



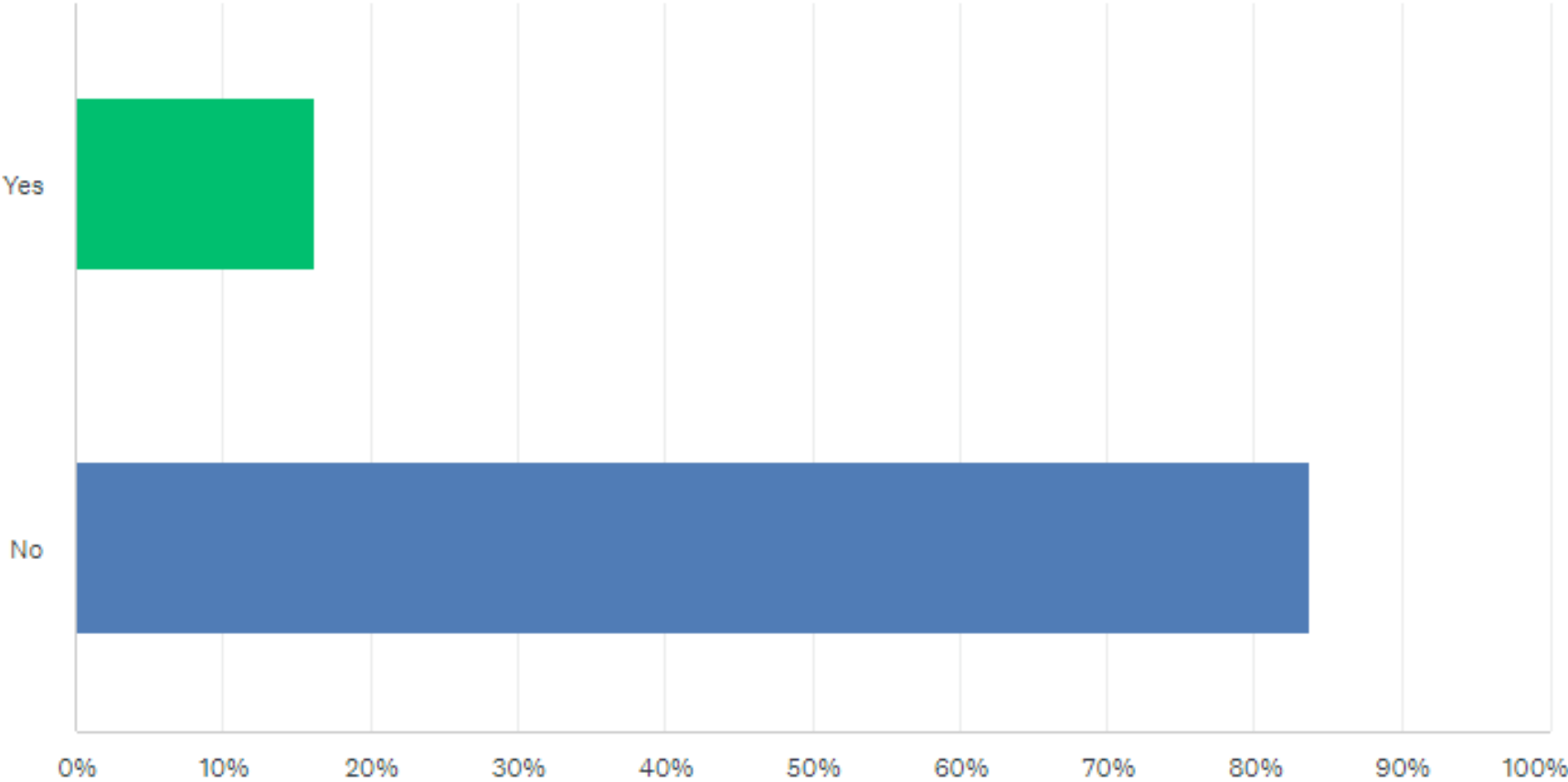
LRA Membership Survey

A1 Committee

July 10, 2022

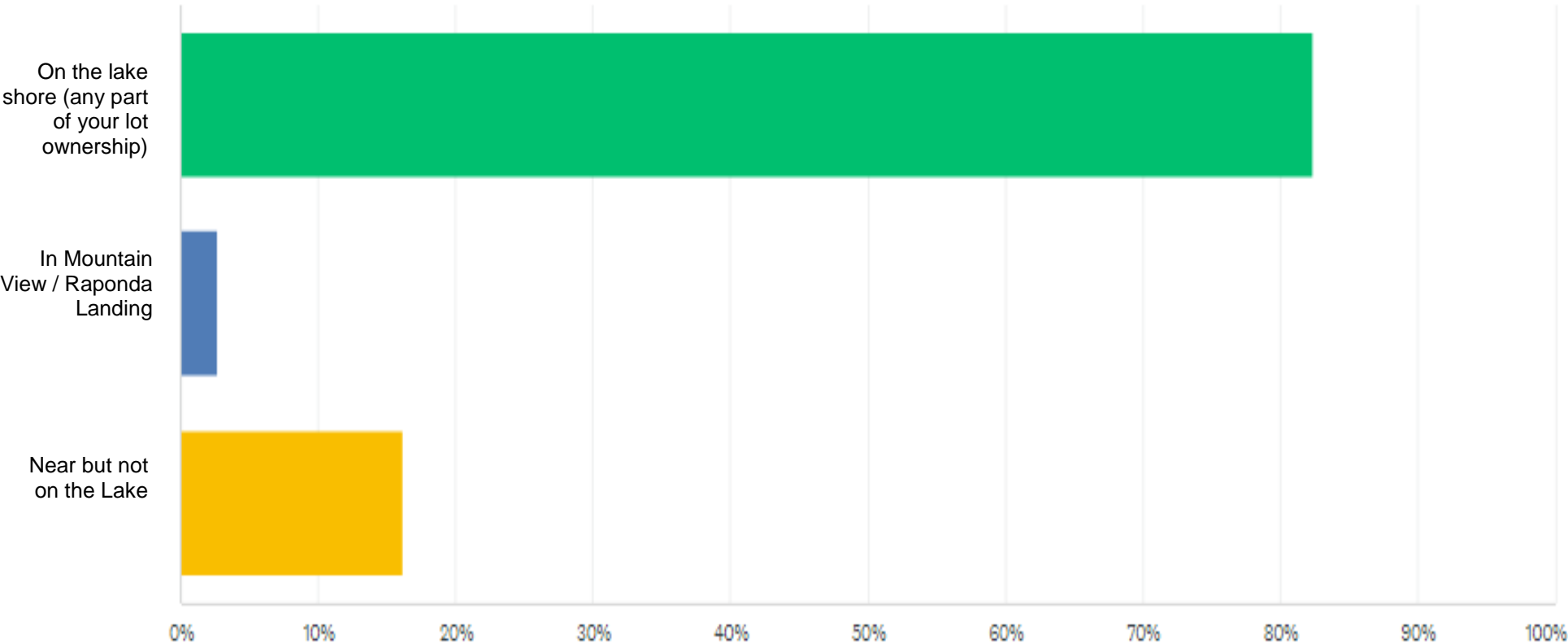
Do you live in the Raponda area full-time?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



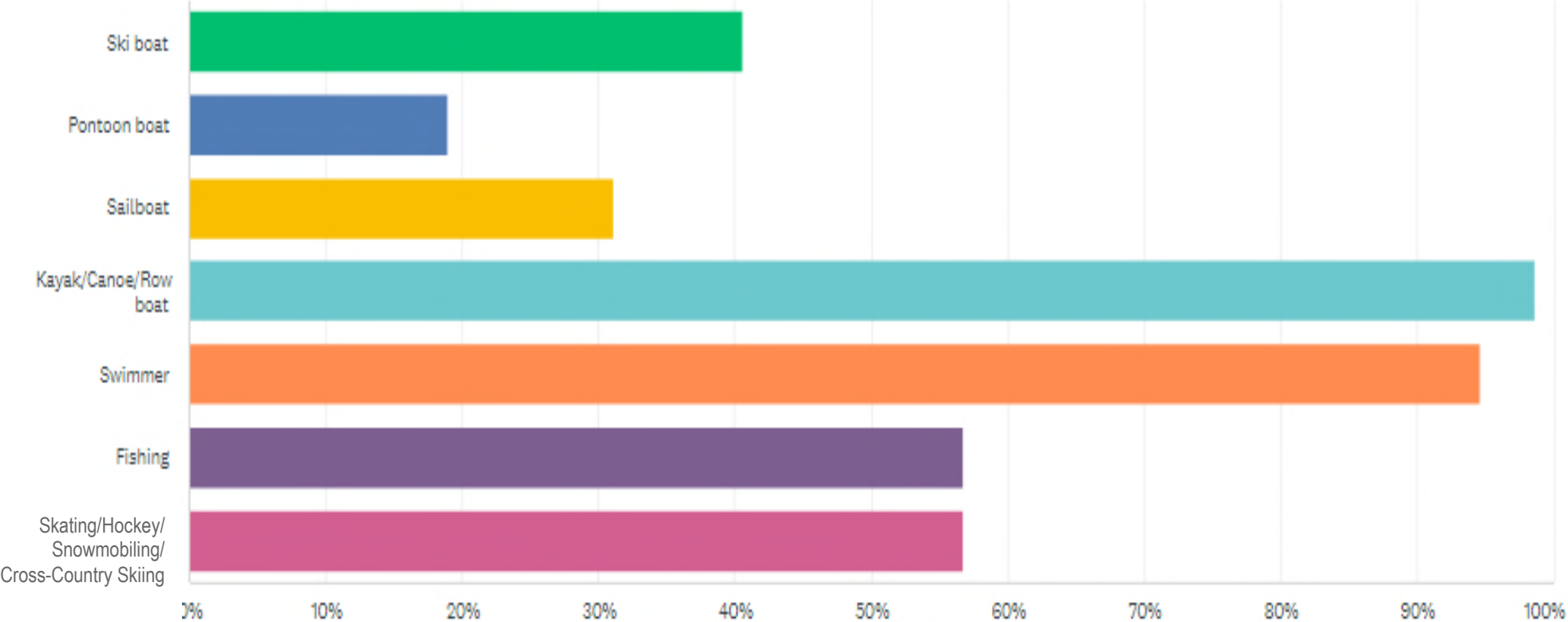
Is your Raponda-area house:

Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



How do you use the lake? Check all that apply

Answered: 74 Skipped: 0

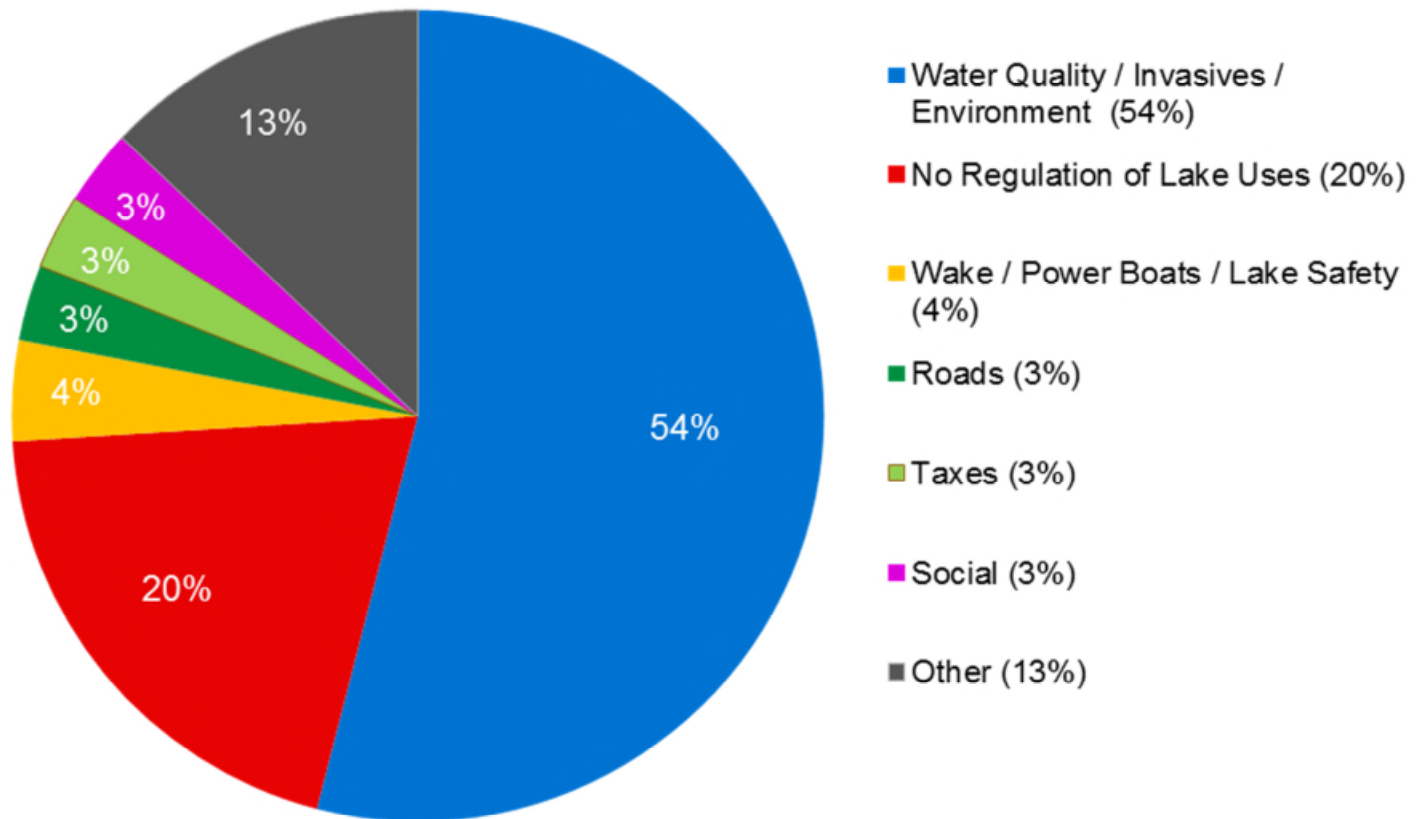


Question #4

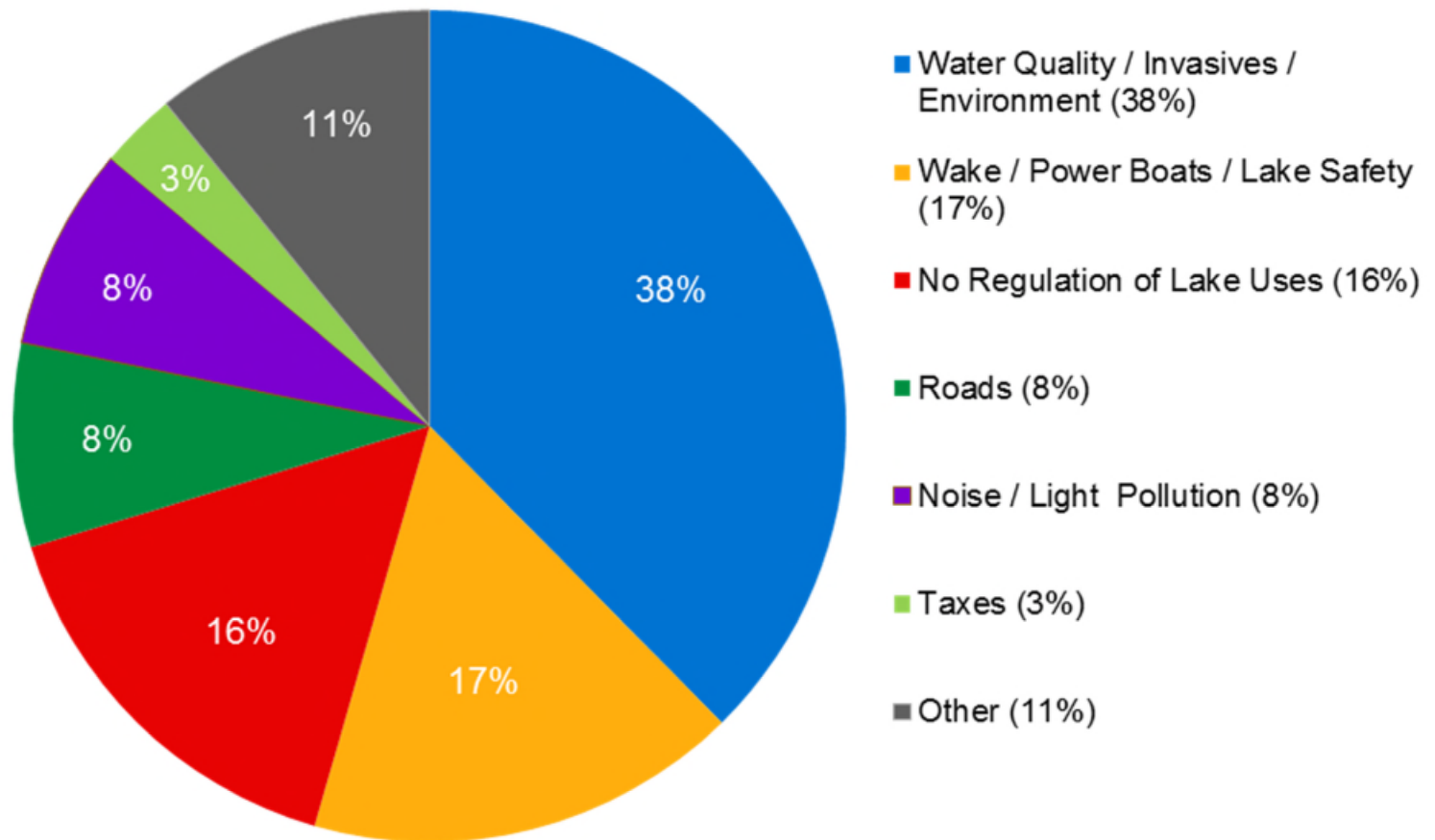
What are your greatest concerns regarding your Raponda–area home/property and the community?

- Survey respondents were given the opportunity to identify three concerns under priorities (a), (b) and (c).
- The following three pie charts represent the responses to question #4 aggregated by specified subcategories. The verbatim responses for priority categories (a), (b) and (c) are set forth in the **Annex** to this presentation.

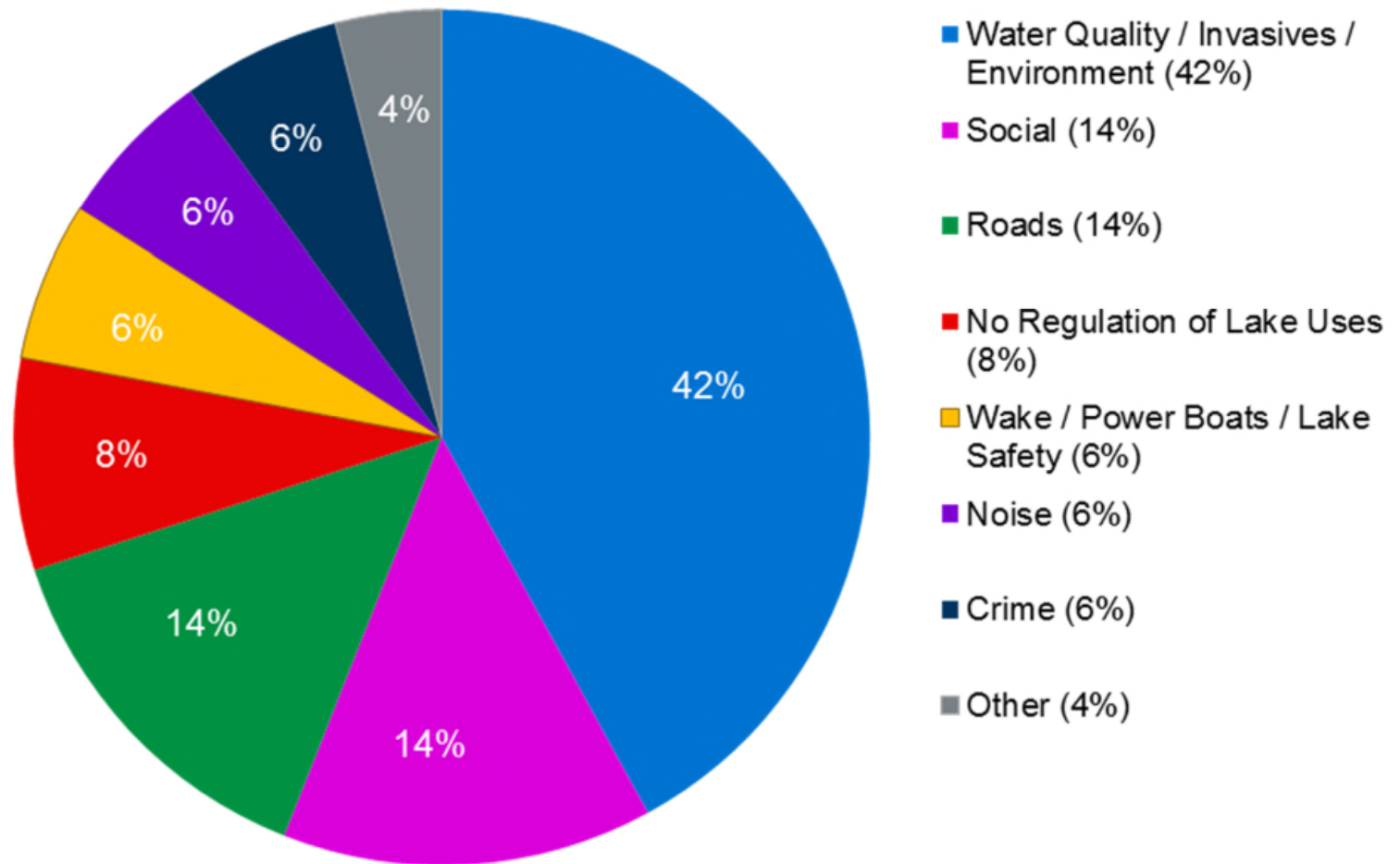
Category (a) (74 Responses)



Category (b) (64 Responses)

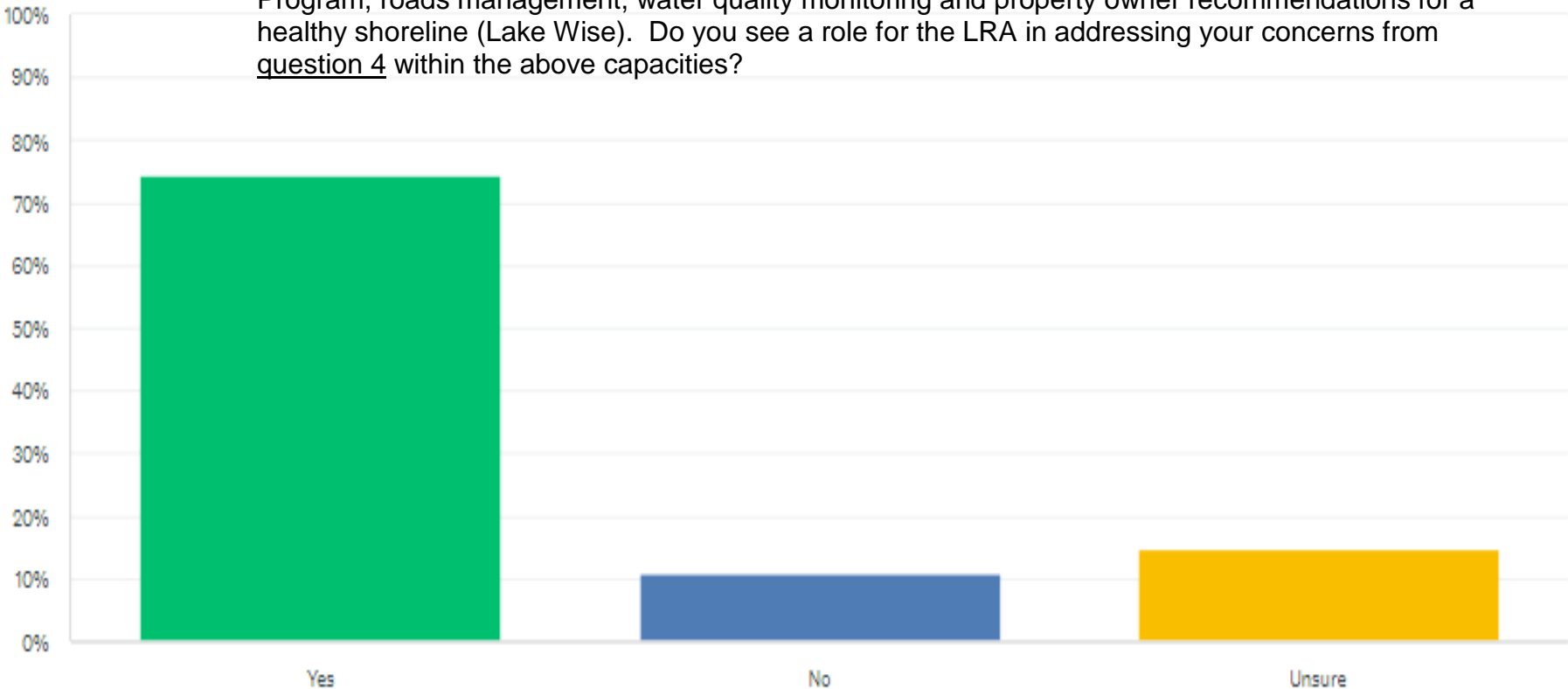


Category (c) (50 Responses)



Answered: 74 Skipped: 0

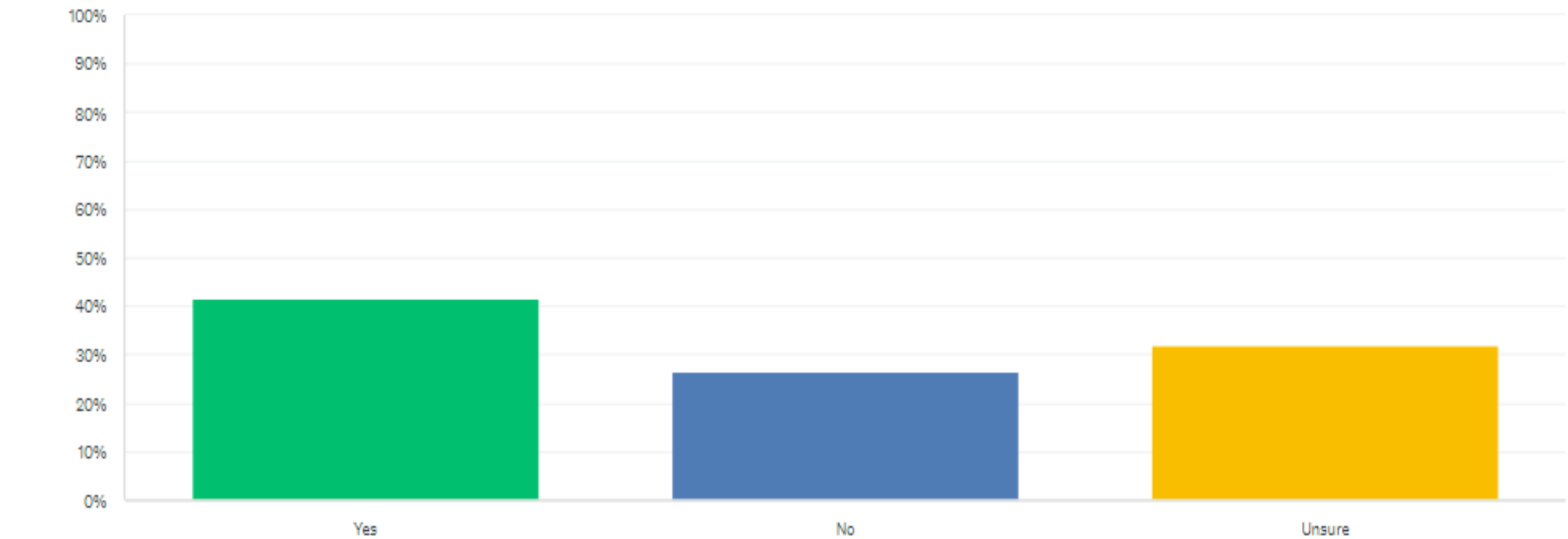
Over the past several years, LRA’s efforts have included engaging various expert speakers, i.e., lawyers and naturalists, as well as liaising with government entities for our Clean Boats Greeter Program, roads management, water quality monitoring and property owner recommendations for a healthy shoreline (Lake Wise). Do you see a role for the LRA in addressing your concerns from question 4 within the above capacities?



Do you think we need to investigate additional resources to address your concerns as you outlined in question 4?

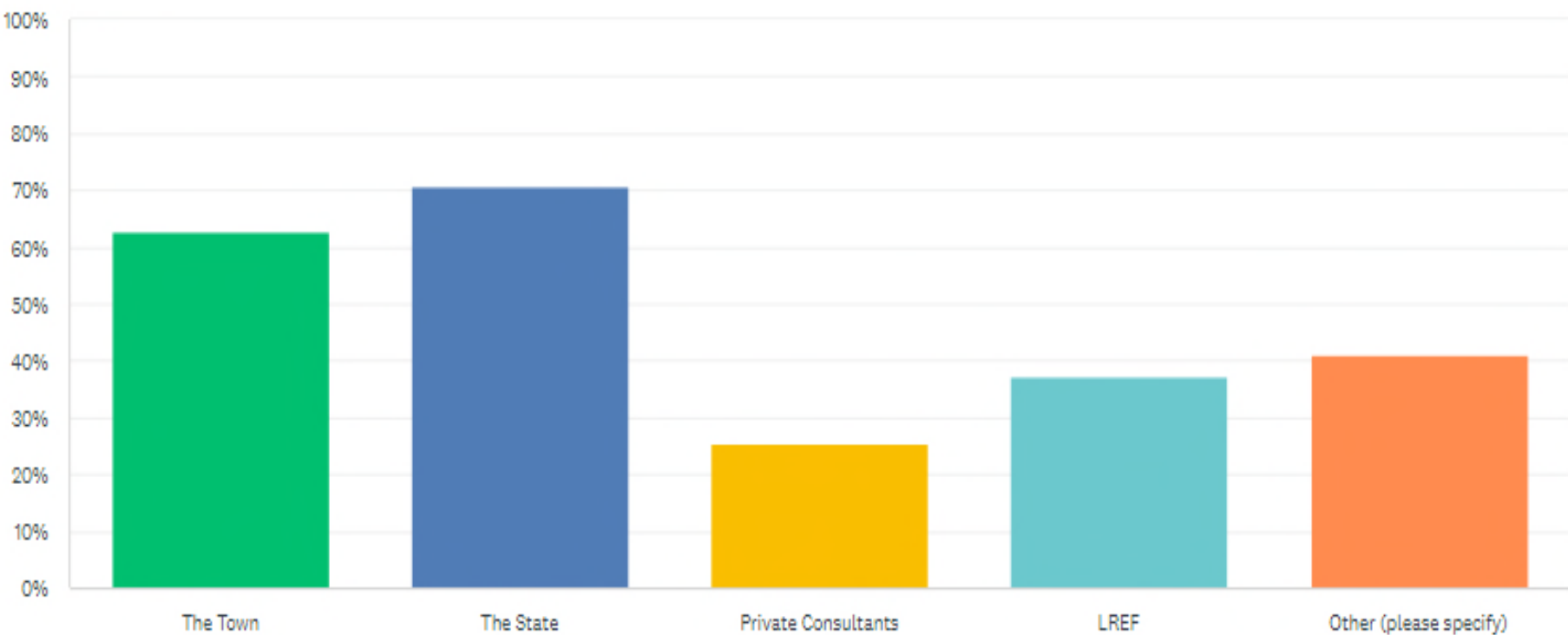
Answered: 72 Skipped: 2

(Yes/No)



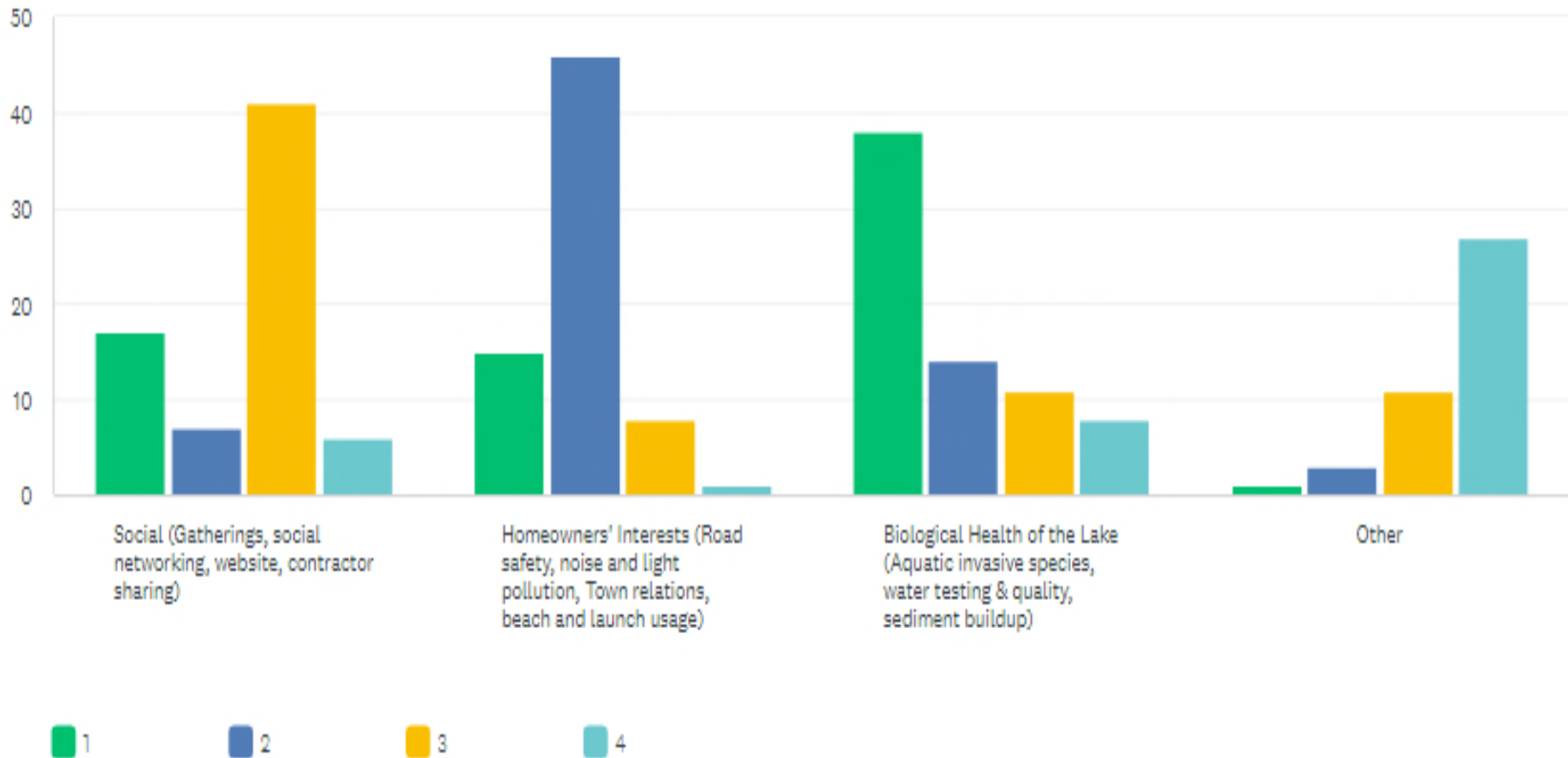
If yes, check all that apply and/or fill in other entities you'd like to suggest:

Answered: 51 Skipped: 23



Please rank what you feel are the most important missions of the LRA. Rank these missions by placing a 1, 2, 3, or 4 to indicate your priorities.

Answered: 71 Skipped: 3



Please specify what your "other" is in question 8

Answered: 41

Skipped: 33

-
- None
 - Support a healthy community of homeowners by helping us to share the lake and balance various interests so we can coexist with positive vibes for generations to come.
 - Stop complaining to the town if minor issues crop up.
 - Prop tax assessment guidance
 - n/a
 - promoting community spirit around the lake
 - promote community awareness
 - Pave the road. Unlike most LRA members, I live here year round. The town tries its best, but this year, the road was dangerous and at times impassable. Besides being isolated, what about emergency vehicles.
 - Anything other than social. First and foremost, we need to save our lake, not make new friends.
 - Building awareness among both Raponda residents and Wilmington citizens about how to appreciate and protect the lake's natural character and biological health
 - Whatever else comes up over time that may require or be better addressed by a group effort
 - Did not mean to have an other in item.
 - N/A
 - Killing the A-1 project as soon as possible. It is dividing the community and regardless of what is advertised, it will not generate additional funding for lake improvements./
 - Providing educational and or training materials to members (for example, on the website or in meetings) about programs like Lakewise
-

LRA Membership Survey

- Educating homeowners about lake health issues and action that can/should be taken concerning the related issues by communicating via written material, website articles, and addressing at Association meetings.
- I do not believe the LRA should limit the activities each family wants to participate in. It is a public lake that brings much beauty and enjoyment to many people. Limiting activities and allowed vessels based on water quality and or wildlife would decrease the value of our homes and the purpose of the lake!! Beautiful and wholesome recreational activities!!!
- Access to information on the history of the area, local wildlife, native vegetation, etc.
- Crime
- Public Beach improvements / amenities.
- I didn't check off "other."
- There should be no parking signs opposite the road at the boat launch area. It is more difficult to unload a motorboat when cars/trucks are parked in the area needed to maneuver a truck and trailer. Vehicles can come around the curve very quickly and can be surprised. This is a safety concern.
- Donating time and resources to help the community.
- Property maintenance/including dock maintenance. Make our lake and lake homes beautiful, big, small, old or new, maintained.
- The unregulated use of the town beach by others
- Road conditions
- boating safety
- Homeowner property upkeep.
- Periodic educational presentations on environmental issues affecting lakes in Vermont and water quality, as well as presentations/education on flora and fauna in the Lake Raponda area.
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- n/a

LRA Membership Survey

- Security/safety
 - none
 - Stocking the lake with fish besides the Trout at the state stocks
 - N/a
 - I don't know what level the numbers rank to response to ...I e is # 1 low or high
 - I gave no response
 - Our now extended family has used our house on the lake for decades and we appreciate and expect that we can continue to swim, boat, sail, fish and ski on the lake while being thoughtful of other residents and users of the lake. The lake community is now very large and varied so paying attention to others is critical in preserving the natural character of Lake Raponda
 - Public beach use
-

What do you feel the purpose(s) of the LRA should be and what should the LRA do more or less of?

Answered: 62

Skipped: 12

- Protect lake, support social activities
- The LRA should prioritize homeowner interests and a healthy community. LRA = healthy community; LREF = healthy lake. I don't think LRA should rush into controversial topics led by (an at least perceived) minority of stakeholders. I'd prefer the LRA to help arbitrate issues between neighbors; not be at the center of the conflict. Guidelines on light pollution, greeter program, water testing, etc. are all widely supported and adored. Thank you for these contributions, and keep them coming.
- Advocate for the lake and the homeowners
- A neighborhood forum to discuss concerns and interests relevant to our lake community. Social activities, property repair, safety, wildlife and lake health
- The purpose should be to represent the interests of Lake Raponda residents on state and local matters. They can make suggestions, but should not interfere with our properties or our ability to use our motorized boats on our lake.
- Unknown
- LRA should return to being a social organization as it was for its first 90 years. The LREF can concentrate on environmental issues.
- I believe the LRA should primarily be a social organization. As I mention above in the survey, I believe the Greeter program and stopping aquatic invasive species is very important. Everything I have heard tells me that the lake is much cleaner than when I started swimming in Raponda nearly 50 years ago, and therefore I believe the Biological Health of the lake is NOT in jeopardy. I believe the LRA should NOT get involved in politics, activism, or any attempt to bring about statutory/regulatory changes (such as changing to A1 status or banning ANY kind of boating activity).
- Maintain interest of in all things associated with Lake well being.
- LRA began with a social focus, and there are advantages to this, getting to know your neighbors. I hope this will continue. Stewardship of the lake is also important. Its existence as a natural space is threaten by treating it as a suburban development (pavement, lawns), the lake and its wildlife suffer from overuse by humans.
- The LRA has always been a social group for its members and has provided help for homeowners. As was evident at last year's meetings, there's now disagreement among members about how far the LRA should pursue what might seem to be individuals personal agenda. At this point it is not clear what the purpose of the LRA is.

LRA Membership Survey

- The LRA should provide social opportunities and only address the specific issues that effect homeowners and their property, including detriments to property values, quality of life, and the general health of the neighborhood. We should not, whenever possible, be involved in state or town politics except to resolve these issues.
 - Less of social, more of preserving the cleanliness of our lake.
 - I think questionnaires such as this are a good way of understanding how the association members feel and should guide decision making.
 - LRA should work for the majority of the lake it is not your job to get the state involved without the backing of all residents
 - The mission in #9 (do more)
 - Being interested in all of the lake features not just shoreline private property. Suggest best practices as has been done in the past. Thanks for your work!
 - The LRA needs to keep a balance between advancing Lake health and safety, while promoting use of the Lake as a recreational resource. Improving Lake health should not preempt human enjoyment of the Lake in all forms. The LRA needs to focus more on fun and social, and less on advocacy for the environment and limitation of Lake uses.
 - I think the purpose of the LRA is to promote a cohesive working/social community. It is important that community members appreciate one another and work together for the good of the environment and all the families that enjoy serenity and recreation on the lake.
 - I think LRA is largely on track.
 - The purpose is primarily social. Secondly, maintaining the community by, for example, speed control
 - The purpose is stated in the Articles. We should be bringing people together, not splitting them via pursuit of A1 status.
 - Water quality is paramount. No complaints about the organization, nothing to suggest for less of.
 - The current mission statement for the LRA adopted about 5-7 years ago is what I think the LRA should continue to follow: "to preserve and enhance the natural resources and environmental health of Lake Raponda and the surrounding area for the benefit of current and future generations."
 - keep purpose the same - social and educational; information/resource; training for greeter program, etc. the Mission statement is fine as it is
-

LRA Membership Survey

- LRA should be more proactive in its stated mission to preserve and protect the natural resources of Lake Raponda, including a more vocal opposition to wake boating and more vocal support of the A1 initiative. rve and enhance the natural resources and environmental health of Lake Raponda, including
- Social connection, neighborhood camaraderie
- continue as is
- I agree with the the mission of The Lake Raponda Association: to preserve and enhance the natural resources and environmental health of Lake Raponda and the surrounding area for the benefit of current and future generations. I would like the association to be as open as possible so that members feel included and a part of the organization. I would like our annual meetings to be more civil and less combative.
- The purpose of the LRA should be to focus on bringing together residents on and around the lake to get to know each other better...that would would include activities such as more social gatherings, organized hiking, boating, etc., activities, and sourcing speakers and experts to provide information on the history, wildlife, vegetation, etc. of the area. It should not get more involved in political issues...either at the state or local level, including regulations affecting use of the lake or property rights. Lake owners have collectively looked after the well being of Lake Raponda for decades.
- More visibility to Town so our concerns and desires are understood
- The LRA should do more of what it states in its purpose: to act as a social group for the community and to maintain the character of the lake. I think this whole community rift has come about because the LRA has gone beyond maintaining character and now is tying to “improve” it via this A1 Classification, and no one I’ve talked too seems on the same page as to how the lake would be “improved”. For instance, I think it was [* * * * *] who said at last year’s meeting that he thought all the “children’s laughter” on the lake was an environmental “disturbance”. I tend to disagree, but everyone is allowed to their opinion. Everyone is just uneasy that a small group of people (may they hate children’s laughter or not) should not have the ability to restrict lake usage/property right under the guise of environmental conservatism and it should probably just be left up to the state to make these decisions.
- The purpose of the LRA is to help keep our lake and its shores and surroundings healthy and safe as we have been doing in the past. This includes monitoring the quality of the water for anything that would make it unhealthy for wild life and humans, and keeping our association members informed. Another purpose for the association is to work with the State of Vermont and the Town of Wilmington as well as our members to keep the lake safe for non motorized boats and people swimming in the lake. Helping to regulate what is allowed to be driven on Lake Raponda should be part of our associations purpose in keeping the lake healthy and safe for all to enjoy. Social events to meet neighbors and to build friendships. and educational events to work on these issues should be part of our purpose.

LRA Membership Survey

- Bring together members of discuss common interests. Maintain quality of lake & environment. Sponsor some social gatherings.
- It is nice to see the LRA so active with local and state officials. It is nice that we support some local common causes. I've been coming to Lake Raponda for 60 years and my early experience was that LRA was only an annual social event that my parents so enjoyed to attend. LRA should pursue worthy causes but if it isn't broken let's not fix it.
- They should take an active role in protecting the lake participating in the community.
- Protect the lack! Your doing a good job! You'll neverake everyone happy. Thank-you for your continued work.
- Isafety, pollution and environmental concerns should be priority
- Exactly what LRA is doing now. Continue to alert homeowners to any damage on the lake caused by boats. Conditions of the lake & wildlife. Continued updates on road conditions & involvement when necessary. Continued summer walks, boat rides and guest speakers.
- Advocacy to protect water quality - great work to date - need to continue
- serven the interets of the majority of the lake front and lake Raponda Road ownersowners
- Maintaining the lake and its surrounding environment. Including rules on non removal of trees surrounding the lake.
- Lake Raponda is a special resource and a high water qualify body of water, and our property values and enjoyment of the lake are, first and foremost, tied to the quality of the lake. If the lake were to become polluted or infested with invasive plant species, and otherwise degraded in quality, it would ruin the enjoyment of the lake and hurt property values. If that were to happen, any other priority or purpose of the LRA would be in vain. So, collectively, working to ensure A1 water quality should be first and foremost. How we as an LRA get there, I understand, may be a matter of honest debate, such as whether there's a formal A1 process initiated. But, at the core, the high water quality of the lake is the basis for all the other goods and benefits of Lake Raponda.
- I agree completely with the LRA mission statement. It was fine for the LRA to be a social club before climate change, acid rain, major lake development, etc., but there are too many important issues at this point to not see protecting the lake as the major focus.
- In our limited time as homeowners on the lake, we feel the LRA has been doing a great job on all fronts! We look forward to many years of involvement in the community.
- Enabling more members to be included in decision making, which the By-Laws committee is doing now!

LRA Membership Survey

- Stewardship
- in conjunction with the property owners, keep the lake clean and healthy
- Like the direction it is going.
- less boat regulation , I simply don't agree outside of the the direction is fine
- I think they do a great job with the social aspect - I also think maintaining the overall quality and long term health of the lake regardless of homeowners short term desires is a worthy goal
- Represent the interests of homeowners collectively, provide social and educational opportunities, and work with various agencies to protect the health of the lake.
- The purpose should be provide a safe and clean lake for us to enjoy
- Knowing these are volunteers I feel the purpose of the LRA should mostly be a central place our residents can ask questions and help find answers.
- Protect lake health and causes of community
- Protect water quality which will keep the lake and properties valuable
- LRA needs to realize they do not run the lake but have a vested interest. We also need to define or fix the fracture between the LRA and the new group raising money for the survival of the lake. We should be unified on a single mission the long term sustainability
- Serve mostly as a discussion group. When we try to agree on an action plan of some sort we run into trouble. For example, I detest high-speed motor boats, but most lake shore property owners don't. So, I have to sit back and let them have their way, even though their disrupting my peace and possibly doing damage to the lake.
- Provide a voice that openly and inclusively represents the lake community
- More concerned about the beach and visitors and less of all these mini groups
- Protector of lake for long term use; be a resource and advocate for community members
- To facilitate exchange of ideas about the lake and community and help address issues that impact lake community.

Question #4 is as follows: **What are your greatest concerns regarding your Raponda-area home/property and the community?** Survey respondents were given the opportunity to identify three concerns under priorities (a), (b) and (c). This Annex presents the verbatim responses grouped under the subcategories specified below with respect to each of priorities (a), (b) and (c).

Verbatim responses to (a):

Priority (a) subcategories, 74 responses

Water Quality / Invasives / Environment (40/74 = 54%)

- Milfoil getting in the lake and ruining it
- Keeping the lake clean
- The health of the lake. It is a small lake.
- Water quality for swimming and aquatic life
- Lake pollution/algae/sediment/erosion
- Concerned the water quality may degrade and thus plummet our enjoyment of our home, risk our health, and devalue our property
- Water quality and lake depth (both victims of runoff)
- Lake pollution
- Health of the lake
- Preservation of nature
- Pollution
- Invasive plants
- The quality of the lake and surrounding area is of the utmost importance
- Potential invasion of aquatic invasive species
- Keeping Lake Raponda clean

LRA Membership Survey

- My greatest concern about the lake is its long term health. For example, it has become shallower just in my lifetime.
- Protect lake ecosystems so it stays attractive and valuable
- Keeping out invasive
- Maintaining the lake's overall health balanced with...
- Biological health of the lake bacteria, invasive species, sediment build up
- Maintaining high quality of the lake water
- Invasive weeds
- Water quality
- Water quality and cleanliness
- Water quality of the lake
- Preventing, at all costs and effort, invasive plant species in the lake. This includes the risk of water tanks on the wake boats and infestations from motor boats bringing plant species into Lake Raponda
- Water quality issues: invasive, algal blooms, etc...
- Contamination
- The lake remains sustainable
- Preservation of water quality of Lake Raponda/pollution
- Water quality
- Maintaining water quality of the lake - keeping wake boats off
- Water quality
- Water quality
- Pollution
- Eutrophication
- Keep water quality high
- Lake health/water quality

LRA Membership Survey

- Environmental health of lake, water quality
- Invasive species

No Regulation of Lake Uses (15/74 = 20%)

- Lake residents weaponizing the DEC
- Excessive regulation
- Tensions amongst neighbors brought on by the perception that a minority group of neighbors is trying to change the recreational guidelines of the lake. The lake is a shared resource that should support our diverse interests on balance.
- Continued access to lake recreation and water sports (without add'l regulation)
- Reclassification to A1 status. The lake is already A1. The benefits presented last year were hypothetical and that is not a good reason to proceed. What will come is State regulation/restrictions.
- Being able to have a pontoon boat on the lake
- Keeping boats on the lake
- Maintaining the Lake as a recreational resource for users of all kinds, whether lake property owners or the community.
- A1: It is causing social problems. It will NOT do anything for the environment as advertised. I fear it will be dragged out. It is time to kill this NOW.
- Limiting of activities
- Government over-regulation on lake use
- That the LRA and LREF are trying to restrict boating rights and property use rights on the lake
- Losing my rights as a property owner
- Keeping the lake usable for everyone's enjoyment
- Preservation of the variety of uses of the lake by the local community

LRA Membership Survey

Wake / Power Boats / Lake Safety (3/74 = 4%)

- Fast Boats, too many boats
- Too many large motor boats
- Wake Boats

Roads (2/74 = 3%)

- Speeding vehicles on Lake Raponda Road
- The road condition

Taxes (2/74 = 3%)

- Taxes
- Town of Wilmington taxes

Social (2/74 = 3%)

- A kind and welcoming community
- Side groups of people creating division

Other (10/74 = 13%)

- People not respecting the rules
- Over usage of the lake
- Having the public beach attractive and usable
- Being able to maintain a high quality of life in a beautiful, mostly wooded lake setting
- The integrity and condition of the north end dam
- Property maintenance /upkeep on and off the lake

LRA Membership Survey

- None
 - Overcrowding
 - I don't have any concerns
 - Maintaining home values
-

LRA Membership Survey

Verbatim responses to (b):

Priority (b) subcategories, 64 responses

Water Quality / Invasives / Environment (24/64 = 38%)

- Unrestrained tree removal by Ware Road residents has resulted in significant runoff and erosion on our property. We have spent a great deal of money addressing this issue.
- Protect water quality
- Cleanliness of lake
- Concerned the water quality may degrade and thus plummet our enjoyment of our home, risk or health, and devalue our property
- Decline of habitat and native plant, insect, bird, and amphibian life
- Global warming and impact on lake health
- Water quality for swimming
- Depth of lake
- Being able to maintain high lake water quality is critically important and a concern
- That the banks of the shoreline do not get eroded
- Shore erosion
- Water quality
- Pollution of stormwater runoff and drainage into lake
- Wildlife protection
- Protecting wetlands in areas around the lake
- Water quality and boat restrictions. Horsepower limit
- Keeping the water clean

LRA Membership Survey

- Invasive weeds
- Lake shore erosion
- The overall health of the lake long term
- Keeping the lake and surrounding area clean
- Coliform
- Maintain a safe clean lake
- Preservation of lake's health and integrity

Wake / Power Boats / Lake Safety (11/64 = 17%)

- Overuse of speed/wake boats - noise/erosion/dock rocking - abide by water rules near coast
- Get rid of wake boats but not at expense of all boats
- Wake boats
- Stop the wake boats and too large motor craft on lake
- Safety on the lake - swimming safely and boating with non motor boats
- Eliminating wake boats from the lake
- Boating safety
- Preventing wake boats (and other large or fast boats) from 1.) causing excess waves and disturbances of the peace at the lake generally and 2.) causing erosion to the lake stirring up sediments and impacting negatively docks and other structures.
- Unsafe boating, especially involving wake boats
- Wake boat damage
- Wake boats

LRA Membership Survey

No Regulation of Lake Uses (10/64 = 16%)

- Ski boat usage (second to clean lake)
- Declining home values if the lake were to restrict motor boat usage
- Reclassification to A1 status. Raponda will be the only A1 lake in southern Vermont resulting in more visitors and boats.
- Supporting the natural beauty of the Lake and its surroundings but not by eliminating historical uses
- Government over-regulation of personal owned land and property
- The LRA is overreaching, and is making decisions that should be left to the state or to a formal homeowners association.
- Protecting common use of the Lake
- Freedom to use Lake Raponda as our family has for 93 years
- Not restricting boating use necessarily
- Privacy is respected

Roads (5/64 = 8%)

- Road improvements allowing cars to drive FASTER
- Traffic on Lake Raponda Road
- Road traffic, safety, noise
- Dirt road, cars going too fast
- Speeding cars

LRA Membership Survey

Noise / Light pollution (5/64 = 8%)

- Lights (exterior) left on at night, or excessive light at night
- Noise pollution from motor boats
- Light
- Noise
- Controlling noise pollution

Taxes (2/64 = 3%)

- High property taxes
- High property taxes

Other (7/64 = 11%)

- Property value
- Unregulated Airbnb rentals = noise/trash/lack of respect
- Social opportunities to build community
- Good fishing at the lake
- Building envelope on properties are adhered to
- Crowded
- The public beach

LRA Membership Survey

Verbatim responses to (c):

Priority (c) subcategories, 50 responses

Water Quality / Invasives / Environment (21/50 = 42%)

- Overuse of lawn fertilizer and pesticides
- Concerned the water quality may degrade and thus plummet our enjoyment of our home, risk our health, and devalue our property.
- Maintain water quality
- Water quality
- Preserving the setting and the lake itself
- Water quality
- E. coli and bacteria levels in summer
- That stormwater impacts are limited to the extent possible
- Toxic algae, cyanobacteria
- Lake Raponda water quality (clarity, cleanliness, temperature)
- Sewage system inspections tested both on and off the lake
- Water quality is of prime importance to me and underlies my concerns. The LRA should collectively work to preserve water quality and work with the local and state authorities to ensure high water quality standards, including seeking A1 classification of Lake Raponda.
- Failure of lakeshore residents to provide adequate buffers
- Wildlife disruption
- Foreign weeds riding their way into lake via visiting boats
- Making sure natural wildlife like loons aren't chased off the lake by noise and traffic
- Erosion/runoff
- Old septic tanks leaking into the lake

LRA Membership Survey

- Fish kills
- Preserving the scenic beauty that being at the lake provides
- Increasing phosphorus levels

Social (7/50 = 14%)

- Community strife
- I was very impressed with the LRA's initiative to address member voter rights and the membership's feedback on the "mission" of the LRA. The rush to adopt A1 was polarizing, and taking a step back to assess member interests feels like an important step to rebuilding neighbor trust.
- Promoting a welcoming and fun lake community, by supporting a wide variety of activities
- Continuing to foster a sense of community and getting to know our new neighbors
- Missing camaraderie of old and division of new
- Comparable relationship with community
- Community

Roads (7/50 = 14%)

- The road. It gets higher as the road seems to shrink
- Road widening, raising and drainage
- Road quality
- Traffic monitoring on Lake Raponda Road, Lake Raponda Road maintenance, neighborhood watch for thefts and trespassing
- Vehicular traffic, speeding, lack of enforcement, safely parking
- The road conditions
- Road conditions

LRA Membership Survey

No Regulation of Lake Uses (4/50 = 8%)

- Reclassification to A1 status. Trespassing on beachfront private property will increase with larger crowds visiting an A1 lake. The negative aspects of A1 were not fairly considered in last year's discussions. I strongly oppose the reclassification.
- Being able to enjoy life as we know it today with family, friends and neighbors
- Too many restrictions on beach and lake use by local, not lake, residence
- Use limitations

Wake/Power Boats/Lake Safety (3/50 = 6%)

- Overuse of lake by powerboats
- Nuisance caused by inconsiderate recreational motor boaters
- Being able to use my motor boat without too much traffic

Noise (3/50 = 6%)

- Traffic noise, both on the road and on the lake
- Noise
- Noise pollution

Crime (3/50 = 6%)

- Crime
- Protecting the lake community
- security/crime prevention

Other (2/50 = 4%)

- There are too many feral/outdoor cats; they are notoriously bad for the bird population
- Canadian geese