



Alberta Urban Municipalities Association



2009 Local Governance Initiative Survey

**Presentation to AUMA President's Summit
May 1, 2009**

Banister
Research & Consulting Inc.





Project Purpose

- ◆ To determine the most important issues currently affecting municipalities;
- ◆ To determine perceptions of the benefits and concerns associated with different methods of restructuring local governance;
- ◆ To determine potential barriers in implementing changes to local governance; and
- ◆ To gather opinions on how the provincial government can help overcome barriers to change.

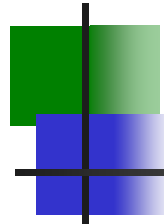




Methodology

- ◆ Conducted 319 surveys with mayors, reeves, councillors and CAO's of various urban and rural Alberta municipalities.
- ◆ Data collection was conducted via a web-based survey from February 13 to March 13, 2009.



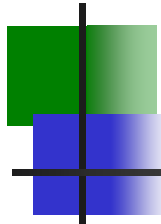


Issues Affecting Municipalities

Percent of Respondents

Updating/maintaining/funding infrastructure	61%
Lack of funding/grant money/revenue	26%
Water/water issues/services	26%
Lack of investments/loss of businesses	17%
Growth management/development	16%



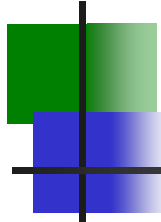


Least Important Issues

Percent of Respondents

All are important/none/equally important	29%
Money/cost control/funding	5%
Recreation/recreation facilities	5%
Highway bypass/maintenance of roads	4%
Infrastructure cost	4%



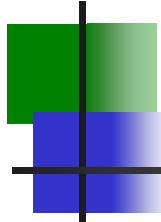


Issues Critical to Sustainability

Percent of Respondents

Infrastructure/funding for infrastructure	30%
Alternative revenue options	22%
Water/waste water/waterline/treatment	17%
Attracting business/retaining business	14%
Growth management/development	10%



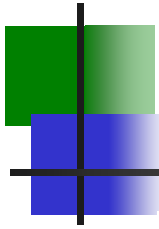


Effective Methods for Ensuring Sustainability

Percent of Respondents

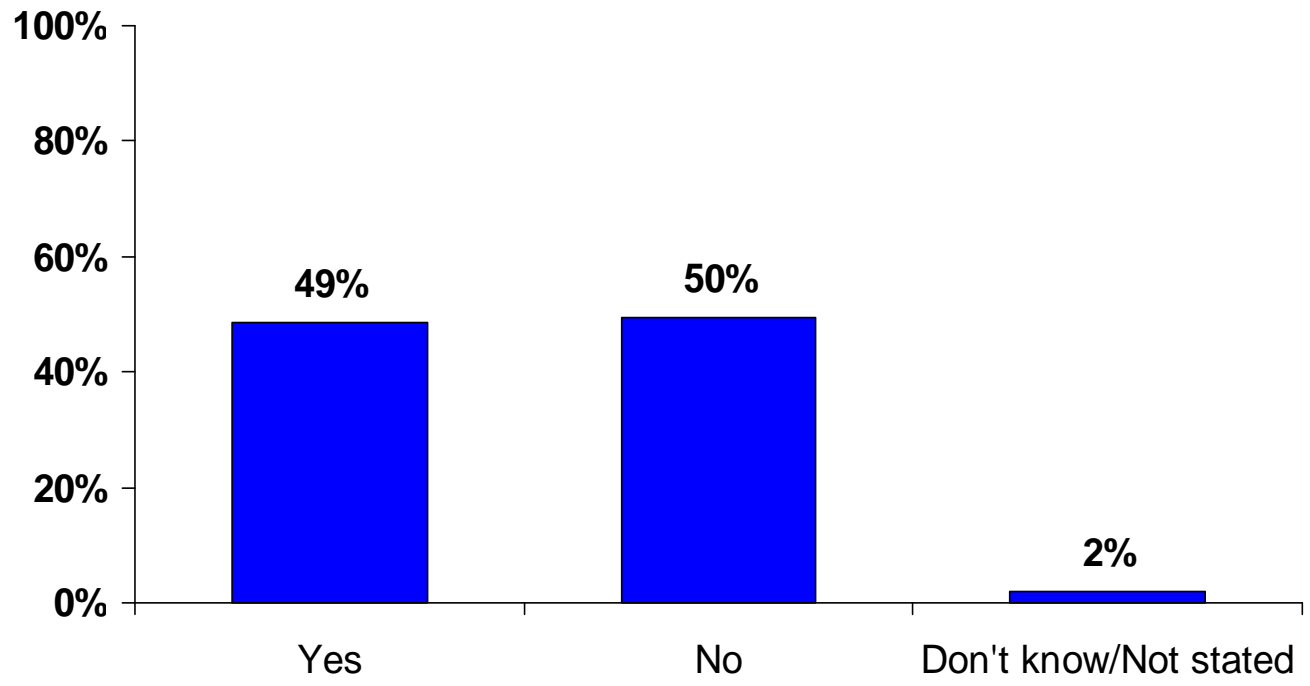
Alternate revenue sources/revenue	20%
Assured long term grants/more provincial funding	20%
Partnering with neighbours/better relationships	19%
Infrastructure	13%
Attract commercial/industry/economic growth	11%

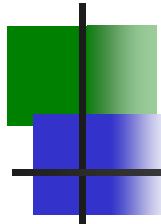




Number of Municipalities in Alberta

Do you agree that there are too many municipalities in Alberta?



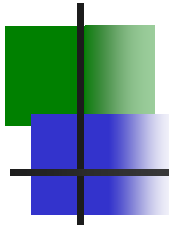


Incentives for Restructuring of Governance

Percent of Respondents

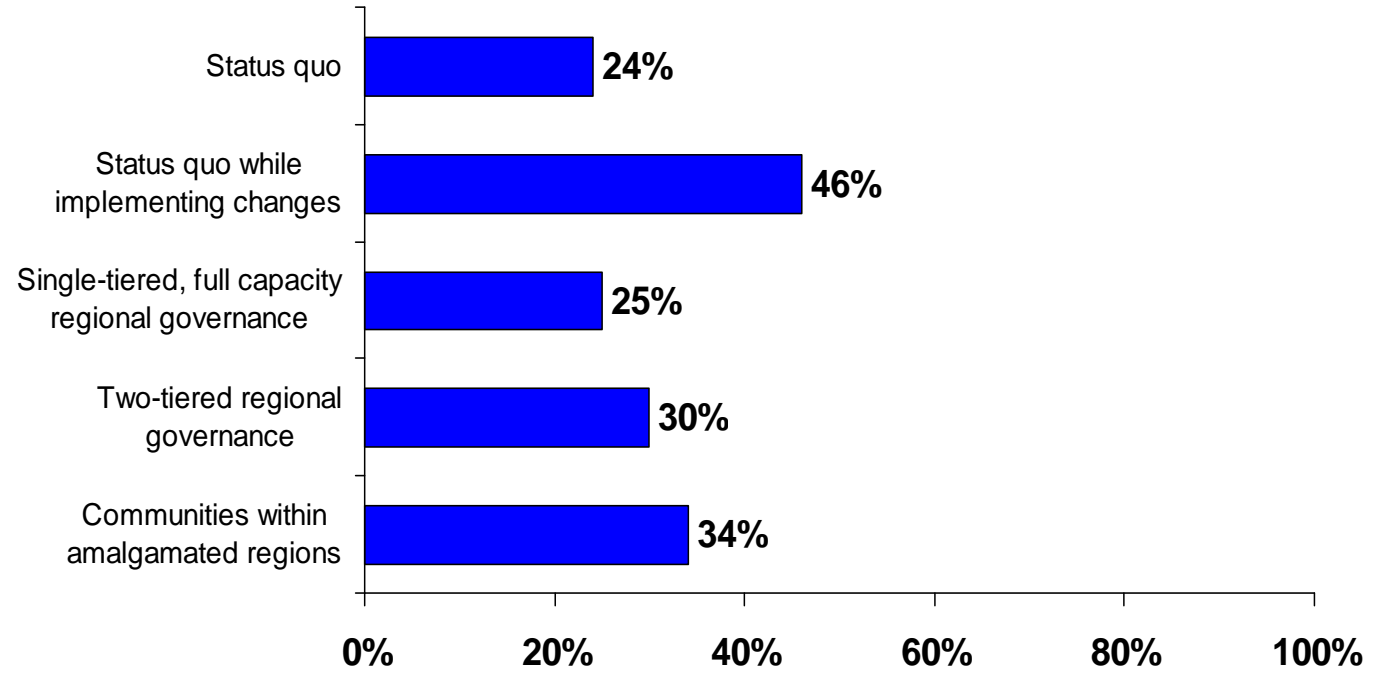
Financial viability/more financial support	15%
Regional governance/incentives for joint services	12%
Provide essential services for residents	10%
Incentives for infrastructure upgrades/projects	9%
Reduced taxes/keep same millrates	6%





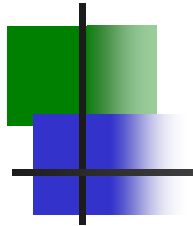
Restructuring of Local Governance:

Comparative effectiveness of local governance restructuring options



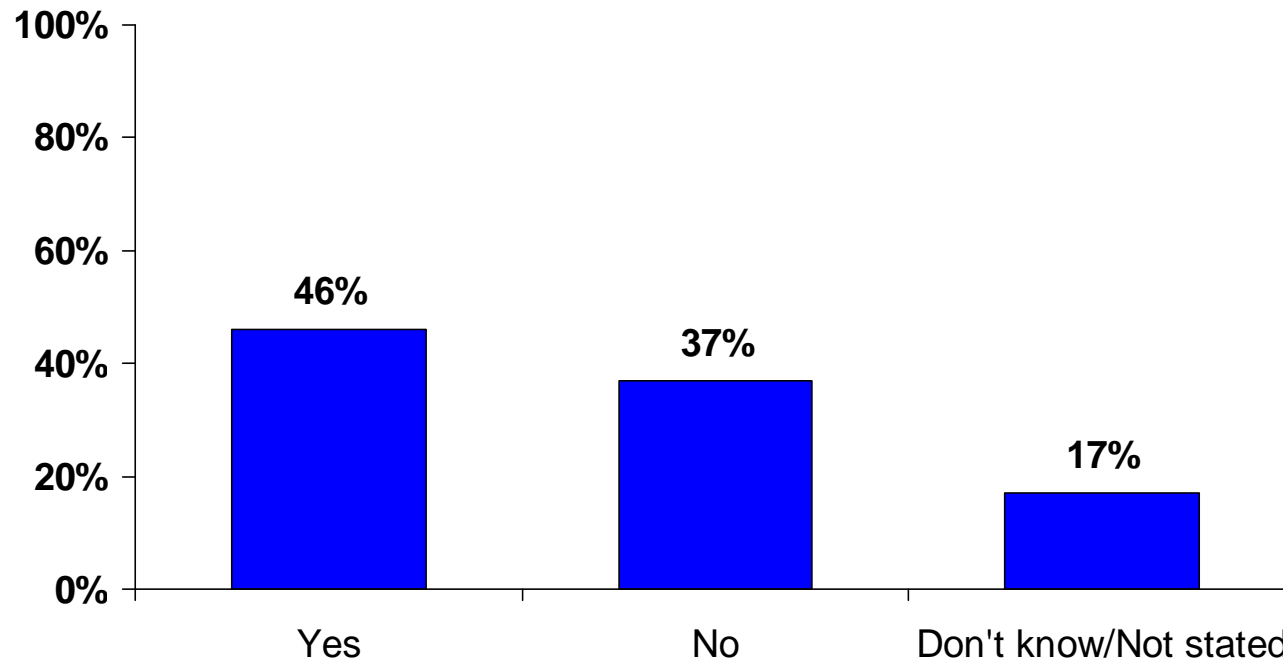
Effective or very effective (4 or 5 out of 5)

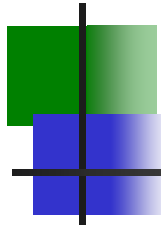




Community Identity

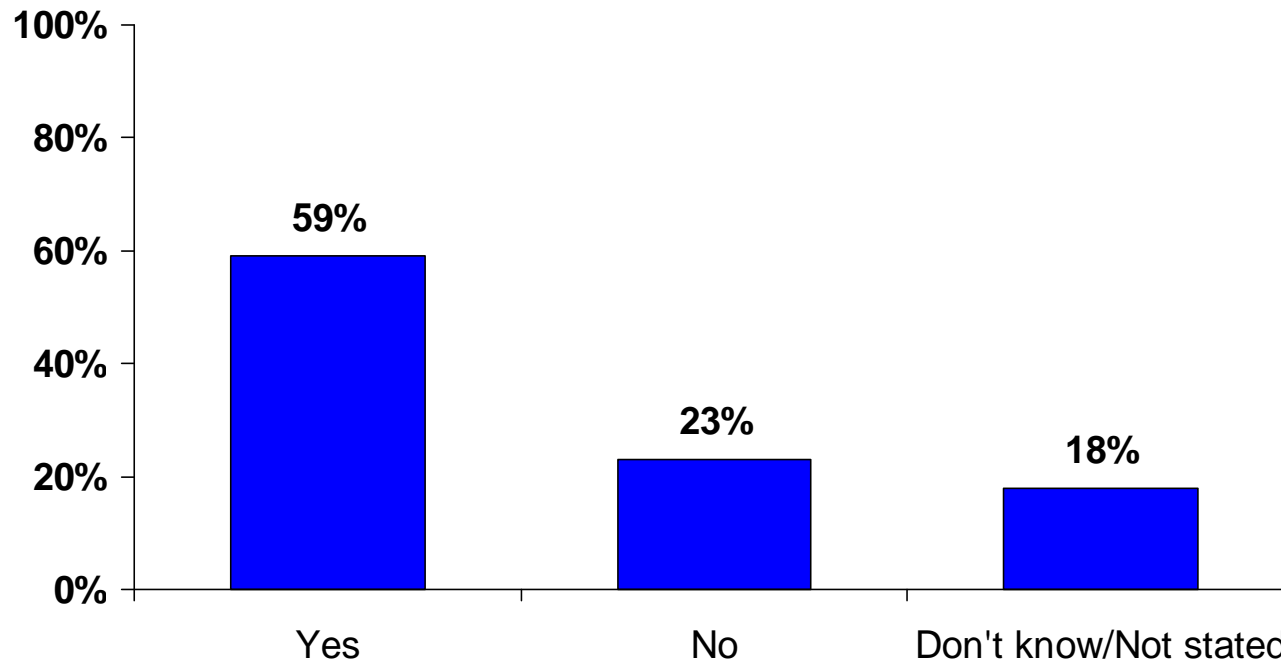
Do you believe it is possible to maintain a unique community identity within a larger municipality than the one you are part of today?

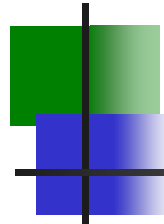




Need for Change

Do you think that municipal governance in Alberta has to change in order to meet the challenges of the future?



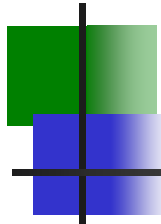


Tools to Facilitate a Potential Restructuring

Percent of Respondents

Training/seminars/education	13%
Open/honest communication/promotion of advantages	12%
Provide support/assistance/funding	9%
A strong plan/template/legislation base is needed	8%
Consultation with municipalities	6%

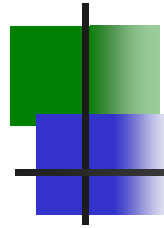




Barriers to Change

	<u>Percent of Respondents</u>
Resistance to change	18%
Fear of community dissolution/losing power/autonomy	17%
Resistance from locally elected politicians	14%
Resistance to change by local population	10%
Lack of education/education officials/people on change	7%





Questions

