

YOUTH COMMISSION BUDGET SUMMIT

February 28, 2026
11:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER & ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. ROLL CALL

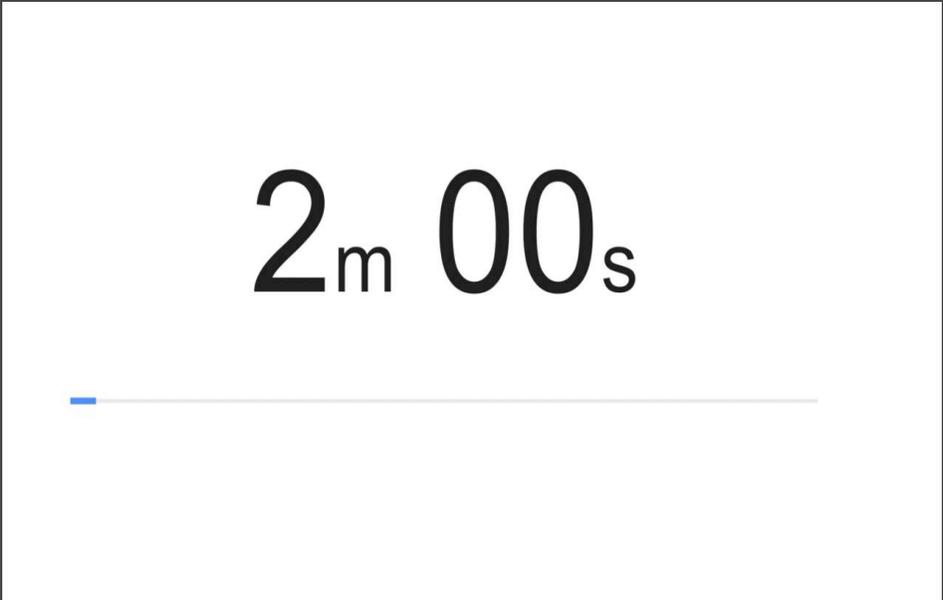
II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. JANUARY 26, 2025, BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

B. PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE (IF ANY)

III. OPEN FORUM (1 MINUTE OF SPEAKING TIME IS AVAILABLE)

2_m 00_s

A white rectangular box containing a timer display. The text '2m 00s' is centered in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below the text is a horizontal progress bar consisting of a thin grey line with a small blue segment on the left side, indicating the elapsed time.

V. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

YOUTH BUDGET PRIORITIES SUMMIT

SAN JOSÉ YOUTH COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 28, 2026



Youth
Commission
CITY OF SAN JOSE



TODAY'S AGENDA

11:10 AM	Welcome & Introduction from Youth Commissioners
11:15 AM	Open Remarks from Councilmember Kamei
11:30 AM	Presentation of Youth Priority Survey Results
12:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Lunch and Priority Group Breakout Session
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Priority Group Peer Presentations
4:15 PM - 4:45 PM	Q & A with Councilmember Campos and Councilmember Cohen
4:45 - 4:50 PM	Vote and Group Photo
4:50 PM - 5 PM	Ending Presentation and Evaluation



COMMISSIONER KUCHAREWSKI

Citywide, Chair



COMMISSIONER DESHMUKH

District 1, Communications



COMMISSIONER PARK

District 10



COMMISSIONER PRADEEPKUMAR

District 2, Vice Chair



COMMISSIONER YU

District 9



COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ

District 3



COMMISSIONER CHUNG

District 8



COMMISSIONER BABU CHAKRAVARTHI

District 4



COMMISSIONER HUYNH

District 7, Outreach



COMMISSIONER GUERRERO FERNANDEZ

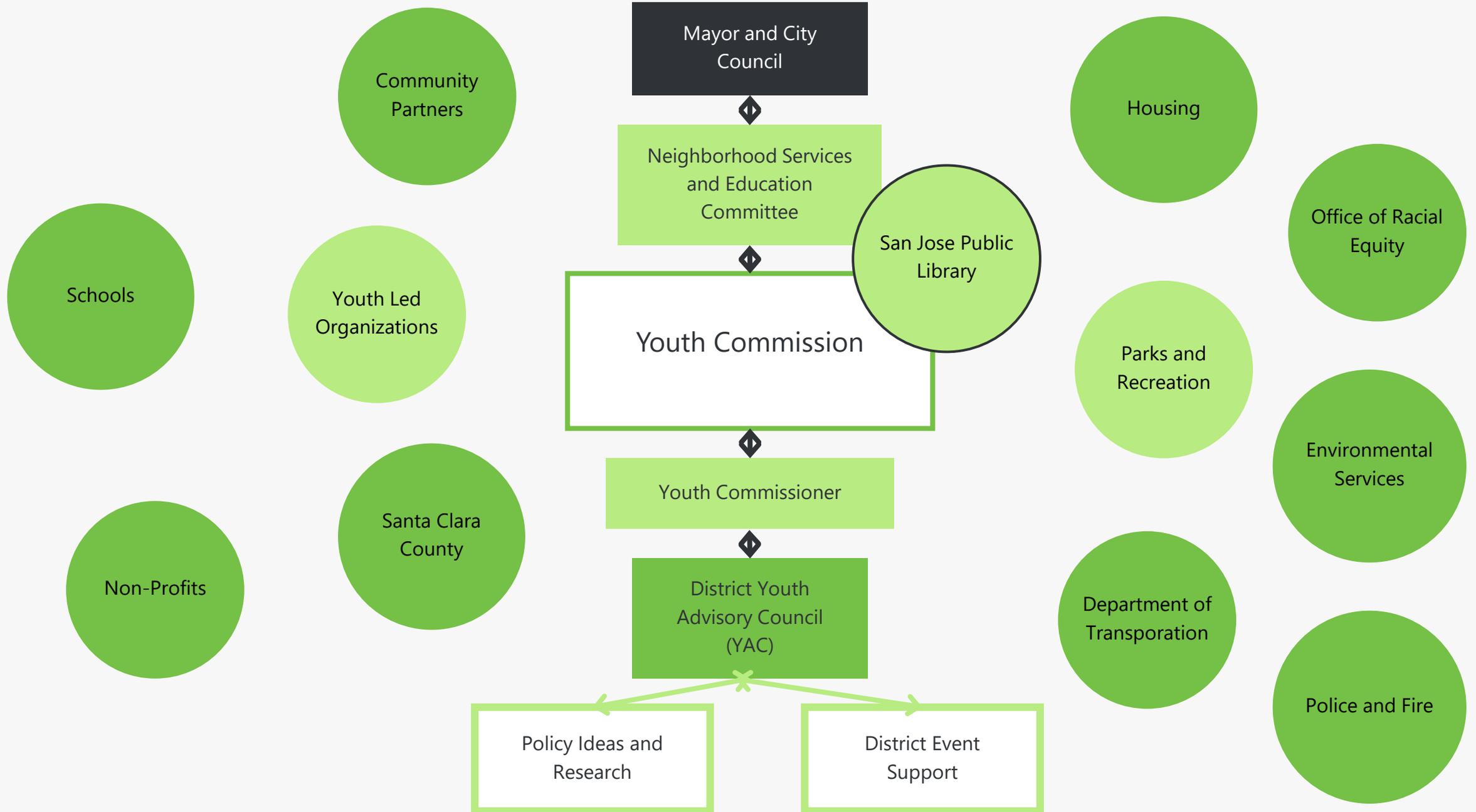
District 5



COMMISSIONER CANFIELD

District 6

**Youth
Commission**
CITY OF SAN JOSE



WHAT DOES THE YOUTH COMMISSION DO?

Established over 50 years ago as the official advisory group to the Mayor and City Council, the Youth Commission represents approximately 248,000 San Jose youth under age 19, empowering young people to be civically engaged through local and city-wide initiatives while promoting available resources, providing equitable access and support to marginalized youth communities, and developing policy recommendations that address youth needs.

Policy Recommendations



Host Events



Lead YACs



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS

These councils provide valuable input and insights on policies and programs directly impacting young people.

Last year, Youth Commission and Youth Advisory Council members volunteered a combined **1,085** service hours in dedication to Youth Commission activities and events.



16

The average number of hours spent by 54 Youth Advisory Council members in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 10 were spent on activities such as attending YAC meetings, supporting district events, and doing policy research.

51

The average number of hours spent by the 11 Youth Commissioners on activities such as attending general meetings, coordinating YAC meetings, conducting community outreach, and crafting policy recommendations.



Work Plan 2025-2026

The work plan for fiscal year 2025-2026 was written to ensure the Youth Commission's voices were heard through advisory comments and recommendations on youth priorities.

Through youth-focused outreach and their lived experiences, the Commission identified priorities such as safe and inclusive opportunities for young people to celebrate community and culture, and exploring topics of education and career support services available to all.



Evaluate and study College and Career Pathways and literacy opportunities in San José.

To celebrate San José's diversity and culture through exploring community building and placemaking



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CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMEMBER
ROSEMARY KAMEI





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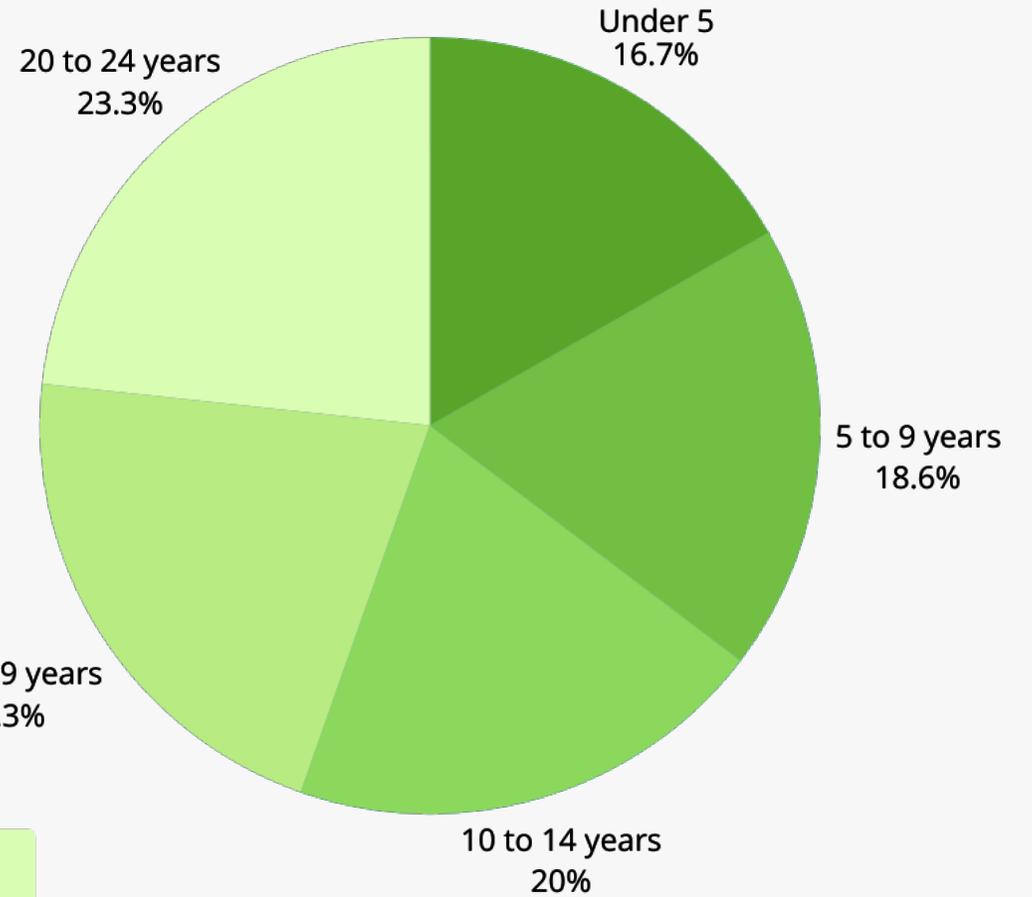
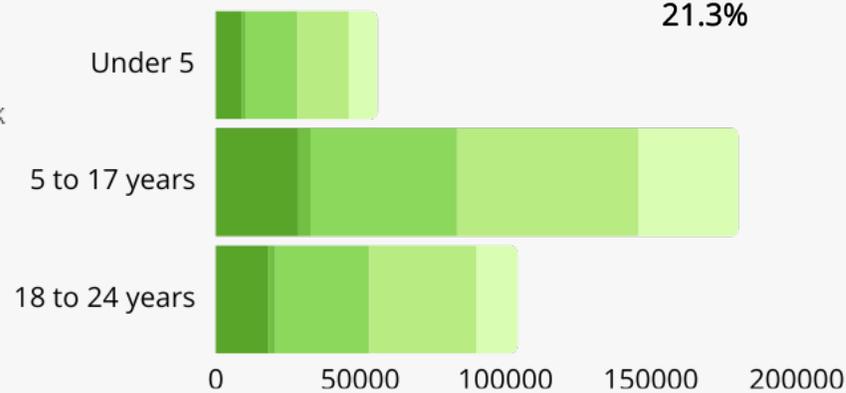
ANNUAL YOUTH PRIORITIES SURVEY RESULTS

FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Youth in San José

San José is the most populous city in Santa Clara County, with children, youth, and young adults under age 24 accounting for nearly 30% of its almost one million residents. Of these, 37.5% are Asian, 31% are Latino/x, 24.4% are White, 3% have Black/African ancestry, and 4.1% identify as another race or ethnicity. Approximately 40% of residents are foreign-born, and 50% speak a language other than English.

- White
- African American or Black
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic or Latino
- Two or More Races



Child, Youth, and Young Adult Populations



Youth in San José

While San José is one of the wealthiest cities in the country, many families are struggling financially in the region. 8.2% of San José residents under the age of 18 are below the federal poverty level, compared to 7.4% of the overall population of the city. For families with children under the age of 18, 6.5% live below the poverty level.

Youth and Poverty Levels

	Total Population	Below Poverty Level
Under 5	47,067	10.4% (4,915)
5 to 17	146,563	8% (11,723)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

SURVEY

The Annual Youth Priorities Survey helps to inform the Youth Commission's work plan and advocate for youth priorities during budget considerations.

- Ran from November 24, 2025 to January 20, 2026
- 37 questions
 - None of the questions required a response
- **643** total participants
 - 82% completion rate



Outreach Channels

Flyer: 30 responses
Email: 510 responses
Social Media: 12 responses

Participation

We incentivized participation with the option to enter a drawing for Apple AirPods.



DEMOGRAPHICS



- 63% identify as a woman ($\Delta+9\%$)
- 28% identify as a man ($\Delta-11\%$)
- 13% consider themselves low-income ($\Delta+4\%$)
- **14%** have struggled with their mental health



- 47% identify as Asian or Pacific Islander, including Vietnamese ($\Delta-4\%$)
- 24% identify as Hispanic or Latino ($\Delta-2\%$)
- 16% identify as White ($\Delta+6\%$)



- 9% identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community ($\Delta-2\%$)
- 4% identify as non-binary or transgender ($\Delta+1\%$)



- 72% are in high school ($\Delta+16\%$)
- 12% are in middle school ($\Delta-9\%$)
- **82%** attend public schools
- 33% attend a school in ESUHSD

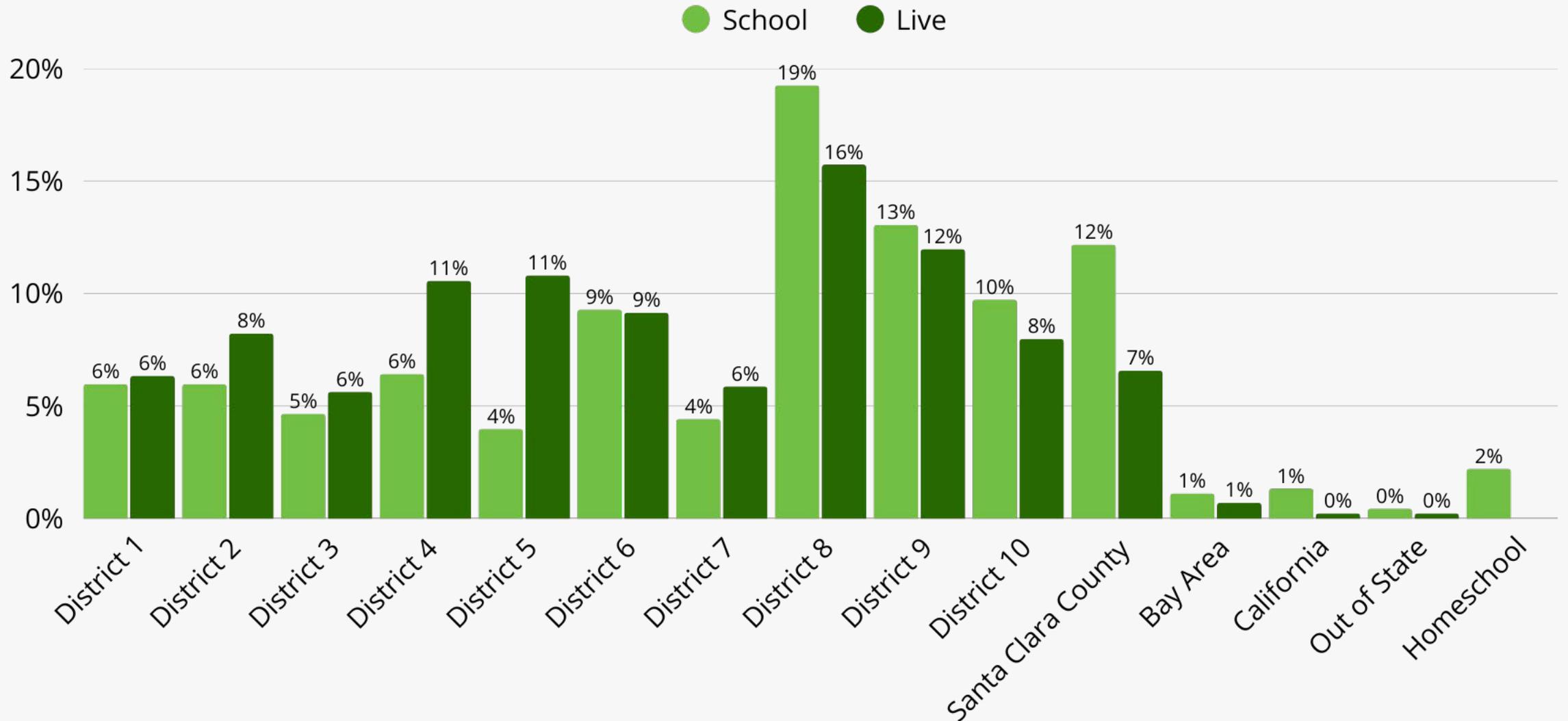


- 55% speak English at home
- 15% speak Spanish at home ($\Delta+1\%$)
- 10% speak Indian languages at home ($\Delta+1\%$)
- 7% speak Vietnamese at home
- 7% speak Mandarin or Cantonese at home

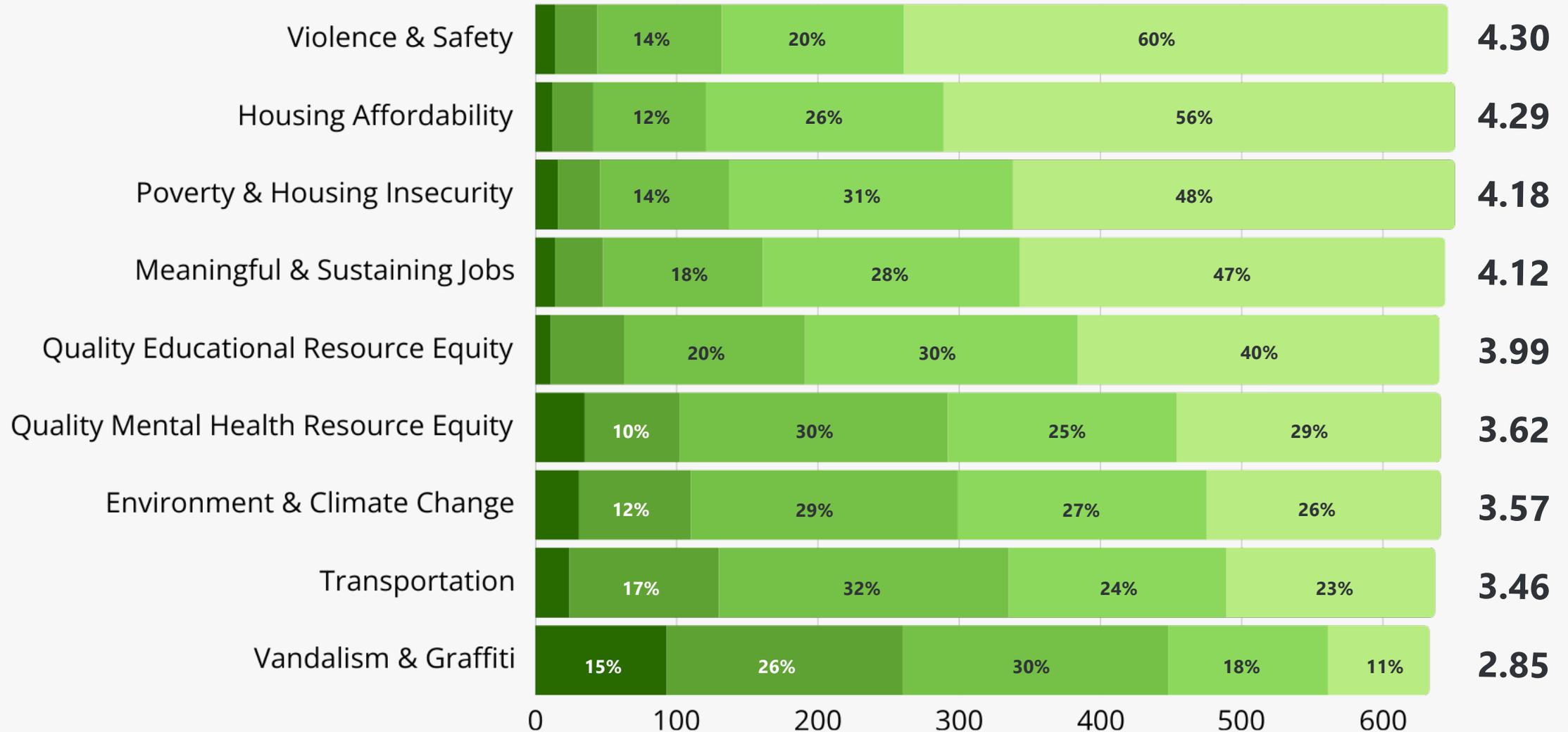


- **23%** are part of the first generation in the US ($\Delta+2\%$)
- 7% were born outside of the US ($\Delta+1\%$)
- 10% would be the first in their family to go to college ($\Delta+1\%$)

WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY GO TO SCHOOL AND LIVE?

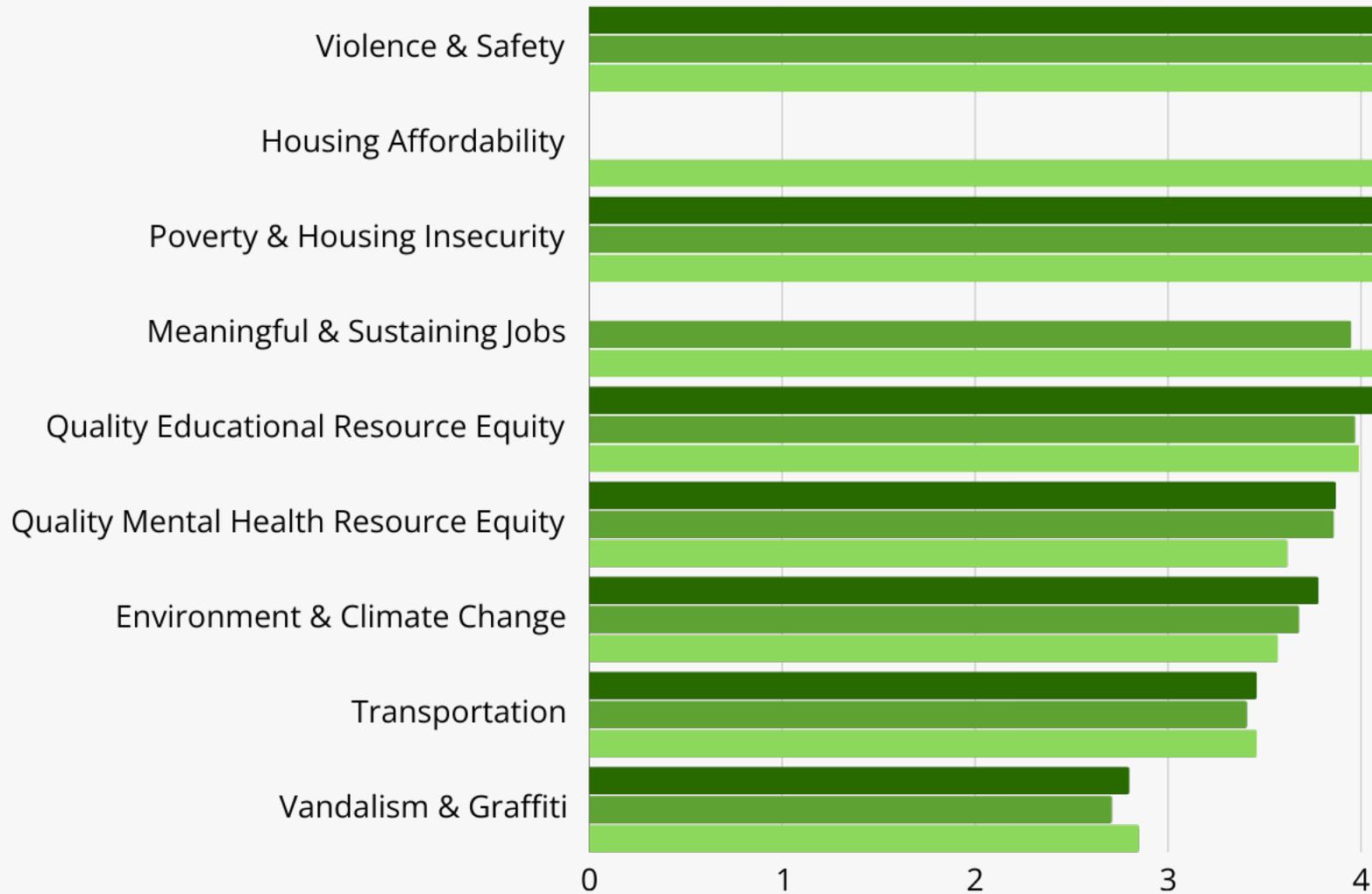


IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES ON A SCALE OF 1 (LOWEST PRIORITY) TO 5 (HIGHEST PRIORITY)



AVERAGE COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS YEARS RESPONSES

● 2023-2024 ● 2024-2025 ● 2025-2026



2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
4.37	4.27	4.30
		4.29
4.43	4.24	4.18
	3.95	4.12
4.07	3.97	3.99
3.87	3.86	3.62
3.78	3.68	3.57
3.46	3.41	3.46
2.80	2.71	2.85

I feel that giving young adults an opportunity to apprenticeships, internships, or career fairs is going to be the most important. The city could provide flyers for job fairs or send mail about any fairs or apprenticeships.

I believe the availability of school-related resources—such as volunteering and internship opportunities—needs greater attention, as these experiences provide valuable real-world learning and help students build a strong foundation for college. They also play an important role in strengthening college applications. One action the City could take is to expand opportunities for students in grades 7 through 9, since many young people may wish to begin developing these skills earlier to better prepare for future academic and career pathways.

Meaningful and sustaining job opportunities are the most important. When everyone has money and the opportunity to make it, then all of the other problems automatically get better. The city could make projects for people without a job to work on or supply free or low cost higher education.

I want to feel safe at school, at home.

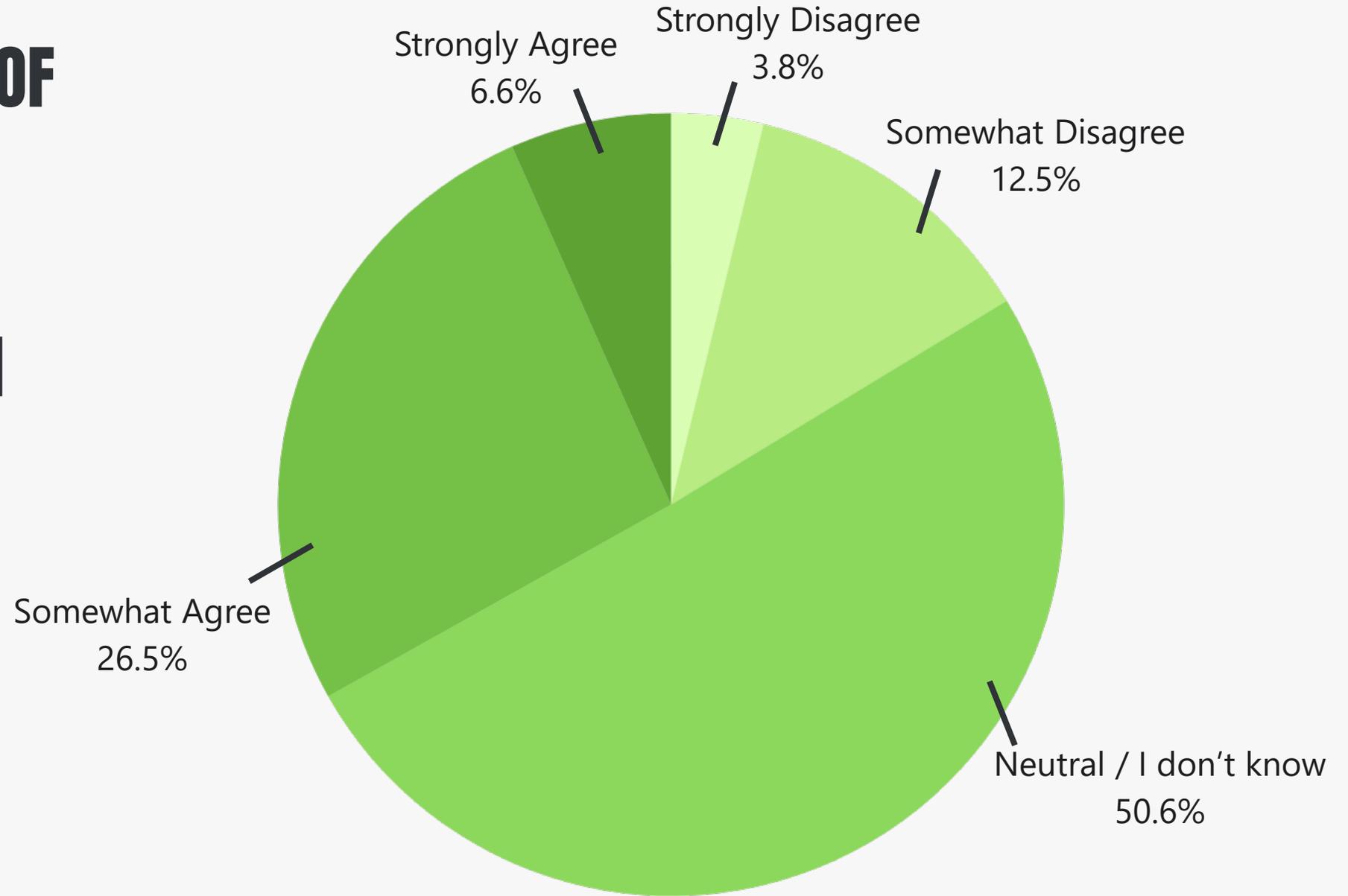
Poverty, housing insecurity, and homelessness in San Jose is most important to me because I lost my childhood home in a fire and it was hard to look for a new house that could fit into our budget. Homeless people suffer out in the cold with nowhere to sleep and people in poverty feel like things will never get better.

I feel that the access to mental health resources is one of my top priorities especially as a teen as I find that it's very difficult to find places to reach out or communities to join when facing hardship.

Transportation. Right now my 5-mile commute from school by public transit takes an hour and involves multiple train and bus transfers.

I think for youth to be able to focus on education and work they need to have a safe and comfortable place to live and access to meals regularly.

THE LOCAL CITY OF SAN JOSÉ GOVERNMENT REFLECTS YOUTH PRIORITIES.



Comparison With Previous Years Responses

**THE LOCAL CITY OF
SAN JOSÉ
GOVERNMENT
REFLECTS YOUTH
PRIORITIES.**

2025-2026		2023-2024	2024-2025	Δ
6.6%	Strongly Agree	4.9%	7.5%	-0.9%
26.5%	Somewhat Agree	25.1%	29.8%	-3.3%
50.6%	Neutral / I don't know	51.5%	46.1%	+4.5%
12.5%	Somewhat Disagree	12.2%	12.5%	0%
3.8%	Strongly Disagree	6.4%	4.2%	-0.4%

I think that the libraries have events for the youth that are great, however I think that more can be done to include more youth into these large tech companies who are recruiting from far away instead of directly in the local area so much.

There is a demonstrated interest in supporting youth, however, actual youth oriented policies and events can be sparse and limited by issues such as funding.

Believe that tech is more prioritized than incentives for home insecurity

I'm not fully up to date with city politics. I keep up with state, country, and world politics but I'm not sure where I would begin to get my city politics/news information.

somewhat agree with this statement because I do see the City of San José making efforts to include young people through programs, schools, and community resources. There are opportunities for youth involvement and support, which shows that our voices do matter to some extent. However, I don't fully agree because many youth priorities, like mental health support, safe spaces to hang out, and better access to career and college preparation, still don't feel fully addressed. It sometimes feels like youth are listened to, but not always fully represented in decisions that directly affect us.

San José does offer opportunities and resources for youth, and there are areas that feel welcoming and supportive.

However, compared to neighboring cities, some neighborhoods don't always feel as safe or well-maintained, and there are fewer accessible spaces for young people to gather, study, and grow. I think with more focus on youth-centered programs, safe public areas, and community engagement, San José could better reflect the priorities and needs of its young residents.

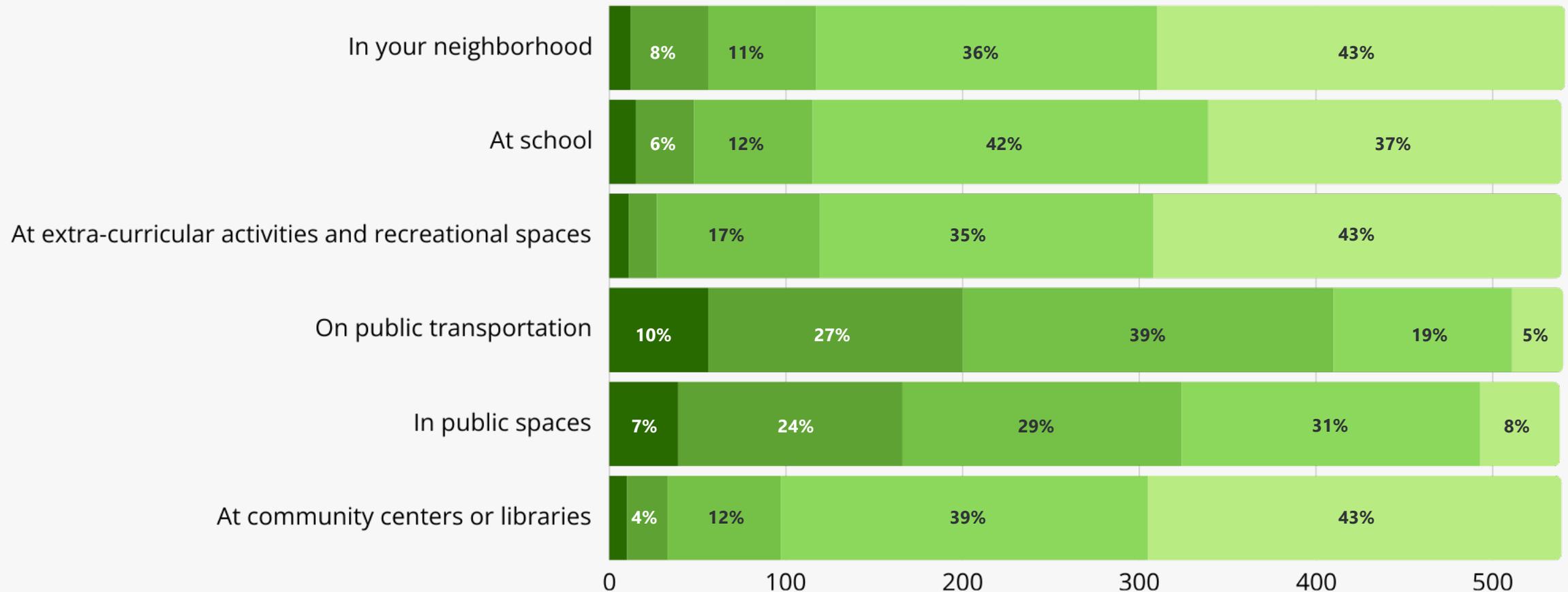
The YACs - youth voices are really heard.

I think that our city's government does what they can for the youth, but I have had plenty of peers that would not agree.

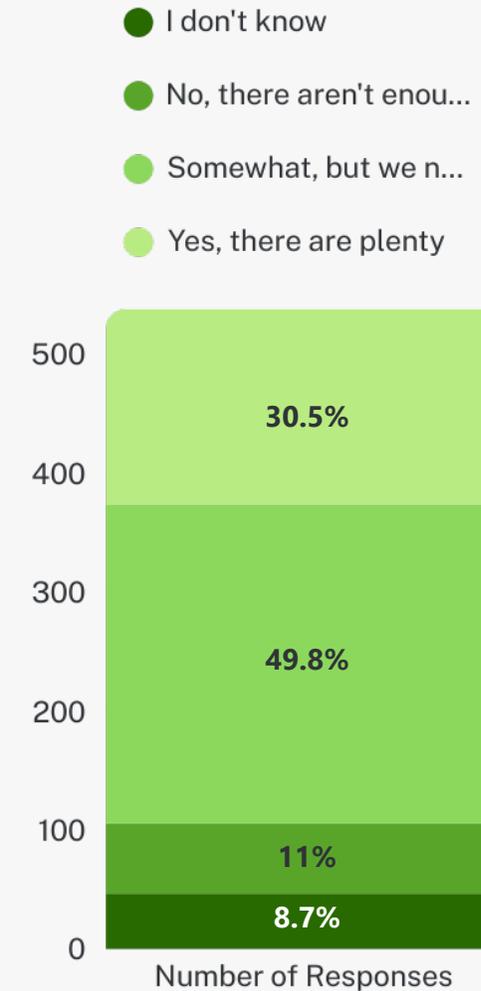
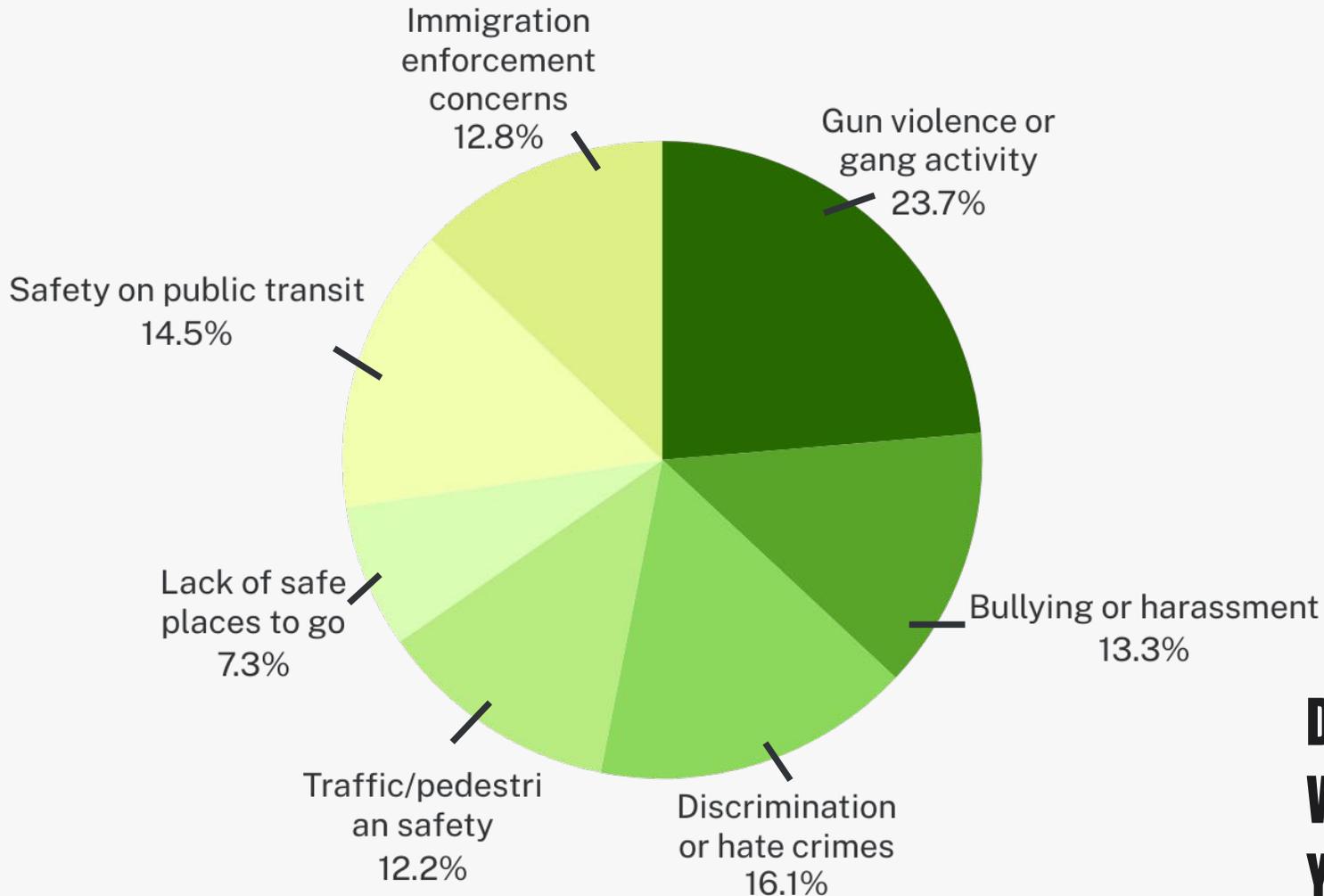
I never really thought about it until now but I thank you for taking an interest in young people here.

ON A SCALE OF 1 (VERY UNSAFE) TO 5 (VERY SAFE), HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE FOLLOWING PLACES?

● Very unsafe
 ● Somewhat unsafe
 ● Neutral / I don't know
● Somewhat safe
 ● Very safe



WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY IN SAN JOSÉ?



DOES SAN JOSÉ HAVE ENOUGH SAFE, WELCOMING SPACES (THIRD SPACES) WHERE YOUTH CAN GATHER, STUDY, OR HANG OUT?

IF YOU COULD ADD ONE THING TO MAKE SAN JOSÉ BETTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Safer bike lanes! I bike to school so the safer the better! And the safer bike lanes are the more likely other kids will bike to school too.

Make regulations and incentives that require atleast a sizable percentage of interns and entry level jobs at large tech and science companies to come directly from people who already reside in the local area since a long time.

I would add a space to reflect with journaling, talking, or just being able to step away and spend a few moments alone-maybe a room in a library or a comfortable place to sit and take a breath.

If I could add one thing to make San José better for young people, it would be more safe and accessible youth spaces, like community centers with free programs after school and on weekends. These spaces would give young people a place to study, be creative, play sports, and connect with others in a positive environment. Having more youth, focused spaces helps keep teens engaged, supports mental health, and gives them opportunities to learn new skills and feel like they belong in their city.

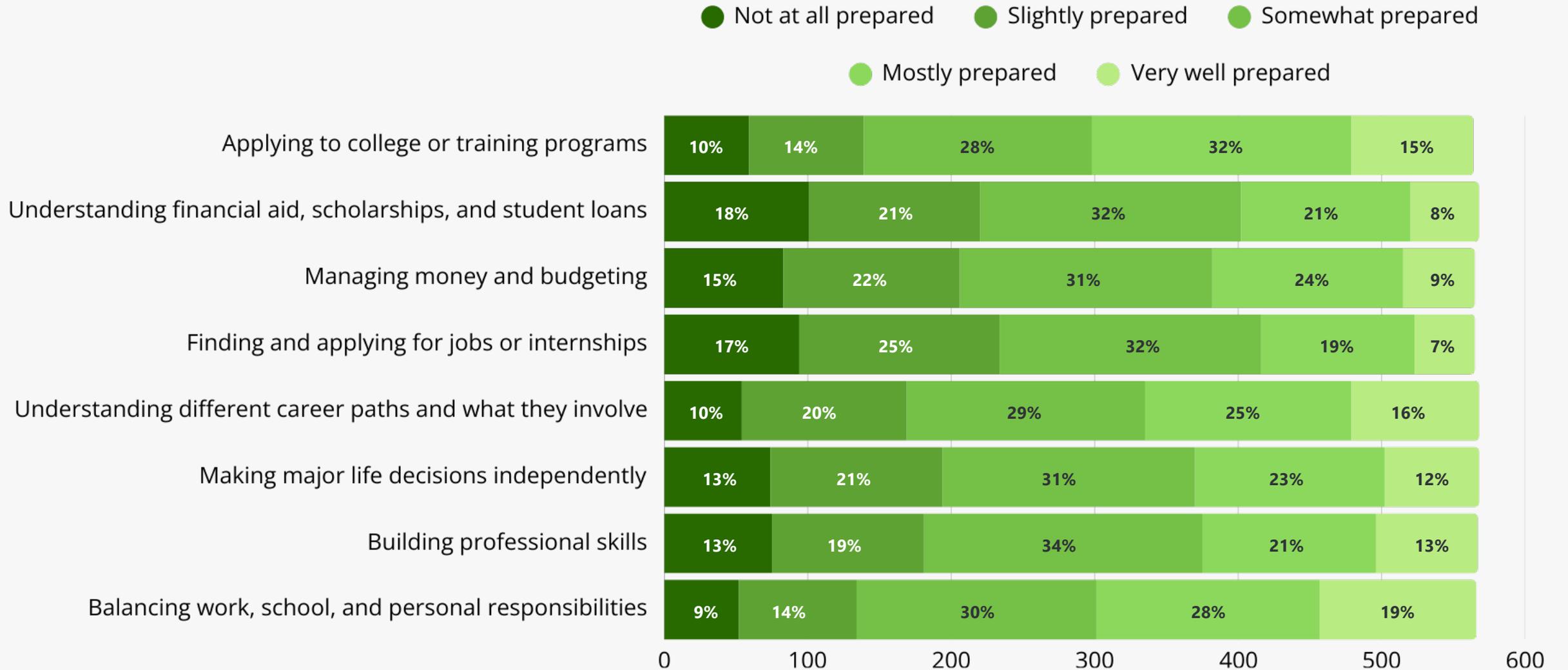
If I could add one thing to San Jose to make it better for youth I would have career related opportunities for earning money through the library where representatives from different careers will come host workshops to teach knowledge and skills about specific majors.

No phone meet ups and more hands-on learning experiences at a young age (trade skills, soap making, home ec-sewing, crocheting, knitting)

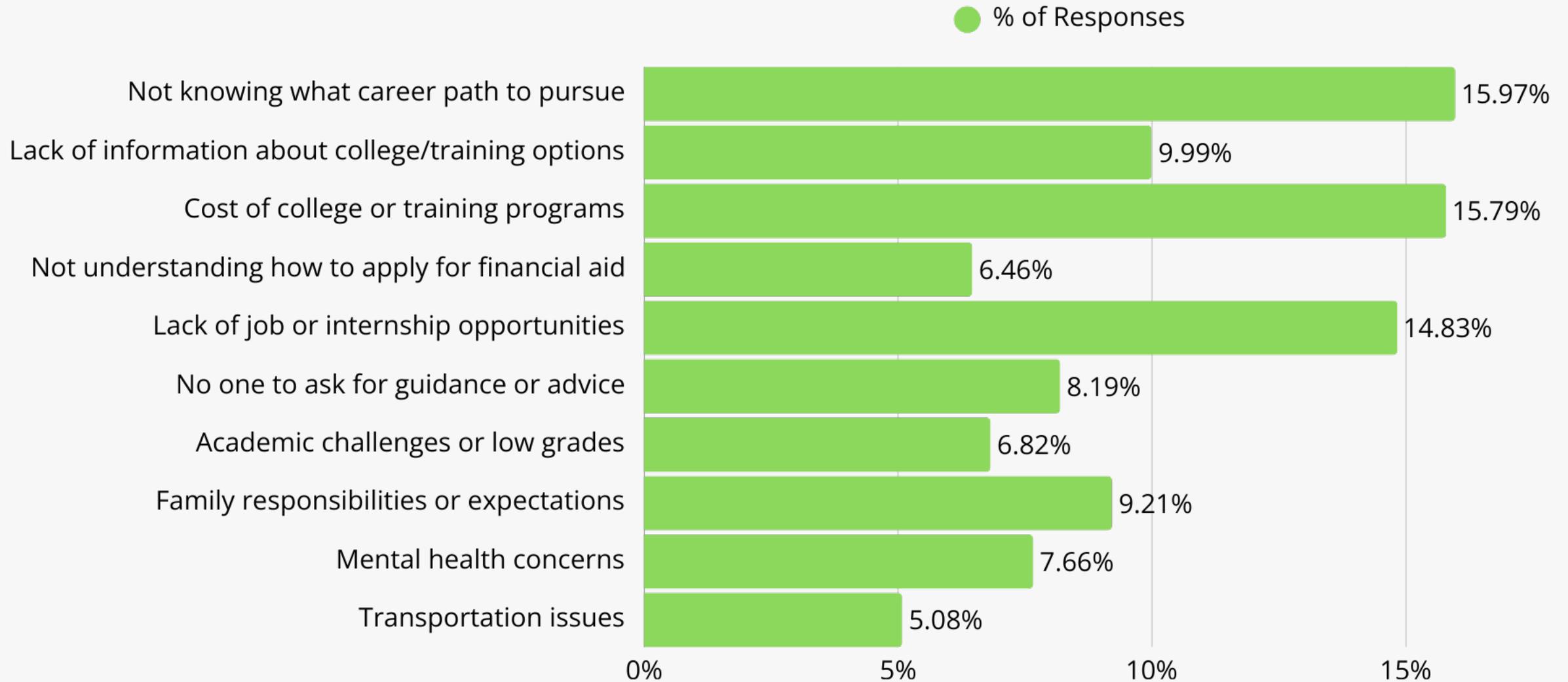
If I could add one thing to make San José better for young people, it would be more libraries.

A center for specific groups where you can meet new people with the same interests, because a lot of young people now don't feel supported by their parents and need somewhere to go.

ON A SCALE OF 1 (NOT AT ALL PREPARED) TO 5 (VERY WELL PREPARED), HOW PREPARED DO YOU FEEL FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS?



WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST BARRIERS OR CHALLENGES THAT IMPACT FEELING PREPARED FOR YOUR FUTURE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO YOU RIGHT NOW?

● One-on-one career counseling or coaching ● College application workshops

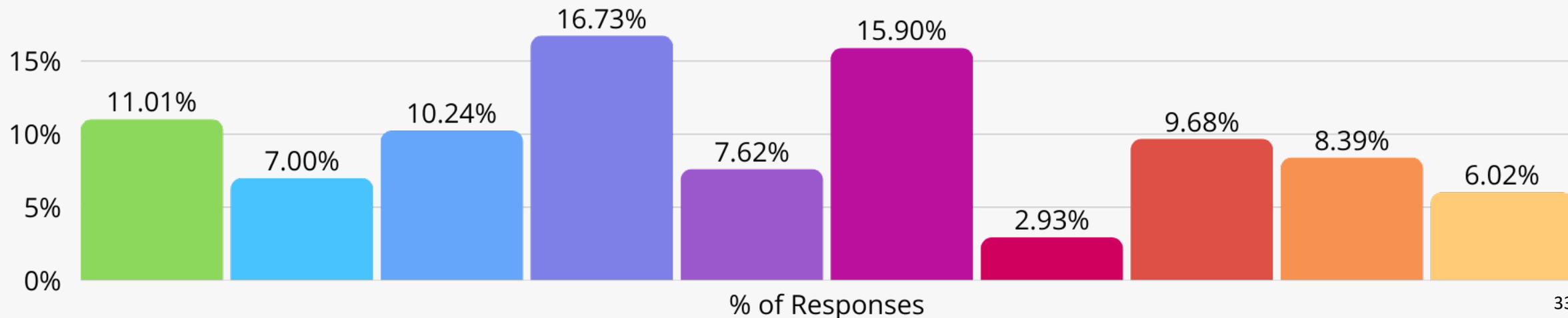
● Financial literacy classes (budgeting, taxes, credit) ● Job shadowing or internship opportunities

● Resume and interview prep workshops ● Connections to professionals in fields I'm interested in

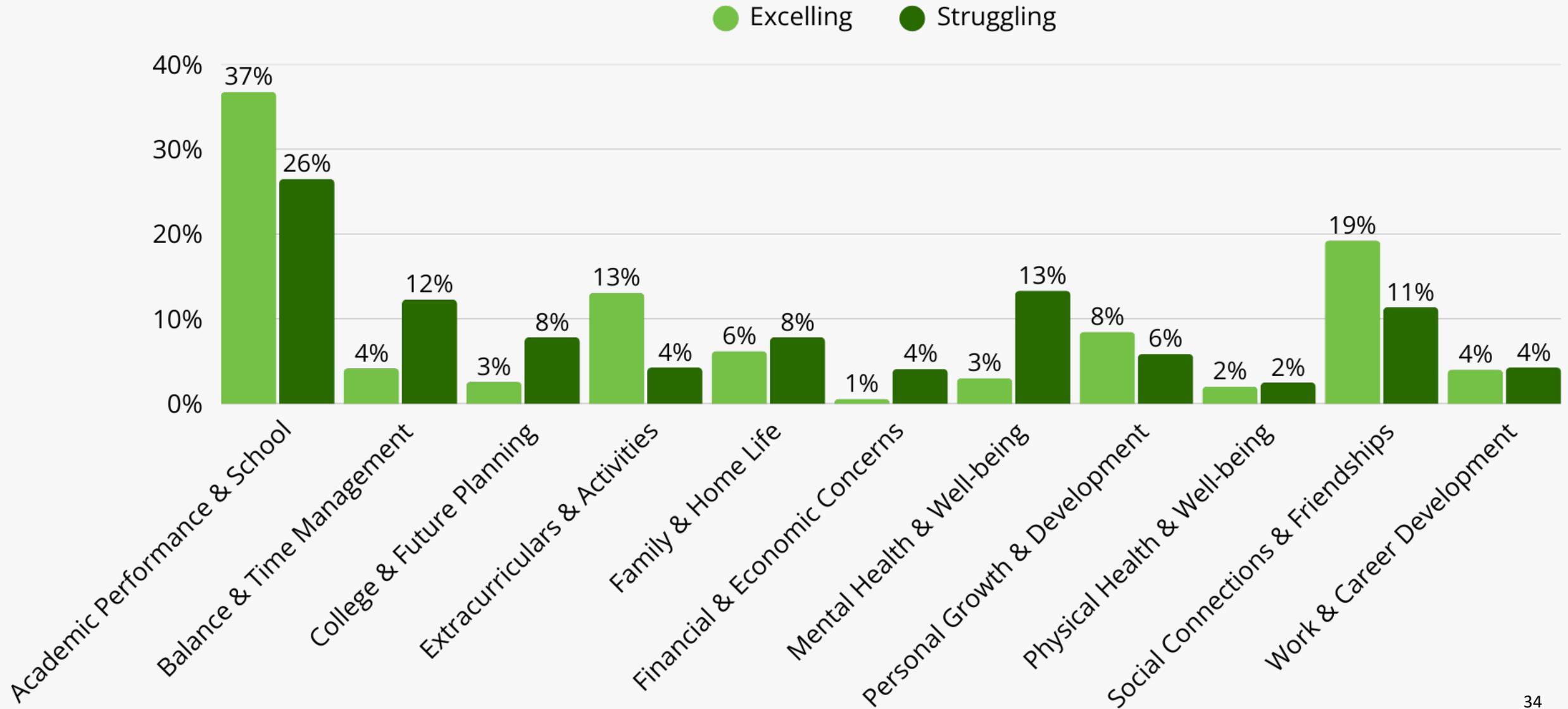
● Information about trade schools and apprenticeships

● Help understanding college majors and career options ● Scholarship search assistance

● Understanding options for paying for college



WHAT ARE YOU EXCELLING OR STRUGGLING WITH THIS YEAR?



KEY FINDINGS

643 young people told us economic security and safety are urgent, interconnected priorities.

Young people are solution-oriented and ask for practical interventions.

The Youth Commission will advocate for integrated investments that address these connected challenges and remove barriers to opportunity.

Economic Security Drives Everything

- 3 of the top 4 priorities are economic issues
- 76% plan for college, but only 29% feel prepared for financial aid
- Top 3 barriers: Career uncertainty, College costs, Lack of opportunities

Youth Want Experience, Not Just Instruction

- 32.63% want job shadowing/ internships or professional connections
- Only 4.9% receive support through formal programs
- 80% motivated by passion or helping others, not money
- 28% aspire to healthcare careers

Critical Safety Infrastructure Gap

- Violence & Safety #1 priority
- 80% say San José lacks sufficient safe youth spaces
- 37% feel unsafe on public transportation
- 23.7% cite gun violence as top concern

Growing Information Gap

- 50.6% don't know if the city reflects youth priorities
- Young people can't access programs they don't know exist
- Need: communication infrastructure through schools and community partners



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BREAKOUT GROUPS

Goal: To identify the problems within your specific topic area and determine one or two key **ACTIONABLE ITEMS** to solve these problems.

These will be presented to the full group in a 3-5 minute presentation from 3-4 pm, in your preferred format.

In these presentations, your goal is to convince the group about why your specific issue matters and why they should vote (and allocate budget) for your solution.

Each group should develop 1-2 questions about their problem/solution to ask the Councilmember.



Career Development

District 1 - Anushka Deshmukh, Communications
District 5 - Dali Guerrero Fernandez

Educational Equity

District 10 - Kyle Park
District 9 - Ruby Yu
District 3 - Edwin Sanchez

Environmental Action

District 7 - David Huynh, Outreach
District 6 - Fiona Canfield

Housing Insecurity

Citywide - Marian Kucharewski, Chair
District 4 - Akshadha Babu Chakravarthi

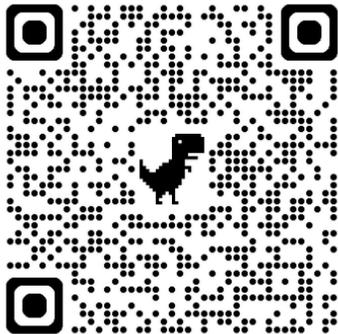
Violence & Safety

District 2 - Neyha Pradeepkumar, Vice Chair
District 8 - Micah Chung

GROUP EXPECTATIONS

1. Everyone participates, and no one dominates
2. There are no "right answers"- be respectful and let everyone share their ideas
3. Keep an open mind
4. Stay on topic
5. It's okay to disagree
6. Respond to others the way you want to be responded to
7. Have fun

**SUBMIT QUESTIONS FOR
COUNCILMEMBERS CAMPOS
AND COHEN!**



**YOUTH COMMISSION BUDGET SUMMIT ON
RECESS. MEETING WILL RESUME AT 3:15 P.M.**



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CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMEMBER
PAMELA CAMPOS &
DISTRICT 4 COUNCILMEMBER
DAVID COHEN



VOTE WITH YOUR \$\$\$

Everyone will receive \$1,000 in 'Youth Commission Currency' to allocate across the proposed solutions.

How it works:

- Each participant gets \$1,000 to distribute
- You can split your money however you choose
- Put your money in the designated containers for each priority
- You can put all \$1,000 toward one solution or divide it among multiple priorities
- Think carefully about which solutions would have the biggest impact for youth in San José

For example:

- \$500 to Housing Insecurity
- \$300 to Educational Programs
- \$200 to Violence Prevention



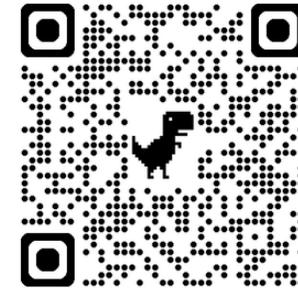


UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat, Mar 21: Creative Futures Fair
- Mon, Mar 23: Youth Commission Meeting
- **Tue, Mar 31: Last day to apply for Youth Commission 26-27**
- Mon, Apr 27: Youth Commission Meeting
- Mon, May 18: Youth Commission Meeting
- Mon, Jun 8: YAC Awards Dinner
- Thu, Jun 11: NSE Annual Report Presentation

PARTICIPATION EVALUATION

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/yac2526>



Apply for Youth Commission by March 31st

WEBSITE

www.sjpl.org/YouthCommission

EMAIL ADDRESS

youthcommission@sanjoseca.gov

INSTAGRAM

[@SJYouthCommission](https://www.instagram.com/SJYouthCommission)

Thank you!



**Youth
Commission**

CITY OF SAN JOSE

V. ADJOURNMENT