

*Five Year Plan: 2020-2025*  
Community Development Block Grant

**5** YR

# 2019 Comprehensive Community Input / Neighborhood Meetings Summary

# Overview

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- CDBG funds help to serve the needs of low- to moderate-income individuals, and create viable communities in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods.
- Every five (5) years the City of Worcester must report to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on its intended future use of federal entitlement grant money, principally Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.
- The City of Worcester's Neighborhood Development Division conducted a series of community input meetings to assess residents thoughts on neighborhood and community needs.
- A total of ten meetings took place from June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in various Worcester neighborhoods. There were 145 total people that attended all the meetings combined.
- The meeting findings summarized here will help inform development of the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2020-2025) content and the programming of future federal grant money utilized by the City of Worcester.

# Meeting Dates and Locations

- ▶ **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**  
Frances Perkins Library  
470 West Boylston St.
- ▶ **Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**  
Worcester Senior Center  
128 Providence St.
- ▶ **Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**  
Grace Christian Center  
126 Elm St.
- ▶ **Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**  
Lincoln Park Towers  
11 Lake Ave.
- ▶ **Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**  
The Journey Church  
25 Belmont St.
- ▶ **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**  
**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**  
Great Brook Valley  
Community Center  
180 Constitution Ave.
- ▶ **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**  
Mill Swan Head Start  
337 Mill St.
- ▶ **Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**  
Gates Lane Elementary School  
1238 Main St.
- ▶ **Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM**  
Holy Cross College  
1 College St.
- ▶ **Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**  
National Grid Sustainability Hub  
912 Main St.

# Public Input Process

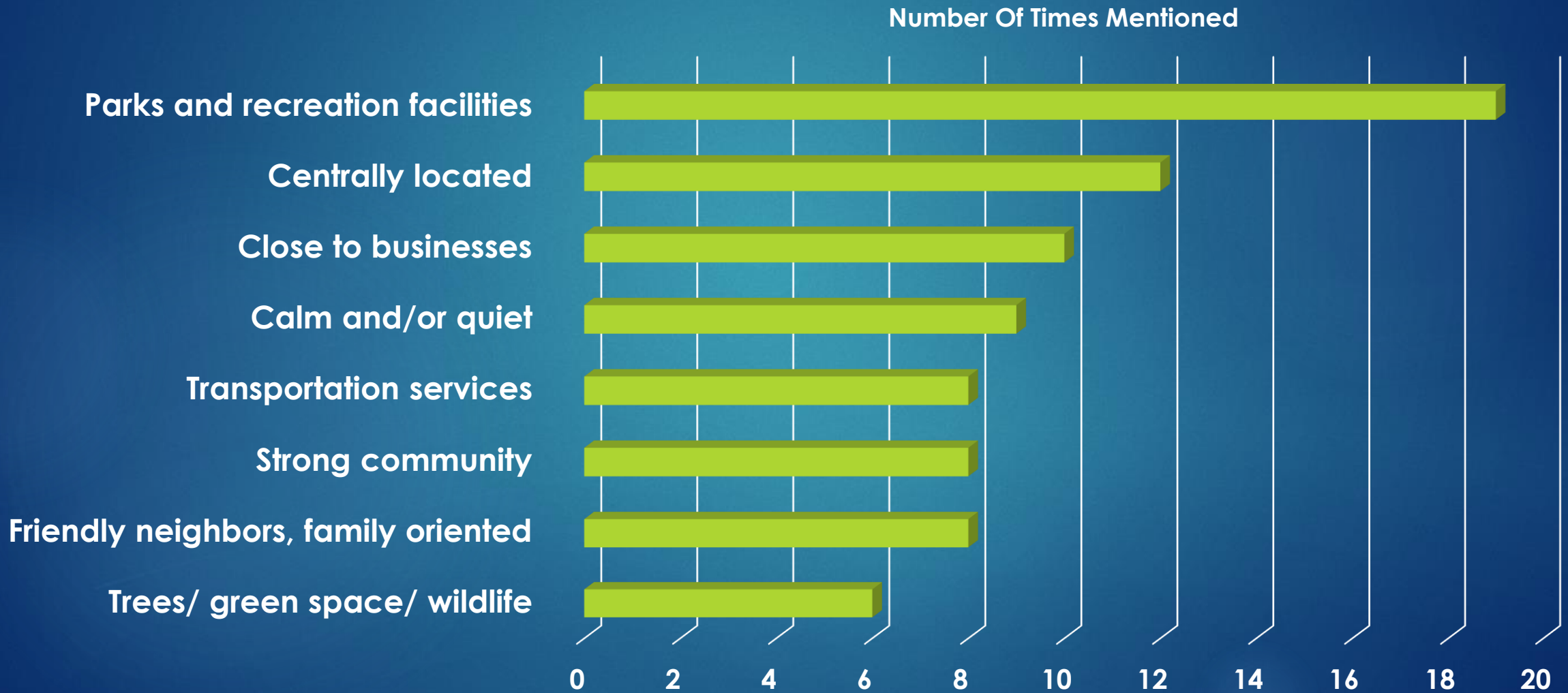
- All meetings were held in the same format: attendees were afforded small, facilitator-lead groups at individual tables in community spaces throughout each of Worcester's ten (10) City Council Districts.
- Participants were asked to respond to a set of standardized questions, including ranking a set of issues in order of greatest to least importance to their neighborhoods and the City of Worcester as a whole.
- Further discussion was encouraged by the participants on prioritized items.
- All responses and key discussion themes were validated on easel pads and later transcribed and summarized. Primarily the responses and comments that occurred multiple times are summarized in this presentation.

# Neighborhoods



# What People Like Most About Their Neighborhoods

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# People also said....



# Overall Top Neighborhood Issues To Address

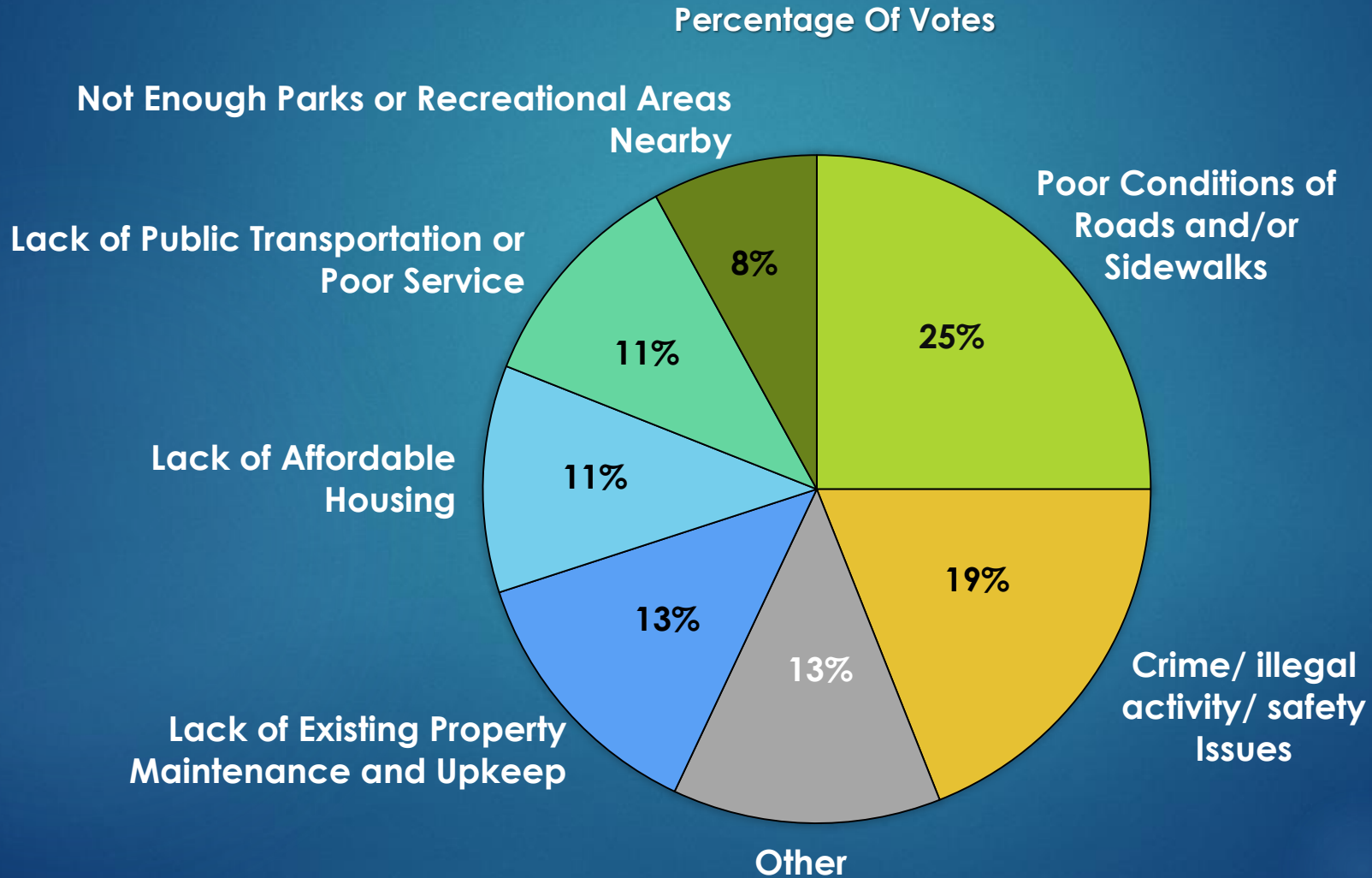
**5** YR

Total Number Of Votes



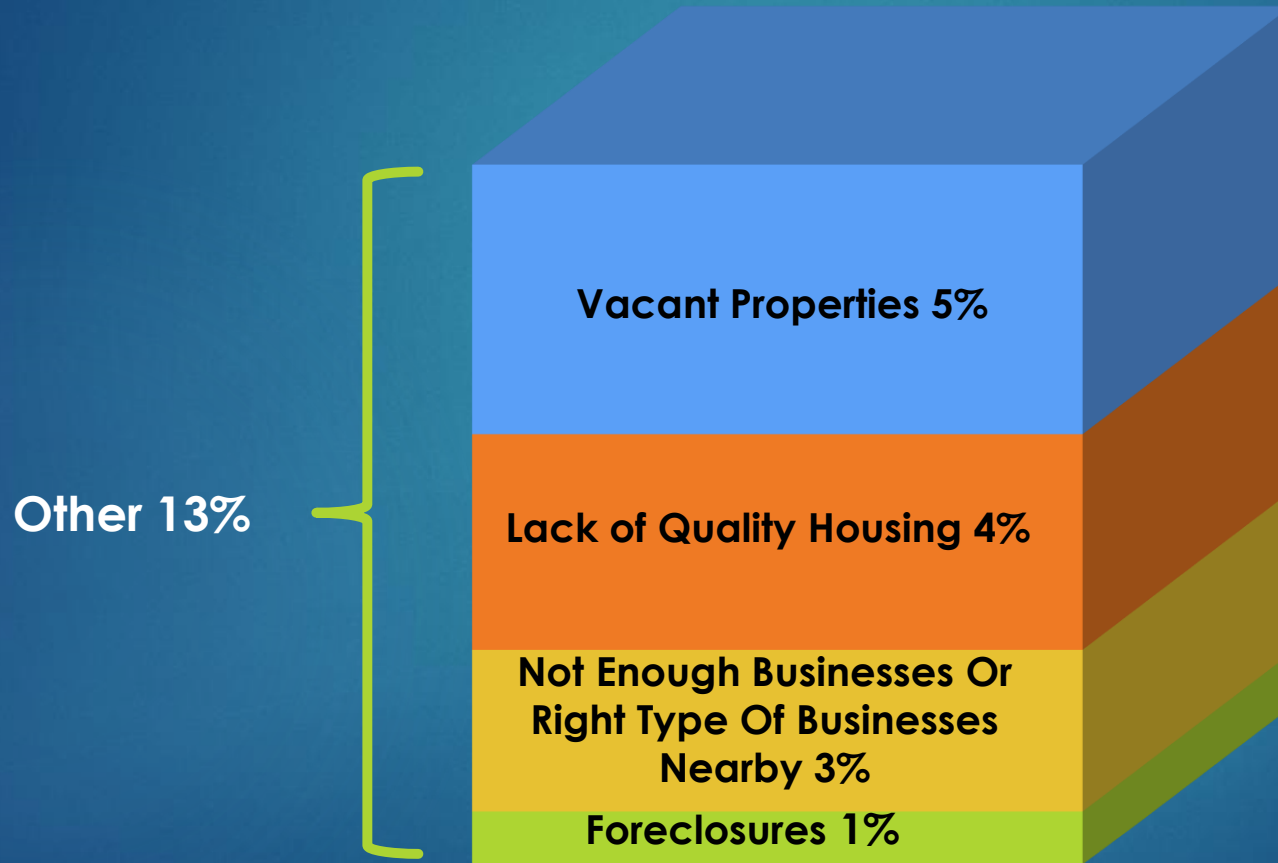


# Top Neighborhood Issues To Address (cont'd.)



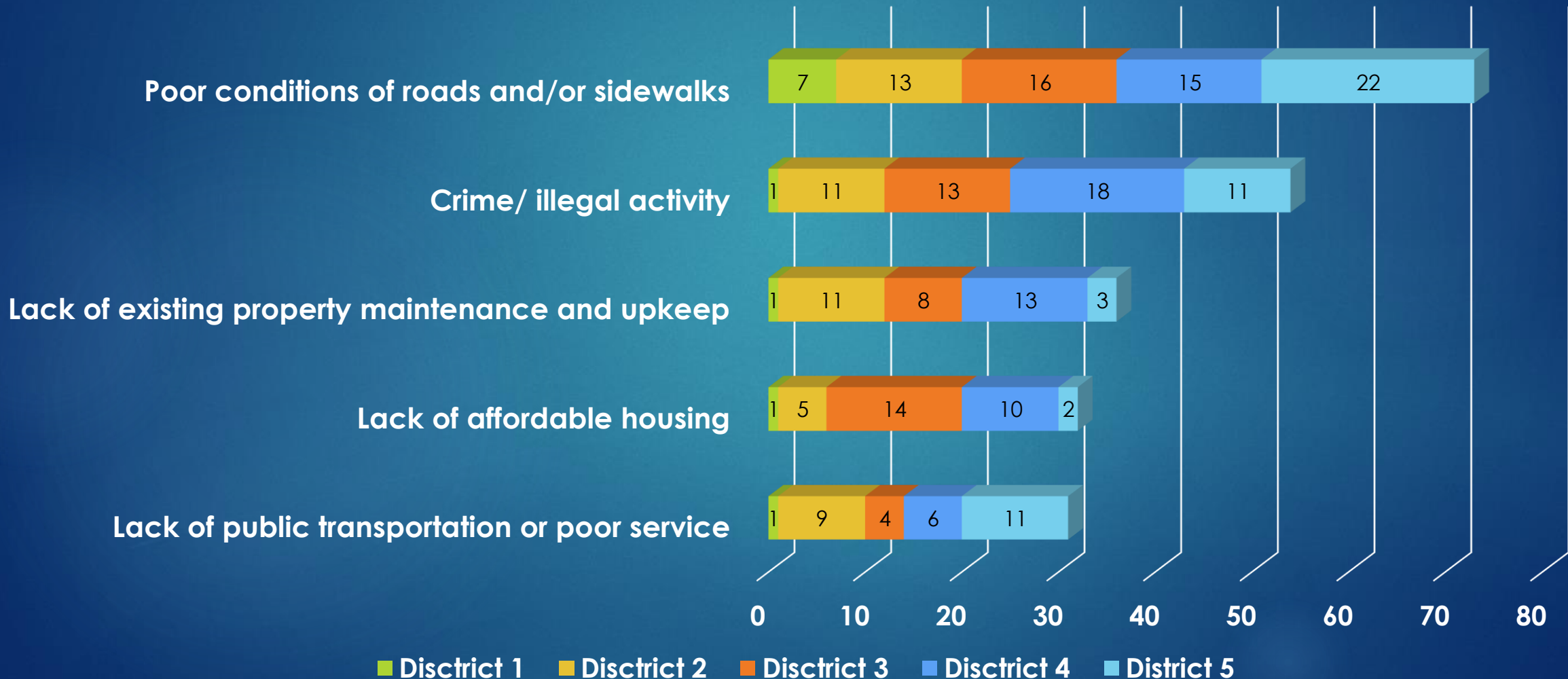
# Top Neighborhood Issues To Address (cont'd.)

**5** YR



# Top Five (5) Neighborhood Issues To Address

Number of Votes by City Council District



# Top Three (3) Neighborhood Issues To Address

Participant Comments

## Poor Conditions Of Roads and/ or Sidewalks

- Need for roadway and sidewalk resurfacing
- Traffic and pedestrian safety improvements
- More crosswalks, flashing crosswalks, better signage, street lights

## Crime/ Illegal Activity/ Public Safety Issues

- High drug use
- Property crime
- Need for increased police presence, community communication with police

## Lack Of Existing Property Maintenance And Upkeep

- Neglectful landlords allow properties to deteriorate
- Need for financial assistance for homeowner repairs
- Trash and illegal dumping

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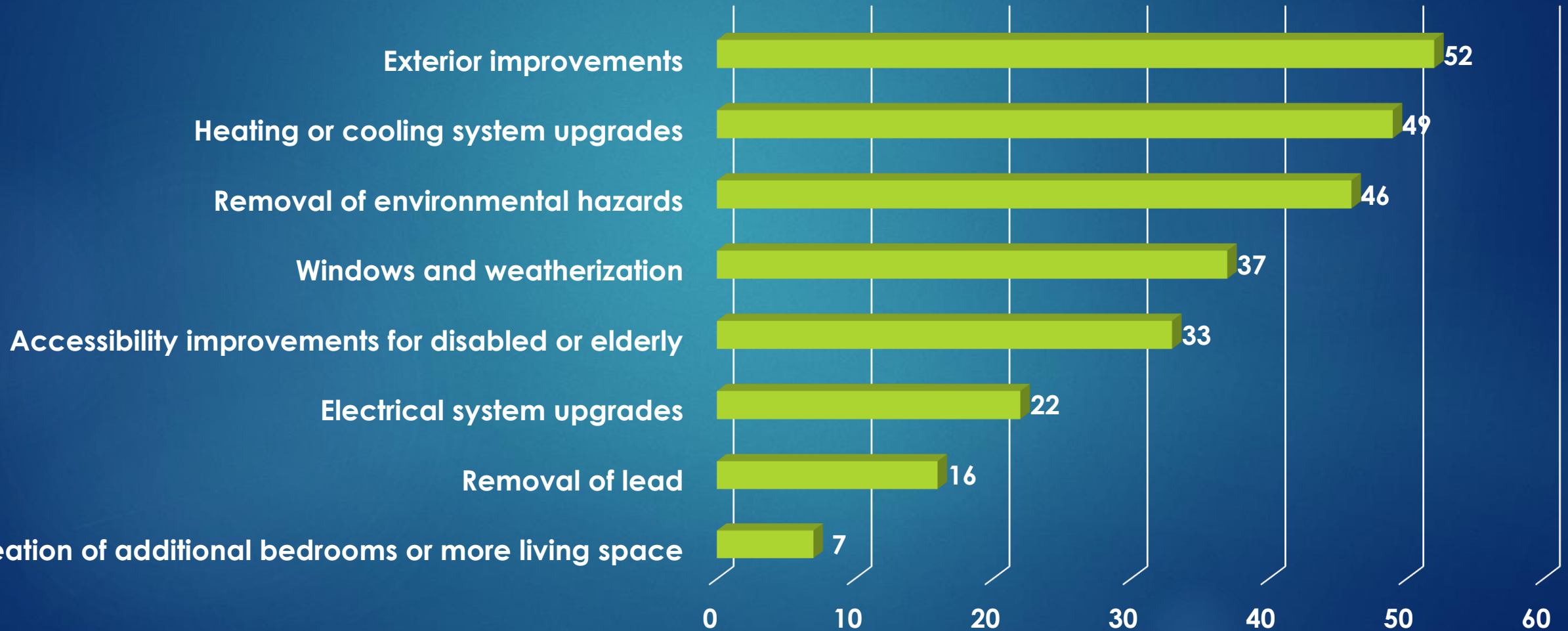
# Housing



# Top Needs For Housing Maintenance

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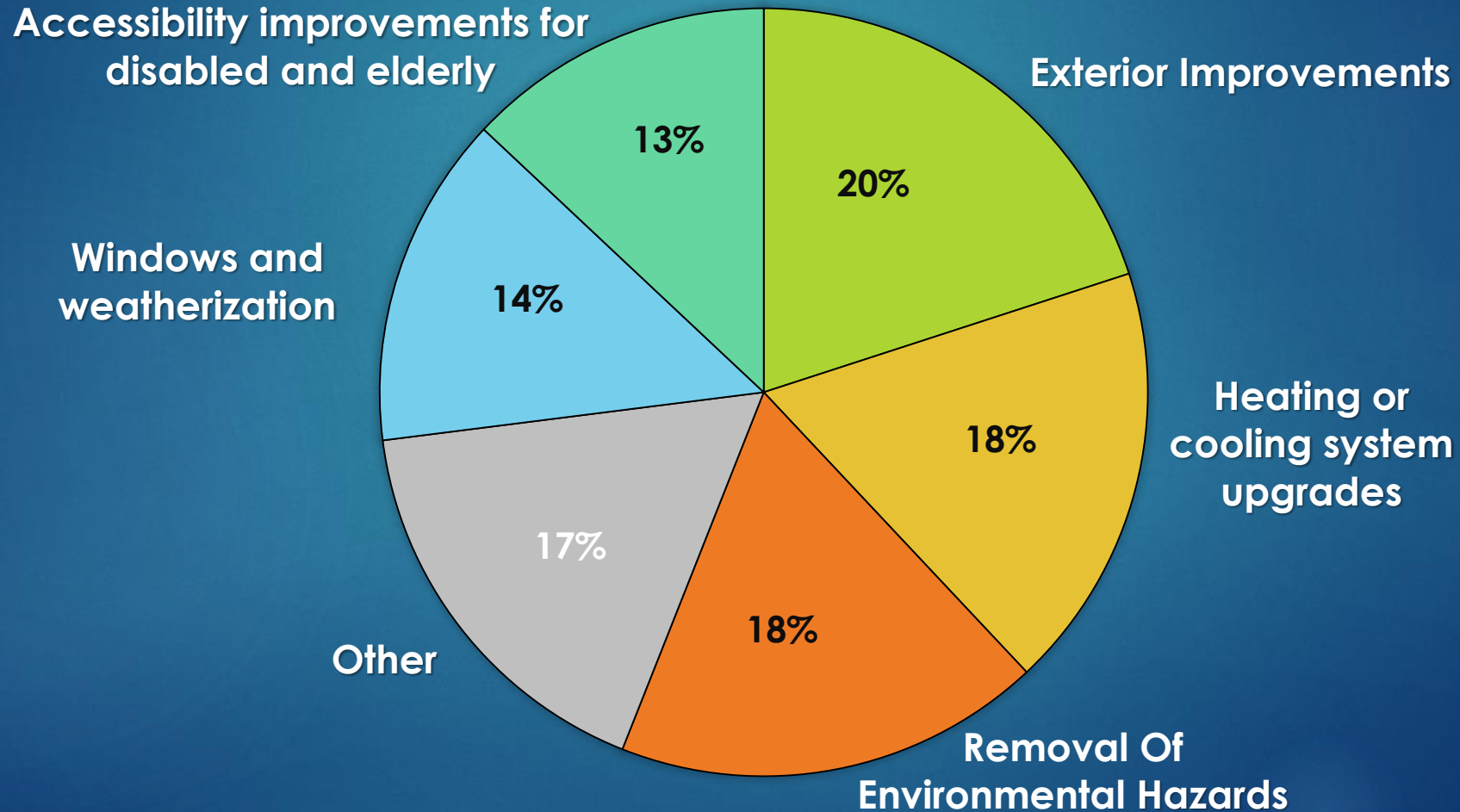
Total number of votes



# Top Needs For Housing Maintenance (cont'd.)

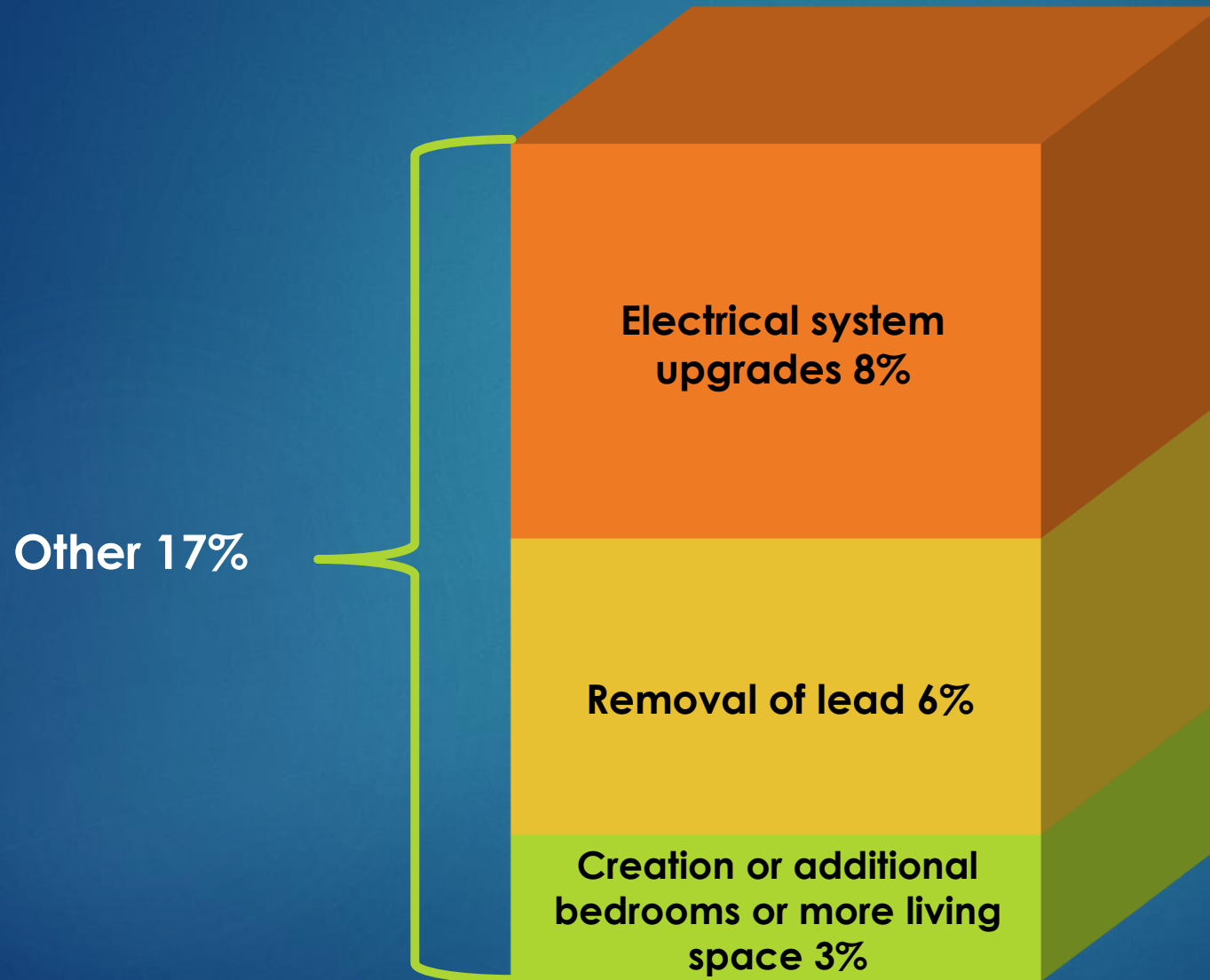
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Percentage Of Votes



# Top Needs for Housing Maintenance (Cont'd.)

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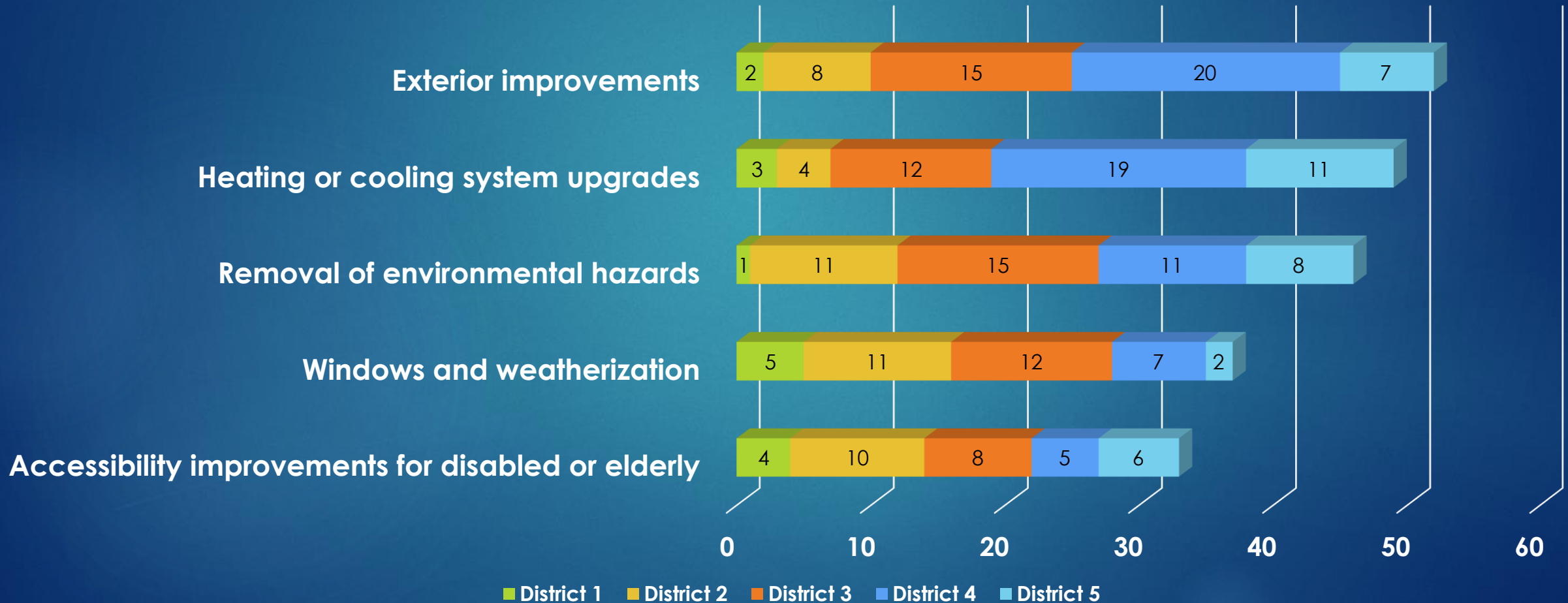




# Top Five (5) Needs For Housing Maintenance

**5** YR

Number of Votes by City Council District



# Top Needs For Housing Maintenance

## Participant Comments

### Exterior Improvements

- Buildings are dilapidated
- Absent landlords neglect exterior housing maintenance needs

### Heating or Cooling System Upgrades

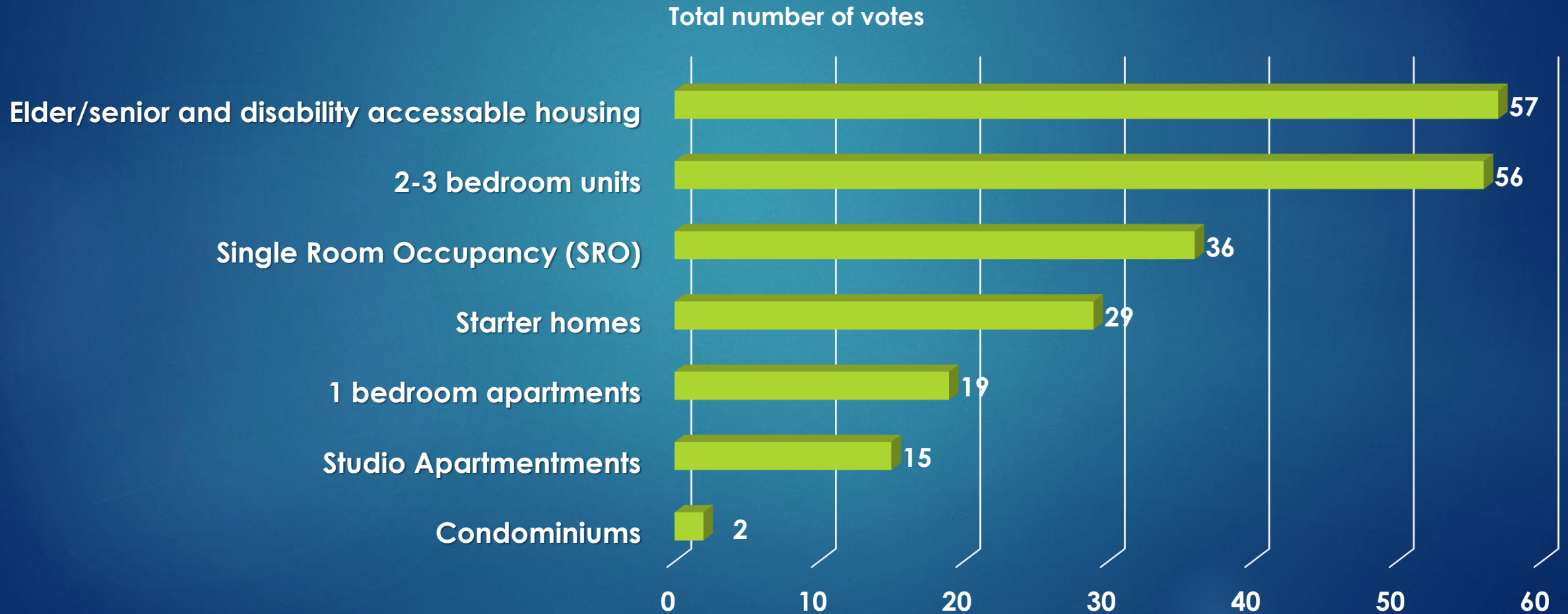
- Need for better weatherization improvements, insulation
- Windows and doors don't seal properly

### Removal of Environmental Hazards

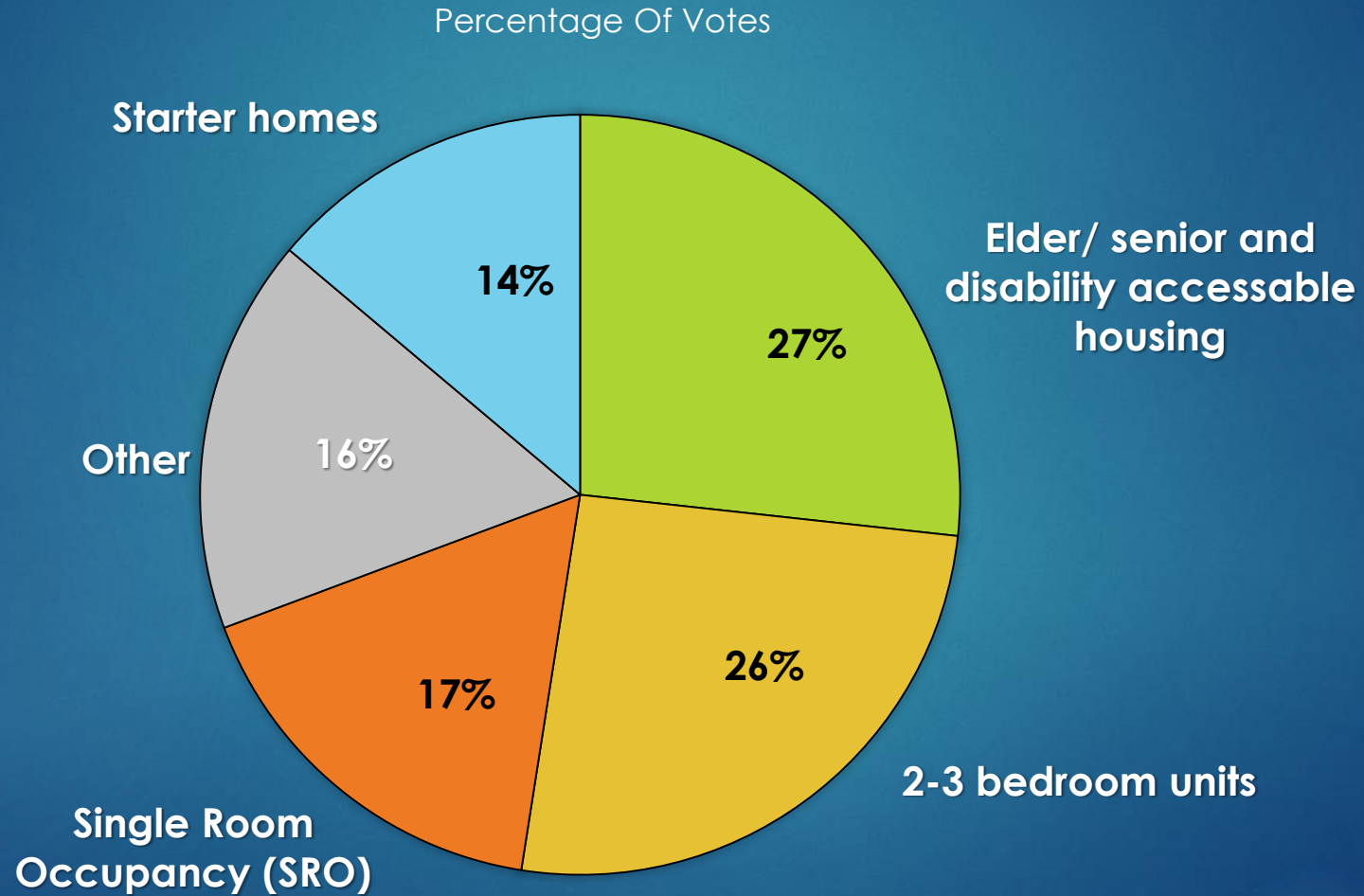
- Need for removal of toxins – lead, mold, pest and rodent infestations
- Make fire exits accessible to physically handicapped

# Most Needed Types Or Unit Sizes Of Affordable Housing

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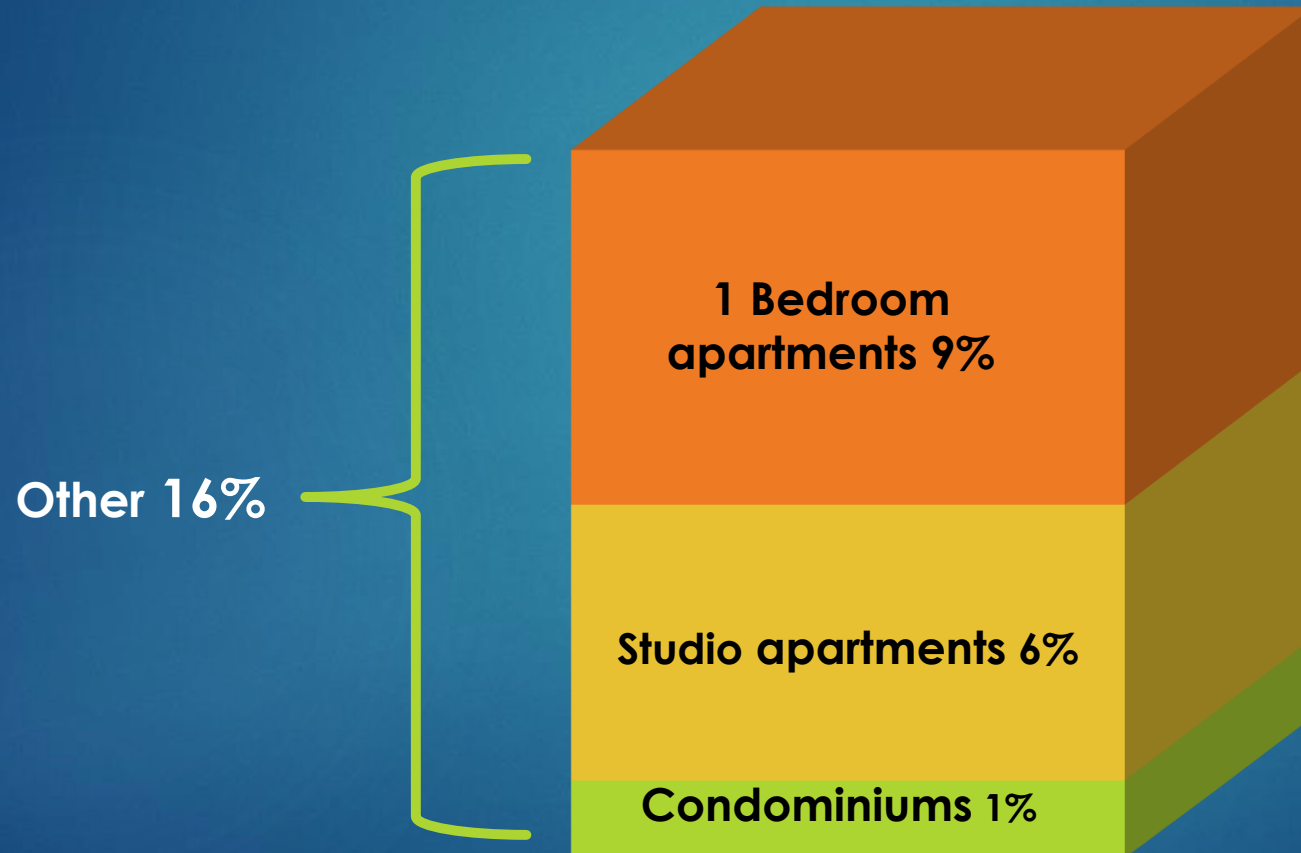


# Most Needed Types Or Unit Sizes Of Affordable Housing (cont'd.)



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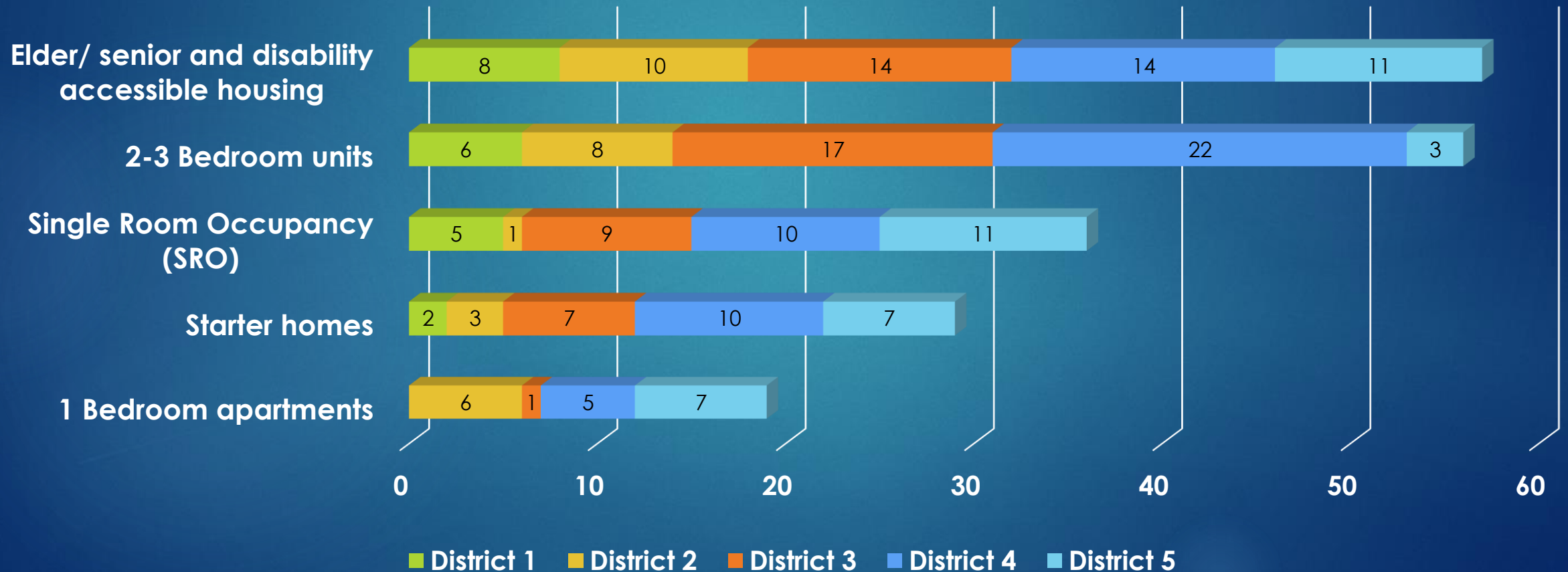
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# Top Five (5) Needed Types Or Unit Sizes Of Affordable Housing

**5** YR

Number of Votes by City Council District



# Most Needed Types Or Unit Sizes Of Affordable Housing

## Participant Comments

### **Elder/Senior And Disability Accessible Housing**

- Need for more handicap-accessible housing
- Keep special needs housing separate
- Need for more assisted living units

### **2-3 Bedroom Units**

- High demand for more affordable family housing units
- Housing for families with multiple children, generational housing

# Social and Human Services

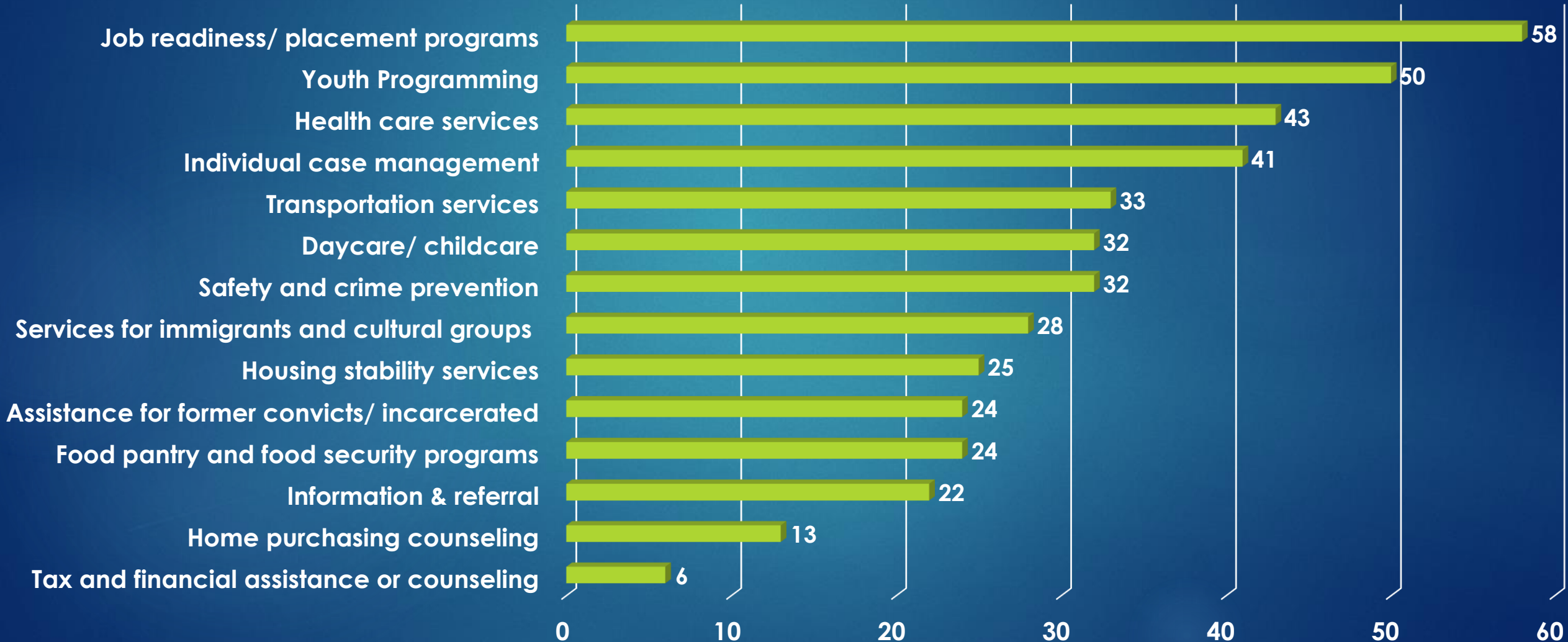




# Most Critically Needed Social Services

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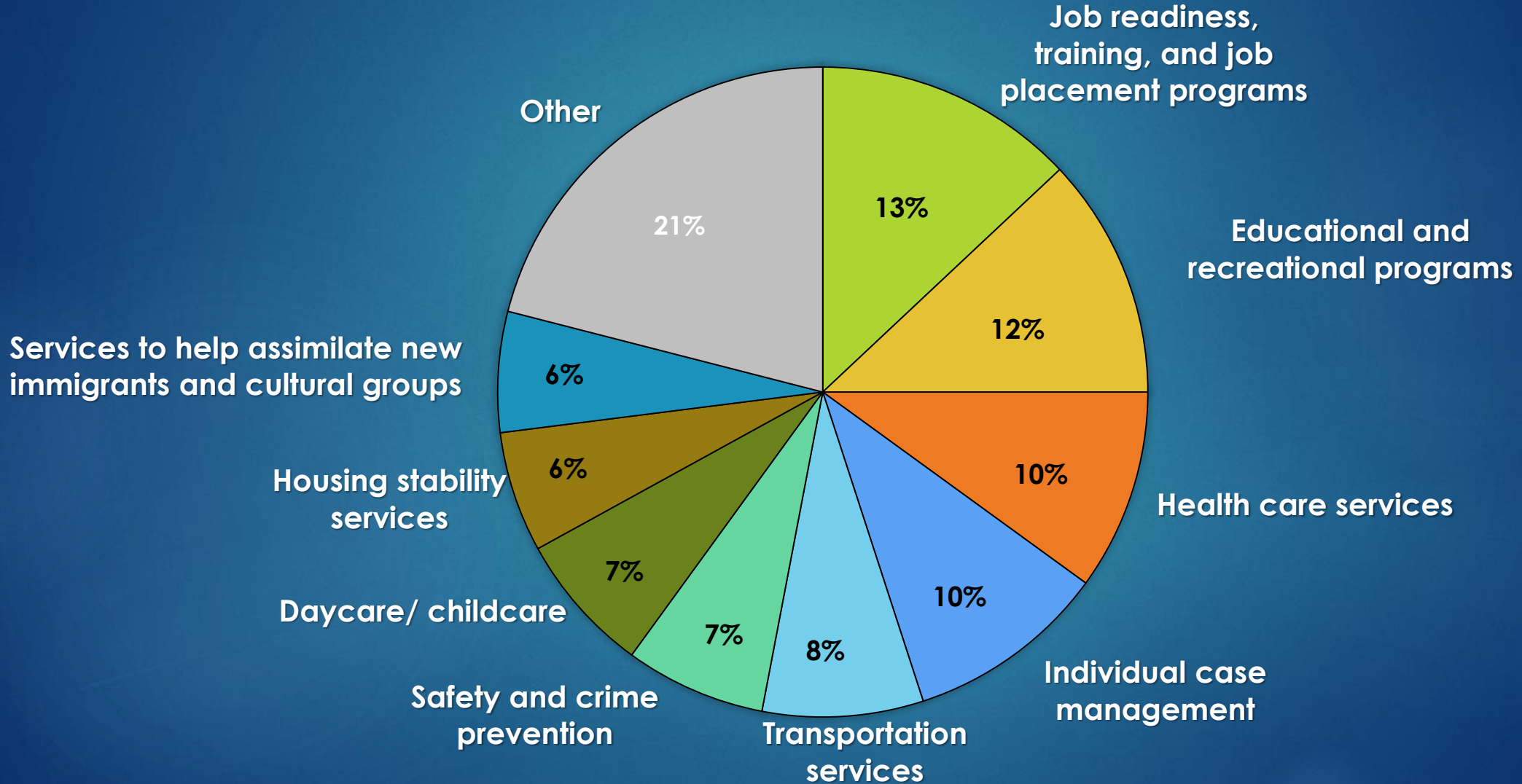
Total Number Of Votes



# Most Critically Needed Services (cont'd.)

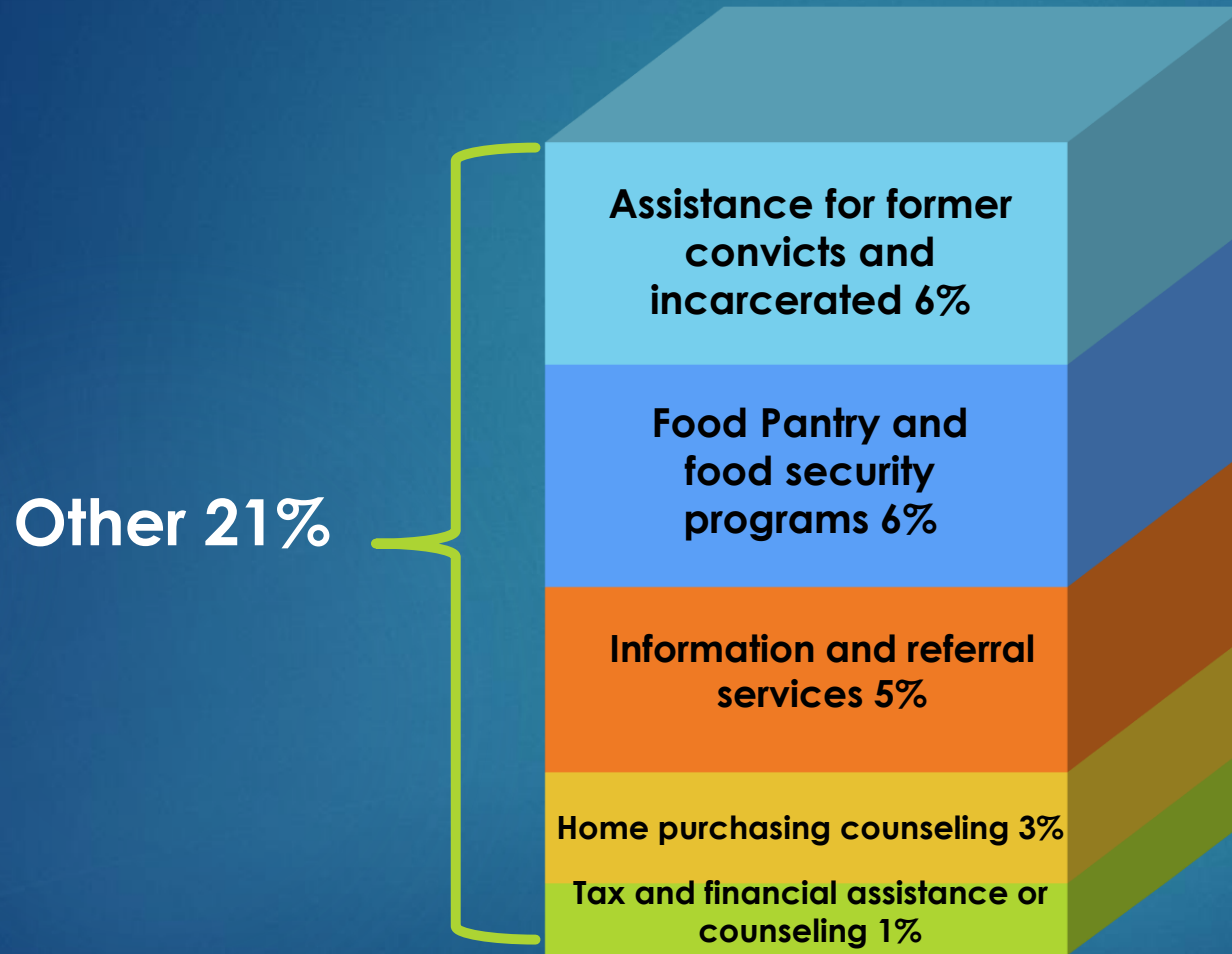
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Percentage Of Votes



# Most Critically Needed Services (cont'd.)

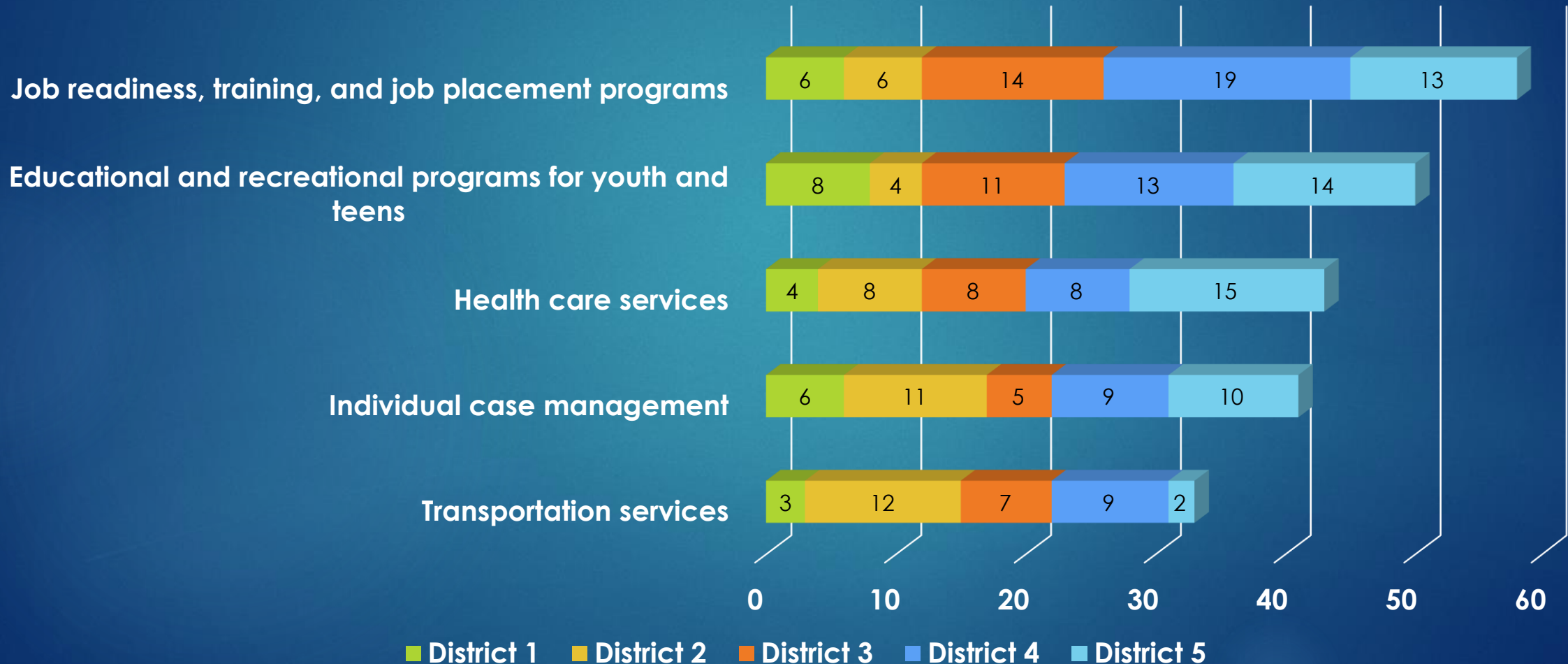
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# Top Five (5) Needed Social Services

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Number of Votes by City Council District



# Most Critically Needed Services (cont'd.)

## Participants Comments

### Job readiness, training, and placement programs

- High demand for increased vocational programs
- Training for higher skilled jobs

### Educational And Recreational Programs For Youth And Teens

- Increase youth centers and programs
- Programs for teens (13+)
- Prevention of gang involvement, juvenile delinquency

### Health Care Services

- Mental health services (especially for youth and crisis)
- Addiction and substance abuse counseling, post-rehab/ transitional support

### Individual Case Management

- More one-on-one case review services
- Centralized resources, more outreach