

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK

PO BOX 4178
TELLURIDE, CO 81435

To: San Miguel County Board of Commissioners
From: Paul Reich
cc: Lynn Black
Carmen Warfield
Date: July 12, 2018
Subject: Mental Health Ballot Measure

Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is requesting that the San Miguel Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approve the referral of a county wide 0.75 mill levy ballot measure to appear on the November 6, 2018 ballot to fund community-based mental health and substance abuse services in San Miguel County.

San Miguel County, like many rural counties in Colorado, currently experiences a shortage of mental health providers and has significant gaps in services related to mental health and substance use disorders.

In 2016, the County along with the Telluride Foundation funded the creation of a San Miguel County Behavioral Health Strategic Plan. This plan identified the need to create, implement and manage behavioral health initiatives, utilizing our existing resources, to increase community education and awareness around behavioral health and wellness, while expanding access to care for the residents of the County. Based on this plan, TCHNetwork created a Regional Behavioral Health Commission (RBHC), comprised of stakeholders across education, law enforcement, health care, mental health, and social services to guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The RBHC, funded through grants from the towns of Telluride and Mountain Village, has worked over the past eighteen months to implement the Strategic Plan. We have made great strides in program development, community education and awareness, integration and collaboration across organizations, but have also identified the lack of a dedicated and sufficient funding stream to support local behavioral health initiatives in our county as a major impediment to solving some of the issues facing our communities.

The RBHC identified the following areas that are not being addressed or are inadequate to meet the current needs in the County: mental health services in the schools to help address the issues confronting schools around student mental health, substance use issues, and concerns about school safety; the continuing challenges related to mental health and substance use crisis and emergency response in the County; the need for more robust suicide prevention programs in the community in light of continuing deaths in our county due to suicide; and the absence of alcohol, opioid, and substance prevention and treatment programs in the County.

In May of 2017, following discussions with the RBHC, TCHNetwork commissioned Keating Research to conduct a poll of likely voters in the November 2018 election about their views on mental health and

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substance use services and their willingness to support a property tax dedicated to those services in San Miguel County.

When asked if they would support a .75 mill levy “for the purpose of improving the quality, availability and affordability of community based mental health and substance abuse services in San Miguel County,” 72% of voters said they would vote yes.

Respondents were also asked about their personal experiences around mental health and substance abuse—almost 1 in 3 reported that they, a family member, or close friend were experiencing a mental health or substance abuse issue and 1 in 5 reported that they were not receiving appropriate treatment.

Meeting the needs of our community and improving access to mental health services in our county, will require an investment in local services. TCHNetwork is requesting that the San Miguel BOCC approve the referral of a mill levy ballot measure to fund community-based mental health and substance abuse services in San Miguel County. The four program areas that we recommend for inclusion on the ballot, based on our needs assessment and on community support, include:

- Mental health counselors and programs in schools;
- Mental health and substance abuse crisis and emergency response services;
- Suicide prevention programs;
- Alcohol, opioid and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.

The proposed ballot measure would ask that the County establish a dedicated fund for the monies raised through this mill levy, to be appropriated based on recommendations by an independent commission appointed by the BOCC.

We are asking that the BOCC notify the San Miguel County Clerk no later than July 30, 2018, of the intent to place this measure on the November 6, 2018 ballot. Further, we are asking that the BOCC submit final ballot language to the San Miguel County Clerk in advance of the September 7, 2018 deadline.

TCHNetwork has also been working closely with Mental Health Colorado, an organization that is providing technical assistance on several similar initiatives across the state and is available to answer questions or provide such assistance to the San Miguel County BOCC. TCHNetwork asks that the BOCC consider formally requesting such assistance in order to continue to utilize technical assistance available through Mental Health Colorado. A draft of a letter requesting that assistance is attached.

A draft of the suggested ballot language is attached.

TCHNetwork will work with the County staff to finalize the ballot language and to prepare a resolution for the BOCC to place this item on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

July 18, 2018

Andrew Romanoff
Mental Health Colorado
1120 Lincoln St, Suite 1606
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Romanoff,

San Miguel County officially requests technical advice and assistance from Mental Health Colorado in connection with our efforts to seek funding for local mental health programs. Specifically, we may request your advice or assistance on matters including, but not limited to: public opinion research, research on mental health/substance use programs and needs, information on local or state laws and elections, and evaluations of various funding strategies including potential ballot measures.

We are interested in the factual research that you can provide to us, your organization's views and recommendations regarding potential public funding measures, and strategic advice for enacting and implementing these measures. This includes understanding public opinions regarding mental health and other issues currently facing San Miguel County.

While the information you provide will be directed to Tri-County Health Network's attention, I understand that your responses to this technical assistance request will be for the general use of San Miguel County. This request extends to any advice or information you submit to us regarding mental health programs and financing measures, and related matters, on an ongoing basis.

Thank you for Mental Health Colorado's work to advance the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

Sincerely,

San Miguel County Board of County Commissioners

SHALL SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, COLORADO, TAXES BE INCREASED [**\$est amount**] ANNUALLY THROUGH AN INCREASE IN THE SAN MIGUEL COUNTY 2019 AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY OF THREE - QUARTERS (0.75) OF ONE MILL, AND FOR EACH YEAR THEREAFTER BY THE AMOUNT OF THE ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX REVENUE THAT IS GENERATED IN THOSE SUBSEQUENT YEARS THROUGH SUCH INCREASED PROPERTY TAX LEVY OF THREE-QUARTERS (0.75) OF ONE MILL, WHICH IS [**\$value**] PER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS OF A HOME'S 2019 APPRAISED VALUE; TO FUND COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES IN SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, INCLUDING:

- MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS;
- MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES;
- SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS;
- ALCOHOL, OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS;

PROVIDED THAT THE FUNDS SHALL BE BUDGETED TO A DEDICATED SAN MIGUEL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUND AND APPROPRIATED BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF AN INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY PANEL COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND SHALL SAN MIGUEL COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE ITS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE LIMITS BEYOND THOSE AUTHORIZED BY ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE TAXPAYER'S BILL OF RIGHTS OR "TABOR," AND SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S, FOR THE 2019 FISCAL YEAR AND EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR THEREAFTER, TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES TO BE BUDGETED AND APPROPRIATED TO THE COUNTY'S DEDICATED FUND FOR THE PURPOSES STATED HEREIN ABOVE, UNTIL AND UNLESS

REPEALED BY A MAJORITY OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF SAN MIGUEL COUNTY VOTING
THEREON?



San Miguel County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Ballot Question Survey

Key Findings Presentation

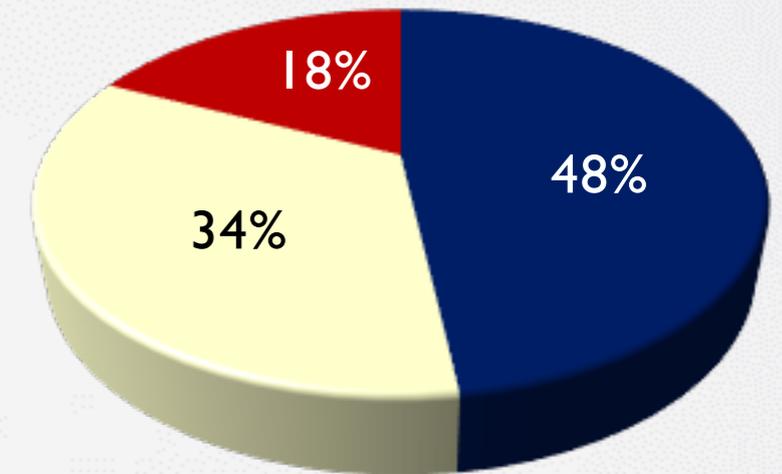
June 27, 2018



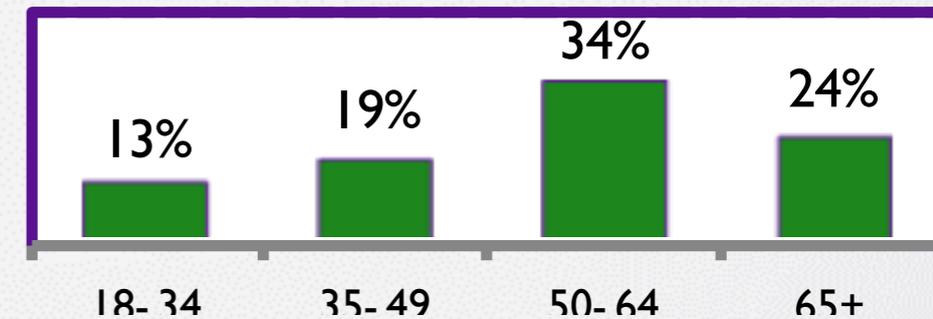
Survey Methodology

- ✓ Results based on 201 live-interviewer telephone surveys, including cell-phones, among a random sample of registered voters who live in San Miguel County who are likely to vote in November 2018.
- ✓ Interviews were conducted from May 29 – June 4, 2018.
- ✓ 72% of the interviews conducted on a cell-phone and 28% on a land-line.
- ✓ This sample is representative of likely November 2018 voters in San Miguel County based on party registration, age, region and gender.
- ✓ The worst case margin of error at the 95% level for the sample of 201 is plus or minus 6.9%.
- ✓ The poll was conducted by Keating Research.

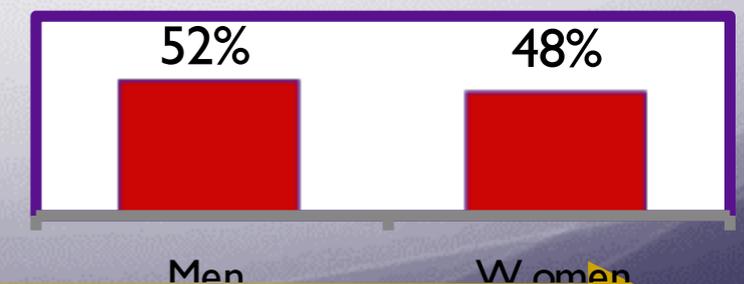
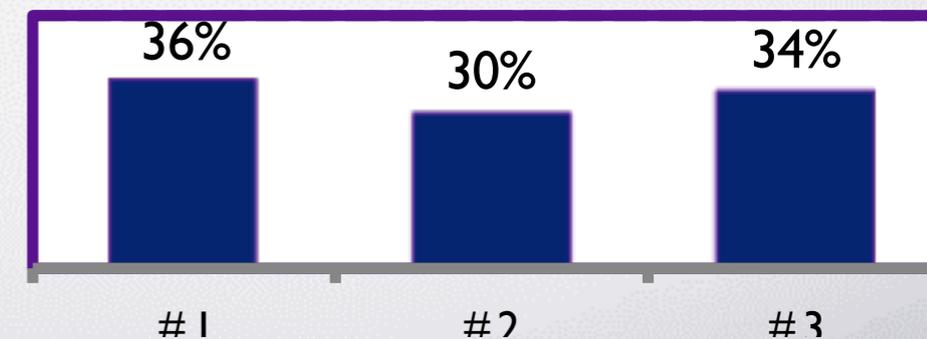
Party Registration



Age Distribution

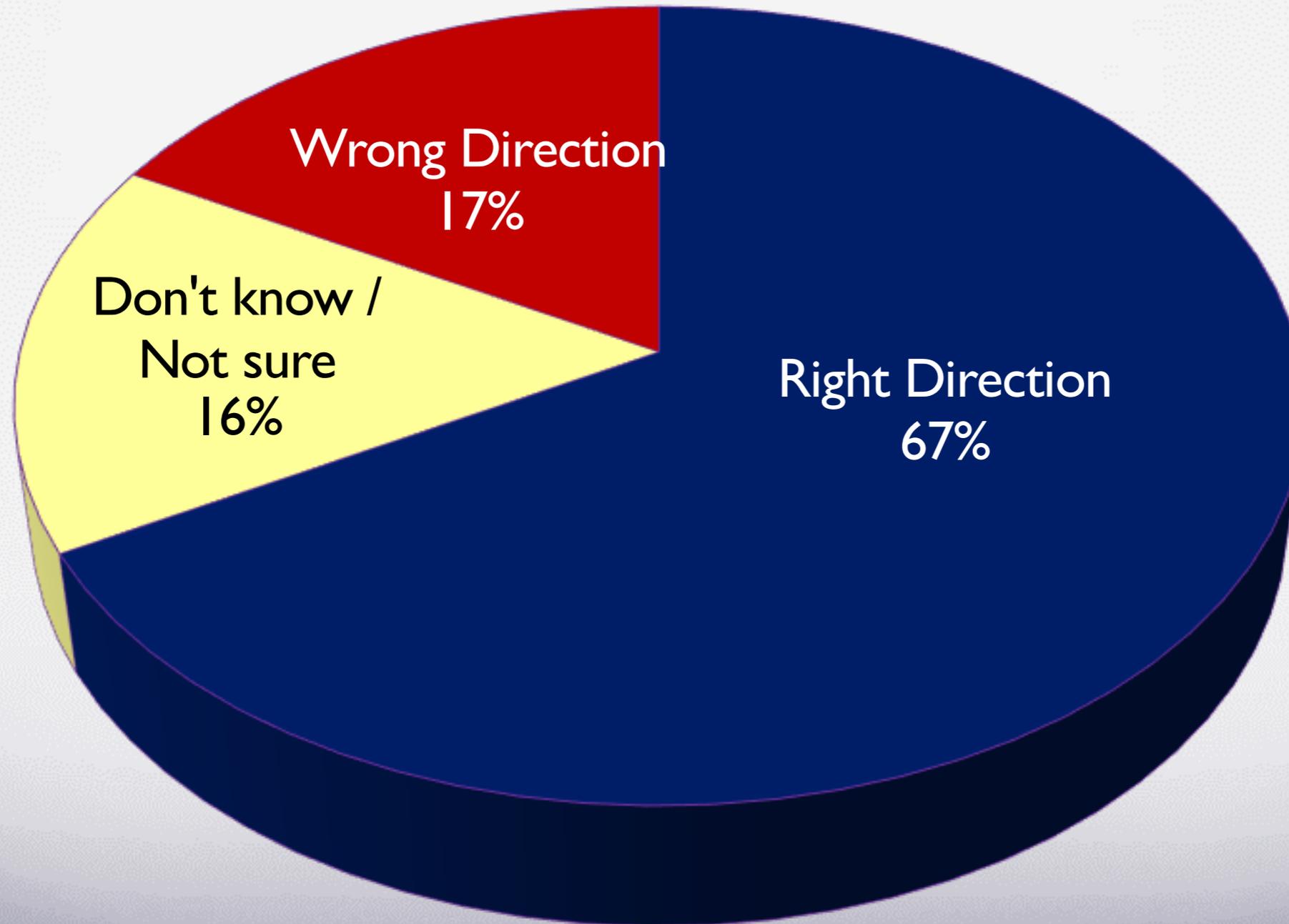


Commissioner District



Voters Remain Positive About San Miguel County

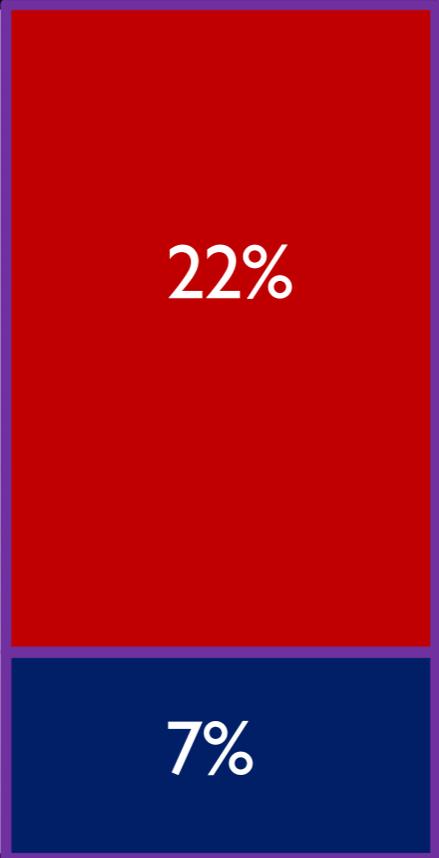
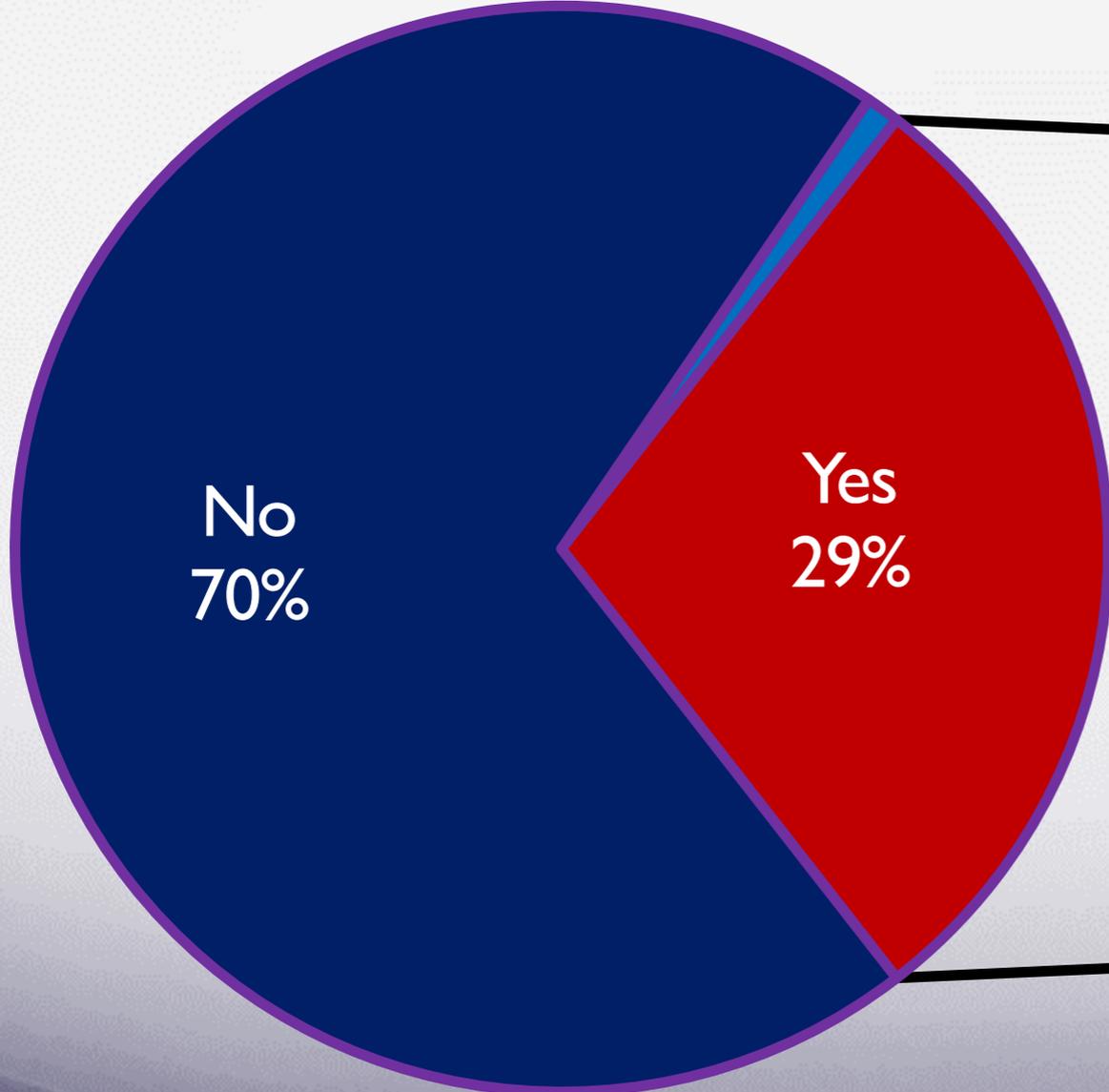
Generally speaking, are things in San Miguel County heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



Nearly one of every three voters knows someone suffering from a mental health or substance abuse issue

Keeping in mind that this survey is confidential, are you - yourself, or is a family member or close friend suffering from a mental health and/or substance abuse issue?

Do you believe that those who are suffering from a mental health and/or substance abuse issue are currently receiving the appropriate treatment?



No, not receiving appropriate treatment

Yes, receiving appropriate treatment



San Miguel County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Ballot Question In TABOR Form

Shall San Miguel County taxes be increased by \$588,000 annually through a property tax mill levy of three-quarters (.75) of one mill, which is five dollars and forty cents (\$5.40) per \$100,000 in a home's assessed value; for the purpose of improving the quality, availability and affordability of community based mental health and substance abuse services in San Miguel County, including but not limited to providing:

Randomize the order of the following uses.

- Mental health screening, treatment and crisis services for children and adults;
- Mental health counselors and programs in schools;
- Suicide prevention programs;
- Opioid, alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.

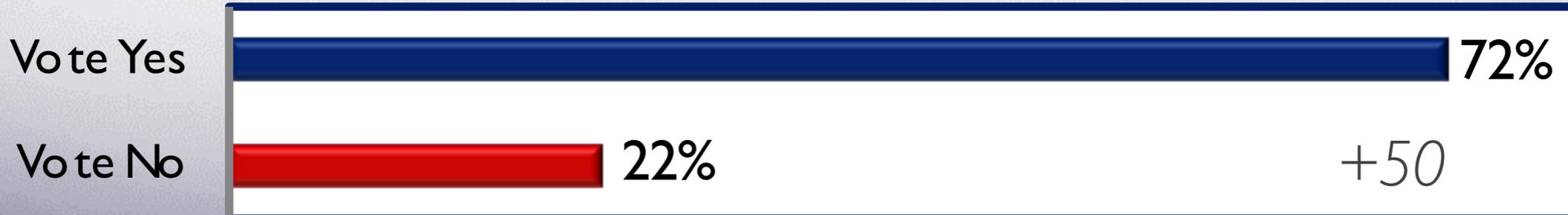
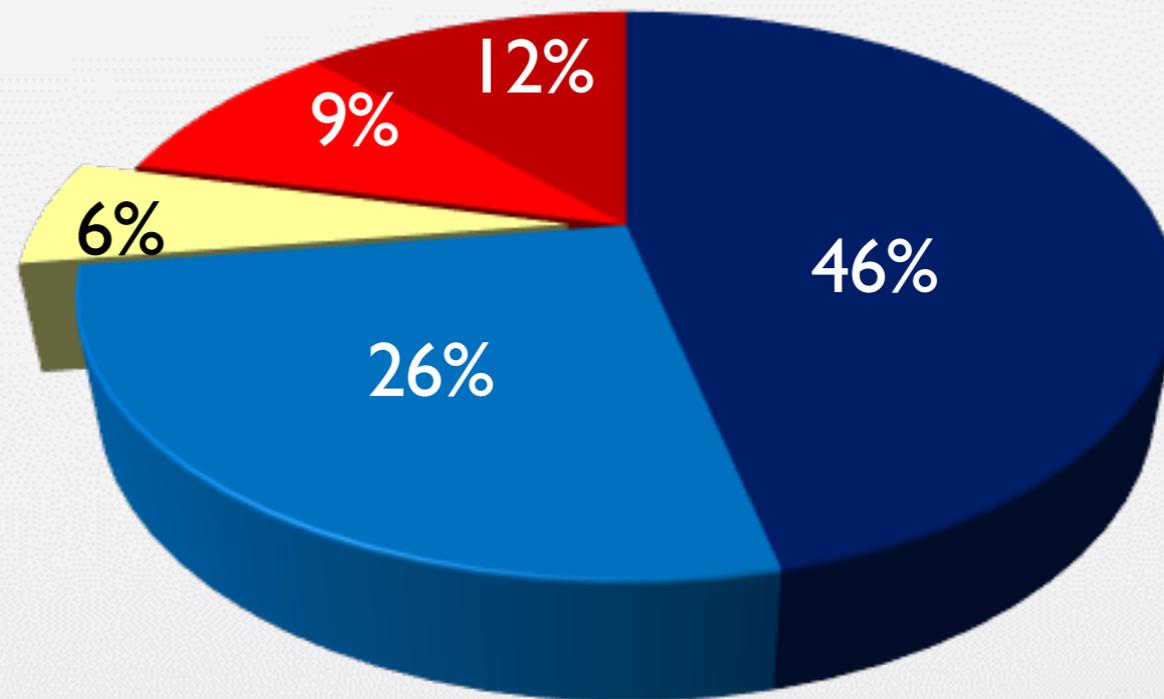
7-of-10 voters support the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Ballot Question

Would you vote yes or no on the San Miguel County mental health and substance abuse services ballot question?

If respondent says yes ask: Would you definitely vote yes or probably vote yes?

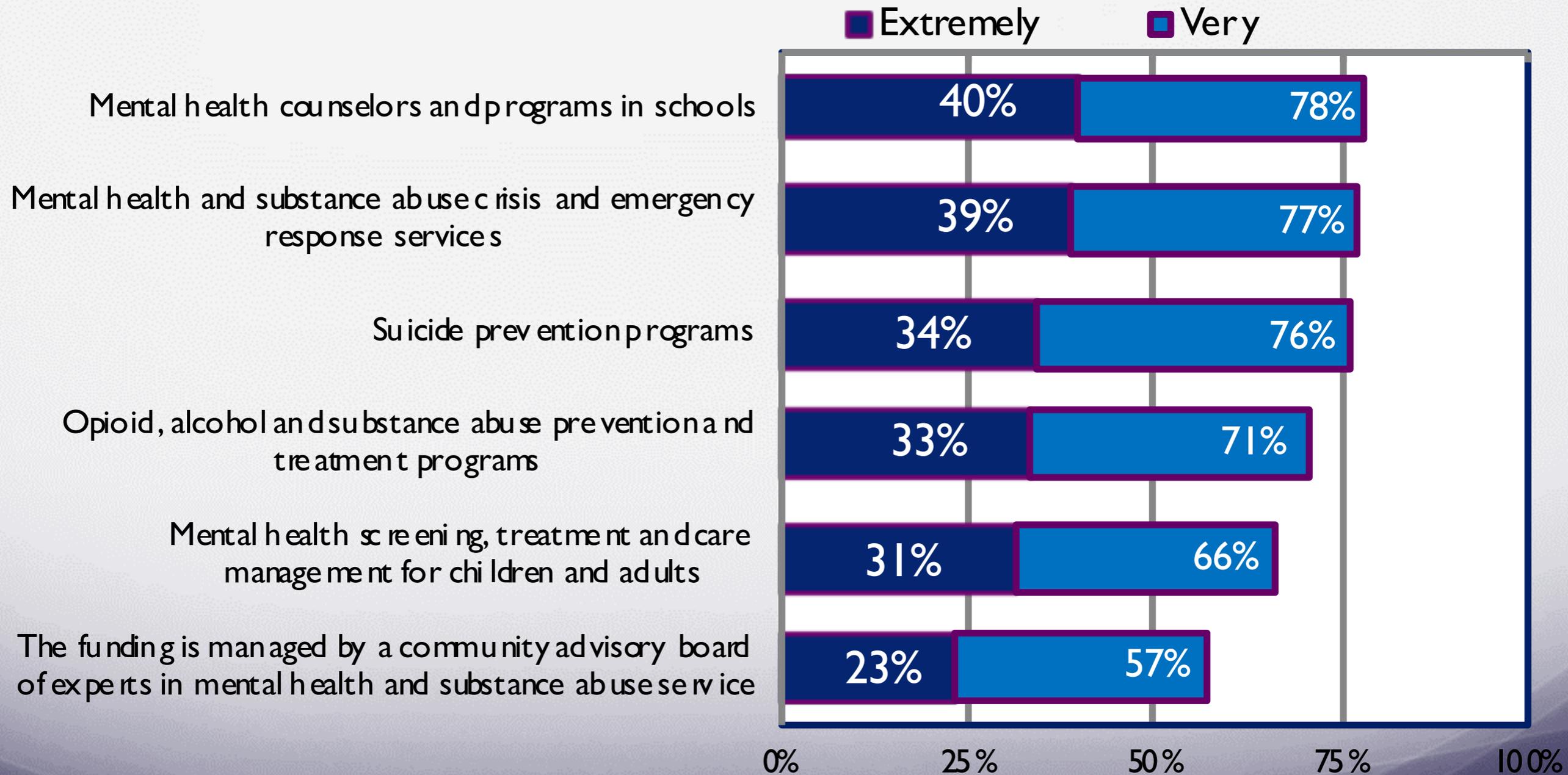
If respondent says no ask: Would you definitely vote no or probably vote no?

- Definitely Yes
- Probably Yes
- Don't know / Not sure
- Probably No
- Definitely No



School Counselors & Programs, Crisis Response and Suicide Prevention are the most important features

Please tell me how important each one of these is to you personally. Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not very important to ensure that the funding is dedicated to that purpose?



San Miguel County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Ballot Question

Shall San Miguel County, Colorado taxes be increased \$588,000 annually through a property tax mill levy of three-quarters (0.75) of one mill, and by whatever amounts are raised annually thereafter, which is five dollars and forty cents (\$5.40) per \$100,000 in a home's assessed value; for the purpose of improving the quality, availability and affordability of community based mental health and substance abuse services in San Miguel County, including but not limited to providing:

- Mental health counselors and programs in schools;
- Mental health and substance abuse crisis and emergency response services;
- Suicide prevention programs;
- Opioid, alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs;

And shall all amounts received be collected and spent without limitation under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution?