



AVERILL PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2014 Budget Vote Exit Survey Report

June 2014

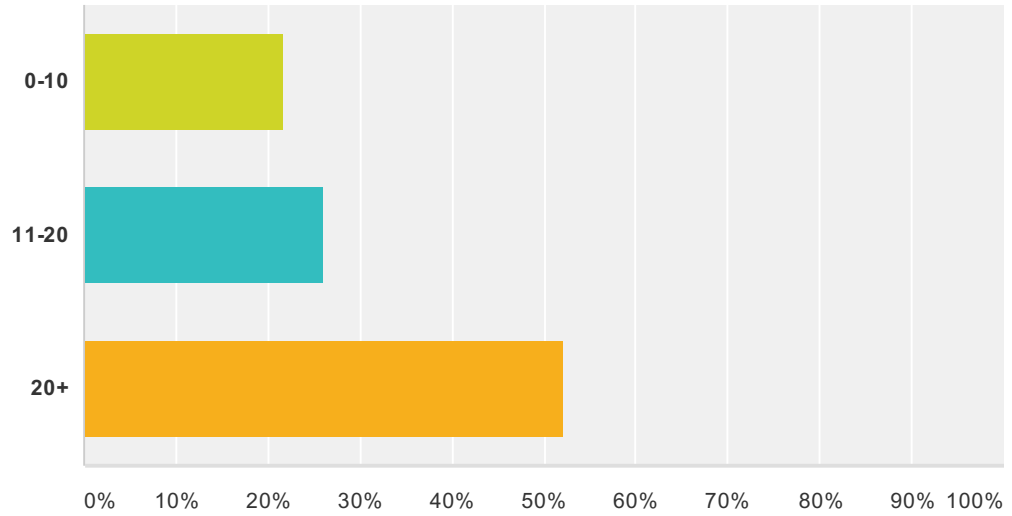
The Averill Park Central School District conducted an exit survey during its Annual School Budget Vote on May 20, 2014. The purpose was to collect demographic data about who voted on the budget and bus purchase proposition and information about why voters voted the way they did. The survey was voluntary and anonymous.

The surveys were made available to voters at the polling site for anyone who chose to complete one after voting. Voters could choose to fill out a paper survey or complete an electronic version at a computer station consisting of six laptops. Students from the Participation in Government class assisted with the process from when the polls opened through closing.

Of the 1,494 residents who voted on the school budget, 356 chose to complete an exit survey—a response rate of nearly 24 percent. Of those 356 respondents, 283 took the survey electronically and 73 filled out a paper survey. After the budget vote, the paper surveys were manually entered into the district's Survey Monkey account by Communications Specialist Mary Prusak.

Q1 How many years have you been a district resident?

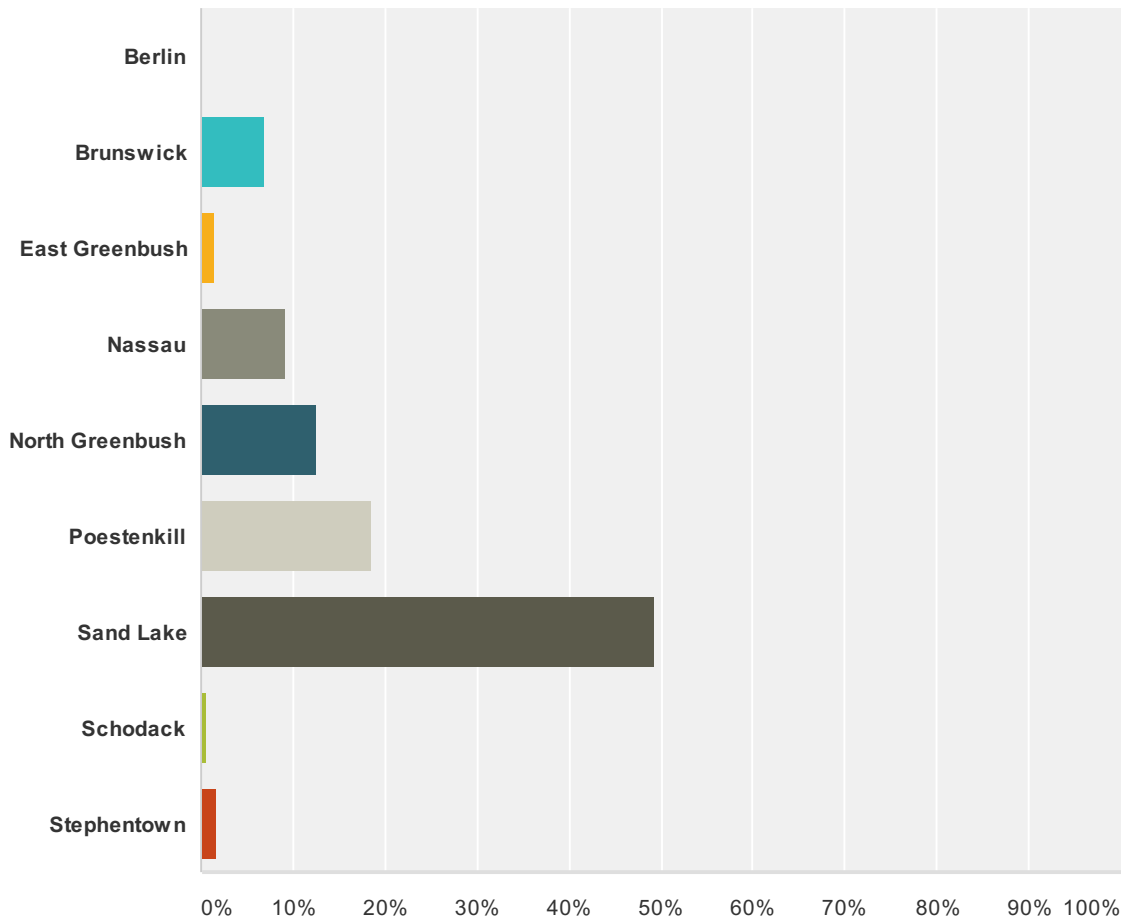
Answered: 356 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
0-10	21.63% 77
11-20	26.12% 93
20+	52.25% 186
Total	356

Q2 What town do you live in?

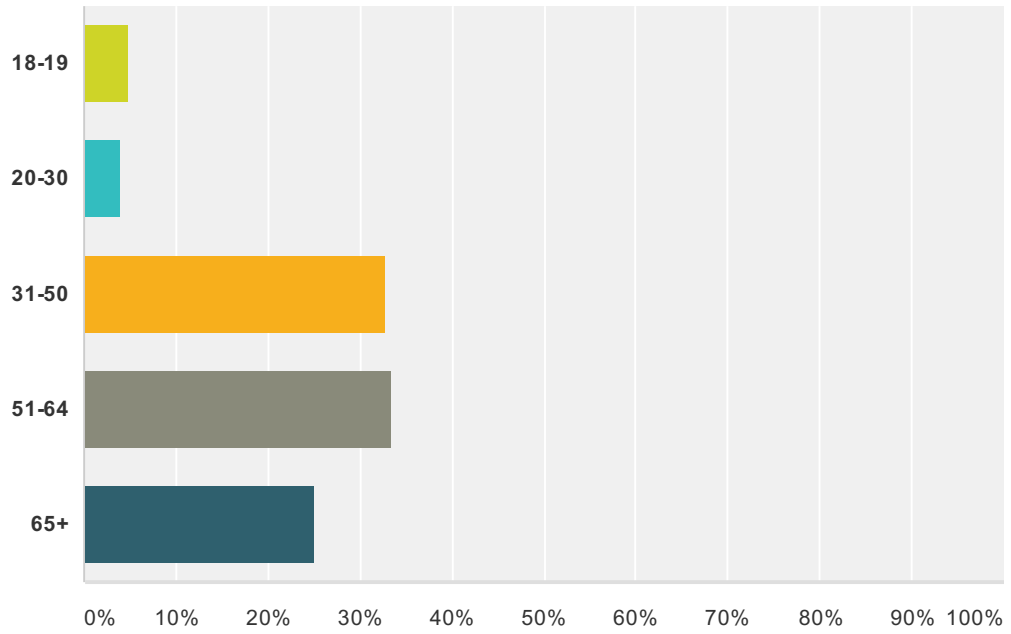
Answered: 351 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Berlin	0.00% 0
Brunswick	6.84% 24
East Greenbush	1.42% 5
Nassau	9.12% 32
North Greenbush	12.54% 44
Poestenkill	18.52% 65
Sand Lake	49.29% 173
Schodack	0.57% 2
Stephentown	1.71% 6
Total	351

Q3 What age category pertains to you?

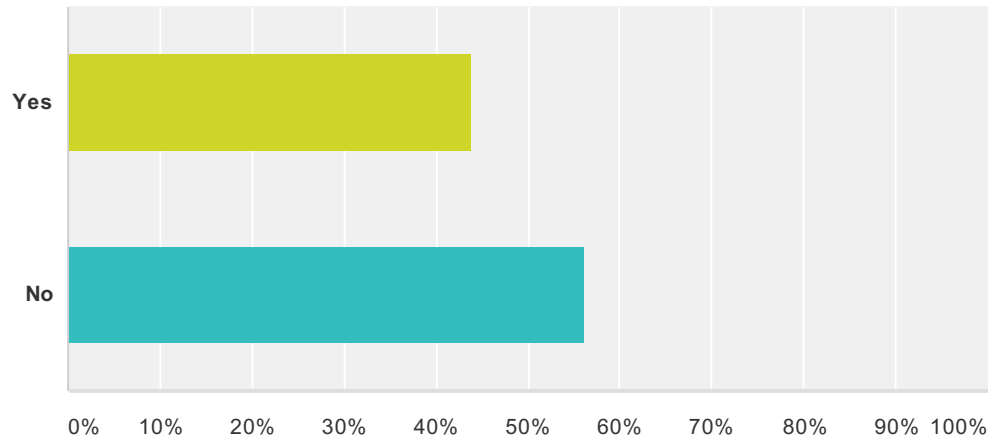
Answered: 348 Skipped: 8



Answer Choices	Responses	
18-19	4.89%	17
20-30	4.02%	14
31-50	32.76%	114
51-64	33.33%	116
65+	25.00%	87
Total		348

Q4 Do you currently have children attending Averill Park Schools?

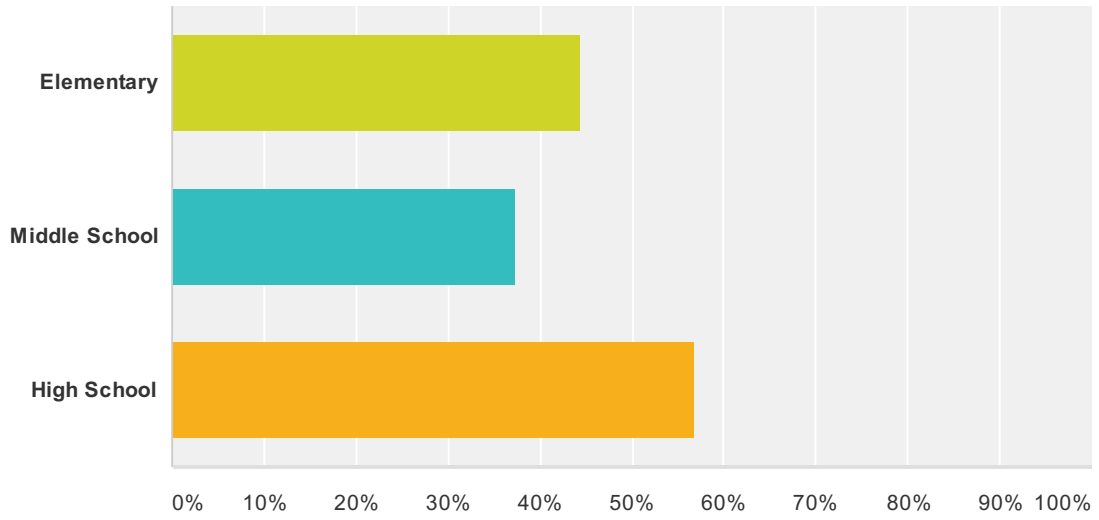
Answered: 356 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	43.82%	156
No	56.18%	200
Total		356

Q5 If yes, what level (s) do they attend?

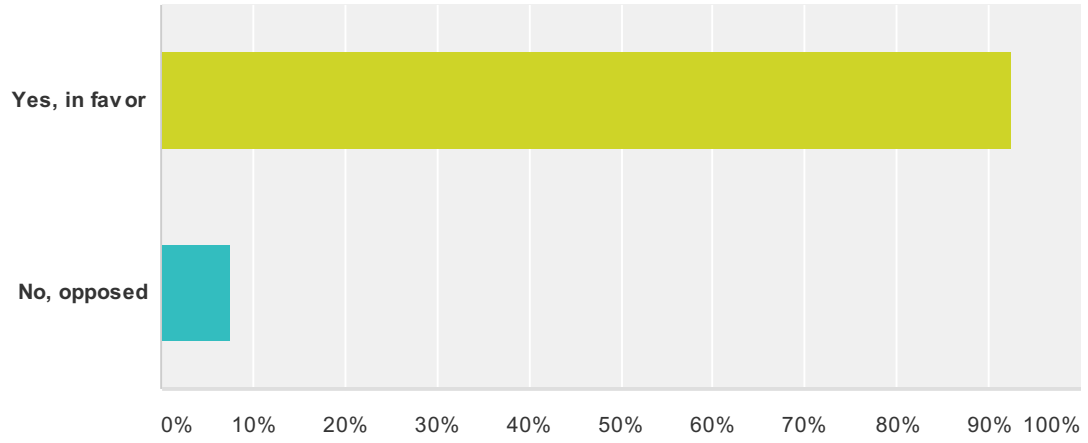
Answered: 155 Skipped: 201



Answer Choices	Responses	
Elementary	44.52%	69
Middle School	37.42%	58
High School	56.77%	88
Total Respondents: 155		

Q6 How did you vote on the 2014-15 proposed budget?

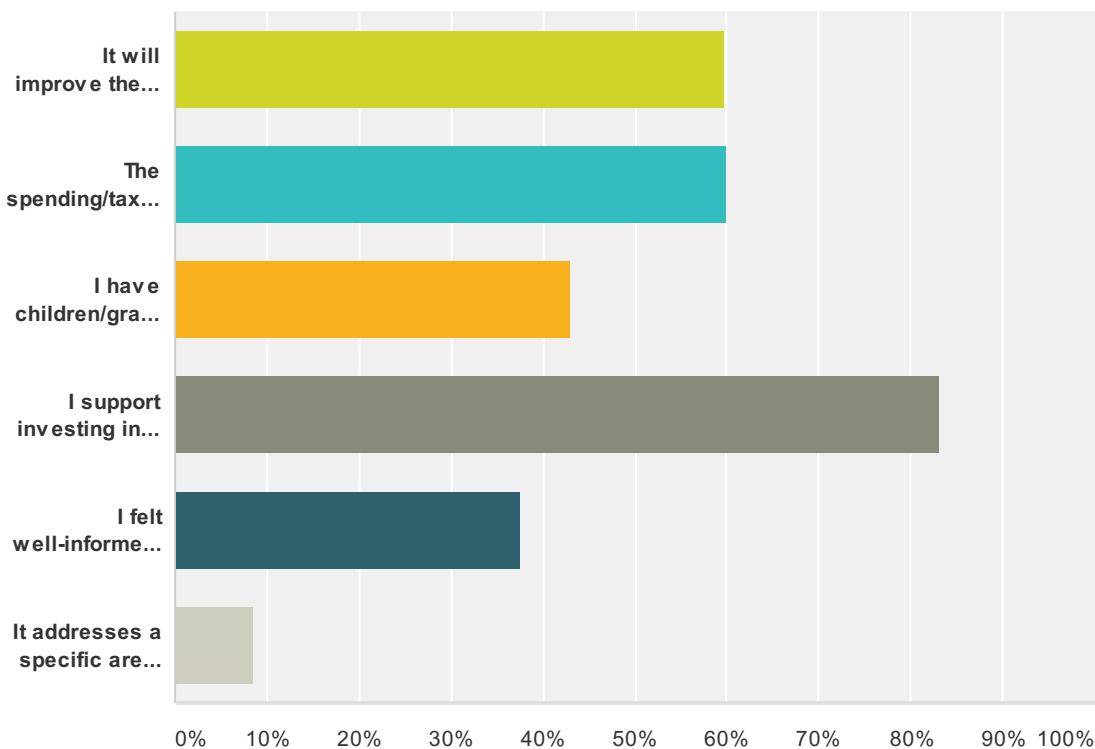
Answered: 356 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, in favor	92.42%	329
No, opposed	7.58%	27
Total		356

Q7 If you voted YES on the budget, why did you vote the way you did? (check all that apply)

Answered: 312 Skipped: 44



Answer Choices	Responses
It will improve the quality of education.	59.62% 186
The spending/tax increase is reasonable.	59.94% 187
I have children/grandchildren in the schools.	42.95% 134
I support investing in education.	83.01% 259
I felt well-informed about the budget.	37.50% 117
It addresses a specific area that is important to me.	8.65% 27
Total Respondents: 312	

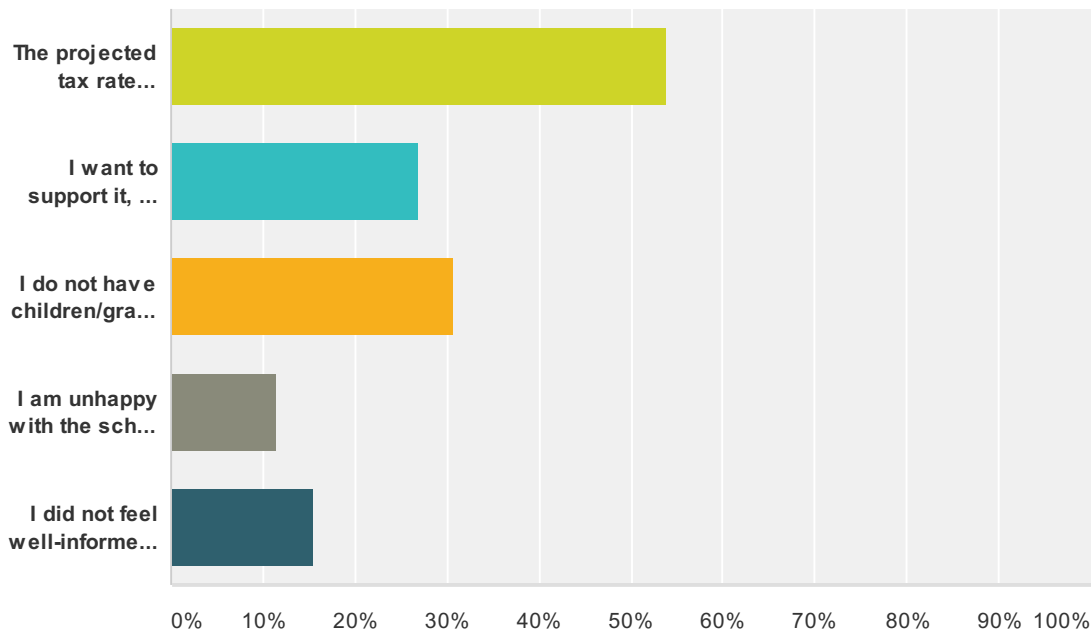
#	Other	Date
1	saving classes	6/3/2014 7:50 PM
2	It's our future!	6/3/2014 7:26 PM
3	the Board and Admin. do a good job budgeting	6/3/2014 7:16 PM
4	a teacher who always supports education	6/3/2014 7:14 PM
5	I always support our teachers	5/20/2014 8:40 PM
6	all my neighbors are teachers	5/20/2014 8:33 PM
7	It directly hurts the children if the budget goes down	5/20/2014 8:27 PM

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8	Keep property values high	5/20/2014 7:59 PM
9	I would have liked to have been able to read the full budget on the School Web Site	5/20/2014 7:01 PM
10	If I voted no someone might get laid off	5/20/2014 5:36 PM
11	It will maintain the quality of education	5/20/2014 4:57 PM
12	Keynesian economics are superior	5/20/2014 2:48 PM
13	It maintained current programming	5/20/2014 12:48 PM
14	I wanted to support the budget that the Board of Education proposed.	5/20/2014 12:17 PM
15	was close to the contingency anyway	5/20/2014 11:39 AM
16	kept the art department whole	5/20/2014 9:25 AM
17	work for the district	5/20/2014 8:39 AM
18	maintains after school activities	5/20/2014 7:20 AM

Q8 If you voted NO on the budget, why did you vote the way you did?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 330

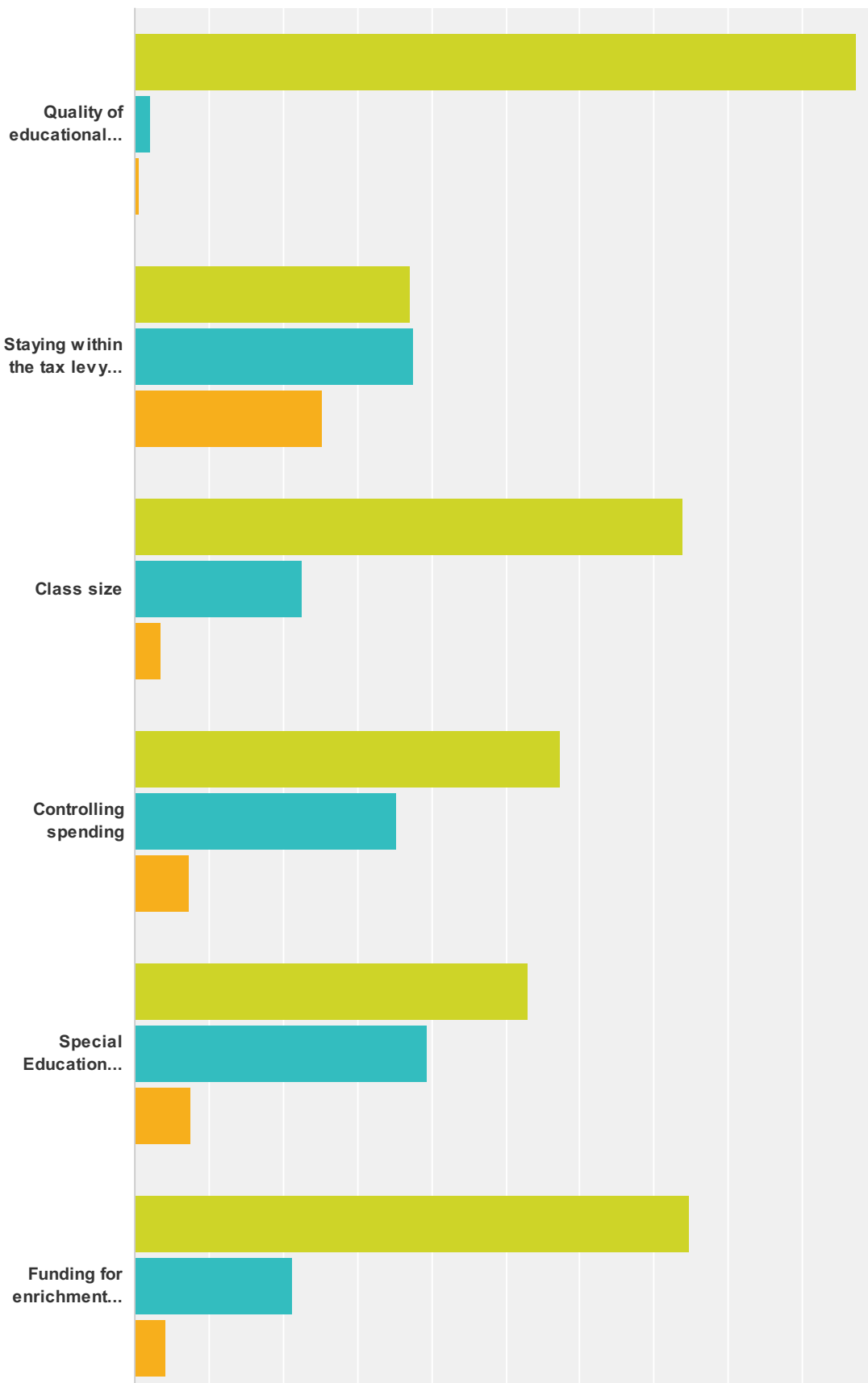


Answer Choices	Responses
The projected tax rate increase is unreasonable.	53.85% 14
I want to support it, but I cannot afford it.	26.92% 7
I do not have children/grandchildren in the schools.	30.77% 8
I am unhappy with the school district in general.	11.54% 3
I did not feel well-informed about the budget.	15.38% 4
Total Respondents: 26	

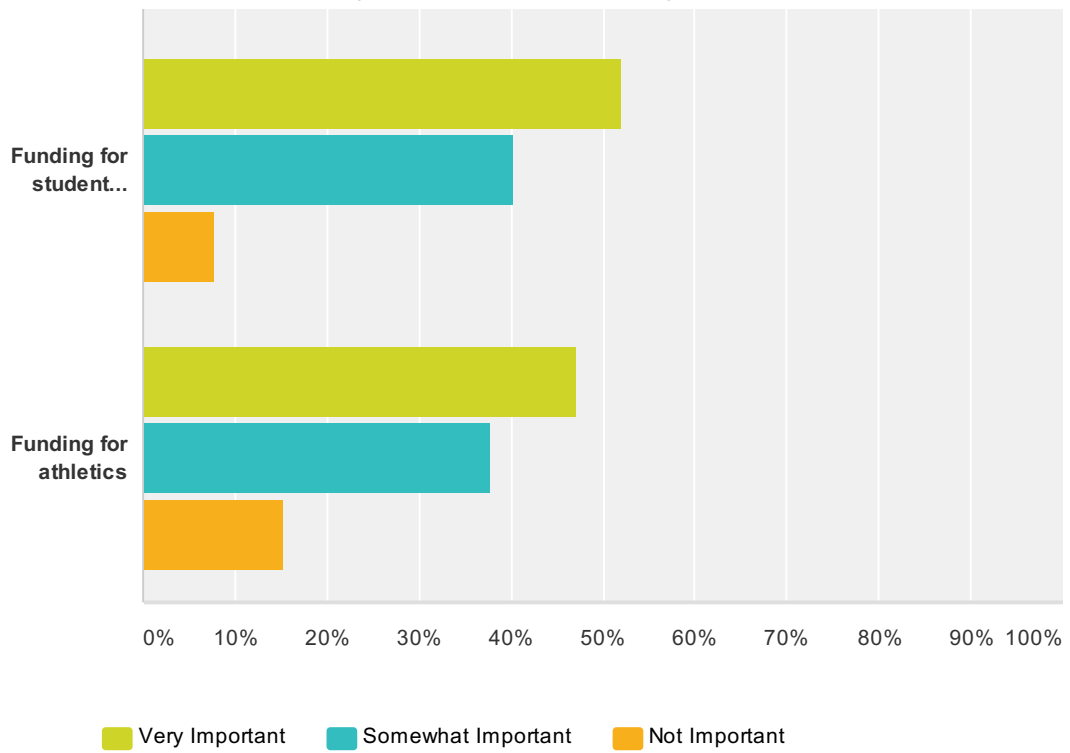
#	Other	Date
1	only in averill park does it cost more to spend less	5/20/2014 5:57 PM
2	The Averill Park School district does not properly manage its finances. It cuts important classes and services in favor of useless ones. Late busses are cut because the school can't afford them while it pays for meaningless classes such as freshman seminar. I cannot give my support to such an irresponsible organization.	5/20/2014 5:12 PM
3	staff is overpaid and don't contribute enough for benefits	5/20/2014 5:08 PM
4	New York state spends more money on education than all other states and has the worst results for money spent. It's time to revamp our education management to get better results	5/20/2014 5:00 PM

**Q9 How important to you were the following in determining your vote?
(Please check the appropriate column.)**

Answered: 340 Skipped: 16



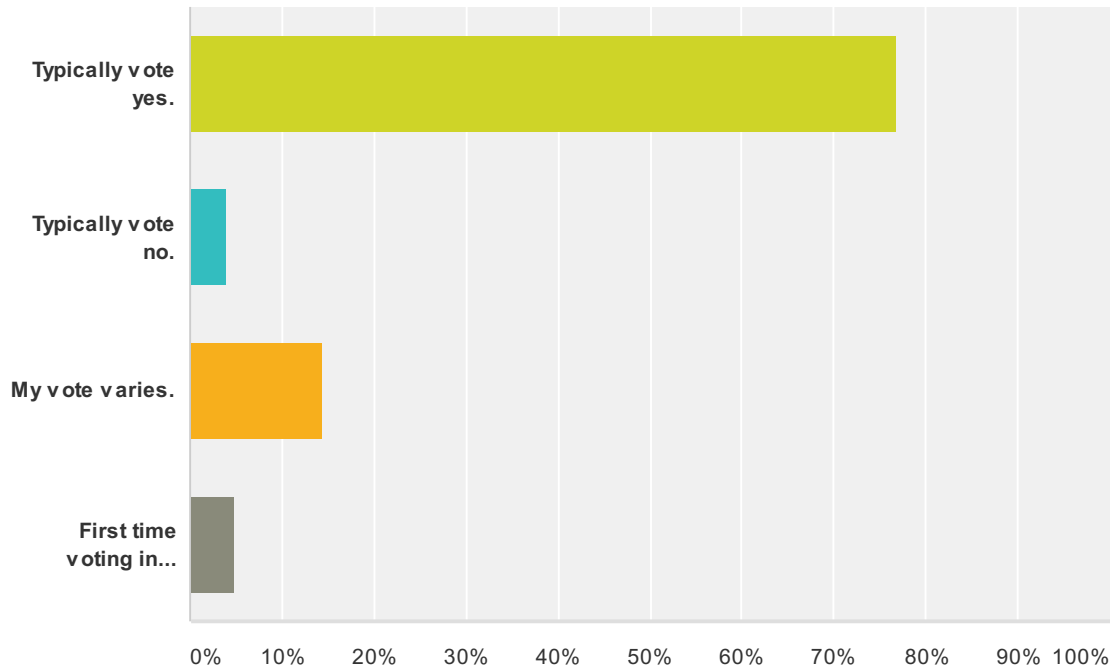
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	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Total
Quality of educational program	97.28% 322	2.11% 7	0.60% 2	331
Staying within the tax levy "cap"	37.18% 116	37.50% 117	25.32% 79	312
Class size	73.98% 236	22.57% 72	3.45% 11	319
Controlling spending	57.46% 181	35.24% 111	7.30% 23	315
Special Education services	52.94% 162	39.54% 121	7.52% 23	306
Funding for enrichment programs (art, music)	74.68% 236	21.20% 67	4.11% 13	316
Funding for student activities (clubs)	51.92% 162	40.38% 126	7.69% 24	312
Funding for athletics	47.10% 146	37.74% 117	15.16% 47	310

Q10 How do you typically vote on the school budget?

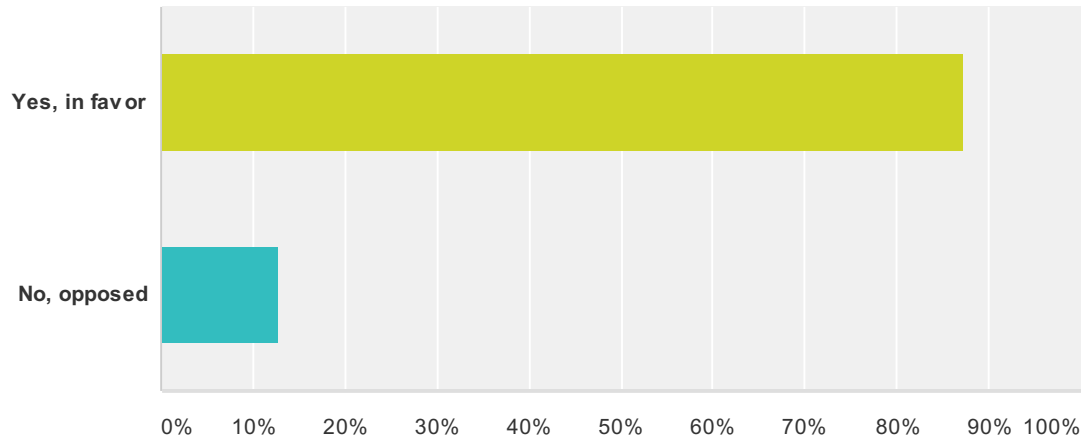
Answered: 353 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Typically vote yes.	76.77% 271
Typically vote no.	3.97% 14
My vote varies.	14.45% 51
First time voting in Averill Park	4.82% 17
Total	353

Q11 How did you vote on the bus purchase proposition?

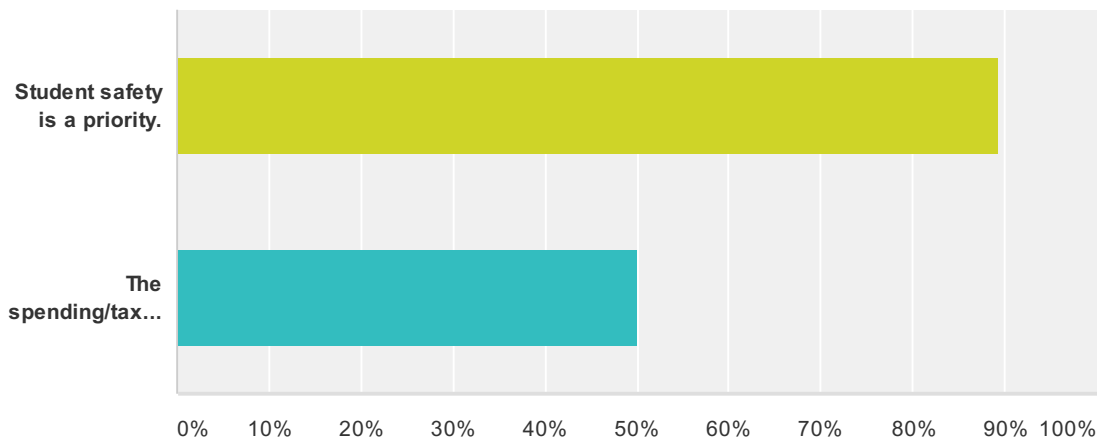
Answered: 352 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, in favor	87.22%	307
No, opposed	12.78%	45
Total		352

Q12 If you voted YES on the bus proposition, why did you vote the way you did? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 281 Skipped: 75



Answer Choices	Responses
Student safety is a priority.	89.32% 251
The spending/tax increase is reasonable.	50.18% 141
Total Respondents: 281	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	trust in administration	6/3/2014 7:51 PM
2	It's a sensible approach to bus replacement	6/3/2014 7:17 PM
3	Assumed Need	5/29/2014 2:35 PM
4	can't let equipment run down	5/29/2014 2:17 PM
5	What is more precious than safe transport of students?	5/20/2014 8:41 PM
6	We ALWAYS need new buses as the old ones age out.	5/20/2014 8:27 PM
7	I figure the people in charge know what they are doing, even though it seems ridiculous to need to replace buses with so few miles on them.	5/20/2014 5:45 PM
8	Buses need to be replaced regularly to avoid a large investment all at once	5/20/2014 5:45 PM
9	A Budget meeting that it was well explained by Mike Quinet	5/20/2014 5:23 PM
10	The bulk of the spending is aidable	5/20/2014 3:13 PM
11	need	5/20/2014 2:55 PM
12	Keynesian economics are superior	5/20/2014 2:49 PM
13	Having a maintenance/replacement plan is cost-effective.	5/20/2014 1:52 PM
14	available state aid	5/20/2014 1:32 PM
15	Additional funding from state for busses played a role	5/20/2014 12:49 PM

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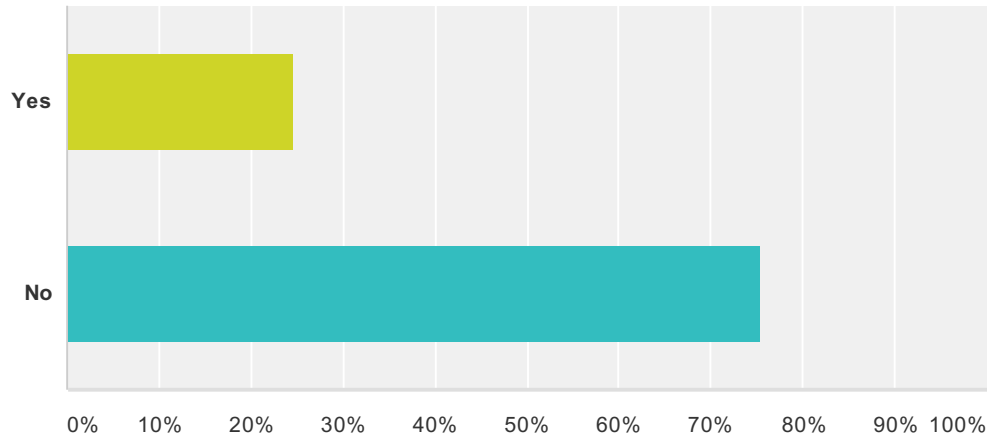
Q13 If you voted NO on the bus proposition, why did you vote the way you did?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 329

#	Responses	Date
1	Walk to school	6/3/2014 7:39 PM
2	should depend on future state aid	6/3/2014 7:37 PM
3	I was not given enough information regarding the condition of the existing vehicles. Also, I tend to see a number of half filled buses and would have liked to been informed that adjusting bus routes was studied.	5/20/2014 7:04 PM
4	Too much of a tax increase	5/20/2014 6:57 PM
5	I would prefer an emphasis on students walking or riding bicycles to school	5/20/2014 6:46 PM
6	hire mechanics that can keep buses working	5/20/2014 5:58 PM
7	money for classes not buses	5/20/2014 5:44 PM
8	New propositions should not be allocated more funds via the taxpayer while the taxpayer already funds meaningless functions. Divert funds from functions that are not necessary, such as freshman seminar, to necessary functions bus programs.	5/20/2014 5:19 PM
9	We should be getting more life out of our buses. They are Trucks and designed to last longer than we are getting out of them. I can't afford to get a new vehicle as often as the school district.	5/20/2014 5:02 PM
10	Buses typically have a longer life than our school district takes advantage of.	5/20/2014 4:58 PM
11	a lot of us can't buy new cars right now. I figured they should wait a while for new busses.	5/20/2014 3:54 PM
12	Not enough information about the buses that need to be replaced,	5/20/2014 3:52 PM
13	The busses are not being utilized to capacity and I don't believe in the way they plan for future bus needs.	5/20/2014 3:50 PM
14	believe it could have been put off a bit longer	5/20/2014 2:14 PM
15	too much money	5/20/2014 12:51 PM
16	I feel that many of the buses could be rebuild with less cost to taxpayers. Durham bus company buys many of these buses and they have been deemed safe and usable.	5/20/2014 12:19 PM
17	Unless the bus in a safety concern I don't see a reason to replace	5/20/2014 12:00 PM
18	tax increase is not reasonable	5/20/2014 12:00 PM
19	believe there are other ways to address busing issues ie outside services	5/20/2014 11:40 AM
20	seeing too many buses with very few students riding. there seems to be too many parents busing their	5/20/2014 9:48 AM
21	sometimes costs override need	5/20/2014 9:47 AM
22	As a student, I think our current bus corp is more than sufficient.	5/20/2014 9:17 AM
23	I feel that is why there are mechanics	5/20/2014 9:14 AM
24	low miles	5/20/2014 9:08 AM
25	I think we need to get more mileage out of the buses we have	5/20/2014 8:32 AM
26	My children don't use the busses	5/20/2014 8:11 AM
27	I can't afford to replace my old car; we have to work with what we have due to gov't. spending.	5/20/2014 8:03 AM

Q14 Did you help Averill Park advocate for the end to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (i.e., Letter Writing Campaign)?

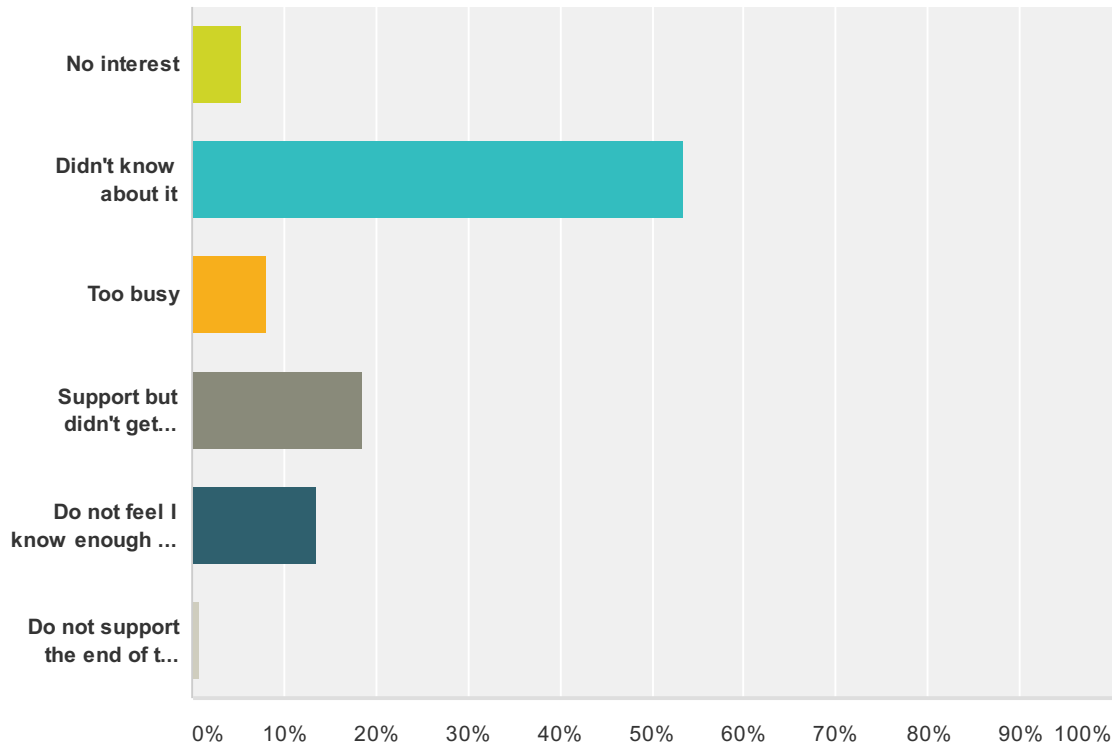
Answered: 326 Skipped: 30



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	24.54% 80
No	75.46% 246
Total	326

Q15 If you did NOT participate, please check why.

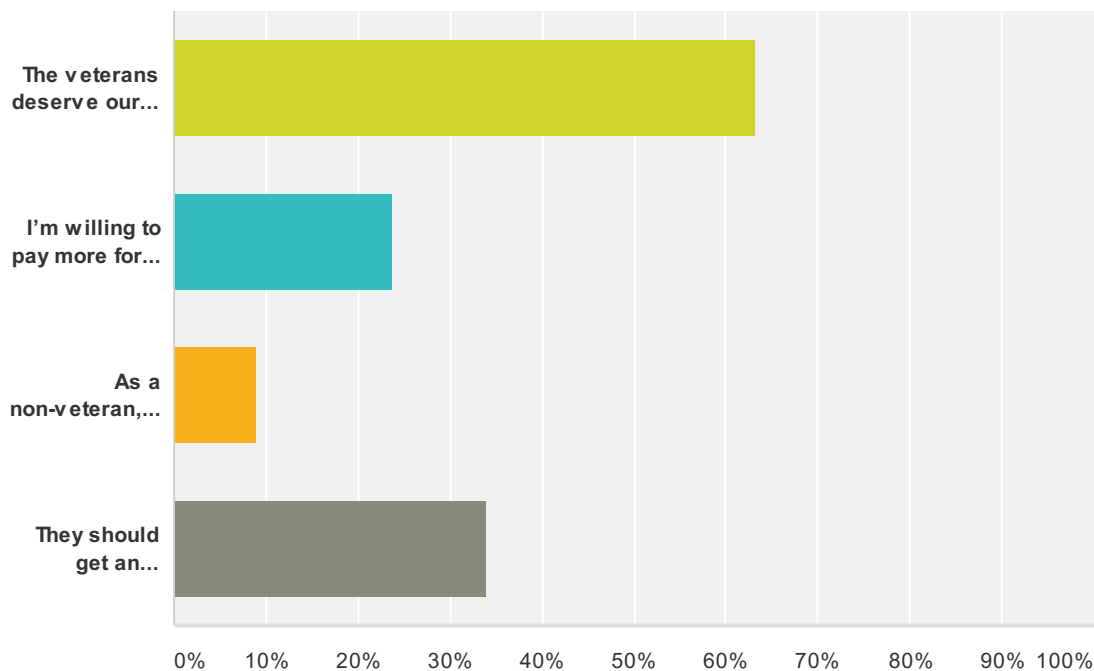
Answered: 243 Skipped: 113



Answer Choices	Responses
No interest	5.35% 13
Didn't know about it	53.50% 130
Too busy	8.23% 20
Support but didn't get around to it	18.52% 45
Do not feel I know enough to discuss issue with legislators	13.58% 33
Do not support the end of the GEA	0.82% 2
Total	243

Q16 A veteran's tax deduction has been approved by the legislature that would reduce a veteran's property tax burden by spreading the deduction to other property owners in our school district. Do you support APCSD adopting this exemption?

Answered: 311 Skipped: 45



Answer Choices	Responses
The veterans deserve our support for their service to our country	63.34% 197
I'm willing to pay more for their service	23.79% 74
As a non-veteran, I don't want to increase my property taxes	9.00% 28
They should get an exemption, but the local taxpayers should not bear the burden of the cost	34.08% 106
Total Respondents: 311	

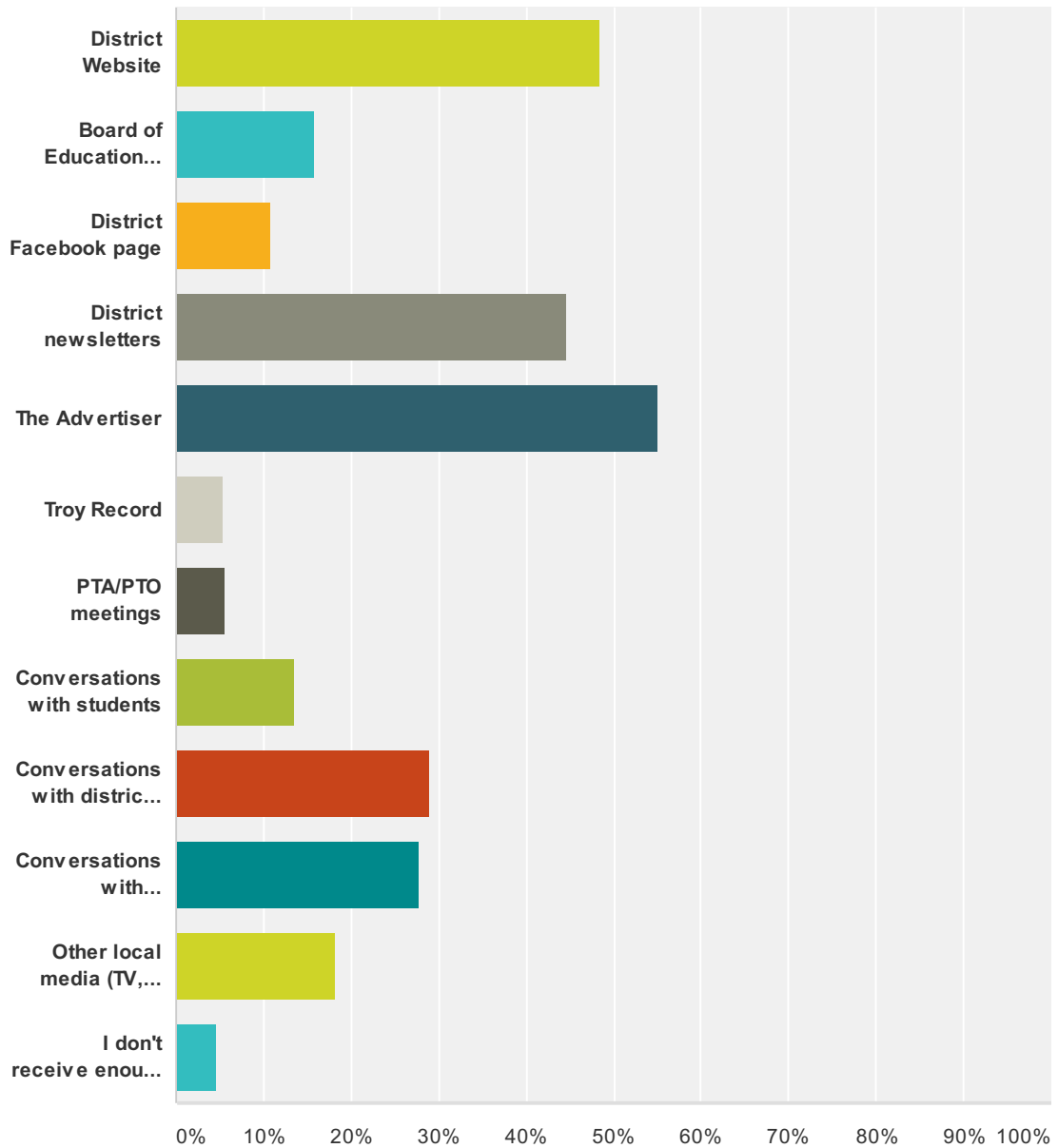
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	I do no support veteran tax breaks. This is an unpopular position, I know.	6/4/2014 10:56 AM
2	Cost should be shared between taxpayers in district and state or federal government	6/3/2014 9:04 PM
3	Not sure	6/3/2014 7:57 PM
4	Not necessary even though I'm a veteran	6/3/2014 7:55 PM
5	Should be federally funded	6/3/2014 7:52 PM
6	The whole thing should be a State expense, imho.	5/20/2014 8:42 PM
7	not sure - need more info	5/20/2014 8:41 PM
8	We need to decrease spending on foriegn wars while providing support for our veterans.	5/20/2014 8:22 PM

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9	No	5/20/2014 8:01 PM
10	the state should actually pay for this.	5/20/2014 7:23 PM
11	Veterans should not get an exemption	5/20/2014 6:49 PM
12	reductions should be based on need- not personal past choices of employment	5/20/2014 6:19 PM
13	most volunteered they get enough benefits	5/20/2014 6:00 PM
14	undecided	5/20/2014 5:47 PM
15	While veterans should be valued, it is not the responsibility of the average taxpayer to support them. The armed forces is a volunteer program and veteran support programs should be volunteer as well.	5/20/2014 5:23 PM
16	why not a tax deduction for me? the armed forces are VOLUNTARY	5/20/2014 5:10 PM
17	Veterans serve everyone in the state, not just a single school district. The state should fund this benefit.	5/20/2014 2:08 PM
18	As a returned Peace Corps Volunteer serving my country for 2 years overseas exposed to similar risk I get NO benefits.	5/20/2014 1:55 PM
19	I do not support tax exemptions. I am a Vietnam vet.	5/20/2014 10:52 AM

**Q17 In general, what are your best sources of news and information about the district?
(Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 332 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses
District Website	48.49% 161
Board of Education meetings	15.96% 53
District Facebook page	10.84% 36
District newsletters	44.58% 148
The Advertiser	55.12% 183
Troy Record	5.42% 18

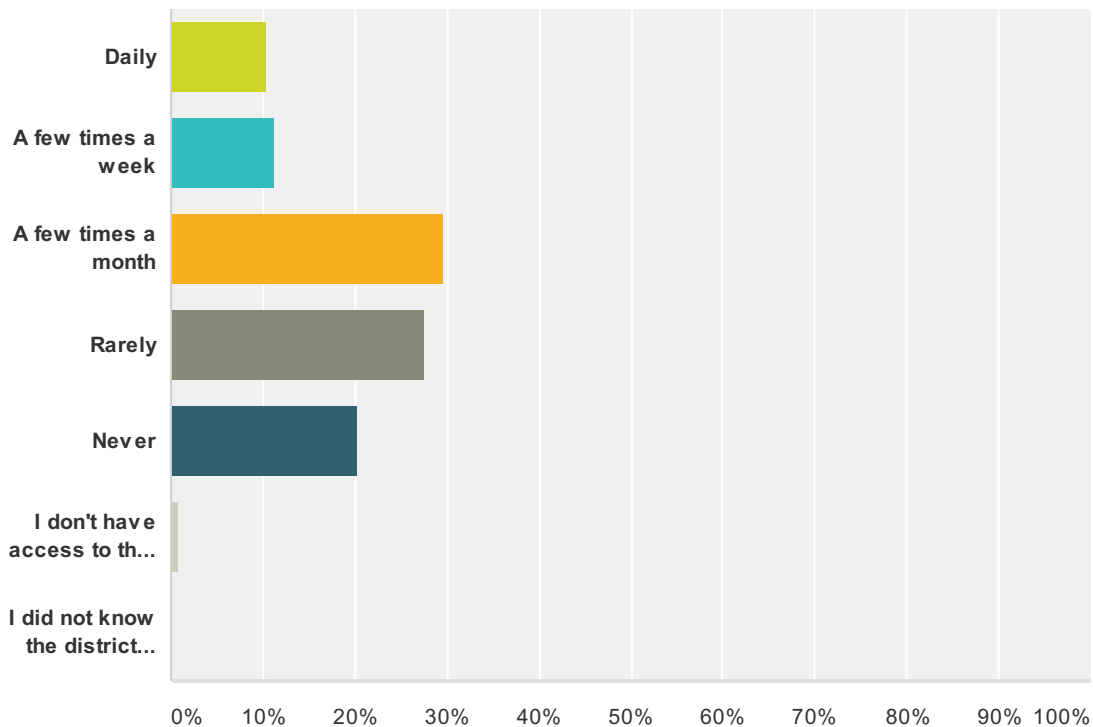
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PTA/PTO meetings	5.72%	19
Conversations with students	13.55%	45
Conversations with district staff	28.92%	96
Conversations with friends/neighbors	27.71%	92
Other local media (TV, Times Union)	18.07%	60
I don't receive enough information about the district.	4.52%	15
Total Respondents: 332		

#	Other	Date
1	My wife	6/3/2014 7:57 PM
2	My spouse	5/20/2014 6:49 PM
3	My spouse	5/20/2014 6:49 PM
4	comversation with board members	5/20/2014 4:13 PM
5	don't read the papers, and no one came by with information.	5/20/2014 3:55 PM
6	edlne	5/20/2014 3:51 PM
7	BOE member	5/20/2014 12:23 PM
8	Bd of Education Member	5/20/2014 12:22 PM
9	what district newsletters	5/20/2014 12:20 PM
10	The Advertiser is about the only thing I read.	5/20/2014 8:05 AM

Q18 How often do you visit the district's website (www.averillpark.k12.ny.us)?

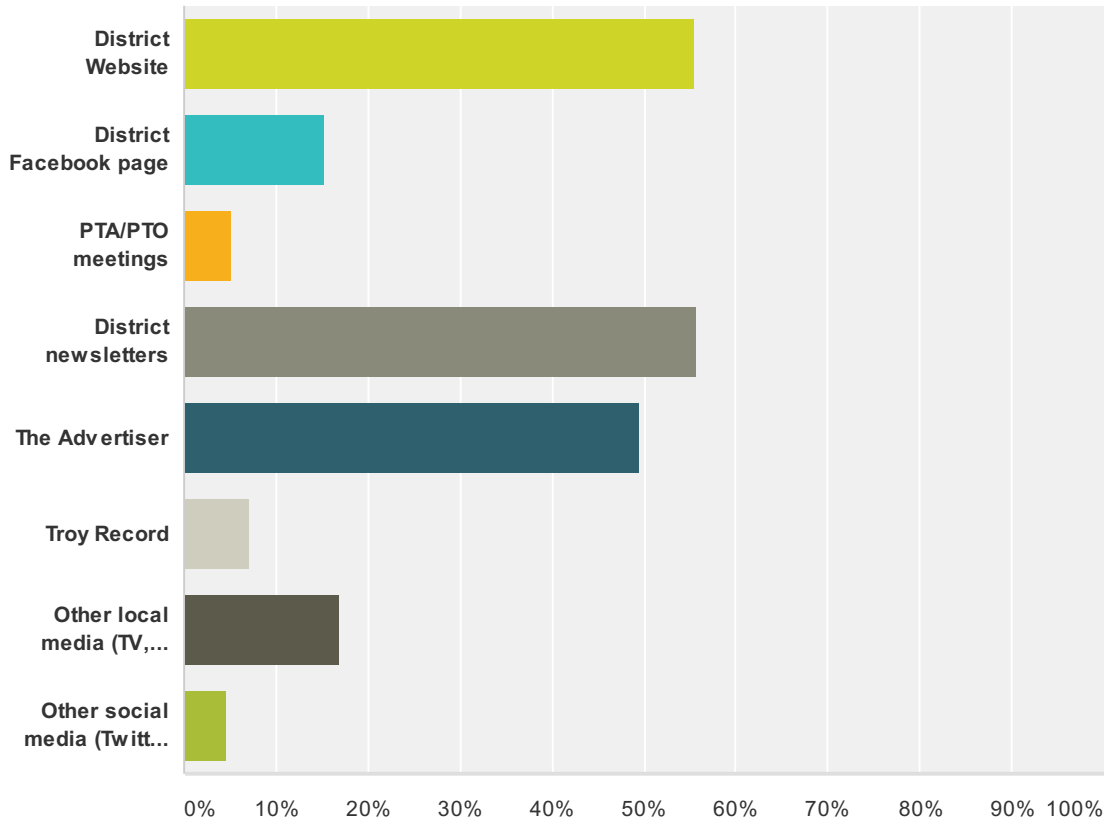
Answered: 337 Skipped: 19



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Daily	10.39%	35
A few times a week	11.28%	38
A few times a month	29.67%	100
Rarely	27.60%	93
Never	20.18%	68
I don't have access to the Internet	0.89%	3
I did not know the district has a website	0.00%	0
Total		337

Q19 How would you like to receive information from the district? (Check all that apply).

Answered: 326 Skipped: 30



Answer Choices	Responses
District Website	55.52% 181
District Facebook page	15.34% 50
PTA/PTO meetings	5.21% 17
District newsletters	55.83% 182
The Advertiser	49.39% 161
Troy Record	7.06% 23
Other local media (TV, Times Union)	16.87% 55
Other social media (Twitter, Pinterest)	4.60% 15
Total Respondents: 326	