



Securing Our Future

Supporting Our Students.

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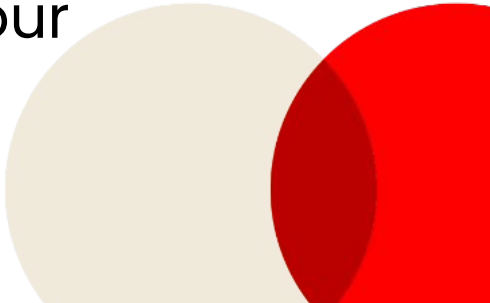
Agenda

- Welcome & Inclusion
- Who we are
- Long range facility Plan timeline
- Facility planning process
- Community survey results
- Demographic study results
- Projected enrollment
- Checks for understanding along the way
- Share feedback based on the survey and demographic reports





Welcome & Inclusion Activity: What do you most enjoy doing most in our school communities?

1. Introductions at your tables
 - a. Name
 - b. Community
 - c. Connection to schools
 2. Share what you enjoy doing most in our communities (30-45 seconds)
- 

South Washington County Schools



OVERVIEW

- The second largest employer in Washington County
- The sixth largest school district in the state
- Nearly 4,000 employees
- Approximately 18,700 K-12 students
- Provide programming for students of all ages: birth, Early Childhood, K-12 and Adult Education



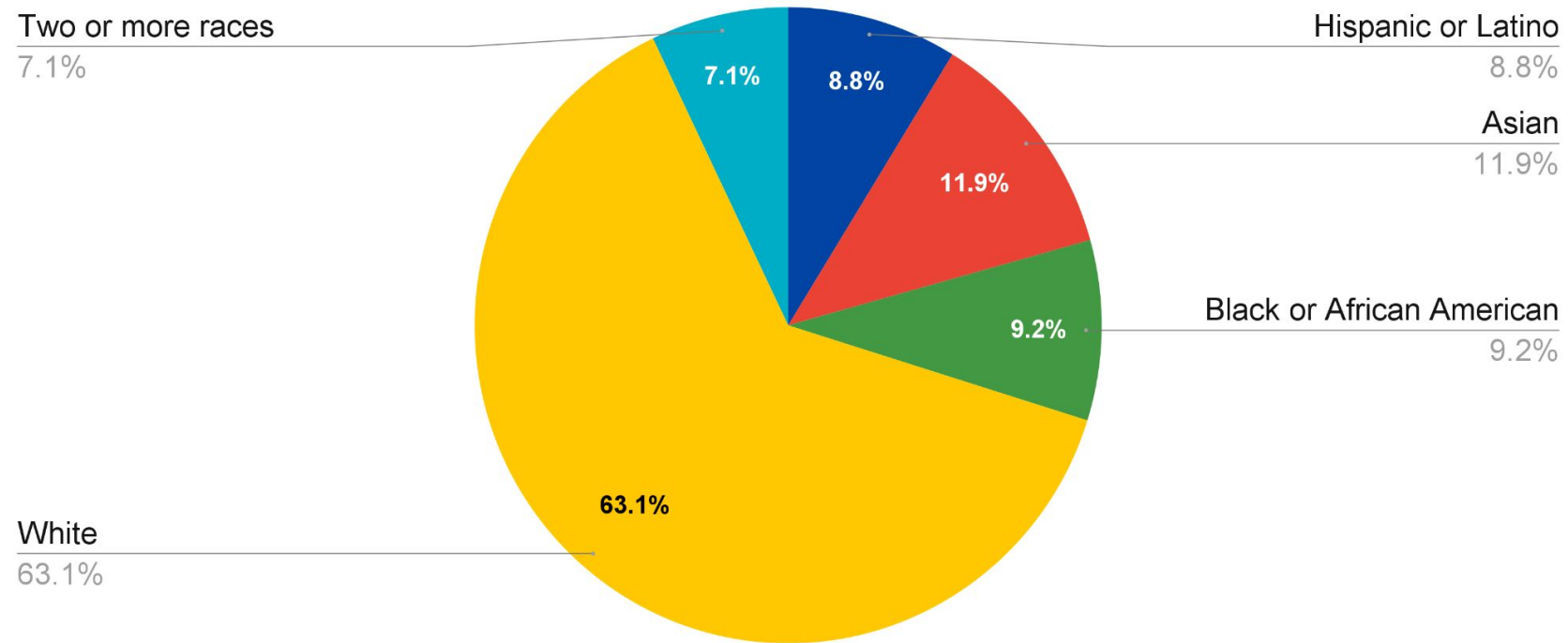
South Washington County Schools



SoWashCo Schools District Boundaries:

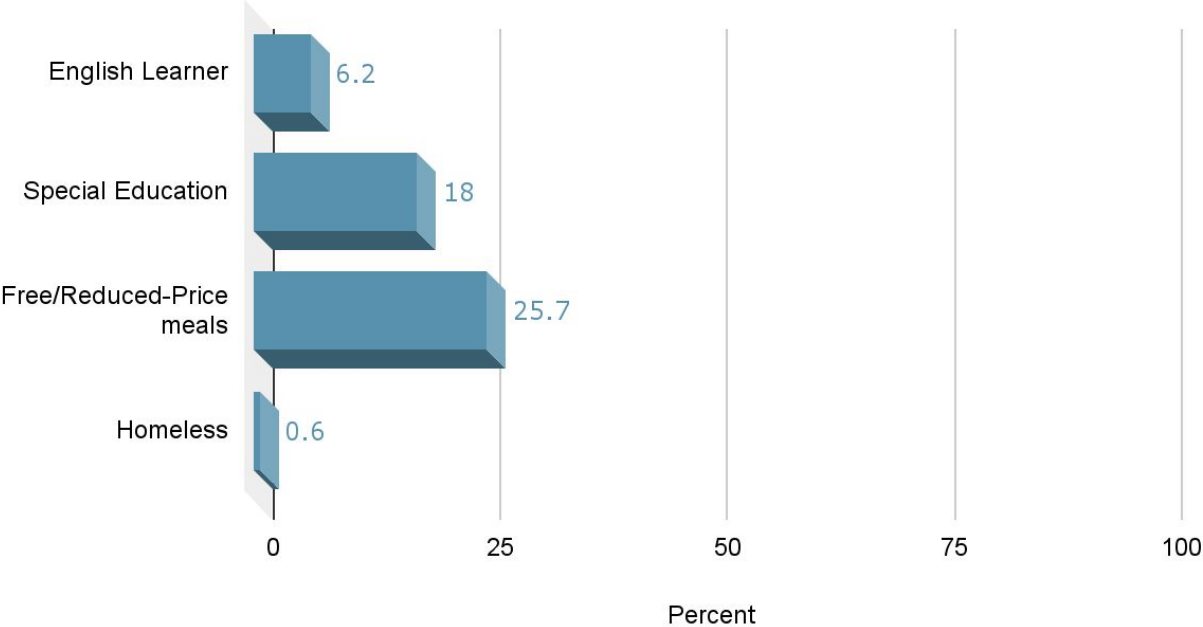
- Cottage Grove in the South
- Grey Cloud Island, St. Paul Park and Newport in the West
- Woodbury (South of Tamarack Road) in the North
- Parts of Afton and Denmark Township in the East

Who are We? 2022: 18,994 Students



Note: Data are reported by fiscal year based on October 1 enrollment for the most recent year available.
The fiscal year is the year in which the school year ends (e.g., 2017 is the 2016-2017 school year).

Enrollment by Other Criteria



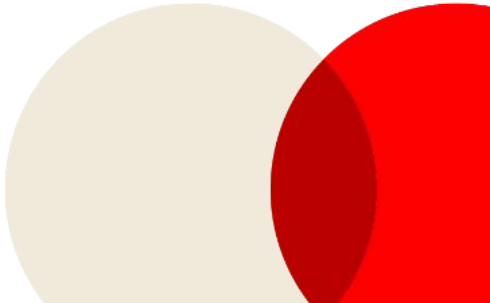
Note: Data are reported by fiscal year based on October 1, 2022 enrollment.

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Long Range Facility Plan Timeline

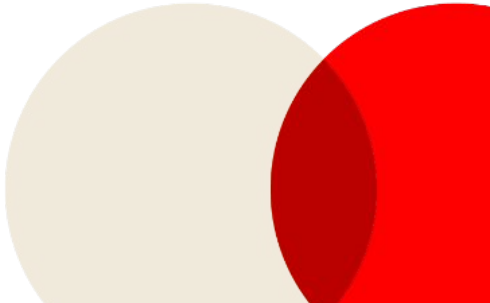
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Timeline

- **2015:** A bond question for improvements at the high schools and elementary schools failed.
 - **2018:** The School Board approved creation of a long range facility planning process to identify and collect data about enrollment projections, building capacity calculations, and community growth plans.
 - **2019:** A task force of staff and community members was created to review enrollment projections, building capacity calculations, community growth plans in order to provide input on construction options.
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Timeline

- **2020:** Due to the pandemic, long range facility planning was put on hold.
 - **2021:** Voters approved an operating levy request, and voted down a request to increase the current capital projects levy for technology. Planning for a bond referendum election began.
 - **2022:** In August 2022, the district was unsuccessful in gaining approval from the community for a \$463 million bond referendum.
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2022 Bond Referendum

In August 2022, SoWashCo Schools asked voters to consider approval of a \$462.6 million bond for construction, renovations and additions to meet the needs of our growing community.

The request included:


- Expansion of early learning programs and services
- Construction of two elementary schools
- Expansion of three high schools
- Improvements to facilities districtwide
- Purchase of land for future growth
- Accommodate early learning, special education and community education programming
- Minimal changes to attendance boundaries

Some of the questions in the Community Survey were related to the failed bonding request.

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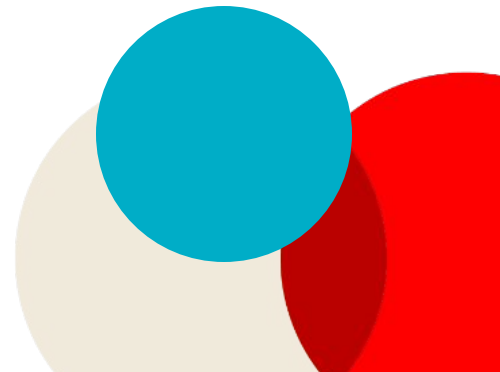
Post-Election Information Gathering

- SoWashCo held 8 Community Listening Sessions and dozens of staff sessions to gather and document feedback. Completed in November 2022.
 - Commissioned a Community Survey of 500 randomly selected homes in the South Washington County Schools boundary. Completed in December 2022
 - Commissioned a demographic study, completed in January 2023.
 - Reconvened Long Range Facility Plan Steering Committee to develop a process and plan for presentations to the Board and for our upcoming community meetings.
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Long Range Facilities Plan Update

- School Board received a report about the Community Survey on Feb. 2.
- School Board received a presentation about our updated demographic study on Feb. 16.
- Set dates for in-person meetings to discuss next steps for the Long Range Facility Plan.
 - **Community Meetings**
 - March 21 at Cottage Grove Middle School
 - April 25 at Oltman Middle School
 - May 23 at East Ridge High School





Bonds for Buildings

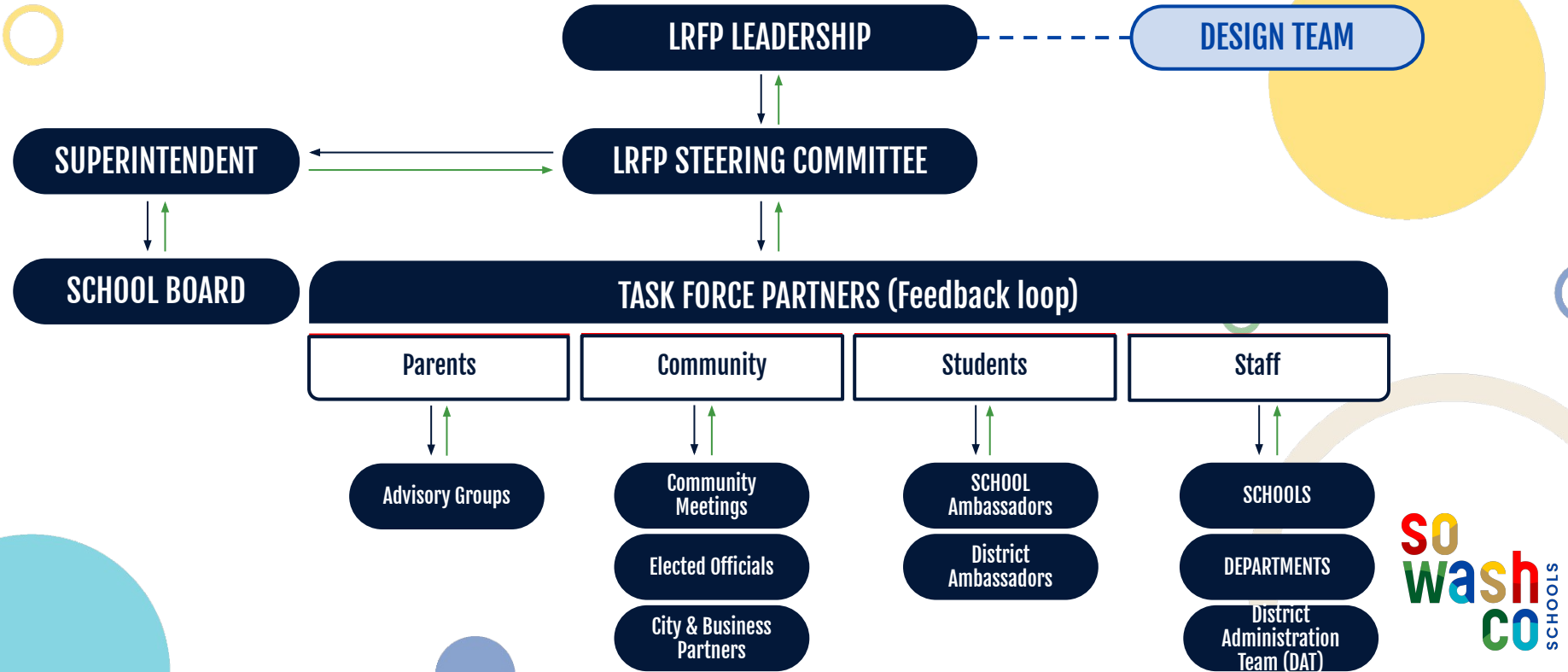
WHAT IS A BOND REFERENDUM?

- A bond referendum gives voters the opportunity to decide if South Washington County Schools should be authorized to raise construction funding through the sale of bonds.
- Bonds allow the District to borrow money that it then pays back over time.
- This is the only method to raise enough funds for new construction.

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Planning Process

LONG RANGE FACILITY PLANNING (LRFP) PROCESS

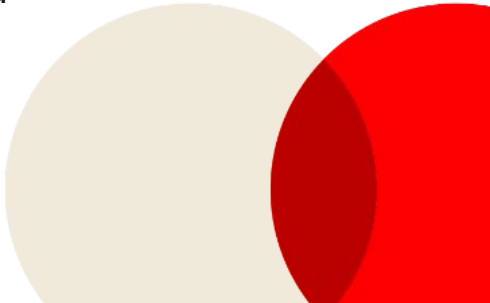


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Community Survey Results

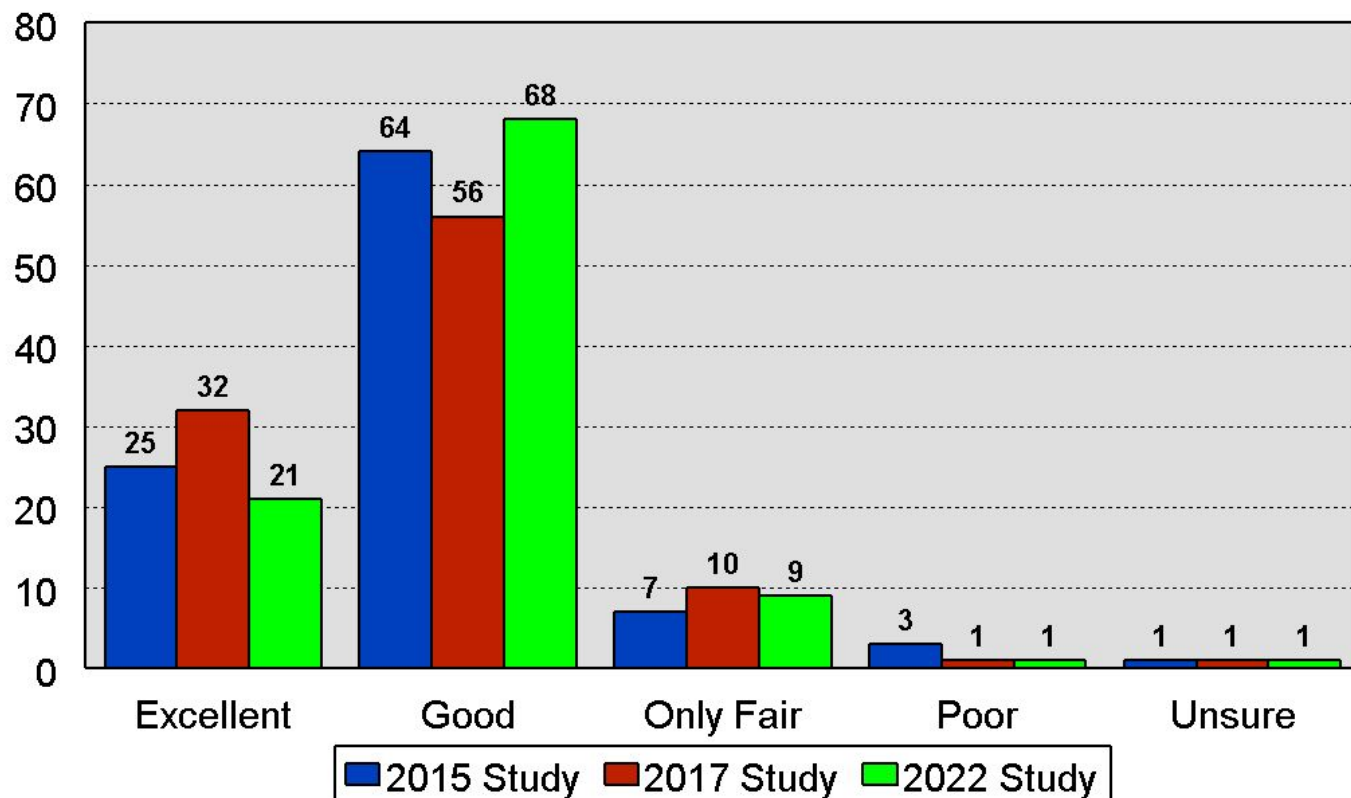
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Community Survey

- Community Survey was conducted between Dec. 1-16, 2022.
 - Random sampling of 500 households in South Washington County Schools boundary.
 - Telephone interviews conducted by the Morris Leatherman Company lasted an average of 14 minutes in length.
 - A portion of the survey asked questions relating to the failed bond request.
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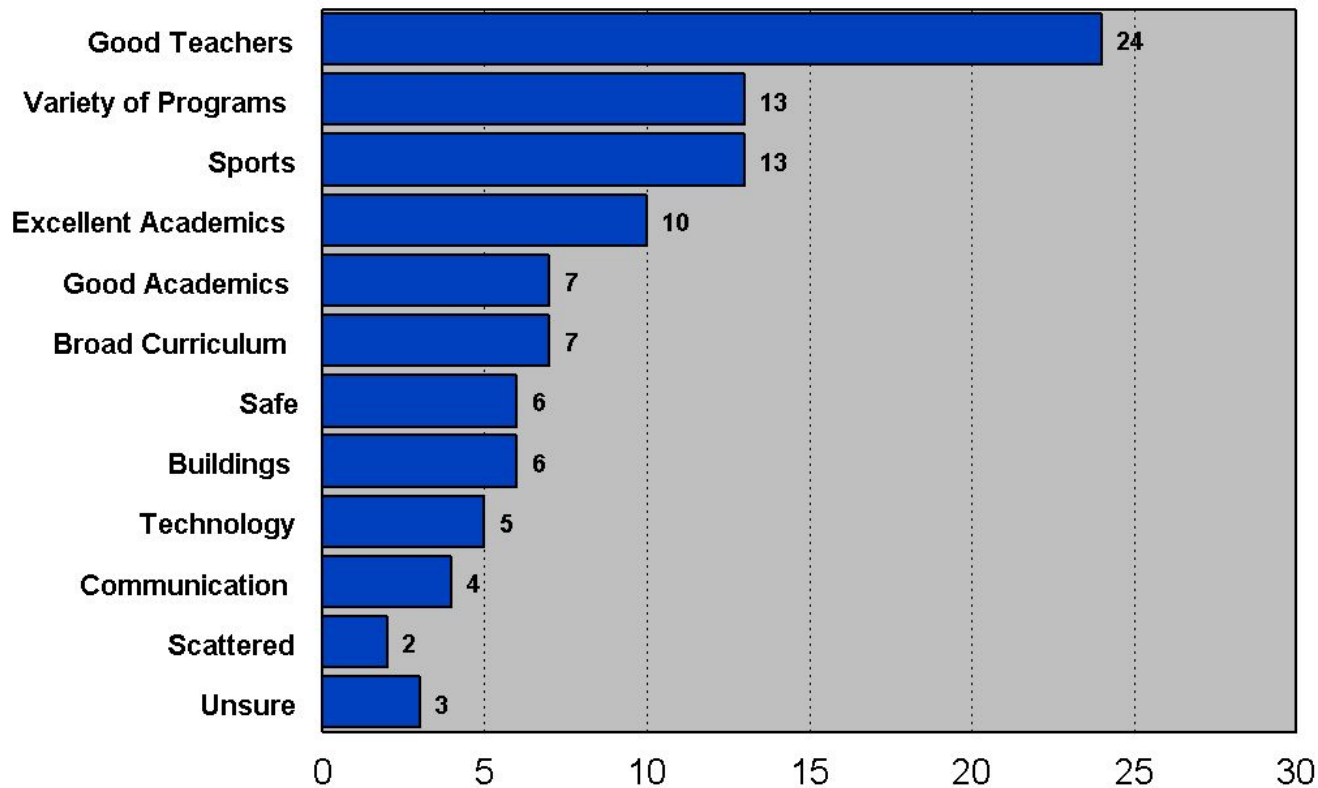
Quality of Public Schools

2022 South Washington County Schools



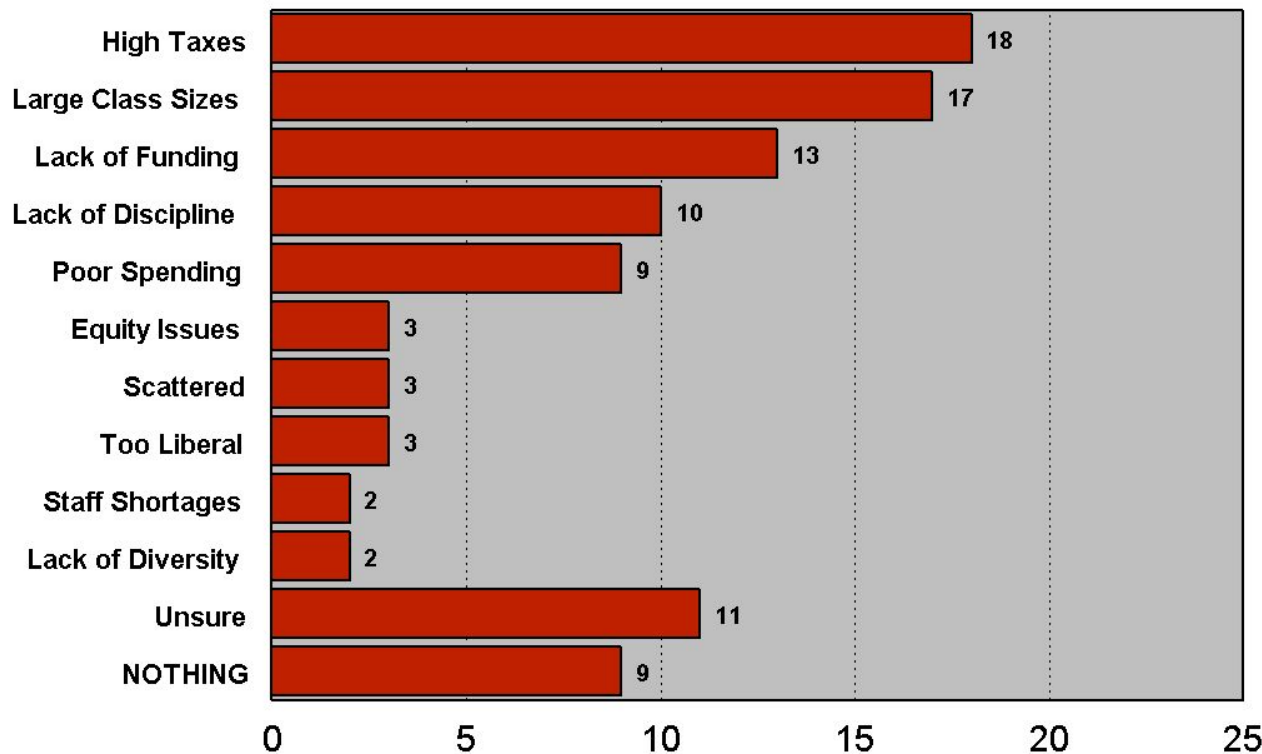
Like Most about District

2022 South Washington County Schools



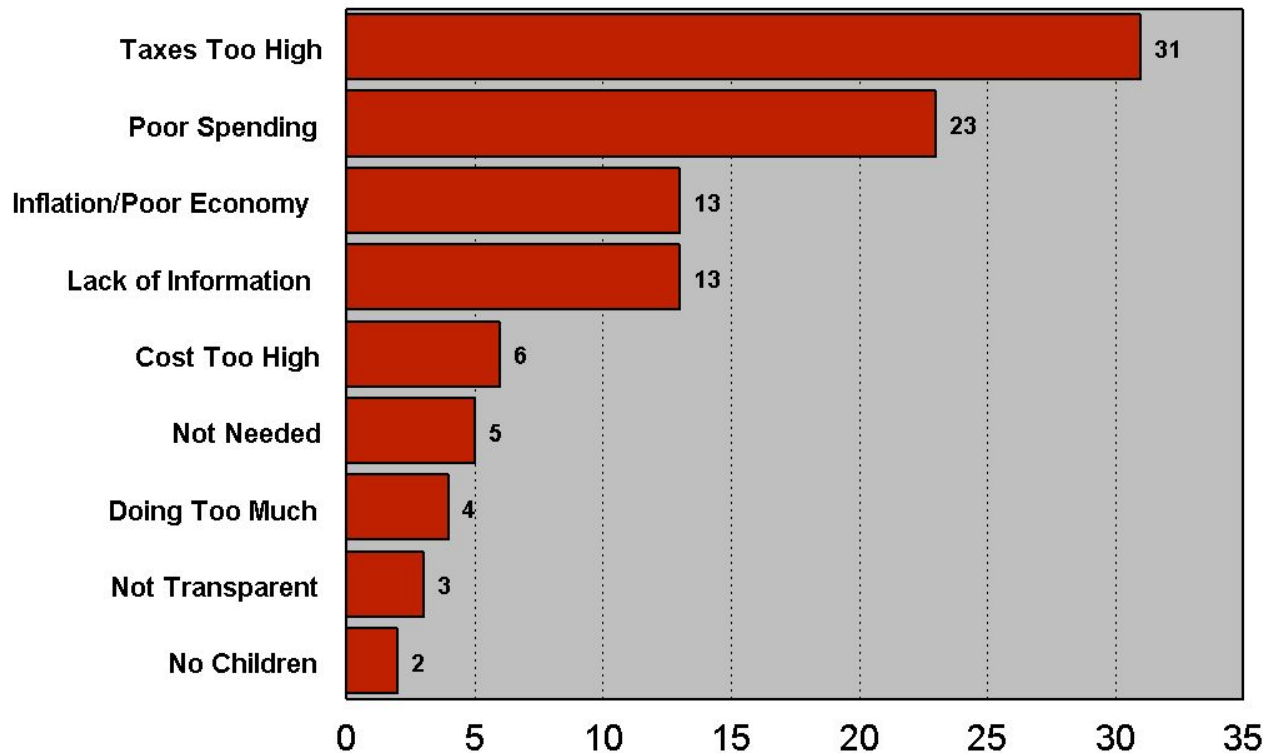
Most Serious Issue

2022 South Washington County Schools



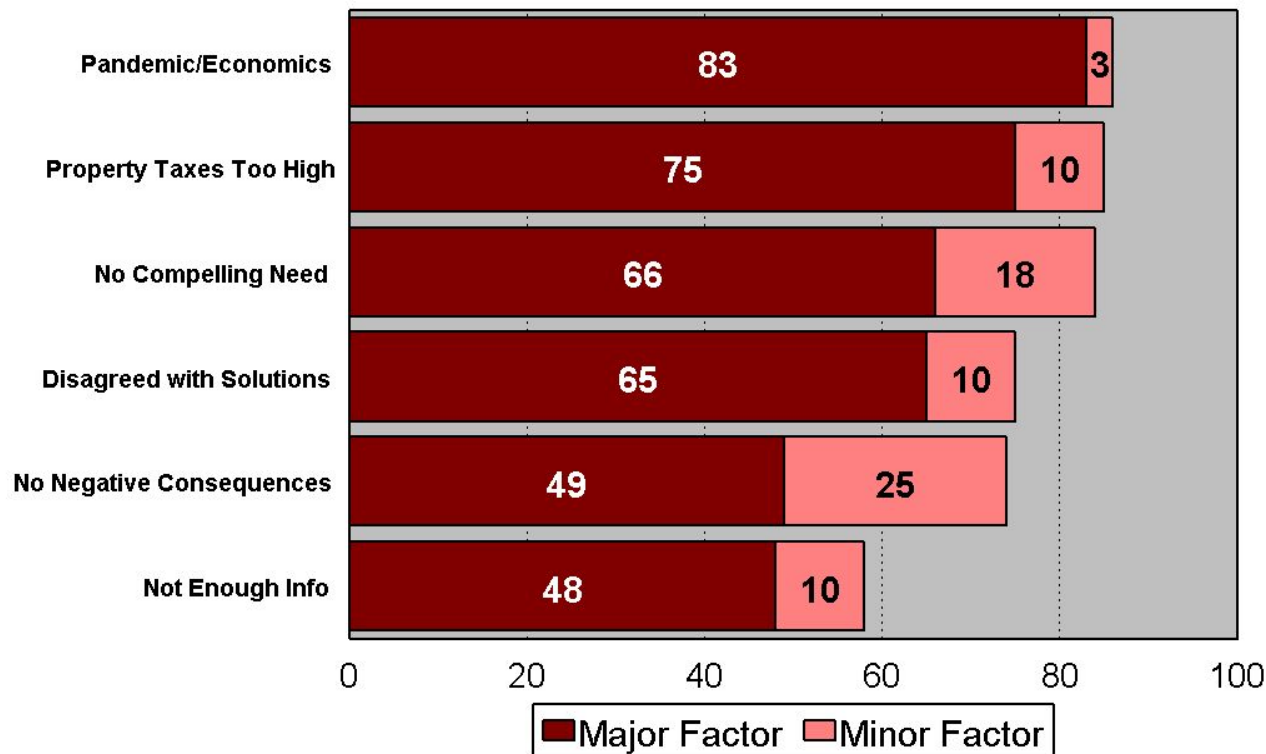
Major Reason for Opposition

2022 South Washington County Schools



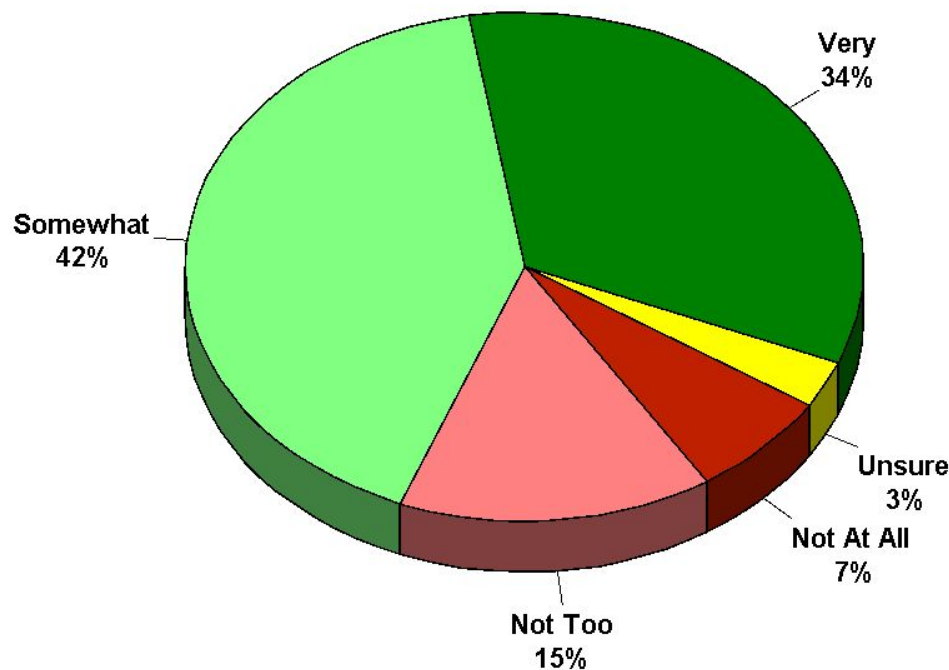
Factors for Opposition

2022 South Washington County Schools



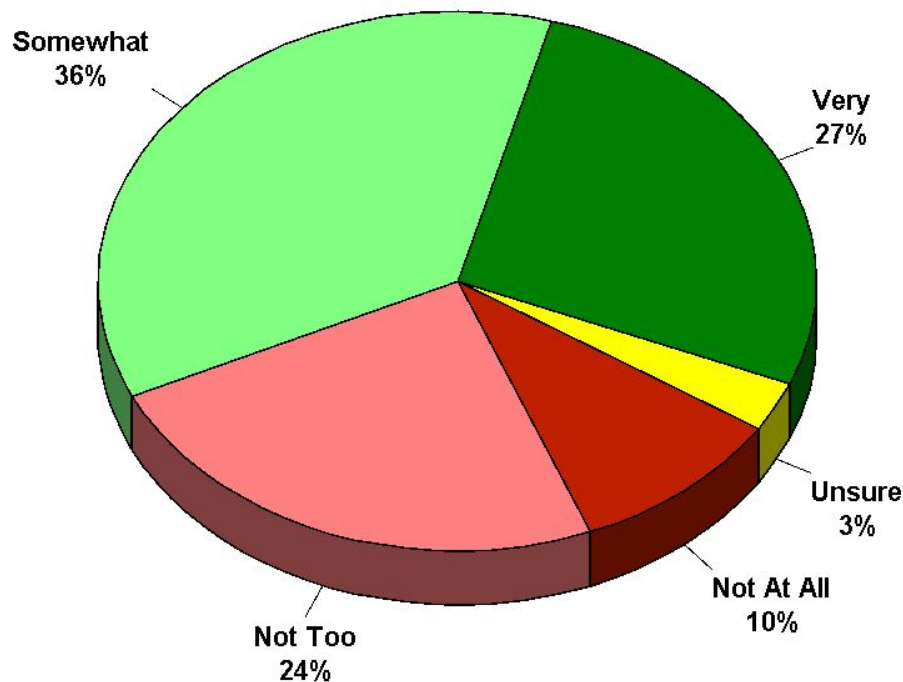
Important to Limit Boundary Change Impacts

2022 South Washington County Schools



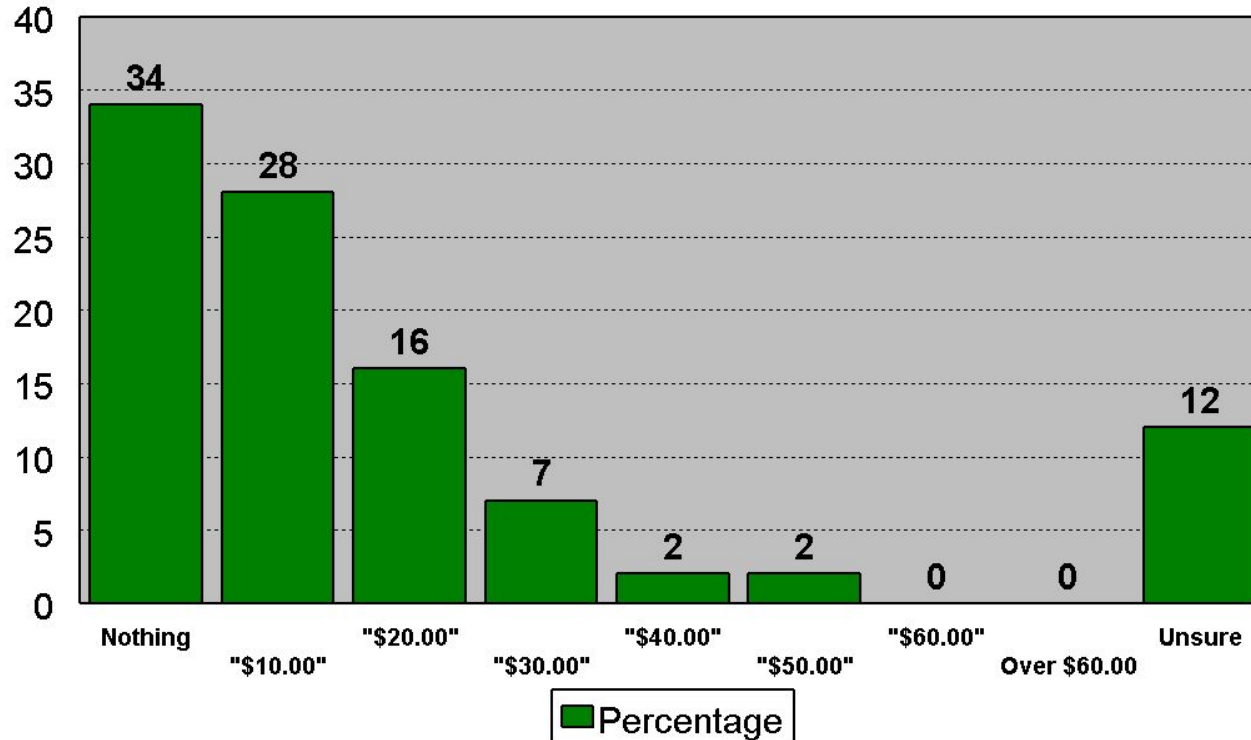
Attend Elementary School in the City of Residence

2022 South Washington County Schools



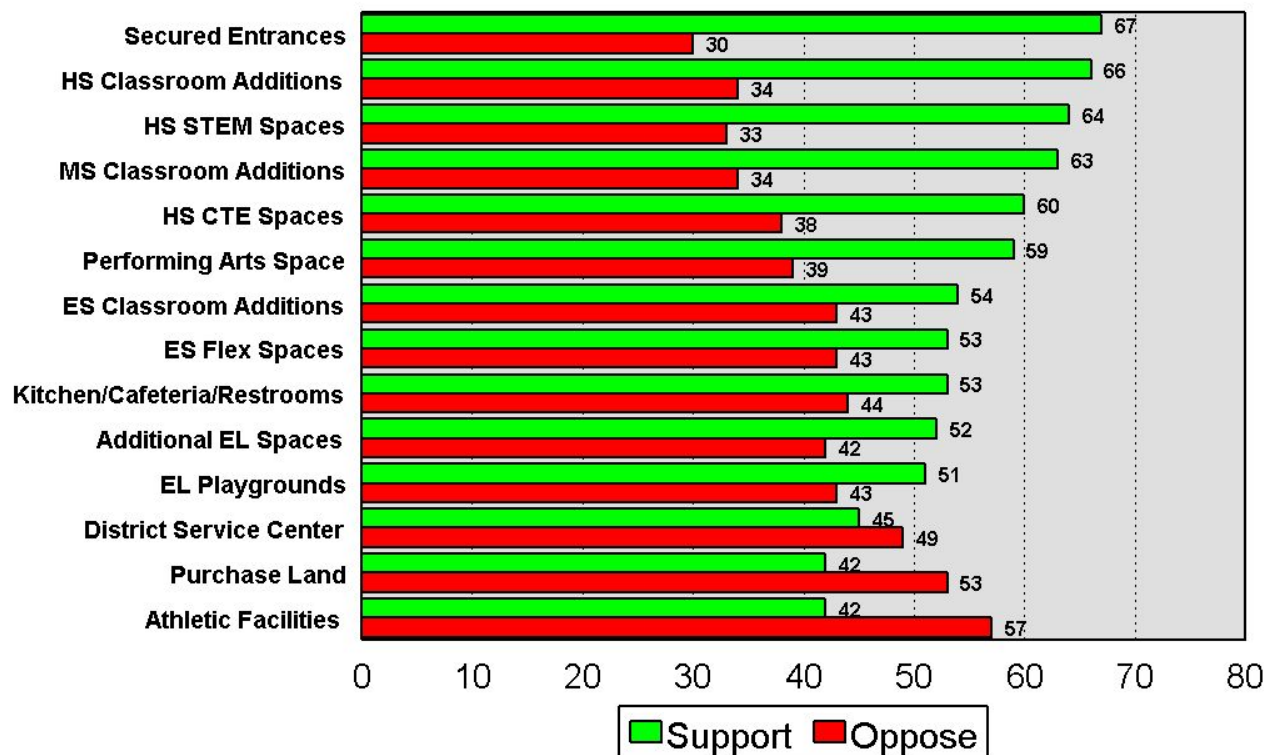
Property Tax Increase for Bond

2022 South Washington County Schools



Property Tax Increase for....

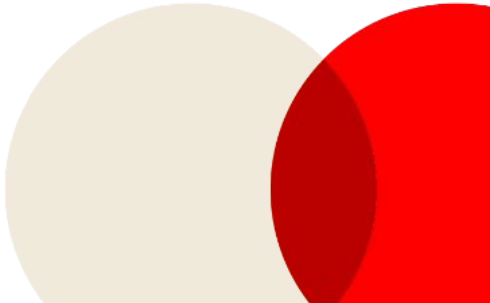
2022 South Washington County Schools



Takeaways from the Morris Leatherman Community Survey

- While residents don't necessarily blame the School District, the property tax climate is very hostile.
- Very low level of residents felt informed about the bond referendum.
- The most common responses among parents that didn't vote were "too busy" or "forgot."
- "Not enough information" was most common response among non-parents that didn't vote.


Three reasons for opposition:

- Pandemic/Economy/Property taxes.
 - Lack of a compelling need.
 - Disagreement about solution being offered.
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Community Survey: What we learned

According to the results of the Morris Leatherman Company survey:

- Residents believe housing and student enrollment growth has happened and will continue.
 - Only one-third of residents believe the district does not have sufficient space to meet this growth.
 - Even after the bond referendum campaign, less than 50% of residents are aware of facts about the growth and its impact on school capacity.
 - Any bond referendum package should prioritize safety and security and space needs at the district's middle and high schools.
 - Tax tolerance was reported to be \$10-15 per month on a median property value.
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Check for Understanding



Scan the QR code or [Click Here](#)

Demographic Study Results

Demographic Study

- Demographic Study completed by Hazel Reinhardt looks at projections for the next 5 years (children are all born)
- The study focuses on fertility rate, cohort survival rate and housing data.
- Fertility rate decreasing in Minnesota and in the United States
 - 2020 saw the lowest birth rate in the United States since 1979.
- Other factors considered:
 - Less mobility – fewer than 10% of people in U.S. moved last year. That has been 20% since World War II
 - Aging population – Different mix of new housing developments and smaller percentage of households with children
 - Immigration has slowed

Demographic Study



- During the pandemic, **Minnesota public schools** saw a decrease in enrollment in kindergarten and in other elementary grades.
 - More families chose to homeschool or attend non-public school options
 - Middle and high school enrollment was less impacted
- Pandemic impact in **SoWashCo** was minimal; however, the post-pandemic enrollment has been below projections
 - Home school increased
 - Non-public and charter school enrollment in our boundary increased in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23

Education Choices 2021-22



	Minnesota	SoWashCo
Non-public options	10.1%	8.0%
Private schools	7.2%	5.9%
Home schools	2.9%	2.0%
Public options		
Charter schools	6.9%	6.3%
Capture rate	74.0%	82.8%

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Projected Enrollment

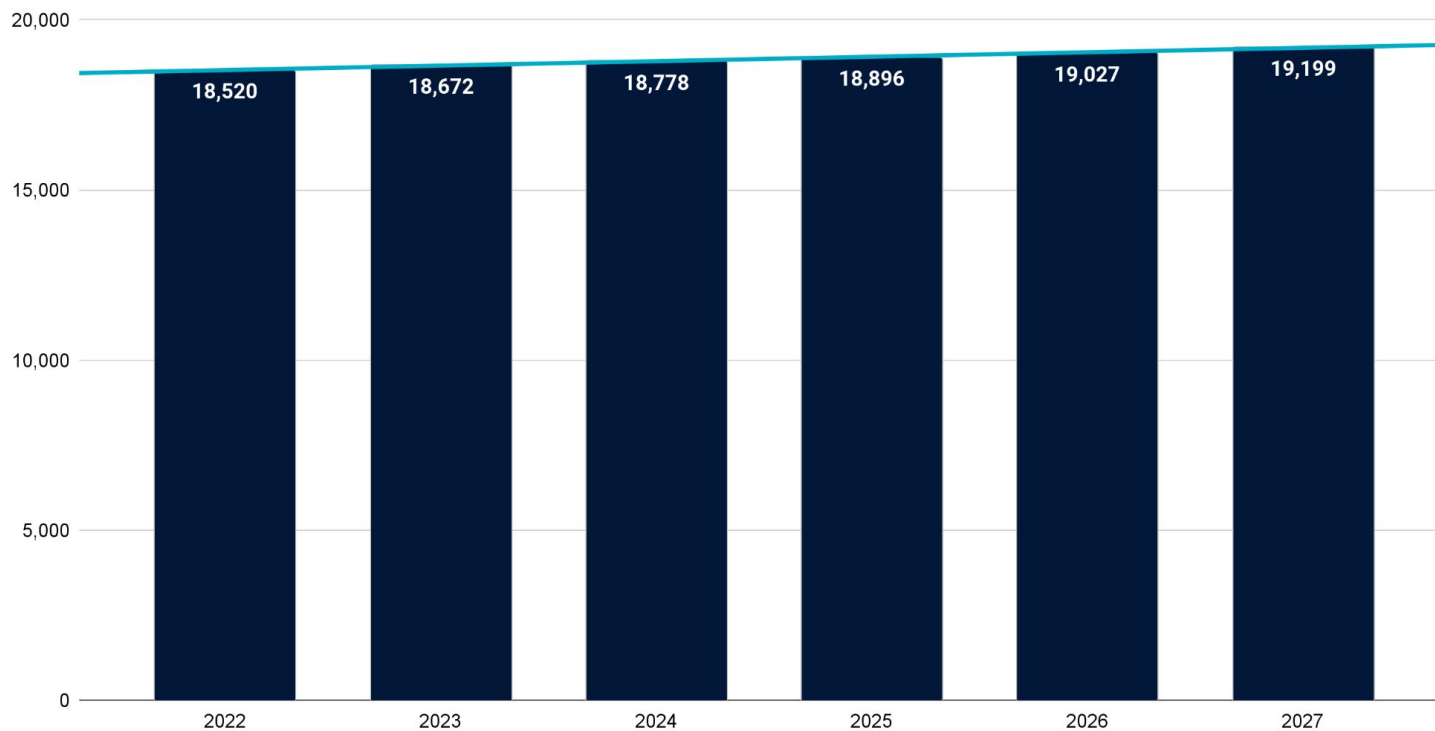


Enrollment Projections

Assumptions underlying the projections

- Decline in births in Washington County, and in Minnesota, will result in smaller kindergarten classes in the next several years.
- Washington County's share of Minnesota births will increase
- SoWashCo's share of Washington County births will increase
- Excluding the pandemic year, survival rates (net migration) of the past four years adequately reflect projected housing unit increases

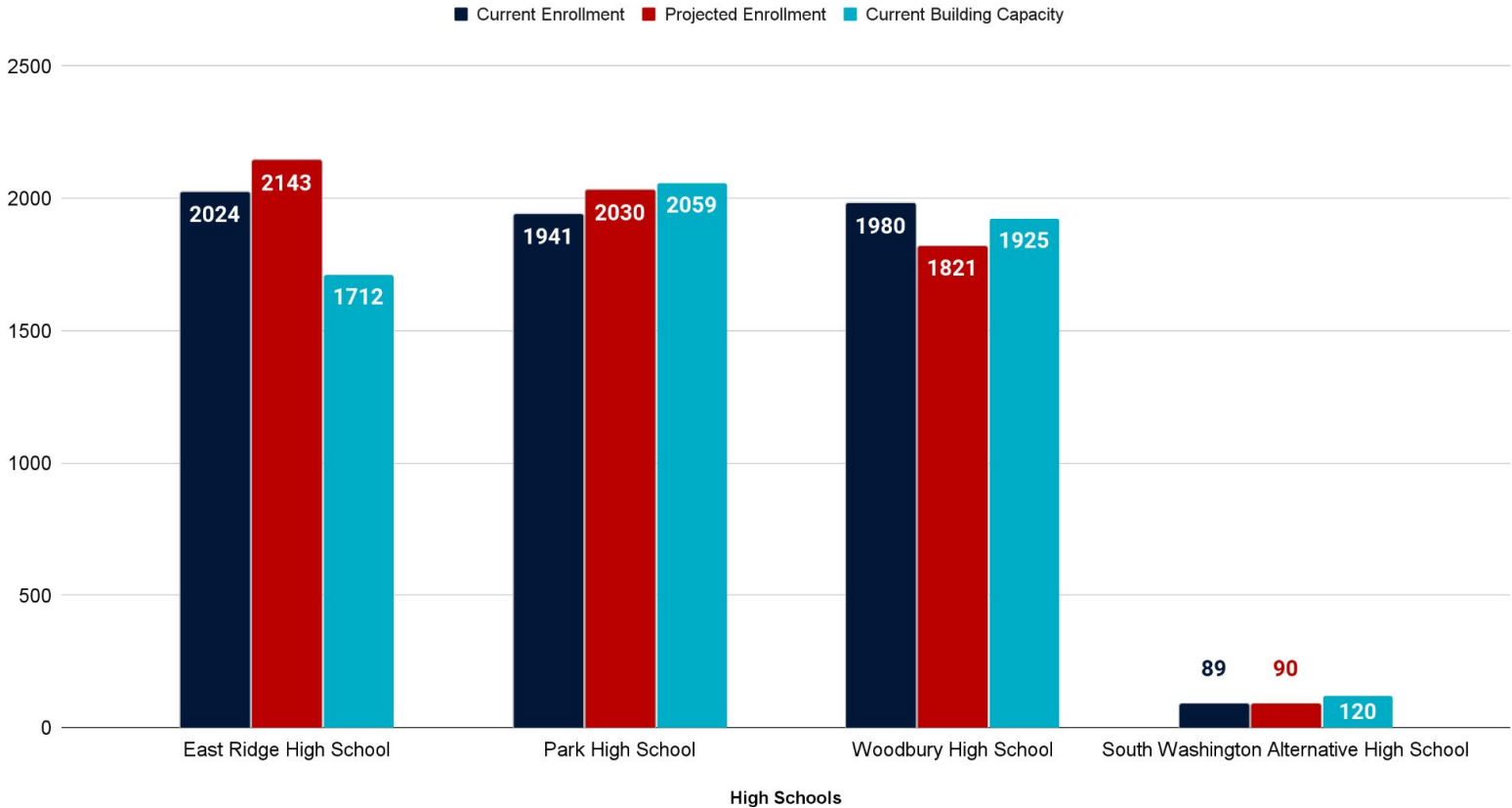
Projected Enrollment



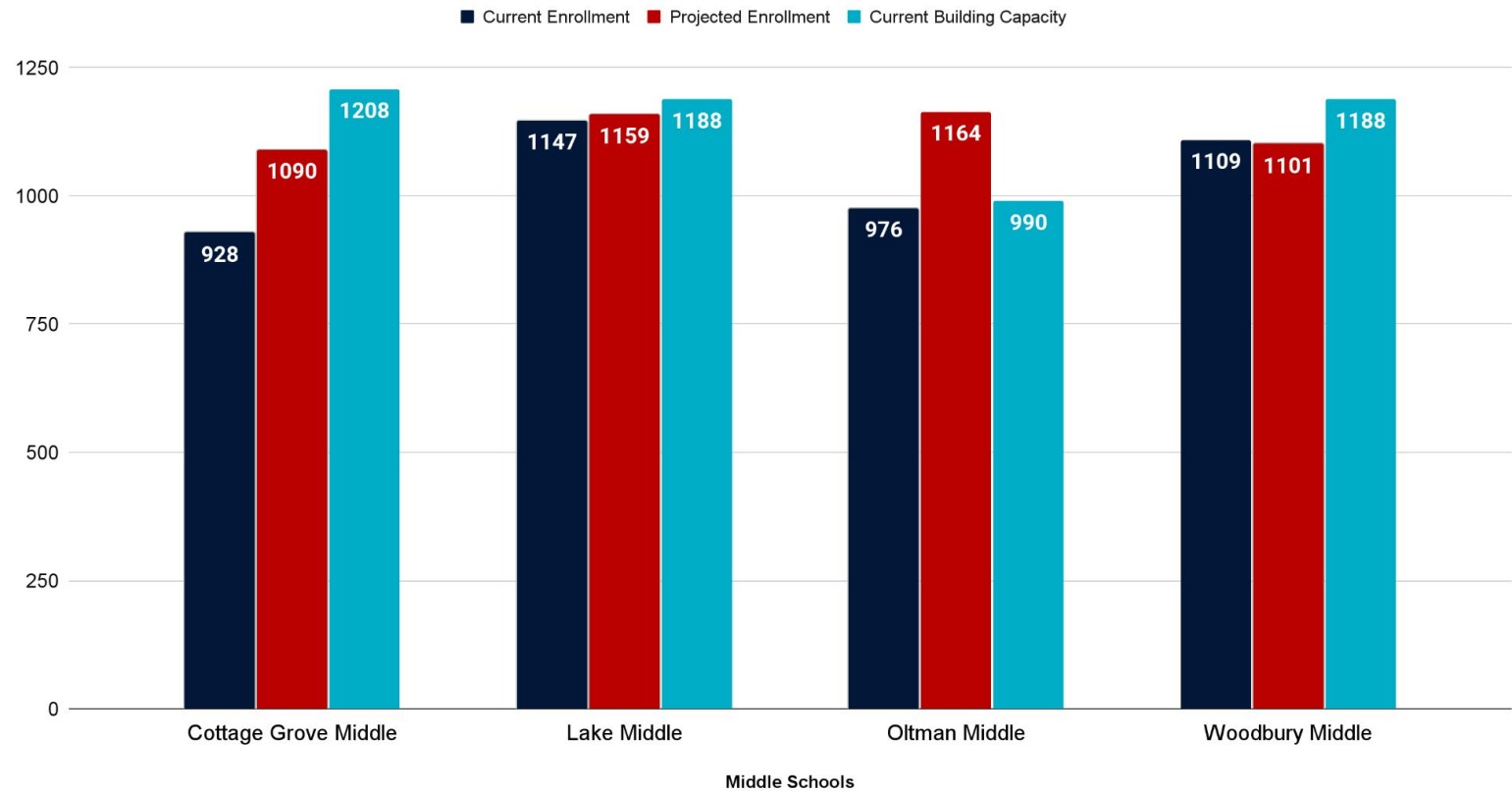
Source: Hazel Reinhardt Consulting Services

Projected District Enrollment

5-year Projected Student Enrollment



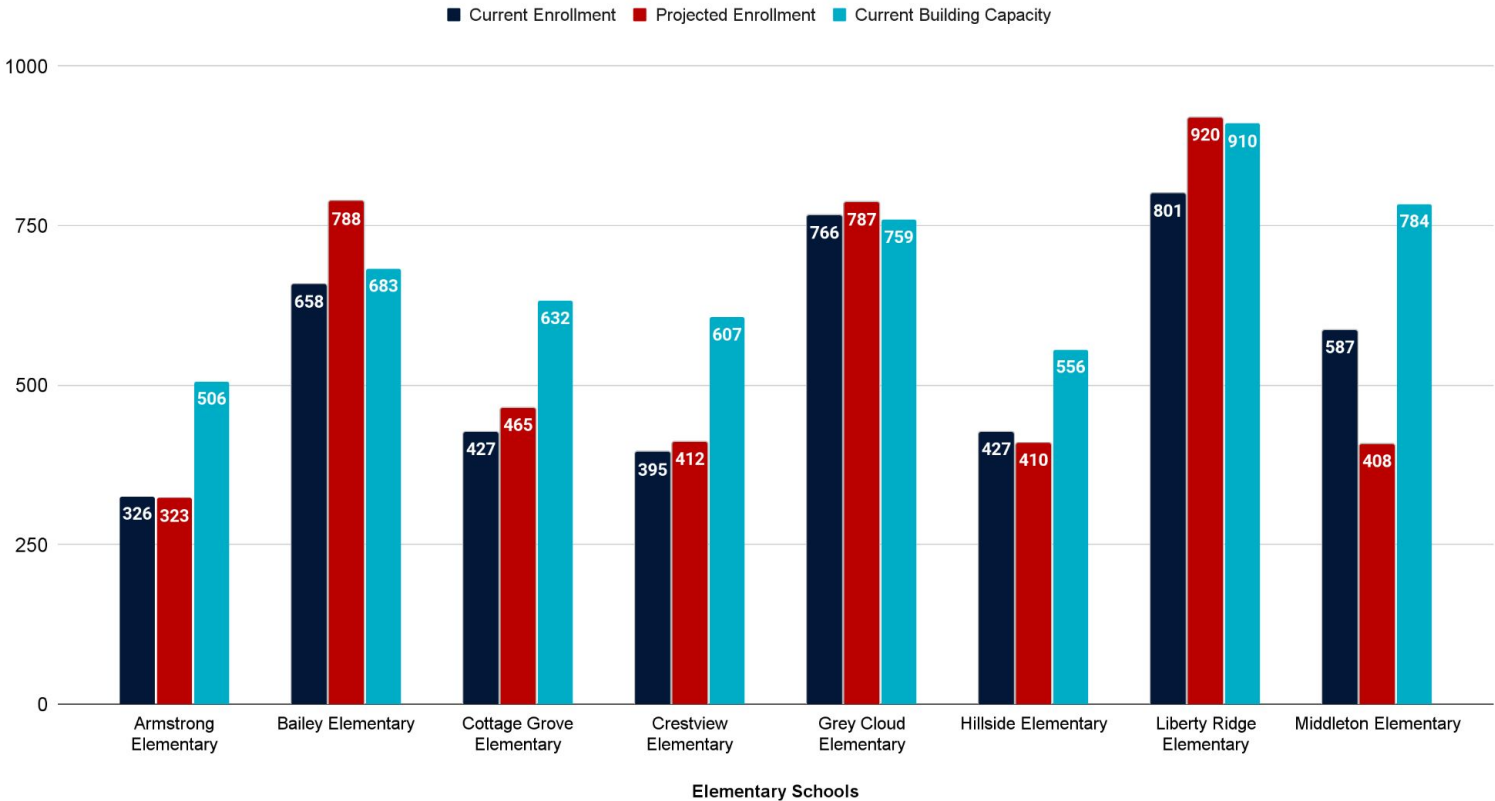
5-year Projected Student Enrollment



Source: Hazel Reinhardt Consulting Services

Middle Schools

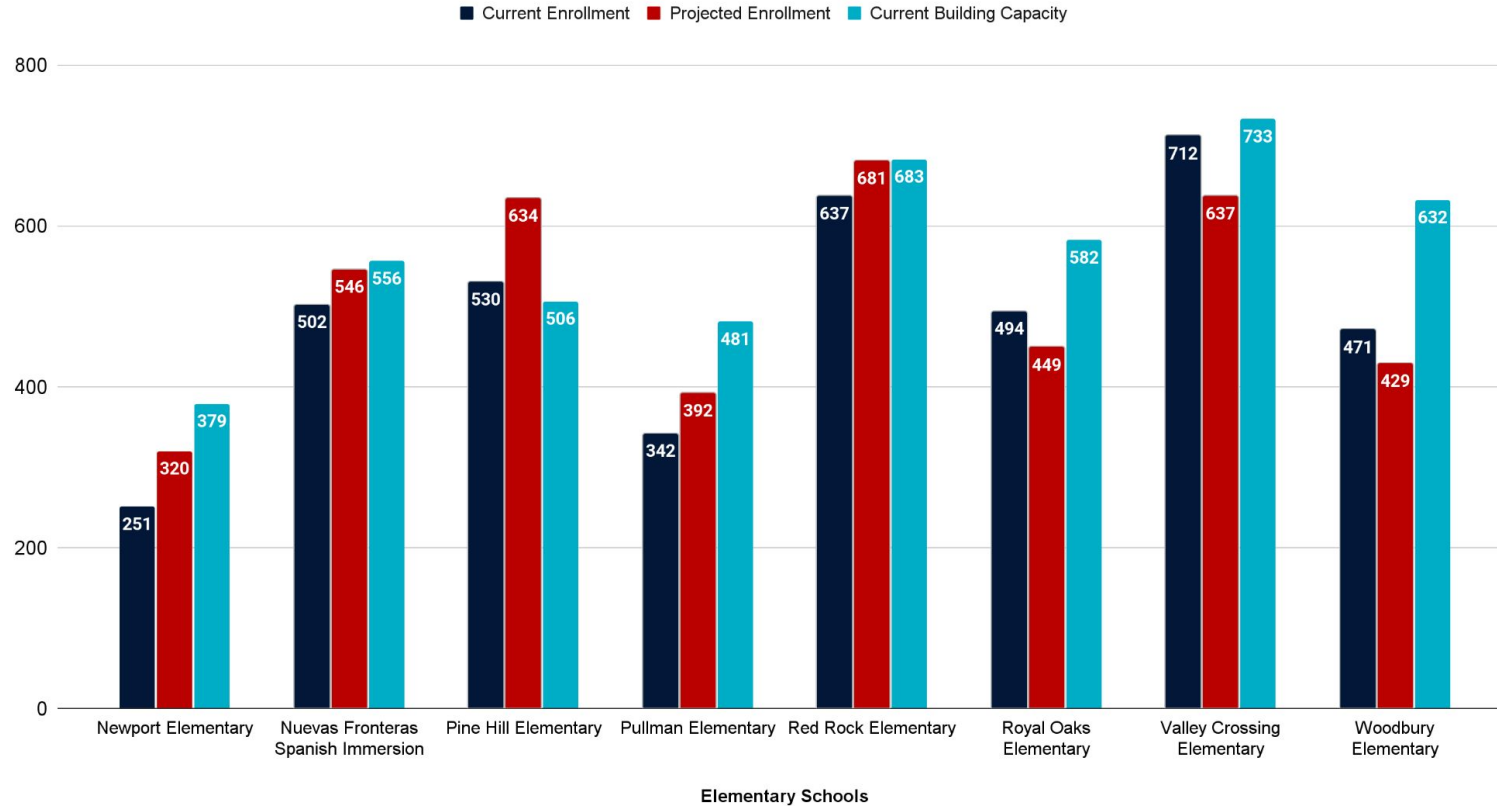
5-year Projected Student Enrollment



Source: Hazel Reinhardt Consulting Services

Elementary Schools

5-year Projected Student Enrollment



Source: Hazel Reinhardt Consulting Services

Elementary Schools

Currently Over Capacity	At or Over Capacity Within 5 Years	Within 5% of capacity within 5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Ridge High School Woodbury High School Pine Hill Elementary Grey Cloud Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Ridge High School Oltman Middle School Pine Hill Elementary Grey Cloud Elementary Bailey Elementary Liberty Ridge Elementary Red Rock Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park High School Woodbury High School Lake Middle School

Check for Understanding



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Opportunity for Input:

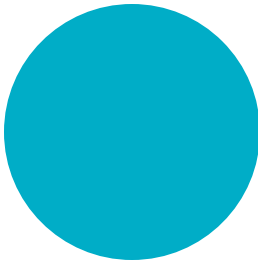
With the information you heard from the community survey and demographic report, what are 3 things you would ask the Steering Committee to prioritize in creating a new long range facility plan?




Scan the QR code or [Click Here](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Community Meetings

- April 25 at Oltman Middle School
 - May 23 at East Ridge High School
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Next Steps

- Steering Committee is gathering feedback about the survey and demographic report from staff, families, students and the community.
 - In April, a preliminary plan will be shared. The Steering Committee will gather feedback about the plan from staff, students, families and the community.
 - In May, a final plan will be shared.
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