

# DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL SFID BOND FEASIBILITY SURVEY

CONDUCTED FOR  
CAPISTRANO USD

PRESENTED BY  
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4/12/2022





# PURPOSE OF STUDY

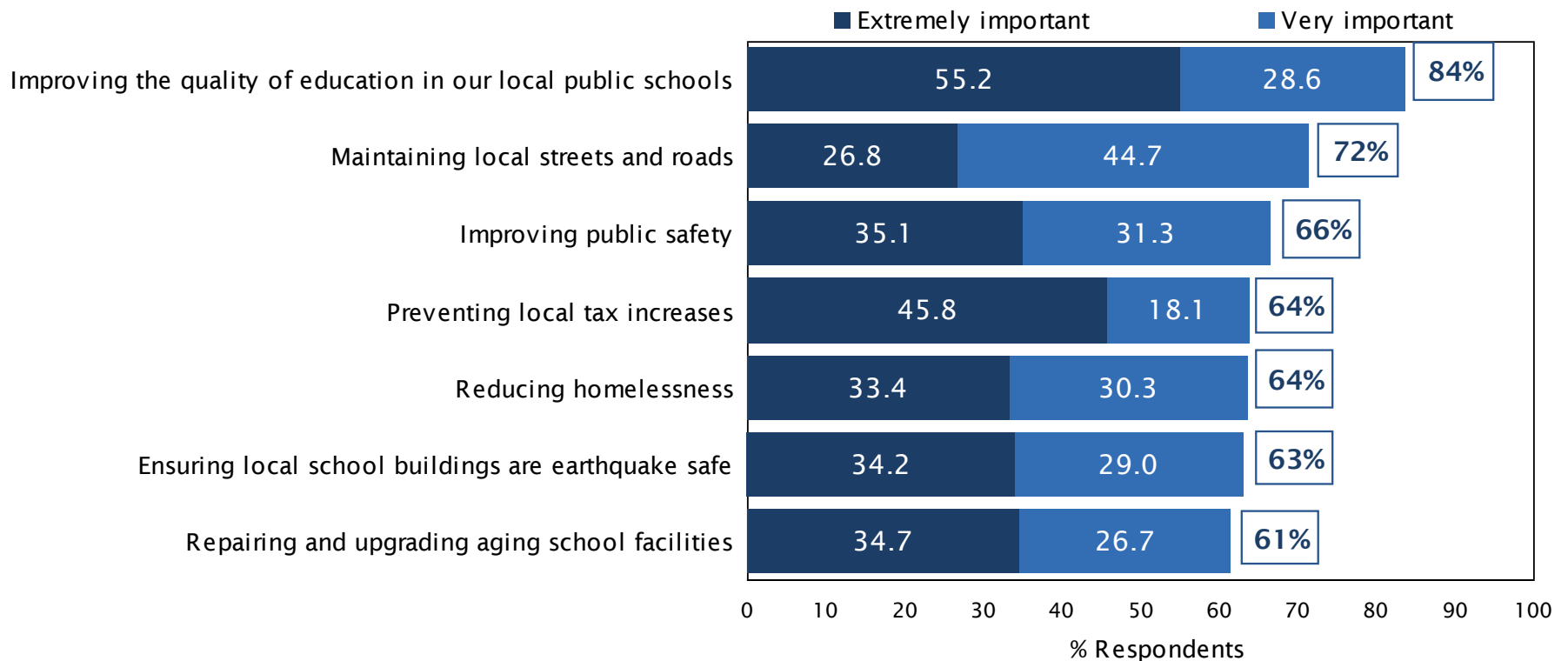
- Determine if a bond measure to rebuild Dana Hills High School is feasible
- Identify how to create a measure consistent with community priorities
- Gather information needed for communications & outreach



# METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

- Conducted March 21<sup>st</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Random Sample: 442 voters in Dana Hills High School SFID likely to participate in November 2022 election
- Mixed-Method approach
  - Recruited via email, text and telephone
  - Data collection via online and telephone
  - 16 minute average interview length
- Overall margin of error is  $\pm 4.6\%$

# IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES





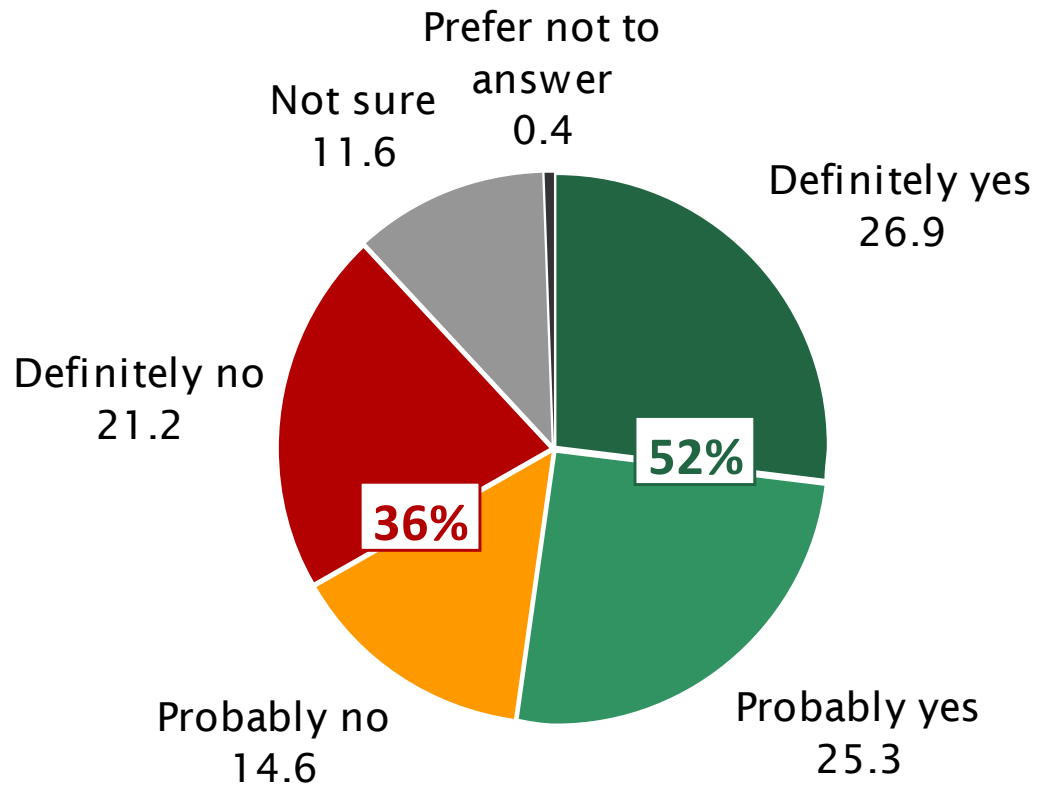
# INITIAL BALLOT TEST

In order to:

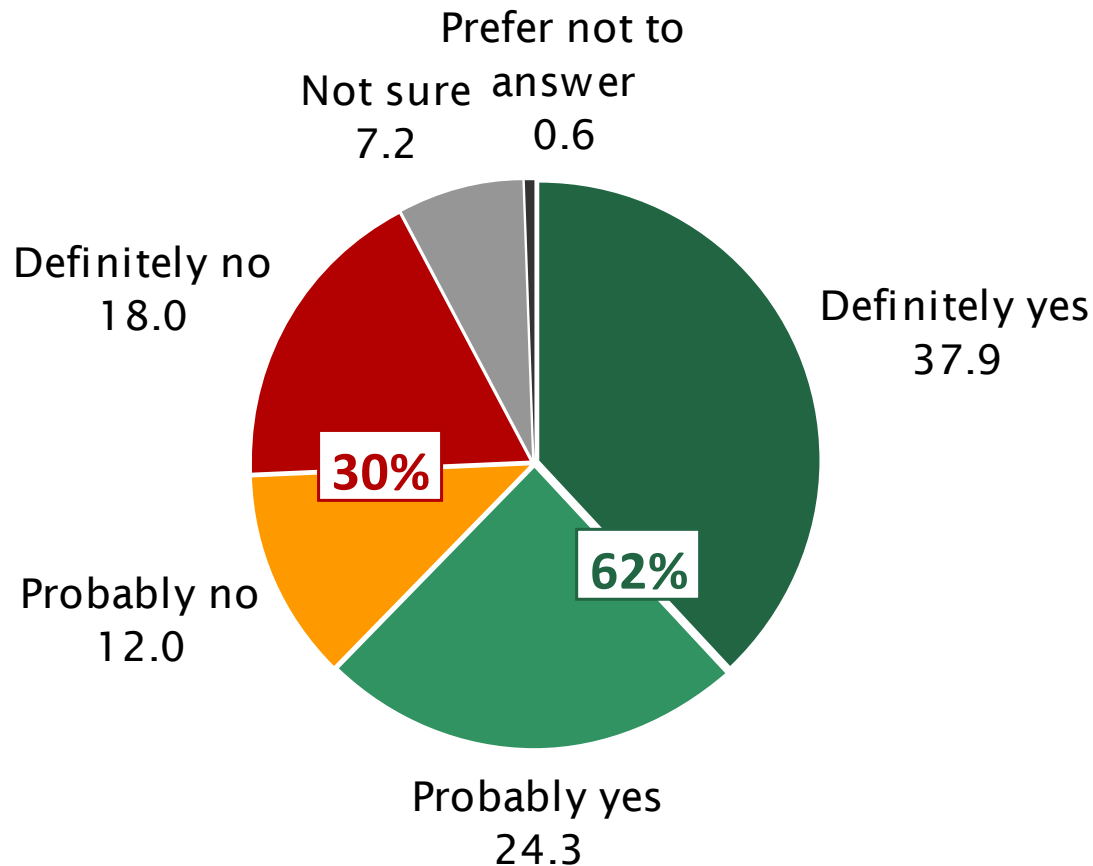
- Repair or replace old classrooms and facilities at Dana Hills High School that don't meet earthquake safety standards
- And construct/acquire modern classrooms, science labs, and career technical facilities that support college and career readiness in science, technology, arts, math, and skilled trades

shall Capistrano Unified School District's (SFID #2) measure be approved authorizing 148 million dollars in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (9 million dollars annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizen oversight and all money locally-controlled? If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this measure?

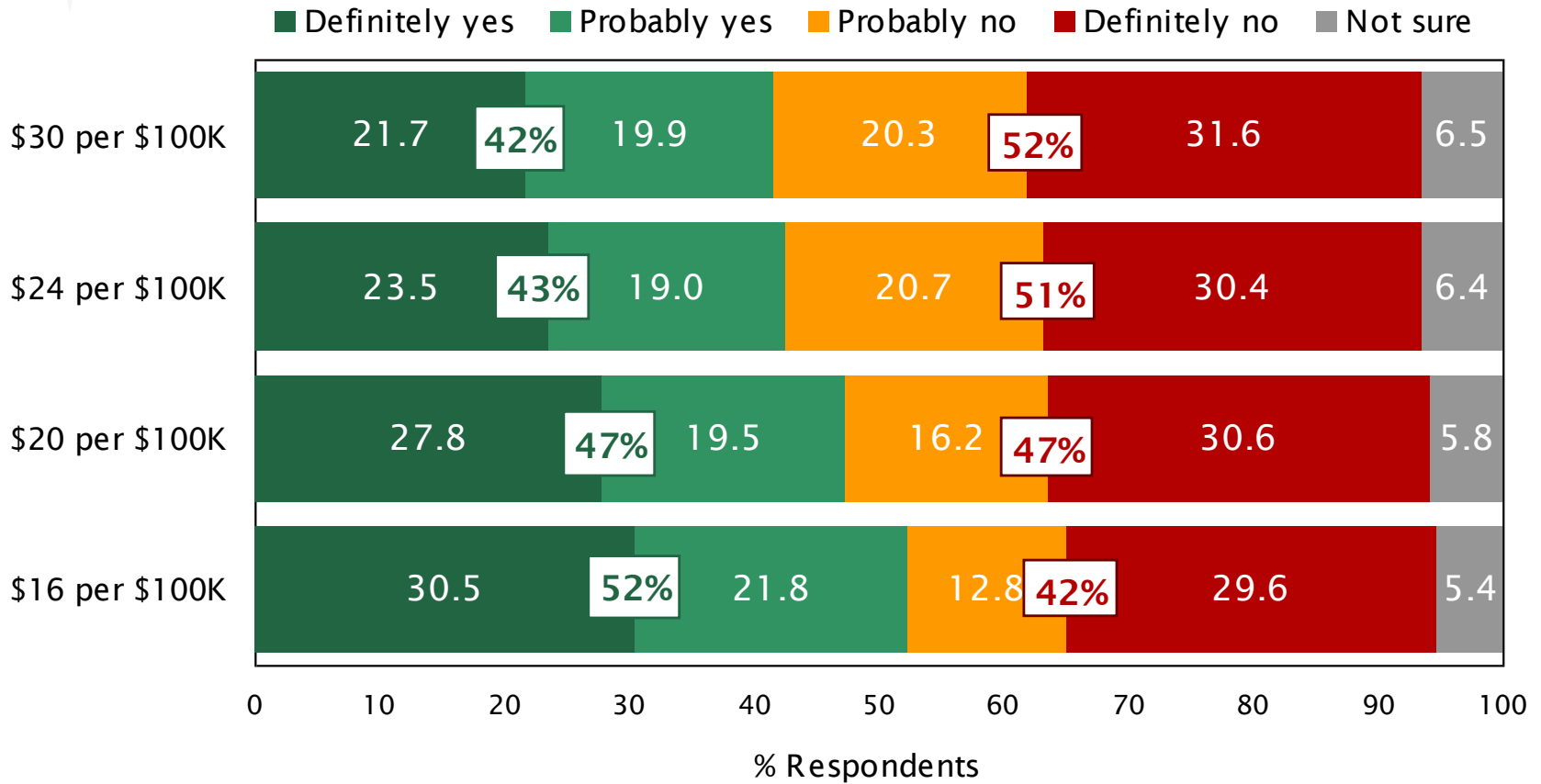
# INITIAL BALLOT TEST



# INITIAL BALLOT TEST: MONEY WILL STAY TO REBUILD DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

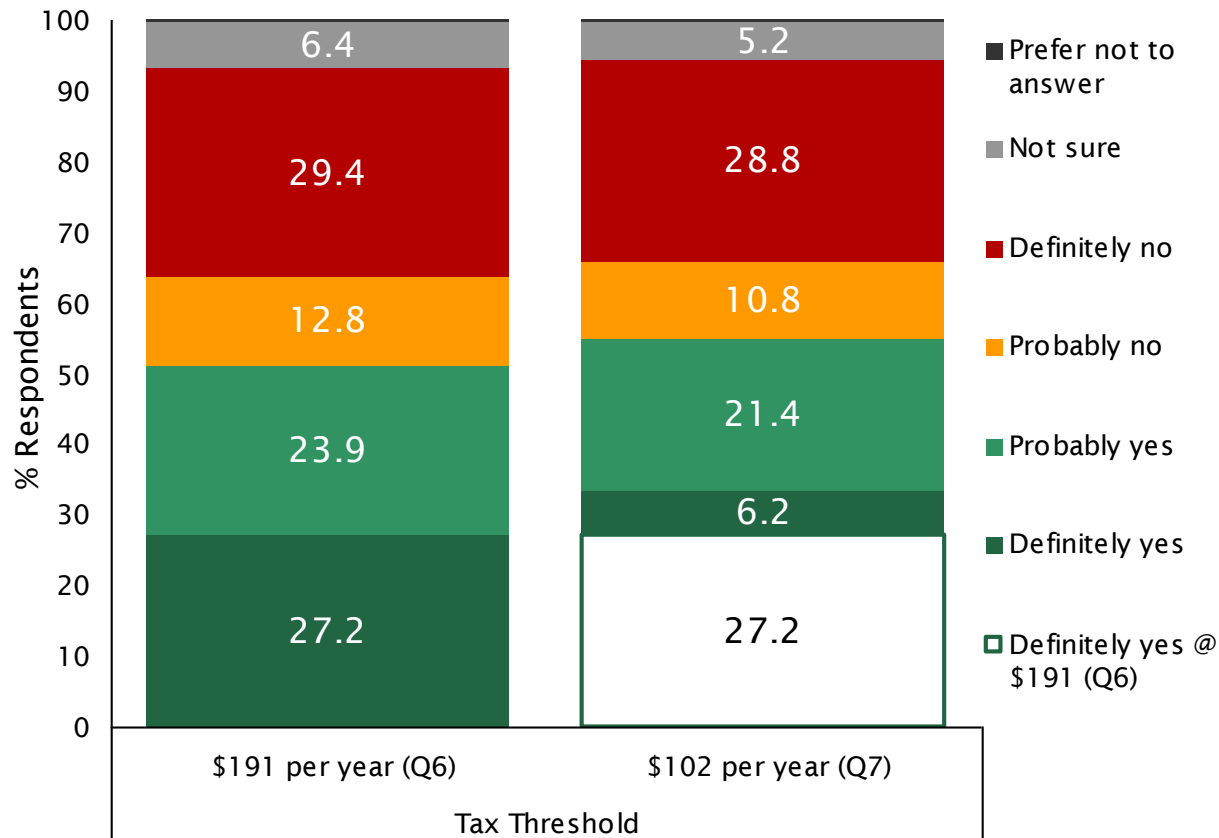


# TAX THRESHOLD





# SUPPORT FOR MEASURE AT RATES OF \$191 & \$102 PER YEAR FOR MEDIAN HOMEOWNER



# PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Provide modern labs, career tech facilities, equip so students prepared for college, in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, tech, skilled trades

Remove hazardous materials like asbestos, lead pipes

Provide modern classrooms, science labs, tec needed to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering, technology

Upgrade, replace older classrooms, school facilities so they meet current health codes, building safety codes, provide proper access for students with disabilities

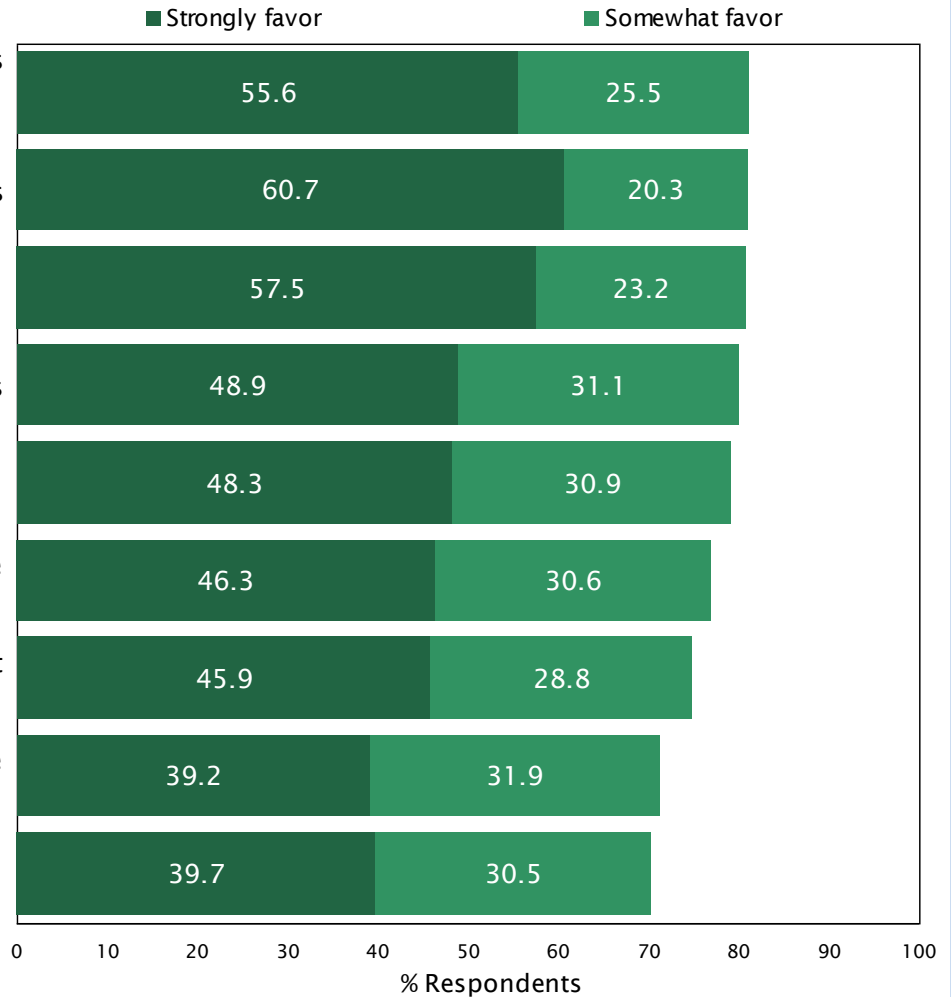
Replace aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair, maintain with safe, modern classrooms

Create flexible, multi-use classrooms to support hands-on science instruction, learning-by-doing

Repair, replace classrooms, school facilities that do not meet earthquake safety standards

Make energy efficiency improvements to save on utility bills, have more money to spend in classroom educating students

Provide modern classrooms, facilities needed to support high quality instruction in music, visual, performing arts



# POSITIVE ARGUMENTS

Dana Hills HS was built 50 years ago, back when asbestos, lead pipes were used during construction; we need to remove these hazardous materials from school

If voters approve measure, Dana Hills HS will be eligible to receive about \$55M in State matching money that otherwise will go to other school districts

Even with no school-age children, supporting school bond is a wise investment; good schools improve quality of life in community and protect the value of homes

Measure requires clear system of accountability, project list, Citizens' Oversight Committee, independent audits to ensure money spent properly

Dana Hills HS built 50 yrs ago, does not meet State's standards for structural integrity, earthquake safety; nearly all buildings need to be retrofitted, replaced

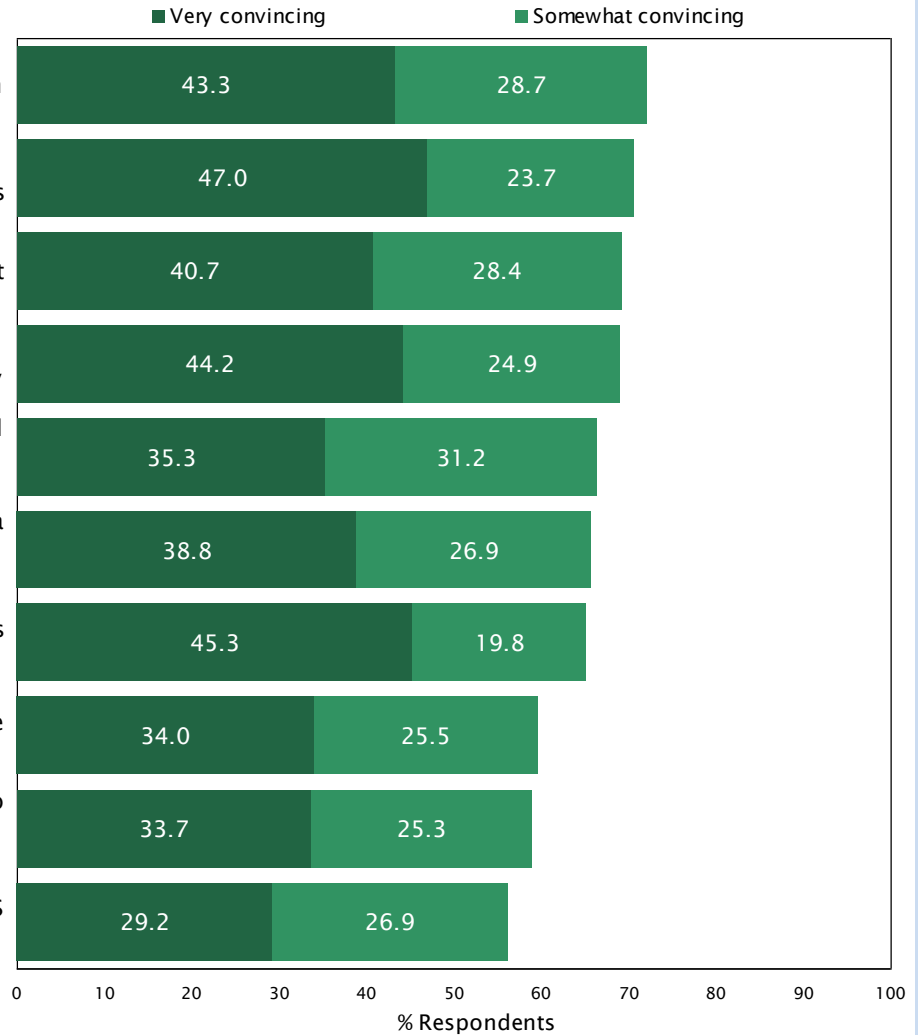
Students deserve same opportunities as others in region; modernizing Dana Hills HS will ensure students have access to facilities, tech, education to succeed

By law, no money from this measure can be used for administrators' salaries or benefits

Because Dana Hills HS doesn't meet modern health, safety codes, even simple renovations will trigger mandatory seismic upgrades

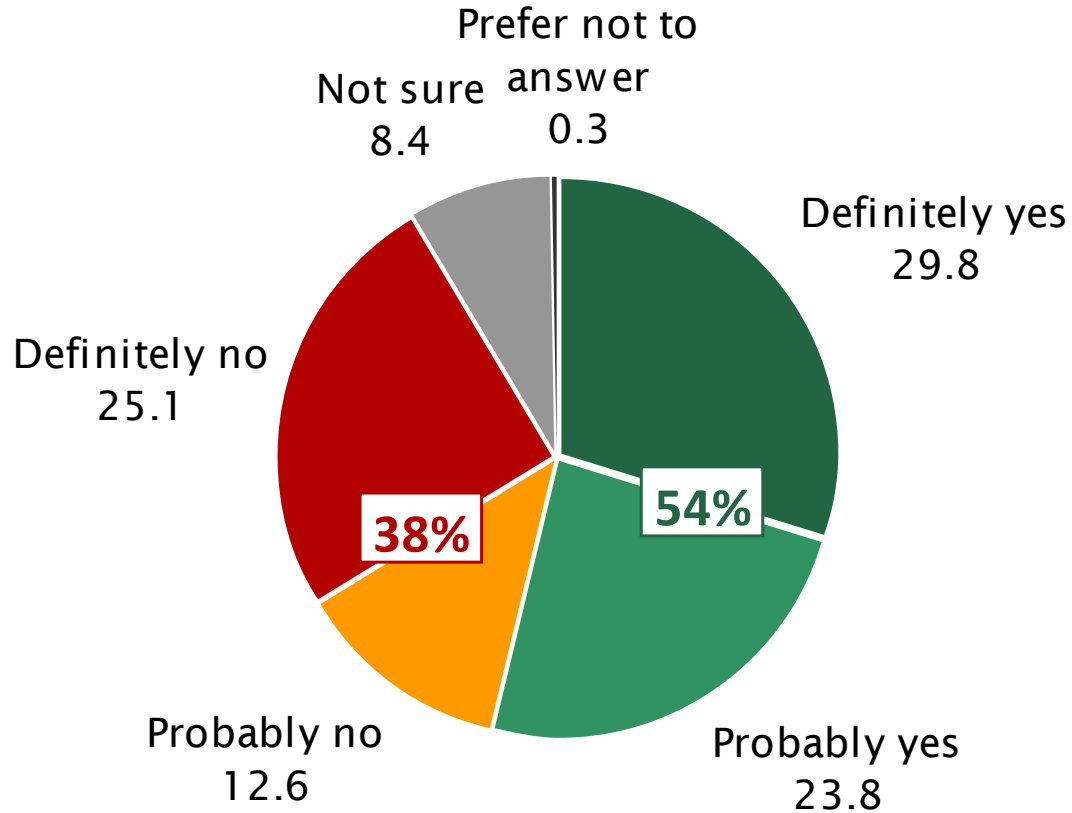
Measure will ensure that students who plan to go to college are prepared to succeed, and those who don't, can compete for good paying jobs in skilled trades

Modern classrooms, science labs, school facilities will help Dana Hills HS attract, retain high quality teachers





# INTERIM BALLOT TEST



# NEGATIVE ARGUMENTS

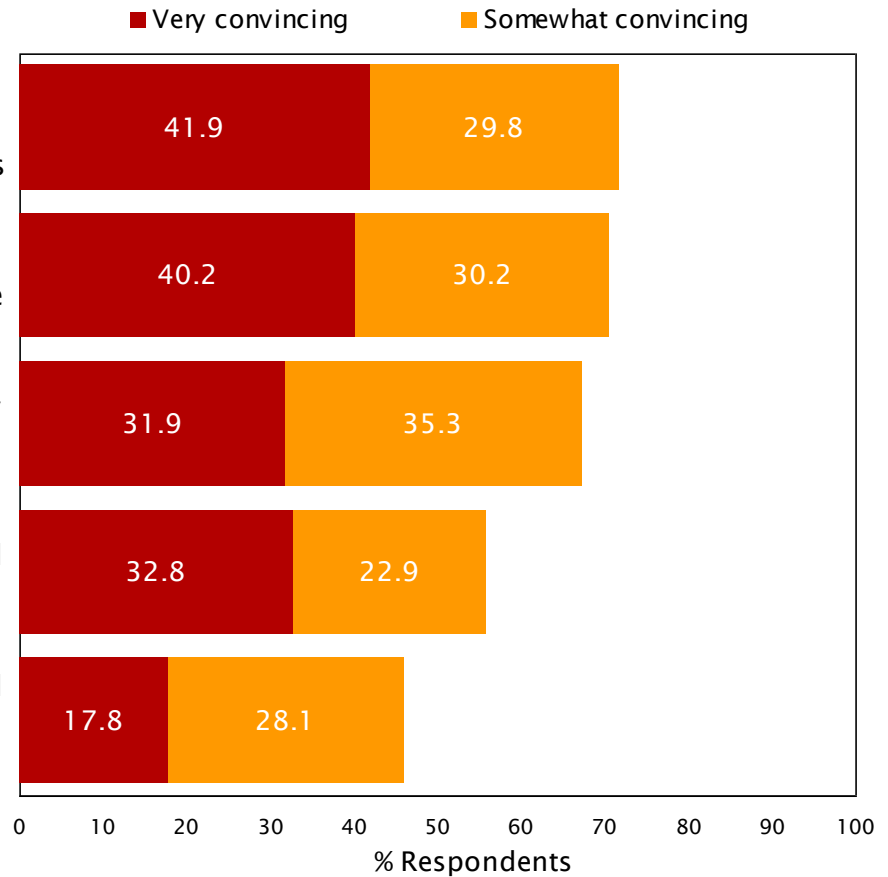
District just received millions in pandemic relief funds, State has \$30B surplus, which means schools will be getting even more money; we don't need to raise taxes

Local residents, businesses have been hit hard by pandemic, inflation, rising gas prices; many are struggling to stay afloat; now is not the time to raise taxes

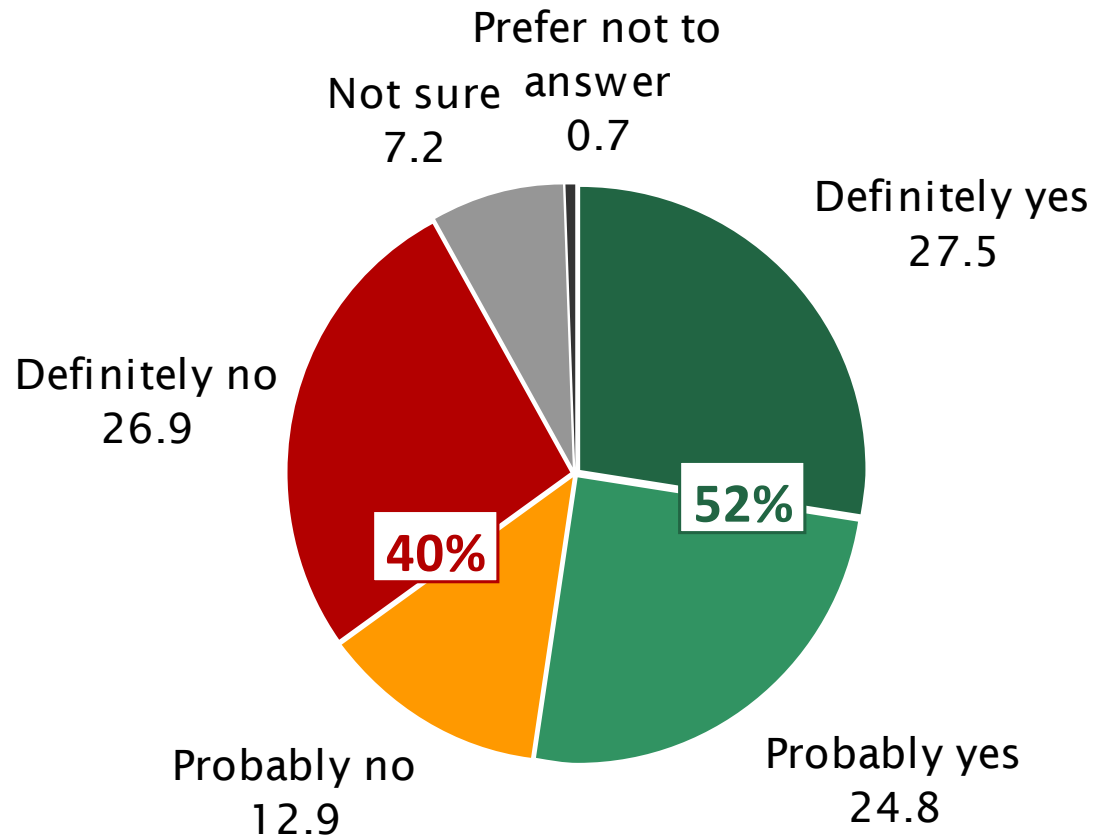
Including interest, bond will cost taxpayers nearly \$300M, will take 35 years to pay off

We can't trust District with this tax, they will misspend the money, not build what they promise

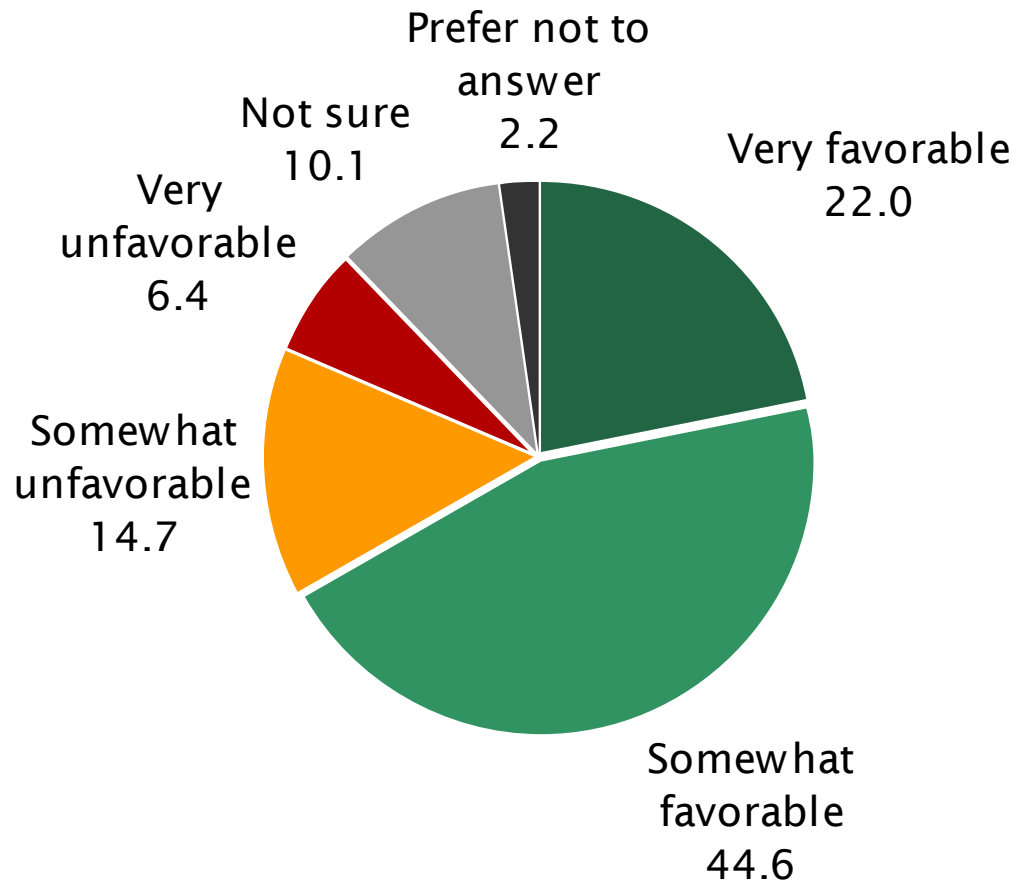
Enrollment has been declining for 10 years, is expected to continue dropping; why spend \$200M to rebuild a school that we don't need?



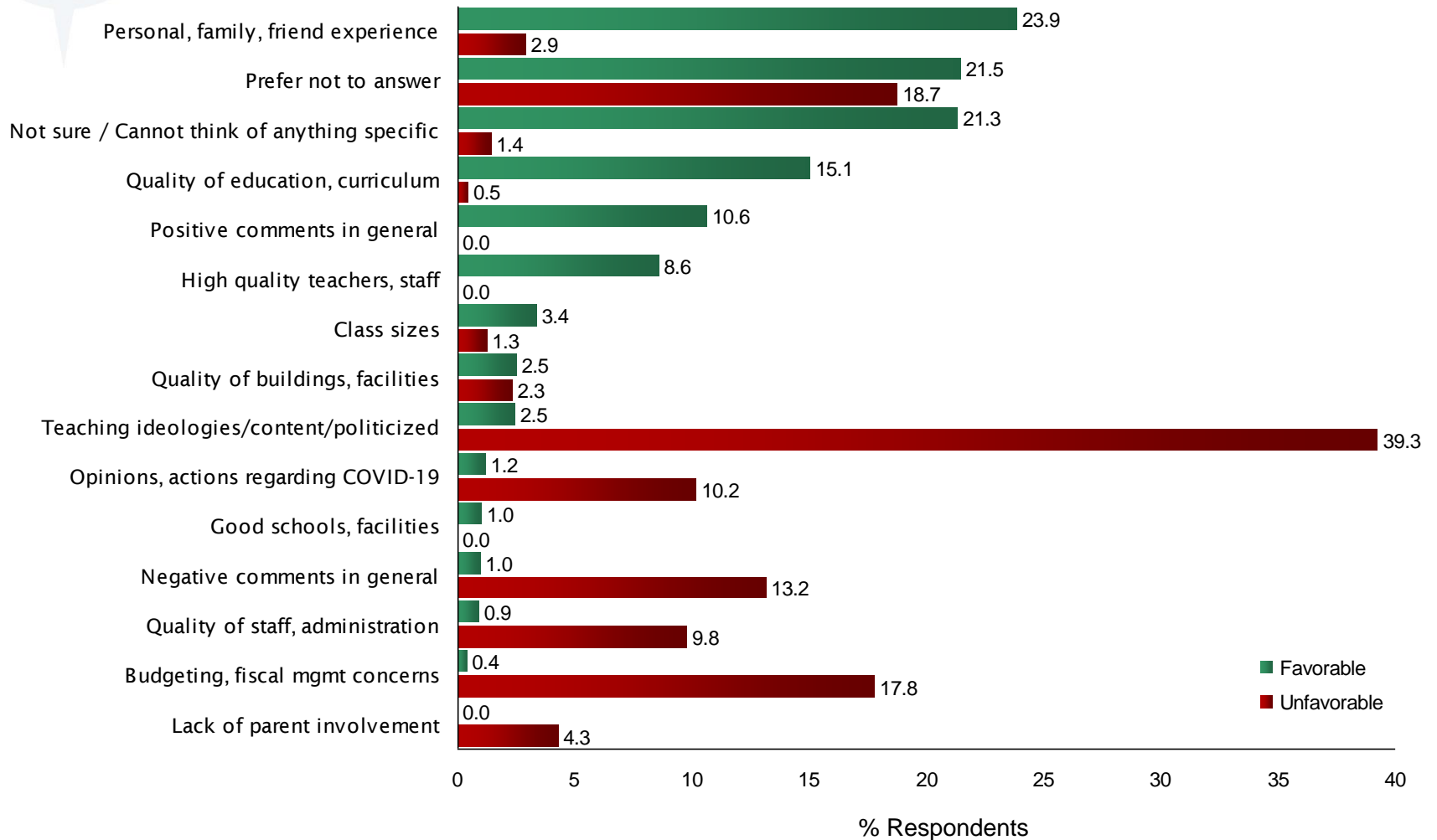
# FINAL BALLOT TEST



# OPINION OF CAPISTRANO USD



# REASONS FOR OPINION OF DISTRICT







# OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Feasibility:** A bond may be feasible for 2022, but there is a hill to climb. The path to voter approval requires that the bond be viewed as:
  - Affordable
  - Focused on the projects and improvements voters identify as priorities
  - Accompanied by robust community/opinion leader engagement, education, and communication
- **Price Tag:** Comfort zone appears to be no greater than \$20 per \$100K AV, which is approximately \$127 per year for typical homeowner
- **Projects:** Seismic safety is not the most attractive feature of the bond. Voters prioritize:
  - Modern classrooms, science labs, and technology to support STEM and college/career readiness
  - Removal of hazardous materials
  - Bringing older facilities up to health, safety, ADA compliance
- **Communications:** Need to raise public awareness of the condition of Dana Hills High School, the connection between facility improvements and ability to prepare students for success in college/careers, the opportunity for State matching funds, and the accountability provisions including that all money stays local.