

Columbus KTC Sangha Meeting

February 28, 2016

Agenda

- Activities Since the Fire
- Results from the Building Survey
- Next Steps
- Open Discussion

Activities Since the Fire

Prayers and Support

- Since the fire on Sunday, January 31st, we've received an outpouring of prayers and support from Karmapa, KTD, KTC centers, members and friends, neighbors, city officials, and religious organizations.
- On February 4th, the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio organized a Peace Circle in our parking lot.



On Saturday, February 13th, Lama Karma Wangdu presided over a Serkhyem (tea) and Sur (singed) offering to the Buddhas, bodhisattvas, and all who live in the locality, thanking them for their help and protection.

Advice from Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche

- “Don’t be sad - rebuild!”
- “Rebuild - that is the best prayers you can make.”
- “Don’t try to create a Tibetan-style building; that will be too difficult and too expensive. Instead, make it conventional on the outside and beautiful on the inside.”
- “Make the new building larger than the old one.”
- In addition, several years ago when the KTC first considered a new building, Khenpo Rinpoche gave the KTC Board advice about how to proceed: "Look at your options. Then gather money and members, so that when an option presents itself, you can take advantage of your options."



Response from the City

- On the day after the fire, Lama Kathy received a call from Mayor Andrew Ginther and he expressed his sadness at the fire at Columbus KTC and offered support in a variety of ways.
- Mayor Ginther attended the Peace Circle organized by the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio and shared his wishes for our center to rebuild.
- We thank the City of Columbus for putting up the “\$5,000 Reward” posters on our protective fence.



Demolition of the Columbus KTC Building



- Two days after the building fire, the City of Columbus issued an emergency order to demolish the Columbus KTC building and remove all building debris.
- Advanced Construction Company has been working closely with multiple city and environmental organizations to coordinate the demolition effort.
- The foundation was filled with dirt this past week and we received the certificate that the hazardous materials have been removed.



Status of the Insurance Claim

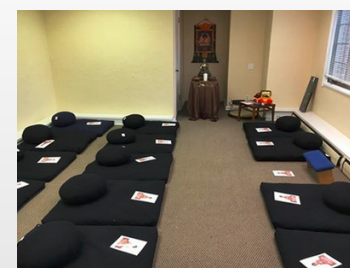
- Our insurance company, Church Mutual, has been fantastic in helping us organize our insurance claim.
- Dozens of hours have gone into making lists of items lost in the fire, and we are ready to submit very soon.
- We expect to receive a full settlement which includes:
 - \$443,000 for the building
 - \$66,500 for the building contents
 - \$5000 for a Special Art Fund to replace sacred objects
 - \$100,000 for building code improvements (should we decide to rebuild)
 - \$10,000 as a demolition allowance
 - \$10,000 for emergency rental space
- We will share details of the final settlement as soon as we receive it.



Covenant Presbyterian Church hosted our Chenrezig Sadhana on the Tuesday following the fire.

Temporary Space

Since the fire, we've been nomads moving from location to location for our programs.



Central Ohio Center for Pragmatic Buddhism hosted our Chenrezig Sadhana on Feb 16th.



The McConnell Arts Center offered us space for the first two Sunday programs including a Losar Sacred Day Retreat.



Congregation Tifereth Israel offered us space for our programs on Sundays and Tuesdays for the foreseeable future.

Many thanks to ALL of our generous hosts!!!

The Neighborhood Response

- The Franklinton Development Association and Franklinton Board of Trade provided ideas and suggestions for rebuilding in Franklinton.
- The East Franklinton Review Board provided info about special zoning and building guidelines and described the process for a site plan review.
- 400 West Rich St and the Vanderelli Room offered us space and moral support.
- The Columbus Idea Foundry hosted a potluck for us on Friday, February, 19th.
- We feel loved and uplifted by the neighborhood and are grateful for the inclusion and support.



Recovered Items

- Our goal is to salvage as many items as we can, taking advice from Khenpo Rinpoche and KTD lamas.
 - Items that cannot be salvaged may be offered to KTC sangha members as mementos.
- Kanjur and Tanjur texts
 - Currently drying; need to determine if they can be saved.
- Rupas
 - 18 survived; most of the patina has been altered due to heat.
- Sadhana texts and covers
 - All severely smoke damaged; best to replace.
- Thangkas
 - 5 survived; the actual painting ok but brocade needs to be replaced.
- Meditation Cushions
 - Destroyed; all need to be replaced.
- Musical Instruments
 - Condition varies by instrument; most sound good.



Fundraising Update



- GoFundMe

- Over \$44,000 raised to date!

- The Columbus Foundation

- A Columbus KTC Rebuilding Fund was initiated by Mayor Ginther at the Columbus Foundation.

- Cols Foundation attracts a different funding audience and provides fund management support.

- \$10,000 required to establish the fund. Money from the GoFundMe account was used for this purpose.

- Fundraisers organized by other groups along with gifts

- KTD sent a letter to all of the KTCs asking them to offer prayers and financial support.

- Athens KTC, Dallas KTC, Wichita KTC, and others responded with local fundraisers to support our rebuilding effort

- On February 9th, “Lion’s Roar,” the online magazine for Shambala Sun, ran a short article about the fire and promoted the GoFundMe link.

Financial Update

- Operating revenue and expenses
 - About \$55,000 per year
 - We had about \$35,000 in the bank before the fire
- Building fund
 - We are creating a separate account for the building fund
- Gifts
 - Many gifts such as thankgas and rupas have been sent to us by individuals and KTCs around the country
 - \$1500+ donated outside of GoFundMe and the Columbus Foundation.



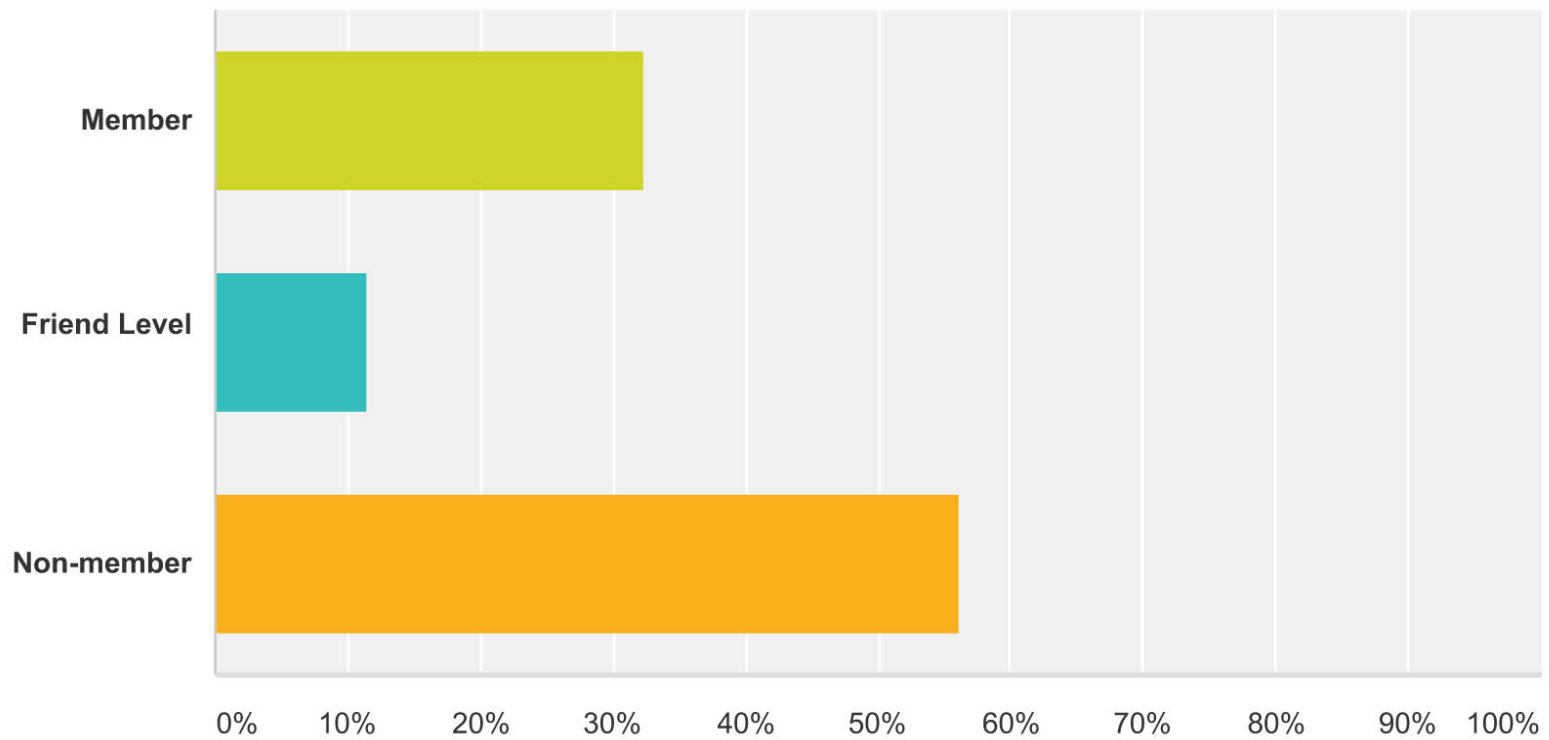
Getting Ready for a New Home

- There are three options under consideration: Buy, Build or Remodel
- Meetings with an architect associated with our home monastery and Karmapa
- Providing a site plan that we can share with the East Franklinton Review Board to see if rebuilding on the Grubb St property is possible.
- Meeting with a commercial realtor
- Average cost for new build is approximately \$150 per sq foot
- Average cost for existing building is approximately \$30 to \$50 per sq foot
- Estimate for our new building will be between 5000 to 10,000 sq feet
- Appraisal of our property is underway
- Begin looking at existing properties in the near future
- Meeting with an attorney to advise us on real estate transactions
- Find titles for the three parcels owned by Columbus KTC
- Offered to represent us as needed pro bono

Building Survey Results

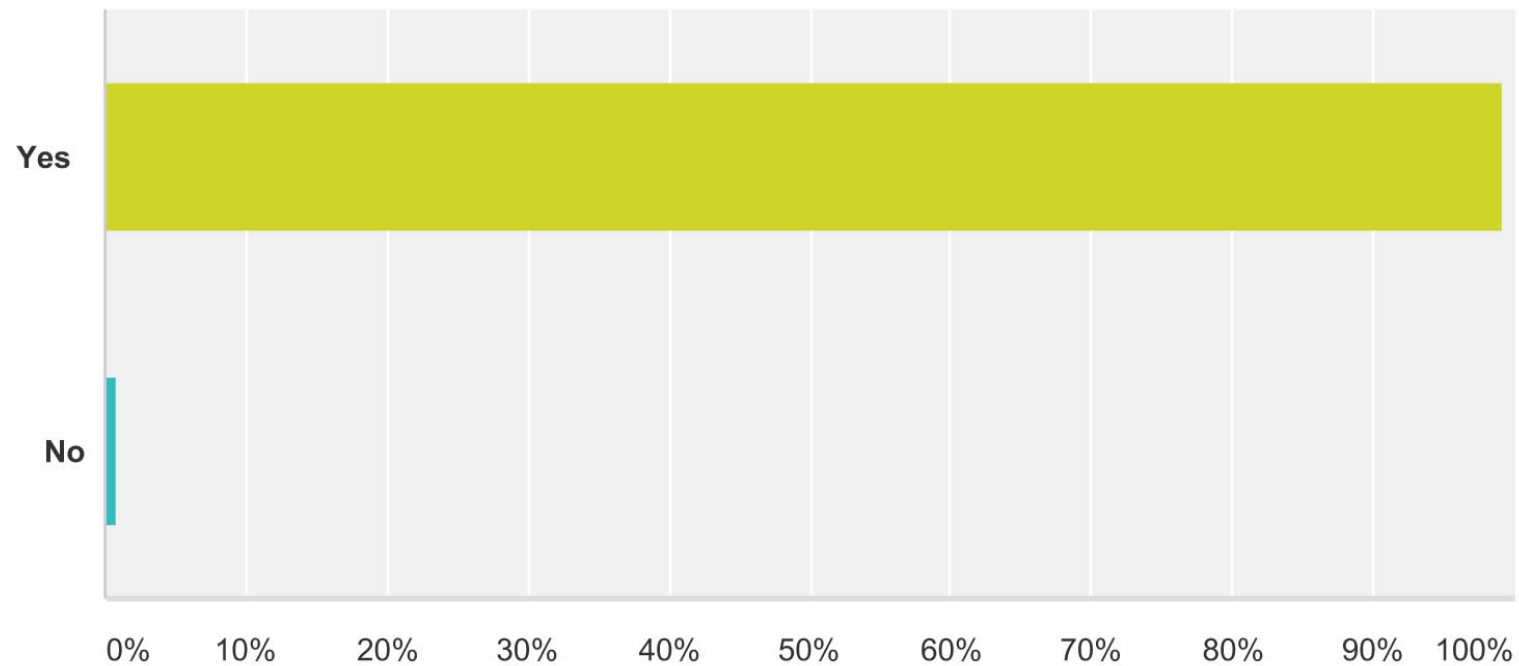
Q2 Identify your current Columbus KTC member status.

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



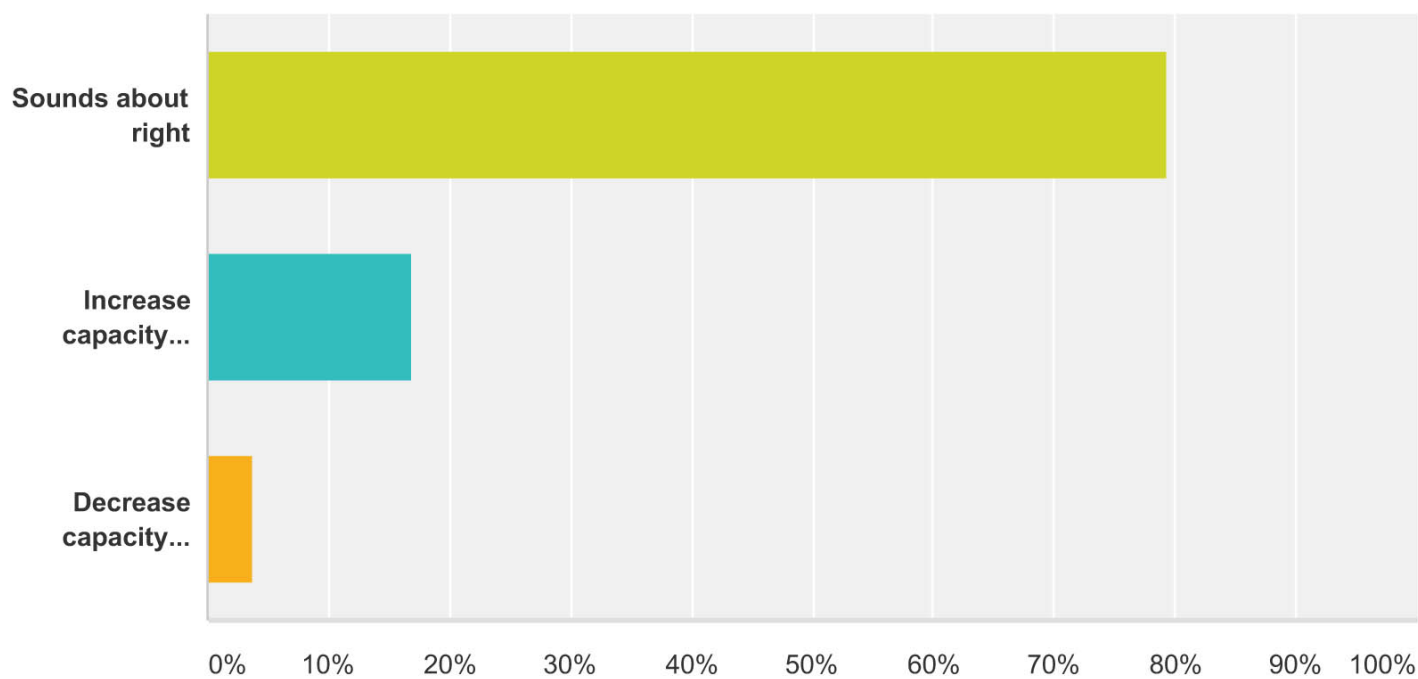
Q3 Should Columbus KTC build a shrine room?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



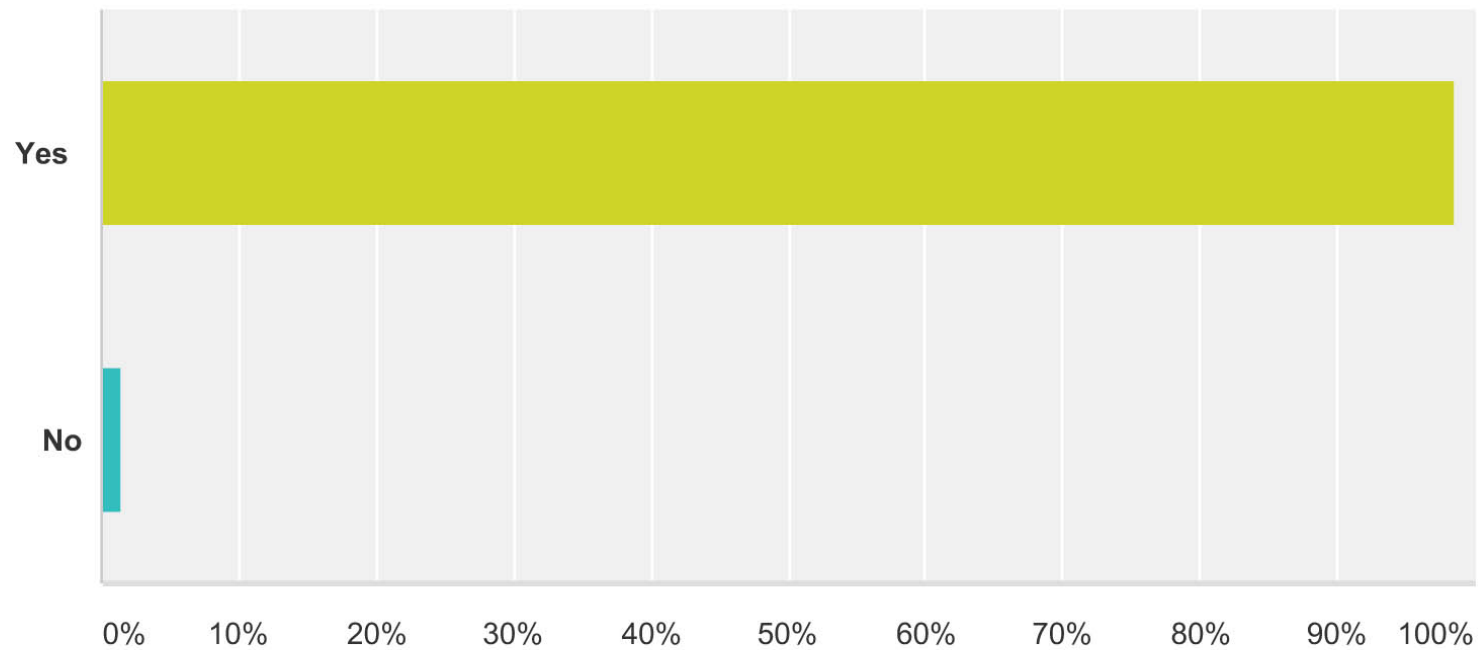
Q4 Should the capacity for the shrine room be for 150 people (projected five year growth)?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



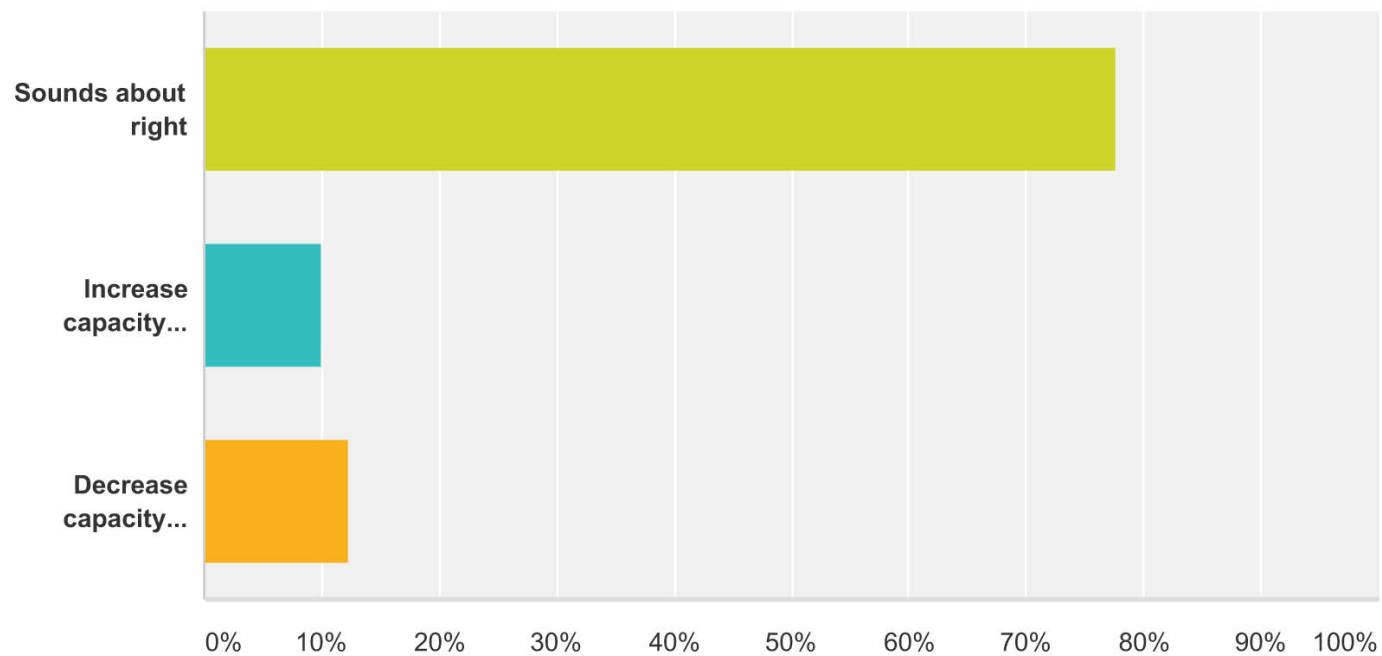
Q5 Should Columbus KTC build a classroom for Introduction to Meditation and Buddhism classes?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



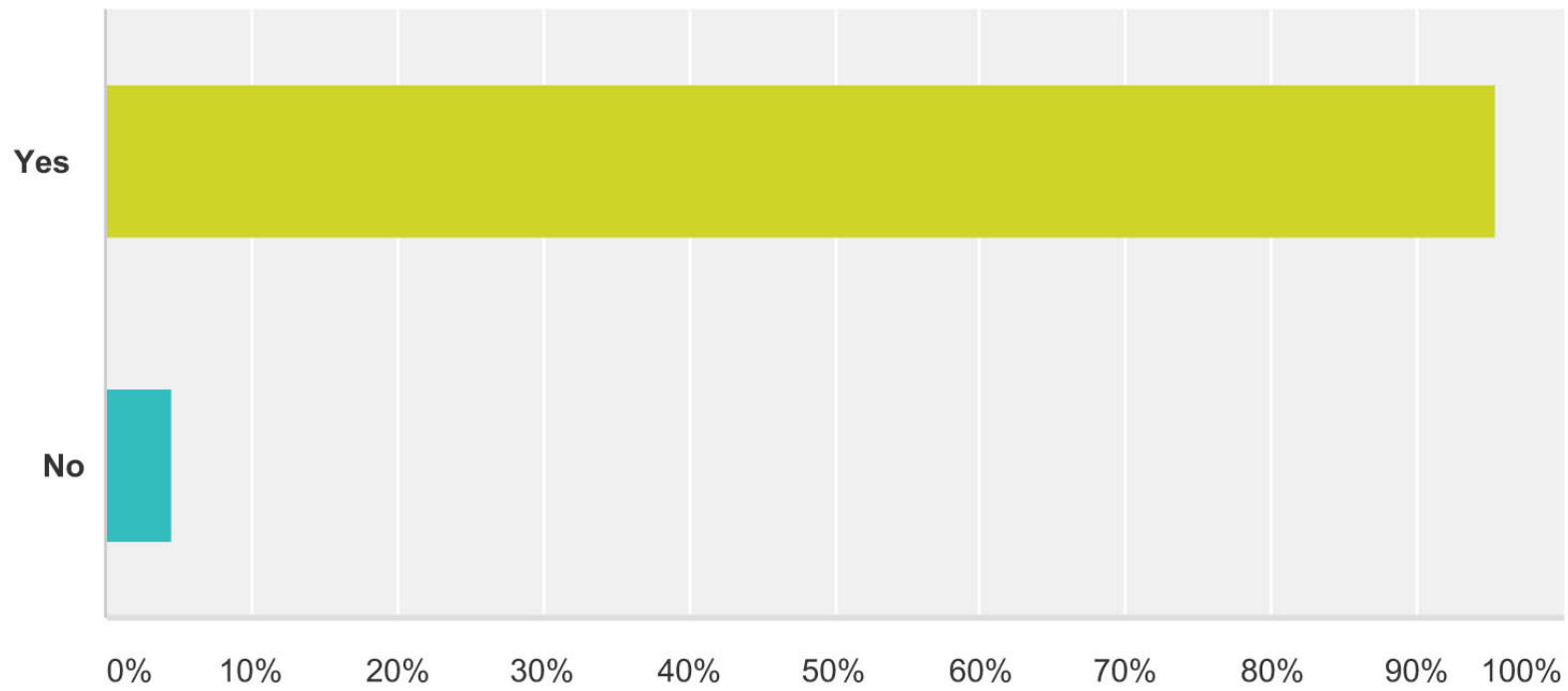
Q6 Should the capacity for the Introduction to Meditation and Buddhism classroom be for 40 people (projected five year growth)?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



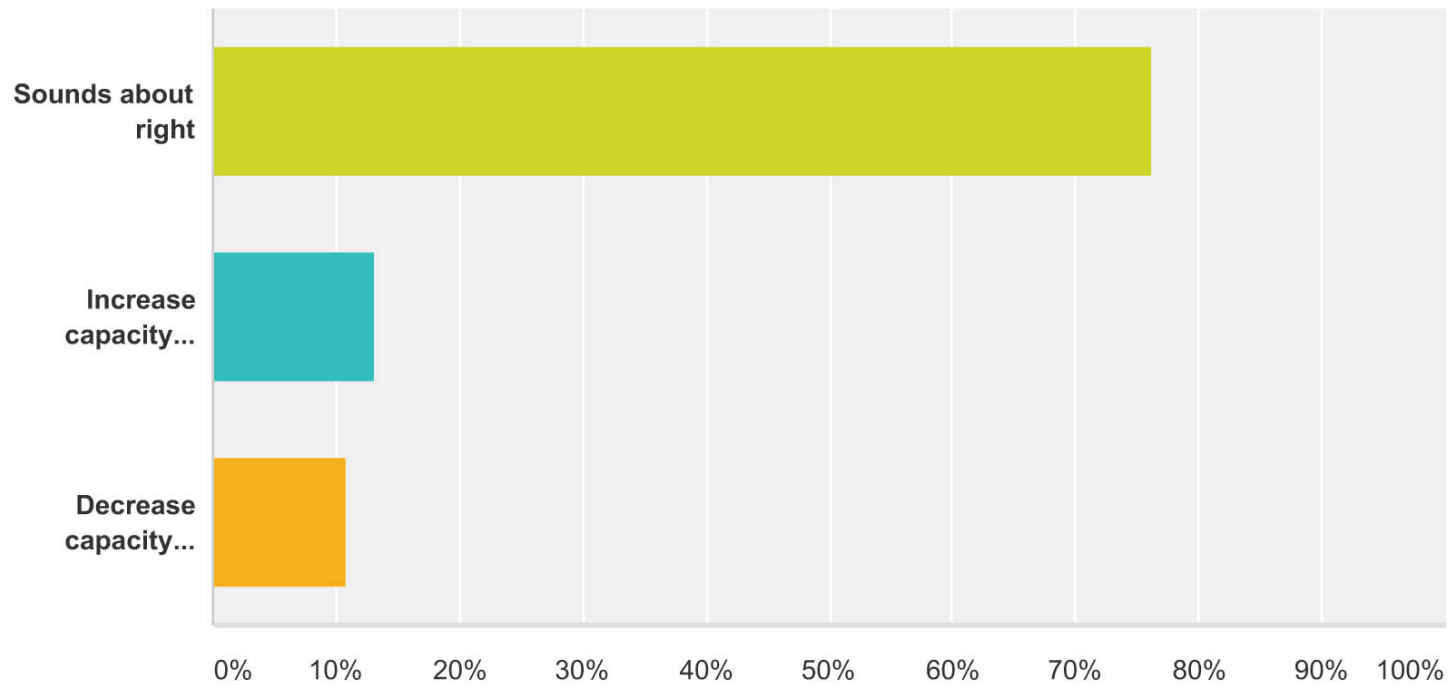
Q7 Should Columbus KTC build a Community Room with a Dharma Store?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



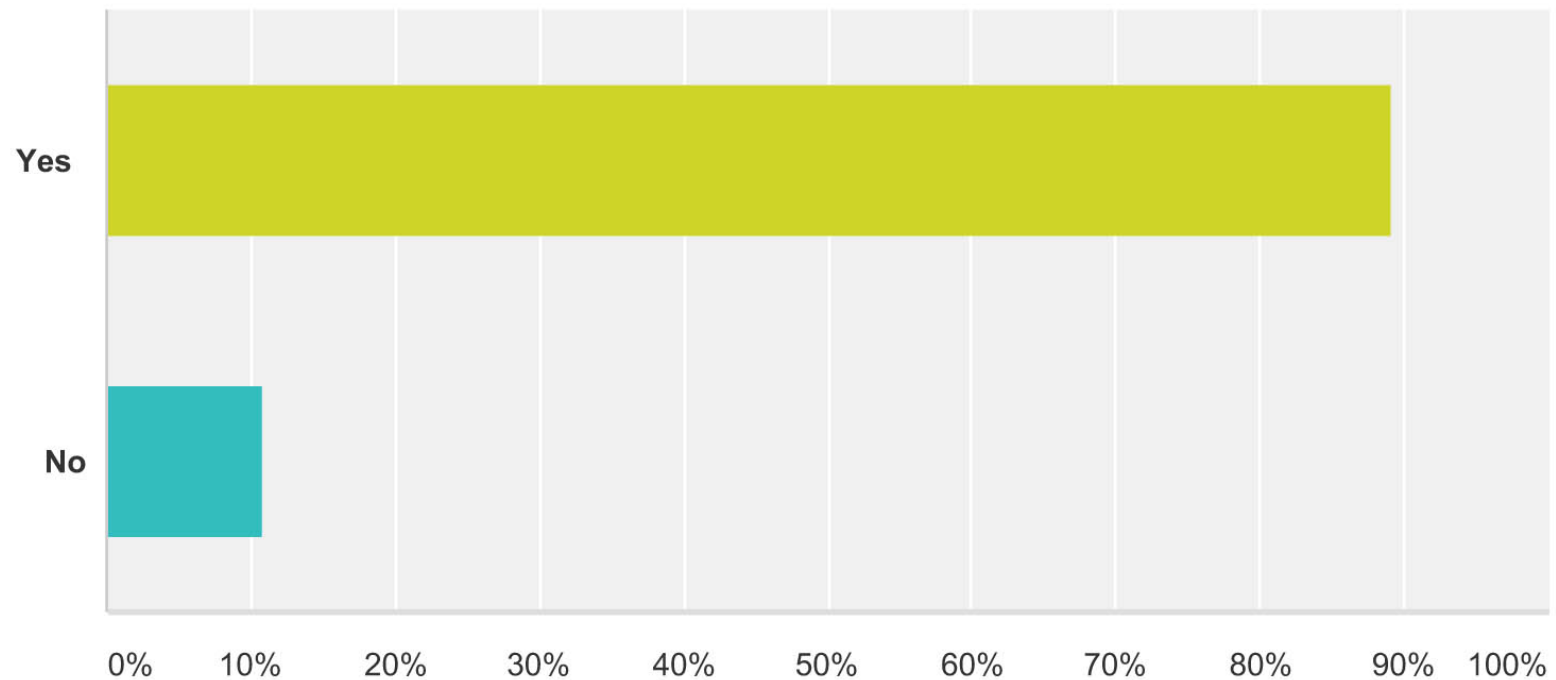
Q8 Should the capacity for the Community Room with a Dharma Store be for 100 people (projected five year growth)?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



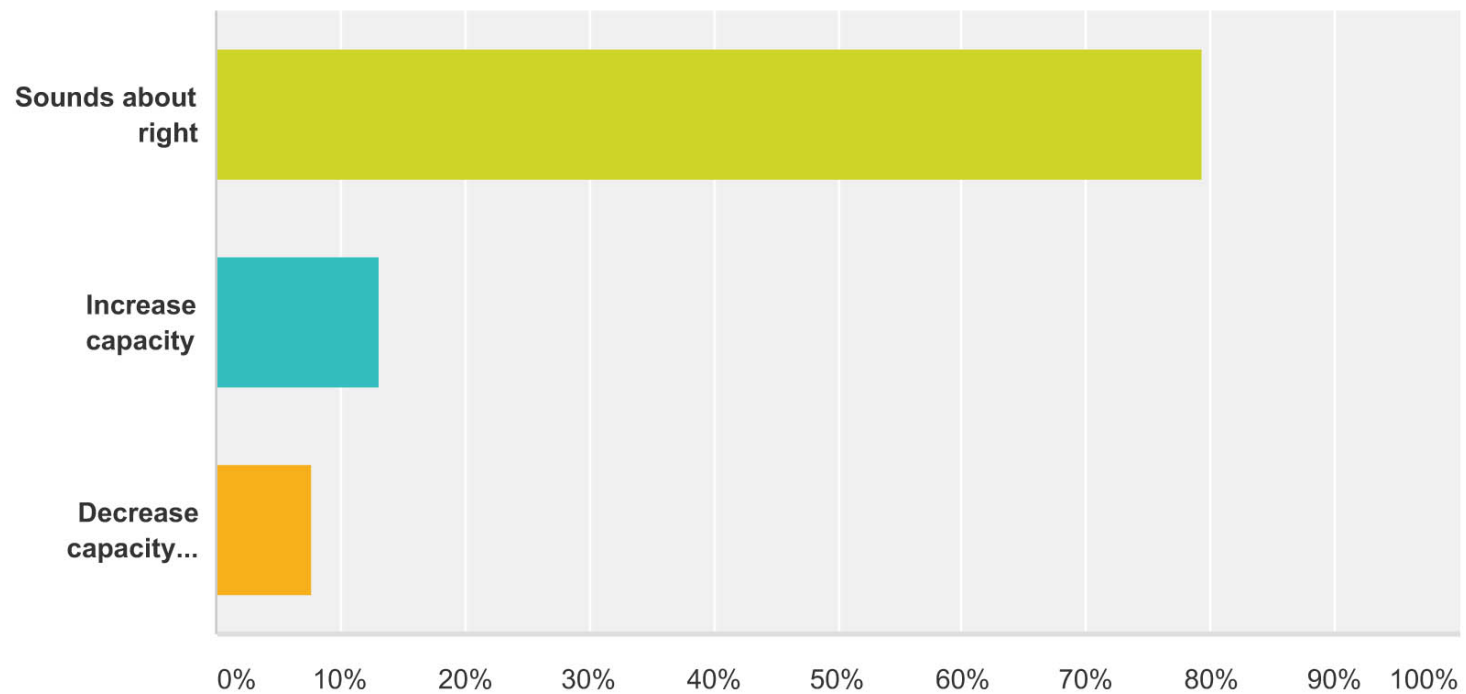
Q9 Should Columbus KTC build a classroom for the Kids Program?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



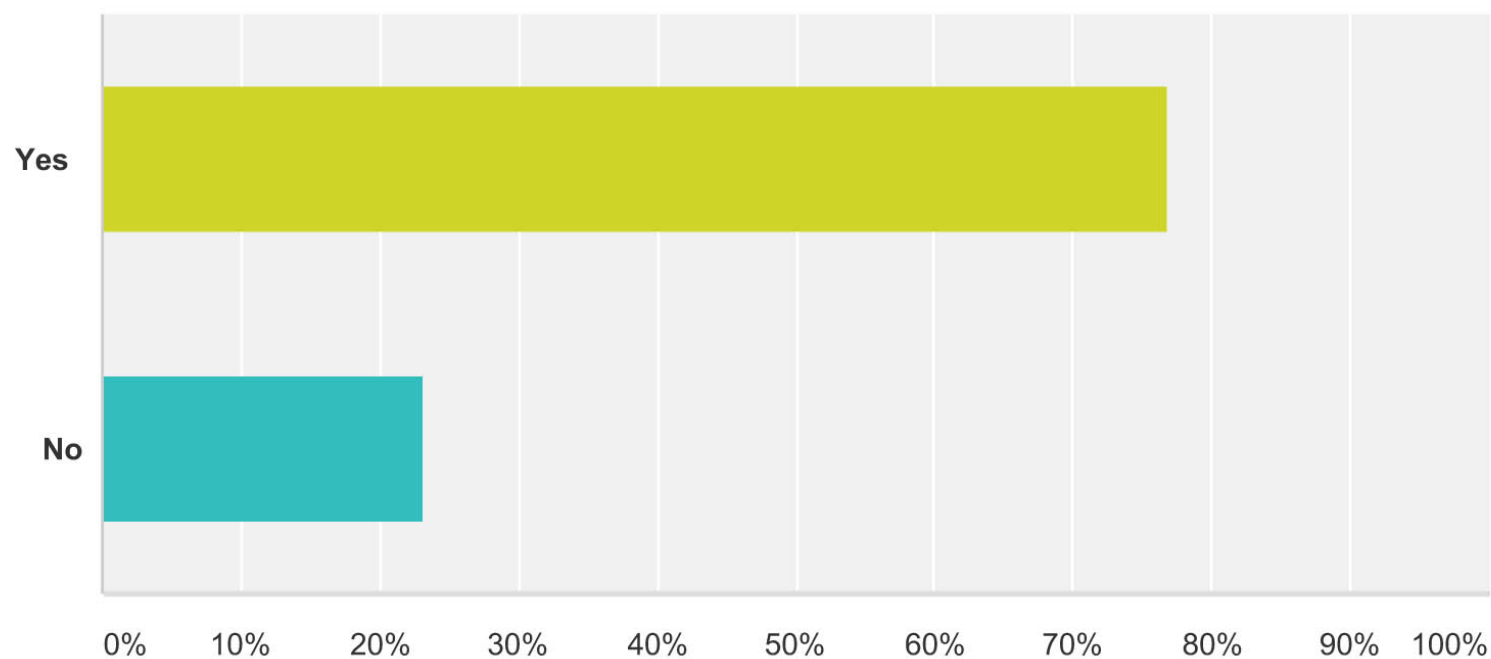
**Q10 Should the capacity for the classroom
for the Kids Program be for 20 people
(projected five year growth)?**

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



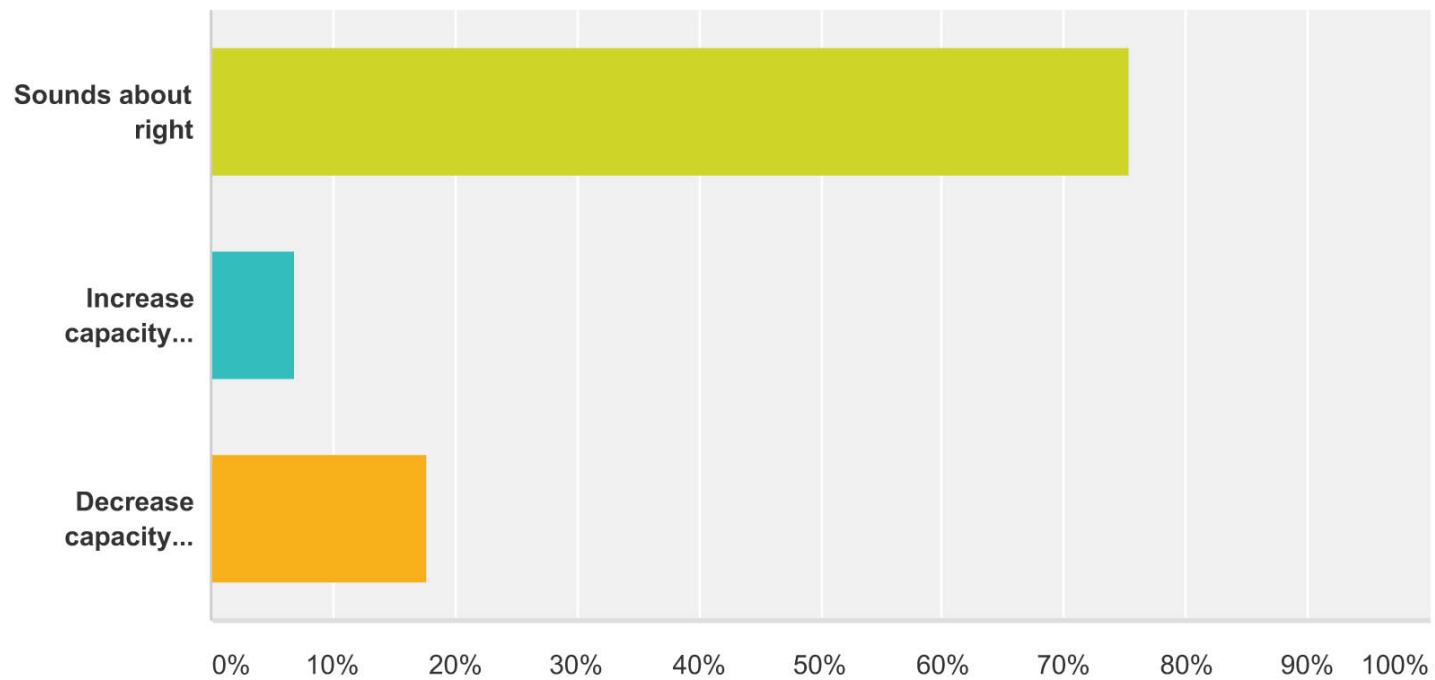
Q11 Should Columbus KTC build an extra classroom with the KTC Library?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



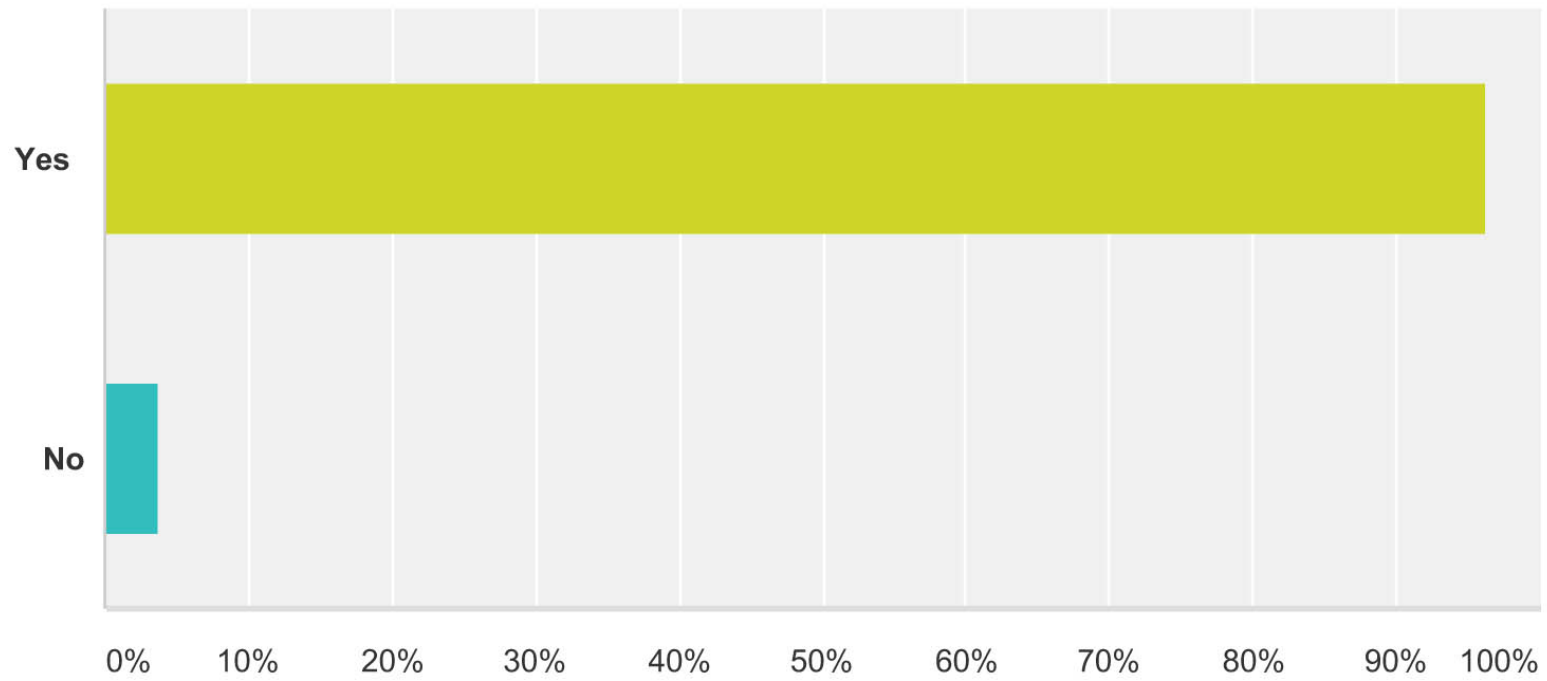
Q12 Should the capacity for the extra classroom with the KTC Library be for 20 people (projected five year growth)?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



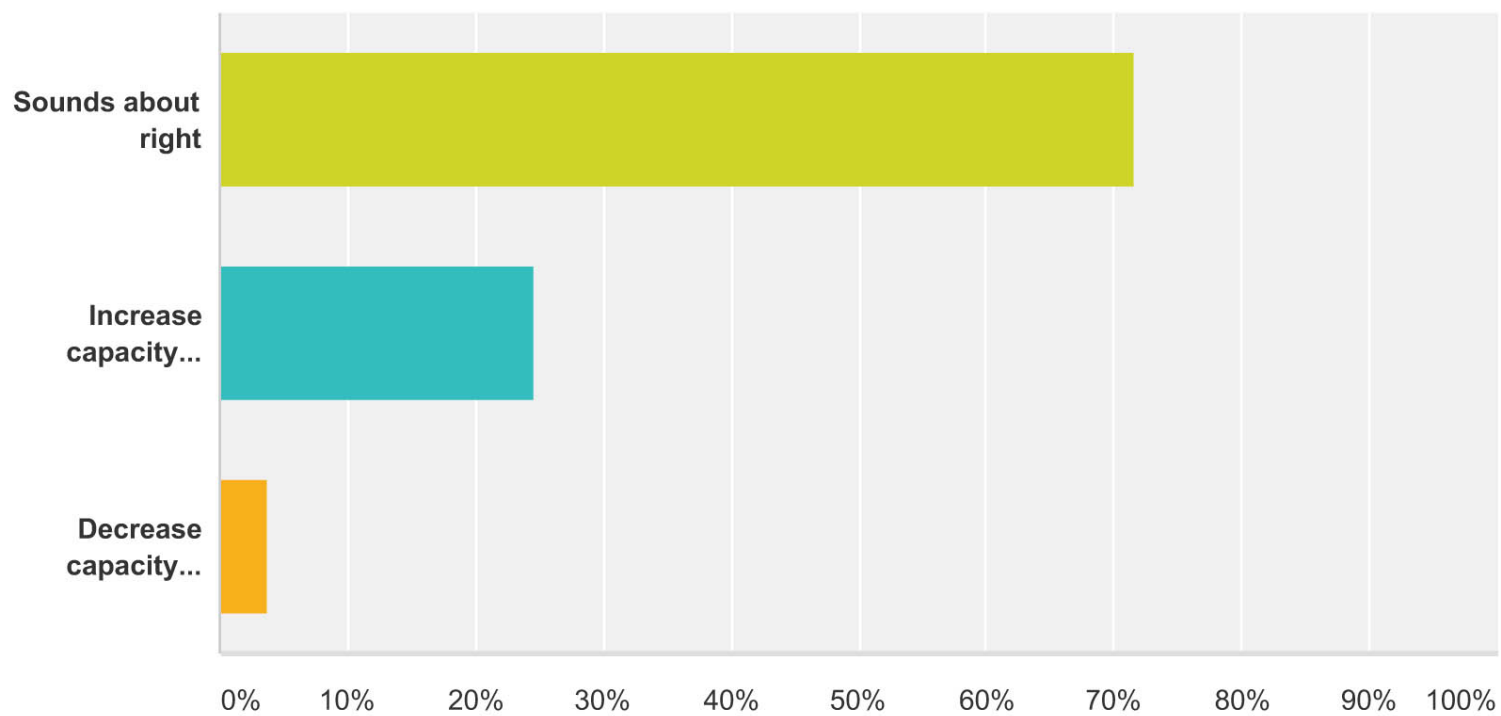
Q13 Should Columbus KTC build a room to conduct interviews with a Lama?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



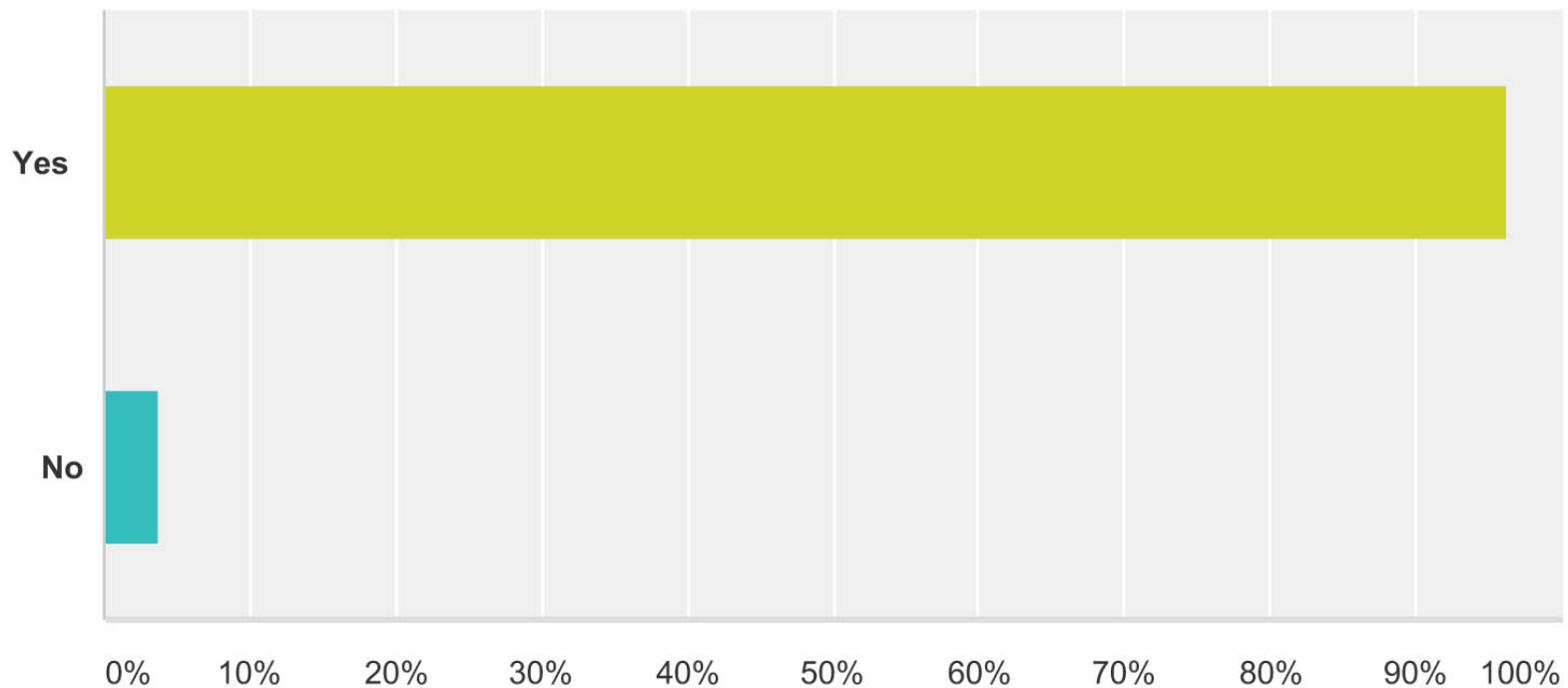
Q14 Should the capacity for the interview room be for 3 people?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



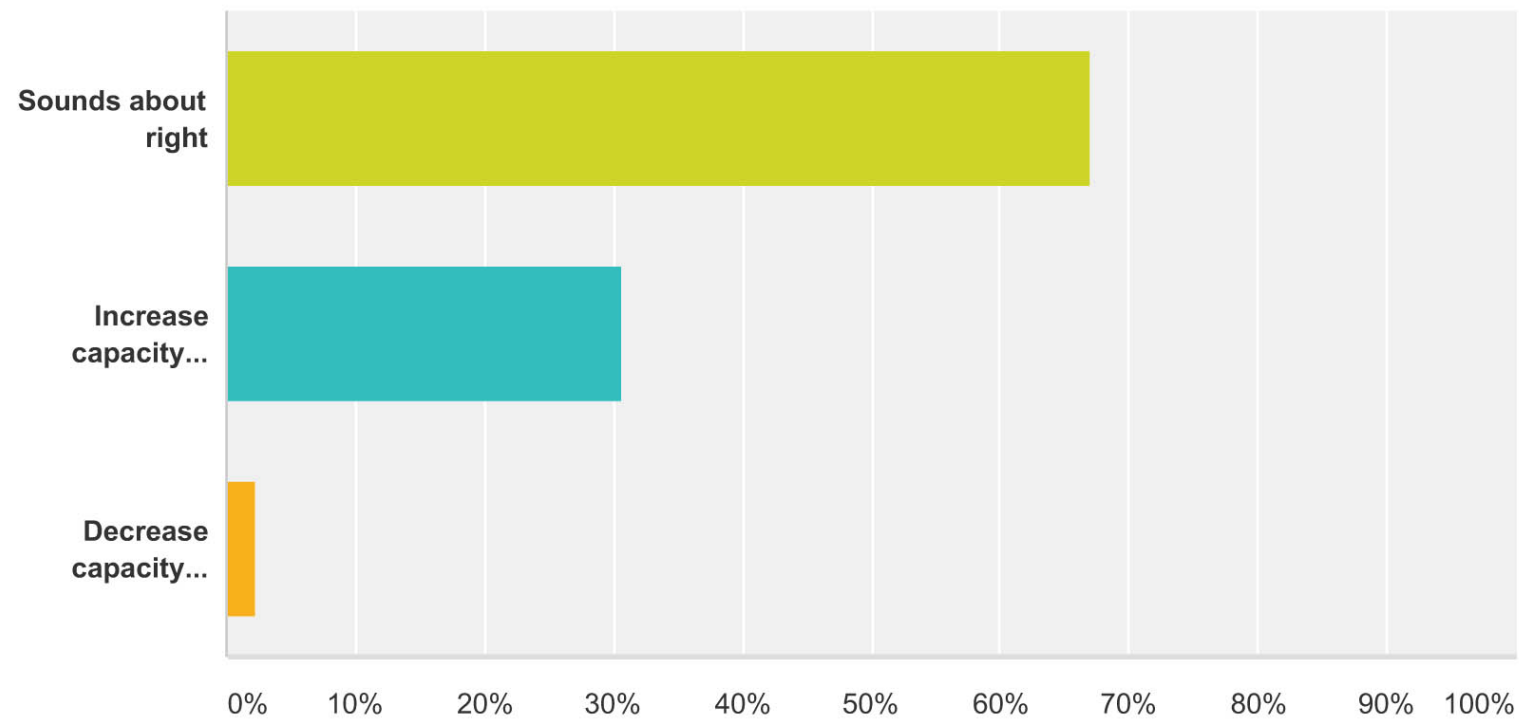
Q15 Should Columbus KTC build an office for administrative work?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



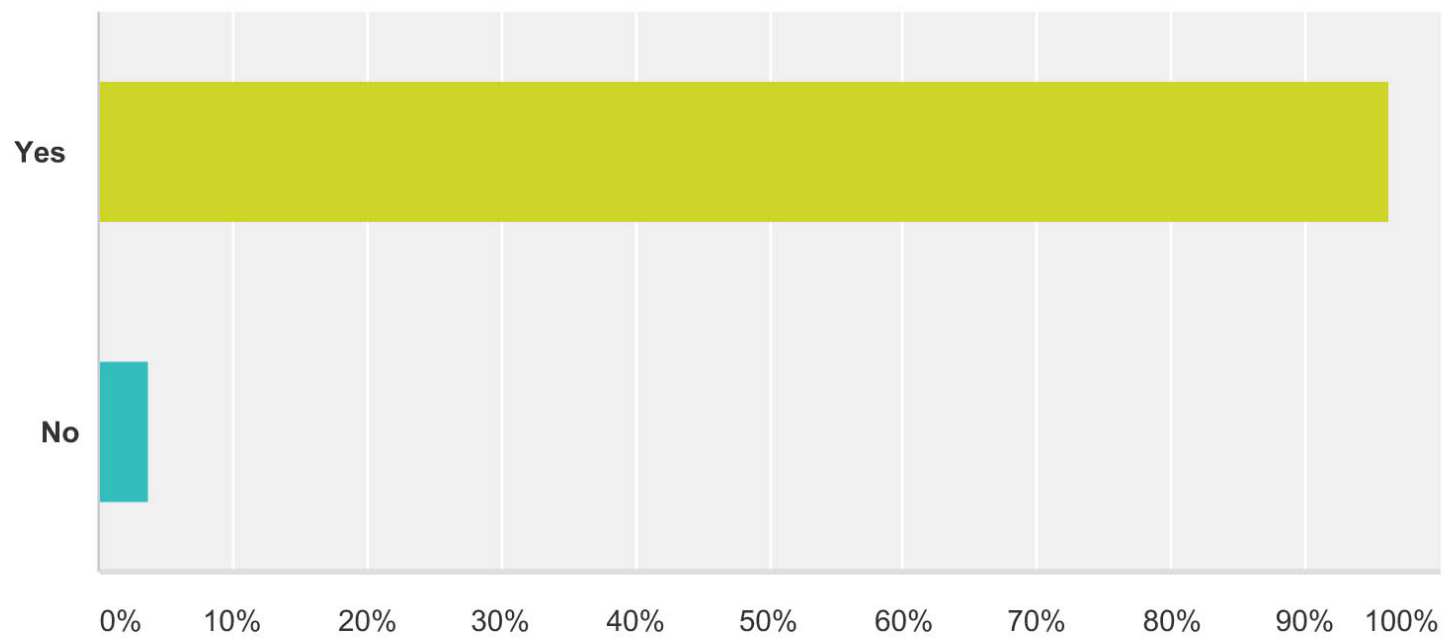
Q16 Should the capacity for the office be for 2 people?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



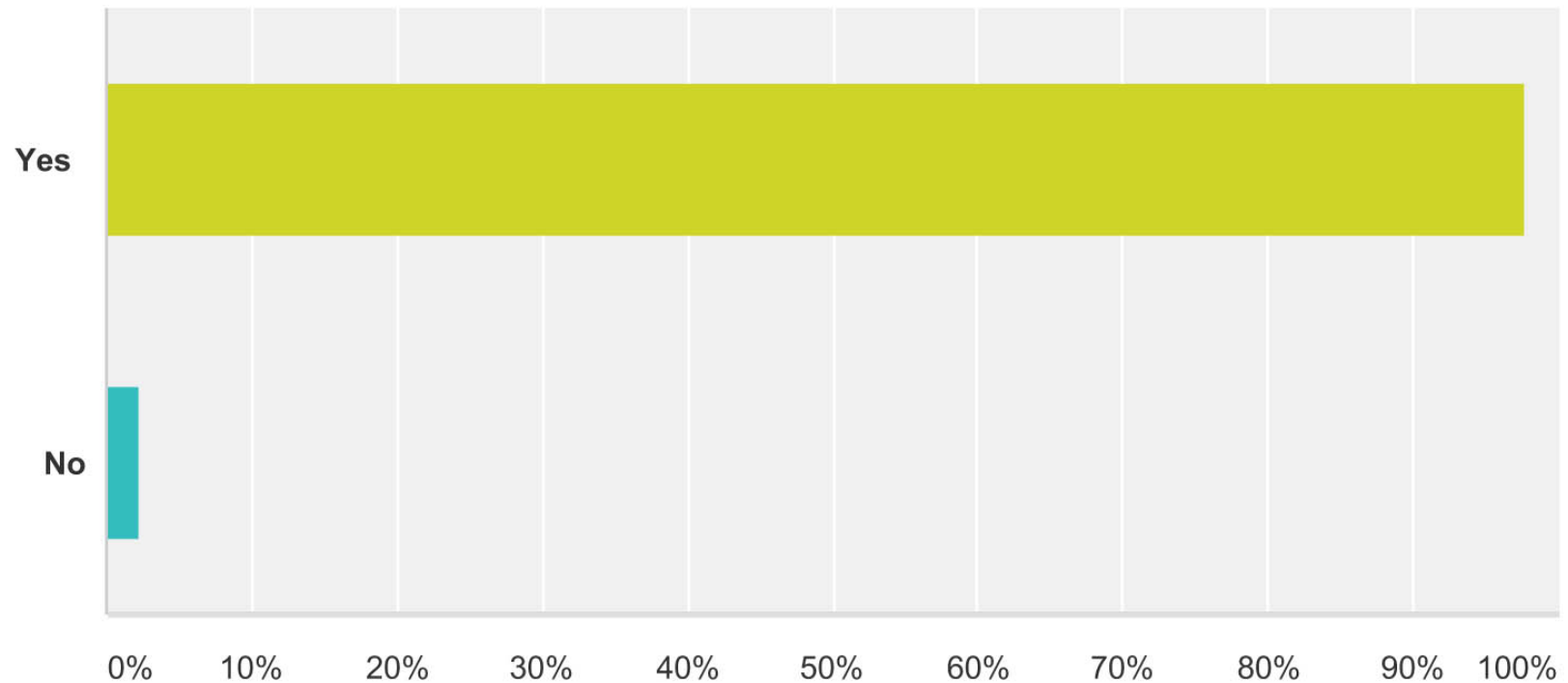
Q17 Should Columbus KTC build a foyer at the entrance of the building with a closet for shoes and coats?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



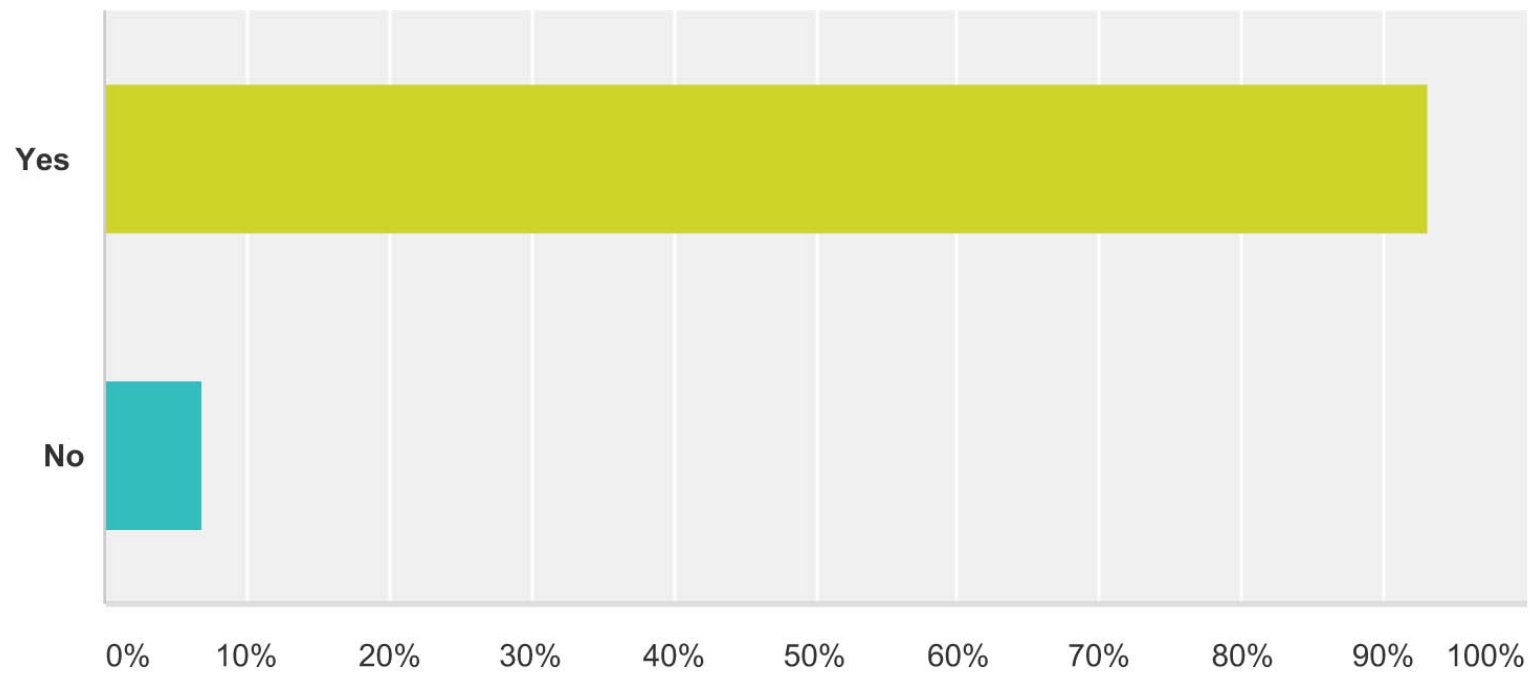
Q18 Should Columbus KTC build a kitchen?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



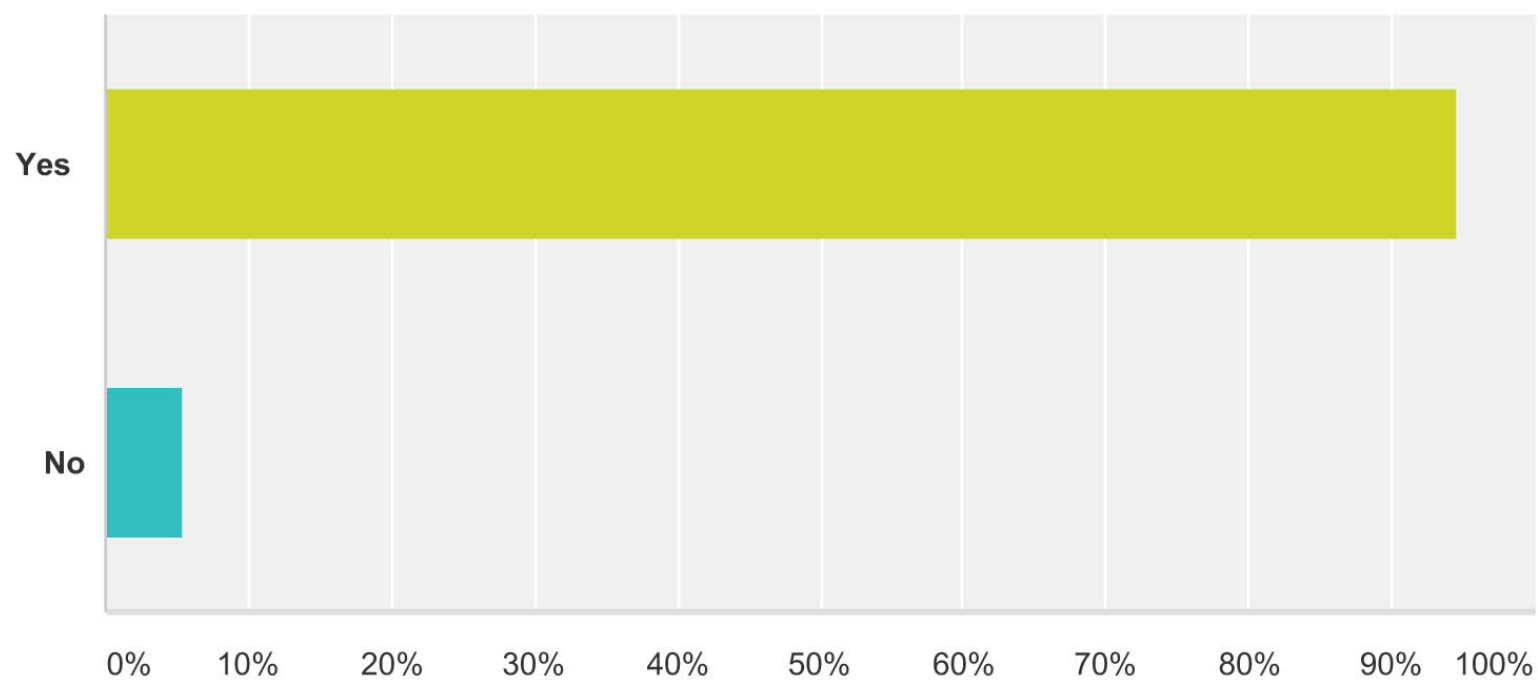
Q19 Should Columbus KTC build a shrine closet?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



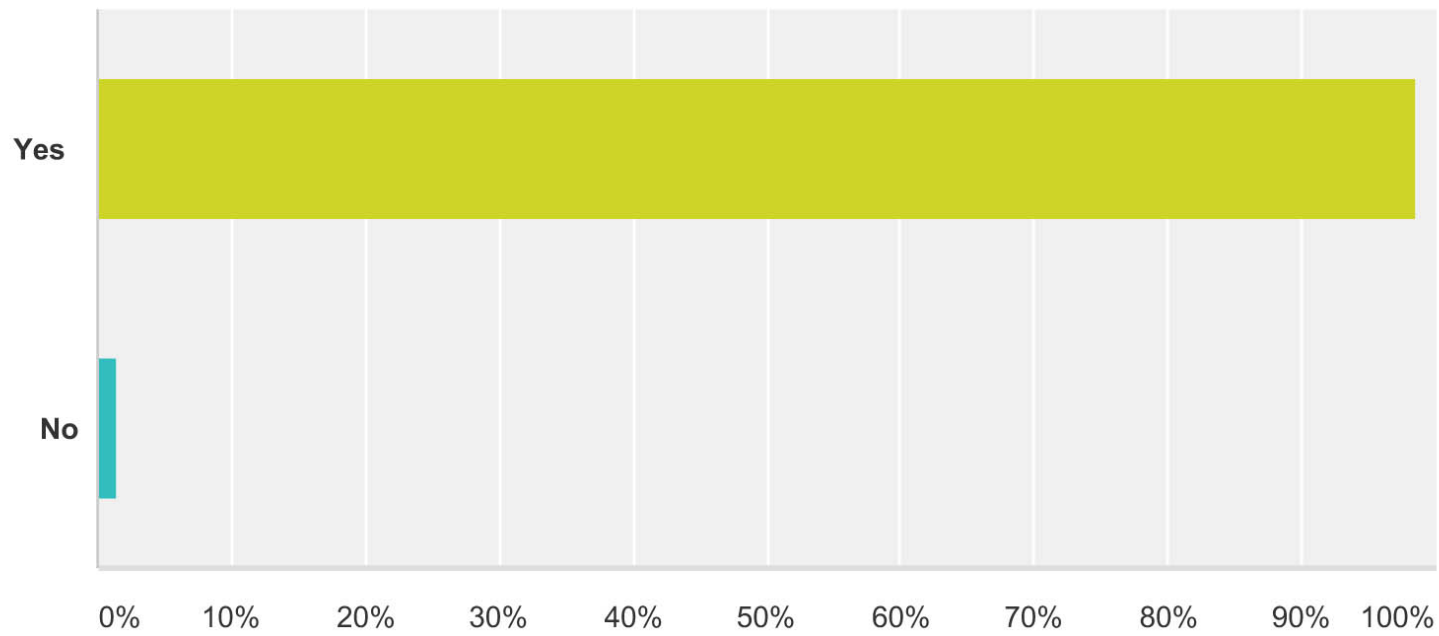
Q20 Should Columbus KTC build a storage closet for building supplies?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



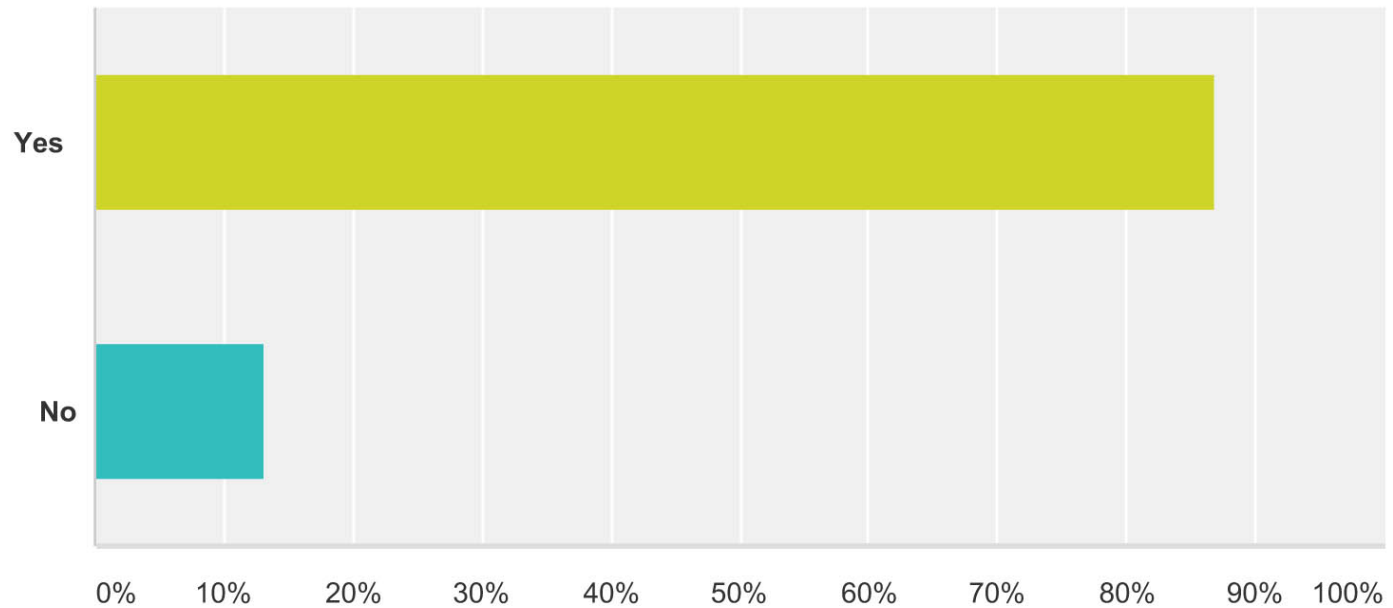
Q21 Should Columbus KTC build two separate bathrooms near the community room?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



Q22 Should Columbus KTC build one bathroom with a waiting area at the rear of the shrine room? This room can be used for visiting lamas.

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



Sample of Comments

- Please strive for noise reduction in shrine room
- Stay out of debt. Choose or build something with flexibility and room to grow if you can't afford exactly what you want now
- Handicapped accessible
- I would love to see us have a very small retreat house--even if it is just enough for one person to do short retreats
- A small garden area with outside seating & picnic table, & flower bed
- A small apt for visiting teachers
- Small room for practice outside scheduled times for, say, up to five people doing ngondro or people doing sitting meditation
- A lot of newly built schools and other institutions are equipped with portable walls or otherwise built as flex space

Next Steps

Guests in a New Home

- The Rabbis, staff and members of Tifereth Israel tell us they are happy we are here!
- Please be mindful that not to disrupt the Tifereth Israel programs/classes.
- Greeters will be available for all Cols KTC programs to help members and visitors find the right room. All visitors need an escort.
- Tea helpers will be available to coordinate our morning tea. If you smoke, please smoke outside in the parking lot or your car.
- Make a nametag and please wear your name tag.
- If you have a question or need something, please ask board members and we will be glad to help you!



Volunteers Needed. Can you help?



- Greeters – we need lots of them!
- Tea Break coordinators
- Dharma Store helpers
- Volunteers with woodworking skills
- Programs organizers
 - Movie Fundraiser
 - ComFest Coordinator
 - Lama Visit Coordinator
- Graphic designers
- Sound System helpers

March Membership Drive

- We are so grateful for everyone's financial support through GoFundMe and other recent fundraising efforts to rebuild Columbus KTC.
- Now we need think about how to sustain a new center.
- Whatever the Columbus KTC sangha decides – to buy, to build, or to remodel – money will be needed to support the center on a day-to-day basis.
- We are asking everyone to make a two year pledge at whatever level is best for you to support our center with this endeavor.
- Over the next few days, you'll be receiving information about the 2016 Membership Drive.



Next Steps for a New Home



- 2nd Building Survey to determine the location of a center. We need to find out:
 - What type of transportation do you use to come to Columbus KTC?
 - What area of the city should the new center be located?
- Talk to financial institutions.
- Share building requirements with the architect and commercial realtor.
- Meet with our commercial realtor to view existing properties and buildings.
- Meet with an architect to create a design for a new build.
- Interview construction companies to estimate the cost of a new build.
- Determine S. Grubb St. property value.

Milestones for Finding a New Columbus KTC Home



Open Discussion

Thank you!