

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON CANNABIS: Survey No. 2

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### **SUMMARY & BACKGROUND:**

As part of a second round of public engagement aiming to discover the desires and concerns of Sturgeon County residents, administration opened a second public online survey.

This survey was open between December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019; during this time 49 responses were collected. This survey summary also includes 12 responses from hard-copy surveys collected at the open house, for a total of 61 survey responses analyzed in this report.

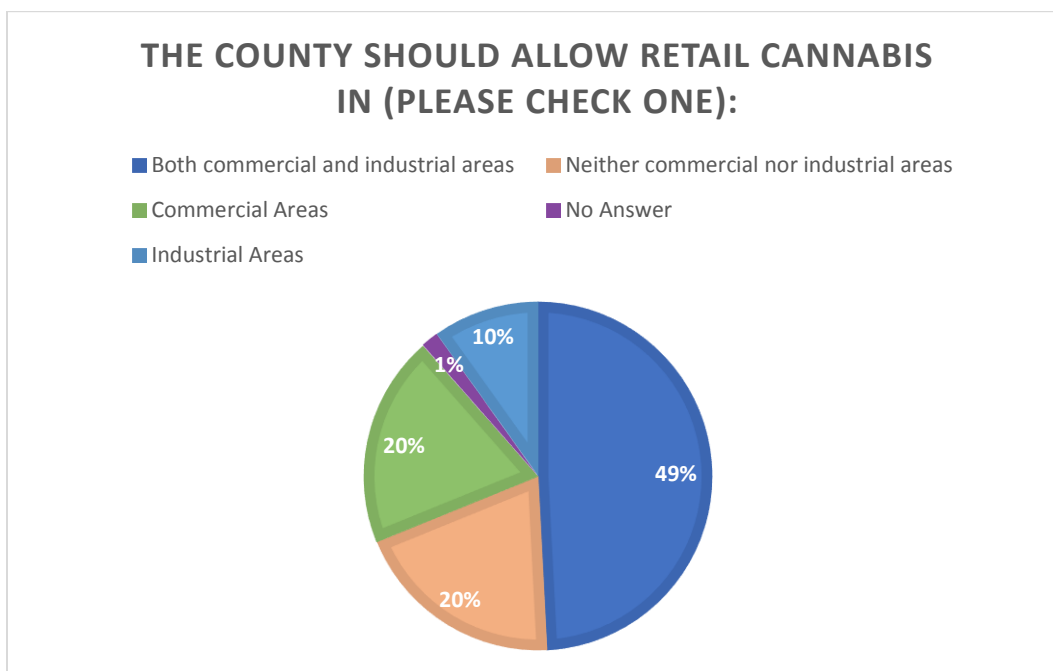
It is assumed that respondents were primarily Sturgeon County residents and landowners (based on the responses to the first survey), although no question was included in the second survey to confirm respondent identity.

This report summarizes results from this second survey to provide further information and guidance on the development of Sturgeon County's cannabis related bylaw(s).

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### **Question 1: The County should allow retail cannabis in (please check one):**



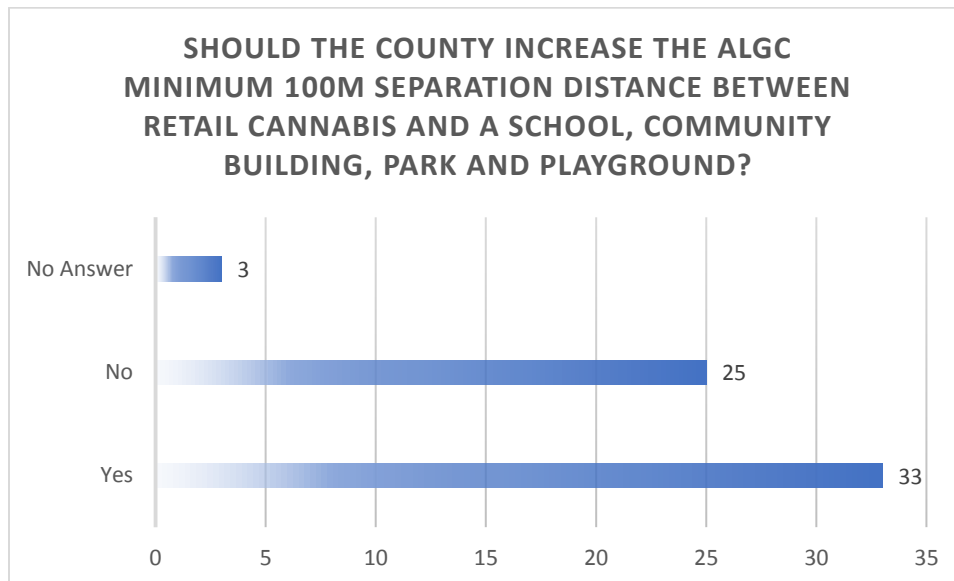
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Overall, nearly a majority (49%) of survey respondents felt that both commercial and industrial areas were appropriate locations for the sale of retail cannabis. Approximately one fifth (20%) felt that neither of these areas were appropriate, and another fifth (20%) chose commercial areas only. Finally, industrial areas were viewed as appropriate by 10% of respondents, and 1% of the respondents did not answer this question.

In short, retail cannabis is most supported in commercial areas, but still supported in industrial areas.

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Question 2: Should the County increase the AGLC minimum 100 m separation distance between retail cannabis and a school, community building, park, and playground?

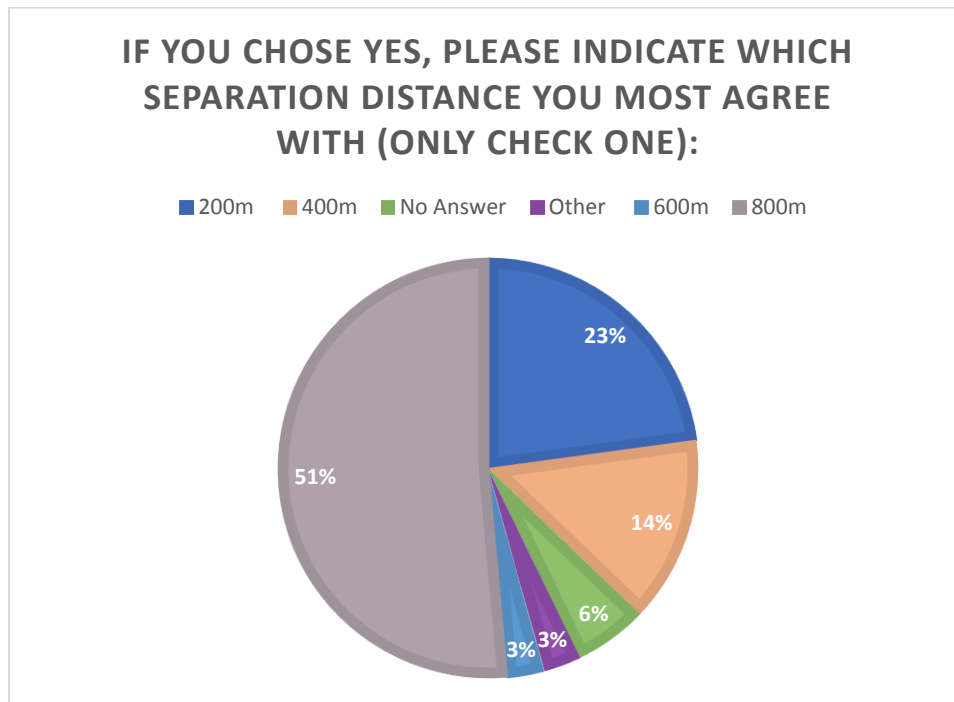


Responses were split between yes and no, with three respondents not answering this question. There exists a preference for an increase in distance between retail cannabis locations and the specified locations, based on this dataset. However, the difference between answers is not large, making this difference somewhat less significant.

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Question 3: If you chose yes, please indicate which separation distance you most agree with (only check one).



Just over half (51%) of respondents who answered “yes” to the previous question regarding additional separation distances between retail cannabis locations and school, community buildings, parks, and playgrounds, chose the additional separation distance of 800 m (the greatest option provided on the survey).

The remaining approximate half of survey respondents who answered “yes” were divided. A significant portion of them (23%) placed their answers at the shorter end of the scale – opting for the smallest distance provided as an option (200m). 14% chose a slightly greater distance of 400m.

Remaining responses were split between no answer (despite a positive response to the previous question), “other,” and 600m.

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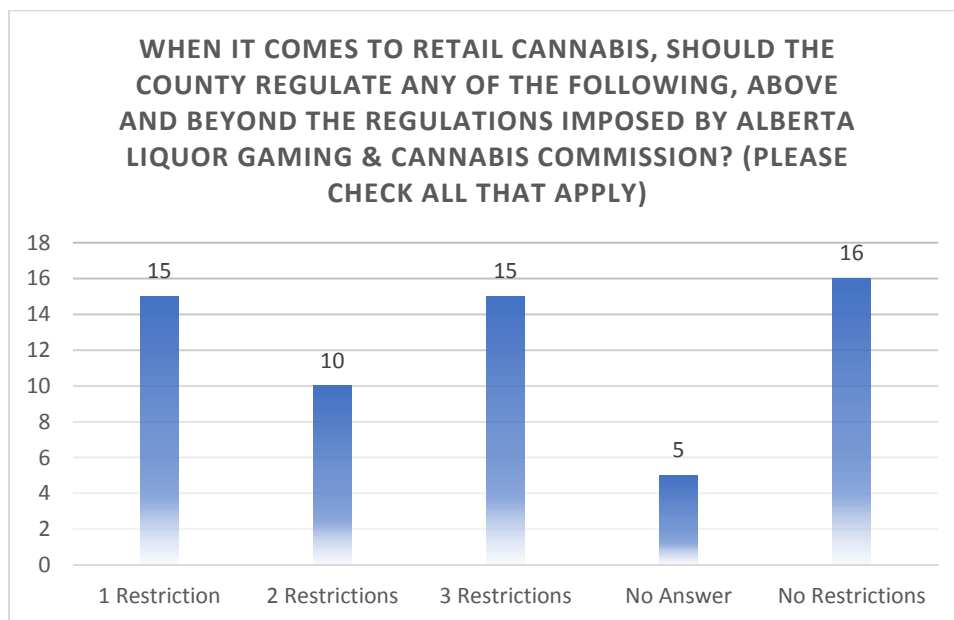
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Question 4: When it comes to Retail Cannabis, should the county regulate any of the following, above and beyond the regulations imposed by the Alberta Liquor Gaming and Cannabis Commission? (Please check all that apply).

Sturgeon County could impose additional regulations on retail cannabis locations, above and beyond the regulations imposed by the Alberta Liquor Gaming and Cannabis Commission.

This survey question aimed to discover what, if any, additional restrictions that respondents would like to see. Three different potential regulations were offered, and respondents could choose any combination (0-3) of these restrictions as additional regulations they would like to see Sturgeon County impose.

The below graph illustrates the trends in responses. Some people opted for no restrictions, while others opted for only one, and yet others opted for more.



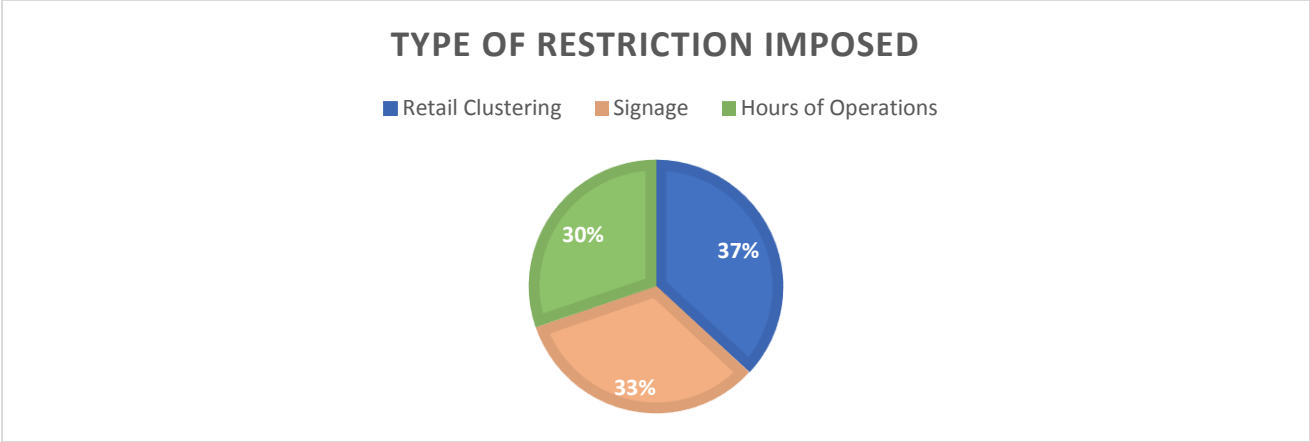
When asked what restrictions they might like to see Sturgeon County implement, the following options were given.

Restrictions addressing....

- Retail Clustering and Setbacks (how far one cannabis retailer is from another);
- Signage and Other Requirements; and,
- Hours of Operation.

For those who selected restrictions, the frequency of each potential restriction selected is as follows:

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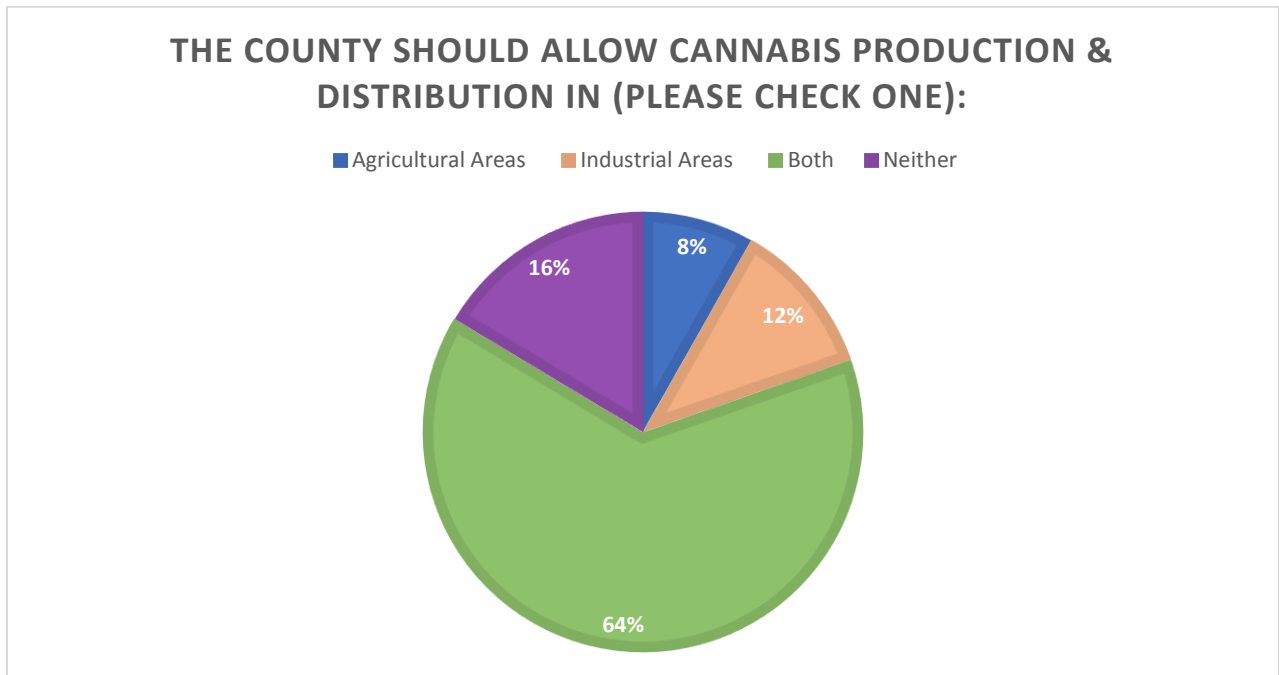
Overall, no one restriction was significantly more popular than another amongst those who opted for Sturgeon County to impose additional restrictions.

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Question 5: The County should allow cannabis production and distribution in (please check one):

Survey respondents primarily felt that cannabis production and distribution should be allowed in both industrial areas *and* agricultural areas. A small proportion of participants felt that this should be restricted to only one region – agricultural only (8%) or industrial only (12%). A final 16% of survey takers felt that neither of these locations is appropriate for cannabis production and distribution activities.

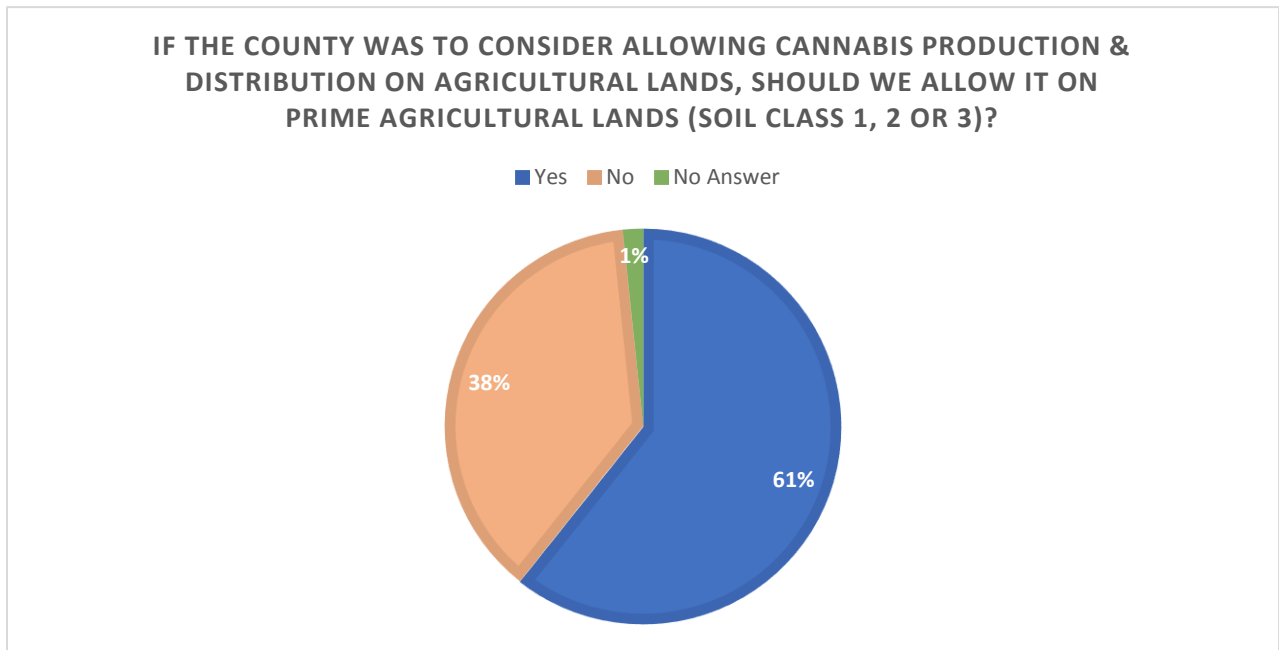


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Question 6: If the County was to consider allowing cannabis production and distribution on agricultural lands, should we allow it on prime agricultural lands (Soil Class 1, 2, or 3)?

Survey respondents were asked if cannabis production should be permitted on high class soils that are prime agricultural lands.

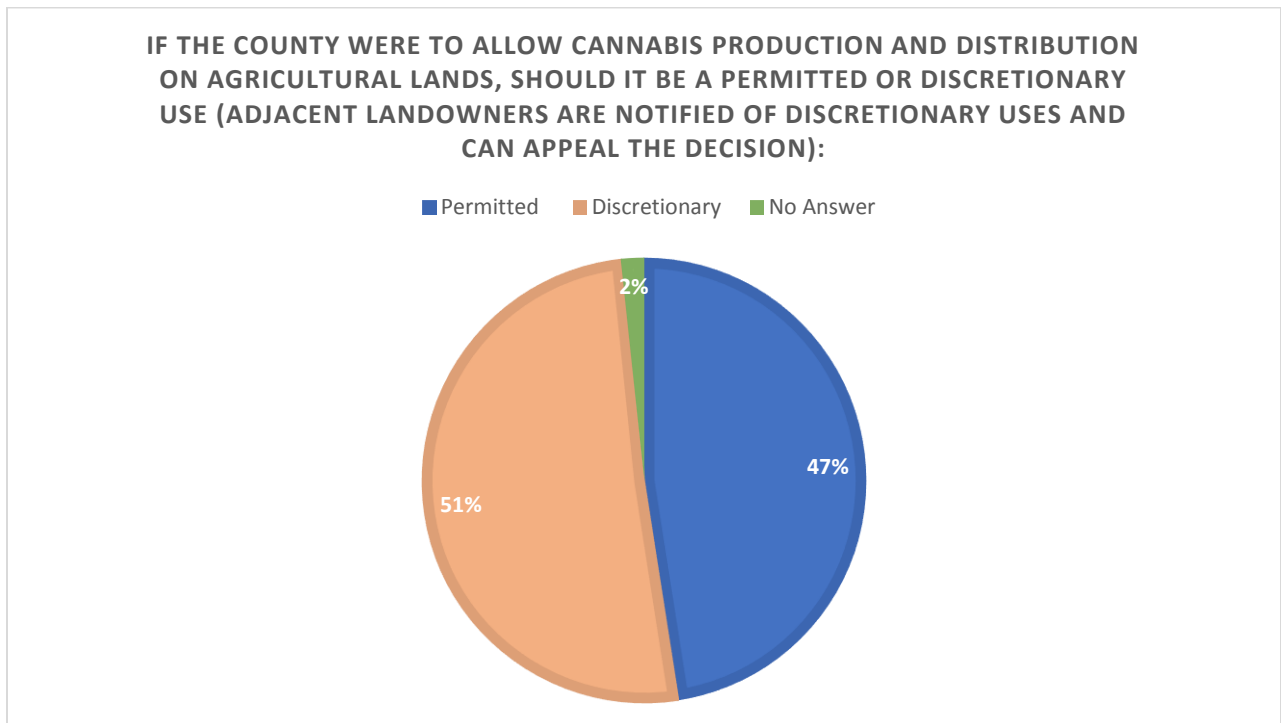
A significant majority (61%) of respondents said that yes, cannabis production should be allowed on lands with these soil types. 38% of the answers indicated non-support of use of soils of these types for cannabis production and distribution, as per the graph below. 1% of the people responding to this survey did not answer question 6.



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Question 7: If the County were to allow cannabis production and distribution on agricultural lands, should it be a permitted or discretionary use (adjacent landowners are notified of discretionary uses and can appeal the decision):

Answers for this question were closely divided, showing no clear preference amongst those surveyed. A slim majority of respondents felt that production and distribution uses should be discretionary (51%), while 47% felt that these uses should be permitted. 2% of respondents did not answer this question.

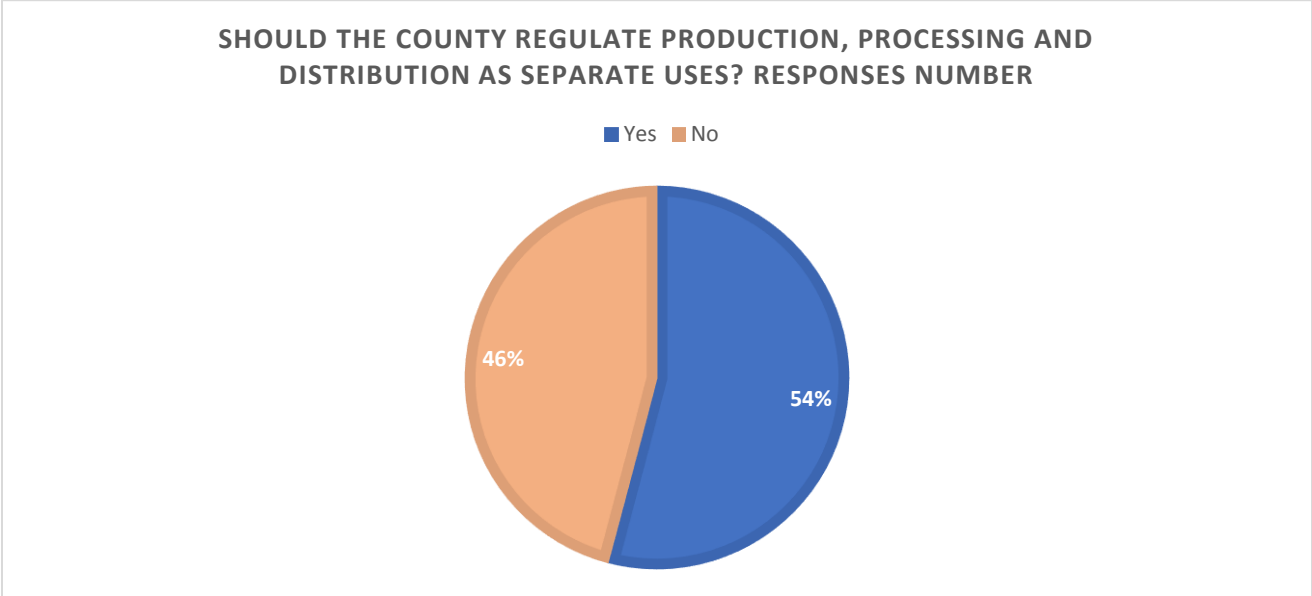




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## Question 8: Should the County regulate production, processing and distribution as separate uses?

Again, answers to these questions are closely divided. Just over half of survey respondents (54%) felt like these should be regulated as separate uses, while just under half (46%) did not feel that these should be regulated as separate uses.

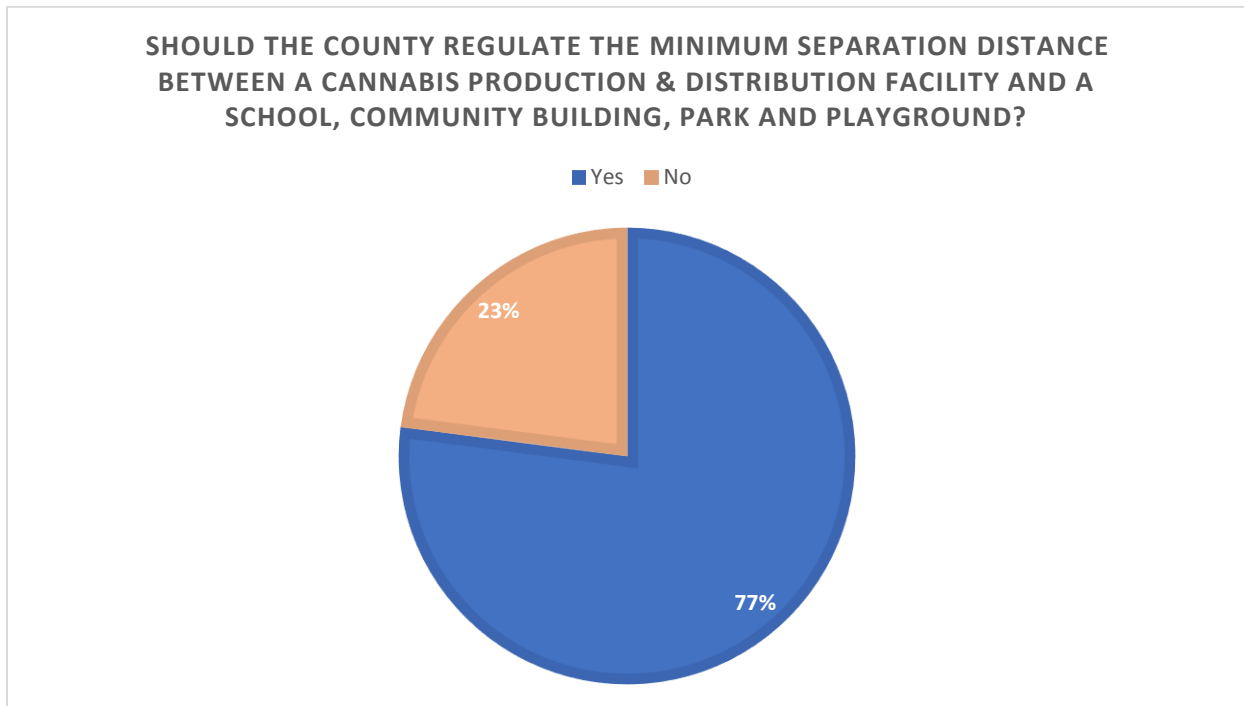


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Question 9: Should the County regulate the minimum separation distance between a cannabis production and distribution facility and a school, community building, park, and playground?

Overall, respondents to the survey felt like the County *should* regulate the distance between cannabis production and distribution facilities and schools, community buildings, parks, and playgrounds. A clear divide was present; 77% of responses indicated a desire for these additional regulations.

Only 23% of responses indicated a desire for no additional regulations.



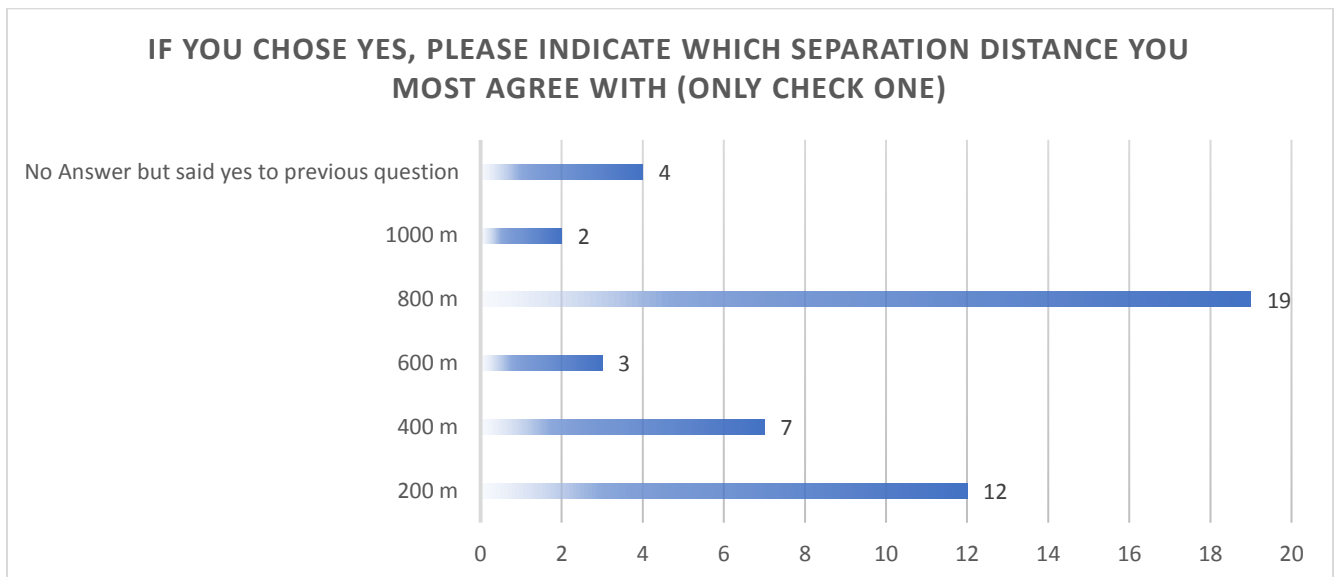
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Question 10: If you chose yes, please indicate which separation distance you most agree with (only check one).

For those respondents who indicated “yes” to the previous question about Sturgeon County implementing additional separation distances, respondents were asked to choose what their preferred setback distance would be for such a regulation.

The most popular response was 800m, with 19 responses (40% of those who said yes to the previous question) selecting this option. Following this, 12 people (25%) selected a lesser separation distance of 200m.

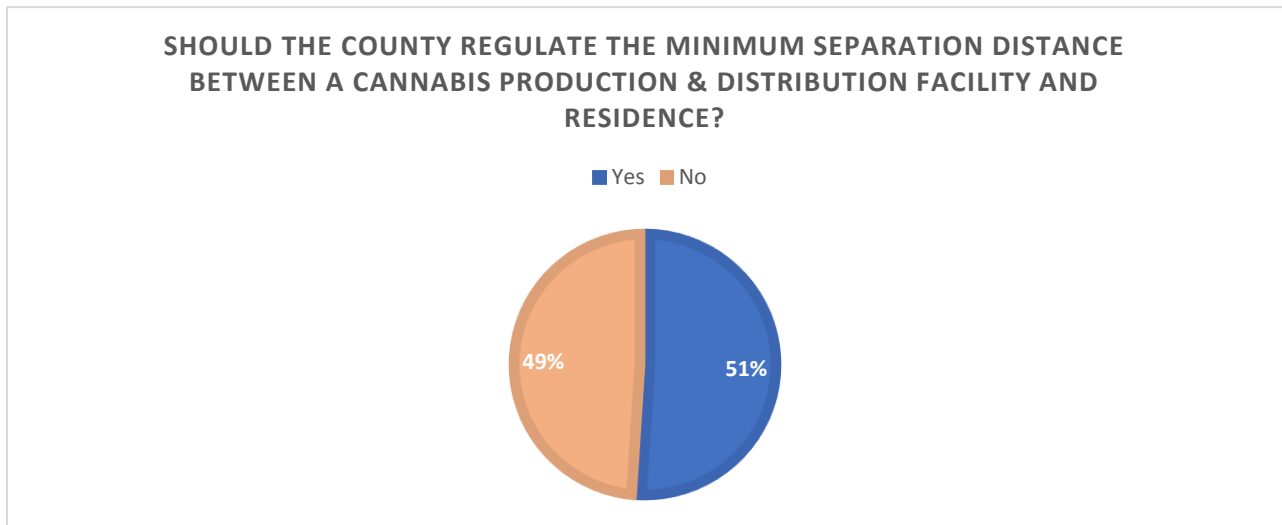
As shown by the chart below, there is significant variation amongst the preferences in what an additional separation distance should be, particularly given that the top two choices are distances that vary significantly.



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Question 11: Should the County regulate the minimum separation distance between a cannabis production and distribution facility and residence?

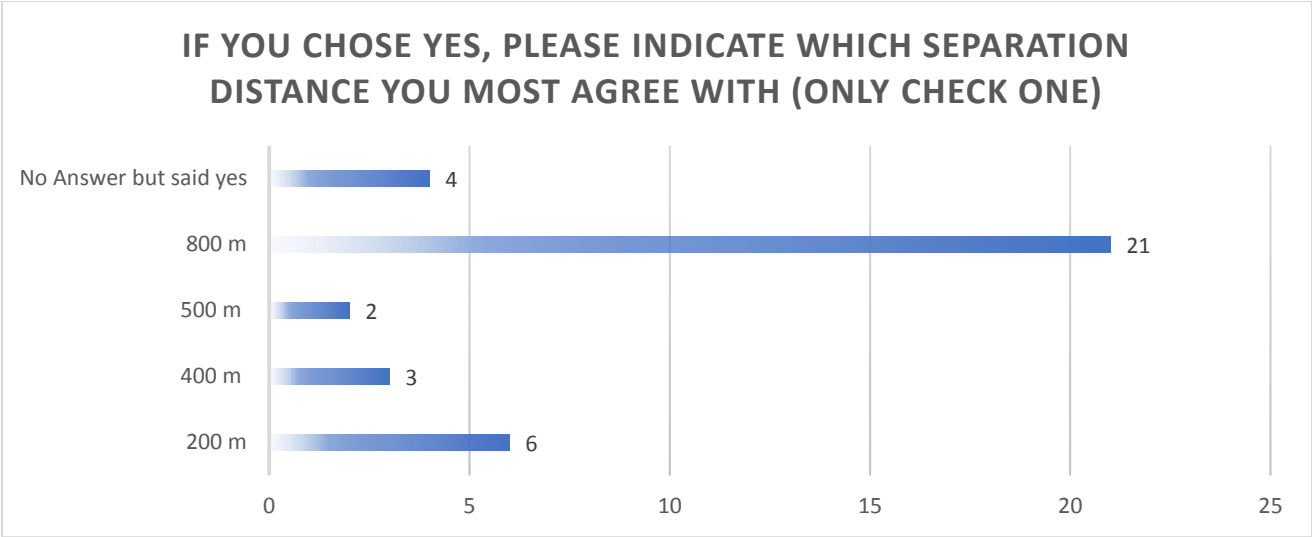
Answers, once again, are very closely divided for this question. A narrow majority (51%) of respondents feel that Sturgeon County *should* regulate a minimum separation distance between a cannabis production & distribution facility and residence. The other nearly half of respondents (49%) indicated that they do *not* feel this additional separation distance regulation is necessary to be implemented by the County.



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Question 12: If you chose yes, please indicated which separation distance you most agree with (check only one).

The separation distance that is most supported here is 800 m – 21 respondents (58% of respondents to this question).



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### Summary:

The main conclusions and trends developed from this dataset include the following:

- In general, there is support for both cannabis retail stores and cannabis production and distribution facilities.
- In most cases, there is little notable divide between the areas that people wish to see these facilities developed in.
- Instead, the evident trend seems to be setback distances: regardless of the land use zone or type of cannabis related use, respondents tend to select the greatest setback distance when given a choice, or select “yes” when asked if additional setback distance should be implemented.
- In several situations:
  - Q. 7 re: permitted or discretionary uses
  - Q. 8 re: should production, processing, and distribution be regulated as different uses
  - Q. 11 re: should the county regulate the minimum distance between a production and distribution facility and a residence?

Responses were divided almost evenly between the different options; this allows Sturgeon County to take the bylaws in either direction, and further evaluate public feedback through the public hearing and bylaw approval process moving forward.