



2026 Operating Budget Phase 2: Public Engagement Report

Background & Objectives

Background

A municipality's annual budget is an important policy document that dictates how the City will collect and allocate resources to best improve and maintain City services and infrastructure for the community.

The City of Belleville's budget is broken down into two components: capital and operating. While residents have always been welcome to take part in the budget process by providing their feedback to their council representatives, there has been a significant effort in recent years to encourage more thorough public engagement in the process.

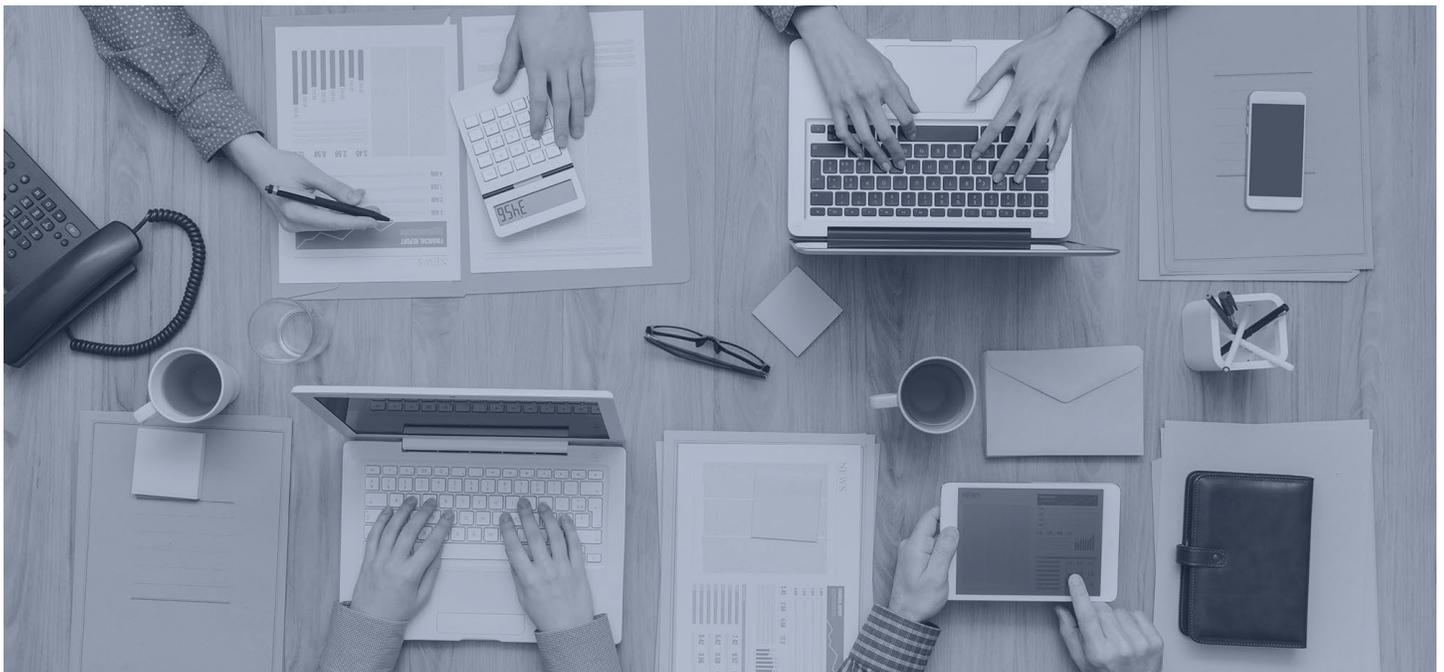
The first phase of the engagement process for the 2026 capital and operating budgets consisted of a short, high-level Preliminary Budget Survey to gauge residents spending priorities. Questions in the survey looked at ranking and prioritizing City services. Feedback collected during this phase was used to develop guidelines for budget preparations.

The second phase in the engagement approach entails a detailed breakdown of the proposed budgets. The draft operating budget was made available to the public on Jan. 29. Members of the public were asked to review the draft documents and provide their input on specific items identified by staff in their draft budgets, in the form of a survey.

Objectives

The goal behind this year's communications and engagement strategy was as follows:

- Provide residents with additional educational material and resources around the budget process.
- Encourage direct engagement from as many residents as possible.
- Provide council and staff with public feedback to help shape a budget and plan that best serves their residents.



Engagement Strategy

Timeline

- May – Preliminary survey to gauge residents' budget priorities.
- June to August – Presentation of feedback received & adoption of budget guidelines.
- October – Draft capital budget posted and public survey released to obtain feedback.
- November – Capital budget council meeting and presentation of feedback received.
- January – Operating budget posted and public survey released to obtain feedback.
- February – Operating budget council meeting and presentation of feedback received.



Tactics

Communications has used a number of channels to inform and engage the public through this second phase of engagement, including:

- Budget Webpage
- Online Survey
- Budget Summary Sheet
- Comment Card
- Direct Mailouts in Tax Notices
- Media Release
- Email to News Subscribers
- Website Alert
- Social Media (Paid & Organic)
- Community Press Ad
- InQuinte/Quinte News Ads
- Digital Billboard
- QSWC Marquee
- Budget Newsletter
- Belleville Updates Newsletter

Results & Metrics

Communications around the 2026 Operating Budget Survey have garnered the following results:

Webpage

Total estimated views of webpage during survey period (Jan. 29-Feb. 18):

- Belleville.ca/Budget – 269 (45% increase compared to previous period of Jan. 8-28)
- Get Involved 2026 Budget Webpage – 675 (472% increase compared to previous period of Jan. 8-28)
- News Release – 1,164

Social Media

Social media metrics during survey period (Jan. 29-Feb. 18):

- Facebook (Organic) – 4 Organic Posts Total with Average of 7,226 Views and 23 Interactions
- Facebook (Paid) – 1 Paid Ad with Reach of 26,419
- Twitter – 3 Organic Posts Total with Average of 300 Impressions and 11 Engagements

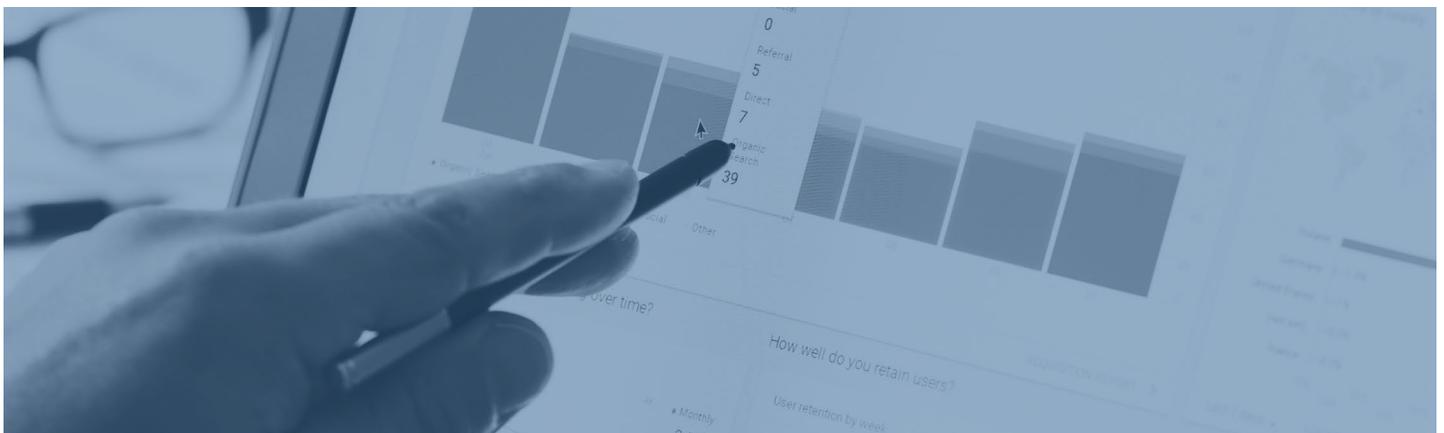
Digital

- Email to News Subscribers – Reached 409 Subscribers
- Belleville Updates Newsletter – Reached 647 Subscribers
- Budget Newsletter – Reached 168 Subscribers
- InQuinte Digital Ad – 13,475 impressions and 7 clicks
- Quinte News Digital Ad – 313,216 impressions and 62 clicks
- Marquee Sign (QSWC) – Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of 22,000/Month

Print

- Community Press Ad – Total Reach of Approx. 18,553 Belleville Households
- Informational Buck Slip – Mailed to Approx. 22,000 Belleville Households in Tax Notices

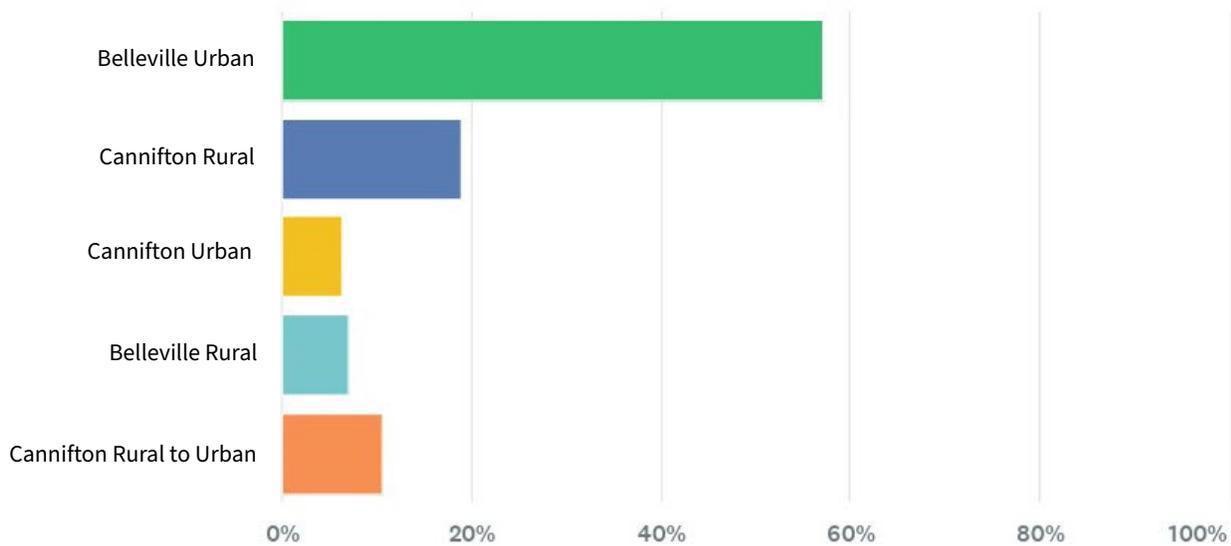
The results above were collected using Google Analytics, Meta Business Suite, Twitter Analytics, iCreate reporting and AADT (as last reported in 2014).



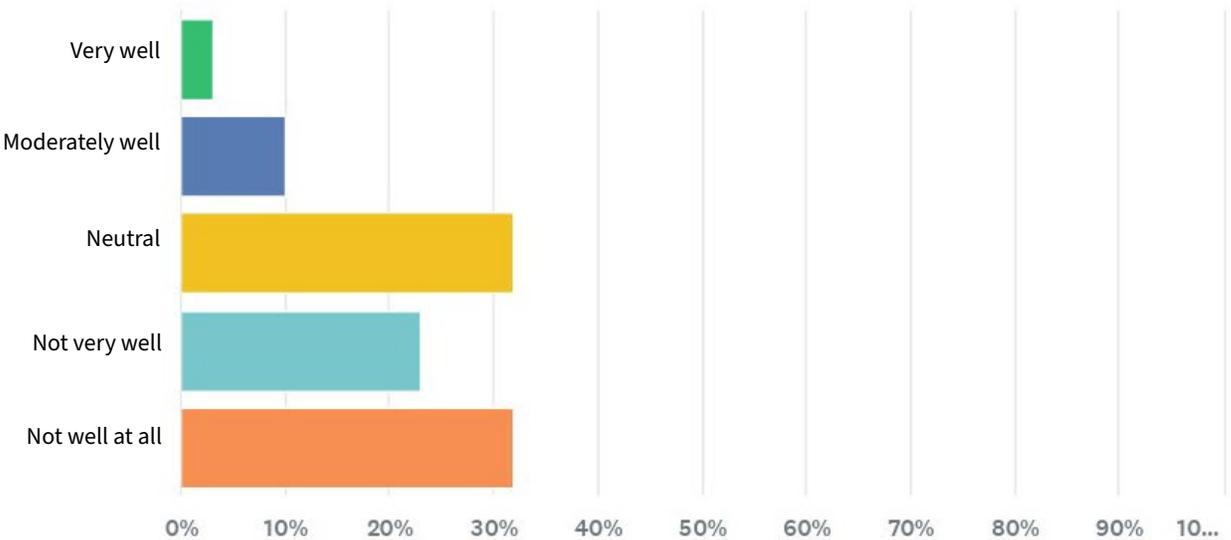
Survey Summary

The 2026 Operating Budget Survey ran from Jan. 29 to Feb. 18. Below is a summary of the 312 total responses and feedback received through the survey period. Highlights of comments under “Please Specify” for questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 can be found beneath each question. See Appendix A for detailed responses.

Q1: Which tax billing area do you live in?



Q2: Given the significant budget pressures the City is facing in 2026, affecting its ability to fully meet the tax rate increase guideline, how well do you feel the draft operating budget aligns with the City’s broader budgetary guidelines, including: Reflecting the service areas prioritized through public input; Aligning with strategic themes and initiatives, with priority placed on legislative, compliance, health and safety; and Incorporating moderate tax-funded increases to capital contributions, consistent with the City’s 2025 Asset Management Plan?



Q3: Please expand.

Highlights/trending responses under question 3:

Affordability Concerns Related to Proposed Tax Increases

Many respondents expressed concern that the proposed tax increases may be difficult for households to absorb, particularly given current cost of living pressures. Residents frequently referenced wage growth that is lower than the proposed increase and emphasized the need for affordability to remain a central consideration in budget decisions.

Questions Regarding the Scale and Growth of the Police Budget

The size and rate of growth of the police services budget generated significant feedback. Some residents questioned whether recent and proposed increases align with community priorities and affordability, and whether alternative service delivery models or spending caps should be considered.

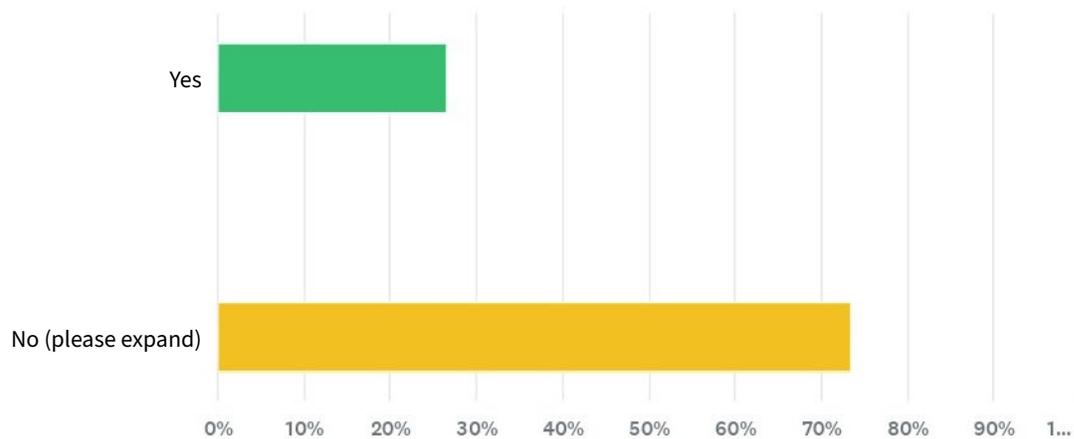
Perceived Imbalance Between Taxes Paid and Services Received

A recurring theme was the perception that property taxes continue to rise while service levels remain unchanged or have declined. Residents commonly referenced winter maintenance, road conditions, and transit services as areas where outcomes do not align with expectations given current tax levels.

Calls for Increased Transparency and Responsiveness

Residents expressed a desire for clearer connections between public input and final budget decisions, as well as greater transparency around spending choices. Some respondents encouraged the City to further explore cost controlling, staffing efficiencies, and reprioritization to better align the budget with current economic realities.

Q4: Are you generally satisfied with these proposed operating changes?



Highlights/trending responses under "No (please expand)" for question 4:

Strong Affordability and Cost of Living Concerns

Many respondents indicated they are not satisfied with the proposed operating changes due to ongoing affordability pressures. Rising property taxes, combined with increased costs of living were frequently expressed as making additional increases difficult to manage. Several residents emphasized that household incomes and wage increases are not keeping pace with proposed tax and fee changes.

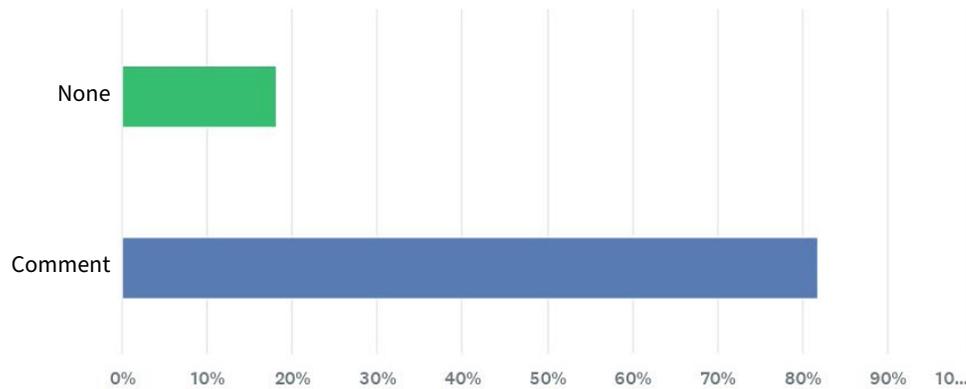
Concern Regarding Police Budget

The police budget was the most frequently referenced area of concern. Respondents questioned the scale and pace of recent increases and whether they are sustainable or aligned with community priorities. Some suggested that future increases be limited to inflation, that efficiencies be identified, or that alternative service delivery or resource allocation options be considered.

Perception That Service Levels Are Not Improving

A recurring theme was dissatisfaction with the perceived outcomes of operating spending. Respondents commonly referenced concerns with snow removal, road maintenance, garbage collection, transit service, and parking enforcement. Many expressed frustration that services appear unchanged or reduced despite ongoing tax increases.

Q5: In your opinion, what changes or improvements would you suggest for the 2026 operating budget to better meet the needs of the community?



Highlights/trending responses under "Comment" for question 5:

Reduce or Limit Property Tax Increases

The most frequently mentioned recommendation was to reduce, freeze, or significantly limit property tax increases. Many respondents emphasized that affordability pressures remain high and suggested keeping increases at or below inflation or avoiding reliance on property taxes where possible.

Review and Reduce the Police Services Budget

A substantial number of respondents recommended revisiting the police budget. Suggestions included reducing the size of the increase, improving cost efficiency, limiting expenditures on vehicles and equipment, and exploring alternative service delivery models or expanded mental health response options. Several respondents emphasized aligning police budget growth more closely with community size and needs.

Improve Infrastructure, Particularly Roads and Winter Maintenance

Road conditions, potholes, sidewalks, and snow clearing were repeatedly identified as areas requiring greater attention. Respondents stressed that visible improvements to basic infrastructure should be prioritized before expanding services or increasing administrative spending.

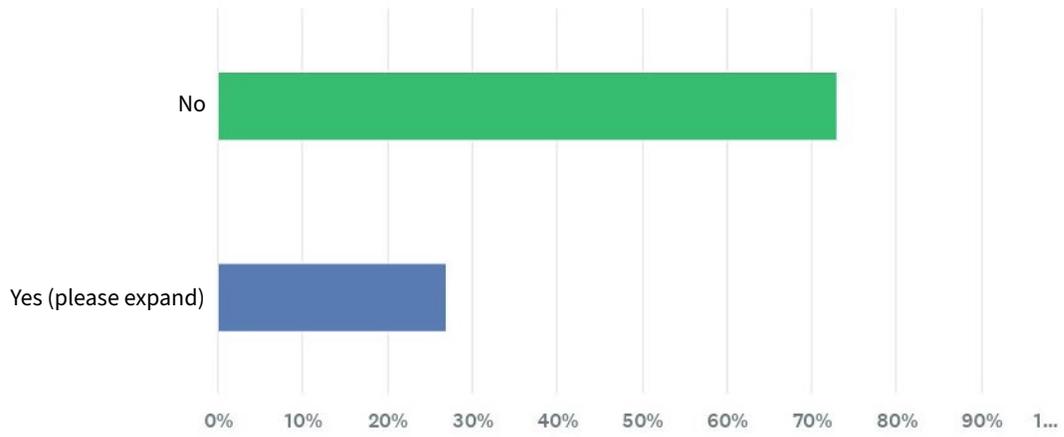
Cost Control and Accountability

Many respondents called for stronger cost control across City departments, boards, and external agencies. Common suggestions included staffing freezes or reductions, limiting wage growth, reviewing management and administrative structures, improving productivity, and ensuring that new investments are linked to measurable savings or outcomes.

Reassess Bag Tag Fees

Multiple respondents recommended reducing or eliminating garbage bag fees and adjusting collection limits. Some suggested providing a basic level of garbage service within existing taxes.

Q6: Are there any additional KPIs you believe would be beneficial for the community?



Highlights/trending responses under "Yes (please expand)" for question 6:

Financial Transparency, Staffing Levels, and Operational Efficiency

The most frequently mentioned theme was the desire for clearer, more meaningful financial and operational KPIs. Respondents emphasized transparency around staffing levels, salaries, administrative costs, productivity, and value for money. Suggestions included cost per service delivered, staffing growth relative to service outcomes, disclosure of prior year KPIs, and improved dashboards that focus on service resolution rather than activity counts.

Local Economy and Growth Indicators

Many respondents recommended KPIs that track the overall health and growth of the local economy. Suggested measures included employment and unemployment rates, business attraction, new families moving to Belleville, building permit and site plan approval timelines, vacancy rates, demographic trends, and housing market indicators.

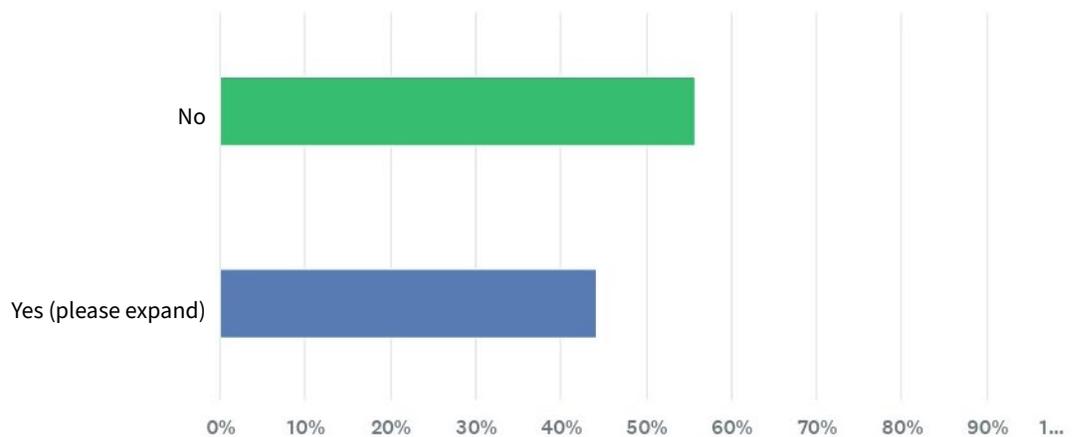
Health Care Access and Outcomes

Several respondents proposed KPIs related to health care availability and outcomes. These included the percentage of residents attached to a primary care provider, the number without access to primary care, hospital and health unit performance, physician recruitment retention rates, and emergency medical services capacity.

Police and Emergency Services Performance and Outcomes

Respondents frequently called for performance-based KPIs for police and emergency services. Suggested measures focused on outcomes rather than inputs, such as crimes solved, response effectiveness, and comparisons between budget growth and measurable improvements in public safety and service delivery.

Q7: Are there any specific topics surrounding the City's operating budget and process that you wish you had more information and background on?



Highlights/trending responses under "Yes (please expand)" for question 7:

Police and Fire Services Budget, Costs, and Accountability

The most frequently raised topic was the need for more detailed information on police and fire services spending. Residents asked for clearer breakdowns of police budgets, including salaries, vehicles, equipment such as armoured vehicles, and year over year growth. Many requested outcome and productivity measures, comparisons to other municipalities, and analysis of alternative service models. There was also interest in understanding the relationship between policing costs, crime trends, homelessness, and community safety outcomes.

Transparency, Accountability, and Use of Public Input

Many respondents expressed a desire for greater transparency in how budget decisions are made and how public input influences outcomes. Requests included clearer explanations for proposed increases, accountability briefing notes for departments seeking additional funding, disclosure of preapproved budget items, and easier to read and standardized public budget documents. Several respondents emphasized the need for proof that consultation feedback reaches decision makers.

Tax Increases and Equity Across Service Areas

Residents frequently asked for more information on why tax increases are proposed and why property tax rates differ across neighbourhoods, particularly between urban, rural, and rural to urban areas in Cannifton. There was interest in understanding how service levels relate to tax rates, why some areas experience higher increases, and what measures were considered to reduce or prevent tax hikes.

Administrative and Staffing Costs

A recurring theme was the desire for more information on administrative budgets, staffing levels, and wage increases. Respondents asked for disclosure of city employee and council wages and clarity on which portions of departmental budgets are driven by compensation. Some also wanted to understand how leadership and administrative costs are evaluated relative to frontline service reductions.

Appendix A

Below is a detailed look at the responses from questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the survey.

Q3: Given the significant budget pressures the City is facing in 2026, affecting its ability to fully meet the tax rate increase guideline, how well do you feel the draft operating budget aligns with the City's broader budgetary guidelines, including: Reflecting the service areas prioritized through public input; Aligning with strategic themes and initiatives, with priority placed on legislative, compliance, health and safety; and Incorporating moderate tax-funded increases to capital contributions, consistent with the City's 2025 Asset Management Plan?

- With what we pay already for property taxes and what we get in return is not right.
- There has not been a difference in any thing in this city in decades except for more homeless who break laws that need to be put behind bars
- The budget does not address the current economic climate. Escalating costs are pushing property owners to reevaluate staying in Belleville vs the value proposition of services. Minor pencil sharpening on city services to reduce cost provided very little impact to the overall budget.
- Given the budgetary challenges tax payers are facing, and will likely be for the next couple of years, municipalities should be freezing tax rates at the expense of services.
- We get nothing for our money
- There is no strategy on infrastructure improvement - especially the roads. The roads in urban Belleville are horrible with no clear plans to improve them.
- The cost of living is contributing to a lot of these increases & increasing taxes does little to help this. A 15% increase to the police services board with only a 2% increase to the library feels very disheartening to see as well.
- Excessive taxes with poorly local services and execution
- Roads are not maintained Snow clearing this winter was inadequate with many roads and sidewalks left undone Public transportation is terrible. Routes are poorly planned and lengthy, stops are too far apart, access to rural areas is non-existent, buses are late or do not show. Residents refrain from taking the bus due to these inadequacies instead paying for taxis, which leads to decreased use and Belleville city council doesn't appear to make/understand this connection.
- We receive very little services in our area, our taxes are already unaffordable. I don't feel that the tax dollars being used at present are being used effectively, and in the right places. Taxes need to come down not increase. Increase taxes, increase the number of families facing poverty. Poverty costs us all.
- No

- Belleville Police should re-examine their ask and not increase as much as they are. Going from ~\$4700 to over 5k for taxes is garbage.
- The police budget is ridiculous. This council should ever accept a budget that is + 7%
- Majority of the City Roads including Bell Blvd have not been fixed for past 5 years, jobs are constantly decreasing, garbage collection is not even free like other cities such as Toronto, Markham, Whitby, etc. Help residents to not have to pay for garbage tags, Small Inside streets are never cleaned until four or five days after and on top they leave pile of snow at the end of the driveways which would freeze the next morning and make it more tough on residents to get started with their day. Belleville city roads need major resurfacing and instead of patch work a proper asphalt work done through out.
- Overspending once again costing the tax payer when we are already paying too much for services such as water, heat, groceries ect.
- Property taxes are increasing but the services are not. Our property taxes reflect that of a water-front property being in the high 6000's, however simple things like snowplowing our street is not done. Our roads has been inaccessible for the last 3 weeks, snow plows never removed the last snow dump, and now the road is filled with large mounds of ice and near-impossible to drive on. The money needed should not be placed on property taxes unless services are also expected to increase. Those with higher salaries should be taxed appropriately to compensate.
- 5% is too much for the services we have including the amount of representation on council.
- Because the city does nothing with the money in the first place the side walks never get cleaned after a snow fall they wait a couple days to do any thing with the streets
- Raising cost of taxes yet most families can't pay for housing or groceries as it is.
- Police services budget is out of control
- The tax increase is way too high
- The police budget is outrageous. Just outsource to OPP.
- The police budget is out of control high as is some budget for repairs or maintemce in general that can wait. This is unacceptably high increase that will force myself and others to move further out of this city
- Not very well
- I don't want to pay more in property taxes so the local police can Cosplay in an Urban Assault Vehicle.
- Spending to much.
- The offering of proposed cost savings or service level reductions is a deflection of the City ignoring areas including staffing (cuts) that should be considered for lowering budget impacts. There are several areas with proposed staffing increases of 4%-15+% with little to no justification. Regionally, the City of Belleville has more staff per capita than other municipalities, including areas where service levels are no different.
- Taxes are way to high, services are poor in my area. Belleville policing is horrible never addresses issues bought to them. Never see a police cruiser in my area. Contacted maintenance dept twice and I was told I would hear back from the manager of the roads department, and she has never returned my call. Roads aren't plowed properly, and in the summertime in my area along the side of the road the grass was never cut.
- We don't need armoured vehicles or such an inflated police budget. Absolutely could save us taxpayers quite a lot there. Also enough travelling, eating etc on our dime
- There are limited services offered in my area. I can't see the budget increase correcting that
- I already pay over 6000 in taxes for only 2.3 acres. If taxes keep increasing I will be forced to move.
- It's getting out of control!!
- Our taxes in increasing but snow removal is delayed all the time, and we have to pay to have her garbage picked up her bag, which is something that should be included in our taxes given the amount that we pay

- Rural Belleville isn't receiving any added services. We have little no no police present because it is not necessary in the area, our fire fighters are volunteer focuses and we have no side walks to maintain on the schools road. We have an over crowded school, soccer fields but no soccer team, park with bathroom and canteens that are never open.
- We are not at a time where we can afford this increase
- Thieves not being fully apparent in were all the funds
- High increae
- Did not keep below the 5% target
- 60% of Canadians are going through renewals right now, everyone's mortgages are going up, cost of living is up right now
- Seems most did not want taxes to go up.
- We are one of the highest tax rate in Ontario crazy expensive to live here anymore between taxes and water and sewer.
- Too wasteful in funding special pet projects.
- Some services will need to be cut as there is not any more money. My income does not go up 7%. Food has gone up exponentially.
- a 5% increase does not reflect the average public salary increase amount of 2-3%
- Pure mismanagement of funds
- The Operating Budget appears to expand on items and initiatives from 2 - 3 years ago, just updating. The reality of our current economic environment has changed dramatically. Real estate values have plummeted, wages have basically remained flat - maybe 2% increases. Job security is very tenuous. City needs to re-adjust plans and priorities based on new realities.
- BPS and BFS budget is too great. They should be limited to the rate of inflation @ 2.4%
- Residents are continually hosed for services for others who do not pay taxes or are not even Canadian.
- too high tax increase,
- Allowing fire and police services to continue to hold tax payers accountable for their yearly requests for raises is wrong!
- Wages do not go up that much.
- Time to cut back on parks board flowers they are a little excessive pots on every pole. I think employment freeze by the city needs to be done
- 7.28% increase in tax levy does not fit into the category as 'moderate'
- The cancelling of both the Zwick's Park Pop Ups and the Holiday Market are very short sighted. Belleville needs a vacant property tax charge for any and all properties both residential and commercial sitting un-lived in and un-used.
- Increase in already too high property taxes is a punch in the wallet of already struggling homeowner expenses
- Not enough cuts. The city is too comfortable increasing taxes without cutting wasteful spending.
- Belleville police service budget needs to be reviewed.
- We are being taxed at too high a rate.
- Its too difficult to draw the crosswalk between public input on important issues and the way you are presenting the budget herein. Its way to high level to be able to see if you responded to peoples input which is collected on a granular level but you present the budget in rolled up categories - maybe you are being responsive to citizen input and maybe you arent - we dont know by how this info is reported.
- Budget for departments that have no real output seems inefficient. CAO - Economic Development is a huge investment when the city has limited land ir resources to offer, and want to add to the expense to development with proposed industrial development charges
- All you do is take, take, take. A 5 to 7 percent tax hike is unacceptable. Do better. Maybe I should look at moving out of the city.
- Taxes are too high, cut police budget

- First you lot tried to put a City bus through our residential area, with a big tax increase now you want to change our designation with a big tax increase...
- Hitting property and business owners with increased taxes far beyond COLA etc., only hurts individuals down the line. More and more people are not able to donate or assist others and then agencies and/or the city must intervene more. It's circular.
- The police budget has significantly enlarged. I do not agree with huge expenditures on an armoured vehicle. I would suggest looking at outsourcing to opp which service Quinte West and prince Edward county at the moment. Consolidating would reduce administrative costs significantly and be able to have a police force all one system supporting our community more efficiently financially as well as more inclusive
- The police services increase is significant and an increase in social service/housing would alleviate some need for police service inflation. As a long term resident of Belleville, the taxes always increase but there doesn't necessarily seem to be a corresponding change in services.
- The property tax increase is too high and can cause many people to lose their homes. Especially with Canadian families already struggling.
- Budget should not exceed cost of living
- Policing budget way too large
- increasing tax every year is not a solution. if you think city need money , but in fact ,we as living under a crunch. we hardly able to feed our family. please do some mercy.
- I cannot afforded another 7%+ tax hike. Live within what you get from us already.
- Administration seems heavy in a few categories
- Property tax increase is exorbitant to already struggling home owners.
- Belleville is facing a 7.1% tax increase at a time when residents are already stretched thin, yet the City's response has been to cut the very services that keep public spaces safe, clean, and worth visiting. While homeowners pay hundreds more each year, the budget removes harbour security at Meyers Pier and Victoria Park, eliminates downtown garbage and cleaning services on weekends, reduces bylaw enforcement during peak free-parking hours, and cancels community events like Pop Ups on the Bay and the Holiday Market that actually bring people into the downtown core. On top of that, everyday costs like garbage bag tags are going up, and recycling services for downtown businesses and schools are being cut. The result is higher taxes with fewer visible benefits, less safety, less upkeep, and fewer attractions... which doesn't feel like responsible budgeting, it feels like residents are being asked to pay more for a city that offers less.
- We can't pay any more taxes. Service has to be reduced if necessary.
- No problem with city's vision for our city. However I feel that the increase proposed in the draft budget will cause financial difficulties to many home owners.
- Proposed rate increases are not in line with wage increases of the majority of the residents of Belleville. At most, people are seeing a 2-2.5% cost of living increase. Give the current economy, people just can't cover such rate increases.
- Money waste maybe council should take a cut and start cutting jobs in the city. Soon people aren't going to be able to afford to stay in their homes because of property taxes increases.
- My tax dollars should go towards supporting tax paying individuals not the homeless
- Police budget is seriously out of control. Is this including the not needed armoured car? There needs to be cuts not adding more; people are actually struggling and this increase is crazy. Services are okay, but not worth nearly what I'm paying.
- As a single income homeowner with 4 children, 2 in post secondary every dollar counts. The property tax increase is not affordable. I already am living paycheque to paycheque with the rising cost of utilities. What are my options? A second job?
- There is no infrastructure development and still the raise is unacceptable.

- The City of Belleville is bloated with ever increasing salaries and benefits. It would not be so bad, but the City services are not improving. Where is the restraint? Police Service costs are Crazy. Fire related salaries seem unjustifiable. Province does little for the homeless, Police use this as an excuse to hire more officers due to poor resource allocation by the Province. City pays to attract doctors, yet healthcare it is not the city's mandate. Again the taxpayers get screwed. Change the allocation of the rate, newer homes are getting killed on taxes and the city just spends and spends. Where are the brakes?
- No
- Increasing the police budget by 58% in 4 years and approving everything they ask for with little to no pushback or scrutiny is not data driving decision making or a justifiable use of funding.
- The police services budget has increased 52% in 5 years. The latest increase makes up 3% of the total 5% tax increase for Belleville Urban rate payers. Enough is enough, investigate costing to have the OPP service the city.
- Toronto has an increase this year for 2%. Belleville Rural to Urban increase of 7.28% is pure incompetence by the City of Belleville.
- "I do not believe the draft 2026 operating budget aligns with the City's stated budgetary guidelines.
- The budget does not reflect public input that consistently prioritizes affordability and keeping property taxes low. While legislative, compliance, and health and safety services are important, the overall spending approach lacks sufficient restraint and results in a tax increase that is too high for residents to absorb.
- Additionally, proposed tax-funded increases to capital contributions, while aligned with long-term asset plans, are not appropriate given current financial pressures on households. The City should be focusing more aggressively on cost containment, reprioritization, and minimizing property tax increases.
- Overall, the draft budget does not adequately balance service delivery with affordability and does not meet the expectations of residents who are asking for lower property taxes."
- Over a 7% tax increase for Cannifton rural to urban is unacceptable and over the 5% we were told to expect. This is not a sustainable increase as it continues YoY.
- With the economy the way it is tax payers don't need an increase. What increase have we paid in last 3 yrs. time for tax freeze
- The police budget is too large for the service we get they don't need new cars every year they need to do better to remove the junkies and keep them in jail
- It's a great bill to increase prices and continue robbing us wage slaves
- The majority of the increase are well over 5% guidelines provided. A 7.28% increase for an area is insured. A 16% increase in police budget is beyond excessive.
- The police budget is far too high. Why do we need an assault vehicle. OPP brings theirs and it costs nothing
- We get nothing. No busses. No police ever driving around for presence. And we can't vote for them many city councillors
- Increase in taxes should not be greater than the CPI. Furthermore, any increases stemming from city expansion/development needs to be borne by the builders/developers.
- You have ignored affordability in your preamble rationalizing why you need a big increase. Wage increases, pension increases and inflation are all lower than your tax increase. Very poor financial discipline
- My taxes keep going up. They are higher than the provincial average and get very little for them

- Taxes continue to escalate more than most municipalities however access to programs diminish. We live in Cannifton rural to urban; plowing has become less frequent and taxes increase. Access to programs in city facilities continue to decrease and parks are rarely readily accessible during parts of the year. It would be nice to have access to where funds are allocated in actuality. And why are councillors travelling to other places to “see how others operate” when no new items are effectively or efficiently implemented? Wasting tax dollars. And we have casino funds!?! Permit fees for builders continue to increase and they pay significantly for infrastructure but no new tax dollars are allocated to expanding services? I’m thoroughly confused where everything is going? Those in the private sector might shed some light on better management of tax funds?
- Year over year increases are not sustainable for residences. Belleville is paying its city staffers far too much money. Spending is through the roof and irresponsible spending should not be passed on to the tax payers. Horrendous
- The property tax increases proposed are not "moderate"
- 7% tax increase is ridiculous
- My property taxes were increased the maximum amount. It’s not sustainable and what services do we receive? No buses and Farnham is always destroyed from potholes that just get filled constantly. I’d like to know exactly what I am paying for.
- Tax increases when people are barely getting by, is unacceptable, perhaps services need to be scaled back during these economic times
- Funding for police services takes up far too much of the budget considering the needs of the community. You will undoubtedly justify police spending as a result of calls due to mental illness, addiction, and homelessness- but police do nothing to solve systemic issues. Tax payer money would go further in the hands of external agencies or the library in alleviating issues raised by taxpayers. Unless, of course, new pickup trucks or the latest taser on the market are necessary to community safety...
- Once again Belleville is choosing to focus its spending on reactive services instead of investing in preventative community services and health care. Our people need HELP. They need mental health services, they need low cost housing options and more job opportunities. We need snow removal services that actually work. The state of our roads and sidewalks are deplorable. The administrative costs seem excessive and as per usual the police budget is just ridiculous.
- Poor communication City employees dismiss and look down on people who speak up
- spending which the prov. should be funding is out of control..tax payers are asked to pay for things that are not our responsibility
- Decrease pointless events, focus on needs of the people.
- The process is broken. Survey says keep service level the same but every year the capital budget adds new operating costs for the next year which means service level increases. For each new capital item, there should be a 5 year operation plan. As an example, police are buying an unneeded armor vehicle. But the next year, operation would include insurance, maintenance, etc.. Then the public is told costs have gone up and maximum tax increases can't be held. Silly
- There was a pre budget survey done that said 70% of residents wanted taxes at or below 3%. In my area they look like they are going to be over double that. Council clearly didn’t pay attention to the mandate given to them from residents. Not sure why they had a Survey when didn’t come close to meeting the wants of the people paying taxes and total disregard for the affordability crisis that this increase fuels.
- There needs to be more budget cuts just like residents have had to cut their own budgets. There are many things around the city that look nice but are not necessary when people are struggling to pay their own bills.
- Property taxes for household are very high and increasing every year and there’s still an extra fee for us to pay for a garbage disposal and the snow clearing efforts are not at the level that they need to be
- It appears the only significant budget increase was to policing, which did not rank among the top 3 priorities in the preliminary survey.
- Our taxes could be better spent on necessary projects

- The increase of the police budget is untenable, and perhaps Belleville cannot afford its own police and we need to re-look at OPP as an option. This increase at a time when the economy is so deteriorated, will add increased pressure. On the estimates alone, my household property tax will increase a minimum of \$1200 a year! And we know that most of the police budget is being used for downtown, not for the outer rural areas.
- This question is poorly constructed and is ultimately meaningless. You're asking residents to opine on how the city's proposed budget aligns with city's budgeting guidelines. What is the point of this question and what layperson has the knowledge of these guidelines?
- Addition cost to send a full time fire pumper to all rural Belleville calls is a joke.
- Police services budget is absurd

Q4: Are you generally satisfied with these proposed operating changes?

- Need to be more services provided for our tax dollar that is paid
- They should be going down in bprices
- There is a point at which you cannot keep squeezing funds out of the public. The majority of working people are maxed out. You can't keep taking from people making far less in order to top up salaries for people making far more on the public dime.
- Escalating costs need to force the city to look for alternative measures for services, such as outsourcing as well as value add.
- It's challenging to debate the actual points of the budget without being completely versed. Generally, budgets must be cut. Tax payers are wary and skeptical of the perpetual increases.
- Police budget is too high
- No change to services
- Not at all
- There are operating expenses optimization everywhere in Canada, through productivity improvements, etc. the huge investment in technology and infrastructure for the police should be linked back to some productivity savings that can keep costs low. Overall, the city needs to do better with balancing cost and value as tax payers are dealing with the same challenge of balancing cost both at their jobs and in their personal lives. We cannot just simply transfer cost to the taxpayers.
- Cost of living and materials are contributing to this & raising the costs again for low/middle class income families doesn't help
- Generally happy and willing to accept the changes as being part of the rising costs of materials and services however am not happy to see a nearly 16% increase in the policing budget. I am hoping there are questions further into the survey to expand
- Be more accountable with tax payers funds.
- As previously mentioned/ poor implementation of road repairs and snow removal. poor public transportation, too much money spent on council salaries and superficial aspects of city (hanging planters on veterans bridge)
- Taxes are already way too high. The middle class is carrying the financial burden. With the increased cost of basic necessities, tax increases on top of that will push many families over the edge. Services don't align with what we pay. You need to look to other communities who are operating on much lower tax levels and thriving. Money is being wasted in the wrong places and we are paying for it.
- No
- All city depts should be required to show implemented cost measures
- Are the roads getting repaired?
- Service levels are not maintained. On top city sucks with allowing guests parking on the street overnight. So basically you can not have friends and family over if you have no space for them to park on drive way
- Too much spent on city departments
- Services are not improving despite taxes increasing, see prior comment.
- Too much money for some things
- Not at all
- It's difficult to afford these increases considering my property taxes seem very high as it is
- Just stop the taxed from being high because it is hard to rent or buy a place any where to live
- No money as it is.
- Tax increase is too high
- Things should be scaled back to reduce the tax burden.

- Police budget
- Unexpectedly high and over what most can afford for an increase
- No
- It's not the city's fault things are the way they are, but everyone is feeling the crunch.
- No
- See previous response
- No, services are poor
- 1/3 of every paycheck, another increase and overall costs are not serving the public's interests
- Not enough is happening nothing gets done in the city of Belleville
- There are no reliefs offered
- I think that most people realize that we are subsidizing the homeless and nothing is being done to improve that situation
- There are no main road light poles, no proper walkway on Farham Road, and no bus service in this area. Despite these basic services missing, we are still paying high property taxes—and they keep increasing every year. This is not fair to residents.
- The snow removal is horrible on my road. The garbage gets missed sometimes. And for some reason I have to buy garbage tags even though I pay 6000 plus in taxes. This needs to stop
- Cut on police Officer to save
- Increases for less services
- Cuts for free downtown parking should be avoided. Studies show that is not the best practice and should be reviewed further before impacting the budget.
- The taxes here have increased substantially, and now reflect the same amount amounts as large, larger cities like Pickering and get it close to Toronto if not more
- Still no funding for Tennis facilities - need an indoor facility.
- Too much increase
- I think some pocket are getting filled which is criminal
- High increase with no services
- More accountability needed for increases over target
- Mortgage renewals are at an all time high this year, mortgages will be going up for everyone, cost of living is at a all time high, we already have to pay for garbage tags, so on and so on, why is the police needing more money, they all drive new Ford F-150 trucks, running red lights and haven't even seen them patrol on my street once since moving here, their building being renovated so on and so on, no one's salaries have increased dramatically to accommodate these proposed increases
- They are too high in a single year.
- Wasteful expenditure.
- I think the pop ups should be left at the park. They seem to draw people and the park is busy . People need to get outside and this seems to be working and we heard some are making money and that is good. I do not use these very often but when i do I like what I see. Some of your cost is labour and if the popups go you will still have to pay staff from other funds. Please keep sports fields to the high level they are, again people coming to town spending money and enjoying our City. These are small details that will make more of a the city special. I think these 2 things will cost more to take away than they will cost to keep. Sorry to go on so long, but please think about it.
- Like people managing our budget maybe you need to cut programs or people can't pay for the taxes
- there is a significant increase to the TOS administration budget
- Police budget increase is excessive and no challenge to it by council.
- Family house in the east end should not be \$9500/year in taxes. These are astronomical and actually deterring people from moving here.
- Maybe we cannot maintain current service levels. All departments need to consider 0 to negative growth.
- Fire and Police are too expensive. I don't want more service from them.
- Cuts are needed.

- no tax increase
- Dumb
- I feel that visitor services should remain a vital service through the current provider
- There remains meaningful opportunity to mitigate the budget increases requested for City Boards and external agencies in Sections D1 through D3. A broader review should consider not only these specific sections but the city's own capacity and ongoing programs, ensuring that funding supports distinct, high-impact outcomes without duplicating work already being performed by municipal departments. A cross-departmental mapping exercise is needed to identify overlaps, clarify mandates, and determine whether certain initiatives can be consolidated under existing programs or reframed as shared services, rather than funded as discrete, parallel efforts.
- Streets are full of large holes from city not maintains streets properly now. Noise bylaws are an absolute joke. If a dog is barking or music is loud it should not be left up to the victim to keep track of the noise. Snow removal is horrid, so is parking laws. And now you want us to pay more for this!
- Different tax rates by billing area
- Changes disproportionately applied between regions
- Homeless shelter was bought with strong mayor powers not good one person decides 5 or 7 mil not gold
- New requests are not in line with reality
- BPS budget increase of 15% is unacceptable. Council has representation on the BPS board that approved the budget. Given the explanation that new staff required to train/replace retiring members, would appear there should be a reduction in the BPS budget next year by at least 15% as new recruits are generally paid less than experienced members.
- Too much money is going to the police.
- Instead of increasing expenses for Belleville residents try decreasing the number of over paid management
- The people of Belleville can't afford the increased property taxes
- Again, Belleville police service
- Force the departments to live on a 2 % increase like everyone else
- I do not think the "reductions" / "offsets" are very strategic and represent small symbolic amounts on a budget that should be examined with a more strategic set of lens, modernize, transform, digitize, "stop" doing some things that youve done and keep funding just because youve always done them. Etc.
- How can we possibly afford another hefty increase to our taxes? My I come has not gone up even close to the percentage increases proposed
- I don't think the reductions are accurately represented
- Again, tax hikes help no one. Be better at budgeting.
- Police budget
- No more tax increases
- The increases are not supportable. Or do you want fewer home owners?
- I think the Police Board needs to rethink its budget and we can drop the doctor recruitment program.
- I do not agree with spending on physician recruitment. The physicians start and leave as soon as commitment is finished leaving more patients without physicians
- Again of the belief that there should be more to social services and less to police as a preventative measure to police funding needs. Clear information on how budget increases for city services will tangibly impact residents.
- Increases too high
- No
- See previous comments
- Policing budget way too large
- You are over funding areas while residents are sramnlong to live.
- reduce your expense ,reduce pay cut . there is no point to increase pay for the people in this recession era. there are job cut every where an d only cities like belleville, happy to increase the pay

- Cannot justify yet another tax increase.
- Administration seems high in a few categories
- I'm not satisfied with this budget because residents are being asked to absorb a significant tax increase while experiencing visible reductions in safety, cleanliness, and community services, yet there's little indication that leadership is sharing in that burden. When council and senior elected officials are among the highest-paid decision-makers in the municipality, it's reasonable to expect restraint at the top before passing costs down to households already dealing with inflation, housing pressure, and rising fees. A temporary pay freeze or reduction for council would demonstrate accountability and shared sacrifice, and show residents that financial responsibility starts with leadership... not just with taxpayers being told to pay more for less.
- It is absolutely absurd that the Belleville Police Budget is increasing 15.63%
- Not satisfied with police service requirements
- It seems like money is being spent to help homeless people which I do support. However are we really making any difference to the numbers of homeless?
- We can't afford any more taxes. Service have to be reduced.
- Police budget no need for an armoured car Doug Ford does not want cities to continue their costly doctor recruitment
- Perhaps it's a time to hold certain projects. Review everything with that in mind.
- Health care should be increased and decrease policing just a waste of money the old boys club just a joke of a police force
- Too much money
- How about denying some of their budgetary increases we cannot afford more increases. They are going to have to make do with a 2% increase that is what inflation is and that is what expectations are is that you keep it in line with inflation not an extra 5 to 7% that's poor management.
- Get the money somewhere else. Not from hardworking homeowners. I'm sitting on the poverty line as it is!
- No comments
- Where are the austerity measures? Where are the freezes. Federal Gov't is cutting back, why not Bloatville?
- Police increase
- What are the \$2M in pre-approved budget items? 15.63% in one year and 58% in 4 years, are you kidding me? Good, increase the bag tag fees.
- Police Budget is too high.
- We need taxes to be lowered
- Police Board 15% Increase is another example of incompetence.
- Na
- While some base budget adjustments may be unavoidable, the overall increase to the tax levy goes beyond what is reasonable given current affordability pressures. New requests from boards, agencies, and City departments should be more tightly constrained, and tax-relief measures should be prioritized to reduce, not add to, the burden on property taxpayers.
- Too many increases to external agencies
- Tax increase is WAY too high
- No tax increase
- We should never see an increase of this size as a small town if the mayor and staff can travel to other counties and not keep that expense within the city
- Continue the robbery
- Reduce the costs or say no to requests.
- The city services of what I pay vs what I receive are not equal
- We pay more taxes than Markham and get less

- Reduce funding towards Quinte Conservation. With their implementation of user fees for all the facilities/conservation areas they have become irrelevant for the majority of tax payers. Quinte Conservation needs to either do a better job of informing tax payers what they do with our tax dollars, or live with reduced budget.
- Police increase is completely out of line
- Need more services in Cannifton urban
- Every item in years past are almost never implemented efficiently or on budget and you continue to come back to ask residents repeatedly for increases. How do we know these changes will be implemented on time and on budget? But you're asking us to cough up???
- Reduce services to offset increased costs. Make better choices. Be more fiscally responsible. Times are tough, act like it. Don't pass costs on to make my dollar spread less.
- I cannot afford more taxes with the price of everything else. Cuts need to found elsewhere
- Hasn't been communicated well
- There should be no budget increases for any city dept
- Again, your police budget is inflated.
- Police Services are getting an increase of 15%! Yet, social services get a 6%. Police Services is already the highest budget line. Each year their budget goes up, and crime gets worse. Why? Because belleville lacks funded prevention based services like, SOCIAL SERVICES. There is so much research proving why investing in these services results in better outcomes and safer communities.
- Proof is lacking
- agencies must tighten their expenses as well as boards such as Police, fire, etc
- Slow down. See previous comment.
- Belleville is pricing seniors out
- Council should have been looking for efficiencies and possible cuts in these areas to keep taxes lower.
- We definitely need increase in the police budget to handle the never ending increase in crime and homelessness. Reduce staff in other areas which are not necessary.
- Property taxes are way too high especially for seniors and services continue to get cut
- I question why police services is saying they need to hire two new special constables for court services when (as I understand it) they have multiple special constables working outside the courthouse complimenting Constable platoons
- Too heavy on police, has hindered the ability of any other department to tackle there issues or priorities.
- Pretty vague explanation
- As outlined previously, police budgeting is out of control
- What measures are being taken to address climate change.
- There needs to be general cost-control. We need to really look at the expenditures, salaries and overtime practices of police and firefighters, because their budgets are getting out of control. Also, municipalities can't be asked to tackle the homeless/mental health/drug abuse crises. I'm strongly opposed to The Bridge Hub and fear this will become an albatross around the taxpayer's neck where good money is just flushed down the toilet. Without wrap-around provincial supports (we're already paying taxes for this), crowding in ever-larger homeless population from the greater region is going to be nothing but trouble, both in terms of security and in terms of budgeting.
- Need to reduce taxes, stop added increase to city boards etc., tax relief would be nice for everyone.
- Find ways to reduce spending

Q5: In your opinion, what changes or improvements would you suggest for the 2026 operating budget to better meet the needs of the community?

- Biweekly 2 bag limit garbage bag collection for free and after 2 needs tag, green bins picked up weekly
- Talking to the families who barley making it and truly making a change in this town
- Belleville needs to treat all wards equally. New homes are footing the biggest taxes while not receiving the same services. This will impact our reputation for attracting new people to move to Belleville, I know I have regrets coming here in this regard.
- One small idea: hire more students to maintain properties. Use smaller, cheaper, more manual equipment for lawn maintenance. More labour, less expensive equipment.
- Maintain volunteer fire fighters
- Pedestrian / cycling friendly route over the 401 to safely cross into the Cannifton area and link bike paths
- Productivity improvements. Investments should have a corresponding savings that balance the budget.
- Less policing budget, given all the money that's been spent on new vehicles and armoured vehicles
- Reduce the increase in the policing budget to a more manageable level. It feels it will be 16% this year and that type of increase will be pursued annually - we are not a large city and do not require the police force found in a large city.
- Staffing cuts, we have a small population in our area, and departments staff like much larger cities
- The 2026 operating budget should prioritize essential infrastructure and core services while minimizing the tax burden on residents. Roads, water and wastewater systems, snow removal, and emergency services must remain the focus, as deferred maintenance increases long-term costs. The City should review discretionary spending, delay non-essential expansions, and limit new hiring to essential roles. Phasing in new initiatives would also help reduce immediate tax pressure. Protecting affordability is critical. Targeted relief for seniors and low-income households and increased efforts to secure external funding should be prioritized. Council should also demonstrate fiscal leadership by freezing or reducing council salaries during this period of financial pressure.
- Reduce taxes not increase.
- See previous comment
- Fix our roads. Our taxes are already too high for what we see.
- Improvise on the services provided, improve city roads, remove garbage tags, stop spending \$30,000/\$40,000 on special celebrations and then think of increasing
- Increase budget for more health and safety; policing services, physician recruitment, EMT, hospital ER infrastructure, Increase staff
- Spend less on services that have continuously failed to deliver
- Reduce the amount of top \$ staff! Budget like you are poor... necessities first and whatever is left, take care of the kids! Health, safety, and education.
- Raising the prices and not improving community services is a robbery to the people.
- Keep the budget to below 2% and for what they do the police do not need a budget increase of 15%!!!
- Affordability for homeowners who pay very high tax rates as it is.
- Get us act together and get people to do more with the city of Belleville I remember when I was a kid there was lots to do in Belleville but now there is barely any thing for even young kids to do any thing as I am a father and I see barely any thing here except parks make some thing more for the kids of Belleville maybe then I'll be happy not till then with any of u guys that work for the city of Belleville
- Lower budget to meet police services request.
- Higher user fees for hockey rinks
- remove the levy imposed for the HUB which was supposed to be only 2 years

- Less of a wild increase for police
- More community accessible mental health care, reducing funding increases in other areas to facilitate mental health access. Preferably not drastically increasing the property taxes in the city.
- Reduce the hike so we can afford life and not consider moving away.
- Roads are in bad shape east of Front, large potholes, no water drainage.
- Completely rethink community policing
- Staffing reductions.
- New mayor and council members
- Police need to manage their costs more efficiently
- Maybe the mayor should take a pay cut improve roads listen to the residents of Belleville fixing the parking bylaws
- Increase services and not wages
- We seem to be paying more for decreasing services because more of our money is going towards the homeless situation. There doesn't seem to have been any real progress in coming up with any kind of a solution to improve the homeless situation. Until that is done, we are just wasting money on Band-Aid solution solutions.
- There are no main road light poles, no proper walkway on Farnham Road, and no bus service in this area. Despite these basic services missing, we are still paying high property taxes—and they keep increasing every year. This is not fair to residents.
- Don't raise taxes
- Have the opp instead of our own police
- Do not increase the budget to cover free downtown parking. Studies show that is not an effective measure for businesses. It actually makes the parking worse as the turnover rate is much lower for the prime parking locations. Also, ensure environmental sustainability is a priority.
- Review of police budget
- Police budget is too high!
- Stop having us pay for garbage bags and also stopped charging for excess water used
- Put in a side walk from harmony school to foxboro school. Have a Thurlow soccer team. Have events like dart club and card nights at the hall in Thurlow. Actually add some work into Thurlow.
- Plan for more roundabouts for efficiency and safety. Increases the capacity of the roads with less starting and stopping.
- Lower overall increases
- Property taxes stay the same
- No increase
- More accountability for City Boards and External agencies
- I feel with the loss of the speed cameras this is one of the reasons the police need more "budget", we don't need armored trucks, we don't need brand new Ford F-150s, we don't need city Council members, police officers, city workers etc getting increased raises and bonuses when us the property tax payees are not getting increases in pay to accommodate, we should be offered at least 1 bag of garbage free for pick up, other cities are much lower on property taxes, increase doesn't make sense
- Spread out the increase. Management expectations way better. More competitive bidding processes.
- Reduce funding for arts
- Decrease social and community services. Don't subsidize as much
- Reduce the budget proposed for the Economic and Development Sector
- transit buses are generally under used and could be scaled back
- Reduce the police budget.
- If my tax billing area is going to be assessed at urban rates for some services that are a significant part of the budget ie policing and fire then we should be able to vote for the urban councillor representatives.
- Cut redundant jobs, we don't need a trail going nowhere (riverfront). Councilors should be fairly compensated for the effort it takes (2 meetings a week?) They should not be receiving 50k Salary

- In the Cannifton rural/urban area - volunteer fire service has been satisfactory, Full time fire is very expensive. The fire department maintains a boat that never gets called out, there are other resources available for water rescue.
- Defunding of first responders.
- Reduce the police and transportation budgets. Parks and rec need closer monitoring to ensure time theft is eliminated.
- no tax increase
- We have to quit spending money we don't have
- Not being held hostage by external agencies
- Taxation levies for industrial should be slightly increased as to lessen the requirements for DCs, thus making new development more attractive.
- To optimize the 2026 operating budget, the municipality should avoid taking on items that are provincial in scope, such as conservation responsibilities, funding related to Kingston's hospital system, homelessness and policing issues, and Habitat for Humanity housing. In addition, duplicated efforts from third parties should be minimized; programs already addressed by in-house municipal departments (e.g., Tourism, Economic Development, Housing) should not be redundantly funded by external agencies. A focus on strengthening municipal capacity and regional coordination will yield better outcomes and greater fiscal discipline.
- I doubt very much you care what tax payers think.
- Reduce user fees for recreational programs
- Reduce user fees for recreational programs
- Employment freeze cut back on flowers and homeless shelter
- You are going to have to make cuts. You need to have a hard look and shave off of existing programs (e.g. dr recruitment).
- Council and city staff need review all services and determine if all services are providing appropriate value and which services should be discontinued.
- Again keep the Zwicks Pop Ups and the holiday market. Introduce a vacant property tax on both residential and commercial properties sitting un-lived in and un-used. This tax will encourage residential property owners to either rent out or sell their property to those seeking a home. It will encourage commercial property owners to lowerover expensive commercial rents which brings in new businesses! Everyone wins! a home.
- Top heavy management positions need to be streamlined and or eliminated
- The community needs to keep more of their money. In my opinion you need to make cuts to wasteful spending and not be so comfortable increasing taxes.
- Much lower budget for Belleville police service
- I would refer to the public input collected last summer - its very detailed, if you ran some analytics on that info you could probably surface half a dozen key priorities and cross reference those with where you increases/reductions/core expenditures are to answer this question.
- Please find a way to scale back somewhere. The year over year increases are exiting people from their homes
- Multiple community partners are working to support the city but there is increased investment over the past 4 years to do the same work internally. There are many reasons to keep the work external from a cost effective point of view, but also for transparency purposes.
- Lower taxes. Make it more affordable to live. Do a better job with the budget.
- Lower taxes
- Reduce the police budget and leave the Fire service the same.
- Assure us that you did listen to public input and relevant comments.
- Police Board budget review, drop dr recruitment funds

- Getting a proposal from opp on cost of policing rather than local police. Eliminating funding for physician recruitment. Looking at rates of pay of firefighters staff and how they are staffed. Switching to 8 hour shift model looking at reduction of overtime.
- as described in previous responses
- Get rid of something, budget like the rest of us
- Reduce overall increase to 3% or less
- Less spent on police department, more spent on services that help lower income individuals
- No area of the budget should receive over 1,000,000
- don;t do any thing, do not raise tax. please please
- Woke a budget like every household has to do within a set income.
- Cut administration a bit
- To improve this budget, the City should start by sharing the financial burden at the top through a council pay freeze or reduction before cutting frontline services. Public safety and cleanliness in high-use areas like the waterfront, parks, and downtown should be protected, as these are basic services residents rely on and their removal creates bigger problems later. Community programs and events that bring people into the downtown core should be maintained because they support local businesses and economic activity. Large increases from external agencies and boards should be more critically reviewed instead of automatically passed on to taxpayers. Finally, the City should avoid stacking tax increases with higher user fees and be transparent about what residents are losing in exchange for higher taxes. Clear priorities, shared sacrifice, and protection of core services would make this budget more responsible and easier for residents to accept.
- Would like to see disclosure of each department's Full-time positions and related Manpower expenditures.
- A moderate BPS budget increase, 8-10%.
- Belleville Police Service needs more funding.
- Look at having opp take over policing in Belleville
- Not increase the city taxes as planned. This may only serve to increase hardships and homelessness to people.
- Reduce services to lower tax rate.
- See last comment
- Return to table, sharpen the pencils and only make the improvements absolutely necessary.
- Same as last question
- Stop enabling the homeless. The more services you provide the more are sent here.
- Stopping the police from purchasing an armoured car for one that is going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars that are not required. The police had to hide behind a tree that is effective cover where an armour car couldn't even reach and not only that the armoured car would take time to get there they would still be required to use trees all departments that I've requested an increase should all be denied until the city can actually produce a budget within its means no extra travel days no mayor trips to Europe or to Korea actually cut the budget and try and stay within your means
- Less of a property tax increase and allow 3 garbage bags per week like Ottawa
- Freeze hiring of new staff. Cut departmental discretionary spending, think smarter, change the mill rate structure to download costs to make it more fair for everyone.
- Police are expensive. Create a fourth response option to 911 calls after police, fire and paramedics: mental health professionals (see Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS)). Charge apartment buildings lower property taxes permanently. Maybe don't cancel affordable housing programs that were working to save \$500k/yr and get to a 0% tax increase. Start a Housing Stability Program like the one in Chatham Kent. Try addressing the primary issues facing your community by looking at what other communities are doing instead of pointing the finger at other levels of government and working on vanity projects (Agricultural Society).

- Investigate the long term cost of having the OPP service the city instead of BPS. Cities like Midland and orangeville are saving 30% of their police budget now.
- lower property taxes
- Reduce Police Budget. Phase-in of Impact of Fire Master Plan on Ward 2 Rural Urban must be changed to 10 year phase-in from current 5 year phase-in. This is too difficult to absorb for the average taxpayer.
- The 2026 operating budget should place a stronger emphasis on affordability and reducing pressure on property taxes. The City should focus on stricter cost containment, limiting new spending requests, and deferring or scaling back non-essential programs and initiatives. Priority should be given to core, mandatory services and maintaining existing infrastructure, rather than expanding services or administrative costs. Greater scrutiny of departmental budgets, boards, and external agencies is needed to ensure value for money. Any increases should be clearly justified, unavoidable, and offset where possible. Overall, the budget should better reflect residents' concerns about rising property taxes by demonstrating restraint, prioritization, and a clear commitment to keeping taxes as low as possible.
- Do not purchase military equipment for a police force that solves about 25% of crime compare to 38% provincial average
- I think you have done a wonderful job in addressing the needs in the community and keeping the increases close to what the Mayor had hoped at the beginning of the process. We're well served in Belleville and we must remember that to be well served it costs money. Zero or 1% increases are unrealistic, just putting off for another generation. Having said that the province needs to provide more dollars for the items they've downloaded to municipalities.
- Cut back on services lay offs to lower taxes
- Keep the taxes low and do a better job running the city
- Increase to arts & culture grants, and to Quinte Arts Council. This will promote stability in the sector.
- Reduce costs, reduce police budget, increase efficiencies
- Lower taxes!
- Hold taxes
- More effort to keep taxes down.
- Reduce police budget, cap department increases to inflation, reducing staff if needed
- There are no buses. More and more traffic
- Reduce services to keep taxes as is.
- More police, fire, ems services. Less city employee positions- utilize AI, cutbacks on flowers and beautification
- We def. Need to support police and education
- Perhaps not relying on property tax increases to cover your budget. Give us a break
- Fix roads
- No tax increases
- I don't have a problem with spending, I just want to see money spent wisely. I think it's necessary for city departments and supervisors to be accountable for spending. This includes expenses, approval of overtime (!), and proper task management. If you operate efficiently, you could reduce the financial fallout for the taxpayer
- Roads are embarrassingly rough- ridiculous. Repairs needed and have been needed for years. Also more senior programs. Senior numbers high and on the increase. More activities needed for seniors.

- Move funding from police services and administrative costs into funding services that are so desperately needed in Belleville. We've been waiting for action on the Hart Hub for years now. Make it happen. Put money where it needs to go, not where it makes Belleville look more desirable. People are dying in our streets because social services are so underfunded. Belleville needs to see a change and this budget is where those changes happen. I'd like to see city council spend more than 20 minutes in a meeting and actually get some work done. We don't want to see city council members riding around in snow plows. That is a waste of tax payer money. I think with more consideration your team will see where there are disparities in the services that we need them. I hope the budget planners will actually take something away from these surveys and do the research to make our city better.
- recognizing Belleville rural addresses that are inside the boundary, yet still have a postal address that is not recognized because the Post Office has not updated their boundaries. For example the northern end has either a Stirling-Rawdon or Roslin address. These families are not recognized by the library, or other services as within the City boundaries.
- Fire employees who are entitled
- Back to basics. Cut all bridge funds. Why are we paying Stirling for anything?
- Lower the tax rate. Belleville taxes are way too high.
- Make hard decisions on cuts on items that are not necessary on short term.
- We need to lower property taxes and stop paying for garbage
- Support for police
- Send the police budget back to their board.
- We need our streets cleaned in time for those of us that work to get out of our driveways
- I would like real research presented on why police budget is so high versus going to OPP
- climate change, food security and homeless issues are not mentioned. These are important issues for our community.
- Cut discretionary items like the arts council and community grants. Re-evaluate social housing expenditure which is nearly 6% of the budget. Abandon the boondoggle of Alhambra; let the province and the non-profit space manage or fold. Lobby the government for harsher penalties for any criminal "unhoused" people and long-term confinement/treatment for the mentally unwell and severe drug addicts. This would triage the issue and allow for money to be targeted to do the most benefit. Massively scale back on the "administration" budget lines for various departments. It makes up close to 40% in the case of Transportation, but only 0.9% of Community Services. Ditch the expenditure for hybrid buses as \$3 million is unnecessary.
- Need to slow down tax increase or soon no one will be able to every live in a house
- Road repairs
- Reduce headcount, investigate OPP for policing.

Q6: Are there any additional KPIs you believe would be beneficial for the community?

- Idk
- Lower tax rates incentivize business to locate in the area. When businesses move in, families follow. A key performance indicator would be how many new families are willing to move to the area each year.
- See previous answer
- Productivity!!! Calls taken are an in-process measure, we want to see the number of crimes solved, criminals apprehended, deviants rehabilitated, etc
- Percentage of tax dollars spent on municipal leader salaries, health care, spending, road maintenance
- See previous comments
- Increase emergency services; hospital, policing, EMT
- Autism supports
- # of residents attached to a primary care physician
- Level Hughes the hotel tax
- Local employment is hard to secure, garbage collection is frequently delayed, potholes and roads are filling up with more potholes and unsafe roads
- More effort in Thurlow to make it the community it was.
- Homeless and Addicted people create new burdens on taxpayers. We should lobby the provincial and federal govt to ensure funding is equalized through all municipalities so it does not fall only on the cities who care enough to provide facilities.
- Quit filling the pockets of the city that isn't justified
- Not sure this dashboard is as convenient as you think.
- Salaries of all jobs paid by the city.
- Publicly available KPIs to track and improve: Building permit throughput (time for responses/permit issuance), and Site Plan agreements (time for responses/SPA approval) based on different classifications for complexity.
- Not wasting any more time on this
- Number of school snow days (driven by road maintenance conditions)
- Percentage of residents without a primary health care
- The KPIs need a fairly serious overhaul - your main function as a municipal government is to "serve" your citizens - you have 1-2 service related KPIs - 1 is from finance (?) and its poor stating how many calls were "answered" - 84% answered - does this mean 16 of 100 calls never get a call back - call backs should be 100% and you should be measuring resolutions etc. This is just an example. Counting how many people visit your website is a 1990's KPI (total vanity) - I mean of course that number will grow as people become more digitally savvy and you reduce other mediums - again, take a look into leading KPIs for public sector service orgs. This is not transparency and accountability its window dressing.
- health services funding e.g. hospitals, health units - ? outcomes; more re transportation and city congestion and any assistance to low income people for jobs in the industrial park (as an example)
- In physician recruitment what is indicator how many stay on after contract requirement?
- no -- but unsure how issues such as bylaw response time can justify a budget increase with such a small change in goals. I feel that the listed KPIs also contradict the need for an increase in police budgeting.
- city of belleville just giving pain to people. worst city to live now.

- Yes. In addition to existing KPIs, the City should include performance indicators that directly reflect resident experience and value for money. This could include measurable outcomes such as response times and incident rates in parks and waterfront areas, cleanliness and maintenance standards for downtown and public spaces (including weekend coverage), bylaw enforcement presence during peak periods, and usage or attendance data for community programs and events. Financial KPIs that show cost per service delivered, year-over-year staffing growth versus service levels, and the impact of administrative costs compared to frontline services would also improve transparency. These indicators would help residents better understand whether higher taxes are resulting in tangible improvements in safety, cleanliness, and quality of life.
- Display and disclose previous (2025) KPIs
- In principle, yes. That does not mean we should go beyond our means causing economic hardships for our residents.
- Lots of money wasted
- You must be joking! KPI's offered are good for a start but do not really mean anything. Police Service and Fire should have KPI's that measure better use of monies, and BPS should resign. There is no correlation between thir policing and the type of crime they are saying they are fighting. Bloatville has more petty crime than is being admitted to. Where are the Stats Canada applied to Bloatville? If you ask for service I am dumbfounded by how there is so much red tape to get anything done. I rate service on par with Air Canada. I think the Province needs to address MPAC, is it really screwed up. Cities like Bloatville get the shaft due to population density, and Toronto gets the benefit of the numbers game.
- Measure the issues affecting the community. Operating budget variance, Transit avg wait time, number of trips, unemployment, food bank usage, rent bank grants, shelter and overnight uses, wait list for social housing, value of building permits, percentage of vacant office space, percentage of vacant industrial space, median home price, median rent price
- KPI to reduce City of Belleville unnecessary Staff level.
- Keep parking paid downtown not everyone uses that area of the city but you want everyone in the city to pay more for garbage removal so they can park for 1 hour free not fair keep it to a few blocks of the downtown
- How does our police budget compare to other communities
- Comparison to other municipalities of similar size
- More transparency in spending. More town halls
- Ensure reviews of Homelessness... not sure it's worth all the money
- Depts/services need scaled back
- Climate/ environmental related KPIs
- Punish arrogant employees
- Yes, act like a real business and look for operation efficiencies. Not fake ones - ones that eliminate workers by doing things smarter. I have seen sidewalk plow operations when there's no snow to plow.
- Getting a pulse on the demographics of the area and adjust the taxes accordingly to meet the fixed income residents
- Police! If they want all the money, it's the least they could do.

Q7: Are there any specific topics surrounding the City's operating budget and process that you wish you had more information and background on?

- Do better job in dealing with snow removal from roads and sidewalks. For 2 years straight now the sidewalks have been terrible and this past winter roads have been snow covered even after they were plowed. If I wanted to drive on snow covered roads I would of moved to the Bancroft area and live on a back road
- Dealing with criminals the correct way
- Police Services budget did not address the budget guidelines even when advised to reevaluate. Their budget increase is unacceptable and out of control. Time to evaluate against OPP service.
- Output measures of police force and productivity goals
- Why the taxes seem to be the only solution to stretched budgets
- Roads, hire more police to deal with the rising crime in the city.
- Health and safety operating budget; hospital ERs, policing, EMT
- the levy imposed for the HUB
- Hastings county funding for childcare
- Why our area is taxed high when our properties need less maintenance for roads, etc bc its a newer built up area. Our taxes are higher than most in Ontario and we moved here to afford to live vs living in durham or toronto.
- Policing
- Police budget
- Day to day city hall operation
- Why are we providing free downtown parking? Studies show that doesn't have a positive impact and makes the situation worse. What are the repercussions of this. What cuts were made to cover this expense?
- It would be good to take this survey and BNL before the budget is drafted and approved
- Policing, I would like a cost analysis for OPP vs city of Belleville. I would like a cost analysis on the recycle and garbage programs for the past 4 years.
- Signage to increase visitors to the downtown area is essential to improve the viability and vitality of downtown businesses. "This way to the historic downtown, riverside, restaurants, great shopping and vibrant events". (on the slip road entrance off southbound Pinnacle after the railway bridge. (for example)
- What streets are being maintenance
- Need more detail on the police budget, there current spending, salaries, cost of vehicles etc
- How reserve funding has been spent.
- I wish that my adult choices have been different as I moved away too soon.
- why the admin budget for TOS more than doubled
- Strategy to deal with pedestrian movement from the north side of the 401 to the south side. None of the overpasses provide a safe pedestrian corridor. Considering the approval of the residential builds north of the 401 what plans were considered to deal with the increase in pedestrian traffic this development would create?
- The amount of money spent on fire services and policing is laughable. Belleville's per capita police spending (around \$600) was significantly higher than Kingston's (around \$400) and even Toronto. A change needs to happen

- Fire and police. We should not pay a cent for homeless and drug addled, unless it is to ship them out of Belleville.
- Citizens need proof that their feedback is reaching decision makers through the formal budget consultation process, staff references to input in reports, and clear explanations of how feedback influenced recommendations.
- People are flying through red lights all over this city. We have to wait after a light is green to ensure it is really safe
- Different rates based on service areas
- Why different rates by region!
- Divisiveness in tax billing in general. too many divides between service levels and urban and rural.
- Make it more clear exactly what was done to prevent the increase to our taxes.
- Belleville police service
- I explained this earlier - every section where there is a proposed increase should be required to submit and provide transparently an accountability briefing note or assessment document at a more detailed level - to tell me police is increasing at 33% without a more detailed explanation is essentially leaving me to my own imagination - maybe they are buying toys, or sending people to conferences (I dont believethis BTW but using it as an example)
- Why the tax increase? Why a massive 15 percent police increase? Unacceptable.
- Police
- Reduce the Parks dep't budget.
- waterfront environmental health (not just recreational planning)
- Armoured vehicle for police I do not h destined how out s community requires such a vehicle.
- What parts or each departments budget is covering wage increases.
- Accountability to tax payers. Our taxes are already so high.
- Administration salaries
- Yes. I would like more information on how budget decisions are prioritized when tax increases are proposed, specifically how service cuts are evaluated against administrative and leadership costs. Greater background on how council compensation, senior management expenses, and external agency increases are reviewed before frontline services are reduced would be helpful. I would also like clearer explanations of the long-term financial impacts of cutting preventative services such as security, cleaning, and community programming, and how success is measured once those cuts are made
- More information regarding Departmental Manpower costs
- Number of homeless at present time vs past five years. How are we spending the money to help homeless? Policing needs are increasing. Is it related to homeless individuals?
- I would like to see a detailed breakdown of reasons for departments needing substantial increases in their budget.
- I would like to see council meets changed to 7 pm so people can attend
- Why is there no option where there's actually very little increase and what those cuts or lack of increases would mean instead of just proposing large increases and then getting the flack from the taxpayer and then now re-digging things and trying to keep it a little bit lower, there should be three options, presented to the taxpayers, and then we could vote on it for approval. You would have direct knowledge of what your taxpayers are requesting.
- Why are there so many employees getting raises that we're paying for? We're not getting raises. I've worked my job for 20 years and can barely afford my house as it is. Taxes and utilities are through the roof already!! Share the wealth.
- There is NO INPUT, it is all smoke and mirrors. Who champions the taxpayer? Why does BPS want a swat vehicle? Who negotiates benefits for municipal employees? All the taxper gets is a BS story about following government guidelines. I have had about enough, the system is broken.
- Pre-approved budget items list - name, date they were approved, amount. Capital budget impact on the

operating budget.

- Police Services - Budget has doubled since 2016. Unaffordable - need Formal Review to switch to OPP.
- Why do police need such increase in funding?
- How long are physicians recruited through the recruitment program obliged to stay in Belleville? And will we continue the program when the province indicates it's not a responsibility of a municipality but their responsibility?.
- It's a joke right now if i knew more i would probably have to move out of this city
- More detail on why the Cannifton urban to rural increase is so high
- Wages of all city employees and city council
- Why taxes are so much higher in Cannifton urban
- Full disclosure of where funds are used. And why we keep having to investigate items on our dime without holding councillors accountable.
- Budget breakdown for last 5 yrs should be illustrated for each department, so residents can track increases/decreases with level of service experienced or required
- Where my property taxes goes and the police budget needs to be denied. That's ridiculous
- more transparency about city department spending
- I think extreme and total transparency on every budget line would give people clarity. Where is the money being spent. Why are increases given? This information would be helpful.
- There is no lack of transparency
- Standardize the documents presented to the public so they can easily read. The spreadsheets are horrible. Columns with vague descriptions, information that isn't explained. Each board makes up their own way. It's fine to have working document but the information presented to the public should be easily read and you shouldn't have to figure out unique spreadsheets from each department
- Would be nice to see what a budget would look like if our external agencies met our guidelines. How different would it look..
- Police budget
- What happened to the "temporary" 1% tax levy that Mayor Ellis introduced to finance The Bridge Hub?
- Money's spent on police and fire departments

Appendix B

The comments below were received through social media, email and the online comment card:

- You don't get a say that's funny right thur!
- Fix a pot hole once in awhile. One of the Highest taxes in the province. Sad. Hopefully October will have a better council that can live up to promises
- Catch up time .lol
- Dont have speed cameras for there revenue now so we have to pay for there over spending.
- Pretty sad..tax payers getting less for \$\$ more
- It's time folks to review the survey to express your concerns and reach out to your councillors and let them know your thoughts .
- Maybe put money into the city like proper snow removal, cleaning up the downtown where it's acceptable to charge people to park down there etc
- Send in my feedback. My city counsellor is next on my list.
- Fix the roads!
- Time to vote these counsellors that have claimsof thousands of dollars they claim at our own expense...
- To improve this budget, the City should start by sharing the financial burden at the top through a council pay freeze or reduction before cutting frontline services. Public safety and cleanliness in high-use areas like the waterfront, parks, and downtown should be protected, as these are basic services residents rely on and their removal creates bigger problems later. Community programs and events that bring people into the downtown core should be maintained because they support local businesses and economic activity. Large increases from external agencies and boards should be more critically reviewed instead of automatically passed on to taxpayers. Finally, the City should avoid stacking tax increases with higher user fees and be transparent about what residents are losing in exchange for higher taxes. Clear priorities, shared sacrifice, and protection of core services would make this budget more responsible and easier for residents to accept.
- This is ridiculous that year after year the city think 4 to 5% is a standard rise in taxes. So 10 year 50%. Cost of living increases are 2.5 to 3. Maybe the city councilors should try to be more creative in lower increases. Maybe for once every 10 years a nice decrease. So much money wasted on usless stuff. To many managers and in over inflated staff that has never been reduced since covid. And its not the public works department as thee is barly enough of them. Im sure the average business minded person could easily find a 5 to 10 reduction in taxes. Be better be smarter. And treat the tax payers fairly
- Get the roads cleaned, omg
- All hail highway robbery
- in my opinion our property taxes continue on a regular basis to be one of the highest in ontario .most citizens in BELLEVILLE beleive this to be the case. the excuse is always the same. The police budget we cannot do anything about... Any increase in property taxes in excess of 2.5% is not reasonable...
- I would be curious to understand why Belleville police service is indicating they'll need to hire two more special constables for court services. It is my understanding that they have special constables not working in the courts, but pairing up with the road officers in various platoons. Can we not use those officers? If no why? I appreciate platoons being short but it would stand to reason if the platoons are short staffed it is constables and not special constables that need to be hired and the specials already hired working on the roads could go to work with court services.

- I'm disappointed that Hastings didn't have their material ready. I would have loved to see where their expenses are but as they will be distributed at the start of the meeting taxpayers can't review and ask questions or raise concerns. This is my biggest frustration with the budget is the money going to citizen (OW) who don't pay taxes and abuse the system. It's meant to be a system that TEMPORARILY assists families in financial need.
- I would like to know if the city is intending to take advantage of the funding available through the Federal Green Municipal Fund to increase our canopy cover in the City. We have several areas of the city with little or no trees. Increasing canopy cover is one of the best ways we have to help mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce extreme temperatures during heat waves. The summer of 2025 was an example of what we will experience in the coming years. As federal tax payers we have already contributed money for this purpose, and it is now incumbent on the City of Belleville to follow through and access the funds. Several City's in Ontario have already received significant amounts of money. In 2024 the City of Peterborough received \$1,623,230 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund under the Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative, My question is why hasn't the City of Belleville applied? Below is a summary of a conference call that our environmental group had with one of the coordinators with the Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative. Green Municipal Fund Summary: Tree planting program - up to \$10 Million for each municipality; the program is presently closed for applications, but expected to reopen in Feb or March 2026; 6-7 month approval timing; they work with Tree Canada; grants may be stackable, depending on the grant (not likely if both grants are Federal); they will work closely with us in an aim to get the project approved, if there are problems with the application, they will come back to us with suggestions to improve (allowed to re-submit); they match 50/50; \$50,000 is the minimum project they will fund, meaning we have to come up with \$25,000, that \$25K can be pooled from multiple municipalities, Quinte Conservation, QFN, Tree Canada grants, etc.; funding from organizations like TD, LCBO, the Rotary Club and private donations can also be used as part of the pool of funds; a community group or Conservation Authority can be the lead, but the municipality must be on board and give full council support/approval; this program can include municipal street tree planting, other municipal property sites or private land; they will match a city's budget for tree planting, to increase what is planted, but the money cannot replace what the city has already budgeted; maximum of 15% can go to shrubs. Plans and studies grant: 80/20 split to a max of \$175K grant, (i.e. the city needs to put in 20%); applications are accepted and evaluated as they come, rather than waiting for a deadline; open now, with a 1st closing date for app's in April/2026; there will be another intake at a later date TBD; for municipal tree plans, inventories or for developing tree bylaw. The key takeaway was that they WANT to distribute this money and want to work with groups to make the applications successful. Both grant programs are able to fund staff salary to manage the programs.

- I am writing to formally oppose the proposed 2026 property tax increase of 5–7%, particularly as it applies to rural residents who do not receive city water or sewer services. This increase is unreasonable, disproportionate, and difficult to justify given the level of municipal services provided to rural taxpayers. Rural homeowners are already facing rising costs across nearly every aspect of daily life. Asking this group to absorb a significant tax increase while receiving fewer services reflects a lack of fairness and balance in the budgeting process. Furthermore, if Council becomes comfortable approving a 5–7% increase this year, it sets a troubling precedent. Taxpayers are right to question what will follow in future budgets and how quickly these increases will compound year over year. This proposed increase is also deeply disheartening for first-time homebuyers. At a time when housing affordability is already stretched to its limits, rising property taxes create yet another barrier for young families and individuals trying to establish themselves in our community. Policies that make homeownership less attainable risk driving residents away and undermining the long-term stability and growth of Belleville. I am also concerned by the Belleville Police Service's request for a 15% increase in funding. At a time when residents are being asked to tighten their belts, such a substantial increase demands serious scrutiny. Budget growth of this magnitude should not be accepted without clear evidence of efficiency, accountability, and measurable outcomes. The Police Service should be required to revisit this request and identify internal cost controls before additional taxpayer dollars are committed. Additionally, the growing homeless population in Belleville requires a proactive and coordinated strategy focused on prevention, housing, and social supports. Without meaningful action, the long-term financial burden on taxpayers will only increase through higher policing, emergency service, and healthcare costs. Reactive spending is neither fiscally responsible nor effective. I would also like to respectfully share some personal context. I have worked as a nurse in this community for the past 15 years, providing frontline care and contributing to the health and well-being of our residents. During that time, I have not once appeared on Ontario's "Sunshine List," which discloses public sector employees earning \$100,000 or more annually under the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act. According to the 2024 Public Sector Salary Disclosure, the total reported salaries for City of Belleville employees appearing on the list amount to \$8,087,785.96. In addition, the total for the Belleville Police Service in the 2024 disclosure is \$12,543,149.98. While I recognize that many of these roles carry significant responsibility and public safety obligations, these figures illustrate the scale of compensation funded through public dollars and reinforce why transparency and prudent stewardship of municipal resources are so important. Residents have a right to question whether municipal funds are being allocated responsibly—particularly toward salaries—while taxpayers are being asked to shoulder ever-increasing financial pressure. I urge Council and the Mayor to reject this proposed tax increase, require the Belleville Police Service to reassess its funding request, and prioritize responsible budgeting that reflects fairness, transparency, and accountability. Belleville residents deserve financial stewardship that is sustainable—not decisions that normalize large tax increases and pass long-term consequences on to future budgets and taxpayers. I respectfully request that these concerns be given serious consideration during budget deliberations and that Council clearly communicate how taxpayer interests are being protected.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Staff have provided the following FAQ in response to City-specific topics residents requested in the survey.

Why is the Police budget increasing so significantly?

The Police Services increase is primarily driven by provincial legislative requirements, collective agreement obligations, and the need to maintain mandated service levels such as 24/7 coverage, court security, training standards, and compliance with the Community Safety and Policing Act.

The majority of police spending relates to salaries and benefits. Additional pressures include training, technology and evidence-management systems, vehicles and equipment, and reserve contributions to support long-term capital planning.

Oversight of the police budget is provided by the Police Services Board, and the budget is reviewed annually through the City's formal budget process.

Helpful Resources:

- [Get to Know the 2026 Belleville Police Service Operating Budget](#)
- 2026 Operating Budget Agenda Item 3.2 Police Service Board
 - [BPS 2026 Operating Budget Presentation](#)
 - [BPS 2026 Operating Budget Letter](#)
 - [BPS 2026 Operating Budget](#)
- [2026 Draft City Operating Budget Summary](#) – High-level overview within City boards one-pager.
- [2026 Draft Departmental Plan](#) – Section for Belleville Police Services added in 2026.
- [KPI Dashboard](#) – Police services KPI's developed by the Police Service Board now included.

How is the City ensuring transparency and accountability?

The City ensures all budget documents, departmental plans, Council and Finance Committee reports, audited financial statements and our performance dashboard are available publicly.

In addition to transparency and accountability in information provided to the public, feedback collected through surveys and written submissions is also summarized and provided to Council as part of the budget process to ensure the public's input is heard and considered by decision-makers.

Helpful Resources:

- [2026 Draft Operating Budget Summary](#) – context on City initiatives and objectives
- [2026 Departmental Plans](#) – Outlines departmental function, results, initiatives, pressures and performance measures.
- [2026 Draft Operating Detail](#) – Complete account-by-account budget breakdown.
- [2026 Capital Budget & 10-Year Capital Plan Summary](#)
- [2026 Capital Budget](#) - As approved Nov. 18.
- [10-Year Capital Plan](#) - As approved Nov. 18.
- [2026 Preliminary Survey Results Report](#) – Public report presented and approved through Council.
- [2026 Capital Budget & 10-Year Capital Plan Survey Results Report](#)
- [KPI Dashboard](#) – Provides various performance measures and targets across departmental area.
- [Property Tax Calculator](#) – See the complete breakdown of where each dollar of your taxes go.

Why do tax rates differ between urban and rural areas?

Property tax rates and charges may differ by area when service levels, infrastructure, or past funding arrangements vary. These differences are meant to reflect the true cost of providing services in each part of the municipality. The City regularly reviews service areas and rate structures to ensure they are fair, transparent and aligned with how services are delivered. Policing, fire, transit and streetlighting are currently area-rated services.

The City has five (5) separate service areas as follows:

Urban Belleville	Urban Cannifton	Rural Cannifton	Rural Belleville	Rural to Urban Cannifton
Core*	Core*	Core*	Core*	Core*
Urban Police	Urban Police	Urban Police	Rural Police	Urban Police
Urban Fire	Urban Fire	Rural Fire	Rural Fire	Urban/Rural Fire
Transit				
Streetlighting	Streetlighting	Streetlighting		Streetlighting

* Core services are the costs of services that all tax areas share and help fund.

In 2024 Council approved the implementation of the Fire Master Plan. This plan outlined a number of recommendations for the Fire Service include updating the full-time response boundary to expand northerly, into the previous Cannifton Rural area. The transition from rural fire response to full-time fire response results in a sizable increase in service costs for this area (approximately 9%). To manage taxpayer affordability, Council approved transitioning this group of taxpayers into paying for the costs of this service over 5 years (2025-2029). This has resulted in tax increases across tax tables having a larger spread, which will continue over this transition period.

Helpful Resources:

- [Fire Master Plan](#) – City webpage outlining Fire Master plan and tax transition plan.
- [Tax Rates by Area](#) – City webpage outlining area rated tax methodology.
- [Tax Billing Area Map](#) – Online map to identify which area your property belongs to.

Why are City wages and administrative costs increasing?

Wage and benefit costs are included within each department's operating budget, and are driven by collective agreements, employment contracts and statutory benefit requirements. Departments with 24/7 service requirements can experience greater wage pressures. The following collective bargaining units are part of the City department's labour force:

- UNIFOR – representing the transit operators staffing group
- BPPFA – representing the full-time fire personnel
- CLAC – representing the rural paid on-duty fire personnel
- CUPE – representing various inside and outside City personnel (general government, community services, environmental services, transportation and operations, engineering and development services)

There is also administrative personnel group within City departments.

Other boards and external agencies also have various collective bargaining units within their respective operations.

Staffing levels and wage costs are summarized within the City's departmental planning document, with overall impacts also identified within the base budget adjustment breakdowns and complete account-by-account detail included in the operating detail.

Additionally, the City ensures legislative requirements for public salary disclosure and council remuneration disclosures under the Municipal Act are met.

Helpful Resources:

- [2026 Departmental Plans](#) – Outlines departmental function, results initiatives, pressures and performance measures.
- [2026 Base Budget Adjustments](#) - Breakdown and description of changes from 2025 budget (existing items).
- [2026 Draft Operating Detail](#) – Complete account-by-account budget breakdown.
- [Belleville Council Remuneration and Expenses](#)
- [City of Belleville Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act Report](#)

How is reserve funding spent?

Reserve funds help maintain the City's long-term financial stability and reduce pressure on annual property taxes. They are used to fund capital projects, manage one-time or cyclical costs, meet legal obligations, and respond to unexpected or emerging needs. Their use is guided by Council-approved policies that set out when funds can be used and how they must be replenished.

Details on reserve fund balances, transfers, and expenditures are reported to the Finance Committee at each meeting and to Council through the budget process and in regular financial reports, including the annual audited financial statements. Council reviews reserve fund usage to ensure it is appropriate, transparent, and aligned with the City's financial sustainability objectives.

Helpful Resources:

- [2026 Operating Budget Transfers To and From Reserve](#)
- [Reserve & Reserve Fund Policy](#)
- [2026 Preliminary Available Reserve Fund Balances as of Feb 11-26](#)
- [KPI Dashboard](#) – Reserve fund KPI's developed and monitored.