

Madrona Voices



MadronaVoices.com

Results of the Madrona Voices – Public Hospital District survey.

Thanks so much for participating! The survey ran from February 14 to March 3, 2018. It was conducted entirely online. A copy of the survey can be found at: <https://goo.gl/SJSh38>

Madrona Voices was not paid nor commissioned to do this survey. We are doing this as a public service. We will do additional surveys on the hospital district and other topics of interest to the community. To learn more about who we are, please visit our web page: MadronaVoices.com or visit us on Facebook.com/madronavoices.

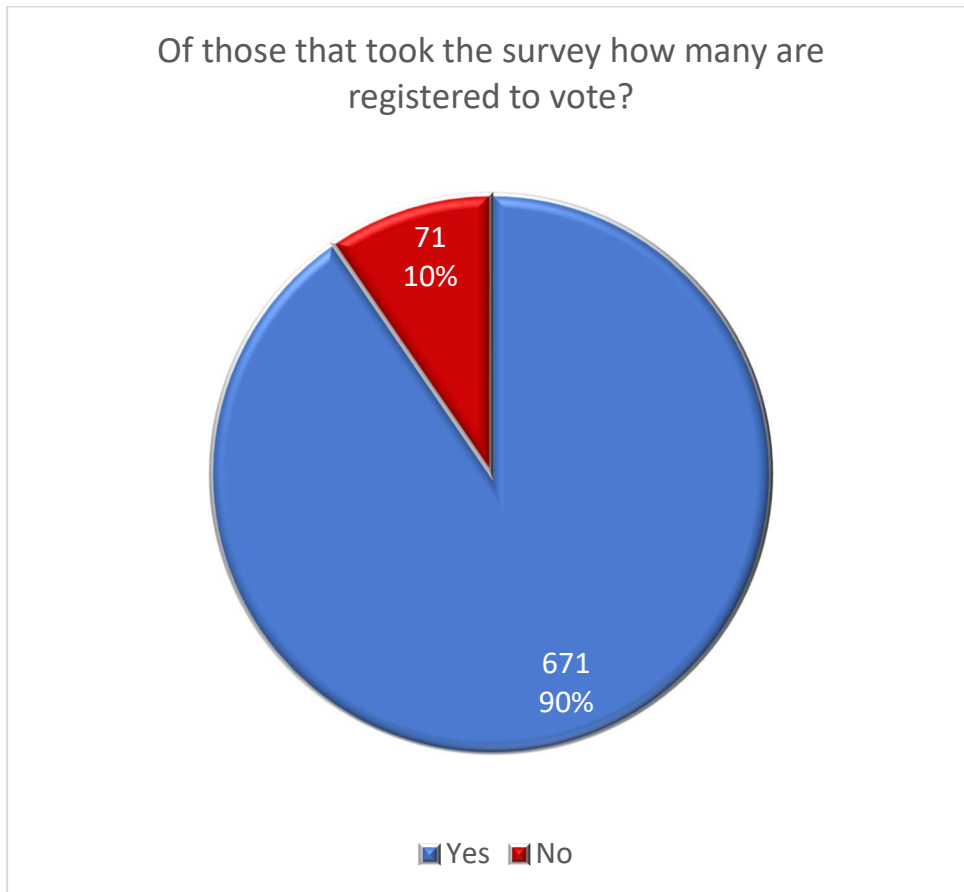
Summary

- 742 people completed the survey.
- The proposed hospital district is very likely to pass.
- About 62% of those planning to vote say they will vote for the proposed hospital district.
- About 29% of those planning to vote have not decided how they will vote.
- 7% of those planning to vote intend to vote against the proposed hospital district.
- People are most concerned about how the commissioners will spend the money.
- People want both existing clinics to be supported.
- We received 386 comments and suggestions from 290 different people.

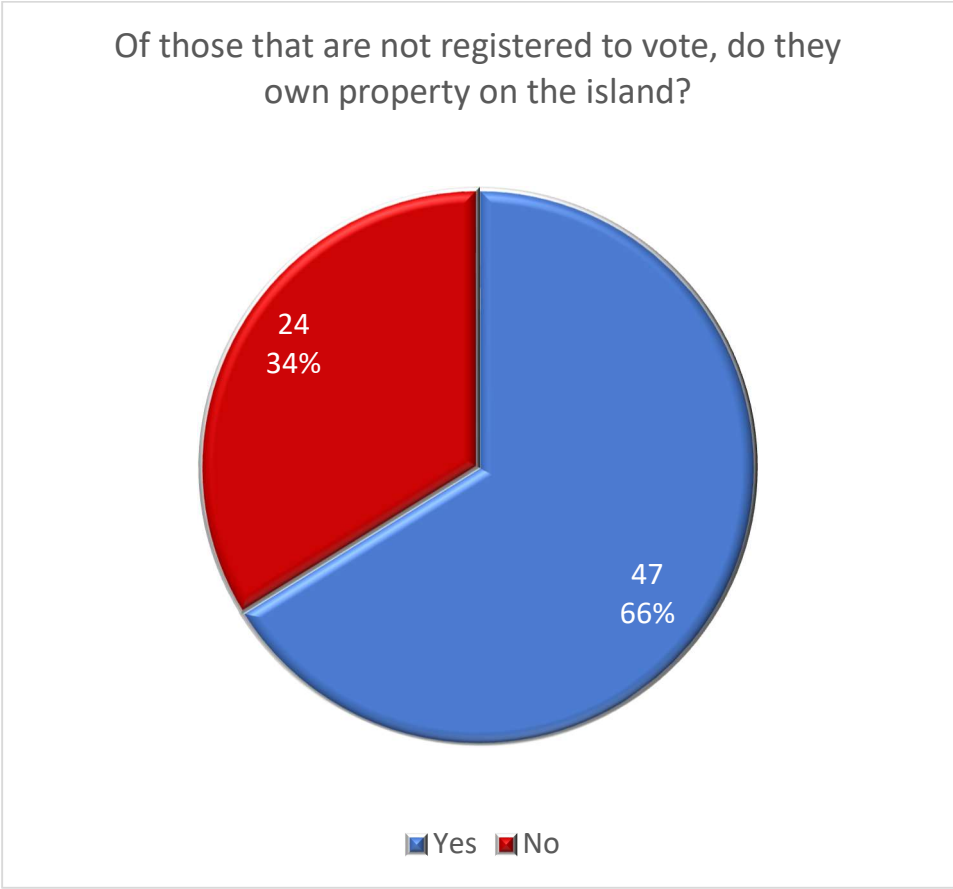
The survey was conducted between February 13 and March 4, 2018, 742 people completed the survey. Ten people took the survey twice. We used the answers they gave most recently. The 742 tally does not include the duplicates.

Of the 742, there are 71 who are not registered to vote. Of these 71 non-registered participants, three intend to vote for the hospital district. Perhaps they will register to vote before the election. Ten others might vote. The other 58 do not plan to vote or did not answer the question.

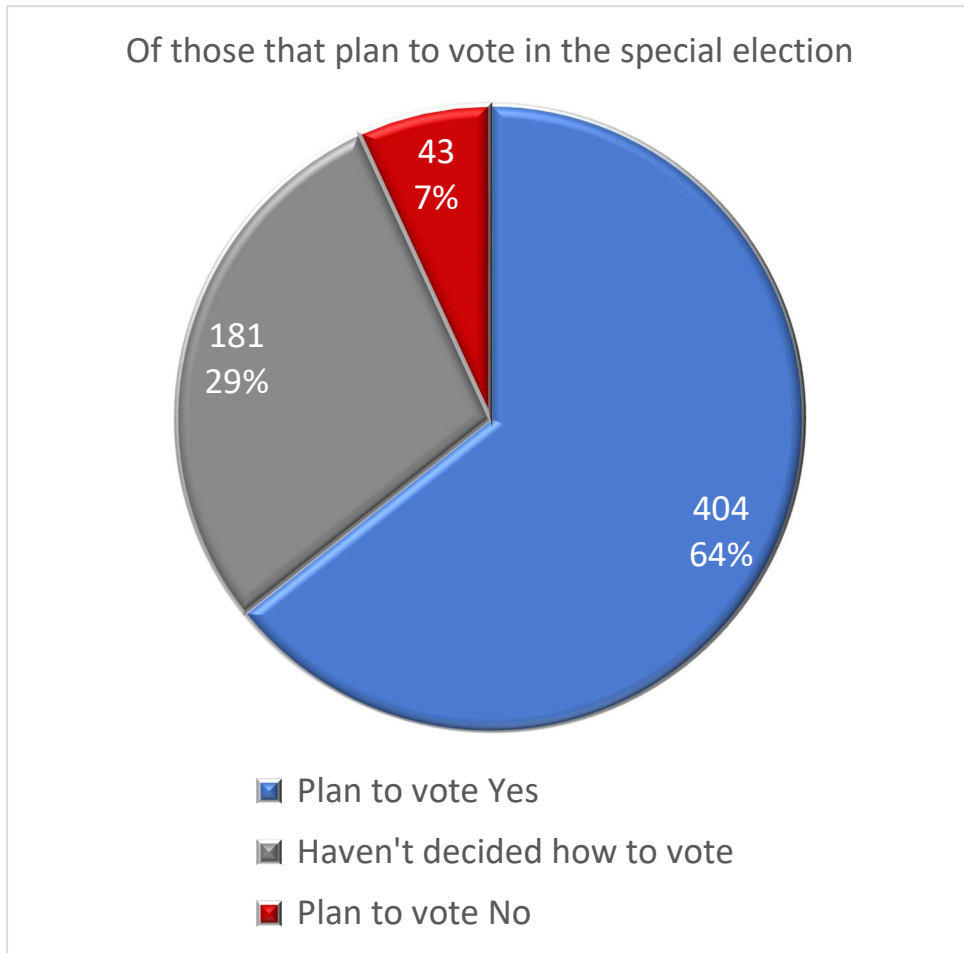
Not every person answered every question. We did not require a person to answer questions.



Of those who are not registered to vote on Orcas Island but did participate in the survey, 66% indicated that they own property on which they would be paying taxes for the hospital district, if it passes.

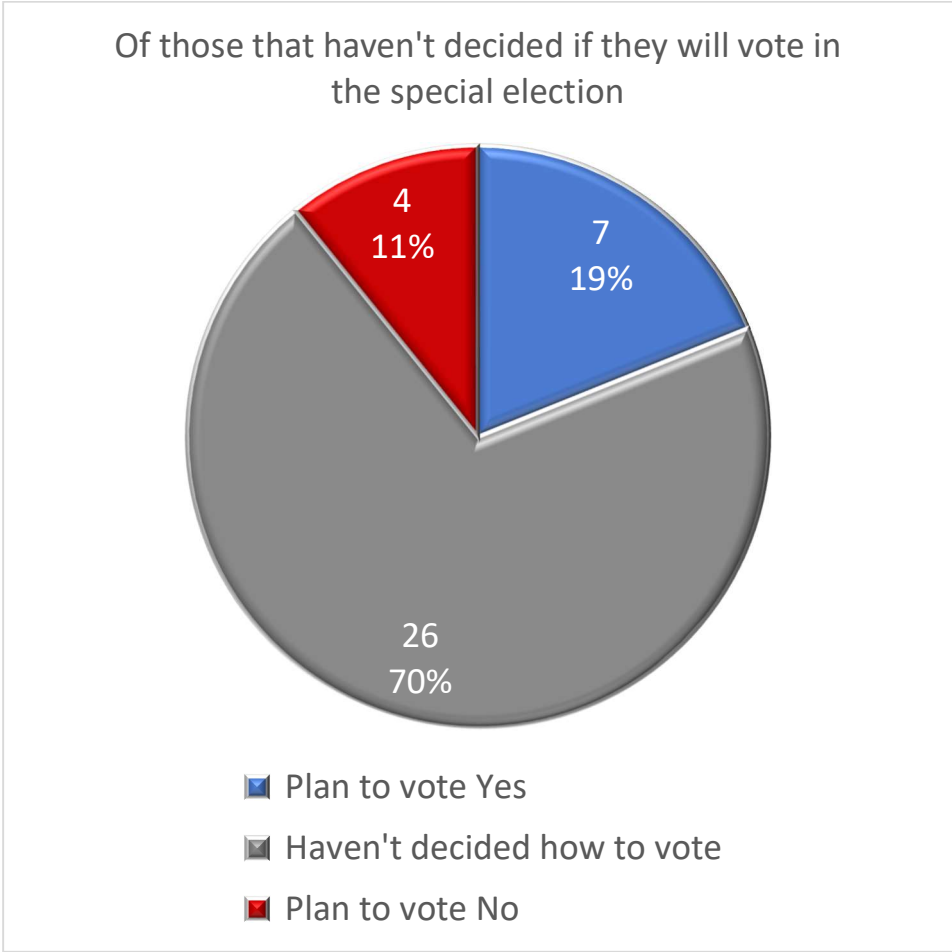


Of those completing the survey, 628 plan to vote and have indicated how they might vote:

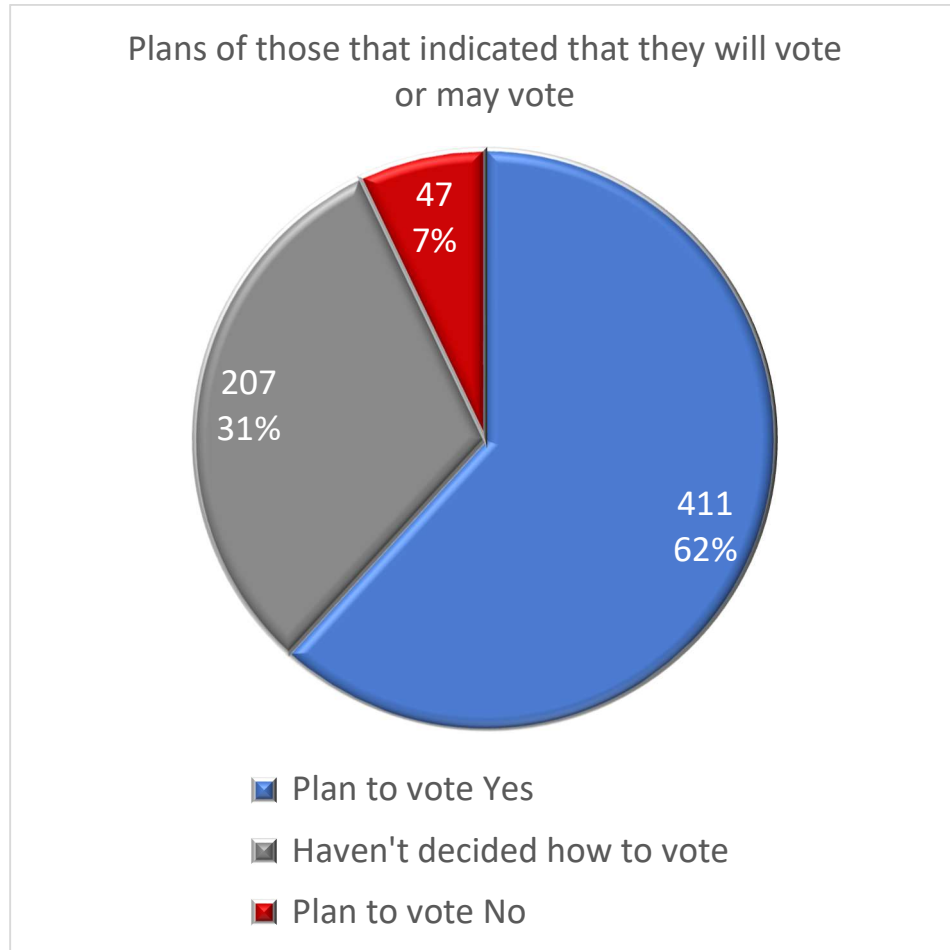


Margin of error +/- 3.6%

Thirty-seven (37) of those who completed the survey have not decided if they will vote. Yet, they still told us their thinking, if they do choose to vote.



When we combine those who intend to vote and those who haven't decided if they will vote, we have 664 who completed the survey and indicated how they might vote.



How was the survey conducted?

The survey was conducted entirely online. Email invitations were sent to approximately 2,700 island email addresses. Of these, about 60% percent (1,650) were opened. Of the opened messages, about 950 were clicked to at least look at the survey questions. Of those who opened the survey, about 75% completed it. We also distributed links to the survey via Facebook and our web page.

When we combine the email, Facebook, and responses via our web page together, we have 742 complete and non-duplicative surveys. There were ten people who took the survey twice. We excluded the duplicates and used their most recent responses.

Is the survey representative of the community?

We use two metrics to measure whether the survey is representative. The first is age of our survey takers as compared to those who vote. We obtained the record of all people registered to vote in San Juan County from the elections office at the County. The database includes the age of the voter and for which elections the voter returned a ballot, along with the precinct in which their vote is associated.

As public hospital district is a special election, we looked at those who have participated in other special elections. Fewer people participate in special elections than general elections. For this purpose, we used the special election of Feb 9, 2016, which considered the school maintenance levy request along with a park and recreation request. We also looked at the Feb 14, 2017 vote, which considered the eight million dollar school improvement bond. We averaged these two votes together to estimate an average special election participant rate. All numbers are for Orcas Island.

Age Range	2016 Estimated Orcas population	Pct of population in age group	Average number who participate in special elections	Pct of age group who participates in special elections	Pct of age group compared to all voters in special elections
18-24	294	6%	29	10%	1%
25-34	415	9%	75	18%	4%
35-44	433	9%	120	28%	6%
45-54	700	15%	217	31%	11%
55-64	1,142	24%	419	37%	21%
65-74	1,128	24%	649	58%	32%
75-84	432	9%	376	87%	19%
85+	149	3%	114	77%	6%
Unknown	-		-		0%
Total	4,693		1,999		

As is well known, only about 10% of those between the ages of 18 and 24 participate in elections. The age group with the greatest participation rate is those between 75 and 84. One measure of a survey representing the community is to see if participants are close to the same age distribution as those who vote.

Of those completing the survey and indicating that they plan to vote or may vote, we have 486 participants. The Variance column shows how much we vary from the actual voting age population. The survey most over-represents those between the ages of 65 and 74 and under-represents those over the age of 85.

Age Range	Pct of age group compared to all voters in special elections	# taking Survey by age who also plan to vote	Pct of age group who participated in the survey who plan to vote	Variance	Under or over represented in survey
18-24	1%	1	0%	-1%	Under
25-34	4%	16	2%	-1%	Under
35-44	6%	37	5%	-1%	Under
45-54	11%	83	12%	1%	Over
55-64	21%	158	23%	2%	Over
65-74	32%	247	37%	4%	Over
75-84	19%	104	15%	-3%	Under
85+	6%	18	3%	-3%	Under
Unknown	0%	12	2%	2%	Over
Total		676			

Of those who do plan to vote, we are only missing the ages of about 2% of the respondents. In other words, we have a small increase in our uncertainty when looking at opinions broken down by age.

We are over-represented in the survey by those between the ages of 45 and 74 while all other age groups are under-represented in the survey. Keep this in mind when looking at how each age group plans to vote.

When looking at how the different age groups plan to vote (we exclude those who do not plan to vote), we can see that the groups we under-represent are more likely to support having a Public Hospital District. If the vote were to happen today, the support level is likely to be higher than what the survey is estimating. Also keep in mind that 29% of those taking the survey have not decided how they will vote.

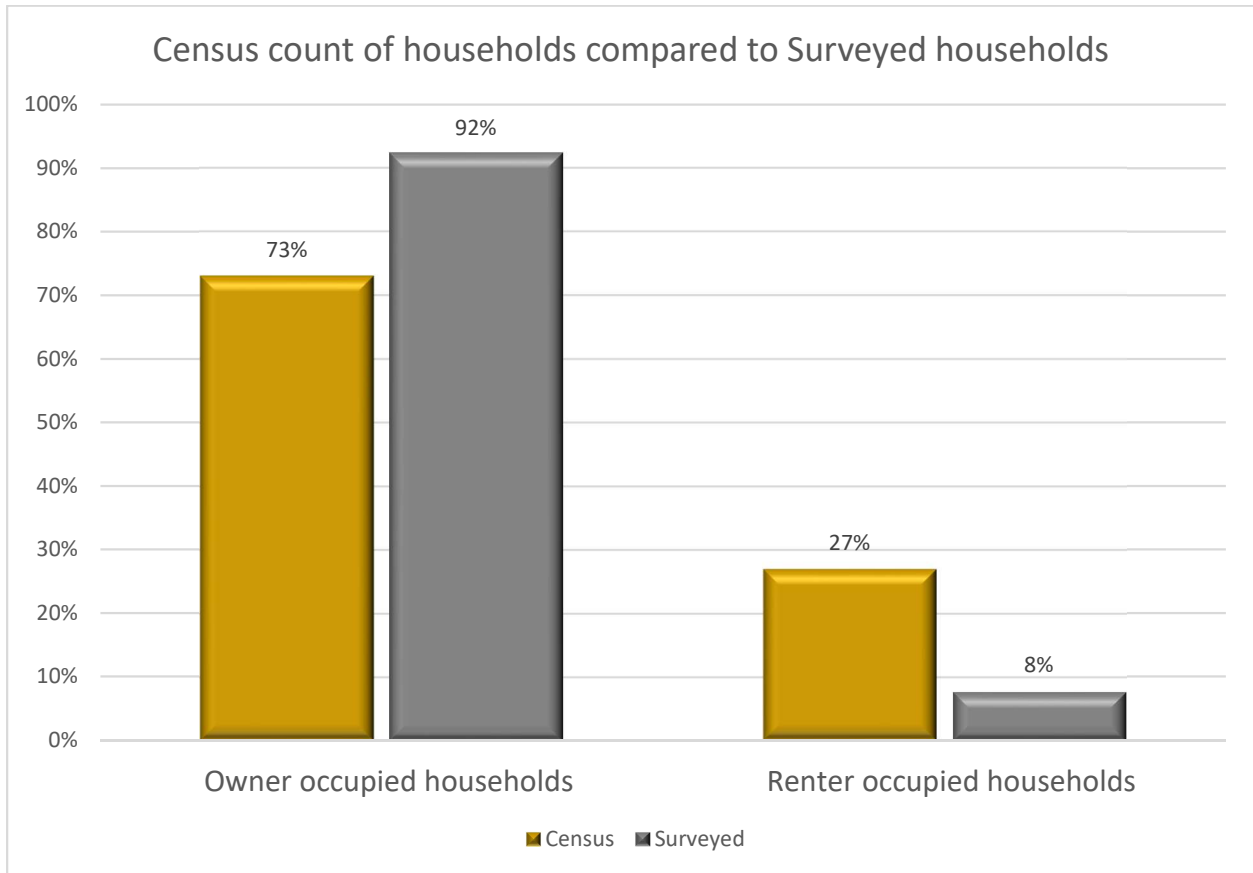
Age Range2	Number taking survey by age who also plan to vote	Variance from voting patterns	Plan to vote Yes	Undecided on vote	Plan to vote No
18-24	1	(1%)	0%	100%	0%
25-34	16	(1%)	81%	13%	6%
35-44	37	(1%)	59%	30%	11%
45-54	83	1%	55%	33%	12%
55-64	158	2%	53%	35%	11%
65-74	247	4%	65%	32%	3%
75-84	104	(3%)	68%	26%	6%
85+	18	(3%)	72%	22%	6%
Unknown	12	2%	25%	67%	8%
676					

Age Range2	Number taking survey by age who also plan to vote	Variance from voting patterns	Plan to vote Yes	Undecided on vote	Plan to vote No
18-24	1	(1%)	0%	100%	0%
25-34	16	(1%)	81%	13%	6%
35-44	37	(1%)	59%	30%	11%
45-54	83	1%	55%	33%	12%
55-64	158	2%	53%	35%	11%
65-74	247	4%	65%	32%	3%

75-84	104	(3%)	68%	26%	6%
85+	18	(3%)	72%	22%	6%
Unknown	12	2%	25%	67%	8%
	676				

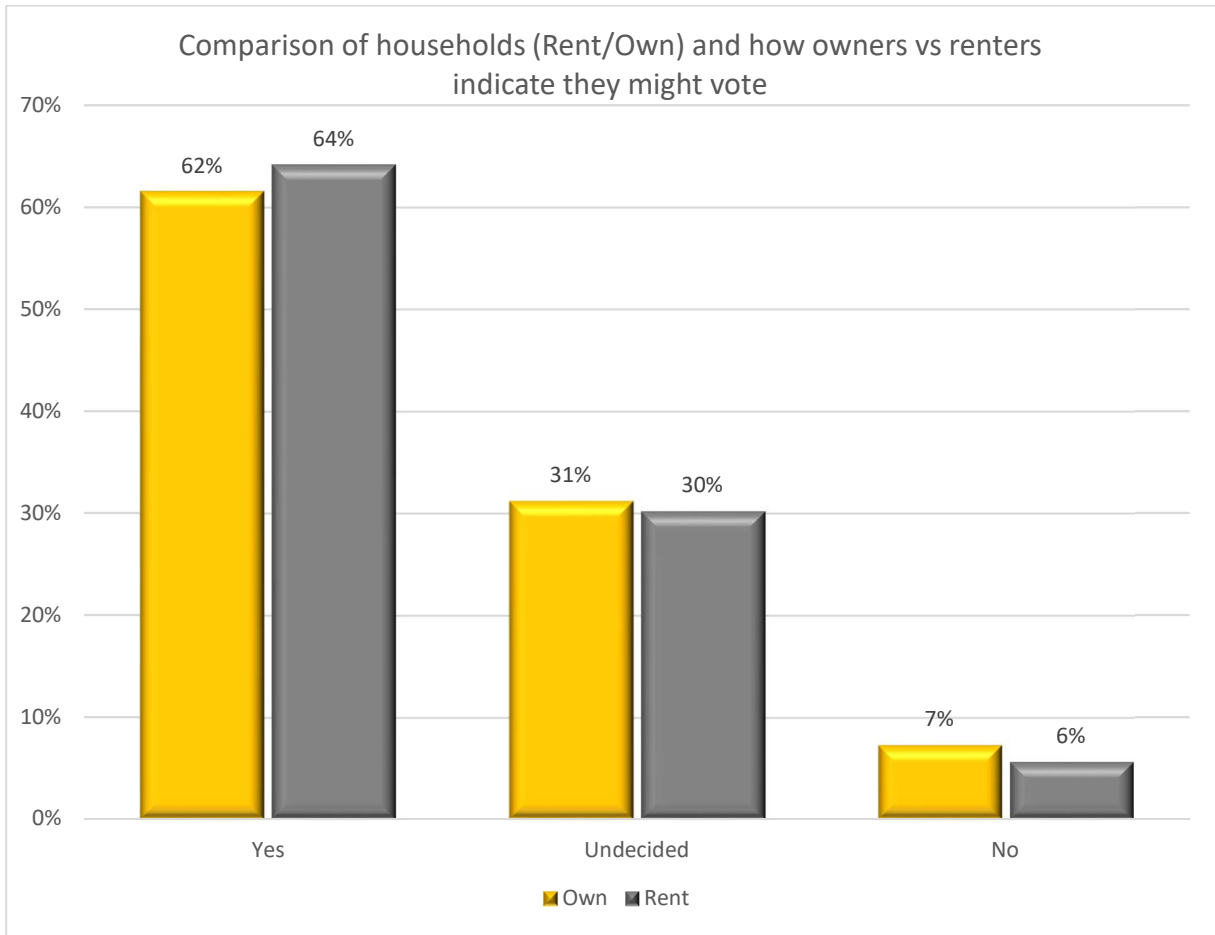
Another metric we use to measure how well we represent the community is by comparing the home ownership vs renter demographic.

We under-represent the renters in the survey and over-represent those who own their home.



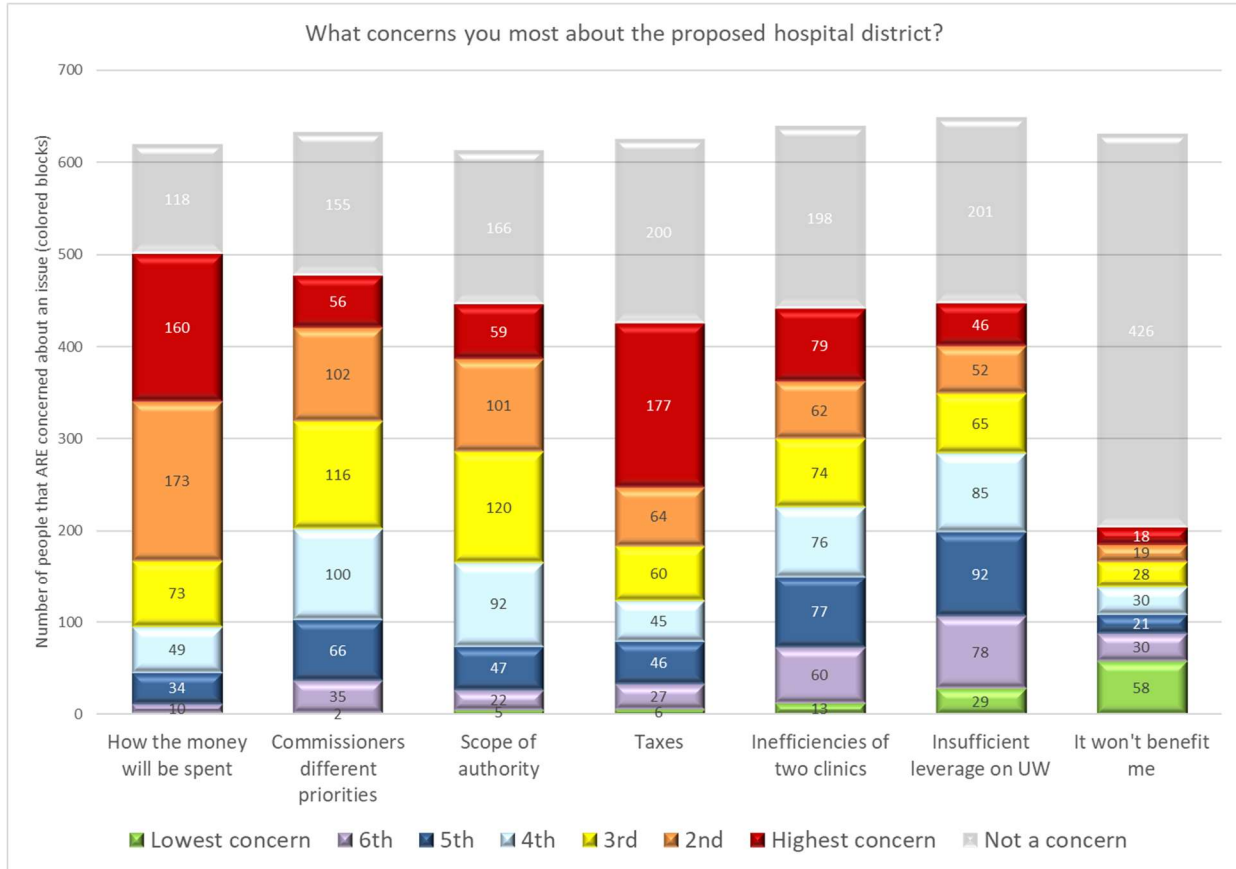
Another possibility is that we are accurately measuring the renter population and that the numbers we are using from the census have changed since the last census. The census does a “hard count” every ten years. They use an algorithm to estimate various numbers for each year thereafter. For the census percentages used here, we use the 2016 census estimate. It is now 2018. The number of renters may have declined significantly since the 2010 count. There is substantial evidence that is the case, based on other studies we have done. There is no way to know until the 2020 census data is released. We suspect it will show a substantial decline in the number of long-term renters living on the island. We have made extensive efforts to reach the renter population; yet, we do not see survey participation rates above 8% for this demographic across different surveys. We will continue to try to reach this group, but we are starting to suspect there are not as many renters as the census indicates.

We also looked to see if home owners and renters have a difference of opinion on whether the proposed hospital district should pass. Even though our sample of renters is small (55), they appear to have similar opinions to homeowners on how they intend to vote.



There are 23 people who did not tell us if they rent or own the home they live in.

We asked people to rank what concerned them most about the proposed hospital district. This question also allowed people to indicate if the issue did not concern them. About 742 people completed the survey, with about 620 to 650 responding to each of the various options in this question.

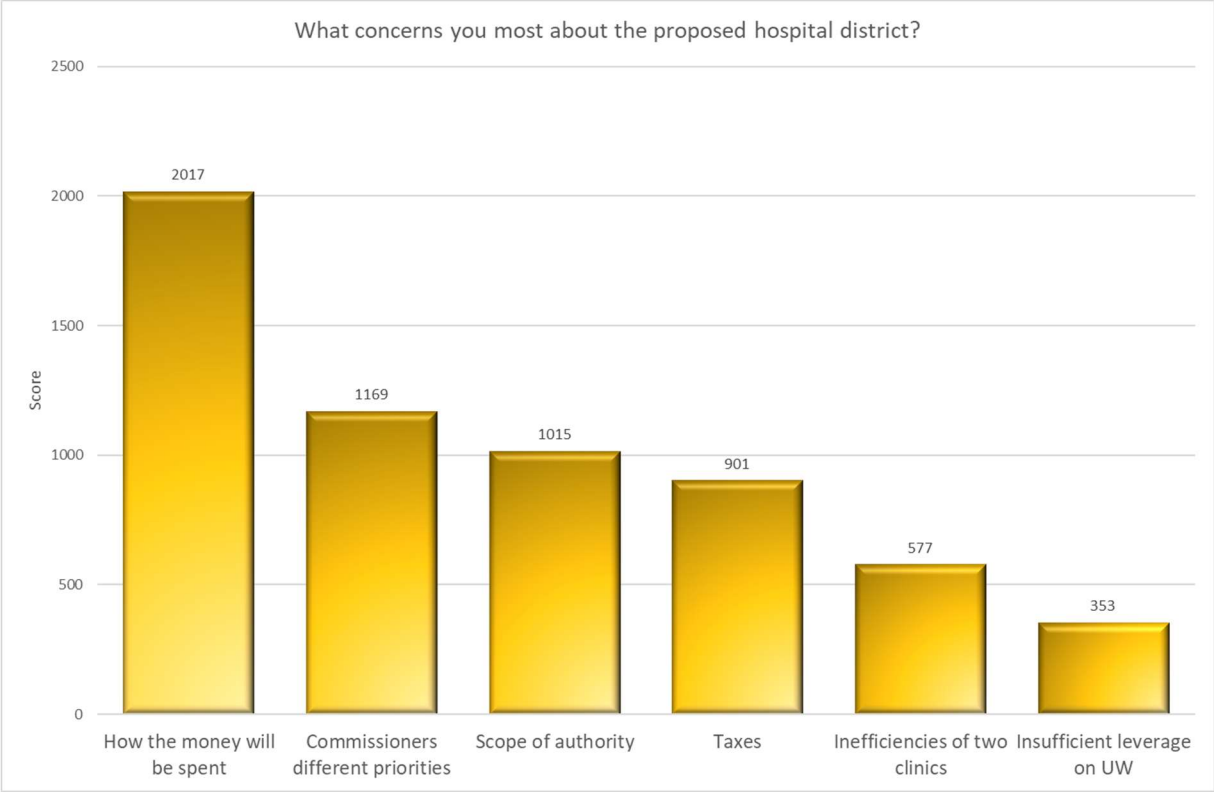


Graph (Concerns A)

We show this same information in several different graphs. This first graph (Concerns A) shows the information as stacked columns. The order of the columns is determined by the next graph (Concerns B).

Taxes are the biggest concern for 177 people. This is the largest number of people selecting any one issue they are concerned about. However, a large number of people say taxes are of no concern to them. If we look at the information in only this way, it can be difficult to see the big picture. Yes, taxes are a big concern for many. But, when looking at the number 2 concern, and number 3, etc, while taking into consideration those who are not concerned about something, what is the best way to combine all of that? For that, we use graph (Concerns B).

You can zoom in to see the graph better.

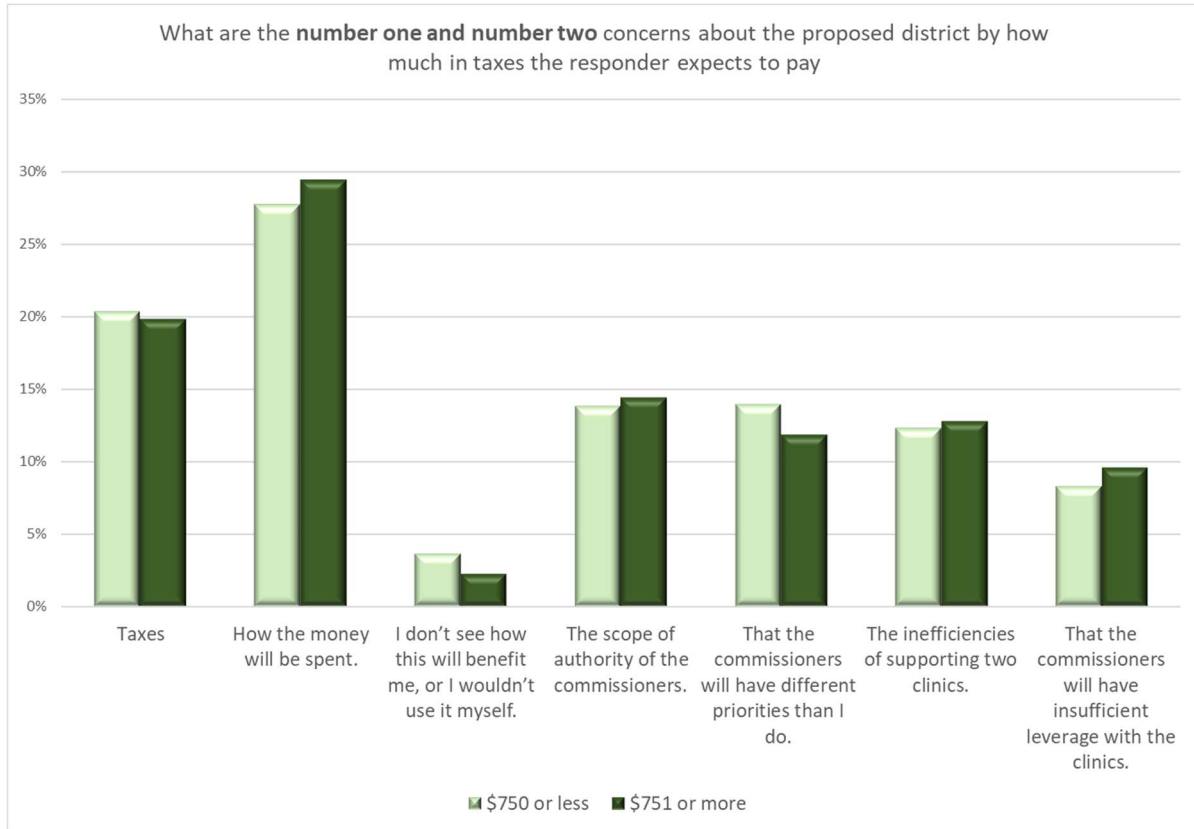


Graph (Concerns B)

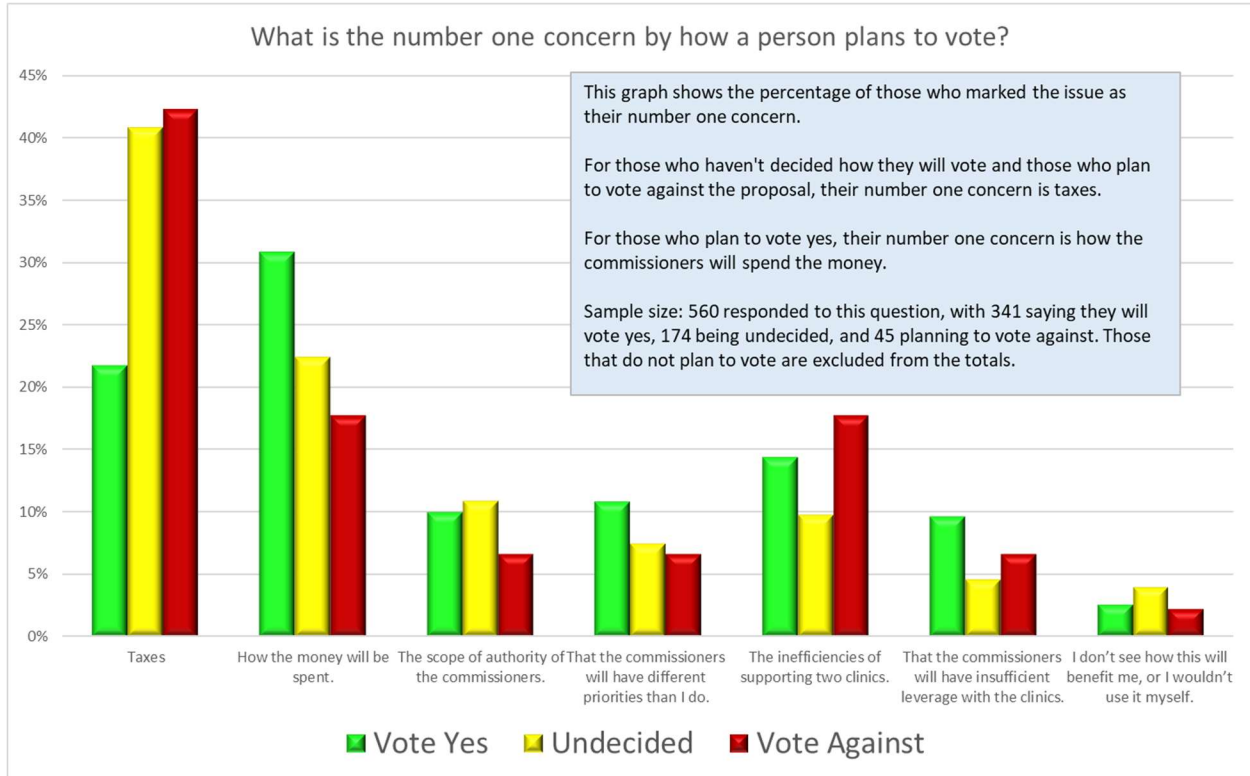
This graph shows the same information as graph (Concerns A) but highlights that how the money will be spent is of the greatest concern to the most people. More people rank this as a concern and rank it higher than the other ideas. Taxes are a big concern to many people; but, there were also a lot of people who ranked taxes of no concern or ranked them lower than other ideas.

How to read this graph: The score is derived by multiplying the number of people concerned about the idea by the inverse of its rank. For example, if a person said that an issue was of the greatest concern, it is multiplied by 7, their second largest concern by 6, and so on. There are seven options from which a person can choose. They could also mark that they were not concerned about an issue. Those who marked no concern were multiplied by -7. These scores were then summed to yield the score. This score allows us to not only look at what is most important to people, but also what does not concern them.

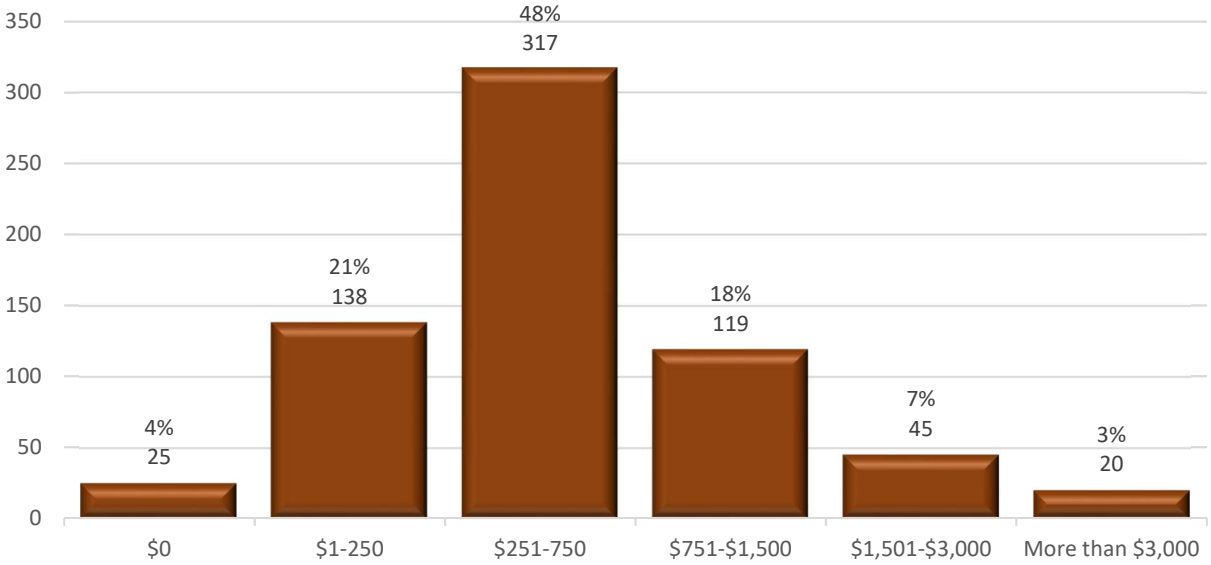
We wanted to know if the amount of taxes that a person expects to pay affected what concerned them the most about the proposed hospital district. The answer is no. Taxes are of equal concern to those who will pay more in taxes as it is to those who will pay less. There is little difference of opinion as to what the primary concerns are to the different asset groups.



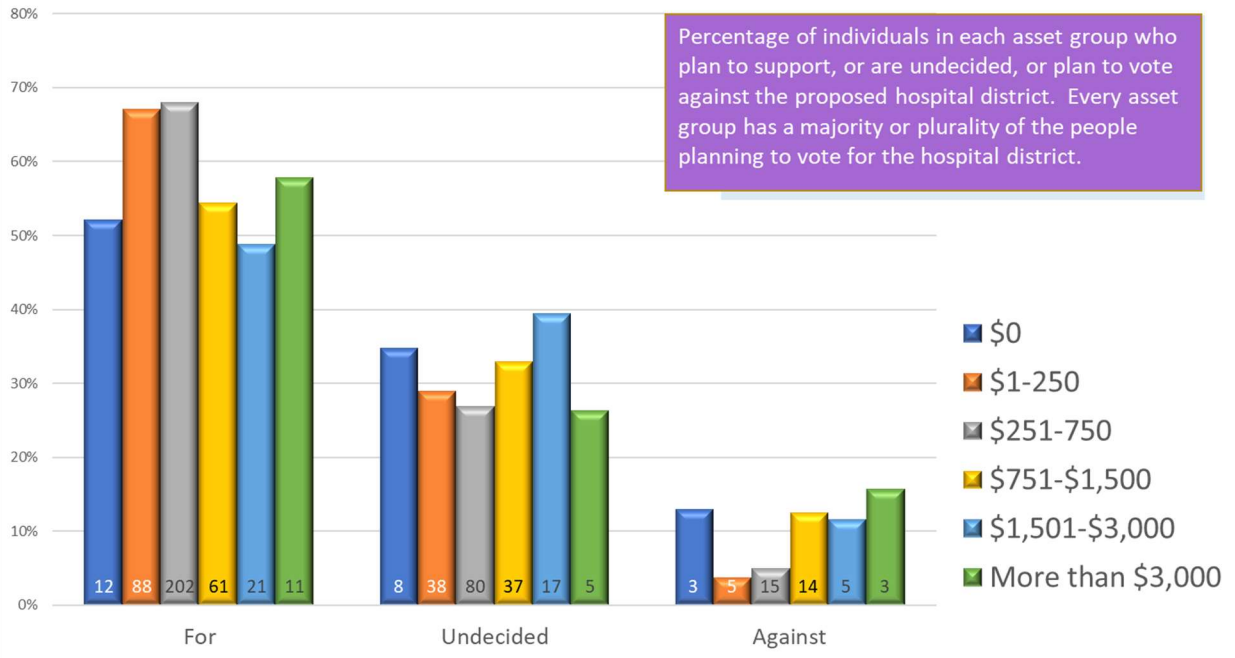
For those who plan to vote for the district, the number one issue is how the money will be spent. For those who are undecided and those who plan to vote against the proposal, their number one concern is taxes.



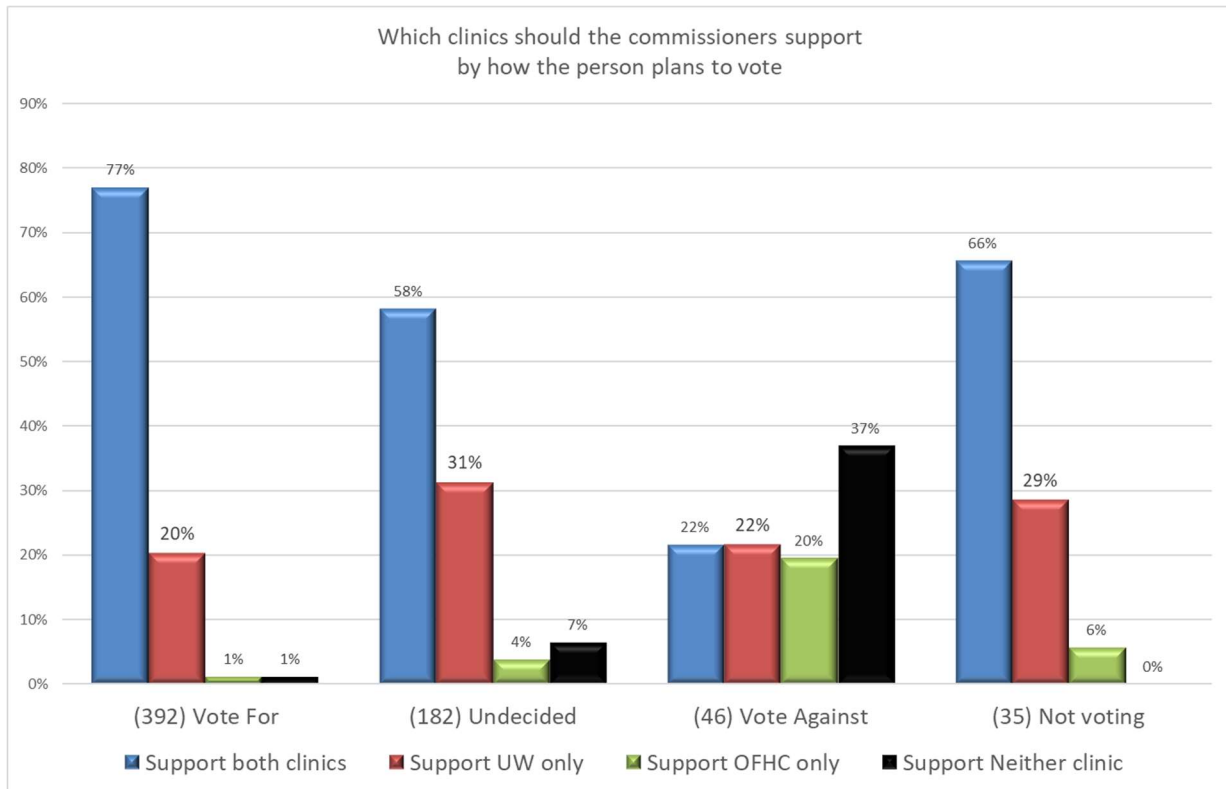
How much do you expect the new hospital district tax to cost you?



How much will the hospital district tax cost the respondent by how the person plans to vote



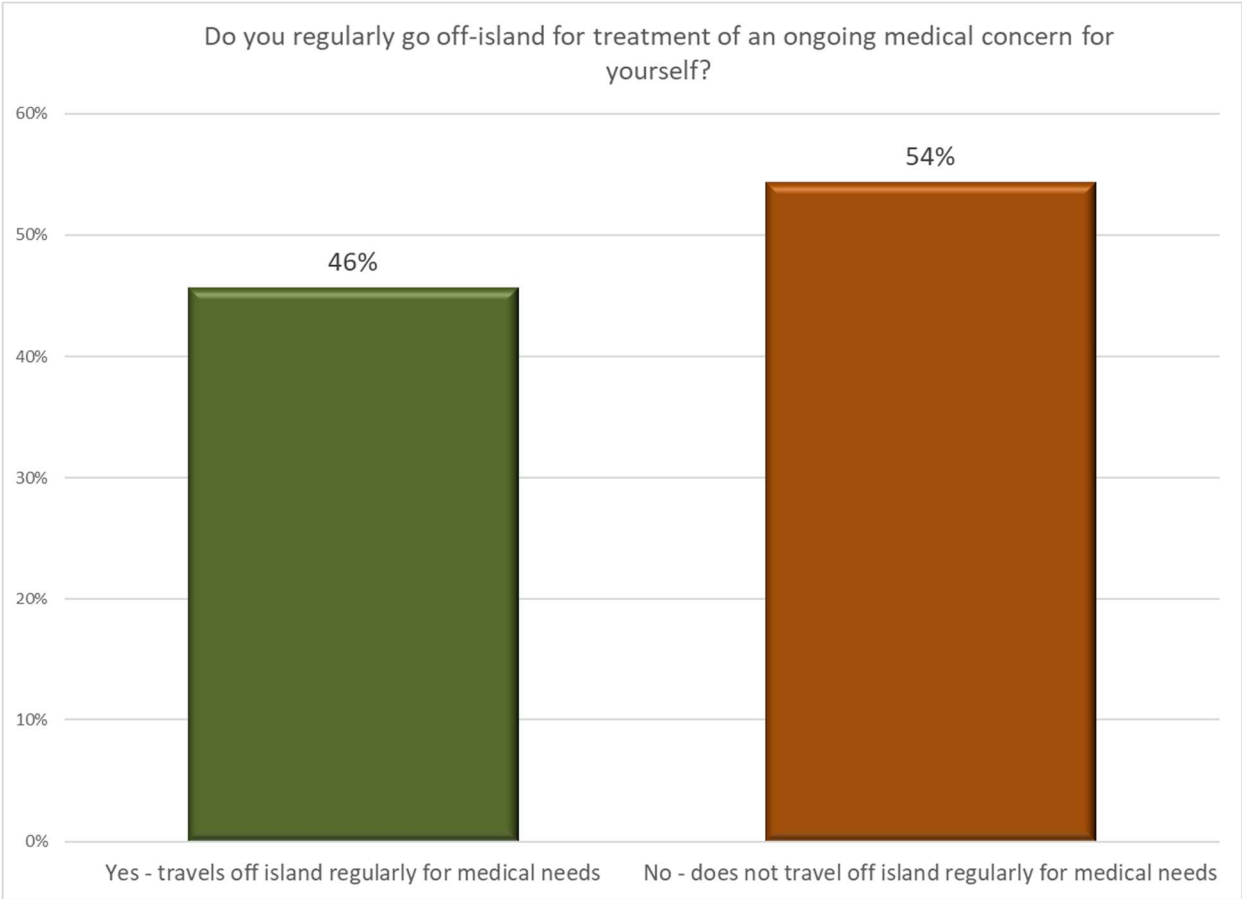
Now we look at which clinics people want to be supported by the public hospital district, and we do this broken out by how people plan to vote.



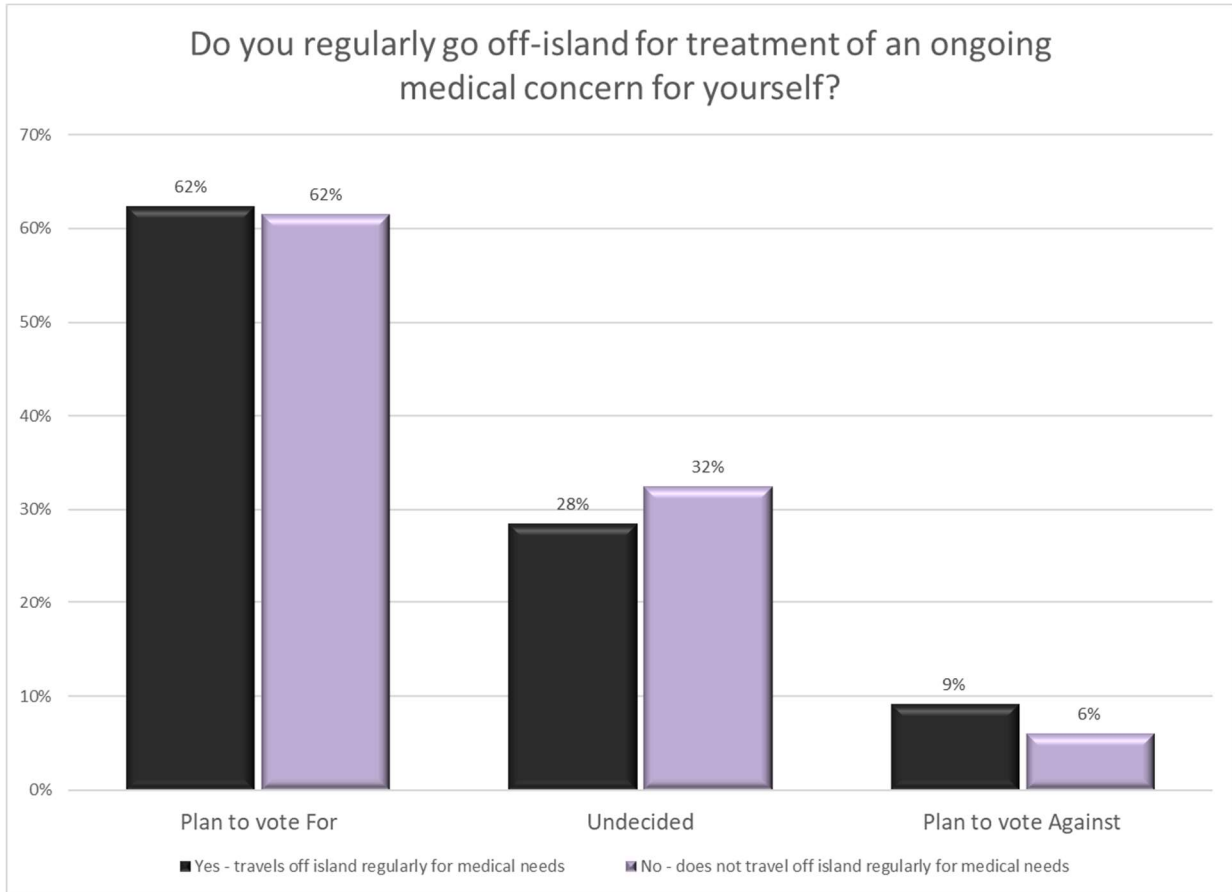
What stands out is that a plurality of those who plan to vote against the proposal do not want either of the current clinics to be supported. Notice that those who plan to vote against the proposal make up 46 out of the 625 who plan to vote on the proposal.

A significant majority of the people want both existing clinics to be supported, if the proposal passes.

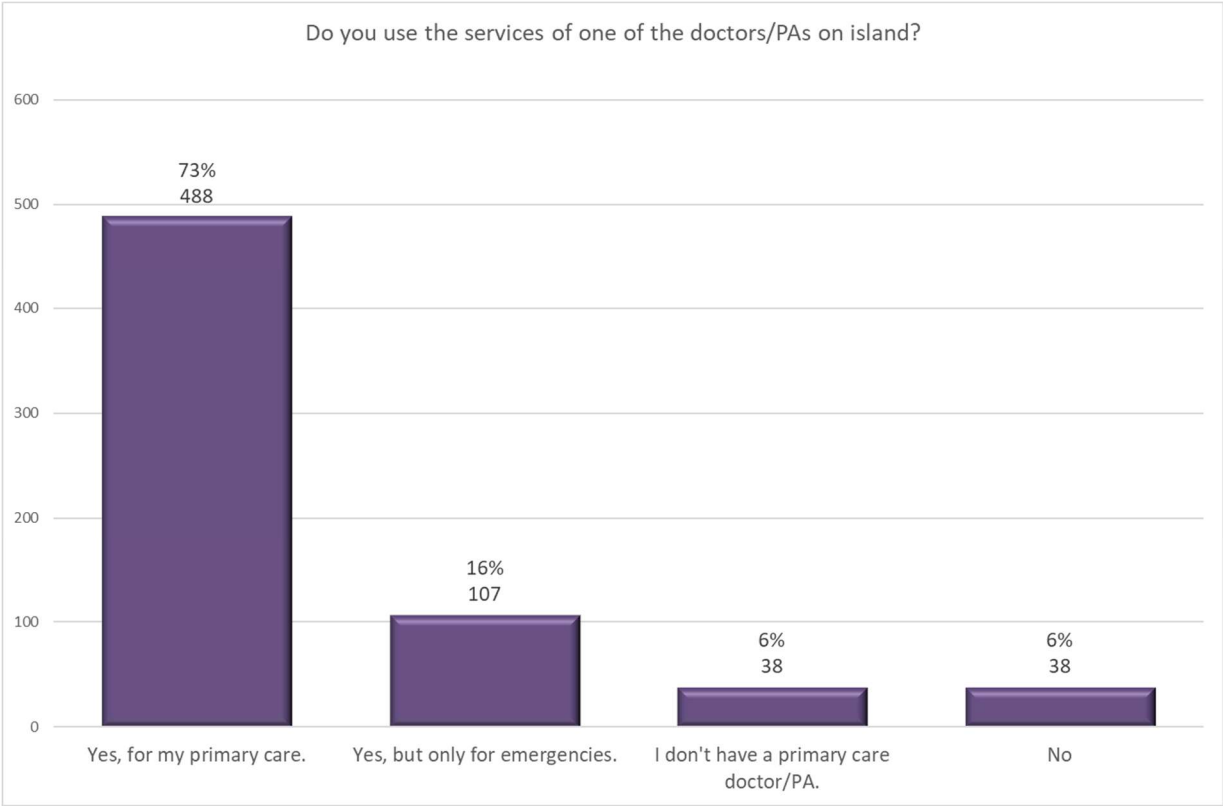
We asked if people frequently traveled off-island for medical needs for themselves.



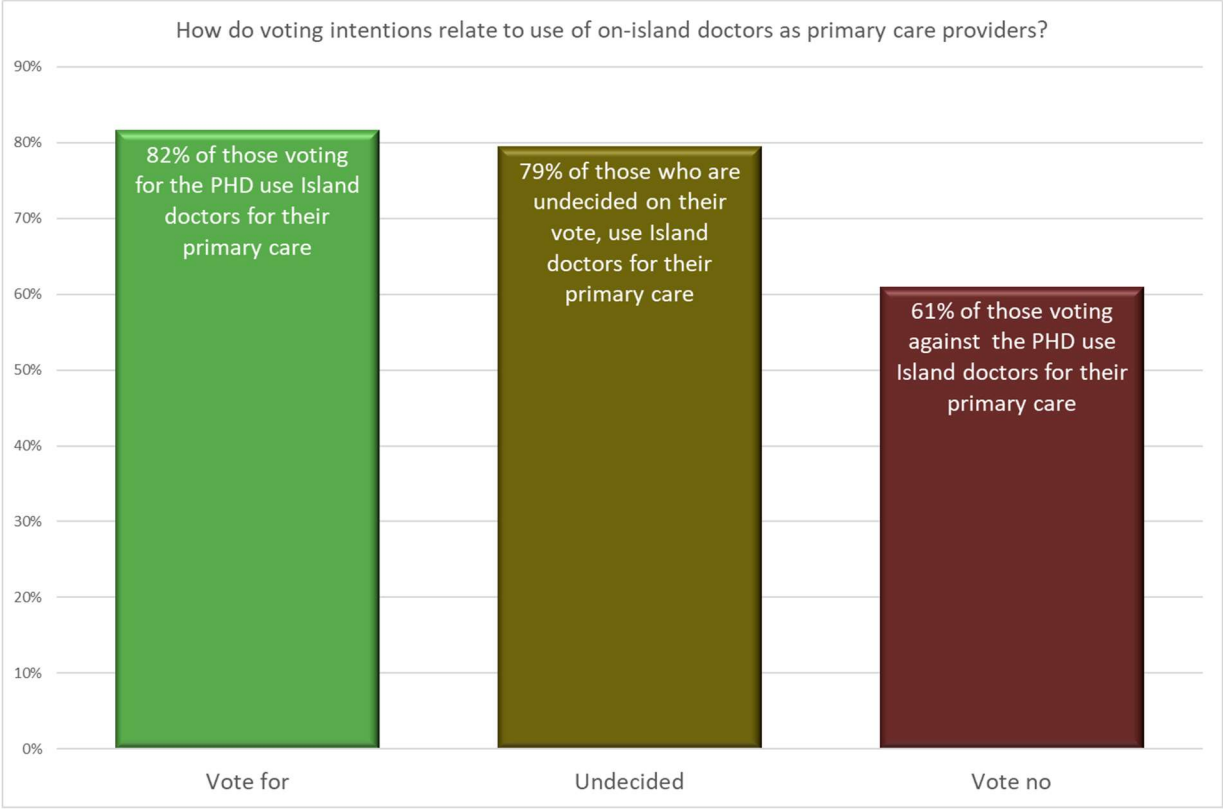
Those who frequently travel off-island for medical care and those who do not plan to support the proposal in equal proportions.



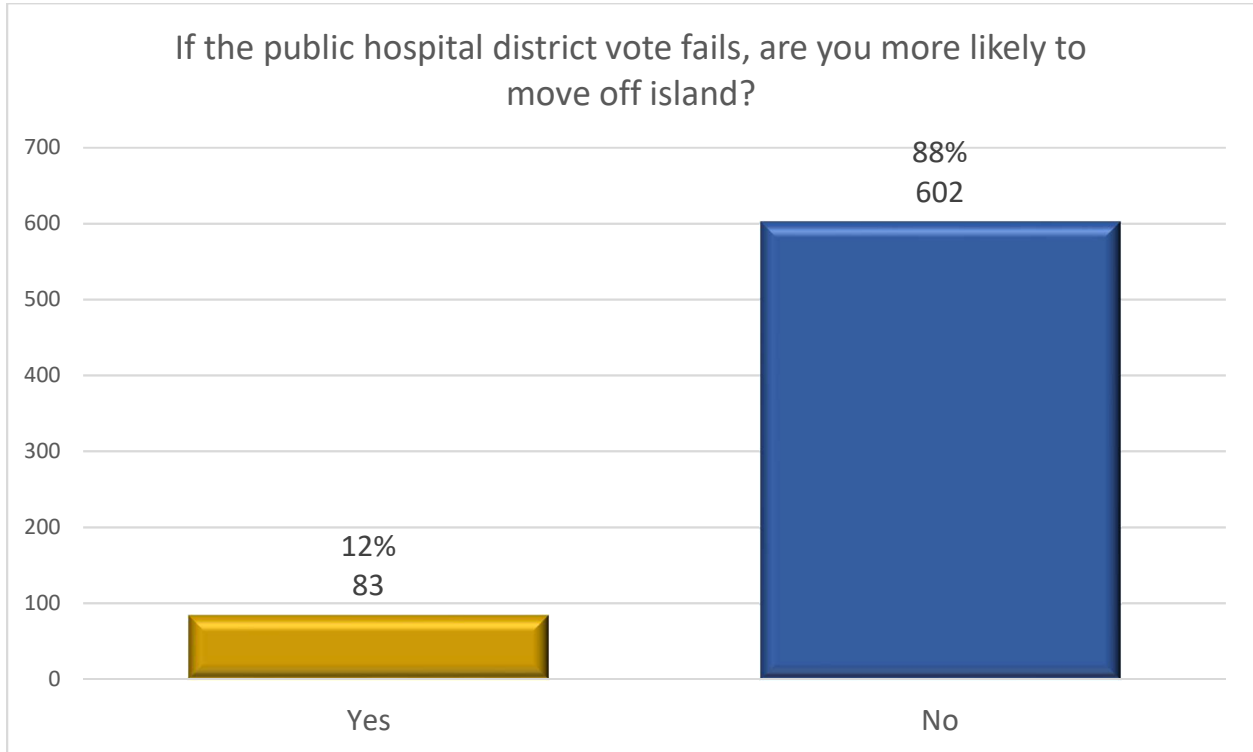
Most people use an island doctor or physician’s assistant for their primary care provider.



Those who do not use island doctors for their primary care are less likely to support the proposed hospital district than those who do.



Some have suggested that if the hospital district vote fails, the clinics would close and people would move off island. We asked, “If the public hospital district vote fails, are you more likely to move off island?”



We received 386 comments from 290 different people. You can read these online on our web site. Visit <https://goo.gl/QF5FLS>

This is the first survey on the subject. If you would like to participate in future surveys about the hospital district and other community issues, please visit MadronaVoices.com and sign up to get invitations. Click on “Contact Us” to find the signup form.