

Budget Survey 2026

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

26 September 2025 - 16 October 2025

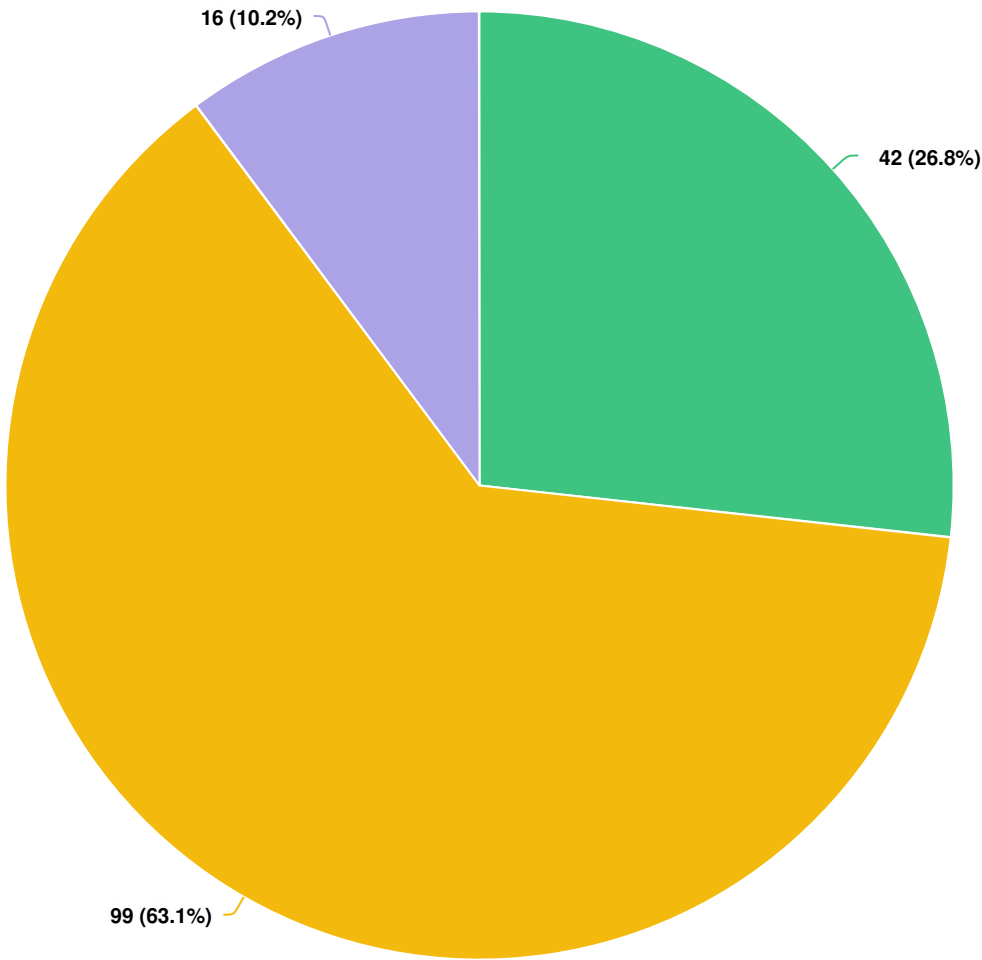
PROJECT NAME:

Budget 2026 Annual Update



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | How well do you feel you understand the municipality's budget and how tax dollars are spent?

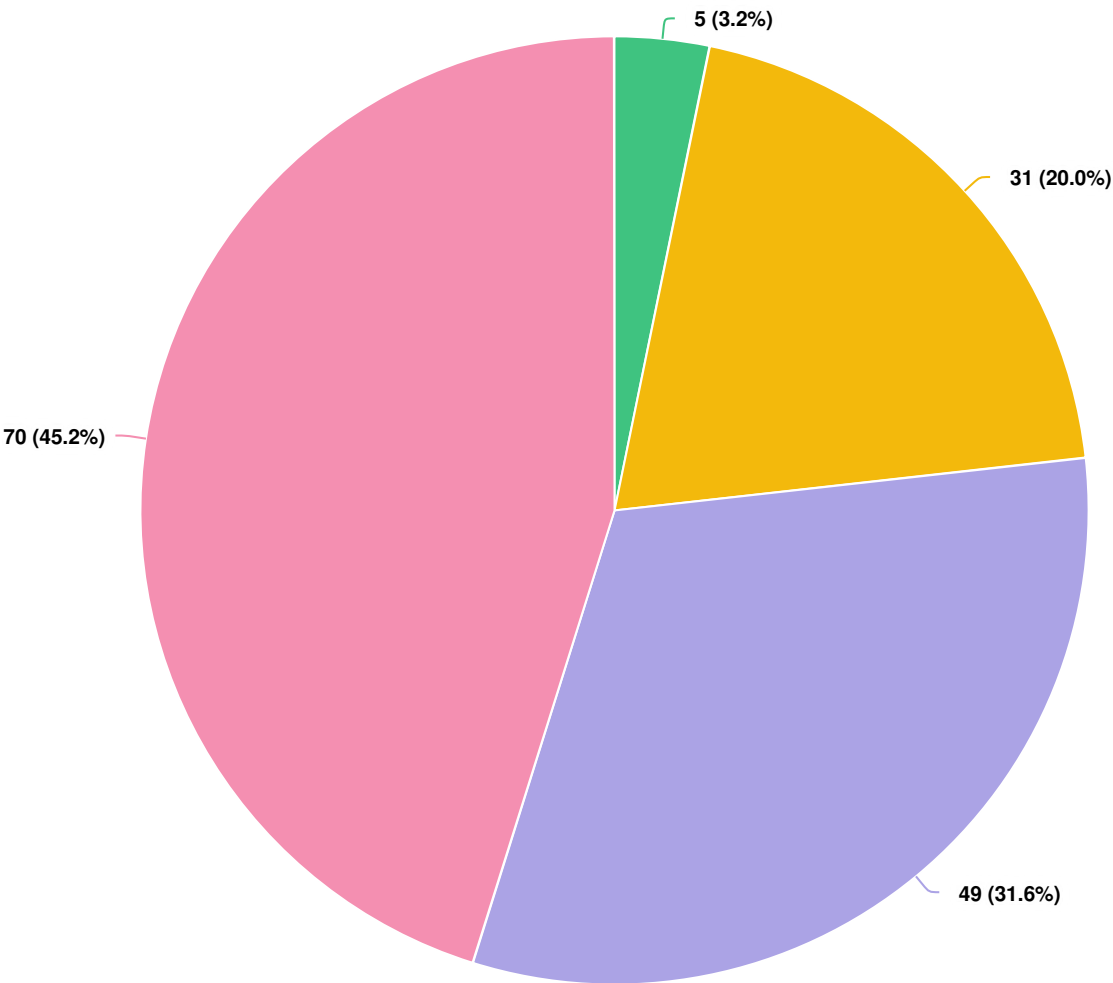


Question options

- I am very familiar with how the municipality's budget is spent.
- I have some understanding of how the municipality's budget is spent
- I am not familiar with how the municipality's budget is spent.

*Optional question (157 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q2 In 2025, the average residential property with an assessment value of \$176,194 paid \$3,709 in property taxes for all municipal services, including roads, sidewalks, pathways and trails, winter control, fire, police, recreation, parks, transit, garbage and recycling. How would you rate the overall value received for your tax dollars?



Question options

Excellent Good Fair Poor

Optional question (155 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 | Comment on any of the questions you just answered (Optional)

Anonymous

9/29/2025 03:27 PM

High tax rates for rural settings with most add on services we received in previous years being removed such as sidewalk plowing.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 03:45 PM

Winter control was nil, city property continues to go unmowed, we are receiving less and less services and yet the taxes steadily increased. Now we are talking about a raise for council when we clearly have a homelessness crisis. Why has a state of emergency not been declared? Your tax payers are afraid to go walk in their own neighborhoods!!!

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:00 PM

Our taxes are some of the highest in the province. My taxes are sky high and I don't have sidewalks or street lights etc. Ridiculous that my taxes are almost a mortgage payment.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:08 PM

Much mentioned is very poor, no pickup for household furniture no longer of value, several days at times getting the snowplow down my street after a bad storm, no sidewalk care in winter (for a senior, this is horrid) .. police at time very slow to act, parks a disaster with garbage and needles; a lot of money with little value , in my opinion

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:16 PM

The Police budget is greater than their expenses and should be trimmed to reflect their true expenses.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:28 PM

We do not have garbage sidewalks curbs paved roads and hardly get any road work done had to scrap the roads and myself to fill in the pot holes.If we're taxed on the base with no service we're getting screwed big time

Anonymous

9/29/2025 05:27 PM

Our taxes keep increasing yet service decline. Example garbage pick up and recycling. The changed being made decrease wanted service and put in and extra service not wanted. Recycling cost is no longer the responsibility of the municipality so residents are not allowed to drop off at transfer stations and the plan to reduce pick up of actual garbage in the future will negatively affect the community as Wallaceburg is already over run with rats.

Anonymous

Still don't understand what happened with the grow statues?

9/29/2025 07:14 PM

Anonymous

9/29/2025 08:32 PM

Living in a small community in Chatham Kent, our tax money is too high for the very little services we receive. Chatham is priority and is wasteful with all of the other communities tax money.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:09 PM

I understand the amount of infrastructure makes it tough to take on other major priorities.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:16 PM

Park maintenance is utterly abysmal for example.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 11:11 PM

Roads and sidewalks are in bad conditions. And bike lanes are marked poorly and in some cases, it doesn't even exists.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:00 AM

Poor garbage collection, very high property taxes for very little return! Many homeless in area now with increased crime! I do not feel safe in my own city

Anonymous

9/30/2025 08:30 AM

Smaller towns outside of Chatham are not getting as many updates

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:16 AM

I pay over 5,000 with no sidewalks, no storm sewers, no curbs - seems odd to be paying such a premium with little infrastructure on the street

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:19 AM

Even though tax has been increased enormously not spending that amount in right way.. For example even if ask for simple things like street parking issue their reply was very surprising that they don't have staffs to look for it even after constantly asking for a month.. I dont have to pay for a service that you are not providing.. so refund the taxes that we already paid.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:27 AM

I get garbage pick up every week and that's it. The roads I drive are awful. I pay double this amount in taxes and get nothing for my money

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:53 AM

Awful wasteful spending of tax dollars

Anonymous

taxes need to level off, being a pensioner, it is hard to keep paying

9/30/2025 12:15 PM

more

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:16 PM

Road and grass maintenance on our road lacks. Having to call or stop winter and road maintenance personal reminding them of where the road goes to, as many times they stop short. This is for a 91 unit apartment building. As well with all the other apartment buildings on this street there should be a side walk to them. This is for about 350 units. I feel that there should be more support or running community events to celebrate things such as Canada day, and other things. This is a reverse for the "city" of Chatham. Smaller communities pull together and put of great events and activities and can do so due to scale. However there is no one organization that is large enough for the most part to so in Chatham.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:43 PM

I would like to see additional dollars spent on the development of affordable and supportive housing within our community,

Anonymous

9/30/2025 01:27 PM

Our policing is terrible as we never see police anywhere in our neighbourhoods. Other services like curbside collections reduced.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 01:37 PM

We pay more every year- yet we get less services- we live in the country and cut all the grass ourselves along the ditches and fields because you only cut them once a year-yet I'm going your job plus paying more in taxes!

Anonymous

9/30/2025 02:07 PM

Potholes continue to be an issues across the Muni. McNaughton Rd has been seen enormous increases in traffic but no resurfacing and just fighting potholes as they come up

Anonymous

9/30/2025 02:19 PM

taxes are far too high compared to other municipalities

Anonymous

9/30/2025 02:33 PM

Taxed way too high for the area I live in. House values in town need to be recalculated to what the current market is. Meaning homes valued at less than \$50000 that are currently selling for \$250000 aren't paying there fair share.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 04:51 PM

We have terrible parks and recreation services, our roads are not in good condition and we pay a lot more property taxes then most communities.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 05:17 PM

I live in Wheatley. I am a low income senior. Service is a misnomer.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 06:01 PM

Some of it does not pertain to rural area

Anonymous

9/30/2025 06:11 PM

Streets are falling apart cold patching does not work.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 08:22 PM

For number 3, I live in a rural area with the worst road conditions I have encountered over the past 45 years, do not have access to garbage, recycling, sidewalk, transit, pathways and trails and limited recreation.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:49 AM

needs not wants

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:24 AM

Taxes increase every year and services aren't improved

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:36 AM

The extreme increases in property tax are not sustainable to homeowners and will drive residents away. As well, council continues to spend taxpayer dollars on items taxpayers do not want to spend funds on. They are not listening to the people that contribute to the tax base.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:59 AM

Taxes are too high with large portion of them funneled into the city of Chatham versus into small towns and rural communities. It is the mix of urban and rural that has always made Chatham-Kent a unique community.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 08:40 AM

I could not do the job so I wouldn't complain about those who do.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:03 AM

I've been lobbying for almost a year a now trying to get a speed limit sign posted on Keil Drive West (the new extension) to no avail. Because we live in a new home on a postage size lot, 60'x120' our taxes are worst than properties along the river front in Chatham. The system is BROKEN. We currently have our home for sale & will NOT be staying in CK.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:14 AM

The money isn't spent where it actually needs to go

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:18 AM

Our taxes do not relate to the services we receive. Our taxes are getting out of hand due to municipal government being too large and too costly

Anonymous

10/01/2025 10:07 AM

poorly maintained roads... road hasn't been paved in decades

Anonymous

10/01/2025 10:26 AM

My tax dollars seem to have no police no recreation sidewalks no benefit to Charing Cross

Anonymous

10/01/2025 12:39 PM

As I understand it, we are doing better than those communities that are now a part of the larger GTA but I do not understand that when I look at the amenities of places like St. Thomas or Tecumseh, we seem to lag behind.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:08 PM

Our property taxes are too high. Home owners do not get value for money. There is a lot of waste of our tax dollars. Grass is cut monthly on sidewalks which dead end--we as the property owners already cut this grass eg Victoria Court in Chatham. The snow is shoveled on these same sidewalks.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:09 PM

- police response in non emergency situations just ignored - LOTS of roads in city need to be resurfaced - no idea what happens to our recycling

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:12 PM

As a rural citizen, driving on the country roads in the winter has been difficult to navigate, mainly as a result of winds whipping across fields. Would support the opportunity to plant trees along roads to help negate drifts and low visibility to improve road safety. Lastly, we do not have the services needed for yard waste disposal in Dresden - we need to drive to Wallaceburg to do so. With the high cost of property taxes, would like to see access to these services closer to home. Whether that's through roadside pick up or an alternative route. Do appreciate the new pickle ball courts and investments in some of those services within the community.

Anonymous

Our property taxes are outrageously high and you know it

10/01/2025 02:43 PM

Anonymous

10/01/2025 03:20 PM

Property taxes going up, utilities going up, groceries going up. No wonder there is so many homeless in chatham

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:10 PM

I pay twice that amount on a street with mature trees and never see a street sweeper. Make me feel good and send it by once in a while

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:58 PM

They waste money

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:47 AM

I think a few expenditures could have been cheaper(lights instead of round about at Merlin) problem not solved for accidents as snow passing across road(making road icy) is true reason for collisions there(driving that road for 25+ years) as there is no barriers or trees to stop the snow from traveling across and making area icy.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 09:13 AM

Police budget is out of control- spending is out of line

Anonymous

10/02/2025 09:28 AM

The scale of taxes for higher rated homes should be reduced. It is unfair to pay more based on home value

Anonymous

10/02/2025 12:26 PM

We spend too much on bridges and curbs IMO. I live on Ellwood and our road is in absolute garbage condition. So for me, I do not feel I am getting good value. That's not to say I don't see the big picture, and I don't expect all of my problems to be solved. However, I emailed years ago about Ellwood and my email was forwarded to about 4 different ppl who all passed the buck, so I don't really know who to even reach out to at this point.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 02:34 PM

\$3,709.00 in taxes for a \$176k house, that is ridiculously high. The taxes are completely different to your neighbor.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:49 PM

There is no value for money here. Two-thirds of the budget is provincially mandated, but the one-third council actually controls is performative and wasteful. Public "consultations" are dismissed, damaging trust. Municipally owned corporations like Entegrus spend profits on community projects outside the budget process, however well-intentioned, it looks like sidestepping accountability. Bylaws are passed with no intent to enforce, turning neighbours against

neighbours. That undermines social cohesion. The result: communities openly pushing to leave Chatham-Kent. Bothwell, Ridgetown, Blenheim, Wallaceburg are all exploring separation. That is a visible vote of no confidence in this council. Governance must return to transparency, core services, and enforceable bylaws. Otherwise, this term will be remembered for style over substance.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 10:08 PM

Having lived in a rural community in the past, I do not believe that transit, garbage recreation, pathways , sidewalks were available to us at this tax rate. So, I feel this is a skewed questions based on an average of property values across all our communities

Anonymous

10/03/2025 06:46 AM

We have far too many Municipal employees (management) taking up valuable tax dollars that should be going to all our municipal services. Our roads are disgraceful-potholes, sinkholes, etc.

Anonymous

10/03/2025 07:26 AM

Council willingly overpays their CEO by a vast amount. This proves they have no understanding of how to get value for our tax dollars resulting in us getting poor service and higher than required taxes.

Anonymous

10/03/2025 08:24 PM

Alleys have driveways on them and the residents who's driveways are on the alley also clear the alley because the City doesn't.

Anonymous

10/04/2025 09:00 AM

rural tax dollars are high for services received; roads a big issue; lack of dust control; road maintenance; when huge dollars being spent on very expensive projects in cities, towns,

Anonymous

10/04/2025 11:03 AM

taxes higher than other municipalities for services provided ie) family member with 25 acres and same size house pays less taxes and has garbage pick up, paved road, gas hook up and water service -we do not have garbage pickup (take to the dump our self), gravel road that does not get graded often enough,

Anonymous

10/04/2025 04:28 PM

Sidewalk improvements appreciated.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 01:00 PM

I see an administrative bureaucracy that is a burden to proper development. I see a waning of services that most people have been used to having over the past 27 years. The admin end is bloated and authoritarian.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 03:32 PM

We see no improvements, even with higher taxes. Pushing people to go broke because taxes keep getting raised

Anonymous

10/09/2025 11:55 PM

We pay so much in taxes in comparison to neighbouring communities. A lot of our land is farmland, and farmers should be paying their 22% like the rest of the province. They were given a tax break in the early 2000's when they were struggling but now residents are struggling. Everyone should be paying their share, As well, the road outside our house is a patchwork quilt, and we pay a lot of taxes. It is a very busy road and getting busier with all of the new development.

Anonymous

10/13/2025 07:58 PM

Taxes need to go lower compared to other communities Chatham Kent is way higher

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:12 PM

Sidewalks are not safe in the winter Issues with the company that collects recycling- they have damaged both my boxes, they leave recyclable items behind

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:30 PM

We over spend and not in the right areas. Why do we not have a twin pad arena and pickleball courts and soccer fields all in the same location?

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:30 PM

For what we get for taxes, we are paying similar to some very large communities with more substantial budgets

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:31 AM

This municipality seems to enjoy increasing taxes for pet projects. Grossly over paid employees that really accomplish nothing but create red tape. I am seriously looking into other areas outside of CK as my property taxes have more than doubled since 2017. This municipality is pushing long time citizens out. I have been in Chatham for 55 yrs. Now it is unaffordable.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:47 AM

Taxes are way too high with nothing really being fixed, poorly budgeted.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:02 AM

We have to get control of the spending especially for staffing and policing. There are some very good things that can come out of this years budgeting and I am hopeful that we can look to stabilize

increases as Chatham's mill rate is amongst or the highest mill rate in Ontario. We need to really look at development costs as I know people who are born and raised leaving to build in Lambton Country where costs are 25% or less. Economic Development needs to work with the University of Windsor to get a campus here in Chatham. We also need to find out WHY we are not attracting manufacturing to our community and find a solution that is quick and easy to implement. We are a great community and we just need to tweek the taxes to be more competitive. The timing is perfect to do it now.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 11:21 AM

Painting murals is an example of the waste. A new civic hall that doesn't need to be replaced

Anonymous

10/14/2025 03:02 PM

Need clarity in \$\$ spent on cleaning up after the homeless/ encampments. City needs to get more housing in place so they can get rid of the encampments. Those who choose to not be housed- the city needs to have an exit plan for those individuals. Start making individuals responsible- those who pay taxes are beyond strapped, and tired of carrying excess baggage while we have to deal with our own expenses and those expenses of people who free load. As a senior, it's getting harder financially to keep up the bills while trying to help your own family who needs a lift up every now and again. I'm not oblivious to what is happening around Canada. From watching the city council meetings, Chatham almost made progress but chose to take steps backwards in the encampments. I'm not heartless- but taking a stand to help people versus coddling will not work. From experience- I've made hard decisions that I cried at night to help my child. He is now an adult, kids of his own and thankful for the life we gave him.. hard decisions and all. Not giving in showed love. Unfortunately, our government has become soft & people get away with too much. Maybe put into place that if people want the freedom/ food- whatever, they should have to work for it. Off topic- in USA years ago while travelling in Port Huron, Michigan, we seen the people from jail picking up garbage along the highway. Maybe that is something that they need to start doing in Canada to have those in jail or those who are on assistance can start doing those kinds of cleanups. Sign a waiver – give them gloves bags and extended grabbers start picking up the junk. Last week at the beach, we seen a school bus do that as part of their class at the lake. That was great to see – that's something that could be implemented on a local level. Start having people do things for their money so they can learn to make a living and it could help them to start feeling better about themselves.

Anonymous

Can't remember the last time a patrol car came down my street and

10/14/2025 06:47 PM

when we do ask for some assistance, it just gets lip service.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 06:55 PM

The maintenance is not adequate for the amount of taxes paid. Meaning, work should be done better for the same amount of tax dollars. Priorities need to be reviewed and public input fully considered.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:37 PM

Our street is the last to get plowed. New houses built on our street were never finished in the exterior property. The builders never planted grass, never finished their driveways with pavement. The grass never get cut, weeds grow beyond control. Cars park on both sides of the street and on the boulevard making it difficult to drive down the street. Dangerous for kids to play.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 09:53 AM

Rural residents do not have the benefit of the majority of services listed above.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:10 AM

We pay a higher municipal property tax rate than most other municipalities in Ontario, and Canada in general. While it can be attributed to low commercial and industrial tax base; this only goes to show the failures of administrations over the past 20+ years at attracting a diverse range of business and industry. The large manufacturing losses we've sustained appear to forever be the burden of our taxpayers.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:14 AM

Regarding question 2. If the houses today are reassessed at the current market price would the property taxes double and triple in price? The above services do not change at all.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 12:23 PM

my house taxes are \$6,271.79. My street is rarely cleaned in the winter, street lights aren't any brighter in my neighborhood, garbage pick up is no different than in any other neighbourhood crime in my neighbourhood is worse than other areas of Chatham with lower taxes.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:29 PM

I made the mistake of building a new house in 2017/18...my taxes today are \$22,000 and that's not a typo ! I could have built the same house in Lambton Township and my taxes would be less than half that amount. I feel discriminated against, and the administrations argument will be that I'm paying my 'fair share' based on the mill rate, that other new builds are proportional, and it's not their fault my taxes

are so obscene.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:31 PM

Very few homes with assessed value of 176,194. Tax increases are too high for value received. Services for road are very poor. Winter control is questionable.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:58 PM

Not enough money towards policing, crime and illegal drugs being done out in the open in parks and pathways making it unsafe for children to play outside. Poor winter de-icing of sidewalks.

Anonymous

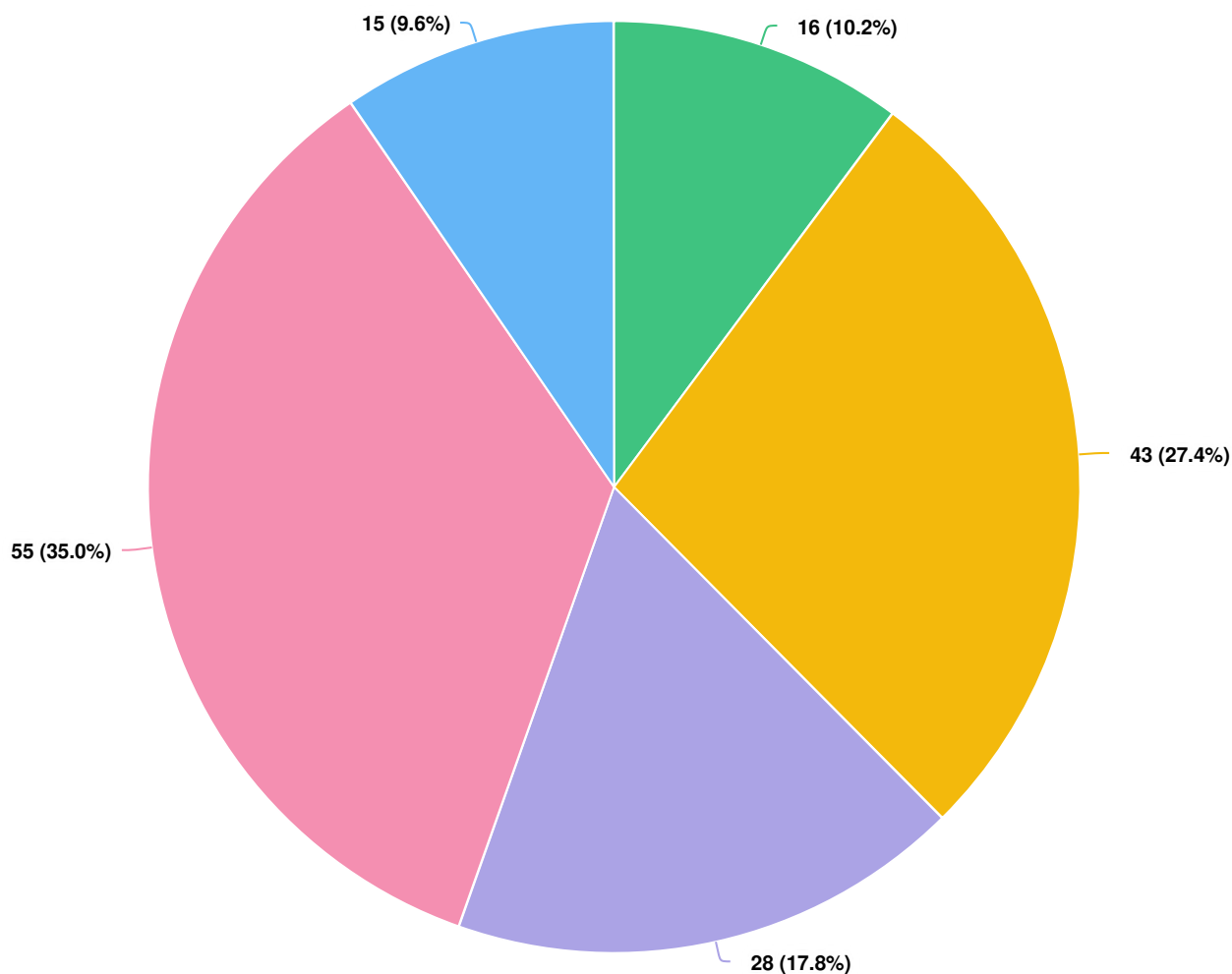
10/15/2025 10:23 PM

I don't think this house value is correct for taxes paid

Optional question (85 response(s), 72 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q4 The 2026 budget update will include consideration of an additional \$33 million to accelerate the conversion of gravel roads to hard surface in 2027-2029. Hard surfaced roads provide a higher level of service to residents and road users, including a more reliable and comfortable ride while reducing dust. Accelerating the program can also deliver long-term financial and operational benefits by avoiding escalating annual construction costs.



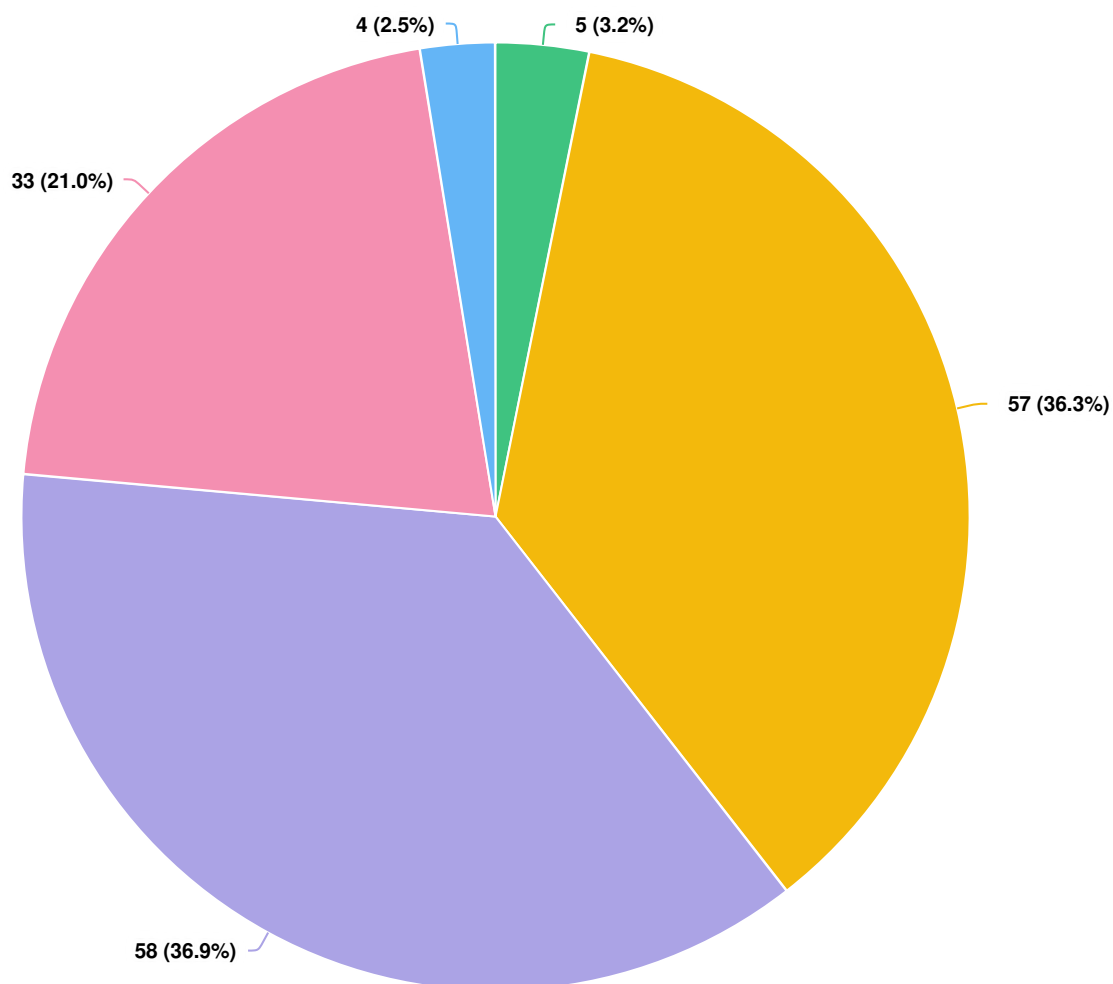
Question options

- Very important - should be a top priority in the budget
- Somewhat important – should be considered among other priorities
- Neutral – no strong opinion either way
- Not very important – other priorities should come first
- Not important at all – should not be included in the budget

Optional question (157 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q5 Thinking about public infrastructure (roads, bridges, parks, arenas, libraries) you use regularly, how would you describe the overall condition of public assets in our community?



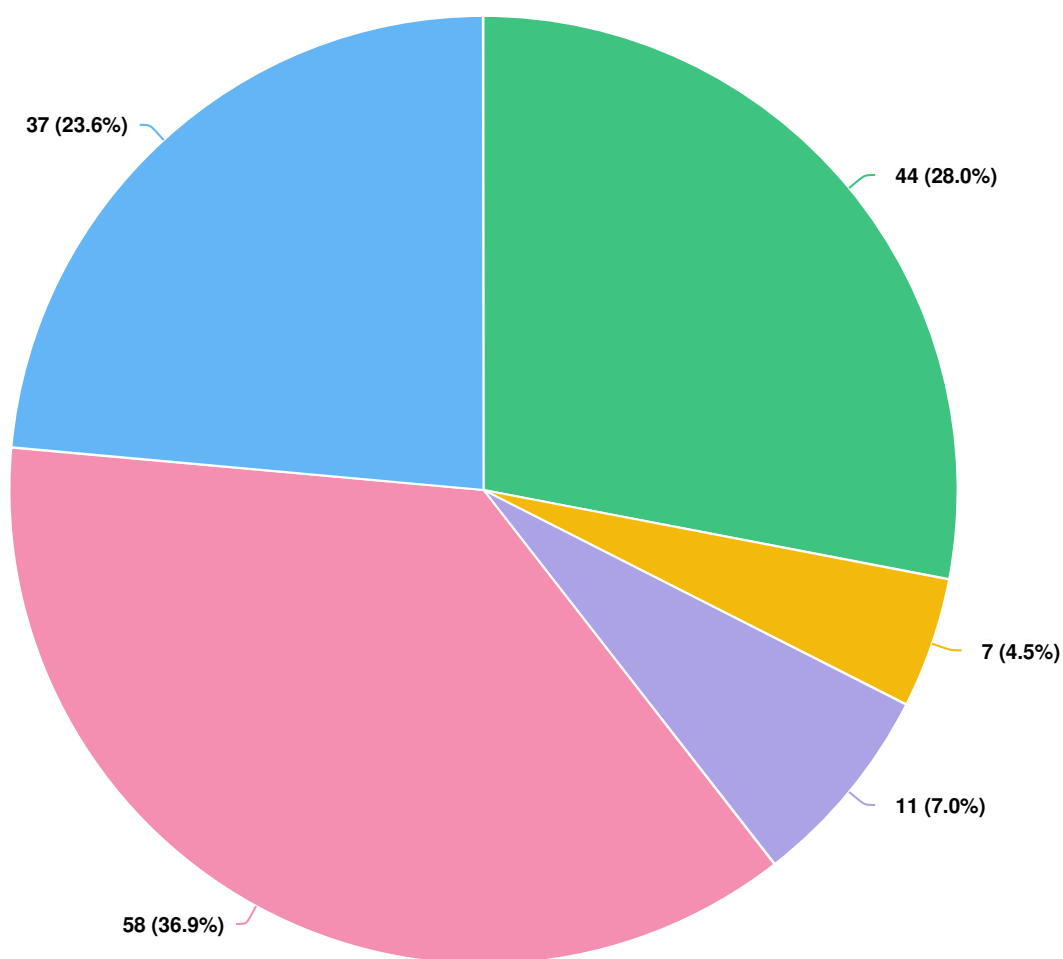
Question options

- Excellent – assets are well-maintained and meet community needs
- Good – assets are generally in good condition with some areas needing improvement
- Fair – assets show noticeable wear and tear and required more upkeep
- Poor – many assets are in bad condition and need major repair/replacement
- Very poor – Assets are unsafe or inadequate and need urgent attention

Optional question (157 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q6 Currently Chatham-Kent faces an infrastructure funding gap of \$2.4 billion over the next 10 years. This represents the difference between what Chatham-Kent currently spends on its infrastructure compared to what it should spend to maintain current levels of service. Managing the gap over time is critical to maintaining levels of service or the consequences may be that certain levels of service will be considered unsustainable. To address this, which options would you most support?



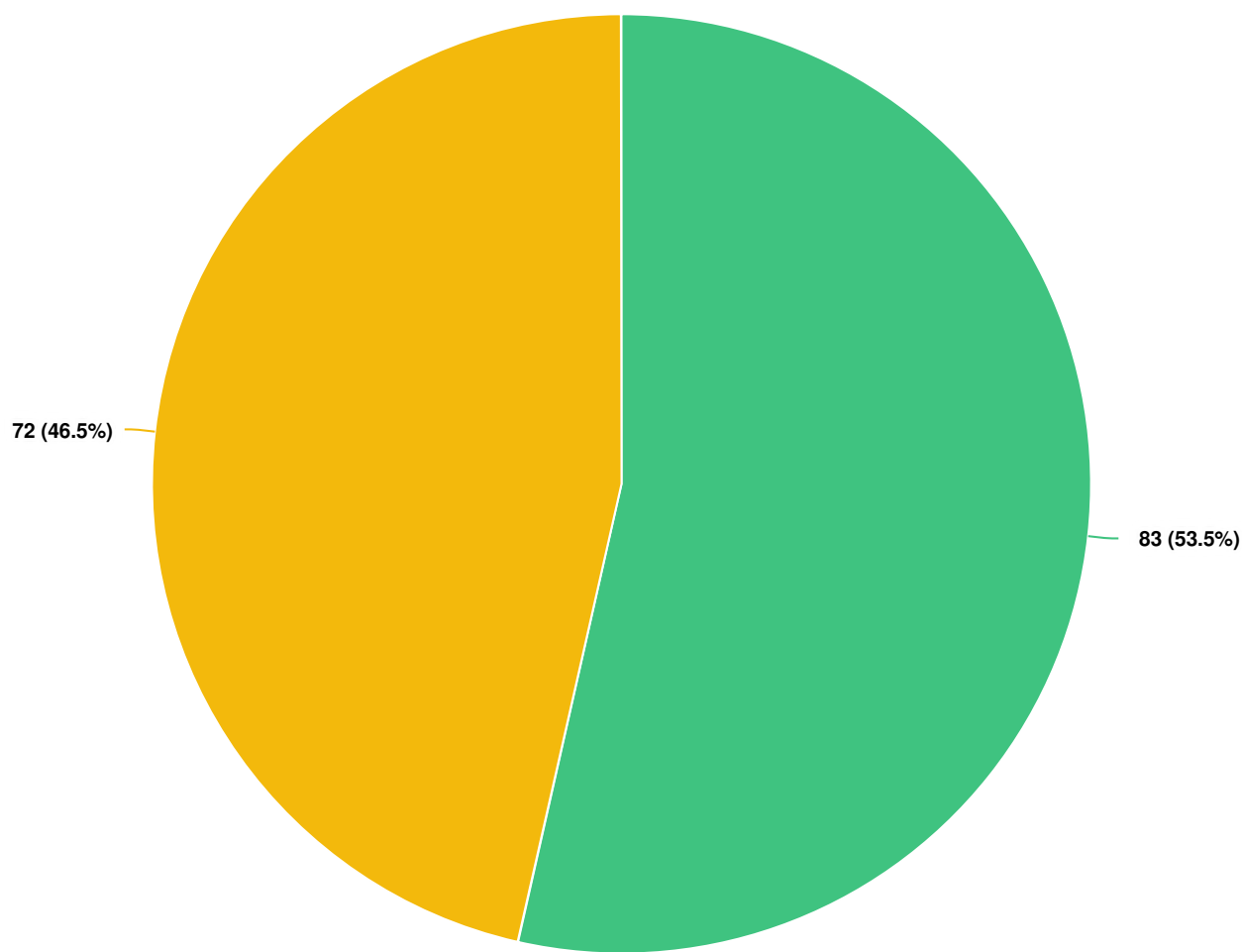
Question options

- Reduce certain levels of service
- Increase property taxes and/or user fees annually
- Borrow funds through debt financing
- Balanced combination of the above options
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (157 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

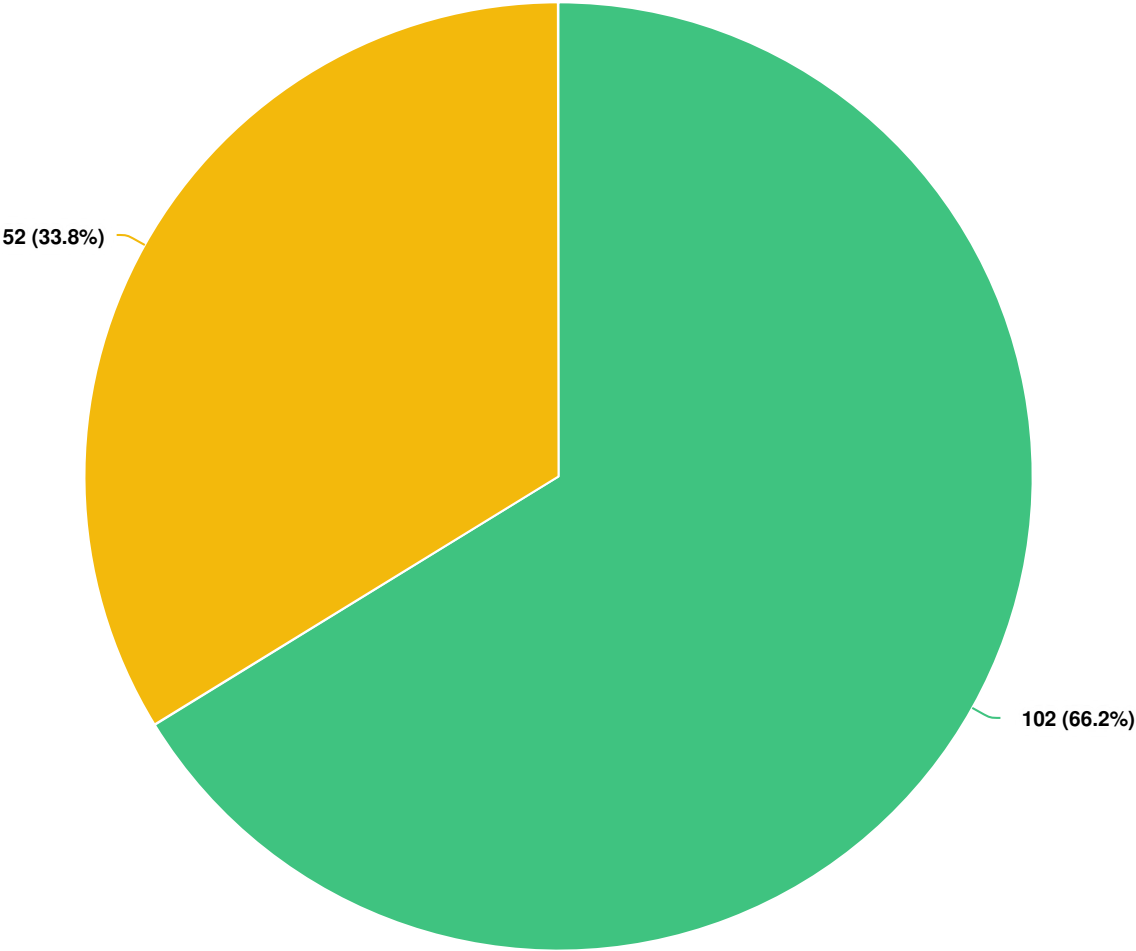
Q7 Unlike a home mortgage, municipalities are forever entities and therefore the tax burden of new municipal assets such as expanded affordable housing, major recreation facilities and major water and wastewater plant expansions are not meant to be borne by only the current property owners. It is often better to consider debenturing major capital projects and spreading the cost of repayment over multiple generations who gain the benefit. Would you support an increased use of responsible debt to support the construction of limit new major capital projects?



Question options
☒ Yes ☐ No

Optional question (155 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q8 The Municipality of Chatham-Kent annually receives \$10M assistance for infrastructure projects from the Province under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, even though by the Province’s own calculations it should be receiving \$29.5M. There are three amalgamated communities in Ontario that have an artificial funding cap imposed by the Province at \$10M. Neighbouring counties and lower tier municipalities do receive collectively more than \$10M. Chatham-Kent Council has lobbied for the removal of the \$10M cap for years and the additional \$19.5M annually would have significant impacts on the improvement of our assets across all of Chatham-Kent. Will you contact your MPP and let them know that CK should receive its full OCIF allocation of approximately \$29.5M?



Question options

☒ Yes ☐ No

Optional question (154 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q9 | Comment on any of the questions you just answered (Optional)

Anonymous

9/29/2025 03:27 PM

Split ck into 2or 3 separate municipalities. The current land size of ck is to large to tax fairly with small border communities funding city of chatham items with no real benefit to our smaller communities. The amalgamation is no longer in our benefit looking at ontario's funding cap

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:08 PM

I can't stress strongly enough how I feel about the foolish spending I see in our municipality, while millions is being blown on things we don't need. Stop it!

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:16 PM

Are you guys crazy wanting to spend over \$200 million on the recreation master plan. We have pressing housing, water/waste water, transportation, etc. issues and the interest alone on the debentures would be prohibitive!

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:28 PM

Our MPP is in it for himself and the pension he will get the conservative government hasn't done that much for Chatham Kent in years

Anonymous

9/29/2025 05:27 PM

#7 needs the option of yes and no, for life important things such as water yes and no to sports and rec. When building new subdivisions there should be a few attached to those new builds to absorb the costs related to what is need to be added to the community

Anonymous

9/29/2025 08:32 PM

Don't waste so much on a useless new town hall that only Chatham will benefit from and put that money where it should go. Infrastructure is important. In person services at a town hall are becoming a thing of the past and a waste of money.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:16 PM

Force a de-amalgamation of Chatham-Kent, that is the main issue.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 11:11 PM

Please consider bike lanes within the hard surface project and overall just a revamp giving more facilitie to bike users, specially now that users are increasing.

Anonymous

Regarding - conversion of gravel roads to hard surface Who does this

9/30/2025 10:16 AM

benefit? The less then 5% of home owners and farmers that receive a tax break already? This is a want, not a need that only benefits a small % of tax payers that purchased land on a gravel road.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:19 AM

Before putting roads and bridges into priority think about the health care system.. how many clinics we have in Chatham? Do you know wait times in emergency? Why don't you cared about people's health before anything. I had to wait for 8hrs at the emergency to see the doctor for my little kid.. no value for people's health regardless of their age.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:23 AM

its not my job to do your work.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:40 AM

Money is used for salaries and not needed investments. Maybe the government sees this. You must be responsible..

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:27 AM

It is not the taxpayers of Chatham's responsibility to give free housing to people who do not want to work or pay their own way. Didn't happen for most of my 60 yrs and worked just fine, why start now with freebees for lazy people. I would've happily endorsed a major building project like a multi sports complex. That would've been the smart thing to do to bring money into Chatham with tournaments but I guess that's too. Tournaments bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars per tournament which would've helped relieve taxes and brought some relief to our community

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:15 PM

maybe

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:16 PM

This should be clearer to the average person. Maybe use socail media and other means to inform residents.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:43 PM

Chatham-Kent could be doing a better job at working with the upper levels of government to receive the appropriate grant dollars available. There certainly are enough are enough staff to be working on these grant applications and lobbying appropriate levels of government for additional and necessary funding.

Anonymous

Perhaps if we looked at responsible spending versus idiotic spending such as the sears mall fiasco, our Pennie's would go further. As for

9/30/2025 01:27 PM

#8, maybe we should explore lower tier options as more rural communities feel left out.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 02:19 PM

I don't have time to contact my MPP and that sounds like something the mayor's office should be doing to advocate for CK residents

Anonymous

9/30/2025 04:51 PM

These questions and statements are misleading to get people to give the answers you are looking for in the survey

Anonymous

9/30/2025 06:01 PM

Do a petition campaign and have them easily available for residents to sign

Anonymous

9/30/2025 06:11 PM

The mayor should be talking to the MPP, instead of trying to get his picture taken every week.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 08:22 PM

Question #4. - the resurfacing of gravel roads. I live on Littlejohn Road and Spence Line in Orford. We have transport trucks that use this road constantly - Rouge River sweet corn, and Johnston Gravel trucks and it is an extremely busy and dangerous road with no brine. This road is not even on the list for resurfacing, but roads near Rondeau Park are. I feel there is an inequality for rural busy roads.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:49 AM

Stop wasting money on pet projects.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:24 AM

It's just shuffling taxes from one entity to another

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:59 AM

In CK there are a lot of employees of the municipality on the sunshine list. A review of staffing and streamlining of these services would be beneficial. Take the cream off the crop and not further delete services that are already limited in smaller and more urban areas which seems to be CK focus. Make use of existing spaces versus spending unnecessary municipal \$ on a hub that benefits Chatham and not the Kent part of the municipality.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:03 AM

Chatham-Kent is geographically too large. The population is way too low. Amalgamation should have NEVER happened!!!

Anonymous 10/01/2025 09:14 AM	It's time to start being more conservative on spending money on wasteful thing such as fancy paint on water towers ,crows statues,benches with names ,poor engineering,public works staff riding around doing nothing,improper road grading ,no catch basin cleaning done
Anonymous 10/01/2025 09:24 AM	Our MP is already aware of the funding cap and has not demonstrated an ability to have it changed.
Anonymous 10/01/2025 09:29 AM	Dougy only cares about Toronto.
Anonymous 10/01/2025 10:58 AM	CK may want to provide a list of local MPPs, their contact information, and a form letter for contact regarding OCIF funding.
Anonymous 10/01/2025 11:00 AM	The key word in the above questions is "responsible". It appears that our Municipality is more interested in spending money on the new pretty things that benefit a small number of residents rather than spend money on improving what we already have and giving a better quality of services to the majority. That is NOT responsible.
Anonymous 10/01/2025 12:39 PM	This is where it begins to get frustrating. I do not have confidence that anything I offer here will be acknowledged, let alone taken seriously. First suggestion - rural roads, culverts, bridges, etc. - small family farms are becoming a thing of the past - the roads were originally designed for small family farms - NOW, with corporate acreage, huge pieces of equipment & large tractor trailers - the agricultural conglomerates should be paying for improvements to rural roads - perhaps a user fee or toll - something along that line Second suggestion - quit playing nice with our MPP & MP - no one on council or council itself has the nerve to call out our reps. - make demands they meet council publicly and defend their stance on issues - every reference on council whines about its the province and federal government that is to responsible or a letter was sent and nothing was accomplished. Quit being so wishy-washy - stop worrying about playing politics or offending these people.
Anonymous 10/01/2025 01:09 PM	not sure where traffic lights fall but some are not working properly and haven't - mentioned this in last year's survey - the traffic light at Grand & St Clair still thinks a vehicle is turning left onto Grand from St Clair although no vehicle is there - delaying traffic on both sides of St Clair - "hyping" have coloured lights on 3rd street bridge but can't have traffic lights working - priorities

Anonymous 10/01/2025 02:43 PM	It is useless. They'll just do what they want
Anonymous 10/01/2025 06:10 PM	Spend within your means. Quit blaming things on other levels of government.
Anonymous 10/01/2025 07:17 PM	You wouldn't be as short of money if you hadn't spent all that extra on a new city hall.
Anonymous 10/01/2025 07:58 PM	Stop wasting money
Anonymous 10/02/2025 06:47 AM	Balanced combinations should only if you do your best to get to work on the property taxes (keeping them as low as possible)
Anonymous 10/02/2025 09:28 AM	Property Taxes need to be reduced. Reduce spending and thin the herd on municipal payroll
Anonymous 10/02/2025 12:26 PM	Our parks are terrible. I mean the actual playgrounds for kids. I travel to other cities and am amazed at some of their parks. And these are not massive communities. We have Kingston Park, and then its slim pickings for a decent park.
Anonymous 10/02/2025 06:49 PM	There was a misguided push to reduce us to one MP — which will likely mean just one MPP once the province redistributes ridings to match federal boundaries. That was shortsighted. At one time, Chatham-Kent had one of the strongest MPPs in the legislature, and people here seemed to forget that. By arguing to shrink our voice, we've ended up with exactly that: less representation and less influence. The results speak for themselves — our current representative has shown little ability to deliver for Chatham-Kent within Doug Ford's government.
Anonymous 10/02/2025 06:57 PM	Live with in your means like the rest of us
Anonymous 10/02/2025 10:08 PM	It seems as though we are falling behind in our infrastructure. We need to maintain our recreation, roads, multiple bridges and make sure our rural folks are provided the services they deserve in order to

keep and attract to our community. Socially, we are doing a great job, but as far as infrastructure goes we are not. I understand the reason for the disconnect, but we need to do better. I also own property in northern Ontario who still thrive on the small community budget and our roads and service there far exceed what I am seeing in CK

Anonymous

10/02/2025 10:42 PM

4) fixing and maintaining already hard surfaced roads should take precedence over creating newly paved roads

Anonymous

10/03/2025 10:32 AM

I believe the provincial/federal government should be paying for more affordable housing not the municipality. I support infrastructure for water and waste water but should also look to provincial government for major expansions. I support recreation developments.

Anonymous

10/03/2025 01:31 PM

Our MPP should be well aware of public opinion already

Anonymous

10/03/2025 08:24 PM

The city has for years said it was going to build affordable housing and it never has. What has it done with the funds it has collected previously for affordable housing projects that they haven't followed through on? The city should spend the money it has collected on what it says it is going to not flights of fancy. The municipality also should be pressuring the provincial govt to raise the funding for Ontario works which is \$733 a month (\$389 shelter allowance) and ODSP which is \$1408 a month (\$599 shelter allowance) to levels where they could afford to pay for somewhere to live. The provincial poverty line is \$2302. Ow and Odsp are far below this amount.

Anonymous

10/04/2025 09:00 AM

the gravel road conversion plan is a short term gain, for such a large amount of money; better spent elsewhere, and I am a rural resident

Anonymous

10/04/2025 11:03 AM

I would be for paving some of the gravel roads within the municipality but question why all would need to be paved and how you would decided what gets paved---highly travelled roads (roads to dump) verses roads that have one home on them (degeest line?) Roads that have businesses verses those that do not. ie) asking about conditions of assets--I may only use in one area of chatham kent and have no knowledge of asects in other areas of our municipality--my poor response does not reflect other wards --provide more information on why our municipality has a cap of 10M More information needs to be provided with your questions to answer them accurately--

Anonymous

10/04/2025 04:28 PM

Didn't love the question asking us to lobby our mpp...??

Anonymous

10/05/2025 04:09 PM

Municipality needs to be contacting MPPs to discuss the funding shortfall, especially if other neighbouring Municipalities collectively receive more than \$10M.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 01:00 PM

The only way to keep taxes in line with current income in Chatham Kent is to keep borrowing at a minimum. We are far too burdened with taxation in C-K as it is.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 03:32 PM

Why do anything when our own counsel doesn't reply to concerns or issues. They just cause more

Anonymous

10/13/2025 07:58 PM

Tax dollars shouldn't be spent on the homeless community instead they should remove the homeless and allow paying tax payers to enjoy parks in the city

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:12 PM

I support expanded affordable housing and spending to improve our water

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:30 PM

Spend the money appropriately

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:30 PM

With the large amount of infrastructure and area to maintain, communities like Chatham should receive more funding

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:31 AM

It seems to be futile to keep contacting our mpp, mp and municipal governments as they only listen to their high contributors. The regular tax paying citizens voices fall on deaf ears.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:47 AM

No point in trying to fix infrastructure, parks and roads and bridges until the homeless issue is dealt with, stop helping them destroy these areas. Not to mention lower the pay out to people in the municipal office who don't need to be payed as much as they are. There are so many things wrong with Chatham Kent that they tend to ignore. Instead they tax people who are trying to make a living — on the verge of becoming homeless due to high taxes on housing, etc. I'm 27 about to be 30 in no time and cannot buy a house in the place I grew up.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:02 AM

Ask us and we will respond with support. I am constantly contacting our Premier, Prime Minister, MPs and MPPs. Ontario doesn't end at London.....we deserve to get what other municipalities are getting and more in my opinion. We didn't ask for this amalgamated mess...it was dictated and they need to pay for part because the square kilometers of our muni dictate the need.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 10:45 AM

Chatham Kent must always consider ways to reduce spending AND that where spending occurs, it is the most value for the taxpayer dollar. A problem with governing bodies of all levels is that those that govern somehow think that the money they receive is theirs to spend, when indeed the funds belong to the taxpayers. To get funding from different 'upper' levels of government is irrelevant. It is still taxpayer money. I realize the municipality scrambles to gain funding from wherever it can but to blame Ontario for a 'fair share' is like Ontario blaming Canada for lack of equalization payments. I suggest a different strategy. How about the municipalities collect the bulk of the taxpayer dollars and then allocate funds to the province and to the feds, respectively. I know it's a long-shot, but the way it's working now just simply isn't (working).

Anonymous

10/14/2025 02:13 PM

No time

Anonymous

10/14/2025 03:02 PM

I've live 60+ years in Chatham Kent. Over the years of the economy has not always been the best, I've always had to watch my pennies. When times were tight – we got rid of cable, we cut back on our groceries, turn the heat down, turned lights off. We live in this Chatham and our house it's probably close to 100 years old. Nothing fancy, no basement. We did a renovation, and found out that the section of the house had been burnt many years ago. It took us 2 1/2 years to do the renovation of our kitchen, which we did not live in as we paid as we went to get the job done. When the city looks at spending huge \$\$ into the sears mall to put all services in 1 place- I have a hard time justifying that kind of spending. Obviously, there is much that the city does not tell the people who live here that goes on behind closed doors. At a time when the economy is bad – it does not make sense to spend this kind of money. Is it necessary- no. Can you make do at the building your in now and change out what needs to be fixed. CKHA spent years redoing wiring, HVAC etc. I worked there during the midst of it so I know it happened. I do not know all the controversy about the Sears mall, City Hall, Mr. Myers, and other big spenders in Chatham. Start capping jobs, capping how much a person can make. It is amazing how those people who make the

most money are the ones that also have the best benefits, access to all kinds of right offs, but it's the little man who pays for everything... Things will never change, but it's something to think about.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 06:47 PM

Any capital project costs needs to be spread over the expected life span of the asset.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 06:55 PM

Accumulating debt should not be the answer. We have a surplus that should be used to offset expenditures like the water upgrades that should have been completed before any housing was built. Council should review priorities and ensure they review the audit that was completed to meet those requirements in proper order. Rural citizens who do not use city water should not be responsible for paying higher taxes to fix city water they will not use. This should be accounted for in our tax bills if this moves forward.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 09:53 AM

You have to stop raising property taxes. You are putting the majority of responsibility on property owners which is very unfair during very difficult times financially. There is waste in the municipality, I see it and employees that work there see it. I was responsible for budgets in a large health care organization. We were never given the opportunity to submit budgets without a defined percentage of increase or decrease. We were never asked - "what do you need?". The majority of the time it was the latter. Management needs to get creative. This is part of their job and they are well paid for it!

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:14 AM

I live in Ward 6 and I am pleased with the services I noticed in my community which required services. The work was completed in a timely fashion. What does the Chief Financial Officer consider is responsible debt? Not everyone earns \$85,000 a year in this Municipality. Chatham-Kent Municipality should lobby louder for more money. Yes, contacting the MPP should be a consideration from taxpayers. Perhaps the Municipality should lobby the Liberal Federal government to send more to this area. The current Federal government has no problem sending money across the pond. It is also your voice that should be louder.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 12:23 PM

The sidewalks on my street were replaced this year, they were perfectly fine. I'm not sure why the municipality decided to change our sidewalks. Projects like this make me wonder what the municipality is spending their money on and why?

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:29 PM

#7 is not a simple yes or no answer. The capital projects that administration perceives as necessary [notice I didn't say the council because they have so little input], are often not necessary. Infrastructure like roads and bridges I get, but extraneous expenses for 'wants' and not 'needs', I cannot accept. Again, it comes down to our disproportionate property taxes, especially for new builds. The only reason I have never invested in properties in C-K is because of the property taxes. My own home taxes should be literally one-half of what I am paying, and at \$11,000....even that is far too high. At my current \$22K, I have to generate \$44K in gross before tax income to be left with the \$22K the municipality expects me to pay. I drive the same roads, have no sewers in the former dover township....what do I get extra for my donation of \$22K ? In the long term, I will not be spending my retirement years in C-K....I want better value for my dollars. We should not spend what we cannot afford.....just like a personal household. We are also 'bloated' with administration and employees.

Anonymous

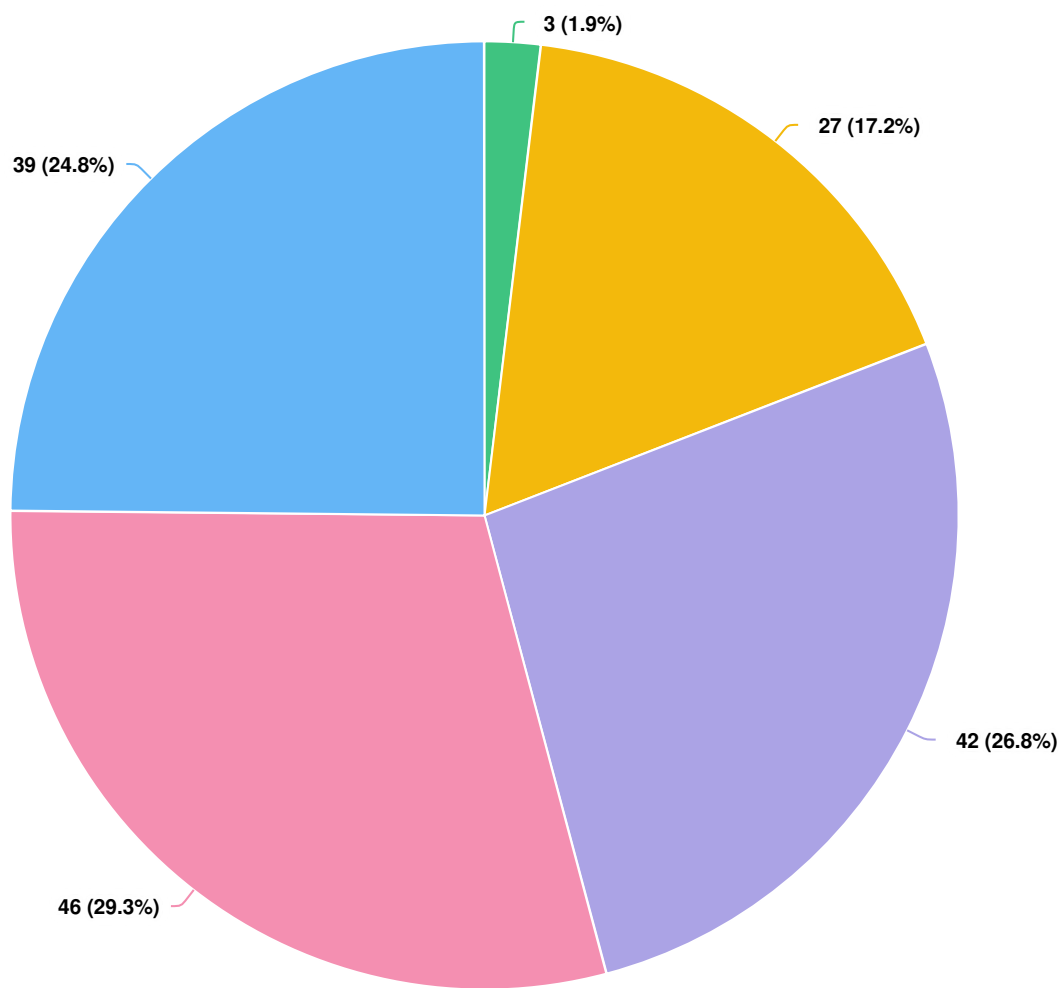
10/15/2025 10:23 PM

We can't afford to keep building affordable homes. People have to start going to work if they can. And alot of people can. This needs to be checked on. 2nd question...our mpp dint care about chatham kent

Optional question (70 response(s), 87 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q10 | How do you think expenses should be covered for providing recreation services such as aquatics programming and recreation camps?

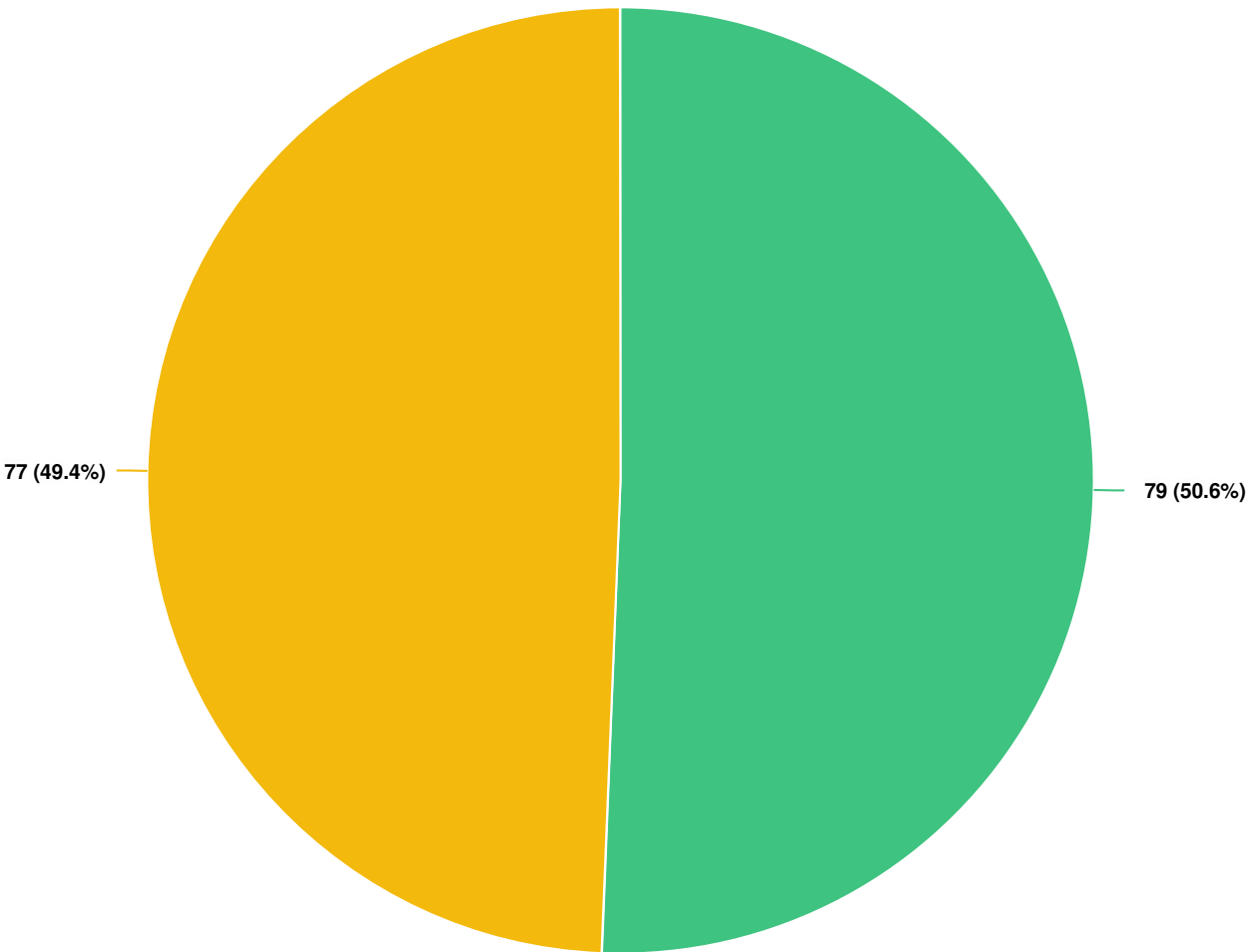


Question options

- All costs should be covered by taxes – service should be free to use
- Most costs covered by taxes – Users pay a small fee
- Split evenly – half paid by taxes and half paid by users
- Most costs paid by the users – taxes cover a small part
- Users should pay the full cost – no tax support

Optional question (157 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q11 Chatham-Kent invests in the arts, culture and special events in many ways, including municipal theatres, galleries and museums, public art, annual grants to special events such as RetroFest, Dresden Night Market and WAMBO, and renting out the Mainstreet Stage to community groups holding larger events. Do you believe that further investment in these areas should remain a priority for Council?

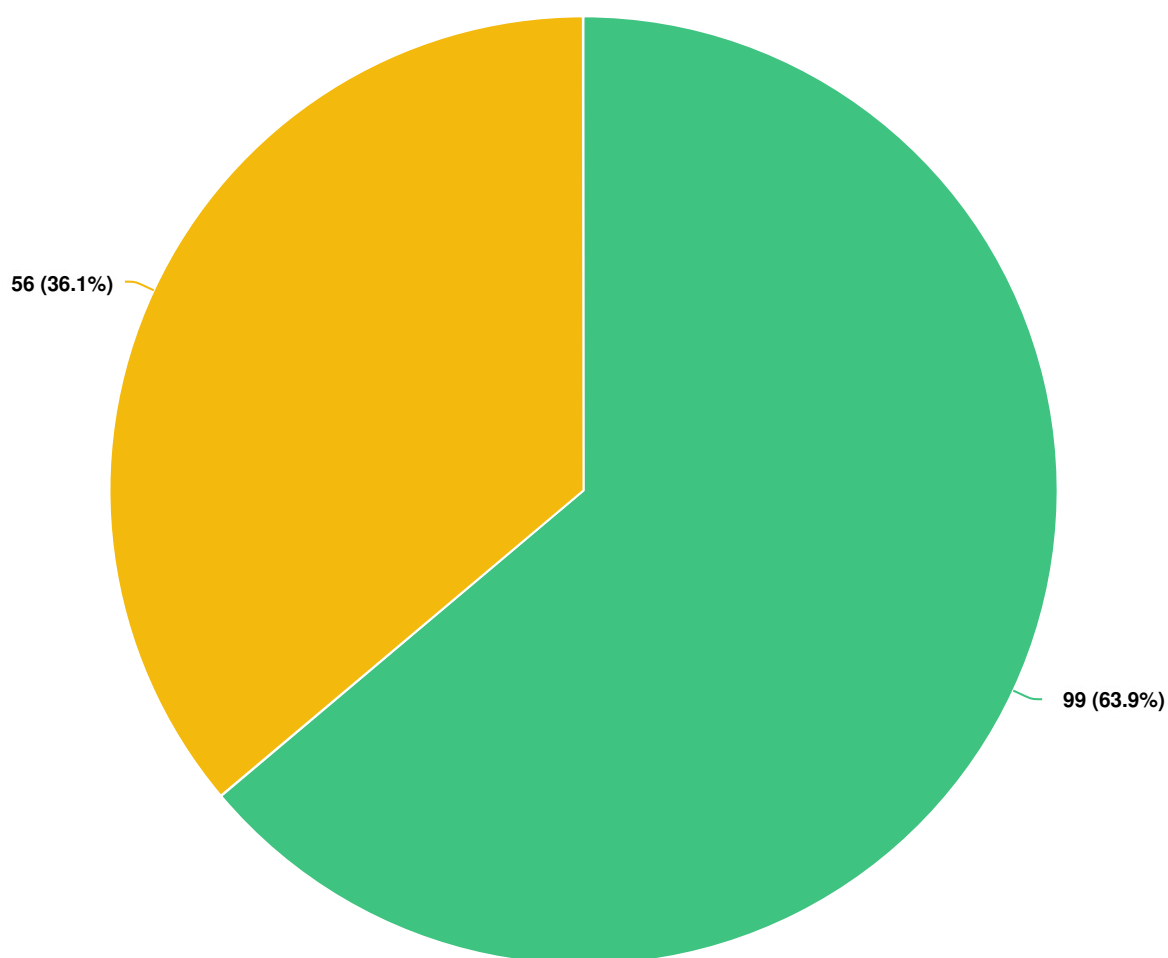


Question options

Yes No

Optional question (156 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q12 Chatham-Kent Public Library operates 11 branches and provides free access to several digital content platforms. In 2024, community residents borrowed 946,772 physical and digital items and participated in 3,210 programs in library branches, schools, parks and other venues across Chatham-Kent. Do you believe that further investment in library services should remain a priority for Council?



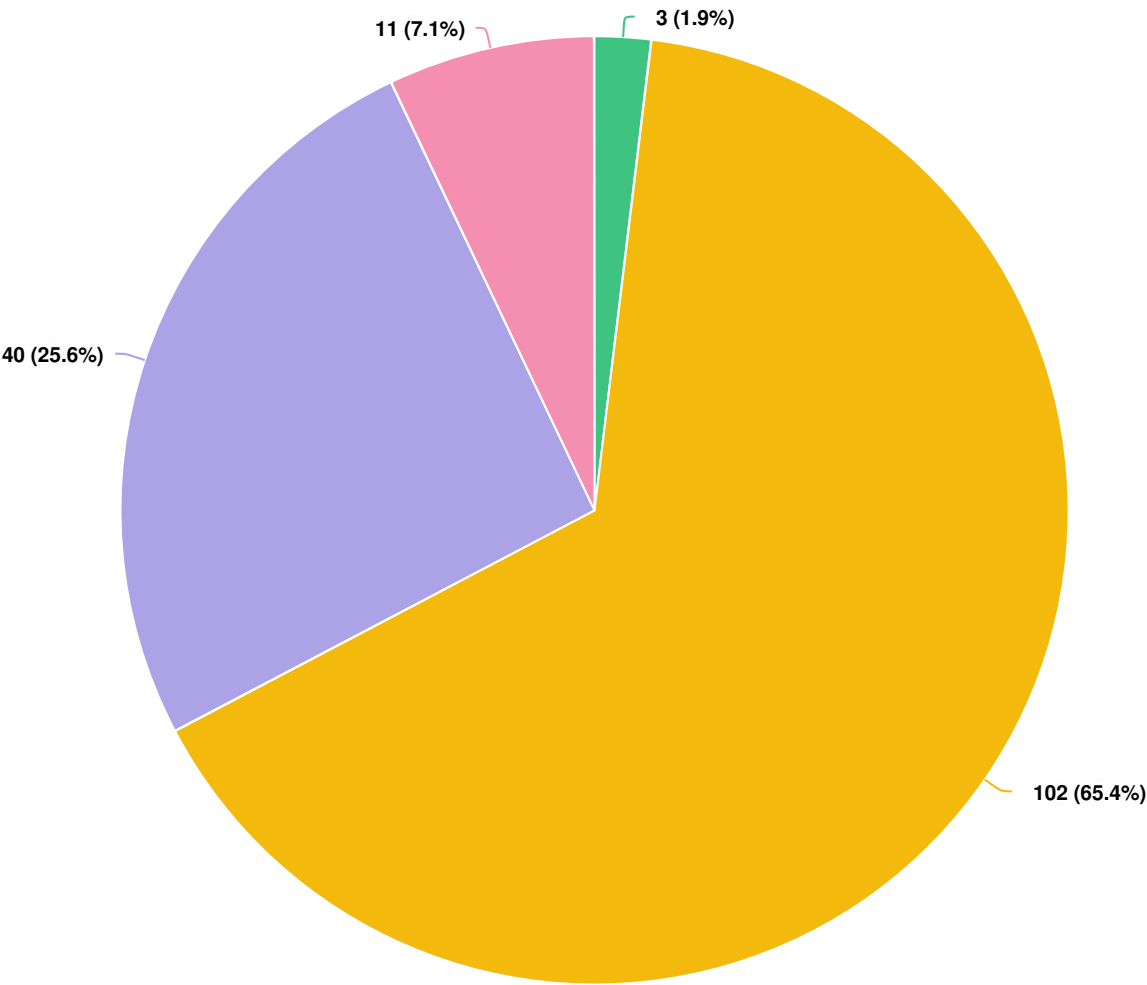
Question options

☒ Yes ☐ No

Optional question (155 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q13 | How do encampments affect your neighbourhood or community?



Question options

- Positive impact Negative impact No noticeable impact Unsure of impact

Optional question (156 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q14 | Do you have a project or idea that could positively impact your neighbourhood or community? (Optional)

Anonymous

9/29/2025 02:48 PM

"tent city" needs to be moved into some kind of building. There are MANY abandoned schools, houses etc. these people need to be rehabbed and while staying in shelters they almost need to become self sufficient in recovery, I have seen other cities essentially "pay" them for the work they do in shelters (they have rotating jobs and if they don't participate, they don't get "paid") and they cannot stay if "rent" isn't paid when they don't show up to work. I feel it reintroduces a life skill they haven't been accustomed to, some for years.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 03:27 PM

Partner with Ikdsb schools to put in more community gardens to help with rising food costs

Anonymous

9/29/2025 03:45 PM

Neighborhood watch since the cops won't investigate any neighborhood thefts from what is posted online by fellow citizens.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:16 PM

Making the Irwin Street property the only sanctioned encampment site would positively impact my neighborhood.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:28 PM

If you want a pool etc get a private company to come in and build and operate like makin waves in Brampton built a pool operate it to teach swimming etc

Anonymous

9/29/2025 05:27 PM

Mental health housing is needed. And those with substance abuse issues should be out into treatment programs not left out in the community leaving drug paraphernalia all over and the continued thefts with in the community. If someone is picked up due to drug over dose or public intoxication they do not be released unless they have a physical address. Once we work on these issues and we work on affordable housing the encampments won't be an issue.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 08:32 PM

Ship all the people in encampments back to Toronto where they likely came from. They are starting to show up in the smaller communities now also along with more crime due to them also.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:09 PM

-Put together events in each community for volunteer organizations to get together and share their goals and priorities for the year to find ways to support each other. -Fund Wheatley beautification equitably

with other communities

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:16 PM

South side of Chatham splash pad. Revamp Blythe park, fix the parking lot.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 11:11 PM

Planting a pollinators garden along Thames river sidewalk over at the Grand Ave stretching from Maple City bakery to Canadian Tire

Anonymous

9/30/2025 07:31 AM

Expand trash collection for the fringe areas who are currently on the edge of the pickup areas. Stop allowing sign companies to erect portable signs that are ugly and distracting on public property.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:19 AM

Why don't you open clubs for students extra curricular activities like soccer, chess, basketball etc. it's huge burden for the parents to participate in these areas.. even though they are very talented due to the financial burden many of them are not able to attend.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:40 AM

No

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:27 AM

Chatham seems to have become homeless haven within the surrounding communities, why? Because they get treated so well here. What is the incentive for them to get up off their behinds and go home to their families and get jobs and be responsible tax paying citizens when they're getting everything for free or stealing what they want. Those campers are not the people in need. Clean them up, spend no more money on them. Send them to jail if they don't disband. I have a better idea.... send them to Russia and let them camp there. They might not think its so bad here anymore and change their attitudes. That would make this community so much better. People might be able to go out of their houses again at night. And you can't say they aren't the problem, theft and criminal behaviour has followed them around where ever they've set up camp.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:38 AM

State of emergency to bulldoze encampments

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:53 AM

Street trench

Anonymous

to live in an encampment, homeless should keep neat and tidy, or

9/30/2025 12:15 PM

leave. they live horribly and garbage everywhere, not necessary. it is getting worse, some on drugs, so where do they get the money to buy drugs, no drugs should be allowed. They sit on curbs and are spaced out, very dangerous.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:16 PM

More green space, planting of more trees and parks that are welcoming, in different parts of Chatham and other communities. As well the Chatham River front is under used and we need more features and infrastructure to bring back boating to Chatham.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:43 PM

I would like to see projects that assist those living in encampments to become appropriately housed. Supportive Housing needs to be developed and it would benefit the entire CK community as we would no longer have an encampment. No one should be living on the street. The Municipality should hire Social Workers to attend the encampment and work with the Individuals there to find housing. It is not appropriate to have unskilled staff from a poorly paid non-profit doing this work, and no progress will be made.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 01:09 PM

Remove the encampment from a residential area.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 01:27 PM

More police presence

Anonymous

9/30/2025 02:07 PM

The Oxley Drive park, one of the highest used public trails, might have the worse kids playground in town. For a fairly small amount (\$200k +) this should be improved, sand taken away and better facilities provided

Anonymous

9/30/2025 02:19 PM

Tree planting - we desperately need more shade in all parts of town. Plant them on boulevards, in parks, etc and seek volunteers to help with the labour. update/modernizing of children's reading material at the library is needed. Ex yoto cards as many other libraries have.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 04:51 PM

We need a community centre that has a pool in Chatham and an arena we are one of the only cities that doesn't have something like this.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 05:17 PM

Reduce events in Chatham and stop funding LGBTQ, indigenous, etc. start celebrating commonalities instead of special interest groups

Wheatley harbour development. Bring in more anglers, recreational boaters, etc

Anonymous

9/30/2025 06:01 PM

Encourage rural enhancements. Too many precious cuts

Anonymous

9/30/2025 06:11 PM

move the encampment into one of the many empty buildings , which has running water and bathrooms. Like the casino in Dresden or the building on Park Ave where all the city trucks are.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:44 AM

Traffic management in the city of Chatham is never mentioned in expense plans. We have a great number of archaic traffic signals and too many others that need maintenance and or repair. Road work is great and so too is the movement of vehicles through intersections. Years of neglect for some intersections

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:49 AM

Built a jail in Chatham-Kent we have a crime problem.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:24 AM

Clean up the trash strewn around the countryside and municipal parks. Put large garbage cans around parks and sources of trash

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:03 AM

Posting a 50km speed limit sign on Keil Drive West would positively impact my neighborhood. Really, what is the cost of posting a sign?? I've brought this subject up to a council member, the mayor, & engineering staff but I guess everyone is too busy. I certainly hope that a child doesn't get hurt caused by some erratical driver because this stretch of STREET is not monitored.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:11 AM

Repair the pavement on Forgan street

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:29 AM

I know several people in a new apartment across from the homeless encampment and it has 'destroyed' the environment that they moved there to enjoy. There must be a better way to handle these people and the policing of the area is practically non-existent.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 10:26 AM

Policing - non existent in Charing Cross

Anonymous

10/01/2025 10:58 AM

As Beer Stores, which are the only locations one can recycle/refund alcoholic beverage containers, continue to be reduced in number across Ontario - perhaps the Municipality can fill the gap, help the environment, and also capture these free dollars that are currently going into the recycling program?

Anonymous

10/01/2025 12:39 PM

Keep Jaycee Pool open for moms and their infants or toddlers. It is the only wading pool in Chatham. Closing it may be expedient but it certainly does not serve the people who need it most. The city should be using it to provide a service. Swimming lessons for toddlers - kids can not learn to swim or know water safety by frolicking in a splash pad. Better yet, there are two senior residences and a rec centre within three blocks of the pool. Coordinate a physical ed. program with each of them. Make the shallow pool readily available for those seniors that might enjoy cooling off or partaking in some form of exercise in the pool.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:09 PM

hoping but doubt it that new(hopefully approved) CK homeless community group forming by Councillor Bondy maps ALL(city, province, federal & local groups) services are mapped to see where there are holes and where there is overlap - thinking there are lots of wasted resources since multiple groups doing the same thing - I'm willing to help if needed - on a side note do NOT agree the homeless should catered to - food dropped off that their encampment when other people "trying" have to decide if pay for food or shelter

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:12 PM

I think investing in public art across all communities is ideal. I also think the municipality should take inspiration from Blenheim's public park and apply it to all communities. It is a beautiful space and all communities should have the same.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:10 PM

Send the street sweeper by once in a while

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:17 PM

More affordable housing

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:58 PM

Yes clean up your mess

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:47 AM

Maybe take an old school (at least during the winter months) and make another shelter for people with proper supervision and security. This could possibly get people into better situations and maybe would

start to give them their dignity back and give them the hope to try again(I'm not naive I realize this is a long shot however I am hopeful)

Anonymous

10/02/2025 12:26 PM

Ya, you could..... find a way to get meth heads out of my community? vs enabling them? I'm not even being sarcastic.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 03:50 PM

Given the deficit presented by the CKHA, I believe health promotion / prevention is vitally important. I think low barrier (free / low cost, accessible) physical activity for all ages, but perhaps most importantly older adults, could provide some relief on the health system. Pedersen, B. K., & Saltin, B. (2015). Exercise as medicine—evidence for prescribing exercise as therapy in 26 different chronic diseases. Scandinavian journal of medicine & science in sports, 25, 1-72.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:49 PM

Idea: Enforce bylaws directly so residents can maintain good neighbourly relationships instead of being forced into conflict. On housing: Single-family homes used as rentals often create challenges. Since landlords profit while municipalities bear the enforcement burden, Chatham-Kent itself should share in that profit. One way is to tax rental SFH properties at a higher rate. This ensures the municipality benefits directly, offsets costs, and discourages speculative "HGTV-style" investing that drives up housing prices. If landlords can profit from the community, the community should profit too.

Anonymous

10/03/2025 07:26 AM

Keep drug users and criminals in jail. They say that is expensive but so is police time for rearresting the same people time and again for the judges just to release them on bail so they can continue to damage our community!

Anonymous

10/03/2025 08:24 PM

Push the provincial govt to raise OW \$733 of which \$389 is for shelter and ODSP \$1408 of which is \$599 is for shelter. Neither of these amounts are enough to rent a place to live. The provincial poverty line is \$2302 and both services need to be raised closer to this amount. The province also needs to make spaces for people with mental health issues and addictions to get the treatment they need. Ideally the province needs to reopen the psychiatric facilities but we know they won't so we need to get them to help with something like the Hubs other cities have.

Anonymous

10/04/2025 09:00 AM

yes, keep the dust control for the rural community;

Anonymous

10/04/2025 10:56 AM

Instead of solid surfacing I would prioritize municipal water to rural residents.

Anonymous

10/04/2025 11:03 AM

-great that municipality is working on adding other features but without trees our municipality lacks appeal--tree bylaw needed to prevent loss of habitats/beauty/clean air-- ensuring habitats for animals and clean air -no to community hub project unless municipality owns building outright (not rent) -garbage tags for larger items should be for the whole year (pending space) not limited to an item per month/quarter -no more Windmills -instead of paving roads can we deliver water to rural residents (high priority)

Anonymous

10/04/2025 04:28 PM

Community yard sale

Anonymous

10/05/2025 03:28 AM

Backyard chickens for bothwell

Anonymous

10/06/2025 07:26 AM

The CK mayor and councillors should listen to the citizens of Chatham-Kent who elected them. They should stop silencing the majority and remember their job is to bring our community together and not further exacerbate the rural/urban divide that they have created. They have resources in the community that they should be leveraging and responsible spending has long term benefits. Getting everyone to work together through responsible leadership would be a great project.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 01:00 PM

Find board of works employees that actually want to work for their income.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 03:32 PM

Move encampment out of the city and away from neighborhoods. I shouldn't have to have a 6 and 4 year old terrified to go for family walks in fear of the residents of the encampments yelling at us. It's disgusting and the city's choice to have it there, just lowered house costs and raised so many safety concerns.

Anonymous

10/13/2025 07:58 PM

Defund rock missions and other organizations that give these people free needles and pipes etc . Move the encampment out of the city clean up the city. Have a homeless shelter some where that will not effect neighborhoods to make our city streets safe again. Example what president Trump is doing in the USA in D.C and other major

cities. More policing not more by law officers

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:12 PM

Neighborhood yard sales Sidewalk sales More events like Ribfest, Crowfest - we should have an event every month Snow pitch for charity

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:30 PM

Twin pad arena and sports Center for the youth.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:47 AM

Community Renewal Initiative: Green Jobs & Building Revitalization Program Project Title: "Rebuild Green: A Sustainable Future for Chatham-Kent" 1. Executive Summary "Rebuild Green" is a community-driven program designed to address Chatham-Kent's urgent challenges — high homelessness, unaffordable housing, and lack of good jobs — through two interconnected initiatives: 1. Local Green Jobs Initiative — trains and employs residents to retrofit, repair, and green-up existing buildings. 2. Vacant Building Revitalization Program — transforms abandoned or underused properties into affordable, energy-efficient housing and small business spaces. This approach simultaneously creates sustainable employment, revives neighborhoods, reduces municipal costs, and builds long-term community resilience. 2. Problem Statement • High taxation: Shrinking tax base and rising service costs strain residents. • Homelessness & housing crisis: Few affordable units; older buildings stand empty or unsafe. • Job shortage: Especially in trade, construction, and environmental sectors. • Urban decay: Vacant and blighted buildings reduce safety and property values. The cycle continues until the town invests in people-powered, self-sustaining revitalization. 3. Program Goals • Create local employment and training in green construction and energy efficiency. • Convert vacant or tax-delinquent buildings into livable, low-cost housing or mixed-use spaces. • Reduce energy costs and emissions through retrofits and renewable energy. • Stimulate the local economy by supporting small businesses and trade apprenticeships. • Strengthen community pride, safety, and stability. 4. Core Components A. Local Green Jobs Initiative Overview: A workforce development program that hires and trains local residents (especially underemployed, youth, or homeless individuals) to perform sustainable building work. Key Activities: • Energy audits and home retrofits (insulation, windows, HVAC upgrades). • Solar panel and renewable energy installations. • Green roofing, rainwater capture, and landscaping. • Waste reduction and materials reuse (salvaging from vacant sites). • Training partnerships with local colleges or trades unions. Employment Goal: • 25–50 paid trainees in Year 1. • 100+ certified green workers by Year 3. B. Vacant Building Revitalization Program Overview: A municipal-nonprofit partnership to identify, acquire, and repurpose vacant or

neglected properties. Key Activities: • Map all vacant/tax-delinquent properties. • Prioritize those suitable for mixed-use or housing conversion. • Engage local tradespeople and green job trainees for renovations. • Incorporate affordable rental units, transitional housing, and small business spaces. • Implement energy-efficient retrofits and green design principles. Outcome Goals: • 10–15 buildings rehabilitated in first 2 years. • 40+ new affordable housing units created. • 20+ new small business or community spaces opened. 5. Partnerships • Municipality – provides access to vacant properties, tax incentives, and small start-up funds. • Local Colleges/Trade Schools – offer certification in energy efficiency, solar, and building repair. • Nonprofits & Shelters – recruit participants seeking work and housing stability. • Indigenous Organizations – co-lead workforce training and ensure inclusion in leadership. • Provincial & Federal Agencies – access grants for green infrastructure and affordable housing. • Private Sector Partners – solar companies, hardware suppliers, and builders. 6. Funding & Budget Overview (Sample Year 1 Estimate) Category Estimated Cost (CAD) Notes Program Management & Coordination \$150,000 Staff, admin, insurance Workforce Training & Wages \$400,000 25 trainees + supervisors Materials & Tools \$200,000 Green retrofits, renovation supplies Building Acquisition/Leases \$300,000 5 pilot sites Renewable Installations \$150,000 Solar, insulation, windows Community Engagement \$25,000 Workshops, local outreach Total (Year 1) \$1,225,000 Potential Funding Sources: • Canada Greener Homes Grant • CMHC's Affordable Housing Innovation Fund • Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program • Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Green Municipal Fund • Private green investors or foundations 7. Social & Economic Impact (First 3 Years) • 150+ jobs created or sustained. • 40–60 families housed affordably. • \$3M+ in local economic activity generated. • 20% reduction in local greenhouse gas emissions from target buildings. • Visible community revitalization in formerly blighted neighborhoods. 8. Implementation Timeline Phase Timeline Activities Phase 1 Months 1–3 Form task force, secure partnerships, identify properties Phase 2 Months 4–6 Begin workforce training and pilot retrofits Phase 3 Months 7–12 Renovate 5 pilot buildings, evaluate results Phase 4 Year 2–3 Scale to 15–20 buildings, expand workforce and training 9. Sustainability Plan • Graduates form worker co-ops or small green businesses. • Renovated buildings generate rental income that sustains the program. • Continuous reinvestment into new properties and training cycles. • Municipal incentives for property owners to partner or donate sites. 10. Call to Action By investing in Rebuild Green, Chatham-Kent can turn its greatest challenges into opportunities — empowering residents, reducing costs, and creating a sustainable, thriving future. Let's build jobs, homes, and hope — together.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:02 AM

Downtown Chatham needs attention! If the town of Elora, Stratford and St. Jacobs can be attracting the tourists....why can't we? Why is we are always 2nd guessing the beautiful communities we have here in CK. We need to do a better job of marketing and promoting WHY is a great place to live, work & play. Also, we need to become more walkable....public transit sucks. It needs to be more accessible with better hours. We are far to car centric. Let's get moving.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:14 AM

I don't believe that housing encampments are the main answer to this problem. The main problem seems more of serious drug induced mental health crisis. I wonder if we need to bring back institutions to house and care for these people as providing food and tiny housing probably won't help them cope with their lack of coping with basic living capabilities. I fear that allowing these poor souls to wander the streets at night searching out material items to support their habit is going to escalate to harmful and life threatening encounters. Parents are fearful to allow their kids to play outside or simply walk to school! Large facilities and the required staffing for care is way bigger than Chatham-Kent is capable of taking on such a project.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 02:13 PM

There needs to be more options for kids and families to do that doesn't cost so much money beyond an outdoor park and library. There also needs to be more attention to street signs and how the roads are working with increased traffic. On my road specifically there needs to be an added stop sign or speed limit decrease. A child was quite literally hit by a car right in front of me here because there is no required stop.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 03:02 PM

It is sad the way things are going in all communities. The amount of thefts, home invasion- as a homeowner – there is not a thing you can do about it. Again, this goes back to the government being soft on crime and as a community, on our behalf- you need to Step up and continue to push for harder mandates on the crime that is happening. As the city continues to pour our tax dollars into washrooms, garbage bins, cleanup at the encampments, there's so much money that is wasted. You look at the 911, please calls, City Hall calls, emergency, service calls, etc. etc. etc. for the encampments. That money could have gone into renovating some of the buildings that the city owns already in Chatham to have been able to have some of these people out of that encampment and into proper living. As it stands – when we do cleaning around our house – my husband has to go to the dump and pay to get rid of stuff we've collected whether it be a renovation or whatever- it's not free, but hey, maybe it should be since it's free for the encampments. Last line was definitely sarcastic, but you get my drift. And again as earlier I mentioned – that those living in the

encampment if they do not want to get clean, get mental health care, or get off of alcohol then they need to leave. Take away the excuses. That's called- Tough love for your community.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 06:47 PM

The single largest sport in Chatham-Kent is soccer. We need to invest to make this a year round sport.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:37 PM

Community recreation centre with a pool and ice pad.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:14 AM

Yes, rid of the encampment and stop the grant money to R.O.C.K I didn't see this organization mentioned.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 12:23 PM

I feel more pressure needs to be placed on federal, provincial and municipal governments to find alternative ways to deal with the homeless situation in Chatham Kent. The closure of SW. Regional Centre years ago was by far the worst decision made.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:31 PM

Keep Civic Center in its present location as well as Library and Museum. If CKPL needs more storage space use off site municipal property.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:58 PM

Security in the encampment in my neighbourhood. More patrol cars in the neighbourhood for the grand ave location. People are leaving used needles and drugs around our neighbourhood and wandering down our street while under the influence making it unsafe for our children to play outside.

Optional question (69 response(s), 88 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q15 | Comment on any of the questions you just answered (Optional)

Anonymous

9/29/2025 02:48 PM

Taxes here are already dangerously high, most working families still aren't making ends meet - there needs to be a better solution than taxing us out of our homes!!!!

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:08 PM

I would like to see council contact communities that are fighting homelessness well. ie. contact Barrie, Sarnia, Orillia, what are these

communities doing that CK could look into doing as well. I saw some people freshly dropped off a bus yesterday, and 3 men were in a church alcove, doing their 'thing' .. what are we doing to stop incoming homeless people? We have enough of our own that need help. What is our community doing to provide, not safe supply, but safe places to get help legitimately, for those who want it? The little cabins, ... huge joke... just a spot to be warm and do the drugs. And what are the police doing to stop the drugs from coming in? It seems there is a massive supply .. Are we doing anything to stop it? I never heard of drug busts anymore, or has it become legal now?

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:28 PM

Get private companies to build and operate pools roads etc downsize you work force but compare costs before you do it

Anonymous

9/29/2025 05:27 PM

We need more affordable housing even if the municipality buys old motels and turns them into bachelor apartment to start. In those building you can add a registered nurse, therapist and AA na meetings and a social worker and a person. Who helps move out of the transitional housing. Work on the health of the people and help them help them selves and ensure they have a proper roof over their heads. The amount it costs to look after encampments could be put to better use.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:09 PM

-CK Together and similar programs are some of the highest impact tax dollars spent because of the matching funds and volunteer hours contributed. -Wheatley's library hours are not equal to communities of a similar size. This limits opportunities for community partnerships since they are only open 16hrs a week.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:12 PM

The capitol theatre in years past has run in a deficit - when does the current contract with the manager end. Is there a possibility at that time to put the theatre up for sale or rent to other parties?

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:28 AM

Encampments deter myself and family from going to that area. for example, there is a small encampment on the south side of the Sydenham in Wallaceburg where my wife liked talking walks along the boardwalk with our 2 year old son. Now she doesnt feel safe going there out of fear of drug use or drug induced violence.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:27 AM

Stop giving tax money to the rock. All they are doing is enabling the drug addicts.

Anonymous
9/30/2025 12:15 PM

yes, why are there are so many homeless, what is being done is not helping at all.

Anonymous
9/30/2025 01:27 PM

11 - let not for profits profit and support their programs

Anonymous
9/30/2025 05:17 PM

See 14 above

Anonymous
9/30/2025 06:01 PM

Last time the cuts that were presenter mostly affected the rural areas. Need to balance that out as rural already lacks many of the services. Look at all the current services and ways to make them more efficient.

Anonymous
10/01/2025 06:49 AM

Stop wasting tax payers money.

Anonymous
10/01/2025 07:24 AM

Stop enabling drug addiction by giving them safe supplies. That alone will reduce encampment sizes

Anonymous
10/01/2025 07:30 AM

The better services a community has for those that require homes, the more people without homes come to that community. I have seen it with many different communities. We need to have some services to help and protect that community but not to be great at it. We live in a desirable area as far as weather, and we do not want to encourage more homeless people to the area. Just an observation.

Anonymous
10/01/2025 09:14 AM

I feel the public works sector needs to be reorganized as well as management and engineering, it's time we started looking after road maintenance on a regular basis instead of waiting for the public to phone in and completing work orders for general maintenance that should be already done

Anonymous
10/01/2025 09:16 AM

I feel that we need to create areas of affordable housing. Homes that are main floor living and many of the homes currently being built two stories and split levels. Side walks need to be placed and proper bike lines created. Currently there are few places to ride your bike. The rail trail is not safe to ride alone on and many other bike routes lose their lane at intersections or only lead to a school. Lowering the speed limit in town I would also support. With the increased number of accidents and near misses for pedestrians and motorists alike. A proper

stoplight and pedestrian crossing is need at Kiel and Baldoon. The current lights are often missed by motorists because the lights are too high. This section of Kiel motorist drive too fast and some one is going to get killed. It is difficult to get off of Baldoonl or Trillium Village with the increased volume. The new housing and 3 elementary schools on or not far from Kiel has added volume. When the new nursing home and childrens treatment center open this will add an additional strain to this intersection. The increase in recreational facilities individuals who use the facilities should pay more towards use with bursaries for low income users similar to the ymca. The libraries should have increased funding as they provide spaces for everyone in our communities. Communiies outside Chatham proper should have increased library hours to provide more community engagement. Cl recretlation dropin summer kids program is excellent resiurce and should continue. The budget needs to reflect the economic climate and socio economic landscape of Chatham. I understand the need for plan and creating space to bring jobs and opportunities to Chatham to build a strong and vibrant community but there needs to be a balanced approach. (Please create larger comment boxes in the future , please)

Anonymous

10/01/2025 12:39 PM

I am of the mind that the city, over time, has become more worried about what is expedient rather than what is in the best interest of the larger population, specifically those that do not have things like swimming pools in their backyards. Admin. and counsel both seemingly aim at doing whatever is cheaper, convenient or expedient. Looking at my comments in question 14, staff should try to think outside the box somewhat - be innovative, try to tie things together for the greater good -

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:09 PM

for #10 - should be a tiered system - if someone makes \$100K they pay whole fee if they make \$50K they pay half think there should be MORE events in Tecumseh park - Sarnia has Friday First where every 1st Friday in the month they have LOTS going on downtown good luck w #13 - everyone saying 'no impact' not noticing - clothing laying randomly in the city - is from the houseless

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:12 PM

I think that for camps, aquatic lessons, etc., these should be covered by the people requesting those services. Access to the space should be free, but services should be paid. However, an application program to support lower income families would be ideal to enable children equal opportunities.

Anonymous

I observe that CK is doing a poor job in maintaining public spaces,

10/01/2025 06:10 PM

parks and arenas. Medians and curbs sprouting weeds on roadways. Out of town visitors notice how unkempt these areas are. It's called detailing and makes a big first impression difference.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:58 PM

You need to support all communities the same

Anonymous

10/01/2025 10:01 PM

I do not think that Chatham needs a new Library

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:47 AM

Parks and rec fees for daycamps should be affordable as well as swimming pools and swimming lessons. Kids need stuff to do to keep fit.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:49 PM

My rule for voting is simple: only vote for the people you actually see in the community. Right now, that's Allison and Rhonda. Some may not like how visible they are, but at least they show up — and that matters. All I want is for councillors to be present locally once in a while. If you can't do that, you shouldn't expect support. Next election, I hope we see more representatives who aren't afraid to be out in the community, even if it unsettles the status quo.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 10:08 PM

Paying taxes in two different communities in Ontario, I see a huge difference in what our smaller northern Ontario community offers and what we have in CK. My hometown is CK and I love this community. I think we could do better with maintaining our infrastructure. Having said that, you have made it clear that our ON government needs to step up to the plate to put CK on equal funding grounds

Anonymous

10/03/2025 08:24 PM

The city needs to stop allowing homeless people from other cities come here knowing that other cities pay for them to come here. There have been many suggestions that were viable at the council meetings and the city has shot down each one.

Anonymous

10/04/2025 11:03 AM

-safety issues around encampments --do not travel to businesses near the area--business broken into -311 calls--- in regards to the new garbage system for rural residents--several calls were placed to inquire and ask questions with staff who were unable to answer the questions--training for staff and clear guidelines would reduce calls;

Anonymous

STRONG AGREE on continued recreational spending. A community

10/04/2025 04:28 PM

is more than just hard infrastructure.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 07:26 AM

This survey is skewed to get the results you want. You need someone to help design a survey to get real input.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 01:00 PM

The encampment question has nothing to do with Blenheim. A correct answer would be that it doesn't affect my community or neighborhood. For the purpose of this question, saying no noticeable impact will skew your answers and nothing will be done with encampments within the City. They should not be allowed. Encampments approved by the City show children and people that it is an accepted way of life to be living in an encampment and to be a drug and alcohol user.

Anonymous

10/07/2025 08:01 AM

Reintroduce mobile library for smaller communities instead of permanent buildings. Review the quality of tendered infrastructure work. Example mud creek trail. After a short period of time the pavement is already falling apart

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:12 PM

No one said anything about the encampment when it was close to downtown, not everyone is up in arms because of where they relocated themselves

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:30 PM

The encampment is a joke and a waste of taxpayer money.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:47 AM

Chatham-Kent doesn't have money at the moment for recreational programs.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:02 AM

We need a dedicated person in the Municipality to promote, assist and oversee community events with financing and removing barriers for same. During the summer, we should have weekly events to attract new visitors and our own citizens.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 10:45 AM

In light of the current economic situation, CK must prioritize the allocation of funds effectively. Spending on the arts is fine, but only after other, more critical projects are paid for. For instance, having an arts festival in a park in the summertime is fine, but if no one can make it to the park because the roads are impassible, or no one can access the park because of the lack of facilities, or if the park is full of waste, it seems senseless to fund an arts festival. When building or

renovating a home, first you make sure the structure is sound, the roof is good, foundation is stable. Then you can worry about wall colours. Similarly with the funding of projects within the municipality - first make sure the infrastructure is right, then you can worry about the arts.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 03:02 PM

Question 10 – as a senior, I took advantage of the free swims in Blenheim this summer. To be able to try to stay fit, I think it was at least \$60 per person if not more a month for access to use the pool and that's not including checking out the cost at YMCA- which I think is more money. As a senior wanting to try to stay healthy as I do have physical issues that I'm trying to keep at bay – I've had to give up on the swimming and go once or twice a month as I cannot afford this luxury. My husband won't go with me as it's extra money and we both know we cannot afford this luxury. I do understand the cost of keeping buildings afloat and to staff. Years ago, we were able to get assistance through the YMCA. It's unfortunate now that if anyone tries to apply for assistance for stuff like this, there's so much information that they require, and you get turned off without even starting to fill out the information. Question 12 – having the library available is definitely a bonus. I do enjoy having access to being able to download books movies for the grandkids or going to pick up books at the library. I hope they continue to keep this service available in Ichem cat.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 06:47 PM

Funding for special events needs to be weighed against total economic impact. So the question is...Do these events bring visitors that want to come explore and discover Chatham-Kent?

Anonymous

10/14/2025 06:55 PM

The Municipality should provide the encampments with a campground area that is away from residences and businesses. They should also have regular police presence or be under video surveillance. If you can re-open the shelter provide neighbouring homes with updated police in the area.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 09:53 AM

I do not have Facebook and am very disappointed and angered even that the Community Open Houses are only available using Facebook. This should not be the only option. There are many tax paying residents that don't have Facebook. Shame on the Municipality and Council for only offering this platform.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:14 AM

Regarding the Tiny Houses on Park Street. I live in the neighborhood and certainly have noticed an increase in theft in our area. There is

more police presence which I am grateful for but enough is enough.
This isn't a coincidence . The Municipality stated the use of the houses were to be a positive impact and very little drug usage, it appears the people involved with this project wasted precious taxpayers money. It is a slap in the face to the law abiding and taxpayers. It appears the Municipality is destroying neighborhoods and for what?

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:29 PM

I'm just repeating myself based on my answers above.

Anonymous

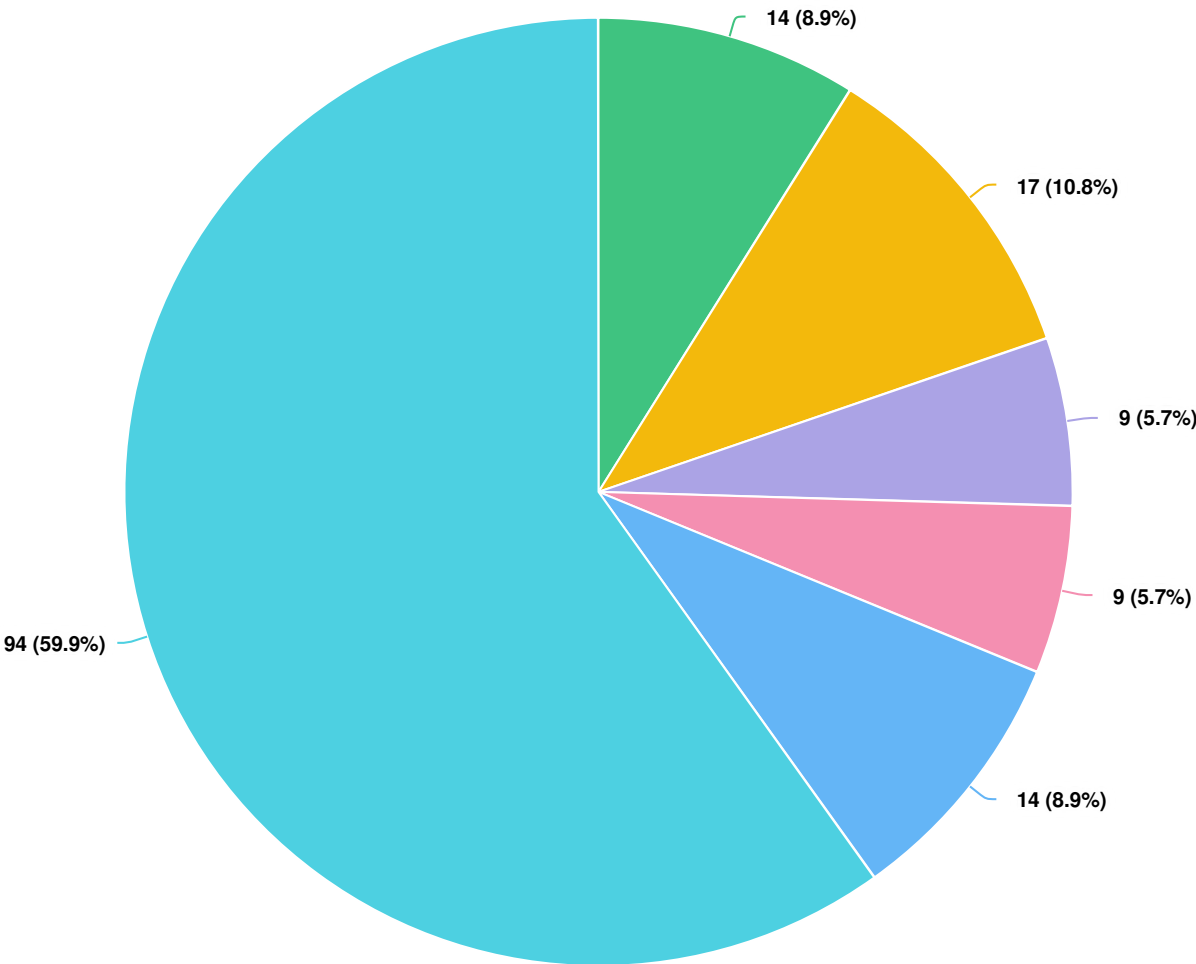
10/15/2025 08:31 PM

It should be a priority to keep all 11 library branches. Chatham Library should remain at its present location.

Optional question (44 response(s), 113 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q16 Which ward do you reside in?



Question options

- Ward 1 - West Kent

Ward 2 - South Kent

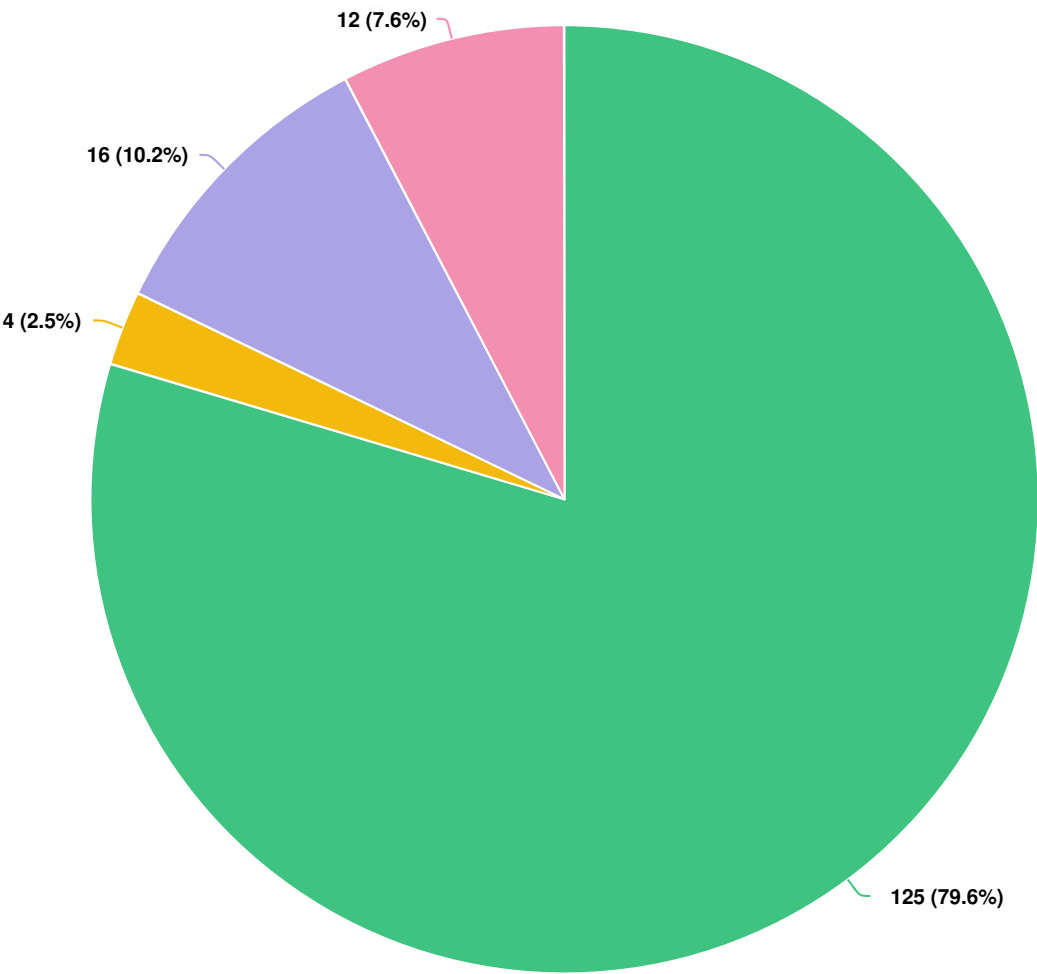
Ward 3 - East Kent

Ward 4 - North Kent
- Ward 5 - Wallaceburg

Ward 6 - Chatham

Optional question (157 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q17 Are you a homeowner and/or business owner?



Question options

Homeowner Business owner Both Neither

Optional question (157 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q18 | Please use the following box to provide any comments on this survey or suggestions for Administration and Council as they complete the 2026 annual update of the 2024-2027 multi-year budget.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 02:48 PM

I think there are some municipal positions that need a pay cut! Seems like some of you would rather continue lining your pockets and watching your constituents suffer than sacrifice a little of your own comfort. You're public servants, you're supposed to work FOR us, yet most of the decisions being made seem to benefit YOU.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 03:45 PM

We need to declare a state of emergency to access funds to address homelessness and addicts. I shouldn't have to talk to my child about the dangers of drug use when I take him for a walk. I shouldn't be afraid to go shopping in case I am harassed at the front door. I shouldn't have to avoid the whole downtown core because it is too dangerous.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:08 PM

It would be interesting to see any results from this survey. Will it be posted anywhere?

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:16 PM

cut, cut, cut to reach a balanced budget without raising taxes!

Anonymous

9/29/2025 04:28 PM

Quit dreaming big stuff like a new city hall arenas fix what you have now do a little when needed but fix water sewers roads etc first before your big dreams come in

Anonymous

9/29/2025 08:32 PM

Stop wasting money. Put the money into actual important issues and infrastructure.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:09 PM

I am very excited about the SNAP program.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 09:12 PM

In your parks and recreation master plan look into utilizing the funds you are receiving from hydro 1 - one million per year plus an additional \$30,000 per year do not put a tax burden on the public - also you can set up a charitable organization with the sole job to raise funds for this project

Anonymous

Decrease services where possible. Cut the property taxes by any

9/29/2025 09:16 PM

means possible. A great amount of the population struggles to pay them now. Adjust property taxes so rural individuals are taxed fairly. Invest in a Chatham based rec centre similar to Atlas Tube in lakeshore.

Anonymous

9/29/2025 11:11 PM

Consider bike users and their needs within this or future budgets please

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:00 AM

We cannot afford more tax increases! Must learn to limit projects unless fiscally responsible

Anonymous

9/30/2025 08:30 AM

Please do not spend the money on the sears building, As I'm part of the Kent. I know I won't use this said building. It won't make others come from out of town. It's is not the answer to make Chatham KENT great. Save the money, fix what we have. We need that money for the homeless, the things that will come up that need to be fixed. It's called a budget.... Now save the money.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 10:40 AM

Pay attention to the rural areas. Your biggest manufacturers are your farmers. Small towns and rural areas need more attention. Your Hub is unnecessary.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:27 AM

My taxes have gone up so much in the 9 yrs I've lived here. You are pricing us out of Chatham Kent. Where I used to live, we had a bigger home and more services/convivences and I paid half the taxes. You need to do something to encourage people to move here, TAXPAYING people, not freeloaders. I wish I hadn't moved back. Since I've been here the only growth I've seen for this city has been negative and the tax gouging hasn't helped. Taxes need to go down, not up.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:53 AM

Should be disbanded and liquidated

Anonymous

9/30/2025 11:56 AM

Reduce overhead. Less managers, more workers.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:15 PM

stop spending our money, give it a rest.

Anonymous

We need to hear more from the youth in our community. If we are to

9/30/2025 12:16 PM

grow, they are the future and we need to know their ideas as well. As well you have a large percentage of the population that do not understand that taxes do effect them, even if they rent. This equates to engagement in the end.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:43 PM

It appears CK has many financial pressures but this is not the time to cut or reduce human services, libraires or cultural activities.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 12:52 PM

For the purposed 80 acre site, as much as it's 15 years overdue, take the time and do it right and what's right for all of CK, not just Chatham. Invest in us with a greater economic lens, no longer small town thinking. Let's build an anchor 4,500-seat arena, create real civic pride and put us on the regional, provincial, national and international map. Think how do we retain and attract business and youth with the amenities they could get in a bigger city.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 01:27 PM

Hopefully someone actually uses the information contained in the survey. Lord knows that the sears mall survey never utilized or contributed to the constituents wishes

Anonymous

9/30/2025 01:37 PM

People can't afford groceries let alone higher taxes!!

Anonymous

9/30/2025 02:07 PM

Continue to use common sense, leverage debt & remove the Economic Development Department due to inefficiency

Anonymous

9/30/2025 04:08 PM

reduce administration wages!!!!!!!! cut the "SUNSHINE" list so that working people can afford to keep their homes. Put the residents of the encampment to work picking up their own garbage etc. Tax payers keep their own properties neat and clean, so should the people that are living for free!!! Put the welfare people to work picking up garbage, shovelling sidewalks etc.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 04:51 PM

Chatham Kent needs to do better! Stop the frivolous spending, stop giving so much money to homeless services and support, invest more money in infrastructure and things that improve the quality of life for the tax payers and businesses owners. We don't need a new library/ civic centre we need a recreation centre with a sports complex.

Anonymous

9/30/2025 05:17 PM

Too much government waste

Anonymous

9/30/2025 06:01 PM

Don't just cut rural services. We already have minimal services as it is.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:44 AM

Hold traffic management staff and sub contractors responsible for the standards equipment is set up to deliver

Anonymous

10/01/2025 06:49 AM

Stop wasting our tax dollars.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:24 AM

Please focus spending on basic services and leave the social engineering behind

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:27 AM

It's time to reduce taxes. Ck. Is known to be overtaxed. People from outside of CK often comment on how high our taxes are.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:30 AM

Try not to increase our debt. Some services should be picked up with local services, paying for swimming/camping for kids. But at the same time make libraries available to everyone always. This is how it has been in the past. We cannot be everything to everyone, it is not affordable.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:59 AM

For 2026 election I recommend that voters in CK have opportunity to elect every single councillor as well as mayor in CK especially as representation in smaller wards is being reduced. As voters we should have a say in each person who is "representing" us to give all residents an equal voice on council decisions that impact them. Smaller centres in the municipality have had less and less voice in the decisions made by council. Give smaller areas of Kent a voice back!!!!

Anonymous

10/01/2025 08:12 AM

Enjoyed it

Anonymous

10/01/2025 08:40 AM

Good luck in getting the best budget for Chatham Kent.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:03 AM

I know this is a union issue but allowing CK employees to bank unused sick days year after year after year has to stop. I would really like to know what this practice is costing the taxpayers of CK.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:14 AM

You seriously need to started looking at how are money is being spent and start being more involved on how management is spending council needs to play a more active stance instead of relying and trusting management money isn't being spent in a positive manner whatsoever

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:16 AM

I closed my business in Chatham during the high of covid. I am looking for a home currenly in the city of Chatham. I have lived in Chatham for 14 years. The above questions leaves a lot of residents and out and should be rephrased.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:18 AM

Lower government size Lower funding for all areas Put aside any big ticket items, such as the CK Hub.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:24 AM

Property taxes are becoming an ever increasing burden. Our elected officials should be doing more to find efficiencies and funding changes. As times change, services should too. instead, it seems like council keeps the status quo and just increases taxes. Unnecessary expenditures such as The Hub should be the first to go.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 09:29 AM

We have a huge police expenditure and I rarely see one. I live in a 40 KPH school zone and never see a police car and the speeders seem to use it as a drag strip.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 10:58 AM

I think it might be wise to put a jobs creation requirement on any large approved projects, going forward - 100 King Street in Chatham, for example. While I don't believe it is fully known what types of services or vendors this location might eventually include, having a very upscale facility as this aims to be right in the middle of the economically-depressed centre of town seems both naïve and insensitive. Will there be an opportunity for regular citizens to obtain employment at this location, which is both in the centre of downtown Chatham and might eventually have all of CK's municipal and provincial services housed in an attached annex? Without having some requirement for large facilities to actively not just include the regular citizens, provide opportunities and improve the areas in which they operate, why is CK approving such energy-heavy and large-footprinted facilities during a time ripe with economic and housing crises. What type of financial gain is CK receiving from large facilities such as this, please? Transparency about the actual economic gains for CK from large and mysterious projects would do a lot towards generating goodwill for such projects, instead of suspicion and

bitterness.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 11:00 AM

My only comment is that you all read previous comments and consider allocating funds to those items that benefit the community as a whole.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 12:39 PM

My concern is that I fear completing this survey is all for naught. Surveys generally are designed by the user with a preconceived outcome in mind. The wording and answers to the questions can far too often be manipulated by the algorithm to produce what the survey provider wants it to say. Where I may be wrong in all of this, In short, like many, over time, I have begun to lose faith in local government generally.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 12:53 PM

I am disappointed as a tax-payer with multiple properties that there appears to be no impact from community input like this on decisions made by the municipality. I do not support additional funding for police, nor do I support funding to move the civic centre, library, etc when other - more pressing needs - remain unaddressed. I want to live in a healthy, vibrant community - but the 'shiny things' can't come at the expense of marginalized people. We need a visible, actioned plan for addressing homelessness in our community, the municipality needs to investigate public-private partnerships for services, and there needs to be a serious investigation into salaries and wage increases at the municipal level.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:09 PM

even up the taxes 0.1% and use that \$ to fix/maintain traffic lights - "trying" to be a city that attracts to live in CK but can't fix/maintain traffic lights - CK "use to be" a city where it is affordable to live not(some not the fault of local gov't) sure that is the case now and definitely will NOT be in the future w talks of borrowing \$ to pay for estimated \$800M needed for water system - where did everyone's \$30/month go to? - "needing" a new double pad arena - "needing" a new city hall which I do NOT believe will not cost the tax payers although do believe it is correct decision

Anonymous

10/01/2025 01:12 PM

There are several direlect buildings in small communities. Perhaps municipaplity should purchase and work with developers to promote affordable housing opportunities (apartments, condos) close to downtown cores so there is easy access to services, even without a car.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 02:43 PM

Our property taxes are WAY too high

Anonymous

10/01/2025 07:58 PM

Stop expecting unlimited funds and wasting money on personal projects. Listen to the people that vote. Instead of doing what you all want.

Anonymous

10/01/2025 10:01 PM

Please do not raise our taxes, there needs to be a 10% reduction in upper level staff across every department and there needs to be a hiring freeze. I am paying for a full time fire service in Wallaceburg and I am not getting any where close to a full time service provided.

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:47 AM

Please keep our taxes low

Anonymous

10/02/2025 09:13 AM

Stop spending our money on useless projects. We need to get back to the basics provide the necessities to move the city forward cut taxes, touch spending

Anonymous

10/02/2025 09:28 AM

Reduce property taxes. It has gotten out of control

Anonymous

10/02/2025 06:49 PM

Government inflation always runs hotter than the rest of the economy, which makes municipalities inflation drivers, not just victims. This budget still pushes higher-than-normal increases even though inflation has cooled since the 5-year plan was set. The budget should reflect current realities. And if council insists the community follow its lead on priorities like Buy Canadian or reducing reliance on tech giants, then council must actually follow those priorities itself. Lead by example.

Anonymous

10/03/2025 10:32 AM

The survey felt quite general and grouped several unrelated priorities together, which made it difficult to provide meaningful input. I also found that many of the questions seemed structured in a way that may lead to predetermined outcomes rather than capturing genuine community perspectives.

Anonymous

10/03/2025 08:24 PM

Give the taxpayers a 0% increase and stop being frivolous with the taxpayers money. Chatham does not need a hub in the old sears building. The taxpayers have stated they do not want the hub listen to the taxpayers. Stop having such grandiose ideas. There are better things to spend the hub money on that Chatham's needs more.

Anonymous

10/04/2025 09:00 AM

As in past budget deliberations, the rural communities have been targets; libraries, fire stations, road maintenance. CK to spend 800 million over the next years, most of that money is in the cities and towns; new arenas, refurbishing arenas, ball parks , chatham fire stations, water infrastructure, new city hall, etc. etc. None of that directly benefits the rural community. Didn't see anything there that the rural community benefits; the gravel road conversion, long term project; costly, short term gain; do not use that as a replacement for dust control.

Anonymous

10/04/2025 04:28 PM

Justification on increasing the service level of roads through the hard surfacing program while simultaneously indicating that service levels will need to decrease due to the significant funding gap. Gravel roads are less costly to maintain throughout their lifecycle, no? I don't want to see our recreation and community programs suffer due to increase in service level on roads and bridges. Please consider active transportation, parks and naturalized areas in prioritization of projects and needs in the community. Increased pedestrian traffic lessens the load on the roads, which could increase their useful life.

Anonymous

10/05/2025 04:09 PM

I would strongly encourage you to please look at the budgeting process in terms of what are wants versus needs. There are many projects in our community that are needs that may not always be pretty or popular, but that deserve the funding necessary to ensure that they are safe and in good, useful condition. It is likely that these are the projects that we - as citizens - don't always 'see' and don't make a great headline. Please prioritize those that are needs over those that are wants. While I understand the allure of being able to attach your name to a legacy project, I would ask you to consider if that is truly and objectively in the best interest of the community and the best stewardship of the funds that are available. There are limited funds and we need a council and administration that will act in the best interest of the community at large.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 07:26 AM

See other comments

Anonymous

10/06/2025 01:00 PM

I would suggest a multi year budget with projections at 0 increase. As a 40 year realtor in this region i see seniors every day that tell me they can't afford the taxes and utilities costs. They sacrifice food or maintenance or both on their homes just to pay their costs. Water costs are too high in CK. There needs to be an overall assessment done on all employees and trim the payroll immensely. You have

retirements happening because your own employees can't stand working for the City any longer and morale is horrendous. These are truths, not here say.

Anonymous

10/06/2025 03:32 PM

Encampment cost so much money. Maybe put the money you put into the encampment into the county drainage issues so you don't keep causing farmers to go broke! If it wasn't for family, I know so many people who would leave here. We are losing so much to taxes, seeing no municipal improvements and seeing so many neighbour's and families go broke because our council won't support their residents...

Anonymous

10/07/2025 08:01 AM

Consider advocating tiny homes development for permanent lower cost homes

Anonymous

10/13/2025 07:58 PM

Taxes need to start coming down pretty soon people will not be able to afford to pay them. City streets need to be cleaned up tougher laws for drug dealers

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:12 PM

Please spend the money on our water and roads - quit spending money on useless things like the Capitol Theatre debacle - keep the library, museum and Civic Centre where they are - makes no sense to move the Civic Centre employees to the mall when half or more than half are working from home. The expense you stated is going to end up being a drop in the bucket just like the Capitol Theatre, Keil St Bridge, etc.

Anonymous

10/13/2025 08:30 PM

Learn how to properly manage and spend our money that you take from us. The answer is not to raise taxes. You can't manage what we give you now so why should we be forced to give you more.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:31 AM

Stop raising taxes for unnecessary new projects especially in the present conditions of the financial capabilities of many homeowners and businesses in CK.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 08:47 AM

Do better!!

Anonymous

10/14/2025 09:02 AM

Look at where we can SAVE! Municipal taxes are too high in CK! We have to be lean and mean for the next decade. We can do it...as long as we put forth the effort. Yes, EFFORT. It's not easy, however, it

can be done

Anonymous

10/14/2025 03:02 PM

From watching some of the meetings with the council, if memory served me correct, or it was an article I read in the newspaper Chatham Kent has an issue with their water that we have a bigger demand than there is a supply. If correct, the cost was going to be in the millions. That comes out of taxpayers money, homeowners extra on their water bill – whatever. From what I read – it was kind of embarrassing as a community. But hey – that's move all businesses to the Sears mall. It doesn't make sense in the end to continue with spending millions and millions to move services into the sears mall when the water issue is a very important issue versus offices. You don't live in the offices – you work there. It is amazing how many windows I never had at my workplace. They were taken out for improvements in the hospital building in shipping & receiving, kitchen, and sterilizing area. I worked in all three of those areas when they did have windows versus when they didn't. When the hospital needed to expand – they renovated inside the hospital building. Yes they had the add on with the two hospitals combining years ago, but beyond that – they made do with what they have. Chatham- Kent can learn from that. Years ago because of circumstances, we had to move our business from Blenheim to our home. We did not have the extra money to pay rent anymore for a building so we had to change our lifestyle to accommodate the business at home. As a city operating as a business – hopefully there is somebody on board who tries to keep the dreamers in check. A friend of ours is a retired banker, he went to many many meetings at City Hall and ask lots of questions. He was very mindful of spending and those are the kind of people you actually need to help with your budget. Not sure if any information will be helpful, but in this day and age, you need to be mindful. So much corruption in government it makes me sick. To at least try to be above the federal government and some provincial government people, and do what is right for the people living in your community is really what we as a citizens of Chatham Kent ask. People of Chatham Kent deserve this.

Anonymous

10/14/2025 06:47 PM

I believe that housing should be a federal priority with municipalities being funded to get affordable homes built. If the past Liberal government hadn't fumbled immigration and foreign investment, we wouldn't be in the housing mess we are in. Encampments and homelessness are rooted in this. Our local government needs to be more assertive with the feds and get the funding to build these homes.

Anonymous

Zero based budgeting should be seriously looked at the time the

10/15/2025 09:53 AM

Municipality is creating, or at least an inflation based increase only.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:10 AM

Work on attracting investment into our local economy. We need large industrial and commercial employers to WANT to have operations here.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:14 AM

Stop the Hub! Stop wasting taxpayers money on your wants not needs at this time. Fix the darn roads. So many overcosts with multiple projects, in my opinion someone did not complete due diligence in awarding contracts. Most taxpayers do not want the Hub, it should have been voted on by the taxpayers as the motion recommended by Councillor Rhonda Jubenville. There were too many unanswered questions when the Hub proposal was first introduced. If the Municipality had come forward honestly I might have been in favour. Start a hiring freeze! I wish the Municipality could freeze wages at this time as well. Enough is enough.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 11:06 AM

Stop handing out salary increases to management. It's ridiculous how much their wages have increased. They are VERY well paid and half of them do not even live in Chatham-Kent or actually come to the office to work. It's so obvious some are only there to top up their best five years since they can work from home hours away from the office.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 12:23 PM

I am a homeowner and business owner in Chatham.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:29 PM

My previous comments in this survey have clearly stated my position.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 08:31 PM

Municipal staffing should be capped. The Hub project should be abandoned, make necessary repairs to the Civic Centre, leave Council chambers in their present location.

Anonymous

10/15/2025 10:23 PM

Stop giving to ROCK....take the tarps and remove from the board walk in wallaceburg. Need workers to investigate people on ontario works. I know alot of people at are capable of working and chose not too.

Optional question (79 response(s), 78 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question