PREPARED BY THE MANTUA CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

MAY 2026

MANTUA ISSUES SURVEY 2026

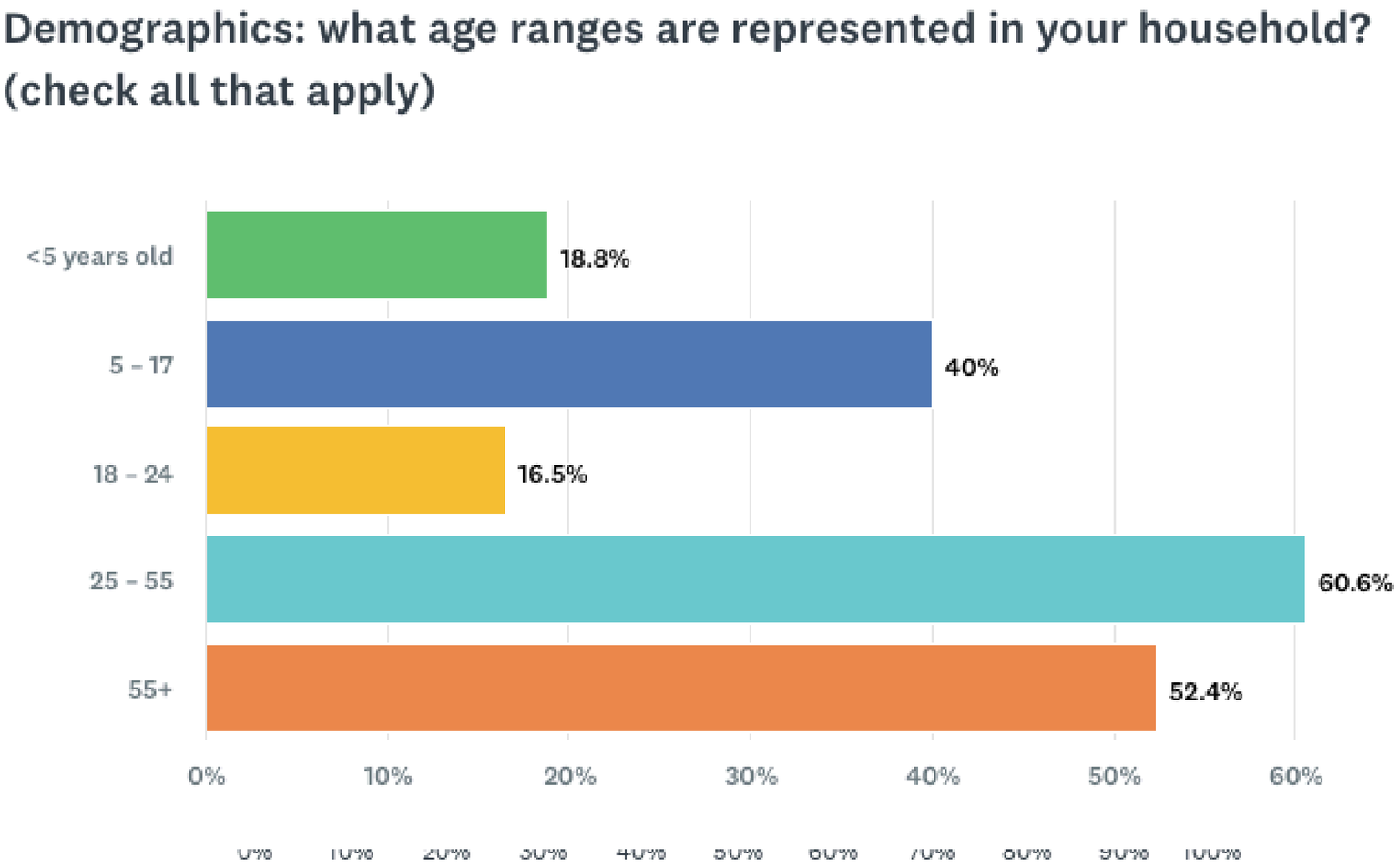
Mantua
a great place to call home

ABOUT THE DATA: Results collected over 5 weeks from April 16, 2025 to May 21, 2026 via email and social media outreach, with 177 completed responses.

PRESENTED BY MATT MULLIN

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

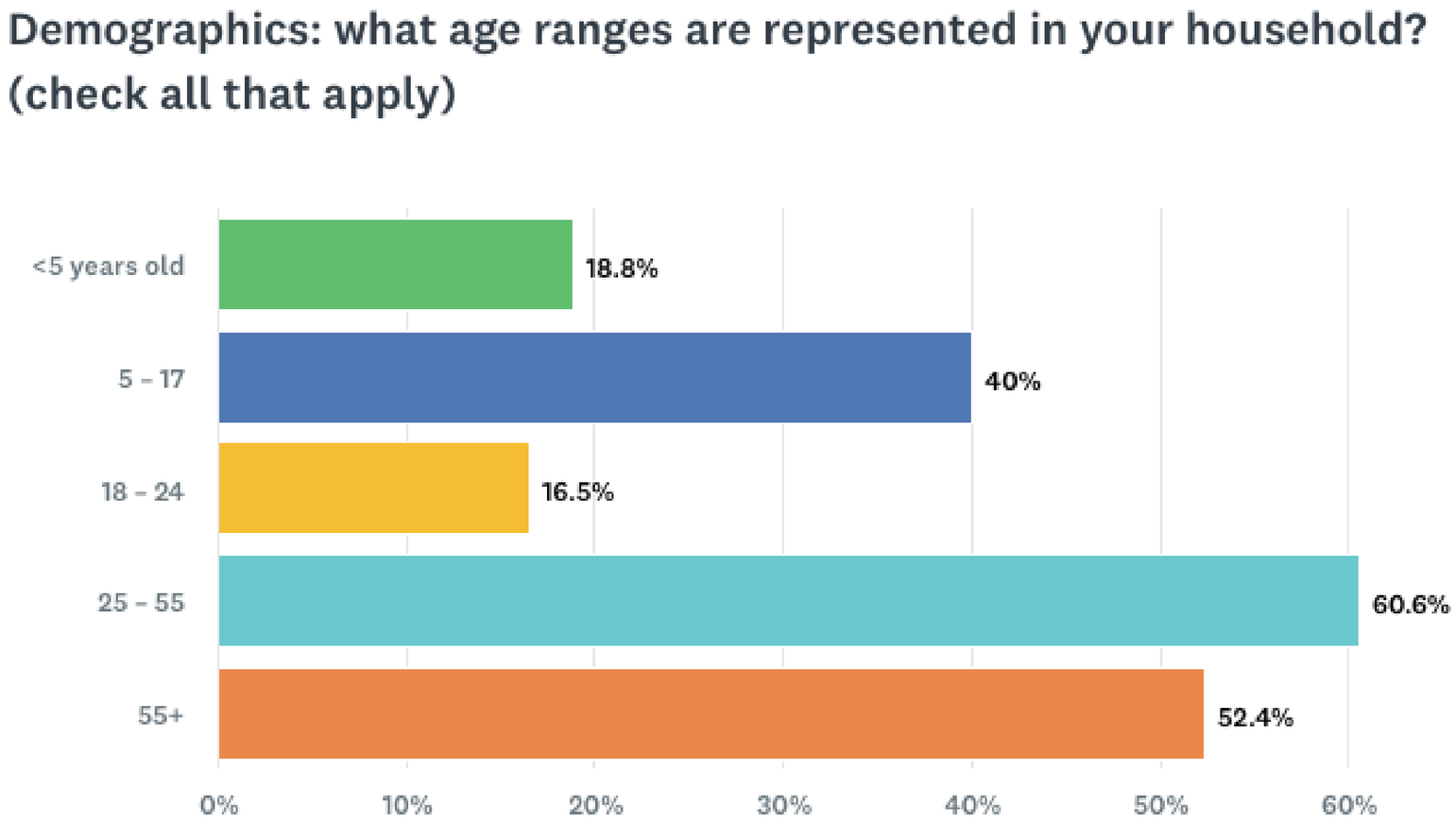
- 40% of respondents have children of public school age (**+9% vs ‘25**), and 57% have people 24 or younger in the home (**+10%**)
- 29% of households have only people 55+ (**-10%**)
- 25% of households with people 55+ also have children in the home (**-13%**)



Last year, the largest group represented were households of 55+ residents, and today the largest group is those 25-55.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

- Average household size is 3.2 (+0.2 vs ‘25) people
- 36% of households have 2 or fewer people (-11%)
- 9% of households have 5 or more people (+2%)

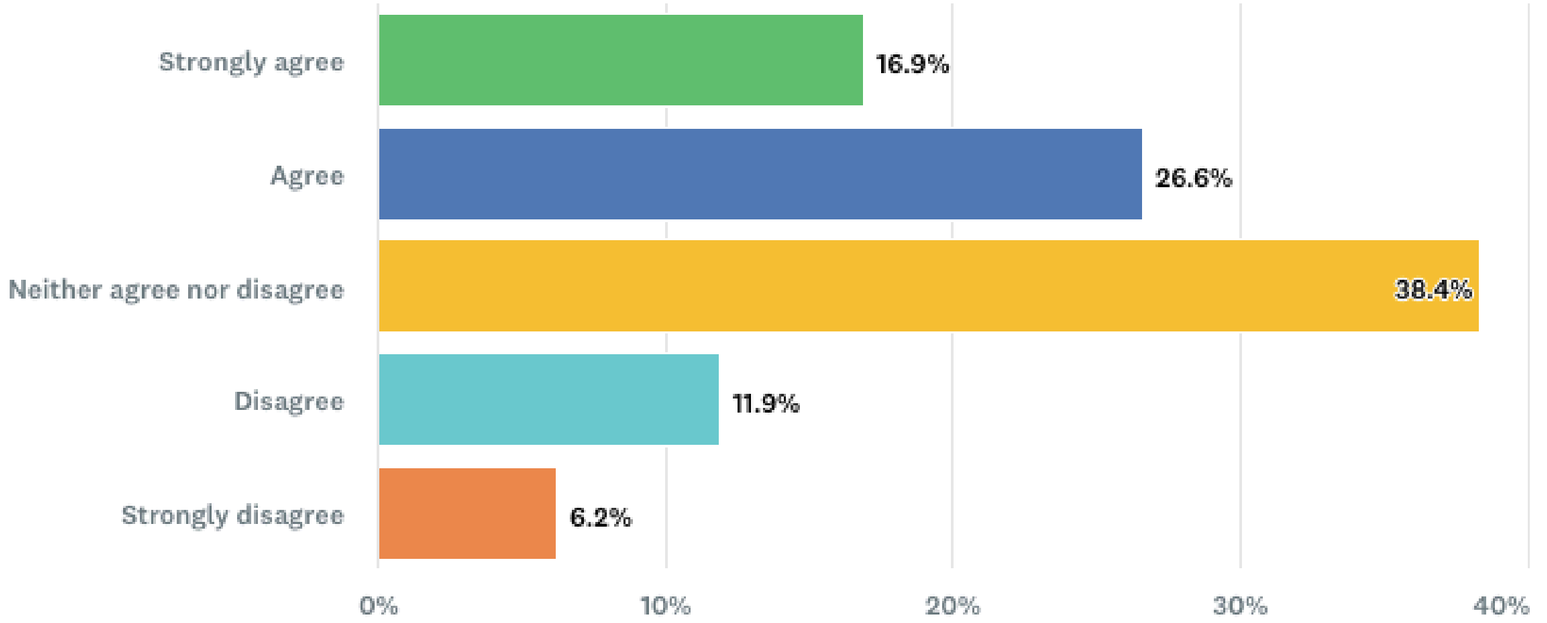


While the survey was marketed to the full Mantua community through social media, 88% of responses came from current MCA members (-6% vs ‘25)

TRAILS IN MANTUA

Do you agree or disagree with this statement:

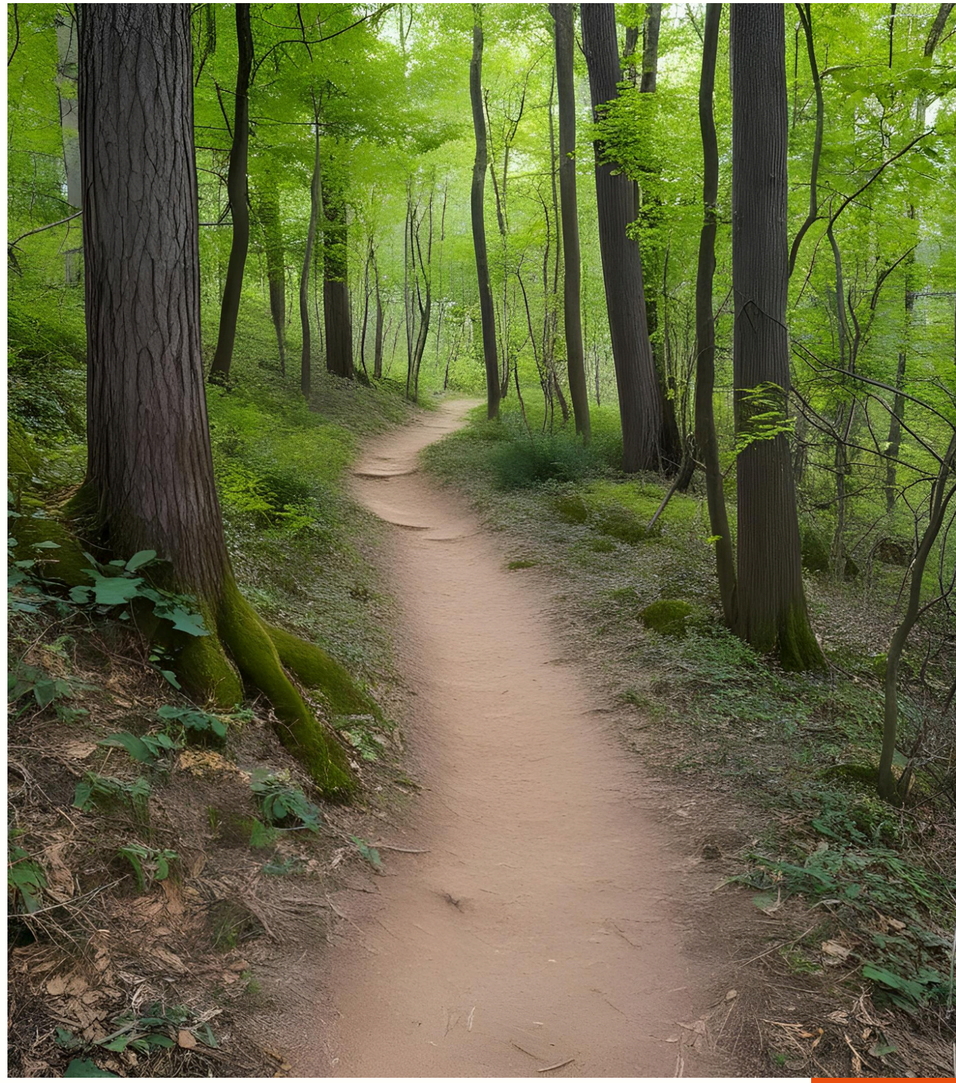
"Building more trails is an important issue for me."



44% (-12%) of respondents agreed with the statement that building trails is important to them, while 18% disagreed. Last year, we did not ask for neutral opinions, which changed responses.

TRAILS IN MANTUA: TOP PRIORITIES

- Barkley Dr to the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail (CCT)
- Eakin Park Trails, including a connection from Lynnhurst Dr to the park as well as from the park to the CCT
- Expand trails behind Tovito Dr to connect to businesses like the Ice Arena, Fairfax Gymnastics, and Trader Joe’s

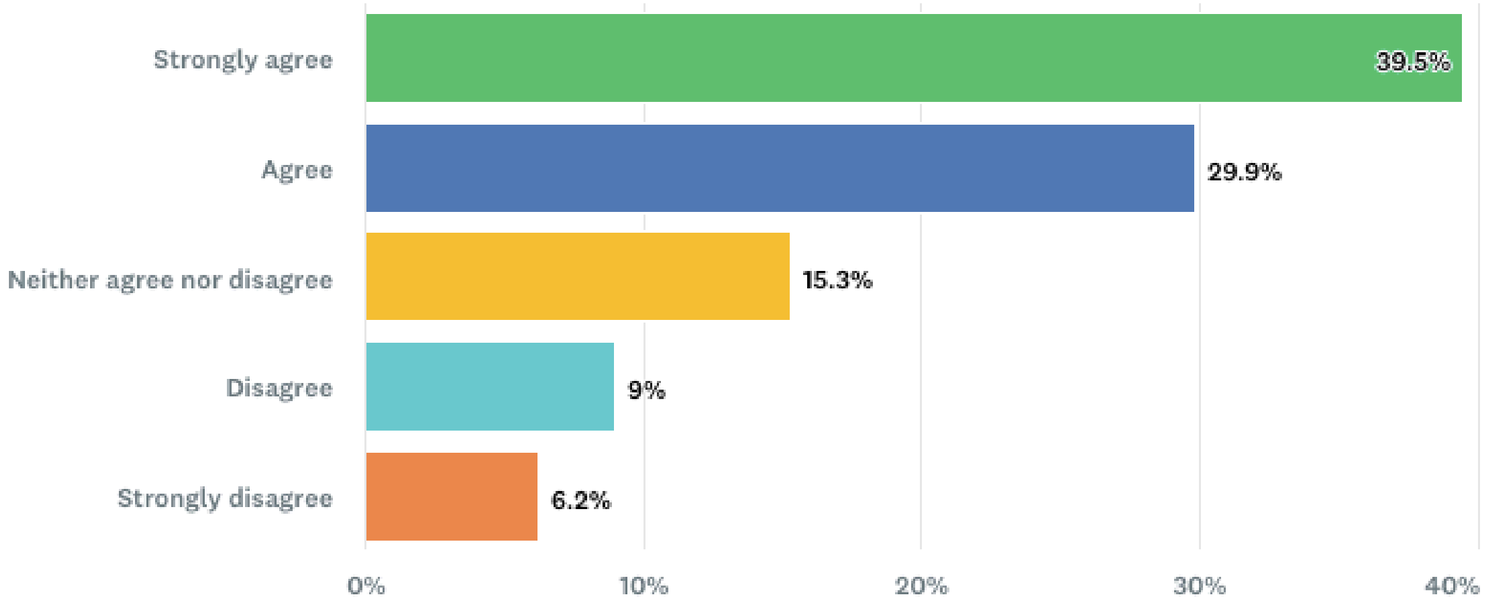


In general, respondents want more access to the CCT, either through Eakin Park, Prosperity, or Barkley, followed by access to retail. This is unchanged from last year.

SIDEWALKS IN MANTUA

Do you agree or disagree with this statement:

"Building more sidewalks is an important issue for me."



As with trails, we asked for neutral opinions this year, which impacted negative responses (-14%) versus positive repsonses (-1.4%)

SIDEWALKS IN MANTUA: TOP PRIORITIES

- Barkley from Southwick to the CCT
- Prince William from Horner Ct to Hamilton Dr
- Southwick from Kirkwood to Prosperity

In general, respondents want sidewalks to support safe routes to Mantua Elementary. The top two priorities together would represent just over one total mile of sidewalk. This year saw a somewhat higher rate of support for Barkley sidewalks.

SIDEWALKS & TRAILS IN MANTUA: WILL YOU HELP?

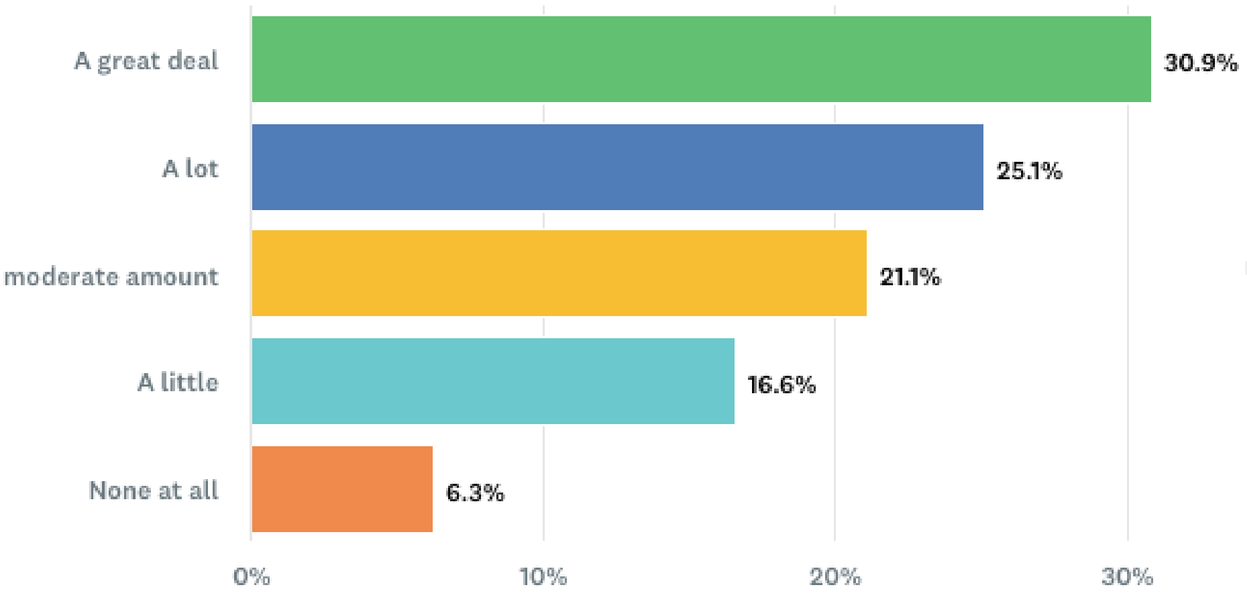
New this year, we asked residents if they would assist in helping advocate for more trails or sidewalks with our local elected officials and with our community.

50 offered to help with trails, while **68** offered to help with sidewalks.

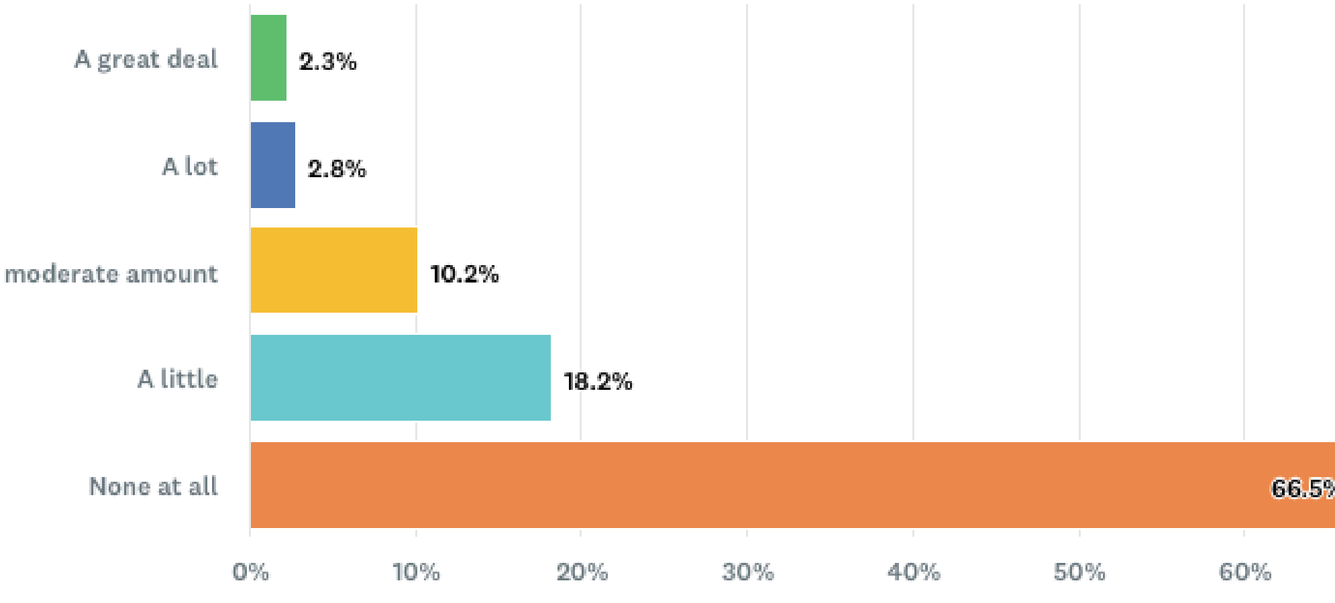
Unfortunately, a few of those who offered to help left out their email address to get in contact. If you'd like to help, contact transportation@mantua.org please!

WALKING AND BIKING: HOW OFTEN DO YOU WALK OR BIKE FOR...

RECREATION



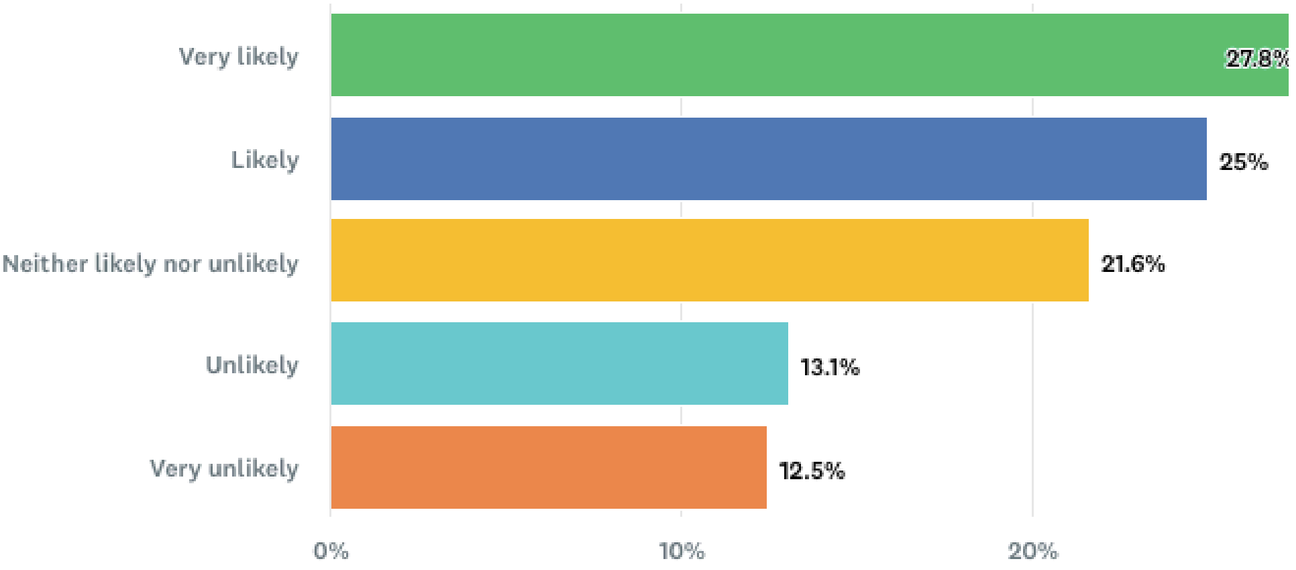
WORK / ERRANDS



Folks are biking or walking for recreation the same as last year (56% either a great deal or a lot in both years), but less often for errands.

IF FFX BUILT MORE INFRASTRUCTURE, WOULD THAT INFLUENCE HOW OFTEN YOU WALK OR BIKE FOR...

RECREATION



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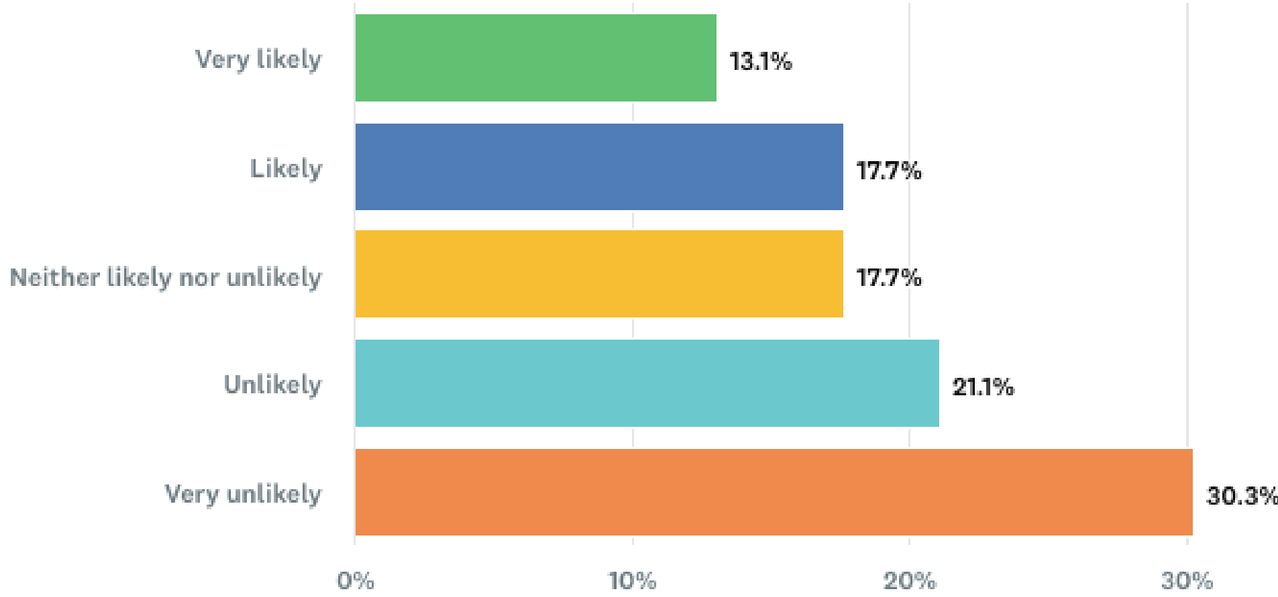
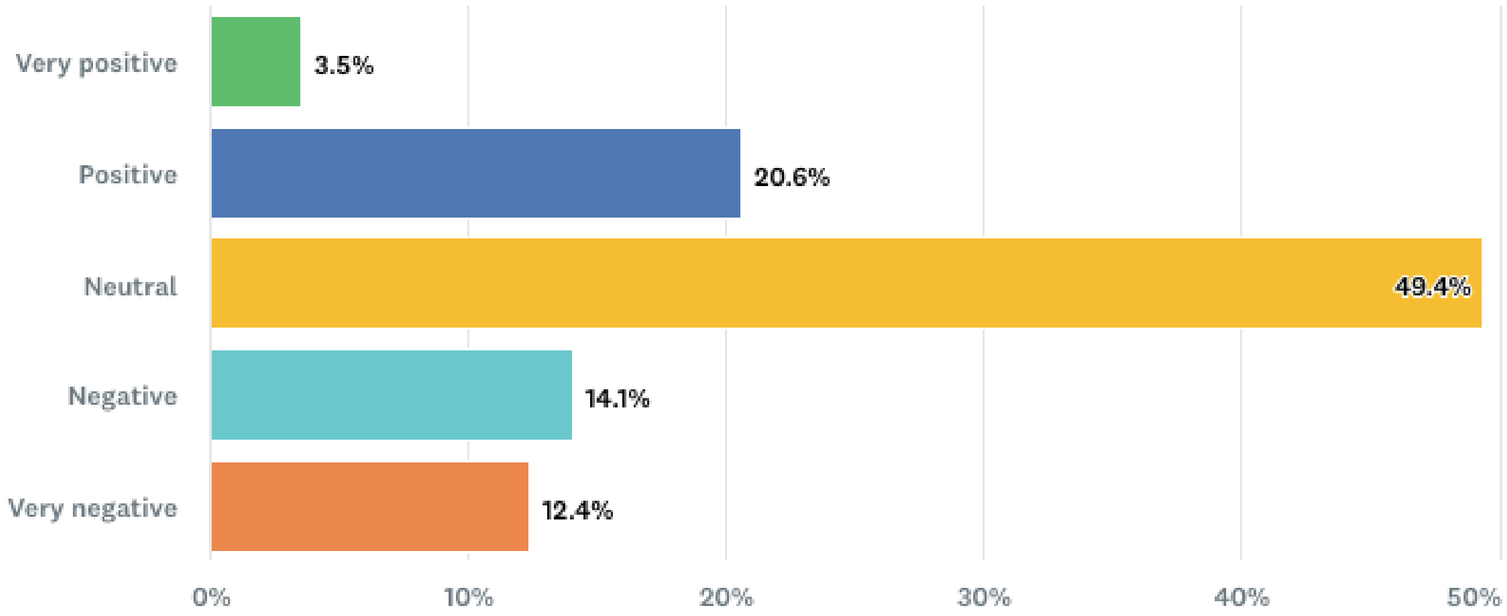


Respondents are more likely to express interest in recreational infrastructure (+3%), but seem to be souring on infrastructure for running errands by bike or by foot (+5%)

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FFX COUNTY FY27 BUDGET?

Full question: “The FY27 Fairfax County Budget calls for some cuts in County government alongside an increase in spending on school and county employees. It is funded through higher real estate assessments and a Meals Tax approved last year, but without higher tax rates. How would you rate your support for this year's budget?”



Respondents were much more neutral on this year’s budget (+14%), with most comments focusing on cutting spending and reducing property tax burden.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FFX COUNTY FY26 BUDGET?

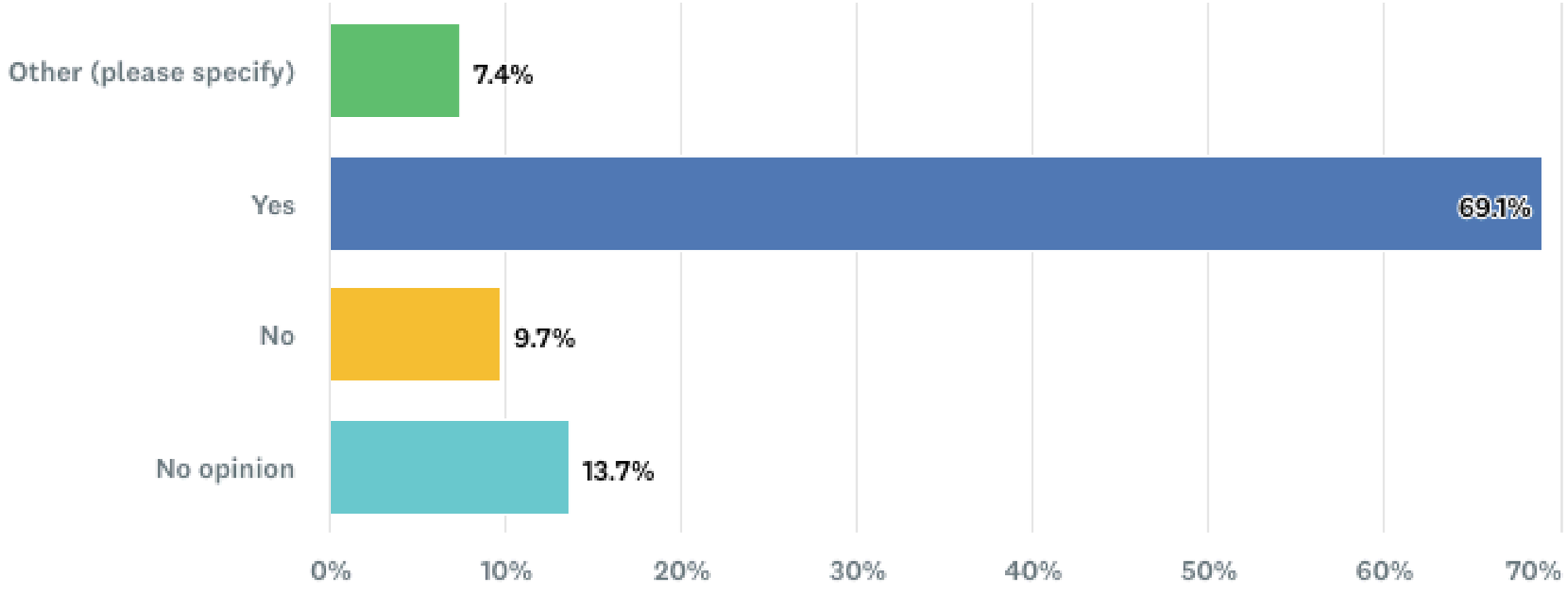
Sample Comments:

“I would encourage our elected officials to make an investment in preventive care for the County's finances by greatly expanding the role of the performance auditor. The Board of Supervisors seems ever willing to add more programs and services without considering the capacity of the administration to deliver effectively, efficiently, and equitably. Continually adding to the service profile of the County is an admirable goal, but not without a clear-eyed vision of both staff capabilities and responsible financing. This same advice is applicable to both FCPS and County Government operations.

Sample Comments:

“Applaud the direction toward more maintenance and less new construction to lessen the debt servicing burden. We need to take a pause on road diets in transportation planning - this is not a walkable transit friendly urban community it is a suburban car oriented community. We should cut the subsidies for capital bikeshare - if a business case is there let the private sector finance it. How many actual bikers have any of seen in all the new bike lanes we've built while sacrificing efficient traffic. We are also concerned about our library system. Fairfax spends far less than surrounding jurisdictions on our library collections which are hollowing out.”

MCA HAS ADVOCATED TO PRESERVE AND IMPROVE VACUUM LEAF PICKUP. DO YOU STILL SUPPORT THIS POSITION?

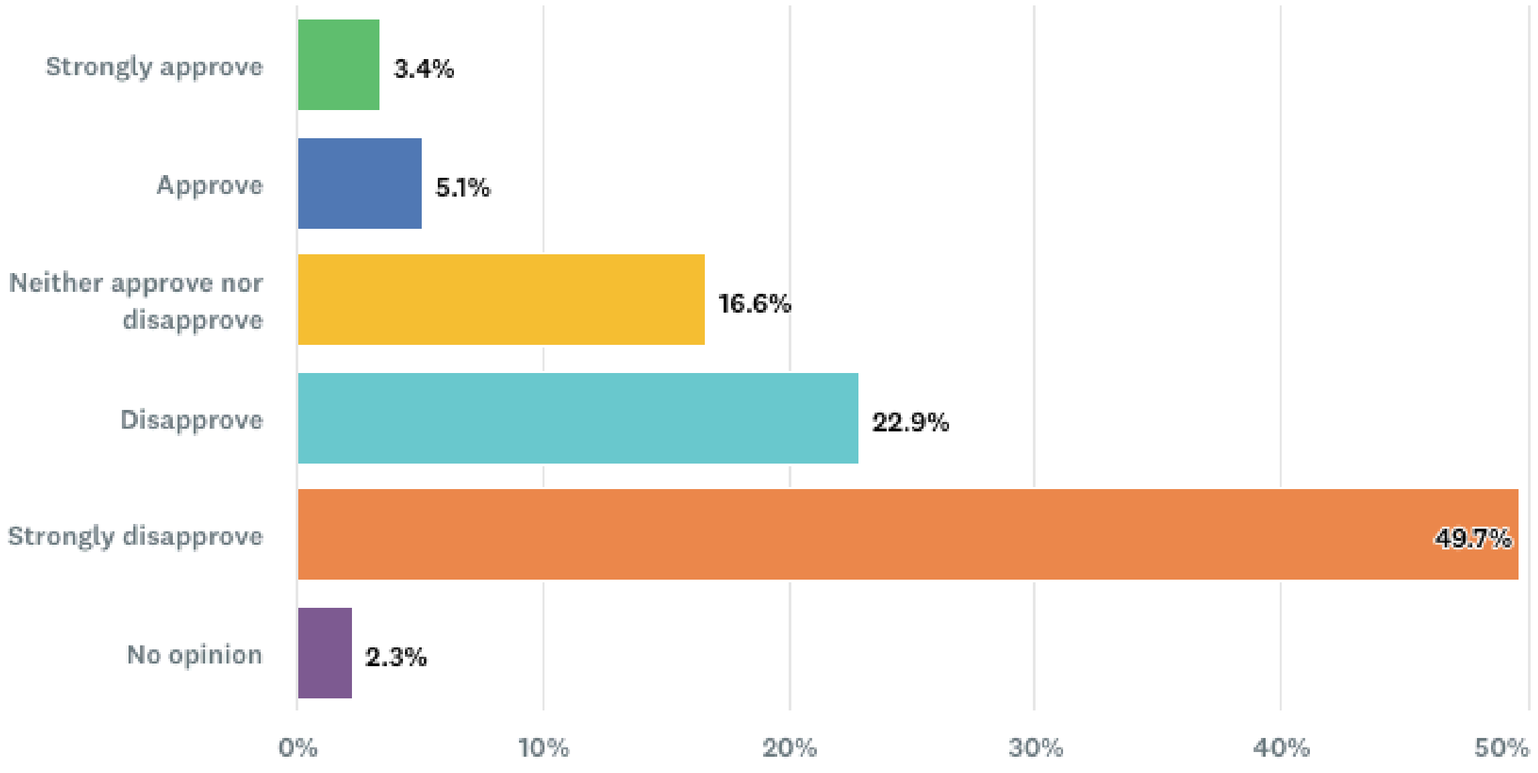


Support for this program extends beyond just those who receive the service - 66% of respondents receive vacuum leaf service. vs 69% who support the MCA's position. Both are steady with last year.

CASINO IN PROVIDENCE

“Developers would like to build an entertainment complex in Tysons Corner that would include a casino. Before it could be built, the proposal would require legislation in the Virginia General Assembly, a vote by the Board of Supervisors, and a referendum vote by Fairfax County voters.

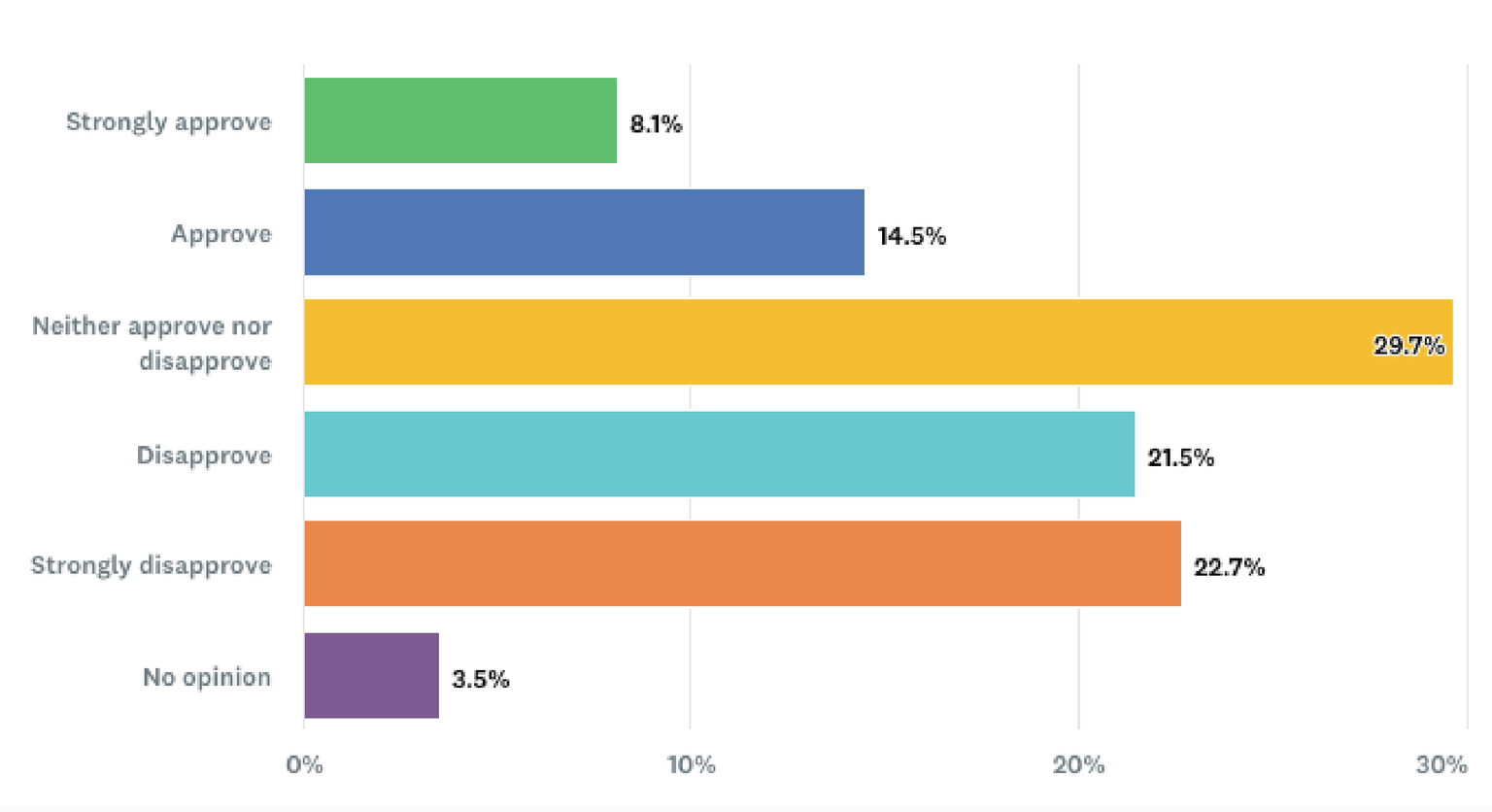
A recent effort to do so was vetoed by the Governor, but supporters plan to reintroduce it in Richmond next year. Do you support this proposal?”



Opposition to a casino is one the most unified position from this survey - 72% (+1% vs ‘25) disapprove of the proposal.

HOUSING IN PROVIDENCE

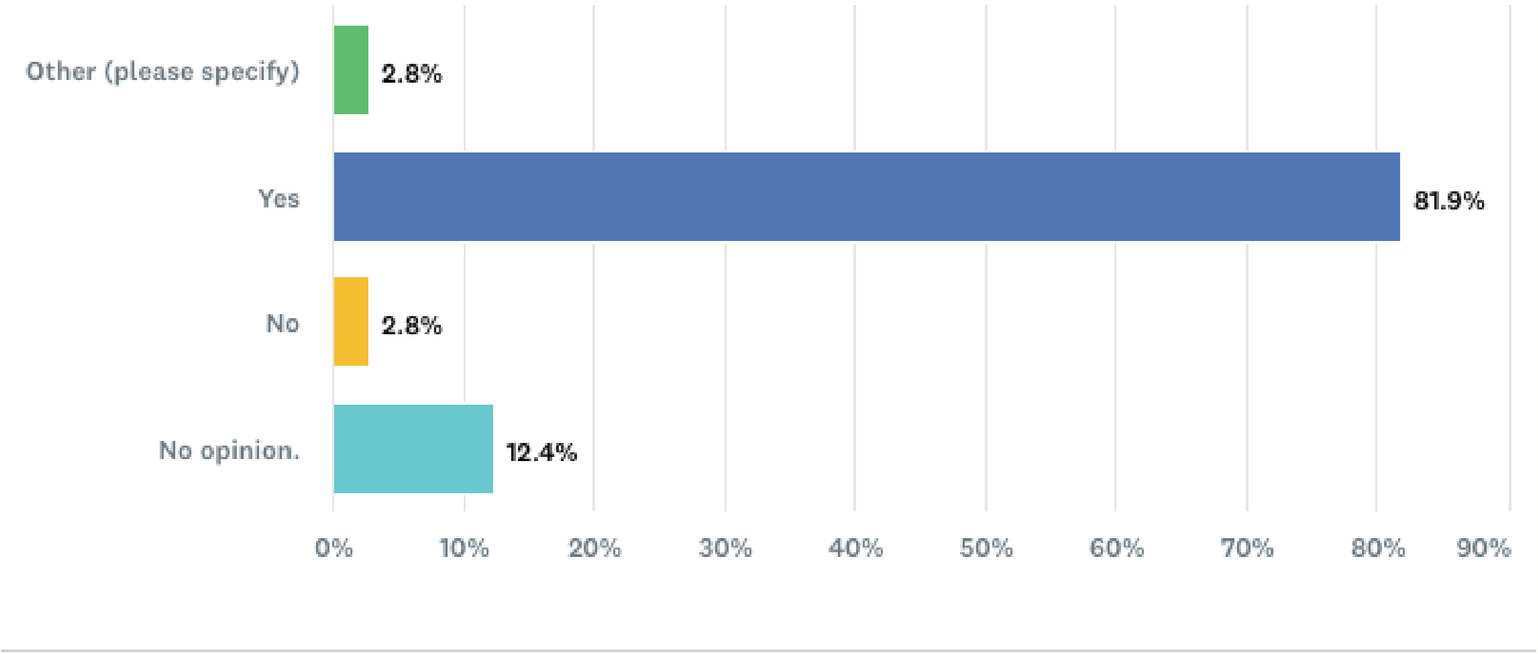
“In the past, the MCA has developed positions on new multi-family developments around Mantua, such as new housing at the site of Pan Am Shopping Center. As the MCA considers how to approach future developments, do you support additional dense housing in the area around Mantua?”



Last year we noticed some generational divide, with households headed by people 25-54 holding stronger opinions pro/con on dense housing. This year, even with more working age households represented, the biggest gainers were “neither approve nor disapprove” (+10%)

SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

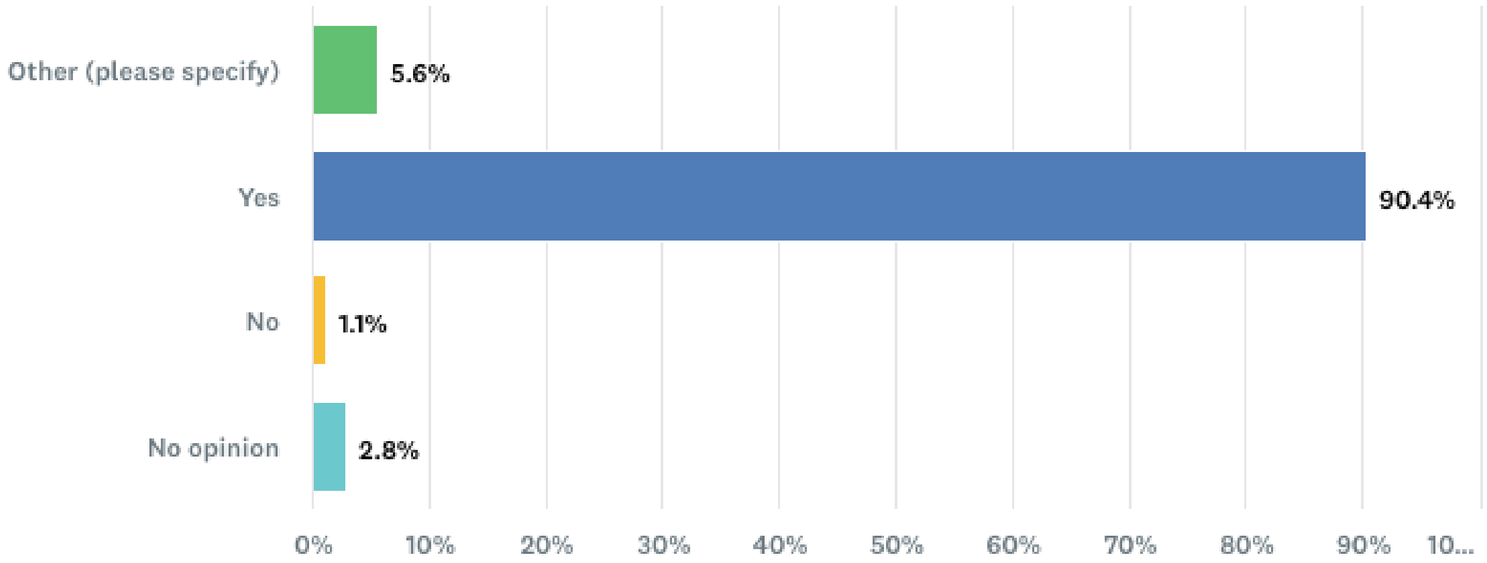
“The MCA has covered issues at FCPS for our newsletter this year, including Middle School start times, changes to SACC, and school calendar changes. Should the MCA continue to follow issues related to Fairfax County Public Schools?”



Last year’s survey asked about keeping Mantua Elementary’s boundaries, which had overwhelming support of respondents at 75%. MCA coverage of school issues has continued.

POWERLINES

“MCA has worked with Dominion Power to support placing powerlines underground where they qualify. Do you support this effort?”



Support for “undergrounding” was the most popular new program for MCA this year.

SOCIAL: WHAT EVENTS SHOULD MCA CONSIDER IN THE FUTURE?

- Home design & repair panel with local contractors and recent homeowner renovations
- A Mantua Garden Tour and/or a Mantua Holiday Porch Decoration Tour
- Mahjong Nights
- More events for seniors
- More small family events, like organized bike rides or summer ice cream social

We received 46 unique responses regarding social events, and 28 offered to help organize.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE MCA CONSIDER FOR ADVOCACY?

- County-level issues
  - Sample comment: “Continuing to amplify County messaging is important. Issues like invasive species, aging adult needs, and transportation safety are not necessarily areas where the County will help with resources but can provide information to amplify and improve resident awareness in Mantua.”
- Road issues
  - Sample comment: “More speed bumps and sidewalks throughout the neighborhood.” vs “Stop it with the speed bumps. They’re out of control.”

This question had over 50 responses, many of them unique. Only answers that had several similar suggestions were included.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE MCA CONSIDER FOR ADVOCACY?

- Childcare
  - “MCA needs to advocate for better childcare options in the area. We live in a childcare desert. There needs to be an expansion of SACC, especially for morning care. Fairfax County does not prioritize the needs of working parents.”
- Environmental
  - “An article annually to provide education about kudzu and why it needs to be removed to save trees.” + “Dangers of large aging trees. This is expensive to deal with, but multiple homes have been impacted by falling trees.”

This question had over 50 responses, many of them unique. Only answers that had several similar suggestions were included.

MANTUA CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

THANK YOU SO MUCH

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