



2024 BUDGET SURVEY LET'S TALK BUDGET

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT





WHAT WE HEARD SUMMARY

The Town of Lamont invited residents and business owners to participate in the “**2024 Let’s Talk Budget Survey**” to gather information to support 2024 municipal budget planning.

The survey was available at Lamont.ca from Aug 14, 2023 to September 29, 2023. Based on the data findings from the 49 submissions received online, here is a breakdown of the key findings:

1. 18.4% of the respondents indicated that they have a full understanding of the budget process. This suggests that a significant portion may not be entirely informed about how the budget works.
2. 40.8% of respondents prefer tax increases that maintain existing municipal services and allow for new investments. This indicates that a substantial portion of ratepayers is willing to support higher taxes if it means maintaining and improving services.
3. The following services were ranked by the level of importance to the Town of Lamont ratepayers:
 - **Road & Sidewalk Maintenance:** 79.6% of respondents consider this service to be highly important.
 - **Protective Services:** 59.6% of respondents prioritize protective services.
 - **Economic Development:** 51% of respondents value and support economic development.

Overall, these findings suggest that there is a strong emphasis on maintaining and enhancing infrastructure and protective services, and there is a willingness among a significant portion of ratepayers to support tax increases if they contribute to these goals.

Ratepayers were asked about the type of new amenities, infrastructure and businesses that they want to see in the Town of Lamont. Respondents were given the opportunity to share feedback through open-ended questions.

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.

HOW TAXPAYERS WANT TO SEE THEIR
TAX DOLLARS SPENT IN 2024

Town Infrastructure
Upgrades **Small Business**
Parks **Alleys** **Investing**
Streets
Roads **Maintenance**
Sewers **Improvements**
Support Businesses

The survey 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.



RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The town asked for some basic demographic information as part of the survey. 81.6% of respondents indicated they own their home and the following shows the ages of the participants.

AGE	SURVEY RESPONSE
18 - 24	0%
25 - 34	16.3%
35 - 44	28.6%
45 - 54	24.5%
55 - 64	12.2%
65 +	18.4%

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

Promotional Signage



VIEWS ON BUDGETS & SERVICE LEVELS

The survey asked to **describe your understanding of how municipal budgets are prepared and applied.**

Full understanding of the process **18.4%**

Some understanding of the process **57.1%**

Little understanding of the process **16.3%**

None, I'd like to learn more **8.2%**



The survey asked to **select the option that best reflects your views on municipal budgets and service levels.**

Prefer tax increases that maintain existing municipal services and allow for new investments **40.8%**

Prefer tax increases that maintain current municipal service levels **22.4%**

Prefer the same or lower taxes even if this results in reduced municipal services **22.4%**

Unsure **16.3%**



RESIDENTIAL TAXES: SURVEY SAYS

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

49% YES

28.6% NO

24.5% UNSURE

SERVICE LEVELS

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 **79.6%**
- Protective Services **59.6%**
- Economic Development **51%**
- Water & Wastewater Services **46.9%**
- Recreational Services **46.9%**
- Community Services **36.7%**
- Garbage & Recycling **36.7%**
- Parks & Green Spaces **45%**
- General Government & Administration **20.4%**
- Land Development Services **18.4%**



WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR RESIDENTIAL TAX DOLLARS SHOULD BE SPENT IN 2024?

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

*Please note the comments are not listed in any particular order.

PART 1 of 2....

Rinks / walking paths upgrades

Infrastructure

Road and sidewalk repair

Into advertising, we have have a real hidden gem of a community

Snow clearing and road maintenance primarily

infrastructure, enough park expenditures already

Fixing 50 avenue between 831 and 44 street.

update aging infrastructure

Sidewalks

Recreation Services

Updates /improvements to the community

Not on lighting a walking trail that has a curfew!

Continue the work that has begun in each of these areas

Infrastructure

On our aging streets and sewers

Roads and sidewalks

Road maintenance 50a Ave and the Main road over by The Alliance Church

Not on parks or fairs, or art installations

Existing infrastructure maintenance

Road cleaning, garbage disposal

Fix 46 street curb & gutter & road surface

Fixing up our town

Maintenance of existing systems. Less on administration

Alleys

Business attraction

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR RESIDENTIAL TAX DOLLARS SHOULD BE SPENT IN 2024?

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

*Please note the comments are not listed in any particular order.

PART 2 of 2....

Focus on crumbling infrastructure,

Police presence to deal with the rampant burglary issues in town

Road & sidewalk repair

Maintaining the same services

Snow plows

Fixing roads and sidewalks better maintenance of parks and creek area

Facility improvements and replacement

Supporting families and safety

Road and sidewalk repair

roads and sidewalks

Road maintenance community improvements

Road & sidewalk repairs

Fix everything first before providing new things that will just be added to the stuff not taken care of

Getting leisure centre

Getting Lamont on the map being this close to Elk Island

Maintaining landscape such as cutting down dead trees before they fall on residents property, improving drainage, sewage, roads

Roads paved and maintained

Maintain infrastructure

Facility improvements

Investing for the future

Sidewalks, roads, NEW SCHOOL PARK



Doing Business in the Town of Lamont

BUSINESS TAXES: SURVEY SAYS

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

28.6% SAID YES

36.7% SAID NO

34.7% ARE UNSURE

THE TOP THREE BUSINESSES YOU ACCESS IN TOWN

Food/Restaurants:

Lamont Foods
Parkview Restaurant
Alley Liquor & Pub
Burger Baron

Hardware/Stores:

Home Hardware
Value Drug Mart
General Auto

Gas Stations:

Petro Canada
Gas Station

Banks/Financial:

ATB
Servus

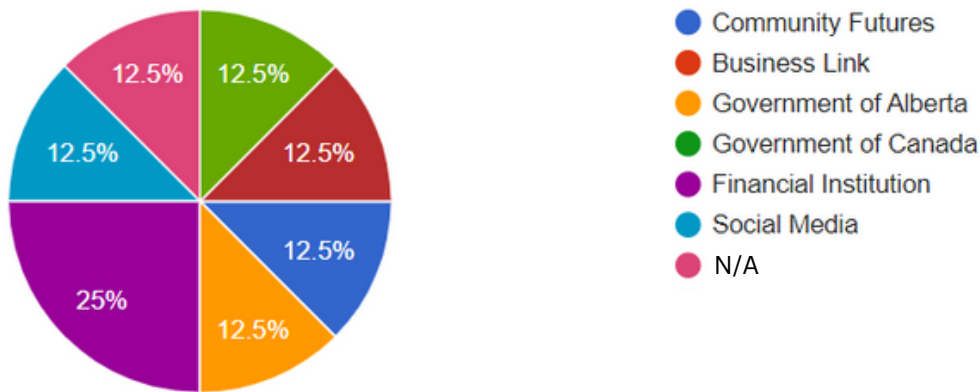
Doing Business in the Town of Lamont

STORES, SHOPS OR RESTAURANTS YOU WOULD ADD TO THE TOWN,

Bakery (mentioned multiple times)
Coffee Shop (including Tim Hortons and cafes)
Grocery Store (including requests for better/ affordable options)
Fast Food Restaurants (Subway, Dairy Queen)
Clothing Store (and related stores like Sports Store)
Small Engine Repair Shop
Mental Health Services and Creative Activities
Family Restaurant (affordable and for all ages)
Hardware Store
General Store (such as Red Apple)
Arcade/Gym (recreational facilities)
Internet Cafe
Wellness and Entertainment
Unique Attractions to put the town on the map
Peavy Mart (specific store request)
Store with Lower Prices (affordable options)
Another Grocery Store (variety and competition)
Stores & Shops (general requests)
Boys and Girls Club or Kids Zone for older kids

Doing Business in the Town of Lamont

IF YOU ARE A BUSINESS OWNER, WHAT BUSINESS SUPPORTS DO YOU ACCESS?



WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR BUSINESS TAX DOLLARS SHOULD BE SPENT IN 2024?

- Upgrade buildings
- Promoting the town via signage - social media and billboards
- Infrastructure Promoting/endorsing existing small businesses
- Road and alley repair and maintenance
- Upgrades to town infrastructure
- Raises for Council
- Supporting the businesses
- Streets and sewers
- Maintenance infrastructure
- Investing
- Improving the town
- Business attraction

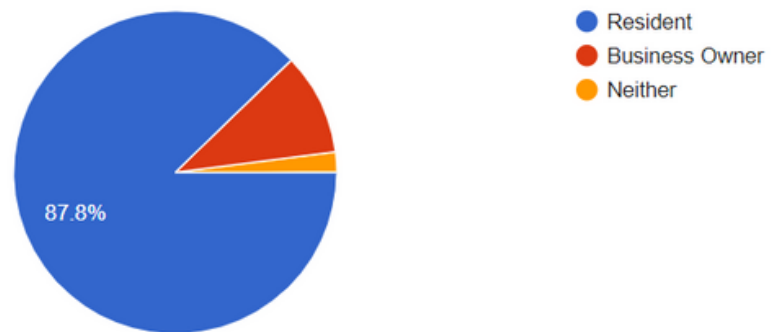


APPENDICES

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Are you a Town of Lamont resident or business owner?

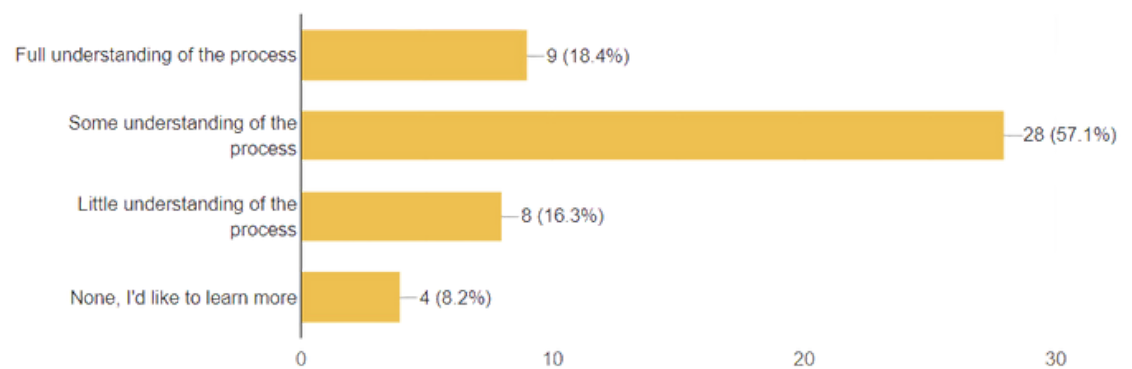
49 responses



Please describe your understanding of how municipal budgets are prepared and applied.

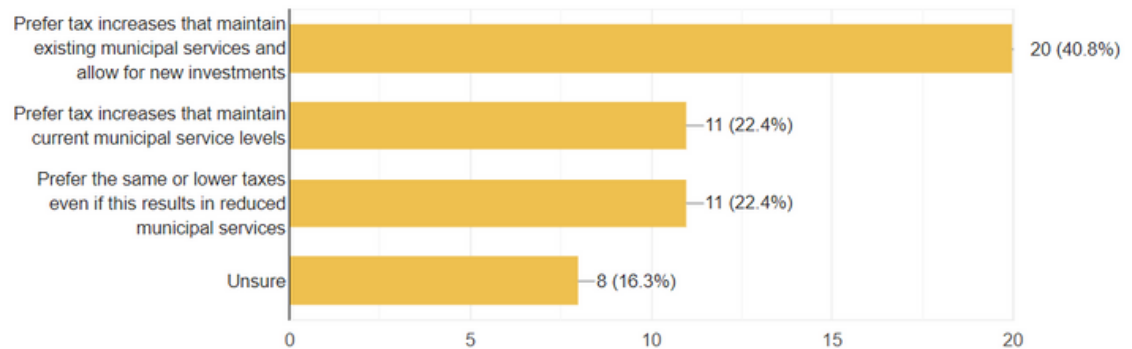
Choose one

49 responses



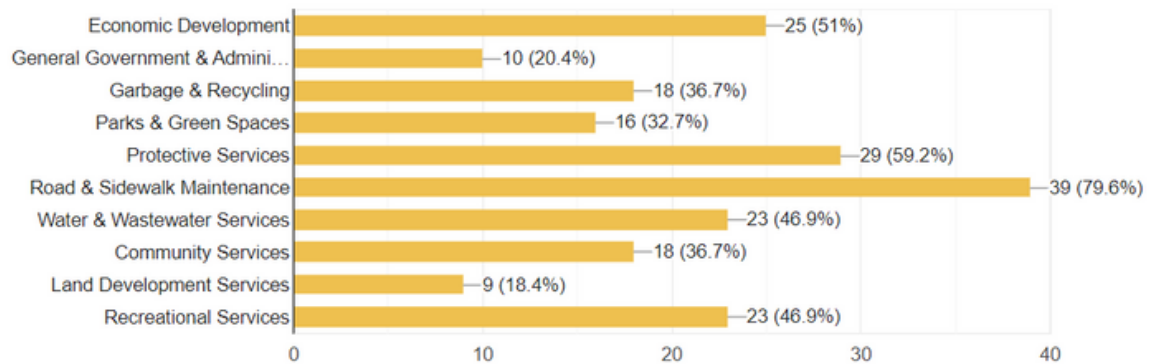
Please select the option that best reflects your views on municipal budgets and service levels

49 responses



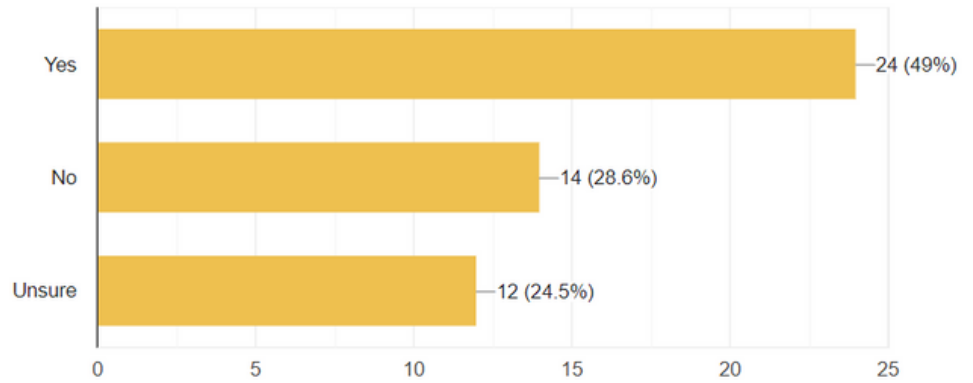
Which services are most important to you and your family?

49 responses



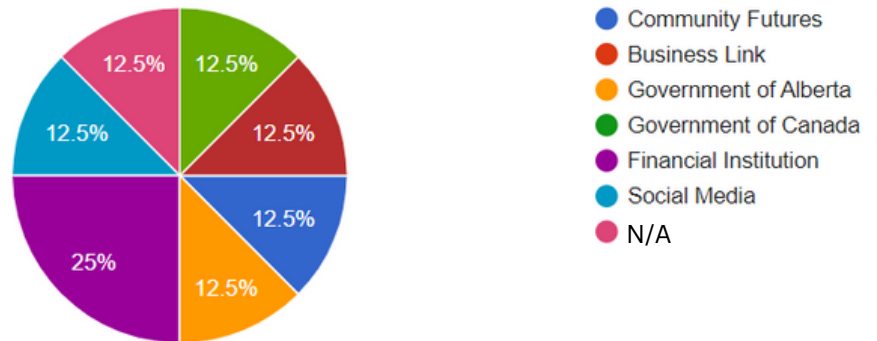
Do you support a tax increase to support new amenities and/or infrastructure?

49 responses



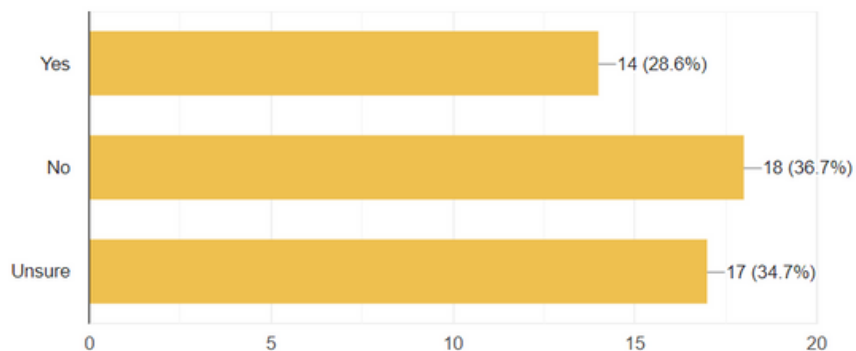
If you are a business owner, what business supports do you access?

8 responses



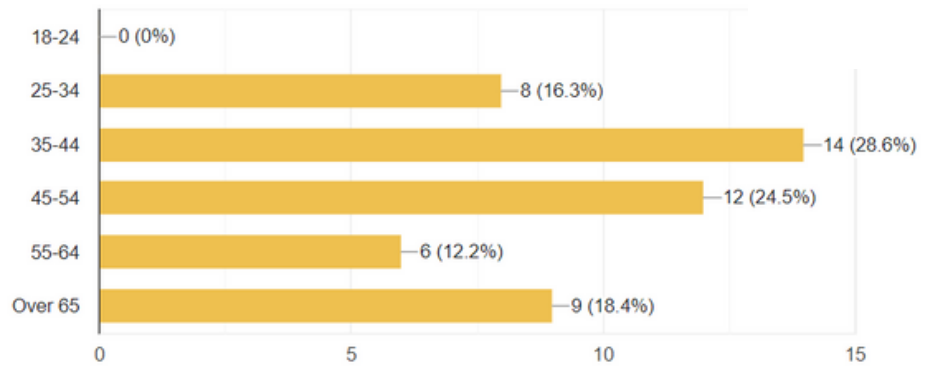
Do you support a tax increase to attract business in the Town of Lamont?

49 responses



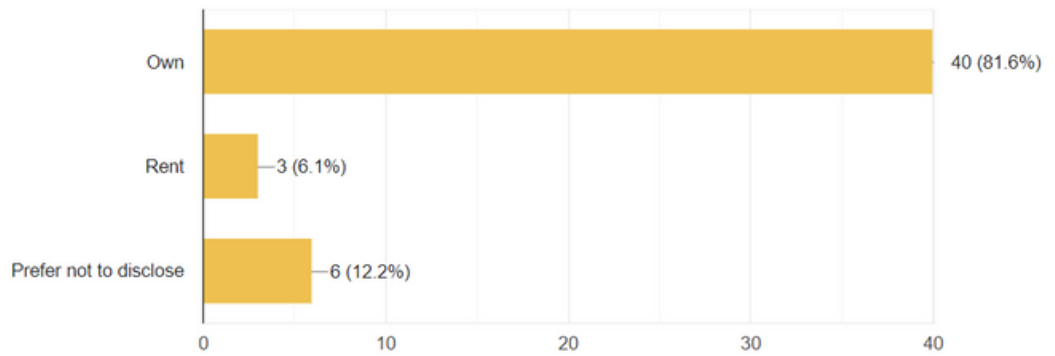
In which age category to you fall?

49 responses



Do you own or rent your primary Town of Lamont residence?

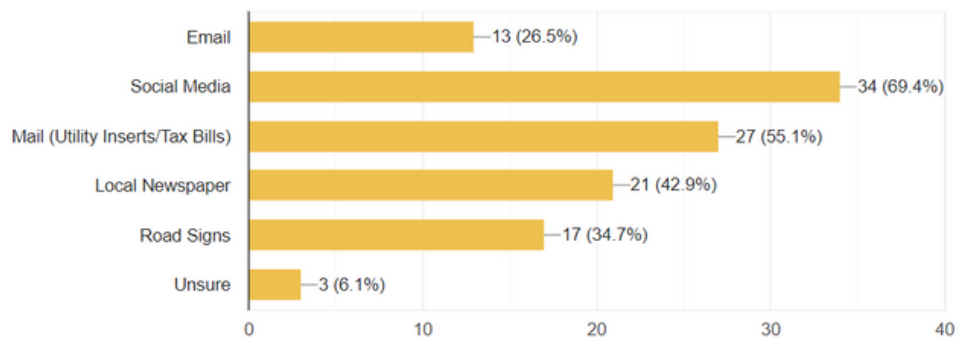
49 responses



How do you want to stay informed?

Please select all that apply

49 responses





WHAT WE HEARD *Report*

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Prepared by Morcomm PR