

2024 Budget Survey

What we heard

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Budget Engagement



On May 16, 2023, City Council requested that enhanced opportunities for public participation be added to the budget process, including a public engagement survey on budgetary needs.

Council identified public engagement as necessary in the provision of a fully transparent process for municipal budgeting.

City staff created opportunities for budget participation that included an online, bilingual budget survey, and a series of ward meetings for in-person public discussion and feedback. Over 340 people participated in the ward meetings. A ward meeting summary has been provided to City Council as part of their 2024 Budget Package.

Survey Summary

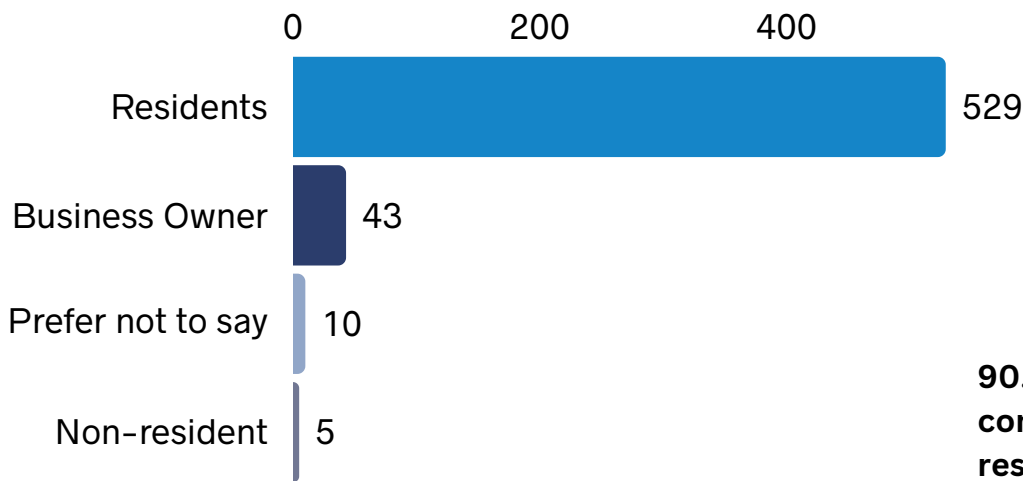
The budget survey was open for just over 4 weeks from October 1 to October 31, 2023. The survey asked for feedback on high-level topics and questions to better align the goals of the municipality, residents, business owners, and local organizations.

The survey results are provided to City Council and Finance staff to help inform decision-making and identify public requests and feedback for budget consideration. There were 777 survey responses.

Respondents

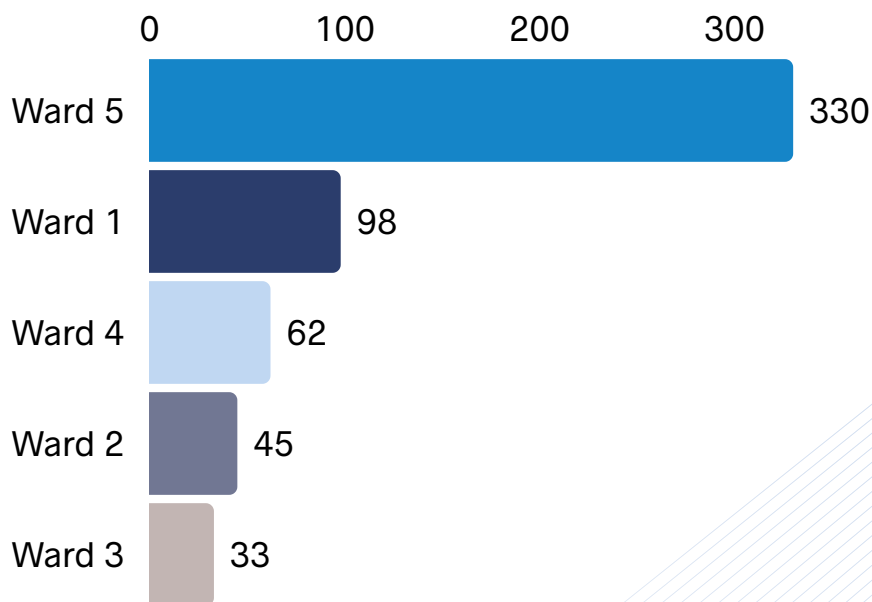
Respondents had the option to identify as a resident, business owner, or non-resident. They could provide their ward, age group, and choose to complete the survey in French or English. 747 respondents completed the survey in English, 30 respondents completed the survey in French. Each question was optional. Totals do not include skipped responses.

You are completing this survey as a:



90.12% of respondents completed the survey as a resident.

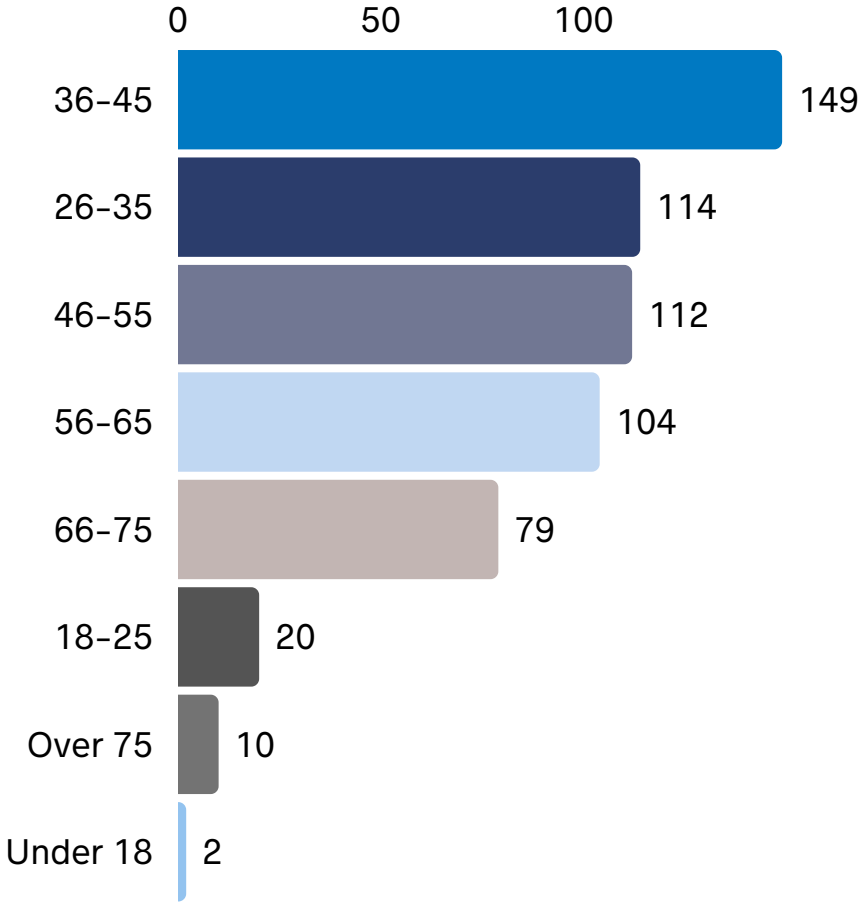
What ward do you live in?



Ward 5 accounted for 55.93% of the survey responses.

Respondents

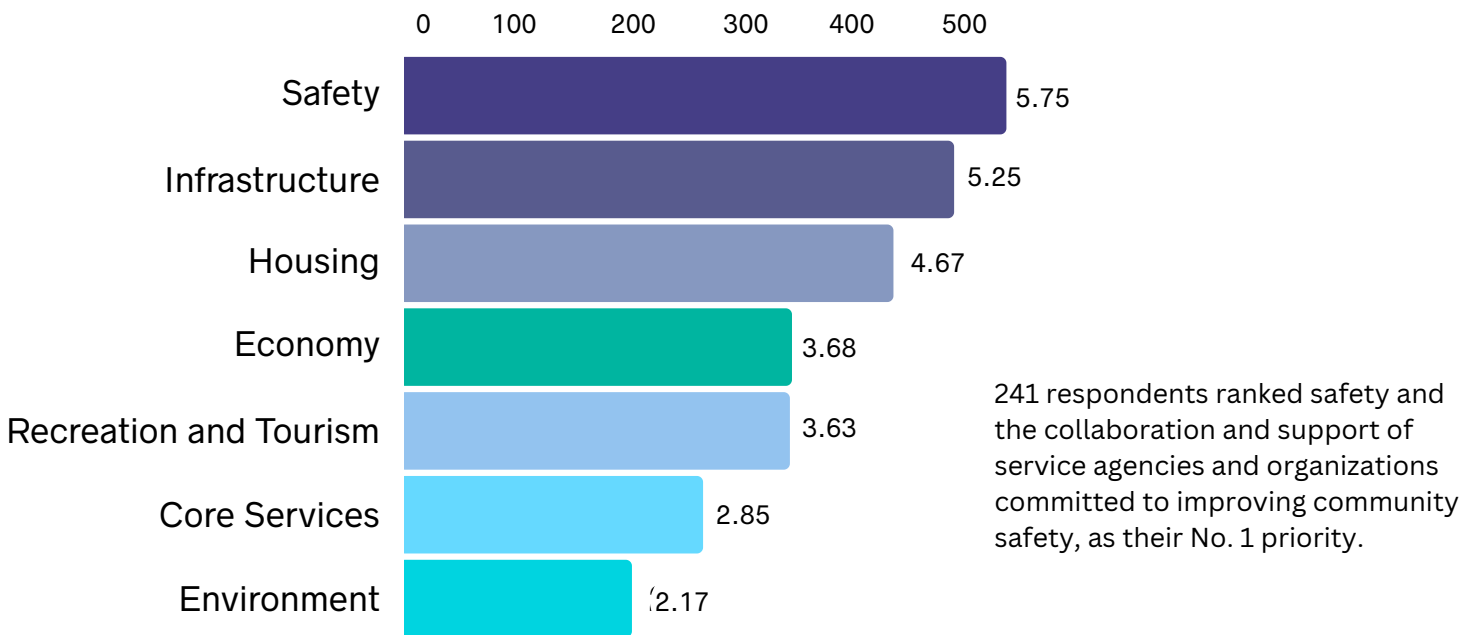
The largest number of respondents were aged 36-45, spanning two different age distribution groups identified by Statistics Canada. The majority of respondents also represented the largest share of the working-age population.



375 respondents were between the ages of 26-55.

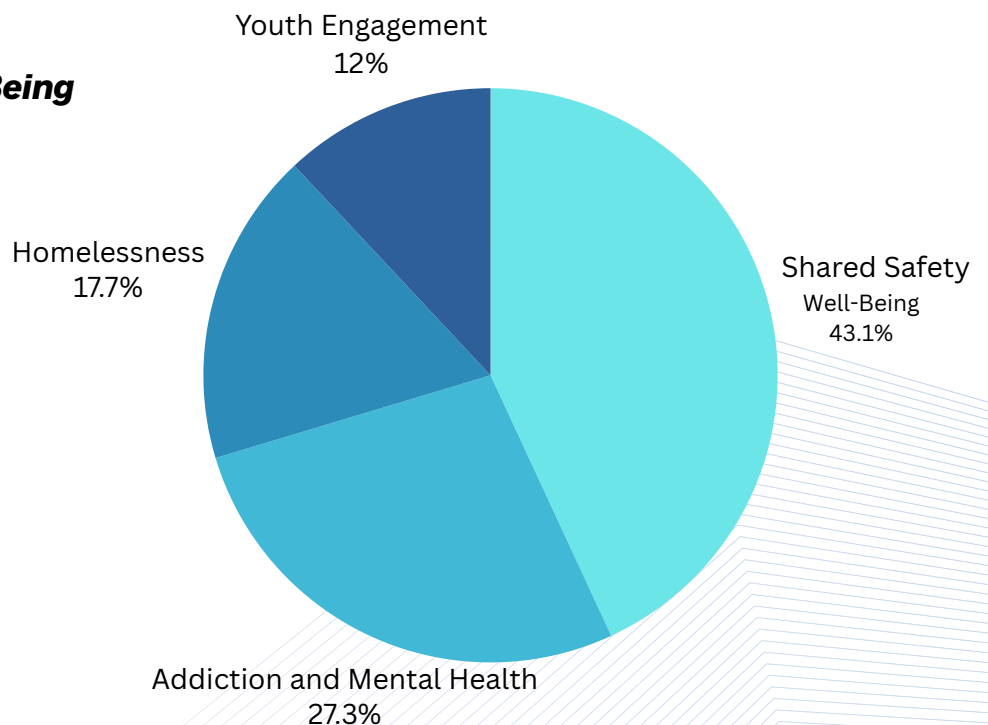
Priorities

To help better align City Council’s term priorities and the goals of the public and local organizations, respondents were asked to rank City Council’s priorities based on their own priorities for the city.



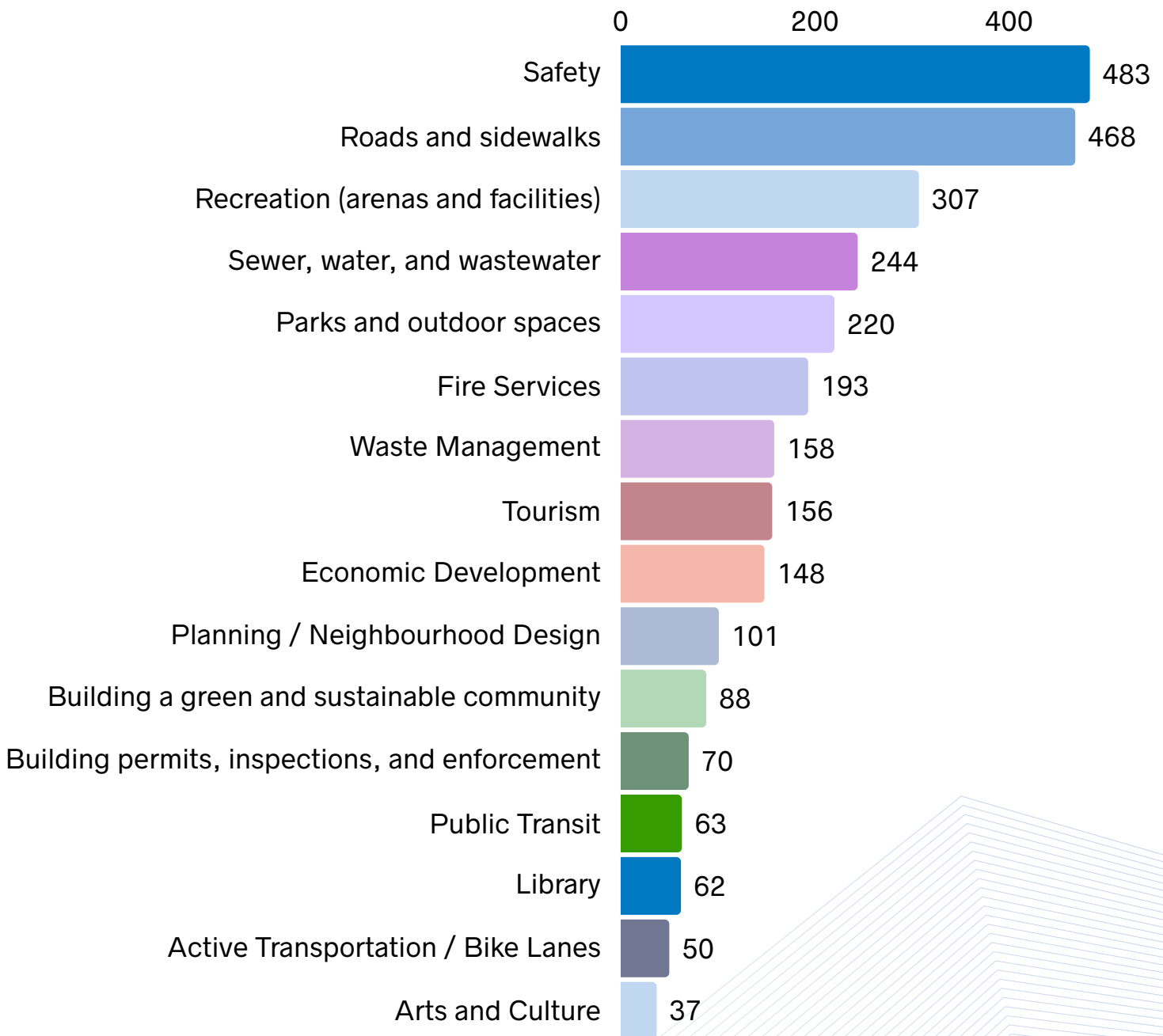
Community Safety and Well-Being

Respondents were also asked to rank the four Community Safety and Well-Being priorities based on their own priorities for the city.



Municipal Services

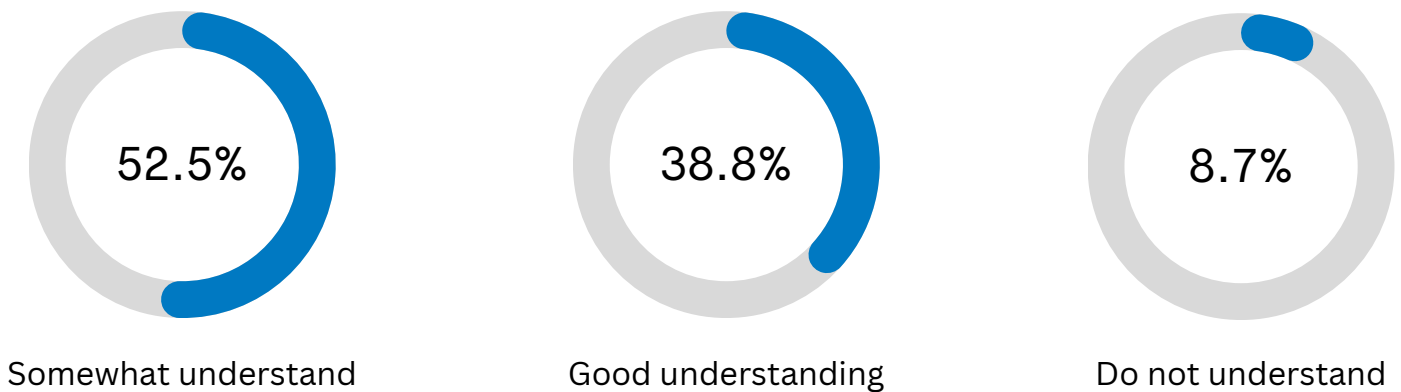
Respondents were asked to pick their Top 5 municipal services or service priorities. Results showed that safety, along with roads and sidewalks, received the highest number of responses, followed by recreation, water and wastewater, and parks and outdoor spaces.



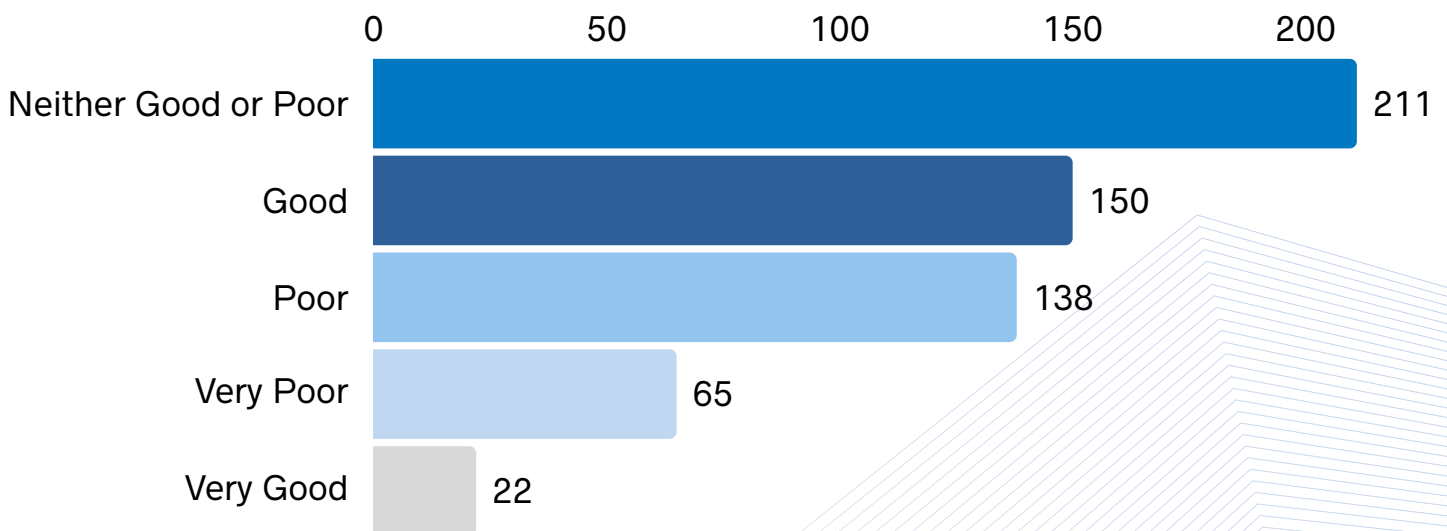
Property Taxes and Service Levels

Respondents were asked to rate their understanding of how municipal taxes are used, and to rate the value of their tax dollar using a scale of *Very Good*, *Good*, *Neither Good* or *Poor*, *Poor*, or *Very Poor*.

Please rate your understanding of how your municipal tax dollars are used?



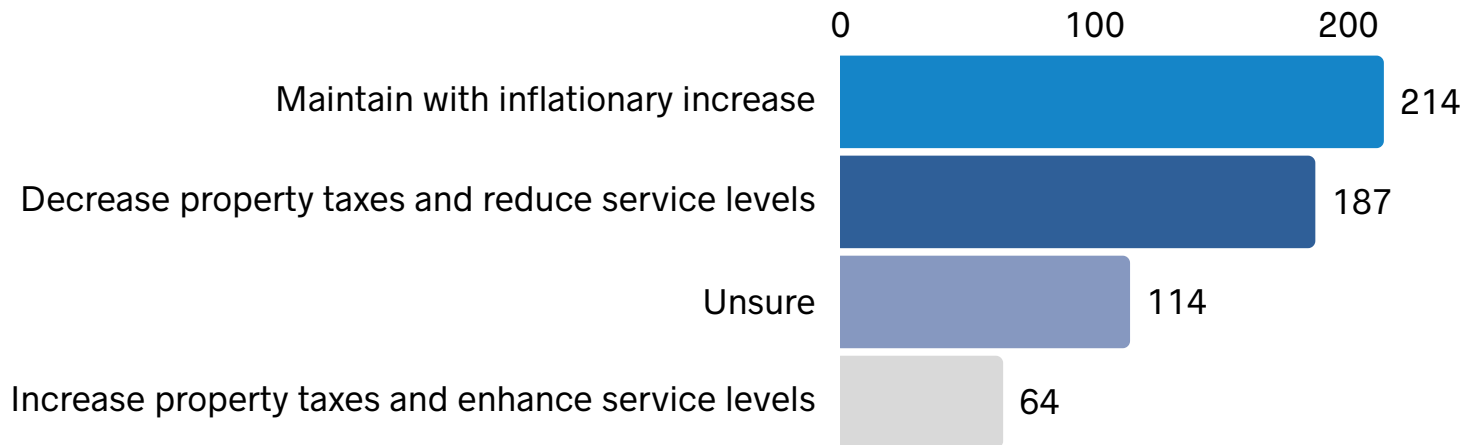
How would you rate the value for your tax dollar?



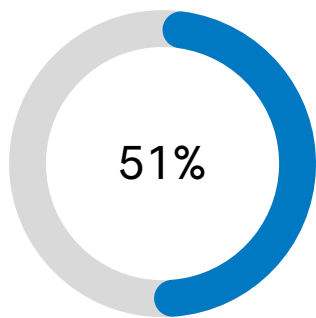
Property Taxes and Service Levels

Respondents were asked to consider whether they wanted to maintain, enhance, or reduce levels of municipal service, with respect to inflation and increasing or decreasing property taxes for 2024.

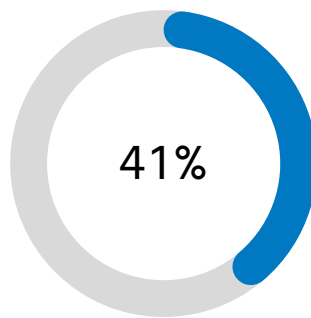
Which of the following options would you prefer?



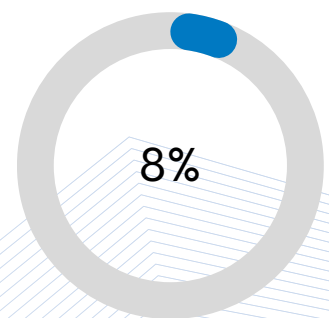
If the City needs to increase the amount of revenue it collects from citizens to offset rising costs, how would you prefer that this be accomplished?



By increasing existing user fees



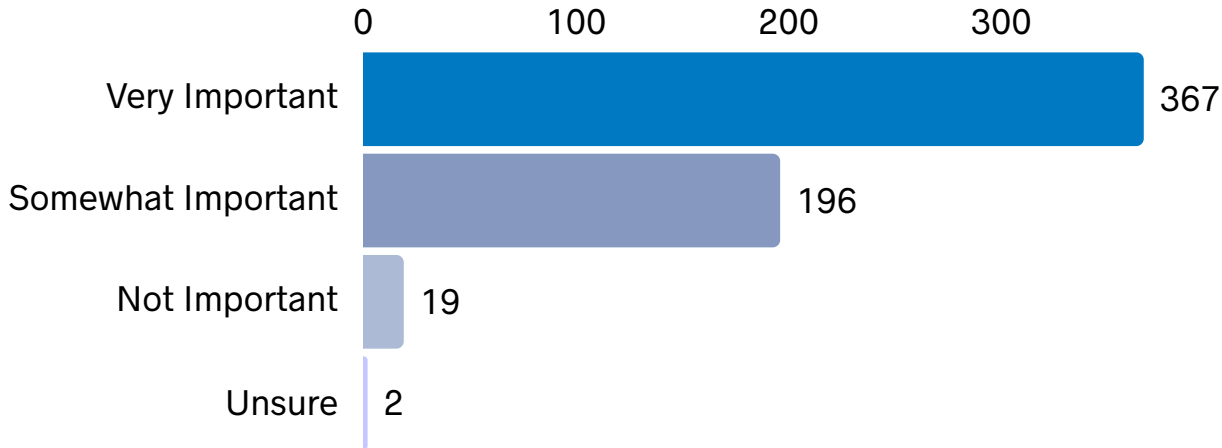
By introducing new types of user fees



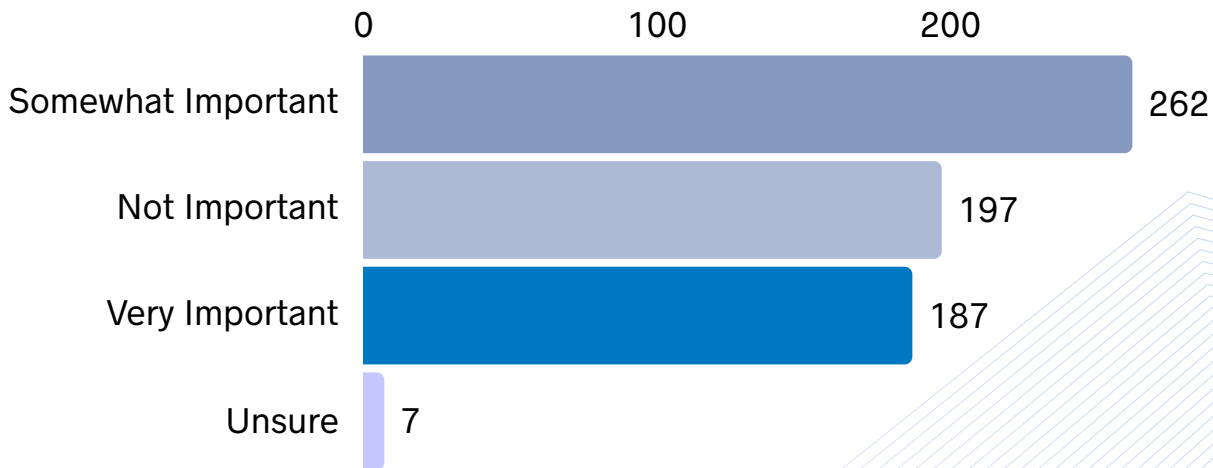
By increasing property taxes

Infrastructure

Respondents were asked to consider how important it is to maintain the City's current infrastructure. Roads, bridges, arenas, and community centres need repairs and updates to maintain existing service levels, and ensure they continue to meet the community's needs.



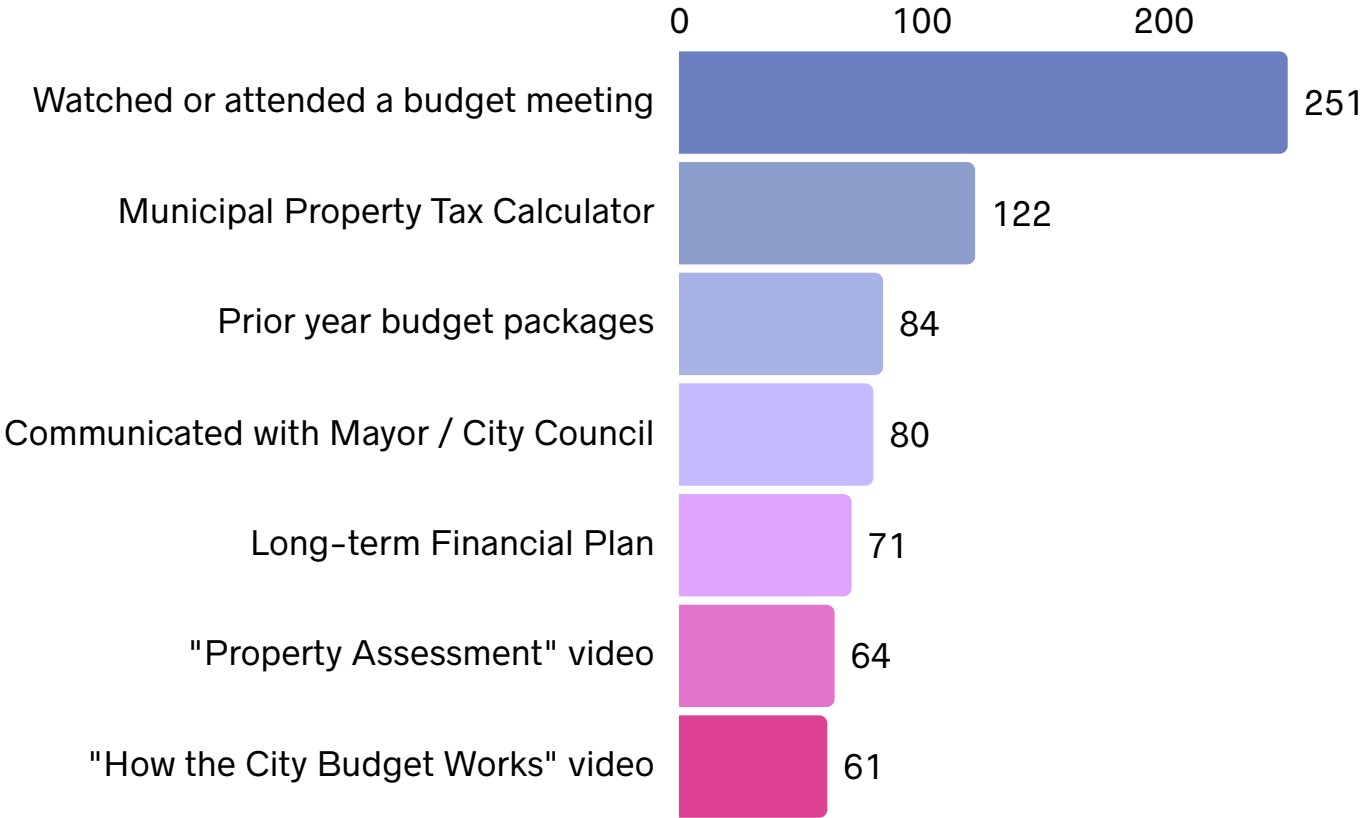
How important is investing in new infrastructure to you (i.e. new buses, new arenas, etc.)



Communication

Respondents were asked which current financial and property tax tools they have reviewed or used on the City of Timmins website in the last 5 years.

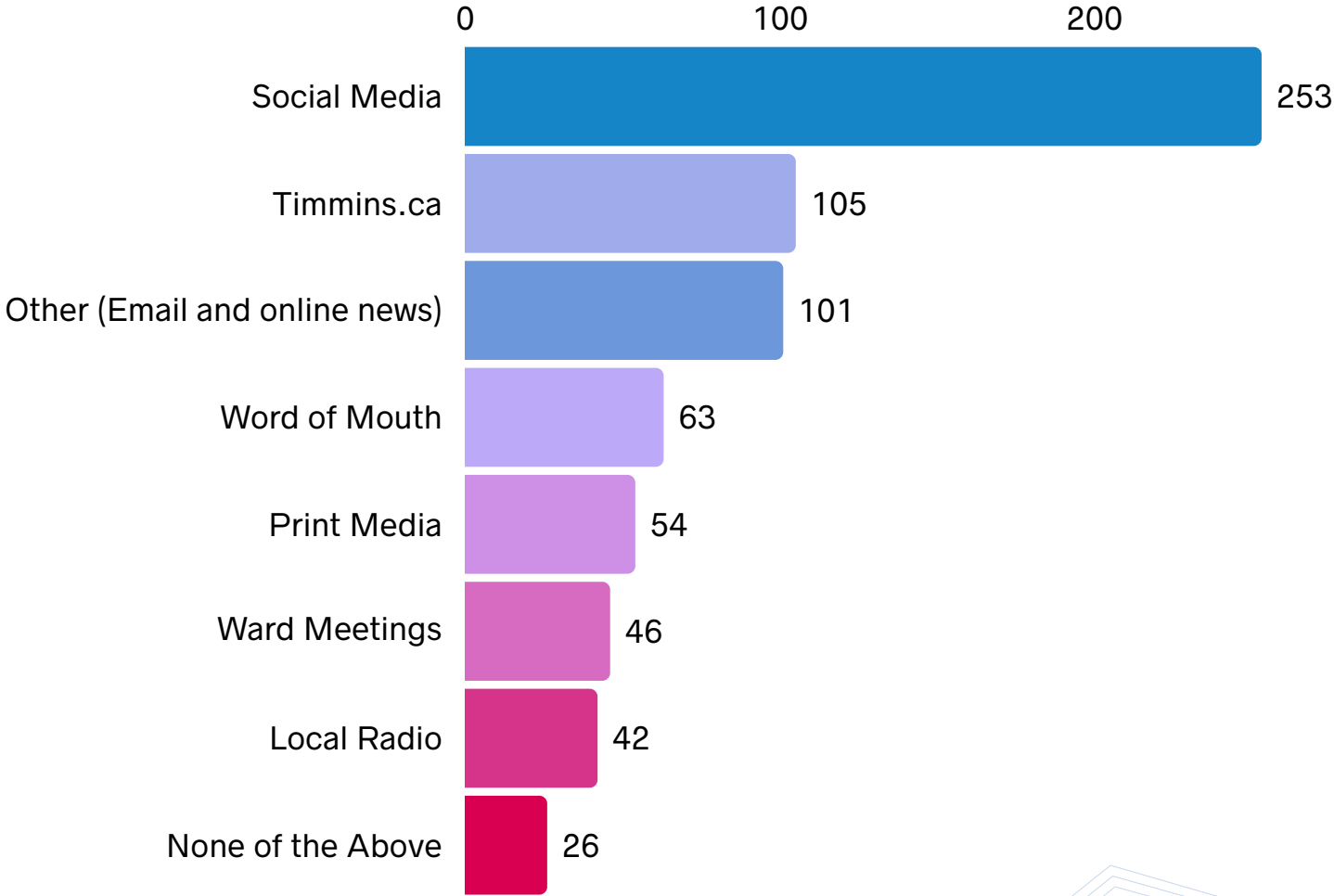
The responses will help determine what tools to promote and/or develop in the future.



Communication

Respondents were asked how they heard about the 2024 online budget survey and how they would prefer to be engaged in the budget process in the future.

The responses will help determine engagement activities and communication moving forward.



Communication

In the future, how would you like to be engaged in the budget process?

