

NOV 2022

WHAT WE HEARD

Report



2023 Budget Survey



BUDGET SURVEY *Overview*

The Town of Lamont hosted the **2023 Budget Survey** to gather information and feedback regarding services to support municipal budget planning for 2023.

The survey was available (online and hard copy) from Aug 9, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

81 submissions were received online and one hard copy.

Based on the data findings, over half of the taxpayers (55%) have a good understanding of how municipal budgets are prepared and applied

Ratepayers were asked about the type of new amenities and infrastructure that they want to see in the Town of Lamont and where one would choose to allocate additional funds, and if they support a tax increase.

Respondents were given the opportunity to share feedback through open-ended questions.

Based on the survey data collected, ratepayers rank the improvement of roads and alleys as their number one priority, with Protective Services second and Water and Wastewater Services, Recreational Services and Economic Development scoring very close in third place.

The results are contained in the following report.

The Town contracted a third-party vendor to design, conduct and report on the survey data and participation was voluntary, and responses are anonymous and kept strictly confidential.



RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

While responses were kept strictly confidential and the results of the survey will not be used in any way that will allow anyone to be identified, the Town asked for some basic demographic information as part of the survey. For example, 90% of respondents indicated they own their home and the following shows the ages of the participants.

| AGE | SURVEY RESPONSE |
|---------|-----------------|
| 18 - 24 | 3.8% |
| 25 - 34 | 15% |
| 35 - 44 | 31.3% |
| 45 - 54 | 15% |
| 55 - 64 | 13.8% |
| 65 + | 21.3% |

SURVEY PROMOTION

Traditional and digital advertising methods were used to promote awareness of the survey and inform residents and business owners.

These methods included the following:

Social Media: Facebook

Website @Lamont.ca

Media Relations - Advertisement & Media Release in the Lamont Leader newspaper

Utility Inserts

Promotional Signs

SERVICES: LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE

The survey asked **which services are most important to you and your family?**

The following services are ranked by the level of importance to Town of Lamont ratepayers.

- Road & Sidewalk Maintenance 75%
- Protective Services 63.7%
- Water & Wastewater Services 51.2%
- Recreational Services 50%
- Economic Development 48.8%
- Community Services 47.5%
- Parks & Green Spaces 45%
- Garbage & Recycling 38.8%
- General Government & Administration 30%
- Land Development Services 18.8%

ATTRACTING BUSINESS

The survey asked how important is maintaining, growing, and attracting business in the Town of Lamont?

- 34.2% VERY IMPORTANT
- 32.5% MODERATELY IMPORTANT
- 7.5% SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT
- 2.5% UNSURE

TAXES: WHAT YOU TOLD US

The survey asked "Do you support a tax increase to support new amenities and/or infrastructure?"

34.2% SAID YES ✓

46.8% SAID NO ✗

21.5% ARE UNSURE

The survey asked "Do you support a tax increase to attract business in the Town of Lamont?"

23.8% SAID YES ✓

65% SAID NO ✗

12.5% ARE UNSURE

MUNICIPAL BUDGETS & SERVICE LEVELS

37.5% Prefer tax increases that maintain existing municipal services and allow for new investments

37.5% Prefer the same or lower taxes even if this results in reduced municipal services

13.8% Prefer tax increases that maintain current municipal service levels, while the remaining 12.5% of Respondents are unsure.

HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR TAX \$ SPENT

The following comments capture ratepayers thoughts about how and where they want tax dollars spent:

Fixing roads and quick snow plowing

More things to do for kids and family, like a pool

Improving the appearance and growth

Revitalizing the town

Fresh gravel in the back alleys

Residential care and road work

Safety

A balance between Infrastructure Maintenance and Economic Development

Recreational Services

Additional walking trails. Faster snow removal

Smartly

Keeping the town clean, and in good repair, and safe to live in

Downtown revitalization

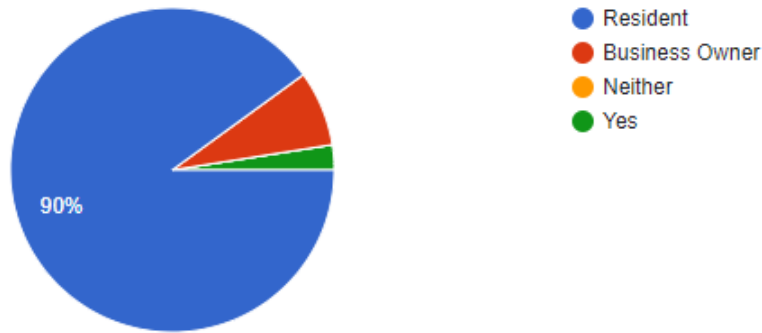
More Police & Fire



APPENDICES

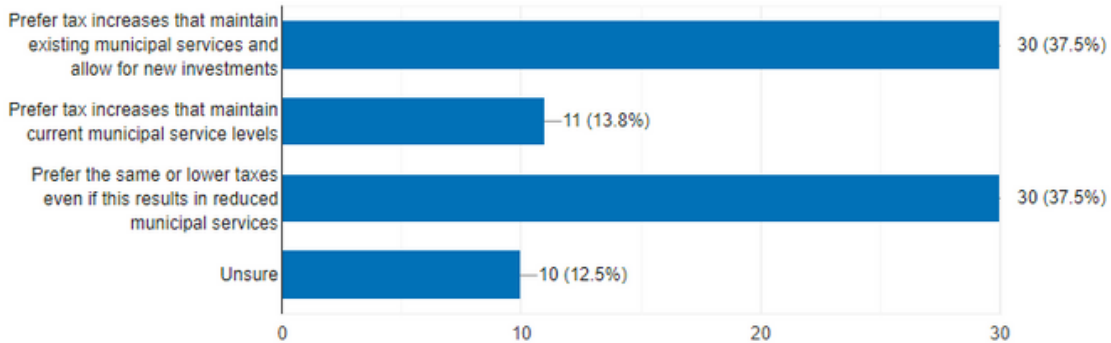
Are you a Town of Lamont resident or business owner?

80 responses



Please select the option that best reflects your views on municipal budgets and service levels

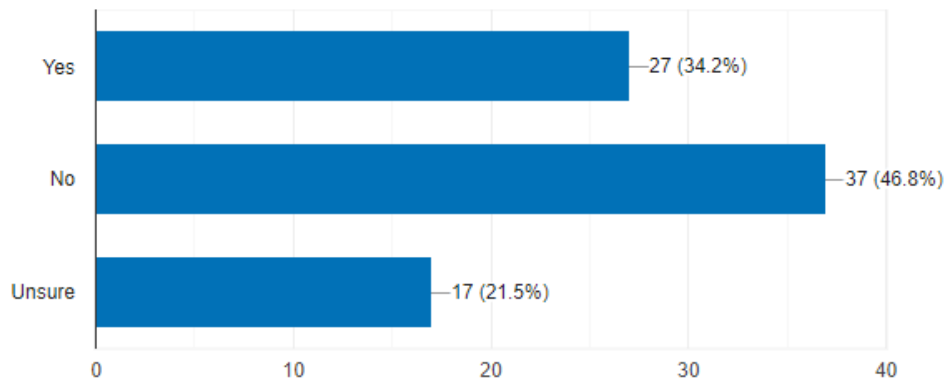
80 responses



APPENDICES

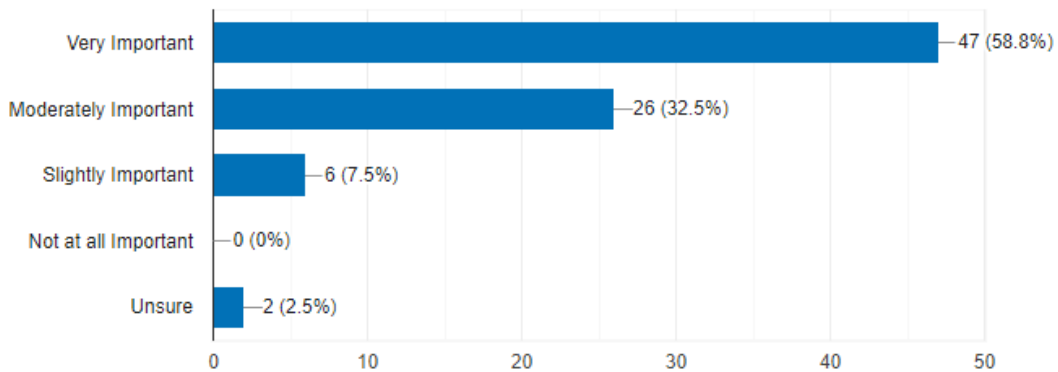
Do you support a tax increase to support new amenities and/or infrastructure?

79 responses



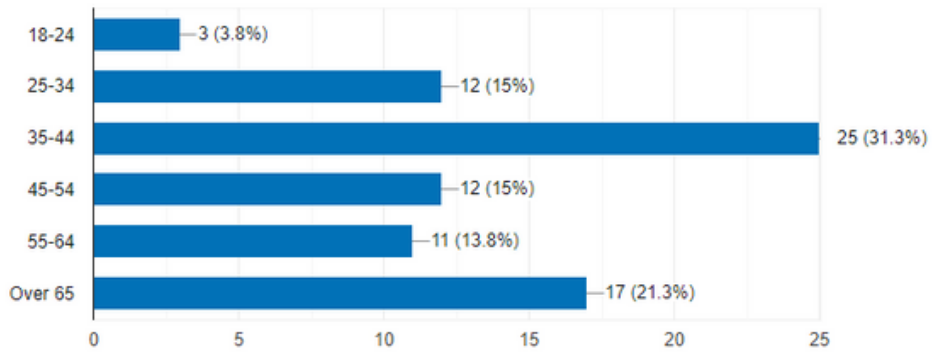
Maintaining, growing, and attracting business in the Town of Lamont

80 responses



In which age category to you fall?

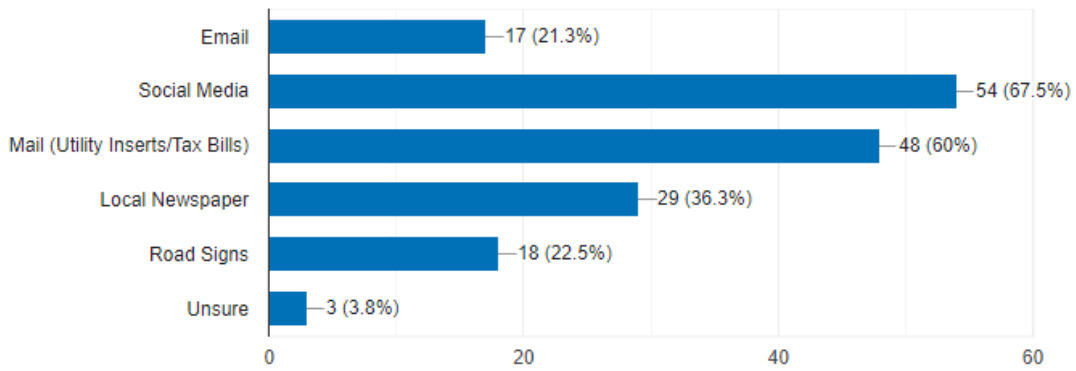
80 responses



How do you want to stay informed?

Please select all that apply

80 responses



HOW DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR TAX DOLLARS SPENT IN 2023?

Open-ended comments were used to create a 'word cloud' to highlight recommendations from ratepayers.



WHAT TYPE OF NEW AMENITIES DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE TOWN OF LAMONT?

Open-ended comments were used to create a 'word cloud' to highlight recommendations from ratepayers.



WHAT TYPE OF NEW INFRASTRUCTURE DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE TOWN OF LAMONT?

Higher water pressure, street & road repairs our street roads are horrendous

Paving of 47 Ave.

A pool

New firehall

Larger school gym

Fix the patched roads before redoing complete subdivisions

New fire station and more road work

Fix the crumbling roads/sidewalks and utilities.

New fire station

A more modern rec centre

more businesses

Not sure

Maintain roads, prevent flooding

Upgraded fire station

Making the main street more appealing.

not sure;

None

Any sort of business to create opportunities and jobs

Pickle Ball courts

Special needs 7 year old needs a place to hang out safely

Better communications infrastructure

Playgrounds

Again, none. Existing infrastructure needs fixing

this seems to be ok

Seems to be good



WHAT WE HEARD *Report*

Prepared by Morcomm PR & Events

