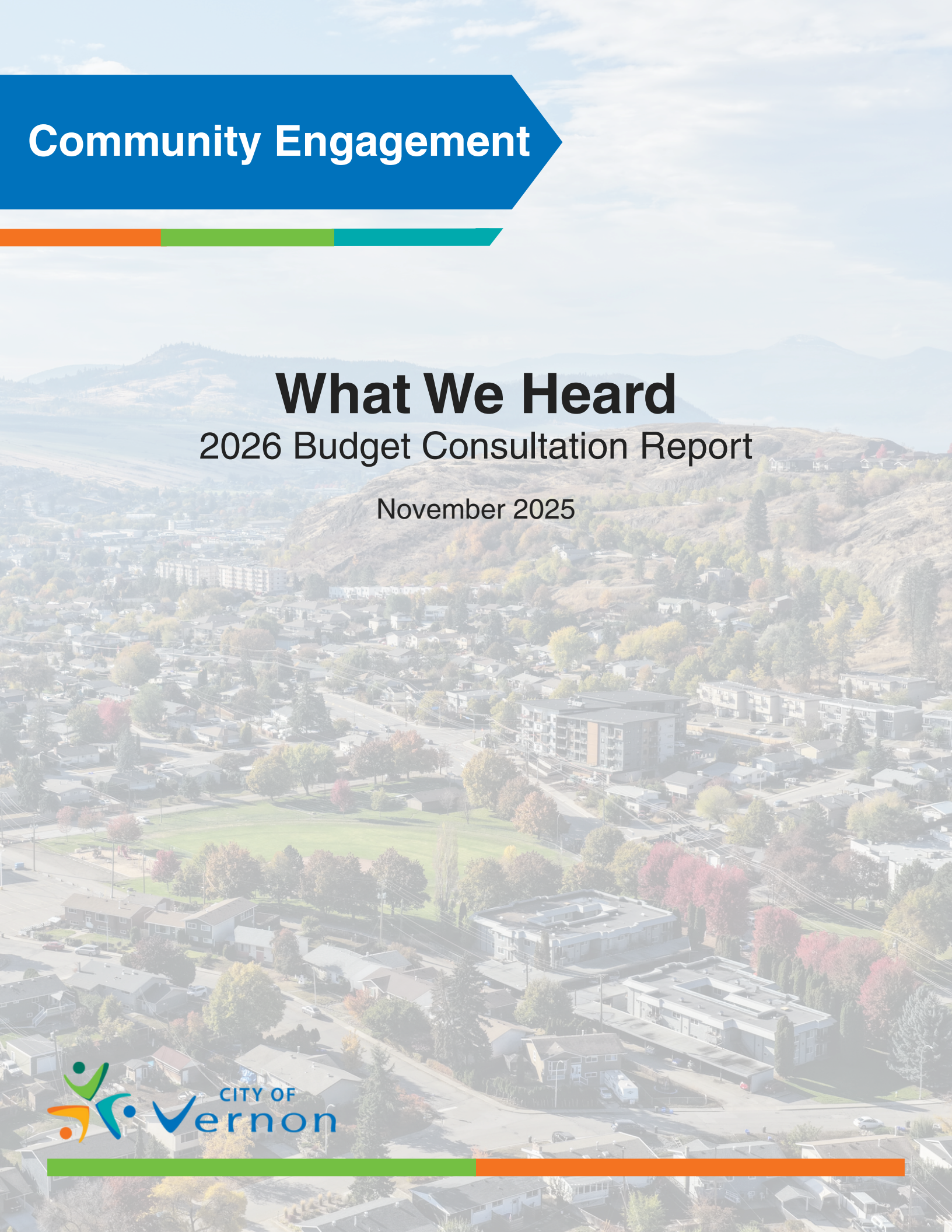
Community Engagement

What We Heard

2026 Budget Consultation Report

November 2025



CITY OF Vernon

What We **Heard**

2026 Budget Engagement Survey - Round 2

The City of Vernon invited the community to provide feedback to help guide important decisions about how the City allocates its resources.

Community engagement overview

937 People visited the Budget engagement page

274 People completed the survey

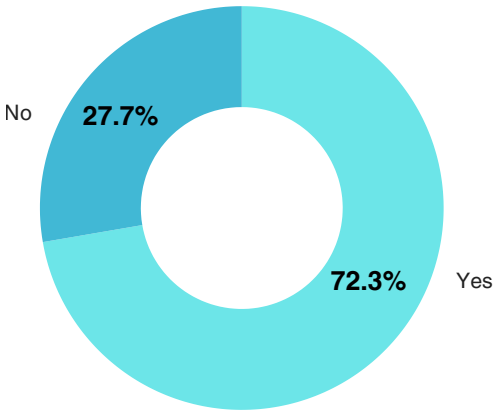
50.4% Participants were under 55 years old

Where we connected

- City Hall
- Engage Vernon
- Recreation Centre
- Open Houses

Balancing the budget

Percentage of respondents that preferred to increase user fees in exchange for a lower tax rate



Top themes

Residents shared their top priorities and key areas of focus

- Exploring cost savings
- Road maintenance
- Transit investment
- Improving efficiencies
- Housing and affordability
- Parks and public spaces

Highlights

75.8% Support investment to improve public safety

75.3% Support maintaining service levels of essential services

79.9% Support investment in core infrastructure projects

57.8% Support investment in parks, trails, and greenspaces

Open House feedback

- Innovate to reduce costs
- Reduce services to balance the budget
- Prioritize community safety
- Supports for seniors

What people said

Affordability

"Not enough focus on affordability. Too much focus on pet projects.
Listen to the community, not corporations."

Lower income accessibility

"Please consider that lower tax rates won't have any effect on our low income community members, while raising user fees and reducing services will absolutely have a negative impact."

Infrastructure investment

"We need more ice rinks in Vernon. Specifically more ice time is needed to grow women's hockey in Vernon.."

Background

As part of the City of Vernon's planning for the 2026 Budget, a Budget Engagement Survey was conducted to gather public feedback on the 2026 Draft Financial Plan. This marks the second phase of community engagement, aimed at collecting feedback, and the insights gathered will help shape decision-making during budget deliberations.

Summary

From **November 10 to November 24, 2025**, we asked for public feedback to help guide important decisions for the 2026 Budget.

This second round of public input helped to understand:

- The level of support from residents towards various strategic investments
- Willingness to explore different financial strategies to reduce tax increases
- Openness to adjusting or reducing certain services, if necessary
- Overall satisfaction with the budget information and engagement

During the engagement period, there was a total of 937 visitors to the online engagement website **engagevernon.ca/budget**.

- 937 unique visitors were **aware** — visited the project page
- 600 visitors were **informed** — opened further documents on the project page
- 274 visitors were **engaged** — completed the survey

The community was notified about the public engagement opportunities using several notification methods — all of which included the link to the online engagement website (engagevernon.ca/budget). Notification methods included:

- Initial opening press release
  - Several news stories were published as a result of these news releases
- Two Open Houses to gather public feedback and answer questions
- Weekly social media posts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, as well as sponsored posts
  - Stories were regularly posted on Facebook and Instagram in addition to weekly posts
- Two printed newspaper ads
- Posters with QR codes and printed copies of the survey were available at City Hall, the Recreation Centre, and the Open Houses

Who we heard from

Age demographics:

- 65+ : 28.9%
- 55-64 : 20.9%
- 45-54 : 17.9%
- 35-44 : 21.6%
- 25-34 : 10.6%
- 18-24 : 0.4%

Household demographics:

- Couple with children: 33%
- Couple without children: 39.9%
- Single parent with child(ren): 3.3%
- Multi-generational household: 10.6%

Area demographics:

- City of Vernon: 89.7%
- District of Coldstream: 2.6%
- RDNO: 4.8%
- Other: 2.9%

What we heard — online engagement results

An online survey was available and hosted on engagevernon.ca and paper copies of the survey were also made available. It is important to note that respondents were not required to answer all questions.

The qualitative outcomes of the feedback reflect the opinions of those that participated in the process.

The primary goal was to hear from members of the community about the Draft 2026 Budget to help guide decisions prior to Council's deliberations of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan.

This year's proposed budget aims to advance key elements of Council's priorities, making our community more livable, vibrant and resilient. Key focus areas include: Community Safety, Health/Recreation and Infrastructure. Do you agree that these should be the top priorities for the City of Vernon?

67% said Yes, while 22.6% said No and 10.4% were Unsure

To what extent do you support the following proposed investments?

- Improve Public Safety by continuing to invest in protective services, including RCMP officers, firefighters and crime prevention initiatives.
  - *75.8% support, while 11.9% oppose*
- Invest in core infrastructure projects such as roads, sidewalks, and sewer systems to support a growing and connected community.
  - 79.9% support, while 8.5% oppose
- Support the renewal and replacement of public facilities to maintain safe and functional community spaces.
  - 51.1% support, while 24.8% oppose
- Maintain service levels to ensure continued delivery of essential services.
  - 75.3% support, while 6.7% oppose
- Plan for sustainable growth that supports housing development.
  - 56% support, while 18.2% oppose
- Invest in parks, trails, and green spaces to enhance community well-being and recreational opportunities.
  - 57.8% support, while 20.5% oppose

Would you prefer to introduce or increase user fees (i.e. pay parking, recreation rates, facility rentals) in exchange for a lower tax rate?

- 72.3% said Yes, while 27.7% said No

Do you prefer to reduce City services in exchange for a lower tax increase? If yes, what services would you suggest we reduce (infrastructure, recreation, fire, RCMP, bylaw, essential services such as street sweeping, road maintenance, sewer or other)?

- 52.8% said Yes, while 47.2% said No

Please rank your level of agreement with the following statement: I am satisfied with the budget information and consultation available to me this year.

- 30.3% Agree or Strongly Agree, 40.9% are Neutral, and 28.8% Disagree or Strongly Disagree

CLOSED: Round 2 survey

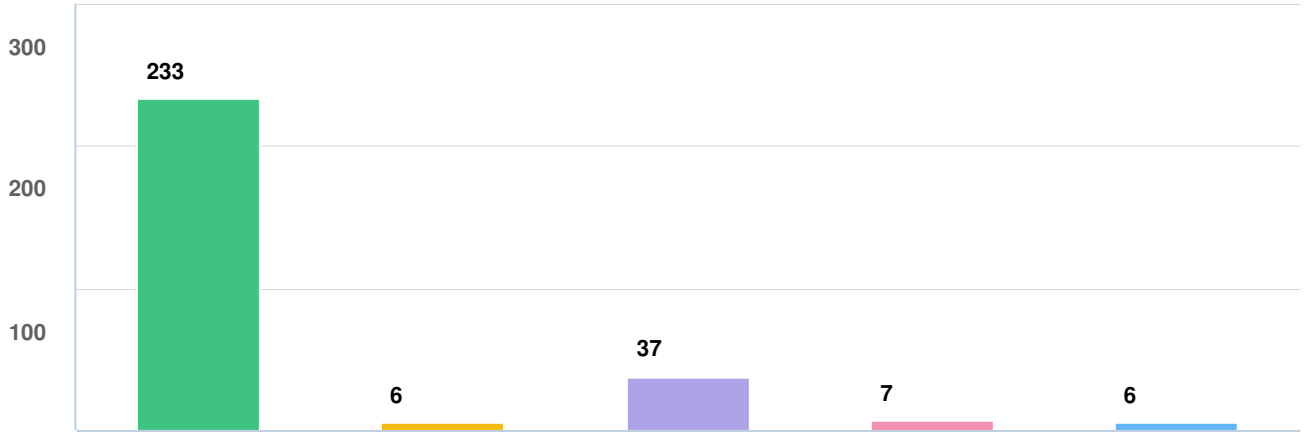
SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT
10 November 2025 - 25 November 2025

PROJECT NAME:
2026 Budget

GRANICUS

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Which best describes your connection to Vernon? (Check all that apply)

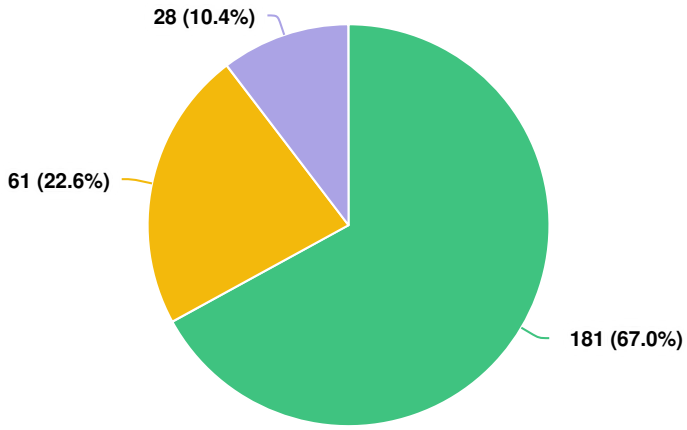


Question options

I live in Vernon | I have a business in Vernon | I live and have a business in Vernon | I own property in Vernon but live elsewhere | Other (please specify)

Optional question (272 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 This year's proposed budget aims to advance key elements of Council's priorities, making our community more livable, vibran...



Question options

Yes | No | Unsure

Optional question (270 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 Please describe what the top priorities for the City should be

Anonymous 11/10/2025 03:50 PM	Top priority is maintaining current infrastructure. Followed by reducing costs to the tax payer.
Anonymous 11/10/2025 04:04 PM	Affordability, Community Safety, Accessibility
Anonymous 11/10/2025 04:06 PM	Only maintaining infrastructure. Quit raising taxes!! look for cost savings within city hall and operations! How much money and time are you guys wasting pretending to work from home! How in the hell did Kal Tire Place need a $1,000,000.00 score clock!
Anonymous 11/10/2025 04:30 PM	The city needs to slow down spending on all these projects and realize that the more you spend the more everyone else will be paying. People are living pay cheque to pay cheque and still recovering from the covid years.....
Anonymous 11/10/2025 05:11 PM	Health (incl recreation), affordability (housing and basic needs), infrastructure
Anonymous 11/10/2025 08:21 PM	Cleaning up our streets.
Anonymous 11/10/2025 08:37 PM	Safety, Infrastructure, Housing
Anonymous 11/10/2025 09:30 PM	Safety(deal with homeless issue & their use of drugs in public & being a menace to traffic on hwy 97) & infrastructure.
Anonymous 11/10/2025 10:49 PM	Community Safety, Projects which earn like Solar,Wind power etc and Transportation
Anonymous 11/11/2025 08:27 AM	Belt tightening. Bringing down property tax costs
Anonymous 11/11/2025 11:07 AM	reduce taxes, work on ensuring that all infrastructure that is old is opened and looked into ensure that the downtown are is properly

	looked after-keep business here and get rid of the vap and marijuana stores reduce the city staff and get value for work from the remainder
Anonymous 11/11/2025 11:11 AM	Only infrastructure should be priority .
Anonymous 11/11/2025 12:19 PM	safety affordability environment
Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:25 PM	Stop over spending within govt. clean up the crime.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:25 PM	Financial reckoning is coming. The City needs to look at all costs and determine where savings could be Mandy and AI can be posed to use taxpayer dollars more effectively. When retirements come through do those positions need to be replaced ? If a new position comes up can another one be eliminated ? The city should be looking ant any and all Federal and Provincial funding and taking advantage of that funding instead of passing it along to local taxpayers. As k what projects bring with them - do they create future cash savings or increase future costs .. include that in project costing. Mayor and Council need to stop thinking they can continuously go back to the taxpayers with increase upon increase … this is fiduciary responsibility and fiscal restraint… we need to do this. Saying we need to increase parking or reduce policing is crap .. cut the fringe expenses that are not needed - there are a lot. And this survey - looking for questions that are all positive and questions worded so you have to agree is self serving .. get an independent to determine the questions … and post this comment box publicly to show it is being considered.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:43 PM	Cost of living, reducing management/employee bloat at city hall
Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:45 PM	Address the drug issues and homelessness enough building stupid things and raising taxes deal with the problems that are bringing Vernon down
Anonymous 11/11/2025 05:50 PM	Proper public transportation (Middleton, turtle mountain, beyond kin beach on both sides of the lake do not have bus access)
Anonymous	Maintaining City programs and structures Community wellness

11/12/2025 02:31 AM	programs Maintaining Infrastructure of present roads, sewer, etc
Anonymous 11/12/2025 08:39 AM	Community safety and financial performance. City spending needs to be pulled back to match CPI index
Anonymous 11/12/2025 10:00 AM	After years of continuous tax increases, it’s time for the City of Vernon to ensure that living here remains affordable. Rather than spending millions on new affordable housing projects, the City should focus on helping current homeowners stay in their homes and not be forced out by rising taxes and property values.
Anonymous 11/12/2025 01:31 PM	In addition to these, "Affordability" has got to become a key priority. Currently, "affordability" is not a priority for either Council or City Staff.
Anonymous 11/12/2025 06:41 PM	Safety, Health and Maintaining Infrastructure are the key elements and need to be maintained. Recreation should only have investment once the entire community has its necessities satisfied. Not before. Growth in infrastructure is important but only when it's required on a proven increase in residents or business growth. On question 4, you ask about Investing in core infrastructure projects such as roads, sidewalks and sewer systems for growth. My answer is yes, "IF" we currently have all of the safety concerns addressed within the Vernon community. Predator Ridge has many concerns that have not been taken seriously or addressed. If Vernon has extra money, I fully support and agree with building infrastructure for a larger and more vibrant community. Your questions asked, leave out many thoughts and concerns. RCMP should be set at some sort of percentage to population that requires a review every 5 years or so.
Anonymous 11/12/2025 09:38 PM	Community safety, infrastructure & affordable living !!
Anonymous 11/12/2025 10:45 PM	Affordable place to live, inclusivity, housing, enforcement.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 06:14 AM	Affordability, viability, sense of community, downtown.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 09:58 AM	AFFORDABILITY & HOUSING!! This is top of mind for residents

Anonymous 11/13/2025 04:28 PM	Infrastructure, tighter rules for light industrial, focus on major intersection upgrades and more lights. Ie Hwy 6/15th/Middleton, 11th Ave light, lights synchronized. Health/recreation is already been taken care of and community safety is anRCMP issue with City bylaw involved.
Anonymous 11/14/2025 10:48 AM	Affordability, infrastructure upgrades, transportation plan (road access increase, accounting for volume increases, parking increases) for vehicles NOT buses.
Anonymous 11/15/2025 09:40 AM	Infrastructure, yes, Community Safety, yes. City beautification, yes, as the city looks like a slum in many areas (no wonder tourists just keep in driving to Kelowna). Recreation, no.
Anonymous 11/16/2025 04:29 PM	Affordable living. We don't need another rec center and arts center and and and. Nobody can afford to rent it anyways with the current city fees. We have nature and we can recreate outside. Too many expensive projects that are not self sustainable. Housing that people can afford. Healthcare when one needs it. Transit or proper bike lockers so we can take our bikes without being afraid they get stolen. Bylaw that actually supports the regular citizens and not those who don't care anyways.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 03:35 PM	Cutting salaries or staff, cut the culture building to build affordable apartments like the Hub development.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 03:37 PM	Balancing the budget and quit spending money the city doesn’t have. The money would be much better spent to help get people out of poverty.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 04:27 PM	Fiscal restraint. No tax increases. The cost of living is getting dangerously out of hand. Almost every sector of the population in Vernon are worried about finances. Working class people are struggling as are seniors in the community. The city of Vernon should obviously maintain infrastructure but any new projects that are not immediately necessary need to be postponed as the cost of living is becoming a big concern.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 06:10 PM	Cut costs, not increase spending

Anonymous 11/18/2025 02:09 AM	Affordability, recreation, cleanliness.
Anonymous 11/18/2025 08:09 AM	cutting spending and reducing taxes
Anonymous 11/18/2025 08:58 AM	Keeping costs low, if you are going to maintain parks and keep them usable then do a better job keeping addicts out of them
Anonymous 11/18/2025 02:49 PM	Controlling costs. If you cant manage that in house, hire a financial advisor.
Anonymous 11/18/2025 03:39 PM	Spending our money wisely, reacting to to increases to do expenses and DOING a review of expenditures (who is the watch dog. Who is asking the tough questions on over costs and what we receive for the money Vernon spends. If we are get quotes are to high then we should refuse ALL applications. and start over again. Businesses should do a better job and bidding and laying out costs . I want more mirco management this area. Other cities are doing it. Vernon has to be for critical of itself and our staff who give us advise. It is not a sign of offending anyone but to get them to sometimes think outside the box and look for better options. Council has missed the target on alot of projects and projects over the last few years with no excuse for not demanding better from everyone. We have to have management that can make tough decisions NOT QUICK ONES. we need to send it back for review if its not right. Not sign off because it takes more work. We need solutions to many of the city's future long range. I see dollars spent on consultants and exceptance of their findings without really getting down to bigger picture. Decisions in my world of Big corporation would not be signed off on without better framework. You in our community with have so many people with so much depth in many plains that we do not take advantage of. I thinks this is so sad. We spend money when we just have to ask Vernon Professionals who are retired if what Vernon management is doing makes sense. Now you may think I am crazy but I make this happen in my life (and I am in My 70's) Example Covid major cross border issues in moving products back and forth. Offers suggestions to Federal government and CBSA to improvement the flow of goods. They asked what I had in mind. Design and got changes for CBSA with improvements to broader procedure with improved AI documentation. There were many other things to help governments that get can do. Just ask for input , find people that would be willing to create a board (advisory panel) to look at things the City of Vernon wants to do. Let them pick holes in the idea (you will be surprized the things no buddy thought of.) Long term we get better decisions and money spend wiser and

better. Some of questions on this questionaire leave too many unanswered questions because everything is not cut and dry and in many questions they are put in away to get answers (I believe to what City of Vernon wants it slanted. NOT NECESSAREY TO GET BETTER INPUT TO IMPROVEMENT VERNON) Like all cities special interest groups can costs city's a ton of money with not weighed to what is better of all long range. This does not mean that some of the groups have valid points , BUT ITS THE TAX PAYERS MONEY. If this was so Seniors would rule based on population and Vernon's continue growth in this category . As your Community plan spells out. about Vernon growth re: ageing population For Vernon. So what's your plan. Vernon does not have one that brings more tax dollars in. Where is the manufacturing. Where is the hospitality money. Why do we let Kelowna take it away from Vernon. This has been going on for 50 years. ITS PAST BEING A CITY WITH NOT FUTURE. Investing in infrastructure, You need businesses to be the corner stone not just home owners Safety in many questions. Yes but we can not just make every question using safety to make changes or improvement. If so them with the doubling of Vernon employees and the salaries plus benefits do not meet productivity. This should change Tax payers want these things but we need to get staff and unions to be part of the solution. We must engagement to help us all have a better life. We should demand it as we expect it as taxpayers. Most of the question four (4) can be answered this way Show me the plan then we can determine if the investments have valitity

Anonymous
11/19/2025 09:03 AM

I agree with Community Safety. This should be #1. The number of addicts and people loitering around downtown has grown considerably over the last few years. Our priority should be restoring Vernon so that law abiding responsible citizens do not have to worry about their safety or the safety of their property. It also looks terrible when tourists come who bring valuable income for Vernon business owners. My friend recently had her car windscreen smashed by someone hurling a huge rock through the windscreen. My daughter had to walk via downtown every day for school by herself and she frequently felt uncomfortable with the number of addicts roaming everywhere. Are we choosing addicts over the safety of children and teens? What behaviour are we rewarding here? What happened to the vagrancy laws? And does this even need more "investment"?? Maybe the police can do their job without any more money. Maybe someone or some procedures need to get out of the way so that the police can actually do their job. For example, the local liquor store The Angry Otter told me they see the same people over and over again stealing from them. They are literally back at it stealing on a regular basis - what is going on that we are not enforcing our laws? Do not focus on Health /Recreation. We should stop trying to be all things to all people and instead, focus on doing core city services

efficiently and well - such as garbage, water, and policing. If you try to be too many things to too many people you eventually end up watering down what you do so that nothing is done well. Why is the city competing with private businesses such as gyms and yoga studios and other recreational activities? Taxes are far too high as it is, especially with so many working people struggling - people who pay taxes and keep the city coffers going. If you lowered taxes then each person would have more financial freedom to decide what recreation they would like to do with their own money. Infrastructure: I am suspicious of this priority as all too frequently we hear of tremendous government waste on infrastructure projects. We do not need to be expanding government and causing more financial burden for the working people of Vernon. We need to be more responsible with other people's money. It is not your money. As an aside, we do need to get out of the way and pare down the regulations so that builders can build new housing without the tangle of permits currently facing them. We need to look for ways to make the city more budget efficient - layoffs, early retirement and paring down what is offered and finding more efficient ways to offer what is necessary. Government is notorious for wasting other people's money. We should look at ways to be a trailblazer among British Columbian cities by doing things differently - more accountability, reducing government waste, reducing or no increases to taxes - taking a stand to do this. Also look at how this question is phrased: Would you prefer to introduce or increase user fees (i.e. pay parking, recreation rates, facility rentals) in exchange for a lower tax rate? This is too vague. How much would the user fees go up by? 50% is very different from 10%. Also this is not the only option to reduce taxes. We can reduce taxes through many ways - a hiring freeze, early retirement, reduction of bonuses, greater efficiencies, etc. As this question is currently phrased I cannot answer it. It does not include all the information necessary for an informed reply. Also, for question #4 below, dollar figures should be put beside every question. The questions are meaningless unless we have a dollar figure. What does "invest" mean - $5,000, or $50,000 or $500,000+? Without this, I have no idea from this survey what you mean by "invest" or "support the renewal." I tried to answer the questions but they can not be answered without a dollar figure.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 11:16 AM

Community safety, infrastructure and basics in this time of some people not even able to afford food. I'm not talking about homeless, I'm talking about people working jobs, anything to keep the taxes low and no increases right now. Keep it to the basics like all the rest of us are. I support infrastructure improvements but a whole summer to do a crappy traffic circle that really doesn't work and probably was not needed. No not work for the sake of it and by the way on that corner of 20th Street on to Pleasant Valley why did you take out the right

	hand turn?
Anonymous 11/19/2025 11:44 AM	The recreation centre is already hugely over budget, maybe allot some money to keep a hospital functioning at it's full capability. Invest in medical clinics so that we don't need to rush and plug up the ER. This spending is careless and not a priority.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 11:47 AM	Infrastructure is a priority for sure. But we live in beautiful bc… can we pause on health and recreational projects. My family does not use them and taxes are getting too expensive
Anonymous 11/19/2025 02:08 PM	The main priority should be to reduce tax increases to be more in line with inflation. Tax increases have not been less than 5 % for a number of years now. We don’t have unlimited ability to accept these increases and the city needs to adjust as necessary. This city is becoming unaffordable to live in.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 04:02 PM	#1. Safety #2. Affordability #3.Infrastructure Health and recreation are worth squat if you're not safe and can't afford to stay healthy or partake in recreational opportunities.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 08:36 PM	essential services, Community safety, health, needed infrastructure replacement
Anonymous 11/20/2025 11:12 AM	Stop increasing property taxes. Create a budget that doesn’t require tax increases every year.
Anonymous 11/20/2025 01:18 PM	Crime rate, safety in our community #1 too high of immigration to our community -that affects the infrastructure that it can't handle large influx. (medical system-overwhelmed, housing, jobs) retain more doctors to stay local, drop in clinics to avoid long waits at the hospital
Anonymous 11/20/2025 07:14 PM	Conducting efficiency reviews and cost per population analysis relative to similar size cities of all departments with a focus on reducing costs in order to keep property tax increases equal to or below inflation. Immediate wage freeze for all management/staff and complete hiring freeze until reviews are completed.
Anonymous	Keeping Vernon affordable.

11/21/2025 11:06 AM

Anonymous
11/21/2025 11:51 AM

Clean this city up, it is a disgrace driving through. Make companies like BMO clean up and maintain the boulevards. Lower the cost of water so homeowners can afford to support the grass and plantings.

Anonymous
11/21/2025 06:00 PM

We need more amenities for youth and residents. We need facilities like gyms, and ice arenas.

Anonymous
11/22/2025 04:45 PM

Stop wasting money on recreation/curlture. The city needs to take a look at all the traffic lights, theres too many intersections with advanced lefts only one way. The money needs to be allocated for inferstucture, not for these useless rec areas

Anonymous
11/23/2025 01:10 PM

Right now in these economic times and uncertainty, the Council should be focusing on keeping costs at a very strict minimum as not to over burden its residents. Our taxes increased dramatically in 2025!!! Increasing spending at this time will impact the residents to the point that some will move to adjacent communities that are nearby such as Coldstream, Armstrong or Lake Country.

Anonymous
11/23/2025 02:48 PM

Recreation isn’t a priority. Reduce taxes please

Anonymous
11/23/2025 04:28 PM

Community safety, infrastructure & affordable housing

Anonymous
11/24/2025 12:58 PM

I think, any infrastructure that isn't absolutely a necessity should be put on hold as our Country, Province and City is under extreme financial stress and increasing our property taxes for things like the "Cultural Centre", more parks, ect are out of budget for our current situation. The City council should be aware of this and act accordingly. Circumstances change and they must change their focus even if temporarily..This would also include any new development that is NOT "affordable" housing. There are many many houses on the market right now that aren't selling due to the price of the home. Affordable housing should be in the city center where public transit already exsists like where Tiki Village is and not out OK Landing where more money is required to bring more services out.

Optional question (58 response(s), 216 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

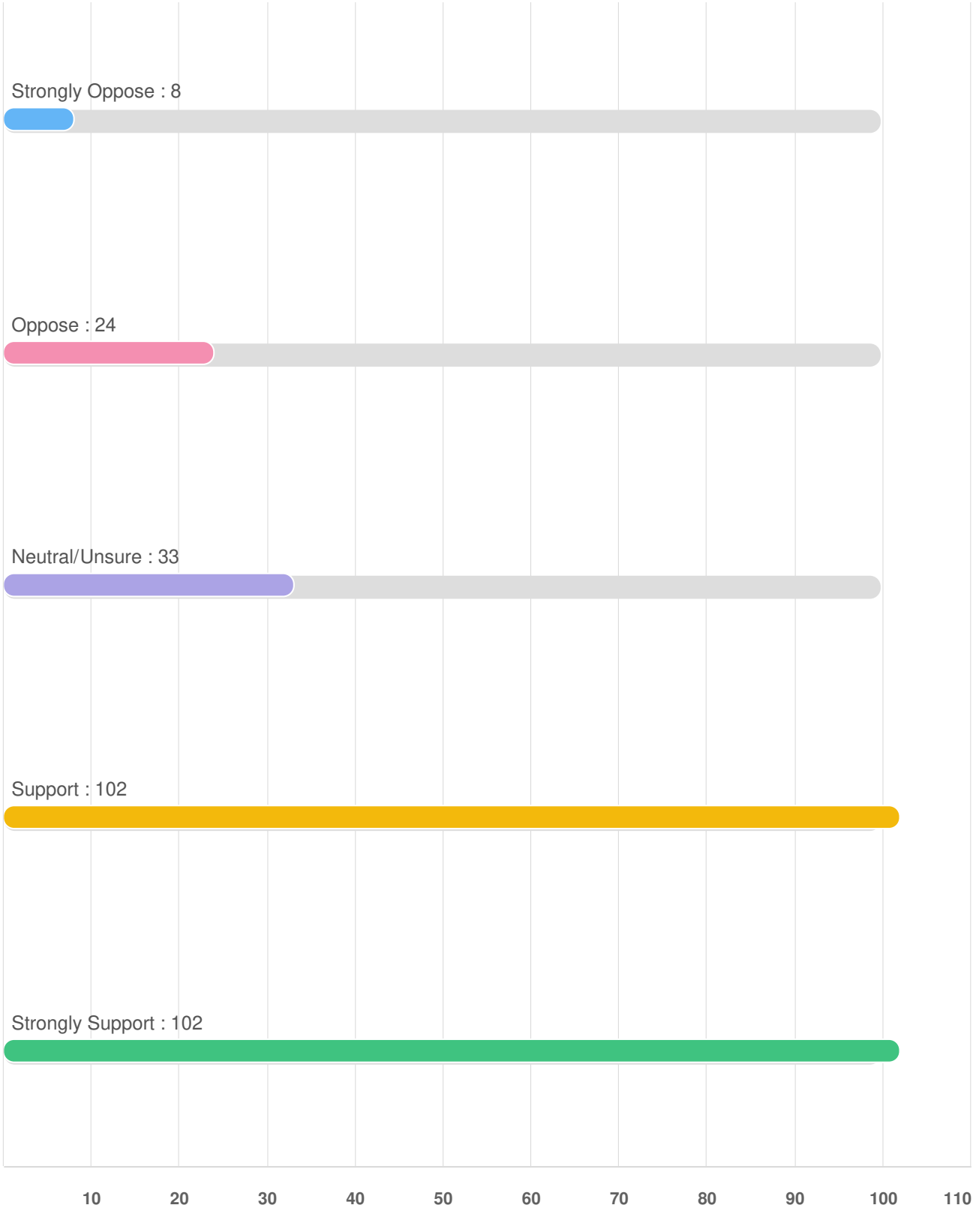
Q4 To what extent do you support the following proposed investments?



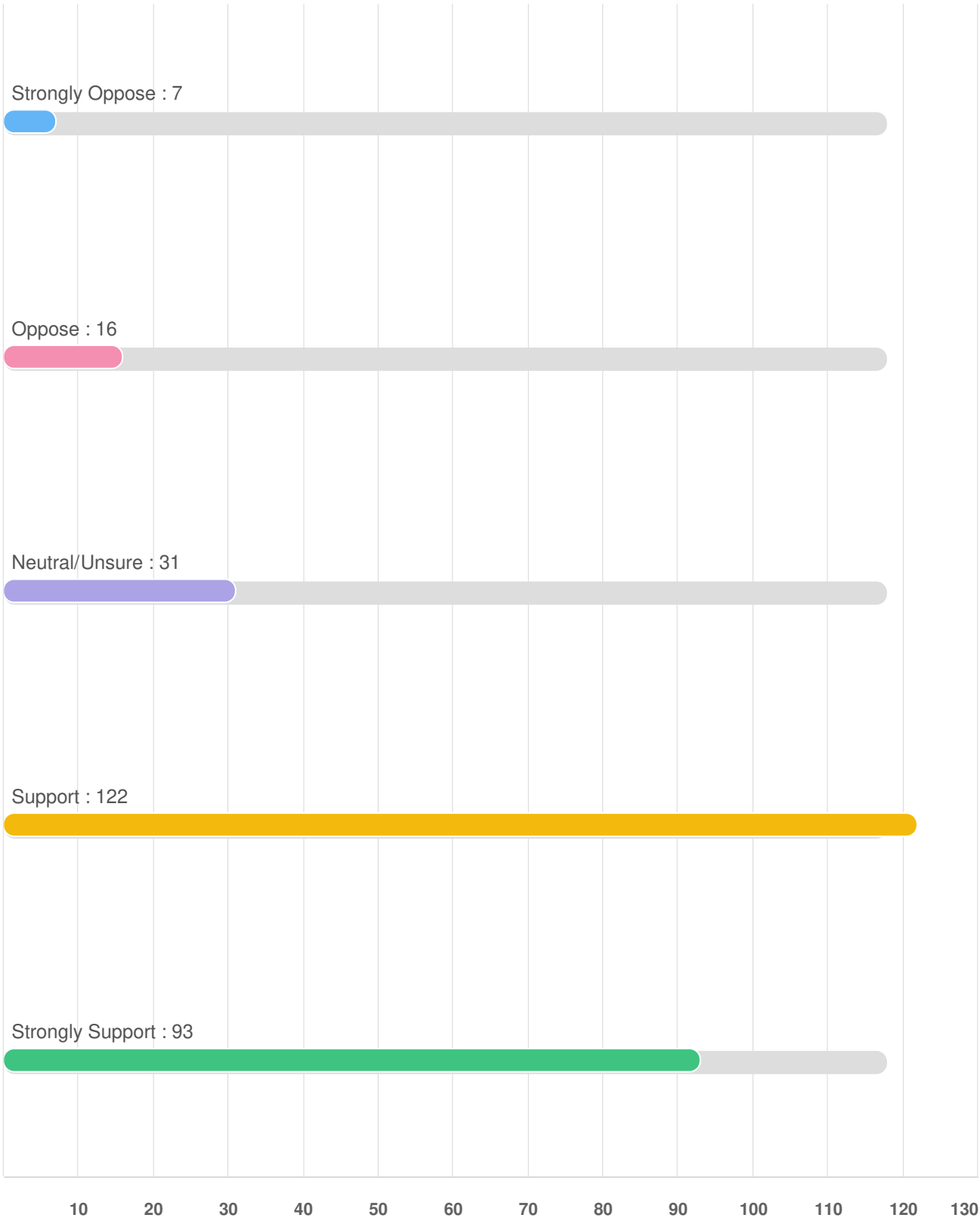
Optional question (270 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q4 To what extent do you support the following proposed investments?

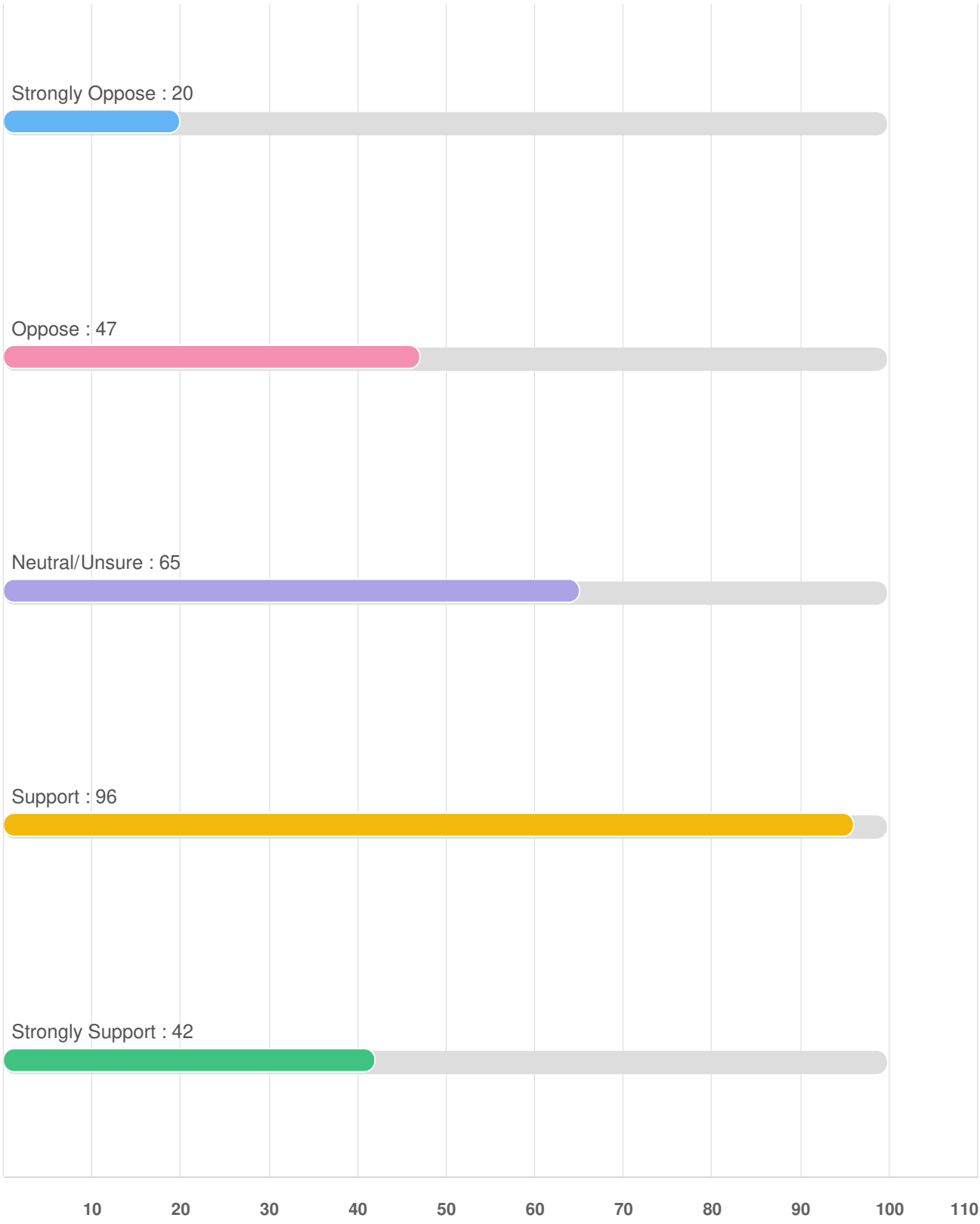
Improve Public Safety by continuing to invest in protective services, including RCMP officers, firefighters and crime prevention initiatives.



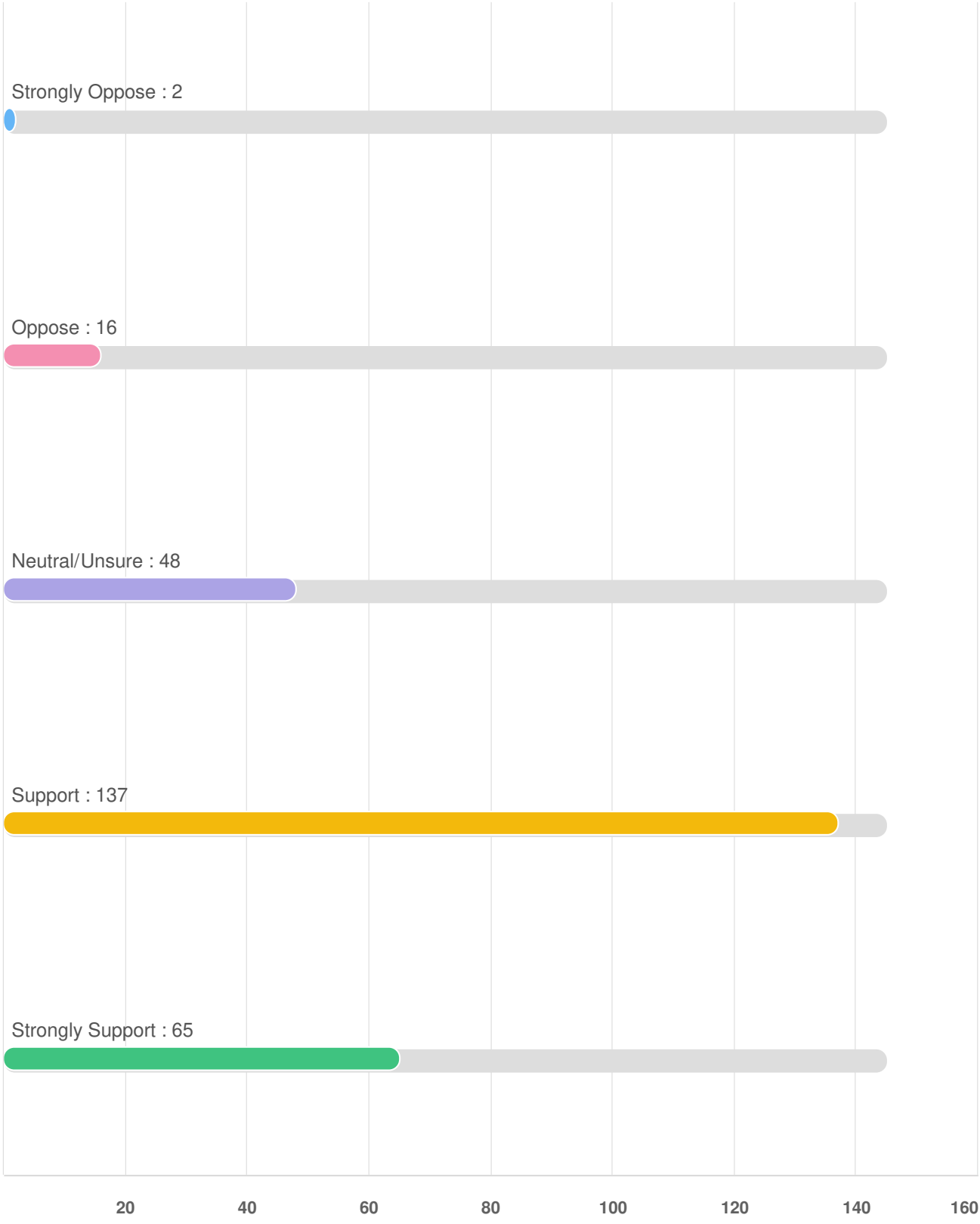
Invest in core infrastructure projects such as roads, sidewalks, and sewer systems to support a growing and connected community.



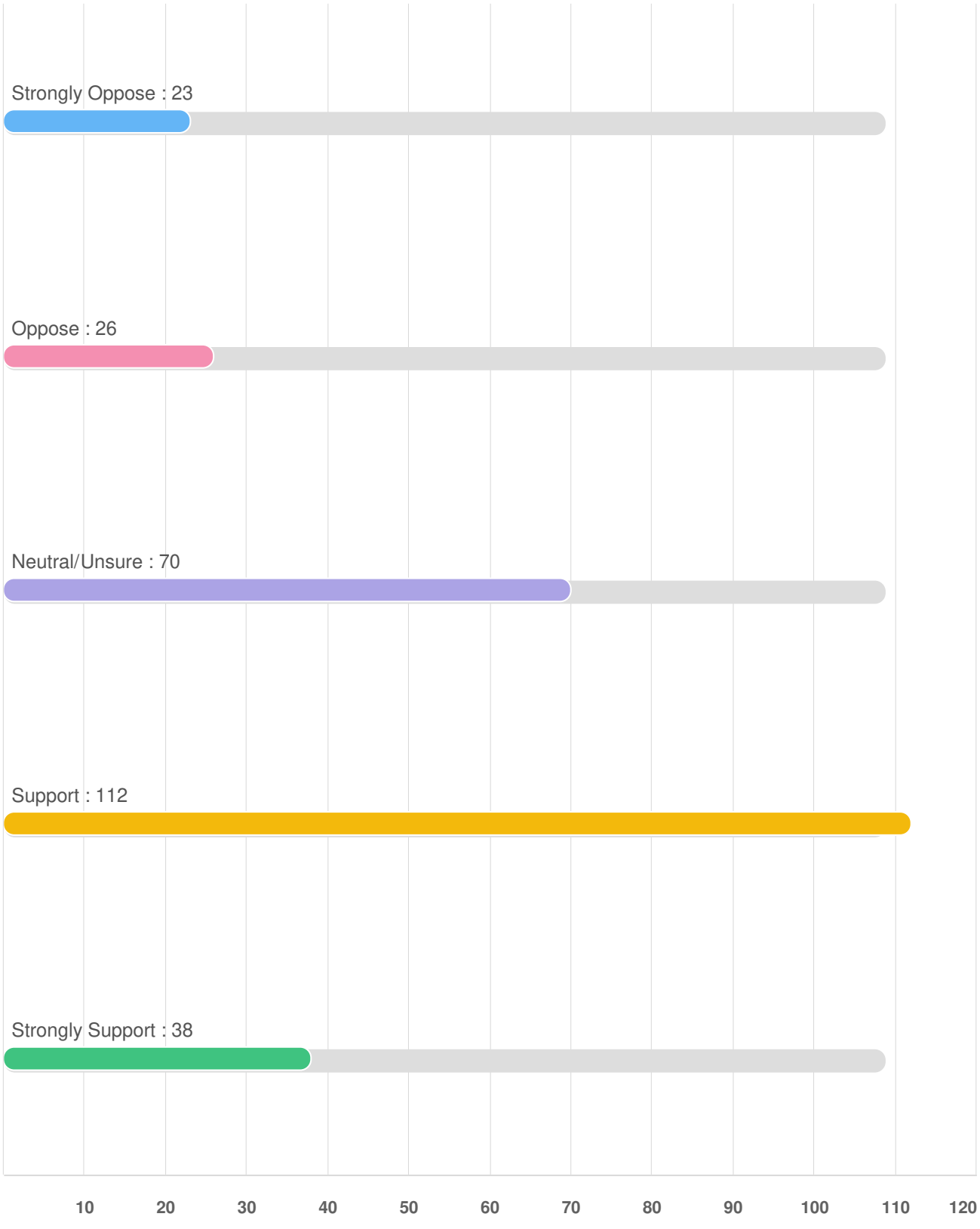
Support the renewal and replacement of public facilities to maintain safe and functional community spaces.



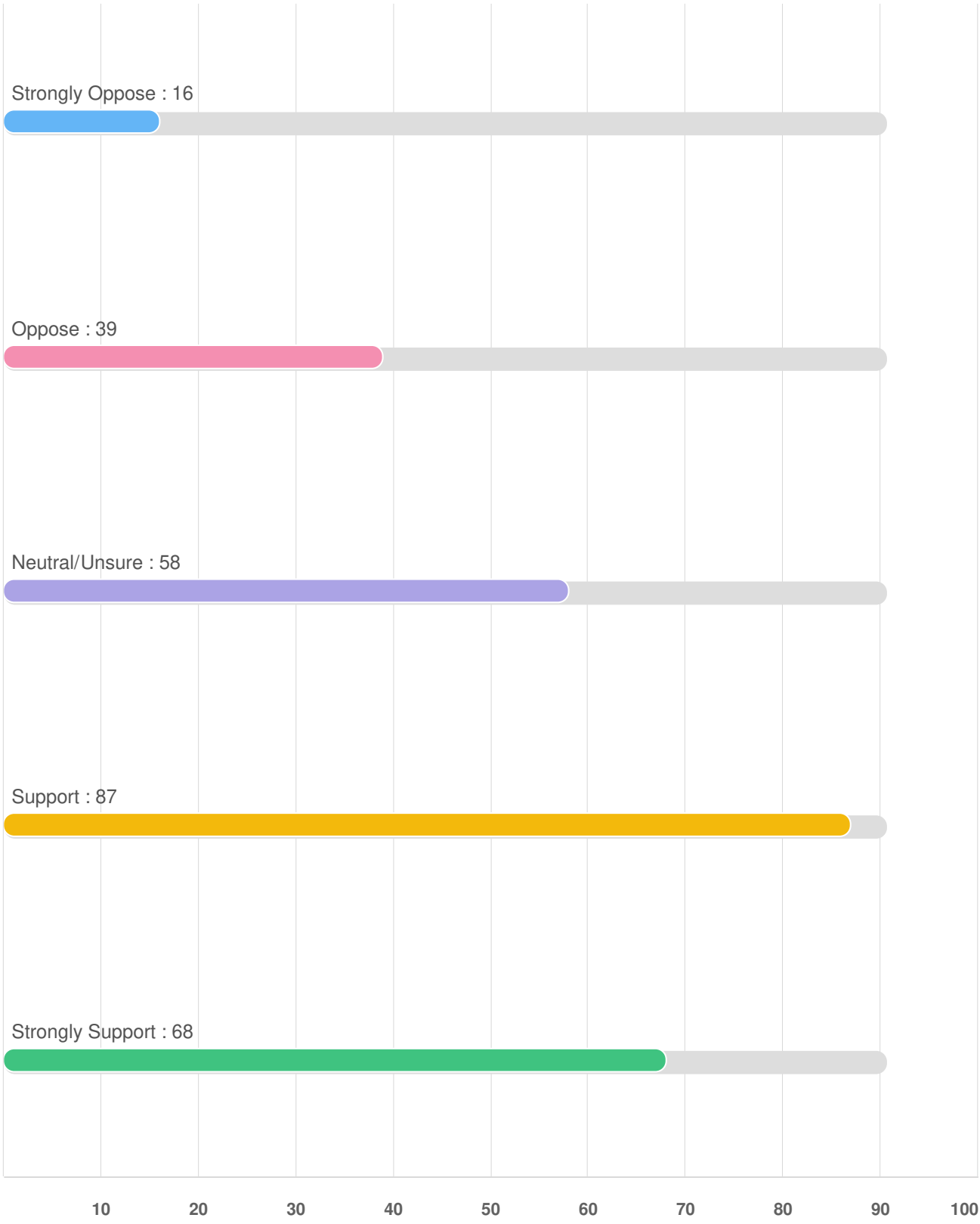
Maintain service levels to ensure continued delivery of essential services.



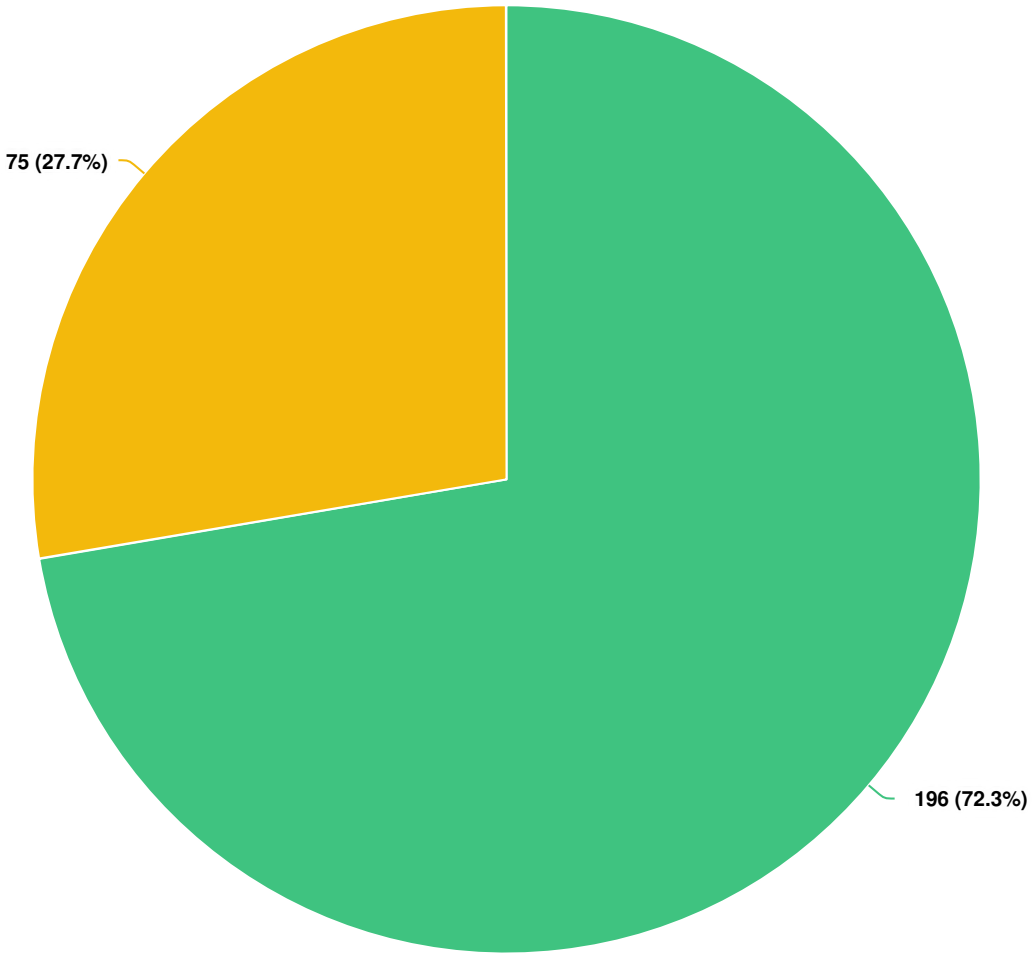
Plan for sustainable growth that supports housing development.



Invest in parks, trails, and green spaces to enhance community well-being and recreational opportunities.



Q5 Would you prefer to introduce or increase user fees (i.e. pay parking, recreation rates, facility rentals) in exchange for a lower tax rate?

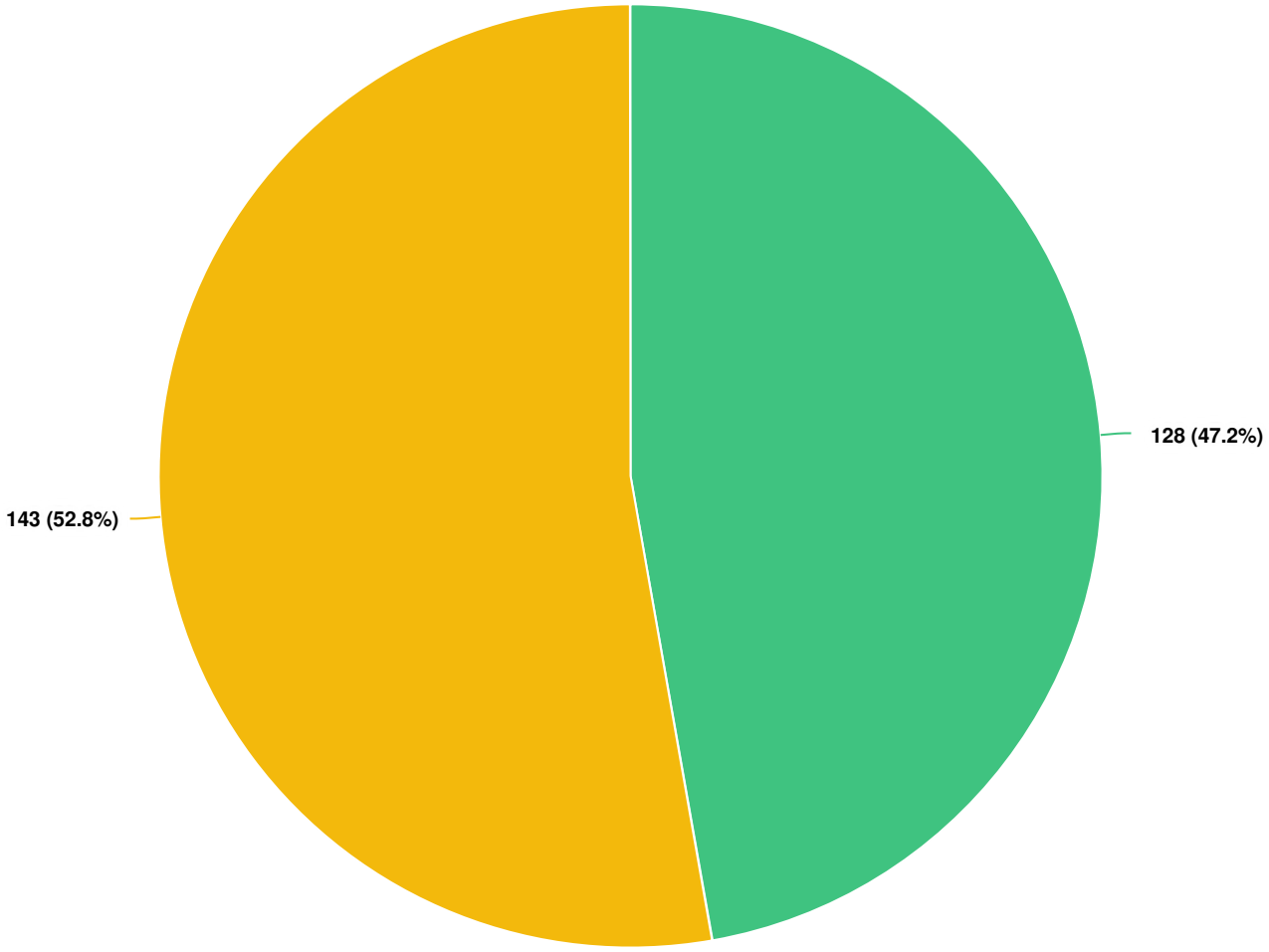


Question options

No Yes

Optional question (271 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q6 **Do you prefer to reduce City services in exchange for a lower tax increase? If yes, what services would you suggest we reduce (infrastructure, recreation, fire, RCMP, bylaw, essential services such as street sweeping, road maintenance, sewer or oth...**



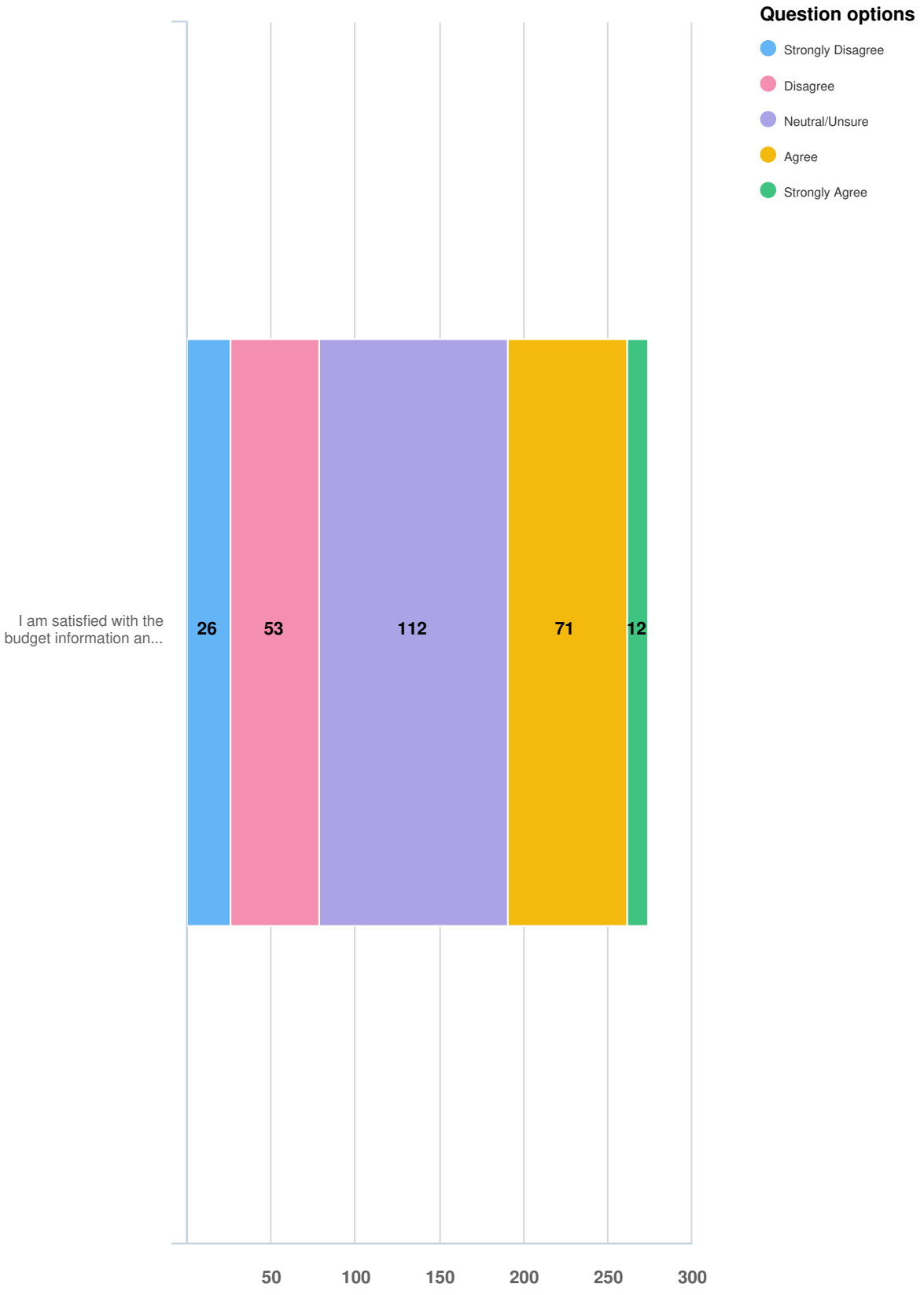
Question options

Yes (please share your thoughts on which services to reduce)

No

Optional question (271 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

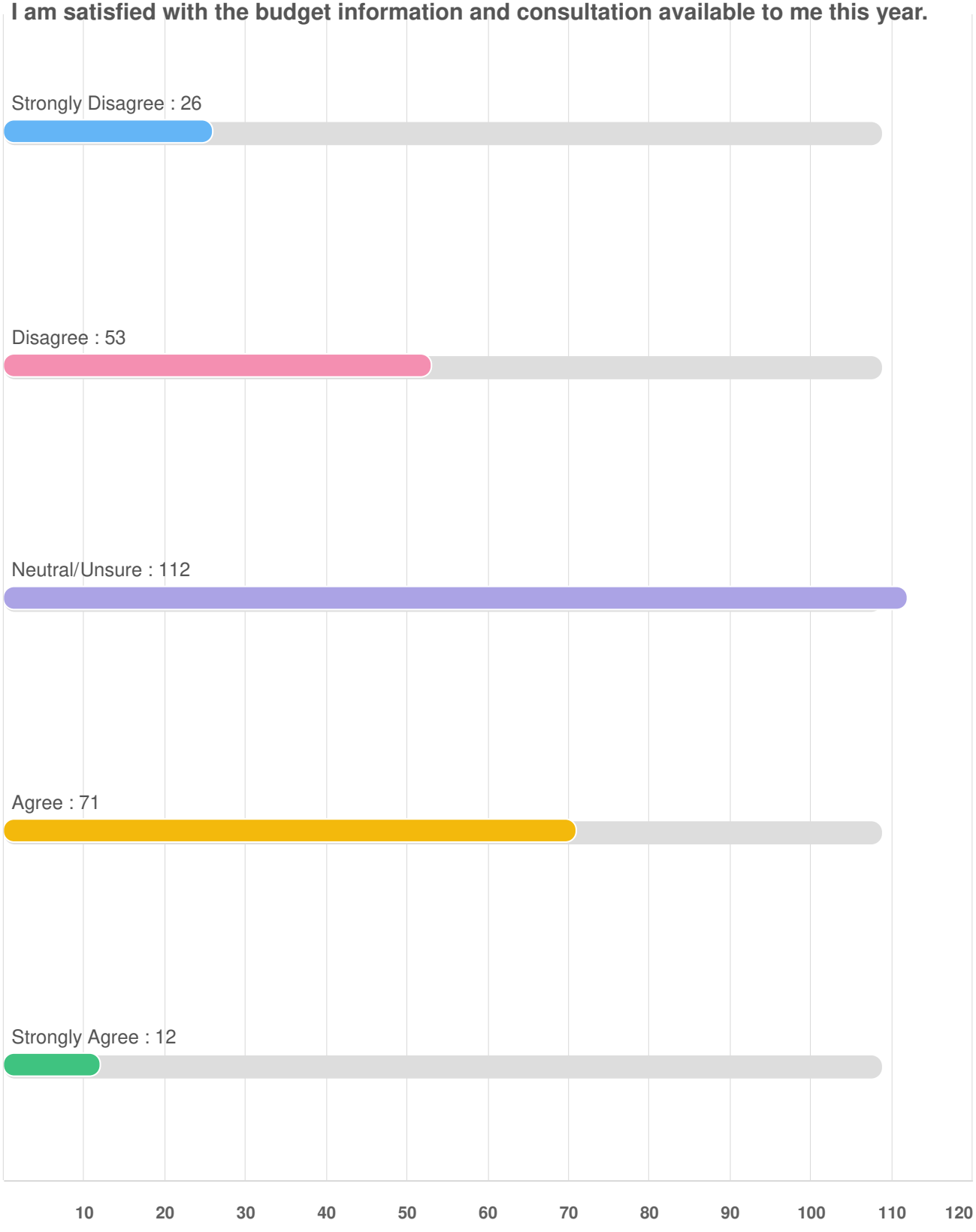
Q7 Please rank your level of agreement with the following statement:



Optional question (274 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q7 Please rank your level of agreement with the following statement:

I am satisfied with the budget information and consultation available to me this year.



Q8 Do you have any other feedback on what is proposed in the Draft 2026 Budget? If so, please share.

Anonymous 11/10/2025 03:21 PM	Actually listen to the people that live here!! Invest money in things that are already in high demand. We need more ice surfaces!! SO many kids play hockey, ringette, figure skating etc and there is not enough ice available. We don't need a "cultural centre" what even is that!? Not something kids or young people use regularly. Start investing money into things for young people!!
Anonymous 11/10/2025 03:50 PM	The CoV has not provided the fees involved with bringing in all of these drug addicted criminals under the guise of supportive housing. Turning Points and other groups are causing this extreme staffing increase in RCMP and Firefighters.
Anonymous 11/10/2025 04:06 PM	No new building for the RCMP! BC Housing and non profits have destroyed Vernon downtown! End work from home for City workers! We do not need a climate action plan! Also do not need a new website. Again, collaborating with the OKIB is a waste of time and money.
Anonymous 11/10/2025 04:22 PM	Vernon had a great increase in taxes this year. Please not again our pensioners are finding taxes are tough enough.
Anonymous 11/10/2025 04:30 PM	I believe the city needs to realize that not everyone who owns a home can afford a double digit tax increase. If the city of Vancouver can do 0% for 2026 then the city of vernon needs to do better, and look after their citizens!!
Anonymous 11/10/2025 04:36 PM	No tax increase. We can't afford this madness!!!! We moved to Vernon for affordability!!
Anonymous 11/10/2025 05:02 PM	Absolutely ridiculous increase. You're going to push people out of Vernon. The "cultural centre" is such a waste of money. Focus on controlling the homeless rather than building things we don't want. Focus on your current community members and ensure they have access to services. For example, living in Canadian Lakeview Estates. We aren't on Vernon's water, pay ASTRONOMICAL prices on top of additional costs yet we don't get proper treatment.

Anonymous
11/10/2025 05:04 PM

Keep increases to below 5%

Anonymous
11/10/2025 05:05 PM

10% in this age of inflation and food prices skyrocketing is way too much of an increase to property taxes

Anonymous
11/10/2025 05:29 PM

If the city is going to ask for more money, what do they have in place to ensure that what is being done now is efficient? Because the inefficiency's I see are nothing but problems thus creating more work, increasing our taxes. We as hard working tax payers, shouldn't pay more for terrible service. The healthcare system here is mess. They have a bunch of employeees that do NOTHING! They actually encourage people to do less so they don't have to do more. The managers have a right to mis-manage according to the collective agreement. Well now nobody is holding the managers or directors accountable to ensure they are doing their jobs. Look at the top, not the hard workers. Also I don't believe we need more parks, trails or green spaces the ones we have aren't maintained and we are already the trails capital of Canada how much more do we need? We live in a beautiful place with so much of this already we don't need to focus on it it's already here for free! The amount of "essential service" employees I see doing nothing is nothing short of wild. One person doing the work while the other walks or sits. Why should I pay more for people to sit all day? I disagree with spending more money on crime services because it's ineffective. People don't even go to jail when they do something wrong. They could do 65 things wrong and still be out so again why would we waste money on services that don't work. They need to hold those that are doing terrible things accountable and have consequences to their actions or else they will repeat. There needs to be way more mental health supports and it would be great if it wasn't near the park we spends 1000's of dollars to maintain, for who the homeless?? Nobody feels safe going to Polson park.

Anonymous
11/10/2025 05:29 PM

Everything needs to be done to try amd maintain property tax levels, going up is not ideal, mine have doubled in 6 years

Anonymous
11/10/2025 07:28 PM

I think housing sustainability is important- but it often focuses on multi plex, row housing, how about the families that still want suburban housing, can we focus on that too?

Anonymous
11/10/2025 08:00 PM

Remove funding for cultural centre as it seems to be a huge waste of money and money the city could save for so many other things!

Anonymous
11/10/2025 08:03 PM

A sliding scale for user fees.

Anonymous
11/10/2025 08:15 PM

Tax increases are killing the opportunity for younger generations to afford to purchase a home.

Anonymous
11/10/2025 08:16 PM

I disagree with the tax increase required for the new Cultural Centre. I do not believe this will be utilized, and has an extremely large price tag for the amount of usable services it will provide. I am, however, very much in favour of all RCMP and Fire Protection services, as well as the new active living centre! We will 100% be using this regularly as a family for the next 20+ years and we couldn’t be more excited for the new space. We also utilize parks, playgrounds, trails and green spaces every day, and are so pleased with the effort that is put into these outdoor spaces!!!

Anonymous
11/10/2025 08:29 PM

Most families are living pay check to pay check.

Anonymous
11/10/2025 09:23 PM

Public safety. Speed control measures, speed bumps, to be installed at Predator Ridge. Safety issue at Baileys Rd Trail Head. Provide parking please. It is a safety hazard. Provide dedicated bicycle lanes on Commonage from Predator Ridge all the way into down town.

Anonymous
11/10/2025 09:43 PM

The new 'cultural centre's is a waste of money. The Recreation centre is an excellent use of money. More parks, trails, spray decks and active living should be prioritized over ANOTHER art gallery. There is plenty of those in Vernon, Coldstream and silver star.

Anonymous
11/10/2025 09:46 PM

I think that the fact that the active living center and cultural center that no one in this city wanted shouldn't cost us so much in taxes especially because of all the delays that are raising the budget of your going to make everyone pay for something that they didn't want you should at least make sure the whole city votes on it not just a few thousand people im tired of everything costing more but wages never go up except the council of vernon

Anonymous
11/10/2025 10:44 PM

Vancouver is proposing a 0% property tax increase in their area when they have multi-millionaires out there. Meanwhile, you have seniors and families, some are single income earners who can't stare down the barrel of a 10% tax increase. This is making many households

	decide between food VS. a roof over their head. People who are retired are having to go find part time work to supplement pensions, and now this. I understand we've borrowed money for new projects, and by all means, Vernon needs revitalization, however it can't be squarely on the backs of the Vernon homeowners. Some other suggestions that come to mind - Invest tax dollars into opportunities that will bring long term revenue rather than tax burden such as City owned below market rental housing. Partner with other levels of Government to help reduce total cost to Vernon taxpayers and a large private development company to complete the construction. Invest tax dollars into mandatory/ secure drug rehabilitation facilities, long term care facilities for seniors, that can be paid for by other levels of Government via leases. Purchase Silver Star Resort and Annex the Silver Star property from Area C RDNO. Provide reduced cost lift passes to all Vernon taxpayers. Immediately look to partner with developers to build world class hotel resort/conference centre and other levels of Government for additional below market/at market rental housing all to be owned by the City for alternate revenue other than taxes.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 06:41 AM	70% of residents oppose a tax increase period, and what does the city impose - over 10% tax increase.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 07:07 AM	Residents at Predator Ridge have been encouraged to indicate a request to have some funds set aside to work with our community to implement some traffic calming measures … such as speed humps, etc. I would like to express that I am NOT in agreement with the measures indicated. As part of the City of Vernon, I would like to know the reasoning behind our 30k speed limit throughout our community when City speed limits are typically set at 50k, with school and playgrounds being 30k. My believe is that having the 30k speed limit throughout our community is contributing to the problem as studies have indicated that if there are low speed limits in place for considerable distances they are more likely to be ignored. I do not want to drive through our beautiful community continually having to navigate speed bumps.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 07:09 AM	Only raise taxes 1%. Use other funds for the recreation projects. Mayor and council should not get raises more than 1%.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 07:24 AM	Focus transit expenditures only where demand is high - I frequently see empty or nearly empty buses. Most significantly, stop proposing overly ambitious projects such as the ALC and Cultural Centre that are then approved by a minority of eligible voters. City leadership

needs to seriously consider what is needed versus what is nice to have. Finally, add development, in conjunction with RDNO, of a serious, well thought out, wildfire mitigation/protection plan for Vernon.

Anonymous
11/11/2025 07:42 AM

Stop wasting money on big projects that very view will use.For example, how many will use the new "active living" center on a regular basis? 20,000? 5000? I would be very surprised if even 10 per cent of the population of the city would regularly use the center. We are forced to pay taxes. Many struggle to ends meet. Yet too many of these dollars extorted from Vernon residents go projects that are used for an elite minority. The rest of us can't afford to use them . You should be ashamed of what you are doing to the average Vernon resident.

Anonymous
11/11/2025 07:57 AM

Council needs to ask more questions and think ahead. The recreation operational budget is no surprise to anyone who was ever a lifeguard. The pool design of high walls to accommodate a wave ball, and a lifeguarding bridge were capital project decisions made without thinking ahead to how many lifeguards were going to be needed at all times. A standard wave pool design perhaps could have reduced operational costs for the next 40 years, for the additional capital cost of proper wave pool infrastructure. Did anyone from recreation work with the finance people to do these cost benefit analysis prior to moving forward with these designs? Did Council question these operational costs at the time of design, or simply trust recreation people who maybe lack the finance/business/project management qualifications?

Anonymous
11/11/2025 08:03 AM

10% tax increase is totally unacceptable

Anonymous
11/11/2025 08:10 AM

A proposed 10% increase in property tax plus 2025's 12% increase (due to BC assessment huge increase in value when some people in our area have had house listed for sale over 3 years, plus city tax) is unsustainable for retired persons whose investments have been worth almost nothing in our retirement years. Stick with essential services - water, sewer, roads, policing, etc. Peanut pool replacement was too costly - watch expenses and budget correctly prior to starting a project (including cost overruns in some areas) before commencing work or agreeing to that project. My husband & I both worked for years to save for our retirement & already paid 15% tax to purchase land & build our house. Property taxes have increased every year since then.

Anonymous
11/11/2025 08:16 AM

The living centre is a waste of time and money. they should not be allowed to borrow more money and increase our taxes because of it

Anonymous
11/11/2025 08:25 AM

Third party consultation to review the spending practices of council/city operations and offer recommendations that reflect economic conditions and the true capacities of taxpayers

Anonymous
11/11/2025 08:27 AM

City council has done a terrible job. Foes not represent average person just the elite.

Anonymous
11/11/2025 10:07 AM

Why was the "active living centre" voted by the "citizens" of Vernon in the referendum .... and not ONLY the property tax payers who are paying for it????

Anonymous
11/11/2025 11:07 AM

ASK AND LISTEN TO THOSE WHO LIVE IN THIS CITY NOT THOSE THAT THINK THEY KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING

Anonymous
11/11/2025 11:11 AM

So 71% of people surveyed do not want a tax increase per survey #1 and CoV says f**k you here is 10%. Again: 1. reduce RCMP by getting rid of Turning Points and BC Housing bringing in drug addicted zombies 2. order CoV employees to stop working from home 3. eliminate climate action group from city hall quit buying costly electric vehicles! 4. eliminate relationship with CMHA - what the hell is restorative justice? Not for CoV! 5. demand CoV reduce operating costs by 15% city hall is overstaffed and productivity is a disaster! 6. No more land acknowledgements! 7. No cooperation with OKIB! 8. Just be a city - end the woke virtue signaling! 9. Do not raise taxes - just don't

Anonymous
11/11/2025 12:19 PM

home owners who pay property taxes and fund the city’s salaries and business expenses should receive profit sharing from the “expected” tourist revenue that the city says the city will benefit from. I do not own a business that would benefit from tourism revenue, but I pay the taxes that enable more tourism revenue to come to the city? then make me a partner or investor in the city and not just a tax payer who is treated as a city bill payor.

Anonymous
11/11/2025 12:50 PM

We as citizens s can’t keep up with the tax hikes. Maybe it’s time to freeze employees salaries for one

Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:00 PM	Stop unnecessary spending and projects. Fix what's already here before starting something new. Clean up ur messes vernon is horrible on so many levels
Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:23 PM	The only reason I heard about this survey is because someone on Facebook mentioned it. No signage or radio announcements regarding this. Do better!
Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:25 PM	DO NOT RAISE TAXES. STOP!!!!! PLEASE!!!!
Anonymous 11/11/2025 01:45 PM	Yes the hike is extremely insane
Anonymous 11/11/2025 03:30 PM	There are too many huge projects being undertaken at the same time. This puts a big load on taxpayers, many of whom are retirees with fixed incomes. The city could look to businesses to cover some of these costs as they will also benefit from an increased population.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 03:49 PM	422 pages. I'm accustomed to reading long financial documents and contracts. I didn't want to start because I knew how long it would take to begin to get an understanding of what's in here. What hope is there people will begin to review this unless they are retired, financially minded, or extremely patient? A simplified version seems appropriate.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 04:26 PM	None but I prefer an annual increase of 7% vs periodic increases over that amount. Citizens have to create and maintain budgets too.
Anonymous 11/11/2025 05:12 PM	A 10% tax hike is absurd! There has to be another option that will stop putting tax payers in a stressful tax situation such as this one!
Anonymous 11/11/2025 06:19 PM	Well, a 10% increase is absolutely horrendous. There has to be a better way to budget than to make the public pay for it this way. I personally new that we were gonna get a massive increase when the ALC & The Cultural Center were approved. I understand that WE need things for the Public to enjoy, but approving such massive undertakings cost to much. They don't been not so "elaborate". It just isn't fair, just more of the "Sunshine Tax". You will do what you will do, and WE will have to pay for it.

Anonymous
11/11/2025 06:50 PM

The overspending by the City of Vernon is absolutely unacceptable. Over the past year, property taxes have risen to exorbitant levels, and now the City is proposing yet another substantial increase. Council continues to justify these actions by claiming that residents voted for the Active Living Centre (ALC) project in 2022. While that may be true, residents voted based on a projected cost of $121 million, not the current $136 million — a staggering $15 million over budget. How is such a massive cost overrun even possible? This is unacceptable fiscal management. The City should revisit this issue and allow residents to vote again now that the financial reality has changed so dramatically. Adding insult to injury, last year's property tax increase was already excessive, and yet another one is being proposed this year. Even the City of Vancouver has implemented a cap on property tax increases — why can't Vernon follow suit? Despite reportedly having revenues of $1.8 million, the City still insists on burdening taxpayers further, blaming declining investment returns and proposing a 2.15% tax increase to "offset" lost revenue. This is not responsible financial planning — it's passing the buck to residents who are already stretched thin. Frankly, it's time for new leadership on the City's planning and financial committees — people who understand accountability and fiscal restraint. If you need new voices and fresh perspectives, I'll volunteer.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 02:31 AM

Budget is presented in an all or nothing approach - would be better to prioritize in present troubled financial times for citizens of Vernon. We support maintenance of roads and facilities but not future projects until City can afford it without increasing taxes

Anonymous
11/12/2025 08:39 AM

Way to expensive!! And your survey focuses on where to spend money, with no focus on improving city efficiency's and reducing .expenses

Anonymous
11/12/2025 10:00 AM

Taxes keep rising to fund projects we don't need, while many of us can barely afford to stay in our homes. It's ironic that millions go to affordable housing when current residents are being priced out. Focus on essentials and stop the extras.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 12:58 PM

In my opinion the tax increase is once again much too large. It's like the increase is being used to avoid a deficit budget instead of cutting some spending. As I am on a Canada pension my funds are quite limited. My thoughts were that some more expensive projects could have been delayed to keep the increase reasonable. I thought that the roundabout at Silver Star and Phoenix Dr. was not required at all. I am also against buying electric vehicles at this time. they are not

worth the extra cost.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 01:12 PM

See comments in #5

Anonymous
11/12/2025 01:31 PM

Vernon cannot continue to increase the taxes at the rate they currently are. The over 20% increase over two years is not consistent with other like-communities.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 01:52 PM

Again Cultural Centre is a waste of money. No cultural centre in Canada has provided the benefits they state. It will save the city a lot of money in the long term. They money can be better spent on the new activity centre or even upgrading the old community centre.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 03:11 PM

I have major concerns with the proposed 6.74 per cent operational tax increase. Things in every avenue of life keep going up in price and it's not sustainable. Charge more for the users for the new active living centre rather than the city residents.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 06:41 PM

Parks and Recreation facilities are not a priority at this time. Maintenance of what we currently have, is paramount. However, more funding needs to be allocated into Predator Ridge with a appropriately well funded full time Fire Station along with the long overdue addition of a Paramedic Unit stationed at Predator Ridge because of the demographics of those who live here. Do not be fooled by the idea there are very few calls out this way as I was once told as the justification. Most people in Predator Ridge realize that it takes "far too long" for a paramedic unit to arrive to Predator Ridge, thus prompting the people here to drive themselves into the Vernon Hospital. The current justification of statistics of not having a Paramedic Unit here, are skewed. We know medical services are provincial but we need to ensure that people within Predator Ridge are as valued as those who reside within the Vernon City limits. Nothing more, nothing less as we all pay taxes. Predator Ridge "requires desparatly" secondary egress. Sparkling Hill is a dead-end road. If Sparkling Hill was fully booked and there was an event going on, and there was an emergency where everyone needed to evacuate, one egress point for Sparkling Hill and 800+ residences of Predator Ridge would spell disaster. Let's say there was a blockage in the only access, how would the people get out. We know a secondary egress would be expensive but to allow more housing to be built without secondary egress, knowing the potential problems is acting irresponsibly. As for Question 11 in this survey, you ask if this engagement was valuable! Answer - That can only be determined by

"Measurable Actions" derived from this survey, not talk.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 06:51 PM

Eliminate the budget amount to the climate action plan

Anonymous
11/12/2025 07:07 PM

I live at Predator Ridge and do not see much improvements from the City regarding road improvements. Also there should be a bus service for families with children and seniors to at least the city centre. I have never seen a more dangerous entrance and exit to the hospital from Highway 97 - should have a set of lights at that intersection. The entrance to Bailey road from Highway 97 is also dangerous - there should be an underpass similar to the one near Oyama.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 07:36 PM

Please consider traffic calming measures at Predator Ridge. The speeding is out of control and I was narrowly just about killed walking to my driveway last fall. We need desperate help!!

Anonymous
11/12/2025 08:01 PM

Crime and the homeless is definitely an issue that needs to be dealt with. As well tragffic in and amongst predator ridge either needs a gate to slow down traffic. The traffic circle has become popular with drifting at nights and same with the streets. There needs to be better signage for aparkling hill and someone needs to push that topic. Most get lost by circle or around the streets and people speed around to figure it out. Staff are not being told about speeding and they all race each other out of resort with each other passing each other and only room for two lanes. Something has to be done before someone dies. We have almost but got at the traffic circle with 3 of us and 3 dogs. It’s horrible.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 09:22 PM

I am finding the road work on commanage road insufficient to what vernon receivee I pay as much or more.

Anonymous
11/12/2025 09:38 PM

Stop building brand new buildings for frivolous projects like the Cultural center. Somewhere in the ballpark of 46 million dollars!! Do you think money grows on trees ?? Meanwhile, there’s families & seniors who are struggling to house & feed themselves !! How about we look after affordable housing for our citizens before spending over 40 million on an Art centre. Stop saying that City Vernon recognizes that it is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan!! My hubby & I have worked hard all our lives to be able to buy a 1.1 million dollar home in Vernon. I didn’t put in blood, sweat and tears into my home purchase, just for municipal and provincial government to give it away. I own my home !!! What is the city of

	Vernon doing to reassure its citizens, that our land titles are safe and undisputable ??? On a separate note, I wonder how much of my tax payer dollars went towards the salaries of the RCMP out in Edgemount, at the ostrich farm. Shame on those officers !! Never have I been so ashamed to say I live in BC & Canada
Anonymous 11/13/2025 06:14 AM	Tax rate increase is unreasonable.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 07:42 AM	A 10% property tax increase is ridiculous. The City of Vernon has made poor decisions investing in major projects all at once that don't even suit a city of this size (i.e. the pool at the new active living center is far bigger than necessitated by a community even the size Vernon is projected to be in 20 years). The city needs to look at the budget the way a for profit business would and figure out a way to trim and cut costs rather than just taxing residents more and more, well beyond inflation, especially in teh current economic state.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 08:45 AM	I would like to see improvement in transportation.... Entering off the Highway going north onto Bailey we need the meridan painted yellow-easier to see Parks need to be GEESE free...dirty and not safe
Anonymous 11/13/2025 09:58 AM	Funding for the O'keefe Ranch. Seriously!! Vernon has $46 million for a Cultural Centre, but not so much as a wooden nickel for the O'keefe Ranch. What an embarrassment!!
Anonymous 11/13/2025 10:47 AM	I’ve lived in Vernon for 10 years with my wife and kids I agree the taxes aren’t bad, but the amount the city doesn’t charge for illegal suites the correct amount of taxes. Putting a greater burden on our sewer, water system’s. Let alone the millions not collected for these landlords laughing all the way to the bank and paying the same as a single family that owns. Let me know if you want to talk.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 12:59 PM	Very complicated budget but I am sure there is room for safe cuts. We need lower taxes. Vancouver (much larger city) is looking to have no tax hike this year. But then they are not building two huge new swimming pools and museums at a time when we should be watching every penny.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 02:22 PM	Council DEFINITELY needs to cut spending somewhere because property taxes in Vernon are not sustainable and DEFINITELY do not encourage living here. Increasing user fees at public facilities

	DEFINITELY does not attract conferences or activities to come to Vernon, such as the Pickle ball tournament that has been cancelled due to elevated cost compared to other communities, the cancellation of the Military Tattoo and I am sure there are other things that I can't recall right now. Encouraging events to come to Vernon could offset taxes to residents. I think this is a very out of touch council
Anonymous 11/13/2025 02:45 PM	I am very upset with the request that we, the taxpayers, pay an extra 2.15% to "offset a lower investment income". Who, pray tell, is going to offset my lower investment income??? in fact I may not have any income to invest if I fork out that 2.15%!!
Anonymous 11/13/2025 04:28 PM	It seems that there is a lack of understanding the taxpayers and their capacity to pay double digit taxes again.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 05:16 PM	Not enough focus on affordability. Too much focus on pet projects. Listen to the community, not corporations.
Anonymous 11/13/2025 09:05 PM	It's great that you want to have more money for service, but at what point does maybe taking a pay cut for town council happen? Taxes raise to pay for more but crime continues to rise. Doesn't really seem to have the return on investment.
Anonymous 11/14/2025 06:50 AM	Housing is a huge problem. Can the city be supporting in anyway to provide safe housing for mental health and other vulnerable people.
Anonymous 11/14/2025 09:02 AM	I am a Seniorf Citizen and want to stay in my home.
Anonymous 11/14/2025 10:48 AM	I am frustrated by a proposed 10% increase taking into account the ALC costs. The city should actively push back against Gov intervention and requirements to increase housing when our infrastructure can't accommodate such increases. These increased homes put strain on current homeowners financially. Upper Management pay at the City is outrageously high and well over the median household income you indicate in your draft Budget. If upper management is making the decisions that affect local Vernonites, their economic position seems to be completely out of touch with what Vernonites need and can afford. Owning a home in Vernon should not be something only the elite can afford. Increased city taxes and utility fees, ALC fees, and the greater cultural centre, are pricing out middle class individuals and families. Projects should be

	prioritized by need not want at a time of economic crisis and extravagant plans should be limited to ensure we are only spending what is necessary. Vernonites would appreciate tighter strings on the budget and proof that economic hardship is considered when making these financial decisions.
Anonymous 11/14/2025 12:15 PM	Keep costs to a price of inflation index and eliminate WANTS for (Operational, Safety, & Maintenance) NEEDS! If you can’t control spending, we are moving to another community!
Anonymous 11/14/2025 10:15 PM	as before....fail to understand why we taxpayers should pay 2.15% for a reduction in investment income. No one pays me for a decrease n my investment income. If I pay that tax, I may have no investment to gain any interest on!
Anonymous 11/15/2025 06:24 AM	Please consider that lower tax rates won't have any effect on our low-income community members, while raising user fees and reducing city services will absolutely have a negative impact.
Anonymous 11/15/2025 11:14 AM	The renewal of the polson park skate park is long overdue
Anonymous 11/16/2025 10:18 AM	User fees are the most reasonable approach to combat the tax increases proposed. We should each pay for what we use and not be saddled with costs for things/facilities that we do not access/utilize. And may not have been in favour of. Our tax dollars have already paid for many new and improved facilities that I will very likely never access. The user fee will be paid by the user groups. Which seems fair and reasonable. Additional comment regarding question 2. That is a very broad description regarding use of funds. In order to answer that question fairly, it would need to be broken down into categories with specifics and then the question asked for each category.
Anonymous 11/16/2025 05:58 PM	Question 3 in this survey is unclear. When asked about proposed investment in city core services, what are you referring to - maintaining present funding or further funding to expand services even more. It’s a pretty big ask to expect most city residents to read and study a 400 plus page budget draft to finding savings or areas to further fund. This is really what city managers and planners are hired to do. Given the cost of living increases we are all facing, it becomes frustrating when city expenditures and tax increases continually outstrip inflation.

Anonymous 11/17/2025 09:25 AM	We are particularly concerned with the high level of traffic, and increased speeds of users in the predator ridge area, and also the safety issues/accidents at Bailey and Hwy 97 intersection.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 10:28 AM	Stay in the Budget of 3% increase. Anything more is not acceptable. Is there a land claim involving the property in Vernon? Since all levels of Government have not disclosed this information for 10 years or more.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 11:15 AM	Investing in non-essential items like parks and trails should be on hold to ease the burden on taxpayers
Anonymous 11/17/2025 01:00 PM	stop spending. the tax rate is out of control. so many families cannot afford this.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 03:37 PM	Forget all these high priced buildings that will be a big burden on taxpayers.
Anonymous 11/17/2025 04:27 PM	Please, please, please keep any tax increase to the absolute minimum. I think the general feeling around town is the citizens of Vernon can not financially tolerate anymore tax increases as their budgets are already stretched to the breaking point. Thank you!
Anonymous 11/17/2025 06:10 PM	Give yourselves a 0% increase
Anonymous 11/18/2025 02:09 AM	So many assessments. Is there no consultation with the managers or workers in their respective departments to get input on what is needed?
Anonymous 11/18/2025 08:09 AM	stop spending like drunken sailors. The average resident is not getting a 10% raise so neither should the city budget.
Anonymous 11/18/2025 01:42 PM	I feel that more funds should be allocated to increase our Fire Department service level by hiring more firefighters.
Anonymous 11/18/2025 02:49 PM	Ways to improve the city without raising our taxes: Public safety: Stop providing low income housing to drug addicts as they are a big

reason there are safety issues in the city and you save 2x. Public infrastructure: Have roads, sewage, sidewalks etc. covered by developers of areas as they are the ones making big profits from home sales and commercial space leases. Why does the general public need to cover costs related to that? Leading drivers to triggering some upgrades should also be responsible for covering those costs also. (eg. part of sewage plant upgrade due to sleemans waste). Sustainable growth that supports housing development: With the key word being "Sustainable" here, i's important to consider benefits of some of the growth and ensure the costs of growth aren't being transferred onto residence when the developers are stuffing their pocks. Having residents cover costs is not sustainable. Being a design professional myself, I see numerous issues with how some items are being handled leading to tax increases when the costs should be getting covered by the beneficiaries which are often not the residents. Improve and increase recreational opportunities: this does need to take place especially when it comes to adding beaches which is a joint rdno and Vernon item. Vernon lacks beaches and beach access for the population and tourism you are trying to attract. Bylaws should be adjusted to not allow more development on beachfront properties and to reserve those for general public use. Vernon and the RDNO have done a very poor job of this in their quest to please millionaires who don't even live here but want to have a place on the lake. In tough economical times like this you need to cap your spending's! Pause new projects starts and perhaps consider cutting out some phases of currently ongoing projects that are adding to the financial burden. The general public is not made of money and unlike the government, we cannot print it. If you need more money get it elsewhere, or ensure that you don't need more than you have to work with. It appears that the majority of the upper positions held within the city of Vernon, are held by more aged (likely 45-50+ average age if I was to guess) individuals. While there is something to be said about the experience as a result of this age, I believe there needs to be some voices of some young blood in the mix that truly feel the struggle of the younger generation. The experienced folks may look at things and understand the numbers, however being well off financially (especially for the higher up cushy pay positions) they don't truly feel the struggle of living post covid inflation numbers. There are things the city does well, however with the constant increases to taxes and costs we are seeing everywhere its hard to focus on any of that when the residents, especially the younger ones are struggling and hurting financially which in turn affect everything else. Regards, a truly concerned younger resident of Vernon truly worried about the future of the city and country.

Anonymous
11/18/2025 04:13 PM

This year increase was not acceptable, much to high. Just treating aside the new rec center item does not mean it is not tax increase.

Someone needs to pay for it. This draft budget looks like another 10% tax rate or so once you factor in the new rec center charge. How many years do we need to pay this kind of increase? 10% per year for three year is 30%, really unsustainable.

Anonymous
11/18/2025 04:31 PM

I strongly admire the initiatives taken in this city and how questions are posed and challenges identified. however I believe that all individuals, groups and organizations move forward into their preferred future on the basis of what questions are asked appreciatively of what they love most rather than reacting to an issue in search of or assuming that there is a problem to be solved. So much of what I hear seems anxiously reactive and means to prevent an imagined worst case scenario. Clear thinking and shared vision here in Vernon must include attracting small and medium sized industry while recognizing we need housing for those families to live here if we want them to work here. I once owned and operated a business here but now am retired with age related and occupational disabilities, living on a fixed income. If Vernon continues to raise my property taxes to pay for projects that are not long term affordable instead of anxiously immediate that makes it too expensive for me to live and age out in my own home. Cultures that endure recognize and support their elderly, as we're all going here eventually.

Anonymous
11/18/2025 05:42 PM

As a single parent I can not afford a tax increase. Please consider this. I am working as hard as I can to feed my kids and support them.

Anonymous
11/18/2025 09:35 PM

Please ensure that the budget includes appropriate funding for traffic calming at Predator Ridge. We really need to e able to slow the traffic down here.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 09:03 AM

As a general comment, hard working Canadians who live responsibly and pay their own way are being overtaxed. What is being promoted here? Responsible citizenship or living off other people's hard work? How many people do we push closer to poverty each time we raise taxes? Vernon could be a beacon of responsible municipal government in British Columbia - imagine if taxes were LOWERED or frozen here, and if new efficiencies were found, without any increased tax burden on our beloved Vernon citizens. We have a special town, and are we going to keep milking our citizens as if they have bottomless purses, like other municipal governments do, or are we going to take a stand and do something different? We could lead the way in a new form of municipal government that actually respects the financial freedom of its hard-working citizens and aims to keep taxes at a minimum while looking for innovate ways to meet the basic

	services offered to our citizens. We could reward hardworking citizens by freezing taxes. Also, instead of looking at people who improve their properties as an opportunity to raise their taxes, what about if you improved your property you got a 5% reduction on your property tax bill? Why are we penalizing people who improve their houses and who add to the visual capital of our city? We should be penalizing people whose houses are in disrepair, not people who are increasing the beauty and visual capital of our streets! What exactly is the incentive here?
Anonymous 11/19/2025 09:18 AM	I dont know how do you expect people to afford to live in this city if the cost of living keep increase the way it does.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 09:24 AM	I live in Predator Ridge. Traffics volume and speed is a issue along Longspoon Drive, Predator Ridge Drive, Whitetale and Birdie Lake Drive. We would like to see funds allocated to work with our community on a revised Traffic Calming Plan, including measures such as speed humps, improved signage, and other safety enhancements
Anonymous 11/19/2025 11:16 AM	You cannot work on growth without seeing Healthcare and doctors as infrastructure and basic necessities of a community. Please take into account more senior discounts and services because seniors are really hurting and so are young families.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 11:44 AM	Please rethink where the money is going and consider not giving yourself an automatic pay raise. We just don't have that kind of money
Anonymous 11/19/2025 11:47 AM	Figure out how to lower taxes. This is getting too much for us to afford
Anonymous 11/19/2025 11:48 AM	Stop with the building of the cultural center. Waste of money.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 11:51 AM	Keep new developements for housing which always involves infrastructure close to the city to keep developing Costs more affordable
Anonymous 11/19/2025 12:36 PM	The proposed tax increases are WAY too high. People cannot afford this.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 12:45 PM

Budget looks good. If I read it correctly we are running a surplus (good job). I am curious about the reason and rate of the proposed tax increase if there is a surplus. Not complaining, just curious. A slide comparing previous year expenditures would be nice. I saw some sticky notes requesting additional services for seniors. This is typical, and always a bit disappointing. Kids need to come first. Continue to build Vernon for the next generation so that they stay, return, or move here to build more businesses, raise families, and keep contributing for decades to come. All in all - good job.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 01:30 PM

RESIDENTIAL SEWER - rates up 20% over 5 years after various cumulative increases. Sewer Operations costs going up 6% as per Financial Plan Who pays for increased operational costs? Mainly Vernon residential sewer users? How much will COV residential sewer rates go up to cover this 6% increase? Sewer Operations, Sewer System Maintenance, New Sewer Facilities, Irrigation Repairs, etc How much of a share do Coldstream sewer users pay for capital vs operating expenses? Where can we find out the terms of the sewer agreement with the District of Coldstream? HIGH STRENGTH WASTE - High Rate Anaerobic Digester (HRAD) System at our Sewer Plant How much does the HRAD cost to operate per year? How many HRAD users and how much do HRAD user(s) pay annually to the City? How much has been paid back to the City to date by the HRAD user(s) since the City built the dedicated pipe and HRAD reactor? Residential users pay up-front for their pre-treatment costs to access City sewer and install their own macerators for low pressure sewer, lift pumps, etc. to power and maintain, forevermore. RECLAIMED WATER - how long have the City’s irrigation rates been frozen? Is this reasonable considering our residential water rates go up every year, as do our residential sewer rates? The high quality reclaimed water that is made available for irrigation comes from the drinking water we obtain through our taps (for which we pay GVW) which then heads down the sink or toilet to our City sewer plant to be cleaned and piped up to a hilltop City reservoir (for which we pay the City) for use by irrigation customers (for which they pay the City). The Financial Plan shows Spray Irrigation operating costs going up 2.5%. This program generates annual irrigation revenues of less than $250K and costs over $1 million per year to operate. Expensive system repairs are funded by reserves paid into mainly by residents via City utility bills. The City does not collect enough revenue from irrigation users to fund system costs or replenish reserves. The City runs a massive operational deficit for this program every year. How much have irrigation rates increased over the past 5 or 10 years? How much has been paid into reserves and irrigation system repairs by corporate users such as Predator Ridge? Establish new rate

	classes to more fairly distribute costs to users by type while generating sufficient revenues for this City program and reflecting citizens priorities. - Citizens support subsidizing agriculture, farming, etc. but not luxury golf resorts - If Predator Ridge operates via a “business model”, why not apply a corporate rate class? Raise the City’s reclaimed irrigation rates to cover costs & rebuild reserves. - Reserves should be replenished by all users, not only residential sewer users - “Good corporate citizens” should be required to pay their share of system costs - The LGA requires setting fees that reflect the City’s cost to provide a service
Anonymous 11/19/2025 02:08 PM	Instead of looking to increase revenues through taxation or increased user fees, perhaps the city should look at reducing costs. This is what private enterprises or families need to do when times are tight. Income (other than for public employees) is not generally keeping up with inflation, and it is not sustainable to keep taking a bigger share of the available resources that people have.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 02:20 PM	I believe there should be greater investment in the fire department and other essential services.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 03:14 PM	I am concerned about the amount of the proposed tax increase and would like steps to be taken to reduce it by deleting some proposed capital purchases and renovations. eg. does the firehall need a sauna? the city a SUV? and city building renovations to improve appearance and customer service? It also seems like there are an abundance of managers at various levels.....really needed?
Anonymous 11/19/2025 04:02 PM	This is a dumb survey in that you only guve folks opportunity to say what they agree more or less with on oredetermined topics. Not really asking anyone's opinion outside of your narrow framework of questions
Anonymous 11/19/2025 05:16 PM	I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the proposed double-digit tax increase. At a time when the cost of living, rent, groceries, fuel, and day-to-day expenses are all rapidly increasing, many residents are already struggling to keep up. People are being priced out of Vernon, and this level of tax increase will only make the situation worse. Now is not the time for the City to be borrowing millions of dollars for the Active Living Centre, the Cultural Centre, and other non-essential projects—especially when these decisions place additional financial strain on residents who are already stretched thin. The priority should be keeping Vernon affordable and

	ensuring that people can afford to stay in their homes. Other communities such as Coldstream, Armstrong, and Salmon Arm manage to maintain essential services and offer many amenities without burdening their citizens with such high taxes. These cities also manage to keep events and attractions affordable, unlike Vernon, where even long-standing community staples such as the Farmers' Market, Creative Chaos, and the Okanagan Tattoo face rising costs that ultimately impact residents and visitors. There is no justification for Vernon's continual year-after-year tax increases at such an aggressive rate. I urge Council to reconsider its spending priorities, delay non-essential capital projects, and focus on financial decisions that genuinely support affordability for the people who live and work here. Vernon must take concrete steps to prevent further displacement of residents. Please reconsider this direction and work toward a more responsible, sustainable, and affordable path for our community.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 05:20 PM	Make taxes lower; cuts acceptable.
Anonymous 11/19/2025 08:36 PM	I do not want a double digit tax increase any more. reduce staff, cut council salaries. No more fancy tens of million dollar projects. Too much is being asked for. My income is NOT going up. My living expenses on a day to day basis are increasing exponentially. City of Vernon has to cut back, just as we have had to these past 5 years. Council has to listen to their constituents and cut back. That is normal life experience for all of us.
Anonymous 11/20/2025 08:43 AM	When I have to go to City Hall to pay taxes or for some other reason, the staff are rude and not necessarily helpful. We pay taxes to have staff that should be helpful. Not sure why I would pay more money for more of the same.
Anonymous 11/20/2025 11:45 AM	Year after year of tax hikes that triple (or more) inflation are not sustainable. People don't get annual 6%/8%/10% raises, therefore these huge tax hikes are not sustainable. Eventually, people will move away to communities with budgets that reflect inflation rates. Yes, they exist. Who will pay the double digit hikes when we move away? We understand some years will require tax hikes that outpace inflation. But not every year, which is what we're seeing now. Look for chances to be more efficient. Looks for reveunue streams.
Anonymous 11/20/2025 11:03 AM	Draft budget is a 400+ page document, with lots of detail. It is hard to be familiar with all of this material. So I am satisfied wiht the budget

	information subject to the amound of time I am willing to examine all the details.
Anonymous 11/20/2025 11:12 AM	Figure out how to budget so that property owners can still afford to live here
Anonymous 11/20/2025 11:22 AM	Aims roads out Westside to be replaced to ensure safety for its residents, with another company who actually works and maintaines roads
Anonymous 11/21/2025 10:20 AM	Would like to see more affordable housing in Vernon
Anonymous 11/21/2025 11:06 AM	Look at your public works and improve quality of work and processes. No more mega projects that only a limited number of residents will use. Stop spending faster than the rate of inflation. Irresponsible governments are the problem in modern times not the solution to anything.
Anonymous 11/21/2025 11:51 AM	Vernon appears to be “ unkept”. Weeds everywhere, half dead shrubs on every lot. Business owners don’t even bother to wash the windows of their establishments. Clean this city up. Who wants to move here? Who wants to open a business here? Even the homeowners can’t afford to water the grass! Get your city workers (not office) out of their city trucks and get them to work! Last month two city worker in a city truck were driving around our street. My husband inquired? They are looking at the fire hydrant? Never even got out of the truck. They either need a new supervisor or *@% .
Anonymous 11/21/2025 12:37 PM	Building a new arena should be a priority. We have not seen an increase in the number of ice sheets since kal tire was built (kal tire north in exchange for the civic) and we have seen a significant growth in population. Other areas need to come to the table for capex not just operating costs. Coldstream could not function without the city of Vernon (no pool, hospital, arena, grocery, banks, library, sewer services). Can there be a harder line drawn with them to get them onside? Parents may opt to not put their kids in swim programs but the inability to access sports like Kokanee swim club, hockey or figure skating could push them to lean harder on their council. The increase Coldstream residents will face based on their increased fees and taxes pales compared to what the increase Vernon residents will pay for the active living centre. It’s a much needed facility for the north okanagan and that includes all electoral voting areas. Thank you!

Anonymous
11/21/2025 01:08 PM

The city budget is increasing faster than inflation and the salaries of workers and pensioners. Reduce staff, do essential repairs, cut some services, cut staff, and plan better please. There is not an unlimited supply of money from the people in this community. Any new building necessary needs to be factored in to the long term budget to see the impact in future years. I strongly rapid expansion of this city when it comes to increasing the tax burden on the existing residents. I am not interested in increased traffic congestion, more people, more strain on our present services, more building of roads and services to support any major new developments in the city.

Anonymous
11/21/2025 02:33 PM

too many expensive projects at same time makes tax burden grow faster than incomes (rec center + cultural). pushing people out of city. prices for rental of facilities pushing orgs to use other cities venues (last example with Kal Tire rentals) and instead of moderate income city has no any and we have higher taxes instead. So no events happening in city because ridiculous non-competitive pricing, taxes higher. People come to Vernon for simple life but not overly fancy centers (for fancy places there are crowded and big towns exist or places like Banff and Canmore - overregulated and overpriced)

Anonymous
11/21/2025 03:15 PM

Vernon should focus on being the lowest taxed region in the interior. Market this position aggressively will accelerate business growth and the population. This will add a larger tax bases and allow for the elimination of the high percentage tax increases.

Anonymous
11/21/2025 05:59 PM

Vernon need more arena's. Our Vernon local kids are playing everywhere else then Vernon. Our home games are very few.

Anonymous
11/21/2025 06:31 PM

Vernon desperately needs more ice. Please build another arena and also invest in what Kelowna has with a cute outdoor rink at paddlewheel park potentially. Vernon lacks the amenities and I paid the same amount in property taxes in Vernon that I did in Kelowna. My street in Okanagan landing doesn’t even have street lights. So many janky things in Vernon, it would be nice to clean this place up. Druggies need to get off the street, dumps like tikki village needs to get bulldozed and please add some left and right turning lanes to help traffic move smoother.

Anonymous
11/21/2025 08:15 PM

We need more arenas for hockey

Anonymous
11/22/2025 02:01 AM

No budget for food secuirty?? Has here been any thought about our food system within the plan? Not just access to a Walmart or superstore but our actual food system? we should be taxing the very wealthy, huge chains (such as McDonalds, Walmart, starbucks, etc before huge raises of taxes on everyday people. Fast food chains should pay extra tax for environmental fees as they're contributing to so much litter. More taxes for the multimillion dollar houses that are lived in just a few months of the year. Tax the super wealthy and those who have higher negative impact through their choices on average people in Vernon. Add a dock tax on the lake, if you own a boat you should be able to afford more taxes. We need equitable taxation!!! It aligns with so many of Vernon's goals. We need Vernon to think out of the box, to go against status quota to actually make this place, that I've been born and raised, into a place that's actually livable. We need young people to be able to stay here so we have a strong work force. We need more community and connection. I would love to see more budget go to outdoor spaces, wild life, land, waters, culture and arts then to RCMP. I want to see budget choices actually align with plans such as the cpp (though I don't love all aspects of the cop). For example don't spend money on commonage development when in the plan it says no sprawling. I would ather see more social programs, affordable housing (like actually affordable), food programs, etc then more RCMP. We need smart decisions now for the future, investments and decisions that make sense and stay values aligned, values like social equity, environmentally friendly, etc. get to the root of the issue, please do not throw a bandaid on. If people believe in what you do you will see more engagement, volunteering, participation, connection, and enjoyable living in the city of Vernon. Right now, I feel like people do not trust Vernon, they do not believe in the choices being made. We need to grow that trust together to make anything work. I also feel This engagement gave almost 0 opportunities for people to give solutions, ideas, or alternatives. It was not well advertised, like most engagements, and has a very short timeline for feed back considering there's over 400 pages in the pdf to review and attempt to understand. You need to give people time to come with solutions and ideas, if not they will come with frustrations. I want to be solutions based but Vernon planning and engagement makes it difficult. I also suggest an easy form to leave commments to the city about things, positive and negative, and not just encouraging people to email or to share selected things during selected times. I want to tell Vernon how amazing the polson creek restoration is, it's one of the best things I've seen for a long time, but it's not easy to do so. There needs to be better communication portals both ways at all times for continued feedback, so the community here can authentically engage. I understand some feed back is needed at certain times but there needs to be better ways of this specially on huge things such as a

budget. You also need to go to the people who are here, cpp & transport planning engagements were primary done by the richer group in Vernon, and most had never even used our transportation as seen in the “what we heard” reports. Where is the authentic engagement. How the heck are the real people living here, who are greatly impacted by decisions (and I mean impacted to the point of having to choose between eating dinner and being able to pay for gas to get to work because that is not a uncommon struggle here in Vernon) supposed to be considered in Vernon’s future if not engaged, right now it’s being designed unsustainable and makes people angry. Majority of the people of Vernon feel unheard and have limited trust in Vernon right now. I admire the work of both city staff and elected leaders and the complexities of it but am also becoming frustrated with these huge decisions and how they’re made, when I don’t want to be, I want to be a thoughtful, engaged, solutions based person within my city. I work three jobs, run a non profit, sit on three very active boards, I contribute to this city a lot and I work hard to try and be engaged actively but it has been very difficult. I think about my friend who is a single mom and wonder how city of Vernon expects her to have the time to watch for engagements, read and understand everything to provide input, and provide input within the small window of time o be at a certain place at a certain time I wait for a chance to speak. These are the voices we need! And we need to start working together to find way to open two way communications and stronger engagement from a more diverse group. There’s a reason that rich, single home, people are the top engagers, they have the privilege to be able to be engaged. Something is not working… and the saddest part, in a cpp mayor and council meeting recently held, it was asked what voices are we missing in this plan a councillor answered with “is it who we are missing or who is sleeping at the wheel?” Is a single mother, working full time and being a primary care taker sleeping at the wheel, is someone who has 4 extra hours a day in commuting to work because they use our transit system sleeping at the wheel? Or is there just an issue with equitable engagement within Vernon right now? Is there a reason that regular working group meetings with OKIB has not happened? Does city of Vernon provide compensation or do they add to an indigenous communities ongoing burden to inform, teach, manage land, consult, and advise with no give back? Where the is not engagement you need to ask why, you need to see the barriers because they’re not excuses, they’re not sleeping at the wheel, it is real struggle, real barriers that are keeping people unable to engage with Vernon. I can tell you that from my experience, working 3 jobs etc, and trying my hardest to take every engagement opportunity I can with City of Vernon, it is an exhausting effort and I still miss many opportunities. I wonder if I was in the position of wealth, if my days weren’t filled with balancing work, running a non profit, contributing to boards of community organizations, helping my elderly family, contributing to a home with roommates, and daily living

such as trying to feed myself and pay bills, if these engagements and staying aware of them would come easier to me. And frankly, I can't help but think they would, am I can't help but think if that city councillor thinks I'm "sleeping at the wheel". I wonder why my voice, as a young, indigenous, dedicated, caring, actively involved person in Vernon, is prioritized less then others when it comes to long term planning. Right now, Vernon is enabling this inequitable engagement. Whether aware of it or not, vernon is designing a city that will not work for all people, including many that make this city so special. This is all to be said without the intention to shame, but as an invitation to do things differently, to grow and progress and do better. Progression over perfection. But there needs to be a genuine want, care, and commitment to do this if the city of Vernon actually wants to ensure its planning is long lasting. The needs to be equitable engagement and the actual implementation of these engagements. Not just implementation when it works but a true commitment to the people through action. Thank you for taking the time from your busy day to read this. I hope that even in a small way it inspired you to move towards progress and to bring your community, friends, colleagues, family along with you. Your time and effort is appreciated.

Anonymous
11/22/2025 06:43 AM

I do not see any additions for fire services. With the increase in homeless fires and development of large homes and density I would expect to see an increase in firefighters. There is a need to keep our insurance ratings up, what is the City doing to prepare for replacement of aging equipment and low staffing levels to make sure that the community isn't impacted by FUS ratings in the near future? We've seen it in nearby community's wheeler homes are burning to the ground don't lack of resources. We do not want this to be our community. There is a lack of ice in Vernon. Did you know that hundreds of of Vernon's youth under the age of 14 have to travel out of town on school days at 5am and 10pm to neighbouring communities to use their ice because there isn't any available in their own City? This is very challenging for young students and parents. If we want our City to be a family friendly community that's supports healthy children (thousands of youth) in sports (ringette, hockey, figure skating, speed skating, etc) we need to make sure that we have the facilities available to them. Ice should have been part of the recreation project. Vernon produces many high level athletes and soon (already happening) they will be moving to bigger centres due to the lack of available ice.

Anonymous
11/22/2025 07:08 AM

The new leisure centre is a HUGE burden on our community that residents are paying for for many years! Tightening in other recreation/wellness/fitness areas should be considered more strongly to mitigate $$ impact!

Anonymous 11/22/2025 07:16 AM	This area needs more ice rinks.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 08:18 AM	MORE ICE RINKS we have abreat shirts communityvhere in vernon and a lot of people can't take part because there isn't enough soave and its expensive.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 08:29 AM	All first responders are short - increase staffing and support personnel. Change traffic patterns downtown.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 09:08 AM	Stop the cultural center. Biggest waste of money yet. Embarrassing that it was pushed on residents
Anonymous 11/22/2025 09:09 AM	The city needs more ice rinks for the children and adults who partake in ice sports.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 09:23 AM	We need another arena to sport all the ice sports
Anonymous 11/22/2025 10:42 AM	We need more ice rinks in Vernon. Specifically more ice time is needed to grow women’s hockey in Vernon.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 11:08 AM	Quit increasing taxes and show some fiscal restraint…voters are getting tired of the wastage.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 02:23 PM	We need another arena.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 02:49 PM	I'm very concerned you will go with developing the Commonage Area, that is not a good idea. We need to keep our ecosystem and habitat safe. It does not fit into the environmental plan or does it fit with our OCP we are to densify in city limits. Do not sprawl. I have lived in the city limits all the plus 50 yrs here. We can densify and maintain our infrastructure.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 03:35 PM	Non essential services or those that run a deficit should have been on the chopping block to make space for the rec center. The extra services proposed do not benefit majority of residents and instead are

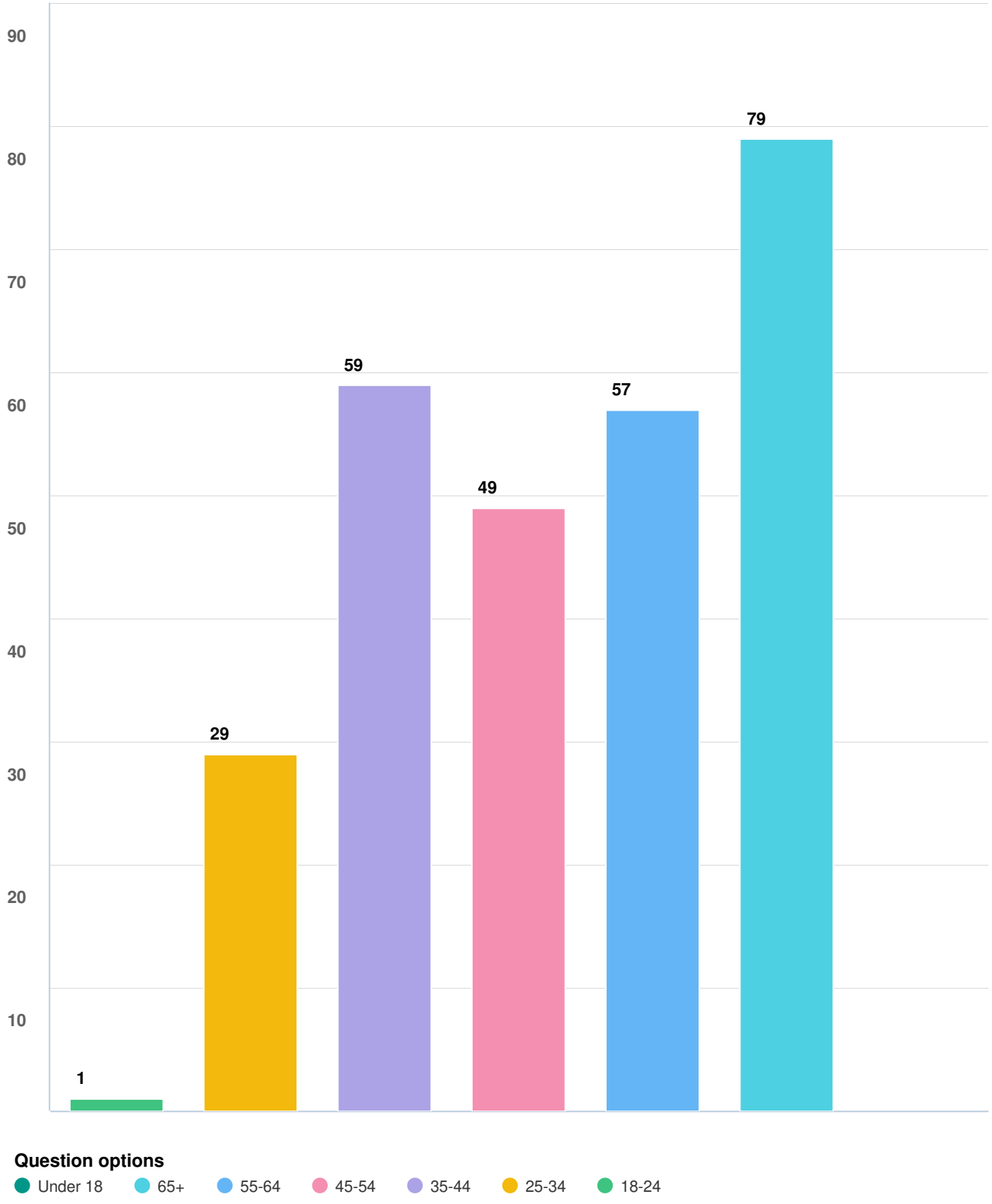
	funding/ placating the residents that are a drain on resources. A new plan needs to be formulated to protect the hard working citizens from constantly having to compensate from those who refuse treatment and maintain lifestyles putting others in danger.
Anonymous 11/22/2025 04:43 PM	It needs to be shared more on social media to notify people about this, I thankfully had someone that shared it with me but I would not have known otherwise. You could even include a note on the quarter city bill email, that would have been a nice way to notify taxpayers of this budget and all engagements
Anonymous 11/22/2025 04:45 PM	Stop focussing on recreation and fix the roads and congestion in the town
Anonymous 11/22/2025 06:18 PM	Taxing seniors is pushing the seniors out of home ownership Our hospital is understaffed, overwhelmed, push for more funding,,the mayor and council are responsible for fighting for more provincial help Clean up the streets , alleyways , sidewalks from the homeless mess Lower user fees for the Farmers Market
Anonymous 11/22/2025 08:30 PM	People can’t afford a 2 digit increase
Anonymous 11/22/2025 08:49 PM	Anti-discrimination effort is a waste of taxpayer money, the more people are separated into groups, including natives, the more each group will want for themselves. Rather invest in education to boost our future economy and healthcare so citizens will stay in our community. Stop facilitating drug addicts that are main contributors to crime and RCMP costs as well as park maintenance costs to clean up their mess. Feel 2,000,000 investment into a casino is a poor use of funds
Anonymous 11/23/2025 08:20 AM	Vernon went for too many years doing only the minimum and we are still trying to catch up. Who doesn’t want lower taxes but now we are paying. We have lived in our house since 1977. For several years our taxes remained the same. Now we are finally having to catch up on our aging infrastructure.
Anonymous 11/23/2025 12:12 PM	Why are we spending that much on a cultural centre?

Anonymous 11/23/2025 12:49 PM	Low cost housing should be close to downtown not urban spall we have enough low cost housing now.
Anonymous 11/23/2025 01:10 PM	If the taxes in Vernon contract me to increase I will seriously consider moving to an adjacent community. I have family members considering retiring in Vernon but right now I've told them to hold off because the cost of living and the high property taxes we pay in Vernon are constantly increasing but large sums. We t is a deterrent to moving here.
Anonymous 11/23/2025 02:48 PM	Question 4 on public facilities. Spread these out over years to reduce taxes. Housing development needs to be responsible growth, affordable and environmentally forward. Invest in parks and trails etc, only when it is financially feasible. City should send email to all tax holders well in advance given dates for open house, documents.
Anonymous 11/23/2025 04:28 PM	I recognize & appreciate that you all have worked hard & you got a lot of stuff right. However- STOP saying Vernon is located in the traditional territory of Sylix people …. I worked hard my whole life to buy a $1.1 million dollar home in Vernon. Im not about to let municipal and provincial govt give to First Nations, all the money I saved and poured into the purchase of my home. What are you doing to look after private home owners & business owners with regards to property rights?
Anonymous 11/23/2025 05:04 PM	Not necessarily for the 2026 budget, but it would be great to see plans for better pedestrian/bike access along bellavista road
Anonymous 11/23/2025 09:34 PM	Actively address the criminal element in the downtown core. Slow housing growth until future water, power, and traffic congestion is addressed. Stop construction on the cultural center until it can be fully paid for. This is the wrong location and time to proceed.
Anonymous 11/24/2025 11:11 AM	I don't think we should be doing the Community Art Centre. The project that is now going forward is NOT the same that was originally proposed. I think the art centre should repurpose the old bank building at 3131 30th Ave on the corner of the hwy.
Anonymous 11/24/2025 12:58 PM	Same as above: Adjust the current budget as our current Country, Province and City struggles financially. No "New" builds of any housing (many houses are for sale and not selling currently) No more

extra spending on "parks" like the proposed 580 Commonage area - no to building that at all (Tax payers paying for transit, sewer, water, fire/RCMP services to that area. Deal with the current issues downtown. No new Cultural Centers, Rec-centers ext...

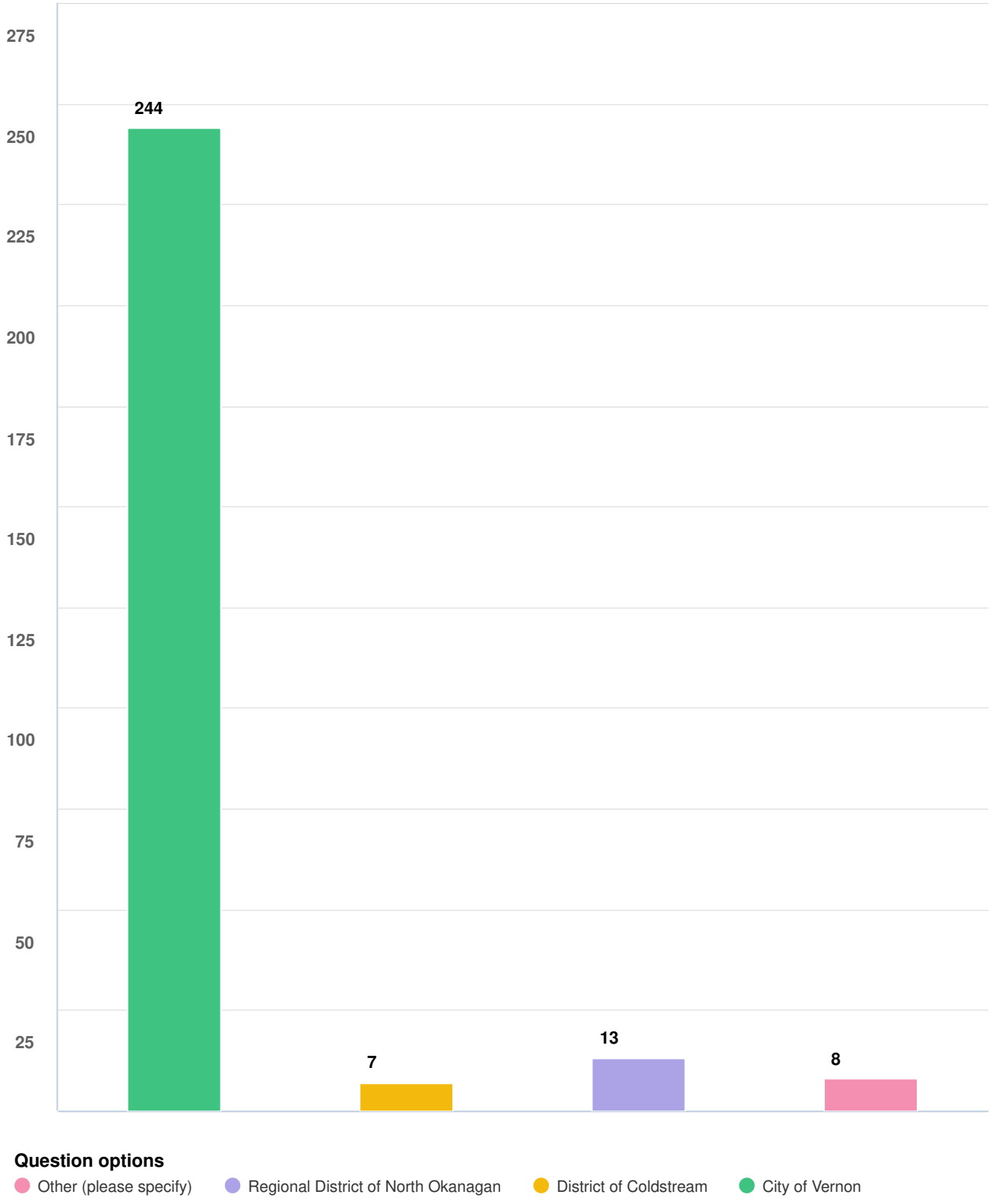
Optional question (159 response(s), 115 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q9 What is your age group?



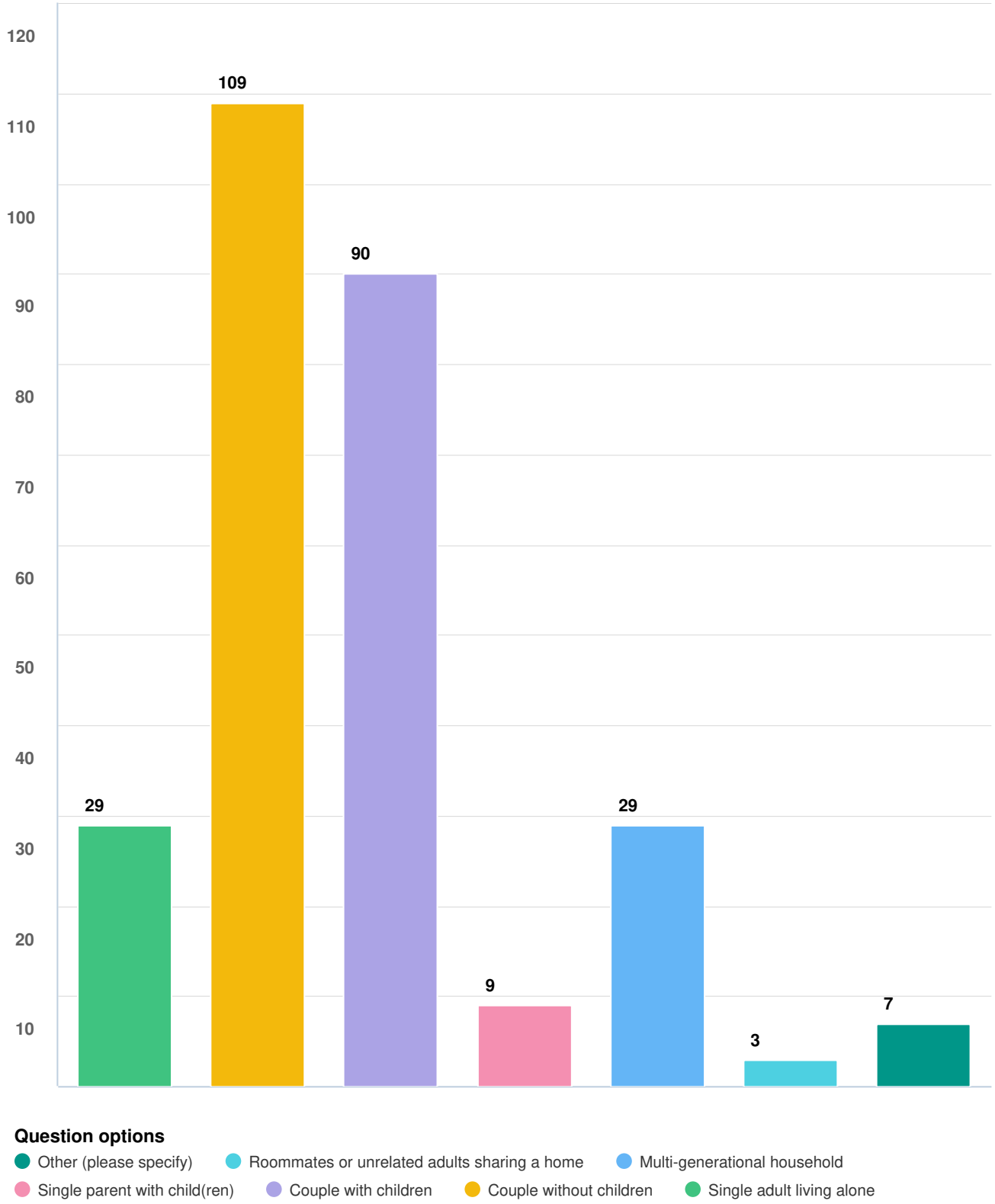
Optional question (273 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q10 Where do you live?



Optional question (272 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q11 Which of the following best describes your household?



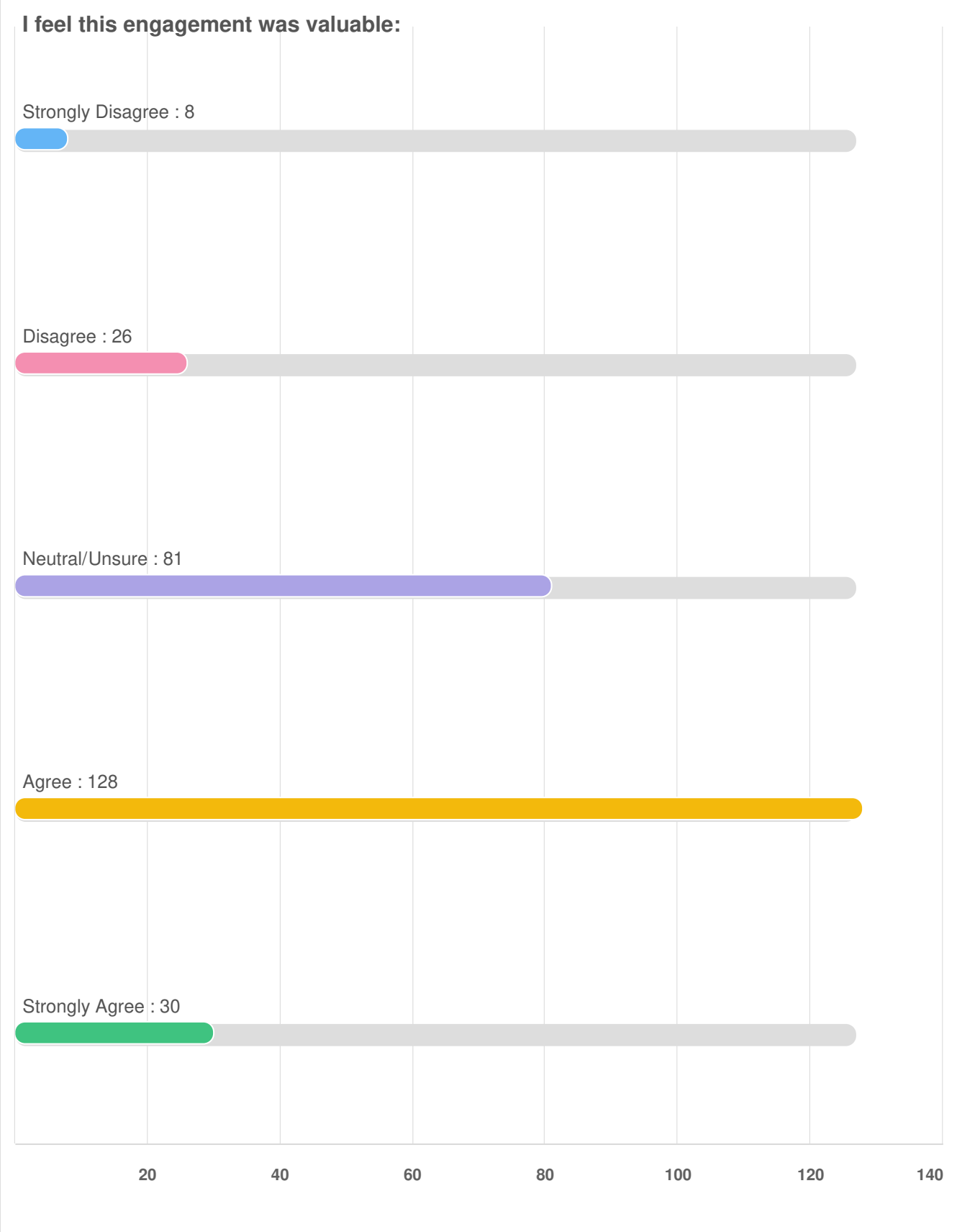
Optional question (273 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q12 Please indicate your level of agreement for the following statements:

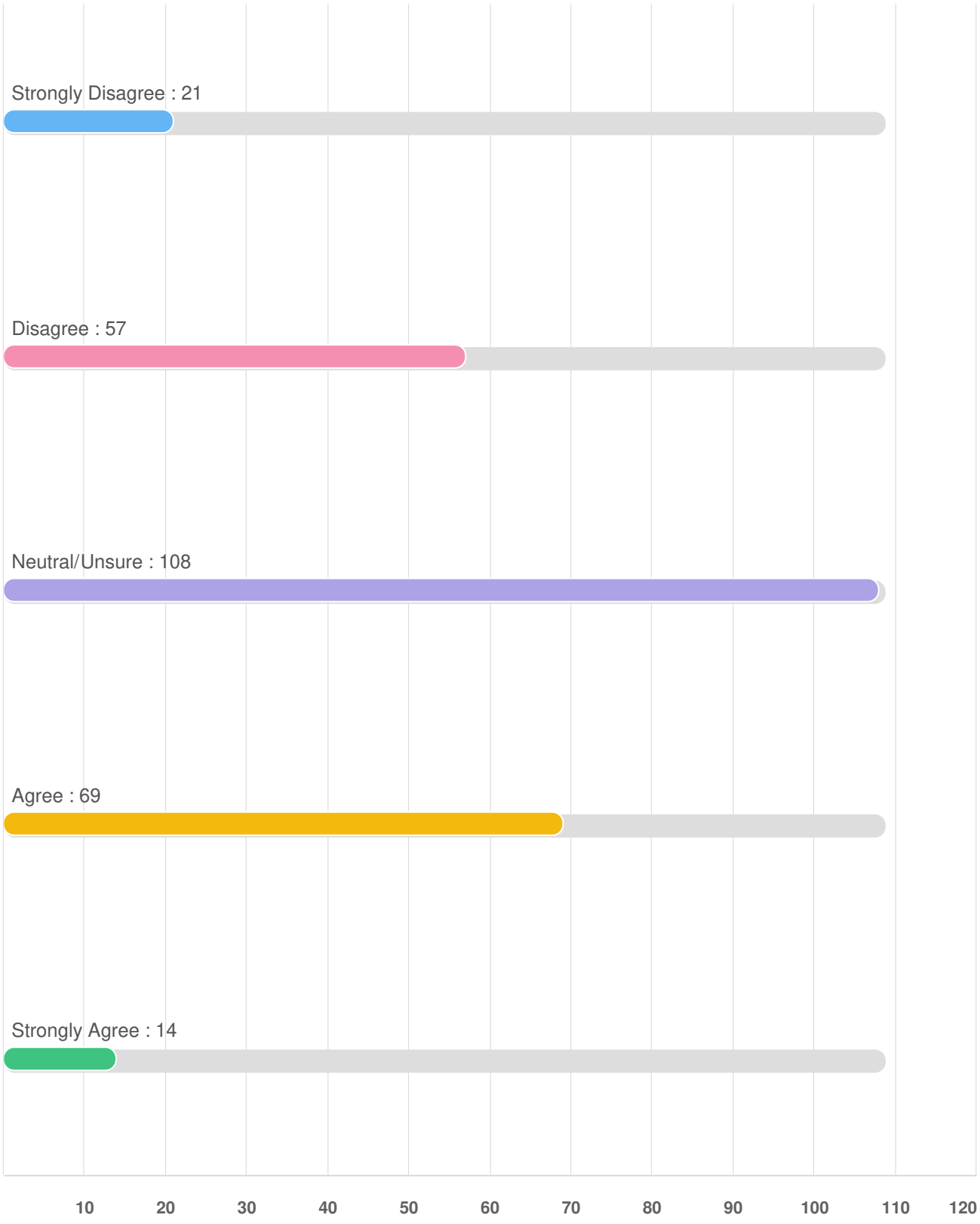


Optional question (273 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

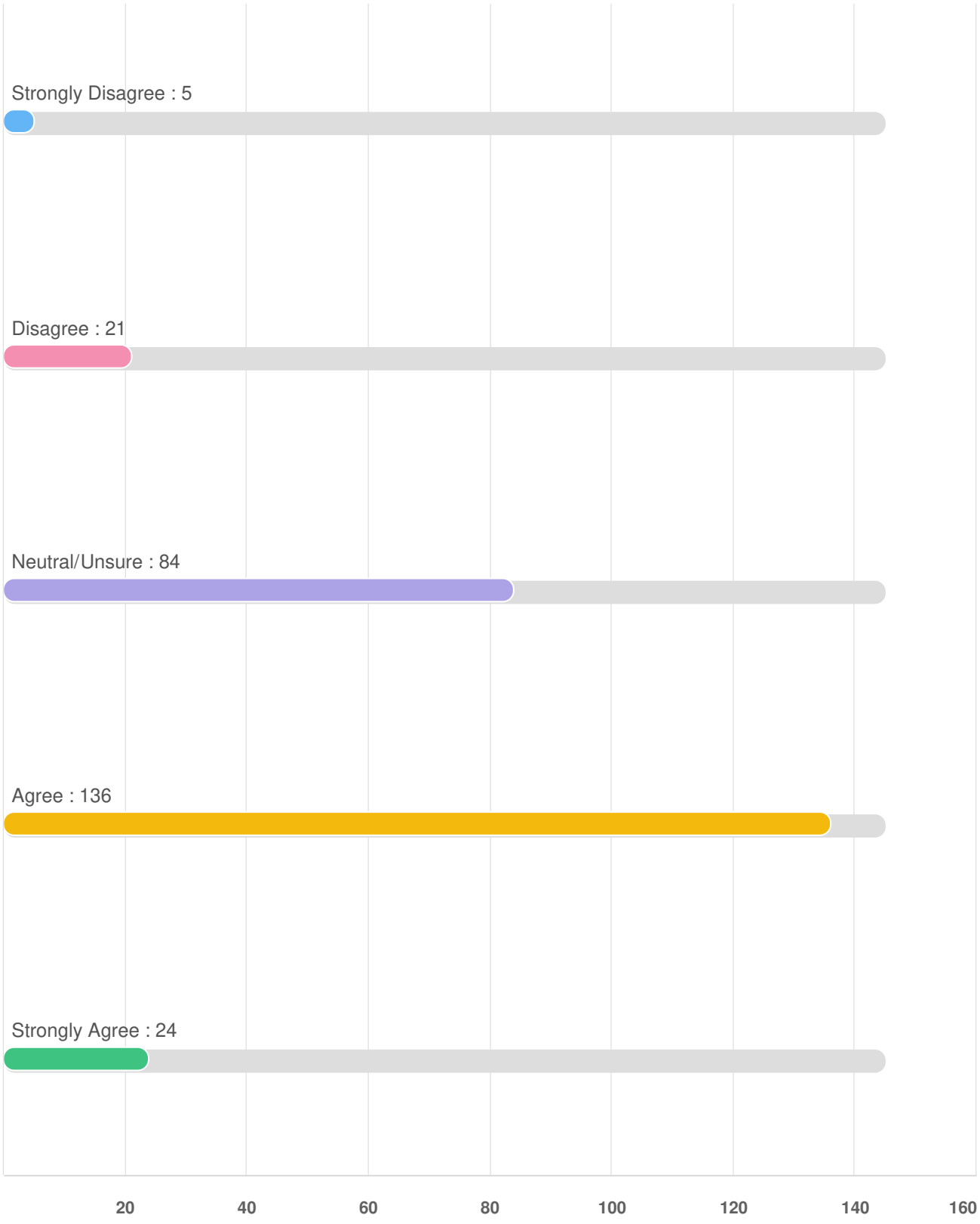
Q12 Please indicate your level of agreement for the following statements:



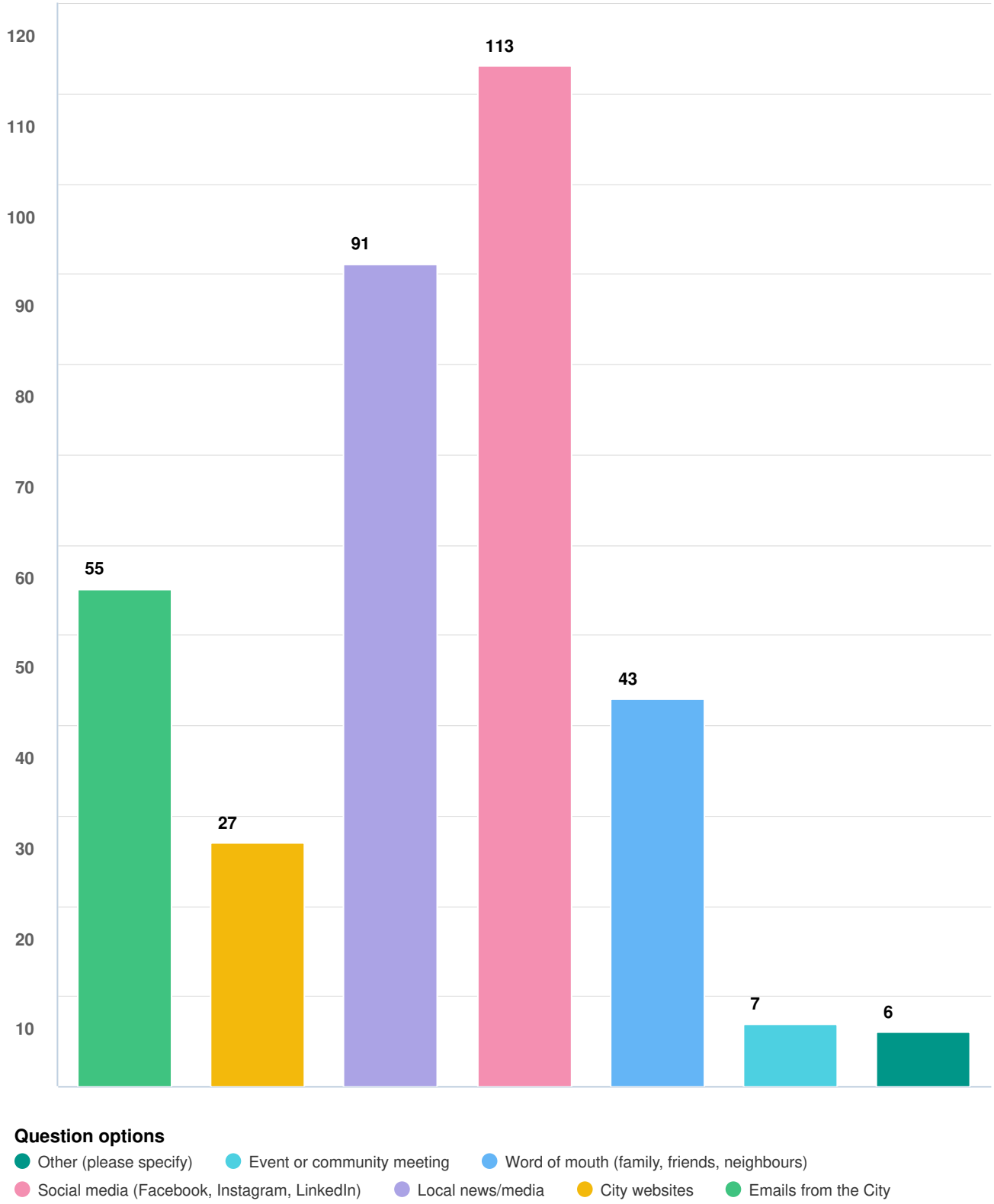
I learned something new:



This information was clear and easy to understand:



Q13 How did you hear about this engagement opportunity?



Optional question (273 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question