



City of Alamo Heights

Post-Election Survey of Proposition 1 Voters

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Manager/Director of Public Works

Staff Report

City Council Meeting

Item 11

December 14, 2009

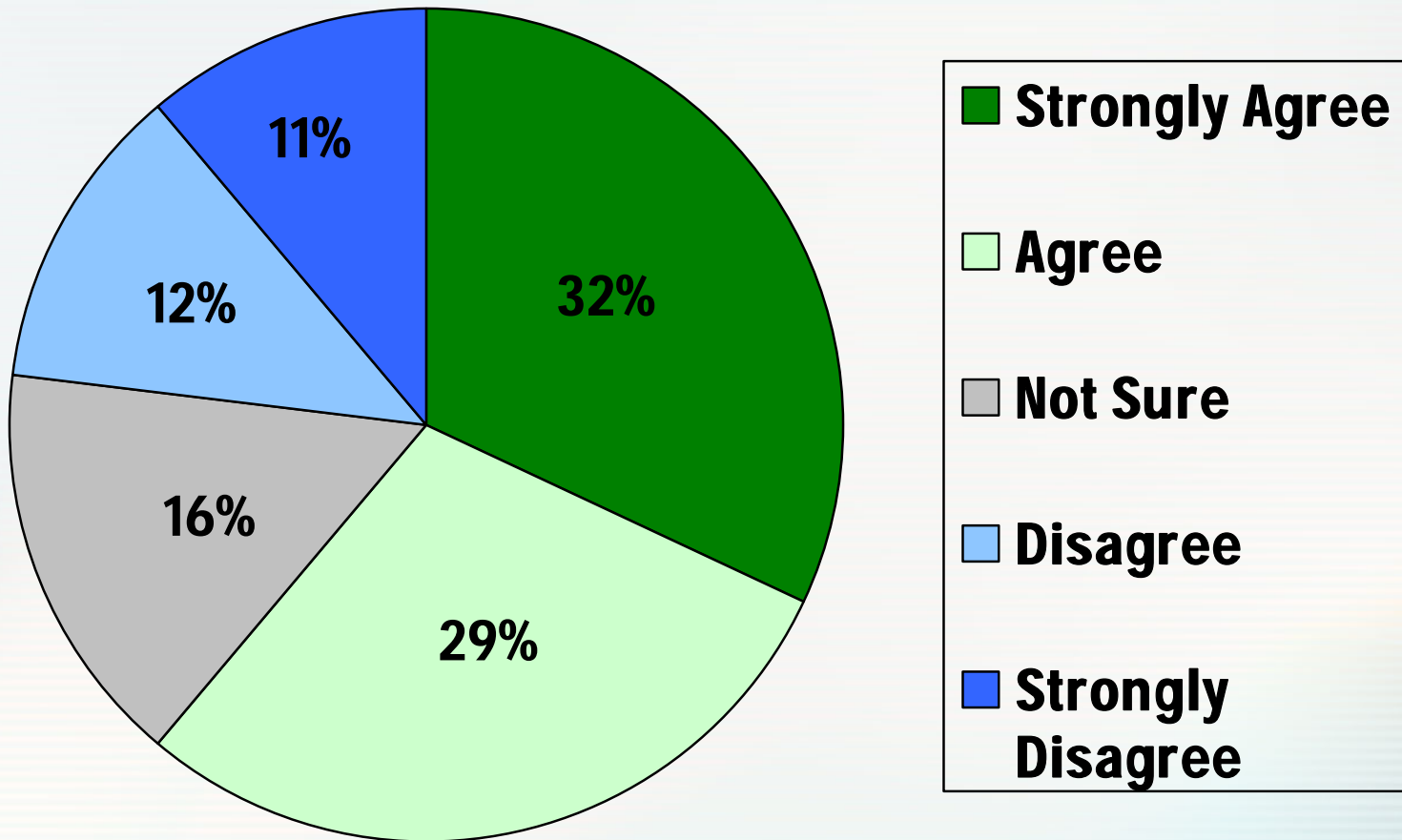


Post-Election Survey

- In an effort to better understand the results of the November 3 election, staff developed and mailed a survey to persons that voted in the election
- The survey solicited opinions on 22 specific statements related to a variety of election-related issues and space for voters to provide the City with any additional comments or advice
- As of December 11, the City has received 442 survey responses (26% of 1,724 Prop 1 voters)

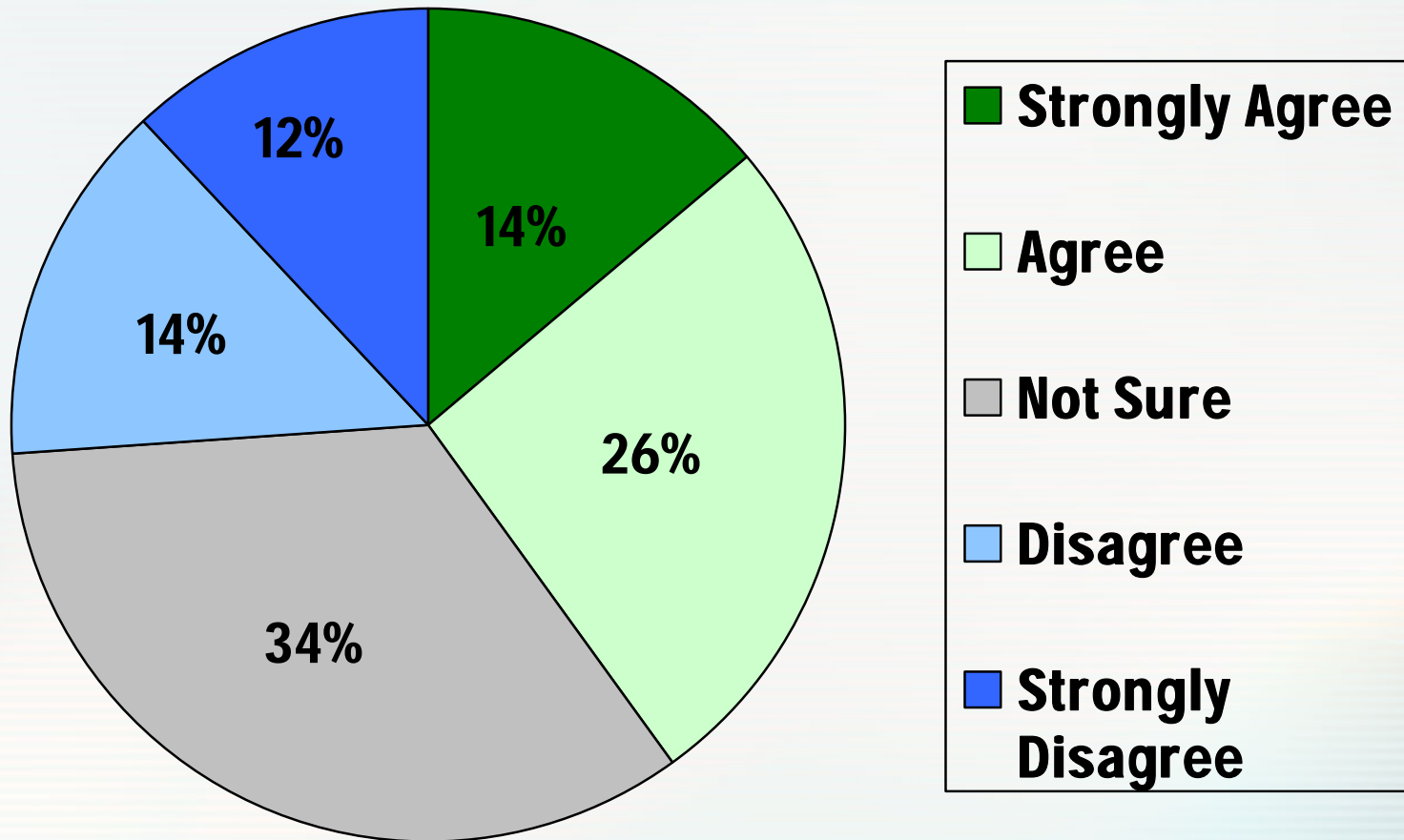


1) The City needs new municipal facilities.



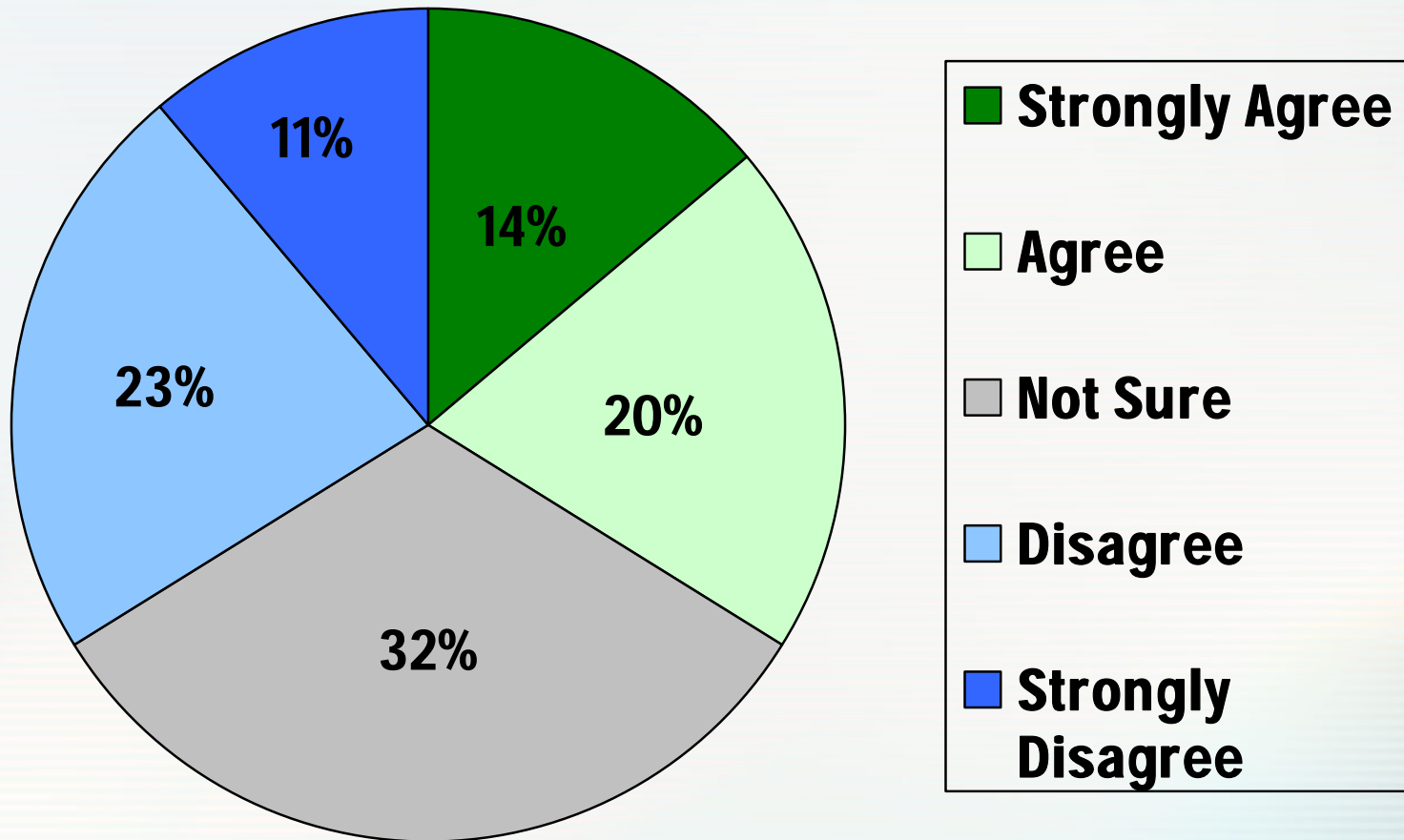


2) The City should renovate the existing municipal facilities.



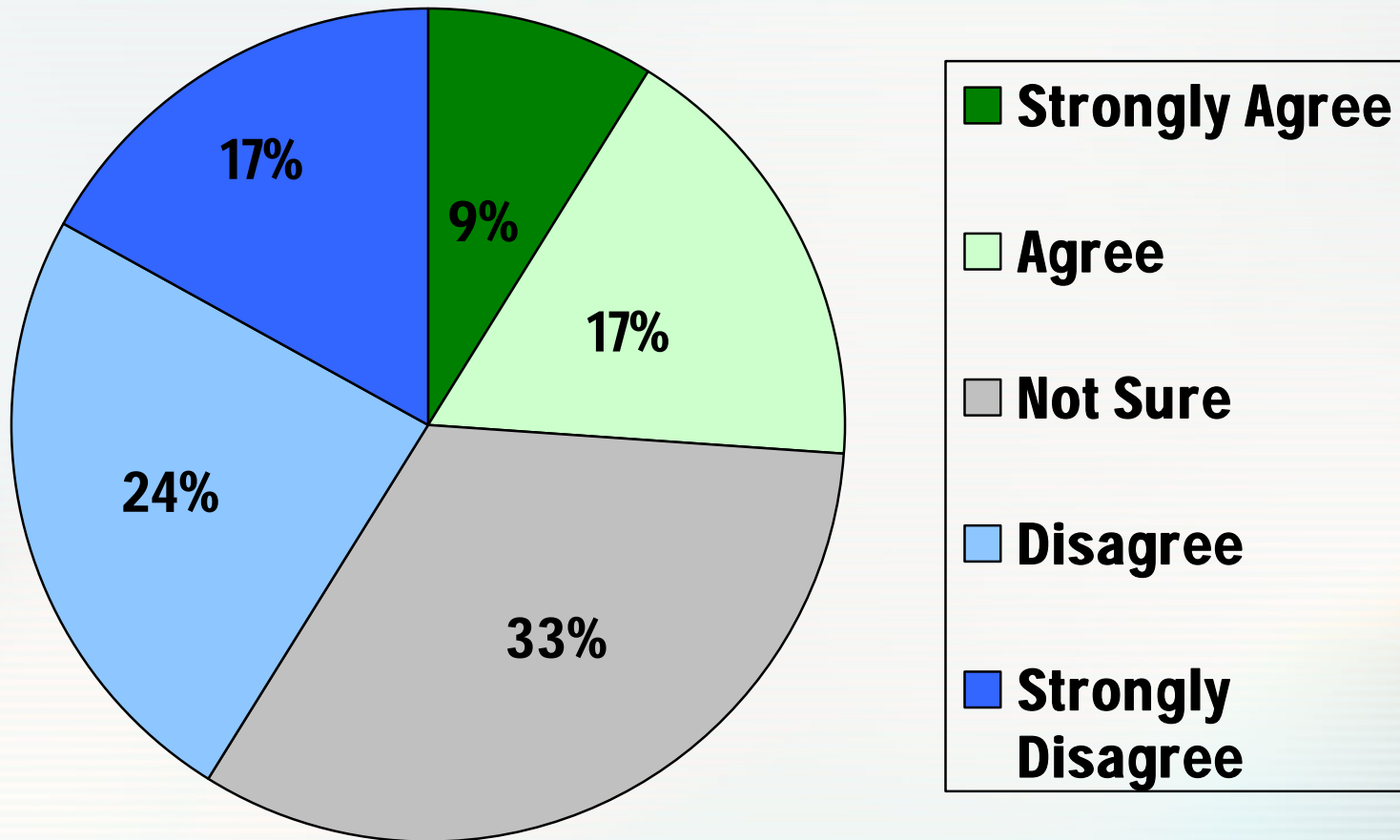


3) The City should build only new police and fire facilities at this time.



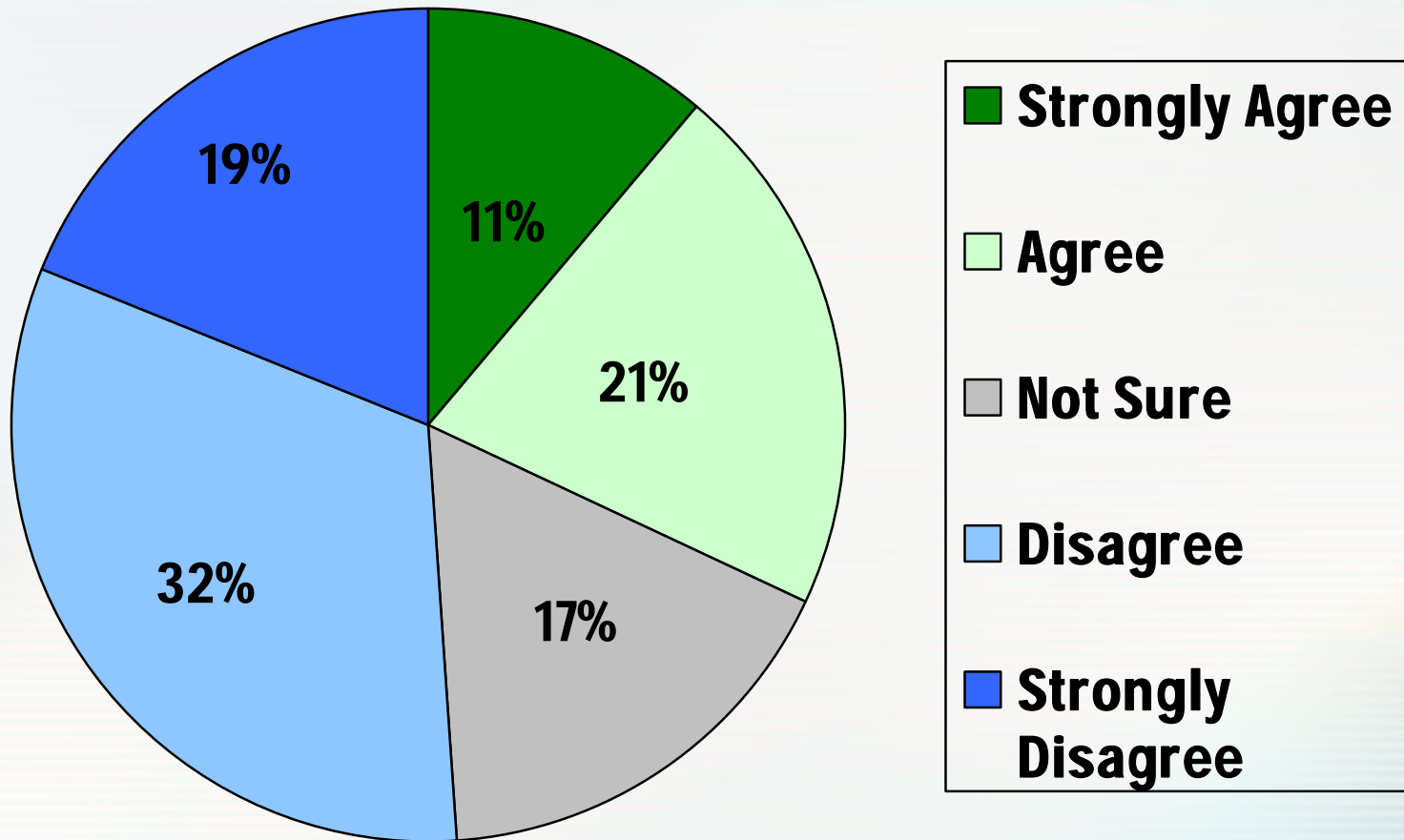


4) The City should relocate some municipal functions and facilities to alternative locations.



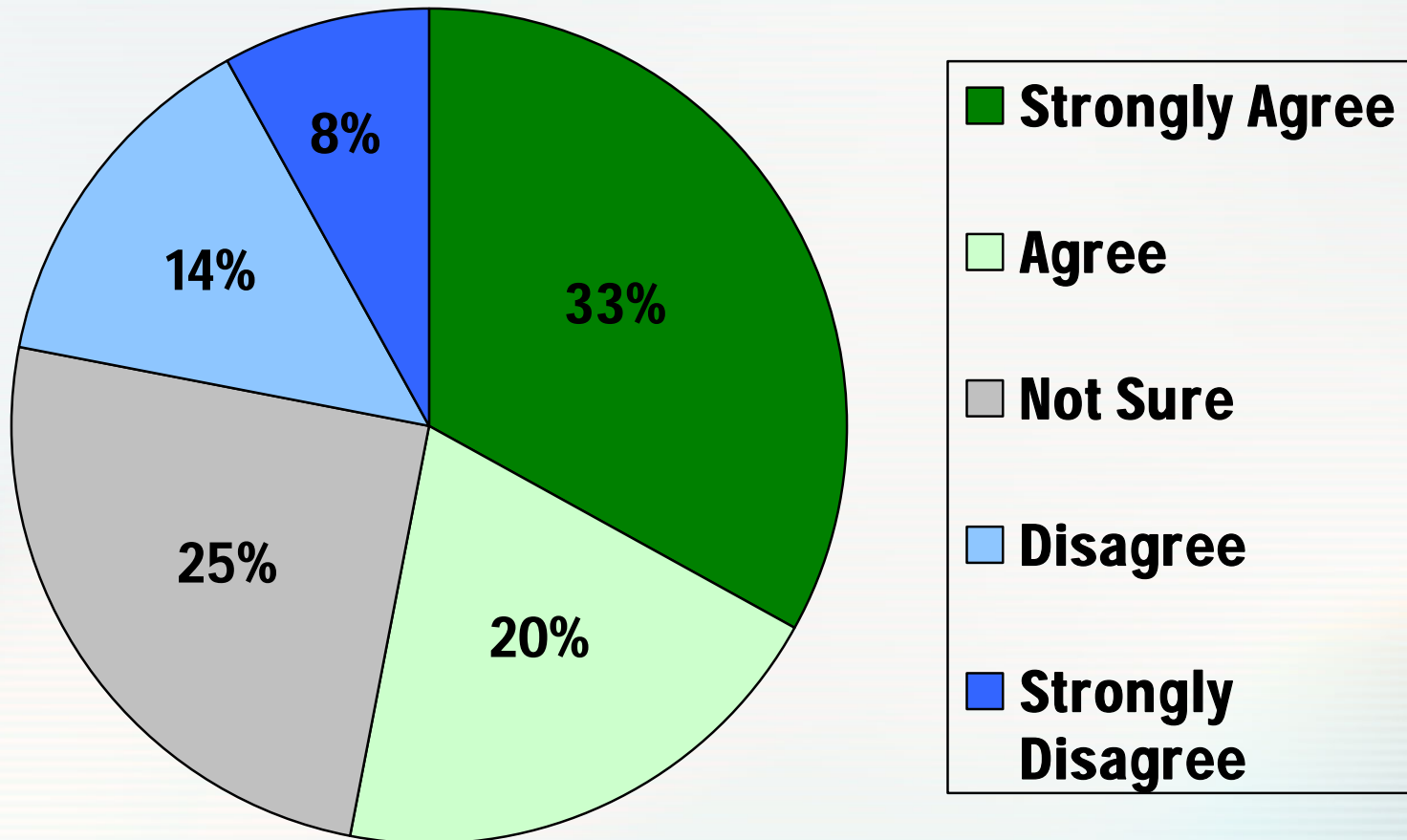


5) The existing municipal facilities have historical value.



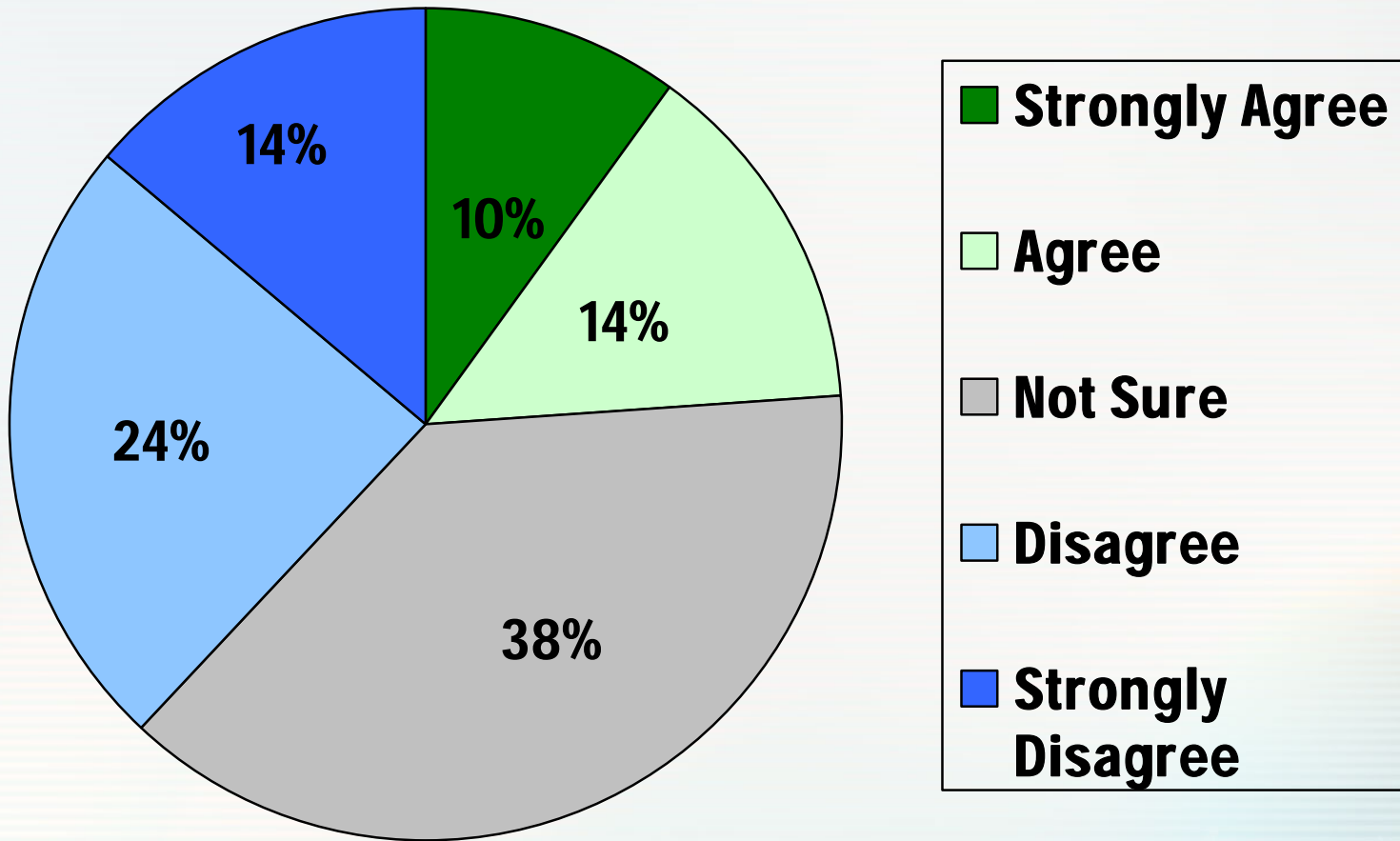


6) The proposed Complex was too large.



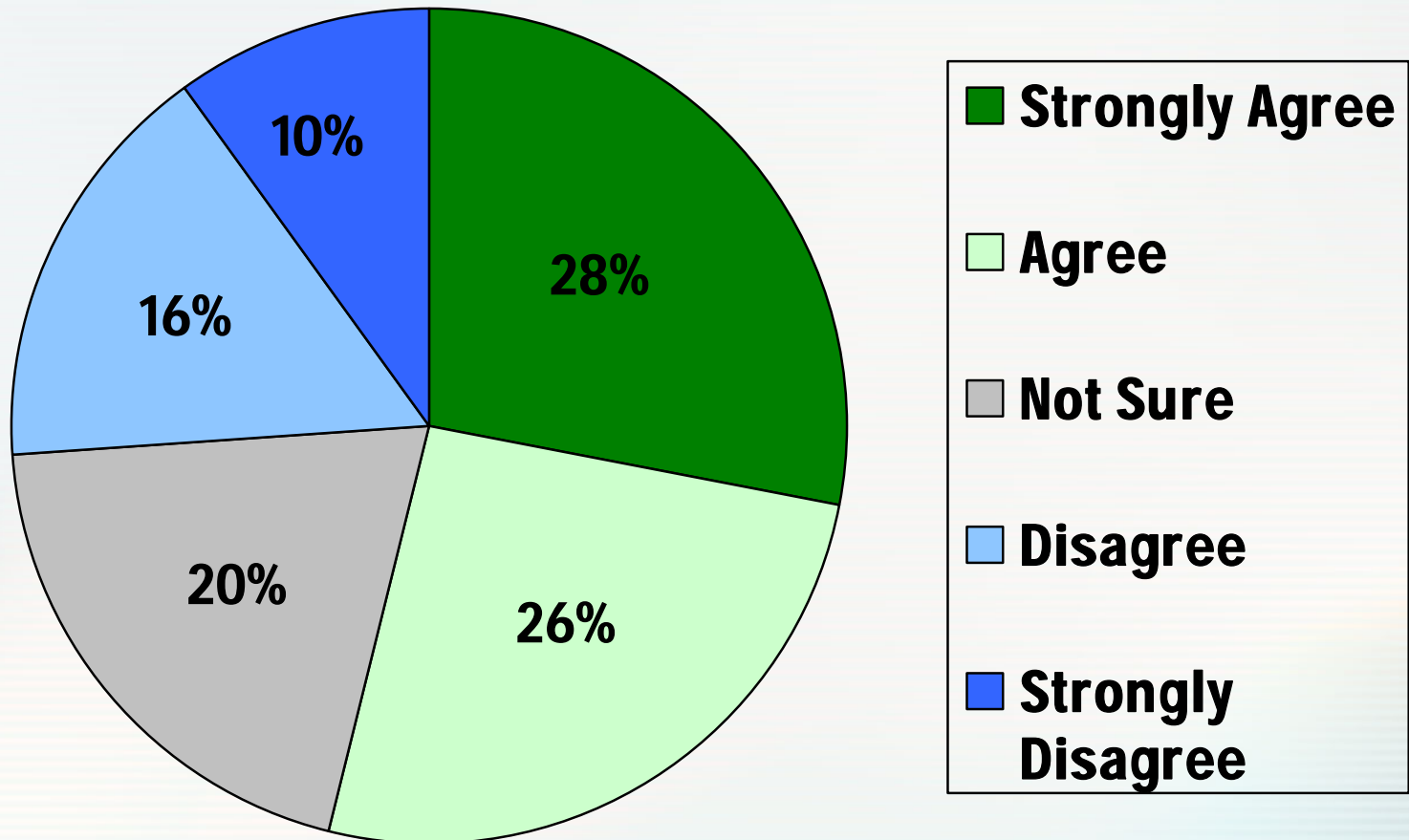


7) The proposed Complex was not “green” enough and did not include enough sustainable features.



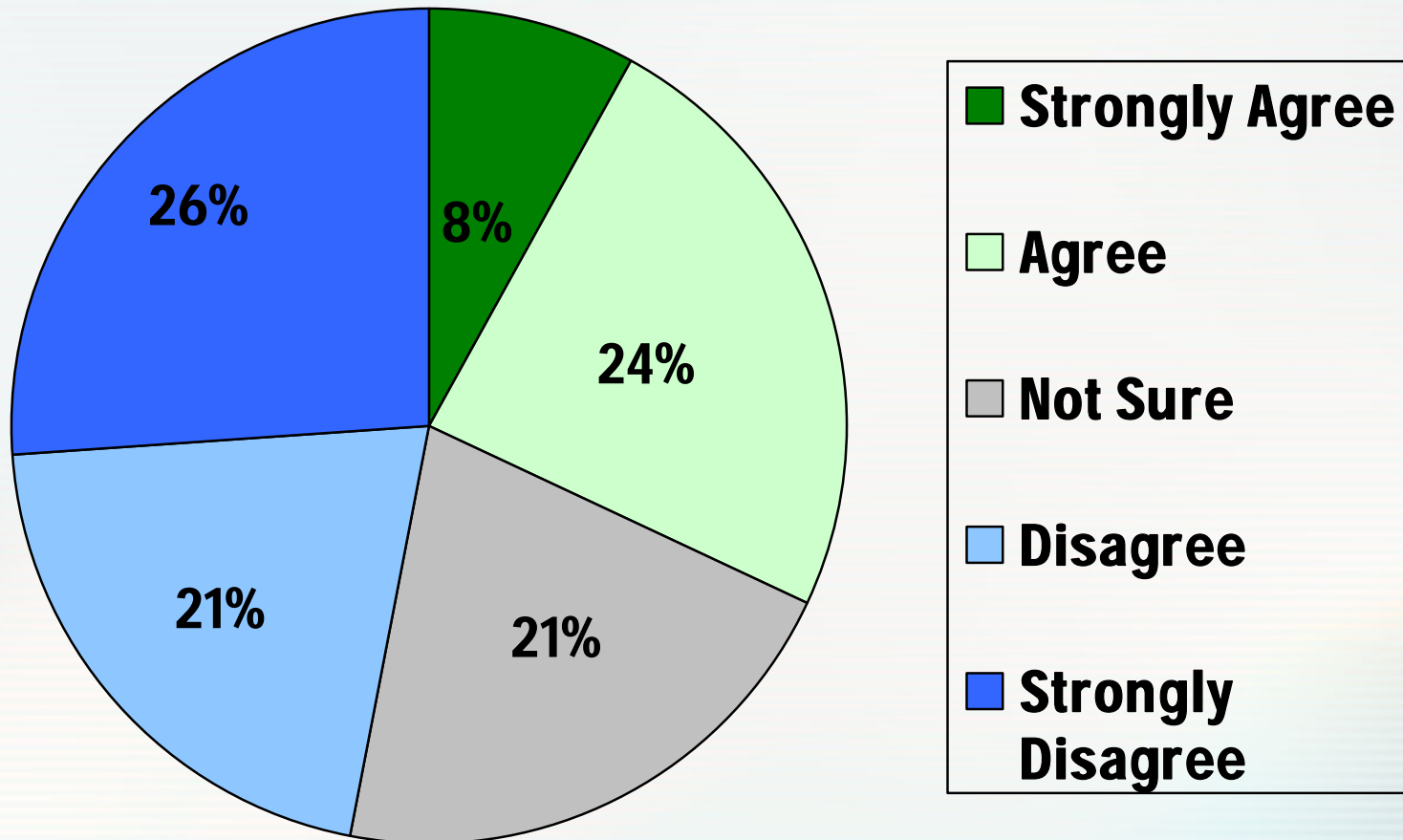


8) Citizens were not given enough opportunity to provide input on the proposed Complex design.



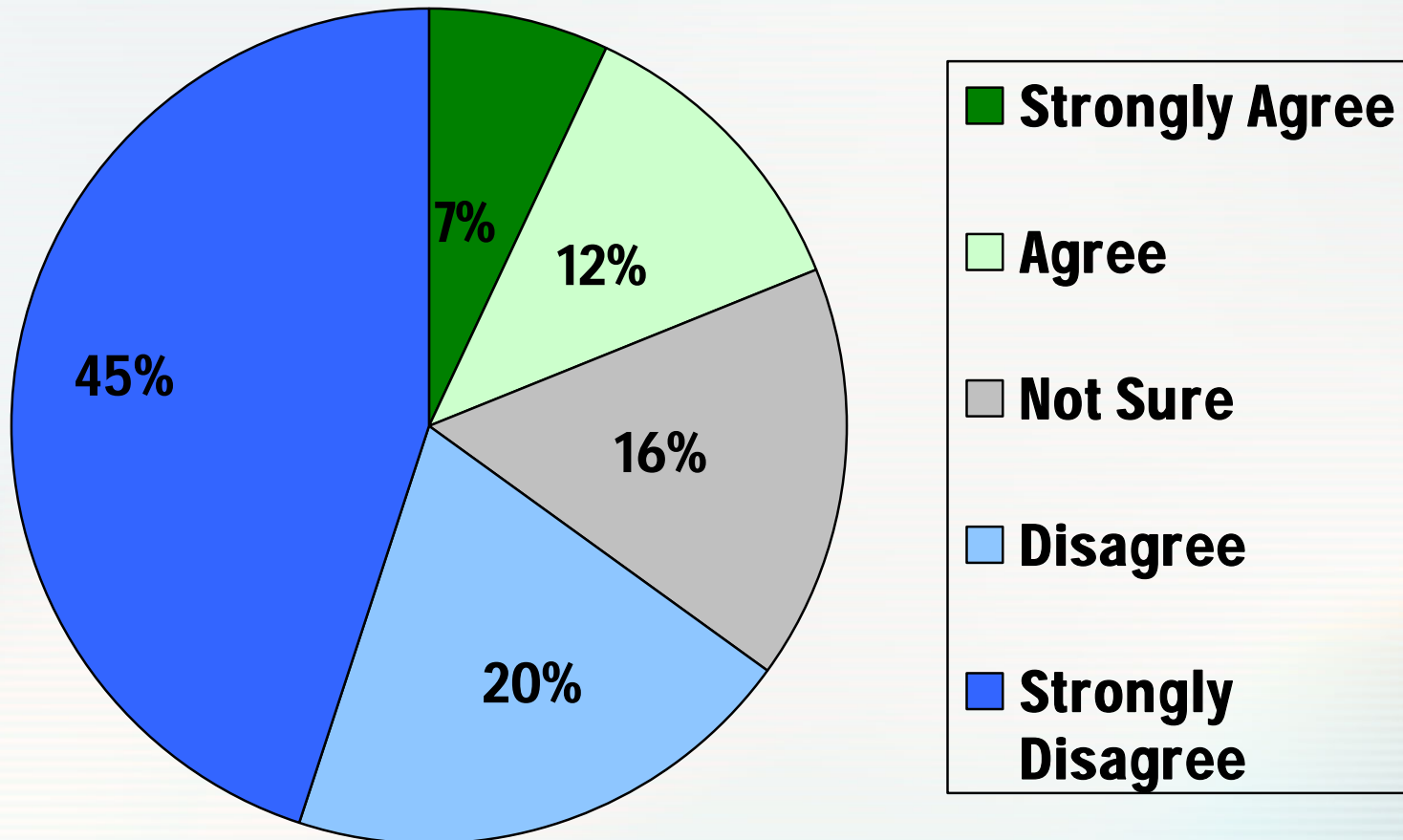


9) The proposed Complex design was compatible with other structures along Broadway.



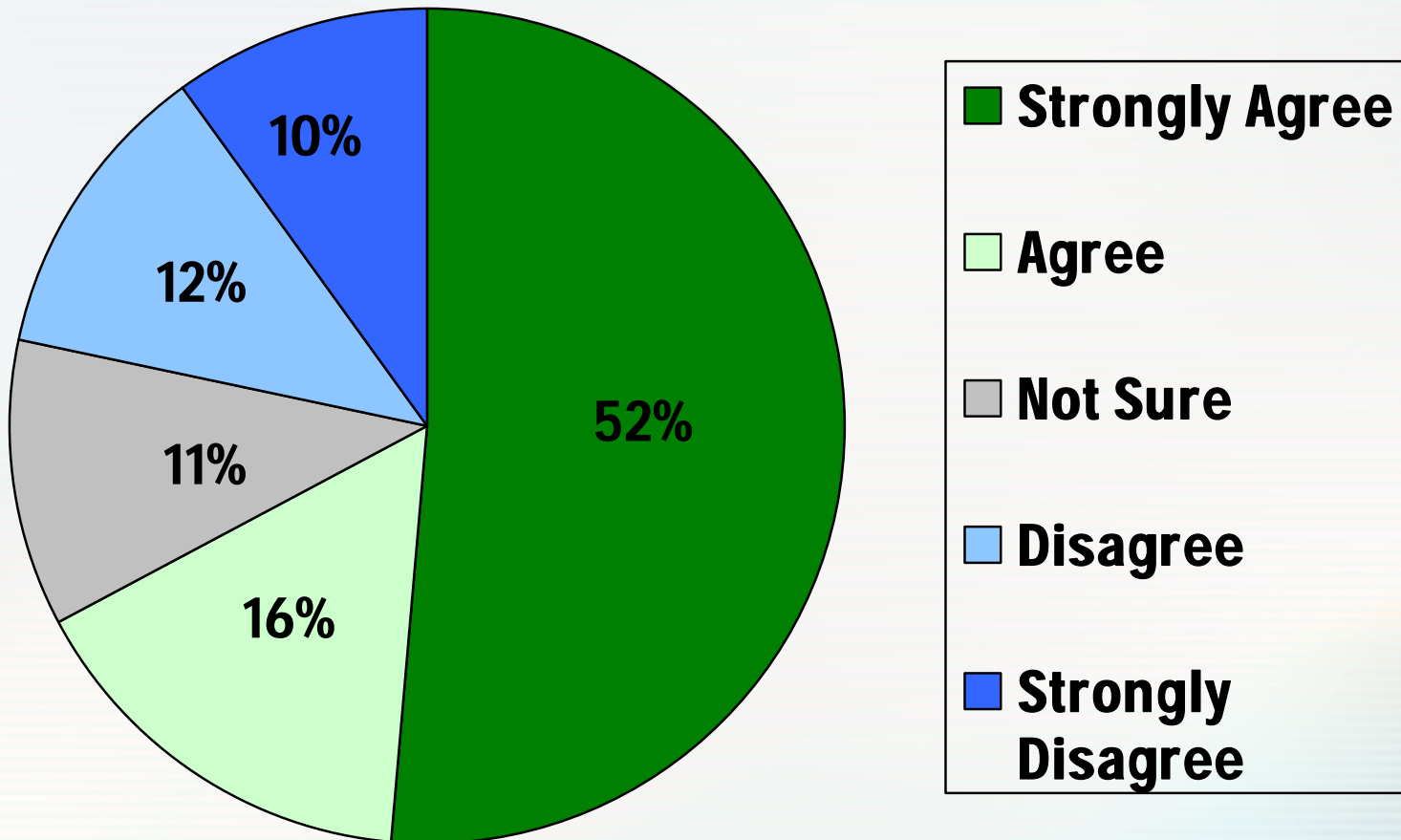


10) The proposed Complex offered a good value for the price.



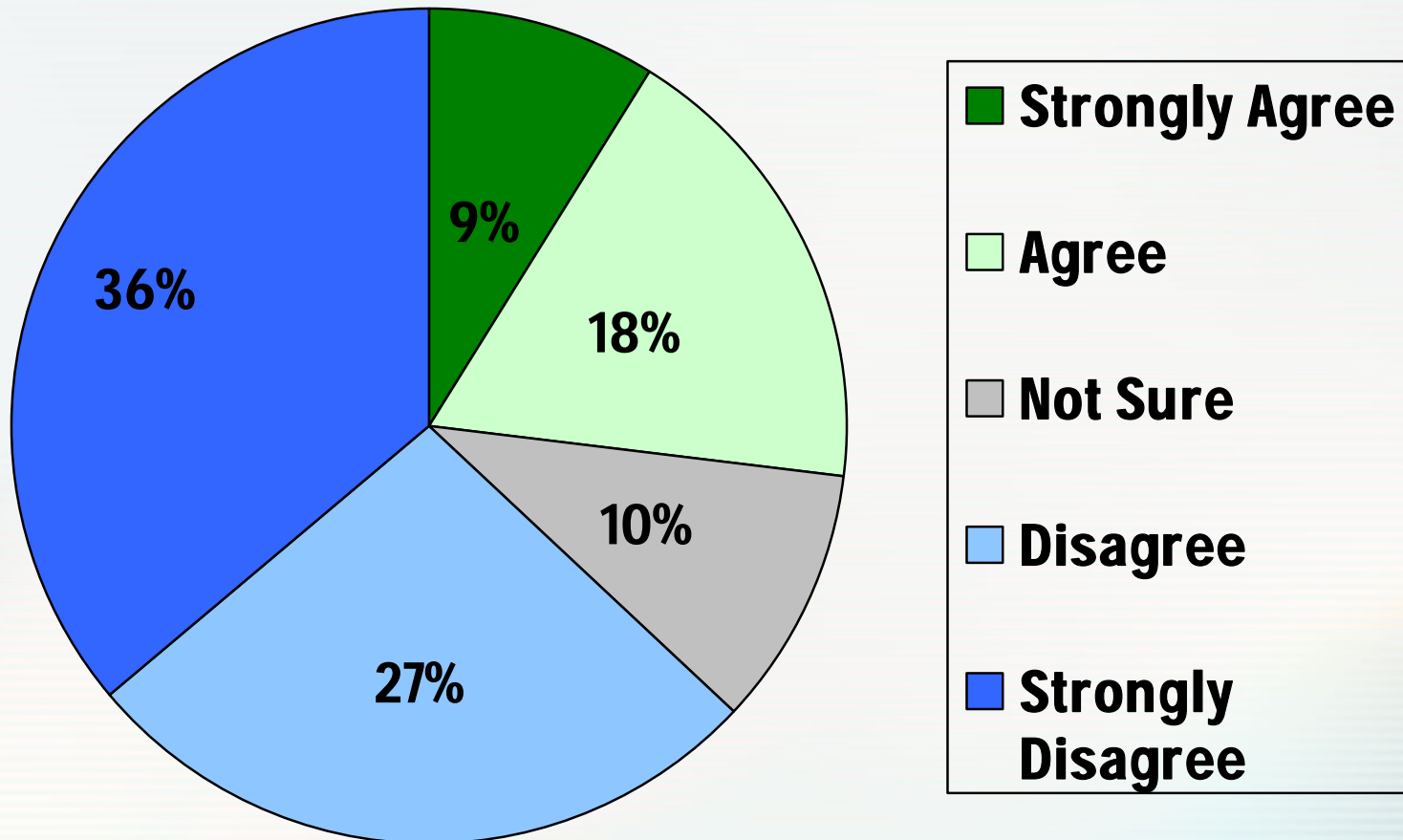


11) The proposed Complex was too expensive.



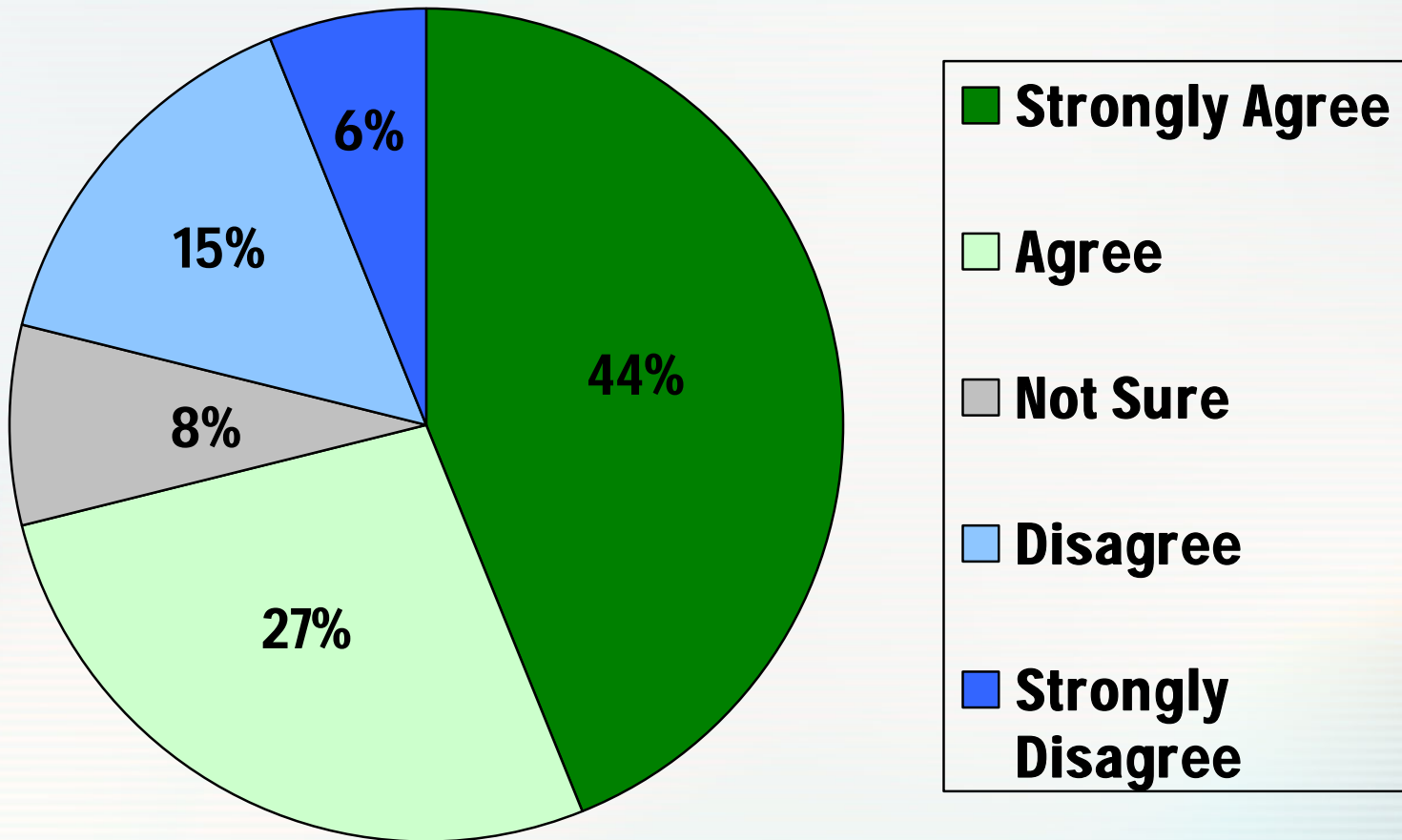


12) The proposed property tax increase was reasonable.



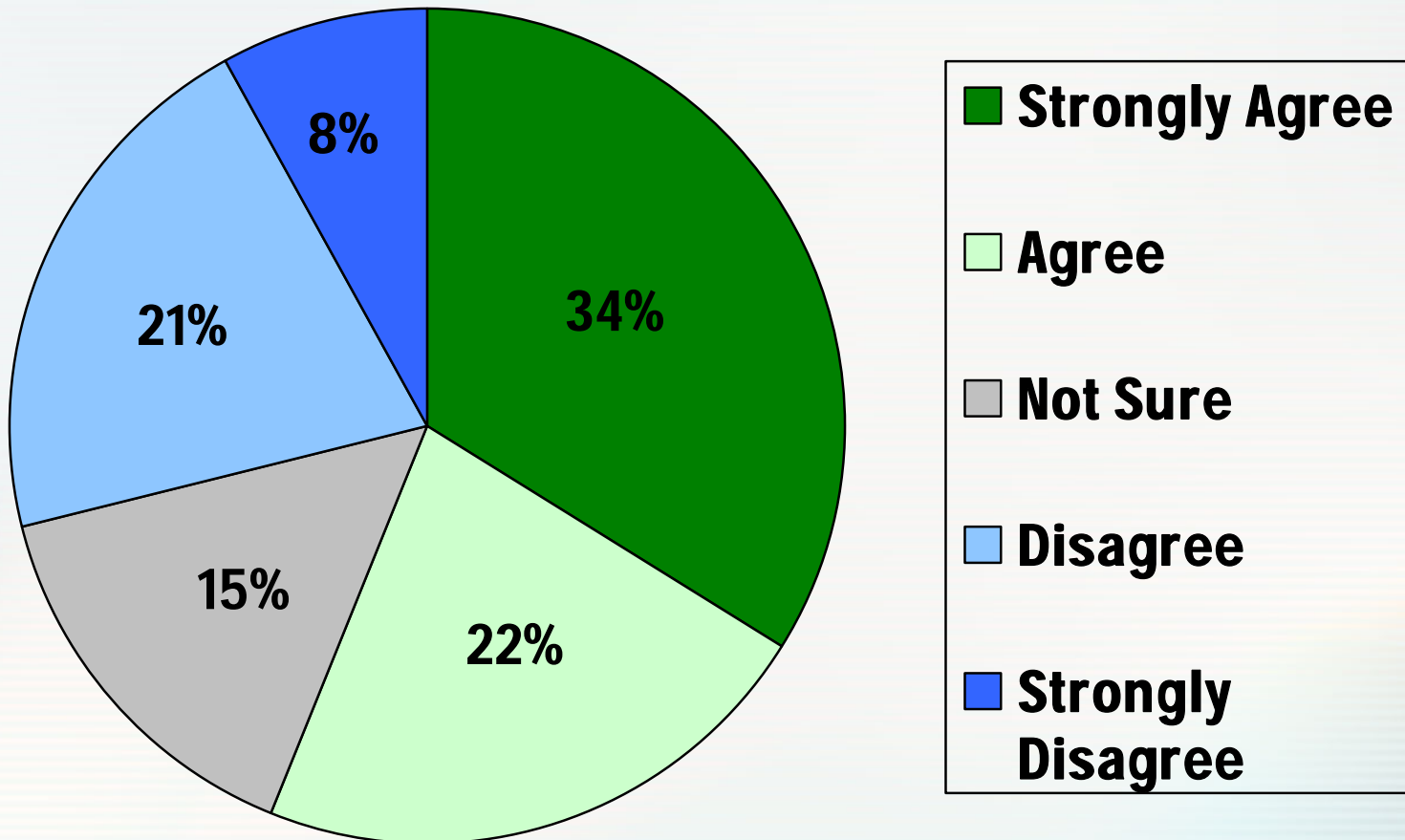


13) Now (current state of the economy) is not a good time to increase property taxes.



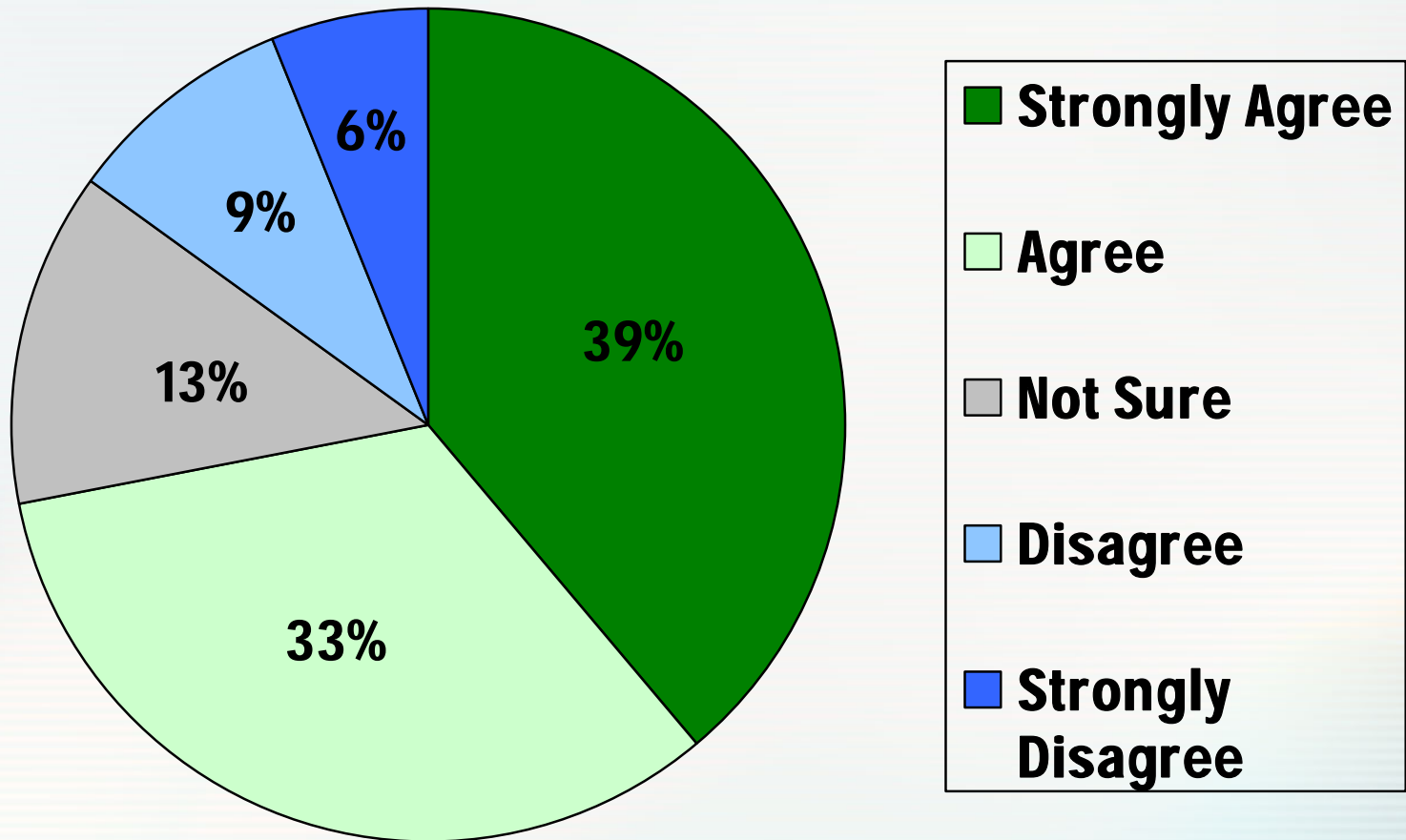


14) The City should not issue additional public debt.



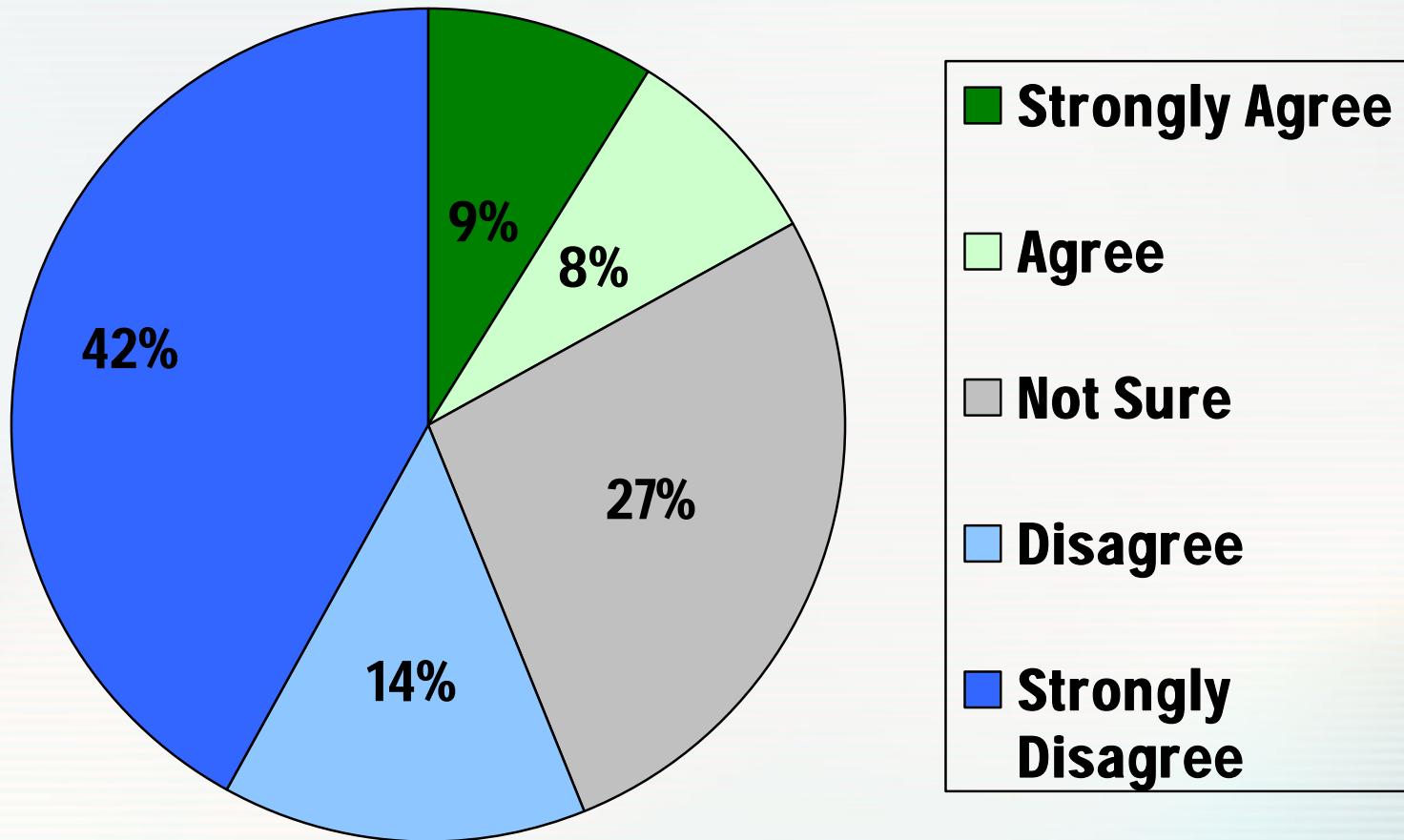


15) The City should save money to address municipal facility needs.



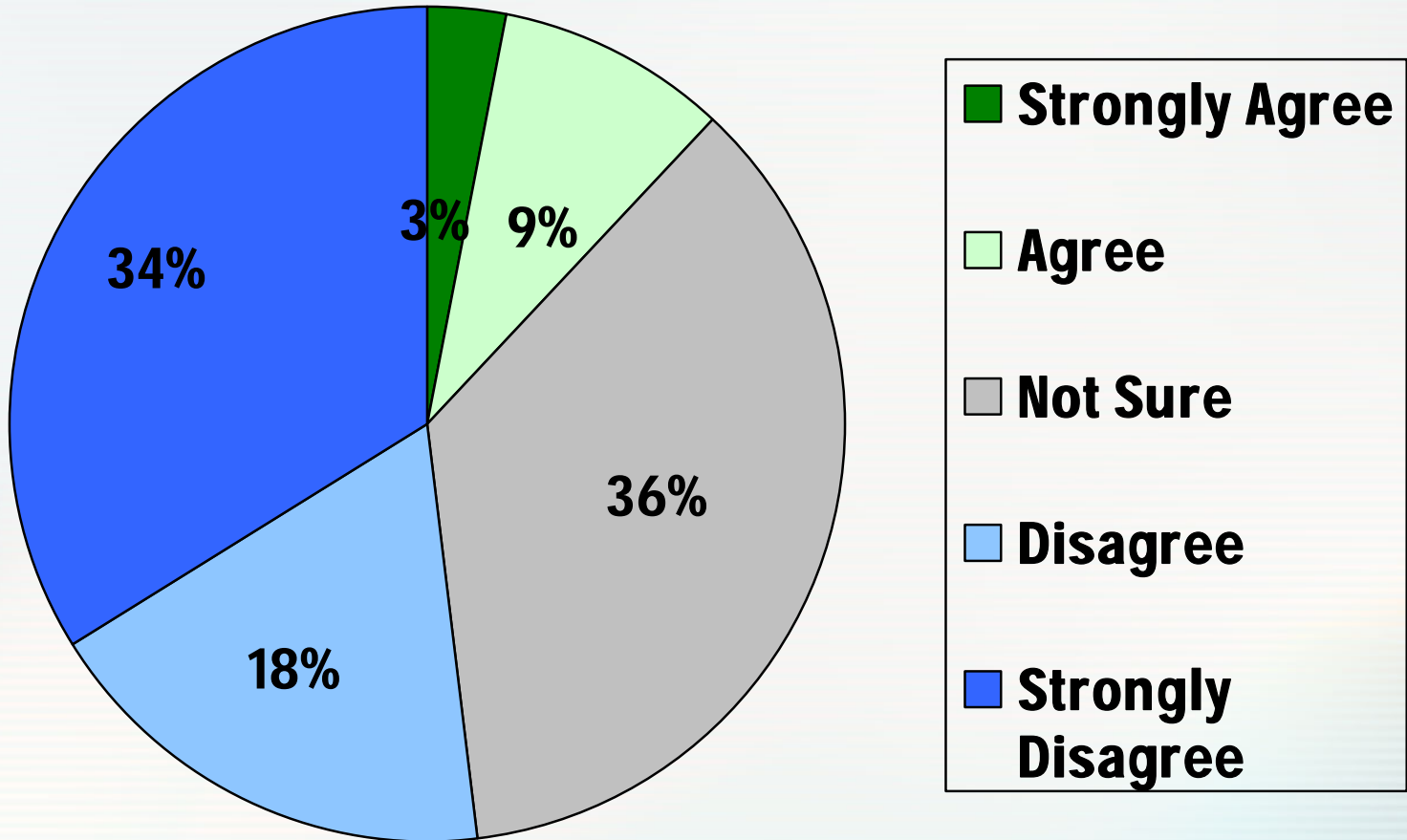


16) \$10 million is a reasonable amount to address municipal facility needs.



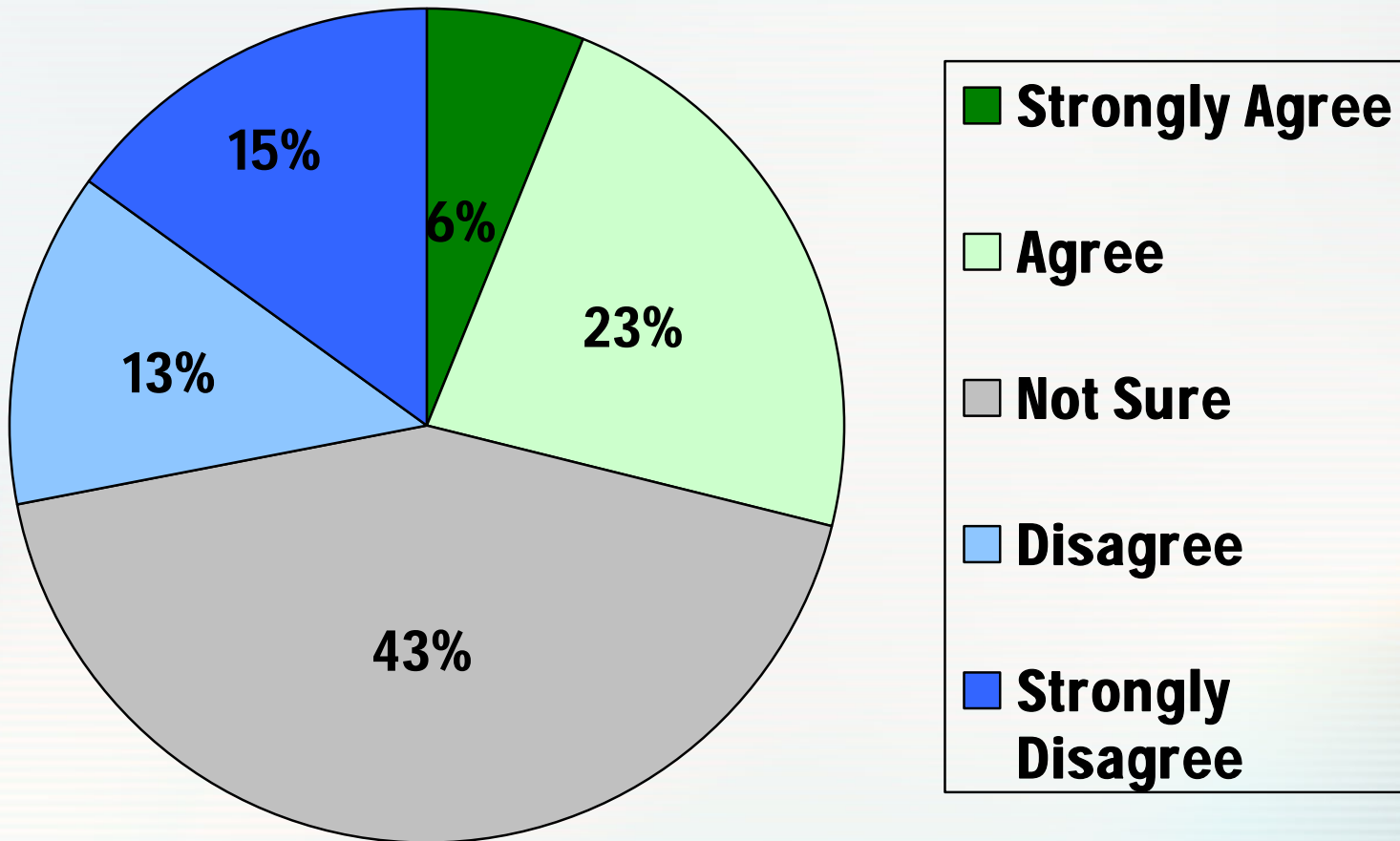


17) \$7.5 million is a reasonable amount to address municipal facility needs.



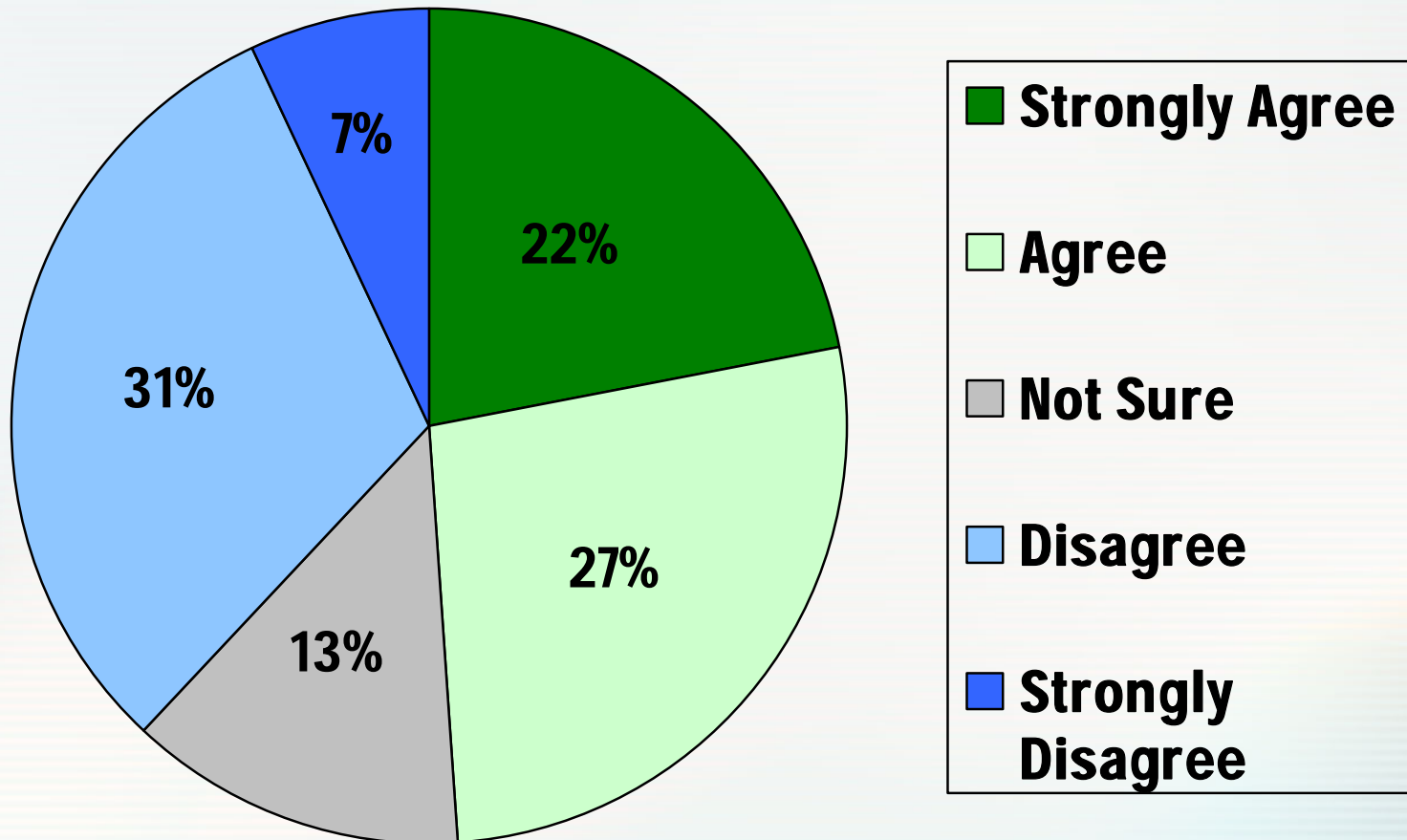


18) \$5 million is a reasonable amount to address municipal facility needs.



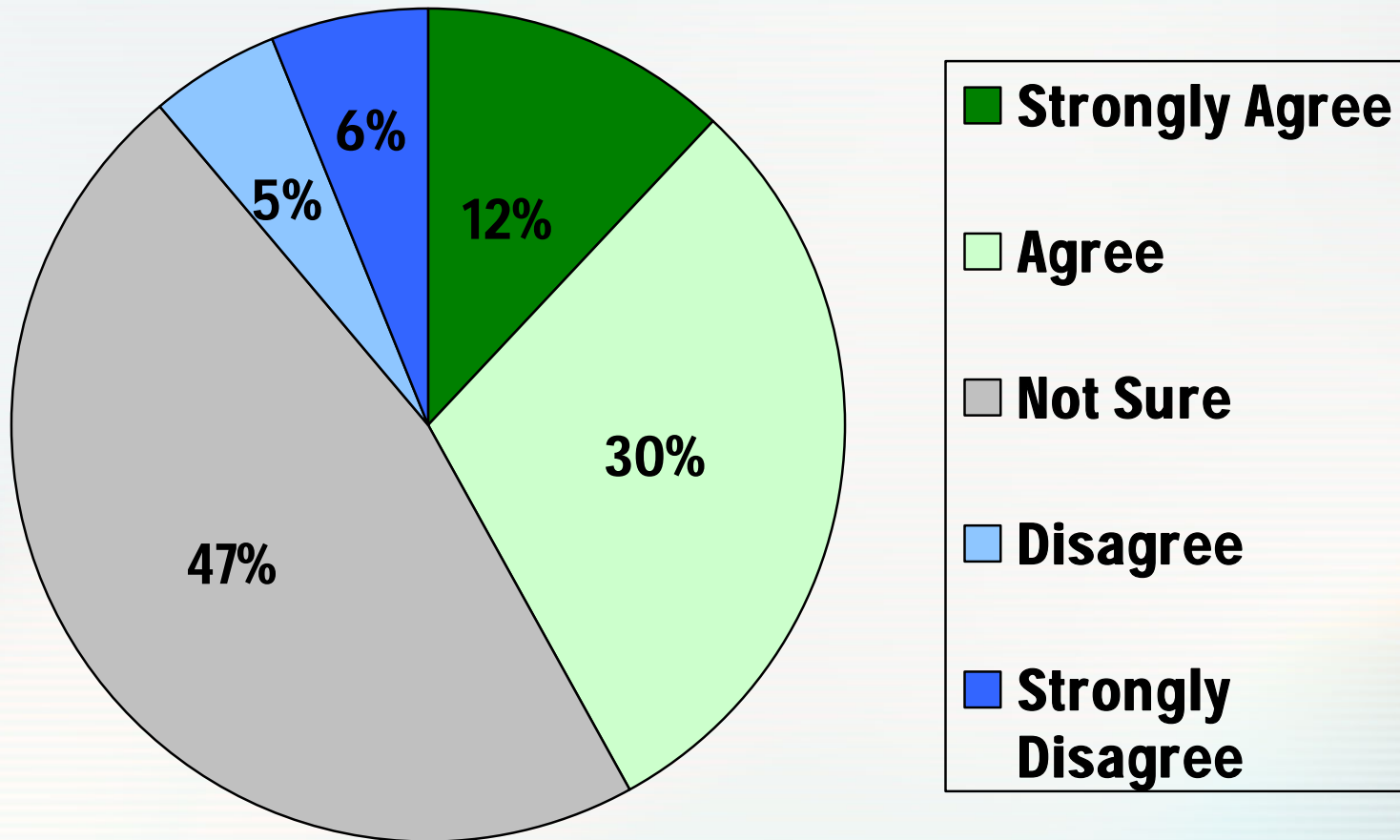


19) The property tax rate in the City of Alamo Heights is too high.



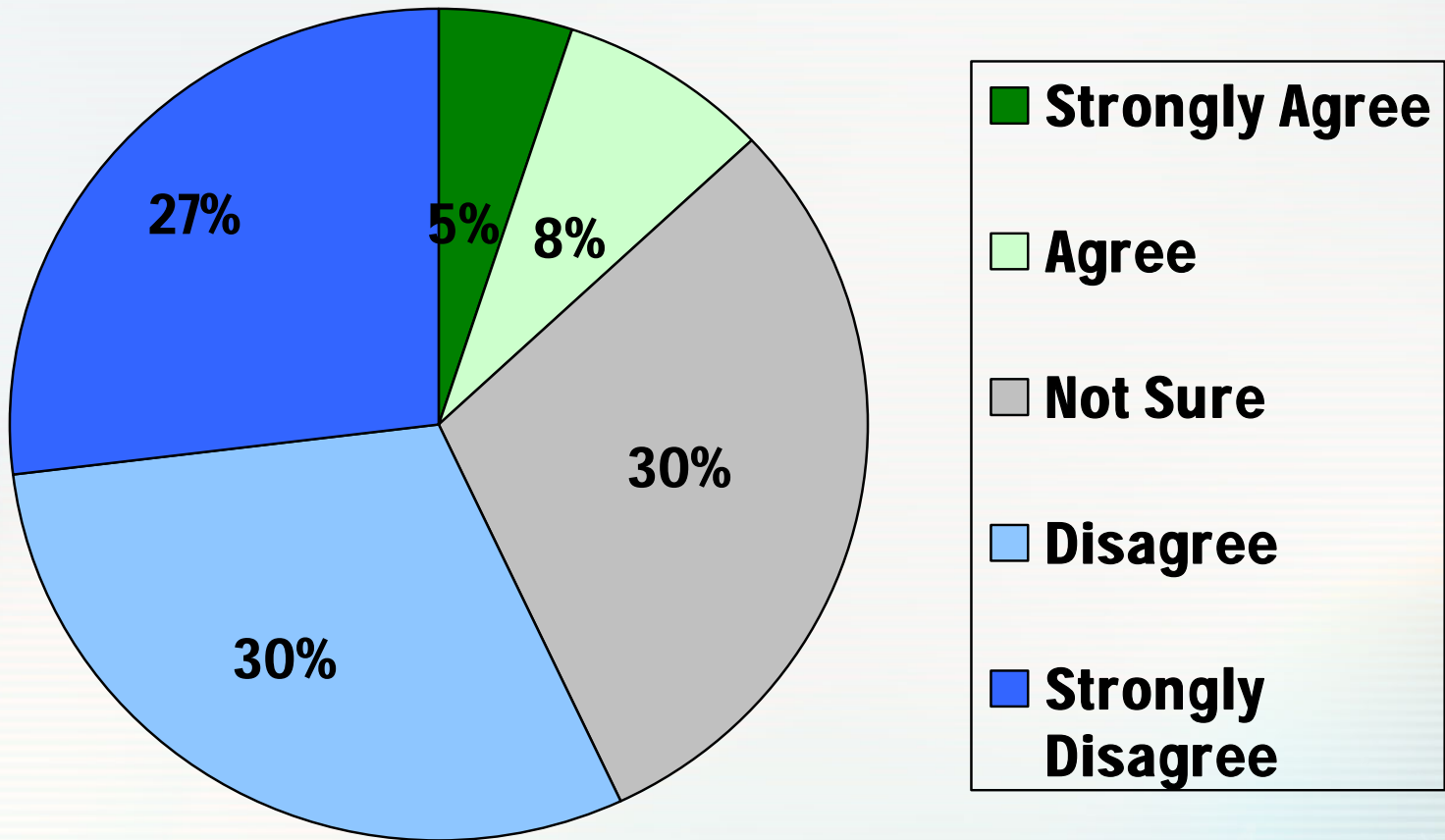


20) The City has an appropriate number of employees to provide municipal services.



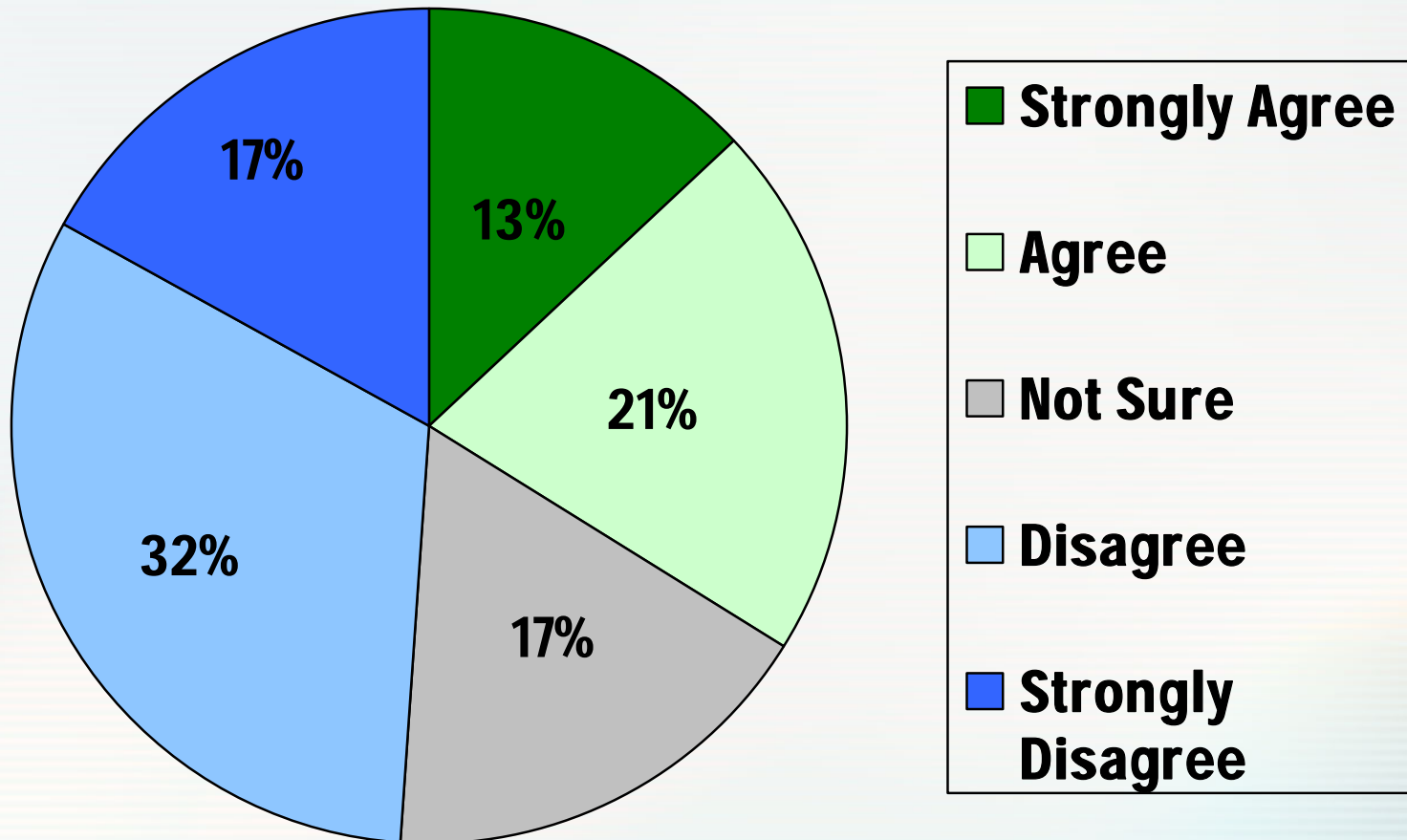


21) The City should repair and maintain 100,000 gallon “tin man” elevated water tank regardless of the cost.





22) Municipal facilities should not be a priority for the City at this time.





Some General Conclusions

- Citizens voted for or against Proposition 1 for a wide variety of reasons, however, of the 442 survey respondents:
 - 72% believe that the City should save money to address its facility needs
 - 71% believe that now (current economy) is not a good time to increase property taxes
 - 68% believed the proposed Complex was too expensive
 - 65% did not believe the proposed Complex offered good value for the price
 - 63% did not believe that the proposed tax increase was reasonable
 - 61% believe that the City does need new facilities



Additional Results

- Of those survey respondents that either strongly agreed or agreed that the City **needs** new municipal facilities...
 - 30% also strongly agreed or agreed that the proposed Complex was **too expensive**
 - 23% also strongly agreed or agreed that the City should not issue additional public **debt**
 - 22% also strongly agreed or agreed that the proposed Complex was **too large**
 - 16% also strongly agreed or agreed that the City should build only new **police and fire** facilities at this time



Additional Results (Cont.)

- Of those survey respondents that either strongly agreed or agreed that the City should **renovate** its existing facilities...
 - 40% also strongly agreed or agreed that the City property **tax rate is too high**
 - 30% also strongly agreed or agreed that the proposed Complex was **too expensive**
 - 27% also strongly agreed or agreed that the City should not issue additional public **debt**
 - 20% also strongly agreed or agreed that the existing municipal facilities have **historical** value



Additional Results (Cont.)

- 8% of survey respondents that either strongly agreed or agreed that the existing municipal facilities have **historical** value also strongly agreed or agreed that the city should repair and maintain the “**Tin Man**” regardless of the cost
- 10% of survey respondents that either strongly agreed or agreed that the City **needs** new municipal facilities also strongly agreed or agreed that municipal facilities should not be a **priority** for the City at this time



Examples of Comments

- “We need to live within our means...in the long run we can save so much by not paying interest.”
- “We were not given enough information!”
- “Considering the size of our town, \$10 million plus interest is insane...City Council need to listen to Dave Ramsey’s show.”
- “Many of us wanted to support firemen and police but not with such a price tag.”
- “Whatever is done will likely be a ‘once in our lifetime’ project...do a project that our city will be proud of for many years to come.”



Examples of Comments (Cont.)

- “The best way to go about this is like Olmos Park with a traditional building and no debt.”
- “Just ‘notch’ it down in price and don’t increase our property taxes.”
- “I did vote ‘yes’ for the proposition but was concerned about the size.”
- “I do not think a remodel of those facilities makes sense.”
- “Get this done before the economy recovers and the prices go up.”



Examples of Comments (Cont.)

- “Is there ever a good time to increase taxes? People will always object but sometimes its necessary & if we see the benefits, we're willing to pay.”
- “There was very little communication about the details of the construction and the specifics about what additional jobs were going to be created”
- “Save money now to build in the future.”
- “I appreciate this survey. Thanks for asking!”



Summary

- The information gathered in responses to the survey will be valuable to the City Council in their consideration of how and when to address the City's facility issues
- This presentation and the comments received from the surveys will be made available to the public on the City's website
- Staff will also utilize survey responses to identify information that might need to be better communicated to the citizens