

# Bow Town Governance Survey January 2022

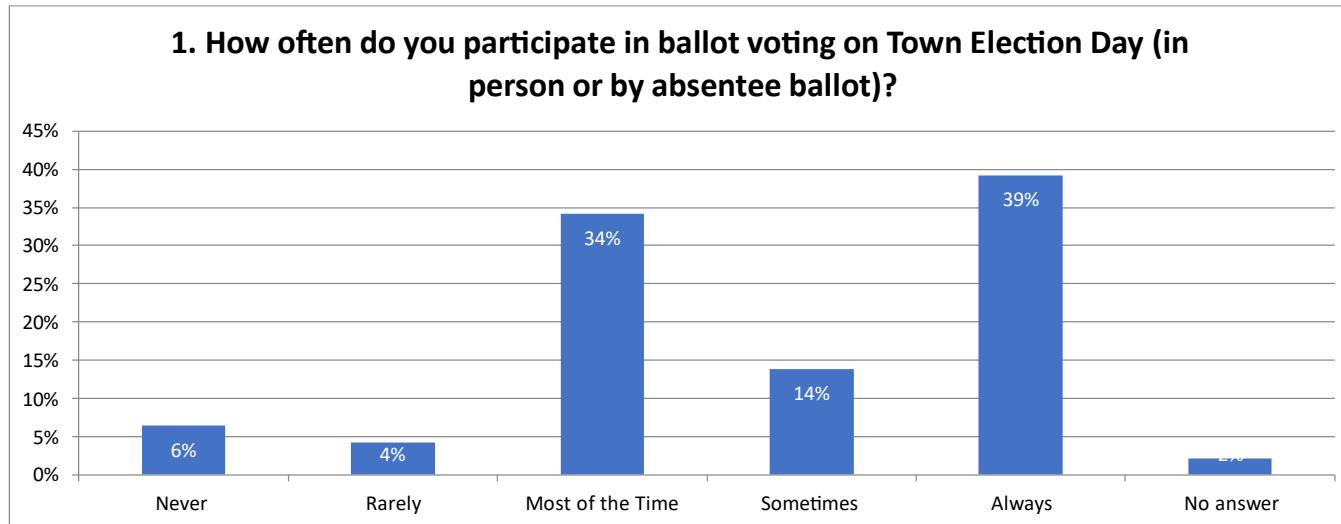
## TOWN GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

### SURVEY RESULTS

296 total records collected  
(254 full responses; 42 partial)

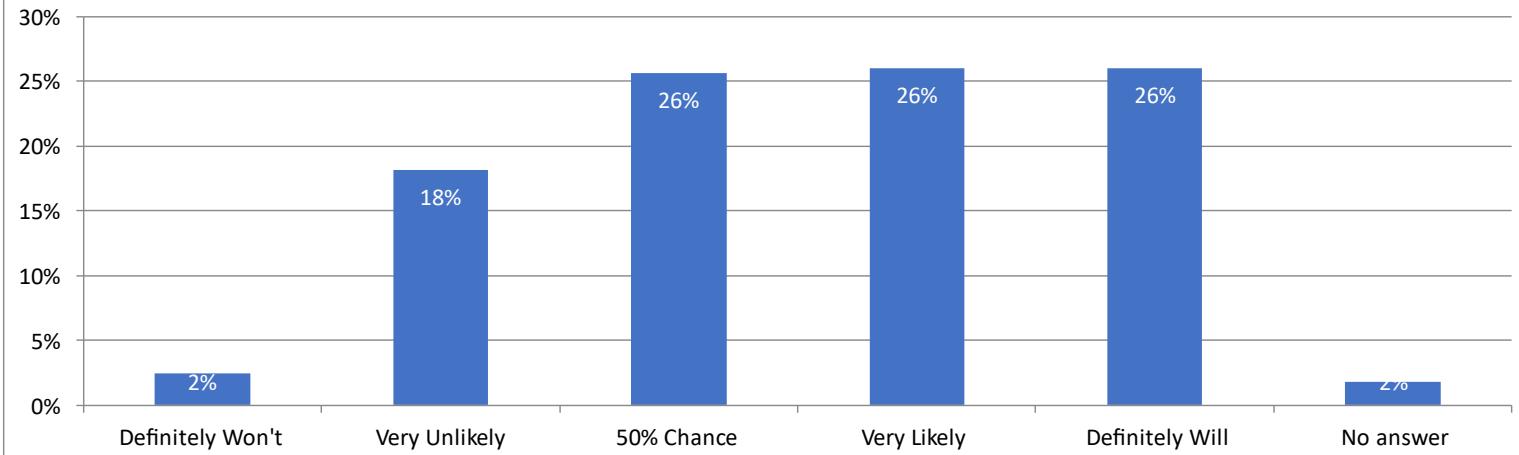
#### SECTION I

I.1 Total: 281 (includes 6 with no answer)



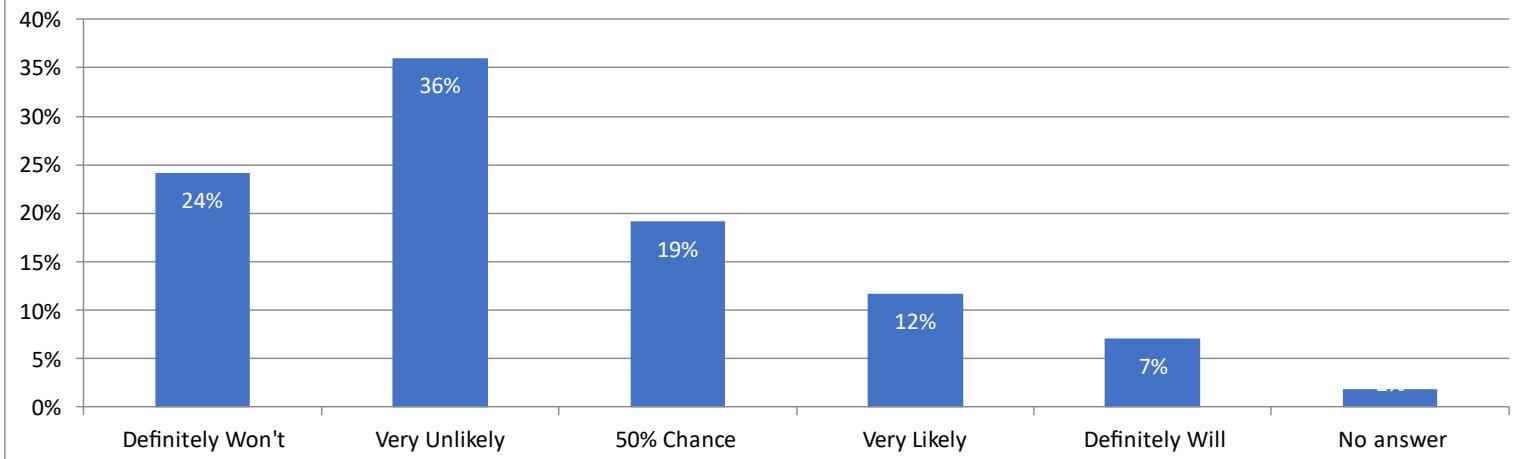
I.2 Total: 281 (includes 5 with no answer)

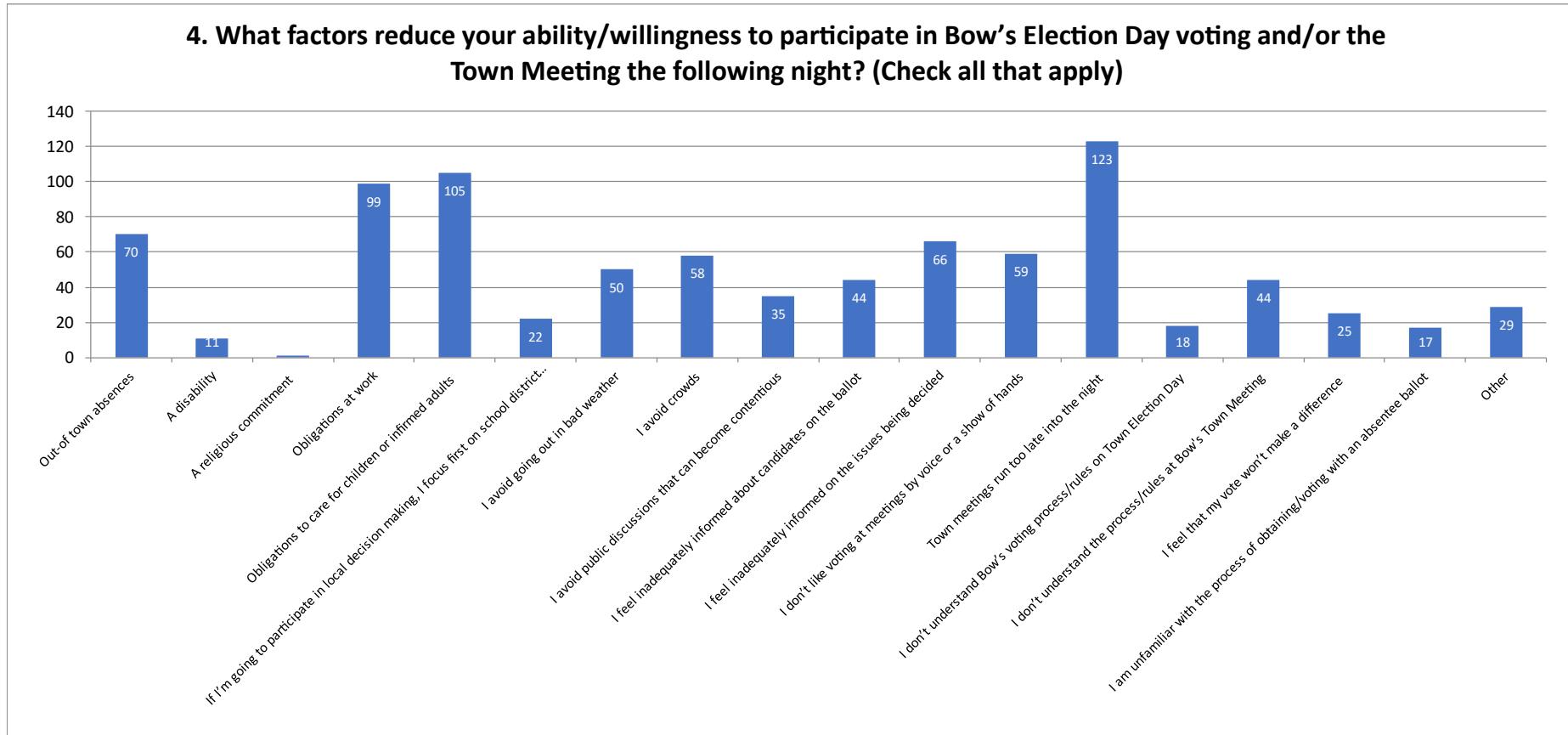
**2. How likely are you to attend the Wednesday evening town meeting if there will be a vote that is important to you?**



I.3 Total: 281 (includes no answer)

**3. How likely are you to attend the Wednesday evening town meeting if none of the issues subject to voting at the meeting are important to you?**





"OTHER" Factors that discourage participation in town meeting/election day (29 total):

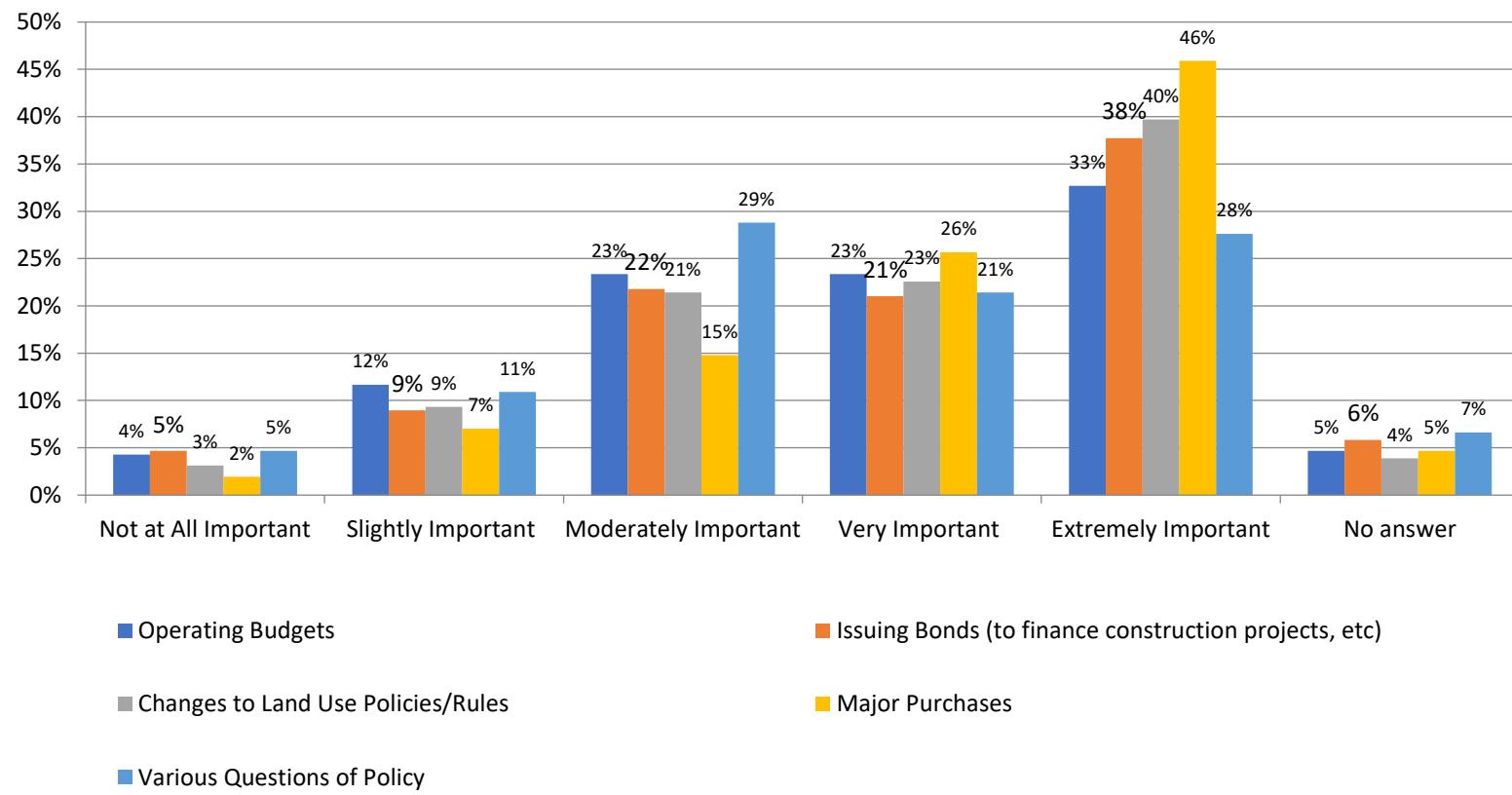
- COVID
- I am immuno-comprised and avoid crowds because of Covid. What about teleconferencing?
- Covid-19 - I do not want to be around un-masked, un-vaxxed shelfish idiots who risks everyone one else's health
- COVID could be a concern
- COVID
- COVID

- Never concise; things drag on, postponed for nonsense, we need accurate and quick actions to get things done!
- The town meeting and the school meeting take too long and we rehash the same thing over and over the people who go to the meeting already know how they will vote. no reason to continue in this format.
- Too long, sometimes takes an hour to even get started after speeches.
- I do my research and am prepared to vote - don't need to spend hours debating or waiting for critical issues requiring vote.
- There's no break - the whole meeting is a huge energy marathon - especially if the issues are contentious.
- The open discussions need to be limited for 3 minutes per person, for example. The majority of people already decided how they will vote.
- THE MEETINGS GO SO LONG-and while I do enjoy hearing others reasons for voting, there are far too many to listen to in a single evening!
- The people at the meetings are ridiculous
- The town doesn't adequately notify residents of what's going on at the town meeting. Meeting announcements are posted at various places in town but not areas that many residents frequent. I also the town website regarding meetings doesn't really state much of anything. The website should provide much more detail regarding the meetings than it does.
- Town meeting has become extremely cumbersome and frustrating. There are too many uninformed people clogging the works. Consider town council form of government.
- Town Meeting for a town of Bow's size is antiquated. Every voter/taxpayer deserves a vote.
- There's no absentee option for town meetings
- Ballot items are difficult to understand, and there is not way to get clarity in the voting booth
- IN THE PAST I had no involvement in town related politics. I didn't participate because I had no idea that anything was even happening. Now I'm more informed, I'll always attend knowing that the process is important to me.
- Ineligible to vote
- New resident
- Not aware of meeting date
- The business meeting should be on Saturday, not a week night
- Town meeting should be on Saturday during the day light hours.
- understand being inadequately informed is on my initiative, however when things are left off agendas and end up being discussed and when town meeting notes are not openly available to the public I develop concern about those in office keeping information from the public to have things go the way they want.
- Town representatives are disingenuous
- None
- I don't necessarily care.

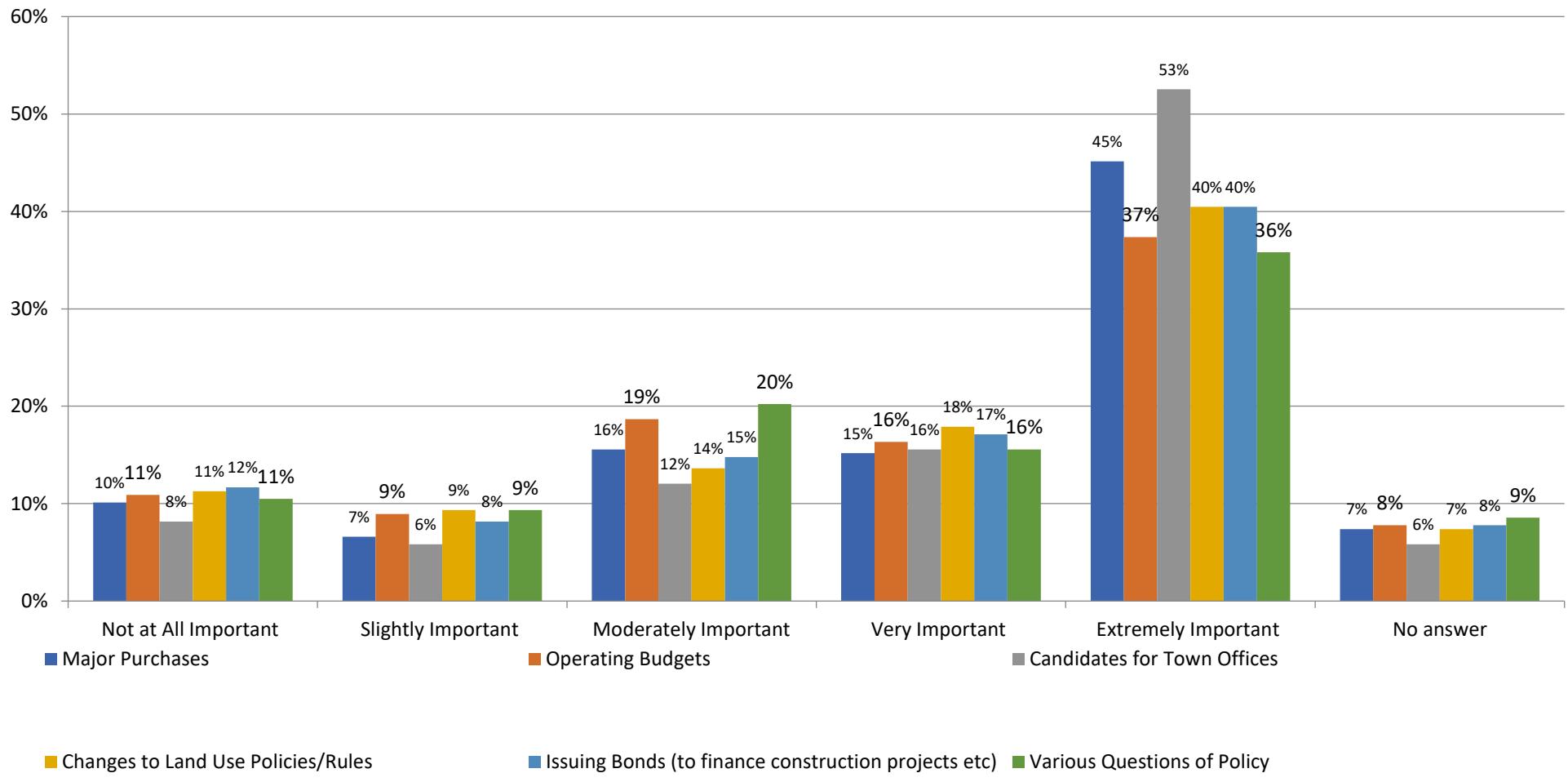
## SECTION II

II.1 Total Surveys: 257 including those with no answers

### **1. How important to you is HAVING YOUR OWN, DIRECT VOTE on the following matters as compared to having informed, elected representatives decide them?**

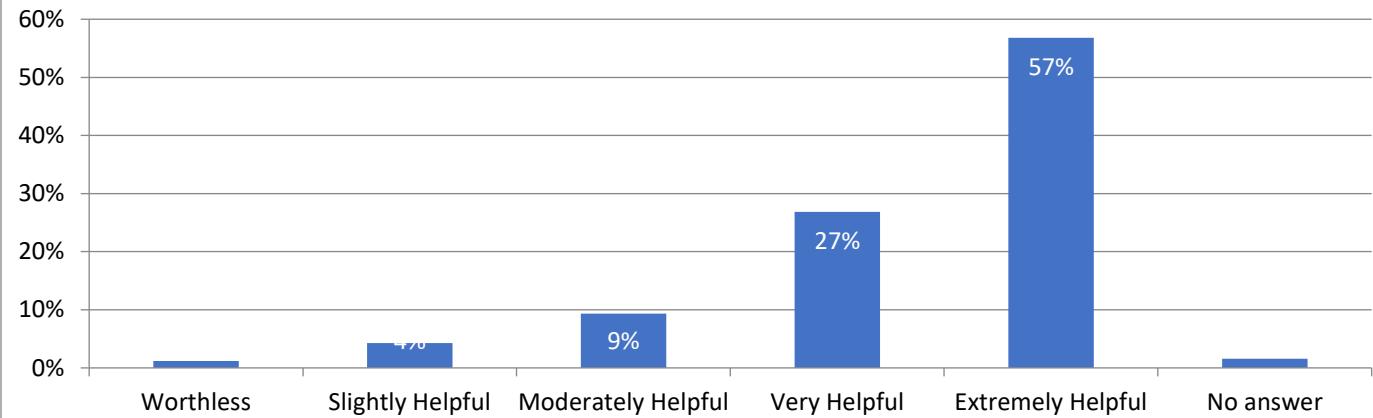


**2. When the following matters are put to a popular vote, how important to you is having the option of voting on them by ABSENTEE BALLOT?**



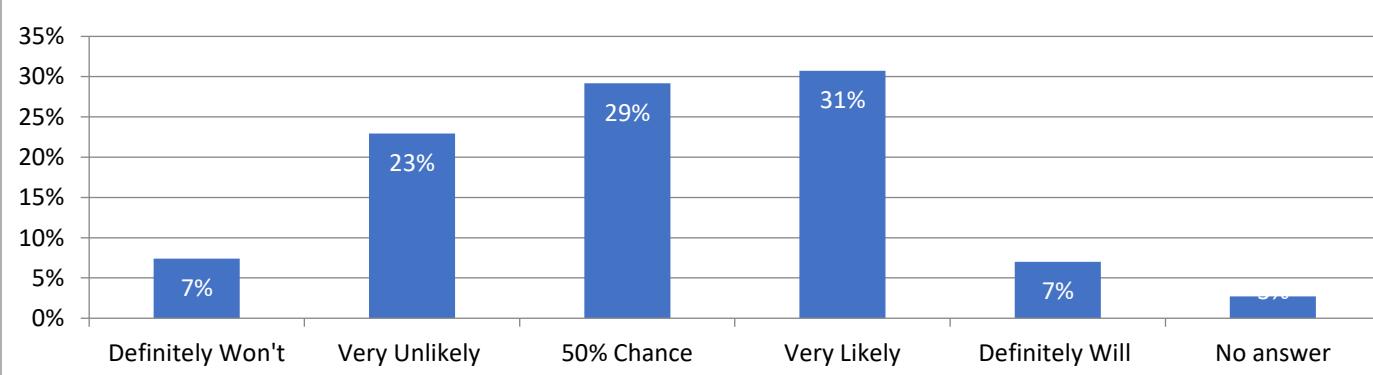
II.3 Total: 257 (includes 4 with no answer)

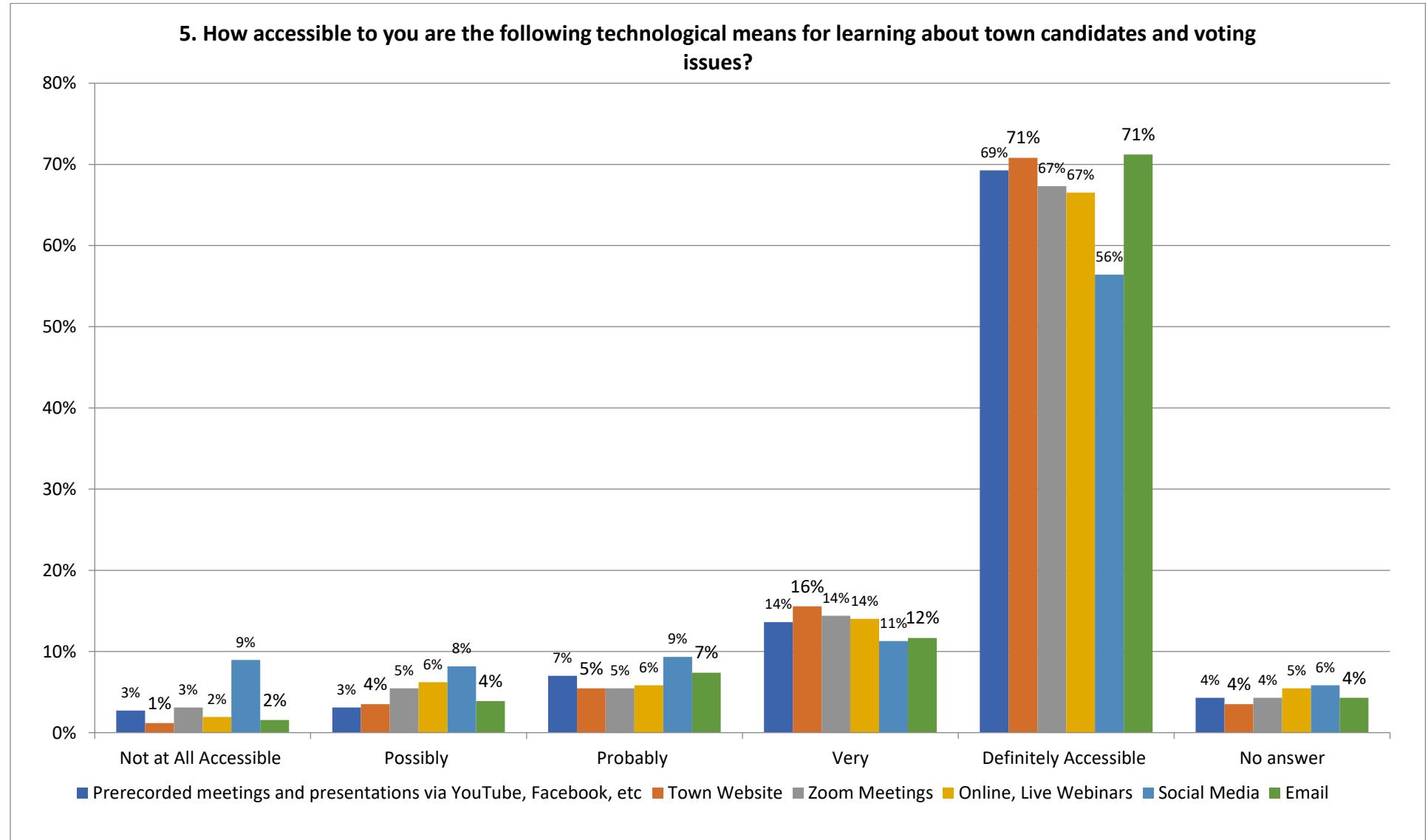
**3. When a very lengthy ballot on Town Election Day might create long waits to vote in person, how helpful to you is seeing a sample copy of the ballot before you arrive at the polls to vote?**



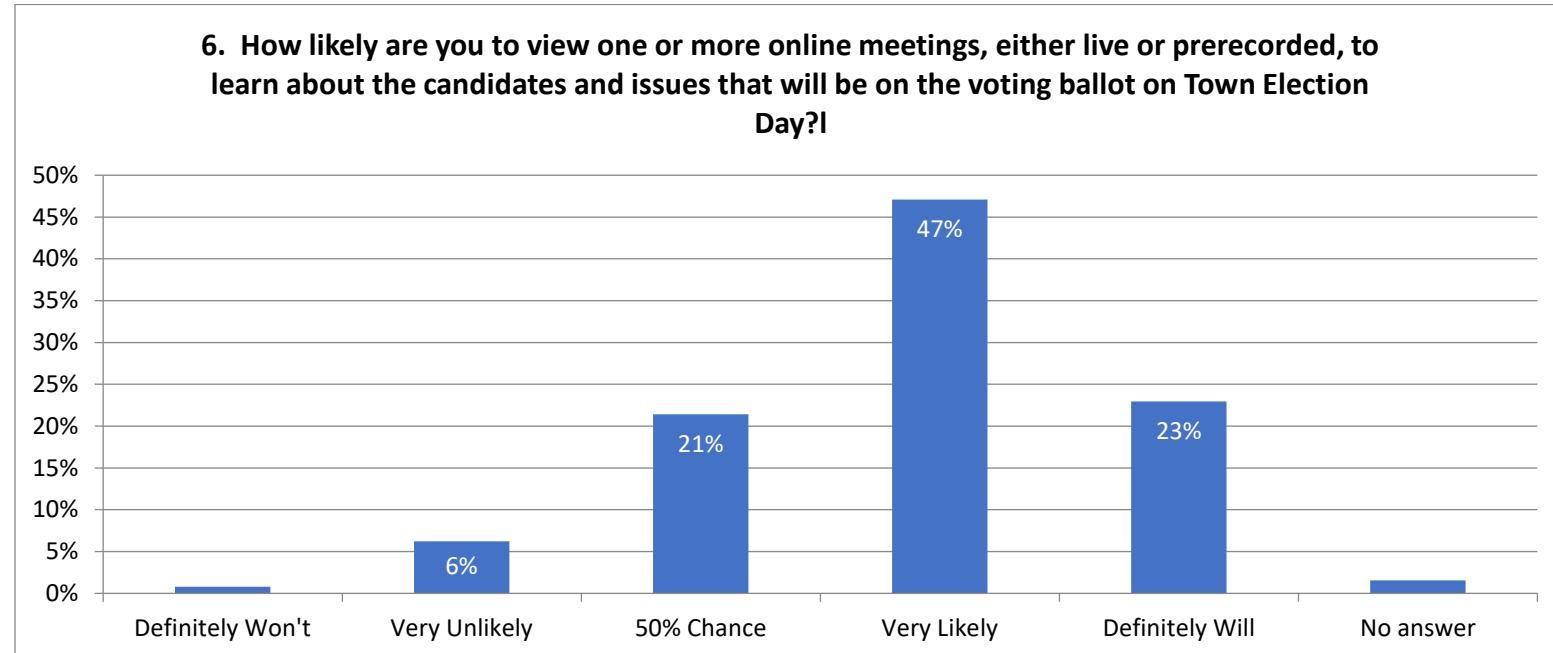
II.4 Total 257 (includes 7 with no answer)

**4. How likely are you to attend at least one in-person meeting every winter for learning and deliberating about the issues being put to a town vote if the actual vote is postponed to a ballot vote on Election Day?**

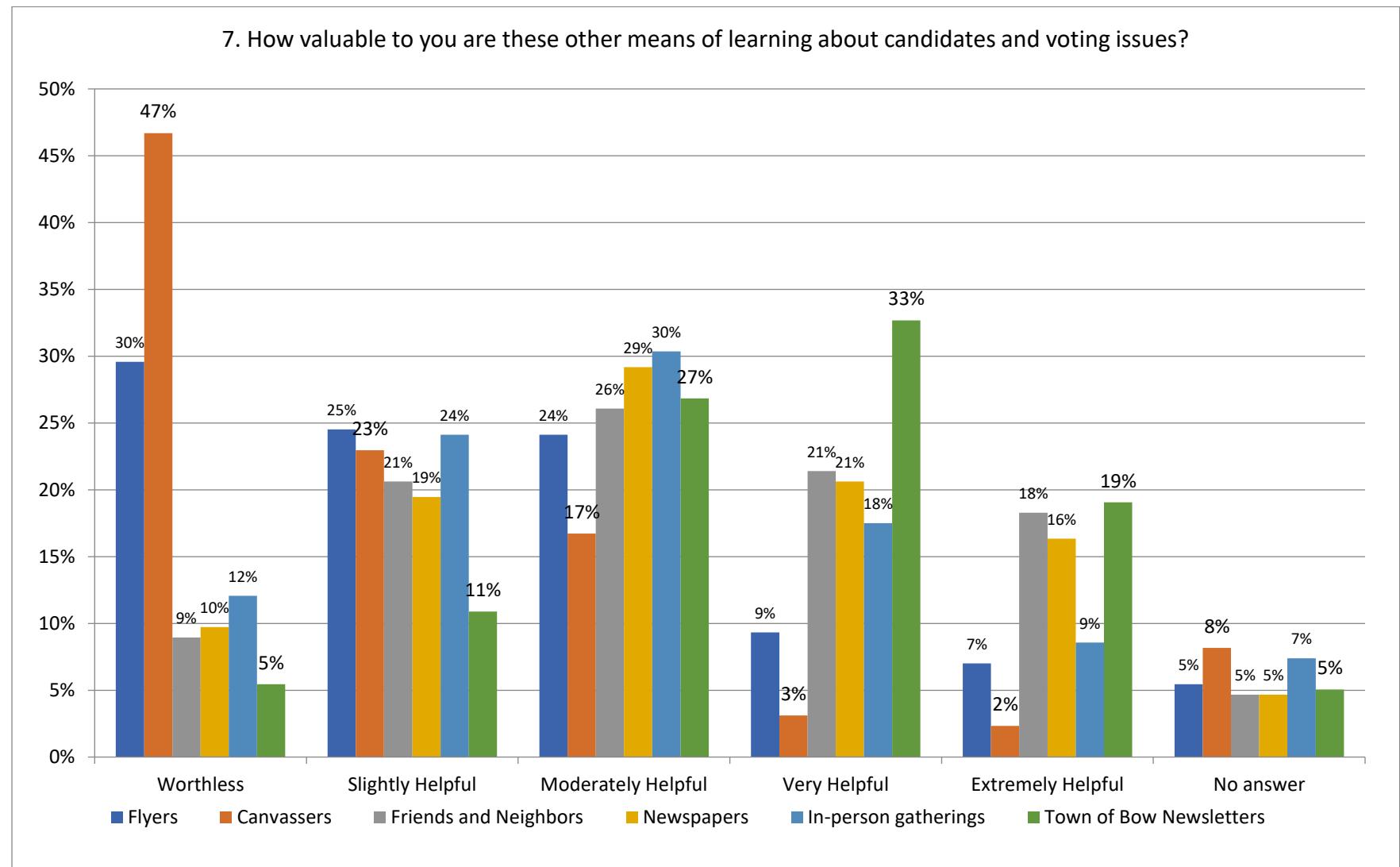




II.6 Total 257 (includes 4 with no answer)

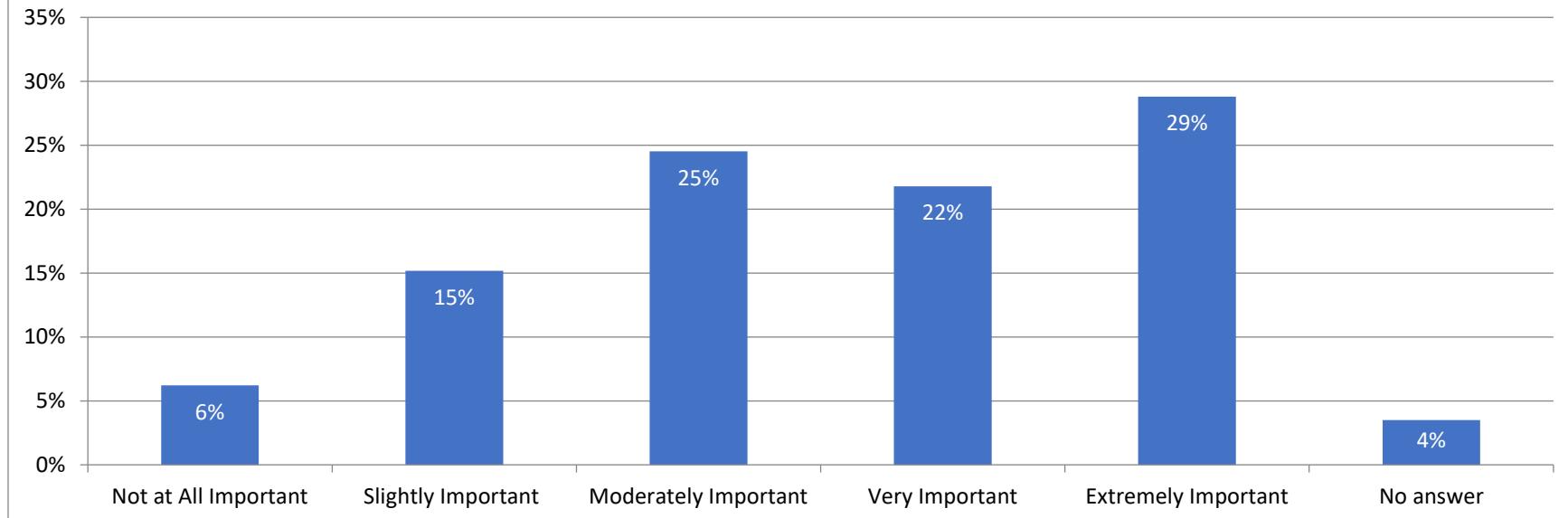


II.7 Total Surveys: 257 including those with no answers

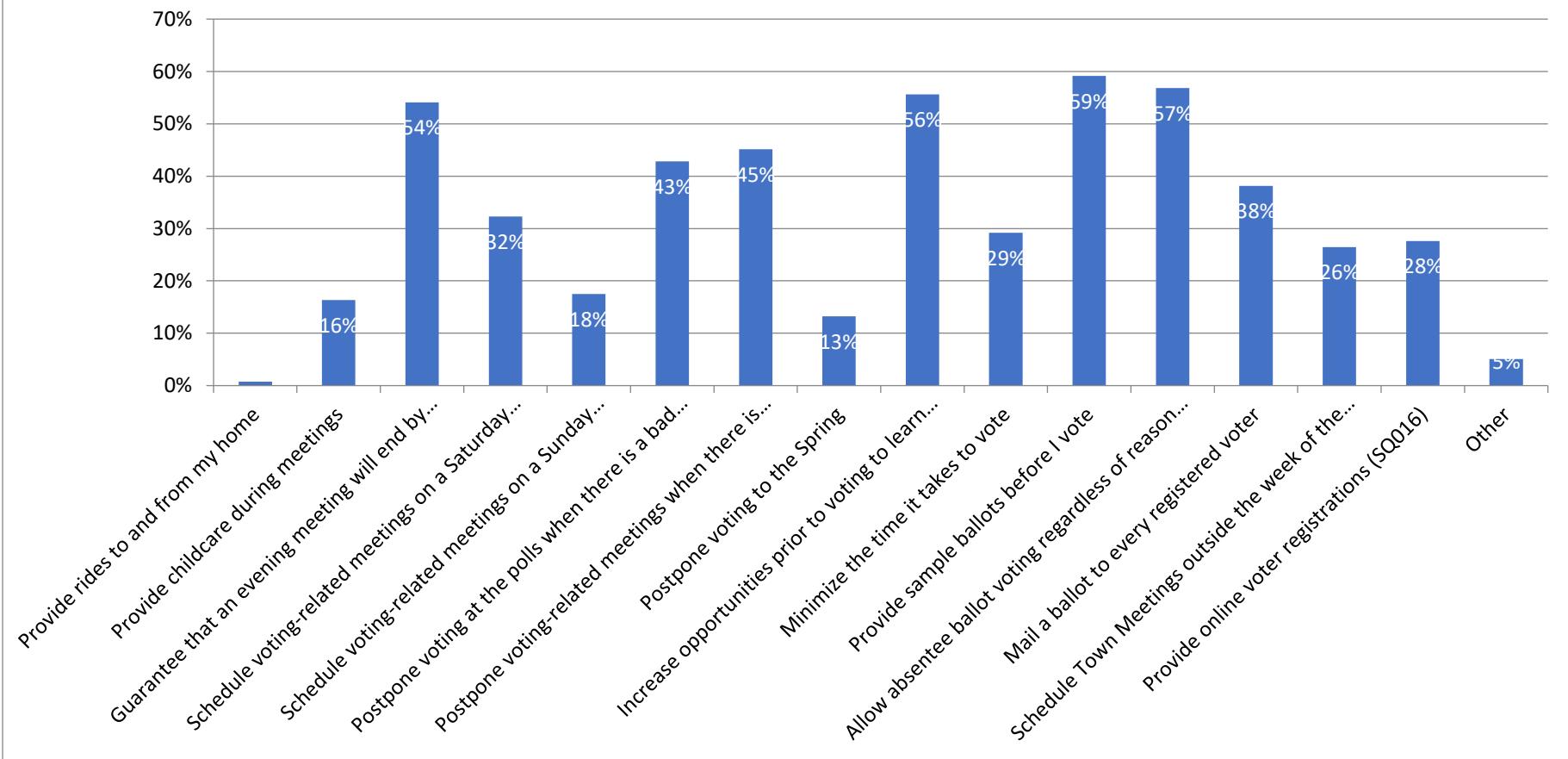


II.8 Total: 257 (includes 9 with no answer)

**8. Most of the questions (“articles”) that are put to a vote at our current town meetings are developed by very well-informed members of the Select Board and Budget Committee, who we elect. At Bow’s current town meetings, voters can amend the articles be**



**9. Mark below conditions that would significantly increase the likelihood of your voting and/or participating in voting-related activities.**



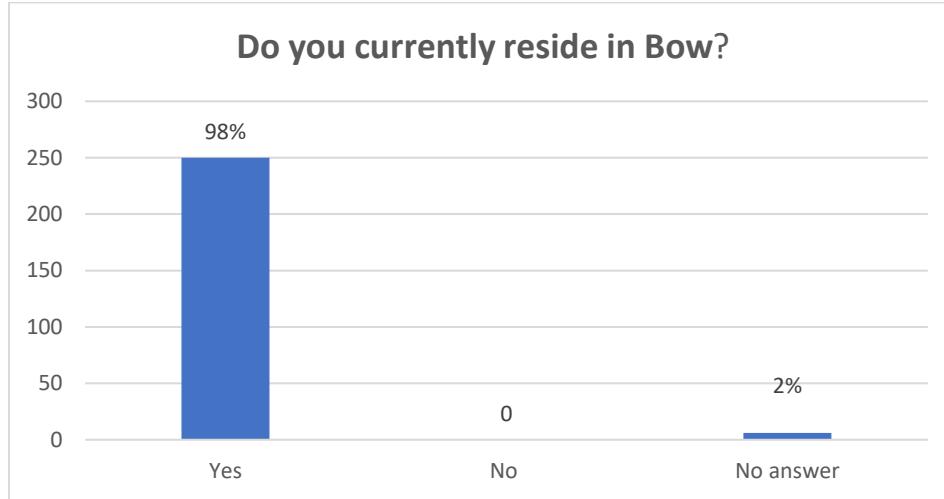
“OTHER” Factors that increase participation (13 Total):

- No town meetings
- Vote for the warrant articles at the voting booth on voting day
- Ballot voting

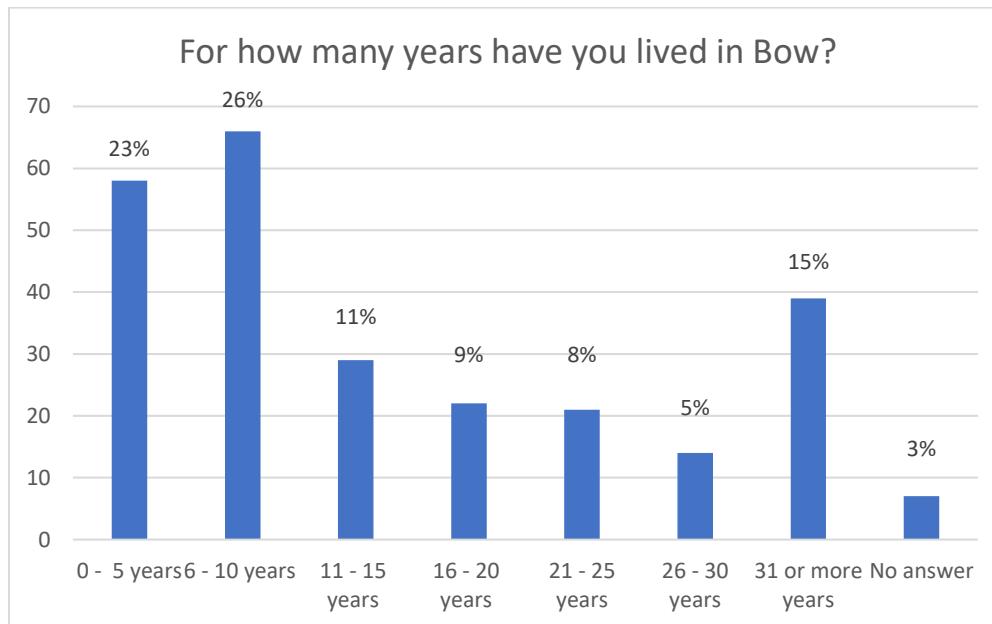
- SB2. Vote at the Polls! Attend meetings/Zoom, etc. before a vote. Town Meetings have become a ridiculous waste of time. It takes until 8 pm to even start with the Warrant. WE DESERVE BETTER.
- Sb2 would be ideal
- Allow voters to gather to discuss if they want more information - but those who do their homework should be able to vote
- Provide current information of each issue/item online, a week ahead of voting day, with the opportunity for residents to ask questions or leave comments where those both opposed and for each item may publicly respond. Also, and this is very important: change this specific section so that it's not so substandard. To try and re-read my answer and make changes is so difficult, it's ridiculous!
- participatory video access to all forms of meetings, information and otherwise
- Note that, for me, a zoom meeting qualifies, and is acutally ideal, as an in-person meeting for learning more about issues and candidates
- no problem with as it is although it would fit my schedule better if it were other than a Wednesday night.
- limited time for public commentaries
- Purge the voter rolls to get accurate counts no
- None. I will be there regardless

### SECTION III

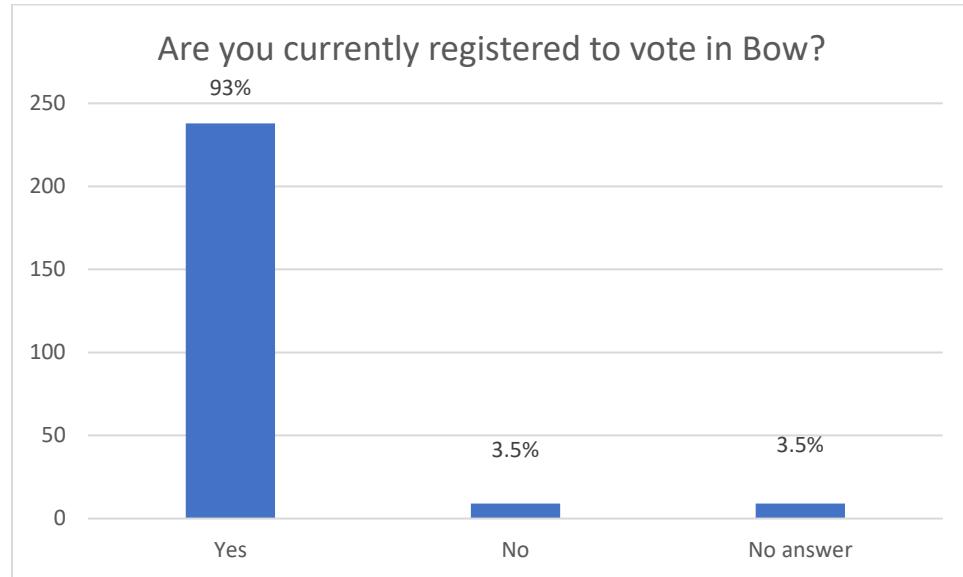
III.1 Total: 256 (includes 6 with no answers)



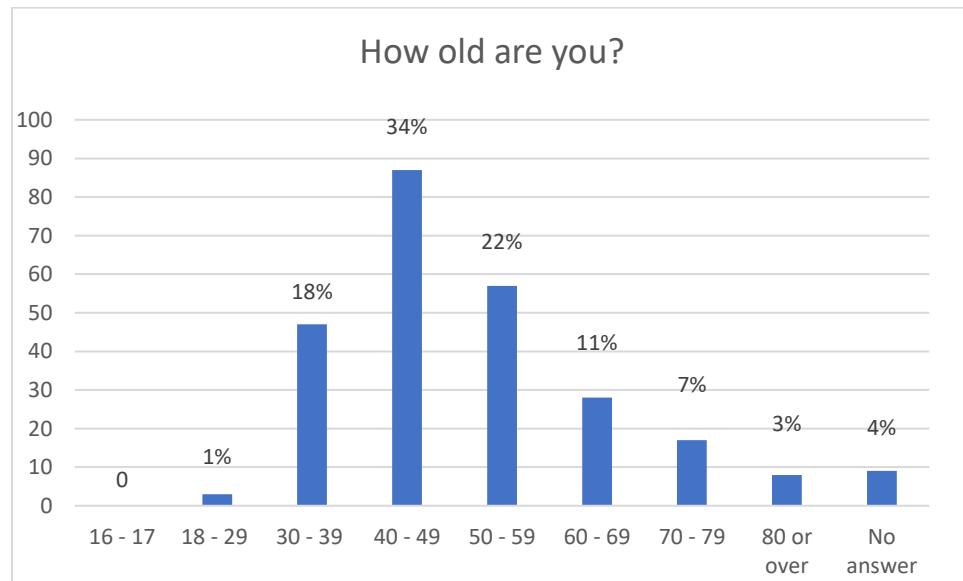
III.2 Total: 256 (includes 7 with no answer)



III.3 Total: 256 (includes 9 with no answer)



III.4 Total: 256 (includes 9 with no answer)



### COMMENTS RE TOWN GOVERNANCE RECEIVED BY EMAIL

Note: This excludes emails received that focused on individual problems accessing or submitting the survey

From a couple:

*With regards to the survey on town meetings and the voting process in Bow, we would like to see things simply stay as they are. Thank you*

From individuals:

I'm friendly to the SB2 form of governance that has been cited down recently. If it will come as a warrant again, I wonder if putting a sunset clause into the warrant would be helpful. Propose the change for 5 years at which time specific action will be required to continue the SB2 format...if no action then we automatically revert back to Town Meeting format.

*Thank you for this opportunity.*

*Step 2, Q 1*

*Direct vote does this include absentee voting?*

*Q 2*

*No option for do not want absentee. It assuming you want absentee ballots in town.*

*Q8*

*Do you think voters understand amendments can be done at end of meeting*

Hi,

I just completed the survey. THANK YOU to the committee members who have dedicated their time to thoughtfully creating questions and sending out a survey to gather feedback regarding town voting. It's exciting to have movement towards improving some of our current procedures instead of just wishing they were different!

Thank you for your hard work! : )