



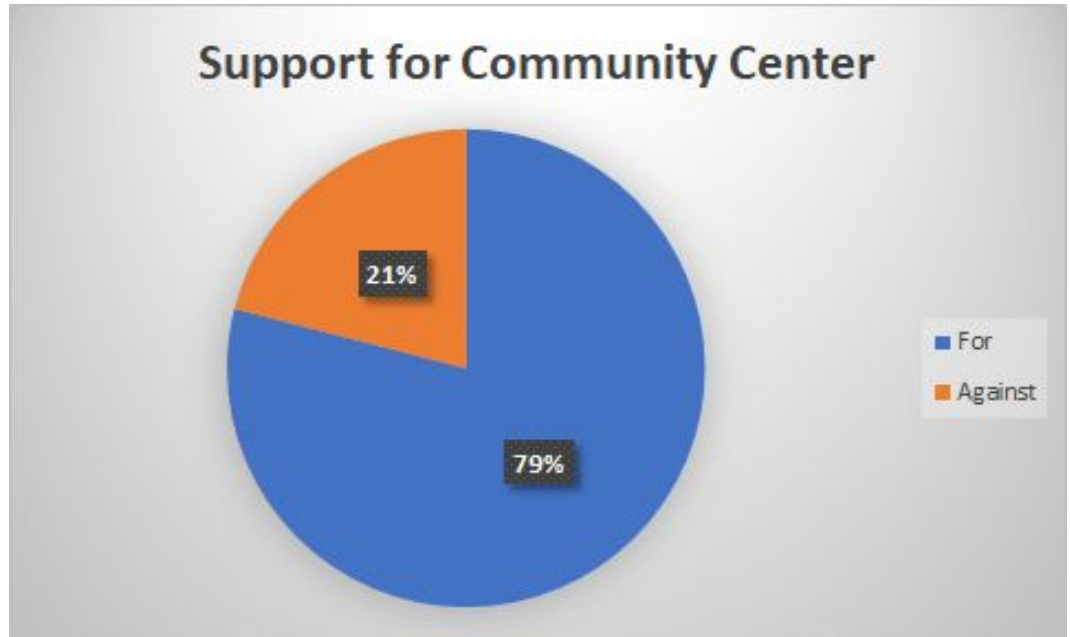
# Topsham Community Center Survey Analysis




# Support for Community Center


Total responses- 994

- For- 788 (79%)
- Against- 206 (21%)





“Having a community center would provide tremendous benefits for residents of all ages, including fitness and social opportunities close to home, as well as much needed meeting space.”

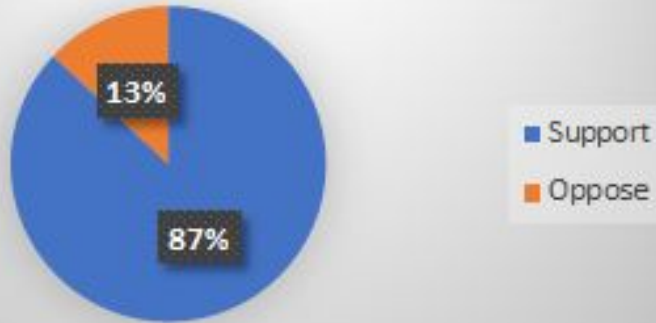


# Support Among Demographics

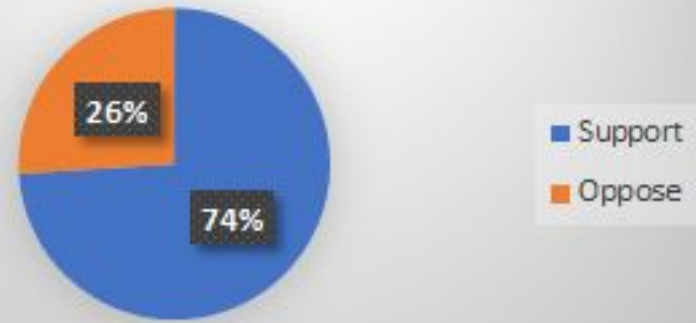
- Households with retirees less likely to support building a community center than those without retirees
- Households with children more likely to support building a community center than those without children
  - Very strong support among those with young children (aged 0-6 and in elementary school)

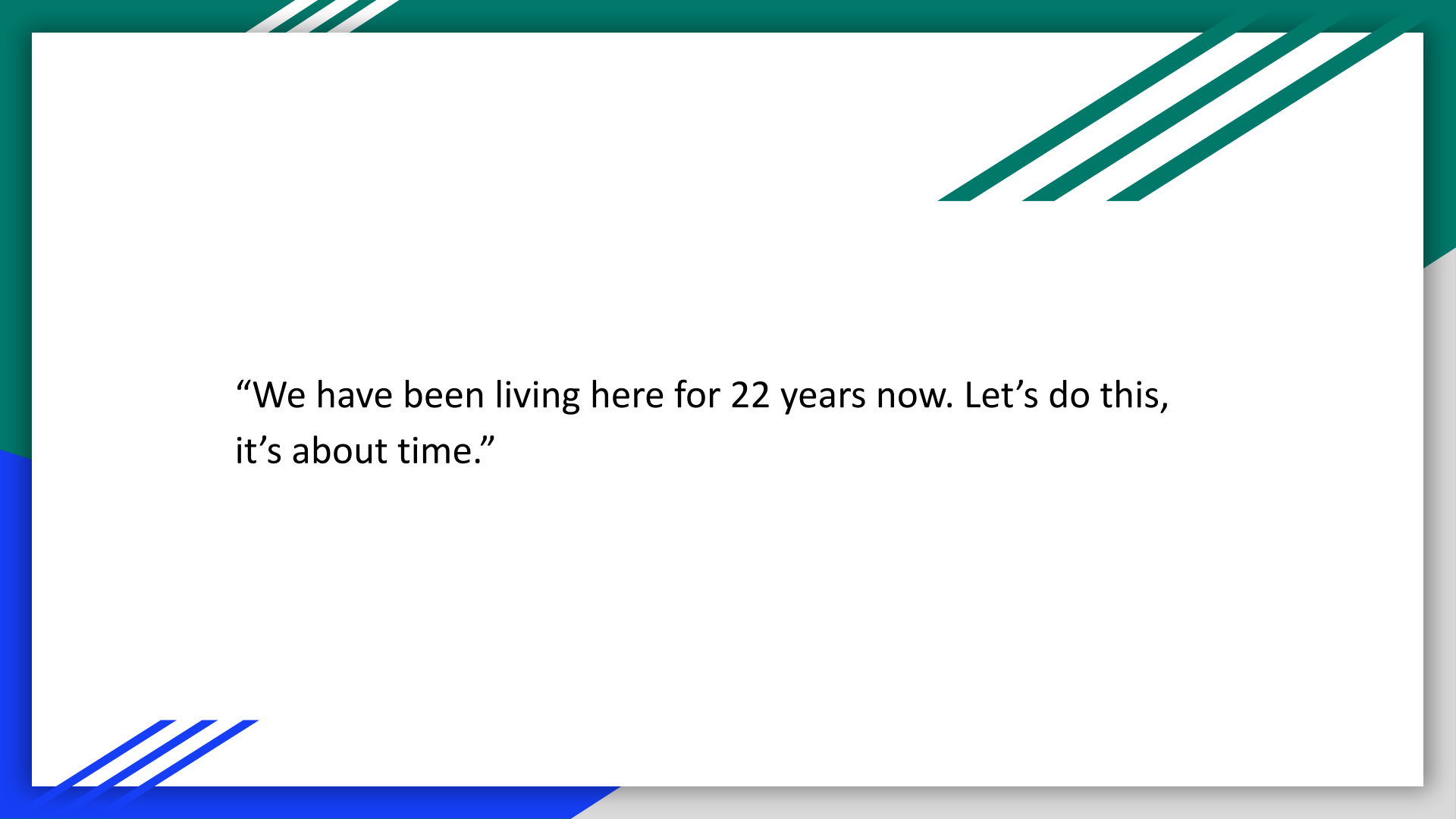
# Support Among Demographics

## Households with kids



## Households with retirees

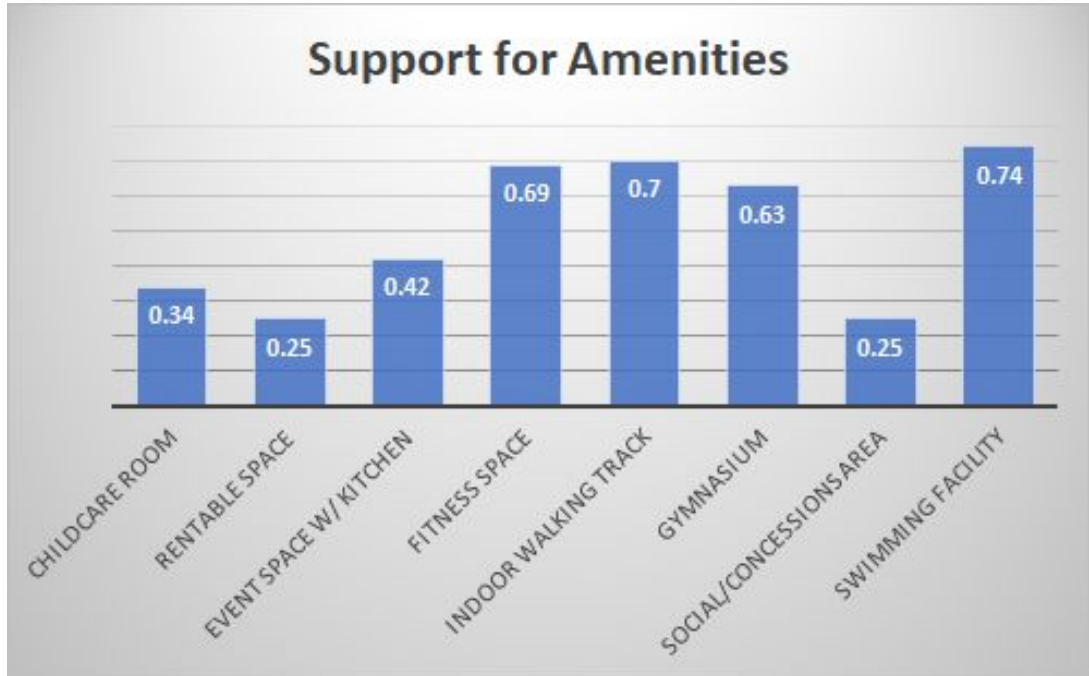




“We have been living here for 22 years now. Let’s do this,  
it’s about time.”

# Community Center Amenities

- Highest levels of support
  - Swimming facility
  - Indoor walking track
  - Fitness space
  - Gymnasium



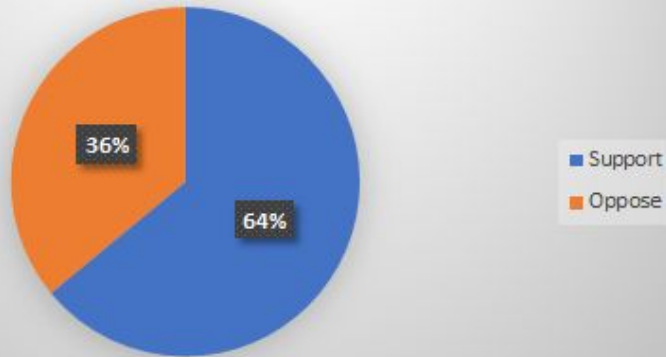
# Support for Amenities Among Demographics

- About 2/3 of households with children 0-6 would like a childcare room
- Almost 90% of households with children would like a swimming facility compared to just over half of households with retirees
- 3/4 of households with retirees would like an indoor walking track
- Over 3/4 of households with children would like a gymnasium compared to just over 2/5 of households with retirees

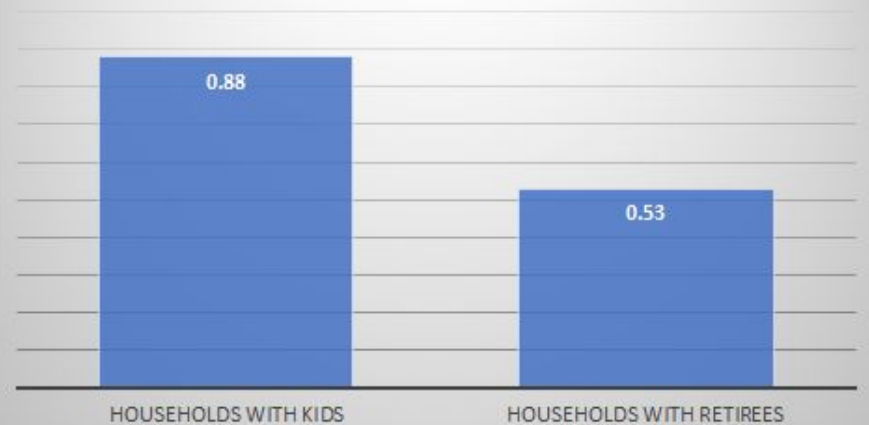


# Support for Amenities Among Demographics

Support for child care room among households with children aged 0-6

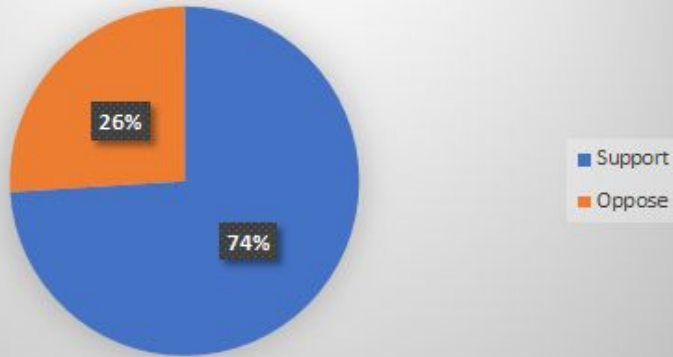


Support for swimming facility

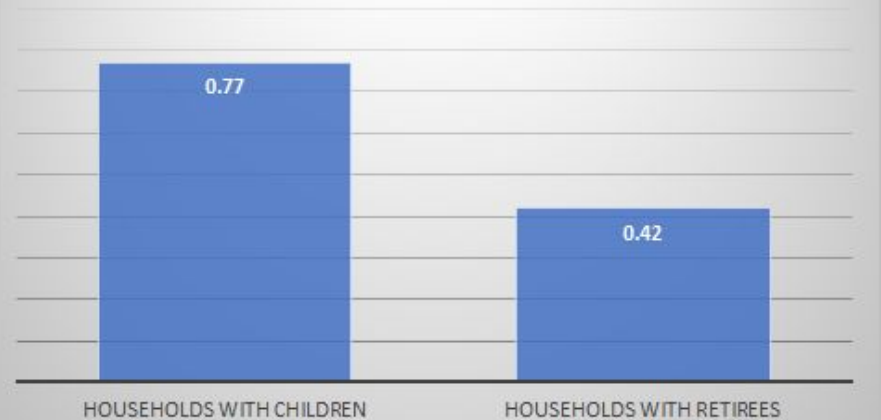


# Support for Amenities Among Demographics

Support for indoor walking track among households with retirees

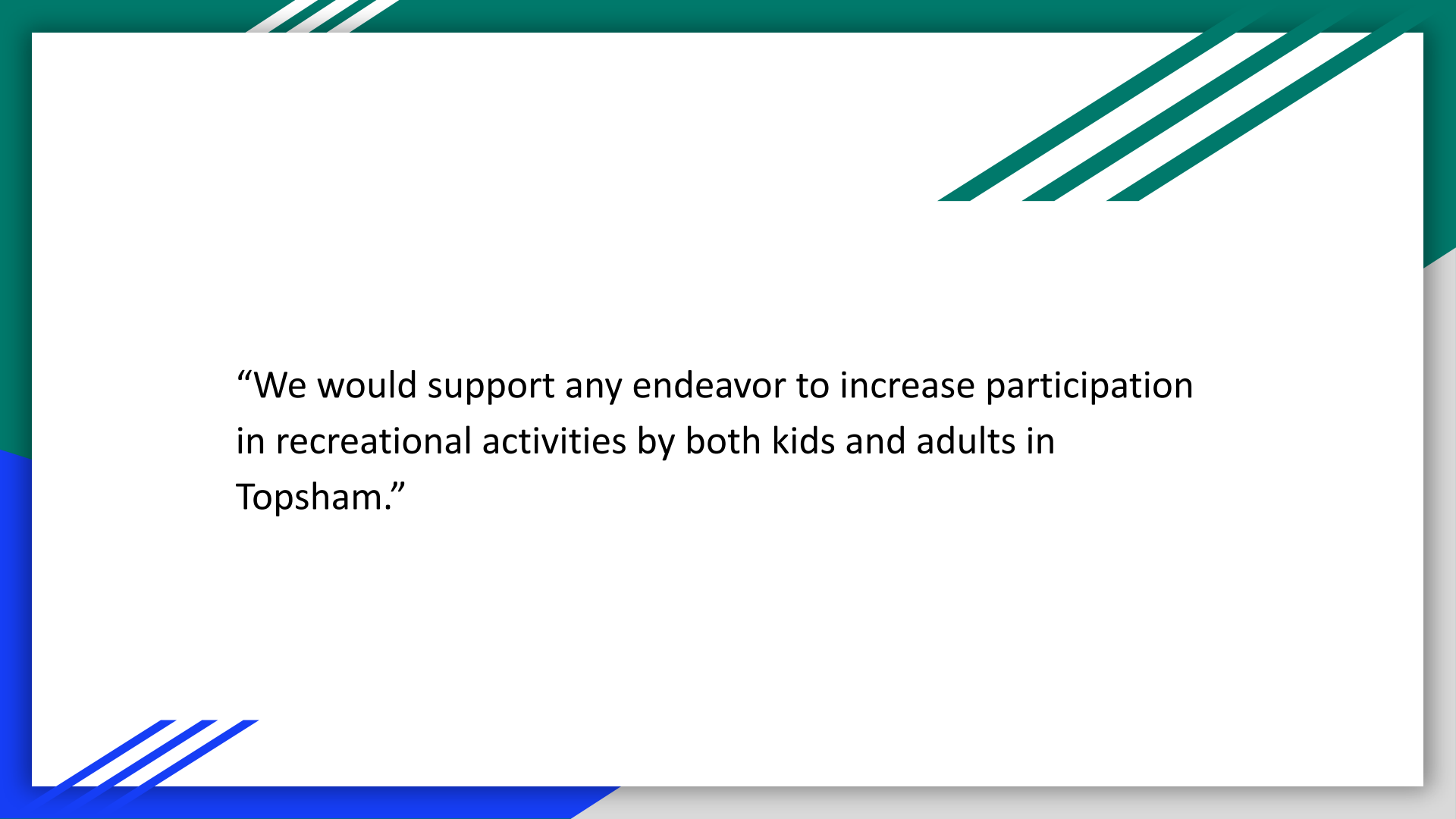


Support for gymnasium



## Support for Amenities by Age Demographic



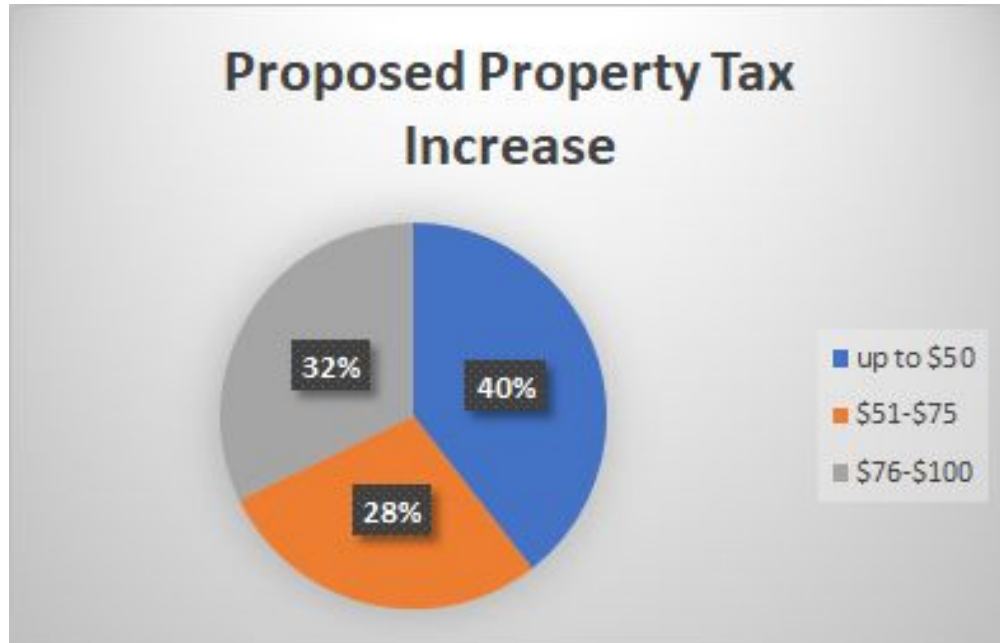


“We would support any endeavor to increase participation in recreational activities by both kids and adults in Topsham.”

# Funding from Property Tax Increases

Average Home Assessed Value	Tax Increase	Annual Amount Raised
\$200,000	\$50	\$285,987
\$200,000	\$75	\$428,891
\$200,000	\$100	\$571,974

# Tax Increases and Program/Rental Fees

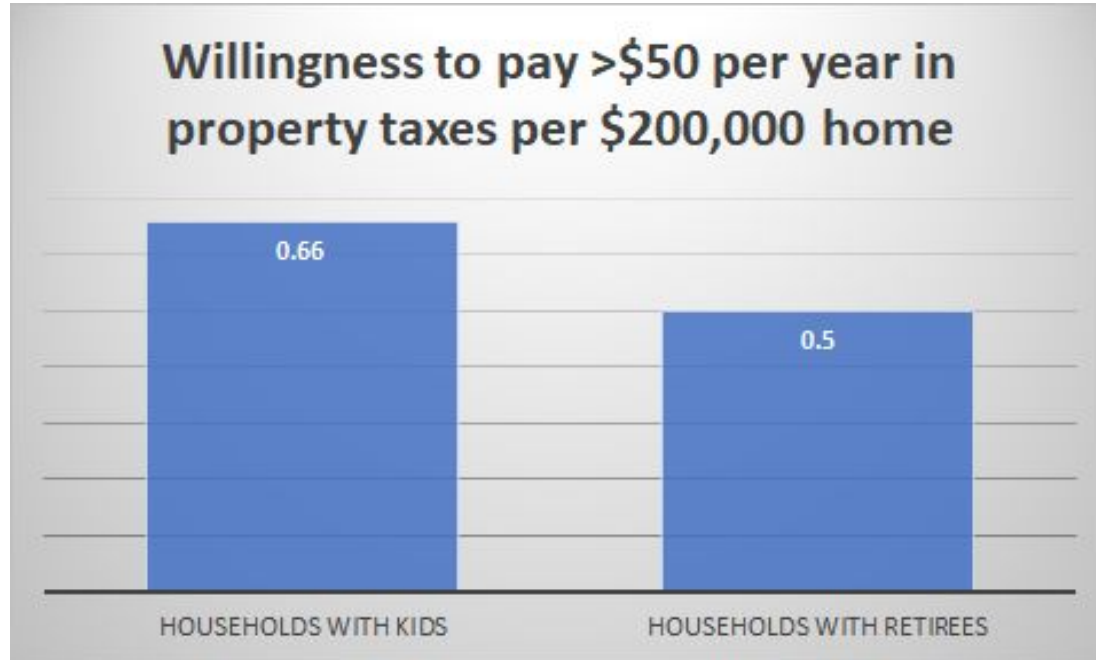


- Willingness to pay fees for use of the community center
  - Program fees- Over 90%
  - Rental fees- ~85%

# Funding Proposals Among Demographics

- About 2/3 of households with children are willing to increase property taxes by more than \$50 per year for a \$200,000 home compared to about half of households with retirees
- Those who want a swimming facility, fitness center, and/or gymnasium slightly more willing to pay more in property taxes
- People of all demographic groups demonstrate a strong willingness to pay rental and program fees
  - Over 90% of respondents who want an exclusive use rentable space would pay to use it

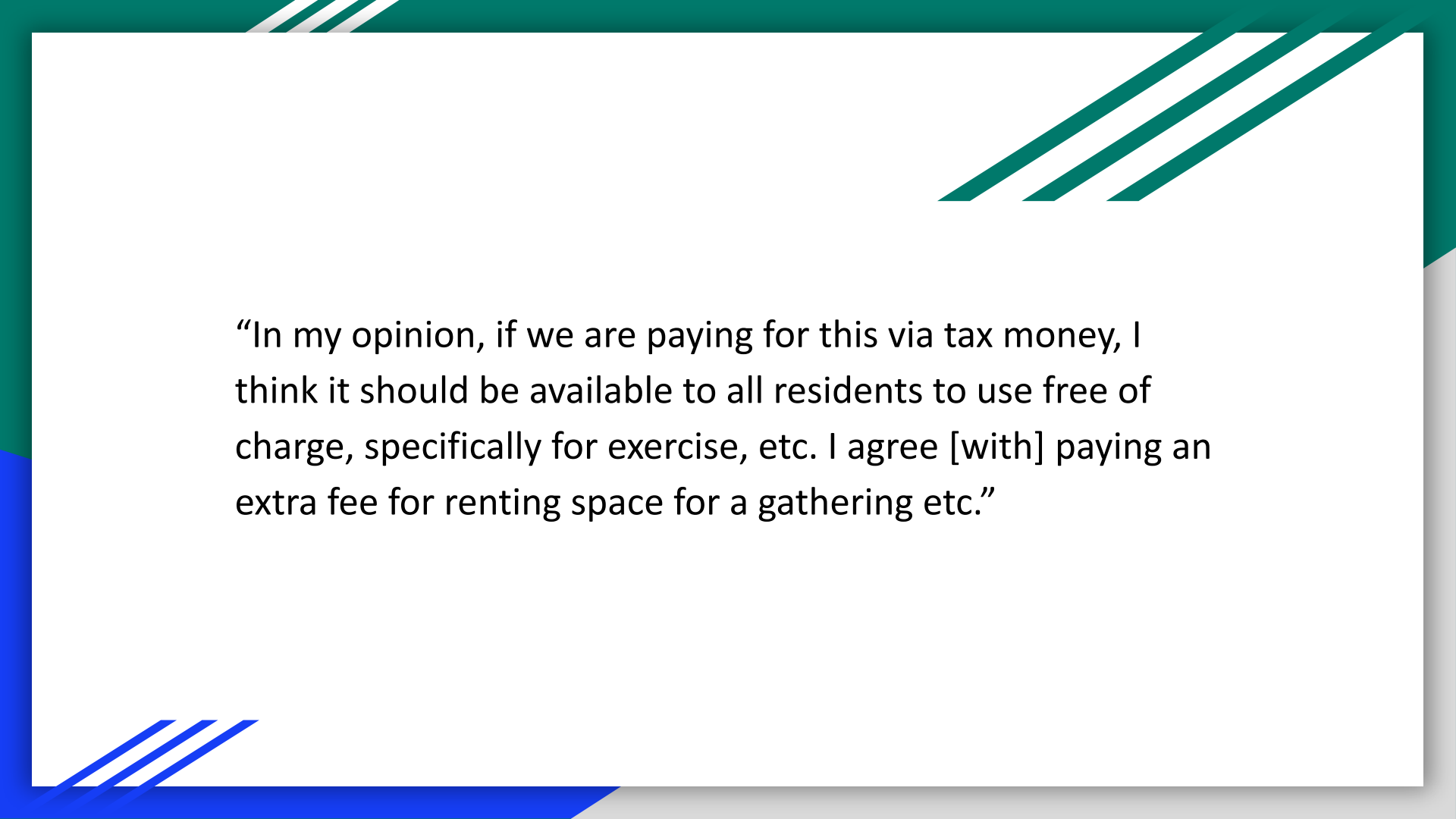
# Funding Proposals Among Demographics





# General Themes from Open Responses


- Majority of comments express enthusiasm for the prospect of building a community center
- Many have indicated that fees/program costs should be low/free for Topsham residents, others can pay more to make up some cost
- Some suggest partnering with Brunswick in particular with the goal of building an aquatics facility
- Several want to ensure that community center amenities don't overlap with what is already available
- Some wish to know more about possible sites for the facility




“In my opinion, if we are paying for this via tax money, I think it should be available to all residents to use free of charge, specifically for exercise, etc. I agree [with] paying an extra fee for renting space for a gathering etc.”

# Additional Amenities Proposed by Respondents

- Additional sporting facilities- ice rink, tennis courts, pickleball courts, rock climbing wall, etc...
- Space for creative pursuits- music, arts, etc...
- Youth/teen center with after school programs or activities
- Programs designed for seniors in the community
- Meeting rooms open for public use

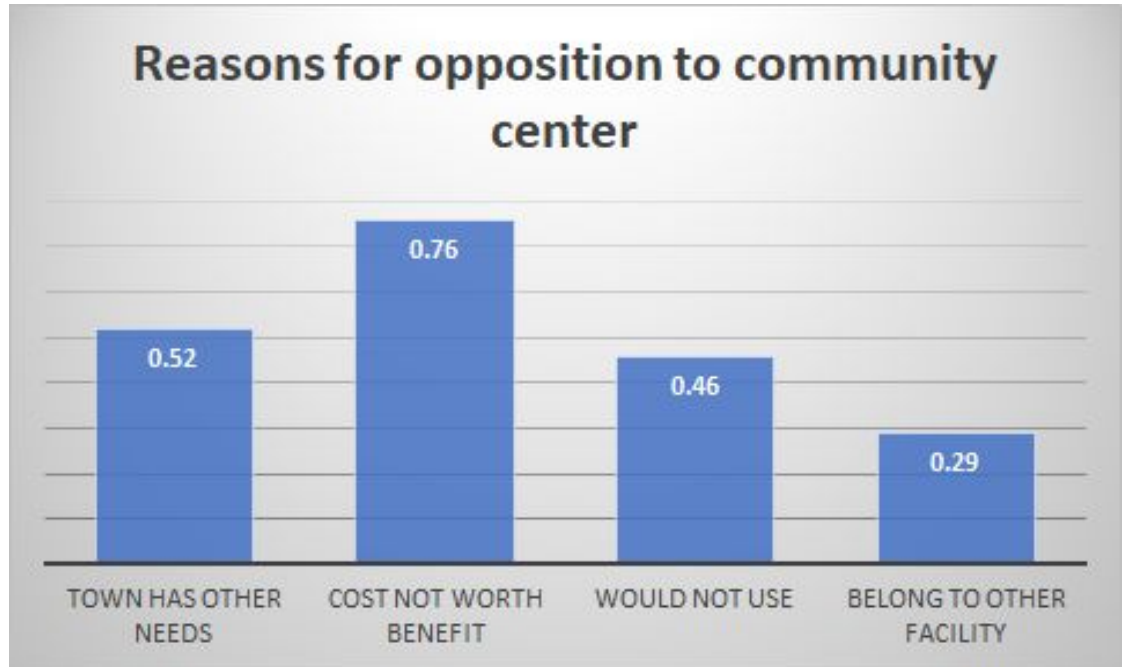


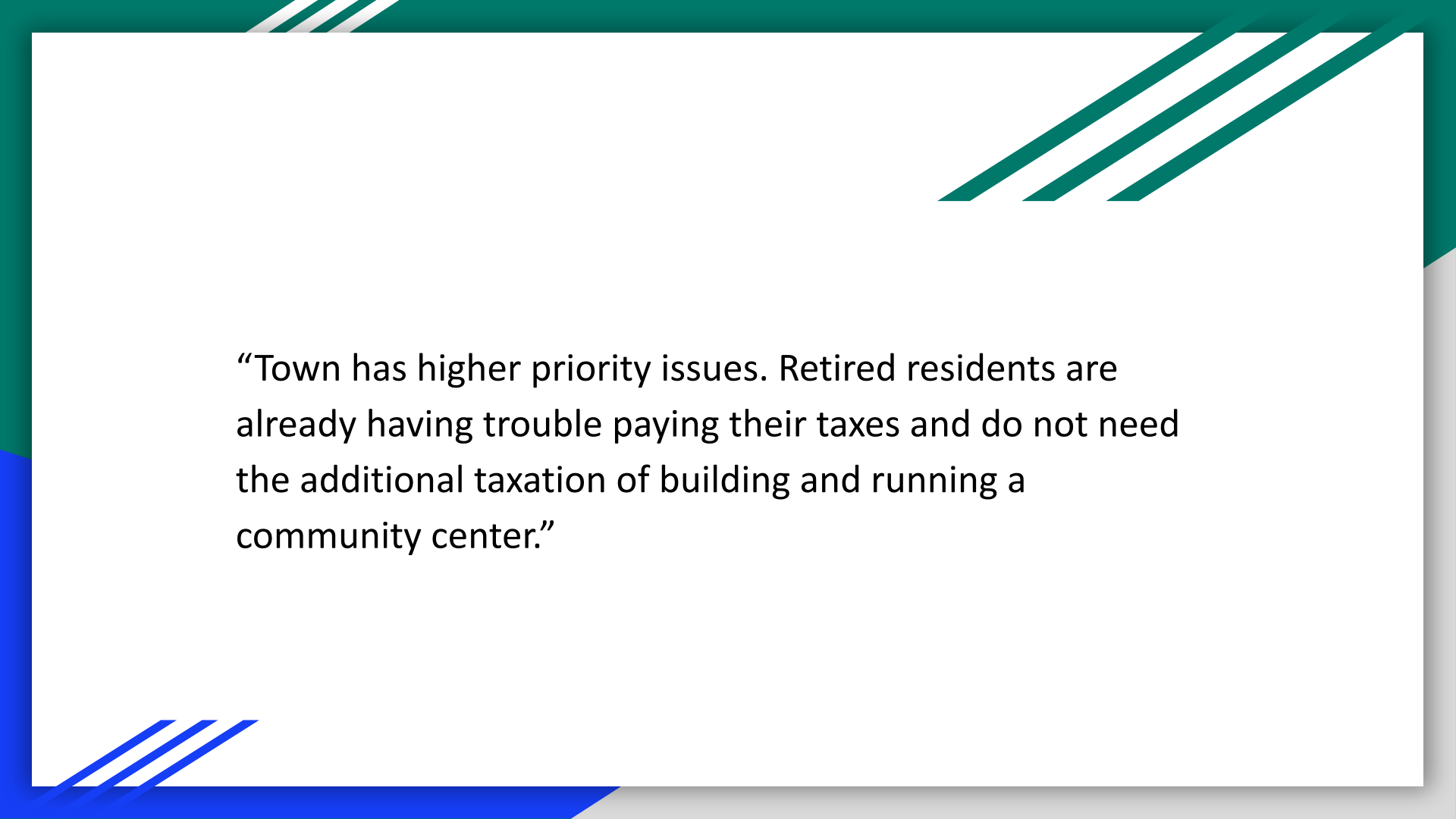
“I cannot stress the importance of offering features for adults, not children. Retirees of lesser means have no access to recreation spaces, yet contribute property taxes as families with children do, but with less use of those taxes. Space for non-athletic activities such as arts and music are nonexistent in this community, yet we have state of the art athletic facilities. Art and music have significant positive impacts on every age group.”



# Opposition to the Community Center

- Primarily centers around a desire to keep taxes as low as possible
- Some point out that there are other options available with similar amenities





“Town has higher priority issues. Retired residents are already having trouble paying their taxes and do not need the additional taxation of building and running a community center.”

# Potential Public/Private Partnerships

- MaineHealth
- Crooker Construction
- Bowdoin College
- YMCA
- Topsham Fair
- Midcoast Hockey
- Merrymeeting Adult Education
- Midcoast Maine Community Action
- Priority Real Estate Group
- Bath Savings
- Alford Foundation
- Midcoast Glass and Windows
- Highland Green
- Northern Sun Family Healthcare

Thank you!