

Results of Town Meeting Survey

Sharon Governance Study Committee

May 2022

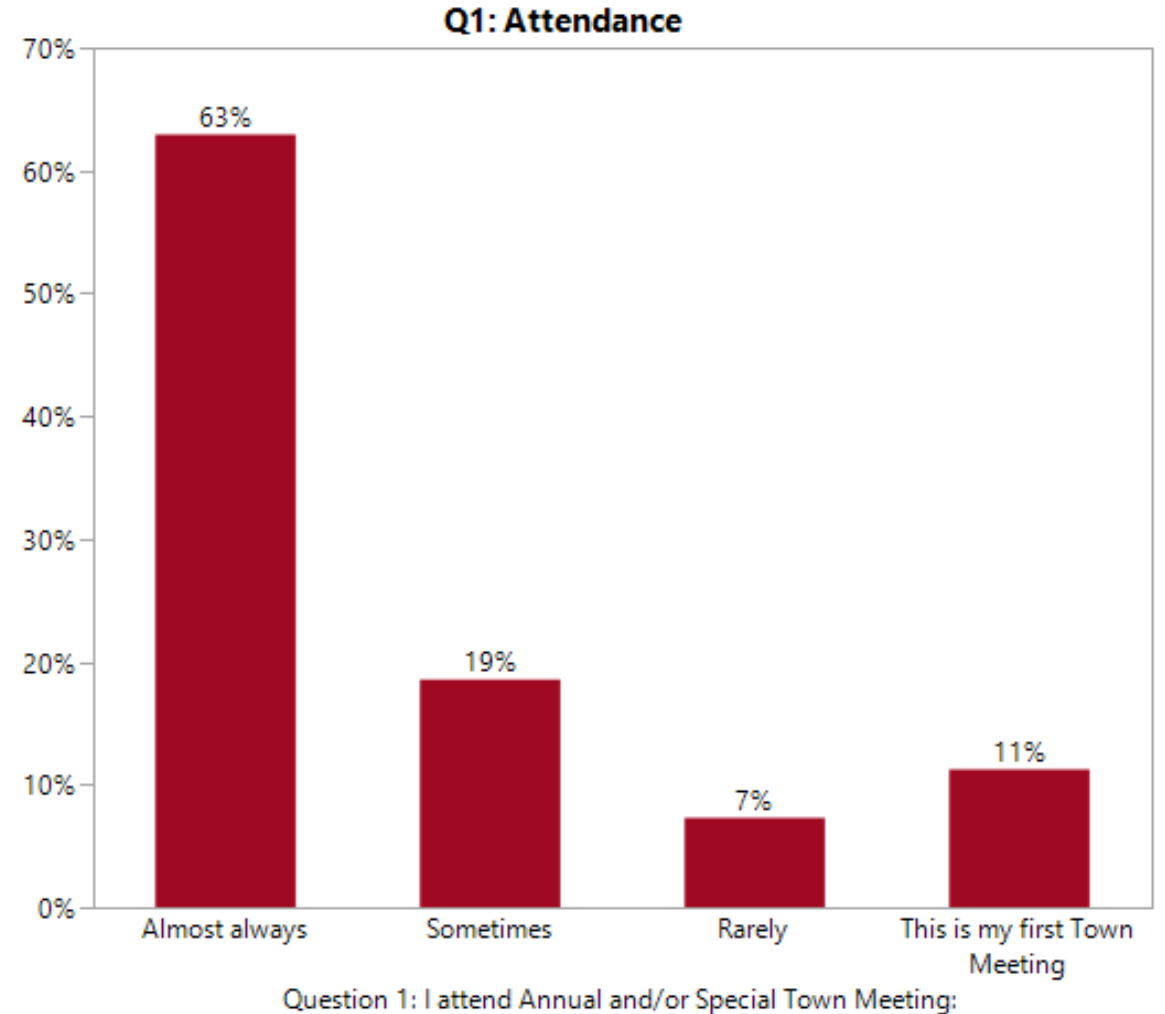
Summary Initial Findings

Attendance

- 193 residents attended Town Meeting on May 2
- Turnout represented 1.5% of registered voters
- Attendance was the lowest for an Annual Town Meeting session in a non-pandemic year since 2012
- 151 voters at the meeting completed our survey
 - 78% of attendees participated in study

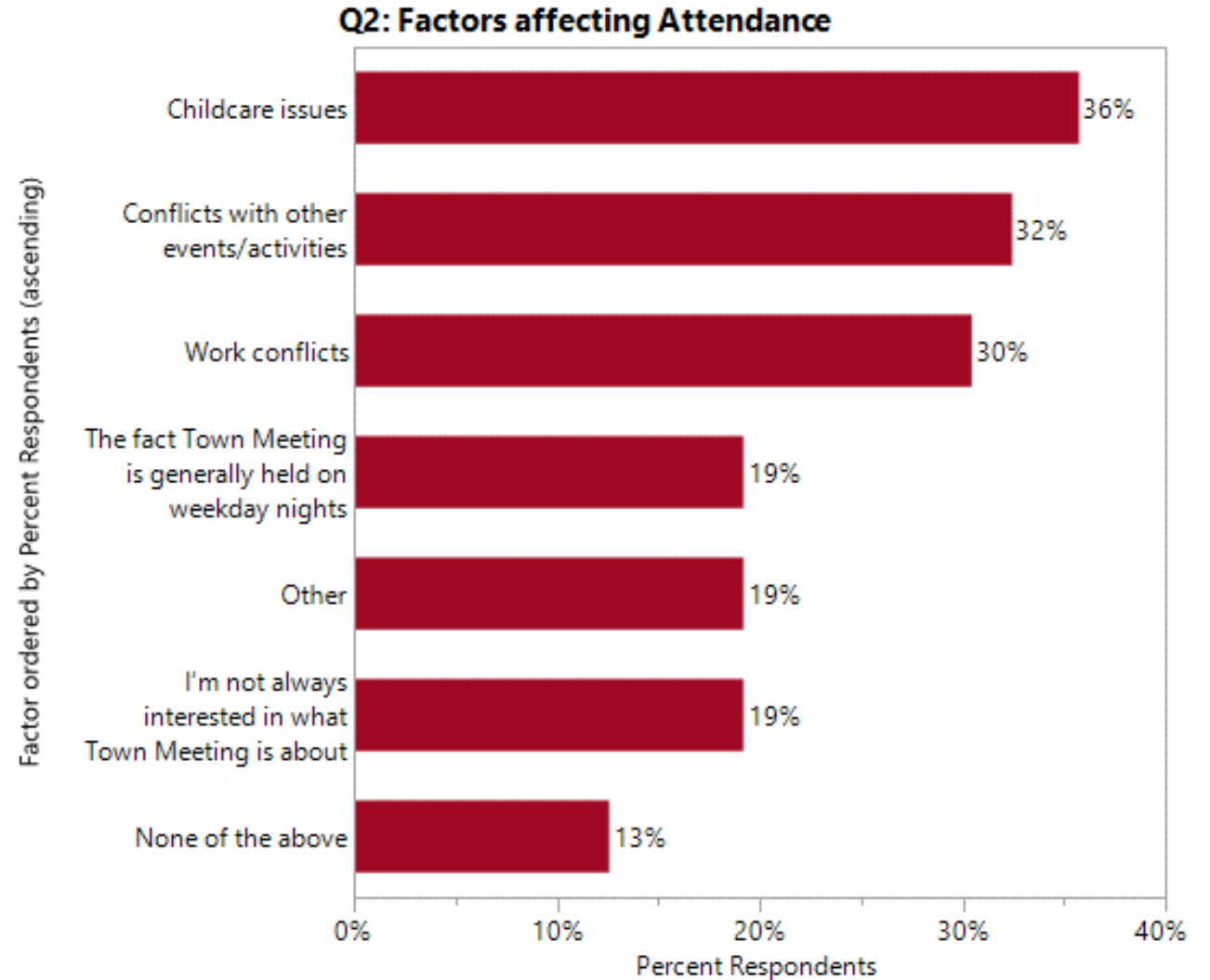
Frequency of attendance

- 63% of voters said they almost always attend Town Meeting
- 11% said they were there for the first time



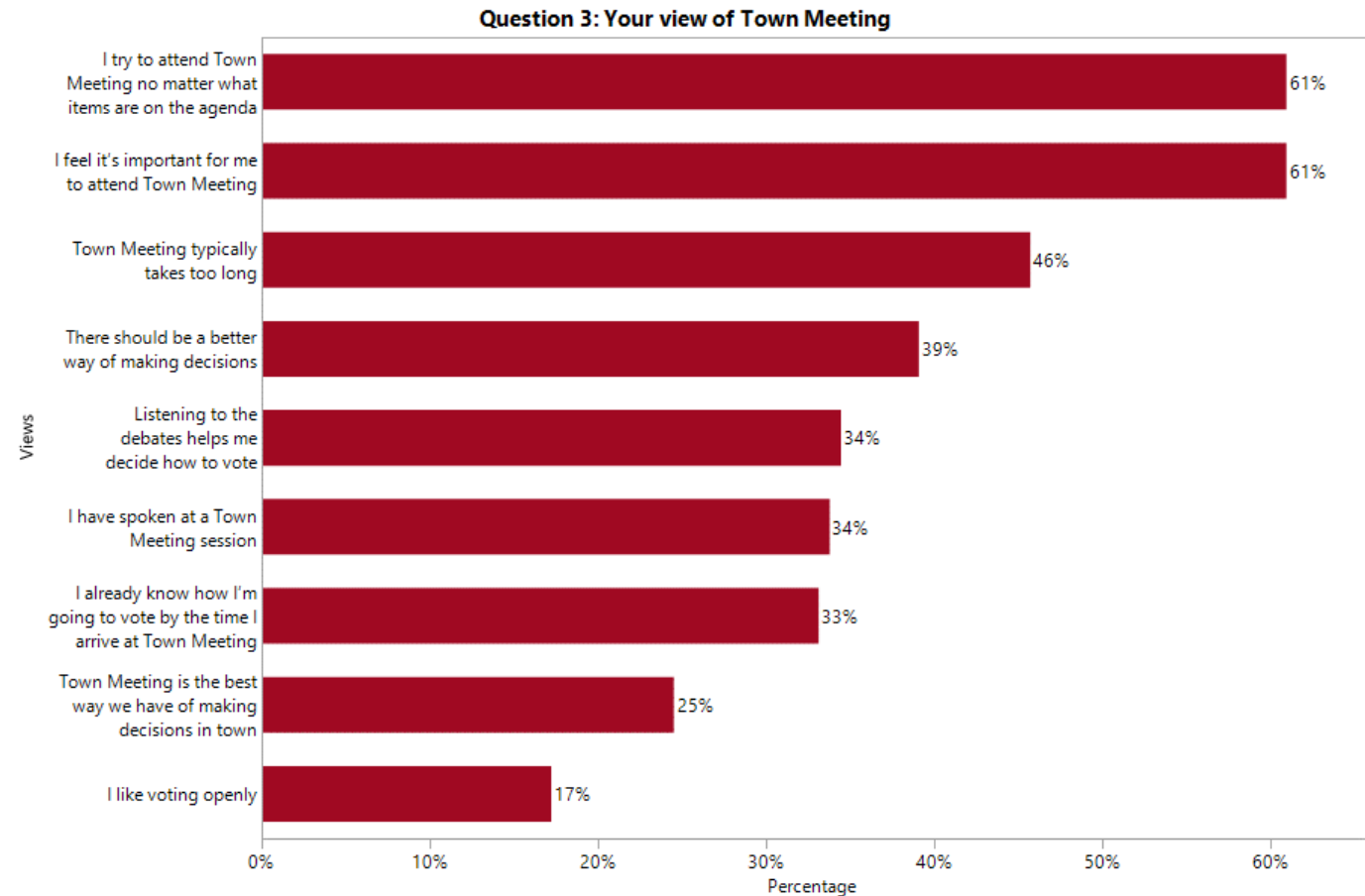
Factors affecting attendance

- 36% said childcare responsibilities affected their attendance
- 32% cited conflicts with other activities and 31% pointed to work obligations
- 19% said holding meetings on weekday nights kept them from meetings
- 19% said they weren't always interested in the subject matter



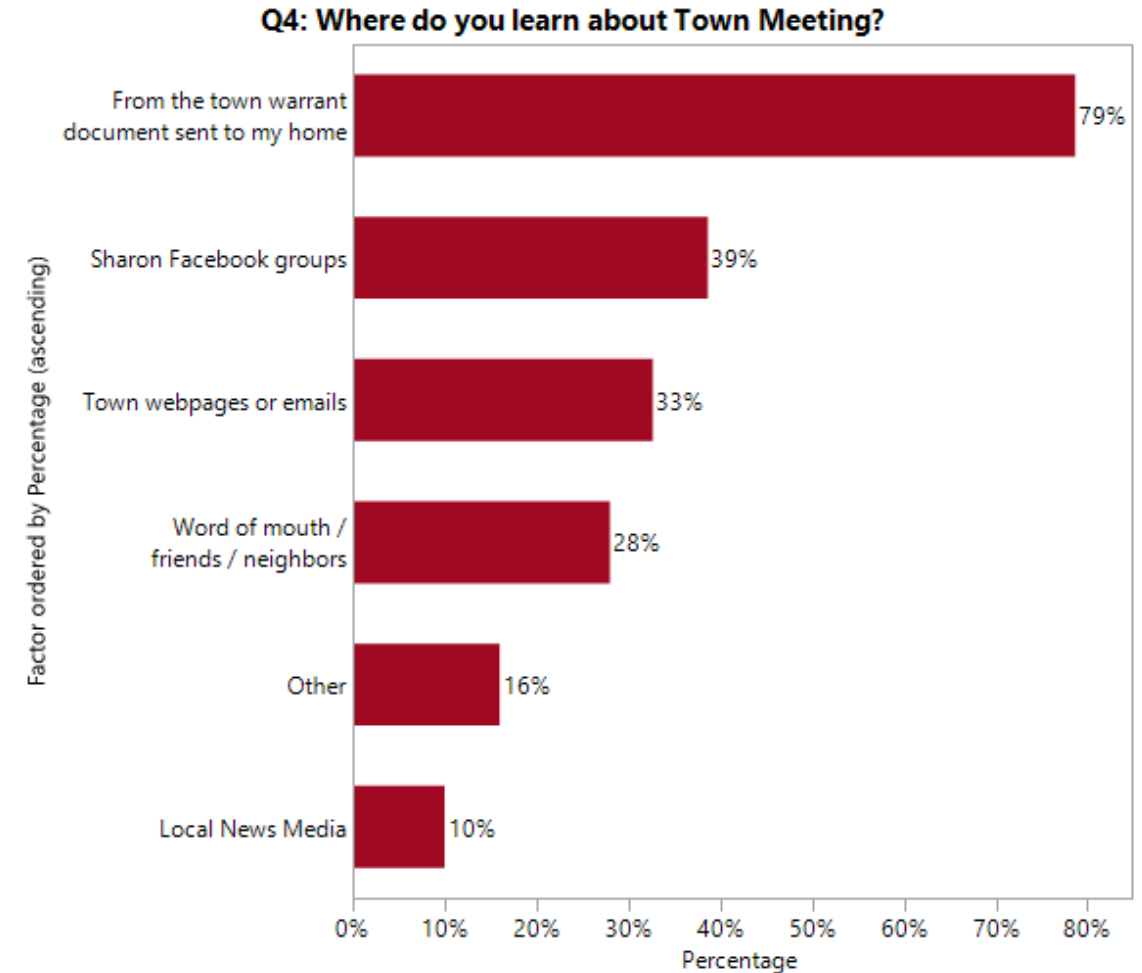
Opinions about meeting

- 61% said they try to attend Town Meeting no matter what
- 46% say meetings take too long
- 39% believe there's a better way to make decisions in town
- 34% say listening to debates helps voting decisions
- 33% know how they're going to vote beforehand



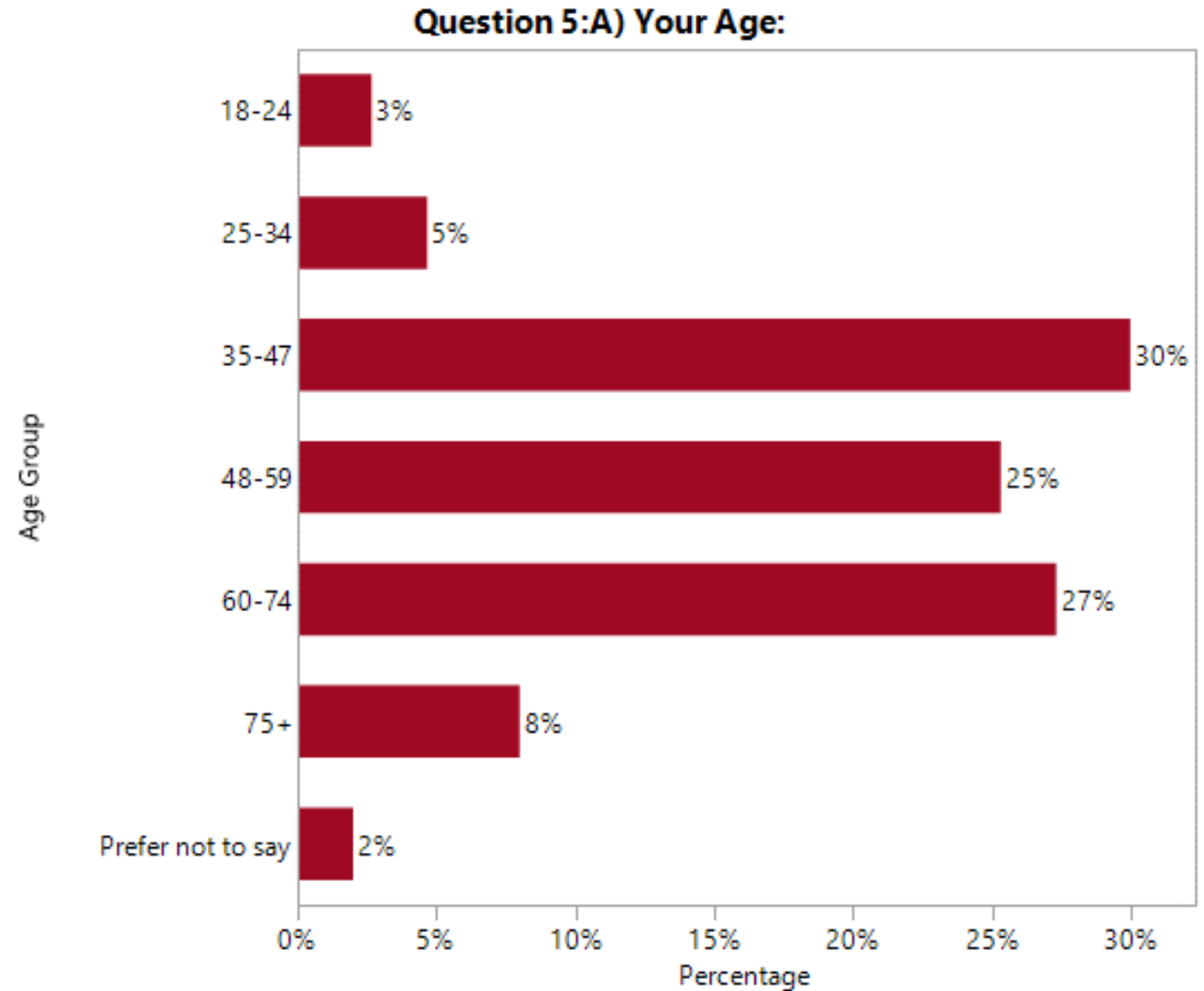
How voters learn about Town Meeting

- 79% said they got information from the town warrant booklet
- 39% said Sharon Facebook groups
- 33% said town webpages or emails
- 28% said they learned from friends or by word of mouth



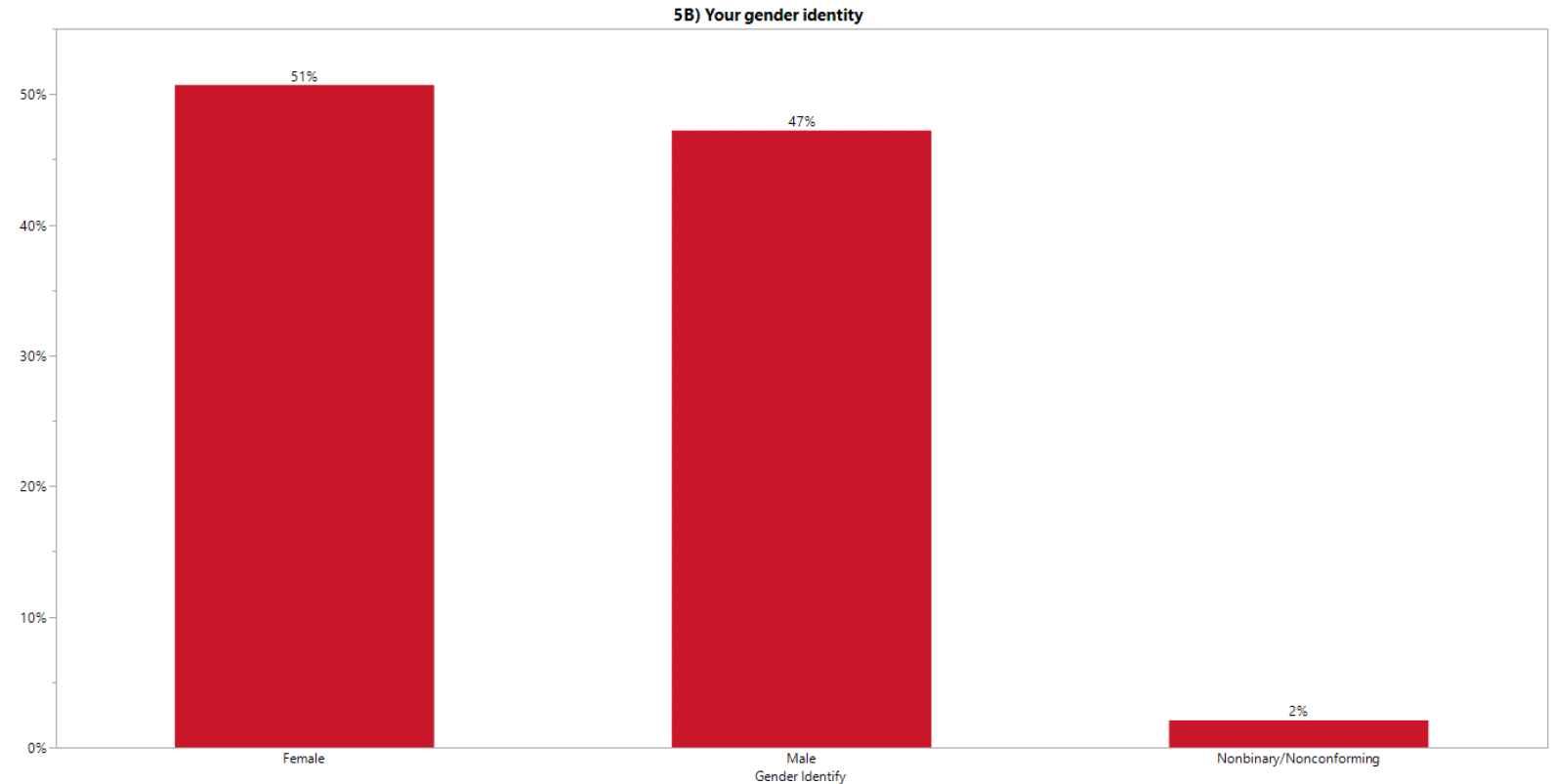
Demographic information: Age

- Average age of attendees: ~54
- 55% are between 35 and 59
- 35% are over 60



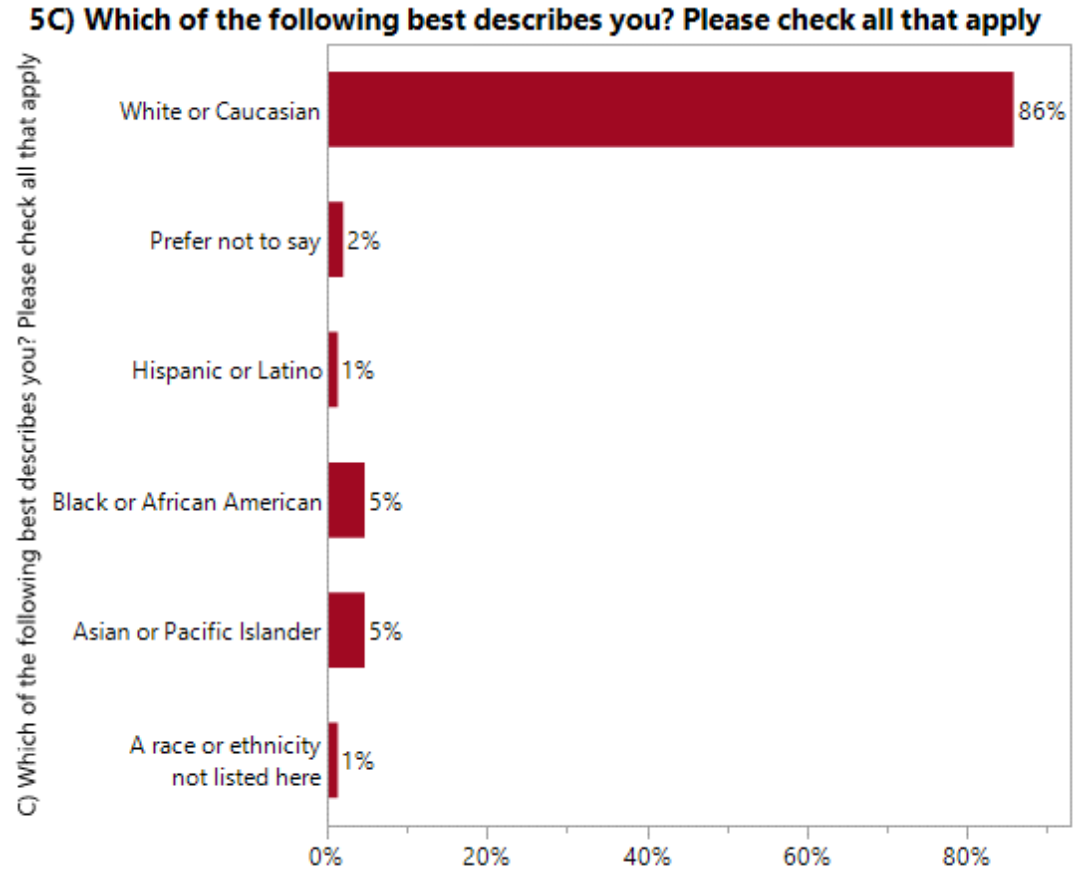
Demographic information: Gender

- 51% of respondents identified as female
- 47% identified as male
- 2% identified as non-binary/non-conforming



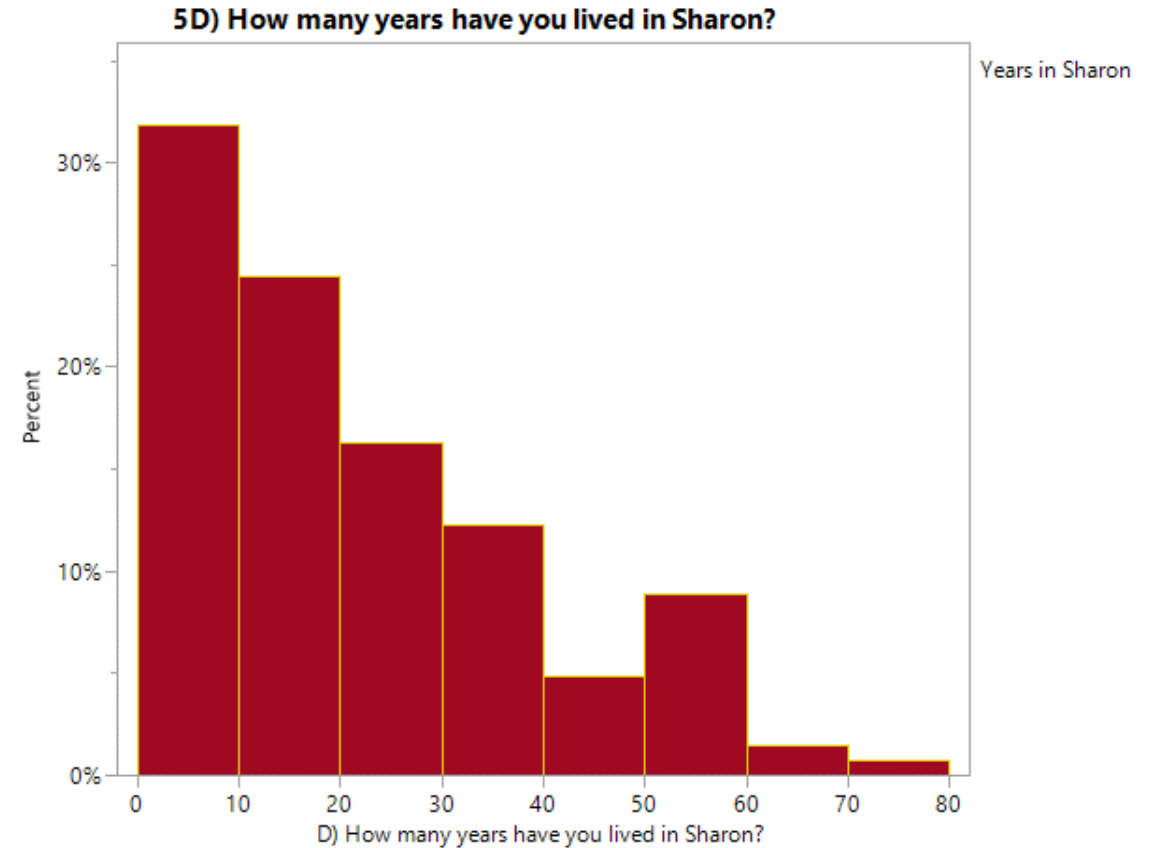
Demographic information: Race and ethnicity

- 86% of respondents identified as white or Caucasian
- 11% identified as people of color



Demographic information: Years in Sharon

- Average length of residency in Sharon: 21 years
- Median length of residency: 17 years
- About one-third have lived in town less than 10 years



Demographic information: Town service

- Nearly 1 in 3 attendees serve on a town government board or committee

