

2023 Legislative Priorities Poll Report

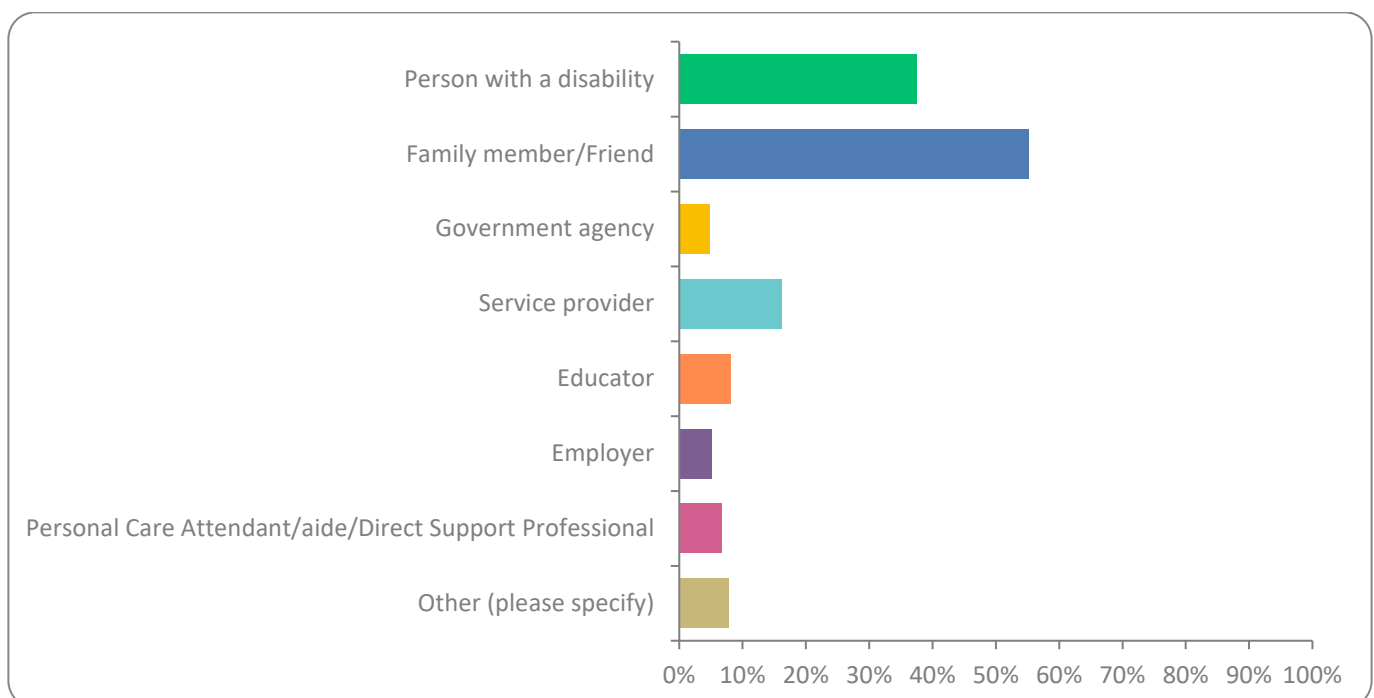
The Governor’s Council on Disability recently conducted its annual poll to determine the level of importance disability related issues have to Missourians impacted by disability through their personal and/or professional lives. The results will be shared with council members, the Governor, state legislators, and other interested groups. The poll was available to individuals via the Governor’s Council on Disability listservs, Twitter, Facebook, website, personal contacts, and other organization contacts. It was provided in PDF and Survey Monkey formats.

Five hundred ninety-eight (598) polls were returned.

The top five priorities for the Governor’s Council on Disability for the coming year are determined by the questions which receive the highest combined percentage of strongly agree and agree responses. The 2024 priorities will be:

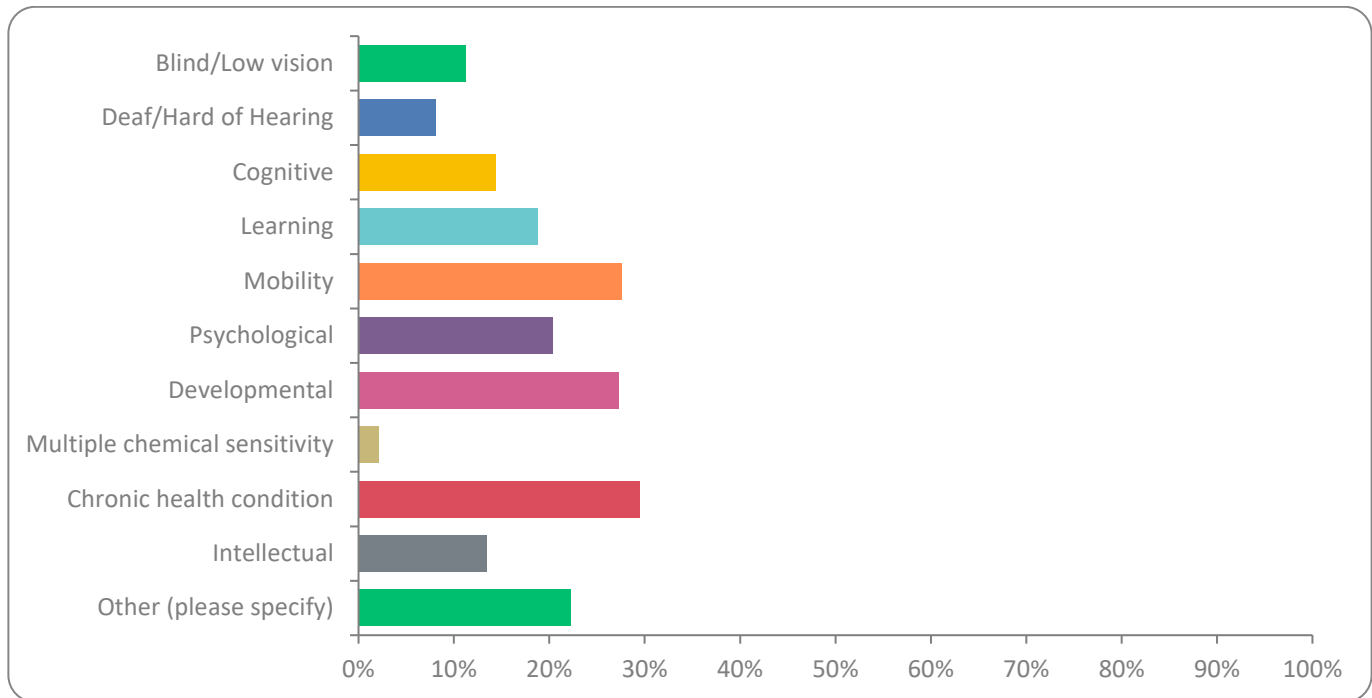
1. **The State of Missouri updating websites to include more language that is direct and easy to understand for those with reading or writing difficulties**
2. **The Personal Care Attendant/Aide/Direct Support Professional workforce providing critical services**
3. **The legislature providing funding for people to renovate or build homes which would allow them to age in place**
4. **The State of Missouri ensuring Person First Language is being used on all state associated websites**
5. **A freeze on property taxes for people with disabilities**

Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate the group or groups to which they belonged: person with a disability, family member/friend, government agency employee, service provider, educator, employer, personal care attendant/aide/direct support professional, other. 224 were a person with a disability, 330 were a family member/friend, 29 represented a government agency, 97 were service providers, 49 were educators, 31 were employers, 40 were personal care attendant/aide/direct support professional, and 47 marked other.

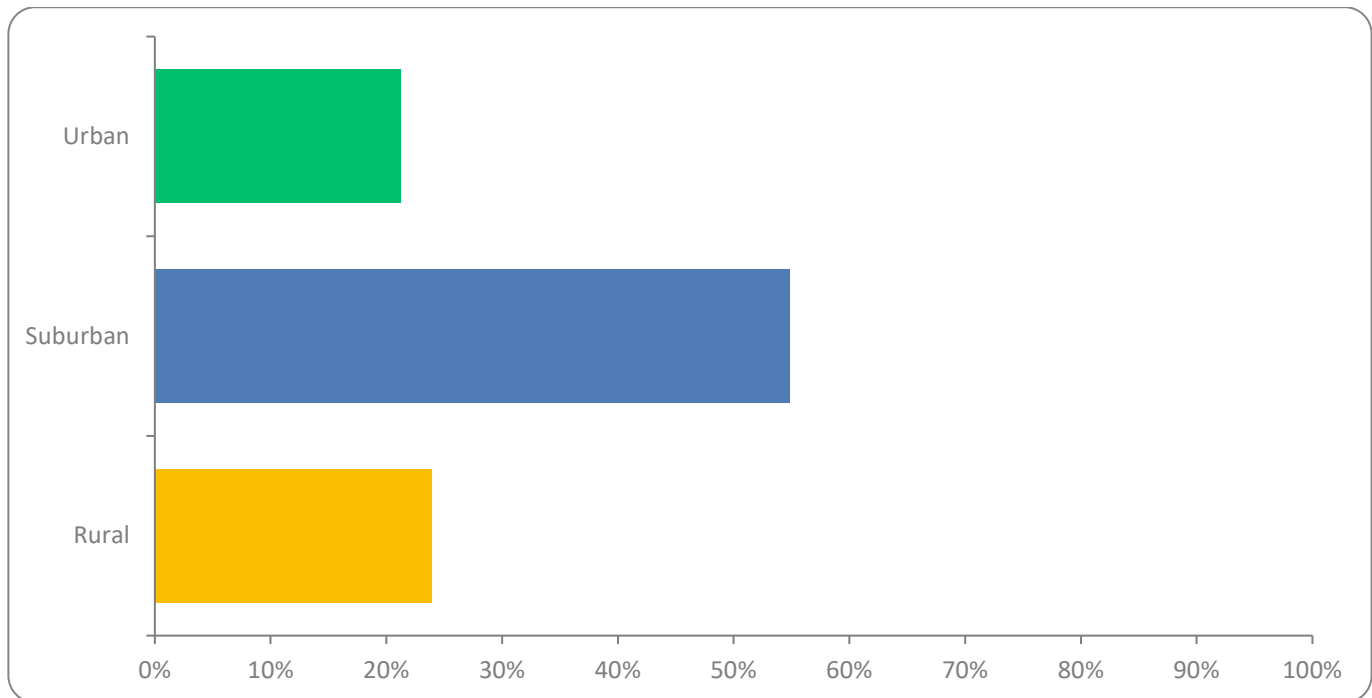


Individuals with disabilities were given the option to indicate what type or types of disability they have:

blind/low vision (36), chronic health condition (94), multiple chemical sensitivity (7), cognitive (46), deaf/hard of hearing (26), developmental (87), learning (60), mobility (88), psychological (65), intellectual (43) and other (71).



Individuals were asked to indicate what county they reside in and whether they live in an urban, suburban, or rural area. For the purposes of this report, the City of St. Louis is considered a county. Of the one hundred fifteen counties, sixty-five are represented. For the number of respondents per county see Appendix. As indicated by self-report, 118 (19.73%) live in urban areas, 358 (59.87%) live in suburban areas, and 136 (22.74%) live in rural areas.

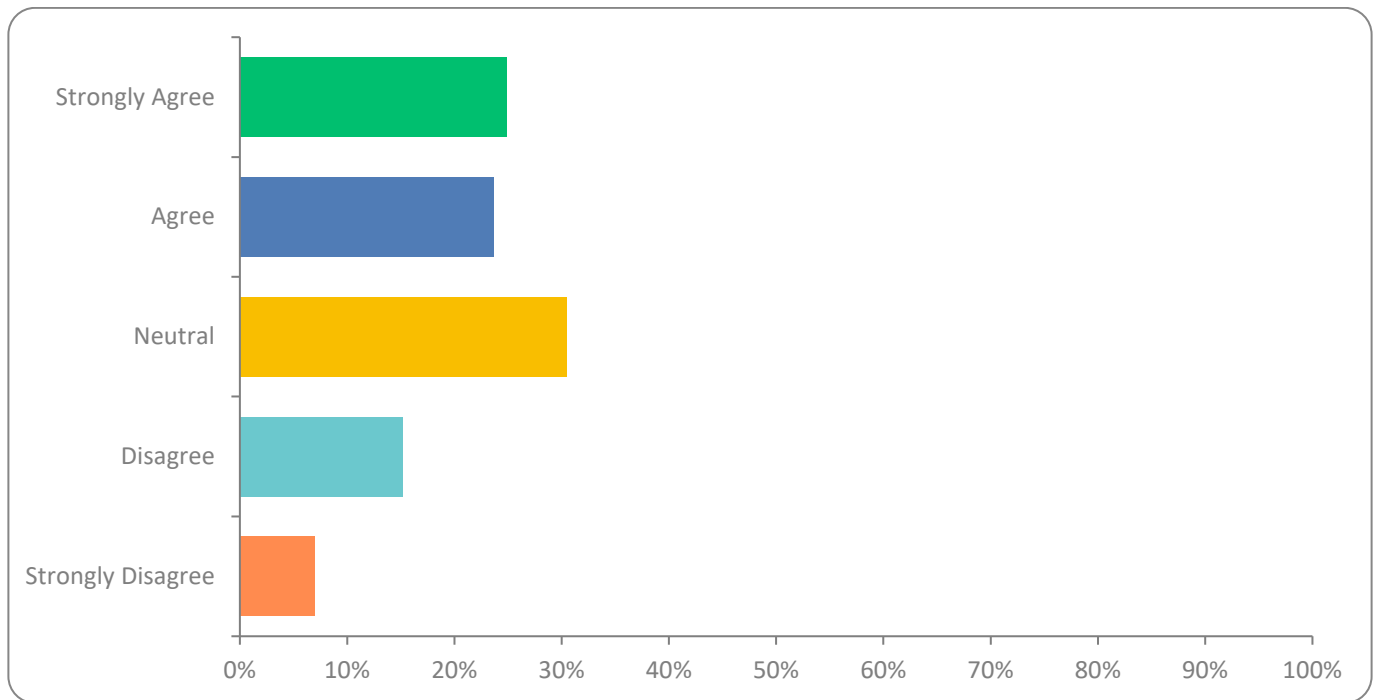


The following are the individual question results. These were broken in to sections of accessibility, education, assistance services and health care, housing, employment, and transportation. Each section included at least one open response question. Some respondents did not answer every question.

The accessibility section included the following questions:

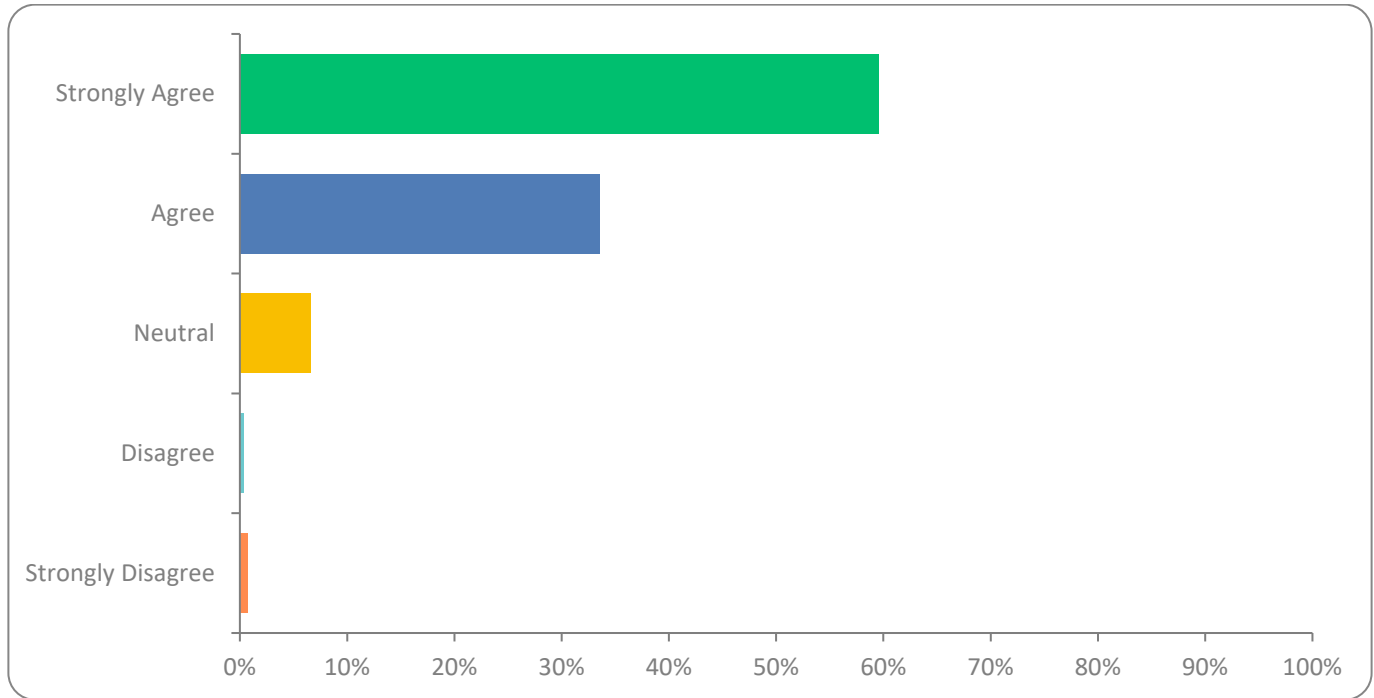
1. All Missouri statutes and bills should not use terms such as handicapped, disabled, special needs, etc. when referring to people with disabilities.

24.91% strongly agree, 23.62% agree, 30.44% are neutral, 15.13% disagree, and 7.01% strongly disagree.

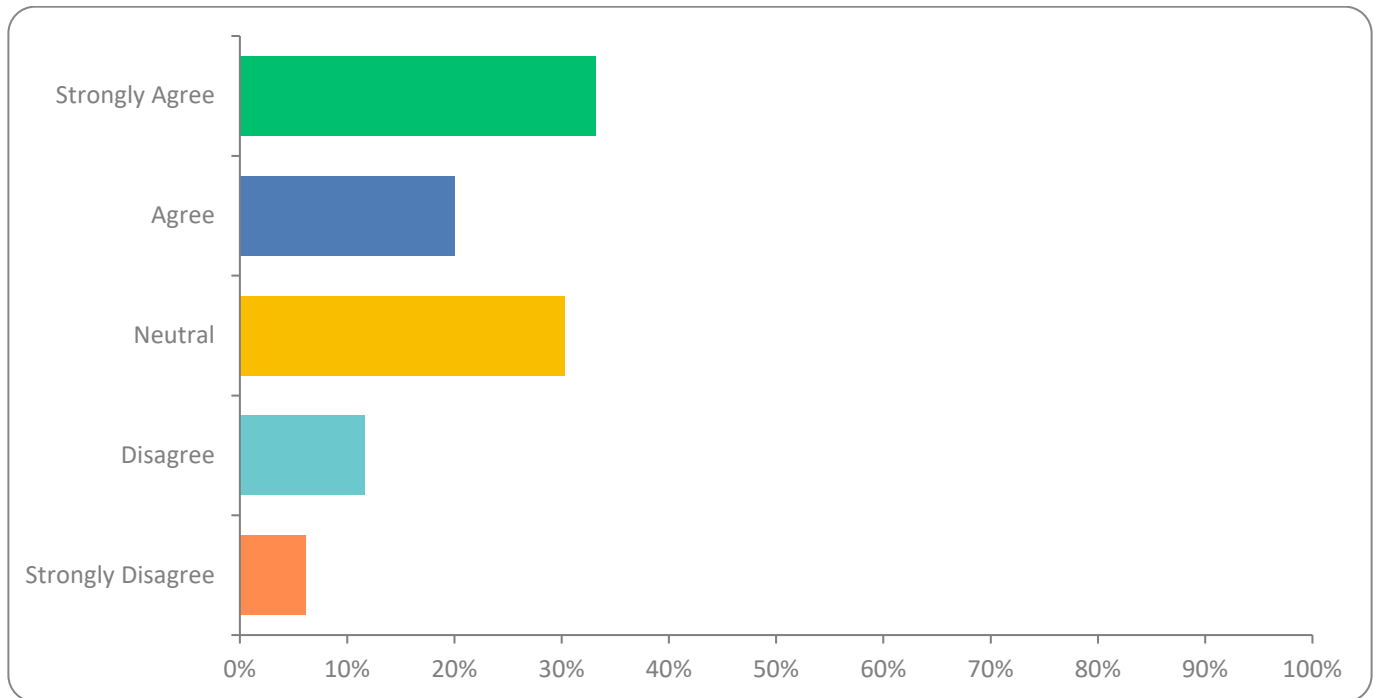


2. The State of Missouri should update websites to include more language that is direct and easy to understand for those with reading or writing difficulties.

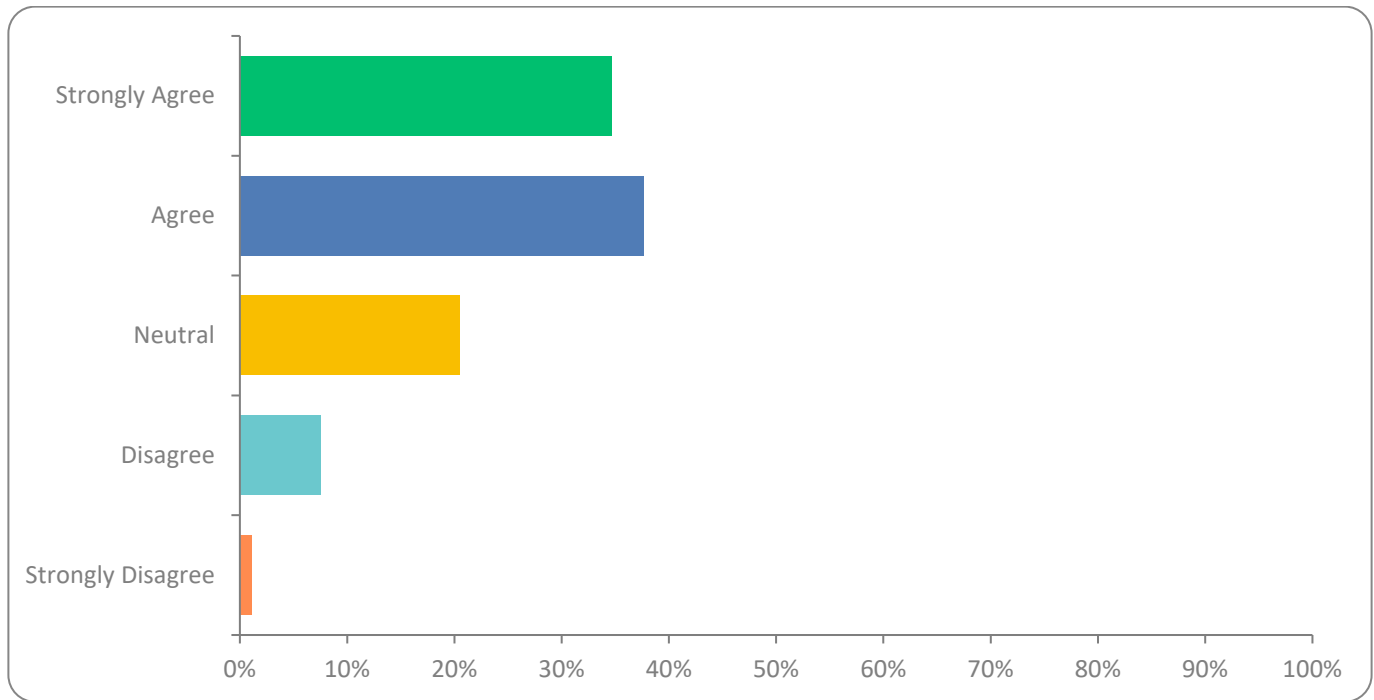
59.59% strongly agree, 33.58% agree, 6.64% are neutral, 0.37% disagree, and 0.74% strongly disagree.



3. The State of Missouri should ensure person first language is used on all state associated websites.
46.13% strongly agree, 30.81% agree, 17.90% are neutral, 3.14% disagree, and 2.40% strongly disagree.



4. It is difficult to access disability related services provided by the State of Missouri.
34.69% strongly agree, 37.64% agree, 20.48% are neutral, 7.56% disagree, and 1.11% strongly disagree.



5. If you could ask legislators to make one change to make Missouri more disability friendly, what would it be?

- Increase accessibility of communities
- Provide transportation
- Improve access to state services
- Disability education and awareness

The education section included the following questions:

1. If you are a parent of a school-age child with a disability, what problems do you experience making sure your child receives an appropriate education?

- Issues with the Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Not receiving services
- Treatment/attitudes

2. What is the most important issue with education in Missouri?

- Not enough staff and teachers
- Issues with curriculum and methods
- Lack of resources and funding

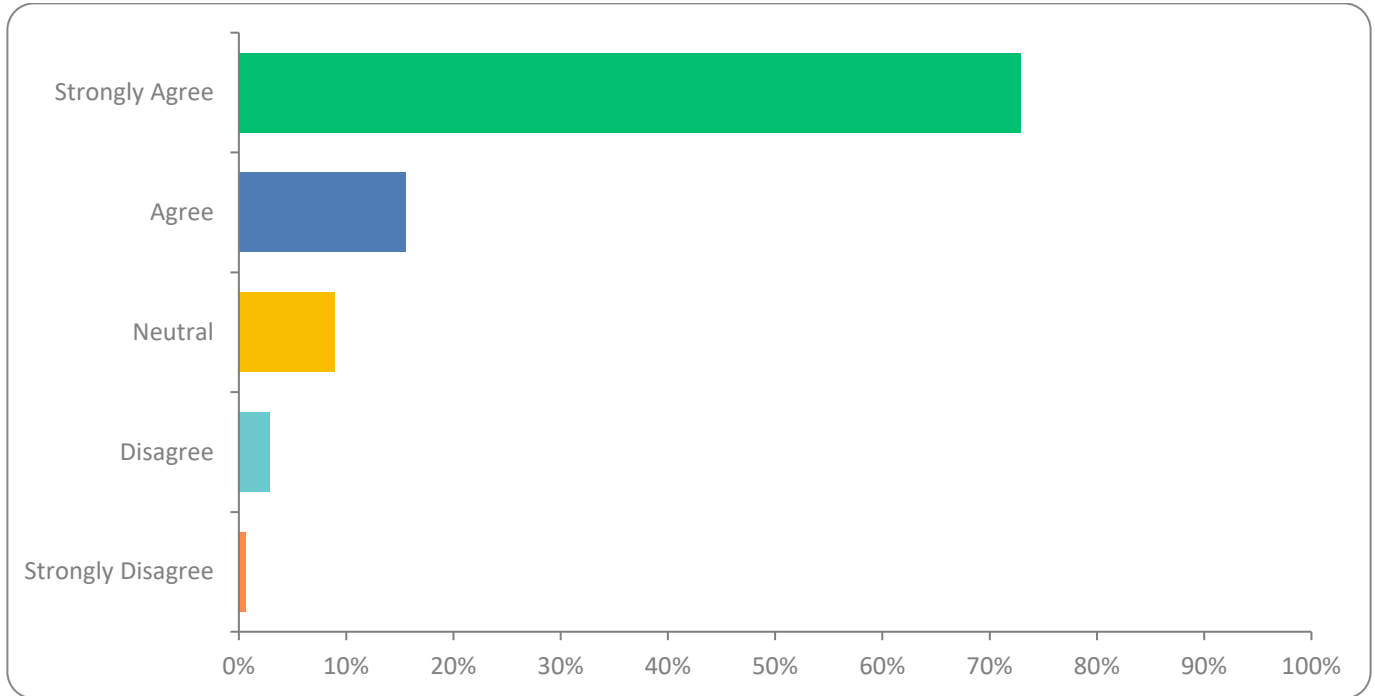
3. What changes could state legislators make to improve education opportunities for people with disabilities?

- Increase teacher/staff pay and funding
- Improve accountability
- Increase curriculum options to include life skills and post-school classes and opportunities

The assistance services/health care section included the following questions:

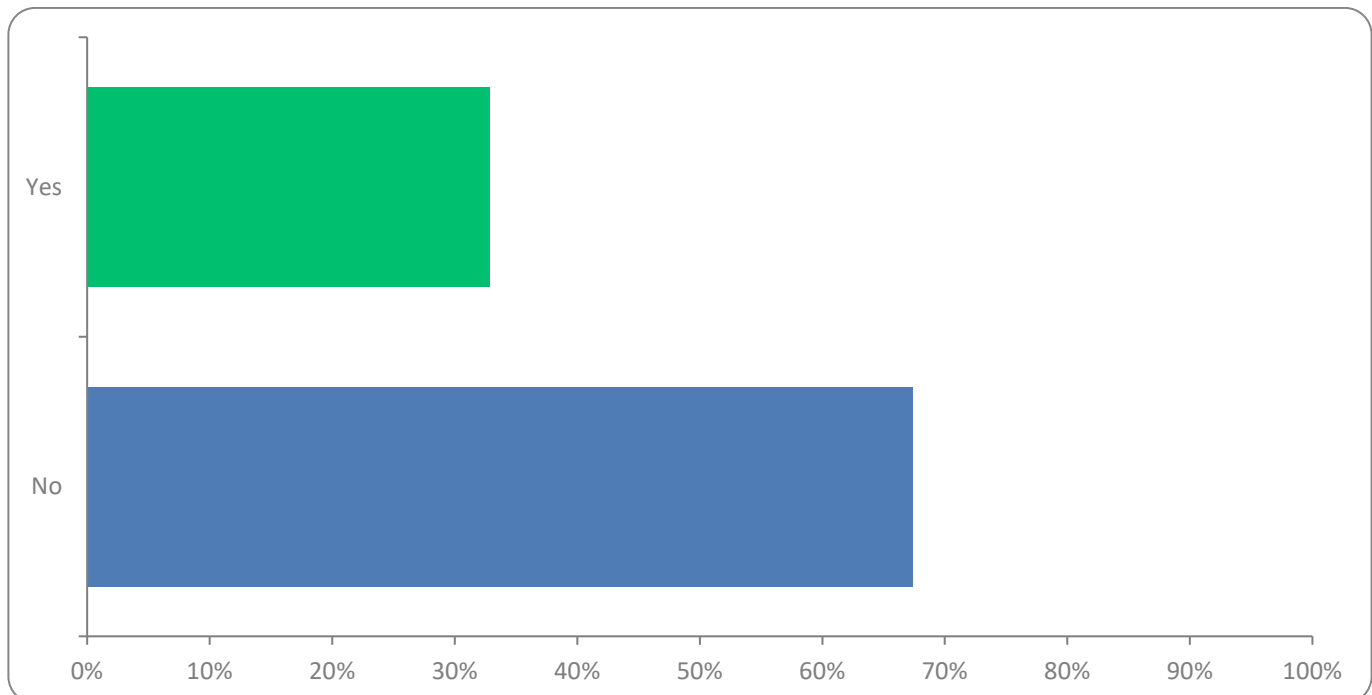
1. The personal care attendant/aide/ direct support professional workforce provides critical services to people with disabilities.

72.87% strongly agree, 15.59% agree, 8.91% are neutral, 2.83% disagree, and 0.61% strongly disagree.



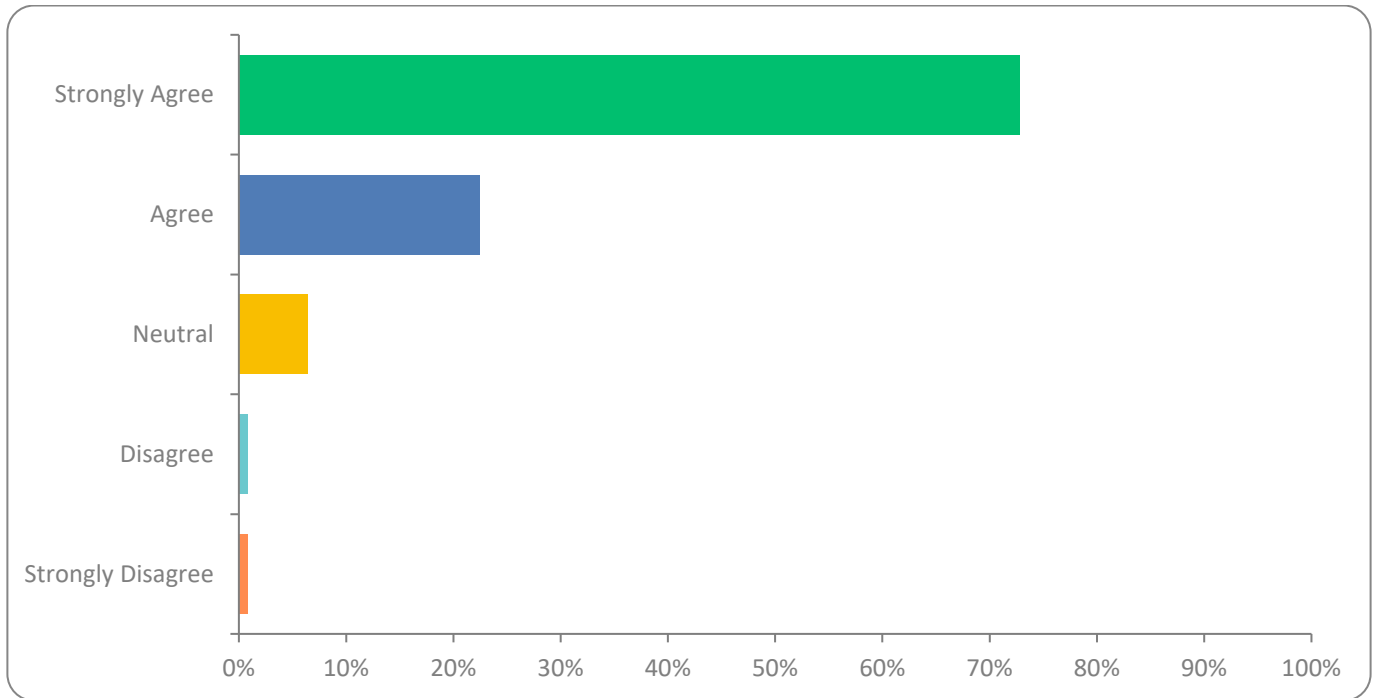
2. Do you use Personal Care Attendant/aide/ Direct Support Professional services?

32.83% yes, 67.38% no.



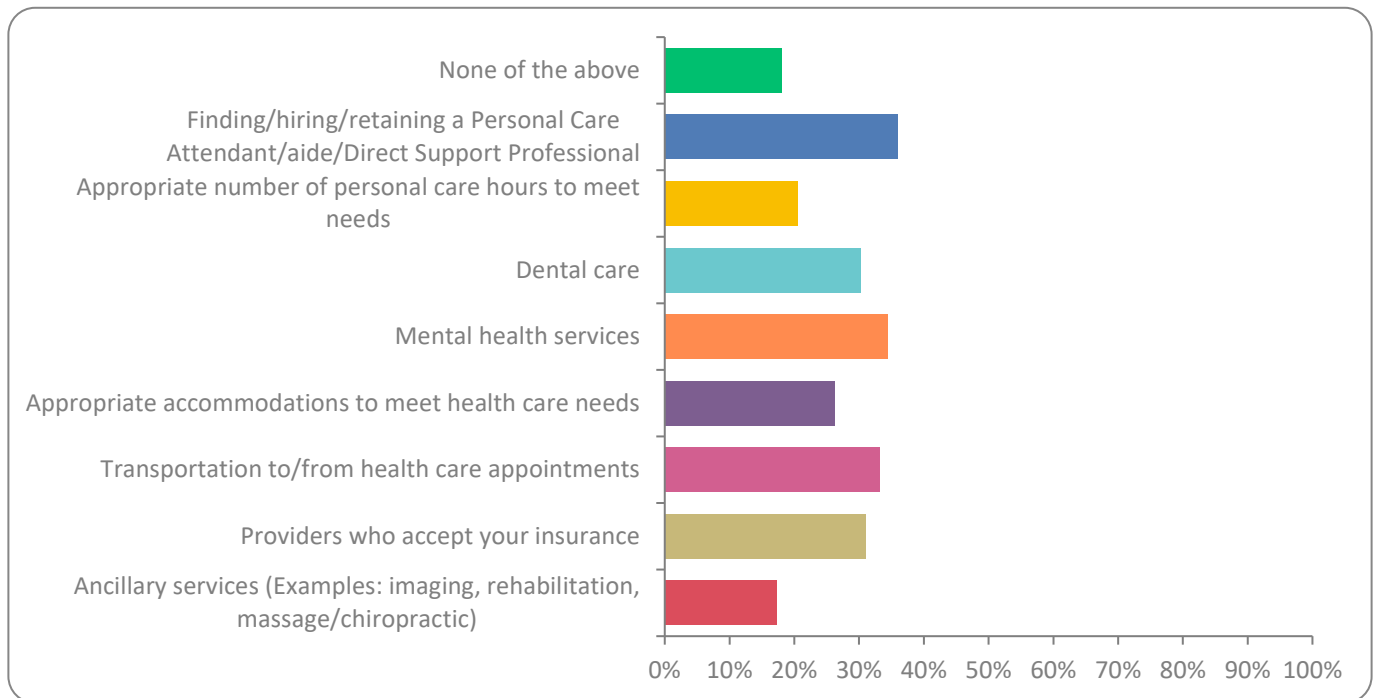
3. My direct support professional helps me be independent and a part of the community.

(This was only answered by those who responded “Yes” to the previous question.) 72.80% strongly agree, 22.40% agree, 6.40% are neutral, 0.80% disagree, and 0.80% strongly disagree.



4. Indicate which, if any health care services they have difficulty with.

35.92% Finding/hiring/retaining Personal Care Attendant/aide/Direct Support Professional, 20.59% appropriate number of personal care hours to meet needs, 30.25% dental care, 34.45% mental health services, 26.26% appropriate accommodations to meet health care needs, 33.19% transportation to/from health care appointments, 31.09% providers who accept individual’s insurance, 17.23% ancillary services, 18.07% none of the above



5. What is the most important issue with health care in Missouri?

- Affordability
- Lack of services in all areas-long waitlists, no providers
- Access to dental care particularly those who provide sedation or accept MO HealthNet
- Lack of education on disabilities and providing accommodations

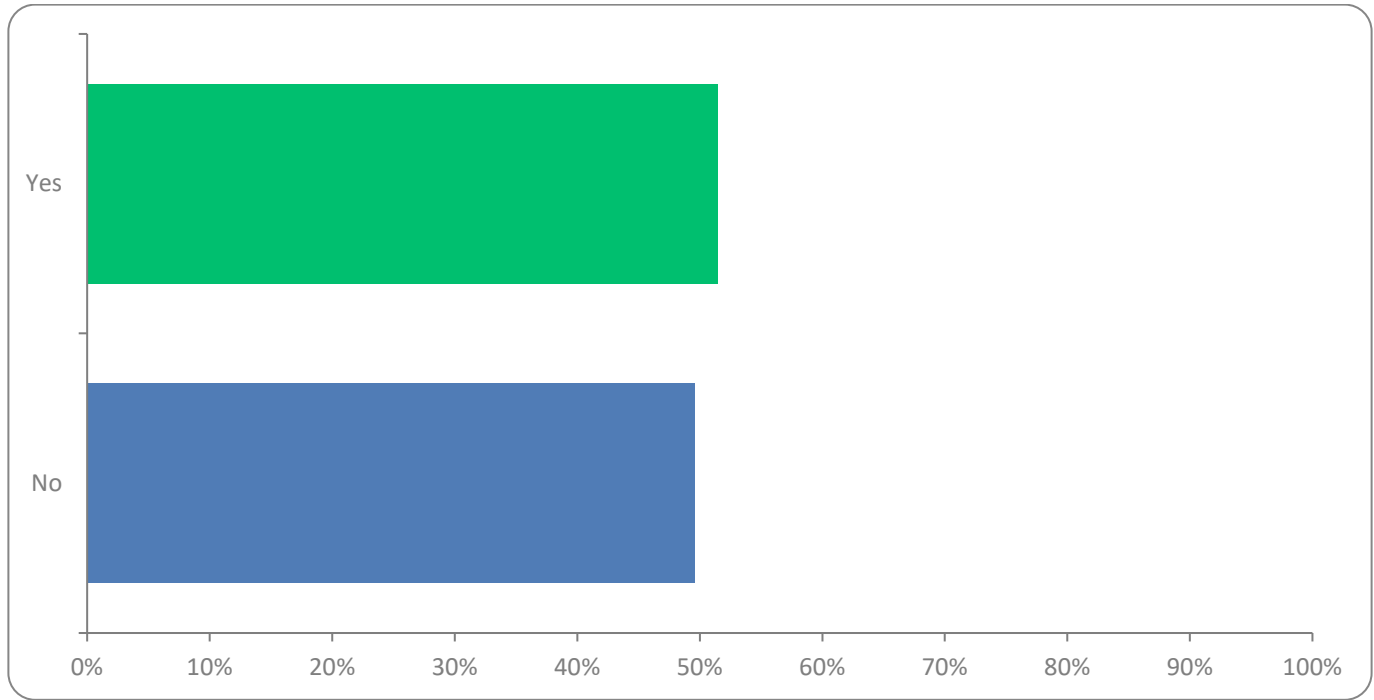
6. What changes could state legislators make to improve health care opportunities for people with disabilities?

- Changes to MO HealthNet, expand insurance options
- Ensuring health care providers receive training on interacting with and treating people with disabilities
- Reduce costs

The Housing section included the following questions:

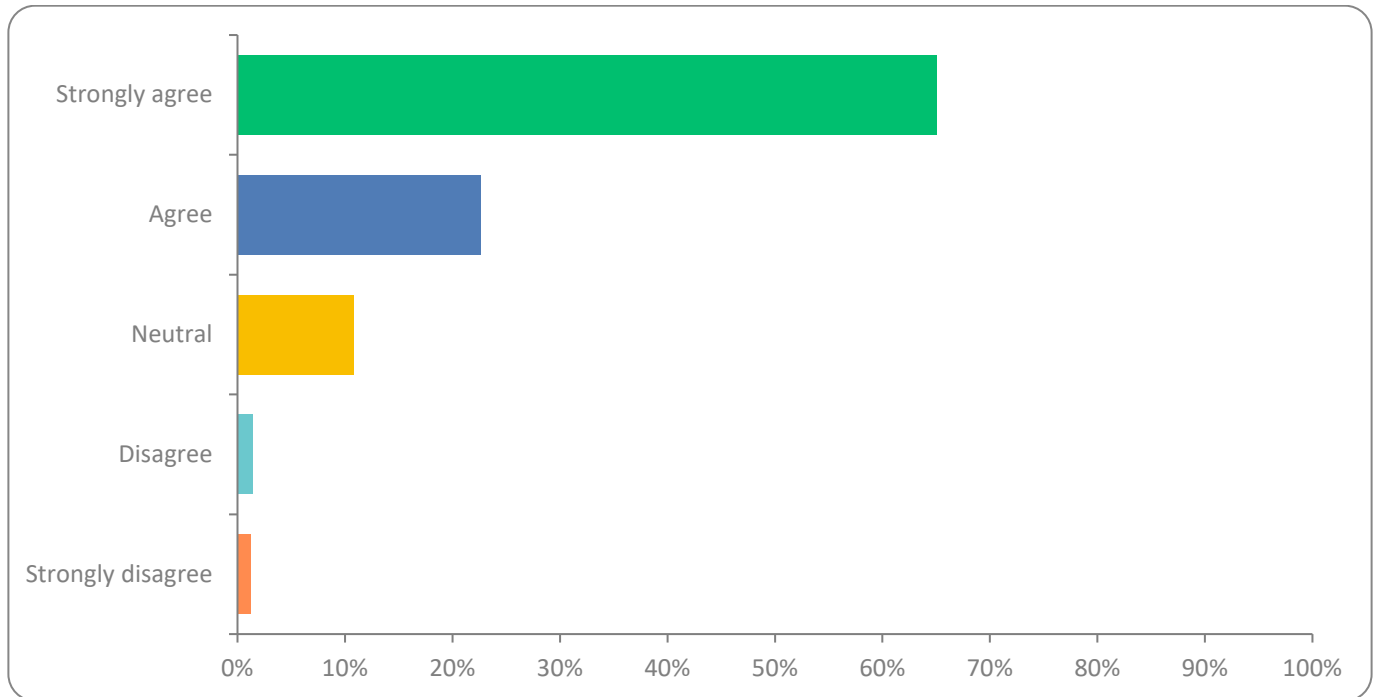
1. Is accessible housing available in your community?

51.48% Yes, 49.58% No



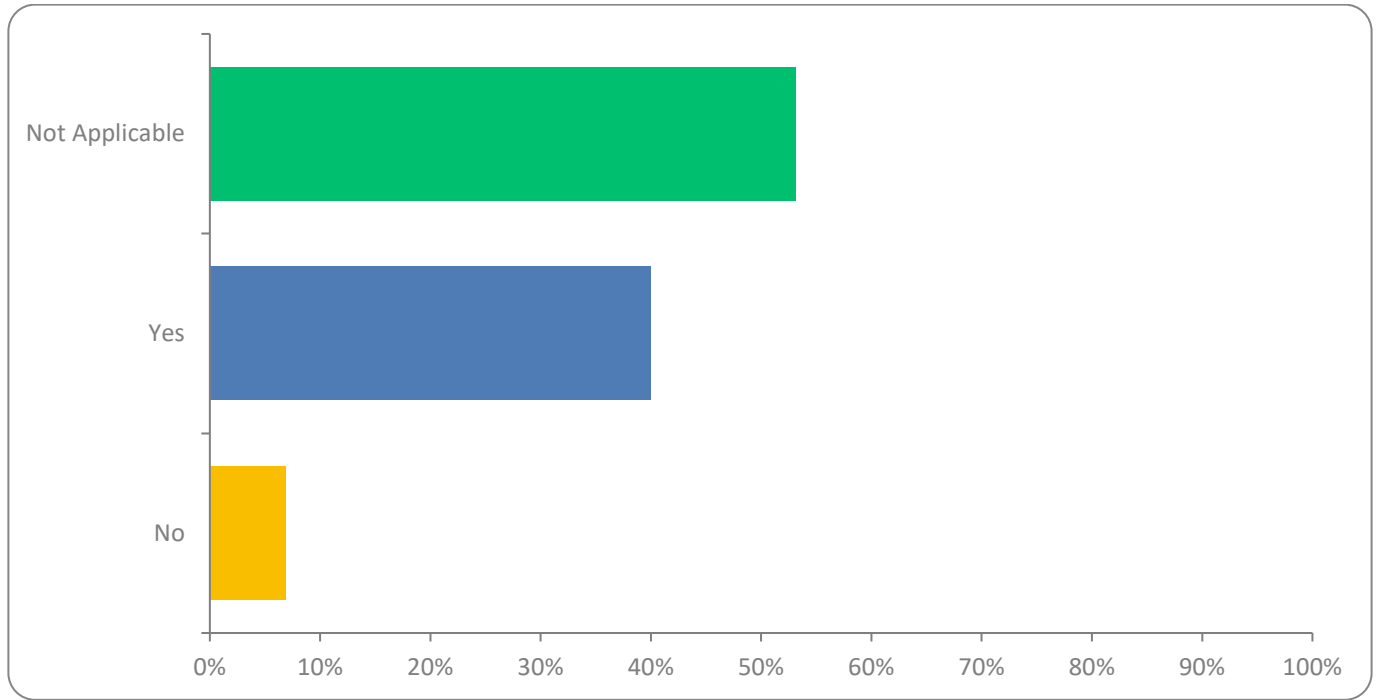
2. The legislature should provide funding for people to renovate or build homes which would allow them to age in place (continue to live there as they get older).

65.04% strongly agree, 22.67% agree, 10.81% are neutral, 1.48% disagree, and 1.27% strongly disagree.



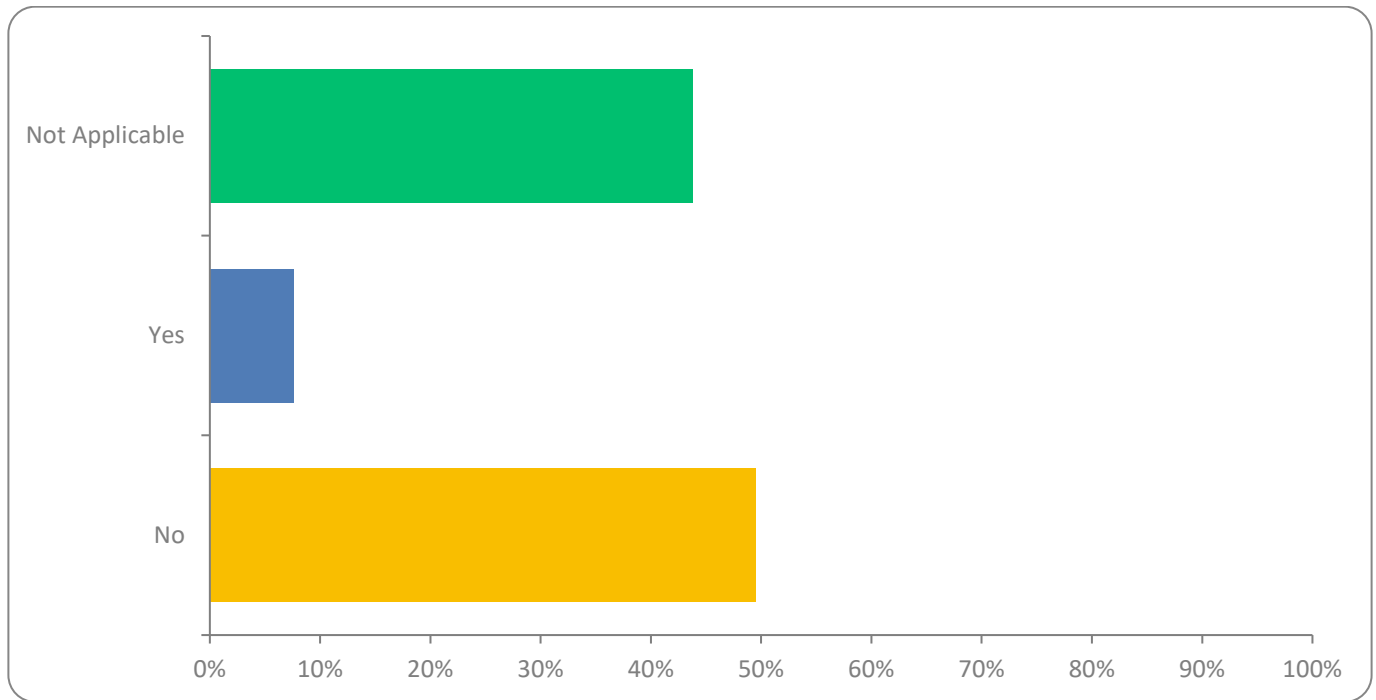
3. Do you have difficulty finding available rental properties that meet your needs?

38.98% Yes, 6.36% No, 54.87% Not applicable



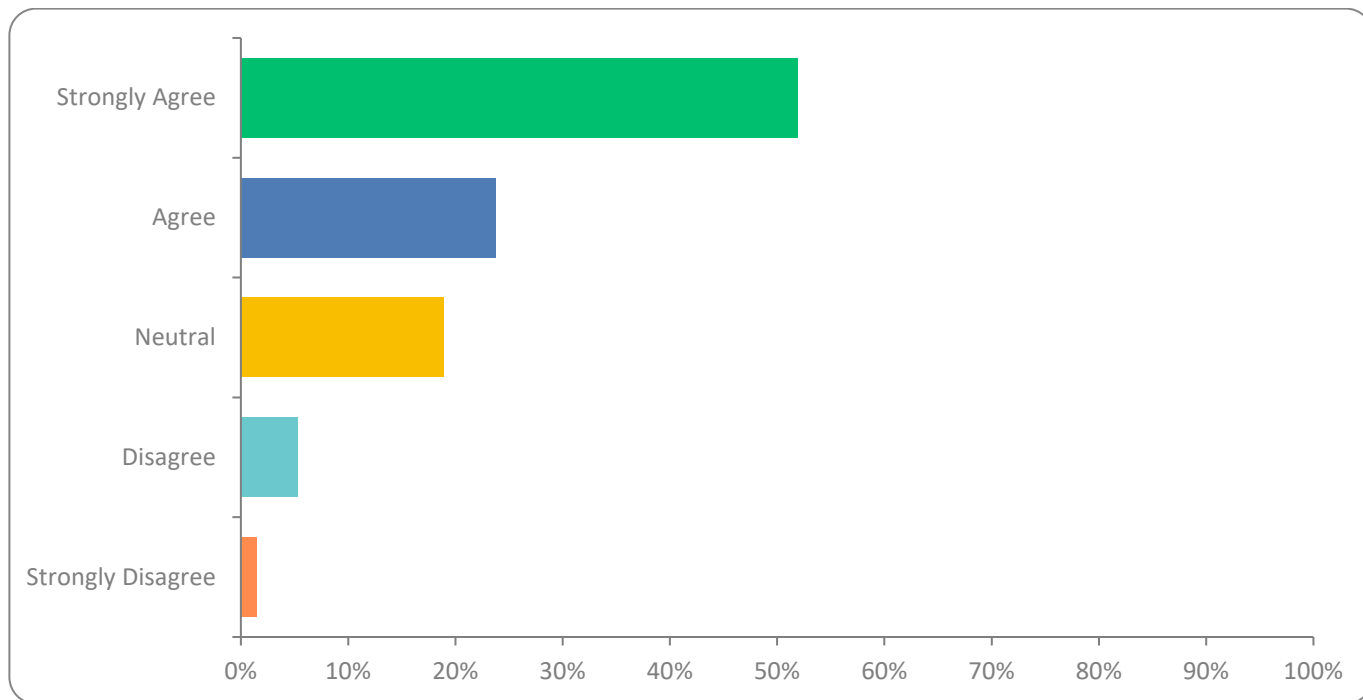
4. Are rental costs affordable based on your income?

8.47% Yes, 48.31% No, 43.43% Not applicable



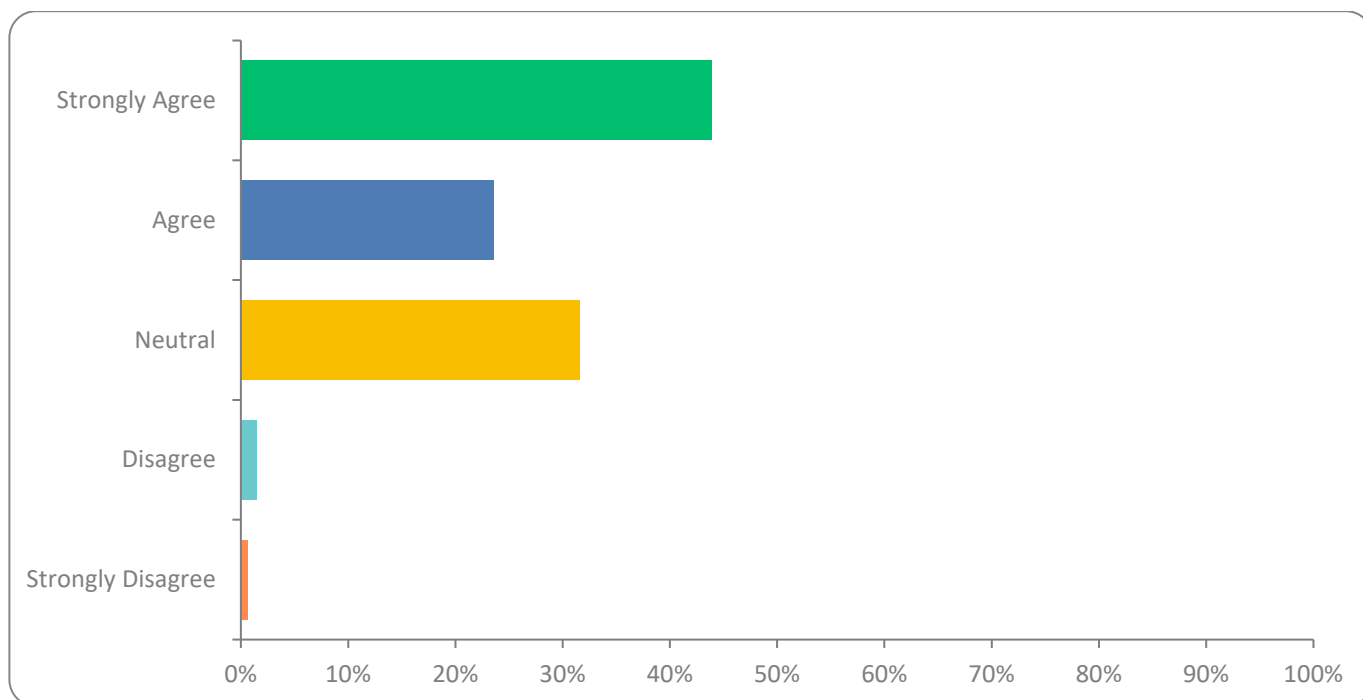
5. There should be a freeze (stay the same) on property taxes for people with disabilities.

51.91% strongly agree, 23.73% agree, 18.86% are neutral, 5.30% disagree, and 1.48% strongly disagree.



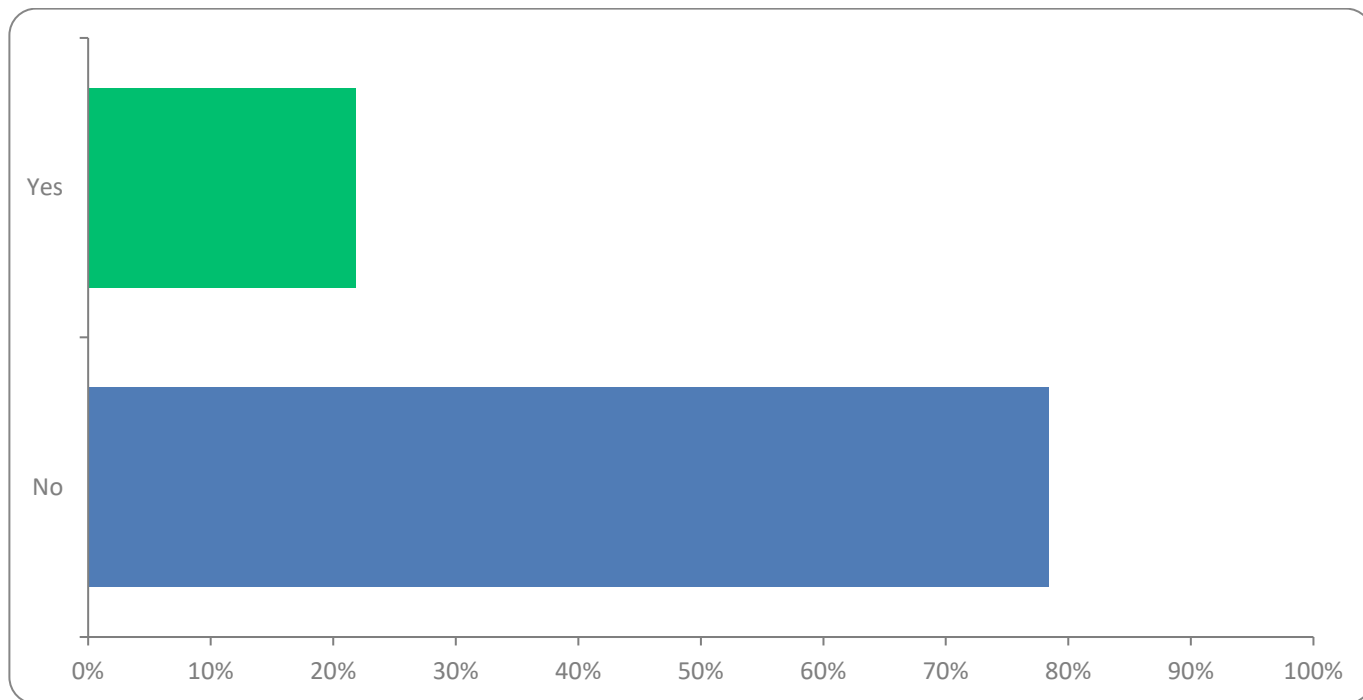
6. The Senior Citizen Property Tax Credit (circuit breaker) needs to be updated.

43.86% strongly agree, 23.52% agree, 31.57% are neutral, 1.48% disagree, and 0.64% strongly disagree.



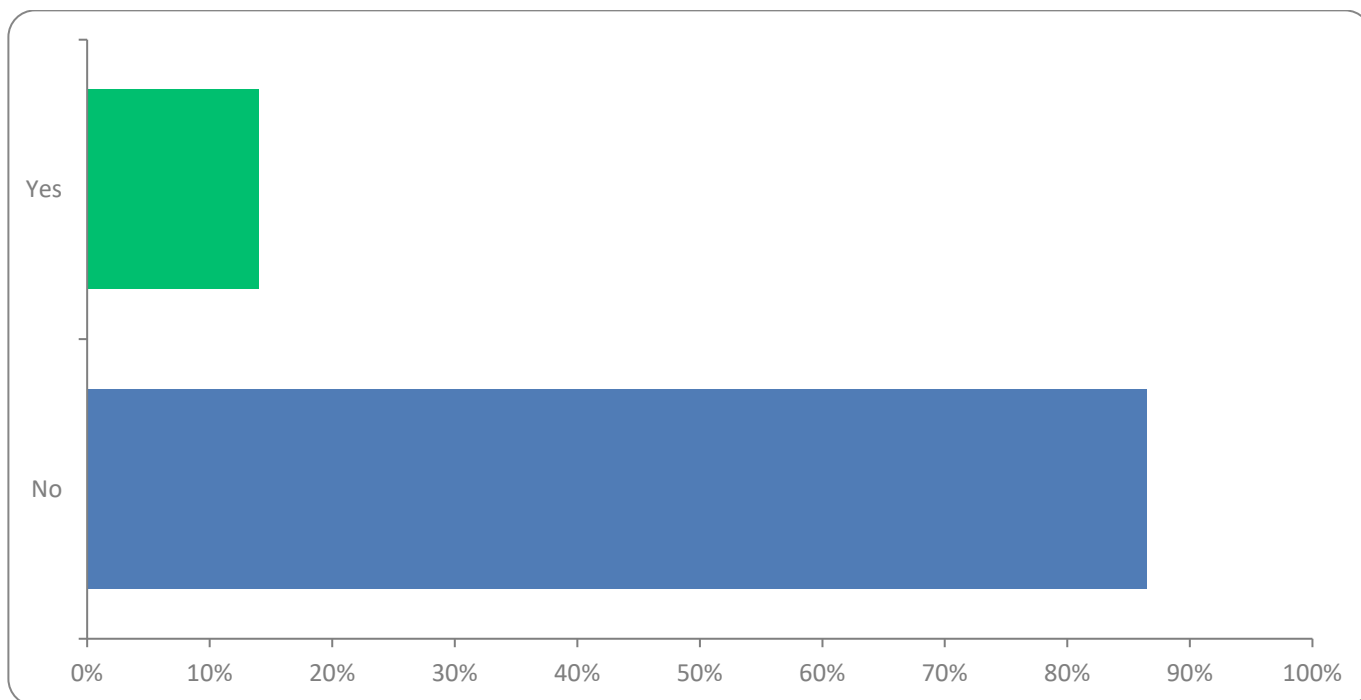
7. Do you know someone with a disability who no longer has a home because of increasing property taxes?

21.82% Yes, 78.39% No



8. Have you experienced discrimination in renting?

13.98% Yes, 86.44% No

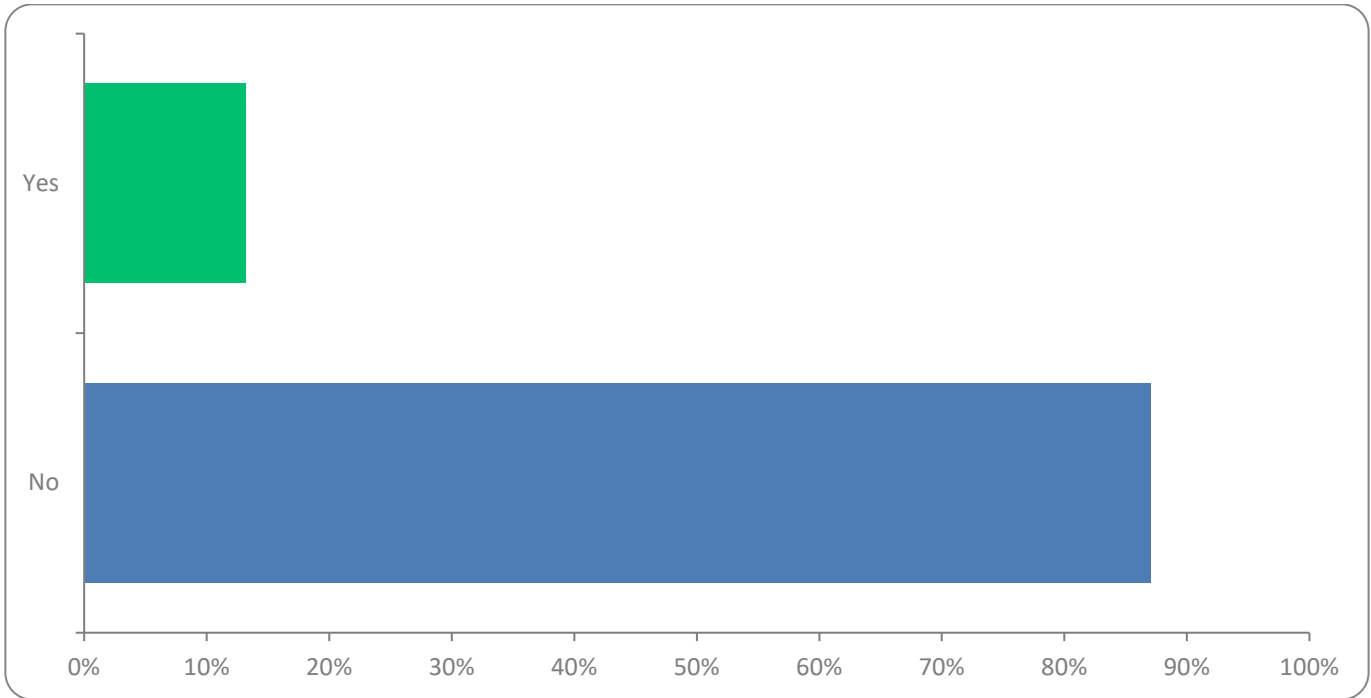


9. How have you experienced discrimination in renting? (Only answered by those who answered yes to the previous question) This was an open answer response. Responses included:

- disability
- having assistance dog
- not being married
- not being willing to make accessibility modifications

10. Have you experienced rental application rejections?

13.19% Yes, 87.02% No



11. How have you experienced rental application rejections? (Only answered by those who answered yes to the previous question) This was an open answer response. Responses included:

- disability
- income
- credit score

12. What is the most important issue with housing in Missouri?

- Apartments and houses are too expensive
- Availability
- Not enough accessible or universal design homes and apartments

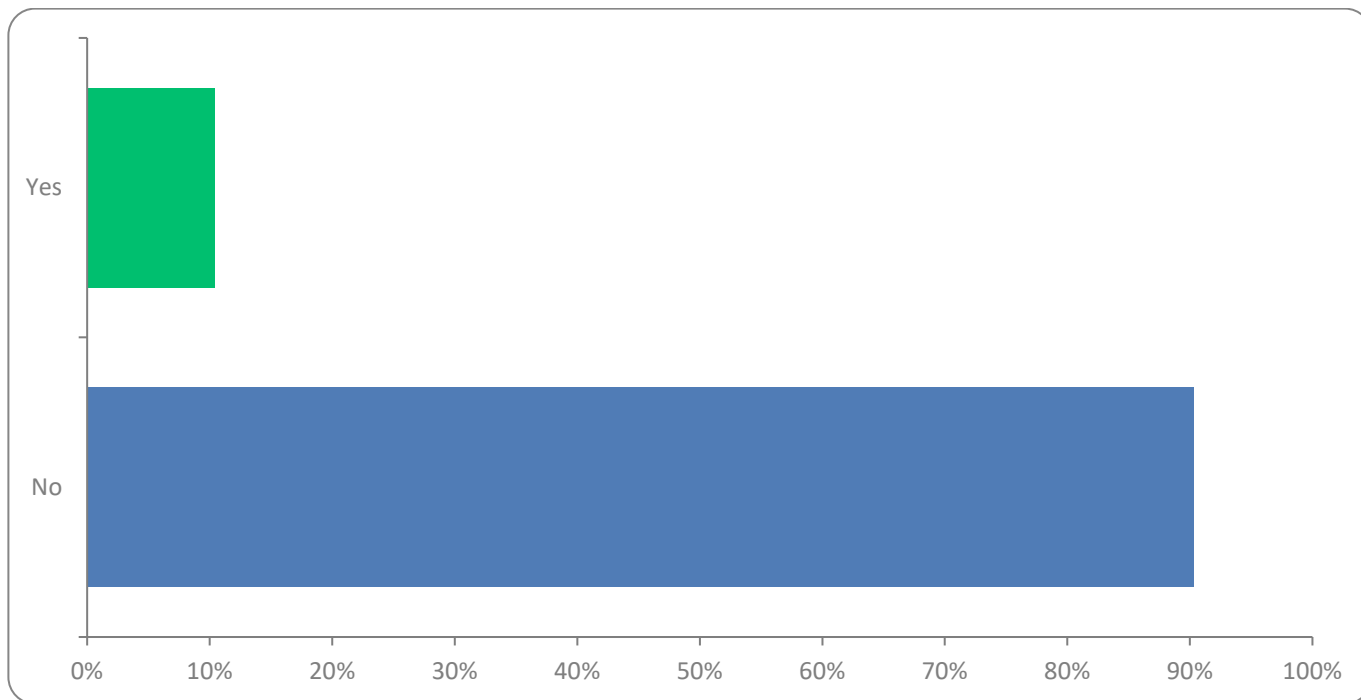
13. What changes could state legislators make to improve housing opportunities for people with disabilities?

- Assistance with housing costs-grants, assistance programs, tax changes
- Encourage building of housing
- Increase universal design and accessible options

The Employment section included the following questions:

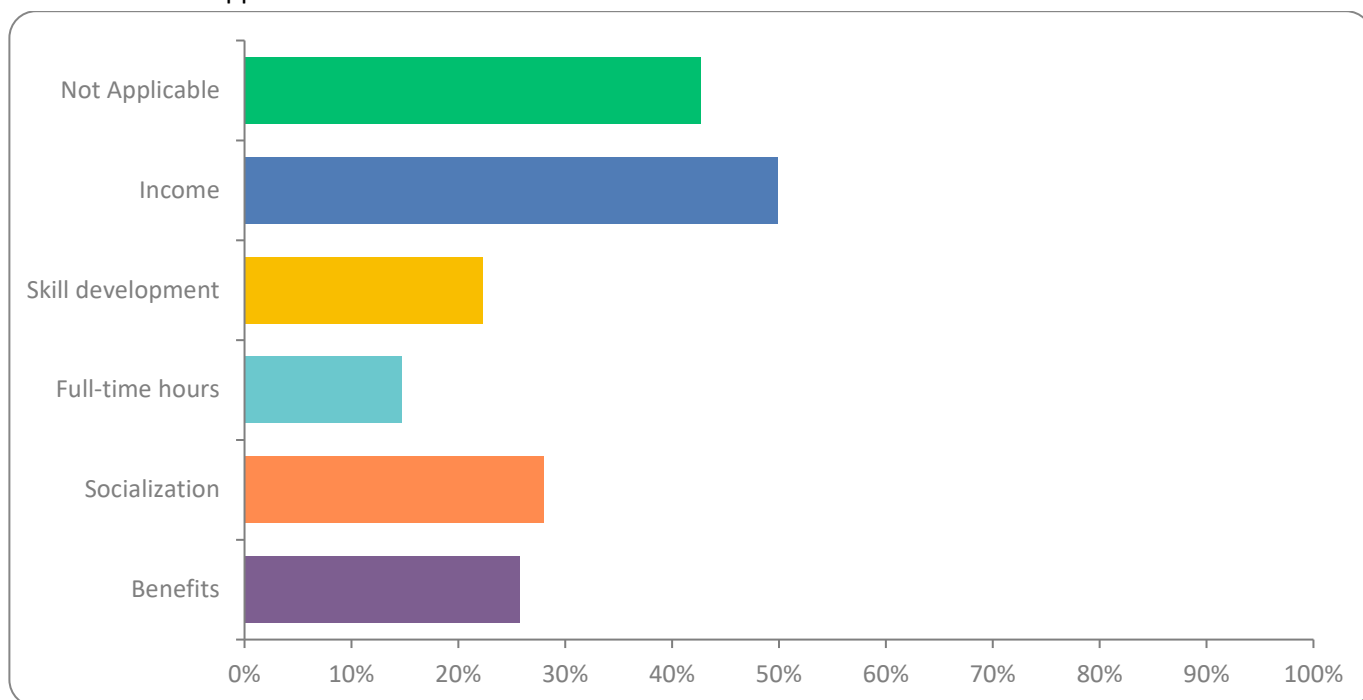
1. Are you currently seeking employment?

10.41% Yes, 89.80% No



2. What motivates you to obtain employment?

49.89% income, 22.34% skill development, 14.75% full-time hours, 27.98% socialization, 25.81% benefits, 42.73% not applicable



3. Describe any barriers people with disabilities experience when attempting to obtain employment. This was an open answer response. Responses included:

- Attitudes and beliefs of employers
- Lack of knowledge/understanding by employers
- Transportation access
- Gaps in employment history

- Lack of accessibility
 - Not providing accommodations during interviews or employment
4. **What is the most important issue with competitive employment in Missouri?**
 - Prevalence of discrimination and bias by employers
 - Lack of transportation
 5. **What changes could state legislators make to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities?**
 - Create employer incentives for hiring people with disabilities
 - Increase transportation options, funding, and availability
 - Improve discrimination laws

The transportation section included the following questions:

1. **What is the most important issue with transportation in Missouri?**
 - Lack of access to transportation across the state
2. **What changes could state legislators make to improve transportation opportunities for people with disabilities?**
 - Make transportation a priority
 - Expand transportation options in all counties
 - Fund public transportation and private transportation organizations
 - Create an endorsement/writer for drivers to transport clients with personal auto insurance

In an effort to ensure each citizen voice is heard in its entirety we will be sending the responses from each open answer question via email to legislative and elected officials' offices.

Governor’s Council on Disability, 2023 Legislative Priorities Poll

Appendix

County	Number	County	Number	County	Number
Adair	5	Harrison		Phelps	3
Andrew	6	Henry	1	Pike	1
Atchison		Hickory		Platte	5
Audrain	1	Holt	1	Polk	
Barry	2	Howard		Pulaski	4
Barton	1	Howell		Putnam	
Bates		Iron		Ralls	
Benton		Jackson	30	Randolph	2
Bollinger	2	Jasper	14	Ray	5
Boone	42	Jefferson	31	Reynolds	
Buchanan	17	Johnson	4	Ripley	
Butler	1	Knox		St. Charles	112
Caldwell	1	Laclede	1	St. Clair	2
Callaway	7	Lafayette		Ste. Genevieve	
Camden	3	Lawrence	3	St. Francois	3
Cape Girardeau	7	Lewis		St. Louis	136
Carroll		Lincoln	4	St. Louis City	24
Carter	1	Linn		Saline	2
Cass	5	Livingston		Schuyler	1
Cedar		Macon		Scotland	
Chariton	2	Madison	1	Scott	1
Christian	4	Maries	1	Shannon	
Clark	2	Marion	2	Shelby	
Clay	23	McDonald		Stoddard	
Clinton		Mercer		Stone	1
Cole	16	Miller	1	Sullivan	
Cooper		Mississippi	1	Taney	1
Crawford	1	Moniteau		Texas	
Dade		Monroe		Vernon	
Dallas	1	Montgomery		Warren	6
Daviess		Morgan		Washington	
De Kalb	1	New Madrid		Wayne	
Dent		Newton	1	Webster	1
Douglas	1	Nodaway	2	Worth	
Dunklin		Oregon	1	Wright	
Franklin	5	Osage			
Gasconade	3	Ozark	1		
Gentry		Pemiscot			
Greene	22	Perry			
Grundy	1	Pettis	5		