



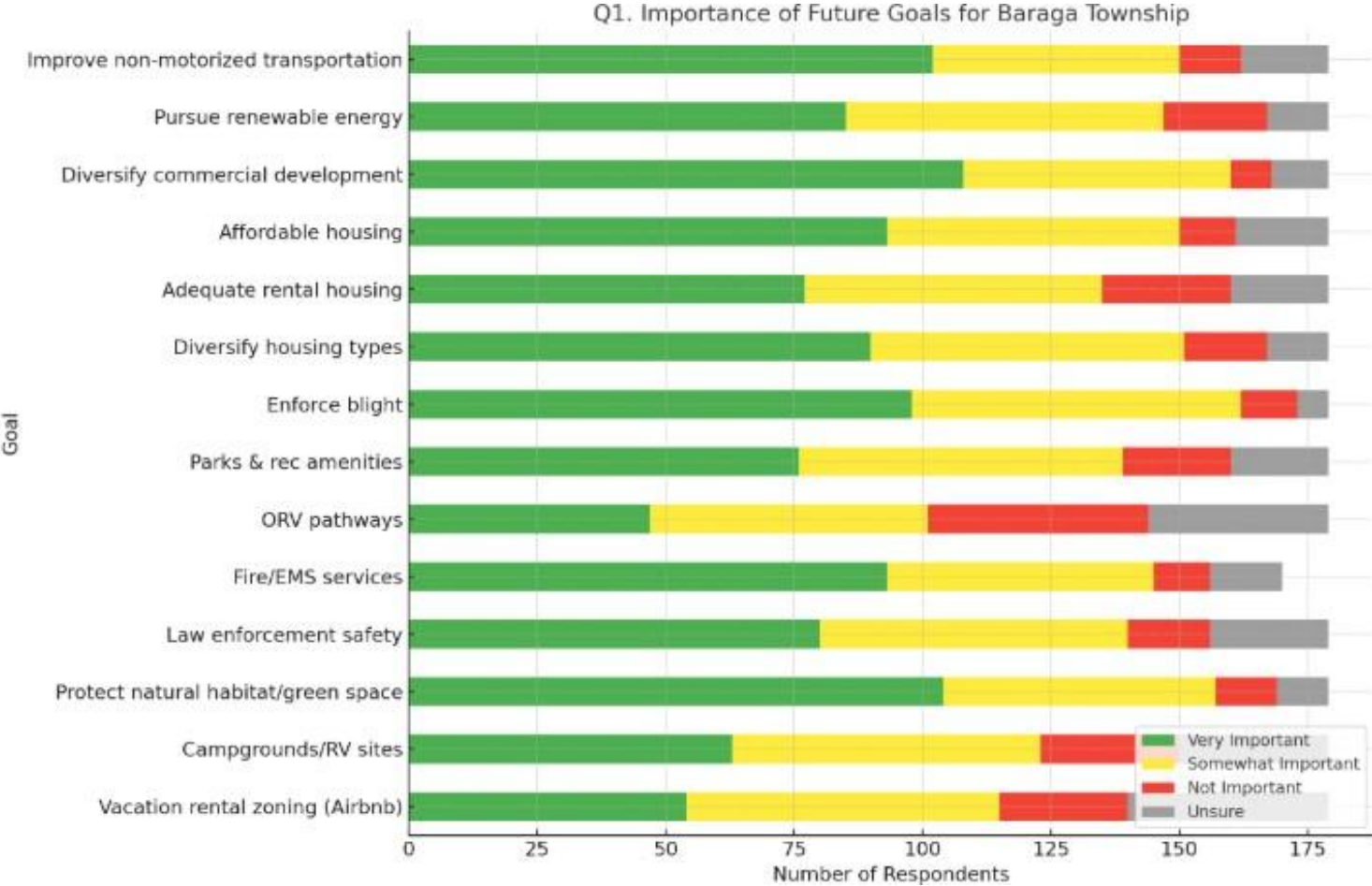
2025 Baraga Township Community Survey Results

As part of the community's Master Plan update process, Baraga Township requested public input in the form a community survey. The Mater Plan's objectives and vision will be based on input gathered from community residents and stakeholders. The Master Plan will serve as a roadmap to community growth and management, will represent priorities of community members, and aid local policy and decision-making.

Below are the results of the 2025 Baraga Township Community Survey.

Online responses: 86, Written responses: 93. Total: 179

Question #1. For each of the following future goals for Baraga Township, please rate them based on your opinion of importance.

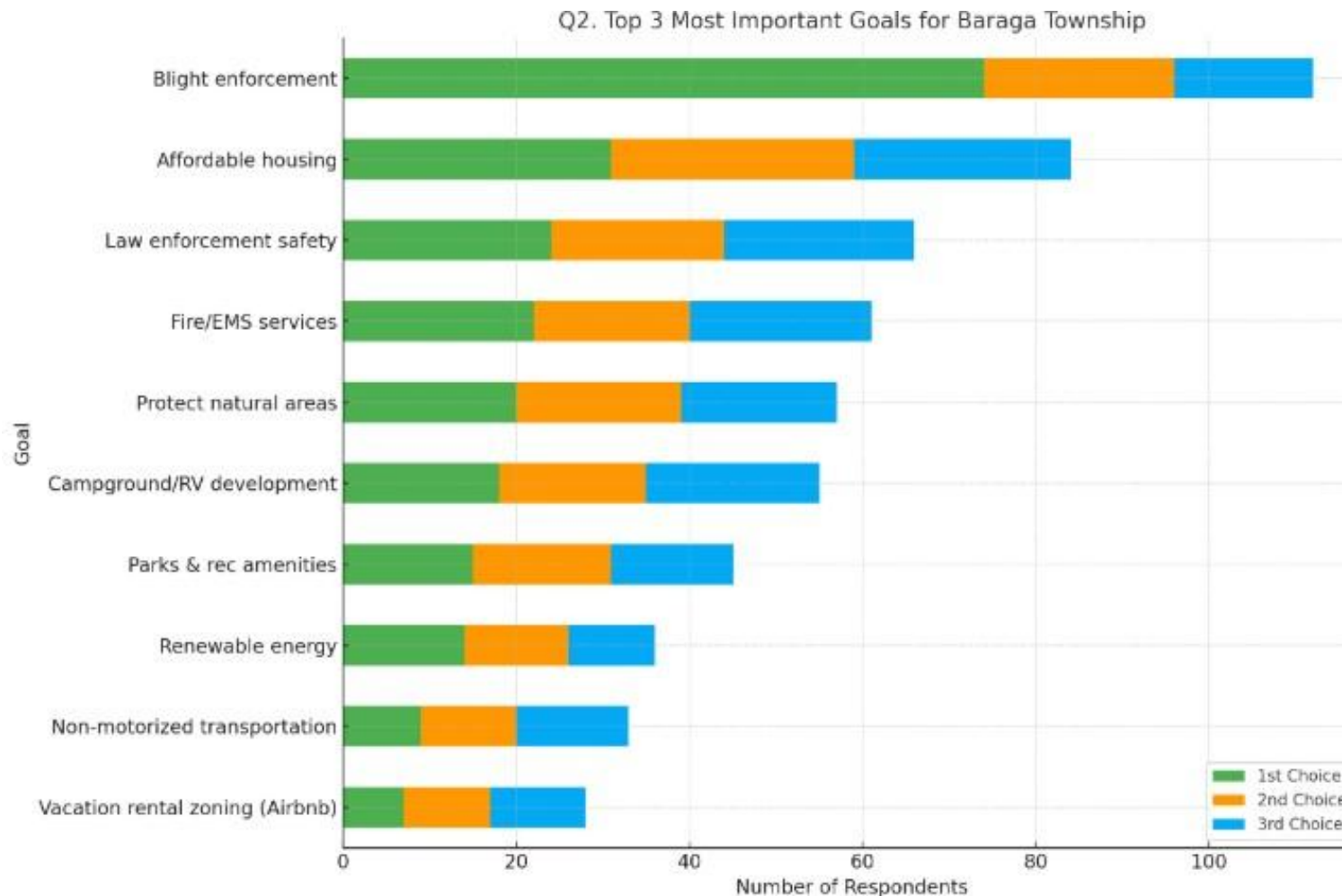


Top priorities: Renewable energy, blight enforcement, commercial diversification, fire/EMS services, and housing concerns (affordable and rental).

Divisive topics: ORV trail expansion and additional campground/RV sites received more polarized responses.

Uncertainty: Vacation rental zoning had the highest “Unsure” rate (22%), indicating a need for more public education.

Question #2. Which three of the statements regarding Baraga Township's future found in question #1 do you feel are the most important? Please choose three.

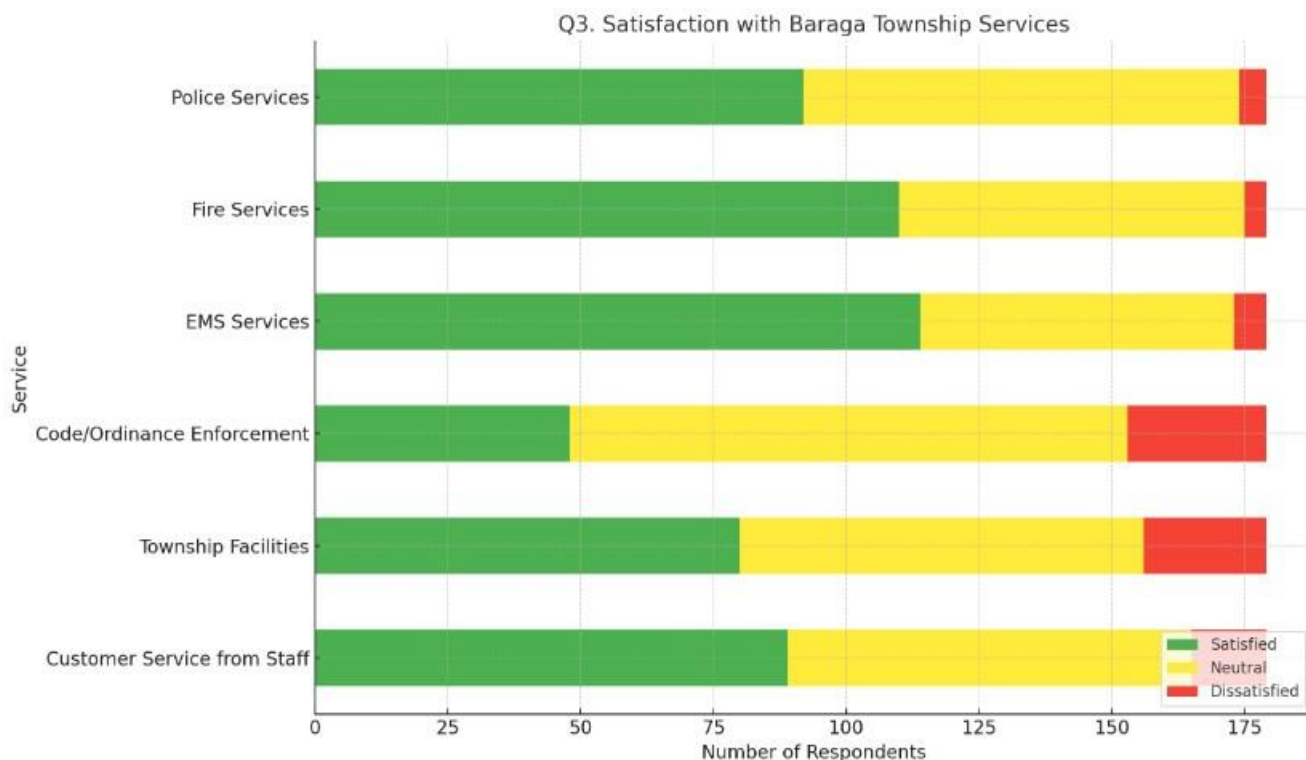


Blight enforcement stands out as the overwhelming priority.

Housing (affordable + rental) and public safety services (police, fire, EMS) dominate the top tier.

Trails and Airbnb zoning remain on the radar but with fewer top-three selections.

Question #3. Please indicate your level of satisfaction of the following Baraga Township Services by checking the appropriate box.

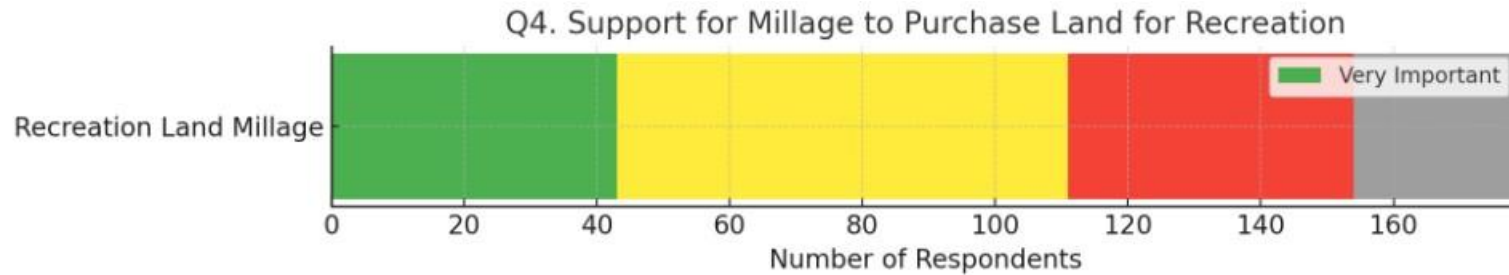


Highest satisfaction: EMS and Fire services are strongly supported by the public.

Most dissatisfaction: Code and ordinance enforcement — consistent with priority concerns about blight.

Customer service and facilities are rated positively, but not strongly — potentially an area for visibility or communication improvement.

Question #4. How supportive would you be of Baraga Township levying a millage to purchase land for the purpose of developing new recreational opportunities for the community?

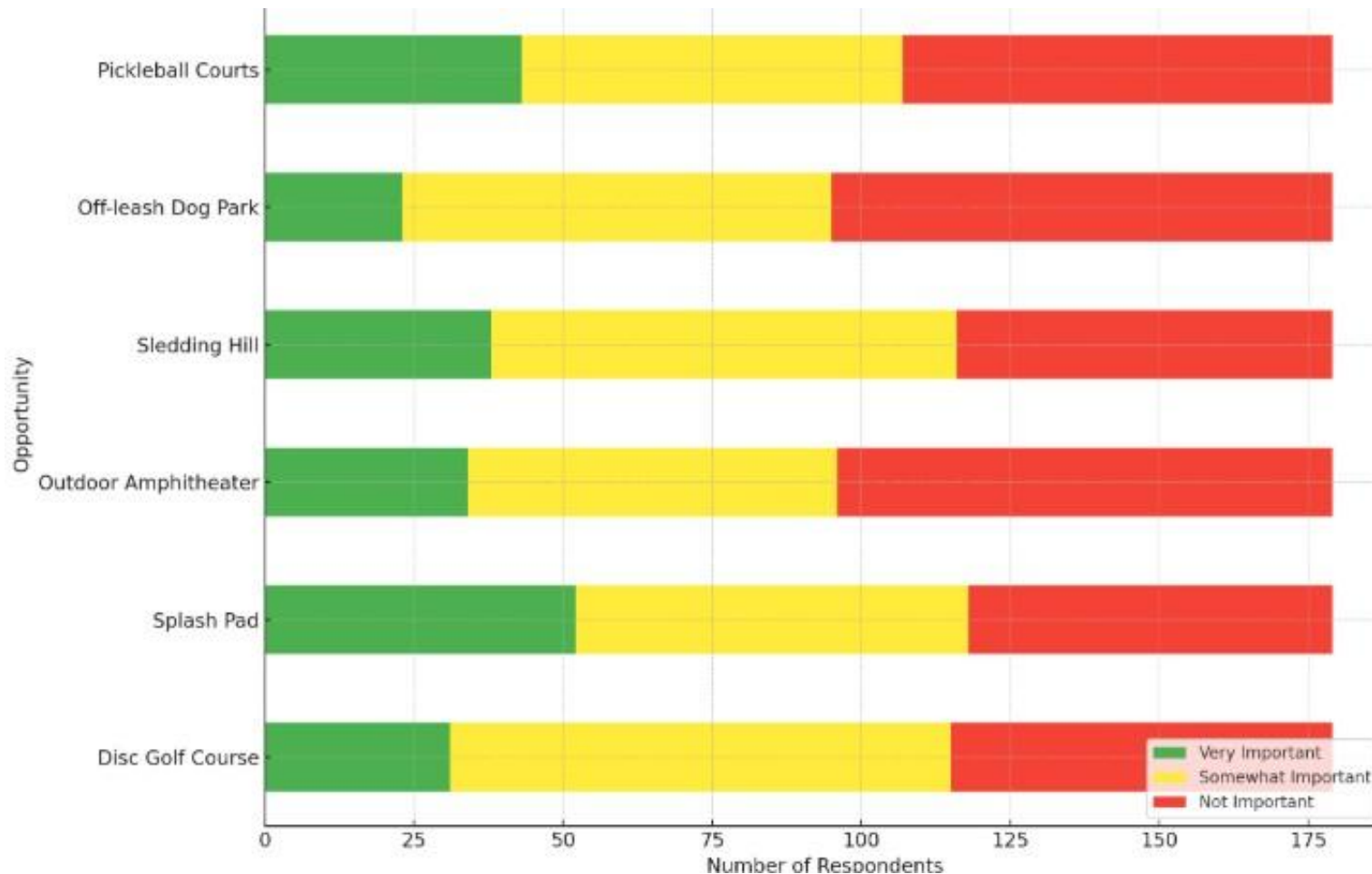


Key Takeaways:

A majority (62%) are supportive (very or somewhat) of the millage idea.

A notable minority (24%) oppose it, while 14% remain unsure — potentially open to persuasion through more detailed proposals.

Question #5. For each of the following recreation opportunities that Baraga Township could potentially develop, please rate them based on your opinion of importance.



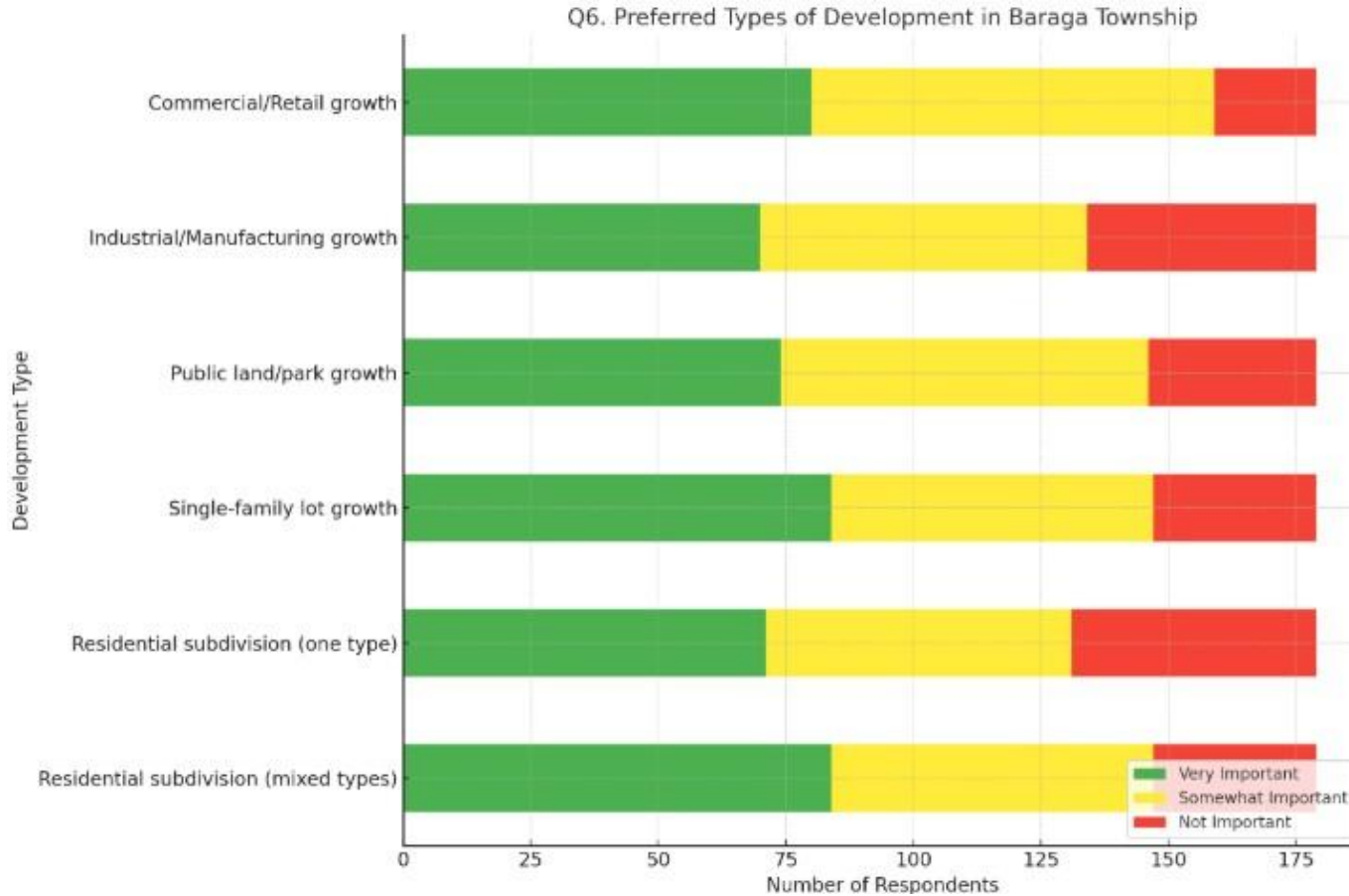
Key Takeaways:

Most favored: Splash pad and sledding hill show the highest proportion of “Very Important” and “Somewhat Important” responses.

Most polarizing: Dog park and amphitheater are less popular, with nearly half rating them as “Not Important.”

Disc golf holds broad mid-range interest with the highest “Somewhat Important” count.

Question #6. What type of development do you most support regarding future growth of Baraga Township?



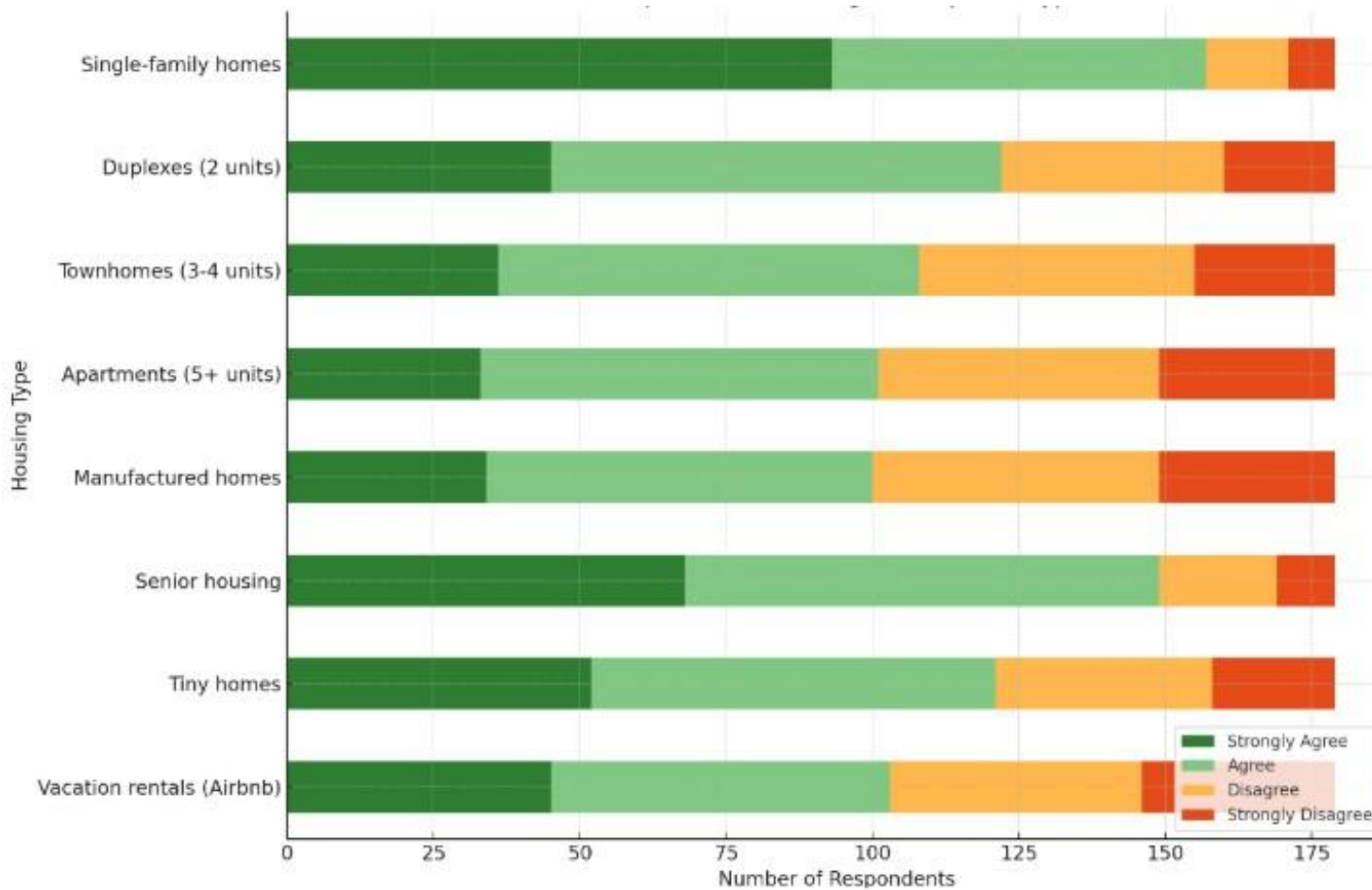
Key Takeaways:

Strongest overall support: Single-family lot development and mixed-type subdivisions — each with 47% saying “Very Important.”

Commercial growth also ranks highly, with 89% support (combined “Very” and “Somewhat”).

Less consensus on industrial growth and single-type subdivisions, suggesting these should be carefully planned or more fully explained.

Question #7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about housing development in Baraga Township?



Highest consensus: Senior housing (83% support) and single-family homes (88% support) are clearly favored.

Emerging interest: Tiny homes show strong support despite being a newer concept.

Most divisive: Short-term rentals and apartments — nearly split between support and opposition.

Opportunity areas: Townhomes and duplexes have more moderate support and could be considered in mixed-use strategies.

Question #8. If you could change one thing in Baraga Township, what would it be and why?

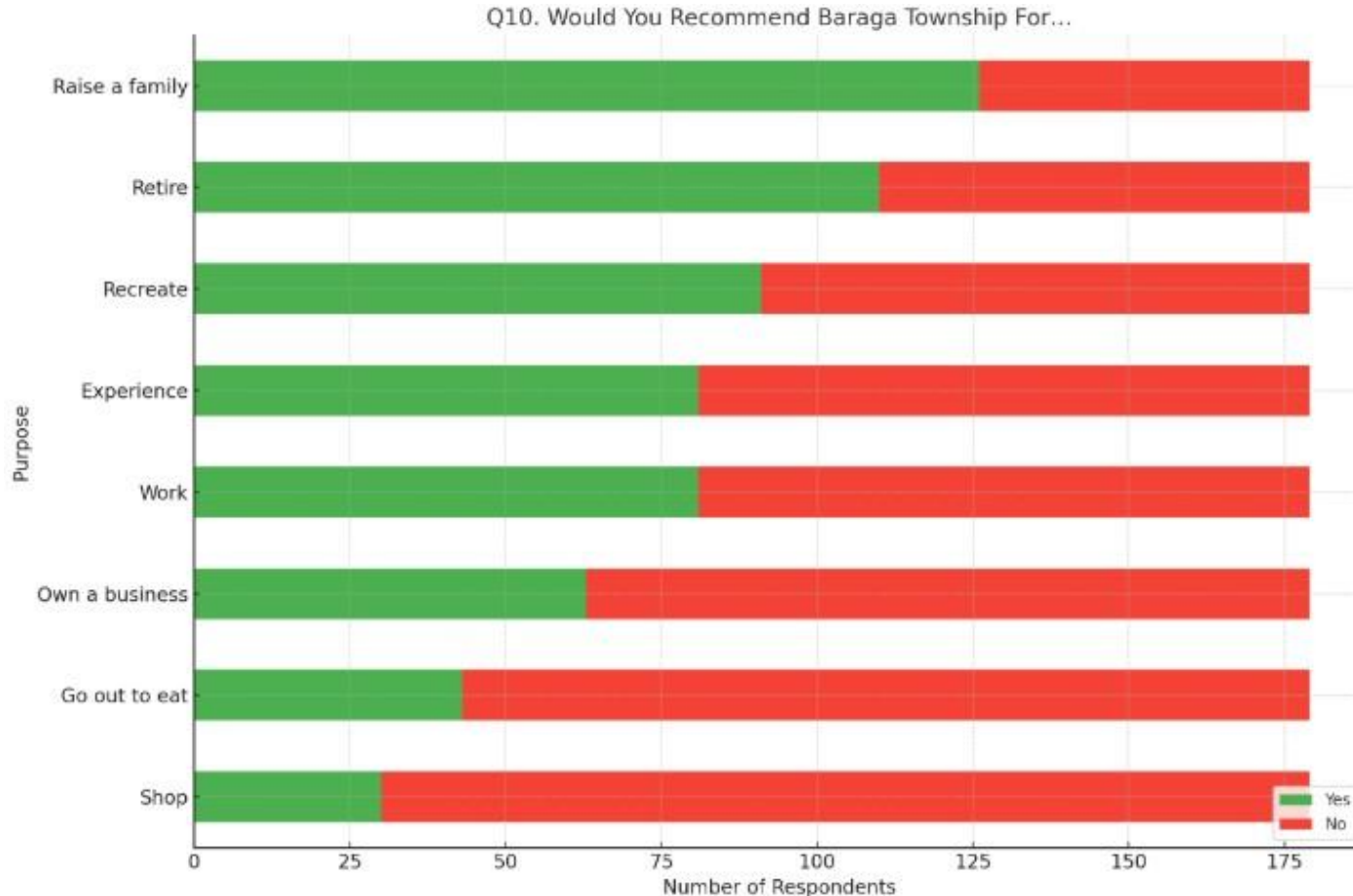
Theme	Mentions	Sample Responses
Natural beauty / Lakeshore protection	10	"Our natural beauty: Keweenaw Bay, shoreline, mountains, beaches, forest."
Zoning character (Rural/Residential)	5	"Do not change zoning to allow public campgrounds in residential Lake Superior frontage areas."
ORV trails	3	"ORV trails. They are some of the best I've been on."
Community charm / village identity	2	"Maintain the rural/residential characteristic of the township."
Township workers & volunteers	2	"The village workers — they're very good."
Support for local industry	3	"Encouragement of industry — Pettibone, Laser North, etc."

Question #9. What is the one thing about Baraga Township that should not change and why?

From the 29 residents who responded to this question, several clear themes emerged:

- 1. Natural Beauty:** Many people want to protect the lakeshore, forests, and scenic views. They see Baraga's natural environment as a key part of what makes the township special.
- 2. Zoning & Rural Feel:** Respondents strongly supported keeping residential areas quiet and low-density, especially near Lake Superior. There's concern about campgrounds or commercial uses entering residential neighborhoods.
- 3. Outdoor Recreation:** Some residents noted that existing parks and ORV trails are great just as they are — and shouldn't be changed or overdeveloped.
- 4. Local Jobs & Industry:** A few highlighted the importance of supporting local businesses and manufacturers like Pettibone and Laser North, which offer jobs to residents.
- 5. Township Workers:** One respondent praised the hard work of township employees, suggesting a strong sense of local pride.

Question #10. Would you recommend Baraga Township as a place to: (Please place a check in the box for all that apply)



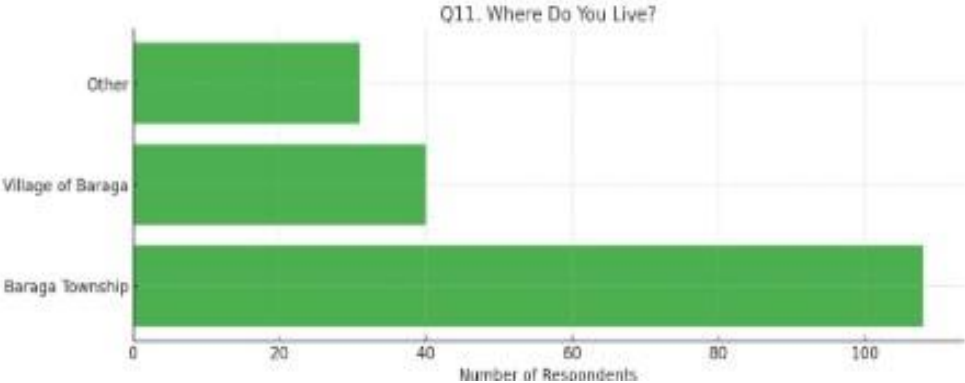
Key Takeaways:

Baraga Township is widely seen as a great place to raise a family or retire, with solid support.

Recreation and tourism potential is recognized but has mixed sentiment — nearly even support/opposition.

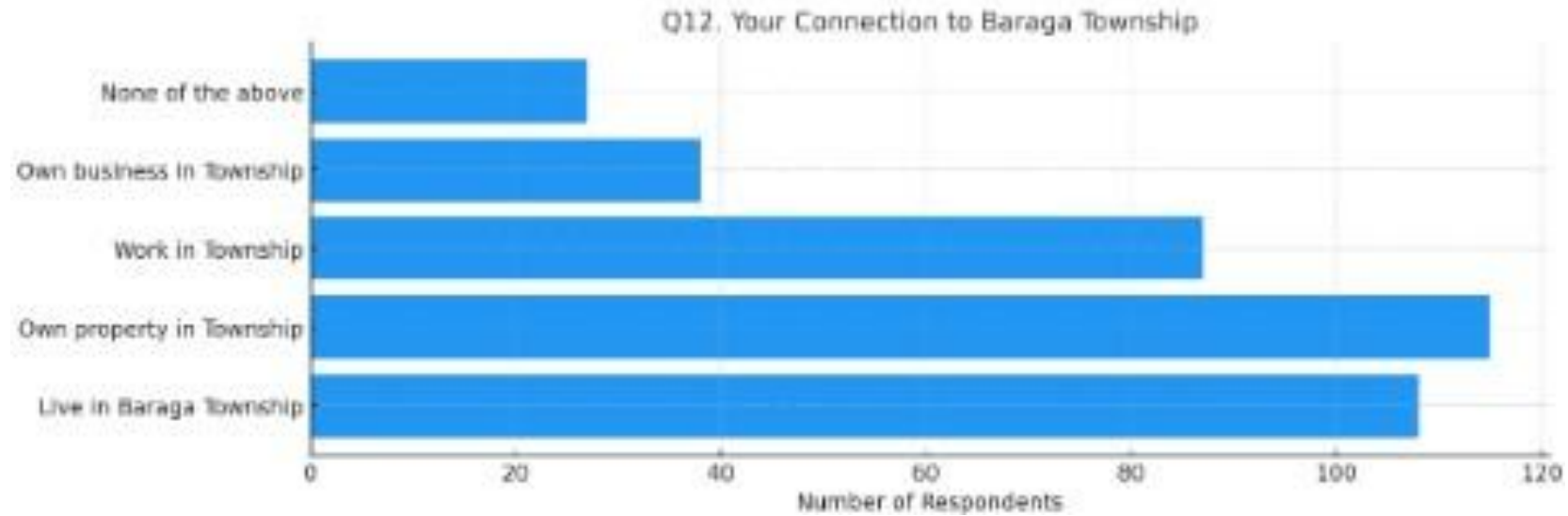
Weaknesses include dining, shopping, and business opportunities — highlighting critical areas for economic development.

Question #11. Where do you live?



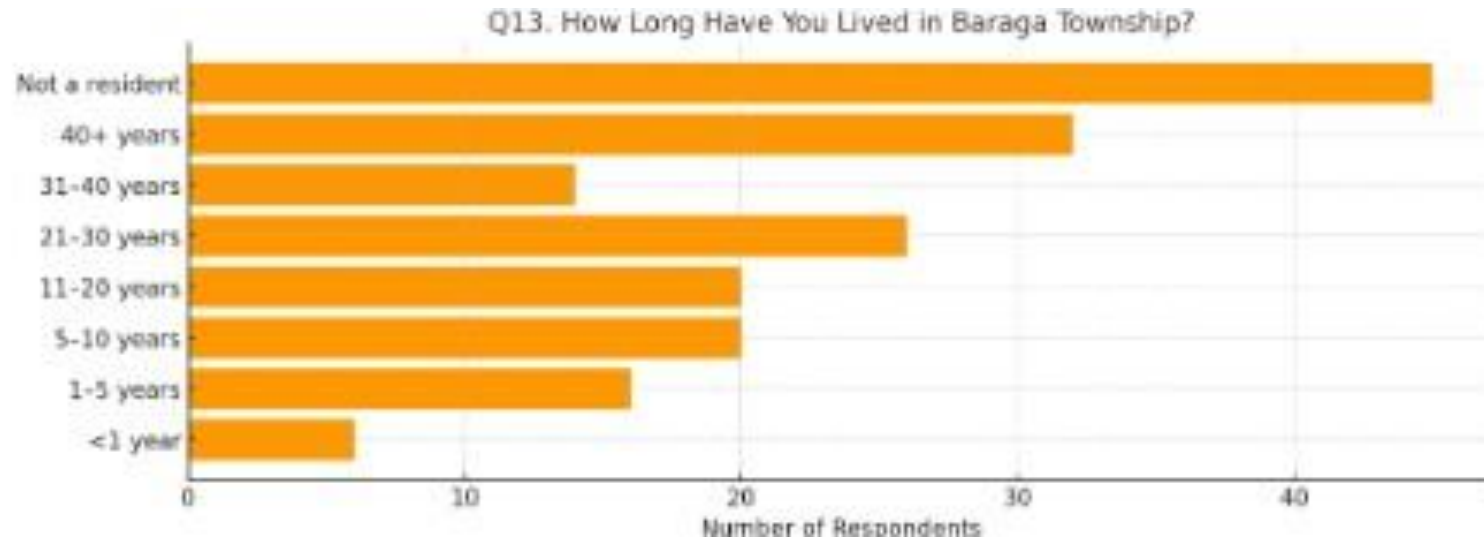
Most respondents are Township residents (not within the village limits), providing a well-distributed sample.

Question #12. Please check all that apply.



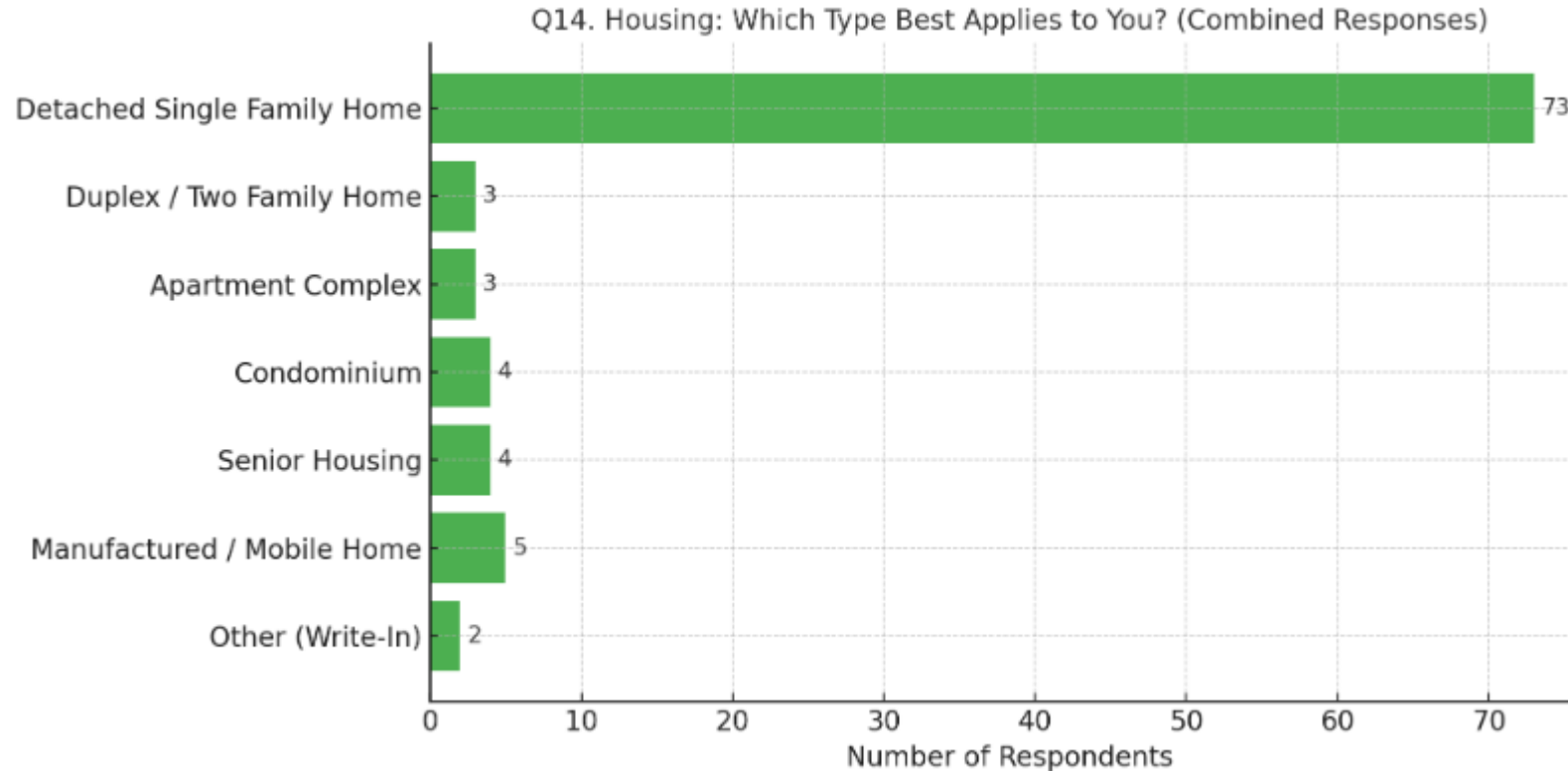
High levels of investment in the community through property ownership and employment, including 38 business owners.

Question #13. How long have you lived in Baraga Township?



A strong core of long-term residents, but 45 non-residents also participated, reflecting regional interest in township planning.

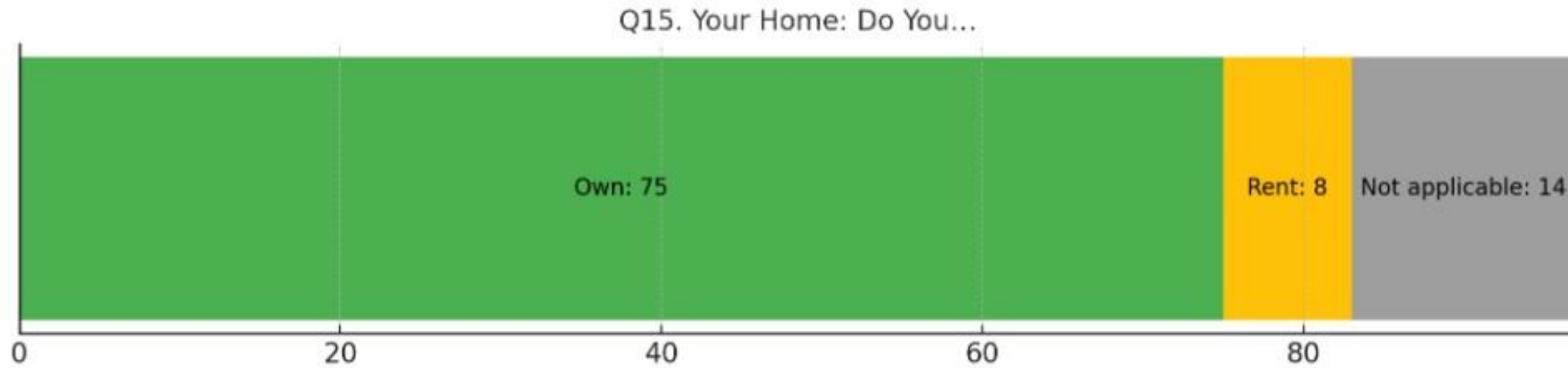
Question #14. Housing: Which type best applies to you?



Most respondents live in a detached single-family home, confirming the dominant rural residential character of Baraga Township.

Very few residents live in multifamily or rental-style housing, reinforcing the limited local inventory of alternatives like apartments, condos, or senior living units.

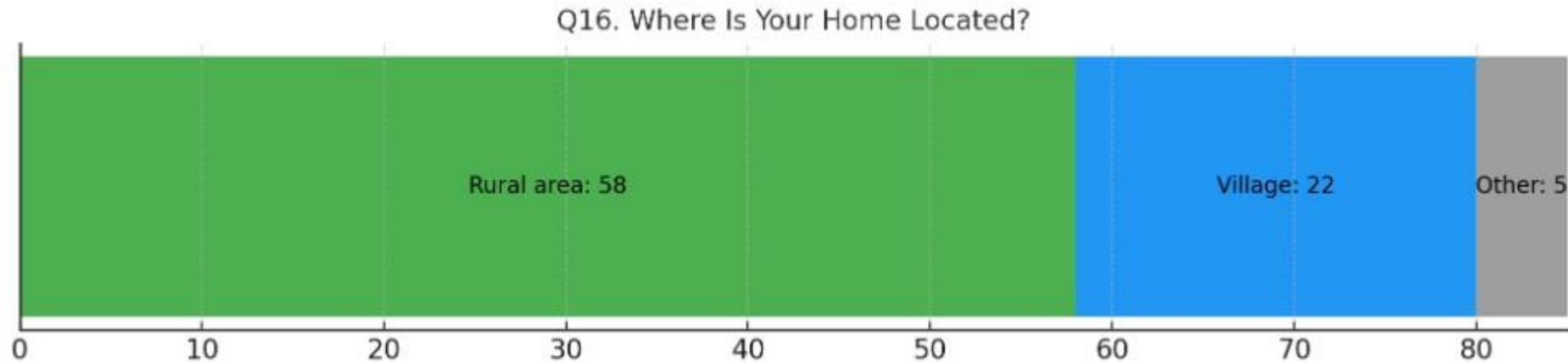
Question #15. Your home: Do you?



A very high homeownership rate (87%) reflects a strong sense of rootedness in the community.

Relatively few renters or non-resident responses.

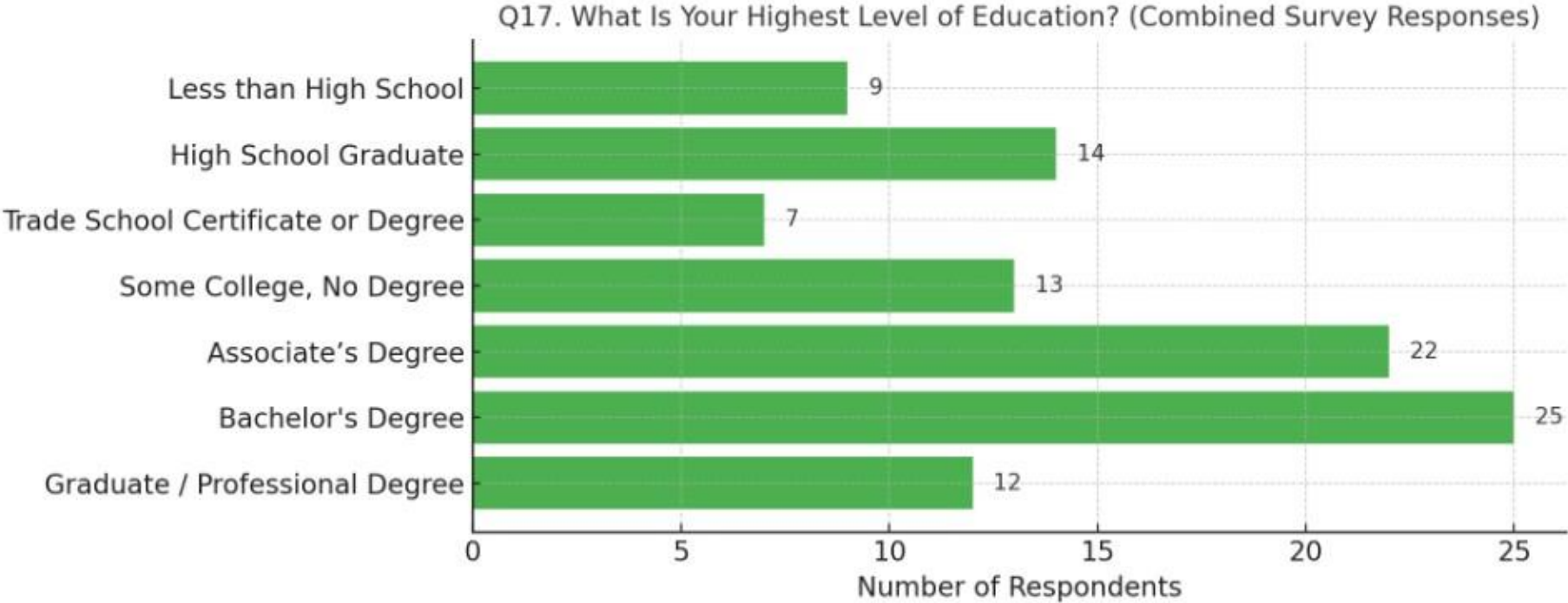
Question #16. Which of the following best describes the location of your home?



The majority of respondents live in rural parts of Baraga Township.

Around a quarter are located in the Village, and a small number selected "Other."

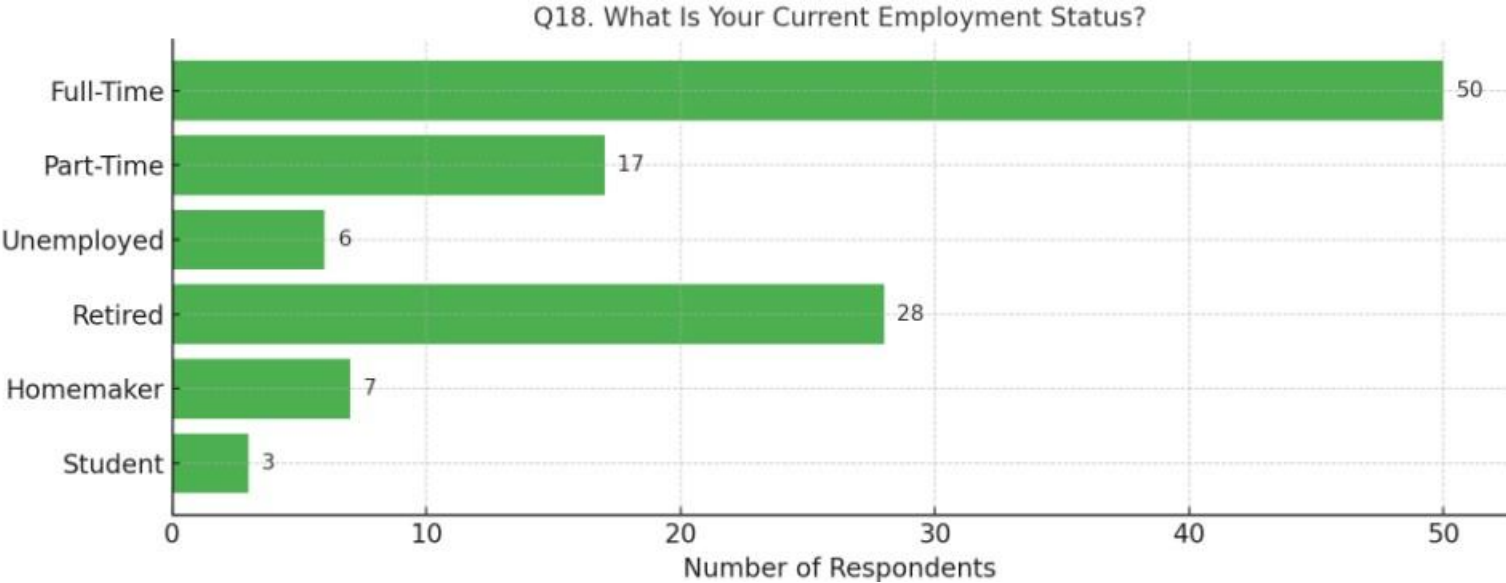
Question #17. Level of Education: Which best applies to you?



The largest group of respondents is age 65–74, followed by 55–64 and 45–54.

Participation from younger age groups (under 35) was minimal — an important consideration for future outreach and engagement.

Question #18. Employment status.

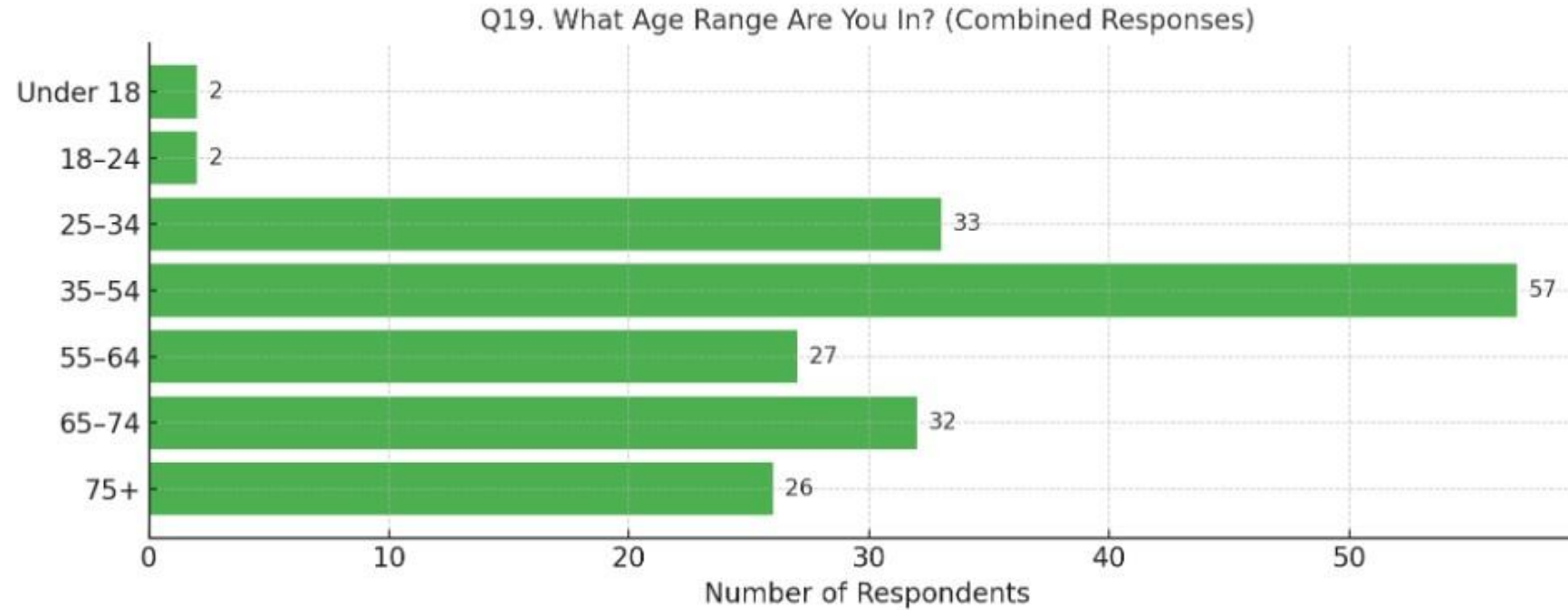


Nearly half of respondents work full-time, while one-quarter are retired.

Participation among part-timers, homemakers, and students is smaller, though still notable.

Very low unemployment rate among respondents.

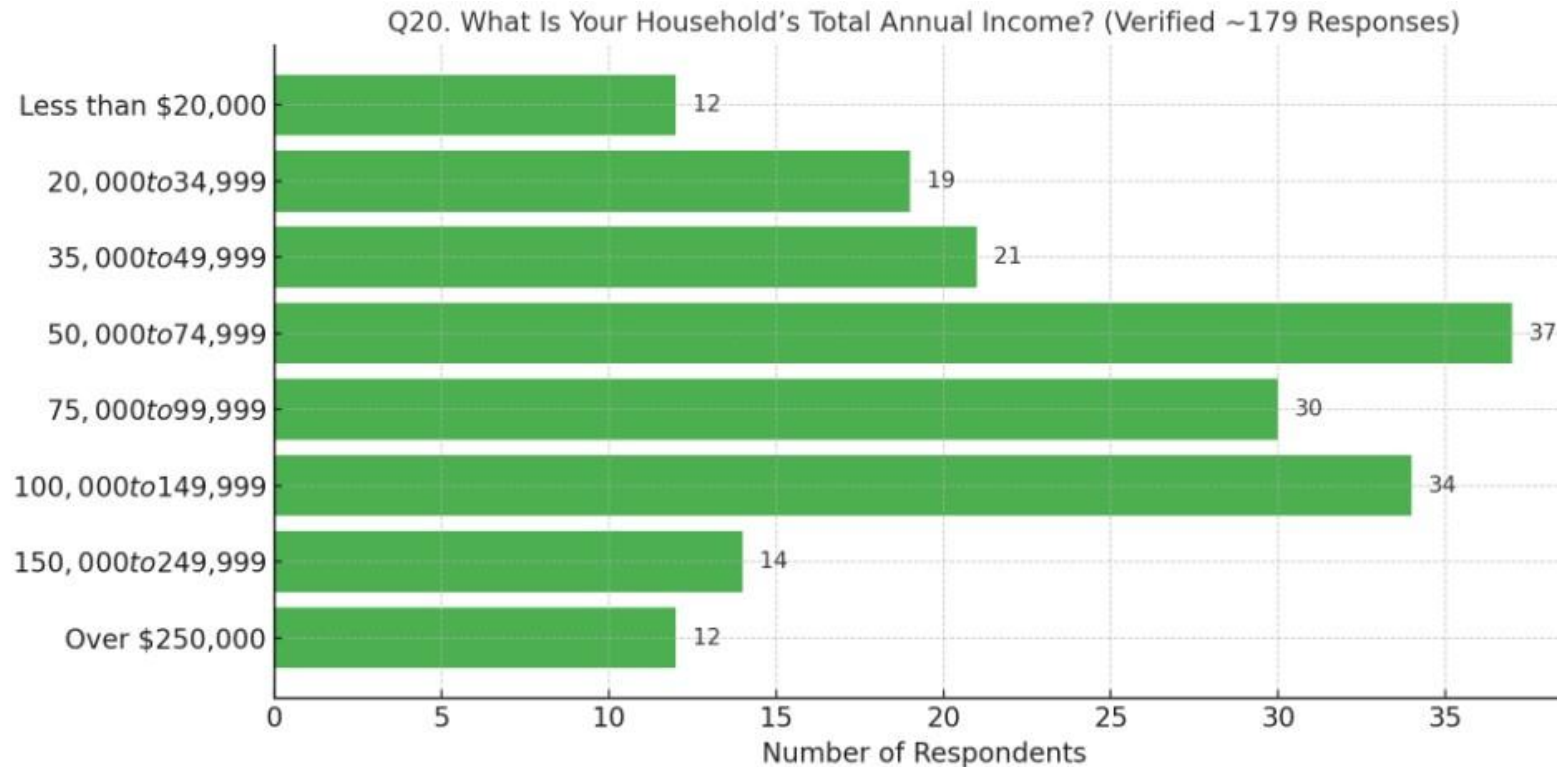
Question #19. What age range are you in?



The largest group of respondents are ages 35–54, making up over 40% of responses.

Young adults (under 25) are underrepresented, indicating a potential gap in outreach to that age demographic.

Question #20. What is your household income range? (Optional)



Income levels are relatively evenly distributed, with the largest groups in the middle-to-upper brackets (\$50,000+).

About 25% of respondents report annual incomes under \$35,000, highlighting a meaningful portion of lower-income households to consider in housing and service planning.

2025 Baraga Township Community Survey Summary

Survey Participation:

- 179 people responded to the survey.
- Baraga Township has about 3,478 residents.
- This means around 5% of the population participated.

Is That a Good Sample Size?

Yes — while more responses are always better, 179 responses is enough to give us a good picture of what residents think. Based on standard statistical guidelines, this gives us:

- A margin of error of about $\pm 7\%$
- 95% confidence that the results represent the wider community

That means if 60% of people in the survey say they support something, we can be confident that between 53% and 67% of all residents likely feel the same way.

Who Responded?

Most survey participants were homeowners, older adults (ages 35–74), long-term residents. This gives a strong sense of what core, year-round residents think.

However, it may not fully reflect the opinions of young adults, renters, seasonal or part-time residents.