

2026 FINANCIAL FORECASTING RESIDENT SURVEY



Purpose of Survey

- Gather resident input on awareness of the Township's budget process
- Identify spending and service priorities
- Understand community perspectives on taxation and service levels
- Results will help guide budget priorities by providing insight into what residents value most



Overview

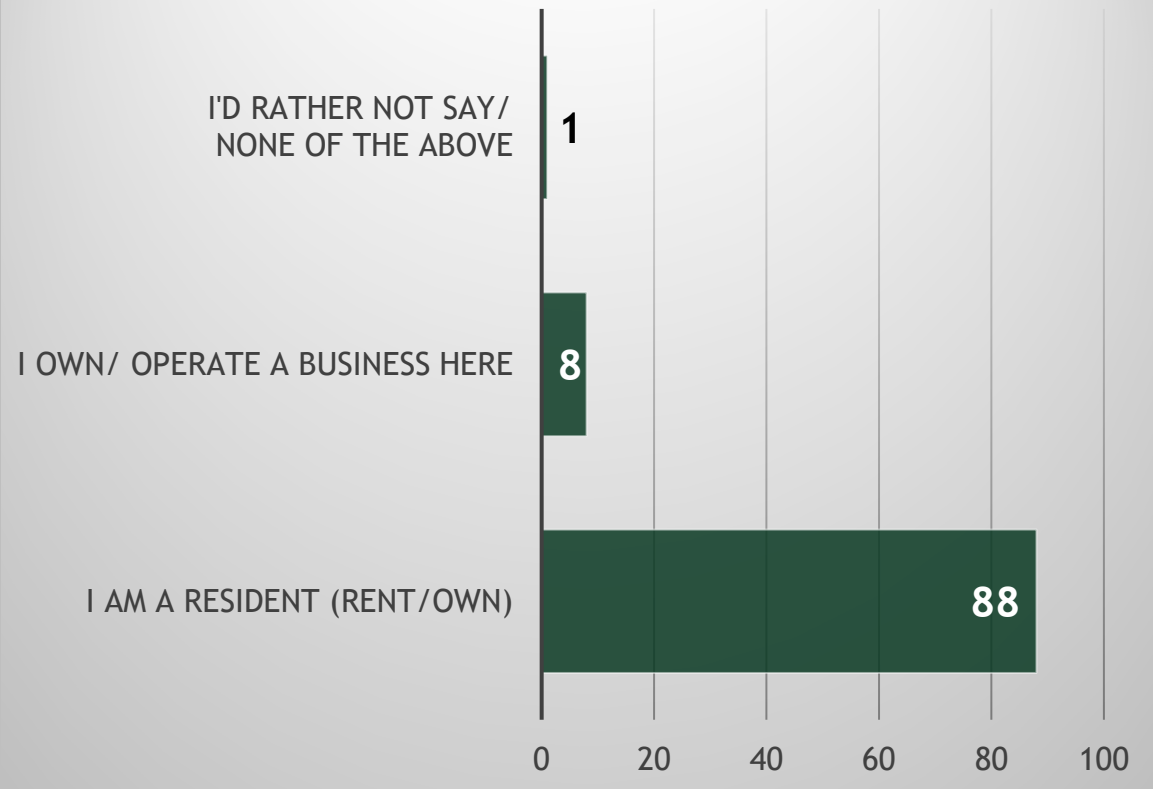
- Survey Period: September 18 - October 18, 2025
- There were 90 respondents in total which is a vast improvement from previous years where feedback and engagement numbers were below 20
- Method: Online & advertised in print, social media, Council meetings



Demography of Respondents

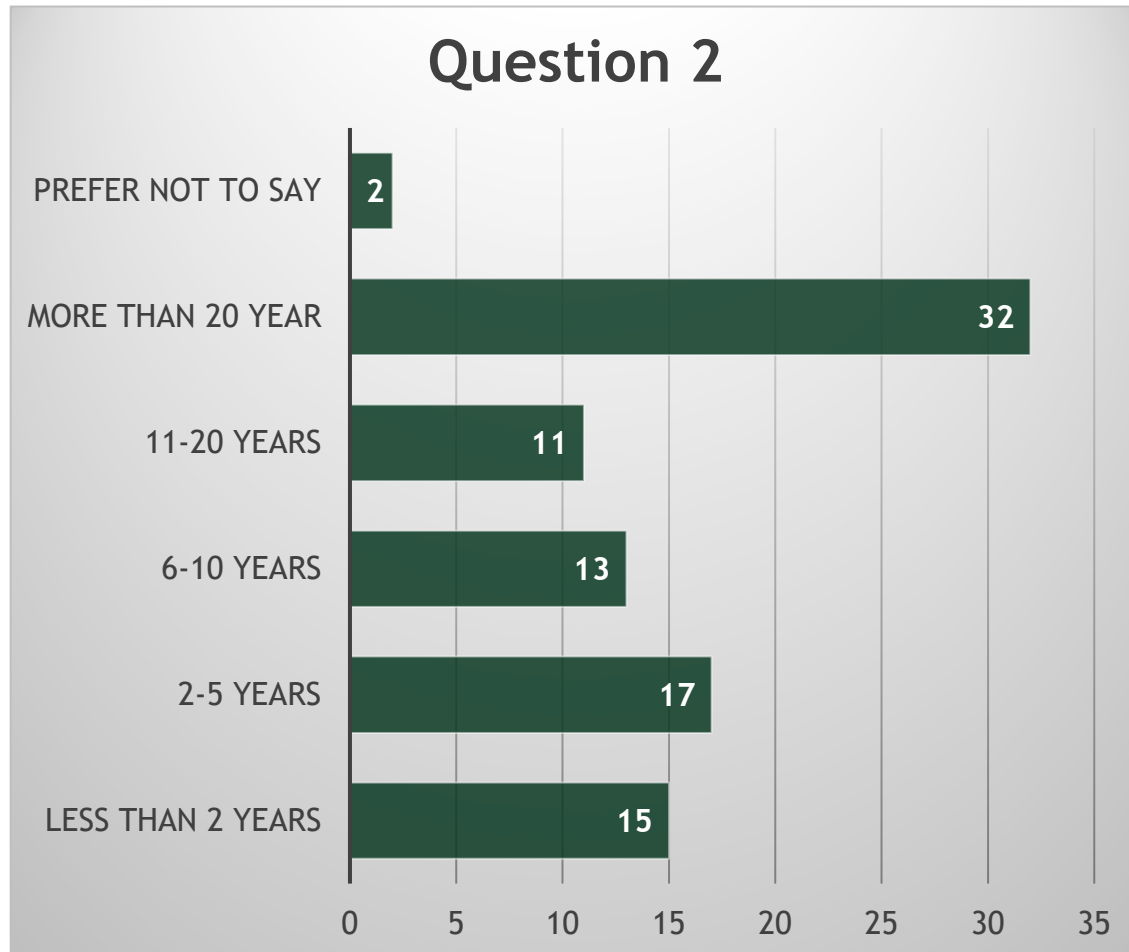
Which of the following describe your connection to the Township? Please select all that apply.

Question 1



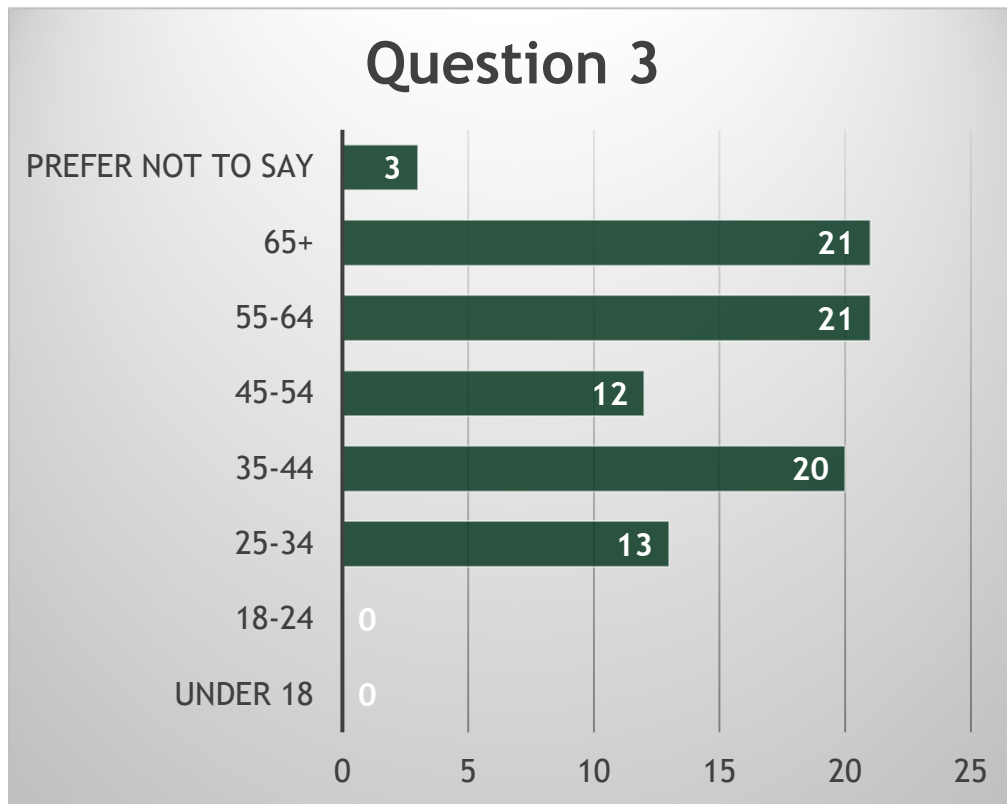
Demography of Respondents Cont.

How many years have you lived in the Township of Southgate?



Demography of Respondents Cont.

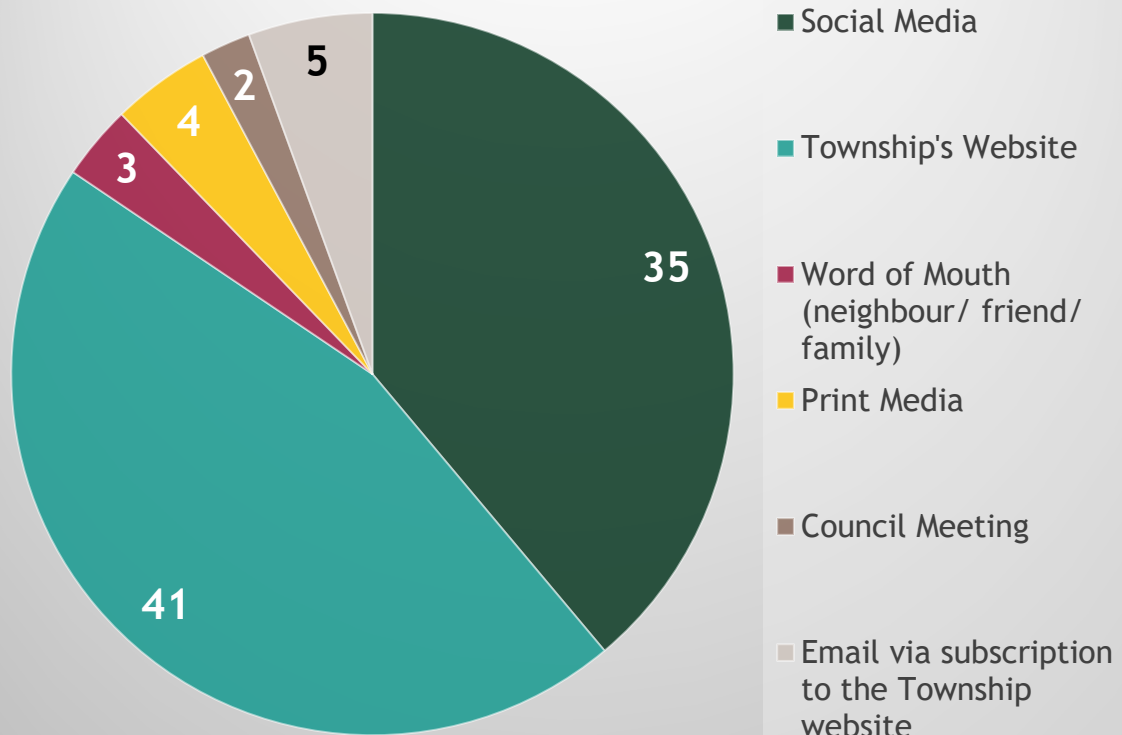
What is your age?



Demography of Respondents Cont.

4. How did you hear about this survey?

Question 4



Demography of Respondents Summary

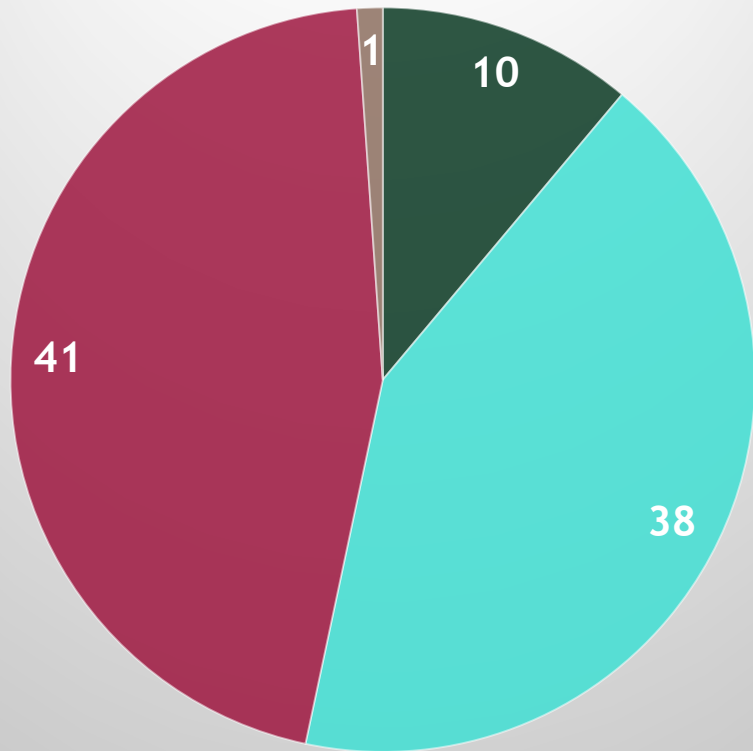
- Majority of our respondents were early middle age 35-44; late middle age 55-64 and seniors, 65+
- 98% rent or own property in Southgate
- 48% have lived here over 10 years, 33% for 2-10 years, 17% under 2 years
- 90% learnt of the survey online
(Township website + subscription news and social media)



How much do you know about the budget process?

5. How familiar are you with how the Township develops its annual budget?

Question 5



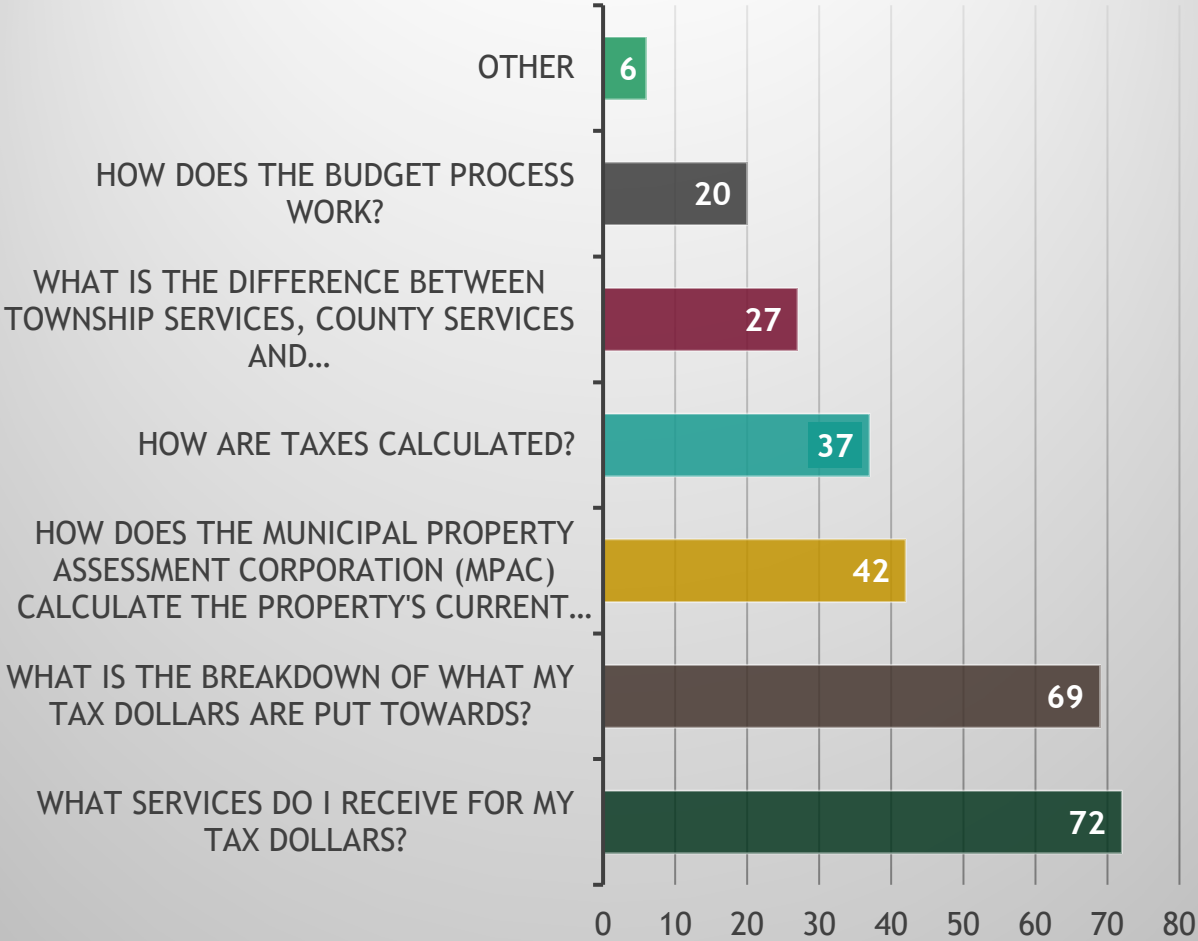
■ Very Familiar ■ Somewhat Familiar ■ Unfamiliar ■ I don't really care



How much do you know about the budget process? Cont.

6. What topics are most important to you when it comes to the budget? (Please select all that apply.)

Question 6



Awareness of the Budget Process Summary

- 46% of respondents are unfamiliar with the budget process, 42% are somewhat familiar, only 11% are familiar with the process and 1% has no interest.
- Our respondents are primarily interested in the following 3 areas:
 - What services do I receive for my tax dollars?
 - What is the breakdown of what my tax dollars are put toward?
 - How does the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) calculate the property's current assessment?
- ✓ **Residents desire simpler and more accessible information on how their tax dollars are used.**



Community Services



Our respondents were given a list of services that are funded by tax dollars and delivered by the Township. For each service they were asked to give a response on how they would want it to be treated by choosing one of the following:

Improved, even if it means a tax increase

Maintained, with only an inflationary increase to taxes

Reduced to lower taxes

The next 16 slides reflect the responses.

IMPROVED

Even if it means tax increase.



MAINTAINED

With only an inflationary increase to taxes.

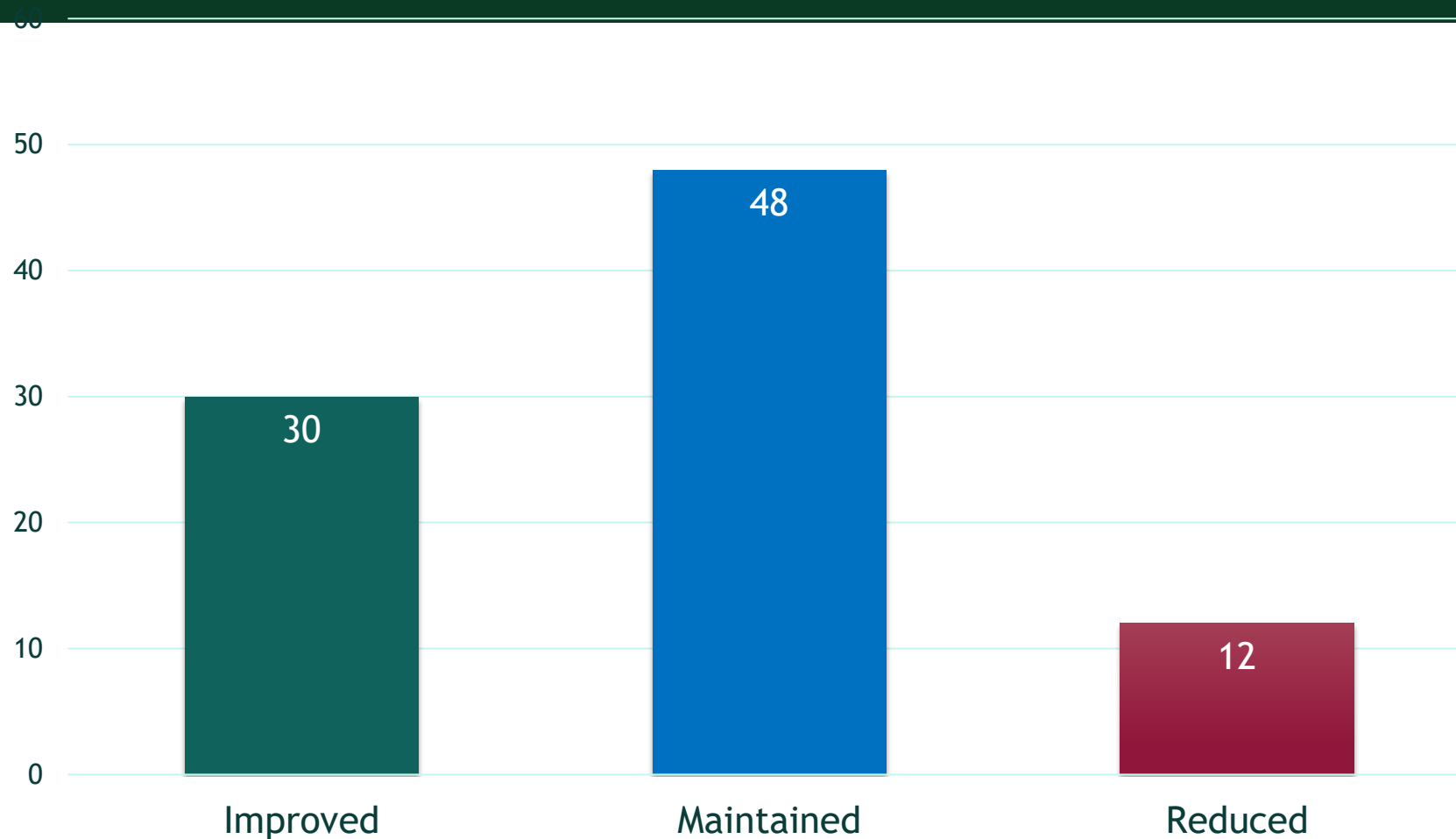


REDUCE

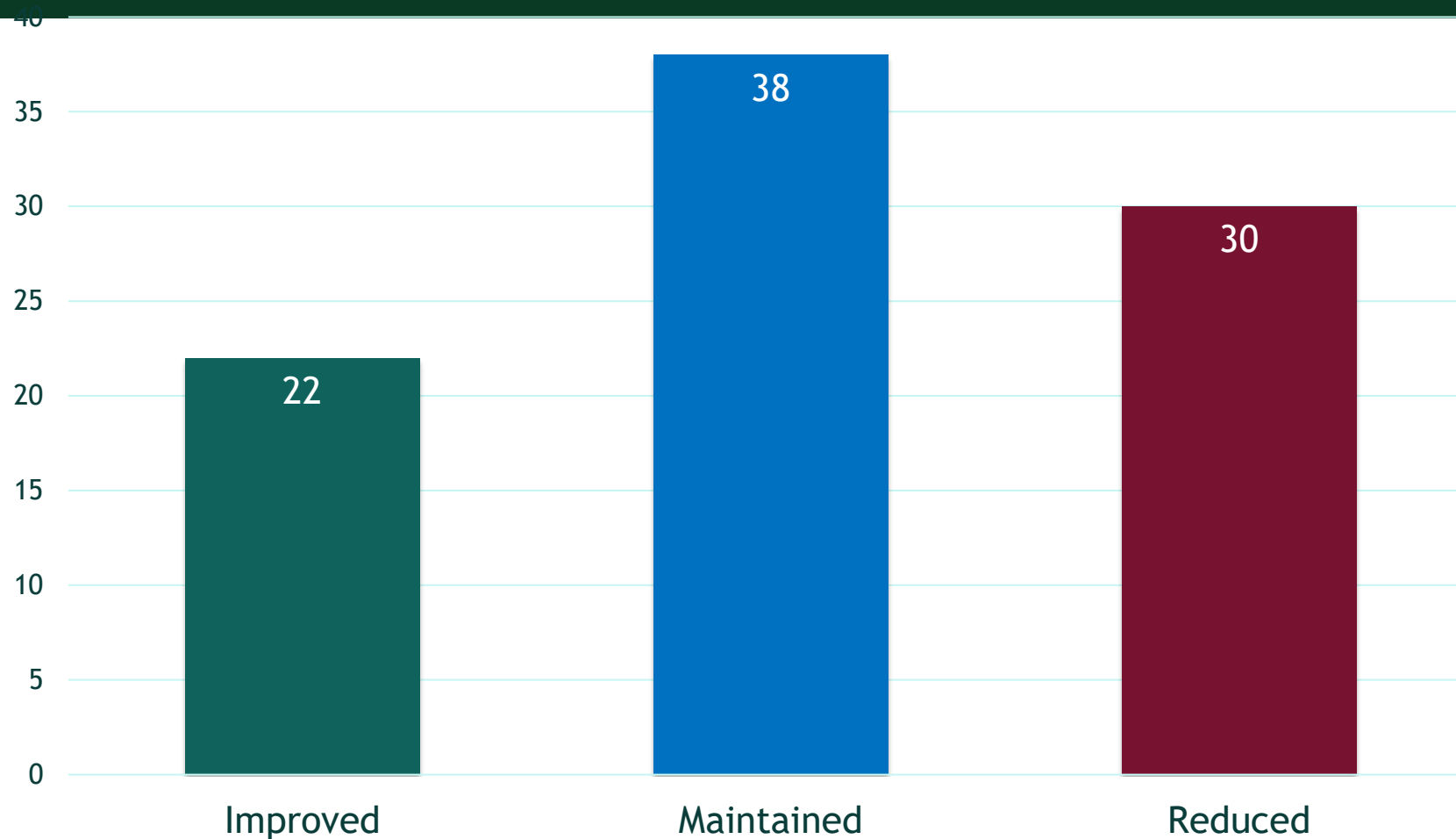
To lower taxes



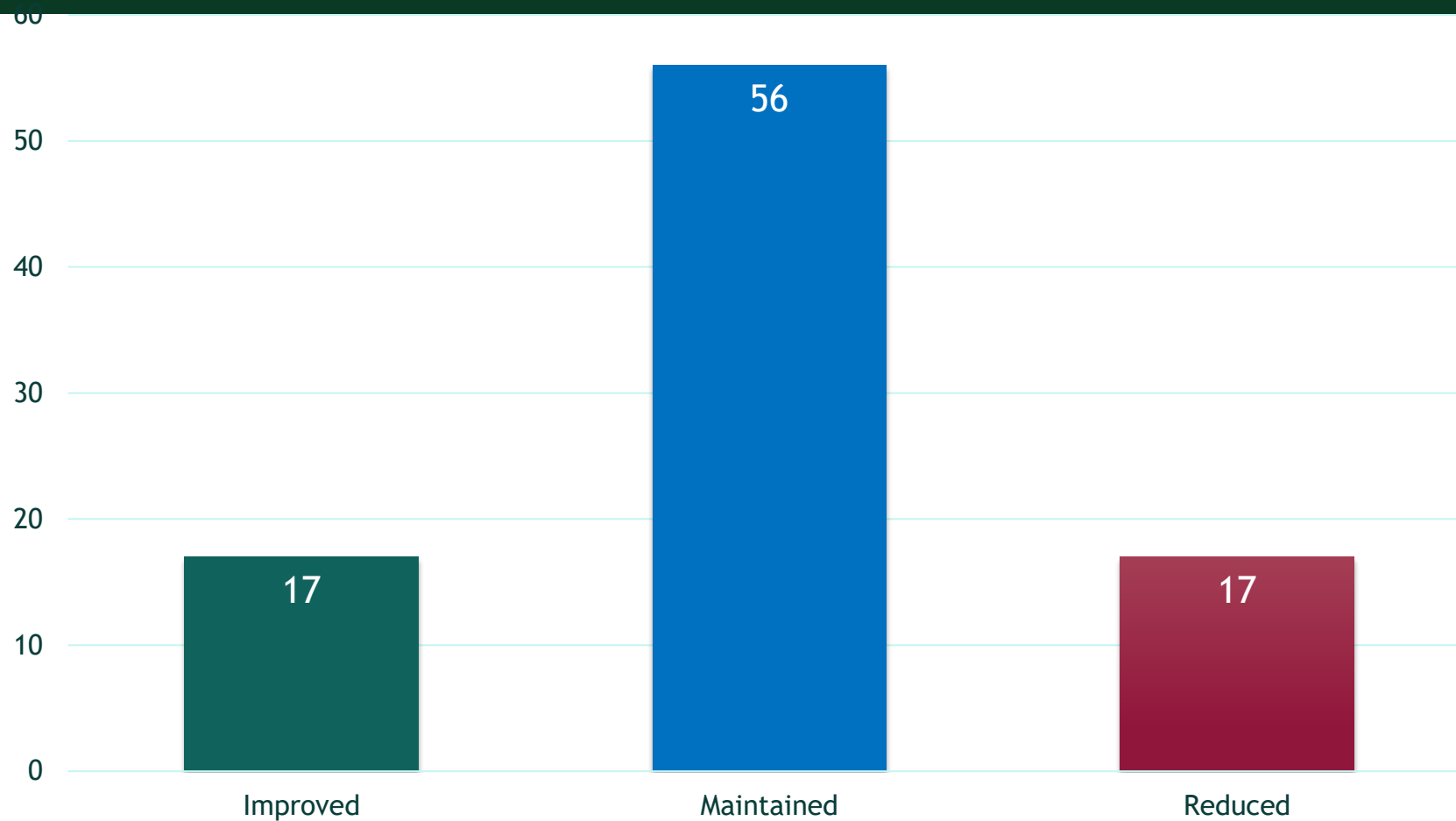
7. Arenas and Community Centers



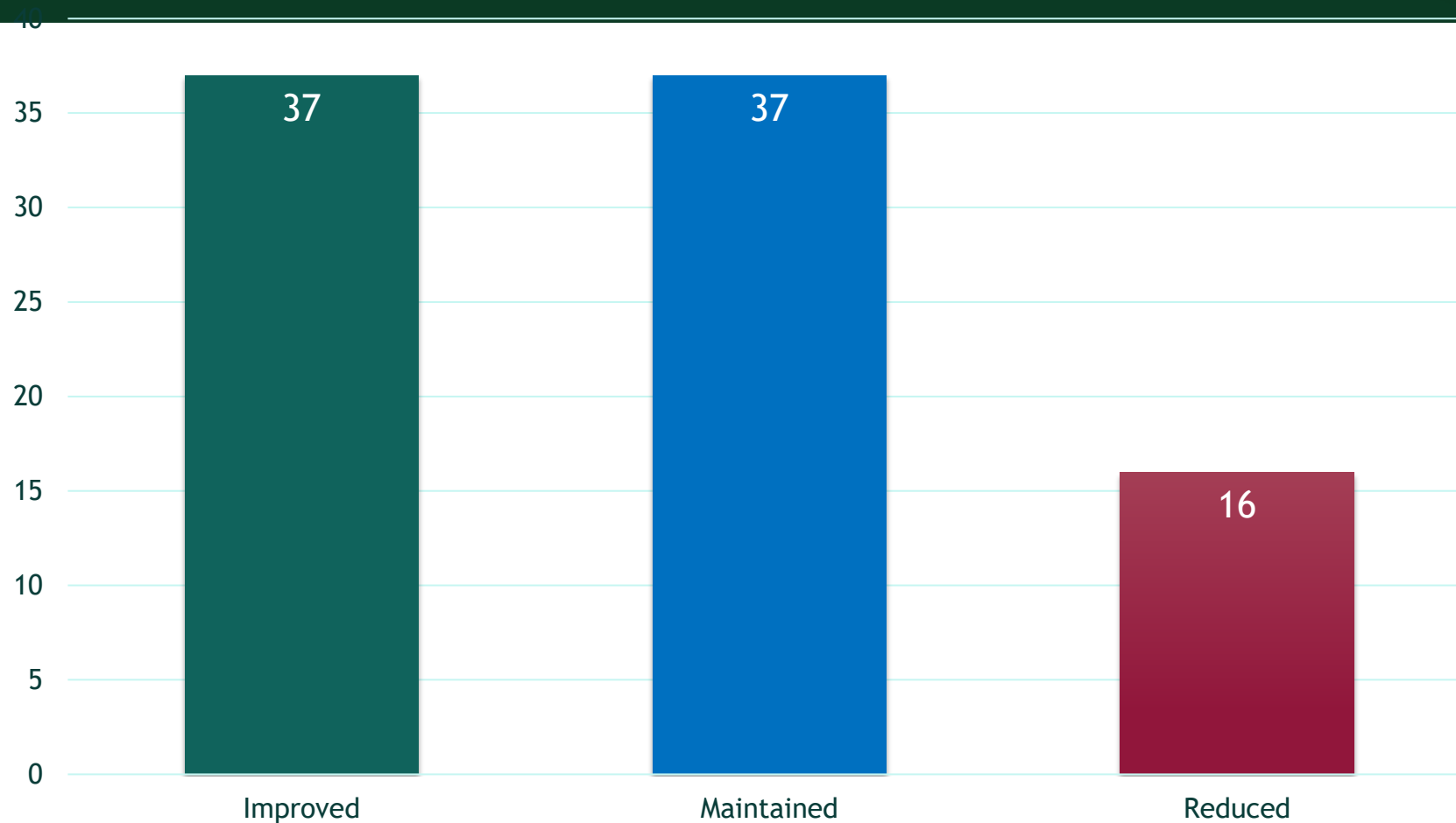
8. Land Use Planning and Development Services



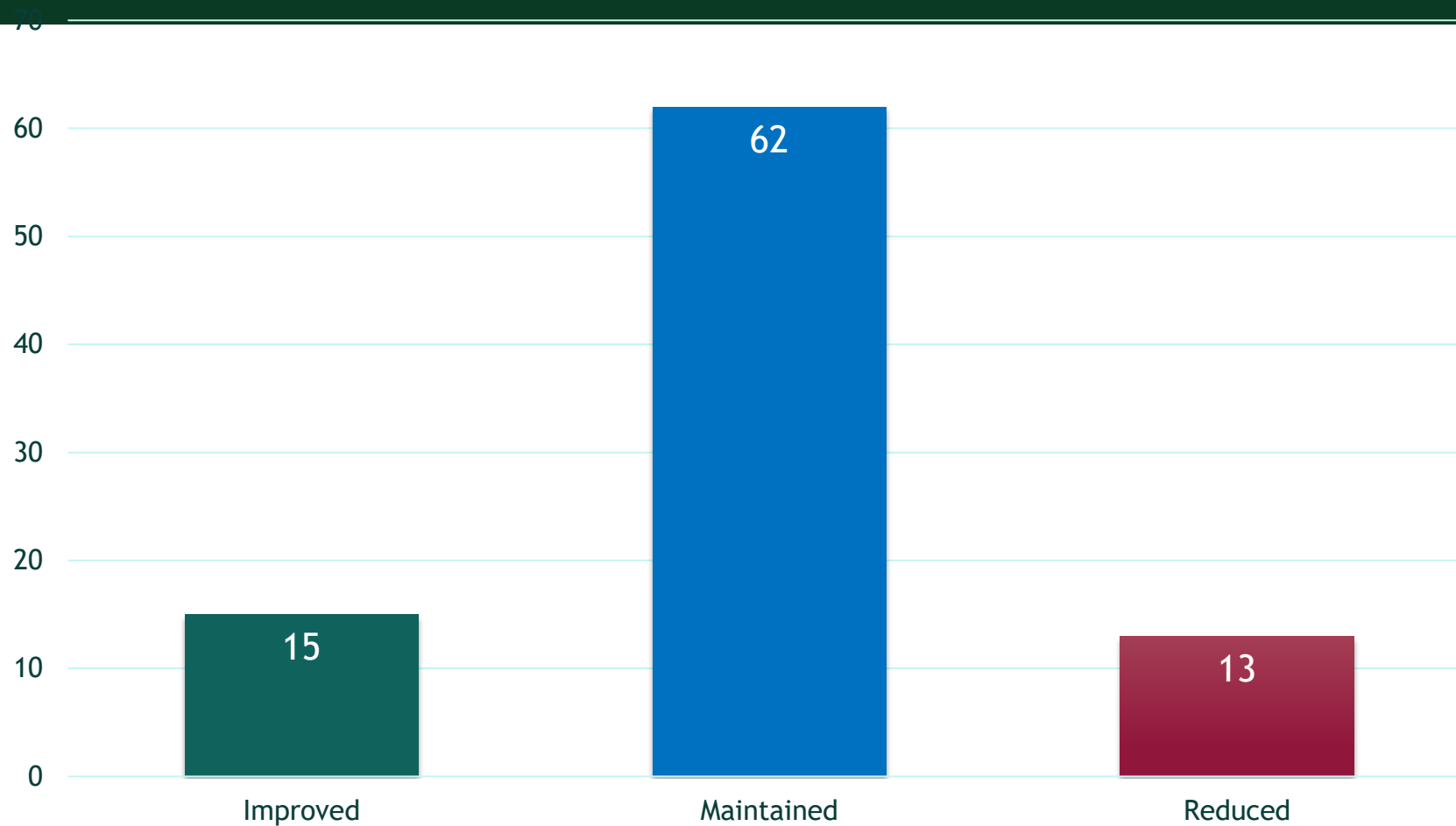
9. By-Law Enforcement Services



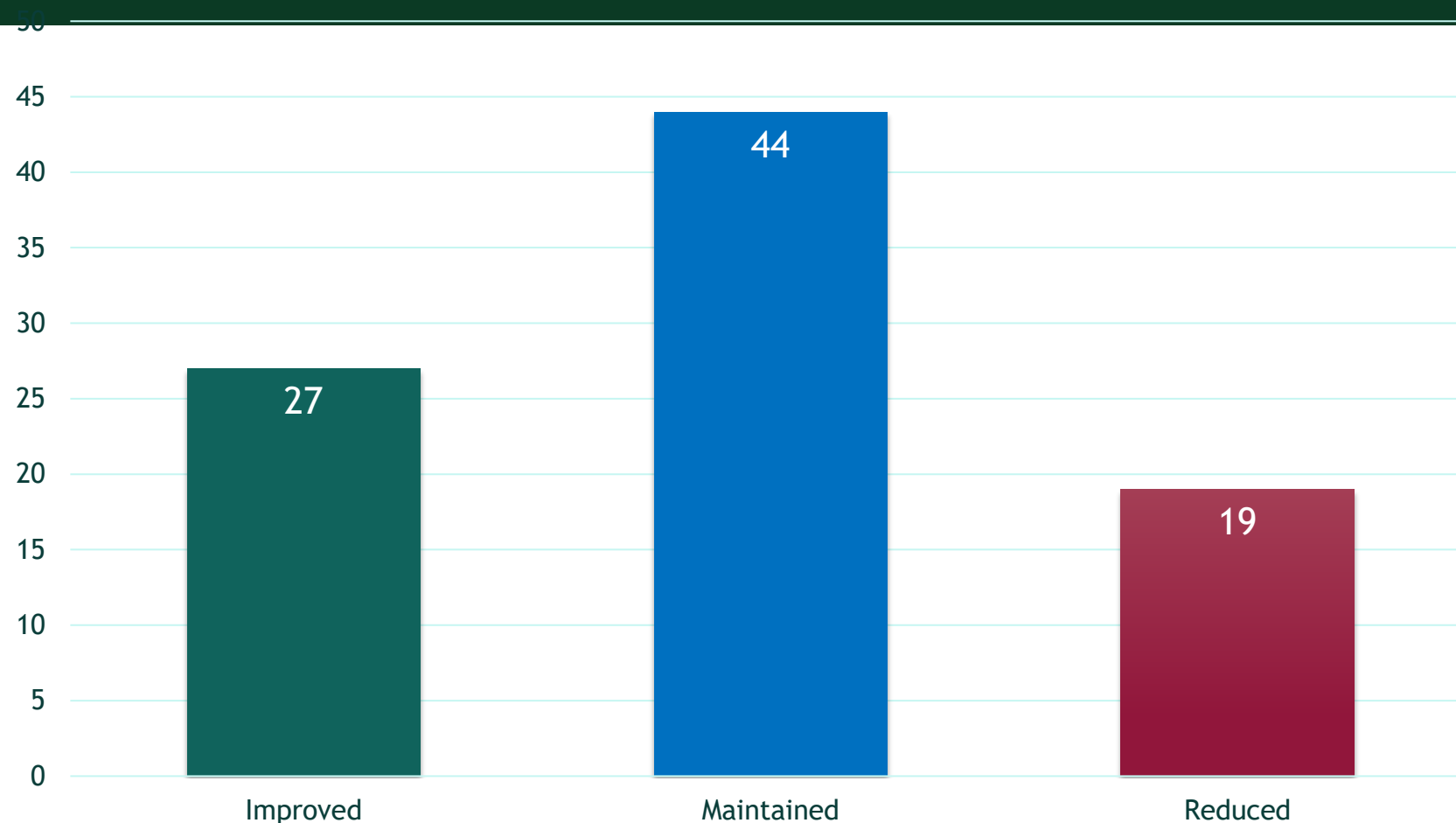
10. Community and Recreation Programs



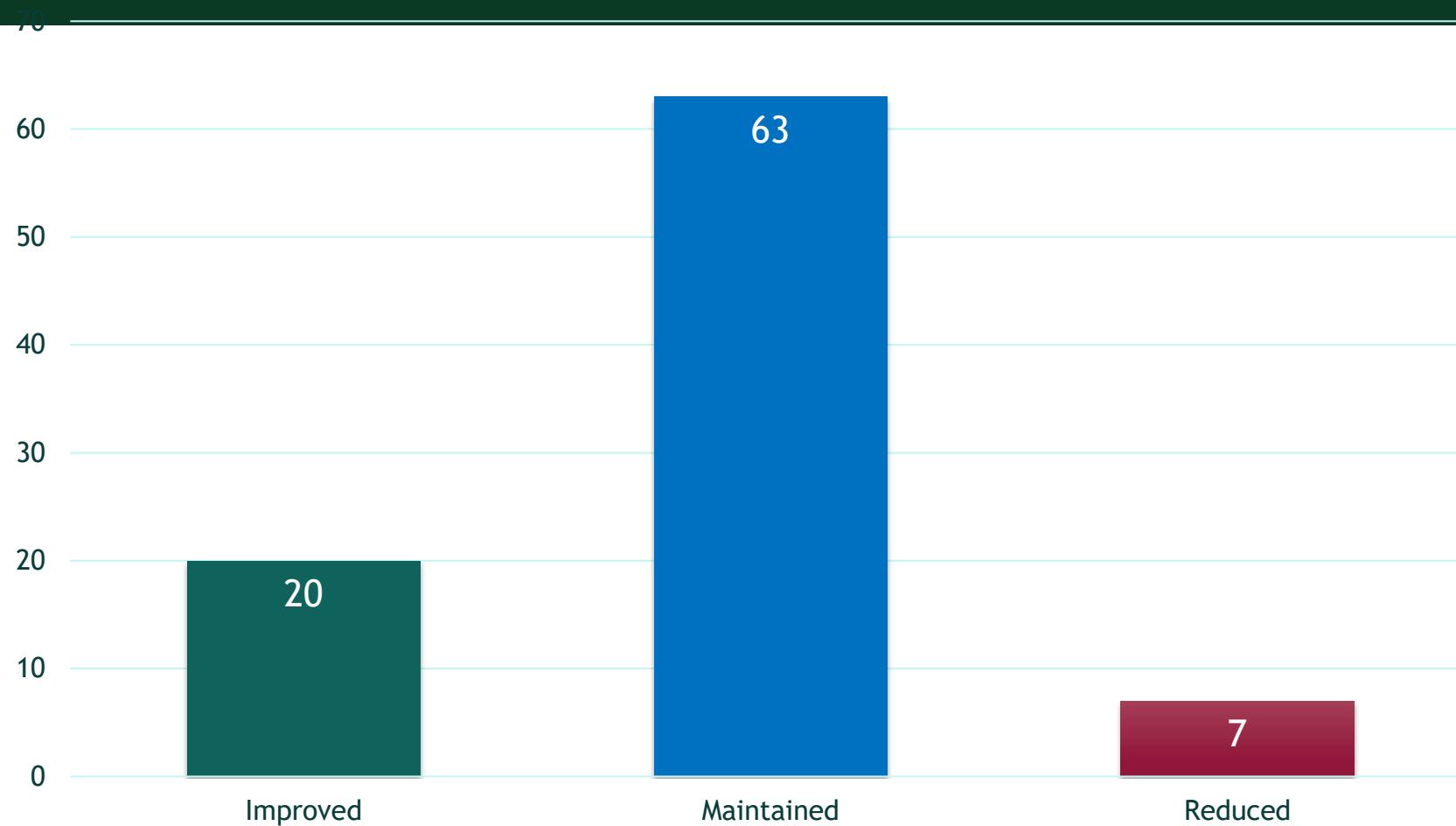
11. Customer Service



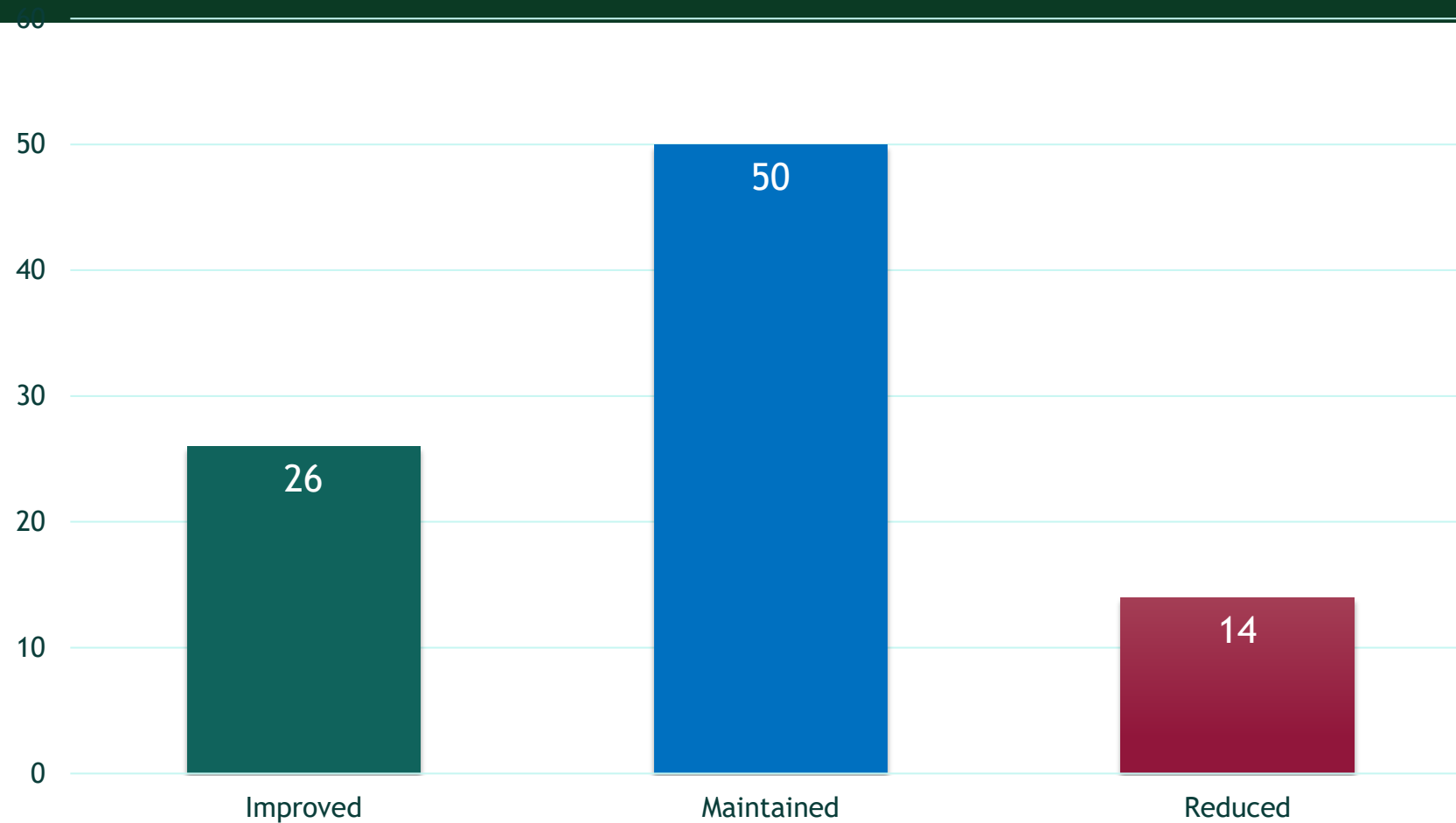
12. Economic Development (including support for local businesses)



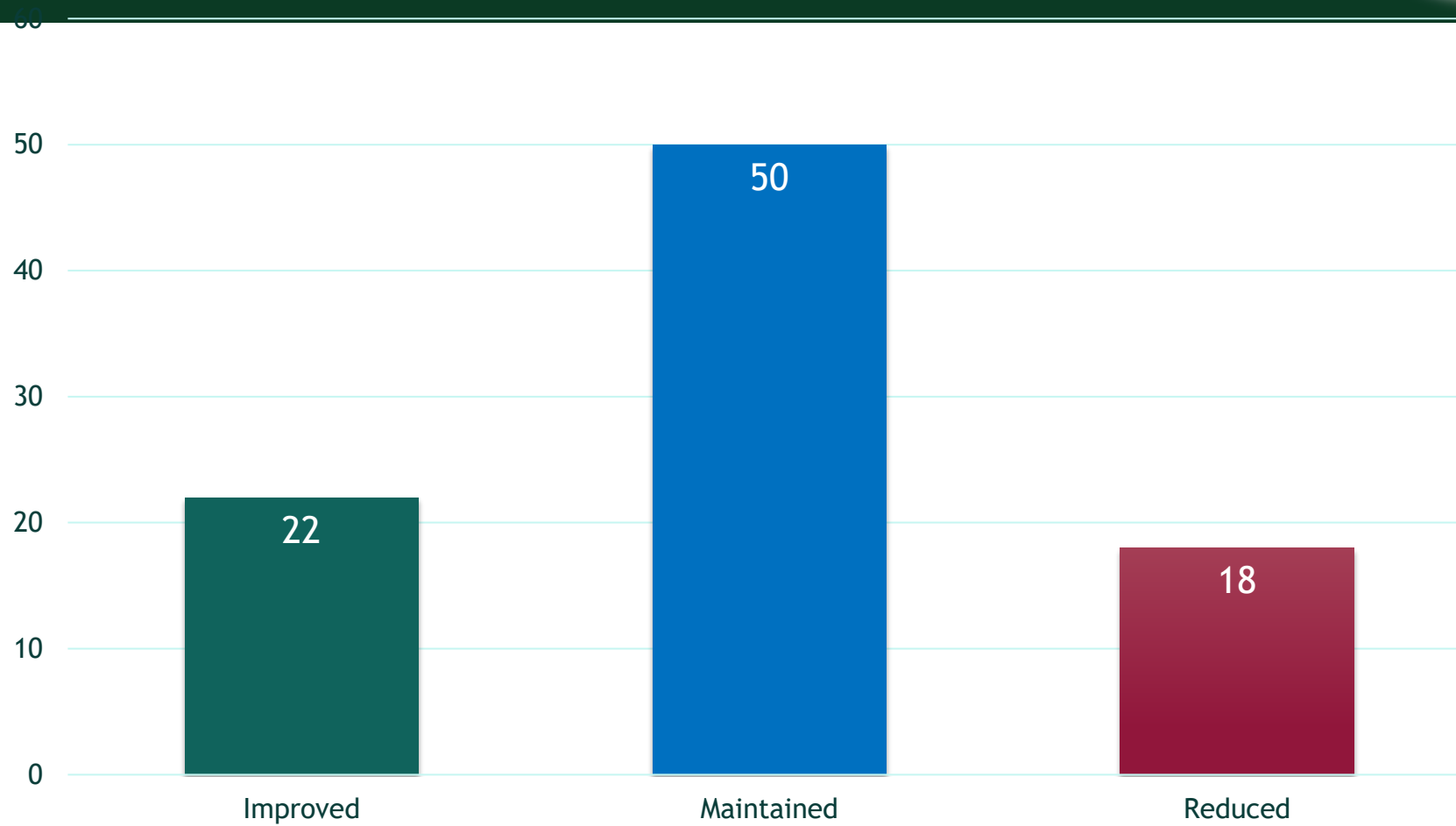
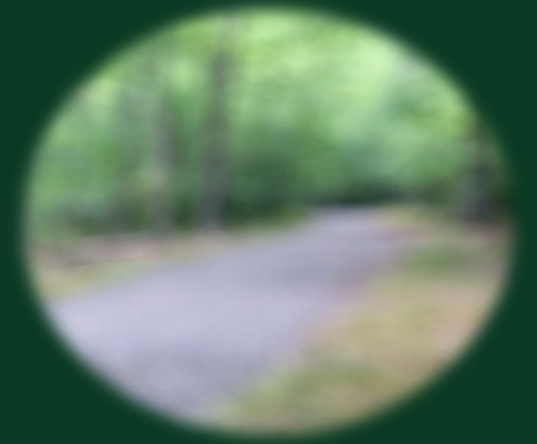
13. Fire Department



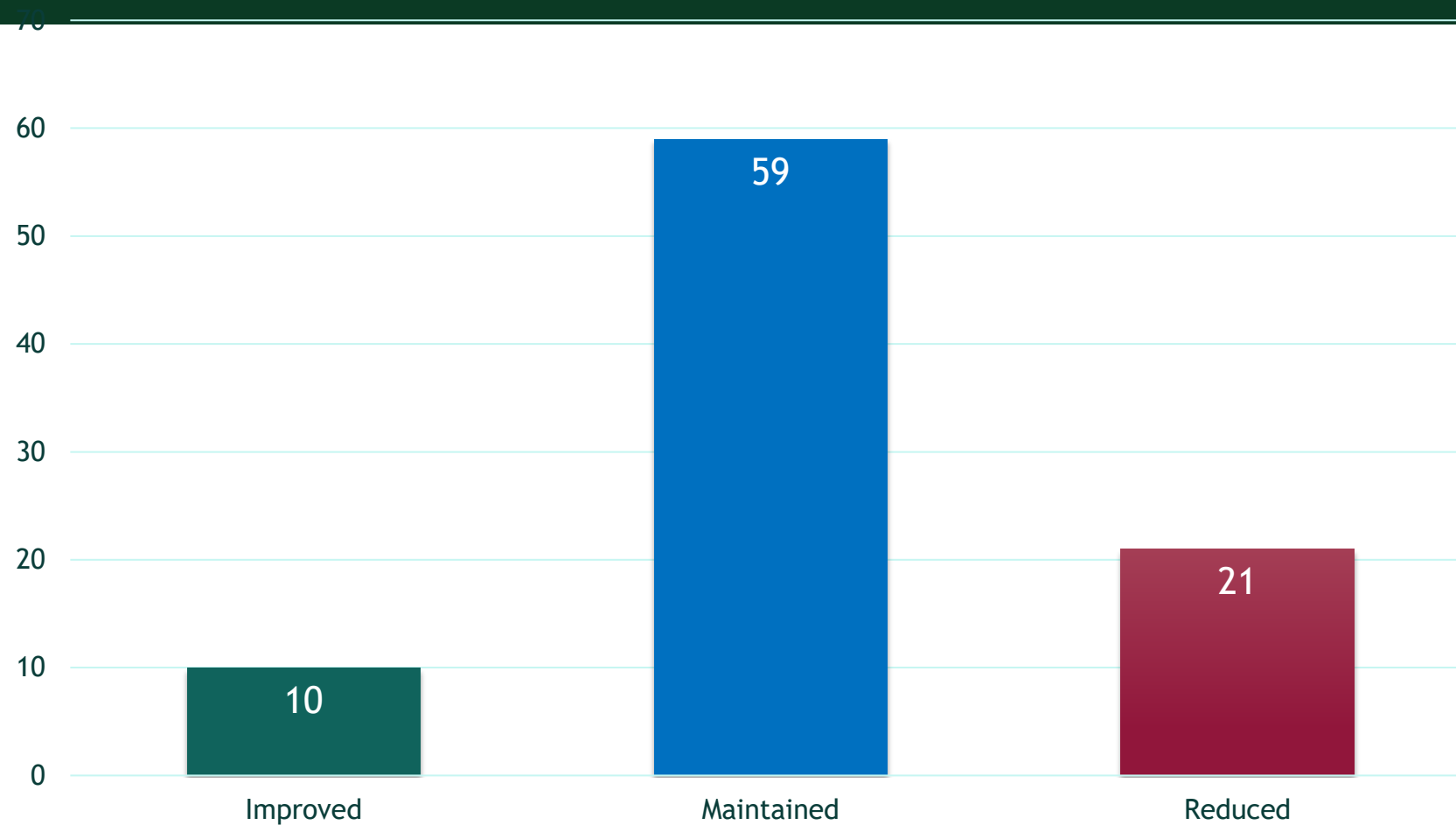
14. Parks and Green Spaces



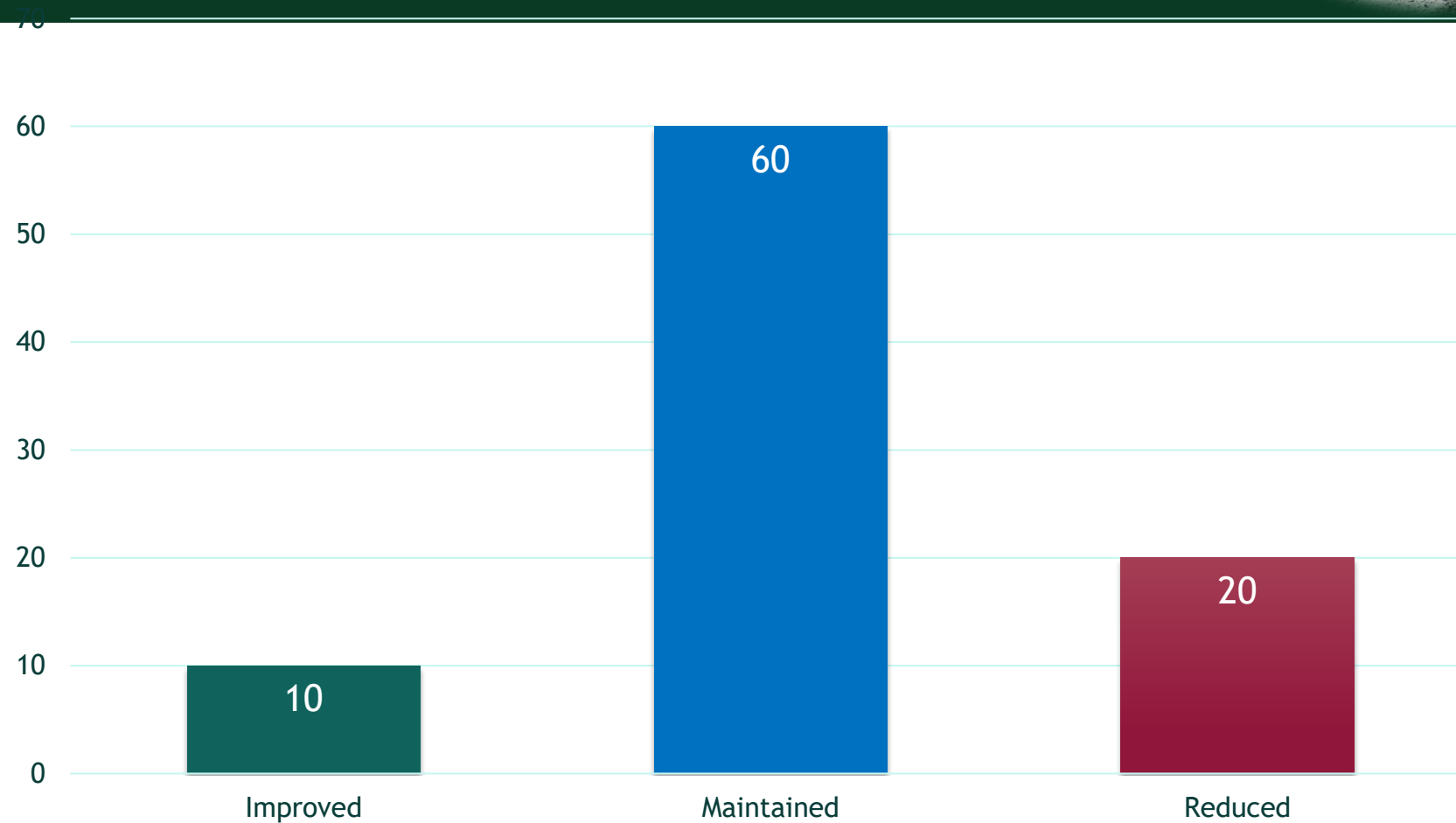
15. Trails



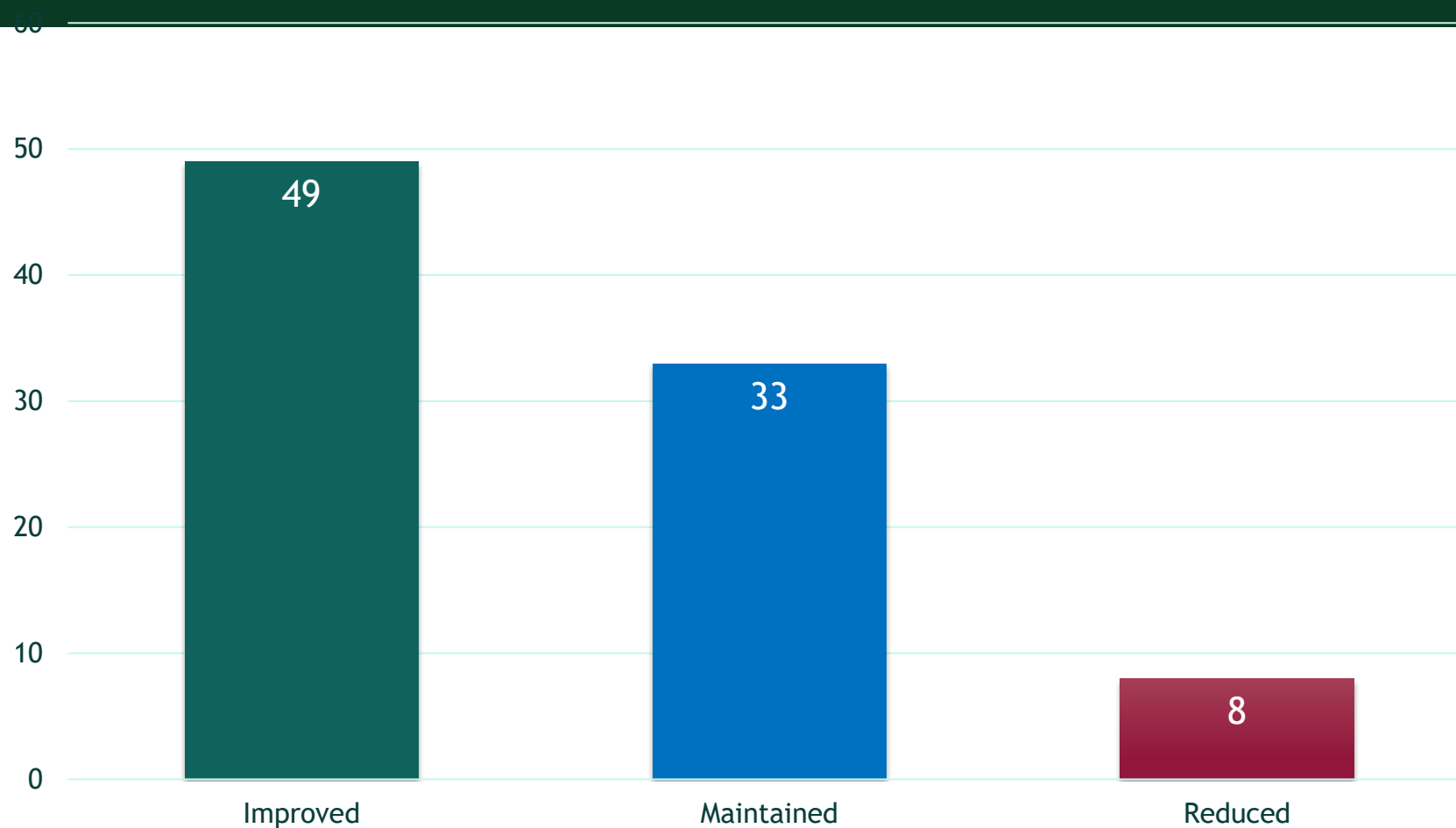
16. Library Services



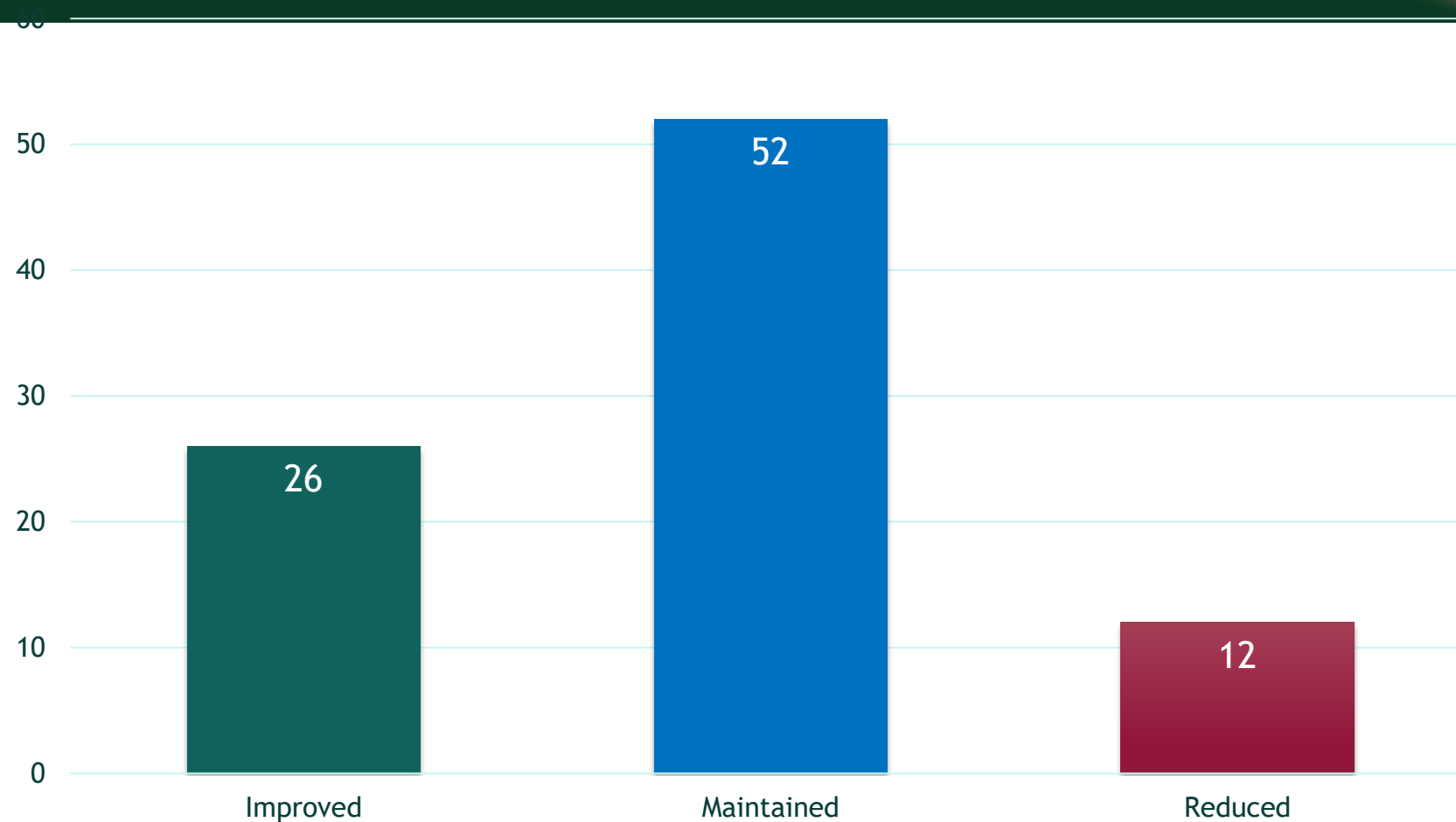
17. Parking Spaces



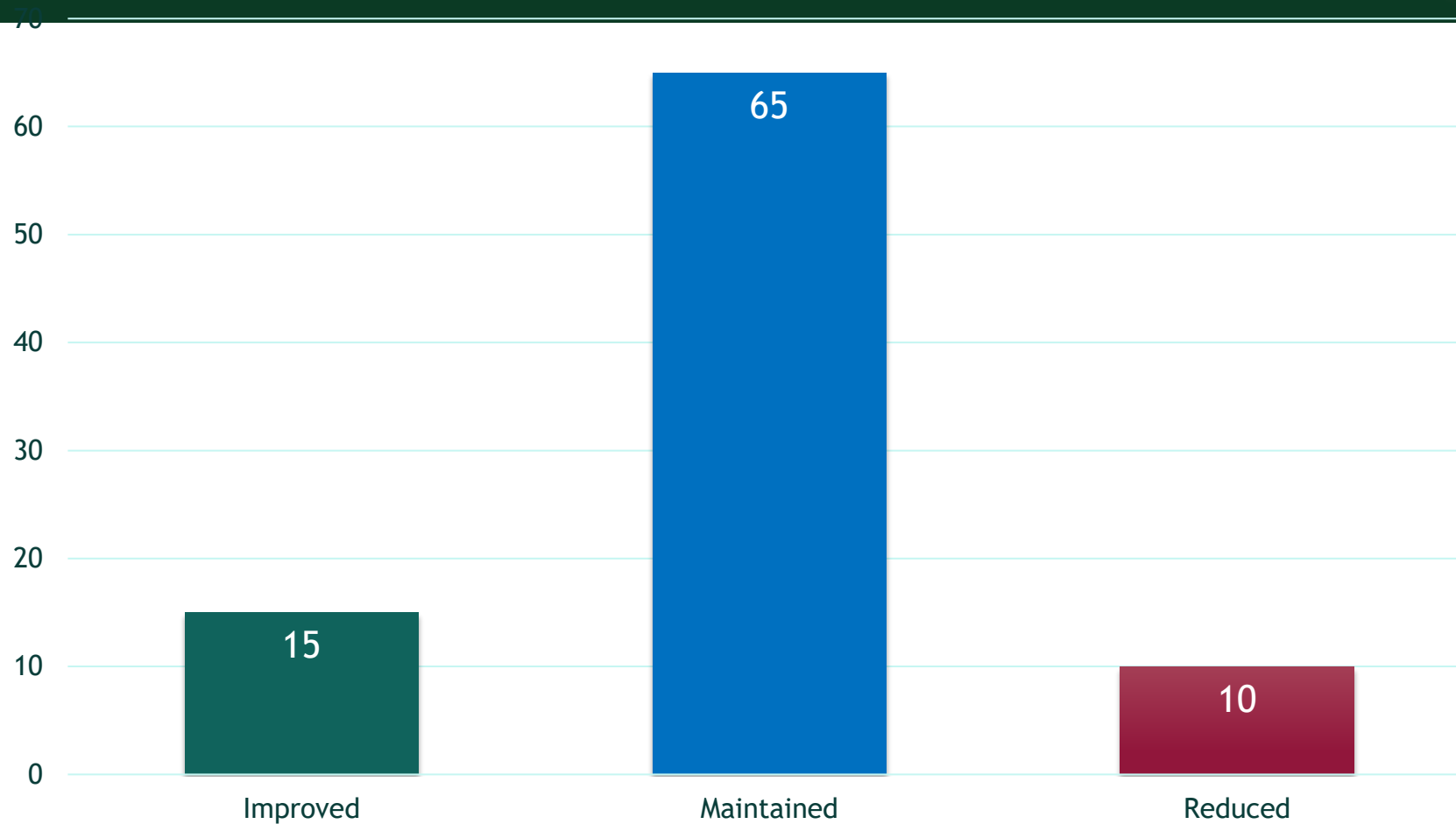
18. Physician Recruitment and Healthcare System Engagement



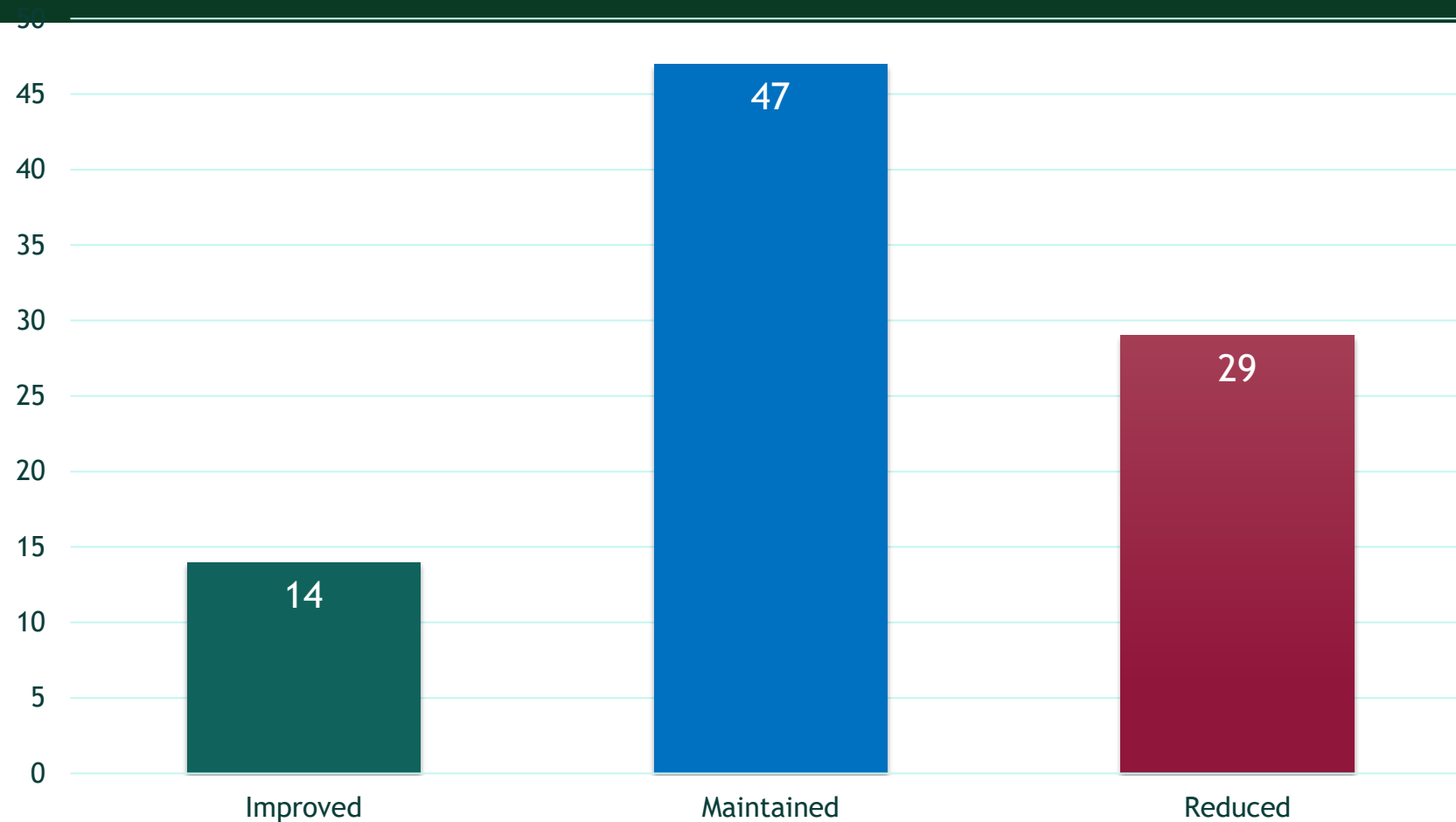
19. Road and Sidewalk Maintenance



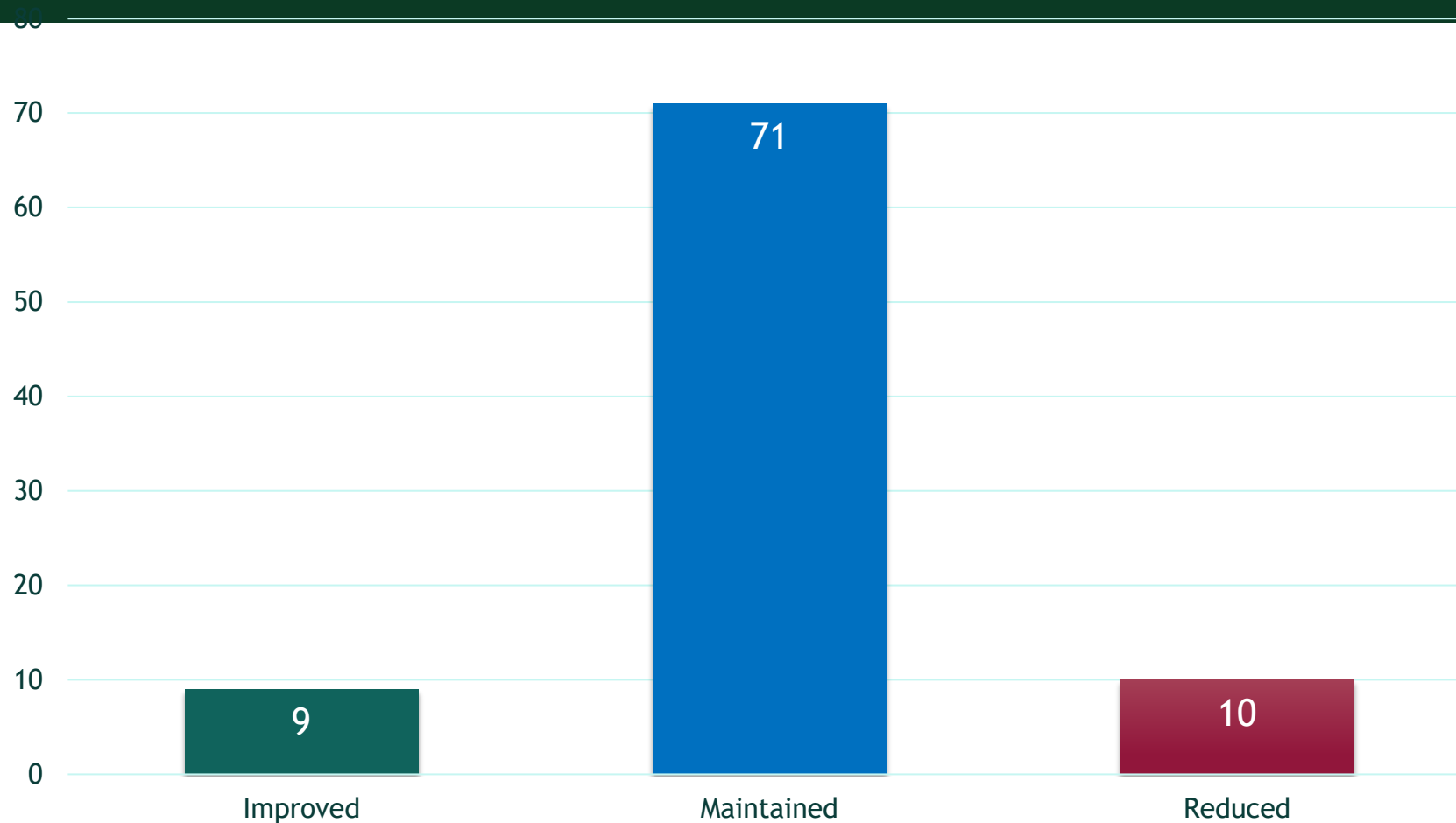
20. Stormwater Management



21. Pedestrian and Cycling Safety



22. Waste and Recycling Collection/ Organic Waste Handling



Community Services Summary



Of the 16 service areas, the respondents only wish for Physician Recruitment & Healthcare Engagement to be improved.

All other services are to be maintained.

Noteworthy also, are the views on Land Use Planning: 42% wish it to be maintained, while 33% want it reduced.

Community & Recreation Programs - have equal calls for improvement and maintenance

Overall, majority respondents support Physician Recruitment and Healthcare System Engagement being improved, while all other services are maintained with only modest tax increases resulting from inflation.

IMPROVED

Even if it means tax increase.



MAINTAINED

With only an inflationary increase to taxes.



REDUCE

To lower taxes



Comments and Suggestions



From Question 23:
What do you consider the top 5 priorities for
preserving and improving your community at this
time?



Service Area

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Physician Recruitment and Healthcare System Engagement |
| 2 | Road and Sidewalk Maintenance |
| 3 | Community and Recreation Programs |
| 4 | Arenas and Community Centres Land Use Planning and Development Services Policing |
| 5 | Economic Development (Including supports for local businesses) |

From Question 24: Priorities for investment that have not been presented in the list of services/facilities Summary



Service Area	Feedback
Public Works	Snow plowing to be performed at least twice per day. Better maintenance of the common spaces, for increased appeal and safety.
Development	New Schools and childcare facilities to meet the needs of the growing population Downtown Dundalk revitalization to attract the investment of other stores to create competition; job creation; and even lessen the food cost in the region.
	Completion of the new sub-divisions
Recreation	Maintain and invest in the recreation centers across the township, not just in Dundalk. Invest in Camping spaces, indoor pools and a community splash pad
	Community programs supporting mental health services and programs geared toward seniors.
Finance	Stop tax increases
General	Apartment and recreation centers for seniors.
	Affordable Housing

From Question 25: Roadways you believe should be given priority in the 2026 budget. Summary



List of Roads and Frequency of Mentions

The following were mentioned 3 times:

1. Ida Street
2. Proton Street N

The following were mentioned 2 times:

1. Southgate Road 14
2. Southgate Road 24
3. 2nd Line south of Main St.
4. Dundalk Street

From Question 25: Roadways you believe should be given priority in the 2026 budget. Summary



List of Roads and Frequency of Mentions Cont.

The following roads were mentioned once.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Victoria Street to Southgate Side Road 75 | 10. Southgate Side Road 12 |
| 2. Southgate Road 12 | 11. Southgate Side Road 71 |
| 3. Old Railway Road | 12. London Road, Mount Forest |
| 4. Southgate Road 4 | 13. Bradley Street |
| 5. Southgate Road 49 | 14. Southgate Rd 10 between Grey Roads 8 and 15 |
| 6. Watra Road | 15. Southgate Road 22 between Southgate Side Roads 71 and 15 |
| 7. Russell Street | 16. Todd Crescent |
| 8. Southgate Side Road 6 | 17. Swinton Park |
| 9. Osprey Street N | 18. Southgate Sideroad 41 |

From Question 25: Roadways you believe should be given priority in the 2026 budget. Summary



The following Roads were also mentioned:

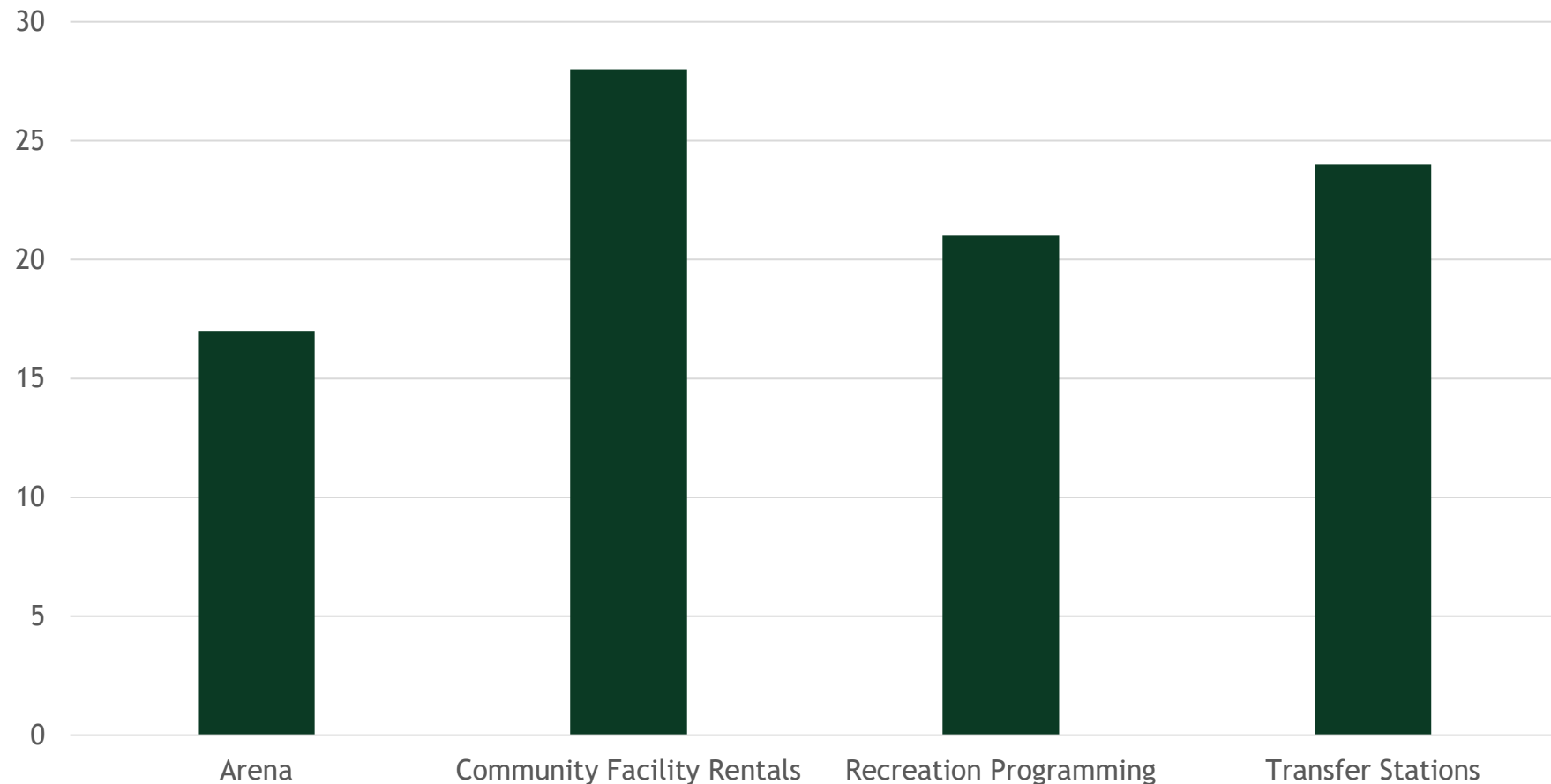
1. Main Street - 5
2. Highway 10 - 4
3. Highway 6 - 2
4. Highway 89 - 1
5. Grey Road 109 - 1
6. Milliner Avenue, Symington Street,
Morgan Avenue, McAllister Street
(in the vicinity of McDonalds) - 1

From Question 26:
Areas where you believe the Township is
overspending and where you would like to see
tax dollars spent more efficiently.
Summary



Overspending	More efficiency
Staff & Admin Salaries	Maintenance of gravel roads
Dundalk & Holstein	More attention should be given to outlying communities.
Planning & development	Fire and Policing other Emergency Services
Library services	Community upkeep - de-bushing, de-littering & clearing of ditches
	Medical Centers
	Recreation activities for kids
	Snow Removal
	Schools

From Question 27:
The following services are partially funded through user fees. Which of these services, in your opinion, should have increased user fees to lessen the Township's reliance on tax funding?
Summary



From Question 28: In your opinion, what is the most important issue the Township should prioritize in the 2026 budget? Summary



Top 10 Issues and the frequency of their mention

- Reduce taxes 20
- Attract New Businesses 9
- Road Maintenance & Improvement 7
- Policing 7
- Affordable houses 6
- Healthcare/ Family doctors 5
- Traffic Safety 4
- Force Developers to complete works started 4
- Recreation 4
- Community Beautification 3
- Childcare 3

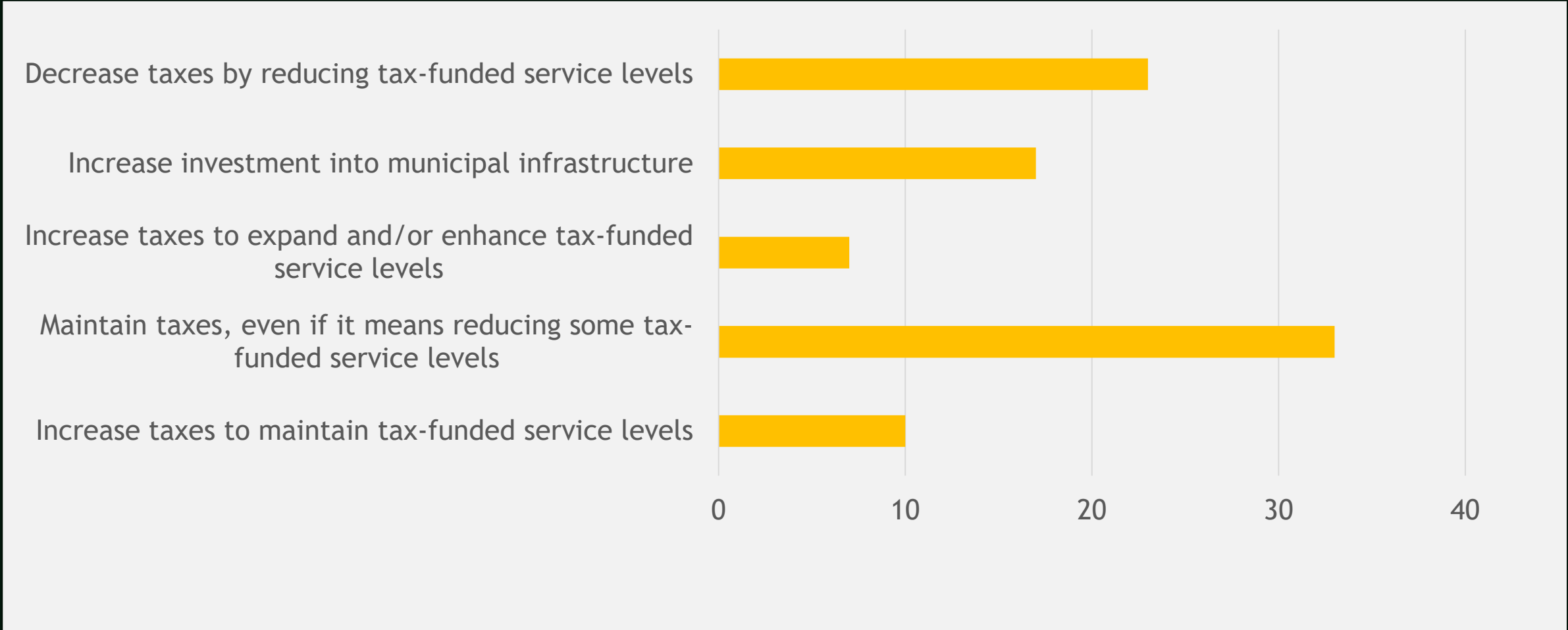
From Question 28: In your opinion, what is the most important issue the Township should prioritize in the 2026 budget? Summary



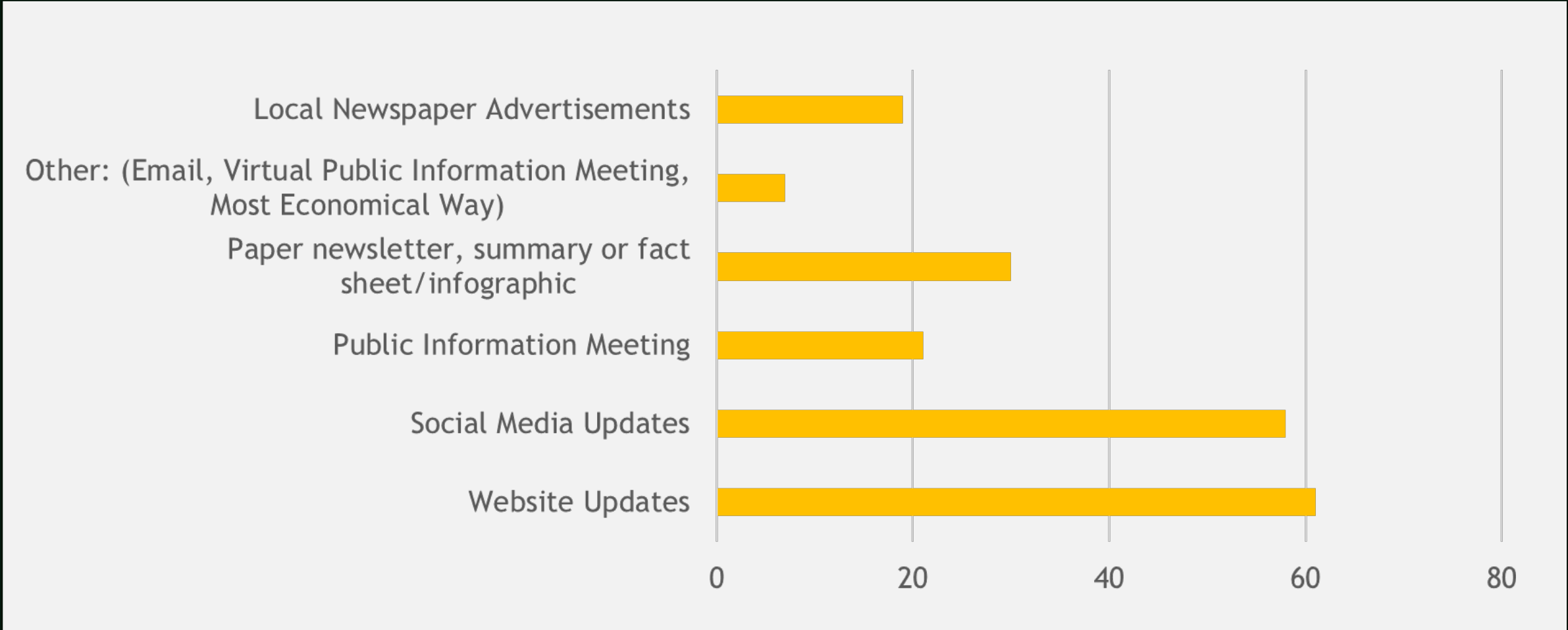
Other Issues and their frequency

- New Schools 2
- By-Law Enforcement 2
- Develop Main Street area 2
- Community Center 2
- Stormwater & Sewage 2
- Other areas outside Dundalk 2
- Job creation 1
- Customer Services aimed at community engagement 1
- Small Businesses 1
- Staff Professional Development 1
- Recruitment of talented/ qualified Township Staff 1
- Public Transportation 1
- Soccer Field 1
- Emergency Services 1
- Reduce Development Fees 1
- Cater more to multi-culturalism 1

29. Due to rising costs associated with maintaining service levels and supporting infrastructure, the Township must carefully balance property tax rates with the growing demand for services. In accordance with provincial requirements, the Township is required to maintain a balanced budget. To achieve this, it may consider options such as adjusting the range of services offered or modifying service levels.



30. How would you like to be informed about the Township of Southgate budget? Select all that apply.

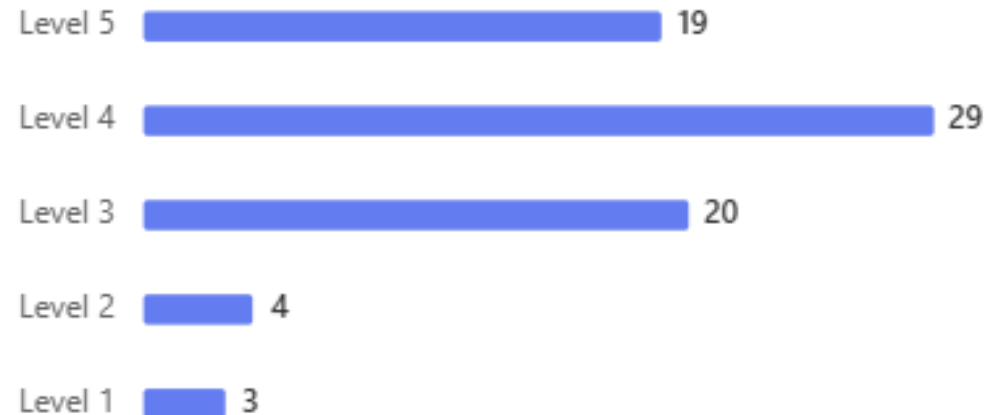


How Respondents rate their experience with the survey.

31. Please rate your experience with this survey

3.76

Average Rating



Thank you

Township of Southgate

www.southgate.ca

info@southgate.ca

Thank you to all residents who participated in
the 2026 Budget Survey!

