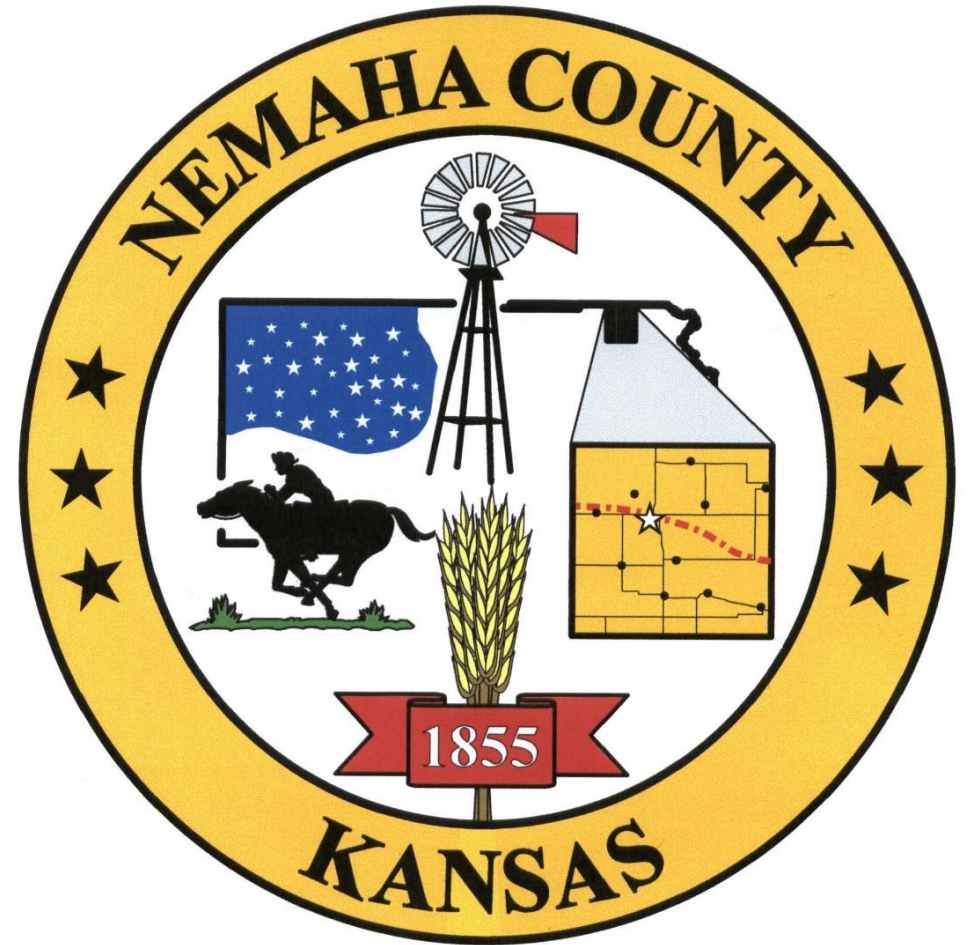


Nemaha County

Comprehensive Plan Presentation
July 19 and 20, 2023



Planning Commission Mandate

“To develop a Comprehensive Plan and to make recommendations regarding the viability of enacting a zoning ordinance, either limited or broad, for Nemaha County.”

Comprehensive Plan Topics

1. Public Engagement – Statistically Valid Citizen Survey
2. Vision Statement
3. Relevant History
4. Demographics and Sociographics
5. Natural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Sabetha Parks and Recreation
8. Seneca Parks and Recreation
9. Parks and Recreation Provided by Others
10. Social Services
11. Water Supply
12. Land Use
13. Transportation

Public Engagement

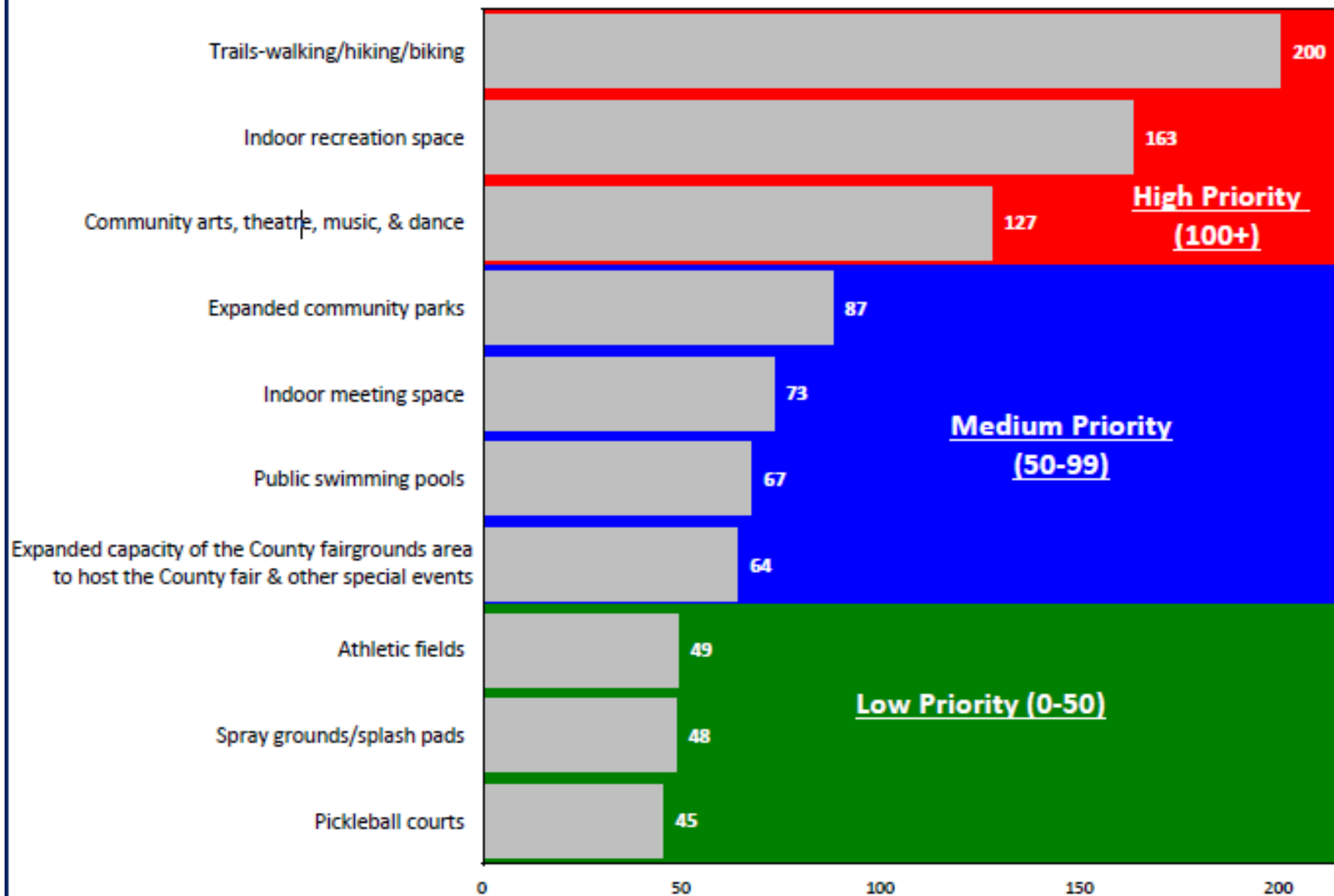
Stakeholder Interviews

- 30 stakeholder categories
- Over 200 citizens

Statistically Valid Survey

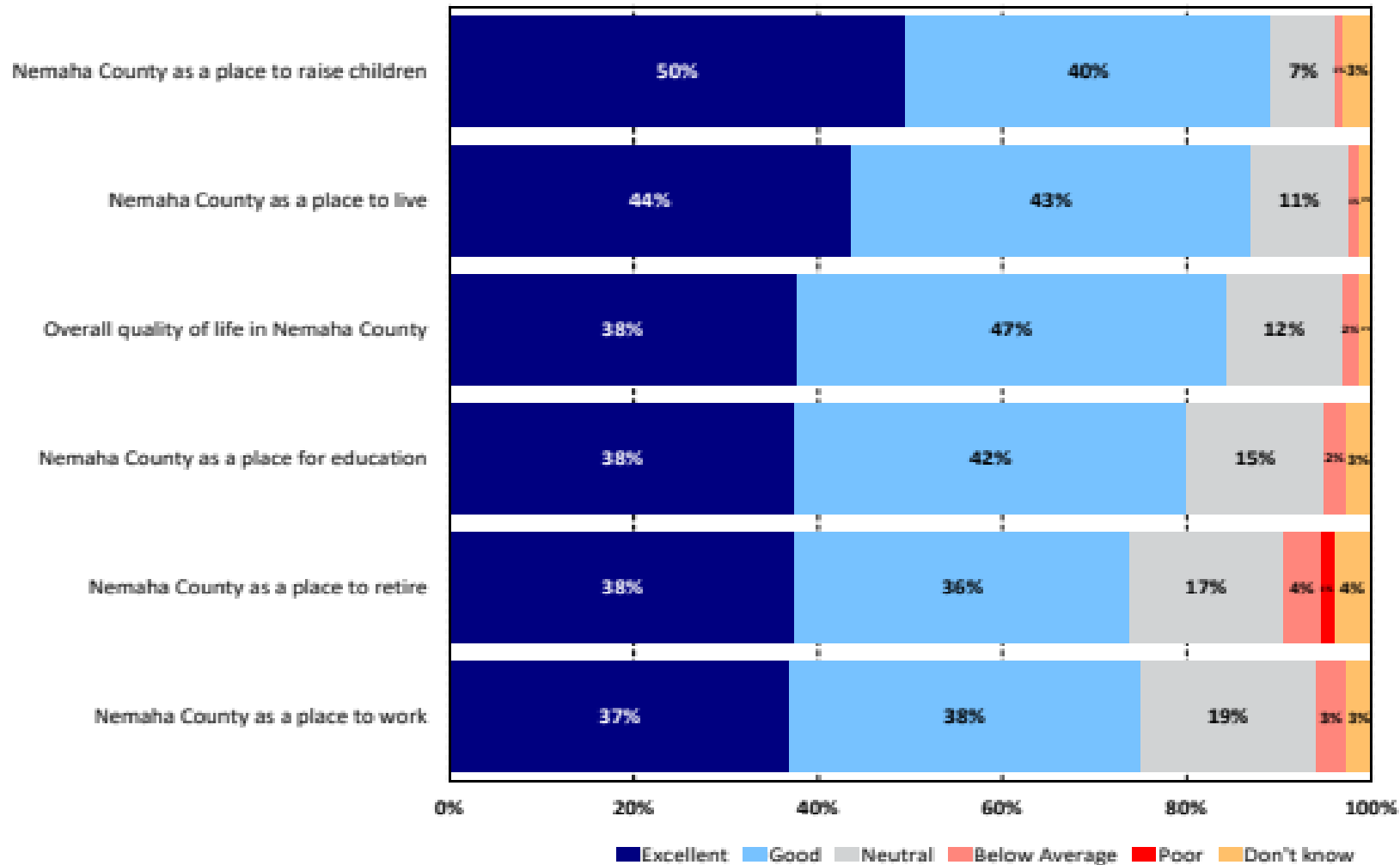
- Distributed to all County households (3,971)
- 945 responses (24% return)
- +/- 2.8% precision
- 95% level of confidence

Top Priorities for Investment for Facility/Amenity Based on Priority Investment Rating



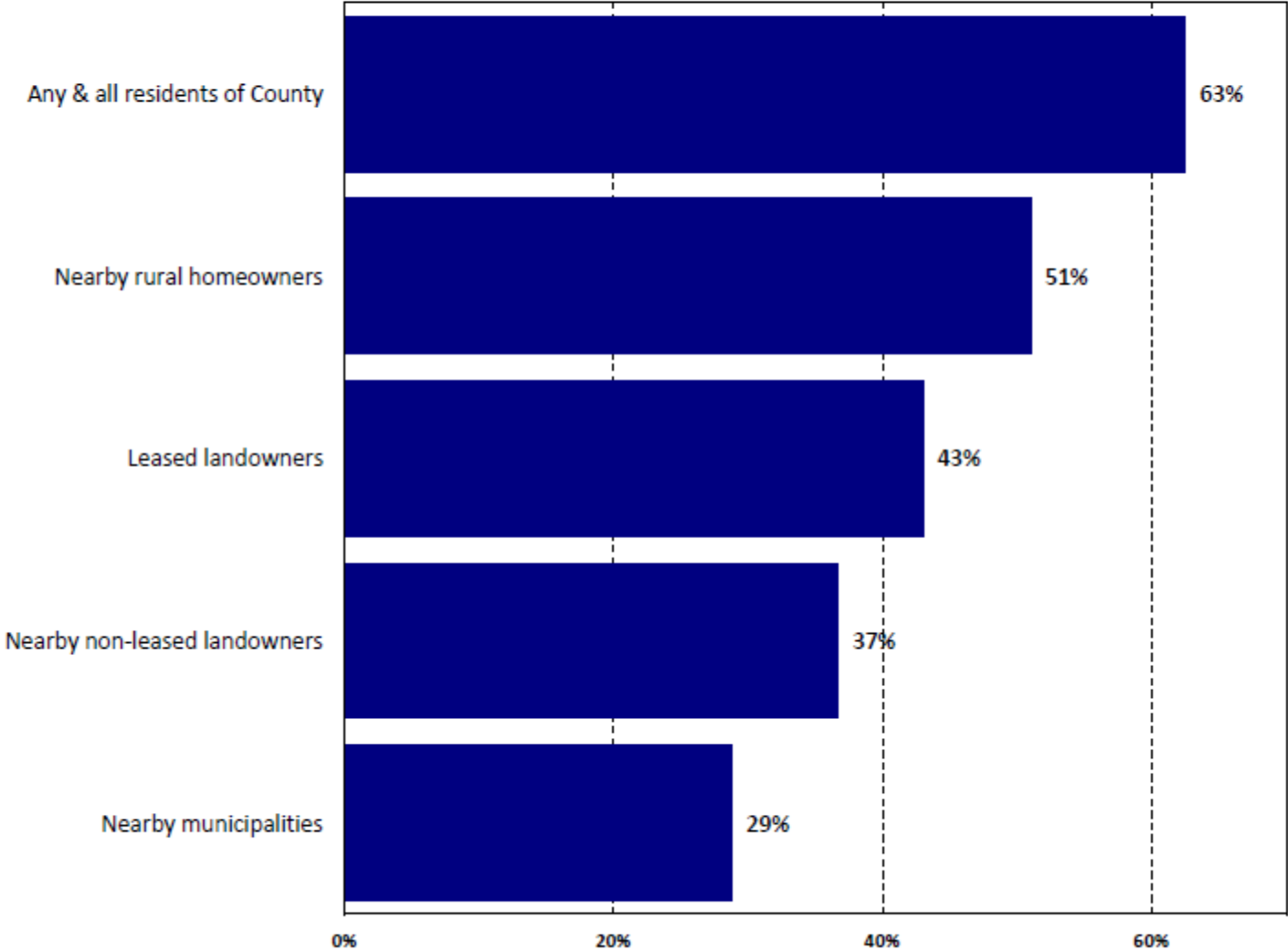
Q1. Rating Aspects of Nemaha County

by percentage of respondents



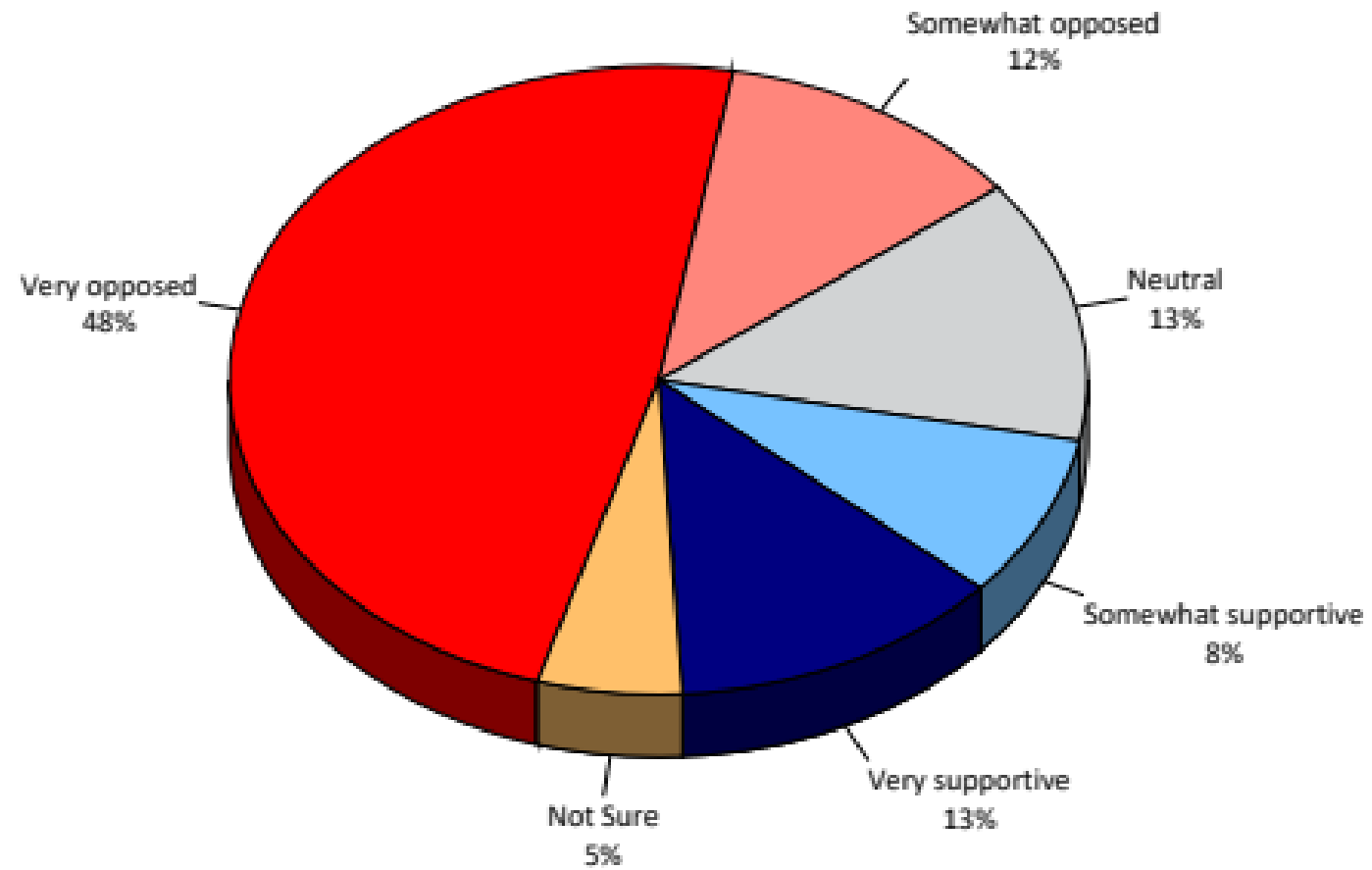
Q5. Which of the following groups do you believe should have a say in whether future industrial wind projects are sited in Nemaha County?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



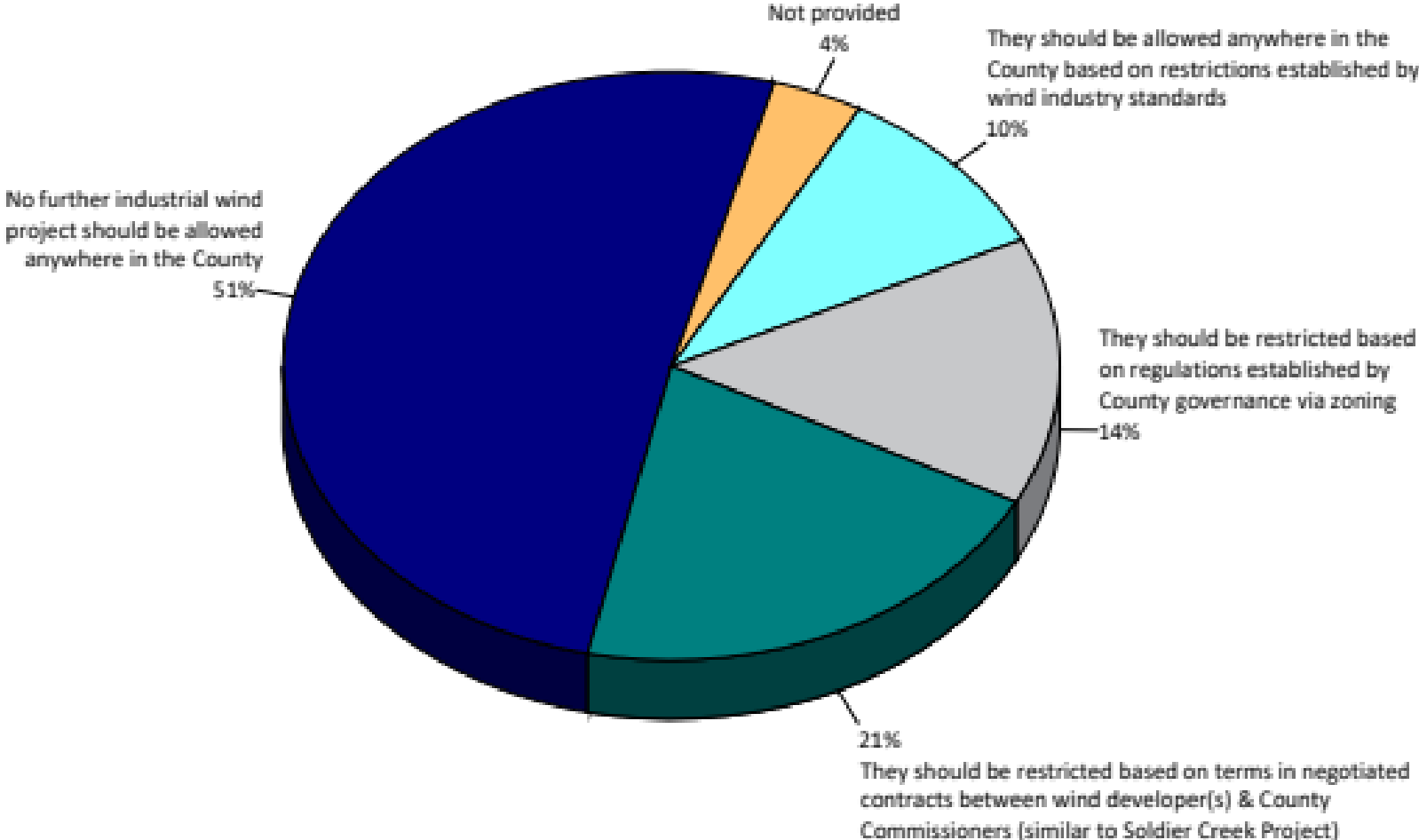
Q6. How supportive would you be of the addition of more industrial wind turbines in Nemaha County?

by percentage of respondents

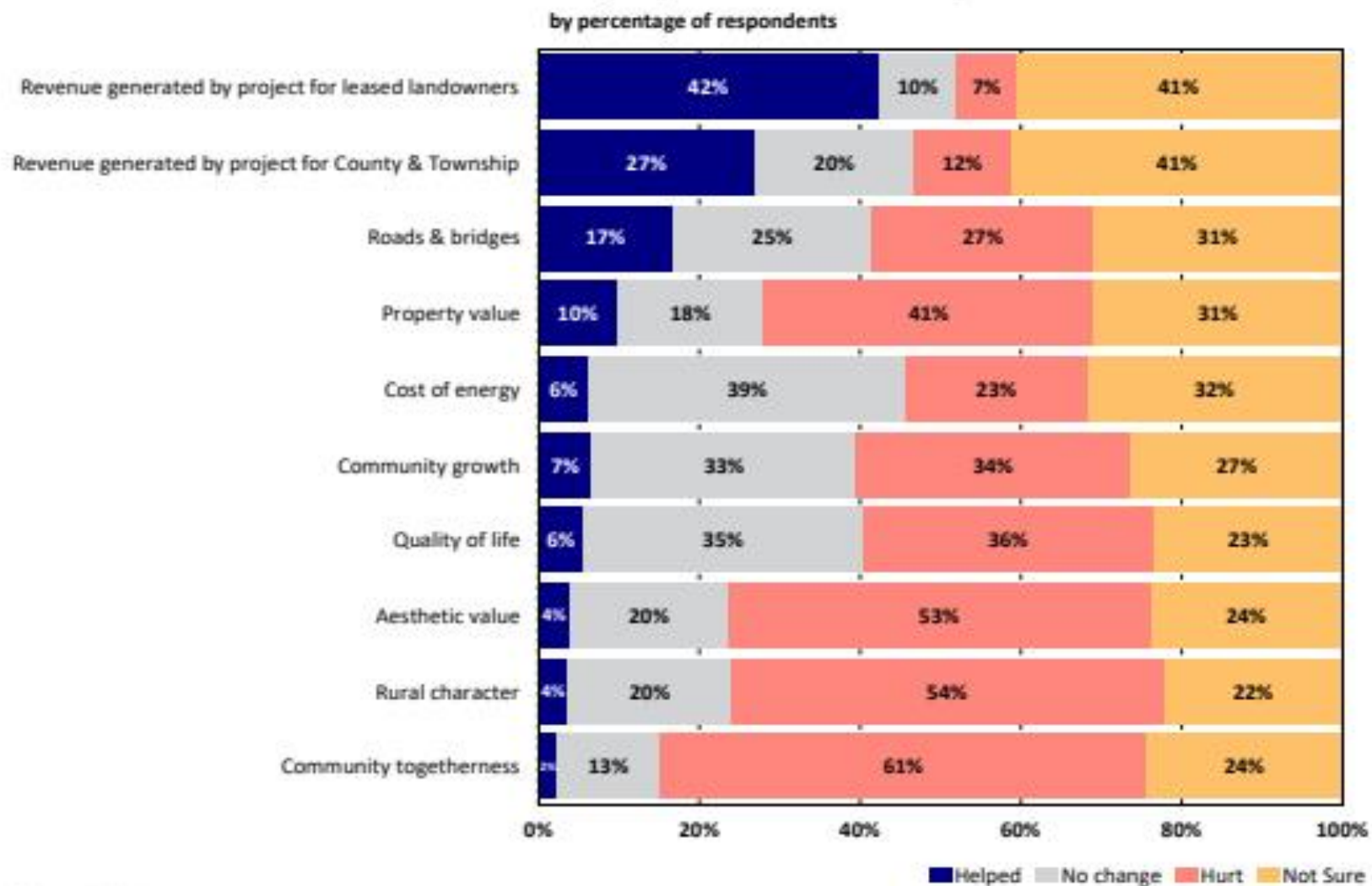


Q7. If additional industrial wind turbine projects were being considered for Nemaha County, by what means do you feel setbacks and other restrictions should be governed?

by percentage of respondents

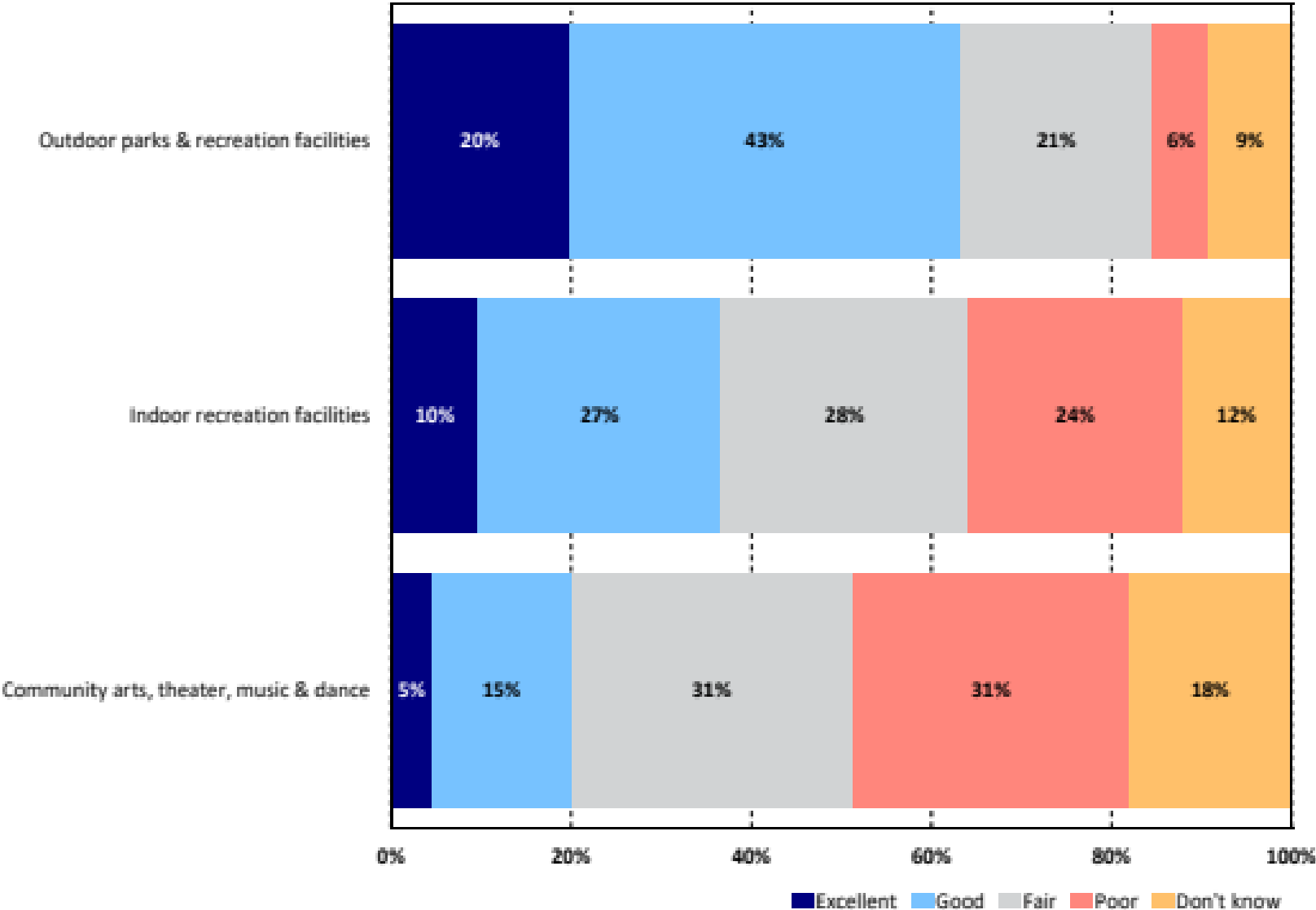


Q8. How do you feel the Soldier Creek Industrial Wind Project has affected each of the following aspects of the County?



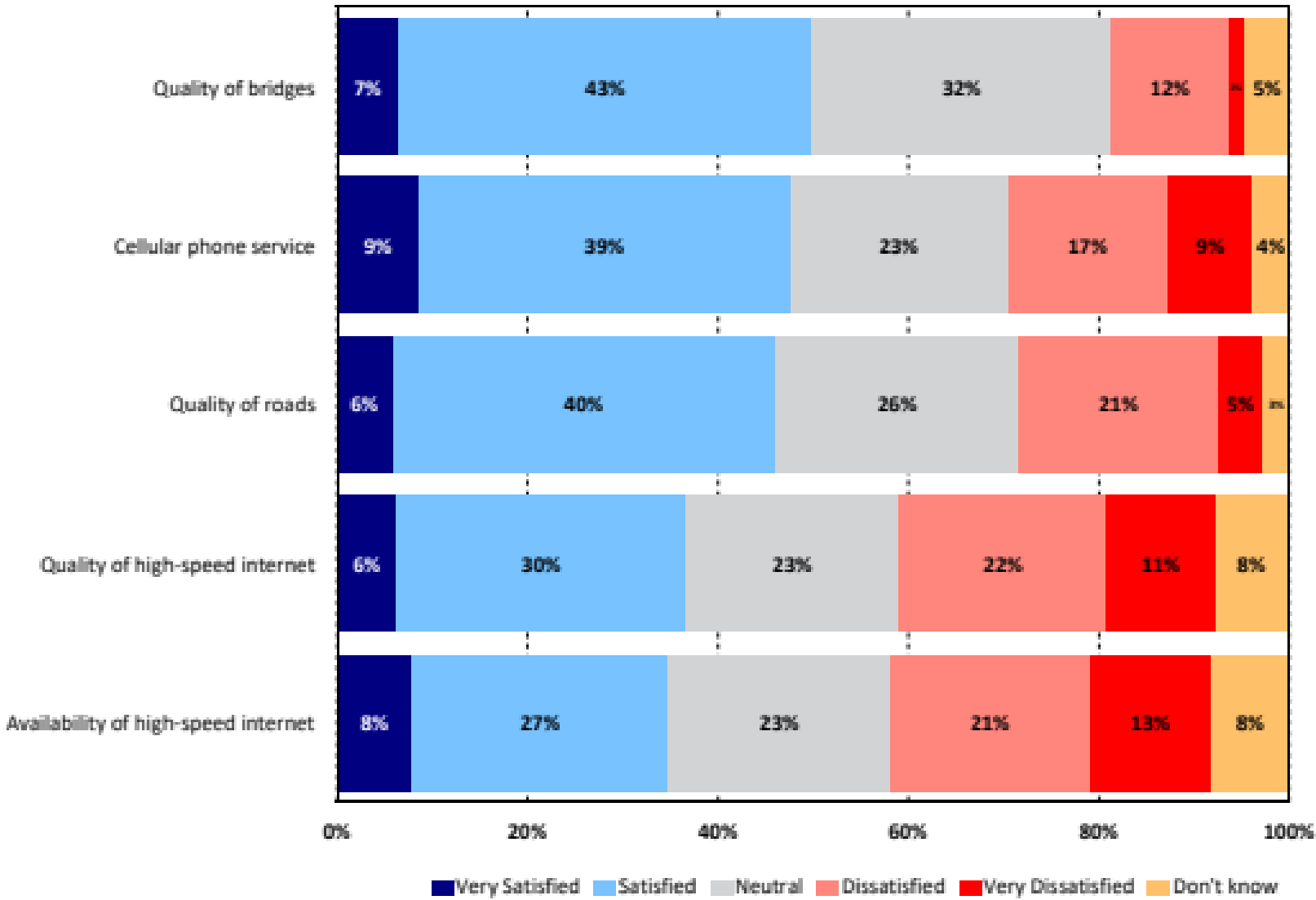
Q9. Overall, how would you rate your access to the following in Nemaha County?

by percentage of respondents



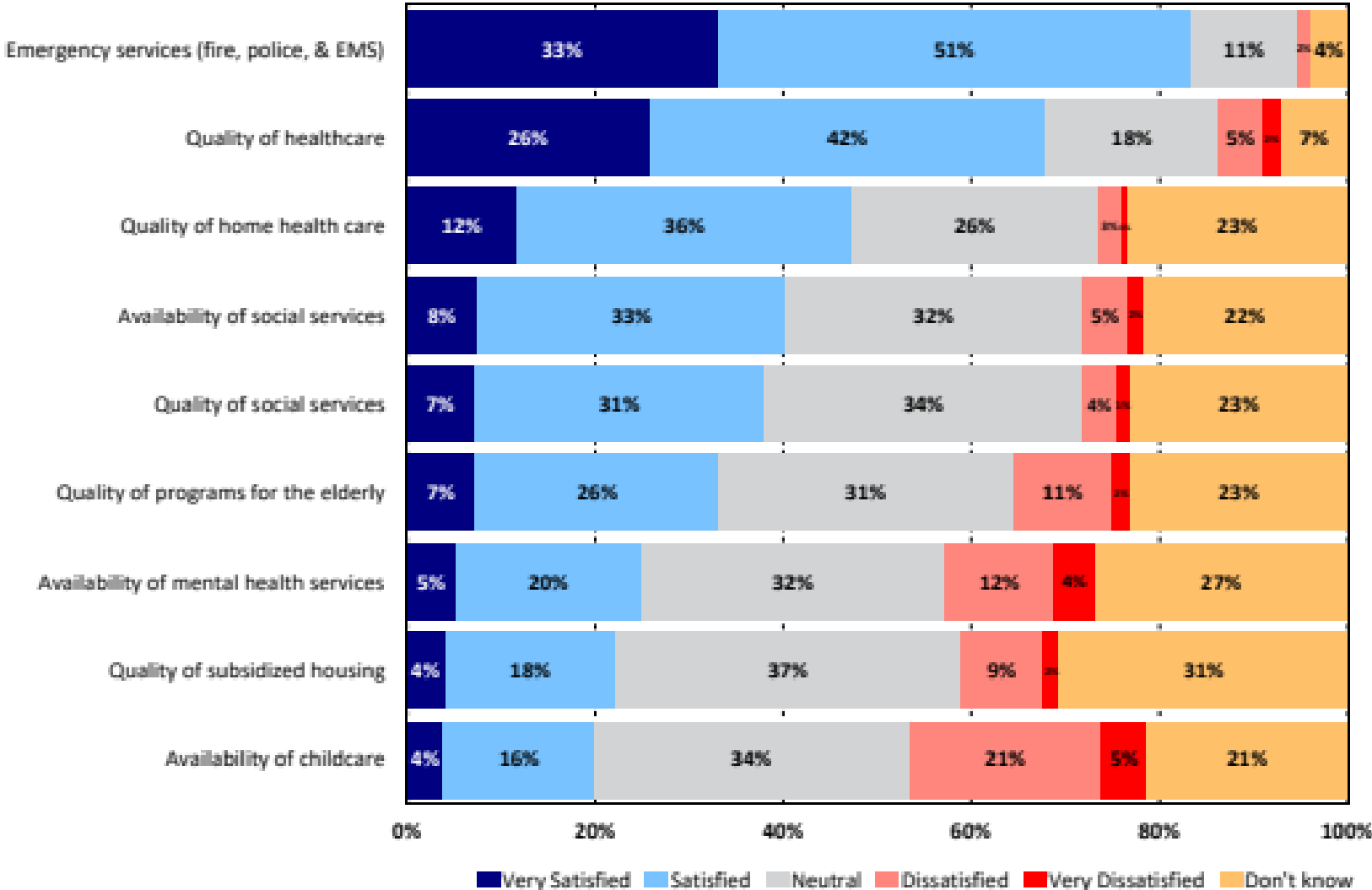
Q13. Level of Satisfaction Regarding Infrastructure in Nemaha County

by percentage of respondents



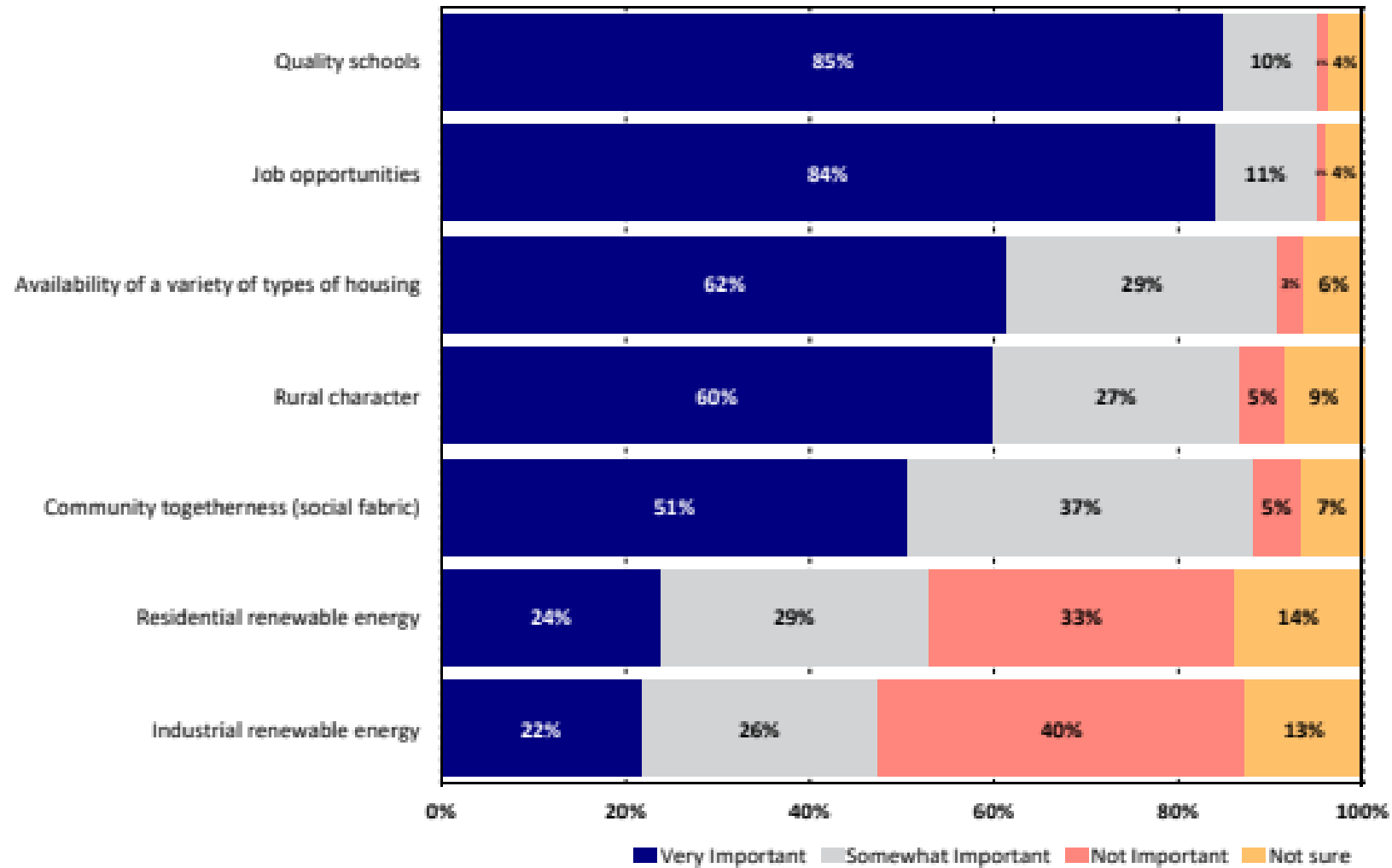
Q14. Level of Satisfaction Regarding Services in Nemaha County

by percentage of respondents



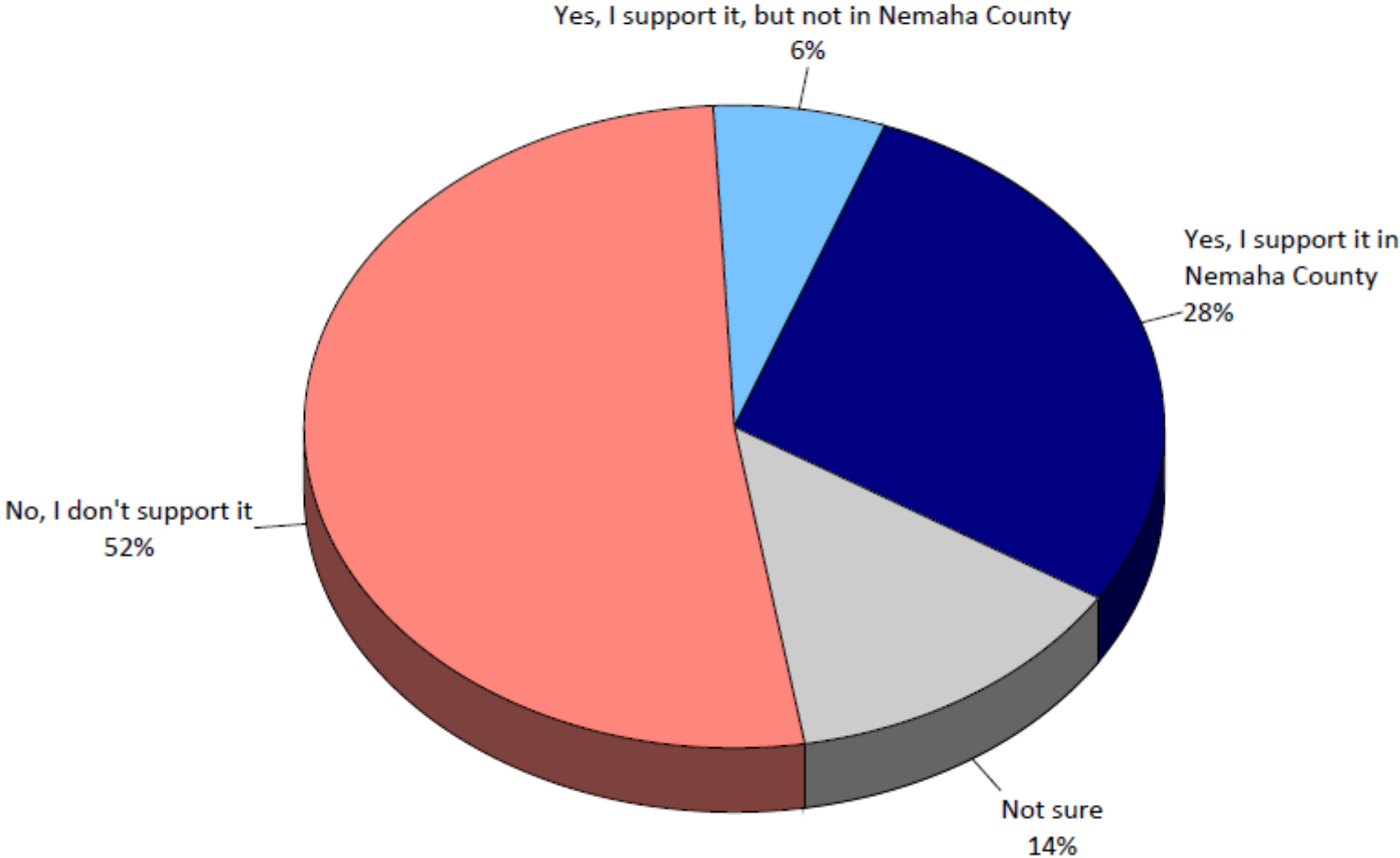
Q15. Please rate how important you feel each of the following traits are in retaining Nemaha County residents and attracting non-County residents to Nemaha County

by percentage of respondents



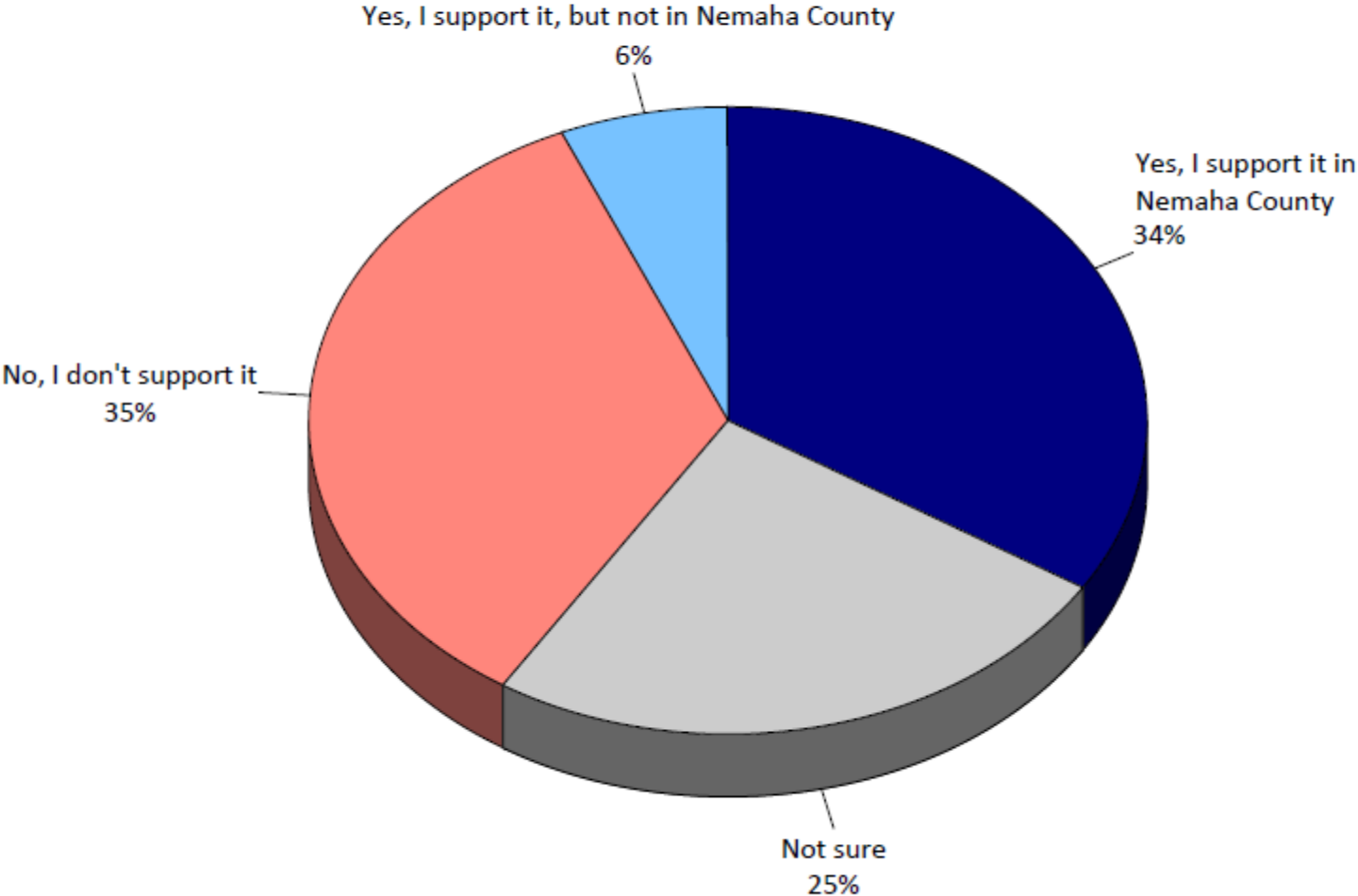
Q17. Do you support industrial wind energy development/generation?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Q18. Do you support industrial solar development/generation?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Relevant History

- Historic trails provide an opportunity to organize special events that attract tourists and the possibility of new revenue coming into the County.
- Natural resources such as water, wildlife, plants, and soil are both plentiful and of high quality, thus an attraction for current and future residents, businesses, and industries.
- Ancestry plays an important role in the future development of the County as businesses and industries are always seeking a work force with a strong work ethic, quality workmanship and craftsmanship.
- Cropland acres that include land that was once farmed and has been planted back to grass is the biggest usage in the County at 294,806 acres.

Economic Development

- Continue to support the Glacial Hill Business Resource Center, when requested.
- Invest in, secure, support, and offer reliable broadband access in public places around the County, especially for schools, hospitals, and County buildings and facilities.
- Prepare and adopt a County economic development incentive policy where and when appropriate.
- Stay informed as the State develops a Center of Excellence for alternative crop development and value-added opportunities through the USDA.

Economic Development

- Support and promote the resources and advanced training programs of the USDA.
- Actively support the National FFA chapters in Nemaha County. County government and school districts need to ensure these chapters are actively recognized, funded, and promoted to strengthen their local membership.
- Encourage and assist when appropriate any effort to connect all Nemaha County households to broadband. As stated in this Plan, “Broadband access for all farmers is also critical to the Nemaha County agricultural industry. As stated by the Kansas Farm Bureau”.

Social Services

- Health Outcomes (mortality and morbidity or quality of life rank very high at #3 in Nemaha County when compared to all 104 Ranked Kansas Counties.
- Health Factors (Access and quality clinical care, environmental quality, education, employment, income, family/social support, and community safety) also rank very high at #5 in Nemaha County when compared to all 104 Ranked Kansas Counties.
- Access to exercise opportunities in Nemaha County ranks low as a **health behavior and preventative health indicator** when compared to the State of Kansas. This indicator was also noted in the Parks and Recreation Document which emphasized the need for more indoor opportunities such as a walking track.

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Water Supply

Water supply in Nemaha County is rated as “good” by Elmer Ronnebaum, General Manager of the Kansas Rural Water Association. While the rural water districts and cities in Nemaha County presently have good supply sources, upgrades to the distribution systems to meet ever-increasing demand will continue to be necessary. Those improvements include increase in pipeline size, looping of lines, and increased water storage capacity.

Transportation

The County Road and Bridge Budget for 2021 was \$3.2678 Million. County staff feels that the Level of Service provided for road users is good.

The County has thrived as a location for agricultural and manufacturing businesses. Its access to transportation as detailed in this document offers citizens who have chosen to live in the County the options that are needed to meet their individual and community goals. Results of the ETC Institute county-wide survey show that 53% are satisfied with the quality of bridges and 48% are satisfied with the quality of roads.

Next Steps

Step One – The Planning Commission will review the public hearing comments of July 19 and 20

Step Two – The Planning Commission will consider either adopting the Comprehensive Plan or amending it

Step Three - A certified copy of the Comprehensive Plan and public hearing comments will be sent to the County Commissioners for their approval