

CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: In Person and Virtual / Zoom 17425 Ballinger Way NE Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING THIS MEETING VIRTUALLY:

Join Zoom Webinar: <u>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81266972044</u> Call into Webinar: 253-215-8782 | Webinar ID: 812 6697 2044

The City Council is providing opportunities for public comment by submitting a written comment or by attending in person to provide oral public comment.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE WITH ORAL COMMENTS:

If you are attending the meeting in person, there is a sign in sheet located near the entrance to the Council Chambers. Simply fill the form out and the Mayor will call your name at the appropriate time. Oral comments are limited to 3:00 minutes per speaker. Oral comments are not being accepted via Zoom.

The meeting is being recorded.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Written comments will be submitted to Council if received by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting; otherwise, they will be provided to the City Council the next day. The City Clerk will read your name and subject matter into the record during Public Comments.

As allowed by law, the Council may add and take action on items not listed on the agenda. For up-todate information on agendas, please visit the City's website at <u>www.cityoflfp.gov</u>

Meetings are shown on the city's website and on Comcast channel 21 for subscribers within the Lake Forest Park city limits.

<u>AGENDA</u>

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Committee is not accepting online public comments. This portion of the agenda is set aside for the public to address the Council on agenda items or any other topic the Council might have purview or control over. However, the Committee may not respond to comments from the public. If the comments are of a nature that the Council does not have influence or control over, then the Deputy Mayor or presiding officer may request the speaker suspend their comments. The

Council may direct staff to follow up on items brought up by the public. **Comments are limited to a three (3) minute time limit.**

3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Public Works Director Meet and Greet
- **B.** Community Development Department update on current projects
- C. Review of the Community Survey Results
- D. Public Safety Update

4. ADJOURN

FUTURE SCHEDULE

- Thursday, February 27, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

- Saturday, March 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m. City Council Retreat – *hybrid meeting (Shoreline Fire Station 51 and via Zoom)*

- Thursday, March 13, 2025, 6:00 p.m. City Council Work Session – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

- Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

- Thursday, March 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

- Monday, March 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

- Thursday, March 27, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact city hall at 206-368-5440 by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting for more information.

Community Development Director Mark Hofman 17425 Ballinger Way NE Lake Forest Park, WA 98155-5556 Phone: 206-957-2824 Email: mhofman@cityoflfp.gov www.cityofLFP.gov



DATE:	February 24, 2025
TO:	Committee of the Whole, City of Lake Forest Park
FROM:	Mark Hofman, Community Development Director
RE:	Community Development Department Update on Anticipated Projects

2024 Comprehensive Periodic Update- Adopted by City Council on December 12, 2024. The WA State Dept of Commerce review is complete for Growth Management Act (GMA) timeline compliance. We've received King County Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) review comments. The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) review and action re: the transportation goals and policies of the Plan is forthcoming.

Middle Housing Development Regulations- Amendments to LFPMC, due by June, 2025 or the city would be subject to a model ordinance for Tier 3 cities from the WA State Dept of Commerce. The grant from Commerce and contract with SCJ ends June, 2025.

Climate Element- Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to add a climate element and GHG and Resiliency sub elements. Draft is due to Commerce in June, 2025 per grant deliverables, then City Council review occurs and contract closure (Cascadia Consulting) in the second half of 2025. This includes an Implementation Chapter effort as a carryover item from the 2024 adoption.

Incentives for Affordable Housing- Potential development regulation amendments:

- Tools to incentivize housing affordability
- Frontage regulations review and amendment
- Zoning district combining review

Sign Ordinance- Planning Commission's prior recommended amendments to the LFPMC at City Council March through May, 2025.

Critical Areas Ordinance Update- Required regular update was due with the Comp Plan Periodic Update in Dec. 2024; extra time granted given the workload in the region and the heavy list of legislative mandates; is now due in 2025 but has some flexibility for cities that are "diligent pursuing" an update.

Critical Areas Mapping- A "guide" to be used for initial review to assist with identifying sites with or near critical areas. Site specific analysis is required for development proposals.

Shoreline Master Program (SMP)- Review and update from 2019 is overdue. Next update cycle is 2027.

Tree Regulations- Amendments to the LFPMC (Ordinance) regarding tree list and exceptional tree criteria.

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan (PROST Plan) Update- Inventory update of what the City has and current status.

Transit Oriented Development Legislation- Current legislative session in 2025 includes new mandates regarding housing, including parking near transit stations/centers. If passed, could require amendments to development regulations in LFPMC.

Neighborhood Commercial, House Bill 1175- active legislation to allow both restaurant cafes and corner stores in all residential areas. Would involve zoning and development regulation amendments to LFPMC for small scale economic development and vitality for a city that is essentially built out.

Wireless Ordinance- Out of date regulations in LFPMC that do not represent current FCC declarations and review timelines.

Subdivision Ordinance- Amendments to the LFPMC to address boundary adjustments, lot splits, etc.

Other?



Lake Forest Park **Community Survey**

Olympic Research and Strategy

Study Background

The City of Lake Forest Park is facing a \$1.5 million annual budget shortfall driven by rising costs for essential services such as public safety, and infrastructure maintenance. Limited by a 1% annual property tax revenue cap, the city has implemented cost-cutting measures but still faces tough decisions. Previous levy proposal of 2021 has not passed, highlighting the need to understand community concerns and priorities prior to introducing a temporary levy in 2025.

Study Objectives

Understand why previous levy efforts were unsuccessful.



Identify a levy structure and positioning that resonates with residents to address the budget shortfall.

Gauge community reactions to a temporary levy option as a potential solution.

Develop effective messaging and communication strategies for introducing a potential 2025 levy.





Methodology

Multi-methodology

- Address-based paper survey with QR code and unique pin for online survey option
- Telephone survey option
- Post-notification post cards sent after the paper survey to encourage participation
- Paper surveys and post cards were sent to 5,395 households
- Online survey offered in both English and Spanish

Data collected between: November 6th, 2024, and November 26th, 2024

- 526 (online) and 413 (mail-in and phone-in) surveys were collected.
- Respondents who are not registered to vote, not planning to register, and/or unlikely to vote in the next election were removed from the total respondent data set.
- Duplicate respondents (those responding both online and through mail) had their second entry deleted.
- A total of (918) surveys are included in the final data set.

Response rate – 17.02%

Confidence interval of +/-2.95% (95% confidence level, assuming worst case scenario)





Demographic Summary of Respondents

Research respondents had a mean age of 58 years, with 49% male and 47% female. Most (95%) were homeowners and long-term residents, with 60% having lived in Lake Forest Park for over 15 years and 23% for 6-15 years. The mean household income was \$174,000, and household composition varied, with 65% having 2 adults, 18% with 1 adult and fewer with 3 or more adults.

Weighting

- Weighting was applied to ensure the survey results accurately reflect the distribution of votingeligible adults in the City of Lake Forest Park. Each household's weight was based on the number of adults eligible to vote and those who reported that they "absolutely will vote" in 2025.
- For example, a household with two adults who are certain to vote received a weight of 2, while a household with one adult absolutely certain to vote received a weight of 1.

Objective

- Ensure proportional representation of voting-eligible adults.
- Prioritize responses from residents most likely to participate in the upcoming ballot.





Summary Overview: Community Satisfaction



Overall, LFP residents value their community and appreciate what it has to offer.

- 4 in 5 believe things in Lake Forest Park are going in the right direction.
- However, many residents shared opinions on changes they would like to see to improve the community and its management.



Most AGREE that occasional property tax increases are essential for maintaining and improving city services into the future, and they are twice as likely to agree (than disagree) that an increase in their property tax could have a positive impact on the community and their quality of life, and make living in LFP more desirable.

That said, substantial numbers DO NOT feel the city clearly communicates reasons behind a property tax increase and how additional revenue will be used. Some doubt whether the city will use additional tax revenue responsibly for community projects.



They want to see the City CUT COSTS and explore OTHER **FUNDING before considering a property tax increase.**

• 3 in 4 support the idea of hiring a grant writer to help the city secure external funding.









Summary Overview: Community Engagement



LFP residents are highly engaged voters.

- Nearly all are currently registered to vote, voted in 2024, and are certain or likely to vote in November 2025.
- While four in five were aware of the Permanent Property Tax Levy in 2021, just 2 in 5 voted for it *confirming* that the City will face some challenges garnering sufficient votes on a proposed Multi-Year Temporary Levy.



NO

2021 Levy Supporters:

- Voted YES because they felt the services were beneficial and necessary for themselves and the community, they wanted pedestrian safety improvements, and/or they felt that the taxes were necessary for the city to operate.
- Think that the main *barriers* to its passing were a lack of information and full transparency of how the money would be utilized, and the fact that people, in general, resist paying more taxes.

31%	2021 Le	evy	Opposers
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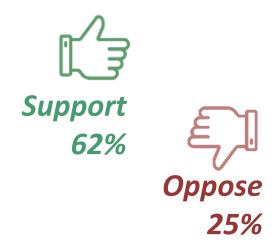
- Voted NO because they didn't see a match between the city's priorities and theirs, they mistrust city management, the levy was permanent, the plan lacked specifics, and/or they felt their taxes were already high.
- Cited their existing 'high' tax burden, distrust of city management/lack of accountability measures, lack of information/transparency, having different priorities or feeling the levy was unnecessary, and the fact that the levy was to be permanent among the top barriers to its passing.

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Summary Overview: Support for a 6-Year Temporary Levy

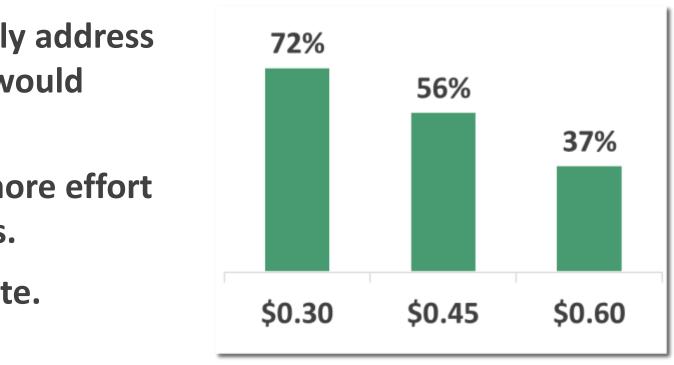


- In total, 3 in 5 support the idea of a six-year LFP temporary levy and a quarter oppose it. 2021 Levy 'Yes' voters are more than three times as likely as 'No' voters to support the six-year levy. Support is higher among younger and middle-aged residents and higher income households.

SUPPORT FOR THE LEVY AT DIFFERENT RATES

- The potential for passing a temporary levy at a rate of \$0.30 to partially address • the budget shortfall is *promising*, as more than seven in ten say they would support it.
- That support falls to just over half (56%) at the \$0.45 rate, requiring more effort to garner support in order to reach the sixty-percent threshold to pass.
- Just thirty-seven percent say they will support the levy at the \$0.60 rate.
- Two in ten (22%) say they will not support any temporary levy. •







Summary Overview: Information Required for Support



Detailed information, clearly and transparently communicated, will be key to garnering support for the proposed temporary levy – among both those who support the idea as well as those who currently oppose it.

• SUPPORTERS of the Temporary Levy primarily want the city to provide them with details on its purpose, and specifics regarding what will be included in the spending plan – itemizing each project and its cost, location, rationale, and timeline.

> "A very detailed breakdown of how it would shore up the budget and specifically what services would be maintained and what would be improved in each of the 6 years the levy is in place. A well written summary of the community benefits and why each was chosen."



Plans for cost-cutting measures and other examples of belt-tightening will be essential to winning over those who currently oppose the idea of a temporary levy.

In addition to an itemized spending plan, OPPOSERS of the proposed levy want the city to transparently provide information on what budget cuts have already been or will be made, details on the current budget and shortfalls, and information about other means for raising funds and cutting costs.

> "Any private for-profit business facing revenue shortfall would immediately initiate cost reduction and improved efficiency measures. LFP has done neither. Get on it!"





Summary Overview: Information Required for Support



Residents want the City to make the case for how the projects will benefit the community overall, as well as those directly impacted.

> "I can imagine folks having a hard time approving a new tax that just generally will help fund the city without understanding the specific benefits they can expect to get."



They want to know what other sources of funding the city is pursuing in order to put less of a burden on residential property owners. They want to see that the City is taking steps to encourage business development and other measures to broaden the tax base.

"What are we doing for taxes on businesses as well as residents? Are city administrators effectively securing funding from State and Federal sources or are we not very good at that?"

"Don't forget about redevelopment of the town center having the potential bringing in more tax revenue and more renters/condo owners."







Summary Overview: Information Required for Support



Residents want to see the City offer more opportunities for engagement.

"I would also like better ways to engage with city leadership, e.g. coffee with the mayor or other dedicated engagement times."

"Outreach meetings are great, but some of them should be scheduled outside of traditional work hours. Community emails or links to websites explaining the levy are also helpful."



Supporters think the City needs to communicate not only the benefits to the community if the levy passes, but also what will happen if it does NOT pass. They feel the City should be wellprepared to counter any "No" Campaign that will be galvanized by those who oppose the levy.

"A clear written description of what could be gained, as well as a description of what could be lost should the levy fail to pass. Also - a more aggressive (visible) campaign to prompt passage of the levy."

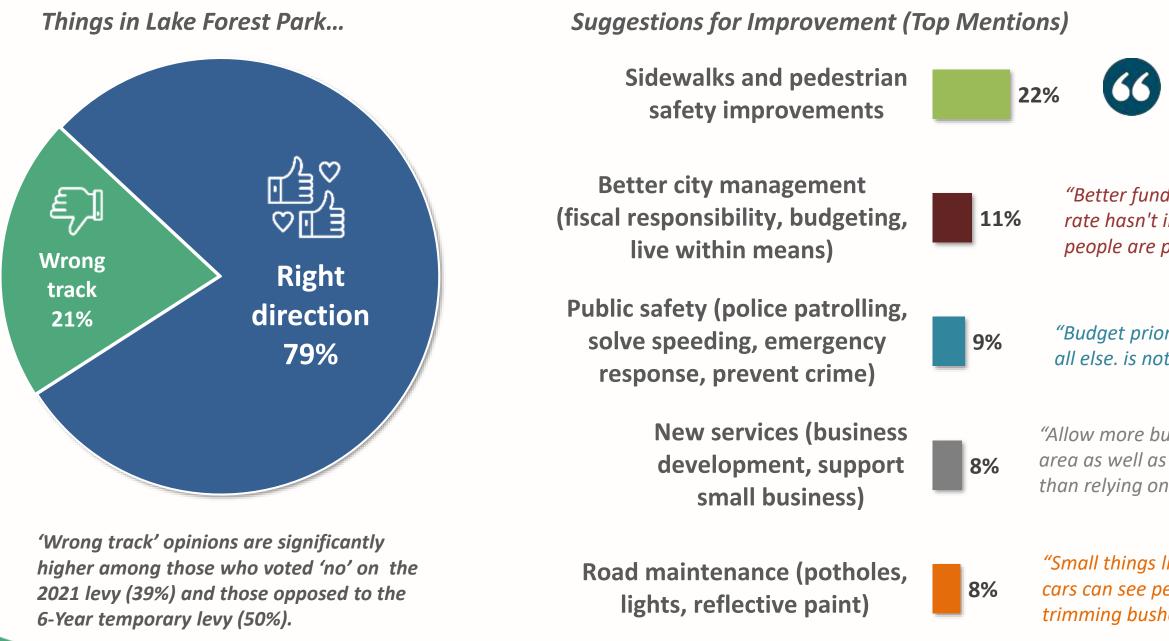
"Specific examples of improvements, strong and early campaign to educate voters as the NO campaign will come out in force again (signs are already going up!)."





Detailed Findings

Four out of five believe things in Lake Forest Park are going in the right direction. Sidewalks/pedestrian safety leads as the top suggested improvement.



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"I see kids and parents and elderly walking on busy streets because there are no sidewalks. Perkins is a nightmare. The roads around it are nightmares. Please fix this..."

"Better funds management, spend money wisely. While the property tax rate hasn't increased, property values have significantly increased meaning people are paying a lot more tax today."

"Budget priorities- city hall, police, crime prevention- excessive expenses on all else. is not putting money to core services."

"Allow more businesses, restaurants, shops to build and establish in the town center area as well as other parts of LFP. Bring in more revenue for the city with retail rather than relying on property taxes and traffic tickets."

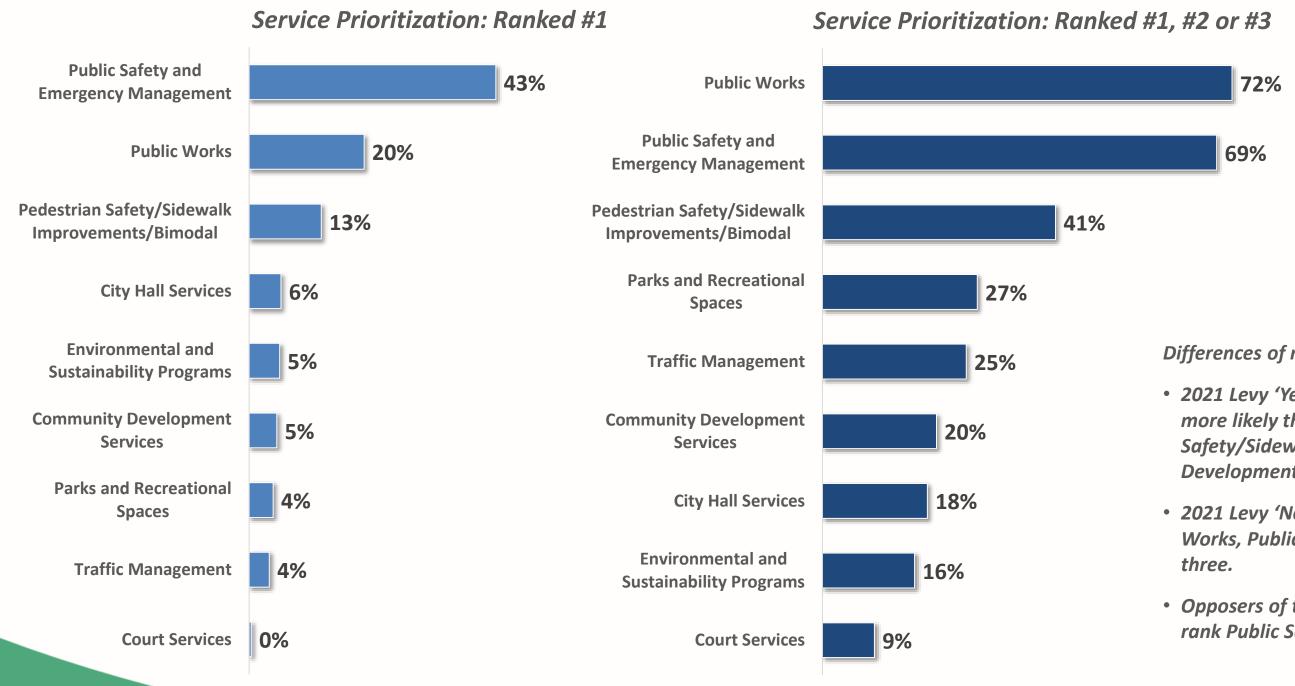
"Small things like repainting crosswalks, adding lights to crosswalks so cars can see people walking at night, some roads don't have streetlights, trimming bushes/shrubbery around street signs to increase visibility."



Lake Forest Park Community Survey | 2024

Olympic Res 16 h and Strategy

Public Safety/Emergency Management stands apart as the #1 prioritized service, followed by Public Works and, more distantly, Pedestrian Safety.



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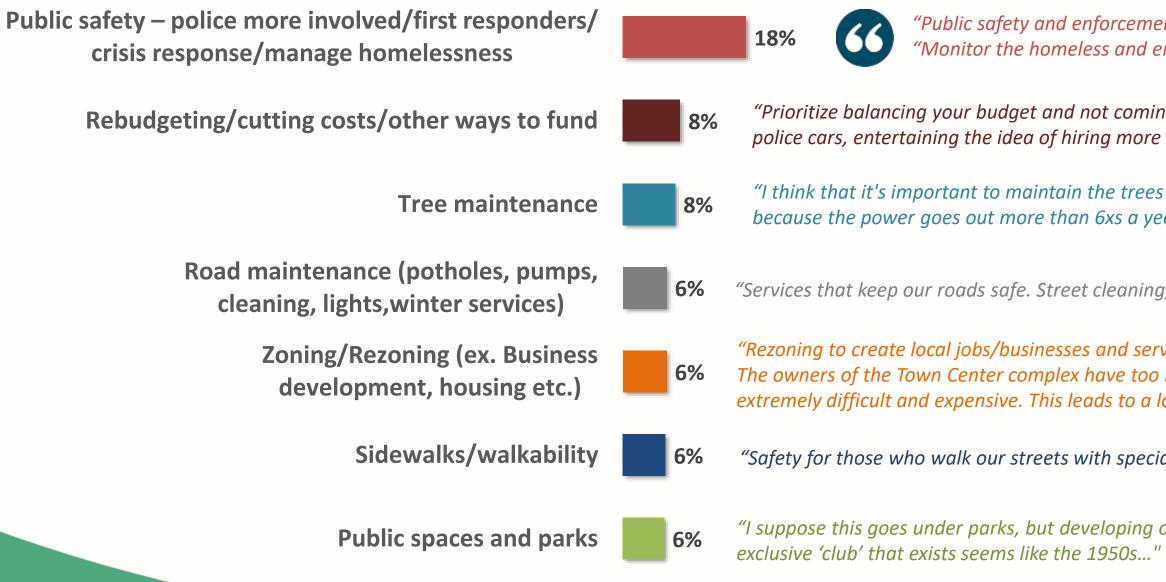
Differences of note...

- 2021 Levy 'Yes' voters and Supporters of the proposed 6-Year Levy are more likely than their counterparts to rank Pedestrian Safety/Sidewalks/Bimodal, Parks and Rec Spaces, and Community Development among their top three.
- 2021 Levy 'No' voters are more likely than 'Yes' voters to rank Public Works, Public Safety, Traffic Management, and Court Services in their top
- Opposers of the proposed 6-Year Levy are more likely than Supporters to rank Public Safety and Traffic Management in their top three.



A third offered suggestions for additional services, re-emphasizing the priorities of public safety and public works, and their desire to see the city cut costs/ explore other funding. Tree maintenance, zoning/business development, and improved walkability, parks, and public spaces rounded out top suggestions.

Other City Services to be Prioritized (Top Mentions)





"Public safety and enforcement of existing laws against habitual violators." "Monitor the homeless and ensure we do not develop the same issues as they do in Seattle."

"Prioritize balancing your budget and not coming up with ways to spend more money (those silly blinking stops signs, new police cars, entertaining the idea of hiring more city workers). Figure out how to keep people here, not pricing people out."

"I think that it's important to maintain the trees near power lines to avoid power outages... We had to buy a generator because the power goes out more than 6xs a year on average. We now know why they call it "Lake Forest Dark."

"Services that keep our roads safe. Street cleaning, snow removal, detour signs when roads are closed."

"Rezoning to create local jobs/businesses and services/resources for our community so that we do not have to leave LFP... The owners of the Town Center complex have too many non-competes which making leasing with them either impossible or extremely difficult and expensive. This leads to a lot of money leaving LFP. We primarily leave LFP to do our shopping."

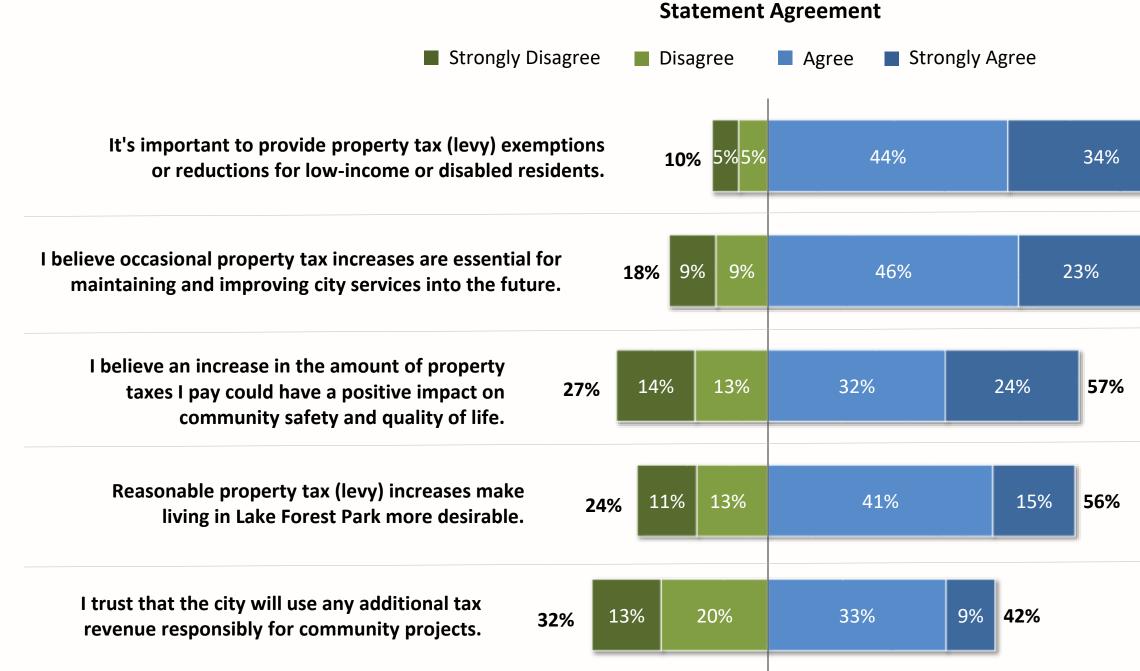
"Safety for those who walk our streets with special attention being paid to children going to and from school and bus stops."

"I suppose this goes under parks, but developing our waterfront into something that everyone can share. Right now, the





Over three fourths feel it is important to have tax exemptions or reductions for some residents, and two thirds agree occasional tax increases are essential for maintaining and improving services.



Only ratings of agree (4-5) or disagree (1-2) are shown. (Ratings of neither agree nor disagree (3) are not shown.) The **bold** percentages represents the corresponding net total Agree / Disagree.

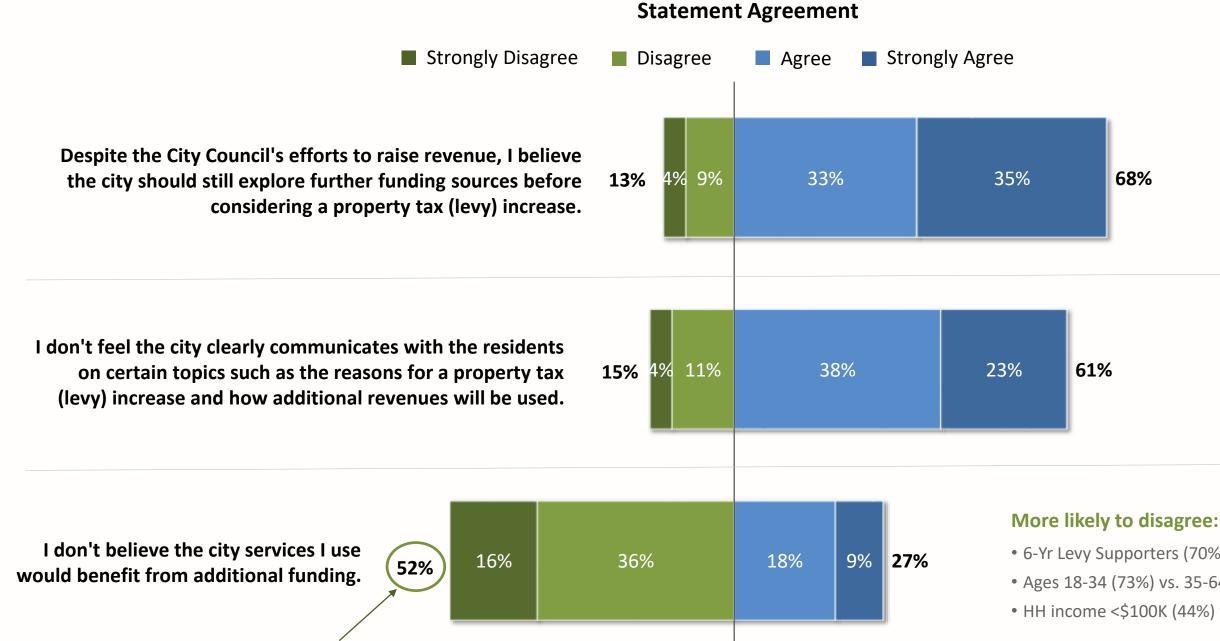




78%	More likely to agree: • 6-Yr Levy Supporters (83%) vs. Opposers (65%) • Women (83%) vs. Men (74%) • HH income <\$100K (89%) vs. >\$100K (77%)
68%	 6-Yr Levy Supporters (90%) vs. Opposers (23%) Women (73%) vs. Men (65%) HH income >\$100K (73%) vs. <\$100K (62%)
	 6-Yr Levy Supporters (80%) vs. Opposers (7%) HH income >\$100K (63%) vs. <\$100K (48%)
	• 6-Yr Levy Supporters (78%) vs. Opposers (13%) • HH income >\$100K (62%) vs. <\$100K (47%)
	• 6-Yr Levy Supporters (60%) vs. Opposers (6%) • HH income >\$100K (47%) vs. <\$100K (33%)



Most believe the city should explore other options before a property tax increase. They don't feel the city clearly communicates the reasons for an increase and how additional revenues will be used.



Half DISAGREE, indicating that they DO BELIEVE the city services they use would benefit from additional funding.

Only ratings of agree (4-5) or disagree (1-2) are shown. (Ratings of neither agree nor disagree (3) are not shown.) The **bold** percentages represents the corresponding net total Agree / Disagree.



More likely to agree:

• 6-Yr Levy Opposers (91%) vs. Supporters (55%)

More likely to agree:

• 6-Yr Levy Opposers (77%) vs. Supporters (52%)

- 6-Yr Levy Supporters (70%) vs. Opposers (16%) • Ages 18-34 (73%) vs. 35-64 (55%) or 65+ (46%)
- HH income <\$100K (44%) vs. >\$100K (57%)

More likely to agree:

- 6-Yr Levy Opposers (64%) vs. Supporters (9%)
- Men (30%) vs. Women (21%)
- HH income <\$100K (35%) vs. >\$100K (23%)

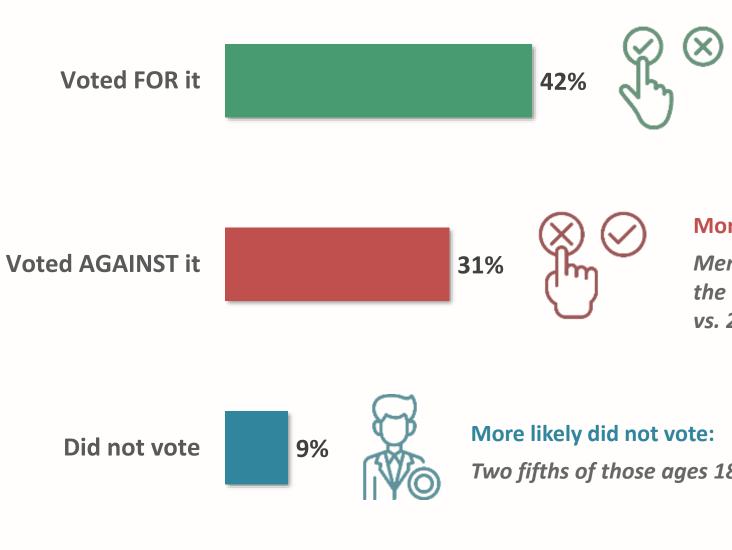


Close to four in five were aware of the 2021 Levy proposal and its objectives, but just two in five say they voted for it.

No 23% Yes 77%

Aware of 2021 Levy

Awareness was significantly higher among ages 35 and older (78%); more than half (55%) of residents ages 18-34 were unaware of the levy.



Note: 18% did not recall

2021 Levy Voting Behavior



More likely voted for it:

Women were more likely than men to vote for the levy (50% vs. 37%); as were higher income households vs. their counterparts (47% vs. 33%).

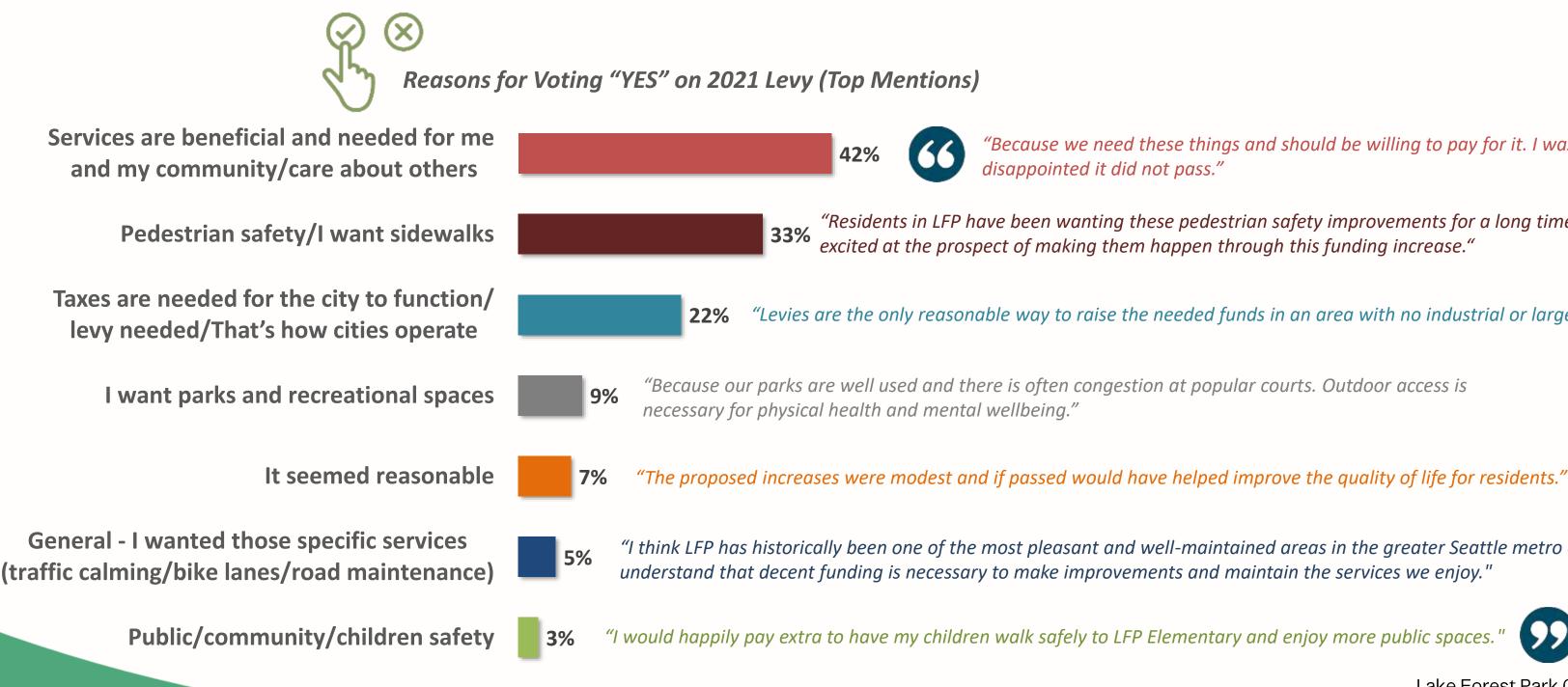
More likely voted against it:

Men were more likely than women to vote against the levy (39% vs. 20%); as were residents 65+ (34% vs. 29% ages 35-64 and 14% ages 18-34).

Two fifths of those ages 18-34 did not vote on the 2021 proposal.



Those who voted in favor of the 2021 levy did so primarily because they felt the services were beneficial and necessary for themselves and the community, they wanted pedestrian safety improvements, and/or they felt that the taxes were necessary for the city to operate.





Because we need these things and should be willing to pay for it. I was very

"Residents in LFP have been wanting these pedestrian safety improvements for a long time, and I was excited at the prospect of making them happen through this funding increase."

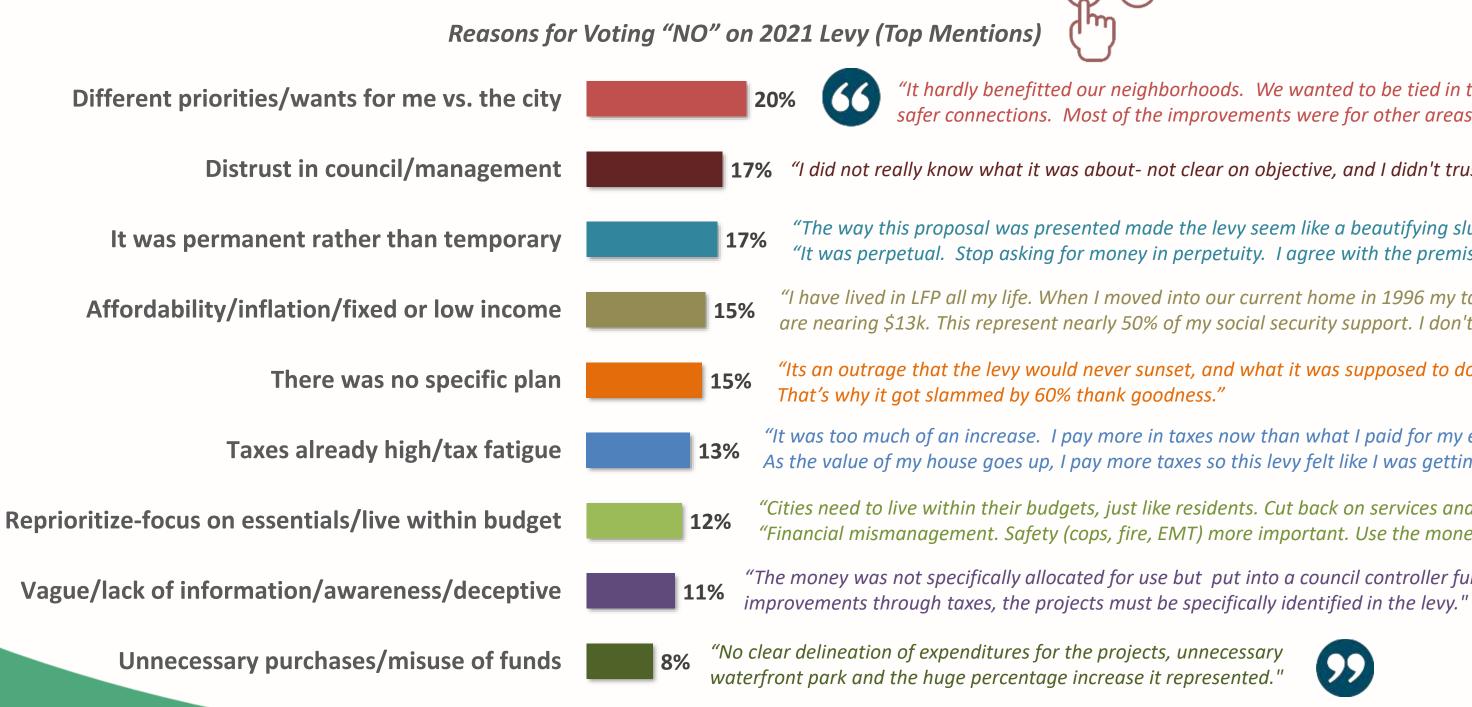
"Levies are the only reasonable way to raise the needed funds in an area with no industrial or large commercial base."

"I think LFP has historically been one of the most pleasant and well-maintained areas in the greater Seattle metro area. I





Those who opposed the 2021 levy did so primarily because they didn't see a match between the city's priorities and theirs, they mistrust city management, the levy was permanent and the plan lacked specifics, and they felt their taxes were already high, especially those with fixed/limited income.





"It hardly benefitted our neighborhoods. We wanted to be tied in to the center of the city with some safer connections. Most of the improvements were for other areas of the city."

"I did not really know what it was about- not clear on objective, and I didn't trust LFP to manage those funds acceptably."

"The way this proposal was presented made the levy seem like a beautifying slush fund that had no end." "It was perpetual. Stop asking for money in perpetuity. I agree with the premise, not the funding mechanism."

"I have lived in LFP all my life. When I moved into our current home in 1996 my taxes were under \$4k. Today they are nearing \$13k. This represent nearly 50% of my social security support. I don't want to get taxed out of LFP!"

"Its an outrage that the levy would never sunset, and what it was supposed to do was vague to say the least.

"It was too much of an increase. I pay more in taxes now than what I paid for my entire mortgage when I moved to LFP. As the value of my house goes up, I pay more taxes so this levy felt like I was getting a double whammy."

"Cities need to live within their budgets, just like residents. Cut back on services and provide what you can afford." "Financial mismanagement. Safety (cops, fire, EMT) more important. Use the money you already collect wisely."

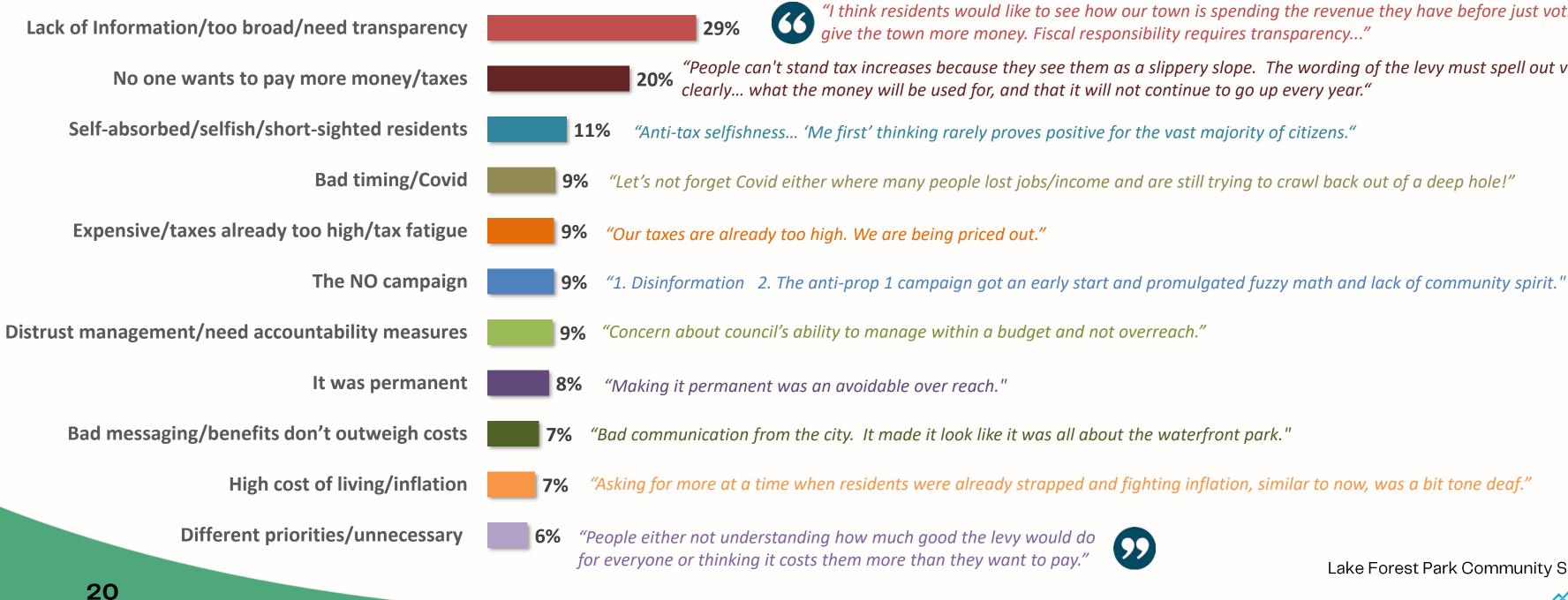
"The money was not specifically allocated for use but put into a council controller fund. If you want to pay for





Those who voted in favor of the 2021 levy think that the main *barriers* to its passing were a lack of information and full transparency of how the money would be utilized, and the fact that people, in general, resist paying more taxes.

Barriers to 2021 Levy Passing: Among Those Who Voted "YES" (Top Mentions)





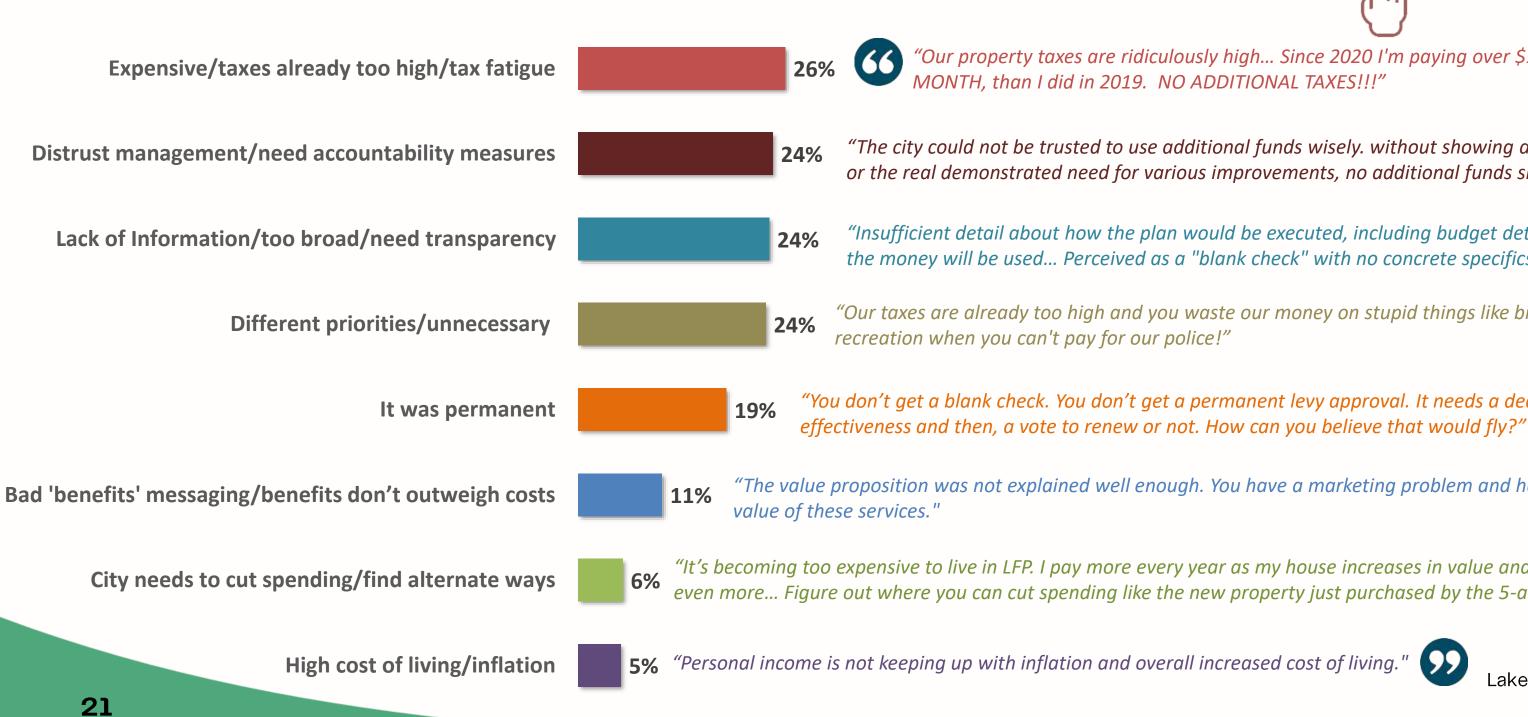


"I think residents would like to see how our town is spending the revenue they have before just voting to

"People can't stand tax increases because they see them as a slippery slope. The wording of the levy must spell out very



Those who voted against the 2021 levy cited their existing 'high' tax burden, distrust of city management/lack of accountability measures, lack of information/transparency, having different priorities or feeling the levy was unnecessary, and the fact that it was to be permanent among the top barriers to its passing.









"Our property taxes are ridiculously high... Since 2020 I'm paying over \$1000.00/mo. more, EVERY MONTH, than I did in 2019. NO ADDITIONAL TAXES!!!"

"The city could not be trusted to use additional funds wisely. without showing a sincere effort to cut spending or the real demonstrated need for various improvements, no additional funds should be requested."

"Insufficient detail about how the plan would be executed, including budget details about cost/shortfall and where the money will be used... Perceived as a "blank check" with no concrete specifics."

"Our taxes are already too high and you waste our money on stupid things like bike lanes and expanding parks and

"You don't get a blank check. You don't get a permanent levy approval. It needs a deadline, then a review of

"The value proposition was not explained well enough. You have a marketing problem and haven't convinced public of the

"It's becoming too expensive to live in LFP. I pay more every year as my house increases in value and then you want to increase my taxes even more... Figure out where you can cut spending like the new property just purchased by the 5-acre park. That was a waste of money."





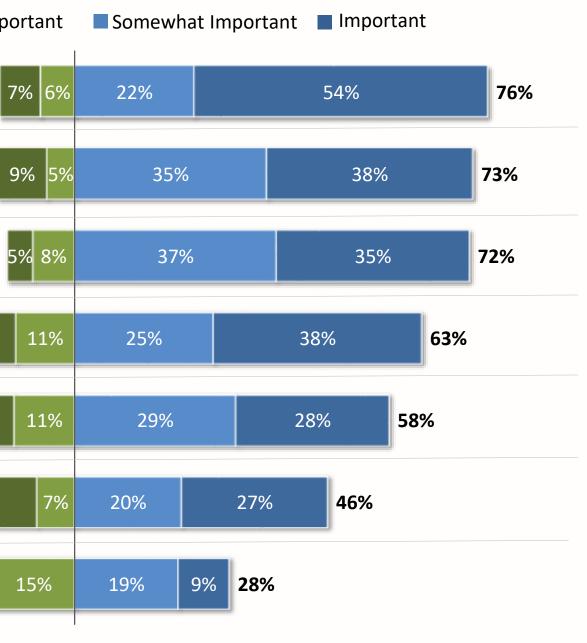
Given the budget shortfall, most residents, in total, would prioritize addressing policing needs, hiring a grant writer to secure external funding, and improving/ maintaining the city's parks.

Priorities for Addressing Budget Shortfall – Among TOTAL

Unimportant Somewha	at Unimpc
Maintaining the current police force, hiring new police officers and replacing aging patrol vehicles, some of which are over 10 years old and have over 100,000 miles on them.	13% 7
Hiring a grant writer to help the city secure external funding to support vital projects such as traffic, parks, stream restoration and other community initiatives. This role can aid in reducing reliance on local tax revenue.	14%
Improving and maintaining the city's parks to ensure they remain accessible and well-used by the community.	13% 5
Expanding sidewalk installations and improvements to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity within the community.	15%
Funding and implementing Clean Water Act programs for public education and pollution prevention, to protect local waterways.	6 13%
Aligning with other similar cities' tax rates. Currently Lake Forest Park has a lower tax rate than Kirkland, Shoreline, Kenmore, and Bothell.	26%
Hiring new positions, such as a Climate Manager, to lead the city's efforts in addressing climate change impacts and developing initiatives to mitigate these risks. 56%	

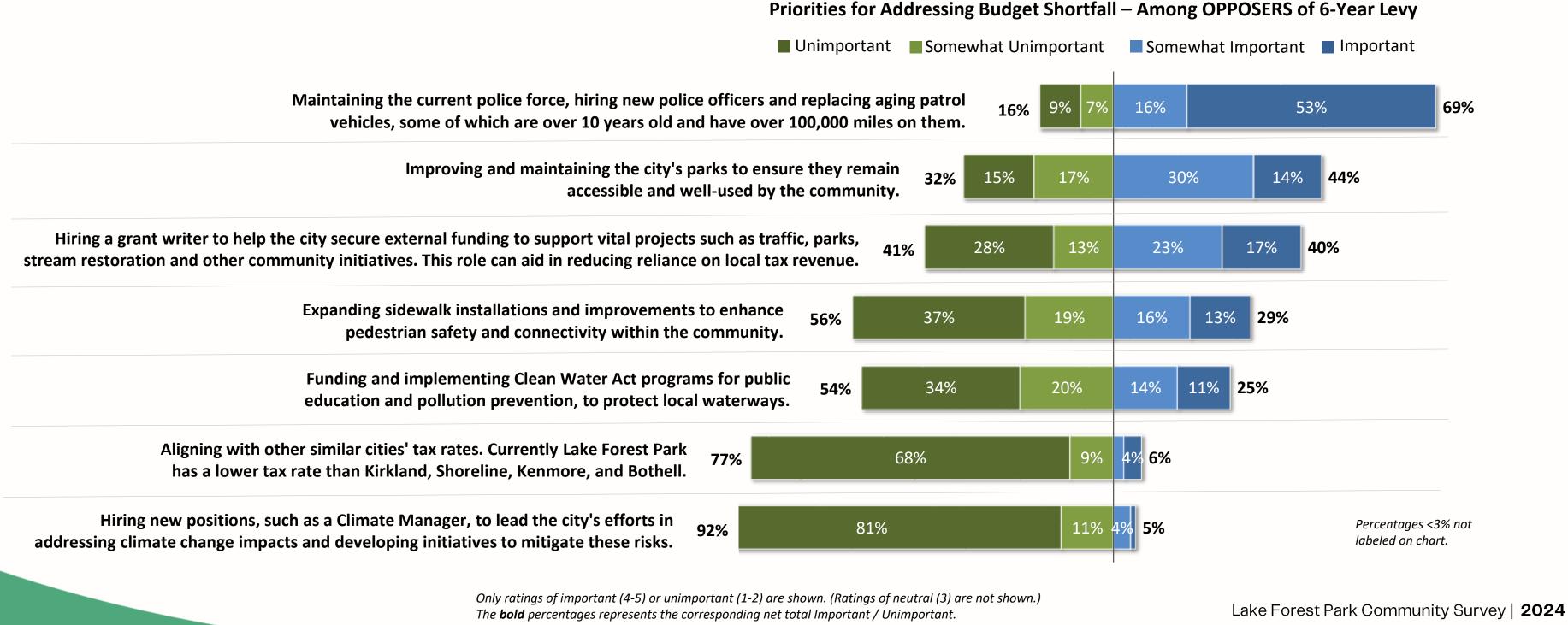
Only ratings of important (4-5) or unimportant (1-2) are shown. (Ratings of neutral (3) are not shown.) The **bold** percentages represents the corresponding net total Important / Unimportant.







Seven in ten who oppose the 6-year levy feel it is important to address policing needs, but only a minority of the opposed feel it is important to address other needs, especially aligning with other cities' tax rates or hiring new positions to address climate impacts.



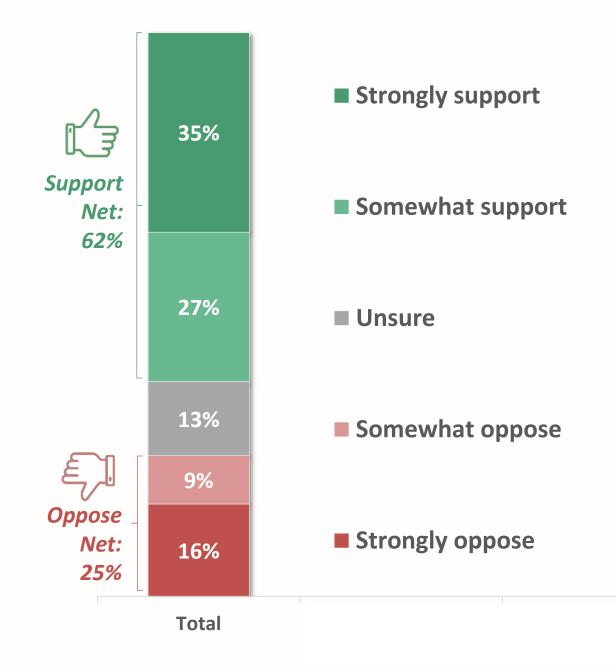




In total, three fifths support the idea of a six-year LFP temporary levy and a quarter oppose it.

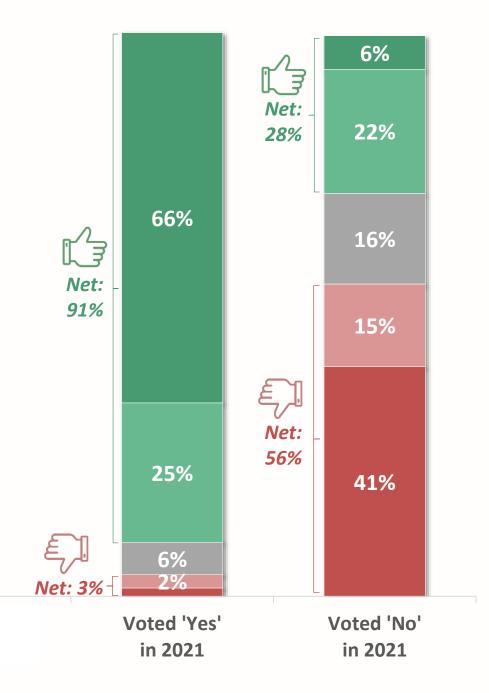
More likely to support the levy (net):

- 2021 Levy 'Yes' voters are more than three times as likely as 'No' voters to support the six-year levy at a rate of 91% to 28%.
- Support is higher among younger (70%) and middle-aged (66%) residents than those age 65+ (57%).
- Higher income households (69%) are more *likely to support the levy than households* with income under \$100K (48%).



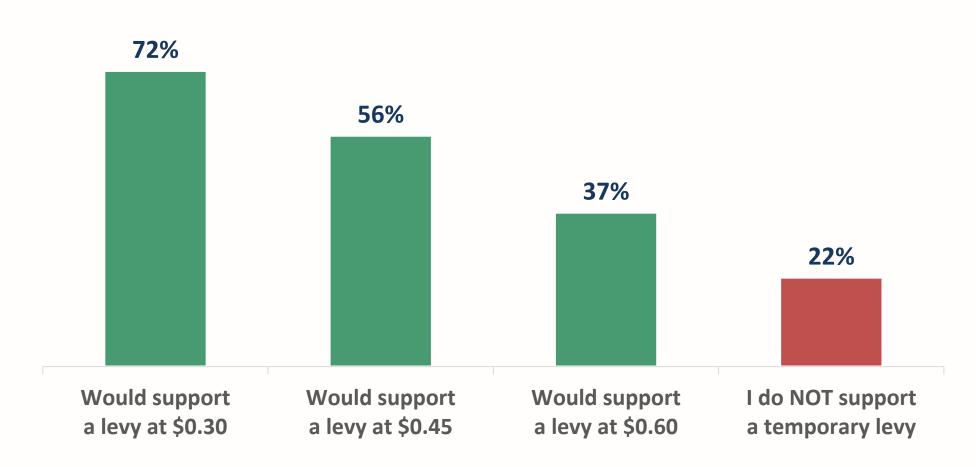


Reaction to a City of Lake Forest Park Seeking a Six-Year Temporary Levy





While seven in ten would support a levy of \$0.30 to partially address the budget shortfall, support falls to just over half at the \$0.45 rate, and fewer than four in ten at the \$0.60 rate.



Reaction to Proposed Levy Rates*

*See Notes section for full description of each option shown.

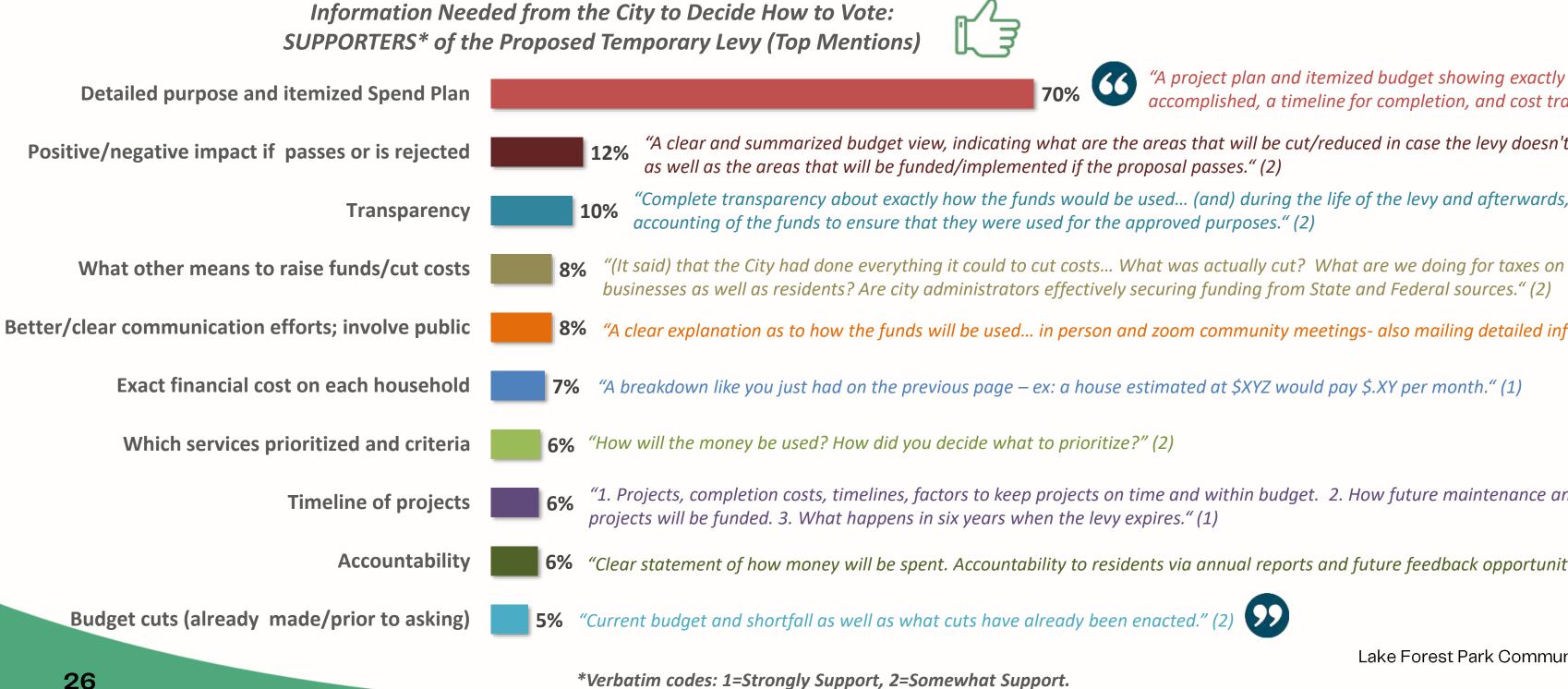


More likely to oppose any levy:

Households with income <\$100K were more likely than higher income households to oppose any levy (30% vs. 17%); as were residents 65+ (26% vs. 18%-20% of middle aged or younger).



Those who support the proposed levy primarily want the city to provide them with details on its purpose and specifics regarding what will be included in the spending plan, itemizing each project and its cost, location, rationale, and timeline.





"A project plan and itemized budget showing exactly what would be accomplished, a timeline for completion, and cost transparency." (1)

"A clear and summarized budget view, indicating what are the areas that will be cut/reduced in case the levy doesn't pass,

"Complete transparency about exactly how the funds would be used... (and) during the life of the levy and afterwards, a full

8% "A clear explanation as to how the funds will be used... in person and zoom community meetings- also mailing detailed information." (1)

"1. Projects, completion costs, timelines, factors to keep projects on time and within budget. 2. How future maintenance and operation of

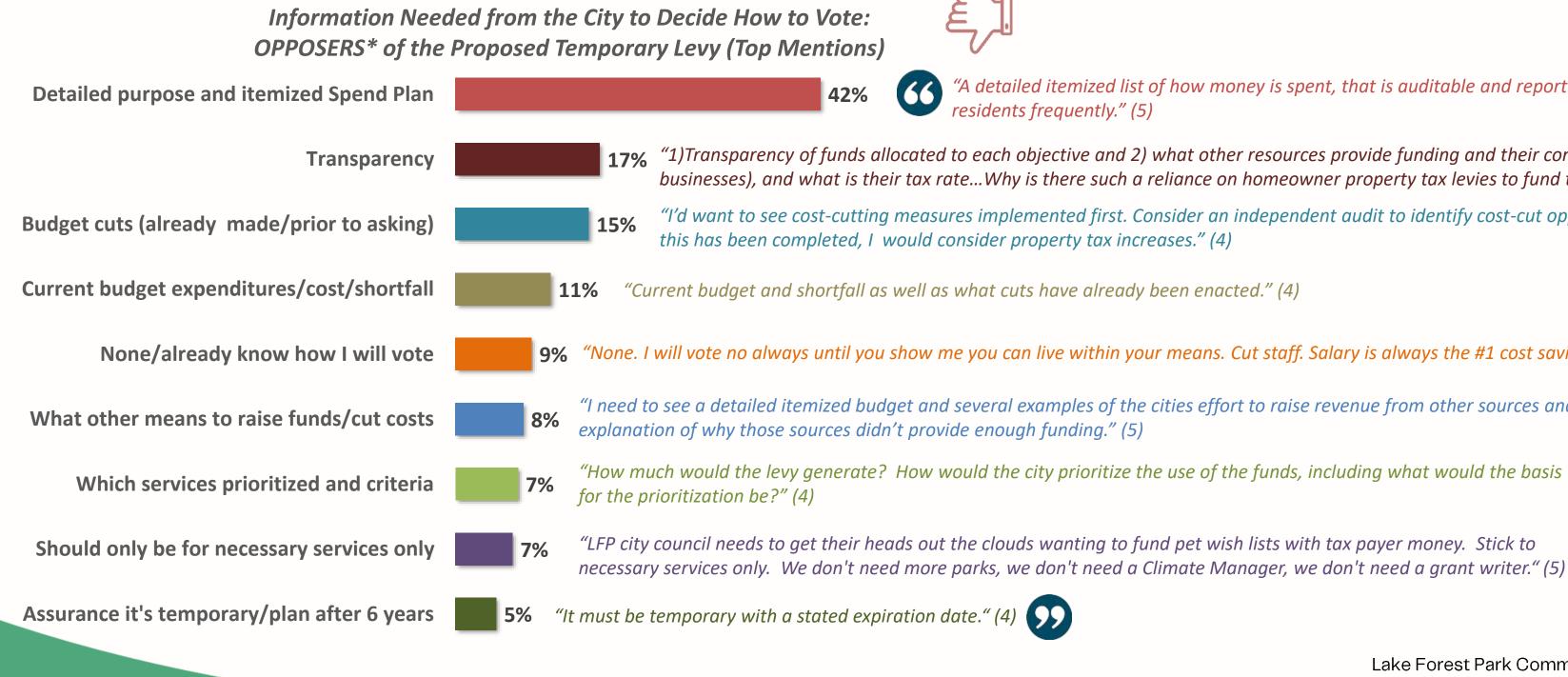
"Clear statement of how money will be spent. Accountability to residents via annual reports and future feedback opportunities." (1)





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In addition to an itemized spending plan, those who <u>oppose</u> the proposed levy want the city to transparently provide information on what budget cuts have already been or will be made, details on the current budget and shortfalls, and information about other means for raising funds and cutting costs.





"A detailed itemized list of how money is spent, that is auditable and reported on to

17% "1) Transparency of funds allocated to each objective and 2) what other resources provide funding and their contributions (i.e., businesses), and what is their tax rate...Why is there such a reliance on homeowner property tax levies to fund the City?" (5)

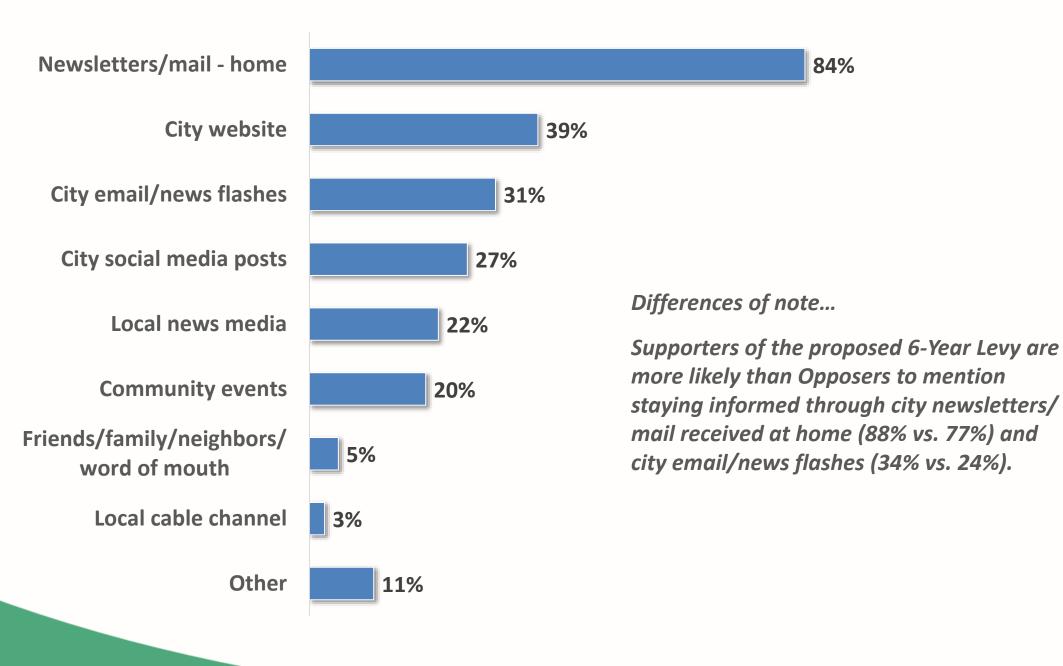
"I'd want to see cost-cutting measures implemented first. Consider an independent audit to identify cost-cut opportunities. After

"None. I will vote no always until you show me you can live within your means. Cut staff. Salary is always the #1 cost saving measure." (5)

"I need to see a detailed itemized budget and several examples of the cities effort to raise revenue from other sources and an



Most stay informed about city services through newsletters/mail received at home. Mailed newsletters and email hold top spots for their *preferred* method of city engagement.

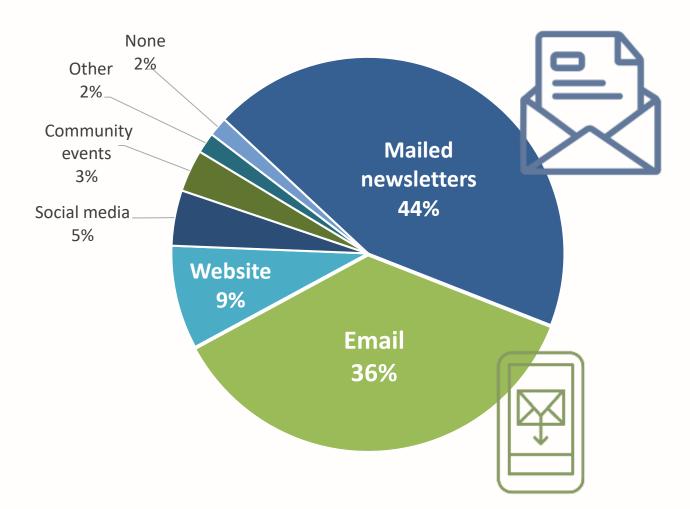


City Engagement / Staying Informed

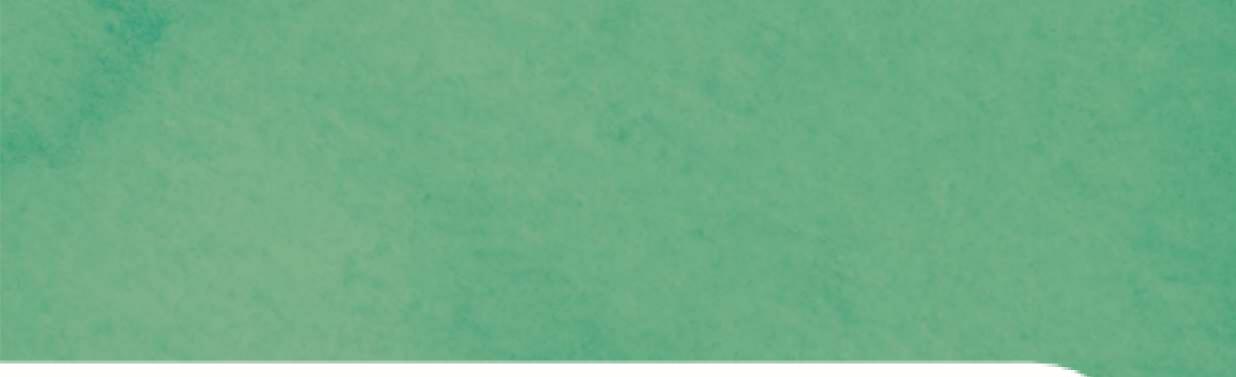
28



First Choice for City Engagement



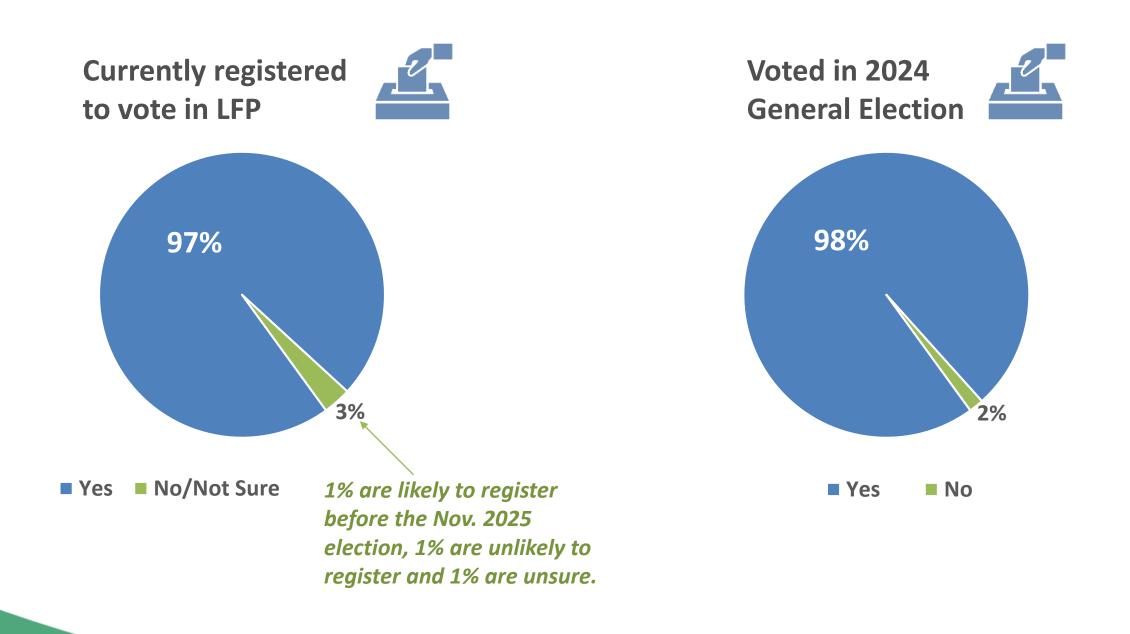




Appendix

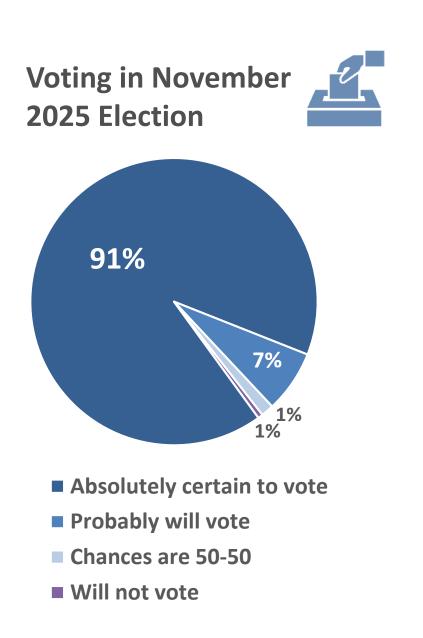


These LFP survey respondents are highly engaged voters. Nearly all are currently registered to vote in LFP, voted in the 2024 general election, and are certain or likely to vote in the November 2025 election.



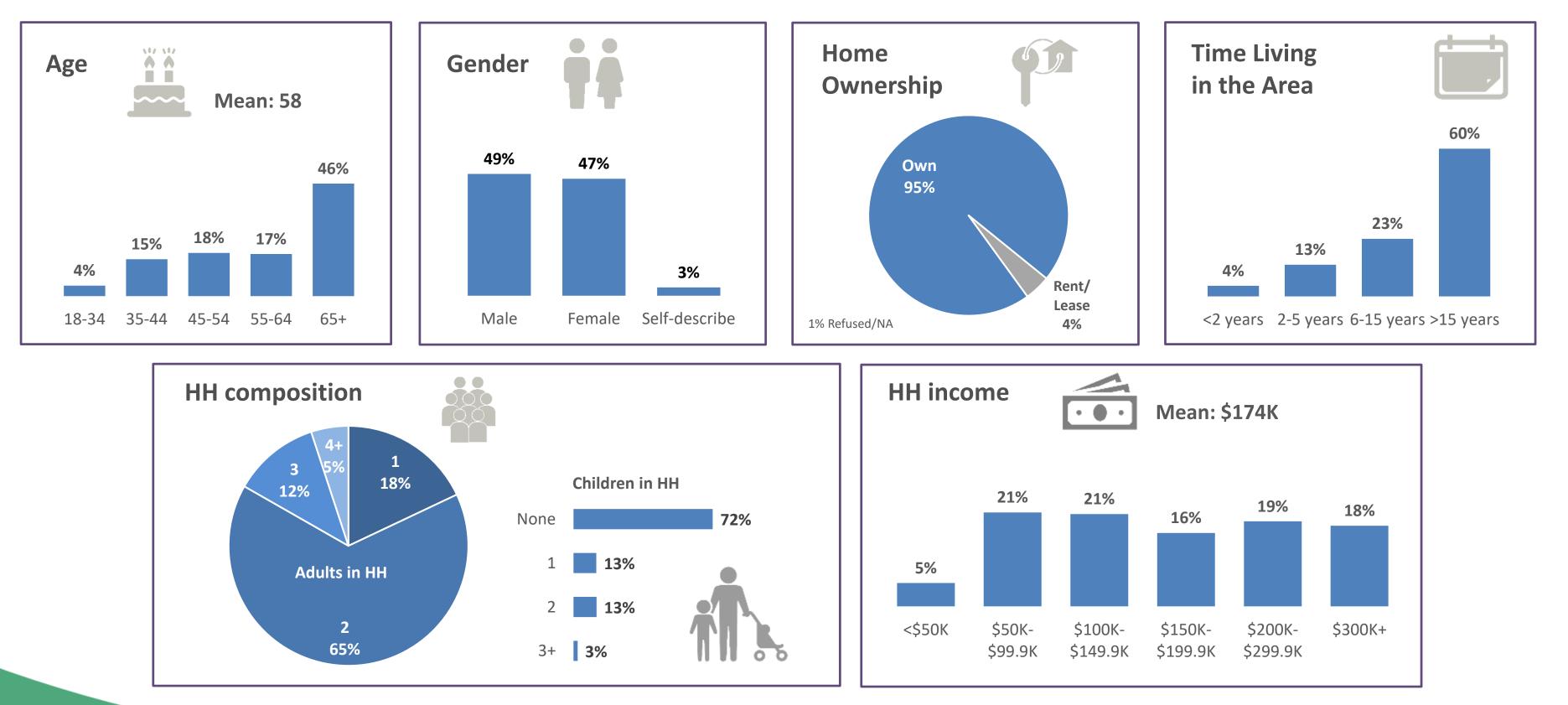
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Demographic Overview of Survey Respondents







Post Card



Your feedback is essential in helping shape the future of The City of Lake Forest Park. The survey takes less than 10 minutes, and your input can make a big difference. Please complete the survey by November 20th.

Esta encuesta también está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web.



Neighbor, your voice matters! Don't miss the chance to share your opinion.

The City of Lake Forest Park is facing significant budget challenges. Costs for services are exceeding the revenue the city collects in fees, property and other taxes to pay for them. Most of these costs are beyond the city's control. For example, we pay an agency for 911 dispatch services and this amount increased by \$284,000 per year. Jail costs increased by \$350,000 over the past two years. Insurance costs are up by \$109,000 and public defender costs are up by \$30,000 per year.

At the same time, our property tax revenue growth is capped at 1% per year. In 2024, the 1% increase equaled just under \$34,500.

We have developed this community survey to ask residents about their budget priorities and want to hear from you.

the following options:

- the postage paid envelope provided.
- PIN.
- Call (206) 291-0746 to complete the survey by phone.



Please fill out the brief survey by November 20th using one of

Return the survey, you should have received by mail last week, in

 Complete the survey online at <u>LFPcommunitysurvey.com</u> or scan the QR code on the front of this postcard and enter your unique



c/o Olympic Research and Strategy PO Box 46396 Seattle, WA 98146



Community Survey Update

- Public Engagement
 - February
 - Published content
 - o March
 - Launch website
 - Published content
 - o April
 - Community presentations
 - Updates through website and published content
 - o May
 - Community presentations
 - Updates through website and published content
 - o June
 - Public hearing
 - Community Presentations
 - Updates through website and published content

o July

- Public hearing
- Community Presentations
- Updates through website and published content
- o August 5
 - Last day to file a Resolution for the November ballot