



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2026-268
IN CITY COUNCIL
September 28, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council,

I am writing to inform you that I am appointing and reappointing the following persons as members of the Climate Committee for a term of two (2) years effective **September 28, 2026:**

- **Shamima Akter (appointment)**
- **Skylar Gering (appointment)**
- **Gregory King (appointment)**
- **Jess Nahigian (appointment)**
- **Rosalyn Negrón (appointment)**
- **Saher Rana (appointment)**
- **Janan Reilly (appointment)**
- **Rifaa Tajani (appointment)**
- **Hajer Hyte (reappointment)**
- **Joel Nogic (reappointment)**
- **Tom Rawson (reappointment)**

Climate Committee

The Climate Committee is a volunteer group of community members who work together to provide feedback and ideas to the City on topics related to climate change. The Committee is made up of 18-20 members who are appointed by the City Manager. Eleven committee seats are currently open to new applicants and current members who have applied for reappointment. New and re-appointed members will be appointed for a two-year term.

The Climate Committee has three roles that help the City reduce climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase equity, and serve as a partner to and example for other communities:

- Provide feedback and ideas to the City on ways to reduce and live with climate change while prioritizing the needs of the most at-risk populations.
- Share information about City climate programs with community members, listen to community concerns, and raise feedback with City staff so programs effectively serve all community members.



- Stay informed about the City's climate goals and provide accountability and feedback on barriers and opportunities to improve effectiveness.

Selection Process

The Office of Sustainability advertised for new applicants between May 22nd and July 6th, 2026 in the City's daily digest emails, a news release, on the City and CDD websites, and through outreach to neighborhood associations and community groups. Current members shared the advertisement with their communities as well. At the conclusion of this application period, 30 complete applications were received. Applicants were asked to share about their interest in joining the Committee, any climate or environmental experience, and examples of how they had collaborated with others in their community. All applications were reviewed for candidate attributes such as connection to the Cambridge community, interest in climate issues, and personal and professional experience.

All applicants who submitted a complete application were invited to interview. Twenty-eight candidates were interviewed using a small group interview structure (existing members were not required to re-interview). Interview questions focused on candidates' connection to Cambridge communities and their personal concerns and interests related to climate change. Office of Sustainability staff met to review the interview responses and applications to arrive at a list of recommended appointees.

The appointees include eight new members and three reappointed members. The demographic makeup of the resulting committee, with new and existing members, is attached and reflects the broad diversity of ages, languages, housing types, and other demographics found in Cambridge.

New Appointments

Shamima Akter (Cambridgeport)

Heat Justice Community Liaison for the City and volunteers with multiple groups and food pantries in the city. Focused on the importance of climate outreach for language-isolated residents.

Skylar Gering (Riverside)

PhD candidate researching wind and renewable energy technology, and an experienced student union leader serving as a state and local chair. Focused on both renewable energy technology and methods of organizational change. Has attended Climate Committee meetings previously.

Gregory King (Cambridgeport)

Clean energy and environmental justice consultant and managing director of a minority-owned firm focused on diversifying the Commonwealth's clean energy workforce. Interested in community involvement in energy justice, in order to ensure climate benefits reach the people who need them most.

Jess Nahigian (Strawberry Hill)

Lifelong Cambridge resident, graduate student, and climate advocate with the Massachusetts Sierra Club who brings experience across lobbying, activism, and policy. Focused on building electrification and local renewable systems and how they are paired with environmental justice.

Rosalyn Negrón (West Cambridge)

Climate and anthropology professor who directs the Sustainable Solutions Lab. Her lived experience and research on flooding and hurricanes have informed her focus on community cohesion as an essential part of climate infrastructure.

Saher Rana (North Cambridge)

Former agriculturist and researcher who partnered with rural communities on sustainable resource management and community development. In Cambridge, is actively engaged with affordable housing residents and immigrant communities, with a focus on building relationships across diverse communities for environmental stewardship.

Janan Reilly (North Cambridge)

Climate adaptation and resilience professional who worked at FEMA funding hazard mitigation projects nationwide. Currently works at an engineering firm advising New England municipalities. A Cambridge Climate Leader who wants to bring her professional expertise home to her own community.

Rifaa Tajani (Cambridgeport)

Researcher focused on building and heat resilience with demonstrated familiarity with BEUDO and the Net Zero Action Plan, who has collaborated with bilingual residents in her research. Interested in making energy and emissions data visible to individuals in order to spur individual climate action.

Reappointments**Hajer Hyte (North Cambridge)**

Recent graduate from CRLS. Focused on educating the community about waste, composting for sustainability, and more equitable outreach.

Joel Nogie, Chair (North Cambridge)

Engaged in neighborhood planning and climate conversations; Chair of the committee since January 2026 and vice chair previously. Wants tackling climate challenges to be a community effort.

Tom Rawson (North Cambridge)

Climate educator and retired middle school science teacher, using retirement to work specifically on climate change.

I appreciate the willingness of these community members to serve and look forward to their contributions as members of the Climate Committee.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yi-An Huang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager

City of Cambridge

Office of Sustainability

Climate Committee - Demographics

September 2026



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Office of Sustainability

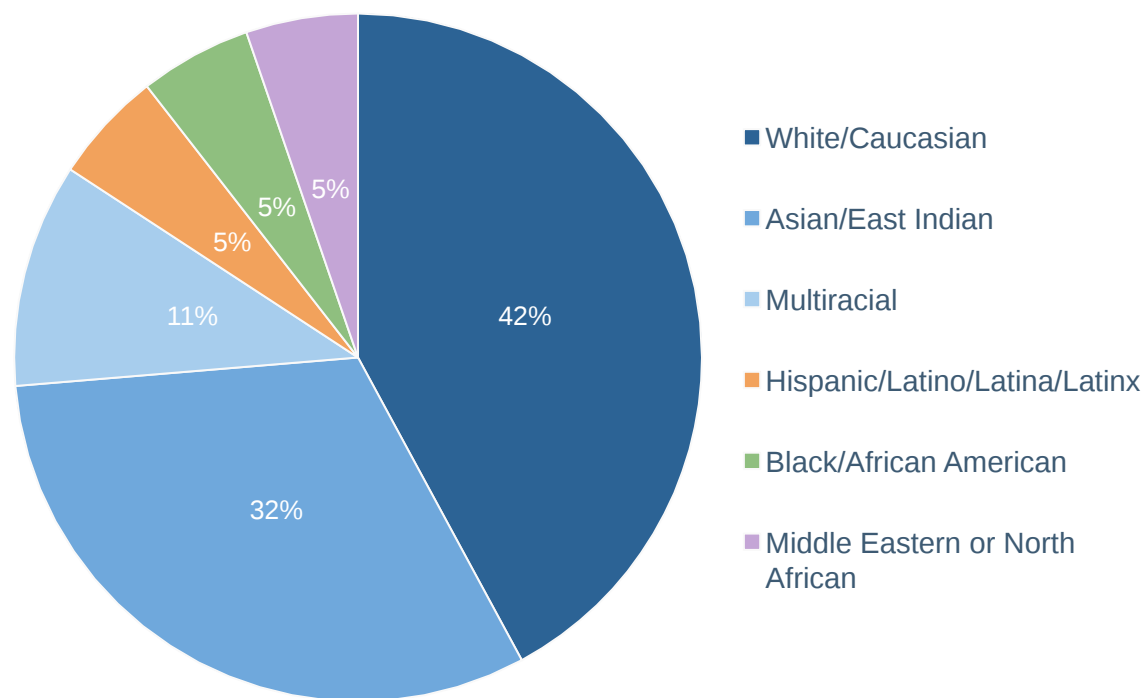
The following charts show member responses to demographics questions; they reflect the self-identified demographics for the full Climate Committee, including new appointees and existing members.

(Note: the charts show the number of members responding to each question; members who did not provide a response are excluded from that chart, or labeled as “declined to answer.”)

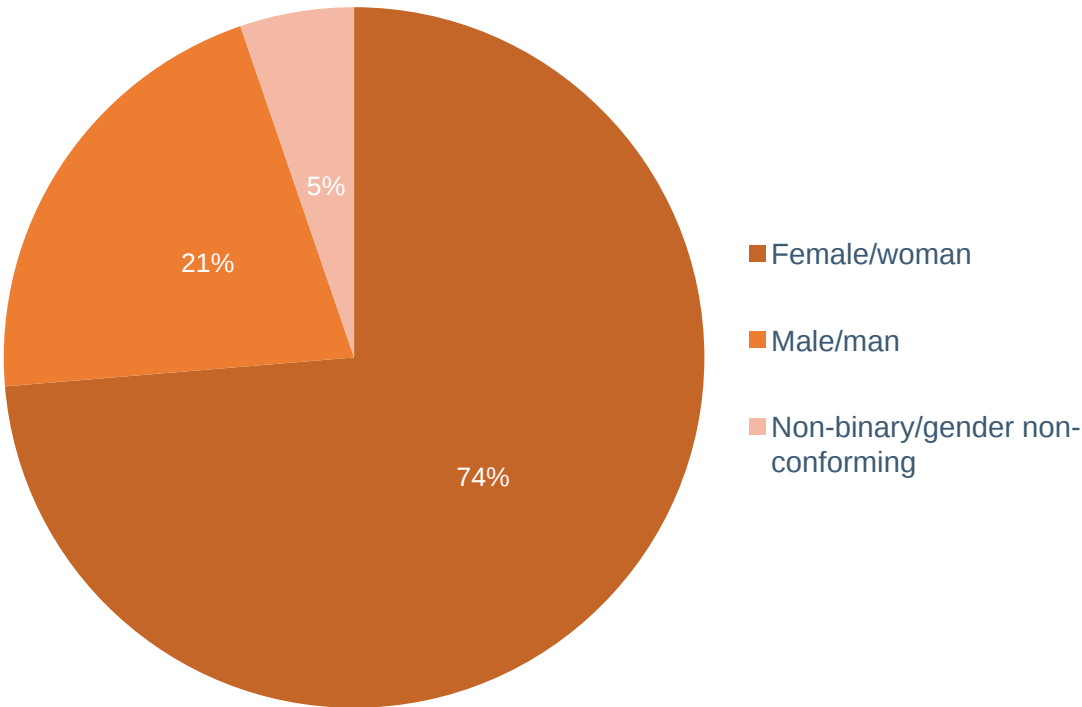
Cambridge Climate Committee

Member Demographics, 2026

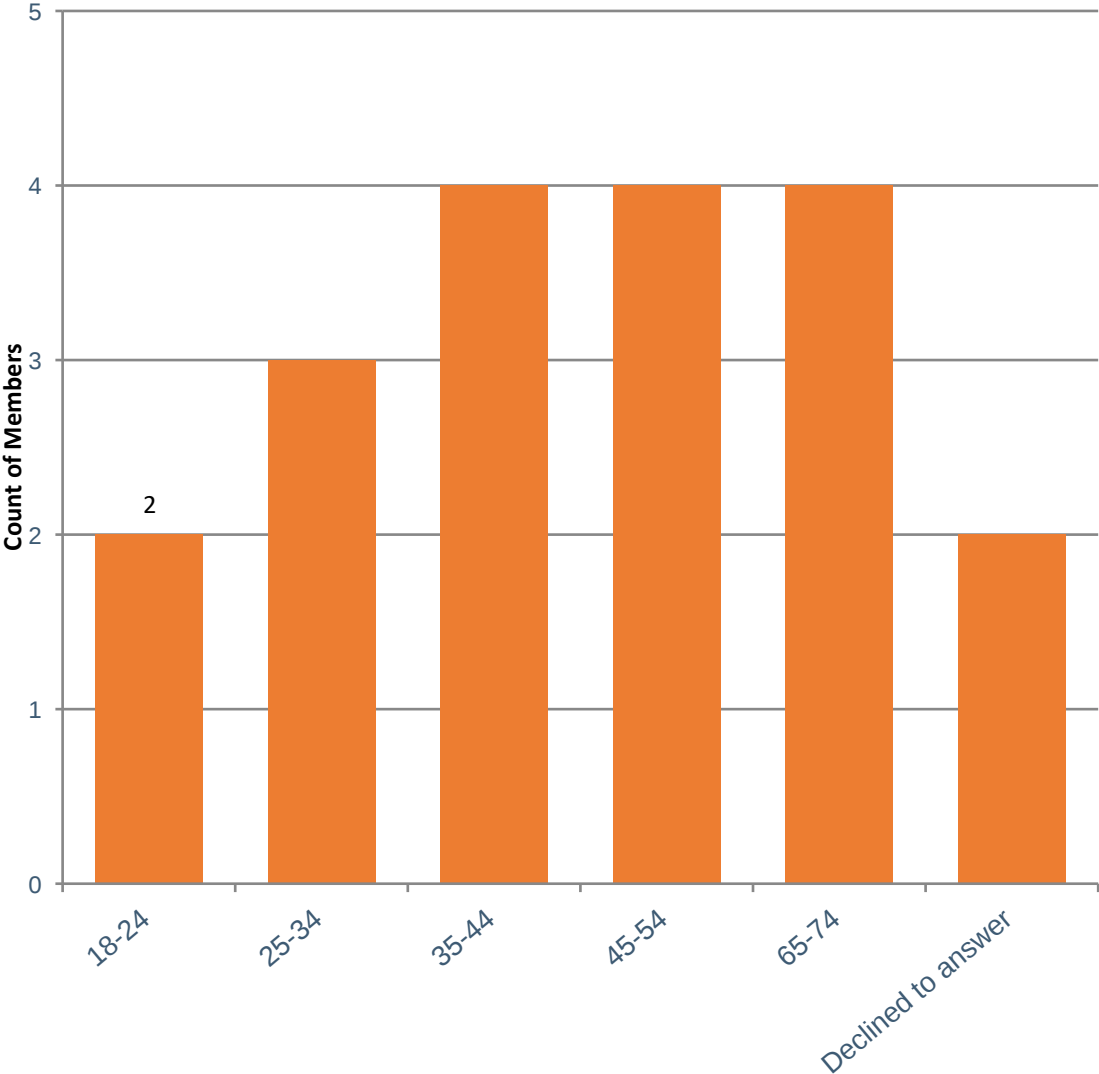
What is your race/origin?



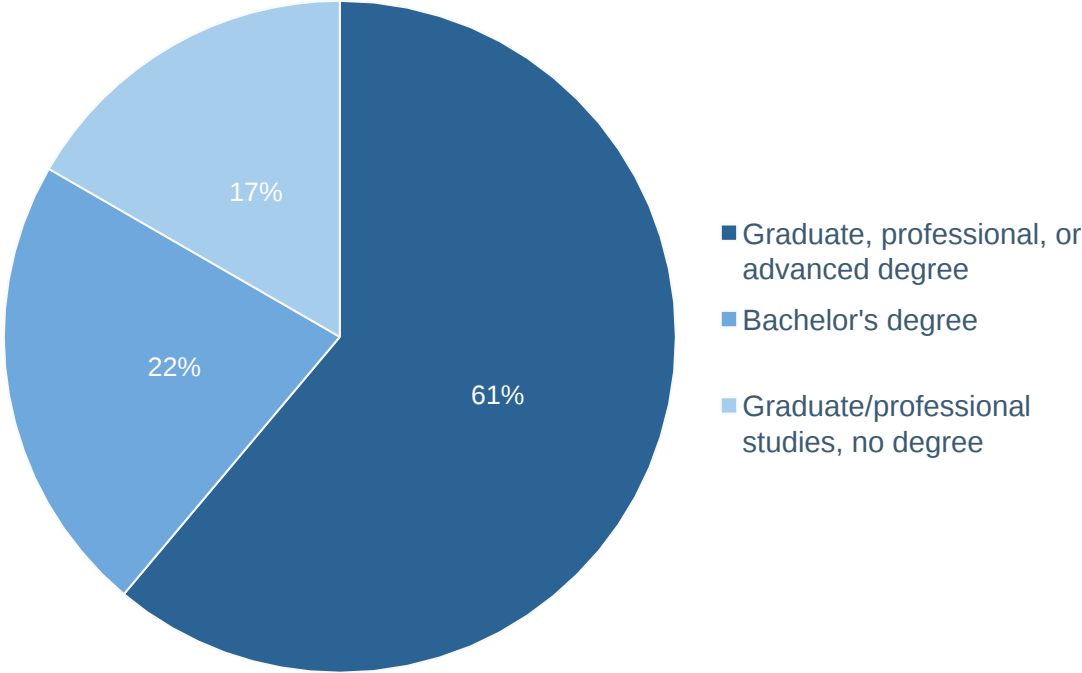
Gender or Gender Identity?



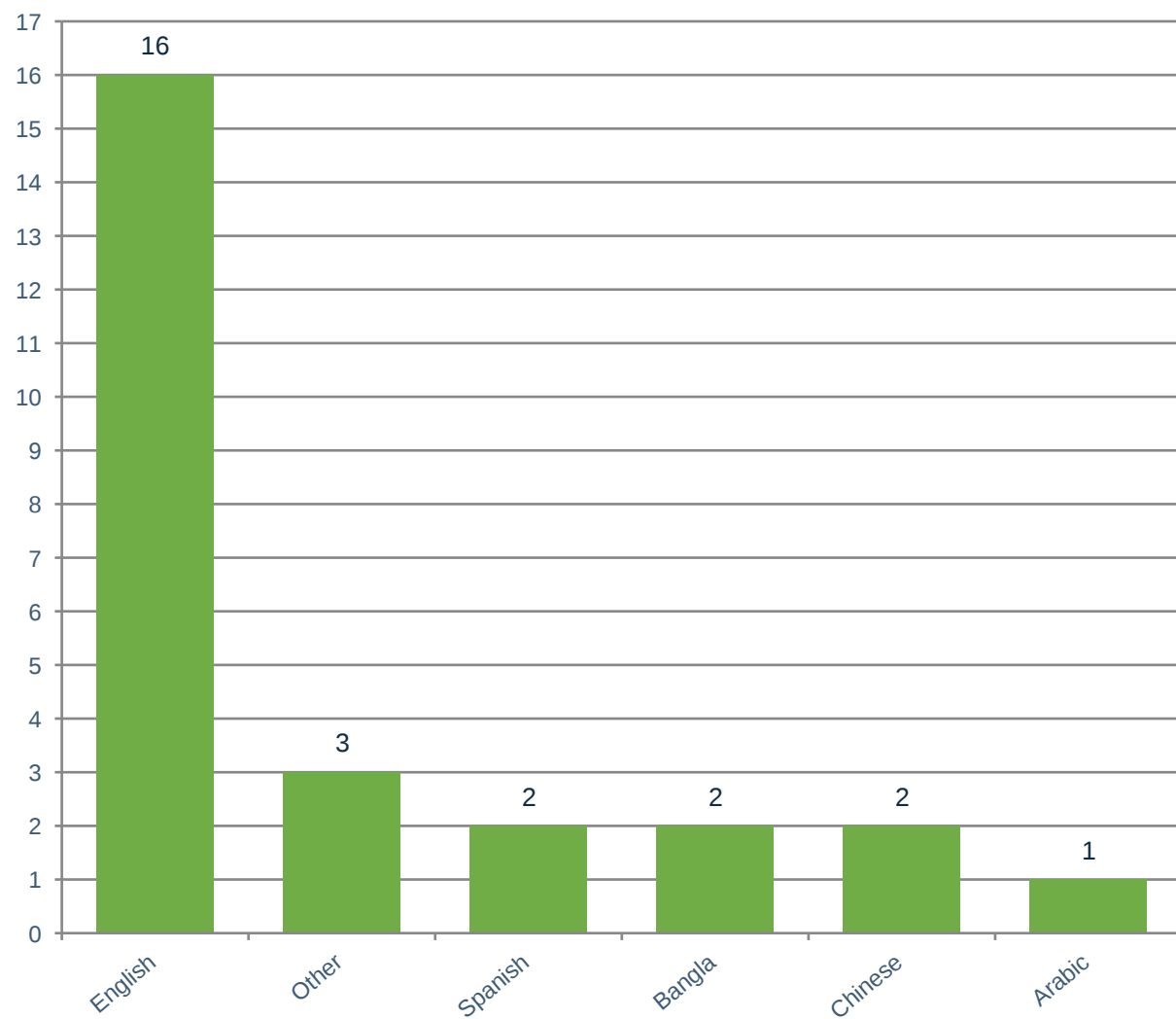
What is your age?



What is your education history?

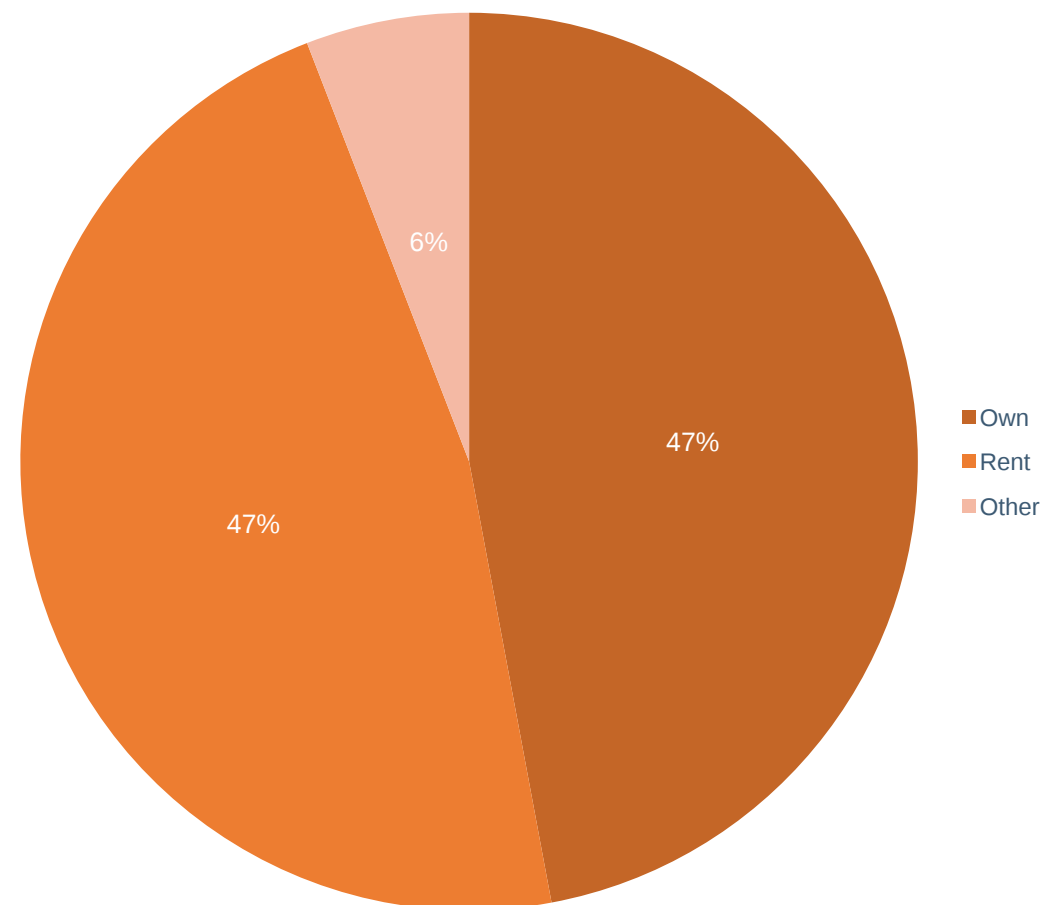


Languages spoken at home?

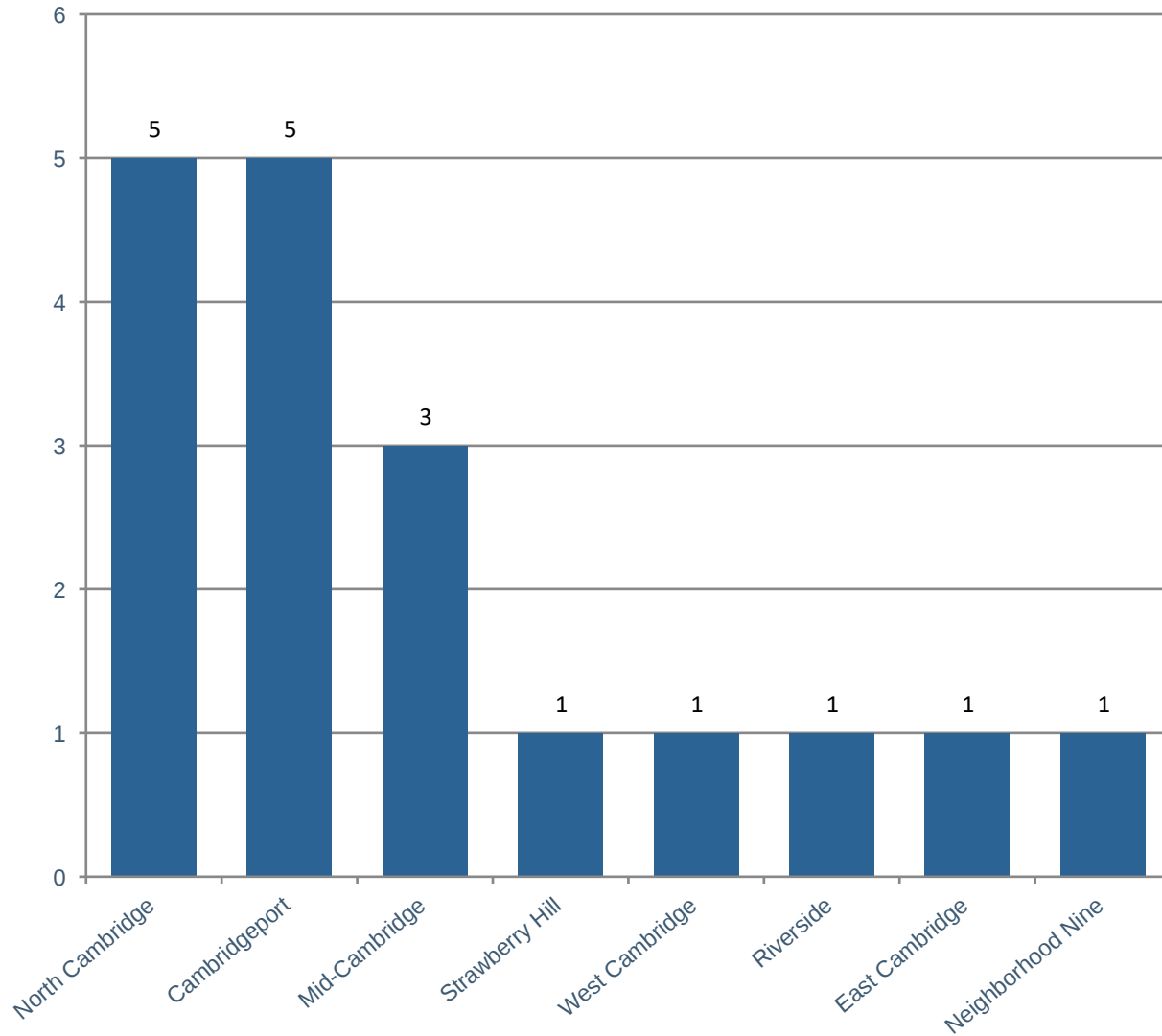


Members reporting more than one language are counted once for each language spoken, so totals exceed the number of members.

Do you rent or own your home?



What is your neighborhood?



What is your household income?

