

Perceptions of Planning: Insights from Local Leaders

Findings from the Fall 2017
Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

September 21, 2018
Michigan Association of Planning 2018 Annual Conference

Presentation Outline

- **Brief overview** of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) and the Fall 2017 wave on Planning and Zoning
- **Findings** from the Fall 2017 wave:
 - ✓ Who has a Master Plan and how do they use it?
 - ✓ Zoning and CIPs
 - ✓ Planning staff
 - ✓ Who does not have a Master Plan and why?
 - ✓ Overall satisfaction with planning and zoning in Michigan

Background: The MPPS

- **A census survey** – all 1,856 Michigan counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, roads, local poverty, public safety, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, service privatization, employee policies, labor unions, housing, environmental sustainability, Great Lakes, citizen engagement, much more.

MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- **70+% regular response rates**
- **Transparency**
 - Questionnaires online
 - Pre-run data tables online
 - Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
- **Expert advisors on questionnaire content**
- **Research partnership with Michigan local government associations**
 - MAC, MML, & MTA
- **Borrowing from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA**

What does the MPPS aim to do?

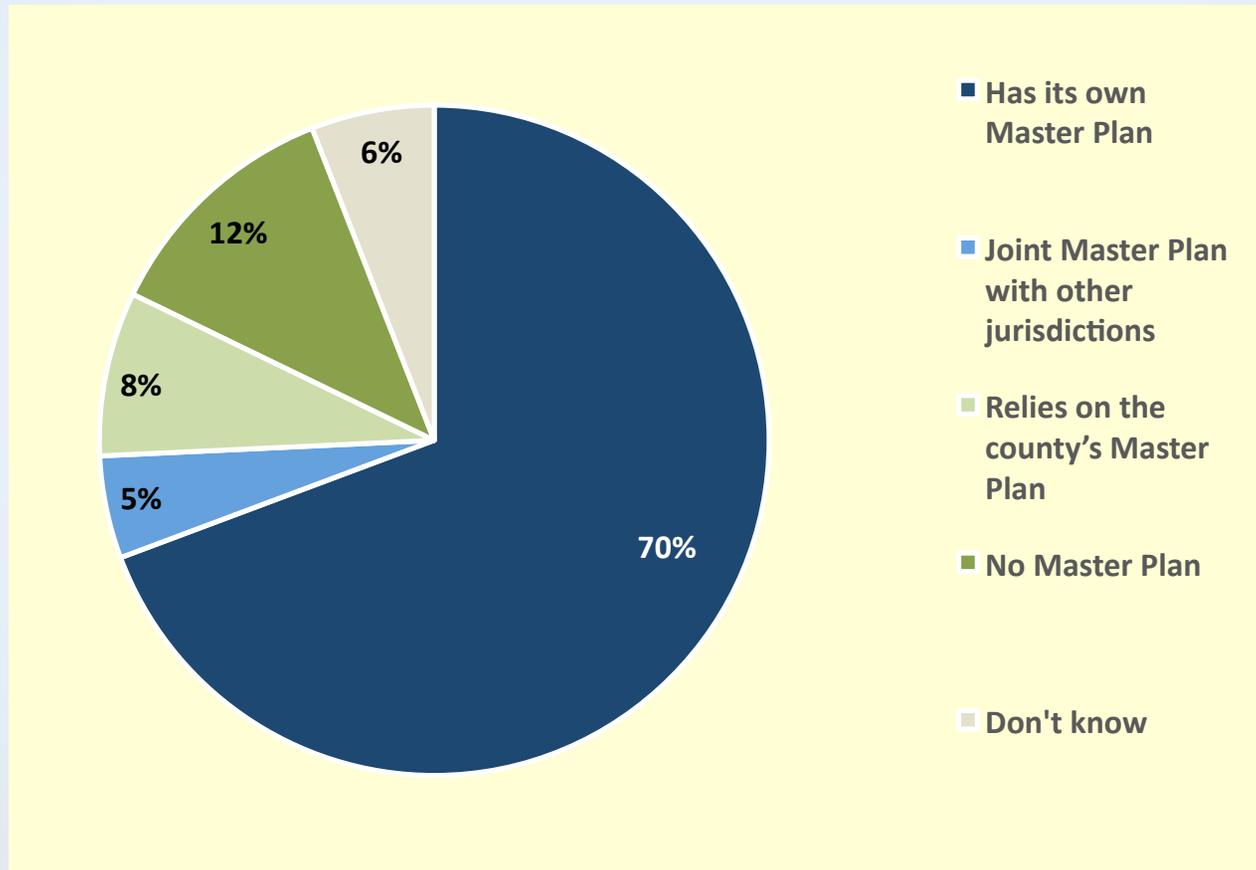
- **Improve understanding** of local government to help improve policymaking and quality of life
- **Inform local leaders** about peers across the state: challenges and responses
- **Inform state practitioners** and other stakeholders with data about local level challenges and responses not available from any other source
- **Build a longitudinal data archive** to allow tracking of fundamental changes (such as the economic transition, aging population, etc.)
- Foster **academic research and teaching** on state and local government issues

Presentation Outline

- **Brief overview** of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) and the Fall 2017 wave on Planning and Zoning
- **Findings** from the Fall 2017 wave:
 - ✓ Who has a Master Plan and how do they use it?
 - ✓ Zoning and CIPs
 - ✓ Planning staff
 - ✓ Who does not have a Master Plan and why?
 - ✓ Overall satisfaction with planning and zoning in Michigan

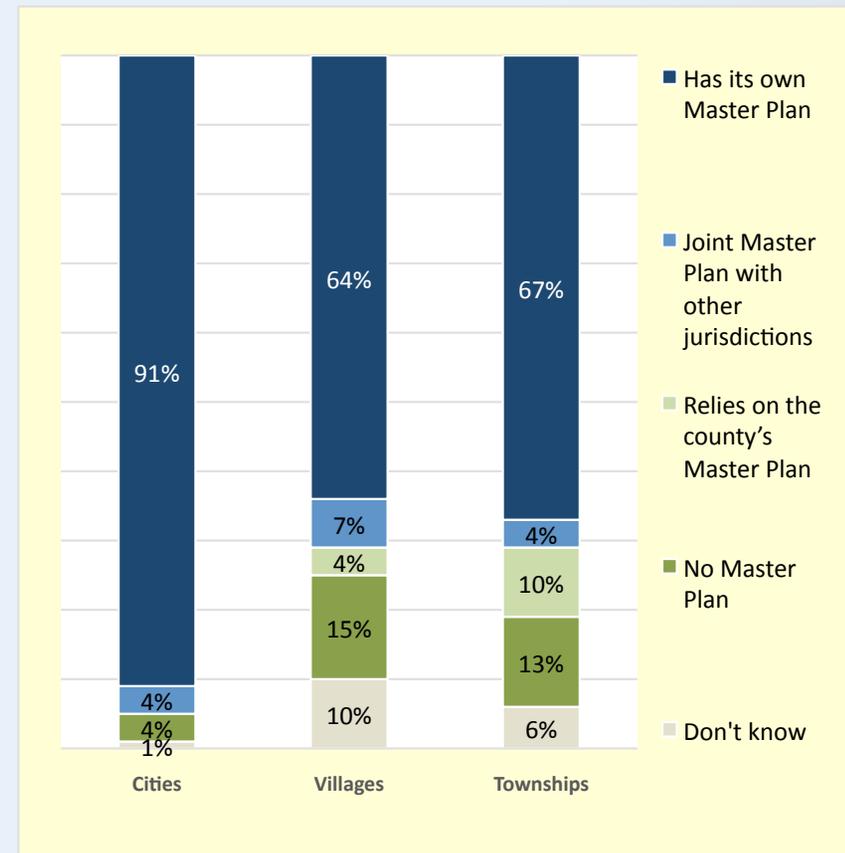
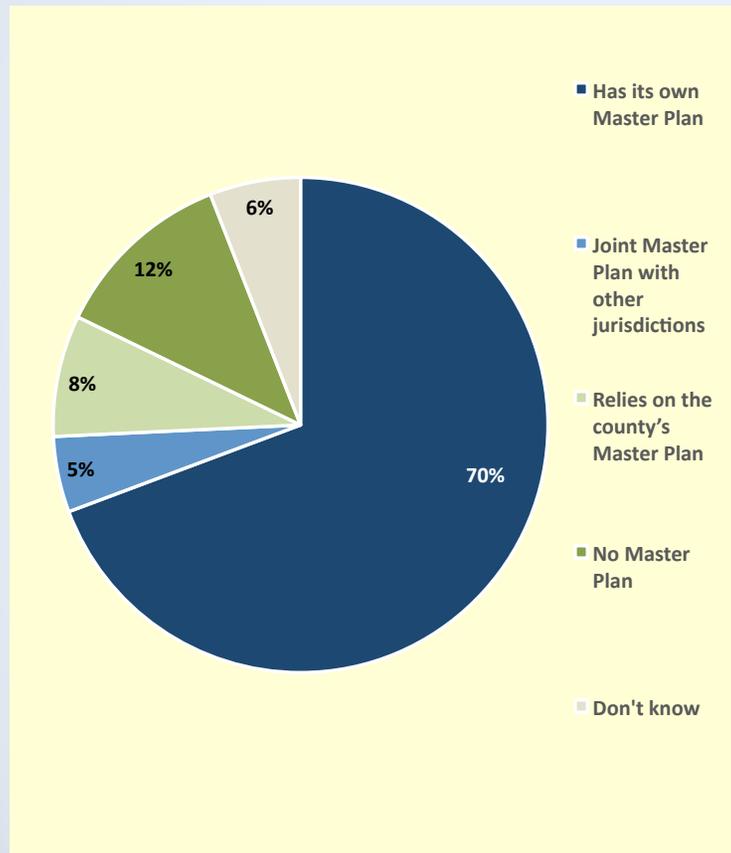
Most MI jurisdictions have their own land use master plan

Does your jurisdiction **currently have a Master Plan** that addresses land use?
(among cities, villages, and townships)



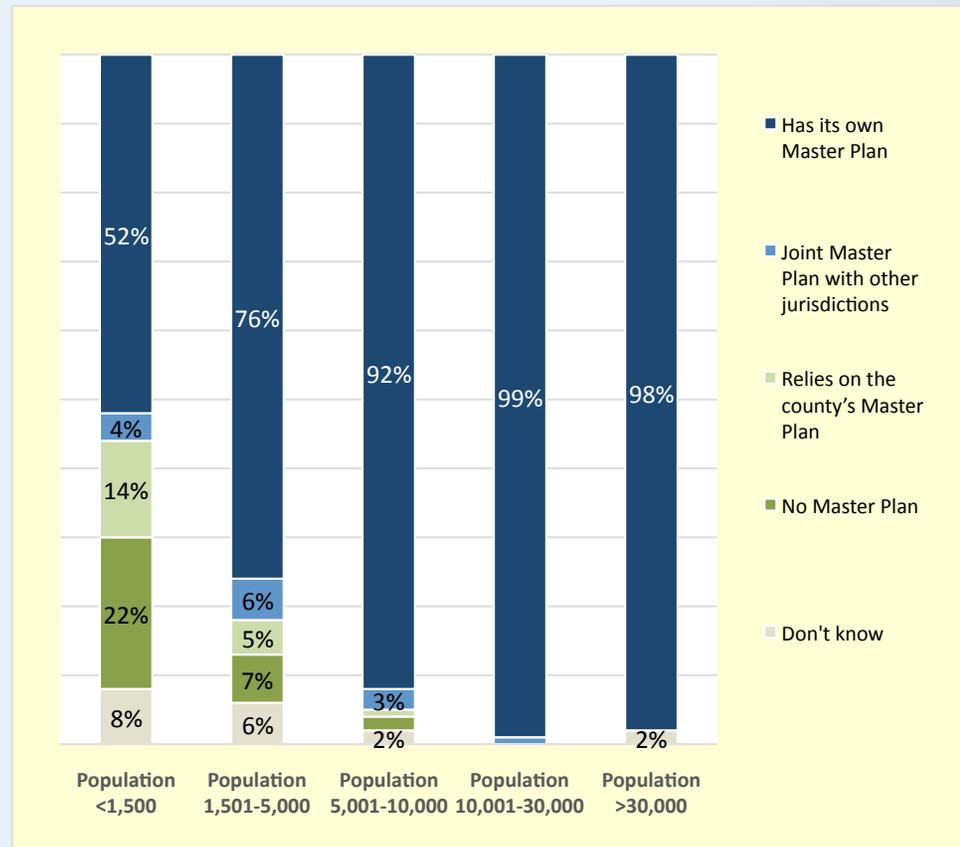
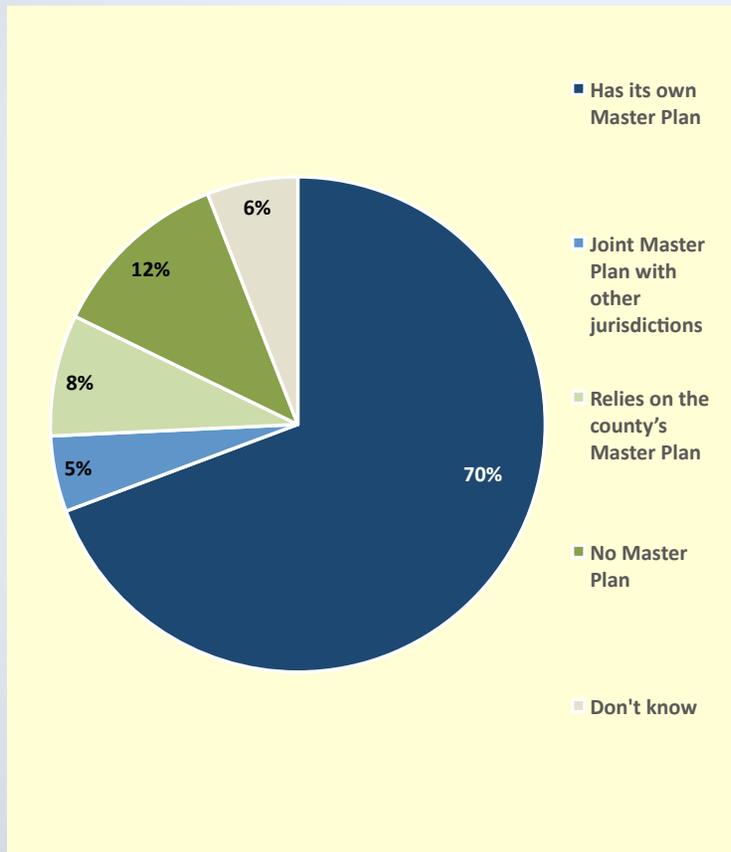
Most MI jurisdictions have their own land use master plan

Does your jurisdiction **currently have a Master Plan** that addresses land use?
(among cities, villages, and townships)



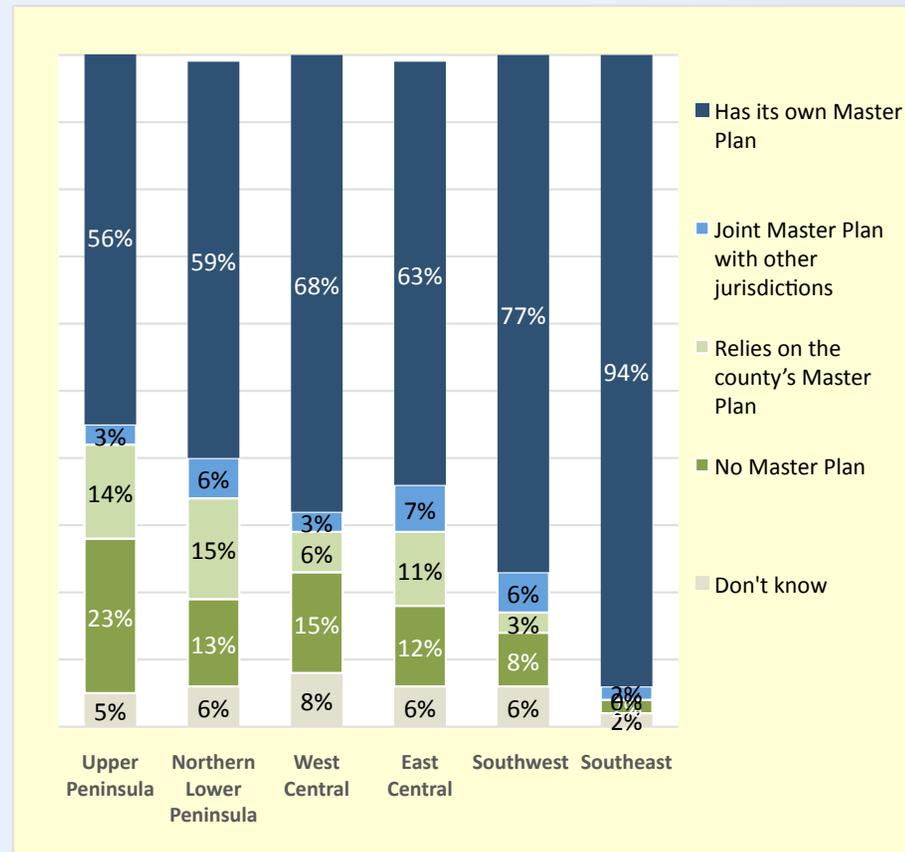
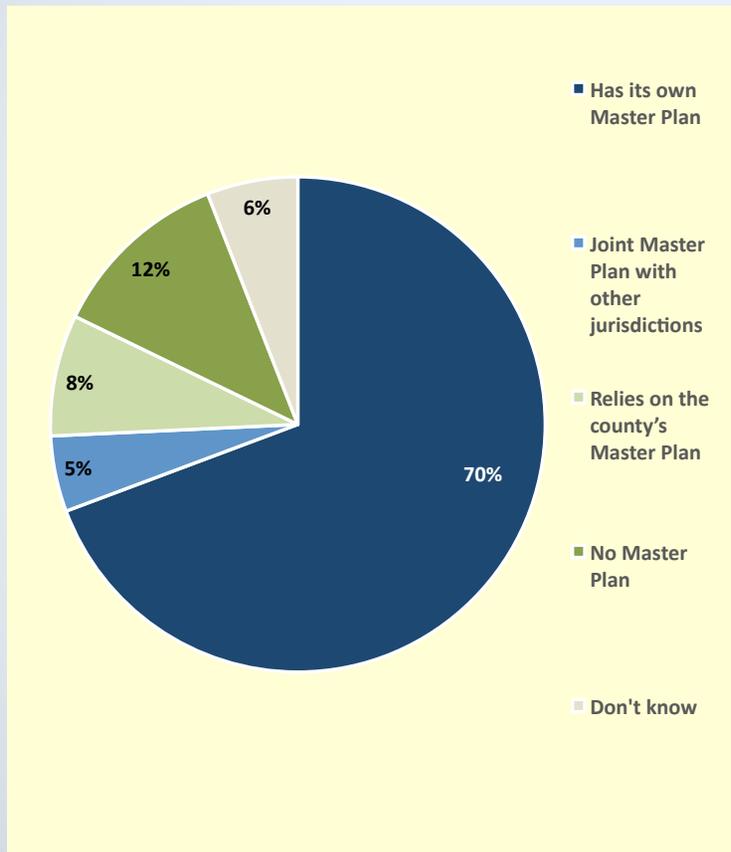
Most MI jurisdictions have their own land use master plan

Does your jurisdiction **currently have a Master Plan** that addresses land use?
(among cities, villages, and townships)



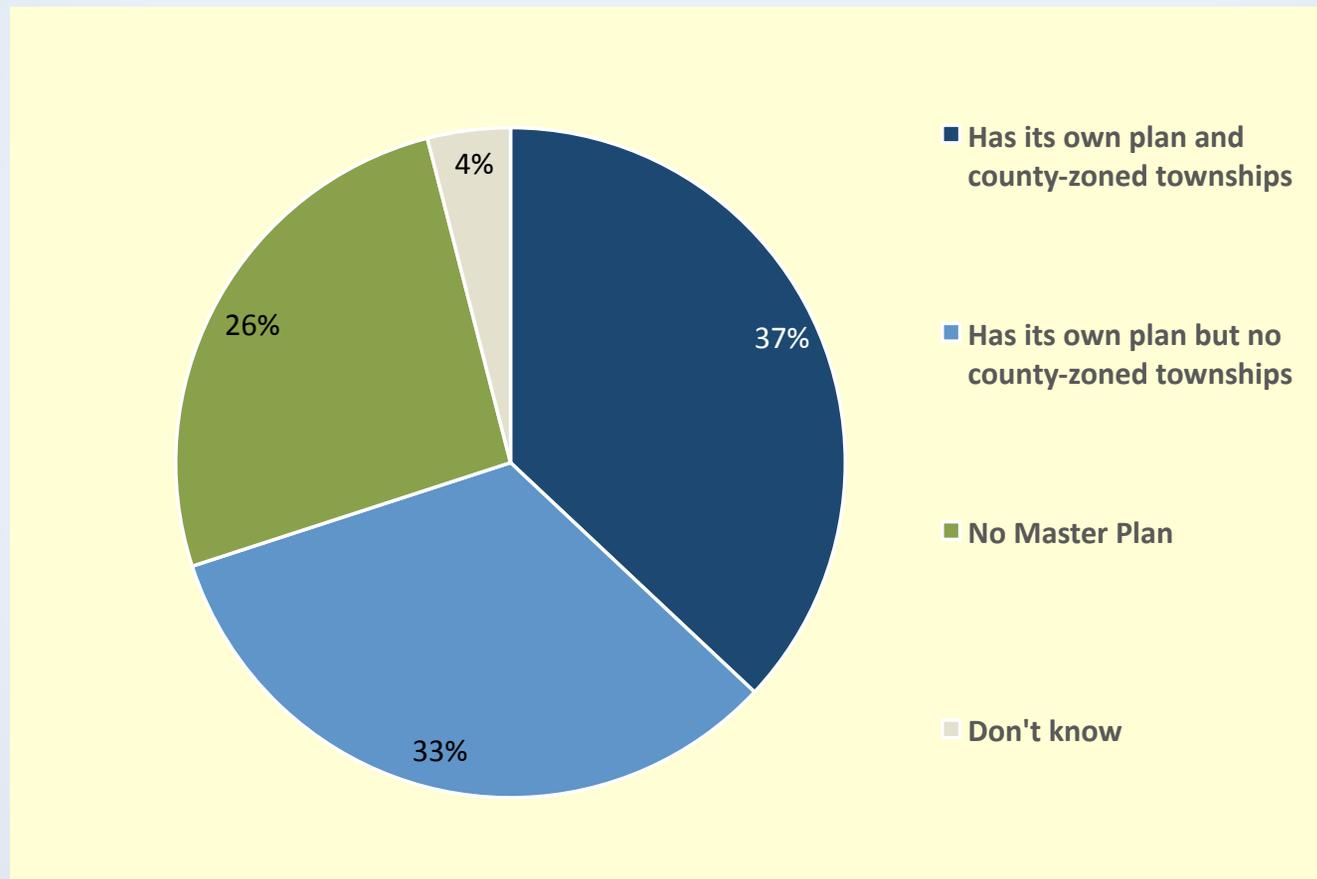
Most MI jurisdictions have their own land use master plan

Does your jurisdiction **currently have a Master Plan** that addresses land use?
(among cities, villages, and townships)



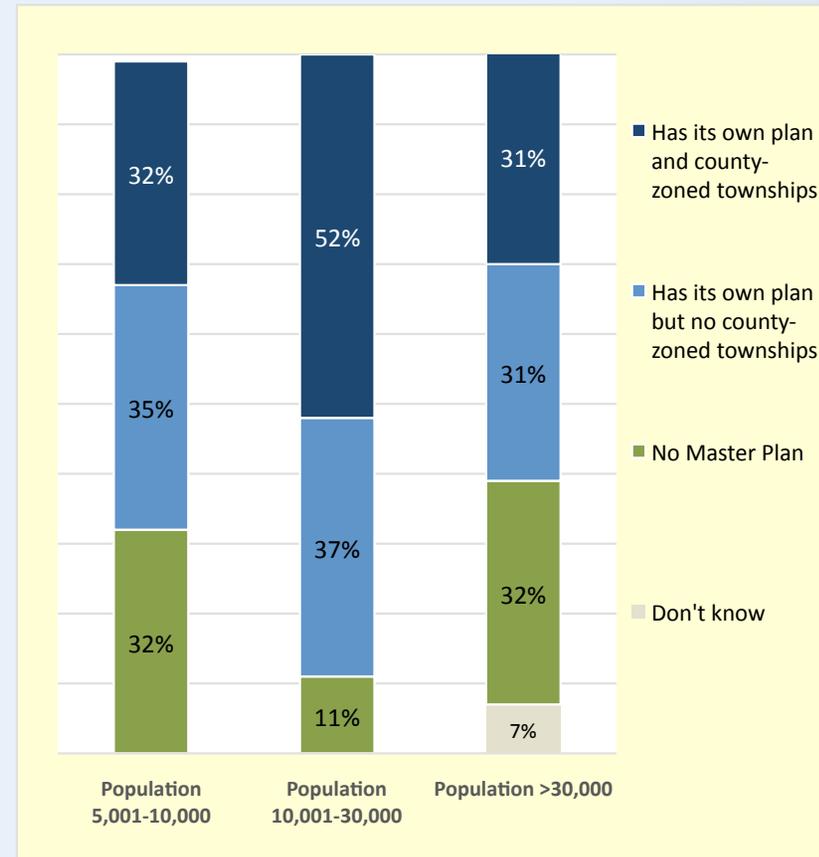
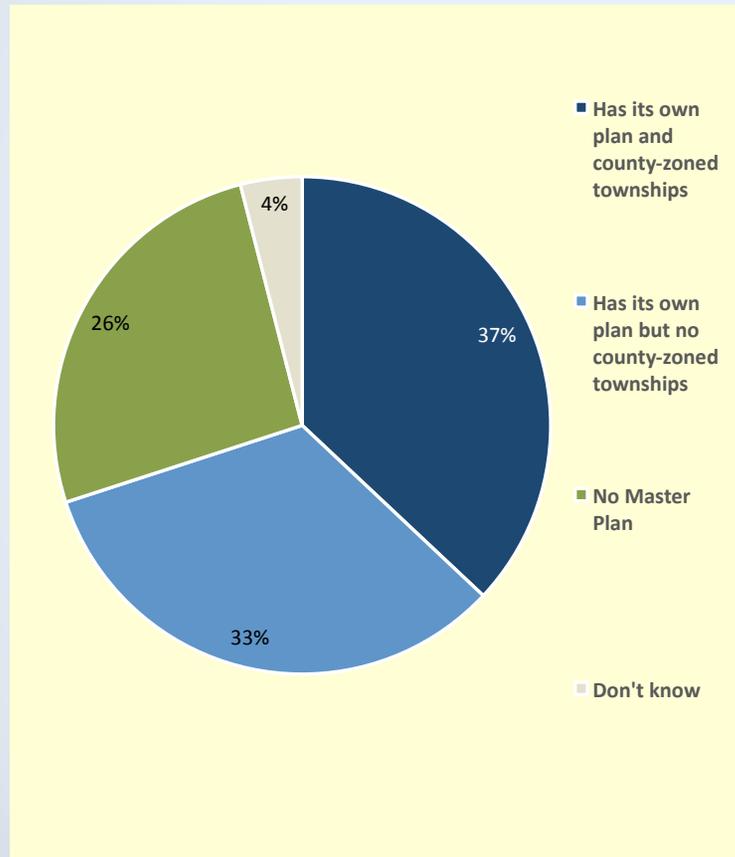
Most MI jurisdictions have their own land use master plan

Does your jurisdiction **currently have a Master Plan** that addresses land use?
(among *counties*)



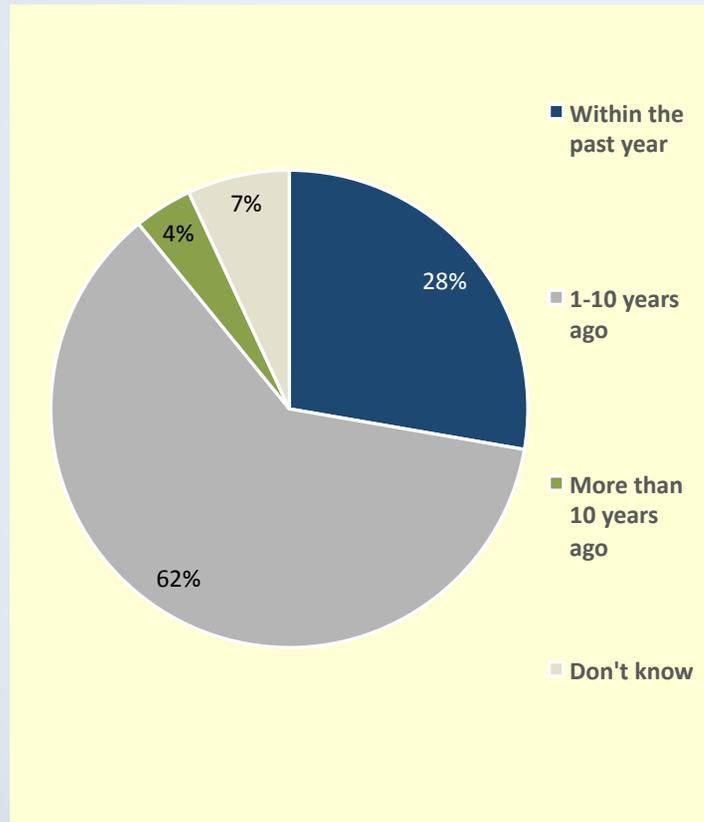
Most MI jurisdictions have their own land use master plan

Does your jurisdiction **currently have a Master Plan** that addresses land use?
(among *counties*)

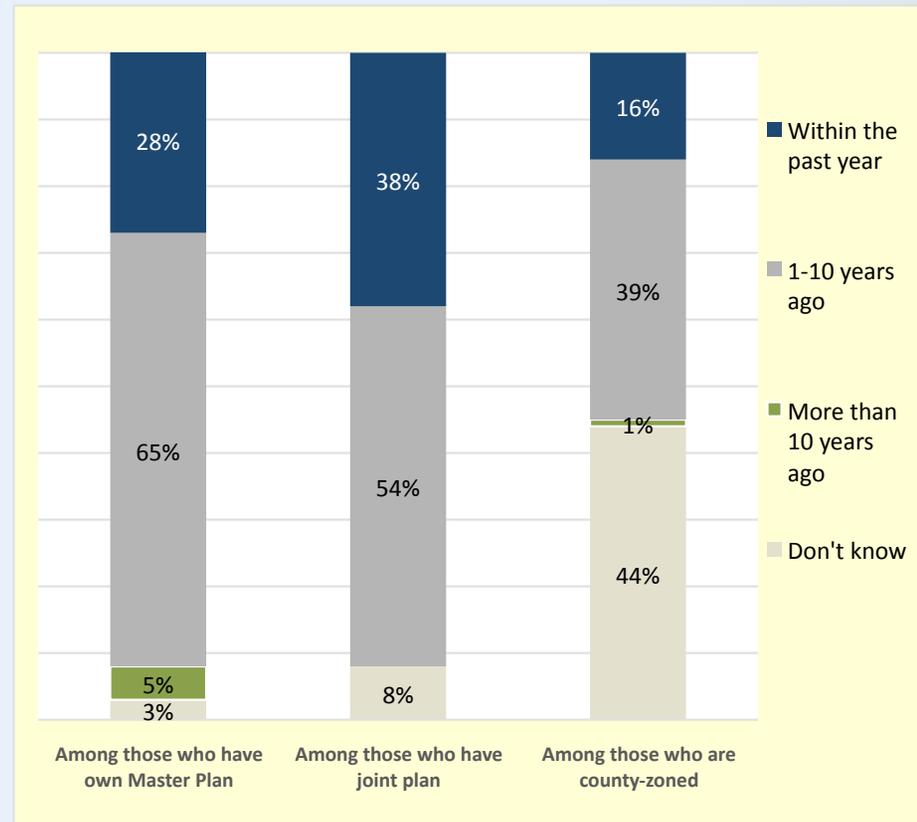


28% of MPs have been updated within past year

Master Plans must be reviewed every five years, and updates to the Plan are required when the review deems it necessary. To the best of your knowledge, approximately **when was the last time** the Master Plan for your jurisdiction was **updated**?

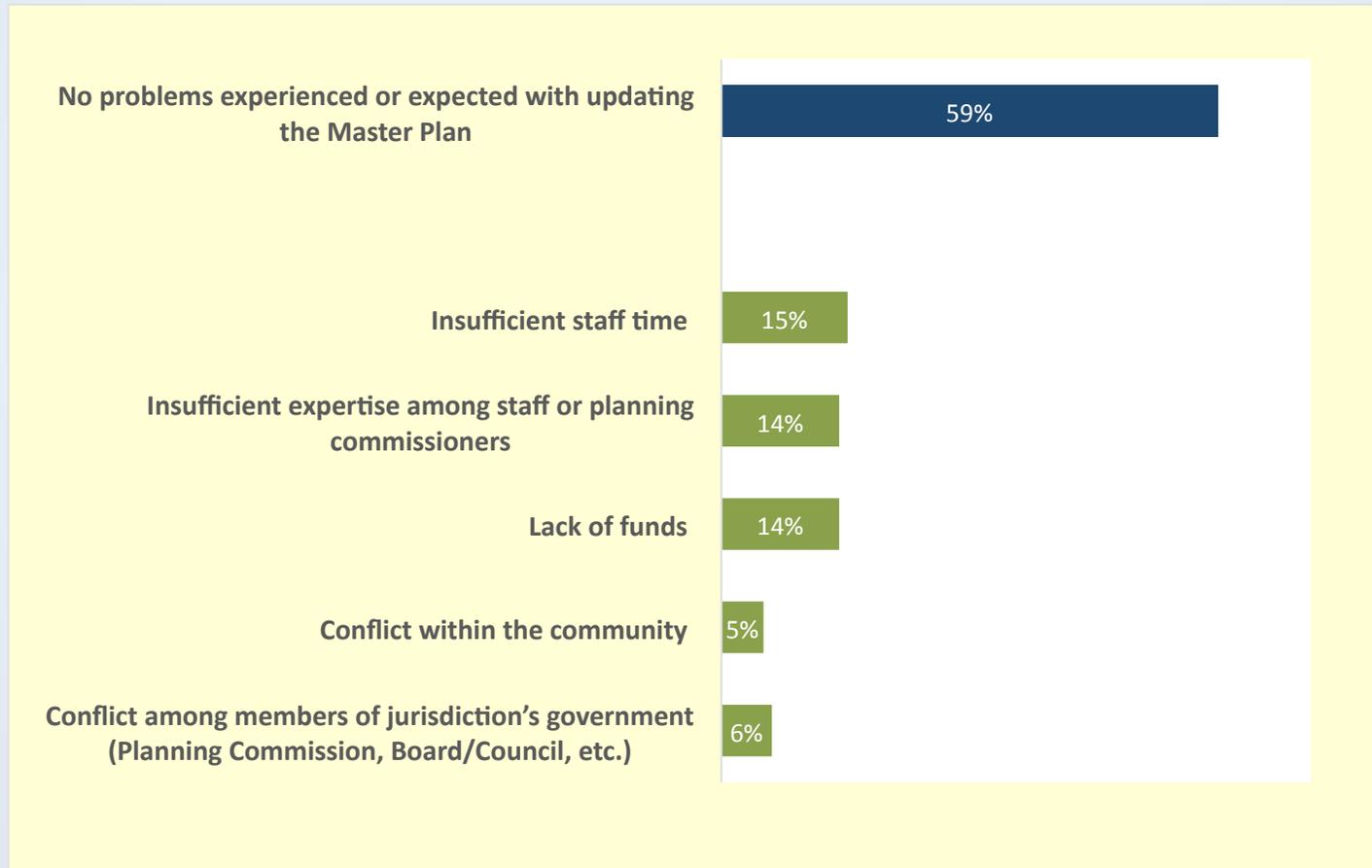


(among those that have their own or other master plan)



Majority of officials report no problems with updates

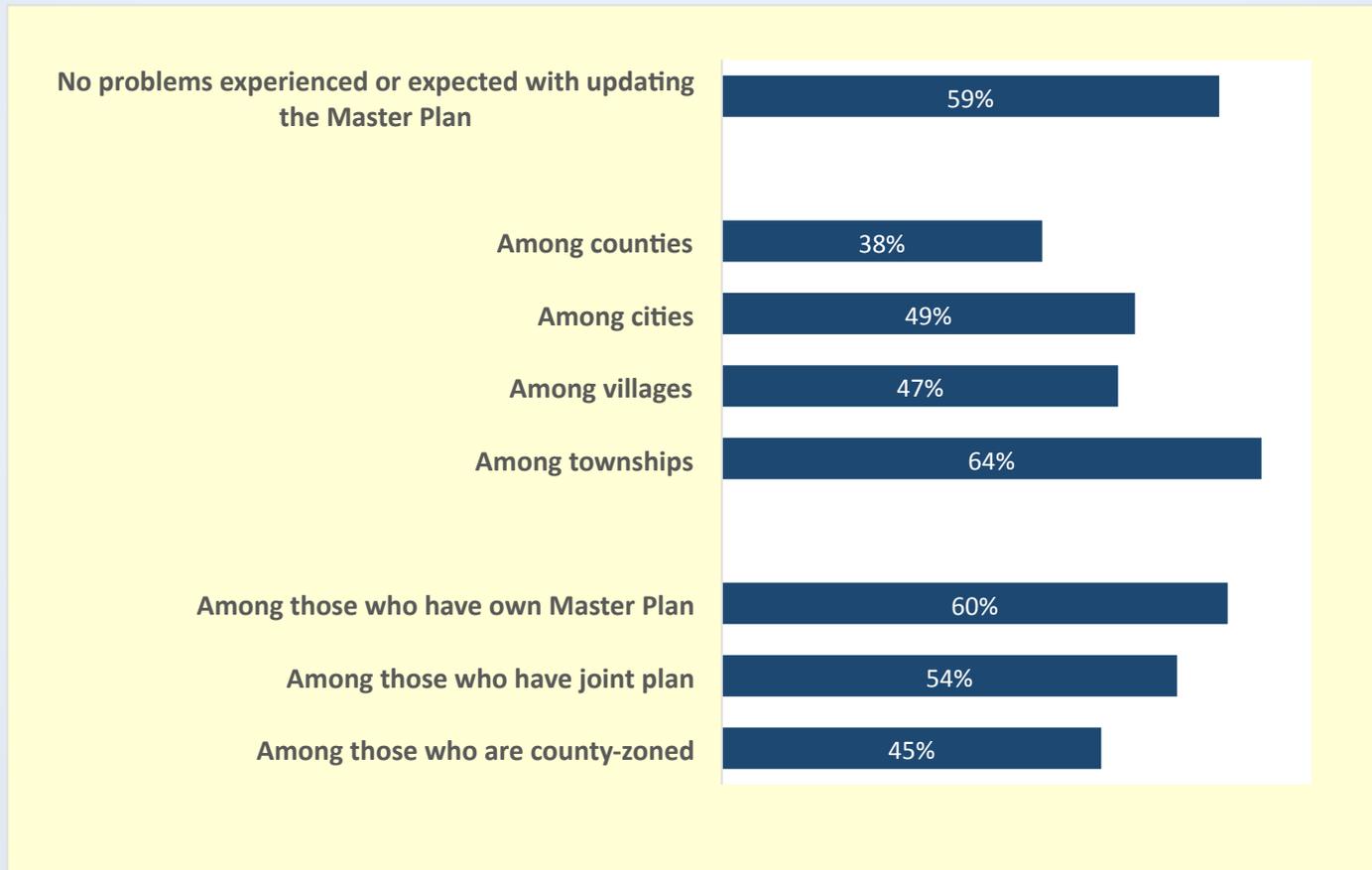
Whether or not the Master Plan for your jurisdiction has been updated recently, which of the following **problems, if any, has your jurisdiction experienced** — or would you expect it to experience — when updating its Master Plan?



(among those that have their own or other master plan)

Township officials least likely to see update problems

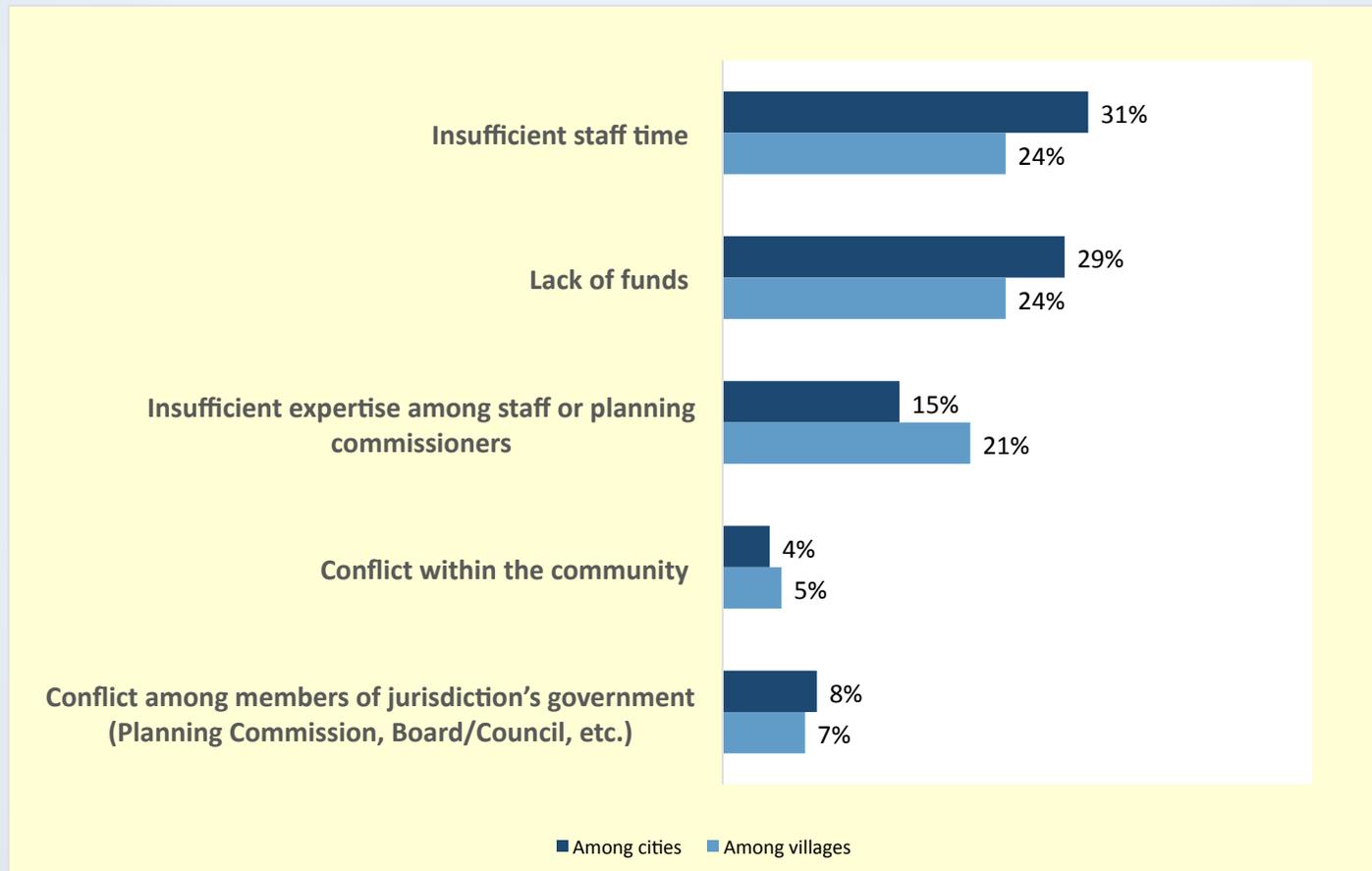
Whether or not the Master Plan for your jurisdiction has been updated recently, which of the following **problems, if any, has your jurisdiction experienced** — or would you expect it to experience — when updating its Master Plan?



(among those that have their own or other master plan)

City and village officials most concerned about resources

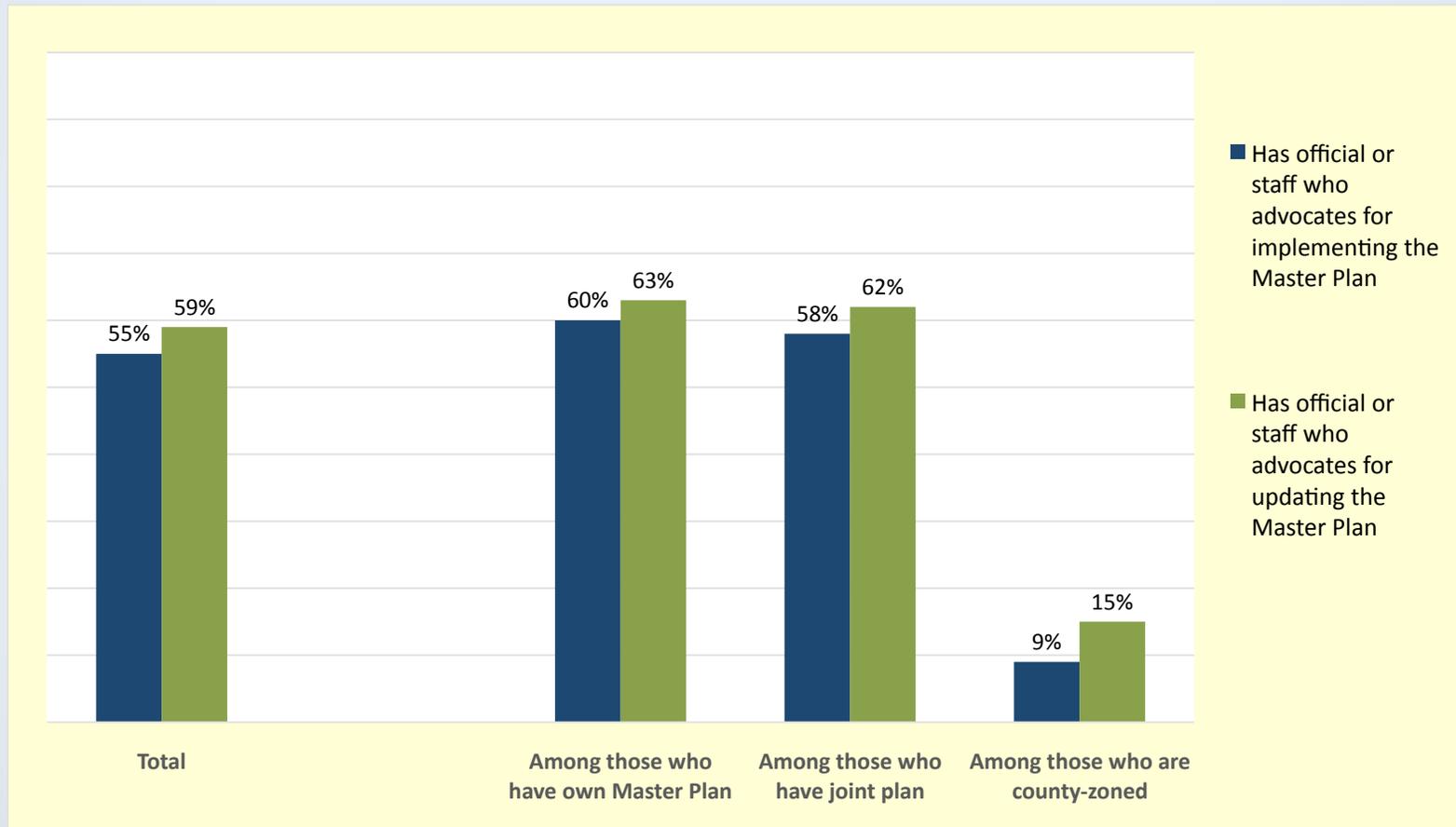
Whether or not the Master Plan for your jurisdiction has been updated recently, which of the following **problems, if any, has your jurisdiction experienced** — or would you expect it to experience — when updating its Master Plan?



(among those that have their own or other master plan)

Many officials say their Master Plan has a “champion”

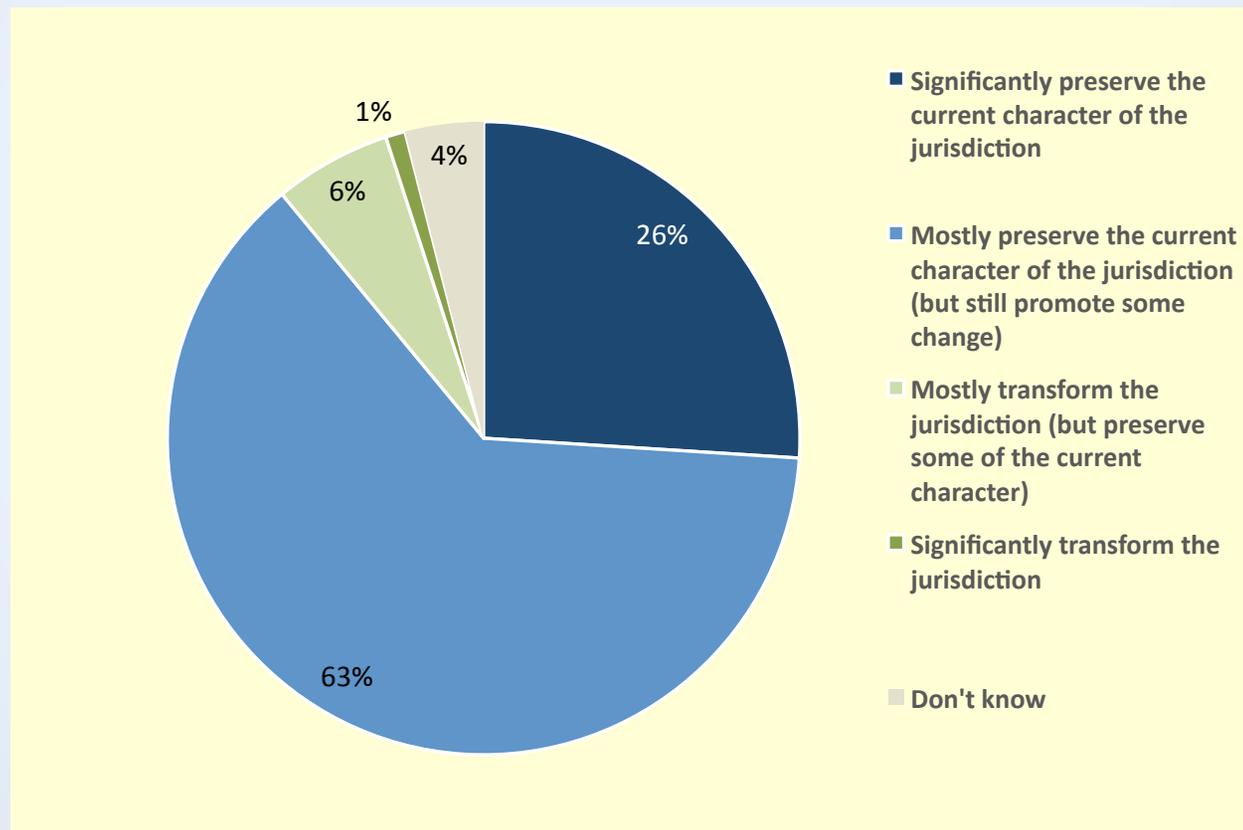
Does your jurisdiction have **particular staff members or elected officials** who regularly “**champion**” or advocate for implementing the current Master Plan or updating the Master Plan?



(among those that have their own or other master plan)

Master Plan goals: preservation over transformation

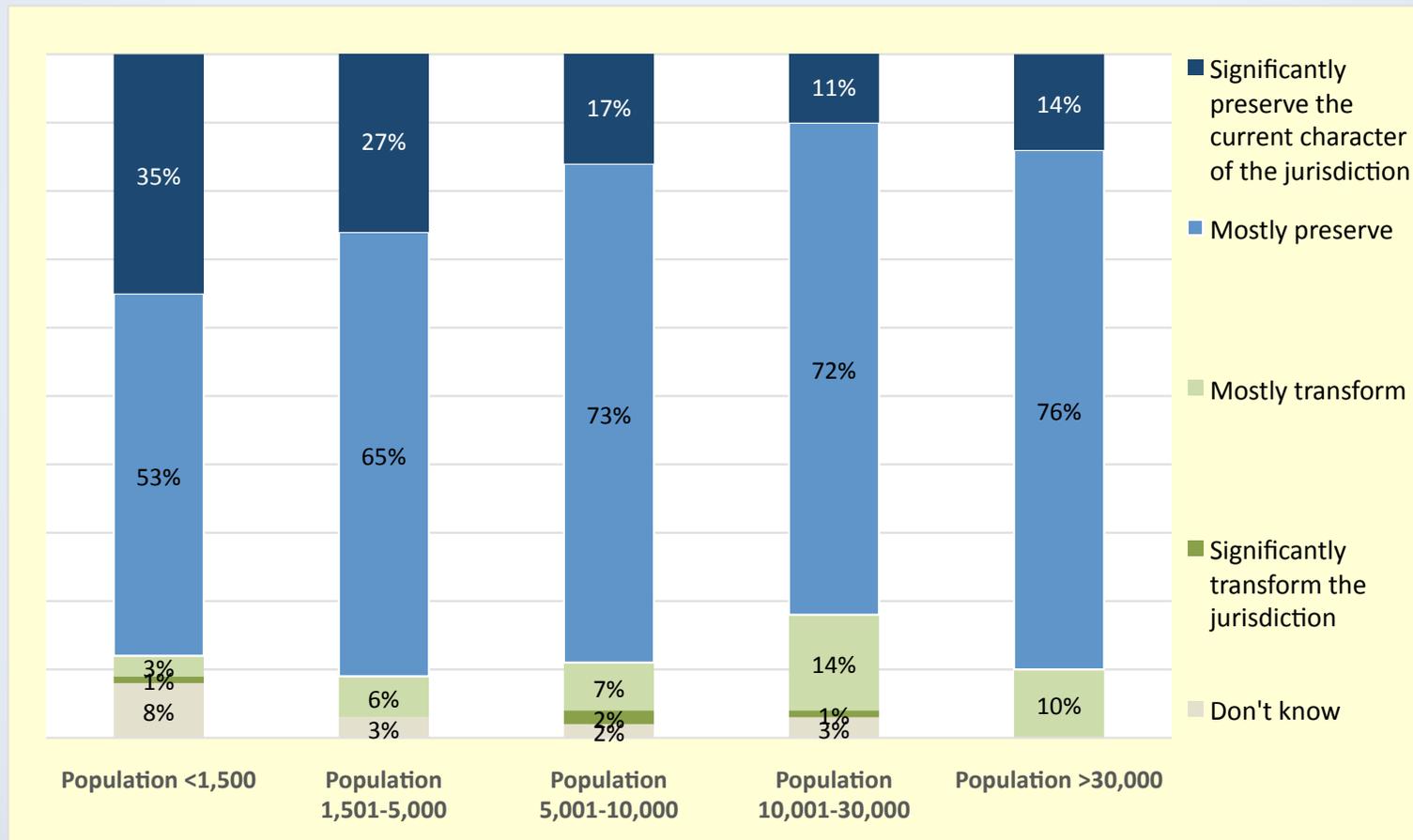
For some local governments, the Master Plan aims to **preserve the current character of the community** into the future. In other jurisdictions, the Master Plan **envisions a future significantly different than the status quo**. Thinking about the Master Plan for your jurisdiction, would you say it aims to...



(among those that have their own or other master plan)

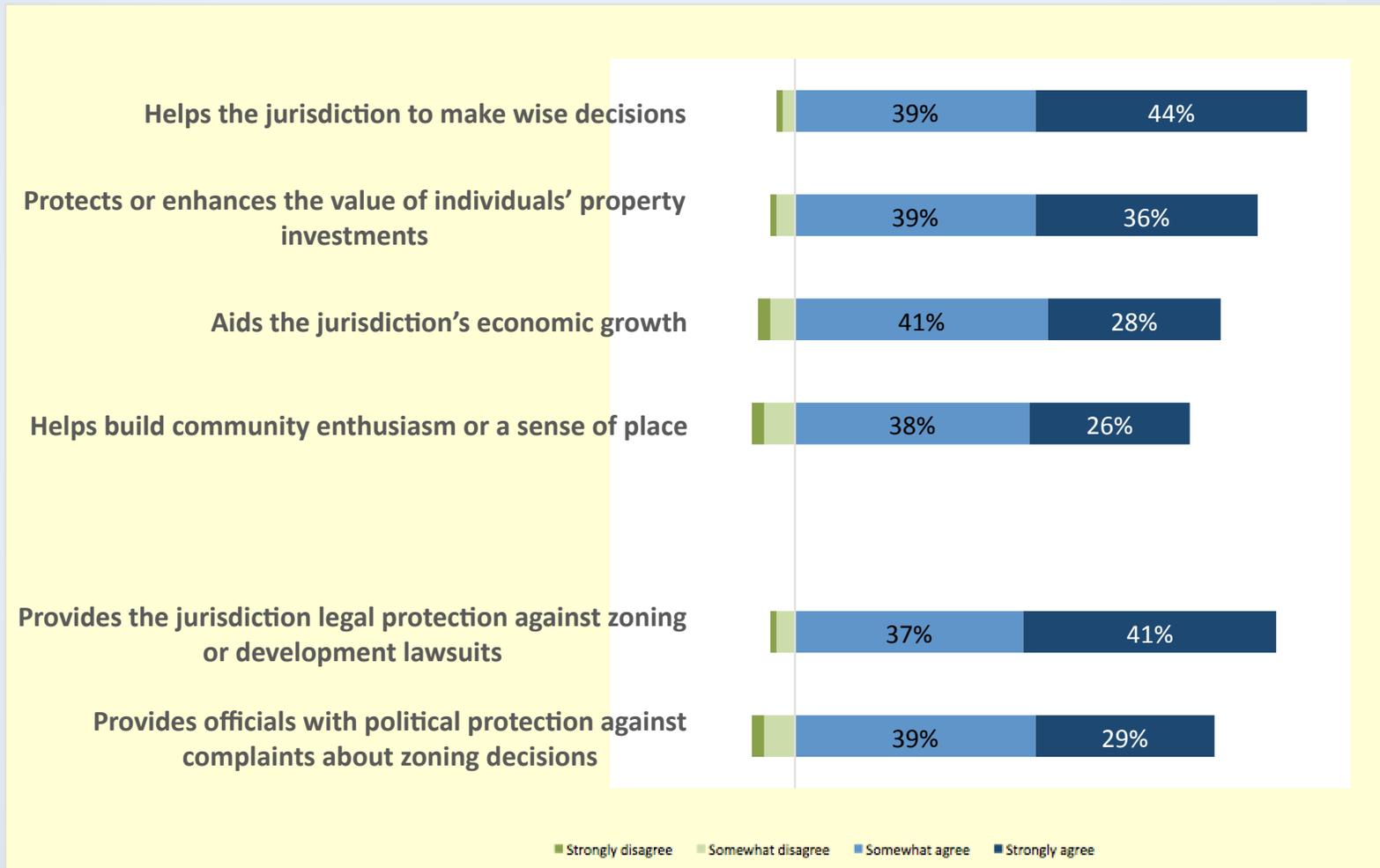
Master Plan goals: preservation over transformation

For some local governments, the Master Plan aims to **preserve the current character of the community** into the future. In other jurisdictions, the Master Plan **envisions a future significantly different than the status quo**. Thinking about the Master Plan for your jurisdiction, would you say it aims to...



Those who have Master Plans see wide ranging benefits

Now we're interested in the **potential benefits of land use planning**. To what extent do you agree or disagree that having a Master Plan...

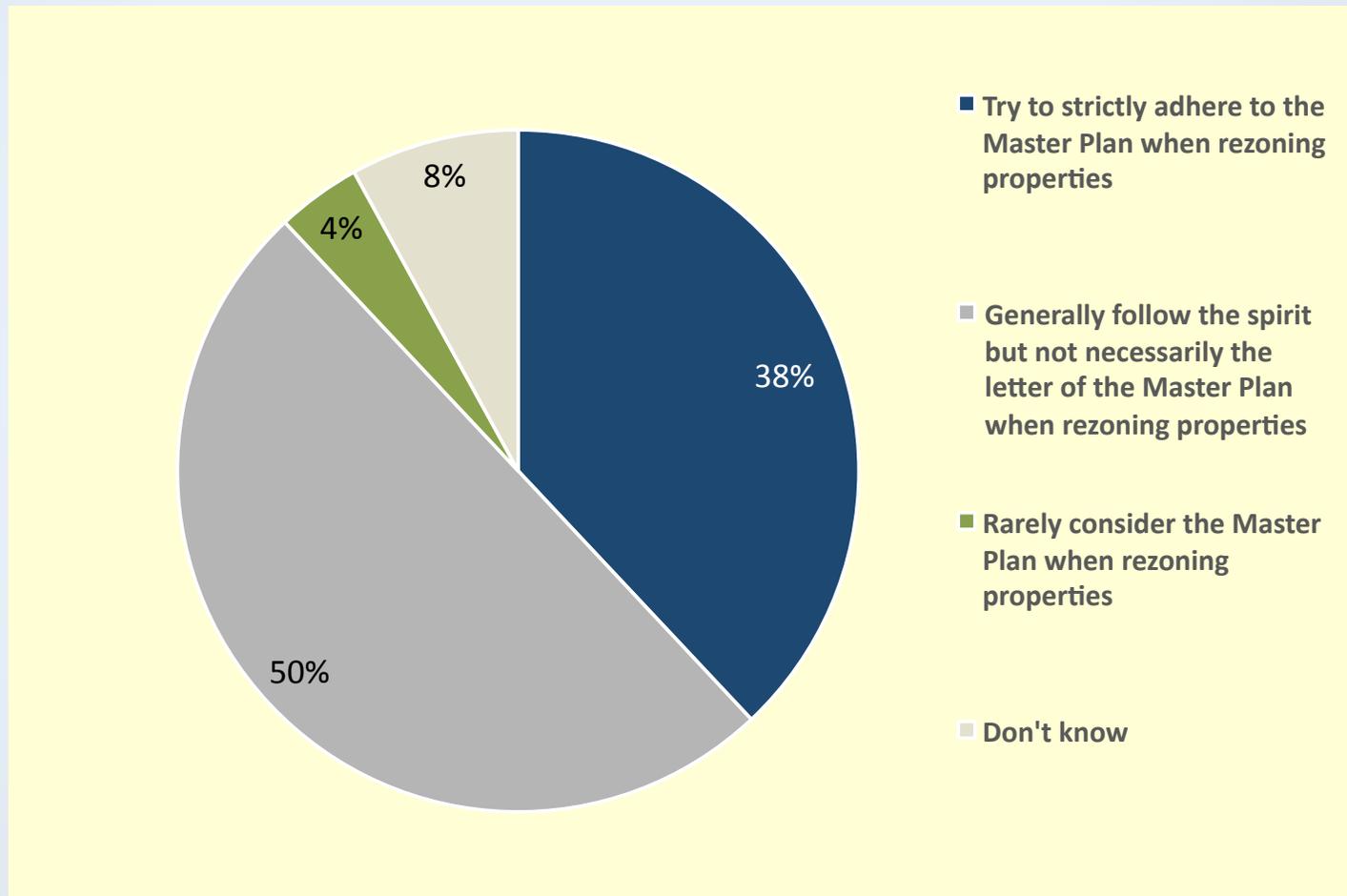


Presentation Outline

- **Brief overview** of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) and the Fall 2017 wave on Planning and Zoning
- **Findings** from the Fall 2017 wave:
 - ✓ Who has a Master Plan and how do they use it?
 - ✓ **Zoning and CIPs**
 - ✓ Planning staff
 - ✓ Who does not have a Master Plan and why?
 - ✓ Overall satisfaction with planning and zoning in Michigan

In zoning, most localities follow spirit but not letter of MP

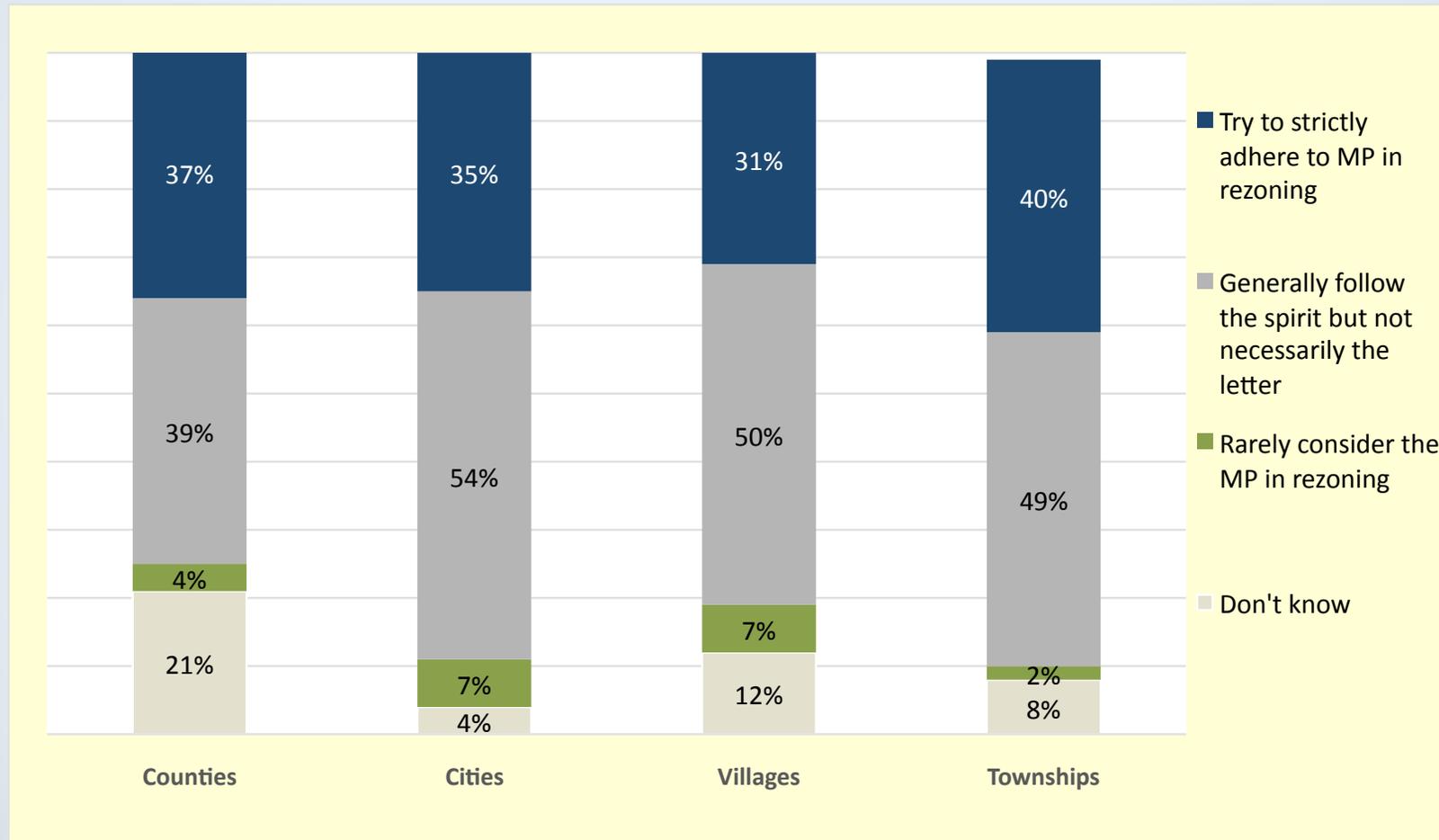
Thinking about the way your jurisdiction usually **uses its Master Plan in rezoning** decisions, which of the following best describes your approach?



(among those that zone themselves)

In zoning, most localities follow spirit but not letter of MP

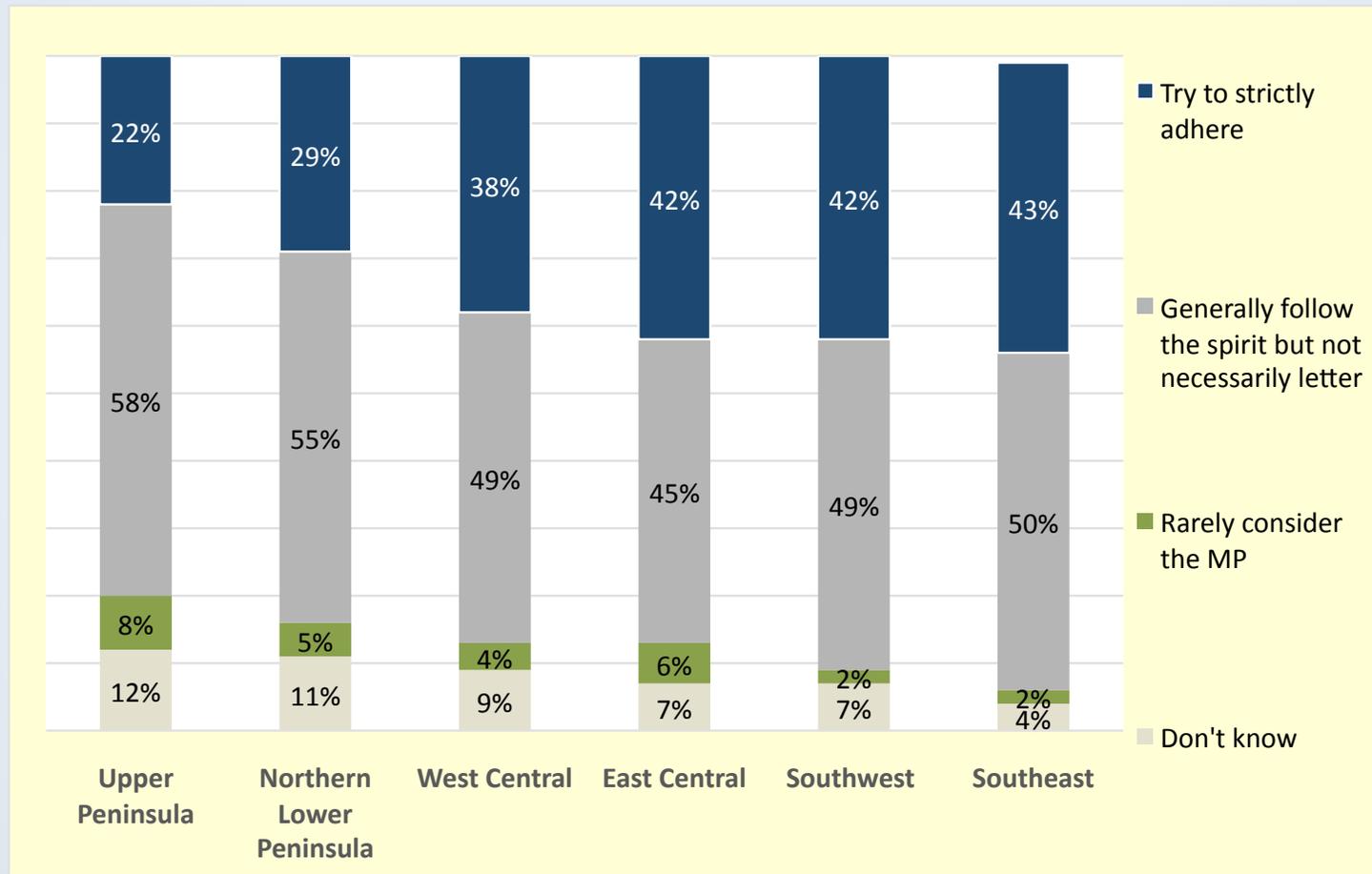
Thinking about the way your jurisdiction usually **uses its Master Plan in rezoning** decisions, which of the following best describes your approach?



(among those that zone themselves)

In zoning, most localities follow spirit but not letter of MP

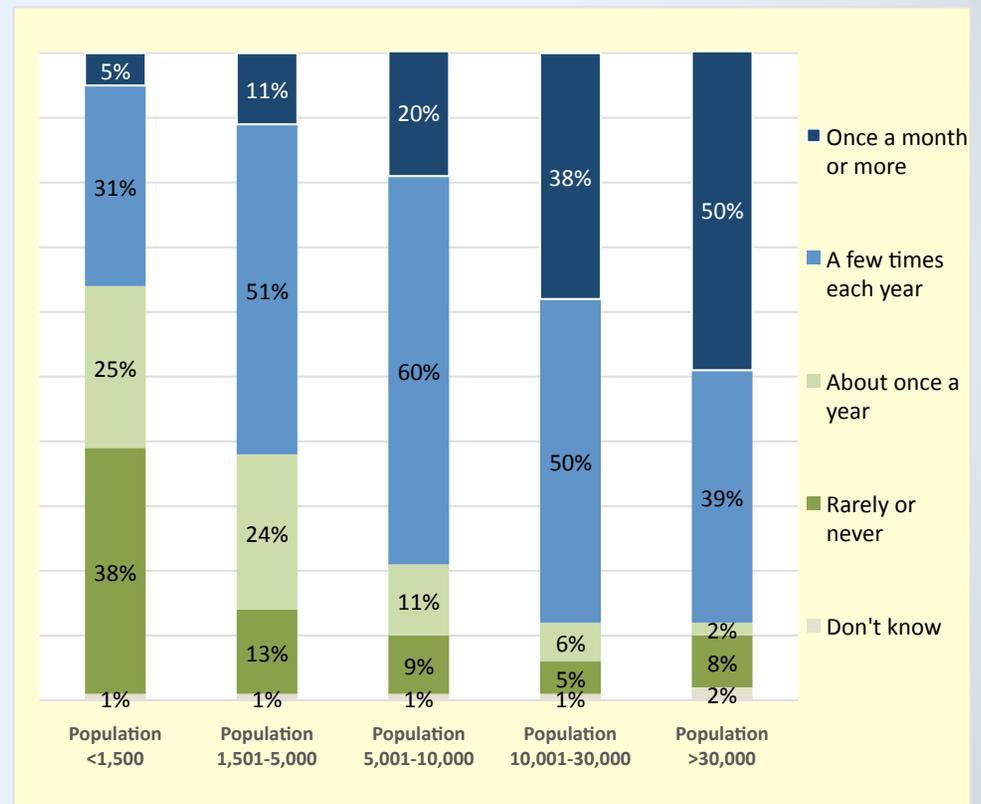
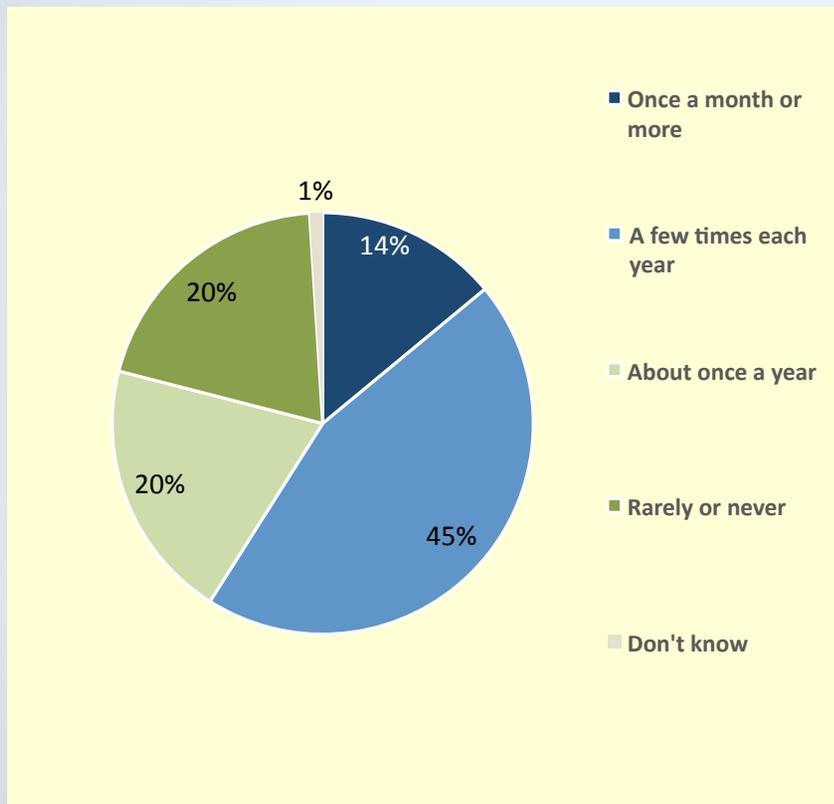
Thinking about the way your jurisdiction usually **uses its Master Plan in rezoning** decisions, which of the following best describes your approach?



(among those that zone themselves)

Public hearings on zoning issues vary by pop. size

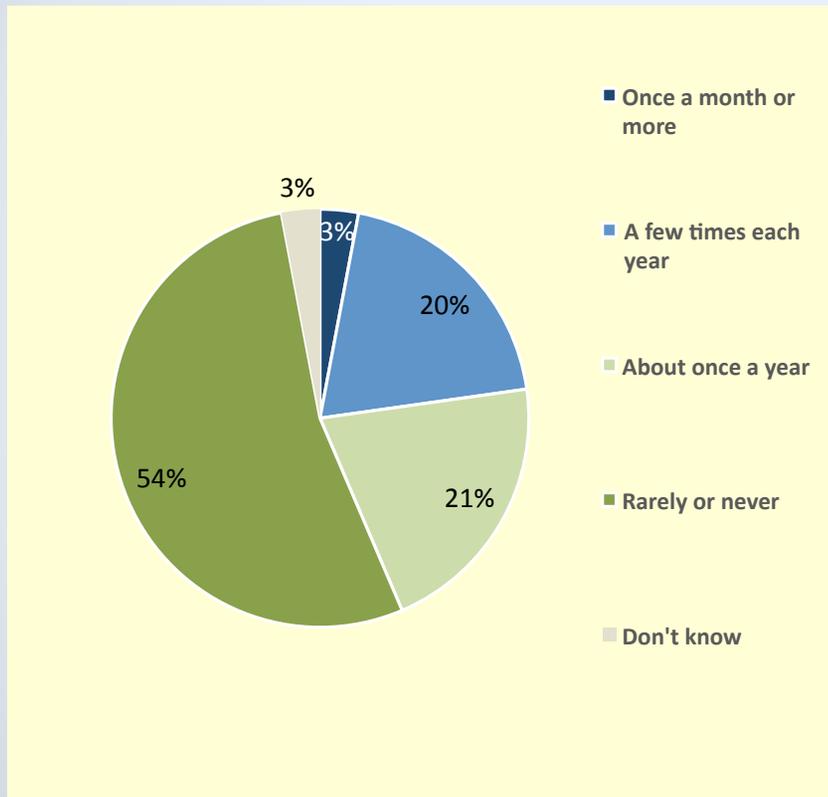
How often would you say... **public hearings for zoning actions** (rezoning requests, site plan review, special use permits, etc.) ...occur?



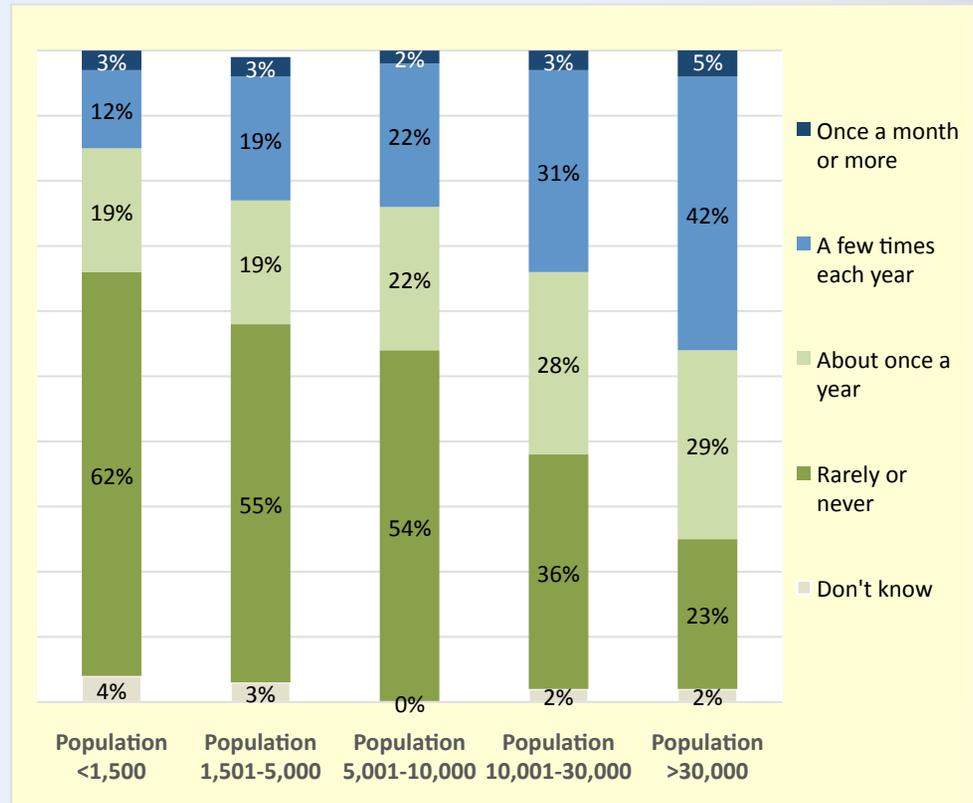
(among those that conduct their own zoning or are zoned either by the county or a joint authority)

Controversies about zoning decisions less common

How often would you say... **controversies** related to zoning actions... occur?

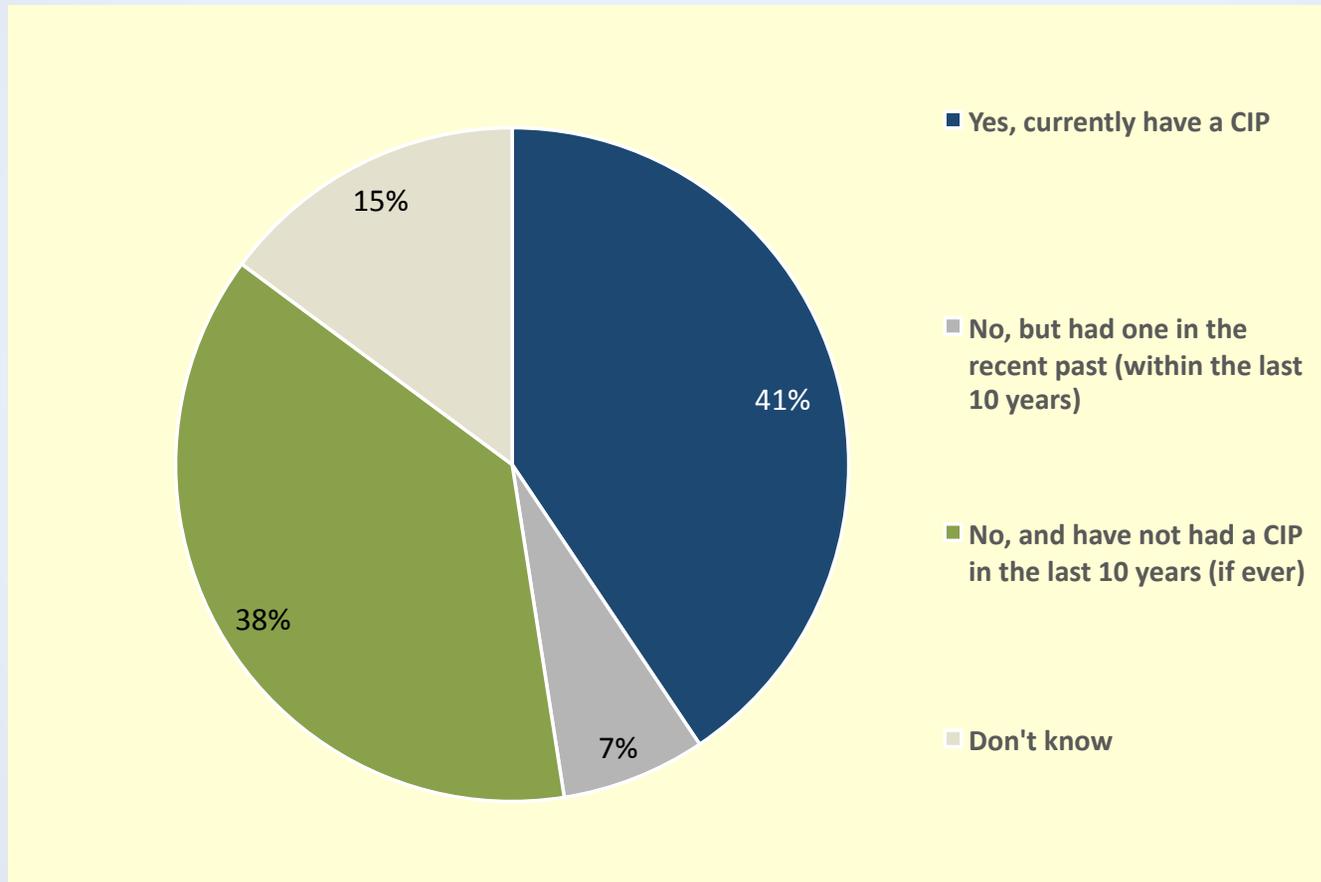


(among those that conduct their own zoning or are zoned either by the county or a joint authority)



CIPs are relatively common

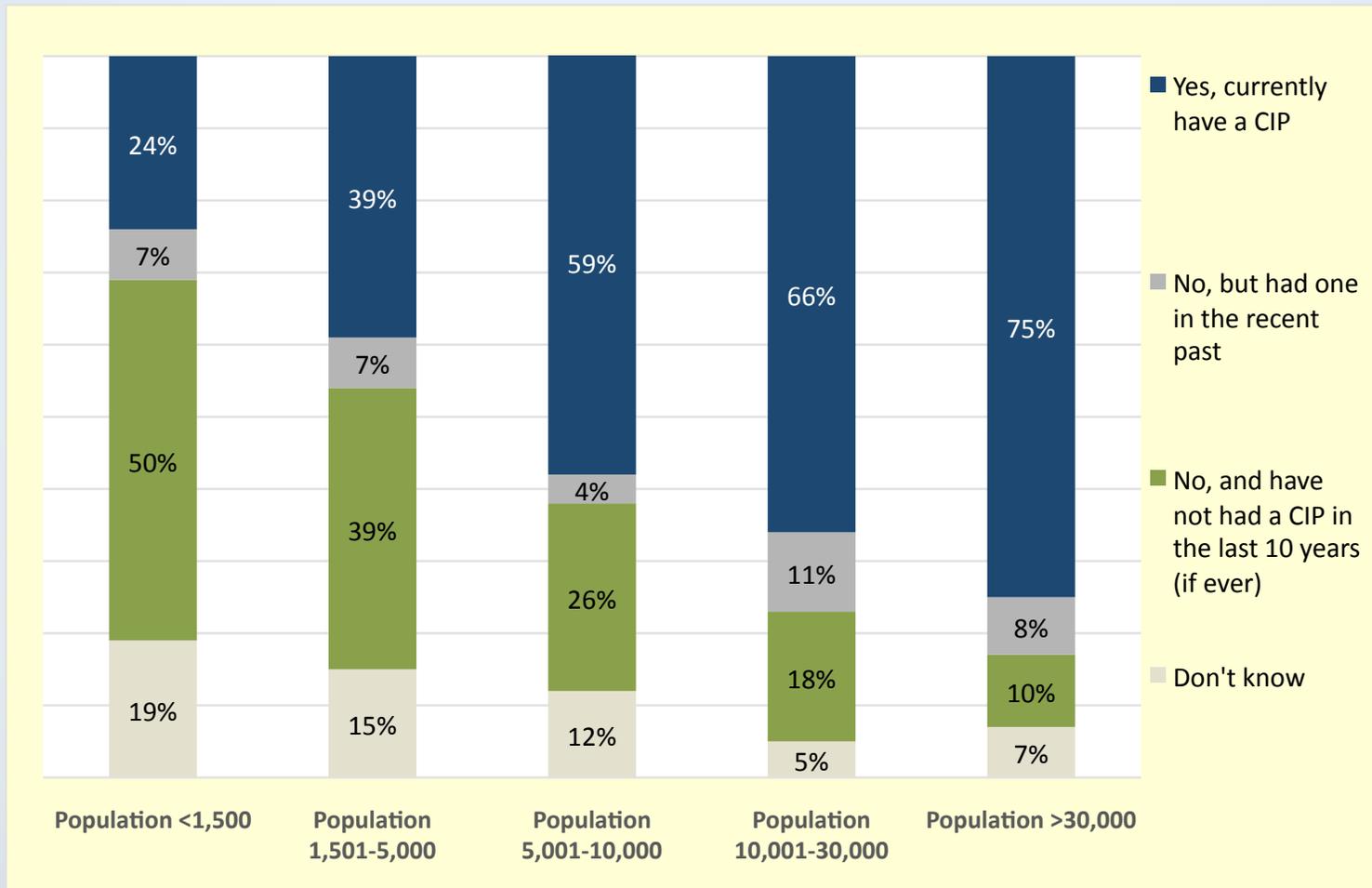
Does your jurisdiction currently have a **formal Capital Improvements Plan/Program (CIP)** for infrastructure, facilities, equipment, etc.?



(among those that have their own or other master plan)

CIPs are relatively common

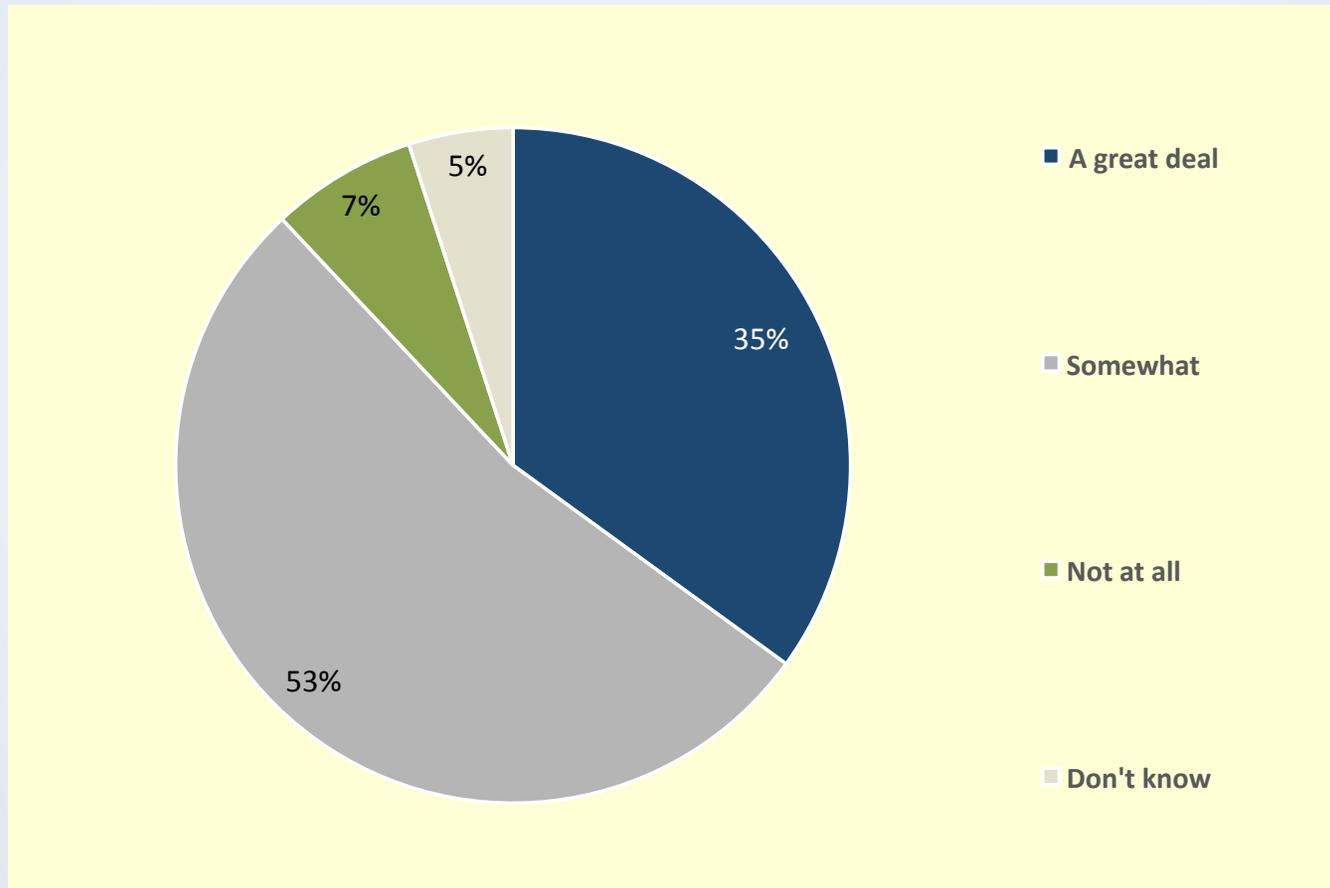
Does your jurisdiction currently have a **formal Capital Improvements Plan/ Program (CIP)** for infrastructure, facilities, equipment, etc.?



(among those that have their own or other master plan)

Only some places prioritize CIP projects based on MP

To what extent does your jurisdiction's Capital Improvements Plan **prioritize projects** based on whether they support the Master Plan for your jurisdiction?



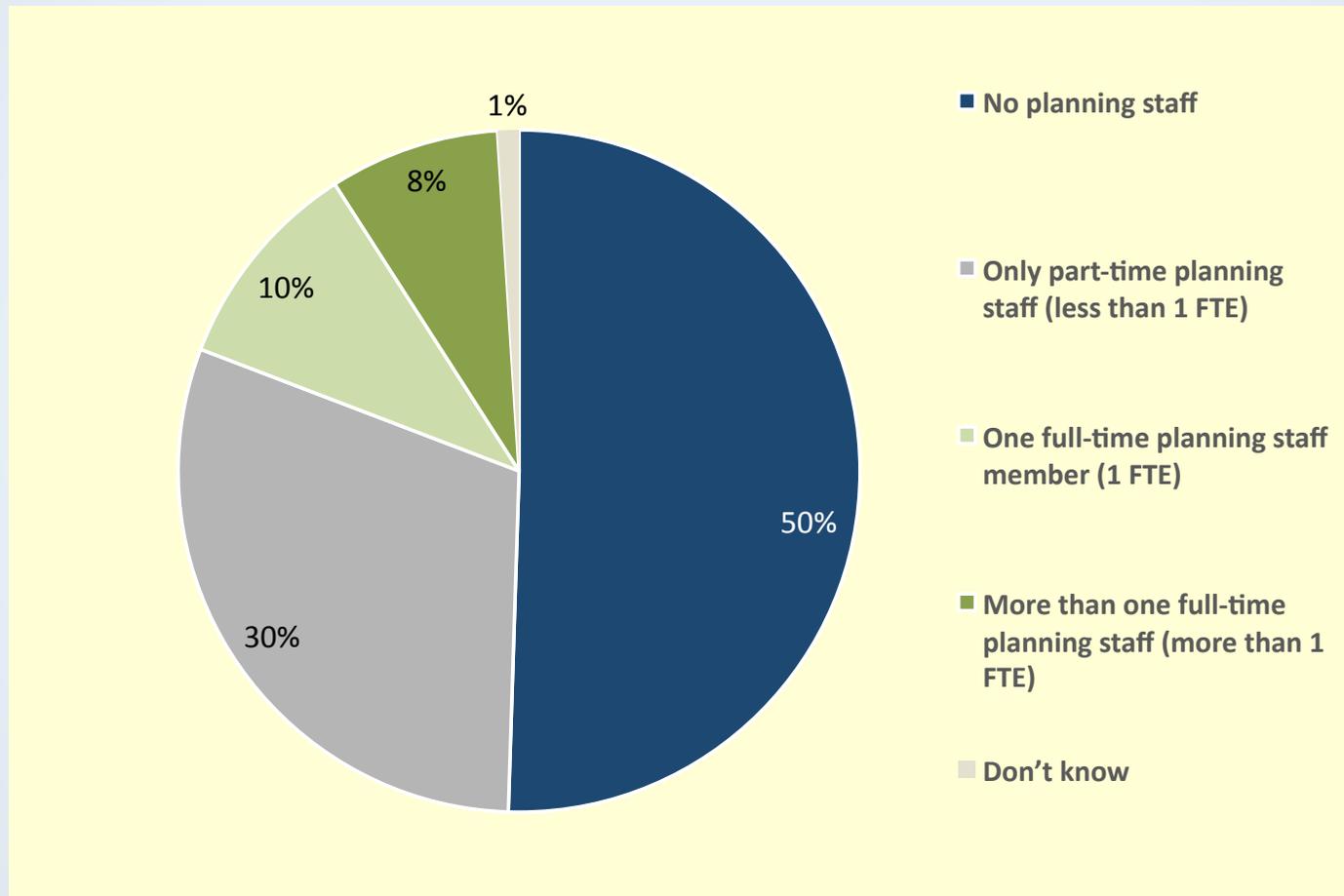
(among those that currently have a CIP)

Presentation Outline

- **Brief overview** of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) and the Fall 2017 wave on Planning and Zoning
- **Findings** from the Fall 2017 wave:
 - ✓ Who has a Master Plan and how do they use it?
 - ✓ Zoning and CIPs
 - ✓ **Planning staff**
 - ✓ Who does not have a Master Plan and why?
 - ✓ Overall satisfaction with planning and zoning in Michigan

Half of those with their own MPs have no planning staff

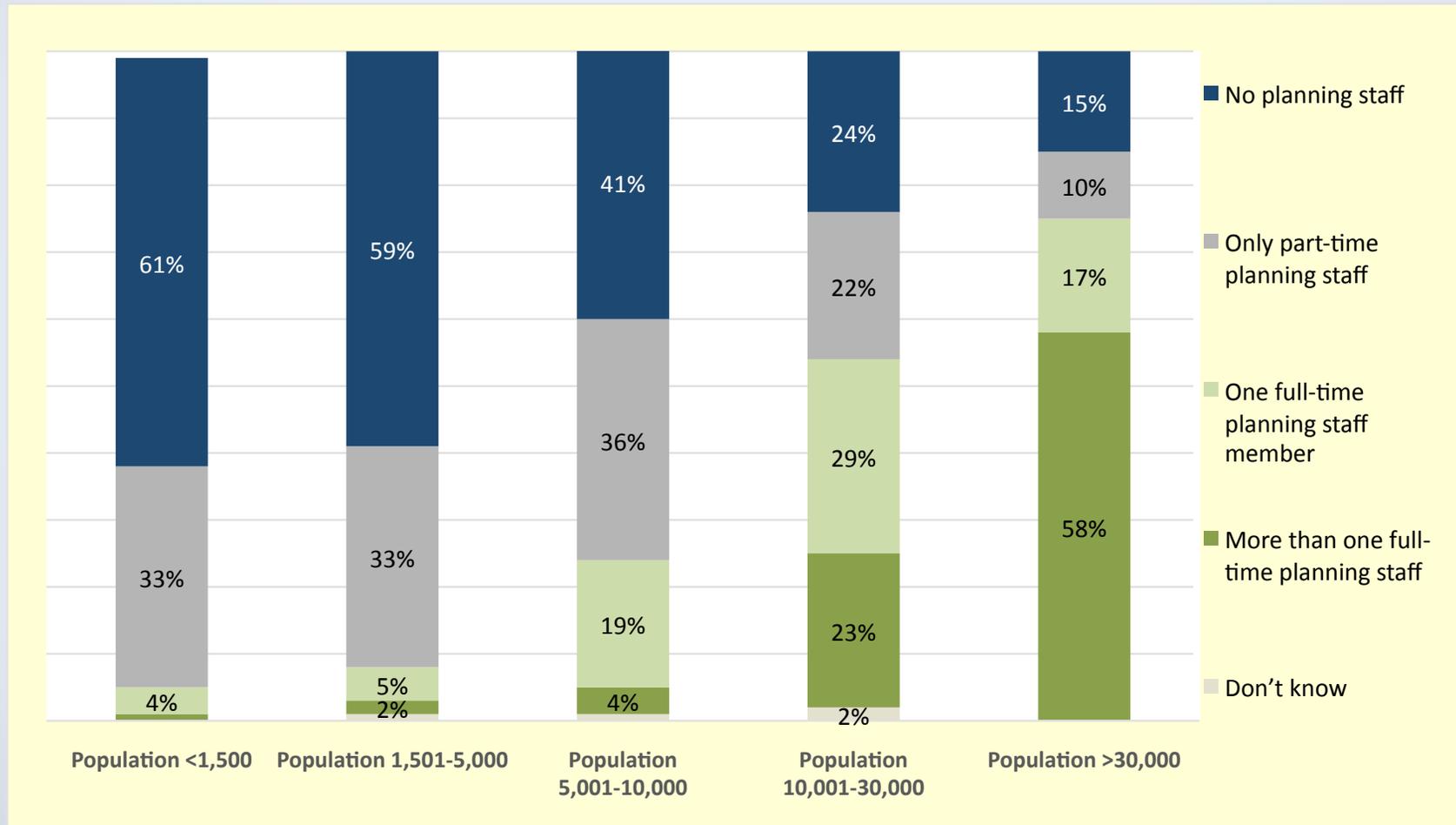
Are there any **full- or part-time planning employees** on your jurisdiction's own staff?



(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

Half of those with their own MPs have no planning staff

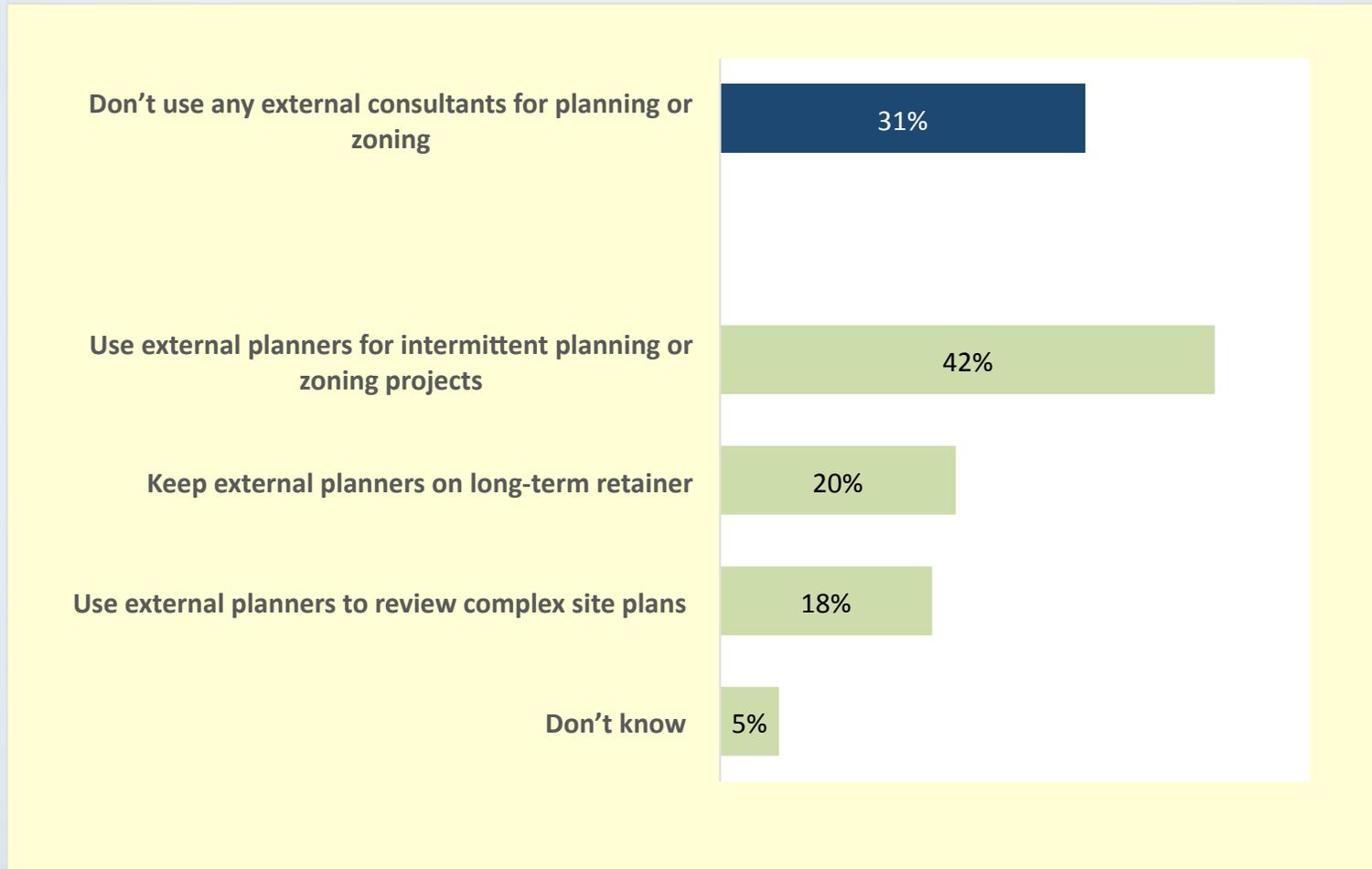
Are there any **full- or part-time planning employees** on your jurisdiction's own staff?



(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

Nearly 1/3rd of those with own MPs use no consultants

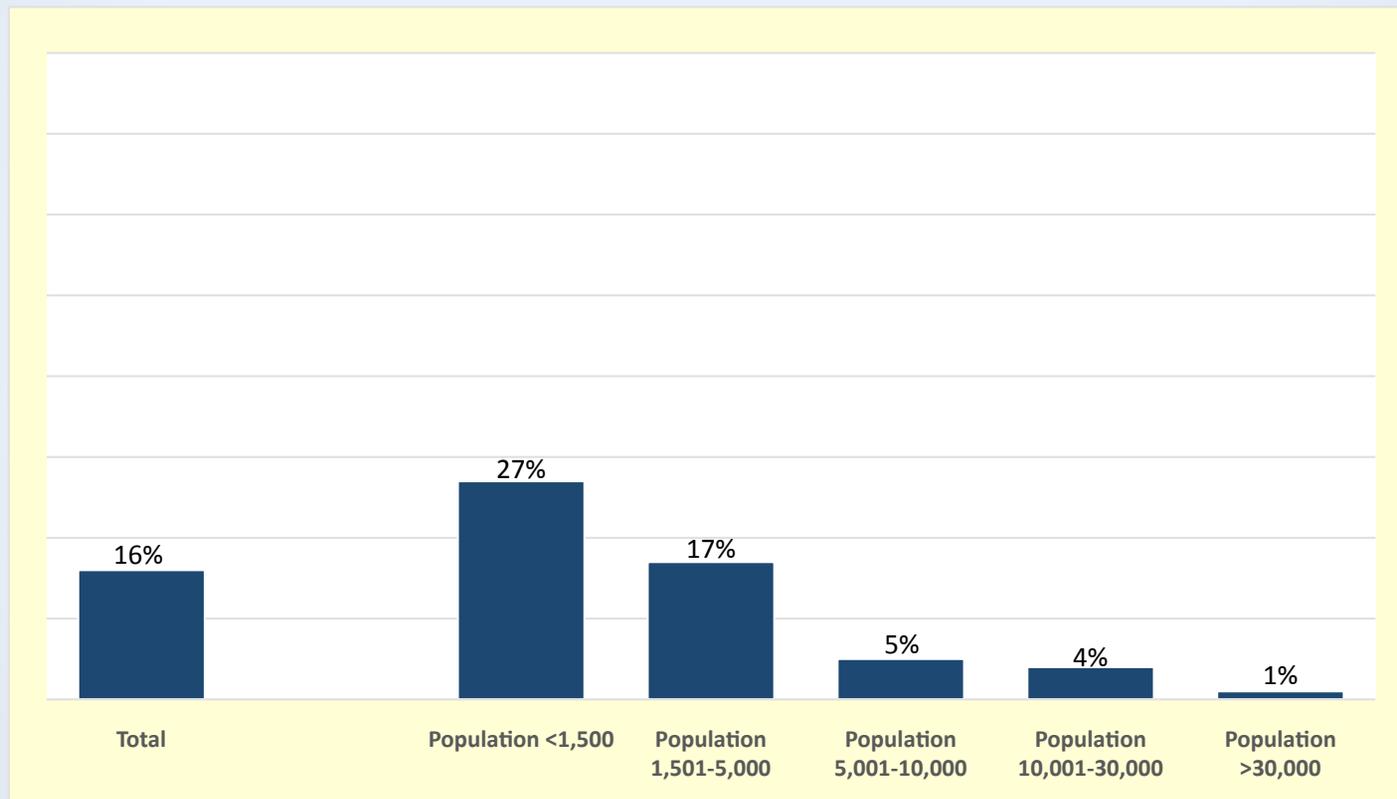
If your jurisdiction makes **any use of external planners** (i.e., contracted consultants and/or personnel from other jurisdictions), what is the nature of the relationship?



(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

1/6th with own MPs have neither internal nor external planners

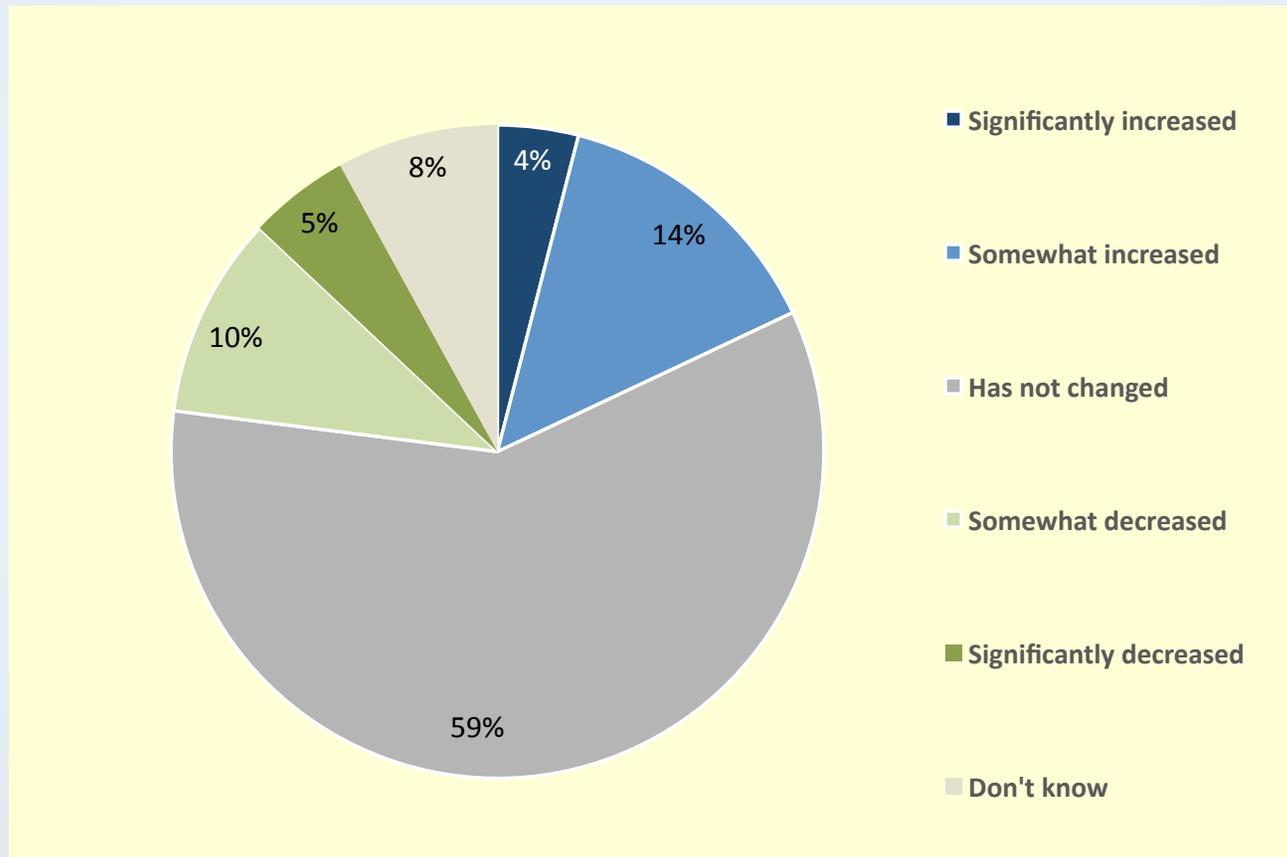
Are there any **full- or part-time planning employees** on your jurisdiction's own staff?
+ Does your jurisdiction make **any use of external planners** (i.e., contracted consultants and/or personnel from other jurisdictions)?



(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

Slightly more have increased than decreased their staff capacity

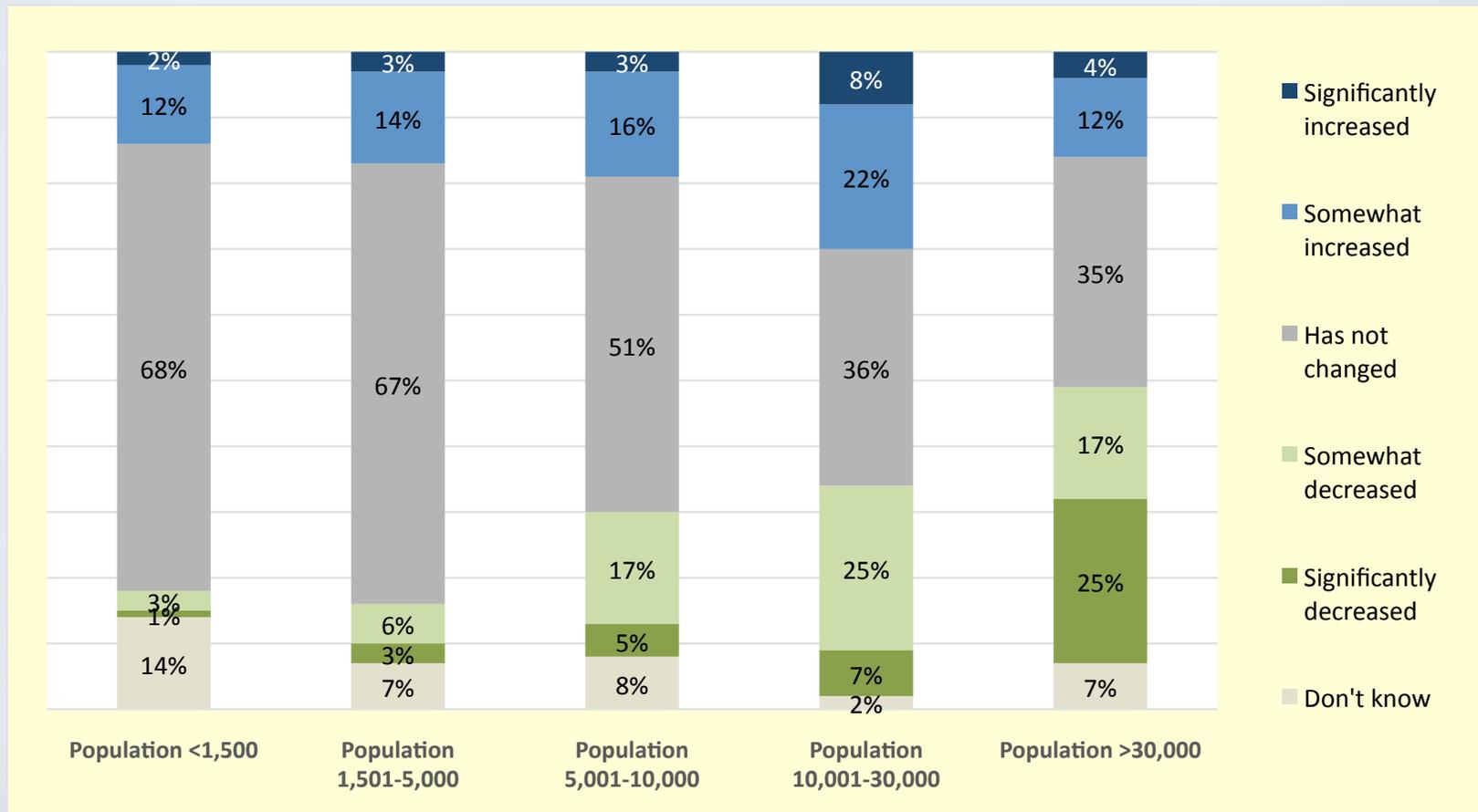
How does your jurisdiction's **current staff capacity** for planning and zoning (i.e., internal staff and/or external consultants) **compare to 10 years ago** (before the Great Recession)?



(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

Slightly more have increased than decreased their staff capacity

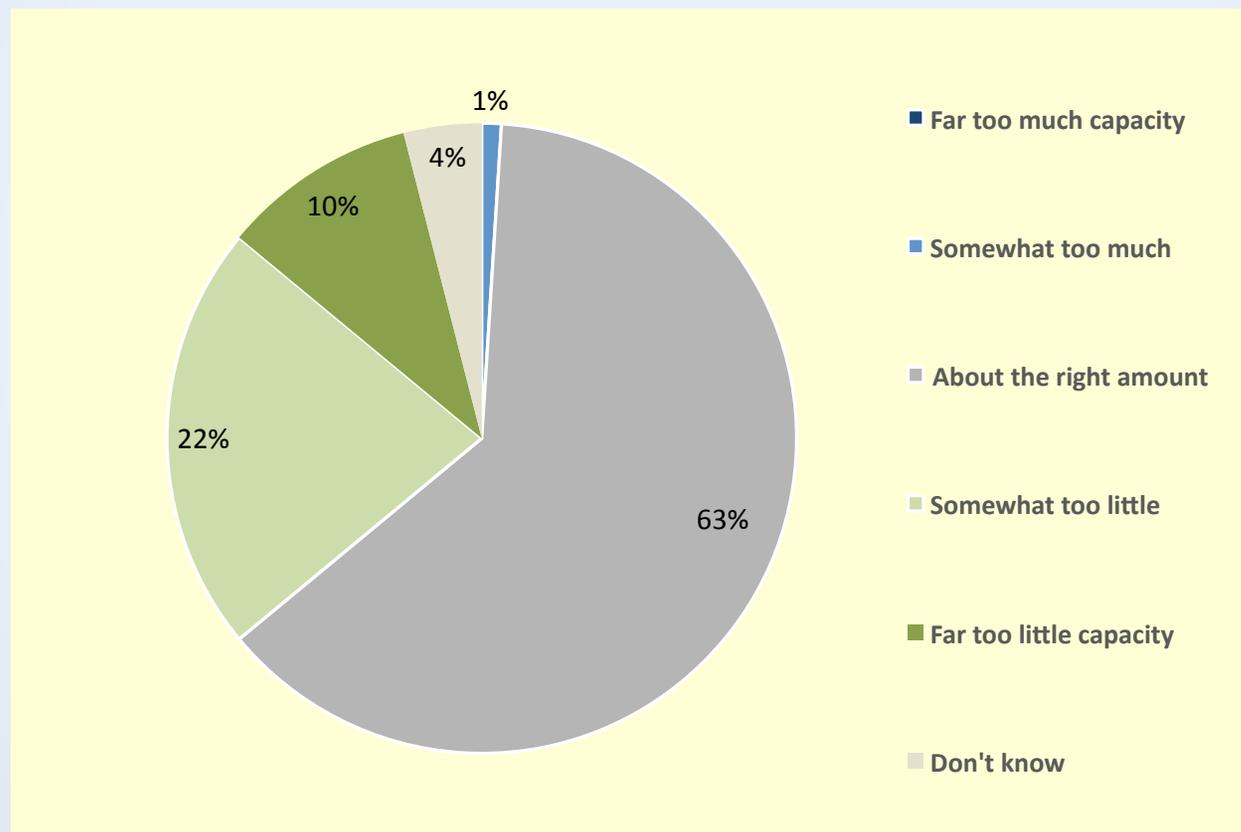
How does your jurisdiction's **current staff capacity** for planning and zoning (i.e., internal staff and/or external consultants) **compare to 10 years ago** (before the Great Recession)?



(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

However, 1/3rd currently have too little planning capacity

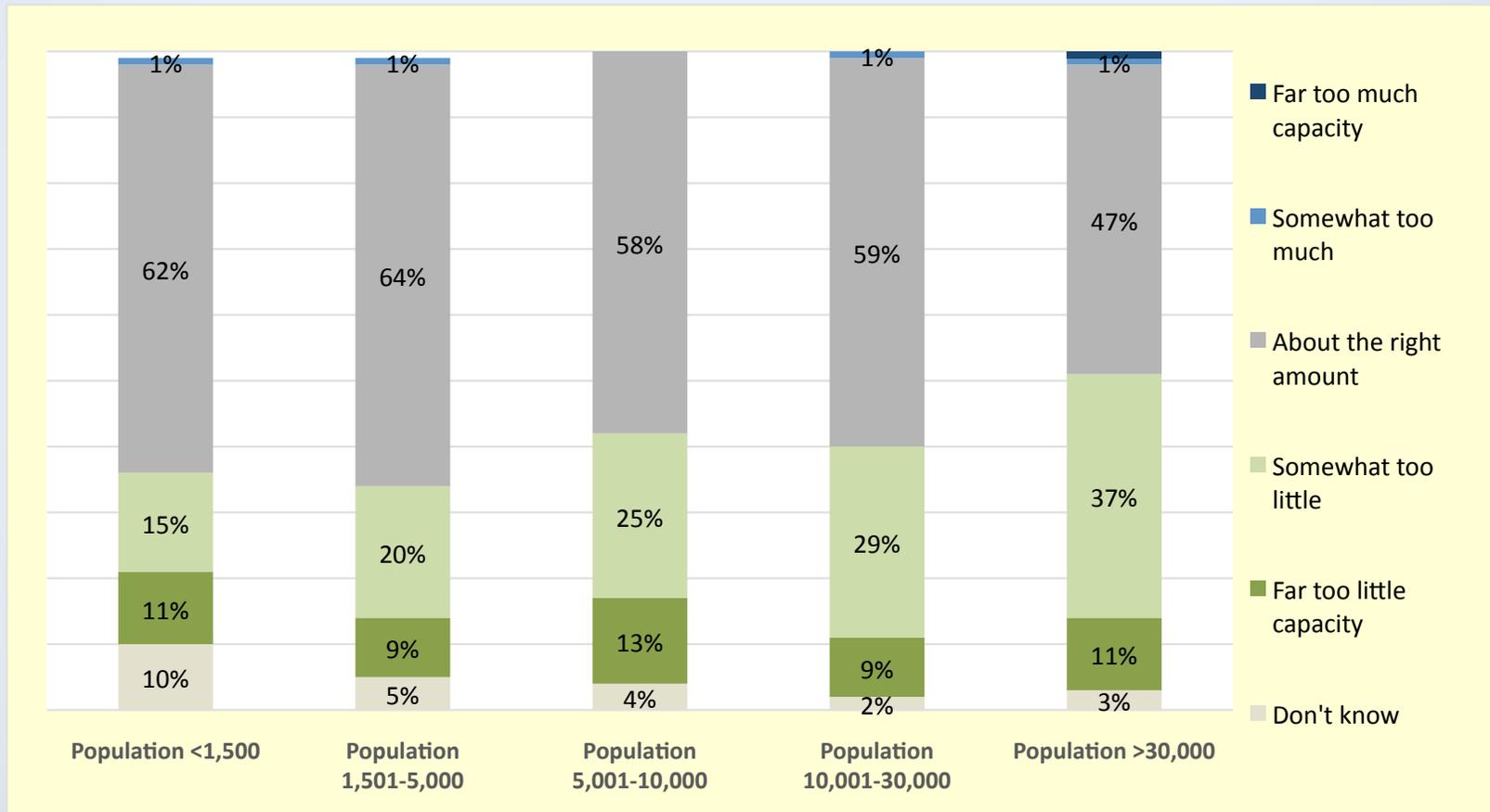
Thinking overall about your jurisdiction's planning and zoning needs today, does your jurisdiction have **too much, too little, or about the right amount of staff capacity** (i.e., internal staff and/or external consultants)?



(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

However, 1/3rd currently have too little planning capacity

Thinking overall about your jurisdiction's planning and zoning needs today, does your jurisdiction have **too much, too little, or about the right amount of staff capacity** (i.e., internal staff and/or external consultants)?



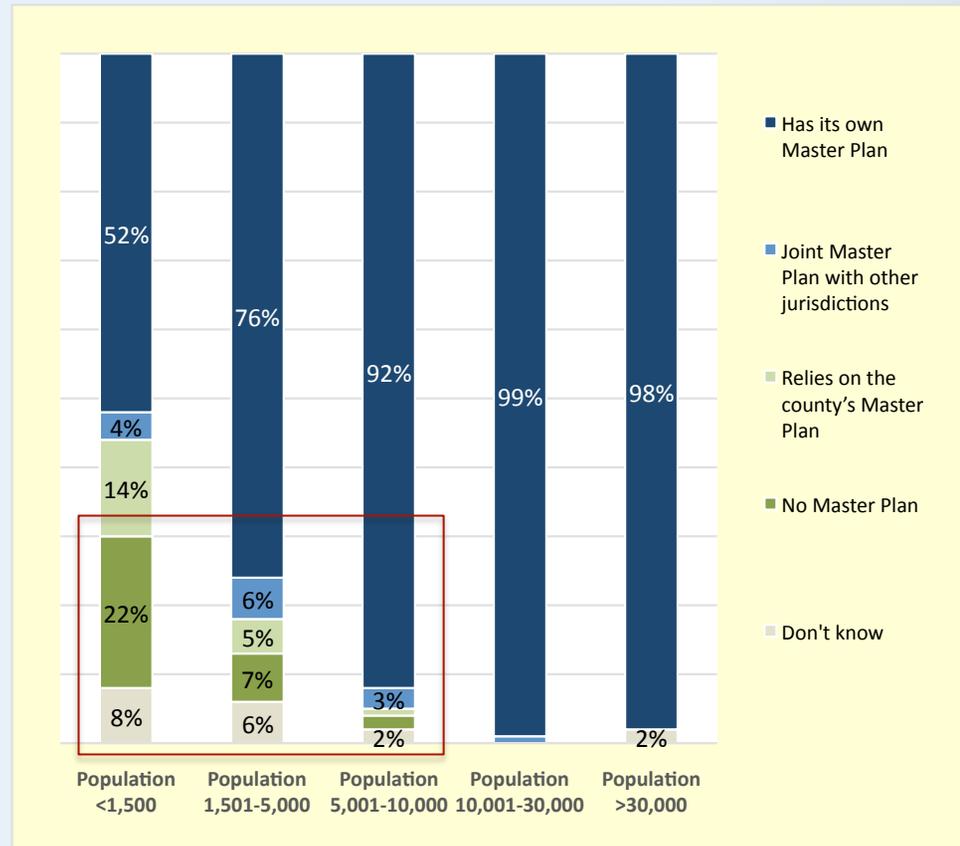
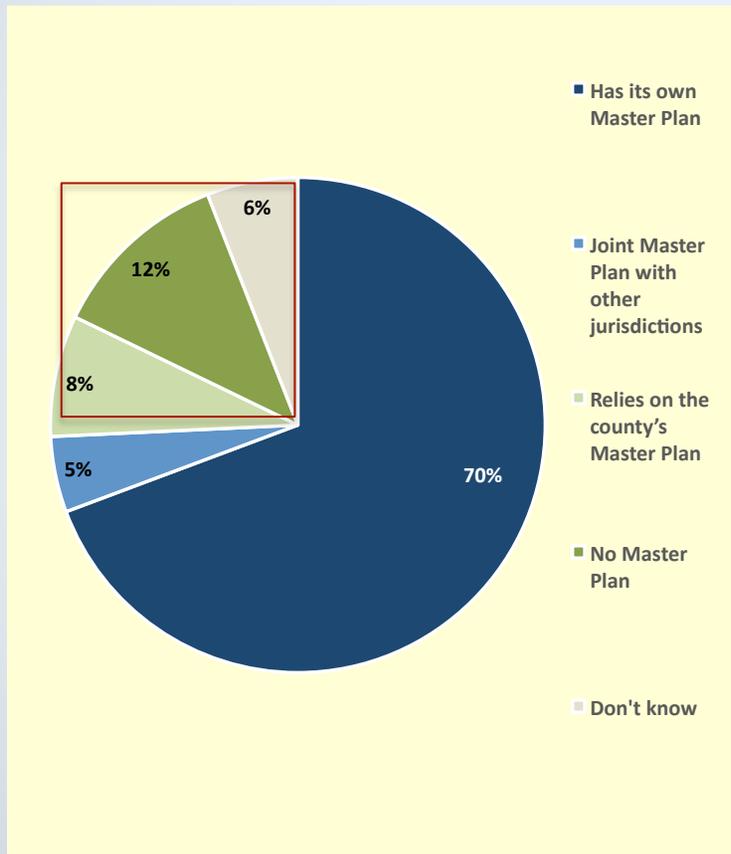
(among those that have a master plan that covers only their own jurisdiction)

Presentation Outline

- **Brief overview** of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) and the Fall 2017 wave on Planning and Zoning
- **Findings** from the Fall 2017 wave:
 - ✓ Who has a Master Plan and how do they use it?
 - ✓ Zoning and CIPs
 - ✓ Planning staff
 - ✓ **Who does not have a Master Plan and why?**
 - ✓ Overall satisfaction with planning and zoning in Michigan

Most MI jurisdictions have their own land use master plan

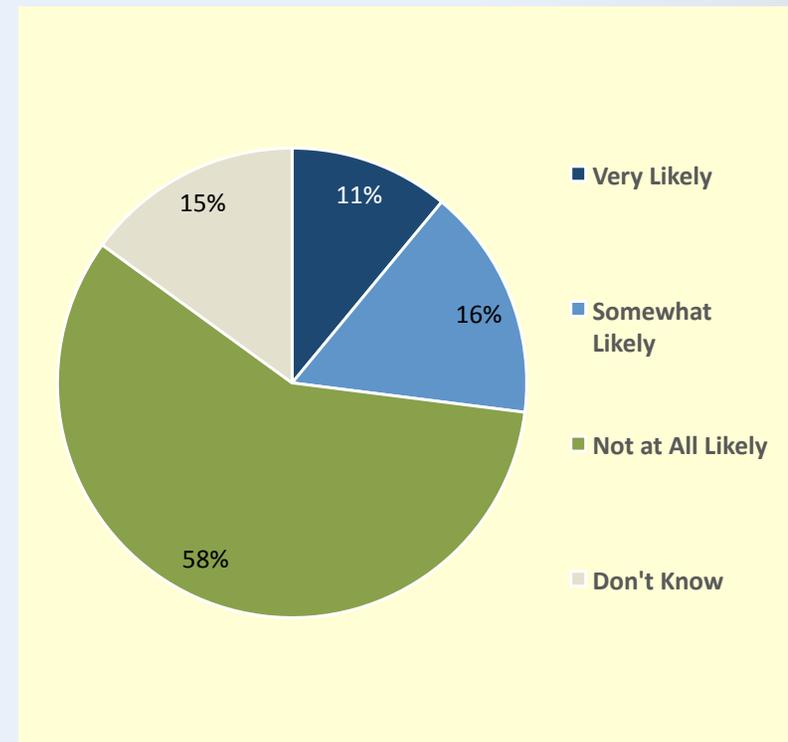
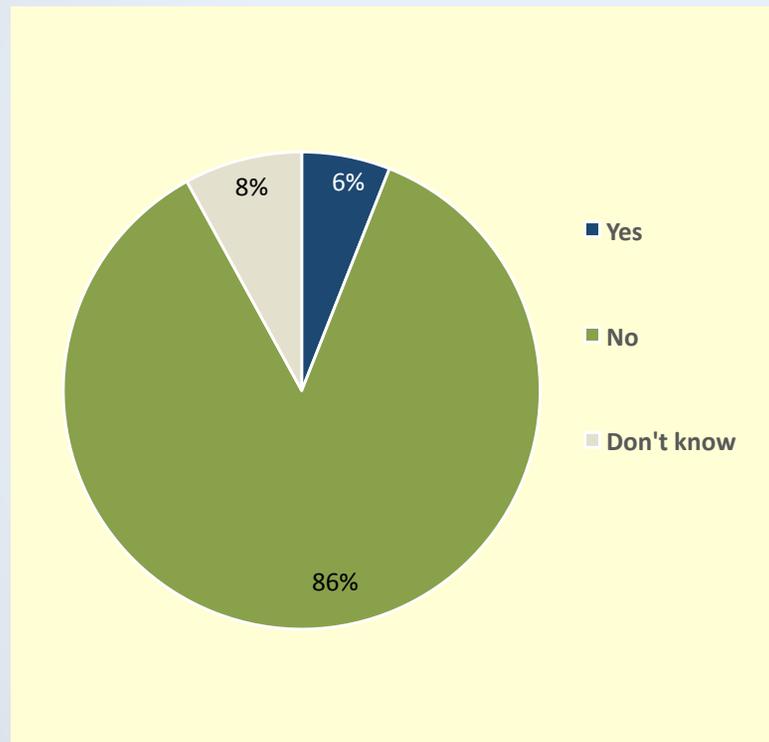
Does your jurisdiction **currently have a Master Plan** that addresses land use?
(among cities, villages, and townships)



Few without MPs see any problems, most unlikely to adopt

In your opinion, has your jurisdiction **experienced any significant problems** because it does not have a Master Plan?

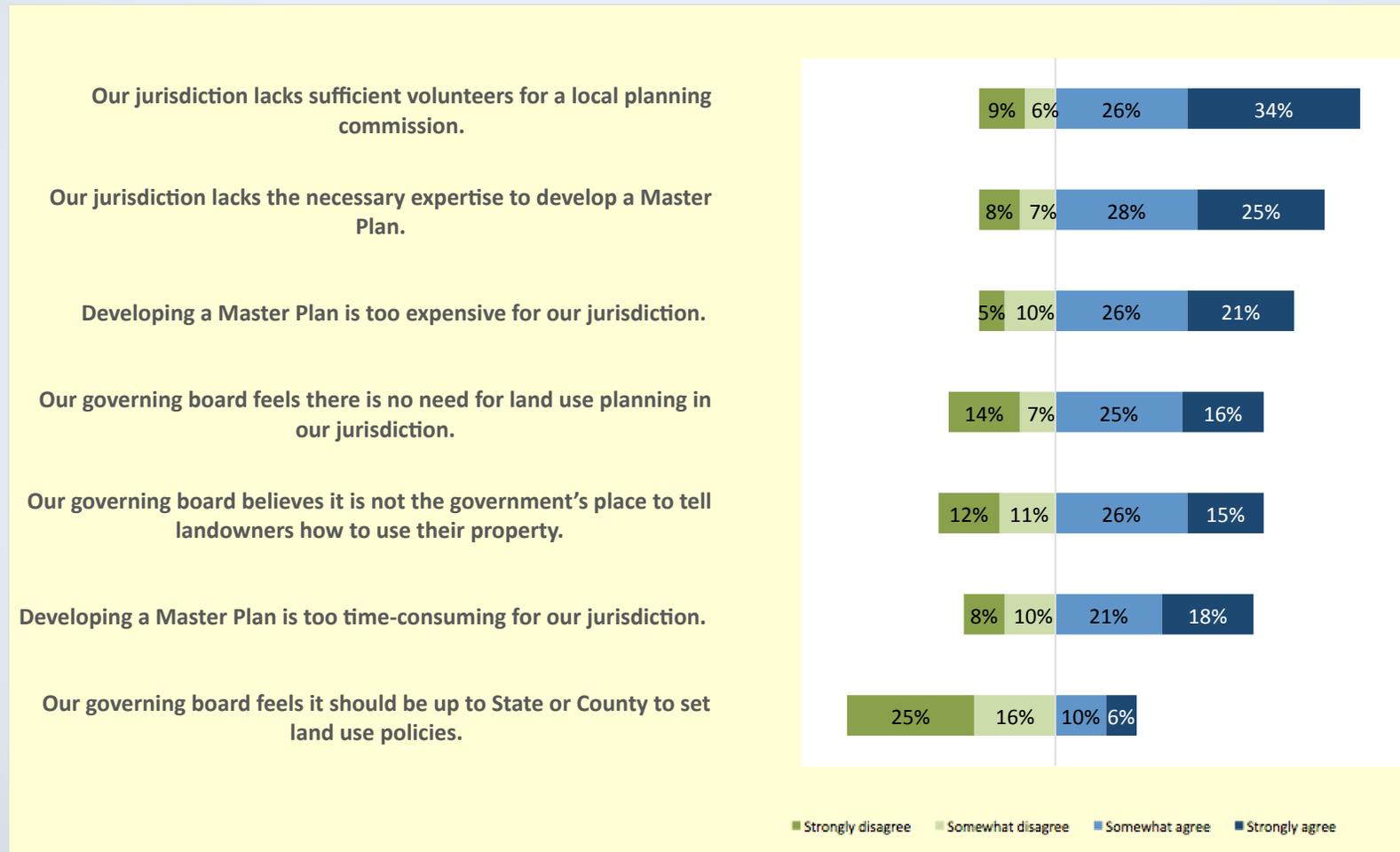
+ Looking ahead, **how likely** is it that your jurisdiction **will adopt a Master Plan** that addresses land use in the next few years?



(among those that do not have their own or other master plan)

Lack of board volunteers common in places without an MP

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your jurisdiction's **decision not to develop a Master Plan** that addresses land use?



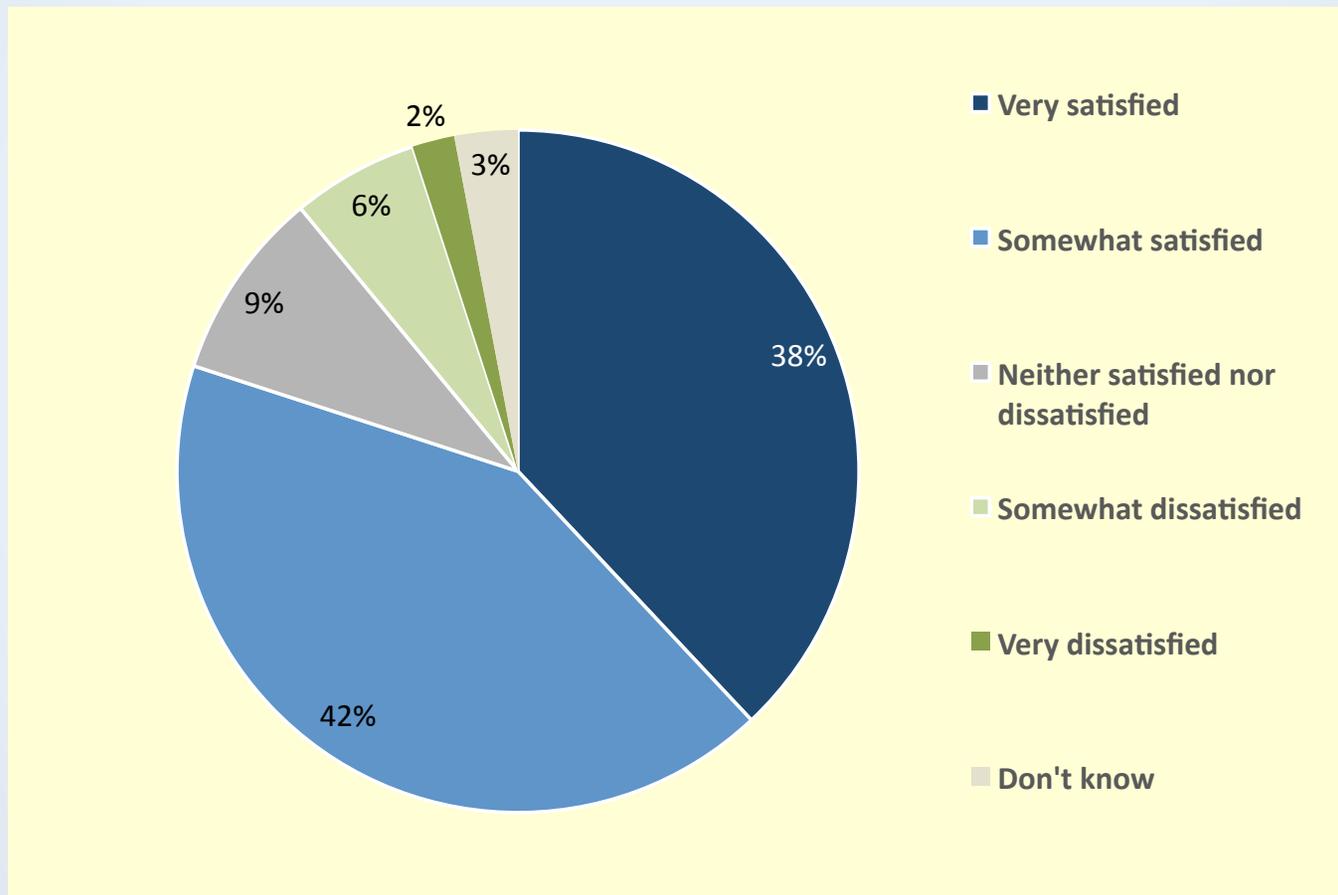
42 (among cities, townships, and villages that do not have their own or other master plan)

Presentation Outline

- **Brief overview** of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) and the Fall 2017 wave on Planning and Zoning
- **Findings** from the Fall 2017 wave:
 - ✓ Who has a Master Plan and how do they use it?
 - ✓ Zoning and CIPs
 - ✓ Planning staff
 - ✓ Who does not have a Master Plan and why?
 - ✓ **Overall satisfaction with planning and zoning in Michigan**

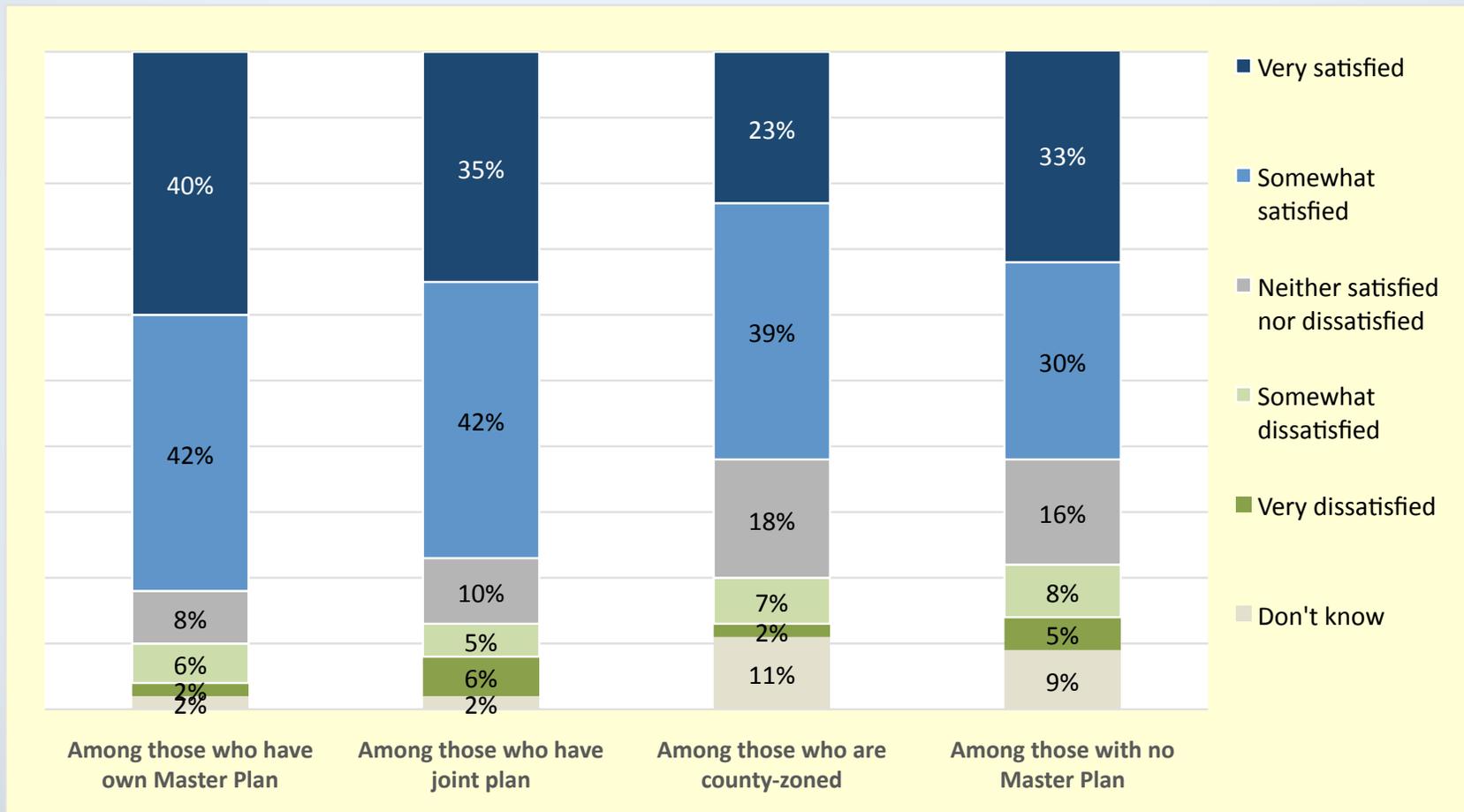
Local officials generally satisfied with their planning

Overall, **how satisfied** would you say you are (in your role as a local official) with your jurisdiction's **current approach to planning and zoning**?



Satisfaction highest among those with their own MP

Overall, **how satisfied** would you say you are (in your role as a local official) with your jurisdiction's **current approach to planning and zoning**?



More from the MPPS

- Medical marijuana
- Housing issues
- Citizen engagement
- Infrastructure
 - Drinking water
 - Roads
 - Spending plans
- Placemaking

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

Web: www.closup.umich.edu

Email: closup-mpps@umich.edu

Twitter: [@closup](https://twitter.com/closup)