

Budget 2022 - Public Feedback

1	<p>Fender just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Reduce budget for the NWPD and focus on areas that promote equity/increasing funding for emergency services that do not employ violence (e.g. fire dept), increase budget for parks to create accessible green spaces in all neighborhoods of all income levels</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3M6S2</p>
2	<p>sjt just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Once again, residents of Queensborough would ask you consider different options for us when it comes to things like increasing property taxes. We are not like the rest of New West. We don't have access to the same city services. We don't have easy access to the same facilities (which is incredibly apparent when you look at our lack of even grocery and financial institution options). We have unique traffic troubles that the rest of the city is not faced with and we rarely get the same infrastructure attention like road, sidewalk and park maintenance. There's a reason why the homes cost less here. Not to mention a 4.4 per cent increase is a significant jump and therefore a hardship. Thank you for listening</p>
3	<p>Brownie just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Seems like a responsible budget as always should be less than 5% especially with today's inflation rate. How has the Canada Games closure effected revenue/expenses in the 2022 budget?</p>
4	<p>deepspace just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>1. The highest capital expenditure is for affordable housing. While this is an important priority, many residents feel that New Westminster is shouldering a disproportionate amount in this regard. The City should place much more pressure on senior governments and neighbouring cities (especially large cities like Burnaby) to provide funding for affordable housing. 2. There are reportedly only about 6</p>

	<p>police officers on patrol in the entire city at any given time. A \$34 million budget seems excessive for that level of service, especially considering wait times of an hour or more on the non-emergency police line. Perhaps we need fewer shiny vehicles standing idle behind the police station and more officers, or better yet, spend some of this funding on mental health and addiction intervention.</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3L0B3</p>
5	<p>slechner just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Hello, I see in the report that the police budget accounts for approx 24% of expenses. However from what I've read in news items, the police department has not been asked to reduce spending or work within a constrained budget environment. They received a \$1M additional funds from 2021 to 2022, and steady increases in subsequent years. The police service should be accountable to budget limitations as any other city service, especially one that only provides services to a limited population (their primary enforcement objective seems to rely on corporate interests, anti-poverty/loitering bylaws).</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3L1W3</p>
6	<p>Hello,</p> <p>The proposed increase is very huge. With rising costs of food and housing, current owners and tenants would have to look to move somewhere else.</p> <p>Also, proposed costs are the services that are not really needed! We prefer to be over our roof rather than spend millions of dollars on drug addicts! <small>text remove because of inappropriate language</small></p> <p>Please stop wasting our money on the services we don't need! We also need money and have family to feed!</p> <p>JY</p>
7	<p>Jango just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>I'm fed up with this council increasing property taxes and decreasing our services. You have to go searching for a garbage can in the city. Half of them have been removed. Our recycling station is gone and we're expected to drive through a major truck intersection to drop off our recycling in Coquitlam. Our pool and fitness centre is closed. And you decide to use the savings hiring more staff for diversity stuff</p>

	<p>rather than to find a way to replace the fitness centre elsewhere in the city. And you want to (without any consultation as usual) to halt fitness classes in the Community Centre. Everything you do is without thought or forward thinking. How about you start looking after the people who actually pay your wages rather than those that don't. Your priorities seem to be developers and anyone other than tax payers.</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3L5W1</p>
8	<p>Jango just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Yesterday, December 19th I left my home to go for a hike in Port Moody at 8:30am. The roads were ice. No salting whatsoever had been done. All roads from Royal to Columbia were blocked off due to ice. I saw four pedestrians crossing Royal at Tipperary Park slip and fall. These were older folks either going to church or trying to get to the sky train. My friend saw two accidents at 4th near 6th Street due to ice and witnessed two pedestrians slip and fall. Once outside of New West, in Coquitlam and Port Moody the roads were salted and safe. AGAIN, what exactly do my taxes pay for. New Westminster seemed to be the only City that didn't bother salting the roads and people were injured because of it.</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3L5W1</p>
9	<p>Farad R just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedbackI'm disgusted that your raising the rates. In times like this, you should be showing your ability to cut what you can't afford, JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3L3T3</p>
10	<p>garthtce just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>I noticed that 1 out of every three dollars collected in property tax was going towards police services. This alarming number could be reduced by increasing the property tax, or lowering the Police budget. I recommend both, as it would increase the ability of the City to supply services to its citizens.</p>
11	<p>Calico just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p>

	<p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Not happy about this considering the huge hike in crime in New West that has personally affected us, twice this past year. Our house & car were hit within 6 weeks of moving into our new house. We had to eat the loss to prevent our deductibles/insurance costs rising more. In addition, 3/5 of the contractors we hired for our reno also experienced vandalism. Our roofer lost all his tools that were locked up in our backyard and 2 of our workers had their cars keyed, twice! (All was reported to NRPD). I would like to see what the city proposes to REDUCE crime & theft to take care of the victims of attracting more homelessness to New West by opening more shelters...</p>
12	<p>ConaughtHeightsresident just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>The highest percentage (29%) of New Westminster residents on the survey had answered with the tax increase being 3% (rate of inflation). The proposed 4.4% by Council is not paying attention to the survey and suggests the survey is done for optics only. Because we are still very much in a pandemic and this has caused financial stress on many New West residents, the Council should reconsider their proposed increase and set it at 3% which would allow maintenance of current services. When the pandemic is over the city can look at where the increase should be set at but not before</p>
13	<p>Vicarious just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Why are we doing unnecessary side projects like the pedestrian scramble at 6th and 6th, bike lanes down 6th and beautifying the 6th street sidewalks if we're short enough on budget to require a property tax increase? Either scrap some of the pointless pet projects or figure out how to make the budget work. The residents shouldn't be having to foot the bill for something that won't improve their life in any capacity.</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3M5Z8</p>
14	<p>VI Boy just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>I understand the city's finances are complex, so I do not want to seem overly</p>

	<p>simplistic in my comments, but in my view a tax increase of 4.4% is excessive. The City ought to be focussing its priorities on the basics - utilities (water, sewer, electrical), streets maintenance and public safety. Having said that, it is my view that too much of the City's expenditures are devoted to Police and Fire services. While I am not an advocate of "defunding" police, it appears to me as if the police service is holding the city to ransom with its budget requirements. These are tough times financially, and tough decisions need to be made. One other example is Parks and Recreation. While the City has an impressive array of park facilities and recreation programs, again there needs to be a focus on core services. We cannot be all things to all people. In my opinion, the City's tax increases should be more in line with the rate of inflation, and these (admittedly general) comments are offered in that spirit.</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3M6C5</p>
15	<p>pj just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>It seems like the majority of owners want a cost of living increase or a decrease of property taxes so why is this band <small>text remove because of inappropriate language</small> raising it 4.4 %??</p>
16	<p>Cindy just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Due to the financial struggles of all taxpayers, and the current pandemic situation I am not in favour of any increases at this time. There is already increase in all basic necessities, food, fuel, etc. I am sure council can come up with more creative ways to cut costs not increase them.</p>
17	<p>KC just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Thank you for asking for my feedback on the draft Financial Plan bylaw that will read at the January 10 City Council meeting. While paying increased property and other taxes in not fun, I am willing to pay increases WHEN the fund are targeted for climate action priorities. Given that approximately 41% of greenhouse gas emissions in New Westminster originate from buildings, I strongly urge you to spend what is needed to find a way to accelerate the transition from gas to electric heating. We simply do not have time for New Westminster's current STEP code progression as we need to reduce global emissions by 45% by 2030 to have any hope of achieving net zero by 2050 and thereby keeping our global temperature increase in the 1.5 to 2 degrees Celcius range. Here are some things that other municipalities under the Community Charter are doing that might be helpful for city staff to dig into deeper: LCES on the North Shore District of North Vanc, below, from online North Shore News, December 10 2020 of passing new building regulations https://www.nsnews.com/local-news/district-of-north-van-tightens-greenhouse-gas-regulations-for-new-home-construction-3170645 DNV website: Energy Step Code District of North Vancouver (dnv.org) City of North Vanc, below, from November 25, 2020 of</p>

	<p>passing new building regulations: https://www.nsnews.com/local-news/city-of-north-van-steps-towards-climate-goals-with-new-building-regulations-3149068 CNV website: BC Energy Step Code for New Buildings (cnv.org) District of West Vanc, below https://www.nsnews.com/local-news/west-van-approves-carbon-cutting-policies-3117848 please see March 9, 2020 District West Vanc Council minutes at this link, specifically agenda item 10. 20mar09.pdf (westvancouver.ca) DWV website: BC Energy Step Code District of West Vancouver The LCES is in place in ALL three North Shore municipalities now (as of year 2021).</p>
18	<p>Banshee just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>The tax increase is reasonable, and my property taxes are still very low compared to the taxes I pay to victoria and ottawa through sales tax and income tax and all the other taxes I pay, and are much lower than I paid in Ontario. I hope the city will invest more in new west, in building bike lanes and expanding parks and refreshing schools, and I am happy to help pay for that. I also hope the city will invest in helping the people who are suffering the most in our community, as I look out at the snow falling and think of my homeless neighbors, I cannot believe people comfortable in their homes complain about property taxes.</p>
19	<p>mcj just submitted the survey Comments for Council with the responses below.</p> <p>Leave your feedback</p> <p>Glad to see cycling and greenways have a large portion this year. Would be nice to see the amounts for 2023 onward match this similarly. There's great potential to get more people cycling in this city with the rising popularity of ebikes and escooters!</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Please share your postal code.</p> <p>New Westminster, BC, V3M1A6</p>