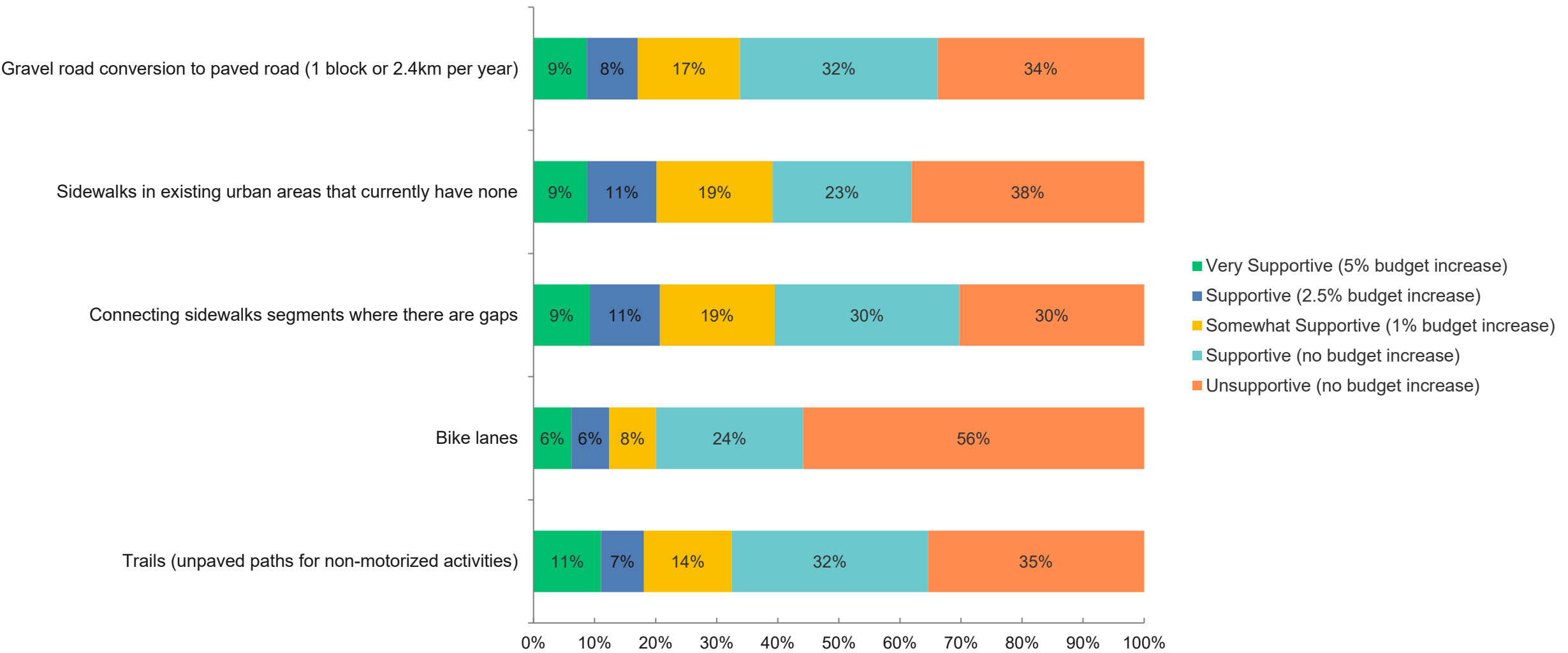
Q5: How would you like to see the municipality respond to budget pressures?

Answered: 281 Skipped: 103



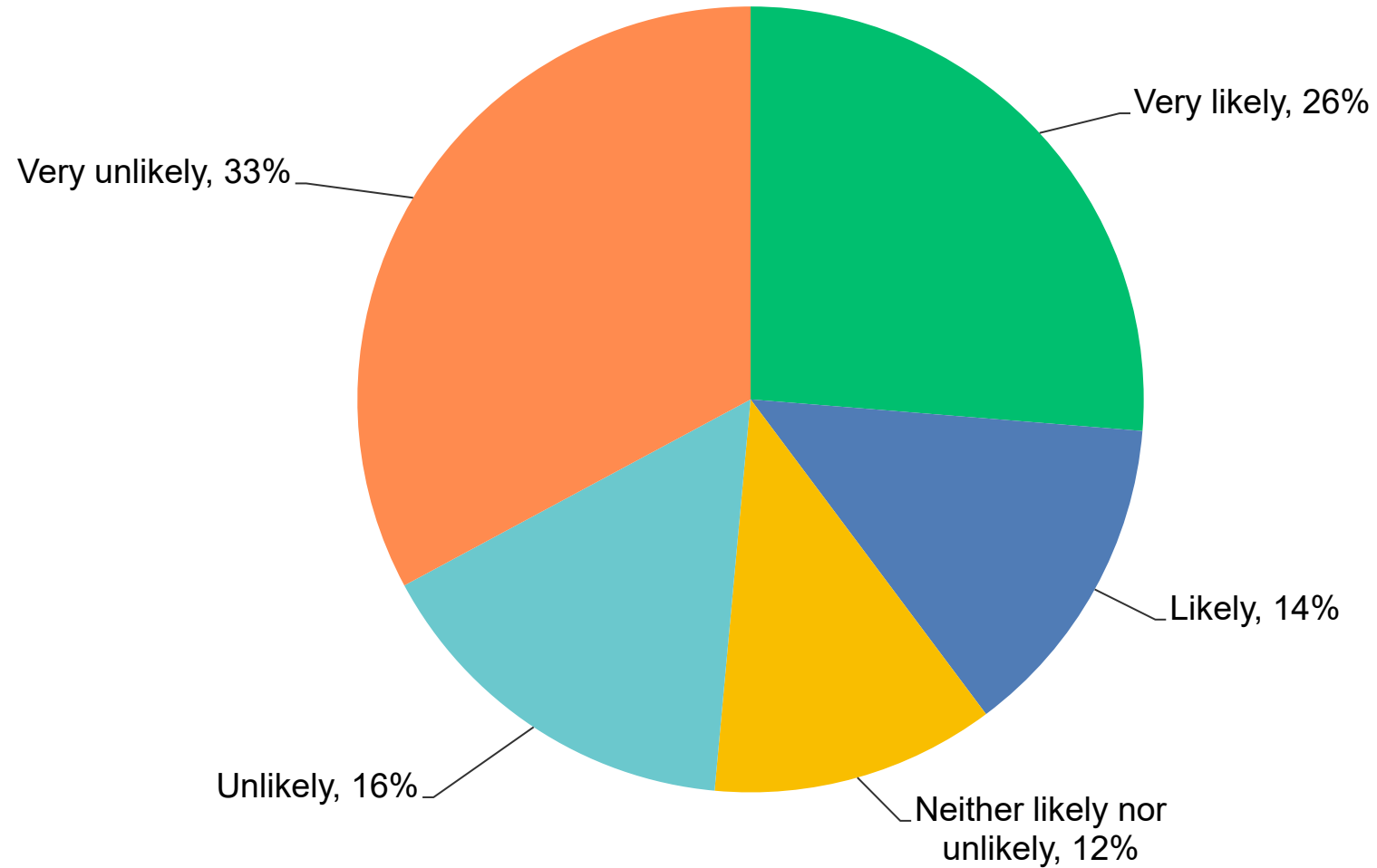
Q6: How supportive are you of including the following initiatives in the municipal budget?

Answered: 278 Skipped: 106



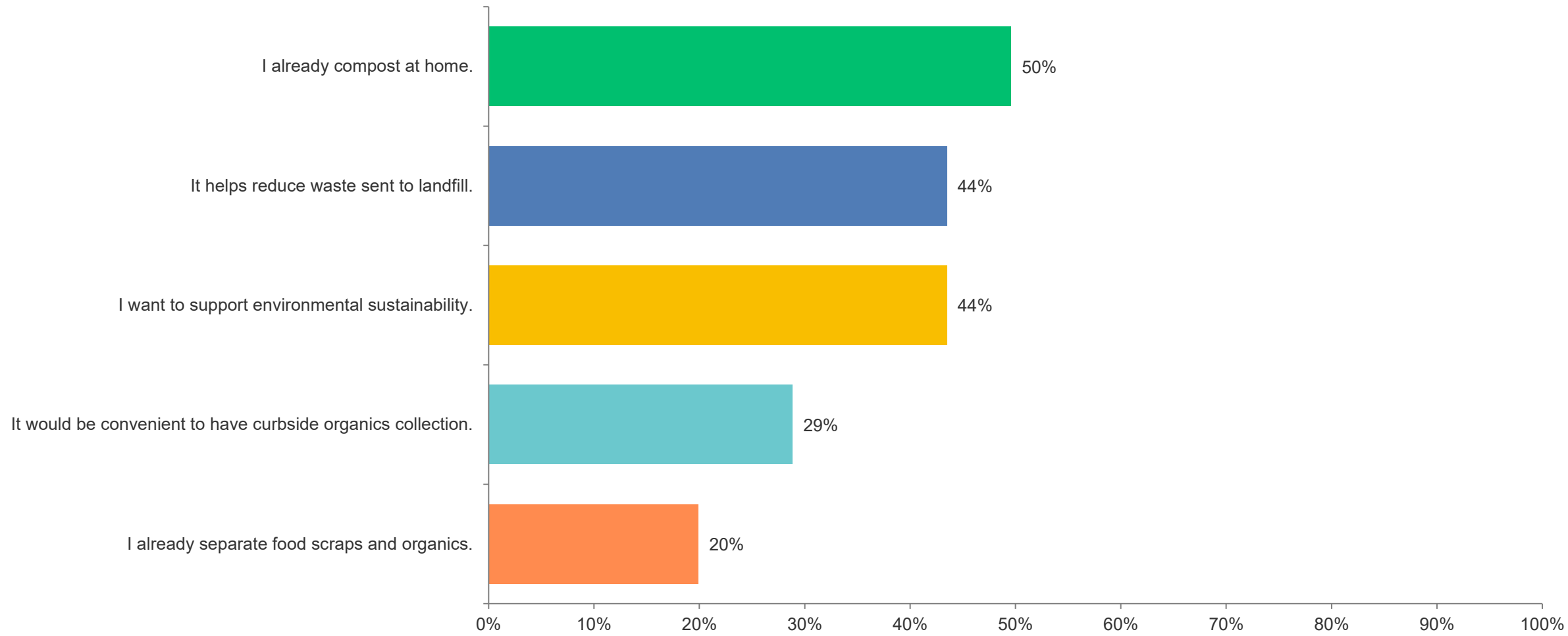
Q7: How likely would you be to participate in a green bin program?

Answered: 274 Skipped: 110



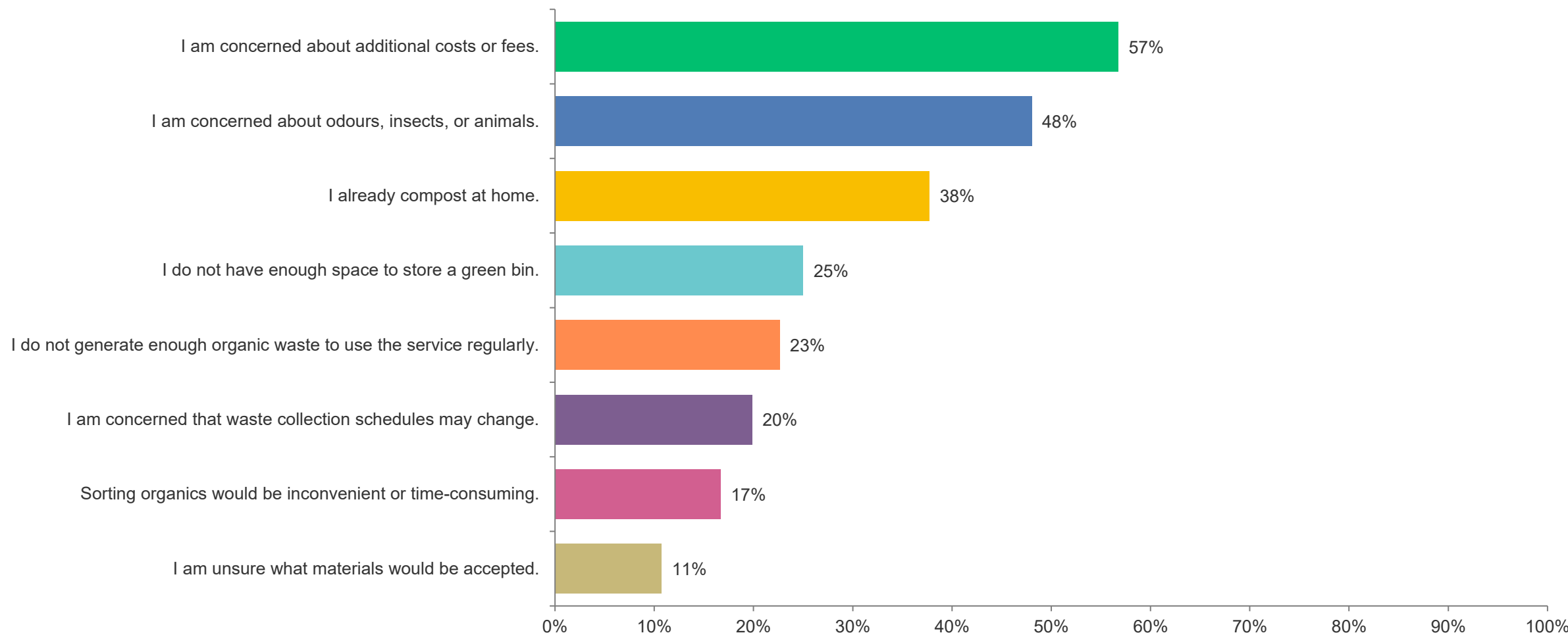
Q8: What factors would influence your decision to participate in a green bin collection program?
Select all that apply.

Answered: 246 Skipped: 138



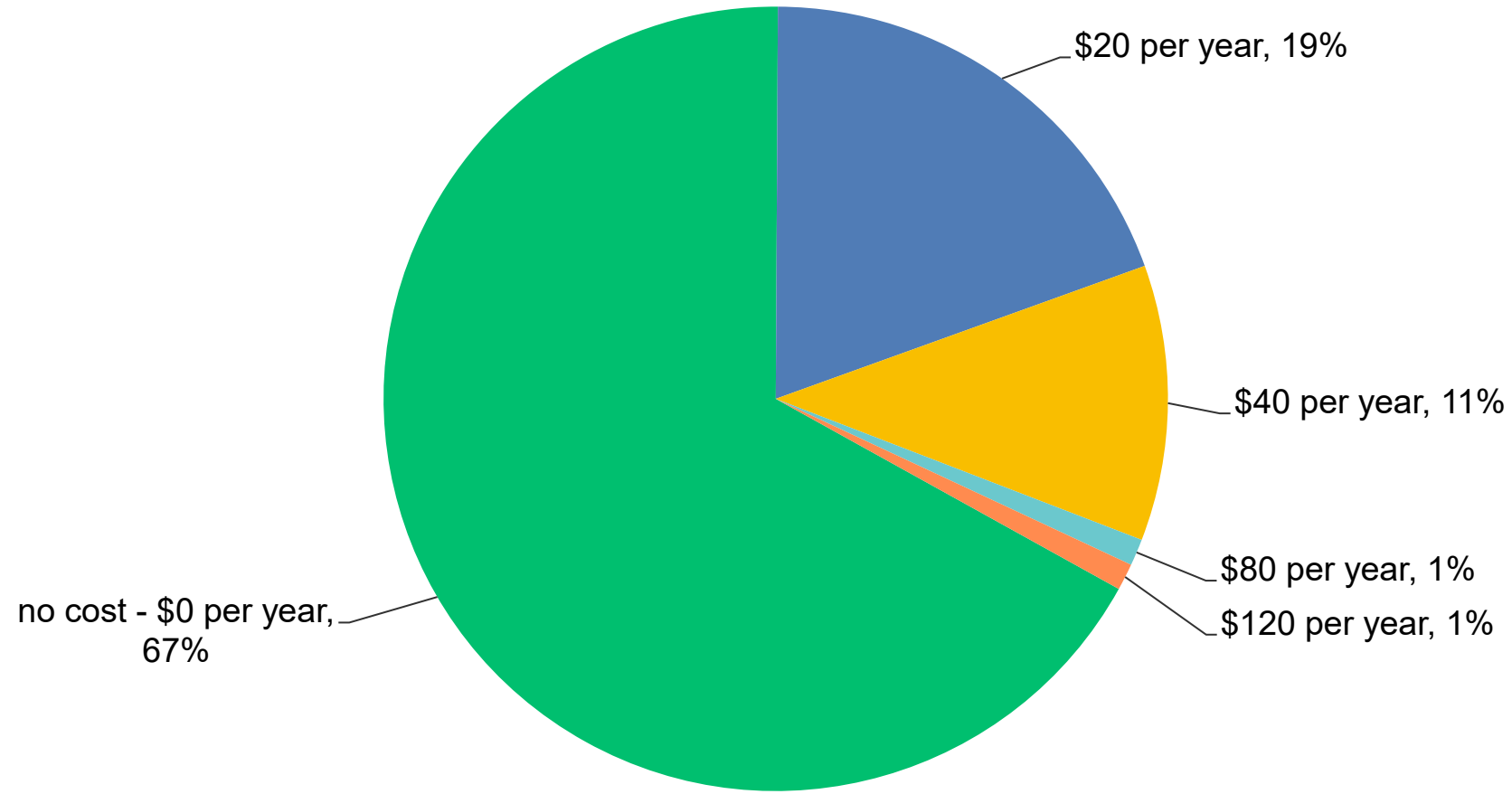
Q9: What factors would influence your decision to NOT participate in a green bin (organics) collection program? Select all that apply.

Answered: 252 Skipped: 132



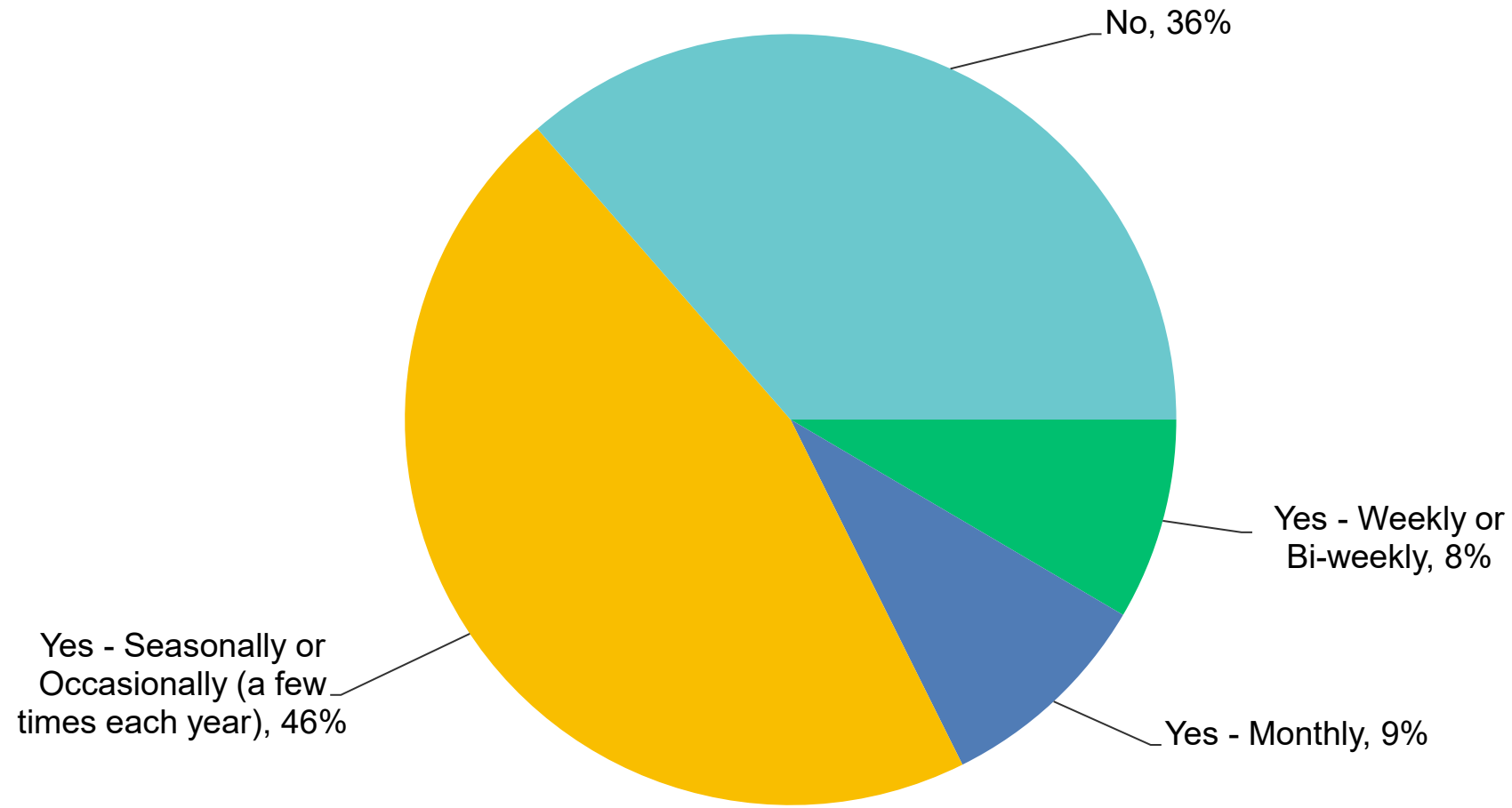
Q10: The addition of a green bin program may result in an increase in waste user fees. What would be a reasonable increase to the current waste bin rate to provide both waste and green bin collection?

Answered: 273 Skipped: 111



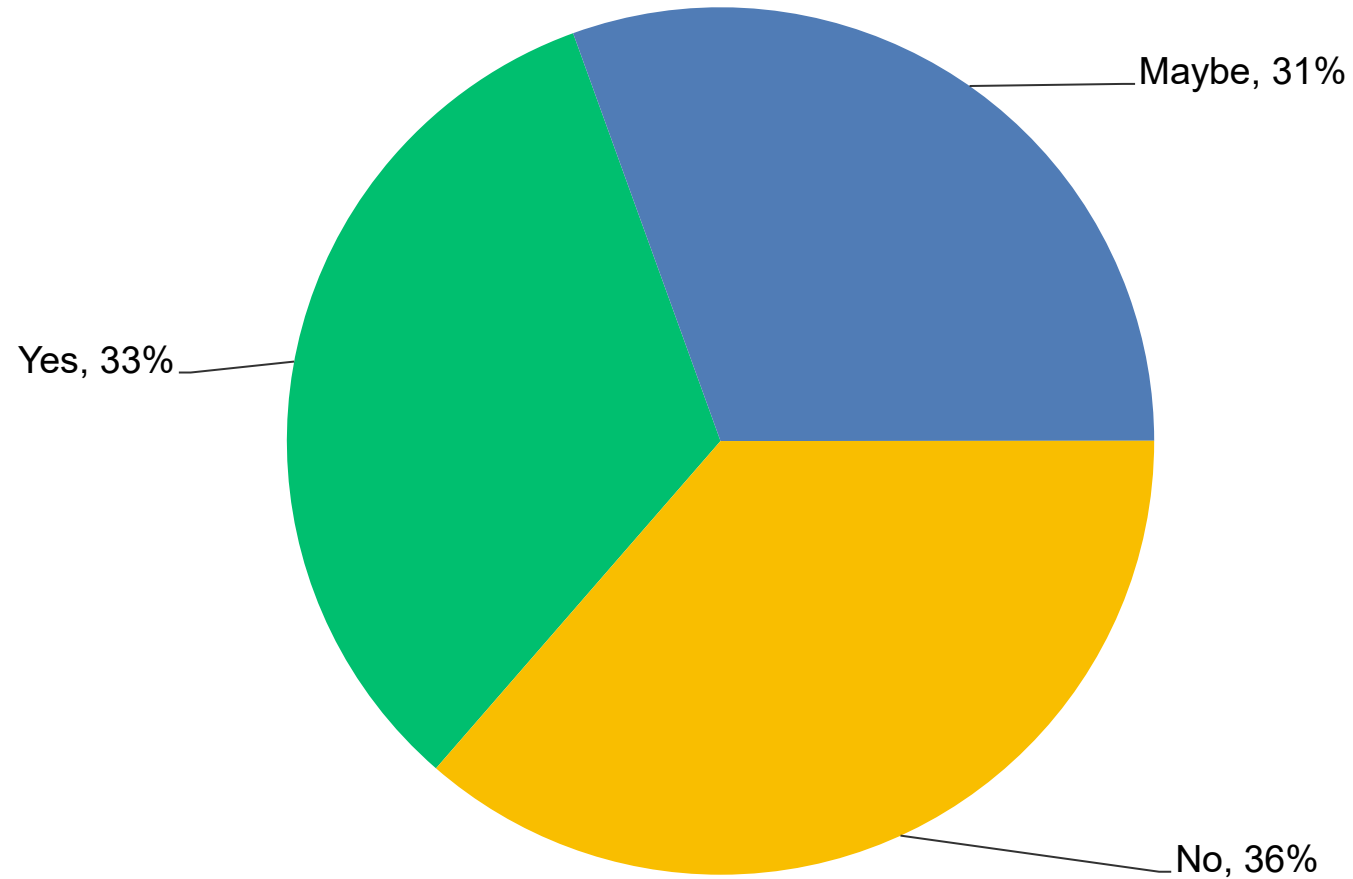
Q11: Do you visit Middlesex Centre's EnviroDepots at either Longwoods or Denfield?

Answered: 272 Skipped: 112



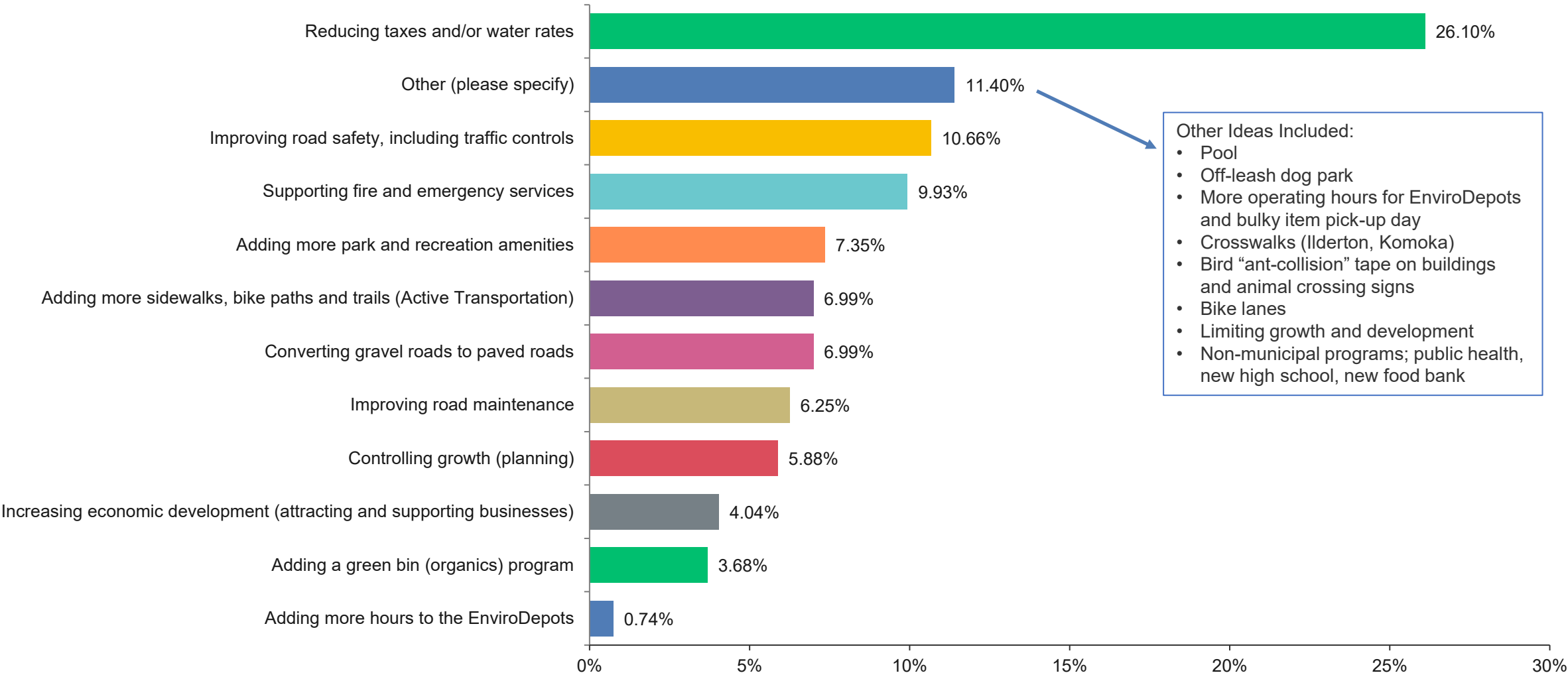
Q12: Currently the EnviroDepots are open from mid-April to mid-November on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Would you find extended hours on Saturday (e.g., open until 4:30 p.m.) helpful?

Answered: 272 Skipped: 112



Q13: If the municipality 'won the lottery' and suddenly received \$275,000 (equivalent to about a 1% tax rate increase), how would you like to see these funds be used?

Answered: 272 Skipped: 112





Written Comments from Survey

- Residents were asked three questions that required written responses:
 - Provide an example of a municipal service that is working well (205 responses)
 - Provide an example municipal service that could work better (218 responses)
 - Any additional comments that should be considered during the 2027 budget deliberations. (158 responses)
- Staff sorted and combined responses on similar issues / topics. If a resident commented on more than one issue in a response, their response was split to allow for response to each topic.
- Sharing the Comments:
 - Comments are compiled and provided to Middlesex Centre's departments for consideration in the budget preparations.
 - Comments received will be posted to the Budget 2027 webpage with this presentation. Overview follows.

Q14: Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2027 Budget deliberations.

Answered: 158

KEY THEMES

- **Roads, traffic and pedestrian safety** was the most frequently raised topic (44 mentions), with residents highlighting concerns about speeding, intersections, crosswalks, road conditions and safe walking connections.
- **Affordability and municipal spending** remains a significant concern (38 mentions). Residents emphasized tax impacts, cost of living pressures, value for money and the importance of spending discipline.
- **Recreation facilities and community amenities** were frequently discussed (29 mentions), with requests for expanded amenities such as splash pads, pools, recreation facilities and parks, while some respondents preferred that funding remain focused on core services.
- **Trails, sidewalks and active transportation** generated considerable discussion (27 mentions) and reflected a range of perspectives, from support for improved connectivity and safety to concerns about costs and prioritization.
- **Growth and development** comments focused on managing growth responsibly, protecting farmland and green space, and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with development (21 mentions).
- There were some positive comments too, including “Overall we’re happy with the services provided by our Municipality.”



Issues Outside of Municipal Control

- Some of the comments dealt with issues outside of municipal control:
 - Concerns about power outages
 - Calls for more schools
 - Issues with unassumed municipal roads and infrastructure
 - Comments referencing other municipalities / levels of government
- Where appropriate, these issues will be shared with lead agency or government department.



Take Aways

- **Controlling government spending and affordability remains top-of-mind with residents, as it was in last year's survey.**
- Residents are asking Middlesex Centre to prioritize safe, reliable infrastructure and core services while maintaining affordability.
- Road safety, transportation infrastructure, affordability and municipal spending emerged as the strongest themes within the budget written comments.
- Residents also expressed interest in recreational amenities, trails, active transportation and environmental initiatives, while emphasizing the importance of balancing these investments with fiscal responsibility and maintaining existing services.
- Feedback on several topics was divided, reflecting different community priorities. For example, some residents supported additional sidewalks, trails and recreational amenities, while others would prefer to see those funds spent elsewhere or not at all.
- Feedback on a potential Green Bin program was similarly divided, with support and opposition appearing in roughly equal measure. Among those opposed, the most common concerns were additional costs or fees, as well as potential odours, insects and wildlife attraction.

Melissa Kopal, CPA, CGA

Director of Corporate Services

Stay in Touch:

T: 519-666-0190 ext 5235

E: kopal@middlesexcentre.ca

W: middlesexcentre.ca

Heather Kepran

Manager of Strategic Communications

Stay in Touch:

T: 519-666-0190 ext 5259

E: kepran@middlesexcentre.ca

W: middlesexcentre.ca

Alternative Formats:

If you require this document in a different format, please contact

Middlesex Centre at customerservice@middlesexcentre.ca or 519-666-0190.