



# 2025 Charleston Forum Survey Findings Report

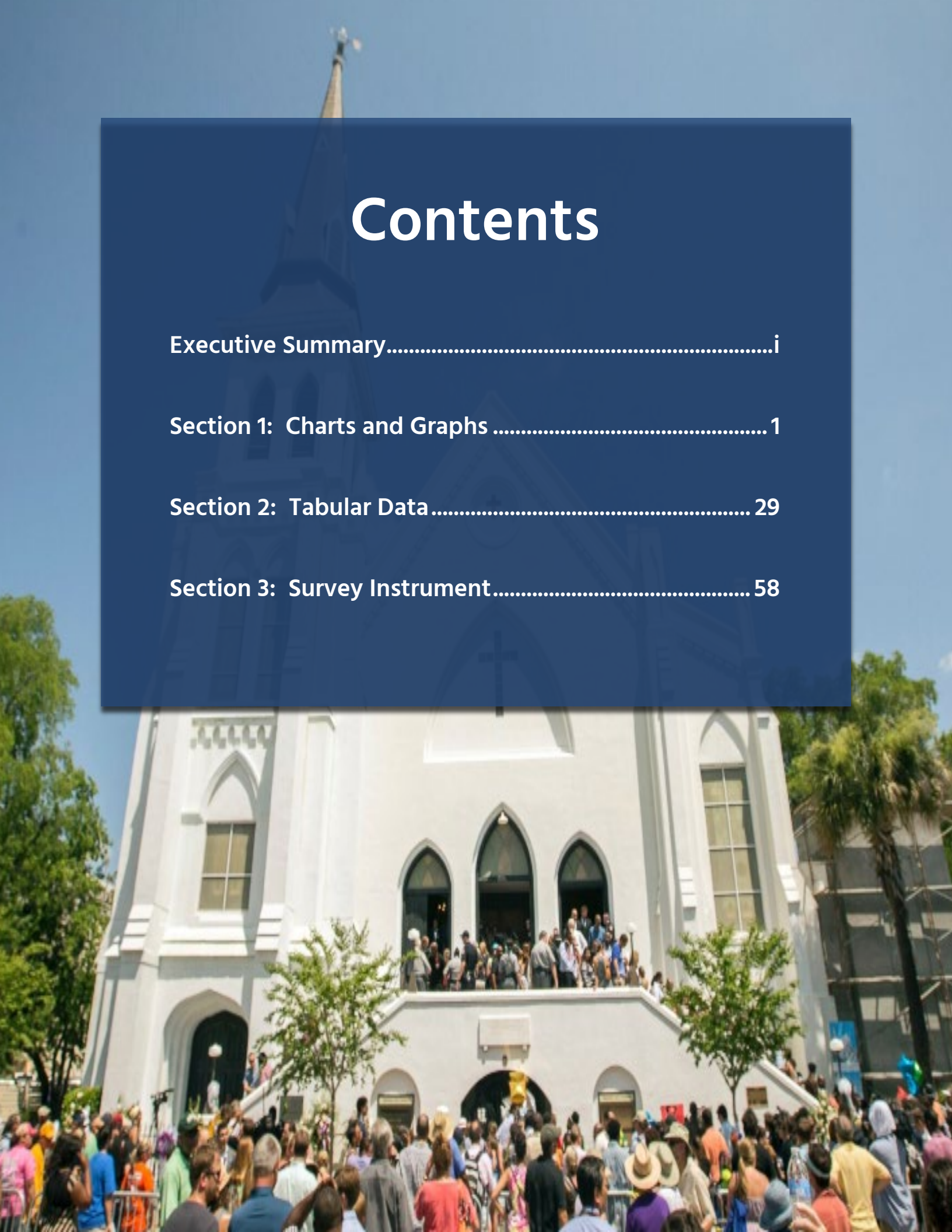
Presented to The Charleston Forum

May 2025



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# Executive Summary



# 2025 Charleston Forum Survey

## Executive Summary



### Purpose

ETC Institute administered a community survey for The Charleston Forum in April and May of 2025. The survey was conducted to gather input from residents of the Tri-County area about public education, policing, criminal justice, and representations of history in public spaces. The results of the survey will be used to help The Charleston Forum get a proper representation of the views of the community to present to public officials and press for action to respond to what the people want.

### Methodology

A five-page survey, cover letter, and postage-paid return envelope were mailed to a random sample of households in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties. The cover letter explained the purpose of the survey, encouraged residents to return their survey in the mail, and provided a link to an online survey for those who preferred to complete the survey over the internet.

The goal was to receive at least 400 completed surveys. This goal was met, with a total of 400 households completing a survey. The results for the random sample of 400 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 5.0%.

This report contains the following:

- charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 1)
- tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 2)
- a copy of the cover letter and survey instrument (Section 3)

## MAJOR FINDINGS

### School Performance

Fifty-one percent (51%) of the residents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “*Opportunities to get a quality education today in our tri-county area are improving for black & brown children & children living in poverty;*” 49% agreed with the statement, “*The educational system in my school district is working well,*” and 45% agreed with the statement, “*The educational system in my school district is broken.*”

### Measuring Performance of Public Schools

Seventy-two percent (72%) of the respondents surveyed thought that reading and math scores were important ways to measure the performance of the community’s public schools. Other ways included: college and/or work readiness (71%), graduation rates (63%), and disparity in outcomes by race or socio-economic status (43%).

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## Executive Summary



### Preschool and Early Childhood Education

Forty-two percent (42%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “*Opportunities for children ages 3-5 to attend full-day preschool are accessible and affordable in my school district;*” 26% were neutral, 21% disagreed, and 11% strongly disagreed with this statement.

### Measuring Progress in Early Childhood Education

Seventy-two percent (72%) of the respondents surveyed thought that kindergarten readiness showing increasing readiness across all groups was an important way to measure if progress is being made in early childhood education. Other ways included: free and subsidized daycare/preschool available based on need that meets demand (60%), and number of quality (A or B rated) daycare seats available in each district (51%).

### High Quality Teachers and Principals

Fifty-one percent (51%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “*My school district attracts and retains high quality teachers and principals;*” 28% were neutral, 17% disagreed, and 4% strongly disagreed with this statement.

### Measuring How Districts Are Performing in Attracting/Retaining Teachers and Principals

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of the respondents surveyed thought that teacher turnover was an important way to measure how districts are performing in attracting and retaining high quality teachers and principals. Other ways included: teacher pay compared with regional and national averages (69%), experienced teachers in the most challenged schools (57%), and teacher vacancies (55%).

### Schools as Safe Spaces for Children

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “*Schools in my district are safe spaces for our children, with educators who care about their well-being;*” 26% were neutral, 13% disagreed, and 3% strongly disagreed with this statement.

### Measuring Whether the Goal of Making Public Schools Safe Spaces is Being Met

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the respondents surveyed thought that the number of support programs and families served was an important way to measure whether the goal of making public schools safe spaces is being met. Other ways included: effectiveness of PTAs, school improvement councils constituent boards (56%) and school-based measures of ‘engaged’ families (53%).

# 2025 Charleston Forum Survey

## Executive Summary



### Perceptions of Fairness

Forty-five percent (45%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “Officers in the tri-county area treat everyone fairly;” 43% agreed with the statement, “The court system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly,” and 41% agreed with the statement, “The criminal justice system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly.”

### Concern With Criminal Justice System Expectations

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, were very concerned or somewhat concerned about how often individuals convicted of crimes locally commit crimes after being released. Other criminal justice system expectations in which respondents were very concerned or somewhat concerned included: the time it takes to bring cases to justice in local courts (80%), crime in the community (72%), the ways in which bail amounts allow money to be the determining factor in detaining or releasing pretrial defendants from local incarceration facilities (69%), and overcrowding, safety, and security in local incarceration facilities (69%).

### Measuring Whether the Criminal Justice System is Performing Well

Ninety-two percent (92%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, thought continuity of care upon release from jail for those with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders was very important or important for measuring whether the criminal justice system is performing well or making progress. Other measurements that respondents thought were very important or important included: effective mental health and substance abuse treatment services for those detained in local jail (88%), an active criminal justice coordinating council that brings together leaders from the community, law enforcement, judicial system and behavioral health professionals to address challenges and make improvements to the criminal justice system (88%), the number of crimes reported that are solved versus unsolved (87%), and staffing levels among qualified professions (87%).

More than three-fourths (78%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, found pretrial success (defendants making it to court as required and remaining arrest-free while waiting for the court's determination of guilt/innocence) very important/important to measure.

### Current Public History Landscape

Fifty percent (50%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “The current public representations of history and historical figures in our community do a good job of conveying the breadth of our history,” and 49% strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “My community is responsibly and reasonably addressing the issue of controversial statues and displays of historic figures.”

# 2025 Charleston Forum Survey

## Executive Summary



### What Local Governments Should Do Regarding Public History in the Tri-County Area

Seventy-three percent (73%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed that local governments should provide websites or mobile apps that offer accessible, accurate and balanced information about the people for whom local buildings, roads, or other public properties are named; 73% agreed that local governments should provide exhibit panels at the entrance to public property named in honor of a person that provides an accurate and balanced biographical sketch of the person for whom it is named; 64% agreed that local governments should create a Board of Public Art Review for reviewing, adding, and removing historic markers, monuments, memorials, and other public art installations, and 61% agreed that local governments should create a Cultural Reparations Fund to support projects originating among black, indigenous, and other people of color.

### Civic Perceptions

Ninety-three percent (93%) of the respondents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, strongly agreed or agreed that communities are better served when its residents come together to address differences and find solutions to local problems which public officials can adopt; 92% agreed that communities are better served when public officials come together to address differences and find solutions to local problems, and 84% agreed that the public is better served when candidates for public office must earn some support from voters in the middle of the political spectrum.

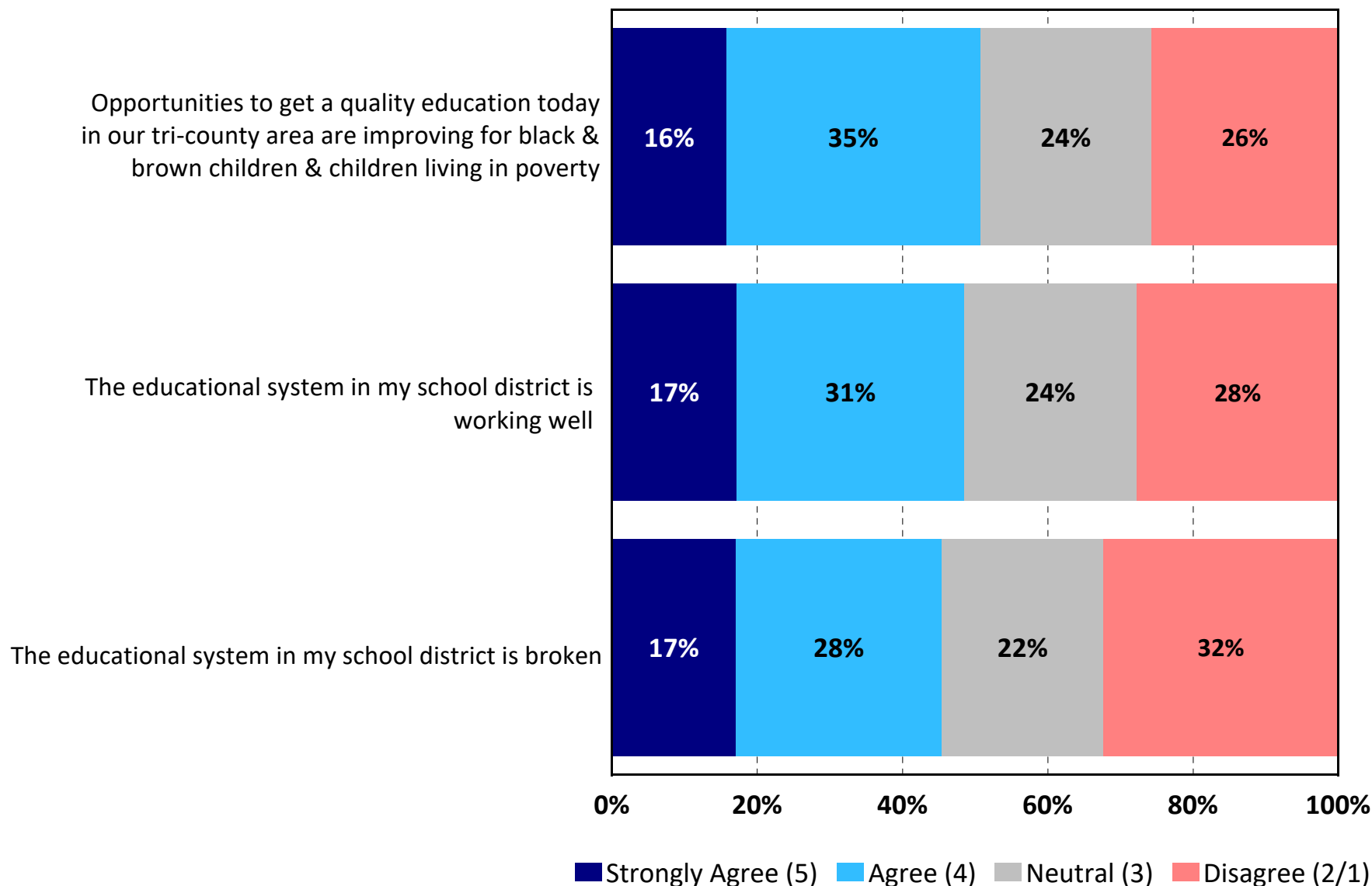


# Charts and Graphs



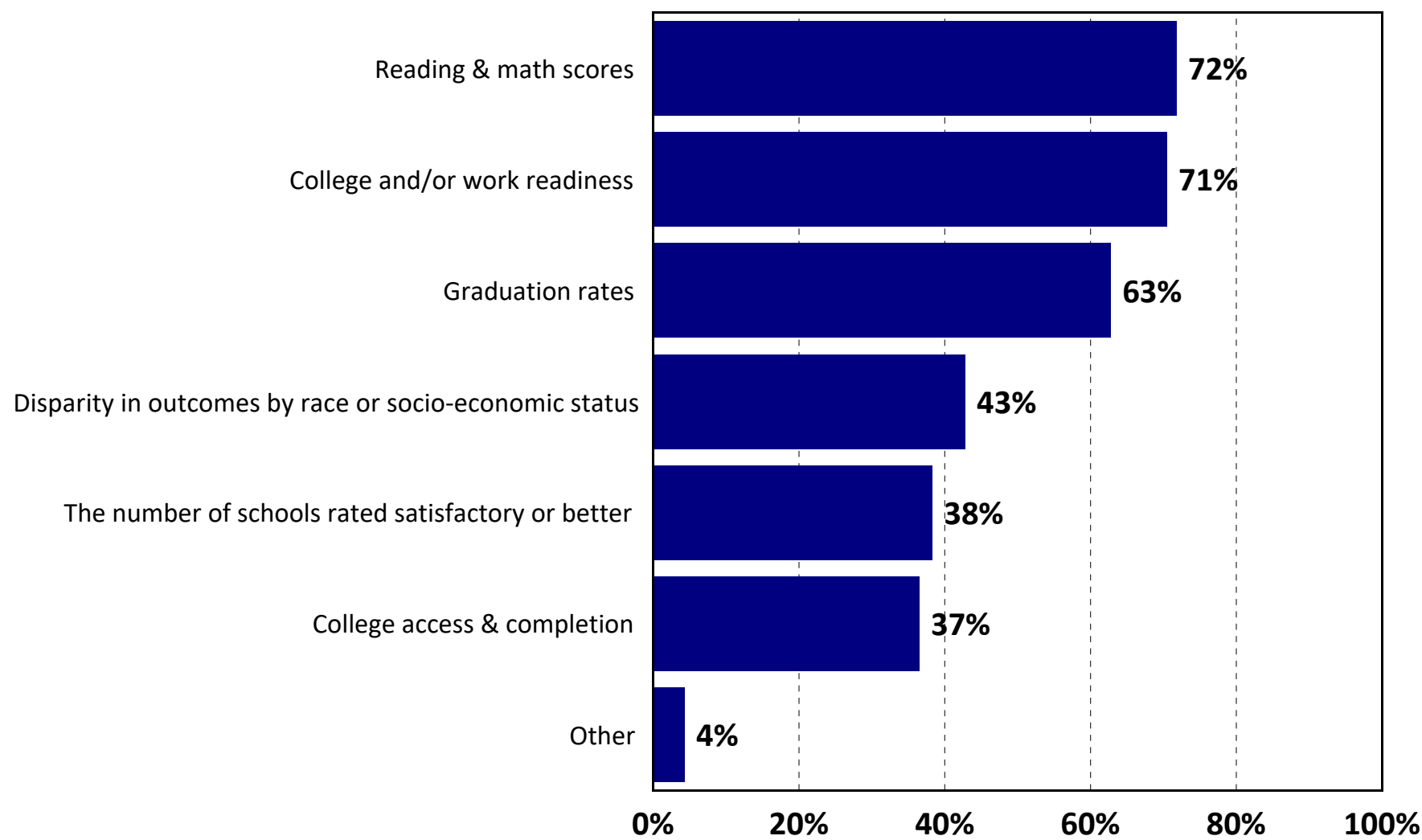
# Q1. Agreement With the Following Statements Regarding School Performance

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding “don't know”)



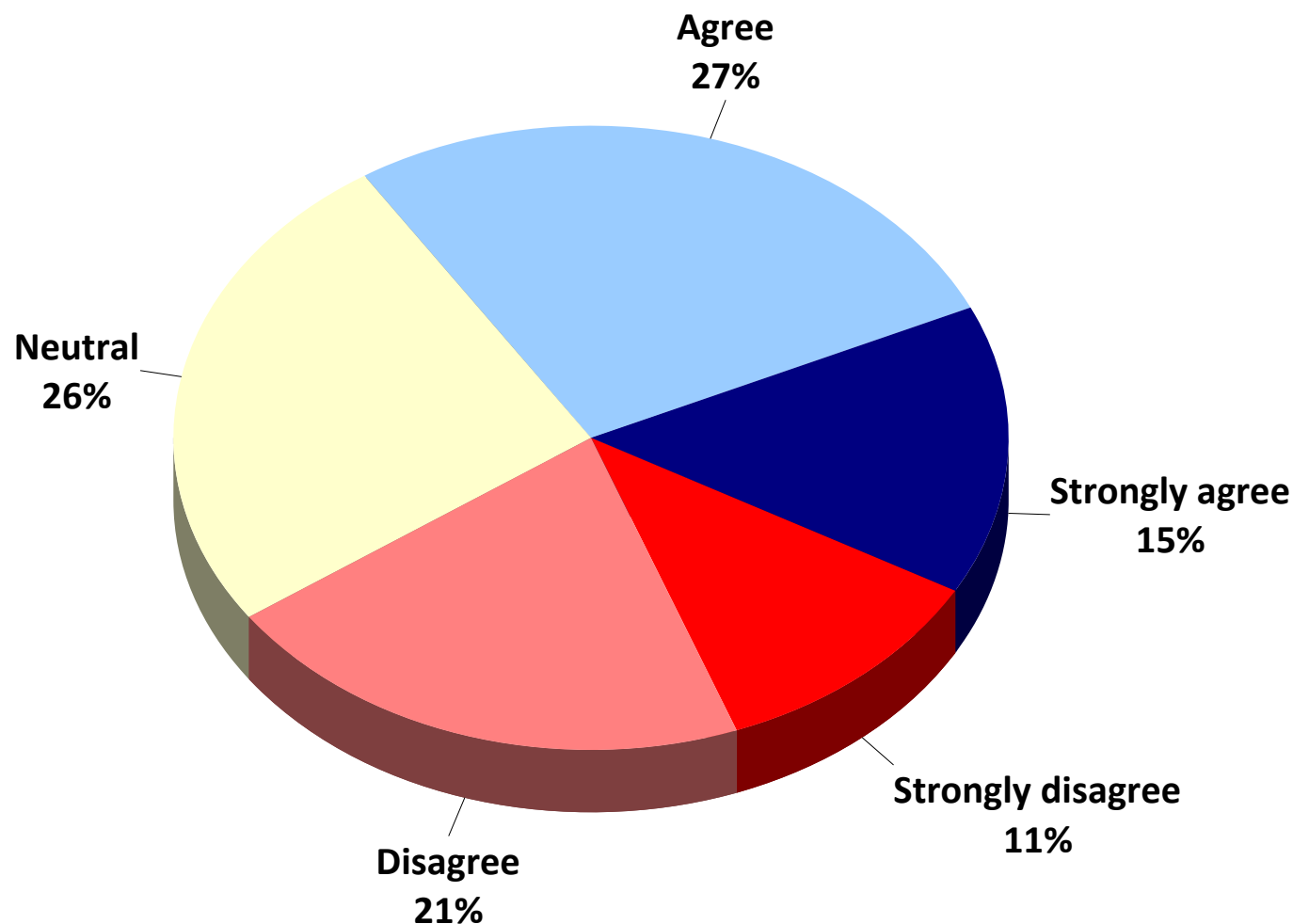
## Q2. What do you think are important ways to measure the performance of our public schools?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



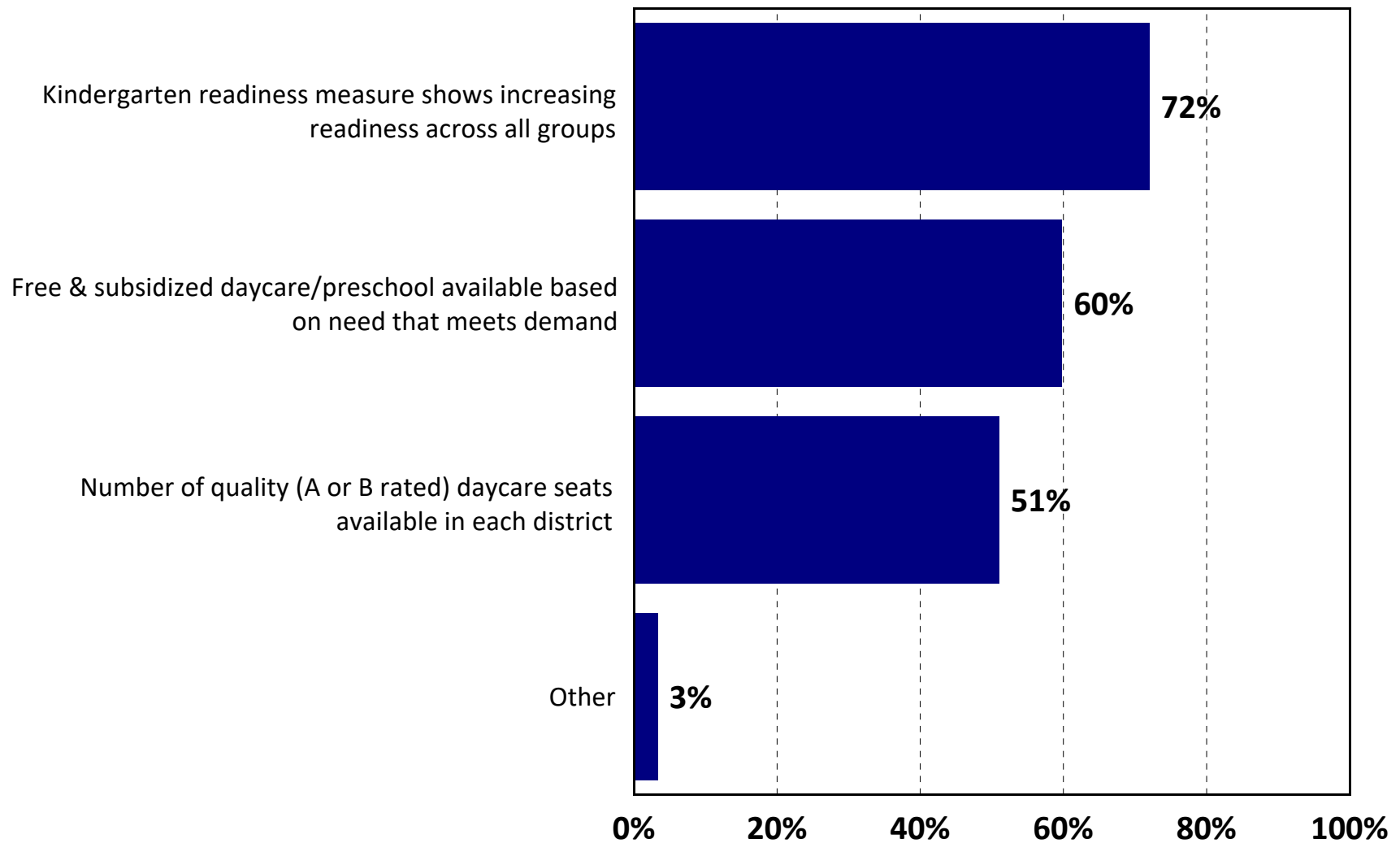
**Q3. Agreement With the Following Statement:**  
***“Opportunities for children ages 3-5 to attend full-day preschool are accessible and affordable in my school district.”***

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



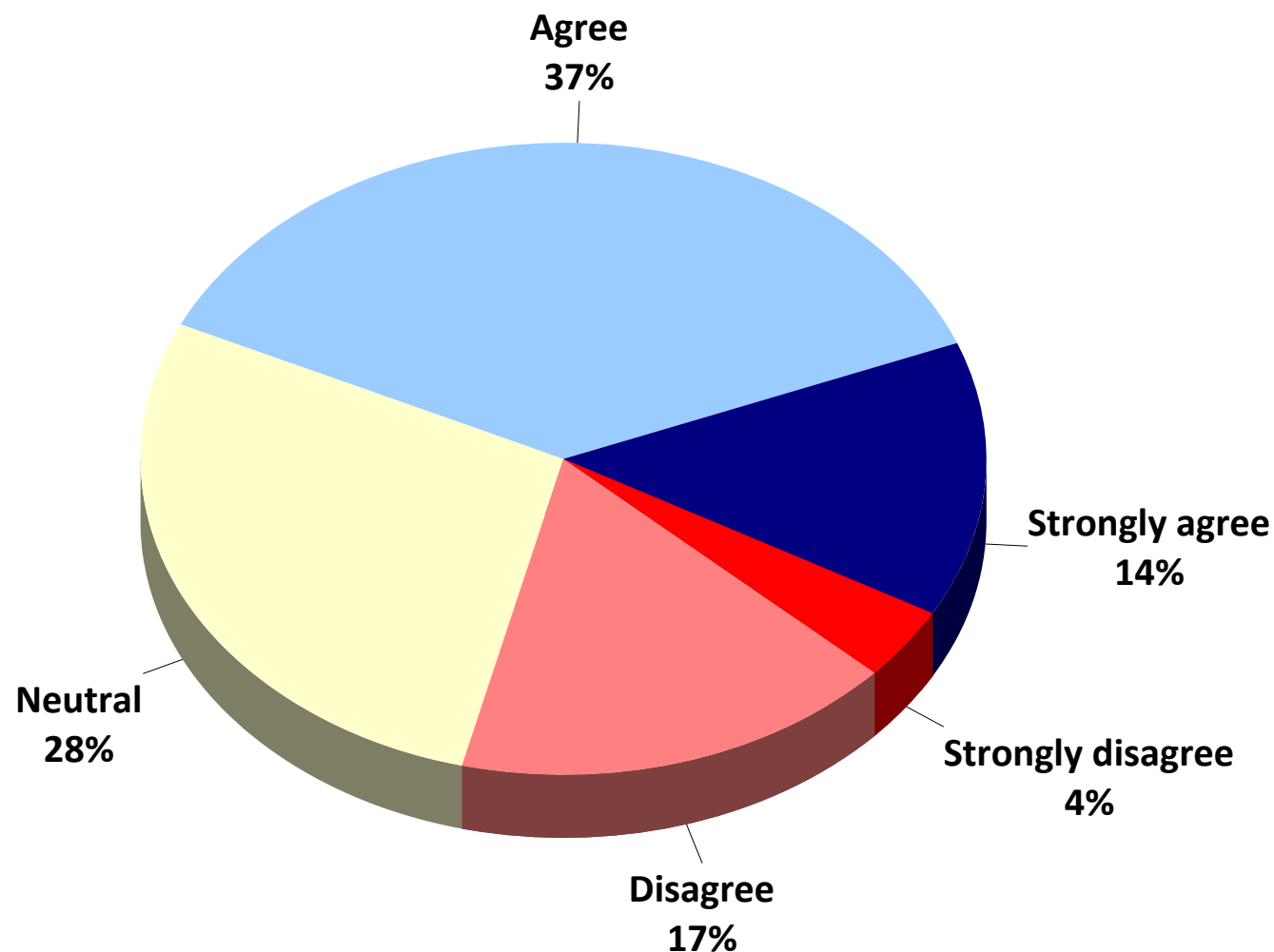
## Q4. What do you think are important ways to measure if we are making progress in early childhood education?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



**Q5. Agreement With the Following Statement:**  
***“My school district attracts and retains high quality teachers  
and principals.”***

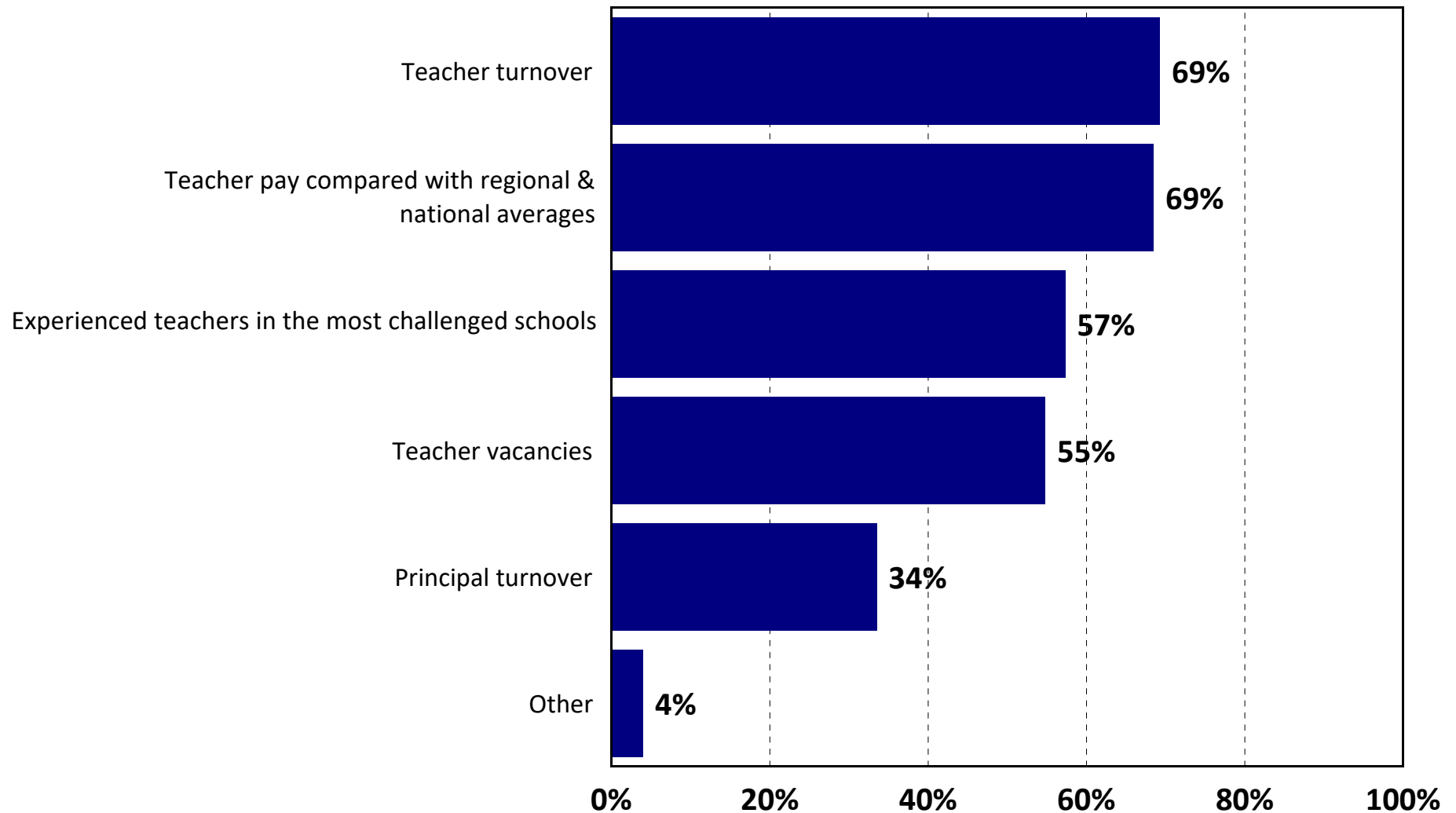
by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)





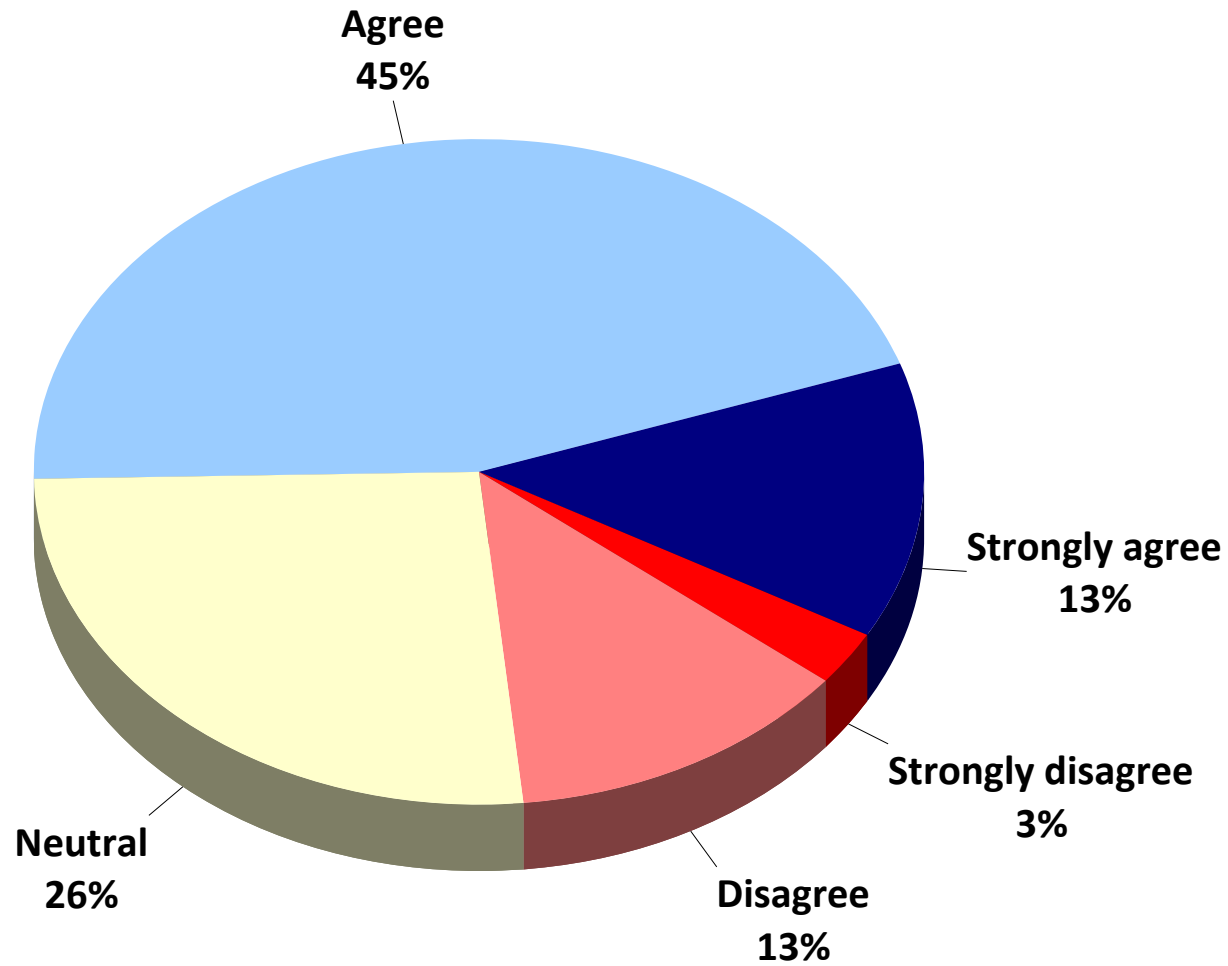
## Q6. What do you think are important ways to measure how our districts are performing in this regard?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



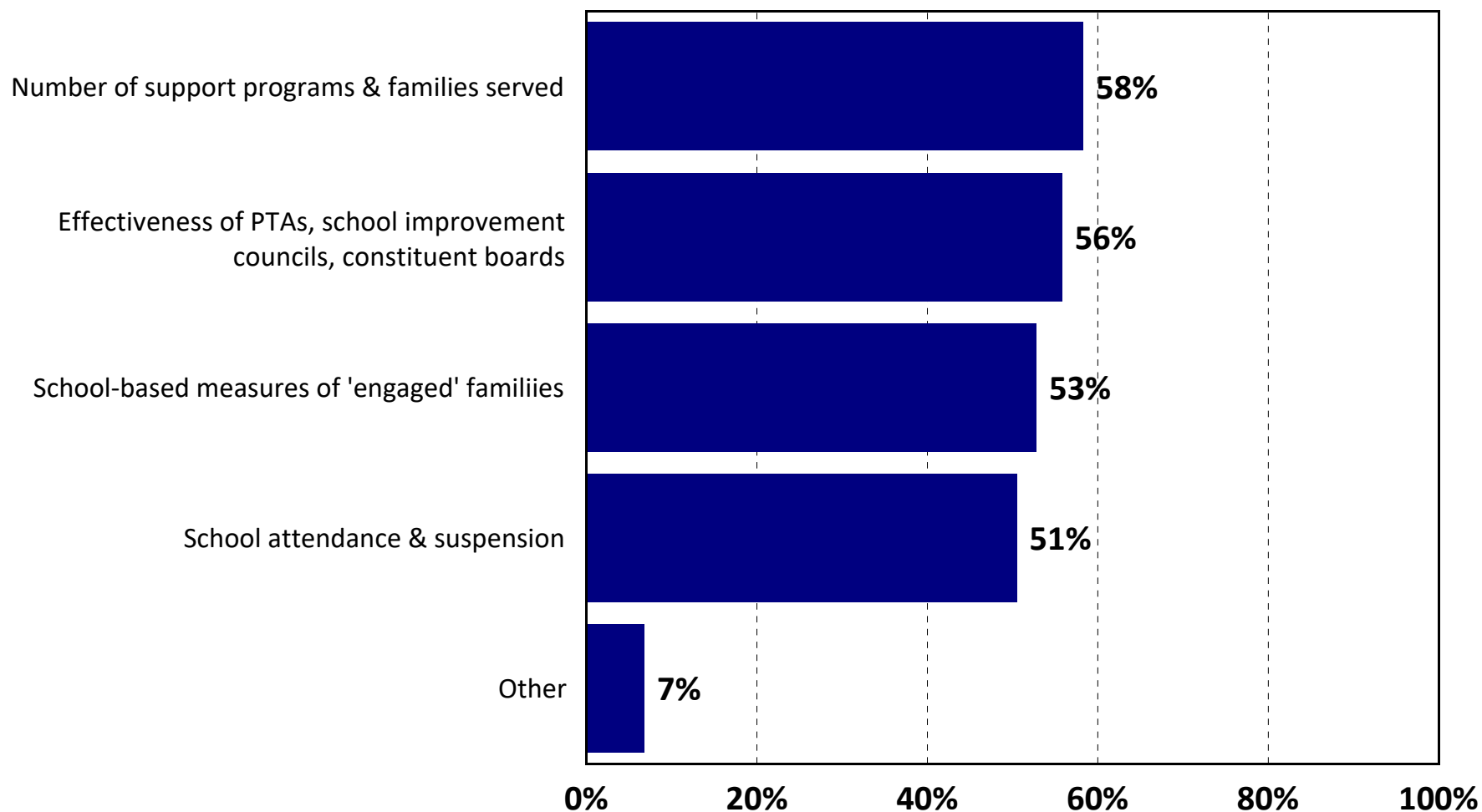
**Q7. Agreement With the Following Statement:**  
***“Schools in my district are safe spaces for our children,  
with educators who care about their well-being.”***

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



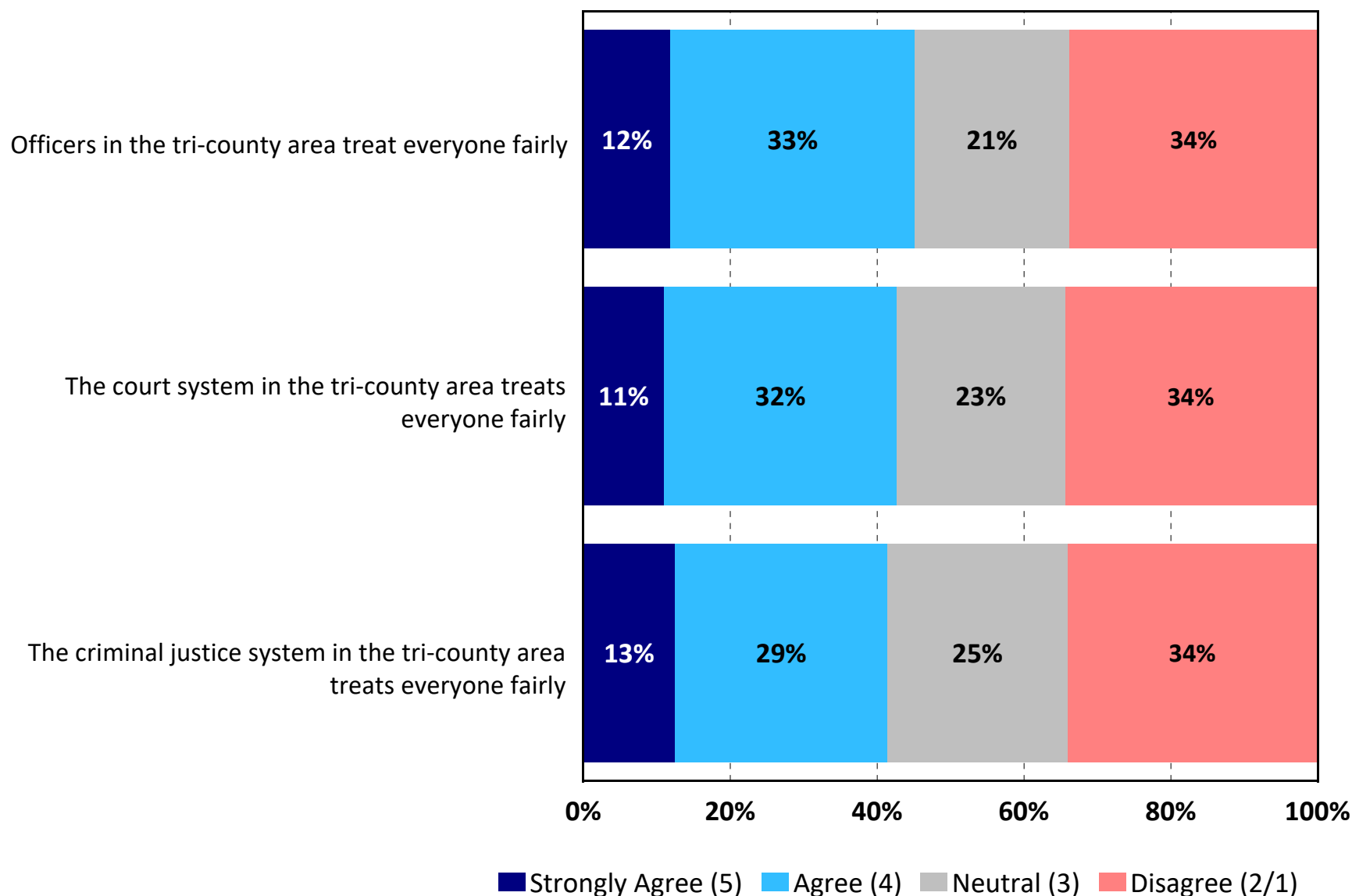
## Q8. What do you think are important ways to measure whether we are meeting the goal of making public schools safe spaces?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



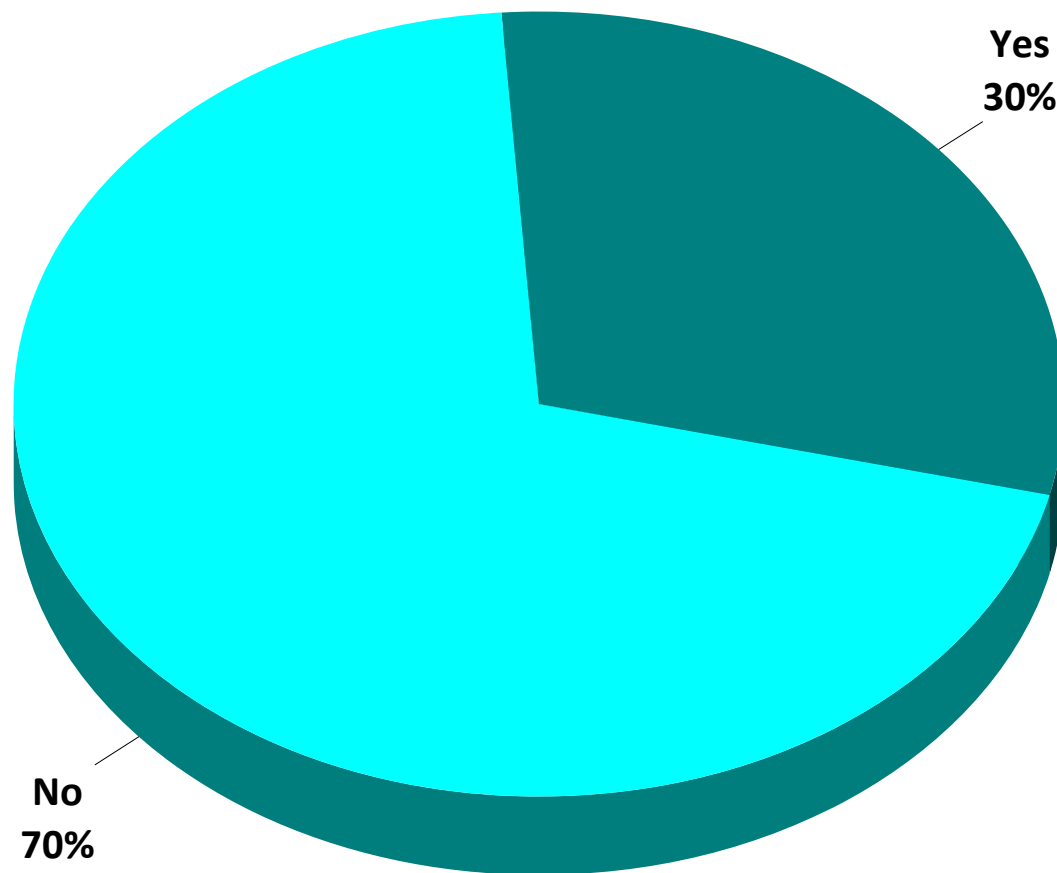
## Q9. Agreement With the Following Statements Regarding Perceptions of Fairness

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding “don't know”)



**Q10. “I have, or someone I am close to, has been the subject of action taken by one or more officers in the last three years.”**

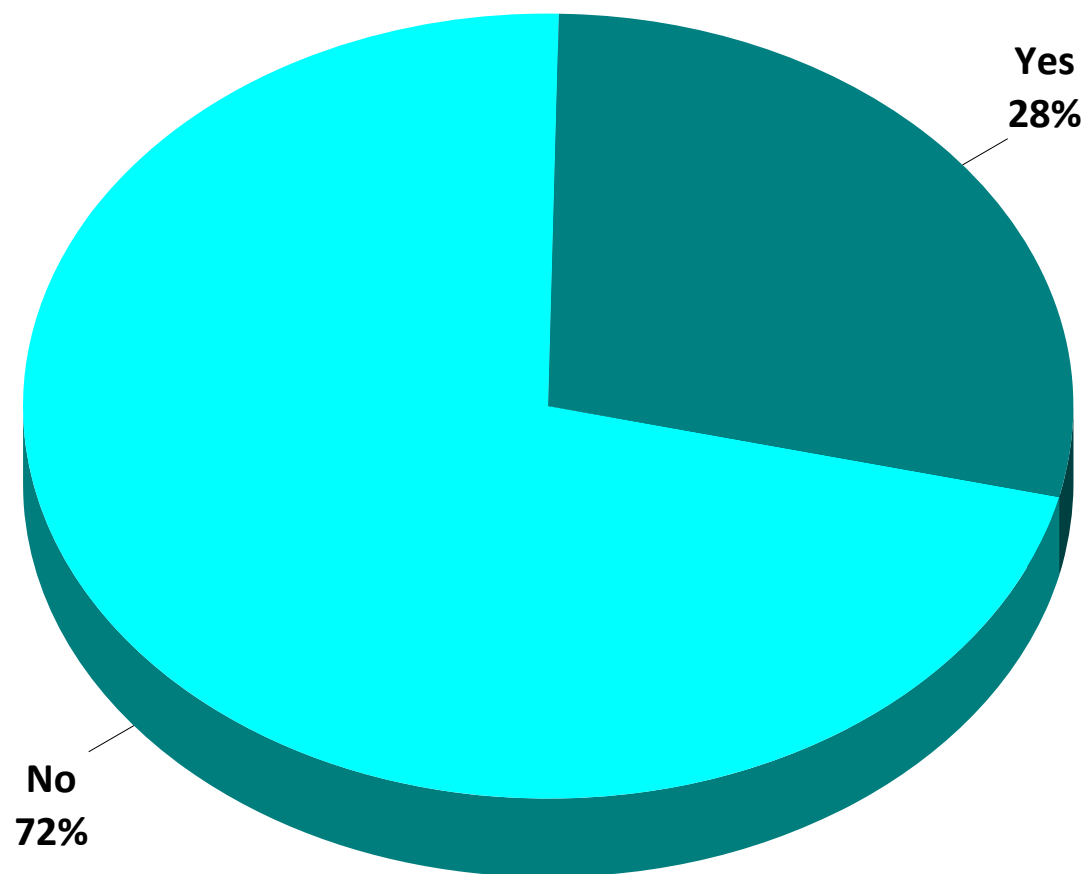
by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)





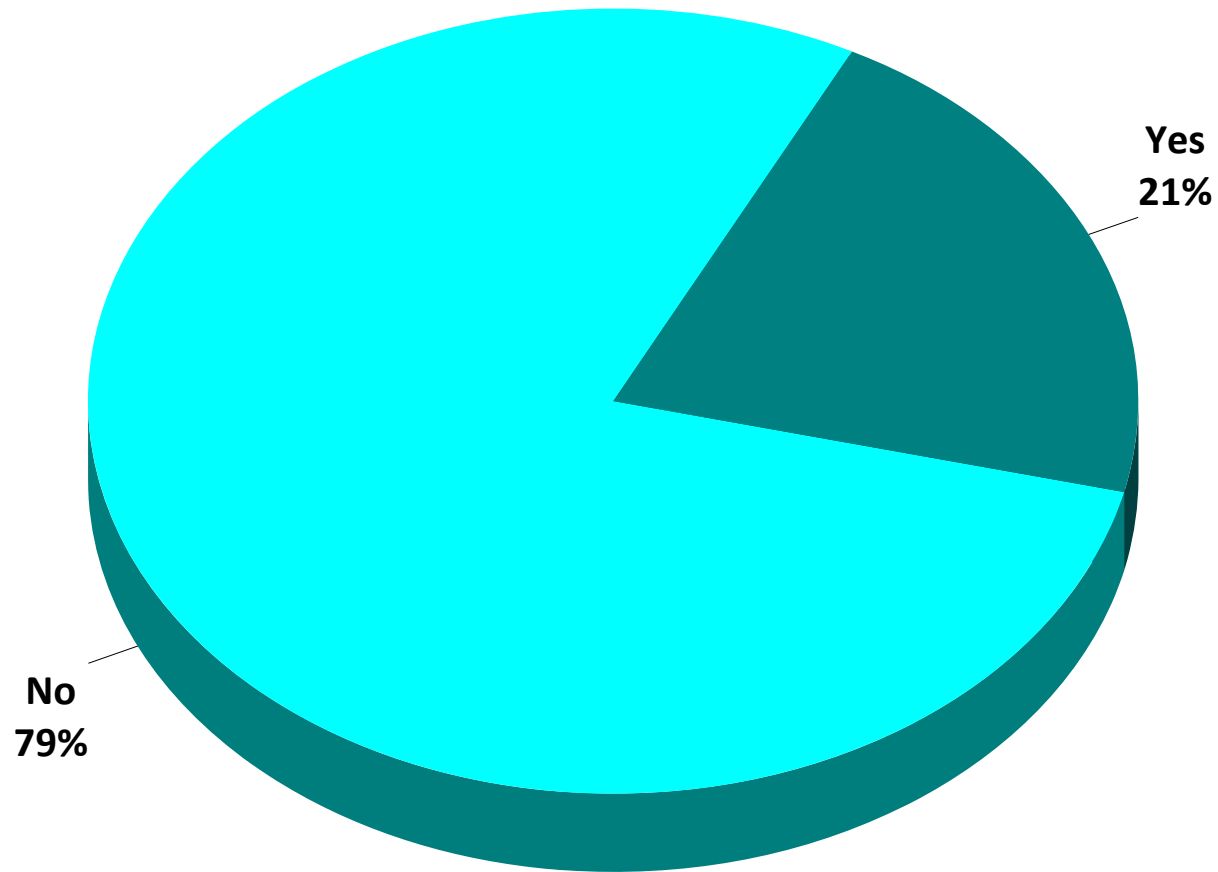
# **Q11. “I have, or someone I am close to, has been involved in a criminal matter in court in the last three years.”**

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



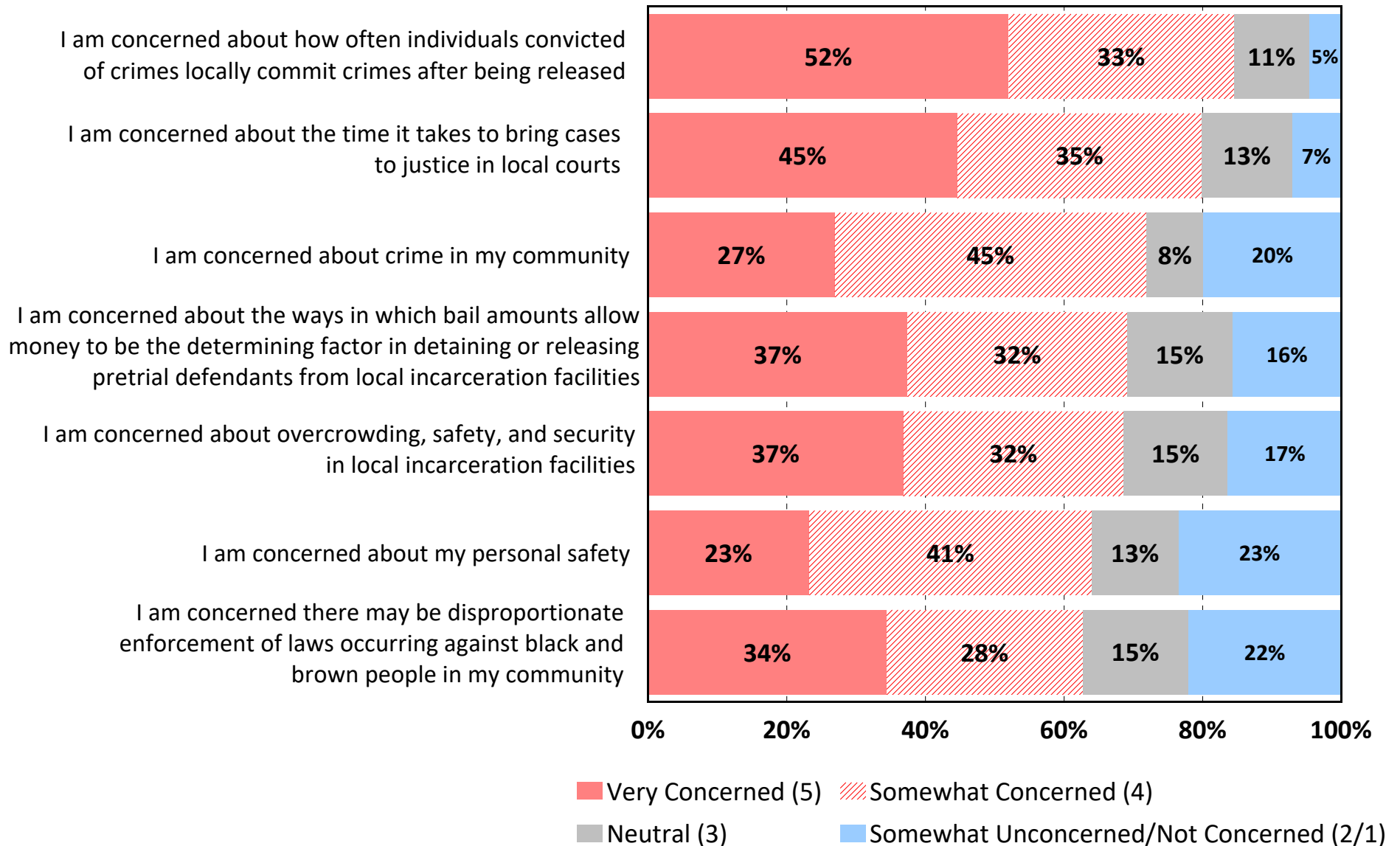
**Q12. “I have, or someone I am close to, has interacted with local incarceration facilities in the last three years.”**

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



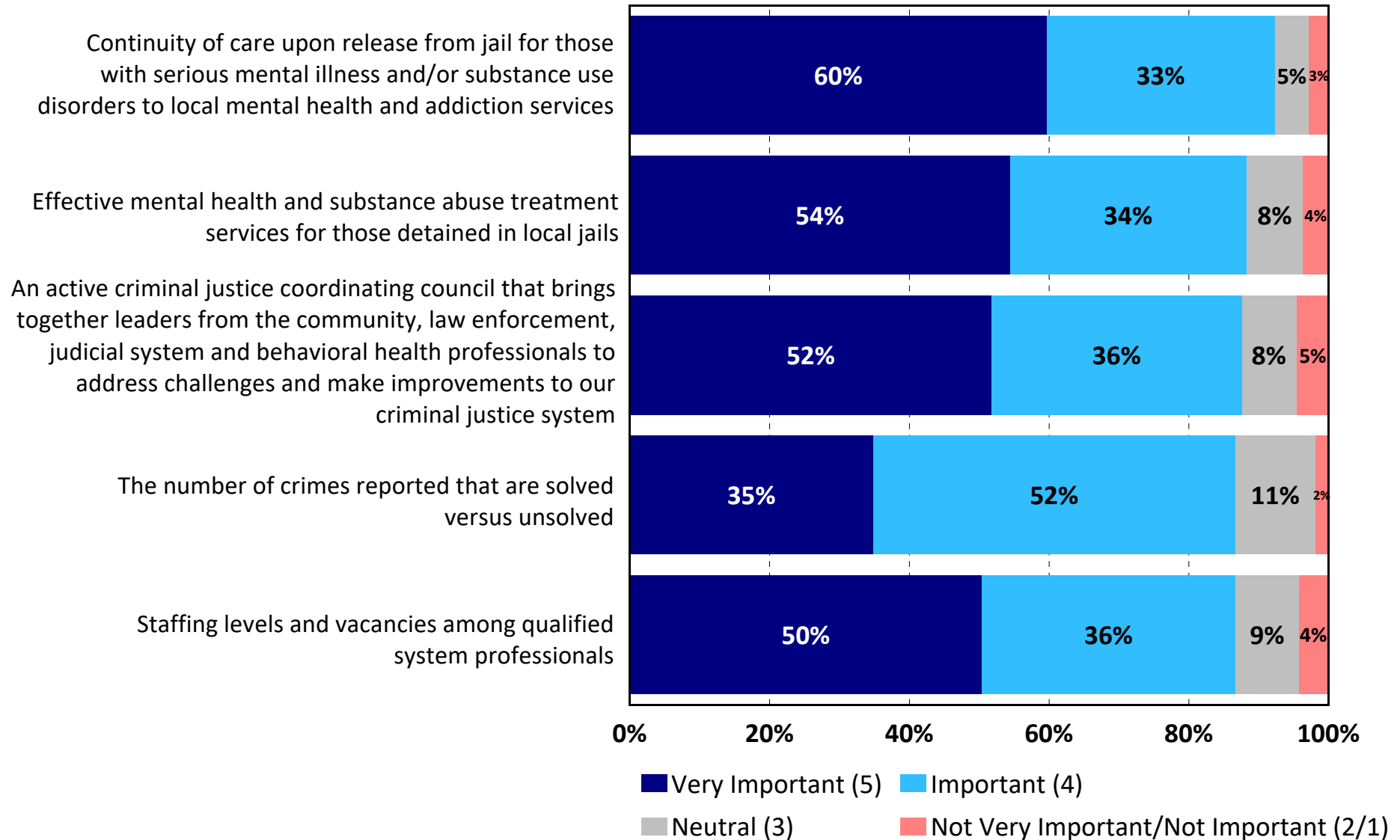
## Q13. Level of Concern With the Following

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding “don't know”)



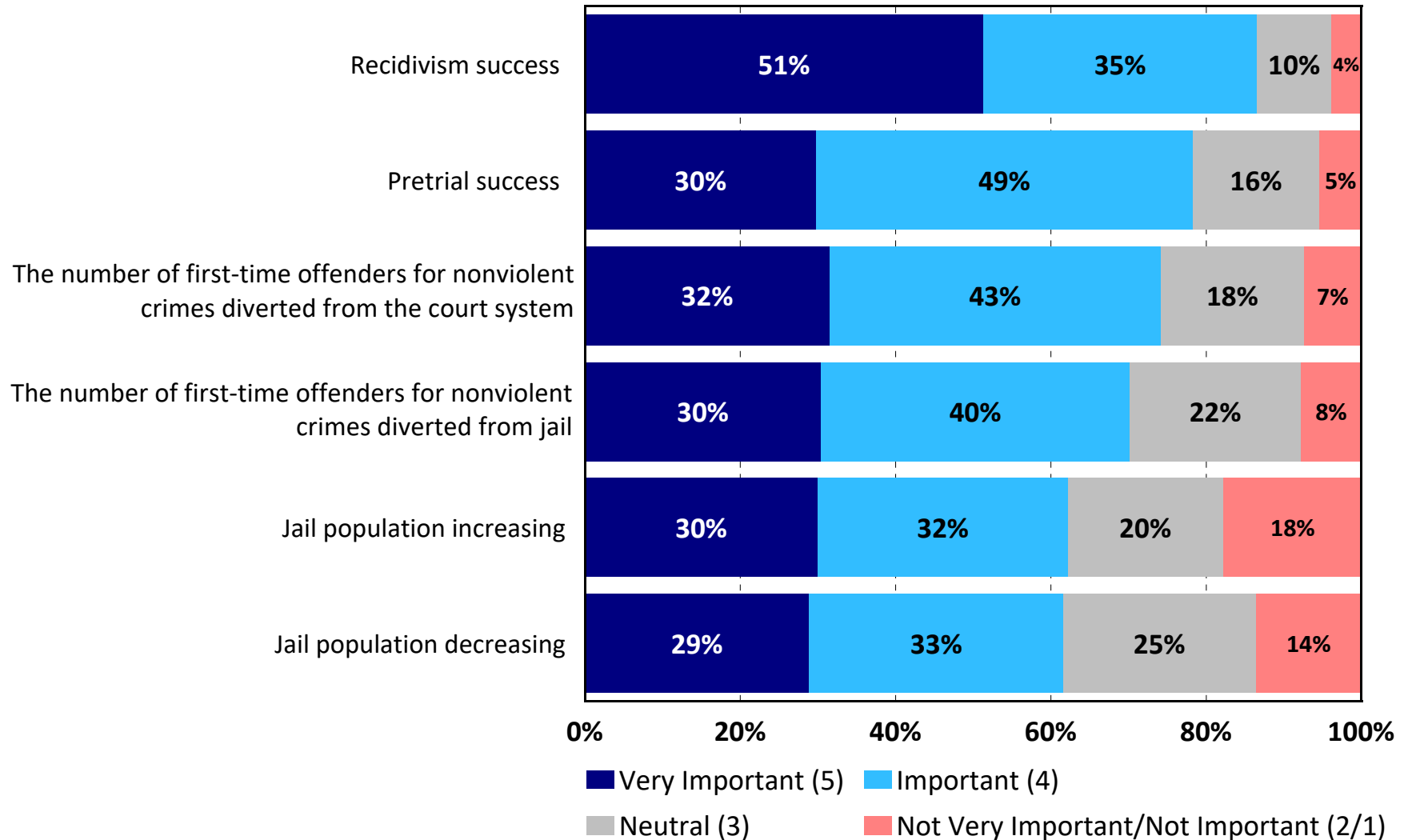
# Q14. Importance of the Following for Measuring Whether the Criminal Justice System is Performing Well or Making Progress

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding "don't know")



# Q14. (Cont.) Importance of the Following for Measuring Whether the Criminal Justice System is Performing Well or Making Progress

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding “don't know”)



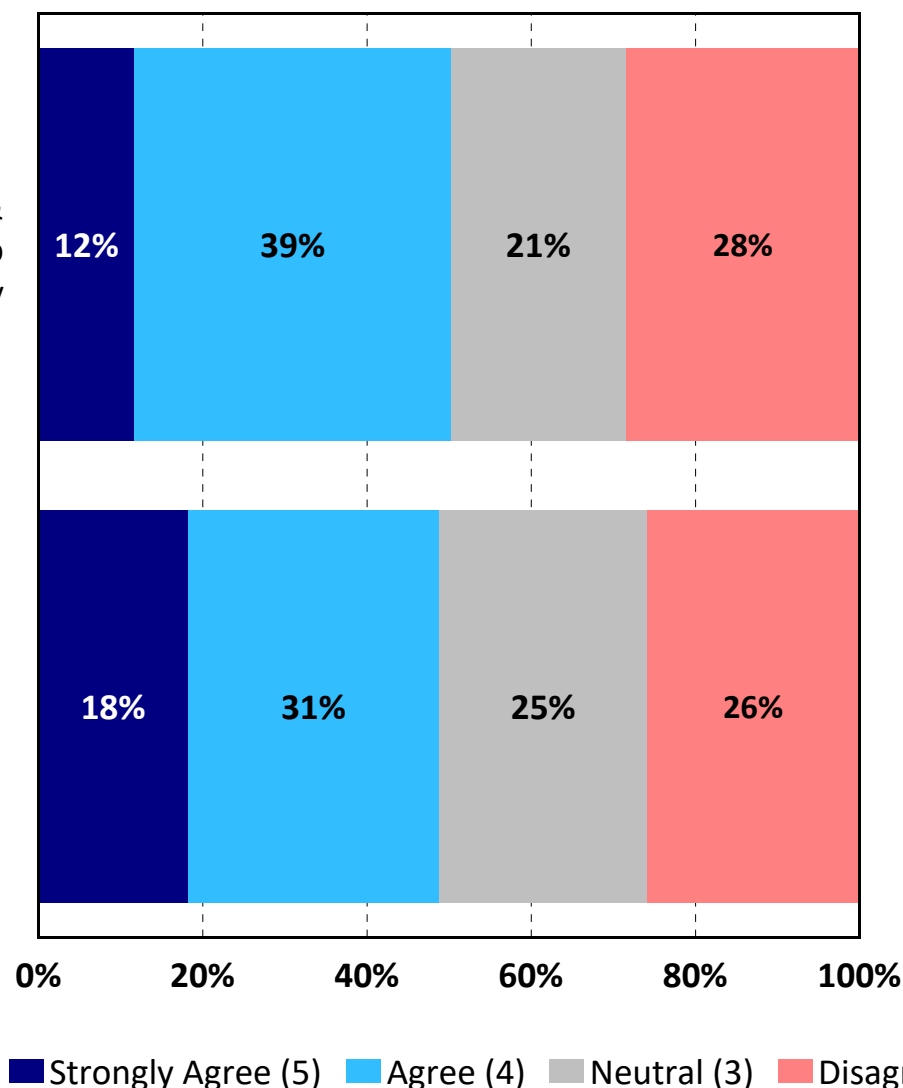


## Q15. Agreement With the Following Statements Regarding Current Public History Landscape

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding “don't know”)

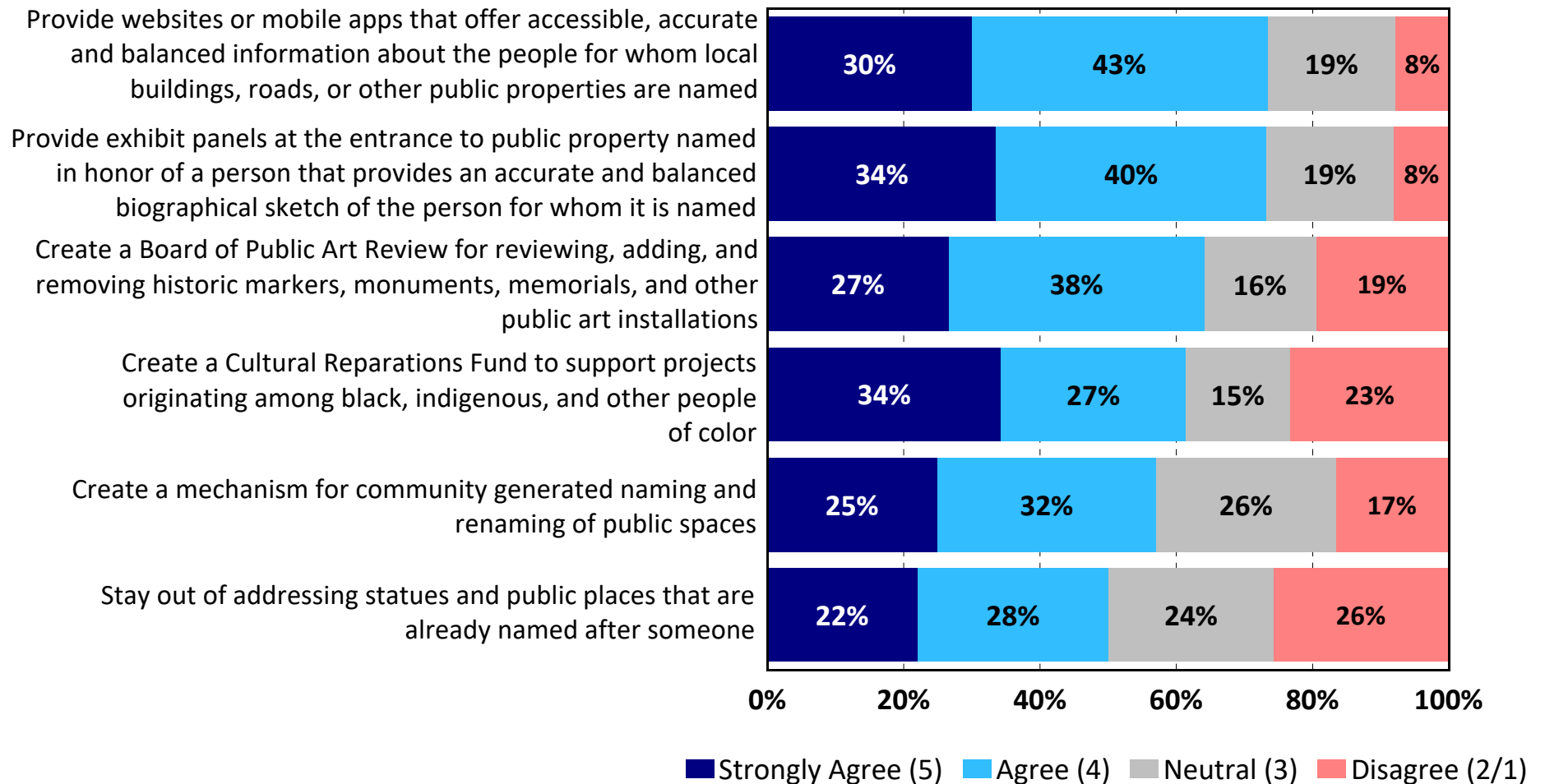
The current public representations of history & historical figures in our community do a good job of conveying the breadth of our history

My community is responsibly & reasonably addressing the issue of controversial statues & displays of historic figures



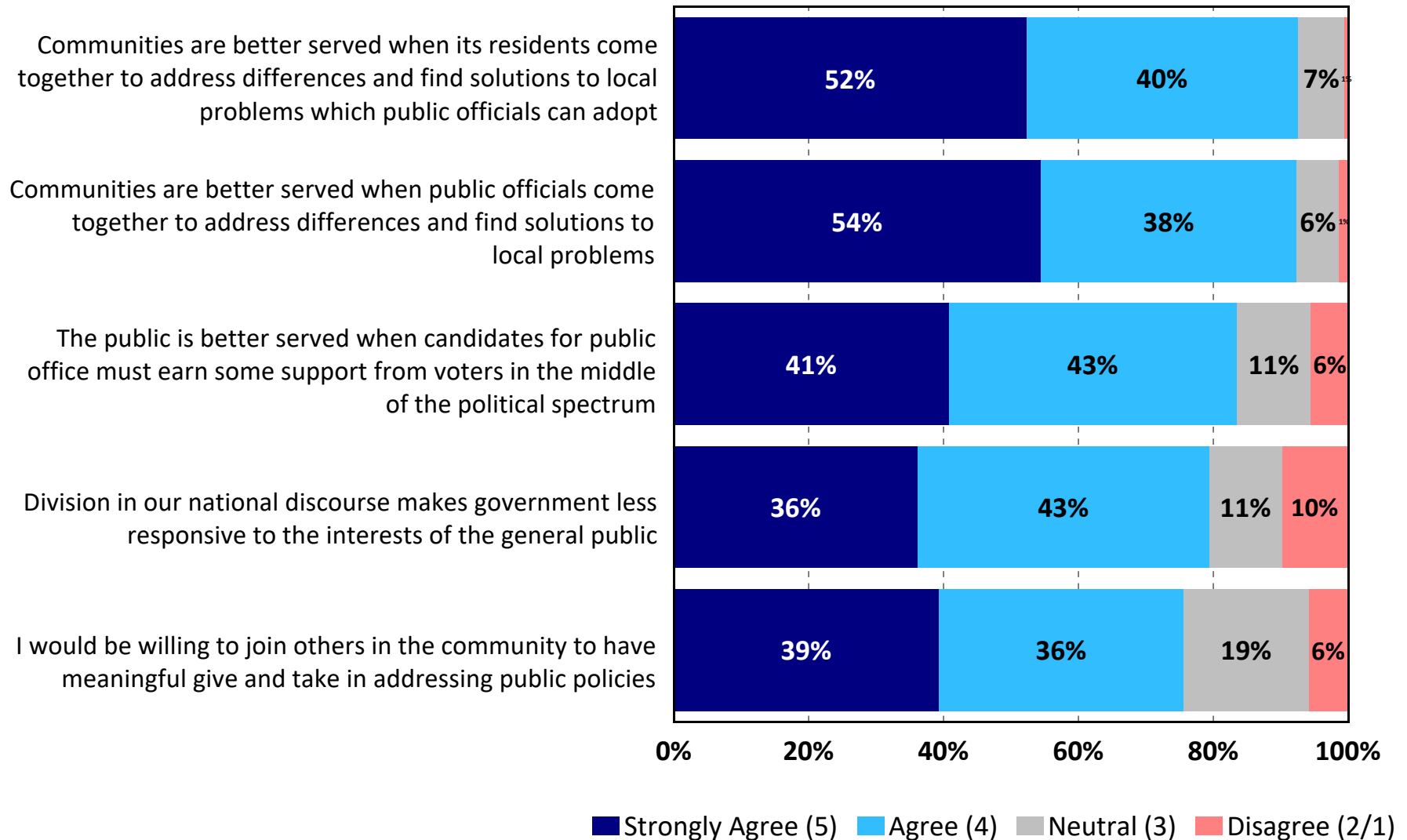
# Q16. Agreement With Whether Local Governments Should Do Any of the Following Things Regarding Public History in the Tri-County Area

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding "don't know")



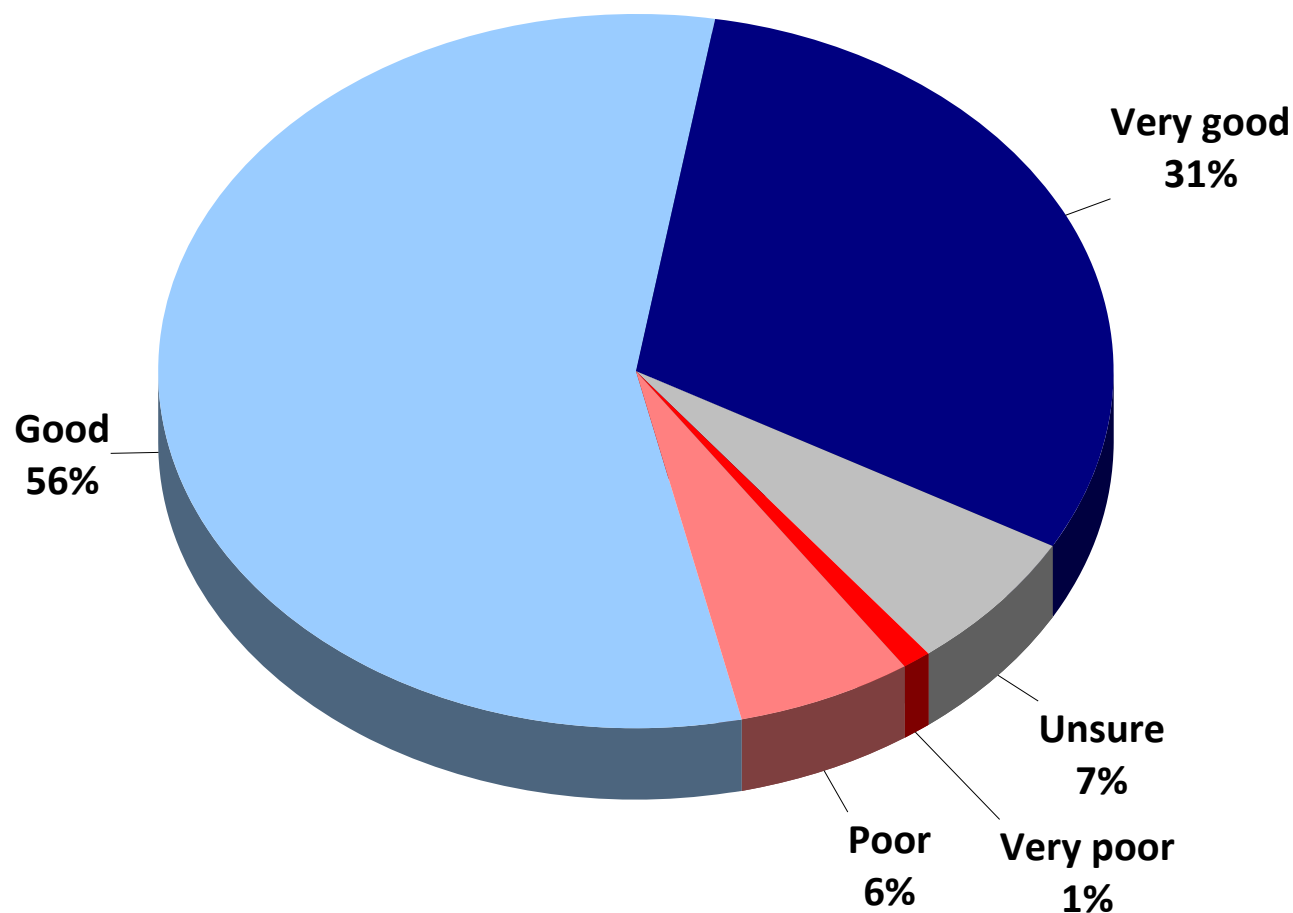
# Q17. Agreement With the Following Regarding Civic Perceptions

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding "don't know")



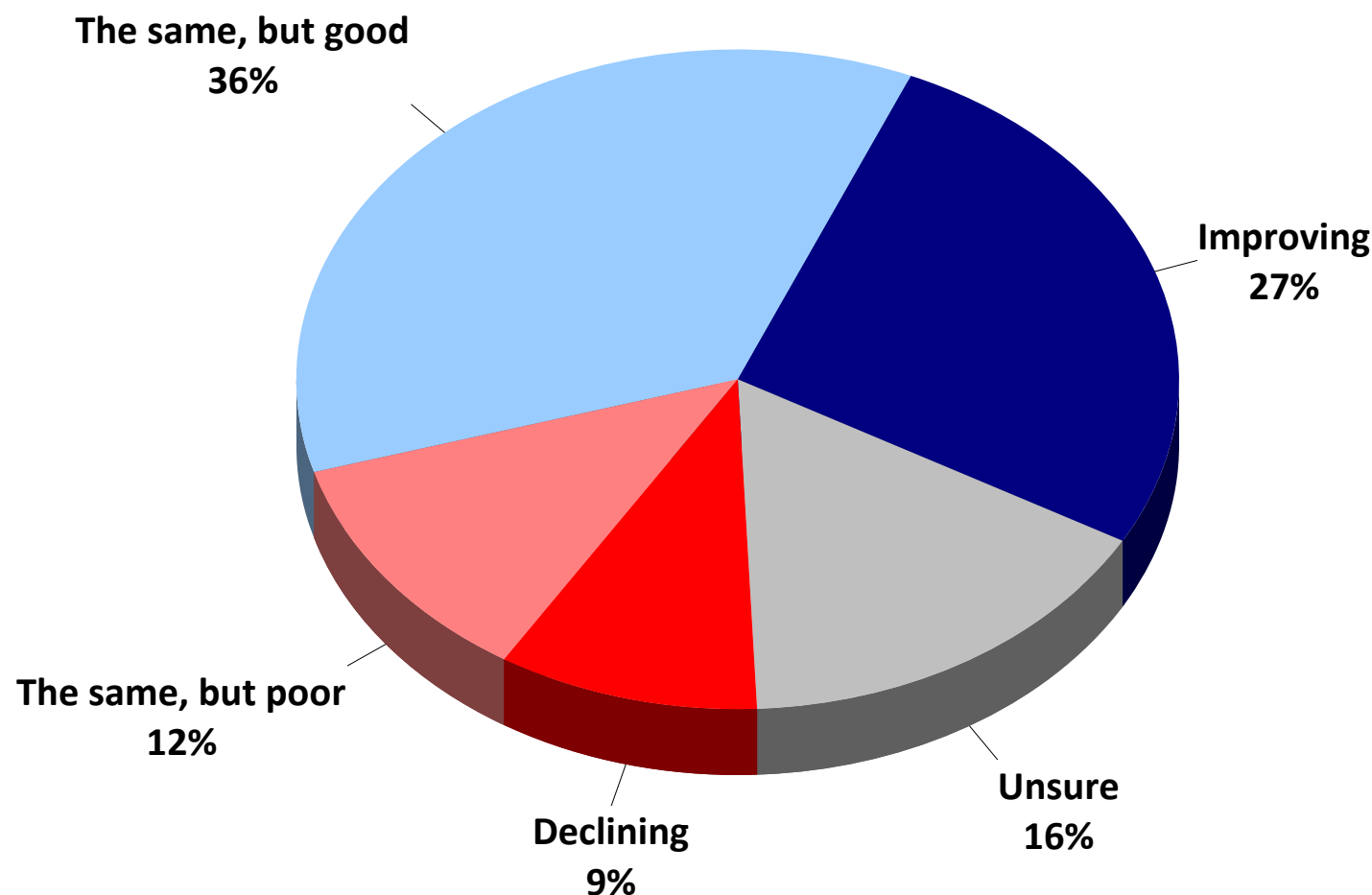
# Q18. How Respondents Would Describe Their Overall Quality of Life

by percentage of respondents



## Q19. How Respondents Would Describe Race Relations in Their Community/Neighborhood Over the Past Three Years

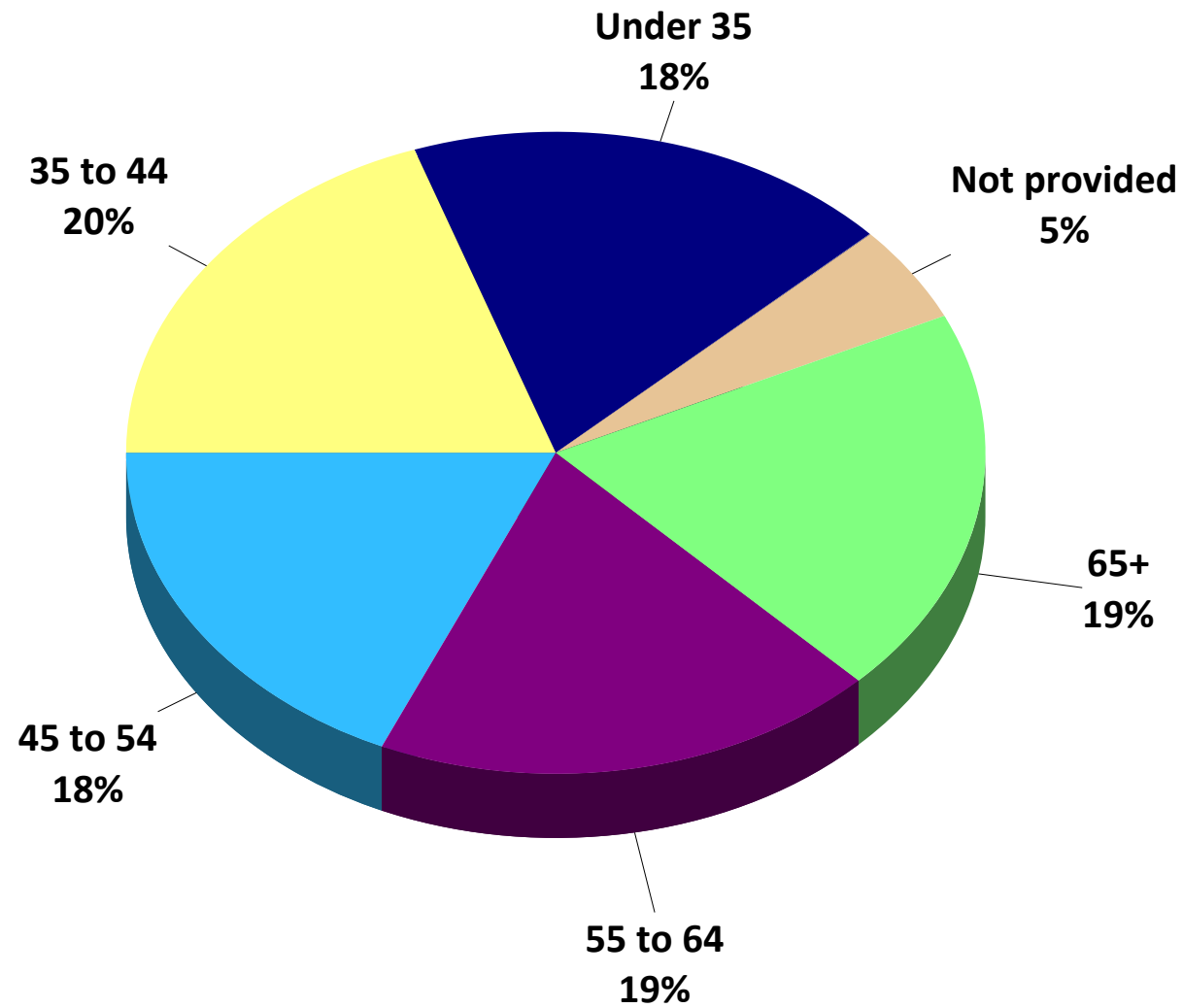
by percentage of respondents





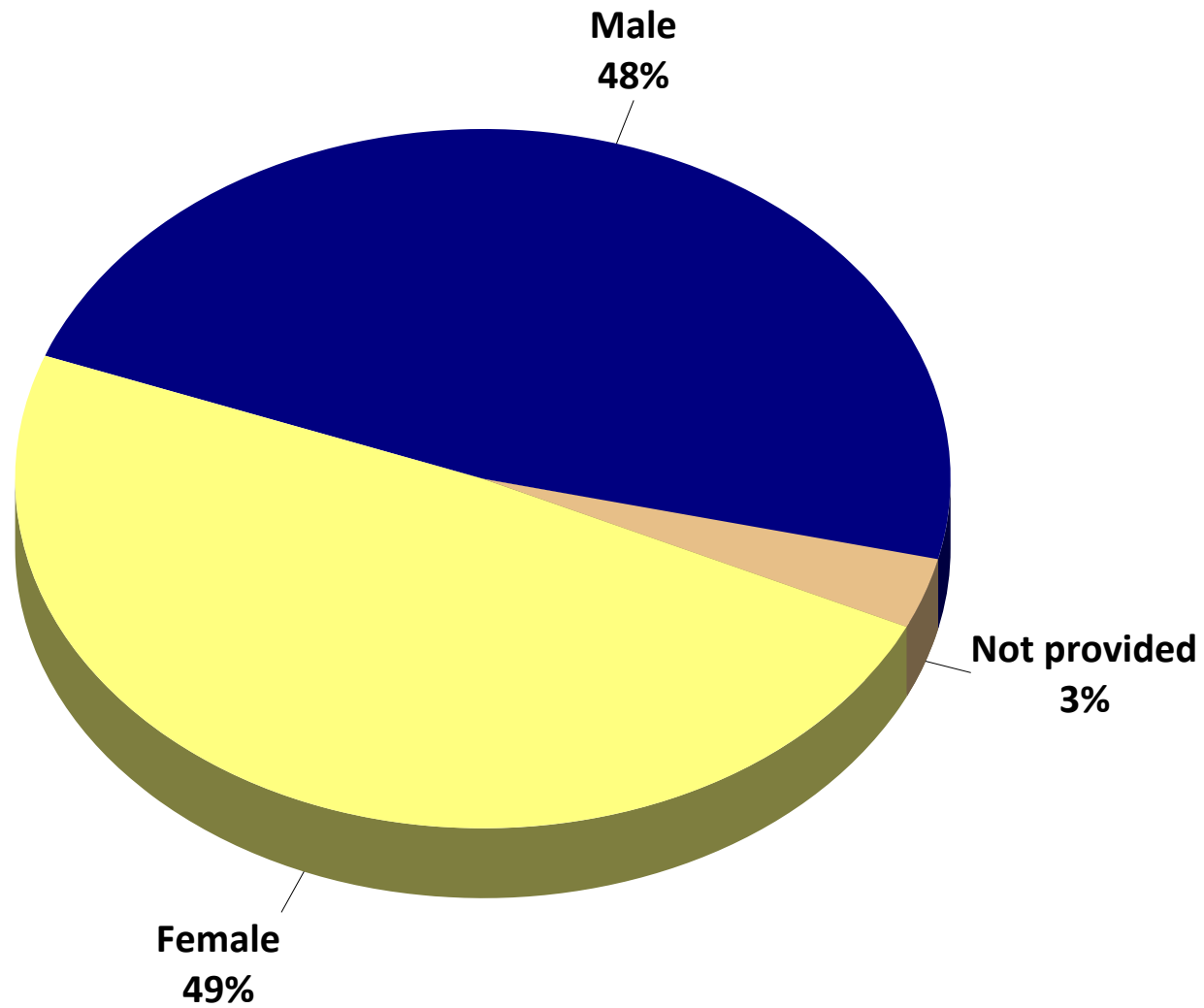
## Q20. Age of Respondent

by percentage of respondents



## Q21. Gender

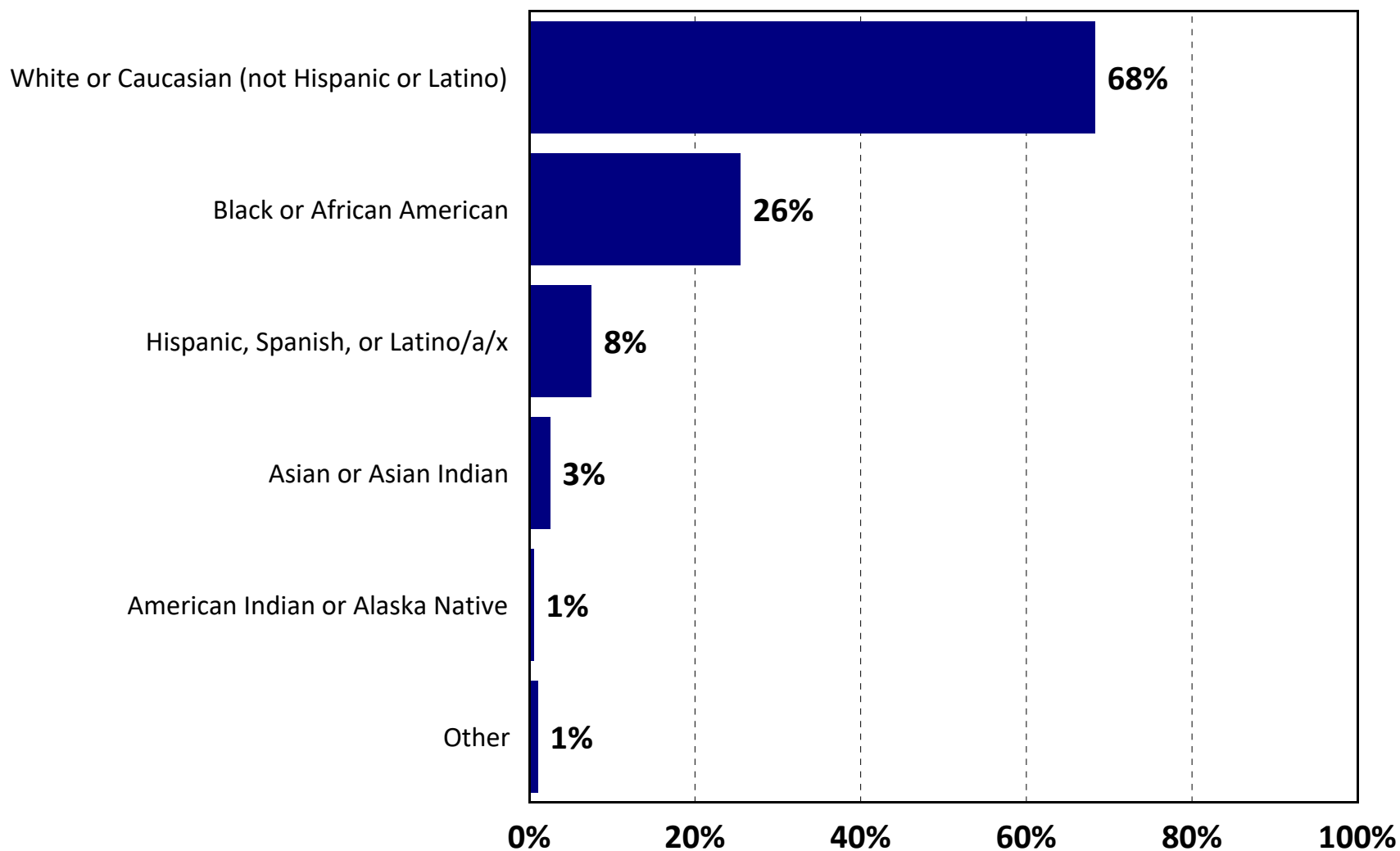
by percentage of respondents



*0.5% self-identified as "other"*

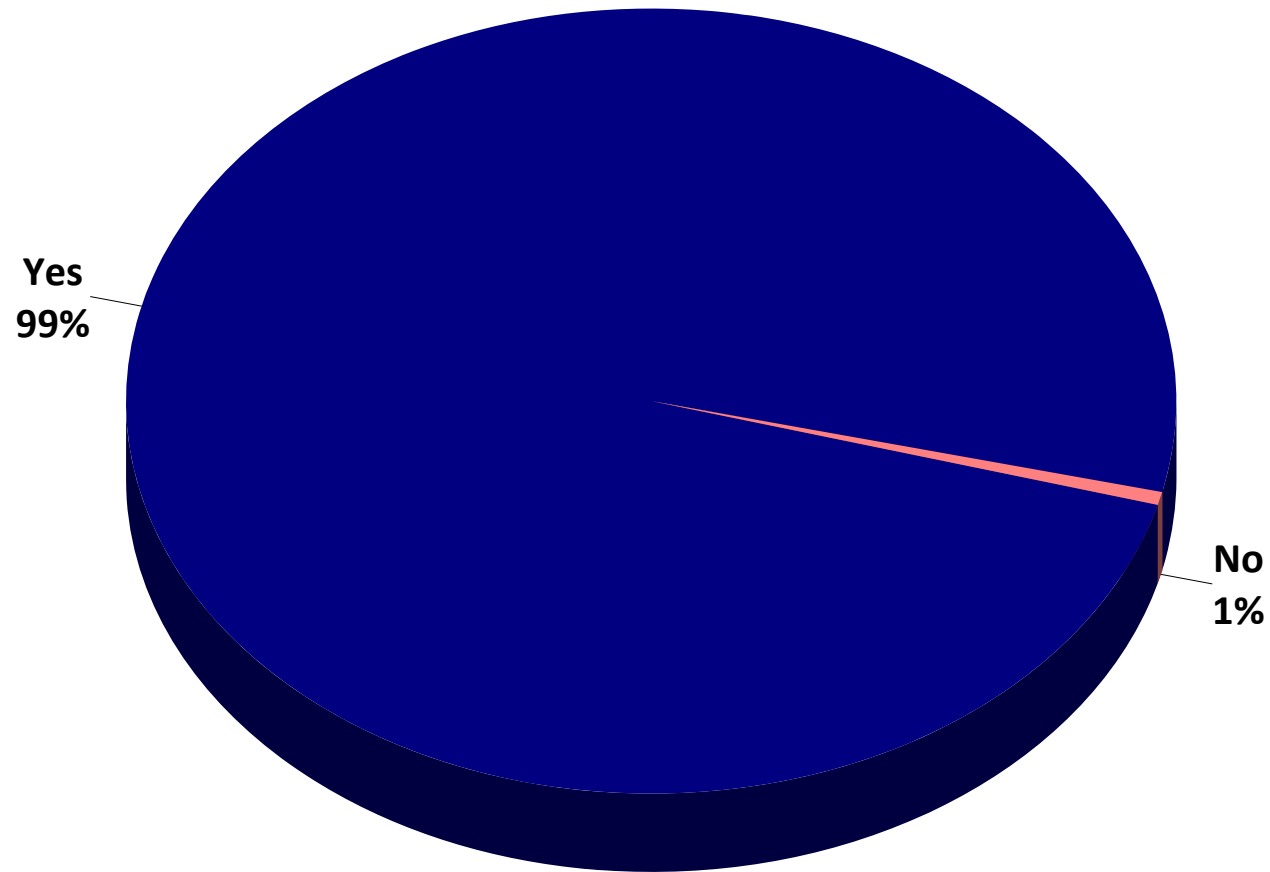
## Q22. Race/Ethnicity

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



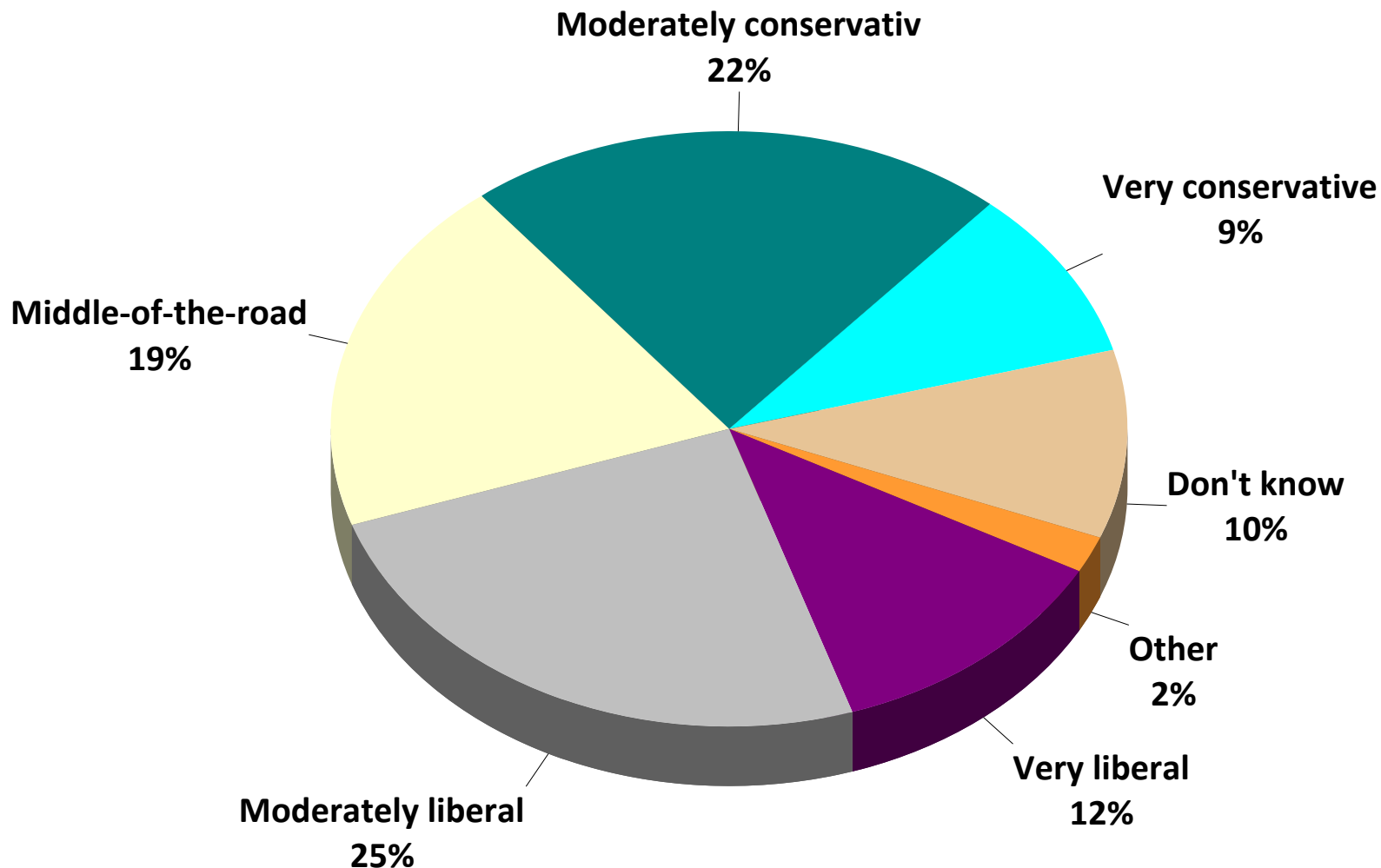
## Q23. Are you a citizen of the United States?

by percentage of respondents



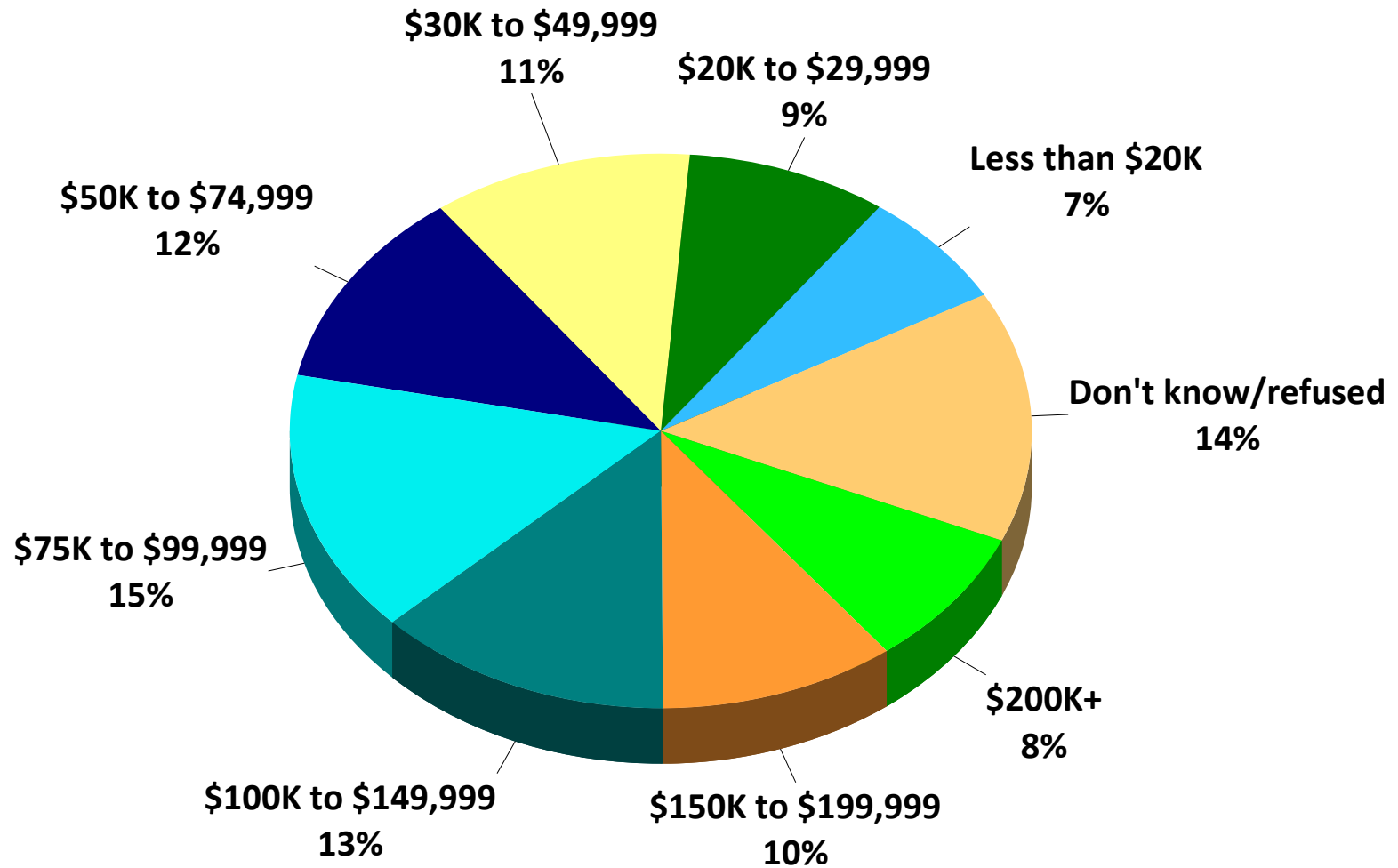
## Q24. How Respondents Describe Their Personal Political Outlook

by percentage of respondents



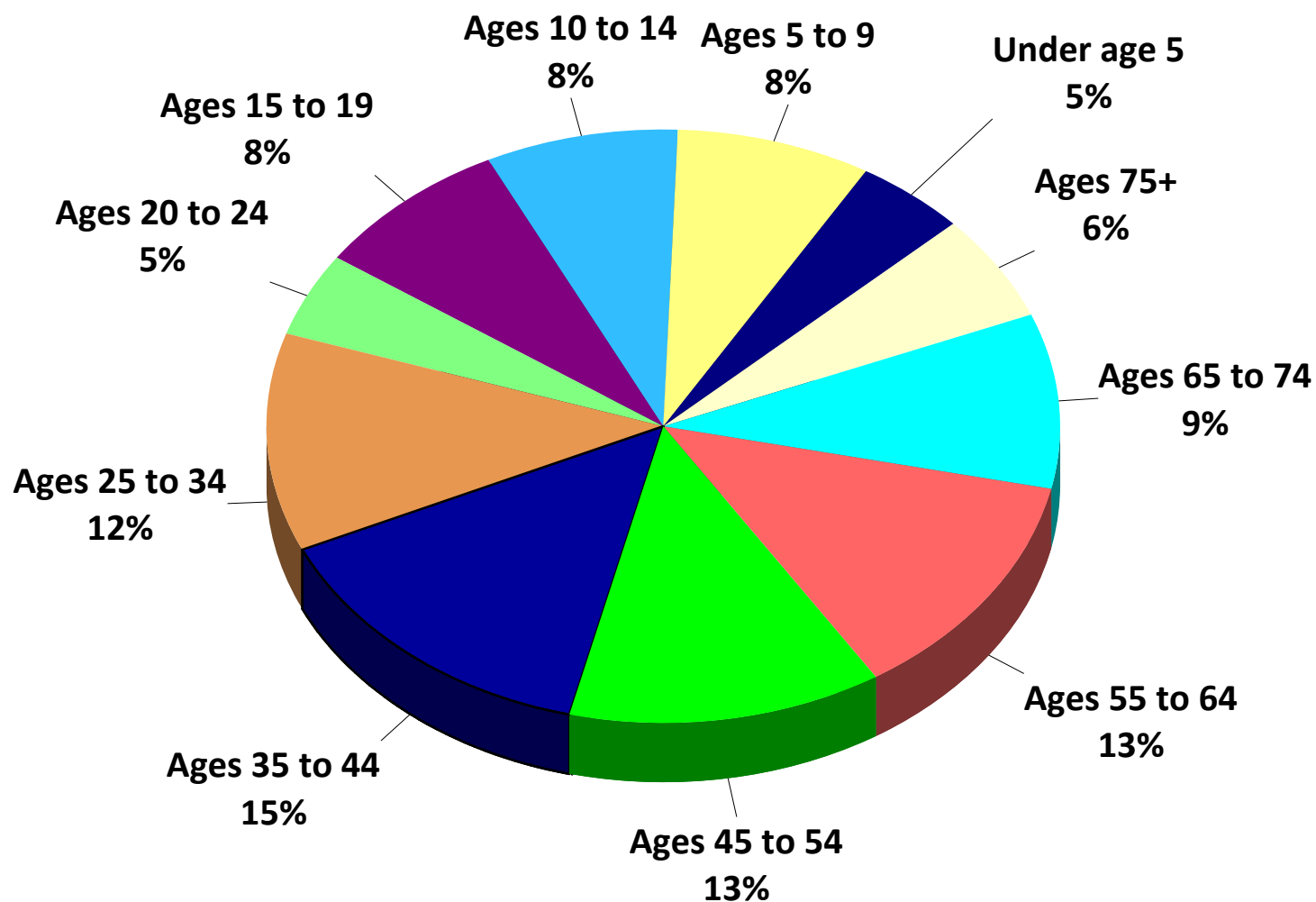
# Q25. Total Annual Household Income from 2024

by percentage of respondents



## Q26. Ages of Household Members

by percentage of persons in the household





## Tabular Data



**Q1. School Performance. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q1-1. The educational system in my school district is working well	15.3%	27.8%	21.0%	16.5%	8.3%	11.3%
Q1-2. The educational system in my school district is broken	15.0%	24.8%	19.5%	21.0%	7.3%	12.5%
Q1-3. Opportunities to get a quality education today in our tri-county area are improving for black & brown children & children living in poverty	13.3%	29.3%	19.8%	13.8%	7.8%	16.3%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q1. School Performance. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree." (without "don't know")**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q1-1. The educational system in my school district is working well	17.2%	31.3%	23.7%	18.6%	9.3%
Q1-2. The educational system in my school district is broken	17.1%	28.3%	22.3%	24.0%	8.3%
Q1-3. Opportunities to get a quality education today in our tri-county area are improving for black & brown children & children living in poverty	15.8%	34.9%	23.6%	16.4%	9.3%

**Q2. What do you think are important ways to measure the performance of our public schools?**

Q2. Important ways to measure the performance of our public schools

	Number	Percent
Reading & math scores	287	71.8 %
Graduation rates	251	62.8 %
College and/or work readiness	282	70.5 %
College access & completion	146	36.5 %
Disparity in outcomes by race or socio-economic status	171	42.8 %
The number of schools rated satisfactory or better	153	38.3 %
Other	17	4.3 %
Total	1307	

**Q2-7. Other**

- A broad based education on free from political bias.
- Accommodations for handicapped students
- Children wanting to learn more. My child is well in school, but abhors going.
- do all students have access to the same programs/
- Graduates of high school being able to start a successful career that allows them to afford to live in Charleston.
- graduation rate
- Manners and common sense
- safety
- science scores
- teacher input
- Teacher pay for performance. Quality of teachers based on independent evaluation tools.
- Teacher retention, access to the arts in schools, availability of scholarships to defer other school expenses (e.g. field trip or sports related costs)
- Teacher satisfaction
- Teaching more about taxes and financials in the real world
- There is no accountability for behavior, which kids know this and causes bad attitudes
- We need to stop using chrome books and bring back textbooks, workbooks and discipline! We need smaller classrooms! we need more teachers, mental health and school psychologists
- Whether or not students learn and understand the things that impact their quality of life like: 1)Whether they should start a business or work for one, 2) Comprehension of federal and state tax, 3) Comprehension of real estate, 4) Comprehension of what party ( Democrats or Republican) aligns with their world view.

**Q3. Early Childhood Education. How much do you agree with the following statement: Opportunities for children ages 3-5 to attend full-day preschool are accessible and affordable in my school district.**

Q3. Opportunities for children ages 3-5 to attend full-day preschool are accessible & affordable in my school district

district	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	53	13.3 %
Agree	98	24.5 %
Neutral	92	23.0 %
Disagree	75	18.8 %
Strongly disagree	41	10.3 %
Not provided	41	10.3 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"**

**Q3. Early Childhood Education. How much do you agree with the following statement: Opportunities for children ages 3-5 to attend full-day preschool are accessible and affordable in my school district. (without "not provided")**

Q3. Opportunities for children ages 3-5 to attend full-day preschool are accessible & affordable in my school district

district	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	53	14.8 %
Agree	98	27.3 %
Neutral	92	25.6 %
Disagree	75	20.9 %
Strongly disagree	41	11.4 %
Total	359	100.0 %

#### **Q4. What do you think are important ways to measure if we are making progress in early childhood education?**

Q4. Important ways to measure if we are making progress in early childhood education	Number	Percent
The number of quality (A or B rated) daycare seats available in each district	204	51.0 %
Free & subsidized daycare/preschool available based on need that meets demand	239	59.8 %
Kindergarten readiness measure shows increasing readiness across all groups	288	72.0 %
Other	13	3.3 %
Total	744	

#### **Q4-4. Other**

- 1st & 2nd grade scores & teacher input
- All children should have access to free preschool
- Children that can actually show they are ready for the next grade
- I don't believe in the very young going to school
- I'm not sure of the exact solution to propose, but there must be a more holistic way to measure success in early education—one that goes beyond academics to include social adaptability, emotional expression, resilience, engagement, and access to support when challenges at home impact learning. These broader indicators are critical to ensure children build a strong foundation for lifelong success.
- No kids I don't know or care
- Parent qualification in order to obtain A and B spots. If the child is not supported at home, it can be a limiting factor for success.
- poverty rate decreases, single parenthood drops, teen pregnancy drop. Family & community stability is important
- Programs available to all children, just not to only low income or Spanish-speaking children.
- Stop trying to create data for use in future culture budget wars. Just teach the children, it's joy hard we have been doing it for 250 years
- Teach the history of how this country began. Have classes on the US Constitution.
- Testing despite birth date, cut off. Test a child and if child is ready for kindergarten, enroll them.
- We should have universal access to preschool for all 4 yr olds

**Q5. High Quality Educators. How much do you agree with the following statement: My school district attracts and retains high quality teachers and principals.**

Q5. My school district attracts & retains high quality teachers & principals

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	51	12.8 %
Agree	136	34.0 %
Neutral	103	25.8 %
Disagree	62	15.5 %
Strongly disagree	14	3.5 %
Not provided	34	8.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"**

**Q5. High Quality Educators. How much do you agree with the following statement: My school district attracts and retains high quality teachers and principals. (without "not provided")**

Q5. My school district attracts & retains high quality teachers & principals

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	51	13.9 %
Agree	136	37.2 %
Neutral	103	28.1 %
Disagree	62	16.9 %
Strongly disagree	14	3.8 %
Total	366	100.0 %

**Q6. What do you think are important ways to measure how our districts are performing in this regard?**

Q6. Important ways to measure how our districts are performing in this regard

	Number	Percent
Teacher pay compared with regional & national averages	274	68.5 %
Teacher vacancies	219	54.8 %
Teacher turnover	277	69.3 %
Experienced teachers in the most challenged schools	229	57.3 %
Principal turnover	134	33.5 %
Other	16	4.0 %
Total	1149	

**Q6-6. Other**

- complaints against teachers
- Educators hands on influence, job and salary satisfaction.
- GRADES! Nobody wants to hear about part time teachers and their drama. Just teach the children and get them reading, writing and arithmetic skills at a basic level. Anything other than that is school system failure
- How teachers feel they are being treated by the populations of kids they teach.
- How well our students are excelling in their classes.
- I don't know what "most challenged schools" means. It should be "experienced teachers" period. I also think there are a lot of politics in our schools, including the hiring of inexperienced or unqualified favorites (principal), which has impacted morale of teachers and staff.
- Make the teaching environment an enjoyable with no stress on them
- Most teachers are worried about indoctrinating kids than teaching them.
- Performance standards for teachers.
- Quit paying teachers for test results, causes falsehood.
- Reading the grades of math and reading
- Student to teacher ratio. Classes need to be smaller and more personalized.
- Teacher scores on national exam
- teacher surveys, school climate surveys
- Teachers should be recruited from the commercial sector who can demonstrate a willingness and proficiency in instruction with strong positive results. Teachers who demonstrate political or perverse lifestyles should be rejected from teaching.
- The question is related to attracting and retaining quality teachers. I would suggest retention and quality be separated questions. It is easier to measure retention by the choices listed. Whether the teachers are "quality" or not need other measurable metrics

**Q7. Safety. How much do you agree with the following statement: Schools in my district are safe spaces for our children, with educators who care about their well-being.**

Q7. Schools in my district are safe spaces for our children, with educators who care about their well-being	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	49	12.3 %
Agree	167	41.8 %
Neutral	97	24.3 %
Disagree	47	11.8 %
Strongly disagree	10	2.5 %
Not provided	30	7.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"**

**Q7. Safety. How much do you agree with the following statement: Schools in my district are safe spaces for our children, with educators who care about their well-being. (without "not provided")**

Q7. Schools in my district are safe spaces for our children, with educators who care about their well-being	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	49	13.2 %
Agree	167	45.1 %
Neutral	97	26.2 %
Disagree	47	12.7 %
Strongly disagree	10	2.7 %
Total	370	100.0 %

**Q8. What do you think are important ways to measure whether we are meeting the goal of making public schools safe spaces?**

Q8. Important ways to measure whether we are meeting the goal of making public schools safe spaces	Number	Percent
Number of support programs & families served	233	58.3 %
School-based measures of 'engaged' families	211	52.8 %
School attendance & suspension	202	50.5 %
Effectiveness of PTAs, school improvement councils, constituent boards	223	55.8 %
Other	27	6.8 %
Total	896	

### **Q8-5. Other**

- anti-bullying training. Open doors for children to report
- Background checks on potential educators
- Building envelope security. Law enforcement presence.
- Cameras, fence around the building! Food for kids to eat
- close monitoring of decisions that school board makes
- Discipline problems being addressed and not covered up so that the school “report card” has a high school.
- Drugs, violence, guns, threats, - these are the safety issues faced today. The number of incidents, the engagement of school resource officers, the number of arrests and juvie cases. Also the intervention as it relates to bullying. We are also dealing with a level of parent craziness - not sure how you gauge that but if parents are buying their unstable children guns and ammunition, that is a problem.
- Efforts to decrease bullying
- Gun reform laws to prevent school shootings.
- Having a police officer available during school hours and having teachers allowed to carry concealed weapons.
- how many incidents successful?
- I believe accountability must be clearly established at both the school and district levels. Parents and concerned community members should see tangible evidence that their voices are being heard—through the funding and support of initiatives they advocate for, the timely resolution of concerns, and measurable progress toward meaningful change. If that change isn’t happening, there must be clear processes in place to evaluate and replace leadership that is not fulfilling its responsibilities. Without this level of transparency and responsiveness, trust erodes and student outcomes suffer.
- Increase of DEI programs and educated teachers on DEI
- Keep politics out of school curriculum and extremist dictating policy
- lack of crime, fights, shootings
- Locking doors and security staff
- Measuring visitor protocol, whether they are being followed.
- No guns or weapons at schools
- Number of fights and cases of bullying
- Number of incidents in school by region
- Number of security/safety incidents
- resource officers at school
- Safety measures
- Security measures that address, gun violence-surveillance, technology, etc. Not giving firearms to teachers.
- SRO's in more schools at all times
- student happiness and/or satisfaction; student mental health
- Trade SRD's for other needed support like social and emotional curriculum and more counselors



**Q9. Perceptions of Fairness. Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q9-1. Officers in the tri-county area treat everyone fairly	10.8%	30.0%	19.0%	21.8%	8.8%	9.8%
Q9-2. The court system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly	9.8%	28.0%	20.3%	21.8%	8.5%	11.8%
Q9-3. The criminal justice system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly	11.0%	25.5%	21.8%	20.3%	9.8%	11.8%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q9. Perceptions of Fairness. Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree." (without "don't know")**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q9-1. Officers in the tri-county area treat everyone fairly	11.9%	33.2%	21.1%	24.1%	9.7%
Q9-2. The court system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly	11.0%	31.7%	22.9%	24.6%	9.6%
Q9-3. The criminal justice system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly	12.5%	28.9%	24.6%	22.9%	11.0%

**Q10. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: I have, or someone I am close to has been the subject of action taken by one or more police officers in the last three years.**

Q10. I have, or someone I am close to has been the subject of action taken by one or more police officers in the last three years

	Number	Percent
Yes	116	29.0 %
No	275	68.8 %
Not provided	9	2.3 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"**

**Q10. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: I have, or someone I am close to has been the subject of action taken by one or more police officers in the last three years. (without "not provided")**

Q10. I have, or someone I am close to has been the subject of action taken by one or more police officers in the last three years

	Number	Percent
Yes	116	29.7 %
No	275	70.3 %
Total	391	100.0 %

**Q11. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: I have, or someone I am close to has been involved in a criminal matter in court in the last three years.**

Q11. I have, or someone I am close to has been involved in a criminal matter in court in the last three years

	Number	Percent
Yes	111	27.8 %
No	281	70.3 %
Not provided	8	2.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"**

**Q11. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: I have, or someone I am close to has been involved in a criminal matter in court in the last three years. (without "not provided")**

Q11. I have, or someone I am close to has been involved in a criminal matter in court in the last three years

	Number	Percent
Yes	111	28.3 %
No	281	71.7 %
Total	392	100.0 %

**Q12. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: I have, or someone I am close to has interacted with local incarceration facilities in the last three years.**

Q12. I have, or someone I am close to has interacted with local incarceration facilities in the last three years	Number	Percent
Yes	83	20.8 %
No	309	77.3 %
Not provided	8	2.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"**

**Q12. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: I have, or someone I am close to has interacted with local incarceration facilities in the last three years. (without "not provided")**

Q12. I have, or someone I am close to has interacted with local incarceration facilities in the last three years	Number	Percent
Yes	83	21.2 %
No	309	78.8 %
Total	392	100.0 %

**Q13. Criminal Justice System Expectations. Please rate your level of concern with the following. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Concerned" and 1 means "Not Concerned," please rate the following.**

(N=400)

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Neutral	Somewhat unconcerned	Not concerned	Don't know
Q13-1. I am concerned about my personal safety	22.8%	40.0%	12.3%	9.3%	13.8%	2.0%
Q13-2. I am concerned about crime in my community	26.3%	44.0%	8.0%	9.5%	10.0%	2.3%
Q13-3. I am concerned there may be disproportionate enforcement of laws occurring against black & brown people in my community	32.3%	26.5%	14.3%	5.0%	15.8%	6.3%
Q13-4. I am concerned about overcrowding, safety, & security in local incarceration facilities	33.0%	28.5%	13.5%	5.0%	9.8%	10.3%
Q13-5. I am concerned about the ways in which bail amounts allow money to be the determining factor in detaining or releasing pretrial defendants	34.5%	29.3%	14.0%	5.0%	9.5%	7.8%
Q13-6. I am concerned about the time it takes to bring cases to justice in local courts	41.0%	32.5%	12.0%	1.5%	5.0%	8.0%
Q13-7. I am concerned about how often individuals convicted of crimes locally commit crimes after being released	48.8%	30.5%	10.3%	2.0%	2.3%	6.3%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q13. Criminal Justice System Expectations. Please rate your level of concern with the following. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Concerned" and 1 means "Not Concerned," please rate the following. (without "don't know")**

(N=400)

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Neutral	Somewhat unconcerned	Not concerned
Q13-1. I am concerned about my personal safety	23.2%	40.8%	12.5%	9.4%	14.0%
Q13-2. I am concerned about crime in my community	26.9%	45.0%	8.2%	9.7%	10.2%
Q13-3. I am concerned there may be disproportionate enforcement of laws occurring against black & brown people in my community	34.4%	28.3%	15.2%	5.3%	16.8%
Q13-4. I am concerned about overcrowding, safety, & security in local incarceration facilities	36.8%	31.8%	15.0%	5.6%	10.9%
Q13-5. I am concerned about the ways in which bail amounts allow money to be the determining factor in detaining or releasing pretrial defendants	37.4%	31.7%	15.2%	5.4%	10.3%
Q13-6. I am concerned about the time it takes to bring cases to justice in local courts	44.6%	35.3%	13.0%	1.6%	5.4%
Q13-7. I am concerned about how often individuals convicted of crimes locally commit crimes after being released	52.0%	32.5%	10.9%	2.1%	2.4%

**Q14. How to Measure. Please rate how important the following things are for measuring whether the criminal justice system is performing well or making progress using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Important" and 1 means "Not Important."**

(N=400)

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not important	Don't know
Q14-1. The number of crimes reported that are solved versus unsolved	32.0%	47.8%	10.5%	0.8%	1.0%	8.0%
Q14-2. Jail population increasing	27.8%	29.8%	18.5%	7.8%	8.8%	7.5%
Q14-3. Jail population decreasing	26.5%	30.0%	22.8%	6.5%	6.0%	8.3%
Q14-4. The number of first-time offenders for nonviolent crimes diverted from jail	28.0%	36.8%	20.3%	5.8%	1.5%	7.8%
Q14-5. Pretrial success (defendants making it to court as required & remaining arrest-free while waiting for the court's determination of guilt/innocence)	27.5%	44.8%	15.0%	5.0%	0.0%	7.8%
Q14-6. Effective mental health & substance abuse treatment services for those detained in local jails	52.5%	32.8%	7.8%	2.0%	1.5%	3.5%
Q14-7. Continuity of care upon release from jail for those with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders to local mental health & addiction services	57.8%	31.5%	4.8%	1.3%	1.5%	3.3%
Q14-8. The number of first-time offenders for nonviolent crimes diverted from the court system	29.5%	40.0%	17.3%	5.0%	2.0%	6.3%
Q14-9. Recidivism success (person not committing any crimes within three years of discharge)	48.8%	33.5%	9.0%	2.5%	1.3%	5.0%
Q14-10. Staffing levels & vacancies among qualified system professionals (i.e., police, attorneys, judges, court personnel, staff of jails & prisons, service providers)	48.3%	34.8%	8.8%	1.8%	2.3%	4.3%

**Q14. How to Measure. Please rate how important the following things are for measuring whether the criminal justice system is performing well or making progress using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Important" and 1 means "Not Important."**

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not important	Don't know
Q14-11. An active criminal justice coordinating council that brings together leaders from the community, law enforcement, judicial system & behavioral health professionals to address challenges & make improvements to our criminal justice system	50.0%	34.5%	7.5%	2.5%	2.0%	3.5%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q14. How to Measure. Please rate how important the following things are for measuring whether the criminal justice system is performing well or making progress using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Important" and 1 means "Not Important." (without "don't know")**

(N=400)

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not important
Q14-1. The number of crimes reported that are solved versus unsolved	34.8%	51.9%	11.4%	0.8%	1.1%
Q14-2. Jail population increasing	30.0%	32.2%	20.0%	8.4%	9.5%
Q14-3. Jail population decreasing	28.9%	32.7%	24.8%	7.1%	6.5%
Q14-4. The number of first-time offenders for nonviolent crimes diverted from jail	30.4%	39.8%	22.0%	6.2%	1.6%
Q14-5. Pretrial success (defendants making it to court as required & remaining arrest-free while waiting for the court's determination of guilt/innocence)	29.8%	48.5%	16.3%	5.4%	0.0%
Q14-6. Effective mental health & substance abuse treatment services for those detained in local jails	54.4%	33.9%	8.0%	2.1%	1.6%
Q14-7. Continuity of care upon release from jail for those with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders to local mental health & addiction services	59.7%	32.6%	4.9%	1.3%	1.6%
Q14-8. The number of first-time offenders for nonviolent crimes diverted from the court system	31.5%	42.7%	18.4%	5.3%	2.1%
Q14-9. Recidivism success (person not committing any crimes within three years of discharge)	51.3%	35.3%	9.5%	2.6%	1.3%



**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q14. How to Measure. Please rate how important the following things are for measuring whether the criminal justice system is performing well or making progress using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Important" and 1 means "Not Important." (without "don't know")**

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not important
Q14-10. Staffing levels & vacancies among qualified system professionals (i.e., police, attorneys, judges, court personnel, staff of jails & prisons, service providers)	50.4%	36.3%	9.1%	1.8%	2.3%
Q14-11. An active criminal justice coordinating council that brings together leaders from the community, law enforcement, judicial system & behavioral health professionals to address challenges & make improvements to our criminal justice system	51.8%	35.8%	7.8%	2.6%	2.1%

**Q15. Current Public History Landscape. Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q15-1. The current public representations of history & historical figures in our community do a good job of conveying the breadth of our history	10.8%	35.5%	19.8%	16.3%	10.0%	7.8%
Q15-2. My community is responsibly & reasonably addressing the issue of controversial statues & public displays of historic figures	15.8%	26.5%	22.0%	13.8%	8.5%	13.5%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q15. Current Public History Landscape. Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree." (without "don't know")**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q15-1. The current public representations of history & historical figures in our community do a good job of conveying the breadth of our history	11.7%	38.5%	21.4%	17.6%	10.8%
Q15-2. My community is responsibly & reasonably addressing the issue of controversial statues & public displays of historic figures	18.2%	30.6%	25.4%	15.9%	9.8%

**Q16. Please rate your level of agreement with whether local governments should do any of the following things regarding public history in the tri-county area using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q16-1. Provide websites or mobile apps that offer accessible, accurate & balanced information about the people for whom local buildings, roads, or other public properties are named	28.0%	40.5%	17.5%	4.3%	3.0%	6.8%
Q16-2. Provide exhibit panels at the entrance to public property named in honor of a person that provides an accurate & balanced biographical sketch of the person for whom it is named	31.0%	36.5%	17.3%	4.5%	3.0%	7.8%
Q16-3. Stay out of addressing statues & public places that are already named after someone	20.0%	25.5%	22.0%	14.3%	9.0%	9.3%
Q16-4. Create a mechanism for community generated naming & renaming of public spaces	23.0%	29.8%	24.3%	7.5%	7.8%	7.8%
Q16-5. Create a Board of Public Art Review for reviewing, adding, & removing historic markers, monuments, memorials, & other public art installations	24.3%	34.3%	15.0%	6.3%	11.5%	8.8%
Q16-6. Create a Cultural Reparations Fund to support projects originating among black, indigenous, & other people of color	32.0%	25.3%	14.3%	6.5%	15.3%	6.8%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q16. Please rate your level of agreement with whether local governments should do any of the following things regarding public history in the tri-county area using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree." (without "don't know")**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q16-1. Provide websites or mobile apps that offer accessible, accurate & balanced information about the people for whom local buildings, roads, or other public properties are named	30.0%	43.4%	18.8%	4.6%	3.2%
Q16-2. Provide exhibit panels at the entrance to public property named in honor of a person that provides an accurate & balanced biographical sketch of the person for whom it is named	33.6%	39.6%	18.7%	4.9%	3.3%
Q16-3. Stay out of addressing statues & public places that are already named after someone	22.0%	28.1%	24.2%	15.7%	9.9%
Q16-4. Create a mechanism for community generated naming & renaming of public spaces	24.9%	32.2%	26.3%	8.1%	8.4%
Q16-5. Create a Board of Public Art Review for reviewing, adding, & removing historic markers, monuments, memorials, & other public art installations	26.6%	37.5%	16.4%	6.8%	12.6%
Q16-6. Create a Cultural Reparations Fund to support projects originating among black, indigenous, & other people of color	34.3%	27.1%	15.3%	7.0%	16.4%

**Q17. Civic Perceptions. Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree.," please rate the following.**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q17-1. Division in our national discourse makes government less responsive to the interests of the general public	33.5%	40.0%	10.0%	6.8%	2.3%	7.5%
Q17-2. The public is better served when candidates for public office must earn some support from voters in the middle of the political spectrum	37.0%	38.8%	10.0%	4.5%	0.5%	9.3%
Q17-3. Communities are better served when public officials come together to address differences & find solutions to local problems	51.5%	36.0%	6.0%	1.0%	0.3%	5.3%
Q17-4. Communities are better served when its residents come together to address differences & find solutions to local problems which public officials can adopt	49.3%	38.0%	6.5%	0.3%	0.3%	5.8%
Q17-5. I would be willing to join others in the community to have meaningful give & take in addressing public policies	36.0%	33.3%	17.0%	3.8%	1.5%	8.5%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q17. Civic Perceptions. Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree," please rate the following. (without "don't know")**

(N=400)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q17-1. Division in our national discourse makes government less responsive to the interests of the general public	36.2%	43.2%	10.8%	7.3%	2.4%
Q17-2. The public is better served when candidates for public office must earn some support from voters in the middle of the political spectrum	40.8%	42.7%	11.0%	5.0%	0.6%
Q17-3. Communities are better served when public officials come together to address differences & find solutions to local problems	54.4%	38.0%	6.3%	1.1%	0.3%
Q17-4. Communities are better served when its residents come together to address differences & find solutions to local problems which public officials can adopt	52.3%	40.3%	6.9%	0.3%	0.3%
Q17-5. I would be willing to join others in the community to have meaningful give & take in addressing public policies	39.3%	36.3%	18.6%	4.1%	1.6%

**Q18. Please think about your overall quality of life today. Would you describe your quality of life as...**

Q18. What would you describe your quality of life today	Number	Percent
Very good	122	30.5 %
Good	224	56.0 %
Poor	24	6.0 %
Very poor	4	1.0 %
Unsure	26	6.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q19. Thinking about race relations in your community/neighborhood over the past three years, would you say that race relations are...**

Q19. How would you describe race relations in your community/neighborhood over past three years	Number	Percent
Improving	107	26.8 %
The same but good	143	35.8 %
The same but poor	47	11.8 %
Declining	38	9.5 %
Unsure	65	16.3 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q20. What is your age?**

Q20. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	73	18.3 %
35-44	79	19.8 %
45-54	74	18.5 %
55-64	76	19.0 %
65+	78	19.5 %
Not provided	20	5.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"****Q20. What is your age? (without "not provided")**

Q20. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	73	19.2 %
35-44	79	20.8 %
45-54	74	19.5 %
55-64	76	20.0 %
65+	78	20.5 %
Total	380	100.0 %

**Q21. What is your gender?**

<u>Q21. Your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	191	47.8 %
Female	194	48.5 %
Other	2	0.5 %
Not provided	13	3.3 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"****Q21. What is your gender? (without "not provided")**

<u>Q21. Your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	191	49.4 %
Female	194	50.1 %
Other	2	0.5 %
Total	387	100.0 %

**Q21-3. Self-describe your gender:**

<u>Q21-3. Self-describe your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Nonbinary	1	50.0 %
Agender	1	50.0 %
Total	2	100.0 %



**Q22. What is your race/ethnicity?**

<u>Q22. Your race/ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Asian or Asian Indian	10	2.5 %
Black or African American	102	25.5 %
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0.5 %
White or Caucasian (not Hispanic or Latino)	273	68.3 %
Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x	30	7.5 %
Other	4	1.0 %
Total	421	

**Q22-7. Self-describe your race/ethnicity:**

<u>Q22-7. Self-describe your race/ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Mixed	1	25.0 %
Italian, Armenian	1	25.0 %
Multiple races	1	25.0 %
Northern European	1	25.0 %
Total	4	100.0 %

**Q23. Are you a citizen of the United States?**

<u>Q23. Are you a citizen of the United States</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	372	93.0 %
No	2	0.5 %
Don't know	26	6.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"****Q23. Are you a citizen of the United States? (without "don't know")**

<u>Q23. Are you a citizen of the United States</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	372	99.5 %
No	2	0.5 %
Total	374	100.0 %

**Q24. Thinking POLITICALLY and SOCIALLY, how would you describe your personal political outlook?**

Q24. How would you describe your personal political outlook	Number	Percent
Very conservative	38	9.5 %
Moderately conservative	88	22.0 %
Middle-of-the-road	78	19.5 %
Moderately liberal	99	24.8 %
Very liberal	49	12.3 %
Other	8	2.0 %
Don't know	40	10.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"****Q24. Thinking POLITICALLY and SOCIALLY, how would you describe your personal political outlook? (without "don't know")**

Q24. How would you describe your personal political outlook	Number	Percent
Very conservative	38	10.6 %
Moderately conservative	88	24.4 %
Middle-of-the-road	78	21.7 %
Moderately liberal	99	27.5 %
Very liberal	49	13.6 %
Other	8	2.2 %
Total	360	100.0 %

**Q24-6. Other**

- Democrat
- I am politically neutral.
- I left politics. Both sides are corrupt.
- Left
- Left of liberal
- No party
- Socialist
- tired of the hypocrisy and ridiculousness, equally, on both sides of the isle.

**Q25. What was your total annual household income from 2024?**

Q25. Your total annual household income from 2024	Number	Percent
Less than \$20K	28	7.0 %
\$20K-\$29,999	35	8.8 %
\$30K-\$49,999	45	11.3 %
\$50K-\$74,999	47	11.8 %
\$75K-\$99,999	61	15.3 %
\$100K-\$149,999	52	13.0 %
\$150K-\$199,999	41	10.3 %
\$200K+	33	8.3 %
Don't know/refused	58	14.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW/REFUSED"****Q25. What was your total annual household income from 2024? (without "don't know/refused")**

Q25. Your total annual household income from 2024	Number	Percent
Less than \$20K	28	8.2 %
\$20K-\$29,999	35	10.2 %
\$30K-\$49,999	45	13.2 %
\$50K-\$74,999	47	13.7 %
\$75K-\$99,999	61	17.8 %
\$100K-\$149,999	52	15.2 %
\$150K-\$199,999	41	12.0 %
\$200K+	33	9.6 %
Total	342	100.0 %

**Q26. Including yourself, how many people in your household are...**

	Mean	Sum
number	2.8	1063
Under age 5	0.1	49
Ages 5-9	0.2	84
Ages 10-14	0.2	82
Ages 15-19	0.2	88
Ages 20-24	0.1	49
Ages 25-34	0.3	124
Ages 35-44	0.4	155
Ages 45-54	0.4	134
Ages 55-64	0.4	136
Ages 65-74	0.3	99
Ages 75+	0.2	63



## Survey Instrument



THE CHARLESTON FORUM

April, 2025

Dear Neighbor:

Please spend a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed survey for The Charleston Forum.

The Charleston Forum is a local nonprofit organization that provides community input to community leaders to help make sure public officials know what results members of the Tri-County area want and what actions they prioritize. We also want to be able to measure how well the community thinks our systems are performing.

The Charleston Forum focuses specifically on public education, policing and criminal justice, and “the future of the past” or representations of history in public spaces. We think these are issues most of us care about. We also think that surveys allow people to express their views and to do so candidly without worrying about what someone else might think.

Please give ten minutes of your time to complete and return the enclosed survey, or complete it online at [charlestonforumsurvey.org](https://charlestonforumsurvey.org). We want to be sure your voice is heard and that we get a proper representation of the views of the community to present to public officials and press for action to respond to what the people want.

Thank you in advance for considering our request and, I hope, for completing the survey.

Very truly yours,

Brian C. Duffy  
Chairperson and CEO  
[The Charleston Forum](https://thecharlestonforum.com)

# 2025 Charleston Forum Survey

Community leaders would like your opinion about education, criminal justice, and public history in the tri-county region. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your input will be used to help define common challenges facing the region and prioritize what to do about them moving forward. If you have questions, please call Brian Duffy at 843-720-2044. If you would prefer to complete this survey online, please visit [charlestonforumsurvey.org](http://charlestonforumsurvey.org).

## Education

1. **School Performance.** Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."

How much do you agree with the following statements...		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1.	The educational system in my school district is working well	5	4	3	2	1	9
2.	The educational system in my school district is broken	5	4	3	2	1	9
3.	Opportunities to get a quality education today in our tri-county area are improving for black and brown children and children living in poverty	5	4	3	2	1	9

2. **What do you think are important ways to measure the performance of our public schools?** [Choose all that apply.]

\_\_\_\_ (1) Reading and math scores

\_\_\_\_ (5) Disparity in outcomes by race or socio-economic status

\_\_\_\_ (2) Graduation rates

\_\_\_\_ (6) The number of schools rated satisfactory or better

\_\_\_\_ (3) College and/or work readiness

\_\_\_\_ (7) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ (4) College access and completion

3. **Early Childhood Education.** How much do you agree with the following statement: *Opportunities for children ages 3-5 to attend full-day preschool are accessible and affordable in my school district.*

\_\_\_\_ (5) Strongly agree

\_\_\_\_ (4) Agree

\_\_\_\_ (3) Neutral

\_\_\_\_ (2) Disagree

\_\_\_\_ (1) Strongly disagree

4. **What do you think are important ways to measure if we are making progress in early childhood education?** [Choose all that apply.]

\_\_\_\_ (1) The number of quality (A or B rated) daycare seats available in each district

\_\_\_\_ (2) Free and subsidized daycare/preschool available based on need that meets demand

\_\_\_\_ (3) Kindergarten readiness measure shows increasing readiness across all groups

\_\_\_\_ (4) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **High Quality Educators.** How much do you agree with the following statement: *My school district attracts and retains high quality teachers and principals.*

\_\_\_\_ (5) Strongly agree

\_\_\_\_ (4) Agree

\_\_\_\_ (3) Neutral

\_\_\_\_ (2) Disagree

\_\_\_\_ (1) Strongly disagree

6. **What do you think are important ways to measure how our districts are performing in this regard?** [Choose all that apply.]

\_\_\_\_ (1) Teacher pay compared with regional and national averages

\_\_\_\_ (2) Teacher vacancies

\_\_\_\_ (3) Teacher turnover

\_\_\_\_ (4) Experienced teachers in the most challenged schools

\_\_\_\_ (5) Principal turnover

\_\_\_\_ (6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Safety.** How much do you agree with the following statement: *Schools in my district are safe spaces for our children, with educators who care about their well-being.*  
 \_\_\_\_ (5) Strongly agree    \_\_\_\_ (4) Agree    \_\_\_\_ (3) Neutral    \_\_\_\_ (2) Disagree    \_\_\_\_ (1) Strongly disagree
8. **What do you think are important ways to measure whether we are meeting the goal of making public schools safe spaces?** [Choose all that apply.]  
 \_\_\_\_ (1) Number of support programs and families served  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) School-based measures of 'engaged' families  
 \_\_\_\_ (3) School attendance and suspension  
 \_\_\_\_ (4) Effectiveness of PTAs, school improvement councils, constituent boards  
 \_\_\_\_ (5) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Policing and Criminal Justice

9. **Perceptions of Fairness.** Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."

How much do you agree with the following statements...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
1. Officers in the tri-county area treat everyone fairly	5	4	3	2	1	9
2. The court system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly	5	4	3	2	1	9
3. The criminal justice system in the tri-county area treats everyone fairly	5	4	3	2	1	9

10. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: *I have, or someone I am close to has been the subject of action taken by one or more police officers in the last three years.*  
 \_\_\_\_ (1) Yes    \_\_\_\_ (2) No
11. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: *I have, or someone I am close to has been involved in a criminal matter in court in the last three years.*  
 \_\_\_\_ (1) Yes    \_\_\_\_ (2) No
12. Please answer the following statement with a "Yes" or "No" response: *I have, or someone I am close to has interacted with local incarceration facilities in the last three years.*  
 \_\_\_\_ (1) Yes    \_\_\_\_ (2) No
13. **Criminal Justice System Expectations.** Please rate your level of concern with the following. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Concerned" and 1 means "Not Concerned," please rate the following.

How concerned are you with the following statements...	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Neutral	Somewhat Unconcerned	Not Concerned	Don't Know
1. I am concerned about my personal safety	5	4	3	2	1	9
2. I am concerned about crime in my community	5	4	3	2	1	9
3. I am concerned there may be disproportionate enforcement of laws occurring against black and brown people in my community	5	4	3	2	1	9
4. I am concerned about overcrowding, safety, and security in local incarceration facilities	5	4	3	2	1	9
5. I am concerned about the ways in which bail amounts allow money to be the determining factor in detaining or releasing pretrial defendants from local incarceration facilities	5	4	3	2	1	9
6. I am concerned about the time it takes to bring cases to justice in local courts	5	4	3	2	1	9
7. I am concerned about how often individuals convicted of crimes locally commit crimes after being released	5	4	3	2	1	9



14. **How to Measure.** Please rate how important the following things are for measuring whether the criminal justice system is performing well or making progress using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Important" and 1 means "Not Important."

Please rate the following:		Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Very Important	Not Important	Don't Know
01.	The number of crimes reported that are solved versus unsolved	5	4	3	2	1	9
02.	Jail population increasing	5	4	3	2	1	9
03.	Jail population decreasing	5	4	3	2	1	9
04.	The number of first-time offenders for nonviolent crimes diverted from jail	5	4	3	2	1	9
05.	Pretrial success (defendants making it to court as required and remaining arrest-free while waiting for the court's determination of guilt/innocence)	5	4	3	2	1	9
06.	Effective mental health and substance abuse treatment services for those detained in local jails	5	4	3	2	1	9
07.	Continuity of care upon release from jail for those with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders to local mental health and addiction services	5	4	3	2	1	9
08.	The number of first-time offenders for nonviolent crimes diverted from the court system	5	4	3	2	1	0
09.	Recidivism success (person not committing any crimes within three years of discharge)	5	4	3	2	1	0
10.	Staffing levels and vacancies among qualified system professionals (i.e., police, attorneys, judges, court personnel, staff of jails and prisons, service providers)	5	4	3	2	1	9
11.	An active criminal justice coordinating council that brings together leaders from the community, law enforcement, judicial system and behavioral health professionals to address challenges and make improvements to our criminal justice system	5	4	3	2	1	9

## Public History

15. **Current Public History Landscape.** Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."

Please rate the following:		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1.	The current public representations of history and historical figures in our community do a good job of conveying the breadth of our history	5	4	3	2	1	9
2.	My community is responsibly and reasonably addressing the issue of controversial statues and public displays of historic figures	5	4	3	2	1	9

16. Please rate your level of agreement with whether local governments should do any of the following things regarding public history in the tri-county area using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."

How much do you agree with the following statements...		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1.	Provide websites or mobile apps that offer accessible, accurate and balanced information about the people for whom local buildings, roads, or other public properties are named	5	4	3	2	1	9
2.	Provide exhibit panels at the entrance to public property named in honor of a person that provides an accurate and balanced biographical sketch of the person for whom it is named	5	4	3	2	1	9
3.	Stay out of addressing statues and public places that are already named after someone	5	4	3	2	1	9
4.	Create a mechanism for community generated naming and renaming of public spaces	5	4	3	2	1	9
5.	Create a Board of Public Art Review for reviewing, adding, and removing historic markers, monuments, memorials, and other public art installations	5	4	3	2	1	9
6.	Create a Cultural Reparations Fund to support projects originating among black, indigenous, and other people of color	5	4	3	2	1	9

17. **Civic Perceptions.** Please rate your level of agreement with the following using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree.," please rate the following.

How much do you agree with the following statements...		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
1.	Division in our national discourse makes government less responsive to the interests of the general public	5	4	3	2	1	9
2.	The public is better served when candidates for public office must earn some support from voters in the middle of the political spectrum	5	4	3	2	1	9
3.	Communities are better served when public officials come together to address differences and find solutions to local problems	5	4	3	2	1	9
4.	Communities are better served when its residents come together to address differences and find solutions to local problems which public officials can adopt	5	4	3	2	1	9
5.	I would be willing to join others in the community to have meaningful give and take in addressing public policies	5	4	3	2	1	9

18. Please think about your overall quality of life today. Would you describe your quality of life as...

\_\_\_\_(5) Very good      \_\_\_\_ (4) Good      \_\_\_\_ (3) Poor      \_\_\_\_ (2) Very poor      \_\_\_\_ (1) Unsure

19. Thinking about race relations in your community/neighborhood over the past three years, would you say that race relations are...

\_\_\_\_(5) Improving      \_\_\_\_ (3) The same but poor      \_\_\_\_ (1) Unsure  
 \_\_\_\_ (4) The same but good      \_\_\_\_ (2) Declining

## Demographics

20. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years

21. What is your gender? \_\_\_\_ (1) Male      \_\_\_\_ (2) Female      \_\_\_\_ (3) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**22. What is your race/ethnicity? [Check all that apply.]**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Asian or Asian Indian                       | <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Black or African American                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) American Indian or Alaska Native            | <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Middle Eastern or Arab American           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) White or Caucasian (not Hispanic or Latino) | <input type="checkbox"/> (99) Other: _____                              |

**23. Are you a citizen of the United States?** ☐ (1) Yes ☐ (2) No ☐ (9) Don't know

**24. Thinking POLITICALLY and SOCIALLY, how would you describe your personal political outlook?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Very conservative       | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Very liberal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Moderately conservative | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Middle-of-the-road      | <input type="checkbox"/> (9) Don't know   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Moderately liberal      |   |

**25. What was your total annual household income from 2024?**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Less than \$20,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) \$50,000 - \$74,999   | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) \$150,000 - \$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) \$20,000 - \$29,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) \$75,000 - \$99,999   | <input type="checkbox"/> (8) \$200,000 or more     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) \$30,000 - \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) \$100,000 - \$149,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> (9) Don't know/refused    |

**26. Including yourself, how many people in your household are...**

- |                                       |                                      |                                      |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Under age 5: <input type="checkbox"/> | Ages 15-19: <input type="checkbox"/> | Ages 35-44: <input type="checkbox"/> | Ages 65-74: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ages 5-9: <input type="checkbox"/>    | Ages 20-24: <input type="checkbox"/> | Ages 45-54: <input type="checkbox"/> | Ages 75+: <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Ages 10-14: <input type="checkbox"/>  | Ages 25-34: <input type="checkbox"/> | Ages 55-64: <input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |

**This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!**

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to:  
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The information printed to the right will only be used to help identify which areas of the City are having concerns and to assist in future planning efforts. If your address is not correct, please provide the correct information. Thank you.