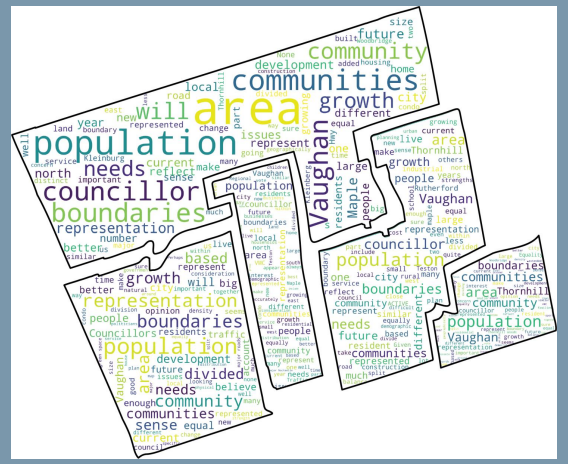
WBR Phase 1 Consultation Results Summary

What we heard...

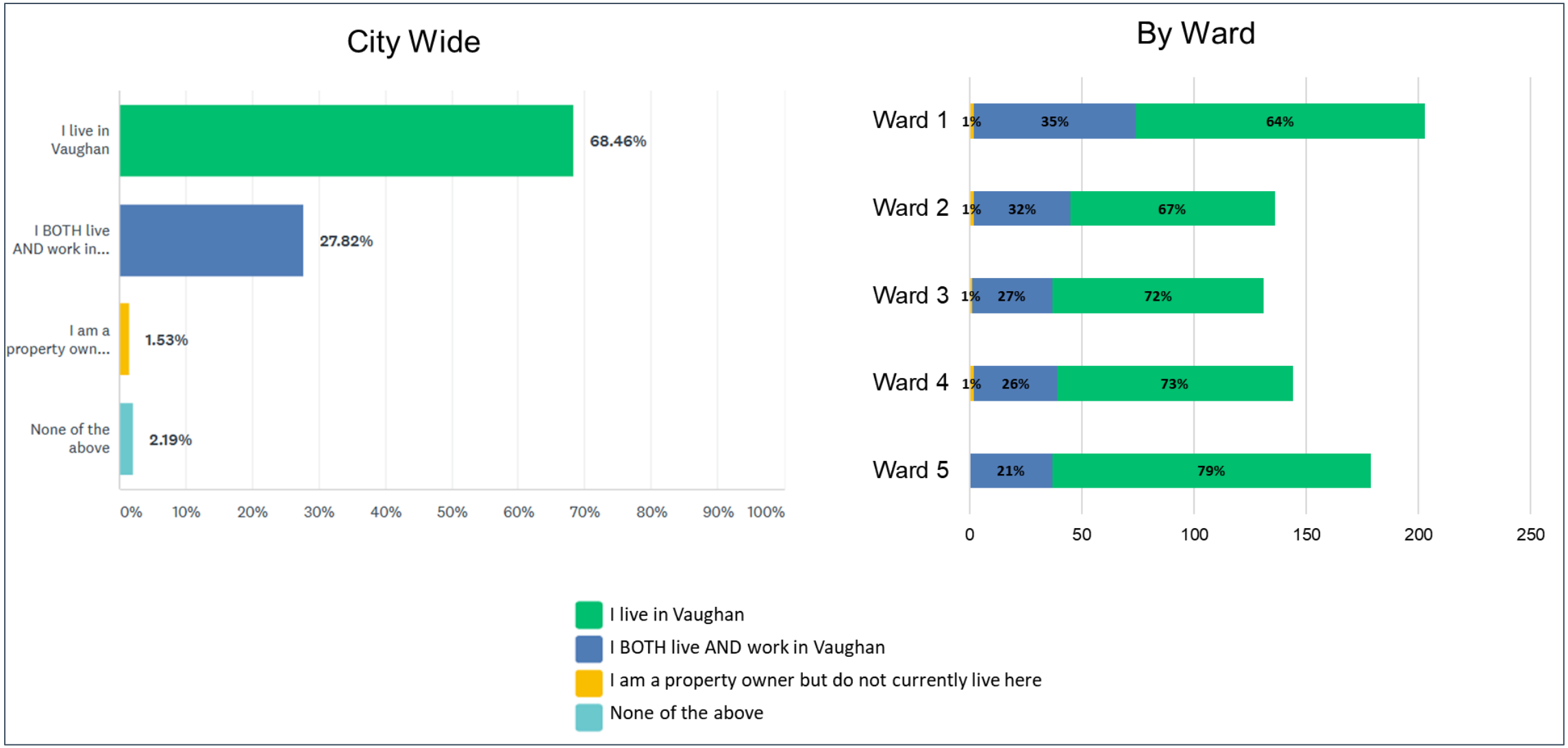
City of Vaughan
FEBRUARY 2021



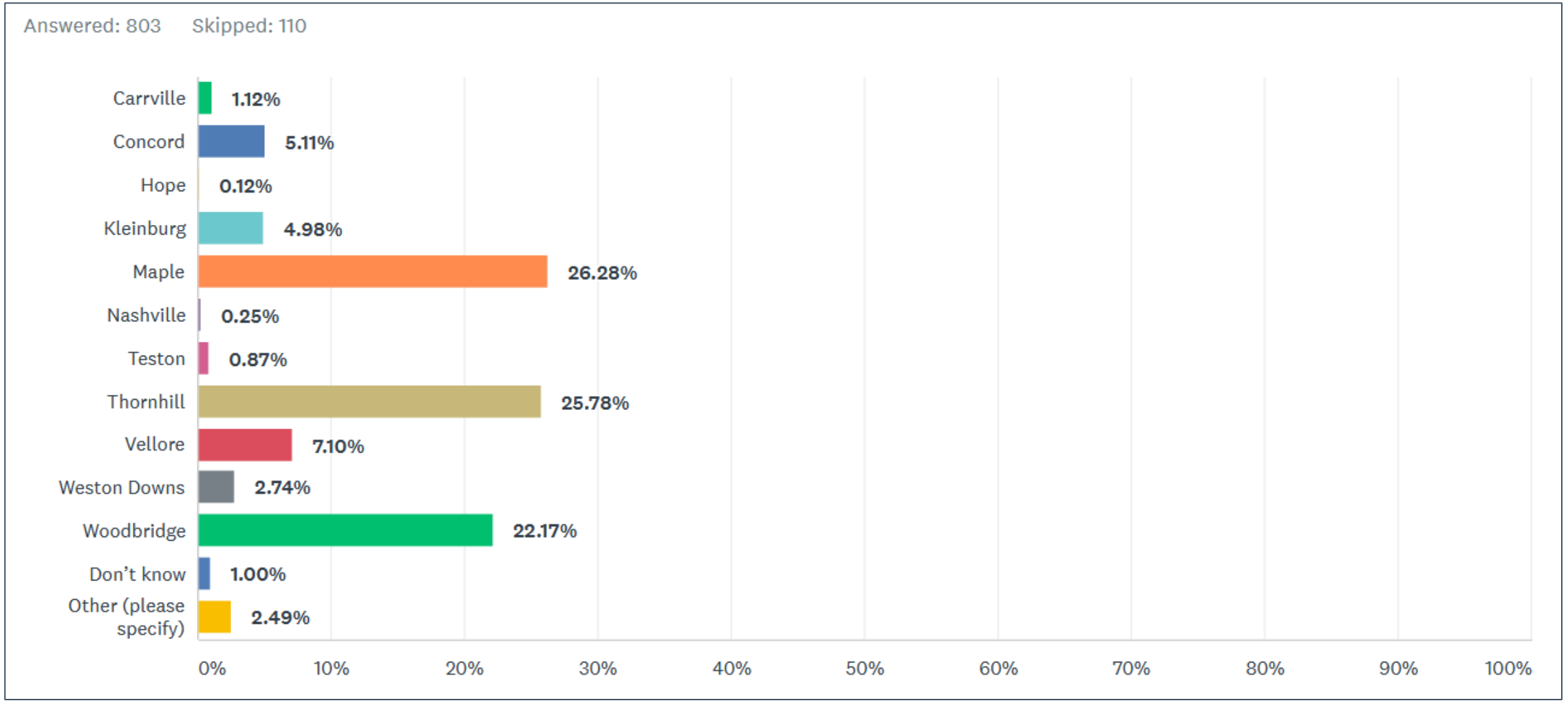
Which of the following best describes you?

- Almost all survey respondents were from Vaughan.
- There was a good cross-section of responses from the different wards, yet somewhat more responses from Wards 1 and 5 than from Wards 2, 3, and 4.
- Over 900 people clicked on the survey, almost 800 started to answer a question or two, and most importantly...
  - 585 followed through to answer the key questions; and
  - 375 of those people left thoughtful written explanations for their choices. This level of involvement in a ward boundary review is considered to be very high.
- The four virtual town hall events attracted 31 people who generated dozens of questions that were answered right away.

Which of the following best describes you?

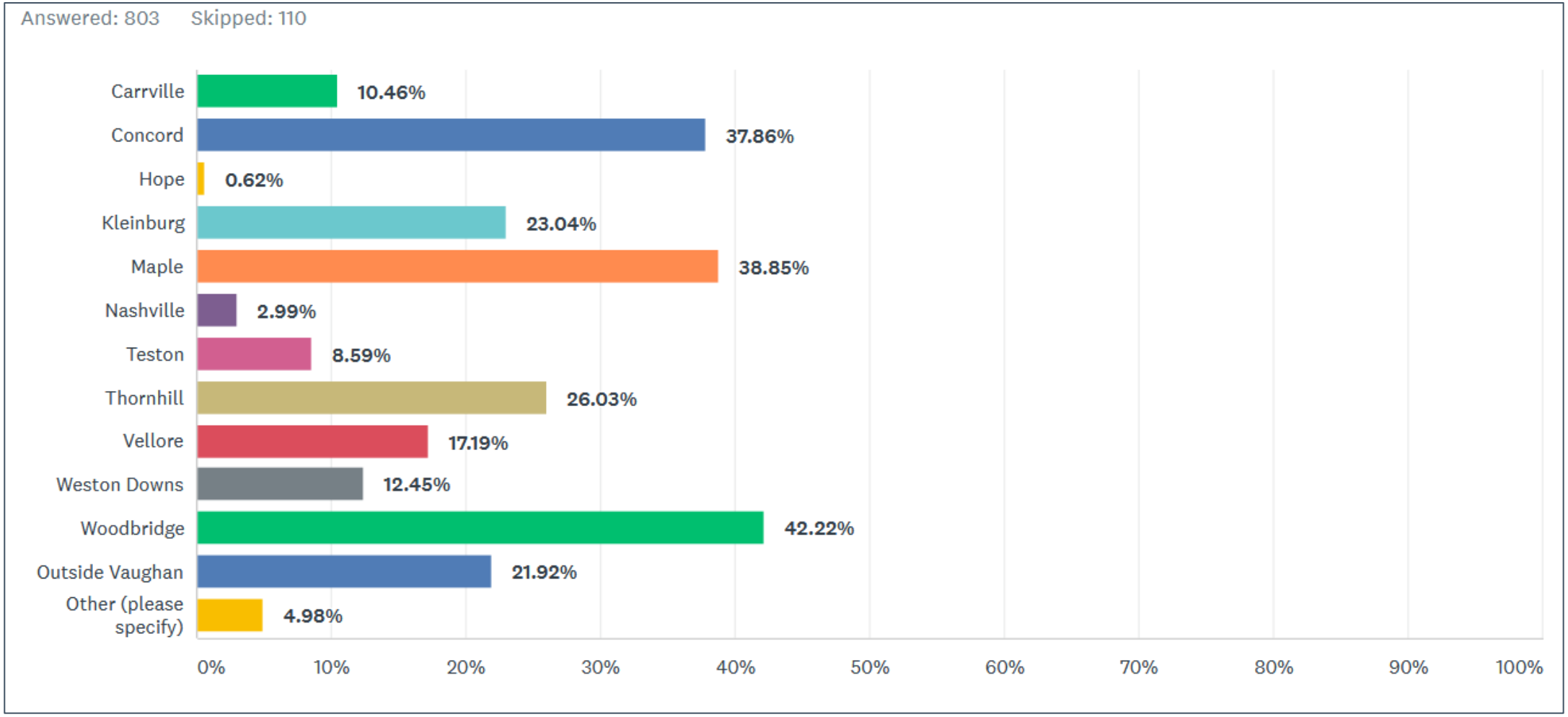


In which main community within the ward do you reside?

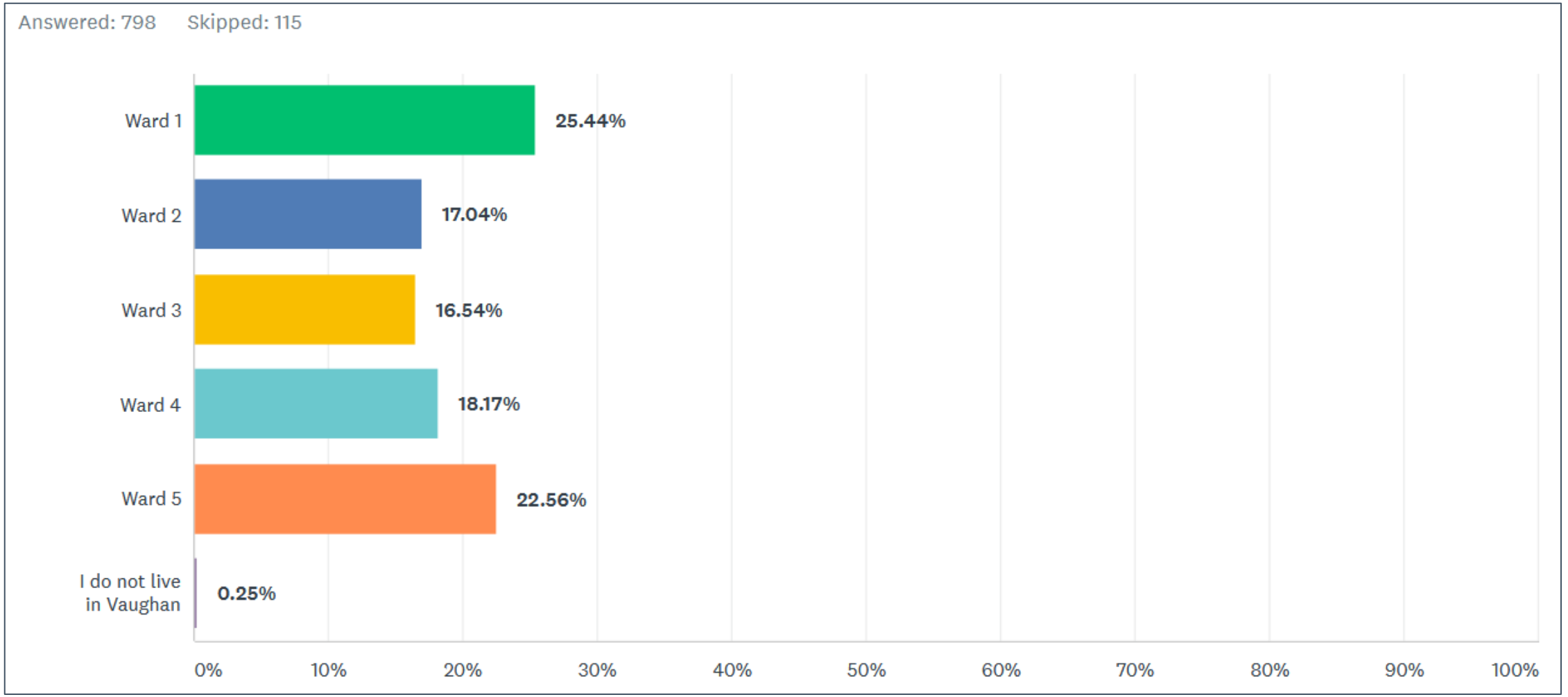


Please select up to three additional communities in Vaughan to which you feel you are connected?

(e.g. for shopping, work, school, etc.)



In which ward do you live? Use the map below to help you if you're not sure.



Do you feel the current ward boundaries accurately represent you?

- While people are relatively satisfied with how well represented they are, many had more to say about what works and what does not work. For example:
  - Ward 1 is very large and needs some re-thinking.
  - Urbanization and population growth might make the wards go out of balance. The current wards do not take future growth into account.
  - Highways (in particular the 400) need to be taken into consideration.
  - "Pockets of communities that really do not associate."
  - Large wards are hard to represent.
  - It is not clear how the old wards were created. The boundaries could make more sense.
  - General confusion and frustration with the role of Regional Councillors, though this is out of the scope for this review.
  - A substantial minority would like to look at the question of how many councillors are needed to represent the growing population.
  - Satisfaction is often linked to the responsiveness of individual councillors, not the boundaries themselves...also out of the scope for the review, but important to hear.

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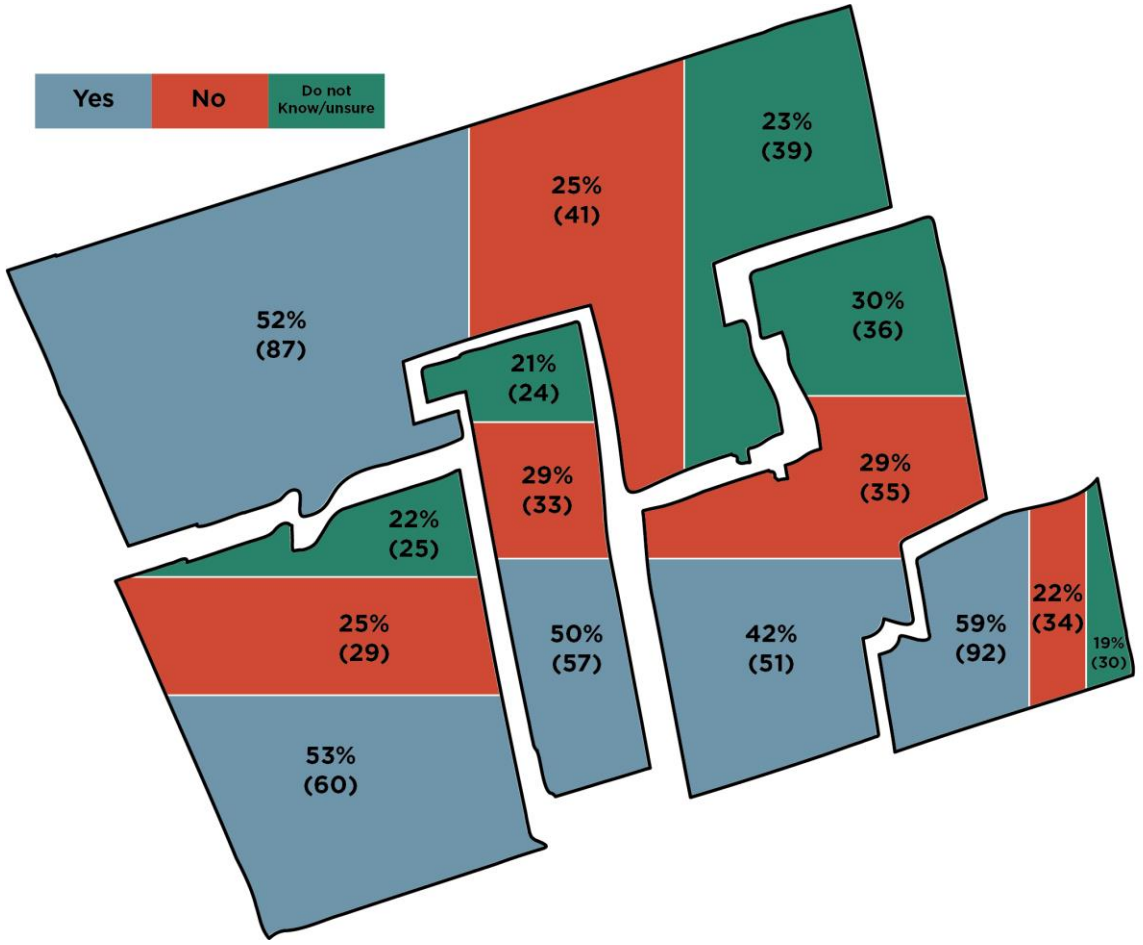
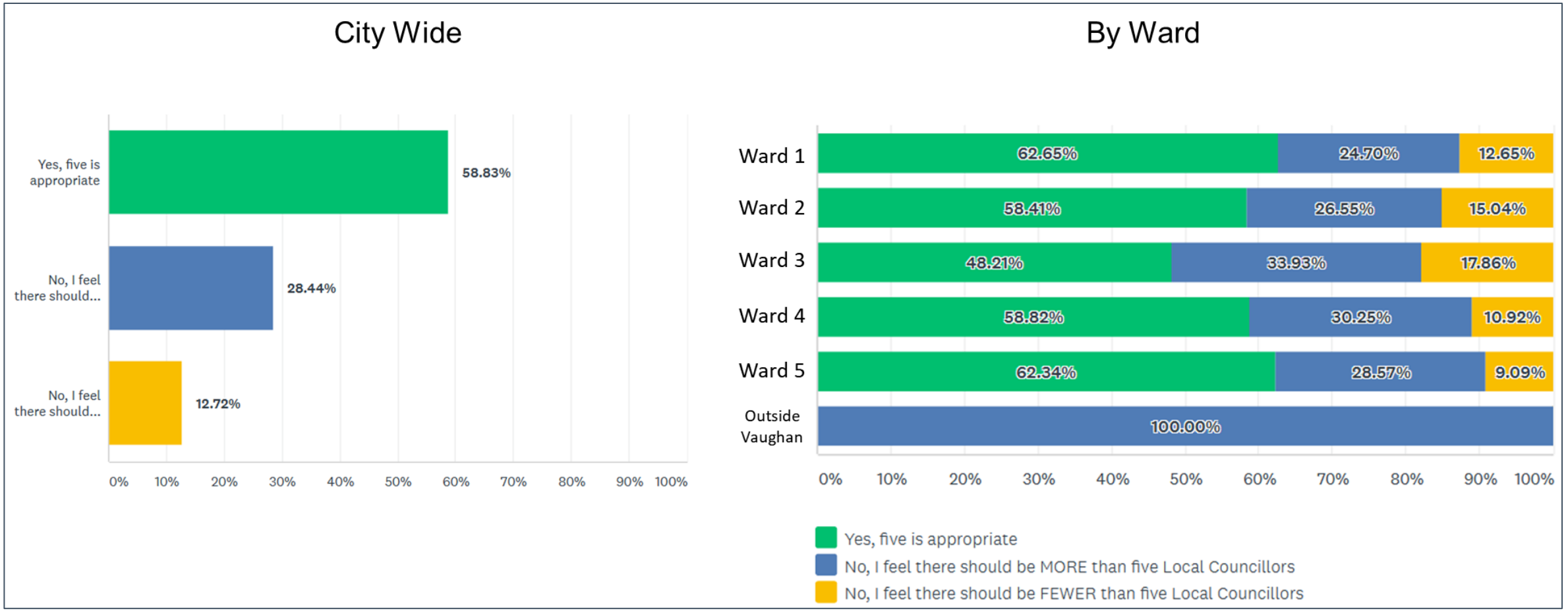
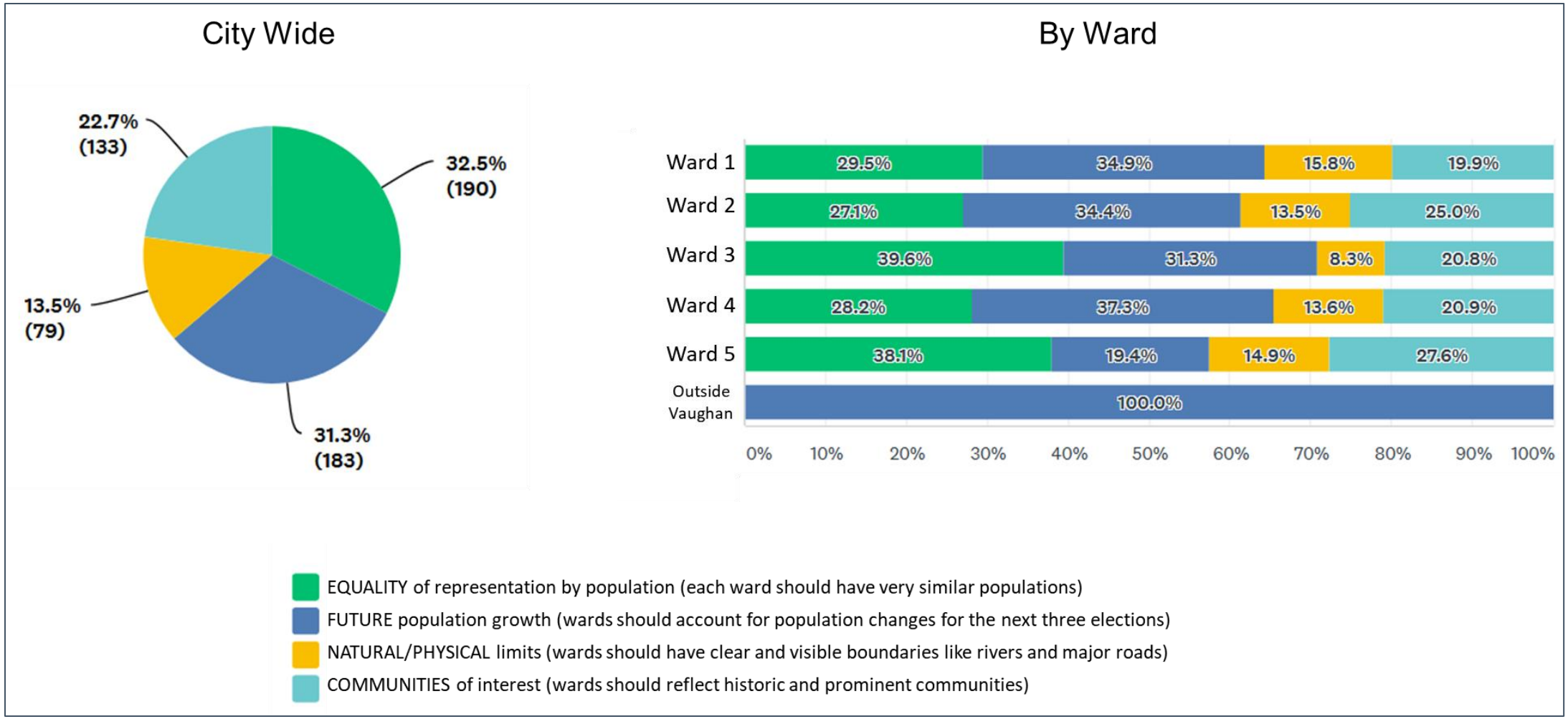


Does the City have the right number of Local Councillors? (not including the Mayor and three Regional Councillors)



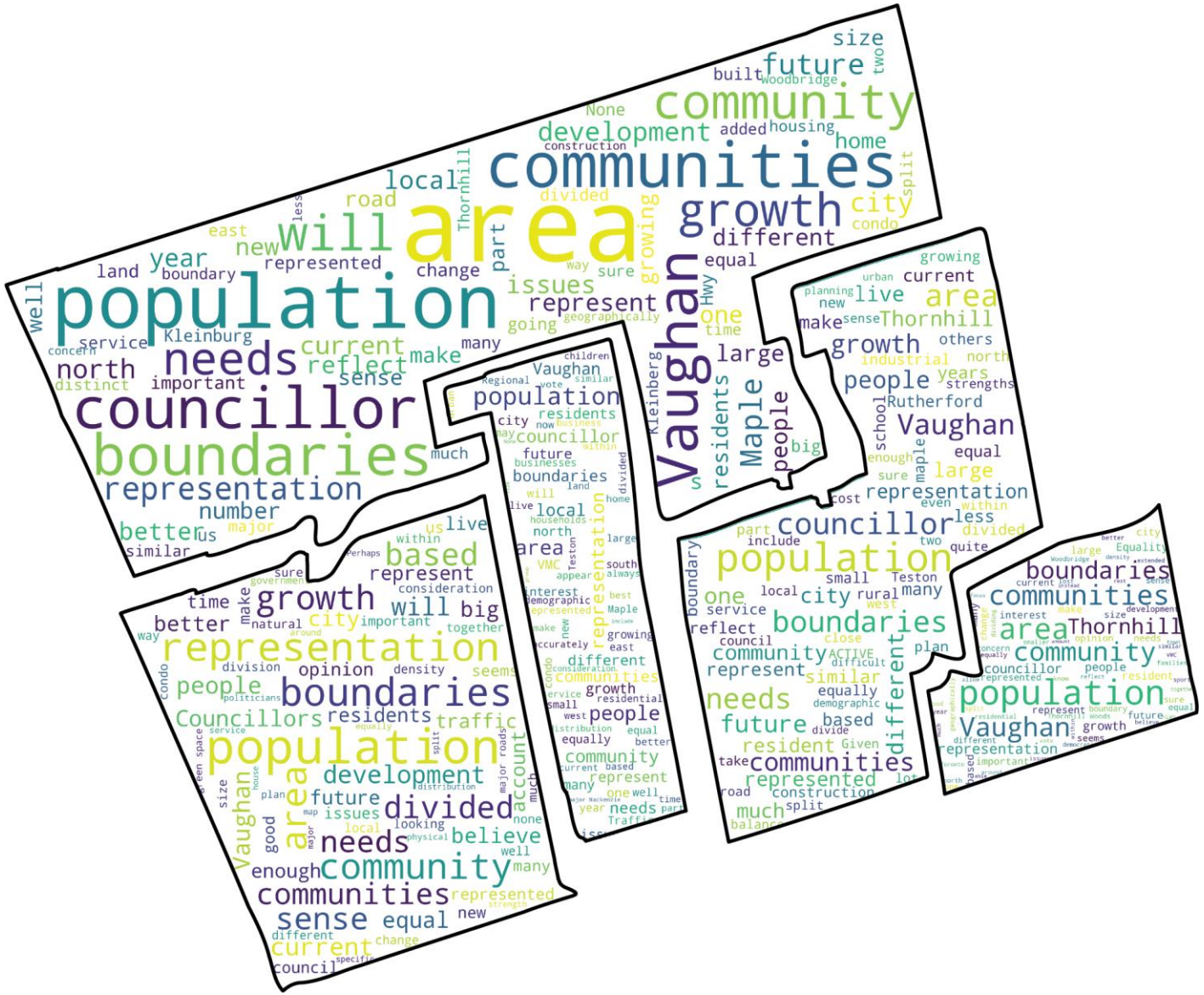
Which principle do you believe should be given the highest priority as the Consultant Team assesses the ward boundaries in Vaughan? The others would still be considered but given less emphasis.



Which principle do you believe should be given the highest priority as the Consultant Team assesses the ward boundaries in Vaughan? The others would still be considered but given less emphasis.

- Of the 585 who answered this question, almost half took the time to explain their answers.
- Equality and fairness are clearly high values among respondents. Several people argued that focusing on getting the numbers balanced might have a unifying effect, because the wards would reduce the emphasis on differences among neighbourhoods, in ethnicity, class, and income levels. Residents have connections across the City and emphasizing differences can cause unnecessary "rifts." Mostly, the arguments in favour of equality have to do with a councillor's ability to represent people and help their constituents in a timely manner.
- The surprisingly large percentage of people who prioritized future growth were clear that Vaughan is still growing and they want to see good planning. There is a lot of concern/awareness of issues around traffic, new developments, and infrastructure demands.
- Over 25% of respondents prioritized communities of interest for ward boundaries, citing concerns that councillors "represent my values," and maintaining and preserving historic characteristics, and focusing on policy issues that matter the most to people. It is important to residents that communities not "get lost with population growth," or at least they should not get split up.
- Among the small group of respondents who prioritized physical and natural boundaries, a concern for the environment bubbled up, as did the importance of clear boundaries because they support a sense of identity.

What We Heard

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