

# CITIZEN BUDGET

# TAB 10 (G)

Chatham-Kent would like to increase community input to the budget process and achieve a greater understanding by residents of the components of a municipal budget. In that effort it engaged in the first Citizen Budget as a pilot project.

## Points to consider

- Pilot Project – Goal to create awareness of the budget process
- 753 visitors to the website and 223 full responses
- 78 detailed comments
- Respondents from all wards
- Not a scientific survey – results cannot be relied upon to represent the will of the community
- Educational rather than directive
- Respondents were not forced to answer every question so there are variances in the number of responses for each question
- Respondents had options to keep the current spending on a service or increase spending by 5% or 10% or reduce spending by 5% or 10%. So selecting the 90% option meant a cut to the current budget by 10%.

## General Conclusions:

- survey was educational and appreciated
- support for core infrastructure
- support for responsible spending
- request more details by division if survey repeated

## CITIZEN BUDGET RESULTS

Chatham-Kent



# Online Budget Consultation Report

For the period November 1 to December 10, 2016

Prepared by Open North for: Chatham-Kent

**753**

Visitors

**223**

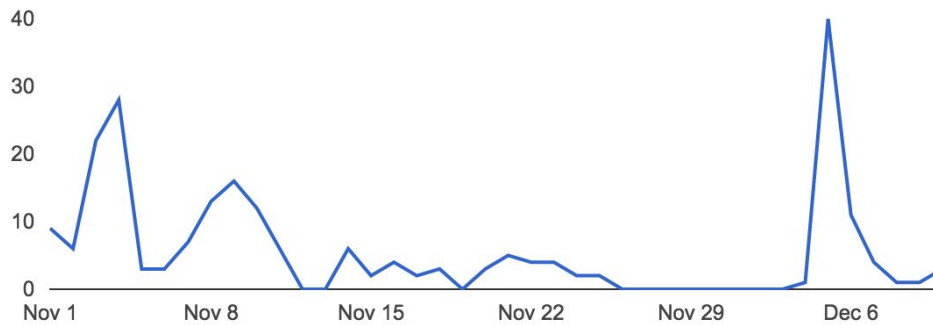
Responses

29.6% participation

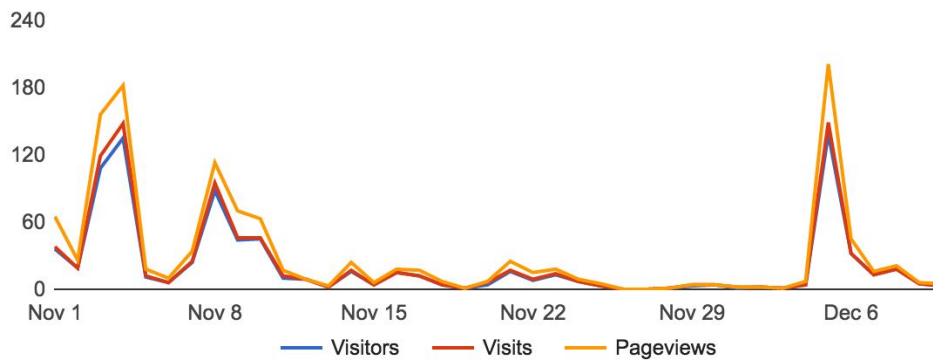
**8 minutes**

Median time to complete

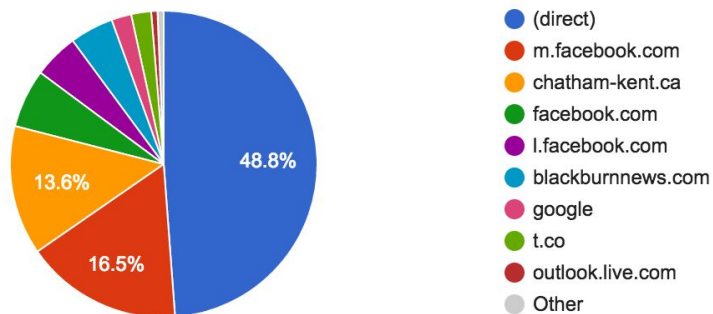
Responses per day



Web visits per day

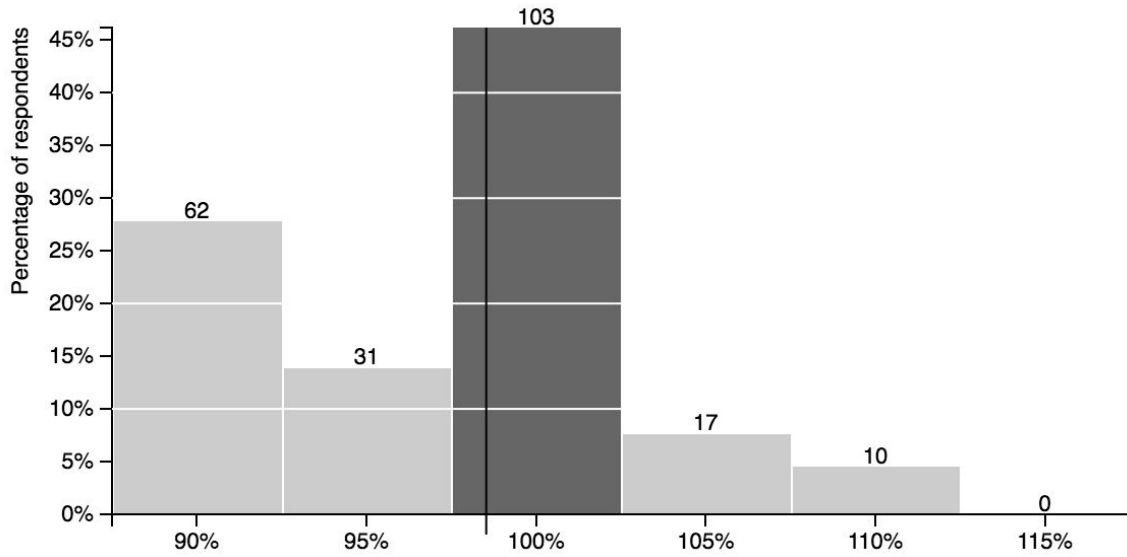


Web traffic sources

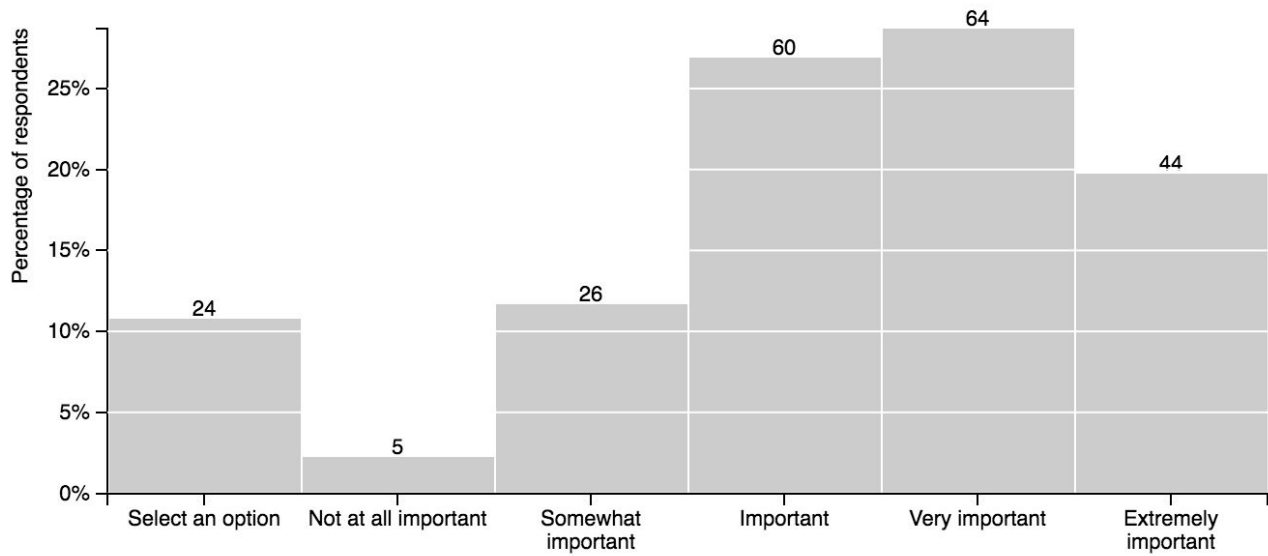


## Fire & Emergency Services

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Fire & Emergency Services?*

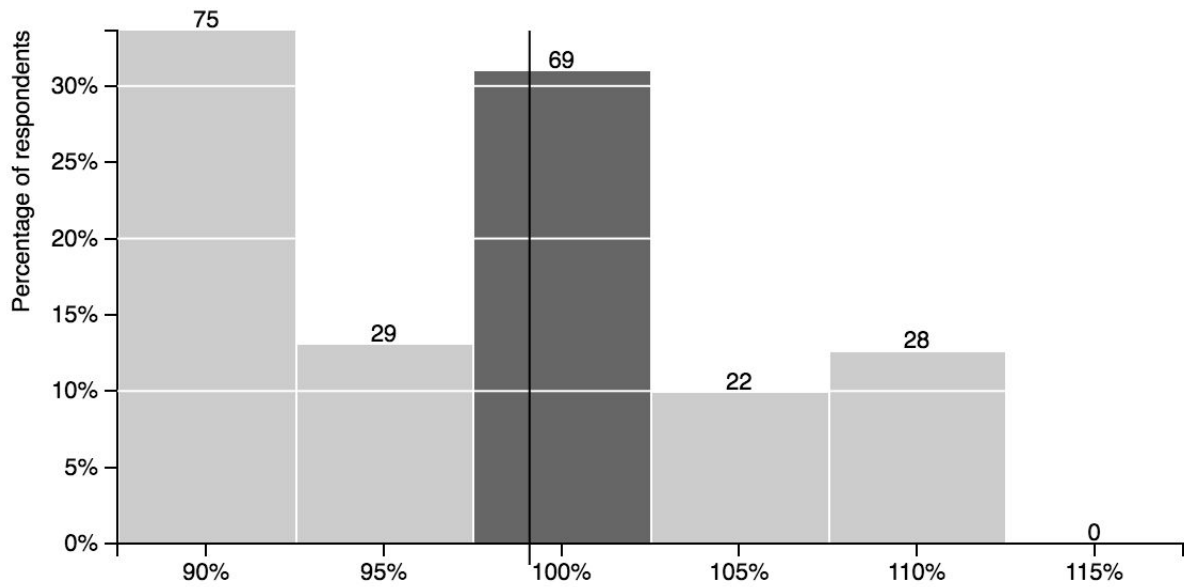


*Please identify how important Fire & Emergency services are for you.*

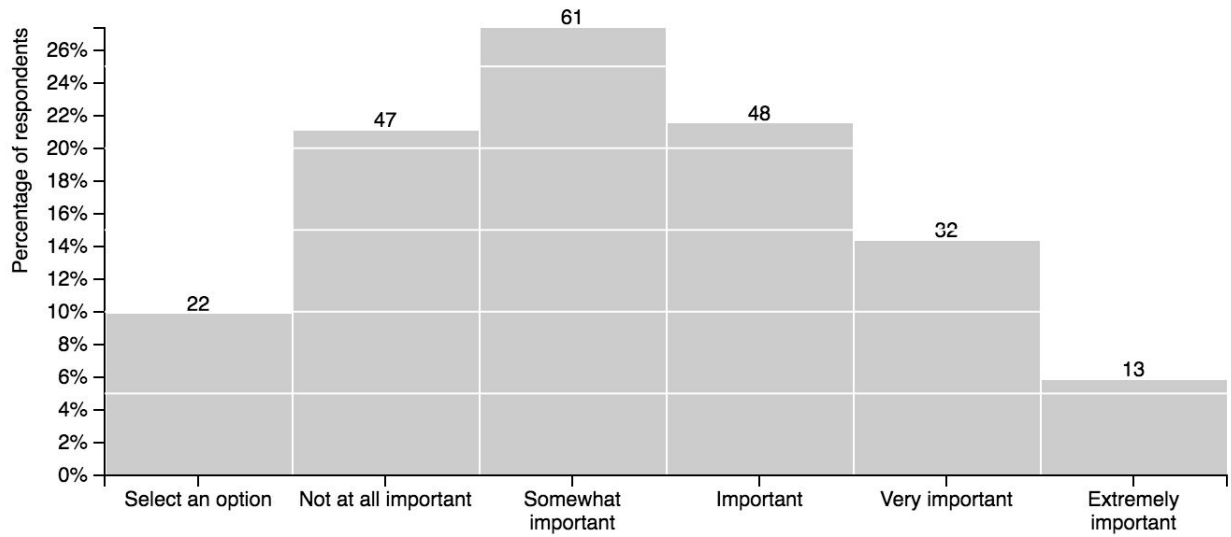


## Library Services

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Library Services?*

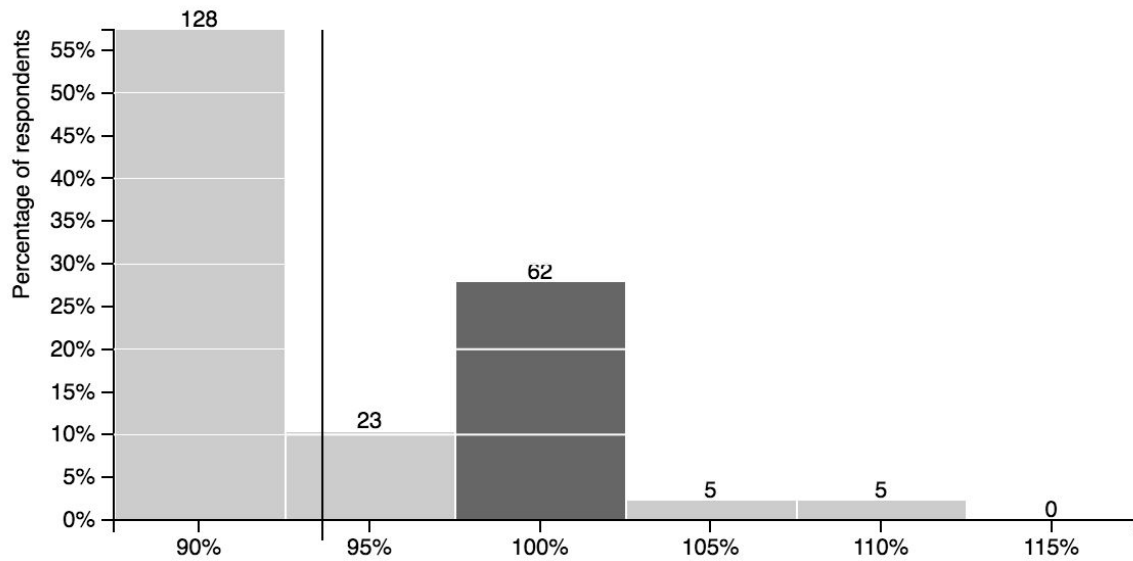


*Please identify how important Library Services are for you.*

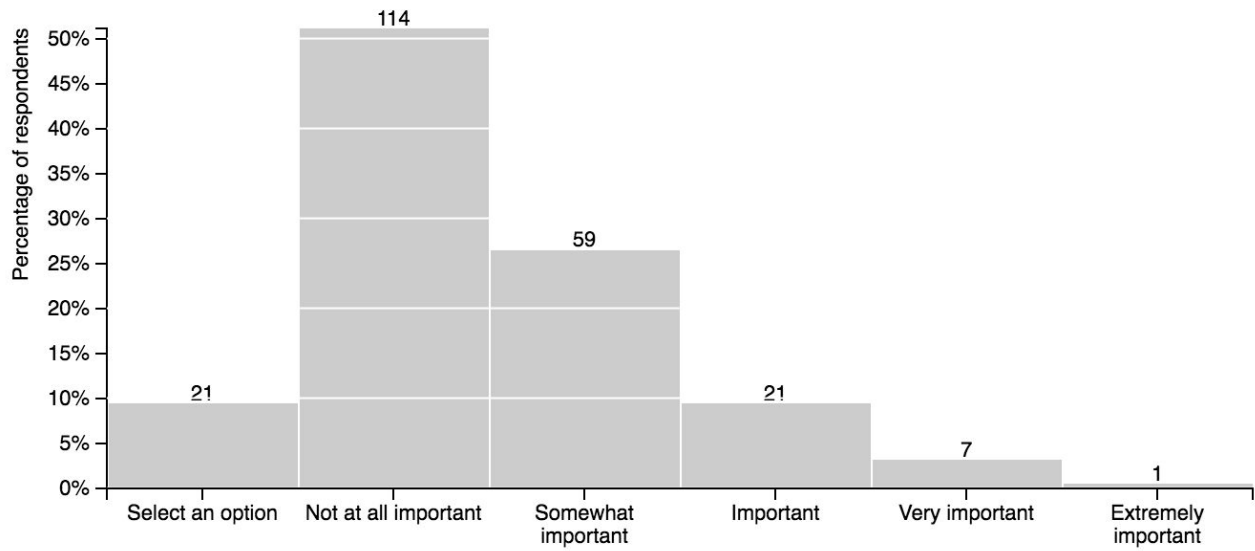


## Convention Centre

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for The Convention Centre?*

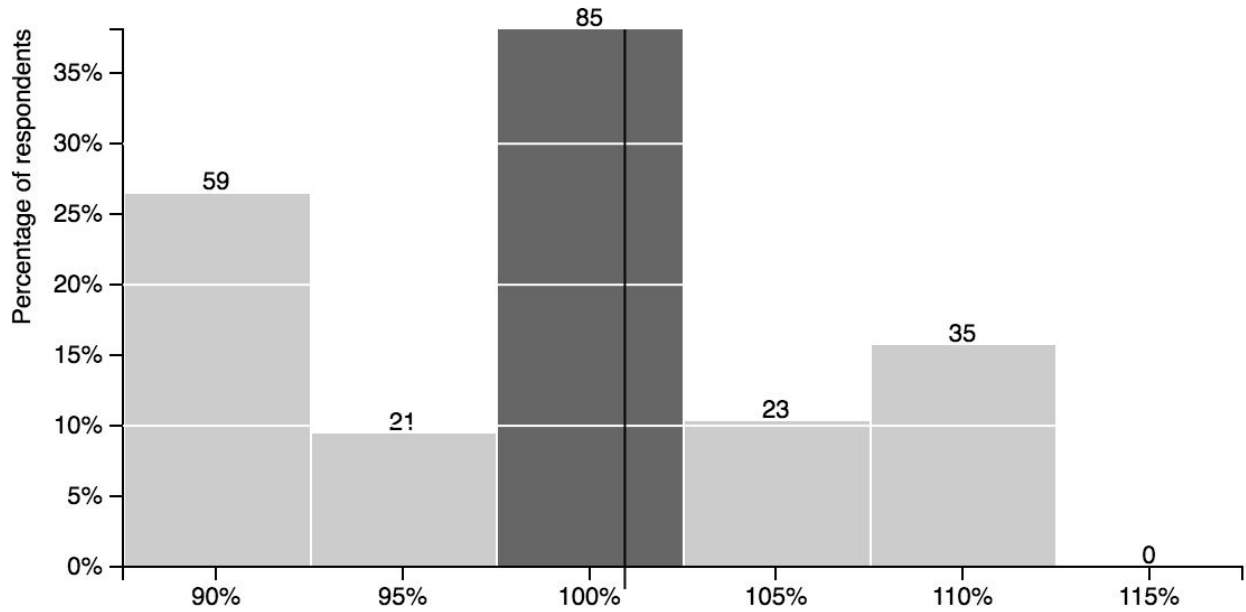


*Please identify how important the Convention Centre is for you.*

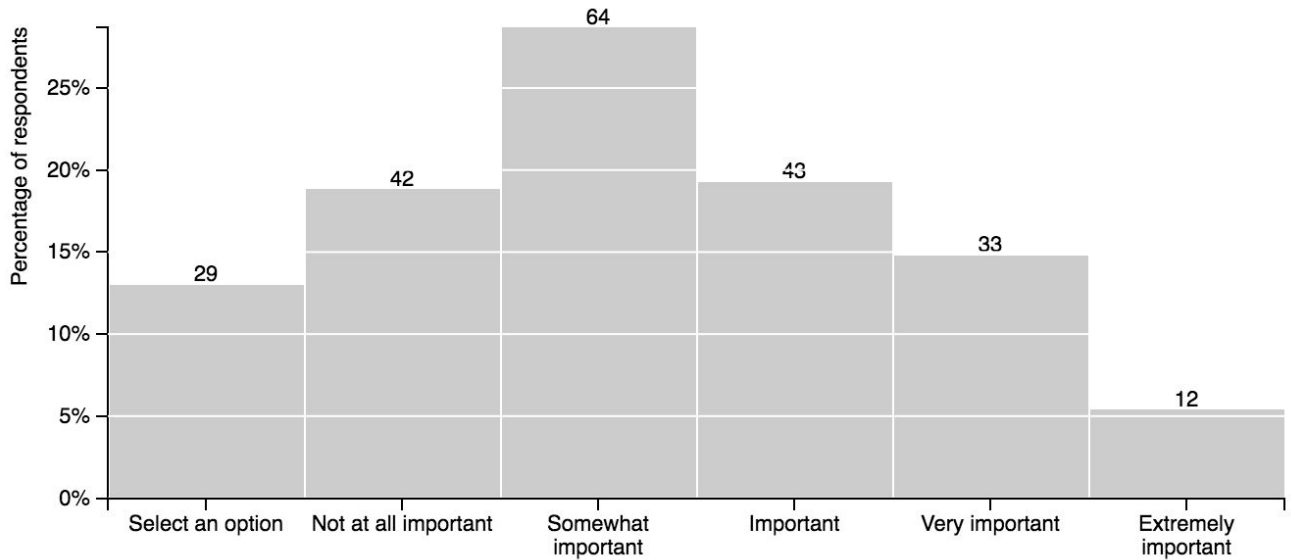


## Community Attraction & Promotion

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Community Attraction & Promotion?*

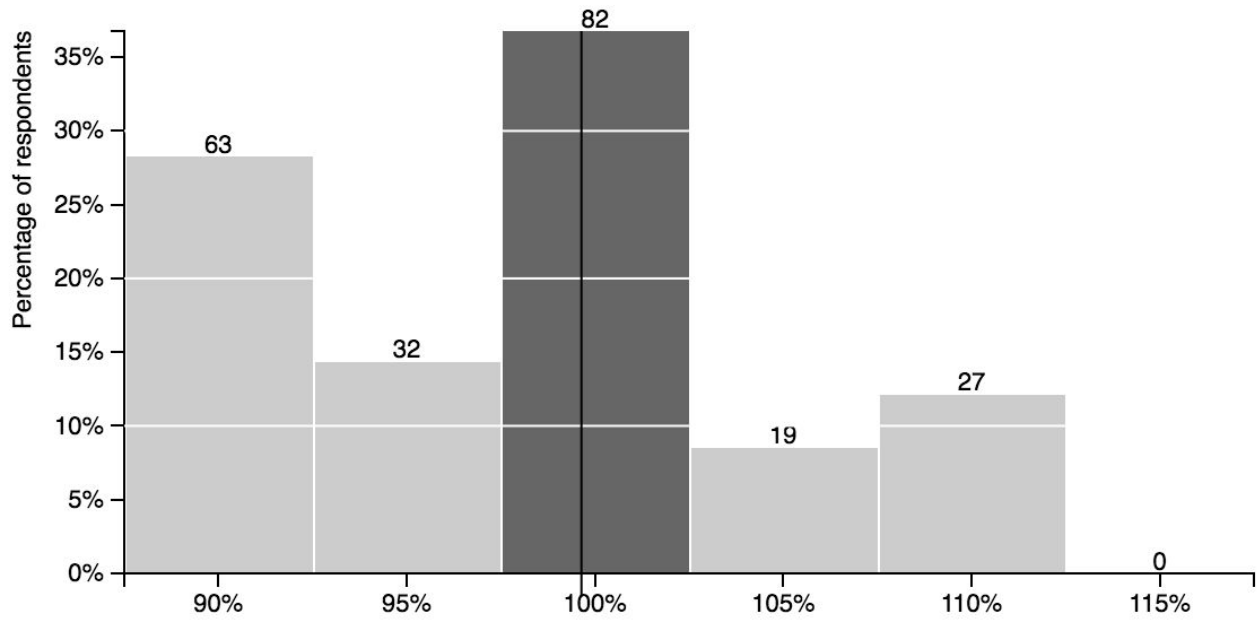


*Please identify how important Community Attraction & Promotion is to you.*

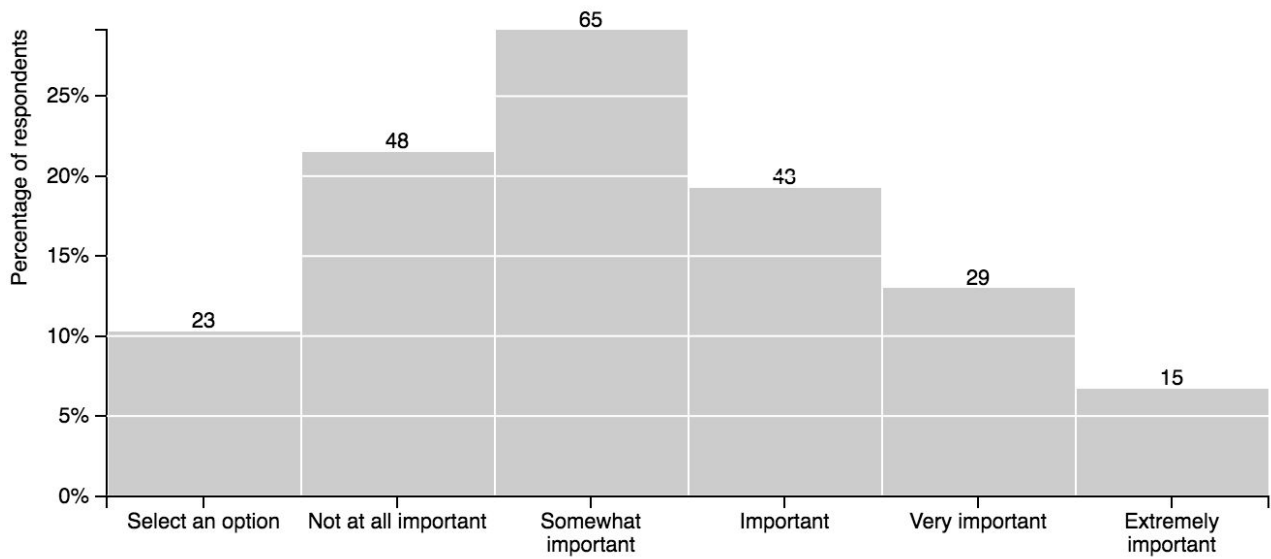


## Culture

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Culture?*

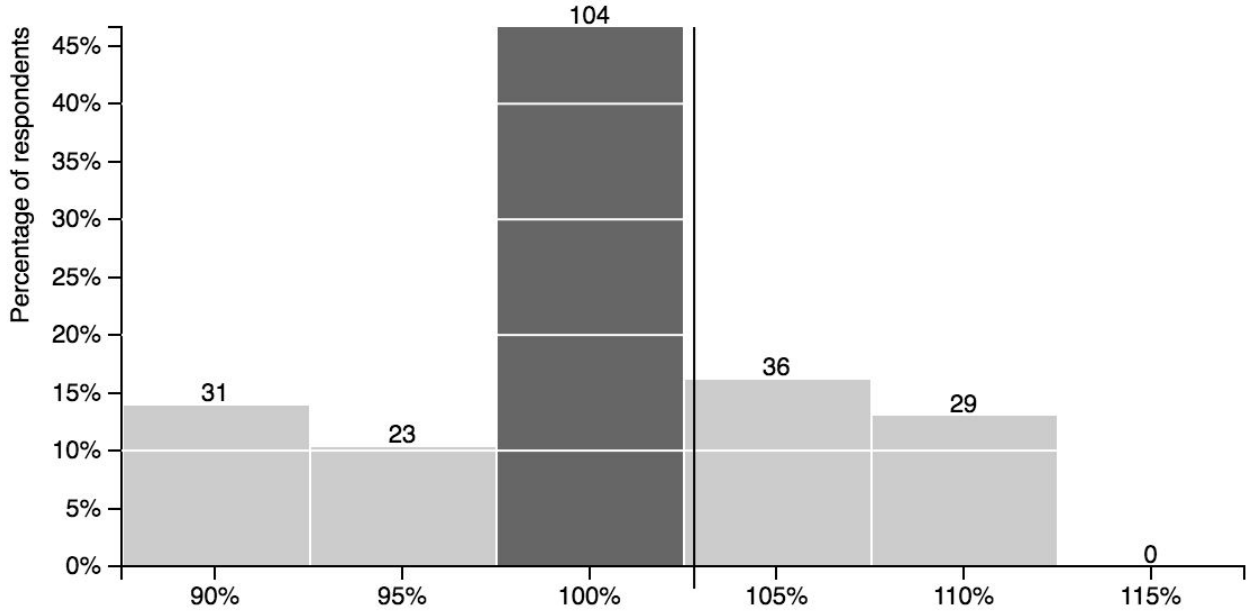


*Please identify how important Culture services are for you.*

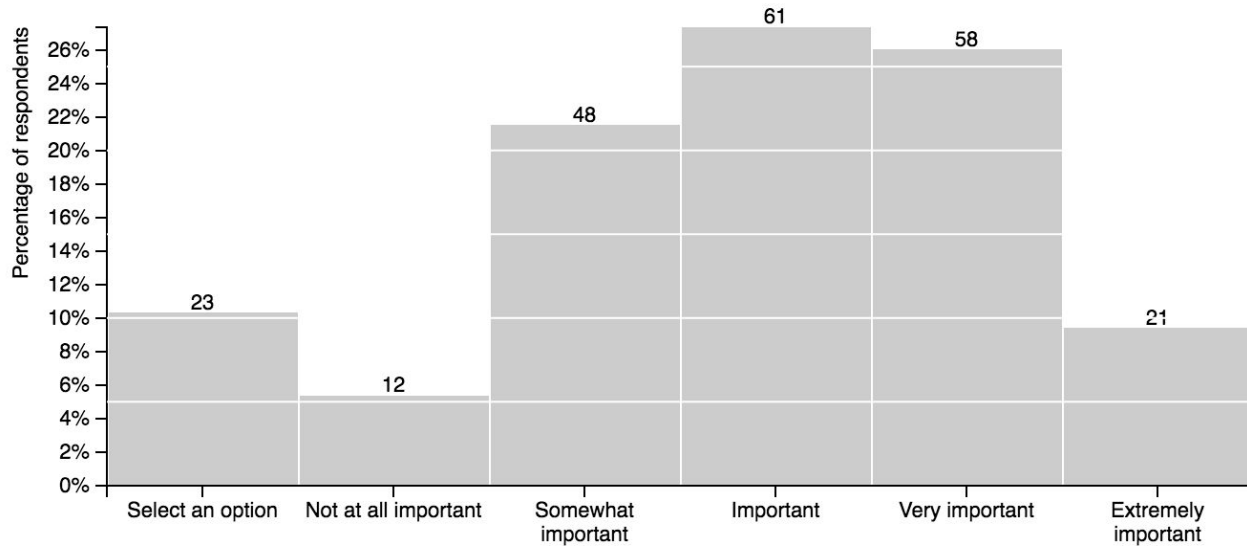




**Recreation Programs, Parks, Cemeteries & Horticulture and Recreation Facilities**  
*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Recreation Programs, Parks, Cemeteries & Horticulture and Recreation Facilities?*

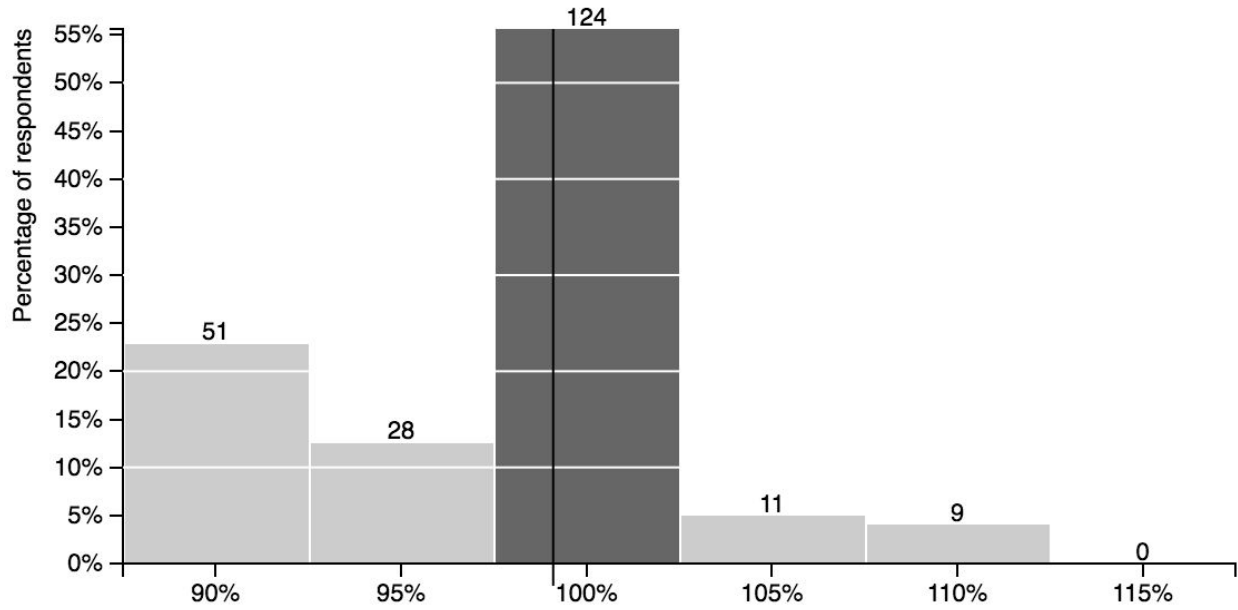


*Please identify how important Recreation Programs are for you.*

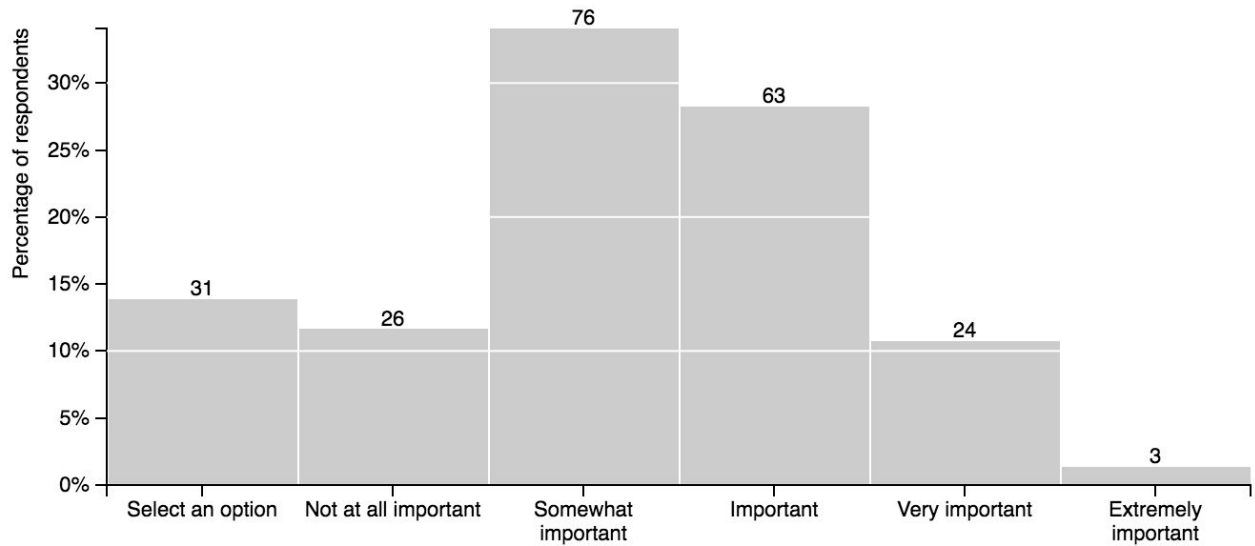


## Building & Enforcement and Planning Services

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Building, Enforcement and Planning Services?*

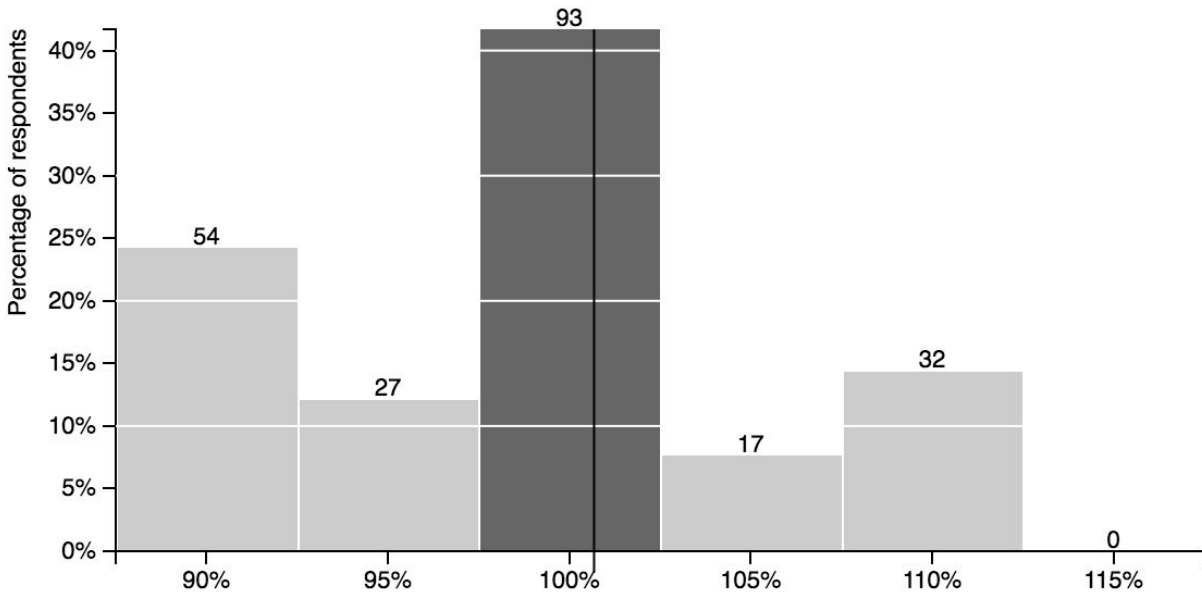


*Please identify how important Building & Enforcement and Planning services are for you.*

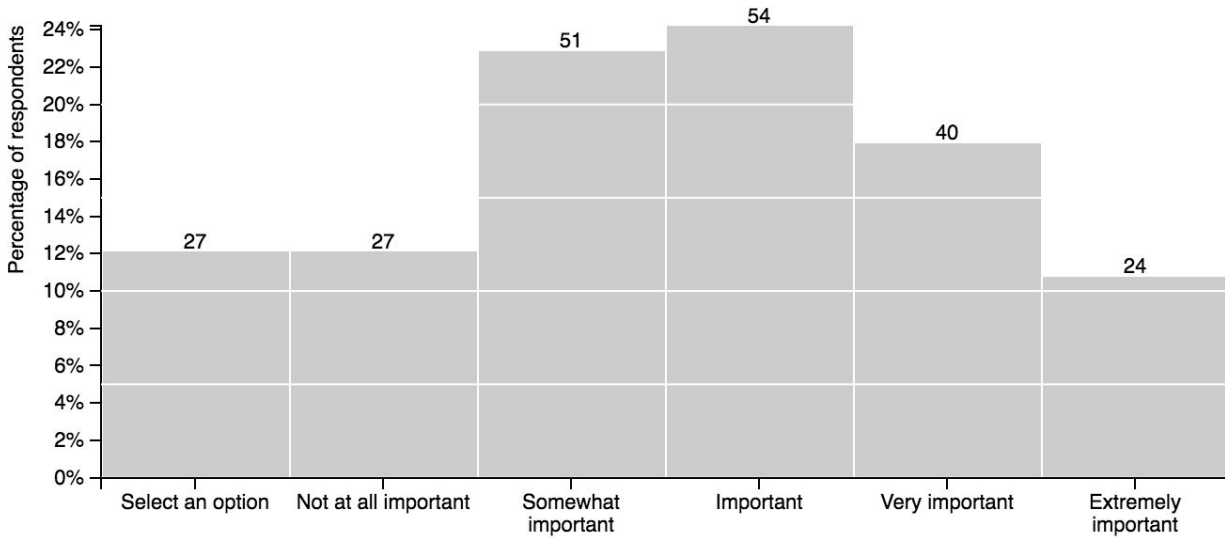


## Economic Development

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Economic Development?*

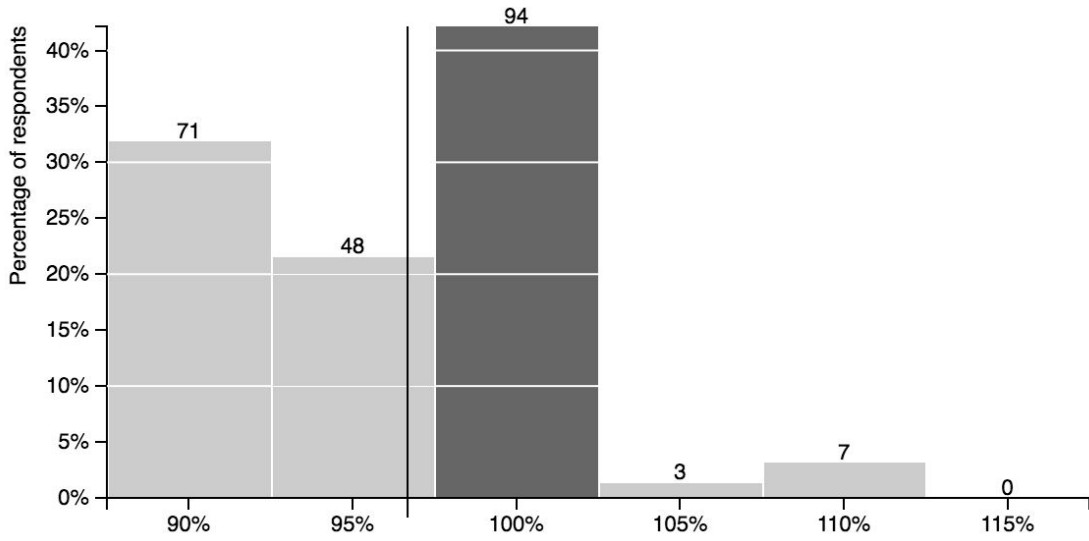


*Please identify how important Economic Development services are for you.*

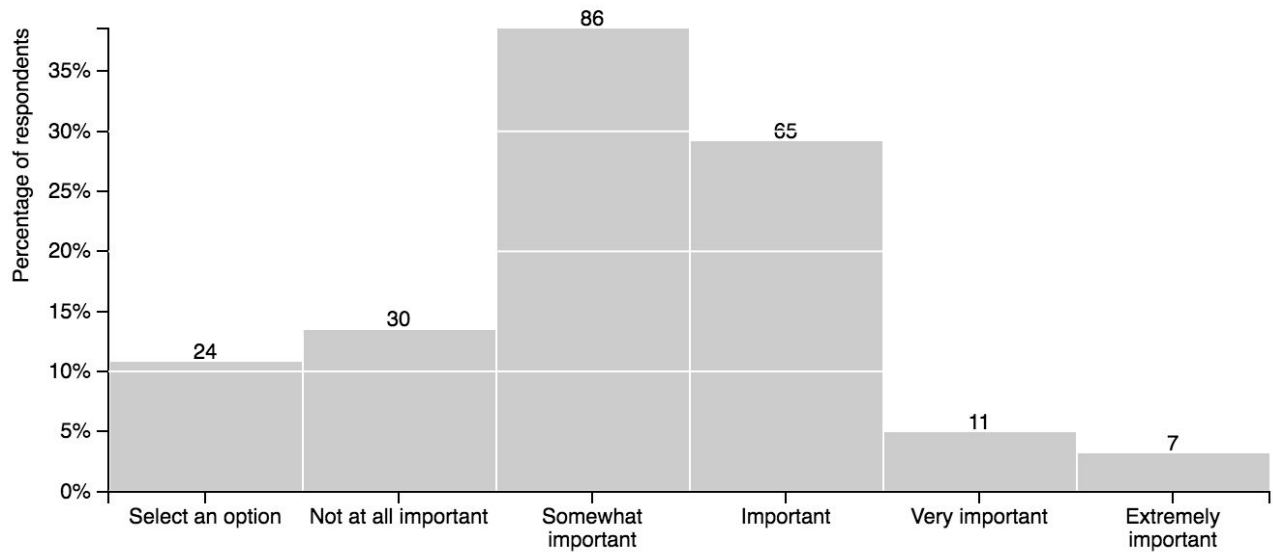


## Customer Services

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Customer Services?*

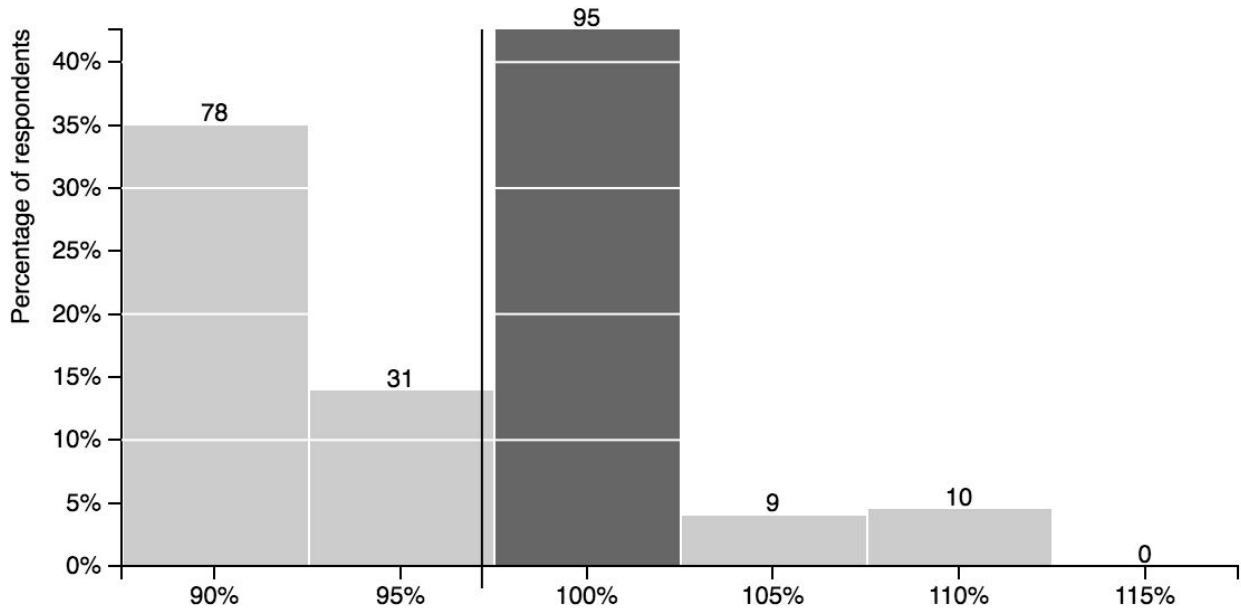


*Please identify how important Customer Services are for you.*

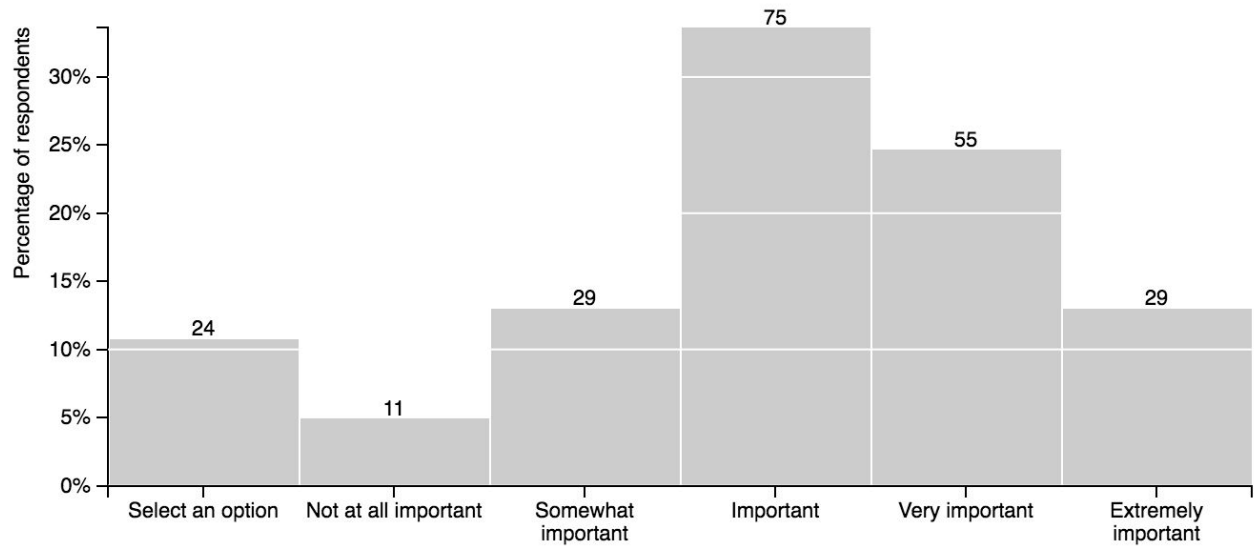


## Police Services

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Police Services?*

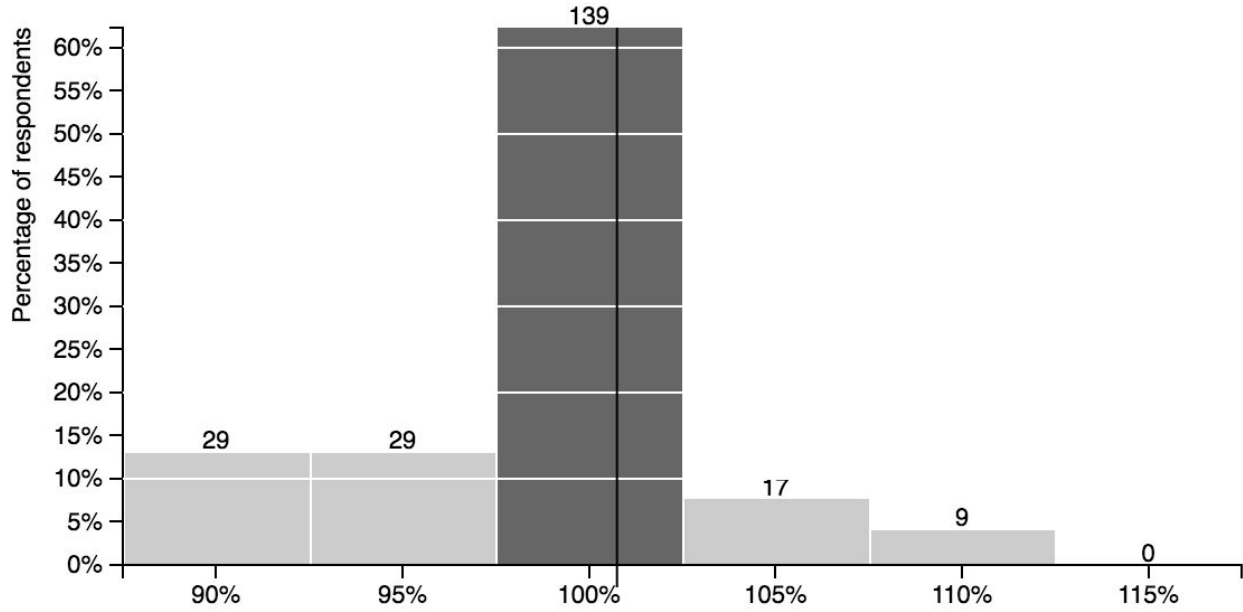


*Please identify how important Police services are for you.*

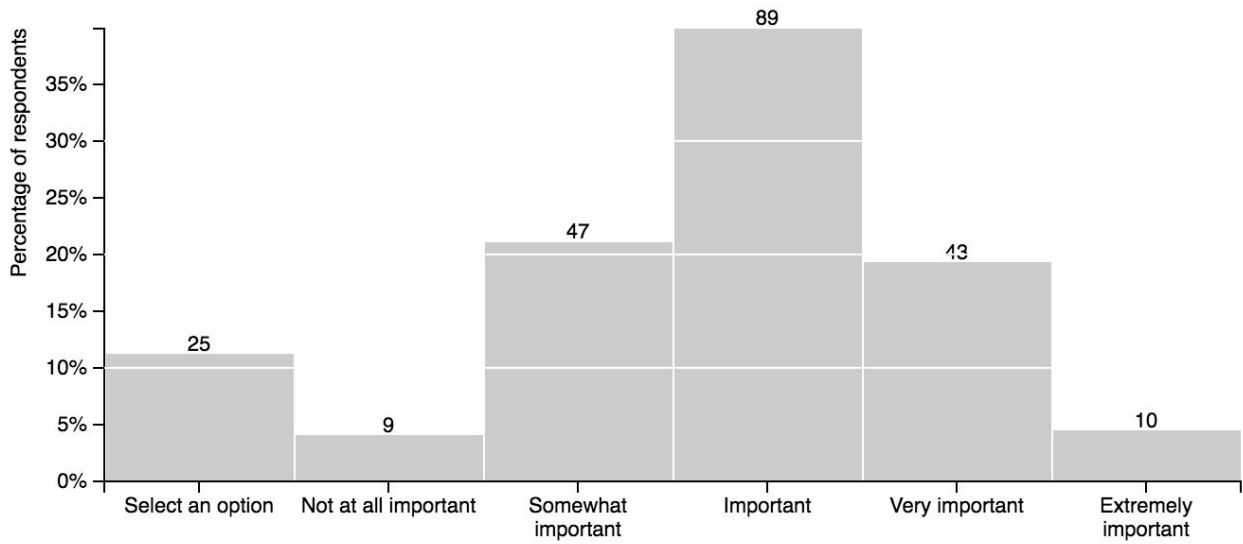


## Drainage, Asset and Waste Management

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Drainage, Asset & Waste Management?*

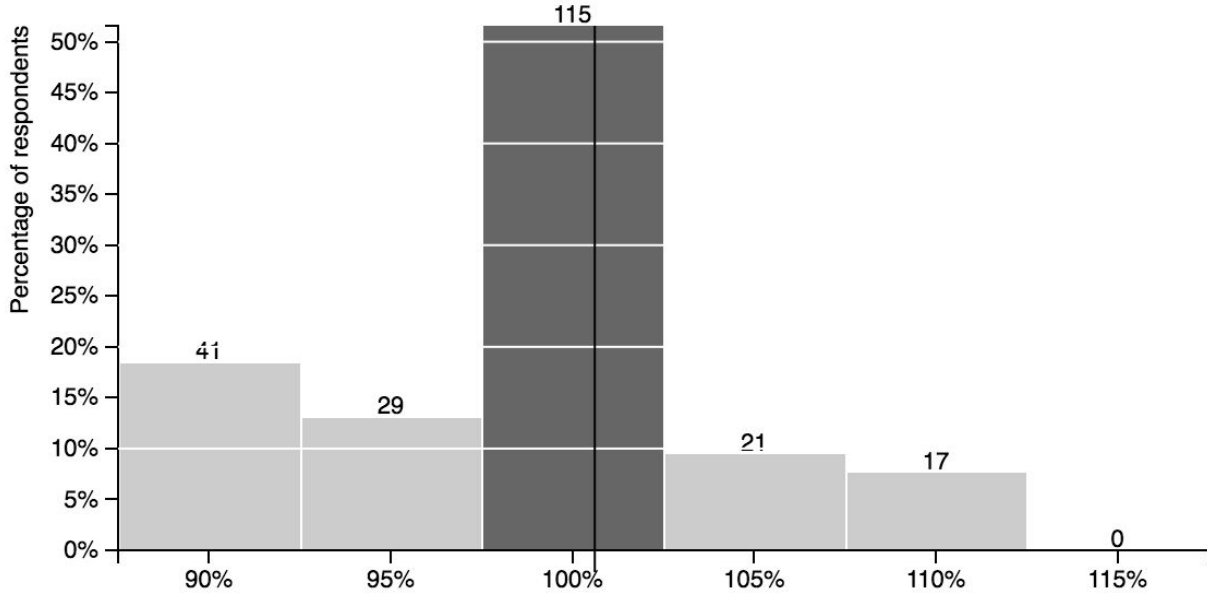


*Please identify how important Drainage, Asset & Waste Management services are for you.*

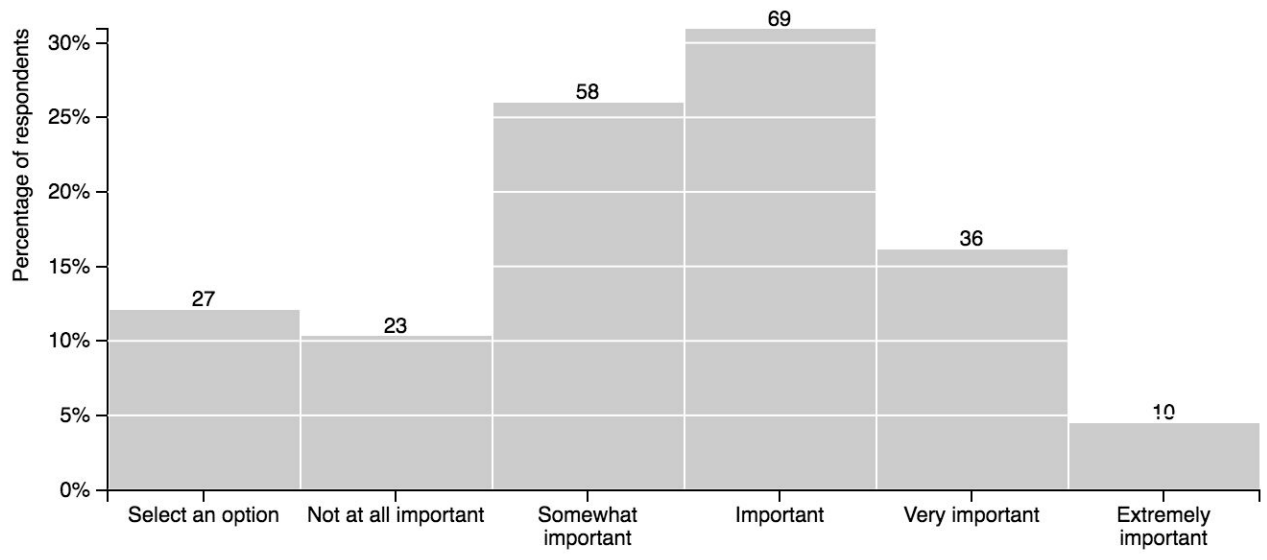


## Engineering & Transportation

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Engineering & Public Transportation?*

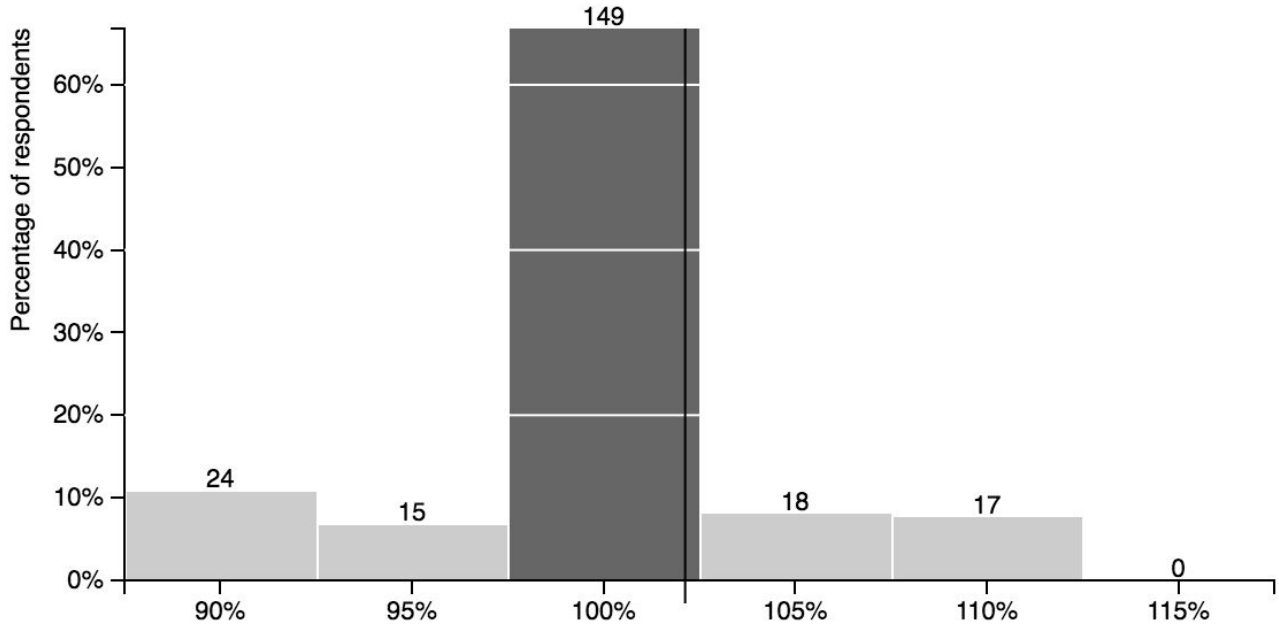


*Please identify how important Engineering & Public Transportation are for you.*

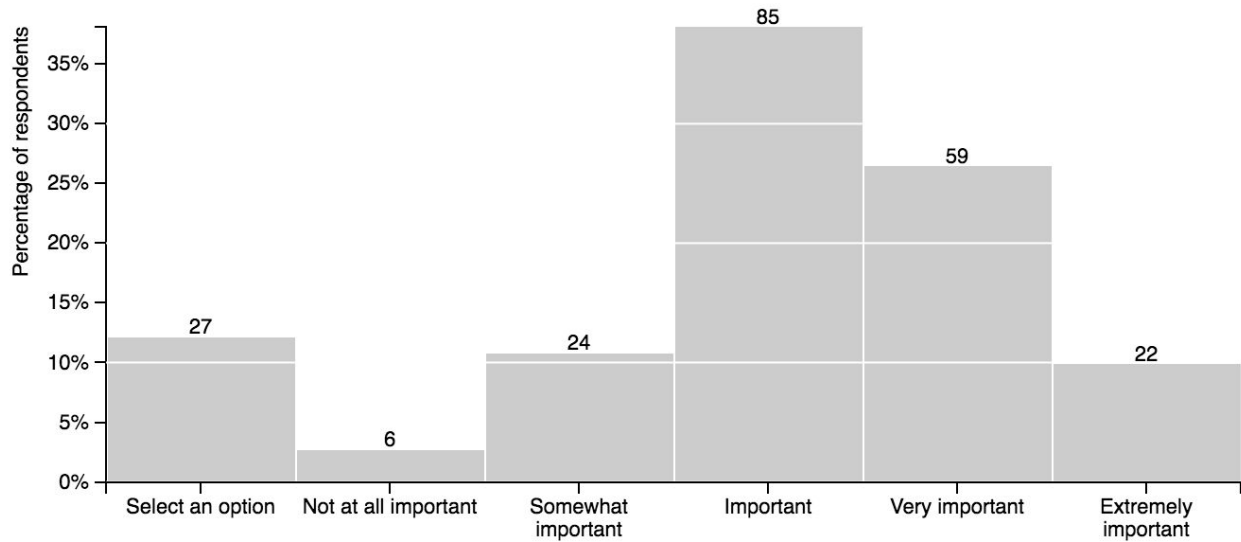


### Public Works: Winter Control

How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Winter Maintenance and Road Clearing?



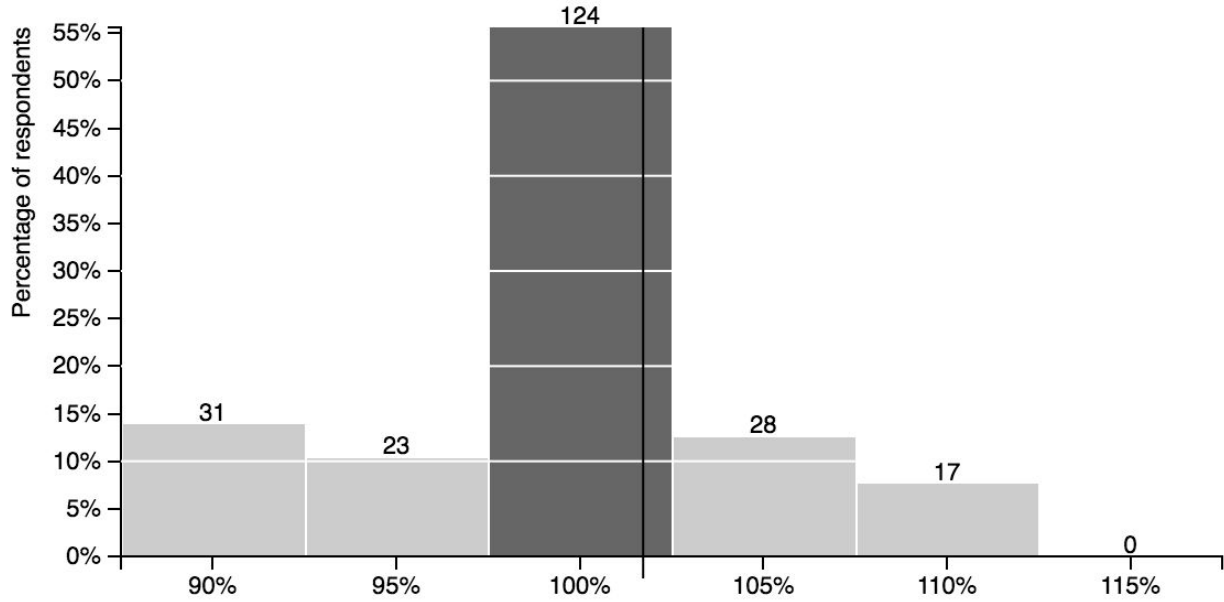
Please identify how important Winter Control is to you.



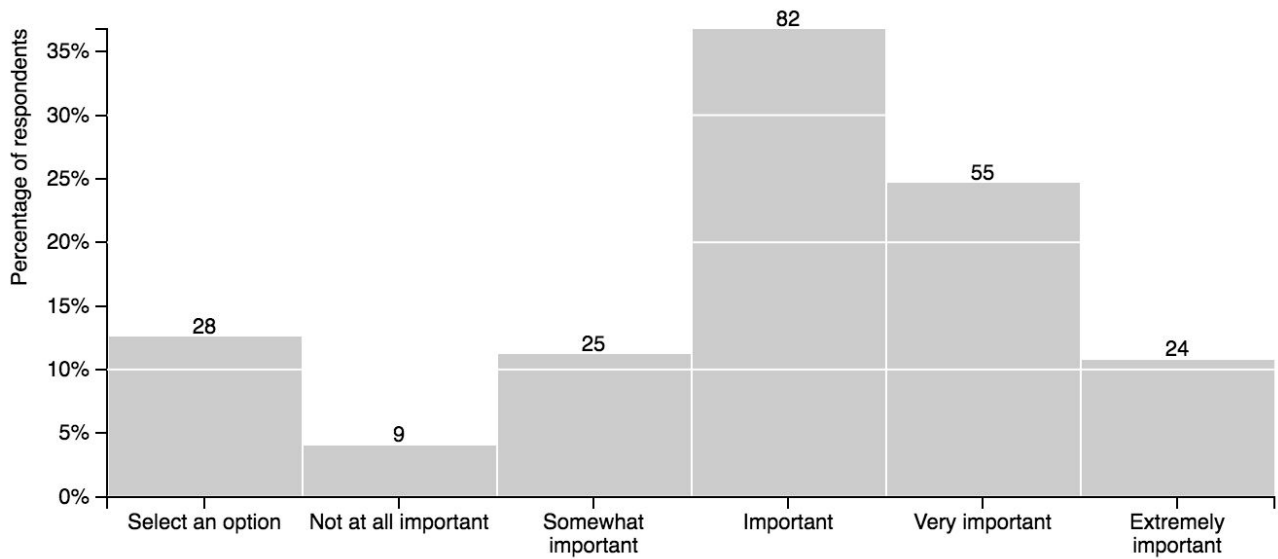


**Public Works: Miscellaneous (Trees, Streetlighting, Road Resurfacing, Gravel Roads, Bridges, Other Road Maintenance, etc.)**

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Public Works Services?*

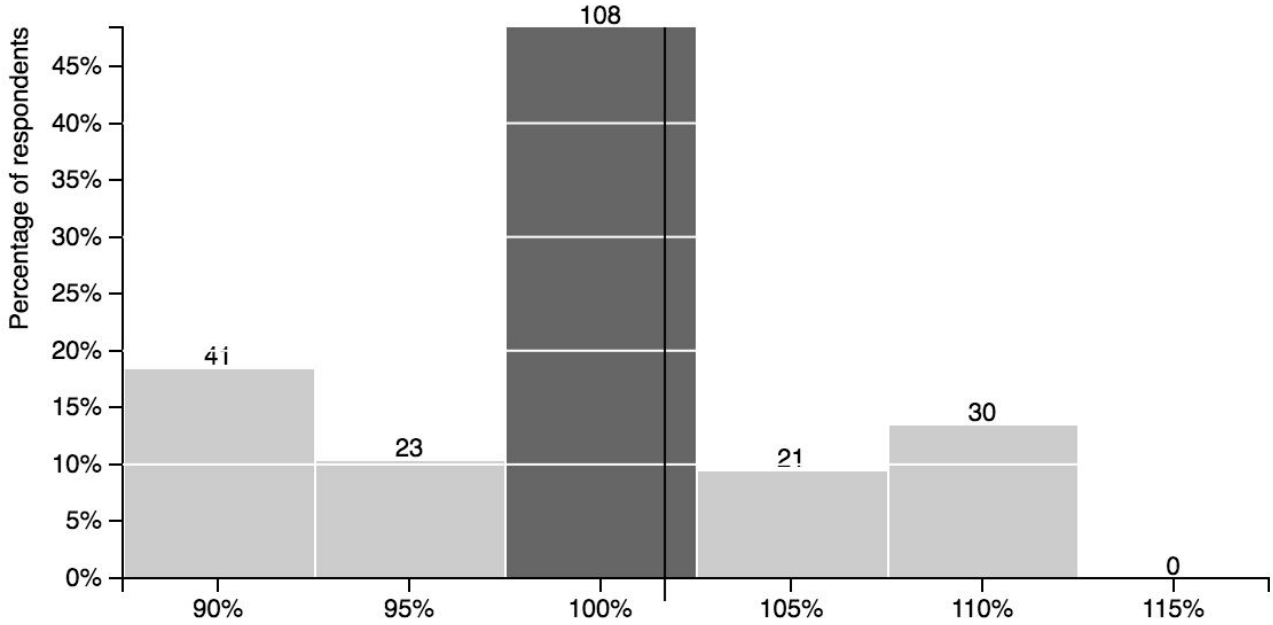


*Please identify how important Public Work services are for you.*

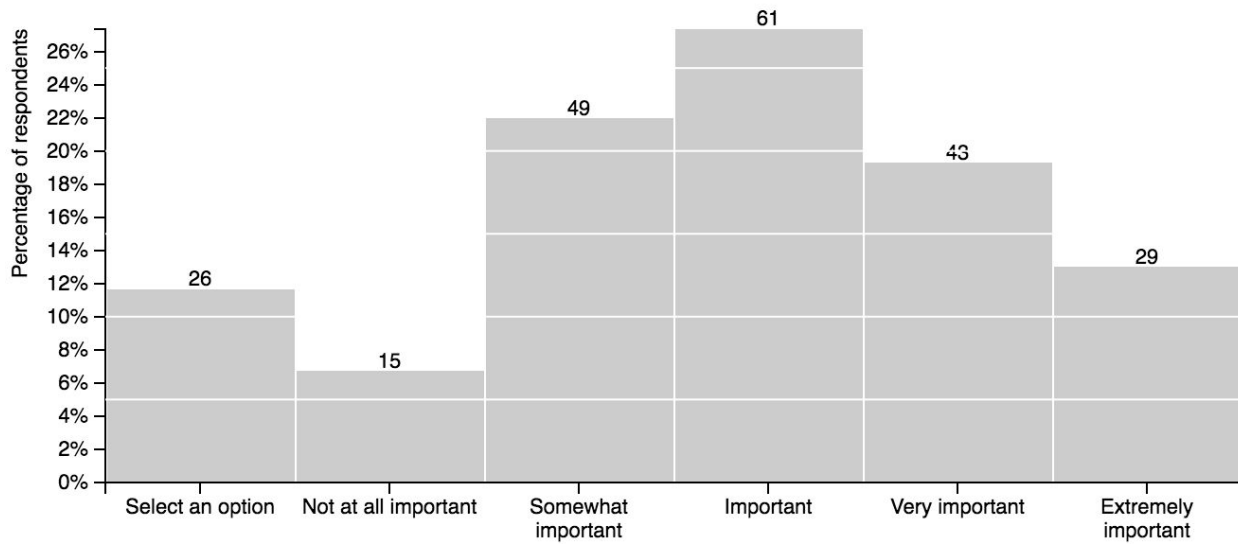


## Health Services

*How would you adjust service levels and property tax funding for Health Services?*

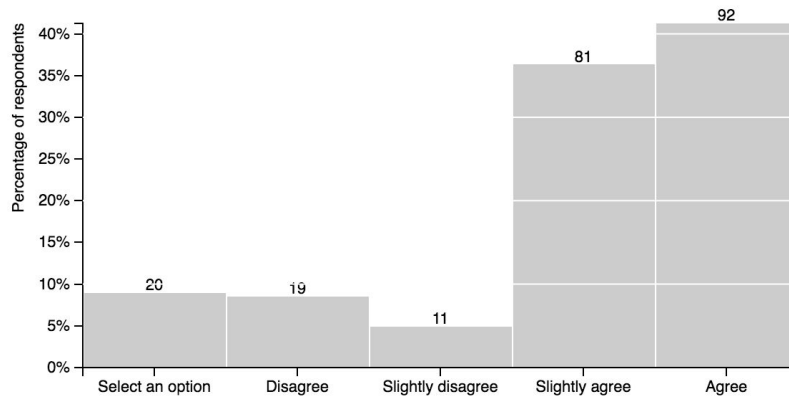


*Please identify how important Health Services are for you.*

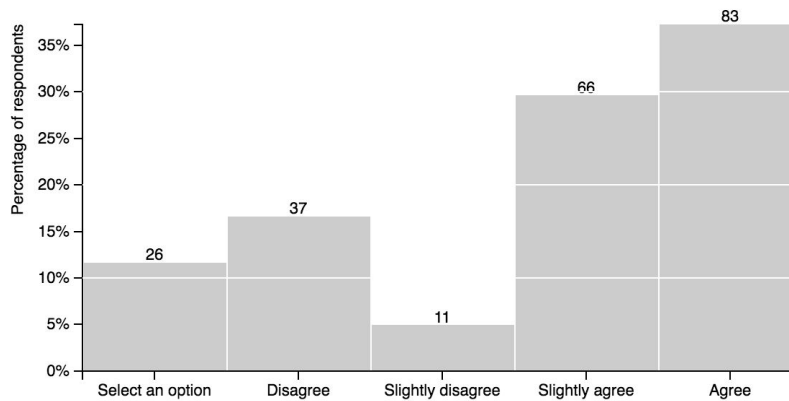


## Self-Assessment

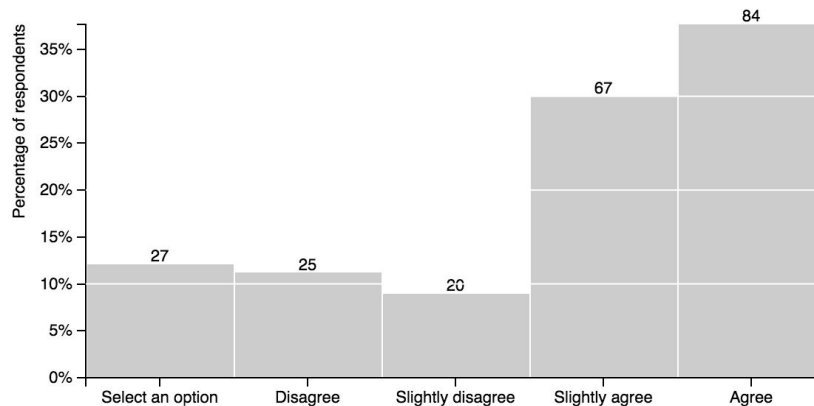
*The Municipality of Chatham-Kent's simulated budget exercise helped me to understand the types of decisions faced by staff and Council during the budget process.*



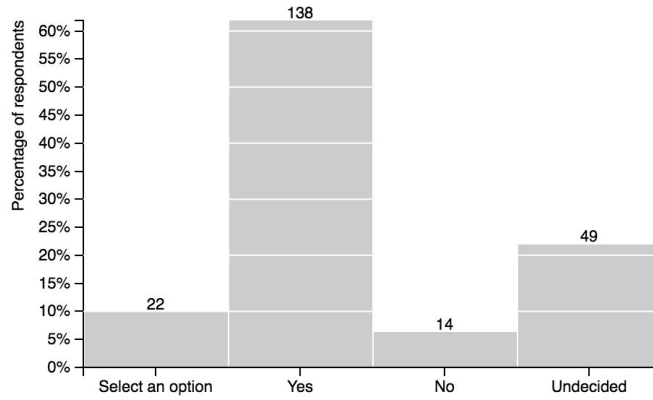
*Through the simulated budget exercise I have been able to learn more about Municipal services.*



*Through the simulated budget exercise I have been able to learn more about the Municipality of Chatham-Kent's budget.*

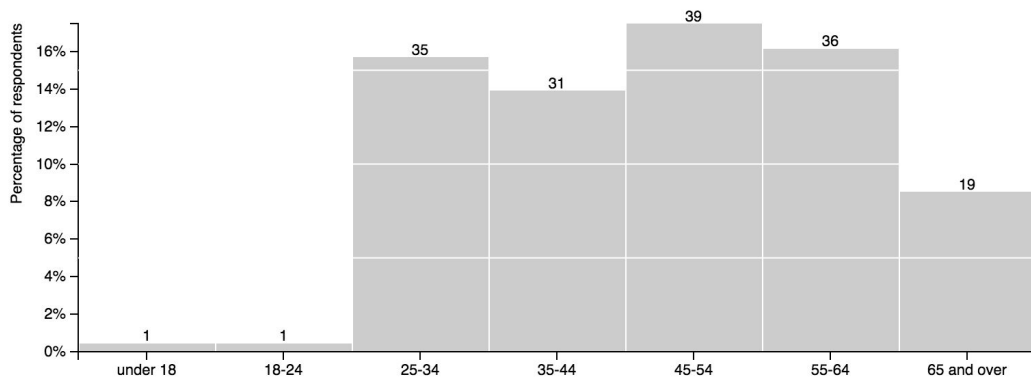


### Would you use this tool in the future?

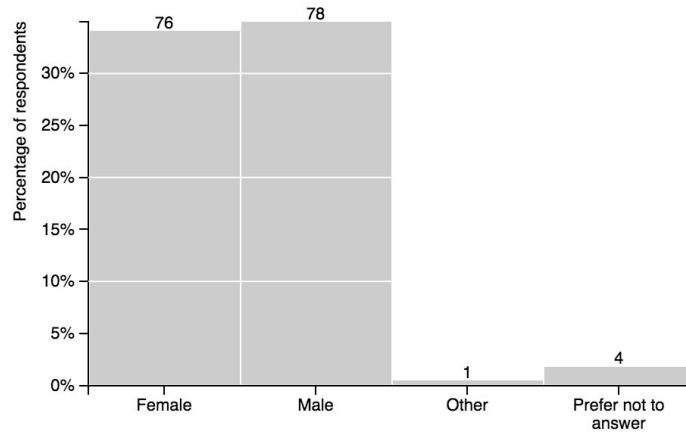


### Tell us about yourself

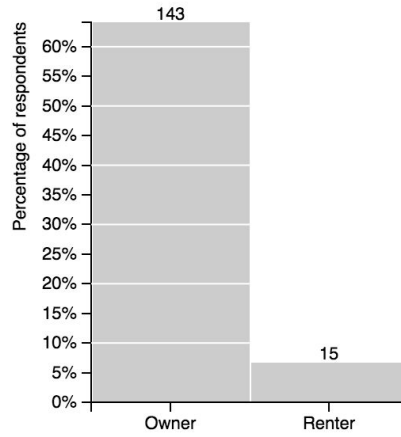
#### Age



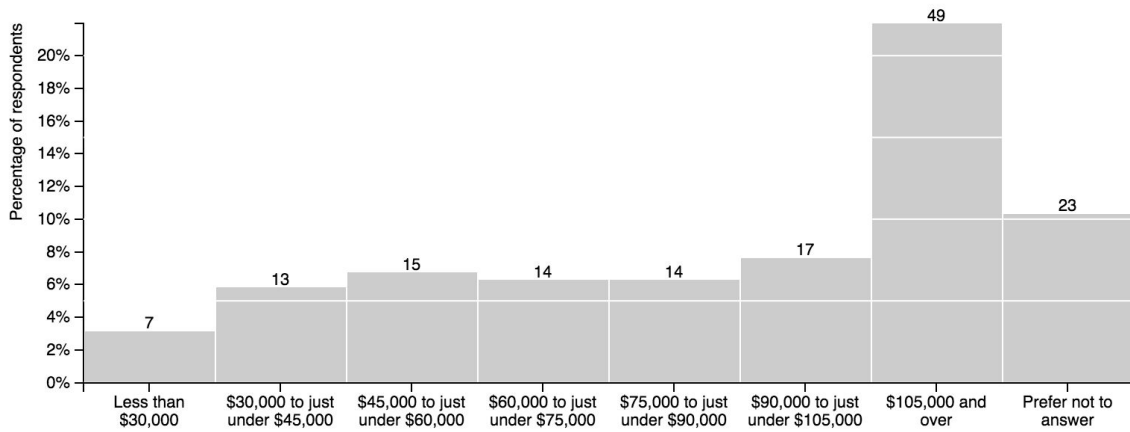
#### Gender



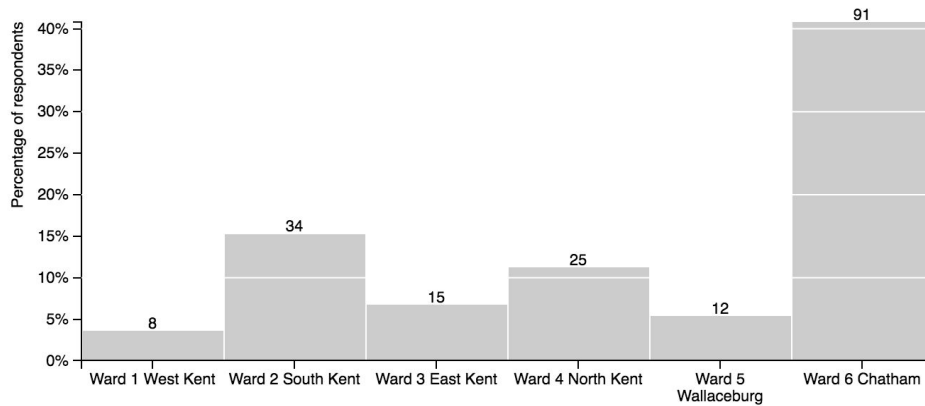
### Status



### Household Income



### Which Ward do you reside in?



## COMMENTS

- With crime levels here, we pay too much for police services. I know staff is a big part of that bill, there's a lot of room for trimming .

- It burns my butt to see council pay 400k for locker room renovation that will service maybe 20 teenage boys (a couple years ago), yet starve services like the library and the museum that EVERYONE uses. That much money would have bought a lot of books for my nephew's kids or brought in more shows.

Based on the age profile of this community, more residents need to come out to the budget public meetings to voice their concerns and wishes for how our tax dollars are spent annually.

Bureaucracy is the enemy of progress, society needs to change as the current academic absolute perspective is only keeping people in a state of stagnant decay. Review Jacques Fresco's Venus Project.

Ça sera bien de voir une version française de cet outil.

Comment sections should be included in each area. The subjects are too broad, more detail should be included as to where the money for each department is allocated. Including comment area would allow for input on recommended cuts in service or increase should be applied.

Difficult to suggest budget cuts when some divisions are so large. For example: suggesting a cut to municipality offered recreation programs because of the way this tool is grouped could suggest cuts to cemetery operations and maintenance. Difficult to truly assess what is important to citizens of CK.

Does not address Spending on frivolous things / and perks/ trips/ railroads/ does not address revenue lost due to the Condo fiasco : does not address real solutions LIKE Negotiating contracts / pay raises / Does not address staff cuts for reduced population ...all ways to reduce TAX \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ instead of taking away from services Start cleaning House and Remember who you all work for ?

Every year governments add additional expenses well in excess of the compensation increases received by people who do not work for the government. Most of us do not have gold plated pensions and need a break. We work for companies that had to do wage cuts and find efficiencies to survive in order to compete with other countries like China. Why don't you try that yourself and prove that government truly serves the people.

Find a company to buy/take over RVG. This will reduce all aspects financially eg: payroll, building maintenance, grievances' etc. This will create a spin off to reduce overloaded

workload to administration at Civic. I agree Chatham-Kent needs this facility but not under the Municipality's umbrella.

Home owners and businesses should be responsible for clearing snow on sidewalks abutting their property. Other areas with no businesses I would agree to have sidewalk clearing. Reduce the km.

With the technology today is it not necessary to have the number of service desks and buildings to maintain.

Reduce the number of libraries and/or incorporate with a school system to reduce the number of buildings to maintain.

Fire Services to top heavy in Administration, Police should be put out for proposal from OPP

Freeze wages for 2 years and improve services, It is commonly known Municipal worker are under worked and work at a very slow pace. Change this practice or get rid of these employees and/or the management over these areas.

Great to see this outreach to educate citizens of the cost of providing services. Open government allows the public to have faith in the budget process.

Having a more accessible city and community will increase economic development and a healthier community

I am not currently upset at the level of property taxes I pay, because Chatham is such a great place to live and I am happy to pay for that. The only area that I feel is bloated is our police service. I truly believe that we pay for a larger police force than we require in CK, and every time I talk to a friend who can't believe how many police are out trying to catch speeders in CK, as compared to any other part of the province....it makes me cringe. We don't need to have so many officers daily trying collect speeding tickets, but not willing to protect the downtown patrons after the bars let out. ( I was told by a Sargent that if an officer were to stand out at closing time to mitigate risks, the bar wouldn't have to hire an officer at 79-\$100 per hour). Sickening. Largely I think our municipal budget is well thought out but I can't understand how the Police keep asking for and getting increases every year. I think we have great officers who care.....I just don't understand how their budget in any way makes sense in a place the size of CK, and why we have to be the speed trap of Ontario when other jurisdictions seem to focus on violent crimes and public outreach.

I am slightly encouraged that the municipality is actually looking for public input before creating the budget. Rather than announcing a budget of what has already been decided upon, and then asking the public to come to a meeting for "input". As you know...no one attends the meetings because we have given up thinking that the community has any real

input. Any rational person living in CK does not want to see massive layoffs that will drastically effect service levels, but we do want some level of reasonableness. The average HOUSEHOLD income in CK is roughly 80,000, that is all incomes combined, almost all fire fighters/police/ems/ make more than that, and many of the public health positions make well over that...it is not reasonable. Almost half of our tax dollars are going to these services. And when is comes to properties like Riverview Gardens and the Convention Centre we need to have KIA solutions not Ferrari solutions - we have the absolute highest levels of service when just good service would be perfectly fine with the majority of citizens. Why in the world do we have 11 libraries when the world has changed and most info is available on line? Couldn't we do with 3-4? Why do we have a convention centre that can house conferences of 1200 when we only have 400 hotel rooms? Instead of saying "we are doing things this way because all the other municipalities are doing it this way" we need to think differently and find unique solutions for this unique area. The purchasing policy is a perfect example, why are we spending millions of dollars with business located out of the municipality? In many cases taking the lowest bid results in shotty work and sub par quality products. You should be looking at best bang for your buck, not just the lowest cost. The Tecumseh Trail signs are a great example of what you get for the lowest price, that contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, the reason the bid was so low was because they used sub par products. Council and admin have to start using common sense, engage with the community, and start being leaders and not followers.

I believe that council needs to stand up to the Fire, police and other union employees better. Based on the cost of living in C-K and the risks faced by these occupations I believe we are overpaying them for the service that they provide.

I believe the leaders of tomorrow (or preferably today) will be able to think outside the box...not continue doing things as we have always done in the past. We require new thinking, the wisdom to realize the unsustainability of our current system and a willingness to heal hearts and minds as well as engage the community.

I didn't see an Ambulance layout. I saw Police and Fire picture??? Is emergency services Paramedics??? I am sorry this is very misleading and very important information to be addressed. And yes I am a Paramedic and tax payer of Chatham Kent.

I do believe a lot of tax \$\$'s could be saved by closely examining the Police and Fire budgets.

I feel that council needs to look at the monies spent on each service and ways to cut back on non essential staffing, look at who does the job and if the same qualified staff could be hired at a lessor rate. Look at how each dept. spends. The cost of having a family is not affordable for the mid-high income families.

I have a few complaints. You actually only have 15 budget questions and 16 departments. Mayor, Council, Finance, IT (Red Section) does not have a budget line in this questionnaire



which I feel is unfair and misleading. Secondly, Recreation Programs should not be included with Parks, Horticulture and Cemeteries, these are two completely different departments and again is misleading and unfair to both those departments. Thirdly, Engineering has been broken down into multiple sections, which means if you raise the bar in Public Works Services, Snow Removal, Engineering and Transportation, your really raising the bar for 1 department. So in doing so it really should have Parks and Open Spaces in one, Cemeteries in another and Recreation Facilities in a third one if you really want a fair analysis of how people would like their money spent within the POS department.

I have been rate payer for 50 years. I have lived in the County but mostly in the city. I have watched Chatham from post war to some pretty good days followed by quiet times. I am sure that we are coming back slowly and I am sure there are those that are trying hard, but I feel that we are top heavy for the position we are in and I feel the Municipality is trying to be the social provider in spite of other organizations in the community as a way of covering for the cost of inflated payrolls and inflated numbers of people chewing on that payroll. I am a big supporter of good pay for good people but government, at any level, does not know how to control itself and as a result they know only one thing - raise taxes. I have not used the tool as I have seen many of these over the years and they are designed to give the Municipality information they can use to show the taxpayer that We Tried and this is what you told us you wanted, we will work on it. If I had run my business like this I would have made a lot more money but then I would have had to run over a lot of people on the way up.

I have managed organizations for 35 years. Reorganization of departments can yield cost reductions and almost always improves the performance and delivery of the service. Secondly, the \$4,000,000 railroad is an example of the waste in the municipal leadership.

I never knew how my tax money was spent. I see how a few extra dollars can go a long way to fixing roads and more money for snow plowing etc. I don't mind a small increase for this sort of thing.

I think that Fire Services could be reduced by using volunteers more and overcoming union issues which prevent this currently.

I think this is a great way to educate the public about the budget process and where their tax dollars go. Oftentimes, people hear talk about taxes and budgets and they only think of themselves. For the most part, they don't realize the amount of work and money it takes to run a Municipality. I hope more online tools like these are developed to give Chatham-Kent residents a better understanding of their community.

I think too much money is spent "fixing" things that don't need fixing - paving roads that don't need it - revamping libraries that don't require it, replacing sidewalks that are fine, money spent on bike lanes etc etc etc!!!!!!

I want to take a machete to the budget. This tool only allowed me to take my scissors. I

understand there are provincial obligations, but if we want to get Chatham-Kent out of this suckhole of mediocrity, we need to make real change. Bold change. Not adjust the hours at the Highgate library by three hours.

I would like more money going to tree planting and conservation of trees as well as maintaining wetlands and small forests and Bush on farms. Our county resembles a prairie and trees provide clean air, shade and less use of hydro for air conditioning, shelter for wild life and snow barriers to wind and snow on our roads. It just makes sense. Environmental thinking is the future!

I would like the budget to be accessible and friendly to read for the general public. It currently is neither. Taxpayers should be able to navigate through the budget with a relative amount of ease ie. clearly see what amount of money is budgeted with attached purpose/item toward what city department, what amount of money was actually afforded with/for attached purpose/item, within what budget line in previous and current year.

I would like to see more information regarding the costs in each category. Cut fire budget and use volunteers to supplement service. Riverview gardens should be self sufficient the for profit homes are. Public works cut back on staff not one driving truck 2 doing the work total 3 need only 2

Put Bradley Centre up for sale it is like the capital it will never make money see if private enterprise wants it. where is the cost shown of the Capital to the city Leave the tax amount as is or increase it by 1 or 1.5 % and put that money in escrow for 3 years adding to it each year then use the funds for capital. You have hurt yourself by keeping the tax rate low to look like heroes and everything is falling apart and you don't have money, bridges, arenas ?????

I would like to see more of a breakdown for some departments. For example I feel more strongly about the upkeep of an arena vs the paving of a cemetery road or bridge. I liked that public works was separated. Although it was not in this survey I am also interested in leveling all services in stead of maintaining area based services from amalgamation.

This is a neat tool and I hope it helps.

I'd use it if I felt it made a difference to how decisions were made.

Interesting tool, happy to have some input on how tax dollars are spent.

It is very vague. The concept you are missing is where specifically the money goes. These are widespread and obvious examples. Discuss where the money is wasted. That way you may actually find some money that will go to a useful service.

It seems evident to me as a new community member in Blenheim, that the majority of the tax revenue flows through Chatham in a very disproportionate manner. Blenheim needs plenty of

road work; many roads have no curbs and very uneven road surfaces.

Communication about what is in and around Chatham-Kent is terrible. If you are relying on newspaper as the key source of information your missing an entire generation who don't read them. I had no idea that there was a convention centre.

Finally, Although I respect the work of the fire and police departments, I can't see a need to increase their funding at this time. No one is getting raises these days. Frankly, the police presence in Blenheim is practically zero except for the squad cars which sit at the station. I have yet to walk into a police officer in town or see one on the road doing enforcement near Pioneer seed plant with dozens of farmers doing exactly what the police posted not to do...drive without signal lights.

Finally, support a animal shelter and MAKE a animal control law for all domestic animals including cats. Feral and domestic cans can't allowed to wander through other people's property and do their business.

Meh, the breakdowns were mostly fluff. For instance it failed to mention how the police budget is so high due to the polices ridiculous union demands. And as a citizen I would expect more of a recycling initiative in a waste budget. Ideally I would love to see Chatham be more like Guelph with their tiered system.

My one concern is that cemeteries is lumped with recreation programs, facilities and parks. It seems a rather odd combination.. Be interested in seeing percentages of tax amount indicated for each within that category.

. While I appreciate it's value in attracting people to Chatham-Kent, I resent constantly having to pay to subsidize it.

No money from current or future budgets should go towards the Dover water wells, it is a civil matter between land owners and the land owners leasing their property.

No need for service level reduction. Reduce excessive wages, waste, project seeking. Police and Fire are given way too much. Cut them 50%.

Not enough flexibility- too high level

not specific enough in the descriptions. some should have been broken down more. health services encompasses too much variety. Should have broken down into public health, riverview gardens, housing and Ontario works. They are very distinct.

Overall, I feel Fire and Police could face good reductions (although unpopular) that would still leave us well off.

Please listen to the results of your poll. Thanks

Police Service ration of 20% of tax base is too high and not in ratio to other size municipalities. Also, in the world of computers, libraries are no longer needed at the level we are offering - they need to be closed/downsized. Those savings need to go to infrastructure. Make the hard decisions.

police services need to be investigated, other quotes from different agencies need to be looked at !! This is the time for number crunching. look to see if we can get better service for lower dollar amount. Convention Centre should not be owned by the Municipality. Although Libraries are important for our residents, the number of people using the library is decreasing, the number of libraries open should be looked at .The budget of Public Works could be lowered if we did not have union staff !! Tighten up contracts, over time costs are out of this world !

Reduce the services where I identified I wanted you to.

Successfully promoting and fulfilling economic development for new industry and commercial ventures would go a long way in helping sustain this community and ease residential tax burdens that are currently higher than most communities in all of Ontario.

Support more funding for bridges roads and infrastructure. Convention Centre and Capitol Theatre are important as well for quality of life.

taxes are to high in this city , it causes a burden on all bussiness and families we need to maintain roads bridges , and needed services and stop wasting money on stupid endeavours that look nice but are not needed when tax base cannot support it . we need lower taxes to entice bussiness or people to move here . lower costs and overhead to maintain services , a lot of smart people at city hall and council needs to listen to them they have come up with good ideas in the past to have council over rule so they can get re-elected . who needs so maney libraries today people do everything on line have one main location maybe two have a mobile service for out lying areas with a good online set up .

The entire tax structure in this municipality is broken. Taxes are TOO high. It's time administration looked at reducing budget levels to better reflect our loss of population. It's no wonder other jurisdictions are enjoying a vibrant housing market while the only thing that moves in CK are in the \$150-\$200K level. All I hear from family and friends is they can't wait to get out. Compare our rate to anywhere in Southwestern Ontario and you will find we are the highest. Get the scissors out and start cutting - NOW. Start with the big four - police services, public works, fire and emergency services and health services. The days of all the good jobs supporting these higher incomes are over. Navistar - gone, Motor Wheel - gone, Eaton Yale - gone, Rockwell - gone, Canadian Fram - gone, Continental Can - gone, Libby's - gone, Campbells - gone. It's high time some of the high fliers in municipal employment were GONE.

the key to budgets is that we don't need to spend all the money allocated just to ensure we get the same \$\$ next time. there should be a process that acknowledges fiscal responsibility. ie not spreading salt when the temperature is rising above 2C

ambulance services i feel are under funded compared to fire.

making the waste disposal sites more accessible could save a few dollars in the waste management area.

use of city vehicles and number of workers on a job site are other areas i am sure you are looking at....

access the library services on line may assist with their budget. a lot of people read books on a tablet and most have a cell phone

deciding where and when to allocate funds isn't easy. nor is when to send out a road crew. but buying a rail line that is in need of some major repairs is not one of your best moves.

making trails and rightof ways accessible for cyclists will attract tourism and move some traffic off the highways. also may just get more people moving..... healthy people use less of the health care services....

The municipal budget is far to large for the number of households in CK!!! With a declining population....so should the costs associated be declining which are not been the case. Good paying jobs are non-existent and economic development focusing on only agriculture is ridiculous. How has the China escapades helped us....NOT!!! Police and Fire Department budget are way out of line and need to decrease by 10 - 15% to be palatable to the general public. The good part is the apathy of our citizens as there isn't the revolt that should be taking place. If it continues...you will be able to increase the acreage for farmers because there won't be anyone living here.

The process is broken; I can only decrease and increase budgets by small percentages. I see no reason why I cant eliminate the Bradley Center completely. Its a business the city should have never gotten into. (along with the train to no where and the white elephant downtown and the trips to China) Once again, I think road work/maintenance is very important, but I also suspect you could cut the budget by 20%, fire half the management and outsource most of the labour and meet current service levels. Decreasing the budget doesn't mean decreasing the service. The municipal government is supposed to meet the needs of the citizens; not be a job creator for the shiftless. This is merely setting up the usual budget process where the Council demands a 0% increase, the administration says they need 8% increase. The model presented by administration for a 0% increase requires closing libraries, burning garbage for heat and eating rats to survice. At the end of the day will all agree to a

3% increase, which is somehow better than the 8% first proposed. Why not mandate the staff run their departments at the same service level for 2% less. Anybody who can't do that, gets fired. Like in the real world, where every day people do more with less, because they have to. Council needs to stop allowing the overpaid, timeworn administration spoon feed them their 'budgets'.

There needs to be more accountability measure attached to dollars and more of a proactive rather than reactive approach. Annual budgeting is crazy, at a minimum plan for a 2--3 year budget. Use of volunteer fire services could be ramped up. I know being a former municipal employee there are savings to be had by cutting non evidenced based services as well as putting in strict fiscal and programmatic accountabilities. More emphasis on staff wellness that would cut down on the high sick time would also increase productivity.

There should be more options to indicate where we want more and where we want less spent -- e.g., garbage, housing, health programs, ambulance

This budget tool is very useful. As a former Navistar employee who has waited (and is still waiting) 7 1/2 years for pension and severance I am commenting that C-K taxes are too high. From 1999 to 2009 my pay stayed virtually the same. C-K Police and Fire have too many Sunshine club employee's. Even though the Mayor thinks \$100,000 should be \$140,000, \$100,000 is still a big salary, especially when you consider the cost of fringe benefits likely are at least \$35,000. C-K has one of the lowest cost of housing but property taxes are too high.

I also support increasing the rural tax rate to 25. I am willing to live with service level reductions. Whether it means reducing costs by attrition or not giving such huge increases to fire and police, things are not sustainable at these taxation levels. It's pretty sad when the municipality is the biggest employer. I also reduced Economic Development because that department is not effective. Most of the new business in C-K had nothing to do with help from City Hall. It was the "smarts" of individuals working on their own.

This is an absolutely phenomenal tool and I think it will be of fantastic use to teachers in classrooms when discussing local, regional and municipal government!

This municipality needs more jobs for the up and coming youth that has been hurt by the elder, greedy diminishing group.

This survey doesn't help me understand why my taxes have to be so high and continue to rise every year. If everyone in C-K paid as much a year as we do in taxes I would think the municipality would have a surplus if they didn't waste it on things we don't need. Like the Capital theatre, Bloomfield industrial park that is still pretty empty. The only things that I need is my road graded/ plowed in the winter, healthcare when I need it, a cop if need be, my husband to keep his job for another 10 years, and lower taxes so I can continue to live in my house. We live on a dirt road that isn't graded enough (maybe once every 10 weeks or more), we have no garbage pick up or recycle included in our taxes. I am in Raleigh Township. I

have no kids in school but have to pay school tax. I don't use the library. I am stuck paying for ditch repairs on both sides of us , and whenever a farmer bitches about drainage we have to pay for work that is not needed on our part and is not even close to our property, or if they need a culvert for their laneway we pay too because it is located along the ditch that drains by our property. Our ditches run alright and always have. I don't understand why you need 6 municipal offices and 5 municipals info desks. I don't even know where they are and couldn't they be amalgamated like all our townships were. Bradley has lots of money let him take care of his own convention center. We don't have sewers, street lights, sidewalks, we have to drive to Valetta weekly for recycle purposes. We see a cop drive by about twice a year. We are taxed to death and was told it is because there are no industries in C-K to pay their share so you guys think we should make up the difference. It's not our fault & It's not fair. I like living where we live but can't understand why our taxes are so high. Our bridges are getting closed and one around the corner isn't being reopened and another on the way to Tilbury is closed now and they don't know if they are going to reopen it. it's just not acceptable anymore What do we pay taxes for. I pay almost \$5200 per year and have no services out here. We need our police but feel they waste a lot of money cruising around and doing nothing. Why can't they amalgamate into one building in Chatham. We need better healthcare and EMS should not be cut. Transit pickup spots for people in town has been cut and I know people that depend on it to get around. I feel that fire dept in Chatham may not need as many full time people that they have and is a waste of money having all of them sit there when there is no fires. I feel there is a lot of people that are getting paid for doing nothing or very little in the municipal offices. (Just my opinion) Maybe combine some of the jobs that people do and lay some off. I am on a disability and my husband works in Blenheim. We don't have enough land to farm to try and make a profit from, and not a good location to start a business (out in the middle of no where) and CK makes it too expensive to even try and start a business. Permits for this and permits for that. When my husband retires we plan on moving out of C-K anywhere it is cheaper even if we have to go out of province. I don't understand what goes on inside our municipal walls but it doesn't seem to be working for us little people. Maybe you guys could try living on our wages and see how hard it is to live on the poor side of town

This tool is interesting except that we have residential/commercial property that isn't reflected here, I wish our taxes were \$892 a month. We don't get anymore services than a residential person, just the luxury of being a business. I realize that we do generate some income with the property but not enough to warrant doubling our taxes. People are shocked at how much we pay in taxes. The biggest contributor is the police services and when we call the report suspicious behaviour around the business by us we eventually get a cruiser come by and we are questioned about our activities and basically don't we have anything better to do than to call the police about youths tipping over signs. Its just the beginning of bigger problems.

This was really cool! It showed how just a little more paid in taxes can make a big difference in quality of life for everyone! Also showed how all of the service are important - even essential - to making a great community.

This was useful to understand the process that takes place and how each area affects the level of taxes that we arrive at.

Time to stop aiming for 0 % budget increases.

WE ARE TAXED OUT.IM AT THE POINT WHERE I MIGHT HAVE TO MOVE WITH THIS HIGH PROPERTY TAXES.WHAT SHAME I HAVE WORKED ALL MY LIFE TO BE ABLE TO LIVE HERE.I AM NOW RETIERED AND IF THESE TAX INCREASES KEEP COMING I AFFAID ALL MY YEARS OF WORKING WILL FORCE ME TO MOVE.I PERSONALLY KNOW A FEW OF THE CHATHAM KENT EMPLOYEES AND I CAN' T BELIEVE HOW MUCH TIME OFF THEY HAVE"SICK DAYS"AND BENIFITS THEY HAVE.THEY WAY I LOOK AT IT THESE EMPLOYEES WORK FOR THE TAX PAYER BUT WHEN THE EMPLOYEE MAKES MORE MONEY AND HAS BETTER BENIFITS THEN THE EMPLOYER "THE TAX PAYER"THEN SOMETHING HAS TO BREAK.WHEN I LOOK AT WINDSOR WITH NO TAX INCREASES FOR THE LAST YEAR THEN I THINK WE NEED TO LOOK AT THERE WAY OF DOING THINGS.

we as a city have to get taxes down thru staffing cuts, our taxes are out of site and have to be addressed, we can't continue to cave to all the wages increases that city personal continue to receive, in private industry if you don't make money you don't see pay increases, we have gone as long as 4 years without a pay increase and pension benefits have to change

We have lost a substantial tax base over the past number of years. There should be an "external" micro evaluation of all departments in reducing waste and if necessary, a reduction in personnel. Fire and Police budgets are getting out of hand - almost 1/3 of the tax base !! Although these are critical services, there does not seem to be a concerted effort to control their spending. Keep in mind that we have a great number of seniors in this area....and most on fixed incomes...and most of us vote.

We need our elected officials to start making the hard decisions. If it means eliminating a service because it isn't used any more, then do it. If you make these decisions for all of Chatham Kent then we will prosper as a community. We have to stop protecting an area and start thinking of all of Chatham Kent. If we do this and we still need a tax increase to take care of our bridges and roads, then that decision should also be made.

We need to accept that some services need to be cut back. Neighbouring municipalities have much lower taxes than Chatham-Kent. Keeping open arena's or other municipality recreation centers that are deteriorating and need a large influx of cash should be closely looked at to see if they are worthwhile of staying open or potentially shutdown so that tax dollars can be redirected to better use areas.

We need to learn to do more with less like everyone else has had to do in the community. When (upper-level government) funding for a program ends, then the program should be stopped. Too often these types of programs are maintained at the taxpayers expense. An



example is Communities in Bloom -- this was a program that was nice to do when times were better but, in difficult times, it isn't something that should be continued. I can't see a lot of evidence that anyone in the community is keeping their yard in better shape because of the program. Cut that program and spend the money elsewhere. Tough decisions have to be made.

Where was the option that buying a railway to no where was a mistake? Maybe we wouldn't be among the highest property taxes in the province if council stopped wasting money frivolously.

While I support recreations services, I would rather not see the money spread around to manage many different locations for access to recreation services, parks, arenas and pools. While my family makes little use of arenas I would rather see a facility which incorporates not just arenas but better access to pools, and fitness facilities.

I would also be willing to accept a lower level of service with regards to snow control to save some money and apply it to our roads, sewers and bridges. In other cities I have lived in it is a responsibility of the property owners to clear sidewalks, and I think that is not too much to ask.

I would be willing to accept small tax increases, meaning up to 4% each year if it meant that the money was going towards maintaining the infrastructure we have, and contribute to better recreation facilities.

I make little use of our health services and I am surprised to see the amount that this budget takes up. This budget represents more than half of our total infrastructure budget. This seems excessive and it would be better to see this broken down more because I am sure there are some things that we are legally obligated to do as a Municipality. Broken down by wages, ontario works payments and other items would be helpful. This should apply for police, fire/ems, and infrastructure also. These are all large budgets and while I support them as I feel they are important, I cannot say that I support every aspect on each of these budgets.

Why are tax dollars being spent on snow removal on residential sidewalks?

Why are there so many councillors for such a small population base? Other regional municipalities with 3 or 4 times the population have the same or less number.

Why could we not vote on increase or decrease of general administrative costs?

Why is ambulance service not listed separately from fire. If you want the public to provide an accurate assessment of all the services they should be separated. If you wanted to add to the ambulance coverage it is impossible to separate that from the fire budget. This is an

important and costly service and should be dealt with separately. Ambulance coverage needs to be improved.

Wondering why the ambulance budget is not separate from the FF budget? This has been a very big ticket item for this municipality this year. They are two completely diff services. why not combine the FF and police or library board? the ambulance has been under funded for years, and now with the current situation it seems like it is only going to continue, and further advance the FF budget.... this is NOT right!! Thanks for listen!!

Yes please make cuts- The slider allows for very limited cut potential- I would cut much further in some areas.

Much spending goes to attract people and businesses- if we had reasonable taxes, very little would be required to promote the city. Over taxation can't be solved by further tax spending to attempt to attract people or businesses.

Our costs are too high and with a declining population there needs to be service cuts and people cuts. My taxes are going to \$7000 with no sidewalks, streetlights or sewers- Are you kidding? In a real business a 5% population reduction would be a 5% headcount reduction, period.

All emergency services are too expensive and costs are out of control- Get some competitive quotes and threaten to get their services somewhere else if they don't stop escalating costs.

The city needs to exit all business that compete with private entities- I don't want my tax dollars competing with 'for profit' employers/businesses. Nursing homes, convention centers, theaters have an unfair advantage since they can run at a loss causing competing business to leave or close since tax run entities can run at a loss forever, killing their competitors- sell this stuff and stop trying to think you can run a business effectively.

Sending junior employees as inspectors out to job sites and force unnecessary changes(as stated by real private engineers who signed the drawings) should not be your mandate. If a reputable engineering firm approves the construction then you should not send redundant engineers who think their job is to look important by demanding changes that are expensive and unnecessary, but not worth going to court over.

You are a corporation that is too management heavy, too many managers & supervisors for the same positions. Cut from the top.