

Community Survey Results

Zoning Ordinance Update Project

September 2023



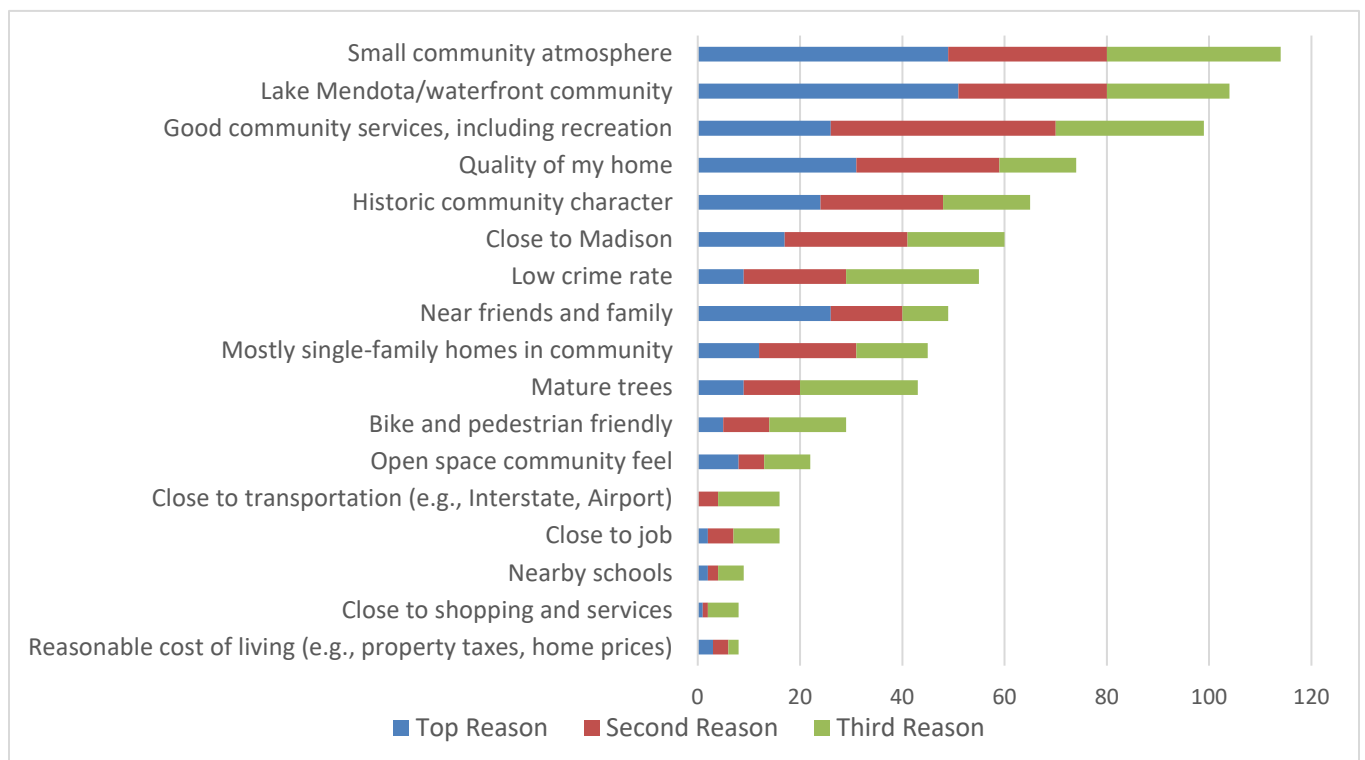
Overview

In late July through August 2023, the Village of Maple Bluff conducted a community survey to gather resident input related to its pending zoning ordinance update, scheduled for completion in 2024. The survey was primarily conducted using Survey Monkey—an internet survey tool—but residents also had the option to complete the survey in hard copy form. The Village utilized various approaches on different occasions to direct residents to the survey.

The survey elicited 285 responses, which represents about 30% of Maple Bluff’s adult population (there were no respondents under 18 years old). This is a good response percentage for surveys of this type. Basic demographics of survey respondents compared to Maple Bluff’s adult population as a whole are provided later. Not every respondent answered every question.

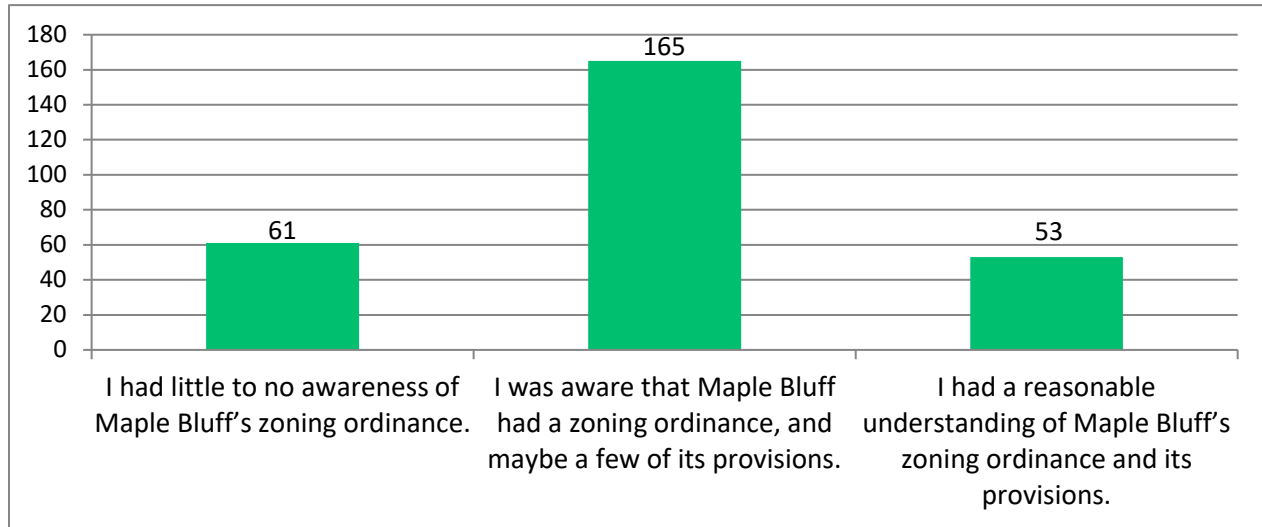
Substantive Survey Results

Question 1: From the choices below, please provide the top three reasons WHY YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE IN MAPLE BLUFF. Please write “1” in the box next to your top reason, “2” next to your second reason (if any), and “3” next to your third reason (if any).

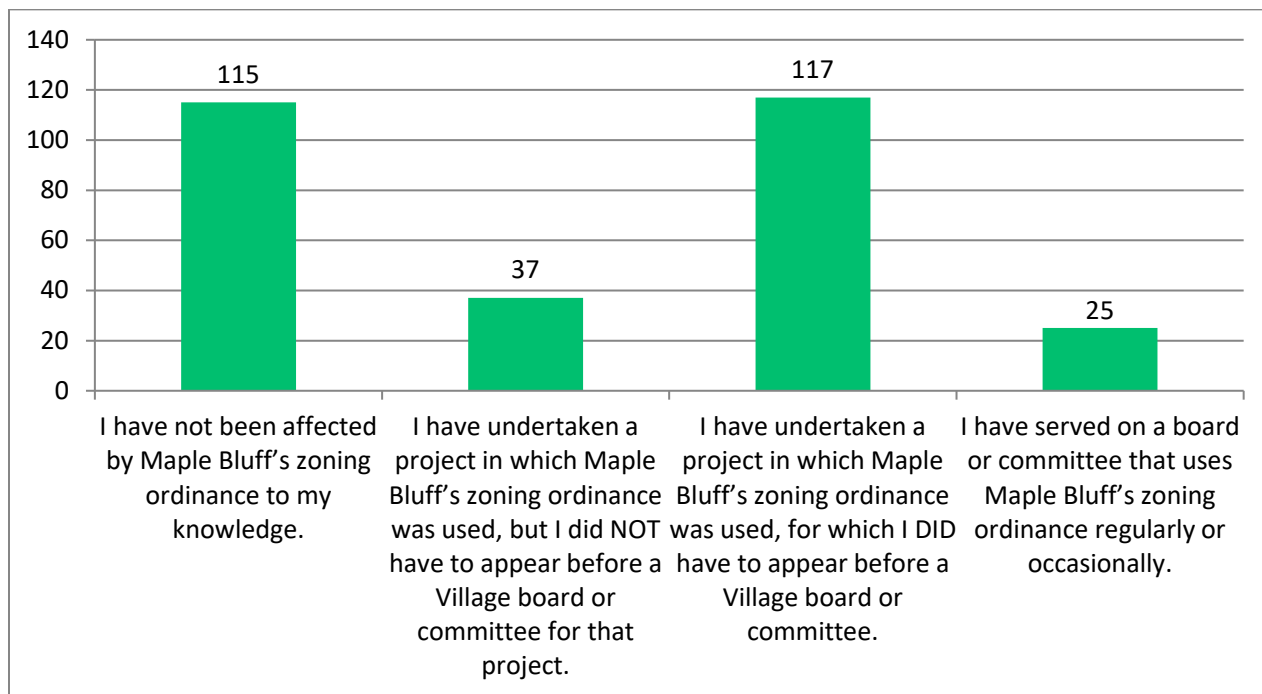


Responses to this question suggest that small, waterfront, and historic community character; home quality; and Village quality-of-life and services are key reasons respondents choose to live in Maple Bluff. This aids with forming purposes and initial provisions of an updated ordinance.

Question 2: Which of the following sentences best describes your AWARENESS of Maple Bluff’s zoning ordinance before you learned about this survey?

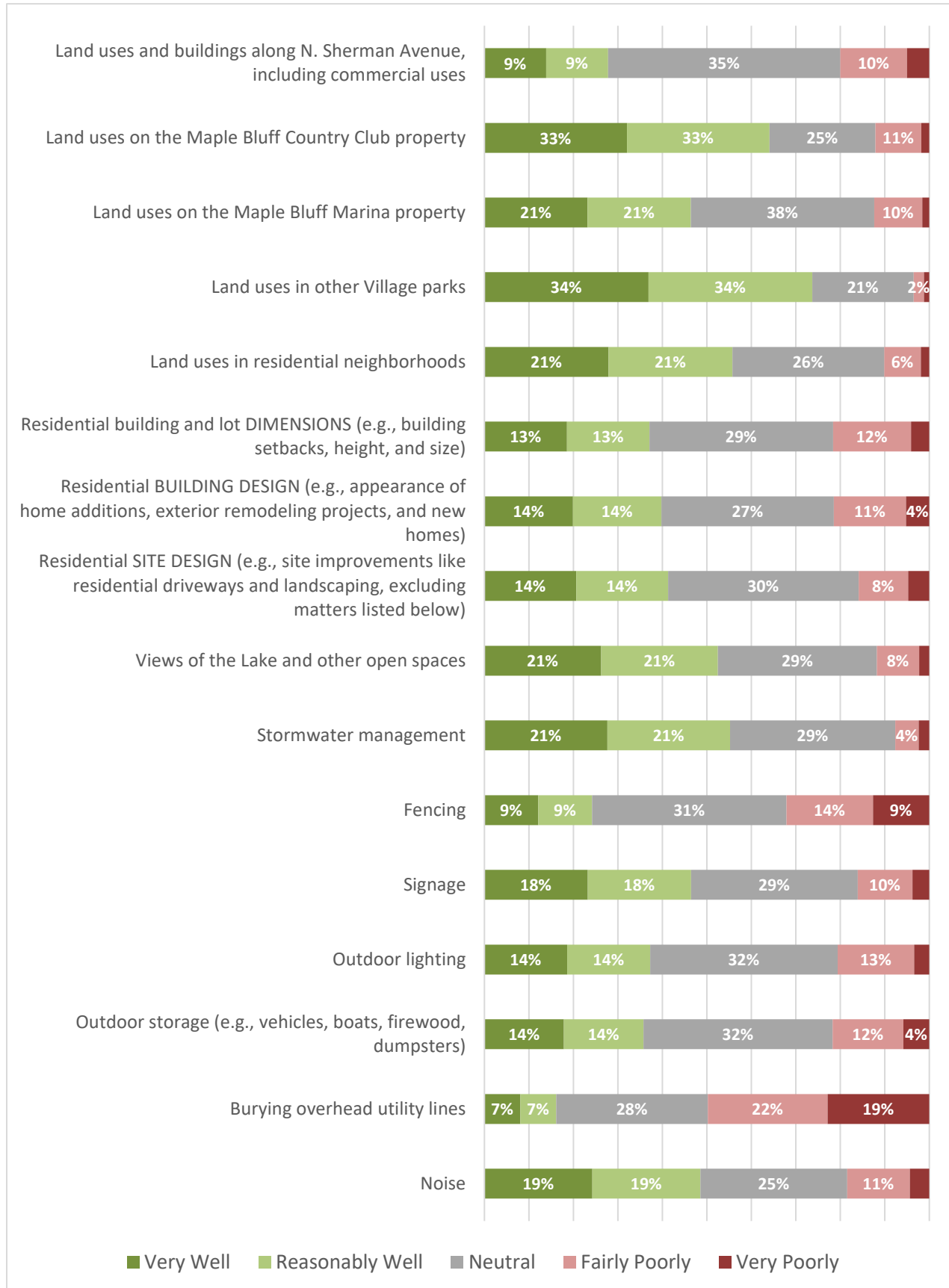


Question 3: Which of the following sentences describes your EXPERIENCE with Maple Bluff’s zoning ordinance before you learned about this survey? Check all that apply.

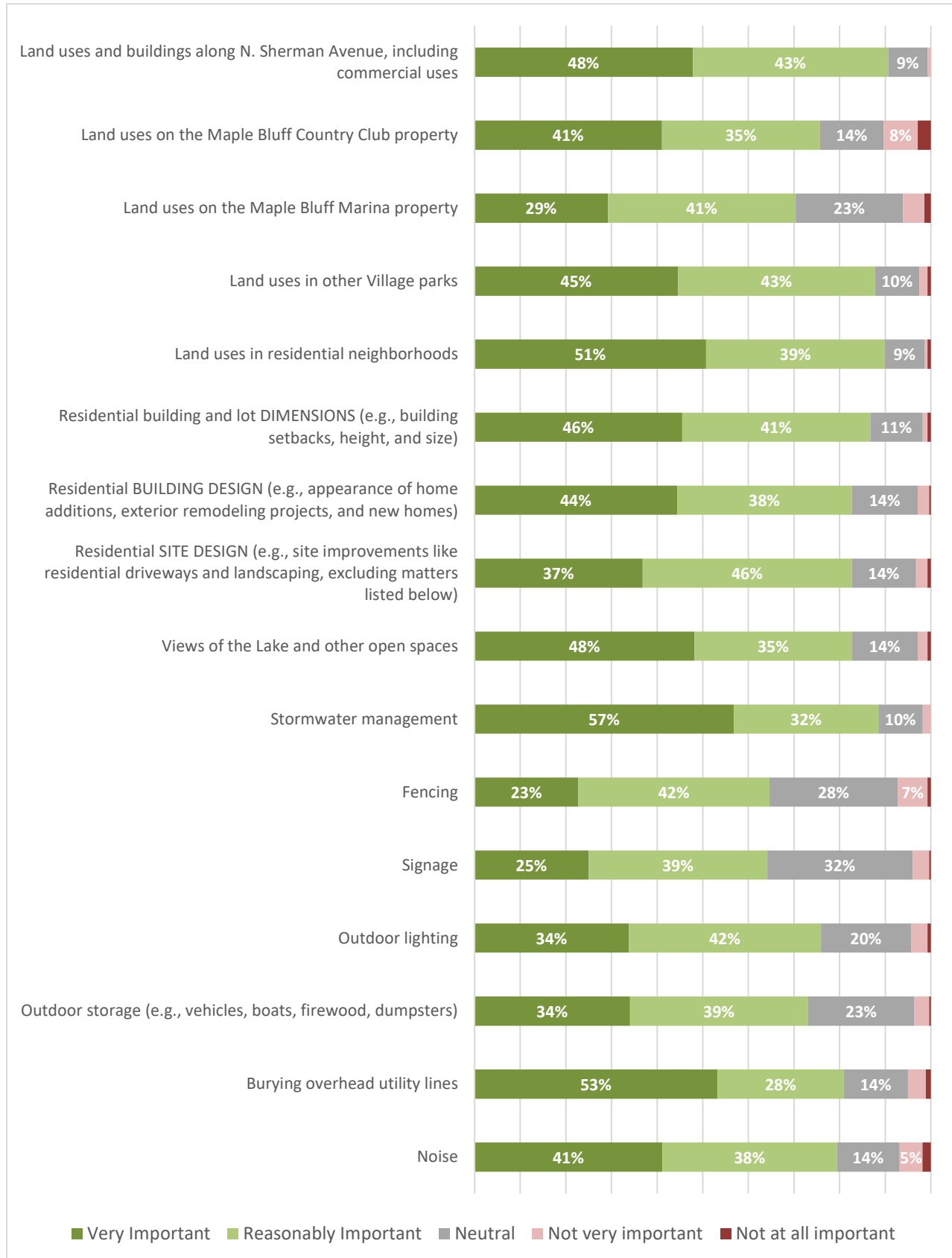


Responses to these two questions suggest that most survey respondents approached the survey with some understanding of the Village’s zoning ordinance. This is likely because a large number have undertaken a project that required some sort of zoning approval, and some have even served on a Village board or committee.

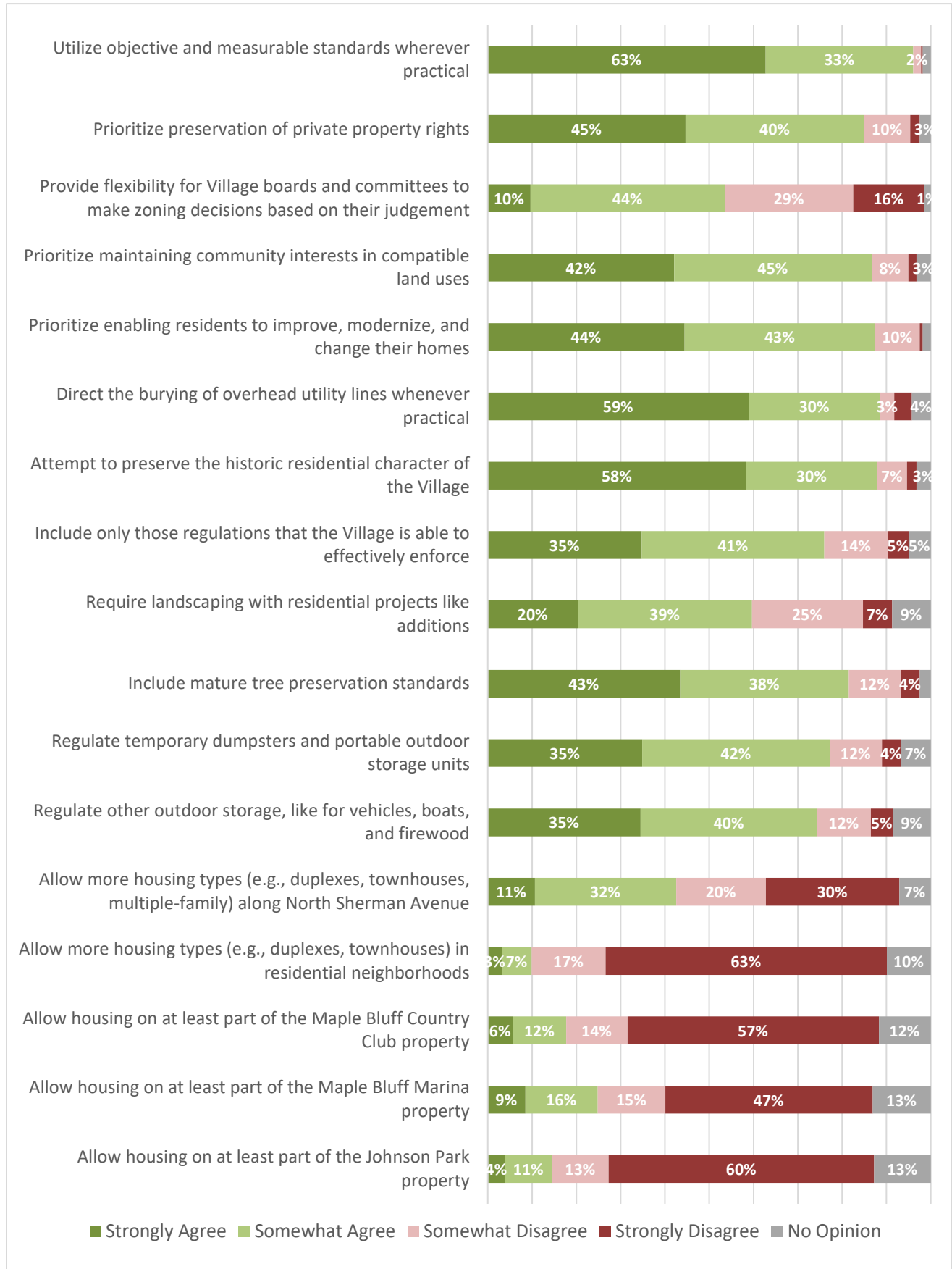
Question 4: How well has the Village of Maple Bluff addressed the following zoning-related matters? Please check the appropriate box after each matter.



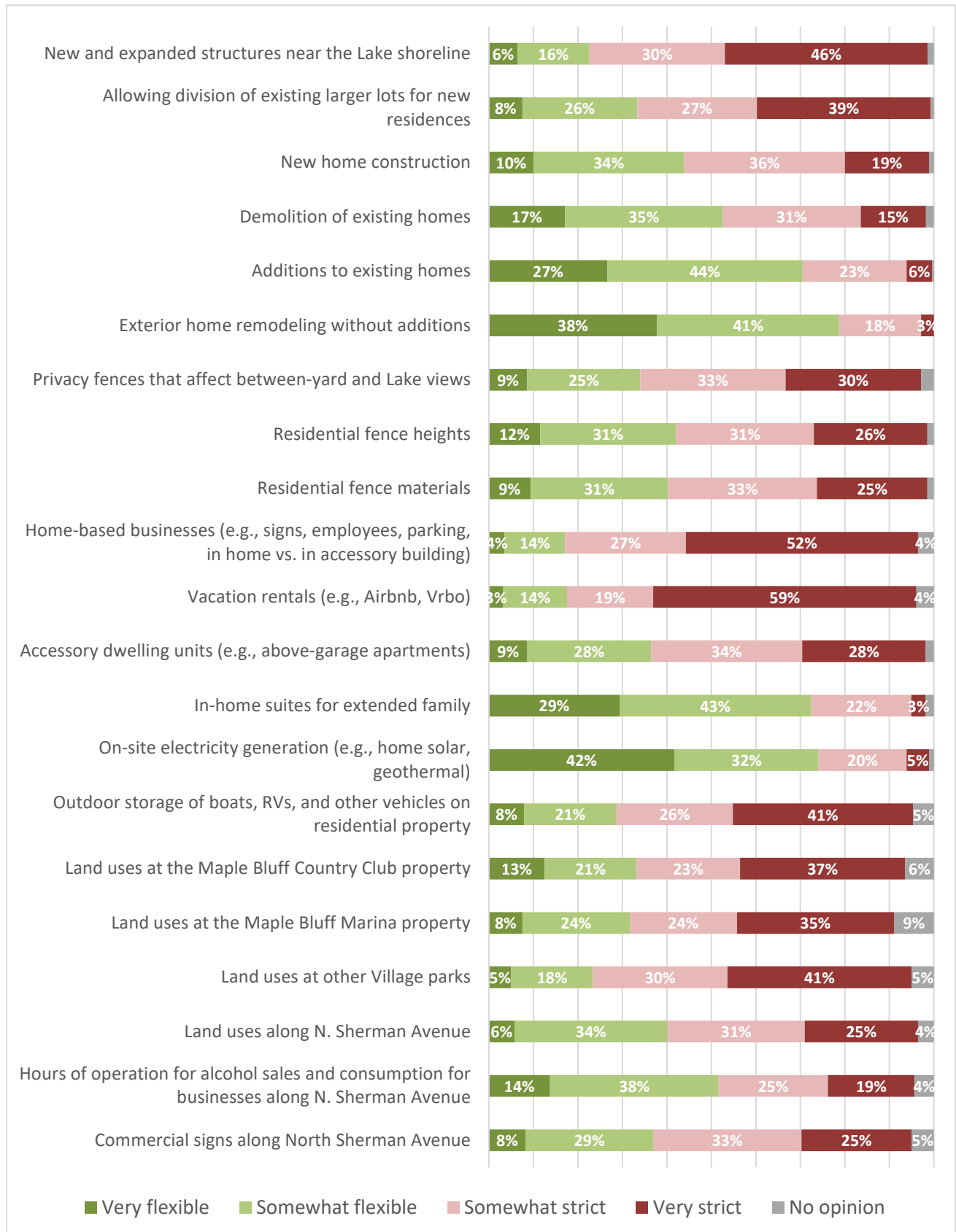
Question 5: Looking forward, how important for you are future regulations impacting these same zoning-related matters in Maple Bluff? Check the appropriate box after each matter.



Question 6: To what extent do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements of what the updated zoning ordinance should do? Check the appropriate box after each statement.



Question 7: How FLEXIBLE (little to no regulation) or STRICT (regulations that limit activity) should the updated zoning ordinance be on each of the following activity or condition, recognizing that state and federal law sometimes overrides Village control?



Question 8: Please provide any additional feedback related to the questions you have answered, or that you think may otherwise help us with the zoning ordinance update.

The image below is a word cloud, which is a visual representation of text data used to depict key words, generated from responses to question 8. Words that are larger in size, and colored blue or purple, were included in more responses to question 8 than words smaller in size and colored green or teal.

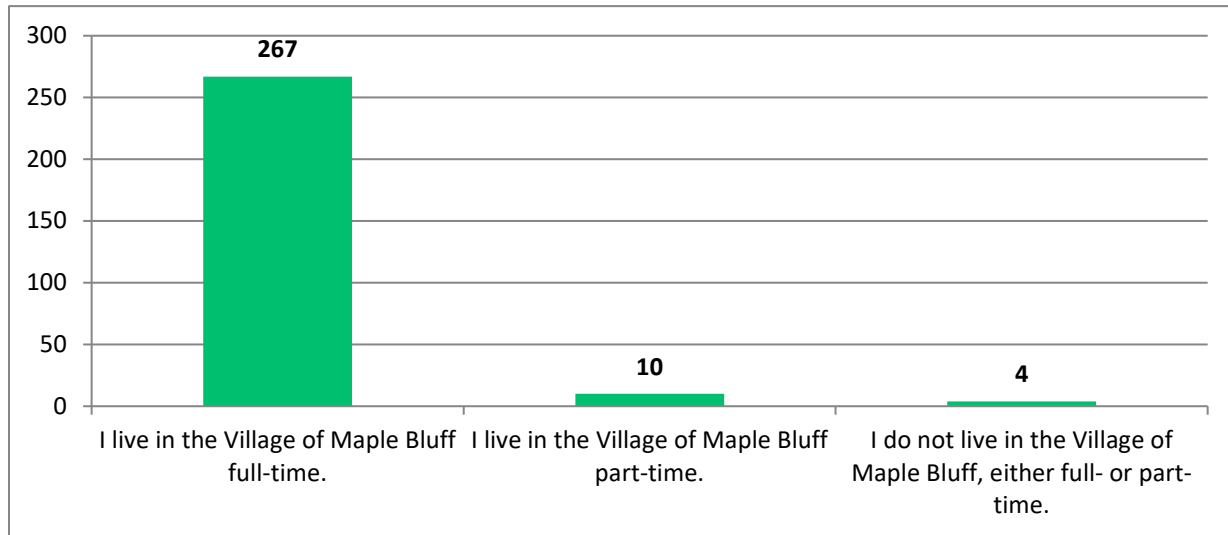


While this provides some basic sense of the range of responses to this open-ended question, further analysis is necessary to identify common areas of concern and interest. The following is an outline of the most common responses:

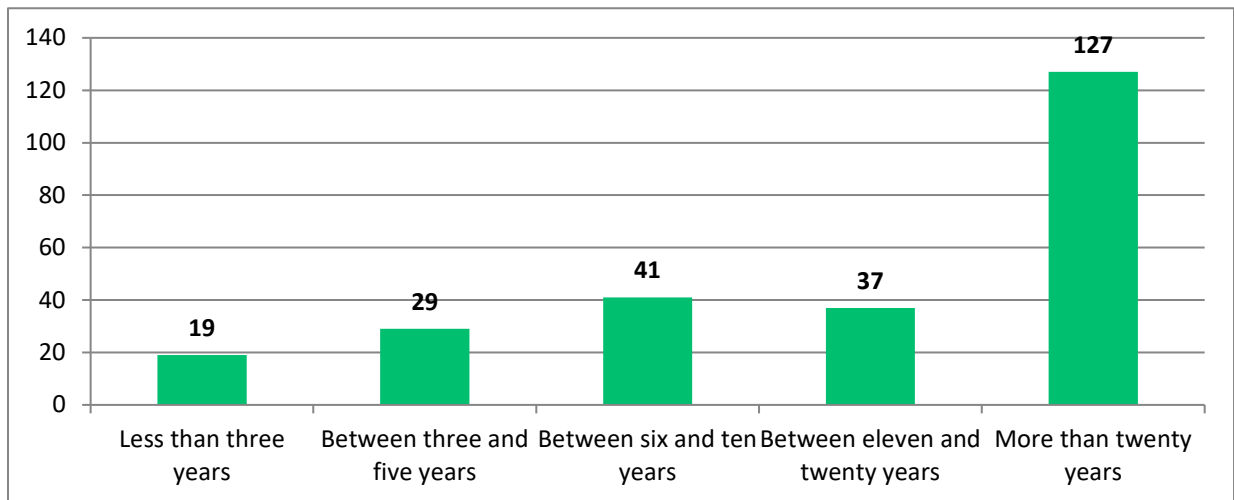
- Desire for clear, measurable zoning standards.
- Concerns about the Building Board's decision-making and adherence to ordinance rules.
- Interest in more resident input in decision-making and transparency in governance.
- Concerns about zoning regulation impacts on property development.
- Focus on preserving green spaces, trees, the waterfront, and overall natural environment.
- Desire to maintain the Village's unique historic character and natural attractiveness.
- Desire for architectural consistency in certain areas.
- Advocacy for burying utility lines.
- Various opinions on the Maple Bluff Country Club, including noise concerns.

Respondent Demographics

Question 9: Which of the following statements best reflects your residency status?

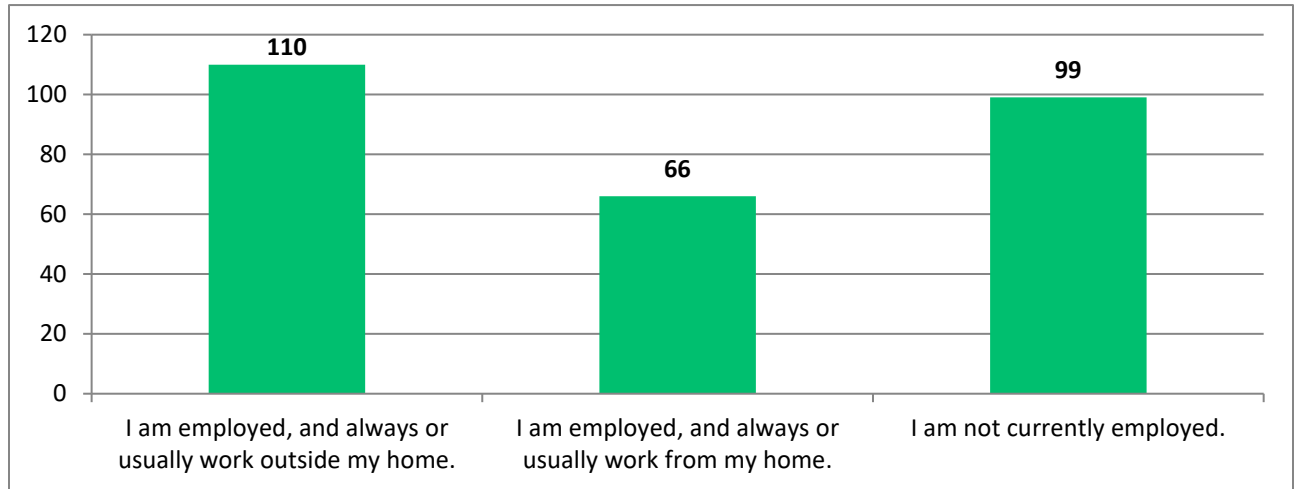


Question 10: If you live in the Village at least part-time, how long have you lived within the Village of Maple Bluff?



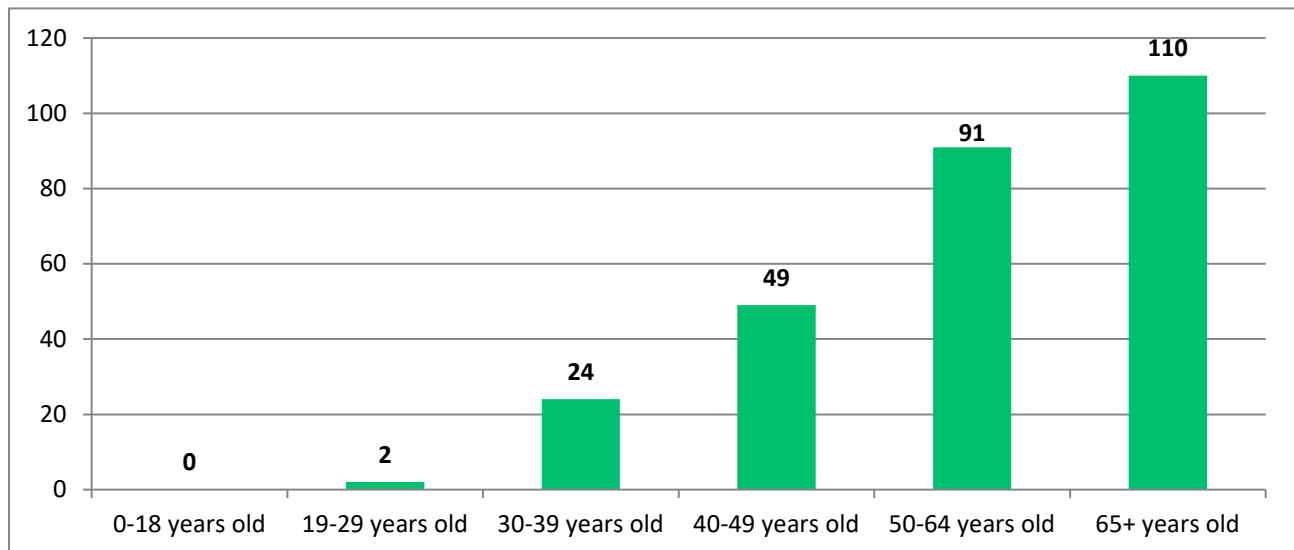
One-half of survey respondents have lived in the Village for more than 20 years, with about one-fifth having lived in the Village. Per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey (ACS), 35% of all Village residents lived in their home for more than 20 years, while 15% of residents lived in their home for five years or less. Therefore, longer-term residents were somewhat overrepresented among survey respondents.

Question 11: Which of the following statements best reflects your employment status?



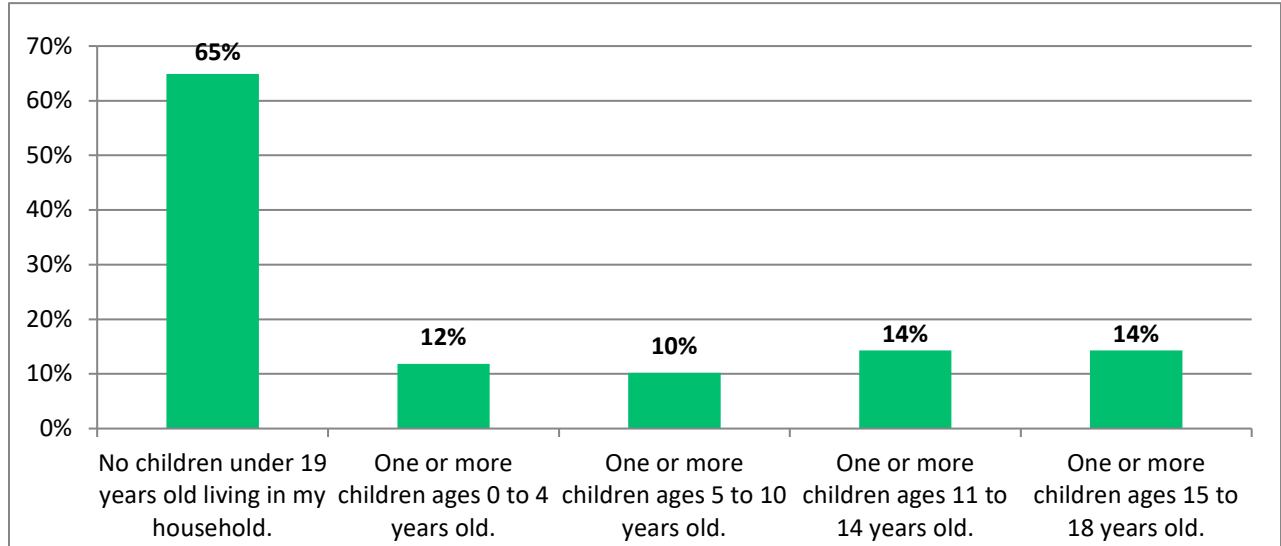
About 4 of every 10 survey respondents are employed and always or usually work outside of the home, while one-quarter are employed and always or usually work from home. Over one-third are currently not employed, which likely has significant overlap with retirees. Per the Capital Times, approximately 23% of the Madison area’s workforce sometimes or always worked from home in 2022.

Question 12: What is your age?



Approximately 40% of survey respondents are 65 years of age and older. Per the 2021 ACS, about 34% of Maple Bluff’s adult population as a whole is 65 years of age or older. Furthermore, 73% of survey respondents are 50 years of age or older, while the ACS suggests that about 58% of Maple Bluff’s adult population is 50 years of age or older. Therefore, survey respondents tended to skew slightly older than the Village’s entire adult population.

Question 13: If there are children under 19 years old living in your household, what are their ages? Check all that apply. Please include any children who live with you part-time.



Approximately 35% of respondents stated they have one or more children under the age of 19 living in their household. The 2021 ACS reported that 28% of Maple Bluff *households* had one or more children under the age of 19. These results are fairly comparable with each other. When viewed with responses to previous questions, it appears survey respondents may have included a number of “50-somethings” with children at home.