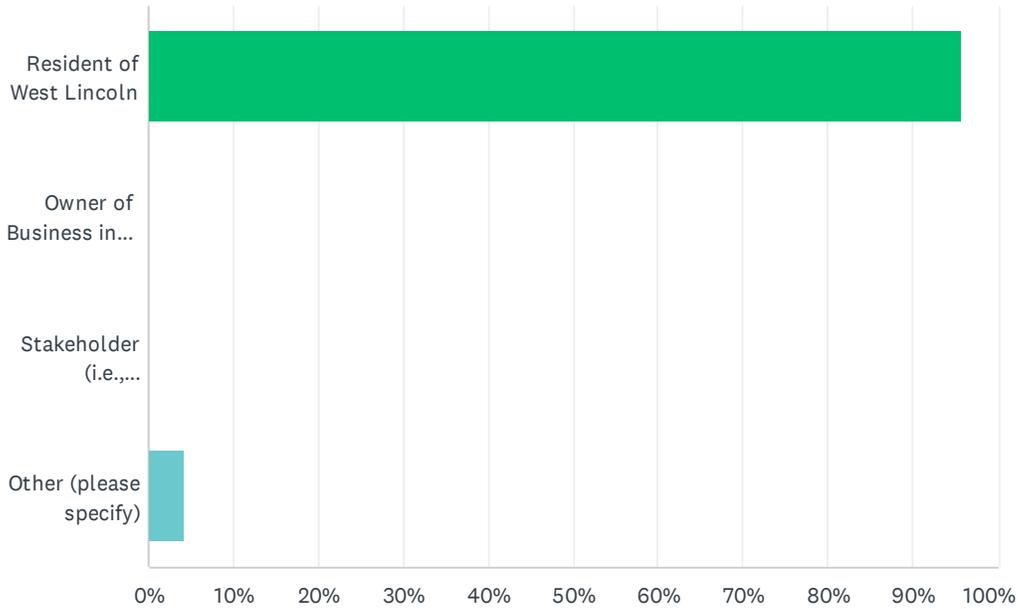


Q1 Are you responding to this survey as a:

Answered: 48 Skipped: 0

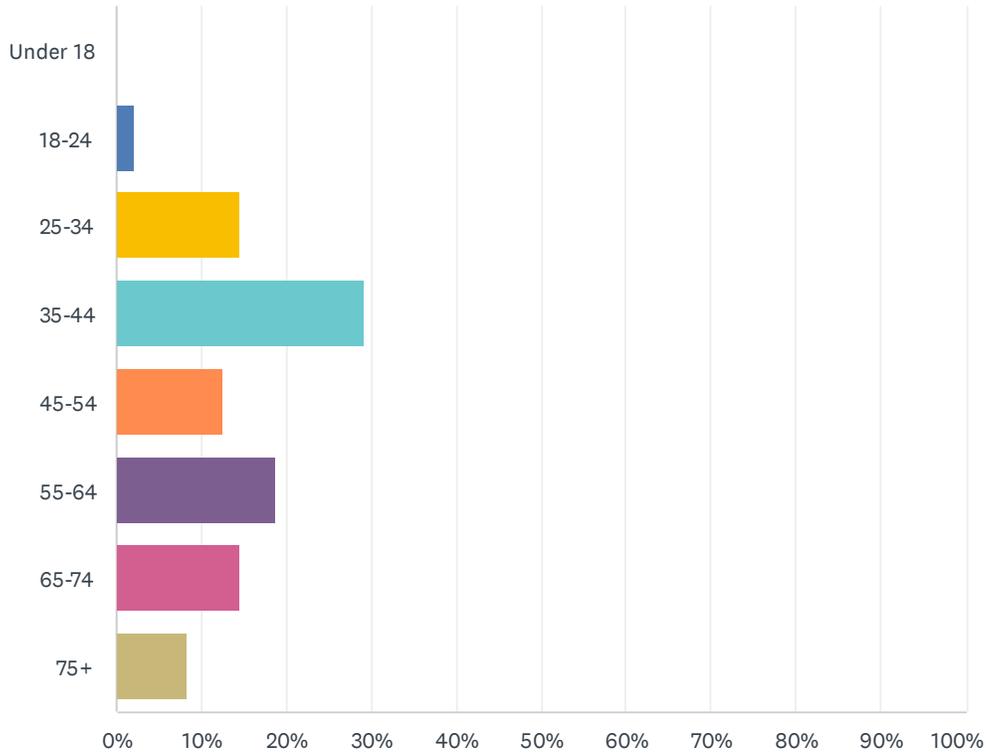


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Resident of West Lincoln	95.83% 46
Owner of Business in West Lincoln	0.00% 0
Stakeholder (i.e., association or service club doing work in West Lincoln)	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	4.17% 2
TOTAL	48

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	resident of West Lincoln and owner of a home based business	9/30/2023 7:50 PM
2	township staff	9/26/2023 9:04 AM

Q2 Which age category do you fall into?

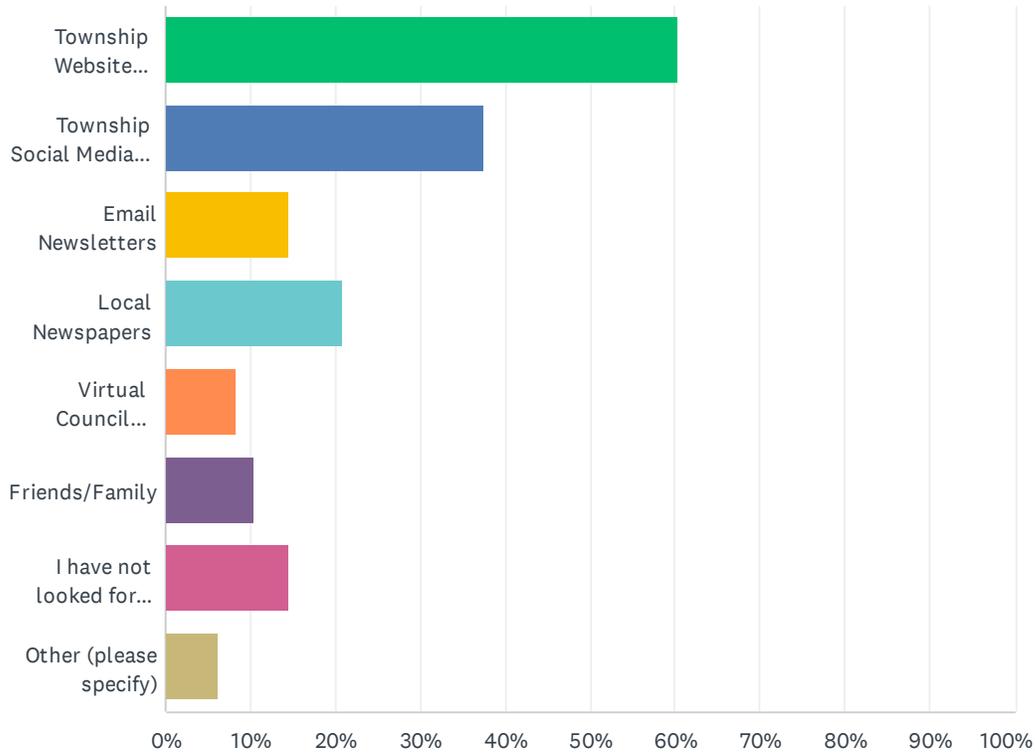
Answered: 48 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	0.00% 0
18-24	2.08% 1
25-34	14.58% 7
35-44	29.17% 14
45-54	12.50% 6
55-64	18.75% 9
65-74	14.58% 7
75+	8.33% 4
TOTAL	48

Q4 Where do you go to receive information about the Township's budget?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 0

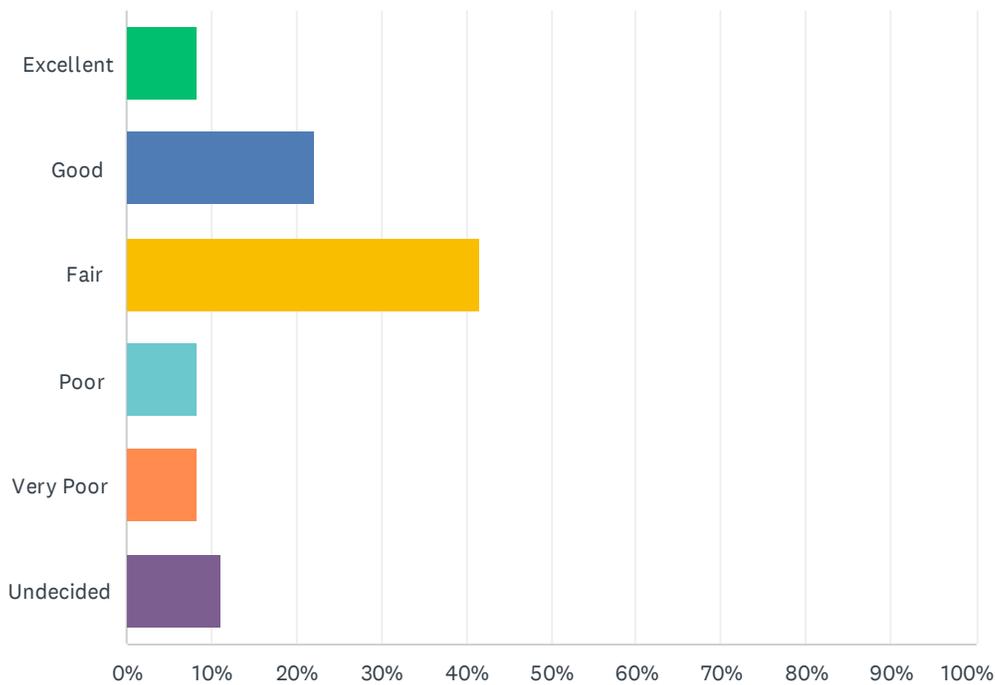


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Township Website (www.westlincoln.ca)	60.42% 29
Township Social Media Accounts (Facebook, X, Instagram)	37.50% 18
Email Newsletters	14.58% 7
Local Newspapers	20.83% 10
Virtual Council Meetings	8.33% 4
Friends/Family	10.42% 5
I have not looked for information about the Township budget before	14.58% 7
Other (please specify)	6.25% 3
Total Respondents: 48	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Chamber of commerce	11/14/2023 1:19 PM
2	Township poster	11/1/2023 11:06 AM
3	Sign in smithville	10/3/2023 6:15 PM

Q5 In 2023, the average assessment for a residential property in the Township of West Lincoln was \$386,000 (based on 2016 data). Total property taxes totaled \$4,854 for such a property, with the urban area of the Township paying an additional \$74 for sidewalks and streetlights, for a total of \$4,928. The Township keeps 33% of the total property taxes collected, to provide municipal services, or \$1,569 and \$1,643 respectively. Overall, how would you rate the value you are receiving in municipal services from your tax dollars?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	8.33% 3
Good	22.22% 8
Fair	41.67% 15
Poor	8.33% 3
Very Poor	8.33% 3
Undecided	11.11% 4
TOTAL	36

Q6 Please explain the reasons for your rating.

Answered: 26 Skipped: 22

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	For the amount of funds that are levied from us, very few services are offered. I am not suggesting that additional services be provided. I would rather few services are offered and less tax is paid as a result.	11/14/2023 1:23 PM
2	I don't feel like tax dollars are going towards items that benefit the community. Ie broken/unmaintained sidewalks	11/13/2023 4:02 PM
3	/	10/30/2023 11:24 PM
4	Living in a Condo survey we the residents are responsible for repairs & maintenance of our Streetlights, Fire Hydrants, Sidewalks, Roads etc. so it's hard to justify \$4000 in property taxes.	10/25/2023 6:45 PM
5	Being on a fixed household budget the tax increases over the years is effecting my abilities to stay on budget. The increases along with heat and hydro, food is becoming a concern.	10/22/2023 9:41 AM
6	Where I live is well lit and maintained There are still many rural roads that need a better surface	10/19/2023 4:04 PM
7	Poor condition of unpaved rural roads and lack of maintenance of ditches. Roadways floods on a regular basis.	10/17/2023 5:36 PM
8	We just moved to Caistorville so waiting to see how winter maintenance turns out.	10/12/2023 11:19 AM
9	Most of the services that our township are geared towards those in the urban area of Smithville, with those in the rural areas, which make up a large percentage of the land area of the township not being considered as important	10/11/2023 1:12 PM
10	I rate them very poor however I would prefer even fewer services and even lower taxes.	10/4/2023 9:31 PM
11	I think we have a variety of community resources available to us	10/4/2023 9:27 PM
12	Dog poop on the side walk stays for weeks, also the minimal garbages (like for dog poop and other things) are hard to find and also always full. Also neighbours keep their dog out 24/7 always barking and nothing has been done. We love dogs but barking all the time is too much	10/3/2023 6:30 PM
13	The services themselves are fine, it's corresponding with members of the town is something that could be improved.	10/3/2023 10:13 AM
14	Our area pays for our own snow removal. Sidewalks are in need of repair on Wade Road . The old St Martins school area should be dealt with. Looks disgraceful. Dangerous. Pathways are becoming eroded and unkempt. Creek should be cleaned of debris and old trees so it can flow properly and not flood every spring. Old mill on GriffinSt should be dealt with. A real eyesore and a haven for rats. Old empty buildings should be looked after.	10/3/2023 9:31 AM
15	I have been a resident of West Lincoln my entire life my opinion of the tax money allocations has always been Fair	10/2/2023 7:51 AM
16	Even though we don't necessarily use all services , they are needed to support a vibrant , active community	10/1/2023 9:37 AM
17	I lack the knowledge regarding details and costs of municipal services provided and the Niagara Region's spend of our 2/3 of property tax collected to provide a different response. I've not been proactive in seeking this information.	9/30/2023 8:23 PM
18	Limited \$ makes for limits on upkeep	9/30/2023 9:52 AM
19	I'm in a Condo where I'm being charge for a lot of services that I think are Town responsibilities.	9/29/2023 5:13 PM

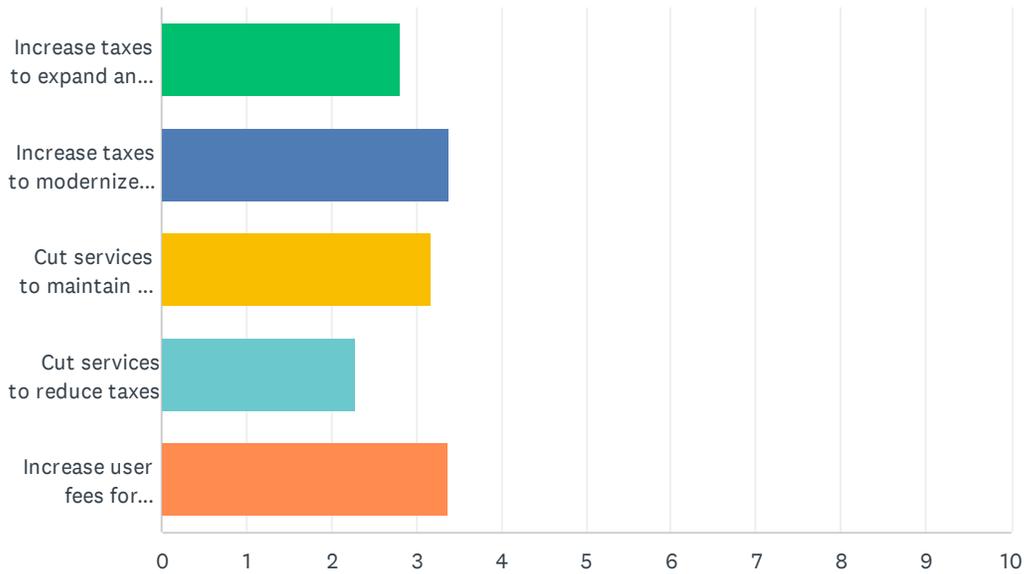
Township of West Lincoln 2024 Budget Survey

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20	Every issue I've had with the town has been adressed in a timely fashion, albeit a very small workforce, which hopefully can be increased.	9/29/2023 6:37 AM
21	Too much money wasted on enhancing rural roads for half a dozen people.	9/28/2023 4:28 PM
22	Like most small municipalities, there are challenges associated with spending Smithville is no exception.	9/28/2023 3:48 PM
23	Moved from Hamilton and it was poor servicev	9/28/2023 3:20 PM
24	Systems are being modernized; recreational activities have increased; infrastructure is being addressed	9/26/2023 5:56 PM
25	I feel like the operations of the town have been great. I don't live on a street with a sidewalk but unused to and they have always been cleared. Issues with roads have been addressed. Could they be better? Of course, there's always room for improvement.	9/26/2023 11:37 AM
26	Under funding staff and being continuously short of staff because we can not retain good staff, leading to poor services provided.	9/26/2023 9:11 AM

Q7 To balance the budget, as required by law, the Township has several options to consider. Please rank the following options in order of preference, 1 being the highest.

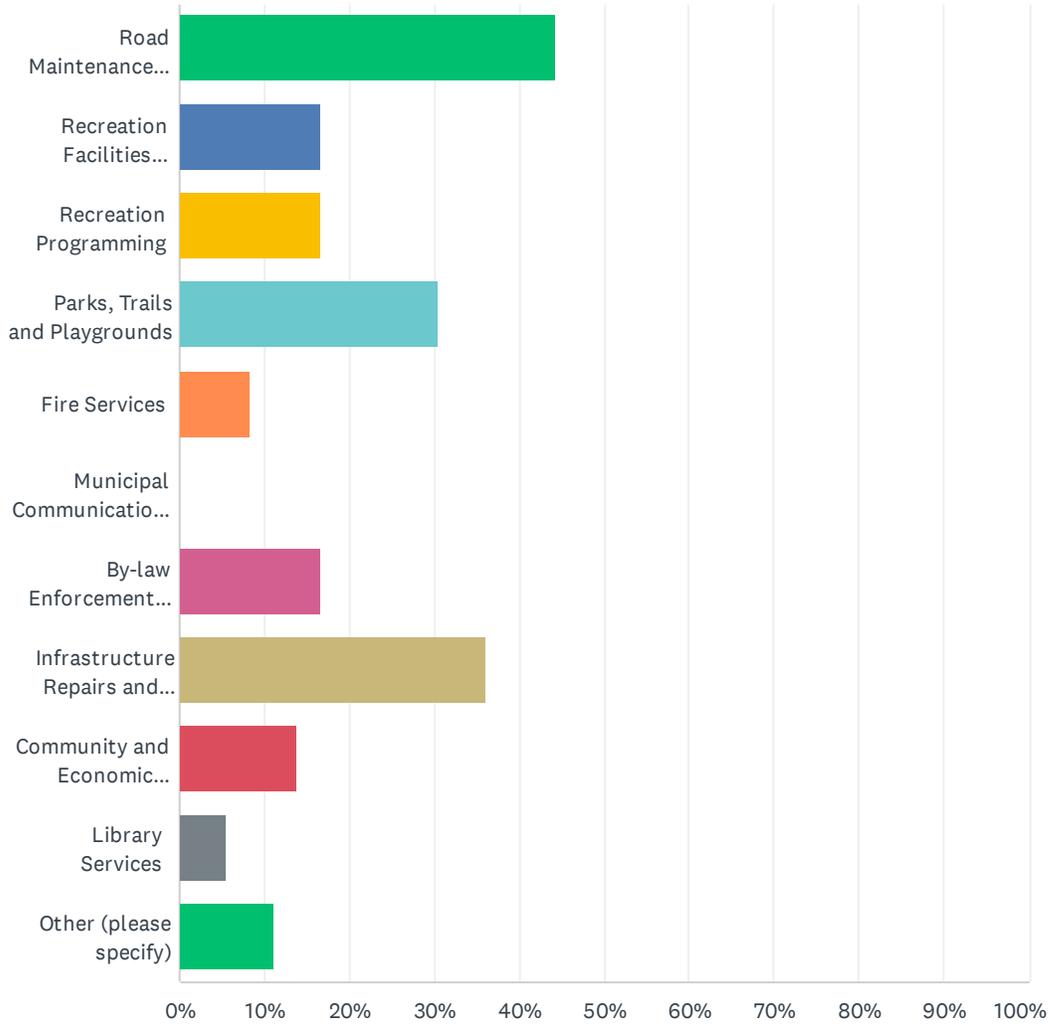
Answered: 36 Skipped: 12



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Increase taxes to expand and enhance services	19.44% 7	16.67% 6	13.89% 5	25.00% 9	25.00% 9	36	2.81
Increase taxes to modernize and maintain services	22.22% 8	22.22% 8	30.56% 11	22.22% 8	2.78% 1	36	3.39
Cut services to maintain the current level of taxes	11.11% 4	27.78% 10	27.78% 10	33.33% 12	0.00% 0	36	3.17
Cut services to reduce taxes	8.33% 3	16.67% 6	13.89% 5	16.67% 6	44.44% 16	36	2.28
Increase user fees for programs used by residents and the broader community	38.89% 14	16.67% 6	13.89% 5	2.78% 1	27.78% 10	36	3.36

Q8 Select two (2) service areas where you would like to see improvements, and therefore more tax dollars spent.

Answered: 36 Skipped: 12

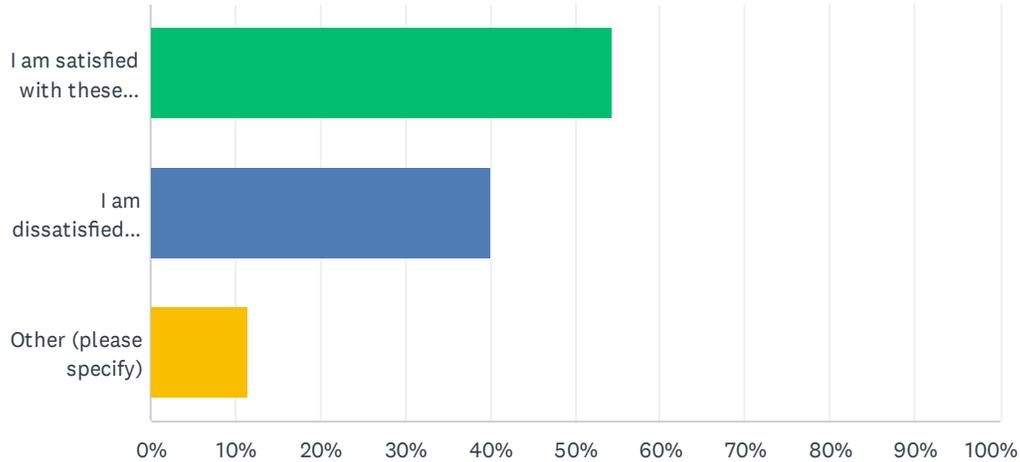


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Road Maintenance (including winter road maintenance)	44.44%	16
Recreation Facilities (arena, halls, sports fields, etc.)	16.67%	6
Recreation Programming	16.67%	6
Parks, Trails and Playgrounds	30.56%	11
Fire Services	8.33%	3
Municipal Communications (newsletters, website, social media, etc.)	0.00%	0
By-law Enforcement (including parking enforcement and animal control)	16.67%	6
Infrastructure Repairs and Replacement (roads, bridges, sidewalks)	36.11%	13
Community and Economic Development	13.89%	5
Library Services	5.56%	2
Other (please specify)	11.11%	4
Total Respondents: 36		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	General repairs as noted above	10/3/2023 9:31 AM
2	Municipal/community events	9/28/2023 10:02 PM
3	Has Library amalgamation been discussed. Could be some big cost savings with neighbouring municipalities.	9/28/2023 4:28 PM
4	Getting fiber internet installed in downtown Smithville we running on 10mbps and 1 mbps upload with bell	9/28/2023 3:18 PM

Q9 Please select why you believe more tax dollars should be spent on these two (2) service areas.

Answered: 35 Skipped: 13

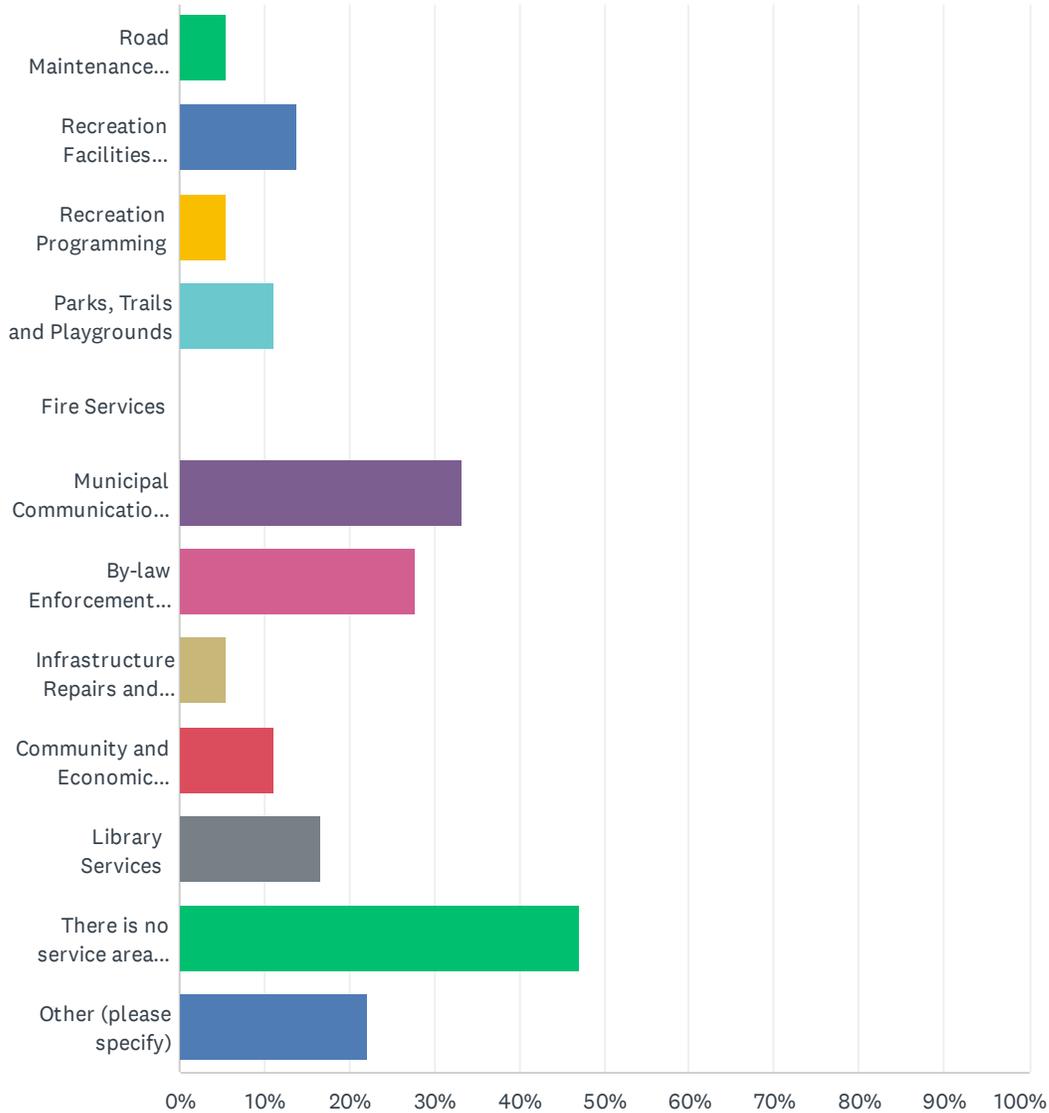


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am satisfied with these service areas, however, I would welcome further enhancements.	54.29%	19
I am dissatisfied with these services and think they need improvements.	40.00%	14
Other (please specify)	11.43%	4
Total Respondents: 35		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Economic development is completely missing in West Lincoln.	9/30/2023 9:52 AM
2	Offering more rec programming to fully utilize the Community Centre, collecting more fees and providing good roads to get those programs.	9/26/2023 5:56 PM
3	More children programing weekends/ evenings. Trails to bike/walk/rollerblade	9/26/2023 10:50 AM
4	compensation is not reflecting to the actual job roles and duties	9/26/2023 9:11 AM

Q10 Select two (2) service areas where you would like to see services reduced, and therefore fewer tax dollars spent.

Answered: 36 Skipped: 12

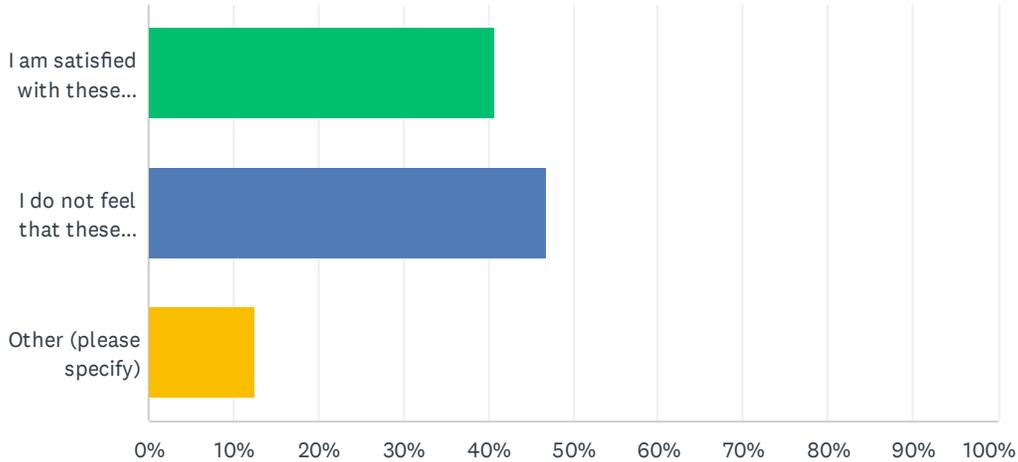


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Road Maintenance (including winter road maintenance)	5.56%	2
Recreation Facilities (arena, halls, sports fields, etc.)	13.89%	5
Recreation Programming	5.56%	2
Parks, Trails and Playgrounds	11.11%	4
Fire Services	0.00%	0
Municipal Communications (newsletters, news releases, videos, photos, graphics, website, social media, etc.)	33.33%	12
By-law Enforcement (including parking enforcement and animal control)	27.78%	10
Infrastructure Repairs and Replacement (roads, bridges, sidewalks)	5.56%	2
Community and Economic Development	11.11%	4
Library Services	16.67%	6
There is no service area where I would like to see services reduced	47.22%	17
Other (please specify)	22.22%	8
Total Respondents: 36		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	N/A	11/13/2023 4:02 PM
2	N/A	10/30/2023 11:24 PM
3	Can't pick two	10/19/2023 4:04 PM
4	I have to pick 2 options, but there is nowhere I'd like to see cuts	10/6/2023 9:57 AM
5	Too much money wasted on roads that people from outside of the community move into expecting it to be like the city, but benefits of living in the rural. Suspend enhancing roads until all debentures from previous budgets have been paid in full. You're literally taxing people out of the community, and in to the streets.	9/28/2023 4:28 PM
6	No cuts to present services	9/28/2023 3:20 PM
7	Don't reduce services anywhere.	9/26/2023 11:37 AM
8	N/A	9/26/2023 9:11 AM

Q11 Please select why you believe fewer tax dollars should be spent on these two (2) service areas.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I am satisfied with these service areas and think that tax dollars would be better used on other areas.	40.63% 13
I do not feel that these service areas require as much as attention as the Township is giving them.	46.88% 15
Other (please specify)	12.50% 4
Total Respondents: 32	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Not applicable	10/19/2023 4:04 PM
2	I don't want to see a reduction	10/6/2023 9:57 AM
3	No cuts maintain present services	9/28/2023 3:20 PM
4	I don't feel there areas where cuts are required. Status quo as of now.	9/26/2023 11:37 AM

Q12 Keeping in mind the Township is not responsible for waste collection, recycling, transit, police, ambulance, schools, health care or social housing, do you have any additional comments you would like to be considered in preparation of West Lincoln's 2024 budget?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 25

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More recreational programs for adults More events like harvest routes throughout the year. More accessible programs	11/7/2023 9:34 AM
2	Benches would be appreciated at the new playground on Dennis Drive and Jayla Lane;)	10/30/2023 11:24 PM
3	With the additional housing being added, along with the future developments we keep hearing about. When will Policing become part of our responsibility. We are seeing increases now in traffic, speed enforcement break-ins and overall vandalism. The reaction time from the detachment in Grimsby will become an issue.	10/22/2023 9:41 AM
4	Could a small amount be spent on the "Smithville" sign and clearing the gardens around it - the whole thing is not professional or welcoming	10/19/2023 4:04 PM
5	I would like to see the operational efficiency of departments be addressed in the budgeting process. From my observations, the capital budgets are examined with a fine tooth comb, and the costs associated with operating certain departments within the Township are not addressed. Targets and goals should be established, to deliver the same or higher level of service, but at a lower cost.	10/17/2023 5:36 PM
6	Would love to see a pool added to the community centre!	10/12/2023 11:19 AM
7	Keep the current economic environment at forefront, many residents are having a hard time making ends meet. Please use the same prudence in budget making that residents, and keep in mind the impact on any changes to the tax rate.	10/11/2023 1:12 PM
8	Do not raise taxes please	10/4/2023 9:31 PM
9	I'd love to see more focus on developing and improving resources in outlying areas like Wellandport & Caistorville	10/4/2023 9:27 PM
10	I don't care for play grounds when I talk about parks and trails I'm talking about green space. We need more wildlife.	10/3/2023 6:30 PM
11	Of course the township is responsible for weights collection. Maybe it doesn't do pickups but it hires the people that does. Do better	10/2/2023 7:51 AM
12	As a retiree , any increase in budget becomes more difficult. A prudent use of funds is the responsibility of our elected officials and staff. I trust that all is being done to spend wisely	10/1/2023 9:37 AM
13	Smithville's residential development and boundary expansion are exciting. The Township needs to invest time, effort and programs to attract businesses immediately and for the future. A greater selection of businesses will only attract more residents. I have only one known example but it's still one data point; a family was relocating from Hamilton and considered West Lincoln but purchased a home in Beamsville as it had more amenities and options. We need to grow our number of businesses in tandem with growing the number of residents. Perhaps WL needs a proactive approach to strategically identify the types of businesses to attract and have an ambitious Economic Development person work with council, Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, and reach out to other smaller rural municipalities that have been successful in growing their number and diversity of businesses. We need a dedicated and creative EcDev visionary and a doer.	9/30/2023 8:23 PM
14	Hiring an Economic Development person in West Lincoln to work aide by side with the township and the local Chamber and business to focus on the growth in our area not only on building	9/30/2023 9:52 AM

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	homes but also developing businesses and in turn places for people to work.	
15	Hire more staff.	9/29/2023 6:37 AM
16	Recreation/programs/community events are important. Maintaining interest amongst the entire demographic is key to ensuring our community does not become or return to a "bedroom community". Ensuring school road zones are safe should also be considered (Caistor, etc). Lowered speed limits, flashing lights during loading times, etc. Messaging has been great via social media - I have enjoyed being kept up to date via the townships social media page!	9/28/2023 10:02 PM
17	Focus on a budget that promotes fiscal restraint during this financial crisis. This is the time to cut the fat, and maintain what we have.	9/28/2023 4:28 PM
18	I would like our elected council to spend the tax dollars as if they were spending their own money from their own pockets. I'm sure they would be more mindful of that.	9/28/2023 3:48 PM
19	Police presence within the community	9/28/2023 3:20 PM
20	Keep up the hard work!	9/26/2023 5:56 PM
21	I don't think raising taxes right now would help anyone. Escpeci6in the economy. With interest rates and inflation sky rocketing, residents need all the help they can get to put their hard earned dollars into their bank and not into taxes.	9/26/2023 11:37 AM
22	Try to keep the increase low- lower % increase than last year so not as hard on family residents with cost of living dramatically increasing in other aspects of life. Even if this means no increase in anything just maintaining to help people adjust to new cost life balance.	9/26/2023 10:50 AM
23	no	9/26/2023 9:11 AM