

**BGSU**

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Survey Results

# Put-In-Bay

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# History

BGSU has been contracted to conduct studies in 1987 & 2001 on this topic.

## 2024

- Application from CRG to BGSU Reimagining Rural Regions program
- Meetings with CRG to set-up course of action
- Interviews (identified by GRG)
- Focus Groups (Identified by CRG)
- Community-Wide Survey
- Web-based report to be issued



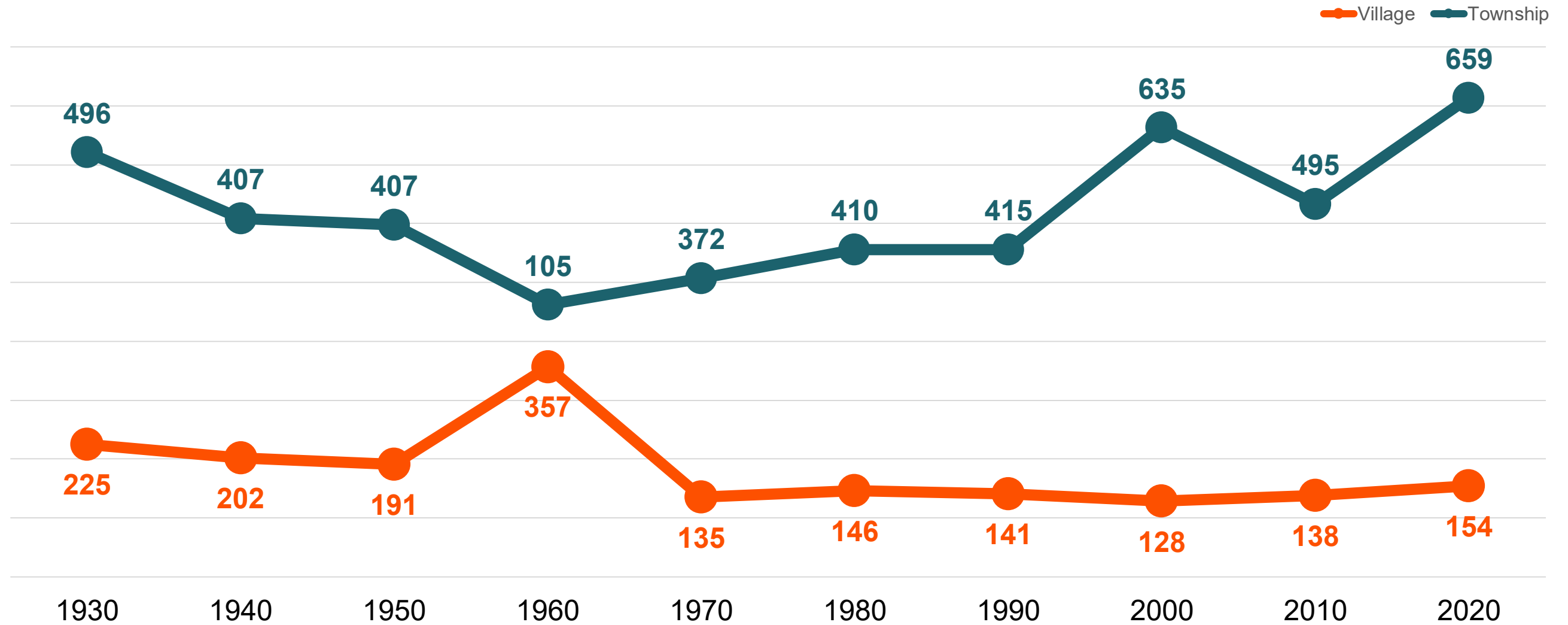
# Survey Methodology

- Interview and Focus Group responses were used to determine broader questions for the community-wide survey.
- 1563 Postcards were sent 8/6 to:
  - Registered voters and property owners
  - This information was compiled from information from the Board of Elections and Auditors office
- In order to get to a 95% confidence interval, we needed a minimum of 308 survey responses.

*Not every person answered every question.*

# Some Basic Demographic Data

# Population of the Village & Township through the Years



Source: US Census data

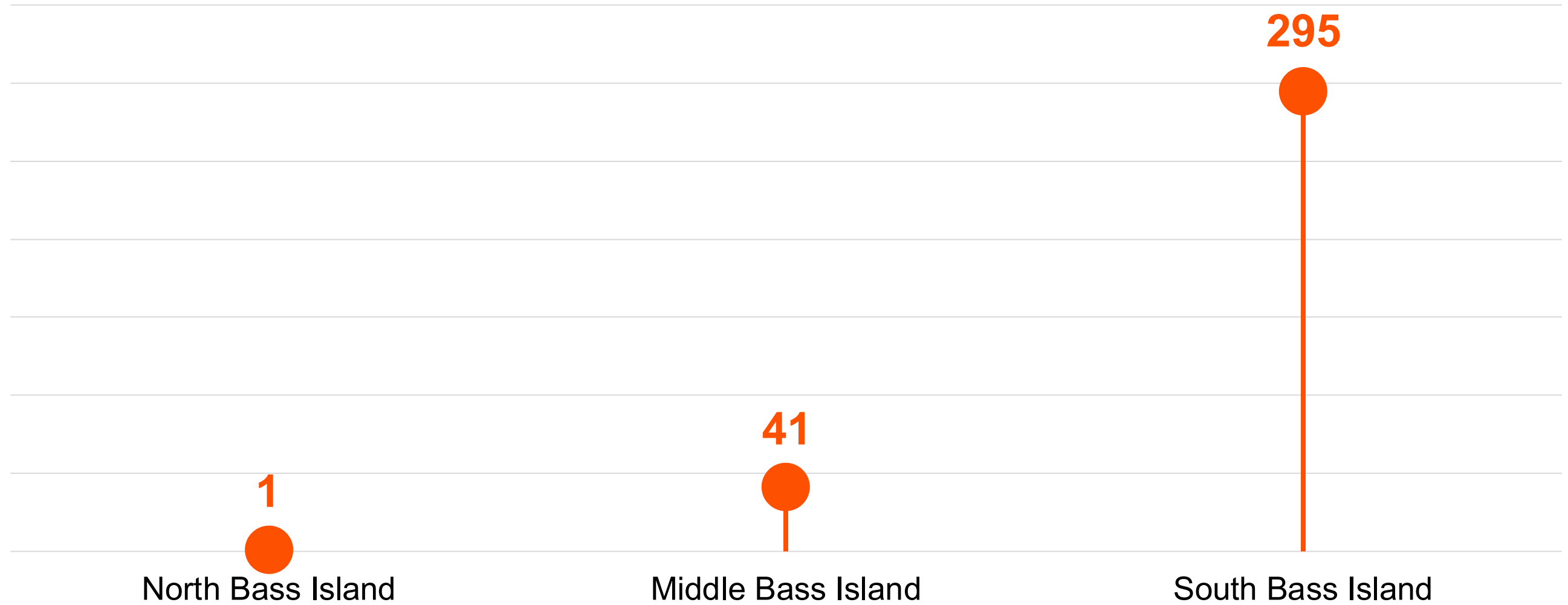


# Quick Facts

- 87.9 (715) residents are age 18 or older (*2020 Census*)
- As of the March 2022 Primary, 715 residents were registered to vote, and 221 actually voted (*Board of Elections*)
- For the November 2022 General Election, 730 were registered to vote, and 499 actually voted (*Board of Elections*)
- There are 1,535 housing units, 411 of which are occupied (*U.S. Census*)
- The Village has 327 housing units, 240 of which are vacant (*U.S. Census*)

# Survey Results

# *Where is your Island home?*





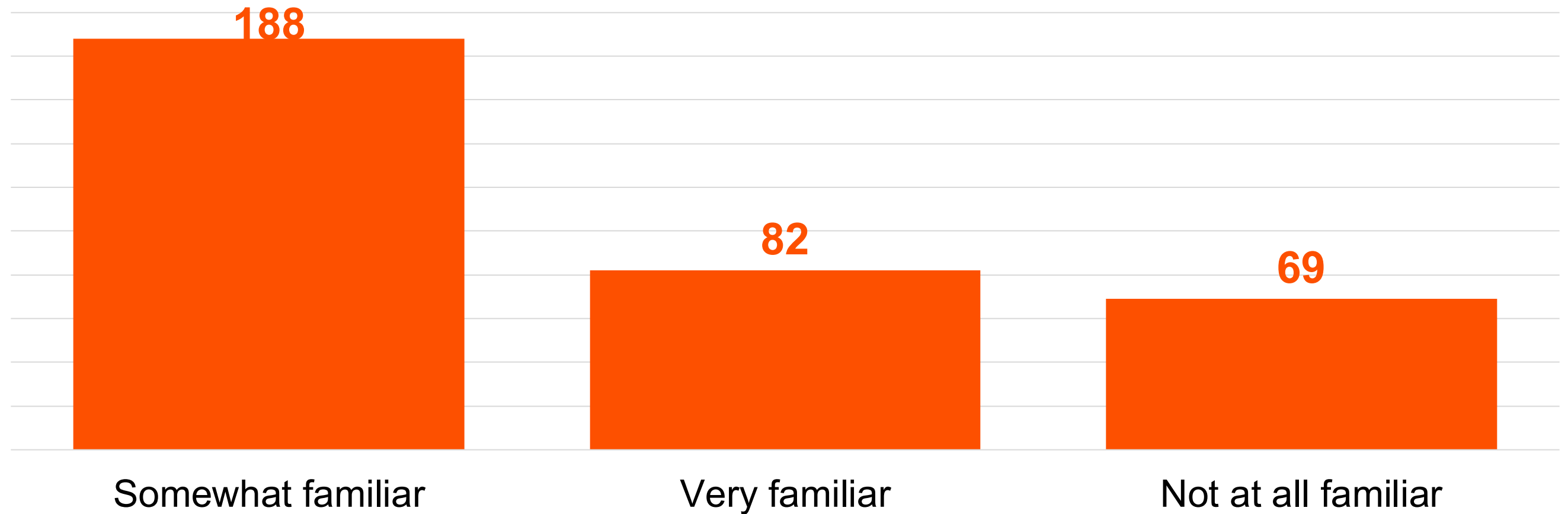
*Are you a registered voter on the Islands?*



*Are you a property owner on the Islands?*



*How familiar are you with the concept of government restructuring and its potential implications for our community?*



*Do you see any pitfalls of government restructuring?  
Briefly describe (Open-ended responses on the next slides)*



# Perceived Pitfalls (Open-Ended Question)

*Do you see any pitfalls of government restructuring? Briefly describe.*

## **Economic impact**

- People harming the island's economy.
- Potential loss of significant external financial sources like county funding.
- Concerns about the distribution of resources between village and township.
- Risk of draining funds from needs outside the village.

## **Restructuring concerns**

- Uncertainty about the restructuring process and its implications.
- Possible loss of ability to pass ordinances if restructuring eliminates county involvement.
- Fear of increased red tape and complexity.

## **Government & legal issues**

- Concerns over lawsuits, budgeting, and audits.
- Loss of status as an incorporated village and potential for increased bureaucracy.
- Risk of increased government power and job creation without clear benefits.

## **Representation & fairness**

- Worries about fair representation of different islands
- Possible underrepresentation of township residents and their needs.
- Potential imbalance between business interests and residents' welfare.

# Perceived Pitfalls (Open-Ended Question)

*Do you see any pitfalls of government restructuring? Briefly describe.*

## **Commercialization & zoning**

- Fear of increased commercialization and loss of local control.
- Concerns about zoning issues and the influence of businesses on governance.
- Potential for business interests to overshadow resident needs.

## **Financial & operational impacts**

- Risk of losing county funding for roads and other services.
- Potential for increased taxes and higher costs for residents.
- Concerns about the handling of resources and potential for financial mismanagement.

## **Cultural & local concerns**

- Different needs and issues of each island community might be overlooked.
- Possible loss of island-specific cultural and operational focus.
- Fear of off-island decision-makers lacking understanding of local issues

## **Governance & control**

- Potential for power struggles between village and township.
- Concerns about loss of local autonomy and control over community issues.
- Uncertainty about who will be in charge and how it will affect the islands.

*If the form of local government changed but the services you receive stayed the same or are improved, would you be supportive of the change?*

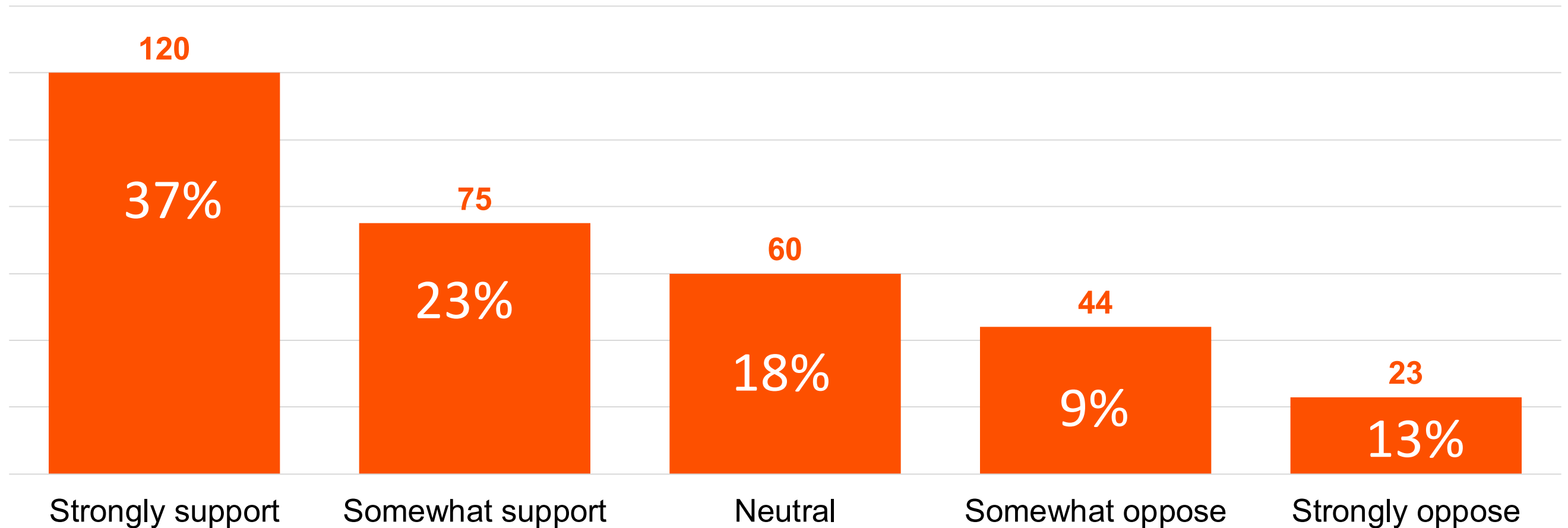
Yes  
**211**

**82%**

No  
**46**

**18%**

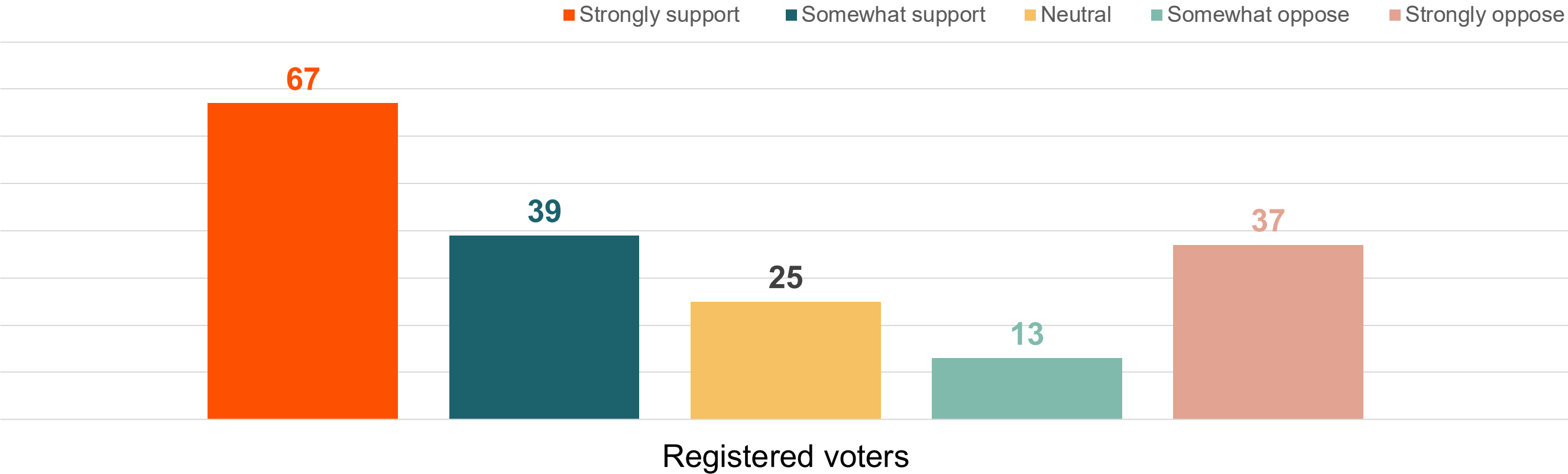
*Based on what you currently know, do you support the government restructuring of the Township & Village (overall)?*





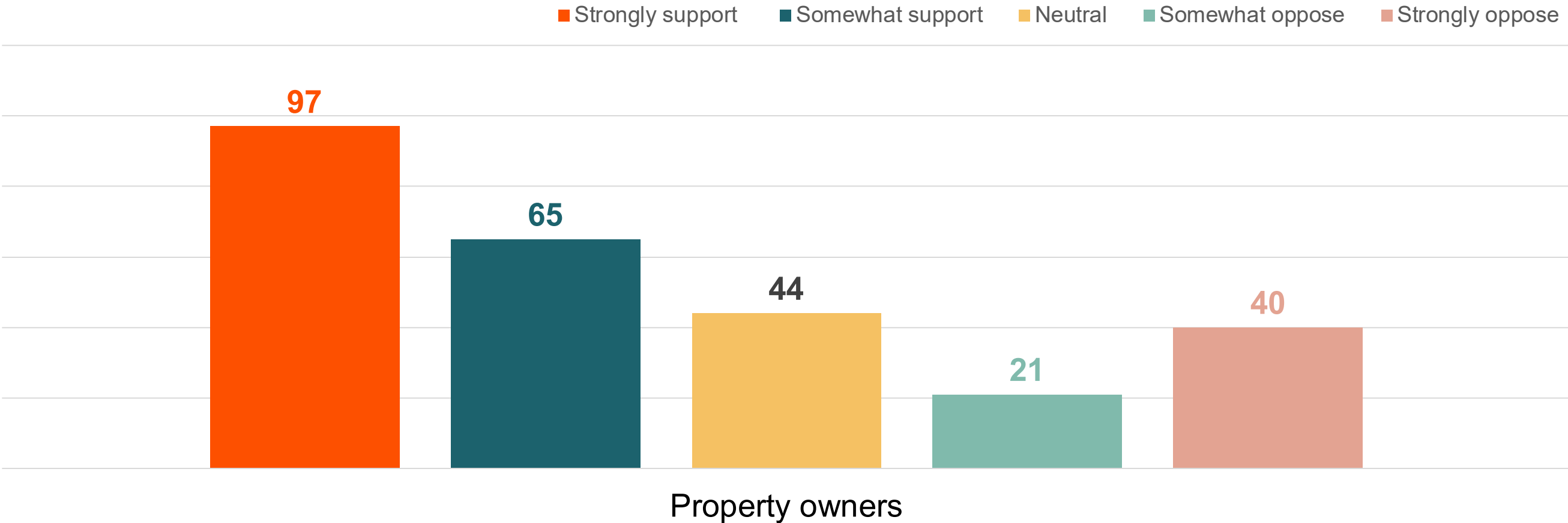
*Based on what you currently know, do you support the government restructuring of the Township & Village?*

n=181



*Based on what you currently know, do you support the government restructuring of the Township & Village?*

n=267

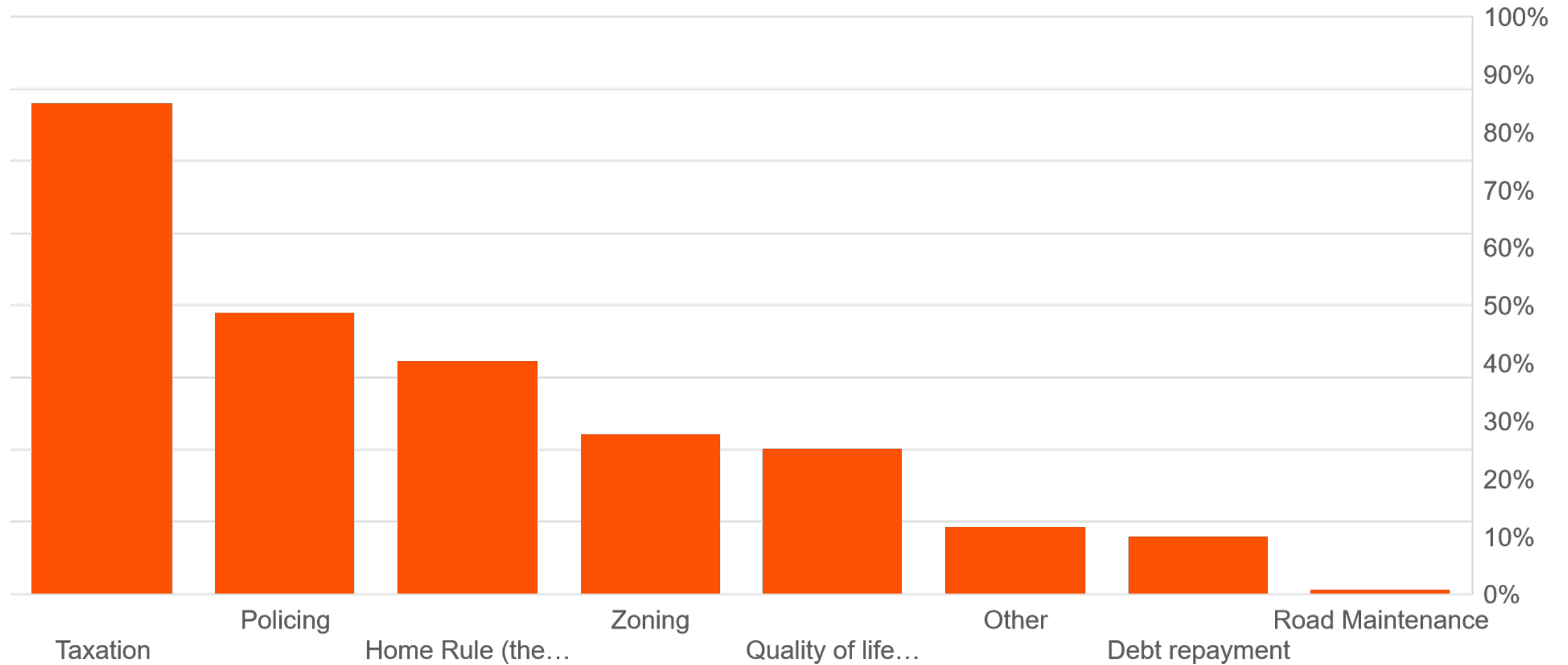


*Would you support government restructuring if it meant enhanced access to resources and infrastructure development for the community (overall)?*

Yes  
219 83%

No  
46 17%

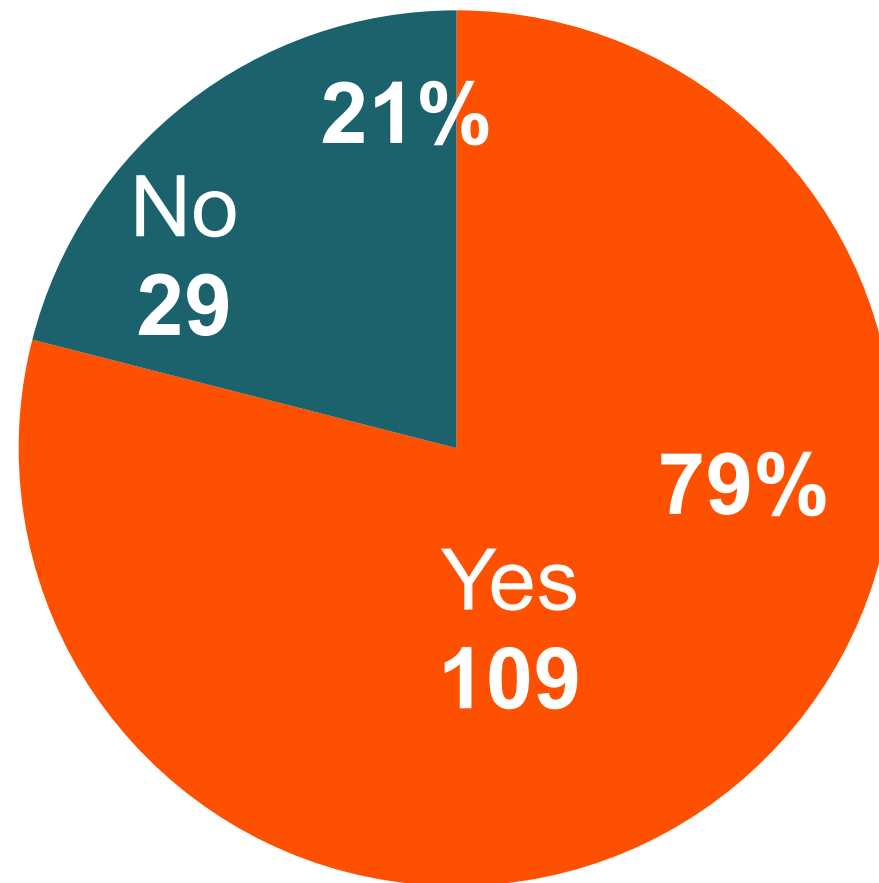
*Please rank your concerns around government restructuring.*



*Would you support government restructuring if it meant enhanced access to resources and infrastructure development for the community?*

n=138

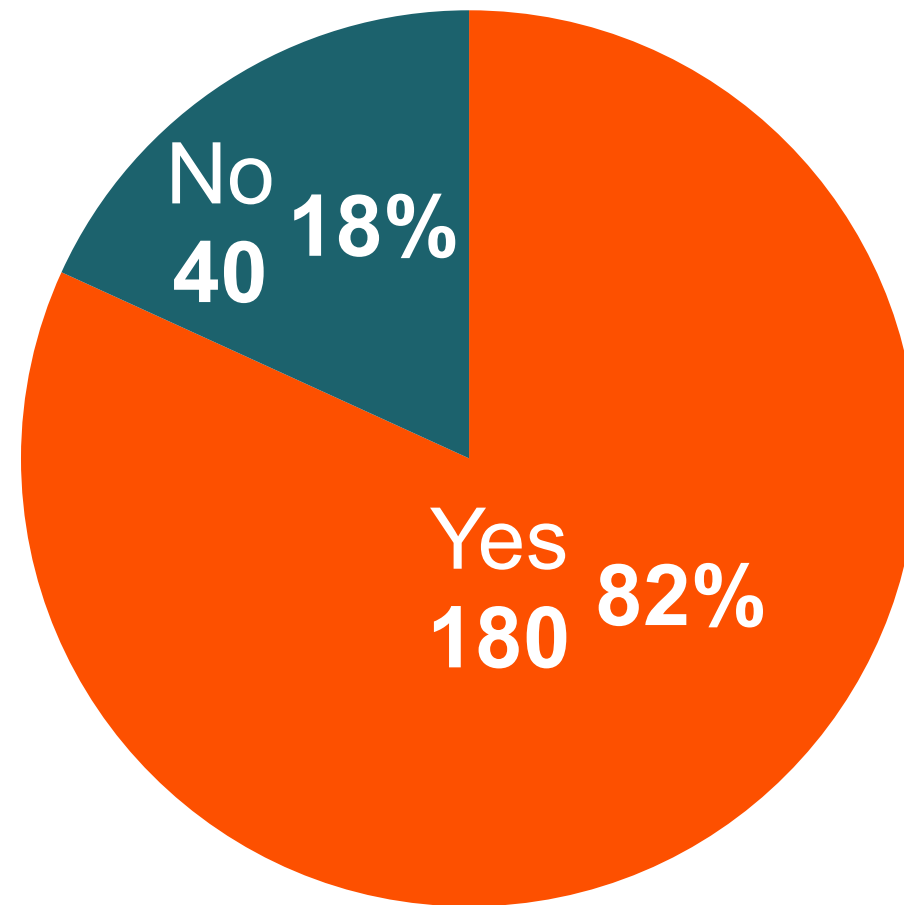
Registered voters



*Would you support government restructuring if it meant enhanced access to resources and infrastructure development for the community?*

n=220

Property owners



# Open-Ended Questions

# Other Open-Ended Questions

*In your opinion, what are the potential **BENEFITS** of government restructuring for our community?*

## Frequently Mentioned Items:

- **Larger Pool of Candidates:** Expanding the pool of eligible candidates for government positions, including council and mayoral roles.
- **Cost Savings:** Reduction in costs by eliminating duplicate services and combining government entities.
- **Unified Government:** Creation of a single government entity for the entire island to streamline operations and enforce uniform policies.
- **Increased Representation:** All residents, including those outside the village, would have a say in local government decisions.
- **Efficiency:** Improved efficiency and organization in governance, including better management of resources and services.
- **Elimination of Duplication:** Removing duplicate services, such as having one police force instead of multiple entities.
- **Better Governance:** Potential for higher quality and more responsive government officials and services.
- **Consistency:** Implementation of consistent laws and policies across the entire island.



# Other Open-Ended Questions

*What information or facts would you like to see around the idea of government restructuring?*

## Key questions & concerns:

### ○ Funding and Costs:

- How will roads and public services be funded if the village is dissolved?
- Cost implications of maintaining two government entities vs. merging into one.
- Impact on taxes, including potential increases or decreases.
- Cost savings from unifying services like water, sewage, and policing.
- Potential for tax changes and their effects on homeowners and businesses.

### ○ Impact on Residents and Businesses:

- Changes for people and businesses currently in the township if the village is dissolved.
- Effects on property taxes and services.
- How businesses and residential areas will be affected by changes in governance and taxation.

# Other Open-Ended Questions

*What information or facts would you like to see around the idea of government restructuring (cont.)?*

- **Community and Economic Impact:**

- How restructuring could impact local businesses, tourism, and residential areas.
- Economic benefits and potential drawbacks.
- Impact on county funds and how losses might be compensated.

- **Communication and Transparency:**

- Need for clear, detailed information and regular updates about restructuring plans.
- How residents will be informed and involved in the process.

- Assurance of fair treatment and representation for all areas affected.

- **Examples and Comparisons:**

- Case studies from other communities that have undergone similar changes.
- Comparison of tax rates, zoning laws, and service levels between current and proposed structures.

- **Public Opinion and Involvement:**

- Community meetings and debates to discuss and explain proposed changes.
- How to ensure that the restructuring aligns with the needs and preferences of the residents.

# Other Open-Ended Questions

*What information or facts would you like to see around the idea of government restructuring (cont.)?*

## ○ Governance and Representation:

- Who will be the governing body post-restructuring?
- How will utilities and public services be managed?
- Representation for the upper islands and how their interests will be maintained.
- Will the new governance structure fairly represent all islands, including Middle Bass?

## ○ Restructuring Details:

- Timeline for completion of restructuring.
- Comprehensive details on proposed changes, including a clear presentation of current vs. proposed structures.
- Benefits and drawbacks of merging the village and township.



*Questions?*