

Budget Survey 2025 Annual Update

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

23 September 2024 - 22 October 2024

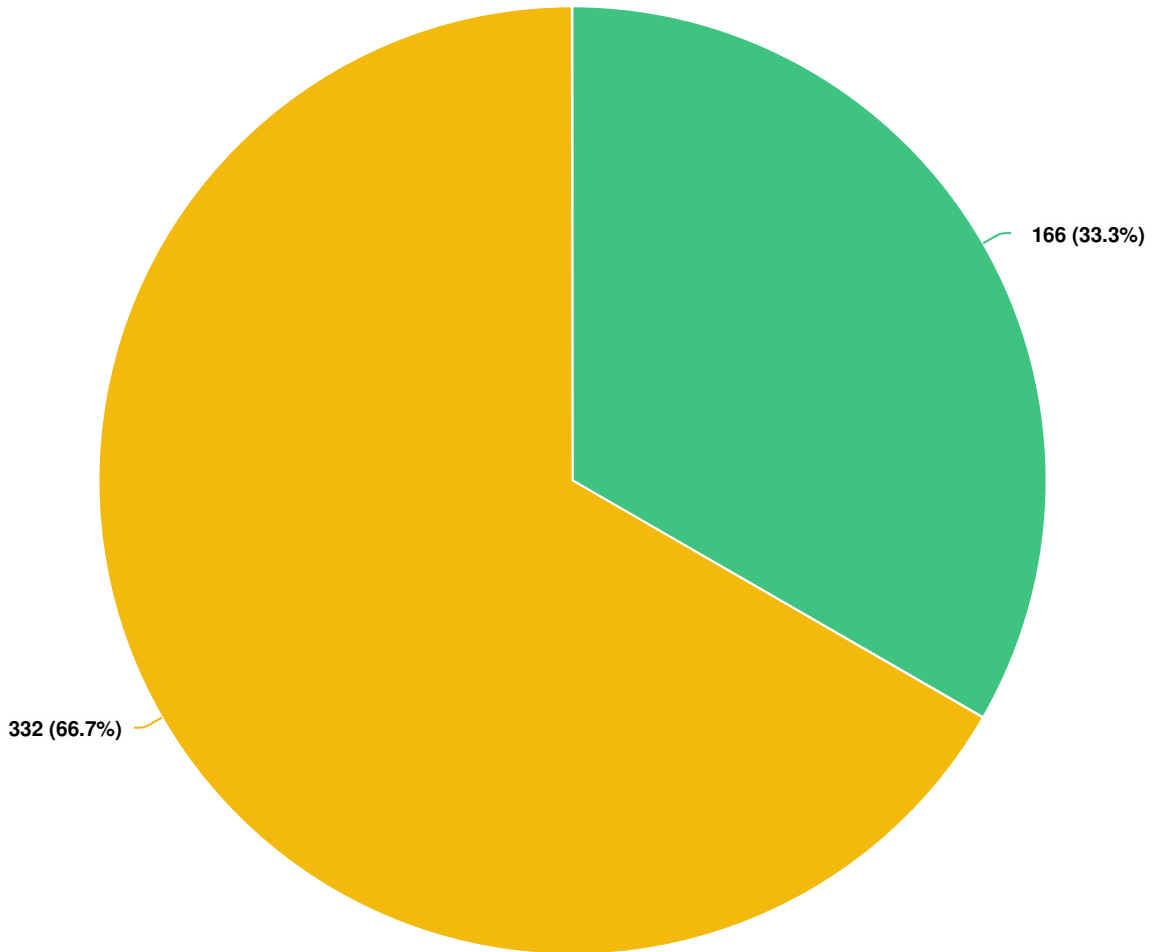
PROJECT NAME:

Budget 2025 Annual Update



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | With switching from a single year budget to a multi-year budget, as a taxpayer, does it allow for you to better budget for the future increases?

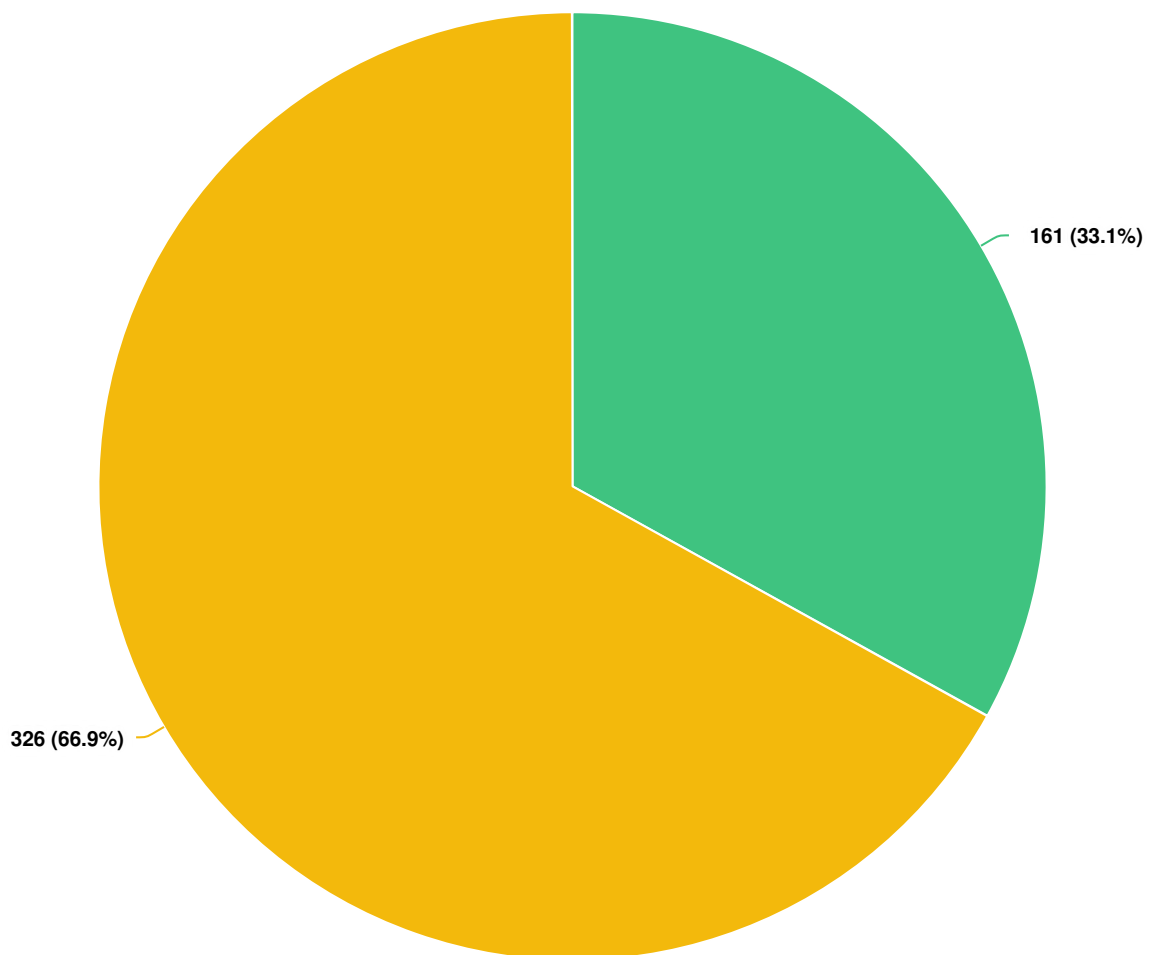


Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (498 response(s), 8 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q2 Would you like to leave a comment based on the question you just answered?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (487 response(s), 19 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q3 Please leave your comment

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:49 AM

A yearly budget means i know what my cost will be for the year. A multi year budget means you can raise tax more often. They won,t go down !

Anonymous

9/27/2024 12:56 PM

I feel there will be less emphasis to find cost savings by Council

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:28 PM

my tax bill increases more than my pension money, if the increases keep coming i will be forced to move some where more affordable

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:09 PM

continuous increases whether yearly or multi yearly are WRONG!!!!

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:22 PM

There is no continuity between budgets with each year being treated by staff and councillors as a stand alone "surprise". You will do better when you can show meaningful progress (and deviations) from your established priorities, as well as a "tradeoffs" list of programs and initiatives that must be accelerated, or decelerated, as time and experience weighs in on your earlier plans. Plus you never remove projects in order to make capacity (and taxpayer dollars) available to emerging/unplanned priorities - it is evident that the staff and council are more comfortable with just adding more to the taxpayers load, rather than making the hard pruning decisions that private industry and households must make in order to meet emerging priorities they had not foreseen.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:33 PM

The increases are out of our control and likely to differ on the increase annually regardless. Assuming the 4 year budget allows taxpayers to budget and plan better is very idealistic and assumes a very high level of civic engagement and budget planning skills for average residents. Average pay rates in the community are fairly low so the ability to budget proactively on tax rates is a luxury most dont have time or means to consider. Its a reactionary budget response regardless of timeline for internal budgeting practices.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:33 PM

It may give you an idea, but how are you predicting the future?

Anonymous

Pensions do not go up as fast a City Property Taxes so no way to

9/27/2024 07:21 PM

budget for any increase and still pay all other normal bills and food

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:35 PM

It helps me to budget and understand as a retired couple where I can cut back in our family budget to fund property tax increases. Much better than a surprise.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:52 PM

Chatham Kent tax increases are outrageous. It's time for high level staffing quantities to be reviewed. Time to initiate hiring freezes and eliminate positions via attrition. Those in the top 10% of staff should be asked to take a 5-10% pay cut. I can't afford to keep paying more and more every year.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 12:24 AM

That is a misleading statement to coerce taxpayers into believing if it averages 3-5 % over 4-5 years that its ok. it's never ok to raise taxes!

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:21 AM

Most taxpayers are not experiencing 8+% pay increases over 5 years, particularly those in the public sector who have been locked in at 0% for years, then 1% for years. Yet, Chatham-Kent continues to raise taxes exponentially. Perhaps numerous superfluous projects and expenditures. Excessive efforts and focus to improve Chatham-Kent in a tourist or pocket-interest capacity are unnecessarily straining residents to the breaking point. Despite housing costs being low, taxes are driving people out of Chatham-Kent. Tighten your belts and do better.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:00 AM

An increase of over 8% is huge and regardless if you know or not we have a fixed income so not a lot of options. We have lived here for 13 years and the monthly tax charges are becoming too much

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:08 AM

Are you kidding me time for new mayor and council spending way too much money time for a change

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:11 AM

Multi year budgets are an excellent guideline for the future year plans within the municipality. However you still have the chance and ability to make changes when reviewing that will impact the taxpayer and hopefully reduce the impact of the current and future years. This does not help a retired person on a fixed budget as there are too many unknowns.

Anonymous

It's hard enough to make ends meet in the country today and all this

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

does is show that there is no desire or thought process to slow down or stop spending. I have to go without at times so why can't CK? The extra 2 million you found, give us a break on taxes. You have put it in other areas for future use, but you will just come up with new ideas to spend it later when it's forgotten in the public eye.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 10:03 AM

A multi-year budget does not take into account that the majority of taxpayers may not be able to adjust their in year finances to help meet unexpected or expected tax rate increases. Council needs to ensure that each budget/ tax increases remains either below inflation or very close to the 2-3 %. Most pensioners or those still employ with not see income increases above 3%.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:32 AM

Multi year budgets are fine for corporations. As an individual inflation, sickness, unexpected emergencies, job loss, divorce and regular maintenance items cannot be budgeted properly without cost overruns. Planning ahead is wonderful, but the road turns to gravel sooner or later.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 02:45 PM

You people are incompetent, we don't have a tax problem we have a spending problem, are spending our tax dollars on things we don't want like homelessness, spending money on these people will never solve anything, it's wrong to spend working people's money on people who don't want to work, kick them out of CK or let the bleeding hearts look after them, I don't want any of my tax dollars to go towards helping them, the money you give them the worst it gets, of course you won't do this, this municipality is one of the poorest run in Ontario and has been for a long time and you won't change.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 05:23 PM

While I understand the sense of this, inflation other than municipal taxes, has a direct effect on both MOCK operations and the taxpayer. It is difficult to budget for these changes even though the amount of increase has been made public in advance. Financial pressure is real for many.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:21 PM

The budget needs to be looked at every year by council and thoroughly examined to see where cuts can be made.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:37 PM

Each year local government should seriously look at expenses and work towards finding every possible savings for homeowners. Chatham Kent needs to take seriously how the tax burden is impacting its citizens...please!

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:33 PM

Multi year budget just shows me that this council will not stop over spending on services that the blue collar worker does not need.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:13 PM

The current 4 year multi year plan is not understood by many people. The percentage increases for each of the 4 years are hardly believable to people. I read (July 18 article in the Voice), that Council approved moving higher than 9% in the June 24th meeting. This is going in the incorrect direction.

Anonymous

9/30/2024 09:22 AM

I don't plan that far ahead

Anonymous

10/01/2024 05:10 AM

Pre-approved tax increases don't take into consideration the pending financial future.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 10:32 AM

Politicians have a way of changing their mind, or chasing their pet projects. Let's be honest, it isn't the decision makers' money. They could care less and when they see a shiny object, they can't wait to spend money on it and litter our towns.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:55 AM

I think it is important to plan financially, but also to anticipate the changes in community that can result from this funding.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:57 AM

Multi-year budget continues to rise more each year regardless of what is stated in budget. 'We weren't prepared for cost over-runs' which is going to happen with the new city hall project. Someone has to pay.... It's always the taxpayer.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

Any long term budget is subject to change at any time.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

No one can predict their finances from year to year and things in this country continue to get worse. The municipality should be leading with examples like the city of Windsor and freezing hiring due to over spending and allowing the tax payers a break until prices in the country go down.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 AM

Property tax is incredibly high in Chatham . As a blue collar worker supporting a family I am considering selling and moving because of

the high property tax. My annual property is very close to what my annual mortgage is. It is pricing out many hard working people who would have a positive contribution to Chatham Kent. I have lived in other parts of the province where I payed less property tax and had more services in the community. Chatham Kent council should consider how to slash spending and freeze property taxes instead of constantly increasing in such alarming rates .

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:12 AM

When there is a solid number that is given for an increase that can be used for planning, however, when the rate of increase is fluid it does not allow for future planning.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:33 AM

If things are becoming more expensive and monies coming in don't change how is any increase affordable

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:35 AM

Does that not mean you will be able to increase our taxes even more?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:38 AM

You think the answer to financial problems is to raise the tax? How about the spending habits? Why not start there? A bunch of people voting on something they have zero back ground in. You are taking the easy way out and raising taxes instead of doing research and finding the actual root of them problem. You are supposed to represent the people of Chatham Kent and it is very clear that you do not.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:21 AM

I do not like the multi year budget. You are creating such an increase that more and more people can't afford their houses and rent. It will create more homelessness and I worry as a middle class. You can not project so far in advance to accurately predict what our community needs.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:55 AM

The multi year budget is just an estimate and will Go up higher anyway. If you could guarantee that the rate is not going to be any different than it would help otherwise it is a waste of time.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:10 PM

We can plan on what we have to give up and lower our base lifeline to cover exorbitant taxes for fixed income seniors. Sad we now pay \$6000.00/ yr. For a 47 year old home in rural Romney Township ., Pier Rd.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:13 PM

Our taxes went up 30.00 a month this year. We are trying to retire. It will be impossible for my husband to completely retire and keep our house at the rates you are raising taxes. I understand things need to be done in Chatham Kent. BUT people CANNOT afford these kinds of increases

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:18 PM

A Multi year budget allows citizens (the taxpayer) to see Council's vision / forecast . Emergencies as in Wheatley are difficult to budget for.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:35 PM

Increases over the rate of inflation (which is usually half of the actual) should not be permitted. All rates of pay should match the private sector, and none should exceed the employer's (taxpayer) ability to pay.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:49 PM

Overall tax increases should NEVER exceed inflation. Cutbacks are essential but overall, across the board decreases, not the elimination of certain identifiable programs. Salaries should also be cut, across the board, not through elimination of jobs; consider flat or below inflation increases. The private sector holds the line when revenues are down; the public sector should do likewise.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 01:17 PM

Taxes should go up according to inflation and there is a lot of wasteful spending

Anonymous

10/02/2024 01:22 PM

yeah quit it spending money. My house does not warrant the amount of taxes I pay.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:16 PM

rather would not leave it alone

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:32 PM

Why do a multi year budget when things happen, and unexpected expenditures, ie: Storms, flooding, Disasters like Wheatley anything can happen and preparedness is the best solution not multi year budgets to allow for more hidden breaks for the administration, ... You should have emergency plans in action to be able to prepare for what may happen and the unexpected multi year budgets just allow for the administration to hide future benefits and has never worked in any other city

Anonymous

It seems that with updates council can choose to change the budget

10/02/2024 02:44 PM

so how can you plan/budget for that.8.17% is outrageous. I am on a fixed income and will be taxed out of my home if increases continue.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:52 PM

ALTHOUGH KNOWING AHEAD OF TIME THE PROPOSED INCREASE, THE ACTUAL VALUE OF THE INCREASE IS TOO LARGE TO OVERCOME. COUNCIL AND ADMIN NEED TO FIND SAVINGS TO LOWER THIS AMOUNT

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:07 PM

Your long term planning doesn't change the fact that the increases are too large, we taxpayers see no evidence of the municipality trying to decrease the costs. We see workers not fully utilized., at the same time we see a decrease in the services we are paying for at the same time the cost for that service is going up. If I was hiring you to do a job and I saw the same things I would be looking for someone else to provide that service.. We need more transparency, total headcount's, what departments there are allotted to and historical and projected data where they'll be in five years. Municipality needs to use zero base budget. Not let's just add to last year's budget.. If your managers and directors can't find ways to reduce cost without the threatened and associated loss of services, then find someone else it's possible. Lots of managers and directors do this every day in businesses where they have to show a profit. They have to show year after year increases not this gong show where you just simply give more money more money without any responsibilities to reduce costs.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:36 PM

When you are on a fixed income, how are we ever supposed to plan for outrageous increases? Your job as city council is to look for ways people in Chatham can live not struggle to see if we can eat next year. Multi year planning just allows me to see if I should leave Chatham for a much more reasonable city with many more resources.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:39 PM

8.17% increase is immense and will have even more negative impacts on your constituents. People are suffering. Take a look downtown because its about to double in size

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:44 PM

This is the first time I've heard of such a thing in terms of multi year budget increases or something. I really haven't seen any information about it - I am 100% sure it exists I just have not come across it even though I'm online and "tapped in" to a lot of things

Anonymous

I was not aware of the multiyear budget or the pre-approved

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

increases. Perhaps it was included with the annual tax statements?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:45 PM

1. People have not paid attention to your multi-year budget - they are concerned with the impact every year and know that you are either going to raise it or lower it based on what you put forward for spending purposes. 2. You cannot plan anything since you aren't sticking to the average annual increase - so if you aren't sticking to the plan, how can people budget? 3. If you would have been clear in your communications - that essentially, you were proposing an APPROX average increase of 30% in 4 years, you would have had more people talking and aware of what you were proposing and it would not have passed. Communicating the following "average 2024 increase means a four-year average increase of 7.17%, extending until 2027." is hiding behind words.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:07 PM

A multi year budget allows the city to take whatever they deem is "the right levy" whether it is right or necessary regardless of what the tax payer thinks or can afford.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:11 PM

Its bard as a senior to budget with cost of living greatly increasing disproportionately to pension which are not even a a living wage 15 dollars per hour

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:22 PM

You think ppl are putting money in their piggy bank to plan for tax increase in coming years?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:26 PM

Need to go back to singal year budget. This incress is unacceptable. Please dont incress our homeless population

rossm

10/02/2024 06:39 PM

stop spending money on things that we do not need for example a new city hall

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:49 PM

Taxes are too high. Cut payments to special interest groups! Out of control spending is a serious issue!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:18 PM

The tax increases are well beyond current inflation and expected future inflation. By setting tax increases several years in advance it does not allow for room to adjust when the economic conditions change within that multi year period.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:24 PM

Taxes in Chatham Kent are too high,perhaps we should look internally to see how we can reduce unnecessary spending

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:49 PM

You are already tell8ng the tax payers that there will be future increases. Why not hold the line on spending and look at reducing the debt.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:56 PM

Increases that exceed the average annual income increase of the electorate are not sustainable

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:07 PM

Our budget needs to be looked at each year. Tax Increases in this municipality are out of control. To do a good job of deciding what is needed and not needed, councilors need to do the job they were elected for and look for cost savings each year. It is simple, do we really need it. Perfect example is the desire to move everything to the downtown center. Would it be nice, probably for those that work there, not for the tax payer. It does nothing for me.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:23 PM

I prepare a personal yearly budget based on the National projected Cost of Living. A 4.97% increase in 2023 and 6.20% in 2024 for my property taxes paid to CK Municipality were well above the COL needless to say. Any increase above the Cost of Living increase is completely unsatisfactory for my financial well being. Taxes are based on the MPAC values - yes, those property values have not changed but the total amount the municipality wants to spend is the real question. CK taxes increased 6.20% for me this year based on the same property value !!! The next round of MPAC assessments may increase or decrease the total property value base for CK property taxes. It will certainly be catastrophic for us if that total tax base decreases !!!!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:55 PM

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has to live within it's means and stop raising taxes which burden homeowners.The coffures do not need to be raised to ridiculous amounts because of an inept mayor and councillors wild spending habits!The corrupt mayor and the majority of the council are criminally irresponsible!!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 PM

My senior budget cannot handle these large increases! Knowing these large tax increases every year for the next 4 years is heartbreaking. Why do you have to create such worry and sadness for us?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:55 PM

Multi year budgets with large increase amounts need to be cut down to manageable rates. Example: taxes can not increase more than the cost of living increases. There are many employers who implement yearly cost of living increases but there are very very very few employers who give 9 10 and 12 percent raises in any given year. These proposed increase levels are simply not sustainable!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:02 PM

Bad decisions from one year should not be passed on for several years, where is all the money going???

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:01 AM

Cuts are needed and services have to be streamlined better. We should never have over a 3% increase year after year.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:47 AM

Taxes are out of control being taxed out of our homes across the municipality. Start at the top level with reductions - way too too heavy . Stop the spending!!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:22 AM

Council does not listen to the tax payers so why have a survey council spend s way to much money example queen line round about 6 million is ridiculous put a set of lights your done just one example

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:07 AM

How does one budget for tax increases with money they don't have? Unlike council, I do not have a money tree in my backyard.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:09 AM

Government should focus on the basics first

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:42 AM

Why is tax increasing 8%?! What justifies this increase?

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:03 AM

The cost of basic necessities are increasing so dramatically that it is highly doubtful that the municipality can guess their future budget, let alone stick to it.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 AM

Since amalgamation my taxes have doubled---the services certainly haven't---they have been cut back--There will be an endless amounts of tongue waggin answers and no changes. ---shameful governance to say the very least

Anonymous

10/03/2024 12:56 PM

Do not know what my budget will look like a year or two in advance.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 01:23 PM

Like we seen last year CK was over charged and then Chatham used the surplus towards their homeless, even though all of CK was overcharged. It should have been used to bring down the taxes for 2025. This is too high of an increase along with some council members wanting to raise farm taxes. So how much extra will farmers pay and get nothing for their overpayment from last year. I know that my rent barely covers my expenses or I go in debt, with all these rising costs. I have a few friends who have the right idea which is to get out of CK. Taxes continue to go up uncontrollably, along with all the other rising prices.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 02:13 PM

Just because you know a massive rate tax increase is coming doesn't mean you can plan for it any better.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:04 PM

Increases??? Do you realize that a large portion of C-K's taxpayer base consists of fixed-income seniors? Our growing numbers of homeless and immigrants don't have the means to pay taxes, and our commercial-industrial tax base is struggling. In these difficult times, you should be looking at CUTTING expenditures, cutting taxes, gaining efficiency, reducing the number of employees on your rolls, and spending LESS. The recent green lighting of roundabouts, purchasing real estate etc. are frivolous expenditures in the current non-growth related environment.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:35 PM

This is such a loaded question.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:26 PM

It better for you see our increases on a yearly basis.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:36 PM

Being on a very fixed income (the amount does not increase with inflation) means a multi year budget just shows me how much more in debt I will be with the massive tax increases.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:25 PM

If they do a mult year budget we do have a right to ask questions about what they might add in that the public doesn't know. They are not listening to us as taxpayers anyway.

Anonymous

Single year/multi year 8.17% is way too much. Chatham kent salaries

10/03/2024 07:39 PM

need to be re assessed.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:01 PM

People are living pay cheque to pay cheque.... Day by day..not year to year...get a grip on your constituents lifestyles and struggles.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:48 PM

All levels of government should be mandated to do this. And further, there should be an extended timeline ie not simply 6he current election cycle. Let's start planning for 20-40 years out. Had the municipal building been constructed for a 200 year lifespan (short compared to public buildings in Europe), we wouldn't be in the position we're in now of contemplating the feasibility of using the former downtown mall.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:16 PM

I believe no city should ever have single year plans, however I feel this is to push thru plan of the big move to the Sears building. I do not like surveys that just give yes or no answers. There is always a depends...

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:45 AM

Would much prefer a year-by-year approach as it was done before.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:52 AM

This tax increase is way too much and seniors on fixed incomes cannot afford it. I worked 6 and 7 days a week my whole life so i could afford to own a house and my tax dollars now should not be spent on affordable housing. i want to stay in my house as long as i can and not forced out because of these high tax increases. The tax budget should start at zero percent not 8 percent. We have way too many people on city council.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:53 AM

I was unfamiliar with this initiative. I question whether Council will keep to any planned increase amounts when the time comes. It will be difficult going forward as the economy has yet to topple but likely will in the coming year and yet council has not demonstrated where they will cut to reduce the tax burdens on its landowners.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:00 AM

Council will change it annually anyway according to what CK staff want. They rarely go against staff recommendations.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:27 AM

I am not understanding the multi year budget idea - would it be 8.17% EACH year - or that number is spread out between the 3 years?

Anonymous

10/04/2024 10:11 AM

Our citizens are already paying above average in taxes. With so many new builds why are we not seeing a decrease? There are so many more households contributing. Why is this stat not mentioned?

Anonymous

10/04/2024 11:39 AM

The increases are unjustified as you cannot base today's inflation on three years from now. Budgets should be annual and cuts should be included every year to show how you are being fiscally responsible and not putting all your plans on tax increases.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 01:12 PM

With inflation it's hard to budget for multi years

Anonymous

10/04/2024 06:58 PM

You need to start budgeting for a decrease in income like you are asking me to do. I will not be getting an 8.7% increase next year

Anonymous

10/04/2024 08:43 PM

This multi-year approach is one that is deficient in providing satisfactory and clear controls against budget overruns and penalties for Council members and the City Administration for not sticking to budgets. This approach also feeds the trope that "there is an infinite source of funding waiting to be tapped for supposed developmental purposes. So it must be all good and beneficial."

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:20 AM

You ONLY need a multiple year plan for large projects mostly related to infrastructure ie a long term asset management plan. Once this is done you need to better MANAGE annual expenditures to ensure your total spending IS NOT over inflation...ie a water main project might have to be moved from a 3 year plan to a 5 year. Stop borrowing against the future which seems to be the current mode of operation..

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:26 AM

IT DOES NOT ALLOW ME TO BUDGET BETTER BECAUSE I HAVE TO CUT OTHER THINGS OUT LIKE FOOD, HEALTH CARE PRODUCTS AND OTHER COST OF LIFE TO PAY FOR THESE HIGH TAX INCREASES.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 10:48 AM

Budget increase should be restricted to the rate of inflation and should never cause inflation as proposed by this multi-year proposal

Anonymous

10/05/2024 12:36 PM

It depends - will having a multi year budget reduce the tax burden on the citizens of Chatham Kent. I think a wholistic assessment needs to

be considered on the alternatives.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 02:16 PM

My budget can not afford your budget

Anonymous

10/05/2024 04:45 PM

Too many tax raises! Stop spending on things that are not essential.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 07:34 PM

Elected members, Mayor and Council, must set the increase/decrease amount based on them representing we the taxpayers. Administration is then guided by direction received.

Anonymous

10/06/2024 10:13 AM

Cost of living in all areas has risen significantly. Municipal tax increases are going to be just another area where we will have to trade off one area of our budget for another.

Anonymous

10/06/2024 11:59 AM

Are taxes are high enough now.....

Anonymous

10/06/2024 07:45 PM

No, due to the fact tax rates increase at the final budget time, it is difficult to budget.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 09:40 AM

We still face the same increases as if it was done yearly anyways. STOP the increases as this City needs to start decreasing the upper management.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 03:47 PM

Long range planning is effective if it stays on track, without changes. Each year there are events and situations that require immediate resolution. Without a yearly budget that can plan and adjust ,many situations go unresolved.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 04:20 PM

Multi year budgets tie the hands of future councils.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 05:51 PM

Gives us time from year to year the protest the absurd budget increases and hope they listen for once

Anonymous

10/07/2024 05:55 PM

It does not allow me to budget. Because when I see these soaring increases ahead of time, the likely impact to my budget involves

calling a real estate agent! This years proposed increase will bring our annual property taxes up to 10% of our annual gross income!!!

Anonymous

10/07/2024 08:55 PM

8.17% is way too much of an increase Chatham Kent pays way too much in taxes

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:32 AM

It doesn't matter as administration always asks for more money after the budget has been set.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 11:20 AM

I feel it's time to consider cutbacks within management we are way over managed as well as workers within the public works as well

Anonymous

10/08/2024 02:24 PM

I find the municipal budget deliberations to be completely out of touch with the needs of the community - so whether it is a multi-year or single year budget, it is not meeting the needs of the community. And I have not seen any meaningful listening from the municipality about the concerns that are raised by community members. I understand that provincial downloading has resulted in budget issues, but then I think that it would be responsible for the municipality to adjust course, and do the trimming that allows us to protect our most vulnerable and also not make living in CK unaffordable.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 03:30 PM

Many CK residents are retired and have a limited income. A multi year budget gives them a blueprint of future property taxes.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 06:04 PM

Your tax increase are way to large.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:58 PM

Instead of budgeting for increases. Reductions would be better for many.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:25 AM

Stability is more important than notice. Very few have the ability to increase their household income to match the tax increase.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:58 AM

Multi year budgets open the door for administration to build bureaucracy and not be diligent in looking for ways to be more efficient with taxpayer dollars. ie. Police and Fire are always asking for more people. It is always more, more, more. Meanwhile Chatham police always have 5-6 officers on paid leave for breaking the law. Time for the police chief to take responsibility.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 12:56 PM

Cutting back one year at a time forces a look at how cost cutting has favored the Chatham-Kent compared to the multi year forecast. Do both. For example, address high costs of counsel's labor. Organizations are cutting jobs at management level. University Hospital, London Ont. Super generous pensions for those who work for government compared to others who work outside government. Phase in lower pay and benefits for new hires. Defined contributions not defined benefit/compensation. .

Anonymous

10/09/2024 01:02 PM

8.17 is too high for our community. Knowing that 8.17% is too high in a multi- year budget will allow council and city management adequate time to find efficiencies and bring down the increase to a level that the community can afford.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:59 PM

Chatham Kent has not demonstrated an ability to control its budget in a fiscally responsible manner. Considering the amount of taxes currently levied, one would expect a decrease in future years not an increase. We are paying more for less services and throwing additional bodies at an already bloated municipal work force.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 05:57 PM

ANY increase in the budget with respect to the present economy is criminal! All departments must be told to make at least 10% reductions. Councilors should take an immediate reduction in salary.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:06 PM

There is no way to plan for the type of increase this budget is projecting

Anonymous

10/09/2024 10:30 PM

As long as the taxes aren't raised more than stated, otherwise our personal budget needs to be altered

Anonymous

10/10/2024 04:40 AM

It all depends on how it will be organized and how it could impact everyone.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 10:06 AM

What makes you think our income will go up to cover your tax wish list...you are expecting home owners to fund projects that you need to go to the Provincial and federal government for. You act like entrepreneurs when you just need to maintain infrastructure of Chatham Kent. It's time you live within the boundaries of your job and let people keep their hard working money to buy food and clothing

instead of going to charities to make ends meet. You have lost your focus

Anonymous

10/10/2024 12:32 PM

I feel this is irresponsible to budget this far into the future as the cost of goods is only increasing and will leave the municipality and tax payers in a bad position in the next year or two

Anonymous

10/10/2024 02:36 PM

With Council blindly pushing the Mall project which hopefully fails, the budgets will have to change. Therefore what you are forecasting is unreliable.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 05:05 PM

The 8% increase is too high

Anonymous

10/10/2024 07:48 PM

heck no our wages aren't going up 5 percent then 8 percent cost of living is going up and I think our upper management thinks we have money trees out in the rural

Anonymous

10/10/2024 09:25 PM

We are already taxed higher than other municipality

Anonymous

10/11/2024 08:45 AM

Please keep the budget down. People cannot afford the massive increases.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:06 AM

Yes it tells me I should be getting out of Chatham Kent

Anonymous

10/11/2024 11:35 AM

In the face of unprecedented tax increases, the last thing municipal governments should have is less touch points for accountability. There have been many decisions already pushed through without much scrutiny that have made CK a less desirable place to live.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 09:01 PM

Whatever!

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:18 AM

If a multi year budget was set and stick to it might help me budget however when I read that Council passes expenses that don't stick to the budget thus causing a higher than planned for increase (ex over 9%). Then I don't know how much to budget for. I use a budget and if I wish to purchase something outside of that I either have to save for

it or reduce in another area. I suggest council do the same.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:44 AM

Given that it's a new process, and Governments have a terrible track record of effectively budgeting, I do not have any confidence in the projections.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 11:16 AM

I believe it simply allows administration and council an open chequebook to spend my tax dollars regardless of necessity. I know many people in various departments, and they have all told me in confidence that they will always spend their allotment on 'whatever' because if they do not use the money, they lose it and their budget is reduced. This is a sad commentary, and fiscally irresponsible. I also believe whoever is reading this, assuming it is even read, works in administration, and senior administrators want their department staffing to grow and their budget to increase, because that means more money for themselves [larger departments]. Sadly, I'm spending my time here knowing it is a meaningless exercise.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:03 PM

How about a 0% increase? Other communities - Windsor as an example - had a 0% increase for several years in a row and the municipality continued to function.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:14 PM

We are way over taxed can't budget on freelance spending

Anonymous

10/12/2024 07:59 PM

Multi-year budget encourages complacency. There needs to be a yearly process to examine and consider needs and find fiscally responsible solutions. Taxes are too high now!

Anonymous

10/13/2024 12:46 PM

the spending needs to be reduced to reflect the cost of living in todays society. the budget increases need to be kept below 2% or zero. we need to start thinking outside the box on running a municipality today. we should of started reducing budgets 10 years ago. no one in CK has a increase in wages the way that taxes have increased since 1998.(they are more than double since then with huge reductions in our local areas). the way this is going the tented cities are going to more than double in the next two years

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:37 PM

the increase is too steep for my budget my income does not increase that much im lucky to get 2%

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:39 PM

It will allow the ratepayer and council to be better informed in how to deal with projected costs and find ways to cut those costs where appropriate.

Anonymous

10/13/2024 06:21 PM

While it's true that CK citizens can try to prepare and plan for an increase of theft coming out of our hard earned money with a multi year budget, it leaves us all disheartened and stressed out because most people cannot give more towards taxes. We ALL pay enough already!!!

Anonymous

10/13/2024 08:06 PM

I think a year to year budget is best due to rapidly changing circumstances. When there has to be a change to lower taxes it would be started without a previous amount already decided on. We had to sell off 50 acres of land and keep our hobby farm part due to rising taxes but all they did was overtax the remainder.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 10:55 AM

As a senior on a fixed income I know that I can no longer afford to live in the municipality of Chatham Kent. My taxes keep increasing due to assessment values even though I have not increased the size of my home there have been no new homes being built in my residential area.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:02 PM

Reduce taxes

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:10 PM

Over 8% is outrageous- Who can plan for that with a finite fixed income. Find savings and cut services- We don't 'need' most of what services offered when it's not safe to walk downtown.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:39 PM

Our annual budget plan should be compared to other municipalities of similar demographics and shared with the citizens prior to council vote. I applaud the recent announcement to ask the departments to reduce their budgets by 7.5%, however, this shouldn't be noteworthy. This should be an annual operational exercise. I'd like to know why police services was not part of this exercise. The police budget is now up to \$40M. I understand there was a report by Deloitte which supported new police hires, but it didn't address the unusually high amount of police officers on paid leave of absence. I was also disappointed to learn that council did not support the reduction in council members, particularly when the research illustrated how out of line Chatham Kent is in this area.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 04:00 PM

Chatham should have never amalgamated with all the small surrounding small towns because now we are responsible for repairing and clearing all those roads and there are not enough tax payers to pay for it all . Property taxes in Toronto are cheaper than here. There are no tourist attractions here for all the taxes we pay. People are moving from Chatham for these reasons.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 05:58 PM

I cannot budget better because the last year's increase and the proposed increases for this year and years in the future are much too high. The increases are above the wage increases taxpayers generally receive and are exorbitant.

Anonymous

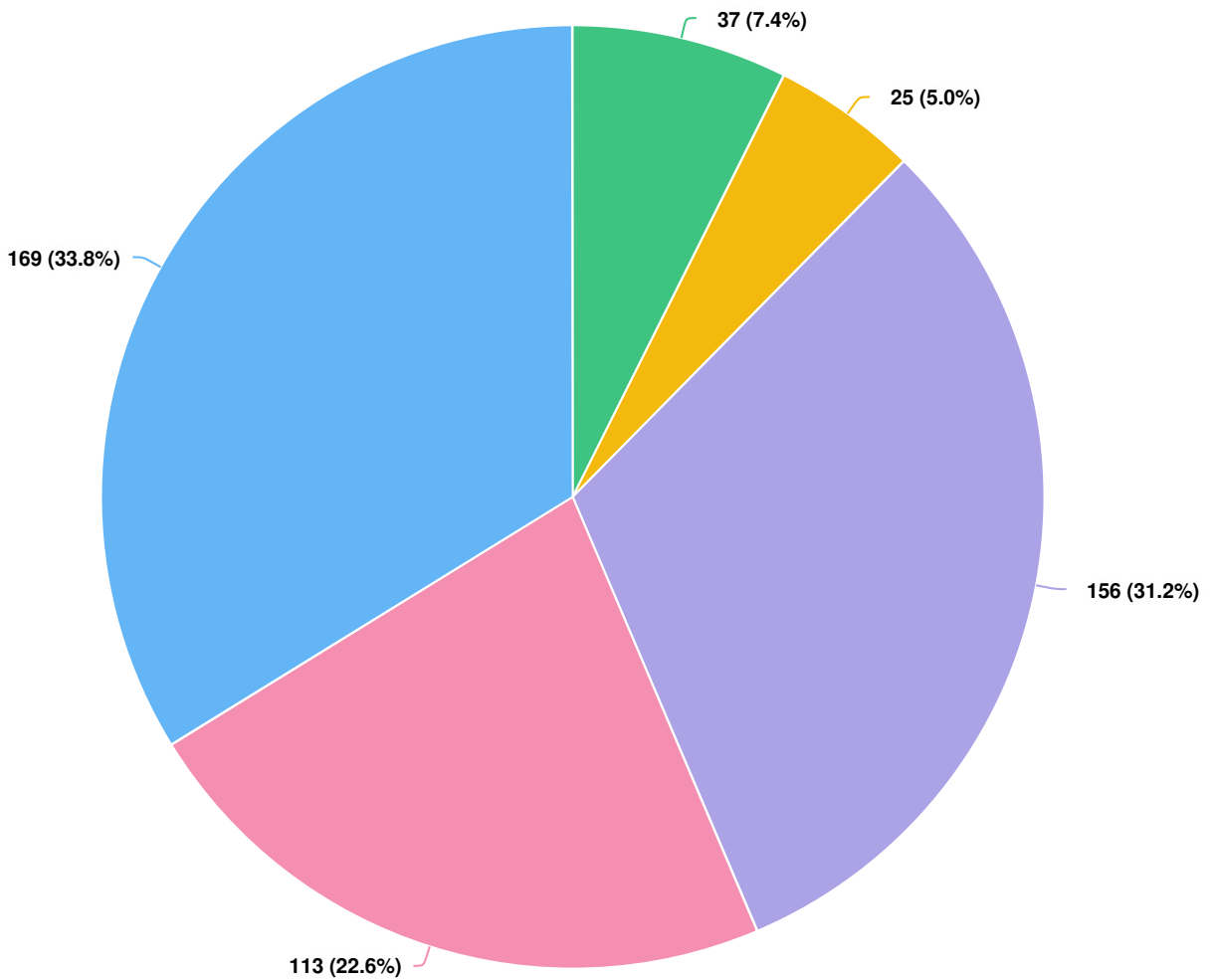
10/14/2024 08:49 PM

There is no additional 8% in our family budget. We have good jobs and take on extra work already to budget for all of the increased costs of living including taxes in CK.

Optional question (160 response(s), 346 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q4 | The Municipality currently must take on nearly all the costs associated with emergency shelter and support. How much of these costs do you think should be funded by the Province?

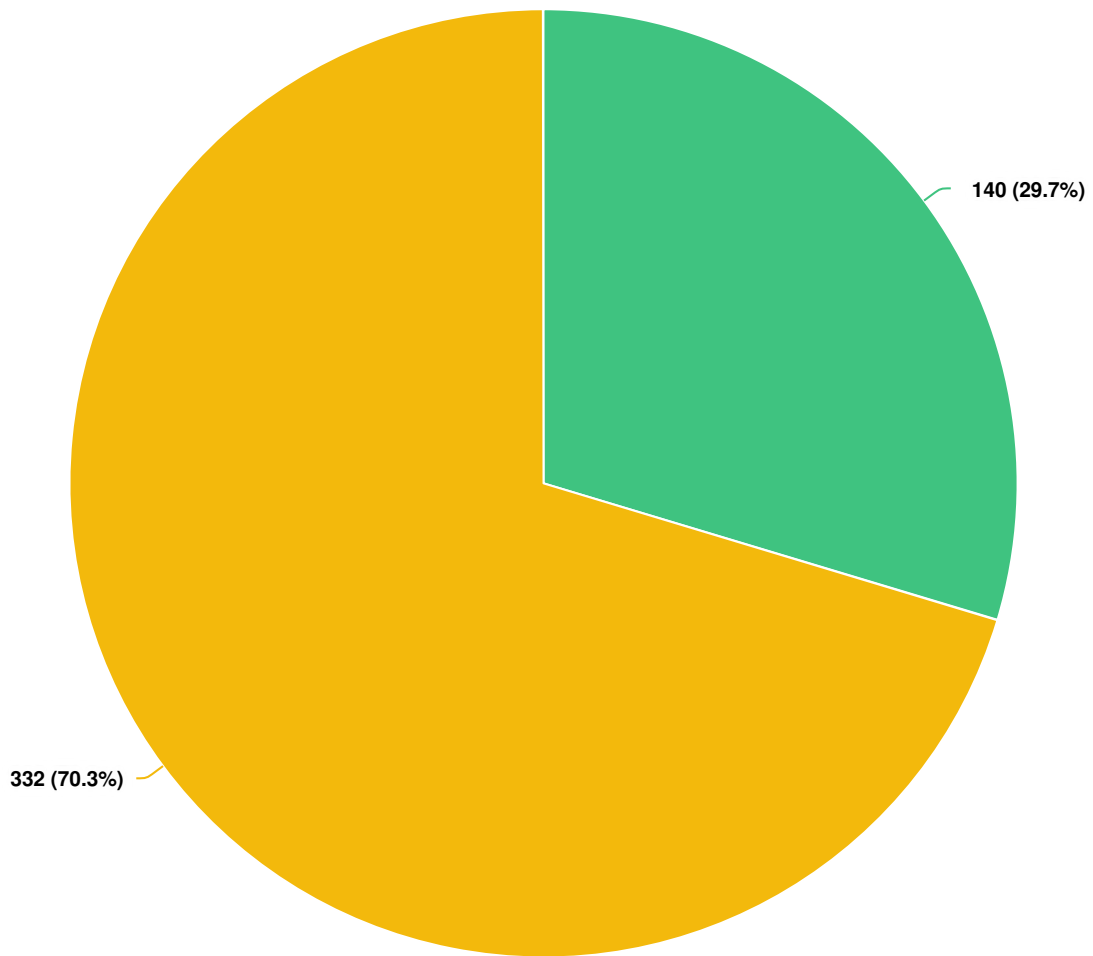


Question options

- None
- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- 100%

Optional question (500 response(s), 6 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q5 | Would you like to leave a comment based on the question you just answered?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (472 response(s), 34 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q6 Please leave your comment

Anonymous

9/27/2024 09:02 AM

Property taxes are not meant to fund social services.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:42 AM

The homeless don't give any support to the community, they're just a cost burden.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:49 AM

The costs should be shared between the province and the municipality

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:24 PM

The Federal Government has caused most of the housing shortages and job shortages by bringing way too many immigrants that our current infrastructure can handle.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:26 PM

It's the country, and the provinces fault they are homeless so they should be partially responsible

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:22 PM

There is no argument I have heard to justify why property tax should pay for drug addiction. Only portion of homelessness that municipality should pay is police and other property protection services that are the role of local police.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:33 PM

In most cases they are not emergency cases. We have a drug and mental health crisis.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:07 PM

Ok first of all I have no issue helping homeless people that are there by circumstance. I do have an issue helping addicts that made poor choices. They do not qualify as homeless in my book due to choice. If they would like to receive help then they must make the right choice to get sober. I'm one of many in Chatham-Kent that feel this way as we the tax payers are tired of forking out money we don't even have for addicts that decided drugs were more important than contributing to society. The federal & Provincial government's are to blame as they've not helped gain control of an overly out of control drug & dependency problem. Also Chatham-Kent never should have amalgamated as this has severely cut federal & provincial funding just like I knew it would over 25 years ago when first implemented.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:35 PM

50% or better, the municipality is having issues with funding, and seem to be overwhelmed.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:21 PM

Toronto sends homeless here on trains (true by eye witness who spoke to a group getting off) why do we here have to cover those costs for non residents who pay no taxes here and never have. They are told out shelter has room and that is so false and someone in that City should be held accountable for their misleading dishonest actions. Bill Toronto. Just go and ask them where they are from! Get the totals and bill cities accordingly.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:24 AM

This is a crisis created by the federal government . It should be there responsibility.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:27 AM

Emergencies should be funded by the province since that really is there role. Of course depending on what we are talking about. If after a disaster then my answer stands. If we are talking about housing people without homes, then that should be about 50% with local non profit groups assisting the city to provide support. The province should be funding 100% for subsidized housing according to income. But I also don't agree with just giving people something for nothing - but that is a whole other topic on mental health.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:42 AM

clearly at some point in the past, this situation was really of no concern, but with the homeless coming from different cities etc. and clearly the city is not truthfully up front about finances and money(just listen to what John Cryderman says) we all know that there is more money hiding. so with good budgeting and attrition of council members, this city could be wiser.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:00 AM

Something is broken with our system affordable housing is out of reach fir so many as well as renting a place so to help out with that let's raise taxes???

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

We're taxed to death as it is. We're in the country and paying outrageous taxes so the city can receive the best. It's unfair. You keep increasing the police budget and we still need to hang signs requesting police for speeders. I guess they can't read.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:27 AM

Ford can spend billions in Toronto for road tunnels and grand schemes, but cannot help fund the destitute or fund hospitals and

universities etc across the province where the need is immediate and great.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 09:32 AM

I think the provincial and federal governments need to take some responsibility as decisions they make in other areas affect the need for emergency shelter and support. The cost of food and housing, for example.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:32 AM

Mental health and drug use is the cause of the majority of these problems. Since these are defined as diseases the province should be responsible for a minimum of 75%.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:53 AM

This is a provincial and Federal issue. We pay taxes for this on a higher than municipal level. Again it's their fault we are in this situation. Tiny homes isn't the fix. It's an expensive band aid

Anonymous

9/28/2024 05:23 PM

Homelessness is rampant throughout the province and all Municipalities deserve some assistance with this.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:00 PM

Municipality should not have any costs associated with emergency shelter and support. Regardless of funding provided by other levels of government.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:21 PM

There a rumours out there that municipality of CK has accepted money from cities like Toronto to take on the homeless population. Has anyone actually compared the long term cost of housing the homeless population (which also realistically means an increase on mental health services, policing etc.) versus taking a lump sum?

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:13 PM

If you took a survey, I would suggest that you'd find that most of the street people are landed here in Chatham from outlying areas...Windsor, London, Toronto???? . It's about time council stands up to this misjustice and puts a stop to this.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 05:10 AM

Most of the issues are created by provincial directives

Anonymous

10/01/2024 10:32 AM

You didn't define 'emergency shelter'. Is this for people without insurance and I have to take care of their stupid decision making because their house caught fire? Is this for meth heads running

around? Perhaps it is a bit different than that? I don't know. But doesn't victim services help out with that? That's funded by the province and that's what I think of when it comes to emergency shelter and support. This is to vague a question for any sensible person with marginal attachment to municipal politics to answer.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:43 AM

since provincial has to do with housing costs, they should also be responsible for the consequences of their actions. however i didnt put 100% because i dont want there to be a total decrease in how much is spent (if say the provincial government only forks out a fraction of what the municipality has been, i dont think that therefore we should just accept that). basically, i believe the provincial government should be responsible, but that doesn't mean they will be generous and i think that the municipality should do what they can to increase total amount spent on emergency housing

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:53 AM

Municipality of Chatham, does not have enough income to support local homeless population. The homeless is an Ontario wide problem, that does not get enough funding or positive attention. More and more homeless are being shipped to cities like Chatham, without any restrictions or regulations. Chatham also need to provide for local seniors who have a place but need support funding first. Support Local

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:55 AM

With the current provincial government, it has been made clear that they are distancing themselves from the homeless population and presenting it as an individual's problem rather than a social one. It is devastating that the Ontario leadership has such an antiquated point of view, and is pushing the issue to the municipalities by just pretending that people can get out of homelessness by simply dropping off a resume.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:57 AM

The provincial and federal governments created the situation. Regardless, it's still taxpayers paying for it!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

The homelessness crisis was created and continues to increase due to federal and provincial policies. Municipalities should not have to carry most of the costs associated with homelessness. Chatham-Kent is an economically depressed area and as such we cannot afford the huge costs associated with this ongoing issue.

Anonymous

The province and the federal government continue to allow new

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

comers into Canada. It is a supply and demand problem. Not all but most new comers live in communities in their native countries sharing homes with others. This allows renters the ability to charge per room. Driving up the cost of rent. This is a huge problem. And needs to be addressed at the top. Not just within the municipality

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 AM

This should also be supported by the federal government. The federal government has created the extreme inflation that we have on everything from housing to food . Also with the added immigration the federal government has allowed has created the housing shortage pushing people to need emergency shelter.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:33 AM

The municipality pays yes but with tax dollars . If the government is responsible for high costs take complete ownership of it all.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:35 AM

We can't afford it!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:38 AM

The tax payers of Chatham Kent and Ontario should not have to foot this bill. This is ridiculous.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:10 AM

You do not want ti create Chatham as a place for out of town to go for shelter.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:29 AM

Define emergency shelter and support. Is that only in the event of a natural disaster and how much exactly when you say CK takes on nearly all the costs?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:10 PM

Emergency shelter & support is short term. Our monies are spent supporting the Province and or Municipal by taxes. Municipal Taxes monies can be controlled were as The Province puts into one big pot with minimal control!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:10 PM

If they set the policy they should shoulder the cost

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:12 PM

It is very unsettling, that it is the responsibility of tax payers who work hard, pay for their own children and dependants to be required to cover cost of living and shelter for human beings who choose to forgo normal living functions of working, and contributing to society. I think

it's about due time, that we stop pairing "mental health" to be automatically linked to "addiction" some of those people may suffer mental health, but others have CHOSE addiction with no "mental health" prior. I think to use our tax dollars is an outrage. They are littering, setting fires, and destroying public property. They are also making parks inaccessible and women and children to feel unsafe to even walk at night. These folks you speak about cannot even enter "emergency shelter" due to their agitation, aggression or inability to stay clean. Why should we fund sheltering them? When did "human rights" become catering services if you forgo being an active member of society? It's all unfortunate but I prefer that this "solve" be done on the provincial dollar not on my dollar.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:13 PM

We need to look further into why we have so many that need these shelters. Why are there so many in Chatham. You know they are being brought in and it is time that you own up to that and take action. It saddens me so to see so many that need help BUT we can't be paying for our own homes plus everyone elses

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:18 PM

Emergency / homelessness, poverty addiction requires long term affirmative action. Each Province must tackle these issues and change the direction for our future.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:35 PM

Chatham-Kent taxpayers pay federal, provincial, & municipal taxes so transferring costs to other levels does nothing for C-K taxpayers but I'm sure it is an excuse for local politicians to spend these "savings" on other nonsense.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:58 PM

a minimum of 50-50. having a more moderate climate may result in people traveling to Chatham-Kent.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:32 PM

The town knowingly accepts people from other cities, like Toronto, I know this because I have talked to them and they will take the shelters away so the way to fix this is to actual invest in your own city. There are empty buildings that the town can invest to create shelters for emergencies, the other option is to stop accepting people from another city and send them back out of the mayors pocket he gets paid enough

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:21 PM

Provincial policies are impacting and downloading costs to Municipalities. For instance, how much of the current homelessness is a result of rent control changes? Poor investments in mental health

treatment and access to medical services? One could argue it's the majority of it.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:29 PM

Shouldn't be finance by the municipality either. Should be up to the charity of the community.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:36 PM

'emergency' shelters or nice cozy homes for people who don't want to work? Most of us struggled to get to where we are 'comfortable' but having to support those who don't want to support themselves is breaking me!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:38 PM

Maybe they should get a job like the rest of us that have to pay to look after them and clean up their messes and maybe their parents should step up to the plate.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:44 PM

The province should be Involved especially as rent stabilization and control measures have been removed it has created a free for all. Rental prices are not going down any time soon. We need NON luxury apartment long term rental only purpose buildings in surplus in order to make room for everyone to have a home and live with dignity

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

Emergency shelter presumably for weather related events should be supported by both the provincial and federal governments

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:45 PM

It would also be advantageous to charge the cities that are putting the homeless on transportation and dropping them off here and every other community that didn't have this severe of an issue.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:07 PM

I understand some of the above mentioned are haincapped whether physically or handicapped and some have just fallen on hard times.....but.....there is a larger percentage of people with drug addictions or just don't want to be productive citizens that the majority should not have to pay for their "free ride". As with alcohol or any other addiction you have a choice to continue the same path or get out of that lifestyle without being a burden on others.....it's a personal choice. I speak from experience!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:11 PM

Why are paying for homeless people here that are from other municipalities? They need to be returned from the municipality they came from . We can't afford them and it's a drain our citizens

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:13 PM

If there was an option for the federal liberal government i would have selected that. it trudeaus fault.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:22 PM

100% is not ever going to happen but we shouldn't be wasting money on services for ppl that are addicted to meth

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:28 PM

Personal accountability and responsibility. We cannot afford to pay/support for everyone

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:49 PM

Regardless what level of government pays it all comes out of the same pocket, the taxpayers!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:18 PM

The federal government mainly caused the drug and housing crisis so they should pay for this.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:27 PM

The homeless crisis is partially related to a lack of funding in the OW, and ODSP programs. Both of those programs are provincially legislated, and that Ministry makes the financial decisions that impact the recipients. For this reason, I believe It makes better sense to have that level of government contribute to the homeless shelter expenses. That Ministry's decision to not adequately increase financial assistance rates (especially for OW), directly correlates to those community members not being able to sustain any kind of stable housing.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:56 PM

The Homeless issue is Province wide, that said the Province should manage the Whole, so as to be uniform across the whole. This will avoid busing in from other communities

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:07 PM

You have homeless in this city and many other places in this country, because spending is out of control. Of the people that are homeless, the only ones we should be helping is the ones that are willing to make steps to get out of their situation. We talk about building tiny homes for the homeless. Fine. But they should only be for the ones that are drug free. Can(t expect the ones that are trying to better themselves to put up with the crap of the people who continue to make bad choices in their lives. Willing to help the legit homeless, do not care one bit about the rest.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:23 PM

Emergency shelter and support is a Canadian problem - my personal Federal and Provincial taxes paid should be utilized. Each municipality is forced to pay \$X ++ for those either a lifelong resident of the municipality or a recent arrival. Until the feds and province get their act together to establish a national approach for the issue, local hands are tied to having to rectify this disaster

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:55 PM

The entire breakdown of our civilization starts at the municipal level with a corrupt mayor and council that waste and steal the publics money with ridiculous programs!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:55 PM

Drug addiction and mental illness are medical problems that need to be dealt with through the medical support system. These supports should not be paid with municipal tax dollars.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:30 AM

The province closed St.Thomas mental health facility where people had a place to be seen by health care providers daily, get showers and meals, and return home if they were stable. Now we leave these most vulnerable people on the streets or in emergency shelters. This mess we find ourselves in is a direct result of a province closing "institutions" to put mental health back in communities (it was a disguise for downloading that responsibility to towns in my opinion)

Anonymous

10/03/2024 06:04 AM

I think this is a provincial problem as we are a small city with a limited tax base and I think we definitely need all the help the government and can/will give.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:47 AM

Well you closed down mental institutions do where did you think they were going - bring them back.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:23 AM

The federal liberals should be paying for it since they created it

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:07 AM

There is only one taxpayer. Whether the taxes are municipal, provincial or federal, it is all coming out of one wallet.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:03 AM

Tax payer money is tax payer money! It doesn't matter what level of Robin Hood you think you are. Stealing to give to addicts is still Stealing

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:07 AM

Provincial cuts to other programs and services are directly responsible for the increased costs of emergency shelter and support. The Province should be funding these programs at a higher level.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 AM

Everbody and their brothedr wants hand outs-----there is no easy answer but to expect that these handouts be included in our taxes is outrageous.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:37 AM

No different than Ontario Works.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 12:56 PM

Municipal money should be a second opinion

Anonymous

10/03/2024 01:23 PM

Federal passed on costs to Provincial and Provincial passed rising costs onto the municipalities. Municipalities just allowed it. All governments brag what they give but that is always after they have cut everything. So it never really is an increase. People of CK pay way too high of taxes for the services they get, especially farmers.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 02:13 PM

Cut the supports

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:04 PM

I say 100%, although its still taxpayers whose pockets ultimately provide the money. Homelessness in Chatham-Kent is a reliable gauge on the health of the economy overall. Until all are housed and productive members of society, City's spending should definitely be curtailed.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:33 PM

75% Province But the Feds are responsible for a 40% of that based on the committment that every citizen has the right to housing.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:36 PM

City taxes were never meant to cover emergency shelters. This is a provincial responsibility.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:25 PM

The government is handling out our money to freely, there are a lot of people that could work but it much easier to have us hand out money per what use to be baby bonus they just keep having more children-cap the money at say 3 children. Also give out to much money for people who just won't work or work so badly that they are let go and then we get to take care of them again. My husband and myself

including my children and grandchildren have all worked and are still working. Not fair!!!!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:45 PM

The people of Chatham Kent did not ask for the homeless from Toronto area to come here, city is now a disgrace send them back

Anonymous

10/03/2024 06:35 PM

all government should share the costs> Federal, provincial and municipal.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:39 PM

When they are bussed in to chatham kent we should not be taxed to take care of them

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:01 PM

The province , provincial and federal aspects created these problems....for the mass homelessness needs and incapacibilities of affording rents. The taxpayers did not create these issues. Time to force responsibility onto the source of the cause of who created the increases in the problem # s to

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:48 PM

This problem coming "home" to roost because of a succession of conservative governments starting with Mikie Harris. It's a bottom line mentality with zero [REDACTED] given for the vulnerable. But hey, we're in a Conservative riding. We'd elect a turnip if it was blue.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:16 PM

How can I possibly answer that?

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:45 AM

The costs for this should be funded by all three levels of government.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:52 AM

The Province and Municipality are not responsible for people who have mad bad decisions in their life and are now homeless. Most are addicts and that is the life they choose and is up to their families to support them.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:53 AM

Has council invited these people here from the cities? Did you bring this cost down on us?

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:00 AM

This needs to happen for all municipalities not just CK

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:02 AM

I dont think enabling homelessness is a good idea, unlike our current council. I realize everyone is struggling under our federal government but I strongly disagree with building homes for the homeless and do not think the municipality or province should fund this with taxpayer dollars. Our bleeding heart council is being fully taken advantage of while our administration prioritizes building homes for the homeless and bailing out millionaires who foolishly bought the mall, over services for people like recruiting doctors and especially over serving the kent region of chatham kent.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 10:44 AM

I don't know what or who should provide or fund

Anonymous

10/04/2024 11:39 AM

This can come from the police budget, since the police seem unable to stop, solve or prevent break ins.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 05:17 PM

I would need more information about emergency shelter and support. Is this in case of a public emergency, such as a weather event, or also emergency shelter, such as support for the homeless. Hard to be sure how to answer this without understanding the question.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 06:58 PM

realizing that Canadians are free to move about the country, those needing shelter or support should be surveyed on their history of residence in CK. I support those with a history of residing here, but numbers of those coming from elsewhere should be used to support requests for provincial/federal funding

Anonymous

10/04/2024 08:43 PM

Factors that lead to the surge in the need for emergency shelters and support are largely driven by Federal and Provincial economic policies. Where such policies lead to inflation, continued tax increases and the high cost of living or of doing business, the result is a trickle-down effect of job losses, the increased demand for Food Bank services, emergency shelters and supports imposed on Municipalities. As such, both upper levels of Government must bear 100% of these costs.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:26 AM

50% FROM THE PROVINCE & 50% FROM THE FEDERAL. ITS THERE FAULT THAT WE ARE IN THIS MESS

Anonymous

10/05/2024 05:51 PM

Unsure why we have to pay for at all?

wally

10/05/2024 11:12 PM

75 per cent divided between the province and federal

Anonymous

10/06/2024 10:13 AM

The federal and provincial governments should be sharing this cost at 100% or at the very least most of it.

Anonymous

10/06/2024 10:33 AM

Those requiring emergency shelter are there for a myriad of reasons with different solutions. These need to be better understood in order to find long-term, sustainable solutions. Some of the contributing fundamental causes are directly tied to provincial responsibilities (Mental Health access), and some more directed/influenced by the municipality. A structured evidence based funding structure needs to be in place for all levels of government to plan - BUT the province has not done a very good job on that in other sectors SO, I applaud the municipality for the efforts it has taken (cabins)

Anonymous

10/06/2024 07:45 PM

To me the Municipality needs to step up to say enough is enough to the Provincial government regarding transferring more money responsibility on municipalities.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 09:40 AM

Stop your purchasing of buildings to load the cost on the taxpayers.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 04:20 PM

Regardless of whether it's municipal, provincial or federal it's all still paid by the same tax payers.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 05:51 PM

The lack of provincial leadership has brought on these record numbers. They should take responsibility to get these people help

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:32 AM

The Province has created the issue by removing Rent Control

Anonymous

10/08/2024 02:24 PM

I'd love to see the province share this cost. BUT if they do not, then we need to bear the burden - and that means cutting from other areas. Not just increasing the budget. Protecting the unhoused in CK is one of THE most important issues I see, and I have zero interest in hearing more about the community hub until everyone has a roof over their head.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 03:30 PM

Emergency shelter is a province wide issue, the province should be stepping up and contributing their share.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 03:54 PM

Feel that it is a provincial issue as well, we are all in this together, we live in a part of the province that has the mildest weather, thus potential more homeless. Affordable housing and supportive housing is a provincial issue as well

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:58 AM

It is a sad situation. Drug use and mental health are conditions that are hard to deal with. Unfortunately some people are healthy but just don't want to work.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 12:56 PM

C-K has to accept some responsibility for this crisis. Rezone residential and commercial to apartment/.multi residential.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 01:02 PM

I was of the impression that social safety nets in Canada paid for in our tax base are designed to provide shelter, food etc to those that are in need. A deeper understanding of what has broken in those services to render them inadequate is needed.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:08 PM

I believe that as a municipality we have to do our part, but that being said the provincial government needs to step in and help. Our taxes are already high and on the rise.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:59 PM

The municipal work force is large enough. Instead of driving around drinking coffees and taking breaks. Perhaps the municipal workers could assist these individuals as part of their duties.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 04:39 PM

This depends on what is involved in the emergency shelter and support. I need to know what is involved. This question is not explained at all.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 05:57 PM

It is because of increased taxes overall that the homeless numbers are increasing. This is unsustainable.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 04:40 AM

Something else needs to happen as what we've been doing is not helping and we're spending money left and right.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 10:06 AM

Increasing the taxes to pay for this puts the burden on property owners ie..."families". The Provincial and federal government needs to take responsibility for causing the problem to begin with. They downloaded a lot of what used to be covered by them to the municipal government with no incentive. Doing more with less.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 11:49 AM

I did not create the problem, why should tax payers fund it. It does not matter which level of government looks after it, it comes down to taxpayers footing the bill. I'm tired of being taxed to death.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 02:36 PM

A silly question. Of course one would want the province to fund it all.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 05:05 PM

The province needs to fund most of it, but we still need to fund a little so we have a say on how to spend it.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 07:48 PM

Rent some buses and send them to Toronto or Ottawa. There the people under funding us

Anonymous

10/11/2024 08:45 AM

Our taxes are high enough. People cannot afford increases

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:06 AM

The government has created this problem and they should pay to fix it

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:11 AM

As a employee and residential manager of apartment buildings here within Chatham Kent is see how underfunded the province provides to people that are social services for their housing part of their support. In 2003 the max benefit for housing was \$649 for a family of 5 and now it's \$886 for a family of 4. The average market rent for a one bedroom in Chatham Kent is \$1400 no less a 2 or 3 bedroom at \$1600 - \$2000.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 11:35 AM

The current federal regime should be paying for the disaster they've created. Municipal governments should be actively engaging the federal authorities to pay for the cost of their failed policies on communities.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 09:01 PM

We must change the way of funding. The property owners cannot afford to fund programs that are the federal and provincial responsibilities. A portion of income tax should be used to relieve

property owners tax burden.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:18 AM

Regardless of who takes on the cost it still comes out of my pocket as I pay provincial as well as municipal taxes. Governments have no money except what comes out of taxpayers' wallet at one level or another. At least if there was a provincial portion then it would be spread out among all provincial tax payers.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:44 AM

While all the policies and funding of all levels of government in some way contribute to the need for emergency shelter, it's ultimately a locally managed issue.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 11:16 AM

This is an extremely complicated problem, and C-K has done nothing in particular to create this problem, and that applies to most if not all other cities, towns and municipalities. Homelessness is too complicated to discuss here in a few sentences. It goes back to the Federal government and their policies, and the provinces are subjected to these policies, with some complicity depending on the province.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:03 PM

Whether provincial taxes or municipal taxes, it's the same taxpayer who pays.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 01:41 PM

The so called homeless have incomes from the government and that they prefer to spend on items other than shelter and they are sent here by other municipalities. Crime, drugs and lots of extra policing costs are associated with their influx.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 07:44 PM

Why are people from outside communities being sent here

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:39 PM

50% at least. We should also not be allowing other centers to deluge us with their homeless.

Anonymous

10/13/2024 06:21 PM

I also think the federal government needs to kick in some support. Which at the end of the day doesn't really actually matter because it's still tax dollars and still comes out of our pockets! However, it is mainly the federal and provincial governments that got us into this mess so they're going to need to at least help lift people up

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:02 PM

Reduce costs,reduce red tape, any shelter is better than living on the street. Build low cost shelters.The homeless need sponsors who are in charge of their care through Power of attorney if they suffer from addiction

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:10 PM

No one should fund drug addicts and losers to live on the streets and scare people. Especially when they are bussed in here- we're obviously treating them too well. Put them in rehab or jail if they commit crimes like they do in Alberta. Making it easy for drug addicts isn't helping it's hurting.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:39 PM

Where does the federal government's initiatives fit into the solution such as "Reaching Home" program which provides funding and support for community-based initiatives to address homelessness? Why is the municipality taking on "most" of the costs? There is provincial funding. What amount does this municipality receive? We need an all level of government support for this issue. What is our percentage of homelessness compared to other municipalities? What is this municipalities measure of success in dealing with homelessness? What is our line of reduction?

Anonymous

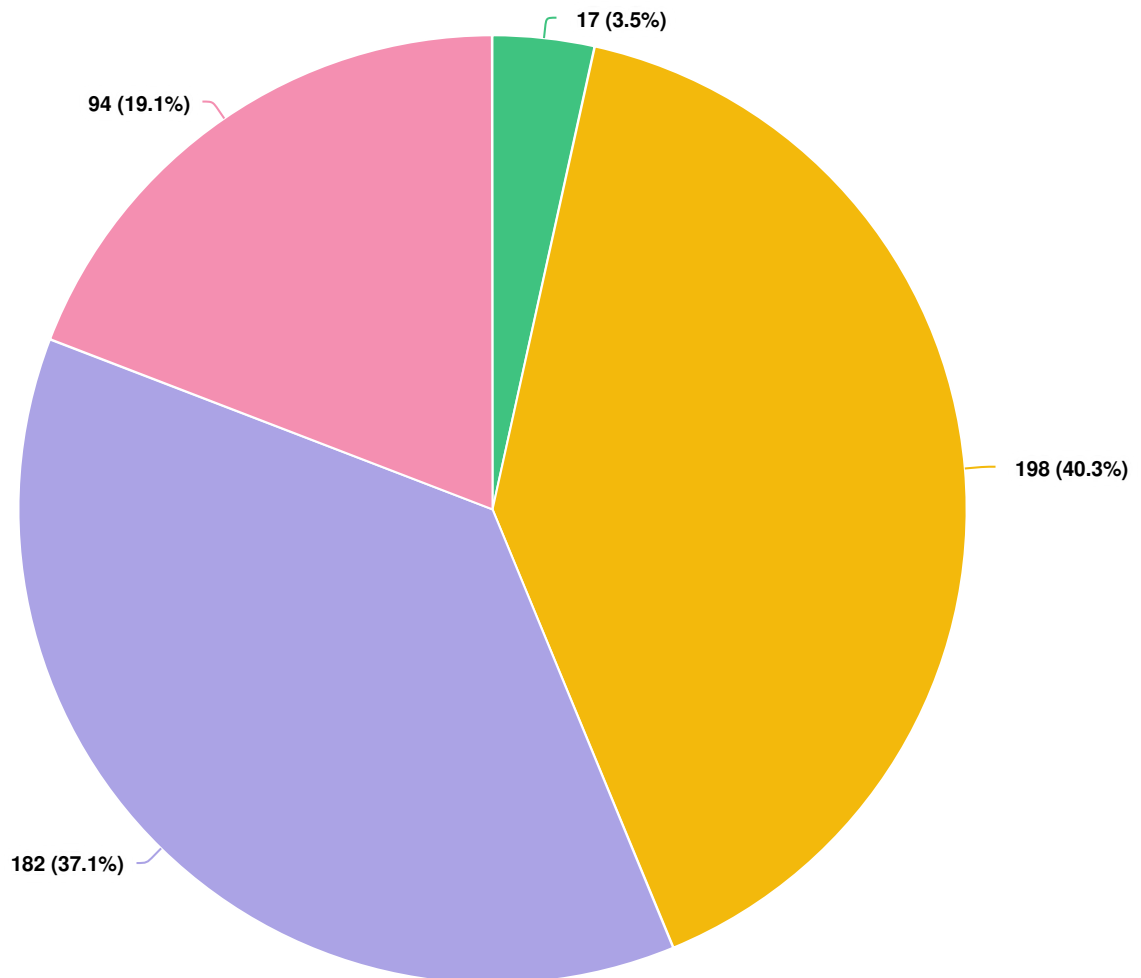
10/14/2024 09:22 PM

Neither should spend a dime.

Optional question (140 response(s), 366 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q7 | The Municipality is currently dealing with a large funding gap in maintaining its infrastructure for use by the residents of Chatham-Kent. To close the gap would you prefer to:



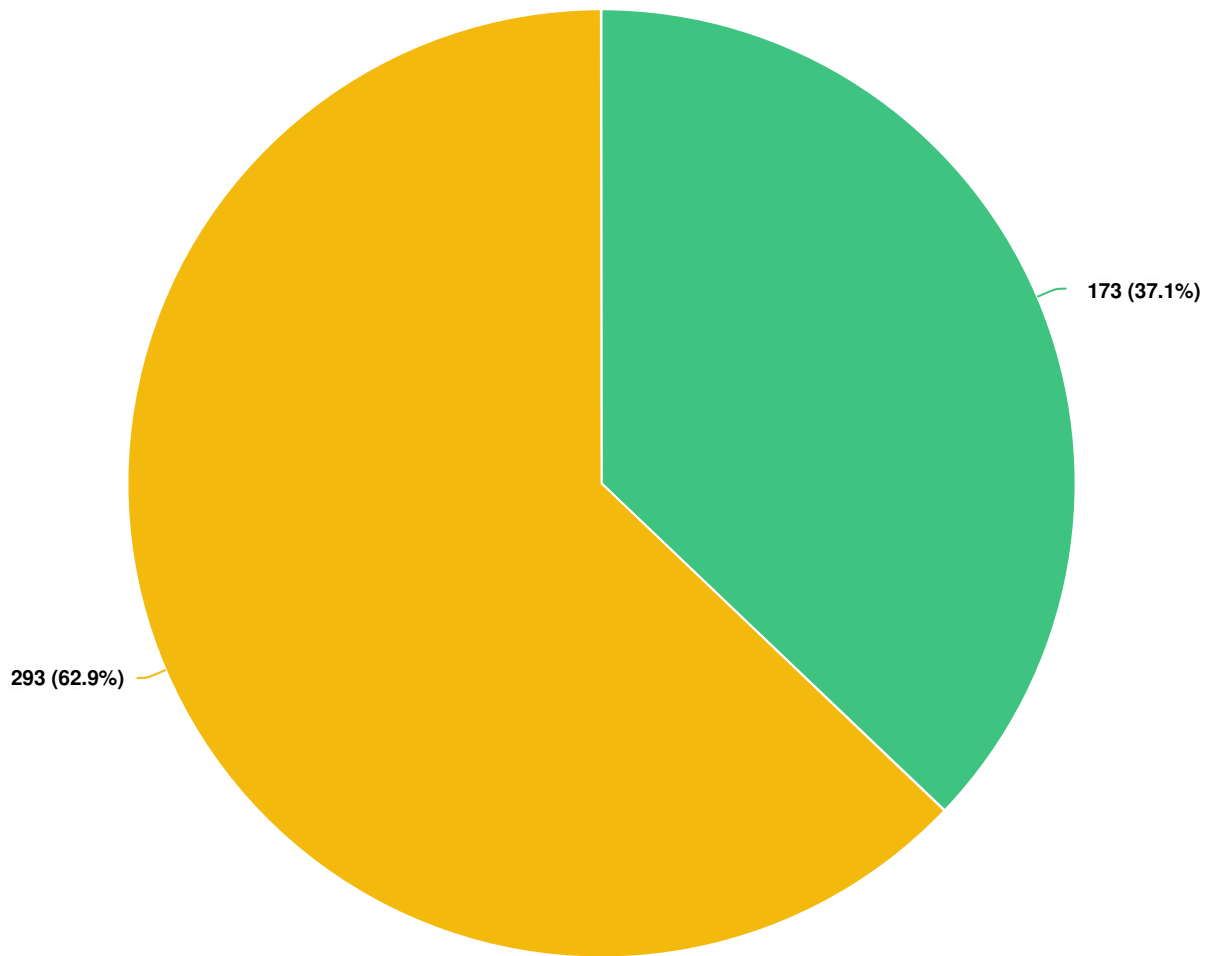
Question options

- Increase taxes
- Increased Provincial funding
- Reduce services
- Divest infrastructure

Optional question (491 response(s), 15 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q8 Would you like to leave a comment based on the question you just answered?



Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (466 response(s), 40 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q9 Please leave your comment

Anonymous

9/26/2024 02:49 PM

The amount of tax increases are too high. I recommend that council finds areas to cut so that the increase is lower to the people. It is not easy but it should be treated no different than a business.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:42 AM

Every thing is for the city of Chatham, the rural roads are horrible, the employees do no know how to run the equipment properly, playing on their phone is more important.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:49 AM

to maybe municipal employees doing nothing, snow plows out after hours pushing air

Anonymous

9/27/2024 12:56 PM

A quick search shows there are 48 listed MANAGERS right now in CK for 47 Supervisors, that seems crazy no??!! Lets start realistically looking at what we NEED not want when creating these positions we clearly cant afford anymore.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 01:56 PM

sooooo many chatham kent work trucks driving around a small . Then we see them sitt in them for hours doing nothing

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:28 PM

should have put monies away when times were good for when times are bad. classc example the merlin roud about 6 mil versus 2.2 mil

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:54 PM

Could we get better rural roads. Begin by tar chip these gravel roads. And repave the city's street. All roads are horrible. Not a good impression for visitors

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:22 PM

Any infrastructure that is not at the core of municipality performing its' mandated function, and any infrastructure that is competing with comparable services that private industry perform should be divested.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:33 PM

The current administration is out of control. Counsel should be demanding a 3 to 5 percent reduction in each department which shouldn't be that hard to do. I don't believe administration or council are transparent!!!!

Anonymous

The province should be helping us with this. No question about it.

9/27/2024 04:13 PM

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:14 PM

CK does not work. Ever since Meyboom forced us together it's been financially unsound.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:11 PM

Municipality has buildings that are under utilized and with people able to work remotely these facilities are not needed. There are many open spaces that could be used in different ways like planting trees or pollinator gardens rather than paying to have grass cut

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:21 PM

Reduce service reduce property taxes pay cuts by higher paid city workers. I bet none in the city make just minimum wage like so many of us who work retail in the city. Hours have been cut for us so we loose a huge part of our wages each month so why not the city. I cannot afford the \$400. loss in pay and pay higher taxes.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:52 PM

I can't afford more property taxes. You are bleeding me dry.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 12:24 AM

misleading again , no one wants any of the 4 responses. Everyone would like wages and redundant positions cut. The funding gap is caused by poor management and bloated wages and benefits.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:24 AM

Better management to increase efficiency.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:27 AM

When looking at services, structures etc., please actually look at what is best now, but what may be best in the future. I find that many government agencies are short sighted and then we end up spending more to replace in the future.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:42 AM

we need basic services, not programs that cater to every person that demanding, everyone has gone crazy, remember when you take GOD out of the equation, you get Chaos, so do you wonder?

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

Read the above notes.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

Don't purchase items when not needed. Moving into 1 building might be a great idea, but it doesn't need to happen now with the financial turmoil going on.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:27 AM

We probably need to do some of all of these items, not just focus on one.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 09:32 AM

When infrastructure responsibility was downloaded onto municipalities, the provincial government did not account for rural areas. Urban areas have a much higher tax base as the population density is higher than rural areas; rural areas are needed to supply food. The downloading Ideally would have been a percentage based on the population density.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 09:41 AM

Nearly all of CK capital projects go over budget. This is u acceptable and better oversize and better project estimates are needed. Also Queens Line at Merlin road round about is huge waste if money and overbudget before it even starts

Anonymous

9/28/2024 10:03 AM

As in most surveys they are really not designed to solicit opinions that are contrary needs and wants of the survey author. So lets start from an honest perspective. Municipalities do not like to tighten their belts. I am a former Director within a large organization and each year we were "told" to find 5% in savings.. If we didn't the organization would find it.... Look when there is a funding gap, first take a look at the infrastructure projects you have. Then prioritize them into categories, what are absolute projects and which ones can wait or be remanaged... Council should not simply say to the tax base this year is 8 % next year is 9% and the year after that 9.5% ... These tax increases are simply not sustainable. This is a challenging question in the survey because I think you have lumped in a lot of "infrastructure " that is probably better discussed under "services/programs."

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:53 AM

We again shouldn't have to raise taxes that are already unaffordable for what this municipality has to offer. Increase the provincial funding or decrease the services.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 01:43 PM

Check how many unhoused people are using the services from the social worker and community paramedics provided to them. You can't help people who don't want help, yet we're throwing money away at them

Anonymous

9/28/2024 02:00 PM

Garbage collection every other week to save money

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:00 PM

There are a lot of Executives that make way too much money.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:21 PM

There needs to be greater accountability within the municipality. Before accepting contracts for construction to build low income housing, perhaps the construction company needs to be researched and see if there has been any difficulties finishing projects in other cities. And if they can't finish projects within their allotted time frames, there needs to be strict penalties.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:33 PM

Half our budget is eaten up by police and fire. We see these services parked in cars and walking through grocery stores not doing there jobs. It's obvious they are way over staffed. !! I don't care how many calls they take in a day. Reduce the field work force. They are not babysitters. They are law enforcement.

Anonymous

9/30/2024 08:43 PM

Increased taxes as a secondary option.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 05:10 AM

We all have to live within our means

Anonymous

10/01/2024 10:32 AM

Governments tend to add to their portfolios. They never cancel. You would think the decision makers subscribe to every single streaming service even if they duplicate. Amazon Prime Music? Sure. Apple Music? Sure. YouTube Music? Sure. Spotify? Sure. Tidal? Sure. Just start cancelling some. If politicians knew their job to be temporary targets of anger; our municipality would do better. It's what I told staff when I was elected to a position: Let me be hated. I am temporary. You have to be liked. You are permanent. But I guess that's putting myself in the servant role instead of the typical politician's 'I want to be powerful' position. Cancel some services.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:32 AM

Wish I could have chosen two, but we should have both provincial support and increased taxes, plus examining services for efficiency.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:43 AM

increase taxes based on income - low to mid income people don't see an increase, but high income earners pay a larger percentage in taxes

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:57 AM

Won't matter where the 'government' funds come from.... It's still taxpayer \$\$\$\$

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

Some infrastructure expenses are not justified. For example the roundabout at Queen's Line and Merlin Road. The amount of traffic does not justify this huge expense. This intersection has been functioning satisfactorily. Those few vehicles that choose to use Merlin Road does not justify the rest of C-K tax payers that do not, seldom use or never use this road.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

For now halt new infrastructure and allow for things to settle. Decrease new immigration and allow people to recover from the financial burden on the system it has taken.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 AM

A detailed document outlining the reasons for the huge gap should be released. Why is there a funding gap? Is this because of mismanagement?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:12 AM

Excess infrastructure is a major problem for CK. If council is not prepared to take the heat for divesting of unneeded or underused assets then it is time to create a committee to do the job for them!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:15 AM

Our property taxes are already high and people are struggling to pay bills. If you go through and raise it further, either people will lose their homes or try to sell them and move else where.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:34 AM

Roads are crap fix them. Been 3 administrations with little road work..you casino money plus provincial. Seems you hired alot of staff this year ?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:35 AM

It only makes sense. That's what we have to do.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:38 AM

You didn't even give the proper option to choose. It's to re-evaluate how the money is spent and quit wasting our tax money on pointless things.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:46 AM

Obviously an interplay of multiple options will be needed. I would personally like to see reduction in services as a last resort only

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:21 AM

You need to better support your community and you arent taking it seriously. The mayor needs to stop taking photos and show what he is doing to advocate for our community.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:29 AM

Too broad. What assets?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:50 AM

I think you should issue municipal investment bonds with low interest rates like 1%.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:10 PM

Thus shows how inefficient the amalgamation was some 20 year back! Way too much bureaucracy and red tape in today's world. Levels and levels of management, Chatham Kent Municipal needs a CEO from London Hospital to clean house , make staff accountable and that starts at the top!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:13 PM

IF needed we may need to consider reducing services.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:18 PM

The Province down loaded much of the infrastructure with amalgamation in 1998 . No more downloading .

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:35 PM

Politicians need to learn to tax at the rate they spend. Looking good by downloading fiscal responsibility on future councils should be prohibited by law!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:58 PM

it is challenging to keep up with cost increases. increasing taxes is the easiest way, however all levels of government need more funding. making good use of facilities and staffing to ensure efficiency is important. analyzing how each department functions and where the best use of our tax dollars go should be part of the annual discussion. there is only so much money available. I am not sure which of the choices are the best..... property values are coming back to a more realistic level. maybe another year or two and a reassessment could be done.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 01:15 PM

Council must soon decide to divest of three of the most-used buildings in CK (civic, library, museum). Why are we not looking at divesting properties/buildings that are under-utilized? The MID offices have sat vacant for more than 4 years... taking up library space.

Having "increased Provincial funding" as an option isn't really an option. If they aren't funding it now, they aren't likely to fund it in the future.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 01:17 PM

We were always taught to live within our means

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:16 PM

we live in the county we get along with very little and make do too many freebies in Chatham alone

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:31 PM

All Ontario cities have such a gap. It could be solved if property taxes were used for property matters ,i.e. roads, sewers, parks, bridges etc. and let the province pay for all non property matters such as social welfare, social housing ,health and addiction and homelessness. Increasing property taxes is not the solution, we are already over taxed , hst, carbon tax, luxury tax(booze and tobacco) and of course income tax.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:32 PM

Better planning can take place here, Taxes are way too high and asking the government for money is a tall order, But if certain people would actually be willing to look that the books and budget them properly instead of padding their own pockets then budgeting would be a lot easier when you look at services, salaries, There are other ways towns can make money through proper policing review of where money is being wasted like certain peoples salary by comparison similar towns are much less in expenditures and way less in spending

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:55 PM

Do we not have a surplus we can use? Council needs to listen to citizens not municipal staff and stop these increases!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:36 PM

I don't know what you're spending our money on but its not on any services I use or from the comments I read throughout the year, anyone else. It seems the city of chatham needs to be held more accountable for our money they waste, I mean spend.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

this might need to be a mix of all 4 to align the asset management plan. Remove what is not needed, reduce surplus, leverage provincial spending where available and increase taxes where necessary.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

Chatham Kent is far too vast for the taxpayers to continue to fund the infrastructure. We have too many buildings and they should be sold

as appropriate.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:45 PM

What are we doing with all the new taxes we are collecting from the growth of residential housing and commercial properties? We should not have an increase in spending when we have all new taxes being collected by new to Chatham residents and business owners.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:07 PM

For the last several years the council has taken the idea that "if we build it they will come" attitude as far as squandering or tax dollars. Council has created this mess and now we all are paying the bill for it. At one time it was councils responsibility to have 0% budget increase. That is responsible government! In today's world every time someone like the Chatham Police puts their hand out council is more than willing to fill the pockets with our money. There is no feasibility as regards to how our money is spent! Our council, which is way to large for our population compared the larger cities is too ready to pass cash around like drunken sailors to verify their overly compensated positions as councilors!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:11 PM

Instead of spending over 2 million on the old Sears building, it would be better to refurbish the civic centre we. Why did we pay so much for a property that was valued at a little over 600 thousand?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:13 PM

We can not keep on raising taxes

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:06 PM

If the municipality would do things as needed and not when in the last minute need. Just like a home owner. Don't buy extras that are not needed

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:18 PM

There are several things the municipality currently does that can be more efficiently done by the private sector

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:24 PM

Perhaps we should take care of the investments that we own instead of buying more buildings and spending millions of taxpayer dollars to renovate them!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:27 PM

I'm educated comfortably to understand the meaning of the above options, though others may not understand what it means to divest infrastructure.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:56 PM

All levels of Government must live within their means Just as we must within our own lives and homes

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:07 PM

See this exactly what I am talking about. The municipality has to be run just like any other business. When your expenses are higher than your income than you make cuts. And just like any other business, you have to make job and service cuts. Those left over have to take on more of the work load, with the same base of pay. Happens everywhere in the real world. Ask any factory worker or office worker in a business what happens when business is not doing good. You guys are good at blaming the province for downloading, the province blames the Federal government. Well until we get governments that can live within their means, then tough choices have to be made. 23% over the last 3 year including the proposed 9% that has been mentioned. Food increases, income tax, carbon tax, municipal taxes, increase in insurance interest rates. In what world are you Mr Mayor and Councilors living in? Nobody gets increase in wages like that. And don't get me started on what you are doing to the senior citizens of this city, who have been paying taxes for years here and are slowly getting further behind. Listen to your tax payers.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:23 PM

You can't do and be everything for everyone - priorities must be established (and communicated) and - in this current economic and political climate, sensible, fiscally responsible heads should prevail. Regardless of how much outside assistance was received - what is the short and long term economic forecasted return for murals and photo ops installed throughout the Municipality in 2024?? I don't see them as a great return to me personally for my hard earned money. Yes, may help to increase the likeability to the areas for tourism but - look after the current taxpayers you now have.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:41 PM

Reduce personnel in HR, EcDev and Resident retention and attraction. Maintain or reduce existing buildings. Forget Sears purchase and renovation. Stick to basic services.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 PM

If we are spending too much on assets.....downsize to what we can afford. Homeowners need to live within their budget...CK can do the same.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:55 PM

These proposed answers are very biased in that there is no suggestion to say use the present dollars to fund the gap. If that means cutting personnel then so be it. Every other industry needs to

maintain a break even and profit point, and our municipality should be no different. The number of supervisors and managers etc is too high to be supported by the number of tax payers we have. Increase in provincial funding is not the answer. We need to find these cost savings internally!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:02 AM

Stop spending money you don't have!! Manage the municipality like you would your house! If you can't afford it you don't buy it!!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:07 AM

STOP with the unnecessary hiring!! How many assistants does 1 position need??? Hiring Freeze 100%

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:30 AM

It needs to be a balance - not everything needs to come from local taxpayers. The province collects a lot of tax money and needs to put some more back into our small towns vs keeping so much in GTA

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:01 AM

Increasing taxes is the easy way out as it seems to be a cash cow by elected officials. Better and more efficient service delivery must be implemented to keep costs under control.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:47 AM

Again way too top heavy- downsize staff first instead of services & more funding from province.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:23 AM

You're going to be getting more hydro money for the new lines, Tell them you want to use that money for bridges "only". You can start on Mint line and replace the ones you have shut down

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:09 AM

Focus on delivering appropriate services; waste, water, roads, maintenance etc and less on trying to influence people in their private lives and opinions

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:03 AM

Chatham kent needs to go back to basics, reduce entertainment, reduce redundancy. You need to learn to make what you have go further. Could use a lesson in continuous improvement strategies

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 AM

Possibly staying at the present City Hall and cut out a large number of staff there would be a good start to bringing costs into line

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:37 AM

There are no guarantees that rural residents will always have the shortest-possible trip to their remote farmhouses or barns. If we have to close an underutilized bridge and they have to drive to the next road over, so be it.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 12:41 PM

Why did CK spend 1 million on a shooting range/clubhouse for the police? This doesn't seem like a good investment or necessary.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 12:56 PM

One of your questions is always decrease service; need to reduce unnecessary spending , like 3M for 50 cabins

Anonymous

10/03/2024 01:23 PM

The worst thing that governments done is privatizing everything. This allowed these companies to overcharge for the work and lower the quality of the products. My brother-in-law was disgusted with the privatization of the roads. The extreme cost increase with the low quality asphalt and poor job quality.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:04 PM

Since it's not a multiple choice, divesting of infrastructure seems a viable response. Of course you want more money from the province, who want more money from the feds, who ultimately dip into the same pockets. These government models are not sustainable. Divest everything that can't be served by other businesses, establish core services (roads & bridges, emergency services, utilities), stop the sweetheart tax-free status deals used to lure businesses into town, cut investment in roundabouts and real estate, maintain the buildings you have. This is no time for a HUB either!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:35 PM

These are BS options and one sided. How about an option of d) reducing spending on non essential items like curbs and repaving

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:26 PM

I think our fire and police services costs are out of control. Someone needs to review the amount of employees needed per shift and some way to reduce the amount of overtime within the system.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:36 PM

Chatham-Kent needs to be more visible to the provincial government. We have a PC Ontario government with a PC MPP and a PC MP. Do they ever help get funding here? Jones loves his picture in the paper but knows VERY LITTLE if what goes on in the city of Chatham. Maurice Bossy (Liberal) certainly did.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:25 PM

The round a bot on the old number 2 highway and Merlin town line is a joke. We have electricity there put up a stop light which won't cost us over 6 million dollars. A very bad decision for farmers, large trucks and single vehicles on that road, put on a road that isn't used so much or day the money and forget it all together.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 06:35 PM

Let people take care of their own dogs and walk them as people always did. give up any costs related to dog parks. Cut only the edges of the roads and not to the fence . This will save labor, fuel and maintenance. there are a lot more areas to look at because we just can't keep asking for more. I think we pay too much in taxes.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:39 PM

Maintenance and infrastructure!!! Who is in charge of the skilled labor hiring? The road work done in Wallaceburg is atrocious, do your homework and due diligence,

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:01 PM

Time to cut back.... No one can afford to live here any more...let alone invest. A residential tax base cannot fix these problems. My

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:48 PM

See previous comment.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:55 PM

All four are valid options, and changes should be spread amongst all four

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:52 AM

I live in the city of Chatham and never had these problems until amalgamation which never should of happen

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:53 AM

Look for Public/Private partners so the assets can be better and more efficiently operated.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:00 AM

More efficient and cost effective

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:02 AM

You have a gap because the council and administration priorities should be on infrastructure and not bailing out millionaires, or spending 3 million dollars on building homes for the homeless. Also the poor administrative/hr practices that have lead to costly lawsuits against against the city ([REDACTED] and others) is a major issue.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:27 AM

More information is needed for that question in terms of context. What infrastructure are we talking about? Are we dealing with a large funding gap as the infrastructure has not been maintained? increased subdivisions with inadequate infrastructure - yet nothing is done about it? or normal wear and tear?

Anonymous

10/04/2024 10:11 AM

Staffing levels and work from home options need to be reviewed. There should be less need for infrastructure with many employees working from home.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 11:39 AM

Public Works can be audited to reduce costs. We have previously paid for consultations without action. Action can be taken to create online portals. We do not need new curbs in Chatham. Projects that are not of immediate need should be postponed.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 05:17 PM

Not sure what Divest Infrastructure means.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 06:58 PM

you could start by cutting 10% off every departments budget- department heads can then decide whether to cut staff, wages, or a combination thereof

Anonymous

10/04/2024 08:43 PM

We should learn to live by the maxim - "Cut your coat according to our size". Any deviations from this just injects unnecessary stress for everyone, with no penalties borne by anyone for flouting annual budgetary boundaries. Bad behaviours, if not sanctioned, will become the "expected and accepted norm" in future periods.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:20 AM

Yes you need to reduce services period. I have a majority of neighbors all on fixed incomes and between ridiculous increases in dairy products, insurance and taxes they are doing without...which is not where we want to be. We must ensure the most financially vulnerable can afford to stay in their houses.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:26 AM

WE NEED TO REDUCE THE COST OF MIDDLE MANAGEMENT AND LABOUR COSTS. ITS THE UNION THAT CONTROLS MOST OF OUR TAX COST. US TAX PAYERS ARE HELD HOSTAGE WITH COST FROM OVER PAID BUREAUCRATS

Anonymous

None of the above. Infrastructure maintenance costs could be greatly

10/05/2024 10:48 AM

reduced by better project management and smarter choices. A great example would be installing low cost culverts over drains, vs building bridges everywhere.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 12:36 PM

How can we still have such a large gap given the boasting of large growth numbers, already high taxes and previous rate increases greatly than that of inflation. I think the municipality and council need to take a hard look at becoming more efficient in providing the best value to the citizens of Chatham Kent.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 02:16 PM

Quit building sidewalks that nobody wants. Take care of the assets we already have, maintenance of existing assets seems to take a back seat to big projects. Reducing services in the past has been stupid little things such as letting the grass grow longer, medians with 3 foot tall weeds growing, weeds along curbs that ruin asphalt. Out of town guests comment that while there are some nice flowers here and there, other details such as previously mentioned are a bad first impression. Where has all the tax money gone from the many new homes that have been built ? Maybe get a consultant to find waste instead of a consultant that gives low estimates on capital projects that go vastly over budget.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 04:45 PM

We can't do everything for everyone. Cut back where reasonable.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 05:51 PM

Reduce staffing, administration and councilors. Way too many managers!!!!

Anonymous

10/05/2024 07:34 PM

Both reduce services and divest infrastructure

Anonymous

10/06/2024 10:33 AM

I think the type of infrastructure needs to be clarified because I believe some is provincial and some local (notwithstanding the provinces penurious for downloading everything...) Revenue must increase to cover these costs. Regardless of who pays, no one wants to pay more taxes - but I don't want to pay for a new roof on my home either. However it is a pay me now or pay me much, much more later

Anonymous

10/07/2024 09:31 AM

What is the market value of Entegrus? The Municipality owns/operates and receives a dividend. It should be sold to a pension fund so that the market value can be put on the balance sheet and used to fund infrastructure and services. Many of the outlying

communities of Chatham Kent would benefit from this. The public should be aware of what Entegrus could be sold for.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 09:40 AM

This city needs to start listening to the taxpayers and stop spending on things we don't need. We don't need a new Civic Center and we should not be purchasing buildings for the homeless at the taxpayers expense. Go after the Federal and Provincial Governments for the funding as they created the mess.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 03:47 PM

All main infrastructure is planned in and around the city of Chatham. Everyone who lives outside the city do not benefit from these enhancements. Kinda like being the poor cousins.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 04:20 PM

Very leading question. How about you ask what services the bulk of Chatham Kent tax payers want rather than what to cut.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 05:51 PM

Reduced services should decrease the ever increasing staff..... and the infrastructure for CK is a joke. The Merlin Townline/Queens line just needed a stop light with a cost of over 1 million dollars (which I question because the hydro was already there)....now it is close to 7 million and counting.. the farmers didn't want it. If 70 ft wind turbines can make the turn, its wide enough. What happens when the traffic from 401 is used then. How will people get on the road? Will you need to hire police to monitor it. A 100 million civic centre. Ridiculous.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 05:55 PM

Reduce services??? Oh wait.... What services? I don't even get garbage pickup! And in winter, plowing the road i live on seems like an afterthought at times!

Anonymous

10/07/2024 08:55 PM

Anything but increase our taxes maybe reduce services and workforce

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:32 AM

Sell buildings that are being used less then 40 to 50% of the time. Quit buying more buildings that we don't need

Anonymous

10/08/2024 11:20 AM

We need to look at the actual duties of management and equipment budgets and also time to make management and workers more accountable for their duties

Anonymous

10/08/2024 04:41 PM

Why not use a long time known cost reducer by offering buy outs to high earners and replacing them with professionals to start at lower wages. Instead of cutting services.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:58 PM

I suggest you do not allow any reserves to get used in other areas to lower budget increases.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 06:34 AM

Smaller municipalities require aid in funding probably at a higher rate than the large cities with much higher tax sources. Infrastructure is extremely costly and necessary no matter where one lives.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:25 AM

Private industry has and always will outperform government run/controlled services and infrastructure. Get out of the way but set and monitor the rules.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 11:43 AM

It's time to review staffing and restructure.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 12:56 PM

Review city assets and identify land and buildings to sell. More money in C-K coffers.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:32 PM

Every dept. must be required to reduce their budget by a minimum of 10% Increasing taxes is not an option

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:40 PM

It is hard to believe we have a deficit toward maintaining infrastructure when you are forcing the downtown center. I hope you can see the general frustration.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:59 PM

Chatham Kent should hire new administrators capable of this challenge.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 04:39 PM

Our roads are horrible, flooding happens in many areas of Chatham and our bridges are all falling apart. Instead of fixing what we have right now, that needs it. You all decide that a roundabout on the number 2 highway is where to spend money, and way to much money at that.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 05:00 PM

The provincial government needs to increase its funding for municipal infrastructure. The current level is not sufficient, and shows in the

condition of CK roads (one example).

Anonymous

10/09/2024 05:44 PM

Our taxes are already incredibly high for the services we receive, and high for our location.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:06 PM

Ditch the plan for the Sears building

Anonymous

10/10/2024 04:40 AM

We need to focus on necessities vs wants and also divest and request more funding. This also includes looking at prioritizing items, watching high wage increases, and making sure that the more taxes go up, we're not losing services. The impression is we pay more and lose more and that's a problem. People will leave this area if services get cut.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 10:06 AM

Councilors have made some decisions on infrastructure with out consulting the tax payers and wasting tax funds example... the roundabout that is not necessary especially considering the increase from 2 million dollars to over 6 million when a properly timed traffic light would be more than adequate. The waste of money on the moving of the municipal office into an older building. Talk about a money pit.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 11:49 AM

Our roads are crap, seems like a lot of employees don't care, it's just a job. Why cut grass along the roads. Why have Vegtec spray weeds in the fall when they are dead and gone to seed?

Anonymous

10/10/2024 12:32 PM

The tax payer does not always have to be the solution here. Continuing to increase taxes will drive population and businesses away from CK.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 02:36 PM

Another silly question. Again, one would want the Province to increase funding.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 05:05 PM

The province needs to fund more of this because they are relying on municipalities and giving us more responsibilities

Anonymous

10/10/2024 07:48 PM

we are getting down loaded all the time tried of that

Anonymous

10/11/2024 08:45 AM

Increases and cost of everything has pushed people to bankruptcy. With all your increases I have yet to see the services to match these increases. In 8 years of living here I have seen the police twice. Not very good service and when I called to complain about people knocking on our doors around 10 p.m. or scouting our yards the person answering the phone did not even know where Bothwell was.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:06 AM

Chatham Kent is out of control with their spending. They need to cut back in all departments. They are wasting my tax dollars and need to be made accountable.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:11 AM

I think given the geo-landscape of Chatham Kent the province which forced amalgamation, with all the roads and bridges, then should be doing a whole lot more. That's not even going into the downloading of roads that went from Provincial Hwys to Chatham-Kent. As well I think the Federal government has to take on some of the load as well.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 11:34 AM

We can not demand provincial funding, so go ahead and request it. But don't increase taxes beyond inflation (like 3%). Put a hiring freeze in place like Windsor did, I am sure we have many talented employees that could be moved to fill positions.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 09:01 PM

There are many parks in Chatham that could be made residential lots on the circumference thus adding revenue and increasing our tax base

Anonymous

10/12/2024 03:16 AM

cancel the roundabout on Queens Line, reduce speed limits or put signal lights similar at Creek Road and Highway 40 or install speed bumps. do not waste \$ 6.5 million

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:14 AM

We don't get any services in the country. I don't see how they could be reduced.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:18 AM

We don't need to be taking on additional buildings such as the proposed new hub. The Municipality will be still owning the current building for some time. When a building burnt several years ago it was rebuilt rather than consolidating at another location.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:44 AM

The answer to the infrastructure question lies in a blend of all of the above.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 11:16 AM

Again, a few sentences hardly comply. I ran a business for 35 years with 25 employees. We ran in the 'black', and if my costs increased, I combined increasing charges with reducing overhead in multiple places. The point being, I never ran in the 'red' and that's how C-K should be managed. We are clearly top heavy and so many of the 'known' expenses we the taxpayers are allowed to know about, are such wasteful and unnecessary expenses. Both divestment and reduces services would be checked off if two options were allowed. eg. the Merlin roundabout is absurd, unnecessary, not well understood by most drivers, and signage and/or traffic lights are much less costly. Another example are the traffic lights employed in Charing Cross. What an unnecessary waste of funds, especially when all the concrete curbing is added on. Four -way signage would be ample. i can't count the times I sit there at the red light with no traffic in sight, and I use this intersection almost daily [and run through it].

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:03 PM

Chatham-Kent continues to spend in spite of any funding gaps. Stop spending, and say no to demands for increased spending and more social services. Reduce the size of the council and administration.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:14 PM

Let's get real and start saving money the party is over Chatham Kent let's get real here

Anonymous

10/12/2024 01:41 PM

Infrastructure project costs should be shared with other levels if possible, if not, neglecting them will lead to far greater costs in the long run.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 02:44 PM

Council needs to review its own expenses and budget. I'm assuming there is a lot of inefficiencies and waste of our tax payer monies. A total review of all departments I think is warranted and necessary to make sure our tax payer dollars are spent wisely, which I don't think is happening now

Anonymous

10/12/2024 05:52 PM

Increase taxes, explore ways to reduce service delivery, increased provincial funding. But we obviously can't rely only on the finding from the province. Local LOS will need to change.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 06:24 PM

Eliminate all funding for groups.. Reduce staff . Cut pay for All staff in the Sun Shine club.

Anonymous

10/13/2024 12:46 PM

the issues we have in front of us is based solely on the poor management of our infrastructure by CK and the province in the last 15 year. an example of this is the capital theatre, the proposed twin pad arena and now a new community hub. a lot of wasted money

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:39 PM

Realistically the provincial government is not going to completely solve our tax problems and the citizens cannot expect a 0 increase of taxes but a combination of all the above plus other creative ways to join, share and amalgamate departments, jobs and responsibilities would serve us well.

Anonymous

10/13/2024 06:21 PM

This is exactly why you make us so angry!!! You know very well that there is a TON of wastage and way too many municipal employees (including some who make way too much money off the backs of tax payers). We can begin to take you seriously once you start talking about reducing YOU!! Rather than screwing over the tax payers. Your go to is always "what services should we cut". NO!!!! Cut useless spending AND cut useless job positions like DEI employees!!!!!!

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:02 PM

We all have a budget. When your outgo exceeds your income your upkeep is your downfall. All levels of government need to reduce taxes

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:39 PM

We need to keep our infrastructure. However, I would also like to examine the overall cost of services including administration. I would expect the solution to be multi-faceted, not an either or. Provincial funding doesn't solve the problem if we end up paying more taxes at the provincial level. Increasing taxes without adjusting where money is spent overall is not the answer. And, maybe some divesting is also a solution.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 04:00 PM

Too many things have been downloaded onto the local tax payer.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 08:49 PM

This question is written to support CK's agenda. None of the above would be the choice.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 09:05 PM

Creative ways must be implemented to reduce the gap. Each manager should be pressed to reduce spending in their area. From my experience when pressed it was possible to reduce spending

without reducing the work we did. Also with all the new builds in C-K I do not understand why we have a gap. The new tax revenues should cover the gap.

Anonymous

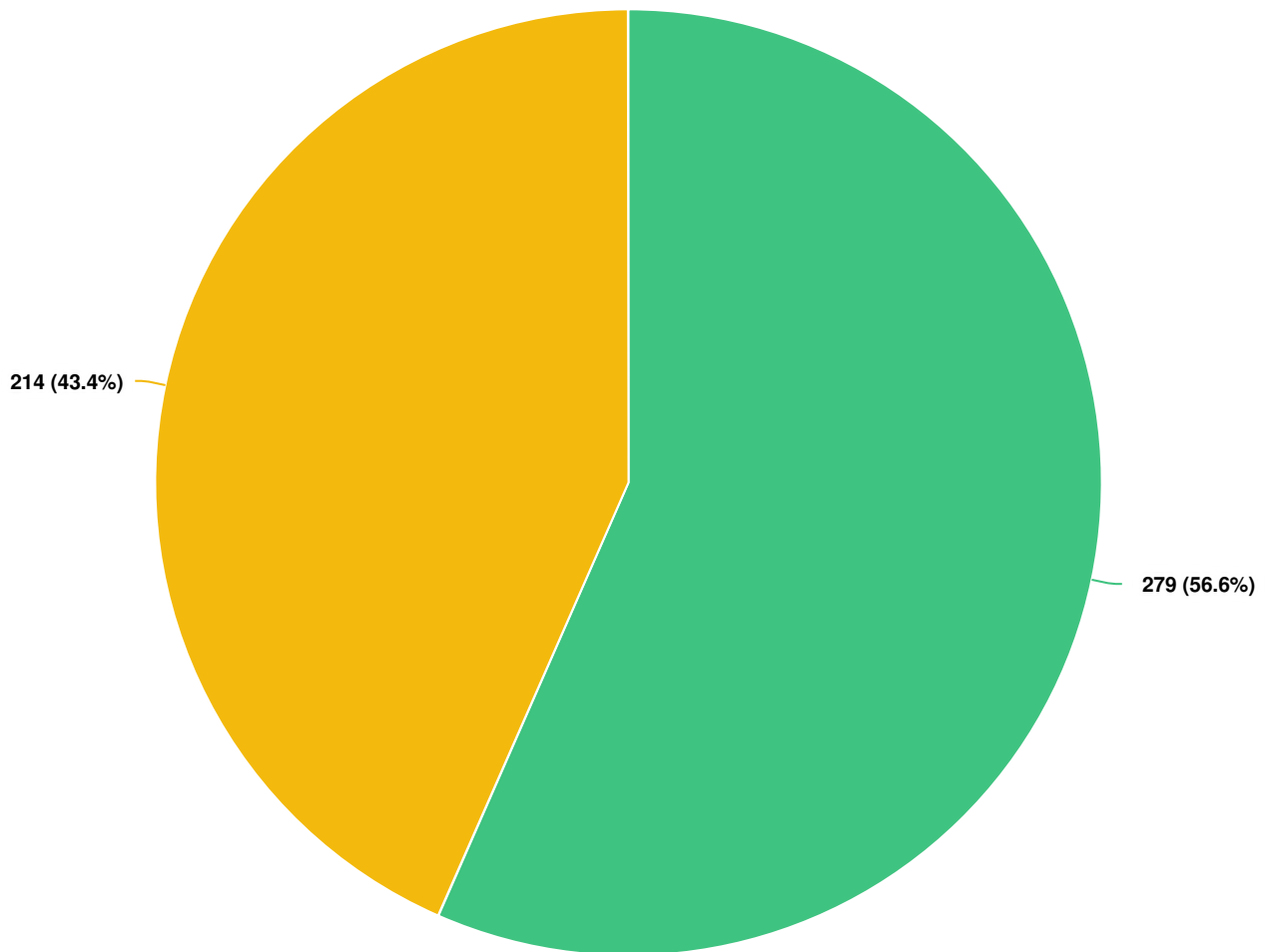
Cut all social services

10/14/2024 09:22 PM

Optional question (172 response(s), 334 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q10 Over the past few years, the library has eliminated overdue fines eliminating barriers to public library services. To continue to eliminate barriers, do you support the elimination of parking fees on Library Lane behind the Chatham Library to better serve library patrons?



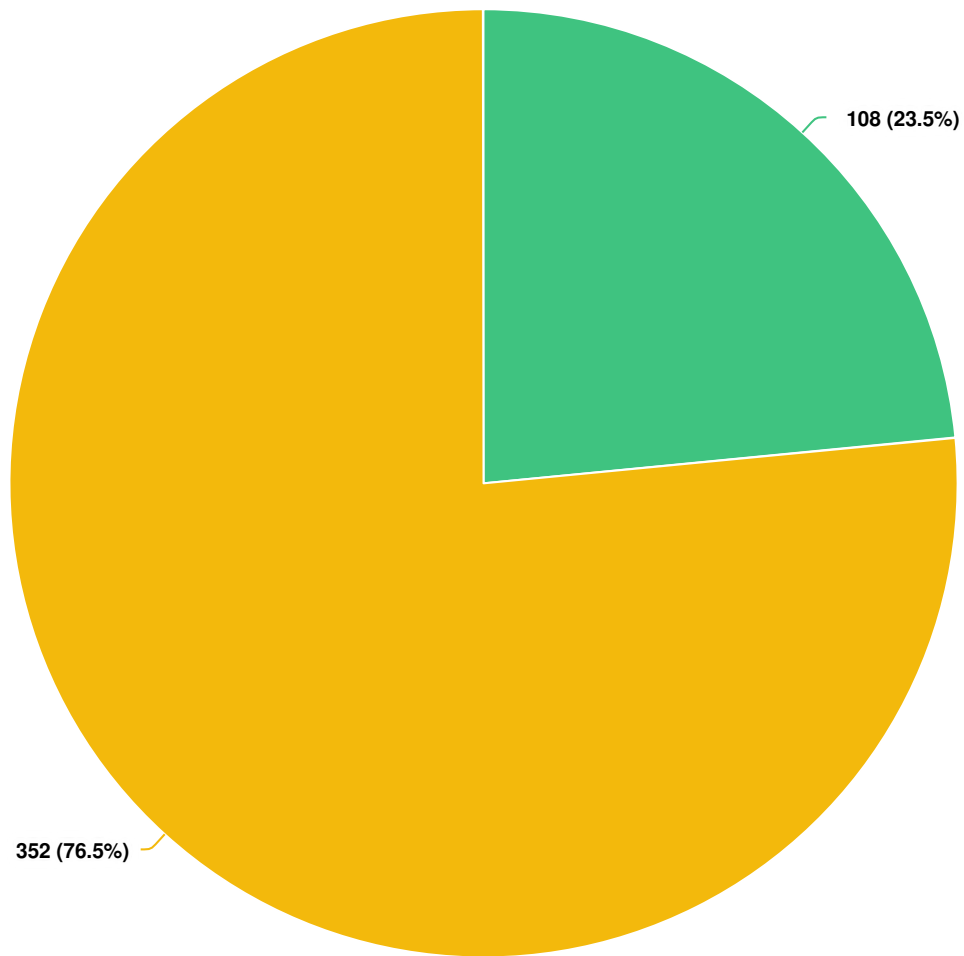
Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (493 response(s), 13 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q11 | Would you like to leave a comment based on the question you just answered?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (460 response(s), 46 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q12 | Please leave your comment

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:42 AM

I don't use the library

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:09 PM

if tax increases are based on whether or not someone uses a parking meter then there is definitely a problem!! tax increase are due to too many overpaid employees!!!!

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:22 PM

By that token there should be no fee to park outside of Book Brothers either. Stop trying to use gov't to choose winners and losers.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:33 PM

What a dumb question (to be blunt) You're talking about peanuts. I've been to the library with my 95 year old mother a few times and there more employees than visitors!

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:13 PM

If people can't afford a few dollars to pay for parking, we are in a bad spot. If it reduces taxes to keep paid parking, keep it.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 06:48 PM

Free parking is already available a short walk away. People who don't wish to pay for parking already park elsewhere and I can't imagine this lost revenue would be in any way significant.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:35 PM

How much annually is actually gleaned from library parking and is it a material amount? Doubtful.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 12:24 AM

There should never be parking charges on municipal property.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:21 AM

There is plenty of free parking on side roads. Patrons driving to the library can afford to pay the \$1-\$2 parking fees which then go towards property maintenance.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:27 AM

There should be no parking cost associated with the library or downtown if you actually want people to use the facilities in the area.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:43 AM

We need more free parking downtown.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:08 AM

How many people exactly use the library times have changed most people use the internet

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:27 AM

Those spaces should be used mainly for handicapped usage. Lord knows we all could use the little walk from the overflow lot!

Anonymous

9/28/2024 10:03 AM

Paying a small fine because I did not return a book in time is not a barrier. The removal of the fine is simply passing along Library resources onto every taxpayer. I think if I am using the service then the parking fee is reasonable, providing the parking fee goes to support library operations. You can keep downloading cost onto the taxpayer.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 10:55 AM

Perhaps time, limited parking would be viable for those in the library and waiting to get into the library

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:21 PM

Absolutely not. There is a free parking lot that is less than a two minute walk away and there are disabled parking spots for those that cannot walk very far. I also think they need to bring back overdue fines to teach responsibility and accountability...for those that you are worried about barriers, treat them on a 1:1 special basis.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:23 PM

There is free parking down the street....please take your jobs seriously and reduce the size of government and tax burden.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:37 PM

People need to pay for iservices like overdue fines..it should not fall on all taxpayers..please stop treating people like children. If you make a mistake pay for it and move on. Local government should not be everyone's safety net

Anonymous

9/30/2024 09:22 AM

Parking is already very difficult to find near the Chatham Library, virtually non existent. If you make it free then people will park there who aren't library patrons.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 05:10 AM

The library is a service that should be paid for by the users

Anonymous

10/01/2024 10:32 AM

Driving is a privilege. Stop being silly. If you can't afford to drive, you can't drive. That includes parking your car. I don't get why

municipalities are like 'Let's give away expensive land away for free to subsidize drivers and encourage more drivers to drive and then complain about how expensive infrastructure is.' Wait, you already complained about infrastructure costs earlier, eh?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:43 AM

i think there should be a pay what you can type system, somehow. of course some people will take advantage, but i believe most people will generally pay if they can afford to if they know its to support the library, and may even pay more

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:57 AM

There's 4 parking spaces.... This is actually a question??? Overdue fines??? They are minimal as well as forgivable... and this question is what???

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

The revenue received from the few parking spaces is insignificant.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

People who use the library should pay for parking if they choose too. They also can choose to park in a public spot and walk.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 AM

Chatham should increase paid parking everywhere. This can add funds to the municipality to close the "gap" for infrastructure.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:46 AM

Though removing parking fees is important, it would still be crucial to make sure that parking is being used by Library patrons.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:09 PM

Would need a means to prevent non-library users (neighbourhood residents and their guests) from occupying those spaces.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:10 PM

Parking lot control gate operating by a library card in good standing??
Need Some type of control.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:49 PM

It would be interesting to know how much was collected from the meters and what the cost of monitoring them was. This is likely a cost elimination that in no way affects the overall budget.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:50 PM

Chatham Kent is not just Chatham. We use our local library, and will never use Chatham's facility.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:54 PM

There is a library parking lot which is rarely if ever full.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:58 PM

those who you are trying to help make the library more accessible, may use public transit or walk. they likely are not concerned with paying a meter for parking.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 01:15 PM

Why is this even a question? The meters were removed MONTHS ago after a RTC. What do parking fees have to do with library fines? If you're looking for affirmation on removal of barriers, the question could have been asked differently.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:32 PM

Why is this even a question when everyone with a brain already knows that you want to move the library or are you asking to question to appease the public that a decision to move the library hasn't already been finalized when the vote is Oct 21 2024, anyone with a average IQ can see that this question is pure bogus

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:50 PM

Ample free parking available in the lot to the east.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:07 PM

Really?? How much does this impact overall budget?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:21 PM

Very few spaces, the revenue generated here is negligible.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:29 PM

Any business that requires me to pay for parking doesn't receive my business.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:36 PM

How many people actually use the library anymore?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

I support the elimination of parking fees on all essential services, including library and medical services.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:45 PM

If you are saying that MPAC hasn't done a reassessment of Municipally-owned properties, I would question why this wasn't done sooner and why Chatham-Kent did not anticipate and reserve some

of the taxes collected to prepare for this. And really - your biggest question is about parking fees for the library that serves a terribly small percentage of people? What really are you trying to get at here?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:07 PM

This is a city run service to our community! Why is the city charging for parking in the first place??? Our service our property.....there should be NO parking fees! Layoff one person from the cities hierarchy Sunshine Club and their would be NO parking fees downtown or at city services!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:11 PM

That will solve nothing

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:13 PM

Why pay for a public library if you have to pay to use it. Reintroduce fines as they are the users fault/

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:06 PM

Late book fees should still be charged. People need to be responsible

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:59 PM

There is free parking very close to the library.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:18 PM

If you are going to use a municipal service you should pay for it. By paying for the services you use you can decrease property taxes and increase service fees. This pay residents pay for services per equitably.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:27 PM

The books are free to borrow, and if a person has enough money to drive a car, they have enough money to pay for the parking.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:56 PM

I am a firm believer of user pays

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:07 PM

Come on. That's were you want to help the tax payer. That shouldn't be on the survey. Its like asking if we should eliminate property taxes for home owners because it bars people from owning homes. Fines should be on overdue books. Bring the books back when they are due and everything is free. Absolutely no barrier, just laziness

Anonymous

How is the library going to obtain the revenue offset for loss of

10/02/2024 09:23 PM

parking fees if the fees are eliminated? Again - sensible, fiscally responsible heads should prevail. I have no problem in paying overdue fines for not using all library services responsibly - paying fines is not a barrier - unless a patron has been incapacitated or dead. Trying to do everything for everyone - like photocopying pages for an individual who then advised no funds and walked out without paying the \$10 ++ !!! - I just shook my head.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 PM

I never use the library, so parking is of no concern to me.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:30 PM

Bring back the fines

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:41 PM

I didn't know fines were eliminated. Many books I borrow state there is an overdue fine if not returned on time.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:55 PM

If these limited number of parking spaces are free then i believe they should be dedicated for handicapped parking and there should be 30 minute time limit max .

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:03 AM

People need to be accountable and do their part no matter how small it seems. Pay your parking fee

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:09 AM

Libraries should self fund

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:42 AM

At the end of the day, taxpayers pay the cost of people being irresponsible. If anything the library should give a 1-time per year refundable fee (for example, \$50 a year) and then if the borrower has been up to date on all their returns, they will receive it all back. If not, they will receive the difference back.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:03 AM

Honestly I don't care. Here again another service that does not require government oversize. And more than half of the municipality does not use this library

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 AM

Parking is one more opportunity for a cash grab

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:58 AM

if you can afford to drive a car, you can afford the fees.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 02:13 PM

What barriers? You can return a book at any time and you're not forced to park there.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:36 PM

Canada Post employees and others will use these places.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:25 PM

The library is a great way for students and people to get information. So way fine them unless they abused it, say if someone was there who excessive time.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:16 PM

I have to laugh. What those meters charge? A quarter an hour. Probably cost more to ticket people. What a joke. I think u took the meters out in preparation of the big move to the Sears building. It is not very encouraging to learn that Windsor decided to level their building yet we feel ours is worth saving. This project is going to go over budget in so many ways.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:45 AM

The parking fees help to fund the main library. Keep the fees in place.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 10:11 AM

You can't have it both ways. Do we need the revenue? Then pay for use.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 10:44 AM

There needs to be some free parking available to those in need like students for example

Anonymous

10/04/2024 11:39 AM

This question is a moot point if you are going to move the library against its wishes.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 12:51 PM

Why eliminate overdue fines, how does this eliminate barriers? If you borrow something bring it back by the due date, if not they should be fined. This is not a barrier, it is simple.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:20 AM

Thank GOD the province has not allowed MPAC to complete new property reassessments. It only gives the municipalities a license to increase taxes and their tax base.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 12:36 PM

Is this truly a significant cost savings activity? I can't imagine this would have the same impact as some of the other opportunities to reduce costs.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 02:16 PM

Eliminate parking fees, YES, along with the dollar charge for swimming and skating. Chump change in the big picture. This is the best that can be suggested? I am sure it costs more to handle the measly amount collected from these so called user fees. 6 million dollar roundabouts, 50 million dollar city hall for people working from home, now we are talking savings. By the way, send the street sweeper past my house on Lacroix St. once in a while to make me feel good about the \$165.00 a week it cost me for taxes (if it's not broken again, like I said maintenance)

Anonymous

10/05/2024 04:45 PM

If you can afford a car, you can afford to park. There is a free lot down the street (less than 100m away probably)

Anonymous

10/05/2024 04:50 PM

There's a free parking lot down the street.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 07:34 PM

Enforce any time allowed

Anonymous

10/06/2024 11:59 AM

First you talk about eliminating overdue fines--then you switch to eliminating parking fines.....Parking should be free to all handicapped patrons.

Anonymous

10/06/2024 07:45 PM

Yes, I use the library and feel the current location is a great place for all in Chatham.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 09:31 AM

Most Municipalities have paid parking, it isn't expensive, this should continue.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 03:47 PM

Who gets the \$ from the parking fee? Does it go directly to the Library or into the City's black hole. And its time to bring back late fees. This was not a barrier to using the library, it was an appropriate way to have materials returned promptly. If people don't want to pay for parking at the library, have them travel to other areas in CK where there is no such fee.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 04:20 PM

How about implementing a library user fee. I mean, do we really need a library anymore. Of the 45000 or so people of Chatham (city) how many use it?

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:32 AM

Should not have to pay for parking...give 2 hour free parking every where

Anonymous

10/08/2024 10:23 AM

No parking fees would have people parking all day, every day

Anonymous

10/08/2024 11:20 AM

Why spend time on a question with such little meaning let's focus on the real problems

Anonymous

10/08/2024 03:49 PM

There is free parking down the street from the library. People should be made to walk. It is good for them.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:58 PM

User fees for people that use services should be adopted. In many areas.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 06:34 AM

Libraries are extremely important in today's confusing world. If one can afford a car then parking is part of one's budget. Better to get some exercise and walk or take public transit if a fee for parking is keeping one from the library.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:58 AM

It would be interesting to know how much libraries across Chatham Kent get used. One would think that usage has really dropped over time.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 12:56 PM

Walking. Lots of parking around library. More money in C-K coffers. Helps the environment.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 01:02 PM

overdue fines on children and teen materials have not been charged since 2023. overdue fines are still charged on other materials. The City of Windsor does not charge overdue fines. Interesting that one municipality thinks it is necessary and then another does not. I'll leave it to the accountants to be certain that the revenue generated or saved through improved book returns is greater than the cost of tracking and collecting fines.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:08 PM

It is in the interest of our community to keep the library accessible to everyone. That being said there should be a time limit for free parking.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:06 PM

Should not be eliminating revenue sources while projecting tax increases

Anonymous

10/10/2024 04:40 AM

I think it's also important to say that looking at the stats from the recent surveys about moving downtown, no one wants to move. The stats also don't add up when it states well be saving money. We'll be saving money for some things and then adding more for other things. How is that saving anyone any money? If we're looking at budget cuts, how is this plan even being asked to move forward? It's actually really scary to think that you're thinking of doing such a huge project that impacts everyone so drastically. I honestly hope this stops now before people continue to go even more hungry or lose their homes. Goodness, we are fortunate to have a two income household but if my taxes go up and we lose more services in the community, we may even have to consider moving elsewhere after ten years.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 11:49 AM

I don't use the library so why should I pay for the fines and parking?

Anonymous

10/10/2024 05:05 PM

Parking fees should be eliminated yes, but better access to the library with public transit and bike lanes leading to the library should also be a priority.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 09:25 PM

Why ask a question like that when you want to move library that is under used,because of computers and phones

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:06 AM

Library's are a thing of the past . You can find everything you want on the computer or cell phone. Its a joke to spend money on Libraries. Go to a cafe get a coffee and use their service.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 09:01 PM

Whatever!

Anonymous

10/12/2024 03:16 AM

anyone can park there all day to limit library usage, like less people will visit the library

Anonymous

10/12/2024 11:16 AM

In our 'pandering' society, where people do not accept responsibility for their own actions and the subsequent consequences, because some people choose not to pay their fines, that is hardly a reason to simply eliminate them altogether. What if people choose to ignore all parking meters? Does that mean we just 'lower the bar' and not charge everyone for their chosen delinquency? Where does all this end?

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:03 PM

Those wishing to park on Library Lane should be required to go into the library and get a parking pass and place it on their dash. Parking would be permitted in this area only with a pass and others parked there should be ticketed. The tickets will likely more than cover lost parking revenues and at least making parking for library patrons available.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 02:44 PM

One of the options should be unsure. I'm not sure about whether parking should be free or not. There are pros and cons both ways. I think it is best decided by the library board.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 07:44 PM

Very few people use the library. Leave them alone.

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:39 PM

the amount of income generated from this is not enough to warrant the policing of it by our meter personnel.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:02 PM

The library is a business, be relevant, be responsible and deliver services to your members. Expect responsible members or train them to be.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 04:00 PM

How much income do those 5 meters generate, \$50 a year?

Anonymous

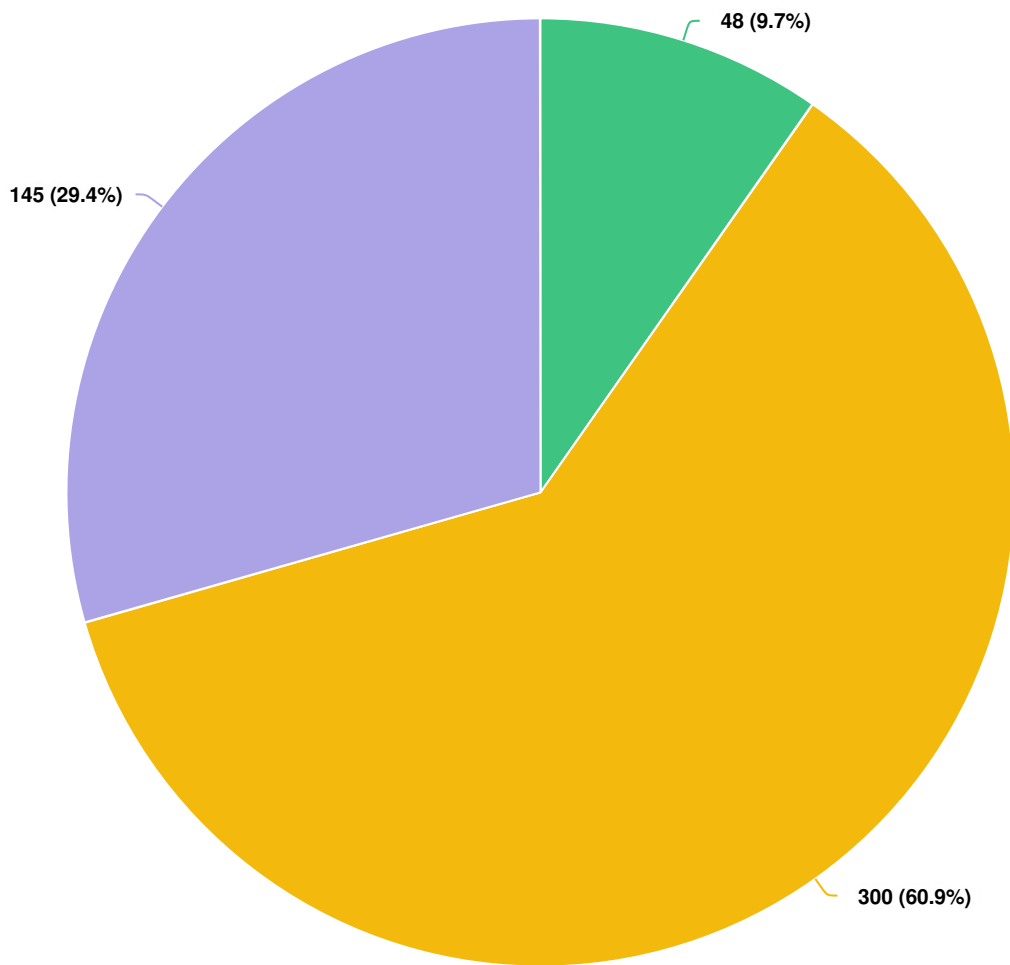
10/14/2024 08:49 PM

There should be a benefit to consumers if property taxes are increasing. What is the cost to have these parking spots.

Optional question (108 response(s), 398 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q13 | If you, as a taxpayer, were to have a choice to increase user fees to lessen the tax increase, keep the user fees the same (with minimal increase) but have the tax base increase, or reduce services, which would you choose?

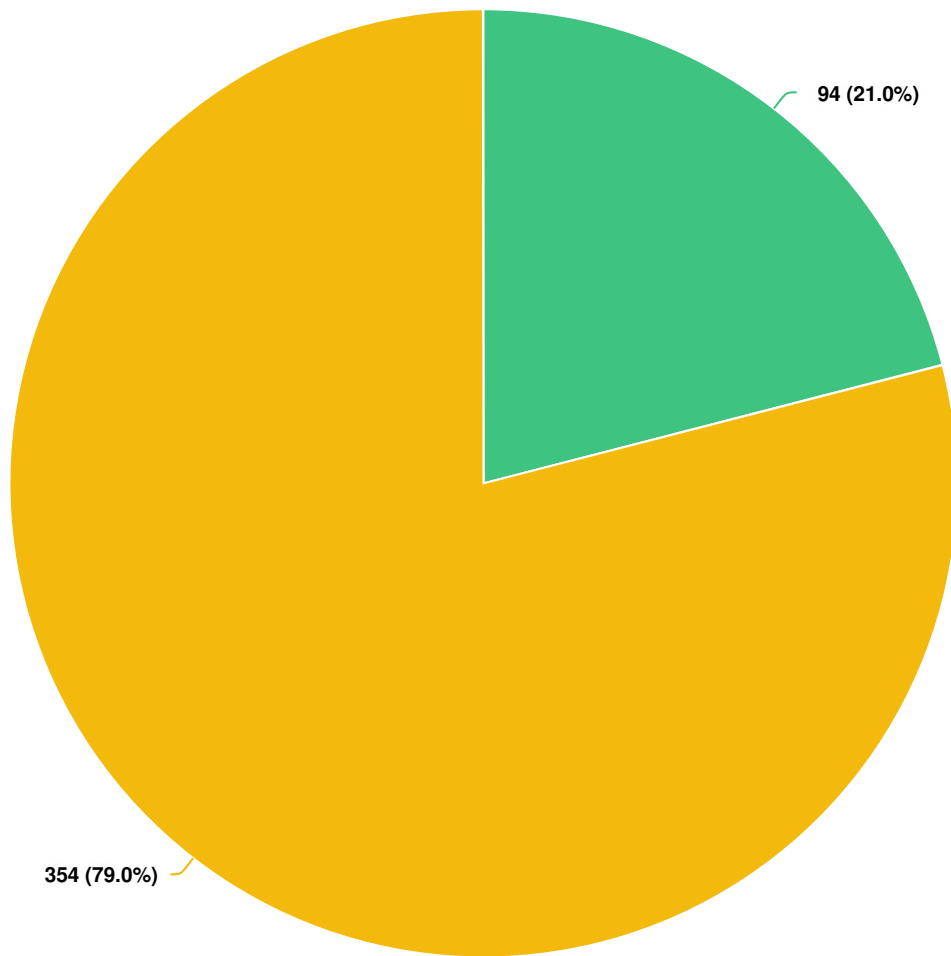


Question options

- Keep user fees stable, increase property tax
- Increase user fees, less impact on tax increase
- Reduce services

Optional question (493 response(s), 13 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q14 | Would you like to leave a comment based on the question you just answered?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (448 response(s), 58 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q15 Please leave your comment

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:42 AM

Our taxes are high enough

Anonymous

9/27/2024 01:56 PM

yes. Wheatley don't have 911 number

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:16 PM

reduce council member funding...

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:09 PM

A taxpayer should not have to cover the cost of false alarms

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:22 PM

Your question does not provide any metrics around type, alternatives in private sector, usage, typical user, nor capital/operating/divestiture costs for these "services". Therefore no meaningful and informed response to your question can be made.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:33 PM

Again, where are the cost factors? Where is the transparency?

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:13 PM

Pay to play. Simple as that.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:52 PM

You are bleeding me dry.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 12:24 AM

once again , the 3 choices are your choices , not the average taxpayers choice. Look for savings within, and you know where to start.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

I'm a senior and simply can't afford much more before I'm one of the homeless you are supposedly trying to help.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

I don't mind paying for something that I want, I budget for it. I don't expect others to pay my way. My taxes helped pay for a skate park, I never used it! Same as ball diamonds, hockey rinks, pickle ball courts, and swimming pools. If someone wants to use them, make them pay. If they can't generate the income to pay for it, looks like it

isn't as necessary as thought

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:27 AM

What does the CRTC have to do with health and safety?

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:53 AM

Can't AFFORD any increases of any kind. Fees or taxes. Enough

Anonymous

9/28/2024 05:23 PM

Those who use this service should pay for it, Otherwise CRTC should provide some funding for mandatory programming

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:13 PM

The current proposed tax increases are too high for the residents. Reducing services, reducing departmental costs must be a top priority at this time.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 05:10 AM

Live within your means, I have to., so should Chatham-Kent

Anonymous

10/01/2024 10:32 AM

I pay my own way. That's why I love the Carbon Tax. Usually, subsidies go to people who don't need it. Thank you greener homes. I was going to do all that stuff anyways, but I will take your \$20,000. Silly poor person. You can't benefit because you have no money. Oh! Now let's subsidize the guy in an F350 contributing to climate change than complains that his lake side house is washing away into the lake and demands millions of repairs to protect their property. Silly silly silly. Seriously. This is why the public sector gets no respect. You waste money on people who can best afford it and they complain how you waste their tax money; while leaving the people who need most help with no supports at all who can't figure out why the hell the government doesn't listen. What would you subsidize? Arena fees? Winter sports are not for the unfortunate. Parking? Because cars are so cheap. There is very little you can subsidize without just simply benefiting the upper classes. Heck, look at education. The rich always send their kids to school. They receive more benefit from education subsidies. Better to offer directed assistance than subsidize for all.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

There is nothing wrong with the 9-1-1 service as it now is. However, since it is mandated by the CRTC there isn't anything we can do about it except reduce the tax payer impact by increasing user fees.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 AM

The huge property taxes increases are hurting all residents. I enjoy many of the services provided by the municipality. I do notice that

most services that are tax funded are not used well or is mismanaged. The municipality should not fund services that only a small minority will use .

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:12 AM

The municipality can't be all things to all people. It is time to make serious cuts to be able to afford what it is that we really need.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:33 AM

This is a double edged sword. Increase user fee or high taxes ... well whatever you increase we still paying more somewheredumb question.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:38 AM

Again the correct option to choose is not there. The problem is improper management of funds.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:29 AM

If this has been mandated by the CRTC, why do local ratepayers have to burden the cost? Should it not be covered through Federal or Provincial?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:50 AM

Create a commercial tax or municipal sales tax on all goods and services in Chatham Kent

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:35 PM

A community of 110K would be better served by contracting the CERB to a larger location where costs could be shared and savings made. This would of course conflict with C-K's current requirements of owning & controlling everything, to hell with the cost. The current practice of police/fire dispatchers acting as CERB calltakers as well is not efficient.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:58 PM

a slight increase in taxes could help to reduce the user fee increase. maybe 20 % to 30 %of the cost

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:31 PM

Again this is not appropriate for property tax either increase user fees or reduce underused services like arenas that are only used less than 25% of the available ice time or consolidate underused small library branches.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:32 PM

Again this comes to a matter of preparedness this isn't old news this has been know and proper city planning could have prepared you for this decision better planning

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:36 PM

Not everybody has a method to send information to 911. Maybe you're thinking of sending everyone an ipad?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

I'm not sure how 911 fees are charged, but I think they are a fee to phone providers, included in the monthly invoice. This is where it should be kept.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:45 PM

If the CRTC is mandating a change to the 911 system, why would the municipalities have to pay for it? What percentage is being paid for the 911 system by the federal government and province and what would end up being the cost to the residents of Chatham-Kent if you were to put it in our taxes? I would also question the increase to police services budget- with a high percentage on paid leave, does the public know that we are paying for that many on leave? And that policies by the union that allow for one hour of overtime being paid out as 3 hours - how is that of benefit to the community- especially since those policies apply to support staff of the police who are not in harms way/? It is wasteful and not a good use of tax payers dollars. And that's only what I know about - who knows how much that is happening at all levels of municipal government or those who are supported by our tax dollars.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:07 PM

Same old threaten the tax payer with taking away their most important securities to cover your irresponsible squandering of our tax dollars!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:59 PM

None are good choices but cost must be covered.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:18 PM

If you are going to use a municipal service you should pay for it. By paying for the services you use you can decrease property taxes and increase service fees. This pay residents pay for services per equitably.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:56 PM

Again it is user pay, (I am sick and tiered of paying to subsidize a life style that I can not afford, (that I paid my way and now I m expected to pay others)

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:07 PM

Basically copy and paste from comments above. Taxed to death. Make the cuts. Police services need to be under the same microscope that every other department is in. Not asking for cuts to

personal or any safety equipment. Now I know you are going to say you have no control over it, but that's not entirely true. You have a vote to except or not except their budget. Its a huge portion of our tax bill and they can do a whole lot better job. Same as every other department. Is it a need or nice to have. If not don't put it on the taxpayer.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:23 PM

What a question !!! ???? What is / are the current user fee(s) ?? When charged ??? Believe I've been paying 911 fee as part of phone service - Again, no idea what the fee amount will be, nor what is meant by "user fee" - if I should call 911 - when / what will I be charges for as a user.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 PM

If the 911 system requires upgrading then work on reducing other waste items in the budget to accommodate essentials.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:55 PM

Again, these proposed answers are skewed. A reduction in services is not acceptable, and therefore administration needs to find internal costs savings to keep tax increases equivalent to the cost of living. Large tickets items such a new downtown centre are not feasible at this time. A twin pad arena with pool and other activity complex should be a much higher priority than a downtown centre.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:02 PM

Not everyone should have to pay for services they don't use

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:30 AM

Increase user fees across the board but allow people who can't afford stuff to get a lower rate so kids can still take part in recreation if their parents are poor. But the government proframs don't need to cheaper than the private day camps in town in the summer

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:03 AM

Lives matter and we can all contribute

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 AM

It seems the only answer is charge---must be a better approach

Anonymous

10/03/2024 12:56 PM

Here we go again with decrease service. Find savings within every department. I have a question, you want to create the hub, was was the civic center not repaired when the flooding happened. Was was the insurance money uses for?

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:04 PM

Dispatching so many police/fire/emergency vehicles and staff should only be as required, not for all calls. If someone is in emotional distress, all three may not be required. I recall the over-response when my dementia-addled mother-in-law made a number of emergency calls several years ago. There was no fire, no need for an ambulance, it was a mental health emergency only.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:35 PM

You guys are clowns. These are the questions for your \$350 million budget. Gaslighters extraordinaire

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:48 PM

EMS response times in CK are likely on or slightly above target. Kinda makes no sense to improve response times when (particularly) EMS crews race to the scene, initiate treatment then stand around in ER for minutes/hours waiting for their patient to access care.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:27 AM

Some examples of user fees would be nice to include.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 08:43 PM

We should learn to live by the maxim - "Cut your coat according to our size". Any deviations from this just injects unnecessary stress for everyone, with no penalties borne by anyone for flouting annual budgetary boundaries. Bad behaviours, if not sanctioned, will become the "expected and accepted norm" in future periods.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:20 AM

User fees are truly; eg hst, the only fair method of taxing a general population...the more you use the more you pay.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 10:48 AM

Depends upon the service. Garbage fees should probably increase, library should not. Some fees are already too high - regardless overall increases do not need to exceed the rate of inflation

Anonymous

10/05/2024 02:16 PM

I had to choose in order to comment, but my answer is none of the above. Option 4 how about finding inefficiencies.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 04:45 PM

I think my previous comments provide my general feelings. Fewer government services is less expensive reporting fewer tax dollars.

Anonymous

10/06/2024 07:45 PM

This question is vague, what services would be reduced? More information is needed.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 04:20 PM

Once again, a very leading question. Just stop taking on new projects we can't afford.

spuddydog

10/07/2024 04:42 PM

Reduce all services and reduce administration and council pay by 10 percent.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 08:55 PM

We cannot keep on increasing taxes people are broke

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:32 AM

I don't use all services ... so if you want to keep the service they should pay for it

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:58 PM

Increase user fees AND reduce services.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 06:34 AM

A pretty open ended question. However, Taxpayers who live 30 km from a facility should NOT subsidize those who can readily access whatever this question is regarding.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:25 AM

Its a service used by all, increasing taxes for it puts the burden on property owners only.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 07:58 AM

I have always believed in "user pay" as the fairest system.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 12:56 PM

Waste/recycling. Hire local contractors/people already employed with C-K. to take over these services. Put in their own bids to win jobs/contracts/keep doing jobs. Hiring private companies costs more money.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 01:02 PM

increase user fees or reduce services. increasing the property tax is an easy answer, but not the correct answer.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:32 PM

The CRTC mandate must be wholly subsidized by the federal govt

Anonymous

You are obviously increasing the user fees "keep the user fees the

10/09/2024 03:40 PM

same (with minimal increase) ". This question is insulting.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:59 PM

Again, we need to replace senior administration with people capable of providing these services within the existing budget.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 04:39 PM

Make better questions and options to answer. This feels like the question is only a loose, loose.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 05:57 PM

Increasing taxes in this economic climate is criminal in my opinion.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 04:40 AM

Some things are a choice and not everyone should have to pay for it.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 10:06 AM

What are the user fees? Who pays these fees and how much? We need more information to adequately answer that question.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 02:36 PM

The "Did you know" ahead of this is GREEK !!

Anonymous

10/10/2024 05:05 PM

We can increase user fees or increase teaxes but NEVER reduce services.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 07:48 PM

do we need it right now just like the civic center do we need it right now just fix what we have

Anonymous

10/11/2024 08:45 AM

If you use a service you pay for it. If I do not use the service I do not want to pay for it.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:06 AM

These so called systems to help people end up hurting people by getting hacked by criminals and more of your personal information is made available to them.. Another case where you think an apology will fix it.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:11 AM

Pay for what you use.

Anonymous

Those that use the services should pay most of the cost. If a service

10/11/2024 11:34 AM

is not being used change how it is provided. We have a bus service 4 times a day 6 days a week in Merlin with very few riders. There has to be a better way?

Anonymous

10/11/2024 09:01 PM

User fees should be increase the amount yearly as the tax rate

Anonymous

10/12/2024 03:16 AM

not everyone using the services, only the ones using the services pay more

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:18 AM

If by User fees you are referring to 911 calls I would only increase the fee if the call was unwarranted or frivolous. If you are speaking of other Municipal services it would depend on the service.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:44 AM

Our emergency services are most certainly critical needs, however that shouldn't mean they get a blank cheque with constant annual increases. Like any individual or organization, the managers and administrators of these services should be competent enough to live withing budgets that are "needs based" versus "wants based".

Anonymous

10/12/2024 11:16 AM

There becomes a limit on how much 'socialism' a taxpayer can tolerate. If you use the services, then pay for the services. In some cases, reduce services as needed [starting at the top since that is where the greatest wage expenditures exist]. All I'm asking is for an operating model that doesn't spend more than the revenue it receives. Debt is the monster that buries most people. It's no different for C-K.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:03 PM

It's long past the time where we need to live within our means and start saying ;no'.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 05:52 PM

Unclear what services this is referring to. Emergency services??

Anonymous

10/13/2024 12:46 PM

there is no appropriate answer to this question because by implementing user fees is a tax. which would lead to less use therefor less people moving to CK. Increasing taxes leads to bigger tented cities

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:39 PM

the people using the specific municipal property should be the ones bearing the main cost.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 10:55 AM

I live in a small community that has very little recreation facilities as the city of Chatham continues to get these new buildings and services. If you want to increase my taxes according to the assessment of my home why not use this same analogy so small towns don't have to fund all the projects that the city of Chatham gets.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:02 PM

Councillors are elected and paid to talk to voters and get an understanding of their positions and take responsibility for their representation of decisions they make. To often councillor's listen to special interest groups or lean on administration to make a decision for the councillors and ignore the ones they serve. The electorate.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:10 PM

What has all the MPAC people done over the last 8 years if they didn't do the reassessments? MPAC is funded by the municipalities and no one represents the taxpayer- its a rigged system that simply works to increase taxes to the benefit of governments- There is no incentive to think about the taxpayer.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:39 PM

We need greater clarity of where the costs of coming from. Are users abusing the services provided or is there another issue driving the use of the services. I would like more detail on this question. Examples of what user fees are, what is proposed, overall services provided. Again I believe the answer is multi-dimensional versus either/or. I would also want a deeper dive into revenue growth beyond increasing taxes.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 04:00 PM

Simple answer leave Chatham

Anonymous

10/14/2024 08:49 PM

No choice above. Wages in the municipality of CK are above most other municipalities. Manage the payroll more appropriately. All of the above affect the consumer negatively.

Anonymous

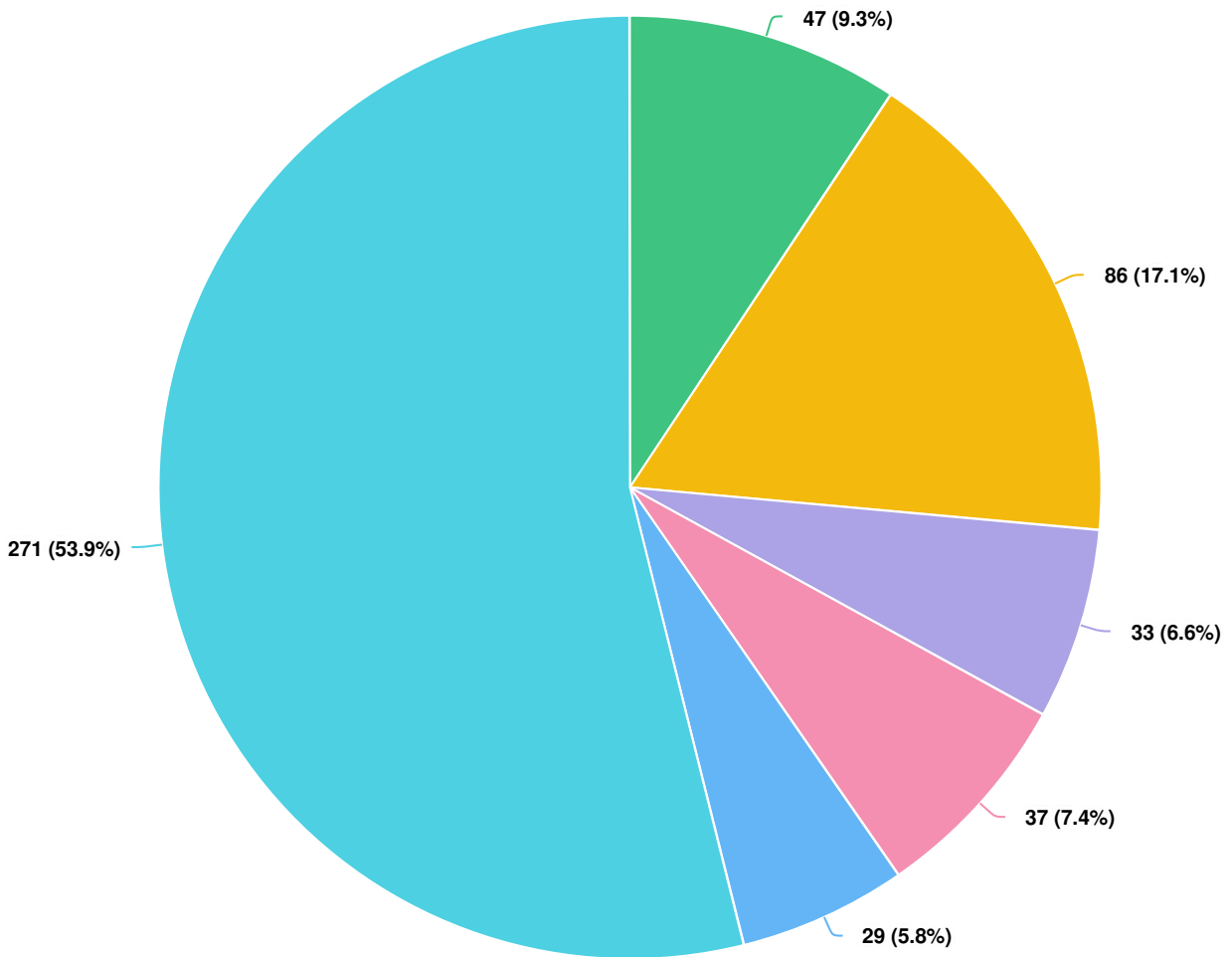
10/14/2024 09:05 PM

Whatever level of government that is driving the new system should cover the cost

Optional question (94 response(s), 412 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q16 Which ward do you reside in?

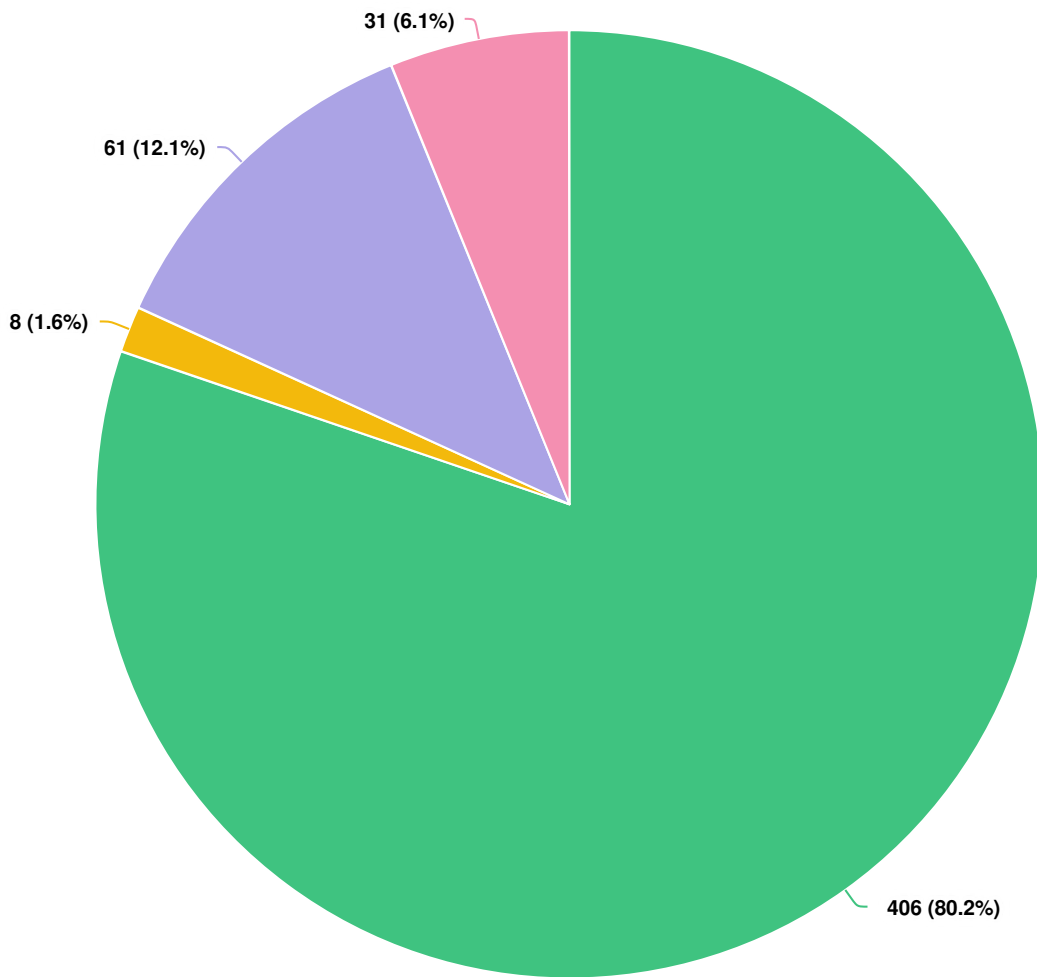


Question options

- Ward 1 - West Kent
- Ward 2 - South Kent
- Ward 3 - East Kent
- Ward 4 - North Kent
- Ward 5 - Wallaceburg
- Ward 6 - Chatham

Optional question (503 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q17 Are you a homeowner and/or business owner?



Question options

- Homeowner
- Business owner
- Both
- Neither

Optional question (506 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q18 | Please use the following box to provide any comments on this survey or suggestions for Administration and Council as they complete the 2025 annual update of the 2024-2027 multi-year budget.

Anonymous

9/26/2024 02:49 PM

I like the recent proposal from Mr Doyle.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 11:42 AM

Stop using municipality vehicles to go back & forth to work, drive their own vehicles, includes police, fire and municipality workers, would save wear and tear and fuel costs, everybody else has to drive back & forth in their own vehicle. Teach the grader operators how to grade a road properly or have Lambton county teach them

Anonymous

9/27/2024 12:56 PM

Once again, 48 Managers for 47 Supervisors. That is not counting Directors, GMs etc. I understand Fire and Police are untouchable but we need to start looking elsewhere for savings. I live just outside of Wallaceburg, Is a FULLTIME fire crew on 24/7 in Wallaceburg necessary? Leamington is a much larger community and is volunteer staff. We all know people would line up for these volunteer positions. The old excuse of we need it for our industry does not exist anymore. Instead of going after the frontline staff, is it not worth looking at how many Supervisors and Managers that make 25% more we have and how many are truly necessary? Do we need 10 Public Works supervisors? Supervisor of every arena? Supervisor of Therapeutic Rec (What is that?) Supervisor of Special Events, can that not be done by front line staff? 3 Supervisors for housing? I believe this is a good start to start trimming hundreds of thousands if not millions off the books and have zero effect on Services.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 01:09 PM

I am extremely disappointed and dissatisfied with the services rural taxpayers receive. Our taxes increase every single year with no change to services. Since Chatham Kent is defined as an extremely huge rural/farming community the treatment of the farming community is extremely sub par

Anonymous

9/27/2024 01:29 PM

Council needs to reduce taxes as much as possible. Maybe cutting some staff. I'm sure there are some that are redundant. Increasing taxes by \$30 a month or more is ridiculous. If these taxes keep going up large amounts there will be more people homeless. Taxes increase but wages and pensions do not!

Anonymous

All our tax dollars head to Chatham to do work.

9/27/2024 01:56 PM

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:01 PM

Would like to see the use of red light cameras at all major intersections as well as speed cameras set up along major arterial streets/avenues. The red light cameras should reduce collisions, running red and amber lights, holding up emergency vehicles. The speed cameras should assist in maintaining a decent speed. Both of this should assist police services. I'm prepared to pay a tax increase for the implementation of this cameras. The income can go towards both maintenance of the cameras and to police budget to assist in reducing their costs. Thank you

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:16 PM

please. reconsider the tax increase and over spending on the roundabout and temporary homes on Park/Hyslop. many are about to lose everything and the tax hike will certainly cause us to do so.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:24 PM

I am sorry but this survey is a bit of a joke if you want real input on where our money should be spent and how things should be ran in the system. We are obviously spending way too much money on administration and not enough on maintaining our rural and city roads for example. Wasting money on a round about on queens line instead of a stop light is ridiculous. Our county roads are the worst of any of the surrounding communities. Our main roads coming into Chatham are a joke as well. Where is our money going???

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:28 PM

you cannot keep giving taxpayers increases every year,you need to control your spending / after all we have to budget to survive&keep our spending under control

Anonymous

9/27/2024 02:54 PM

Get paving are rural roads. No more excuses. The dirt roads are horrible for air and human life. The dust layer does not work. Ruins are vehicles. And roads never see a grader. Full of potholes.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:02 PM

would like to see more jobs created in a town of dresden, wouldnt that decrease taxes.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:09 PM

Not jobs plus continuous tax increases equals a city where people don't want to live! People travel to Sarnia, Windsor etc to shop because Chatham has nothing to offer because new stores cannot afford to come here. There are no decent jobs because businesses cannot afford to come here. you need to check the tax increase percentage in neighbouring cities. There will be a lot more houses for

sale here soon as people get smart and move to cheaper cities.

There are way too many 'sunshine list' people in Chatham and too many unnecessary people getting paid to do nothing. (just look to see how many people it takes to plant and water one little flower bed - it is ridiculous.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:22 PM

Please avoid the false drama that is now playing out in the media coverage of Windsor "proposed tax hike" it is amateurish and easily seen through by all. You are elected to lead, and hired to serve the CK tax payer, do your jobs. No other private sector company would be in business for long if it treated its' core customers intelligence so poorly.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:33 PM

There is a difference between wants and needs... I can only speak to what I believe is an ageing population in Chatham. .. Why in the world would Chatham-Kent invest taxpayer money to remodel the Sears building??? We have a city hall that is the same age (roughly) Let the owners of the rest of the mall develop it... Do you really think that they would leave it in its current condition... JUST A Thought!!!

Anonymous

9/27/2024 03:46 PM

As a senior on absolutely fixed income and always having to tighten up on our spending to be able to pay for our property taxes so we can stay in our house, it would be great if the municipality would tighten up in all departments in the same manner that we have to. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:04 PM

Useless survey, just like the city council.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:07 PM

Again as I stated previously the addiction problems have majorly become hardworking people that are barely making enough to survive themselves let alone addicts that chose their fate. If they don't choose to get sober & become member that pay their own way & taxes then I feel that's another poor choice they've made & there's no point forking out money on people that don't care enough about themselves much like others. We are forced to help addicts by less services or higher taxes & be real the provincial & federal governments aren't going to help so they can collect tax payer money to go get high, we will be feeding & housing them & then the turn around and steal from the taxpayers already fully taking care of them. I'm fed up with it & have not interest in helping addicts, but I'll help anyone that wants to help themselves and a great deal of Chatham-Kent feels the same way. So stop enabling addicts & help the true homeless people of circumstance

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:10 PM

I am a senior 83 and like all seniors we can not take a large increase in taxes. A small increase could probably be manageable. Perhaps the mayor and council members could take a small decrease in salary. I notice that at least two have suggested that. I live on a gravel road, my choice for 64 years and have to call several times every year for grading and dust control. This is unacceptable. What are we getting when we pay more taxes?. Limited grading and one time dust control. In the meantime council wants to spend millions on building a new structure in downtown Chatham. Please think these new plans carefully.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 04:13 PM

We cannot cut services, but we also cannot afford a massive tax increase. I understand that some raises might be necessary, but we need to be reasonable. Police doesn't need a massive increase this year with what they got in 2024, that could be some saving. People also need to pay their fair share when using municipal things like camps. Sorry, but if you can't afford to send your kids to camp, then we shouldn't have to pay to subsidize that in today's economy.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 05:03 PM

more tax will make more people homeless how dose that help ?

Anonymous

9/27/2024 05:39 PM

taxes are getting out of hand. i believe every department needs to take a good look at their budget. in a home budget if you cannot afford it you do not get it. stop spending our tax dollars at such an outrageous items. also i feel taxpayers should be able to have a vote on very large items, such as city hall moving. ridiculous make do with what you have. buildings should just be safe and clean not fancy. it is not your home.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 06:41 PM

user fees are high and taxes are already high i feel the brass is to highly paid in ck no one needs over 90,000 to live cut the fat off now

Anonymous

9/27/2024 06:48 PM

An 8.1% increase is very high with little to show. I would hope that administration and council take into consideration that other organizations are not able to raise prices by this much annually, nor do sources of income change by this much annually. We need to be much more efficient with how these tax dollars are used; there is no reason that annual increases should be this high.

Anonymous

Keep minimum wage earners and seniors in mind who have modest

9/27/2024 07:21 PM

pensions when you decide to hike taxes.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 07:52 PM

Reduce staff. Cut salaries. Perform massive performance appraisals and eliminate redundant, do nothing workers. I've lived in CK my whole life, and I'm wondering how I can afford to stay here. I'm barely hanging on and your annual increases are making me choose between paying property taxes and food for my family. You are bleeding me dry.

Anonymous

9/27/2024 10:22 PM

-reduce taxes -city employees take pay cut -stop increasing police budget -what happened to the parking enforcement -officer - reduce devices -reduce city workforce

Anonymous

9/28/2024 12:24 AM

survey is misleading to the public. you are funneling answers to where you want them to go. Administrations time of directing the actions of council is coming to an end. No One is wanting more taxes. No One wants the city bureaucracy to grow.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 01:03 AM

cut funding to police and use that money for other things

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:21 AM

As listed in #3: Most taxpayers are not experiencing 8+% pay increases over 5 years, particularly those in the public sector who have been locked in at 0% for years, then 1% for years. Yet, Chatham-Kent continues to raise taxes exponentially. Perhaps numerous superfluous projects and expenditures. Excessive efforts and focus to improve Chatham-Kent in a tourist or pocket-interest capacity are unnecessarily straining residents to the breaking point. Despite housing costs being low, taxes are driving people out of Chatham-Kent. Tighten your belts and do better.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:24 AM

Inflation is under 3% at present and expected to go lower. An increase of taxes substantially above that should not be required. Improved management is needed.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:27 AM

MPAC should be updated, then we will all see our property taxes increase appropriately. The municipality has more money and we as rate payers pay according to our properties worth in the current market. Rather than raising the amount each year, the municipality should work within the money given to it.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:42 AM

by doing these surveys, are you really trying to convince us that we really have a voice. From what I have seen over many years, that has not happened, just look at Dresden, look at what is going on downtown Chatham (already done deal) but trying to do a good job of making us make the decision. Again fix the ghetto downtown first because that will cost a fortune and from where will the business come from?

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:43 AM

Wages are stagnant. We can't keep increasing cost of everything. People are barely getting by as it is. This isn't sustainable.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:58 AM

It's time for a decrease in our taxes.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:00 AM

Bottom line you have to decrease the tax hikes. You are driving people out if Chatham-Kent. We warn people you don't want to live here because of the taxes when residents are struggling to make ends meet you are adding to that burden

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:05 AM

I am a senior. My pension doesn't increase by 9% a year. Tax increases this high are untenable. The purchase of the Sears building and the plans to move services are ridiculous. Where does the mayor and council think all this money will come from? All that will happen is that more people will be unable to pay the even more hefty tax increases this "project" will produce. The library is fine where it is as is the Cultural Centre. If the civic Centre needs fixing, then fix it! I've lived in my home for nearly fifty years. It needs regular maintenance. It's over 100 years old. The Civic Centre isn't even half that age. Why hasn't regular maintenance happened? Shouldn't a building last more than 30 years? If Mike Harris hadn't forced us to become a municipality, I'd be living in Harwich Township. And our taxes wouldn't be anywhere near as high as they are now. I pay more tax - for, really, no services and yet our taxes are higher than the GTA! Mayor and council need to rein in their spending and save their "dream projects" for another time. There are so many other necessities. The Sears project is not one. I challenge the municipality to have a referendum on this. I haven't spoken to one person who is in agreement with the incredible cost, and real stupidity of this plan.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:08 AM

You need to stop spending money and buying useless property the municipality don't need to own social housing sell it,look at the at 99 mcnaunton ave how much money is that gonna cost tax payer get your crap together and we have way too many new police being hired and they have terrible service just ask the public

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:11 AM

The survey is a bit better than last year but not enough to have an impact on the budget process. I'm really not sure how any of these answers will have a significant impact to your process

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

Please try to think about ALL the people in Chatham Kent and what is happening to them with all these tax increases. Starvation is as bad as being homeless. It's overwhelming when you suffer both at the same time with no end in sight

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:19 AM

Show a little empathy and cut us a break. I haven't had a pay raise since 2019, maybe CK can go without. My taxes have increased almost \$850 since 2018! Time for a break!!

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:21 AM

Being a Dresden resident and business owner with all the negative things happening right now (The Dump, Park Street Place shelter for homeless, the illegal pot plant) I'm finding myself looking to move out of Chatham Kent. I can't wait until the next election

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:27 AM

I'm still burned up about having our own police force with a wicked budget. That aside, I like the one councilor's idea of having all departments find a percentage cut (let's say 2% for example). That's what a big business would do in tight times. Staff freezes are always popular too.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 09:52 AM

We need to invest in the other emergency services like police in 2024. EMS and fire calls are going up like police so they need an investment as well.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 10:03 AM

I would encourage council to be brave and take a hard look at any "fat" within the Chatham Kent Municipal Offices. There will be "fat" to trim, that is the first step in budget preparations. As mentioned earlier in the survey I am a former Director from a large organization , now retired and each year we went through a 5% reduction process. We found 5% each and every year. But you have do it with and open mind and knowing that not everyone will be happy. The bottom line is that taxpayers are getting fed up with annual high tax increases.. It is simply not sustainable. Most folks will never see an annual wage increase above 3%. I would encourage Council to work hard and bring in tough budgets based on current economic realities and not on pipe dreams. thank you

Anonymous

9/28/2024 10:09 AM

As a senior on a fixed income, taxes continue to increase at a rapid pace, but my income isn't. Being outside of the city of Chatham frustrates all of the citizens as we feel like we are second class .. paying for everything Chatham wants, but is of very little use to the rest of the Municipality. Scrap the new Civic Center and fix what we already have. Spend some money in the smaller communities so that we feel like we are really valued .. not just contributors to the cash fund!! Very unhappy with the decisions being made by Council & the Mayor over the past few years!

Anonymous

9/28/2024 10:55 AM

Ellis park subdivision desperately needs improved streets and a crosswalk at Maryknoll road to protect residents crossing st Clair street. I've seen way too many near accidents. The resident of Ellis park subdivision are trying to be physically active by walking to the Walmart mall but the sidewalk is across st Clair street on North side. There is no sidewalk on the south side with very little walking path next to a ditch. Very dangerous. Let's be proactive by saving people's lives.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:07 AM

Start taxing trailers that are put on lots, added to existing homes that use municipal services. Not fair that some lots have up to 4 house trailers on them using services and pay no taxes

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:13 AM

8.17% increase could be lowered if the Civic Centre move could be forgotten. Not the time for such an expense. But I'm sure this will proceed regardless of public input. People are going to be tax poor.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:32 AM

You are spending like drunken sailors, time to grow up and rein it in. You would not run you're own household this way.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 11:53 AM

We the people of Chatham-Kent are not in any position to be raising fees or taxes. We need a better way to attract businesses as well as people to the area and higher fees and taxes isn't the answer for what we have to offer. Other municipalities are going away from these fees and taxes and I'm sure Chatham-Kent also could.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 01:43 PM

Paramedics are desperate for a larger budget. Multiple ambulances with 350000 plus km's and dirty, old, small bases. Let's stop throwing money at people who don't want help (unhoused, drug reliant etc) and start shunting money to the people who help the community day in and day out

Anonymous

9/28/2024 02:50 PM

Council has to get more serious when preparing the budget, just because administration wants something doesn't mean council has to go along with it. I see NUMEROUS new homes in the city and with this additional tax base why am I looking at a 9% tax increase. We elect mayor and council to work for we the people not to become the biggest city around. Most of us don't want to be the next Toronto we want to be Chatham-Kent a mid sized community affordable for all its residents.. As a senior on a fixed income I cannot afford a 9% tax increase every year. COUNCIL AND MAYOR NEED TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED THEM. WE DON'T WANT CITY HALL AND THE LIBRARY IN THE OLD SEARS BUILDING. WHY CAN'T YOU HEAR WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING????????????????

Anonymous

9/28/2024 03:20 PM

The city council should be more in touch with the cost of living, Leave taxes alone and cut back on programs if needed, We are already taxed more than most municipalities

Anonymous

9/28/2024 05:23 PM

I understand that this is a difficult financial time for all. Suggestions made by councillors Doyle and Bondy are not helpful. To get taxes down we need to attract more people to live in CK. That means we need attractive services and respect shown for MOCK staff. Working toward further strengthening the idea of Chatham Kent as one community would go a long way. All these years later everyone is still in their silo. If MPAC does an up to date assessment with the housing market in flux, people will definitely be unable to pay the rates being requested. This needs to be a discussion as well. Thank you for your consideration

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:21 PM

I don't know how to make this any clearer because I write the same thing every year. The property tax increases need to stop!!! You have to start cutting services back. People are leaving our municipality because they can no longer afford property taxes.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 06:23 PM

Windsor is taking seriously the idea of smaller local government to reduce tax burden...please do the same. The tax burden for homeowners is out of control. People will leave and lose their homes if you don't take seriously cutting tax burden.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 07:33 PM

We do not need a raise in taxes. These are tough times. Hold fast and use the current budget next year. Zero new spending and cut all this waste from the budget.

Anonymous

9/28/2024 08:13 PM

Recent recommendations by some Councilors to lower the 2025 tax increase to less than 5% is a good recommendation. If Council approves 8-9% increase for 2025, people will continue to perceive this process as "open ended spending" and not taking the responsibility of making the tough decisions that come with making a budget. I recommend Council sends a clear message to the Municipality to present actions/options that achieve 5% increase max.

Anonymous

9/29/2024 09:01 AM

Stop having surveys with questions that coax the people into giving answers you want.

Anonymous

9/29/2024 01:37 PM

Council needs to red circle staff wages for the next 3 years

Anonymous

9/30/2024 09:22 AM

Please do a thorough review of all job positions and see which can be eliminated to save money. This is a time in our economy to make difficult decisions to save taxpayers their hard earned money. The economy is struggling. I understand the remaining workers' jobs would take on more work after others are terminated, however everyone else in private sector is also working at full capacity and trying to make it work. The degree of taxpayer increases compared to the tax other townships near by pay, ex Lakeshore, seems far too high. If there is one area that should be bolstered however it's snow removal. Chatham is far too reactive with snow and ice removal instead of pro-active. Climate change is leading to more sporadic weather patterns and events and this is an area you have to plan for and be proactive to keep the roads safer.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 05:10 AM

The tax increases that you propose will put undue financial stress on residents on a fixed budget. Are you trying to chase pensioners out of Chatham-Kent. LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS!!!!!!

Anonymous

10/01/2024 06:17 AM

This survey was a waste of time. It did not address any real issues relating to budget development or controlling expenses in the municipality. This is just another example of municipal waste to produce this survey and a smoke screen of public involvement in the governing process. I resent the condescending nature of the whole process.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 10:32 AM

Stop being closeted. If you are asking yourself 'Gees. Everyone is so mean now that we are exclusively doing all this on the internet', you

haven't seen the internet before 2020. The internet was always mean and cruel because it is anonymous. Add the human element again. Get outside and see real people and let people see the real you. You are a municipality claiming the importance of democracy with all these codes of conduct; yet you hide in your windowless office desperate for a new place with windows because you haven't seen the outside since starting this COVID silliness. COVID is over. No more YouTube and Facebook. Be present to the people you serve. Stop hiding from those who you are accountable to. These surveys sucks because they stop at the question and there is no way to ask questions about the question. Gees, I miss the last real budget planning meeting.

Anonymous

10/01/2024 08:06 PM

I would like to know how much of the budget is allocated towards funding for specialist and scientists to help Dresden fight York1 proposed dump? We will be needing monetary support in the community. Thank you.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:53 AM

Please include funding projects towards PHB and STAY IN PLACE HOUSING PROGRAMS

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:55 AM

The province has contributed significantly to the homelessness issue, however, until they step up, it should be our duty as a municipality to protect and serve our residents. If the municipality takes on the cost of homelessness programming and the shelter, and the province steps up later and provides funding, then the municipal funding can go to other resources to help such as mental health and addiction programming, supportive living environments etc. that will provide not only reactive, but preventative strategies for reducing homelessness in our community.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:57 AM

With all the new projects in Chatham, our taxes are going to leave many of us homeless! Better get on those tent cities.... I predict more of a need in the very near future! That new city hall will break this community in a time when our 'belts are tightened' to the point we can't breathe! A new mausoleum for Chatham!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

The survey is a good idea but I have little faith that it will make any difference. The only good upside to the survey is that it gives the tax payers a venue to voice their frustrations.

Anonymous

There has been a huge increase in the management staff at RVG.

10/02/2024 10:01 AM

They have ran that facility for many many years with less. If this is also the case at other offices why should the tax payers footing the bill for poor job performances?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 AM

The municipality needs to slash spending and freeze tax increases. It's unfortunate but we are currently in a recession. If that means having to charge fees for services or ultimately remove services until we are out of a recession then that is what needs to be done . I believe the municipality is spending beyond its means during this current financial time. Which is passed onto the tax payers that are also in a worse financial state. If taxpayers can have more of their own money it will come back into the local economy. Do away with useless spending to please a small minority of people who want it.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:33 AM

I think our city Council is a joke. I think everybody at city Council should take at least 10%-15% pay cut instead of giving raises where it's not earned stop making it so hard for people to survive while you Take vacations bankers hours and sit back from behind a desk without actually doing the legwork, we'll see some sort of relief instead of just increasing everything and for everybody to stay in their cosy office to sit around a desk and tell me what hard Best for me and mine. Pay attention to the issues at hand your homelessness, your mental health, your drug use pay attention to the problems that we already have instead of investing money to where it's not needed. Penny conscious dollar foolish.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:35 AM

Why are you not asking if we tax payers want a round about at the Merlin and #2 intersection and agree to the abhorrent cost of 60 million when a traffic light would suffice at a much more reasonable cost. Most of us do not want it.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:38 AM

Stop making the citizens of Chatham Kent pay for the incompetency of the elected officials who are suppose to represent us and clearly do not.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:46 AM

There is not enough funding for the Arts + Culture department. The four-year budget does not support the variables in the entertainment industry. Also, there is not enough funding to support the outline communities including Tilbury, which always seems to be getting its services cut including our local dump site closure. Does the four-year budget include funding to offset the ridiculous inflation costs that we are all experiencing? Does the four-year budget include funding to support housing difficulties, and job growth in the community? It is

very difficult in this community to find a good full-time job and a lot of people are struggling. The municipality needs to take some responsibility for this as well.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:10 AM

Do not increase our taxes. You will drive your citizens and business away and less spending money will hurt businesses.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:12 AM

As a retired senior on a fixed income, I cannot afford any more tax increases! Please stop wasting our tax dollars on needless nonsense.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:22 AM

With the economy doing poorly and people earning less in comparison to cost of living increases, council needs to dig deep and find cost cutting measures. Put an emphasis on keeping the assets we have in good repair rather than looking at replacement when possible.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:29 AM

Way to broad for anyone answering this survey to provide meaningful insight. Why not start asking questions as to how we'd like to see our taxes spent. New amenities, etc. Honestly, how did this help?

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:34 AM

If the Municipality invests in the Downtown Chatham Centre boondoggle, it will once again demonstrate that Chatham is where white elephants go to die!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:34 AM

Some the questions seem to allow likttle or know choice in the answers. As a property tax payer I understand that CK is amongst the highest tax bases in the province if not the country. Top heavy municipal employees should be a good place to look for controlling costs.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:50 AM

New ways of generating income is needed such as sales tax and also municipal bonds

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:10 PM

Do Not Allow Anymore Farmland to be allowed for subdivisions. Redevelopment in the towns, villages etc. South Of Wheatley is a plan to lose over 100 acres of farmland to developers, this can be STOPPED and build in the village like Tilbury. Allow Four Plex's etc to accommodate more residents!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:12 PM

Our property taxes are outrageous already. Increasing them could run people out of their homes. Be logical.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:13 PM

PLEASE PLEASE Consider the impact of raising taxes. We have amalgamated however there are services that could close and join. Blenheim/Ridgetown services. Wburg/Chatham services. Doesn't matter what closes there will be upset. Do we need a larger library? But continually raising taxes at this rate is going to cause more homelessness amongst those that have worked all their lives working toward retirement. I understand taxes need to go up HOWEVER not the percent in which you are choosing

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:18 PM

The perception since amalgamation is Chatham reaps the benefits at the cost of smaller villages and towns in Kent County. Can improvements to each municipality in Kent County be based on their (citizens) desire . Each town receives their financial allotment and can choose how to best use their \$\$\$. A town may ask to build their revenue over a 2 -3 year period to allow for a larger project. Arenas , pools , community centres, parks, incentives to improve their properties . Always strange - A homeowner improves his property - his taxes go up , yet a homeowner that allows their property into a derelict state - his taxes may decrease. The erosion of Rose Beach Line is a good example of years of neglect . Ridgetown suffered as a result. Thank-You for allowing one to express their thoughts . [REDACTED]

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:33 PM

I feel not residing in the actual city of Chatham that our services are greatly reduced already, but the taxes do not reflect that.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:50 PM

Bring it on for updating property assessments. We are likely overpaying because of our honesty at rule following for permits, etc., while others are definitely not paying their fair share of taxes. Discovered this in real estate listings where very expensive homes listed are paying ridiculously low property taxes..

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:53 PM

The province should support / finance the homeless epidemic. Maintain parking and user fees etc to assist in a lower budget. Paying a fee for service should be expected. Thanks for the opportunity

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:54 PM

The worst decision would be to not increase taxes enough, which just delays a future even larger increase, and erodes quality of municipal assets in the meantime, such that even larger emergency funding

may be required to return assets to a usable state.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 12:58 PM

no one likes to have a hard look at efficiency. staffing is a key area that can help ensure that we are being frugal. having flexibility to adjust to demands for services and looking at actual contributions to the daily work week should be completed. I am aware of some employees who have taken advantage of no accountability.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 01:22 PM

Do Better, Do Nothing!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:31 PM

on question 13 I reside in Chatham but pay taxes in 2 other wards also.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:32 PM

The survey was fine besides the one library question but it has the simplest of answers, The expenditures that Chatham Kent has very high in comparison to similar municipalities, One questions as to why ... well first of all salaries and government cost is way high in comparison to other similar municipalities, Chatham kent does not invest in its own city they do with money but being a municipality isn't a non profit but the additive you have to spend money to make money would make sense here when you invest in buildings in ownership you will win in the end, you would not have to hire additional staff to oversee that should be the job of an already useless employee that has one job that takes 1 hour a day to do but you pay for 8 ...

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:44 PM

Property taxes must be reduced. People with fixed incomes, making minimum wage, single income families etc will not be able to be a homeowner with continuing increases in property taxes. Rental properties are limited and outrageously priced. Rent, cost of housing and property taxes is leading to homelessness.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:52 PM

REDUCED COSTS NEED TO BE FOUND RESIDENTS ARE ALREADY STRETCHED TOO THIN AS IT IS. THIS PROPOSED INCREASE WILL CAUSE MANY PEOPLE TO HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FEEDING THEIR FAMILIES, OR LOSING THEIR HOMES. WHETHER THROUGH ATTRITION, OR DEPARTMENTAL REDUCTION, ADMINISTRATION SEEMS FROM AN OUTSIDE VIEW TO BE VERY TOP HEAVY

Anonymous

10/02/2024 02:55 PM

You are not listening to your constituents, we cannot continue with these increases and projects like the downtown mall that is clearly

short sighted and agreed to behind closed doors

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:07 PM

DO NOT PROCEED WITH THE DOWNTOWN CHATHAM CENTRE.
REPAIR THE CIVIC CENTRE ON A FLOOR BY FLOOR BASES AND
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:29 PM

This counsel is severely fiscally irresponsible. Seniors have to go
back to work because of you.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:36 PM

We need a more fiscally responsible city council to represent the
citizens of Chatham because the ones in 'service' now are out to
lunch. The increases I have had to suck up over the last few years
are totally outrageous. Wherever they may be spending the money,
needs to stop. I know I don't get anything for my tax dollar. Oh sorry
the only thing I do get is 3 days after a snow fall, the plow comes and
fills in my driveway so I have to shovel it again. No more increases or
we are going to have to start leaving.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:38 PM

Maybe for once you could pay attention to our comments.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 03:46 PM

I question the spending on a round about along Longwoods Road.
Certainly a more economical solution could have been found.
Sometimes it seems that our engineering staff is very very closed
minded and refuses to consider anything other than their own
decisions.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

Efforts to improve community communication is encouraged -
perhaps mailing lists, and/or mail reminders on how to access
council and city activities and matters that are important to the
citizens of Chatham. (PS - I found this through a facebook link, it
would have been better if it was sent via e-mail directly from the city.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:42 PM

the administration in this municipality is bloated and can't be
supported. now the council wants to spend upwards of \$50 million on
a new hub. Where EXACTLY does council expect the average
taxpayer to get the extra dollars? it seems as though the council and
administration feels that the average taxpayer can wave a magic
wand and increase their bank account. there is only ONE taxpayer for
all levels of government and that is us. the well is dry and crumbling.
stop with all the grandiose schemes.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 04:45 PM

Start explaining why existing residents of Chatham-Kent would need this kind of increase, when the Municipality has grown with new residents and businesses opening up. In many cases, the infrastructure is already there and its utility companies paying to add them to systems. I have tried using the services of the Municipality and its painful to see how much bad decision making is at its core. Start showing the people of Chatham-Kent that you are listening to their needs and protecting them - which means people can't afford these types of tax increases when you are only attracting minimum wage jobs. Stop the insane increases, get your spending under control and get rid of waste--- resources and processes that are not efficient. Then you can come back and talk to us about why we should pay more.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:07 PM

As a senior and life long Chatham resident I am sick and tired of being ignored on the whims of councils that eagerly push through budgets and spend my life savings without a care or concern to the citizens they are supposed to represent! This council has failed the citizens of C-K miserably for a number of years now! As an aging population in C-K the outrageous tax increases are only adding to "senior homelessness" as councils selfish "dreams" to make C-K a more "appealing community" drive seniors and lower income families from their homes! At one time Chatham and the surrounding towns were havens for retirees with a future in their golden years and then council, through mismanagement of taxpayer dollars thought of luring GTA retirees who sell their properties for upwards of a million dollars to our community, driving up property costs and creating a housing shortage!! Council has failed the residents of this community irresponsibly for the last several years! I for one and very sick and tired of this disregard for the people who pay our representatives. Give me a break!! Who gives council a right to voye on whether to give themselves a pay raise?? Yes it happened!! Get YOUR house in order!!!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:13 PM

How about checking out the lack of parking on Clara Cres !!! You put up all kinds of no parking signs without any regard for people who live there who have a one car driveway and a sidewalk !!!! Fix it . It is causing strain between neighbors. You cant just build density without regard for parking.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:22 PM

I just want you to consider that the system we are all in, is a broken one. There's isn't anyone to blame. But we should think about how we would want our city to function in an ideal world. Like if we were to start fresh. I am confident there is plenty of money wasted. So instead

of increasing taxes, let's first look at all the ways we waste. That doesn't just mean reduce services. Easier said than done, sure. But clearly we are in need of massive changes.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 05:28 PM

Stop increasing our taxes so that council members have to do the hard work of streamlining and cutting dollars. We have been increased over \$900.00 in the past year. We did not work all our lives to support folks who do not want to work..

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:01 PM

taxes are to high all the city does is waste money

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:06 PM

Homeowner for now. My taxes are going to break me

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:22 PM

I spent over 50 years working hard, and scrimping on living expenses so I would be able to afford a nice house in a good neighborhood now because I live on a 25 year old pension I am having trouble paying my expenses. Property taxes are dragging me down

rossm

10/02/2024 06:39 PM

OUR present council needs to stop spending money on things we cannot afford such as anew city hall or housing complex that never get finish after watching council spend our money i know now that this council has too go

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:55 PM

I suggest the council abandon its downtown purchase of Sears and maintain the buildings they already have!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 06:59 PM

Please fix the present City Hall and expand the library. We don't need the cost of developing a new City Hall and a change of the library venue .

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:18 PM

Thanks for asking for residents input. It's a great step in finding out what the residents are thinking. This is most important.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:24 PM

Please keep in mind that many people in our community are struggling financially, we should look at how to make our municipality more efficient which is what businesses do to lower their expenses.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:43 PM

If property taxes continue to rise, people will end up losing their homes. Services are optional and those fees should maybe rise. Cutting services isn't going to get us anywhere other than people being more upset. No one wants to pay more and get less. I hope that all our comments will be taken seriously. Because even the downtown build costing millions isn't going to help anyone either.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:43 PM

As a widowed senior, I'm trying to age in my own home. With a reduced fixed income and costs continuing to rise it's now become very difficult to afford necessities such as insurance, utilities and food. It is now a balancing act. The only way is to cut back on food because that is the only discretionary expenditure left where you actually have a choice to go without. Thank you.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 07:59 PM

Stop the redevelopment of the down town mall Keep city hall where it is Get more accountability on infrastructure cost over runs Cut back on consultants. Use people who said they could do the job when they were hired to do it We have significantly more employees post amalgamation. The city of Chatham has become like a weed, it's roots have spread out over the entire municipality sucking up the nourishment enabling the weed to grow bigger Cut backs are long over due and must happen

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:27 PM

You are making a bold assumption about the literacy of those that may be interested in taking this survey. Some of your verbiage may alienate many community members, resulting in their opinions not being shared. Education does not equal intelligence.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:29 PM

We need to add anything we can to housing.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:49 PM

Control your spending! Too many mega projects proposed. We are the highest taxed municipality in the province!!!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 08:56 PM

I have been a home owner, but now I am at a retirement home, but your budget ends up, on my bill, the buck stops at my door

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:07 PM

Need to see the results of this survey, especially the results of the service cuts. I have written to each councilor and the Mayor and the only ones that have the decency to write back, will be remembered come next election. Along with the the proposed increases to our tax base. Listen to the rate payers, because every one I talk to has had

enough

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:23 PM

Fire, Garbage Removal, Library, Police, Public Health, Recreation, Snow Removal Roads, Water, Sewer - Infrastructure maintenance, etc. - budget first for the very essential basics, examine staffing levels absolutely necessary to service those basics and then with any amount available (considering too the COL) you can pick and include any "nice to haves". Remember - not all CK residents make the yearly Sunshine List !!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 09:55 PM

How about cutting the wages of the corrupt mayor and all corrupt council members. Also, the hostile takeover of the public utilities including the former hydro and water commissions need to be reinstated. The Corporate takeover of all aspects of our former city and surrounding towns have been disgusting in the past 4 decades.

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:07 PM

Seniors will essentially be the next in line to join the homeless in CK. These huge budget increases NEED to STOP! Our income cannot support your spending. Most of us living in CK already know that council will do whatever they want anyways with the budget and have no clue we are struggling. Please stop spending more than we can afford to give you. Keep increases no higher than cost of living. 8.1% increase next year is criminal... please don't do it!!!

Anonymous

10/02/2024 10:55 PM

A municipal tax increase of more than the cost of living is simply not acceptable

Anonymous

10/02/2024 11:02 PM

Your tax ridiculous tax increases are going to drive people out of this city!!! Stop wasting money you don't have...

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:17 AM

I am on the edge of losing my home because of taxes rising but not my income. I do not want to live in a tent. Be smart about our taxes.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:30 AM

Please think upstream. Please think about long term investments for our community based on our wellness. For example, every subdivision should have sidewalks (so people can walk safely), great parks with basketball courts, pickleball courts and places people can get together as a community. Please please please plant more trees!!!! That's something simple we can do for climate change as a small community. Read "Great small towns of Ontario" and follow what others have done to make Chatham a great town to visit and

live in. Invest in street furniture, cycling lanes that are protected, more public events - close King street on weekends like Amherstburg does all summer, allow the streets to be filled with people walking it, playing games, restaurants adding tables in the street and live music.... People will come.... Preserve our historic buildings, hold farmers markets, more walking trails like we have around the courthouse and mudd creek (love those and ppl use them) We have a great small town in the making. We can't focus on just the crumbling roads- we need to make sure families have a great community to live in too. Invest in our young people and our community. Thank you for all you do.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:01 AM

Property taxes must be kept down in order for retirees and those who are able to own a home and or business. User fees for services are a much better way to keep costs under control. Residents cannot absorb higher costs just because a service is available. Incentives for business must be made available such as lower taxes for 5-10 years with the new business having a minimum threshold of years in business. It works all over the US with success. CK must grow the population by adding infrastructure and minimal taxation to create jobs. Business owners create revenue streams by locating here with property taxes and paying employees. The risk is extremely high for any business with inflation and government controls. The system needs a reason to invest in, not make money off of.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:47 AM

Reduce staff @ top & stop your ridiculous spending -eg new civic centre, not needed you just want shining new building with all the bells & whistles on our dollars! new-round-a-bout, could put up traffic light for a lot less - just 2 examples of over spending! There are many more .

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:23 AM

Fix our infrastructure! Just because we're not there whining about what flags need to be raised doesn't mean we won't voice our opinions when its time to vote

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:32 AM

Have farm owners pay an appropriate amount of tax.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:33 AM

CK is proposing 10% tax increase but we somehow have enough money to spend on redoing the old Sears building and seem to be purchasing buildings. Time to stop these unnecessary purchases and work within a reasonable budget which all business owners have to do.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:59 AM

We can't continue to raise taxes like we are. I feel not enough pressure is put on administration to control the budget. We will need to make hard decisions and cut services where the use is very minimal!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:19 AM

Free Dawn Euphemia Township, and let them join Lambton County. Same as us here in Camden Gore!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:21 AM

What a waste of my time. This survey is a joke. Actually, why are you's doing this, we never hear anything from the surveys and you certainly do not listen to the survey and or tax payers. Why do we have a council when administration makes all the decisions and have to spend 100 of thousand dollars to hire consultants to tell them what to do. Taxes are too damm high, listen to the public.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:07 AM

Do not proceed any further with the development of the old downtown mall. Stop buying into your wealthy businessmen's scams.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 10:09 AM

If you have a surplus, use it to reduce taxes next year vs finding ways to spen

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:03 AM

Continuous Improvement! Look it up.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:07 AM

Over 8% increase??? Really??? Our taxes are so high already. This is ridiculous!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 AM

Wish you guys the best of luck. Not an easy job... but mad respect for the work you do. :)

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 AM

I have made enough suggestions in the above provided spaces

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:21 AM

Reduce/ eliminate management , fire and police chief wages. Find cost saving measures in all departments. Council and Mayor was elected to keep taxes under control. If they cannot meet this criteria, they should step down and let somebody else in to do the job they were hired for.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:37 AM

It is absolutely irresponsible to consider moving City Hall a few blocks down the road now. The Mayor needs to stop kowtowing to his wealthy friends and do what's best for the taxpayers. If the Mayor and Council want to show true leadership (and maybe have a chance at winning the next election) they will stop this insane project in its tracks right now.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 12:41 PM

I never see the results of these surveys CK sends out. Over the past few years, it appears CK council and Administration just do what they feel best regardless of the taxpayers' opinions.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 12:56 PM

Decrease spending, within each department and quit stating that we will need to decrease services if we don't increase taxes. There is too much water with every layer of government

Anonymous

10/03/2024 01:23 PM

I am really afraid CK will not try to lower the tax increase and we will have another surplus. Then Chatham uses the CK surplus to its benefit. That Chatham council members who outnumber the rural members will increase the farm tax rate. As the owner of a farm I am really concerned what council will do to farms. We don't get the services that Chatham gets.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 01:26 PM

stop the community hub debacle. I attended mtg at Bradley centre. 100 percent were against moving to sears building. so how is it still happening? could it be that the so called engagement with concerned taxpayers is actually just lip service?

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:04 PM

In this recession, income is not keeping pace with expenses. This is as true for taxpayers as it is the municipality. We must all adjust - cut spending (especially legacy-building dreams), downsize staffing (like the former Union Gas did many times as required... not fun, but it's needed for living within your means as a company) and really coming to terms with core needs. Tax the chemtrail companies, tax non-local owners of properties and businesses, tax the multinational franchises and large industrial farmers using poison on their crops, and give tax rebates to homeowners, regenerative farmers and locally owned & operated businesses. Time for the old boys club to be dissolved!

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:35 PM

Reduce staffing levels to match population

Anonymous

10/03/2024 03:35 PM

Why is it are neighboring communities taxes are so much cheaper. To rent the ice in west lorne is much cheaper than chatham kent, why is that? We contract people out to cut grass on chatham kent properties that might take 15 mins to cut, wouldn't it be cheaper to buy a lawn mower and have someone at the location cut it for much cheaper. There is so many areas you could save money in and also make money in but no one wants to do the work.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:26 PM

Since amalgamation my taxes living in the city are about 20% higher than they should be.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 04:36 PM

Keep City Hall where it is. Keep the FireHall where it is. Keep the museum where it is. Put a freeze on salary non union increases just as many companies do when faced with financial pressures. Don't proceed with a 6 million dollar roundabout that drivers will still have accidents in, Hiring freeze, increase the rural ratio to .25% reduce number of councillors to 12 + mayor, start the budget increase process at zero rather than 8 - 10 % Act like a business that's having financial difficulties by actually reducing costs and realize taxpayers are tapped out, task every department to reduce their operating budget by 10% (they know to spend or lose it) collect waste every 2 weeks with the option to have it collected every week if the homeowner buys extra services,

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:25 PM

Quite spending taxpayers money on things that we keep telling you that we don't need.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:41 PM

The biggest drain on our taxes is the police services.They continue to hire and I'd like to see accountability for that rather than telling us after the fact that x amount of new hires have been hired ! Justify the reason for this..city hall is top heavy with upper management,just because it's always been that way doesn't make it right..how about city councilors give back at least 10% of thier pay and benefits since I would guess they all work outside of city hall with good paying jobs...just my thoughts

Anonymous

10/03/2024 05:45 PM

8.7 is way to much, we retired and our pensions barely cover expenses, council is overpaid

Anonymous

10/03/2024 06:26 PM

Time to increase funding for Arts programming, and resist the constant demands for Sport venues.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 06:35 PM

It is time to realize that we can't keep these high taxes. You need to lower taxes and look at where we can reduce or eliminate some costs. This would not be popular to some but welcome by others.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 06:45 PM

The City don't need to raise the Tax's as much, if the Police were to Start doing ride check's, also Speed Control, what about giving out Tickets for noisy Vehicles, People Running Stop signs, we don't see the Police doing any of these things anymore, WHY??? what are we paying them for??, the Revenue from taking care of these items would surly help with cutting the Tax's.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:39 PM

You need to do better on your budget, ck taxes are not justifiable and way too inflated. Do you want people to stay in ck? If yes, do better.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 07:54 PM

Cut staff numbers to reduces cuts. Property taxes are way too high for rural properties on gravel roads with next to no services

Anonymous

10/03/2024 08:01 PM

Time to negotiate costs, cut costs, make due, cut the size of city hall employees, Amalgamation was suppose to fix a lot of this fricken overhead. No new city hall, the roundabout is Crazy...can't imagine a 401 shut down and a train of transports... Going E & W trying to use this roundabout...over sized farm equipment? OMG.... Where do you people come from? STOP WASTING OUT TAX DOLLARS..... WE DONT LIKE OR WANT, THIS MONOPLY GAME. EXCEPT THE GO TO JAIL PART.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 09:48 PM

Important conversations.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:19 PM

The proposed tax increase is much too high. If these kind of if increased are allowed to continue, my family is at real risk of not being able to afford our home. Our monthly tax bill amount is almost 40% of the amount of our monthly mortgage payment. The level of services we receive certainly does not reflect such high tax rates.

Anonymous

10/03/2024 11:43 PM

The increases need to get to 0% .. we are already taxed plenty. If my business needs something and I don't have the funds, guess what, it doesn't happen. Chatham Kent council needs to learn to live within its means. Time to make some cuts like most other households in Chatham Kent have had to do.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 04:43 AM

Keep to the basics, infrastructure, police, and fire. Start holding people accountable in their jobs who work for the municipality, I know someone who spent a pile of money to get a subdivision built only to have the building department squish it. I guess he wasn't part of the "click" here in CK. Personally I will NOT invest in CK after he told me this, here I come Lakeshore!

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:45 AM

Council needs to "cool it" with annual property tax increases. If that means a reduction in services and reducing municipal staffing, so be it. Over the past five years, the tax base (population), especially in Ward 6 (Chatham) has increased, which raises more tax revenue. So why are taxpayers getting hit with 5 to 8% tax increases each fiscal year??? Bottom line - "Cool it" with the spending and/or reduce spending beginning now!!

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:52 AM

Reduce council size the city of London has a population of 350 thousand with 10 people on city council so why we have 17 people on city council for a population of 105 thousand makes no sense at all. Get rid of amalgamation because it has failed the tax payer of the city of Chatham

Anonymous

10/04/2024 07:53 AM

Although impossible to guarantee it is likely we will embark on a 1970's 80's inflationary cycle. All the financial demons of governments has repeated itself but likely it will be far worse than then as World Governments spent a lot more attempting to forestall a recession following 2008 bank crisis. In the past all levels of government attempted to recoup extraordinary demands from labour and material requisition increases through tax increases. We are seeing that at the Federal level already. The municipality will have limited means but will hit the property owners , many of whom are retired and not wealthy enough to make those payments without impacting life style. Pensioners will not keep up to the rapid rate of inflation, the economy will likely see increased layoffs. Perhaps you should develop contingency plans.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 08:20 AM

Stop raising my property tax and concentrate on wasting the money you already have !!!!!!!

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:00 AM

I would like would appreciate council making decisions based on all information not just what staff tells them to do.

Anonymous

Stop trying to virtue signal and appease millionaires with your

10/04/2024 09:02 AM

decision making and start focusing on services for people. I understand provincial dollars all go to the g.t.a but maybe consider hiring grant writers to better represent the needs we are facing to apply for funding more effectively.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 09:03 AM

Property taxes are outrageous, and continue to climb. They rival Toronto property taxes. People are having a hard time affording their homes with high interest/mortgage rates. I fear friends and family may lose their houses. There has to be a way to decrease or reassess property taxes and municipal taxes, so that people can put that money into the high costs of owning and maintaining a home. A single year budget would allow for adjustment of services (decrease and lower taxes) for a couple years until things come down slightly (as we are already seeing), and then can be reassessed when rates/homes are at a more reasonable price. There is no sense paying for extra and advanced services if people can't even afford their homes. We'll then end up paying for their "affordable housing" or tent city, when they have no choice but to leave their homes. Cost of living seems to be people's biggest concern... therefore the municipality should focus on lowering that for the people of Chatham. Thanks for assessing!

Anonymous

10/04/2024 10:11 AM

Wake up!! Housing is unaffordable for many. Stop wasting money on lavish projects and get back to basics. We don't need a new civic center, library, and fire house. Our fire department should be paid/volunteer. Similar to all the smaller areas in CK. Look for more out of the box ideas to save money and quit putting the burden on the taxpayers!

ksmyth

10/04/2024 10:39 AM

I disagree with spending money on the Sears complex and moving the library, the museum and city hall. The current buildings may not be what everyone would like but the exorbitant amount of money to upgrade the Sears complex is not something that taxpayers want to pay for in the next years to come. Infrastructure improvements should be the first priority not spending money where it does not need to be spent. Owners of properties, especially those on fixed incomes, cannot afford a 9 percent tax increase. Administration needs to look at ways to provide essential services without a huge tax increase. In ward one we have a building that is partially destroyed and has been left this way for months. This needs to be take care of sooner rather than later. Why has this take so long to clean up this mess?

Anonymous

10/04/2024 10:44 AM

One thing I noticed is minor streets get paved and major streets like Canal and Mill Streets very rough. Lots of properties all over Tilbury

just letting go into disrepair. I have lots of concerns but don't know what to actually comment on here

Anonymous

10/04/2024 11:39 AM

Council does not need catered meals or pay increases when they have to increase taxes this drastically every year. Larger cities can manage, why can't this council? Council size should be reduced or pay cuts taken.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 01:12 PM

Because of the size of Chatham Kent there should be an increase in provincial funding

Anonymous

10/04/2024 05:17 PM

The Did You Know sections were distracting and not helpful because they were not related to the questions being asked. It would have been better to have more background information on the questions asked to provide a better response.

Anonymous

10/04/2024 05:51 PM

Listen to all your tax payers. Even the ones outside of Chatham!

Anonymous

10/04/2024 06:58 PM

CK needs to get costs back in line. we need to focus on the basic services charged to municipal government to deliver and provide them more efficiently. we could start by eliminating the climate change expert. we have the other two levels of government working on that, so we don't need the municipality working on this. We should be looking at zero based budgeting. also any new positions require eliminating a current one to avoid staff increases

Anonymous

10/04/2024 08:43 AM

Please slow down! Serious consideration should be given to reducing services and/or placing a freeze on property tax hikes. Low property taxes are what drew my family to settle in Chatham. Unfortunately, continued hikes in property taxes will definitely be an impetus for us and other folks to move out of Chatham, to different jurisdictions.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 06:58 AM

Why don't we do a zero base budget instead of just adding COI factor. This would require all departments to justify every line item of spending. As a taxpayer this is what I need to do to balance my budget

Anonymous

10/05/2024 08:23 AM

A tax increase should not be felt by CK citizens. The municipality should choose wisely what they spend citizens hard earned tax dollars on based on the citizens input on what they want/need.

Government of all levels needs to shrink as its way bloated currently.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:20 AM

You absolutely must, to ensure affordable living, ensure you keep any and all tax increases equal to or less than inflation. Also C Kent should NOT be the biggest employer. When you look at the staffing levels of Windsor for the population vs Chatham for it's total population Chatham is way over staffed.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 09:26 AM

LOOK AT EVERY DEPARTMENT AND MANDATE A 10% REDUCTION IN COST!!!!

Anonymous

10/05/2024 12:36 PM

Please keep the rate increases limited to no higher than that of inflation. Our tax rates are already astronomically high relative to other municipalities and it's impacting our community. I would suggest starting an initiative to create cost savings in providing services and in engaging the community. Also, focus on funding initiatives of greatly value to the community as there have been a number of investments that aren't aligned with what taxpayers want or need. Additional community engagement would support this effort.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 02:16 PM

I realize this was a waste of time but, I thought we were saving up for a new arena. The only building older than the Memorial arena is the Cultural -Museum building. City Hall, Library are way newer. Take care of the ████ you own before thinking about nice to do projects. Delay nice to do stuff until you don't have to whack us with big increases.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 05:51 PM

The municipality really needs to tighten its belt on staffing levels, services and spending and NEEDS to reduce taxes NOT increase or at the very least freeze taxes for a year or two so people can get back on their feet and buy groceries etc. The general public truly can not absorb the tax increase forthcoming - there is NO NEED to buy the downtown mall and continue spending endlessly!! One only needs to remember the Capitol Theatre fiasco and the current problem we now have with the new construction of the low income building on McNaughton Ave in Chatham and now proposed purchase of Meadow Park Nursing Home?????? Maybe consider purchasing the proposed dump site in Dresden for the homeless instead of Meadow Park or tiny homes. Please think about those on a fixed income or one income which is many in this Municipality who can not afford the proposed tax increases yet again!!! Please just think and use some common sense before big decisions are made. Thank you for the opportunity to input.

dsc

10/05/2024 06:36 PM

NO TAX INCREASE. Chatham is over taxed. Toronto pays less taxes. Most people on Council were voted in by stating taxes will not be rised. Remember you will be voted out if taxes are raised. Chatham will need more food banks. Wages are not going up as taxes.

Anonymous

10/05/2024 07:34 PM

I hope they hear! Constant increases are not sustainable. Taxpayers are not providing a cookie jar. Strive for more efficiency. Outsource many services except First Responders.

Anonymous

10/06/2024 11:59 AM

These surveys are useless as no one listens or cares about our input.....

Anonymous

10/06/2024 07:45 PM

Less spending on projects not necessary at this time especially the purchase of the Sears building and roundabout. Infrastructure needs to be dealt with in the Chatham-Kent area. We cannot afford double digit increases in our taxes.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 09:31 AM

The ownership of Entegrus needs to be addressed, what are the current costs of wages/pensions/benefits/overall operating costs? Most municipalities the size of Chatham-Kent have sold their utility operations. The sale of Entegrus would provide much needed funding for infrastructure projects, and community projects and upgrades to community facilities not just within Chatham Ward 6 but throughout the outlying communities.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 09:40 AM

Start listening to the tax payers as we can not sustain these increases year over year. I feel bad for the homeless but my kids are grown and moved on and I can not afford these unreasonable rate increases. We already pay enough taxes to the Federal and Provincial alone so start going for more funding from them. Chatham-Kent has to many Sunshine Club employees and that is where the cuts to staffing need to start along with the decreasing of City Councilors as this subject gets brought up continuously and that's as far as it ever goes.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 03:47 PM

Your 2025 budget is getting out of control! Way to heafy an increase with little benefit, unless of course you live in Chatham proper. Please ease the tax burden of all residents in CK

Anonymous

10/07/2024 04:20 PM

I do not support the proposed tax increase this year. Please stop taking on new projects unless you can pay for them without raising

taxes beyond current inflation rates. I would like to the city restructure its spending and services. Ask the citizens what they want and focus on those we all (or most want first). The municipality cannot be all things to all people. I suspect the municipality is in trouble because they weren't prepared for interest hikes on the capitol debt. Mortgage holders were required to meet a stress test that I suspect you were not and the tax payers are paying for it now. The city is clearly having financial problems. I know its easy to complain but look at projects you are funding when you have to jack up rates. I mean did we really need a new "place to play" on the donated St Clair College land? I saw the letter in the paper with at least two councilors offering to take a pay cut and ask municipal staff to do the same. I don't support this. This is just politics. Buy I do support a hiring freeze. Redistribute staff as required but stop expanding. I know what its like to work in a government bureaucracy. There is so much waste, duplication of effort, and unnecessary programs. Focus on what the city/municipality needs to function: roads, bridges, water, electricity, sewage, drainage, garbage collection, snow removal, policing, limited parks, any services required by law. Get back to basics. Stop spending money.

██████████ Chatham, Ontario

spuddydog

10/07/2024 04:42 PM

Do not purchase the sears building and fix your present building that you did not properly maintain,,

Anonymous

10/07/2024 05:51 PM

You need to put money for the homeless before building a huge palace for a Civic Centre. 50 spots is a drop in the bucket 4X that is needed. You are driving people away its incredible the arrogance of this council. Can't wait for elections.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 05:55 PM

Stop hiring expensive consultants to help you make wrong decisions! Hire appropriately skilled staff to help figure out solutions!!!!
Rounabout - stoopid! Moving HWY 3 - stoopid! Thank god the big hwy 3 move was kaboshed.. But this issue (that resulted in the closure) will occur again!!! You should have had proper staff in place to understand how to fix it, and further prvention... And then the town would learn and be able to improve on repair and remediation going forward.

Anonymous

10/07/2024 06:14 PM

It blows my mind how this municipality continually raises taxes with total disregard for those who end up paying them, the taxpayers. If I was pulling in in excess of \$200 thousand annually like the CAO I wouldn't have a problem paying his insane 30% tax rate increases. Where does all the new tax dollars go that you are collecting from the hundreds of new homes and apartments being built? This

Municipality obviously can't manage money properly and it's time to demand a 10% budget reduction from all areas in city hall. This happens yearly in the private sector and it's time the municipality to get on board. Nobody here are getting salary increases at the rate taxes are going up, but it's obvious the bunch of you could care less.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 08:32 AM

Administration needs to be creative....quit with the wants and stick with the needs. Money should come from reserves 1 year ... find funny they are quick to take to get employees and it is never questioned ..take for a tax break and all of a sudden you hear don't do that as it means you have to pay double next year...no it just means that the very healthy reserve will have less money for 1 year and the following year will pick up from that point

Anonymous

10/08/2024 11:20 AM

I feel we can make consider amounts of savings by cutting staff and management and reorganizing the whole works system this system we have does not work it's obscene to even have it in place

Anonymous

10/08/2024 02:24 PM

I have moved back to CK as an adult (grew up here), and am heavily invested in the community. I volunteer, I own a home and a large commercial property. I thought I would retire here, but my partner and I are so disappointed in the municipality that we have a 5-year plan to divest from CK, and move our family and businesses outside of CK. CK does not properly manage their relationships with their business tax base, and we often feel like we're banging our heads against the wall. Our businesses are moveable because of the type of work we do, and if we're going to be paying extraordinary taxes, I'd rather be in an urban centre where people are more progressive, and small businesses are supported and celebrated.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 03:30 PM

Every effort must be made to keep tax increases limited. I realize that the municipality has major infrastructure needs, that is all the more reason to limit daily operating costs.

Anonymous

10/08/2024 03:49 PM

I cannot keep affording these extreme tax increases each year. It is time to take seriously the idea of reducing services. We do not need so many government funded services. Does Chatham and Wallaceburg both need full time firefighters making so much money for example? Please start working for the average taxpayer. These increases are not sustainable.

Anonymous

referendum on the Community Hub

10/08/2024 03:54 PM

Anonymous

cut council

10/08/2024 06:43 PM

Anonymous

Lay off workers you have way to many And wages for all departments is way to high

10/08/2024 09:38 PM

Anonymous

Tax increases should not exceed inflation by more than 2 %. Children and seniors are the most vulnerable to whooping tax grabs.

10/09/2024 06:34 AM

Anonymous

if council could reign in their spending, esp the reserve fund , on projects most residents don't want or need....a long list..... maybe we could have reasonable adjustment of taxes. The amount of money being spent on the homeless and affordable housing is not making it affordable for the ones paying the taxes.....when do we get our properties brought into line with the ones being used for affordable housing? Is it possible the rise in the homelessness is due to high taxes and municiple over spending we have seen in the last number of years? We need referendums as a means of checks and balances (especialy on large projects) so we actualy have a say and not what the elected assume we want , speak for all of us not their ideals.

10/09/2024 06:55 AM

Anonymous

Its time to use some of our very large reserve fund to update and stabilize C-K. Stop with the tax increases and look to optimize Municipal operations.

10/09/2024 07:25 AM

Anonymous

Over the past 5 years, I have seen significant new house building and people moving into Chatham Kent. These new builds should have brought in significant property tax dollars. Yet over the 5 years, Chatham Kent property taxes have gone up significantly. It appears that Administration has just looked at the new builds property taxes as new money, so they can spend more on building bureaucracy and pet projects.

10/09/2024 07:58 AM

Anonymous

I have a problem with the bloated public works department. We need staff for snow removal but the rest of the time it just seems to be a make work program to keep the employees busy. We definitely don't need the grass on the side of the roads to be cut 3 or 4 times a year. They could also buy more fuel efficient vehicles to drive other than than full size pickups. I realize they have their place but you almost never see a CK vehicle that's not a club cab pickup. In this day and age of belt tightening, it seems that CK could be more aware of the

10/09/2024 09:56 AM

difference between wants and needs.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 10:57 AM

We currently pay \$360.00 per month for our taxes and are struggling, we have made cuts were needed to keep up but barely able to do so..

Anonymous

10/09/2024 11:43 AM

Staffing, especially upper management needs to be reviewed and streamlined.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 12:56 PM

There was no section about looking inward at cutting staffing. Tough job but needs to be done.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 01:02 PM

Not much depth to this survey. Council and Administration are going to need to sharpen their pencils and look harder for cost saving measures.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:32 PM

My property taxes must not used to purchase property or provide funds for the construction of housing for the "homeless"

Anonymous

10/09/2024 03:59 PM

Start from the ground up. Reduce the municipal work work and allocate these savings to the additional programs described in this survey.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 04:39 PM

These questions are not written very well. If you ask a question, you should also explain everything that is involved in the question.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 05:00 PM

I do not envy CK council and administration with the job of controlling tax increases, with all of the provincial downloading that has gone on over the past few years. It is unfortunate that councils of the 1990-2000 years, chose to go with 0 % tax increases, allowing the municipal infrastructure and services to decline dramatically. Residential taxpayers cannot continue to maintain the year after year 8-9 % tax increases that gave been occurring for the last ten years. Our roads and streets are still bad ! The need for a solid industrial tax base is badly needed, to take some pressure off the residential tax base. Tough job, but it can be done. For consideration and debate.

Anonymous

10/09/2024 05:57 PM

Why am I paying rent (property tax) on my home that I already own?
With already taxed money?

Anonymous

10/10/2024 04:40 AM

Please read comments you all shared from the community about the downtown project as well as listen to what items are being discussed. Moving downtown may seem like it's saving money but it is not. Money will be saved in some areas and then be used (and more) for other areas. This is a burden even if it will look pretty. Think about the effects long term for the people of our community and especially those ones that are barely making it by anymore due to inflation as it is. We shouldn't be losing services every year, especially if we pay more.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 09:52 AM

The taxes in Chatham Kent are too high in relationship to other areas. Our mayor and council need to consider the impact of foolish spending on the average citizen. We need industry instead of new civic centre. The smaller communities appear to be forgotten when the council is considering options. The Hub is ridiculous at this point in time. It makes more sense to renovate and update the buildings. We pay higher taxes here than any of our friends in the GTA. Let's listen to Alysson Storey and be responsible and reasonable.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 10:06 AM

The survey has to be more specific to address the issues at hand. There has to be more surveys directed at specific concerns and not just on line. When it comes to large infrastructure costs let the people decide.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 11:04 AM

The Municipality is over staffed. Not just too many councillors but also to many staff without a defined role.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 11:49 AM

We need a lot less Pet projects funded buy us, the tax payer and more private investment. We need business to create a broader tax base.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 12:32 PM

I suggest that municipal employees have a wage freeze for the next 2 years to stabilize our tax basin. the municipality is one of the largest employers within Chatham-Kent and paid for by majority of tax dollars. it is very common for government officials at all levels to have wage freezes in place dating back to the early 2010's and that there is a moratorium on increasing those wages. I understand that this is not a long term option, but there needs to be consideration as this may mean municipal departments can right size and reduce their department tax draw.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 01:16 PM

I have MANY more questions about aspects of the 2025 budget. These few questions only just begin to scratch the surface. Very disappointing

Anonymous

10/10/2024 01:16 PM

Please improve and increase bike lanes

Anonymous

10/10/2024 02:36 PM

Pretty sad when one of the very few points covered was Library Parking. How about a referendum on dropping the Mall and fixing City Hall.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 03:49 PM

how about a question on reducing employee costs? We don't need to keep up with Toronto, if people want Toronto wages... move there. We will get new recruits to fill the trucks, 100% also, the current shift rotation is complete waste.... 12 hour shifts would be much more cost effective---and the firemen wouldn't have 3 weeks off a month to do "side jobs" which take work away from the local taxpayer who is trying to pay the firefighters wages, benefits, sick leave, the "I need overtime so you be sick this week and I will be sick next week and we can screw the municipality" attitude.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 05:05 PM

We need to improve our public transit and bike lanes to accomodate people who need to work but cant buy a car, and people who also want to reduce their gas expenses. We ened protected bike lanes and more bike lanes that do not just cut in a random intersection. We also need bike racks, so we can transport bikes to Chatham, Wallaceberg, etc. thank you so much for all your work and have a wonderful day.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 07:48 PM

We pay alot of taxes but for what no garbage pickup no sewers no lights no curbs cant even get the road graded or new gravel.If you quick spending on on the city of chatham WE ARE CHATHAM KENT not just chatham

Anonymous

10/10/2024 07:54 PM

My OAS and CPP payment go up about 2 to 3 percent per year. Why cant Chathams' taxes be raised by the same amount ? I think the taxes here are outrageous, as are the salaries paid to public employees who enjoy 100% guaranteed employment.

Anonymous

10/10/2024 09:25 PM

Keep on raising taxes causes more homeless and hardship on seniors needing more subsidized housing.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 08:45 AM

Bring taxes down or the bare minimum do not increase them.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:06 AM

Its simple the more you raise taxes the more homeless people you are going to have. Cut back on your spending, Quit throwing money [which you dont have] at the problem and spend some time to figure out why we have the problem.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 10:11 AM

Many of the challenges I see facing Chatham-Kent is due to policies brought forth mainly by the provincial government both present and past and they need to take on their responsibility for the funding crunch.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 11:34 AM

Do not proceed with the community hub at the former sears building. Maintain our present buildings. Make sure wages don't increase more than inflation for any employee.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 11:35 AM

Would like to see budget bylines showing the cost of the increased surveillance infrastructure (in particular surveillance cameras) being pushed in the region.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 12:38 PM

Myself and my wife are both seniors and on a fixed income. We live in a modest home and feel we are being taxed out our home. This has to STOP. Seniors deserve better!!

Anonymous

10/11/2024 01:26 PM

Reduction in services would be detrimental to the community with Councillor Doyle's motion to decrease front-line services. I fully believe that council does a great job to present a fair budget with the citizens of Chatham-Kent interests in mind. As far as I am concerned there are MANY services that Chatham-Kent could offer and deliver better with the proper funding, but the municipality does an amazing job doing the best they can with what resources they have to provide the best customer service.

Anonymous

10/11/2024 09:01 PM

Council and administration should lobby hard for income tax income where the rich would pay more for living in a wonderful place like Chatham kent. It's not the council or administration fault that taxes are out of control, we got rid of horse and buggy but we are still using a tax base as we did in 1867. Time for change. Educating the public should be council and admins GOOD FIGHT! Let's say positive and stop the blame game.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 03:16 AM

If the council keep raising tax ,the homeowners will be force out to be homeless. No need to re-assess our homes

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:14 AM

We cannot, as taxpayers, afford incredible increases like next year's 9.4%.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 09:44 AM

Our property taxes here in Chatham are already quite onerous. Any budget process that allows for massive increases such as the ones currently being proposed/considered are irresponsible in my opinion. Households must live within their means....so should the municipality. Budgets should be zero-based and increases most definitely be limited. Any increases should have measurable outcome requirements to which the department should be held accountable to achieve.If services need to be increased due to growing population, then the increased tax base should fund those increases, not the existing population. If the municipality is growing, we should be realizing more economies of scale.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 11:16 AM

I could write a novel here, but I won't. My family came to Kent County in 1842, and we're still here. For the first time in my life, I'm actually looking for an alternative to c-K. It's probably no better elsewhere, but C-K is grossly top heavy, with departments I've never even heard of when they are rarely mentioned in the paper, and administration, which leads council by the nose in many cases, spend our tax dollars in excess and to their own advantage...re-read the last four words. I drive the same roads as everyone else, use some [few] of the same services, and pay \$22K in property tax. How is that possible or sustainable? We all reach a point in life, with whatever we own [thinking cars, boat, house, hobbies, sports, whatever], where we ask ourselves, "Does the cost justify the pleasure?" Ask yourself that same question about something you are spending money for [assuming somebody is reading this]. It is absurd to expect taxpayers to continue to pay for the never-ending 'amenities', many unnecessary. Some people are so myopic to simply think the money will just continue to flow, and build some kind of grandiose structures like a new civic center. what a waste of borrowed money. I swear I have not spoken to a single person and I'll wager I've asked over a hundred people, who support moving the civic centre. You can bet that white elephant will top out over 100 million when the dust settles, and only a handful of council and administrators are pushing so hard for this mistake. I remember when the City of Chatham had one lawyer, and now we have half a dozen? Just guessing. I speak to a former city manager on occasion, who has an engineering

background, and he can name a list of wasteful, unnecessary expenditures C-K continues to accumulate. This manager operated the whole city, and now we have an 'army' of bureaucrats doing this. We only have around 105K people, yet we operate and spend like it's a half a million people. To what end? Respectfully, many of the council have no business background, yet they operate [actually the administration calls the shots] a multi-million dollar business called C-K....at a deficit I might add. Some believe we need to grow C-K in vast numbers, and just like the mess Canada is in, we don't have the infrastructure in place. We obviously need 'controlled' growth, to compensate for normal attrition, and supportive growth for new industry. That's good enough for those of us who live here paying the bills. There are those who like to 'compare' C-K to other municipalities to justify our expenditures. That doesn't make it right! It just means we're not alone as we wander through the dark spending tax dollars in excess. How about a zero budget increase for the next three years...now there's a sobering thought. I read about Councilor Doyle's suggestion in budget cuts, and kudos to him. I looked at all those departments, many operating almost anonymously, and I wonder just how much of their budgets make my life any better, if at all? Forget transparency, that's another whole chapter unaddressed here. Our sunshine list of employees is out of control, and don't even suggest we have to pay that much to get the talent! Nonsense. How did we ever get so far off the tracks that several hundred thousand dollars a year in salary is 'needed' to hire administrators. I'm wearing out now, and my thoughts are digressing, so I will finish. I used to be proud of C-K, and now i just 'live here' because of the seven generations before me, but that can change [not that anyone reading this will care].

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:03 PM

The increased costs of many services are pre-determined such as police and fire, etc. This in itself puts a strain on all other services. If our council is unable to control either of these costs, then we must find savings elsewhere. We've got to stop spending money we don't have and concentrate on maintaining our infrastructure. Our roads are in poor condition and only seem to get worse. Reduce the council size - C-K has 1 councilor for every 6100 residents, Windsor is about 1 for every 23,500 residents, and London is 1 for every 29,000 residents. Reduce the size of the administration as well and reallocate those funds to frontline services.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 12:14 PM

It's time councillors and mayor started earning their money management needs to be cut back as we as many other municipal employees

Anonymous

10/12/2024 01:41 PM

infrastructure is more important than flashy projects politicians can lay claim to, 5yr budgets are far better at planning for tax increases. I am on a strict budget and have to plan essential expenditures, Council should be bound by the same rules.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 05:52 PM

Do a better survey to gauge actual services delivered to give better information on tax burden and change on service delivery. It's very challenging to make broad statements about keeping taxes the same or services the same as it's not going to be the same response across all service delivery. This survey is not meaningful

Anonymous

10/12/2024 06:24 PM

Cut salaries for all council and mayor ,eliminate catering services for council

Anonymous

10/12/2024 07:44 PM

It appears as a new resident council serves lip service .Does not listen to residents. Not sure what they are doing

Anonymous

10/12/2024 07:59 PM

Tax increases are not sustainable. Council and administration need to be realistic as to what the constituents can afford.

Anonymous

10/12/2024 08:12 PM

Too many consultants in my opinion does CK really benefit from these consultants. Also can the budget take into account traffic light maintenance. The traffic light on St Clair at Grand Ave when going towards McNaughton Ave and turn left onto Grand Ave hasn't been correctly working for many months.

Anonymous

10/13/2024 12:46 PM

we need to think outside the box as to tax increases. more taxes just leads to more poverty. user fees are not the answer either. so we need to learn to live within the budget that we have. learning to live within the money we make is what every citizen in CK has to do everyday. chatham-kent needs to learn to do the same thing. don't spend more money then what comes in. it's not hard. we do it every day

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:37 PM

Seniors incomes are not keeping up with the cost of living

Anonymous

10/13/2024 02:39 PM

I totally agree with Councillor Doyle's suggestion of EACH Department finding a 7.5% reduction in their requested budget and a reduction in a councillors yearly wage. KUDOS TO YOU COUNCILLOR, LEADING BY EXAMPLE. Sorry but I also feel as

many I have talked to do, that the cost of taxpayers paying for meals for Councillors is an expense that taxpayers should not have to foot. I worked for the Provincial Government for 34 years and had 1 free meal a year at Christmas. They can order their own meal in or brown bag it. A comment I recently read in regards to the reduction of the size of council that stated if this were to happen then they would be faced with more responsibility and therefore should not be faced with a reduction in wages. Although never faced with a reduction in wages I was on many, many occasions during the course of my career given numerous additional responsibilities and certainly was not given, nor did I ask for or expect a raise. The citizens of this community will be anxiously waiting and watching to see and hear how each councillor responds to some of the above concerns either with their comments or vote. Respectfully, [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Anonymous

10/13/2024 06:21 PM

We need smaller government! Our municipality should not be buying properties and making insane purchases. We need to shrink the size of our government on all levels and lend all opportunities to private businesses and the private sector. This is how a society thrives. The bigger government gets, the worse off we all get. Enough is enough! Start making the appropriate cuts, stop useless and wasteful spending and start listening to the people. If it's not an emergency, the we do NOT buy it!!! Period.

Anonymous

10/13/2024 08:06 PM

I think there is too much staff in administration. Staff and council should not be given big increases making taxes go up when the community is already suffering financially. I think there should be a discount in taxes for seniors since we don't get enough in OAS to keep up with increasing expenses such as food, fuel and basic necessities.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 07:20 AM

Good luck. Be kind. Everyone is struggling.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 10:55 AM

Would like to see council be accountable for all of these increases. Many of the smaller communities have an aging population living on fixed incomes who are already struggling trying to get by. I wish council all the best in preparing the budget but also understands that for many of us we have to budget according to our finances everyday and know that not everyone can afford these increases.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:02 PM

A councillors job is to represent the majority of the voters. Reduce taxes as a % of local income and grow the community. The social safety net should be a constant % of tax revenue. Delivery of services

should be a constant % of local income Infrastructure roads and bridges improve economic development. Council quarter's does not

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:10 PM

Reduce council to a max of 7. What we have now is committee management which simply brings in more voices and more compromise of the extremes to influence the majority. My taxes are now in mortgage payment territory and are double the values in the GTA. You guys are out of control and a big broom is required to stop this madness. If I could I would start a revolt like George Lansens did some years ago.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 12:39 PM

Chatham Kent needs investment. Going back to the taxpayers and continually raising taxes is only one throttle to sustain and grow the municipality. Where is the growth? What new businesses have invested or set up shop in this area? If we are losing out - why? The downtown area is embarrassing. Where are we on downtown revitalization? Both revenue and operational expenses must be prudently reviewed. We have too many councilors protecting their constituents to the detriment of the municipality. We seem to have a very expensive police force. Is crime coming down? How are we dealing with homelessness? I have no problem paying taxes, or accepting necessary increases but I do want to see results. We need a municipal scorecard. Let's see progress. We live in a splendid area full of possibilities. Let's thrive!

Anonymous

10/14/2024 02:33 PM

People can't afford more tax increases these days. Please stop thinking up new and exciting ways to spend even more money and focus on maintaining our infrastructure and reducing our costs.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 04:00 PM

Reduce the number of councillors at city Hall. Let tax payers vote on any large expenditures. like the 6 million dollar roundabout which is not needed.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 05:58 PM

Keep property taxes BELOW average wage increases and no higher than inflation. To do this tax farm property more or reduce services.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 08:39 PM

I support a tax increase to cover the cost of moving city hall to the downtown mall.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 08:49 PM

No new civic centre. Keep services in rural areas.

Anonymous

10/14/2024 09:05 PM

Council must do everything they can to keep tax increases as close to the rate of inflation as possible. As seniors our pensions are fixed and cpp and oas only increase by small amounts. We do not seem to be getting any significant benefits from large tax increases. As other things in life get more expensive we need to choose wisely and pick the the things that return the best benefit within our budget. Council should do that as well within a budget with zero or less than cost of living increases..

Anonymous

10/14/2024 09:22 PM

Cut 20% of municipal spending. Start with social services

Optional question (279 response(s), 227 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question