



Peachtree City Citizen Needs Assessment Committee

What City Services @ What Cost?

Peachtree-city.org/needs

Committee Members

Mayor Don Haddix (Non-Voting Chair)

Robert Black (Committee Co-Chair; Chair, Survey Analysis Sub-Committee)

Josh Bloom (Committee Co-Chair)

Phil Prebor

Allen Baldwin

Bob Comeau (Resigned)

Kelcie Daniels (Resigned)

John Dufresne

Steve Hamlin

Jack Joyner

Paul Lentz

Holly Machemehl

Terrence Manning

Lavada Zahir (Resigned)

Betsy Tyler, City Clerk and Information Officer (Go-To Person for Administration, Computer Support, Survey Monkey Interface Creation and Data Extraction)

Pam Dufresne (Go-To Person for everything else)

“Insight, untested and unsupported, is an insufficient guarantee of truth.”

- Bertrand Russell, 1920 C.E.

“Numbers and graphs do not gain authority from increasing precision of measurement, sample size, or complexity in manipulation.”

- S. J. Gould, 1981 C.E.

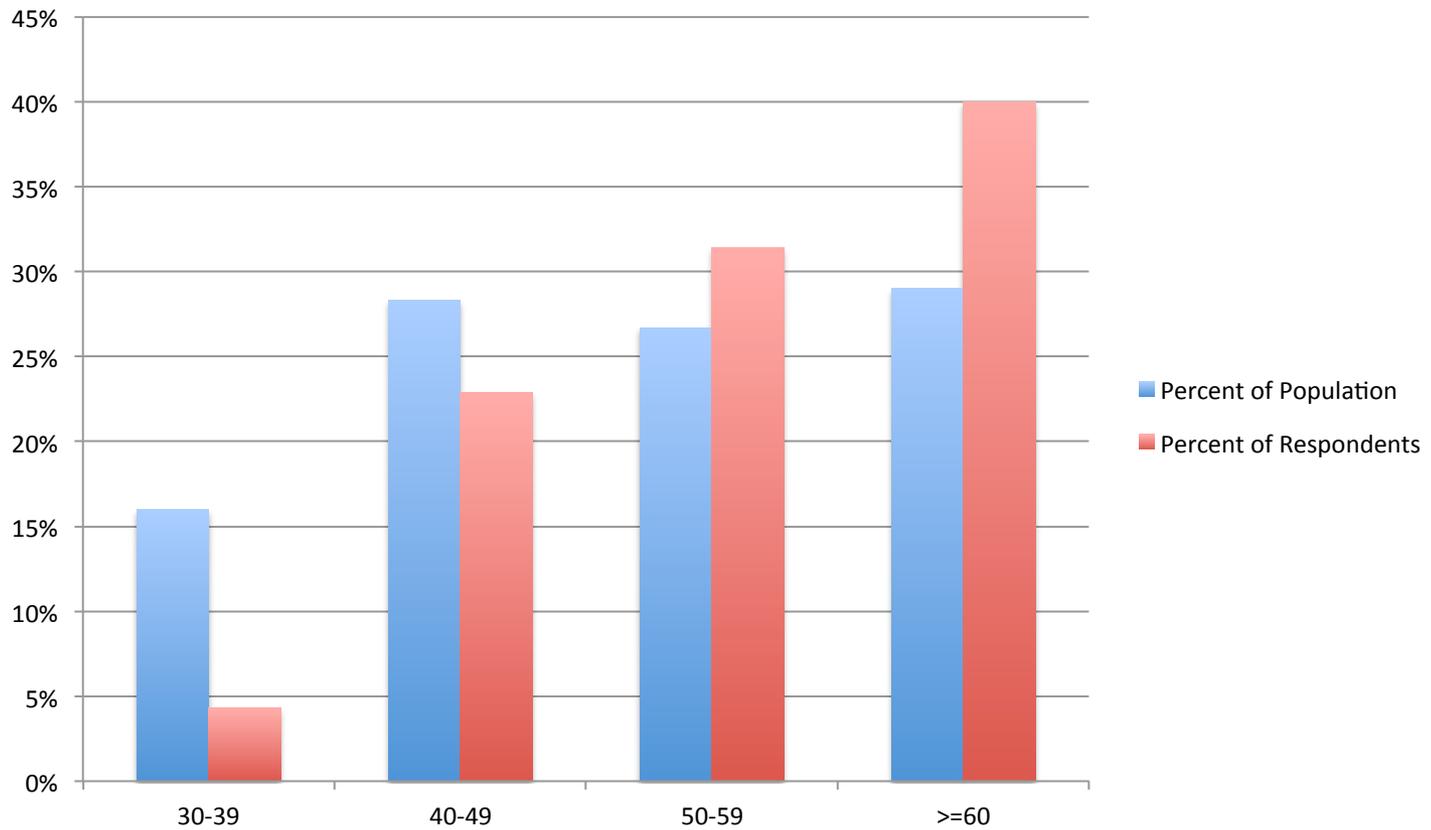
Survey Distribution

- Objective: 400 responses ($\pm 5\%$ margin of error)
- Method: sent 1,200 invitations selected randomly from $\approx 12,000$ residential addresses
- 209 valid responses

Survey Analysis

- The margin of error is $\pm 7\%$.
- Percentages in the charts have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Responses were weighted by age to normalize the results.

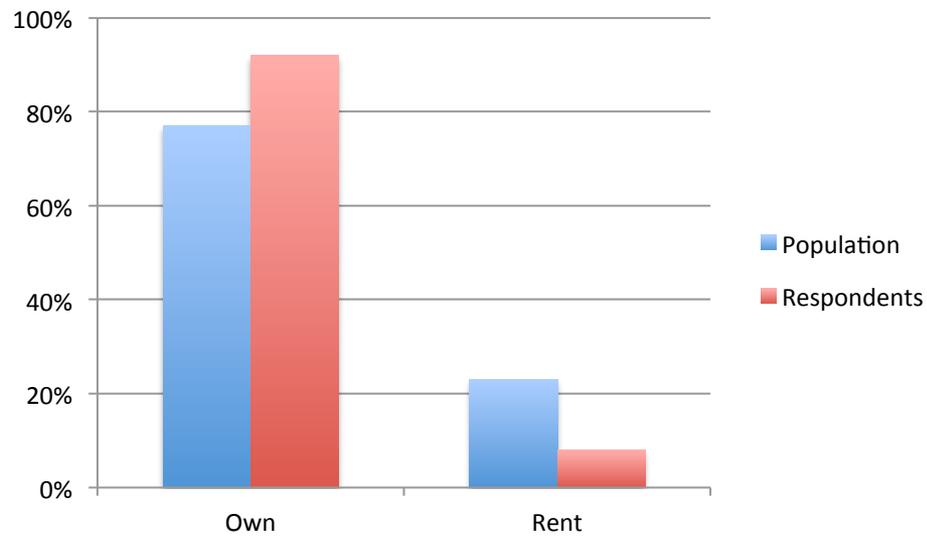


Age	Population	% of Population	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents	Weight
30-39	3445	16.0%	9	4.3%	3.72
40-49	6099	28.3%	48	22.9%	1.24
50-59	5743	26.7%	66	31.4%	0.85
>=60	6255	29.0%	84	40.0%	0.73

Population numbers were taken from the US Census web site.

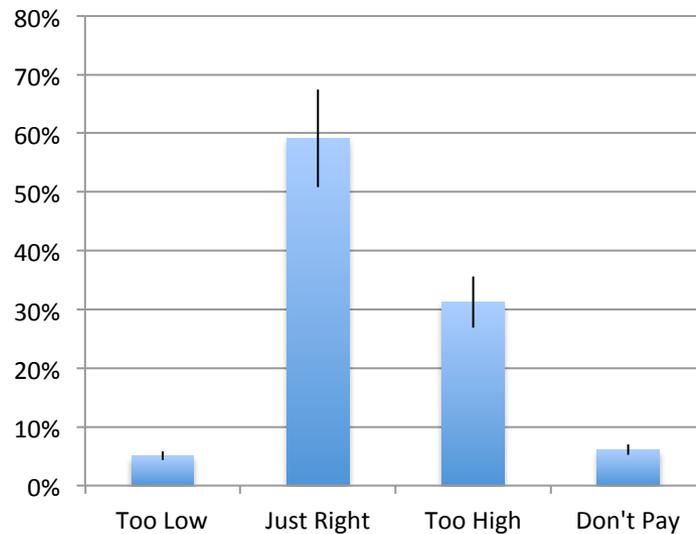
$$Weight = \frac{\%Population}{\%Respondants}$$

2. Which statement best describes you? (Not weighted)



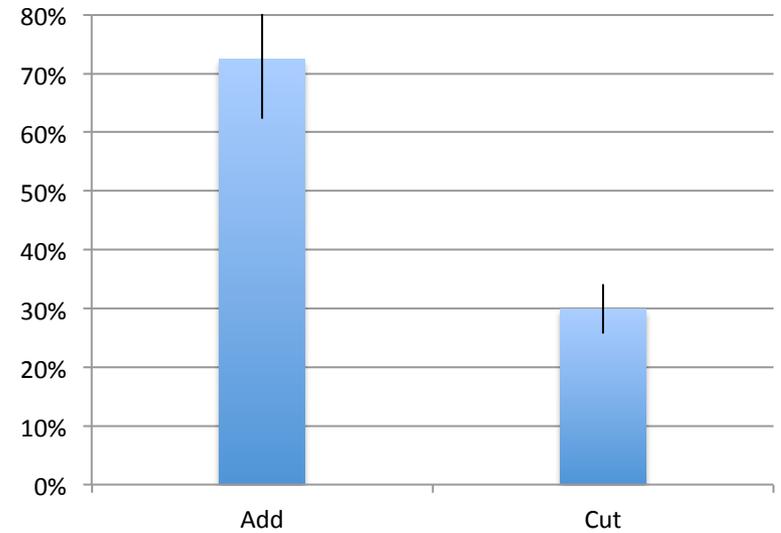
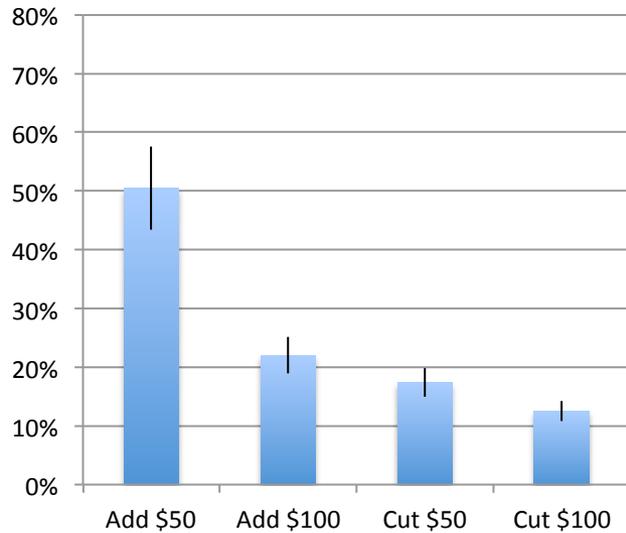
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
I (or a member of my family) own this property.	9	40	63	80
I (or a member of my family) rent this property.	0	8	3	4

4. The city provides services that include public works; police and fire protection; a library; and recreational services. These services are paid for by property taxes (about 37% of the cost), sales taxes, franchise and other taxes, fees for services, fines, the stormwater tax, some miscellaneous income. **Which statement best describes your opinion about the amount of property taxes you pay to Peachtree City compared to the services you get?**



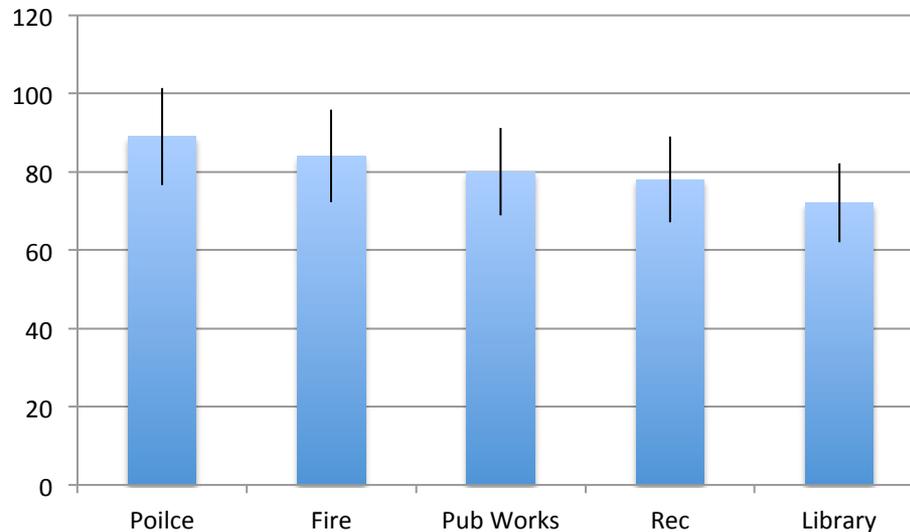
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
My property taxes are too low for the services I want.	0	4	3	4
My property taxes are just right for the services I currently get.	6	26	35	51
My property taxes are too high for the services that are currently provided.	3	11	25	25
I don't pay property taxes.	0	7	2	3

31. Which statement best reflects your opinion?

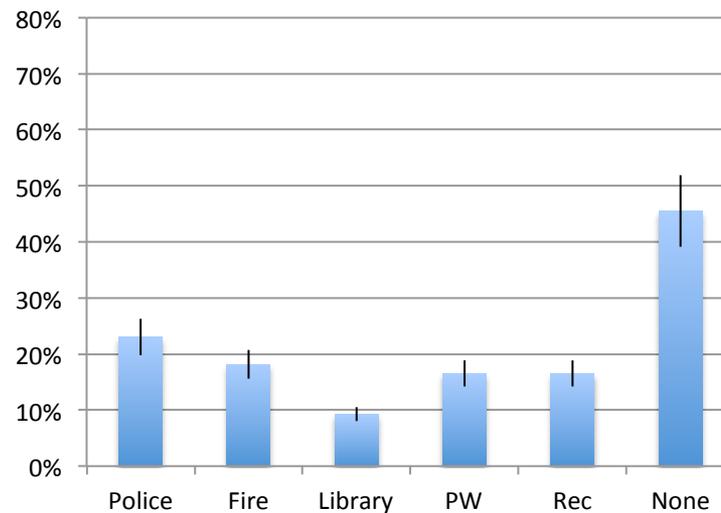


Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
I would accept an increase of no more than \$50 per year in my property taxes in order to increase/improve city services.	6	21	23	40
I would accept an increase of no more than \$100 per year in my property taxes in order to increase/improve city services.	0	14	14	18
I want the city to lower property taxes by about \$50 per year and cut services where necessary.	2	5	13	12
I want the city to lower property taxes by about \$100 per year and cut services where necessary.	1	5	9	9

5. There are **five** principal departments in the city: Police, Fire, Public Works, the Library, and Community Services, which is mostly Recreation and includes the Kedron complex, sports fields, and the Gathering Place. **Please rank these in order of their importance to you, with 1 being highest and 5 being lowest.** [These were presented in random order to each survey participant.]

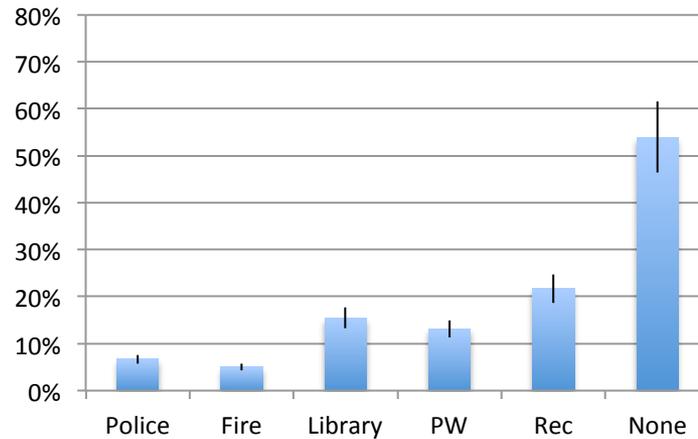


6. The cost in property-tax dollars for an “average” Peachtree City home (one with a fair market value of \$243,000) for operating each department for Fiscal Year 2013 is shown in parenthesis after each department. **Do you think the city spends TOO MUCH money on one or more services?** If so, please select those services on which you think the city spends TOO MUCH money .



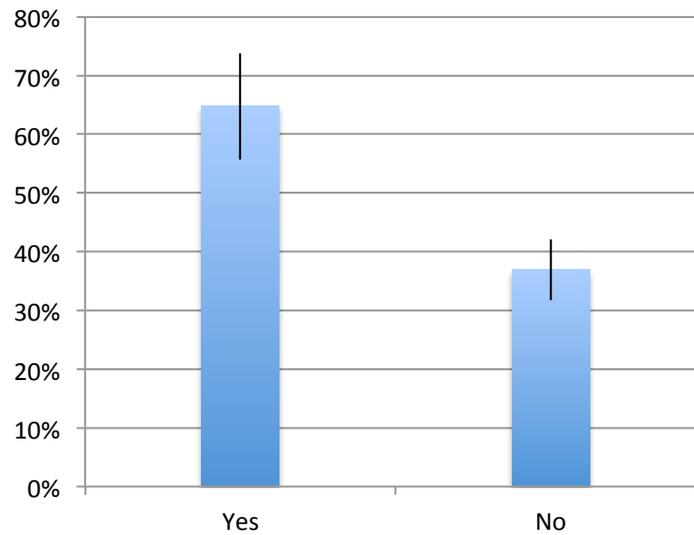
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Police (\$165)	1	13	16	17
Fire (\$155)	1	15	12	5
Library (\$21)	0	7	9	3
Public Works (\$130)	2	10	12	4
Recreation (\$57)	1	4	19	11
None of the above	4	18	21	49

7. The cost in property-tax dollars for an “average” Peachtree City home (one with a fair market value of \$243,000) for operating each department for Fiscal Year 2013 is shown in parenthesis after each department. **Do you think the city spends TOO LITTLE money on one or more services?** If so, please select those services on which you think the city spends TOO LITTLE money.



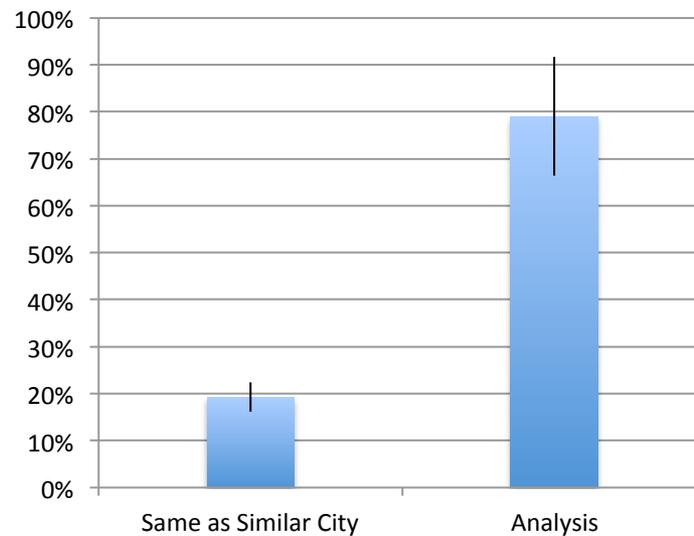
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Police (\$165)	1	3	1	7
Fire (\$155)	0	0	5	8
Library (\$21)	0	10	9	15
Public Works (\$130)	0	6	12	12
Recreation (\$57)	2	15	12	10
None of the above	6	23	33	40

8. Should the city do an analysis of each job in the city?



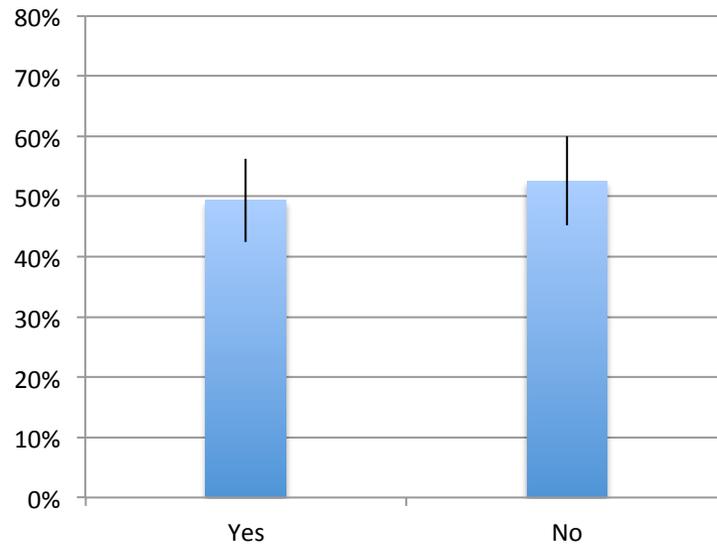
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Yes	5	32	36	58
No	4	15	28	24

9. How do you think the city should determine pay scales for city employees?



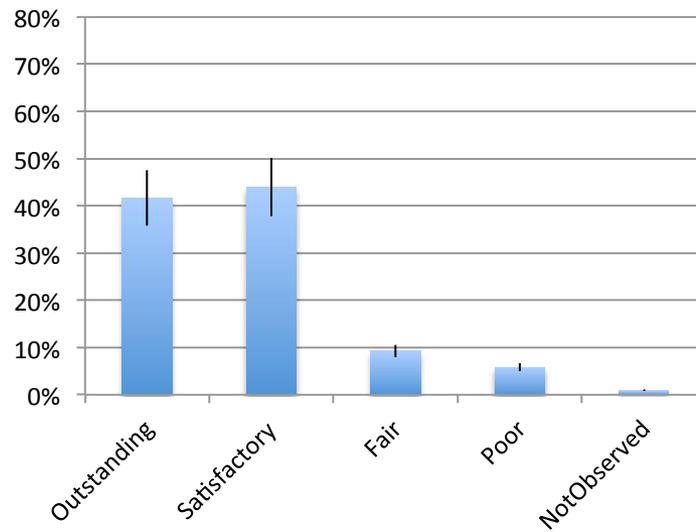
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
They should be paid about the same as employees of similar-sized cities in Georgia.	1	7	6	12
They should be paid based on a professional analysis of the skills and education required to do their jobs.	4	26	31	47

10. Should city employees receive a cost-of-living raise using the same figures used for social security beneficiaries?



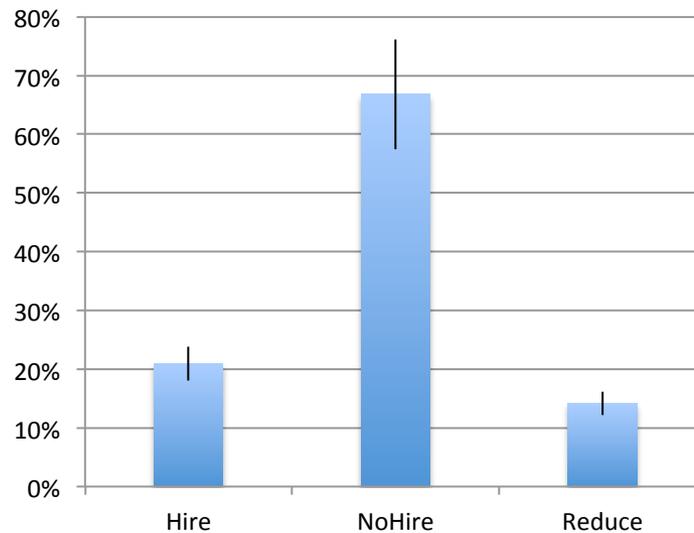
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Yes	3	26	23	48
No	6	20	39	33

11. Overall, how would you rate the performance of the Peachtree City Police Department?



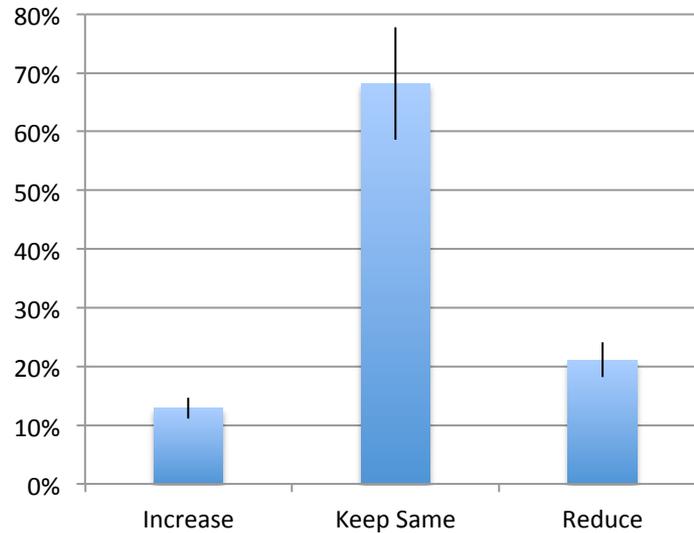
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Outstanding	4	24	19	34
Satisfactory	4	19	24	43
Fair	1	1	14	3
Poor	0	3	8	2
Not observed	0	1	0	1

12. There are about 74 full-time and 14 part-time police department employees. The annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner for each new police officer is about \$6 per year. (This includes salary, benefits, training, equipment, and overhead). **Which statement best describes your opinion?**



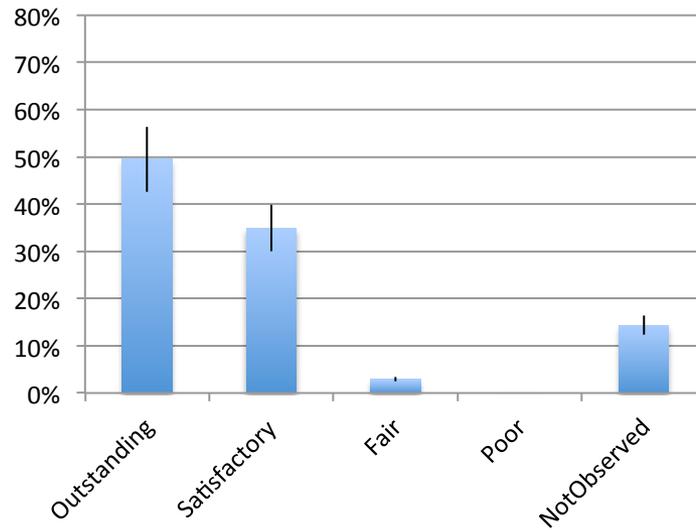
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city SHOULD hire ADDITIONAL police officers.	2	11	11	15
The city SHOULD NOT hire any ADDITIONAL police officers.	7	28	34	58
The city SHOULD REDUCE the number of police officers.	0	7	15	9

35. The annual cost of operating the police department in property-tax dollars for an average homeowner is \$165. **Which statement best describes your opinion?**



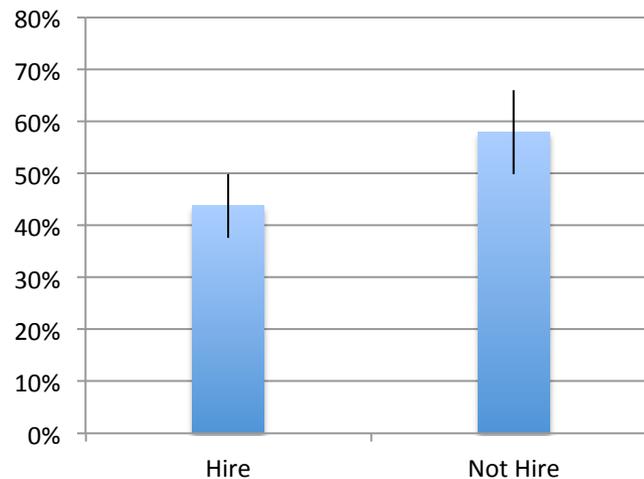
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city should INCREASE this part of the budget and do more.	1	6	7	11
The city should continue to spend the same amount and do the same things.	7	28	39	53
The city should DECREASE this part of the budget and do the minimum necessary.	1	11	15	15

13. Overall, how would you rate the performance of the Peachtree City Fire Department?



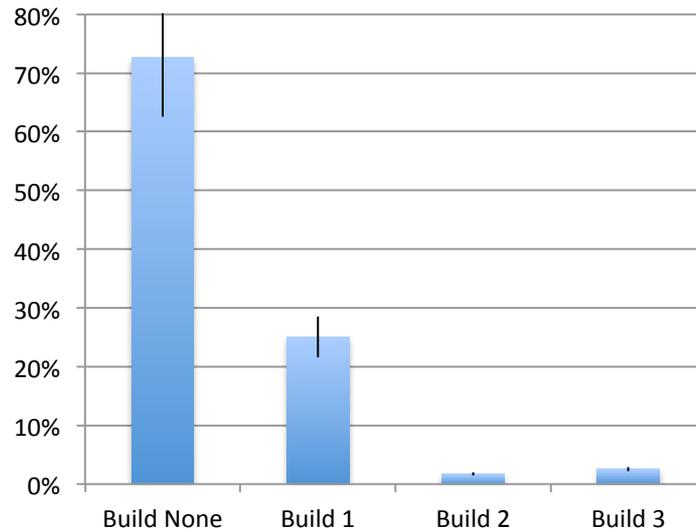
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Outstanding	4	20	28	51
Satisfactory	3	19	23	23
Fair	0	2	4	0
Poor	0	0	0	0
Not observed	2	6	10	8

14. The Fire Department now operates with 19 full-time firefighters per shift. This ensures at least one firefighter per vehicle that responds to a call. In order to have two firefighters per vehicle it would be necessary to add six full-time firefighters. The annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner would be about \$32 per year for all six firefighters. (This includes salary, benefits, and training). **Which statement best describes your opinion?**



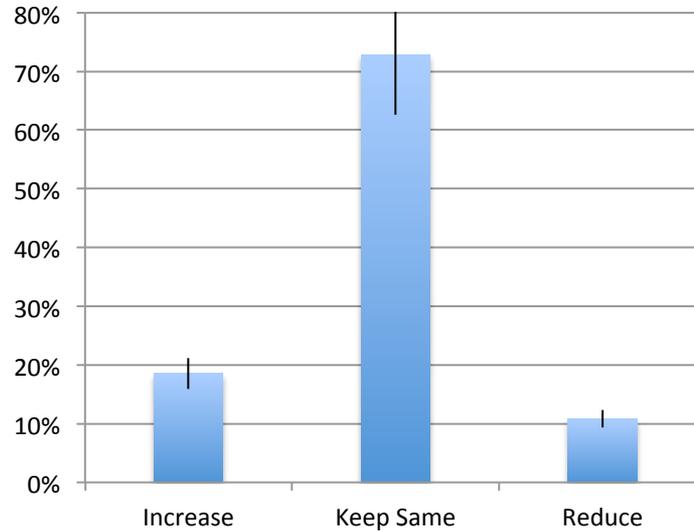
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city SHOULD hire these six additional full-time firefi	4	14	23	48
The city SHOULD NOT hire these additional full-time fir	5	31	39	34

15. As Peachtree City has grown, there have been discussions about building and staffing additional fire stations in south Peachtree City, in the south Kedron area, and in the West Village. The annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner to build a new fire station would be about \$45 per year for five years. After a station was built, the annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner to operate each new fire station would be about \$100 per year. **Which statement best describes your opinion?**



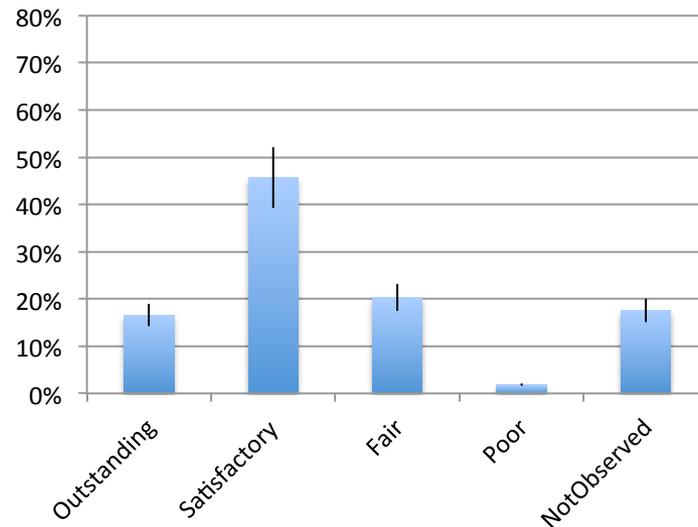
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city SHOULD NOT build ANY additional fire stations.	7	37	44	49
The city SHOULD build ONE additional fire station.	2	8	17	25
The city SHOULD build TWO additional fire stations.	0	1	0	3
The city SHOULD build THREE additional fire stations.	0	1	2	3

36. The annual cost of operating the fire department in property-tax dollars for an average homeowner is \$155. **Which statement best describes your opinion?**



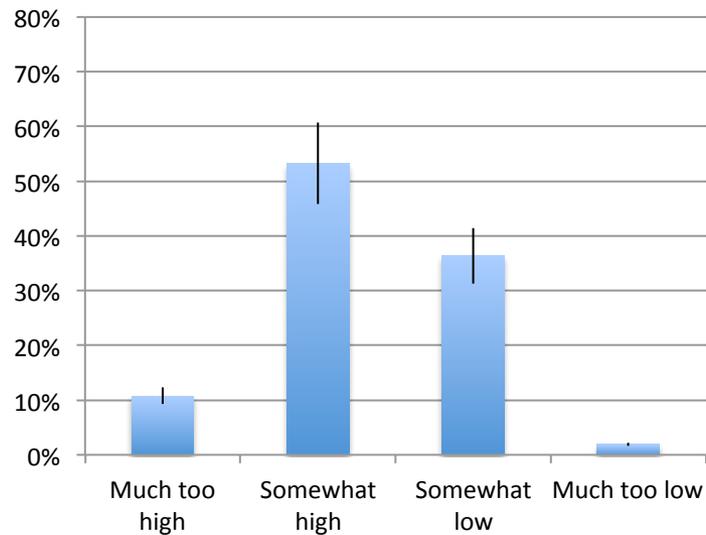
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city should INCREASE this part of the budget and do more.	2	6	9	19
The city should continue to spend the same amount and do the same things.	7	30	45	57
The city should DECREASE this part of the budget and do the minimum necessary.	0	10	7	4

16. Recreation—which is part of Community Services—includes the Kedron gym and pools, other pools around the city, the Gathering Place, sports programs, and passive parks—some with tennis courts and basketball courts. **Overall, how would you rate the performance of Recreation?**



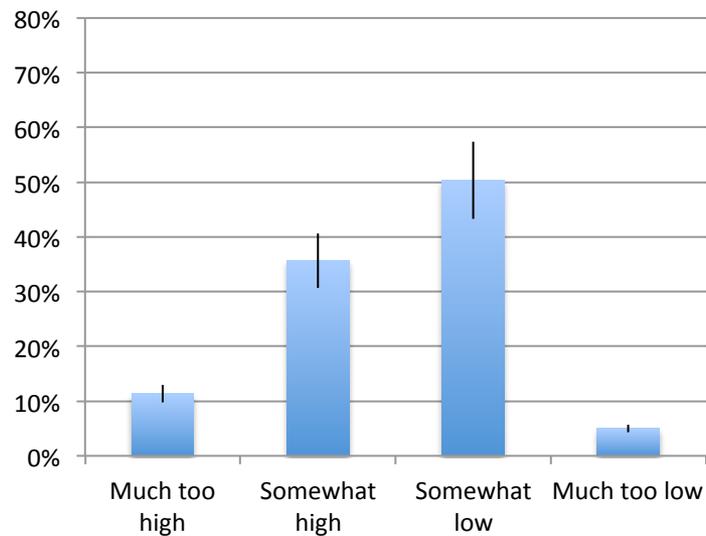
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Outstanding	1	14	9	6
Satisfactory	4	17	28	43
Fair	2	11	10	15
Poor	0	1	3	0
Not observed	2	4	12	17

17. The annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner for the city to operate the Kedron gym, pools, and bubble is about \$14 per year. **This amount is:**



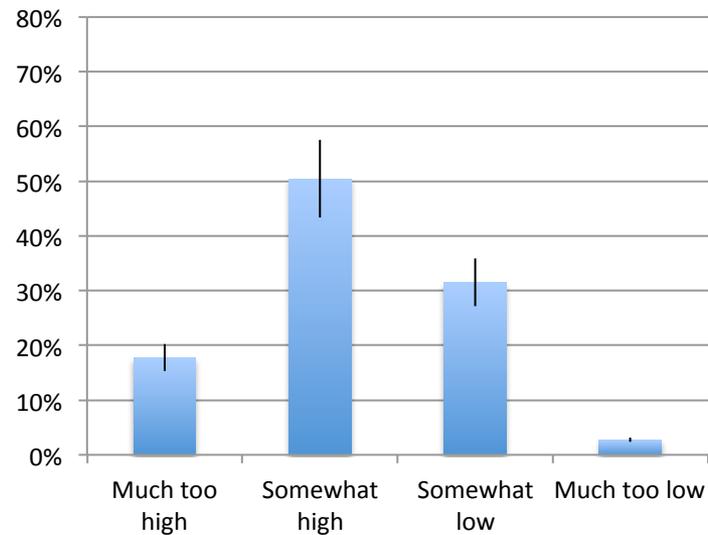
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Much too high	1	3	7	10
Somewhat high	6	21	31	38
Somewhat low	2	19	21	29
Much too low	0	1	2	1

18. The annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner for the city to operate the Gathering Place is about \$4 per year. **This amount is:**



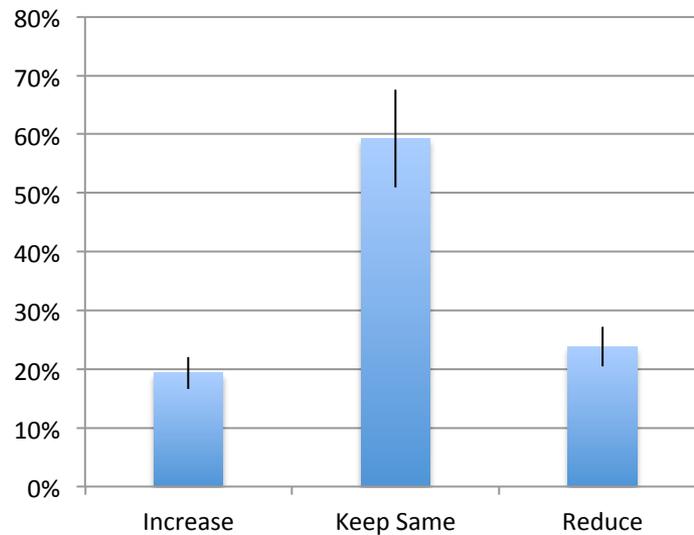
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Much too high	1	4	11	5
Somewhat high	4	18	16	24
Somewhat low	3	21	31	45
Much too low	1	1	2	4

19. The annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner for the city to provide other recreation programs and services is about \$39 per year. **This amount is:**



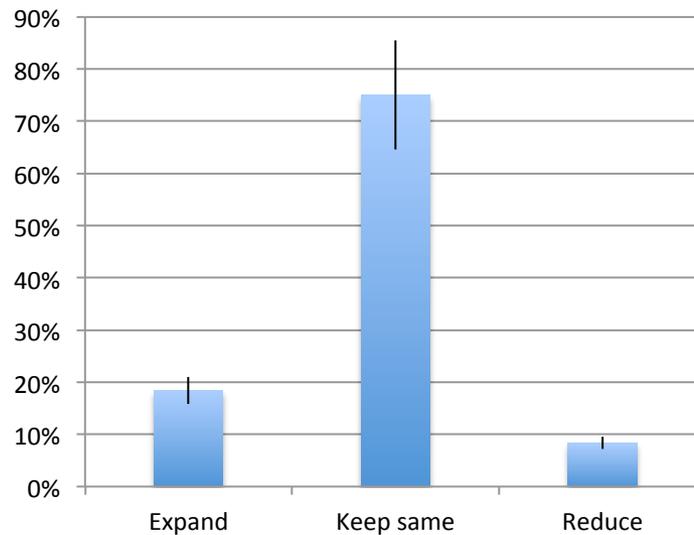
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Much too high	2	6	12	12
Somewhat high	5	16	30	44
Somewhat low	2	19	17	20
Much too low	0	3	1	1

38. The annual cost of operating recreation in property-tax dollars for an average homeowner is \$57. **Which statement best describes your opinion?**



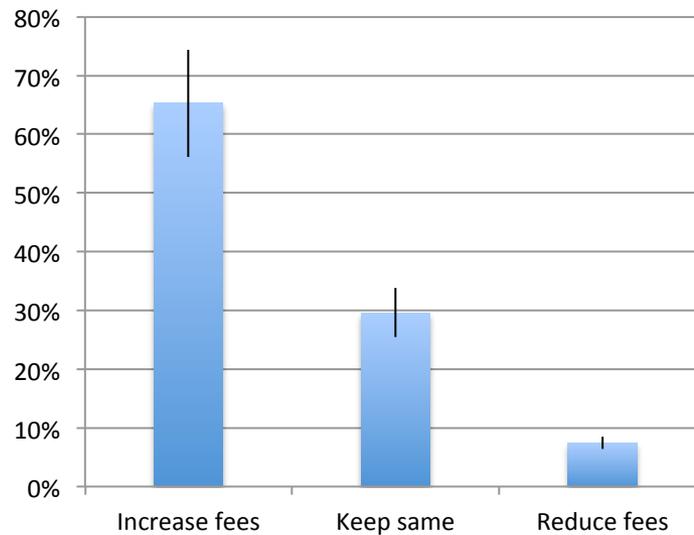
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city should INCREASE this part of the budget and do more.	1	15	9	11
The city should continue to spend the same amount and do the same things.	7	24	31	47
The city should DECREASE this part of the budget and do the minimum necessary.	1	8	21	21

20. Which statement best describes your opinion?



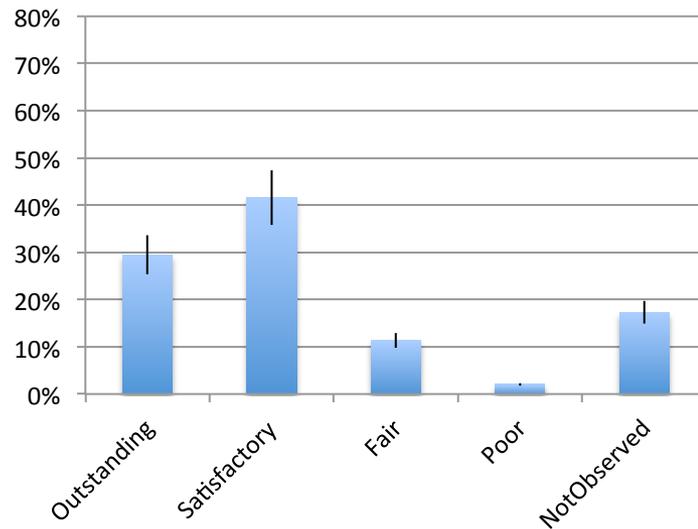
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Peachtree City should EXPAND the city's recreational facilities.	0	15	12	11
Peachtree City should MAINTAIN but NOT EXPAND existing recreational facilities.	8	29	43	66
Peachtree City should CUT recreational facilities.	1	2	8	5

21. Some recreational services are subsidized by fees paid by users. In the approved 2013 budget, fees account for about 20% of the cost. The city has recently moved to increase some fees for some activities. **Which statement best reflects your opinion?**



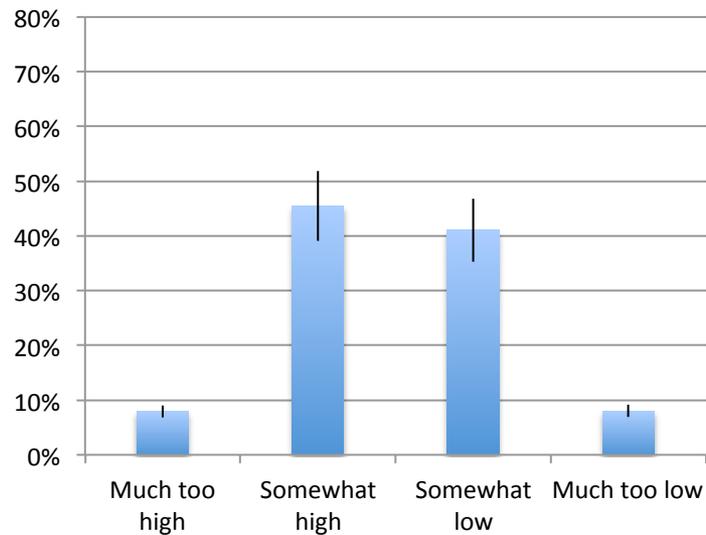
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Fees should be INCREASED across the board to account for a larger percentage of cost.	6	26	42	53
Fees should stay the same.	2	16	17	23
Fees should be DECREASED.	1	5	3	3

22. How would you rate the performance of the Peachtree City Library?



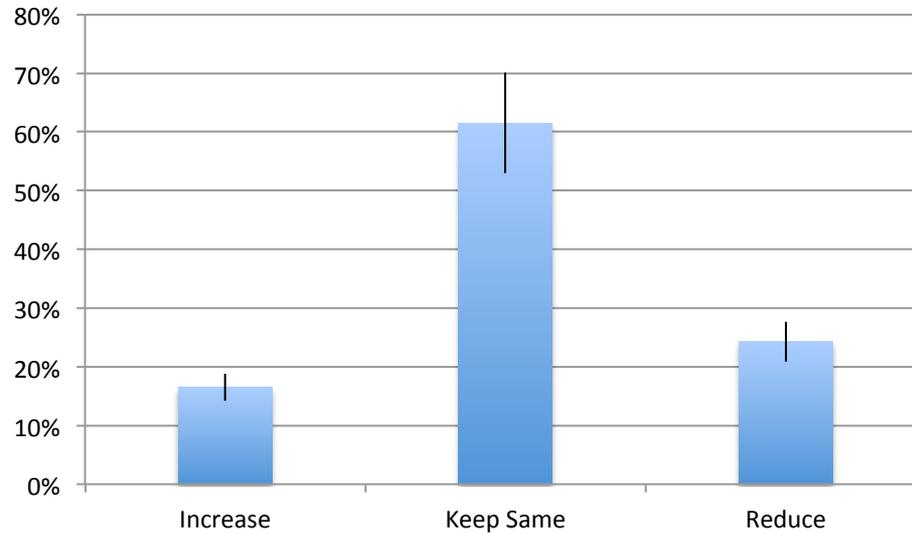
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Outstanding	2	13	19	27
Satisfactory	6	12	29	30
Fair	0	11	4	8
Poor	0	2	2	0
Not Observed	1	9	9	17

23. The annual cost in property taxes for the average homeowner for the city to operate the Library is about \$21 per year. **This amount is:**



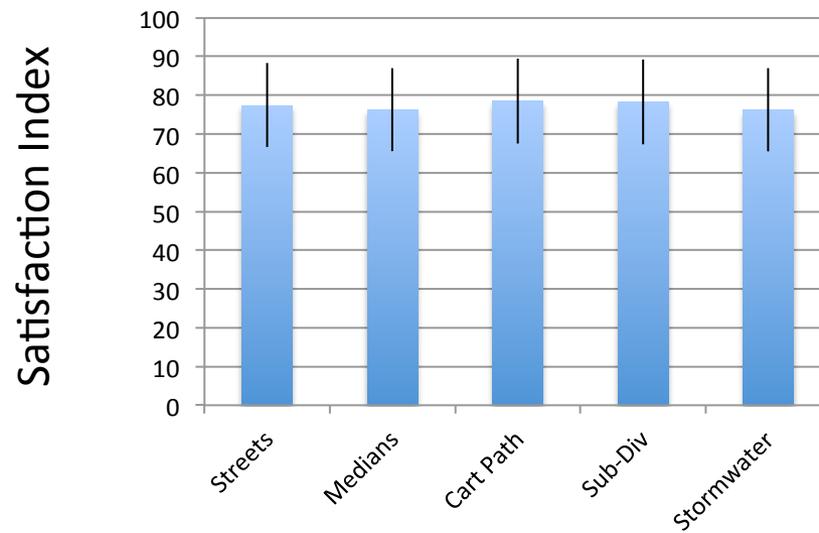
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Much too high	0	5	9	2
Somewhat high	4	17	28	38
Somewhat low	5	18	19	30
Much too low	0	5	4	8

39. The annual cost of operating the Library in property-tax dollars for an average homeowner is \$21. **Which statement best describes your opinion?**

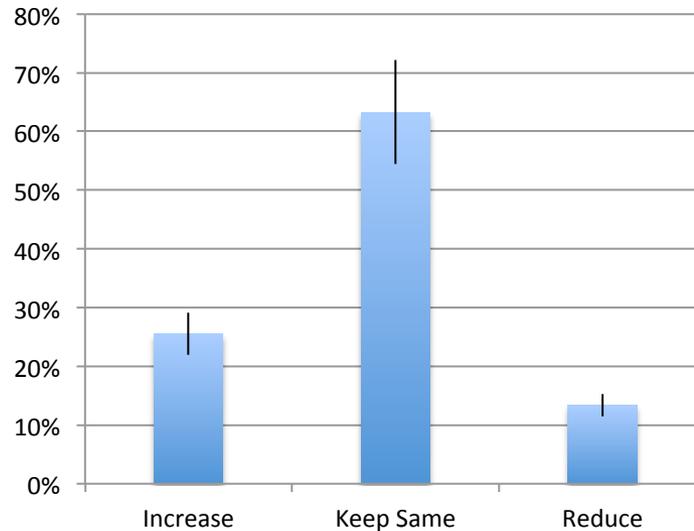


Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city should INCREASE this part of the budget and do more.	0	11	9	15
The city should continue to spend the same amount and do the same things.	6	26	37	47
The city should DECREASE this part of the budget and do the minimum necessary.	3	9	15	17

24. The Public Works Division provides services including the ones on this list. **Please let us know how well you think the department is doing in each area.**

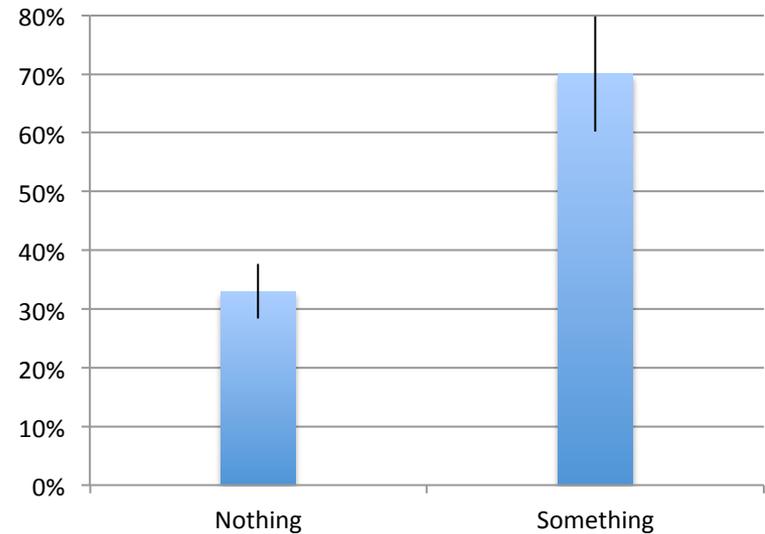
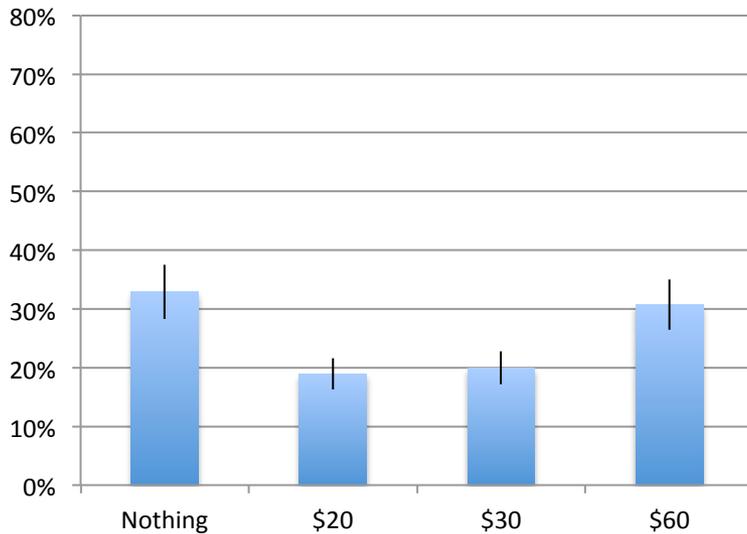


37. The annual cost of operating the public works department in property-tax dollars for an average homeowner is \$130. **Which statement best describes your opinion?**



Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
The city should INCREASE this part of the budget and do more.	2	13	15	19
The city should continue to spend the same amount and do the same things.	6	26	34	56
The city should DECREASE this part of the budget and do the minimum necessary.	1	7	12	5

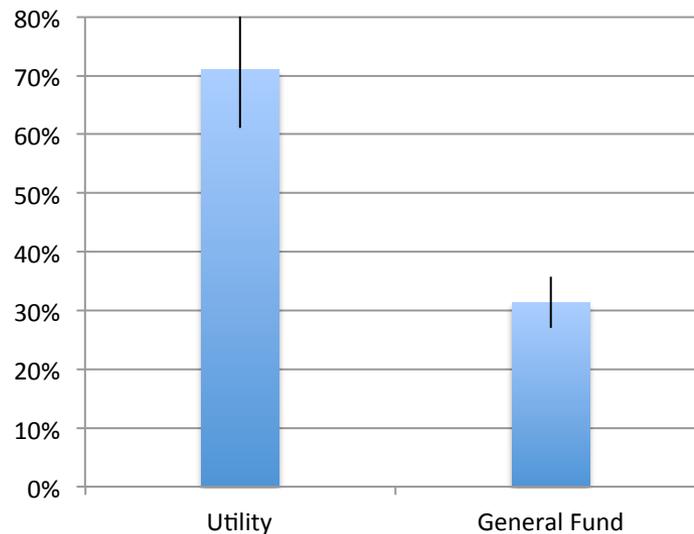
25. The city has created a list of cart path connectivity projects. The list has been prioritized using factors of cost, safety, connectivity, and design and construction. The total cost is \$10,074,782. **How much in additional property taxes would you be willing to pay to complete these projects?**



Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
\$0	5	9	23	21
\$20 (the projects could be completed in 30 years)	1	10	6	22
\$30 (the projects could be completed in 20 years)	0	11	19	13
\$60 (the projects could be completed in 10 years)	3	17	15	21

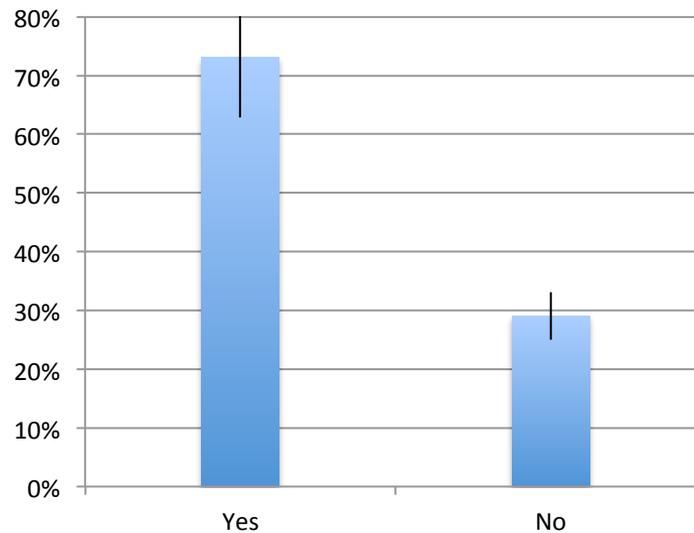
28. A stormwater management tax is collected from all property owners based on the square footage of roofs and parking lots on their property. The cost is thus shared proportionally by all property owners, including those that normally would not pay property taxes. This money is used to maintain and repair stormwater runoff systems such as culverts and detention ponds, and to monitor streams and lakes for pollutants.

Which statement best reflects your opinion?



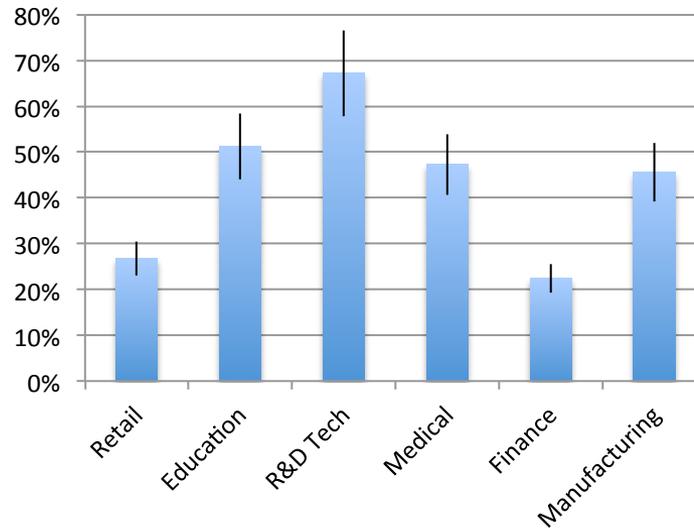
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
This approach to paying for stormwater management is a good approach.	7	31	43	48
Costs for stormwater management should come from the general fund and be paid by increasing property taxes and eliminating the stormwater tax.	2	13	19	28

29. We currently pay Fayette County both county taxes and an annual fee to promote our economic development. **Should Peachtree City have its own economic development function at essentially the same cost?**



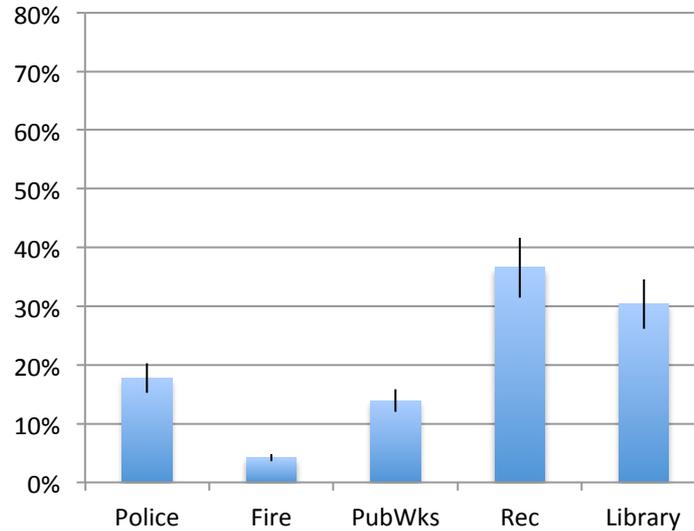
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Yes	6	39	36	58
No	3	7	25	22

30. Where do you think economic development should focus? Please select one or more.



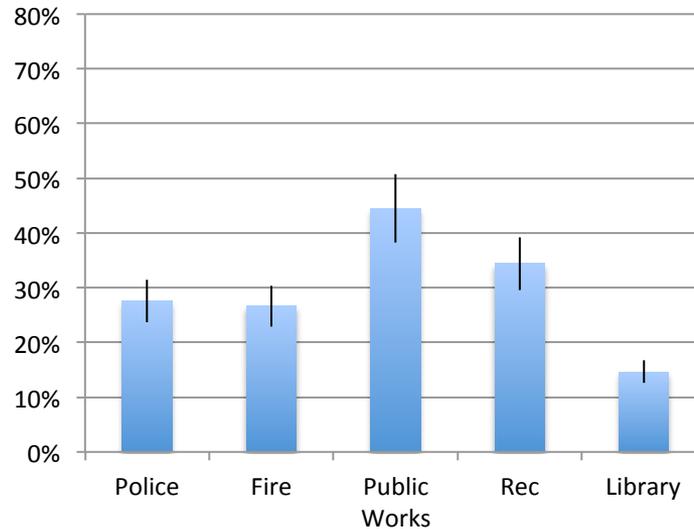
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Retail	4	11	12	19
Education	5	28	29	31
Research & Development/Science & Technology	5	33	45	47
Medical	4	25	27	33
Financial Services	2	14	15	9
Manufacturing	6	14	21	44

32. If the city had to reduce the budget of one of the five departments, **which one would you reduce?** [List was presented to each respondent in a random order.]



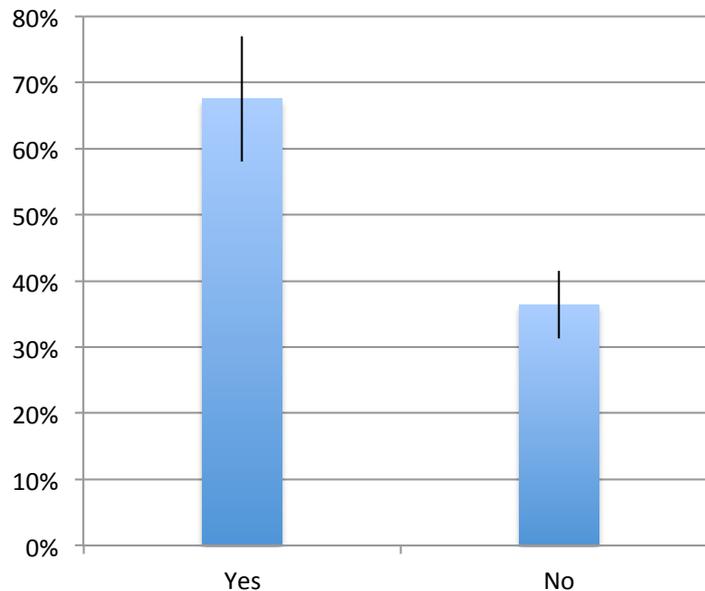
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Police	1	6	18	11
Fire	0	6	0	1
Public Works	2	7	6	8
Recreation	2	12	24	39
Library	4	16	14	17

33. If the city were to increase taxes to improve city services, **please mark the service or services where additional money should be spent.** [List was presented in random order.]



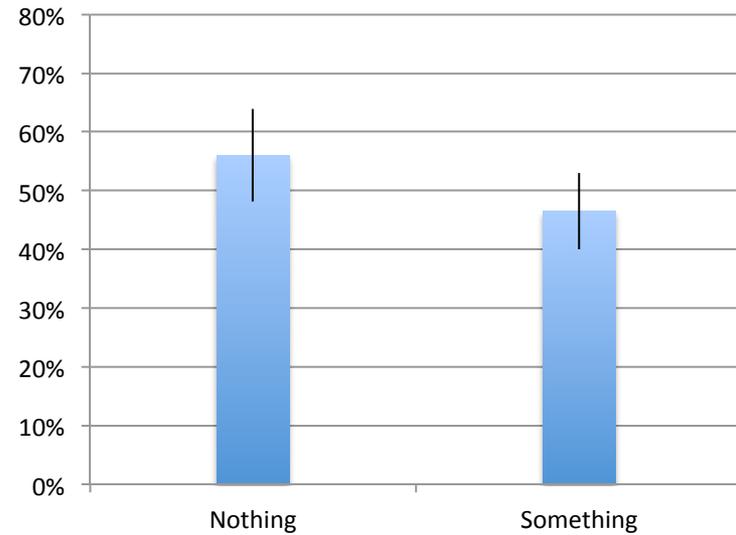
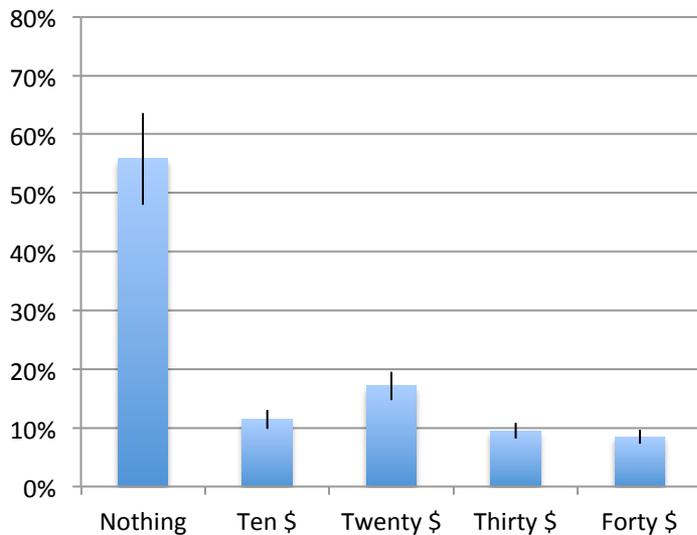
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Police	3	12	12	23
Fire	2	8	15	29
Public Works	2	22	29	36
Recreation	5	21	15	12
Library	0	9	8	14

34. A 1 mill increase in property taxes would cost the average homeowner \$97 per year and provide the city \$1,709,245 in additional income. **Should the city consider other forms of revenue—such as a Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST, a city-only sales tax), an increase in the hotel and motel tax, or an increase in cable TV franchise fees—to offset increases in property taxes?**



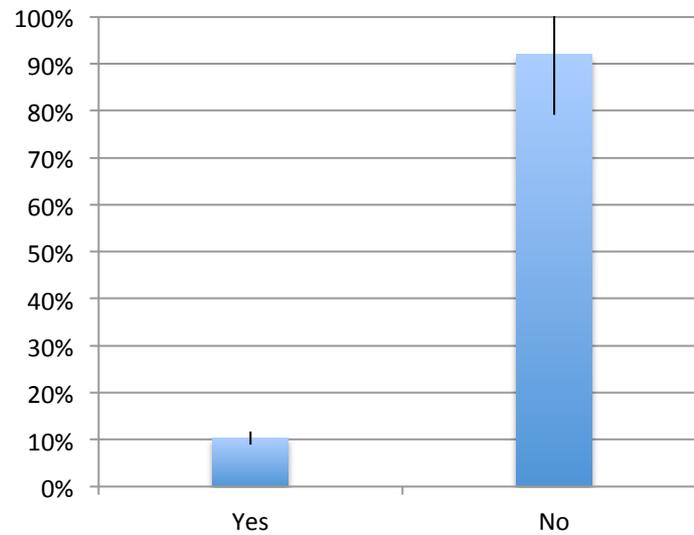
Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Yes	6	32	37	50
No	3	14	24	29

40. Last year, the city borrowed \$5,774,330 through a Facilities Bond. \$3,012,306 was allocated to maintenance, repairs, and improvements to various infrastructure projects. Paying off this bond, at about \$633,000 per year, costs the average homeowner \$36 per year. **How much more in annual property taxes would you be willing to pay for a similar bond to be used for other infrastructure projects?**



Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Nothing	6	24	37	35
\$10	0	5	7	14
\$20	2	7	5	18
\$30	1	7	3	5
\$40	0	3	9	7

41. Should the city continue to borrow money, including borrowing through equipment lease-purchase loans, without first submitting these loans to the taxpayers for approval through a referendum or without first including the loans, amounts, purposes, and payoff schedules in an approved annual budget?



Answer Options	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 or older
Yes	1	4	5	10
No	8	42	56	69

Questions?