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# Mahtomedi Public Schools

2020 Community Survey  
Summary of Results



now joined with  
Springsted and Umbaugh





INTRODUCTION

## Survey outline

- Survey included interviews with 308 registered voters in the Mahtomedi school district.
- Interviews were completed between March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Approximate margin of error is  $\pm 5.5\%$ .

## 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
  - Voting history
  - Geographic area
- Cell phones and homeownership were tracked, but were not demographic targets.

## Survey structure

- Main body of survey asked participants to respond to a variety of statements about the District.
- Statements were divided into three broad topic areas:
  - Quality of District leadership and administration.
  - Quality of District performance related to student outcomes.
  - Quality of District programs and facilities.
- Survey also asked questions about the value of the School District within the community, as well as asking where respondents got their information.



**SURVEY RESULTS**

## **Initial impression**

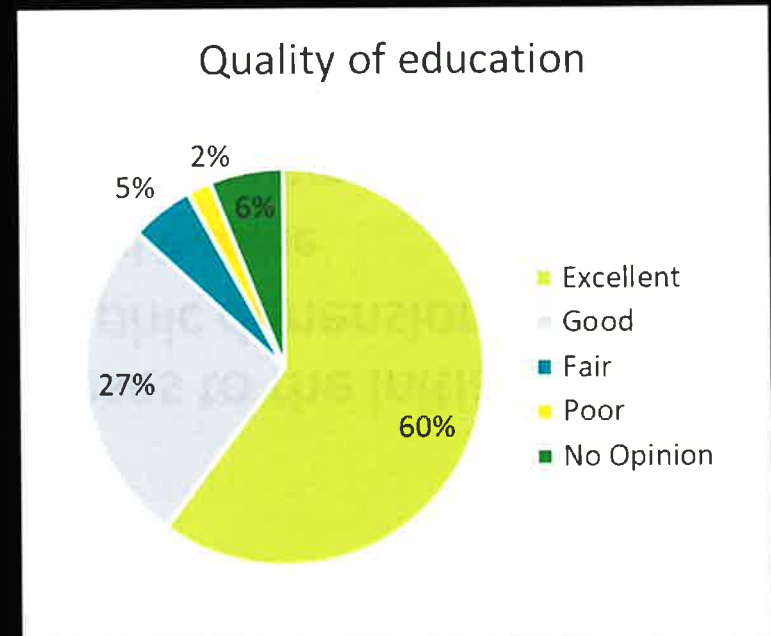
- After a few introductory questions, we asked participants to respond to an initial statement about the School District:

“How would you rate the quality of education provided by Mahtomedi Public Schools?”

SURVEY RESULTS

## Initial impression

- 60% of respondents rated the quality of education at Mahtomedi as Excellent.
- 27% rated MPS as Good.
- 7% gave Fair or Poor ratings.
- 6% of participants could not offer a response.





**SURVEY RESULTS**

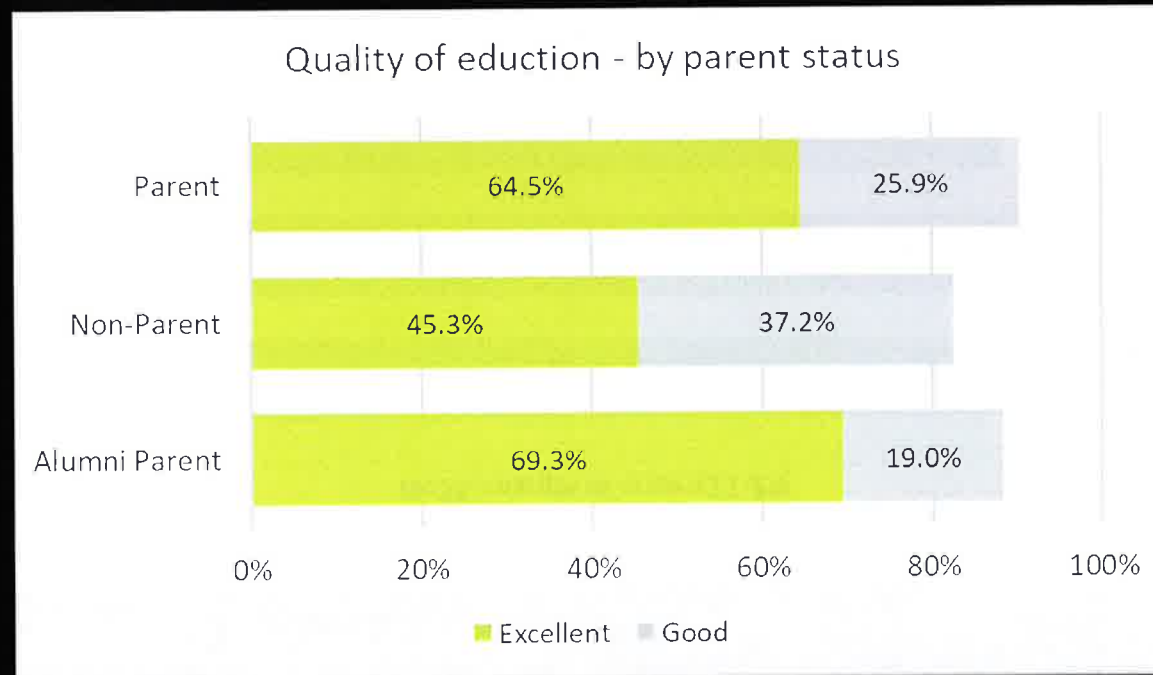
## **Demographic differences**

- The following slides show responses to the initial quality question broken out by demographic dimension:
  - Parent status
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Household Income
  - Educational Attainment
- Charts show combination of Excellent and Good ratings.



SURVEY RESULTS

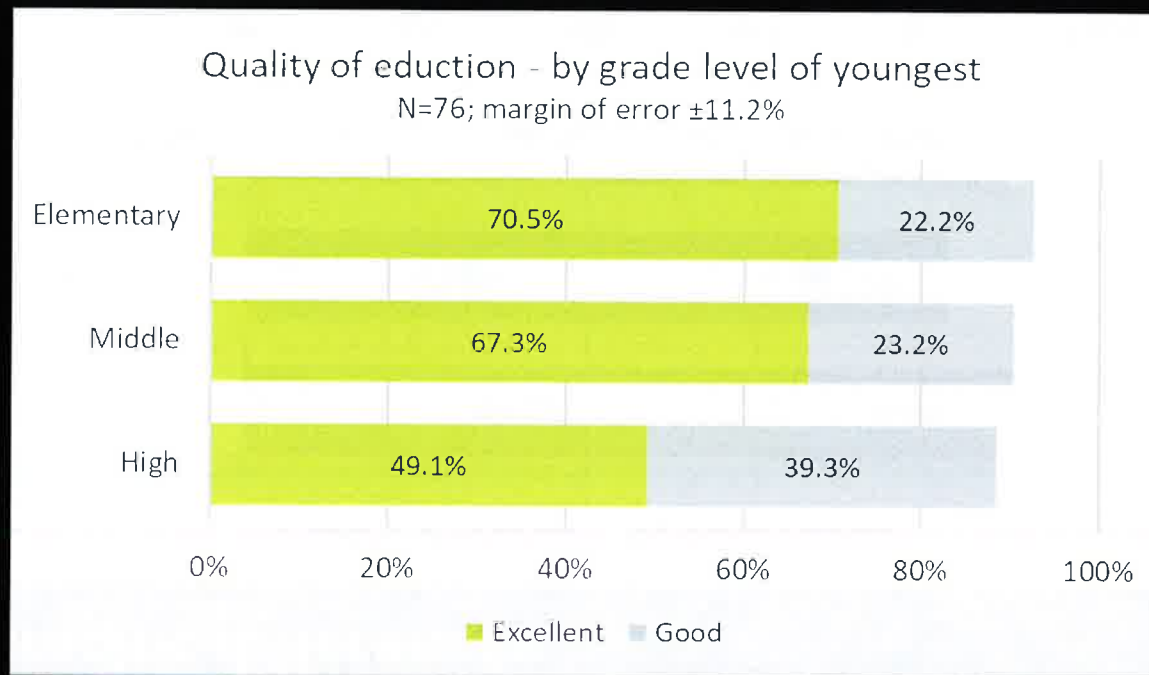
## Demographic differences (cont.)



- Categories represent parents of current MPS students, voters who've never had children in Mahtomedi schools, and parents whose grown children attended MPS in the past.

SURVEY RESULTS

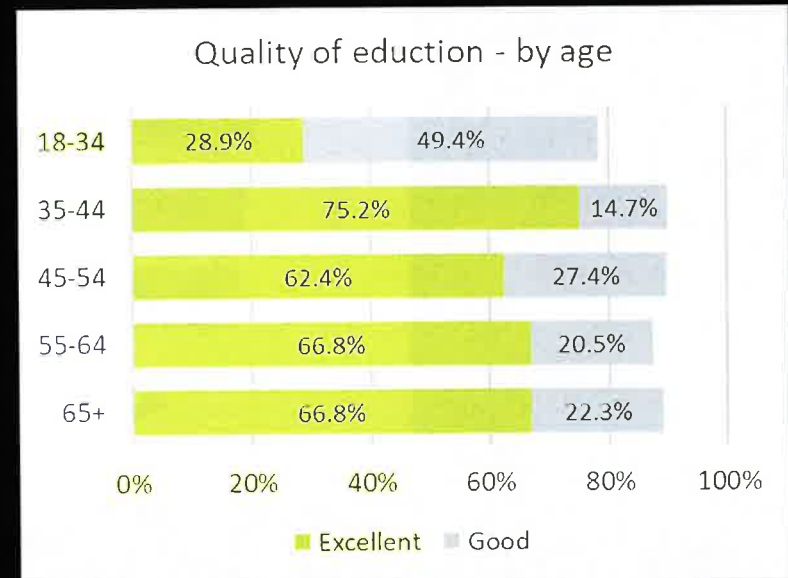
## Demographic differences (cont.)



The chart above includes only responses from voters with children attending Mahtomedi Public Schools.

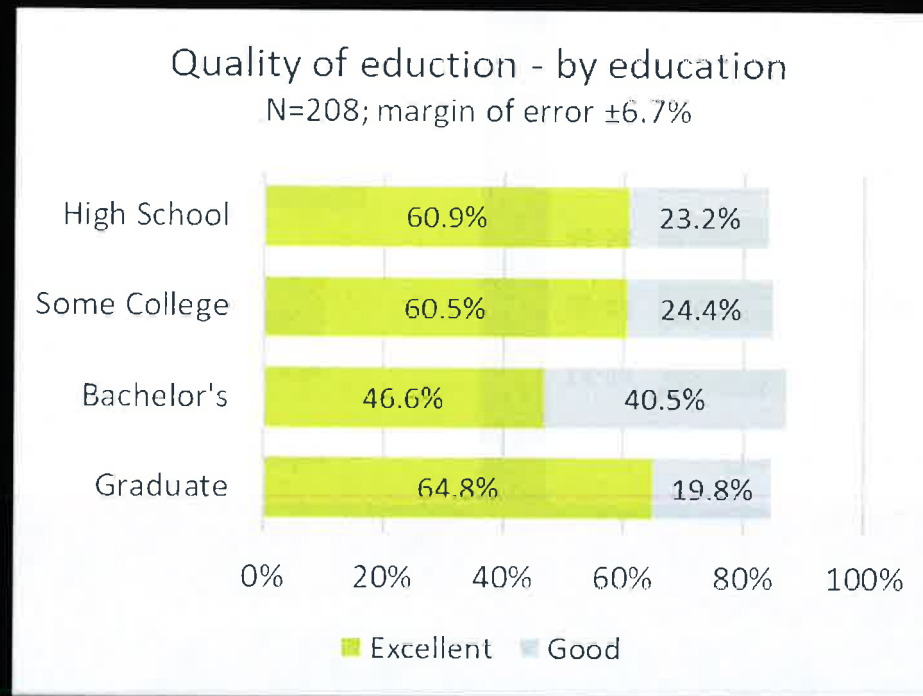
SURVEY RESULTS


# Demographic differences (cont.)



SURVEY RESULTS

## Demographic differences *(cont.)*





SURVEY RESULTS

## Leadership and policy

- Participants were asked a series of questions about the District's leadership and policies.
- Items were presented in random order, to minimize any bias due to their position on the list.



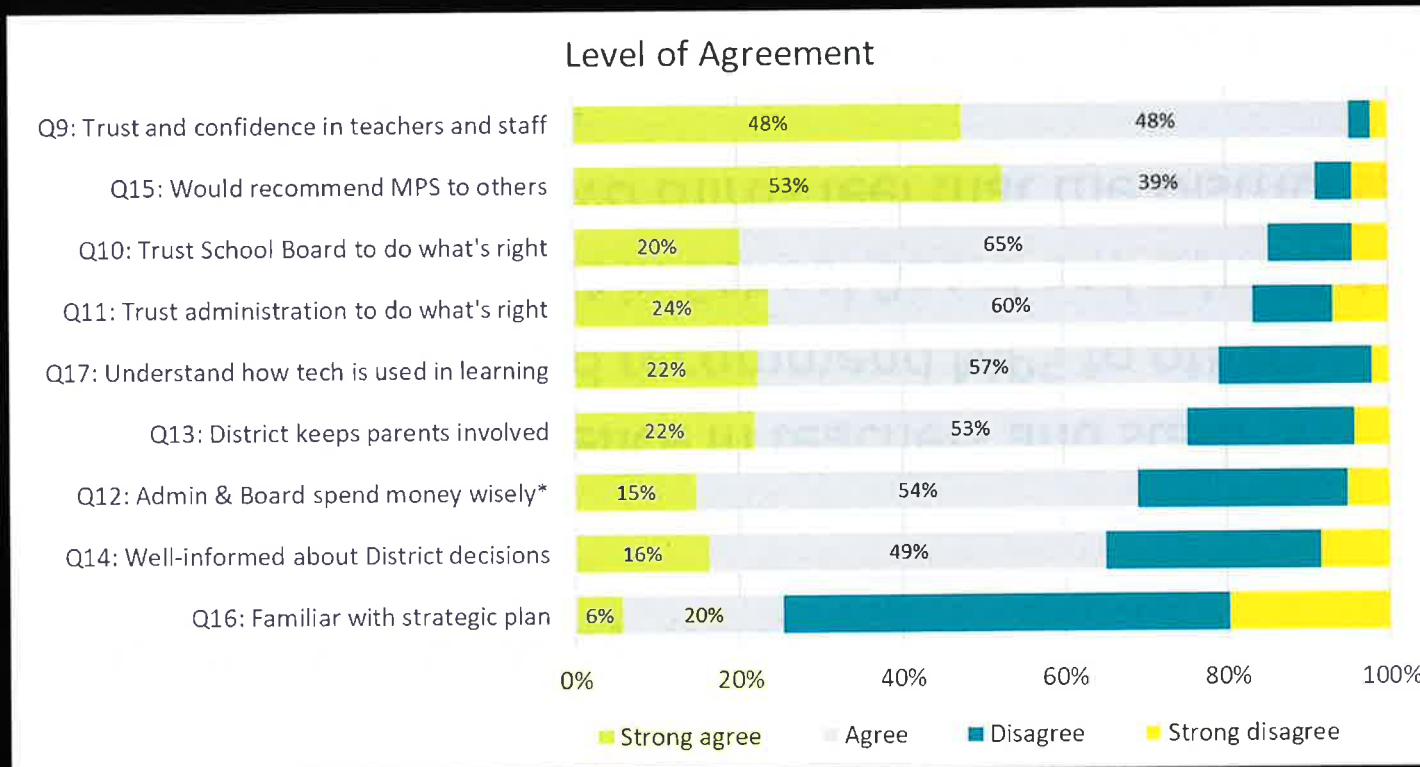
**SURVEY RESULTS**

**Leadership and policy** *(cont.)*

“I am going to read you a list of statements. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it.”

SURVEY RESULTS

# Leadership and policy (cont.)



\* Q12 is similar to a question we asked in 2018 survey. Responses are almost identical to what we saw in 2018.



**SURVEY RESULTS**

## **Leadership and policy** *(cont.)*

- Very high confidence in teachers and staff.
- 9 out of 10 would recommend MPS to others.
- High level of trust in School Board and administration.
- Approximately two thirds feel that the District spends its money wisely.
  - Similar proportion feel that the District keeps them well informed about its decisions.
- Low level of familiarity with the District's strategic plan.





**SURVEY RESULTS**

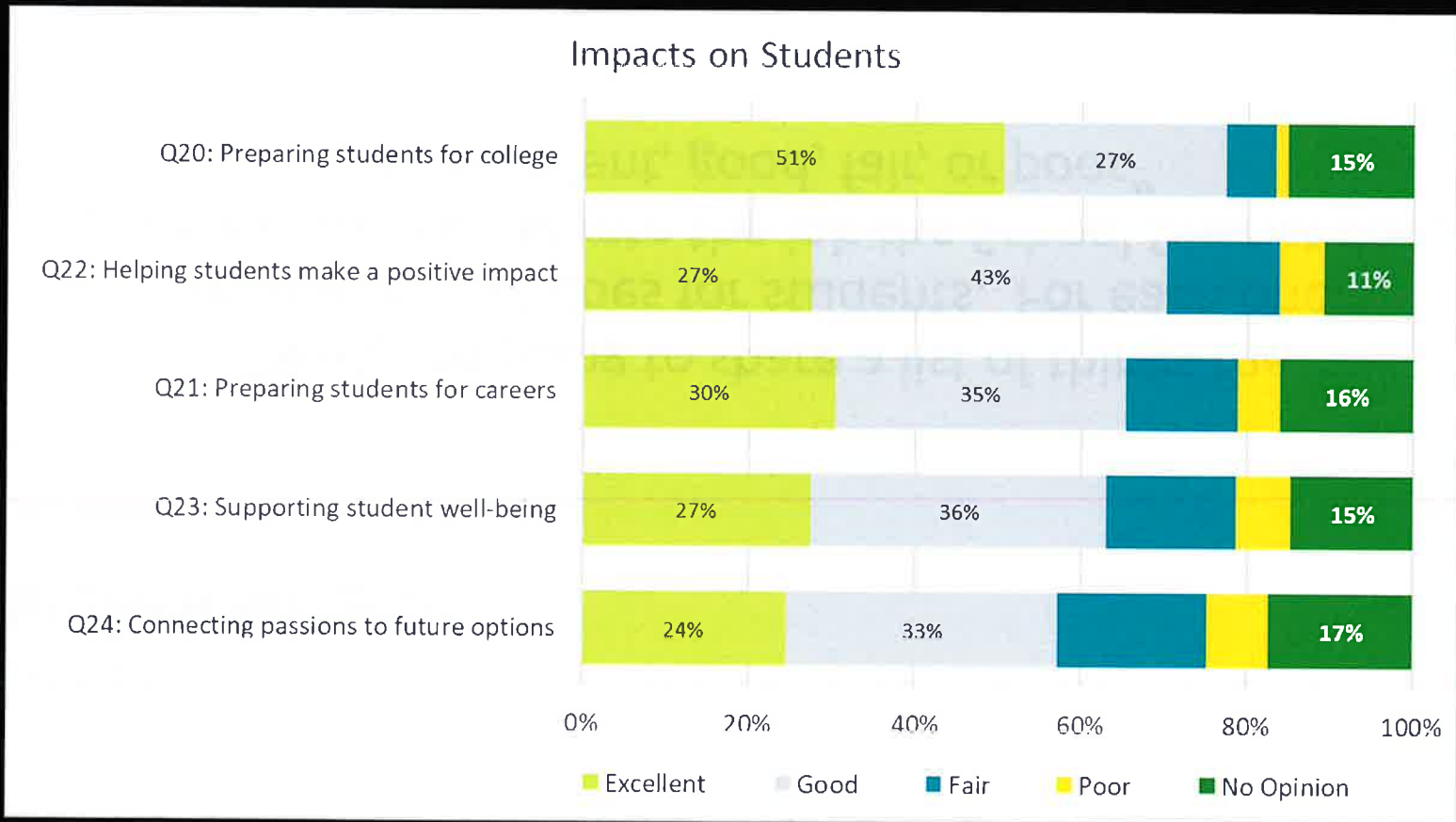
## **Student impacts**

“Next, I’m going to share a list of things the School District does for students. For each one, tell me if you would rate the job the School District does as excellent, good, fair, or poor.”

- As with previous set of statements, items were given to each participant in random order.

SURVEY RESULTS

# Student impacts (cont.)





**SURVEY RESULTS**

## **Student impacts** *(cont.)*

- Highest marks for college preparation.
  - Over half ranked this element as Excellent.
- Other impacts had Excellent ratings between 24% and 30%.
  - Combined Excellent/Good ratings ranged from 57% to 70%.
- Proportion of respondents with no opinion to offer about student impacts averaged approximately 15%.



**SURVEY RESULTS**

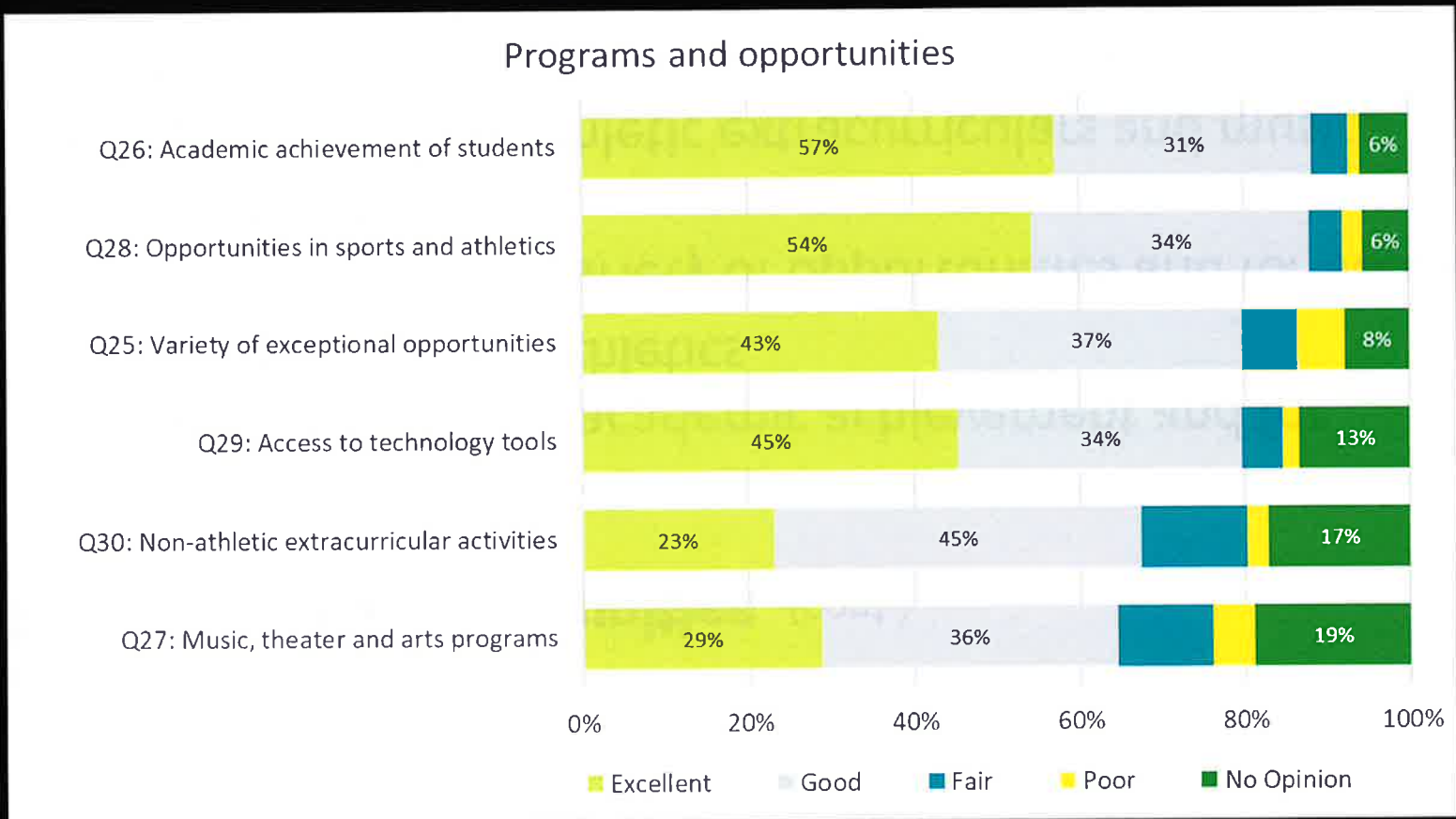
## **Programs and opportunities**

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

- Again, items were given to each participant in random order.

SURVEY RESULTS

# Programs and opportunities *(cont.)*





SURVEY RESULTS

## **Programs and opportunities** *(cont.)*

- Highest marks for academic achievement and for opportunities in athletics.
- Good ratings for variety of opportunities and for access to technology.
- Ratings for non-athletic extracurriculars and music, theater and arts programs were not as high.
  - Lowest-ranked items still had combined Excellent/Good ratings of 64% to 68%.



**SURVEY RESULTS**

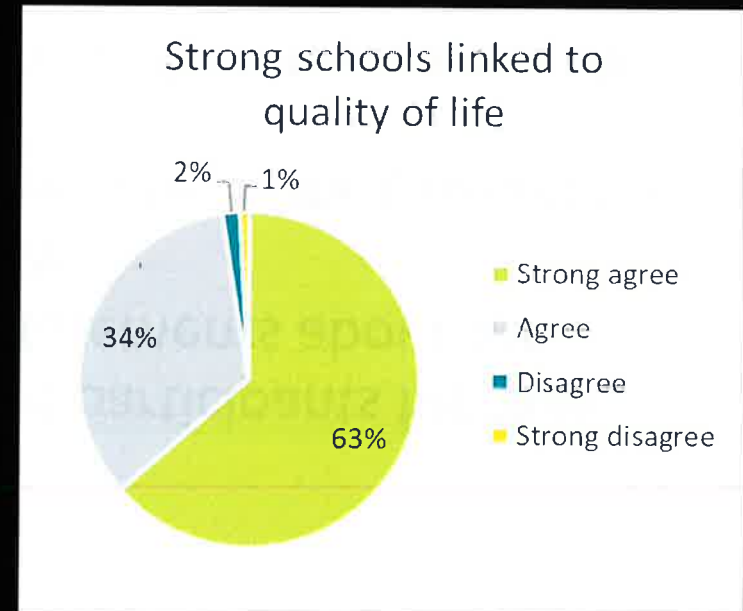
## **Community values**

- Two additional questions asked participants for their level of agreement with two statements about the District's role in the community:
  - “Strong public schools are directly linked to the quality of life and viability of our community.”
  - “Our community receives good value from its investment in Mahtomedi Public Schools.”

SURVEY RESULTS

## Community values *(cont.)*

- 63% of respondents strongly agreed that strong schools were linked to the community's quality of life.
- Only 3% disagreed with the statement.

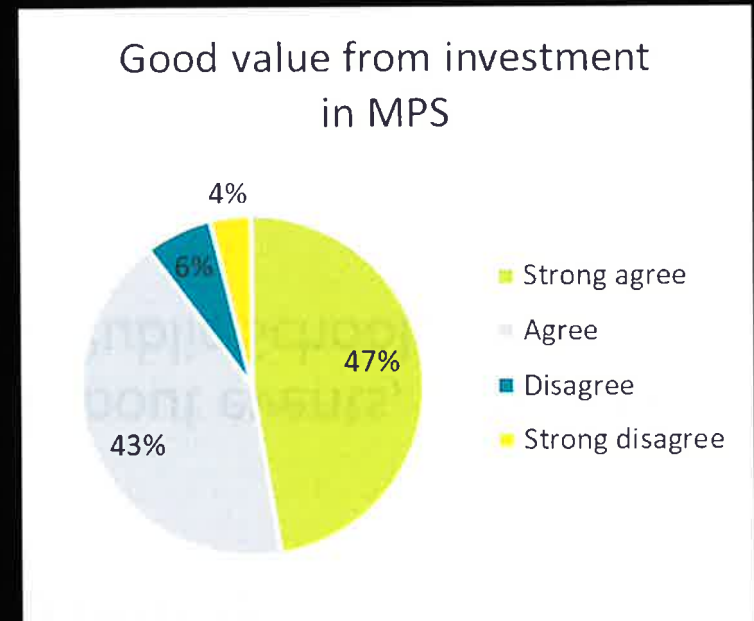




SURVEY RESULTS

## Community values *(cont.)*

- Nearly half of respondents strongly agreed that investments in the District were a good value.
- Combined agreement was 90%.
- 10% disagreed with the statement.



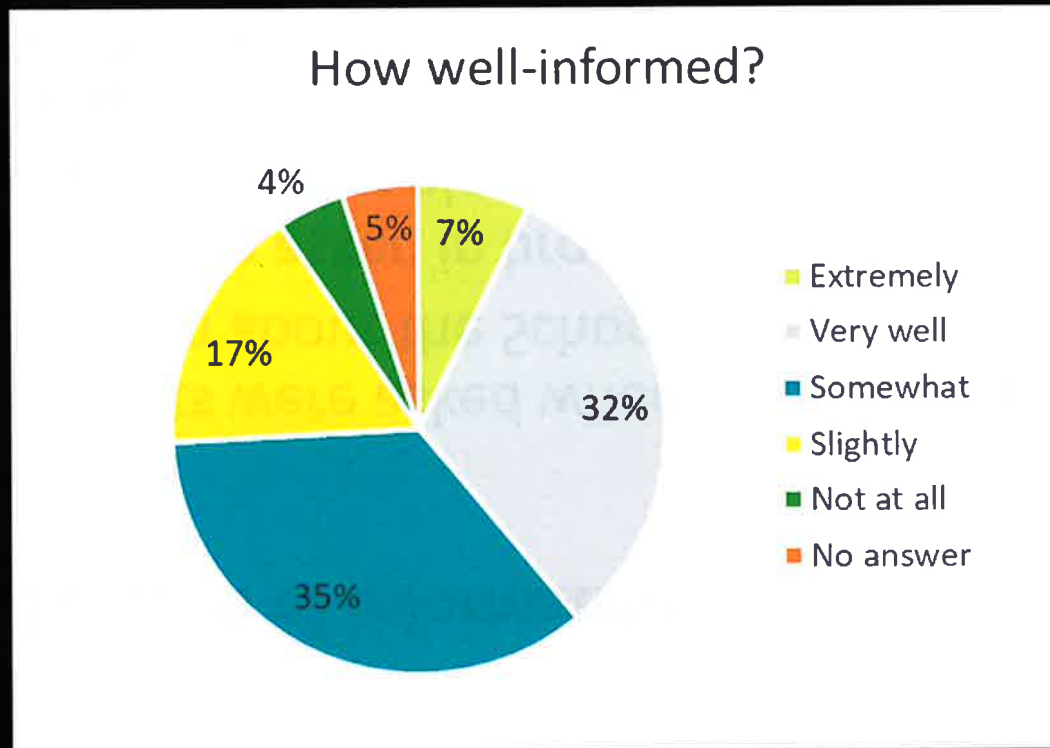


COMMUNICATION

## **Awareness of District events and issues**

“How well informed do you feel about events, programs and stories at Mahtomedi Public Schools?”

## Awareness of District events and issues *(cont.)*



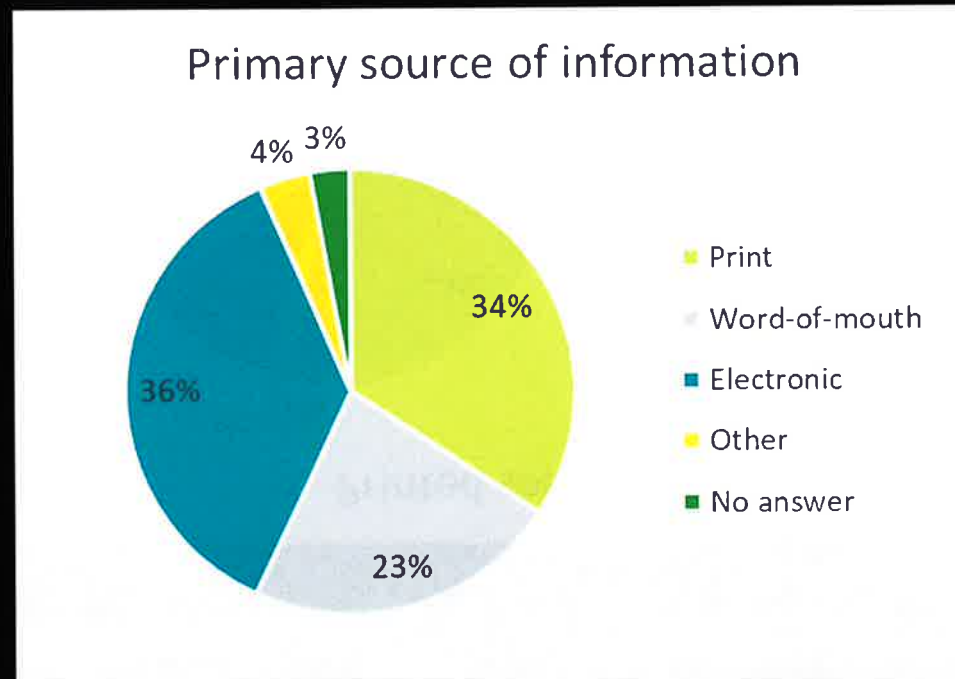


COMMUNICATION

## **Preferred source of information**

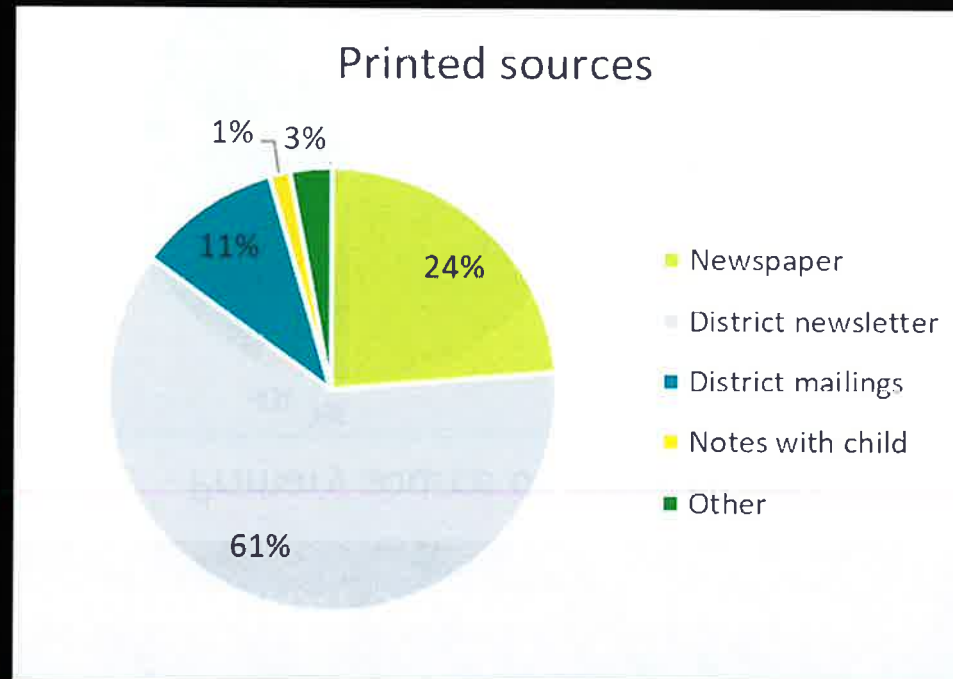
- Participants were asked where they got most of their information about the School District.
- First question asked in broad terms: printed materials, word-of-mouth, or electronic sources.
  - Each group then chose from a list of specific examples in the appropriate category.

## Preferred information source – general

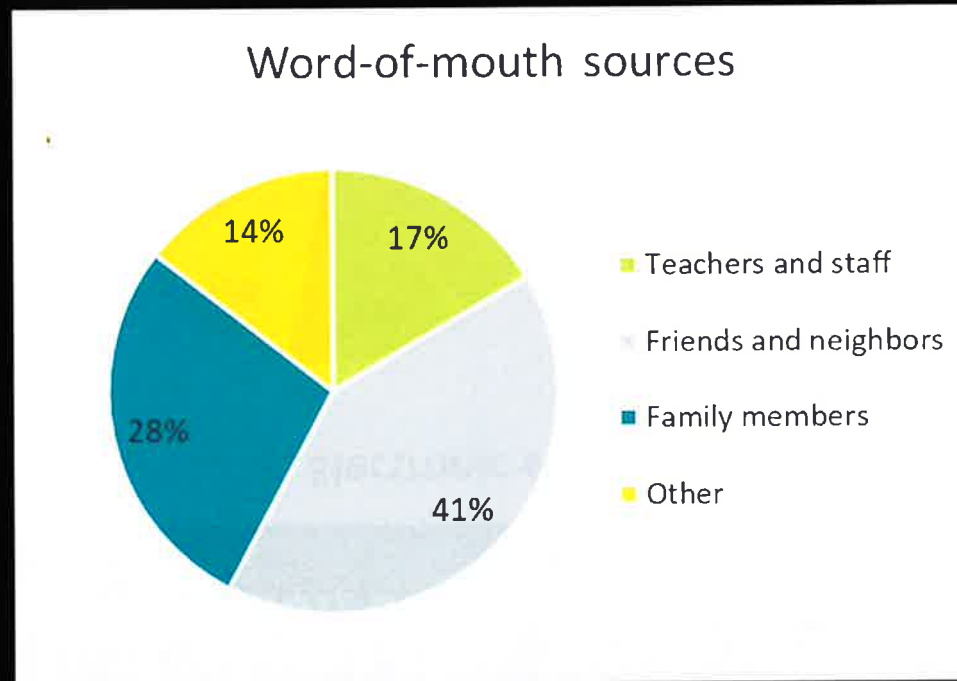


- “Other” responses included first-hand experience and those with no information at all.

## Preferred information source – print sources

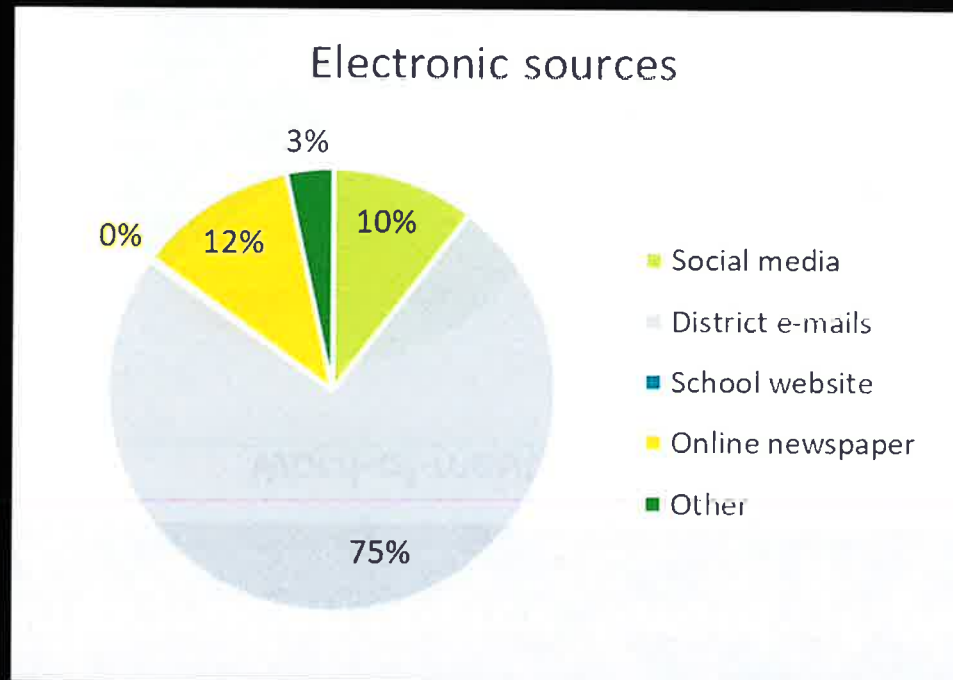


## Preferred information source – word-of-mouth



- “Other” responses referenced other parents and people from church.

## Preferred information source – electronic







**SURVEY FINDINGS**

## **Findings: quality ratings**

- 60% rated quality of education as Excellent; 27% rated quality as Good.
- Highest excellence ratings came from elementary school parents, respondents 35-44 years of age, and respondents with household income of \$75,000-\$99,999 per year.
- Comparatively lower excellence ratings from non-parents, respondents 18-34 years of age, and respondents with annual household income under \$50,000.



**SURVEY FINDINGS**

## **Findings: leadership and policy**

- Very high level of trust and confidence in teachers and classroom staff.
- Very high level of respondents who would recommend the District to others.
- Only one quarter of respondents expressed any familiarity with the District's strategic plan.



**SURVEY FINDINGS**

## **Findings: impacts on students**

- More than three quarters of respondents agreed that the District did a good job of preparing students for success in college.
- Other student impacts tested at 57% to 70% agreement.
- On average, 15% of respondents did not have an opinion to offer about student impacts.



**SURVEY FINDINGS**

## **Findings: programs and opportunities**

- More than half of respondents gave Excellent ratings to academic achievement and sports/athletic opportunities offered to students.
  - Combined Excellent/Good rankings were 88% for both categories.
- Excellent ratings were under 30% for non-athletic extracurricular offerings and for music, theater, and arts programs.
  - Combined Excellent/Good rankings averaged 66% for these two areas.



**SURVEY FINDINGS**

## **Findings: community values**

- Broad agreement that the strength of the School District is linked to the community's quality of life, and that investments in the School District represent a good value.



**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.)*

- Interviewing was cut short due to schools closing statewide to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Because calls were stopped, a number of demographic targets were missed.
  - Parent households were oversampled, as were voters 35-54, which correlate with parent status.
- After applying weights to responses for rebalancing, the effective sample size for the project was 308, as reported early in this summary.



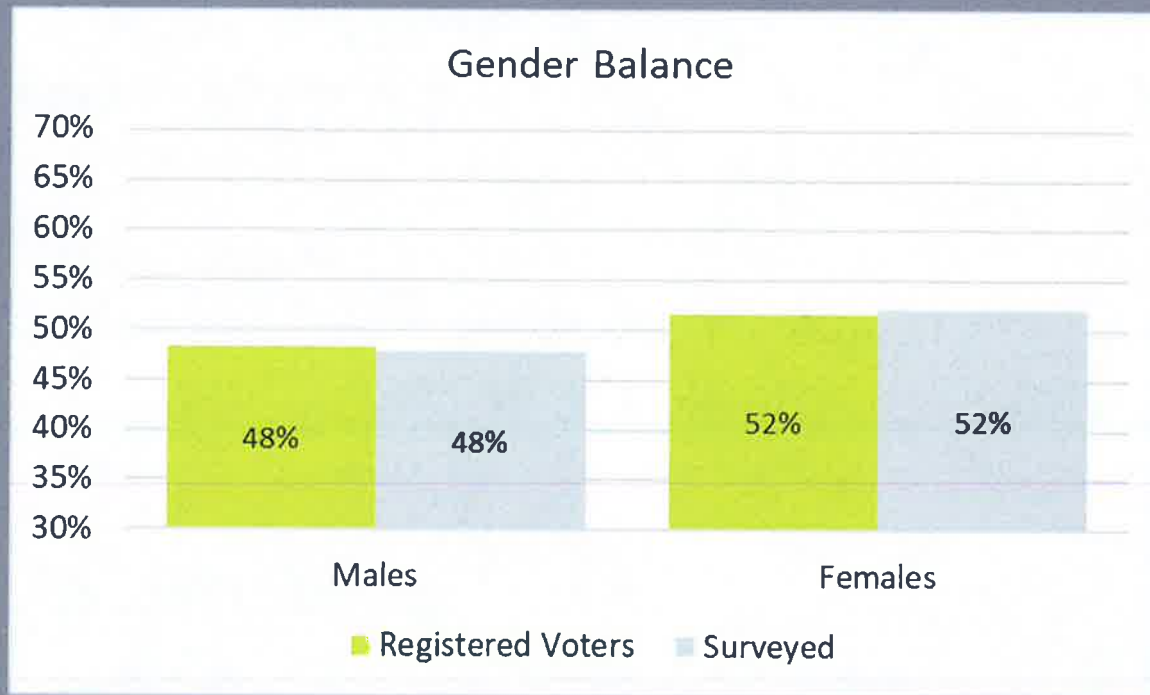


## **Survey demographics** *(cont.)*

- The following slides show proportions of total interviews versus targets before any sample weighting was performed.
- After re-balancing, samples were each within 1.3% of targets.
- Cell phones and homeownership were tracked for informational purposes, but were not treated as targets.

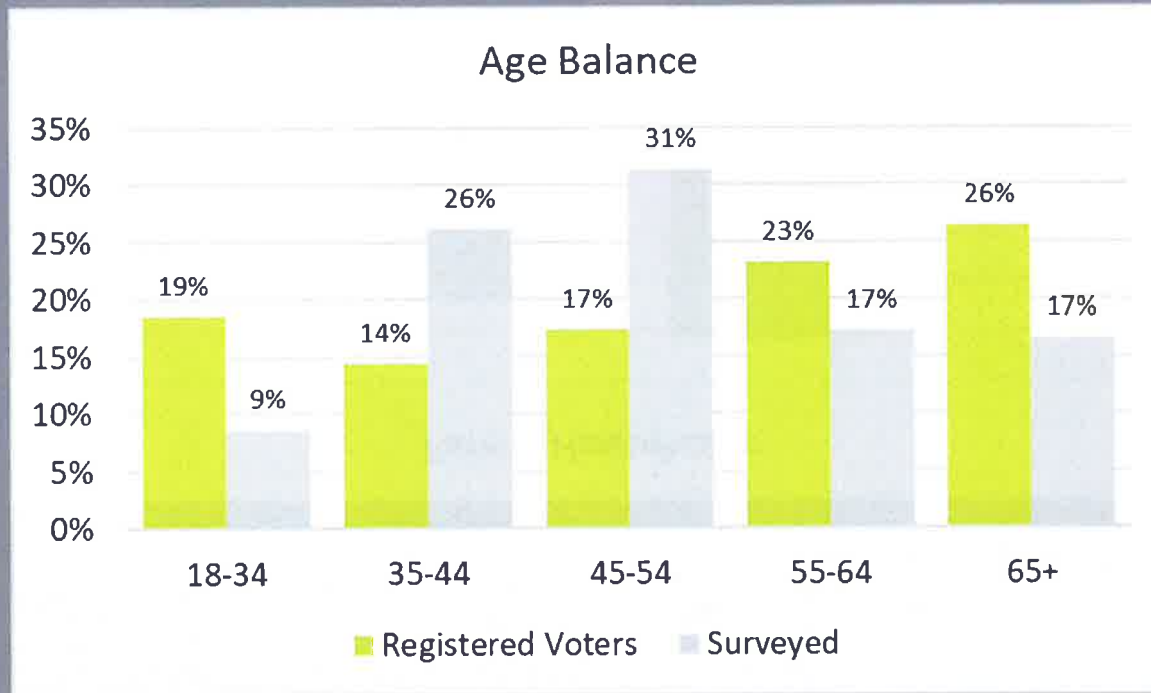
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

## Demographic targets: Gender



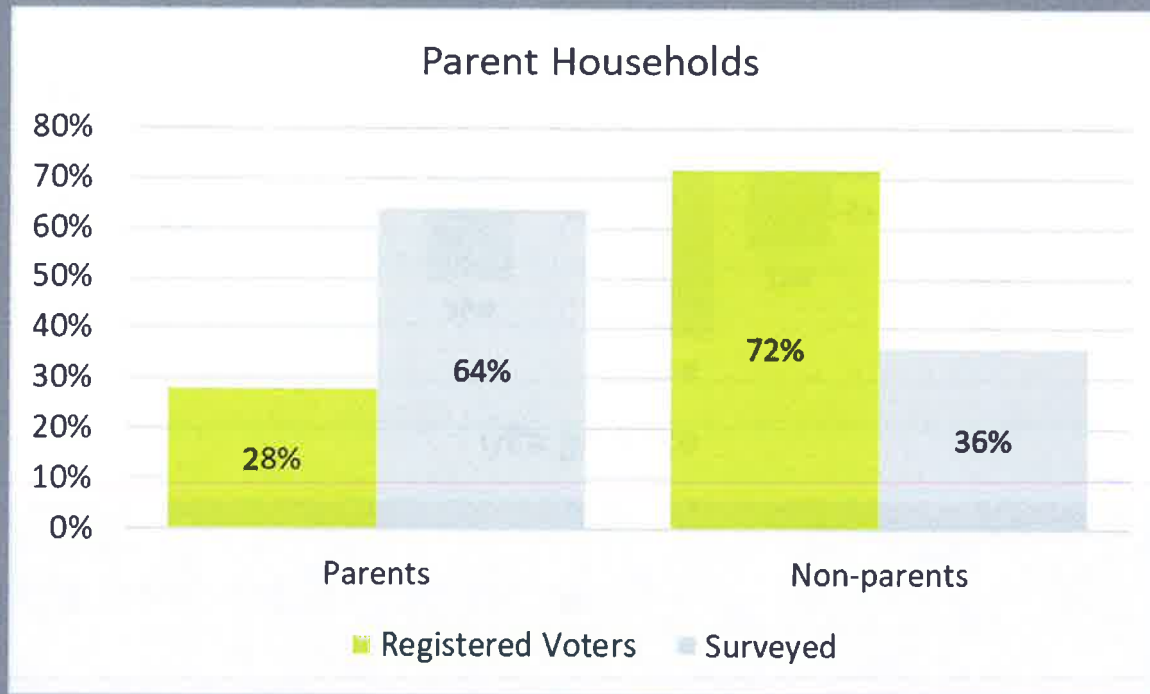
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

# Demographic targets: Age



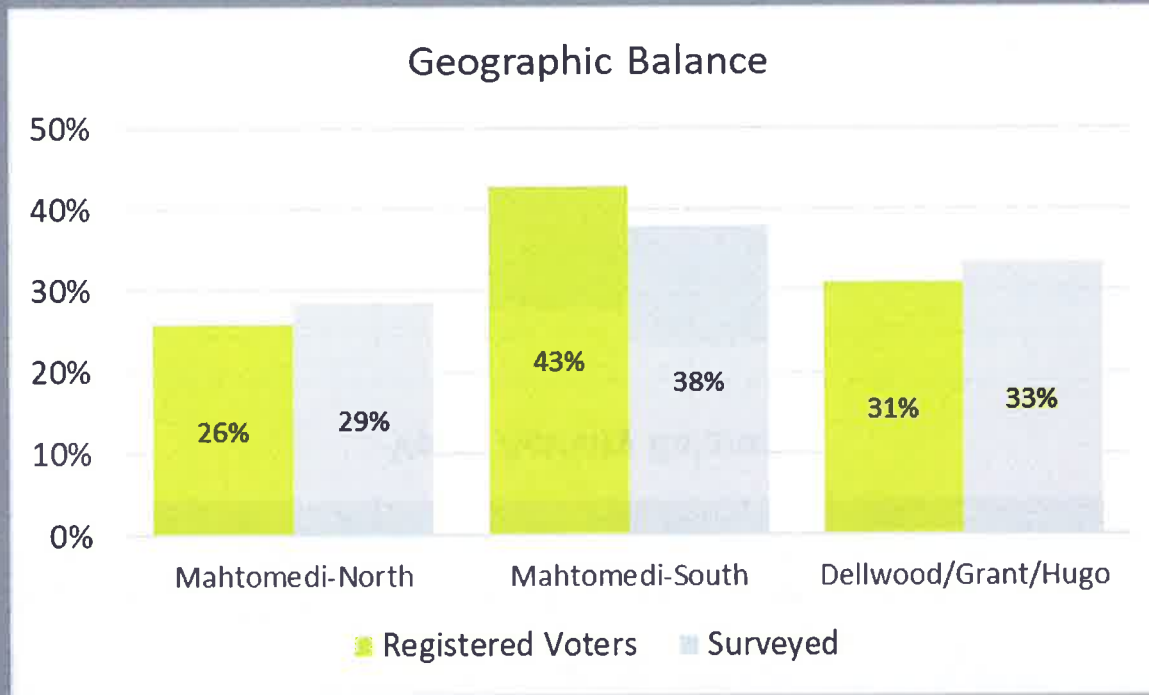
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

## Demographic targets: Parent households



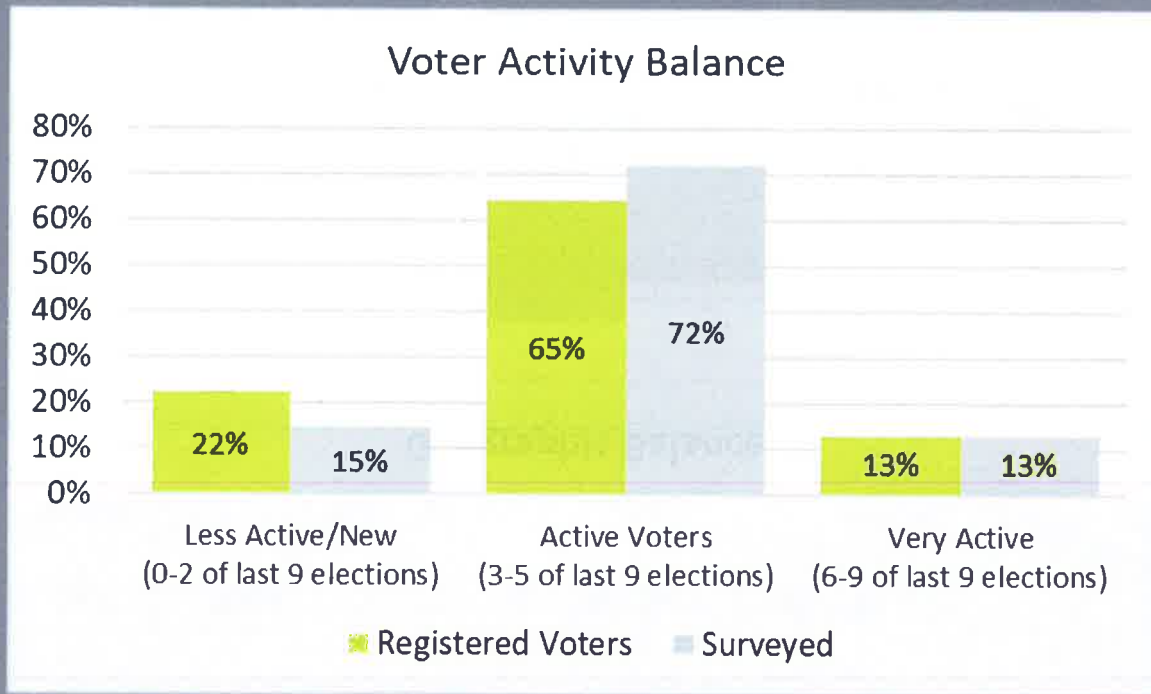
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

## Supplementary demographics: location



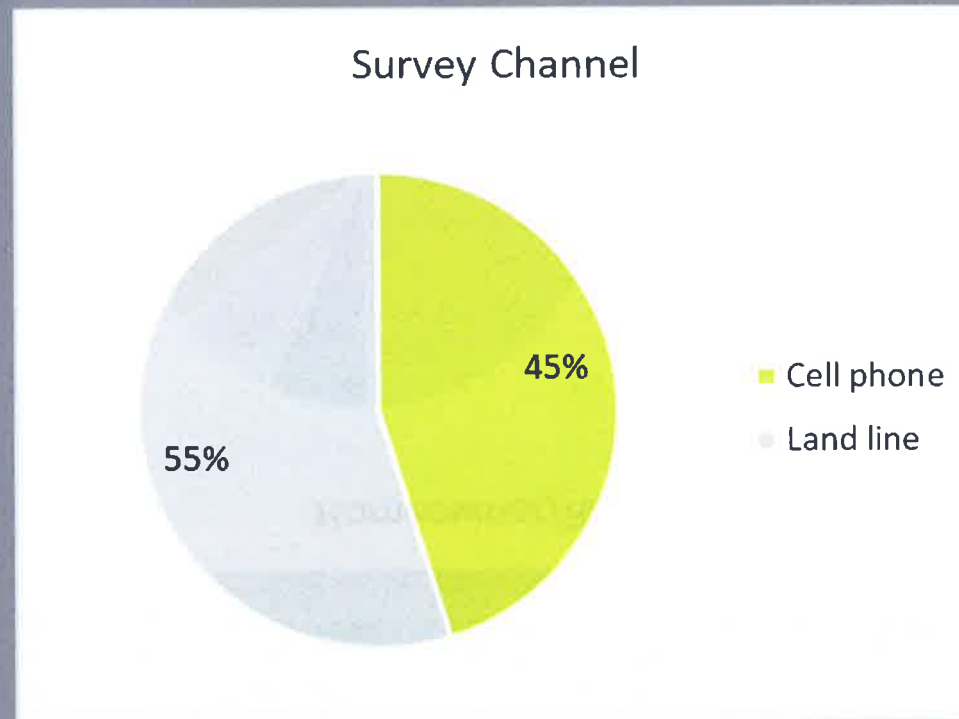
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

# Demographic targets: Past voting activity



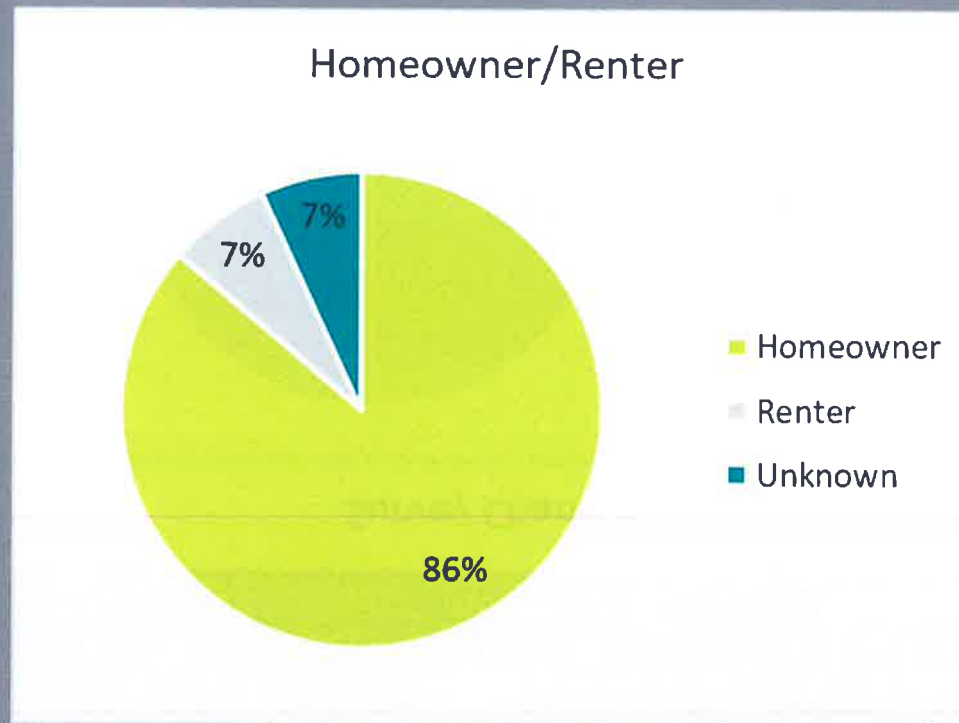
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

## Supplementary demographics: Survey channel



SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

## Supplementary demographics: Homeowner/renter







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