

Mill/Bond Exploratory Ad Hoc Committee (MBEC)

2023 Analysis and Findings

Joe Robinson

Sandra Brownrigg

Michelle Suparat

Brad Geiger



MBEC Charter

- ✓ Work with the Superintendent and any consulting firm engaged by the District to **study the needs of the School District** and **the current budgetary constraints** of the District to meet those needs.
- ✓ Assist in **maintaining public trust and confidence** in the district through active involvement in MLO/Bond communications.
- ✓ **Provide a comprehensive presentation at a board meeting** prior to the end of each school year, on findings of the needs and feasibility of MLO/Bond measures for November of that year, to include information gathered from the Master Capital Plan and recommendations from all Board Committees.





Committee Members

- Becky Walker
- Bianca Smith
- Brad Geiger
- Christa Gilstrap
- Christina Marriott
- Chris Gordon
- Eric Woldeit
- Holly Kluth
- Janeen McDonald
- * Jim Maras
- Joe Robinson
- John Freeman
- JT Takeda
- Katie Van Kooten
- Klaus Driessen
- Krista Stettler
- Michelle Suparat
- Nick Menzel
- Sandra Brownrigg
- Sarah Mesmer
- Steven Murray
- Valerie Thompson

Data Sources

- Presentations from DCSD Leadership, including the Superintendent; the Chief Financial Officer; the Chief Operations Officer; and the Chief Communications Officer.
- District community poll administered by PacWest
- Reference materials itemized in the Appendix



Data Sources

- **Surveys** to Board Advisory Committees; School Accountability Committees; Parent/Teacher Organizations; and Employees
- **Focus Groups and 1:1s** with Law Enforcement Leadership; Special Education Community Parents and Advocates; and Influencers Without Children in the District (“the 61%”).
- **Presentations and Analysis from MBEC Subcommittees:** Needs and Funding; Data Analysis; and Community Engagement
- **Feedback from Board Advisory Committees** leadership



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Data
3. Recommendations
4. Questions



Recap of 2018 MLO and Bond Results

The MLO passed with 94,448 votes, 54% to 46%

★ Douglas County School District RE-1 Ballot Issue 5A (Vote For 1)		
	Percentage	Votes
Yes/For	54.02%	94,448
No/Against	45.98%	80,384
		174,832

★ Douglas County School District RE-1 Ballot Issue 5B (Vote For 1)		
	Percentage	Votes
Yes/For	52.39%	91,473
No/Against	47.61%	83,136
		174,609

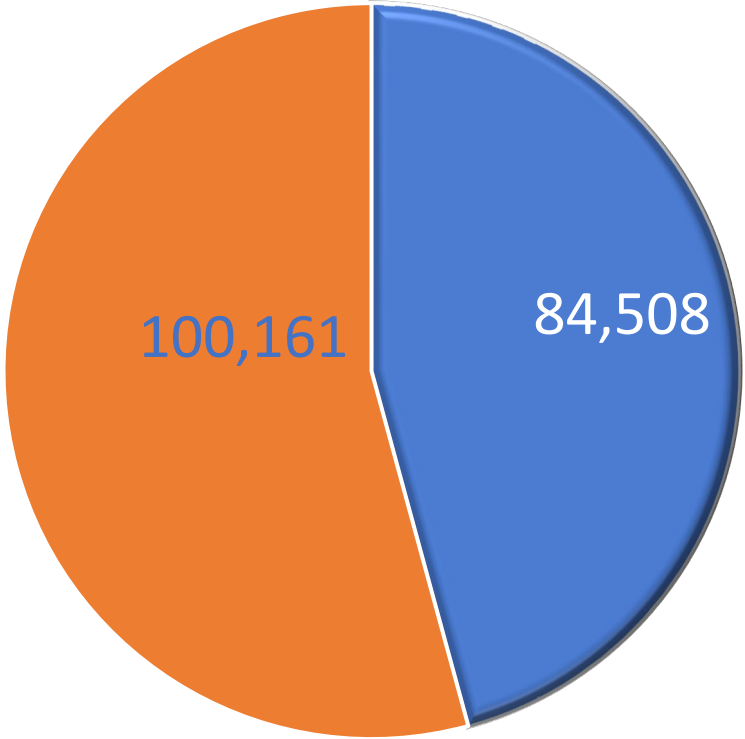
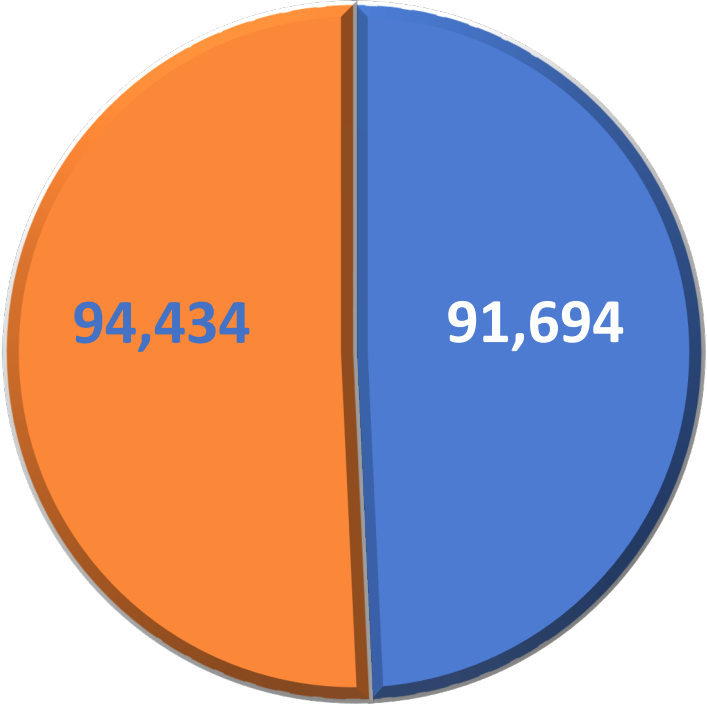
The Bond passed with 52.4% or 91,473 votes.

Recap of 2022 MLO and Bond Results

2022 MLO Results

2022 Bond Results

The MLO fell short by just 2,740 votes, or .7% of the overall vote.



The Bond failed by 4.2%, or 15,653 votes.



■ Yes ■ No

■ Yes ■ No

Source: Douglas County Elections

Community Support = Resources

TRACER Filing Detail

Home > Search > Committees > Committee Detail > Filing Detail

Registered User Login [Help with this page](#) [Campaign Finance Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Details for the OCTOBER 16, 2018 - REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Committee Name: BRIGHT FUTURES FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY KIDS
 SOS ID: 20185035306
 Committee Type: Issue Committee
 Election Cycle: 2018 1 YEAR CYCLE (1/1/2018 - 12/31/2018)
 Report Schedule: OCTOBER 16, 2018 - REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES
 Reporting Period: 07/22/2018 - 10/11/2018
 Date Due: 10/16/2018
 Date Filed: 10/14/2018
 How Filed: Electronic

Reporting Period Beginning Funds on Hand: \$4,659.46

Contributions			
Monetary Contributions:	Itemized: \$195,968.00	Non-Itemized: \$1,012.99	\$196,980.99
Returned Contributions:			(\$0.00)
Non-Monetary Contributions:			\$13,767.19
Expenditures			
Monetary Expenditures:	Itemized: \$100,392.49	Non-Itemized: \$0.00	\$100,392.49
Returned Expenditures:			(\$0.00)
Non-Monetary Expenditures:			\$0.00
Loans			
Loans Received:			\$0.00
Loan Repayments Made:			\$0.00
Miscellaneous			
Miscellaneous Receipts:			\$0.00

Reporting Period Ending Funds on Hand: \$101,247.96
 NOTE: Non-Monetary items are not included in Funds on Hand total

In 2018, the community donated **\$218,094**, including **\$190,000** between July and October.



TRACER Committee Detail

Home > Search > Committees > Committee Detail

Registered User Login [Help with this page](#) [Campaign Finance Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Committee Information

Name: INVEST IN DCSD
 Physical Address: [REDACTED]
 Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
 Phone: [REDACTED]
 Web: [REDACTED]
 Purpose: SUPPORT DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION BOND AND MILL-LEVY OVERRIDE MEASURES INCLUDING RAISING CITIZEN AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Registered Agent: [REDACTED]
 Designated Filing Agent: [REDACTED]

Committee ID: 20225043237
 Committee Type: Issue Committee
 Status: Active
 Date Registered: 06/21/2022
 Date Terminated:
 Jurisdiction: DOUGLAS

Financial Summary

This data is current as of: DECEMBER 13, 2022 - REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES
 Period end date: 12/08/2022 Filed on: 12/14/2022
 Election Cycle: 2022 1 YEAR CYCLE (1/1/2022 - 12/31/2022)

Beginning Balance:	\$0.00	Less Total Expenditures:	\$55,678.10
Plus Total Contributions:	\$58,788.00	Less Total Loans Repaid:	\$0.00
Plus Total Loans Received:	\$0.00	Ending Balance:	\$3,109.90

Reported non-monetary items not included above:
 Non Monetary Contributions: \$327.39 Non Monetary Expenditures: \$327.39

In 2022, the community contributed **\$58,768** including approximately **\$36,000** between July and October.

Urgent, Time-sensitive Needs



Competitive pay

- DougCo avg teacher pay: **\$58,193**
 - JeffCo: \$66,586
 - Littleton: \$73,196
 - Cherry Creek: \$77,282
 - Boulder: \$84,505
- Educational assistants make **\$13.62/hour**.



Facility maintenance

- **111** buildings
- 89 schools
- **Costs \$30-35 million** per year
- Previous bond addressed **critical needs in schools** built before 2006.
- **Broad community support**



School security

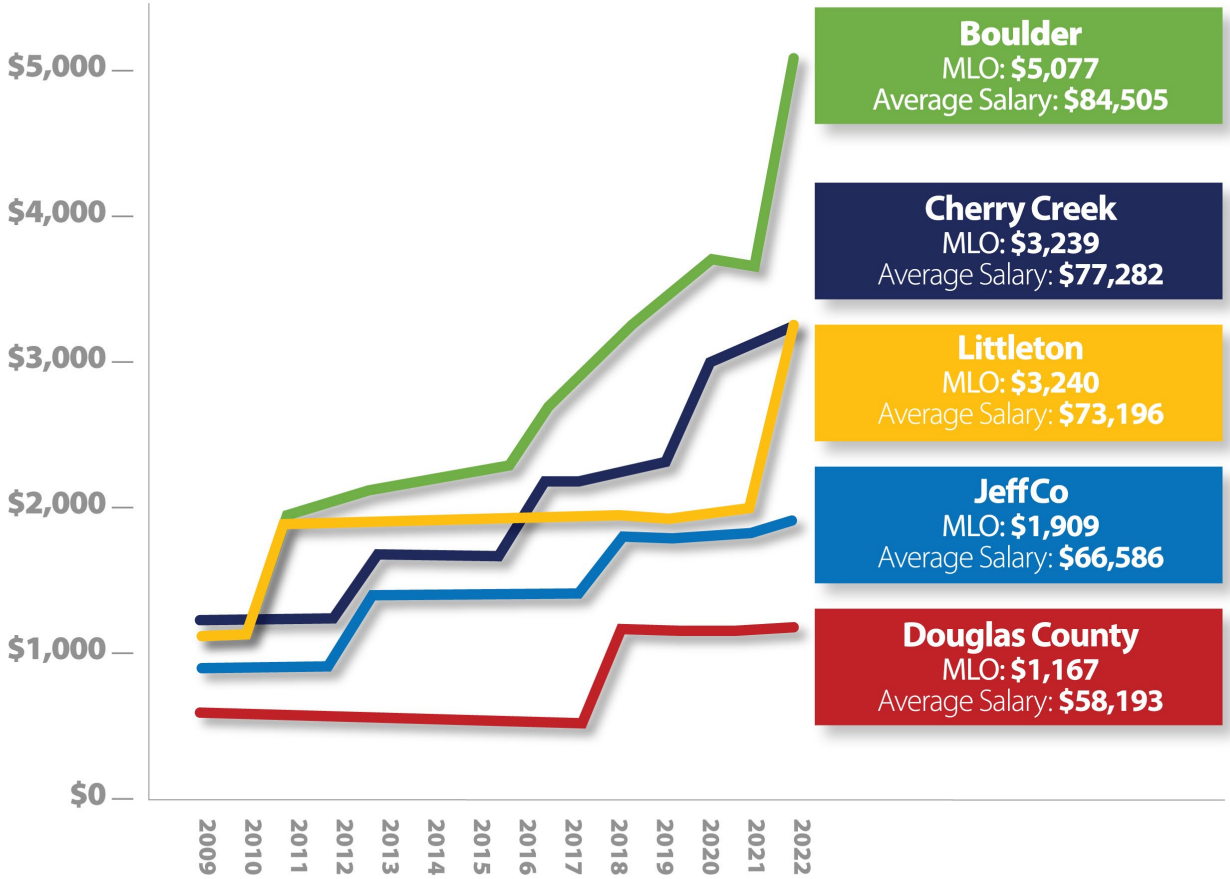
- Funding for **increased SRO and safety/security**
- **Physical safety measures/Hardening**
- **Technology** solutions
- **Controlled access**-limited
- **Communication processes** (including students)



New schools

- **Most expensive, most time-sensitive, least understood request**
- Schools take **three years** once funding is approved
- **No new schools since 2010**

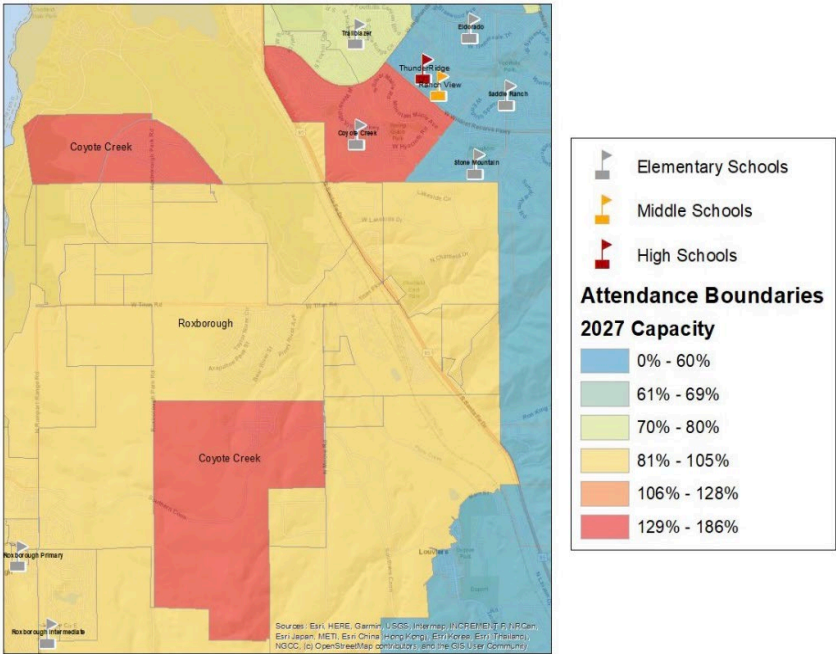
Competitive Compensation is Key



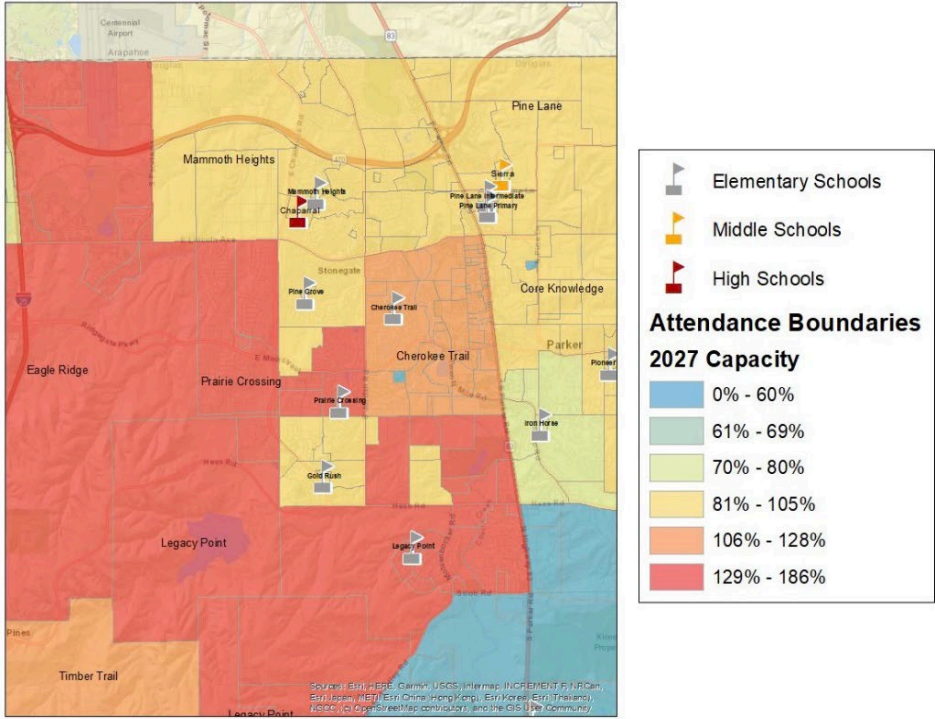
*MLO per student is total MLO divided by funded pupil count; Average teacher salaries are from CDE data for the 2021-2022 school year.

Growth Requires New Elementary Schools and Expanded Middle Schools

Sterling Ranch/Solstice Proposed Elementary School



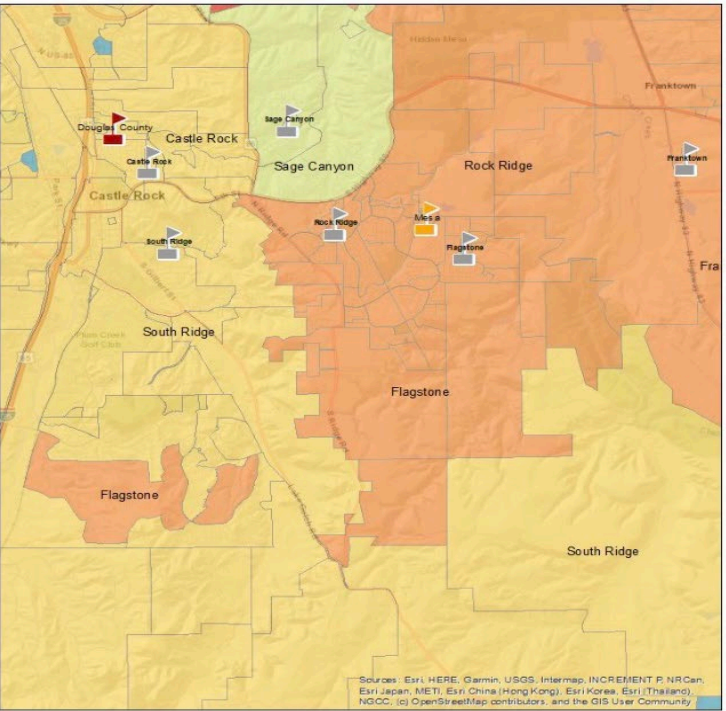
The Canyons of Castle Pines Proposed Elementary School



Growth Requires New Elementary Schools and Expanded Middle Schools

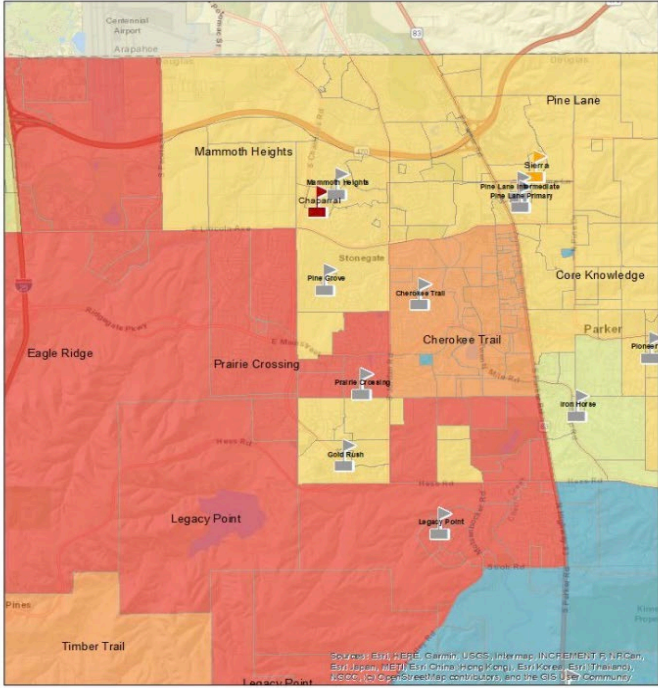
Crystal Valley

Proposed elementary school and Mesa Middle School expansion



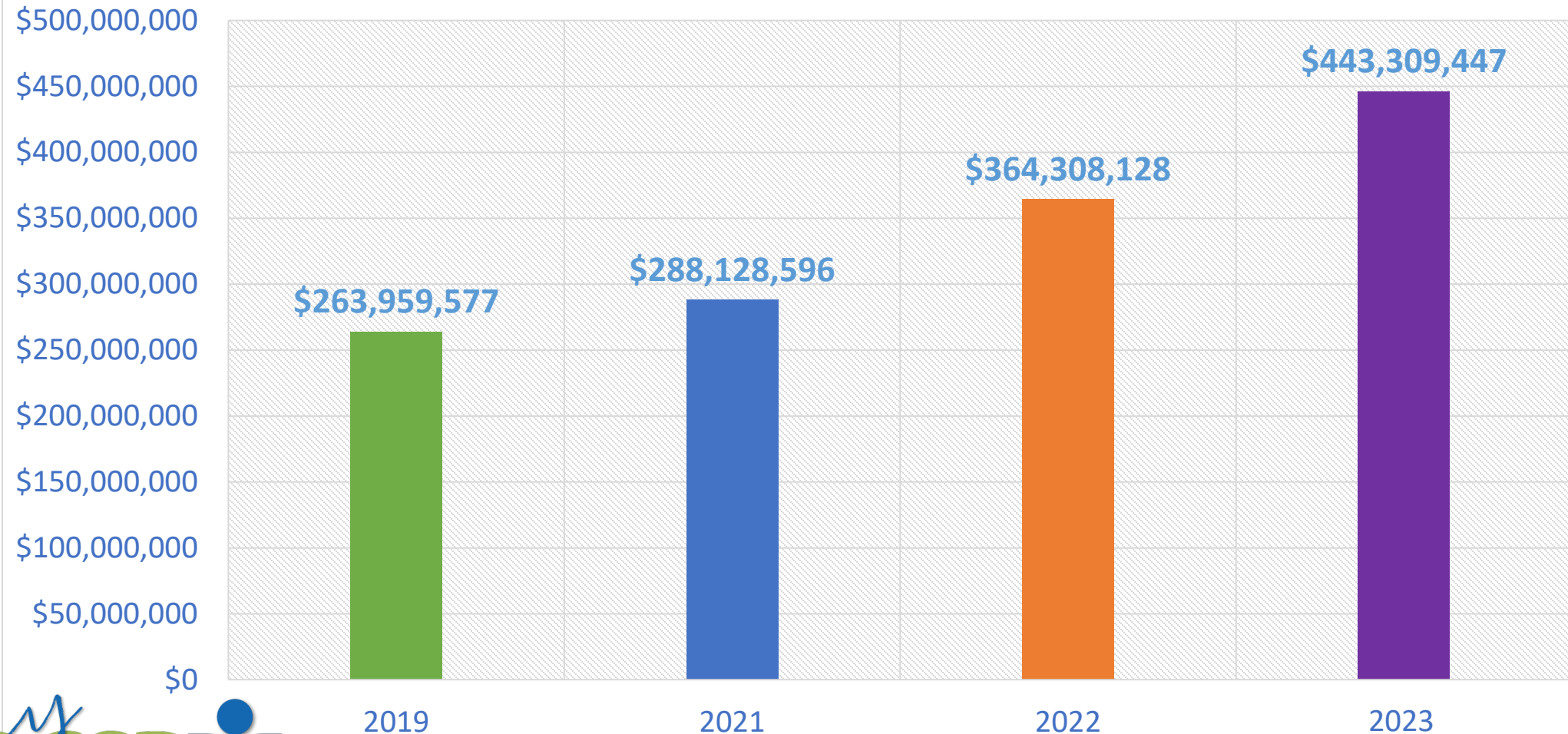
Sierra Middle School

Proposed expansion



Growing Maintenance Needs

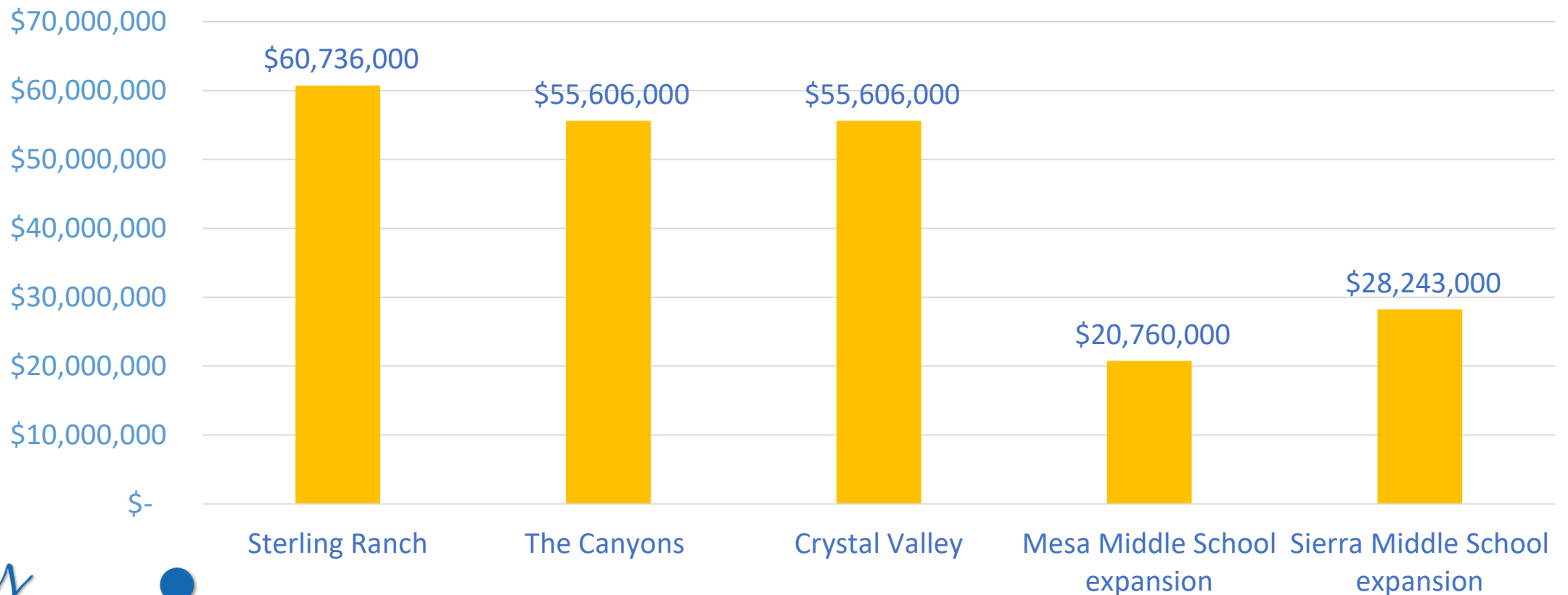
Estimated costs



Source: Master Capital Plans

New Schools in Growing Neighborhoods

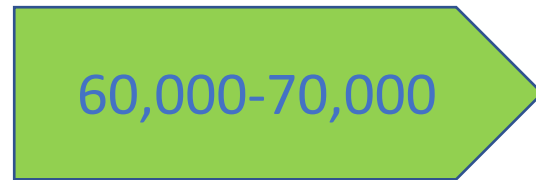
New Elementary Schools/ Middle School Expansions



The End Goal

Projected YES votes needed for an MLO and Bond to be successful

2023



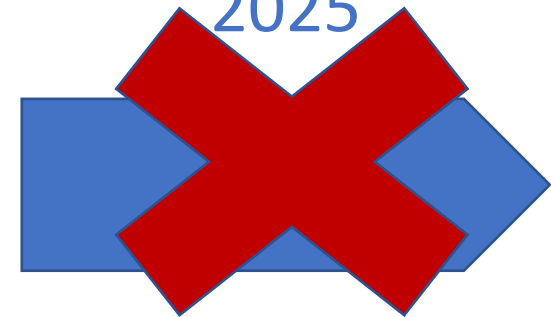
- Lower voter turnout (~45-50%)
- Older voters
- Board election year
- Property tax increase

2024



- Highest voter turnout (> 90%)
- Younger voters
- Volatile political environment

2025

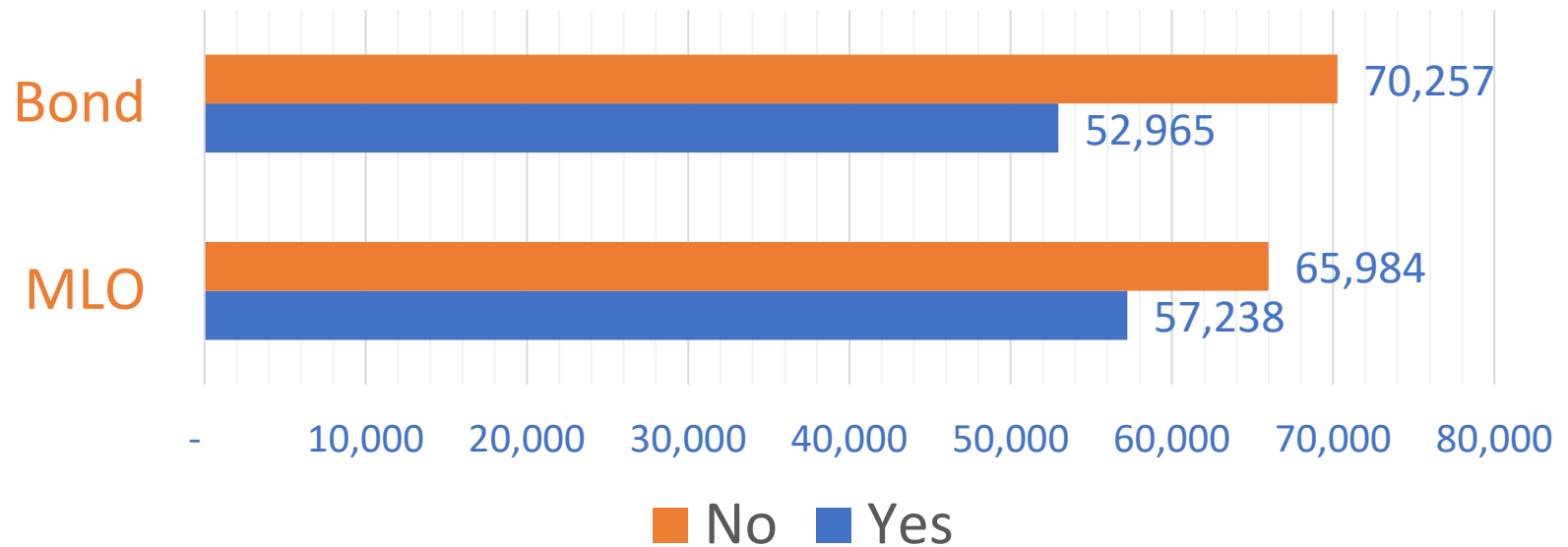


- Lower voter turnout
- Majority of Board director seats up for election
- Electoral volatility

Current Projections for 2023

Voter turnout in off-year elections is typically lower. Voters are older, less likely to have children currently enrolled in DCSD schools.

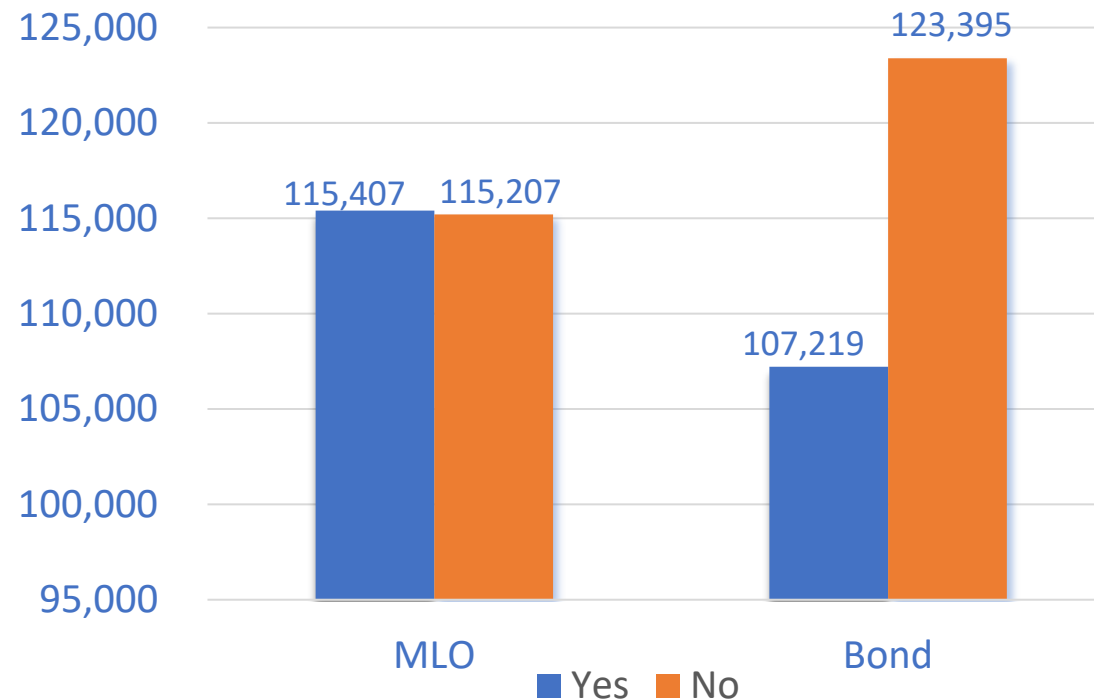
Based solely on historical data (voter turnout, voter composition): we project the MLO and Bond would fail in 2023 ***if all else remained constant.***



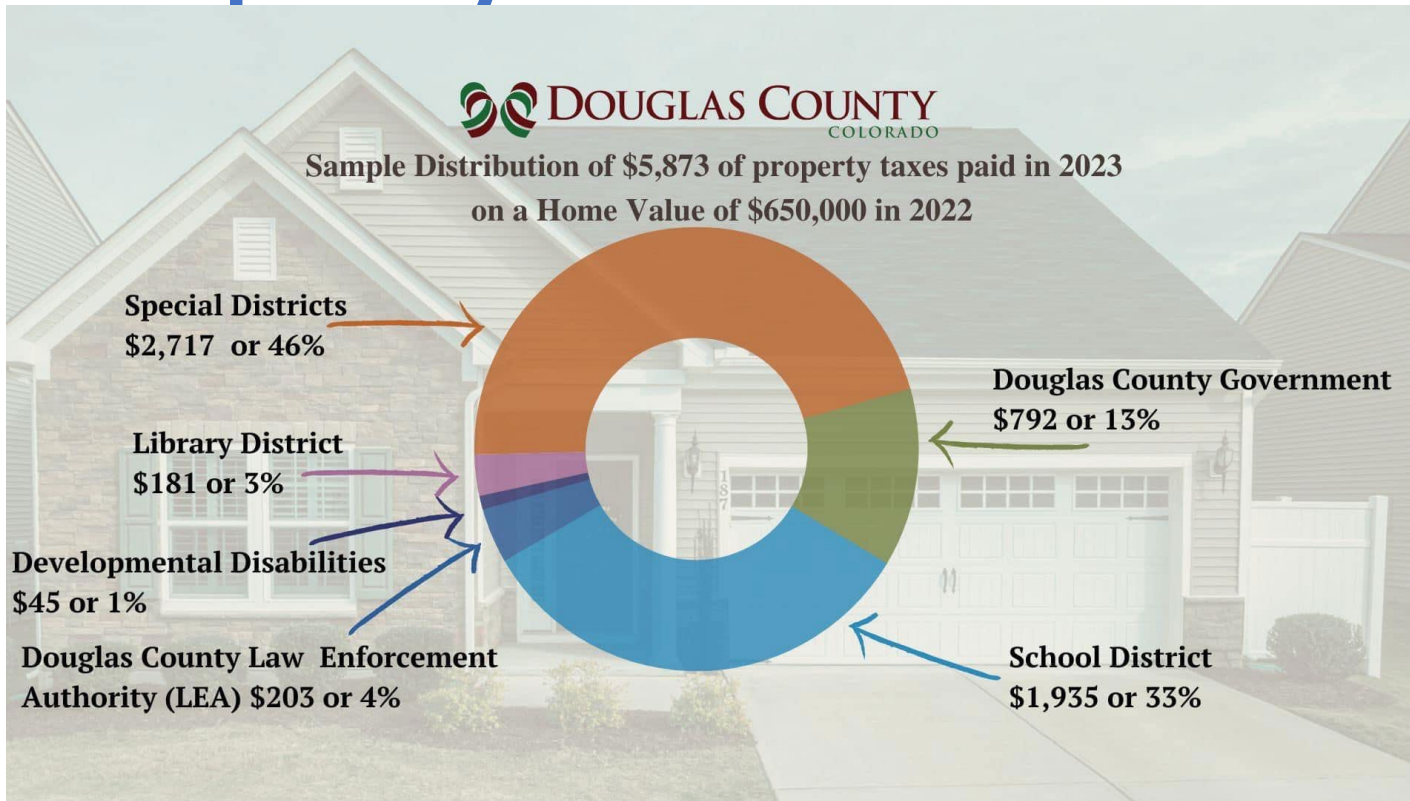
Current Projections for 2024

In 2024, based on the same data: we project the MLO would pass, but the Bond would fail *If all else remained constant.*

Voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election exceeded 90%. Parents and young adults tend to vote in greater numbers in even years.



Property Taxes



Higher property taxes primarily benefit the state. They don't fund building maintenance or new construction. Nor do they provide funding for competitive salaries.

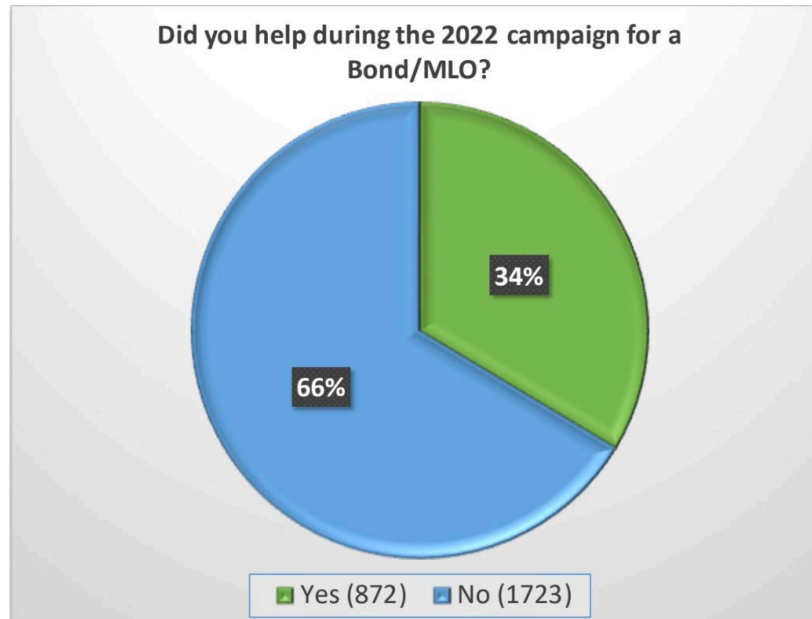
“This year’s notices will reflect an increase of between 30% and 60%. We know that made you flinch...” Douglas County, [*What’s Happening With Property Taxes?*](#) April 21, 2023

Agenda

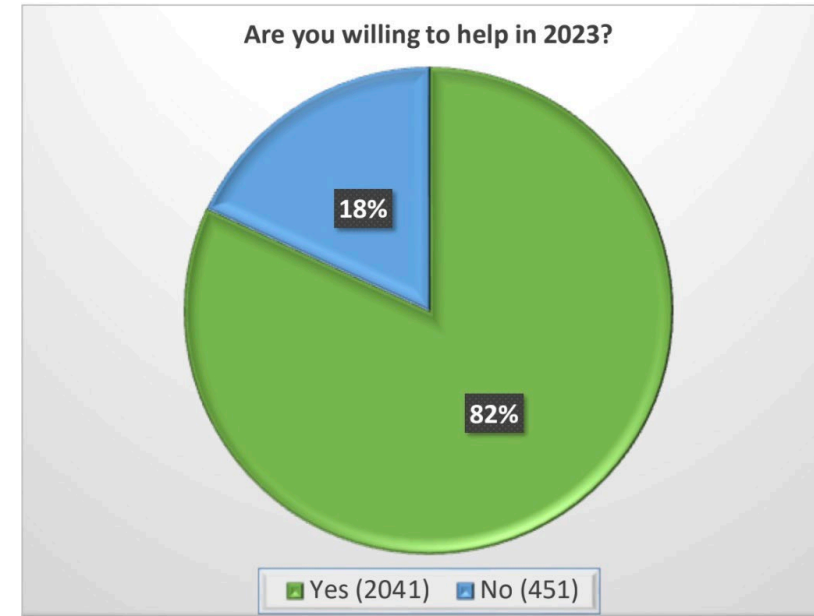
1. Introduction
2. **Data**
3. Recommendations
4. Questions



Employee Sentiment is Changing



At Superintendent Kane's recent presentations, **66%** of attendees said they did not volunteer to assist the **2022** funding campaign.



Over 80% of those same attendees say **they will help in 2023.**

Research Methodology

Surveyed

- Staff, n=1260
- PTO/SACs, n=153
- Board Committee, n=40

Collected Responses Via Email



Open-ended responses Coded



Graphical Results

Focus Groups

- SPED Parents/Advocates
- Law Enforcement Leaders
- Community Members with no ties to district

Guideline of Questions



Collected Factors that Impact Funding Feasibility

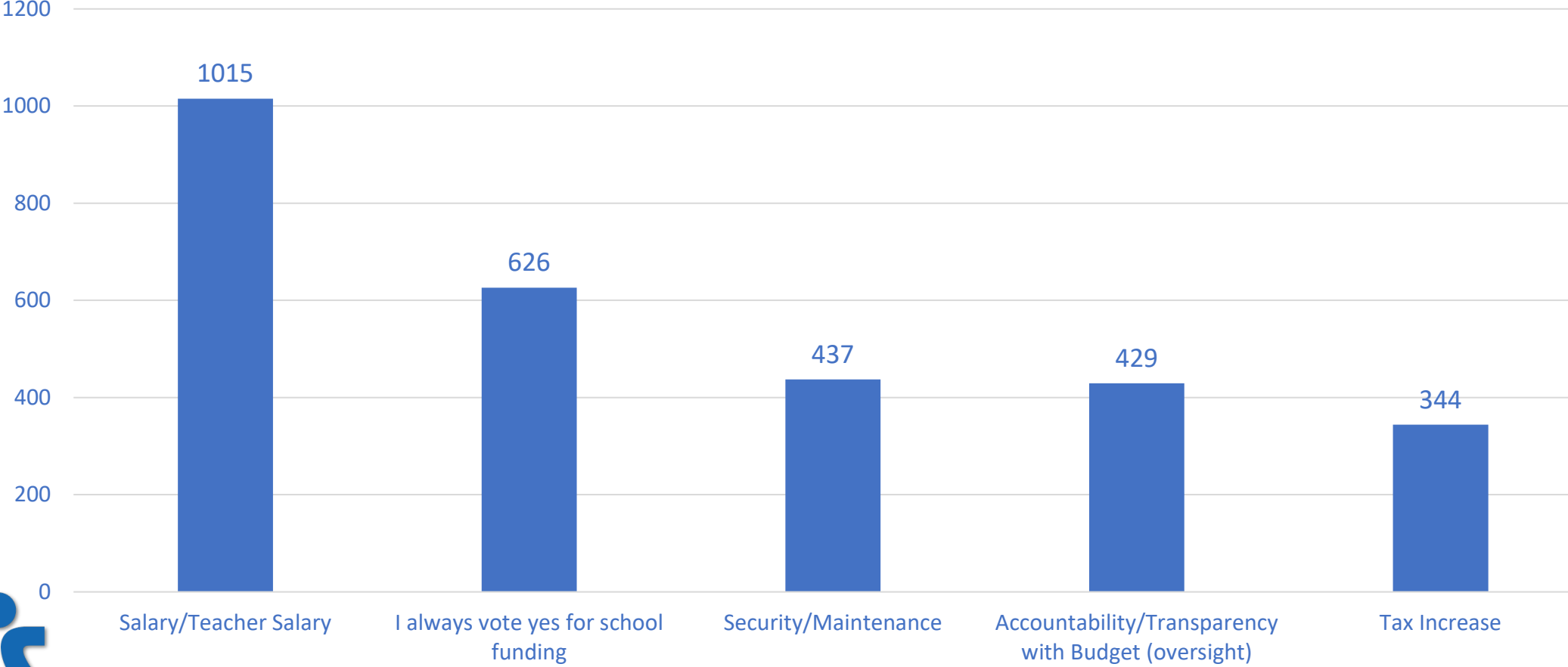


Summary Results

Employees' Perception of an MLO

As an educator, what information is most important for you to know to decide whether to vote yes or no on an MLO/Bond? (multi-select, top 5) (n=1260)

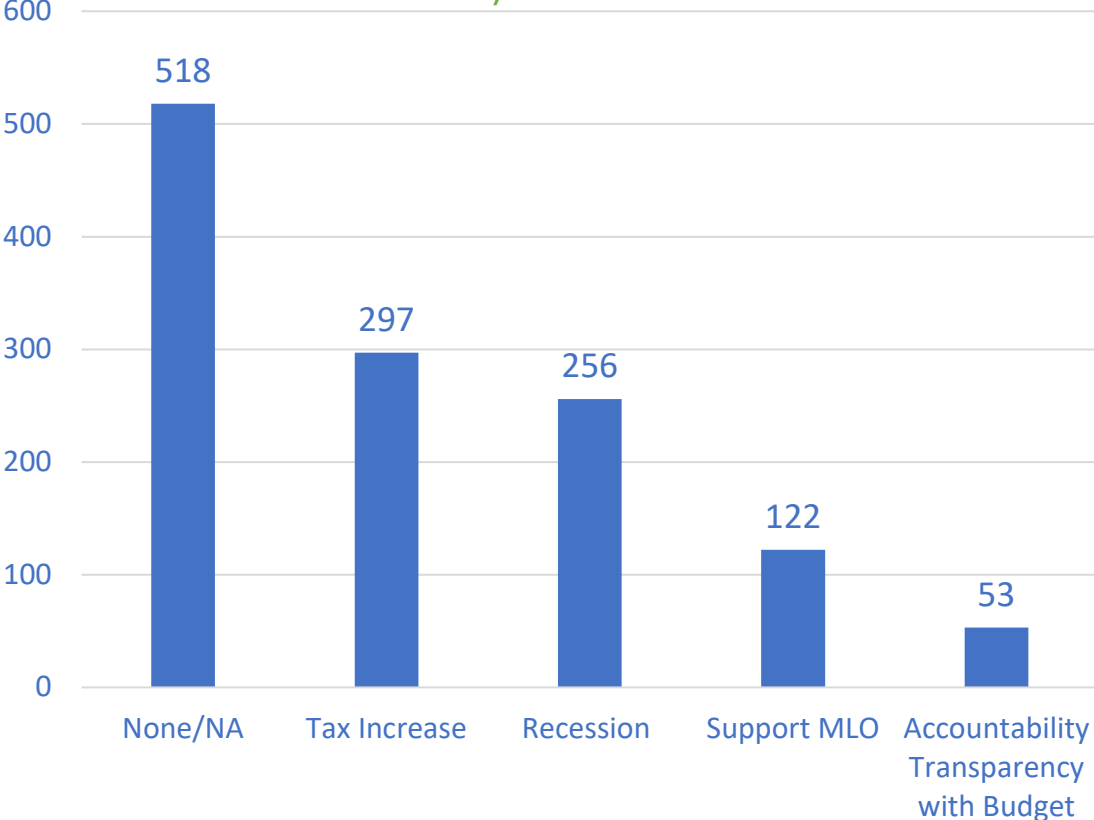
93.3% in Support of MLO on November 2023 Ballot



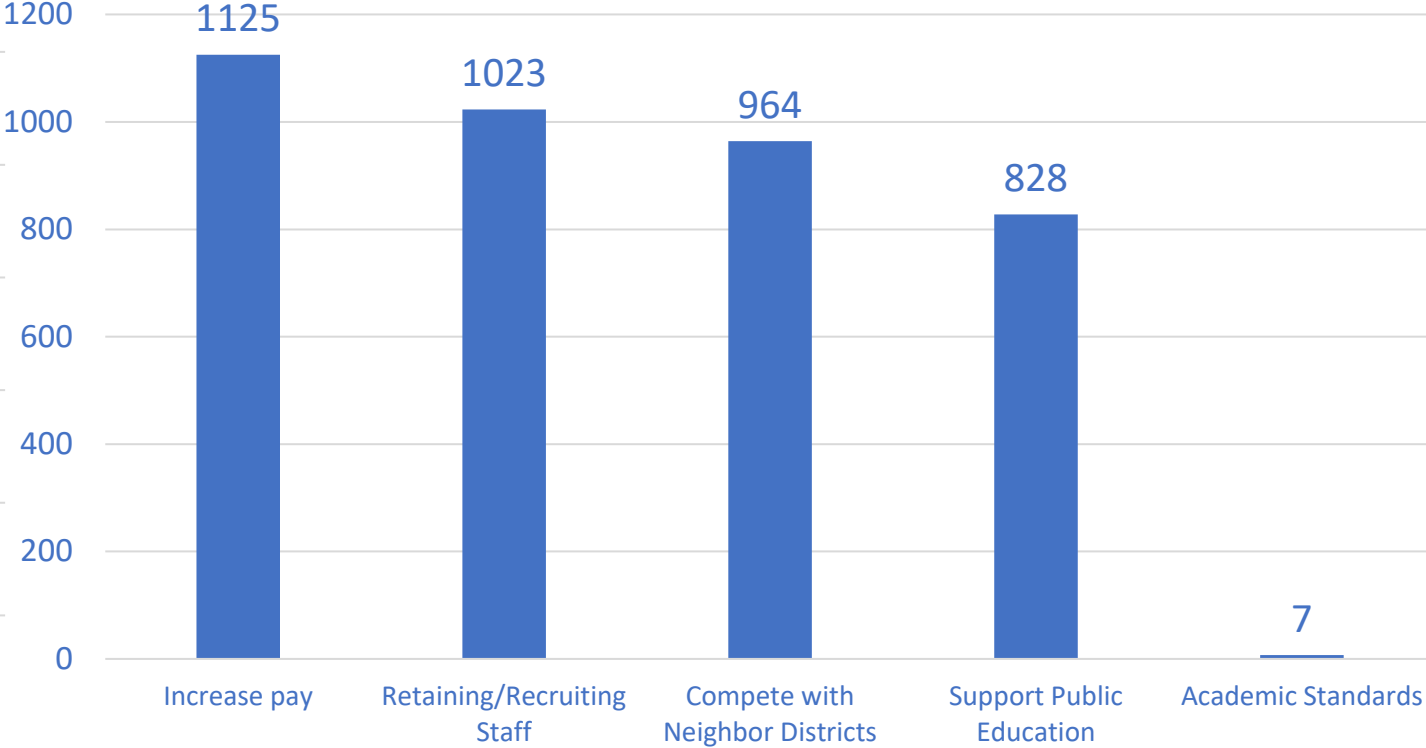
Source: MBEC Community Engagement Presentation, March 27, 2023

Employees' Perception of an MLO

What are your top reason(s) to NOT support a Mill Levy Override, if applicable? (multi-response, top 5) n=1260



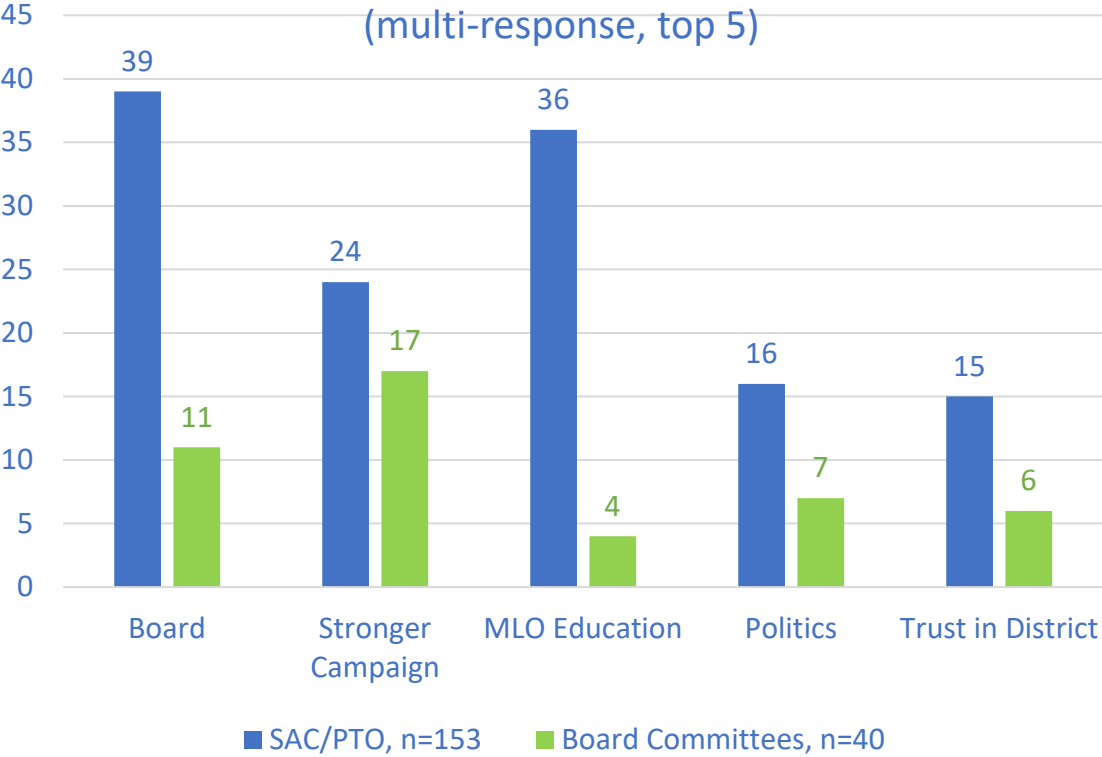
What are your top reasons to support a Mill Levy Override? (multi-response, top 5) n=1260



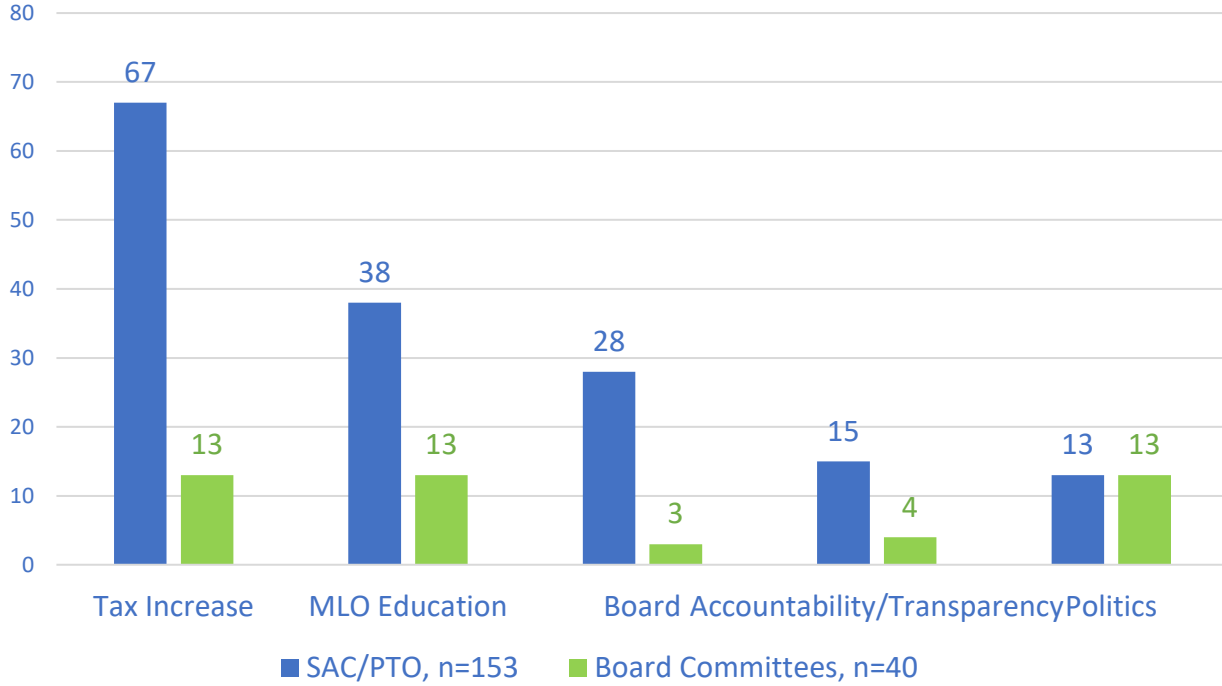
Source: MBEC Community Engagement Presentation, March 27, 2023

Board Committees' and SAC/PTO's Perception of an MLO

Why do you believe that the November 2022 MLO effort was not successful?
(multi-response, top 5)



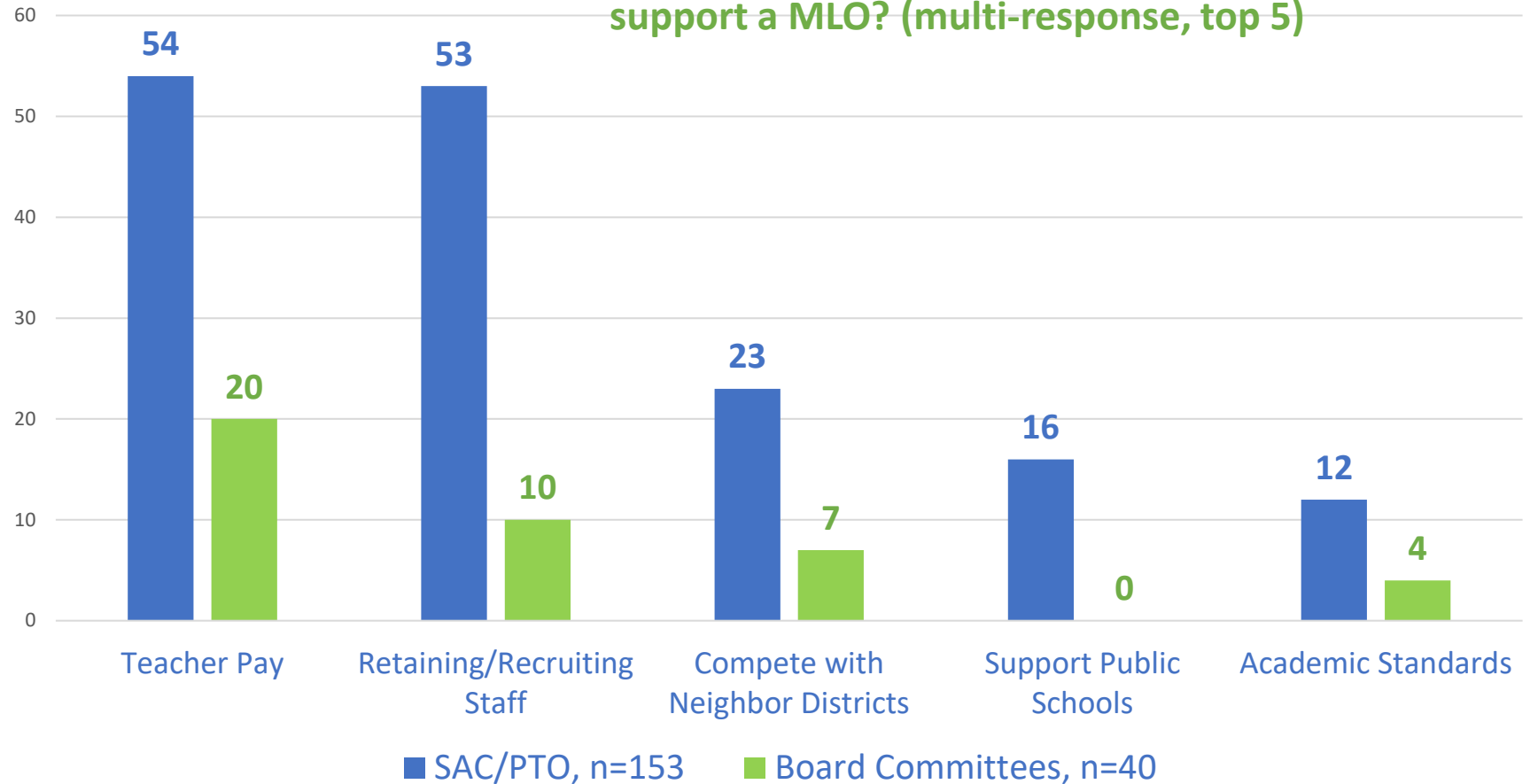
What is the number one reason you believe would prevent the community from supporting a MLO?
(multi-response, top 5)



Source: MBEC Community Engagement Presentation, March 27, 2023

Board Committees' and SAC/PTO's Perception of an MLO

What is the number one reason you believe the community would support a MLO? (multi-response, top 5)



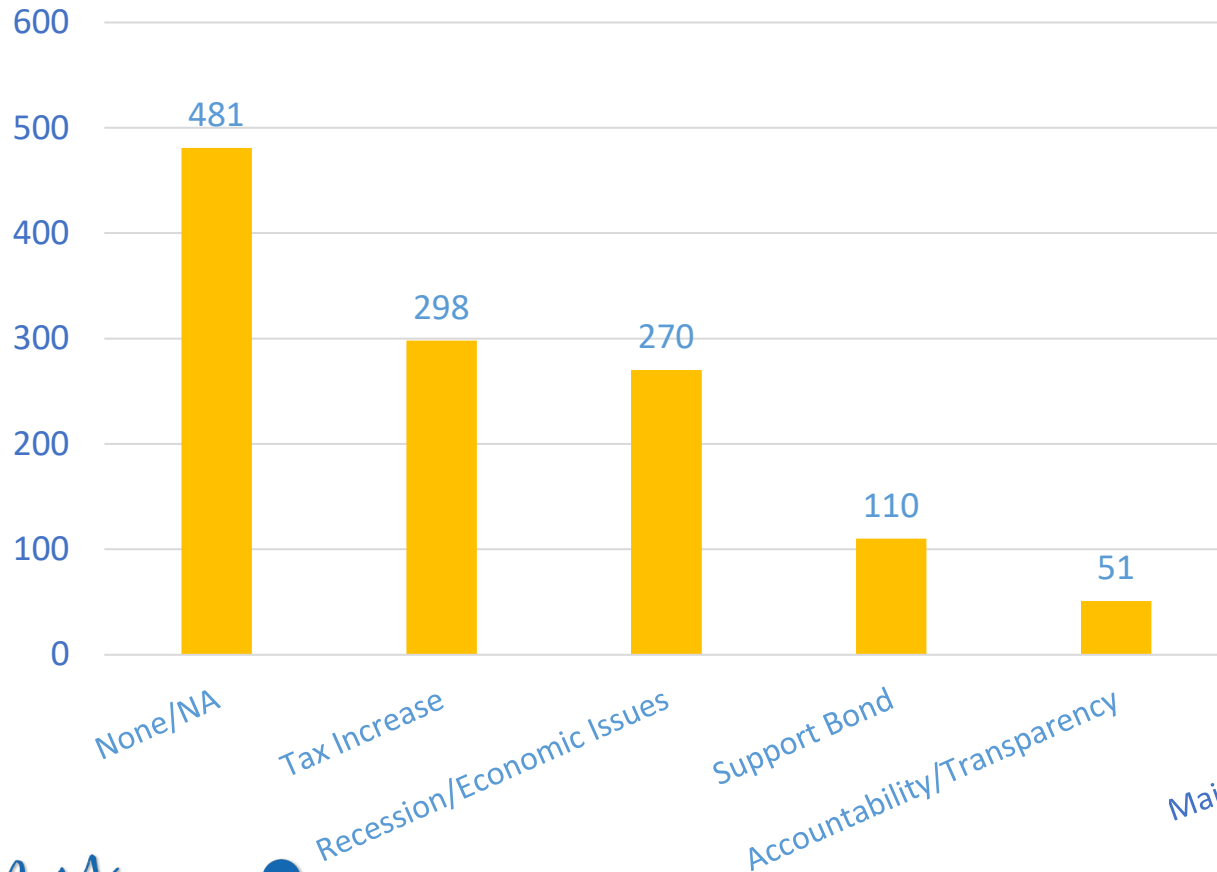
96.6% in Support of MLO on November 2023 Ballot



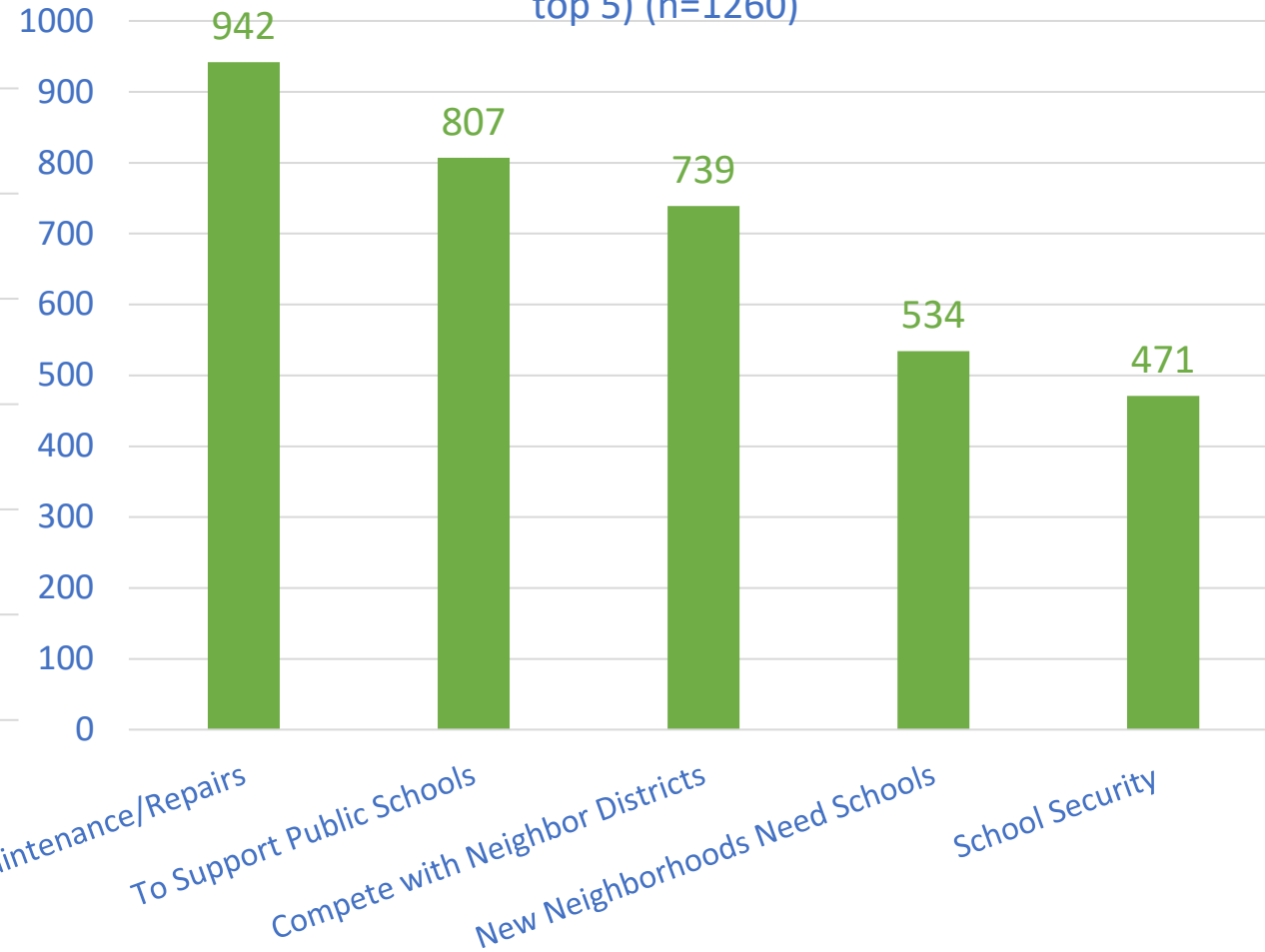
Employees' Perception of a Bond

88.4% Support Bond on November 2023 Ballot

What are your top reasons to NOT support a Bond, if applicable? (multi-response, top 5) n=1260

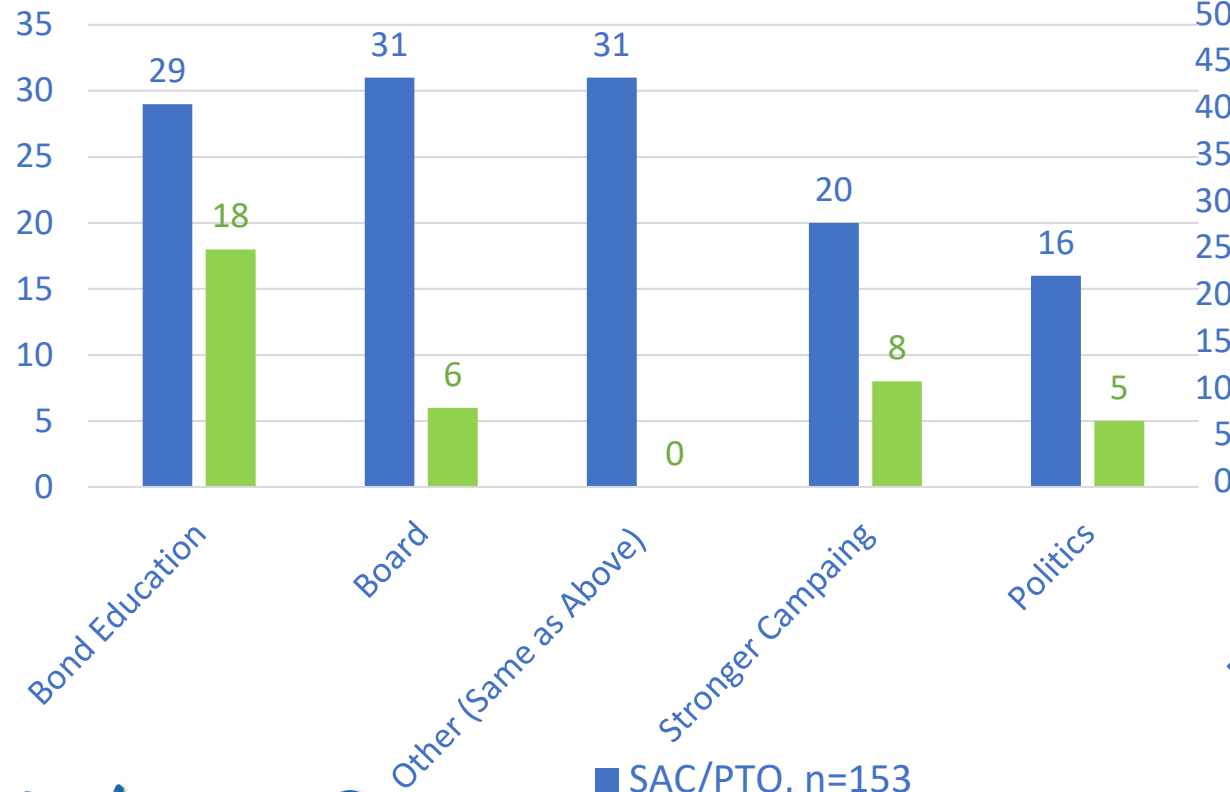


What are your top reasons to support a Bond? (multi-choice, top 5) (n=1260)

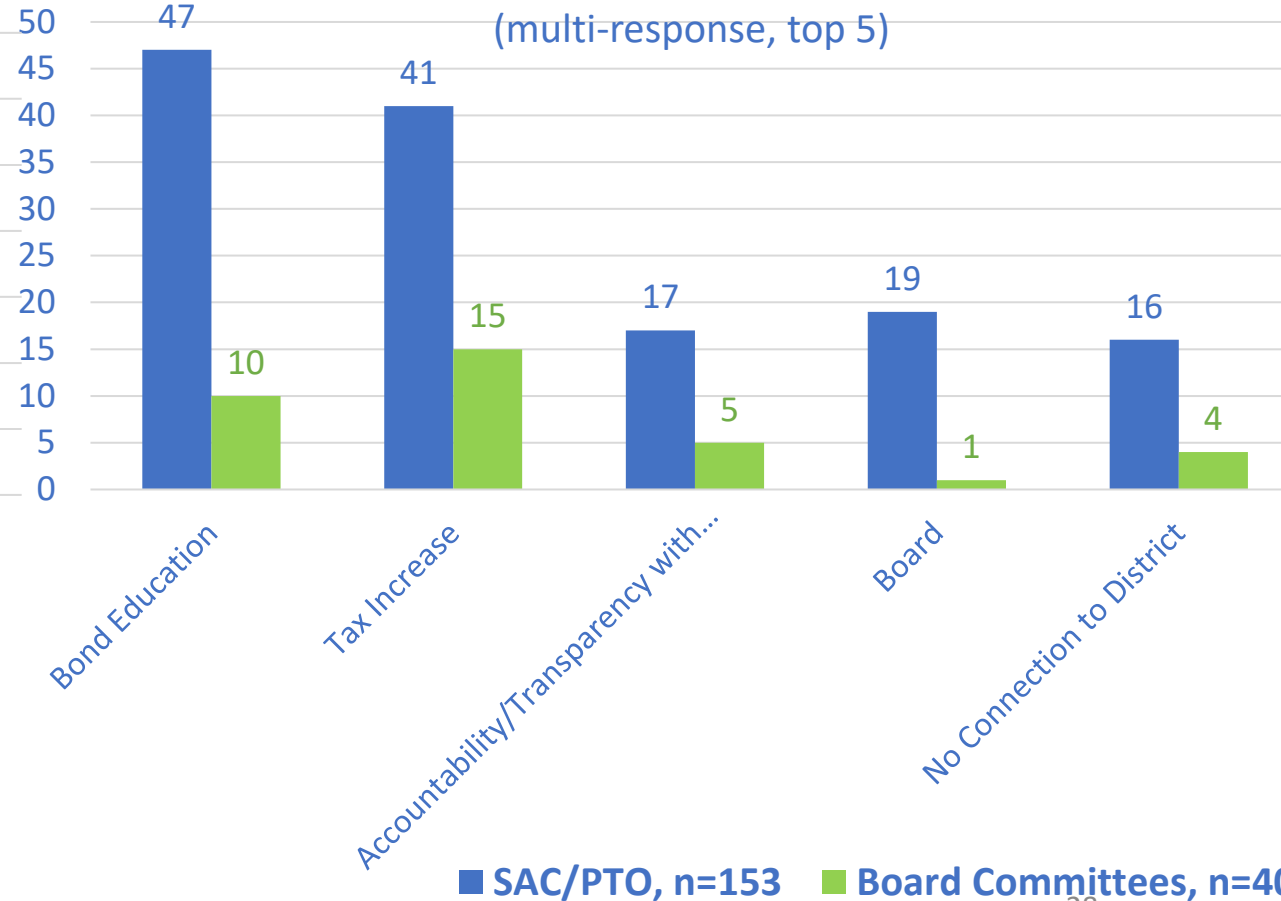


Board Committees' and SAC/PTO's Perception of a Bond

Why do you believe that the November 2022 Bond effort was not successful? (multi-response, top 5)



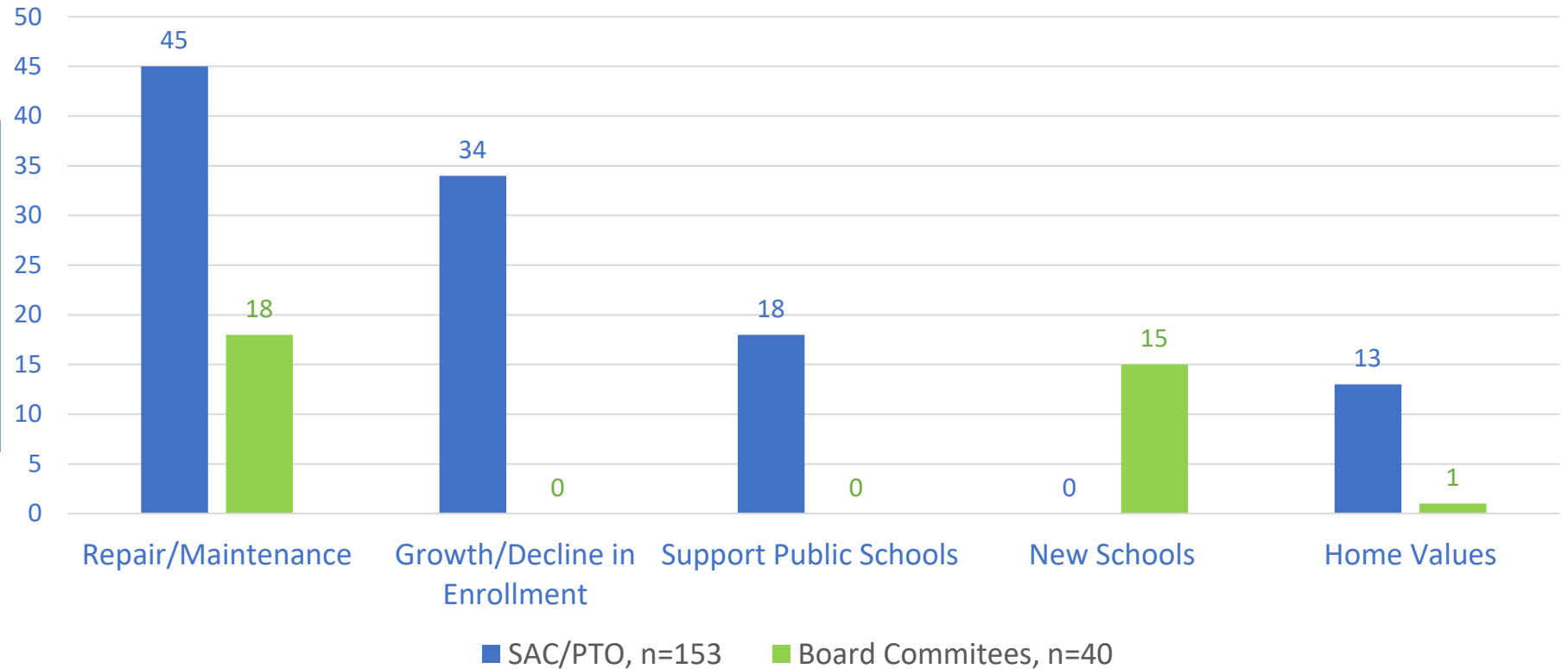
What is the number one reason you believe would prevent the community from supporting a Bond? (multi-response, top 5)



Board Committees' and SAC/PTO's Perception of a Bond

95.3% in Support of Bond on November 2023 Ballot

What is the number one reason you believe the community would support a Bond? (multi-response, top 5)



General Focus Group Concerns

SPED Community

- Need for committed resources
- Need for ongoing, systemic staff training
- Need to increase trust

Law Enforcement

- Perception District administration is top heavy
- Tax aversion is high (fire and police initiatives failed in 2022)

Influencers of “the 61%”

- Unaware of how school finance works
- Unaware of urgency of needs
- Misinformation

General Focus Group Suggestions

SPED Community

- Accountability and Transparency on how SPED will benefit from these funds
- Desire to have quality of SPED services and equitable education access challenges addressed through mandatory evidence-based trainings for administration and staff
- Involvement of SPED in Legacy Campus and other improvements in career readiness supports for SPED students

Law Enforcement

- Emphasize education/Outreach to elderly and those on fixed incomes
- Small community meetings
- New formats to educate public (e.g., pamphlets, navigation-friendly website, infographics)

Influencers of “the 61%”

- Increase educational outreach, especially on Bond
- Superintendent Kane’s presentation on school funding is effective at garnering support

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Data
3. Recommendations
4. Questions



Recommendations

- **\$65 million MLO**

- 2023 **most** feasible year
- Community aware of need
- Keep funding for employee salaries consistent
- Add \$5 million/year for security
- Emphasize respect and support for teachers

- **\$450 million Bond**

- 2023 **only** feasible year
- Construction takes three years
- Urgent need for new schools
- Ongoing, increasing maintenance
- Address community confusion/concern over debt financing and its effect on households

Funding Issues vs Board Election Topics

MLO/Bond

Referendum on

- Essential resources for schools
- Operational excellence
- Competitive compensation
- Needed maintenance
- School security
- Continued academic excellence
- Expanded career/tech education

Board of Directors Election

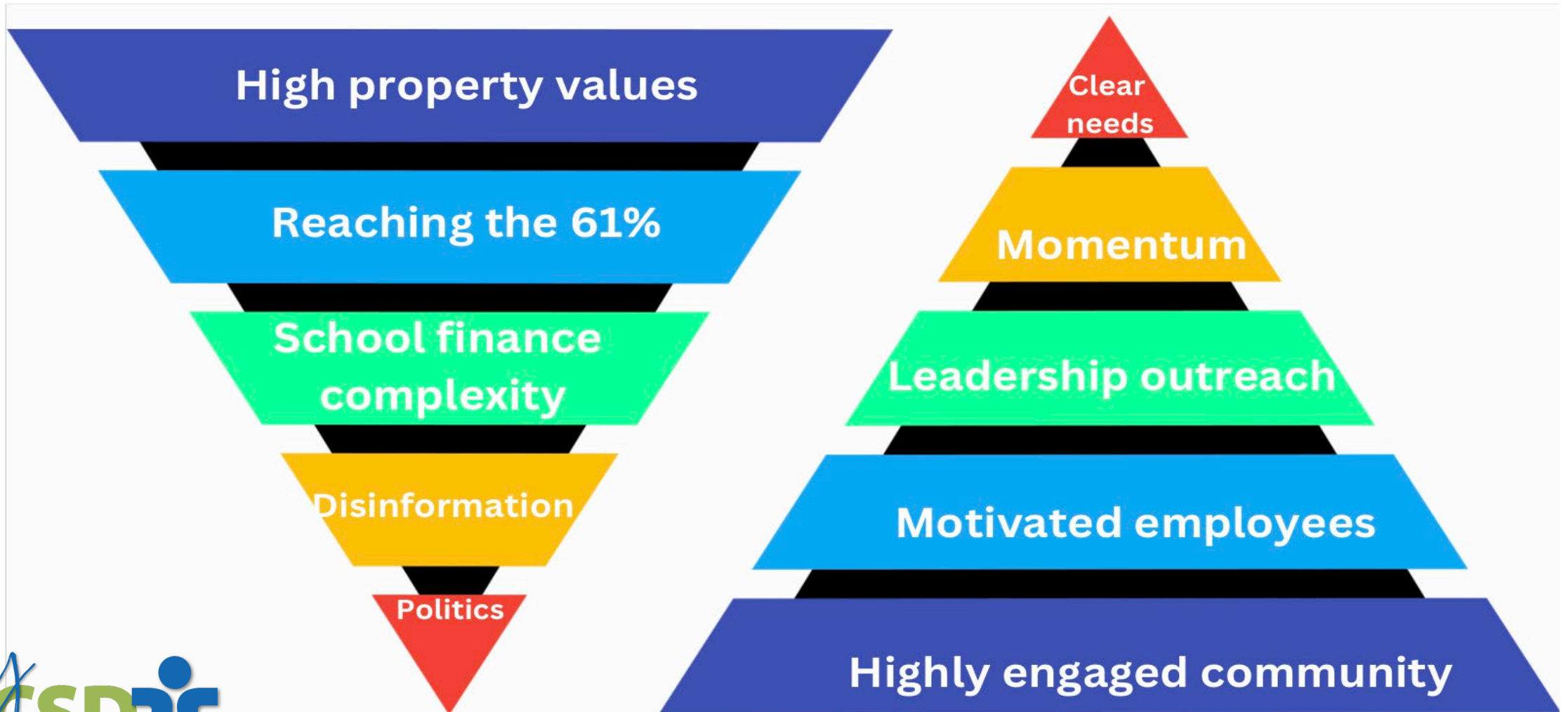
Referendum on

- Representative leadership of polarized community
- Governance
- Policy

Strengths and Weaknesses

Challenges

Success Factors



Messaging

- Keep it simple, universal and inarguable.
 - We love our students.
 - We respect our teachers.
 - We support our schools.
 - We value education.
 - Funding is essential.



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Data
3. Recommendations
4. Questions?



Appendix

External Data Sources

- [2022 Master Capital Plan](#)
- [How Schools are Funded](#)
- [Retention Strategies Related to 5A](#)
- [2022-2023 Enrollment Projections](#)
- [Growth and Decline Briefing](#)
- [Colorado Secretary of State website](#)
- [DCSD Safety and Security Presentation](#)
- Douglas County, [What's Happening With Property Taxes?](#)



- [PacWest/Moore Community Survey](#)
- [Potential 2023 Bond/MLO Updates](#)
- [2018 Bond/MLO Updates](#)
- [School Finance 101](#)
- [Douglas County Elections](#)
- [Budget Update for DAC](#)
- [Master Capital Plans](#)
- [New Bridge Strategies 2022 Survey](#)
- [Colorado Public Ed 2022 Survey](#)

Internal Research and Analysis

- [Data Analysis Subcommittee Presentation](#)
- [Community Engagement Presentation](#)
- [MBEC 2022 Presentation](#)