

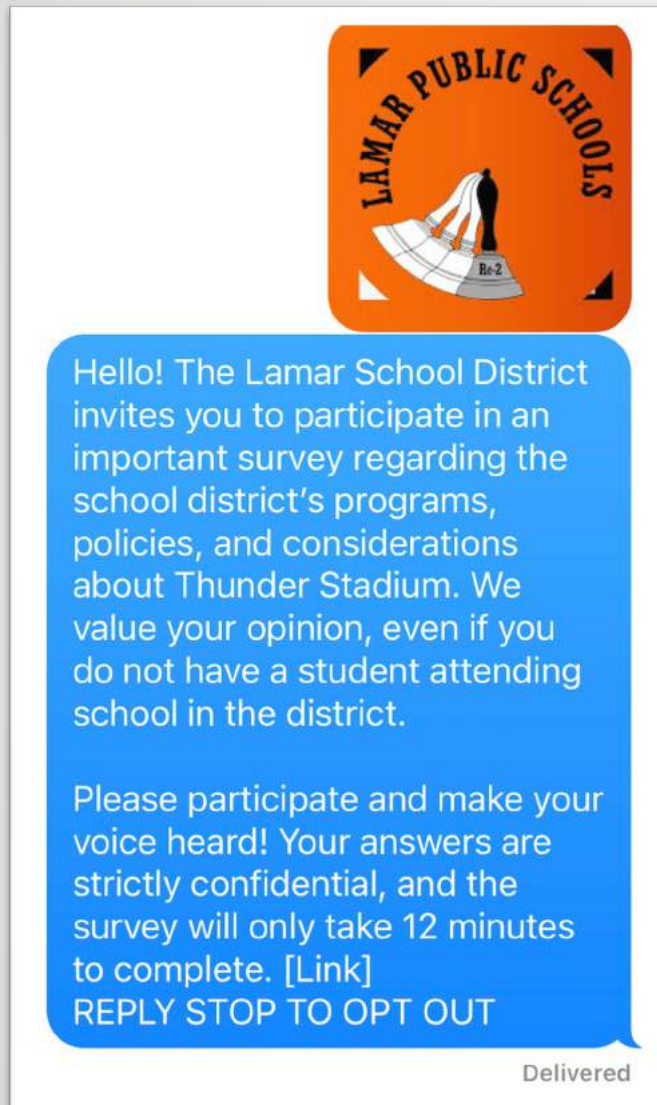


Lamar School District RE-2 School Consolidation Survey

November 14th to December 4th, 2023



Methodology



Magellan Strategies is pleased to present the results of 574 residents and voters in the Lamar School District. The interviews were conducted from November 14th to December 5th, 2023.

The overall survey responses have a margin of error of +/- 3.88% at the 95% confidence interval. Population subgroups will have a higher margin of error than the overall sample.

The survey results were weighted to be representative of the school district's adult population demographics.

Lamar School District Voter Registration and Past Turnout Demographics

Lamar School District RE-2 Magellan Strategies Voter Registration and Past Election Turnout Report

Sex	Registration		2022		2021		2020		2019	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Female	2,995	51.2%	1,645	52.1%	1,379	53.5%	2,191	53.5%	1,259	53.4%
Male	2,850	48.8%	1,515	47.9%	1,197	46.5%	1,901	46.5%	1,099	46.6%
Total	5,845		3,160		2,576		4,092		2,358	

Age Group	Registration		2022		2021		2020		2019	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
18-34	1,591	27.2%	484	15.3%	356	13.8%	848	20.7%	255	10.8%
35-44	955	16.3%	419	13.3%	288	11.2%	584	14.3%	251	10.6%
45-54	794	13.6%	435	13.8%	354	13.7%	580	14.2%	308	13.1%
55-64	889	15.2%	629	19.9%	555	21.5%	794	19.4%	571	24.2%
65+	1,616	27.6%	1,193	37.8%	1,023	39.7%	1,286	31.4%	973	41.3%
Total	5,845		3,160		2,576		4,092		2,358	

Party	Registration		2022		2021		2020		2019	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Unaffiliated	2,386	40.8%	983	31.1%	742	28.8%	1,257	30.7%	569	24.1%
Democrat	1,011	17.3%	543	17.2%	462	17.9%	814	19.9%	480	20.4%
Republican	2,343	40.1%	1,604	50.8%	1,346	52.3%	1,974	48.2%	1,298	55.0%
Libertarian	28	0.5%	13	0.4%	10	0.4%	17	0.4%	7	0.3%
Other	77	1.3%	17	0.5%	16	0.6%	30	0.7%	4	0.2%
Total	5,845		3,160		2,576		4,092		2,358	



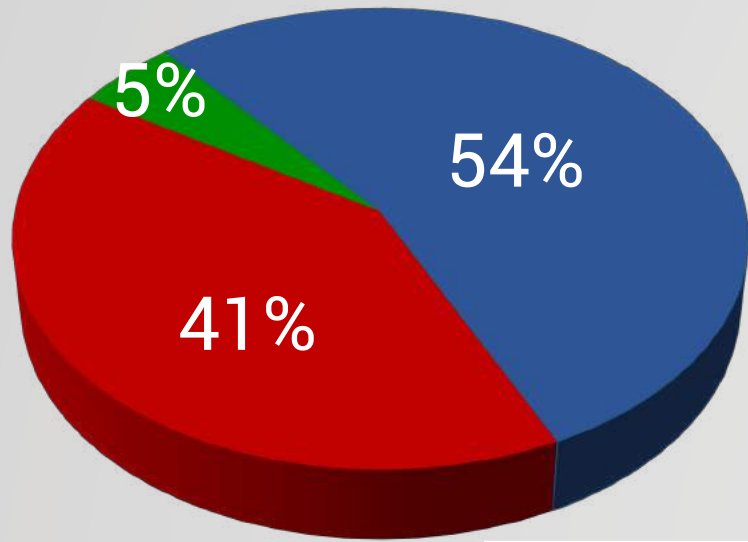
Consolidating Schools

As you may be aware, the Lamar School District is considering a consolidation of its school campuses. The consolidation would result in a single school for students in the 6th through 12th grades. This new school would be built at the existing high school location.

Additionally, the district is considering a combined PK-5 school that would combine students from MHDC Preschool, Washington Elementary School, and Parkview Elementary School and would be built over where the existing high school parking lot is today.

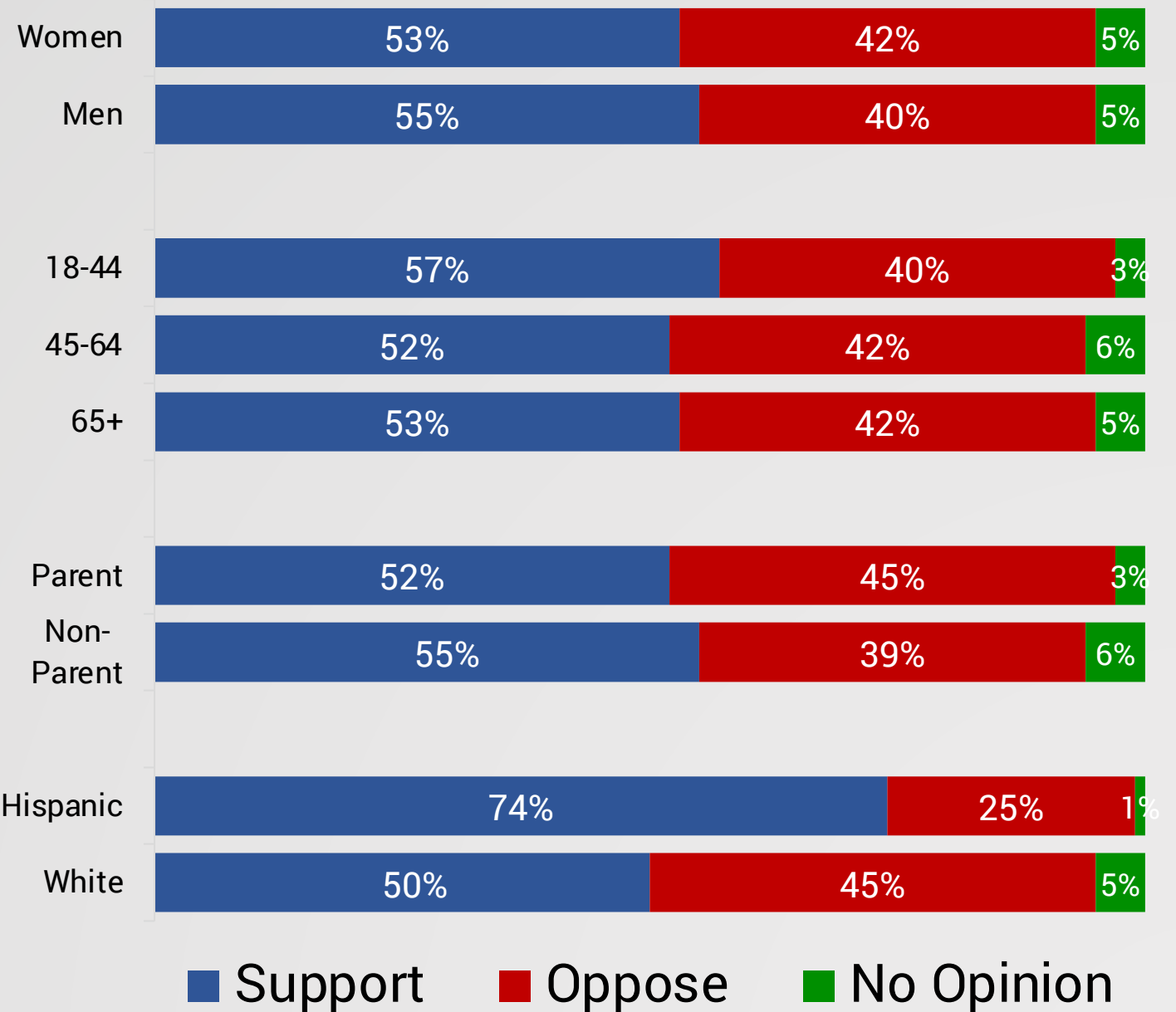
Uninformed Opinion of Combining Middle and High School

Knowing this, do you support or oppose a school consolidation plan that would combine middle school and high school students into one new building?



- Total Support
- Total Oppose
- No Opinion

Strongly Support	32%
Somewhat Support	22%
Strongly Oppose	32%
Somewhat Oppose	9%

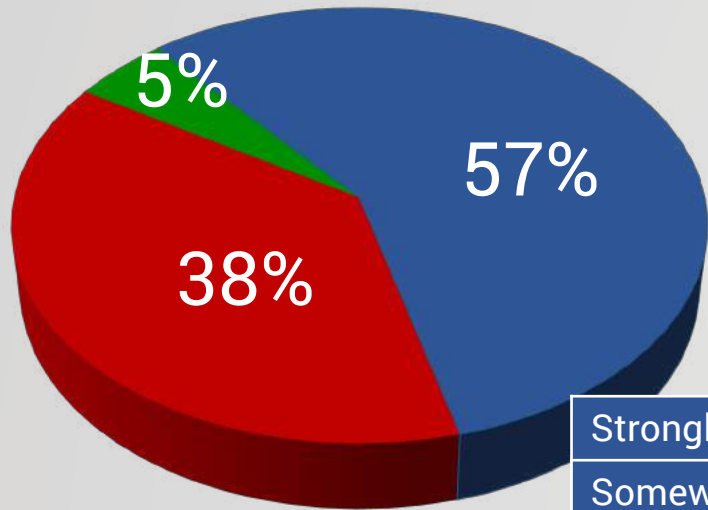


- Support
- Oppose
- No Opinion



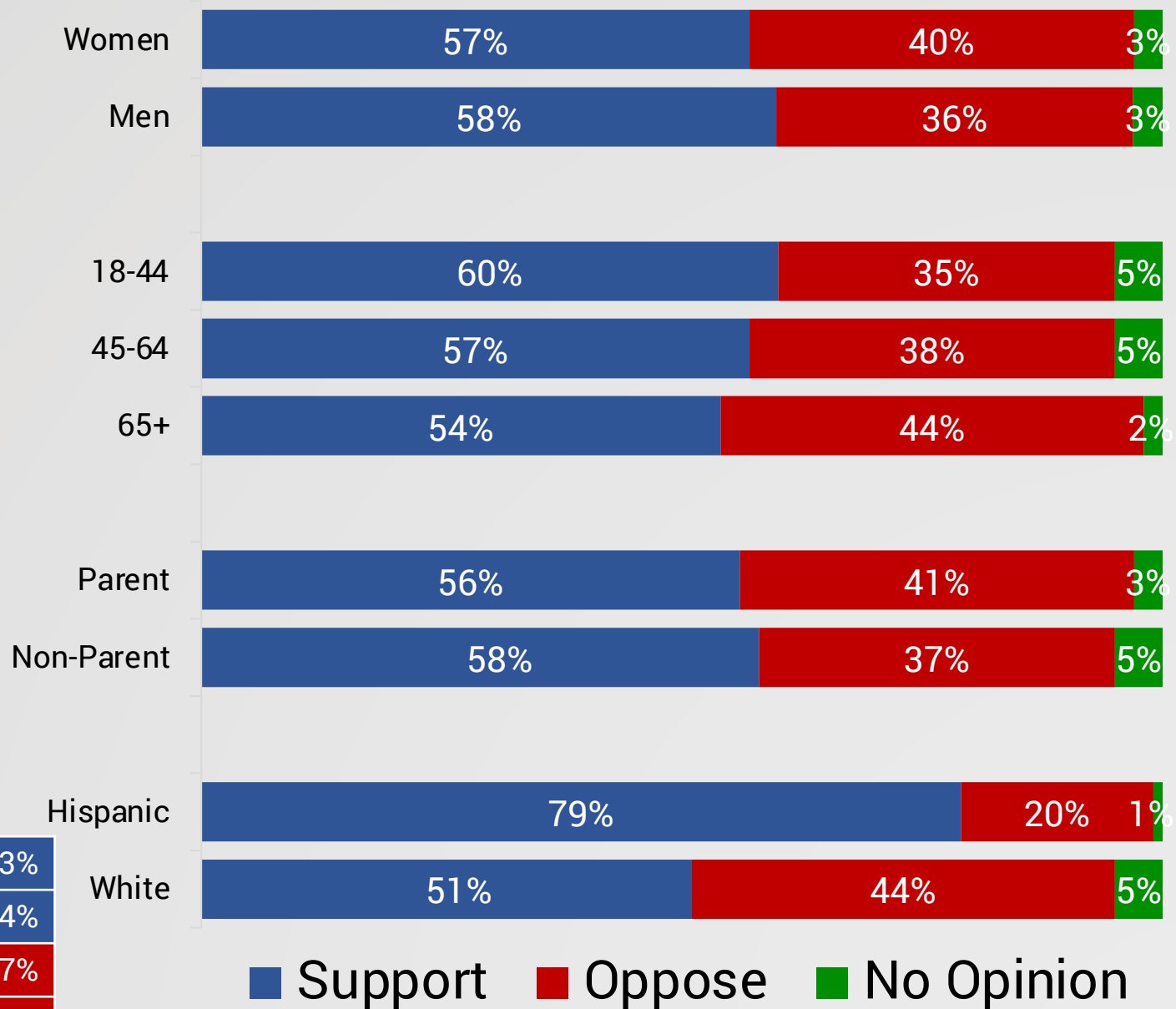
Uninformed Opinion of Combining Preschool and Elementary Schools

Knowing this, do you support or oppose a school consolidation plan that would combine MHDC Preschool, Washington Elementary School, and Parkview Elementary School into one new building?



■ Total Support
■ Total Oppose
■ No Opinion

Strongly Support	33%
Somewhat Support	24%
Strongly Oppose	27%
Somewhat Oppose	11%



Lamar School District School Consolidation Information Questions



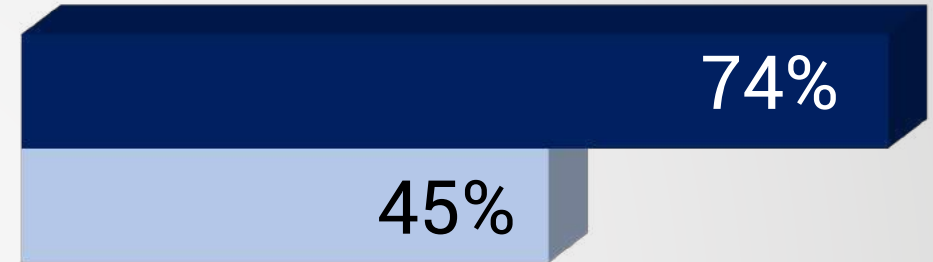
We will now share information about the Lamar School District's school consolidation plan that would combine the middle school and high school into one new school building as well as combine the preschool and elementary schools into a PK-5th grade school.

After reading the information, please indicate if you are more likely to support the school consolidation plan or if the information makes no difference in your opinion. Let's get started.

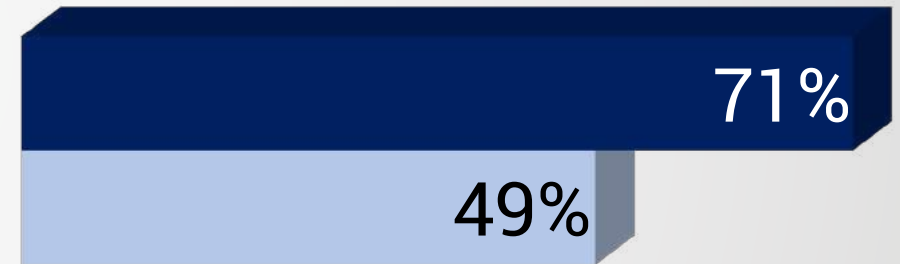
Lamar School District Information Questions

Ranked by Total More Likely to Approve

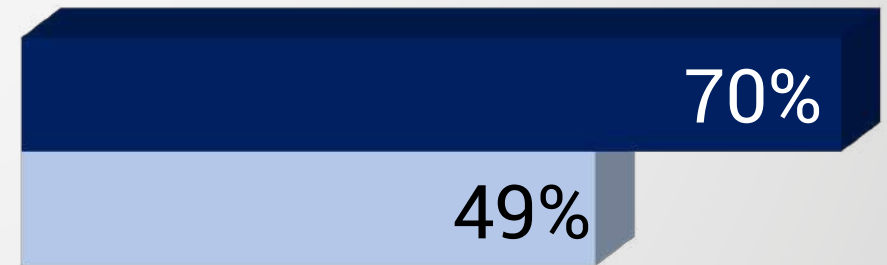
The new consolidated 6th-12th school building would have **two separate wings**, ensuring that middle school students do not regularly interact with high school students. Knowing this, are you:



A consolidated school building for grades 6-12 provides new opportunities for **middle school students to participate in Career and Technical Education (CTE)** classes before they reach high school. These hands-on classes allow students to gain hands-on experience in Agriculture, Art, Physical Education, Woods, Welding, and Weights, and help align student preparation and education with industry needs. Knowing this, are you:



The consolidation plan would give Lamar kids in grades Pk-12th Grade access to **updated buildings, security measures, and technology**, similar to the new schools in surrounding areas. Knowing this, are you:



- Total More Likely to Approve
- Much More Likely to Approve

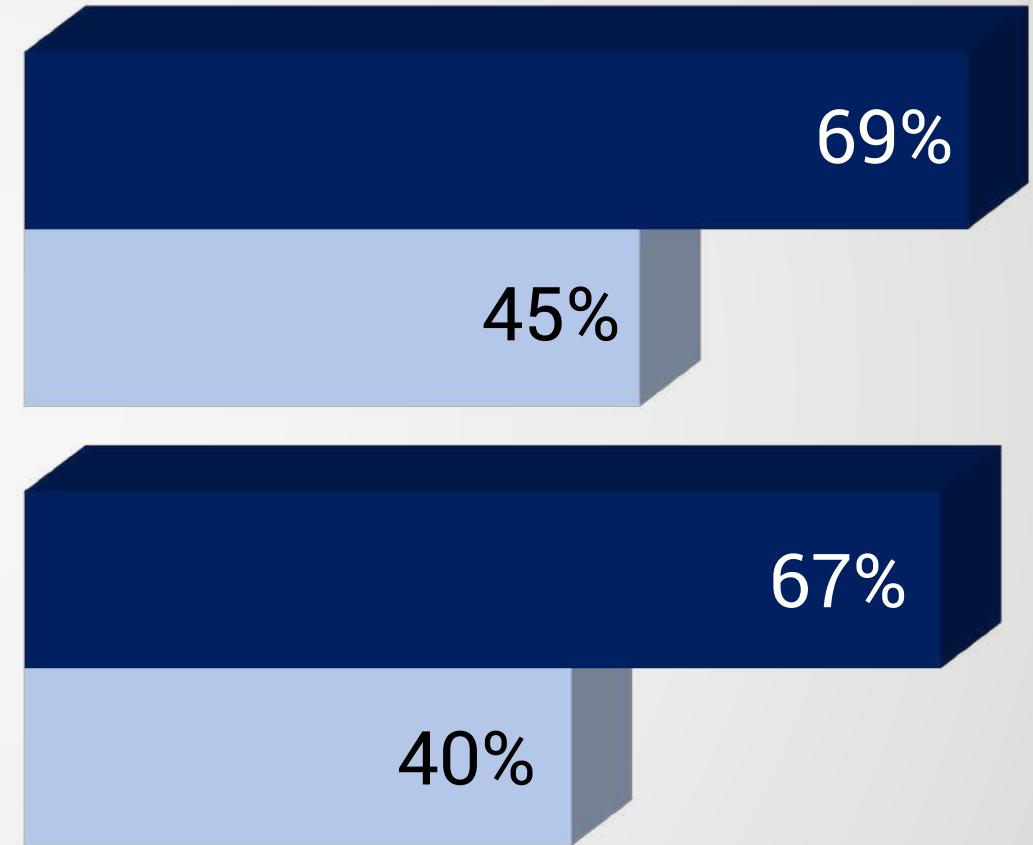


Lamar School District Information Questions

Ranked by Total More Likely to Approve

Consolidating district campuses into two buildings nearby would create a **safer school environment** with updated security measures and fewer campuses. This also means a School Resource Officer should always be in the very nearby vicinity, whereas right now, the SRO could be halfway across town at any of our 6 locations.

Consolidation of district campuses would **lower school district costs significantly**. One example would be savings on utilities and overhead. Another example would be saving fuel in bussing.



- Total More Likely to Approve
- Much More Likely to Approve

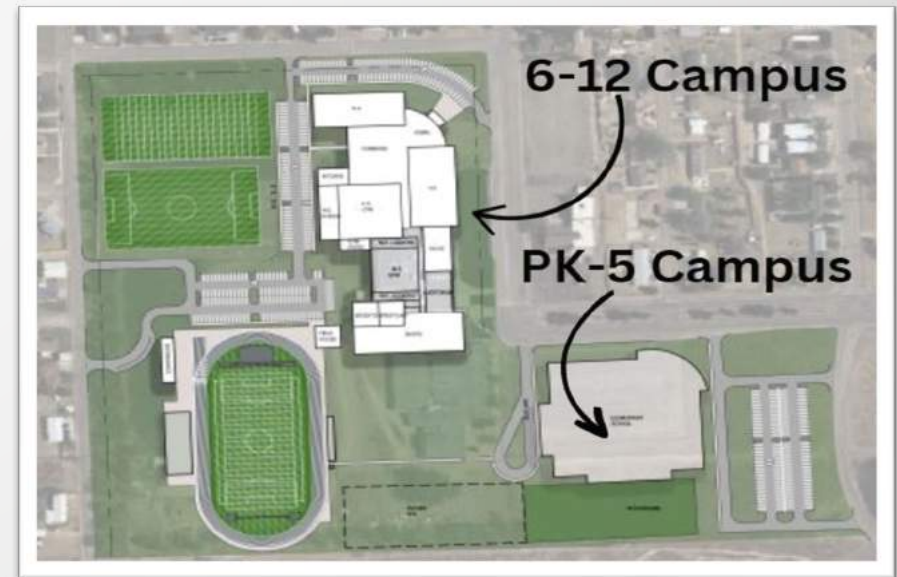
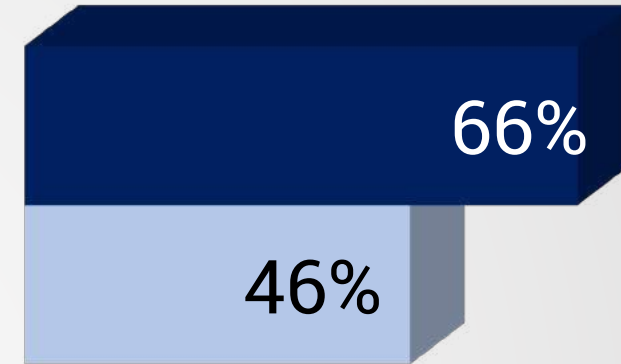


Lamar School District Information Questions

Ranked by Total More Likely to Approve

The above image shows the proposed site plan for the new district campuses and the new football stadium. The location for the new football stadium was moved for four primary construction and educational reasons. First, the original location would have required **two city water mains to be re-routed at district expense**. Second, **the opportunity for future development** of this district property for a potential additional campus directed us to be wise with spacing and location.

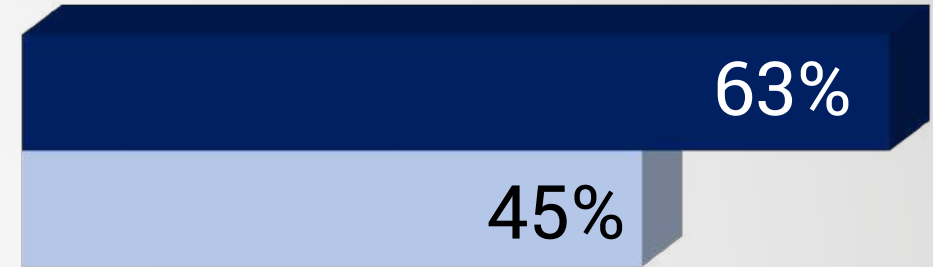
Third, building the stadium near the existing high school allows the district to **meet Colorado plumbing requirements** for the number of toilets by showing the ability to use LHS for overflow (for example, the code requires 19 women's toilets for a 1,500-seat stadium). Finally, having **artificial turf** allows for daily use of the space for the band, physical education, and various other classes. The stadium's proximity to the high school improves access, supervision, and safety.



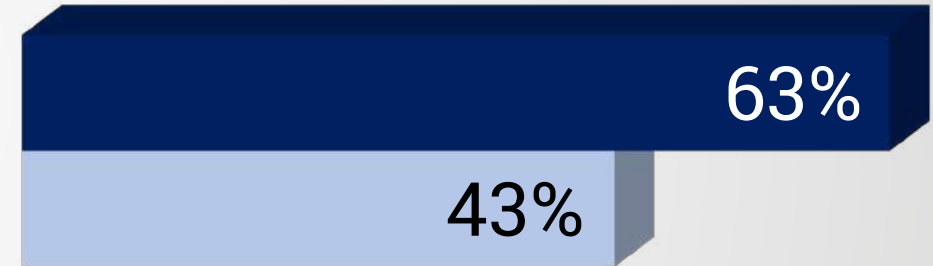
Lamar School District Information Questions

Ranked by Total More Likely to Approve

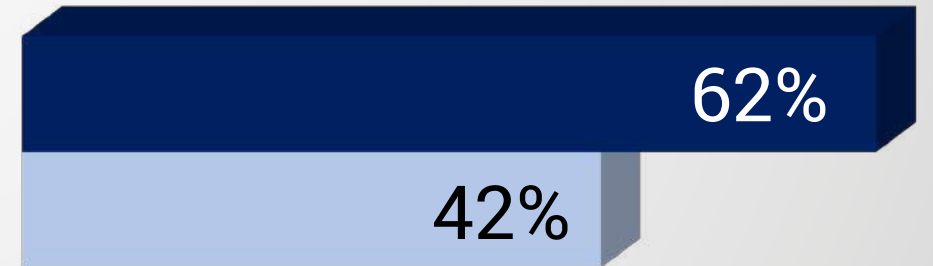
The consolidation plan will be easier on parents with multiple aged kids because dropping off and picking up will be done at adjacent locations.



Having students in the 6th through 12th grades in a single building and a new combined PK-5 grade school right next door will simplify district bussing and transportation routes and schedules.



Consolidating district campuses will make the teaching staff more efficient and better equipped to do their jobs.



■ Total More Likely to Approve
■ Much More Likely to Approve

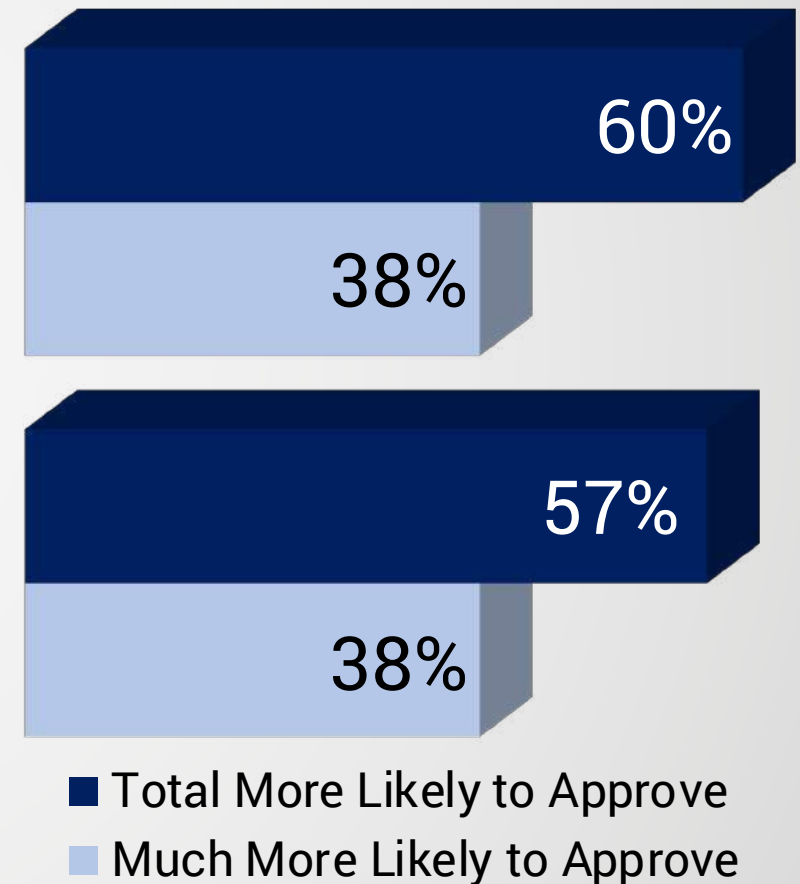


Lamar School District Information Questions

Ranked by Total More Likely to Approve

The current buildings are very old and **in constant need of ongoing building maintenance and repair**. Lamar High School was built in 1968, 55 years ago, and the Lamar Middle School was built in 1929, 94 years ago. Lincoln was built in 1947, 76 years ago; Parkview and Washington both were built in 1951, 72 years ago; and the MHDC (Main Building) was built in 1962, 61 years ago.

The consolidation plan would **keep the existing high school gym and auditorium** for athletics and other student activities.



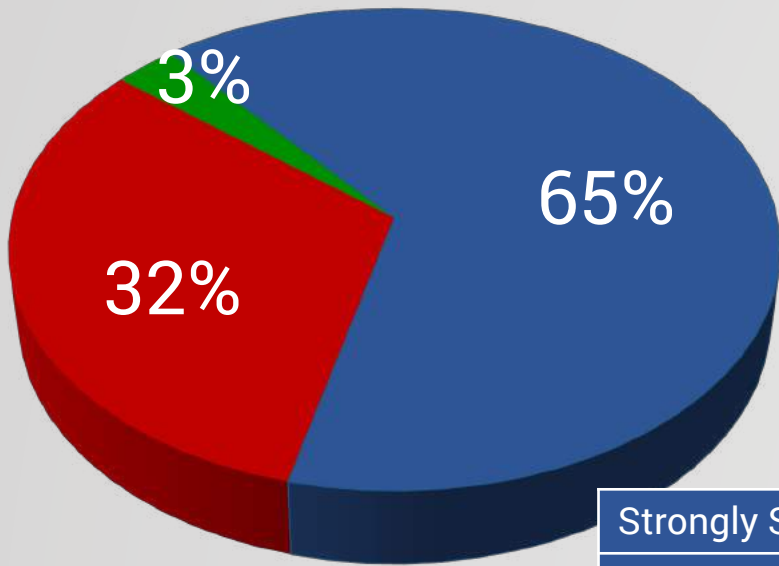


Informed Opinion of Consolidating Middle and High Schools

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the school district's ongoing school consolidation plan. Now that you are more informed about the plan, do you support or oppose a school consolidation plan combining middle and high school students into one new building?

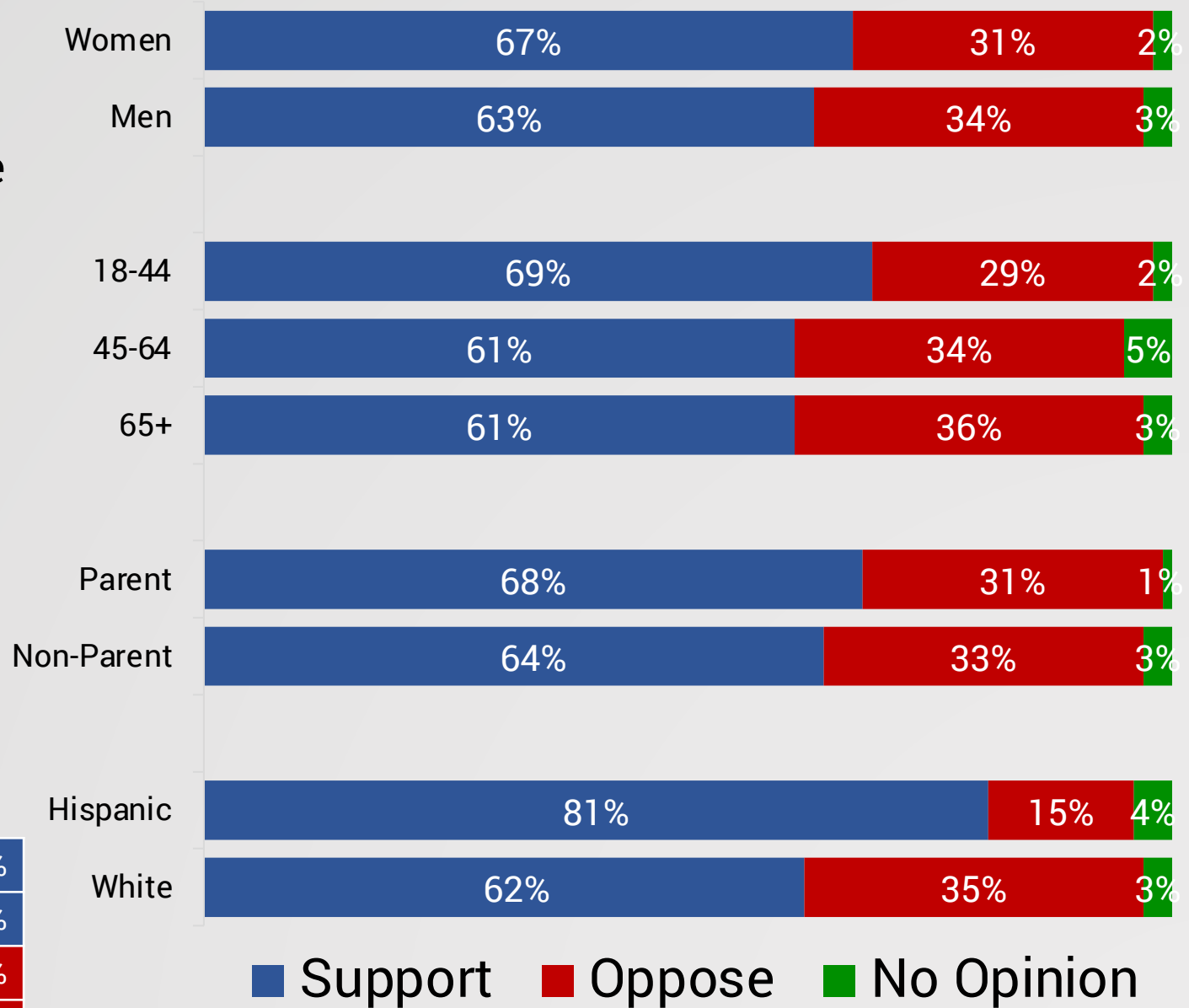
Informed Opinion of Combining Middle and High School

Now that you are more informed about the plan, do you support or oppose a school consolidation plan that would combine middle school and high school students into one new building?



- Total Support
- Total Oppose
- No Opinion

Strongly Support	42%
Somewhat Support	23%
Strongly Oppose	23%
Somewhat Oppose	9%



- Support
- Oppose
- No Opinion



Why 65% of Respondents Support Consolidation of Middle and High Schools

Please describe why you support the school district's consolidation plan combining middle and high school students into one new building.

Themes
New Facilities
Efficiency/Convenience
Financial Savings
Increased Opportunities for Students

“The consolidation would help with issues of safety, provide much needed updates in facilities, and help parents with transportation issues.”-**Female, 45-54, Parent**

“Efficiency, safety and convenience for parents, students, faculty and staff.”-**Female, 55-64, Non-Parent**

“This is a move that makes sense with the continued decline of enrollment, and opens the ability to pool resources creating a better outcome for our students. I also support the mind set of reducing maintenance costs, which will continue to grow exponentially as our infrastructure ages.”-**Male, 35-44, Parent**

“All facilities are outdated. In order for future students to keep up and want to go to school, newer facilities are needed. It will make learning much more enjoyable knowing they are using new and improved facilities.” – **Male, 35-44, Non-Parent**

“Being able to have access to the updated technology and be able to grow with that in their education is so fundamental as technology is if any job role now and having the basics can prepare them to advance on in their careers and like them having access to the arts as well to show off their creativity and just being able to grow in the same building over the life of their education will be beneficial, I think.” -**Female, 18-34, Parent**

“Knowing that they will have separate wings makes me comfortable now. I also understand both schools are very old. A big concern is the empty middle school building sitting on Main. The people of Lamar should be made aware of what you plan to do about that.” – **Female, 35-44, Parent**



Why 32% of Respondents Oppose Consolidating Middle and High Schools

Please describe why you oppose the school district's consolidation plan combining middle and high school students into one new building.

Themes
Too expensive, anticipate property tax increase
Don't want Middle and High Schoolers in same building
Resources could be better spent, don't need new buildings
Logistical challenges

"Not needed or wanted by the taxpayers at this time. Maybe the money that you spend on outside consultants and grandiose plans could be spent updating our present school buildings." -**Male, 45-54, Non-Parent**

"There are far too many students to do this and as much as you try to keep middle school and high school separate it seems that they will still be in very close proximity before and after school. Also, 400 probably 500 middle school and high schoolers is very close proximity to 400 500 K5. Also, the traffic down savage for all of those kids is dangerous." -**Female, 35-44, Parent**

"I'm concerned about where the funds for this project will be coming from." -**Male, 35-44, Parent**

"By consolidating, child pickup will be a nightmare. Parents of 6-10th grade attempting to pickup their children, along with 16 to 18 year olds attempting to drive home. The now parking lot will be removed as well, just curious where there will be adequate parking for staff and students. Also, you will be introducing middle school aged children to a peer group they might not be emotionally ready to handle." -**Female, 35-44, Parent**

There are schools all over the country in this age period. The buildings have been maintained well and are in good condition. District enrollment has remained stagnant to shrinking, as has the population base. The current taxpayers would bear all the burden for a project of this size. There is no mention of that in your survey. - **Male, 55-64**

Too much chaos when picking up students. Too much risk of younger students being bullied. Among countless other negative situations. And no mention of the cost. - **Male, 45-54**



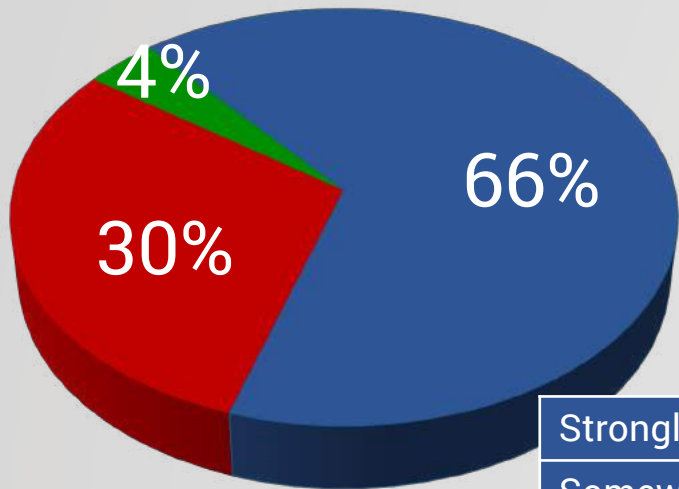


Informed Opinion of Consolidating Preschool and Elementary Schools

Again, now that you are more informed about the plan, do you support or oppose a school consolidation plan combining MHDC Preschool, Washington Elementary School, and Parkview Elementary School into one new building?

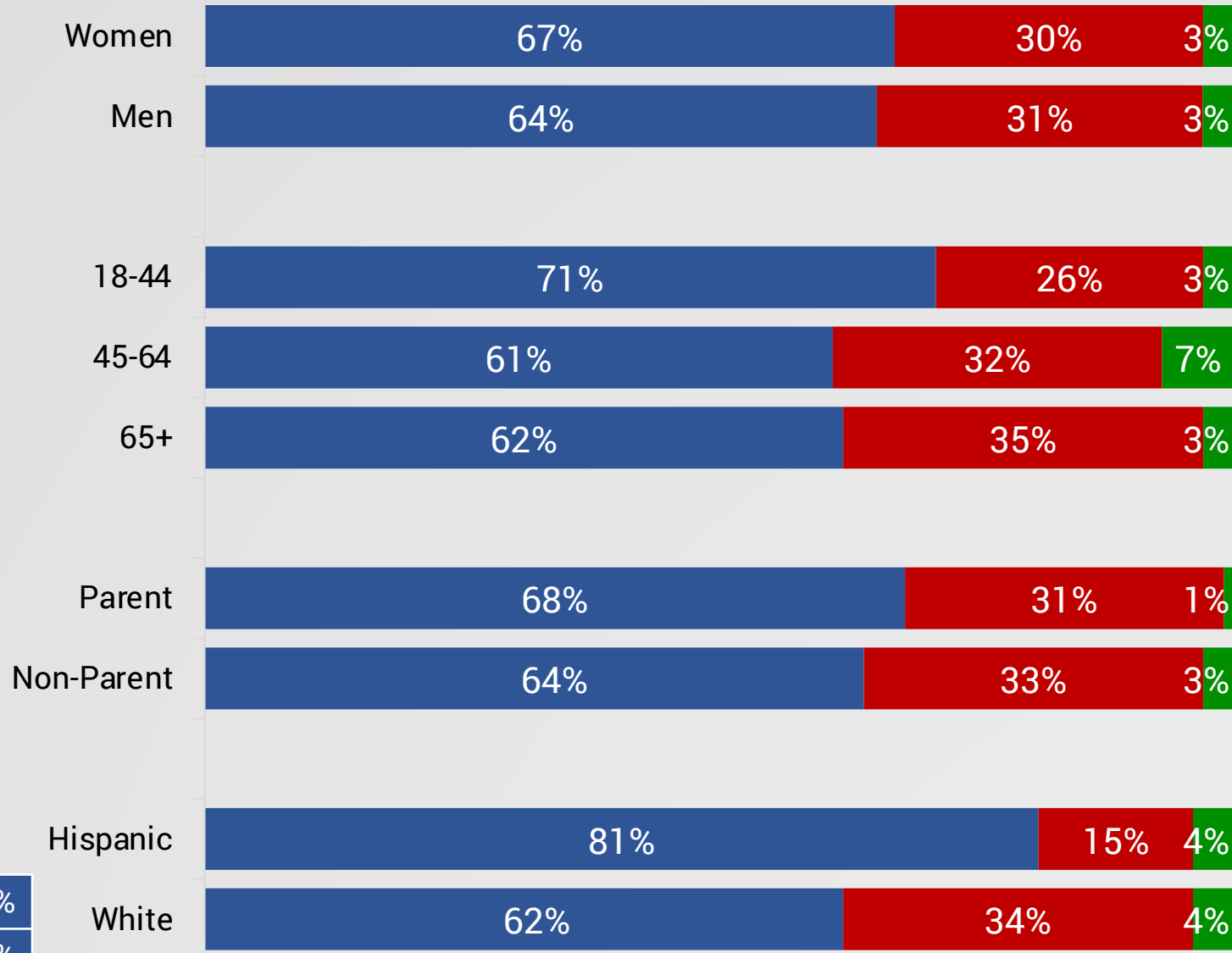
Informed Opinion of Combining Preschool and Elementary Schools

Again, now that you are more informed about the plan, do you support or oppose a school consolidation plan combining MHDC Preschool, Washington Elementary School, and Parkview Elementary School into one new building?



■ Total Support
■ Total Oppose
■ No Opinion

Strongly Support	46%
Somewhat Support	20%
Strongly Oppose	21%
Somewhat Oppose	9%



■ Support
 ■ Oppose
 ■ No Opinion



Why 66% of Respondents Support Consolidating Preschool and Elementary Schools

Please describe why you support the school district's consolidation plan combining MHDC Preschool, Washington Elementary School, and Parkview Elementary School into one new building.

Themes
New Facilities
Efficiency/Convenience
Financial Savings
Increased Opportunities for Students

"Because our kids deserve the latest and greatest technology, safety and security etc. I really like the idea of 1 campus!" -**Male, 35-44, Parent**

"I believe having them in closer proximity would be easier on almost all parents. I also like the idea of having updated technology and more safety resources." – **Female, 18-34, Parent**

"Updating to current standards, enhancing student education, convenience for district staff, students and parents. Modern facilities that in the long term can save on maintenance costs and enhance curriculum opportunities. To have my complete support more details on it are needed."-**Male, 65+, Non-Parent**

"It's more affordable. Safer and all students are together. It works for all the other school in our area. They are all in one building, Pre - 12th. It works." - **Female, 65+, Non-Parent**

"I think this will be easier on parents who have kids of different ages and I think this will help unite our schools more and help faculty know more about what's going on in the district as a whole." – **Female, 18-34, Non-Parent**

More opportunities for teacher interaction and follow up as students move up through grades. It helps to alleviate the stress children feel from switching new schools every 2-3 years. The one location helps with security measures as well as an easy drop off for kids. I am hopeful this new plan will create more preschool classes that are all day preschool as well! It would be important to have preschoolers in the same environment as where they will be going to kindergarten and beyond to get them familiar with the school. – **Female 18-34, Non-Parent**



Why 30% of Respondents Oppose Consolidating Preschool and Elementary Schools

Please describe why you oppose the school district's consolidation plan combining MHDC Preschool, Washington Elementary School, and Parkview Elementary School into one new building.

Themes

Too expensive, anticipate property tax increase

Resources could be better spent, don't need new buildings

Logistical challenges (Traffic and Safety)

"Trying to drop off students at the high school currently is a nightmare for parents, if you add all school kids being dropped off in the same location it would be complete chaos. I have had to drop off high school kids as well as pre-school kids and Savage Avenue was always a nightmare."-**Female, 65+, Non-Parent**

"Money- it's cheaper to repair than replace. Drug situation puts younger students closer to looking up to upper class students. Our district is not full of unlimited funds which I still believe saving 5 million dollars to repair stadium is wiser."-**Female, 55-64, Parent**

"I feel it would be cheaper and better off to do the repairs on the buildings that are there because if you build new ones, then we will have six or eight buildings that are sitting vacant in the town. We have enough of those it is we don't need more."-**Male, 45-54, Parent**

"We need to provide good teachers for our children and thus give them the best education possible. Currently we have lost the ability to hire teachers with credentials and degrees and to retain good teachers. We need to pay our teachers more so that we can get back to the expectations we used to have in putting a good teacher in the classroom and keeping them. I'd rather have my child with a great teacher and an older school than a mediocre teacher in a brand new facility and have our children fail with low test scores because we can't provide them with great teachers."-**Female, 45-54, Parent**

I feel it would be cheaper and better off to do the repairs on the buildings that are there because if you build new ones, then we will have six or eight buildings that are sitting vacant in the town. We have enough of those it is we don't need more.
- **Male, 45-54, Parent**



New Stadium Decision Information



Since September 2021, Lamar students have not had a football or track & field season without interruption. Efforts to address the needs at Thunder Stadium in a timely manner were not possible due to a known, communicated, and understood desire for the district to preserve the historical significance of the stadium. The decision to build a new space was made so that we can position our students to have a future in a predictable space while at the same time working to do right by history. These two things cannot happen at the same time.

The district is exploring ways to honor the historical space moving forward. We have had conversations with the City of Lamar about sharing the space for youth and adult recreational needs. Also, while students at Lamar High School will play on the new field, Lamar Middle School students will continue to play at Thunder Stadium. Since the field will no longer need to be used for high school varsity competitions, it can be used more often, expanding access to recreational facilities for our greater community.

The previous community survey told us the community wants to balance preserving the historical significance of Thunder Stadium with finding practical and cost-effective solutions that benefit both the school district and the broader community.

Thank you to all who participated in that previous survey and this one regarding school consolidation plans. Your voice is essential, and we know that the best decision-making happens when there is two-way communication and our entire community is involved and invested.

Do you have any final thoughts or opinions regarding the District's school consolidation or stadium plans that you would like to share?

Themes
Want Thunder Stadium Preserved and Used
Want More Information Transparency on New Facilities
Skepticism about Consolidation, the Cost, and Whether it is Necessary
Prioritize Education over New Facilities

"I have concerns with consolidation in terms of traffic all at one building. Pickup and drop off is challenging in all separate buildings. All of Lamar in the same place seems like a challenge. Additionally, I have hesitation for our littles to be so near older students and what they will be potentially exposed to." -**Female, 35-44, Parent**

"I think the ideas are really good the only concern is in having a 6th grader being bullied for going into a wrong area or at the bus stop. Also, a 1st grader slipping through a loop and being scared by a middle schooler. I believe that increased supervision would need to be in place to avoid something like that." -**Female, 55-64, Parent**

"It will be interesting to see what you decide to do with the older buildings once consolidation is complete. There are lots of needs in the community for childcare, indoor recreational activity, etc. Creating a daycare facility out of one of the facilities that is associated with the district could bring in a lot of jobs and help families who need to work but cannot find childcare." -**Female, 18-34, Non-Parent**

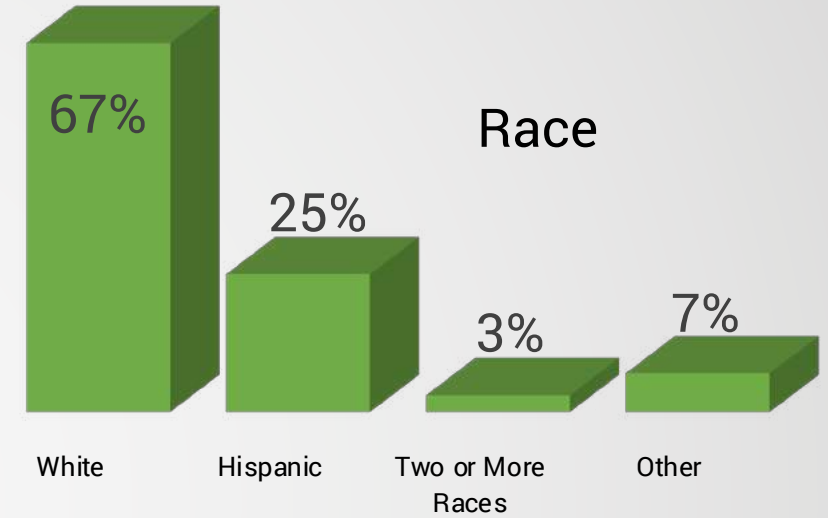
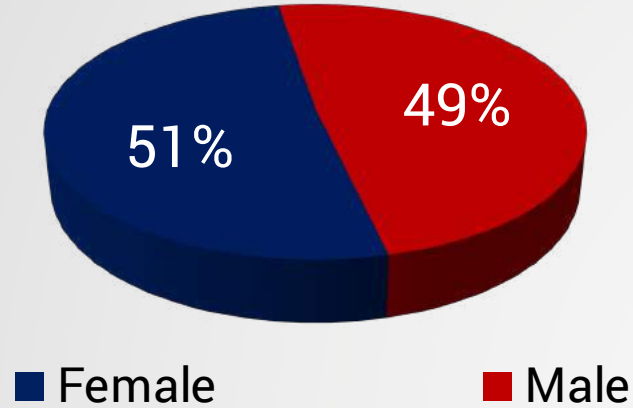
"Surrounding areas are all getting new schools. Our students deserve the opportunity to have new schools built (since repairing them opens up a ton of doors for things that have to be fixed anyways) with new resources and technology available to them. Having one campus instead of several makes it more convenient for students and parents for pickup and drop off." - **Female, 18-34, Parent**

"Would we be able to add a swimming pool area for a swim team? Is that possible since we do have summer swimmers and also swimmers that go swim for La Junta during the year. Just throwing it out there. Other than that I think these are pretty good ideas." - **Female, 18-34, Parent**

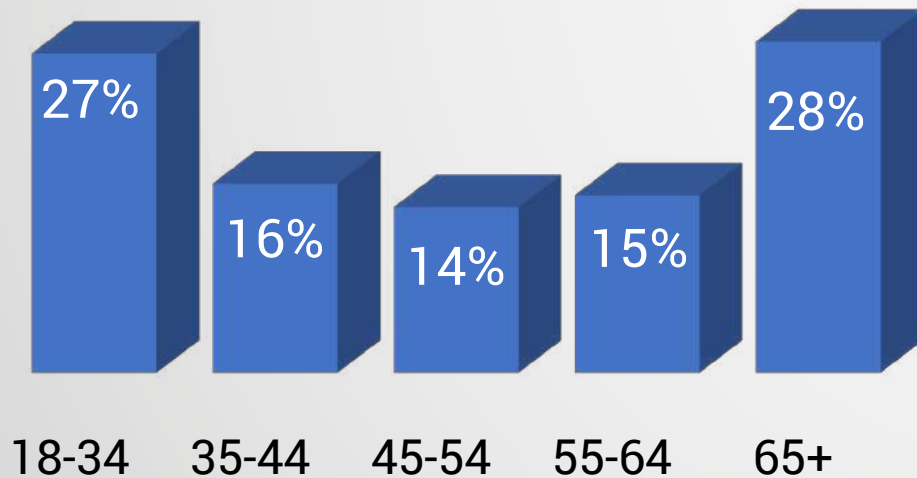


Survey Demographics

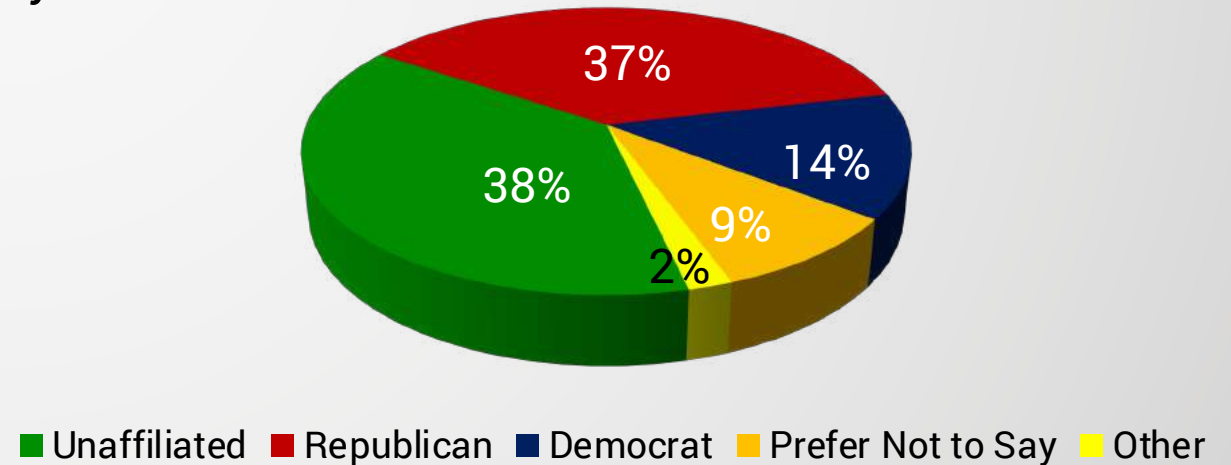
Gender



Age Range

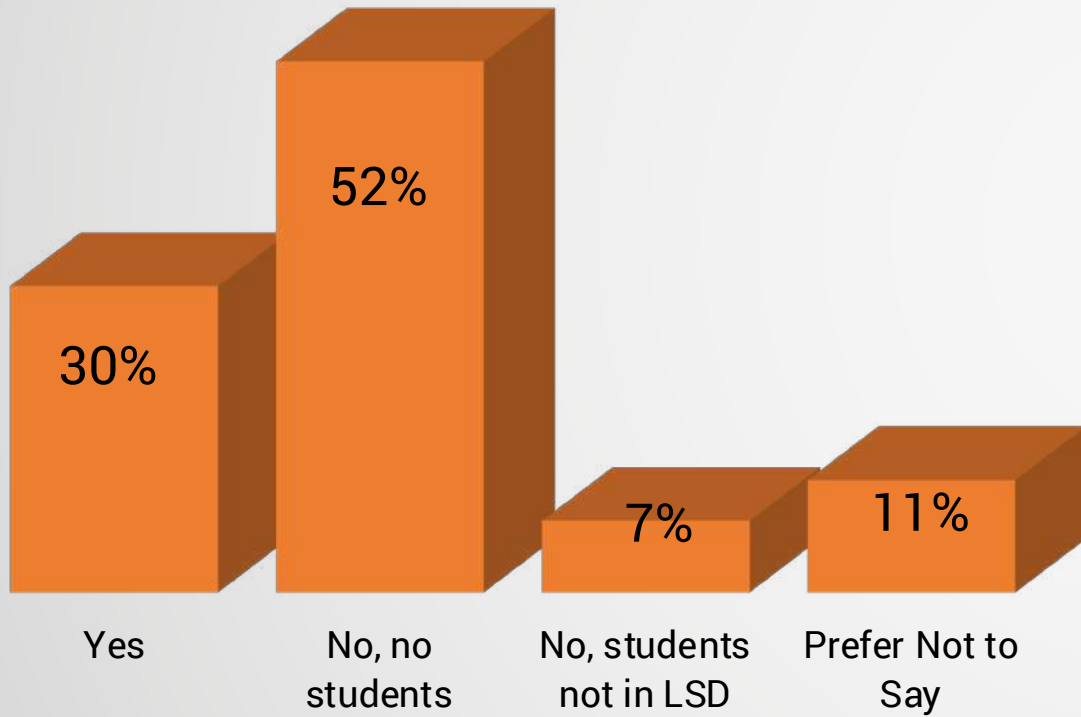


Party Affiliation

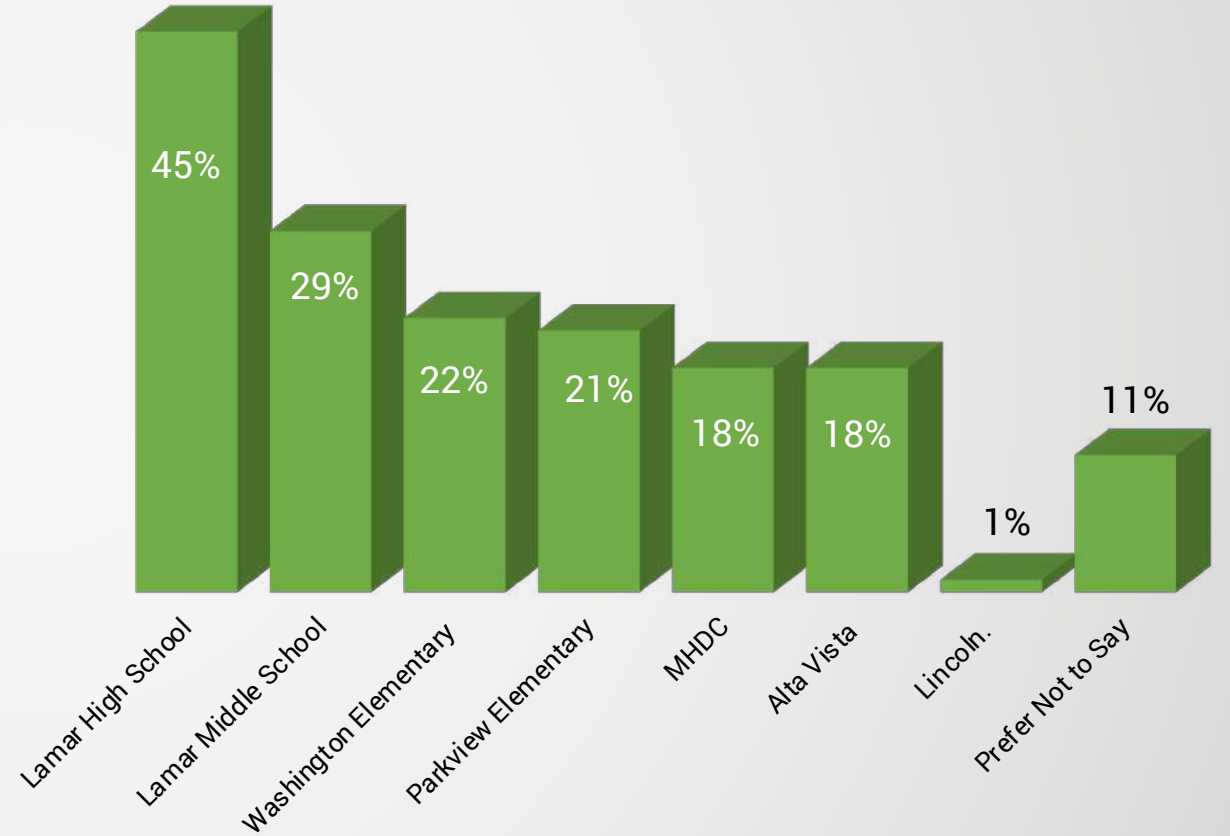


Survey Demographics

Parent of Student



School LSD Students Attend



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