

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and vibrant green foliage. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect on the forest floor. The scene is peaceful and natural.

ETHELO

Chatham-Kent Woodlot Preservation

Overview



Intro

On April 26, 2021, the Chatham-Kent Council approved a motion that introduced a temporary woodlot removal bylaw for 120 days. The motion also directed administration to launch a full public engagement process to seek the public's input on options for managing woodlots in Chatham-Kent.

From June 15th, to July 9th, 2021, Chatham-Kent residents were invited to provide input via Ethelo's online engagement platform, in addition to a real-time virtual forum, regarding what they thought the municipality could do to support healthy forests.

This engagement helped to inform the community on the municipal government's potential actions regarding woodlot preservation, and ensured they got the opportunity to voice their opinions. Potential measures up for consideration included:

1. Educational programs that provide information to landowners to support healthy forests
2. Incentives programs that provide an encouragement to landowners to support healthy forests
3. Regulations that introduce rules to support healthy forests

The results of this public input process are summarized over the following pages. These results, in addition to the fulsome comments made both on the platform and in the live dialogue, will be considered by Council in their decision-making process regarding woodlot preservation in Chatham-Kent.

Summary

The discussion around woodlot preservation in Chatham-Kent was a highly polarizing one, with strong advocacy in favour of both maintaining land-owner rights and improving environmental regulation.

This public engagement process was invoked by the municipality in order to get a true sense of what the whole community's priorities were, and to see if middle ground could be established. When designing the engagement process, both municipal and Ethelo staff sought to create an engagement that would be bias-free while showcasing the full range of options open to the municipality, and empowering the community to voice their thoughts.

In spite of the division, the data shows several areas of resounding consensus for the community. Notably, **the community voted almost unanimously in support of the preservation of woodlots**. This does not mean that residents were all in favour of a by-law supporting this - merely that the community felt strongly that steps should be taken to support woodlot preservation.

The majority of the community **voted in favour of implementing a strategy involving all three pillars of Education, Regulation, and Incentives** in order to help protect these woodlands. Though this is the case, **the regulations which were voted forward showcased the need for an emphasis on land-owner rights**, to ensure any type of regulation would have a minimal toll and maximum reward associated with the ownership of well-maintained and moderately farmed woodlots. There was also agreement expressed that moving forward, **emphasis should be put on assessing logistics while working closely with both land-owners and environmental experts**.

The following is an exploration of the engagement process, as well as its results.

Not all comments from the engagement platform have been included, and those included were chosen because they were the most liked, constructive, and representative of larger themes found in the comments.

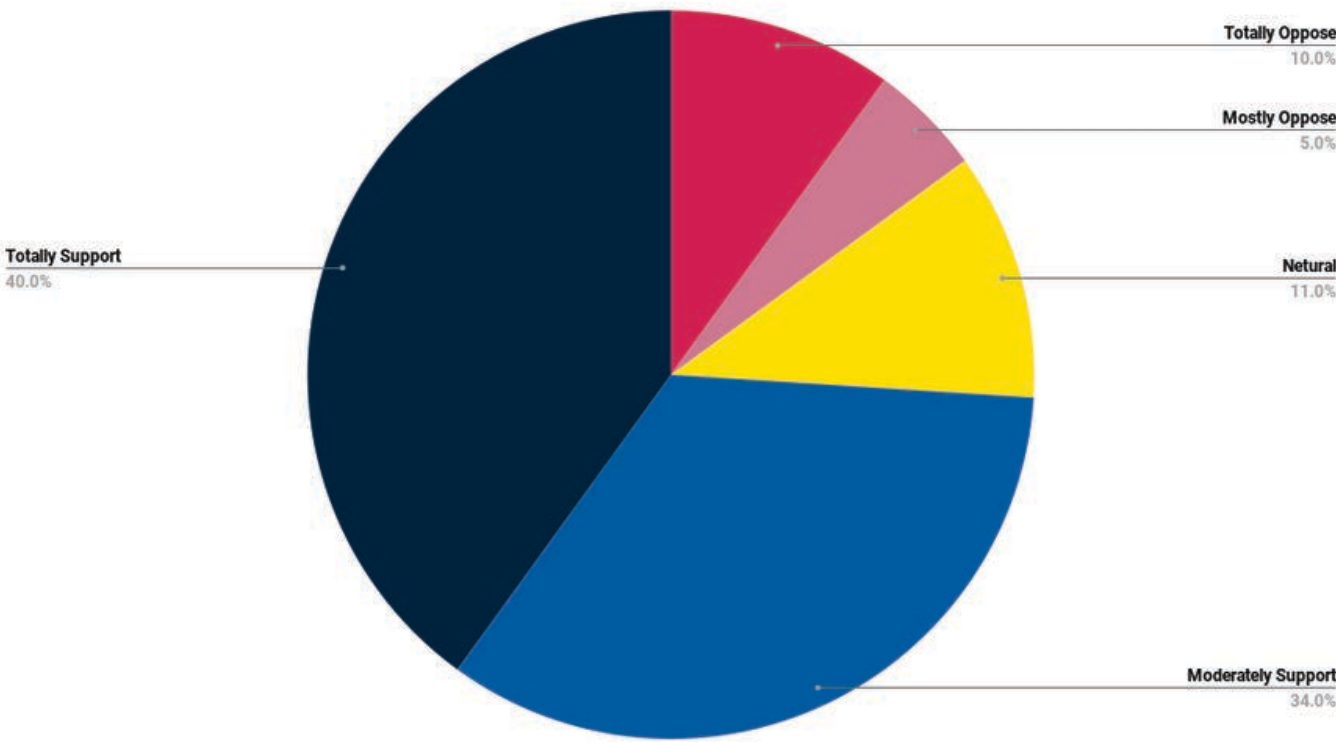
To see the full scope of questions and comments, [please refer to the Ethelo platform website](#).

Overview

Community Consensus

The scenario outlined on the right was identified by the Ethelo algorithm as the combination of options with the broadest public support.

In its analysis, it took into account every participant vote, and aimed to find a "middle ground" which would satisfy advocates of both landowner rights and environmental regulation.



Predicted Community Support: 74%

| Section | Topic | Outcome |
|------------|------------------------|--|
| Strategies | Preservation Tools | Education, Incentives, and Regulation |
| Education | Relevant Information | Maintaining & Enhancing woodlots, Information on existing government programs, Ecosystem services, Making money with carbon credits, Pest management, Managing woodlots for profit |
| | Effective Format | On-site at the woodlot with an arborist, On municipal website, Webinars, Pamphlets, In-person workshops |
| Incentives | What gets Incentivized | The preservation of existing woodlots |
| | Type of Incentive | Tax breaks |
| | Available Funds | \$100 per hectare per year |
| Bylaw | Woodlot Size | Minimum 0.1 hectares |
| | Tree Removal | 10% of trees removed from existing woodlot |
| | On Slopes | Allow removal if geotechnical study is complete |
| | Significant Woodlands | Yes, always prohibit |
| | Setback Distance | 0 meters when removing near bodies of water |
| | Allowed With Permit | Tree removal based on your answer to the previous question |
| | Allowed Without Permit | Harvesting for personal heating use |
| | Compensation | No. |
| | Decision Making | Qualified staff for 100% of applications received |
| | Enforcement | In support of hiring trained personnel |



Outreach & Participation

Outreach & Participation

Participation

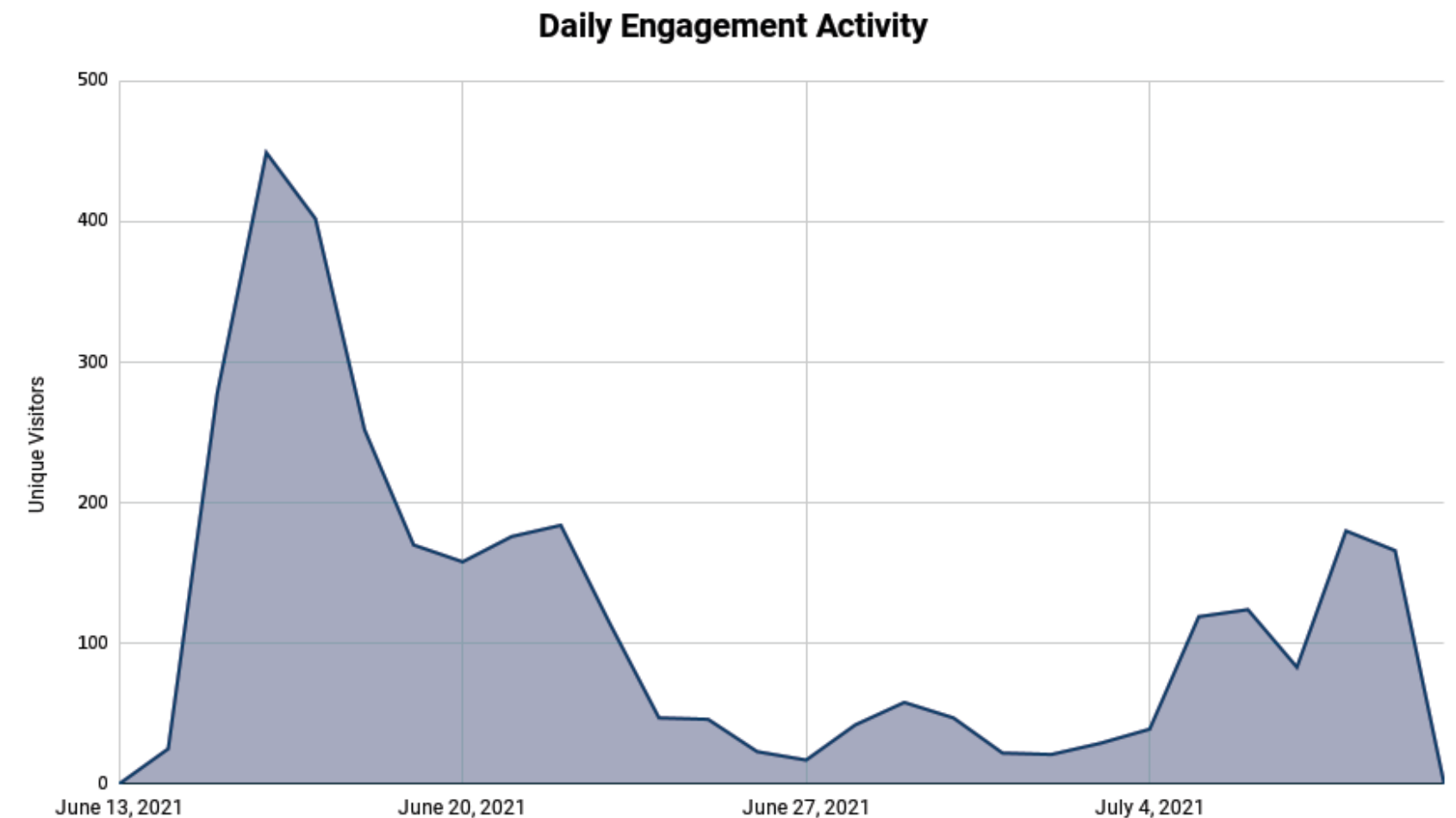
Over the 3 weeks the engagement was live, the online platform garnered...

- **2,870+** Unique Visitors*
- **1,593** Unique Local Participants**
- **3,500+** Thoughtful Comments
- Average of **12 Minutes** per Visit

In addition to this, the live online dialogue brought out over 40 community members who spent over 2 hours generously listening and sharing their views on the proposed preservation measures.

*Unique Visitor is defined as any individual with a unique digital footprint who visited the website, and stayed present for more than 3 seconds.

**All participants were authenticated following the closure of the engagement based on their IP address, device ID, and voting patterns, to ensure respondents were local and singular in their votes. 184 flagged suspicious users were taken out in this process. For further details, please see the *Valid Data* section of the Security Report.



Outreach & Participation

Outreach & Representation

Upon request from several citizens, we created a simple print version of the engagement platform to allow people to participate offline.

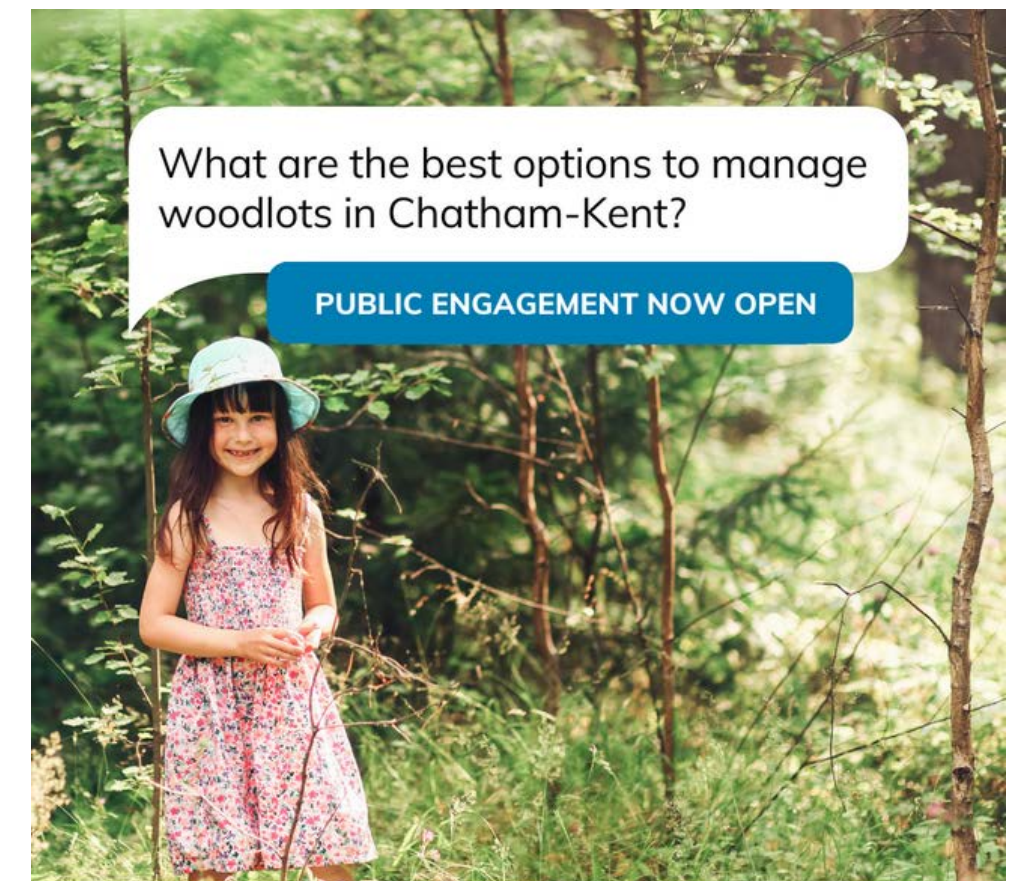
In order to ensure a representative sample of the Chatham-Kent population had the opportunity to participate, we executed a digital advertising campaign on Facebook and Instagram. We ran a general opening ad informing citizens about the opportunity to participate targeting anyone residing in Chatham-Kent.

We then ran Did-You-Know-style ads about each of the three potential woodlot management tools—education, incentives, and a by-law—while the engagement was live. With these ads, we specifically targeted citizens living in Wards 1, 5 and 6, since they had been slightly underrepresented amongst participants.



let's talk  Chatham-Kent

Opening ad in different dimensions to fit placements on Facebook and Instagram .



let's talk  Chatham-Kent

Outreach & Participation

Outreach & Representation

Ad Performance

In total, the ads reached **58,172 people** and had **211,695 impressions**.



let's talk  Chatham-Kent

Closing did-you-know ads on education, incentives, and regulation



let's talk  Chatham-Kent

Outreach & Participation

Live Dialogue

The live dialogue took place remotely via a Zoom video call on the evening of Tuesday, June 29, 2021. Participants were put into a series of break-out rooms and given the following prompts...

1. When I consider private woodlot management, what is most important to me about this issue? What is the best thing that could come from this whole process?
2. What are my biggest concerns with the municipality potentially becoming involved in managing private woodlots?
3. What is the one thing that I most want the municipality to consider or to understand in their decision-making process about managing private woodlots?

Huge thank you to all of our local host volunteers for making this discussion possible!

To view a recording of the live dialogue and see the full scope of comments, **[please see the Ethelo platform website.](#)**



Outreach & Participation

Live Dialogue

During the live dialogue, breakout room hosts were encouraged to share their learnings in the group chat.

These excerpts showcase common themes that popped up in multiple conversations.

In 2014 was very political - rural versus urban. Emotional crowd mentality. One major challenge is bringing the gap together. To realize the value of woodlots to agriculture and to support agriculture in the future. That is the challenge.

Concerns were expressed that property owners need to be able to manage their properties and their trees as they see fit.

We need strategic identification of areas where protection and restoration is needed within CK. We should not be focusing on protecting every single woodlot in the Municipality with the same tools and incentives. Prioritize and focus efforts based on a plan.

Common sense is needed. Some woodlots have flooded, dying wood, those trees should be able to be taken down. This is turning into a bit of a dictatorship

Rondeau is not taken care of very well, it looks terrible. There should be no tax on woodlots. Muni should not be telling us what to do.

There is so much misunderstanding out there in regards to what this is actually about.

concerns about costs of incentives and managing a potential bylaw

it's time to regulate woodlot removal

balance tree preservation and landowner rights

The incentives to clear are greater than incentives to keep old woodlots. \$\$ bottom line in most cases

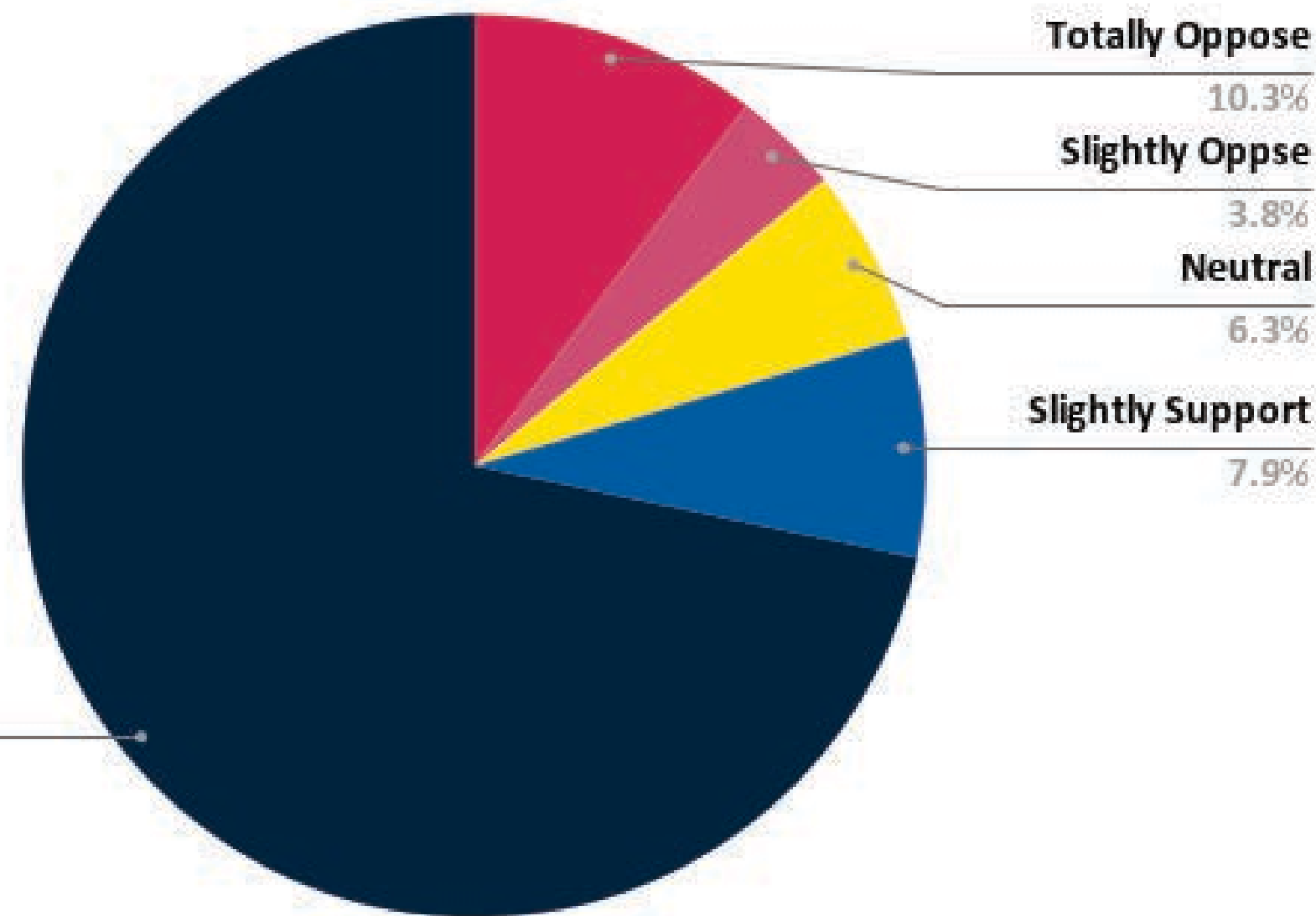
This is part of larger changes going across the whole county. Change is difficult.



Your Priorities

Your Priorities

"I support the preservation of woodlots in Chatham-Kent"



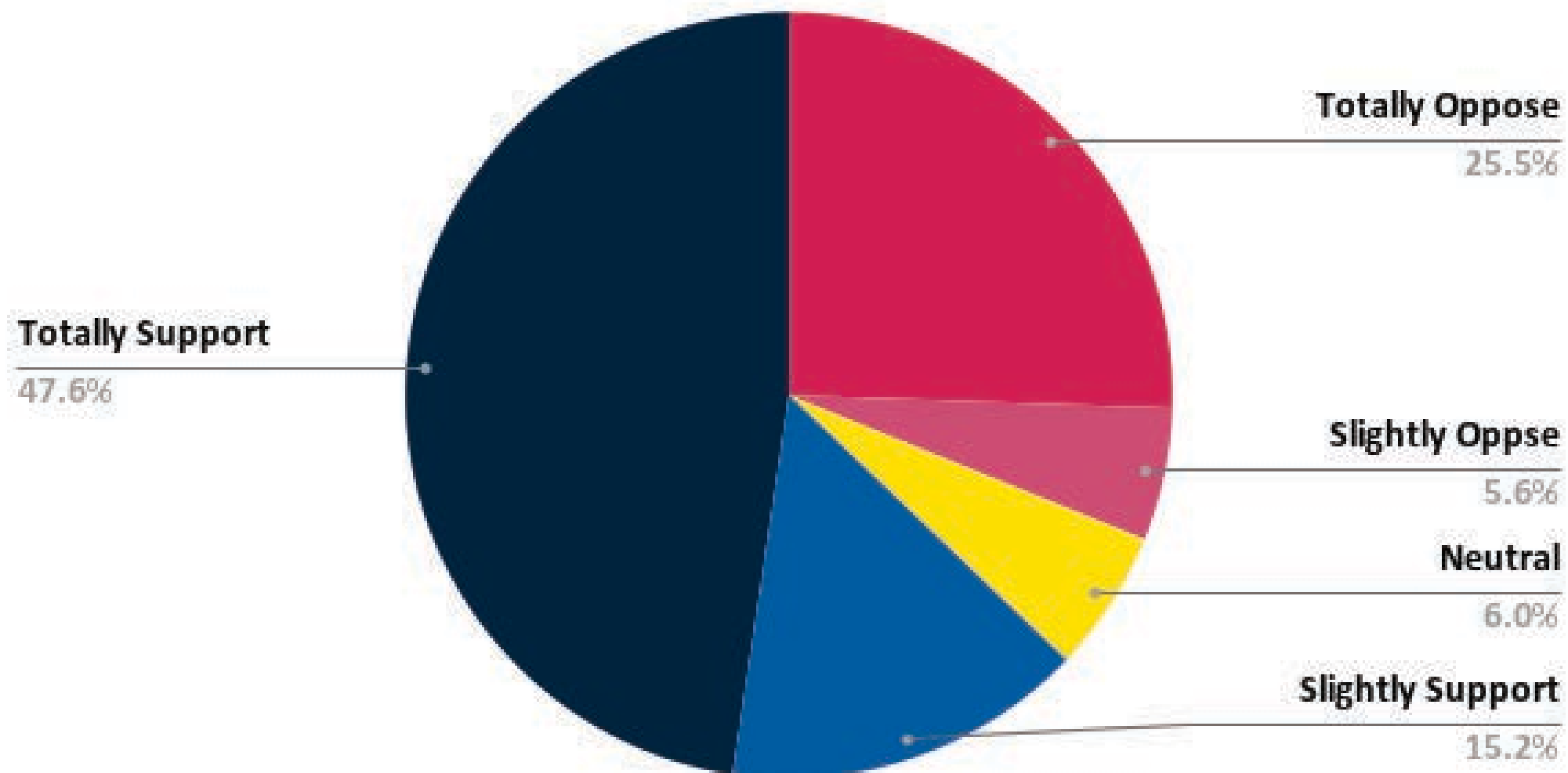
Woodlots are a public good. The financial cost of preserving the woodlots should be covered by the general tax base or sponsored through initiatives related to reducing GHGs. The burden should not be put solely on the property owner. ❤️ 28

We need to start a tree planting program, replace each tree cut down with 3 or 4 new ones. The cost for the tree replacement should be incurred by the resident \ landowner cutting down the tree. We don't need any more tax cuts for farmers, they should start paying their share. ❤️ 12

The present CK efforts to preserve woodlots in this municipality have reduced our natural cover to less than 6%. This is the lowest tree cover for an upper tier municipality in Ontario....shameful! ❤️ 11

Your Priorities

"I support the introduction of restrictions on property rights to preserve woodlots in Chatham-Kent"



Property owners must be fairly compensated.

❤️ 15

Do not agree with others deciding what I can and must do with my property. Again talks must be held with the land owner and suitable compensation made.

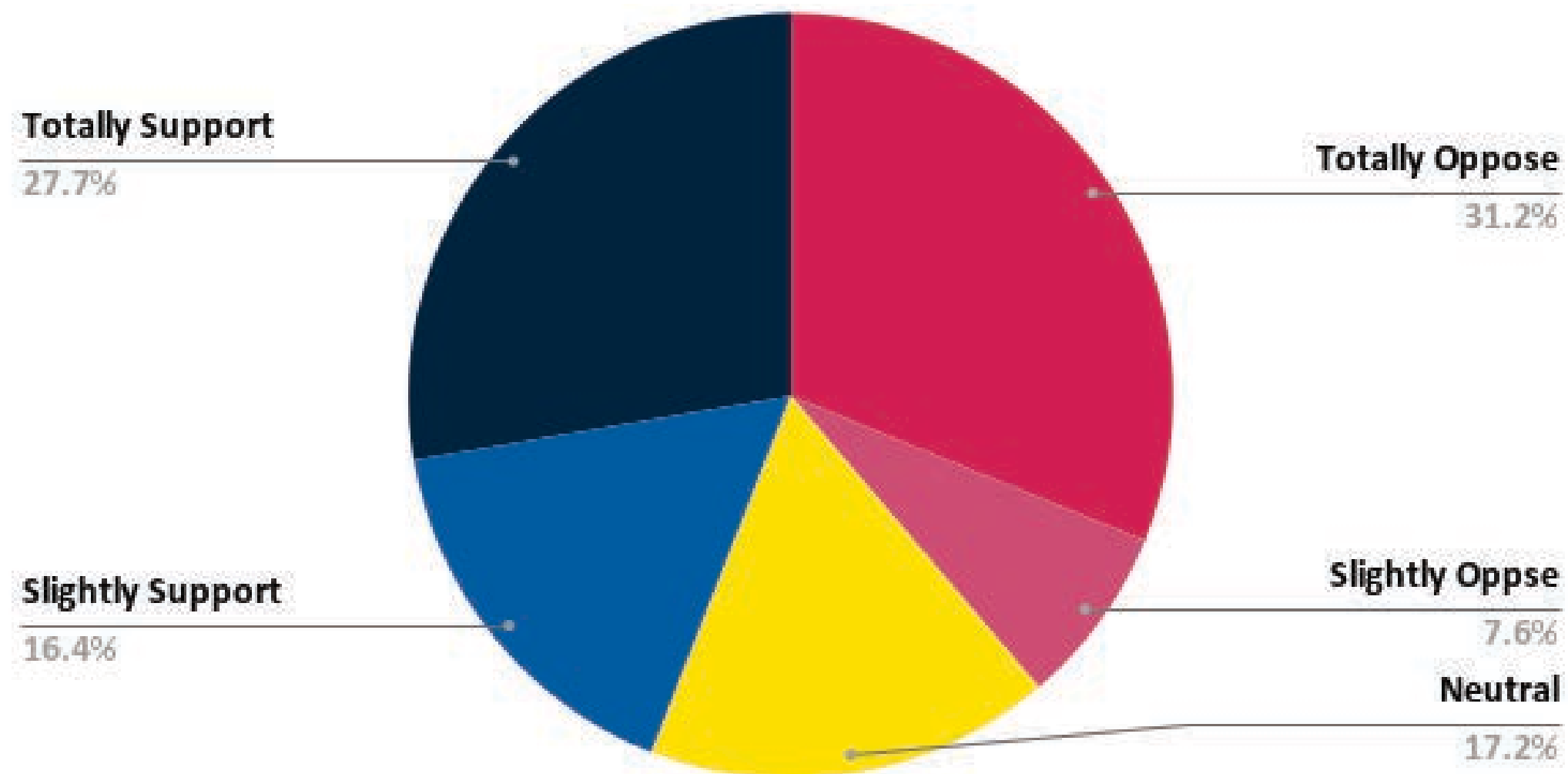
❤️ 11

We pay enough taxes... if you want to start restricting what we can do on our own property then start rebating taxes or give us tax reductions.

❤️ 8

Your Priorities

"I am prepared to pay more in taxes to preserve woodlots in Chatham-Kent"



We pay enough taxes. Moving from Huron county where taxes are low and there is lots of forest area. Chatham, you can do better... You need to be better

❤️ 11

Even though I live in the city, I am responsible for caring for the land.

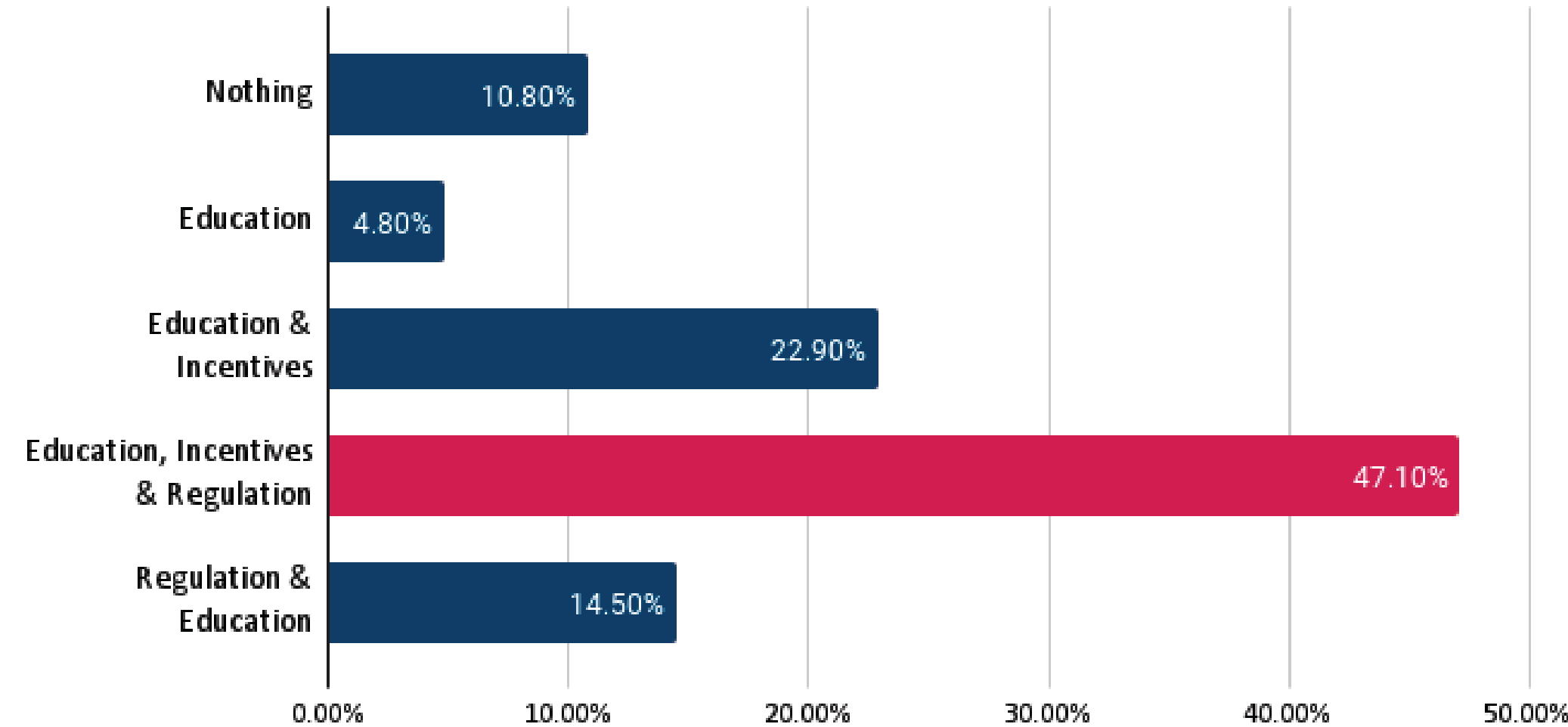
❤️ 7

Woodlots need to be preserved and reintroduced in ck no matter what the costs or thoughts of the land owners are. We are losing our ecosystems and wildlife. The benefits outweigh the costs.

❤️ 7

Woodlot Preservation Tools

What should the municipality do to preserve woodlots?



Nothing - 21 Comments

Farmers own the land and should have full say on what they do with it. We do not come into the city and tell people they can not rip out their landscaping or change their roof tiles. ❤️ 3

Education - 9 Comments

Last time rules were going to be implemented, forests were bulldozed. For those of us that have chosen to keep forest land, we should not be penalized for keeping them and not be penalized for doing what we want to do with the forest. I personally love forest land, but want the option to do what I want with my property. Planned to logged the bush 15 years ago, but the ash bore came through and I lost 20% of my forest. Now we have gypsy moth infestation, losing more forest. If anything, we should got a tax break for having a Carolian forest ecosystem and not destroying it!!! The forest is not just the trees. ❤️ 3

Education and Incentives - 18 Comments

Best option where rights not limited. I'd prefer municipality's role be incentives only as there are many organizations that are well positioned to deliver on woodlot education (NCC, LTVCA SCRCA OMAFRA MOE to name a few) ❤️ 4

Education, Incentive and Regulation - 23 Comments

I believe the three tiered approach is necessary. The bylaw is a "must have" to stop the loss of woodlots in CK. Furthermore, the municipality must ensure the punitive measures are significant enough to stop landowners from clear cutting high value land. However, programs are needed to educate landowners on the best management practices they can use to manage woodlots and derive potential value from woodlots. Furthermore, landowners that maintain woodlots which provide ecological services for the broader community deserve some compensation for maintaining these habitats. We should be rewarding the select minority of landowners who have maintained woodlots when the vast majority of landowners in CK have not. ❤️ 3

Regulation and Education - 12 Comments

Other jurisdictions have the most positive impact with strong regulation and education ❤️ 1

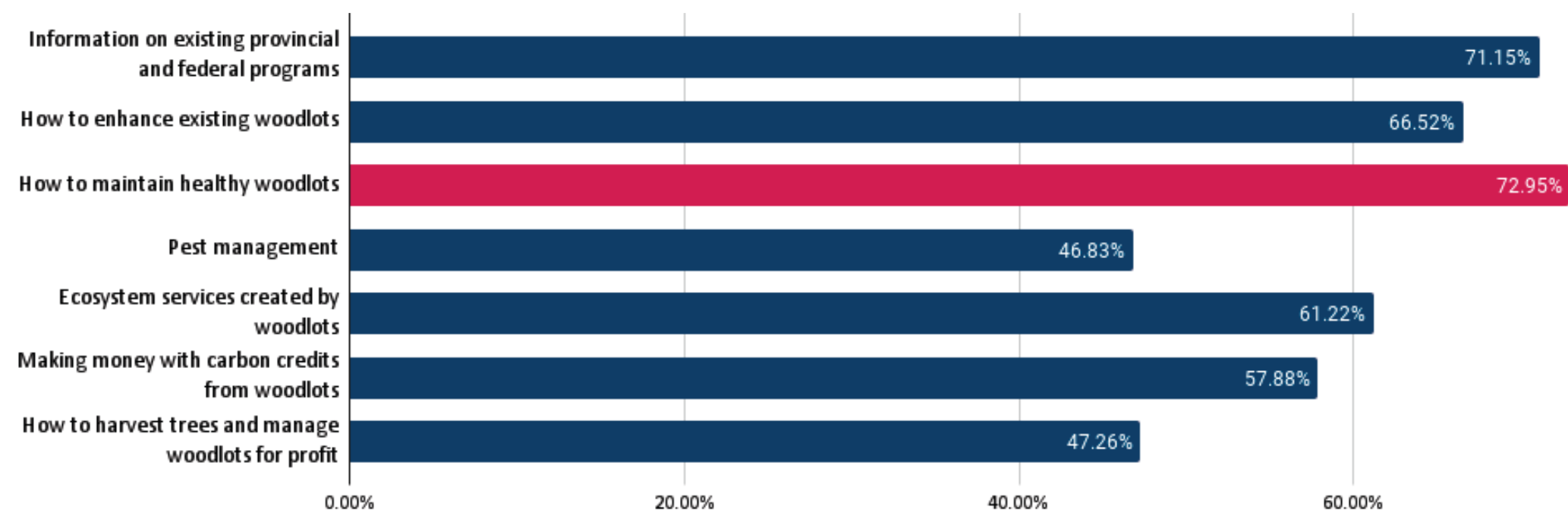


Education

Education

Relevant Information

What kind of information should the municipality provide for preserving woodlots?



Information on existing provincial and federal programs - 7 Comments

MFTIP and CLTIP are existing tax incentive programs for significant features that can offset 75% or 100% of taxes to recognize the stewardship of private landowners. ❤️ 2

How to enhance existing woodlots - 3 Comments

How to maintain healthy woodlots - 4 Comments

Existing organizations like conservation authorities are in place to support private landowners to do this. CK could also bring in expertise such as certified arborists or professional foresters to deliver this information. Lambton County has a good partnership with the woodlot management by-law where the CA staff supports the implementation of the by-law. ❤️ 5

Pest management - 7 Comments

Pest management should only apply to INVASIVE species, indigenous species that reside in the very small percentage of woodlot area in Chatham-Kent are NOT pests ❤️ 2

Ecosystem services created by woodlots - 7 Comments

Making money with carbon credits from woodlots - 12 Comments

My forest has been on this farm for 50 years or more if you want me to keep it pay me the carbon price that for the tonnage it has sequestered over those 50 years plus the amount of oxygen it has produced every year as well ❤️ 3

How to harvest trees and manage woodlots for profit - 16 Comments

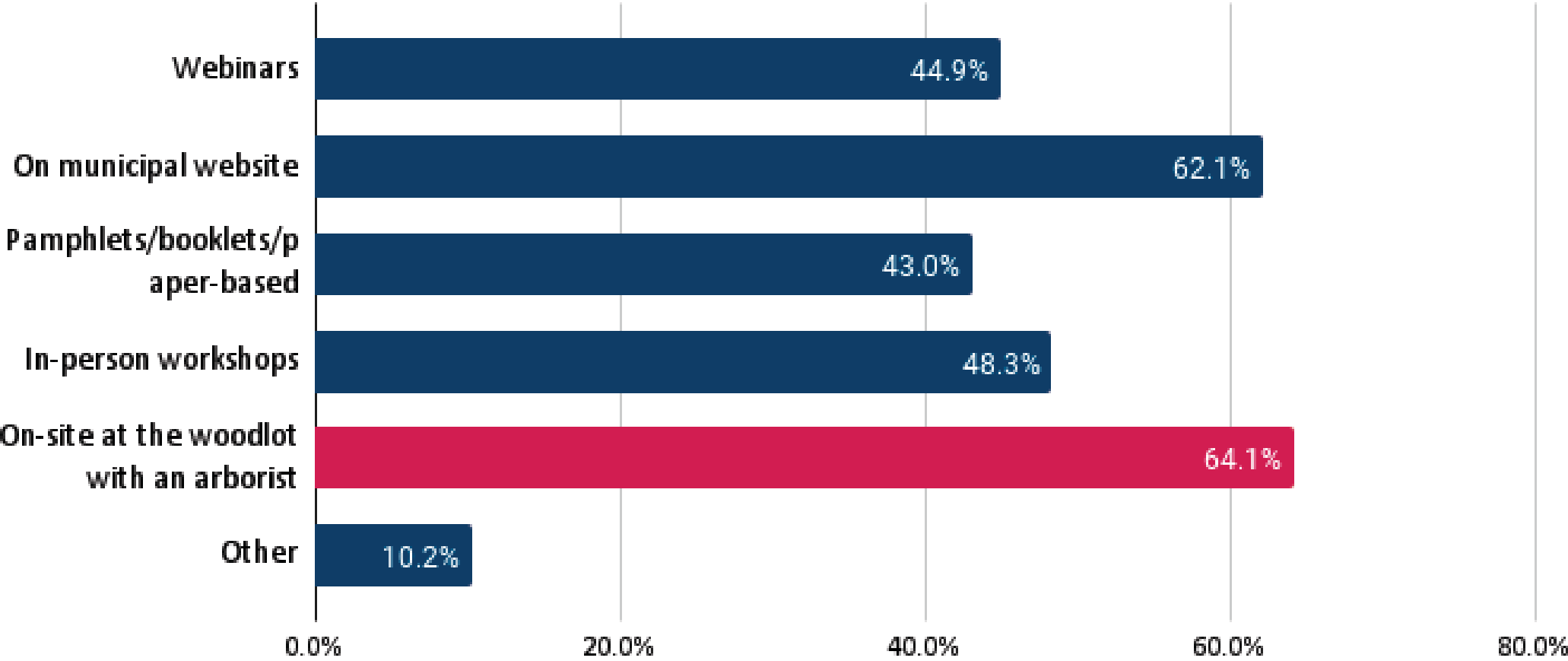
Other Suggestions - 108 Comments

Really do not want my wood lot to have public access ❤️ 14

Education

Effective Format

What format(s) should the municipality use to effectively deliver woodlot preservation education?



Webinars - 3 Comments

These should be easy to access from existing conservation organizations with no need to recreate them or to incur the costs of doing so. Just present links to already existing webinars created by qualified, neutral parties. ❤️ 1

On municipal website - 4 Comments

If Chatham-Kent can provide information in an easily accessible way on-line, it would not cost a lot to do but have the advantage of being available to a lot of people. ❤️ 1

Pamphlets/booklets/paper-based - 7 Comments

Mailers work well to reach homeowners. ❤️ 1

In-person workshops - 1 Comment

In-person workshops for families living in woodlots. Spend time with the actual owners and directly discuss the benefits and how-tos with them. This makes preserving private woodlots better because the owners are able to see that you support them hand-in-hand and that this is not just another government mandate. ❤️ 1

On-site at the woodlot with an arborist - 7 Comments

This strategy would be effective. Get questions etc. answered quickly and in person. ❤️ 1

Other - 95 Comments

Social media campaign aimed at highlighting the importance of forest regeneration and showcasing local green spaces/green initiatives to increase awareness for them. ❤️ 6

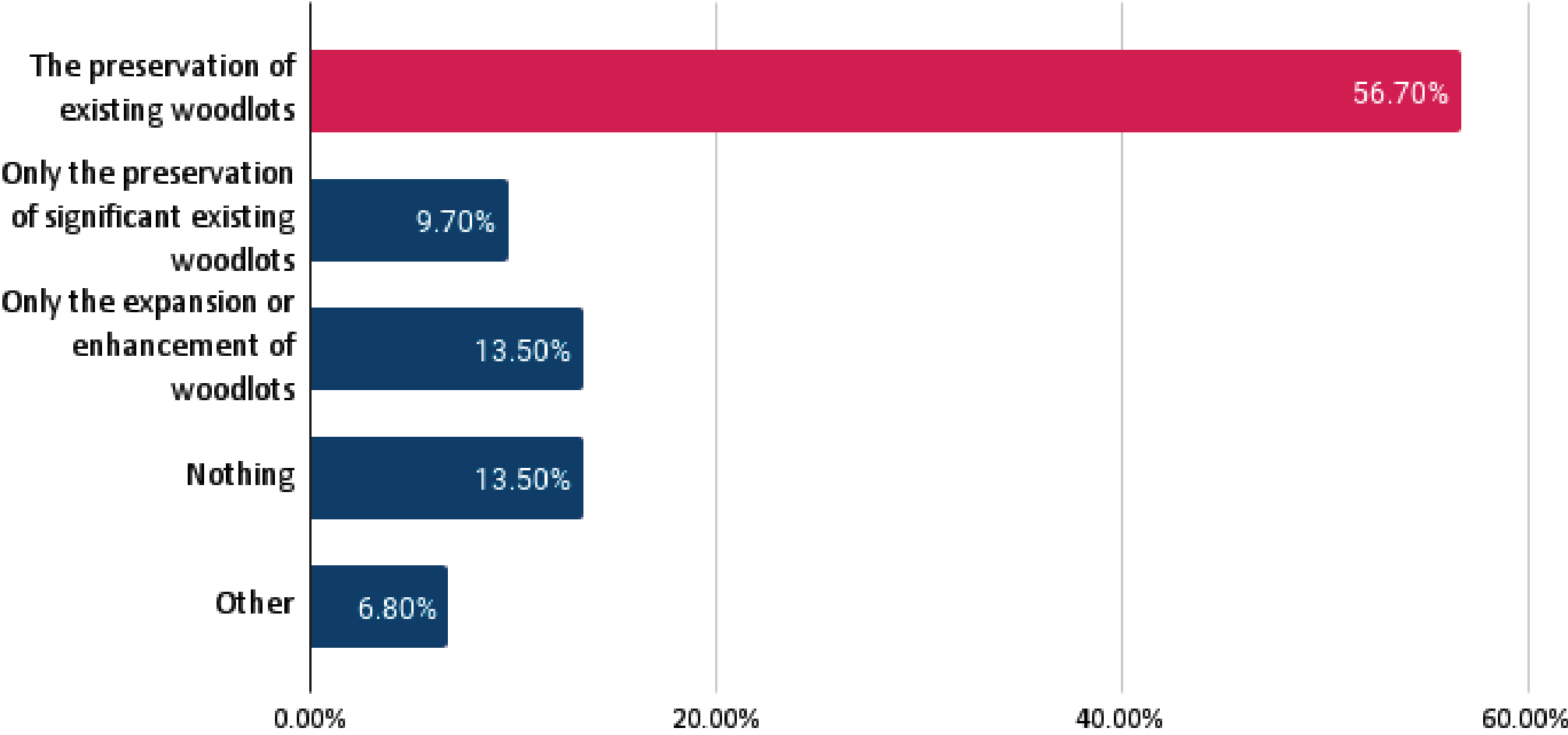
Incentives



Incentives

What gets incentivized?

What woodlot preservation activities should CK consider for incentives?



The preservations of existing woodlots - 23 Comments

I, for one owning land that has a small wood lot on it, feel that this woodlot is strictly my decision as to what is being done with it. I am sorry if this upsets some people to the fact that this is home to small animals and birds but let's remember that is why we have organizations like ducks unlimited etc that are preserving habitats. If you all feel so strongly to preserve a wood lot then I strongly advise the next farm that comes up for sale please purchase it and then go ahead and grow all the trees you need. Then when you too see that just having a field of trees does not give you any return on your money you will understand the perspective of a farmer. ❤ 8

Incentives for preservation are the most important. But why not have a tax break incentive for windbreaks along roads as well? Windbreaks provide benefits for things like snow removal where trucks don't have to clear the same spots over and over every hour because of wind deposition. ❤ 5

Only the preservation of significant existing woodlots - 6 Comments

These woodlots should have additional incentives as they are beneficial to everyone. ❤ 1

Only the expansion or enhancement of woodlots - 7 Comments

A PROPOSAL: a/ Pick a % tree coverage for a property eg. 10% b/ If property at 10% pay usual Tax. c/ For every % above 10% get Tax break eg 20% d/ For every % below 10% pay extra 20% Tax. Extra cost subsidized by General TAX Base. Property owner controls the process. A "Gentle" persuasion with no one else to blame. Supported by services of a C-K hired Professional Forester. Landowner controls the "Time Frame". At days end. Landowner benefits from Forest Income eg. Logging, Maple syrup, etc.and gets significant TAX Break at the same time as minimal "INPUT" costs. Win-Win for ALL! ❤ 3

Nothing - 14 Comments

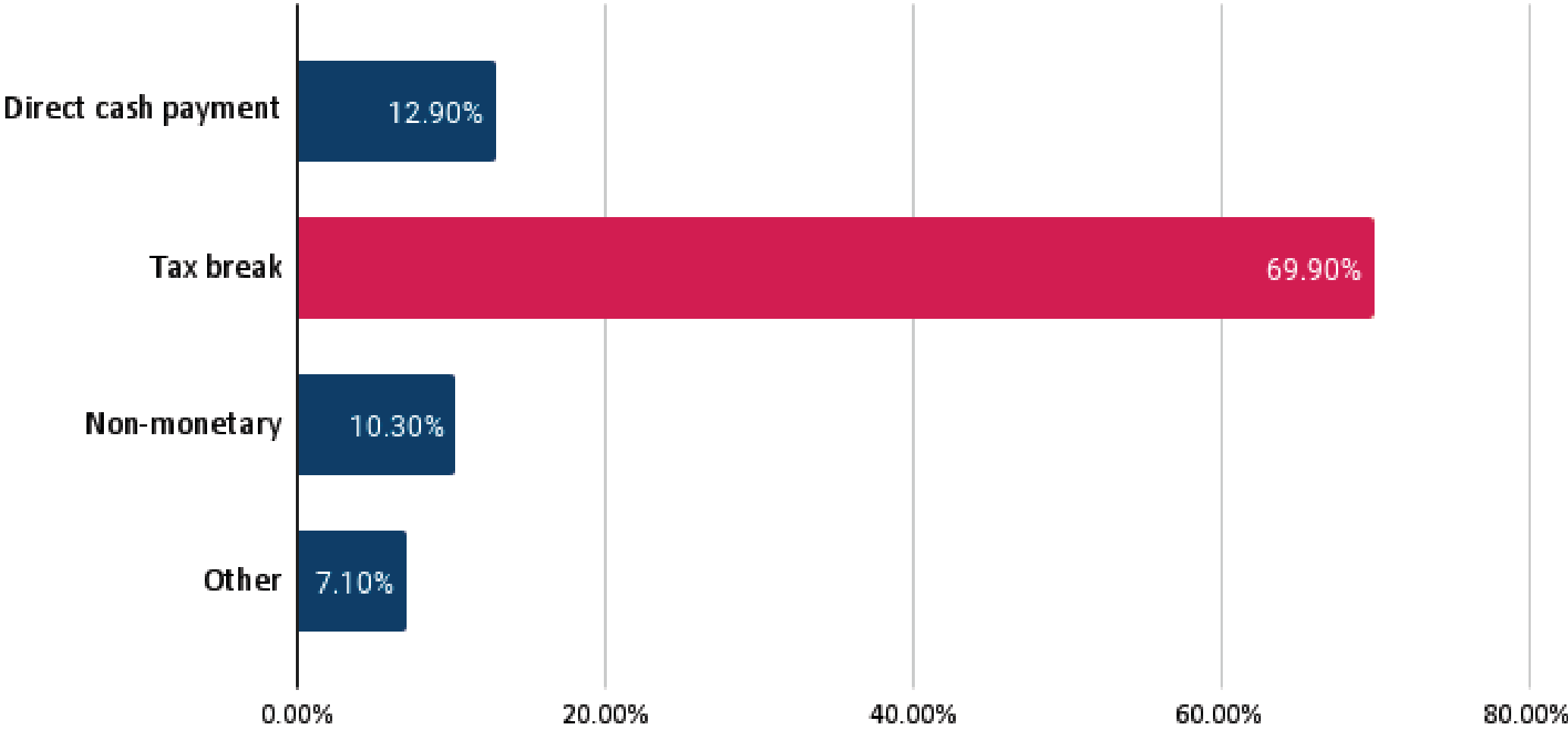
Other - 81 Comments

Both preservation and expansion of woodlots should have incentives. Also consideration should be given to purchasing woodlots, this may be less expensive in the long term. ❤ 7

Incentives

Type of incentive

What type of incentive should CK consider?



Direct Cash Payment - 14 Comments

So these tree huggers want a say in what I can do with my bushland but I can't have a say in what is going to be done in their backyard. BACK OFF AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS. BUY YOUR OWN FARM AND PLANT IT ALL INTO TREES ON YOUR DIME. ❤️ 5

Tax break - 22 Comments

I like the idea that for every acre of forest you have, you get the equivalent in workable acreage with no property tax. For those that don't own workable acreage it's just a straight tax reduction of a certain amount based on how much forest acreage they have. This not only incentivizes for keeping of forests, but actually encourages expansion ❤️ 4

A tax break will provide the incentive to not turn the woodlot into short term cash, but signs will instill a level of pride and promote the incentives to others. Both should be implemented. ❤️ 4

Non-monetary - 3 Comments

I have a small woodlot as well as having planted thousands of trees in windbreaks so I do see the importance of tree cover. I would not however be in favour of the municipality taking over my property rights as a landowner. Encouragement of windbreaks etc should be OK but not taking away my right to make decisions about my farm. ❤️ 1

Other - 70 Comments

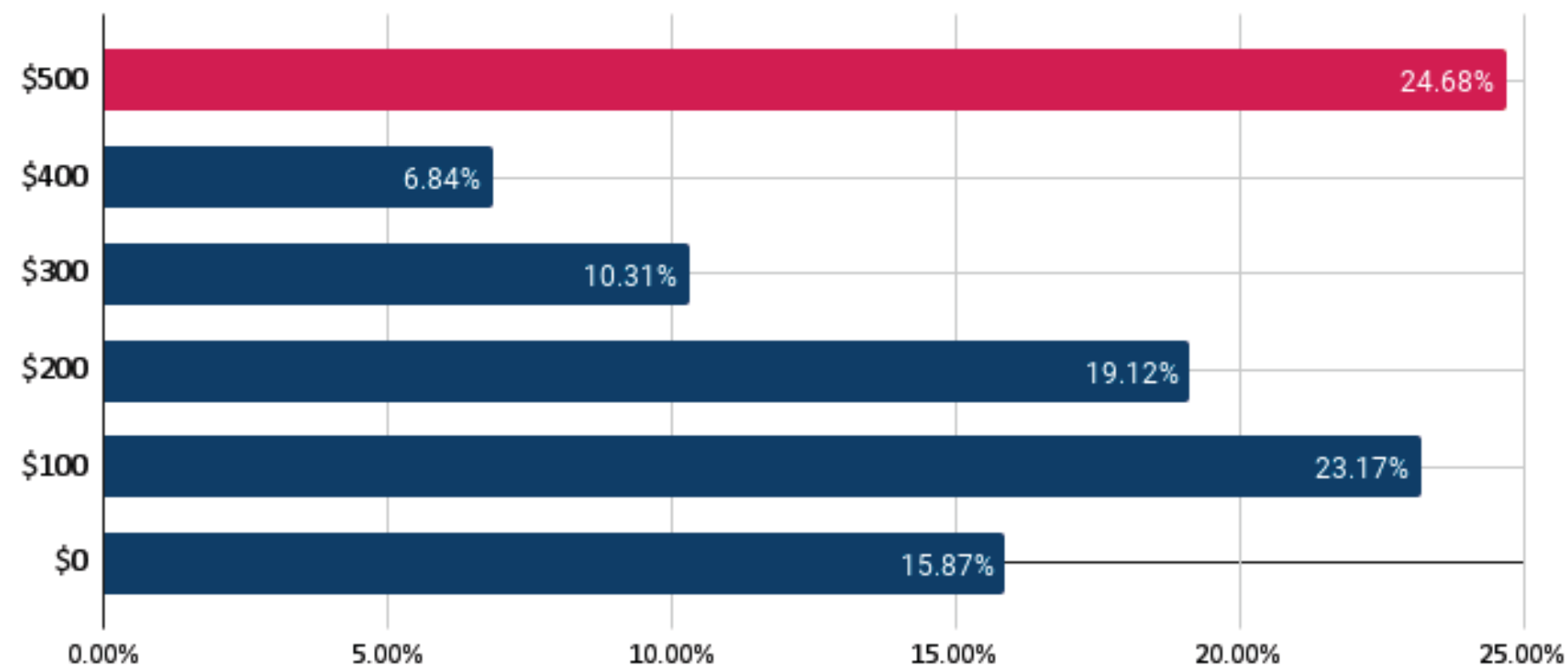
This is absolutely hideous. I am reading all of these responses and I honestly cannot believe we are voting on how everyone in Chatham Kent will be able to decide what we farmers can and can not do with trees on all of OUR farmland that has been paid a hefty price for and huge tax dollars to Chatham Kent. I am seriously sitting here shaking my head in disbelief. ❤️ 7

Additional incentives can include the Municipality of CK directly assisting woodlot owners to develop sustainable woodlot products (forest mushrooms, ginseng, wood pellets from controlled branch trimming, nuts, berries etc.) and the markets to sell them to. ❤️ 5

Incentives

Available Funds

How much should a landowner receive per hectare per year to preserve existing woodlots?



Voting Average: \$258 per hectare per year

The incentive should be proportionate to how much profit would be generated if the property was farmed. ❤️ 28

There should be something but what that number is I can't say. Agree let the number crunchers and owners work together to determine what the number should be. ❤️ 14

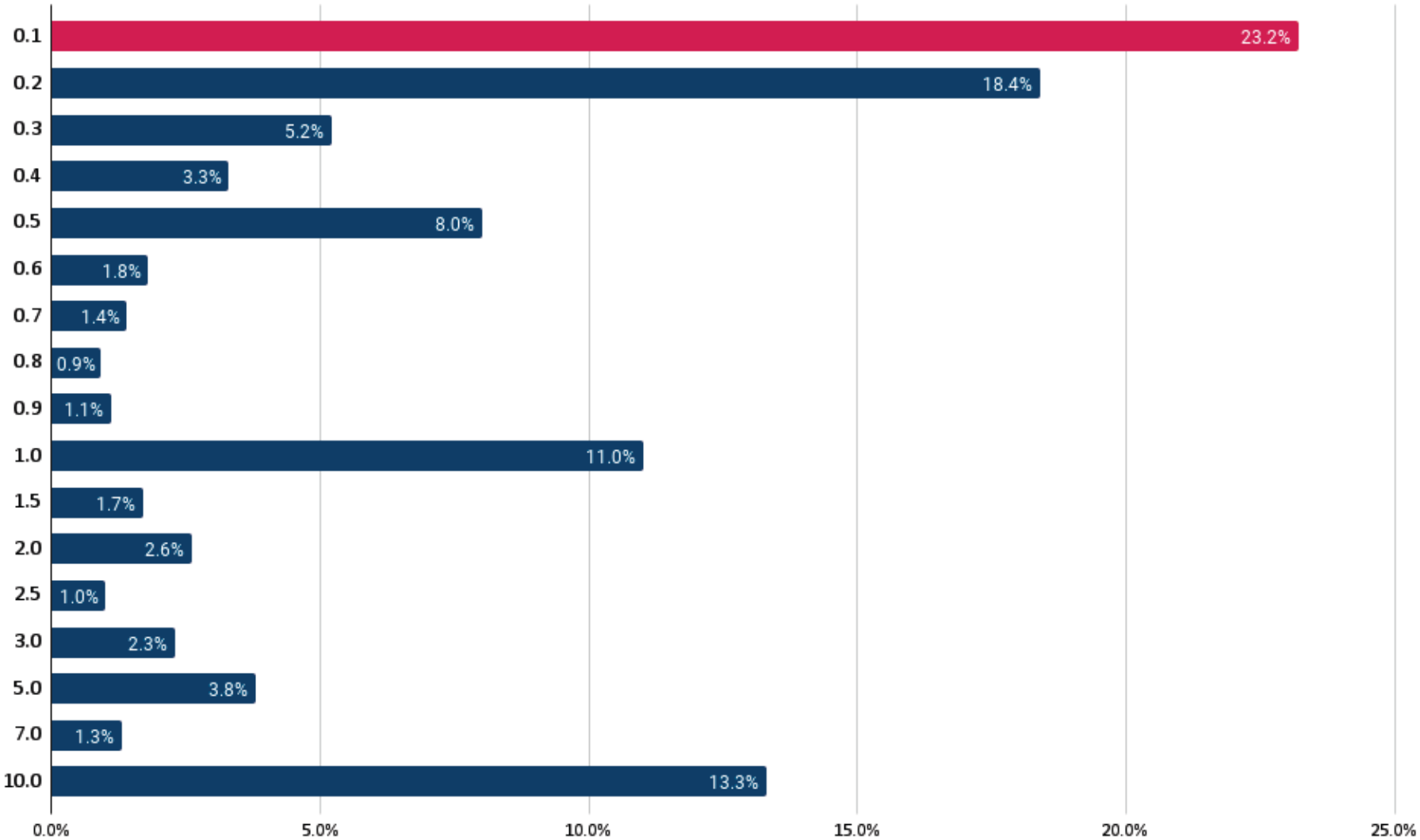


By-Law

By-Law

Woodlot size

If a permanent By-law is implemented by Council, what MINIMUM size of woodlots should it apply to?



Voting Average: Minimum 2.1 hectares - 78% of woodlots affected

Considering the number of woodlots that have been destroyed over the past 2 decades, all existing woodlots should be included in the proposed bylaw until such time as the tree planting program in the municipality can produce more tree cover.

11

The owners of the 9000 woodlots should be the only ones involved about what should be done. Why should the general public have a say with nothing personally invested in this matter.

9

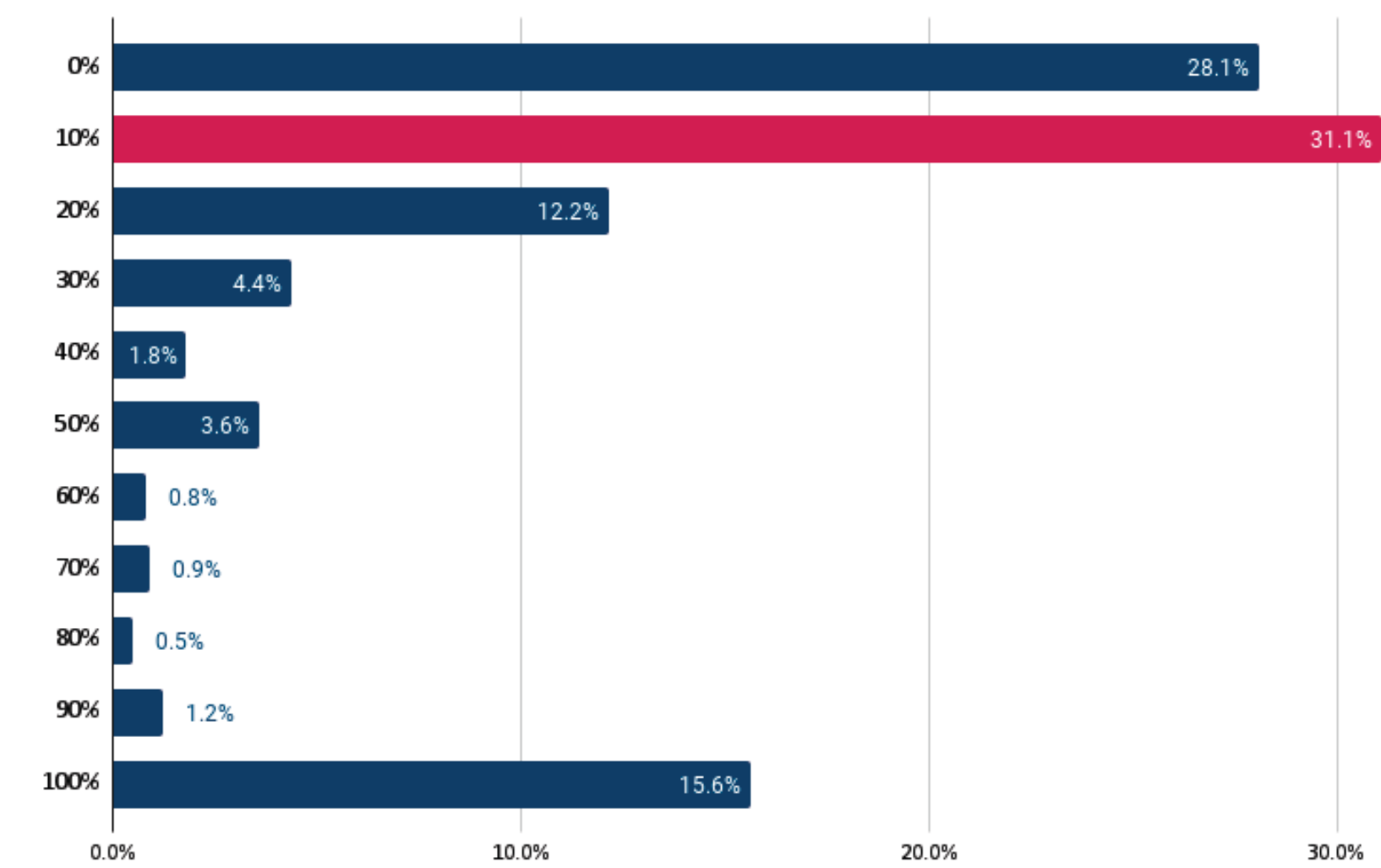
Whatever the size, it is still owned by the farmer and he has the last say in who or what is allowed in his bush.

9

By-Law

Activities not allowed

How much tree removal from an existing woodlot should be allowed?



Voting Average: 28% allowed to be removed from an existing woodlot

No percentage criteria. Any tree removal should reflect the best practices as set out in a sustainable woodlot management plan; possibly overseen by the relevant Conservation Authority. 28

Removal of trees that are diseased should be allowed. 17

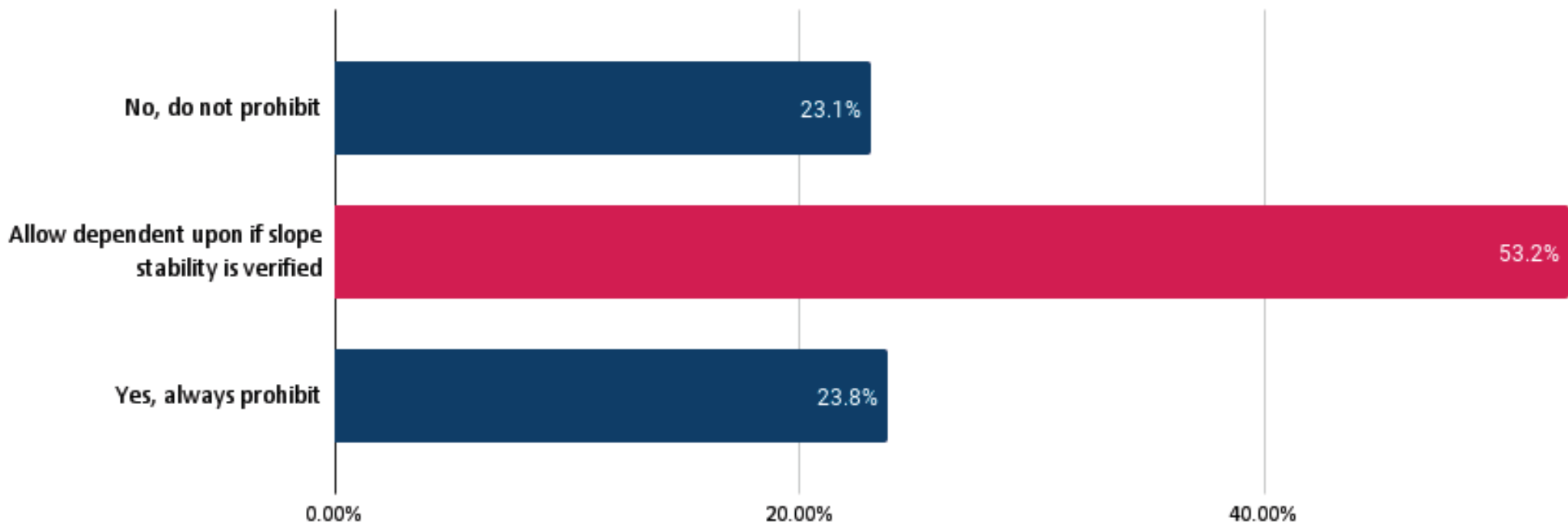
Only diseased or dead trees to be removed. 7

This should not be determined by council without the input/compensation of the owner 7

By-Law

Activities not allowed

Some trees stop erosion on slopes, while others may be the cause of it. It all depends on the slope and the trees. Should tree removal on steep slopes be prohibited?



slope stabilization should be a priority. ❤️ 22

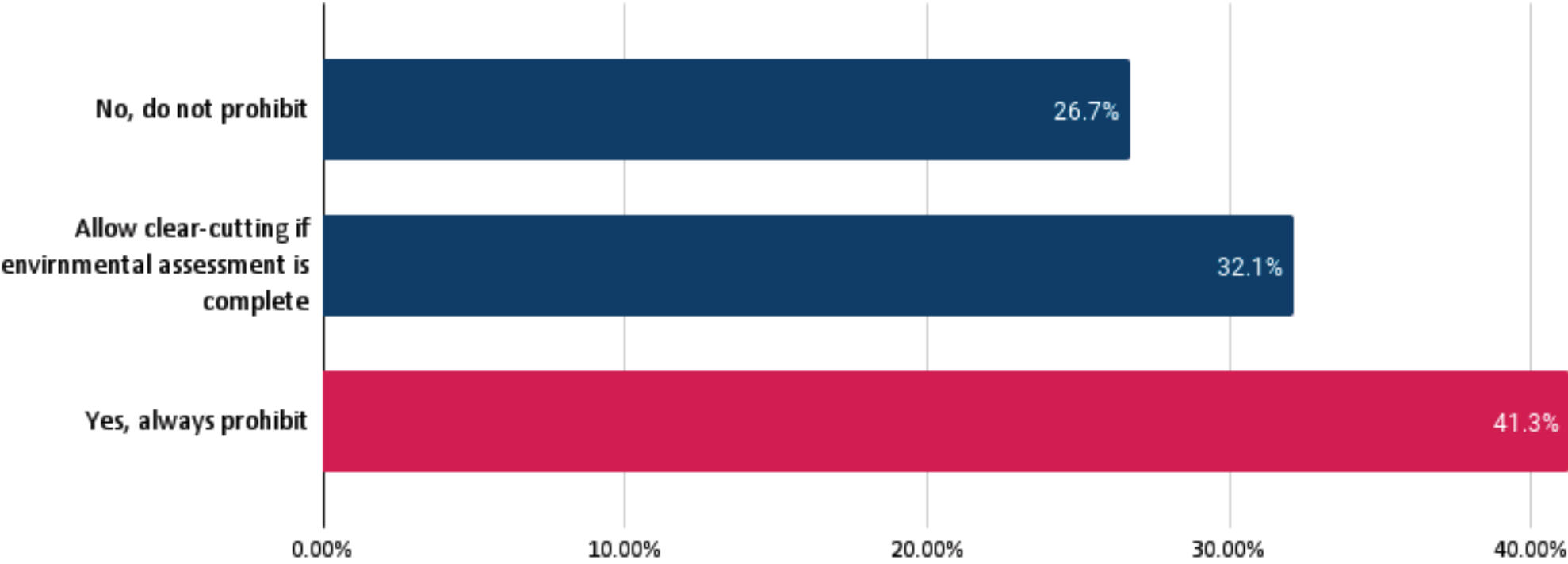
Chatham-Kent's drainage superintendents are terribly uneducated on proper drain management. The old boy's club of contractors that want to rip everything off the bank so they don't have to worry about their hydraulic hoses getting caught on a branch compound the problem ten fold. Go to ANY other county in Ontario and see what wise management results in. Connecting corridors for wildlife, erosion control, soil preservation must mean zero when it comes to drain maintenance in this county. ❤️ 12


Only allowed if it causes erosion ❤️ 6


By-Law


Activities not allowed


Should tree removal in significant woodlands and designated Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest be prohibited?



All woodlots will eventually need trees removed due to invasive species, disease and at some point removing mature trees can enhance the woodlot  4

Depends if the trees are native or invasive  4

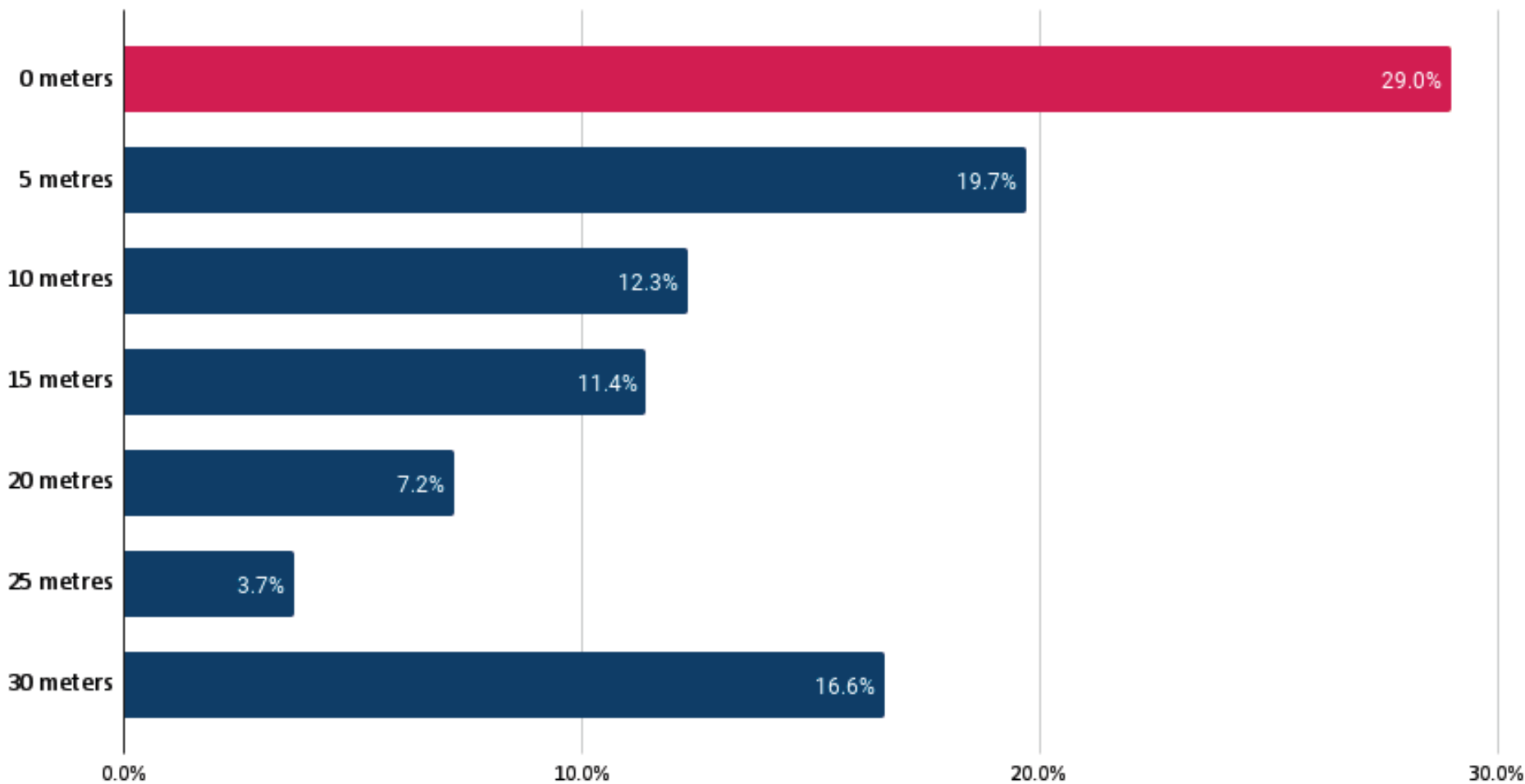
ONLY dead, dying or diseased trees should be removed.  3

No. Council should not make this decision without input/compensation to the owner  3


By-Law


Activities not allowed


What should be the setback distance when removing trees near wetlands, creeks, lakes, and natural water bodies?



Voting Average: 11 metres setback from bodies of water

Consult Forest Management officials to determine what this should be.  12

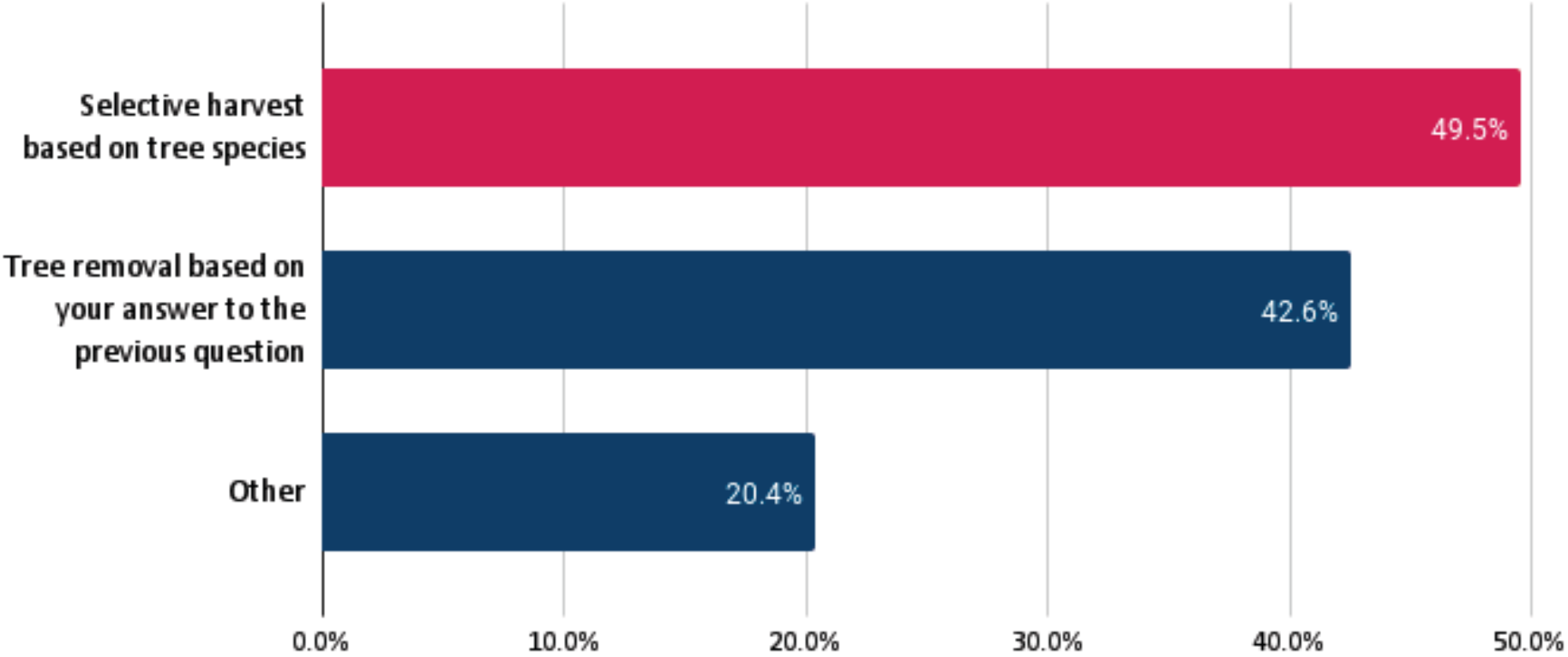
Why do you allow exemptions for the municipality, but not the landowner themselves?  9

I can't speak to this as I am not an expert. This should be determined by a forest management expert.  7

By-Law

Activities allowed WITH a municipal permit

What tree removal activities should the bylaw allow with a municipally-issued permit?



Selective harvest based on tree species

Based on:
"A Silviculture Guide to Managing Southern Ontario Forests"
And the relevant section for Southwestern Ontario begin on page 154. ❤️ 6

Non native invasive trees as well as diseased trees should be harvested and used to benefit the owners. ❤️ 5

Tree removal based on your answer to the previous question

Management of disease trees outside of the regulated migratory bird nesting seasons as outlined in the International Migratory Bird Conventions Act ❤️ 2

if the trees are diseased or impacted the area negatively (invasive) consideration should be provided for tree cutting. ❤️ 2

A balanced harvest with species replanting is critical ❤️ 2

Other

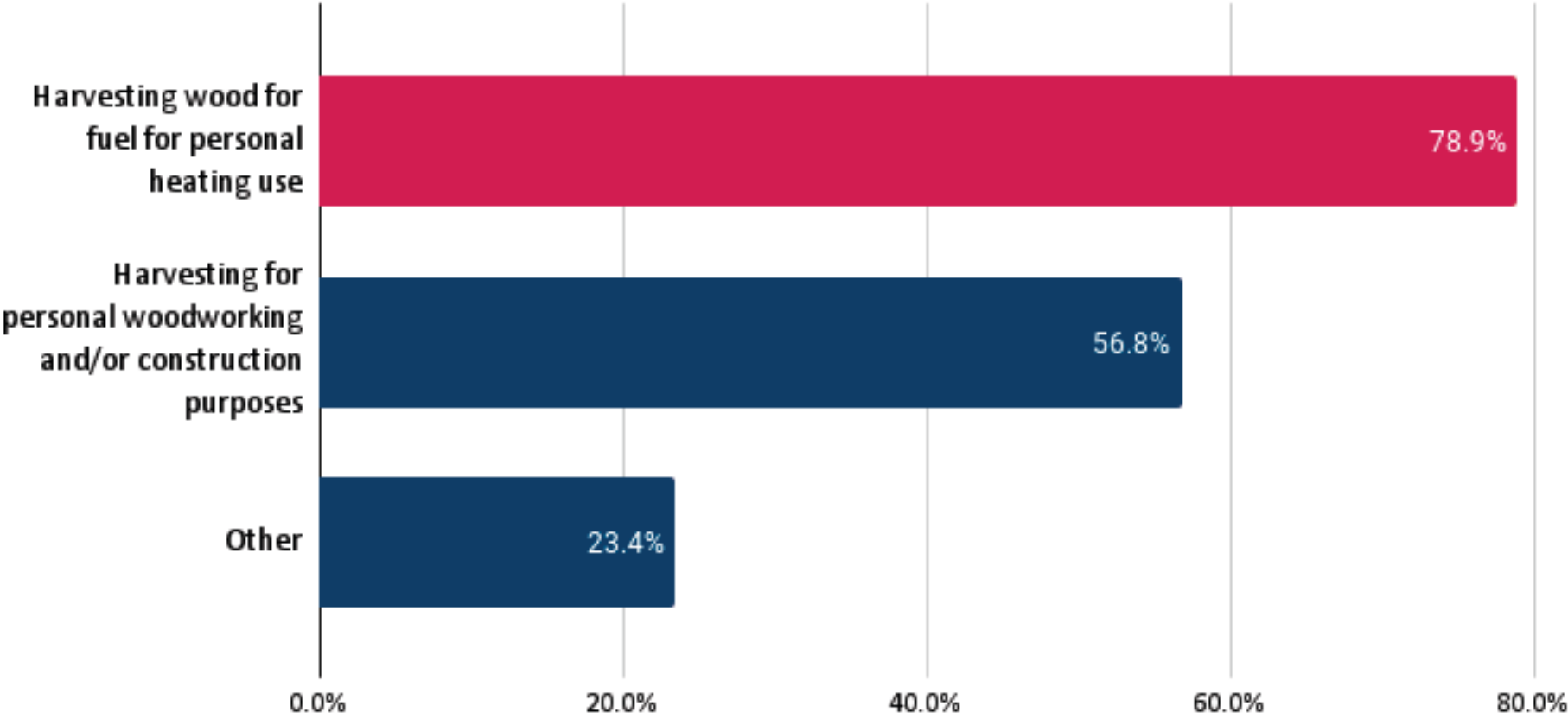
We don't need another permit. Let the property owner do with the tree as they deem best. We are not children and don't need Mommy's (CK's) approval. ❤️ 6

Dead, diseased and invasive trees can be removed without a permit ❤️ 5

By-Law

Activities allowed WITHOUT a municipal permit

What activities should be exempted from the bylaw?



Harvesting wood for fuel for personal heating use

Harvesting for all personal uses should be used in the calculations for any harvesting by permit. ❤️ 2

Harvesting for personal woodworking and/or construction purposes

This needs to be allowed, with no permits or reporting. Do property owners have no rights anymore? My ancestors who worked their whole lives to clear and farm this productive farmland would be disgusted that these restrictions are being considered. The generations that followed chose to keep portions of the property in woodlots for logging, firewood, lumber. ❤️ 2

Other

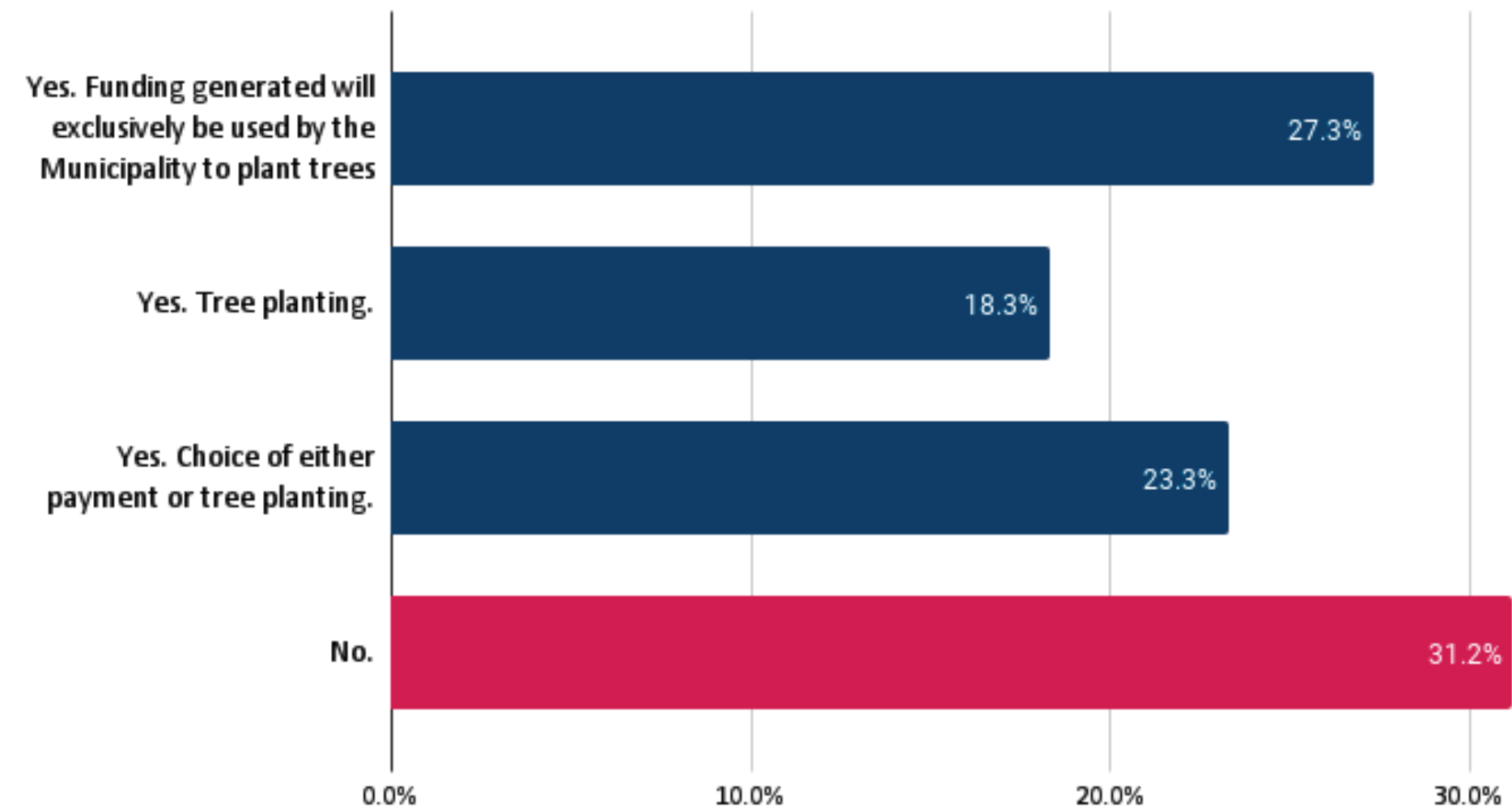
Woodlot stewardship management should be the sole responsibility of the land owner. ❤️ 2

whatever it takes to maintain a healthy woodlot ❤️ 2

By-Law

Compensation

Should the bylaw require compensation to the Municipality as part of permit approval and in what form should the compensation be?



Yes. Funding generated will exclusively be used by the Municipality to plant trees

Please make sure this will be done in all CK communities and not just the few. ❤️ 2

What reassurances are there that this money won't be swept up in the bureaucratic overburden where the money earmarked for planting trees is spent on the planning, discussion, debate, deliberation and labour resulting in minimal trees being planted, if any. I would rather the funding be directed to the Conservation Authorities. ❤️ 2

Yes. Tree planting.

But be 100% aware, trees planted do not have the diversity or soil structure as an existing woodlot. Tree planting cannot replace what is lost in our lifetimes or many lifetimes. Be educated. ❤️ 3

Yes. Choice of either payment or tree planting.

So long as the trees are native to Ontario. ❤️ 4

Native trees only with a management contract.
Broken contract = Heavy fine ❤️ 1

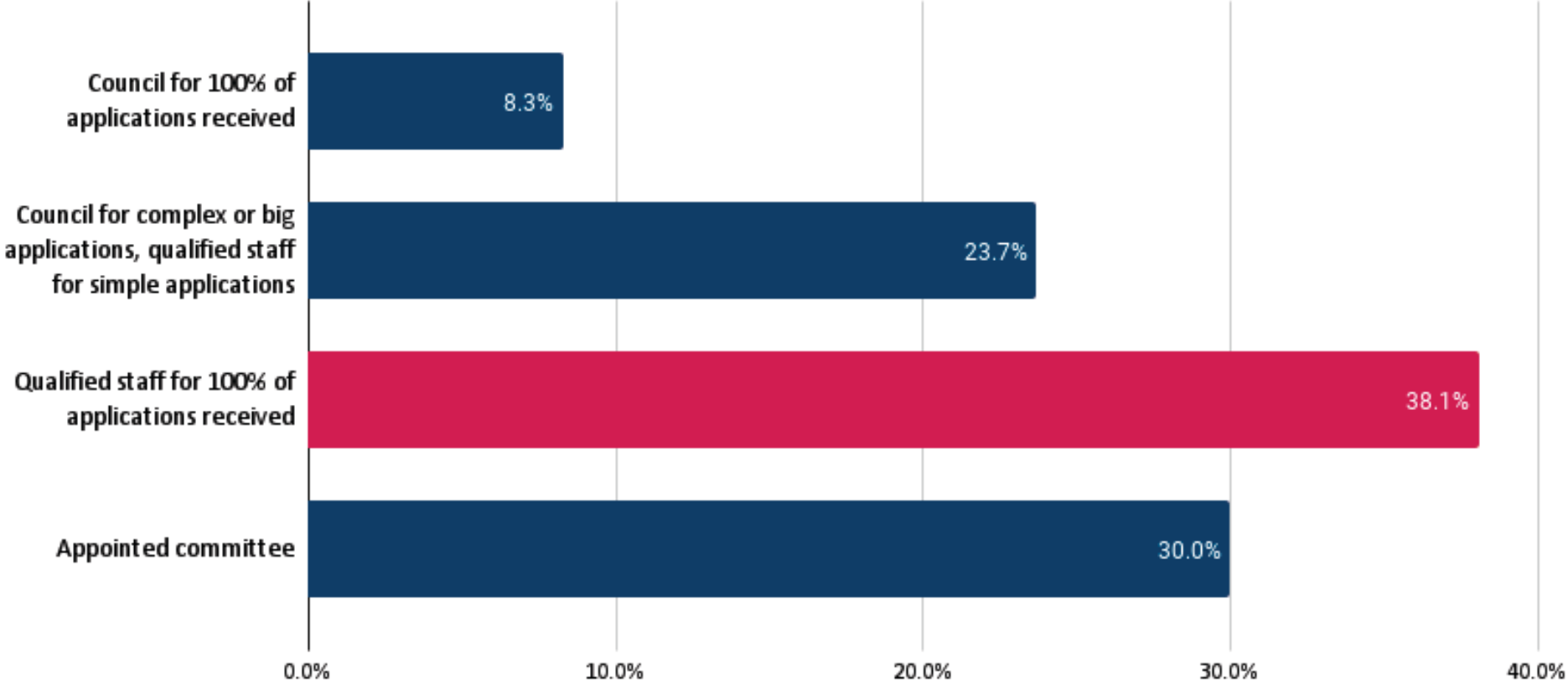
No.

The landowner, in accepting these limitations on their property, should not face additional costs in obtaining any type of tree removal permit. ❤️ 3

By-Law

Decision-making process

Who should make the decision when a permit application submitted under a woodlot preservation bylaw is received?



Council for 100% of applications received

If council wants to decide what I do with my own wood lot, that I paid for and planted, and maintained...then council can purchase said wood lot. I paid for 15,000 trees, and planted them with help from MNR. I paid for aerial spraying, twice, to control gypsy moth that were totally eradicating the leaf cover, which would kill the trees.i managed the thousands of dead ash in my lot, that were killed by the ash borer. I don't need council or administration, telling me what I can do! ❤️ 2

Council for complex or big applications, qualified staff for simple applications

Qualified staff should be someone with a naturalist background and not scared to use it. (not a yes person from drainage.) ❤️ 3

Qualified staff for 100% of applications received

have a decision framework in place and at a certain threshold require report from external expert ❤️ 2

Staff with the education and training can be trusted to make appropriate decisions, can work with/on the advice of conservation authorities and other environmental experts. Once Council makes a decision on how the by-law should be enacted, it isn't necessary to come back to Council to make decisions unless it is to recognize/create publicly owned and protected areas. ❤️ 2

Appointed committee

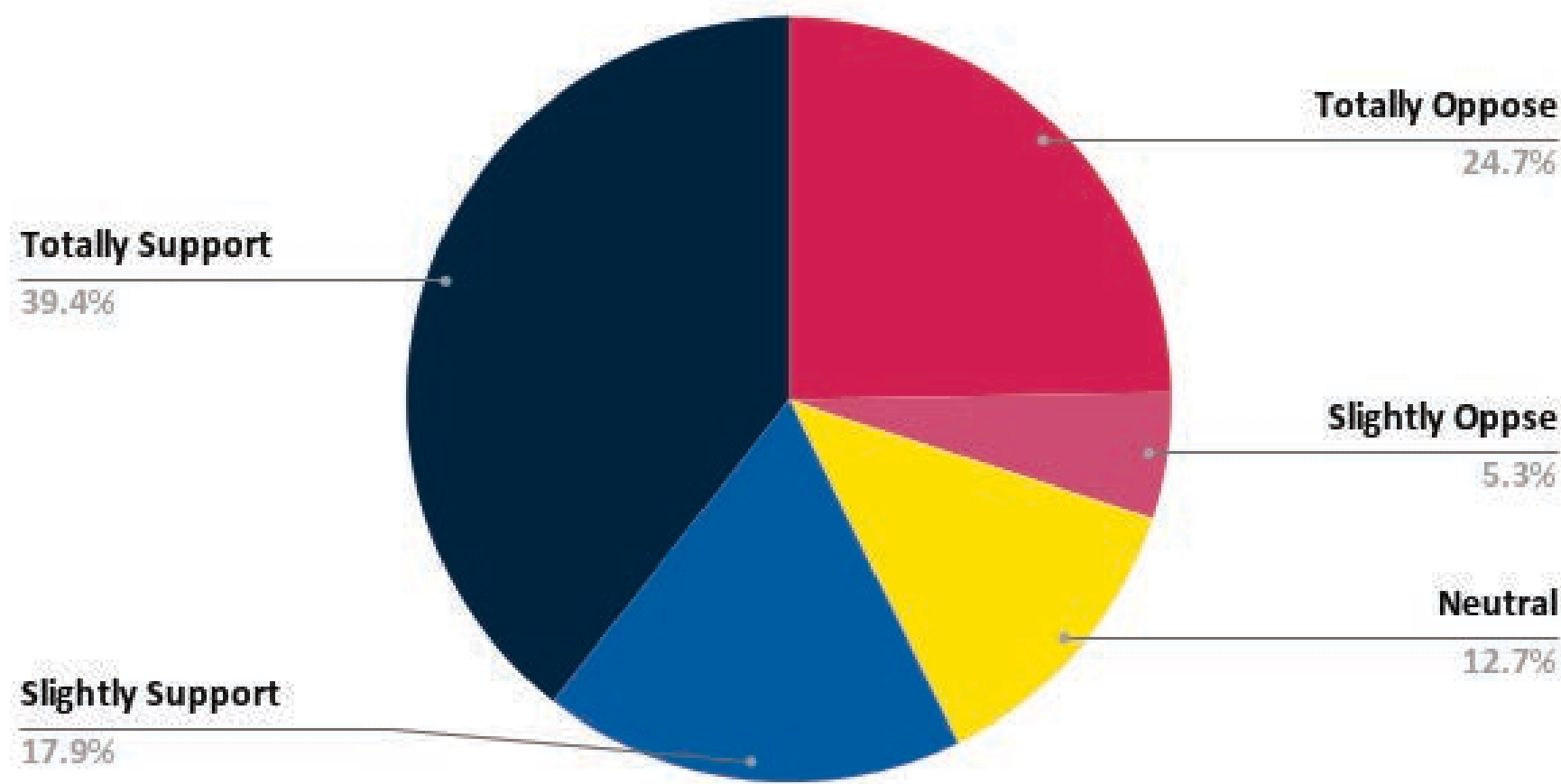
A committee of farmers who have the same interest. ❤️ 6

A committee of people educated in environmental conservation ❤️ 3

By-Law

Enforcement

Do you support the hiring of trained personnel to appropriately administer a Forest Conservation By-law?



We have at our disposal the LTVCA that can be consulted on this type of thing along with possible shared resources. 12

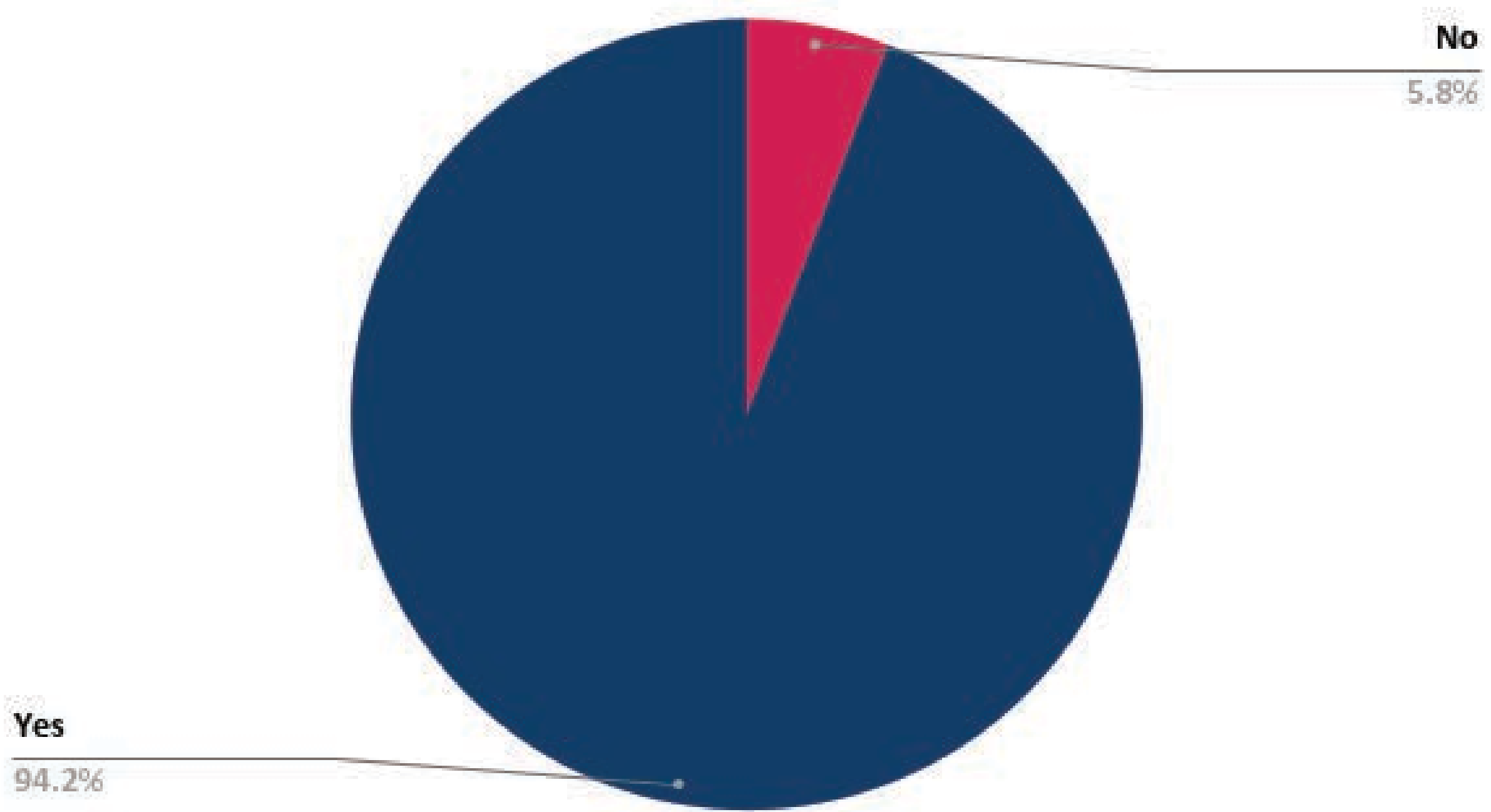
sign me up. I would love to be overpaid, drive a CK truck around and go around hassling farmers! Unbelievable! Please stop the insanity! 6

ETHELO

Demographics



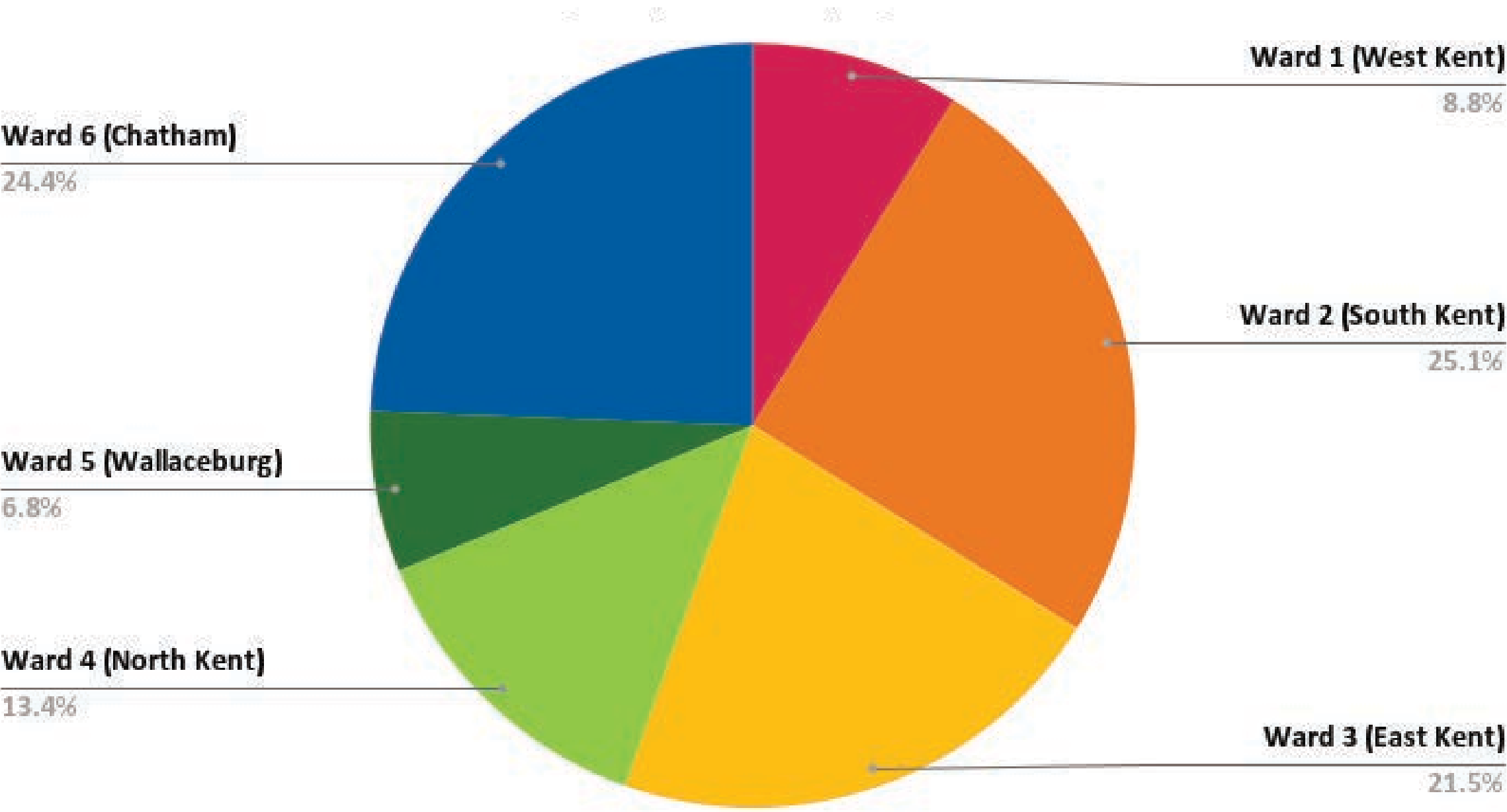
Demographics



Residence
I am a resident of Chatham-Kent

*The decision was made to allow the above reflected 5.8% of respondents who identified themselves as non Chatham-Kent residents to remain part of the participant sample in an effort to remain inclusive of the larger Chatham-Kent community. Please see the *Baseline Data* section of the Security Report for more details on this decision.

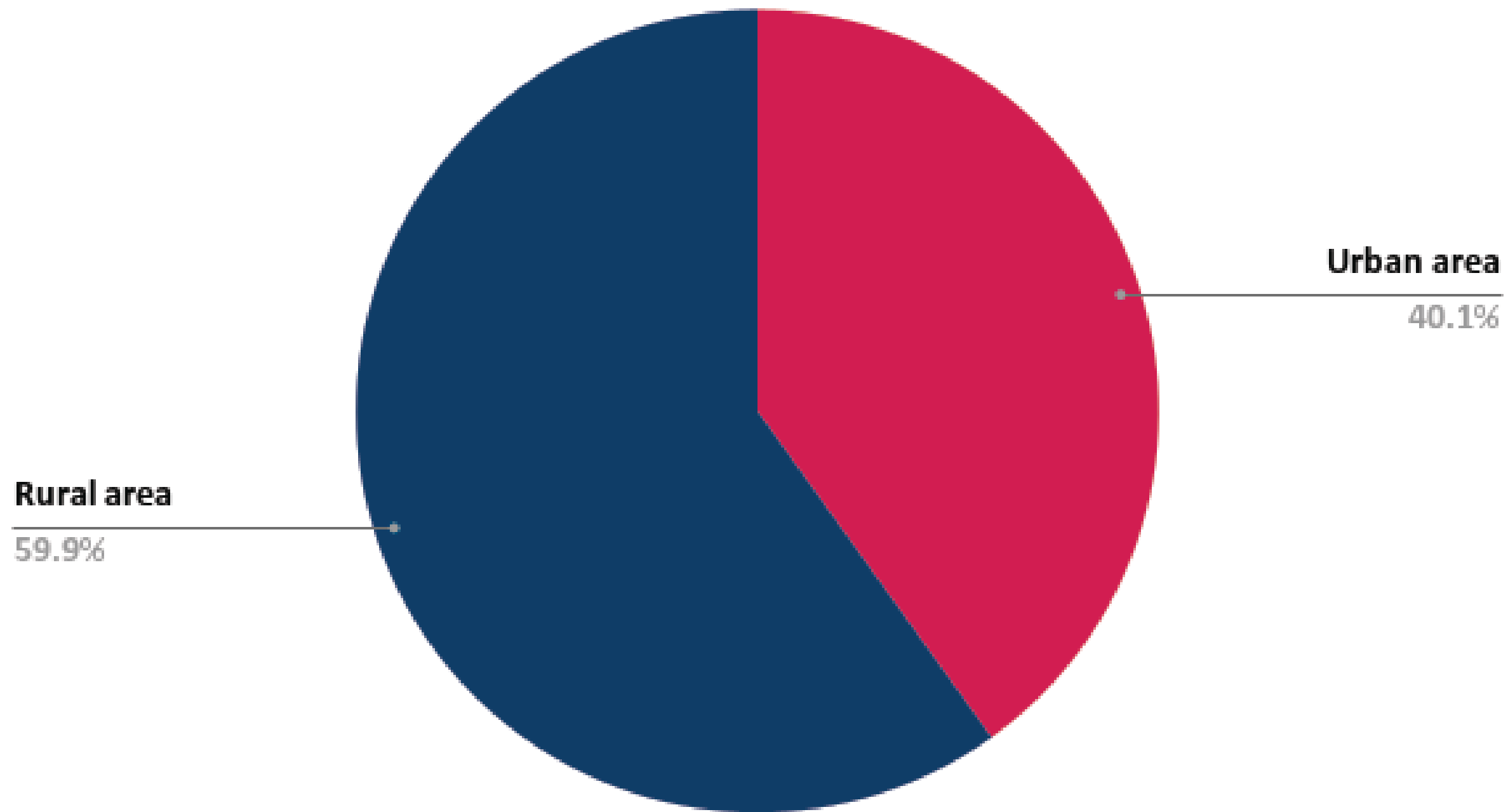
Demographics



Location I live in...

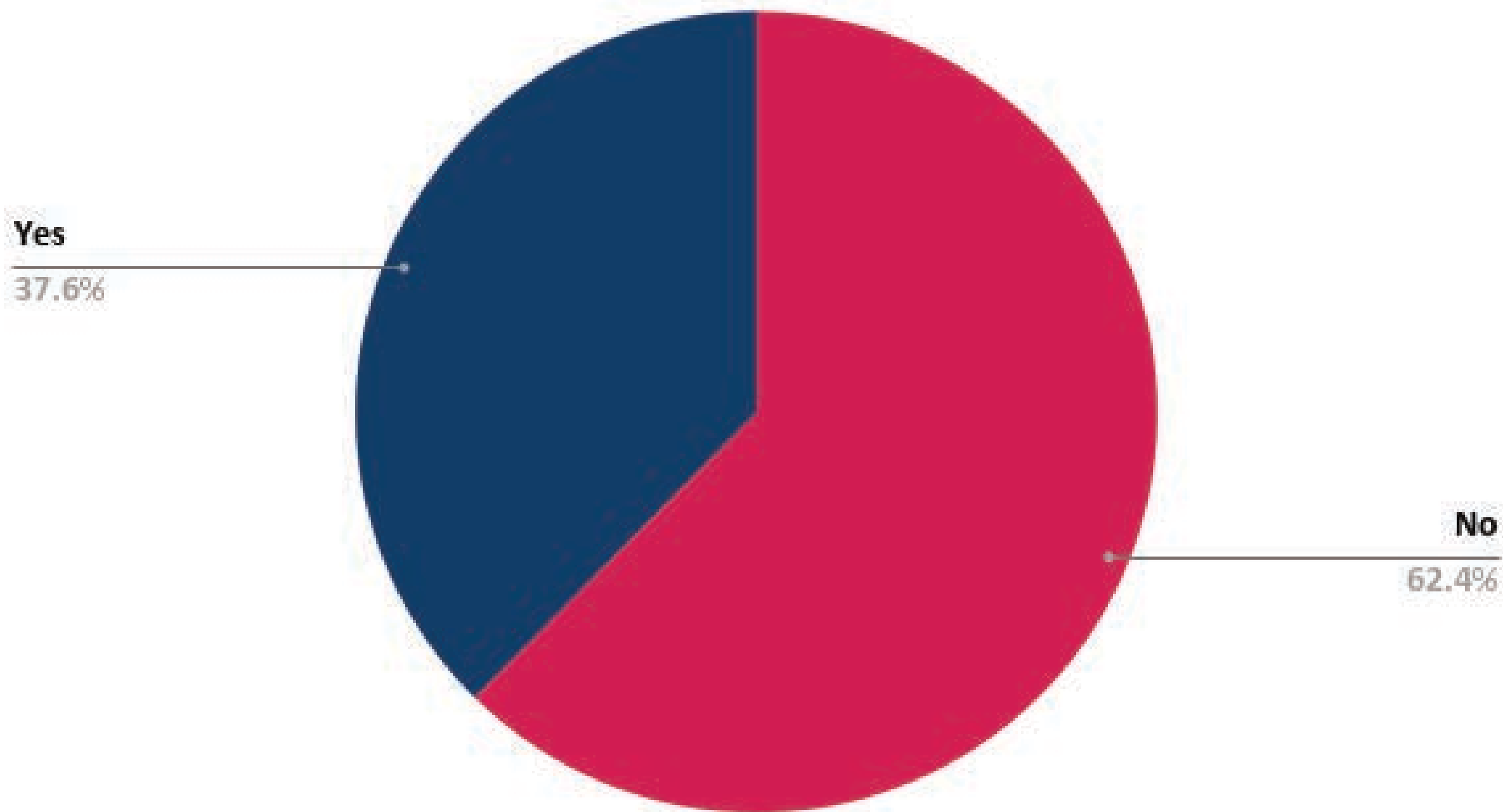


Demographics



Rural or Urban
I live in a...

Demographics



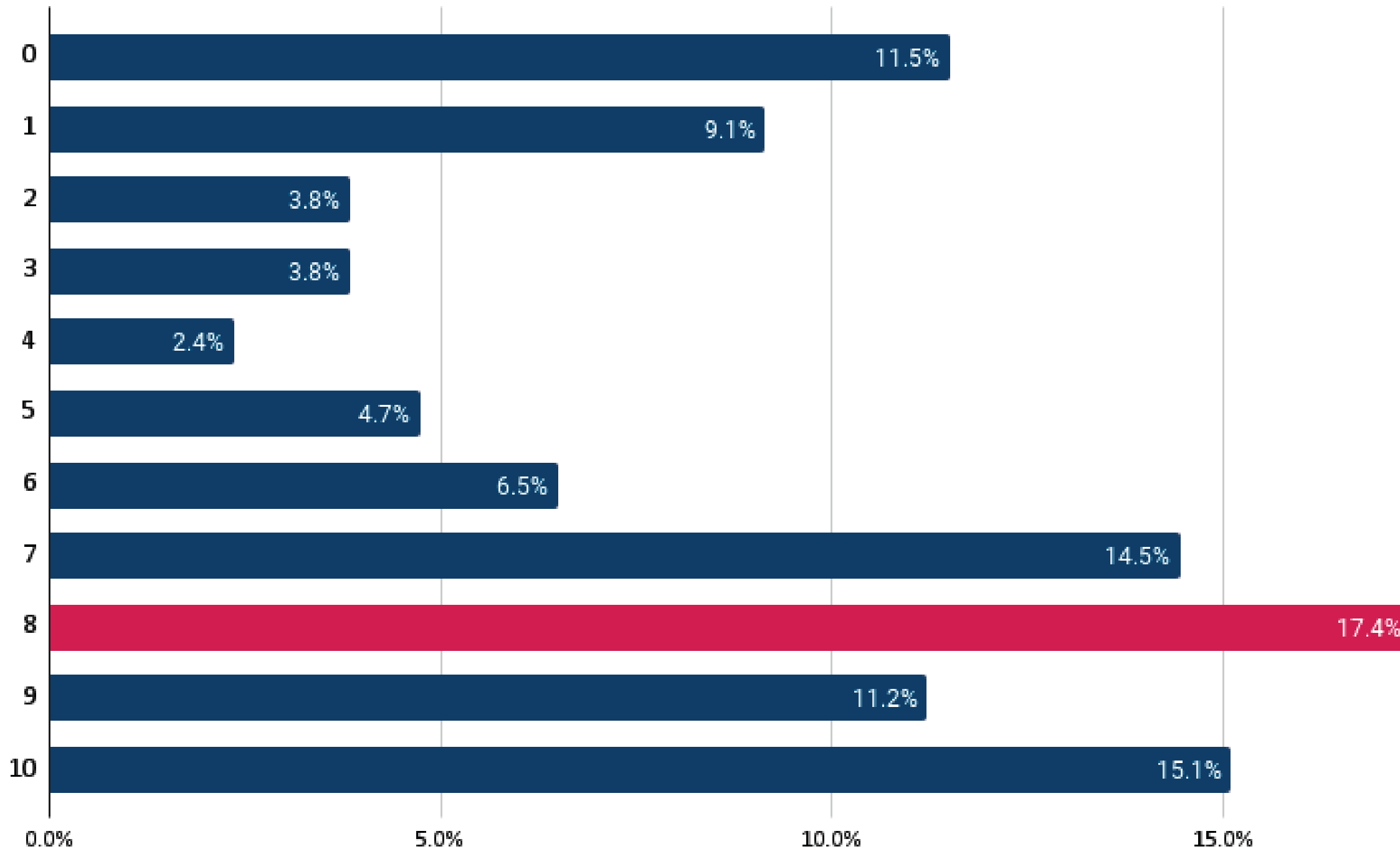
Woodlot Ownership
I have a forest on my property

A photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, a large, weathered log lies horizontally across the frame. The background is filled with numerous thin tree trunks and lush green foliage, creating a dense forest atmosphere. Sunlight filters through the leaves, casting dappled shadows on the ground.

ETHELO

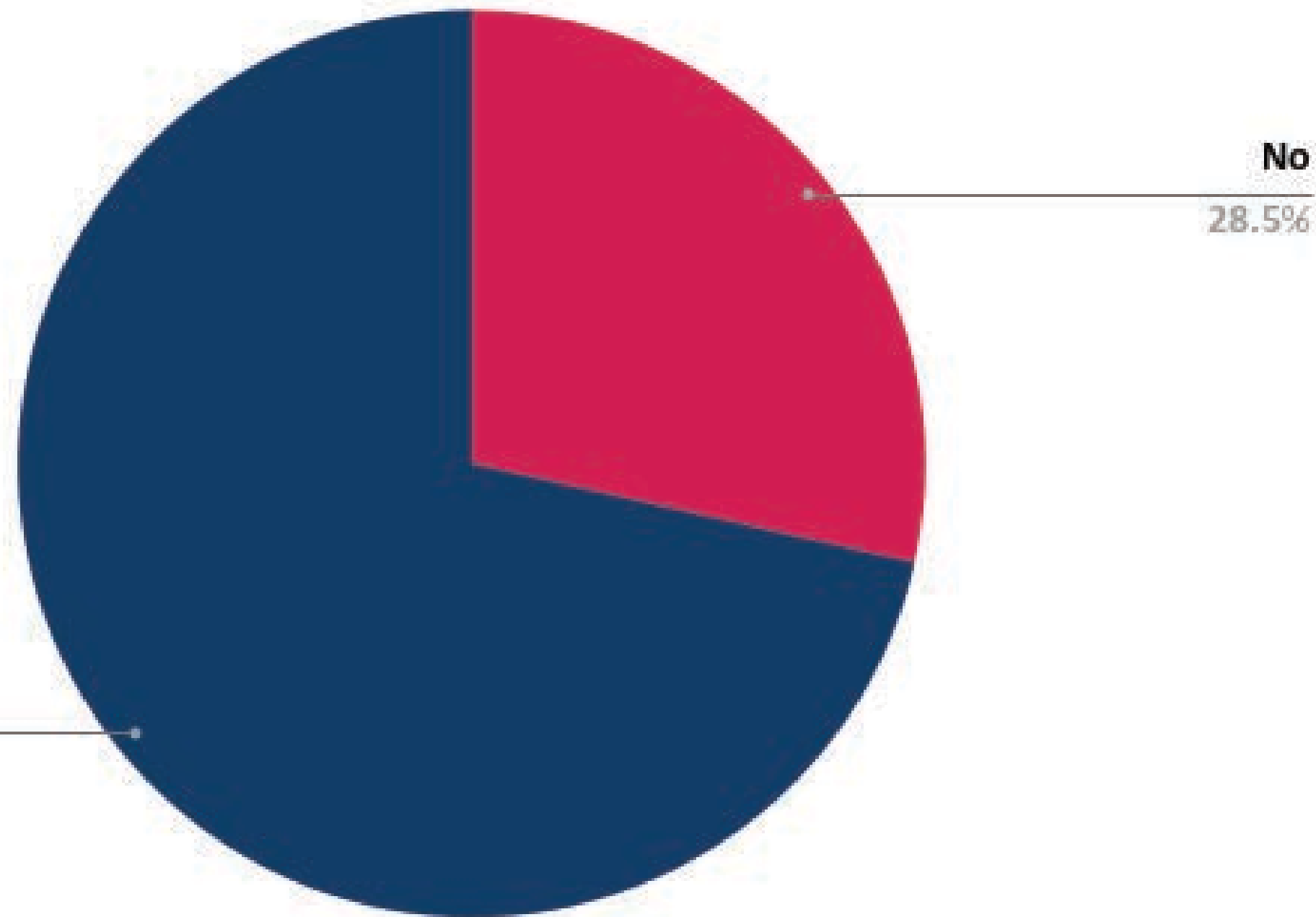
Process Feedback

Process Feedback



Process Evaluation
How high would you rate this process on a scale of 0-10, where 0 is awful and 10 is excellent?

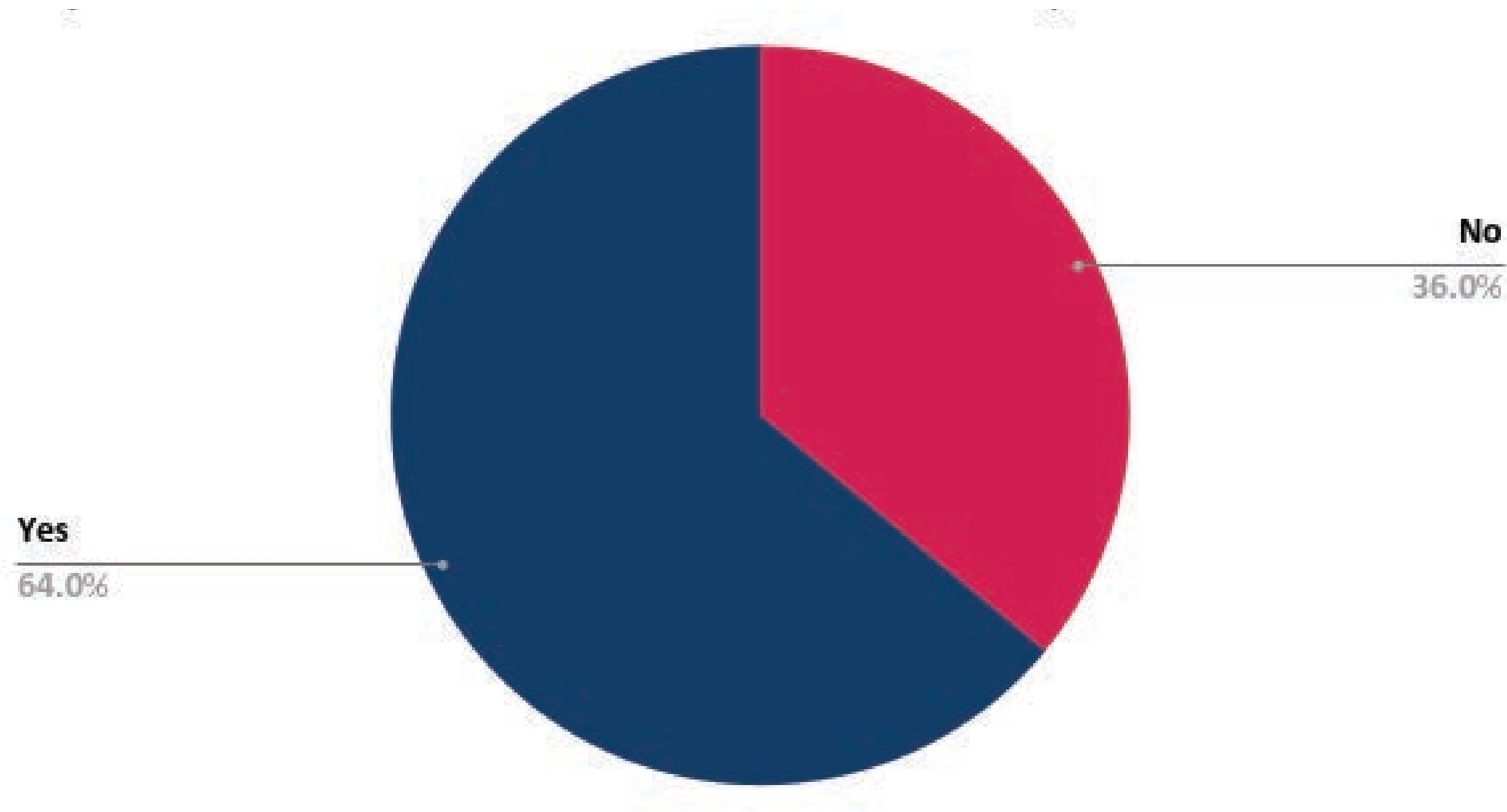
Process Feedback



Friend Referral

Would you refer this process to a friend?

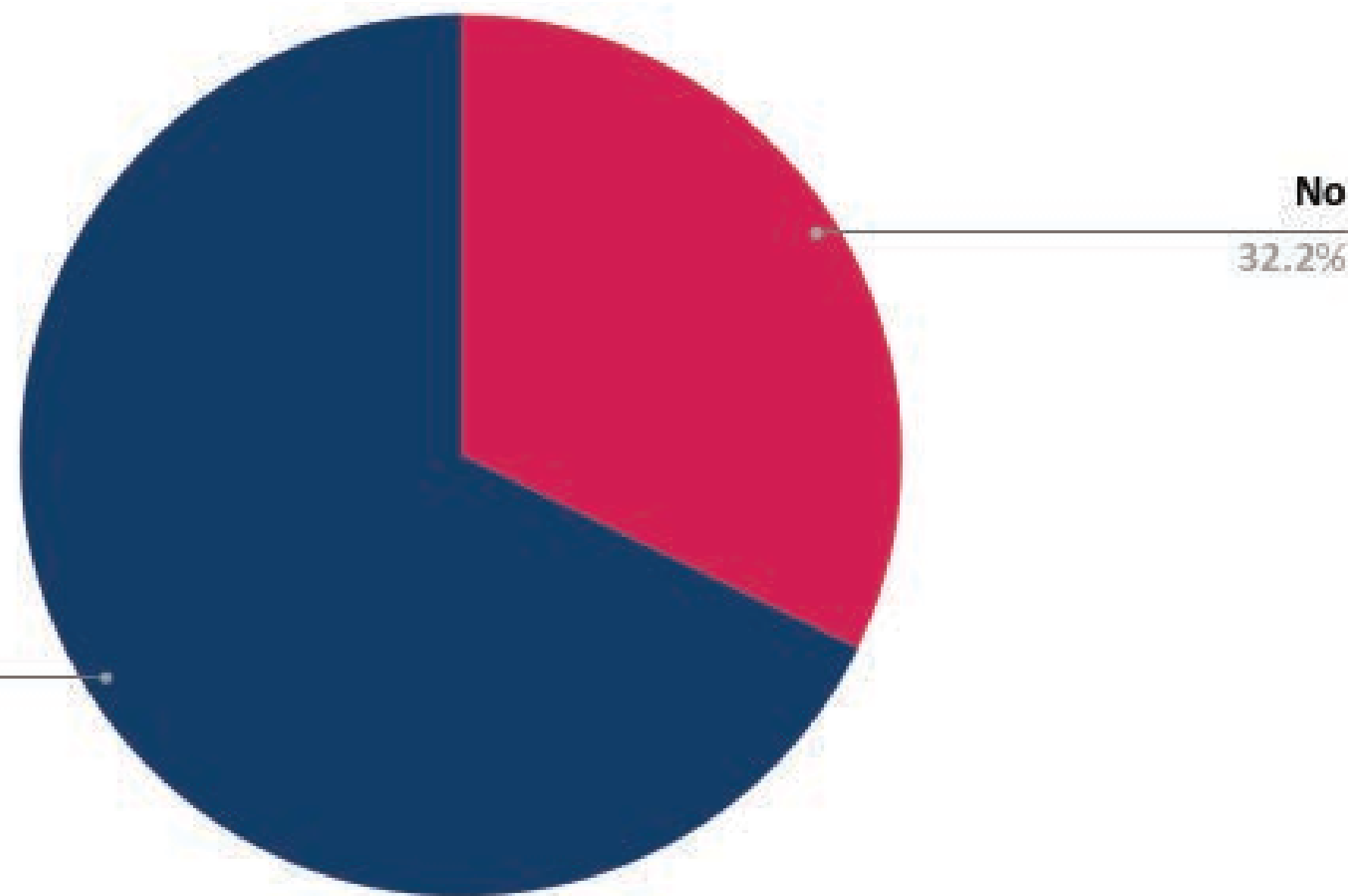
Process Feedback



Support for Final Decision

Would you be more likely to support a government decision if you knew it was based on the results of a process like this?

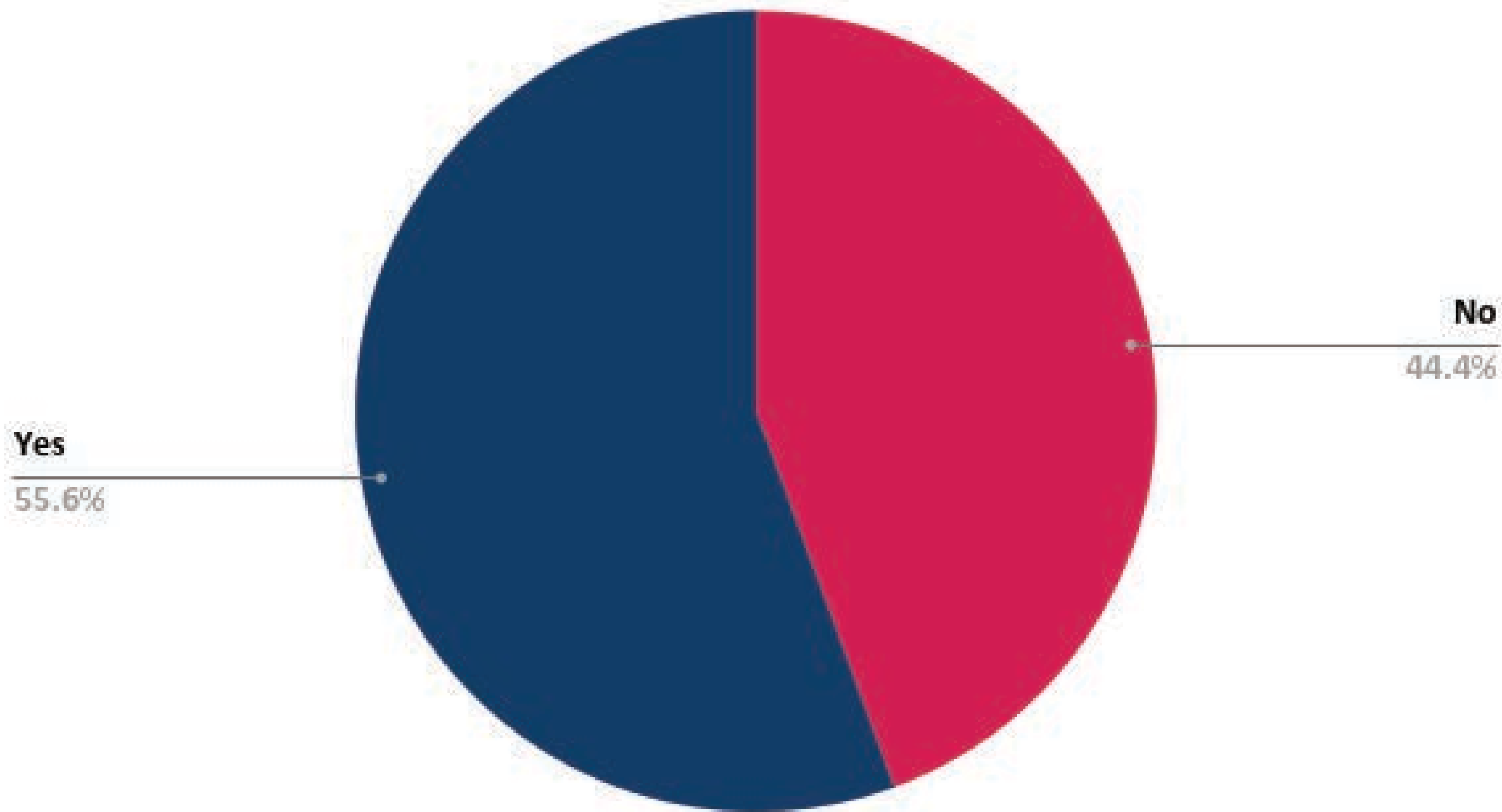
Process Feedback



Other Processes

Would you like to see Ethelo be used for other processes in your community?

Process Feedback



New Learnings

Did you learn anything new by participating in this process?

Process Feedback

Where can it improve?

What were some of the weak points in the process which the organizers could improve to make it better for next time?

Just because a vocal minority, or those with time on their hands to complete the survey, and/or those that are even aware of this survey, indicate their preferences, these results MUST be used in conjunction with sound scientific and economic research. The wishes of a minority of the population are not always the best choices for decision making - especially on something with the long-term implications that this woodlot bylaw would have.



6

more advertisement for increased participation, better language choice for readability, and shorter - many will give up before reaching the end



5

Some of the questions are difficult to answer as currently written because there are many times the reader wished to say... "Yes, but only if..." or "No, unless such and such happened..." Many questions as posed do not include adequate information to account for these variations in comment/opinion. As a result, the outcomes may be skewed in a direction that the survey participant did not intend.



4

Process Feedback

What did you like?

Are there any aspects of the process that you liked that you'd like us to keep and perhaps expand upon?

I liked that definitions were right there instead of having to look them up

❤️ 6

think this a great process but part of the process should be that it is somehow sent by mail with the info or emailed to every resident. This is too important to hope that people stumble across it. There also needs to be a call in or write in option for those without internet or tech skills.

❤️ 4

Comment section is great

❤️ 1

The online access. Very convenient.

❤️ 1

Process Feedback

Final Comments

Any final thoughts or feedback? We'd love to hear it!

Wood lot owners really should have the final say. ❤️ 7

There are way bigger fights you need to be focusing on in Chatham Kent. But you choose to make a little victory by taking the farmers rights away from land they own. Unbelievable. ❤️ 7

Chatham Kent needs more green space. It is vital to keep the community growing and to preserve the environment for generations to come! ❤️ 3

At least we had an opportunity for feedback. Thank you. ❤️ 3

Stop corporate farms, they drive up prices of land and destroy woodlots ❤️ 3

Final decision should be weighted to actual woodlot owners not the masses of urbanites who don't have a nickel invested. ❤️ 3

The problem with surveys, is the way questions are asked and the results presented, provided a slanted view towards whatever the Municipal staff want. May sure Council sees all of the comments and that the full results and comments published as part of a final document that is available to the public. ❤️ 2

I would like to see a registration process where people prove their citizenship before engagement. ❤️ 1

A lush green forest scene with a stream and a bridge. The image is filled with tall, slender trees and dense foliage. A small stream flows through the center, reflecting the surrounding greenery. A concrete bridge with a metal railing spans the stream in the middle ground. A person is walking on a path to the right, and a bicycle is parked on the left. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

ETHLO

Thank you!