

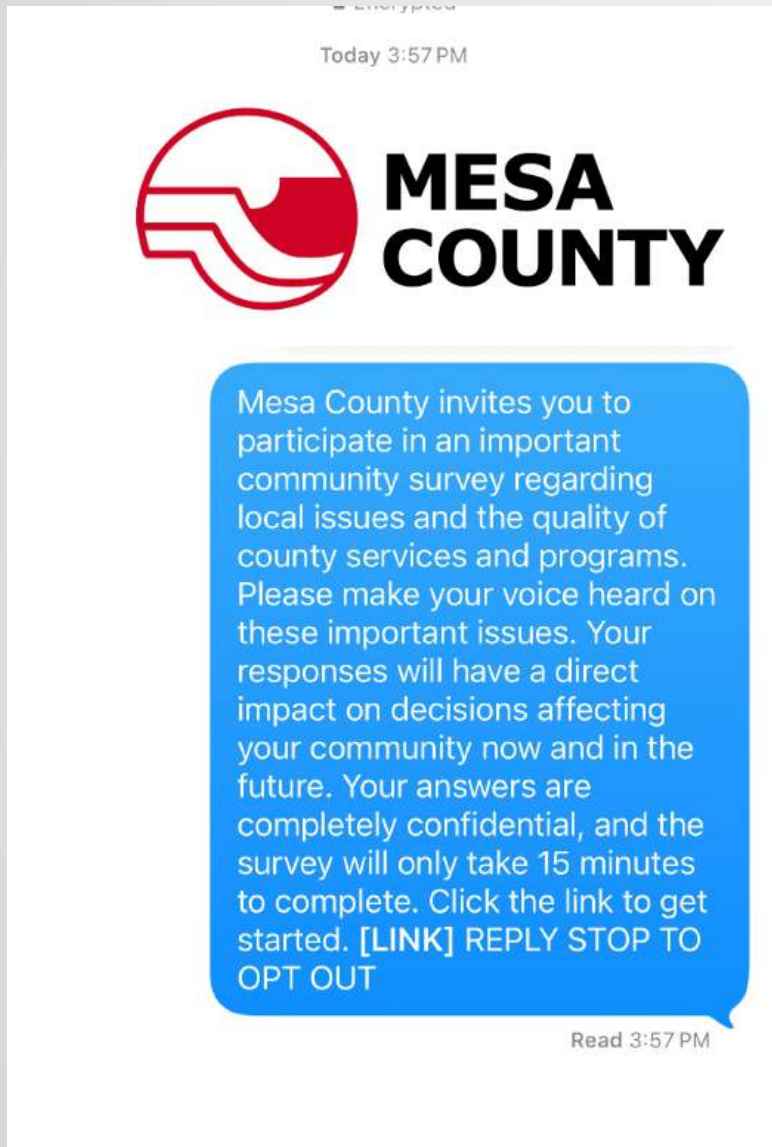


Mesa County 2026 Community Survey

June/July 2026



Methodology

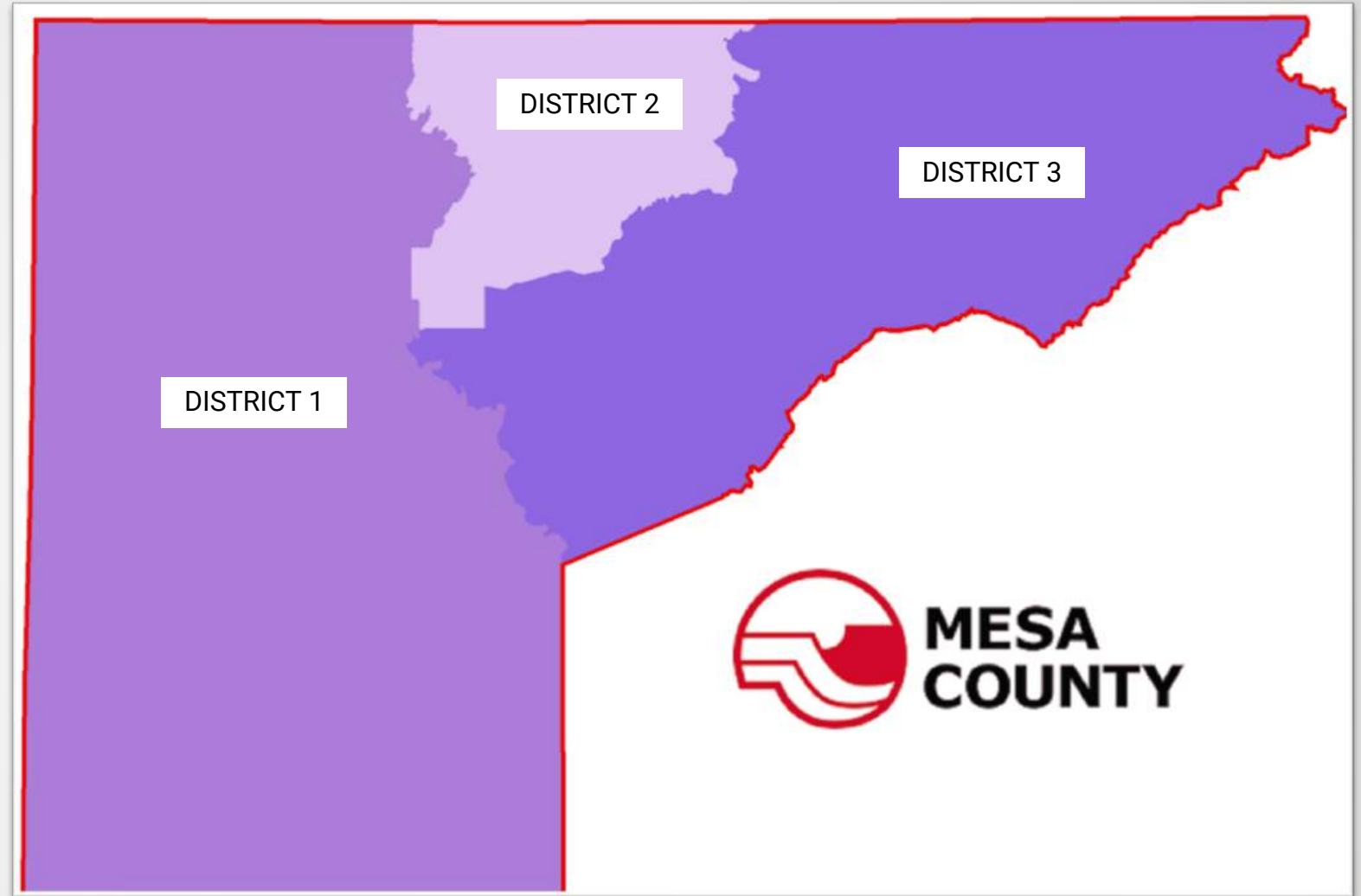


Magellan Strategies is pleased to present the results of a survey of 1,227 residents 18 and older in Mesa County, Colorado.

The interviews were conducted from June 18th – July 6th, 2026. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.78% at the 95% confidence interval.

The survey data were weighted to represent the adult population demographics for Mesa County.

Mesa County County Commissioner Districts



Key Findings

Residents love Mesa County — but it's softening at the edges: Connection to the county stays strong: 86% call it a good place to visit, 81% rate their own neighborhood well, and 78% plan to stay the next five years. Yet the measures tied to daily economic life are weaker and/or slipping — “good place to work” sits at just 48%, “good place to retire” fell from 62% to 58% since 2024, and overall quality of life dropped from 74% to 70%.

Deep economic and cost-of-living pessimism: 69% say current economic conditions are not satisfactory — cutting across nearly every subgroup and worst among residents 18–44 (77%). It ties directly to the top open-end issues of housing, cost of living, and wages: 75% say jobs growth is too slow and 47% say housing growth is too slow, while 65% say population growth is too fast. Residents feel the county is adding people faster than opportunity or attainable housing.

Key Findings

Demand for fiscal accountability — paired with feeling unheard: Financial responsibility is the runaway top priority: 94% call a balanced budget that avoids drawing on reserves important, and it ranks #1 among priority areas at 60% “very important.” Frontline service earns trust (68% say county employees provide excellent service). But confidence drops on whether government listens and plans ahead — only 35% feel residents have a voice, and just 25% think officials understand and adapt to future opportunities.

Mesa County's economic pessimism mirrors a broader mood: As in other community surveys across Colorado, Mesa County residents express deep economic unease: 69% say current conditions are not satisfactory, cutting across every subgroup and peaking among residents 18–44 (77%). While affordability, wages, and growth pressures have local specifics, the underlying dissatisfaction reflects cost-of-living anxieties felt well beyond the county line.

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Please describe the top two or three issues, priorities, or problems that you think Mesa County should address in the next two or three years.

Homelessness/unhoused population — far and away the most mentioned issue, appearing in some form in a large share of responses. Sentiment splits between enforcement/removal ("clear the camps") and compassion/services ("build shelters, treat them with dignity"), with camps along the river, North Avenue, and the 6&50 corridor cited repeatedly.

Roads and road conditions — potholes, deferred maintenance, poorly sequenced construction projects, and specific trouble spots (Patterson, B½ Road in Orchard Mesa, D Road, 6&50 to Fruita).

Housing affordability and cost of housing — high rents, home prices out of reach for local wages, calls for genuinely affordable (not just "low-income") housing, concerns about overbuilt high-dollar apartments.

Growth and development management — too many subdivisions, loss of farmland and open space, development outpacing infrastructure and water, opposition to the pace of building in Fruita and the Redlands.

Water — scarcity, conservation, and rights — drought concerns, protecting Colorado River rights, questioning whether growth is sustainable given supply, opposition to water-intensive uses (golf courses, data centers).

Please describe the top two or three issues, priorities, or problems that you think Mesa County should address in the next two or three years.

Traffic and traffic enforcement — congestion on Patterson, and 6&50; speeding, red-light running, and aggressive driving with perceived lack of enforcement; complaints about roundabouts.

Cost of living and wages — low local pay, relative to housing and everyday costs; calls for better-paying jobs and economic development to close the gap.

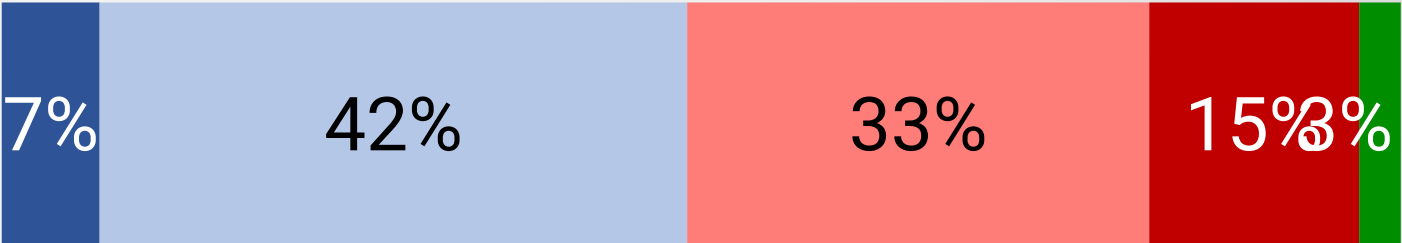
Crime and public safety — property crime, drug-related crime, repeat offenders, calls for more law enforcement funding and presence (especially in Clifton, Orchard Mesa, and rural areas).

Taxes and government spending — rising property taxes, perceptions of wasteful county spending (29 Road interchange, buildings, roundabouts), calls for budget accountability and transparency.

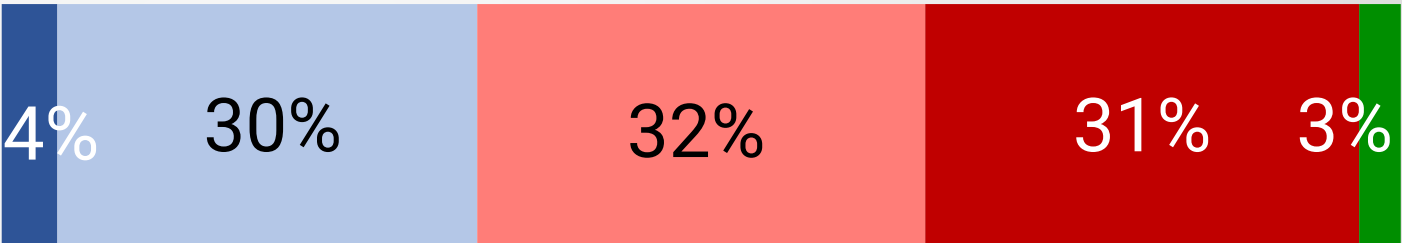
Mental health and substance abuse services — lack of treatment facilities and inpatient care (Mind Springs closures cited), drug addiction tied to the homelessness issue, youth mental health.

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following? *[Ranked by Excellent]*

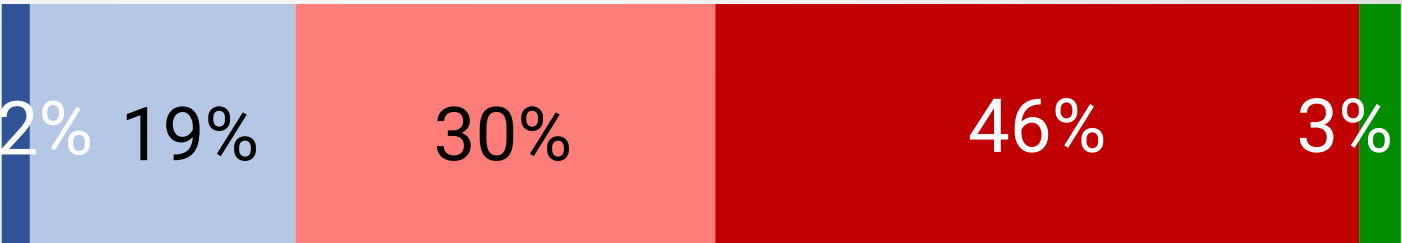
Mesa County (49% Excel & Good)



State of Colorado (34%)



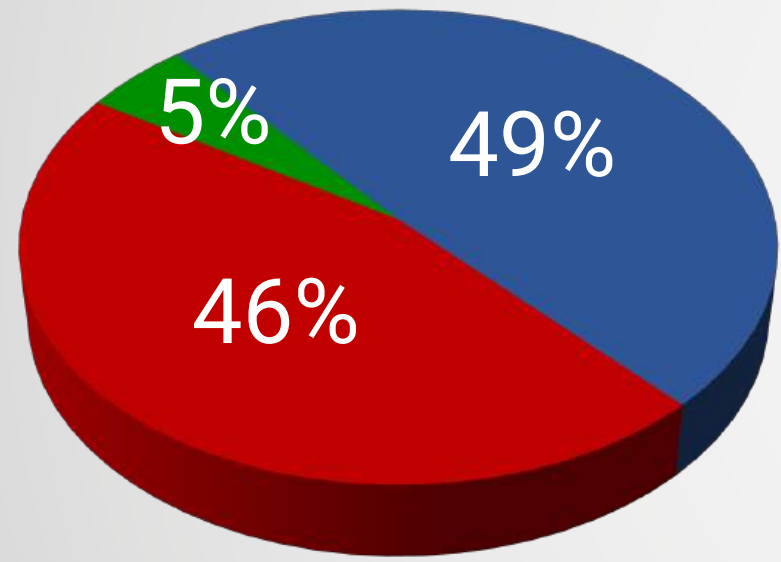
The Federal Government (21%)



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ No Opinion

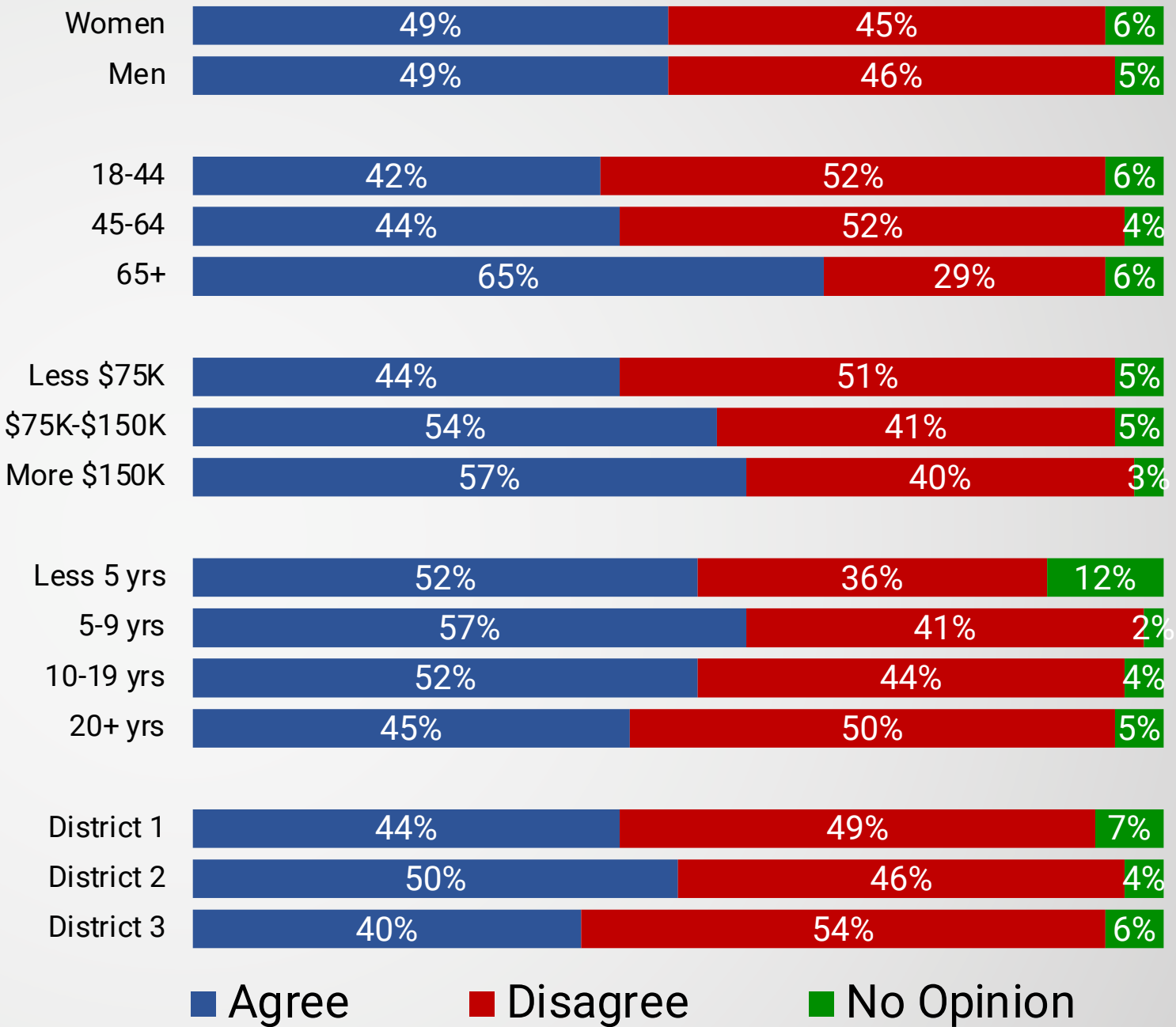
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“Mesa County residents receive a good value in County services and programs considering how much they pay in taxes.”



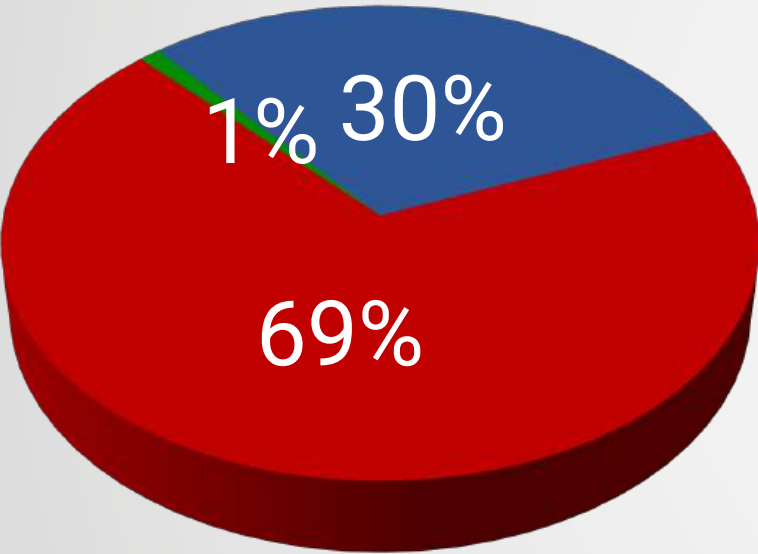
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ No Opinion

Strongly Agree	7%
Somewhat Agree	42%
Strongly Disagree	20%
Somewhat Disagree	26%



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“The current economic conditions in Mesa County are satisfactory”

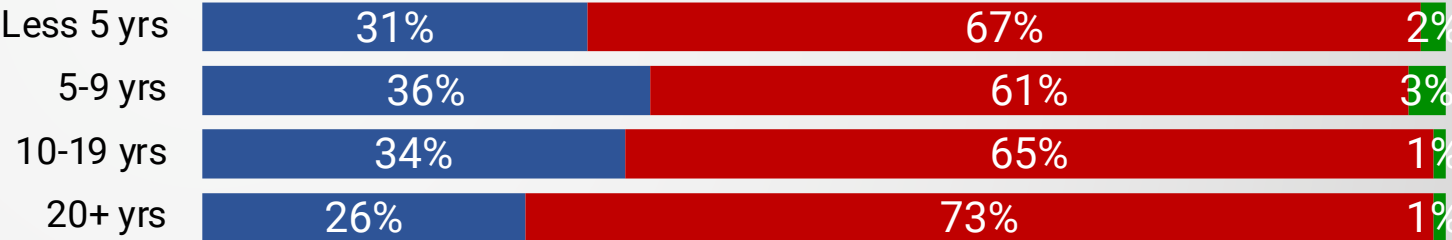
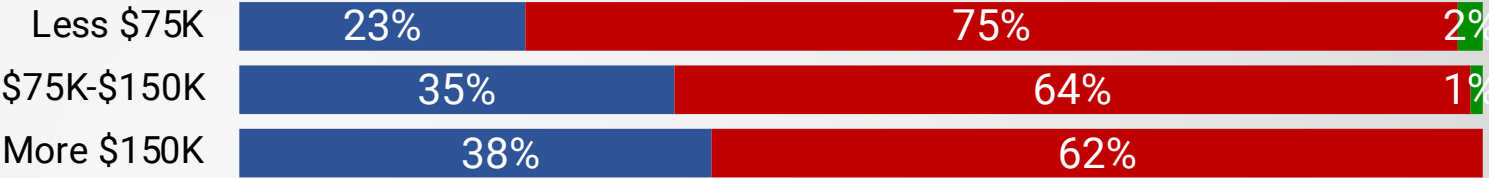
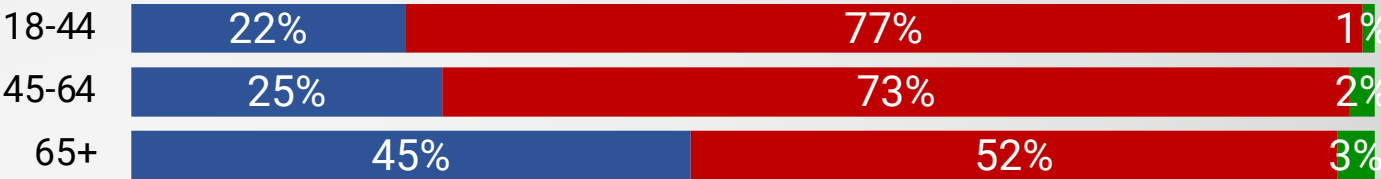


■ Agree

■ Disagree

■ No Opinion

Strongly Agree	2%
Somewhat Agree	28%
Strongly Disagree	35%
Somewhat Disagree	34%

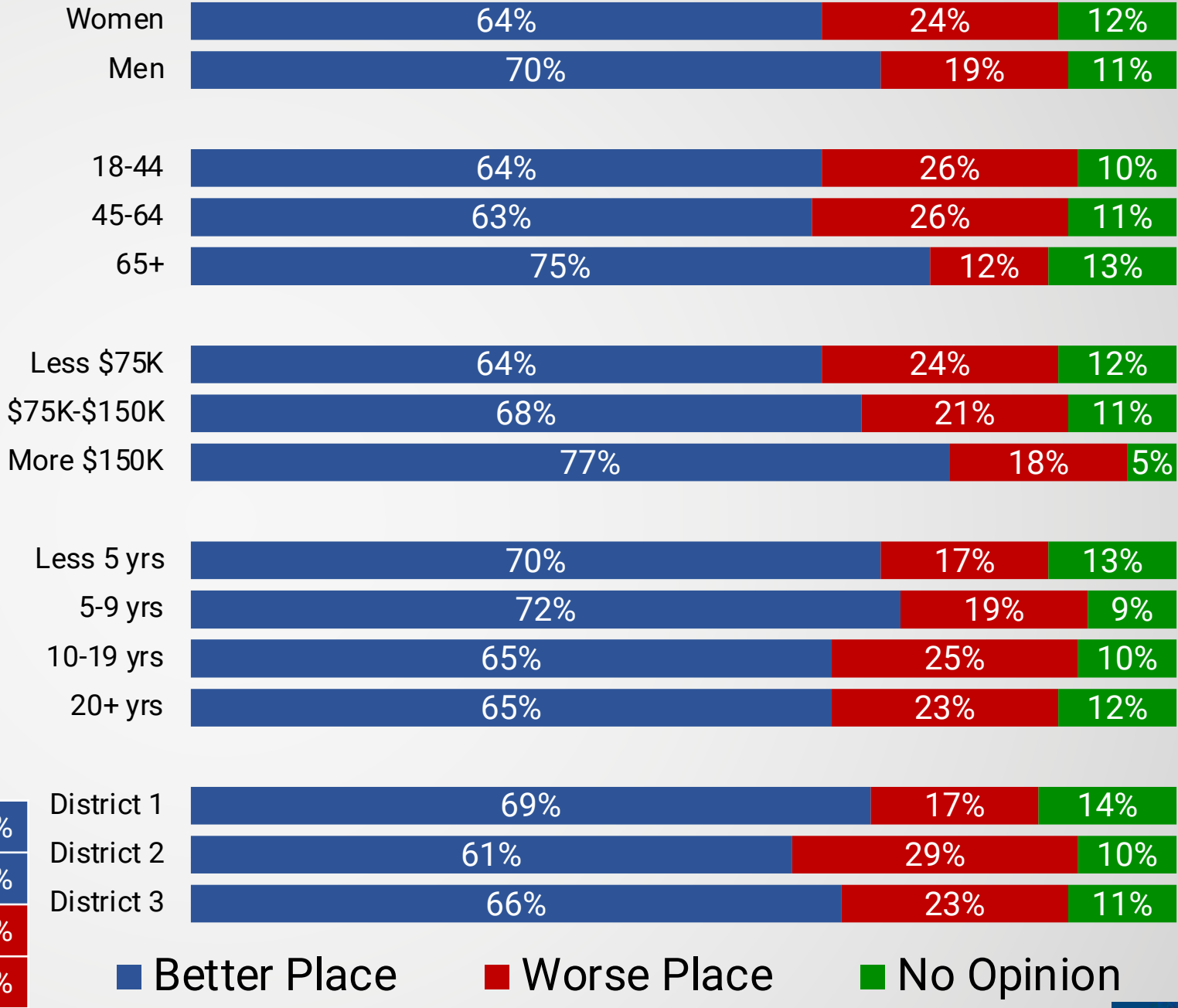
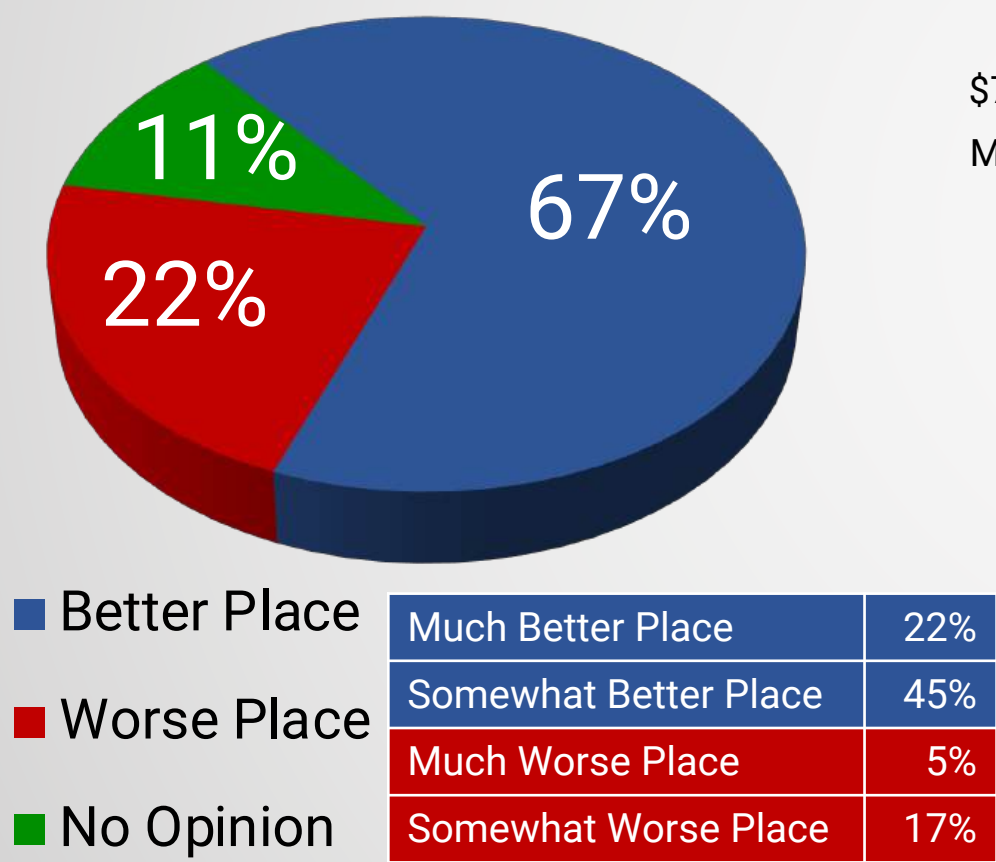


■ Agree

■ Disagree

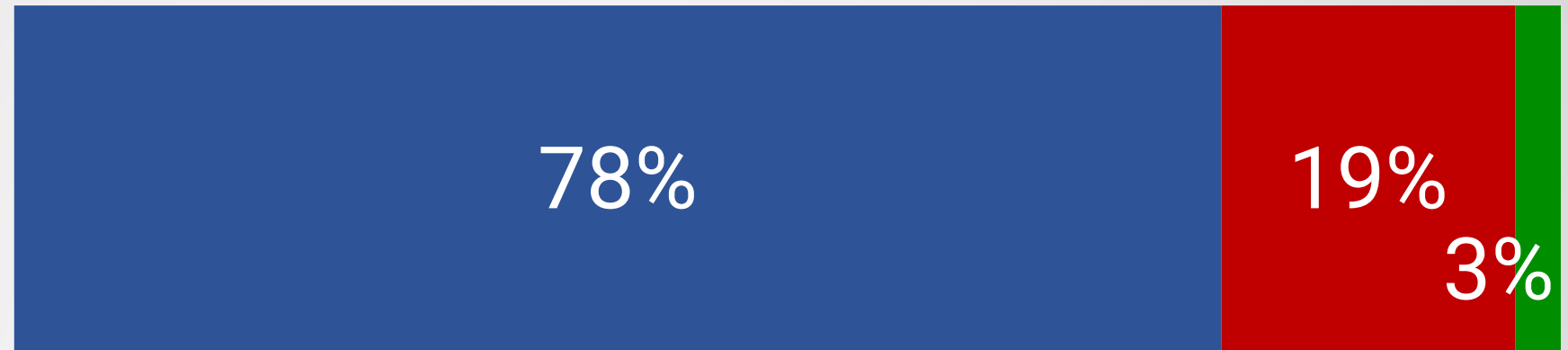
■ No Opinion

Compared to other counties in Colorado, how would you rate Mesa County as a place to live?

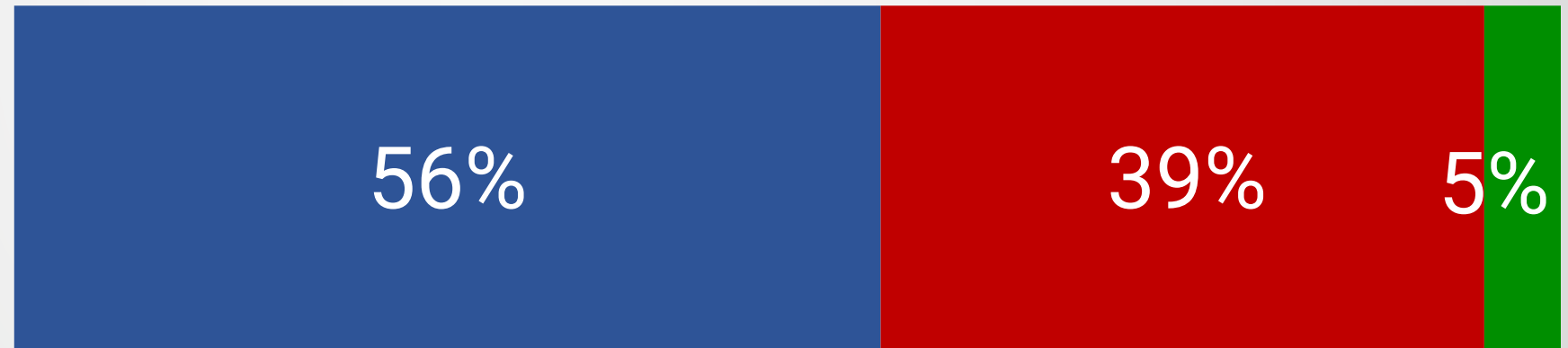


How likely or unlikely are you to do each of the following?

Remain in Mesa
County for the next
five years



Recommend living
in Mesa County



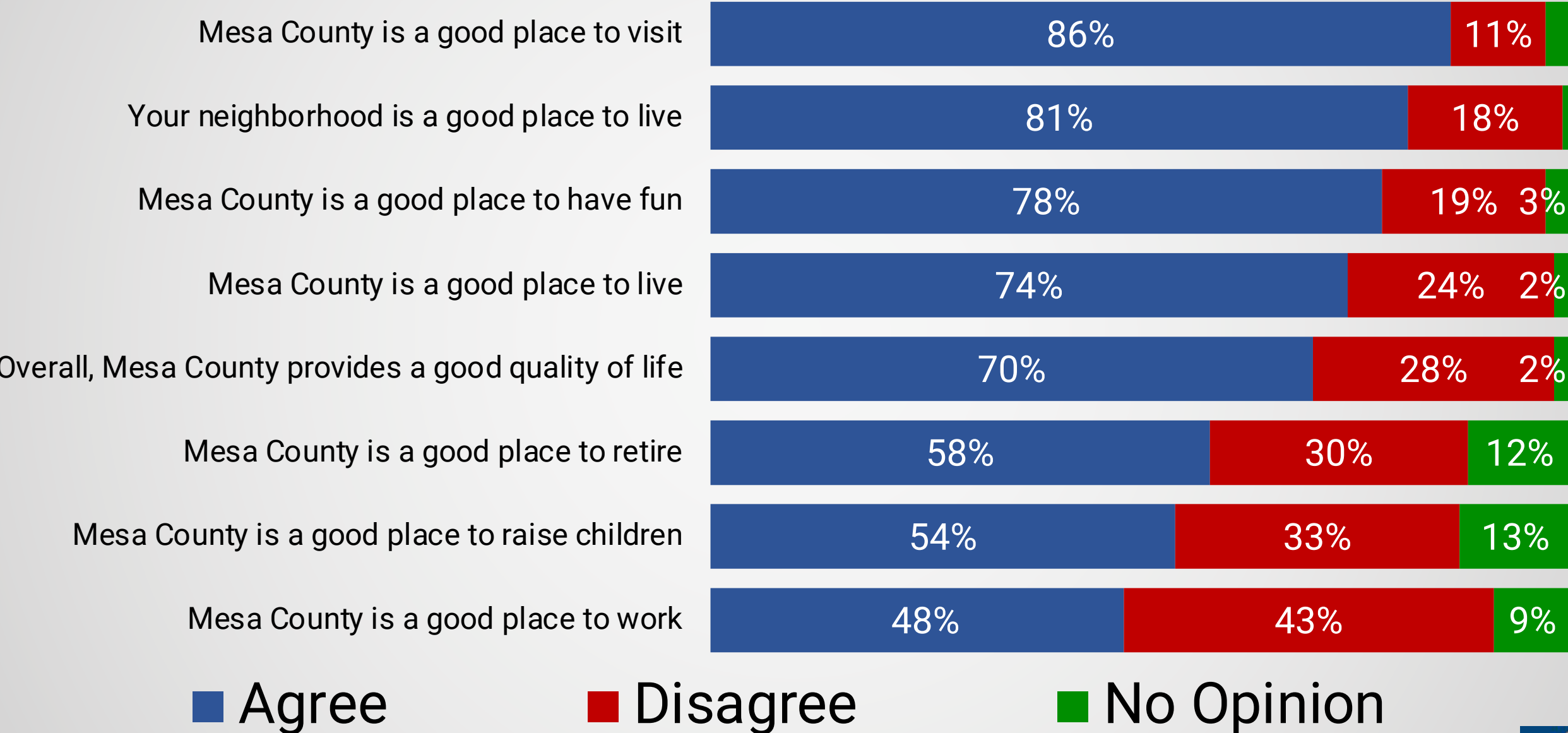
■ Total Likely

■ Total Unlikely

■ Unsure

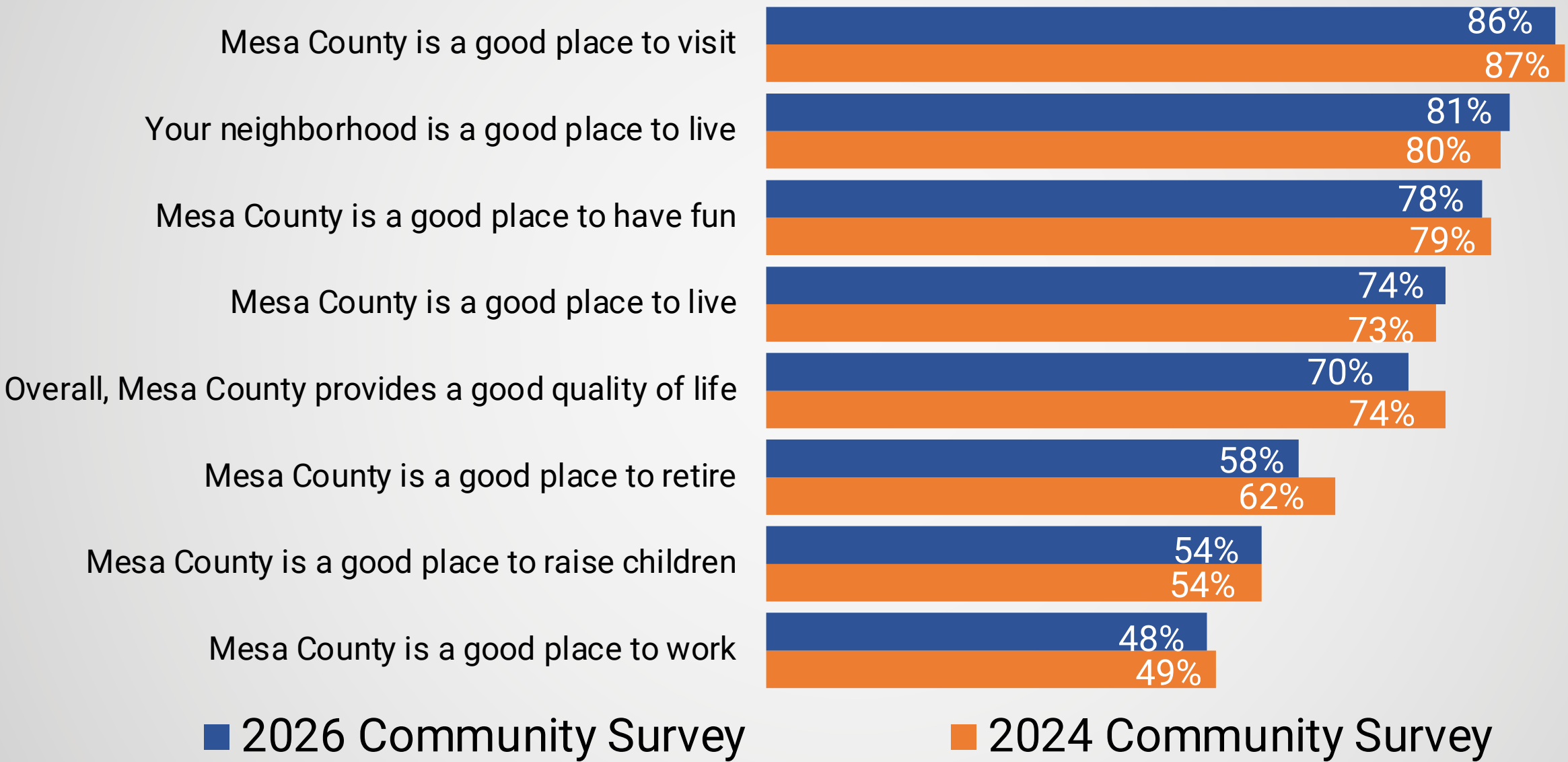
For each of the following, please rate the extent to which you agree.

[Ranked by Agree]

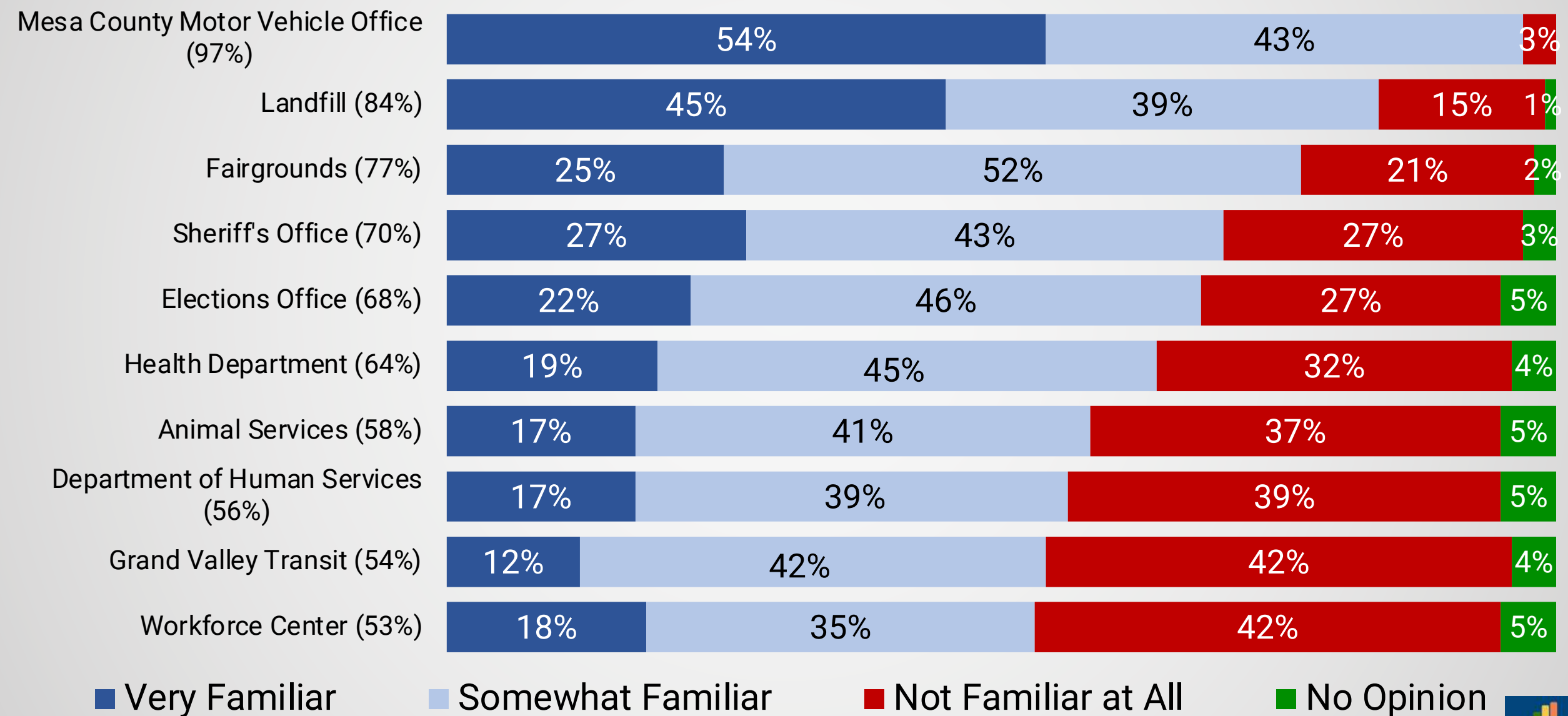


Mesa County Quality of Life Measurements Comparisons

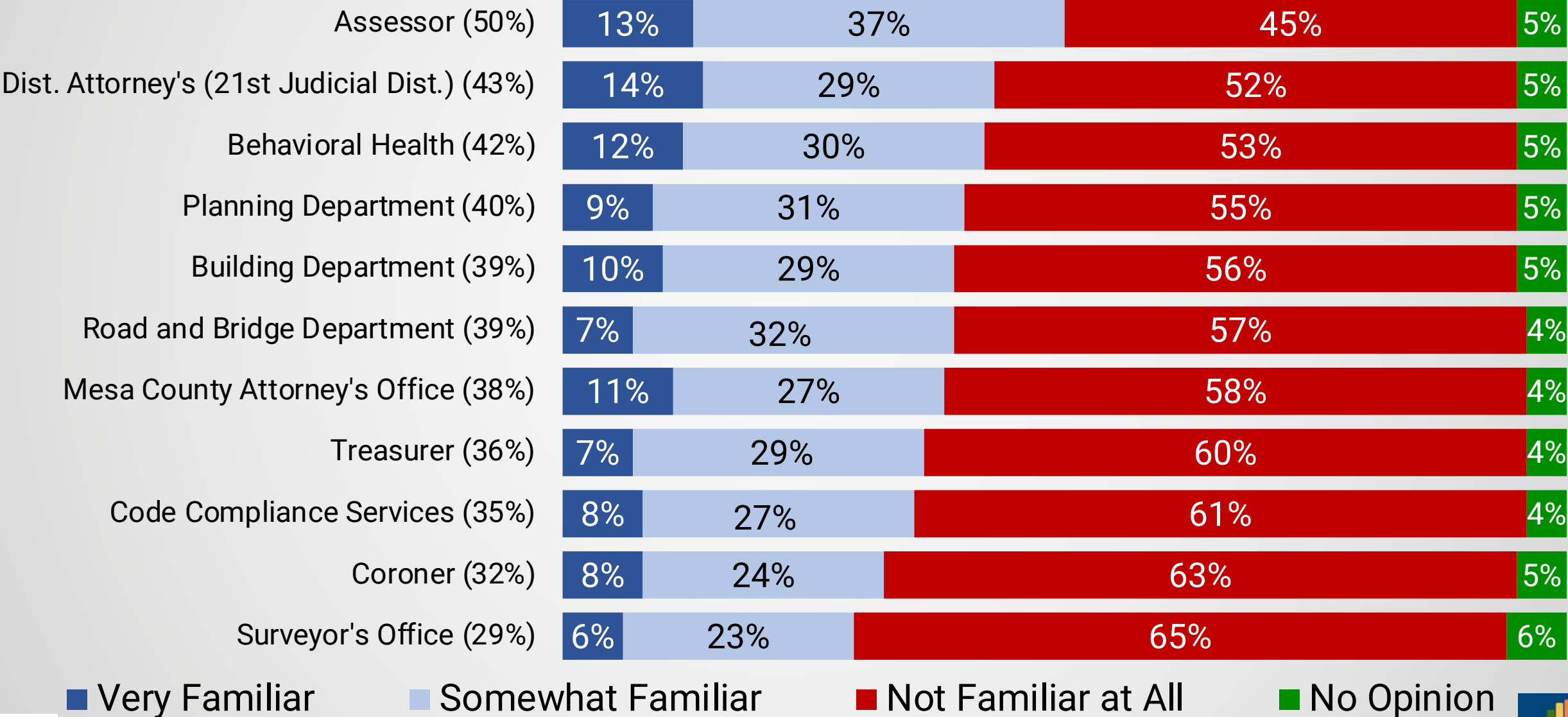
From 2024 to 2026 – *Total Agree Shown*



We would like to know how familiar you are with various programs and services in Mesa County. For each of the following County programs and services, please indicate your level of familiarity.
[Ranked by Very & Somewhat Familiar]

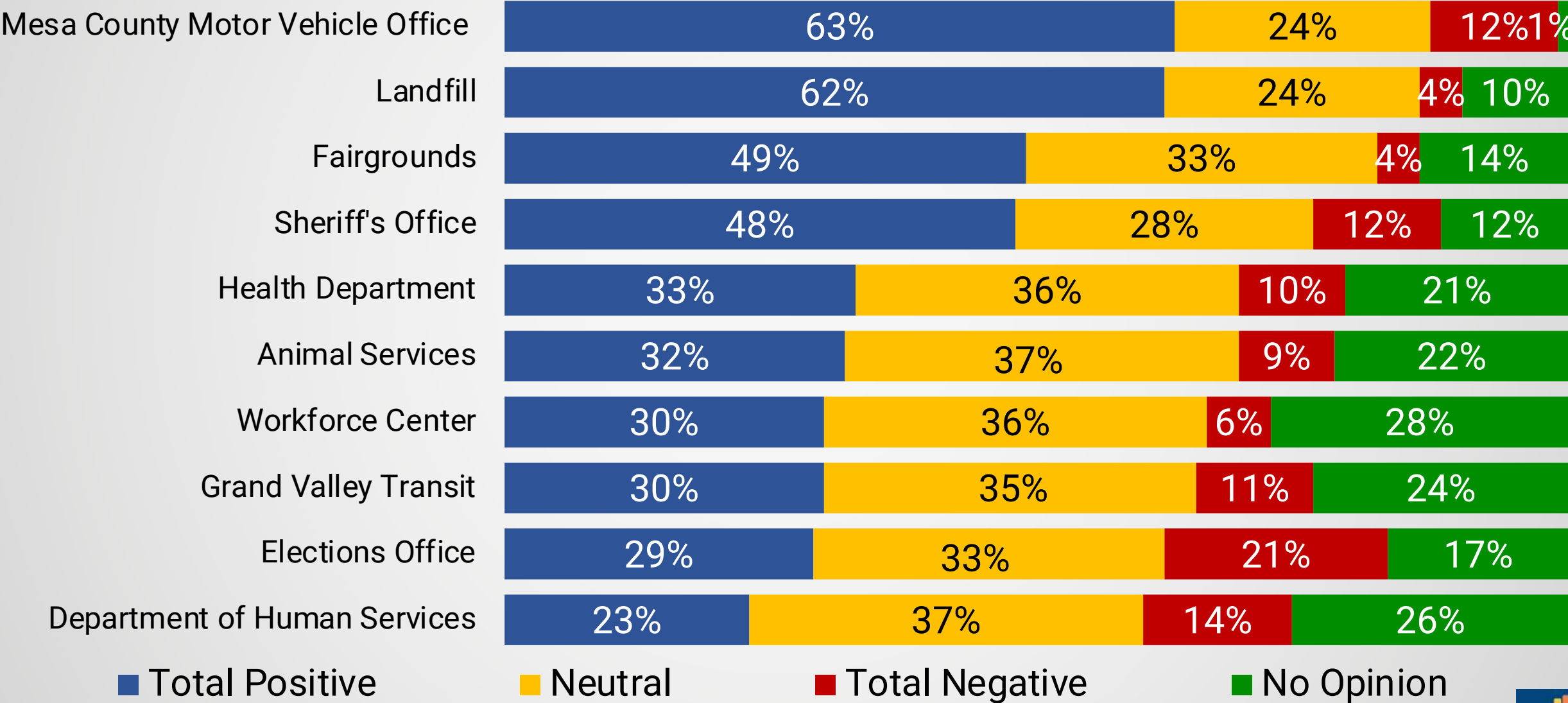


We would like to know how familiar you are with various programs and services in Mesa County. For each of the following County programs and services, please indicate your level of familiarity.
[Ranked by Very & Somewhat Familiar] Continued



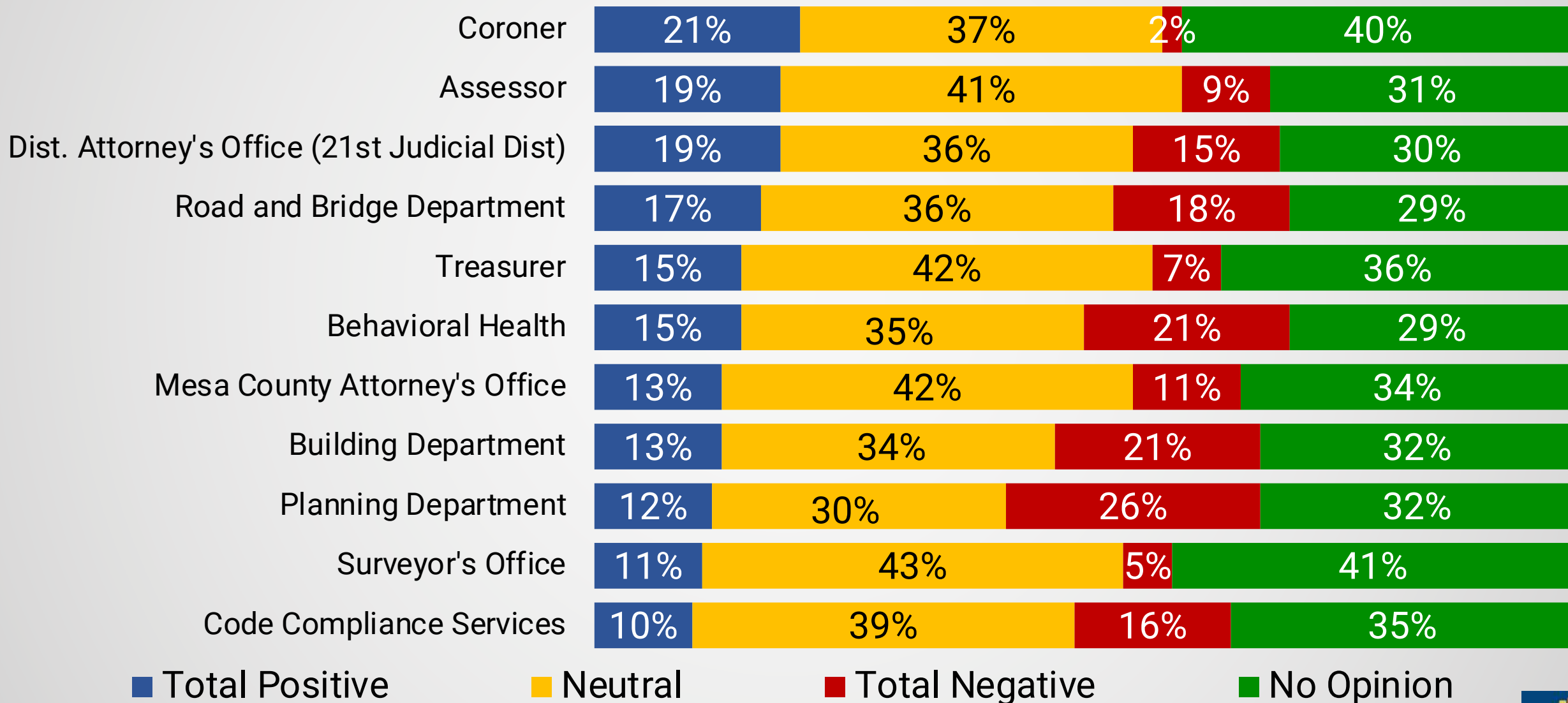
Based on what you've heard about or experienced with the program or service below, what is your overall impression of that department?

[Ranked by Total Positive]



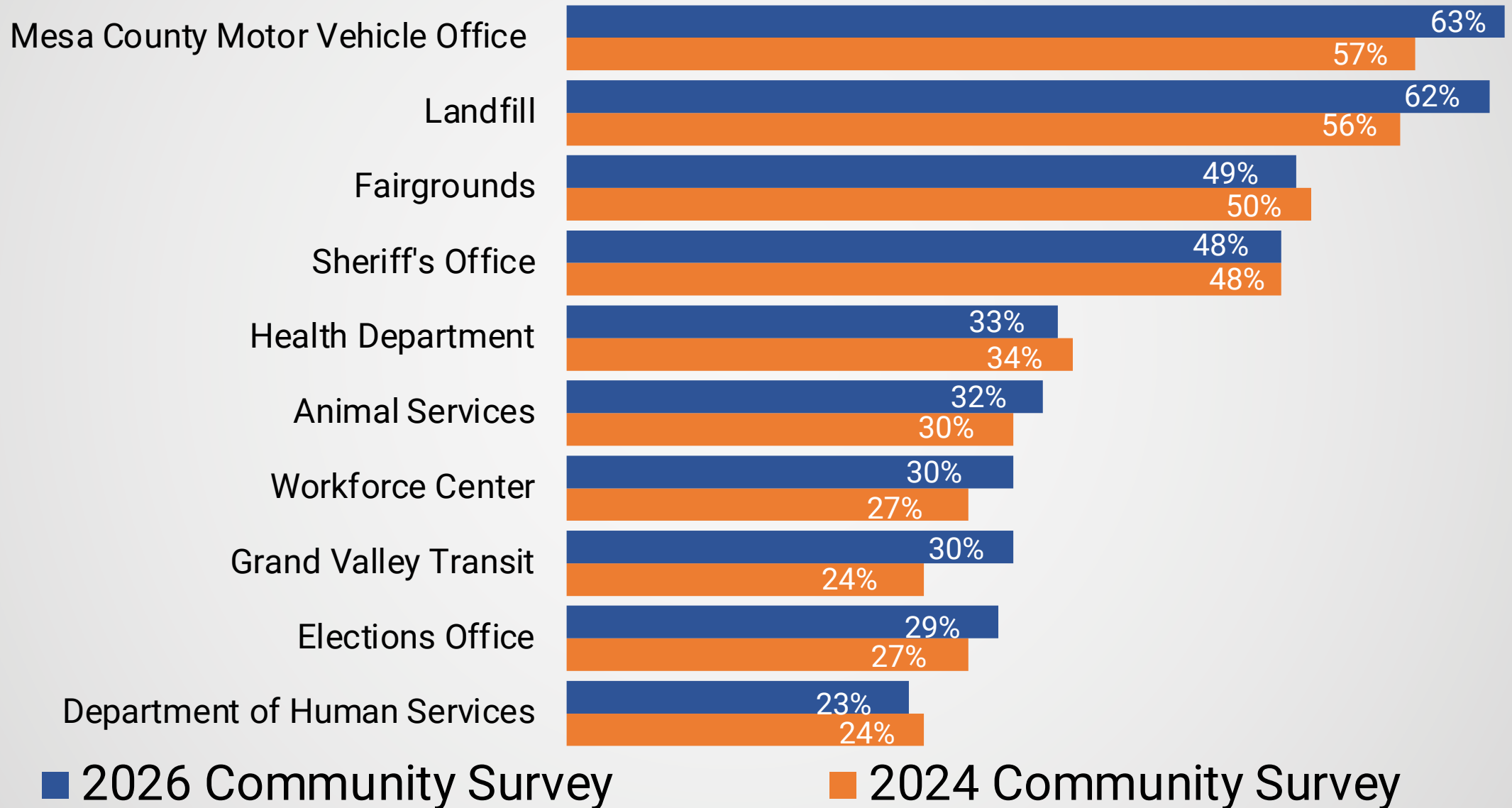
Based on what you've heard about or experienced with the program or service below, what is your overall impression of that department?

[Ranked by Total Positive] Continued



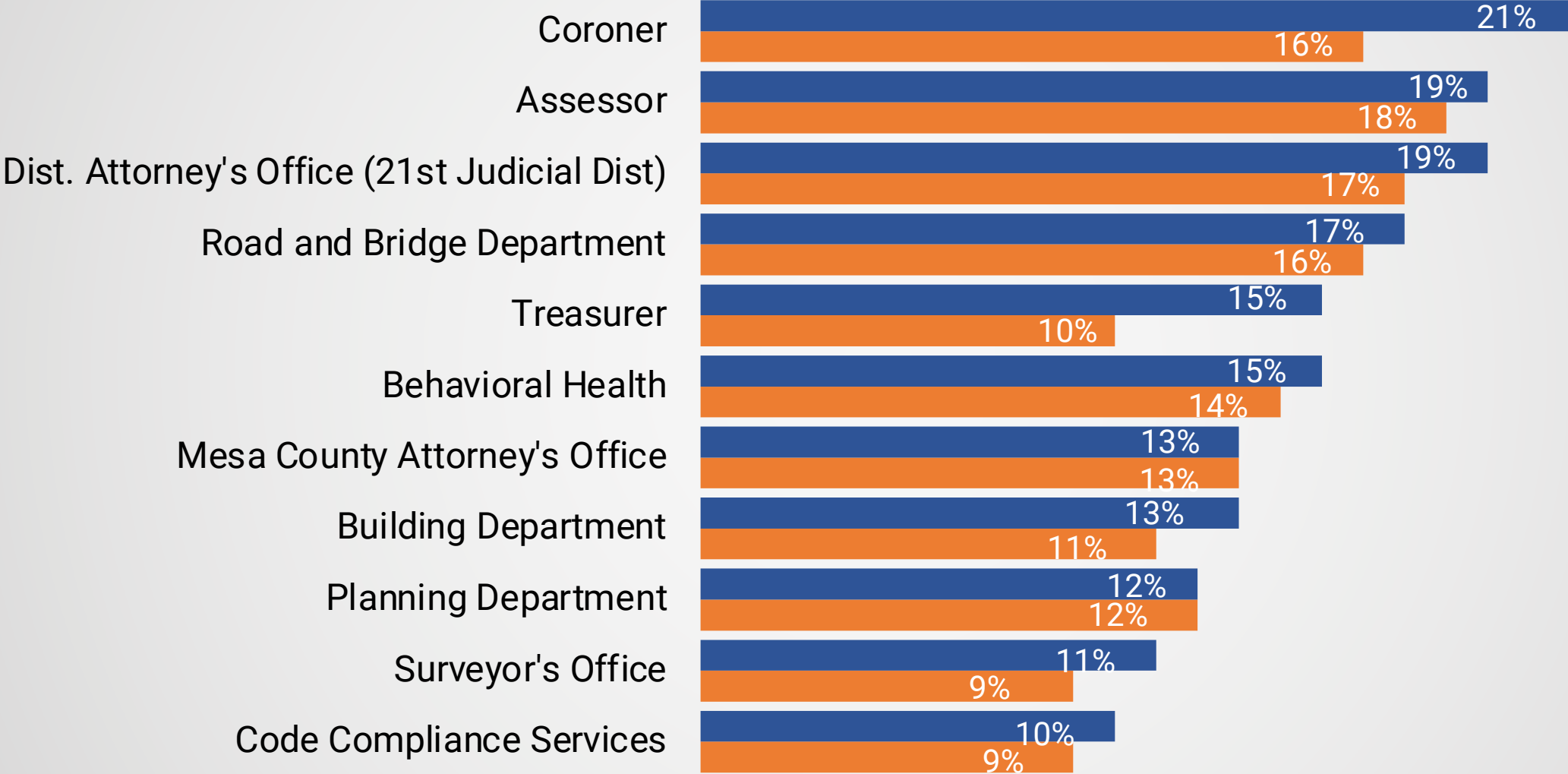
Mesa County Opinion on Departments

Comparisons From 2024 to 2026 – *Total Positive Shown*



Mesa County Opinion on Departments

Comparisons From 2024 to 2026 *Total Positive Shown*

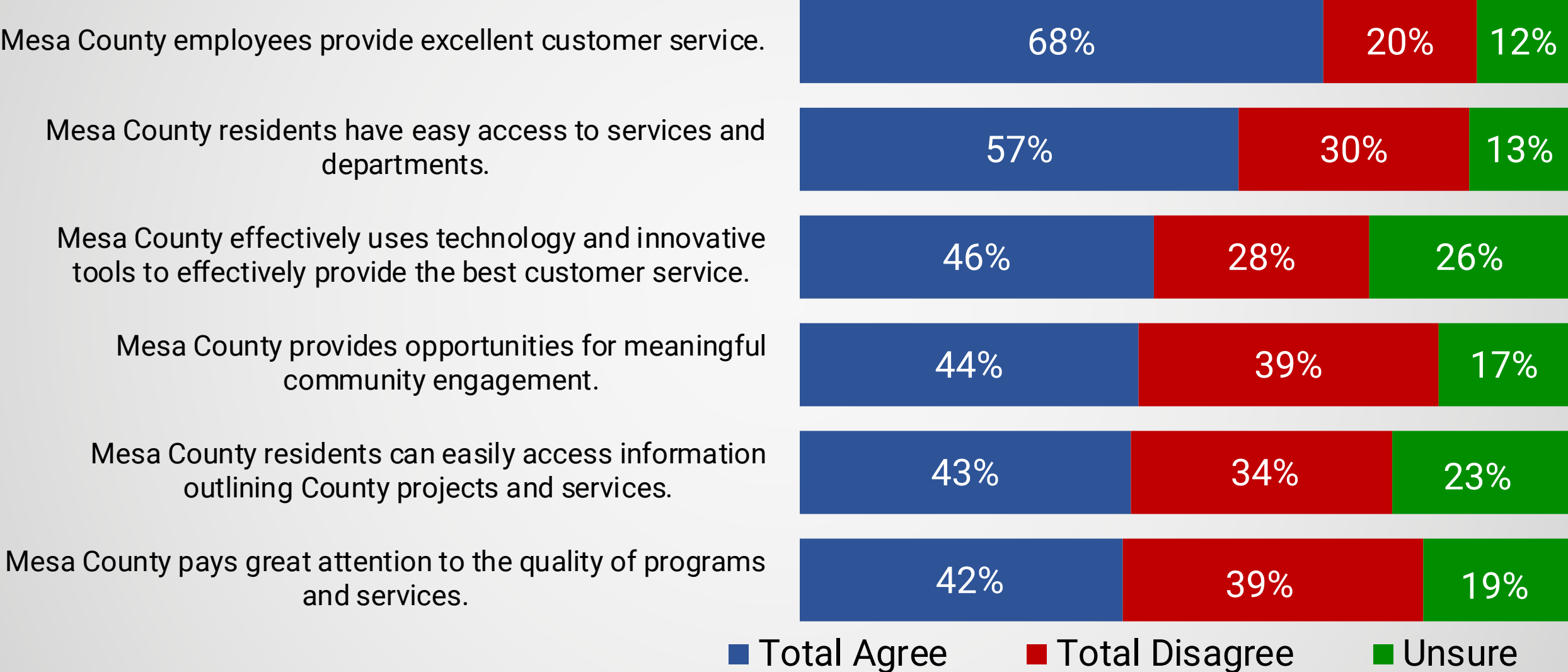


■ 2026 Community Survey

■ 2024 Community Survey

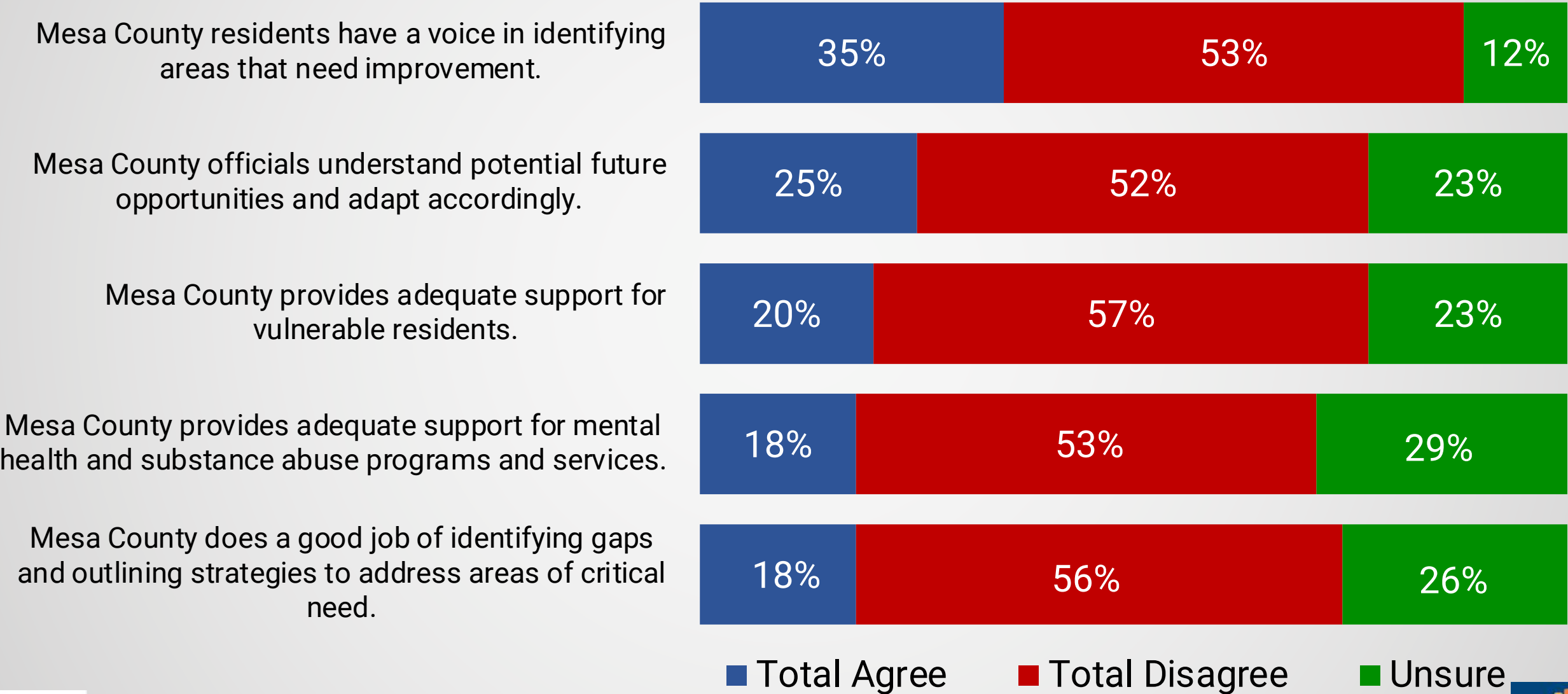
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[Ranked by Total Agree]



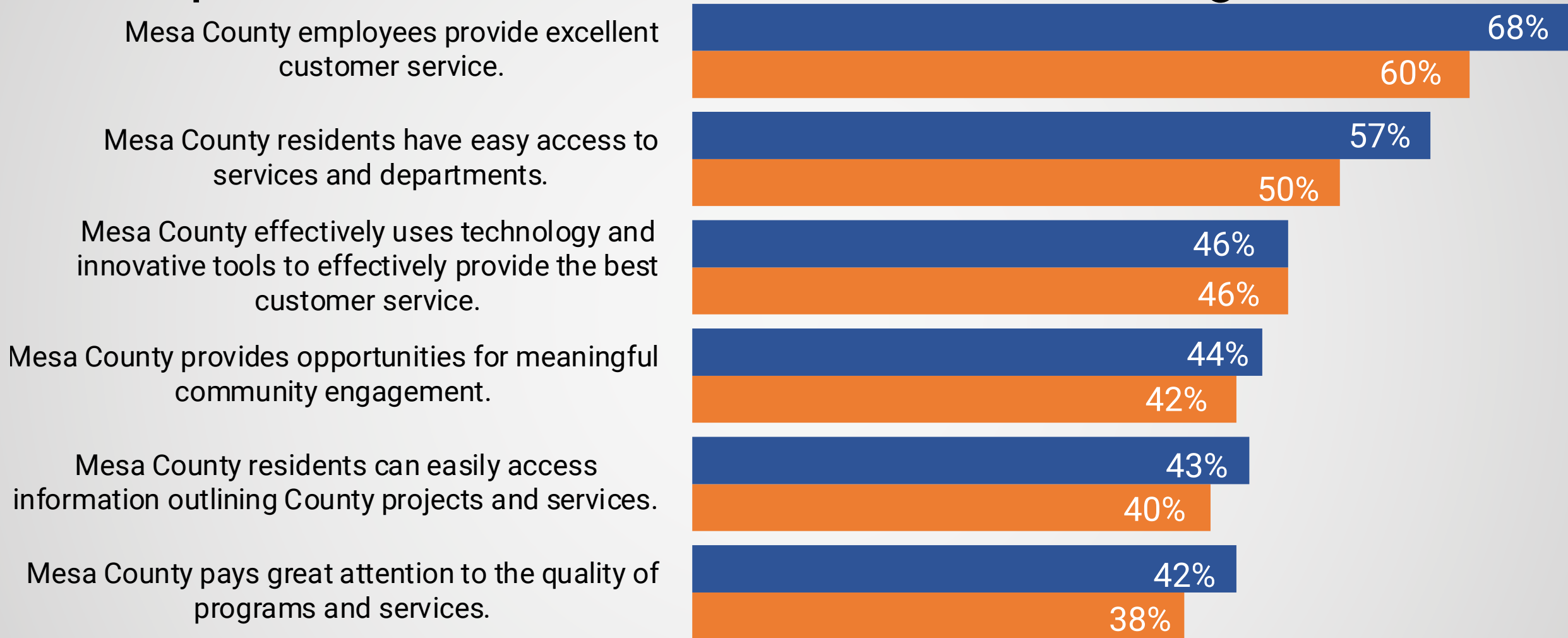
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[Ranked by Total Agree] Continued



Mesa County Opinion on Staff and Employees

Comparisons From 2024 to 2026 – *Total Agree Shown*



■ 2026 Community Survey

■ 2024 Community Survey

Mesa County Opinion Staff and Employees

Comparisons From 2024 to 2026 – *Total Agree Shown*

Mesa County residents have a voice in identifying areas that need improvement.



Mesa County officials understand potential future opportunities and adapt accordingly.



Mesa County provides adequate support for vulnerable residents.



Mesa County provides adequate support for mental health and substance abuse programs and services.



Mesa County does a good job of identifying gaps and outlining strategies to address areas of critical need.



■ 2026 Community Survey

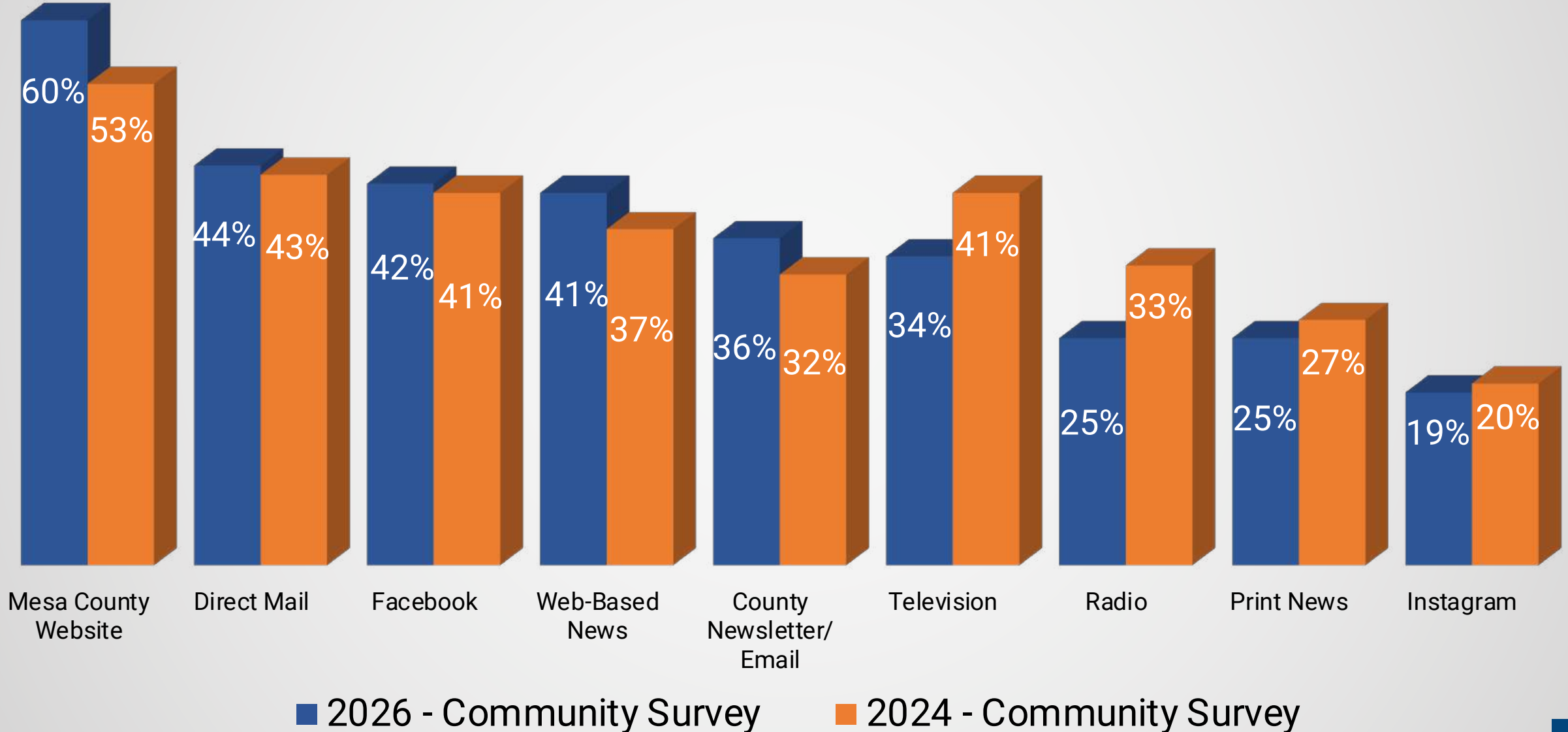
■ 2024 Community Survey

Communication Outlets



What are the communication outlets you prefer?

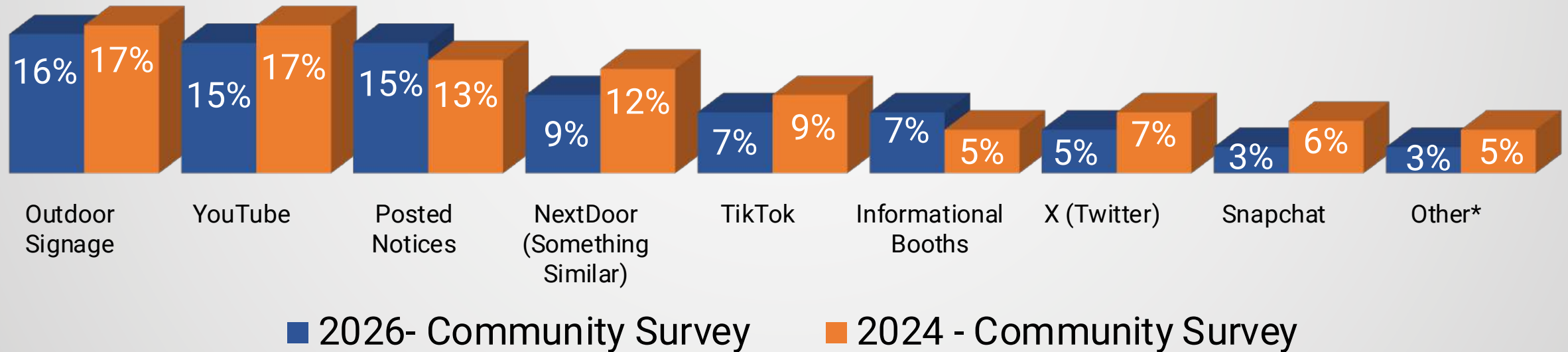
Select all that apply.



Mesa County 2026 Community Survey, June/July 2026, 1,227n, +/- 2.28% MoE

What are the communication outlets you prefer?

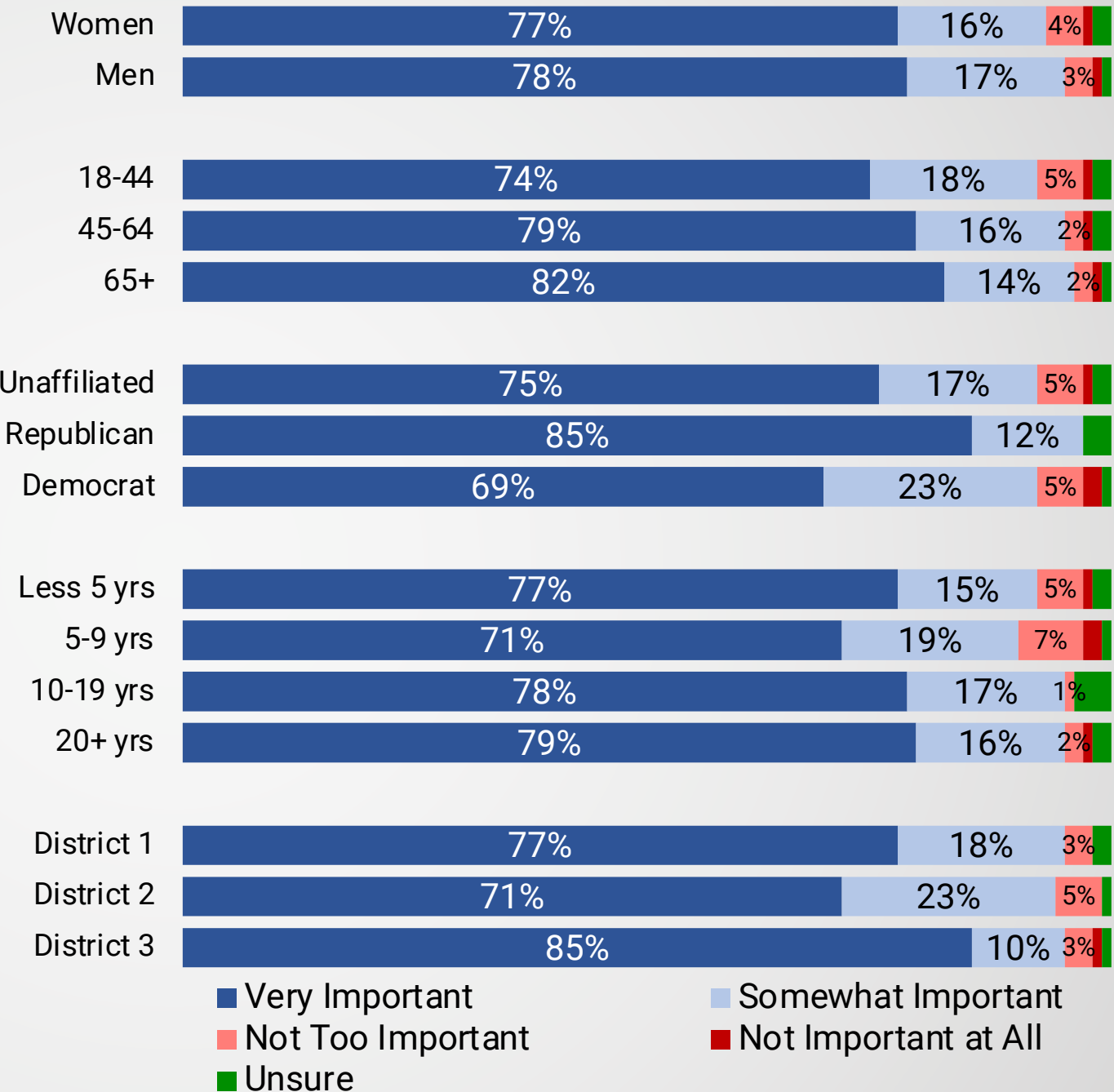
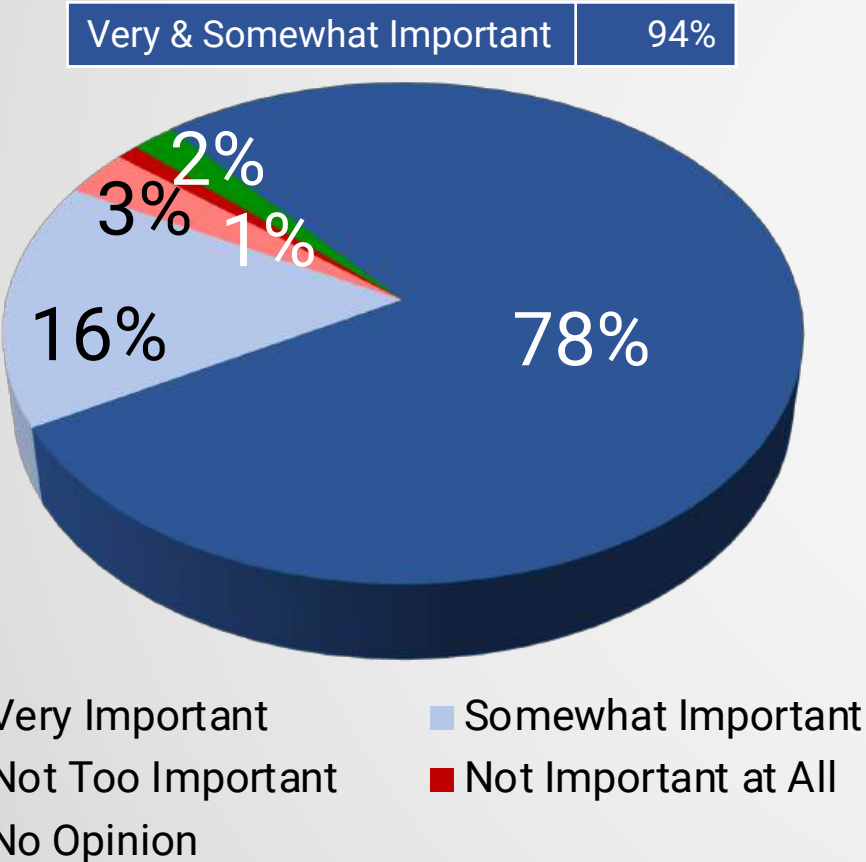
Select all that apply - Continued



Opinion on County Budget



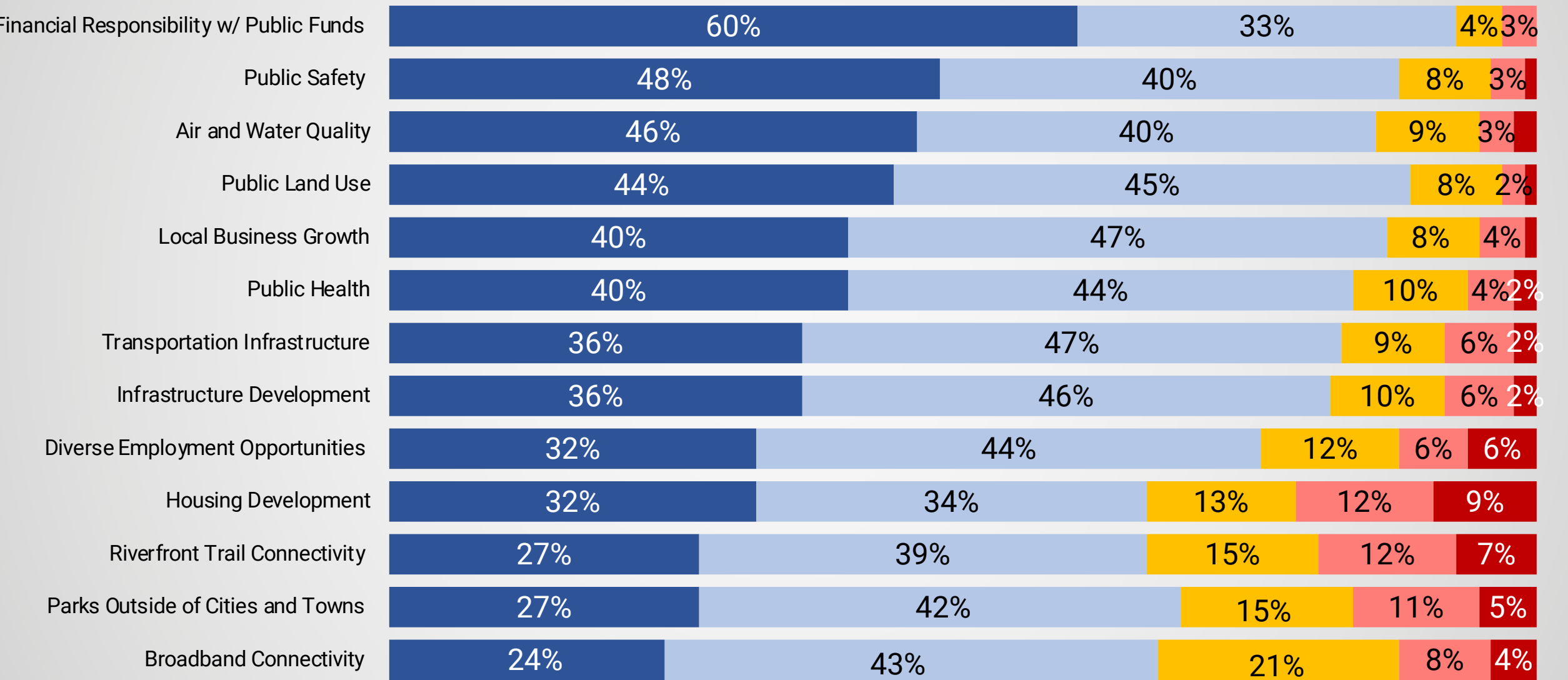
How important is it to you that Mesa County shows it is managing taxpayer money responsibly by adopting a balanced budget that does not rely on reserve funds or savings to cover regular operating expenses?



Opinion on Priority Areas



How important should these priority areas be to Mesa County government leaders in the next few years?
On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being very important and 1 being not important at all, how would you rate the importance of each option below? *[Ranked by 10-Very Important]*

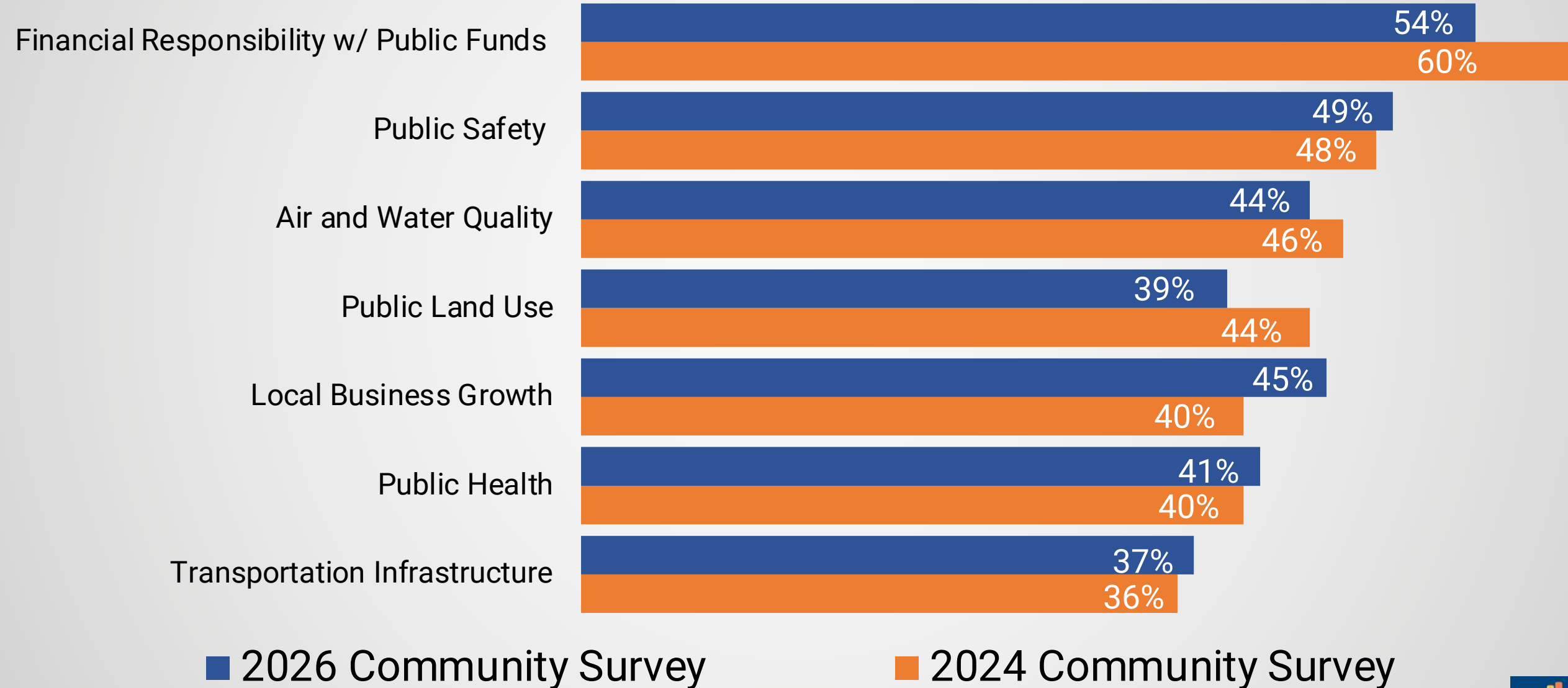


■ 10-Very Important ■ 6-9 ■ 5-Neutral ■ 2-4 ■ 1-Not Important at All



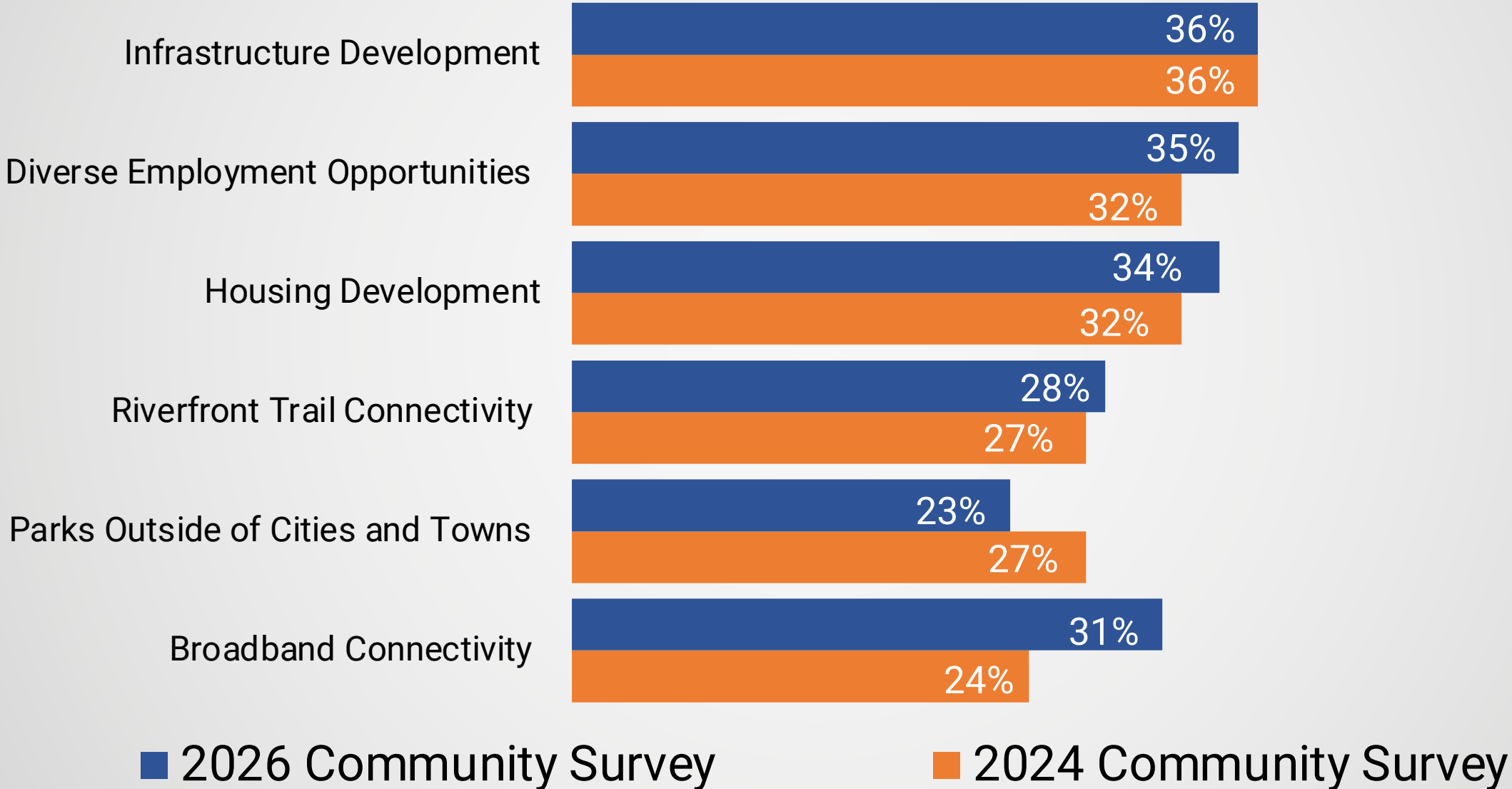
Mesa County Opinion on Priority Areas

Comparisons From 2024 to 2026 – 10 Very Important Shown



Mesa County Opinion on Priority Areas

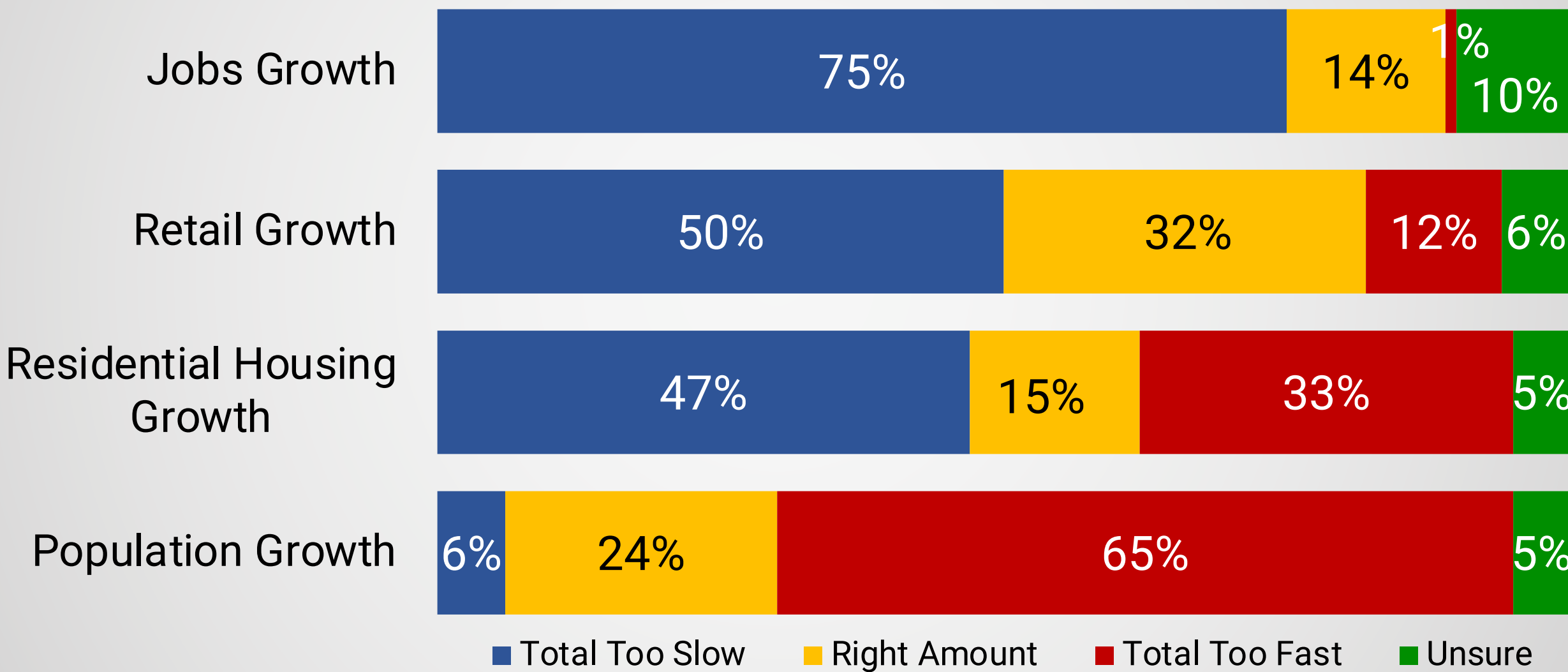
Comparisons From 2024 to 2026 – 10 Very Important Shown



Opinion on Growth



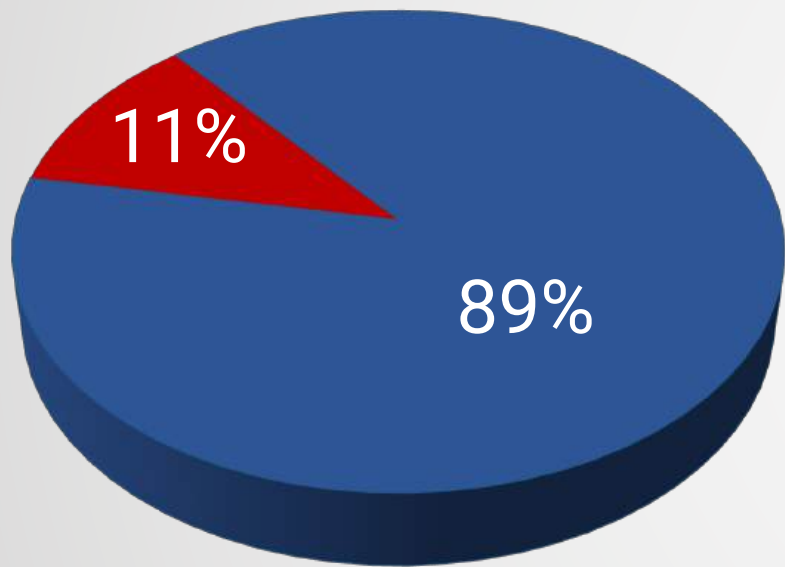
Please indicate your opinion regarding the rate of growth for the following categories in Mesa County. *[Ranked by Total Too Slow]*



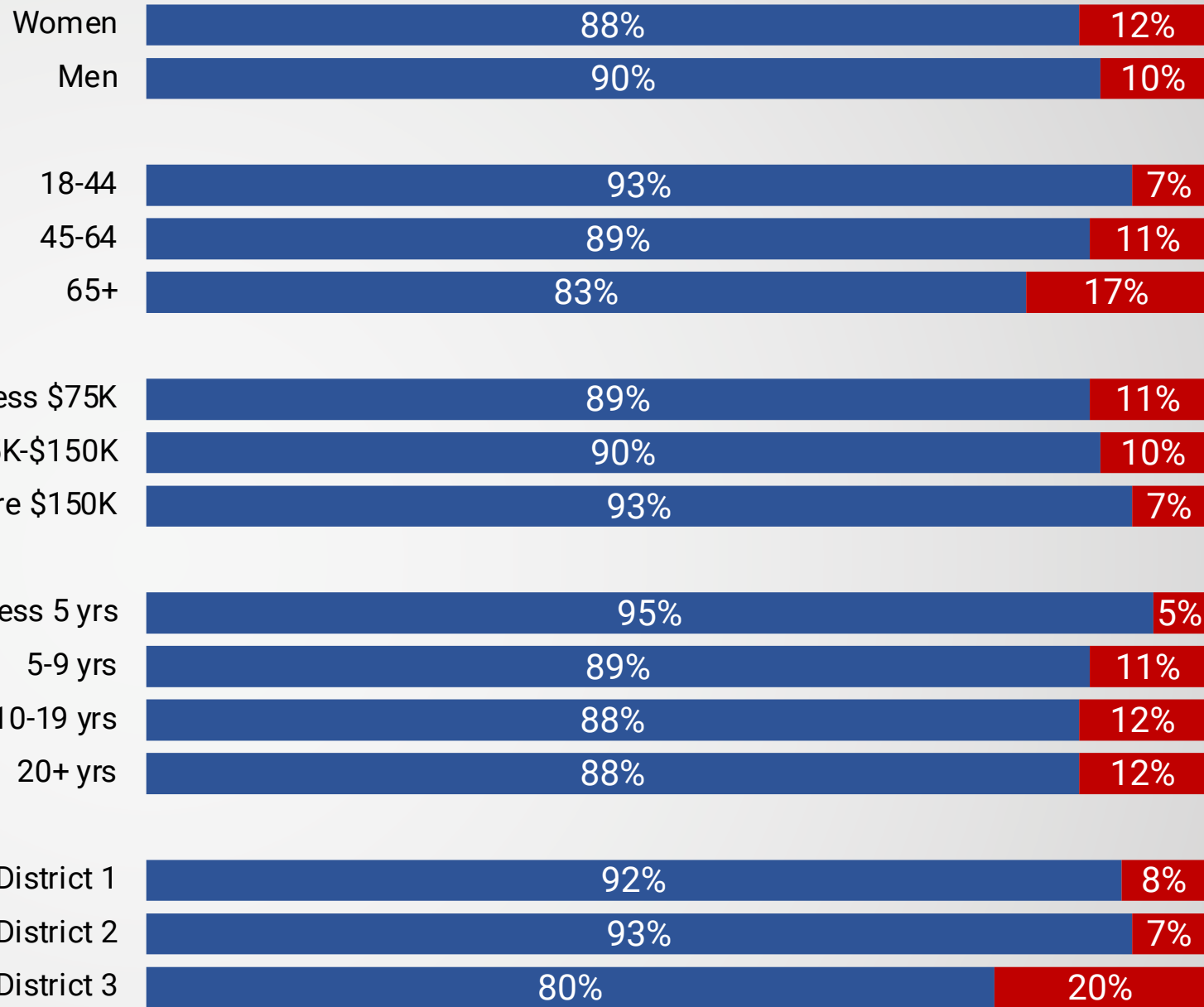
Park Usage and County Events



Do you use trails and/or parks within Mesa County?

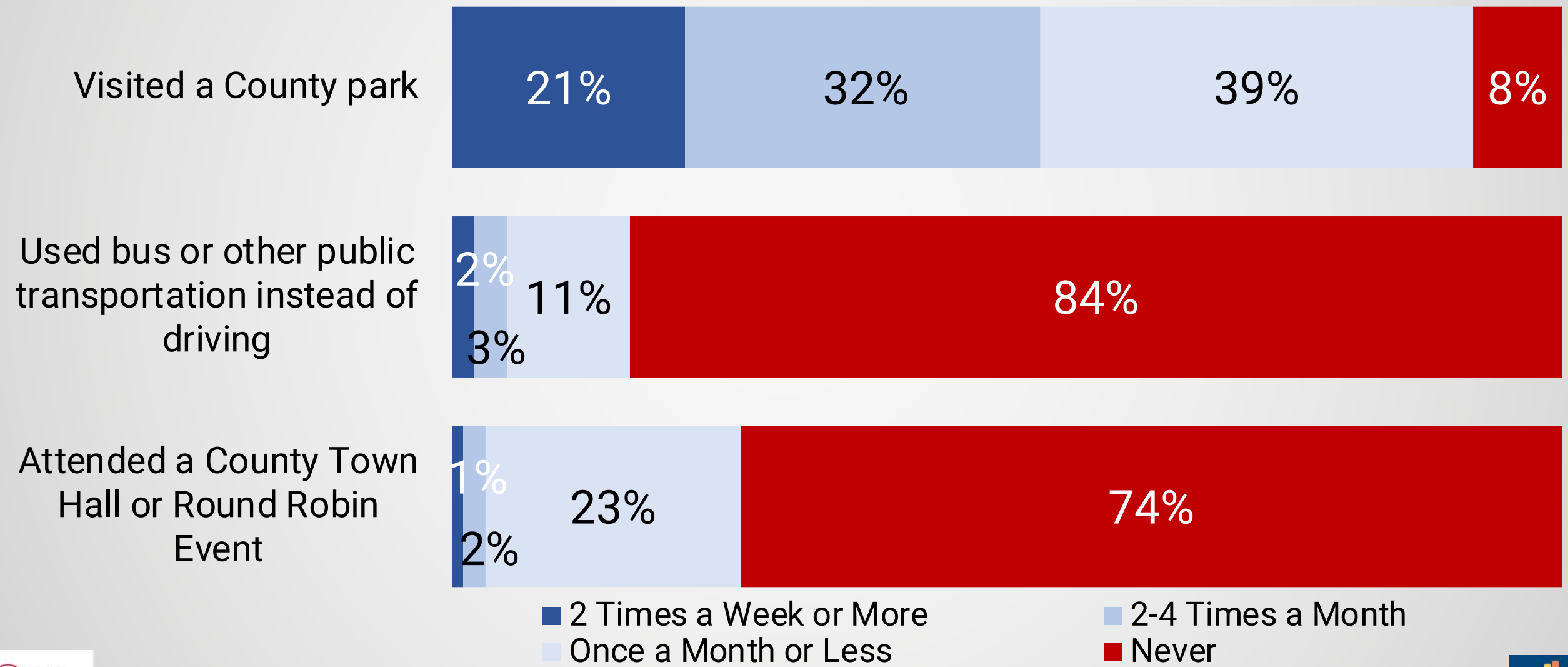


■ Yes ■ No



■ Yes ■ No

In the last 12 months, how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Mesa County?

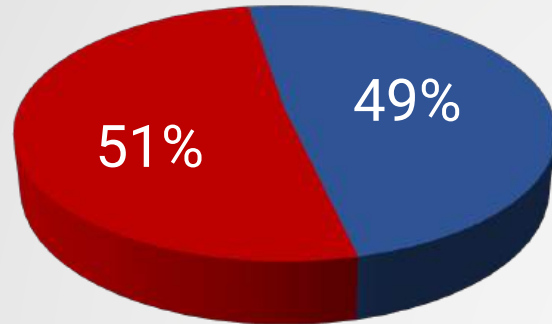


Survey Demographics



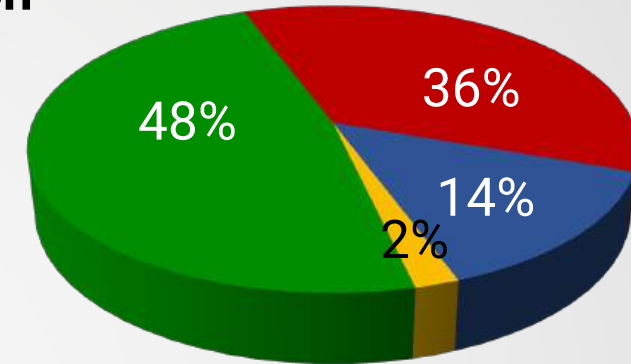
Survey Demographics

Gender



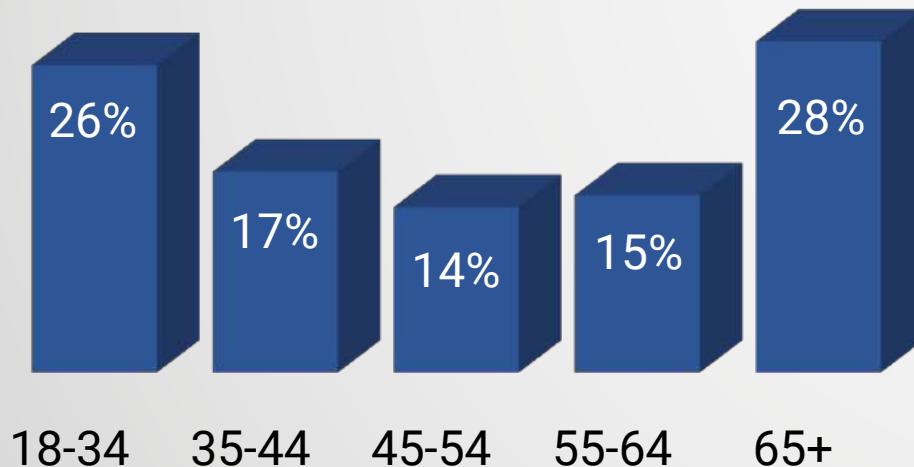
■ Female ■ Male ■ Identify Differently

Party Affiliation

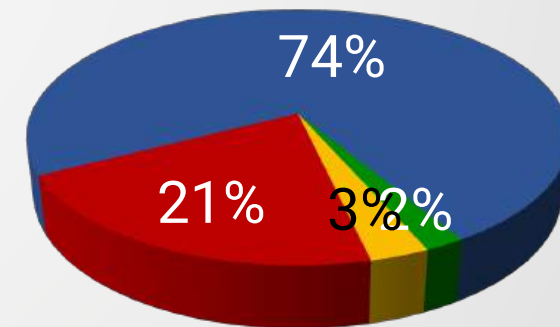


■ Independent/ Unaffiliated ■ Republican ■ Democrat ■ Other

Age Range



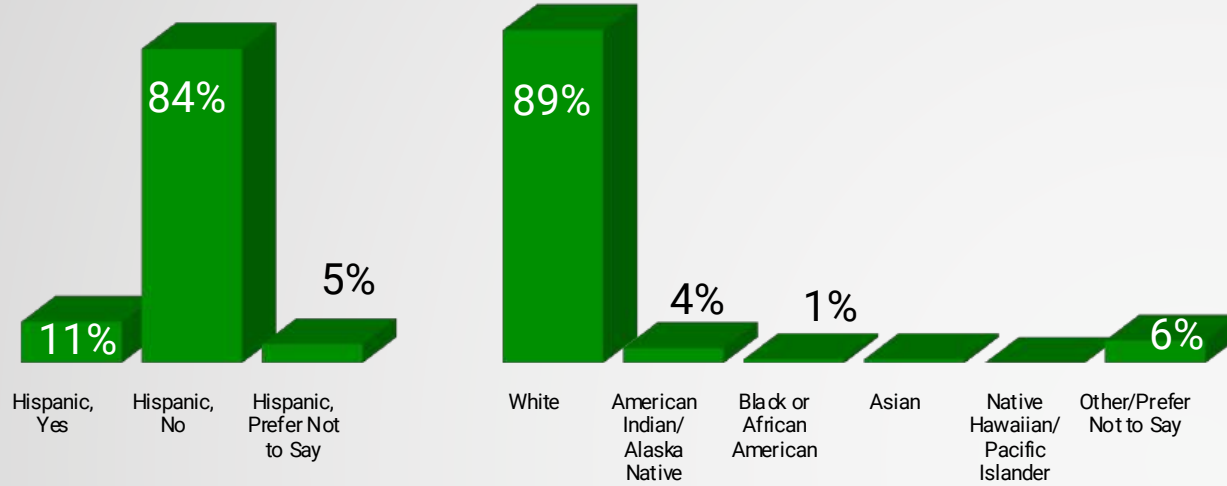
Rent v. Own



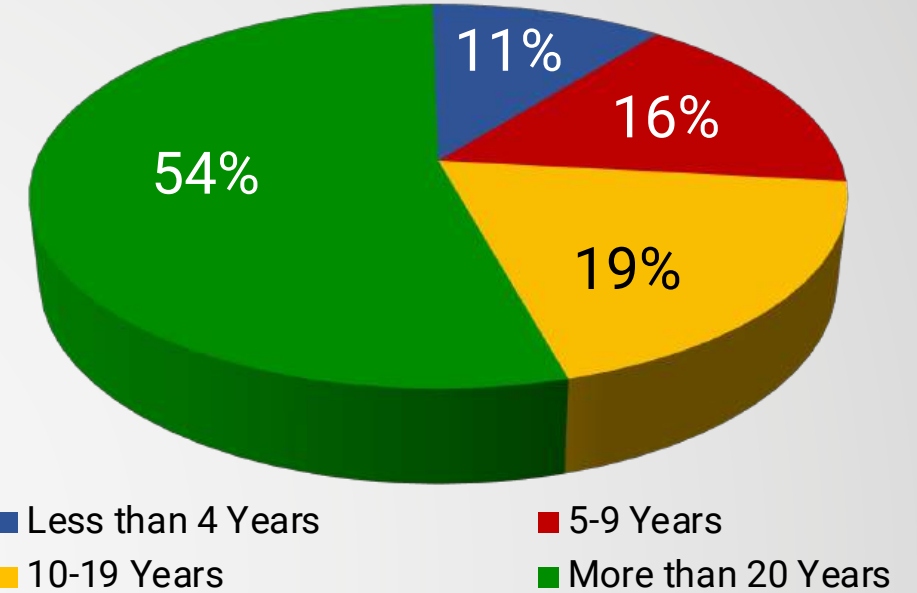
■ Rent ■ Own ■ Other ■ Prefer Not to Say

Survey Demographics

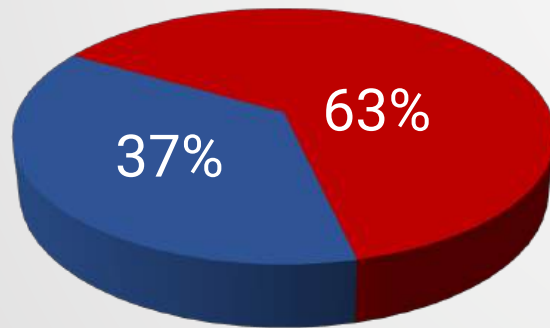
Race-Ethnicity



Tenure

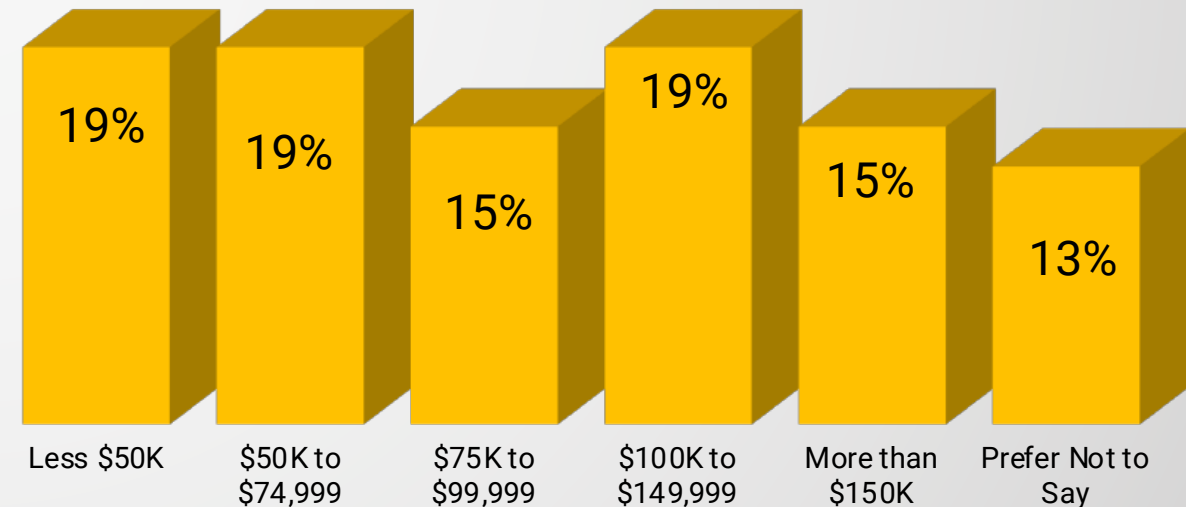


4-Year College Degree



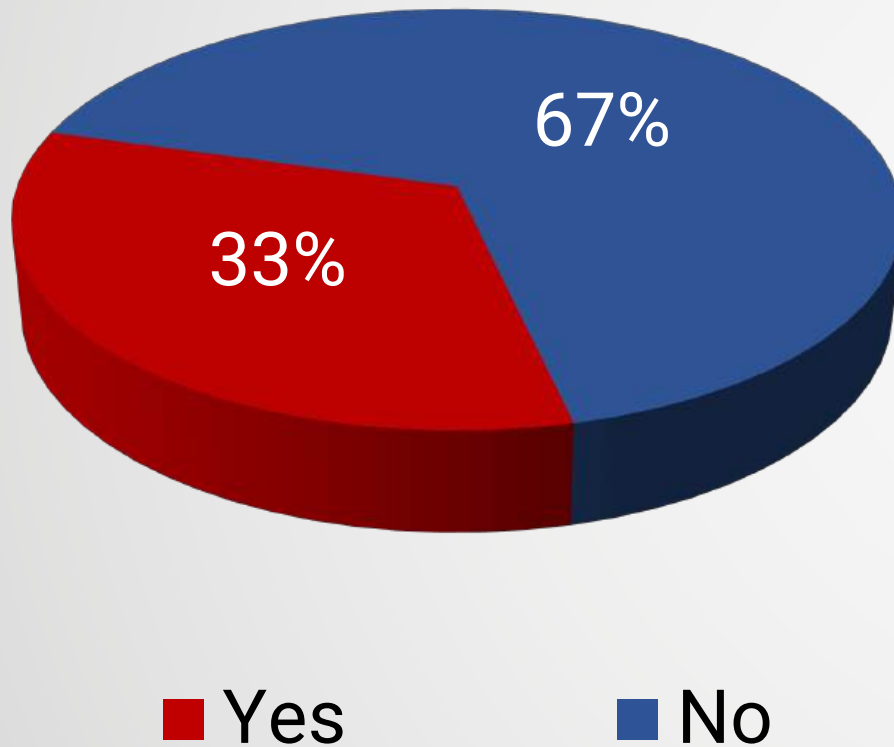
■ 4-Year College Degree ■ No College Degree

Income

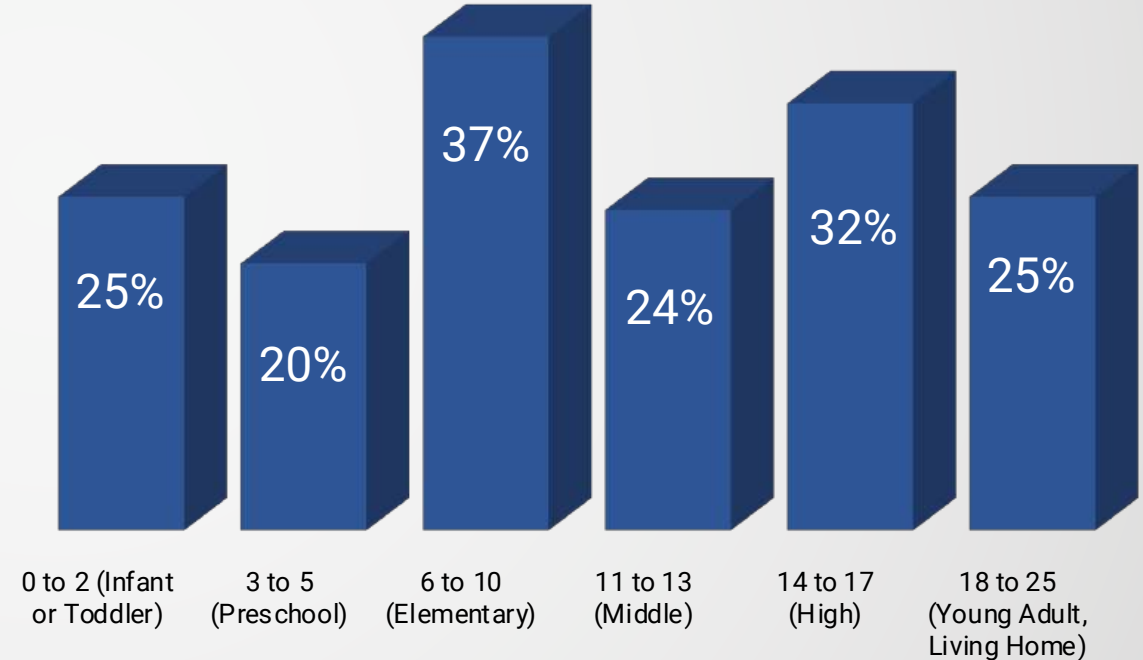


Survey Demographics

Child in Household

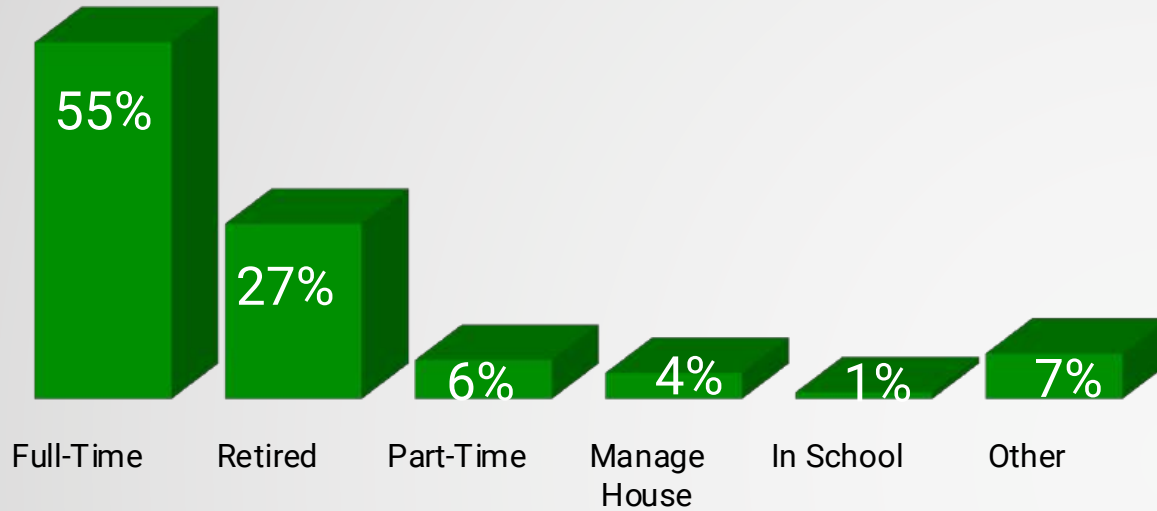


Age Range of Child(ren) in Household (Asked to Parents)

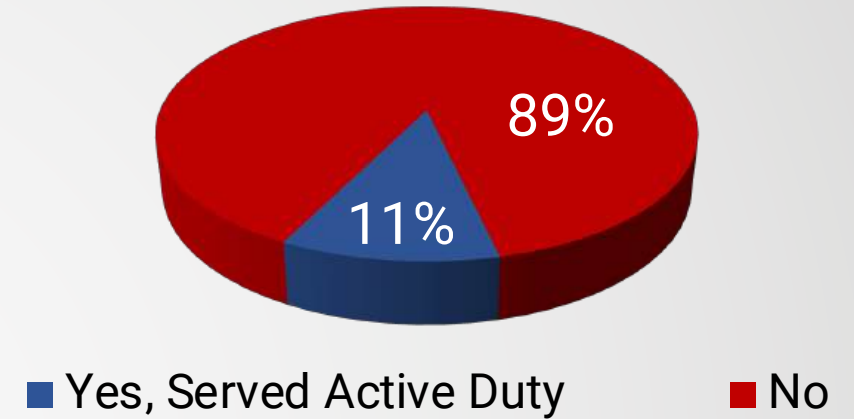


Survey Demographics

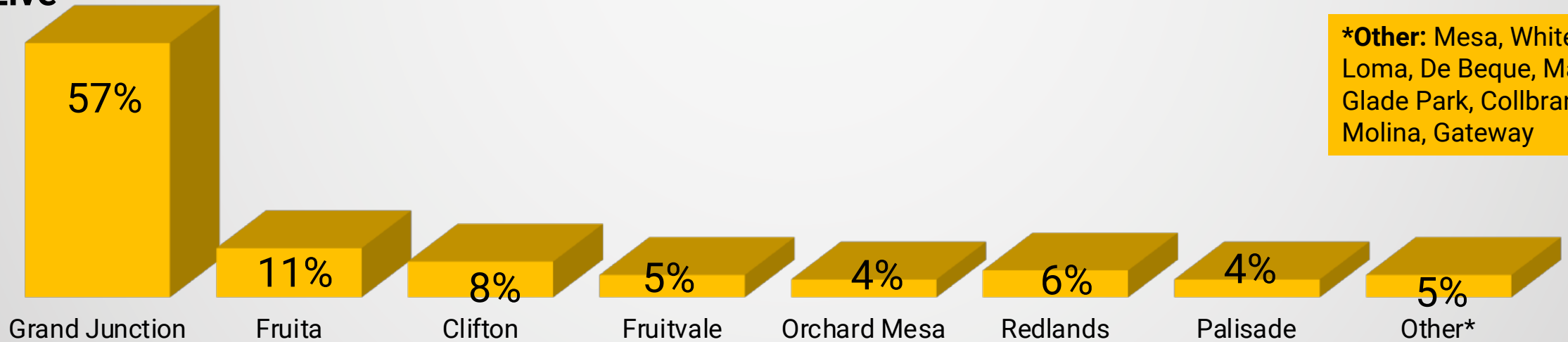
Employment Status



Veteran Status



Live



***Other:** Mesa, Whitewater, Loma, De Beque, Mack, Glade Park, Collbran, Molina, Gateway

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**Magellan
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