



2017 HOMELESSNESS IN SAN DIEGO SURVEY

Final Report - January 2018

Since I took office in December 2014, homelessness in our region has increased by nearly 24 percent. It is undeniable; San Diego's homeless problem is at a crisis level and requires our continued time, attention, and resources. This is a citywide issue, and action and results are needed not in just one neighborhood, but across all neighborhoods in San Diego. Homelessness looks different in each of our communities, which is why I believe District 6 must continue to be part of the solution.

Over the last several months, the City has begun taking action to tackle this critical issue by:

- Approving funding for three temporary bridge shelters
- Expanding the Safe Parking Program
- Implementing a robust Hepatitis A abatement effort
- Authorizing permits for a transitional housing facility for serial misdemeanants

In light of these recent successes, it is apparent additional resources and attention from City leaders will be needed to bring an end to this crisis. The Mayor and City Council will need to make difficult budgetary decisions and balance competing funding priorities. To help guide my advocacy and decision-making in the coming months, I wanted to hear directly from the residents of District 6.

In November 2017, my office drafted and released a **"Homelessness in San Diego Survey"** to better understand how District 6 residents perceive this issue, which homelessness programs they support, and how they prefer resources be allocated. The survey was posted on the neighborhood social networking application, NextDoor, and distributed to the District 6 office email list.

SURVEY DISCLAIMER

Please note, the statements and opinions found within the survey questions and answers in no way reflect my personal views regarding homeless individuals, or on how to address homelessness.

Furthermore, all answer choices have been compiled from various public opinion sources and are intended to capture an unbiased perspective from each survey-taker. Assumptions made within the survey do not reflect the position of the City of San Diego, or of mine as an elected official.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

The survey was published for two weeks beginning on November 16, 2017 before submittals were closed on December 1, 2017.

There were 1,084 completed survey responses from District 6 zip codes submitted via the aforementioned platforms, accounting for nearly two-thirds of total respondents.

A total 1,666 surveys were submitted Citywide.

Of those who completed the survey from District 6, 55% identified as female and 45% as male.

Over two-thirds of District 6 respondents were between the ages of 45 and 65 or older.

35% of respondents identified as Democrat, 25% identified as Republican, and nearly 30% identified as other.



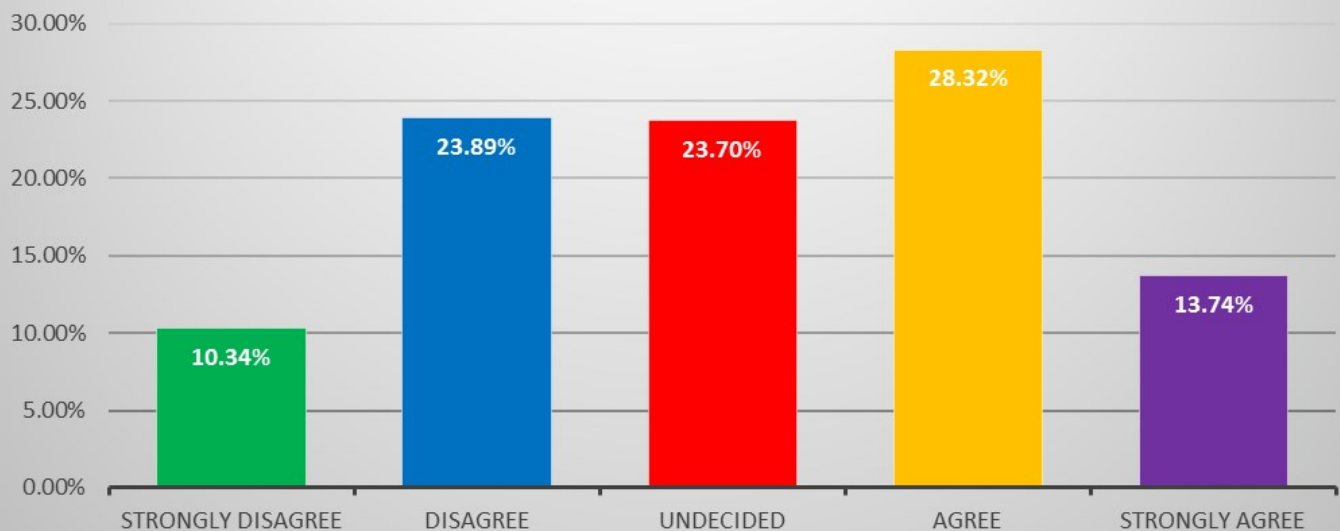
KEY FINDINGS

Below are several key questions and corresponding responses taken from the survey that provide valuable insights into how District 6 survey respondents perceive and feel about the issue of homelessness.

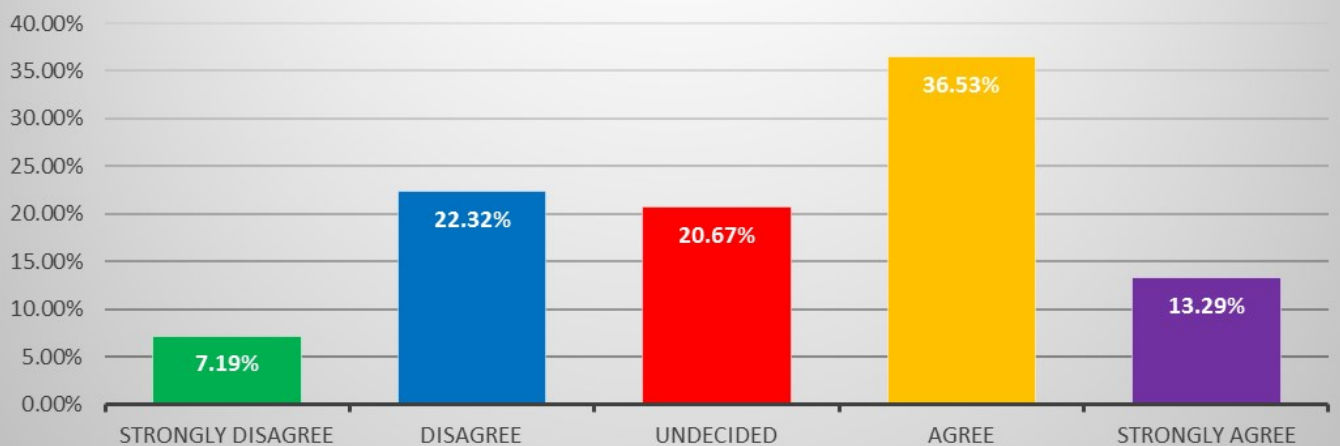
1. **Homelessness is a top priority for the City and should be prioritized over other general services.** When survey-takers were asked how strongly they feel about this statement, 43% responded with they either “agree” or “strongly agree” (29% and 14%, respectively). This concentration is compared to 37% of respondents who stated they either “disagree” or “strongly disagree” (22% and 15%, respectively).
2. **The City is doing enough to address homelessness.** 33% of survey-takers listed “strongly disagree” for this particular statement. When taking “disagree” responses into consideration, the total negative response rate for this question totals 67%. Only 14% of responses to this statement were in the positive category with 9% citing “agree” and 5% citing “strongly agree”.
3. **The City should increase taxes and create a funding stream dedicated solely to solving homelessness.** The negative responses to this statement totaled 60%. Of this sum, 40% of respondents listed “strongly disagree” and 20% listed “disagree”. Only 6% of survey-takers stated they “strongly agree” with this statement, while 17% said they “agree”.
4. **If needed, which services are you willing to cut (or not increase) in order to pay for homelessness?** Survey-takers were asked to provide a ranking from least willing to most willing in terms of suggested cuts to services. Of these responses, 45% gave the highest priority to “no cuts should be made”. Twenty-nine percent of respondents stated they were least willing to cut public safety. Recreation center hours and recreation center programs were the lowest of the first priority with only a 4% combined total.
5. **I believe the “Housing First” approach should continue to be the adopted practice.** The combined positive response to this question totaled 48%, with 34% listing “agree” and 14% listing “strongly agree”. The negative category of responses to this question was a combined total of 23%. It is important to note that a definition of “Housing First” was provided within the question.
6. **The recent allocation of \$6.5 million to provide temporary tent-style shelters for homeless individuals is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.** The total positive responses to this question outweighed the total negative 39% to 38%. Though there is only a difference of one percentage point between the positive and negative categories, 22% of survey respondents claimed “undecided” for this question.
7. **Homeless individuals should be given an opportunity to work on public projects in exchange for housing and services.** The statement was the most agreed upon with 88% of survey respondents selecting a positive response.

DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES*

Q1: The majority of homeless individuals have made poor decisions in their past that have caused them to be homeless.

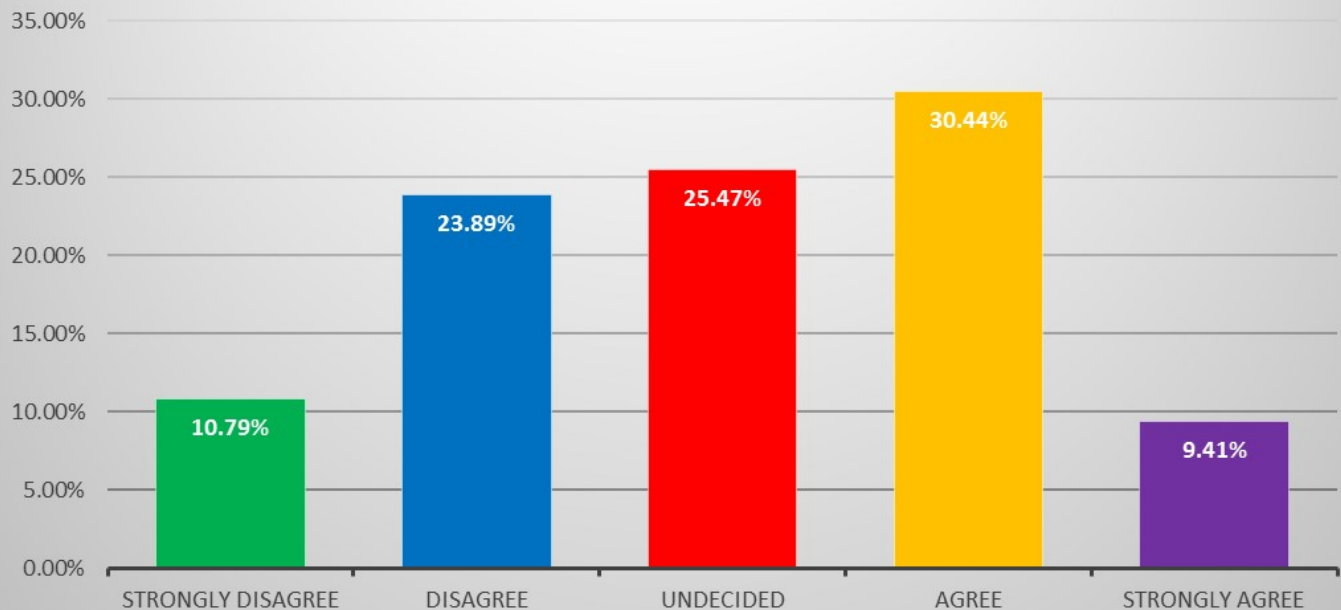


Q2: The majority of homeless individuals have fallen on hard times beyond their control.

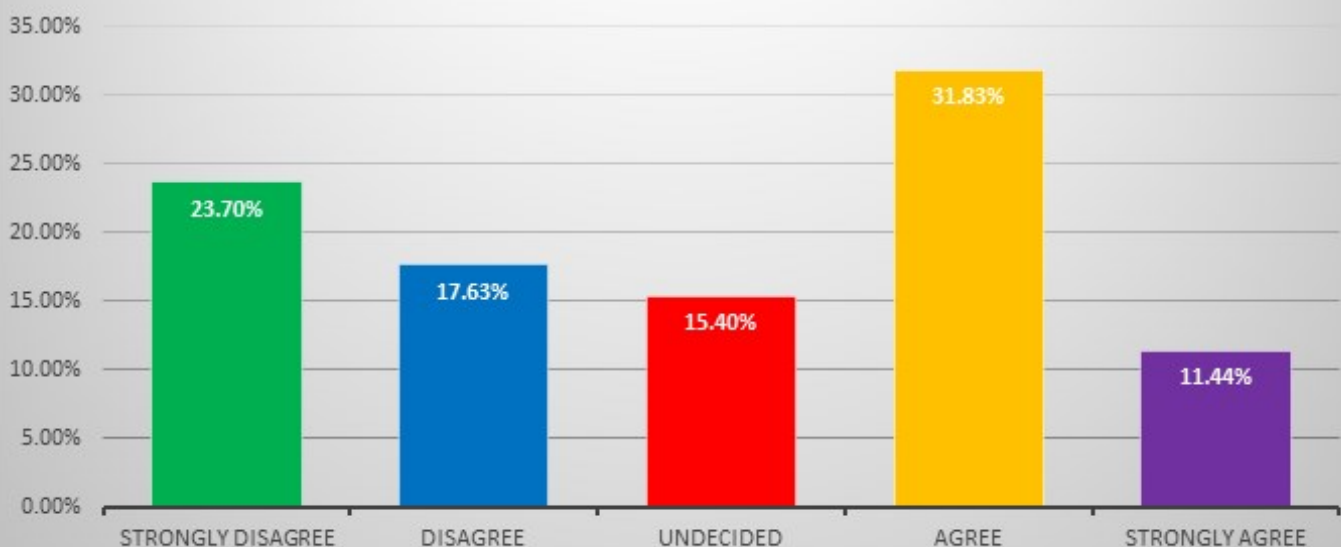


DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q3: The majority of homeless individuals want to find financial stability and be productive members of society.

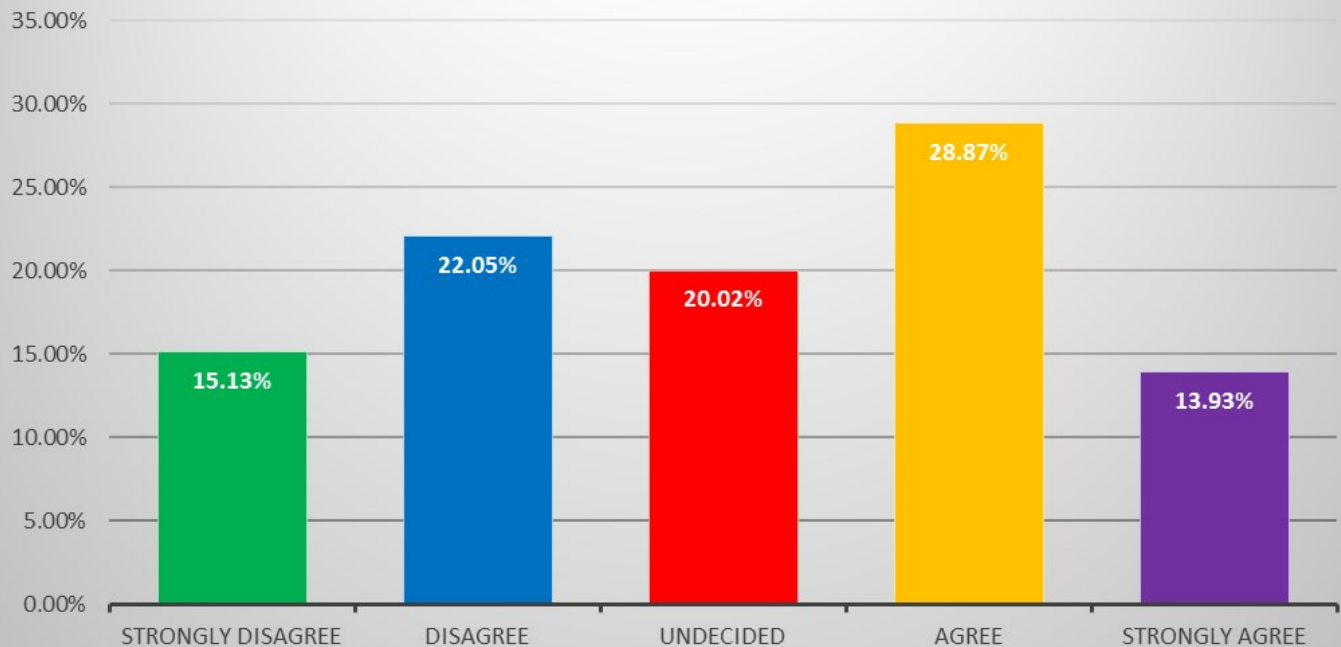


Q4: Homelessness is a public crisis and it is up to the taxpayers to subsidize homeless services with public dollars.

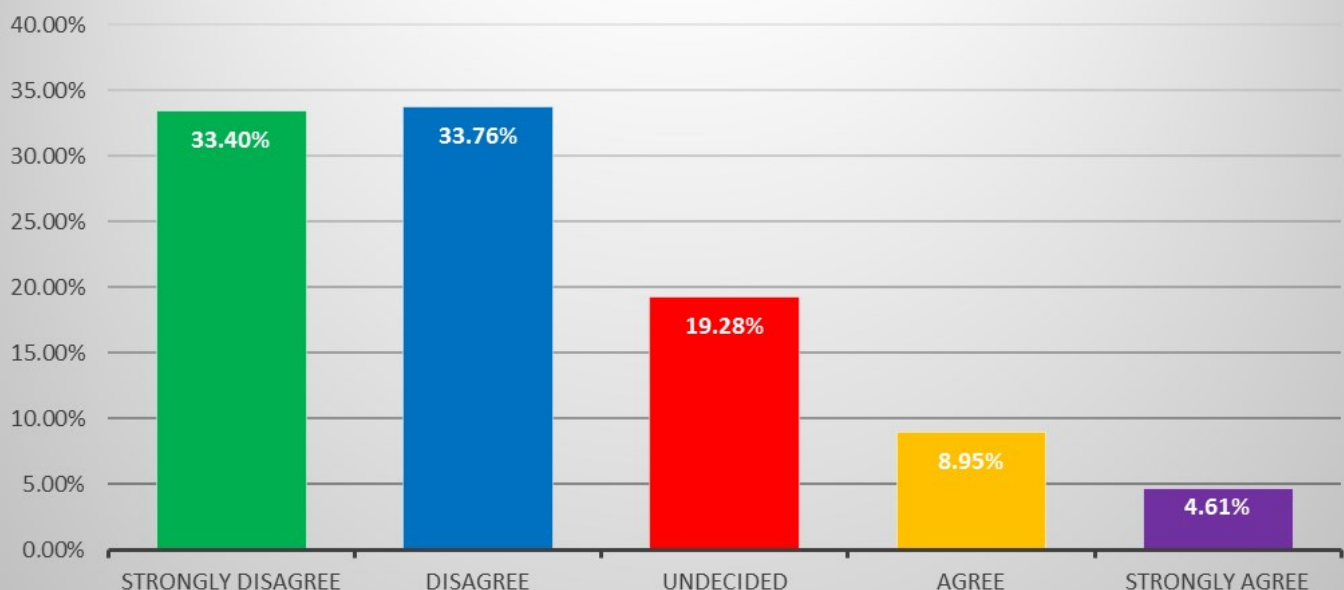


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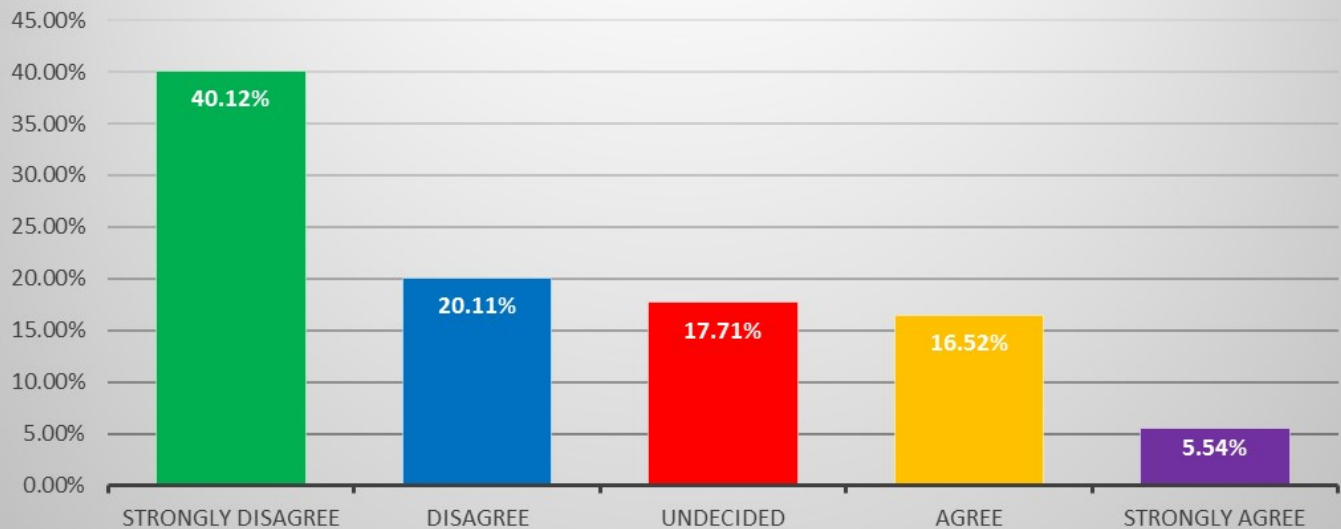


Q6: The City of San Diego is doing enough to address homelessness.

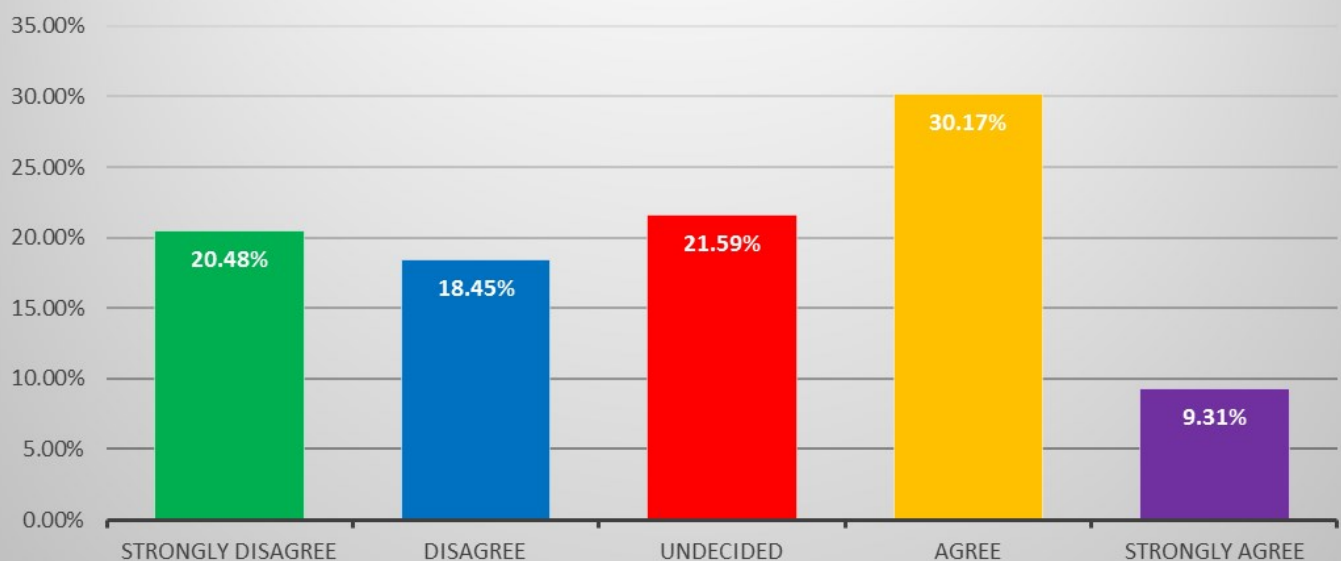


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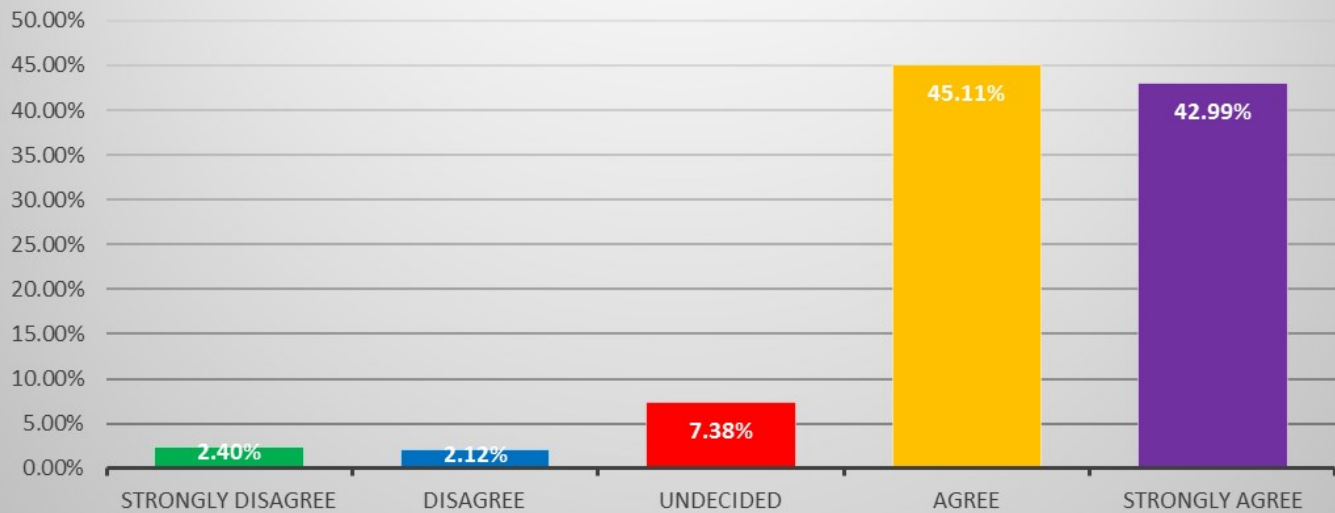


Q8: The recent allocation of \$6.5 million to provide temporary tent-style shelters for homeless individuals is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.

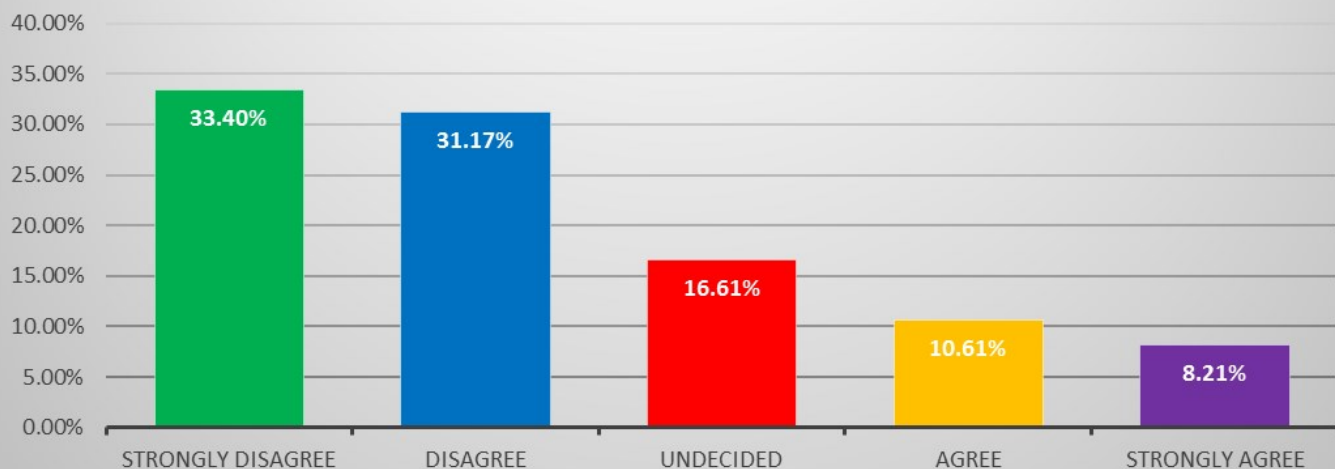


DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q9: Homeless individuals should be given an opportunity to work on public projects in exchange for housing and services.

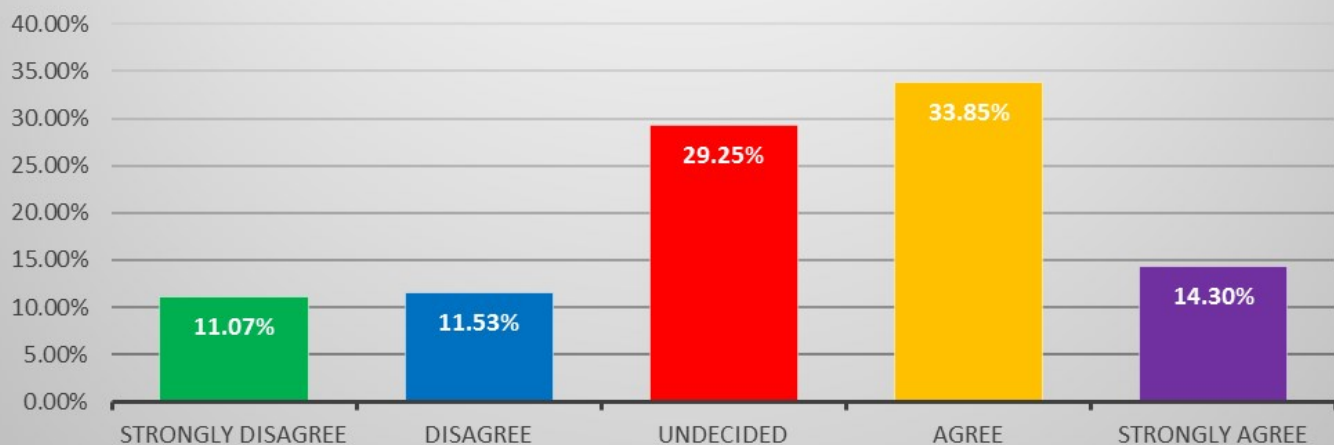


Q10: Solving homelessness should not be a government responsibility, and homeless individuals should only receive services through charitable organizations.

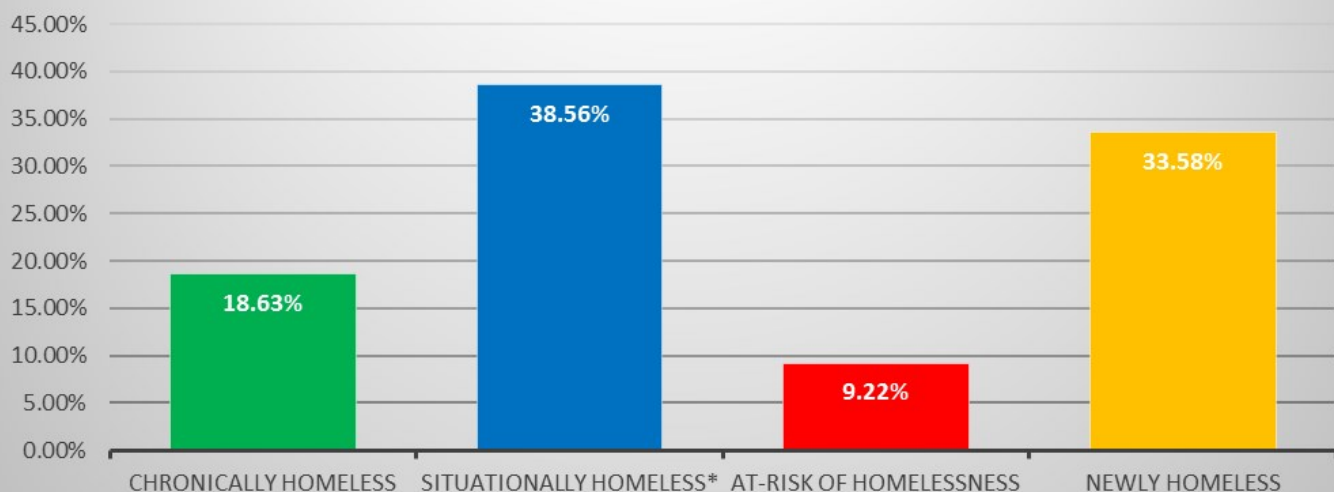


DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q11: The “Housing First” model of addressing homelessness aims to provide homeless individuals with housing as quickly as possible, with supportive services as needed. I believe the “Housing First” approach should continue to be the adopted practice.



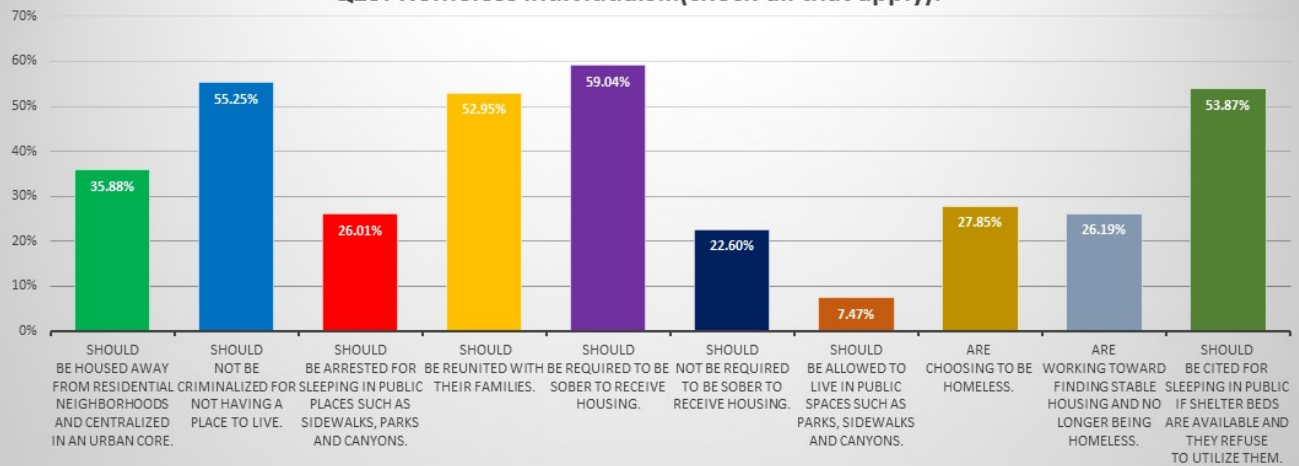
Q12: As a City, we should focus our resources on which of the following populations (pick one):



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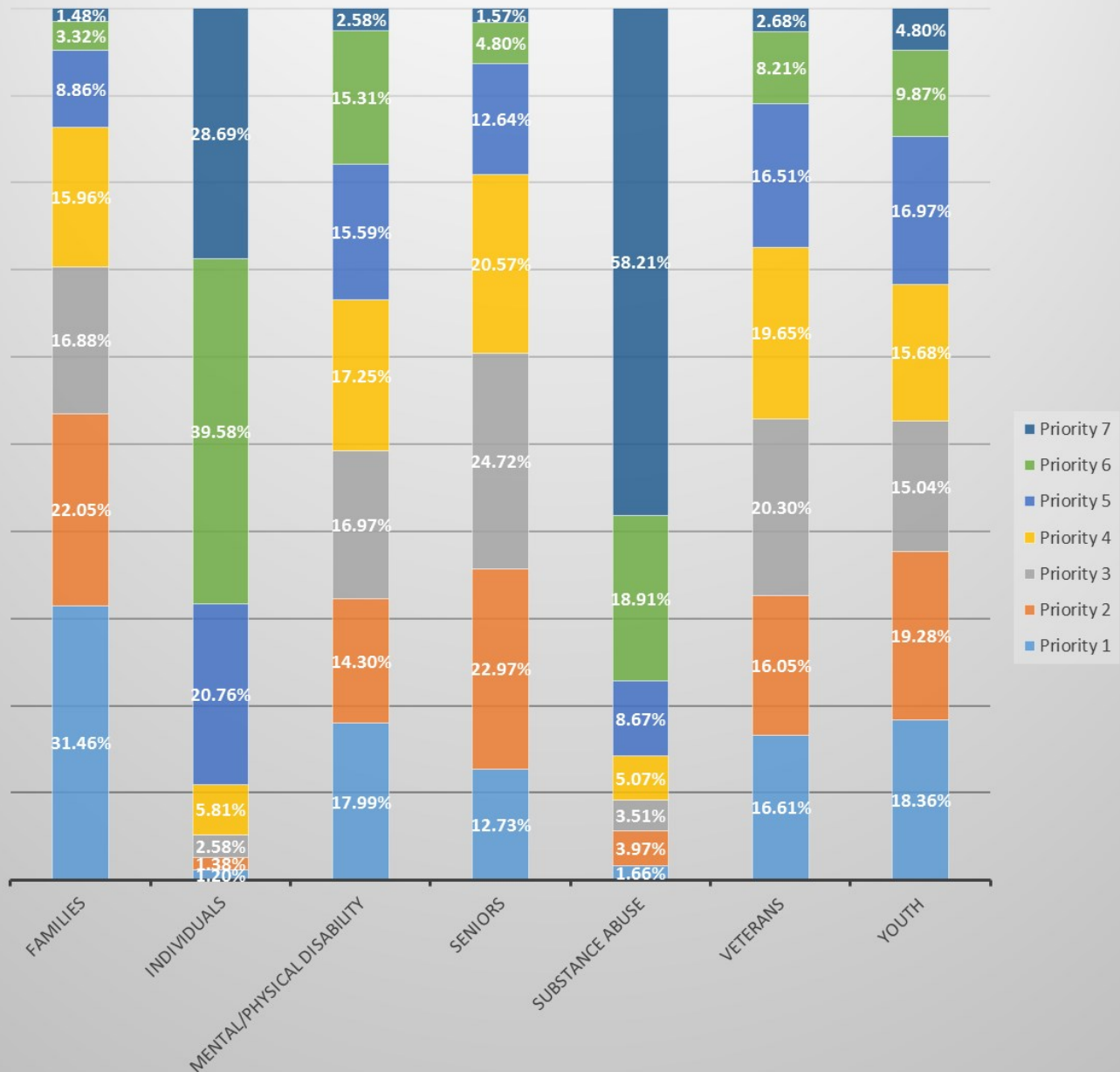
DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q13: Homeless individuals...(check all that apply):



DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q14: As a City, we should focus our resources on helping homeless...(please rank the following in order of importance with 1 being most important, and 7 being least important)*:

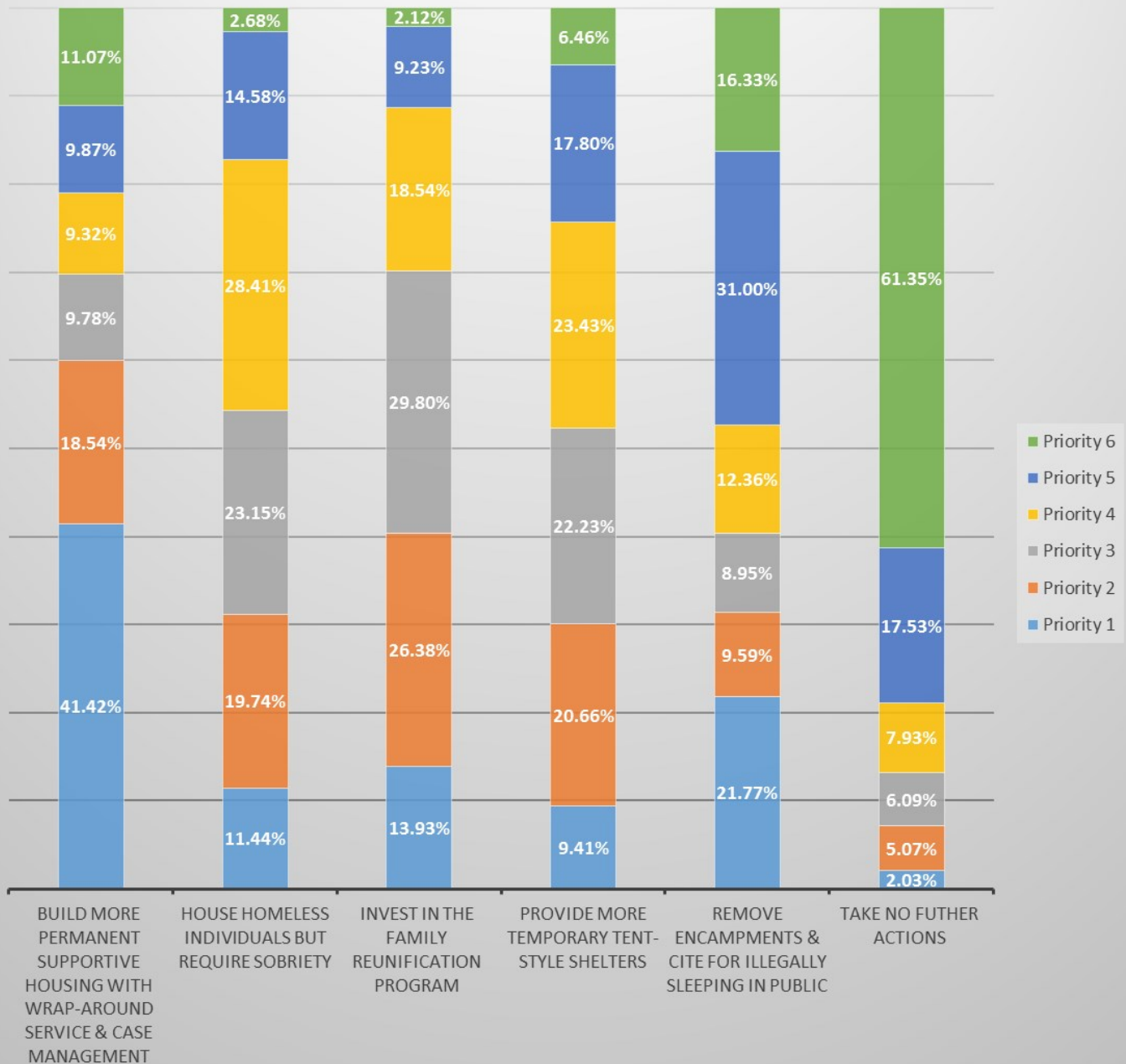


**For Q14, Q15, and Q18, each column on the X Axis contains all the ranking options for that particular column.*

Note: Nearly one-third of respondents ranked "Families" as the top priority, while nearly 60% ranked "Substance Abuse" as the lowest priority.

DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

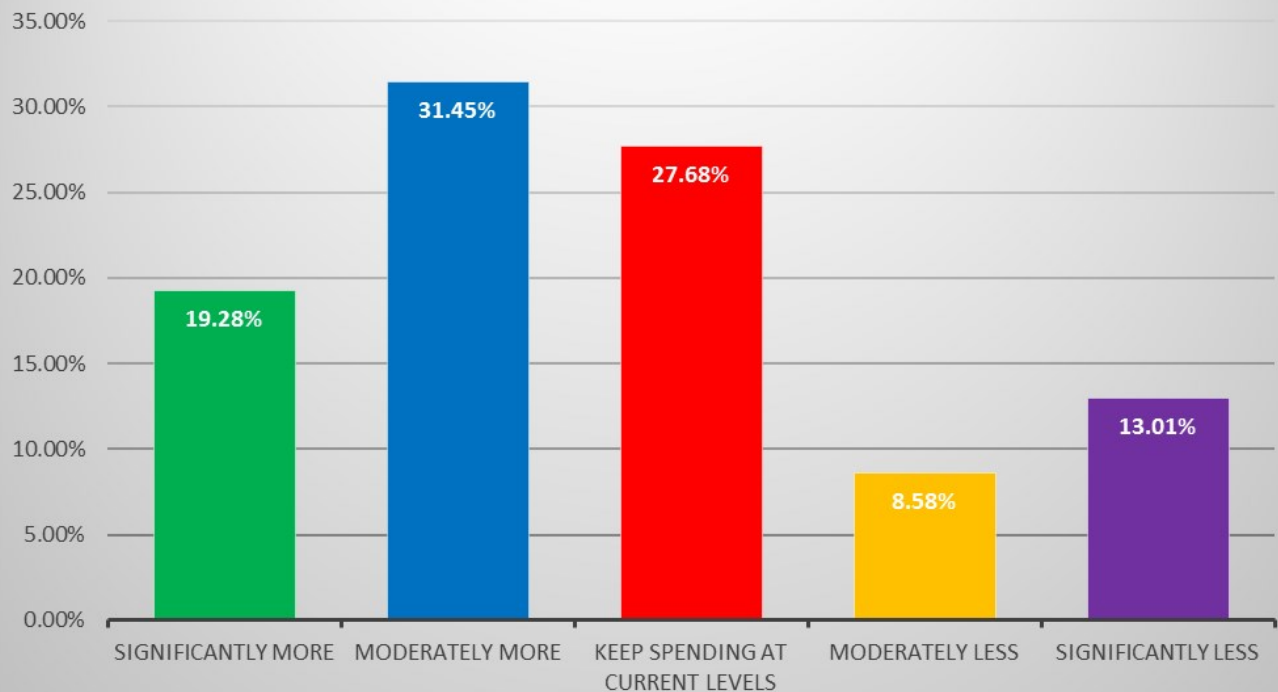
Q15: The City should pursue the following homelessness solutions...(please rank in order of importance with 1 being highest priority, and 6 being lowest priority):



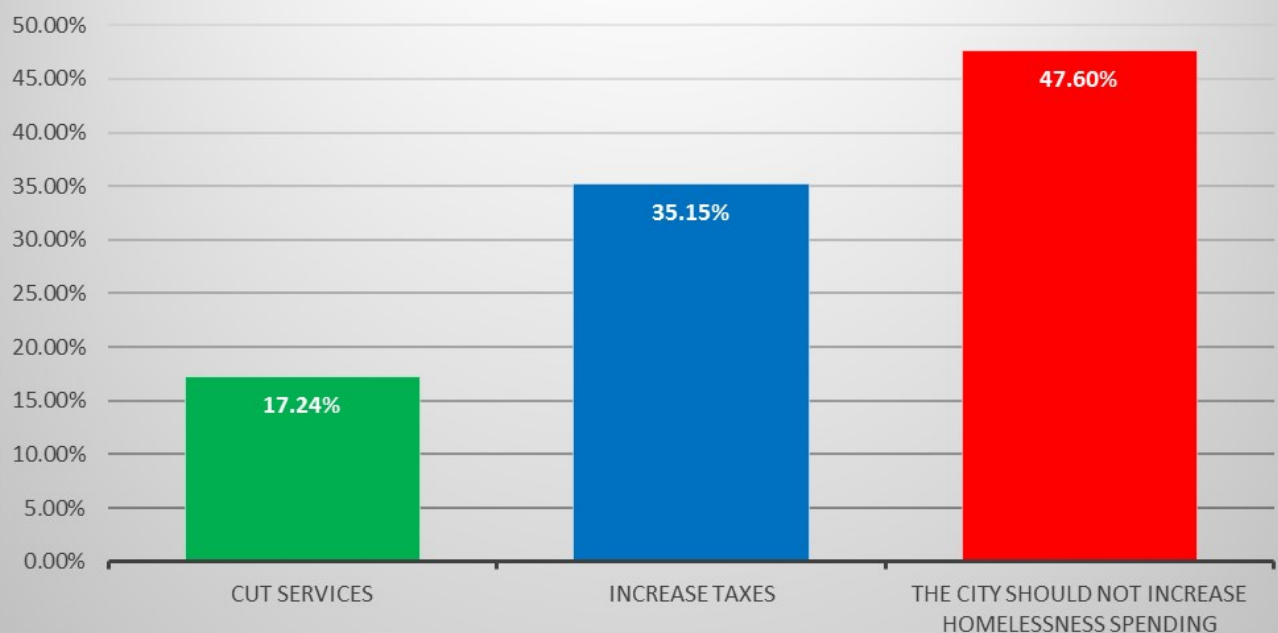
Note: Over 40% of respondents ranked "Permanent Supportive Housing" as the top priority, while over 60% gave the lowest priority to "Take No Further Actions".

DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q16: With regard to funding homelessness solutions, the City should spend:

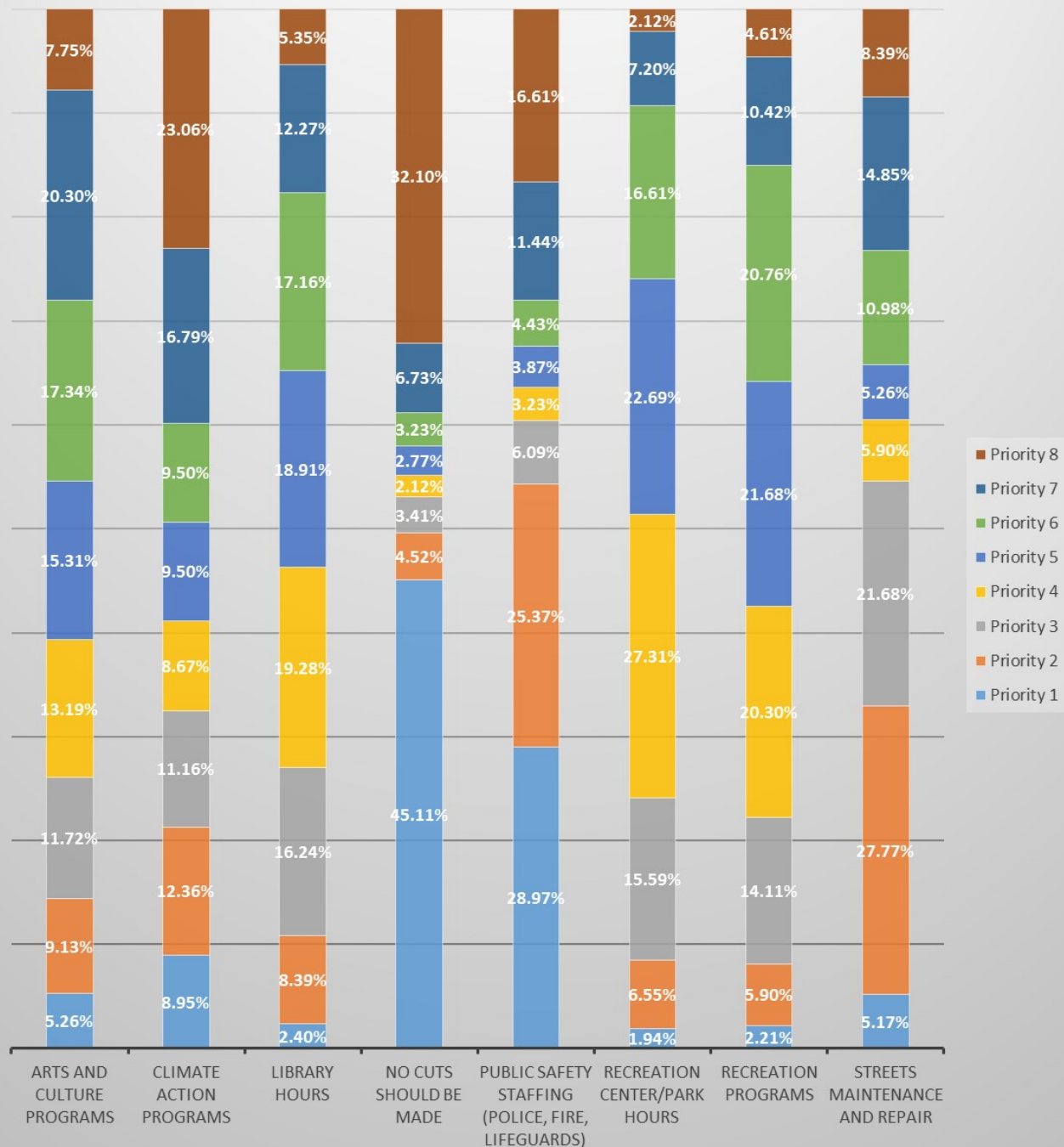


Q17: How do you think the City should pay for homelessness? (Please select one):



DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

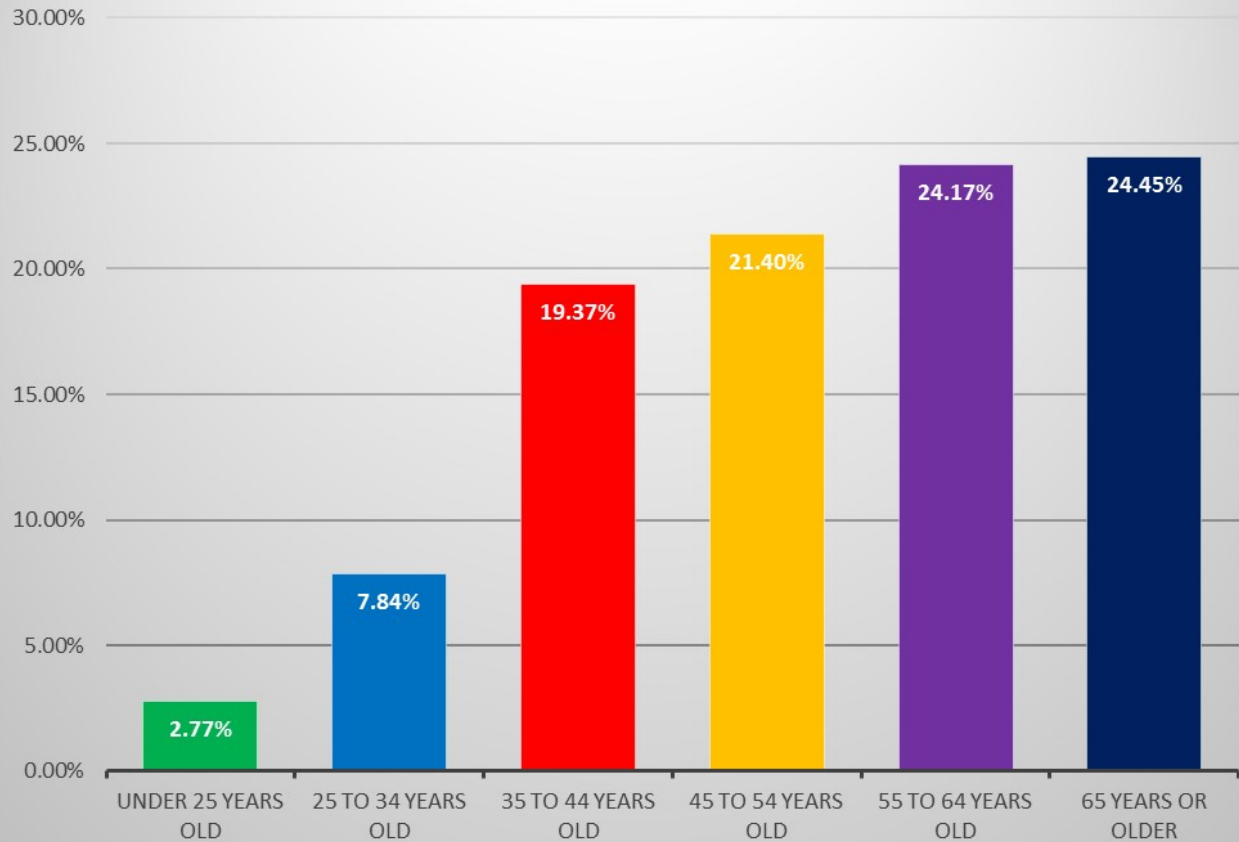
Q18: If needed, which services are you willing to cut (or not increase) in order to pay for homelessness? (Please rank the following with 1 being LEAST willing to cut, and 8 being MOST to cut):



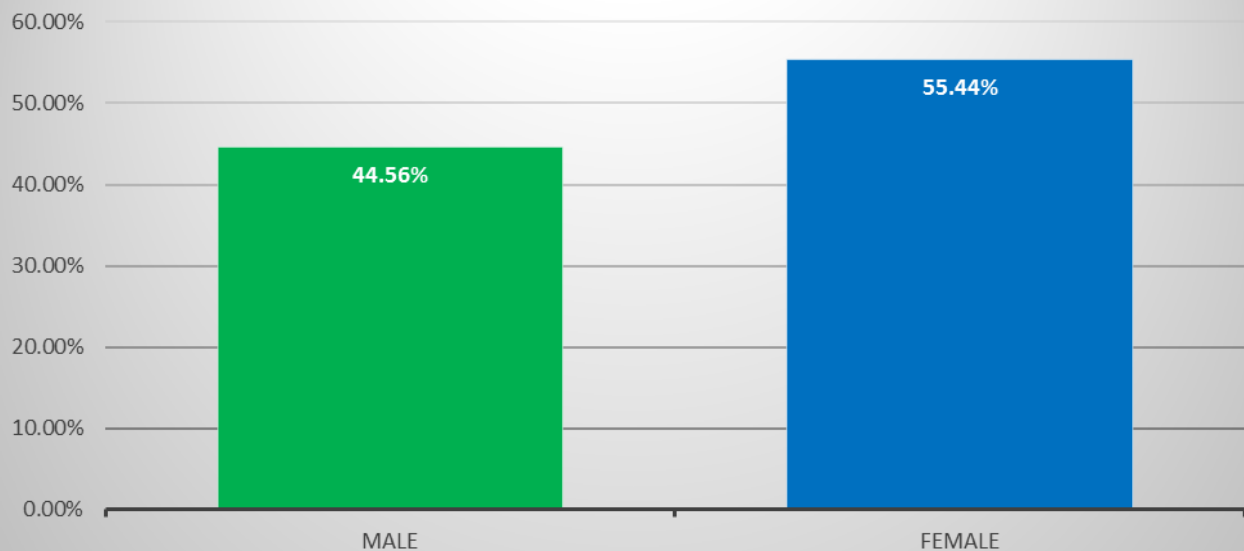
Note: Nearly 54% of respondents gave "Public Safety" Priority 1 and 2 as the service they are least willing to cut, while approximately 4% gave Priority 1 to Recreation Centers and Programs.

DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q19: Please select your age:

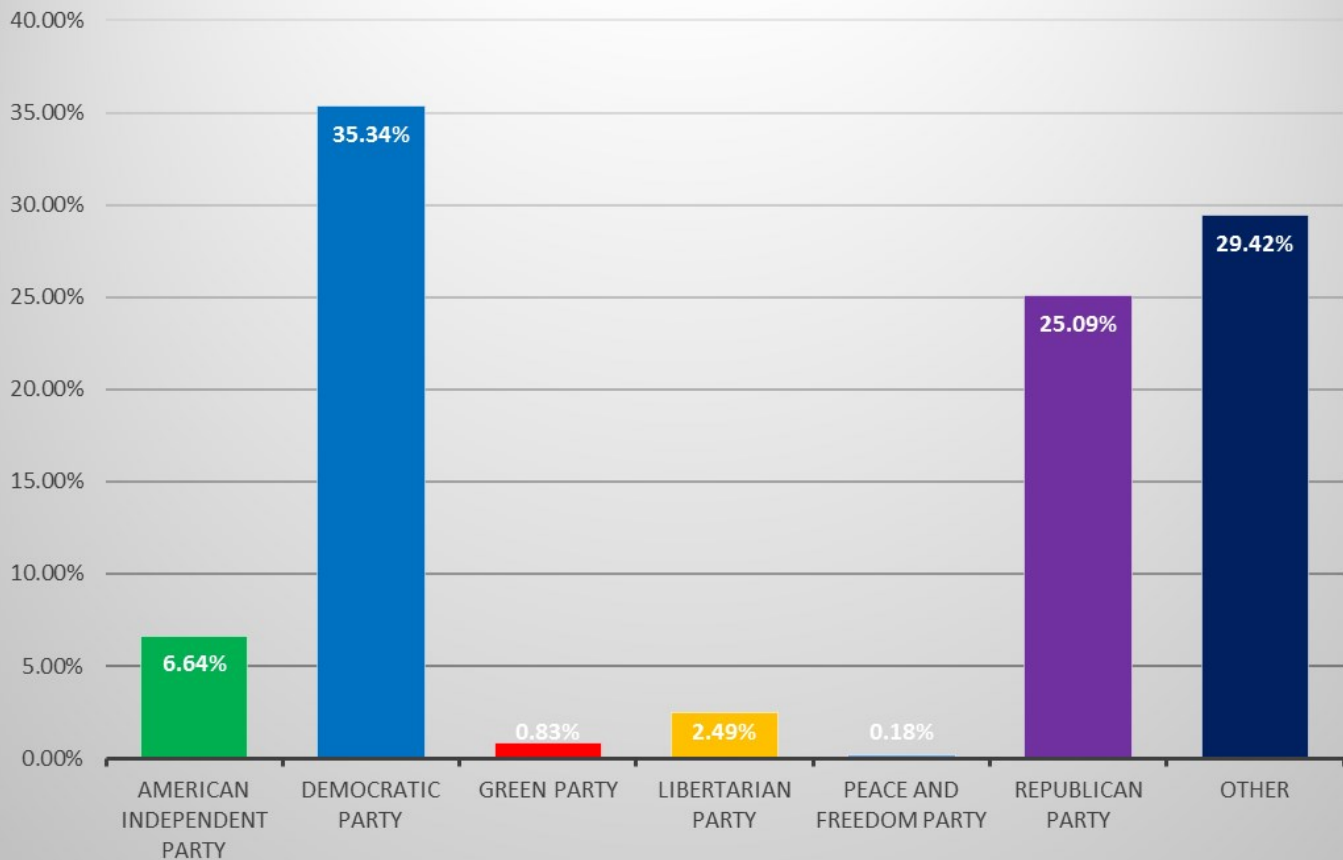


Q20: Please select your gender:



DISTRICT 6 SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Q21: Please select your political party affiliation:



CONCLUSION

I sincerely thank all the individuals who took the time to complete this survey and provide me with their honest feedback on the critical issue of homelessness.

The results of this survey clearly demonstrate residents believe the following: San Diego is experiencing a homelessness crisis, this issue needs to be a **top priority** for City leaders, and more needs to be done. Though I am pleased with the recent actions the City has taken, I am in strong agreement with these sentiments.

It is undeniable more resources will be required not only from the City, but from all sectors, to generate results. More time, attention, and effort will be required from all of us if we want to see individuals housed, families reunited, and dignity restored.

However, reaching these goals will not come without sacrifice. This upcoming budget year will prove to be difficult as the City prepares to face at least \$64 million in deficits over the next three years. We must respond to this financial challenge by exercising strong fiscal discipline and appropriately prioritizing critical citywide issues, particularly homelessness.

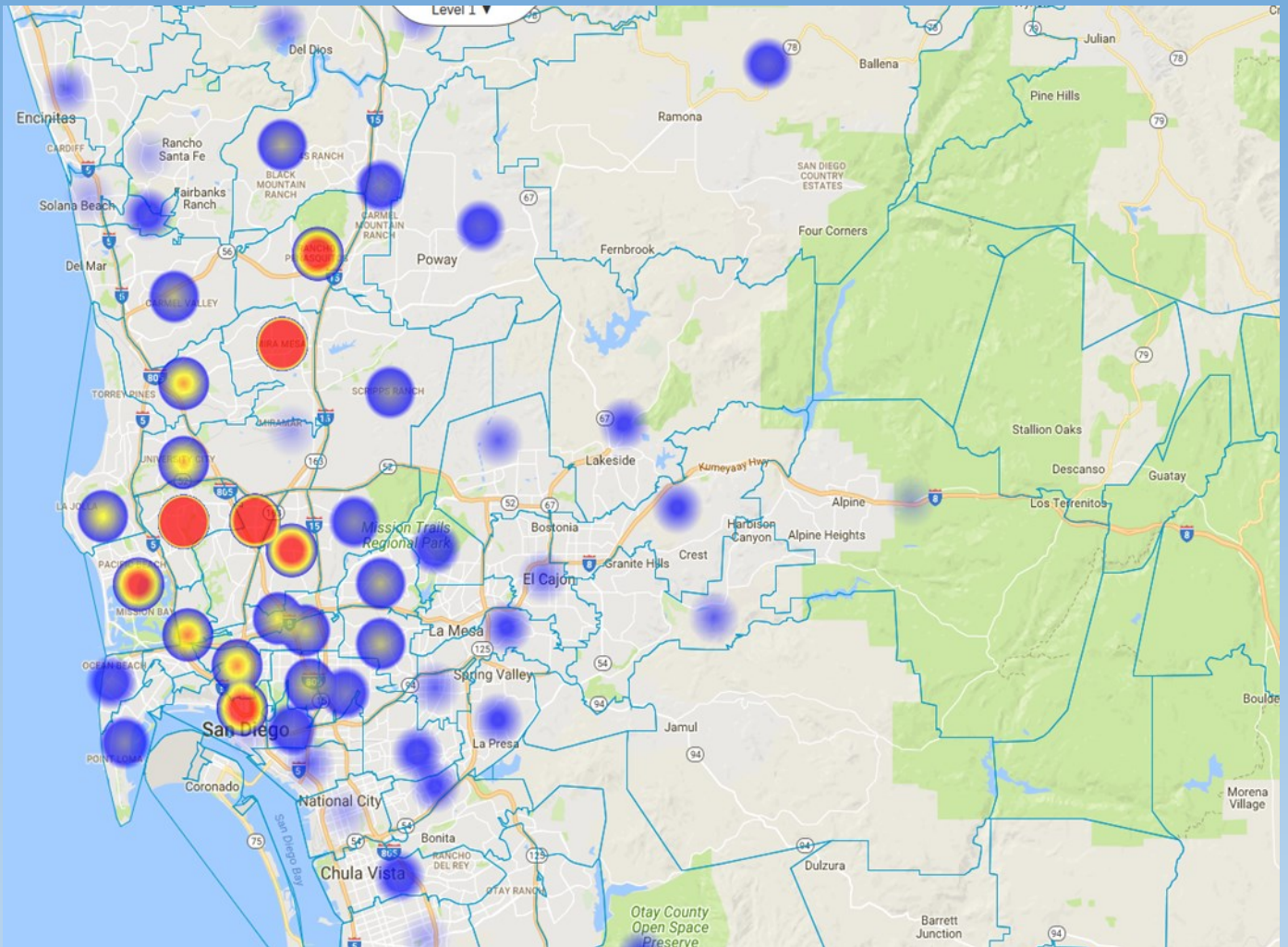
This year, as the development of the next fiscal budget commences, not only will I work closely with the Mayor and my City Council colleagues, but I will strongly advocate that taxpayer dollars be invested toward solutions that will bring a lasting, positive impact for this issue of homelessness.



APPENDIX - CITYWIDE RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Survey Respondent Heat Map

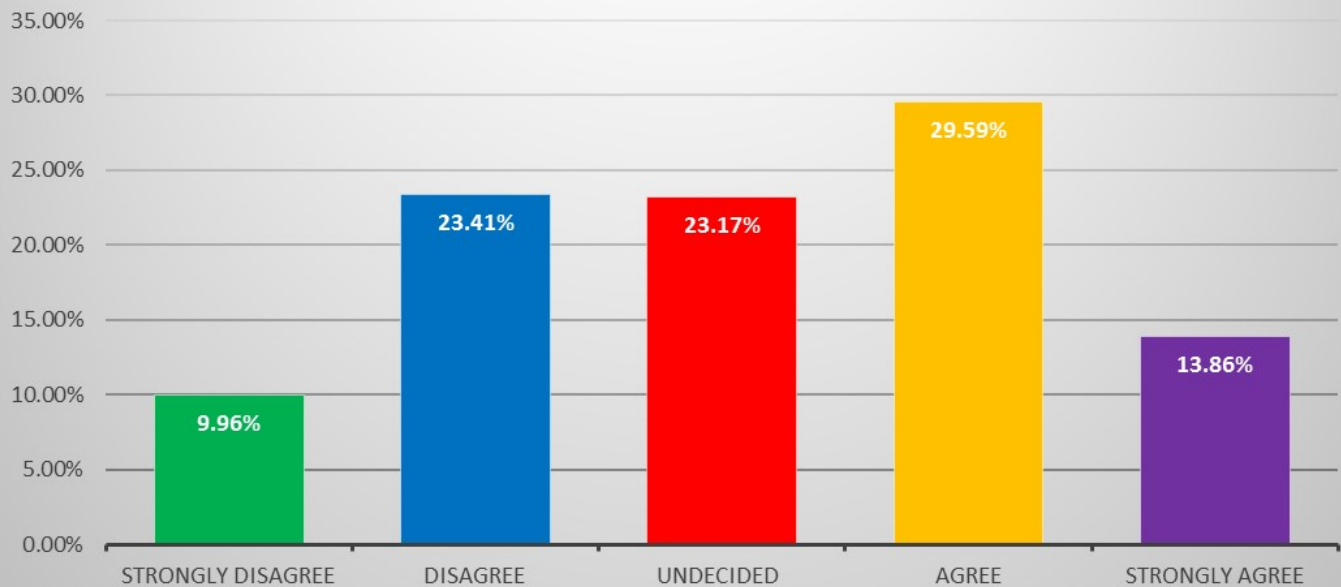
The following heat map of San Diego County demonstrates the geographic concentration of survey respondents by zip code. The pure red plots indicate the highest concentration of survey responses; the faded blue plots showcase the lowest response concentration.



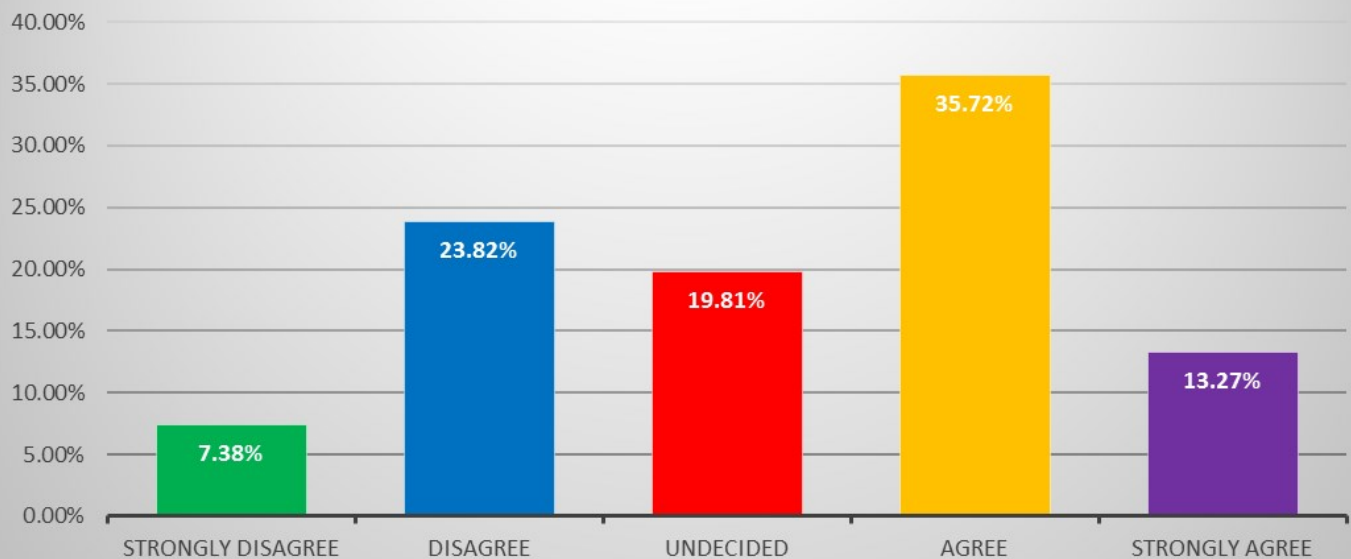
2017 Homelessness in San Diego Survey Heat Map

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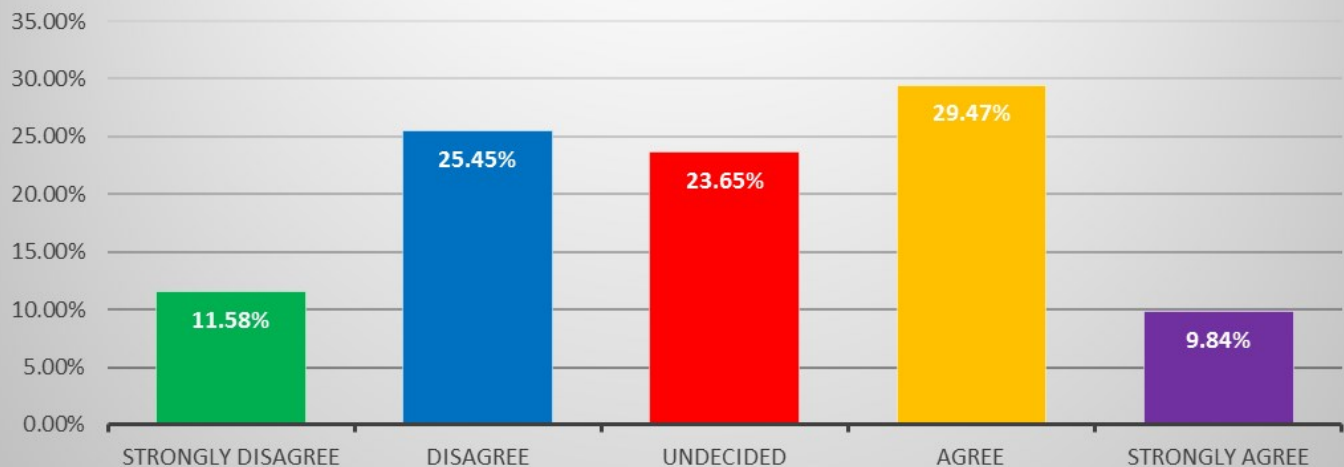


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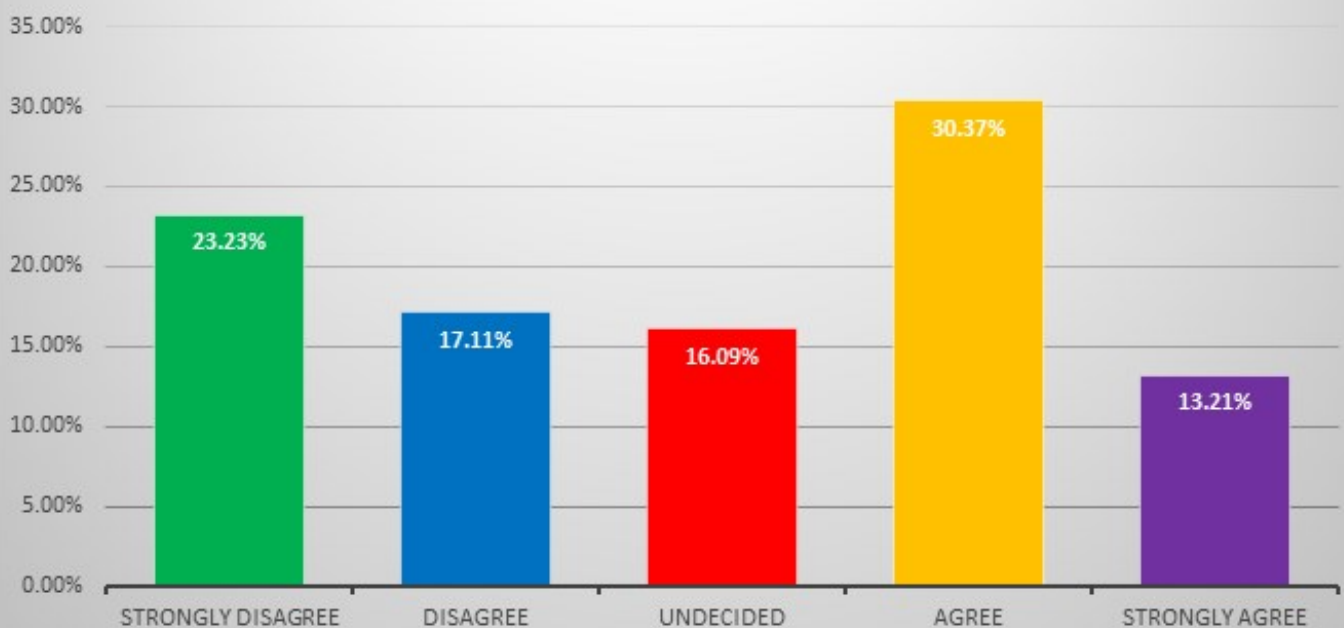


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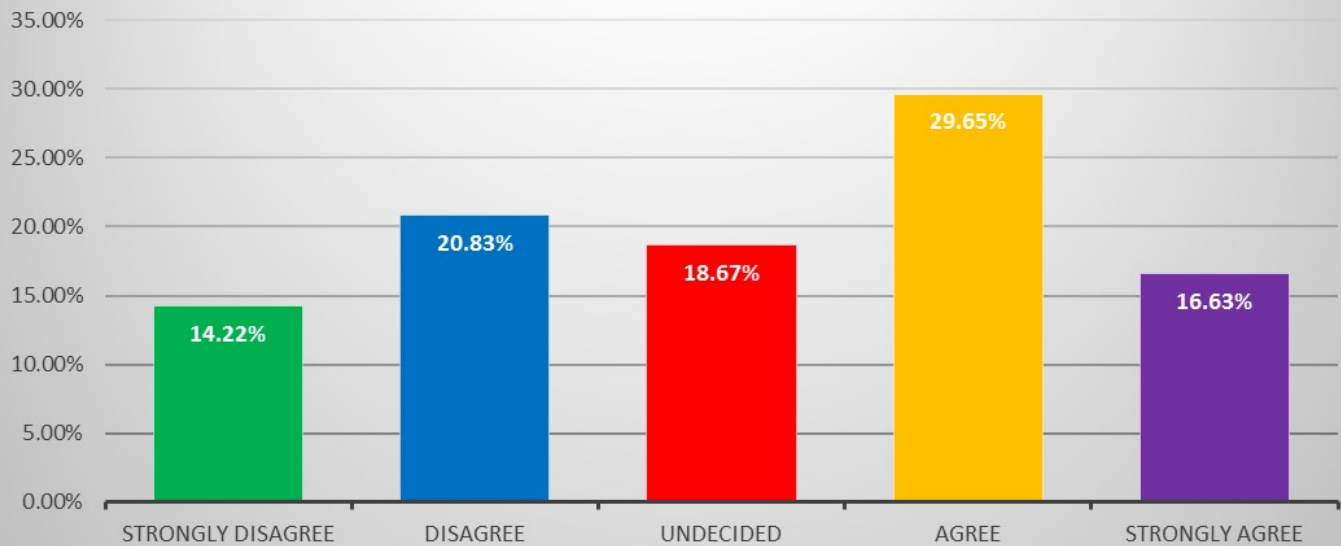


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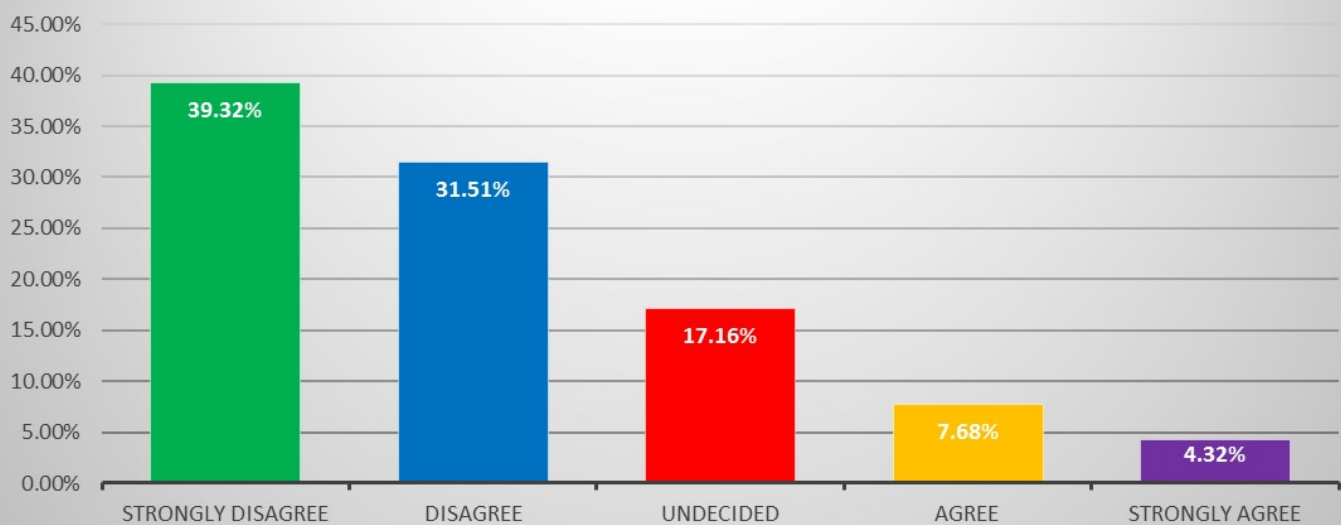


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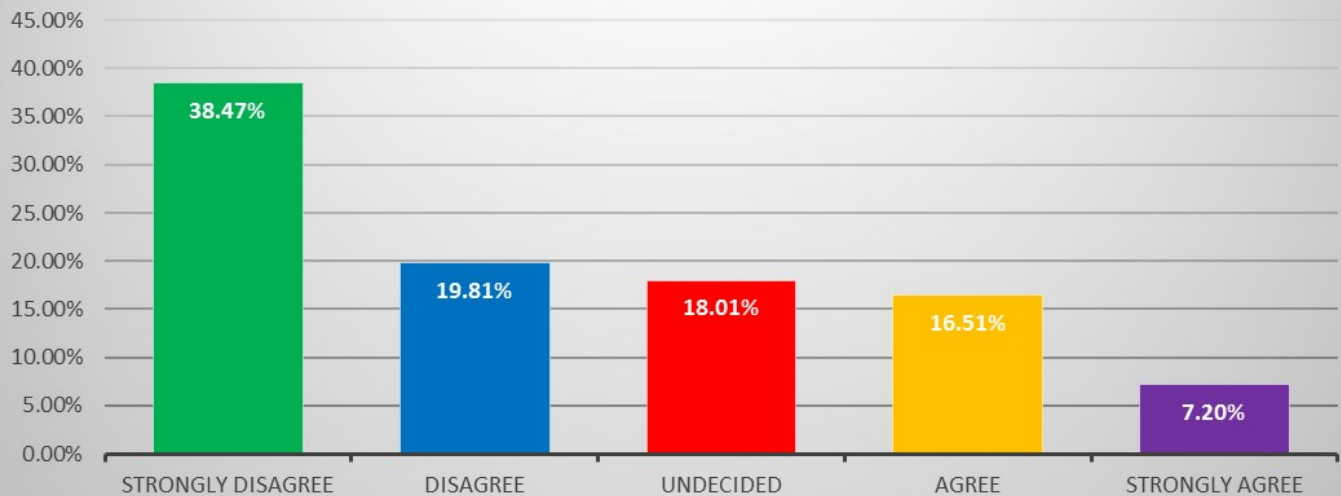


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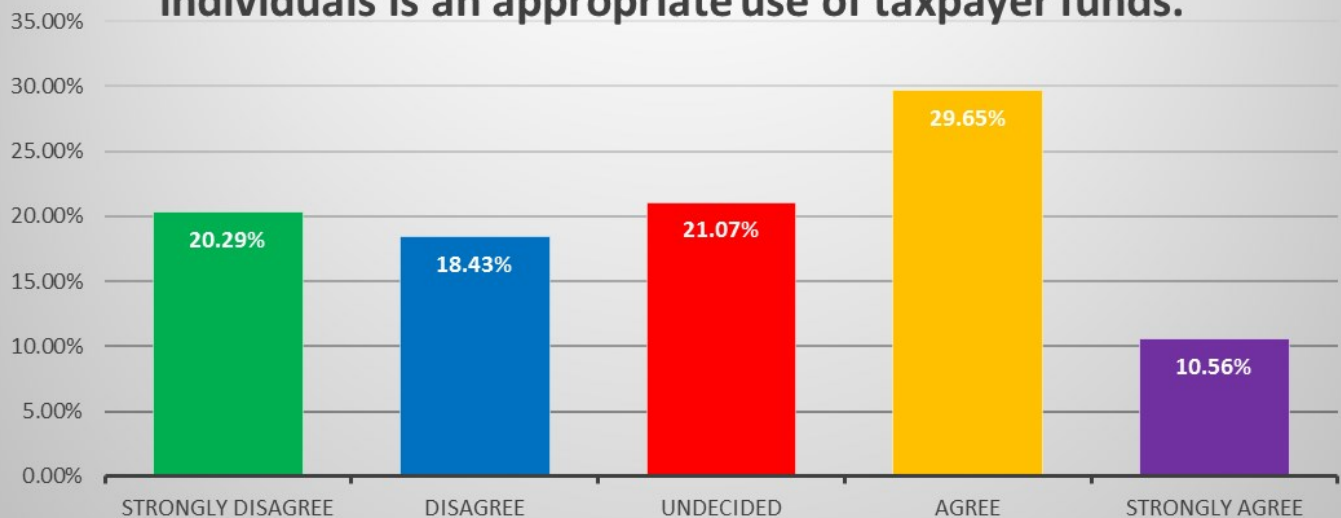


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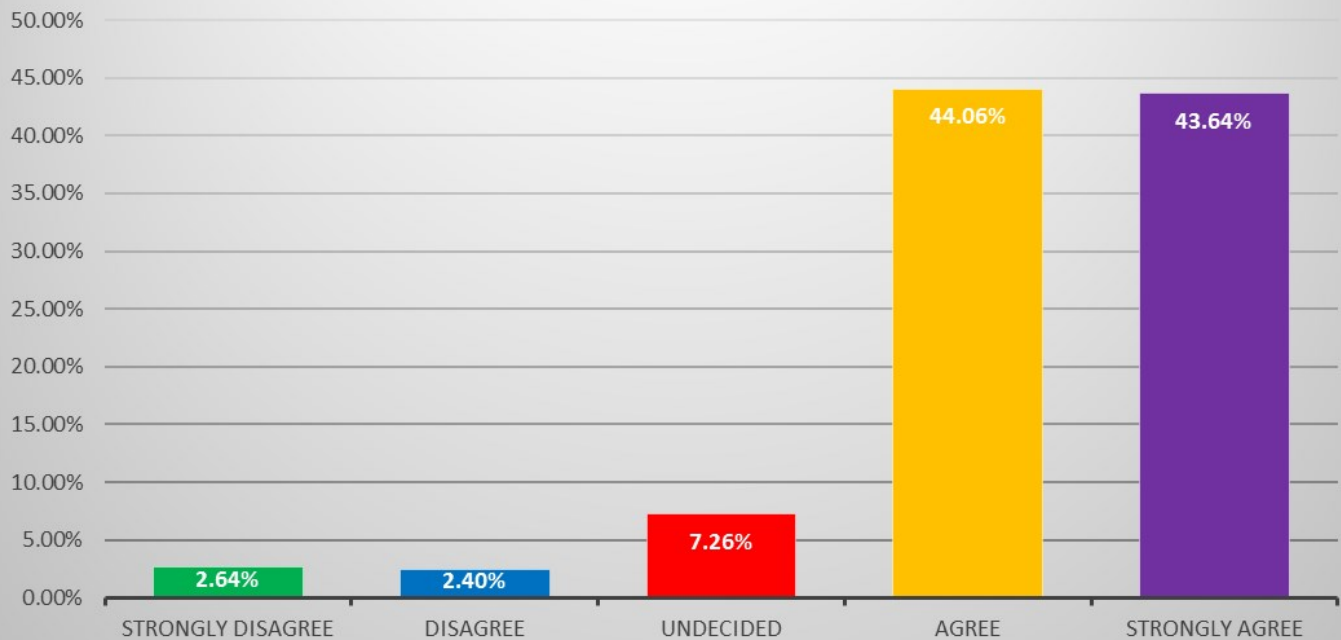


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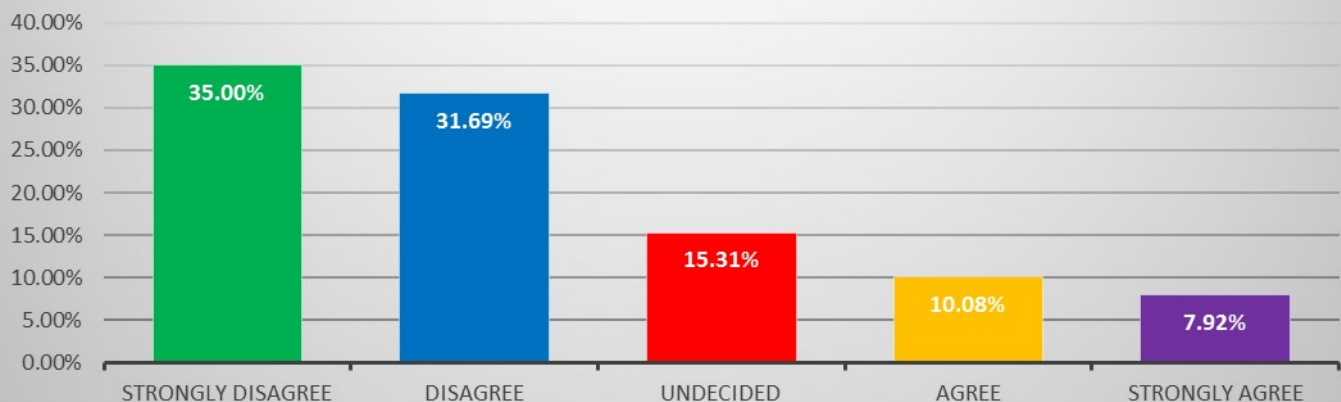


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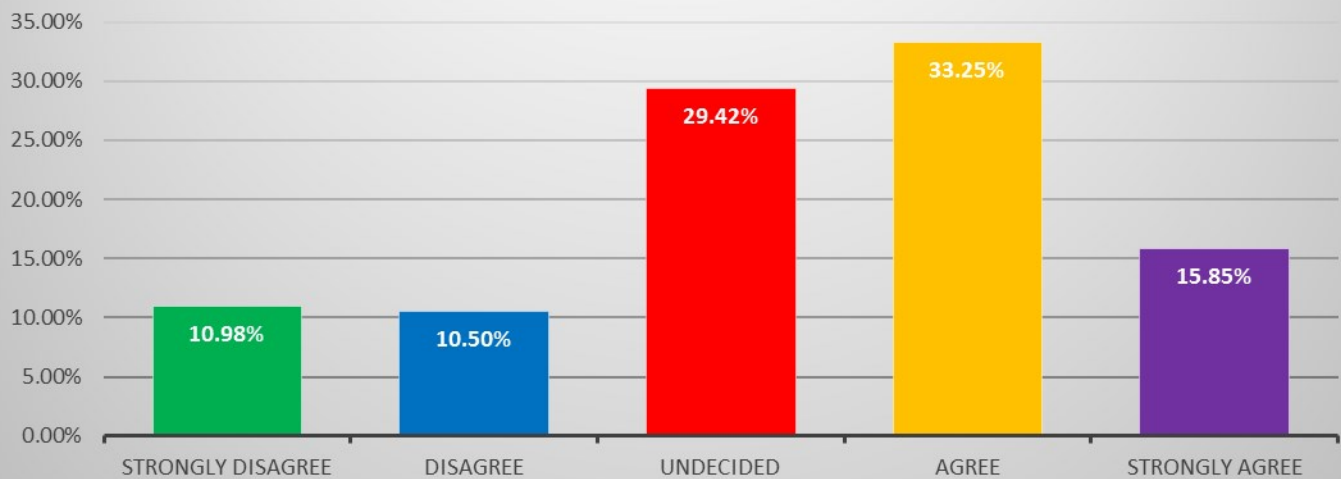


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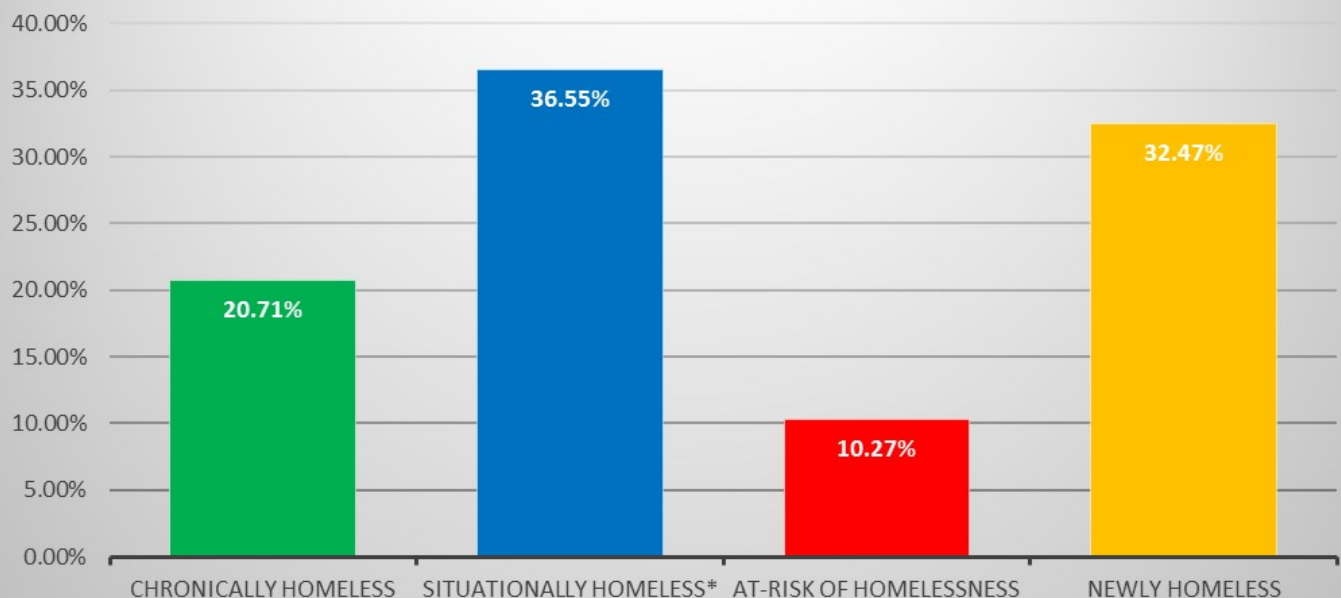


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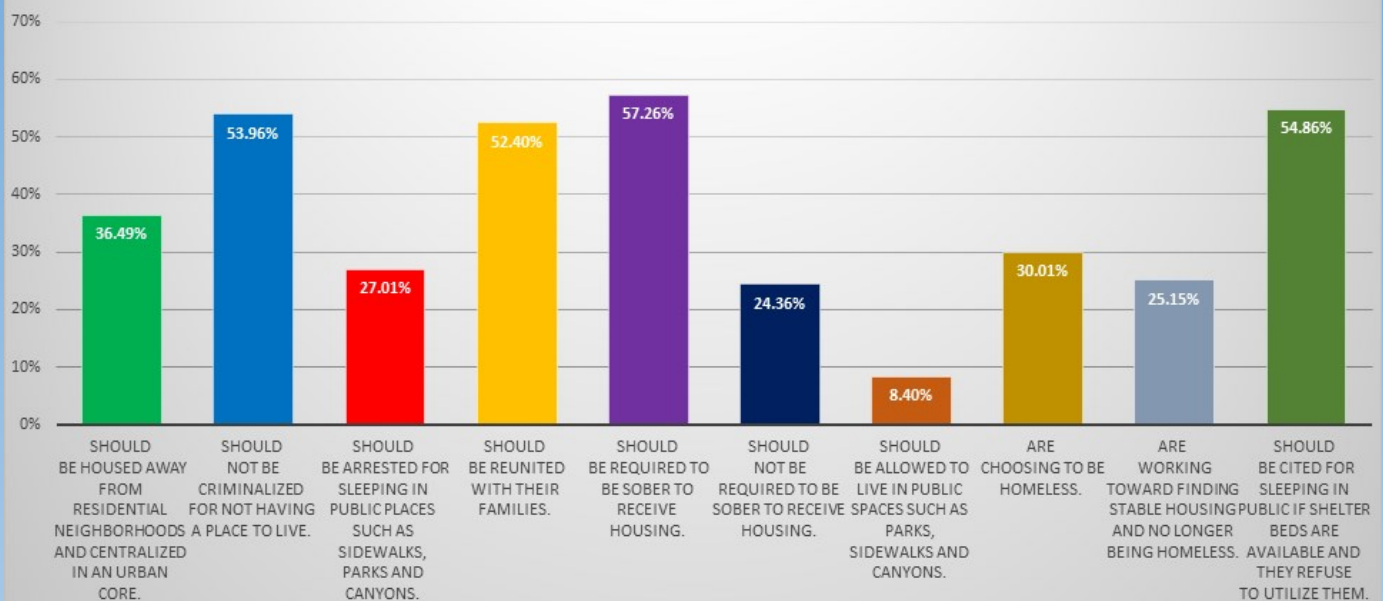
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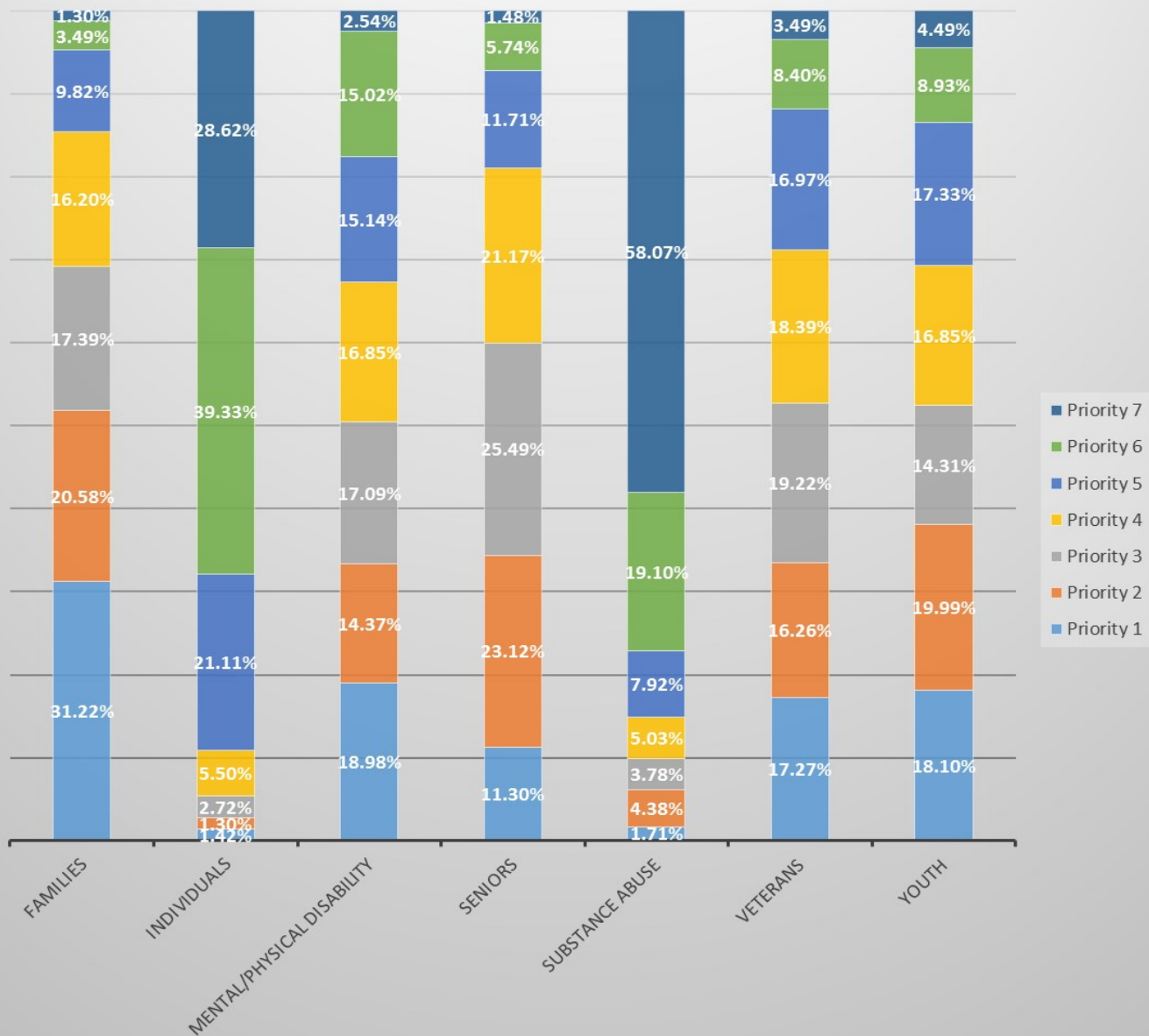
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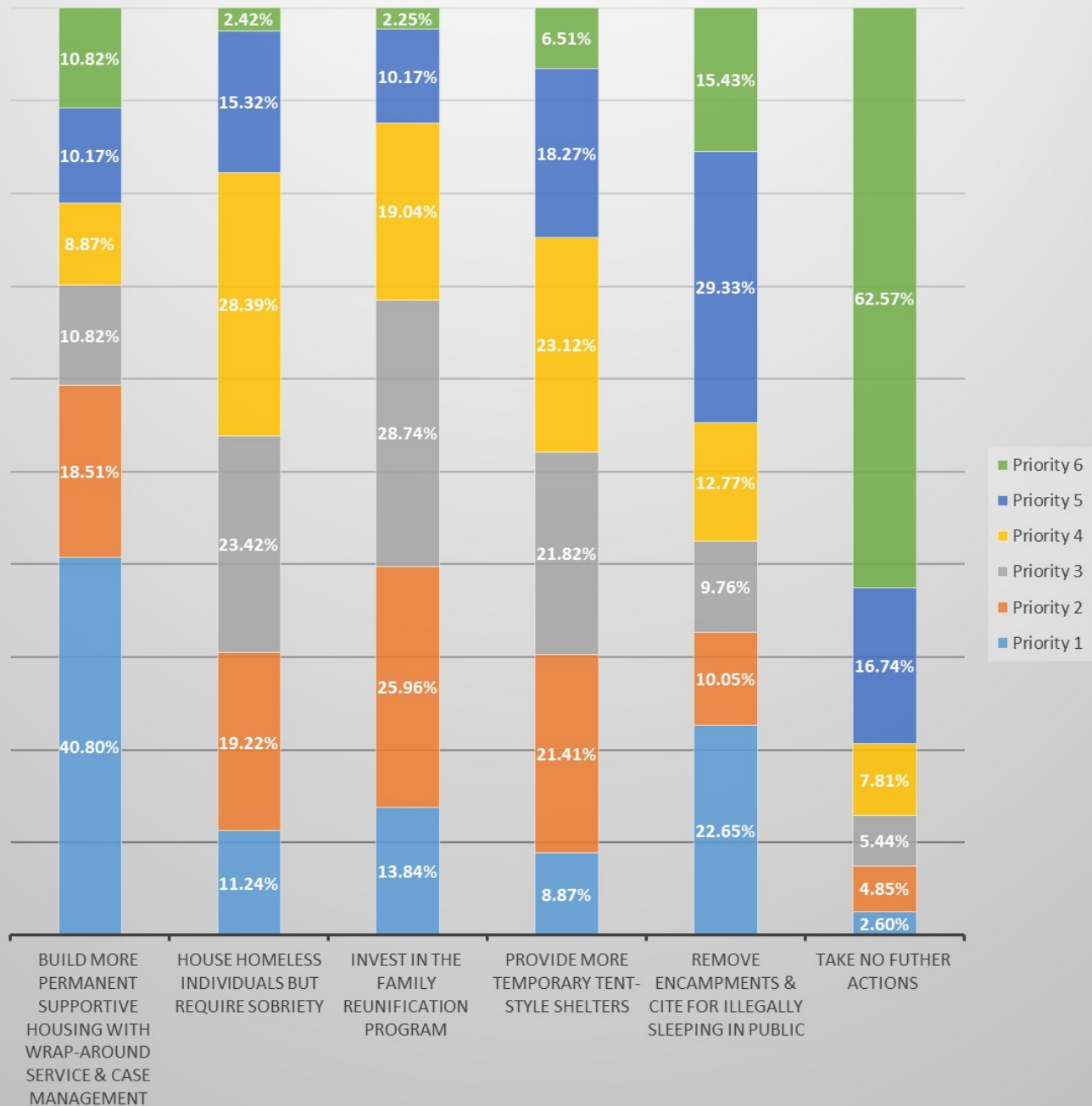


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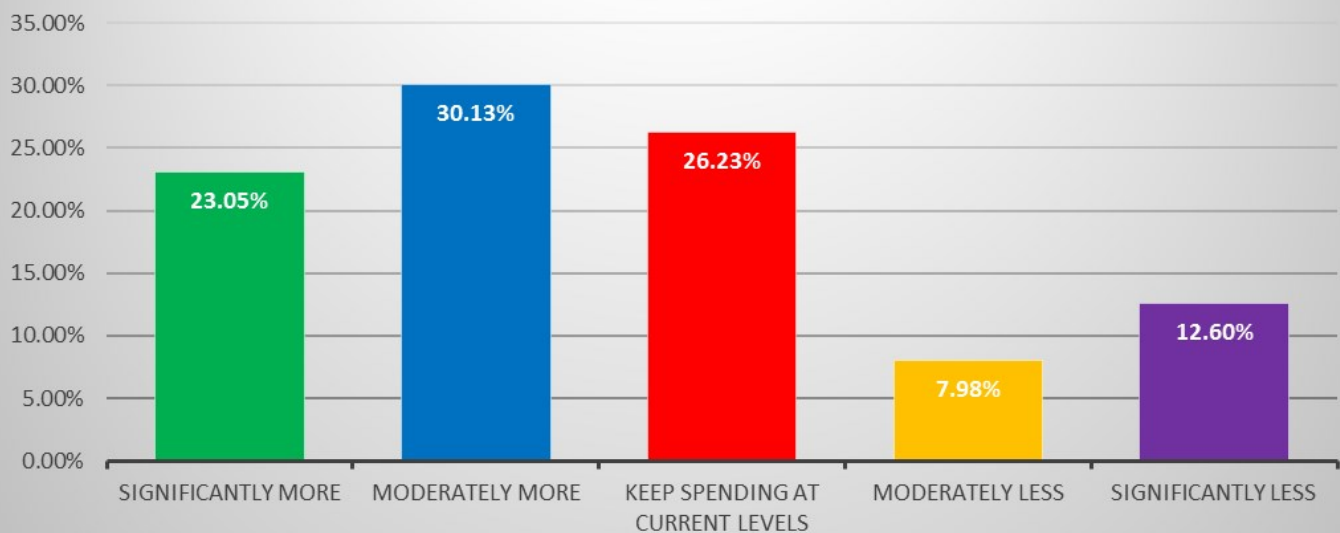
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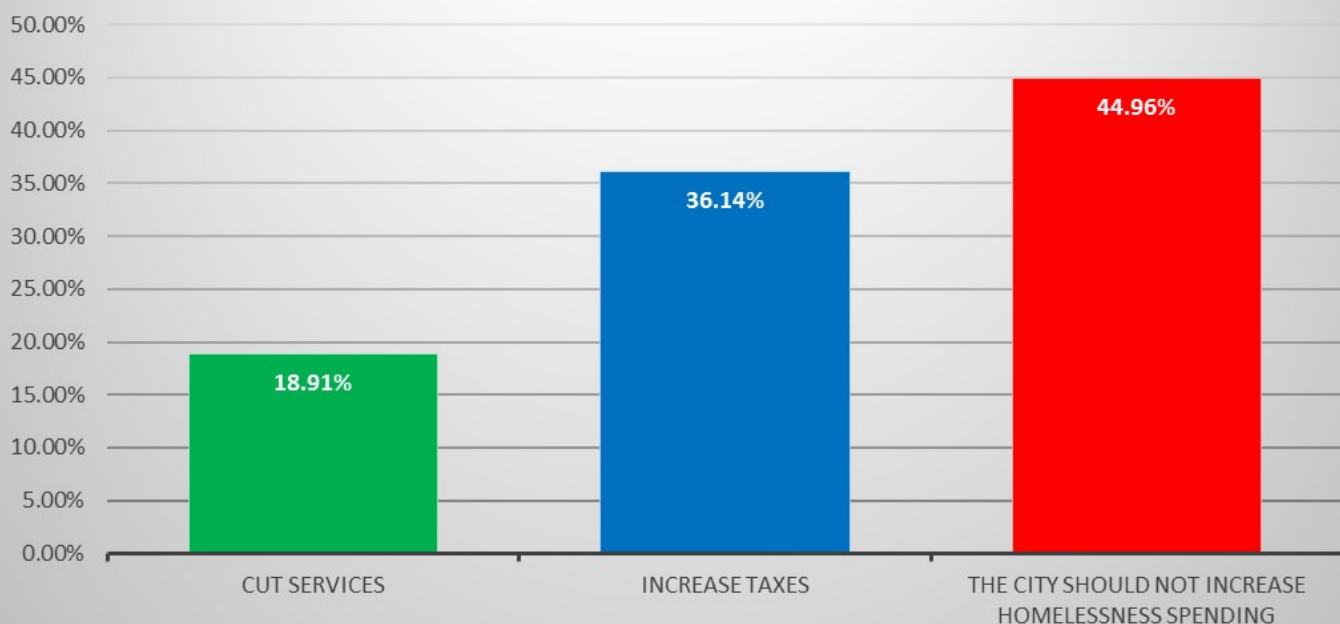
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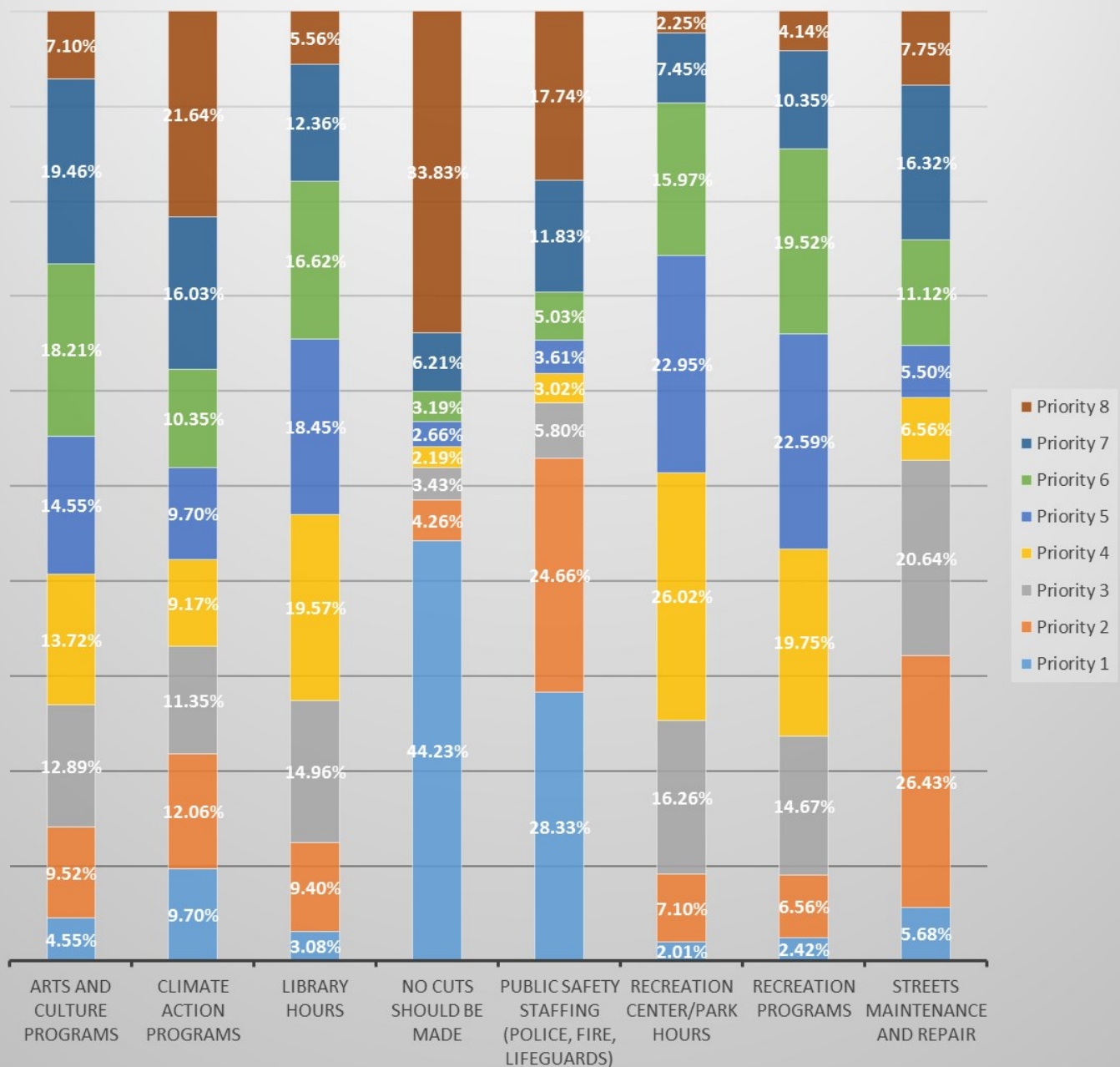


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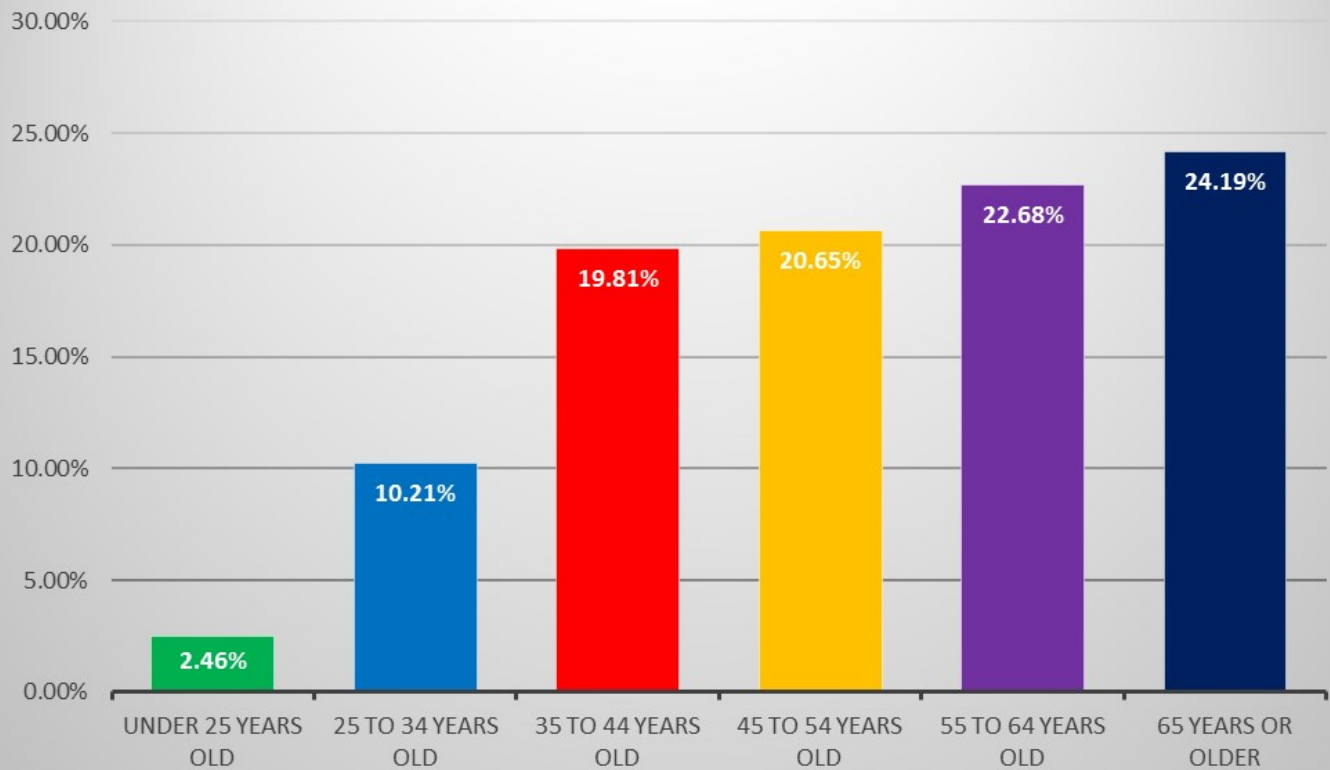
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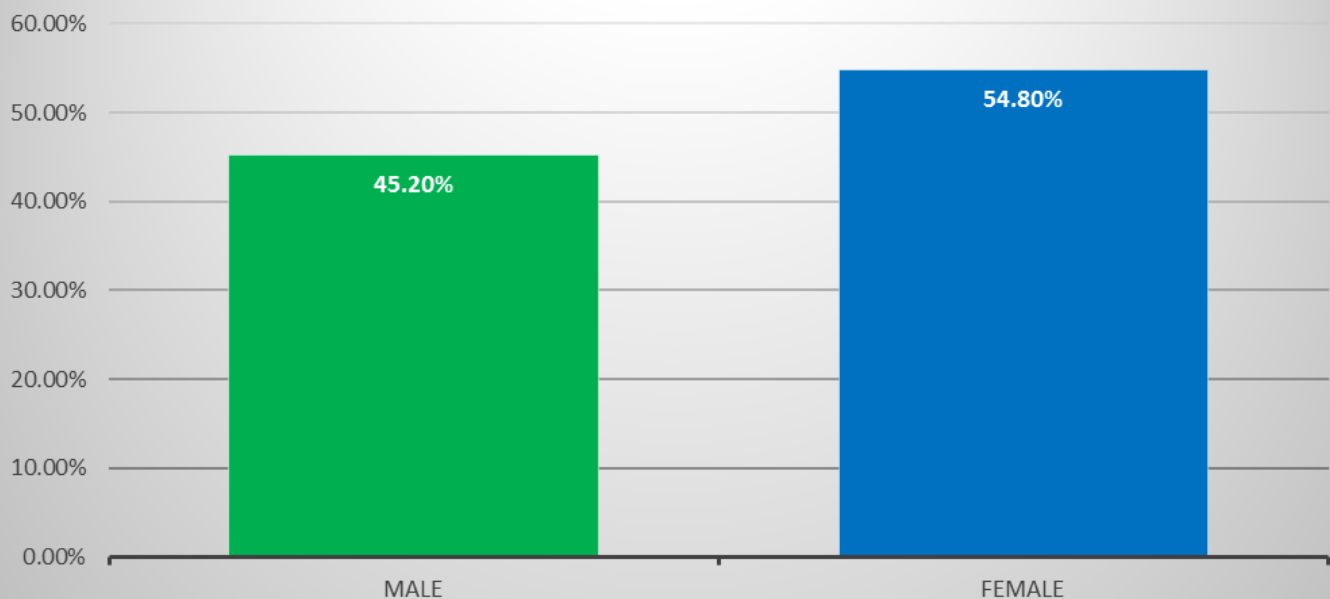
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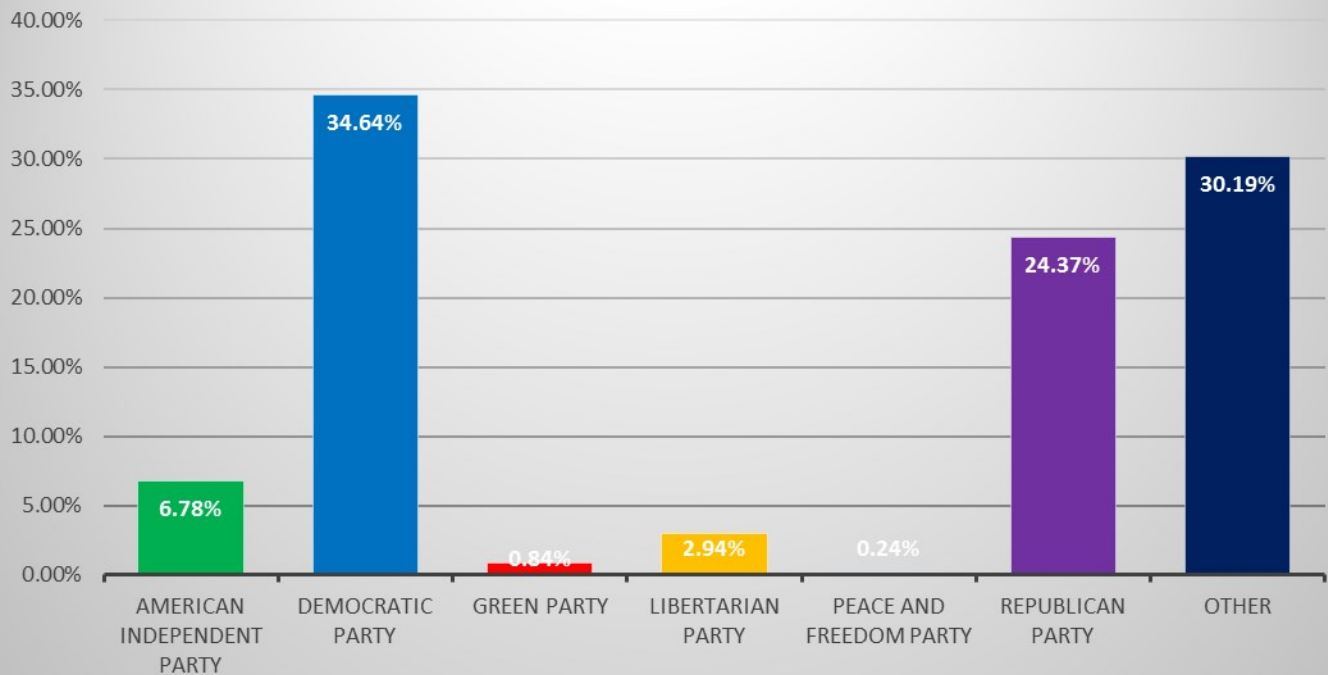


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CITYWIDE SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

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DISTRICT 6 STAFF CONTACT

Ian Clampett, Deputy Chief of Staff & Policy Director

Councilmember Chris Cate

City of San Diego - Sixth District

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