



BUDGET 2024

Three horizontal bars of varying lengths and colors (yellow, light blue, dark blue) positioned to the right of the year '2024'.

Budget 2024: Engagement Results

August 28, 2023



NEW WESTMINSTER

ON TABLE
City Council Meeting
August 28, 2023
re: Item 3.5.a

What we did: Engagement Process

Community-wide online engagement:

477 participants

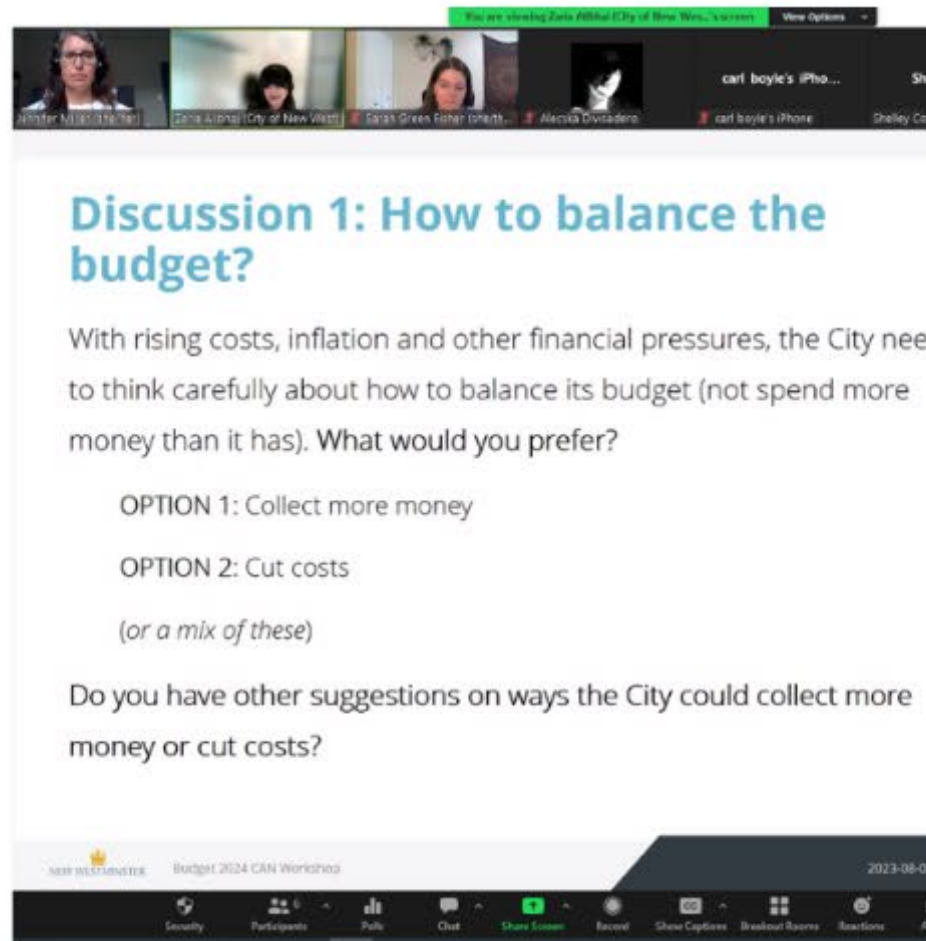
- Be Heard New West project page (1,500+ visitors)
- Online survey
- Online discussion forum

Targeted outreach and workshops with under-represented demographic groups:

Reached 123 people

- New to New West Intercultural Festival
- Four workshops with:
 - adult language class at NWSS
 - CAN Leaders
 - program participants at Library
 - Tenants Union

What we did: Engagement Process



What we did: Promotion

A variety of methods were used to let community members know about the opportunity to share their input.

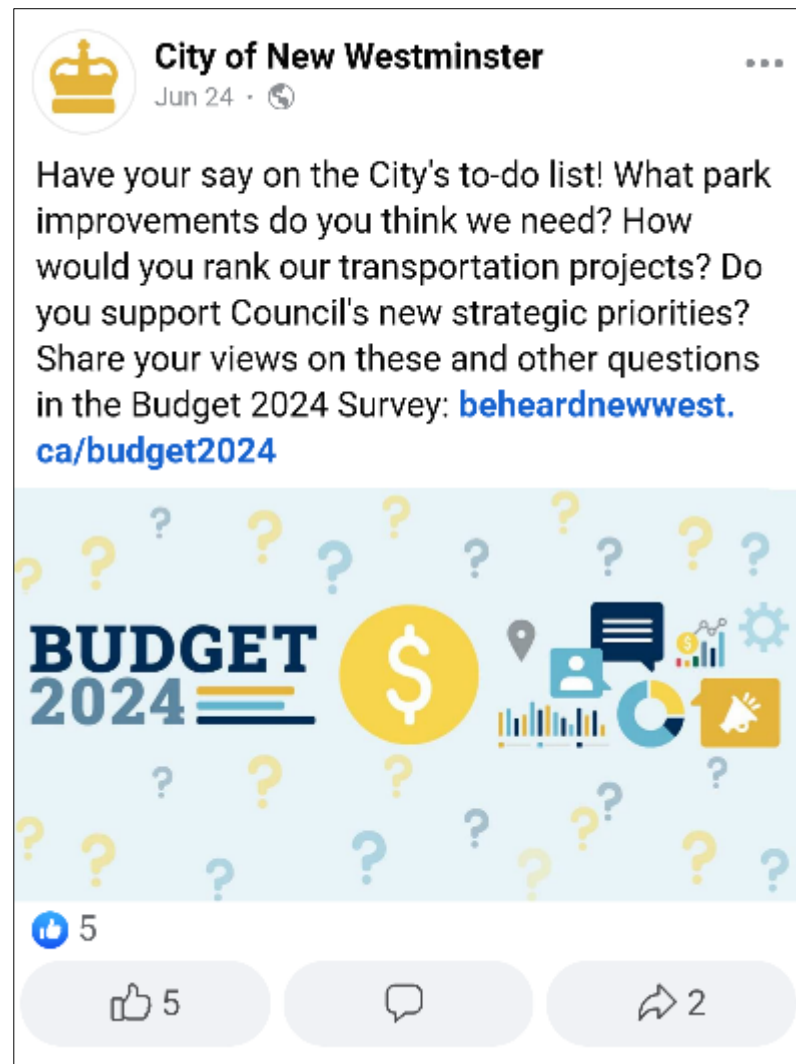
Notices about the engagement were posted in/on the following locations:

- Citypage – print and online
- social media
- City facilities
- City's website
- Record newspaper ad
- digital advertising
- popular New West Facebook groups
- flyers handed out at City Hall and other locations

Emails were sent to an estimated 8,500+ addresses:

- Be Heard subscribers (two separate emails sent)
- Parks & Recreation subscribers
- Invest New West business subscribers
- Citypage Online subscribers
- Various community groups and volunteers (i.e. Residents' Associations)

What we did: Promotion



NEW WESTMINSTER

BUDGET 2024

Help shape the City's to-do list!

- What parks improvements do you think we need right now?
- How would you rank our transportation projects?
- Do you support City Council's new strategic priorities?

Strategic Priorities:

- Community Belonging and Connecting
- Safe Movement of People
- Homes and Housing Options
- People-Centred Economy
- Asset Management and Infrastructure

SURVEY OPEN UNTIL JULY 3, 2023 WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD

Share your views on these and other questions in the Budget 2024 Survey.

beheardnewwest.ca/budget2024

BE HEARD NEW WEST

What's your preference for the 2024 tax rate?

We want your input!
Take our Budget 2024 Survey and share your thoughts on the 2024 tax rate, City spending priorities, and MORE!

BE HEARD NEW WEST

beheardnewwest.ca/budget2024

New this year

- Engagement held earlier in the year, before draft budgets developed
- Targeted outreach to under-represented voices
- Prize draw to encourage survey participation



What we heard: Across Activities

In general, how would you like the City to make its financial decisions?



How do you think the City should balance its budget?

Targeted engagement:
Reduce or cut City services

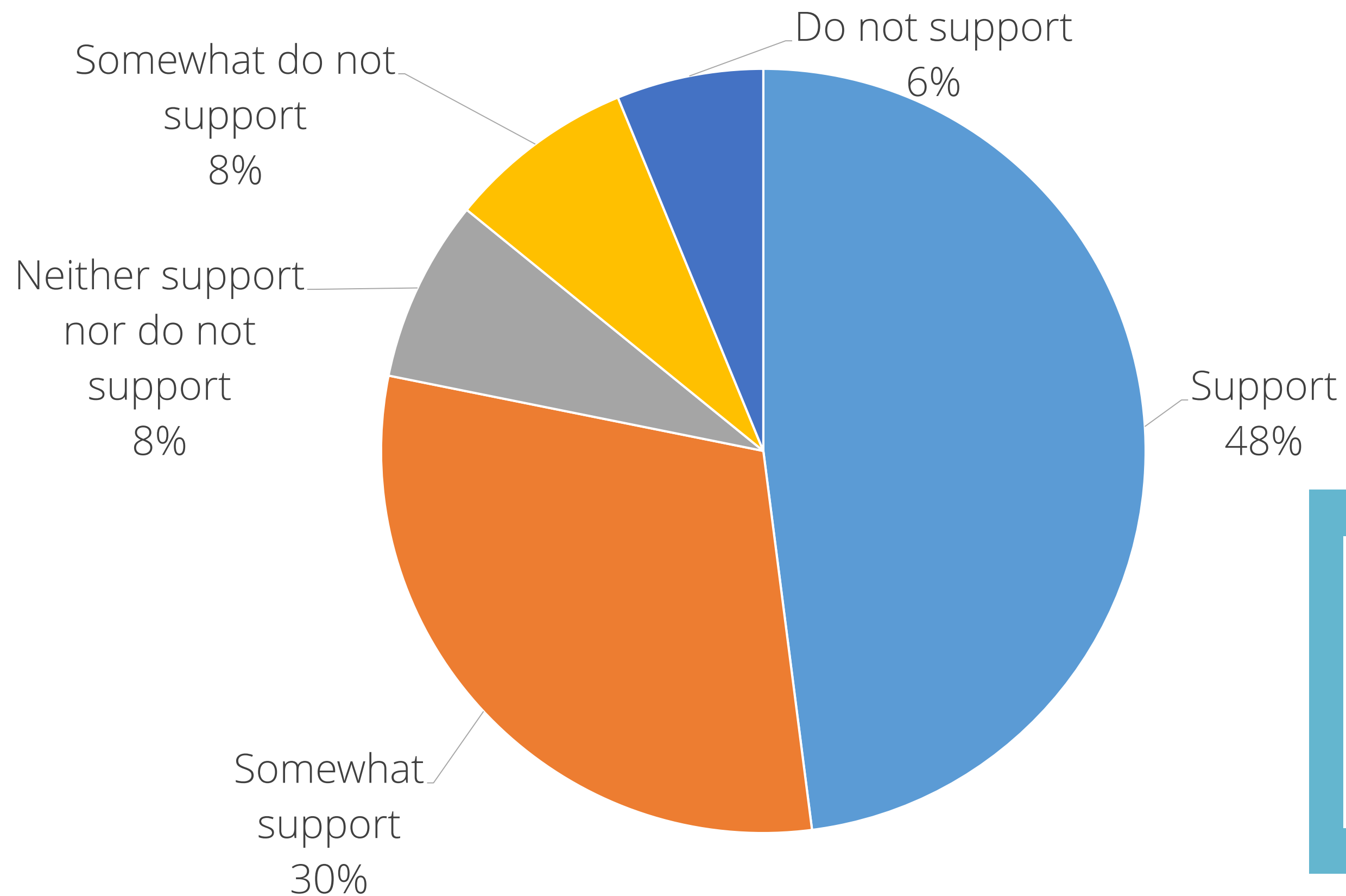
Survey: Increase user fees /
introduce new user fees

What we heard: Targeted Workshops

- Desire for City spending to **support vulnerable community members**: seniors, children and youth, low-income residents, tenants, and those experiencing homelessness
- Ideas to **increase revenue**: increasing bylaw fines/enforcement; improve amenities/programs to increase participation and admission revenue; attract investment
- Concerns about **% spent on policing**; suggestions to redirect some of that money to social supports
- Priorities for allocating “unexpected” funds: **housing, tenant supports/protection**, maintenance and repairs, programs for cooling, protecting the environment, creating more jobs, saving some

What we heard: Survey

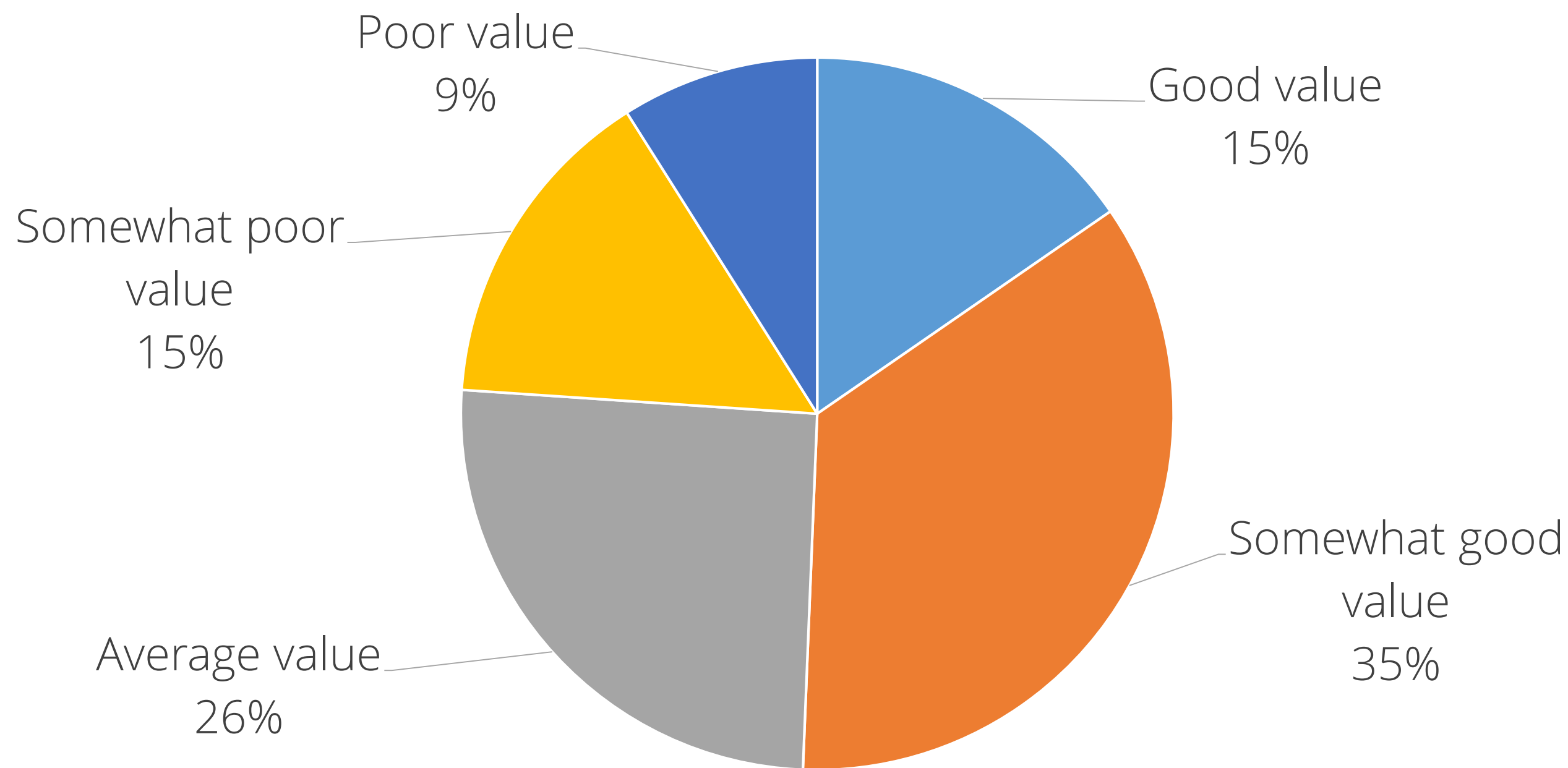
What is your level of support for using Council's five strategic priorities as a guide for prioritizing spending and how the City budget is structured?



What we heard: Survey

How would you rank the value you receive for your tax dollars?

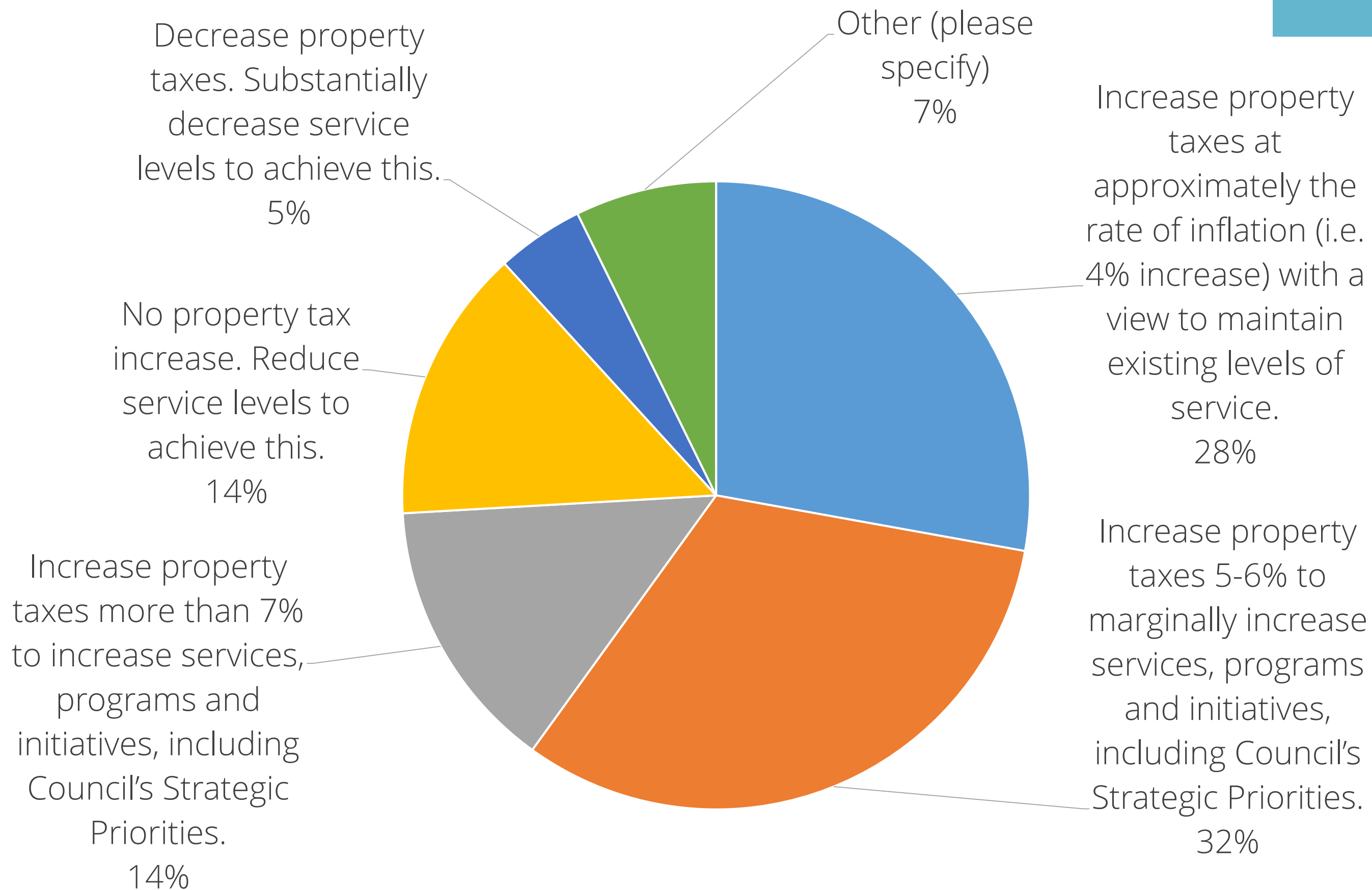
76% rate value as average or better



What we heard: Survey

What is your preference for the tax rate for 2024 as it relates generally to service levels?

74% chose tax increase of 4% or more



What we heard: Survey

Transportation Capital Projects	Average Score (1=most important)	Overall Rank
Total responses: 465		
Sidewalk repairs, new sidewalks and expanding pedestrian areas	2.8	1
Road repairs and paving	3.77	2
Public realm improvements (such as sidewalks, lighting, seating, etc.) in major pedestrian areas such as Sixth Street and Sixth Avenue in Uptown	4.28	3
Building new sustainable transportation routes (cycling, wheeling, walking) and improving existing greenways	4.59	4
Street lighting renewal and improvement	5.04	5
Adding new bus shelters and benches at bus stops	5.54	6
Traffic signal replacements and adjustments	5.65	7
Install traffic calming measures such as speed humps, curb extensions, etc.	5.77	8
Improving rail crossing safety and advancing whistle cessation	5.82	9

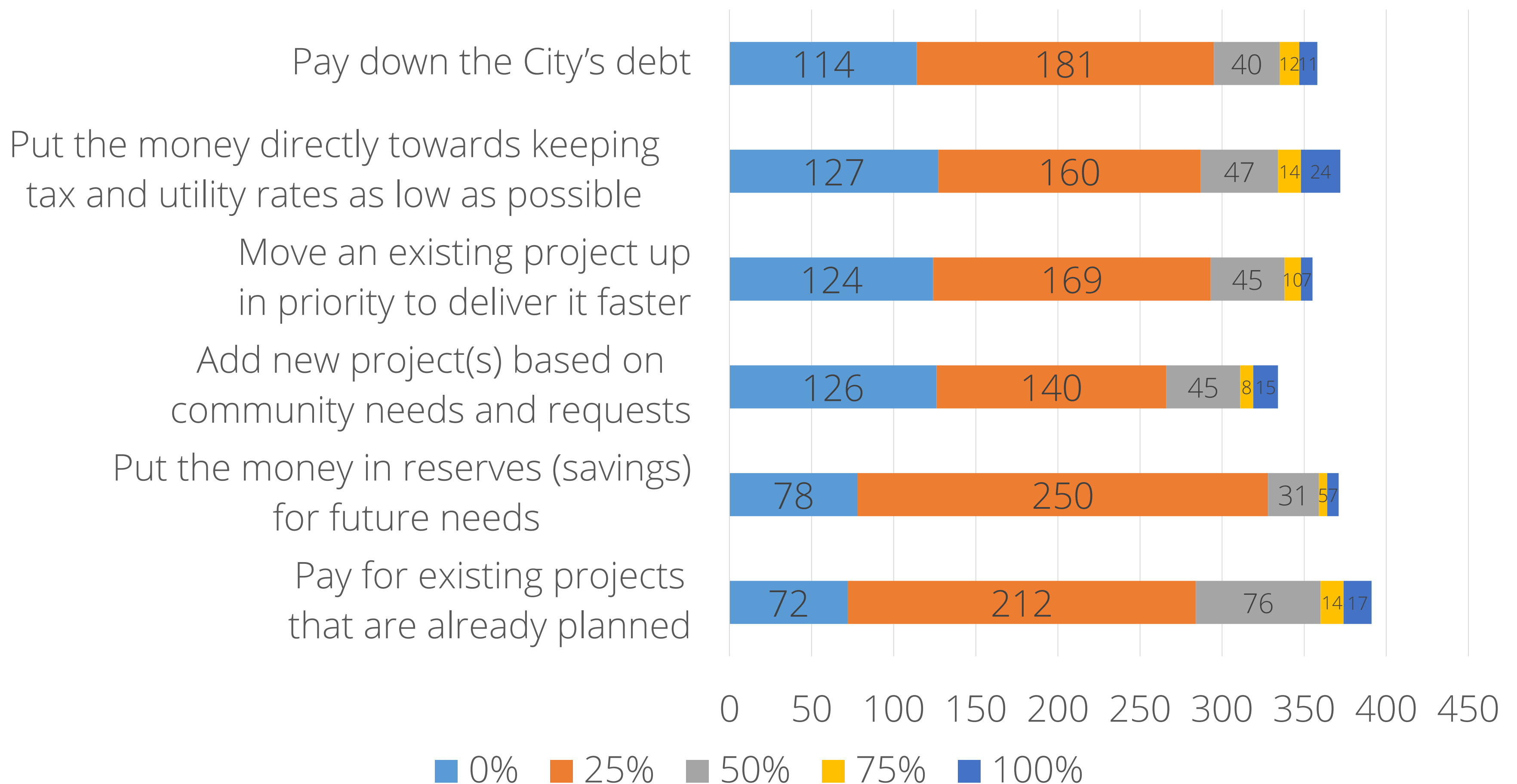
What we heard: Survey

Capital projects ranked No. 1

Capital Project Category	Project Type Ranked #1 (most important)
Transportation	Sidewalk repairs, new sidewalks and expanding pedestrian areas
Parks Improvement	Tree planting in parks, public lands and city boulevards
Facilities and Amenities	Repairs and upgrades to existing civic buildings and facilities
Utilities	Sewer separation work
Climate Action-Related	Building retrofit and heat pump incentive programs for property owners

What we heard: Survey

Generally, when the City receives unexpected funding, how would you prefer we allocate it?



Next Steps

- Detailed Engagement Summary Report, plus participants' written comments and full workshop notes available on Be Heard page
- Staff already reviewing and considering engagement input as work to develop 2024 budgets begins
- Engagement input will continue to be reviewed as Council workshops on Budget 2024 get underway in October
- Workshops with Council are open to public viewing
- Updates will be posted to the Be Heard page