

Cave Creek Community Report Government & Issues

Community Research Initiative



November 2013

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Cave Creek, AZ



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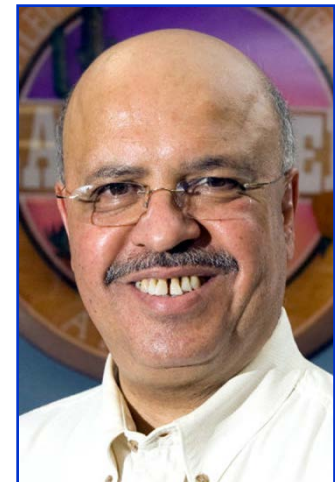


Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

In 2013 the Town of Cave Creek, Arizona, held both primary and general elections for mayor and six council members. Significant sums of money were spent to sway voters. The majority of funds originated from non-Cave Creek voters.

A study was initiated based on electoral dissatisfaction among a significant group of long-term Cave Creek citizens. The election of a controlling “slate” of four candidates and the immediate and surreptitious removal of the town manager Usama Abujbarah was the catalyst for the community research.



Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

Cave Creek Town Council Members

- **Vincent Francia - Mayor**
- **Adam Trenk – Vice Mayor**
- **Ernie Bunch - Councilman**
- **Mike Durkin - Councilman**
- **Thomas McGuire – Councilman**
- **Reg Monachino – Councilman**
- **Charlie Spitzer – Councilman**



Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

CAVE CREEK REGISTERED VOTERS:

- N=60

PRIMARY SCREENERS:

- Age 18 +
- Male / Female
- Politically Informed
- N = 20 Non-Slate
- N = 20 Neutral
- N = 20 Slate Supporters



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

THE TOWN OF CAVE CREEK

Good Place to live: Agree = 23% | Strongly Agree = 73%

Good schools: Agree = 38% | Strongly Agree = 29%

Economy is strong: Agree = 35% | Strongly Agree = 10%



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

TOWN OF CAVE CREEK LEADERSHIP

The Town Council
is doing a good job:

Agree = 6% | Strongly Agree = 10%



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

TOWN OF CAVE CREEK LEADERSHIP

Mayor Vincent Francia
is a good leader:

Agree = 10% | Strongly Agree = 6%

Vice Mayor Adam Trenk
is truthful:

Agree = 6% | Strongly Agree = 8%

Rodney Glassman as
Permanent Town Manager:

Agree = 4% | Strongly Agree = 0%

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

TOWN OF CAVE CREEK LEADERSHIP

\$10,000 per month is too
Too much to pay interim
Town Manager
Rodney Glassman:



Agree = 15% | Strongly Agree = 65%

Executive Summary

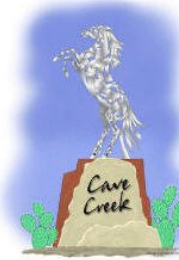
KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Spending out of control: Agree = 10% | Strongly Agree = 38%



Executive Summary



KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Note: Cave Creek monument signage is similar in design to a automobile hood ornament found on e-bay

\$20,000 for stainless steel
horse sign is a waste

Agree = 17% | Strongly Agree = 54%

\$80,000 for road maintenance
software is a waste

Agree = 13% | Strongly Agree = 48%

\$144,000 for bicycle
lane is a waste

Agree = 6% | Strongly Agree = 38%

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Cave Creek's \$17-Million
budget is too much:

Agree = 23% | Strongly Agree = 20%

The Town has too
much debt

Agree = 23% | Strongly Agree = 29%



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

CAVE CREEK OPERATIONS

My water bill is
too high

Agree = 17% | Strongly Agree = 25%

The Town has too
many special events

Agree = 13% | Strongly Agree = 21%

Carefree taking over the court
is bad for Cave Creek

Agree = 8% | Strongly Agree = 28%



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | LIKERT 5 - POINT SCALE

JUST PLAIN STUPID



Challenging Scottsdale for the
“West’s Most Western Town”
moniker is wasting the
Town’s resources:



Agree = 6% | Strongly Agree = 63%



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK MAYOR REPORT CARD



Vincent Francia
Mayor

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>
6%	19%	30%	17%	28%

Grade: 2.60





Executive Summary

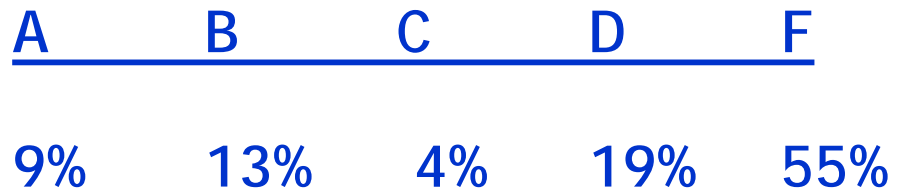
KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK VICE MAYOR REPORT CARD



Adam Trenk
Vice Mayor

Grade: 2.00





Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK COUNCIL REPORT CARD



Ernie Bunch
Councilman

Grade: 3.34

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>
13%	32%	40%	6%	9%





Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK COUNCIL REPORT CARD



Mike Durkin
Councilman

Grade: 2.36

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>
9%	17%	17%	17%	40%





Executive Summary

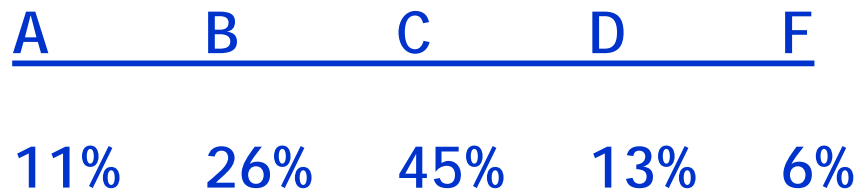
KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK COUNCIL REPORT CARD



Thomas McGuire
Councilman

Grade: 3.21

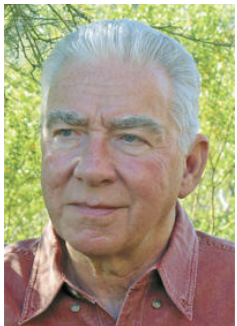




Executive Summary

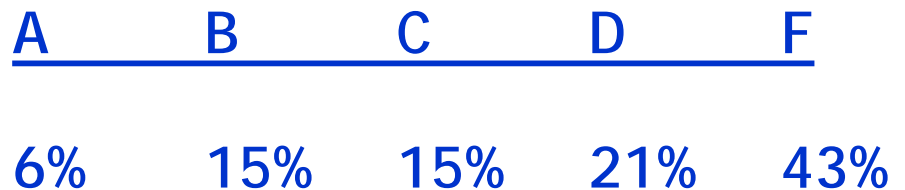
KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK COUNCIL REPORT CARD



Reg Monachino
Councilman

Grade: 2.21





Executive Summary

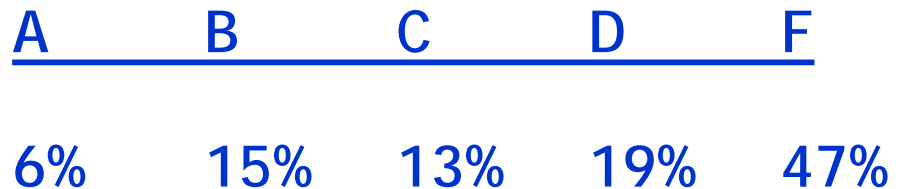
KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK COUNCIL REPORT CARD



Charlie Spitzer
Councilman

Grade: 2.15





Executive Summary

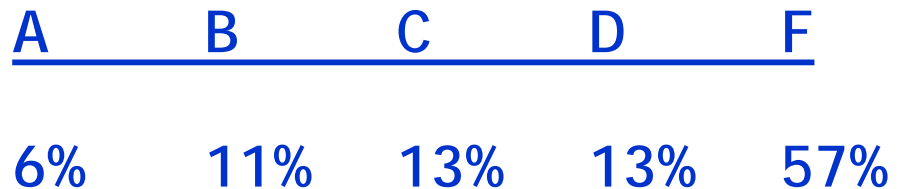
KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

CAVE CREEK TOWN MANAGER REPORT CARD



Rodney Glassman
Interim Town Manager

Grade: 1.96





Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

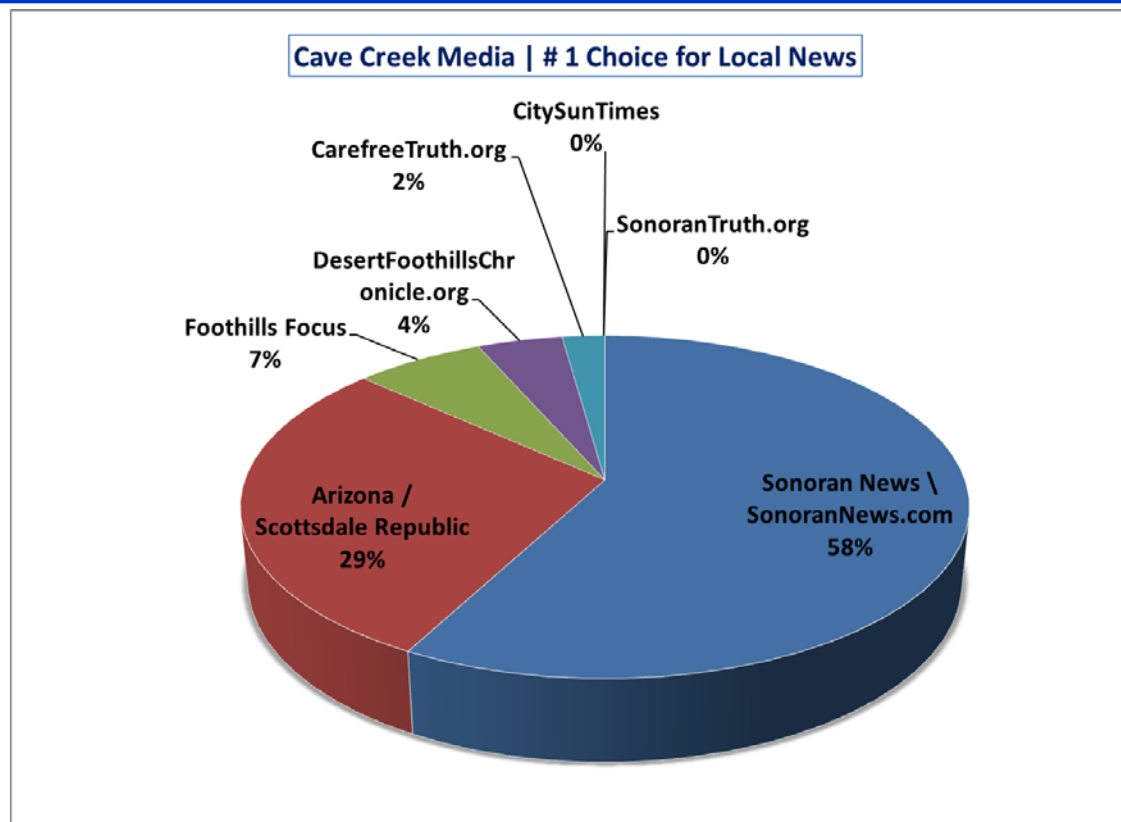
CAVE CREEK TOWN SUMMARY REPORT CARD

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>
Vincent Francia	6%	19%	30%	17%	28%
Adam Trenk	9%	13%	4%	19%	55%
Ernie Bunch	13%	32%	40%	6%	9%
Mike Durkin	9%	17%	17%	17%	40%
Thomas McGuire	11%	26%	45%	13%	6%
Reg Monachino	6%	15%	15%	21%	43%
Charlie Spitzer	6%	15%	13%	19%	47%
Rodney Glassman	6%	11%	13%	13%	57%

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK FOCUSED MEDIA

#1 NEWS MEDIA FOR CAVE CREEK VOTERS



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

What is the most significant problem concerning Cave Creek's government? - Open-Ended Response

(Comments are optional - no comment required to continue)



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

1. What is the most significant problem concerning Cave Creek's government? (Comments are optional - no comment required to continue) - Open-Ended Response
2. Out of Towners running and ruining our town
3. Lack of honesty and transparency
4. New council members are not keeping their campaign promises. The mayor is a political chameleon.
5. Transparency. Put every issue on the table for the voters to review and understand.

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

6. The four new councilmembers have no concept of town government and serve only a small group of citizens.
7. That the town manager was fired so others could gain power and influence.
8. That Trenk doesn't live here.
9. That people believe the strangest gossip.
10. That we don't support as citizens those who have worked hardest for us and speak up.

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

11. Uncontrolled spending of taxpayer's monies.
12. Many, many totally USELESS projects. Give us our money back, lower taxes, smaller government, less spending. How many bicyclists live in our 2 cities; enough for all that spending?
13. Adam Trenk and Rodney Glassman do not live here. They are here for their own political gains and not the towns.
14. The new council members lied to get elected. No transparency.
15. Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

16. Transparency , telling the truth. Don't treat citizens as school children. Get rid of all outsiders on the council.
17. The are spending money on things that we do not need them spending money on.
Example: Monument Signs
18. Changes are just starting and they take thought and time to understand correct actions. Prior debt is not this administration but a carry over issue that must be in the equation. The more "people-happy" town you have including bike lanes and events for Retail owner, the more people and positive energy and money will come this way.
19. The Council
20. The division among the towns people since this election, we need to move forward, together.

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

21. The slate and Vincent Francia are ruining the town. Recall them! Trenk is the biggest mistake and Francia and he are buddies
22. Lack of transparency. Lack of honesty, bunch of frat boys from Scottsdale running the town and making the town their cowboys acting theater.
23. There are still those in town who can't admit that they lost the election and are being divisive.
24. Lack of trust. Current council rode in on serious charges of wrong doing by former council members, then fired town manager without process causing us potential millions in legal fees and lawsuit payout. Meanwhile they turn their attention to frivolous issues, like who is "west's most western town"? and changing town code to tell new residents about the town's character. The new council appears totally lost when real business needs to be discussed - see transcript of 10/21/13 council meeting to verify!
25. Small government is acting like big government. They are not representing Cave Creek residents, they are representing themselves.

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

- 26. The Council take-over and all it has done since then.
- 27. Distrust of current Town Council; focus seems to be on commercial development and PR, with little regard for the tax paying citizens of this Town, their quality of life, noise from downtown, events held downtown, on such a frequent basis.
- 28. Spend too much time on show but not real business.
- 29. This survey seems to be biased by the provider who clearly has an agenda. I do not like this.
- 30. Transparency, budget planning, maintain Cave Creek as a western town with a small population

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

- 31. The dishonesty: - the way Usama was relieved from his position as the best Town Manager we've had in years; - the way the Town Council was indeed elected as a slate: they have no comprehension of what CC needs or wants; they are dishonest in their appraisal of what came before, what policies work.
- 32. Adam Trenk is NOT a resident of CC and falsified his address; - Rodney Glassman is an outsider, with no clue as to what this community is all about.
- 33. High cost of water and high cost for rural metro coverage
- 34. Corruption among new councilmen.
- 35. Failure to abide by Open Meeting Laws

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

36. Wasteful spending to look like they are doing something.

37. Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency

38. Cleaning up the mess left by the previous council!

39. Adam Trenk

40. Four Council Members (Slate) lied to get elected, have not a clue as to how to govern and should be removed. Glassman has no idea how to manage a town and doesn't seem to believe it is his job.

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK OPEN-ENDS

WHAT CAVE CREEK VOTERS HAVE TO SAY

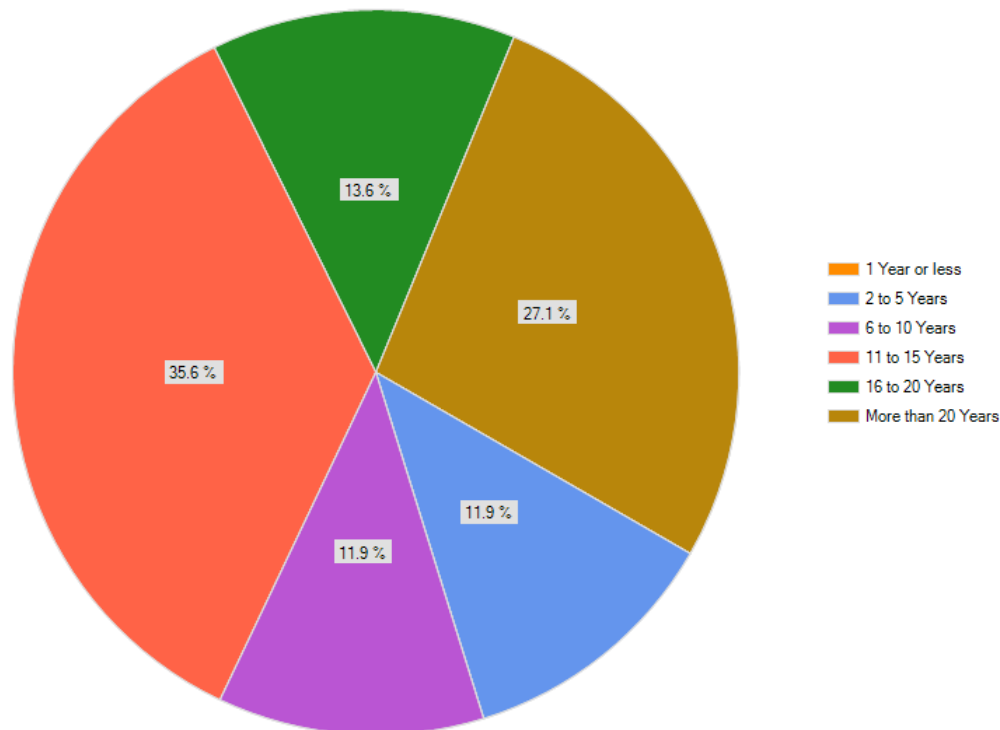
- 41. I believe the mayor is afraid to make the tough decisions and lets strong individuals and groups influence his decision making. The town is full of small businesses but the mayor has never been in business and can't relate.
- 42. The crushing debt load incurred by the previous town council
- 43. Continuity. The town needs to move forward with resolving its most pressing issues.

Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK VOTERS

CAVE CREEK LENGTH OF RESIDENCY

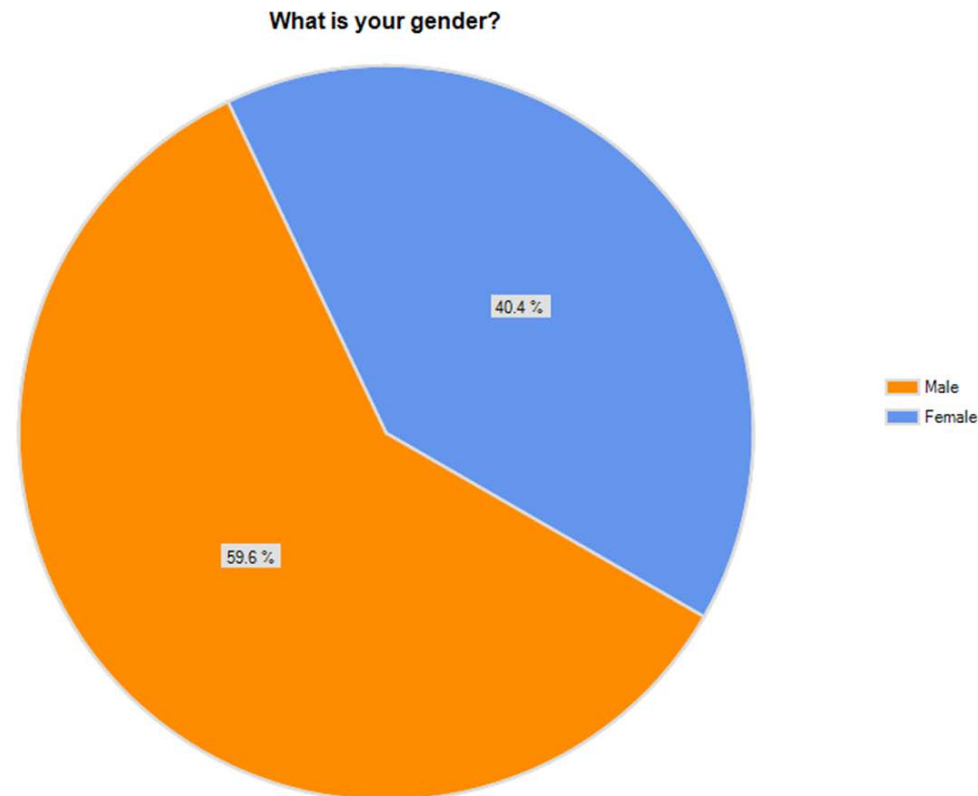
How many years have resided in the Town of Cave Creek?



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK VOTERS

CAVE CREEK | MALE / FEMALE RESPONDENTS

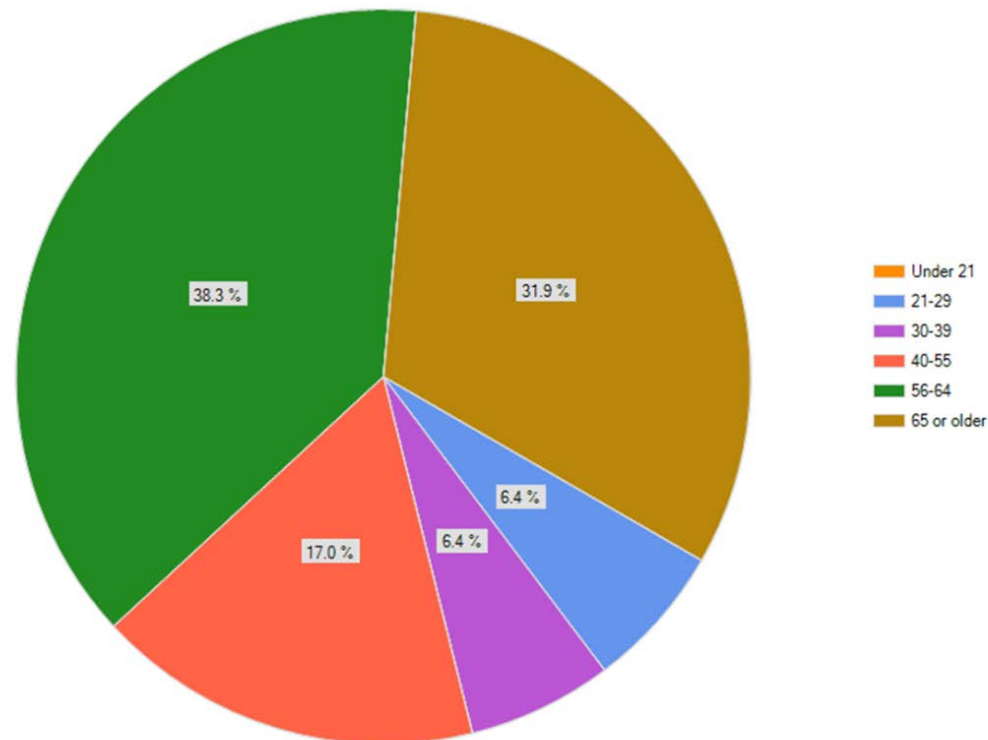


Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK VOTERS

CAVE CREEK AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

Which of the following best describes your age?

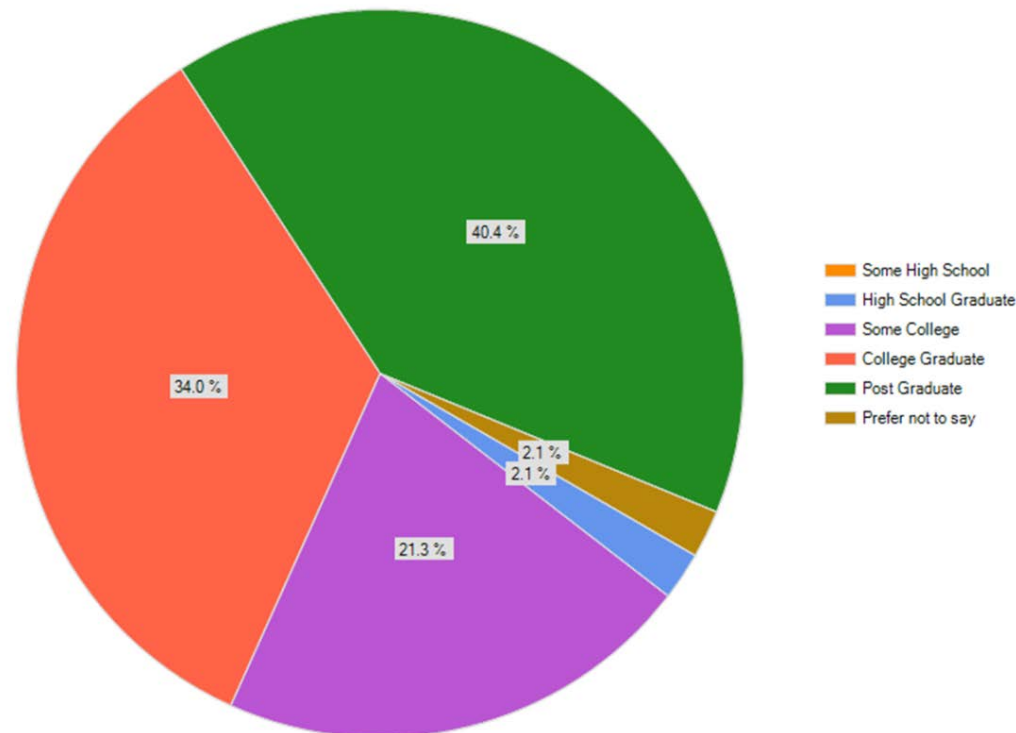


Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK VOTERS

CAVE CREEK EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

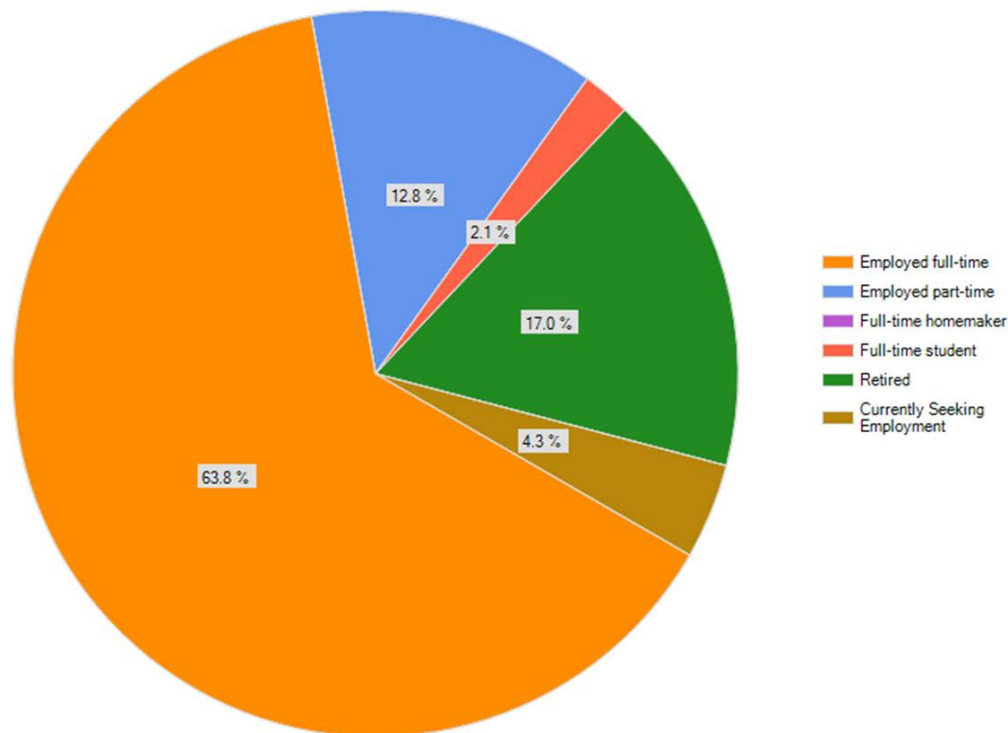


Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK VOTERS

CAVE CREEK EMPLOYMENT STATUS

What is your current employment status?



Executive Summary

KEY FINDINGS: TOTAL SAMPLE | CAVE CREEK VOTERS

CAVE CREEK POLITICAL AFFILIATION

I consider myself to be a (select only one)

