



STUDY SESSION
City Hall – 1104 Maple Street
September 14, 2026 6:00 PM

The city is conducting this public meeting using a hybrid model. The public is welcome to attend tonight's meeting in-person at City Hall (Council Chambers), or virtually by using the meeting access link below.

<https://sumnerwa-gov.zoom.us/j/82861283426>

Phone one-tap:

+12532050468,,82861283426#

+12532158782,,82861283426#

Join via audio:

1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 828 6128 3426

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Elfers, Evers, Hochstatter, Isaacs, Kenna, Malcolm and Wilsey

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. 2026 Budget Priorities Survey Results
2. State of the Court
3. Police Department Update

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

AGENDA SETTING

1. Council Meeting Agenda Calendar
2. Council Committee Meeting Agenda Calendar

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. For individuals who may require special accommodations, please contact the City Clerk at (253) 299-5590, 24 hours in advance.

SUBJECT: 2026 Budget Priorities Survey Results

CATEGORY: Information Only

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: None

Within Budget Allocation: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2026 Survey City of Sumner Report

STAFF CONTACT: Carmen Palmer, Communications Director

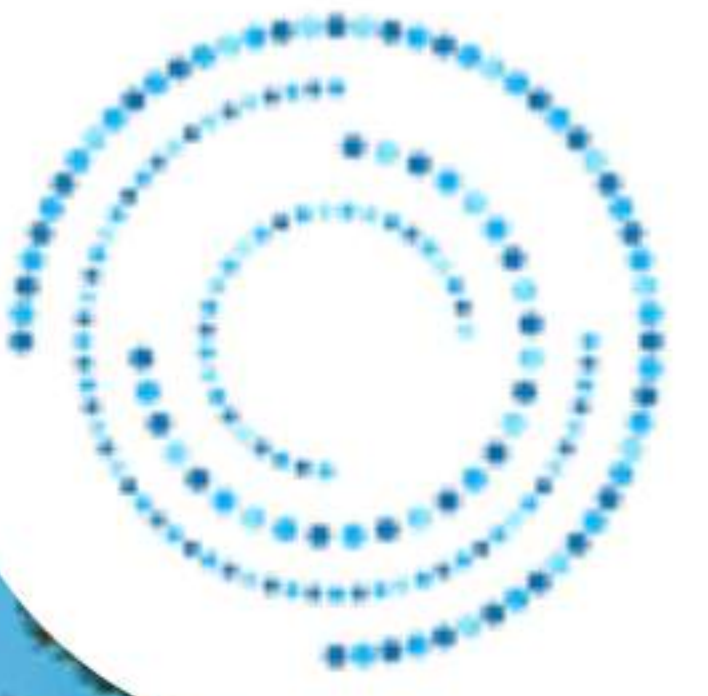
SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

As part of the budget process, the City encourages people to participate in a survey to give the Council, Mayor and staff feedback on sentiment within the City of Sumner. The results should help the Council in the next few weeks make difficult decisions when it comes to prioritizing budget needs that exceed funding.

This is the second biennium in which Sumner has contracted with Great Blue Research to conduct the survey and tally the responses. Using an independent research firm helps give the public an extra degree of confidence in responding accurately, especially if they're sharing critical feedback. Great Blue will present their results to the Council at this meeting. Their full report is included in the Agenda Packet. With this being their second survey with us, the report notes 2026 responses as well as changes since the 2024 survey.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION: MEETING/STUDY SESSION DATE: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:
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STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION:



Report of Findings

2026 Community Budget Study

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About GreatBlue



Research Objectives

- GreatBlue Research was commissioned by the City of Sumner, WA, to conduct a second wave of its resident research study, designed to understand residents' priorities for the future of the city and how city representatives should allocate available funding and resources.
- Building on the 2024 baseline study, the 2026 research provides an opportunity to track changes in residents' perceptions, priorities, and concerns over time, while continuing to assess overall quality of life and identify areas for improvement.
- The findings will enable Sumner to a) monitor progress against the 2024 benchmark, b) identify emerging or shifting community needs, and c) inform near- and longer-term planning and budget decisions.



Areas of Investigation in 2026

The 2026 City of Sumner Budget Study leveraged a digital research methodology consistent with the prior wave, allowing the City to track key measures over time while exploring current resident priorities across the following areas:

- Sumner residents' quality of life
- Perceptions of Sumner
- Residential concerns with the city
- Assessment of safety
- Perceptions of future town projects
- Views on non-profit initiatives within Sumner
- Demographic profiles of respondents

Research Methodology | Snapshot



Methodology Digital (with postcard distribution)	No. of Completes 583	No. of Questions 36*	Incentive None	Sample Residential List
Target Residents & Businesses	Quality Assurance Dual-level**	Margin of Error +/- 3.95%	Confidence Level 95%	Research Dates June 25 - August 21, 2026

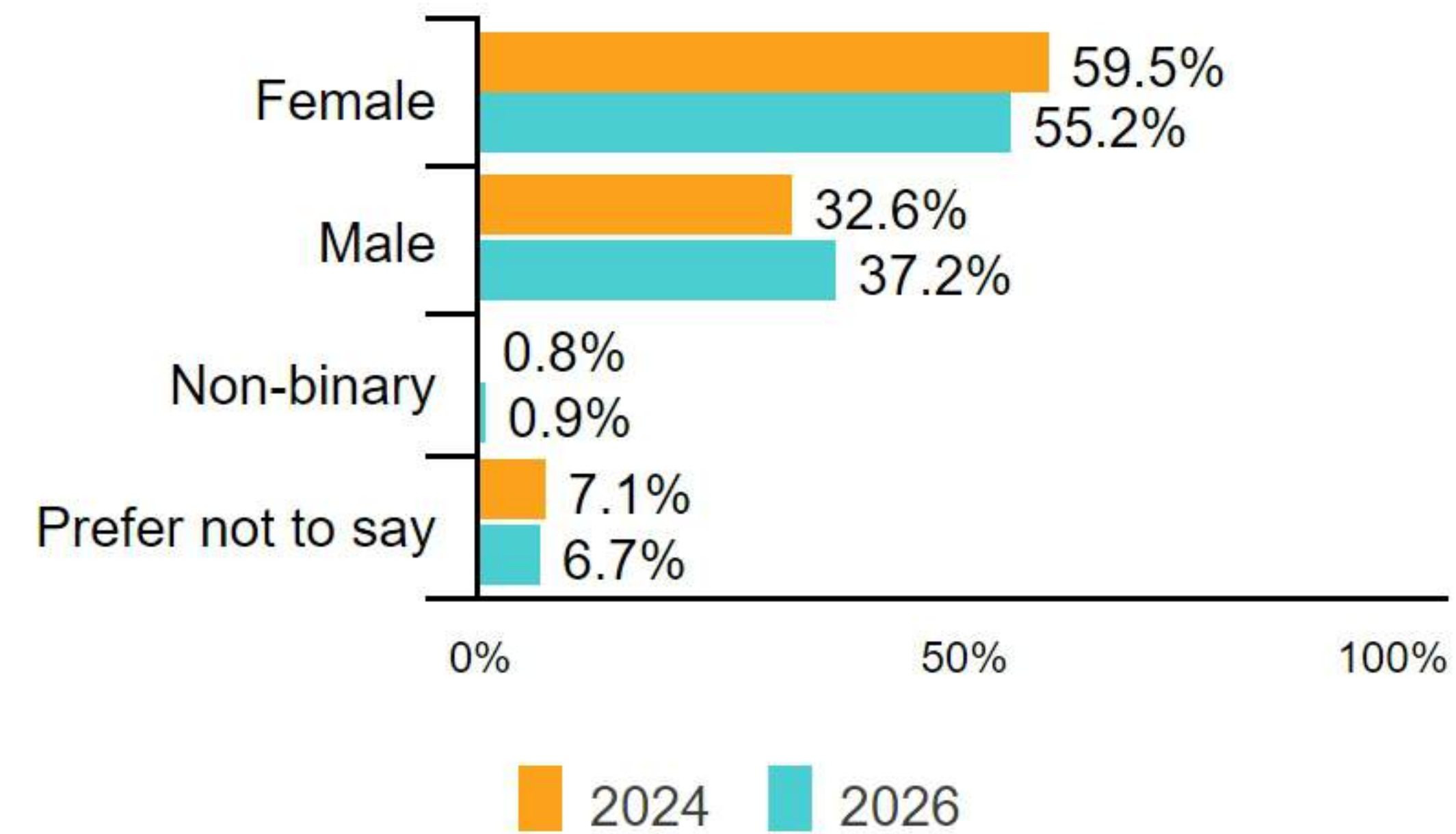
* This represents the total possible number of questions; not all respondents will answer all questions based on skip patterns and other instrument bias. Survey questions were "soft required," allowing participants to skip a question if they desired.

** Data quality personnel, in addition to a computer-aided interviewing platform, ensure the integrity of the data is accurate.

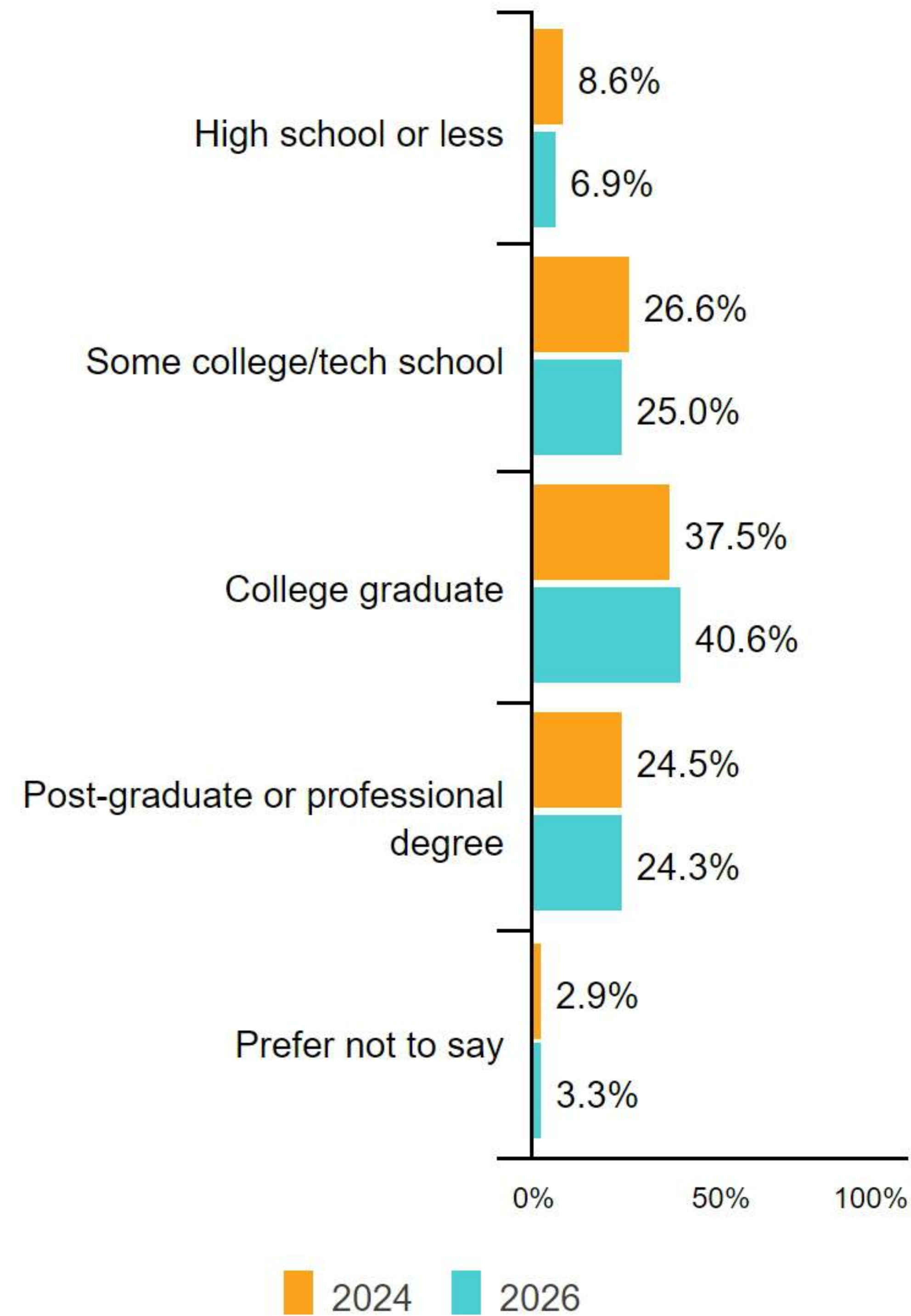
Respondent Profile | Demographics



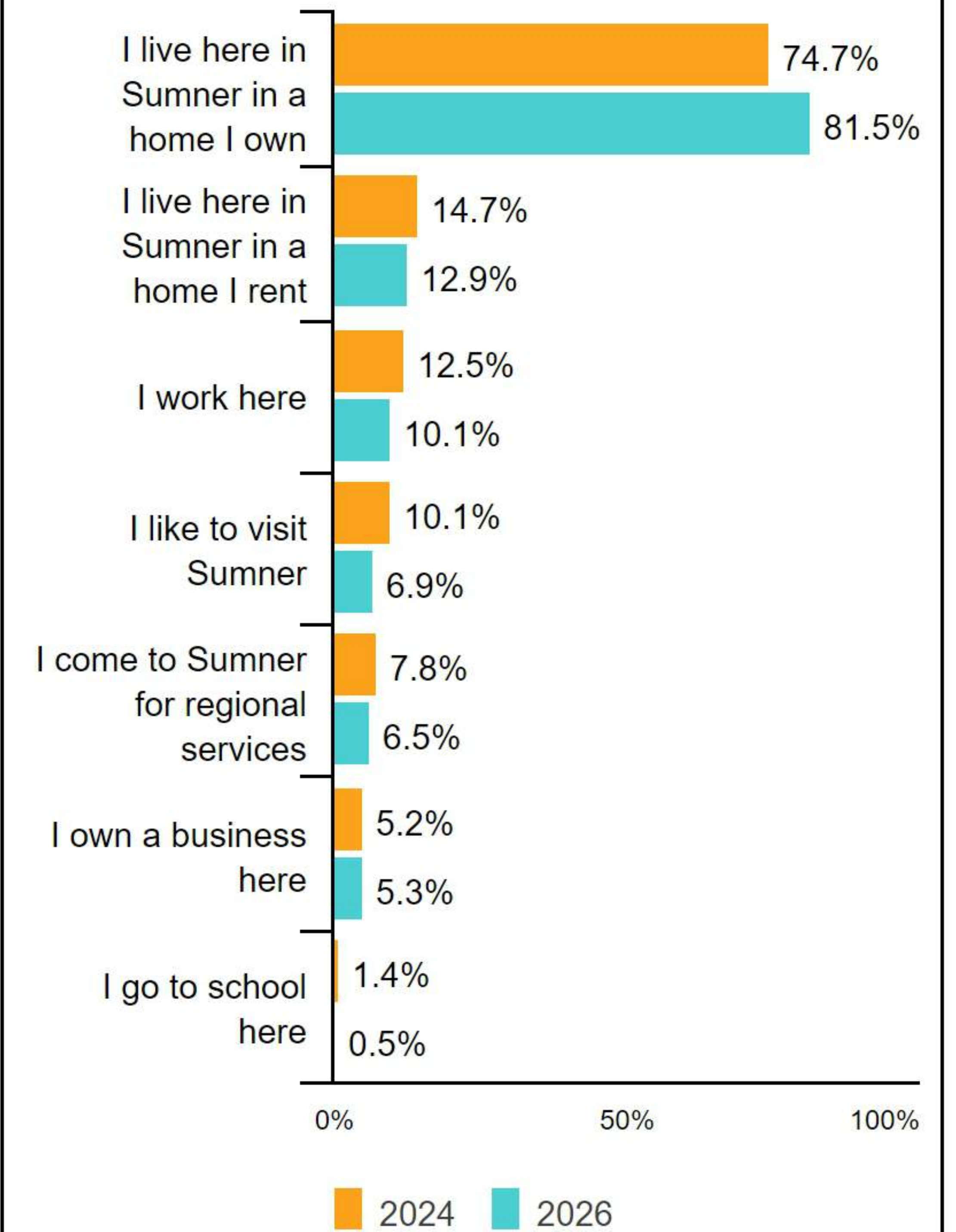
Gender



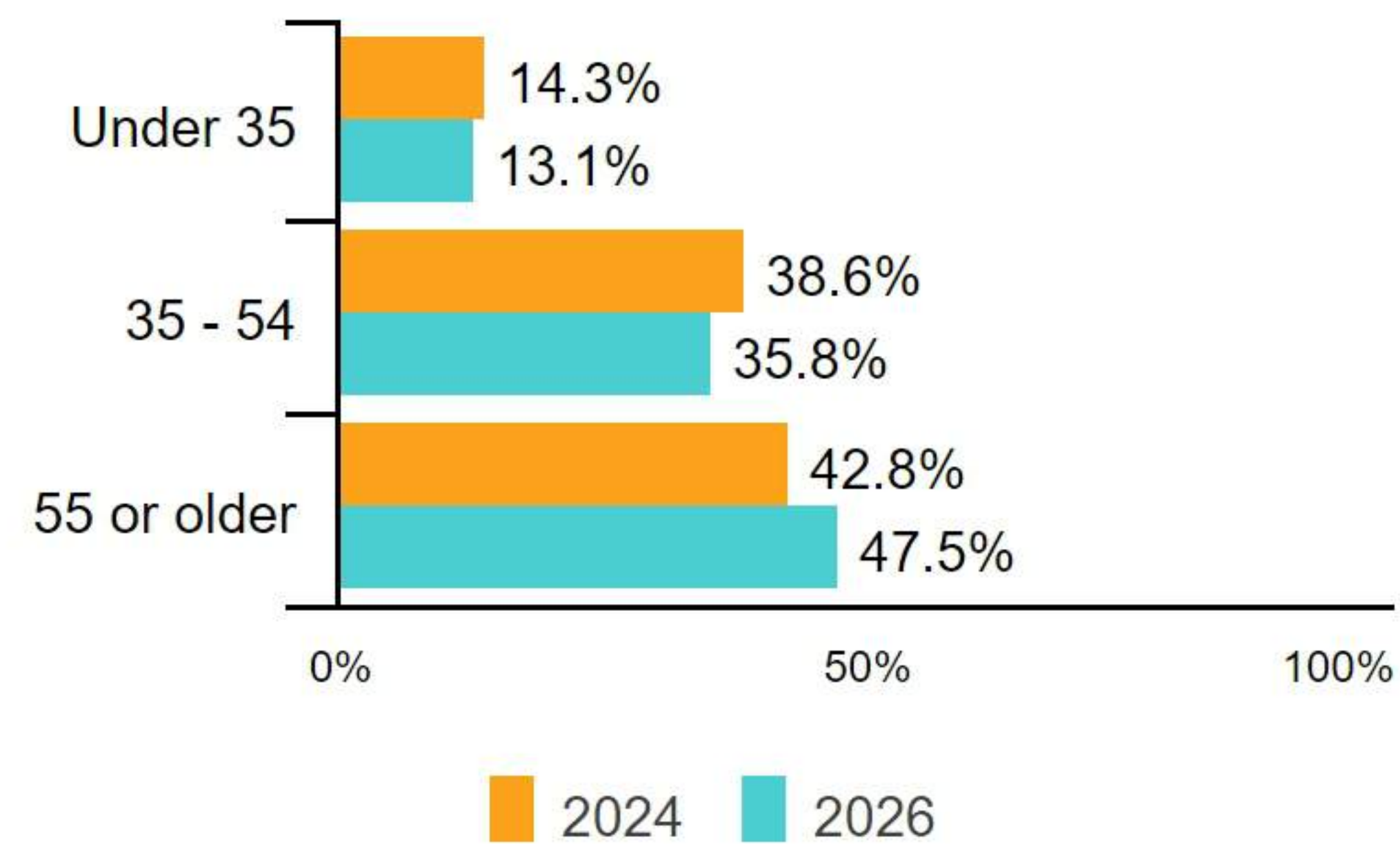
Highest Education



Relationship with Sumner



Age



Key Study Findings

Key Study Findings | Executive Summary



Quality of Life: Residents' quality of life strengthened, with safety emerging as a particularly notable community strength.

- 91.9% rated their quality of life as "excellent"/"good," a significant improvement from 87.9% in 2024; "excellent" alone increased to 40.3% (from 33.0%).
- Safety became increasingly central to Sumner's appeal: feeling safe rose +12.2 points as a favorite aspect, while safe/low crime became the #1 reason for living in Sumner (59.2%).
- At the same time, residents' concerns shifted toward growth and development (67.3%; +8.2 percentage points) and traffic (62.8%), while crime (35.2%; -19.8 percentage points) and homelessness (40.2%; -12.8 percentage points) became significantly less prominent; housing market/mortgage concerns as a reason for potentially leaving Sumner also declined (-11.4 percentage points).



Perceptions & Satisfaction: Positive perceptions extended across City and community services, with particularly strong gains related to safety and police services.

- Satisfaction remained high across most aspects of Sumner, with significant gains for police services (+8.3 percentage points), drinking water (+5.2 percentage points), and community programs/events (+4.0 percentage points).
- Safety improvements were broad: 94.7% felt safe walking alone during the day and 75.9% at night, with nighttime safety increasing +10.6 percentage points.
- While total satisfaction was generally strong, roads, employers, restaurants/shops/services, recreation, public health, and social services had sizable shares who were only "somewhat satisfied," highlighting opportunities to strengthen sentiment.



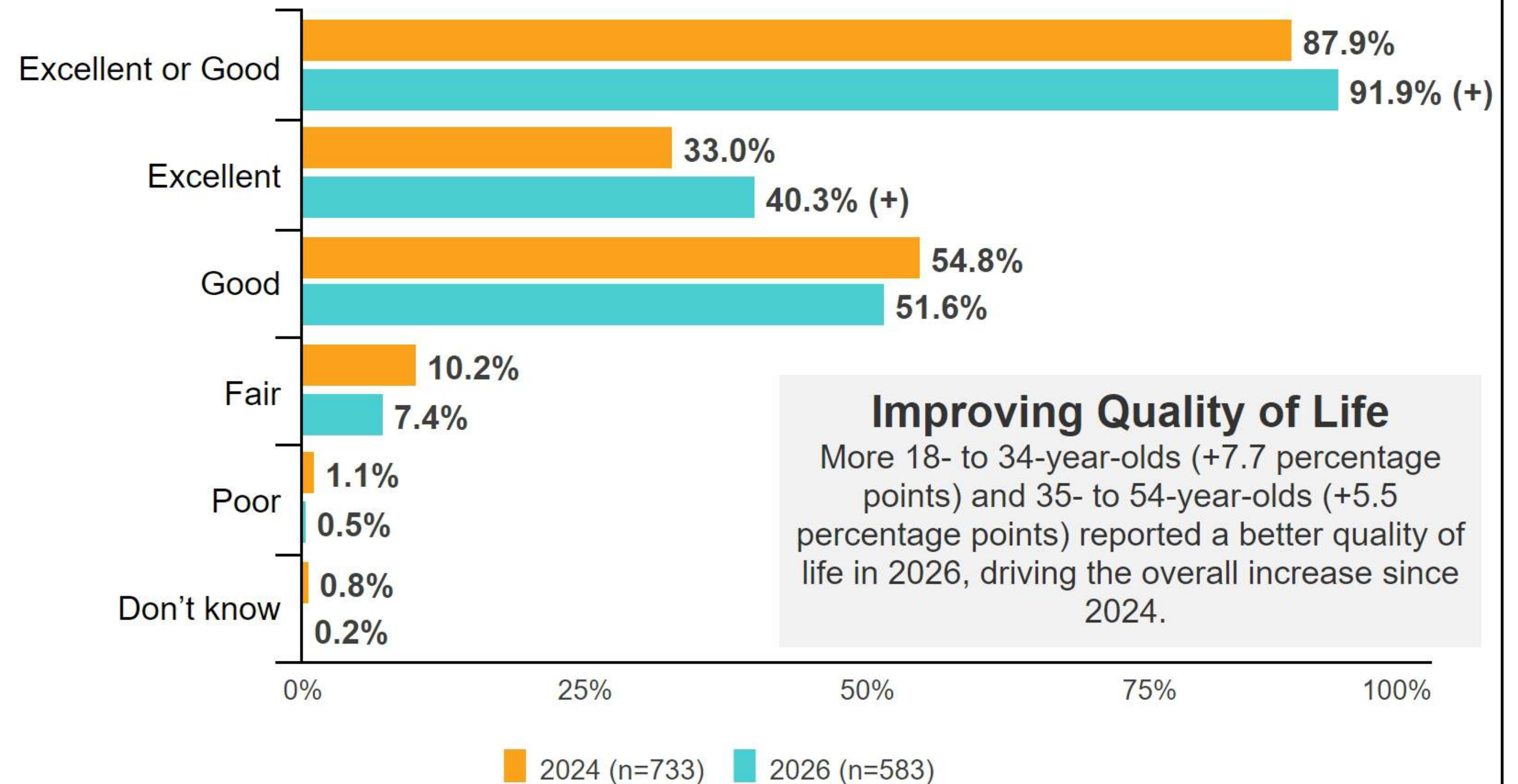
Moving Forward: Residents were increasingly positive about Sumner's direction, while future priorities centered on managing continued growth.

- The mean directional "right track/wrong track" score increased from 55.9 to 59.9, while the median rose from 57.6 to 63.1, indicating stronger perceptions that Sumner was moving in the right direction.
- Managing growth (63.5%) remained the leading future priority. Police response declined as a priority, but alongside significantly higher police satisfaction and safety ratings, suggesting it was increasingly viewed as a strength rather than an unmet need.
- Environmental protection and natural-disaster preparedness gained modest traction, while arts and culture increased significantly (+8.2 percentage points) as a priority for non-profit partnerships.

Quality of Life

CITY OF
SUMNER
WASHINGTON

Overall Quality of Life



Improving Quality of Life

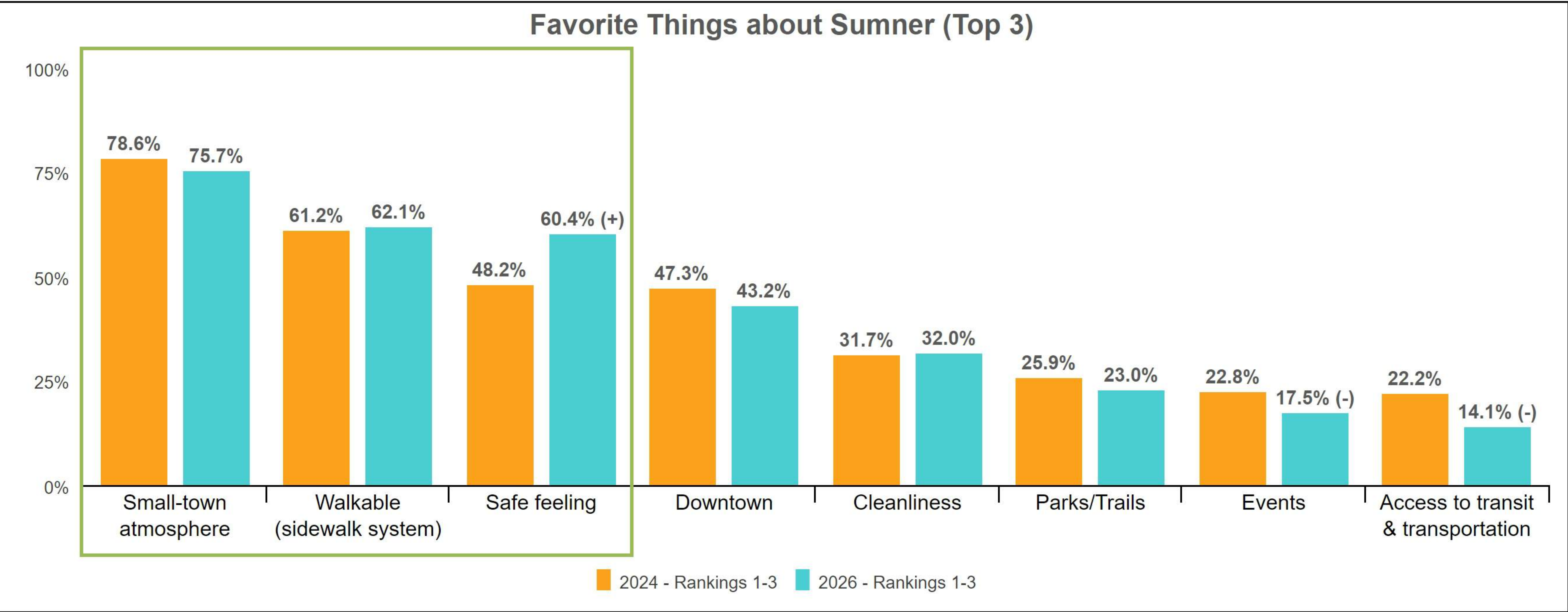
More 18- to 34-year-olds (+7.7 percentage points) and 35- to 54-year-olds (+5.5 percentage points) reported a better quality of life in 2026, driving the overall increase since 2024.

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Quality of Life | Favorite Aspects of Sumner

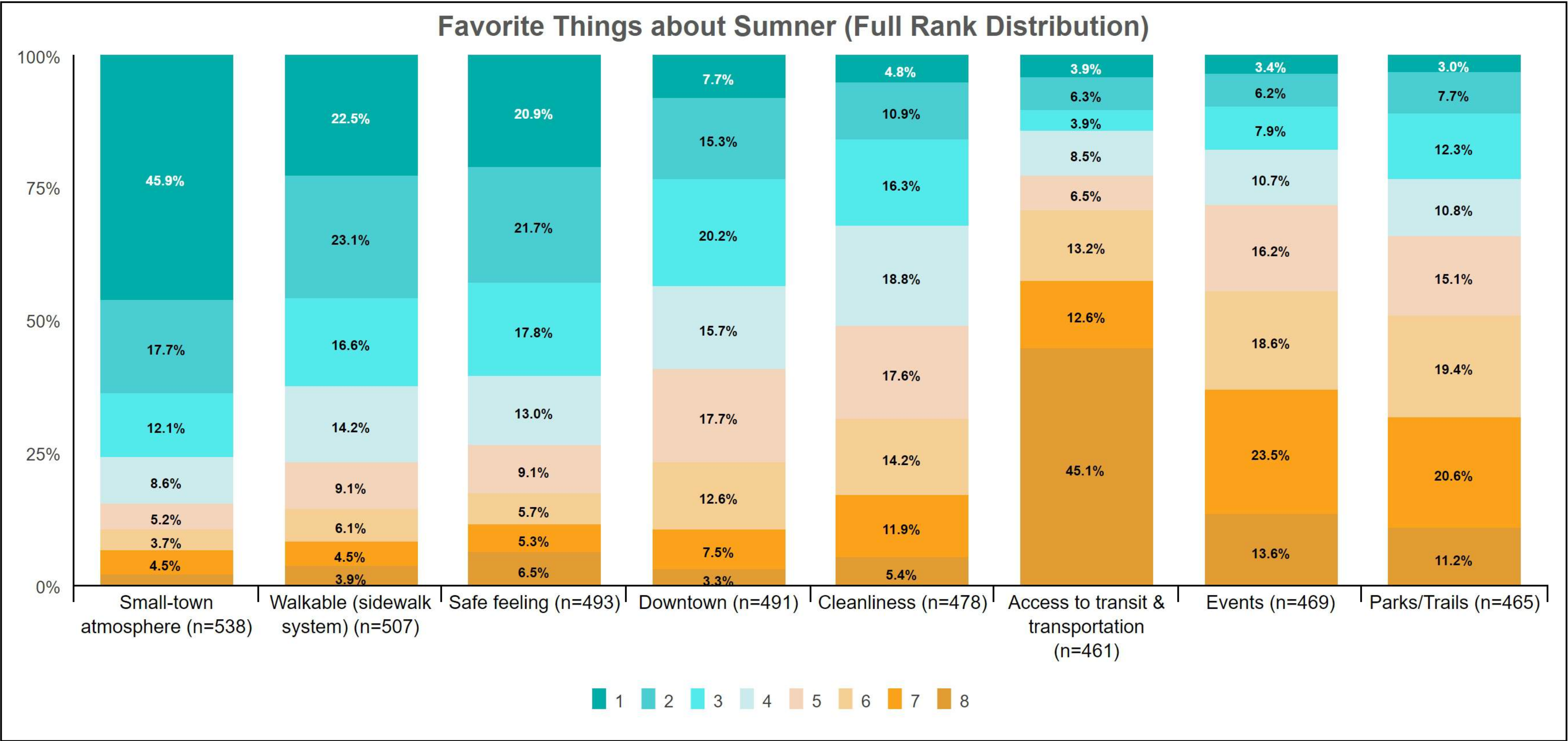


Sumner’s small-town atmosphere (75.7%) and walkability (62.1%) remained residents’ favorite aspects of the city, while feeling safe increased significantly (+12.2 percentage points) since 2024. Conversely, events (-5.3 points) and access to transit and transportation (-8.1 points) declined significantly, in terms of being ranked among residents’ top three favorite aspects of Sumner.



Q: What is your favorite thing about Sumner? Please rank the following with 1 being your favorite.
(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year
*Full 2026 ranking on the subsequent slide, including N-values

Quality of Life | Favorite Aspects Breakdown



Q: What is your favorite thing about Sumner? Please rank the following with 1 being your favorite.

Quality of Life | Reasons to Live in Sumner



Safety emerged as an increasingly important part of Sumner’s appeal, with “safe place to live/low crime” increasing significantly (+13.6 percentage points) to become residents’ top reason for living in the city.

Conversely, access to transit and transportation remained a less prominent aspect of Sumner’s appeal. While it declined significantly as a top-three favorite aspect of Sumner (-8.1 percentage points), it remained relatively low and unchanged as a reason for living in the city (19.6%).

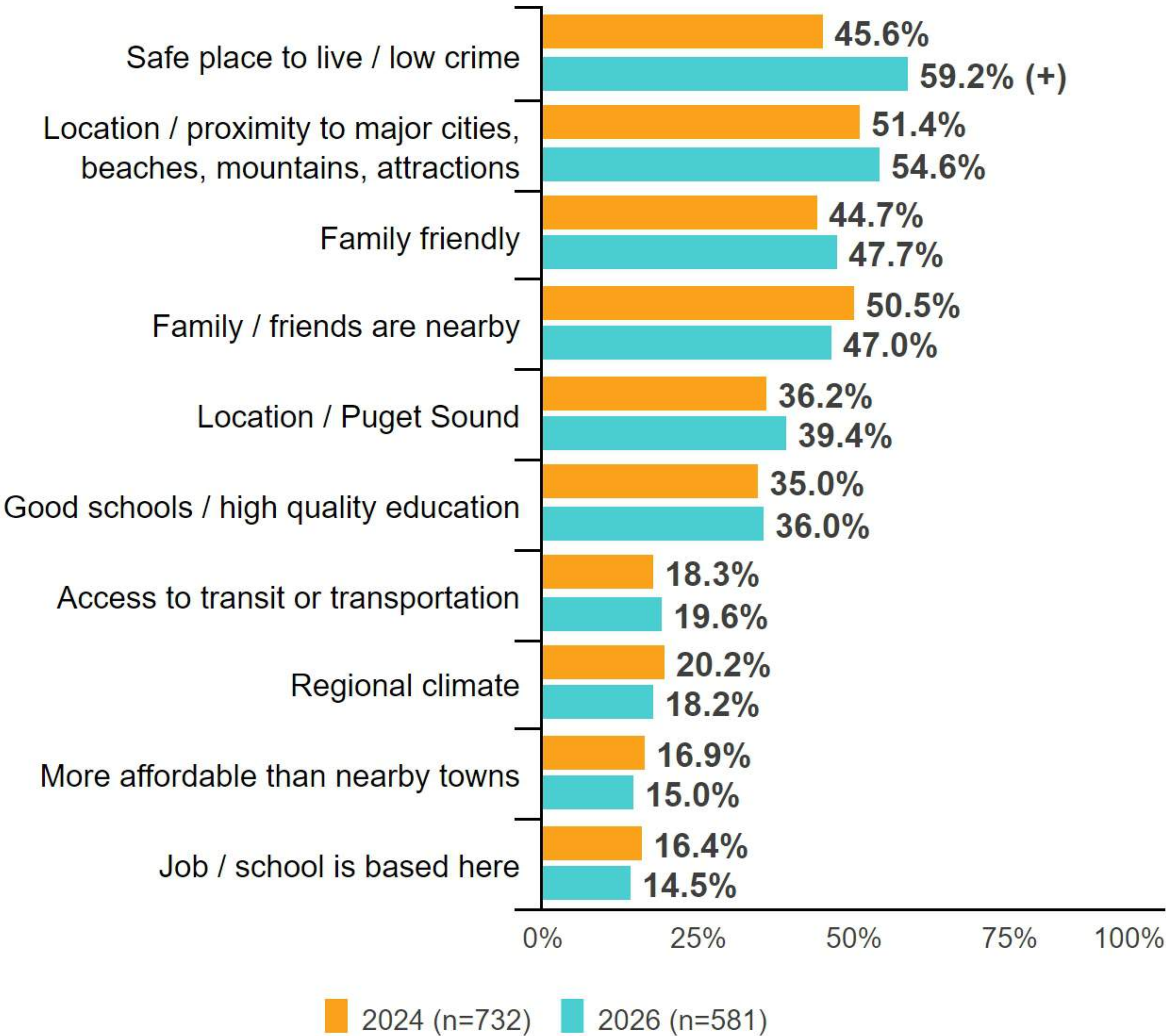
Family-oriented City

In 2026, significantly more 35- to 54-year-olds felt Sumner was either "family friendly" (+10.8 percentage points) or had "access to transit or transportation" (+7.5 percentage points) compared to 2024; building a reputation as a place for young working families.

Safety

In addition, significantly more respondents, across all age cohorts, had positive perceptions of Sumner as a "safe place to live" with "low crime," equally driving the overall increase in positive perceptions in this area.

Main Reasons for Living in Sumner



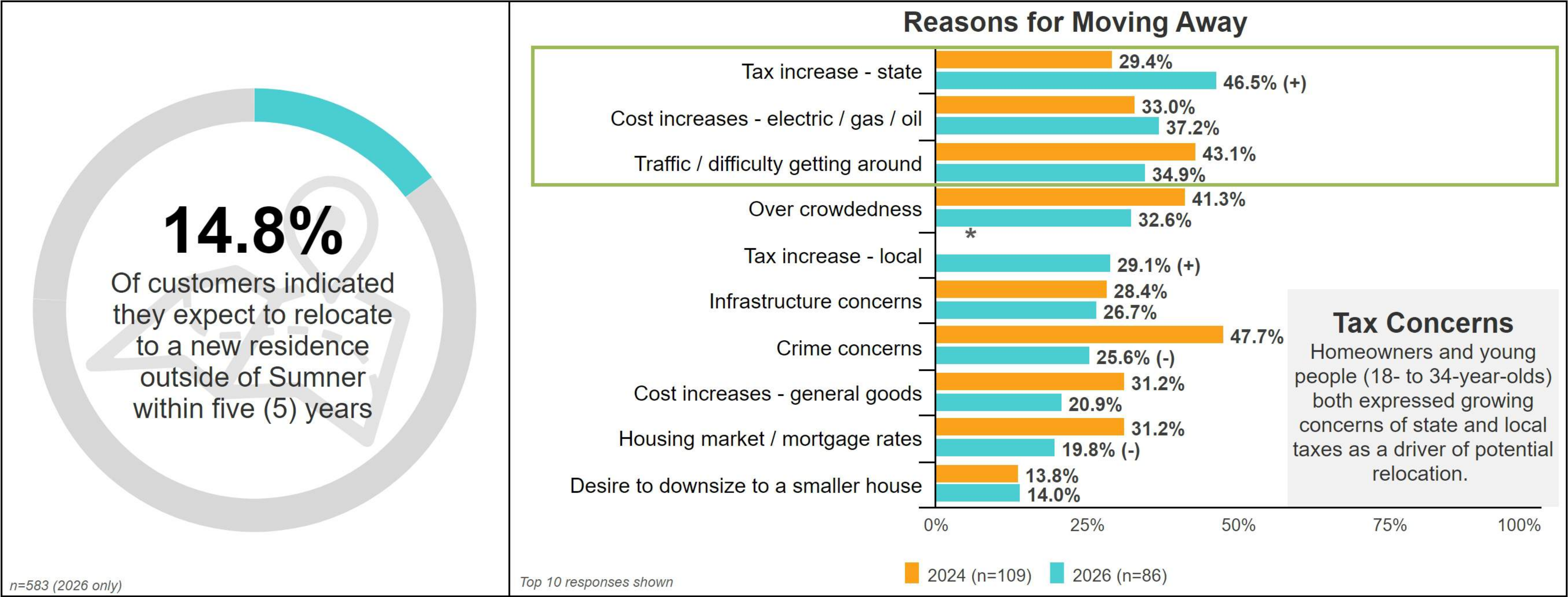
Top 10 responses shown

Q: Beyond what you just ranked, which, if any, of the following are also among your main reasons for living in Sumner? Please select all that apply.
(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year

Quality of Life | Relocation in The Next 5 Years



Just 14.8% of residents anticipated relocating outside of Sumner within the next five years. Among those considering a move, state tax concerns increased significantly (+17.1 percentage points), while local taxes emerged as a notable consideration (29.1%). Conversely, crime (-22.1 percentage points) and housing market/mortgage concerns (-11.4 percentage points) diminished significantly since 2024.



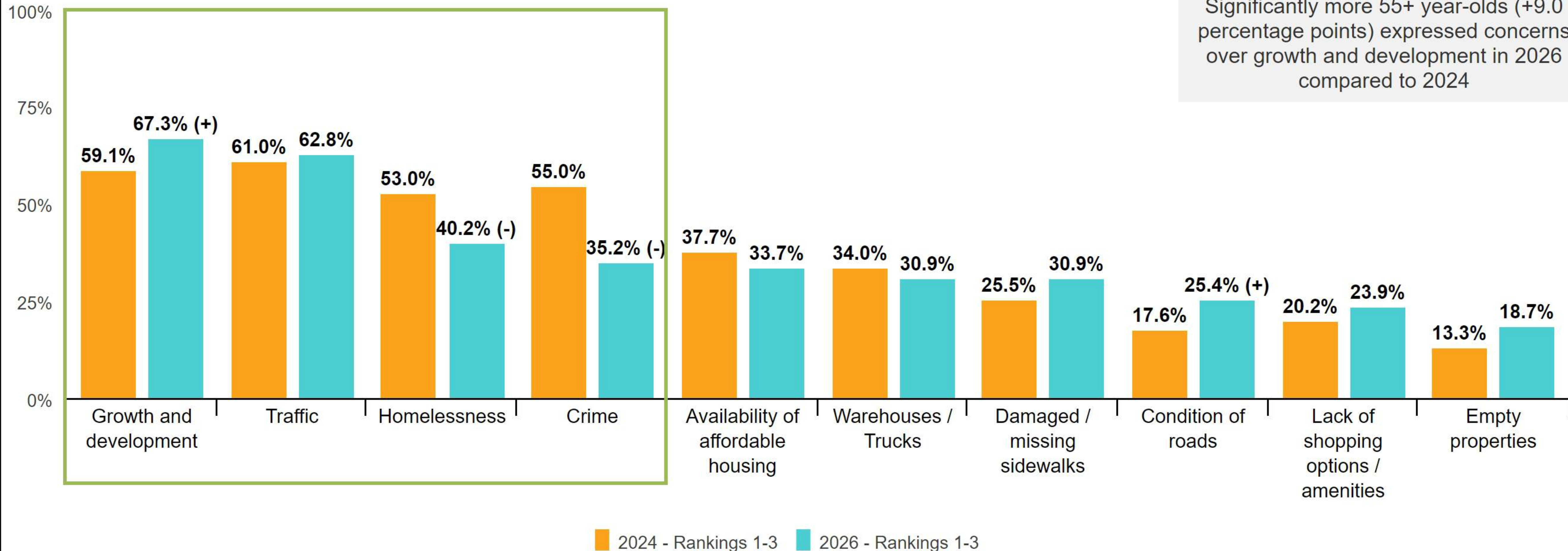
Q: Do you anticipate relocating to a new permanent address outside of Sumner in the next five (5) years?
Q: Please explain why. Please select all that apply.
"Tax increases - local" was a new option in 2026
(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year

Quality of Life | Top Residential Concerns



Growth and development emerged as residents' leading concern (67.3%; +8.2 percentage points), followed closely by traffic (62.8%). Conversely, homelessness (-12.8 percentage points) and crime (-19.8 percentage points) declined significantly as top-three concerns since 2024. While still lower in rank order, road conditions (+7.8 percentage points, significant) and damaged sidewalks (+5.4 percentage points) emerged as concerns in 2026.

Concerns about Sumner (Top 3)



Q: Overall, what are your greatest concerns about Sumner? Please rank the following with 1 being your greatest concern.
(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year
*Full 2026 ranking on the subsequent slide, including N-values

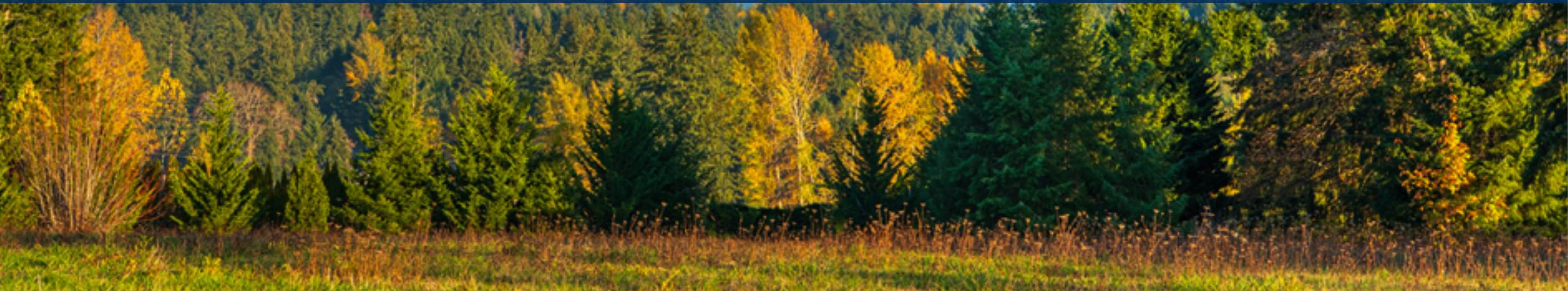
Quality of Life | All Concerns About Sumner

Concerns about Sumner (Full Rank Distribution)

	Rank Order													
	Base size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Growth and development	444	34.9%	17.3%	15.1%	8.8%	7.0%	4.3%	3.2%	3.2%	1.1%	2.3%	0.7%	1.4%	0.9%
Traffic	446	23.3%	25.1%	14.3%	11.4%	9.0%	5.8%	3.6%	2.2%	1.8%	1.6%	0.4%	1.3%	0.0%
Availability of affordable housing	341	15.2%	10.0%	8.5%	6.5%	6.7%	7.0%	6.7%	4.1%	5.3%	5.9%	7.3%	10.3%	6.5%
Homelessness	393	12.7%	14.2%	13.2%	10.2%	8.1%	7.6%	5.6%	6.6%	7.9%	3.3%	2.3%	4.1%	4.1%
Crime	366	12.3%	11.5%	11.5%	10.9%	9.6%	6.6%	7.9%	7.9%	4.9%	6.3%	2.2%	3.8%	4.6%
Warehouses / Trucks	369	7.6%	13.0%	10.3%	10.0%	9.8%	8.9%	6.5%	3.3%	6.2%	5.1%	6.2%	7.3%	5.7%
Damaged / missing sidewalks	366	7.1%	10.9%	12.8%	9.3%	8.7%	8.2%	11.2%	7.7%	6.8%	4.1%	7.1%	3.8%	2.2%
Availability of public transit	322	6.5%	5.3%	5.9%	6.2%	5.6%	3.1%	2.5%	8.4%	4.7%	11.2%	11.8%	11.2%	17.7%
Condition of roads	354	6.5%	7.3%	11.6%	13.0%	9.6%	9.0%	7.6%	10.7%	7.6%	7.9%	4.5%	3.4%	1.1%
Lack of shopping options / amenities	339	5.9%	9.1%	8.8%	7.4%	7.7%	10.6%	6.8%	5.9%	6.8%	8.0%	5.9%	7.4%	9.7%
Empty properties	326	5.5%	5.8%	7.4%	7.1%	5.2%	6.4%	8.3%	7.7%	8.6%	8.0%	12.0%	8.6%	9.5%
Parking	338	4.7%	5.3%	8.3%	8.6%	10.1%	9.2%	9.5%	9.8%	8.0%	9.5%	6.5%	3.8%	6.8%
Amount of parks / trails	321	4.4%	6.2%	6.9%	6.2%	5.0%	6.2%	8.1%	5.9%	9.7%	5.9%	12.8%	11.8%	10.9%

Q: Overall, what are your greatest concerns about Sumner? Please rank the following with 1 being your greatest concern.

Perception

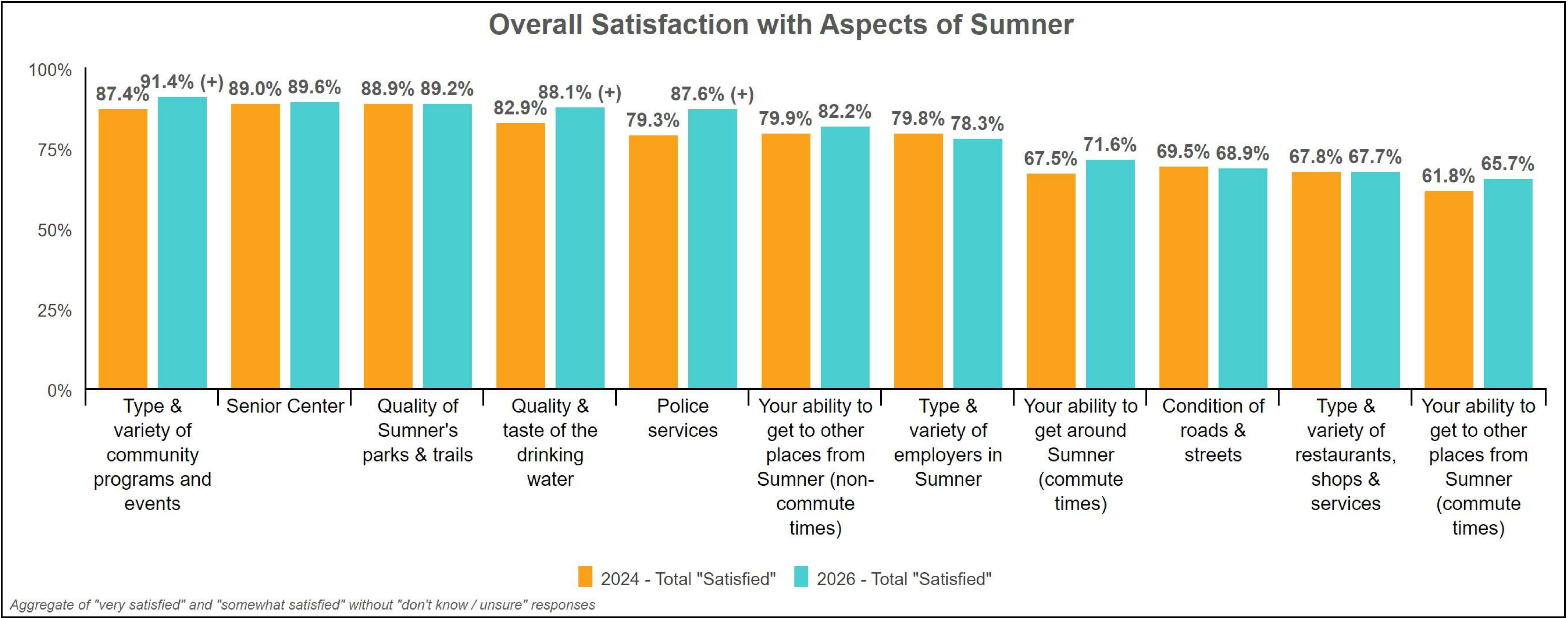


Sumner Perception | Resident Satisfaction



Residents remained highly satisfied across many aspects of Sumner, with significant improvements in community programs and events (+4.0 percentage points), drinking water (+5.2 percentage points), and police services (+8.3 percentage points) since 2024. While still strong, satisfaction with roads, mobility around town, and local amenities remained comparatively lower.

Overall Satisfaction with Aspects of Sumner



Q: Overall, how satisfied are you with the following services provided by the City of Sumner? Please use a scale of very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.
(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year
*Full 2026 breakdown on the subsequent slide, including N-Values

Sumner Perception | Satisfaction Breakdown



While satisfaction was generally positive, sentiment was often more moderate, with several aspects receiving considerably more “somewhat satisfied” than “very satisfied” ratings. More than half of residents were “somewhat satisfied” with the type and variety of employers (54.3%) and the condition of roads and streets (51.5%). A similar pattern emerged for restaurants, shops and services, where nearly half were somewhat satisfied (49.1%).

	Base size	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Quality & taste of the drinking water	555	54.4%	33.7%	8.6%	3.2%
Police services	539	50.8%	36.7%	9.3%	3.2%
Senior Center	164	44.5%	45.1%	7.9%	2.4%
Quality of Sumner's parks & trails	557	44.2%	45.1%	8.6%	2.2%
Type & variety of community programs and events	523	41.5%	49.9%	6.9%	1.7%
Your ability to get to other places from Sumner (non-commute times)	573	36.0%	46.2%	12.2%	5.6%
Your ability to get around Sumner (commute times)	570	34.0%	37.5%	18.1%	10.4%
Your ability to get to other places from Sumner (commute times)	566	26.7%	39.0%	20.5%	13.8%
Type & variety of employers in Sumner	392	24.0%	54.3%	17.9%	3.8%
Type & variety of restaurants, shops & services	582	18.6%	49.1%	25.4%	6.9%
Condition of roads & streets	575	17.4%	51.5%	24.5%	6.6%

Police Perceptions

Between 2024 and 2026, satisfaction with Police Services in Sumner improved significantly among 35- to 54-year-olds (+9.3 percentage points) and 55+ year-olds (+7.2 percentage points).

Employment Opportunities

In the same two-year time frame, fewer under 35-year-olds reported being satisfied with the employers available in Sumner (-11.2 percentage points)

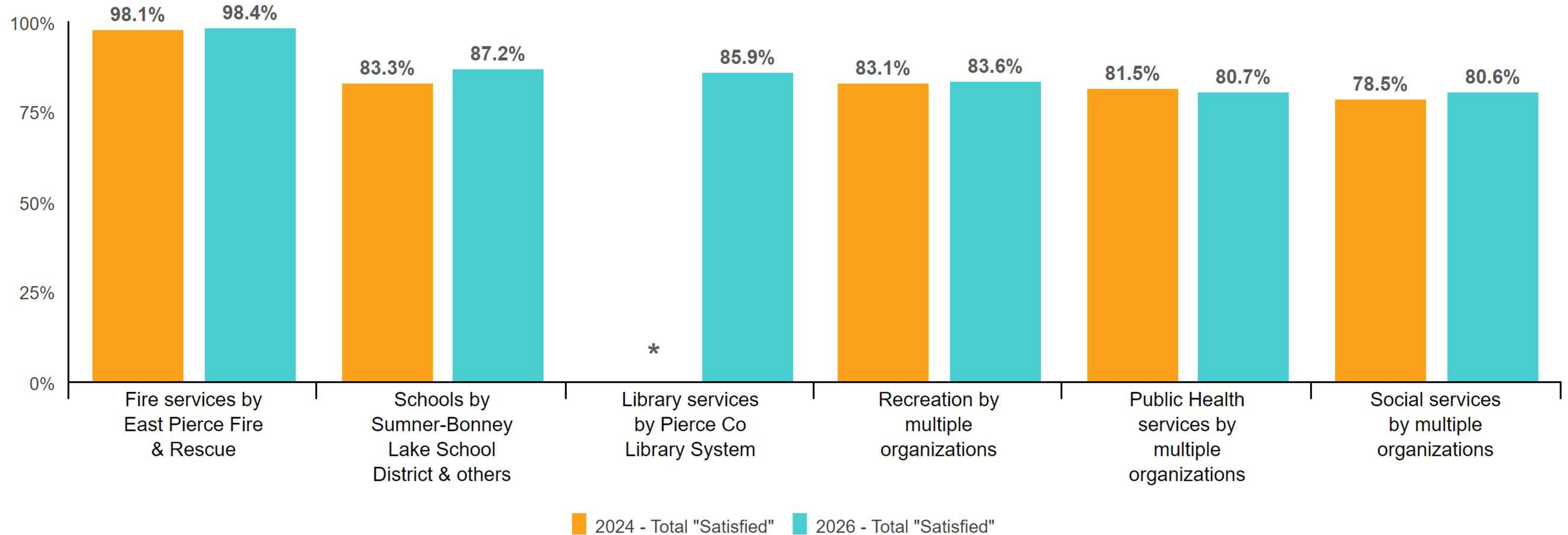
Without "don't know / unsure" responses

Q: Overall, how satisfied are you with the following services provided by the City of Sumner? Please use a scale of very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.

Sumner Perception | Service Satisfaction

Residents continued to report high satisfaction with services available within Sumner, with all measured services receiving satisfaction ratings of 80% or greater and no significant changes observed since 2024. Fire services remained the clear standout, with nearly all residents satisfied (98.4%), while satisfaction with schools increased slightly to 87.2%. Newly measured library services also received strong ratings, with 85.9% satisfied.

Overall Satisfaction with Services Available within Sumner



Aggregate of "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" without "don't know / unsure" responses

Q: Now, please read each of the following services available within Sumner and tell me how satisfied you are with these services provided by other organizations than the City of Sumner. Again, please use a scale of very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.

(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year

*Full 2026 breakdown on the subsequent slide, including N-Values; Library Services was a new item measured in 2026

Sumner Perception | Service Satisfaction Breakdown



Satisfaction was strongest for fire, school, and library services, while recreation (51.4%), public health (53.3%), and social services (53.6%) received more moderate ratings, with more than half of residents reporting they were only “somewhat satisfied.”

	Base size	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Fire services by East Pierce Fire & Rescue	515	81.4%	17.1%	1.4%	0.2%
Schools by Sumner-Bonney Lake School District & others	423	52.7%	34.5%	8.0%	4.7%
Library services by Pierce Co Library System	462	51.7%	34.2%	10.4%	3.7%
Recreation by multiple organizations	383	32.1%	51.4%	14.1%	2.3%
Public Health services by multiple organizations	270	27.4%	53.3%	13.0%	6.3%
Social services by multiple organizations	211	27.0%	53.6%	13.7%	5.7%

Without "don't know / unsure" responses

Social Services

Between 2024 and 2026, satisfaction with the Social Services in Sumner improved significantly among 35- to 54-year-olds (+13.4 percentage points)

Renters

While not significant, more renters in 2026 were satisfied with the available recreation (+12.4 percentage points), social services (+15.9 percentage points), and public health services (+7.0 percentage points).

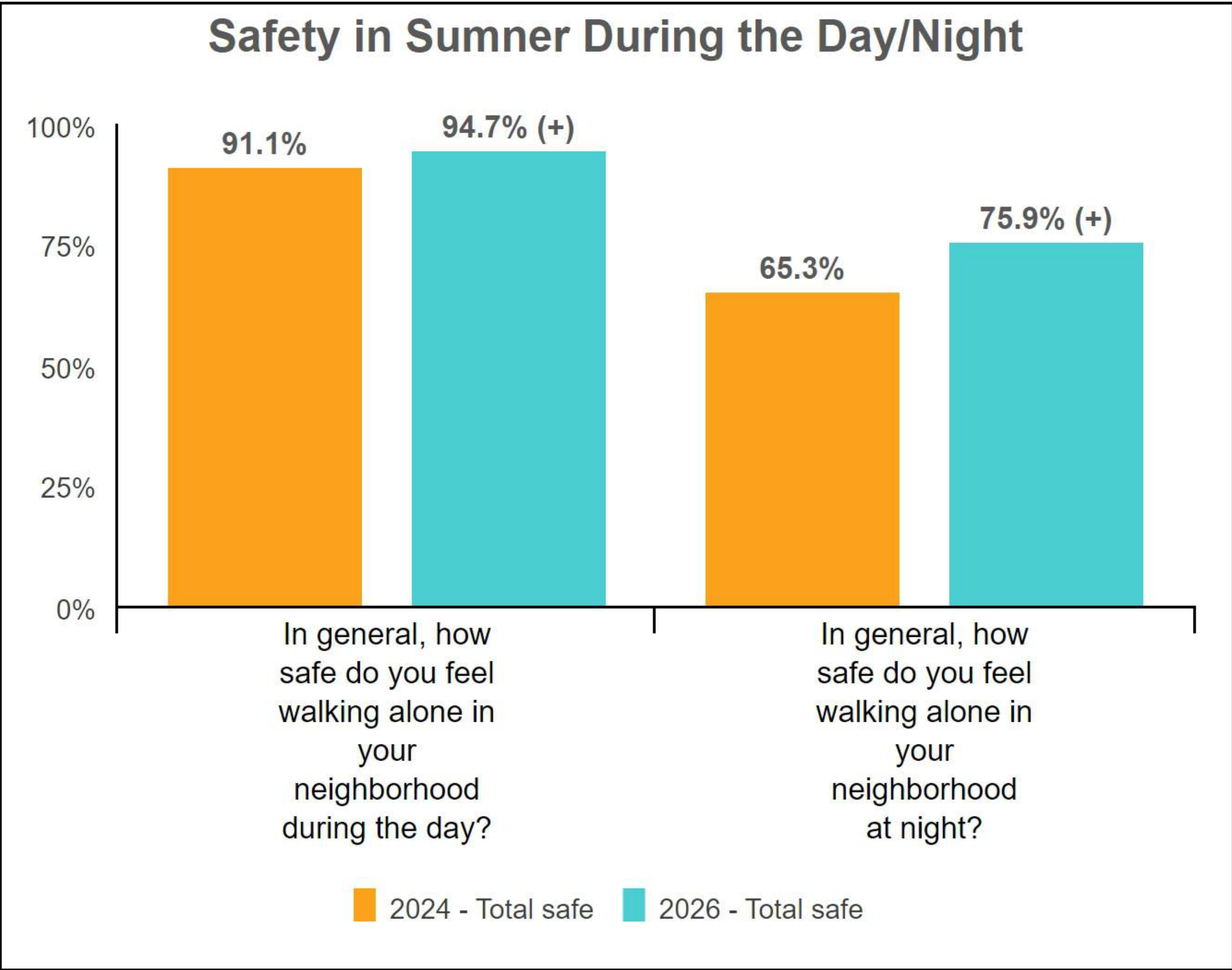
Library Services

In 2026, 91.6% of 55+ year-olds were satisfied with Library services provided by Pierce Co; significantly more than those 35- to 54-years-old (+13.5 percentage points).

Q: Overall, how satisfied are you with the following services provided by the City of Sumner? Please use a scale of very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.

Sumner Perception | Safety

Perceptions of safety improved significantly since 2024, with 94.7% of residents feeling safe walking alone during the day (+3.6 percentage points) and 75.9% feeling safe at night (+10.6 percentage points). Among residents who felt unsafe, concerns related specifically to crime/drugs declined substantially from 29.4% to 10.7%, while concerns related to homelessness also fell from 26.5% to 15.2%.



Reasons Feeling Unsafe	2024	2026
Base size	204	112
Overall safety issue / can't walk at night / fear of the unknown	9.3%	18.8%
Concerns about public disorder / vulnerable populations	0.0%	16.1%
Increase in homeless population	26.5%	15.2%
Increase in crime / drugs / etc.	29.4%	10.7%
Lack of police presence / code enforcement	2.9%	6.3%
Lack of street lights throughout the city	6.4%	6.3%
Speeding cars	2.0%	5.4%
Transients	0.0%	5.4%
Unsavory people roaming streets	8.8%	4.5%
Youth crimes	0.0%	2.7%
Live near low income housing	0.0%	1.8%
Expressed multiple reasons	11.3%	0.0%

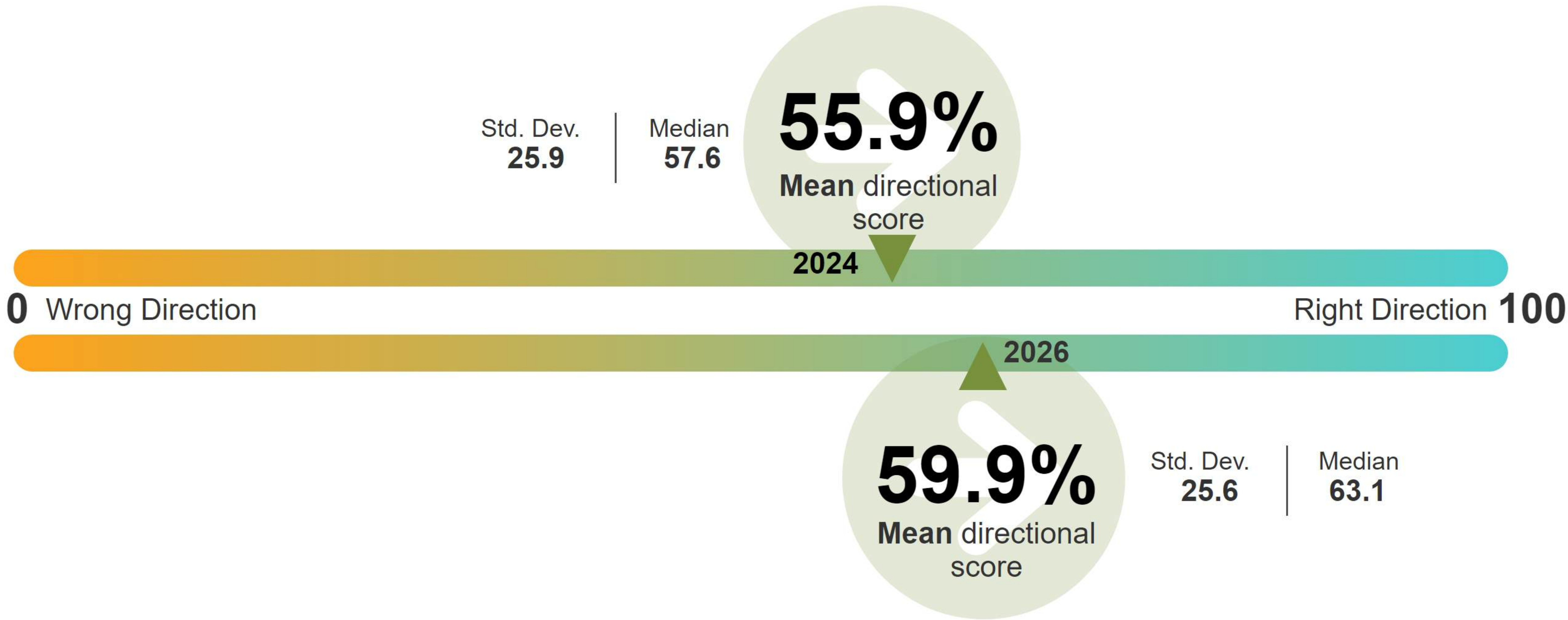
Q: In general, how safe do you feel walking alone in your neighborhood during the day?
Q: In general, how safe do you feel walking alone in your neighborhood at night?
Q: If you can identify what makes you feel unsafe, would you please share a little more about it here?
(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year

Moving Forward

Moving Forward | Direction of Sumner



Residents leaned toward feeling Sumner was moving in the right direction, with the mean directional score increasing from 55.9 in 2024 to 59.9 in 2026. The median also increased from 57.6 to 63.1, indicating a broader shift toward more positive perceptions of the City’s direction.

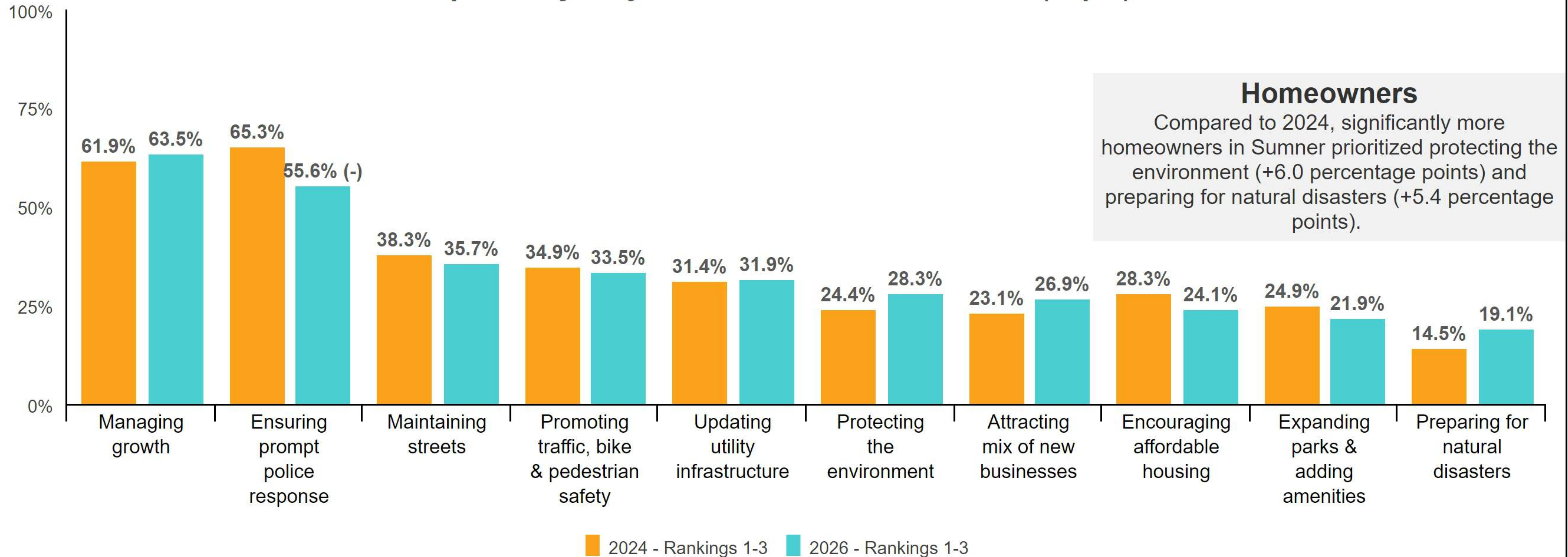


n=715 (2024), 571 (2026)
Q: Do you feel things in Sumner are generally going in the right direction or wrong? Please use the slider scale below to indicate your level of agreement toward either of the options below. Placing the slider directly in the middle will indicate that you are neutral or unsure at this time.

Moving Forward | Sumner Project Priorities

Managing growth remained residents' leading future priority (63.5%), while ensuring prompt police response declined significantly as a top-three priority (-9.7 percentage points). This shift coincided with significant improvements in satisfaction with police services and feelings of safety, suggesting police response may be viewed as an area of strength rather than an unmet need. At the same time, protecting the environment (+3.9 percentage points) and preparing for natural disasters (+4.6 percentage points) gained modest traction as future priorities; particularly among homeowners in Sumner.

Top Priority Projects for Sumner in the Future (Top 3)



Q: A City faces numerous priorities at once, but funding is limited. Please rank the following priorities with 1 being your top priority (+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year

*Full 2026 ranking on the subsequent slide, including N-values

Moving Forward | Sumner Project Priorities



Priority Projects for Sumner (Full Rank Distribution)

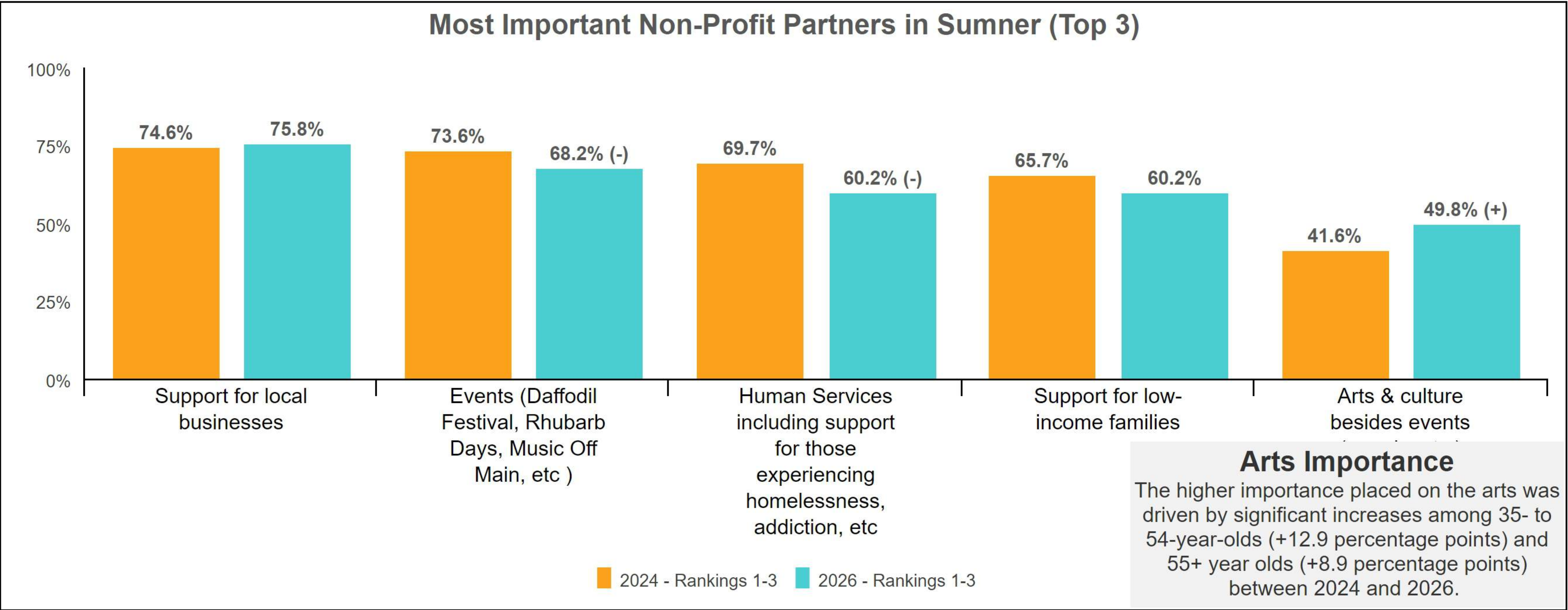
	Rank Order										
	Base size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Managing growth	520	34.0%	17.1%	12.3%	8.1%	7.3%	4.8%	5.4%	4.0%	3.3%	3.7%
Ensuring prompt police response	502	23.5%	18.7%	13.3%	9.2%	9.6%	5.4%	7.2%	3.6%	3.6%	6.0%
Attracting mix of new businesses	472	10.6%	9.5%	6.8%	7.6%	11.4%	11.2%	8.1%	11.2%	10.2%	13.3%
Promoting traffic, bike & pedestrian safety	486	9.5%	12.1%	11.9%	11.9%	11.7%	10.5%	10.5%	9.7%	8.4%	3.7%
Encouraging affordable housing	456	8.1%	9.2%	6.8%	6.8%	4.4%	4.8%	6.1%	9.4%	11.8%	32.5%
Maintaining streets	507	7.5%	10.8%	17.4%	18.1%	13.6%	10.7%	9.5%	6.7%	4.5%	1.2%
Protecting the environment	467	6.4%	10.1%	11.8%	11.3%	9.9%	10.5%	10.5%	9.9%	12.2%	7.5%
Updating utility infrastructure	486	5.8%	12.1%	14.0%	14.6%	9.5%	16.3%	8.6%	8.6%	6.4%	4.1%
Expanding parks & adding amenities	474	5.3%	8.2%	8.4%	9.3%	12.4%	9.3%	12.0%	13.5%	14.8%	6.8%
Preparing for natural disasters	467	4.5%	5.8%	8.8%	8.8%	11.6%	12.4%	13.9%	13.5%	11.6%	9.2%

Q: A City faces numerous priorities at once, but funding is limited. Please rank the following priorities with 1 being your top priority

Moving Forward | Sumner Non-Profit Partners



Support for local businesses remained residents' leading non-profit priority (75.8%), while arts and culture increased significantly (+8.2 percentage points). Conversely, events (-5.4 percentage points) and human services (-9.5 percentage points) declined significantly in terms of being ranked among residents' top three priorities.

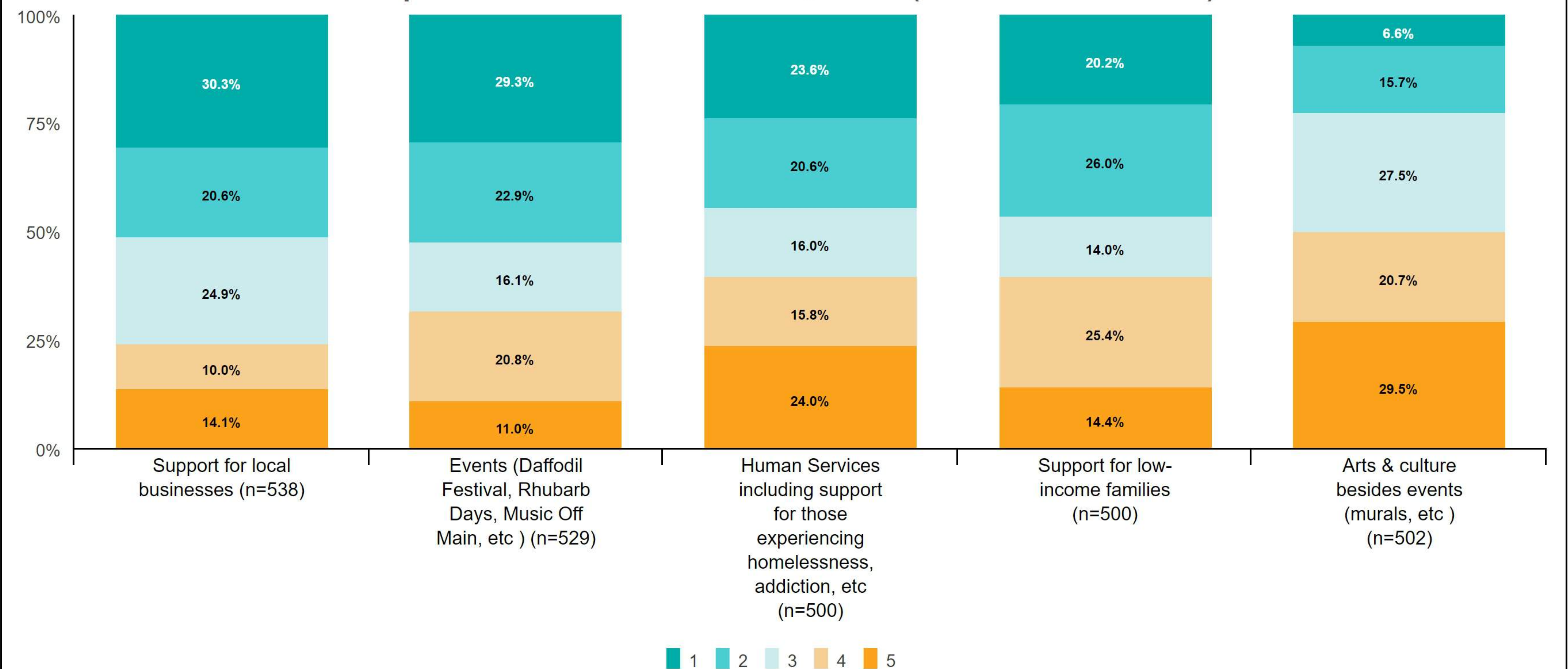


Q: The City supports a number of non-profit partners who offer a wide array of services, but funding is limited. In general, what's your priority for funding the following kinds of efforts? Please rank in order of importance with 1 being most important.
(+/-) indicates a statistically significant difference at a 95% confidence level compared to the previous year
*Full 2026 ranking on the subsequent slide, including N-values

Moving Forward | Sumner Non-Profit Partners



Important Non-Profit Partners in Sumner (Full Rank Distribution)



Q: The City supports a number of non-profit partners who offer a wide array of services, but funding is limited. In general, what's your priority for funding the following kinds of efforts? Please rank in order of importance with 1 being most important.

Considerations

Considerations



Build on Today's Strengths While Managing Growth

Residents' quality of life and perceptions of safety strengthened considerably in 2026, reinforcing many of the characteristics that make Sumner an attractive place to live. This provides the City with a strong foundation moving forward; however, as concerns increasingly shift toward growth and development, maintaining these strengths will depend on thoughtfully managing change while protecting the community character residents value.

Key Takeaways:

- Continue reinforcing safety and police services as demonstrated community strengths, while recognizing that their declining prioritization may reflect needs residents increasingly feel are being well met.
- Preserve the characteristics residents value most (small-town atmosphere, walkability, safety, and community character) as Sumner continues to grow.
- Recognize that growth and development are now residents' leading concern and future priority, making how growth is managed increasingly important to maintaining positive quality-of-life perceptions.



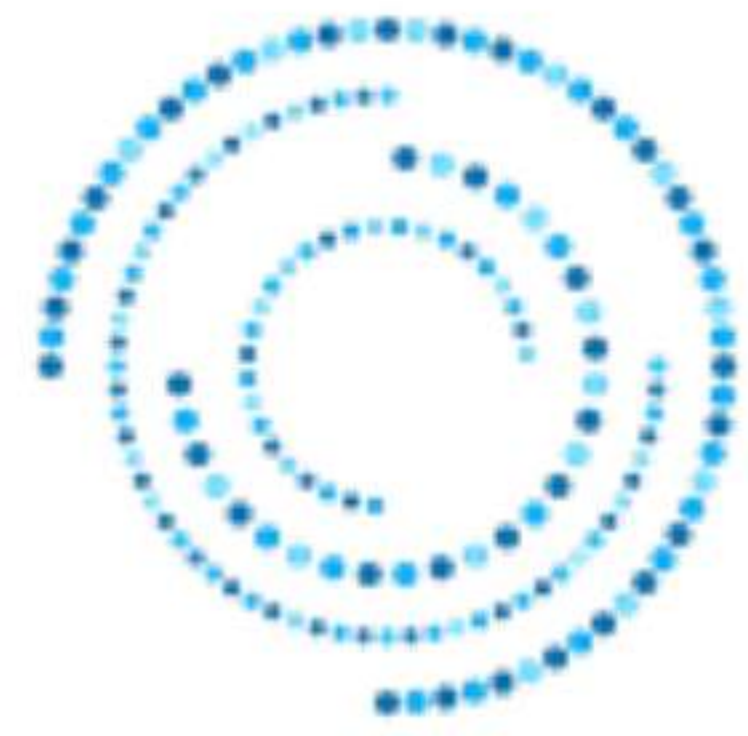
Plan & Communicate for "What Next?"

With residents increasingly focused on growth, attention should turn toward the infrastructure, services, and investments needed to support Sumner's future. Proactively addressing transportation, roads, mobility, and other infrastructure needs - while incorporating emerging priorities around resiliency, the environment, and community amenities - can help ensure that continued growth supports, rather than detracts from, residents' quality of life.

Key Takeaways:

- Connect future growth planning directly to traffic, roads, mobility, transportation, and supporting infrastructure, where concerns remain elevated and satisfaction is comparatively softer.
- Balance core infrastructure needs with emerging priorities, including environmental protection, natural-disaster preparedness, and arts and culture.
- Continue tracking these measures over time, and communicate progress around investments and improvements, to demonstrate how resident feedback is informing Sumner's longer-term planning.

About GreatBlue



Harnessing the Power of Data

...to help clients achieve organizational goals.



Data supporting strategic decisions to improve products and services. Since 1979, our experience with study and instrument design, data collection, analysis, and formal presentation assists our clients in identifying the “why” and “what’s next.”



Talent with a knowledge base in a wide range of industries and methodologies ensures a 360° view of the challenges faced and the expertise to address them.



Solutions that are customized to provide a personalized approach to understanding organizational, employee, and customer needs, allowing for more informed decisions.

Methodologies:



Digital Surveys



Focus Groups



In-Depth Interviews

Studies:



Awareness and Perception Studies



Customer and Employee Satisfaction Studies



Journey Mapping



Creative and New Concept Testing

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Chris@GreatBlueResearch.com

Seamus McNamee Head of Research
Seamus@GreatBlueResearch.com

Courtney Moore Insights Manager
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WHAT'S NEXT.



/GreatBlueResearch

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GreatBlue Research

SUBJECT: State of the Court

CATEGORY: Presentation

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: None

Within Budget Allocation: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF CONTACT: Jeff Steffens, Deputy City Administrator

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

Judge Anneke Berry will provide an update of the Sumner Municipal Court. She will be covering the updated Community Court program and the changes that have taken place under her leadership, as well the efficiencies that the Court has experienced as a result of our latest inter-local agreement with the City of Bonney Lake.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION:
--

MEETING/STUDY SESSION DATE:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION:

SUBJECT: Police Department Update

CATEGORY: Presentation

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: None

Within Budget Allocation: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025 Crime Overview
-

STAFF CONTACT: Andy McCurdy, Deputy Police Chief

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

Chief McCurdy will provide an update on the Police Department to include a review of 2025 and the first half of 2026.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION:
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MEETING/STUDY SESSION DATE:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION:

SUMNER POLICE DEPARTMENT



September 2026 Council briefing

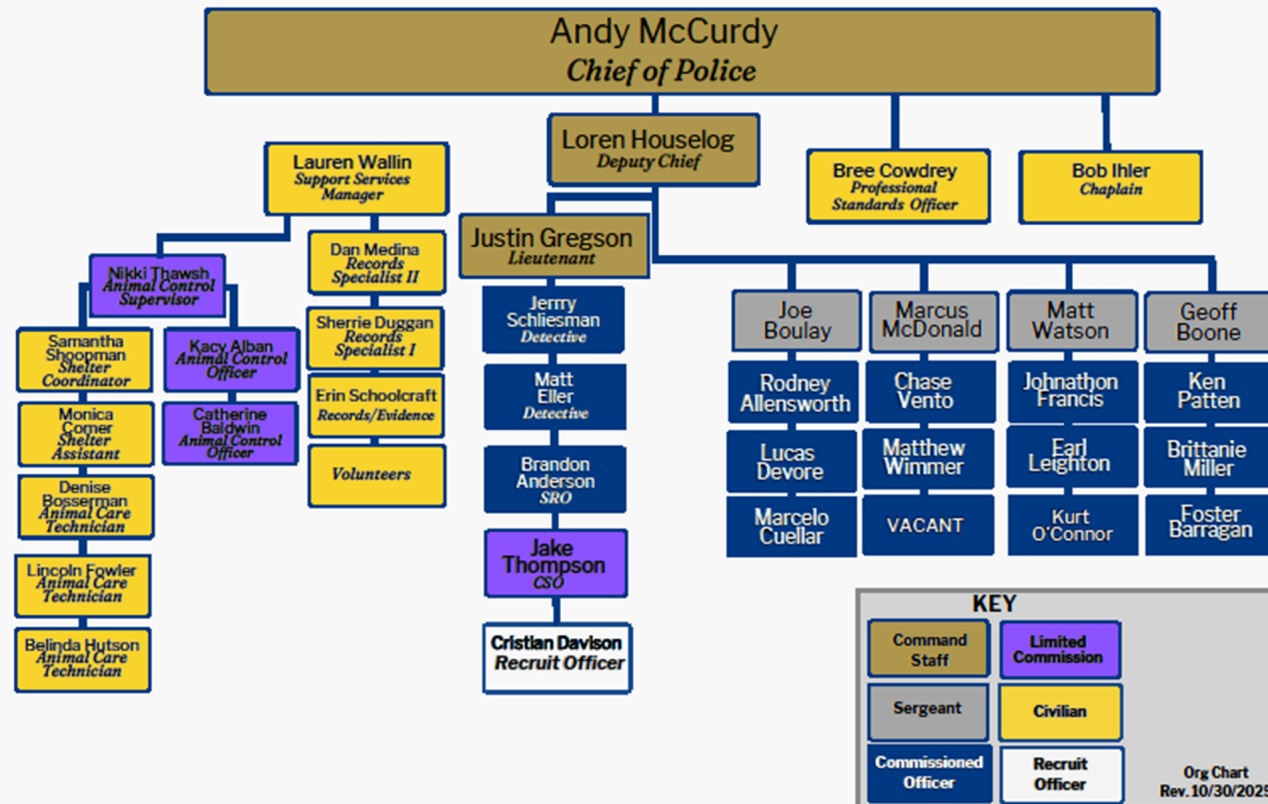
Public safety trends, economic impact,
accountability, and priorities

Chief Andy McCurdy

SUMNER POLICE DEPARTMENT



Sumner Police Department Organizational Chart



September 2026 Council briefing | Public safety trends, economic impact, accountability, and priorities

SUMNER POLICE DEPARTMENT

2025 / 2026 Crime & 2025 OPS Overview



-30%

Overall crime (2025)

Total Group A offenses
declined from 764 to 532.

*Reductions from 30-year high in 2022

+4.4 pp

Clearance rate (2025)

Improved from 17.8% to
22.2%.

-55%

Stolen losses (2025)

Reported stolen property
losses dropped sharply.

Bottom line

Current strategies are
producing measurable
public safety and
economic results.

September 2026 Council briefing | Public safety trends, economic impact, accountability, and
priorities

2025 headline: fewer crimes, higher clearance rate

A high-level snapshot for Council discussion.



532

Total Group A offenses

Down from 764 in 2024.

22.2%

Clearance rate

Up from 17.8% in 2024.

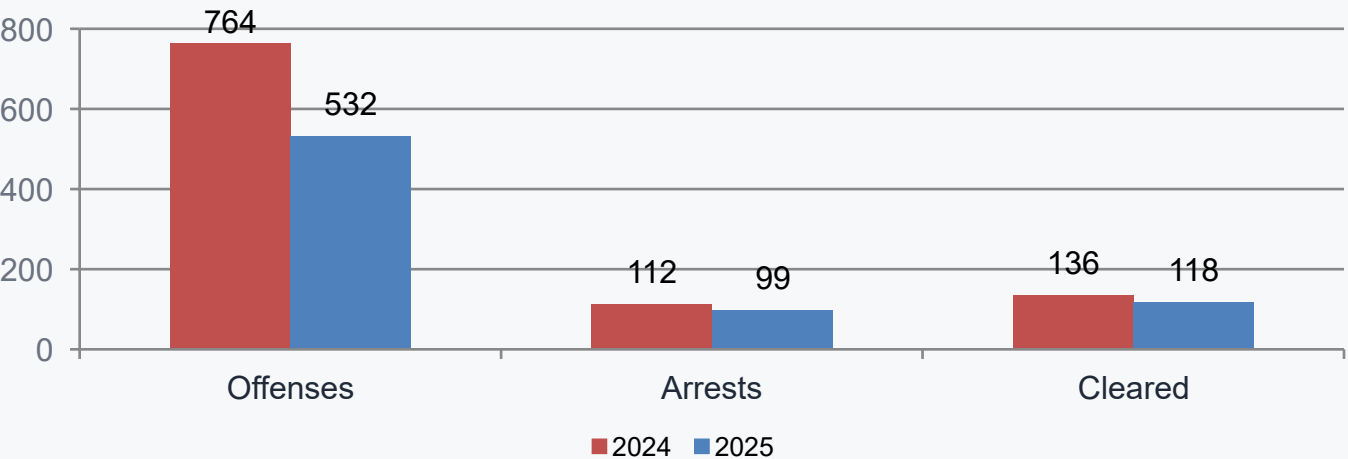
99

Group A arrests

Down from 112 (overall cases fell).

Message

Less crime to investigate, and a larger share solved.



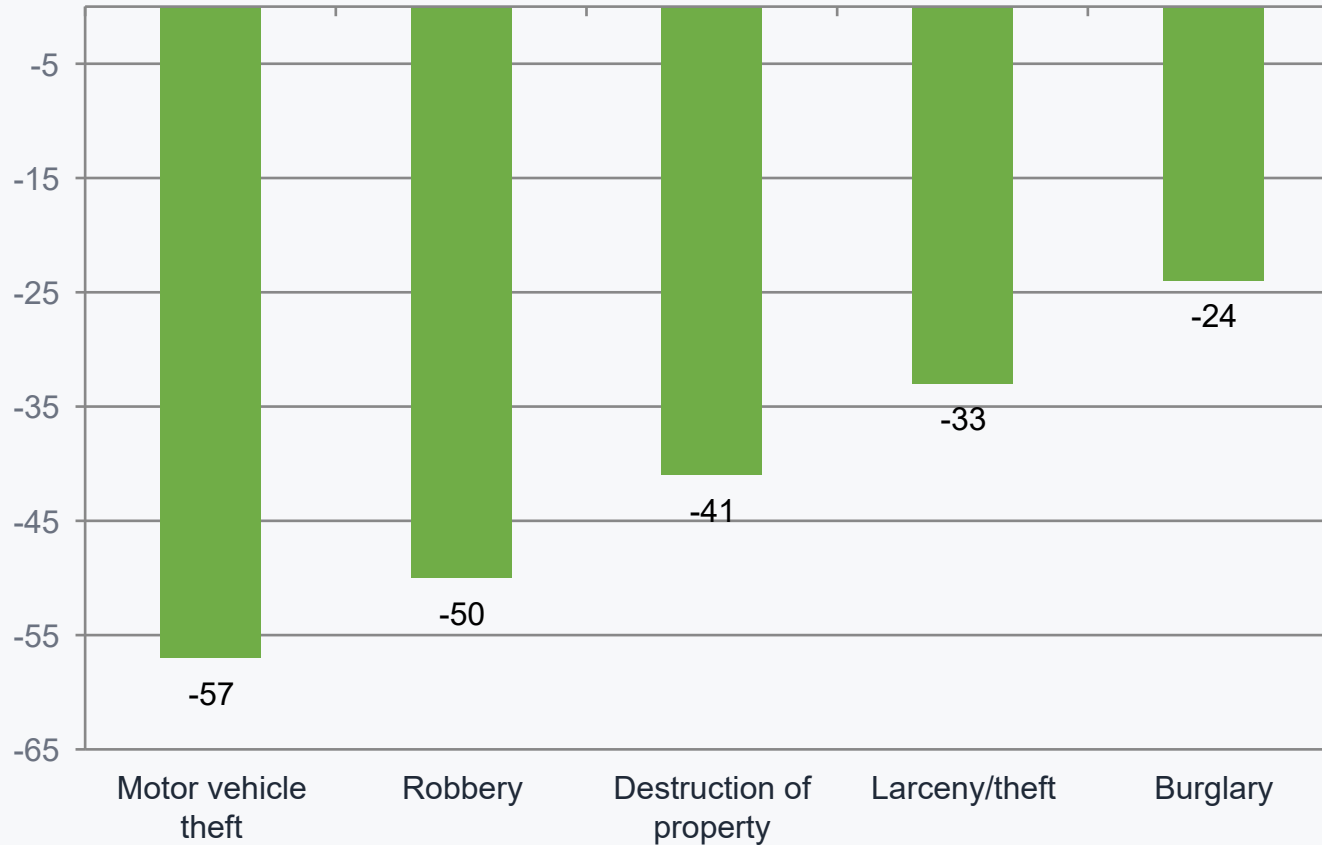
Council takeaways

- Crime continued the downward trend from 2024.
- Clearance rate improved despite lower case volume.
- Results point to continued value in proactive policing, technology, and partnerships.

The Group A offenses collected in the NIBRS program are: Animal Cruelty, Arson, Assault Offenses, Bribery, Burglary, Counterfeiting/Forgery, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property, Drug/Narcotic Offenses, Embezzlement, Extortion/Blackmail, Fraud Offenses, Gambling Offenses, Homicide Offenses, Human Trafficking Offenses, Kidnapping/Abduction, Larceny/Theft Offenses, Motor Vehicle Theft, Pornography/Obscene Material Offenses, Prostitution Offenses, Robbery, Sex Offenses, Non-Forcible Sex Offenses, Stolen Property Offenses, and Weapon Law Violations; in Washington State, an additional Group A offense is collected: Violation of No Contact/Protection/Anti-Harassment Order.

Property crime saw the strongest improvement

Large reductions across the categories residents and businesses feel most directly.



-57%
Vehicle theft
89 cases in 2024;
38 in 2025.

-33%
Larceny/theft
225 cases in 2024;
150 in 2025.

Likely drivers

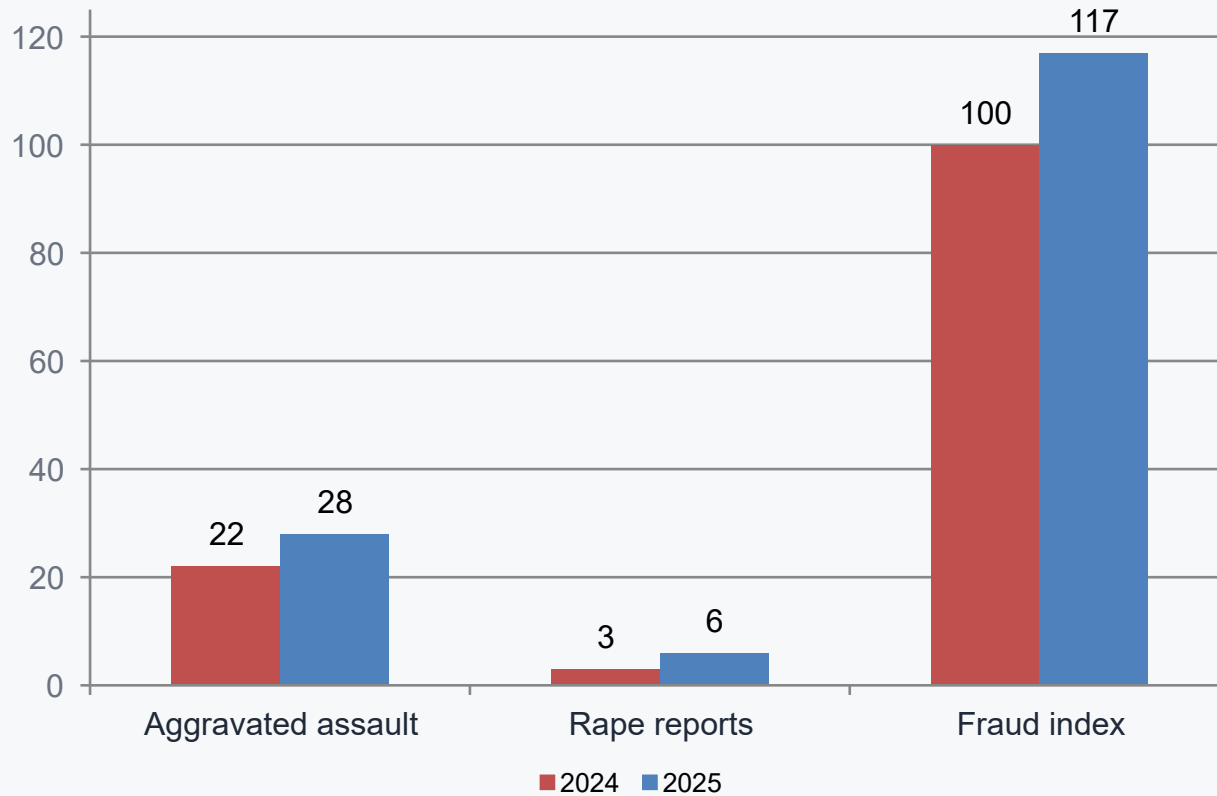
- Directed patrol and targeted enforcement
- Public awareness and regional auto theft efforts
- Investigative follow-up and technology

Source: City of Sumner Police Department memoranda, 2025 Crime Statistics and 2025 OPS Report.

Areas to monitor: serious violence and fraud



Overall trends are positive, with a few categories needing continued attention.



Violent crime review

- Aggravated assaults increased from 22 to 28.
- Reported rapes increased from 3 to 6; numbers remain low.

Fraud prevention

- Fraud rose 17%, consistent with scam and cyber-enabled crime trends.
- Education and financial institution partnerships are key.

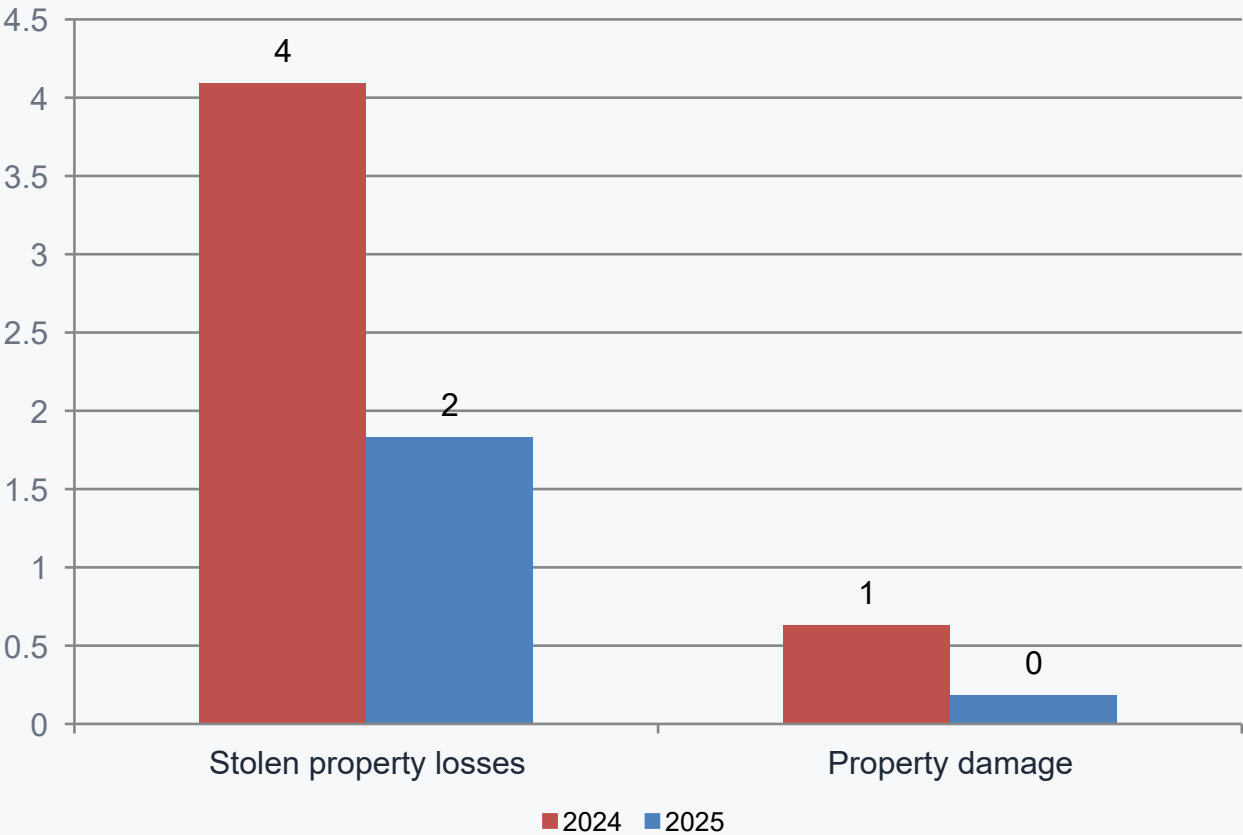
Domestic violence

- DV offenses decreased slightly from 85 to 81.
- Protection order violations dropped 50%.
- DA-LE and DVHRT Implemented

Source: City of Sumner Police Department memoranda, 2025 Crime Statistics and 2025 OPS Report.

Crime reduction also protects the local economy

Lower losses mean fewer claims, disruptions, repairs, and replacement costs.



\$2.26M

Less stolen loss

\$4.09M to \$1.83M.

\$451K

Less damage

\$632K to \$181K.

Why it matters

- Reduced financial burden on residents and businesses
- Fewer business interruptions and repair costs
- Greater confidence for customers, visitors, and investment

Source: City of Sumner Police Department memoranda, 2025 Crime Statistics and 2025 OPS Report.



Recommended focus for the next budget cycle

Sustain what is working while watching emerging risks.

SUSTAIN RESULTS

Continue property crime reduction

- Directed patrol and offender accountability
- ALPR and investigative technology
- Regional partnerships

SPOT RISKS EARLY

Review violence trends quarterly

- Aggravated assault patterns
- Weapons use and repeat locations
- Repeat offenders and DV connections

PREVENT VICTIMIZATION

Expand fraud prevention

- Online scams and identity theft
- Elder and financial exploitation
- Bank and community partnerships

Strategic investment framing

Personnel, training, technology, and partnerships are not just operating costs; they protect residents, strengthen businesses, and support Sumner's long-term economic vitality.



Technology Use Case Studies: Flock Public Safety Cameras

Crime alerts and investigations—with auditing and agency data-use agreements

● **Thompson Street shooting**

Tukwila Police identified the suspect vehicle's travel pattern, helping Sumner make an arrest.

● **East Valley road rage shooting**

Records corroborated the vehicle and damage; Kent located it with bullet holes and owner made admissions of guilt.

● **WinCo shooting and carjacking**

Records helped track the carjacked vehicle and locate the juvenile suspects.

● **Stolen motorhome**

A new plate was linked to the RV; repeated Yakima sightings allowed the case to be closed.

● **Sexual Assault**

Confirmed identity of suspect and current residence and was able to obtain and serve arrest and search warrants.

Internal safeguards
Regular auditing of system access and searches

External safeguards
Agency agreements require appropriate data use

Operational review: accountability and oversight

2025 OPS review adds context on pursuits, complaints, collisions, and commendations.



7

Vehicle pursuits

Six were within policy; one resulted in counseling.

6

Legal interventions

Five were within policy.

3

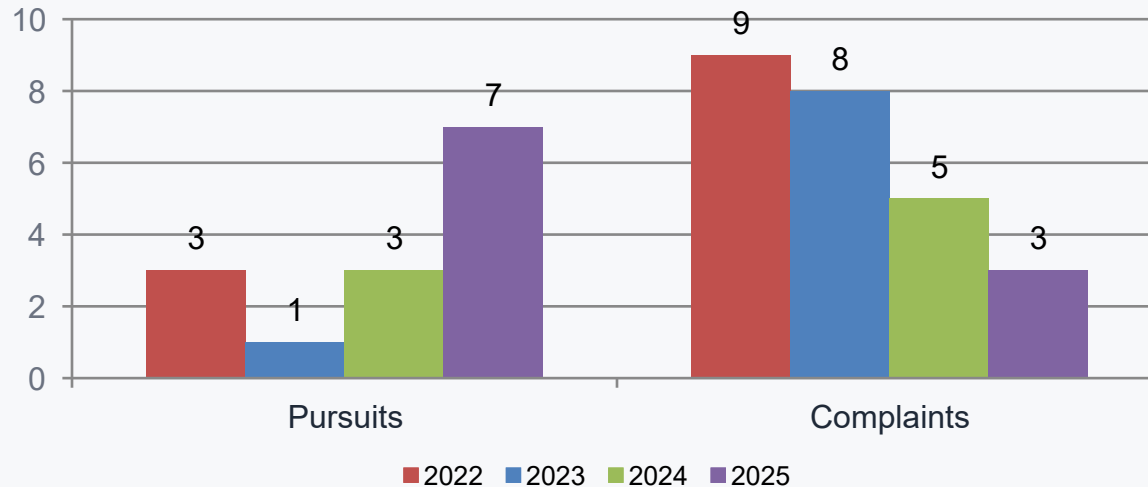
OPS complaints

All were internal; no citizen complaints documented.

1

Awards

Received for lifesaving actions.



Council takeaway

- Pursuits increased, but most were policy-compliant and tied to stolen vehicles, DUI, or agency assistance.
- OPS complaints continued a multi-year decline.
- Policy exceptions resulted in counseling and review.

Source: City of Sumner Police Department memoranda, 2025 Crime Statistics and 2025 OPS Report.

Use of force review: policy compliance and de-escalation

A concise accountability summary.



14

Use-of-force incidents

All independently reviewed.

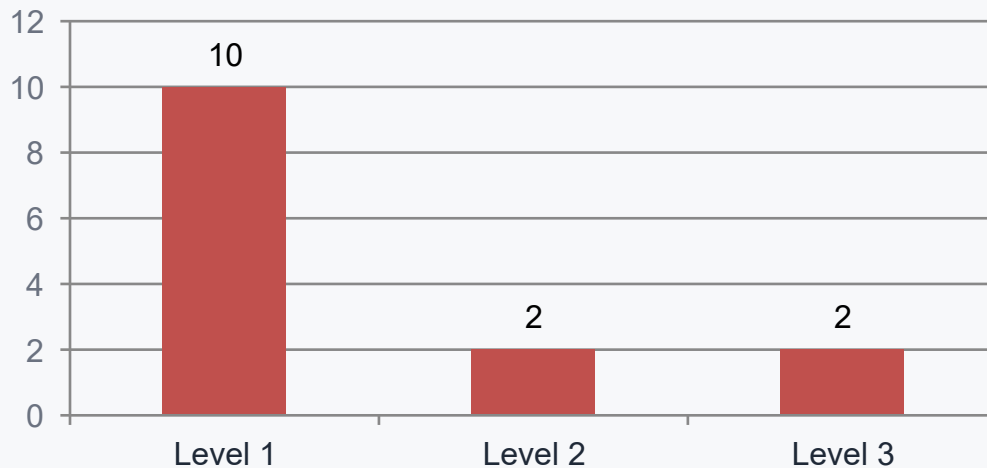
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Sustained bias complaints

No sustained complaints alleging bias-based policing.

Oversight message

Reviews found uses of force consistent with policy, with officers gaining compliance or transitioning to lesser force as appropriate.



What this shows

- Most incidents were Level 1 control-hold or compliance techniques.
- No trends or issues were noted requiring further inquiry, concern, training, or policy review.
- The department continues reviewing data to support fair and equitable policing.

Source: City of Sumner Police Department memoranda, 2025 Crime Statistics and 2025 OPS Report.



2026 YTD Operational Trends

January–July activity compared with the same period in 2025

Key read: service demand is steady, while arrests and higher-level traffic outcomes are up.

Police events

7,738

-1.5%

Reports opened

799

+8.3%

Arrests

173

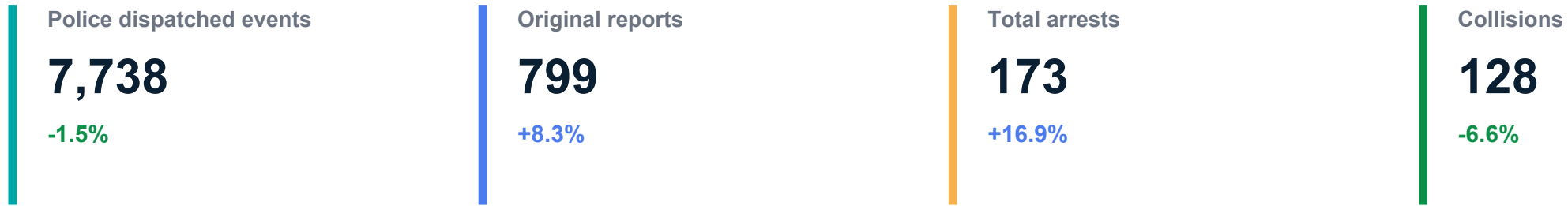
+16.9%

Comparison method: apples-to-apples Jan–Jul YTD, not 7-month actuals versus full-year totals.



YTD Snapshot: Demand Is Steady, Outcomes Are Up

January–July 2026 compared with January–July 2025



Percent change from 2025 YTD



Pattern so far

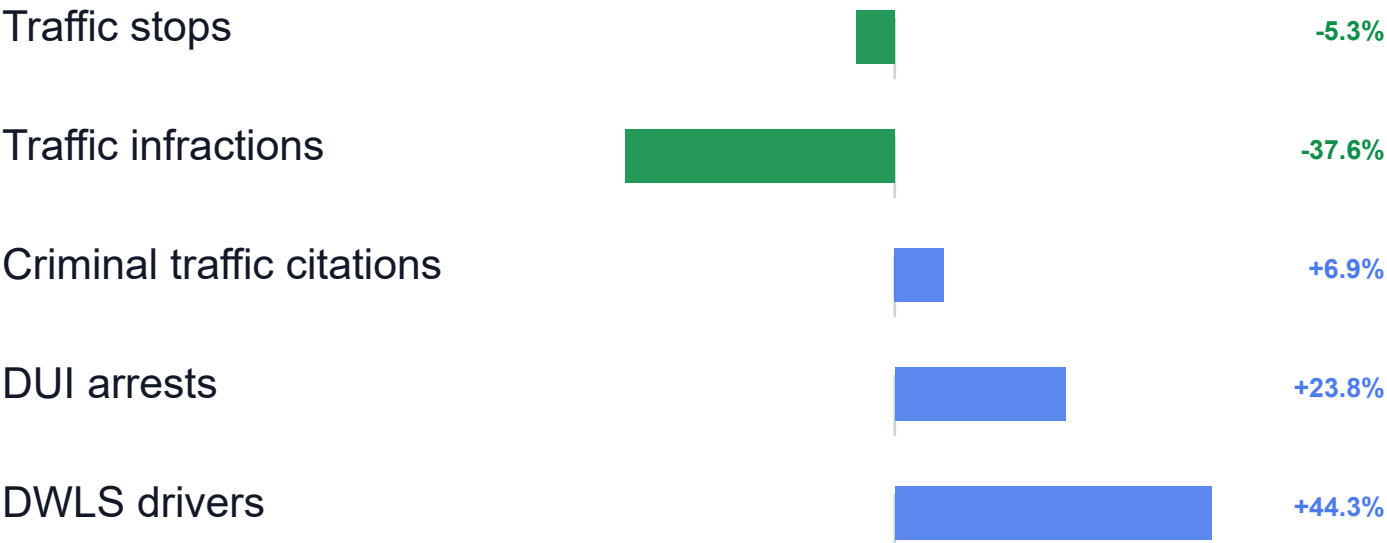
- Calls for service are essentially flat
- More cases are being opened
- Arrest activity is running materially higher
- Collisions are trending lower



Traffic Pattern: Fewer Stops, Stronger Enforcement Outcomes

The mix is shifting away from routine infractions and toward higher-risk violations

Change versus Jan–Jul 2025



DWLS drivers

+44.3%

DUI arrests

+23.8%

Council-level read

Stops are slightly lower, but criminal traffic, DUI, and suspended-driver outcomes are higher.

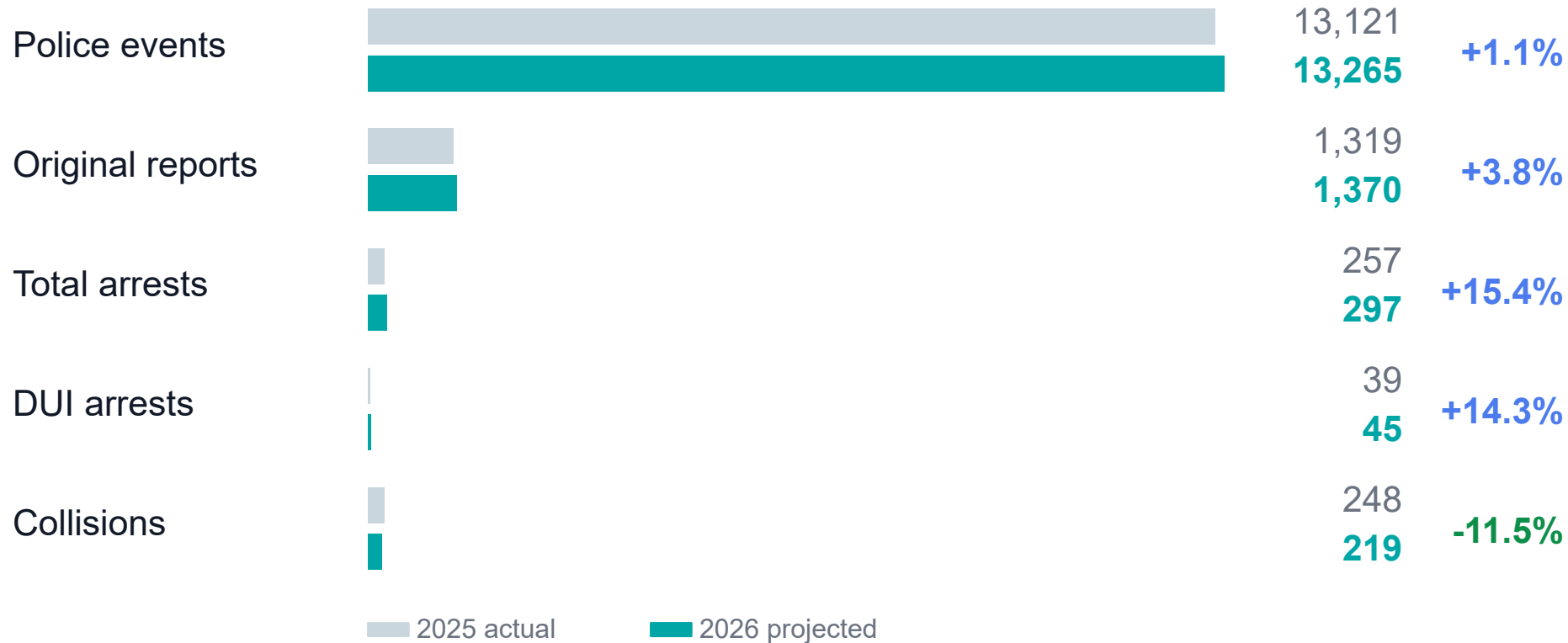
Note: Parking/other infractions are not featured because 2026 coding may not be directly comparable to 2025 categories.

Current Pace Suggests a Stable-to-Slightly-Higher Workload

Projection assumes Jan–Jul pace continues through December



2025 actual vs. 2026 annualized pace



Projection read

- Police events: +1%
- Reports: +4%
- Arrests: +15%
- Collisions: -12%



Council Takeaways

What the comparison shows so far this year

- **Service demand is steady**
Police dispatched events are essentially flat compared with the same period last year.
- **Workload quality is shifting**
More original reports and arrests suggest a more substantive case/enforcement mix.
- **Targeted traffic enforcement is having an impact**
Routine infractions and collisions are down, while DUI, DWLS, and criminal traffic outcomes are up.
- **Safety indicators are mixed but encouraging**
Collisions are lower YTD; keep monitoring serious driving behavior and repeat offenders.
- **Use the YTD lens going forward**
Monthly apples-to-apples comparisons vs. annualizing.

Community Survey Signals Support for Police Resources

Residents value safety and police service—and still prioritize prompt response, traffic safety, and visible presence.

Safety is a community strength

94.7% feel safe walking during the day

Police service satisfaction

87.6% satisfied with police services

Future priority

63.5% rank prompt police response as a top priority

What the study adds

- Safety is now one of Sumner’s strongest quality-of-life drivers, including “safe place to live / low crime” as a leading reason residents choose Sumner.
- Traffic remains a top residential concern, while public disorder, homelessness, drug/alcohol crime, and lack of police presence/code enforcement appear in reasons residents feel unsafe.
- The report recommends reinforcing safety and police services as demonstrated community strengths while recognizing that declining prioritization may reflect residents feeling well met.

Resource implication

Adding officers and police resources helps sustain prompt response while expanding proactive traffic safety, visible presence, problem-solving, and investigative follow-up.



Council Takeaways

Questions?