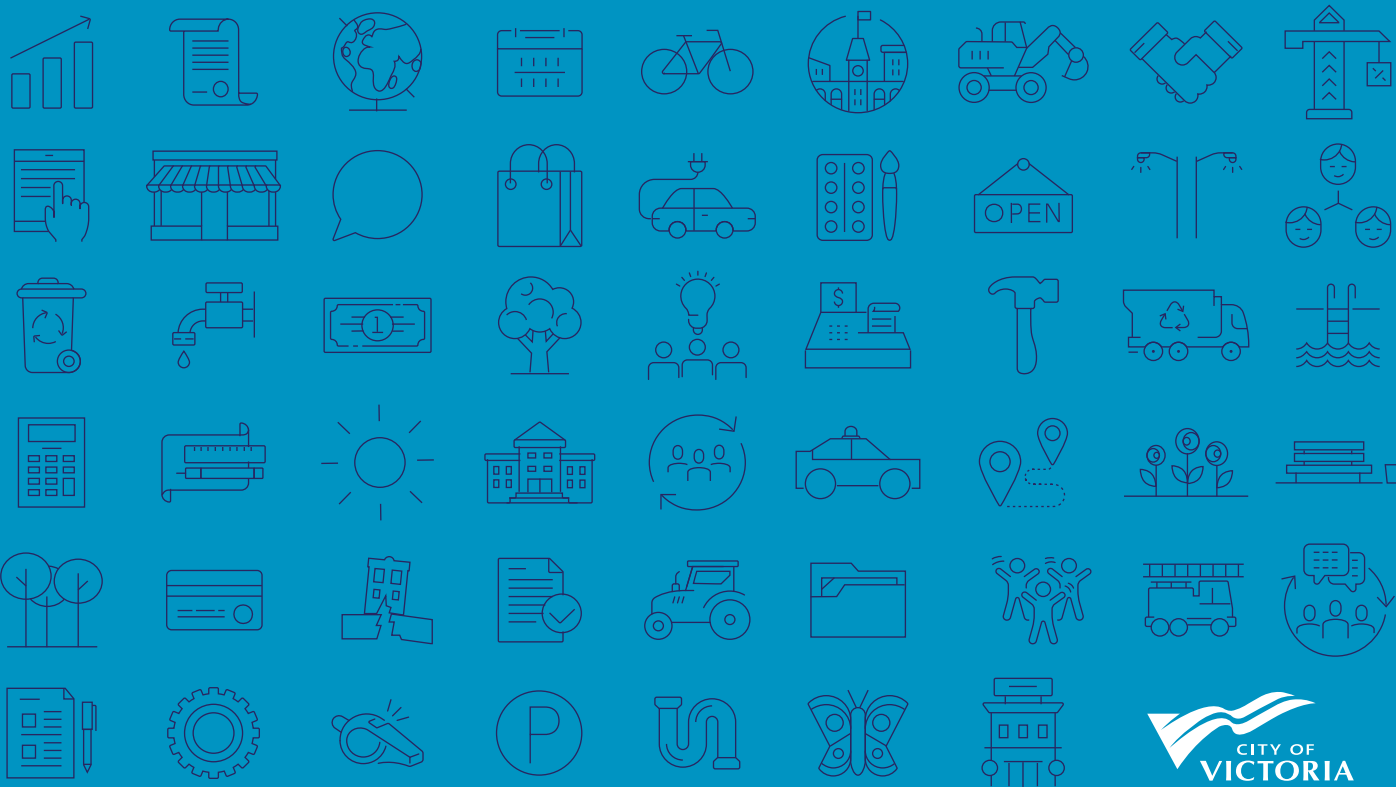


2023

ATTACHMENT B

# Online Survey Report



# 2023 Draft Budget Survey

---

## SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

17 February 2023 - 06 March 2023

PROJECT NAME:  
2023 Draft Budget



# SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** Please rank the following City core services from 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important to you and 10 being the least important to you.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Public Safety (e.g., Bylaw Services, Police, Victoria Fire Department, Emergency Preparedness)	3.87
Transportation (e.g., road construction and maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, road safety)	4.37
Parks and Recreation (e.g., park amenities, recreation centres and programs, trees and horticulture)	4.75
Residential Services (e.g., garbage/organics collection, yard waste drop-off, leaf pick-up, branch chipping, cleaning streets/public spaces)	5.13
Housing and Community Development (e.g., housing diversity, affordability and choice for renters, development applications)	5.37
Underground Utilities (e.g., sanitary sewer, stormwater and water services)	5.40
City-owned Facilities (e.g., Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, Royal Athletic Park, Victoria Fire Halls, City Hall, community centres)	5.86
Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship (e.g., EV charging stations, greenhouse gas reduction, energy-efficient buildings)	6.49
Economic Development (e.g., Business Hub customer service, business licensing, increase/retain business investment in Victoria, Victoria Conference Centre economic benefits to community)	6.63
Arts, Culture and Events (e.g., public art, free arts, cultural and music programming, grants, festivals)	7.13

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q2 Transportation** Of the following core transportation services/programs, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Regional transit planning	4.20
Sidewalks	4.37
Road construction and maintenance	4.41
Traffic and road planning and safety	4.67
Crosswalks	4.99
Accessible on-street parking, streets and sidewalks	5.62
Bike lanes	6.27
On-street parking	6.45
City parkade parking	6.87
Free youth bus passes	7.14

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q3 Parks and Recreation** Of the following core parks and recreation services/programs, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Trees and urban forest	3.64
Park amenities (park benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, lighting, washrooms)	4.26
Outdoor recreation (playgrounds, skateparks, bike parks, fitness areas, water features, sport fields, sport courts, lawn bowling)	4.54
Horticulture and natural areas (meadows, protected areas, garden beds, hanging baskets)	4.79
Recreation facilities (Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, Royal Athletic Park, Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre)	5.01
Recreation programs (fitness, swimming, skating, wellness)	5.44
Access to waterways for recreation	5.58
Community gardens	5.92
Dogs in parks (off-leash areas)	7.10
Cemetery services	8.72

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q4 Public Safety** Of the following core public safety services, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Victoria Police	1.91
Victoria Fire Department	2.21
Emergency Preparedness	2.78
Bylaw Services	3.11

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*  
*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q5 Housing and Community Development** Of the following core housing and community development services/programs, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
City-wide land use and local area planning	3.00
Urban design and public realm planning	3.14
Policy to support housing affordability, diversity and choice for renters	3.55
Rezoning, development and building applications, inspections	3.87
Policy, regulatory and information services	4.52
Heritage policy and programs	4.70
Victoria Housing Reserve Fund applications	5.22

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*  
*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q6 Residential Services** Of the following core residential services/programs, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important and 3 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Clean streets and public spaces (street cleaning, public waste bin and cigarette/needle collection, graffiti removal)	1.59
Residential garbage and organics collection	1.65
Residential leaf pick-up, branch chipping and yard waste drop-off at Public Works Yard	2.75

Mandatory Question (685 response(s))

Question type: Ranking Question

**Q7 Economic Development** Of the following core economic development services/programs, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Increase and retain business investment in Victoria	1.57
Business Hub (streamline business processes at City Hall)	2.46
Business licensing	2.87
Victoria Conference Centre (sell/manage conferences to generate economic benefits to Victoria)	3.10

Mandatory Question (685 response(s))

Question type: Ranking Question



**Q8 Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship** Of the following core climate action and environmental stewardship services/programs, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Waste reduction and enhancing waste collection services	2.04
Energy-efficiency (climate-friendly homes, City buildings)	2.35
Greenhouse gas emissions reduction	2.57
EV-readiness (public EV charging stations, City fleet)	3.04

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*  
*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q9 Underground Utilities** Of the following core underground utilities services, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important and 3 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Water services	1.53
Sanitary sewer services	2.00
Stormwater drainage services	2.47

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*  
*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q10 City-owned Facilities** Of the following City-owned facilities, please rank which matters to you most from 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Libraries (sxʷeŋxʷəŋ təŋəxʷ James Bay Branch and Central Library)	3.76
Public washrooms (22)	4.21
Victoria Fire Halls (3)	4.45
Community/seniors centres (11)	4.60
Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre	5.13
Victoria Police headquarters	5.51
City parkades (5)	6.31
Royal Athletic Park	6.55
City Hall	7.21
Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre	7.28

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q11 | Arts, Culture and Events** Of the following core arts, culture and events services/programs, please rank what matters to you most from 1 to 9, with 1 being the most important and 9 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Public markets	3.33
Festivals and special events	3.34
Free arts, cultural and music programming	3.78
Grants to support arts and culture programming	4.51
Grants to support neighbourhood-led projects	4.66
Public art commissioning and maintenance	5.62
Local artwork displays (downtown kiosks, Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery)	5.66
Indigenous Artist in Residence and Artist in Residence programs	6.09
Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate program	8.00

*Mandatory Question (685 response(s))*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q12 | Please share your feedback below on the 2023 Draft Budget to help inform Council's budget decisions.**

Personal Privacy

2/17/2023 03:59 PM

Let's approve some of these larger housing projects to help bring in more property tax revenue. If there's a housing crisis it sure doesn't seem like it based on the time it takes for approvals and the questions and concerns often raised by council

Personal Privacy

2/17/2023 04:35 PM

reduce grants for non essential purposes. Focus more on pushing for sharing policing cost with greater Victoria

Personal Privacy

2/17/2023 09:44 PM

I would like to express strong support for action on housing, climate mitigation, sustainable transportation, parks, biodiversity, and enlivening public spaces. I am not supportive of proposed increases to police and bylaw, even proposed reductions in the proposed police budget which I do not feel go far enough. I believe this is a reactive model for public safety which needs to be scaled down over time in favour of crime prevention through environmental design, an investment in social infrastructure, and upstream solutions that meet residents' needs in terms of equitable health, financial, and social outcomes. I would like to see more immediate action on public space and parks improvements in the rapidly growing neighbourhoods of Downtown, Harris Green, and North Park. This means accelerating the shelved plans for Ship Point, Centennial Square, the David Foster Walkway, and expansion of greenspace in North Park. I'm supportive of Council taking action on shelved plans over continuing to create new plans. I would also love to see movement on revitalizing the green space on the border of Harris Green and North Park, officially dubbed "Harris Green". This is an underutilized existing greenspace that could easily accommodate a dog park, playground, pedestrian path, green stormwater management, native plantings, and engaging people space for the rapidly densifying area. Perhaps even a splash pad! It is an expansive greenspace that is nice to observe as a driver along Pandora but is not at all used by the thousands of residents within a 5-minute walk of this site. My apartment faces directly onto this greenspace yet I have no reason to use it as there is nothing to do. There is major potential here. While I generally support the long-term bicycle network as proposed (and think it needs to go further in terms of making our arterials safer, especially in the northern City neighbourhoods), I would like to see more immediate quick-build solutions for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure which could be retrofitted and made permanent once the street is in need of repaving or underground utilities work. I'm incredibly disappointed to see painted bike lanes proposed for Blanshard and Bay which need to be

upgraded to protected bike lanes considering the heavy traffic and industrial activity involved in both, which present significant safety risks. A highly underappreciated area I would like to see is more focus on is green stormwater infrastructure, especially within the Bowker Creek watershed which is now a salmon-bearing stream. The Bowker Creek Blueprint is a joint initiative between Victoria, Saanich, and Oak Bay. While Victoria is already a leader in so many areas, I think the City could play a vital role as a watershed leader in this area, as it always does, to incentivize action on green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) within the watershed. Every rain garden helps, but we need dozens, if not hundreds, to make a difference in terms of water quality and volume to improve the health of this vitally important urban stream. I would like to see a significant increase in the tree canopy in Downtown, Harris Green, and North Park. Much of Harris Green is renewing its tree canopy through redevelopment and I think this will prove effective over the coming decades. A simple walk through Vancouver's Yaletown or West End will easily prove the cumulative positive impact of these land use decisions, which often result in double tree canopies, something we don't see in Victoria. For example, Richards Street in Vancouver has 5 rows of trees, one on each side of both sidewalks, plus a row of stormwater-fed trees separating the 2-way cycling path from 1-way traffic. We cannot rely on redevelopment alone to provide our urban tree canopy. Oldtown's scant tree canopy will not flourish without significant public investment. I wish for the now concrete-heavy environment in these areas to transform to a much softer, lush environment full of native plants, trees, and rain gardens while preserving the heritage Victorians have grown to love. Above all else, please take radical action on housing. You are all well aware of our immediate housing needs. Let's move \*way\* beyond missing middle and allow 8-10 story buildings by-right from non-profit housing providers on EVERY lot in the City. Let's eliminate parking minimums in favour of parking maximums and entirely ban residential parking in new-builds in Oldtown. Let's work closely with Premier Eby to accelerate the construction of social housing in Victoria. Let's adjust policies that make Victoria the preferred municipality for developers and that disincentivize sprawl. Let's enliven our Downtown core and urban villages and corridors by creating diverse housing for everyone. Let's plan for anticipated growth by facilitating both the construction of housing and amenities rather than pitting these two congruent goals against each other. Let's invite residents rather than make them feel unwelcome. Let's build housing for everyone in communities that are vibrant, diverse, and welcoming.

Personal Privacy

2/17/2023 06:22 PM

Please do not increase property taxes!!!! Assessments were done at the height of bidding wars last summer and even though property prices are now down, home owners are stillgoing to be taxed at

previously higher valuations. Interest rates have sky rocketed, leaving anyone in a variable rate mortgage experiencing massive increases to monthly mortgage payments and vulnerable to delinquency. Those who have mortgage helper suites (of which there are thousands in Victoria) had rent freezes for two years during covid, and then were permitted only a 2% increase in rental rates last year, despite inflation being 8% and costs of everyday housing maintenance and supplies being up as much as 30%. People are going to lose their homes soon. I don't see how that helps improve the housing crisis. PLEASE DO NOT INCREASE TAXES.

Personal Privacy

2/17/2023 06:56 PM

Add parking underground, get it off the streets. More recreation , parks and bring back Victorias uniqueness and charm .

Personal Priv

2/17/2023 09:14 PM

Move funding out of our ineffectual poorly run police department and into other services so we don't need to cut our amazing programs

Personal Priv

2/17/2023 10:02 PM

Time for a core services review! The City is in terrible shape, roads are in a state of disrepair, crime and filth, vandalism and general feelings of safety are questionable. Too many activist ideologues around the Council Table for the last 8 years. This City used to be clean and attractive, now its a self-imposed guilt ridden embarrassment. Start running the City, fix the roads, clean the place up, instead of tearing it down.

Personal Privacy

2/17/2023 11:31 PM

The city needs to focus on city needs and not waste money on handing out money to indigenous people, or \$700k bathroom upgrades, or catering to a tiny and vocal minority who want special treatment

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 05:59 AM

Victoria has become extremely dangerous. Why are mayor and council luring drug addicts from across Canada to Victoria? It is because their friends work in the poverty industry?

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 08:05 AM

I don't think it's a good idea to increase parking rates and time frames because it will have a negative impact on the vibrancy and economic viability of our downtown and businesses. I used to love going downtown more, but now the streets and sidewalks are so dirty and smelly, it's not a pleasant experience.

Personal Privacy

There didn't seem to be any initiatives in the summary to make the

2/18/2023 08:05 AM

delivery of services more efficient. At some point the taxpayers do not have any more money, the maintenance of their own homes has also increased as will the rents people have to pay as the landlords costs to maintain their properties has also increased. The city needs to do better on finding ways to control their costs.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 08:34 AM

Please publish an honest accounting of our current financial state without lofty future predictions. Open Beacon Hill Park to everyone incldying people with disabilities. And BAN 24/7 CAMPING in all parks.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 08:21 AM

1. Please try to reduce/eliminate the increase in taxes; a 7% increase will still hurt a lot of people. 2. Please stop using the climate emergency as a 'blank cheque' for funding pet projects ... having visible indicators and metrics showing public benefit/harm related to your spending could help restore tax payers' trust.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 08:18 AM

The homelessness which is resulting in crime and devastation to our city should be the number one priority

Personal Privc

2/18/2023 12:03 PM

Sharpen your pencils! Previous Councils have not paid attention to costs that are not a benefit to the vast majority of the citizens.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 09:22 AM

Rather than attempt to address all aspects of the budget, I'll just mention one: we are in a Climate Emergency, but the City acts as if we aren't. The City is still willing to authorize activities that make climate change worse, such as giant towers and new natural gas hook-ups, and is unwilling to budget for measures that would reduce the rate of climate change, such as carless streets, a congestion tax, an Ultra Low Emissions Zone, smart parking, more charging stations, more protected bike lanes, zero-emission police vehicles, and many more such measures.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 09:26 AM

I agree with increasing parking fees and eliminating a study regarding off leash dog park to reduce higher tax increase. Council needs to focus on core Municiple service delivery.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 10:10 AM

There needs to be more focus on keeping business downtown and making it safe & accessible for visitors/residents.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 10:52 AM

What a bias survey! You force us to provide a value on things I place zero value on. I should be able to leave things blank if I place no value on it, you bias your results in the direction the survey wants. Disgusting! Your bias is showing!

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 11:24 AM

Please add a child focused lens to this budget. RAP should be used for a kids soccer pitch. Every sport parent in downtown drives out of downtown on the weekend. Desperately need cool new nature vibe playgrounds. Ensure 3 bedrooms are being made in every single new build. Innovative parking changes to accommodate trades people who live here.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 11:51 AM

If raising parking rates, consider maintaining the current prices for EVs while charging.

Personal

2/18/2023 01:25 PM

Please fund the police properly & focus on revitalizing the downtown core. It feels dirty & unsafe now and really feels like we are losing the Victoria that we knew & loved. There isn't much left to draw tourism & locals alike to the downtown core. Please focus on public safety & getting encampments out of local parks. It is unfair to the communities that deal with the impact of encampments. Stop spending money to have city workers come weekly to clean the parks, instead enforce your bylaws & get the campers out of our parks!!

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 01:35 PM

6.96% is still too much of an increase. I would like to see some cuts to non-core expenses and projects. Focus on what we need to have the city run and be a place people want to continue living in. It's not the City's mandate to solve the housing crisis and climate change.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 02:23 PM

Please think about other ways to improve our city than giving over vast amounts of money to police and bylaw who are making life hell for the unhoused and doing absolutely nothing to improve the situation for any of us by confiscating people's belongings and not returning them.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 04:39 PM

Although I feel things may be on the right track for Victoria (prioritizing dense and affordable housing, improving public transit, making our city more walkable and bike-able with less reliance on cars, ensuring green spaces in future developments), I also feel like there's still a long way to go. Some departments take a disproportionate share of funding. So much could be done if we were to try some new



strategies and focus on making it easier and more affordable for people to find shelter, food, places to go without needing a car, hubs for creativity and learning, and so on.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 04:13 PM

I would like to see less budget going to the police and more for addressing the causes of homelessness. Public safety is about more than law and order. The city is at a critical crossroads and needs to find a way to support all of the people who live here whether housed or not.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 05:07 PM

I'd prefer you keep parkades and street parking free after 6pm, and increase property taxes to compensate.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 06:04 PM

Make our streets safer & give us back our parking!

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 07:01 PM

Free bike park is a unneeded extravagance charging a nominal fee would be more reasonable

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 08:28 PM

Roads are in terrible condition. My street has no sidewalks and heavily used by cyclists and pedestrians. Is the City waiting for someone to be injured or killed until action is taken? We've been waiting for action since 2009 but the City claims there is no money in the budget. We can't even get a speed bump installed meanwhile outlying streets have speed bumps. Stop spending money on road art. Climate action, open up Vancouver St. so cars are not idling on outlying streets.

Personal Privacy

2/18/2023 11:37 PM

I do not support the police having any increase in their budget, particularly a 10% increase. As a person with a loved one struggling with mental illness, who has been witness to the way mental illness is handled in this city for over 20 years now, I am exasperated that this conversation is still happening and it still needs to be said: police are NOT equipped to handle these situations, and bigger budgets for more policing is NOT THE ANSWER. More policing simply gives the illusion of safety. We have had the police come to our home numerous times, and they themselves have been exasperated by how little they can actually do to help. The most they can do is take these suffering people to the PES at Royal Jubilee (where they will be met with abuse from staff, just ask the 2.6 thousand people in the PES facebook group who have suffered at the hands of this so-called mental health "care"). We need trained mental health and addictions services. And if the City of Victoria can't control how mental health is

being handled, then literally give that money to anything else in the budget. Putting money into projects that support youth recreation, food security, and community building will go a heck of a lot further. Building stronger communities means getting to the root of issues, instead of bandaids solutions that serve only to harm and further marginalize individuals.

Personal Priv

2/19/2023 07:45 AM

Prioritizing “water”, “storm” and “sanitary” is disingenuous. All 3 are core services and would rank ahead of most other budget lines. I hope that budget priorities understand and rank linkages between the economic and social health of downtown and e.g. “parking” - which shows up as an item in several survey categories (e.g. capital expenditure on parkades, street parking). It is critical, in my view, for the city to ‘stick to the knitting’ of core services which doesn’t really include poet’s laureate or indigenous expenditures; these are ‘nice to haves’ and not critical during in this high cost-of-living city in inflationary times. Looking ahead to question 13 below, I get good value for my tax dollars and find city staff providing direct services to me to be very good. At the same time, there remain tough choices to me made to rein in and reduce costs which may impact some of these services. Those tough choices, focused on core services, is what the Victoria taxpayer expects of our elected representatives.

Personal Privacy

2/19/2023 08:52 AM

My wife and I are very fortunate to have been able to purchase a condo downtown this past year as first time homeowners after a great deal of sacrifice in our lives to come up with the downpayment. However, as someone who does not have a parking spot (either access to residential parking on street on my block or in my building), the lack of unregulated parking spaces on street in the surrounding area is extremely frustrating when compared to how other major cities of the world structure this. An increase in parking rates will have a negative impact on us. As someone who was born and raised in greater Victoria and was both fortunate to be able to but unfortunate in having to pay 5X higher for my first one bedroom condo than my parents did for a home in Cordova Bay, I worry that the pressure from this policy will be felt by visitors of the city and young people trying to get a start in the city like my wife and I who rented in saanich and worked extremely hard to get to this point. We’d like to raise a family in our hometown, but know it’s looking later and later in our timeline the more costs continue to rise. I wouldn’t say I’ve lived downtown long enough to know how I feel about the service for tax dollars. I’m impressed with the teams responsible for cleanliness of the Harris green area. We have a thriving community and I love being a part of it. My wife and I envision a life where we live here for many years to come, and hope we’ll be able to continue to afford it.

Personal Privacy

2/19/2023 11:54 AM

The City has wasted so much money in the past, and made disastrous decisions that have negative consequences for all. Please exercise financial restraint in your budget, and make some hard-headed decisions to cut expenses, programmes and staffing. Any budget overspending will have a trickle down effect on worsening affordability (on homeowners AND renters), now and into the future.

Personal Privacy

2/19/2023 08:01 PM

Priority is needed urgently on safety for residents and businesses with full support of Victoria PD and action on mental illness and those chronically addicted and unhoused citizens. Monitoring of Cool Aid and Portland Housing who are not doing the job they are contracted to do. Accountability is required immediately. The current program of Housing First has failed as are the residential facilities run by nonprofits.

Personal Pr

2/19/2023 09:58 PM

Broken window theory. Stop allowing illegal and unwanted activity downtown and soon it will be reduced, as well as more serious issues as well.

**Personal Privacy**

2/19/2023 10:18 PM

Please consider responsible spending... a new washroom should not cost the same as building a new house. Stick to core services and mandates.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 04:12 AM

Stop with the bike lanes. James Bay does not need.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 09:46 AM

\*Budget does not identify or dedicate adequate resources to accessibility & achievement of ST Accessibility Action Plan. Plan is "subject to resources" but resources not specified and progress is opaque. Follow the Accessibility & Inclusion Policy w.r.t. budgeting for accessibility. Bring trade-offs to Council and consult on priorities. \*Ensure that Legislative Services has resources to design reasonable accommodation policy - overdue since 2021 in Accessibility Action Plan. Accessible housing policy very high priority (that includes parking for accessible car-shares). Set targets, hold a housing summit to understand demand/need for accessible housing. \*Accessible Washrooms - do some quick fixes and change project criteria to prioritise needs of people with disabilities, not able-bodied usage or operational convenience. Expedite those adjacent to accessible parking \*Council recently postponed a much-needed BHP Circulation & Accessibility Study without understanding it was the postponed mitigation for road closures to look at totality of paths and roadbeds to ensure equitable access for people with disabilities, especially in the north of Park. \* Provide direction re. Dogs in Parks

Strategy to ensure it balances rights & interests of all residents including people with disabilities and creates some no-dog spaces and keeps community safe from out of control off-leash dogs. It is a private interest taking over public spaces. Supposed to be about more than more off-leash areas, to ensure equal access to park space and allow everyone quiet enjoyment of green space. I wanted to prioritise this in the survey but was improperly described. \* Plan provides less detail than previous years does not allow public to learn what is planned - especially for accessibility work. Please publish operational plan. \*Please have Council make an informed decision about stopping allocation and draws from Accessibility Reserve - no explanation or consultation. Not mentioned in documentation. It was supposed to allow accessibility work to not have to compete with work of general benefit each budget cycle. \* Are sufficient resources assigned to accessible parking? No progress report has been made on the \$350,000 allocated to it and no appreciable difference in the accessible parking map. Still no progress on Council direction to provide accessible parking in vicinity of closed Broad Street, since many street stalls lost next to a medical building.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 09:44 AM

Modify work on james bay infrastructure being done. All I have talked to feel not all required at this time.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 12:56 PM

Priorities overall: 1 all climate related preparedness and improvement in emissions is paramount. after that, 2- public safety is mandatory, coupled with housing and control of local costs to enable a younger citizenry as residents enabling support labor is mandatory. The umbrella of this is public transportation planning and budgeting to deal with the larger populations expected via Immigration and the changing population as the majority oldest generations pass.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 05:10 PM

Too bad so much of our tax dollars is used to repeatedly clean up after and attend to with emergency crews the homeless on Pandora and local street areas. Often for the same people. Solutions are complex and seem to be impossible. So much is damaged both human and our beautiful city.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 05:23 PM

I agree with parking fee increases as a means to lower taxes. Users who want to drive downtown should pay for the privilege if they are not willing to bike or take public transit. Excellent job with this survey.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 05:29 PM

User fees for parking should go up vs increasing property taxes.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 08:15 PM

This survey was quite poorly designed. It could be a good opportunity to raise awareness about cost of living increases, the challenges of growth and aging infrastructure for example but instead is full of artificial trade-offs like the set in underground infrastructure.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 09:49 PM

I support higher taxes to achieve better service delivery and infrastructure.

Personal Privacy

2/20/2023 10:10 PM

It is imperative that we increase access to the water for recreation, specifically in the Gorge Waterway. This would reduce emissions by less people travelling to outlying lakes. We also need to make better use of existing parks by increasing infrastructure and amenities. Please consider Arbutus Park in Burnside Gorge. We should also consider expanding the number of recreation facilities. Crystal Pool should be moved to Banfield Park to deliver indoor and outdoor recreation programs. An outdoor pool and community centre should be constructed on the existing Crystal Pool site.

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 01:06 AM

Please don't raise the taxes that much it's so hard to afford everything now. You've no efforts towards reducing food costs.

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 03:14 AM

This was a poorly designed survey. It forces you to select things lumped together !

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 08:50 AM

Please use this budget to do broader thinking and planning as to what the needs and interests of the whole population are, and think broader than bike lanes and massive housing projects. The down town core is in terrible shape and needs attention to bring back life and vibrancy that it had.

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 11:37 AM

Too much is spent on non core frills such as \$200,000 grant to First Nations, poet laureate, resident artist. The city needlessly spends our tax dollars on issues that are Provincial and Federal responsibilities. Focus on municipal responsibilities!

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 01:18 PM

Trim down city hall, cut staff, amalgamate all municipalities into one Greater Victoria, need full time councilors when amalgamated, we cannot afford so many municipalities,

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 01:41 PM

With the current fixation upon densification and gentrification, it is more important than ever to maintain and increase our urban forest. Local ecosystems must be protected and enhanced, and park space must be increased.

Personal

2/21/2023 01:50 PM

Total Tax increase should not exceed 3.5% in one year, freeze spending, reduce grants and put a hold on new projects

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 02:22 PM

I am appalled and disappointed with the City Budget. I cannot believe this City council is running an almost 7% budget. Very disappointed. I cannot believe the double standard that this city council has imposed - they want to severely reduce the number of vehicle traffic which will put businesses at risk, - consumers will walk and drive with their pocketbooks to places that are more convenient. Yet, and the flip side of the double standard - to raise more revenue they are going to tax the very thing they want to get rid of. Yikes, you can't make this stuff up. Also, I am surprised with the survey in that there is a 1 to 10 scale given and we have to rank the priorities when in fact, many of the priorities would be on the lower end of the scale for me. Finally, if the city council is not going to listen to planning staff, I am wondering why they have the staff in the first place and whether they would be better served to eliminate those very positions since they are not listening to the city public servants.

Personal Privacy

2/21/2023 04:04 PM

Time to trim the fat at city hall. Best way to reduce costs is to trim the personnel - start cutting the poor performers that only keep their jobs because they are in the union. Reduce the overhead and cut non-essential programs... we're going into a recession and we all are feeling the pains, act accordingly.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:49 AM

My priorities were selected thinking of what are core city services and can be implemented by the city. Affordability is important as is housing, I think needs to be a province key priority and a regional overall plan. The city of victoria needs to focus on priorities that are your key responsibilities. I am very disappointed with the approach taken to the budget planning. Lack of strategic thinking and doing a core review. Increasing parking fees sends a strong message you dont care about our downtown and the business owners. Very very shortsighted thinking.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 07:40 AM

Stay below 6% Cut the non-core and non-rec programming Eliminate funding for items which are provincial Fund VicPD fully (Victoria's share)

Personal P

2/22/2023 10:05 AM

Improving the experience and image of Victoria's public realm in the downtown core and Harris Green is imperative for the future life of our City. We must work together so that our downtown does not slowly decline into urban decay. Tourists and residents alike should feel attracted to spend time in the downtown and having a safe, clean, beautiful public realm is the foundation for all economic activity.

## Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:35 AM

Prioritize "must have" services (e.g.: VicPD, safety, etc) and keep arts and culture programs on back burner to prevent comm. and residential prop. tax hike.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:56 AM

Maybe you should stop hindering Greater Victoria residents who want to come down town by means other than bicycle or bus? I have never seen so many empty storefronts full of "for lease" signs, all while you keep allowing more and more ugly commercial spaces to be built. Rents keep going up because you keep allowing (even encouraging) "market rate" housing as an apparent priority over everything else. Housing doesn't trickle down. Building more and more market rate housing does not free up affordable housing for anyone. All you are doing is pushing out lower income residents and attracting people from away .

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:58 AM

Ranking was sometimes hard and could be misleading e.g., all the items under the climate category item are important to me but most of the items in the arts/culture category are not important to me at all.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 01:00 PM

I like taking advantage of the free parking after 6 pm to go for dinner downtown.

Personal Priv

2/22/2023 01:29 PM

Less police, more social services and climate change action.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 01:58 PM

The proposed increase to the police budget is excessive, especially considering Victoria has the highest police funding per capita of any major city in Canada. I would far rather see those funds invested in supportive housing, social services, and community programs.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 02:38 AM

Our taxes only need to be so high because Victoria is so low density. I would love to see the City or the CRD commission a cost of service analysis like the type offered by Urban3 so we can understand the

scale of the problem.

Personal I

2/22/2023 02:42 PM

In a year, where businesses and people are fighting to recover from the blows from the previous years, be the government that presses pause on the expenditures that are non-urgent or nice to have but not infrastructure/safety critical. Give everyone a year to get back on their feet, then proceed slowly in 2024 with those delayed initiatives. Don't be part of the inflationary pressures.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 03:40 PM

Ok

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:35 PM

Reduce costs wherever possible. Eliminating social engineering projects would be a good place to start. Victoria taxpayers are hugely overburdened and the short-sightedness of the new elected council is only making matters worse.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:33 PM

Implement a moratorium on the hiring of consultants. Millions are spent every year duplicating work that capable City staff are already able to perform.

Personal Priv

2/22/2023 04:39 PM

Your proposed tax rate hike is far too high. I would like to dial it back and go to the basics. Please listen to the public and not go with pet projects. We really need to make this a safe, and beautiful city.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:12 PM

My number one priority for Victoria is to make it friendlier to pedestrians and bikes and less reliant on cars. I applaud the bike lane projects under construction, and the moves in the direction of a pedestrianized zone on Government St. My vote would be to go further in that direction, ideally making a section of downtown around government street entirely car-free, as many European cities have done with their historic centers.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:43 PM

When money is short the city should focus on immediate essential services.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:40 PM

Needs more attention to downtown safety--violence and vandalism are on the rise

Personal Privacy

Please defund the Police. Also, please increase funding for active



2/22/2023 04:44 PM

transportation infrastructure improvements: wider sidewalks, more crosswalks, more bike lanes, more waterfront pathways, more traffic calming, pricier parking. All good things!

**Personal Privacy**

2/22/2023 05:22 PM

I wish the city could contribute more time and funds to beautification. Some specific suggestions: - Raise the standard of architecture and materials expected for all new condo, rental and commercial buildings. If Victoria plans to significantly increase the rate of construction, please, please ensure the many new buildings in the coming years will be visually interesting and not cheap looking! If in doubt, request more brick and less composite paneling in the exterior siding! - A pilot program to begin transitioning our neighbourhoods to buried power lines, starting first in areas where significant road maintenance is already planned. Hanging power lines are probably the single biggest eyesore in Victoria's neighbourhoods. - Decorative street lamps (not just downtown). - Continue improving urban villages to expand the city's vibrancy beyond downtown. (Especially improve the Jubilee Village, which currently barely qualifies as an urban village.) Mixed use buildings. Wide sidewalks. Benches. Interesting monuments (such as a grand archway at the entrance). Large outdoor community gathering spaces (think Italian piazzas, or other European public squares surrounded by restaurants and shops).

Personal P

2/22/2023 04:40 PM

Reducing car dependence through active transportation and better transit facilities should be a top priority

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:47 PM

Stay in your own lane. Stop trying to solve problems that are outside of the city governments jurisdiction. Get on with amalgamation.

**Personal Privacy**

2/22/2023 04:42 PM

I don't approve of the \$14M+ to update 22 washrooms .... COST!!!

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:02 PM

Keep up the good work on the bike lanes! We have been car-free for five years now, thanks to those bike lanes.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:53 PM

New council should work to stay in their lane. Victoria is now a criminal, vandalism, mental-health-problem and drug-addict mecca. It's unsafe. Businesses are leaving. More money keeps being tossed down the drain by putting bandaids on these rather than tackling the root of the problem. You want a bikeable city but bike thieves have chop shops with no repercussions. This city is a broken dumpster fire - I hope your focus will be on CHANGE and tackling problems at their root. We are blindly following Portland, Seattle and San Fran.

Pandora is now referred to as mini East Hastings . You can change this by allocating the budget to SOLUTIONS not bandaids! No camping would be a good place to start.

Personal Priv

2/22/2023 04:52 PM

Please make more single person housing. There is a ton of family housing but it's full of people in their 30 who have roommates and can't afford to live alone.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:58 PM

Please continue to provide VicPD with increased funding. Victoria is becoming a dangerous, vandalized city, and is driving away business and tourists (let alone those of us who live here and are considering moving). Provide funding and resources to clean up the streets, remove tents / squatters and stop vandalism.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:57 PM

I would just like to add that free public transportation should be a goal. Eight cities in Canada have done it, let's be the ninth!! This is also the only way people will massively stop using their cars. In the meanwhile, kids should ride free until they turn 18. The current youth pass at 45\$ a month per kid is a lot of money for me (I'm a single mother).

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:58 PM

On your first page, you included bike lanes with road maintenance, and infrastructure. Made it difficult to choose, and it should've been separated out.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:53 PM

The most important issue in this city is safety-specifically getting police and bylaw officers on the streets clearing them of drug addicts who are shooting up and smoking drugs in shared public spaces, defecating, urinating and ruining our city. Taxpayers and their children have just as many rights as drug addicts, and we PAY to maintain these streets and our CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO SAFETY AND SO DO WE.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 07:07 PM

If you take away any more parking opportunities this city goes under. I am a business owner, and I'm having a difficult time finding anywhere within the city to give my tax dollars to and support the city of Victoria, by operating in the city. It makes more sense for me to go to Oak Bay, or another municipality where my business won't become vandalized or robbed. Taking away parking spaces and increasing parking prices will be the final dagger in this city. We need MORE people downtown.

Personal Priv

2/22/2023 05:03 PM

Need more access to public transit for seniors or allow Uber. Allow older seniors to utilise Handydart if not handicapped, but do not live within walking distance of a transit route

Personal Pri

2/22/2023 04:52 PM

Raise parking fees and reduce tax burden on homeowners

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:57 PM

Upgrade the Crystal Pool, do not tear it down and rebuild. Bring back community based land-use decisions - i.e. the Official Community Plan - before making huge changes to the city landscape.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:59 PM

Crime and bylaw violations have increased significantly over the past two years. I no longer feel safe and comfortable in my neighbourhood. We must sufficiently fund the departments responsible for patrolling and enforcing the law. Homelessness is also not getting better. More experts must be hired to develop a more effective plan for solving the problem. The municipal government needs to listen to its tax-paying residents and businesses. Too long have we locals succumbed to efforts of making this city pretty for the tourists while underfunding the core services that keep a city safe and efficient.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:02 PM

City planing for increase in Victoria population

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:03 PM

Reduced rate bus passes for everyone. Free bus passes for seniors. Instead of pushing for more consumerism by purchasing of new electric vehicles, which use resources to build and ship, and batteries that require forest destruction for lithium mining and disposal that is already a problem, we should be encourages other ways of transport - force everyone out of their car by offering bus passes so low we can't justify driving anymore. Provide grants to expand the car sharing programs so we don't all buy a new car, but instead share a few. I ride my bicycle, but many cannot for a variety of reasons - stop spending on bike lanes that help only a small portion of the population and instead spend on public transit options (light rail, more bus routes, etc) that can benefit almost everyone.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 08:39 PM

Housing is a massive priority, Centennial library needs upgrades libraries are one of the few free places people can spend time safe and indoors plus learning is precious, crystal pool also needs upgrades. Parking is not necessary and only caters to privileged, make downtown accessable on foot look to dutch cities.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:07 PM

Please improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure without compromising efficient road networks. Blocking off roads and putting in speed bumps is a ridiculous waste of money.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 04:58 PM

Council should be focusing limited funds on the areas that impact residents the most - public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and planning. Encouraging climate change initiatives through licensing and permitting is fine, but spending dollars on an area in which the city has very limited impact and which is not in the mandate of council is ill-advised in my opinion. I want my kids to be able to safely travel in any area of the city, and right now they can't.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:29 PM

Do not raise parking fees. Stop the reduction of parking. It's preventing residents from supporting downtown business and restaurants and they are leaving downtown. What good is an Imax or museum pass if the elderly and people with disabilities can't find parking! Make better decisions related to policing and safety. Councils past decisions have increased crime downtown and residents don't feel safe.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 11:17 AM

please no more bike lanes. The core needs to be cleaned up in order to attract business, residents and tourism.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:02 PM

Budgeting is challenging. If you focus on climate, housing, and primary amenities that will be critical; but I hope you are budgeting to be bold for future generations, not past ones.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:17 PM

I support raising parking fees. I also appreciate the 1 hour free parking in city parkades.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 08:45 PM

Please give the police adequate funding, support downtown businesses and fix the terrible potholes that that been plaguing our roads for several years now.

Personal

2/22/2023 05:10 PM

I think you should trim some of your bureaucracy before you raise property taxes.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:14 PM

It's time to work on road & sidewalk maintenance. Stop with the bike lanes.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:39 PM

Council should not be congratulating itself on its decision to "limit" the average tax increase to inflation. A 7 percent increase is excessive, regardless of inflation. Council has even less reason to congratulate itself (or expect credit from anyone else) that it chose not to pursue the original suggested increase of 9 percent, which was simply obscene. In fact, Victoria taxpayers might reasonably wonder whether presenting the original number was just a tactic to make a 7 percent increase seem reasonable by comparison. But to reiterate: it is not reasonable. The goal should be a tax increase as small as possible, always. Blaming inflation is a typical excuse of politicians who have no interest in spending discipline anyway. Whatever Council might want us to believe, there are plenty of unnecessaries in this budget. For example, life in the city would go on just fine if we suspended the poet laureate post for a few years, or the various artists in residence. The vibrancy of this town would not evaporate with a few less cultural grants. And perhaps, if we were really to get crazy, we might trim the communication budget, and put a freeze on all new "consultants". I'm not naive enough to believe that moves like these would preclude any tax increase whatsoever. But at the very least, they would demonstrate to the people of this city that Council is actually taking the notion of budgetary responsibility seriously.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:52 PM

Leaving parking alone and do what other municipalities do and find extraneous, non-essential expenses to cut. Increase substantially the community contribution by developers. Why can't Victoria prioritize this opportunity to raise funds for permanent community assets? It's been like this for years. If council is going to give away the city to developers, they should get something in return besides housing that does absolutely nothing for affordability.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:13 PM

The fact that the council continues to tell new housing projects that they have to have very little parking is incredibly short sighted and frustrating. I get that we need to be reducing our carbon footprint, but this doesn't help. It just drives out families

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:12 PM

Please prioritize safety and business in the city. Police need to be supported so they can manage the crime. Tired of councillors pet projects and personal agendas with regard to climate change. As a business owner we need support from the mayor and council. You are to govern for everyone not just yourselves and friends. Victoria need responsible governance.

Personal Privacy

Please spend time determining where and how new bike lanes can

2/22/2023 05:22 PM

attract riders who will commute by bike only if safer lanes are available.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:13 PM

This is a great way to learn about all the decisions y'all will need to be making. Difficult to rank something like sewage. Probably everyone would rank that number 1 if it were failing and flooding the streets. Otherwise, most would undervalue it as long as it is flushing along...

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:40 PM

The most important part of the budget should be SAFETY, which means proper budgets for police and fire services. Things that I consider "niceties" like artists and poets should be the least important part of the budget. A personal budget takes care of paying for a roof over their head, groceries so you can eat, heat, etc. Fancy clothes and dinners only come if there is extra money. A city budget should be decided the same way.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:23 PM

PLEASE fix the roads! Please STOP impeding traffic by eliminating slip lanes, by obstructing, by building bike lanes!!!! Stop increasing pollution by hampering traffic flow! Clean up the downtown area - it is dying because 1) you have made it a misery to drive downtown, and 2) it is becoming dirty, dangerous and unattractive. Bicyclists alone cannot keep downtown viable!!!!!!

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:22 PM

Cut some of the government bloat rather than raising property taxes

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:30 PM

The way this survey was designed was a bit frustrating. Comparing the importance of a functioning sewage system and a city that supports artists and art is a bit weird. Obviously if the sewage wasn't working and there was no garbage collection and no fire station and no police we'd be having a very different conversation. Those things are all important to a functioning city and I don't think anyone would ever deny that. But we also need to talk about growing a city that is thriving and inviting and exciting. For me, a city without arts and culture is such a missed opportunity. I would love to see more museums, more music venues, more public art installations. And that means we need a city in which artists can live, which is connected to the affordability of housing. We also need a city in which businesses that run venues can thrive, which is related to economic development. All of this is interrelated which is why the rank from 1 to 10 survey felt like it misses the point. Music and arts and culture and a green, living, breathing city. That is my dream! Can we please plant trees and establish parks where right now we have strip malls within the city core?

Personal Privacy

Please focus on infrastructure

2/22/2023 05:23 PM

Personal P

Would be nice to see more rehab programs for street people. Why can't some money be spent on helping in this way?

2/22/2023 05:35 PM

Personal Privacy

Stop discretionary spending especially the 'artist/poet/whatever' in residence. We are in an economic downturn and have massive safety issues to concentrate on rather than 'feel good' and woke initiatives. Downtown is UNSAFE, my Neighborhood (north park) is UNSAFE due to the Our Place and other 'unsupportive' and enabling facilities.

2/22/2023 05:26 PM

Personal P

More parking, not all of us cycle..support downtown shopping and tourism, retain the old town feel of Victoria. No more cycle lanes.

2/22/2023 05:34 PM

Personal Privacy

keep it to municipal government core responsibilities for areas such as parks, community water systems, local police, roadways and parking.

2/22/2023 05:28 PM

Personal Privacy

From a financial and human rights perspective, VicPD is the worst item on the COV's budget and has been since its inception. The police budget has expanded by 40% over the past 8 years - things should move in the opposite direction. Excess money from reducing the police budget (wasted on ineffective patrols and vehicle upgrades year over year) should go directly towards measures that prevent the issues VicPD's focuses on. Arguably these are poverty, crime and unsafe driving. As such the city should continue to invest in transportation infrastructure, but also more into housing and community led response services. On another note, money is not the best way to ensure climate action - changing land use is. Regardless, the city must prioritize climate action through measures such as: supporting businesses with circular economy components, ending subsidies to private motor vehicles, including electric vehicles, implementing a parking permit system, and seeking regional co-operation on improved waste management.

2/22/2023 05:57 PM

Personal Privacy

Police, Peter Pollen Park, Housing and street vandalism down town.

2/22/2023 05:31 PM

Personal Priv

thank you for considering environmental issues in your budget.

2/26/2023 10:25 AM

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:51 PM

Given the extreme impact that inflation is having on the citizens of Victoria I want the city to CUT COSTS, not increase property taxes. My household is barely hanging on as my mortgage payments alone have nearly doubled since April 2022. The cost for basic necessities such as food are becoming out of reach. My savings are gone and I don't know how much longer I can hang on without being forced to sell my home. I know so many others are in the same boat. Now is not the time to be adding to the financial burdens we are all facing. The City can cut costs. We don't need new turf on sports fields and we don't need any more bike lanes. What we need is a break. Please give that to us. Thank you.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:03 PM

The City has seriously deteriorated in the past few years and I don't think you can keep blaming Covid - we need a strong Police Budget to help combat the destruction of our Downtown core and retention of our tax paying businesses - we need to work with the Provincial Govt to help with the out of control drug addiction and the constant vandalism that is driving people out of the downtown and making all of us feel unsafe. Give the Cycling Infrastructure a rest for now or start requiring bicycle licensing to help offset those costs. If you're going to provide a Bike Valet (which is a good idea) make it pay it's own costs. Rather than constantly pounding us with more taxes look at the City Hall budget and make some cuts there - how big is the EDI staffing? - how much is that budget? That was not included in your information package. I can only hope that, that staffing is limited to one person, any more than that is a waste of taxpayers dollars. Maybe also cut some of your Community Grants as well. Did you already do some trimming there? Because if you didn't then you are not doing a very good job. Hard times require hard decisions and a 7% tax increase shouldn't happen - you should be held to 5% and make up the difference in reducing Grants and excess infrastructure plans. We need a 'broken windows' policy and that requires a well staffed police force and policy planning with the Provincial Govt that allows for proper incarceration policies that is not a revolving door. Do your jobs!

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:51 PM

The police budget continues to grow without limit. We pay more and more (above guideline increases) for less and less (fewer solved crimes). Maybe they can cut back on the social media staff over there.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:58 PM

you need to stop wasting time re--visiting things we already know ie crystal pool replacement, too much money is wasted tip toeing



around it. build it.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:57 PM

Maybe I missed it, however I wanted to see a continuation of AAA bike path program....is it going to happen or has it been deferred....i.e. Fort Street?

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 05:53 PM

I'm concerned about the proposed increase in parking fees. I think that it's going to hurt downtown businesses and we should make it easier to park downtown.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:06 PM

I am disappointed that VicPD has not released a provisional budget yet. I strongly urge the City to be refrain from providing any further money to the VicPD. I further urge the City to attempt to significantly cut the VicPD budget and re-invest into community, social, and housing services.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:03 PM

The downtown businesses need support, please do not cut anything to the police, fire and bylaw budgets. Stop any other bike lanes, focus on maintaining what is built. Not adding any new projects. I would like to know how the city of Victoria is going to promote businesses and clean up the downtown core. If you were going to move ahead with one project, make it Crystal pool.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:08 PM

Should focus on core city services and make more cuts to budget. Free transit passes are not a city responsibility or at least should be means tested to those who actually need it. Cancel city grant to indigenous groups. Stop sending separate storm water and utility bills('cost savings on paper envelopes and postage).cancel poet laureate and artist in residence.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:06 PM

Tax incentives for those who are landlords, particularly if they prove they are maintaining their rental suites adequately.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:15 PM

This survey in places forces a false dichotomy (e.g. how could I rank underground utilities - they're all important!). Also, it feels like we're still giving developers carte blanche on building expensive condos that aren't really creating affordability. I'm sure there's never as much money as there is need. I hope you will focus on environment and affordability and make decisions according to the values you were elected to reflect. Thanks for all your hard work! (And that of the city staff, too!)

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:15 PM

Don't spend 14 million on washrooms, they will be trashed and it's an absurd amount. The cost is ridiculous!

Personal Priv

2/22/2023 06:30 PM

Until Vic PD is fully funded, with every dollar they've requested, things like placemaking, crosswalk painting, poets and artists should not be funded. There are excellent NFP housing developers (GVHS) the city should NOT be in the housing business. MMHI will not bring the results you believe. Only developers, real estate agents (I am a real estate agent) and upper income earners will benefit. And neighborhoods will suffer. Just ask Matt Dell. He doesn't want multi family housing in his neighborhood.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:28 PM

1. I do not support pausing the Dogs in Parks review. This is a growing area of conflict and impacts 2. The traffic calming budget is fairly modest. Hopefully streets with higher speeds and volumes will indeed be prioritized. The previous pilot projects were in my opinion low-hanging fruit with less impacts that trying to address more challenging traffic issues elsewhere (e.g. Vic West and Gorge/Burnside). 3. We need some more crosswalks in Vic West on Esquimalt and Craigflower Roads 4. More and upgraded public washrooms are nice. I do not support any support for commercial activities and concrete/art "amenities" in our parks and natural areas

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:29 PM

Please stop spending money on the junkies and criminals. Clean up Pandora Street and start enforcing camping bylaws on Pandora.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:33 PM

Proposed Property taxes are too high. Missing middle a disaster. Downtown is a mess. Streets are full of potholes. By law doesn't enforce anything. Homeless are in charge of the city. Parks are disgusting. Needles and glass. Don't spend any \$\$\$ on the public washrooms

Personal Priv

2/22/2023 06:38 PM

Too much time and money on bike concerns and not enough on improving driving conditions.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:37 PM

Thank you for sending the 2023 Draft Budget. Please continue with this valuable resource for I feel much more informed about the City's Projects, Institutions and Finances.

Personal Priv

Don't think spending should be increased

2/22/2023 06:44 PM

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:46 PM

I would like to see efforts made to provide recreational and library services in Vic West. Vic West has no rec centre with a pool or gym equipment, and no library services. There is so much development going on in Vic West. Could some of the developer's fees be used to give the Vic West community some of these needed services. Vic West also needs a meeting area or central gathering place. It's starting to feel like the West End of Vancouver minus the services and exciting shopping area. I also feel an alternate funding formula needs to found for Vic PD. Much of my tax dollar goes to policing. With an attractive downtown, vic PD deals with all sorts of problematic policing issues brought to them by citizens of neighbouring municipalities. We need to regionalize or find new sources of funding.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 06:59 PM

I think tying sustainability so closely to EV infrastructure is a bit of a mistake. Electric cars are still fundamentally cars and as such retain almost all of their sustainability, health, and safety issues, only eliminating one source of their air pollution and emissions.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 07:03 PM

Let's celebrate Canada Day, get ride of some under used bike lanes and properly fund our police and fire departments.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 07:49 PM

Give VicPD & ByLaw & Fire whatever they request. Your focus on defunding those who maintain law & order is reprehensible. Based on your policy directions & discussions I've had a chance to review, I have NO FAITH in the majority of Council. That majority doesn't seem at all to care about the safety & security of their employers. It would be preferable if you would turn your minds away from YOUR PET PROJECTS and focussed instead on adequately addressing the legal, ethical & moral issues that have dogged Council for the past 9+ years. You, Marianne Alto, of all people, must realize that your job, & the jobs of your colleagues on Council, is to make life not-quite-as-hard for your employers. The City has not, in my 40+ years here, been as dirty, slovenly, or inaccessible as it is today. As CEO, you have a lot of work ahead to make Victoria decent & safe again.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 07:16 PM

Spending money on housing issues should stop. That is very clearly a provincial issue and not a municipal issue.

Personal Privacy

Focus should be on running core services efficiently. It is easy to

2/22/2023 07:11 PM

spend other people's money and I don't think hard decisions are made my the city. In business you need to be efficient or you will go out of business. More of that needs to be driven into decision making. Not throwing more money at things.

Personal P

2/22/2023 07:19 PM

As a senior I would appreciate less emphasis on biking and no cars I was born here and in the last 8 years I do more shopping outside of Victoria as I do not feel safe living here

Personal

2/22/2023 07:15 PM

Stop wasting money on vanity projects for press coverage and focus on core issues impacting quality of life for majority of citizens. Address the addiction and homeless issues with counsellors and outreach, not with police. Focus on pedestrians and making the city walkable instead of even more miles of unused bike lanes.

Personal Privac

2/22/2023 07:15 PM

Please reduce the police budget!

Persons

2/22/2023 07:34 PM

Our streets have become full of angry drivers; there are one ways, dead ends, and it takes more gas (less environmentally friendly) and produces more emissions to get from point A to point B than it once did. People are tired, busy, and need to get places. Our city has become difficult to live in for many reasons but the angry driver syndrome can have very negative consequences public safety. Perhaps we could open some routes back up again? Also, there is more care it seems in making sure dogs have a place to roam freely, but little consideration to the fact that many families with small children have to avoid many of the beaches and playgrounds/parks in our city as they are overrun by animals. Some dog owners are amazing and so are their lovely dogs... but many let their dogs wander very far from them and have no control. It is quite scary sometimes, especially for young children. Could we also care about people, and not just pets? Having more by-law officers to actually respond to the huge number of complaints would be a great start to improving our feeling of safety in the city. Having leash requirements (that people actually have to follow and special off leash fenced in areas as we have seen more of as of late) would be helpful. Our police force is also essential and does not seem to be considered for optimal services. Walking in certain parts of our downtown core now can be unpleasant. Can we find better ways to help those who need help? Thank you for your consideration.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 07:38 PM

The mill rate will likely be based on the July assessment which was peak, and will become the baseline for future percentage tax

increases. The city should do zero based budgeting and defer frills until the pandemic recovery is assured. Don't use property taxes to deal with problems that senior governments are happy to download and avoid.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 08:04 PM

The draft budget requires too much of an increase in property taxes. Until inflation is under control the city should postpone crosswalk and sidewalk upgrades unless they are directly the result of new building construction, and delay cycling network implementation and rehabilitation of streets. Also, until the city infrastructure is upgraded and the other targets met, the missing middle initiative needs to move slowly as increasing density will increase costs.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 07:45 PM

I'd like to see a strong emphasis on pedestrian safety, bike infrastructure, and work needed to get a wider variety of housing forms in Victoria. These all need to be well funded, please make sure that these are not just stated priorities, but also well funded priorities.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 08:36 PM

Stop doing stupid things. Take care of the basics (public safety, transportation, utilities). Don't fund silly things like the poet laureat and amateur bands at Fishermans Wharf Park. Insist on QUALITY urban development.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 08:26 PM

This presents a lot of false choices - does not allow for several items to be rated equally important

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 08:25 PM

recognizing all of the development happening in the city (i.e. new revenue), i am unclear why taxes are still being raised. Seems like false narrative blaming inflation. So many pet projects from previous years that you are not accounting for. Where is climate adaptation in the climate piece?

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 08:36 PM

Budget should be applied to core services needed for our residents, particularly safety. The city needs to be cleaned up.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 09:34 PM

I think that less time/money needs to be spent on planning, private consulting, public pseudo-consultation, and feasibility studies for projects. Listen to advice of the professional City planning/engineering/technical staff we already pay, make decisions that follow the local-area plans and overall city-wide plan, and put the money into getting the projects done! When the City invests in

improvements such as bike lanes, crosswalk improvements, park amenities, etc., I think it important that those improvements are spread equitably around the city's neighbourhoods.

Personal Private

2/22/2023 09:12 PM

This is a badly designed survey and will produce inaccurate results. It would have been better (and more user friendly) to use a nested Likkert scale for each budget category and within each category to have individual Likkert scales on each specific topic. Compiled results would have given a clearer picture of what people really prioritize

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 09:15 PM

Hillside Quadra really needs a library! It's so far to go!

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 09:48 PM

Food inflation, unaffordable housing, increased mortgage payments are decimating family budgets and Council wants to add gasoline to the fire by hiking taxes by 7%. Where is the money to come from?. Downtown is unsafe, vandalism is rampant, theft and criminal activities are commonplace, addicts shoot up on the streets while empty storefronts are everywhere. And this supposedly ok?? Focus on cleaning up and revitalizing downtown. Council needs to stick to its core services and provide them efficiently and effectively. Administration costs are skyrocketing for with no increase in service or value, red tape and imposed fees/costs are killing business. Council waste on non-core activities and lack of focus is making Victoria an unaffordable wasteland for all.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:49 PM

Unfortunately, numbers don't tell the real story. I'm hoping that the City is looking at introducing new technologies (possibly AI) relative to: infrastructure and road maintenance, waste management, recycling, etc. There are more efficient and cost-effective technologies out there that need exploring.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:12 PM

bike lanes is a big cause to downtown traffic jam.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:23 PM

Mayor and councillors start working for the people and addressing the issues that really matter. Stop focussing on your woke agendas.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:44 PM

Tax should be higher, to make community and services investment higher and more effective

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 10:43 PM

I am supportive of an increase to the municipal tax rate, in order to maintain good public services.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 11:28 PM

The City in my opinion funds too many nice to have, impractical and foolishly idealistic projects and initiatives. I would like the City to "stick to the knitting" of municipal governance and operations; and keep taxes to a minimum. I find it incongruous that the City espouses housing and rental affordability while their own budgeting and pursuit of costly and ultra vires idealistic causes flies in the face of this objective.

Person:

2/23/2023 12:00 AM

Since we moved to Victoria almost 20 years ago there have been questions about how or when to redevelop Crystal Pool — It would be a huge waste of tax payer money to fund a referendum on the future of Crystal Pool without including other matters on the ballot — if you choose this action, perhaps you would also consider including a mid term election as a referendum on council (?) — I suspect very few of you would support this idea. Please wait until a referendum on other matters are required or defer the Crystal Pool question to the next Civic election. Please be responsible stewards of our tax dollars. Overall I think council has good intentions, but overall efforts are naive and misdirected.

Personal Privacy

2/22/2023 11:20 PM

Would like to see on street parking rates changed to be demanded based. Varied by block and time of day and adjusted regularly to achieve a target occupancy/vacancy

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 03:43 AM

No need for spending \$628,000 to develop a conceptual design for the Dallas Road Waterfront Park Improvement Plan. that could be done by the community No need to Allocate \$350,000 for traffic calming measures; approximately 15 blocks of speed humps. Focus instead on banning street parking. Residents should park in their driveways

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 06:38 AM

Good luck!

Personal Priv

2/23/2023 06:17 AM

Parking is already expensive extending the hours to 7pm seems very unreasonable and unnecessary. Safety after dark for women needs to be considered in this decision. As a women I drive after dark and park to attend fitness or social activities as transit is not safe and walking is not safe in Victoria after dark . This policy is fine in the summer months but with long dark winters you really are penalising those who

have to choose personal safety travel options after dark. Please rethink this .

Perr

cut police funding in half at least

2/23/2023 06:18 AM

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 06:51 AM

All taxpayers, other than the financial elites, are being crushed by inflation and are actively eliminating non-essential expenditures. City Council must do the same. City Council must not pile-on by increasing taxes this year.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 07:40 AM

Public safety and infrastructure should be our budget priorities. Thank you for asking for my opinion.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 07:40 AM

We need to focus on making Victoria a better, more desirable, affordable home for families and young people.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 08:01 AM

There needs to be emphasis on the terrible state of BC transit

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 08:10 AM

Rating between fire and police services, water and sewage service, etc is nonsensical. This is not a good survey.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 08:14 AM

I do not support increasing the police budget in any way. We should be lowering the police and bylaw budget.

Persona

2/23/2023 08:38 AM

Please please please deal with the homeless / mental health / vandalism situation in the downtown core; it is desperately sad, and utterly unconscionable that a city / province / nation with so much wealth cannot find funds to house and treat people. Please please adequately fund recreation (Victoria is very underserved compared to Oak Bay and Saanich); consider partnering with the YMCA for all of the above (housing and recreation)

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 08:32 AM

Current state of much of city infrastructure is very poor, e.g. roads - have been neglected for far too long. Adjust some bikeways - particularly those that disrupt and do not function for any transport purpose very well, e.g. Richardson St. Cancel the handout of tax dollars to local indigenous groups, e.g. the proposed budget handout over the next four years, totalling \$1M.



Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 08:33 AM

Focus on reducing the noise and pollution along Douglas Street and things will be better for almost everything. Currently, it's the most noisy and polluted air space I'm aware of in BC.

Personal Priv

2/23/2023 08:40 AM

I think the police budget should be cut and the money should instead go towards housing and support for unhoused people. The police in Victoria are not helpful, and they spend more time making people feel unsafe rather than do any good.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 10:10 AM

Please stop the decline of our once beautiful city. The Helps agenda proved to be a failure and it's disheartening to see the new council sticking with that agenda.

Personal f

2/23/2023 09:02 AM

My biggest concern this year is ongoing destruction of property and fear for my safety downtown.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 09:36 AM

Bike lanes have been a positive addition in some places (Galloping Goose, Dallas Road), and negative in others. Richardson is a disaster. "All ages and abilities" is a misnomer when justifying road design if pedestrian safety is generally ignored. Please consider future bike lane projects from ALL perspectives.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 09:30 AM

the ranking choices seemed unreasonable for water, sewer, ground water drainage as these are all essential. In other categories perhaps top 5 would work better do

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 09:26 AM

As tourism is vital to our city I believe we need a stronger police presence downtown. Preferably on foot patrol. Our core needs to be kept clean and safe.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 09:32 AM

Please do the right thing and support the people who keep us safe. I am sick and tired of seeing the police attacked by this and the previous council. I am more than willing to pay more in property taxes to properly fund the police department. Having great public spaces means nothing if we are unable to use them due to inadequate police funding.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 09:47 AM

I do not support the development of EV charging. Money would be better spent on reducing automobile use. The peripheral costs of

electric automobiles is too high both in terms of dollars and environmental costs.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 09:54 AM

We've seen zero improvement in our lifestyle and safety in the last 6 years. Crime, traffic and lawlessness unseen in other areas other than Victoria have skyrocketed with no end in sight. We are looking at our options of leaving the city because I don't think you're capable of making the hard decisions to improve life for the productive taxpayers of this once kind and beautiful city.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:34 PM

Please patch the roads. The potholes need fixing the patching should be a lot smoother.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 10:08 AM

I've lived in the city for over 20 years, after moving here from Vancouver. I'm still waiting for a new Central Library, or at least a new Victoria Branch / a new art gallery / a large and properly sited public market that would reach the standards of Granville Island. You seem fixated on small-scale community engagement, instead of concentrating on the most important projects that would elevate this city .

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 10:20 AM

Fund the police. Do not charge more for parking downtown. Do not cut down trees (as much as possible), for building construction, and if you do then replace them with similar types or something nicer. Stop with building bike lanes down residential streets with residential parking on both sides of the streets and only one left for driving, before the bike lane is put in. Put the road back at clover point and have more consideration for the disabled and older people in this city.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 10:34 AM

Without a surge in spending on public safety in the downtown core, we risk the viability of small businesses and the livability of urban Victoria. I live 3 blocks from downtown. Rather than going shopping there, my wife drives to the malls because it feels safer. No point having a walkable, bike rideable city if nobody wants to go there!

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 10:35 AM

From an outside perspective, Police and By-law seem to be the areas with the largest wasted budget allocations and neither should be increased. If possible they should be decreased and these organizations should be made to increase the efficiency of how they use their budgets.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 10:40 AM

Many people do not see their income go up to match inflation, why does the city seem to think matching inflation is a good thing. Where are the cuts to save people money. Will increase taxes make home ownership more affordable??

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 11:06 AM

Not one word about Animal Control (!) which is vital to the success of the city. There needs to be more money allocated to animal control so officers can respond to complaints and do proactive work. More people than EVER now own dogs and yet animal control is running on an out-dated budget. Please address this.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 02:06 PM

stand your ground on halting policing budget. it is outrageous that police boards are the only ones that will not abide by the budget review to freeze property tax

Personal Pri

2/23/2023 11:01 AM

Progress has been made, but the area where the City can most support my safety and wellbeing is more emphasis on bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Much more could be done to make the City less friendly to high speed driving, and the consequent close calls. I would support tax increases in pursuit of this goal (or reductions in spending on car-focussed infrastructure, or requiring police to source a greater portion of their budget from vehicle infractions). I am focussed on this point because yesterday I had yet another driver pass very close, while screaming at me, on a quiet residential street, marked for bike usage. Speed bumps and diverters at least reduce this kind of thing.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 11:03 AM

Please prioritize safety for residents and visitors and housing for vulnerable and unhoused.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 11:12 AM

Enforce bylaws re camping during the daytime. It is scary and killing downtown...no one wants to visit because people don't feel safe. You need to support local businesses and police more.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 11:05 AM

Stop hoping that the private sector will build affordable housing -- they wont. Build city-owned affordable housing, and seize buildings that are being mismanaged or being kept empty.

Personal

2/23/2023 11:30 AM

we need more truely open-to-the-public spaces, where everyone is welcome and not kicked out by bylaw or police. we need true housing affordability; almost everyone I've known has left Victoria due to lack

of affordability, and I may have to as well. several people I know have also committed suicide, become homeless, turned to drugs under the ridiculously hopeless systems we have created in this society. if something doesn't change you are going to be left with only rich people and no one to work the basic jobs that truly keep things running.

**Personal Privacy**

2/23/2023 01:47 PM

Less funding for police and bylaw, more for mental health and addiction. It's an tragic crisis. Police force so overfunded and it's not the answer. It's not their profession. Additionally, to have money to deal with and fund any of these important things, Victoria must be more business as friendly or there won't be a thriving community to tax for funding

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 12:15 PM

Encouragement is needed to keep people coming to the downtown area. Increasing the time for paid parking to 7 pm from 6 pm is a bad idea.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 12:04 PM

If only the council would use the information gathered here.

**Personal Privacy**

2/23/2023 12:24 PM

Make BHP accessible again. Turn those pickle ball courts back into parking. Open Clover Point again. Stop wasting tax dollars on vanity projects by the bicycle lobby.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 12:27 PM

Less bike lanes, more parking, more public safety and police funding

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 12:45 PM

There is absolutely no need for the city to support poetry. This includes "laureates" or random public displays of someone's poetry.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 12:42 PM

More bylaw enforcement; otherwise what's the point of having them.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:09 PM

We should move away from our highly Socialist leanings for taxpayer subsidized "middle housing" and regulations regarding use of privately owned property. Need to improve policing in core area, improve vehicle access to downtown area and street parking. Too high a percentage of tax dollars go to bike lanes that have a very limited use by a very small portion of taxpaying citizens.

Personal

2/23/2023 01:07 PM

There's way too much waste by doing things like poets, bike lanes, and really bad infrastructure changes like the dog fences on Dallas and blocking off Clover Point parking with unnecessary picnic tables . Council needs to get back to basics and focus more clearly on what municipal governments need to do - keep us safe, provide better roads, clean the city (it's an embarrassing mess), etc. And you need to get some better help in the area of public consultation as the quality of the mechanisms you are currently using is very low.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:04 PM

Several of the categories (such as the Climate action one) had me choosing things where even my #1 choice was something I don't think the City needs to be spending \$ on.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:02 PM

Please consider that a vast amount of homeowners already struggle with increased fees for water, sewage, collection etc, on top of increased property taxes. It isn't an endless stream of money, we are going with less

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:13 PM

Please use citizen feedback to guide your decisions. In the past, it has seemed that this is a formality and the council has already decided what it will do.

Personal Priv

2/23/2023 01:14 PM

Please, please replace crystal pool.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:24 PM

It is deplorable that the City budget projects 12 times the budget for Police compared to Library services, with an even further imbalance when we look at People & Culture. A forward thinking community supports education and invests in people, not policing.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:38 PM

I am deeply disappointed at the proposed 6.96% increase to the VicPD budget, and that the projected budget indicates that city anticipates providing the VicPD with significant annual increases into the future. Furthermore, I would encourage the city to reflect upon the decision to include policing and bylaw under the category of "public safety" in line with its stated commitments to diversity, equity, and Inclusion as well as reconciliation. Policing does not represent safety for many of the most marginalized residents of this city: people who are unhoused, drug users, and many BIPOC people. The city should instead be seeking to reduce the police budget and to re-allocate those funds by investing in community and initiatives which represent meaningful "public safety": affordable and accessible housing, community centres, libraries, etc. It is outrageous that our libraries are

not open on Sundays and our main downtown recreation centre is crumbling, yet we continue to funnel ever more money annually into the police department while we are already the most over-policed city in the province.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 01:50 PM

stupid survey: is sanitary sewer more imp't than storm sewer? Just don't raise my taxes!!

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 02:00 PM

You ought to consider lowering NOT raising taxes by any amount. Taxes increase price inflation because they make everything they touch more expensive. E.g. Increased property taxes make housing more expensive as homeowners have to pay it. An immediately actionable improvement in housing affordability would be to cut property taxes. There are numerous ways you can reduce your spending and therefore justify reducing your revenue i.e. taxes on residents. Some examples include: -collecting unpaid parking fines (as opposed to increasing the cost of parking in an already hurting and parking-starved downtown core) -avoiding increases in nice but not necessary services such as "People and Culture," "Communications and Engagement" etc. Ask yourselves the question: what is necessary for a city to function? I recognize that you want it to thrive and spend lots to make it the best but for example, if roads are unnavigable due to potholes/degrading pavement or if people don't feel safe going downtown, the best artwork and culture isn't going to overcome those obstacles. We're in an economic downturn. This is a time to trim the proverbial fat and save the tax base as much as possible so that individuals can get through these difficult times a little easier. A penny untaxed is a penny an individual or family can use toward energy or food.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 02:28 PM

More buses, fewer police officers

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 02:58 PM

MUCH TOO MUCH SPENT ON BIKE LANES AND TRAFFIC SNAFU CREATION. FOCUS ON REMEDIATING THE WORST OF LAST COUNCIL ACTIONS IE THE NIGHTMARE AT CLOVER POINT...(I MONITOR OVER A YEAR NOW....NO REAL USE OF AREA BLOCKED TO FOLKS PARKING. ANOTHER "HELPLESS" IDEA) PANDORA AND SOME OTHER BIKE LANES GREAT IDEA. RICHARDSON AND VANCOUVER COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY OTHER THAN TO CREATE THAT GOOD WARM FEELING AMONG AUTOMOBILE HATERS. YOU MISSED THE BALANCE!

---

lke

Please approve the budget line for Topaz Park in 2023 for \$350,000.

---

2/23/2023 02:41 PM

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 03:25 PM

My most important priority this year is to make sure the pickleball courts at Topaz Park are funded and constructed ASAP. Pickleball is a recreational activity that is enjoying explosive growth yet there are no dedicated (not temporary) courts in the whole city, as far as I know. And this item would particularly impact the health and well being of the large senior population in Victoria. Moving forward with this opportunity to construct pickleball courts should be a high priority for Victoria.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 03:28 PM

I would like to see a disc golf course put into a city park within the borders of Victoria.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 03:41 PM

The only thing missing from the budget is that it barely mentions transit at all. I love our new city council and I support their push for densification and reduce car traffic/parking, but we need to improve transit to make that viable. 13 years ago BC Transit put together a plan for a CRD-wide metro / rapid transit system that was never built. Here's a blog article from 2010 about it:  
<http://www.coreybunger.ca/2010/06/bc-transit-talks-its-future/> It would have connected James Bay to Swartz Bay and UVIC to the Western Communities. An archived page on the BC Transit website can be found here:  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20100417125651/http://www.bctransit.com/vrt/> As you can see quite a lot of the planning and details were already ironed out. As far as I understand, the main issue was that funding was not able to be secured so it was mothballed. Going forward in the long-term our city is going to need a metro and the longer we wait the more expensive it will become. We cannot continue to rely on cars, and busses just aren't reliable enough to encourage people to not drive. I would like to see at the very least some money put towards exploring whether or not Victoria could secure funding from either the Provincial or Federal governments to build our very own skytrain/metro system. This would help: \* Reduce car dependency \* Reduce GHG emissions \* Unclog our streets \* Create economic activity in the region / create jobs \* Improve mobility \* Virtually eliminate the Colwood Crawl Vancouver's SkyTrain is also automated / driverless, so that might also help address the ongoing shortage of bus drivers that BC Transit has Thanks for taking the time to read my comments.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 03:34 PM

City employee compensation has risen too quickly. Senior level pay should be frozen for the next decade or until inline with equivalent provincial government pay levels.

Personal Priv

2/23/2023 03:50 PM

The corporation of Victoria is able to be a vibrant market because of the commerce that is injected into the local economy primarily through development contributions, businesses being able to recruit, retain and support workers and volunteers by providing housing and quality of life affordability. The city of Victoria needs to be mindful of the burden placed on homeowners through taxation because although BC Assessment might evaluate a person's property to be worth upwards of a million dollars should they choose to no longer live in their home and sell and move away, homeowners and their respective tenants are not necessarily millionaires when it comes to liquid assets as everyone is facing inflationary hikes. Not-for-profit organizations receive generous tax breaks from the city, as they should, because many generous Victorians have selflessly contributed to their good works; however, the city needs to have more recourse and accountability to ensure that these funds are being used for their intended social purposes.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 04:03 PM

I will email more detailed comments prior to the March 5 deadline.

Persons

2/23/2023 04:23 PM

support affordable and shelters, houselessness in victoria is killing people. hoisting is a human right.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 04:45 PM

more concern for the lawlessness and vandalism in our downtown core and city limits. More funding for police and security to address this issue

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 04:53 PM

I feel the budget should focus on upkeep and stewardship of services already in place to ensure that they are effective and attracting high quality employees. Then new initiatives can have the scraps of left over budget.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 05:12 PM

I'd like to see the pickle ball courts at Topaz Park completed this year as there is a huge and growing demand for court space. Thank you.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 06:26 PM

Please complete Topaz Park revitalization and ensure the pickleball community finally gets a pickleball hub of 11 dedicated courts. Topaz park is the perfect location for a pickleball hub. Please work with the Victoria Regional Pickleball Association to ensure they continue to provide feedback on the details.



Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 07:36 PM

The proposed property tax increase is going to make it even harder for people to manage their household budgets. People are struggling, and there are so many frivolous costs on that budget that the city does not need to be spending money on. \$450K for free youth bus passes is complete waste of money. Stop the constant construction of bike lanes and just fill the potholes in the roads! In times of financial hardship, when people are making choices between feeding their families and heating their homes, stop assuming that all homeowners are an unlimited source of funds for projects that don't benefit a large amount of people. Stop the social engineering for a few years and just fix the potholes, deliver basic services, and stop spending money!

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 07:44 PM

More bike lanes, more housing, more transit. Less money to police!

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 07:59 PM

6.99% is <sup>Inappropriate Cc</sup> asinine

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 07:52 PM

Washrooms are important but not at 780,00 each to refurbish- planning can find a more economical solution. no more bike lanes.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 08:28 PM

Rather than raise taxes, I'd prefer to see the City cut services and focus on the essential ones. Please cut nonsensical expenditures such as the Poet Laureate

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 09:20 PM

I think the speedbump/road safety budget is major overkill. Roads are meant to be driven on and our current speed limits are already very low.

Personal Privacy

2/23/2023 10:42 PM

More policing. Clean up our streets. It's unsafe to be downtown after sunset. How do we walk home safely with our current street crime situation? How are small businesses going to survive with their customers being discouraged to come into downtown whenever they turn on the news? How do they recover from all the vandalism and theft? Also, the focus on reducing cars is utterly ridiculous. What about the elderly who need to be driven to appointments and social activities? They aren't riding on the back of my bike, nor taking a bus which is too dangerous for those not sure on their feet. Restore lost parking so customers/visitors can come into the city, shop, and bring their goods home in their car.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 04:05 AM

less cars, more transit plz

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 07:22 AM

Our city roads need to be repaired - they are in terrible shape. Pot holes everywhere.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 07:31 AM

I support the budget line for Topaz Park of \$350,000 to be included and approved.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 07:59 AM

As a car-free individual I applaud the current councils actions so far in reducing car dependence in this city. I think further monitoring and enforcement of parking and an increase in price of parking amenities is a great idea to raise funds for the budget.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 10:27 AM

I am not well versed in all of the work that council does in making these decisions. I am putting my trust in you to make the right ones.

Personal Priva

2/24/2023 10:10 AM

I think the housing crisis is a very big deal. Affordable housing needs to be a priority. I also think the government should consider using a budget towards PEERS and those who turn to sex work because there are no other options.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 10:19 AM

I believe safety is the number 1 priority for the city. I have seen many ups and downs which are normal for any city however I have to say I am quite disturbed with the recent downturn in safety in downtown Victoria. It is at the point where there are a number of areas I avoid in my travels and take my vehicle when I would normally walk or ride my bike in order to feel safe. The downtown is key to the economy of the city with revenue from business and the tourism industry. Has council approached the province for additional funding to police the legislative precinct. The amount of effort required by the police force to police this precinct has increased significantly in recent times and the funding from the province should reflect this.

Personal Priv

2/24/2023 10:31 AM

I did a search and saw no mention of greenspace in the draft budget. I'm very worried about the lack of greenspace in the city given how many condos are being built downtown. I'm a cyclist, and I did not agree with that lane that was built on Dallas Road, taking AWAY green space, nor with the fences that went up for the dogs. I love dogs, I've owned dogs, I don't think Dallas Road should be a place for unleashed dogs. There are too many people -- now squished into a smaller area -- and too many misbehaved dogs (I'm talking about

YOU, Personal Privacy -- that was particularly naughty dog I met last year while looking of the bluff with many other people trying to watch some killer whales.) To be truly innovative, the city could have come up with a plan to take away some of the roadway, making sure people could access their houses but discouraging "Sunday Drives" along the water or a quick drive to Fairfield. Suffer the red lights and inconvenience, motorists (I also own a car and I'm FINE with being inconvenienced in my car). Look at how much space goes to motorized vehicles when so many more people could use that area along Dallas Road. Oh, and the light that went up around that new cycling path -- WHY? What about the owls, bats, and other night creatures? Beings live in Beacon Hill Park and if we think about their needs, we improve the green health of the city. And don't get me started on the LED streetlights. They are too bright, it's not good for the urban environment and it's getting worse:  
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/light-pollution-night-sky-bright-citizen-science> I adore Victoria, I've lived here over 30 years, and overall I support city staff and councillors. But remember greenspaces and darkness are good for people, and good for cities.

Personal Pri

2/24/2023 11:24 AM

Please complete the David Foster Walkway and Peter Pollen Park. Those should be high priorities.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 11:33 AM

The City really botched the off leash dog area along Dallas Rd. It is no longer useable for me to walk with my friend with a walker and my offleash dog. The woodchips in the offleash area are not desirable. Take down the fence along the water on this one stretch of land. Seems like the \$ for dog parks is off the budget while a huge amount budgeted for planning along Dallas Rd. Does any \$ from cruise ships come to the city? These funds should be used to offset the impact on James Bay residents. And for shore electricity for the ships. Maybe larger heatpump rebates for James Bay Residents so they can filter out the pollution impact from the cruise ships? I am ok with the parking increases.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 11:36 AM

With Oak Bay library out of commission due to asbestos, the central/eastern neighbourhoods (Jubilee, Fernwood, Fairfield, Oaklands, etc) are in desperate need of a public library. The former CNIB building at Richmond and Bay has been vacant for years now. Perhaps the city should look into purchasing it for a library and community center.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 01:15 PM

Where is the budget portion for social services? Why are there no social services at all included in all of these questions? Why are all

the 'social services' absorbed by the police? ! Where is the funding for a safe consumption site, or a social worker response team, or literally anything that actually supports people besides cops? Is our strategy to "support" our most vulnerable to punish them with cops? 'cause that is what it looks like. Where is the budget to help out the local medical system? Mental health? collabs with the local colleges and universities to get more supports trained for Victoria? The funding for our hospitals, nurses, and everyone else who has been exhausted by the pandemic? Also, it's pretty damn hard to use any of the 'extras' like parks or events when I'm working two jobs and I can barely afford food. That affects my perceptions of feeling like I'm getting value out of my tax dollars.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 02:44 PM

I notice that the city parkades are not equal in fees. Please make them all the same fees. Please make sure that ALL city grants keep the grant money within the city of Victoria boundaries. Undertake a study of what the unhoused population really costs the city in terms of services (police/ambulance/fire/vandalism/street cleaning/etc). Make it a priority to LISTEN to the taxpayers when

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 02:31 PM

Decrease police budget

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 02:39 PM

Please continue to support alternate transportation solutions instead of cars.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 02:53 PM

The Crystal Pool is essential to the health of many many Victoria residents. We need a solid plant repair or replace ASAP

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 03:14 PM

Please reduce the spending on the police budget, it's out of hand.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 03:51 PM

Please reduce the budget below proposed amount

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 03:32 PM

police budget is too high, please redistribute more funds toward public facilities + infrastructure, emergency shelters + low income housing, bc transit, crystal pool, community gardens, increased recycling/waste reduction, etc

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 03:53 PM

Too much is being spent by the City on Engagement which amount to nothing more than manufacturing consent. It already has too big a

budget and another \$500,000 is a complete waste of money. Also more attention needs to put on the amount of carbon being produced by cement in all the new construction approved by the City. When will there be more transparency on this issue?

Personal F

2/24/2023 04:51 PM

I want the Budget line for Topaz Park in 2023 for \$350,000 to be included and approved.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 06:07 PM

Reign in the police budget.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 07:18 PM

haven't perused Drat Budget as of yet...felt I had to try to read between lines completing survey...somewhat vague re infrastructure re traffic, roads, highways..." sidewalks", then another question w/ sidewalks incl....street parking in more than one question, grouped differently...I would have asked for more precise explanations, definitions, criteria...

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 09:13 PM

I'm diametrically opposed to tearing down the Crystal. Utterly unconscionable to remove such a significant example of the work of one of British Columbia's and indeed Canada's penultimate architects. Make a functional reno work, without destroying the notable interior and exterior of this important part of our Heritage. And this is not the time to spend the mega funds on any new complex. Time to stop holding our Conservatory of Music hostage to the unaddressed homelessness, mental health issues, and drug addiction. Get the folks in this area off Pandora street and grassy median, and limited to the Our Place courtyard. Enforce vagrancy and littering bylaws. Require Our Place to organize clean-up and street garbage prevention crews - subsidize such workers if necessary, and make it possible to get the fencing around the Conservatory down once and for all. Invest energy and funding municipally, and seek provincial/federal funding for mandatory extended (multiple months long) residential setting for mental health/detox/rehabilitation/skills training facilities - preferably in more rural settings. It is inhumane to leave these folks as is, be providing the addicted with the poisons destroying them - and having both increasingly impacting public order and safety. One has to wonder just how much the drug companies providing the 'safe' fixes are making off the injection site policies, and how much funding is going to the services delivering same; and I would like to see the related expenditure and profits figures for Victoria and the Capital Region District for 2022, as for BC altogether. We need more co-op and other truly affordable housing and not more unaffordable and soulless high rise boxes that may serve as taxes generators, but impede sightlines and light, create wind tunnels, and

negatively impact the city's relatable livability. Please, no home berth accommodation for cruise ships at Ogden Point. Would we approve construction of a city block long high rise in that public property location? Same effect in terms of view obstructions. I am opposed to any possibility of paving the lovely wooded path along Douglas Rd. toward the main area of Beacon Hill Park, as part of any efforts to create a contiguous access from Dallas Rd near Douglas. Not every natural setting must be sacrificed for the accessibility of a minority. If necessary, use part of the playing field for any accessible path, but provide sufficient natural buffer so as not to detract visually or physically from this treed and earthen path oasis of beauty. But altogether, given the amount of traffic flow in the area, the safety issues having to do with increasing traffic turning onto Douglas from Dallas, and that significant flow now nicely uses the existing additional road, closing this road and is a terrible idea. And we have other, actually pressing fiscal priorities, as noted above.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 08:18 PM

I am a Saanich resident who commutes downtown for work; I cannot use transit due to child/elder care responsibilities and do not appreciate the ever-increasing cost and decreasing availability of parking. There are first-hour-free options for people visiting downtown for a short time, but only increases for those of us who work there - the metered parking nearest my workplace only offers 2-hours, not even a half-day option. My employer already supports hybrid work and employees will push for full-time remote heavily driven by challenges commuting into, parking, and staying safe downtown. I urge you to think about the message you send by continuing to target families who must drive and employees who work in the downtown core. I request daily discounts in parkades, or 3-hour options at metered parking spots. I also object to the removal of parkade spots for EV-only spots - we cannot all afford new vehicles, and a new EV creates incredible negative environmental impact contrary to the stated sustainability goals.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 08:15 PM

Please do not raise property taxes.

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 09:28 PM

I think the city should be more forthcoming with the city police budget. The city and its constituents should have more control over the police budget, and it should be on the chopping block as far as money is concerned, if you're planning to cut solid waste and accessibility in parks

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 09:36 PM

The most important for funding are affordable housing and climate action

Personal Privacy

2/24/2023 11:24 PM

Apparently you have not set aside any money for the proposed Pickleball Courts at Topaz park; please do so.

Persc

2/25/2023 01:10 AM

Raising taxes this year will cripple homeowners and independent local businesses

Personal Priva

2/25/2023 09:01 AM

Cut city spending. Taxpayers can't afford increases

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 08:45 AM

I would like to advocate for the construction of pickleball courts at Topaz park. This will help to reduce conflict and respond to noise issues. It will also support healthy lifestyles and community

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 10:24 AM

The average person is experiencing extremely high inflationary increases to all parts of their budget, unprecedented increases for food, rent, insurance, gas, tv + phone plans, electricity, natural gas and all other areas of life. Transfers to reserves is an excellent idea, but the planned transfer of over \$52 million dollars in this years budget could be reduced, so that property tax increases of 6.96% could be more reasonably pegged at 5.5-6%. That's the intent of the reserve, to smooth out tax increases when other costs are higher than expected (not just city costs, but costs of life). This is a time like that. I hope the city will be more aggressive than planned in reducing the planned increase to property taxes. At this point in time, Victoria residents need less financial pressure, not more.

Personal Privat

2/25/2023 10:17 AM

When so many ppl are having a difficult time making ends meet, programs and projects need to be cut. City spending is out of control, councils pet projects benefit few and our city looks sad. Cleanup the streets, and stop inviting homeless to live here. I used to walk downtown everyday, now I get in my car and drive elsewhere to shop for fear of what or who might be around the corner. This doesn't help our downtown business or those that come to visit, word of mouth spreads quickly.

Personal Pr

2/25/2023 10:01 AM

do not need Dallas Road expenditure on parks. Slow down all the bike lane conversions and save a lot of money. I cycle a lot, but the money spent is way over the top, especially ripping up streets just ripped up a few years ago for storm sewers etc. Water maintenance more important to keep low areas draining in heavy rains.

Personal Priv

2/25/2023 11:32 AM

Could there be a program to provide grants to home owners that convert their spray irrigation systems to drip irrigation systems? I understand that the CRD source of our drinking water is unfiltered. I was told that a forest fire in that area could result in ash landing in our drinking water that would make it undrinkable. I was told there is no backup source ready to replace it and a proper filtration facility could cost \$ Millions of dollars to install. Will the city/CRD fund a suitable plan?

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 11:56 AM

increase the parking fees to keep the property tax increase at 6.9%

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 12:15 PM

Keep tax increase to below level of inflation. Proposed project to rehab public washrooms seems excessive in terms of cost No defunding of VICPD - lawlessness, vandalism and social dysfunction is already at a troubling level

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 12:40 PM

Fund the Police as determined by them. Exempt them from the budget limits you have set. Give them whatever tools they need. Fund street patrols at night to maybe stop window damage and maintain a presence to protect tourists etc out for an evening. Engage with supportive local and federal government to stop "catch and release" @ whatever cost including building new jails to house the offenders; protect the public first then treat them. Stop building bike lanes; I have had it. Restore on-street parking. Take better care of our city.

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 01:41 PM

Please focus on core municipal services, not new projects or issues outside your mandate/authority.

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 02:10 PM

Public safety is at the core of a healthy community, please meet the requirements of the budget submitted by VicPd.

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 03:58 PM

Budget line for Topaz Park in 2023 for \$350,000 to be included and approved. This will facilitate obtaining 11 pickleball courts at Topaz Park.

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 05:21 PM

municipal government should be concerned first with fixing potholes and sewers (not very sexy but necessary). The council's focus on political action issues such as indigenous matters, climate action, changing our attitudes about transportation and insisting on bike lanes (what majority invited you to do that?) and art is a misspending



of our funds. If you have money left over lend it to the Provincial government and lets get our health care system sorted out.

Personal Privacy

2/25/2023 11:01 PM

Need more recreation centres and swimming pools in the City of Victoria. Need to remember that not everyone can ride a bike so parking and roadways for cars (hopefully electric) are needed. The bike lanes in the city are becoming a maze and are totally confusing for visitors. Some of the bike lanes that have been created (like on Richardson) were ill conceived and need to be changed. The number of cyclists using that street is very low yet traffic is now much heavier by elementary schools on Fairfield and Moss street . The downtown core needs regular cleaning-all the bird poop on Government St near the harbour end is unsightly. Downtown core needs a plan to immediately stop the crime & window breaking. Downtown is fast becoming a place that locals don't want to visit...dirty, dangerous and vandalized. Missing middle will do little to nothing to create affordable housing. Broth for growth's sake is a scary thought for Victoria. By stuffing more and more people into the city, we will lose the views, the architecture and the small time feel that makes Victoria so well liked. I fear that city will be lost soon with the unbridled development.

Personal Privacy

2/26/2023 02:31 AM

The City downtown and parks are a mess with the homeless and mentally ill roaming the streets. The mentally ill and drug addicts need to be given mandatory treatment. It's a crime leaving people to live in such unhealthy conditions.

Personal Privacy

2/26/2023 08:00 AM

Police Budgets continue to increase beyond the rate of inflation, it is important that the city look at ways to support public safety that are preventative, and based in public health measures not the criminalization of poverty. Please invest in programming to actually help the community.

Personal Privacy

2/26/2023 09:51 AM

Please give any increase needed for Police, Fire and By-law. Stop spending \$ on Bike lanes. No Splash park needed

**Personal Privacy**

2/26/2023 01:01 PM

Aggregation of discreet elements into broader categories is both necessary and problematic. One can rate the broad category highly, but be absolutely opposed to one or more individual elements. Failure to design a survey instrument in awareness of this, parsing effectively, can lead to political consequences. As constructed, a data point can be used to "confirm" a perspective that is not actually true in a detailed sense. This sort of practice diminishes public faith in government. This is a particularly bad time in history not to do the

hard work of building community trust and knowledge. Aspects of the budget (e.g. EV chargers) are proposed out of context. Why should tax dollars be allocated to augment already well developed local & developing provincial and private infrastructure with every building having 120V outlets that are sufficient for the slow charging that is best for batteries and effective for daily use in the City? This is green showboating while continued use of permeable petroleum based residential road surfaces carries on. There are alternatives used internationally that positively effect the civic environment and budget. The recent Level 2 charger revision to the Harris green project also increases housing for no evident purpose. In relation to housing, with 80+ percent of provincial housing providers being small owners, how is the City engaging these to encourage best practices in a context of understanding the significant differences between corporate landlords and those whose lack of pension or desire to age in place necessitates becoming a housing provider, i.e. tenant of the banks? The financial burden on small owners is extraordinary and is compounded because they cannot draw a deductible salary as corporations are structured to do. The notion that renters contribute to taxes through rent is ludicrous as rents of ongoing tenancies are far behind costs. There is a marked difference between RTB rate increases and reality, and only new tenancies provide any means to recover what can be many years of falling behind. Decisions often pose challenges for—taxpaying—local owners based on provisions in consideration of big players who may/may not be local contributors to the ongoing broader community. City salaries are relatively high. To this end, one expects better than pro forma, check list compliance-based performance. In a period of change and transition, devising outcome-focused processes that permit a variety of innovative ways to move forward are preferred over tick boxes that are, essentially, opportunities to say "no." A clear example is the determination to over-engineer theoretically sound traffic management only to discover foreseeable (and forewarned) impacts that are then too costly to correct. The City adopts citizen-engagement rhetoric in many programs, sometimes to great effect. however, for other programs, it appears to be a cover for the status quo "no." Where in the budget is there a line item (or rollup) of research oriented toward innovations world-wide that can contribute to City aspirations and cost effectiveness? In this and other items, are performance measures meaningful, or simply easy to count? Where does the budget account for a necessary activity to re-visit past models of operation, bylaws & practices that presume a context no longer effective (if it ever was?). Does this work take place? Often, too often, citizen lack of agreement with what the City does is one of what should be done, but how, through what means, and when. Often the concern is one of mandate, interpreted broadly without the requisite capacity in authority, resources or tax dollars to effect sustainable improvement. Ultimately, it is past time for the many municipalities in the region to

adopt a regional approach to just about everything—including taxation revenue. Rhetoric that draws upon "X had to move to another municipality" for x.y.z. reasons falls flat when that municipality is a few blocks away, or even a 20 minute drive. Planning should be conducted in awareness of the broader context with demand that various levels of government partner in achieving outcomes that are appropriate to mandate. Blanket approaches are not acceptable: City staff are both adequately compensated for, and many are eminently capable—and desirous—of nuanced efficacy. Stop the one size fits all model of governance. It does not work in grocery shopping: it does not work as leadership. Well defined, generally agreed outcomes are needed—every element of which should be transparently supported by a plain language rationale not subject to wide interpretation. Yes, this is long tail engagement. It is the stuff of governance at the staff level under Council guidance with public participation. Lastly, in relation to our ever-growing population. We must balance growth with what makes Victoria (and region) worth living in. Unending density is only supportable with a kind of planning our political and economic systems do not facilitate. If that sounds hyperbolic, then the question is: what is the prosed limit to densification? Whatever that (mutable) goal may be, planning is necessary to avoid the worst of high denisty locations well documented world-wide. Reaction with a narrow focus is an inevitability when effective solutions required partnership among stakeholders. Urgent needs cannot be met with immediacy except through extraordinary (important) ad hoc measures. Long term community health comes through citizen-engaged, future outcome oriented planning. Communicate more effectively on this and some opposition can shift to engagement on the future while immediate needs are addressed in context.

Personal P

2/26/2023 11:03 AM

Keep the tax increase low and eliminate the fat at city hall.

Personal Pri

2/26/2023 11:48 AM

The lack of funds for expanding/increasing efficiency of public transit is disheartening. 100k for benches at bus stops doesn't count. Happy to see free passes for youth, but if the bus isn't reliable, they won't be taking advantage of it. Increasing parking revenue is going to make a lot of people angry and the least the city could do is actively invest in public transport improvement to make up for it. Housing in Victoria is becoming untenable. The Province is moving to reduce permitting/authorization waits for housing starts and I hope similar reductions in zoning bureaucracy occur on a municipal level.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 02:31 PM

I found it very cumbersome to make an informed decision this year - while the budget summary is a handy document, it's not only lacking

in depth, it is unfortunately missing about 25% of the expenses: the police budget request. I can't help but feel misled by this omission. I combed through the full draft financial plan of the city and the provisional VicPD budget to get a better understanding. The increased police budget which is already by far the highest expense within the city budget goes against my core beliefs of spending priorities for the city. Reallocating the requested increase for police to, for example social services and community health would not only benefit the residents (including unhoused neighbours) but most likely also have a positive impact on a burned out police force that's battling mental health impacts and lack of internal support structures on their own. I would much rather see investment in transparent, impactful projects and institutions with a proven track record of trustworthiness, equality, kindness and anti-racism. While the city is facing a multitude of interconnected crises and an uncertain future (economic, environmental, etc), a continued investment priority for 'public safety' will not make us a sustainable, resilient, just community but likely exacerbate existing problems. A more specific comment: Increased budget allocations for capital upgrades/utilities, disaster preparedness and climate readiness are my main priority, alongside even a small increase to the arts and culture budget to make culture accessible to and reflective of all citizens.

Personal Privacy

2/26/2023 12:51 PM

Council needs to demonstrate to the residents of Victoria, especially the tax payers, how a line by line review of the proposed 2023 budget was conducted. Some services itemized suggests there is room to reduce expenditures. The fill in the numbers budget template with add on percentage increases without being supported by meaningful performance indicators and measurements is not acceptable. The reflected percentage increases throughout the draft budget are based on what? What meaningful performance measures of each identified department/service area was reviewed prior to creating the 2023 budget? Can the meaningful performance measures, if any, be made available to the public? Five city staff on a street corner - one working member while four stand nearby smoking or leaning on shovels displays an inefficient system. What revenue is captured from surrounding municipalities for goods/services provided to their residents? What other amenities could be provided by developers? Checkout West Vancouver's requirements. The survey is skewed for simplicity of response and what the City Council and staff want to hear.

Personal Privacy

2/26/2023 12:22 PM

Safety is the number one most important issue. We must make sure our Police Department gets the funds it needs even if it means higher taxes.

Personal Privacy

2/26/2023 12:48 PM

I work primarily in Victoria (carpenter) , but live in Saanich. I go to Victoria for work, events and shopping. Housing affordability and green space is why I have chosen residing in Saanich over Victoria. I will likely have to leave the CRD over the next several years to be able to afford to buy housing, as I do not feel comfortable renting long term in the CRD due to the large increases in rent over the past several years and the instability of me and my partners rentals. I'd be happy to continue working and living in this area if I have access to green space and affordable stable housing.

Personal Privacy

2/26/2023 01:56 PM

I don't understand why you'd ask the public to rank priorities like water and sewer services. Obviously those foundational services are all important and I assume your staff know best what is needed to keep everything running. My #1 priority is to see the whole city rezoned to allow for more density, especially prioritizing purpose-built rentals across the whole city. This could bring in more tax revenues to the city as well as giving everyone more options for places to live. I would love to see every zone match that in the OCP, and give up on neighbourhood plans altogether.

Personal Pr

2/26/2023 03:09 PM

Hard to rank several areas as equal importance for a safe, environmentally-compliant city with services for residents.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 10:12 AM

People are having difficulty with the cost of living especially rent. Need to support building MORE housing by improving approvals process and being more flexible. The city is changing. We have to build more.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 10:39 AM

I don't like these survey questions. I am supposed to rank in order of preference Bylaw, Police, Fire and Emerg. Preparedness? In what universe does that make sense? There is no vision about what kind of city we are moving toward and whether I agree with that or not. This feels less like engagement and more like public relations. I will continue to fill it out because there are no other options in this survey. I want a green downtown with heat mitigation for climate change.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 04:46 PM

The tax increase should be much lower than 6%. You should cut some programs and funding if you need to, but it is really rough to get people who are just getting into the housing market and people who can barely afford their mortgages etc. to pay this increased rate. It's not right to hit a lot of people with this when many are already struggling to stay afloat in this housing market.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 11:52 AM

Pandora Caretakers Program is making a huge difference, thank you. I find the police department response to the request for a reduction in the proposed budget extremely arrogant. As a car driver, and someone who parks downtown regularly, I would be happy to have the hours extended to 8:00 p.m.; and to raise the rates further on parkades. Thank you for this opportunity for input. Good luck finding the right balance for the city budget.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 12:38 PM

increasing pay parking does not serve individuals or businesses in the downtown area, ridiculous increase.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 02:25 PM

Please keep tax increase as low as possible. And please don't spend any more on bicycle lanes. Fort Street is fine the way it is.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 03:15 PM

Safety should be your priority at all costs, downtown is not safe and is unsightly. Who would want to spend any time there never mind try to run a business. Mayor and council must be purposefully sense-deficient not to be able to gauge the negative impacts their policies are having downtown. Shame on them.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 03:47 PM

It's a time for essential services, belt tightening, ensuring downtown is safe, accessible and economically feasible for retailers and businesses. No new bike lanes. We need improvements to existing 'bikeways' to share the roads better. Provide accessibility for all persons to our existing parks and amenities.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 04:24 PM

I am terribly concerned about our urban tree canopy. The Missing Middle zoning threatens trees. We do need housing, but I really hope that there is enormous sensitivity around preservation. Our city needs to retain what we have as we cannot replace mature trees in our lifetime. The greediness of development (for profit, not for reasonable and affordable housing) is turning Victoria into an unpleasant place to live. We're on the cusp of massive change for this city, and I hope that the current council has the foresight to retain the things that draw people here-the lifestyle, nature and the beauty of the place. It goes without saying that climate change is impacting our city and we have natural shade and air conditioning already - don't mess it up for a parking lot or a bike lane. Be creative, not lazy. You are planning for the next generation and beyond. I am also concerned about the growth of our unhoused population. I did not note anything in the budget regarding helping these folks who are struggling. Did I miss something? Is it not part of the council's remit? I recognize it is a challenging situation, but not mentioning it seems disingenuous.

Downtown is gritty and without a plan, it will only get grittier. The public will not venture there and so businesses (more of them) will fail, especially combined with rising inflation. I don't think you can address attracting and growing the downtown core without addressing public safety and worry. I sincerely hope that there is compassion (for nature and those without a voice) and humanity represented on the council. That every member of the council has a conscience.

Personal

2/27/2023 05:09 PM

The main issue to be resolved is that of safety and order downtown. This problem is crushing small businesses, facilitating crime, and driving the costs of the City's responsibilities up. The current ghettoization of services for the unhoused and mentally unwell (addition or health - either or) is a failed experiment. We need to re-establish some boundaries and rules to make our city safer for everyone. Businesses are crashing under accumulated strain. Vacant storefronts will not make any of these problems better.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 05:52 PM

while the police budget is not included, I think careful consideration of police spending is needed to ensure programs to minimize use of force by police in mental health driven calls is of vital importance. there is a need for more community based policing and social programs over other more traditional policing services. it would be great to implement increased parking costs downtown (even a little) to save on property taxes. this would also encourage use of transit instead of driving which is also important. one of the most important issues in my opinion is the need for better (more efficient and timely) transit options for commuters and to support exploration of the greater Victoria area by those who choose not to own cars. we need to modernize our transit system significantly to decrease reliance on cars in the region.

Personal Privacy

2/27/2023 09:25 PM

Please, no more bike lanes. Also stop buying hotels for the homeless.

Personal F

2/27/2023 09:39 PM

Thank you for taking the time to conduct the survey and complete the draft budget. It is very much appreciated.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 05:12 AM

Our new Council needs to hear and react to residents' concerns regarding safety and protection from those who unfortunately are not making rational decisions due to a variety of mental health issues. Victoria has acquired more than our fare share of people with complex needs and other levels of government need to be persuaded as strongly as possible to help out with the financing of facilities and

programs. Hopefully making some difference to these issues will lead to a reduction in some other problems - businesses moving away or closing, restaurants not being able to succeed, etc. Who wants to stroll around downtown Victoria any more, especially in the evening? Very sad situation. Be sensible please about parking - with the best will in the world the city is not going to be car-free in any of our lifetimes. Nor should it be. People have to be allowed to own, and park, a car at their residence if they want to - building homes with very limited parking availability is ramming one person's environmental ideal down the throats of others. Make the city appealing for drivers and others to live work and play without excessive stress about where they can park! This is council's job, rather than trying to force environmental standards onto everyone. On this topic, rescinding some of the bike lane decisions might be helpful - Fort and Wharf Streets in particular. Give total support to Vic PD - they do an outstanding job and need all the support they request to try and keep us safe. Parks and gardens are lovely.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 06:27 AM

Focus on the people that are here and will be coming here.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 08:46 AM

Not happy with the ongoing increases and seemingly getting less for the dollars. Streets are in terrible condition. City is riddled with crime and feels unsafe. Basic services are below average. Amalgamation time!!

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 10:35 AM

The increase in parking fees is a good way to increase revenues. Can the city optimize further the balance between attracting/maintaining large businesses (employees of 200 or more) and large development projects (e.g. Harris Green "Village" by Starlight Development) and the taxes charged for the privilege of the large business being situated in the city and the development project taking place? That is, charge those who make the most more taxes.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 10:18 AM

I'd like to see more off-leash dog spaces made available. We are very restricted now so that dogs are concentrated at Dallas Road which can become problematic.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 10:35 AM

A regional transportation long term plan is needed involving the CRD, Provincial and Federal governments.. This plan should involve both freight and passenger traffic in the CRD and beyond - north to Nanaimo. Building more highways will not solve congestion. The same issues need to be addressed with housing. Single family home dwelling only zoning should be abolished with stacked townhomes



and multi-family units, and 4-6 story apartments built with 2-3 bedroom units prioritized. If transport, housing and economic initiatives were prioritized, the immense spending currently required on police services would not be as necessary.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 11:17 AM

I am dismayed that 2023 Draft Budget does not include the full VPD's request for \$69.5 million, an amount supported by the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board, which has a mandate to provide adequate and effective policing. And it truly saddens me that the Police Chief was not treated with respect during his presentation to Council.

## Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 11:14 AM

The Victoria Police budget request is excessive and should be curtailed significantly. Funding requests related to school liaisons and social marketing are counter-productive. I do agree with their request for mental health support. Please just go ahead and build the new Crystal Pool. A referendum would delay this project unnecessarily. I would support further increases to parking rates beyond what is being proposed. Further, we should be charging for all on-street parking spaces including those currently classified as residential. Homeowners do not own public space.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 12:55 PM

All expenditures must be viewed through a climate crisis lens. All measures to discourage residents from using their own vehicles should be explored. Parking fees must be increased, even more than what Council has directed. Parking minimums for new developments should be abolished or greatly reduced. New parks and more trees are needed Downtown. With the exponential increase in residential density, Downton residents need livable neighbourhoods and these are rapidly disappearing. More mid-block crosswalks are needed, and more streets should be redesigned to greatly reduce traffic volumes.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 02:38 PM

Please stop bleeding money on consultants Please do not abrogate or deprioritise your fundamental duty to simply operate the city.

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 02:56 PM

no increase to police budget

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 06:31 PM

Victoria seems to have lost the ability to provide safe roads for public transit during snow events to the point where BC cancels service or uses the cheap buses to avoid damage to their vehicles. Cutback in library hours shameful. Cutbacks in Chrystal pool, no pubic gym disgusting must use Saanich or Esquimalt rec services. Crime is a problem. Defund the YMCA and use that money to fund rec programs

for all Victorians. Victoria YMCA defines senior as 80 years old not 65  
GARBAGE!

Personal Privacy

2/28/2023 06:39 PM

I would like the Budget line for Topaz Park in 2023 for \$350,000 to be included and approved

Pers

2/28/2023 09:23 PM

This survey is badly designed. How can an ordinary person rank ten priorities on each topic?

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 05:45 AM

It's very important to me to enhance small to mid range live performing art venues in Victoria. Subsidize our artists so they can afford to live and create here.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 09:11 AM

Tough choices! One thing, no more increases to the police budget. Past ever increasing budgets only lead to requests for more money. And nothing changes! We do need to do things differently. Does that mean more cooperation with the province and the feds on income inequality, mental health services, supported housing? Stop throwing money at something that is not working.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 09:17 AM

Housing for All is a priority! Climate action and indigenous rights!

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 10:53 AM

Victoria City Council should stop spending the City's resources as if they were their own.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 11:02 AM

Do not spend any more \$ on bike lanes and anti-car projects like BHP, Clover Pt, Vancouver St and Richardson St. Do not spend \$ on housing Canada's homeless. Build it and they will come. Too much \$ being spent on non-taxpaying people and not enough on those paying taxes. Give more support to our Police Officers and By-Law personnel.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 11:31 AM

Please look at Port Coquitlam at under 4% increase in taxes. There are ways to keep the increases down. We are all tightening our finances right now and are cutting out fluff. This budget doesn't do this.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 11:59 AM

Crystal pool NEEDS attention. It is the only public swimming pool in Victoria and it is falling behind. No accessibility, no true family change

rooms. Please build a new facility.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 12:08 PM

Although I agree that we need to plan for the future it seems as though the Victoria of today (maintenance of roads for example) has been put on the back burner, As well there needs to be a MUCH greater emphasis on a regional transportation plan and cooperation. On that note why is it that the city of Victoria is doing most of the heavy lifting on the homeless/mental health/addiction front? Are these issues not regional?

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 12:37 PM

I was disappointed to see such a small increase to library funding. We have a long way to go to match the type of libraries typically seen in capital cities. I was also disappointed to see not much increase in bike lanes. I would love to see more support for renters. As a renter, I think about how I will have to leave this city almost every day due to the cost of living despite having a good job here. I think there is a real lack of community here (much less than anywhere else I have lived) having better parks, programming and arts in the core would really help. But affordability would probably go the furthest. I am not in support of the large increase to the police and would rather see that more allocated to supporting projects to relieve the burden on the police to reply to such a large variety of calls.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 01:17 PM

It would be useful to know how many staff we have, the existing salary budget, the number of new positions being requested and the budget for same, what those positions will do to enhance program delivery, and how many staff positions have become redundant with the change in council, i.e. the assistant that Lisa Helps said she needed. As many others have said, the budget should focus on the operation and maintenance of our city. We do not need feel good frills when we have so many real challenges facing the residents of Victoria. Lisa Helps said we need to think globally and act locally. As the underlying global problem facing the world is over-population, are we supposed to act locally by stuffing as many people as possible onto the finite land base called the City of Victoria? And then pretend that by doing so our city will be more vibrant, sustainable, accommodating, vital, etc. ad infinitum ad nauseam. What is the objective in all of our budgetary requests and expenditures? To be able to say that if people want to live here then we are obligated to accommodate them? Sadly, I don't think our mayor and council are actually able to answer that.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 01:48 PM

Don't forget; property tax scales with the value of your home meaning that it's a progressive tax. Also why isn't HR completing these job

reviews anywhere near on time. Get them another admin?

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 02:11 PM

the city could save money not putting up "except for bike" road signs everywhere as bikes pretty much go where ever the please. Also could do without the barriers being placed in the middle of the streets. I know the one at end of Despard and Gonzales has been hit a number of times. Richardson street has now become just about deserted after becoming a bike lane. This road was never unsafe as it was for biking as I road my bike along this street to work for 25 years. More needs to be done for the homeless, shouldn't be camping in our parks.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 02:18 PM

I appreciate efforts by our Council to maintain the budget increase as per cost of living increase.

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 05:59 PM

Prioritize community-driven services, accessible environmental changes. Better advertismment of services

Personal Privacy

3/01/2023 11:59 PM

Poor policy choices by the previous Council have led to the continuing random violence experienced in the City over the past few years. The result has been a greater need for policing. The expectation that every City service should trim their budget by the same percentage suggests they are all equally important. They aren't. Police and fire safety are important to everyone. Since we recently paid a significant signing bonus to attract more police officers given the City's dismal reputation wonder at the current expectation. Additionally, it doesn't make sense to pass bylaws when enforcement isn't possible. In the summer cyclists frequently ride across the pedestrian bridge linking to Johnson Street. The original design should consider a lack of cooperation and impediments that force cyclists to dismount. City signage clearly indicates it is for pedestrian use but disregarded because there isn't any penalty to worry about.

Personal Privacy

3/02/2023 09:20 AM

The damage done to the attractiveness of the city to residents and visitors by the presence of homeless is immense. Find a way to remove them.

Personal Privacy

3/02/2023 11:27 AM

There are some difficult days and decisions ahead due to the passion projects and unheard cries of residents during the tenure of certain prior Council members. With inflation now rising this is going to be uncomfortable for everyone. There is still quite a lot to clean up and hard work ahead to heal the damage that was done. Some people

still hold resentments and will be hard pressed to believe that anything can be fixed. Please prove them wrong. Downtown is still unfortunately not the happiest place to be although it is calmer than it was for awhile there. There are far too many empty shops and I am mystified by individuals who hold the idea that any city can function without legitimate money running through it. The affordable rentals that many are seeking inside the city limits are not going to build themselves and the employers who they may work for need to be able to afford to keep their businesses operating.

Personal Privacy

3/02/2023 10:36 AM

I would rather see funding focused on affordability and active/public transportation. Rather than roads and police.

Personal Privacy

3/02/2023 03:46 PM

Council and Police need mandatory trauma-informed and awareness training. I would still like to see sexual violence prevention training mandated into the business license process.

Personal Privacy

3/02/2023 04:55 PM

The climate emergency action in our city can have unpredictably high costs. We should scale back this initiative for 3 years in order for Victoria to recover and not pass any more costs to businesses or residents. None "0" more costs. The tourism industry needs to be our staple for the city as government workers in our capital city will not be returning. Fresh tourism dollars need to be sought. Other new revenue could be Short term rental MRDT or stay tax at 15% This could be hundreds of thousands of dollars to CITY OF Victoria. It is irresponsible to not look at this revenue as it can be regulated through just heritage properties to existing properties to unique properties to properties that are not in the affordable housing rental market similar to the zone along Gorge waterway not included in the middle missing middle zoning. Having a tourism presence on the World Wide Web through short term rentals is one key element do a successful City and Tourism. Also to reduce the tax bill to less than 6.87 would be to cancel the project of bike lanes along Gorge Road to Harriotte Road this is not necessary in these times when businesses are failing and residents are living on the street.

Personal Privacy

3/02/2023 08:45 PM

Keep making Victoria a happy city

Personal Privacy

3/02/2023 09:53 PM

I strongly oppose any increase in the Victoria Police Department's budget, and would rather see the City fight VicPD in court over this matter.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 06:50 AM

Safety of citizens is the priority. Enforcement of bylaws such as no camping in parks must be upheld.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 08:59 AM

Please don't increase funding for bylaw until they stop violating the human rights of the unhoused members of our community.

Personal Pri

3/03/2023 09:01 AM

Your have trimmed prudently

Personal Priva

3/03/2023 09:15 AM

If we didn't give VicPD such a giant percentage of the city's budget, maybe we'd have better social services for citizens.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 10:43 AM

Please stop development of any further bike lanes in James Bay. We certainly do not need bike lanes along Montreal Street, Superior St or Government St. We have too much traffic congestion already and many residents also need to retain what limited on-street parking there is. Vehicles ARE NOT GOING TO GO AWAY: EVs and hybrids will replace gas powered cars and SUVs but vehicles are NOT GOING AWAY. We are long time property tax payers who require access to and from our community. We are also avid cyclists and walkers for many years and see absolutely no need for bike lanes in an already super congested city core. Bike lanes are already poorly utilized other than in summer and have cost way too much money. Please focus on other priorities for the stretched budget we already have. We do NOT want to see an increase in our property taxes together with more bike lanes being put in to address a problem that does not exist. It has always been easy to cycle around this city (prior to any bike lanes), not an issue. There has been way too much ramming through of the Mayor's agenda. Listen to us, the taxpayers. One out of three of us did not vote for the current (or previous disaster of a mayor) and of the two remaining voters there is some doubt as to aspects of the missing middle, parking, safety in our community etc. Stop ignoring those of us who did not vote for Helps or the current Mayor.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 10:53 AM

VicPD budget increase should be held to 0%

Personal I

3/03/2023 11:33 AM

keep it simple.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 11:10 AM

Please focus on core municipal services (public safety being the most important) and doing them well. Please limit expenditures outside of

the core mandate.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 01:43 PM

I have to read it in detail but I don't think this survey asked questions pertinent to renters and condo dwellers. Obviously we don't think about leaf collection for example

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 01:45 PM

Overall, ever person I ever spoken with feels the city spends too much on unnecessary vanity projects and tends to ignore less-glamorous core services. I note that while property taxes are once again being jacked up for that purpose, life is becoming less and less affordable for all residents, whether renters or owners. Lastly, residents are expected to pay more property tax than ever while being robbed of the ability to have a voice in rezoning decisions, thanks to the Missing Middle Initiative. I understand that the initiative was designed to boost the profits of developers as a way of paying them back for their campaign contributions, but it would be nice if council devoted more time to working for the people rather than their campaign donors. Won't happen I know, but it has to be said.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 02:30 PM

More money for public safety (Police, Fire and By-law). Reduce taxes. No more bike lanes - we have sufficient.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 02:53 PM

help businesses downtown - increase parking - lower parking rates. Stop spending money on Canada's homeless - you are making things worse. No more bike infrastructure. Victoria is already a safe easy to bike city

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 03:18 PM

good

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 03:20 PM

I think there should be more attention given to students and how services can be made accessible to them. I think that there should be more support for small businesses (as there are so many of them in Victoria). I think there should be better ocean-cleanup and beach/aquatic area-based development.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 03:19 PM

i feel that the council budget decision had almost only left leaning policy that only people with a more liberal background would agree with

Personal Privacy

Victoria Police need their budget \$\$\$, I am disabled and am in

3/03/2023 04:51 PM

Victoria 1 to 3 times a week you are making the city harder to get around in and Park a car. Support Victoria businesses. I have no issues with bike lanes but bikers should pay a minimal license fee and follow rules of the road or be fined and your bike parking at city hall needs to be paid for by those that use it. Return CloverPoint to its previous. Thank you

### Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 05:29 PM

Housing is the number issue for me. I would like to see the city invest in programs to streamline applications for all new housing. Including but not limited to broad rezoning, putting SFHs on a level playing field with multi unit homes, creating a pre-approved design catalogue for new builds, adding density bonuses for adding affordable units, removing development fees and taxes and aligning zoning laws with the OCP.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 05:36 PM

I am sure that you will pay no attention to this survey

### Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 07:04 PM

Please consider maintaining trees throughout Victoria as they age and need replacing. Please protect Beacon Hill Park from camping.

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 07:42 PM

1-No \$100 million project to replace Crystal Pool---WAY TOO EXPENSIVE. Repair it. 2-Stop GIVING developers the city. We need AFFORDABLE housing. Stop building 30-floor condo tower downtown WITH 350 SQUARE FEET CONDO. BUILD COOPERATIVE HOUSING. 3-You are giving permits for building HIGH TOWERS downtown, but there are NO DOCTORS, not enough schools; etc. Dealing with BC government to ensure EFFECTIVE primary health care in Victoria would make a HUGE difference. 4-STOP building condos and expensive towers. BUILD HOUSING COOPS. 5-Develop MANY MORE g=community gardens: last year there were NO community gardens taking new people and waitlists were 5 to 10 years!

Personal Privacy

3/03/2023 09:45 PM

Allocate resources to cleaning up the open air drug markets that have spread across Downtown. Look to Amsterdam and Lisbon for examples.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 08:23 AM

Most comprehensive and very important.

Personal Privacy

My primary concern is with the police budget. I understand that this is



3/04/2023 08:23 AM

a complicated process, but increasing spending on policing is not going to make a positive change in Victoria.

Personal Private

3/04/2023 09:05 AM

please fix the conditions of the roads, save the downtown from turning into a ghost town, improve safety downtown and surrounding neighbourhoods, avoid tax heavy mega projects, improve architecture of new housing projects, more green spaces!!

Personal Private

3/04/2023 10:29 AM

This survey will get skewed results. There is no opting out of deemed priorities.

Personal Private

3/04/2023 10:11 AM

Please concentrate on core municipal services and avoid trying to influence issues that reside with other levels of government or which result in weakened municipal services.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 10:14 AM

Please stick to core services. We can no longer afford all of the 'nice to haves'. Policing and public safety needs to be a top priority.

Personal F

3/04/2023 10:45 AM

Increase budget to policing. Crime is getting out of control.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 08:46 AM

Ensure VicPD receives the funding they require or this city will continue to decline as a place to live and visit. Charge for bicycle usage to assist with paying for all the new bike lanes and upkeep Put a pause on bike lanes, and have more public input on the planning for bike lanes. Pause the Dogs in Parks review Do not increase parking rates or extend hours. Determine how cyclists can contribute to revenues. I am a cyclist and I would pay for licensing( i have to pay for dog license why not bicycle) Reduce amount for City Grants and put towards safety in this city ie. VicPD Look to using empty buildings to use for housing those that are homeless and helping to get their lives back to being contributing members to our city. Success in England, India, Los Angeles

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 11:41 AM

more money needs to be added to police budget . The crime rate has increased exponentially and safety in down town has become a serious issue.

Person:

3/04/2023 11:19 AM

Please increase the police budget and stop disrespecting our chief.

### Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 11:49 AM

I am discouraged by the huge amount of money that is spent on policing, which means that many social services are underfunded. I am particularly concerned about the lack of accountability for how the police department spends huge amounts of time and money targeting BIPOC and unhoused residents. How much did they spend on a militarized assault on a black man having a mental health crisis in his apartment in Quadra Village? Why were so many officers (including some with rifles) surrounding a woman having a mental health crisis in front of the MacDonald's on Pandora, for so many hours? How necessary is it to have two officers assigned to accompany bylaw officers when most of the time they stand around looking at their phones and often insult or provoke unhoused individuals?

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 12:03 PM

As a downtown Victoria resident, I am shocked by the lack of direct mention of our need for crime reduction, cleaning up Pandora Street, and stronger initiatives to reduce homelessness. The condo building I live in experiences nightly break ins, regular thefts and vandalism, and the residents feel unsafe in their own home. This is a reality for many who live in the downtown core, and deserves to be of the UTMOST importance in the new council's proposed budget. Prioritizing police funding only goes so far. Where are the concrete solutions that are needed to keep our city safe and liveable?

### Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 01:19 PM

Unhappy with amount of increased funds dedicated to bylaw enforcement; concerned this is focused on evictions of encampments.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 12:50 PM

VicPD's demand for a 10% raise this year is unconscionable. I was a bystander to the arrest of Michael from Grenada in June last year. I remember thinking to myself "this looks like the photo that's going on the cover of an official inquiry in a couple years." It was such a blatant over-use of force. As a total civilian, it was clear to me that having 12-15 cars responding at once would only escalate the emotional tone of the incident, which undermines the effectiveness of leadership's decisionmaking process. Why weren't the sergeants telling officers to forward-deploy nearby - for example the parking lot at Fairway, or just on standby at the station down the street - ready if needed but not actively making the situation worse? I can't help but think the department budget would be a fair way closer to balanced if all of those officers had not been called out for duty on a single mental health check. Not to mention the Gurkha armoured vehicle that was deployed, which the department bought for over \$300,000 in 2017. If our community ever really faces the kind of violence that requires an armoured vehicle in response, I am confident in the knowledge that the Bay St Armoury or CFB Esquimalt will handle that job. Yes, I'm

keeping in mind that horrible bank robbery in Saanich this year. Listen. The police are asking for 25% of the budget this year. They claim they are necessary for dealing with violence, addictions, mental health and homelessness downtown. I'm a lifelong Victorian, and it's clear that no matter how much we keep handing over to VicPD the problem does not get any better. What's happening is people can't pay the rent anymore, and are being pushed into inhumane situations. Cut the cop budget in half and use those tens of millions to put people back in homes. Do that for a decade and see what happens - I'm confident it will lead to a safer, more fulfilling and resilient community, and reverse the disastrous trend we've been on for a decade now.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 01:08 PM

Vic PD is asking for too much, I feel like the general increase in taxes is a lot for taxpayers to bear in these economic times. I read about more studies being commissioned, but there should be a meta-analysis done of studies from the past 10-20 years before commissioning another study. I would support VIC PD hiring a new financial person first before any other position - that should be priority 1 so the department can get its house in order. A financial person would probably help to cut costs and streamline. Throwing more money at a problem rarely works. I live in a neighborhood where we rarely see police officers on patrol, but we are seeing more 'unfamiliar faces' in the neighborhood, thankfully, there has been no increase in crime, but VicPD is notable by their absence from our neighborhood. I question the efficiency or bringing on a psychologist to provide "psychological support services" - male police officers are notorious for denying the need for psychological support - is this a service officers have requested? Or will there be a psychologist getting paid to sit in an office - there must be an in-house EAP already, work with them first. "Indigenous Engagement" as soft money item is bound to fail - without a firm commitment, it will not succeed - the first priority should be to engage with the leadership of local First Nations - you are on their territory and the best village site - pay your back rent first. The University of Victoria as a School of Public Administration, a School of Public Health and Social Policy, an Indigenous Governance Program, an Indigenous Research Centre and a Department of Educational and Leadership Studies - all with masters and doctoral level students could probably contribute to some of the challenges that Victoria facing, probably for considerable less money than outsourcing would cost - bring in some interns. Doing things the same way will not bring the results hoped for.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 01:24 PM

Hard to say, but I reacted poorly to the idea the police need more money rather than mental health services - I'm not suggesting the police are not valuable in some sense - but I do not support throwing

more money at a institution that was not meant to meet the needs it's being asked to (and doing a bad job at mental health deescalation), and instead focusing those funds somewhere more meaningful.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 01:26 PM

First, this survey is a farce in that it asks to rank things a person doesn't even believe in; suggest future surveys allow person to only rank items they want to rank, not all. Second, management salaries at City Hall could be held to zero increases and when staff leave lower those salaries. Seriously, there are enough extremely qualified people who would work at lower rates in this beautiful city; I did until I retired.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 01:24 PM

Basic services take priority over vanity projects, e.g. a new Crystal Pool rather than retrofitting and upgrading existing pool on existing footprint, as should be considered. No to borrowing \$100 million for a new pool.

Personal Pri

3/04/2023 02:00 PM

There needs to be more funding for the police, more police patrolling downtown, everywhere you go there are people participating in drug taking openly on the streets, criminal activities have never been so high, downtown has become unappealing, dirty with the amount of street people. More police funding so that criminal activity is dealt with and hopefully criminal activity will eventually become less. The camping on the streets has to stop. The city wants more people to live downtown but with crime activity so high people don't feel safe.

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 05:27 PM

My wages have not increased in a way relative to inflation, and I expect I am not the only citizen for whom this is the case...

Personal Privacy

3/04/2023 06:23 PM

- I didn't see anywhere to specifically comment about the Eventide music series - it is fantastic and there should be more events like it. There should also be more support from city hall for all-ages music venues, which are sorely needed in Victoria and have a direct impact on the music scene. - I am worried about the "amount to be determined for the Victoria Police Department." - I understand that crime and public safety are concerns for many people, but I wish the City of Victoria would do more to support non-police options to improve safety and mitigate crime. - The bike lanes are wonderful, please finish the cycling network. - Replacing municipal vehicles with EV options doesn't seem like it should be a priority. This should happen naturally as vehicles are decommissioned instead of all at once, probably replacing vehicles that don't need to be replaced. I support city efforts to promote reductions in greenhouse gasses and

reduce waste (particularly construction waste). - Increased focus on affordable housing.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 08:22 AM

crime problem needs to be solved. businesses are giving up. we are losing our city.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 08:57 AM

Please focus on the amenities (Police, Fire, sewage, road repair, etc). We do not need to spend wildly on pet projects. Less taxes is better at a time when the cost of everything has gone up.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 08:41 AM

Please do not raise rates for parkades. A resident poet is not a priority, supporting local businesses during inflation and an economic downtown is.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 08:53 AM

Please stop giving funding to neighborhood associations who do not actually represent their constituents, very poorly spent tax money.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:25 AM

Please focus on getting our city back to pre-pandemic levels of safety and cleanliness before throwing money at nice to have items. I live and work downtown. I walk a lot but I also drive a gas hybrid car. I don't own a bicycle because I don't want one. Stop shoving bike ownership down my throat as way of getting groceries and getting to amazing places like Pkols, Thetis Lake, Elk and Beaver Lake, etc. My husband and I downsized from a large home in Saanich to our downtown condo in 2014. We used love everything about living and working downtown. Since the pandemic, downtown is dingy and dodgy with more and more store closures. Sidewalks are dirty, garbage is often overflowing in the garbage cans and I can't make eye contact with certain people that have become regulars downtown since 2020 for fear of being yelled at or followed. I used to run through Beacon Hill park until the summer of 2020. Now I cautiously skirt the outside and stick to the sidewalks on Cook St. Village side or the Douglas St. side to get to the running and walking path along Dallas Rd. Please, please return our city the safe and beautiful place it used to be. Never mind the issue of who can afford to eat at restaurants anymore with the cost of food and the tipping pressure.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:11 AM

Spend on access for people with disabilities. NO money for cyclists.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:50 AM

YES! Fix the roads, finally! Especially Blanshard. Two thumbs up for continuing to fund the Pandora Clean Up Crew. What a difference that

has made. Please put a hiatus on the nice to haves - Poet Laureate etc. While perhaps they don't cost alot of money (in the grander scheme of things); the perception is that these programs are wasteful in a time when everyone is stretched for their dollars (inflation etc). These programs can be revisited in future years when there is more public appetite for the "nice to haves". Perhaps if you put more money into things that people appreciate/enjoy - like really supporting a public market - perhaps taking the public market idea to the Government Street alleyway, at least in the summer - you'd have a hit on your hands. Look at some of the major cities around the world that have a proper year-round public market, where fresh local fruits/vegs are sold year round. Not only will that bring vibrancy to an area that is currently suffering, it may bring people back downtown who are avoiding it for whatever reason. Anyway, thanks for trying to stretch our dollars as much as you can.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 10:05 AM

No comment

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:58 AM

Stop spending money on bicycle lanes when we cannot afford them. We all look at needs and wants. We want bicycle lanes but they are a luxury not a need. Cut those new lanes out of your budget and see the how much we need to raise taxes. My wage went up 3% I cannot afford to pay you 7%.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 11:00 AM

Put a toll on the blue bridge so other users pay their fair share. Use money to build a new pool. Work towards a regional police and fire department. There are too many officers off on stress leave. Bring them back to work or retrain them as bylaw officers. Stop increases to the Police Budget. There is no need for more firefighters when we have extras who are having a sleepover and barbecue at all the other stations. in OakBay,,Saanich,,Esquimalt. When the hotel on government burnt down only Victoria FD was there. Working overtime shifts for days. A regional department would have shared the best equipment and personnel that was sitting in garages a couple km away.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 10:52 AM

cut non core functions. Eliminate all council vanity projects! Stick to the BASICS

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 10:44 AM

Don't cut the police budget give it the increase requested. Focus on Core infrastructure services and stay in your lane. Many of the bike lanes have been a waste of money

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 11:29 AM

Get the homeless off the streets, get the drugs off the streets, and lock the public washrooms at night please. Get rid of this missing middle. You're going to ruin neighborhoods by packing in duplexes and condos. Give us large trash cans again. Stop spending tax money on addicts and spend it on kids and schools so they can grow up strong. Helps and Isitt ruined this town. Undo their work.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 11:49 AM

This is the time to focus on core services. You will notice that our response favours local neighbours' decision-making and is not influenced by regional concerns. Police funding is badly needed to offset bad housing support decisions. The expenses budgeted for the Human Resources department are again linked to stupid uses of resources, like a free bike valet. Embarrassing really.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 11:58 AM

Council faces the challenging task of balancing safety, spending and priorities. It's not an easy one. As a guiding principle, we should think of Victoria as a destination city. How can we be great hosts? What do we need to do to bring people here, to keep them safe while they are here and wanting to return? If we then treat those of us who live and work here with the same care, we'll find what works for many of us.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 12:30 PM

The Vic PD needs to be significantly cut in budget, with streamlining of their services.

Personal Priv

3/05/2023 12:17 PM

Focus on core services and cut 'frills' and build up reserves. Delete policy of adding an automatic 'one percent' on top of inflation as guidance for tax increases annually. We have not shown it is required due to volume of new construction (revenue) each year. Most of this should be invested in infrastructure reserves.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 12:23 PM

Do not shoulder the the significant inflation pressures onto downtown residents and businesses by a 25% increase in hourly parking and extended hours. Downtown is already struggling with crime and poverty. Increased rates serve only to act as another reason for Greater Victoria Residents not to frequent the core.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 01:05 PM

After owning our home for 20 years, I think we are now paying more in taxes with less input/say on matters that relate our community. The City seems to forget about the older portion of the population and the need for them to have parking spaces near doctors, dentists, specialists etc., and to access amenities like clover point and beacon

hill park. Many people are converting to EVs, which are better for the environment, but still require parking spaces (including ones in new developments like Harris Green). On the budget specifically, my 2 main concerns are improving the actual safety, and the feeling of safety felt by residents and tourists downtown, and ensuring the downtown businesses (who pay much higher taxes) stay vibrant and remain downtown. With these concerns in mind, 1) I think the police should be given the budget they ask for to ensure they have the appropriate resources. Additional teams of bylaw & police should be added to assist with the homeless population. I've heard from a number of people who have had scary encounters downtown and no longer want to go there. I now stay on alert as I do when travelling in Africa and worry when my young adult sons and their girlfriends are downtown. This is a HUGE change in my perception of our city. 2) parking rates on streets and parkades should not be increased. We need to encourage people to come downtown to use the theatre, their health providers, the restaurants and coffee shops, the museums, library, etc. Older people spend money downtown. Transit and bicycles are not always practical or possible for many people. (e.g., at night). To save money, I think the City should scale back on the bike lanes and infrastructure. Make any changes cheap and temporary until we get through this difficult patch. They do not contribute the most bang for your buck when you should be trying to build back the downtown business core to ensure a good tax base and tourist experience. Without this, you will just be hitting us up again next year for even more money.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 06:35 PM

Our current council needs to get it together asap and start supporting small business and safety in the downtown core.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 01:36 PM

Having read the materials, more explanation for any increase over 15% should have been provided (i.e. legal services and employee engagement). Perhaps if council stuck to their lane and didn't direct staff to change their work all the time (AND implemented the MNP governance review) then employee engagement wouldn't be so dismal. In lean times, the nice to haves must be sacrificed or deferred.. Safety and encouraging people to come downtown are essential to a vibrant Victoria.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 02:00 PM

If I had the choice of where my tax money went, I would put police & fire services first. I feel we need more police & special patrols for high risk/damage areas. Next would come roads/sidewalks/water/sewer/garbage but not bicycle lanes. I rarely ever go downtown anymore -bike lanes are dangerous (and especially cyclists who think they can do what they want - not



stopping for red lights, stop signs, pedestrians, etc, weaving in & out of traffic, riding on sidewalks, etc. Not using lights front & back, using strobe lights that bring on migraines & can be a problem for those with epilepsy, riding in the snow...) and parking is extremely difficult. Remove the sidewalk extensions of cafes, etc. & return parking so all businesses have more room for their customers. Buses are not always convenient when you need a lot of things or just 1 in which case you may need to wait an hour or more to catch a return bus. The "street people" are the least of my downtown worries - aside from feeling they need to be cared for & supported when trying to kick their drug or mental health issues. I think cyclists need to be licensed & cycle paths should be on side roads - not main nor blocking main roads just for their use. Have you tried to do many deliveries a day in the downtown area lately? Many businesses depend on having deliveries to & from their shops & with the current road blockages they are spending far more time idling at stop lights, going a good way out of their way to get to & from their shop & customers, spending more on gas & if using a delivery service then paying more due to the time it takes deliveries to be done. If you own a small business (or even a large one) that depends on deliveries then these problems take quite a bite out of any profit you might make. I always used to cycle downtown when my children were small with them on my bicycle & when they were old enough to ride their own bikes & did not have any trouble - they learned the proper bicycle rules and followed them or weren't allowed to use their bikes for a bit. More rules need to be enforced and not just overlooked - it leads to people feeling they can do what they want when they want regardless of other people. They know they won't be stopped nor be held responsible. Thank you for listening.

Persona

3/05/2023 01:49 PM

Please address the shelter in parks issue and create a safe interim space in a non- park setting. Thank-you.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 01:51 PM

Stop the stupid interrogation of vpd and give them what they need. I'm tired of street people running victoria.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 02:13 PM

Do not cut back the police budget. Clean the sidewalks and streets. More festivals. Make the city truly accessible. Programs for seniors.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 03:26 PM

I honestly believe this survey was very self serving of the councils needs and agendas. Its very clear that the city need to focus more on the maintenance before starting anymore redundant projects. The city's transportation infrastructure, is in shambles. There is not a

single thoroughfare that you can drive without doing serious damage to personal and public vehicles due to potholes and sheer neglect. Not to mention the overly apparent dirtiness and degradation of the city streets, its disgusting to walk anywhere downtown. One of the more serious infractions are neighbourhood services. Every collection week I'm left wondering "will they actually collect this week?" Its generally very annoying considering all of the changes made for us, in how we have to prep our collection, for them to not even show up. These are just a few of many reasons why I the city needs to get a handle of the CURRENT infrastructure before even THINKING about newness they want to implement. This city runs on taxpayers dollars, and they should listen when we say we are unsatisfied with the state in which the city is currently held.

Personal Priv

3/05/2023 02:51 PM

We wont have a DT to enhance for all until we address public safety. Please stop pretending its not an issue. This is PARAMOUNT!!

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 02:55 PM

Poorly thought-out pre-determined survey, yet again. Police and safety are the most important items. Concerned about climate change? How about traffic light coordination and opening up of blocked roads. No, we won't be getting rid of our oil furnace as we can't afford to. None of your ethnicities match me - British white. What difference does it make which ethnicity or gender one is when it comes to a budget? There are only two genders. When they dig up your skeleton in 500 years, they'll be able to tell. Stop with the nonsense.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 03:38 PM

This is a self serving survey. No one sees the results of these or the letters against bike lanes. Transparency and honesty would be nice. It would be nice to have a vote [without the un-voted on, voting machines] on your projects, as it appears that the city does as it wants with no regard of the public. One example is the ping pong table on Humboldt, do you think that was good use of tax payers money? You say you care about emissions, but the cruse ships still do not have shore power the biggest polluters in the city . Also there is not an over abundance of cyclists, according to the numbers shown, that demand is not there for them. Why do you not deal in reality . People do not feel safe downtown, there is no life in the business community. I have homeless people stealing out of my back yard constantly it is like the wild west, no law and order. Nothing is done to these people, they are like you guys, above the law. You should read the Harvard sociologist paper the Broken window law.

Personal Privacy

I would like Victoria to stay within the limits of the City for our needs,

3/05/2023 03:35 PM

not the world!

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 04:06 PM

More focus on core services, public safety, street cleanliness, maintenance and improvements of existing infrastructure over nice to have, non essential spending to improve affordability and reduce high financial burden on taxpayers.

Personal I

3/05/2023 06:27 PM

Please prioritize measures to improve housing affordability over the enforcement of bylaws that consistently punish people for being homeless. Thanks :)

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 04:32 PM

The budget should focus on the basics, like public safety (Police, bylaw), fixing the roads, building high density rental buildings, and maintaining parking, and much less on all the giveaways and free things to only a tiny portion of the population. Arts are important, but public safety must come first.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 05:01 PM

Prioritize core services that make the City (1) functional, (2) safe, (3) clean, and (4) accessible. Eliminate/trim personal/pet vanity projects that don't support Items 1 - 4. Show transparency in funding decisions and a robust audit system to reduce inefficiency/graft

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 05:25 PM

Public safety is a priority at this time, so I'm in favour of increasing the police budget. Car and foot patrols would go a long way to increase safety. Assuring that downtown businesses prosper is also a priority. Reduce red tape and taxes to creat a welcoming environment. If downtown dies, the city dies.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 05:44 PM

The Victoria Police Budget requirements need to be honoured. There is more crime and averted crime in Victoria than people realize. There are MANY private businesses and residents that hire security services to protect property. There is a need for strong policing because there are lots of people who move here that don't care about the residents, the city or the buildings/business, and look at what some of us worked hard for as theirs. The provincial NDP party has clearly influence a lot of your decisions. You need to knock it off and realize that businesses support the public sector. Not the other way around. You are not supporting businesses in your non-support of the Victoria Polcie Department. Krista Loughton: Your questioning of Del Manak on sleep deprivation of unhoused was an absolute embarrassment. I can't believe that you sat there and threw out another stupid idea to give credence to the survival crime that has

swept the city since 2020 (and earlier). So - support the police.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 05:49 PM

I support more funding for Victoria Police. Do not increase the parking fees downtown. Open up the roads like Richardson and Vancouver Streets so cars can drive freely on them. Get those patios off the streets so we can drive our cars downtown. Do not allow those horrible private owned gardens to ruin our boulevards. When allowing more high rises, ensure that there is adequate parking available for those persons who will live in the high rises.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 06:36 PM

Please implement a robust tree planting program like other municipalities. Urban trees are often sacrificed and we should on the contrary have more trees. They make victoria so unique and are a great way to fight climate change.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 06:59 PM

Once again, terrible survey questions that are leading and not indicative of seeking actual feedback. Do better.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 07:51 PM

More pickle ball courts to encourage community of all ages to participate in this easy-to-learn (fastest growing) recreational sport.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 07:44 PM

The 2023 Draft Budget looks decent, though the adjustments to the parking rates seem excessive. An increase of \$0.25 per hour would be better.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 08:16 PM

Support the Police, review staffing levels, stop needless bike lane expansion, approval Harris Green, recognize that parking is needed for a healthy downtown.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 08:42 PM

In reviewing the budget documents I'm surprised at how much money is spent on roads and police, compared to climate action, arts / culture, DEI, parks. I'd like to see less money spent on policing and more on community action teams. I'd like to see more funds applied toward sustainable transportation like bicycles and walking and less on car parking, car driving roads. I'd like to see more funds dedicated to the parks department to establish more community gardens and a big city run allotment garden. Good growing is a resilient climate wise choice that builds community. I'd like to see more money spent researching and preparing us city residents for the huge earthquake that is to come. I'd like to see the greening of city owned buildings through energy efficiency and green rooftops, gardens all around

every building. I'd like money to be spent on more exploration into how to keep the most marginalized safe and renters in long term housing. I'd also like to see more money devoted to implementing the zero waste strategies, to move Victoria toward a very low waste city. I'd like to see the expansion of the strategic plan grant to include more money in general and especially for overhead/admin expenses so that non-profit organizations that take so much of the workload off city staff, are well funded, just as a city staff is paid well - those that do the passionate work at non profits serving Victoria residents - should also be paid well!

## Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:07 PM

Victoria spending is out of control. Stay away from issues of higher jurisdiction (eg climate (Fed), housing (Prov), native issues (Fed/Prov)), etc). Stick to the basics : police, fire, utility infrastructure maintenance, sanitation, car truck and bus transportation infrastructure (including parking) - the economic relevance of cycling is essentially zero, and Council must refocus on business and economics to help reduce residential taxes.

## Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:15 PM

As a longterm resident of Victoria, and a small business owner, and employer of [Personal Privacy](#) in downtown Victoria, there has never been such an important budget to keep people like myself in Victoria. Safety of general public is as bad if not worse than it has ever been.

[Personal Privacy](#), and daily I get complaints from [Personal Privacy](#) about the safety of the streets in the evening hours. I have had to call the police with increasing frequency since I started [Personal Privacy](#). Frankly, this embarrassing, in Victoria. I applaud the bike lanes, this has made lots of people feel safer to come to town. Unfortunately, town is not safe for a bike, many of my staff have discovered this by having either their bike taken, or parts harvested. This is unacceptable. And while a bike valet program is reasonable, it seems like an expensive band aid solution to a greater problem, thievery. What seemed like a glorious opportunity to have approximately 1500 new homes(during a housing "crisis") built in Victoria (Harris Green project), may well have been chased away by poor planning of limiting parking spaces. Parking spaces are at a premium downtown, and as a business owner, I am continually frustrated for my [Personal Privacy](#) that have a difficult time to find parking. Please do not make it more difficult for people to come to town by way of cars. In a perfect world they would ride bikes, but many of my [Personal Privacy](#).

Covid already made business downtown difficult, but lack of parking makes people coming from outside of Victoria (willing to spend money inside Victoria), less likely to make the trip in the first place, which hurts all business, and generates less tax revenue from outside of the Victoria area. I ask you the council, to consider these points,

help make Victoria the thriving, beautiful city it once was. Bring back the tourists, this should be a place that all residents are proud to call home. Thank you.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:30 PM

Defund the police. Prioritize affordable housing by streamlining zoning and minimizing redundant public hearing processes.

Personal Priv

3/05/2023 09:41 PM

Pls support downtown and our struggling independent businesses - there is a tipping point where it will be extremely challenging to keep businesses thriving. Pls help bring back safety to our downtown core and support our police to keep our communities safe, there is too much violence and crime.

Personal Privacy

3/05/2023 09:36 PM

Stop redoing wheelchair ramps on streets where they already exist. More parking on the streets downtown. Repair the roads, they are getting in really bad condition.

Personal Privacy

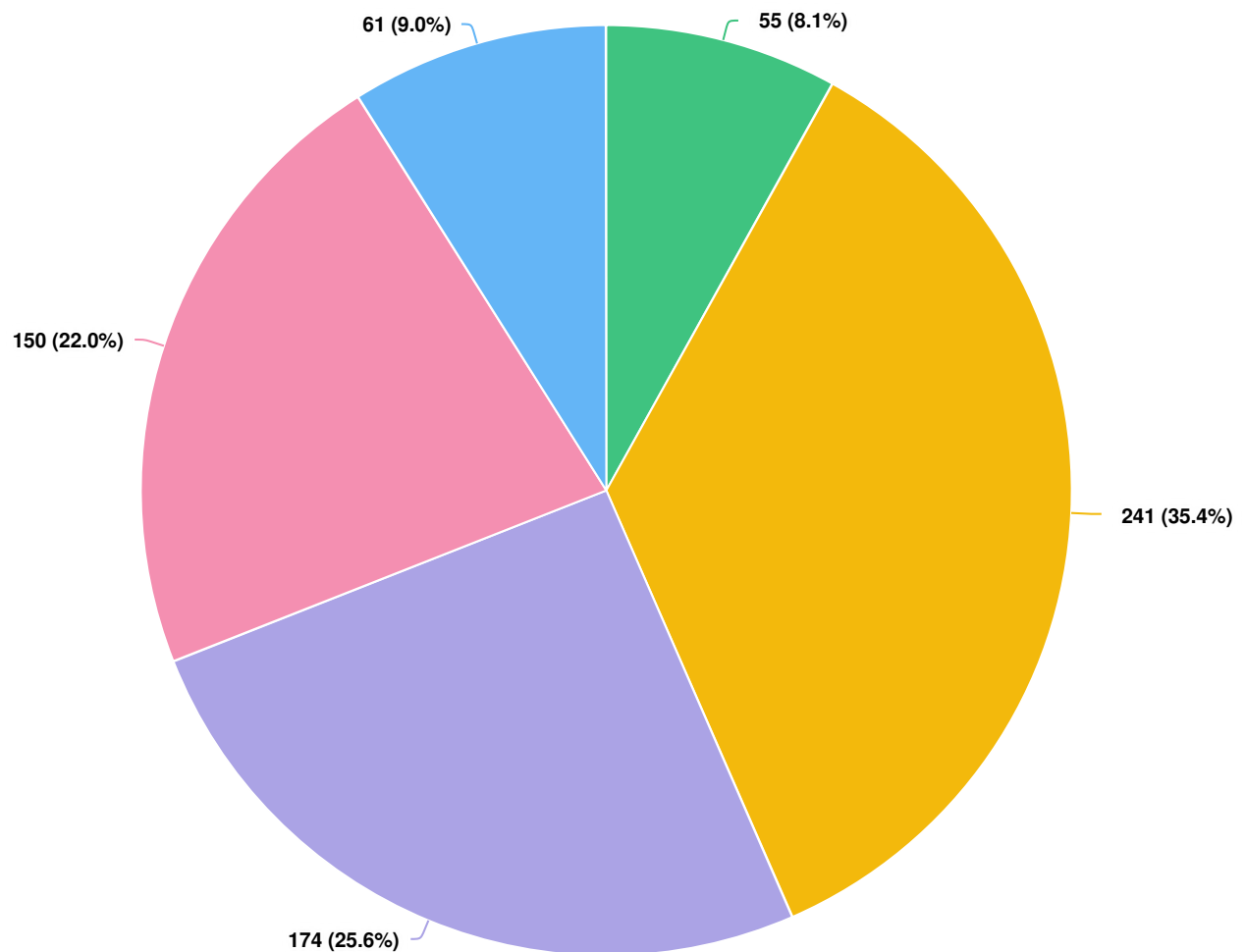
3/05/2023 10:51 PM

How about more money to support social work programs (those skilled with addictions, mental health crisis, etc.) and less put into the police budget. Overall, the police budget is WAY too high!

**Optional question** (438 response(s), 247 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q13** Thinking about all the programs, services and capital projects you receive from the City of Victoria, would you say that overall you get:

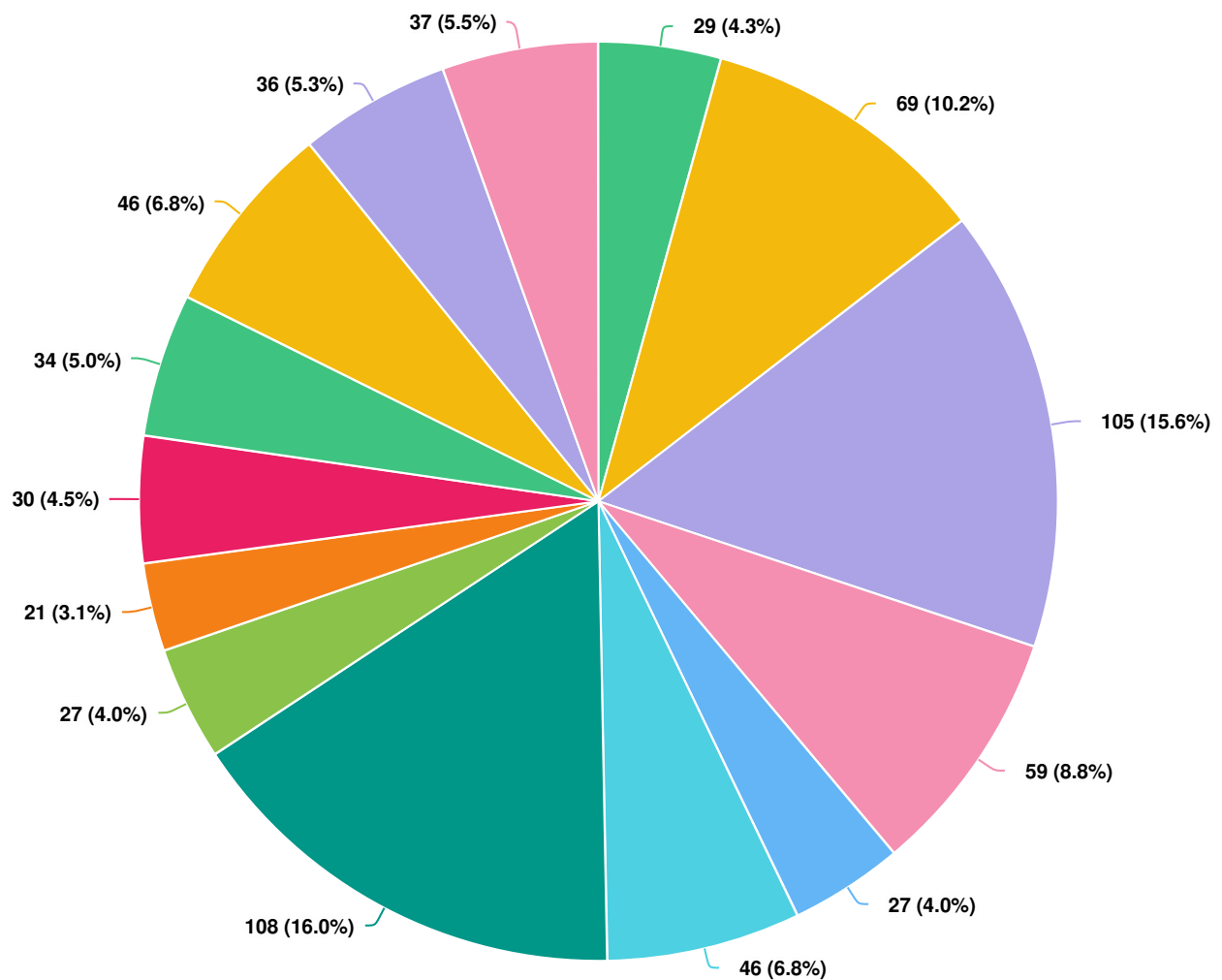


**Question options**

- Very good value for your tax dollars
- Fairly good value for your tax dollars
- Fairly poor value for your tax dollars
- Very poor value for your tax dollars
- Don't know

Optional question (681 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q14 Which Victoria neighbourhood do you live in?**



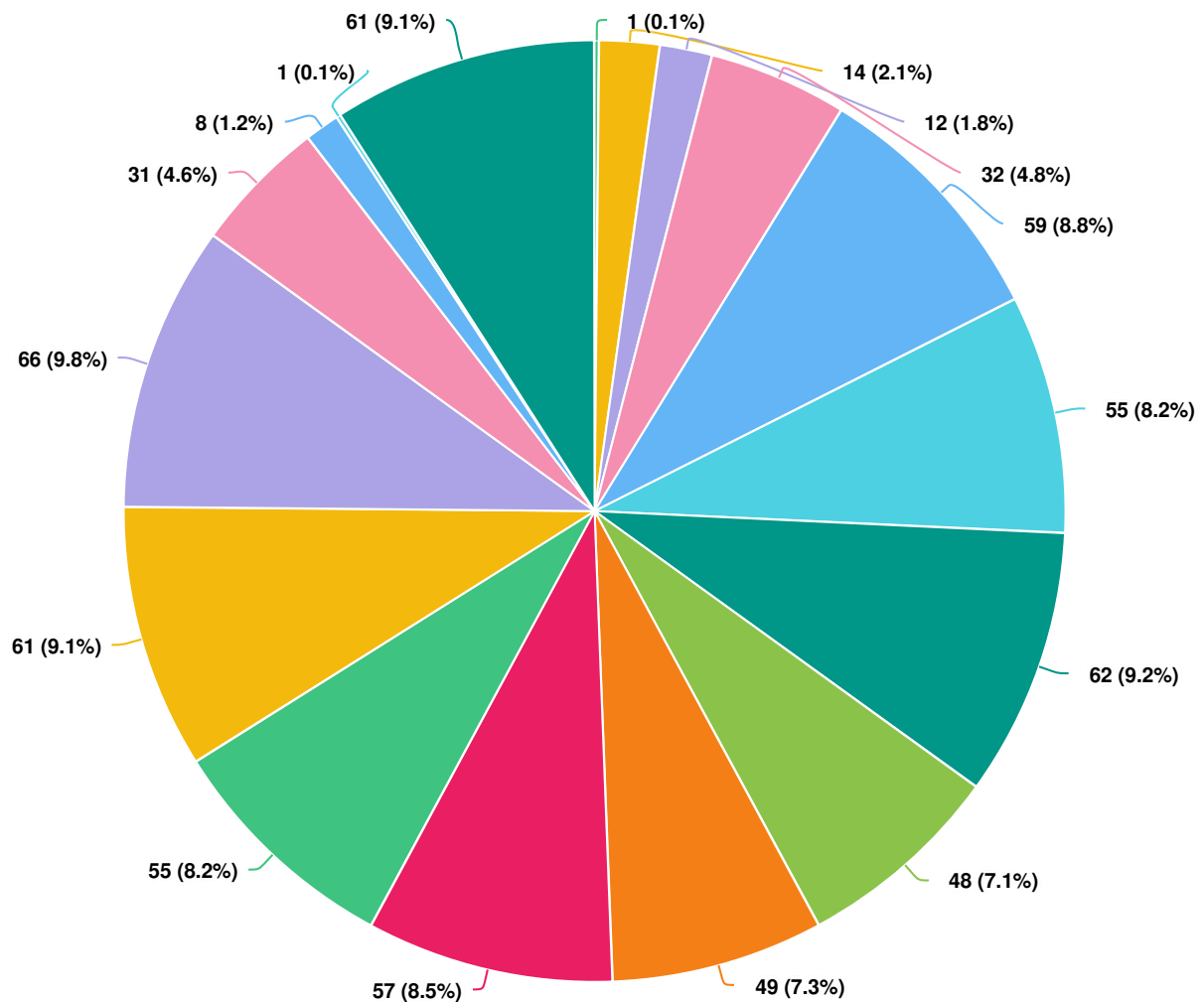
**Question options**

- Burnside Gorge
 ● Downtown
 ● Fairfield
 ● Fernwood
 ● Gonzales
 ● Hillside Quadra
 ● James Bay
- Jubilee
 ● North Park
 ● Oaklands
 ● Rockland
 ● Victoria West
 ● Prefer not to answer
- I live in another municipality (please specify)

Optional question (674 response(s), 11 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question



**Q15** Please select one of the following age ranges:

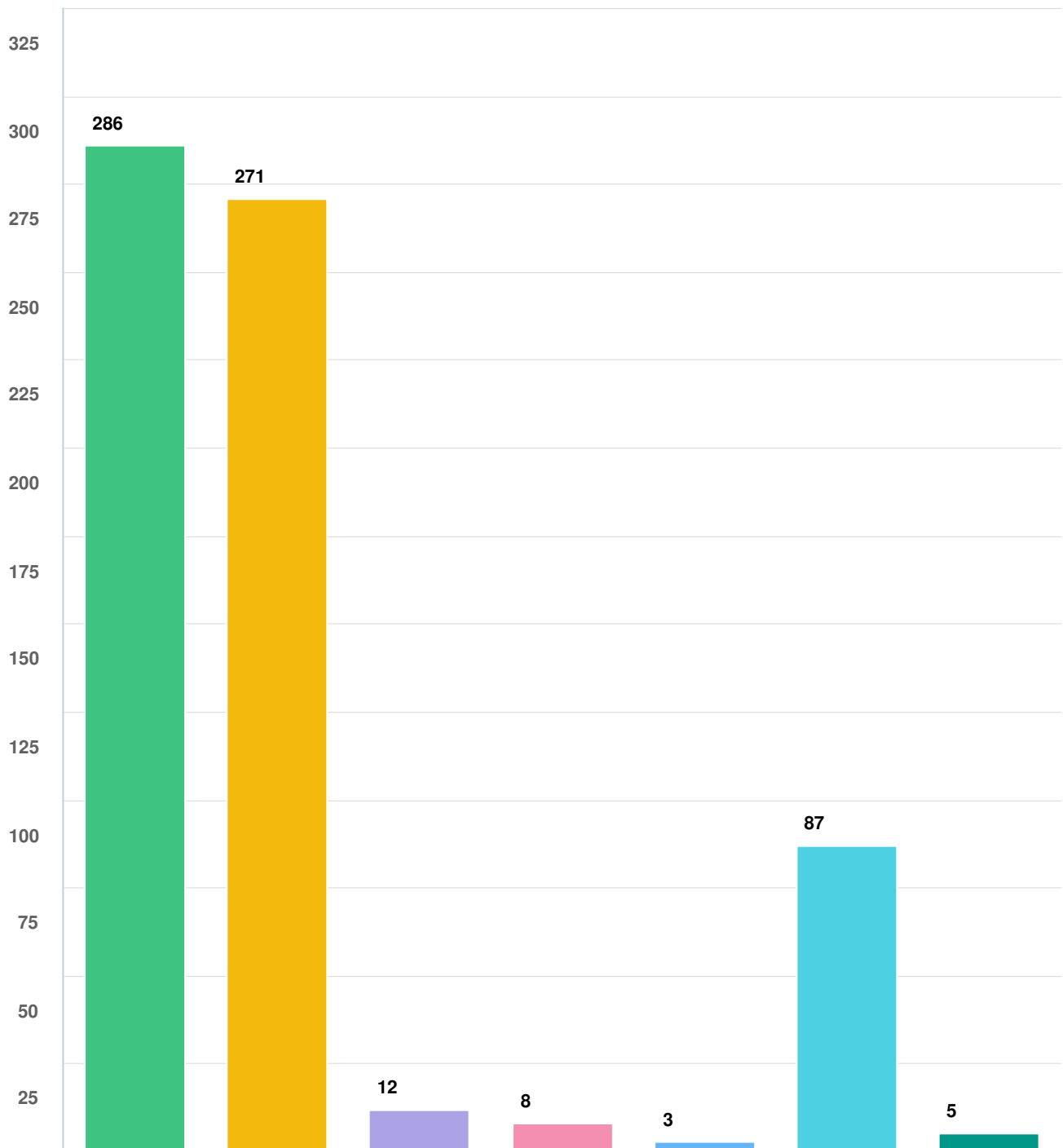


**Question options**

● 0 - 14  
 ● 15 - 19  
 ● 20 - 24  
 ● 25 - 29  
 ● 30 - 34  
 ● 35 - 39  
 ● 40 - 44  
 ● 45 - 49  
 ● 50 - 54  
● 55 - 59  
● 60 - 64  
● 65 - 69  
● 70 - 74  
● 75 - 79  
● 80 - 84  
● 85+  
● Prefer not to answer

Optional question (672 response(s), 13 skipped)  
 Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q16 How would you describe your gender identity? (Please select all that apply)**



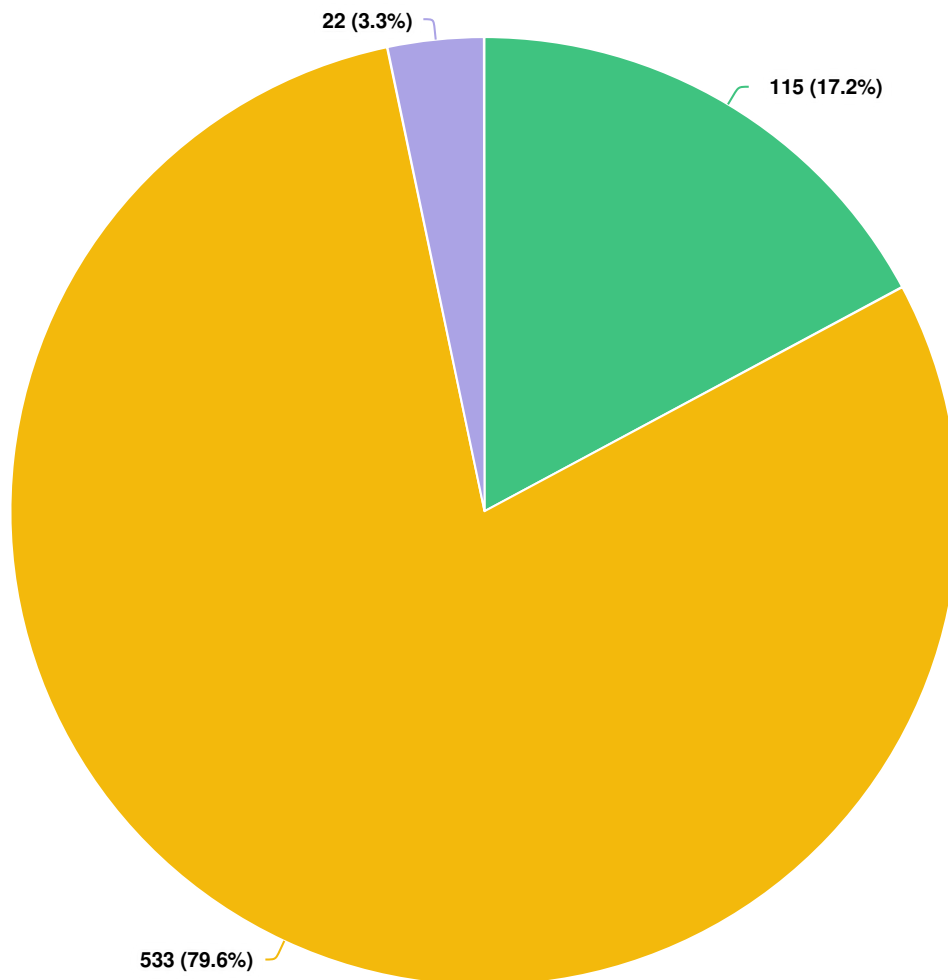
**Question options**

- ☒ Female ☒ Male ☐ Non-binary ☐ Transgender ☐ Two Spirit ☐ Prefer not to answer  
☐ Other (please specify)

Optional question (666 response(s), 19 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q17** Have you moved to Victoria in the past five years?

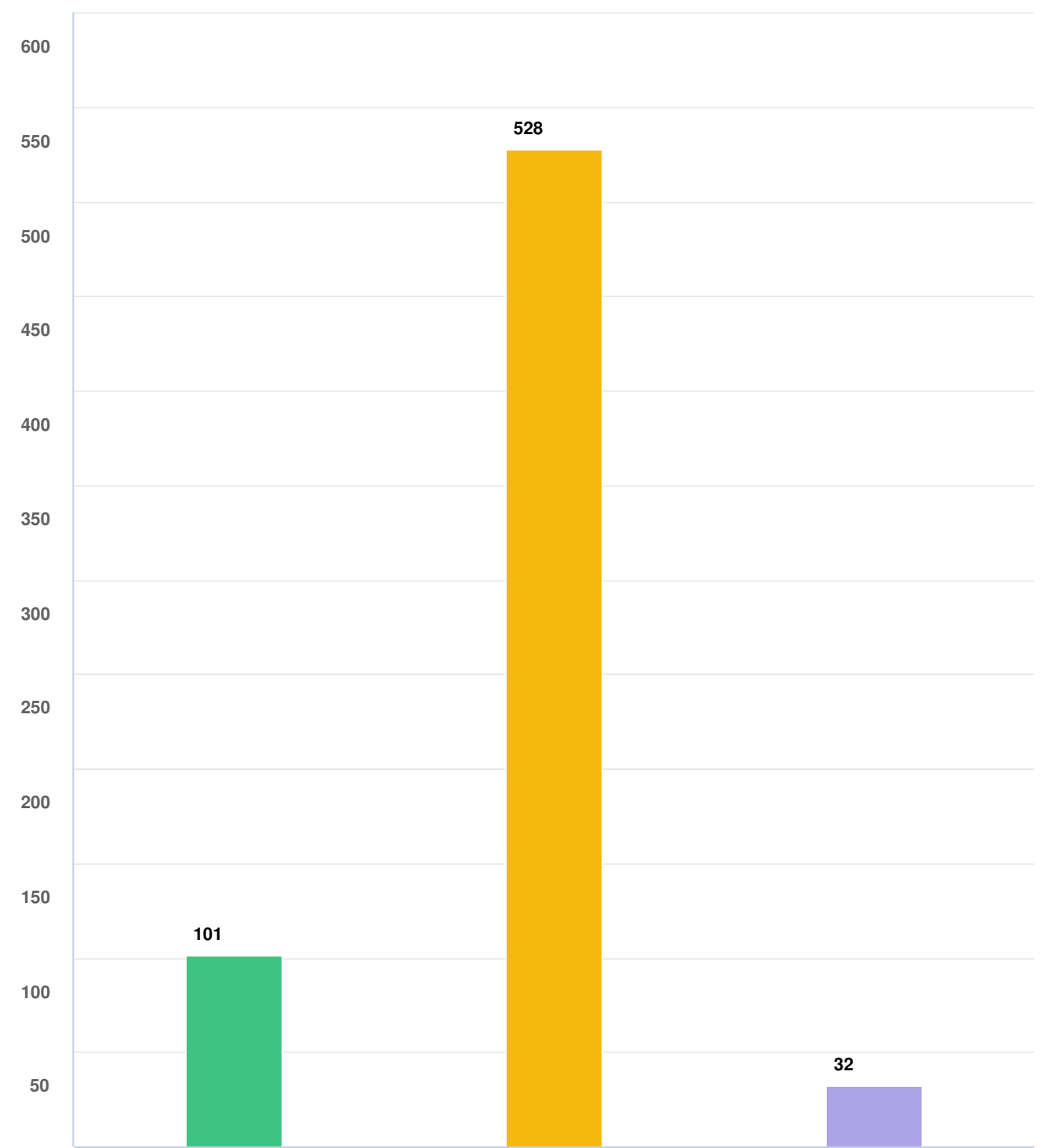


**Question options**

☒ Yes ☒ No ☐ Prefer not to answer

*Optional question (670 response(s), 15 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q18 Do you operate a business in Victoria?

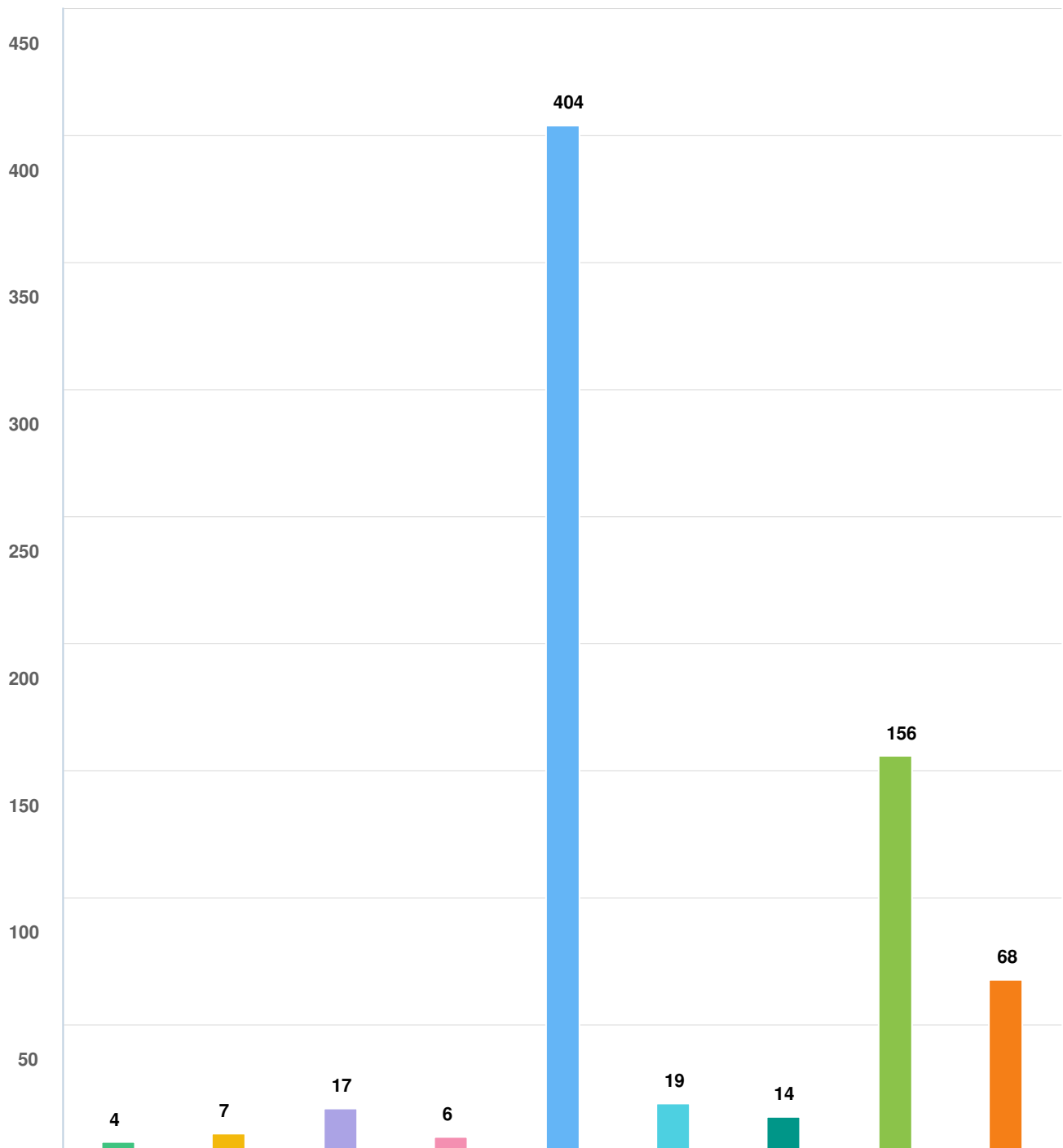


Question options

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Optional question (661 response(s), 24 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q19 What is your ethnicity or cultural origin? (Please select all that apply to you)**



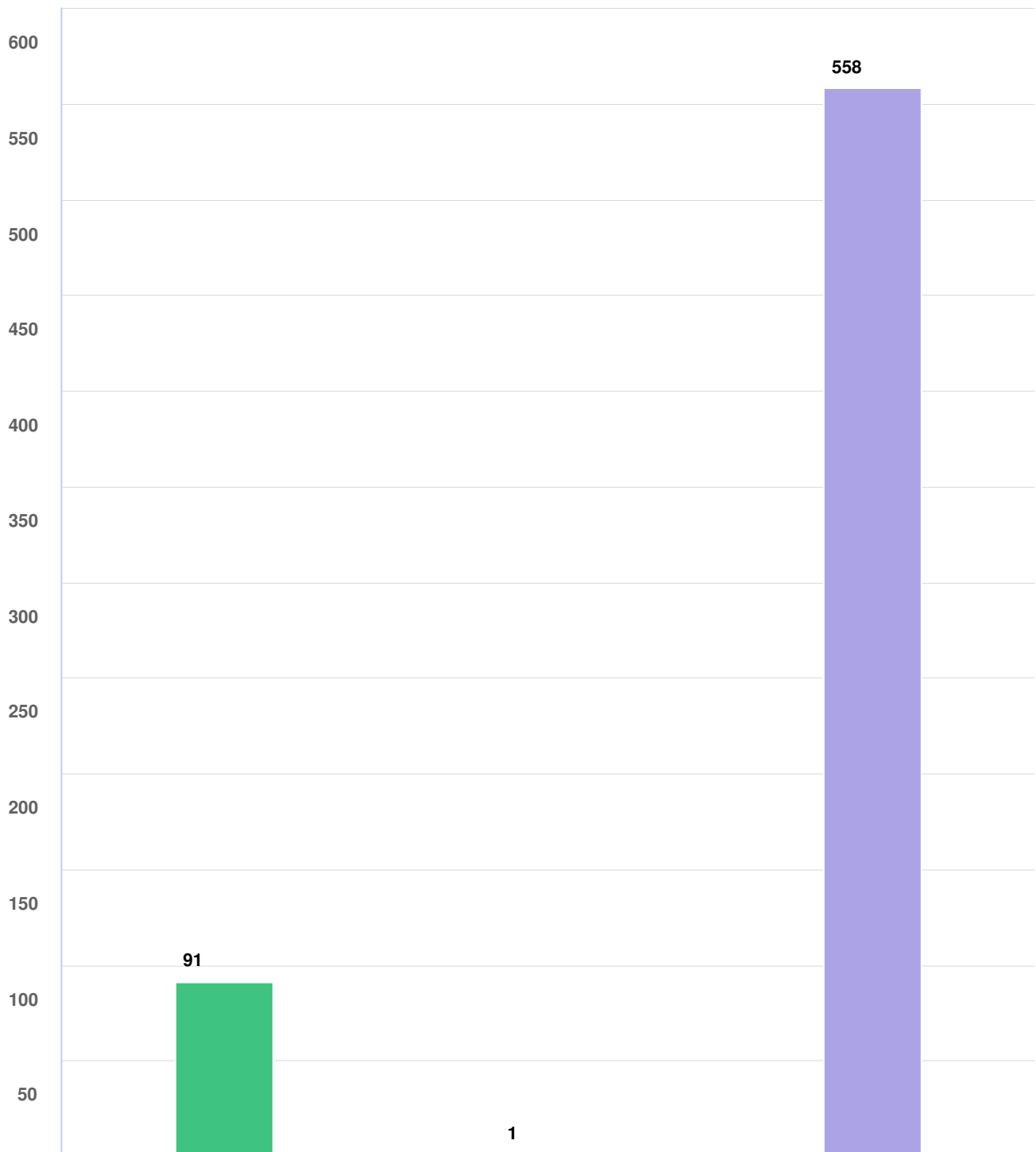
**Question options**

● African
 ● Caribbean or Latin American
 ● East Asian
 ● West Asian or Middle Eastern
 ● European
 ● Indigenous
 ● South Asian
 ● Prefer not to answer
 ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (665 response(s), 20 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q20 Do you identify as being:**



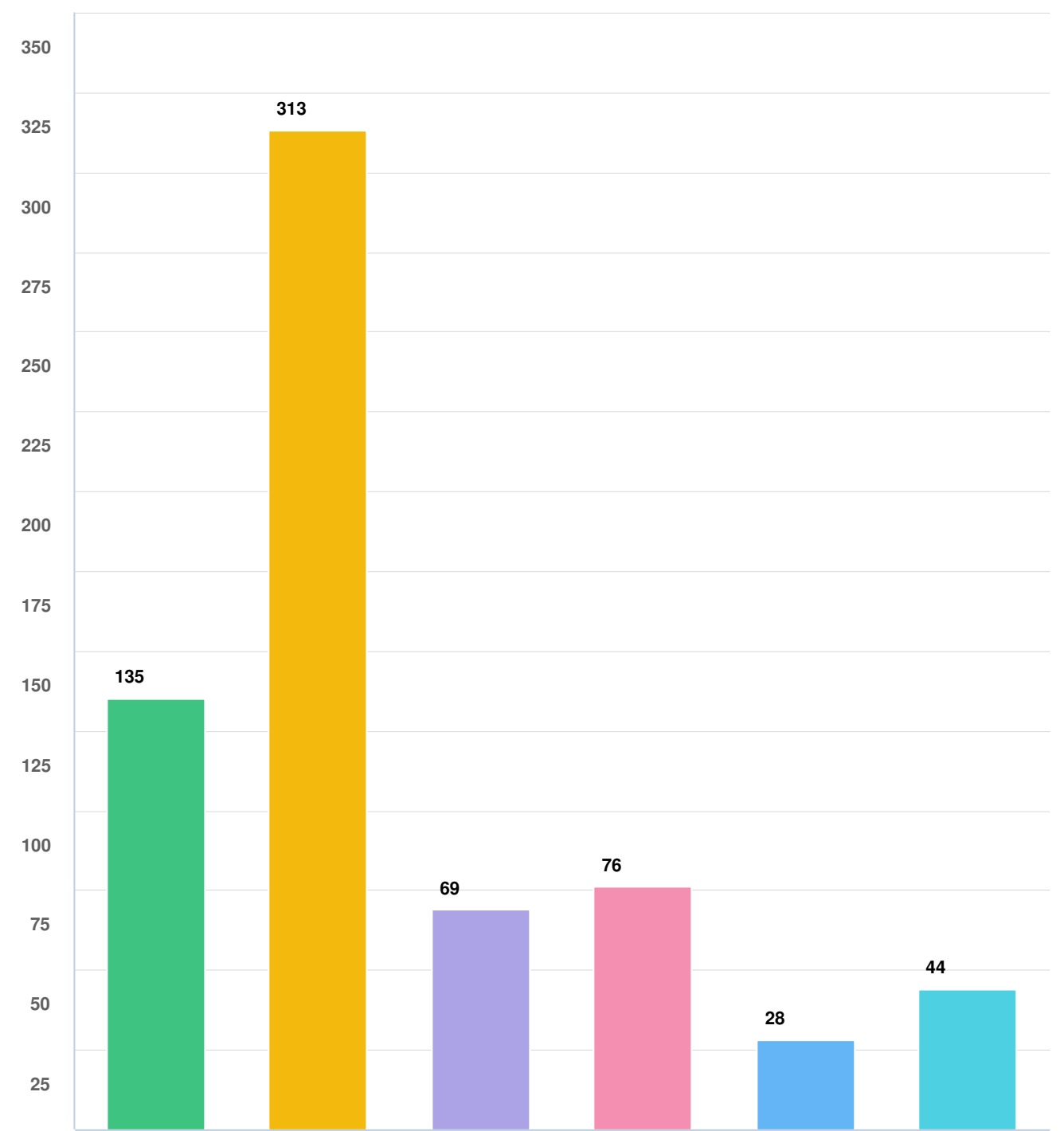
**Question options**

☒ An immigrant ☐ A refugee ☐ Not applicable

Optional question (650 response(s), 35 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q21 Which description best describes your household size?

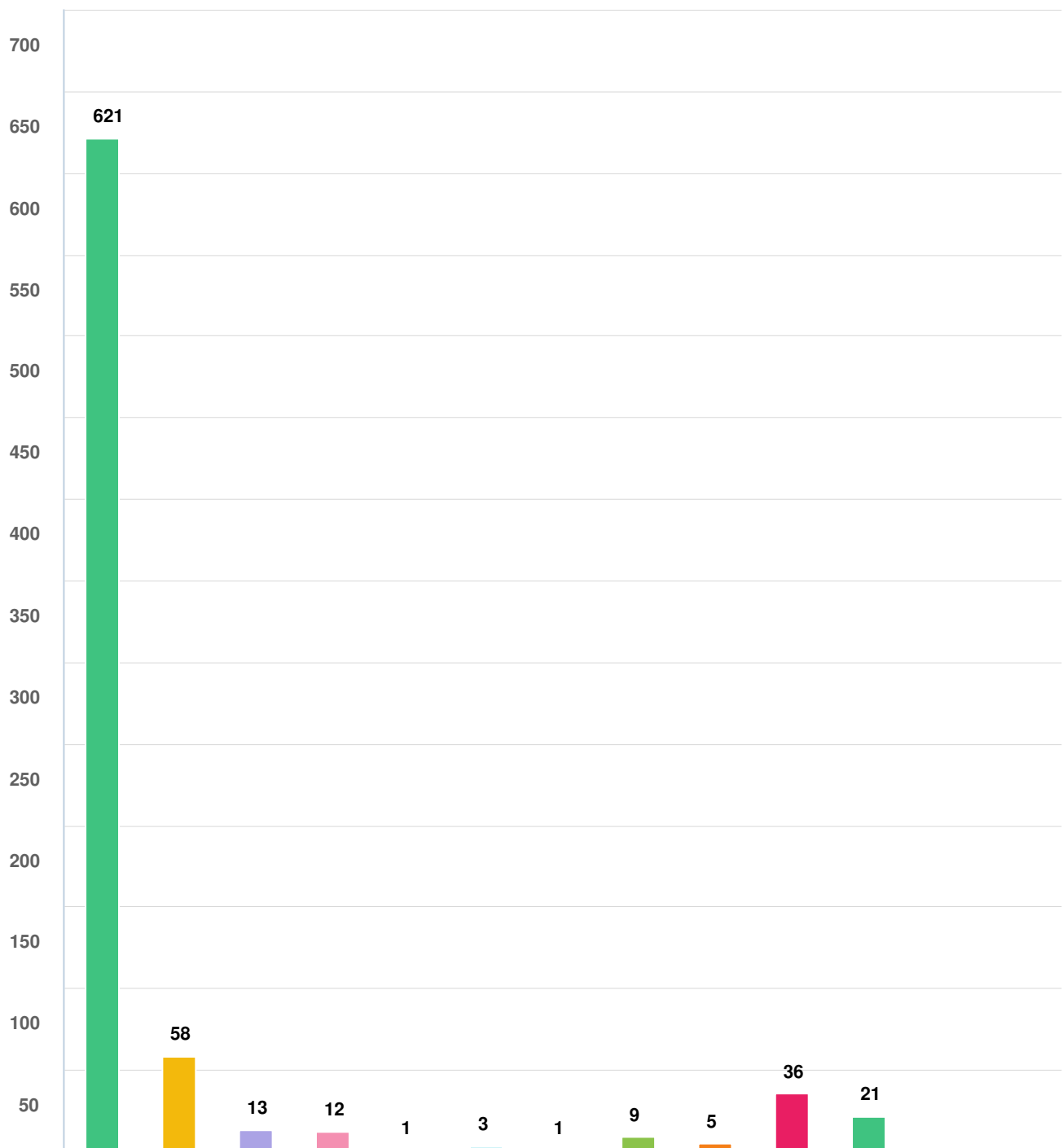


Question options

- One person
- Two persons
- Three persons
- Four persons
- Five or more persons
- Prefer not to answer

Optional question (665 response(s), 20 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q22 Which language(s) do you speak at home? (Select all that apply)**



**Question options**

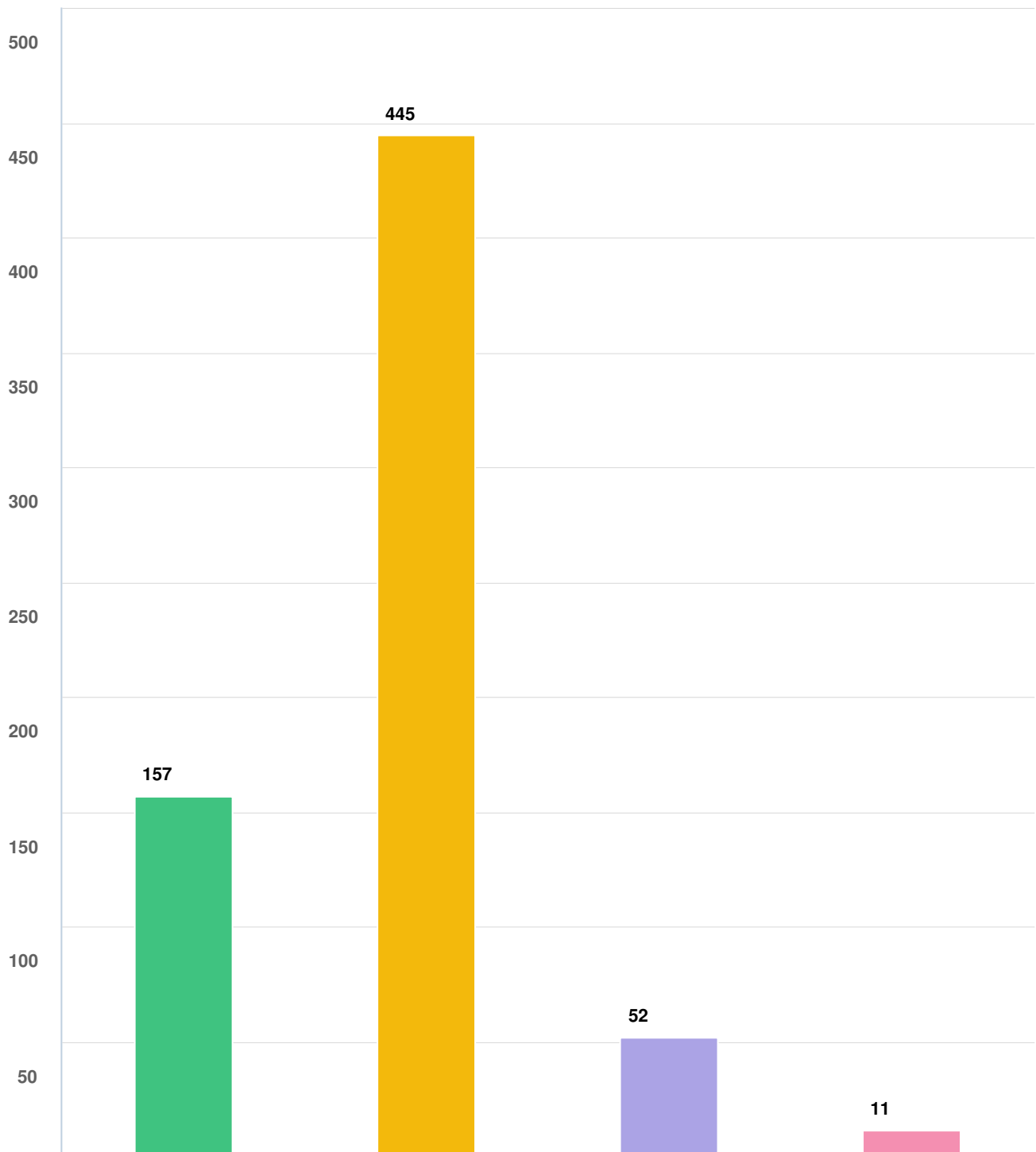
English
French
German
Spanish
Arabic
Punjabi
Korean
Mandarin
Cantonese
Prefer not to answer
Other (please specify)
Tagalog
Portuguese

Optional question (670 response(s), 15 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question



**Q23** What is your current housing situation?



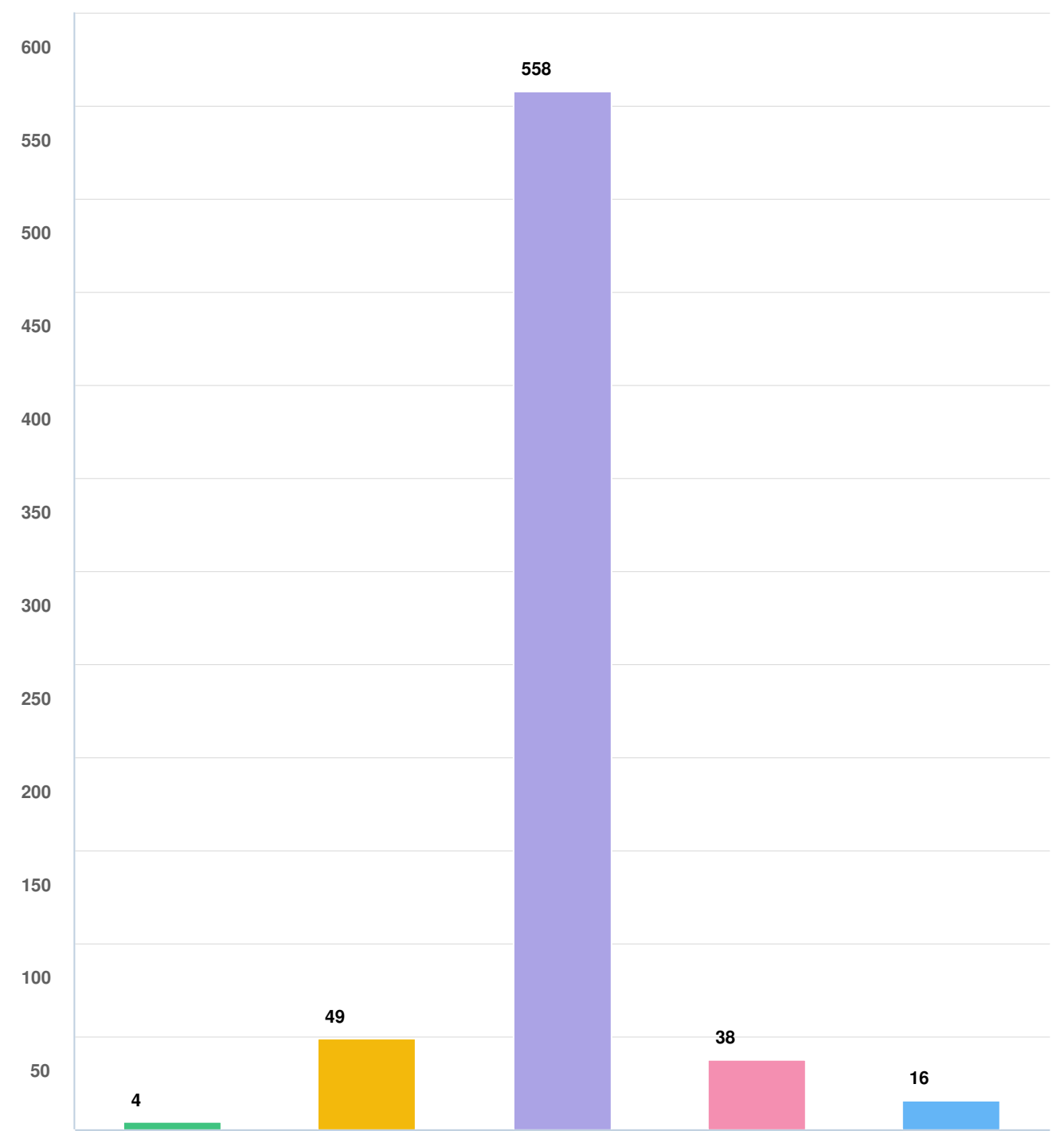
**Question options**

☒ Rent ☒ Own ☐ Prefer not to answer ☐ Other (please specify)

Optional question (665 response(s), 20 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

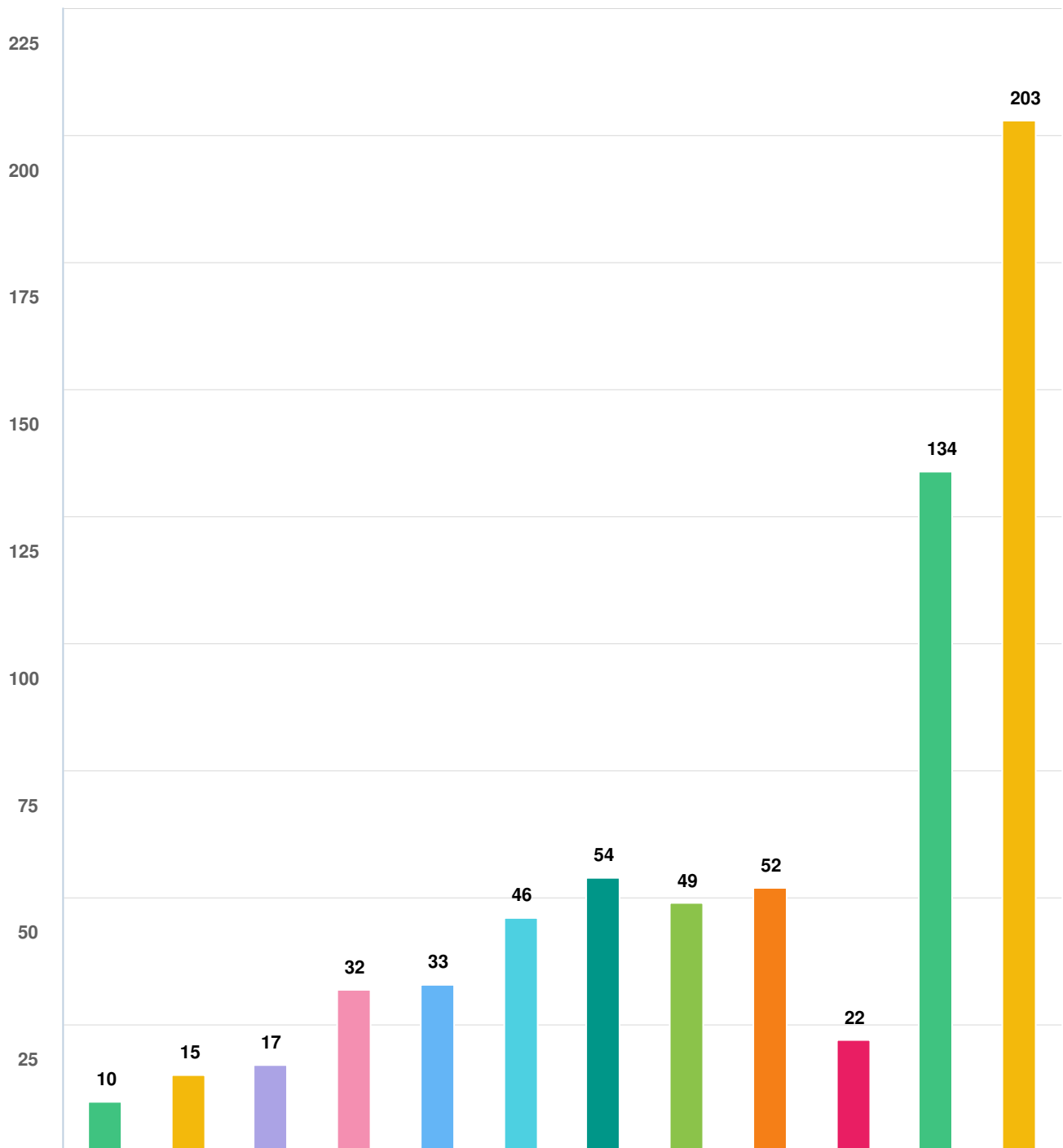
Q24 What best describes your level of education?



- Question options**
- No high school diploma or equivalency certificate
  - High school diploma or equivalency certificate
  - Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree
  - Prefer not to answer
  - Other (please specify)

Optional question (665 response(s), 20 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q25 What is your income?**



**Question options**

● 0-9.9K 
 ● 10-19.9K 
 ● 20-29.9K 
 ● 30-39.9K 
 ● 40-49.9K 
 ● 50-59.9K 
 ● 60-69.9K 
 ● 70-79.9K 
 ● 80-89.9K 
 ● 90-99.9K 
 ● 100K+ 
 ● Prefer not to answer

Optional question (667 response(s), 18 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question