

## 2011 NMSBA Leadership Survey Summary Results

### School Board Leader Information

- 1) 59 school board leaders participated in the survey; Almost half (48%) of the participants were Board Presidents.
- 2) Participation was evenly balanced between new (44%) and more veteran board members (56%)
- 3) Small, medium and large districts were all well represented
- 4) Board participants came from all NMSBA Regions and geographic areas.
- 5) Almost half of our Board of Directors participated in the survey.

### Budget & Finance

- 6) Budget reductions for the current year ranged from 0 to over 10%; with the largest group (33%) reporting cuts at 3-5%
- 7) The three areas that suffered the biggest reductions were teachers, administration and professional development; but all categories listed were almost equally affected as you can see from the pie chart.
- 8) 70% of board participants indicated they are receiving sufficient budgetary information from their staff with close to 30% reporting they do not.
- 9) Slightly over 1/3 of the respondents indicated PED did not take a collaborative approach during the budget process; slightly more than 1/4 said they did take a collaborative approach and another 1/3 indicated they did not know.
- 10) Over 70% of the Board participants indicate they would perform their duties better if they were more familiar with the public school funding formula.
- 11) Board members were evenly divided (45% to 43%) when asked if they linked the budget process to performance.
- 12) Slightly over 80% of our board members indicate they were very or somewhat comfortable with their ability to oversee district finances. (Last year 74%)

- 13) 87% indicated they are comfortable with their abilities in the area of audit oversight (Last year 70%)
- 14) 66% of our board participants indicated they would support a 5-hour increase in mandatory training requirements in the area of financial and audit oversight; 27% indicated they would not support the increase.

### **Funding Sufficiency**

- 15) 78% of board respondents indicated they feel their students are not receiving a sufficient education with the funding currently provided; only 18% felt their students were!
- 16) A whopping 96.5% of our board members indicated they were not receiving sufficient funding as called for in the constitution! (94%)
- 17) 55% of board respondents think litigation is necessary to ensure sufficient funding for public schools; 35% do not agree and 16.9% are undecided. (52%)
- 18) 47% indicated they would join as party to a lawsuit to obtain sufficient funding (50%)
- 19) And, only 25% were in favor of using local district funds to pay for litigation (19%)
- 20) 77% of our board members support a constitutional amendment to continue the current level of funding for public schools from the land grant permanent fund. (5.8 vs. 5.5)

### **Hiring & Termination**

- 21) 72% of participating board members believe we should again pursue legislation to reinstate hiring approval for district administrators.
- 22) 22% of board respondents indicate their superintendent would support this legislation; 36% indicate their superintendent would not support the legislation; and 40% said they did not know.
- 23) 67% of board respondents indicate they exercise their role in conducting employee termination hearings.
- 24) 51% of our respondents indicated they would oppose legislation to remove boards from conducting these hearings; 44% said they would not oppose this legislation.

## **Charter Schools**

- 25) 86% of our respondents feel the State cannot afford to fund both public schools and charter schools given the state of the economy
- 26) 66% of participants support a moratorium on the creation of any new charter schools.
- 27) 70% of our board participants feel that charter school authorizations should be the sole authority of local boards.
- 28) 75% feel it is not appropriate for charter schools to receive direct funding from the PSCOC.
- 29) Almost 90% of our board participants feel it is not appropriate to require local boards to provide local bond funds to state chartered charter schools.
- 30) Again almost 90% of our boards feel that charter school governing councils are not held to the same standards as school boards.
- 31) While board members are equally divided on their positive and negative relationships with charter schools at 16% and 17%, most respondents 66% report they do not have charter schools in their district.

## **Elections & Campaigns**

- 32) 82% of our boards favor keeping school board elections in February of odd numbered years as currently required.
- 33) Similarly 84% of boards do not support moving school board elections to the same time as general elections.
- 34) Boards are evenly divided @ 45% on the question of combining school board elections with other non-partisan elections.
- 35) 80% of our participating board members oppose legislation to require campaign finance reporting for school board candidates.

## **Superintendent Turnover**

- 36) Board respondents indicate that 73% of their superintendents have served the district in that capacity for 1-4 years; 22% are in their second four years on the job and 3% indicate their superintendent has served the district as superintendent for over 13 years.

37) Participants indicate the top three reasons for turnover in the position of superintendent are Lack of Trust; Poor Communication; and Poor Performance

### **District Consolidation**

38) 63% of respondents indicate they oppose consolidations of rural school districts as a means of saving public school funds.

39) However 55% of respondents indicate they favor consolidation of administrative functions in rural areas as a way to save public school funds.

### **Public Education Department**

40) Surprisingly, respondents favor an elected Secretary of Education at 48% compared to the current structure 10% and previous structure 40% at the Public Education Department

41) 63% of our respondents favor the creation of a school board liaison in the Public Education Department

### **Board Priority Issues**

42) Board Respondents indicate that the top three priority issues are: Student Achievement, Adequate Funding and Parental Involvement.

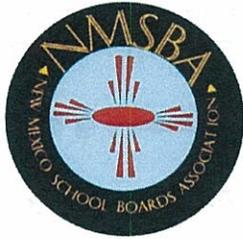
### **Association Guidance**

43) Respondents indicated the most helpful services provided by NMSBA are: Training and Development; Legislative Activities; and Communications.

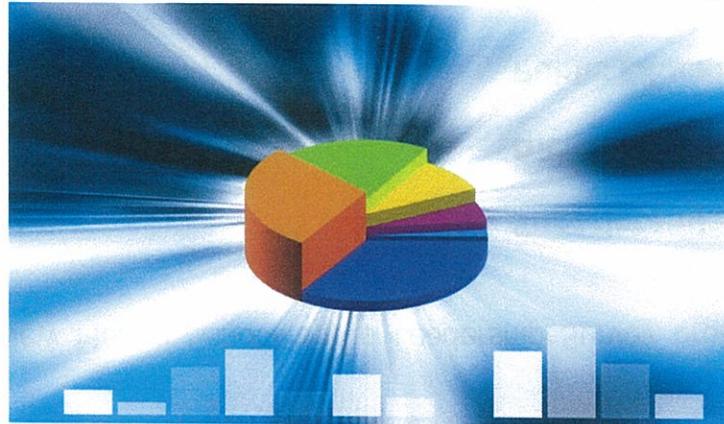
44) Boards indicate the training that would be most beneficial to them over the next year is in the area of: Student Achievement; Finance/Budget/Audit; and Legal Issues.

45) 82% of our Board respondents indicate we should pursue a voluntary "Standards of Excellence" initiative for New Mexico's school boards.

46) 72% of our Board respondents prefer that we not pursue fee-based online training programs that might negatively affect conference attendance and revenues.



**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**  
**2011 LEADERSHIP SURVEY**



**PRESENTED TO**  
**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 24, 2011**  
**ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO**

## About the 2011 NMSBA Leadership Survey

**Background**—On July 15, 2011, the New Mexico School Boards Association administered its annual survey to school board presidents and leaders from across New Mexico attending the NMSBA Leadership Retreat in Cloudcroft.

59 school board presidents and leaders representing 48 school districts participated in the survey – about 53% of New Mexico’s school boards were represented.

NMSBA is grateful to the school board presidents and leaders that took time from their busy schedules to attend the two-day Leadership Retreat to participate in the training program and complete the survey.

The survey was conducted utilizing NMSBA’s Turning Point Response Pad System which immediately displays the results for each survey question.

**Survey Subject Matter** - The New Mexico School Board Leadership Survey broken out into the following general categories:

**Board Leader Information**

**Budget & Finance**

**Funding Sufficiency**

**Charter Schools**

**Hiring & Termination**

**Elections & Campaigns**

**Superintendent Turnover**

**District Consolidation**

**Public Education Department**

**Board Priority Issues**

**Association Guidance**

**Survey Results** – The results of the 2011 Leadership Survey will be utilized to guide the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee when they meet in September to draft the 2012 NMSBA Legislative Program for presentation to the Association’s full membership at the NMSBA Annual Convention in December.

# New Mexico School Boards Association 2011 Leadership Survey

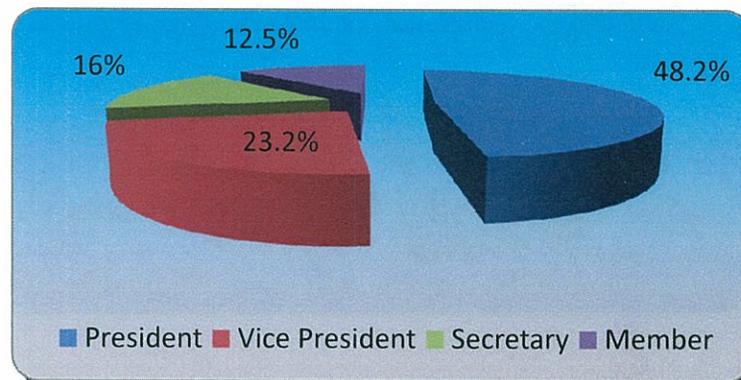
## Results by Question

Session Name: NMSBA Leadership Retreat  
Created: 7/15/2011 4:34 PM  
Location: Cloudcroft, New Mexico

### School Board Leader Information

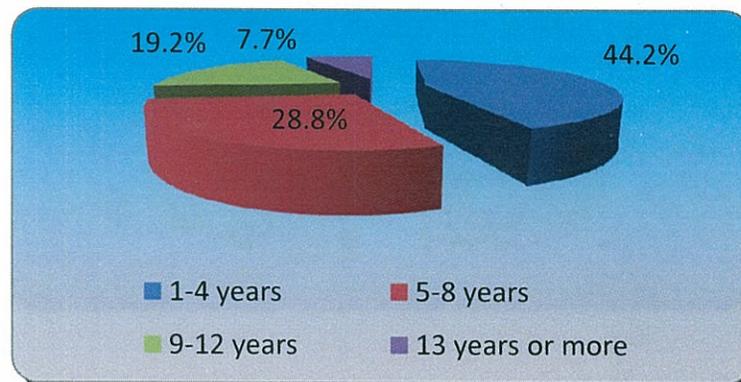
#### 1.) What position do hold on your local board?

	Responses	
President	27	48.21%
Vice President	13	23.21%
Secretary	9	16.07%
Member	7	12.51%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



#### 2.) How many years have you served on your local board

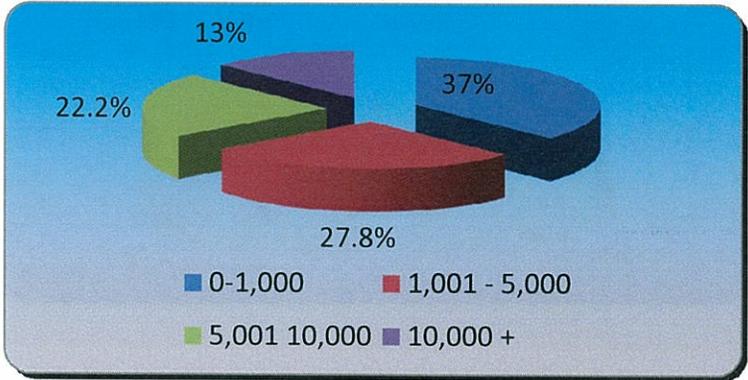
	Responses	
1-4 years	23	44.23%
5-8 years	15	28.85%
9-12 years	10	19.23%
13 years or more	4	7.69%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100%</b>



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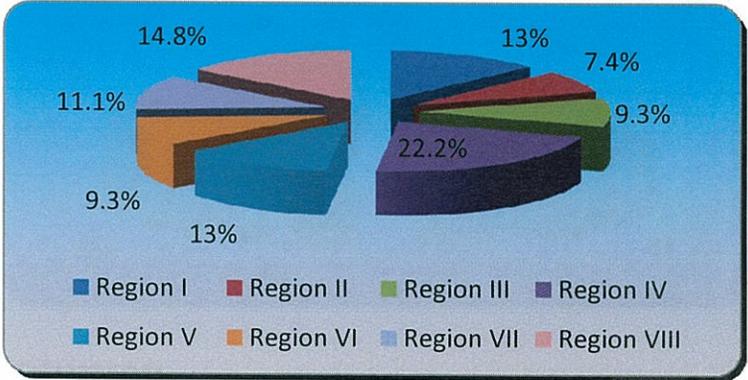
**3.) What is your district's student enrollment?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
0-1,000	20	37.04%
1,001 - 5,000	15	27.78%
5,001 10,000	12	22.22%
10,000 +	7	12.96%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>



**4.) Which NMSBA Region do you belong to?**

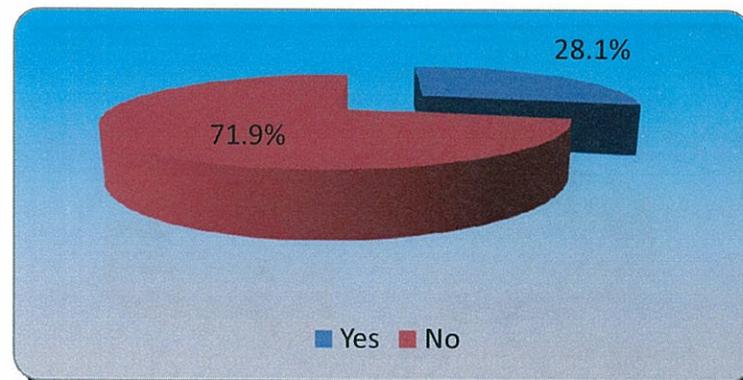
	<b>Responses</b>	
Region I	7	12.96%
Region II	4	7.41%
Region III	5	9.26%
Region IV	12	22.22%
Region V	7	12.96%
Region VI	5	9.26%
Region VII	6	11.11%
Region VIII	8	14.81%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>



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**5.) Are you a member of the NMSBA Board of Directors?**

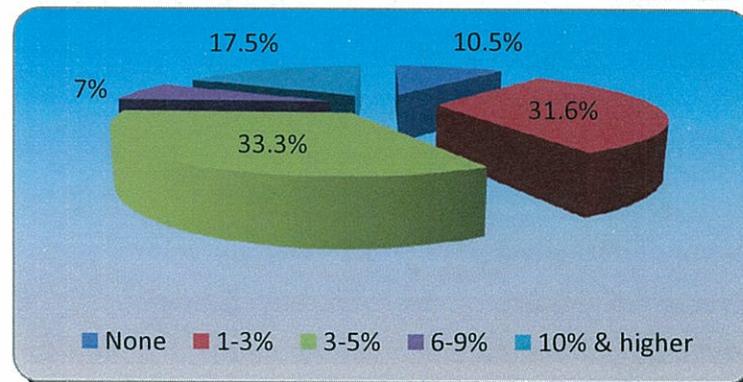
	Responses	
Yes	16	28.07%
No	41	71.93%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Budget & Finance**

**6.) What overall percentage of reductions were necessary in preparing your 2011-2012 Budget?**

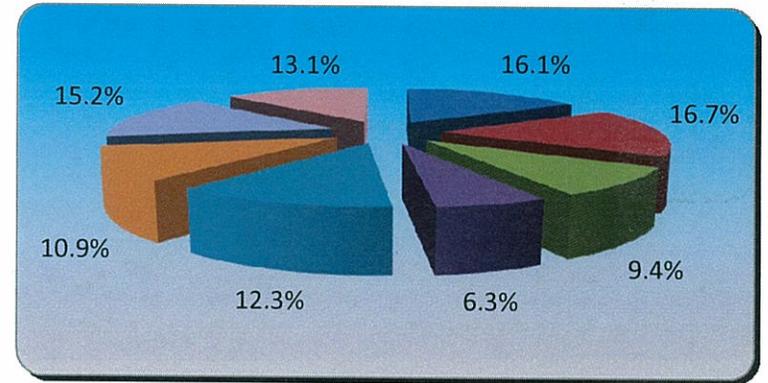
	Responses	
None	6	10.53%
1-3%	18	31.58%
3-5%	19	33.33%
6-9%	4	7.02%
10% & higher	10	17.54%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



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2011 Leadership Survey**

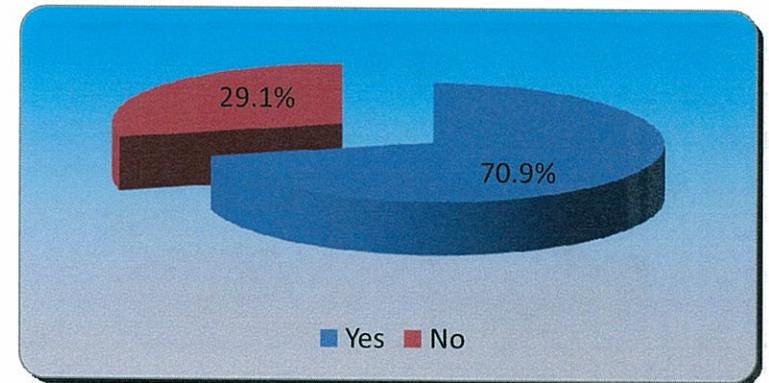
**7.) What three areas took the greatest hit in your 2011-2012 Operating Budget?(Pick 3)**

	<u>Responses</u>	
Administration #2	218	16.08%
Teachers Salaries/Benefits #1	226	16.67%
After/Summer School Programs	128	9.44%
Arts / Music / PE	85	6.27%
Clerical/Support Staff	167	12.32%
Facilities & Maintenance	148	10.91%
Professional Development #3	206	15.19%
Travel	178	13.13%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>100%</b>



**8.) Do you feel you are receiving sufficient budgetary information from your superintendent and finance staff?**

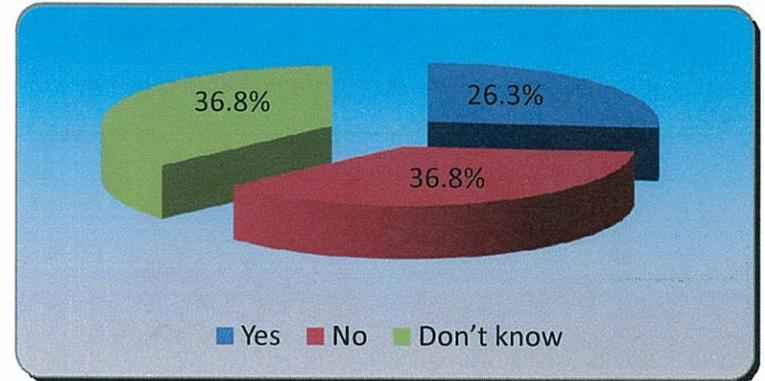
	<u>Responses</u>	
Yes	39	70.91%
No	16	29.09%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>



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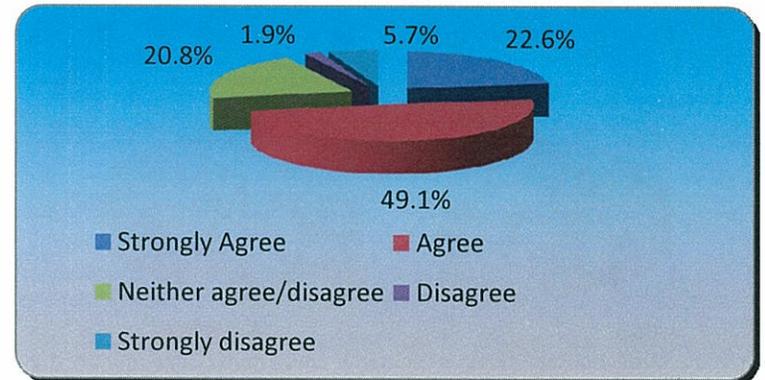
**9.) Did Public Education Department officials take a collaborative approach during your budget approval process?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	15	26.32%
No	21	36.84%
Don't know	21	36.84%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



**10.) Becoming more familiar with the Public School Funding Formula would better enable me to perform my board duties?**

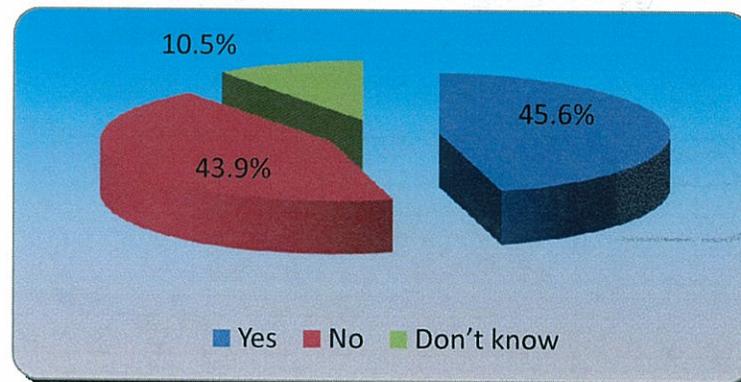
	<b>Responses</b>	
Strongly Agree	12	22.64%
Agree	26	49.06%
Neither agree/disagree	11	20.75%
Disagree	1	1.89%
Strongly disagree	3	5.66%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>



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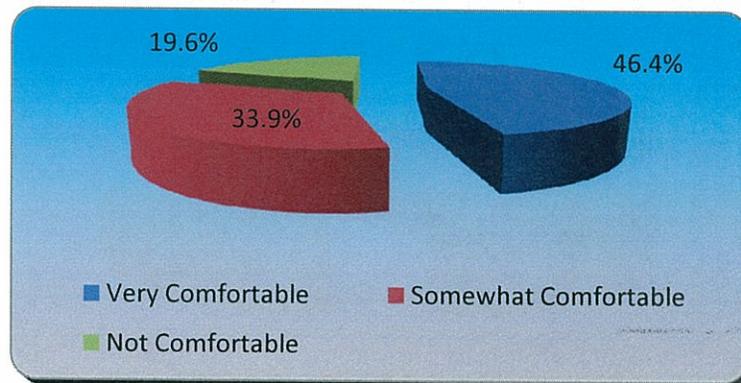
**11.) Does your board link the budgeting process to district performance measures?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	26	45.61%
No	25	43.86%
Don't know	6	10.53%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



**12.) What is your comfort level in overseeing your district's finances?**

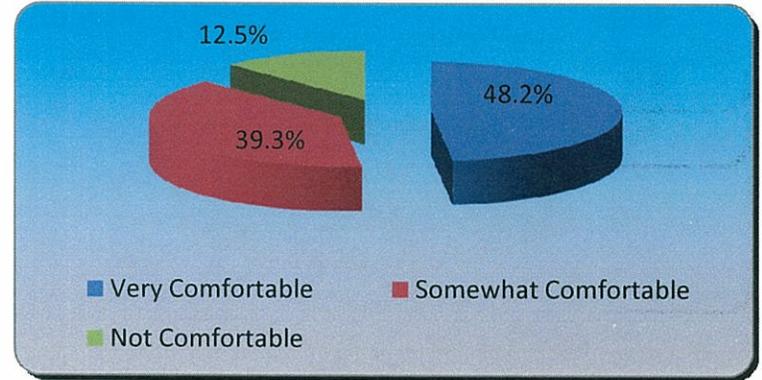
	<b>Responses</b>	
Very Comfortable	26	46.43%
Somewhat Comfortable	19	33.93%
Not Comfortable	11	19.64%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



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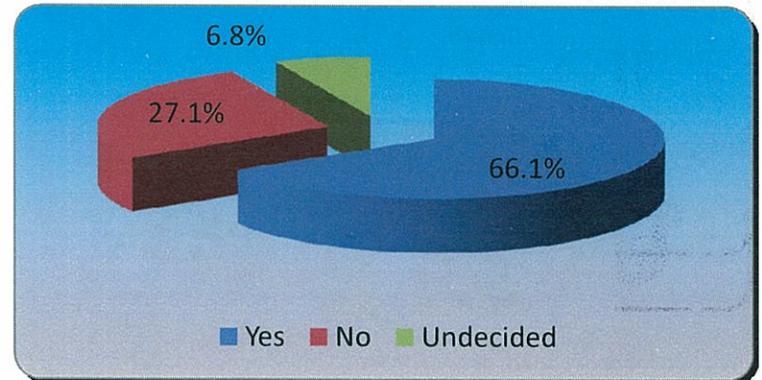
**13.) What is your comfort level in overseeing your district's audit responsibilities?**

	Responses	
Very Comfortable	27	48.21%
Somewhat Comfortable	22	39.29%
Not Comfortable	7	12.50%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



**14.) Do you support a 5 hour increase in mandatory training hours for school boards in the area of financial and audit oversight?**

	Responses	
Yes	39	66.10%
No	16	27.12%
Undecided	4	6.78%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>

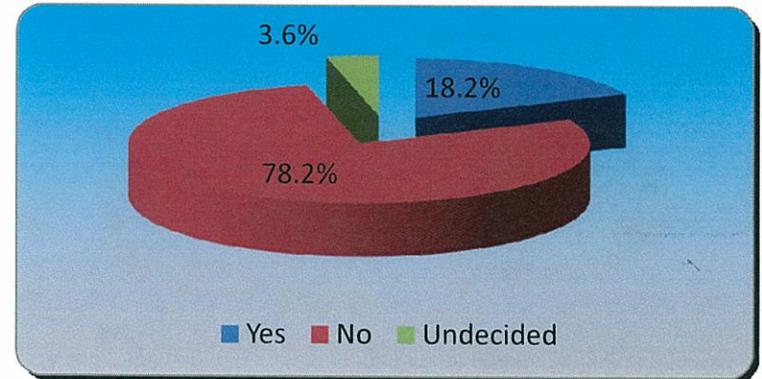


New Mexico School Boards Association  
2011 Leadership Survey

Funding Sufficiency

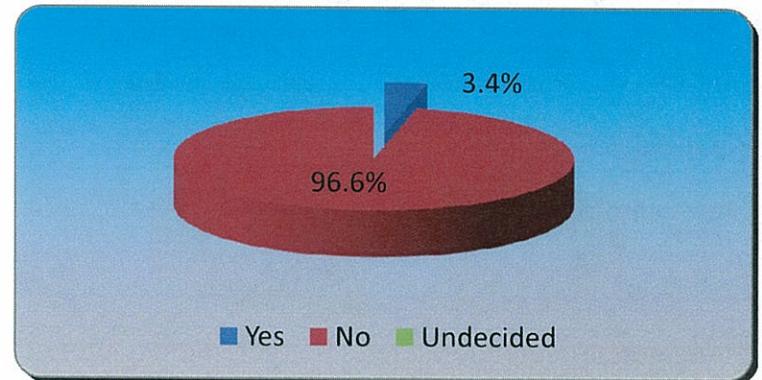
15.) Do you feel your students are receiving a sufficient education with the funding you are currently provided?

	Responses	
Yes	10	18.18%
No	43	78.18%
Undecided	2	3.64%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>



16.) Do you feel public schools receive sufficient funding as mandated by the state constitution?

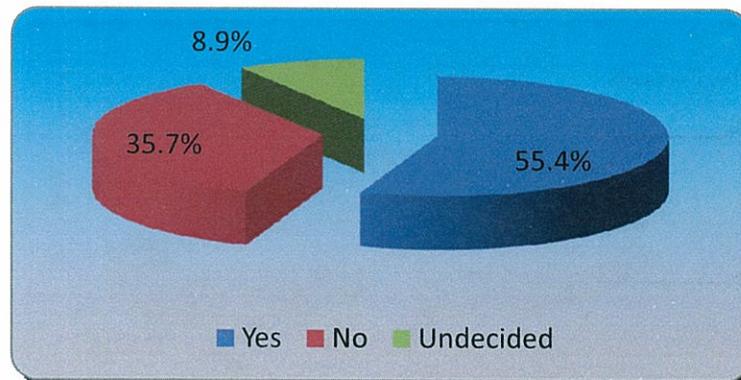
	Responses	
Yes	2	3.45%
No	56	96.55%
Undecided	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



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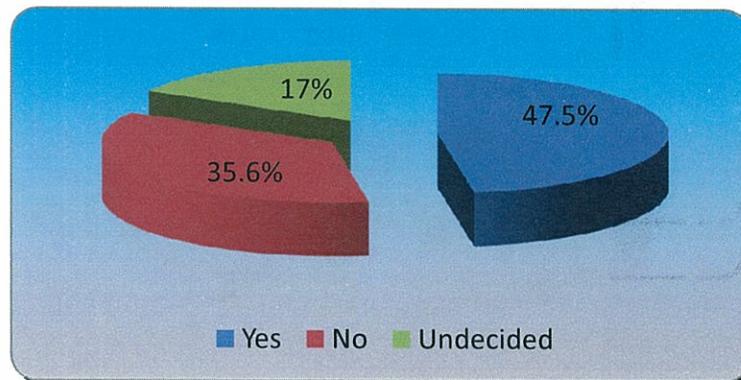
**17.) Do you think litigation is necessary to ensure sufficient funding for schools as mandated in the state constitution?**

	Responses	
Yes	31	55.36%
No	20	35.71%
Undecided	5	8.93%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



**18.) Would your board join as party to a lawsuit to obtain sufficient funding?**

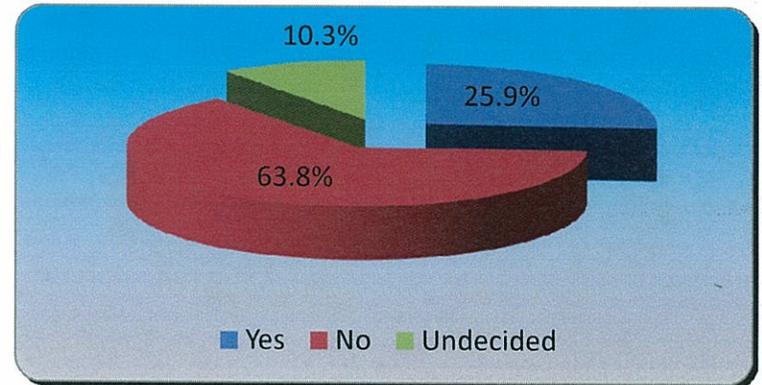
	Responses	
Yes	28	47.46%
No	21	35.59%
Undecided	10	16.95%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>



**New Mexico School Boards Association  
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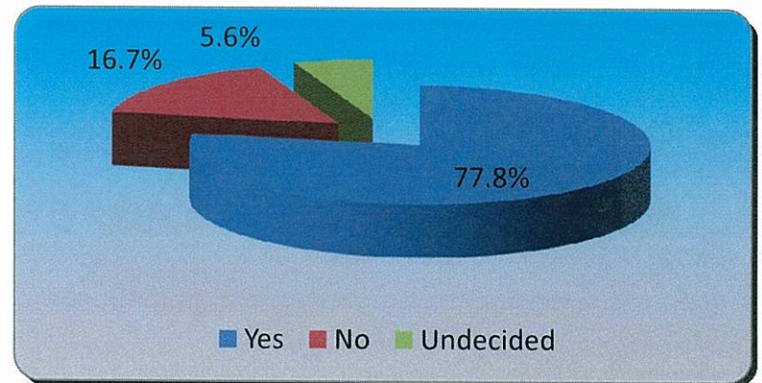
**19.) Would you approve the use of local district funds to pay for this litigation?**

	Responses	
Yes	15	25.86%
No	37	63.79%
Undecided	6	10.34%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**20.) Would you support a constitutional amendment to continue assistance to public schools from the Land Grant Permanent Fund at the current rather than reduced levels? (5.80 vs. 5.50)**

	Responses	
Yes	42	77.78%
No	9	16.67%
Undecided	3	5.56%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>

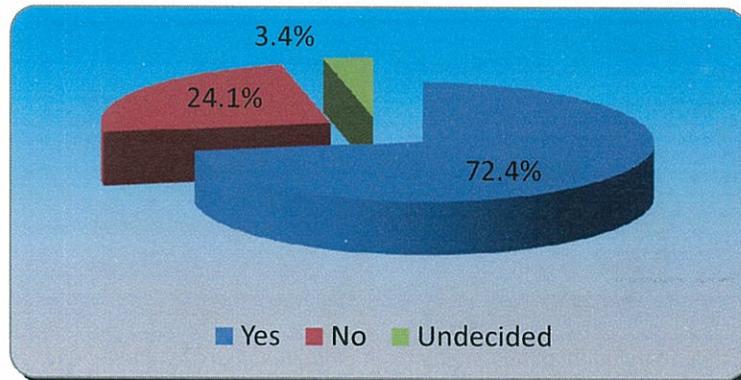


**New Mexico School Boards Association  
2011 Leadership Survey**

**Hiring & Termination**

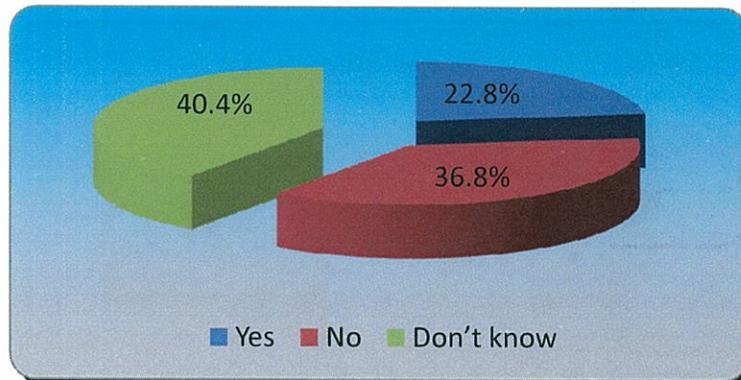
**21.) Do you believe boards should again pursue legislation to reinstate hiring authority for district administrators?**

	Responses	
Yes	42	72.41%
No	14	24.14%
Undecided	2	3.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**22.) Does your superintendent support legislation to reinstate board authority to hire district administrators?**

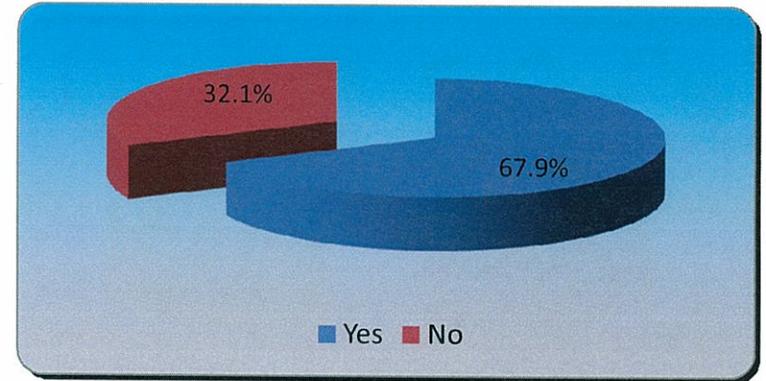
	Responses	
Yes	13	22.81%
No	21	36.84%
Don't know	23	40.35%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



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2011 Leadership Survey**

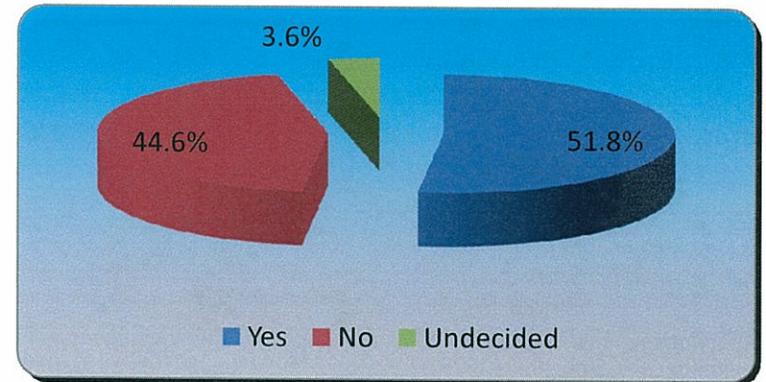
**23.) Does your board exercise it's role in conducting employee termination hearings?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	36	67.92%
No	17	32.08%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>



**24.) Do you oppose removal of school boards from the employee termination hearing process?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	29	51.79%
No	25	44.64%
Undecided	2	3.57%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>

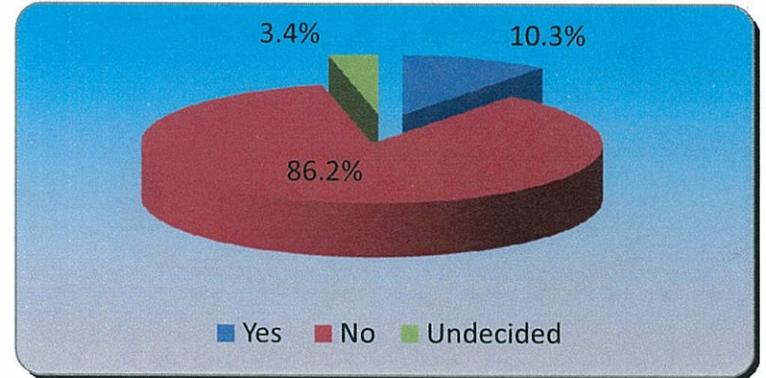


New Mexico School Boards Association  
2011 Leadership Survey

**Charter Schools**

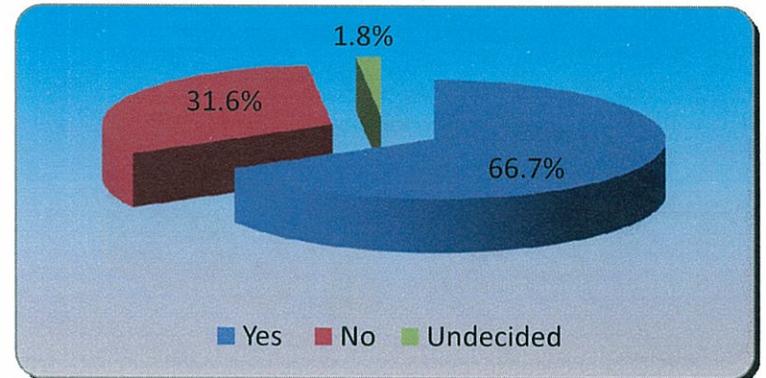
**25.) Do you feel New Mexico can afford to fund both public schools and charter schools given the state of the economy?**

	Responses	
Yes	6	10.34%
No	50	86.21%
Undecided	2	3.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**26.) Do you support a moratorium on the creation of any new charter schools? (multiple choice)**

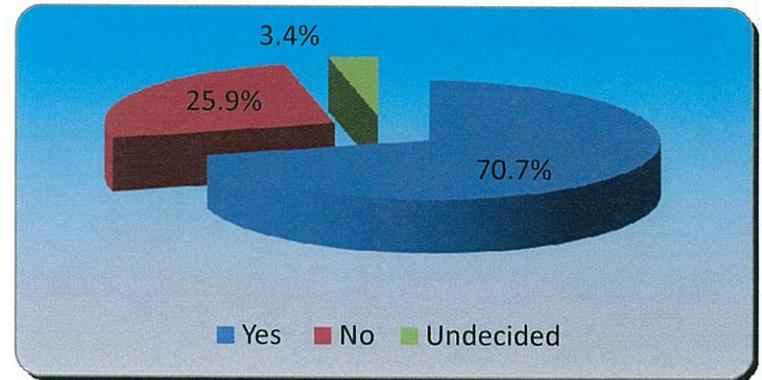
	Responses	
Yes	38	66.67%
No	18	31.58%
Undecided	1	1.75%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



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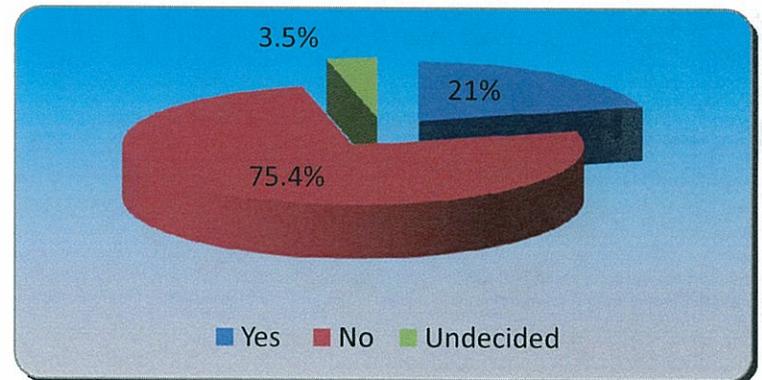
**27.) Should charter school authorizations be the sole authority of local school boards?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	41	70.69%
No	15	25.86%
Undecided	2	3.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**28.) Do you think it is appropriate for charter schools to receive funding directly from the Public School Capital Outlay Council?**

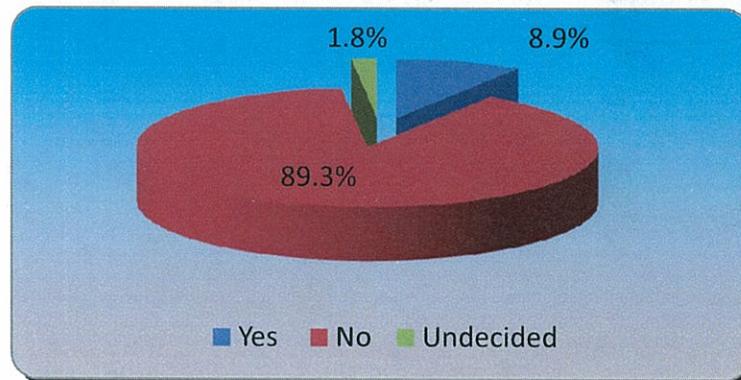
	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	12	21.05%
No	43	75.44%
Undecided	2	3.51%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



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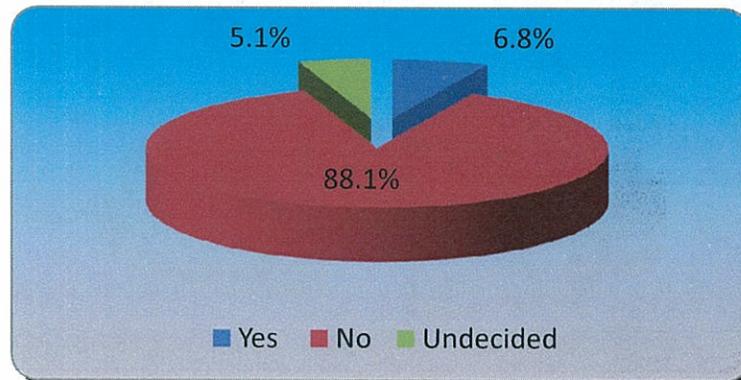
**29.) Do you think it is appropriate to require school boards to provide local bond funds to state chartered charter schools?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	5	8.93%
No	50	89.29%
Undecided	1	1.79%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



**30.) Do you feel charter school governing councils are held to the same standards and accountability as school boards?**

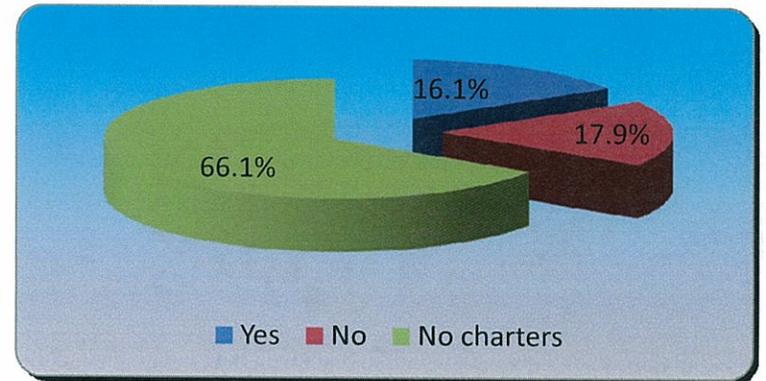
	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	4	6.78%
No	52	88.14%
Undecided	3	5.08%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>



**New Mexico School Boards Association  
2011 Leadership Survey**

**31.) Does your board enjoy a positive relationship with charter schools in your district?**

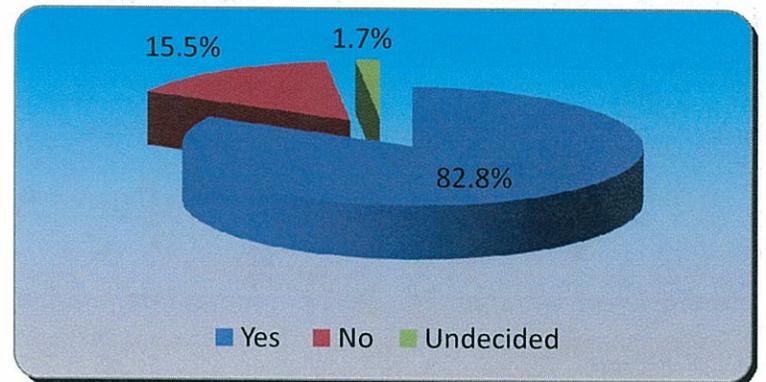
	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	9	16.07%
No	10	17.86%
No charters	37	66.07%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Elections & Campaigns**

**32.) Do you favor keeping school board elections in February of odd numbered years?**

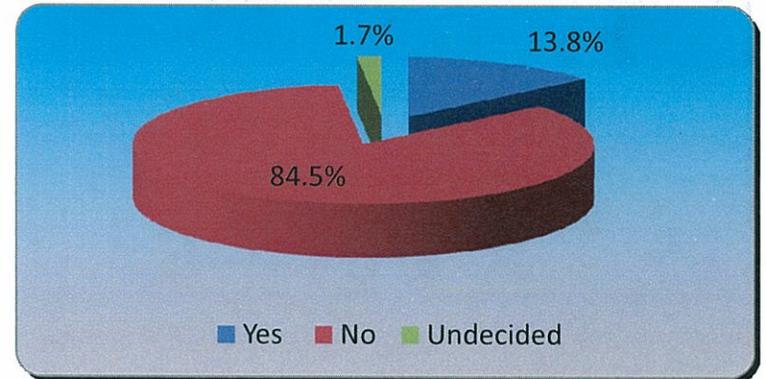
	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	48	82.76%
No	9	15.52%
Undecided	1	1.72%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



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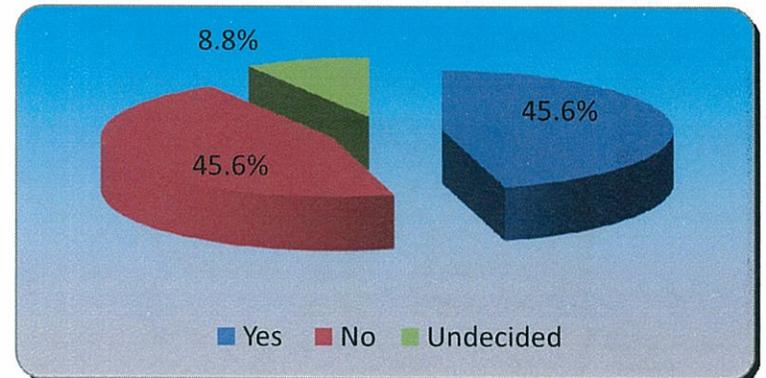
**33.) Would you support moving school board elections to the same time as general elections?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	8	13.79%
No	49	84.48%
Undecided	1	1.72%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**34.) Would you support combining school board elections with other non-partisan elections? (e.g. municipal)**

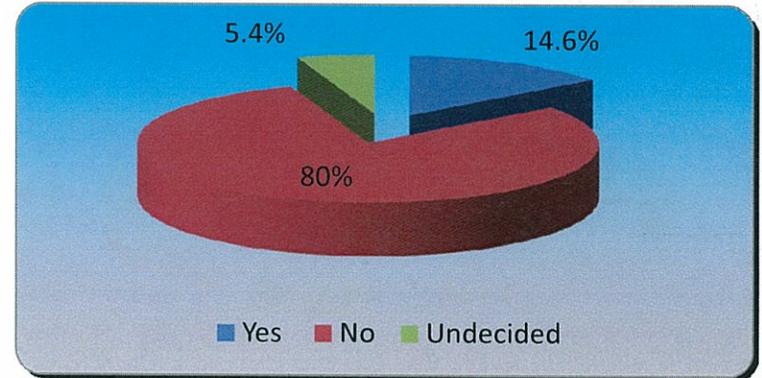
	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	26	45.61%
No	26	45.61%
Undecided	5	8.77%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



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**35.) Do you favor legislation to require campaign finance reporting for school board candidates?**

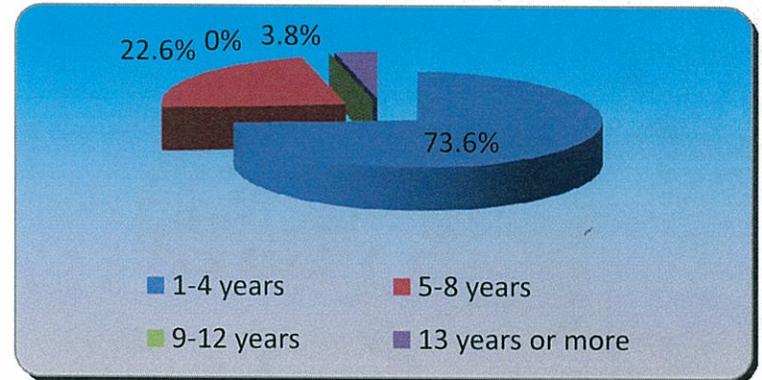
	Responses	
Yes	8	14.55%
No	44	80%
Undecided	3	5.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Superintendent Turnover**

**36.) What is the tenure of your current superintendent?**

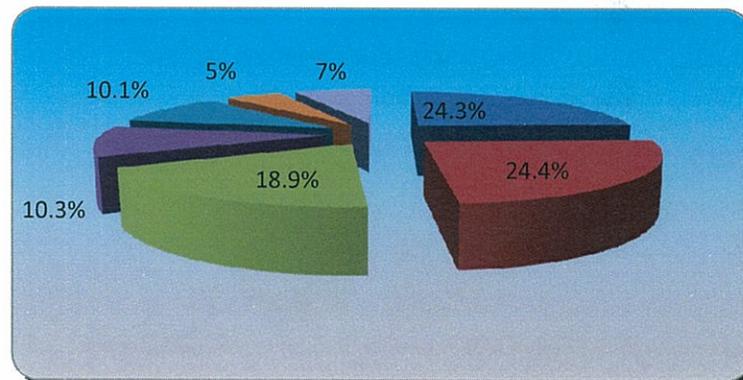
	Responses	
1-4 years	39	73.58%
5-8 years	12	22.64%
9-12 years	0	0%
13 years or more	2	3.77%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>



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**37.) What are the top reasons for turnover of superintendents? (Pick 3)**

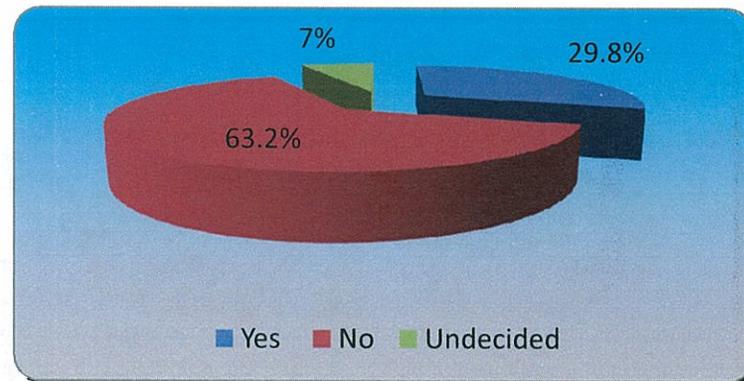
	Responses	
Poor Communication #2	259	24.32%
Lack of Trust #1	260	24.41%
Poor Performance #3	201	18.87%
Disagreement on Authority	110	10.33%
No Teamwork	108	10.14%
Difference in Philosophy	53	4.98%
Personality Conflict	74	6.95%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1065</b>	<b>100%</b>



**District Consolidation**

**38.) Do you favor the consolidation of rural school districts as means of saving public school funds?**

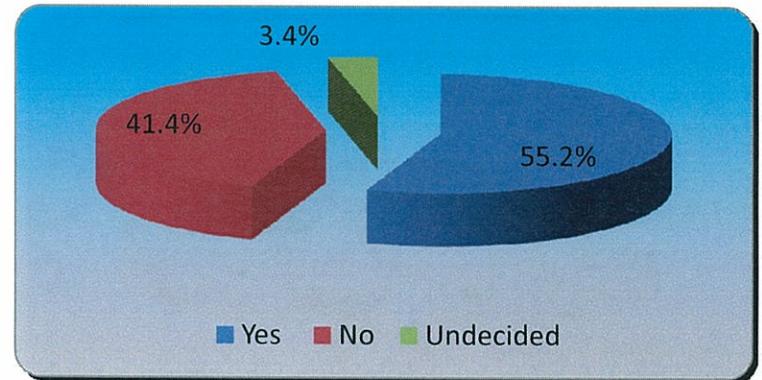
	Responses	
Yes	17	29.82%
No	36	63.16%
Undecided	4	7.02%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



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**39.) Do you favor the consolidation of administrative functions in rural school districts as means of saving public school funds?**

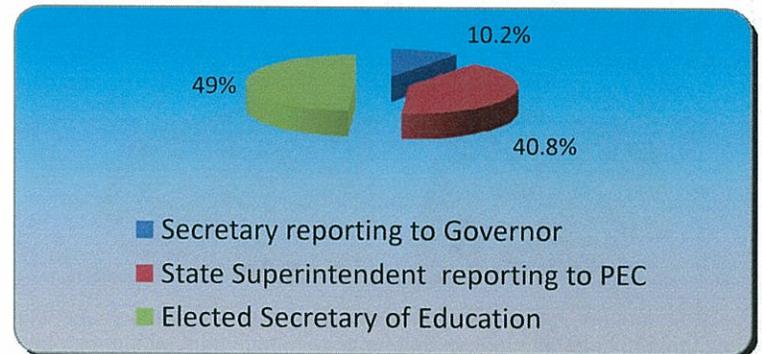
	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	32	55.17%
No	24	41.38%
Undecided	2	3.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Public Education Department**

**40.) What structure do you favor for the Public Education Department?**

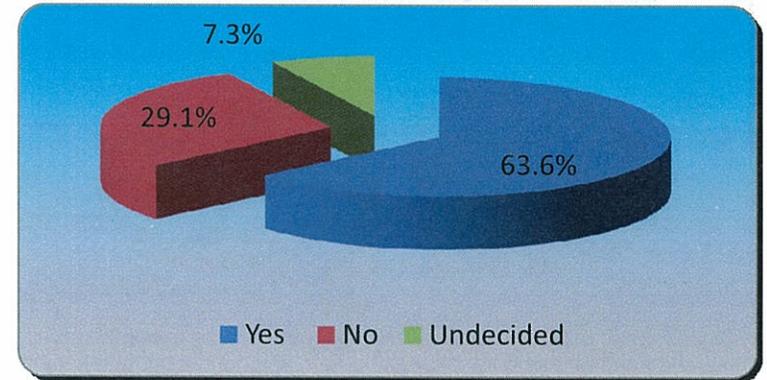
	<b>Responses</b>	
Secretary reporting to Governor	5	10.20%
State Superintendent reporting to PEC	20	40.82%
Elected Secretary of Education	24	48.98%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>



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**41.) Do you favor creation of a School Board Liaison in the Public Education Department?**

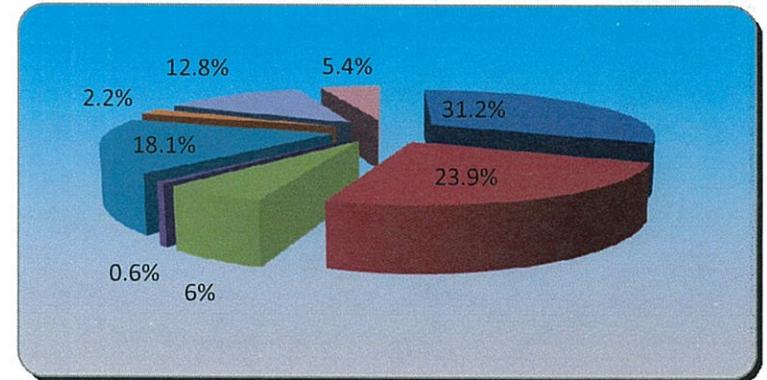
	Responses	
Yes	35	63.64%
No	16	29.09%
Undecided	4	7.27%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Board Priority Issues**

**42.) What are your Board's top three priority issues? (Pick 3)**

	Responses	
Student Achievement #1	478	31.18%
Adequate Funding #2	366	23.87%
Board-Superintendent Relations/Turnover	92	6%
Board Relations	9	0.59%
Parental Involvement #3	277	18.07%
Public Relations	33	2.15%
Student Enrollment	196	12.79%
Facilities & Maintenance	82	5.35%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>100%</b>

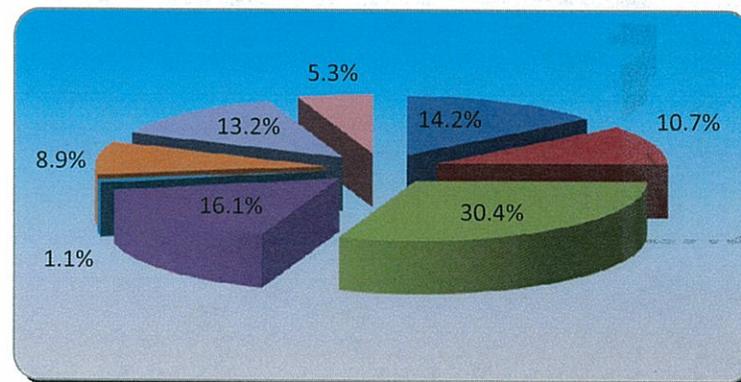


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**Association Guidance**

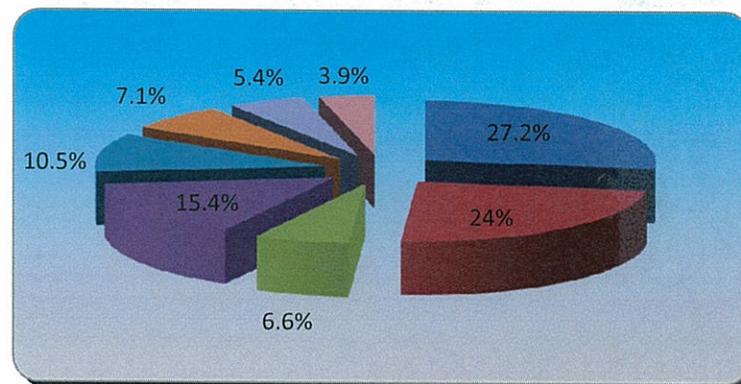
**43.) Which NMSBA services are most helpful to you? (Pick 3)**

	Responses	
Communications #3	212	14.22%
Board Advocacy	160	10.73%
Training & Development #1	454	30.45%
Legislative Activities #2	240	16.10%
Publications	16	1.07%
Legal Advice	133	8.92%
Conferences/Networking	197	13.21%
Policy Services	79	5.30%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>100%</b>



**44.) What area of training would be most beneficial to you during the next year? (Pick 3)**

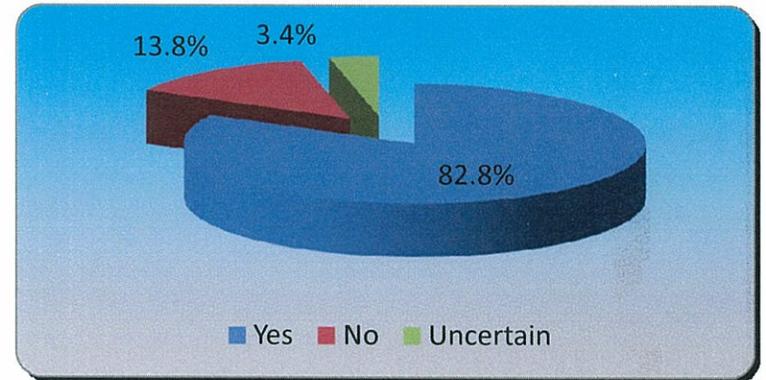
	Responses	
Student Achievement #1	387	27.20%
Finance/Budget/Audit #2	341	23.96%
Board/Super Relations	94	6.61%
Legal Issues #3	219	15.39%
Legislative Lobbying	149	10.47%
Leadership Skills	101	7.10%
Public Relations	77	5.41%
Bond Elections/Facilities	55	3.87%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>100%</b>



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**45.) Should NMSBA pursue a voluntary  
"Standards of Excellence" initiative for  
school boards?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	48	82.76%
No	8	13.79%
Uncertain	2	3.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**46.) Should NMSBA explore fee-based  
online training programs at the risk of  
affecting conference attendance and  
revenues?**

	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	14	24.14%
No	42	72.41%
Undecided	2	3.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>

