

**ATTACHMENT B – TOPIC ANALYSIS TABLE
WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE AND VIDEO INPUT**

The following table identifies the topics and sentiments that were shared in the written correspondence and videos, representing 292 individuals. The five topics that are top of mind are highlighted.

Methodology

Staff reviewed each item of correspondence, logged topics in a spreadsheet and noted corresponding support and opposition to each topic. Details and re-occurring key themes and comments were also **noted**.

Staff also used Microsoft 365 Copilot, a City-authorized AI-powered productivity tool, to supplement manual analysis of the budget feedback received.

(Note: The DVBA’s business survey results are not included here – they are analyzed in **Appendix C.**)

TOPIC	# PEOPLE MENTIONED	% SUPPORT	% OPPOSE	DETAILS OR RE-OCCURRING THEMES AND COMMENTS
Police budget increase	208	2%	98%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give only 5% more to Police • Treating Police budget as separate is seen as divisive and undermines public safety as a core municipal service • Invest in police downtown • Need more collaboration between Bylaw and Police • While Police should get an increase, they're not the answer to the drug crisis - some funds go to social support programs instead <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half of the tax increase is for police - need more info to justify this increase • This increase is not affordable • Solving community safety and wellbeing is not just policing • Invest in other types of community safety and

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				<p>wellbeing programs such as housing, social services and tenant assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More police is not the answer to safety; invest in solutions to homelessness
Housing Initiatives	106	99%	1%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More housing and funding for Cool Aid • Look for City properties to be used for non-profit/co-op housing • Support housing projects • Redirect police funds here • Subsidized housing supports • What happened to missing middle housing? <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New social supports to help people in subsidized housing transition to market housing is outside municipal responsibilities
Property Tax Increase	89	2%	98%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I voted YES to Crystal Pool, I was voting for a tax increase to pay for a valuable services - not to reduce services or cut back on infrastructure investments • 10% is quite low for a municipal tax increase • Not opposed to tax increases when details are transparent <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10%+ is unreasonable and not affordable • Allocate resources more efficiently

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stick to basics of infrastructure maintenance and core operations • Prioritize essential services
Arts, Culture and Events budget decrease	76	1%	99%	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are spending way too much on arts & culture Oppose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community events that support arts and music scene • Cuts make it even harder for artists to stay in Victoria • Artists can't afford to live here • Prioritize live performance venue funding
Grant Funding for Community Initiatives budget decrease	75	1%	99%	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant budget is very high Oppose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Grant • Redirect police funding to community grants - programs that get people off the street and into safety • Support Victoria's food security initiatives • Support non-profits • Small grants are important
Program budget decrease (includes Neighbourhood programs and community programs)	74	0%	100%	Oppose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not aware of any affordable senior programs • Avoid economic development cuts • Invest in and maintain community programs that support our most marginalized • Invest in social programs for women and children, food

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				<p>programs, school counselling, poverty reduction, services for unhoused</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose cuts to Youth Bus Pass and Neighbourhood programs • Reconsider cuts to neighbourhood associations • Invest in community programs
<p>Climate and Environmental Action budget decrease</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>4%</p>	<p>96%</p>	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed \$1.3 million for City's low-carbon initiative is unnecessary, instead replace vehicles with hybrid or electric <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest more resources in tree canopy • Victoria not meeting GHG target • Public money should not fund infrastructure that doesn't value natural assets such as trees • More investment in City's Urban Forest Master Plan • Oppose 10% cuts to climate action • Redirect police funds here
<p>Library budget decrease*</p> <p><i>*There is no decrease in funding. Library budget has increased 8.76% for 2026.</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries are an essential learning and community space • Keep them open longer and well-resourced to strengthen community and provide safe spaces for residents • Library is a vital community service • Redirect police funds here

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Bike Lanes budget increase	22	41%	59%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve cycling lanes and bike parking • Support new bike lanes and infrastructure • Continue to invest in active transportation • Support bike lanes but not two-way on one-way streets <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut bike lanes and Galloping Goose upgrade • Bike lanes have been well-invested but cause confusion and congestion for pedestrians and drivers • Additional bike lanes will cause further travel delays and congestion • Reduced parking Local businesses leaving as a result • Focus on policies to support business growth • Introduce fines for cyclists who break the rules to generate revenue • Pause all bike lanes as most are underused
Infrastructure Projects and Upgrades budget increase (e.g., construction, sidewalks, roads, Crystal Pool Replacement Project, public washrooms and	17	59%	41%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For sustainable infrastructure initiatives • Invest in active transportation and walkable streets • EV charging stations • Take the lead in Island rail • Increase accessibility to public washrooms and showers • Invest in comfortable outdoor public seating

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showers)				<p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crystal Pool Referendum did not provide for a "no option" • Control and delay spending on new Crystal Pool facility – do not pass this tax burden onto taxpayers
Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiatives	17	100%	0%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate funding to address vehicle noise and air pollution through radar detection and fines • Continue finding solutions for unhoused and those with addictions to make Victoria safer; additional funding for SOLID • Invest in health of community not the absurd police budget hike • Invest in community wellbeing such as housing • Social services and programs for marginalized, not by expanding the police force • Invest in harm reduction support • When will we see a change on Pandora?
Transit Investment budget increase	12	100%	0%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More lighting at crosswalks and bump-outs • More traffic calming; better transit to ferry and airport and to outer cities • Buses alone are inefficient - restore rail for fast connections • More investment for transit network solutions

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<p>Accessibility budget decrease (EDI)*</p> <p><i>* There is no reduction to core funding in the draft budget. This relates to an external grant for specific projects.</i></p>	12	0%	100%	<p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconsider cuts to City's EDI office • Redirect police funds for social equity – it's integral to community wellness • Lack of disability supports
<p>Community Planning Initiatives budget decrease*</p> <p><i>* There is no reduction in the core funding in the draft budget. This relates to an external grant for specific projects.</i></p>	12	0%	100%	<p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts to city-wide planning budget • City planning is under threat • It has made meaningful changes to the design of the city in the form of greater quality public spaces and high-quality urban design, often finding ways to make the city a better place (unlike the police) • See City of Halifax video "A Tree for All Trades"
<p>Staffing and Salary budget increase</p>	12	8%	92%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra funds for more firefighters, garbage collection, street/sidewalk cleaning <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize taxpayers' interests over union agendas • Reduce City staff and reliance on contractors • 54% of operating budget is for staff salaries and benefits – cut staff and reduce salaries • People & Culture has largest growth among City operations • Reduce admin and

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				management costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest reducing # of Council members
Bylaw Services budget increase (e.g., bylaw enforcement)	11	9%	91%	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community safety and Bylaw Services increase is good optics, which matters Oppose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't support giant increase in # of Bylaw officers • Don't need that many Police and Bylaw officers dealing with individuals as its inhumane and intimidating • Biggest bylaw enforcement budget in B.C. • Police and Bylaw won't solve unhoused situation • People's lives could be saved right now by redirecting this funding from Police and Bylaw • So many other City services/programs are seeing cuts and Bylaw Services' budget is proposed to increase by 80% • Redirect Bylaw funds to community healthcare supports rather than traumatizing more people
Parks budget increase	9	100%	0%	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address root causes of City's challenges by re-investing in Parks • Redirect Police funding towards more playgrounds • Invest in parks • City's Parks & Rec budget is only \$22.7 million compared to Police – highlights City's misplaced priorities

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more green spaces • Oppose any cuts to Parks budget
<p>Recreation budget increase</p> <p>(e.g., Crystal Pool programs and community centres)</p>	7	100%	0%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more money for public (swimming) docks; consider more dock space at Bamfield Park • Oppose any cuts to recreation • Invest in recreation • Recreation promotes community cohesion and reciprocity • Need more community centres • City's Parks & Rec budget is only \$22.7 million compared to Police highlights City's misplaced priorities
<p>Centennial Square Revitalization</p>	6	0%	100%	<p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not move forward with Centennial Square upgrades • Support decision to scrap it • Renos provide no meaningful improvements to the space as it's currently used
<p>Truth and Reconciliation Initiatives budget increase</p>	5	60%	40%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirect police funds to Indigenous justice, culture neutralization and reconciliation efforts with Indigenous communities <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending too much on reconciliation and provincial responsibilities • Cancel the annual financial gift to First Nations – unnecessary and discriminatory

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Question City Math	4	0%	0%	<p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioned the way the property tax increase was described and the math calculating it
Victoria Fire Department budget increase	3	67%	33%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address root causes of City's challenges by re-investing in the Victoria Fire Department • It's a vital institution for the safety and health of our city <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love Police and Fire but they are inefficient - no way cities can survive with 35-40% going to Police and Fire
Beautification Projects budget increase	3	100%	0%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate more funding to address graffiti and consider protective coatings to prevent and simplify future clean-ups • Don't get rid of the flowers • Used to enjoy the boulevards but they no longer exist
Roads and Multi-Modal Improvements budget decrease	3	0%	100%	<p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not agree with the decision to move this to 2027 as it will impact 2027 projects that are not "nice to have" • Oppose transportation cuts
Consulting and Professional Services budget decrease	2	100%	0%	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to see a drop in consulting services

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Communications and Engagement budget decrease	1	0%	100%	Oppose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts • Involving residents in City decision making through civic engagement strengthens democracy and public trust
Utility Infrastructure budget increase	1	100%	0%	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of transfers to utility capital reserve accounts and ongoing work to upgrade our utility infrastructure
Return to Work Downtown	1	100%	0%	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate funds for the reversal of the B.C. government's work from home policy to reduce negative impacts downtown