

Bend Pops Member Survey

2025 Results

Notes

- The survey was returned by 55 of our 70 members (78%)
- Each question with ranked or numerical answers is presented in graphic form.
- Questions that were ignored or not answered are noted as “no response”.
- Questions with long form answers are presented as returned except for minor grammar corrections and when names of individual members are redacted.
 - Some words became garbled in the output due to apostrophe’s and were corrected if possible. There are editorial notes where the correct word(s) were missing or unrecoverable
 - Longer multi-paragraph responses have a grey background to indicate a single author.
 - Long form responses are randomly placed to fit the page; no order or ranking is implied.
- Question 5C is omitted because it has to do with individuals volunteering specific roles

Key Takeaways

- The majority of members find the BPO to be welcoming and have had a positive experience in the group.
- Many people are in favor of more section rehearsals.
- Regarding concerts, most members are comfortable with our existing concert schedule, but in are either ambivalent or in favor of additional concerts within Central Oregon. There was low interest in having only a single performance / term rotating to different venues. There were split emotions on concerts outside C.O.
- Regarding the BPO 3-5 year goal setting, the top 3 goals included:
 1. Increase visibility in the community
 2. Broaden audience demographics
 3. Build partnerships with other arts organizations in the community
- There were a number of worthwhile suggestions for growth and improvement for the board to review.
- There was broad support for additional ensemble opportunities regardless of any compensation.
- Members feel there are many opportunities to volunteer within BPO and most have had favorable experiences when they have volunteered.
- Some people are very unhappy with the trumpet section.

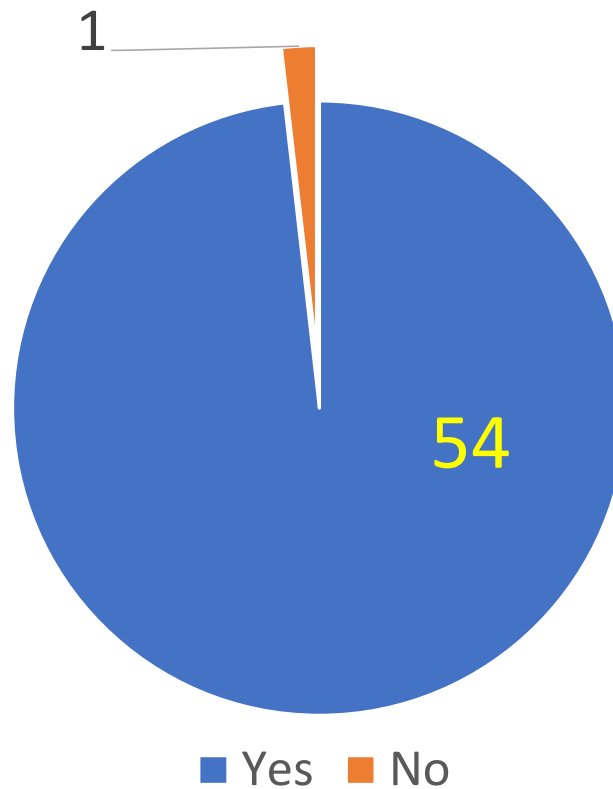


We're sorry....

General Satisfaction Question 1A:

Are you currently an active BPO member (Winter Term 2025)?

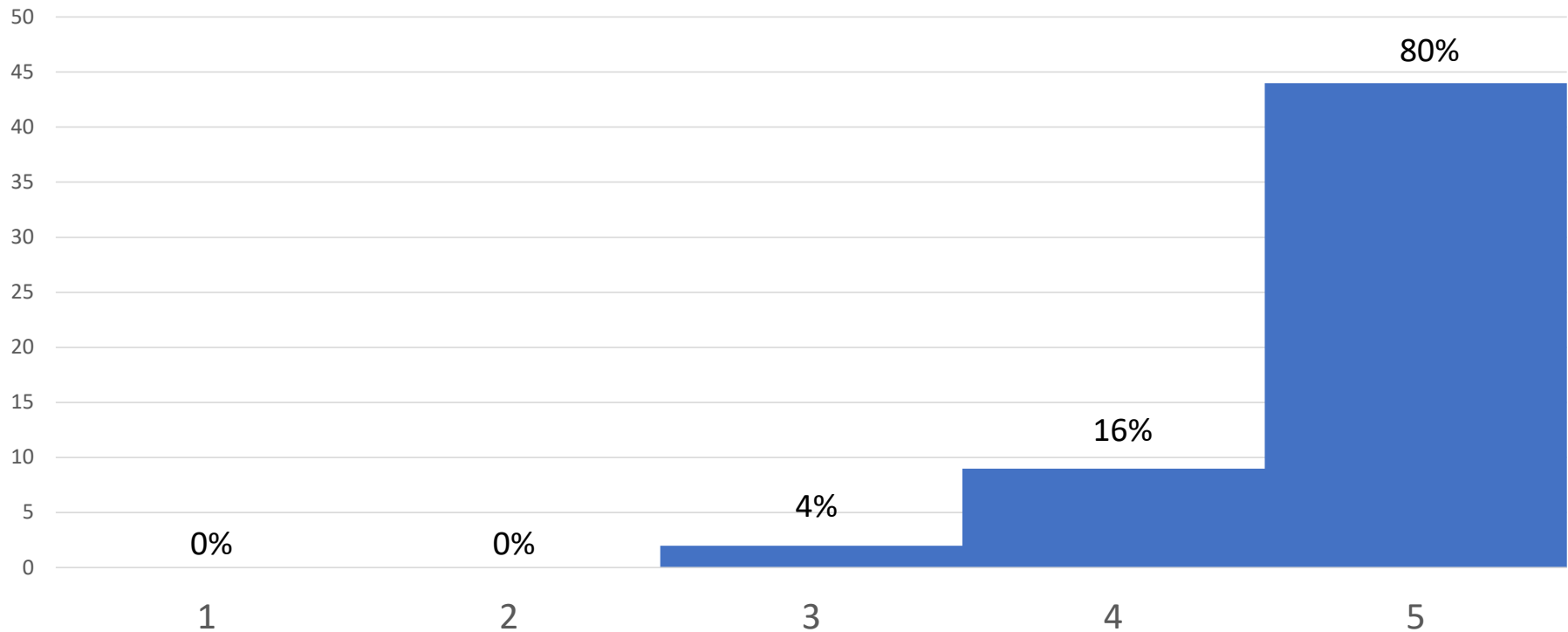
- Responses:



General Satisfaction Question 1B:

How satisfied are you with your overall experience as a member of the orchestra?

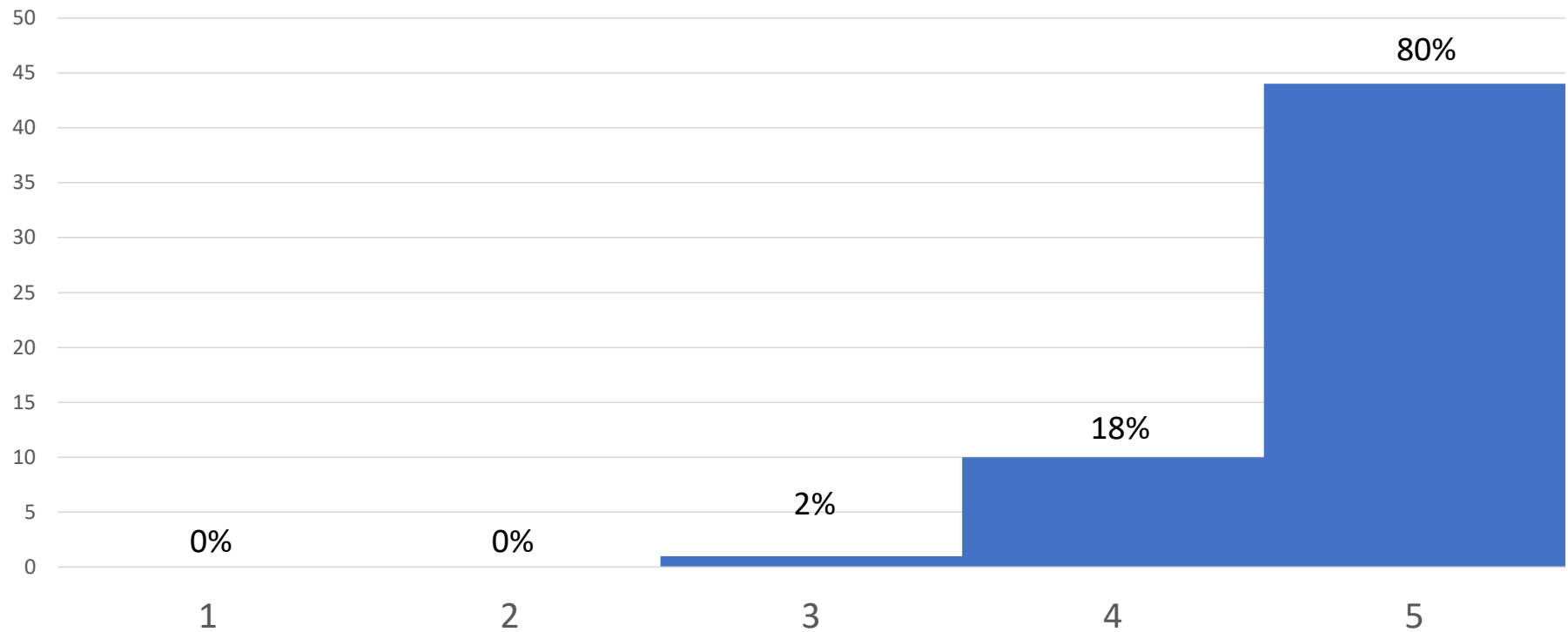
Ranked from 1 = *Very Dissatisfied* to 5 = *Very Satisfied*



General Satisfaction Question 1C:

How welcoming do you find the orchestra's environment?

Ranked from 1 = *Not welcoming at all* to 5 = *Very welcoming*



General Satisfaction Question 1D:

Additional Comments

"Even though my section has an abundance of players that puts us slightly over weight compared to the rest of the orchestra, the section members made me feel very welcome and were very friendly."

"Most of the comradery I feel is for my section , thanks mostly to Lisa. Eddie has a very welcoming demeanor. I think he does a good job of giving correction and guidance without it feeling bad. I do think it would be interesting to have some kind of mixer in the week after a performance. I don't really know anyone outside of my section. In general though, I have absolutely loved having a reason to play again and feel a lot of pride at being a part of this group."

"The only negative I have is that sometimes I wish there was a bit more discipline. I know this is an all-welcome environment and I LOVE THAT, but sometimes people are REALLY chatty, or show up late, mess around on their phones during rests, etc., etc., and for the most part it seems like its just tolerated at the expense of those who really want to work hard and improve..."

"Environment...muzzle the trumpets..."

"Because of the size of the group, it's hard to get to know members across the room..."

"This is not my favorite genre of music."

"Parking and restroom facilities are problematic at Mt View. These should not be an issue at Caldera..."

"BPO is my safe place. I feel so supported and welcomed."

"Just joined last fall and instantly everyone was wonderful. Genuinely seemed to enjoy welcoming someone new in, and it was a stress-free process."

"People have been very welcoming (I am a newer member) ..."

"We musicians are an awkward bunch, but everyone I've interacted with has engaged and been warm in receiving my feeble attempts at chitty-chat."

"I answered the previous question with "4" instead of "5" because I don't think people are unwelcoming, they are just not especially welcoming. That is likely due to a kind of hyperfocus on why they are there: to play music. The experience is not necessarily a social group."

"I tend to only play the winter concerts, but I am always greeted and told how wonderful it is to have me back..."

"I think the leaders work hard to create a good environment especially Lisa, Louise and Eddy. ..."

General Satisfaction Question 1D:

Additional Comments (Continued)

"Having been a member for more than a term/season now, I believe I have enough context to feel that my opinion is valid and likely shared by more than a few of my Bend Pops peers.

First off, Eddy is the expert in the room. He's the one with everyone's part in front of him, the one with the credentials to lead us. And he's doing a great job, exactly who we need on the podium. Eddy, if you are reading this: "slayyyyy, queen."

That said, I also believe Eddy is far too nice about certain comments made to him regarding the music. And, like the preteens and teenagers he works with during the day, some members will take advantage of that whether consciously or subconsciously.

Sure, the occasional quirk is fine. But calling him out on every single things especially when the issue likely isn't even his mistake (which, by the way, he is perfectly allowed to make because he's human) it gets old really fast. If he asks to rehearse a specific set of measures, just do it. He has a reason. He doesn't need people pushing back and suggesting alternatives. It only takes a few members to pull away and, dare I say, ruin the ego-free orchestra message that Eddy is doing his best to convey.

On that note, members need to understand that their mistakes are not the result of him doing something wrong it's on them. But sure, he'll happily take the blame because that's the path of least resistance. He wants the environment to feel positive and inclusive, but that responsibility doesn't fall on him alone.

It's on US, the musicians, to foster that environment too. And I'll be the first to admit that I don't do enough to contribute to it. That's something I will make an effort to change...."

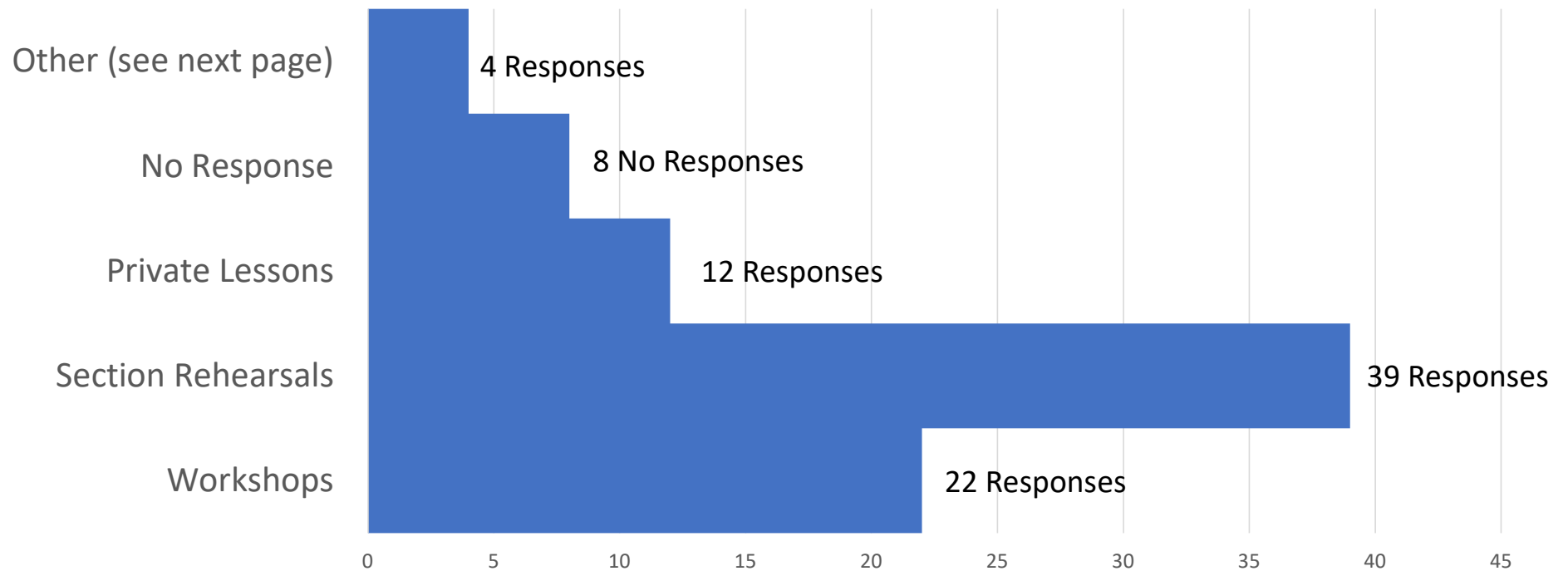
"At the first day of the term, would it be possible to have a "meet & greet", or simply name introduction, or a name tag available to wear for the initial rehearsals?"

"What a sweet group! I have experienced only friendliness."

"I have been part of bpo since beginning. Took 1 year off for medical reasons. Am so happy to be back. It has been very friendly."

General Satisfaction Question 1E:

What types of additional resources, support, or training would be helpful for you as a member of the orchestra (mark all you are interested in)? Responses out of 55



General Satisfaction Question 1E:

Additional Comments

"A mentor/coach from the symphony/college/etc. who would commit to working with my section once every 4-6 weeks to help solve problems, improve the group sound, etc. We have discussed this within our section and some of us would be willing to pay out of our own pockets."

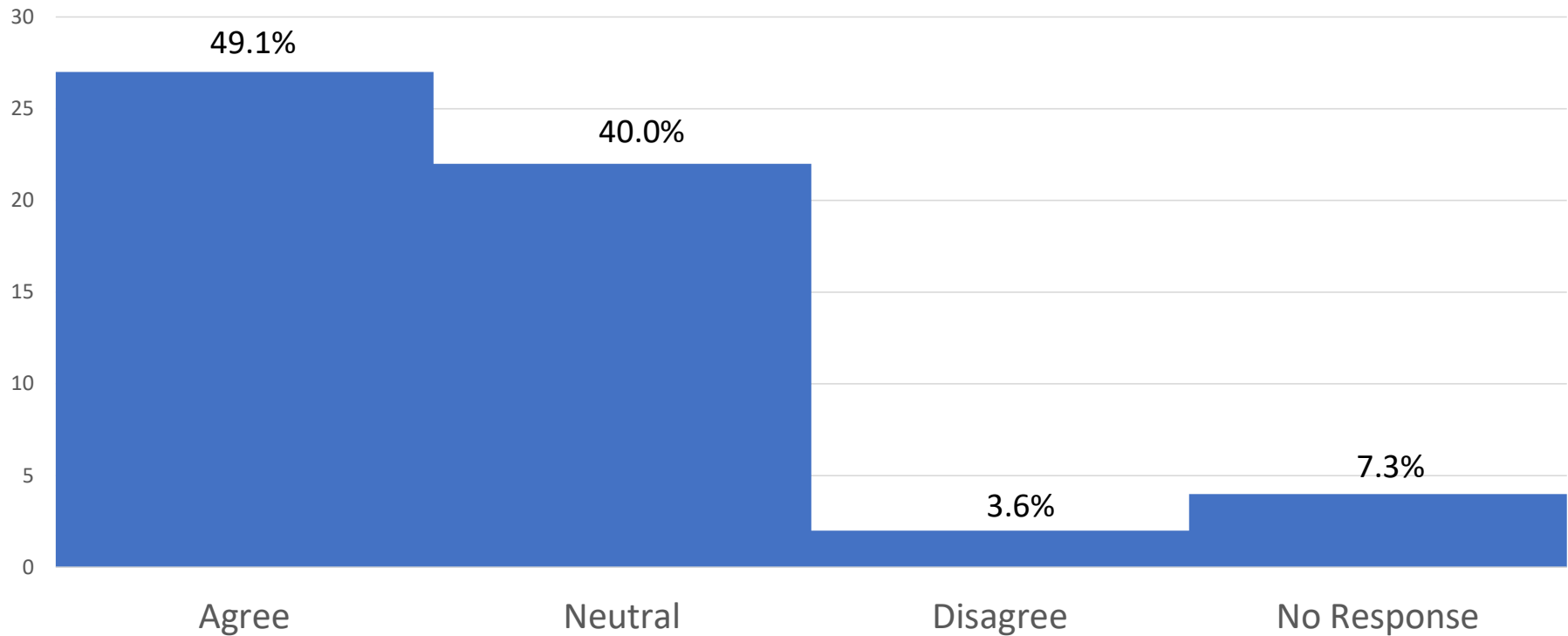
"am taking lessons...so I opt out of sectionals... no help to me."

"None at this time."

"Given bowing ahead of time."

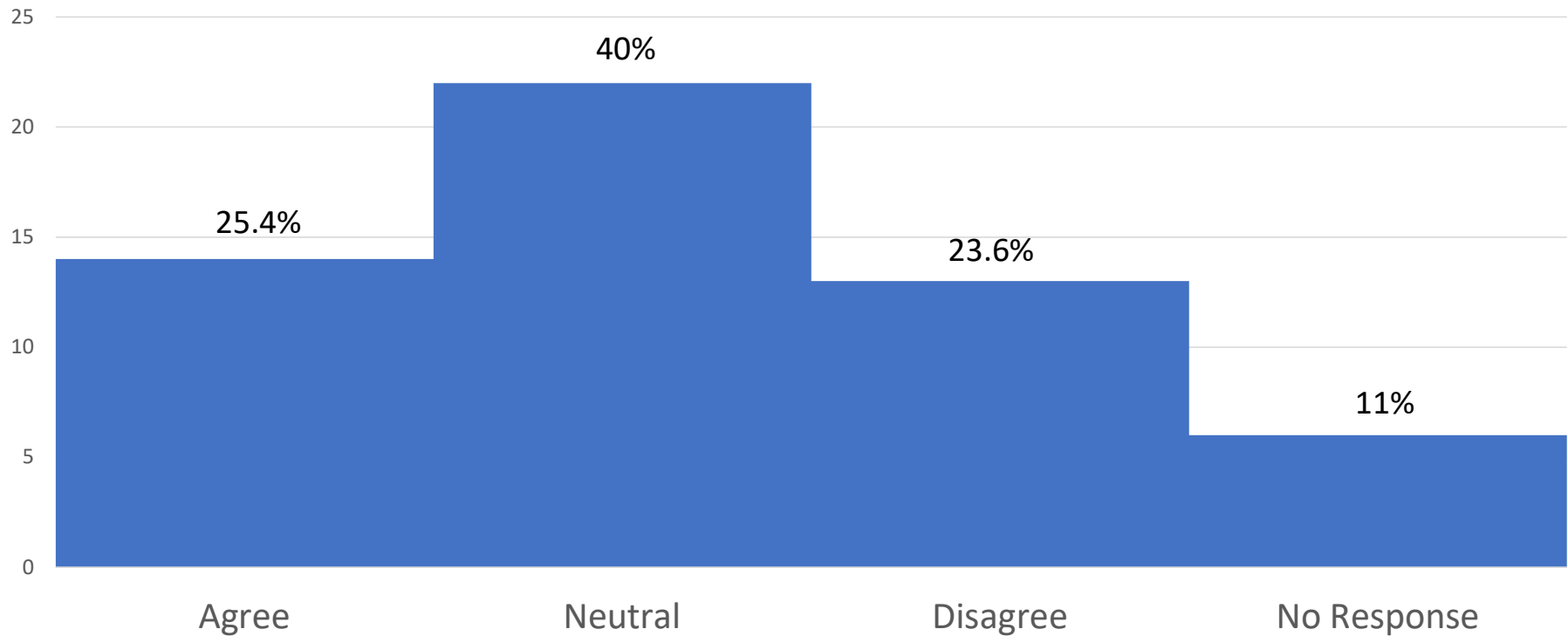
Concerts Question 2A Alternative 1:

We host one concert per term, in Bend. Let us know how you feel about alternatives to this schedule: *Continue current location and schedule*



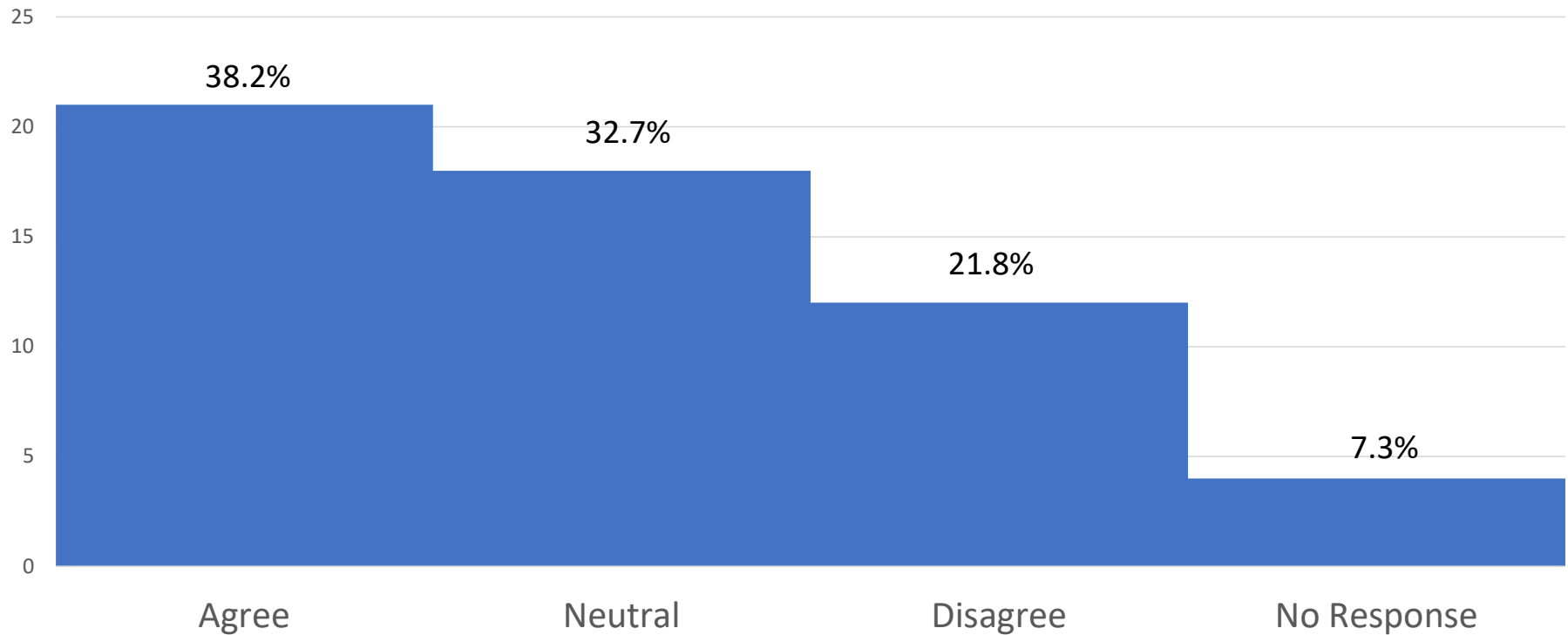
Concerts Question 2A Alternative 2:

We host one concert per term, in Bend. Let us know how you feel about alternatives to this schedule: *Perform two concerts per term, in Bend*



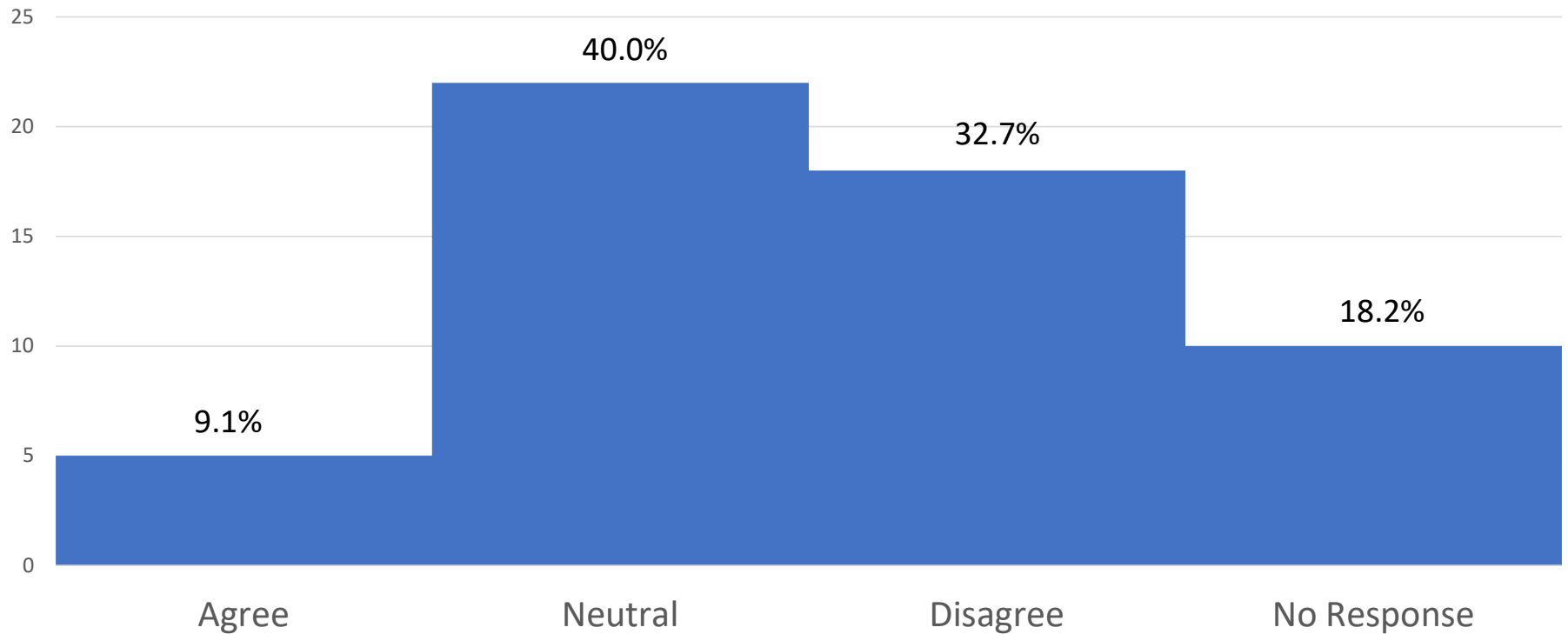
Concerts Question 2A Alternative 3:

We host one concert per term, in Bend. Let us know how you feel about alternatives to this schedule: *Perform two concerts per term, one in Bend, the other in an alternate location (Redmond or Madras for example)*



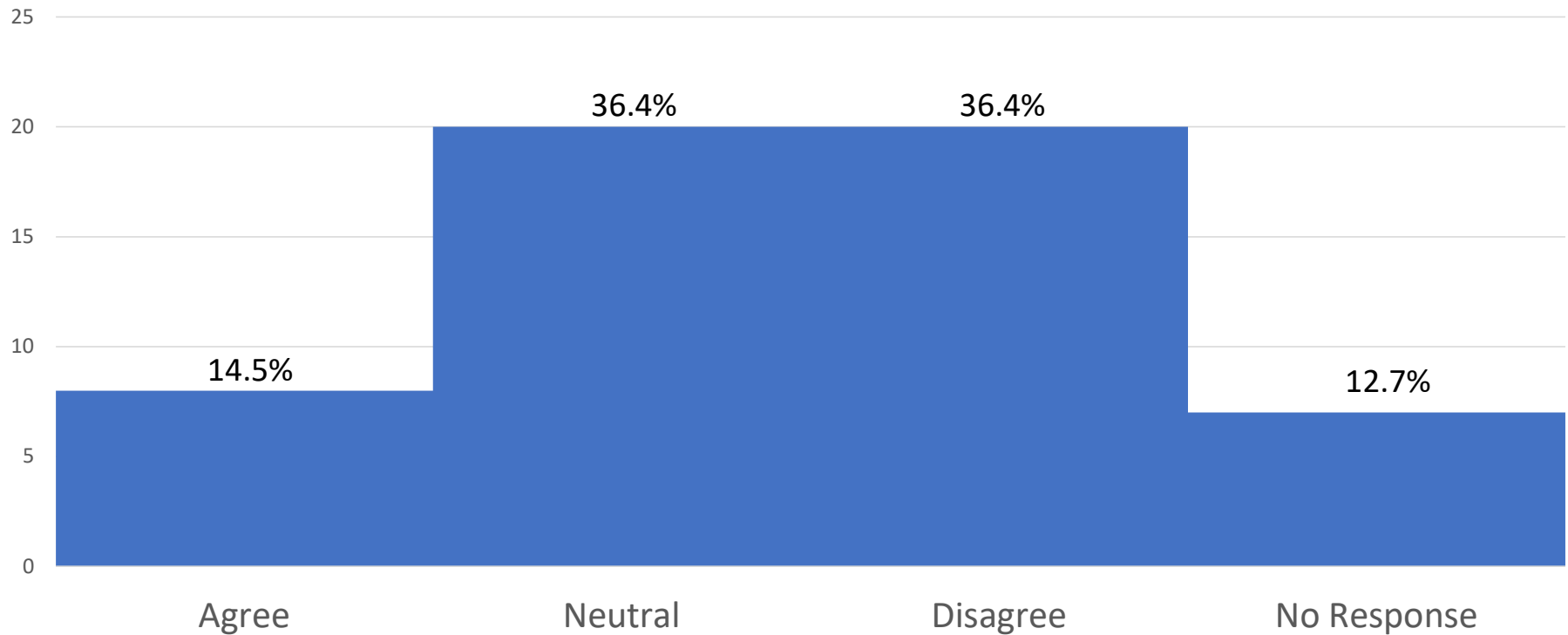
Concerts Question 2A Alternative 4:

We host one concert per term, in Bend. Let us know how you feel about alternatives to this schedule: *Perform only one concert per term but alternate with other locations*



Concerts Question 2A Alternative 5:

We host one concert per term, in Bend. Let us know how you feel about alternatives to this schedule: *Perform concerts outside of Central Oregon*



Concerts Question 2B:

Additional Comments

"What about expanding outreach to children and elementary schools?"

"It seems like we work really hard for that one shot at a concert, then it's over and we're on to the next thing. I'd like to try two concerts again."

"occasional extra concerts ok."

"If we were to do two concerts per term, I'd want at least one in Bend, and I'd rather not travel further than Redmond."

"Not a fan of performing at Trinity Lutheran."

"maybe ONE concert (warm weather) we can be Bend AND another location."

"Continue current location and schedule, but add an additional concert in Madras. They get left out."

"Please do not schedule concerts toward the end of the semesters."

"We work hard. It would be nice to have at least 2 concerts."

"Current schedule balance is great. Perhaps would be nice for a summer series in other towns, maybe smaller ensembles?"

"I'm strongly in favor of taking it to Redmond, La Pine, Prineville. Nothing against Sisters, but they already have a lot of [ed. last word(s) missing]."

"Nope."

"No opinions, I'll attend what the pops decides."

"No."

"No, I'm okay with the concert schedules as they stand."

"Keep it simple."

"No."

"Not at the time."

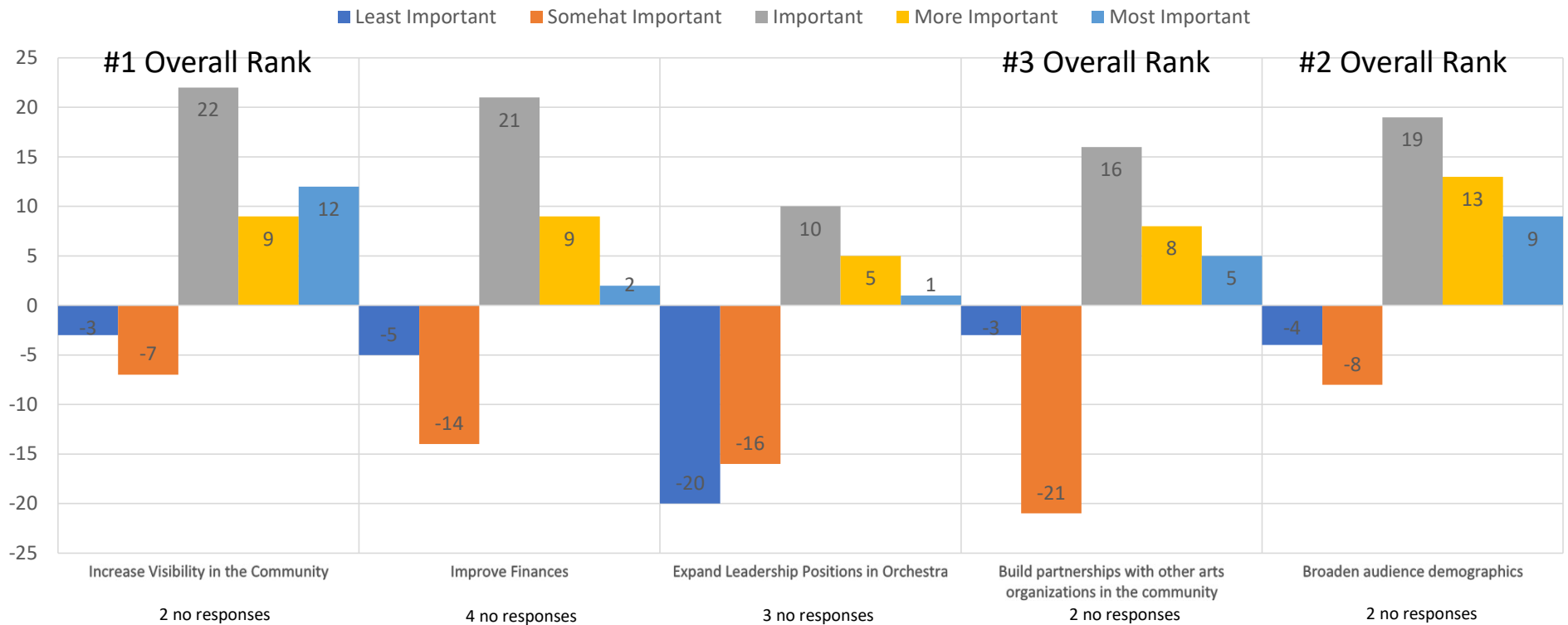
"With such a large group of people, the logistics of two performances sounds like a lot. I don't have a sense of what percentage of the group lives in Bend vs outside of Bend. I kind of like the one and done but I would be open to multiple performances personally."

"I'm flexible, but easier for me to have family come if the events are in Bend."

"I think adding more concerts is great, but there always needs to be at least one concert per term in Bend. 1. Turnout is great. 2. We are Bend Pops."

Question 3A:

Please rank the following long-term (3-5 year) orchestra goals in order of importance to you?:



Question 3B:

What types of new projects or initiatives would you like to see the orchestra undertake in the next few years?

"Continue partnering with other musical groups, school orchestras, dance groups."

"I'd like to see more involvement with children: grade school and middle school. That demographic, with exposure to music and musicians, are more likely to pursue music than older individuals, although that is not unheard of."

"Offer merchandise for sale with logo. Water bottles, totes, sweatshirts."

"Performing in more rural areas."

"Partner with a youth dance group, though that would need a bigger stage!"

"Community outreach."

"Summer series of small ensembles!"

"It is so comfortable here. I would like to see a summer concert performed at an outdoor venue like a park or other public place. Maybe in conjunction with an existing festival."

"N/A."

"no opinion."

"Youth outreach."

"I like the direction Eddy is taking us. More challenging music is great."

"Maybe start a small chamber group that could be available to play at community fund-raisers and the like."

"I think Eddie mentioned how cool it would be to have a city concert hall. What are the chances of someone making that happen?"

"More internal but— I would like to see more opportunities to connect with the musicians around us. We're all people and I'm curious to know who the people are in my section."

"Joint concerts with COYO or Cascade Horizon, or other groups for special events."

"Some more focus on interaction with youth, creating interesting. Maybe like the band one, have a student night, where school age players come and sit in their section. More communicated etiquette, like when to clap, when to hold."

"I would love to invite soloists/singers from OperaBend or other local vocal organizations to perform with us."

"concerts or performances to bring music to more kids. maybe a children's concert."

"Send out small ensembles to Redmond?"

"Take small ensembles into the public schools - especially strings into Redmond."

"Re leadership...do you mean the board or musical sections? I don't understand 3A."

"play a Beatles concert."

"This is a wild suggestion, but I think it would be exciting to play downtown at a First Friday in an alley with buildings on both sides to aid in the sound. Can you imagine the spectator's reaction?"

"I would like to perform some additional classical music such a movement from a symphony or tone poem."

Question 3C:

Are there any specific challenges or opportunities you think the orchestra should focus on in order to grow and evolve over the next few years?

"Skill development of members - a big ask considering there is no floor to entry, but providing more specific opportunities to work on improving as a musician would be both a challenge and opportunity!"

"Instrumentation balance."

"Challenge: Continue to grow, but maintain a good balance of instruments. Currently the brass can overpower other sections. We're an orchestra, not a band. Sometimes it's hard to hear the string sections."

"I've been thinking about this for a while and I don't have anything more specific than simply trying to encourage other adults who may have studied and played an instrument at some point in life, to return to that with POPS. Older people really need that fellowship and social interaction."

"Recruit more violins. We are "band instrumentation" heavy. Strive for mix of easy and challenging music."

"Increase section rehearsals for less skilled players to help them improve. I think we saw that working this term!"

"I think it should be stressed that sections should help struggling musicians to get better at playing (intonation, counting, etc.) with sectionals or workshops."

"I have seen our group grow over the years. I am so happy and proud of all we as a group have accomplished."

"I think one or two sectionals per season would be helpful. One early in the season to make sure everyone understands basic notes and rhythms, and one later in the season to make sure everyone can compare Eddy's notes and incorporate them."

"The money needed to rent a bus so we can travel as a group to perform in rural places."

"Outreach to schools and adjacent communities - children's and/or small group concerts in the schools, concerts in communities like La Pine, Madras, Warm Springs."

"I'm too new to have an opinion on this."

"Get more advertising of group and concerts."

"I think we could/should explore extending rehearsals by 30 min."

"I think finding space for all of us is going to be an ongoing thing. The move to Caldera is a good starting solution, as is putting a cap on the number of players per section."

"more balance to our sound, more string players. trumpets more in balance with the rest of the group."

"Music is too easy with too many rehearsals. Hard to stay focused."

"No."

"Prepare for growth, with possible second group to allow both novice and advanced players to have room to grow."

"I would love to invite soloists/singers from OperaBend or other local vocal organizations to perform with us."

"Some times a tuning problem when a particular section is exposed. Some coaching could help. but this can be a 'touchy' topic to address."

"No."

"Thinking about how to accommodate a larger group of people as the pops grows. Its sad that people might be turned away even though we're non-audition."

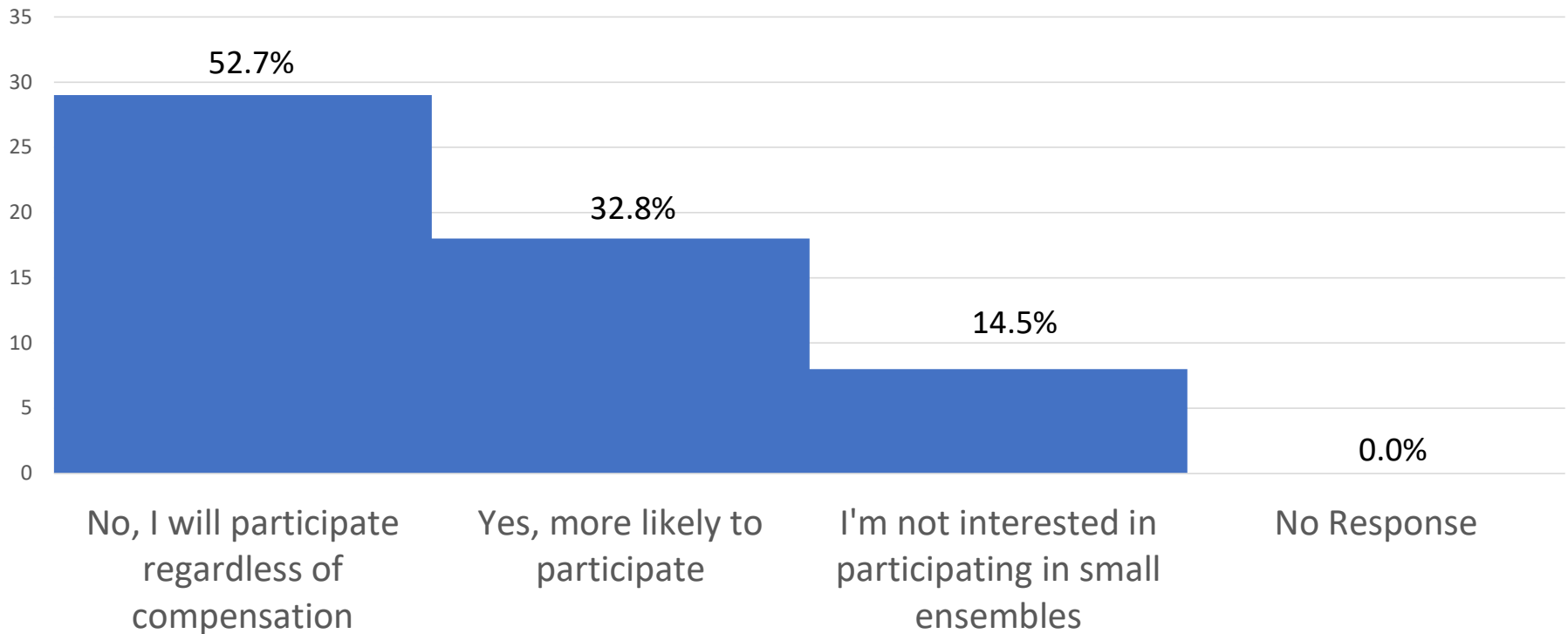
"I think we are "growing musically" and the audience sees that."

"Build corporate sponsorships for a more consistent revenue."

"I'm grateful for the scholarship program for those who can't afford the dues, but it'd be nice if we could eventually lower or get rid of membership dues to make things easier for everyone who pays."

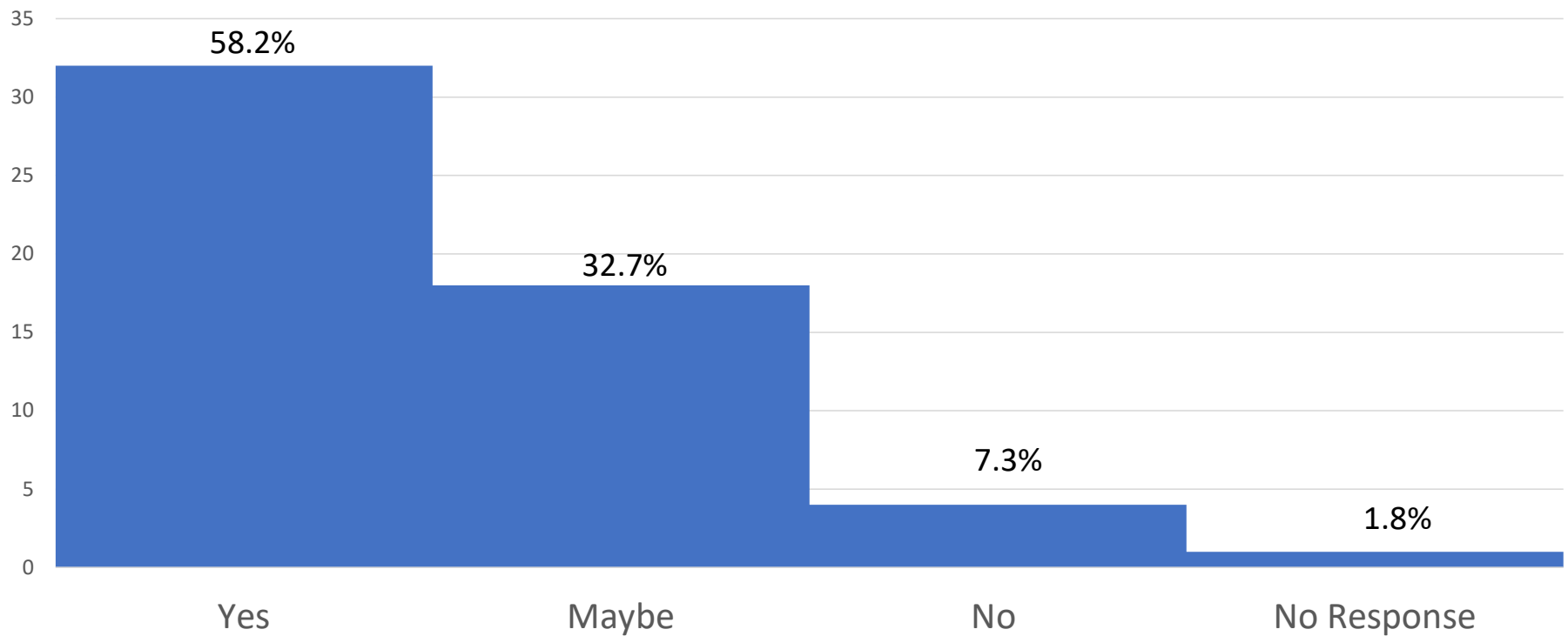
Question 4A:

The orchestra provides compensation for gas and music purchases for small ensemble performances. Does this knowledge make you more likely to participate in a small ensemble?



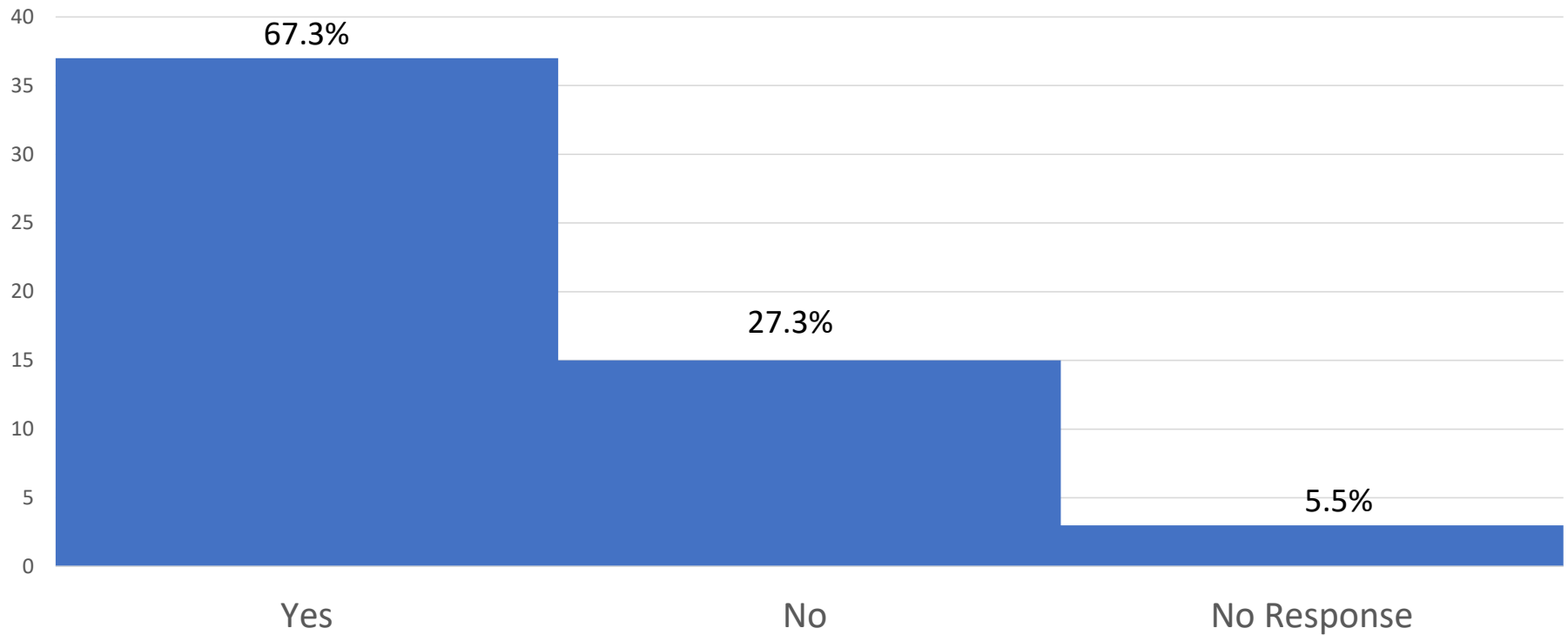
Question 4B:

Do you think the orchestra should facilitate more opportunities for small ensembles to perform, either within the orchestra's regular season or as separate events?



Question 5A:

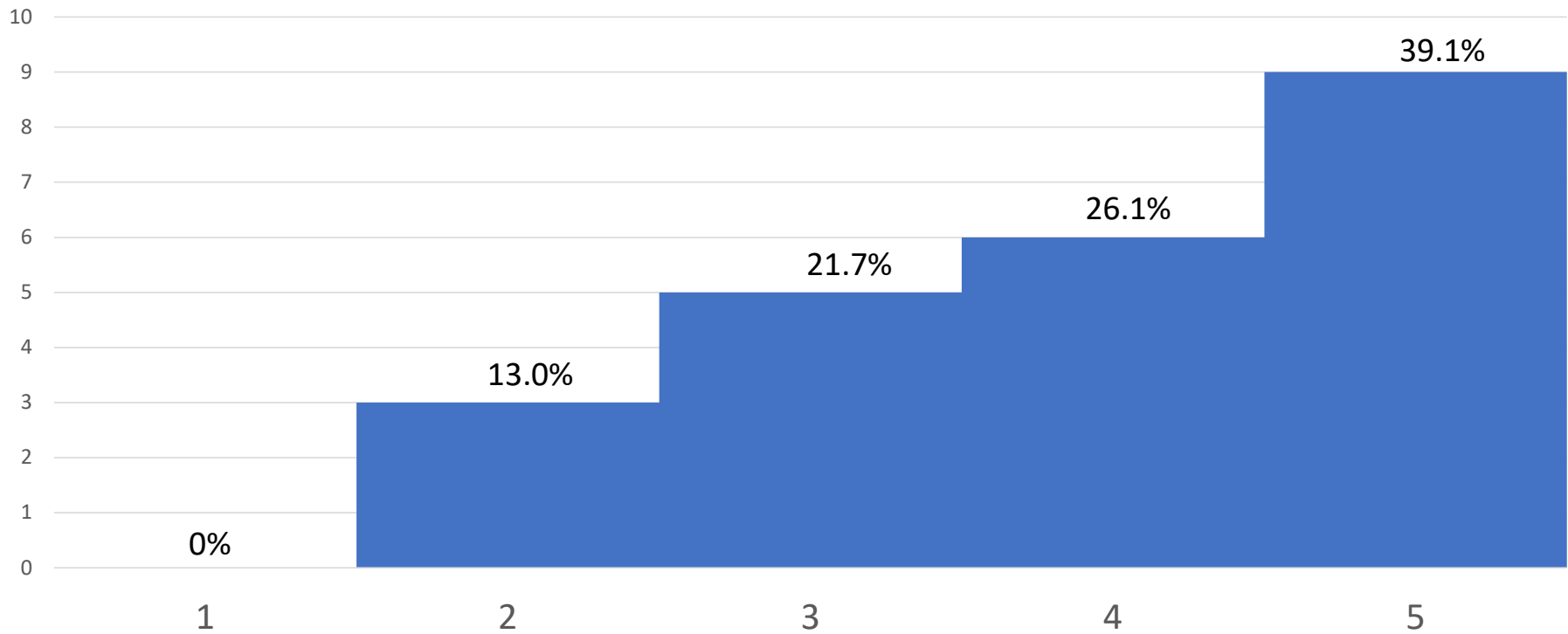
An organization like ours always has need for volunteers. Do you feel you have opportunities to take on leadership or volunteer roles within the orchestra?



Question 5B:

If you have participated in leadership or volunteer roles within the orchestra, how satisfied were you with your experience (leave blank if you have not participated)??

Ranked from 1 = *Very Dissatisfied* to 5 = *Very Satisfied* (% based on 23 Responses)



Question 5C:

If you would like to participate in a leadership or volunteer role within the orchestra, please write what role you would be interested in (for example: audit committee, poster distribution, hospitality, section lead, serve on the board, strategic planning, website assistance, communication with the public, name your role!).

These responses are redacted as they pertain to individual members and roles they would like to take on.

Question 5D:

Do you have any comments or feedback on topics not addressed in the survey that you'd like to share?

"The leadership, including Eddie, is fantastic! You make Pops a welcoming place to be creative and play with others. Keep up the great work!!"

"I think the board and orchestra should vote on wearing all black. I think the colors are random and distracting.."

"Regarding leadership: it was weird to be appointed as section leader without my input, and without clarification of what that entails."

"I want to thank the board for their hard work in keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes and making the orchestra so enjoyable and welcoming."

"I feel it is very disrespectful to Eddy for a member to argue with him about tempo or dynamics in front of the entire group. Especially coming from a board member. Those comments should be discussed before or after rehearsal. When the conductor takes the podium, he is to be shown courtesy and respect. No side conversations. This is the only thing that really bugs me. ."

"Maybe an informal get-together of the members, without instruments, possibly once per term or even once per year, might facilitate more interaction or at least a better sense of who we sit across from, adjacent to, etc. I don't know if that's something others are interested in, but that's something I would welcome..."

"I have played in many groups. This one provides the challenge for multiple levels of playing. I know some players would like more difficult music, but it would discourage some of our emerging players. Mentoring by those with more experience would go a long way in encouraging those with less experience. I think we have a good mix for varied abilities, but some section leaders need to step up. Sectionals are sometimes intimidating. Does Caldera have practice rooms for them?..."

"It would be nice to be alerted when there are updates posted to the website and/or have the update also go out in an email. In today's busy world, remembering to check a website isn't always front of mind, but email gets checked regularly. ."

"I appreciate all the hard work the Board does for the Pops..."

"I would like to see more members participate in the help needed in our concerts. Possible have a pod for early arrival to assist with moving equipment and returning equipment."

A group to set up hospitality and tear down and repack. A group of players to assist in refill of cookie plates work with the traffic. These people could work one concert. This last concert it was the same people working and going home at 5:30."

"I appreciate the gang who set up before the concerts! Eddy's obvious prep work for rehearsal and concerts is top notch!"

Question 5D(Continued):

Do you have any comments or feedback on topics not addressed in the survey that you'd like to share?

"The trumpet section seems like nice people and I'm glad they're having fun but they can be noisy and disruptive, and it's not pleasant for the rest of the group dynamics, a bit like watching the teacher accommodate class clowns while everyone else is being polite. I don't think other sections like it. Lisa shushes them every week but they still do it.

Pops members should not be arguing with the conductor during rehearsal. Questions are fine, but actually arguing with conductor decisions is inappropriate. They should bring it up with Eddy afterwards. It is rude and disrespectful.

I don't know section dynamics but it seems like some sections don't allow rotation of solos and who takes 1st position or front desk. As a community orchestra, we should be rotating like the flutes section. Some sections have the same people taking the solos or first positions which may not give other people a chance to grow.

Eddy is a saint. We are lucky to have him. Thank you to the board for your hard work that can go unnoticed. Thank you Chris Moody, Lisa and Louise for running things smoothly."

"Just that I love being a part of BPO! Everyone has been so kind and welcoming, and it has been a highlight of each week for me since moving to Bend. Thank you!"

"Bend Pops is amazing! So glad to be a member."

"Great questions."

"As an orchestra participant, thank you for welcoming feedback."

"Eddy is the best decision this group has made! Sam made me feel intimidated and I was terrified when I began, but Eddy, being an educator and such a nice person (no really!) gives me confidence to play and makes practices so much fun. We even sound so much better than before!"

"How satisfied am I with our conductor? Very satisfied!"

"No."

"Thank you for all you do!!! What a treat that this is even available in our community."

"Thanks to everyone who makes this possible!"

"Thanks for your leadership!"

"more themed concerts!"

"Love Pops!"

"I think I've shared anything I've considered of value. Thanks for sending this survey out! :)"