
Shakopee Public Schools

2019 Community Survey Summary of Results



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Survey outline

- Survey included interviews with 422 registered voters in the Shakopee School District.
- Interviews were completed between June 25th and July 1st.
- Approximate margin of error is $\pm 4.7\%$.

Who we called

- Interviews included demographic targets intended to provide a representative sample of voters in the district.
- To the extent that any demographic dimension was under- or over-sampled, sample weights were adjusted to compensate.

Who we called *(cont.)*

- Demographic targets included:
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Parent status
 - Location
 - Voting history
- Cell phones and homeownership were tracked, but were not demographic targets.

Survey structure

- Main body of survey asked participants for their opinions about the School District.
- Sections of the survey asked for different kinds of community feedback:
 - Grading various aspects of the District's performance.
 - Comparing the current schools to neighboring districts and to the schools participants attended in their youth.
 - Rating important characteristics of the current schools.



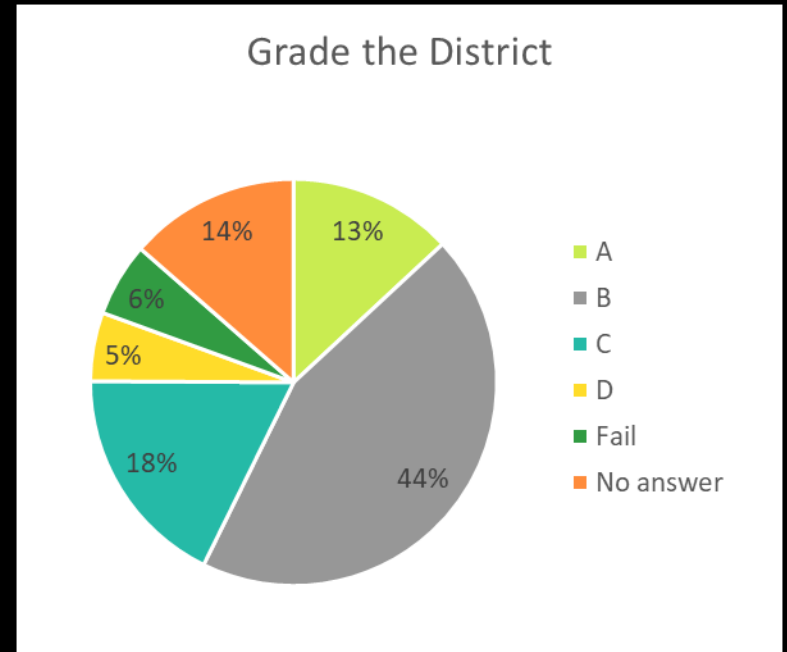
Grading the District

“Students are often given the grades of A, B, C, D and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the Shakopee Public Schools were graded in the same way.

What grade would you give to the public schools here?”

Overall grades

- 57% of respondents give A and B grades to the School District.
- 11% gave D and F grades.
- 14% of participants could not offer a response.

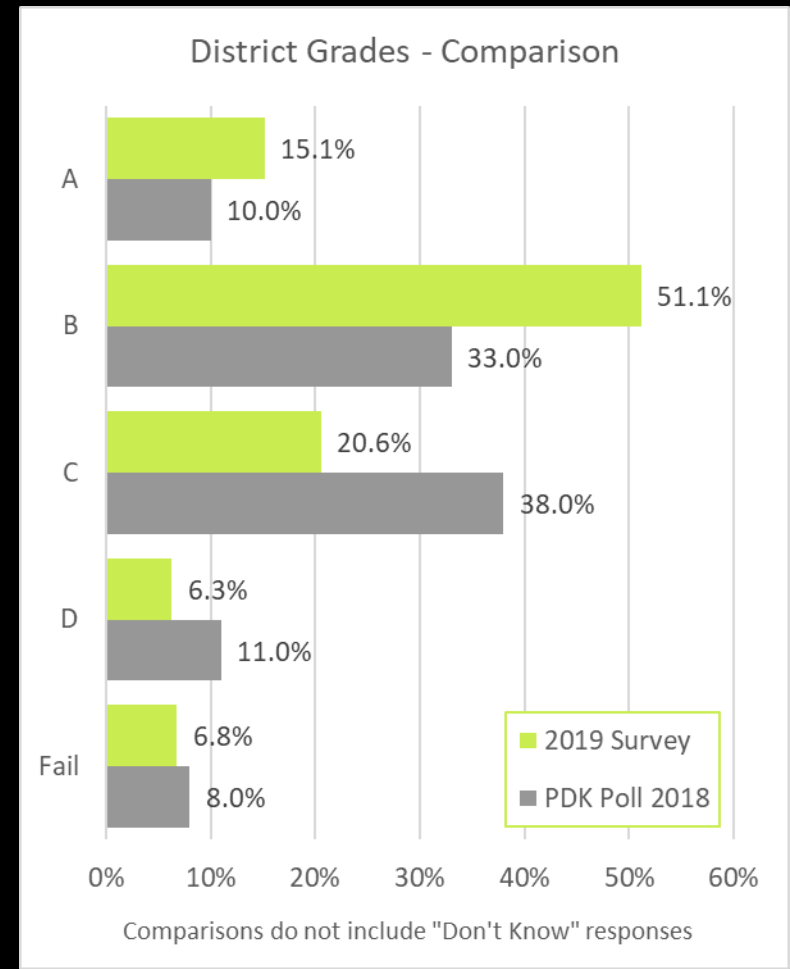


Benchmark grades

- For reference, we compare District grades from current survey against a national benchmark, the PDK *Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools*, conducted in 2018.
- For purposes of comparison between surveys, we do not include “I Don't Know” responses.

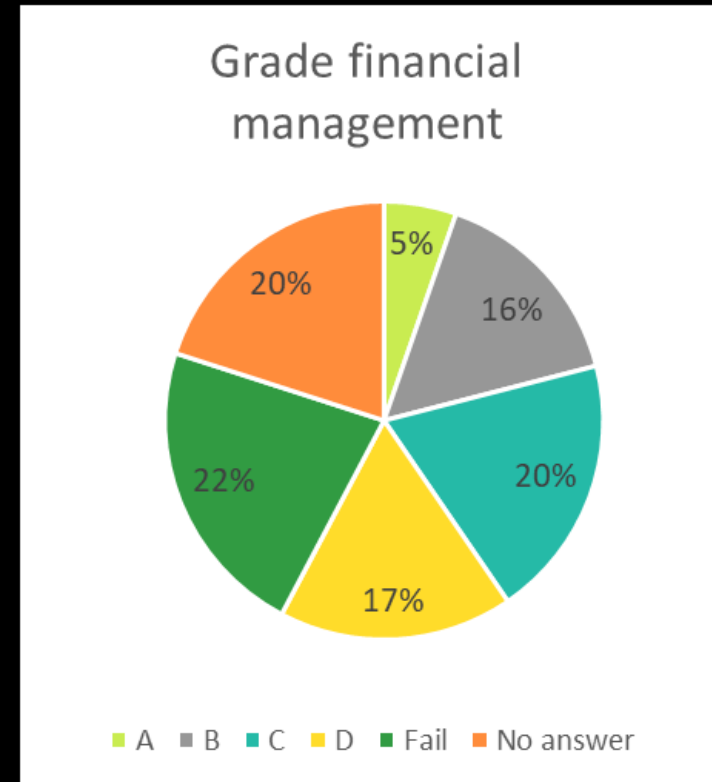
Benchmark grades *(cont.)*

- Higher proportion of A and B grades.
- Lower proportion of C and D grades.
- Comparable numbers of failing grades.



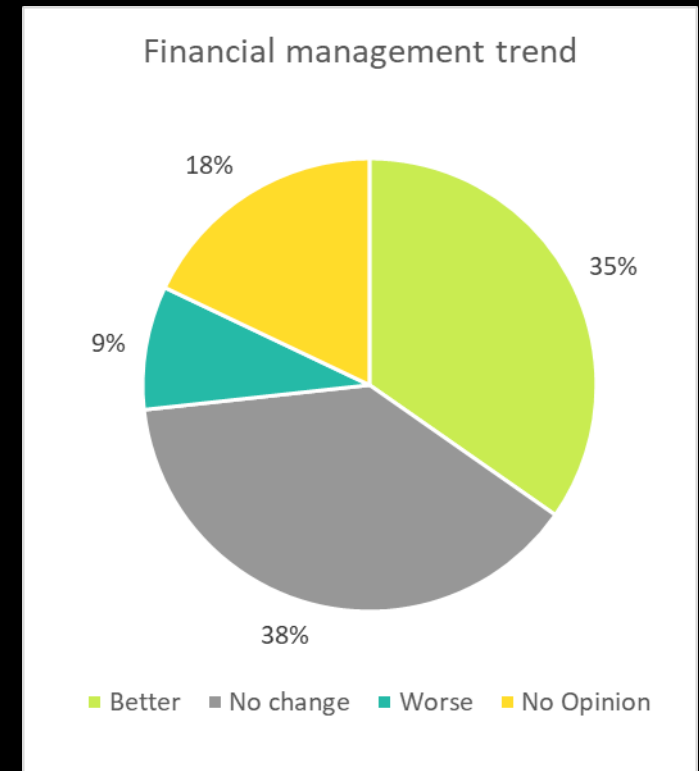
Financial management

- Participants were asked to grade the District's financial management.
- 21% of respondents gave A and B grades to the School District.
- 39% gave D and F grades.
- One in five participants could not offer a response.



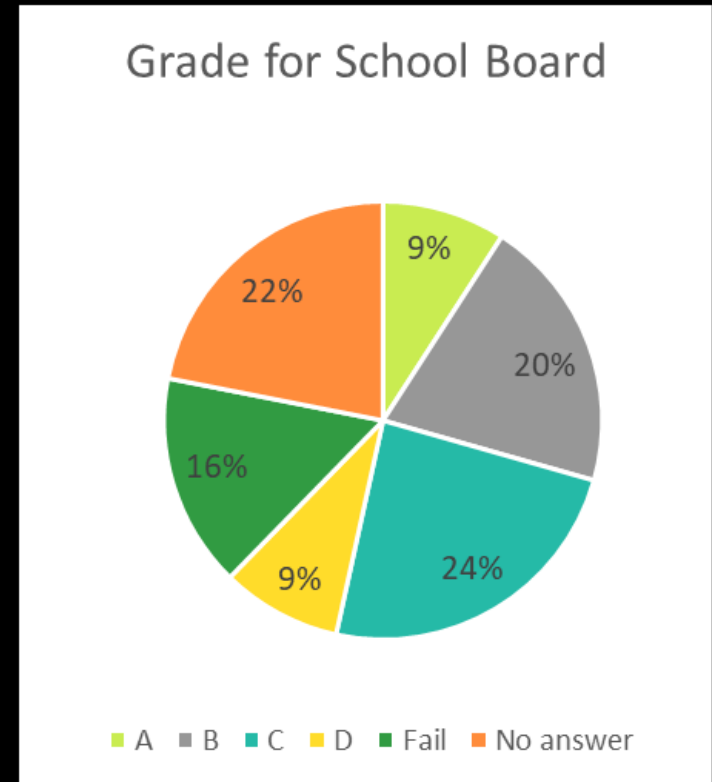
Financial management *(cont.)*

- Participants were also asked if their opinion had changed over the past 12 months.
- 35% said their opinion was improving.
- 9% said financial management was getting worse.



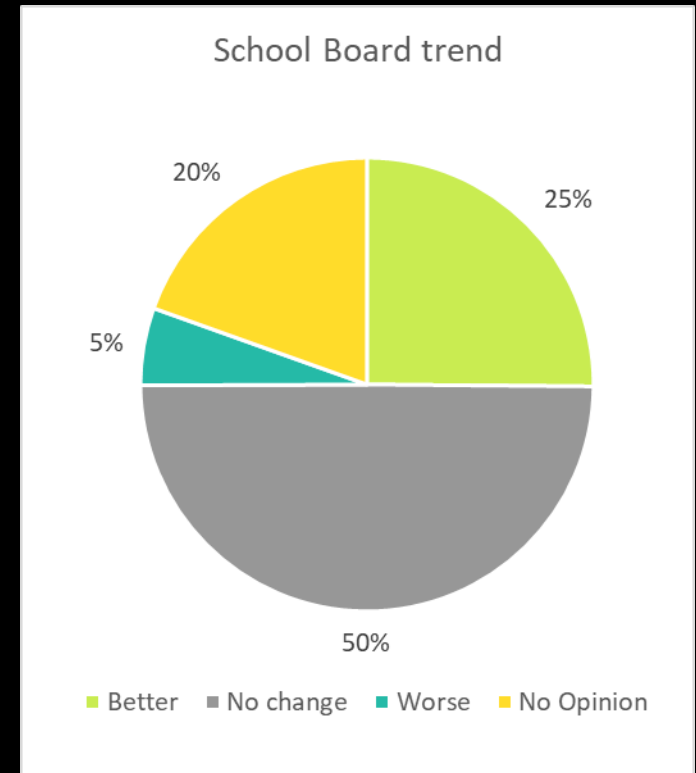
School Board

- 29% of respondents gave A and B grades for the School Board's performance.
- 25% gave D and F grades.



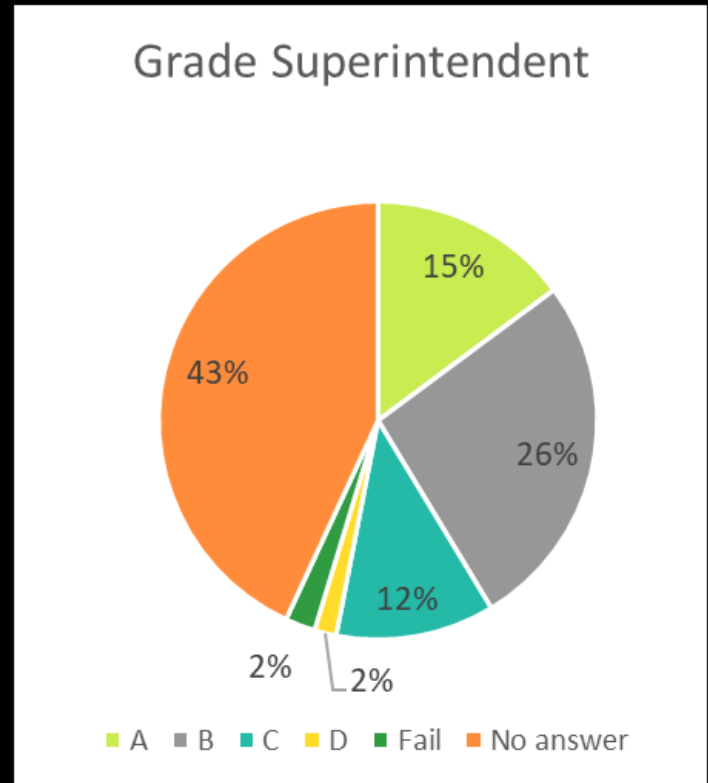
School Board *(cont.)*

- 25% of participants said their opinion of the School Board had improved over the past year.
- Half said their opinion was unchanged.



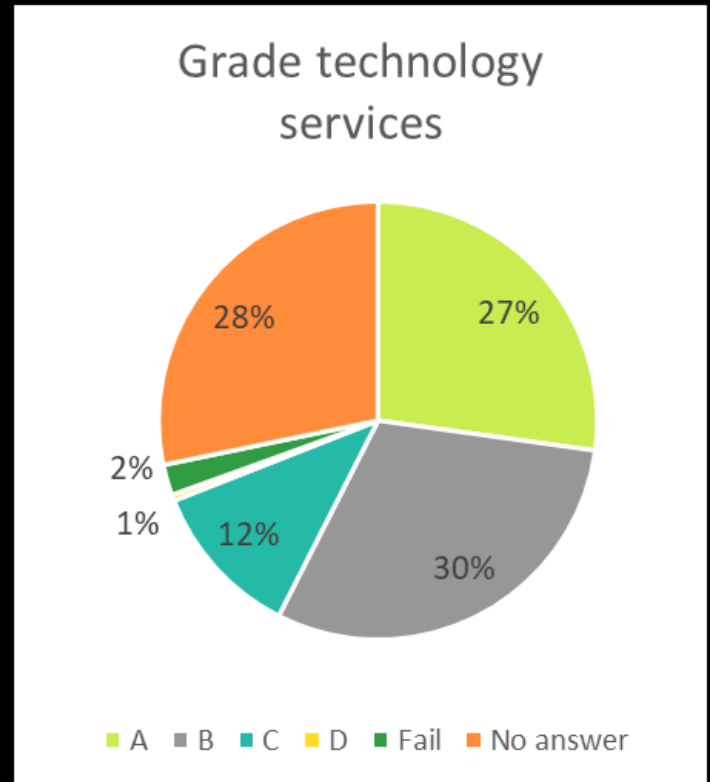
Superintendent

- 41% of respondents gave A and B grades to the performance of the Superintendent.
- Just 4% gave D and F grades.
- Very large proportion (43%) could not offer an opinion.



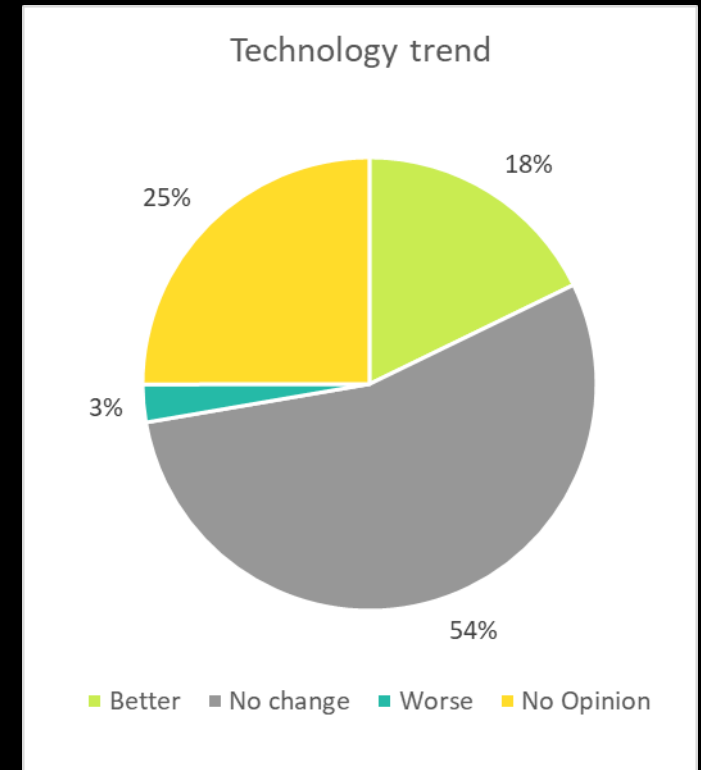
Technology services

- Asked about technology services, 57% gave A and B grades to the School District.
- Just 3% gave D and F grades.
- 28% could not offer a response.



Technology services *(cont.)*

- 18% of participants thought that technology services were improving over the past 12 months.
- Only 3% thought things were getting worse.
- More than half said their opinion was unchanged.



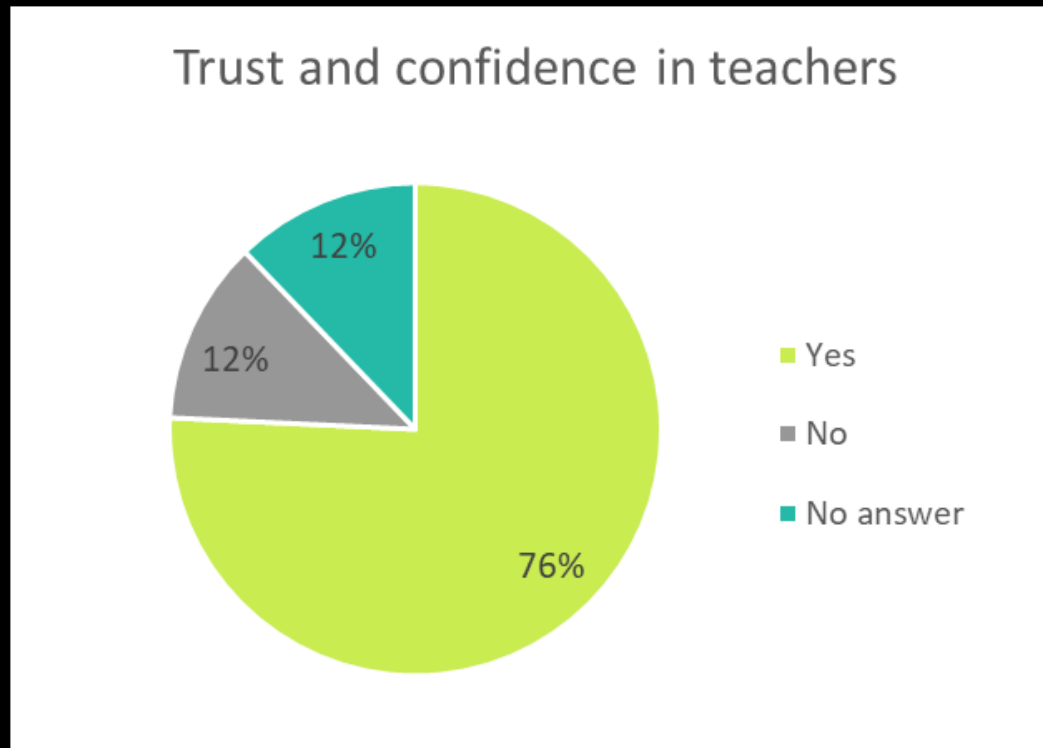


GRADING THE DISTRICT

Confidence in teachers

“Do you have trust and confidence in the men and women who are teaching children in our public schools?”

Confidence in teachers *(cont.)*





District comparisons

- Participants were asked a set of questions asking them to compare Shakopee to other school district.
- The first two questions asked participants to compare Shakopee against neighboring school districts.
- The remaining five questions asked respondents to compare Shakopee with the schools they attended in their youth.



DISTRICT COMPARISONS

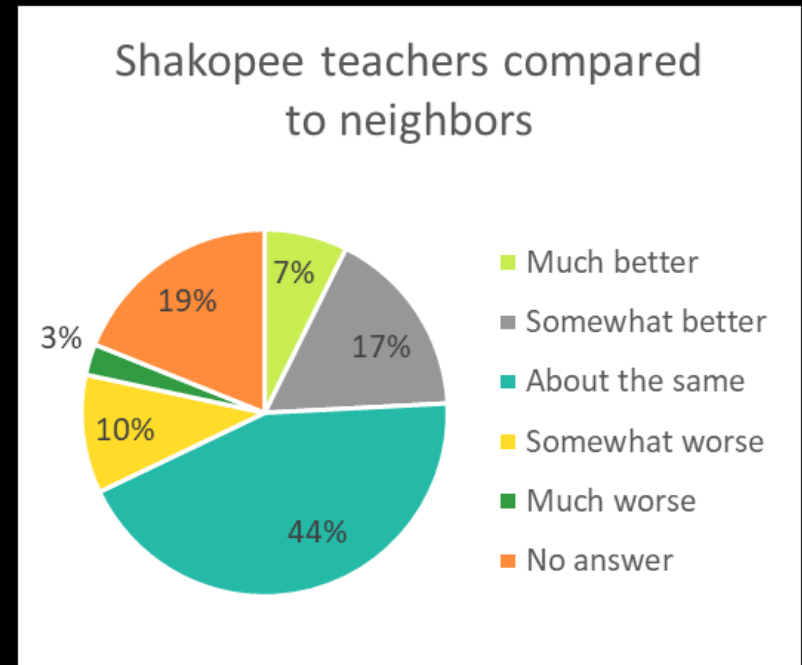
Quality of teachers

“In comparison with teachers in neighboring public school districts, do you think the quality of teachers in the Shakopee Public Schools is much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse?”

DISTRICT COMPARISONS

Quality of teachers *(cont.)*

- 24% say Shakopee's teachers are better than neighboring school districts.
- 13% feel Shakopee's teachers are not as good.
- A plurality of 44% feel that teachers are comparable to neighboring districts.





DISTRICT COMPARISONS

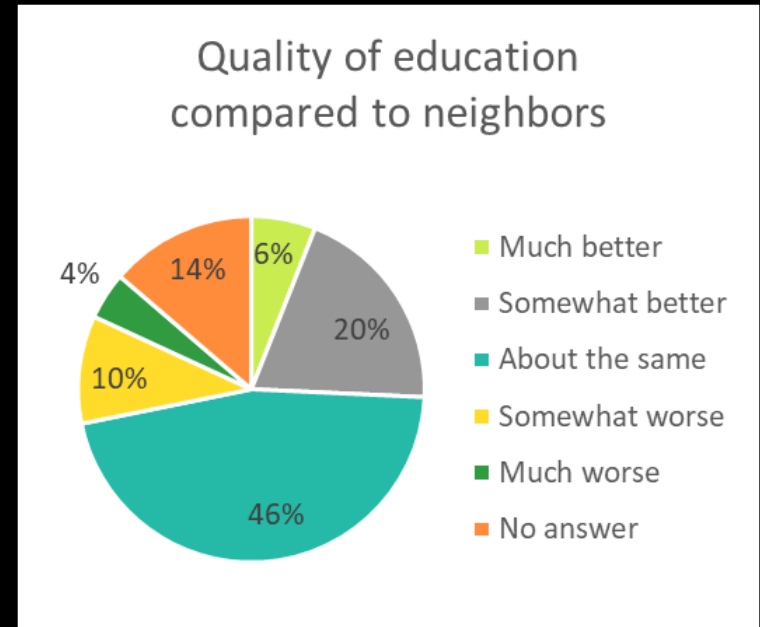
Quality of education

“In comparison with neighboring public school districts, do you think the quality of education provided by Shakopee Public Schools is much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse?”

DISTRICT COMPARISONS

Quality of education *(cont.)*

- Responses are very similar to those for teacher quality.
 - 26% say Shakopee provides a higher quality of education than neighboring districts.
 - 14% feel Shakopee's quality is not as good.
 - 46% feel quality is comparable.





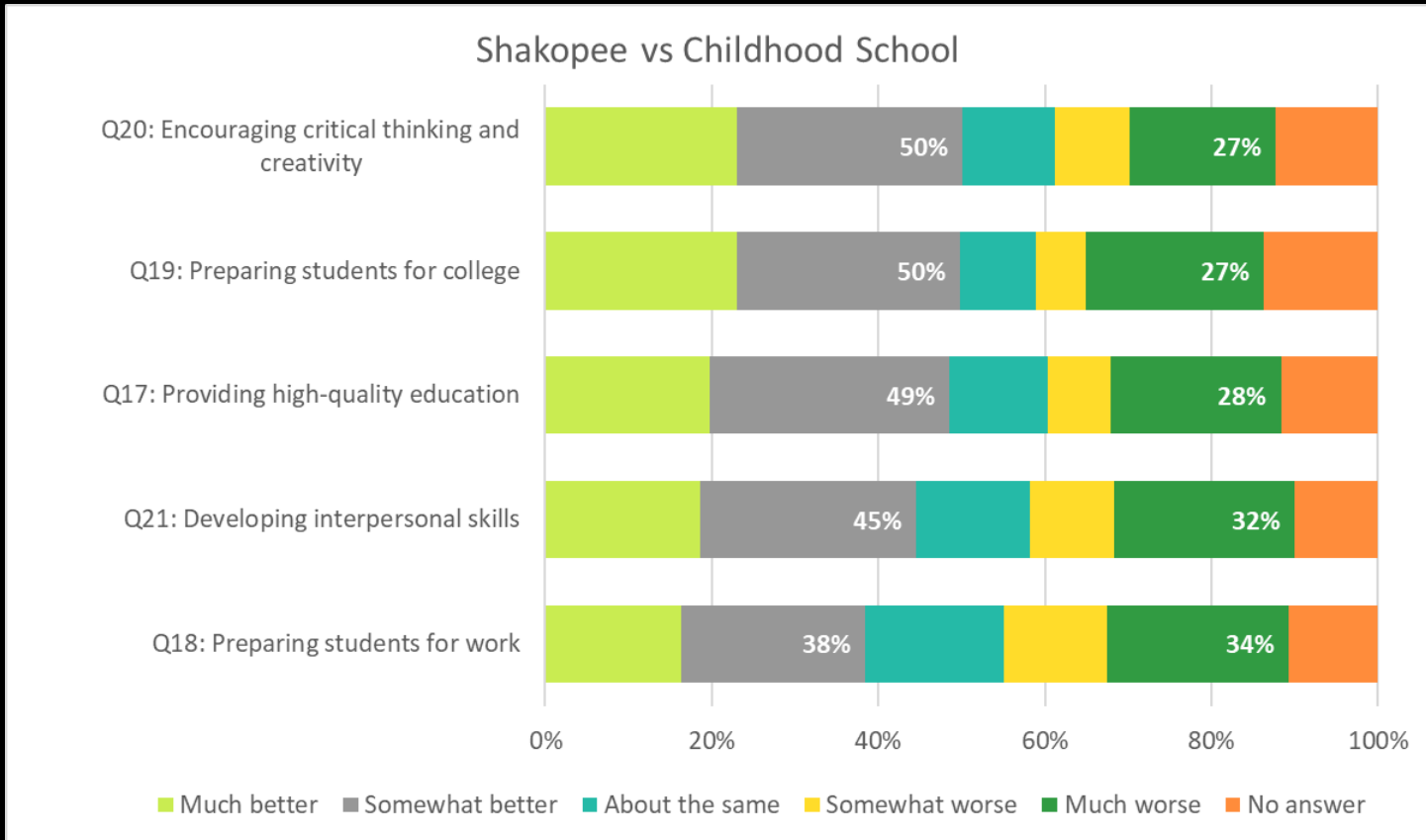
DISTRICT COMPARISONS

District performance

“Compared with the schools you attended, do you think the public schools in your community today are better or worse at each of the following?”

DISTRICT COMPARISONS

District performance *(cont.)*



District performance *(cont.)*

- Good marks for critical thinking/creativity, college prep, and providing high-quality education.
 - Approximately half say Shakopee does better, and a quarter say their childhood schools were better.
- Interpersonal skills and preparation for working did not score as highly.
 - Opinions about preparing students for work were split, with 38% saying Shakopee does better, and 34% saying it's worse.



District evaluation

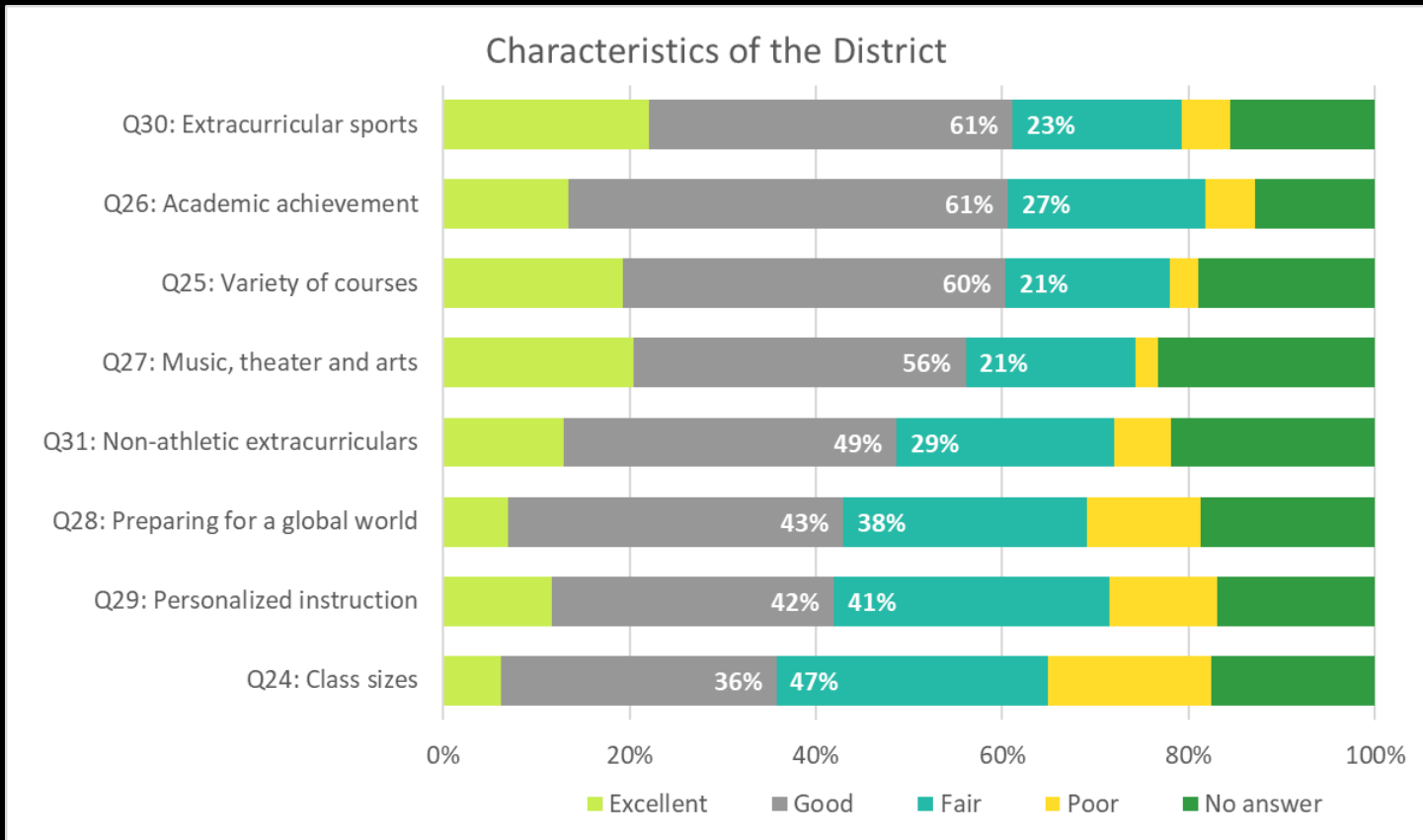
- Participants were asked to rate eight characteristics of the school district.
- For this list, ratings were simply the opinions of participants, and were not in the context of comparisons to other school districts.
- Additional question asked about confidence in the safety and security of Shakopee schools.

District characteristics

“I would like to read you a list of characteristics about the school district. For each one, tell me if you would rate Shakopee Public Schools as excellent, good, fair, or poor.”

DISTRICT EVALUATION

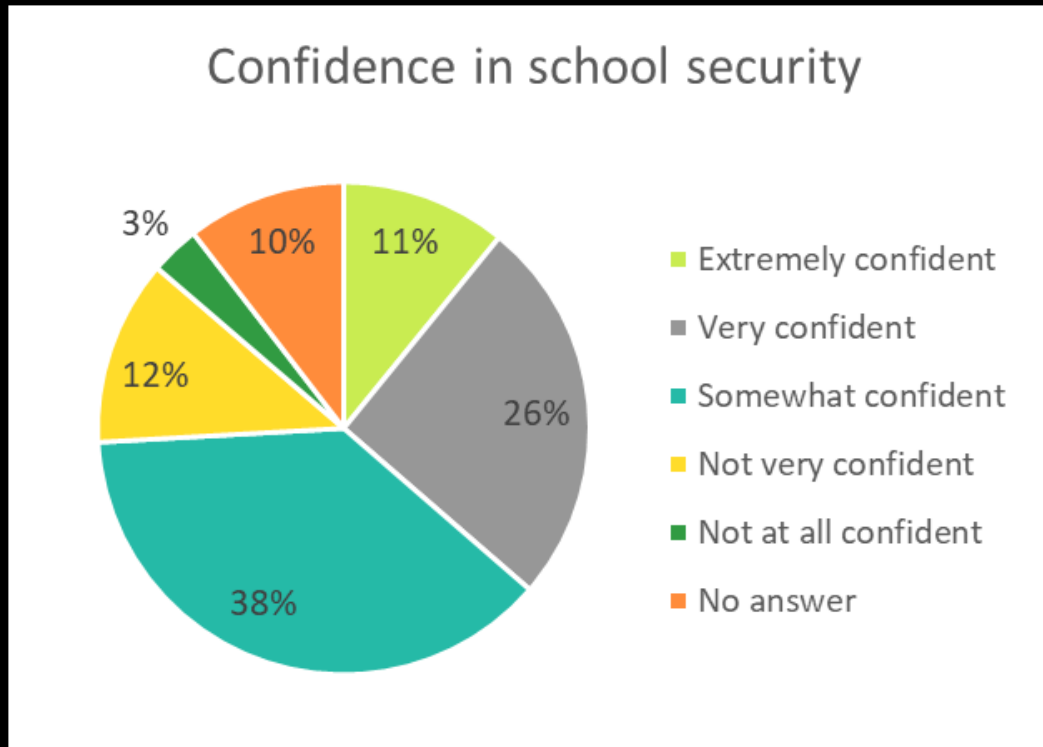
District characteristics *(cont.)*



District characteristics *(cont.)*

- Highest ratings were for sports, academic achievement, and variety of courses offered.
 - 60% or more gave ratings of Excellent or Good for these items.
- Lowest ratings were for class sizes, personalized instruction, and preparing students for life in a global world.
 - Excellent/good ratings averaged 40% for these items, while fair/poor ratings averaged 42%.

Confidence in school security



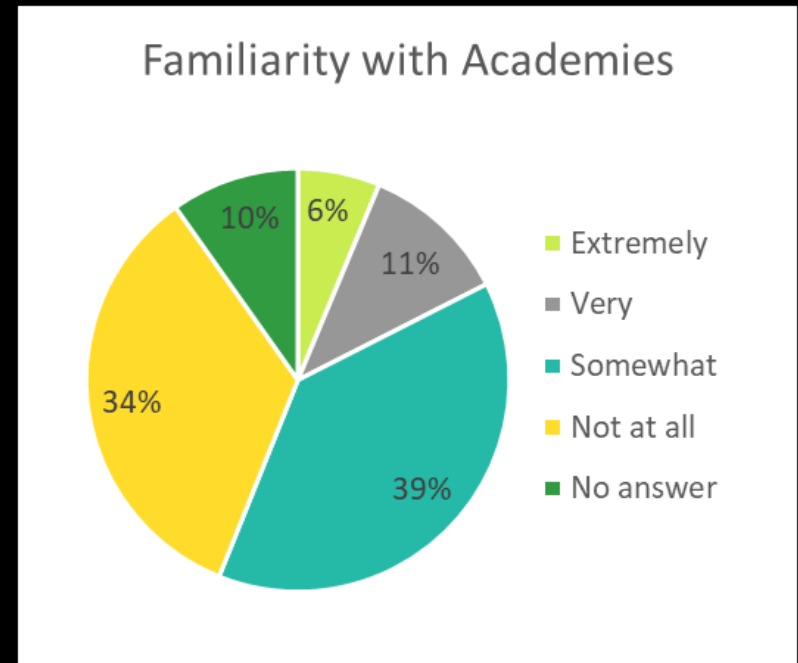


Academies of Shakopee

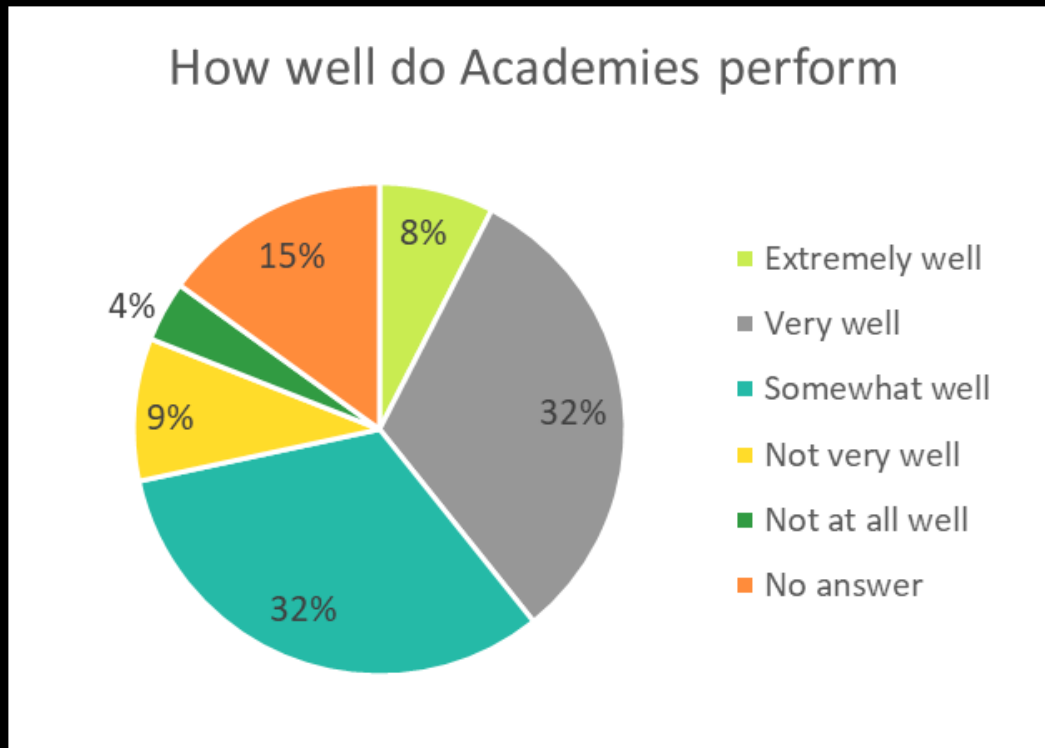
- Participants were asked how familiar they were with the Academies of Shakopee.
- Those who expressed at least some familiarity were asked how well the Academies were performing.

Familiarity with Academies

- 56% were at least somewhat familiar with the Academies of Shakopee.
- Remaining 44% were unfamiliar or chose not to answer.



Performance of Academies



- Question was asked of the 56% of participants who were at least somewhat familiar with the Academies model.

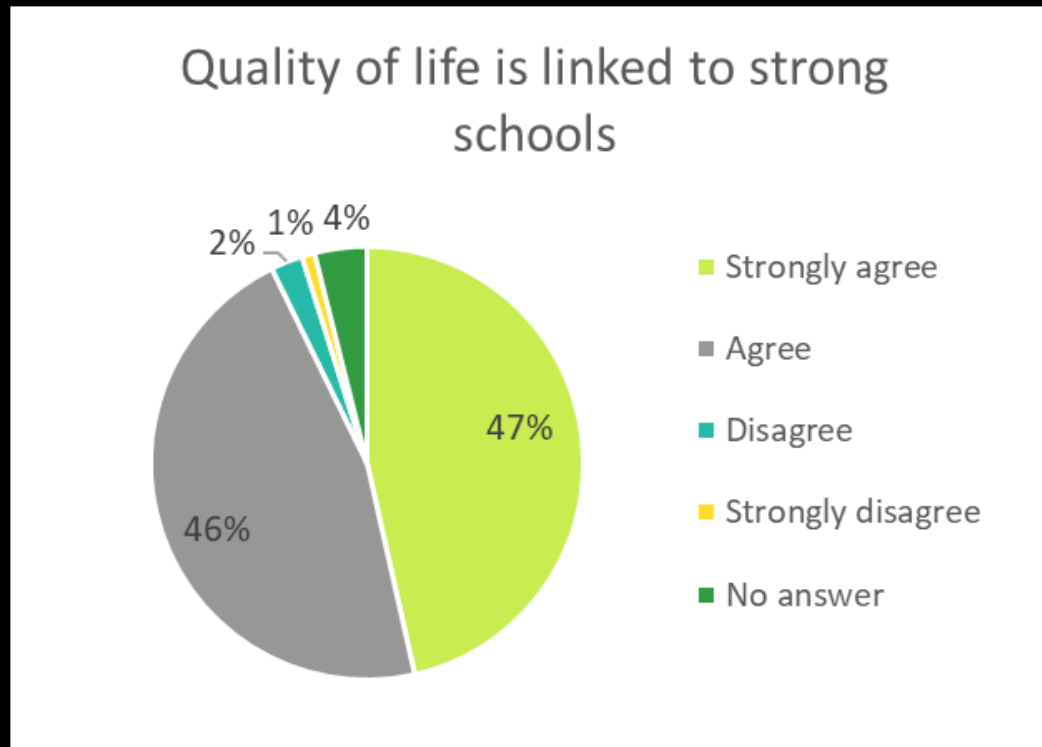


Quality of life

“I am going to read you a statement. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it:

Strong public schools are directly linked to the quality of life and viability of our community.”

Quality of life *(cont.)*



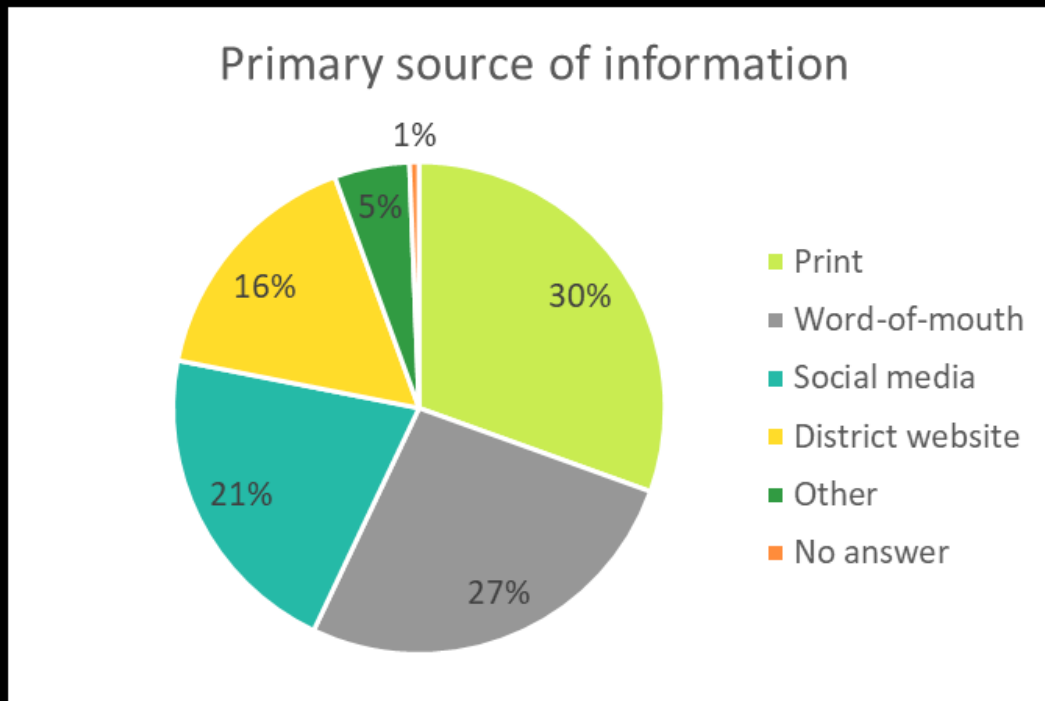
District characteristics *(cont.)*

- “Strongly agree” responses were most commonly given by the following groups:
 - Voters age 55-64.
 - Alumni parents and parents of elementary students.
 - Residents of Eastern region (Shakopee precincts 4 & 12, Prior Lake and Savage).
- “Disagree” and “Strongly disagree” groups were too small to allow for demographic analysis.

Preferred source of information

- Participants were asked where they got most of their information about the School District.

Preferred information source



- Most common “other” responses were e-mail, direct experience, and “all of the above.”

Findings

- Strong favorable responses related to overall quality of education and teaching staff.
- Negative evaluation of financial management is significantly higher than the norm.
- Negative evaluation of school board is significantly higher than the norm.
- Evaluation of superintendent was positive.

Findings *(cont.)*

- Class sizes stood out as a significant concern.
- For questions asking if things are getting better or worse in the last year, each had a favorable ratio of “getting better” versus “getting worse” responses.
- Overall survey results provide a good benchmark from which to prioritize quality improvement goals and track community concerns and perceptions over time.



Thank you!

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Survey demographics

- Interviews included demographic targets intended to provide a representative sample of voters in the district.
- To the extent that any demographic dimension was under- or over-sampled, sample weights were adjusted to compensate.

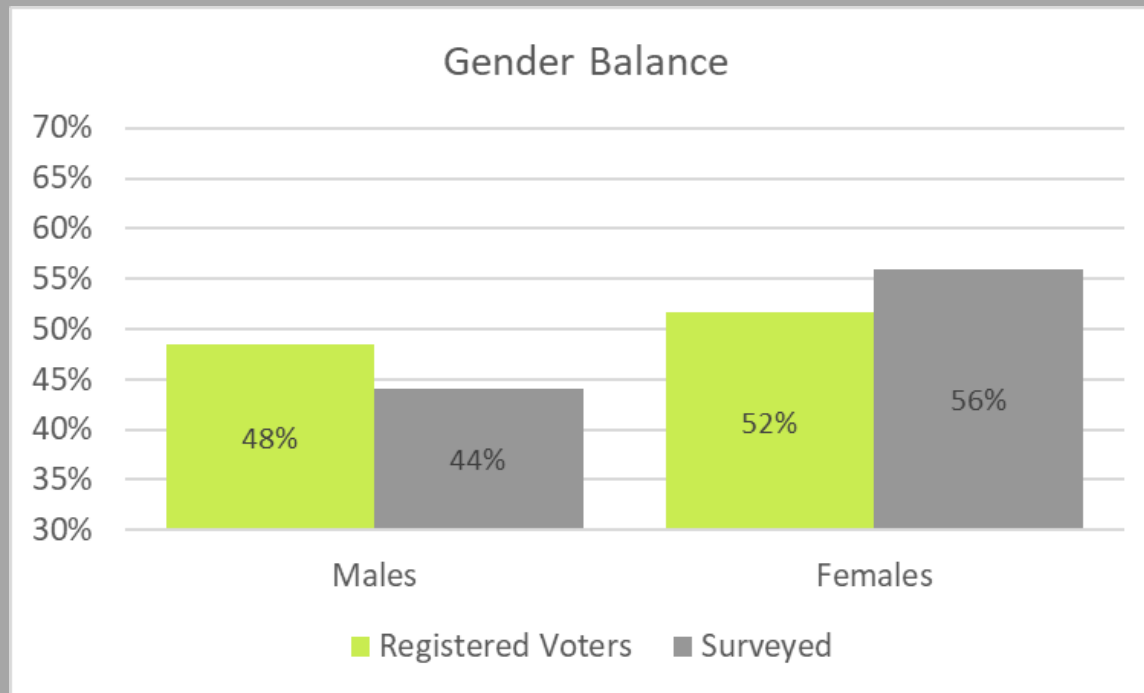


Survey demographics *(cont.)*

- The following slides show proportions of total interviews versus targets before any sample weighting was performed.
- After re-balancing, samples were each within 2% of targets.
- Cell phones and homeownership were tracked for informational purposes, but were not treated as targets.

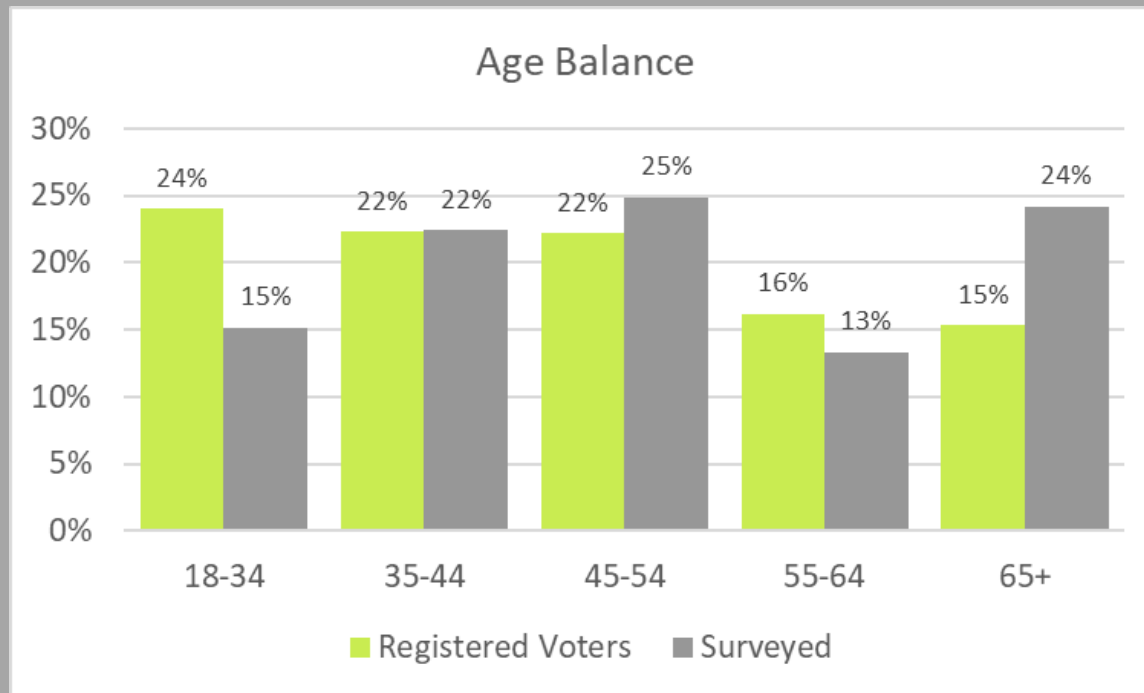
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic targets: Gender



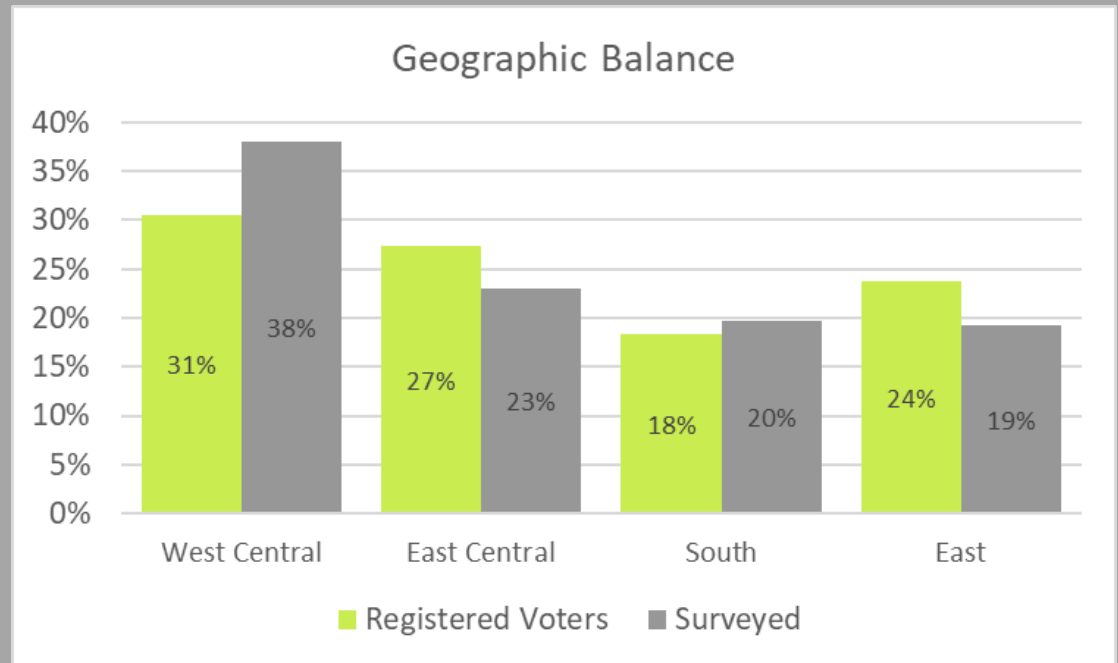
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic targets: Age



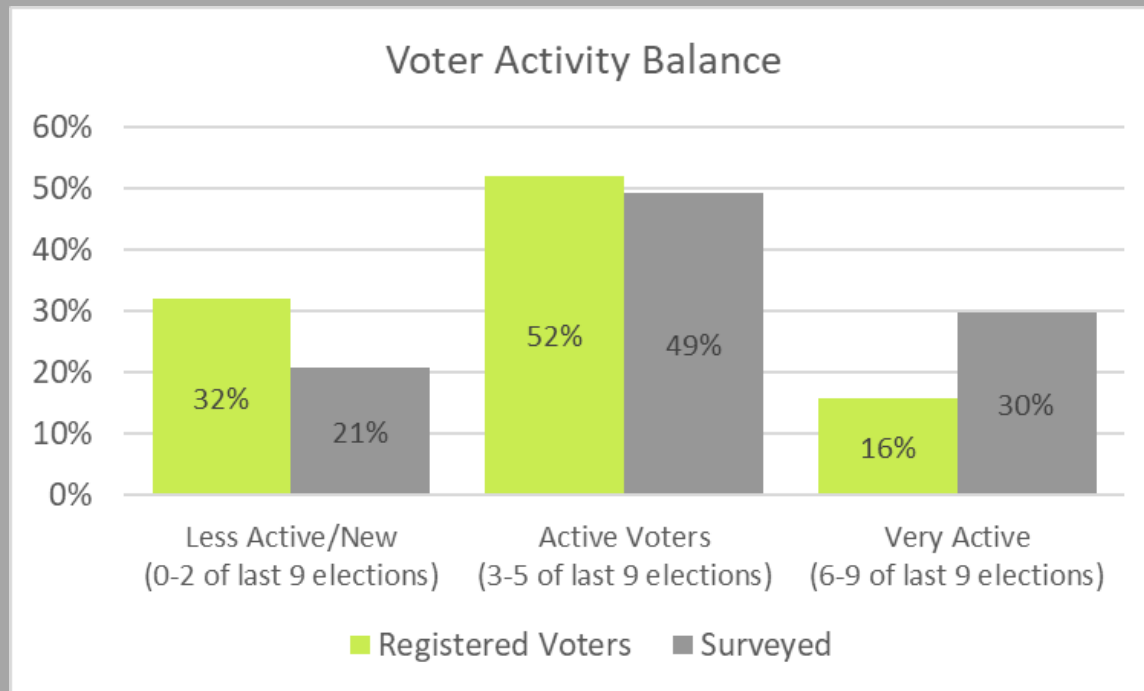
Demographic targets: Geographic location

- West Central:
Precincts 1, 2, 5, 6
- East Central:
Precincts 3, 7, 8, 10
- South:
Precincts 9, 11, 13
and townships
- East: Precincts 4 &
12, Prior Lake and
Savage



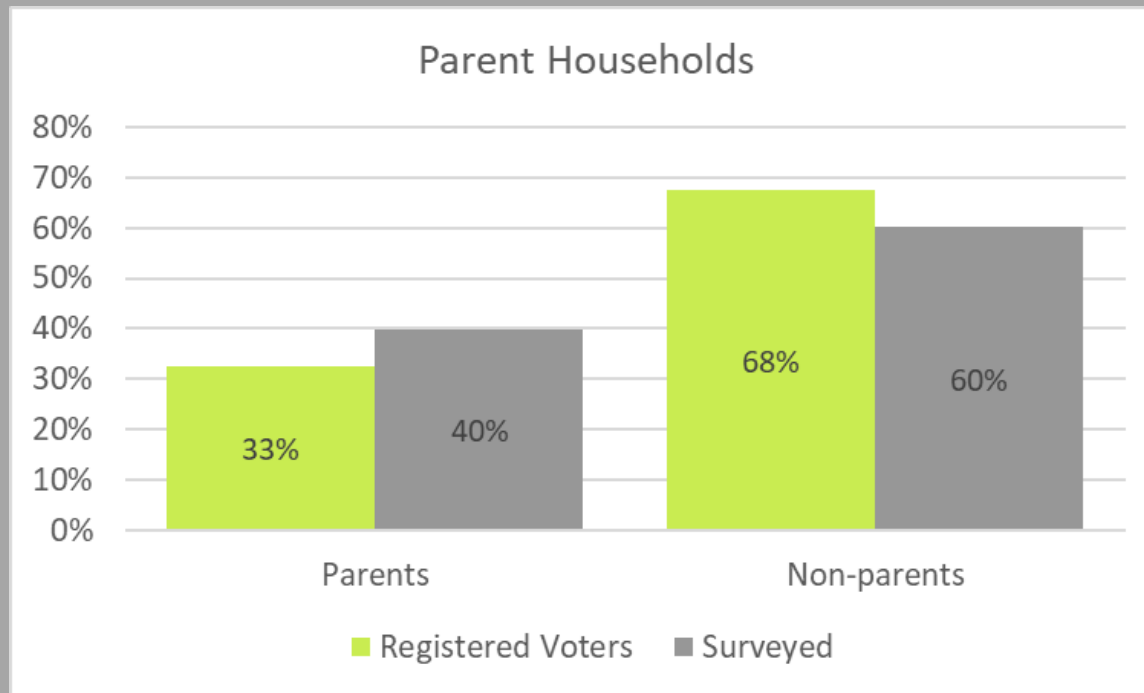
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic targets: Past voting activity



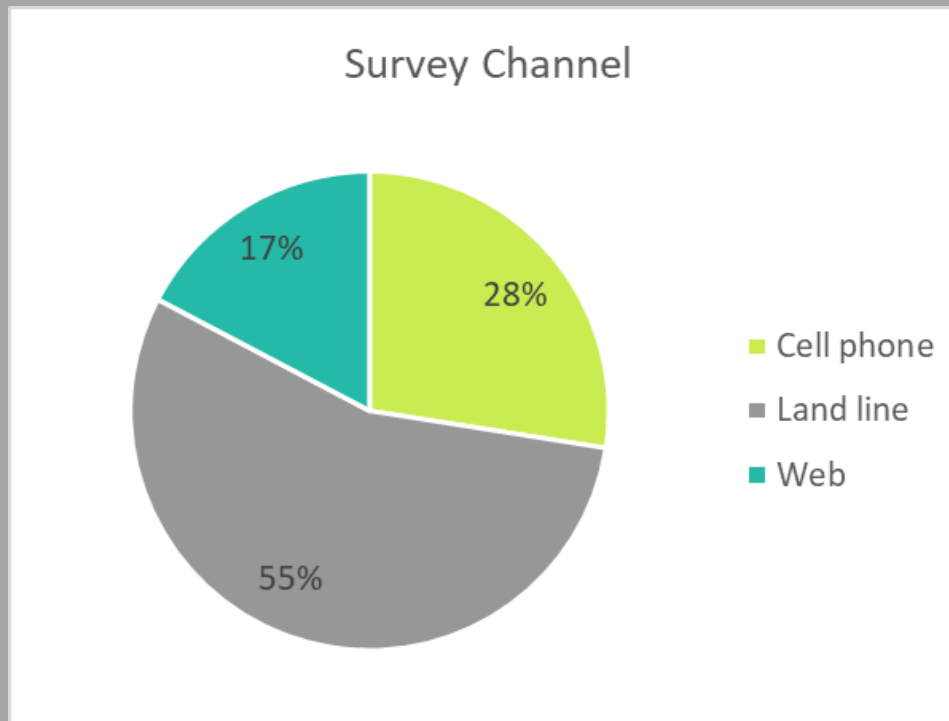
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic targets: Parent households



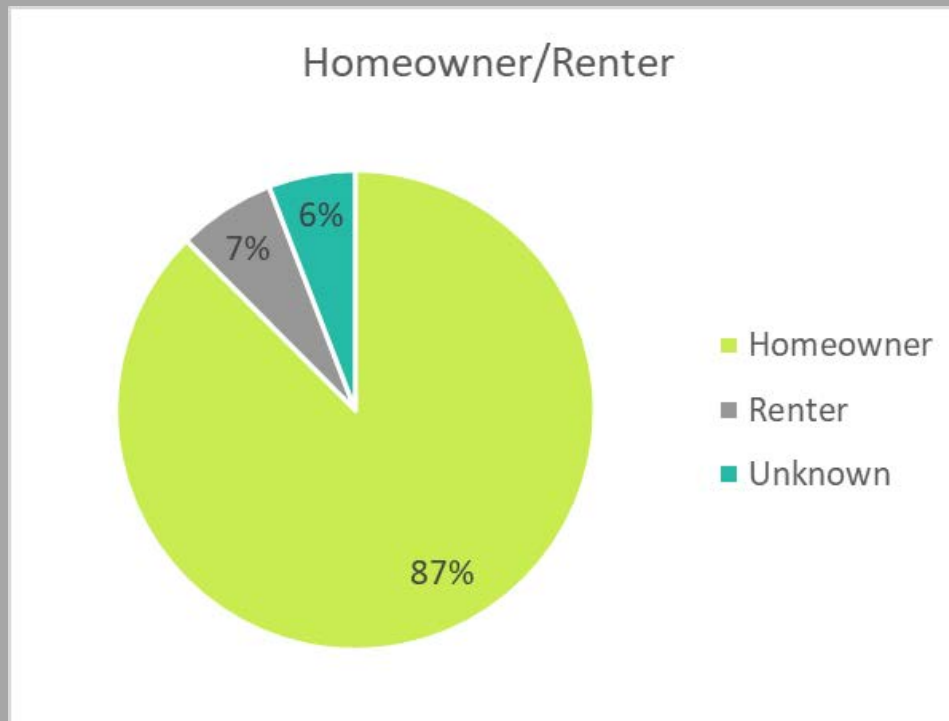
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic targets: Survey channel



SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic targets: Homeowner/renter





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