



Town of Blackfalds Citizen Budget



Introduction

From September 8 to October 12, 2020, the Town of Blackfalds ran a budget engagement campaign using the Citizen Budget eDemocracy tool. The purpose was to learn about the priorities of local residents and to give them a say on where they would cut or increase spending, and how they would raise or lower taxes.

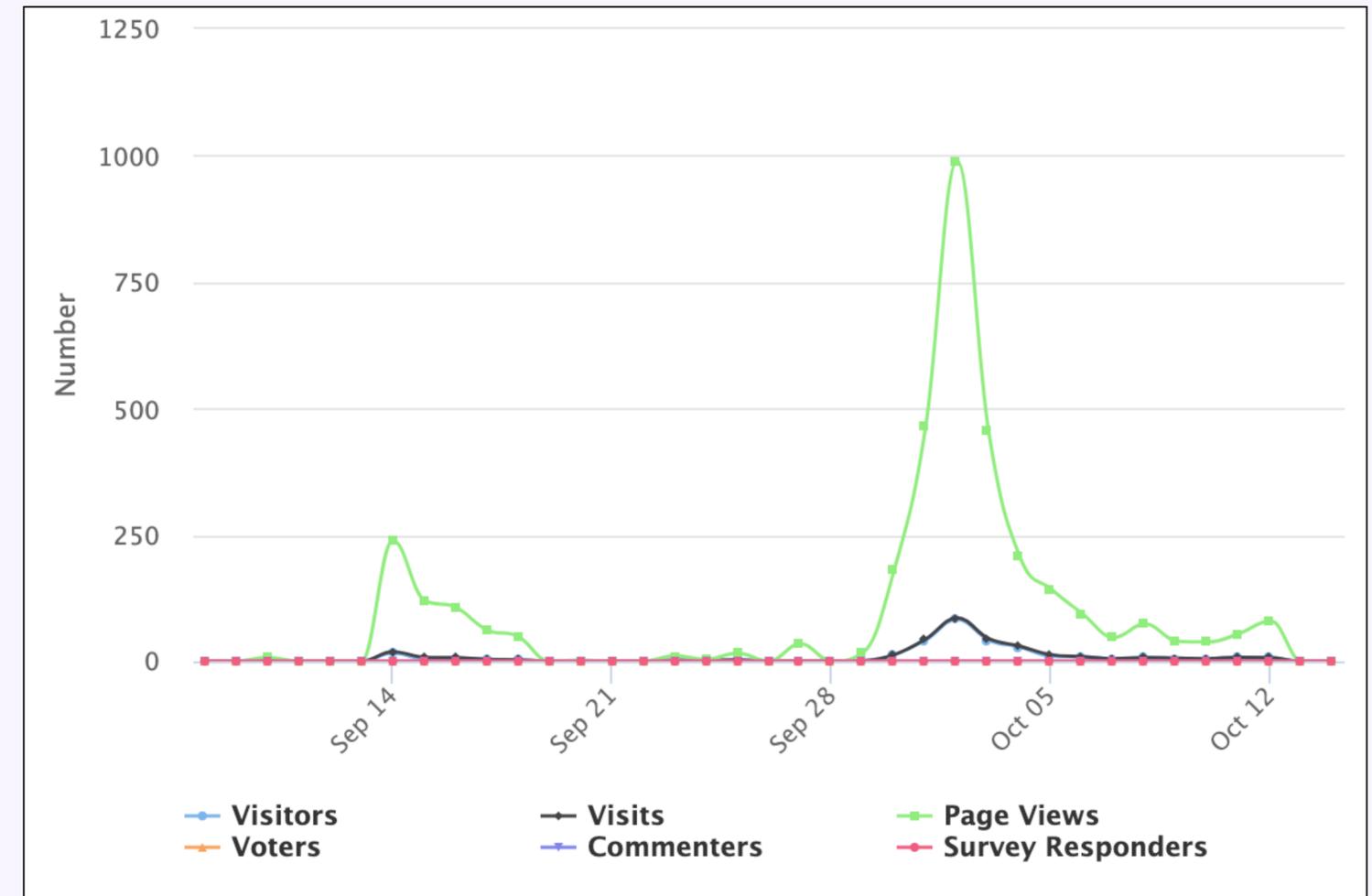
- Participants were tasked with increasing, decreasing or maintaining their property tax funding for different budget categories, with the added constraint of staying within a balanced budget.
- The process both educated the population on the various city services, while asking them to make trade-offs in the same way that a city official would to stay within budget.
- Real-time results showed participants how their priorities compared to the rest of the group.
- Ethelo used the results to generate a particular set of funding changes that are predicted to have the most community support.



Participation

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- Number of visitors: **284**
- Number of voters: **123**
- Comments gathered: **65**
- Average time on platform: **8 minutes**



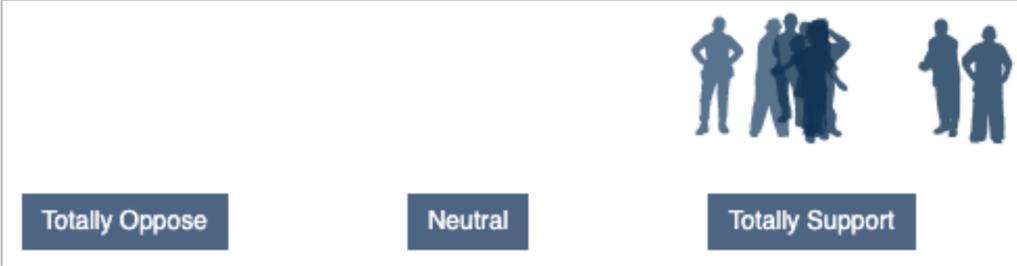
Voting Results



ETHELO Recommended Scenario

For each service area, participants were asked how they would adjust their property tax funding based on their current level of satisfaction with the service. The following slides outline voter support for each funding area.

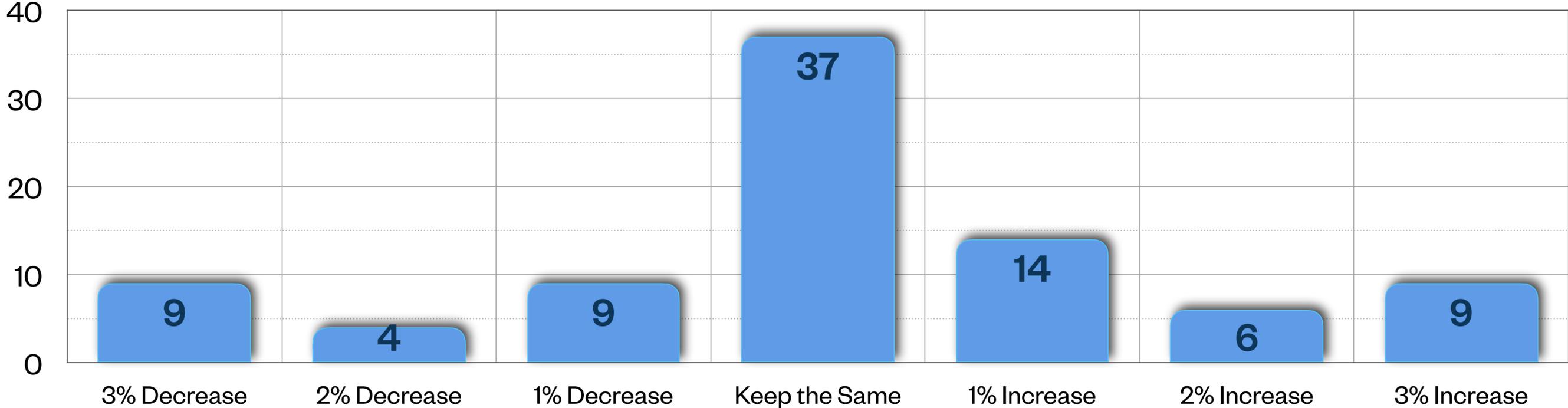
Funding Area	Percent Change	% Approval
Municipal Enforcement	2% Increase	58%
Fire and Emergency Services	Keep the Same	68%
Street and Lane Maintenance	Keep the Same	54%
Facilities	1% Decrease	51%
Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces	Keep the Same	52%



Total Scenario Support: 100%

Fire and Emergency Services

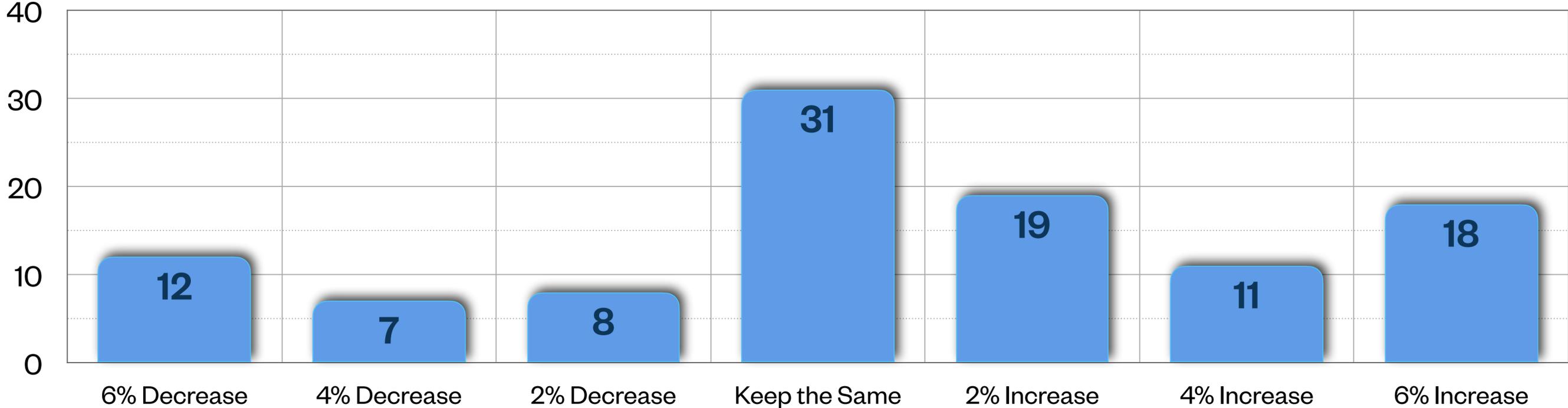
Based on your current satisfaction level for Protective Services - Fire and Emergency Services, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?



Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
88	33%	25%	Keep the Same (42% of total voters)

Municipal Enforcement

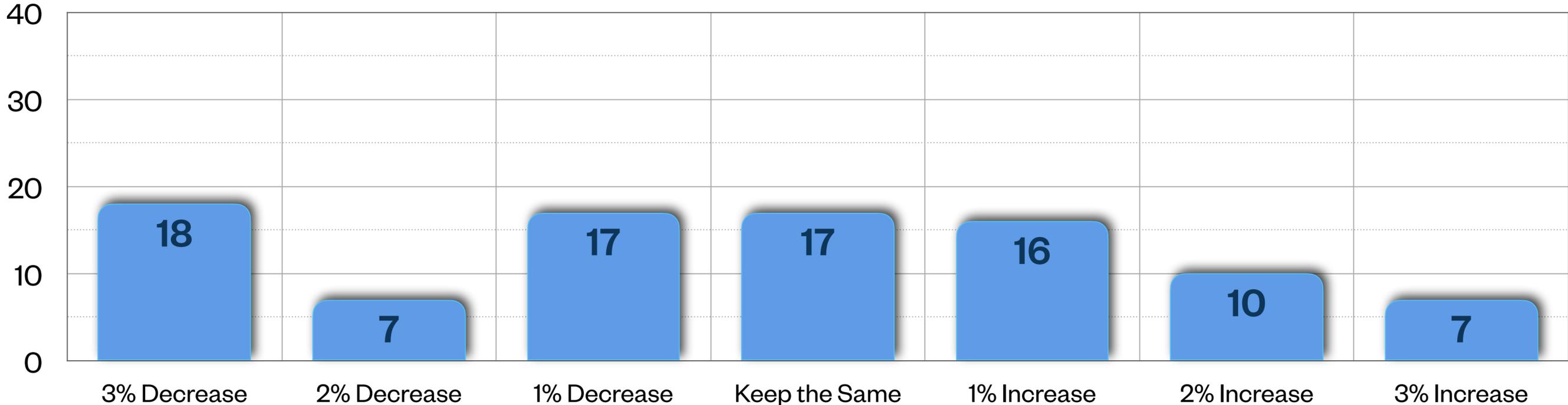
Based on your current satisfaction level for Protective Services - Municipal Enforcement, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?



Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
106	45%	25%	Keep the Same (29% of total voters)

Street and Lane Maintenance

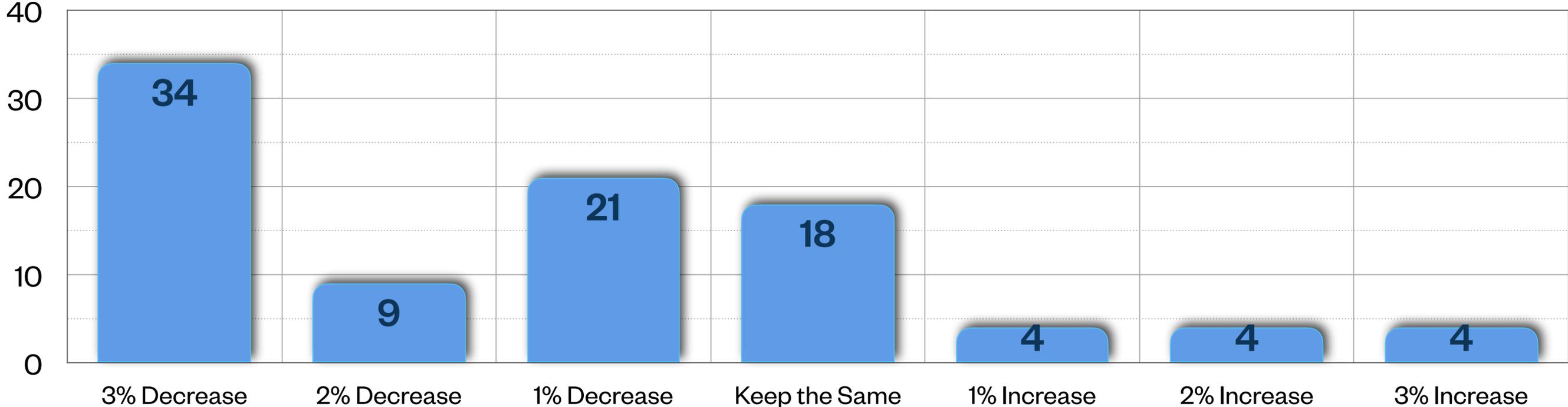
Based on your current satisfaction level for Infrastructure - Street and Lane Maintenance, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?



Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
92	36%	46%	3% Decrease (20% of total voters)

Facilities

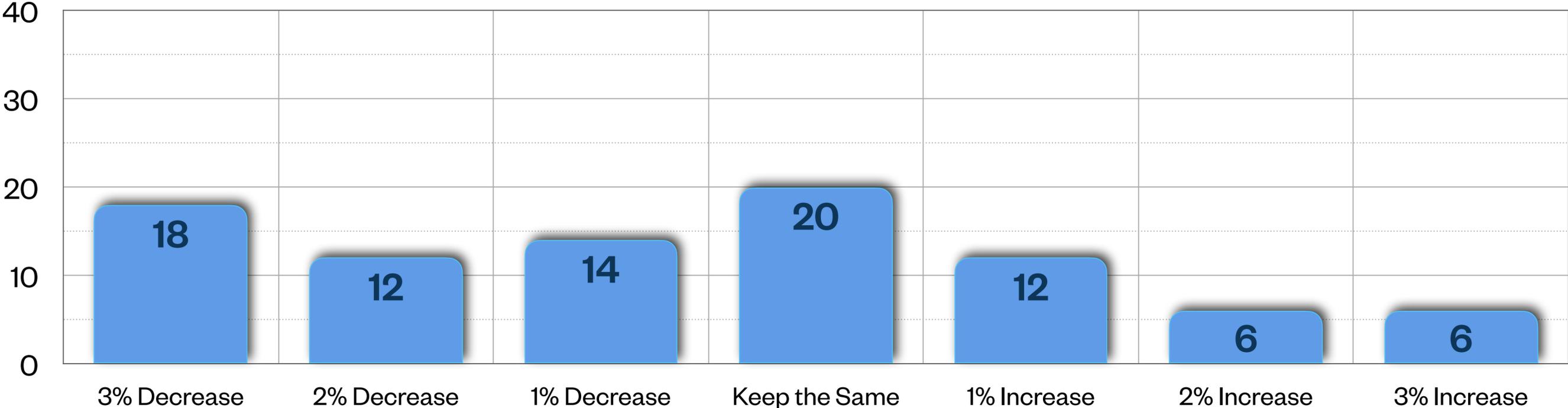
Based on your current satisfaction level for Recreation Facilities, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?



Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
94	13%	68%	3% Decrease (36% of total voters)

Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces

Based on your current satisfaction level for Recreation - Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?



Total Responses	Favor Increase	Favor Decrease	Most Popular
88	27%	50%	Keep the Same (23% of total voters)



Survey Results

Environmental Initiatives

Would you be in favor of the implementation of a yearly residential green bin collection allowing a full yearly organics program?

Favour	Response
Yes	53
No	53

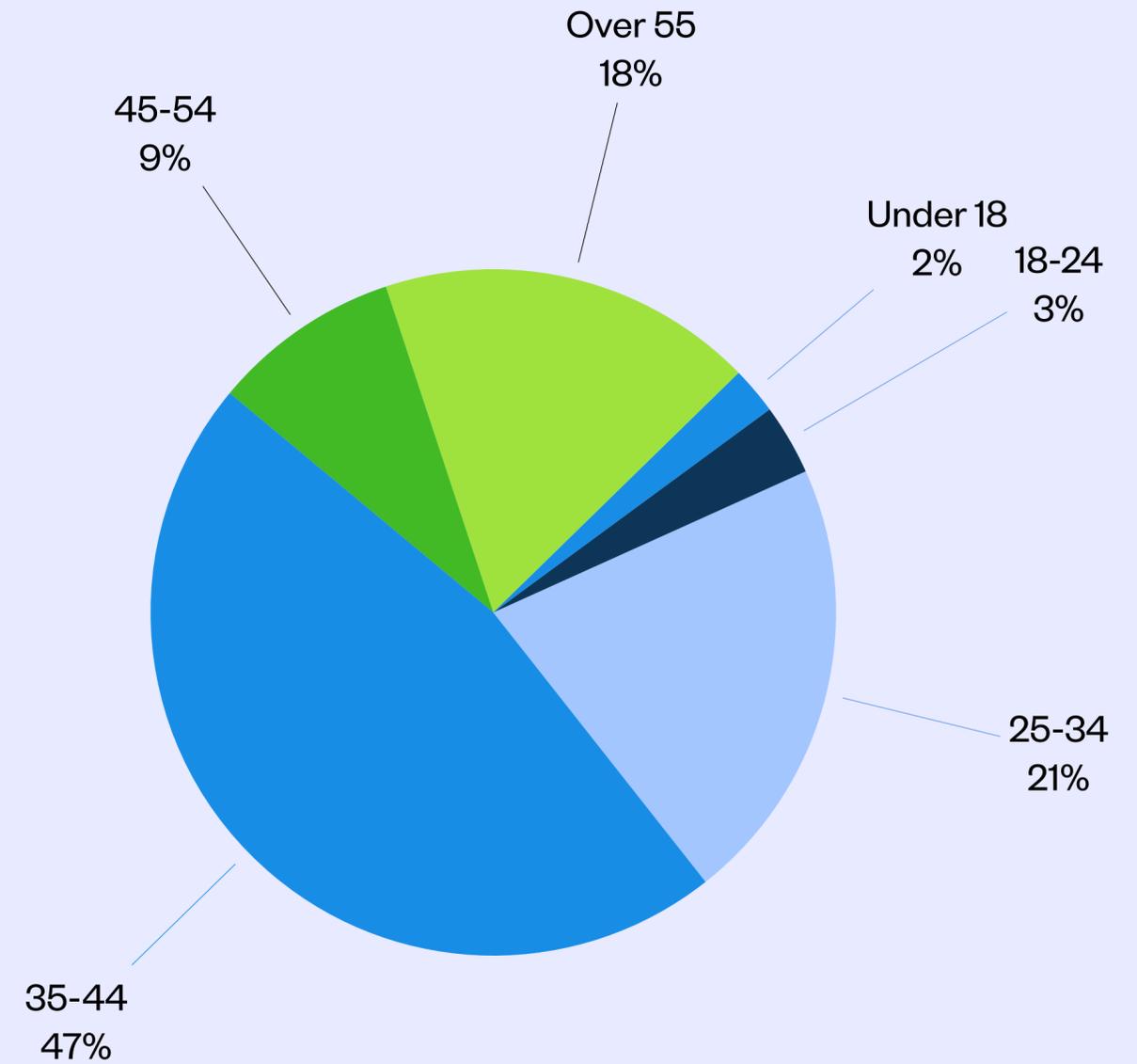
Total Responses: 106



Respondent Age

Age	Response
Under 18	2
18-24	3
25-34	19
35-44	42
45-54	8
Over 55	16

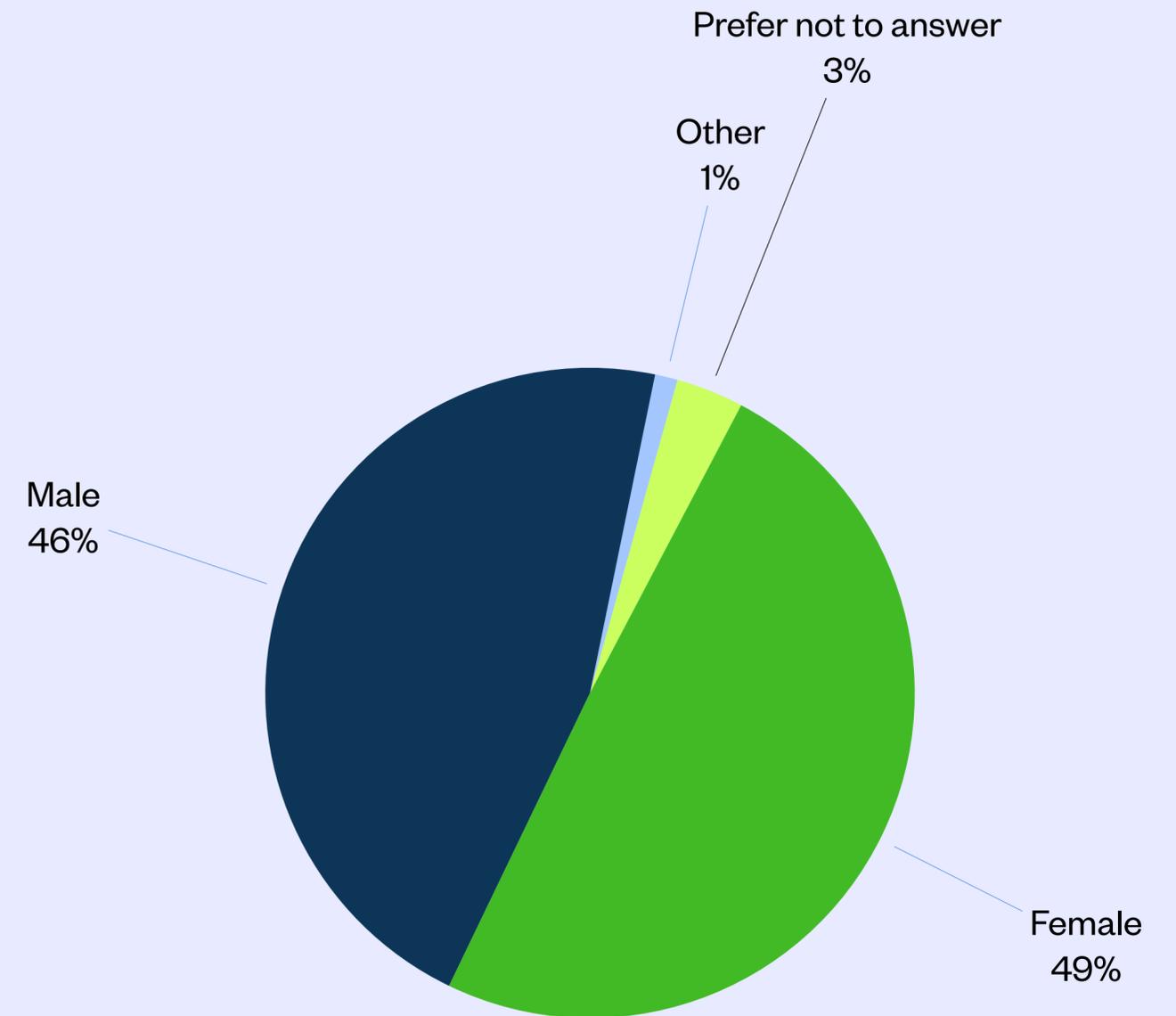
Total Responses: 90



Respondent Gender

Gender	Response
Female	44
Male	41
Other	1
Prefer not to answer	3

Total Responses: 89



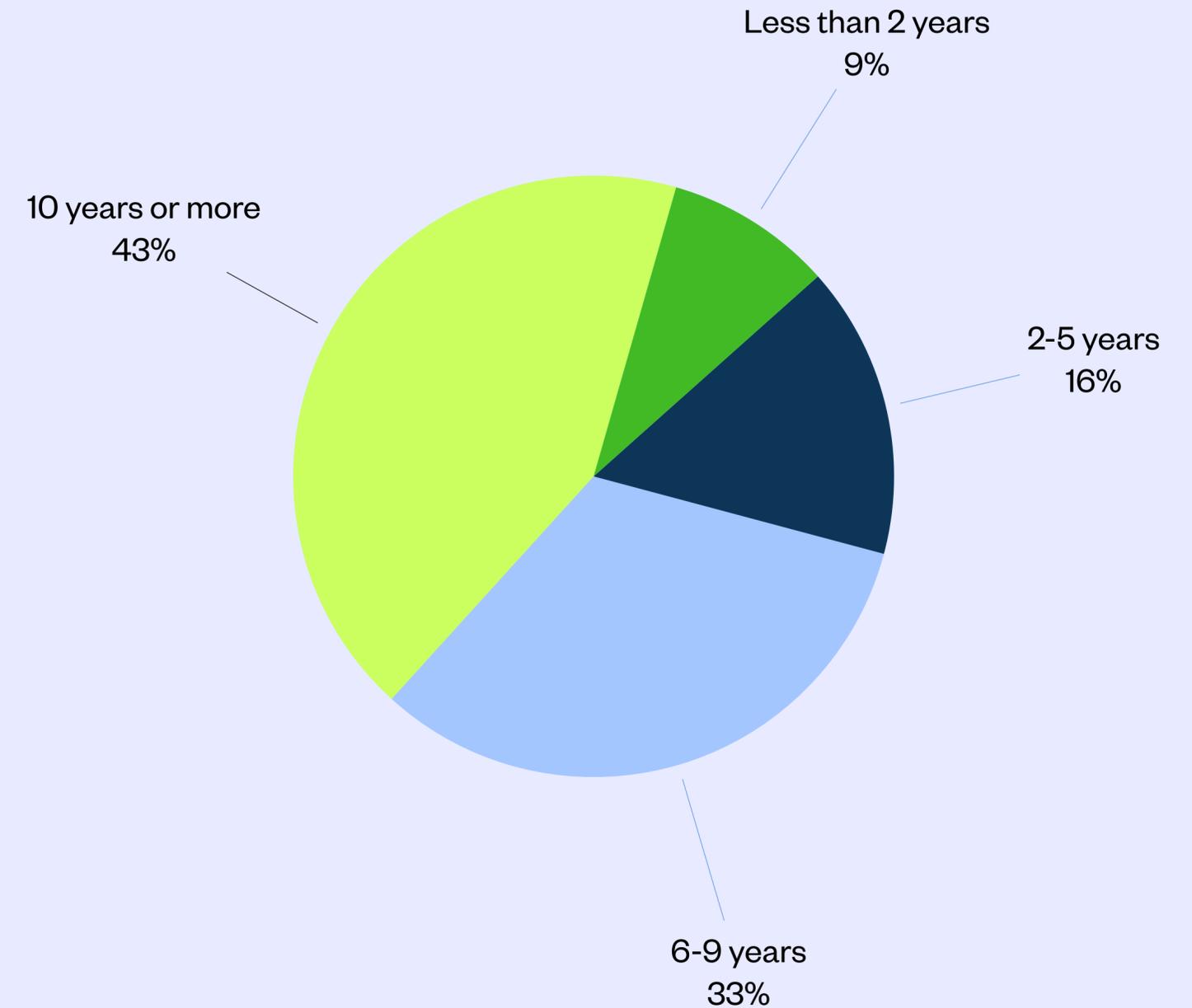
* Percents in chart add up to 99, due to rounding

How long have you been living in the Town of Blackfalds?

Time	Response
Less than 2 years	8
2-5 years	14
6-9 years	29
10 years or more	38

Total Responses: 89

* Percents in chart add up to 101, due to rounding

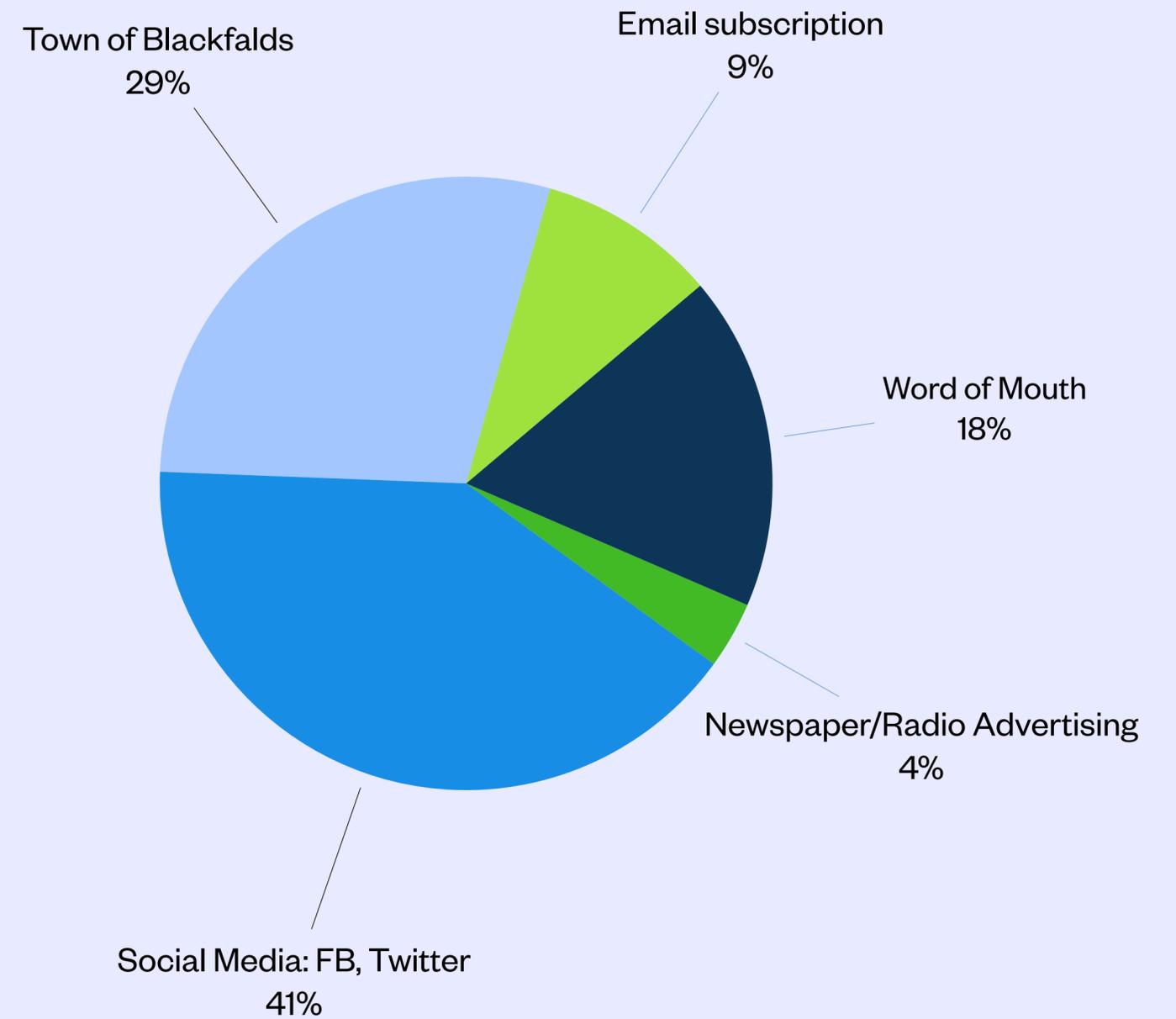


Communications

How do you get your information from the Town of Blackfalds? Check all that apply.

Channel	Response
Email subscription	16
Word of Mouth	30
Newspaper/Radio Advertising	6
Social Media: FB, Twitter	69
Town of Blackfalds website	49

Total Responses: 170



* Percents in chart add up to 101, due to rounding

BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA
ÉTHELO



Thank you!

