

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD REPORT

To: Board of Trustees

From: Clark Hampton, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services
Ryan Burris, Chief Communications and Public Engagement Officer

Date: May 25, 2022

Board Item: Presentation on Results of Aliso Viejo School Facilities Improvement District Bond Feasibility Survey

HISTORY

This is a subsequent information item only. The State of California provides certain matching funds for school district capital facility projects. To receive these funds, school districts must provide local matching funds. In most instances, school districts must pass local school facilities bonds in order to meet the matching requirements of the state funds. The District allocates over three percent of the annual budget for routine maintenance and repairs; however, District schools continue to age and the cost of repairs and maintenance continues to increase.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board of Trustees has analyzed potential facilities bonds for the District during public meetings since the spring of 2016. At the December 15, 2021, Board of Trustee meeting, the Dana Hills High School boundary and the City of Aliso Viejo were identified for further study to include polling. In January 2022, the Board approved a contract with True North Research to conduct public opinion surveys in both areas. Timothy McLarney, President, True North Research, Inc. will be on zoom to present the results.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

The District has completed polling for the Aliso Viejo boundary area, results are presented in the attached exhibit. Staff will present the results of the public opinion poll on the Aliso Viejo-School Facilities Improvement District.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

District staff recommends the Board of Trustees receive the informational presentation on the results of the Aliso Viejo SFID bond feasibility survey. This is an information item only and no Board action is necessary.

APPROVED BY: Clark Hampton, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services
APPROVED BY: Ryan Burris, Chief Communications and Public Engagement Officer

ALISO VIEJO SFID BOND FEASIBILITY SURVEY

CONDUCTED FOR
CAPISTRANO USD

PRESENTED BY
TIMOTHY MCLARNEY PH.D.

5/25/2022





PURPOSE OF STUDY

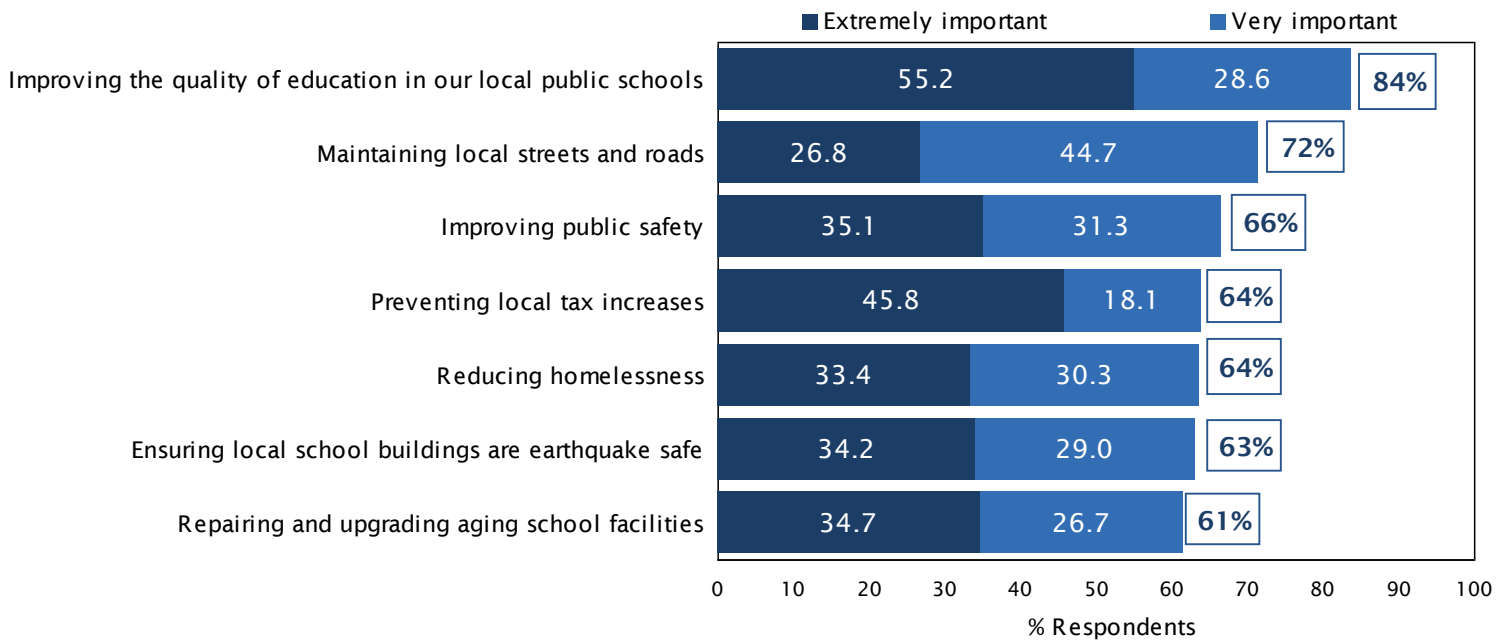
- Determine if a bond measure to repair and improve schools in Aliso Viejo is feasible
- Identify how to create a measure consistent with community priorities
- Gather information needed for communications & outreach



METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

- Conducted May 5th to May 12th, 2022
- Random Sample: 411 voters in Aliso Viejo School SFID likely to participate in November 2022 election
- Mixed-Method approach
 - Recruited via email, text and telephone
 - Data collection via online and telephone
 - 16 minute average interview length
- Overall margin of error is $\pm 4.8\%$

IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES





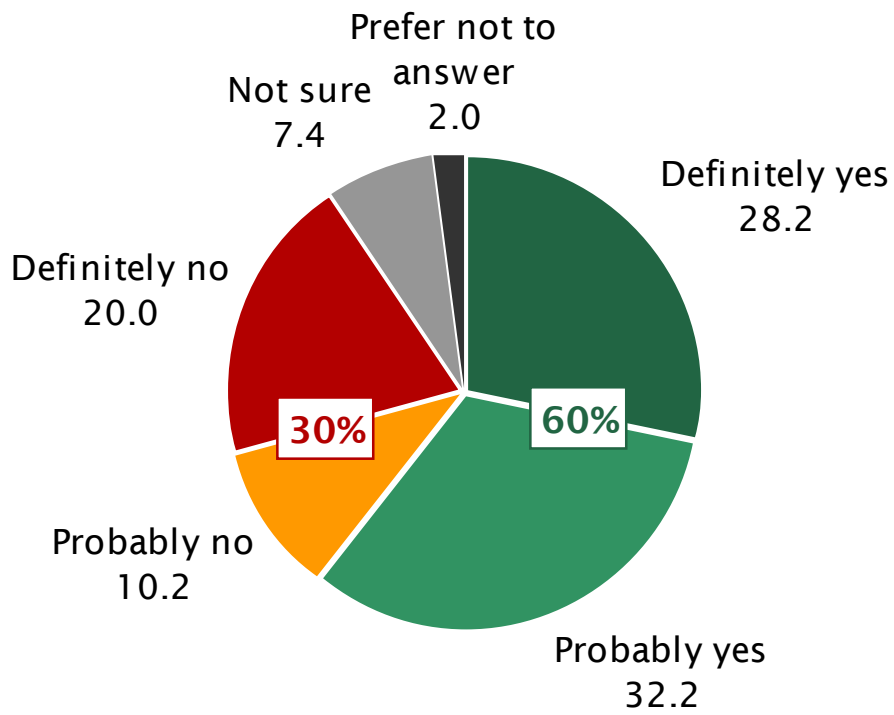
INITIAL BALLOT TEST

In order to:

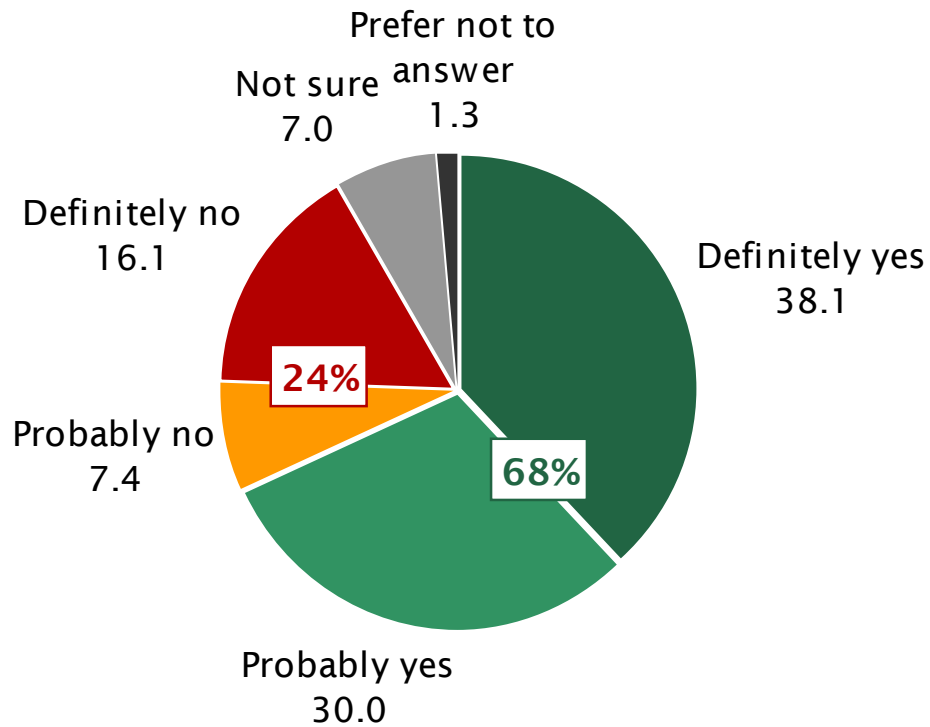
- Repair and improve Aliso Viejo's aging neighborhood schools
- Fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems
- And construct/acquire modern classrooms, science labs, facilities and technology that support college and career readiness in science, technology, arts, math, and skilled trades

shall Capistrano Unified School District's (SFID #3) measure authorizing 77 million dollars in bonds be approved, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (4 million dollars annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizen oversight and all money locally-controlled? If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this measure?

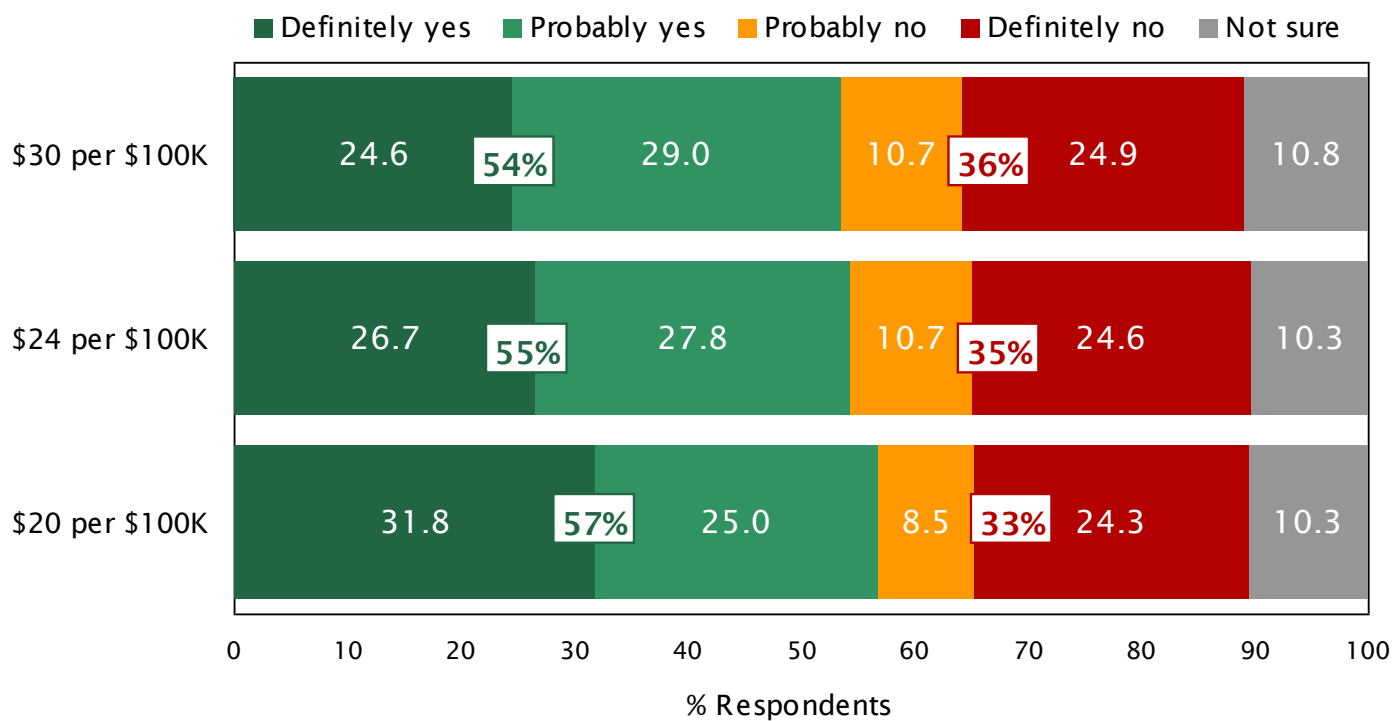
INITIAL BALLOT TEST



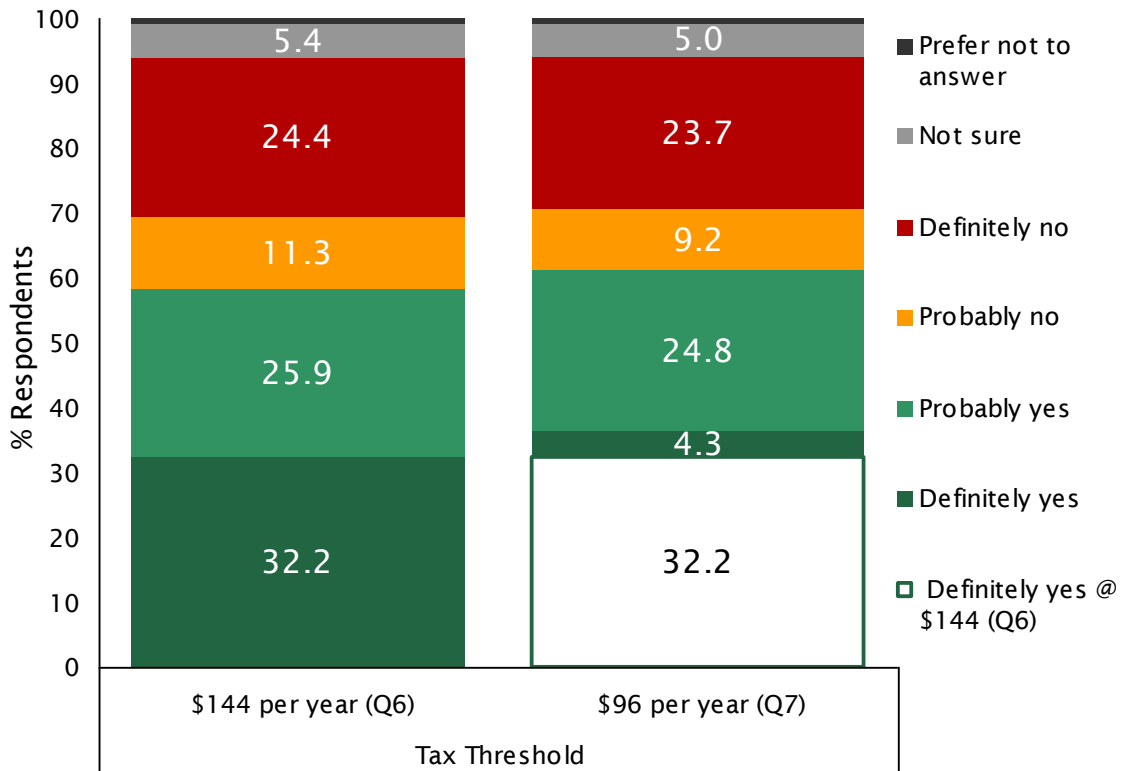
CLARIFYING MONEY STAYS IN ALISO VIEJO



TAX THRESHOLD

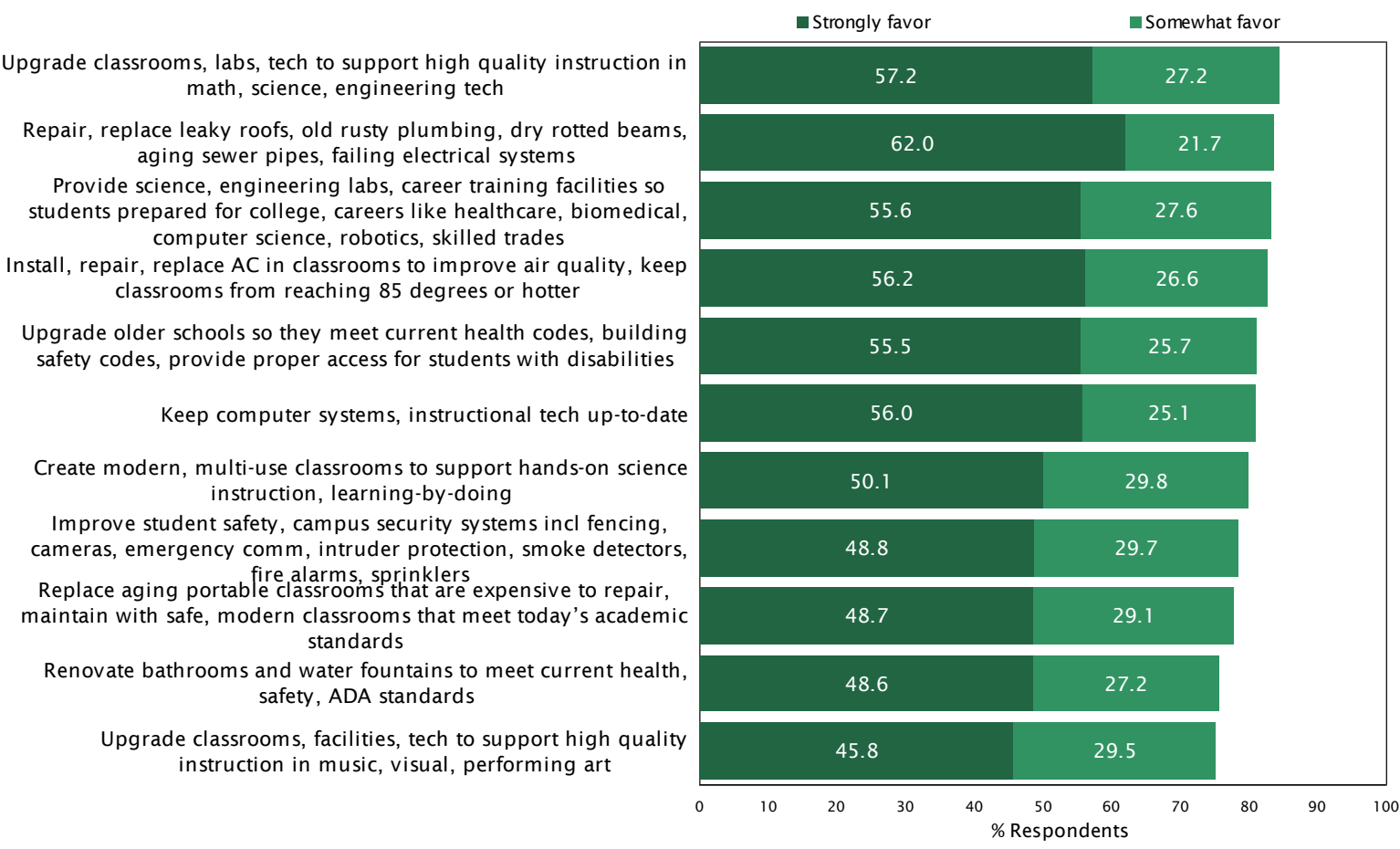


SUPPORT FOR MEASURE AT RATES OF \$144 & \$96 PER YEAR FOR MEDIAN HOMEOWNER



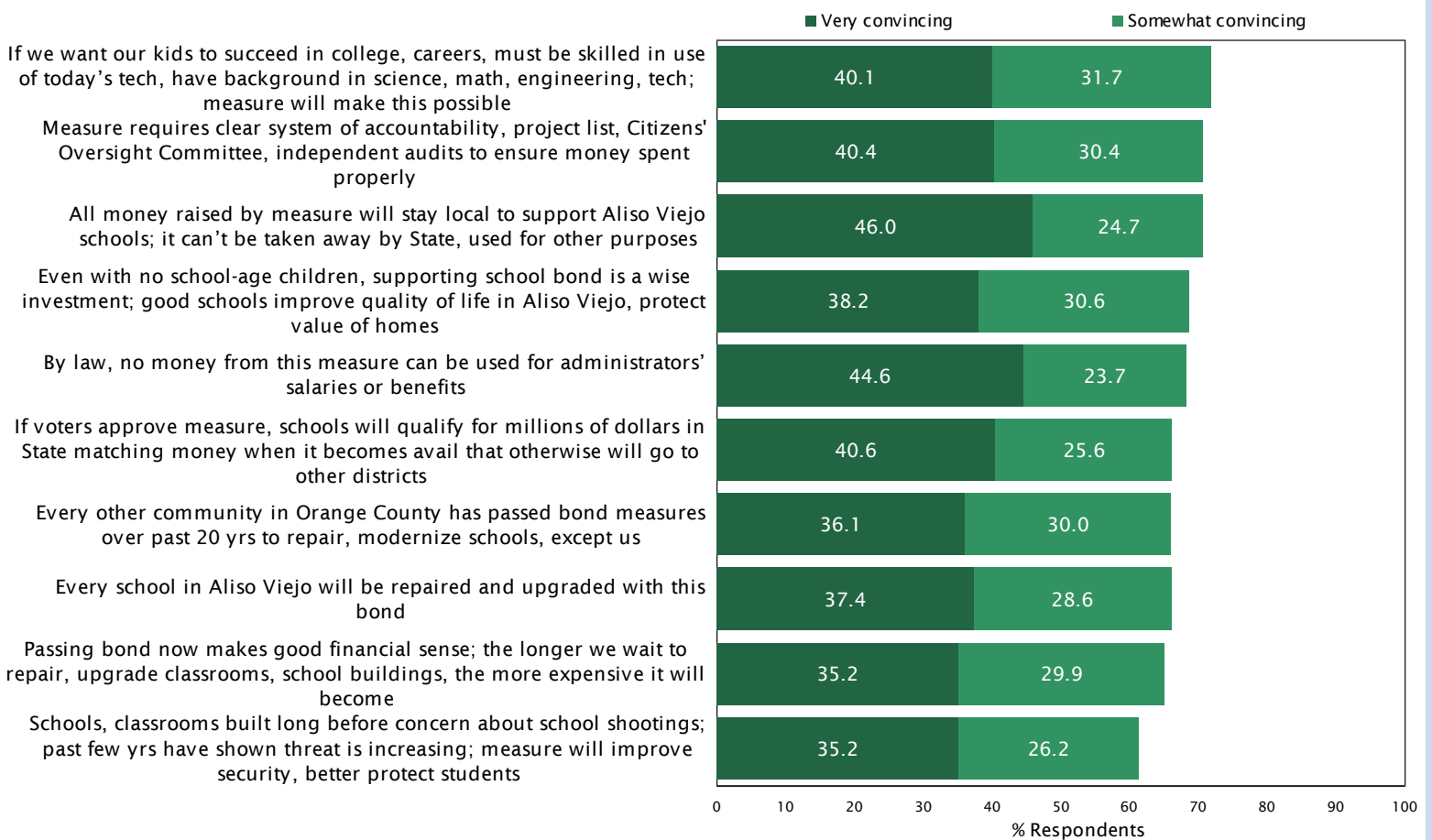


PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

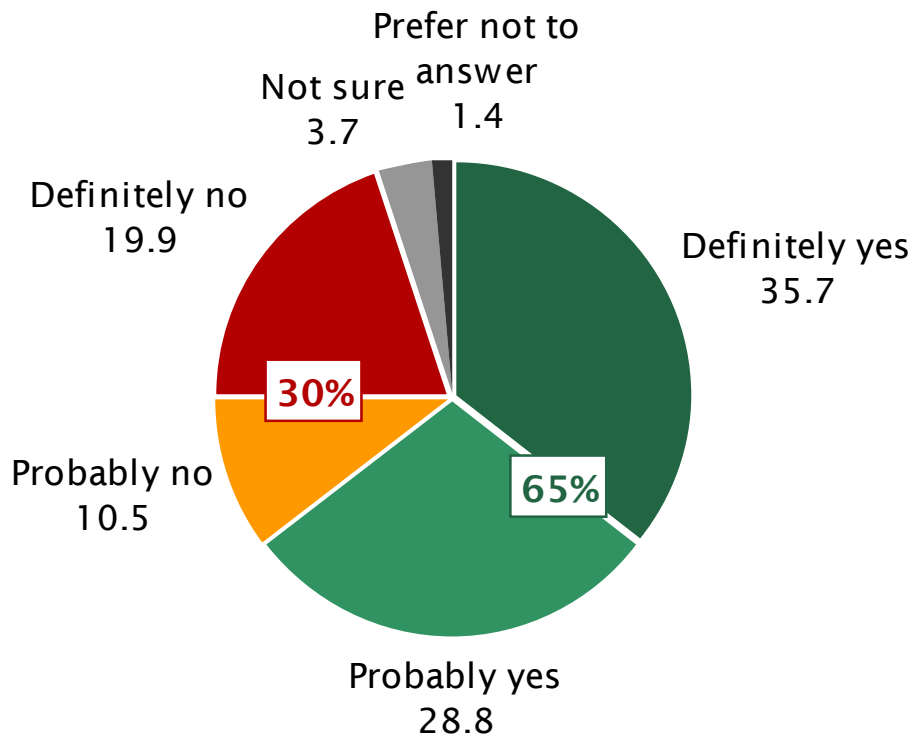




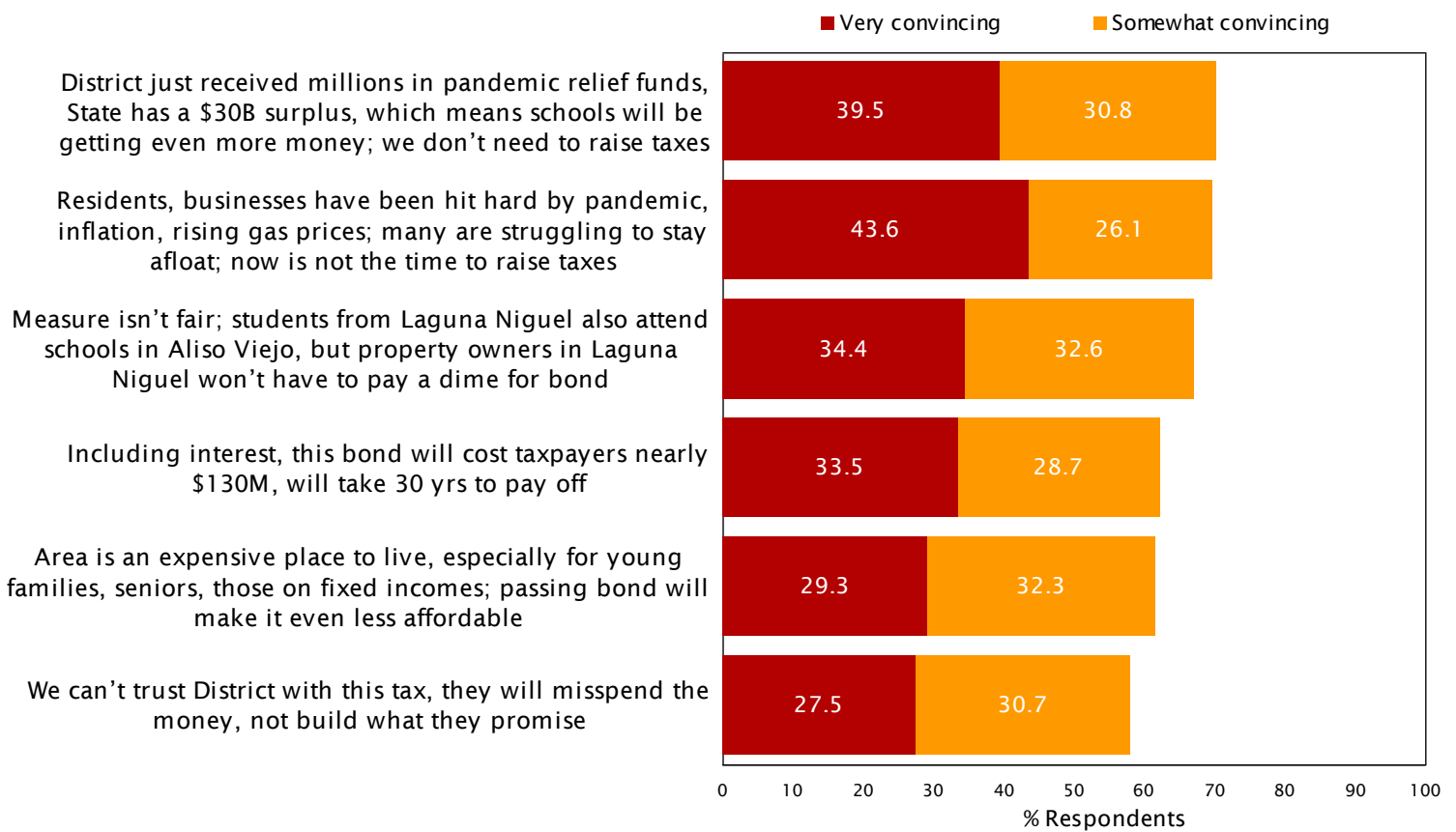
POSITIVE ARGUMENTS



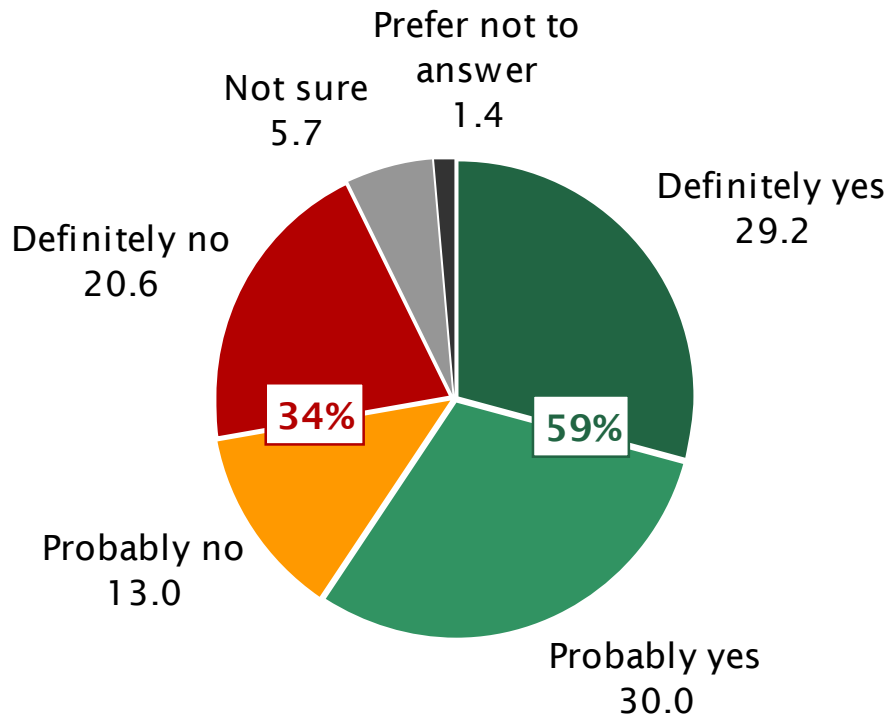
INTERIM BALLOT TEST



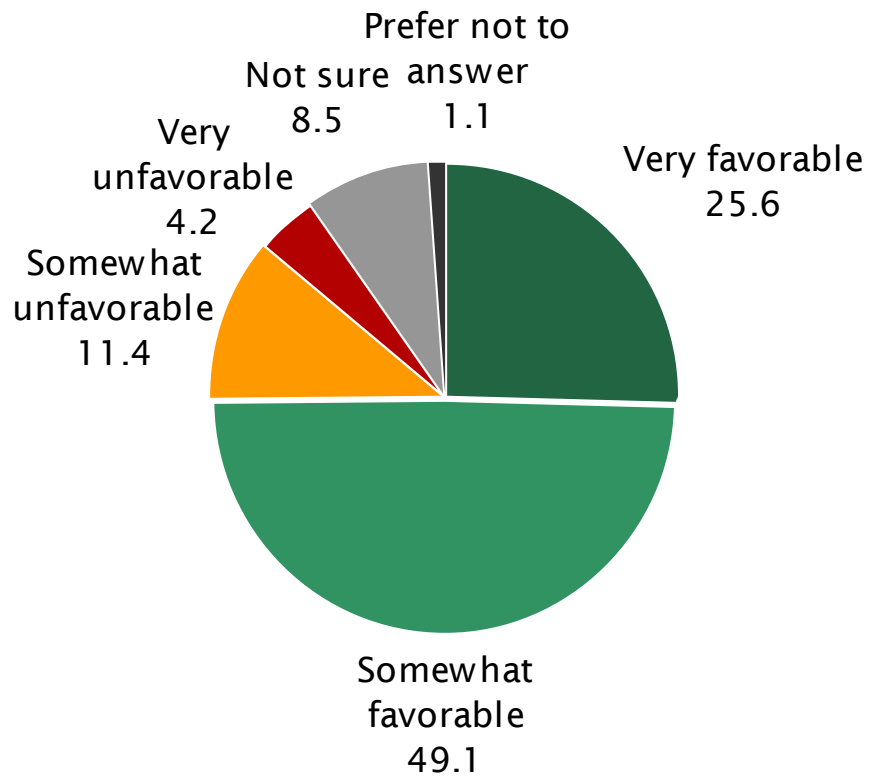
NEGATIVE ARGUMENTS



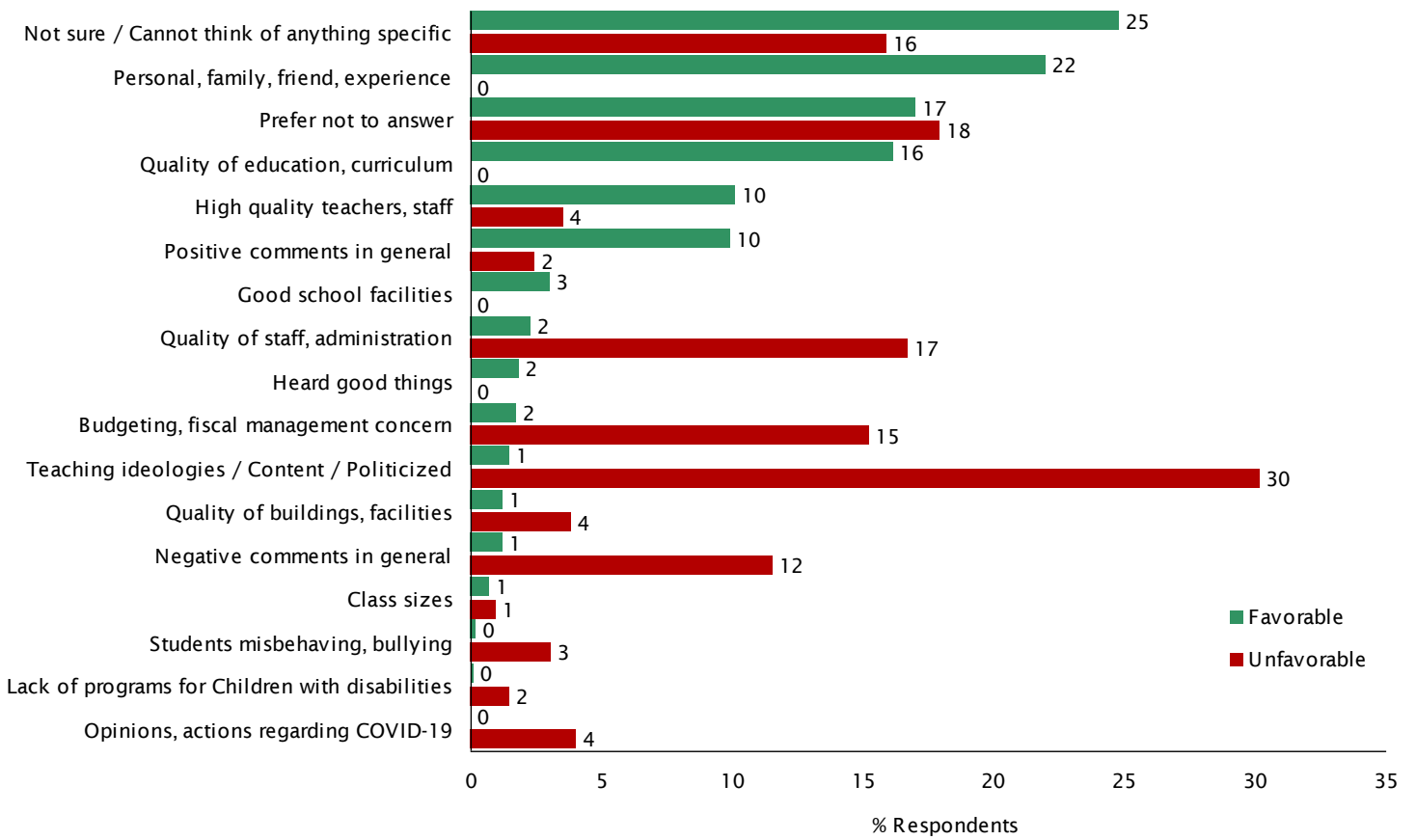
FINAL BALLOT TEST



OPINION OF CAPISTRANO USD



REASONS FOR OPINION OF DISTRICT





KEY CONCLUSIONS

Does a bond appear to be feasible for November 2022? Yes, with careful planning and execution.

Positive Signs

- Voters rank improving the quality of education in local schools as the *most* important issue facing the community
- Solid natural support for bond (60%), which jumps to 68% with clarification that all funds stay local to improve Aliso Viejo schools
- Popular projects
- Strong positive arguments
- All ballot tests are above 55%, even after opposition arguments

Challenges

- Boost from SFID doesn't come naturally in ballot statement – needs clarification
- Tax rate sensitivity
- Negative arguments get some traction
- Unknowns: trajectory of pandemic, inflation, international conflict



OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Snapshot in time, not a crystal ball
- **Price Tag:** Keep it in voters' comfort zone
- **Project Priorities:** STEM, career tech, instructional technology, fix older classrooms/facilities, HVAC, bring facilities up to code/ADA.
- **District Communications:** Expand the conversation with the community to build awareness of your facility needs and consensus on a bond proposal.
- **Independent Campaign:** Need to have a robust independent campaign to build/sustain support and navigate through the election cycle.