

WELCOME

The Orleans Preservation Paradox: Do We Truly Value our Historic Built Environment?

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Mission Statement

The Orleans Citizens Forum is a non-partisan organization dedicated to providing an unbiased platform for open discussion and diverse viewpoints, empowering residents to connect, learn, and collaboratively improve Orleans' quality of life.



Program Year 2026-2027

- Revamp Website
- Create Social Media Presence
- Enhance Forum Experience
- Host 6+ Forums (Town meeting, Housing, Capital Priorities, Education)
- Launch Orleans Citizen Academy



Support

We rely on the generosity of our attendees and supporters to finance our work

Thank You!



CAPE COD 5



Historic Preservation

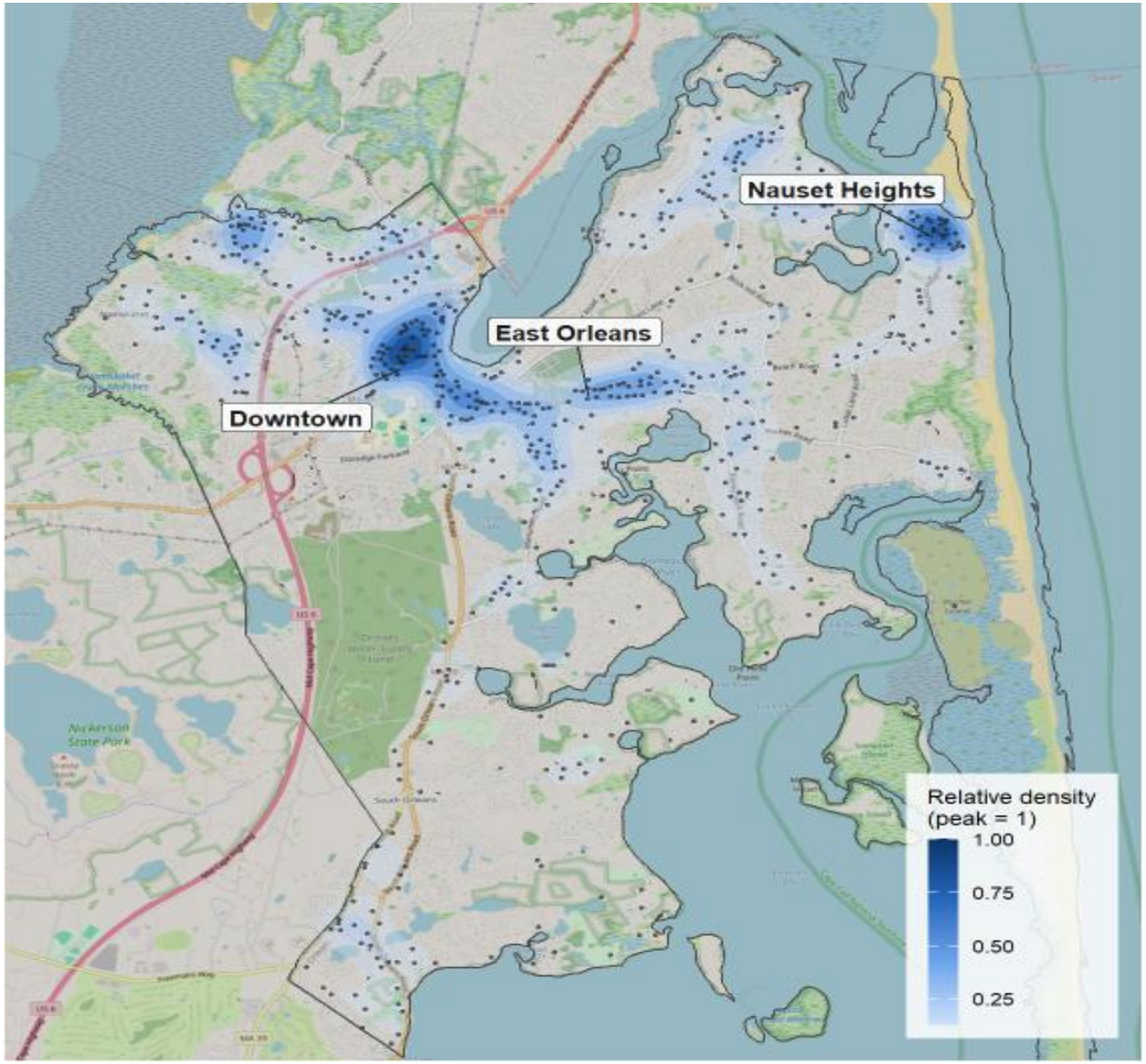
"Protect and preserve the important historic and cultural features of the town….that help shape its special character…future development respects…traditions and distinctive character."*

- Moderator: **Ryan Bray**, Cape Cod Chronicle
- **Thaddeus Herrick**, Member, Orleans Historical Commission
- **Peter Polhemus,** Founding Partner (retired) Polhemus Savery DaSilva Architects Builders
- **Ellen Briggs,** President and **Fred Ecker,** Vice President, Protect Our Past

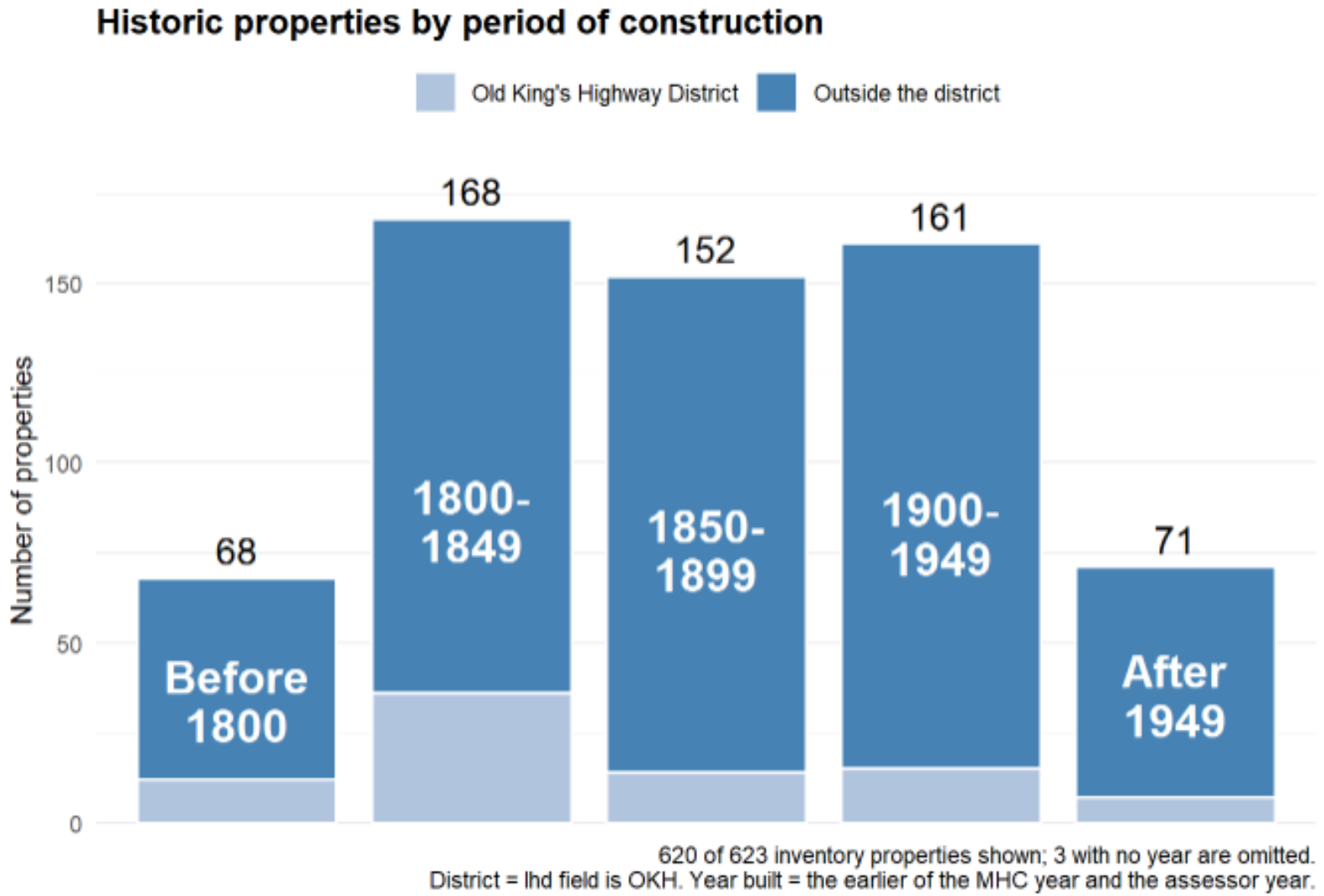


*Source: the Town of Orleans Comprehensive Plan, 2026

Significant Buildings: Historic Property Inventory



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Total inventory: 623

Old Kings Highway District : 84

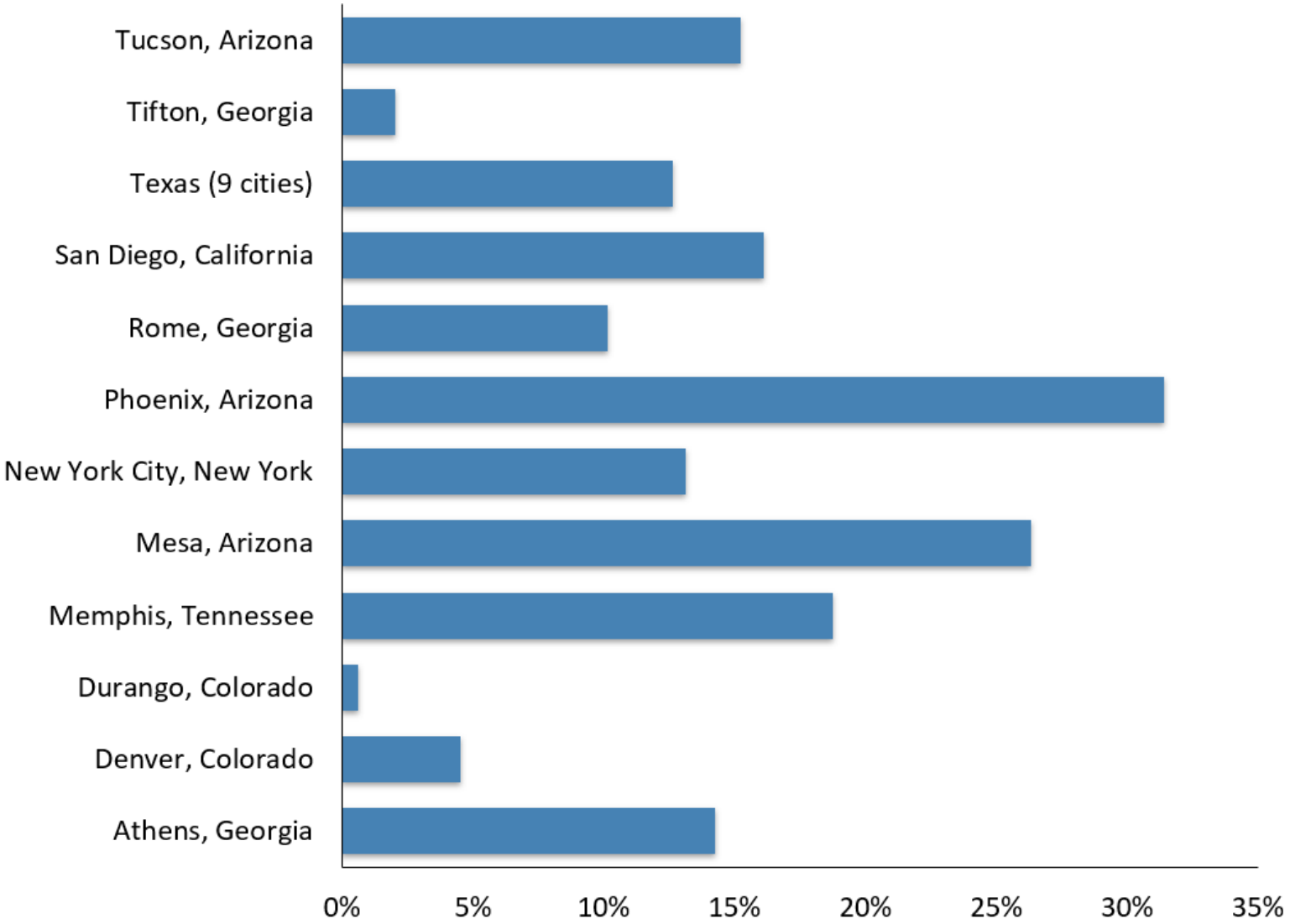
Historic Preservation Economic Benefits

Massachusetts' most common visitor activities:

Visiting friends/relatives	35%
Historic sites	23%
Shopping	21%
Beach	18%
Museums	17%
Fine dining	16%
Urban sightseeing	13%
Rural sightseeing	10%
Unique local cuisine	10%
Local/folk arts/crafts	9%

Source: ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MASSACHUSETTS, May 2002

Property Value Premiums for Homes in Historic Districts



Source: Amirtahmasebi, Rana; Licciardi, Guido.
The economics of uniqueness : investing in historic city cores and cultural heritage assets for sustainable development (English). Urban development series Washington, DC: World Bank.
http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/727651468340186831

Historic Preservation Environmental Benefits

Significantly, even if it is assumed that a new building will operate at 30-percent greater efficiency than an existing building, ***it can take between 10 and 80 years*** *for a new, energy efficient building to overcome the climate change impacts that were created during construction.*

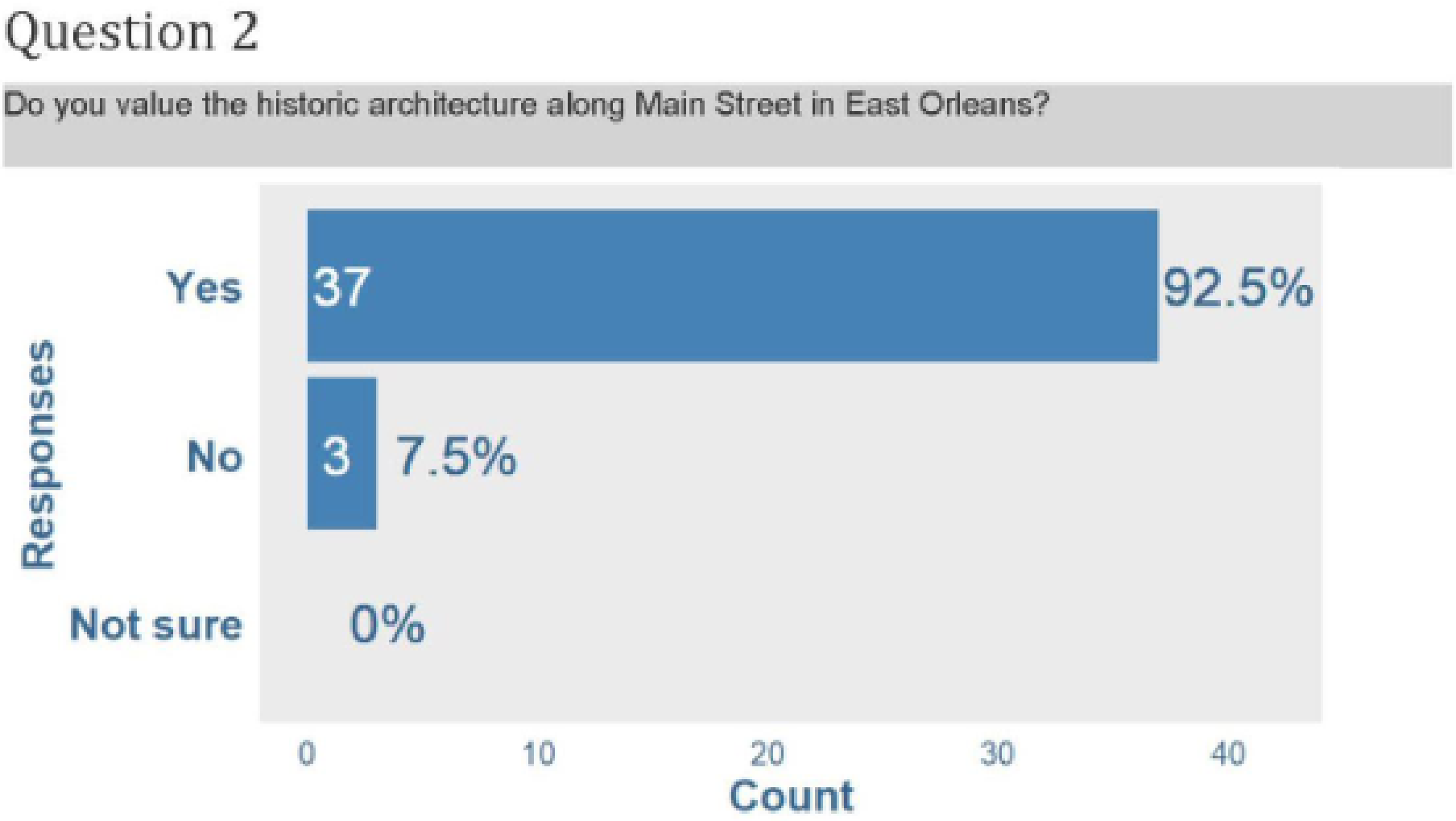
Preservation Green Lab, National Trust for Historic Preservation. (2011). The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Environmental Value of Building Reuse. Seattle, WA: National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Put another way…

Tear down one small building and you have wiped out the entire environmental benefit from the last 1,344,000 aluminum cans that were recycled.

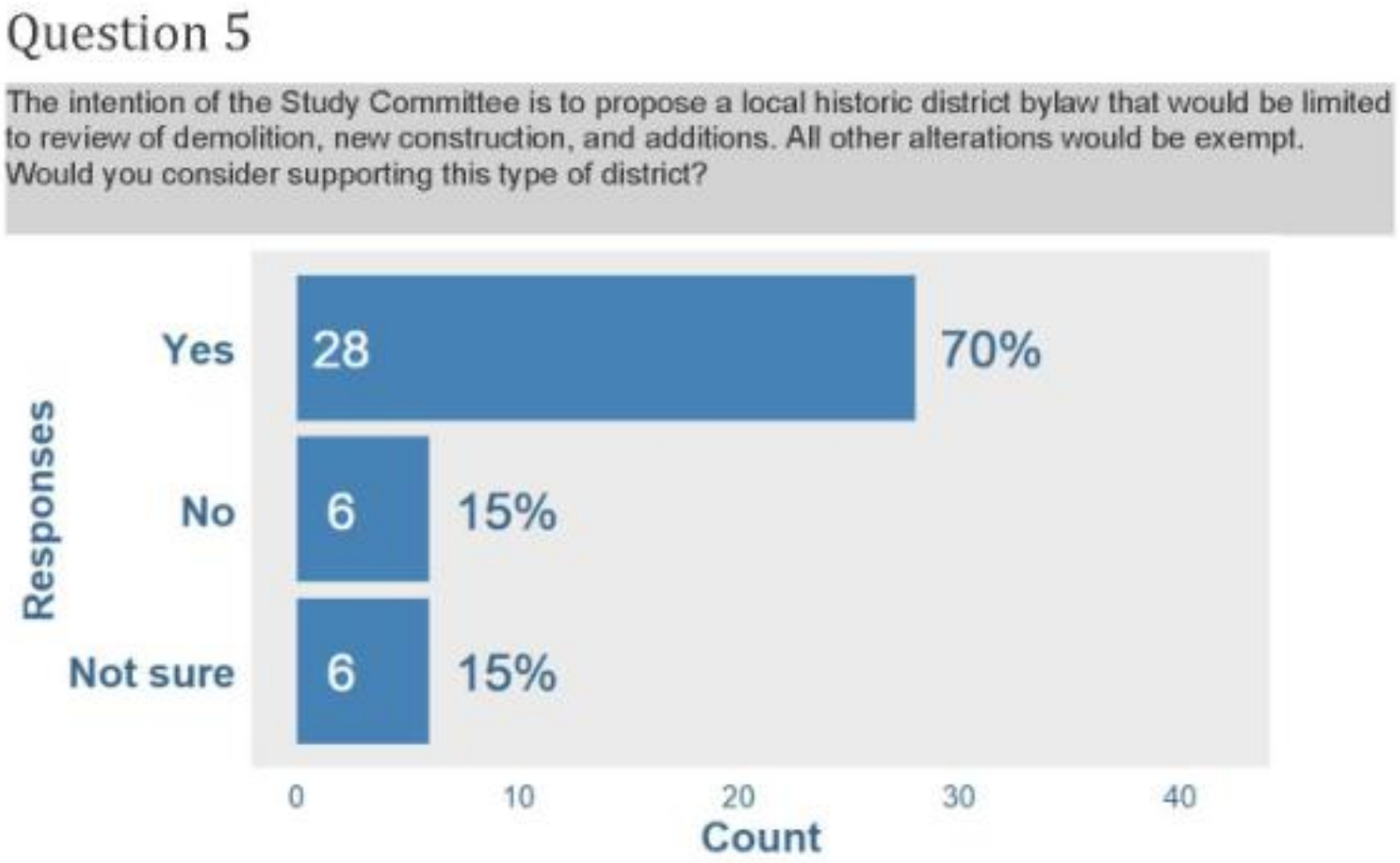
Keynote Address by Donovan D. Rypkema Alexandria Historic Preservation Conference and Town Meeting May 5, 2007

Residents Value Historic Architecture



(The complete study is available on the Historical Commission website)

Residents Favor “Lite” Historic District



(The complete study is available on the Historical Commission website)





The biggest beneficiaries [of historic preservation] are the local citizens who gain a renewed appreciation of their own community and its unique history.

Historic Preservation

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*Source: the Town of Orleans Comprehensive Plan, 2026

Next Steps

- Visit the website to see the summary and additional reference material
- Decide what what steps (if any) are needed to meet your vision of Historic Preservation in Orleans
- Attend future meetings of the Historical Commission
- Review Spring Town Warrant



A Few Last Items

- Sign in to receive our mailings
- Consider volunteering – marketing support needed
- Complete the evaluation survey tonight or on-line
- Join us on **November 9** for **How Does Town Meeting Work?**



THANK YOU FOR COMING TONIGHT

