



Budget 2019 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



Background

The City of Winnipeg (City) is preparing its annual budget for 2019. The City is facing a projected tax supported operating budget shortfall of \$85.9 million in 2019 from last year's budget process. The increased demand on services, due largely to growth and other factors, has outpaced the City's ability to fund tax-supported services adequately and we are asking for your priorities so we can find ways to address the projected shortfall when preparing a balanced 2019 operating budget.

The City is also facing capital budget challenges. The 2018 capital plan forecasted over \$369 million in capital project spending in the 2019 capital forecast. However, the forecasted capital budget spending is not sufficient to address the \$6.9 billion infrastructure deficit recently identified through the 2018 State of the Infrastructure Report. Sustainable capital financing strategies are needed to address the infrastructure deficit.

Building on last year's goal of increasing citizen engagement in the budget process, this year's budget planning process was enhanced through the addition of an interactive online tool, a game at pop-up events, and public workshop.

Engagement

When developing the public engagement strategy for the 2019 budget, it was important to incorporate lessons learned and opportunities for improvement from last year's budget engagement process. An engagement report was developed following the 2018 budget engagement process that outlined recommendations for future budget engagements based on participants' feedback.

A combination of online passive, online interactive, in-person passive, and in-person, in-depth engagement methods were used to provide multiple mechanisms and opportunities to participate and allow everyone a chance to find a way to contribute.

Promotion

Budget 2019 public engagement was promoted using the following tools:

- Six advertisements in six newspapers on April 25, 2018;
- Posts on Facebook and Twitter from April 24 to May 23, 2018;
- Facebook event created for the in-person workshop;
- Pop-up promotion video;
- Online promotion on the City of Winnipeg homepage; and,
- Postcards handed out to over 600 Winnipeggers.



Interactions at a pop-up event

Engagement Activities		
Date(s)	Technique	Description
April 24, 2018	Webpage Launch	The website featured a timeline of events, a frequently asked questions section, and detailed how the public can get involved.
April 24 to May 23, 2018	Service Priorities Survey	395 surveys were completed by the public.
April 24 to May 23, 2018	Prioritization and Allocation survey	461 surveys were completed by the public.
April 12 to April 28, 2018	Pop-up Events	Over 600 interactions with the public at 15 pop-up events (one in each ward).
May 16, 2018	Workshop	Held at Millennium Library to encourage more detailed public discussion of budget topics.

To learn more about the City of Winnipeg's 2019 Budget and review the Public Engagement Report, please visit: winnipeg.ca/engagebudget2019



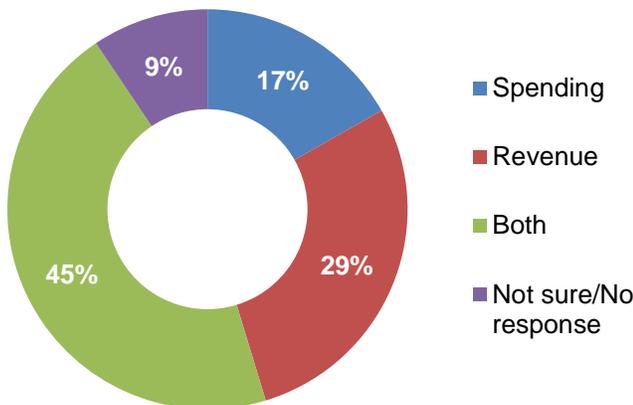
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What We Heard

- Winnipeggers' top service priority areas are public transit, street maintenance, and city planning.
- Winnipeggers' lowest service priority areas are golf services, cemeteries, and parking.
- Winnipeggers feel that the City is facing both a spending and revenue challenge.

In your opinion, is Winnipeg facing a spending challenge or revenue challenge?

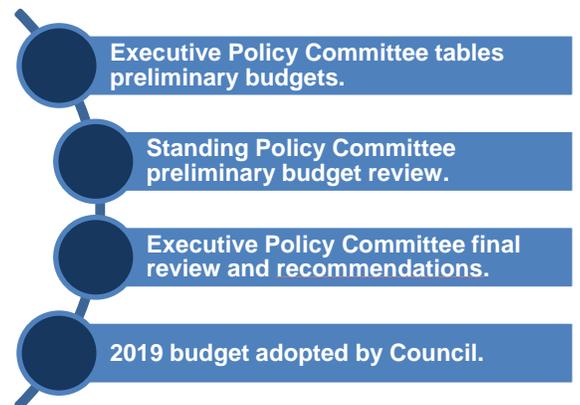
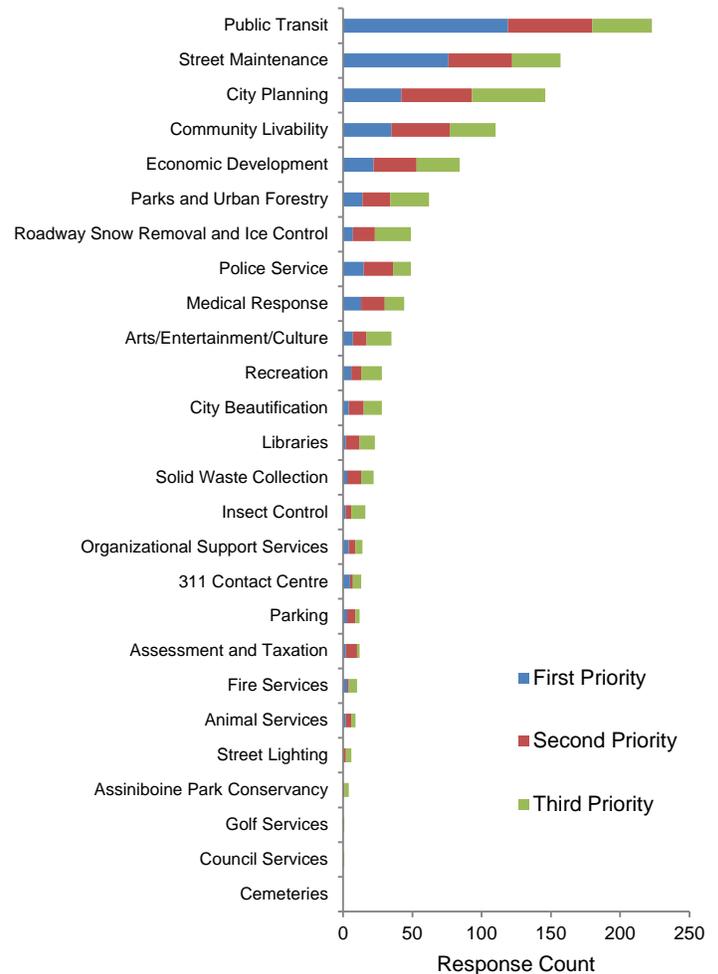


- Grants to address poverty and homelessness, and grants towards community centres and neighbourhood associations continue to be important to Winnipeggers (top two grants in 2018 and 2019 budget engagement surveys).
- Multi-year budgeting was supported by 65% of survey respondents.
- Reallocating funds from other infrastructure areas was more popular than increased property taxes to fund capital spending.

Next Steps

The public's input and the Public Engagement Report will be shared with elected officials and the Public Service to assist with developing the 2019 preliminary budget. After the preliminary budget is reviewed by Standing Policy Committees and the Executive Policy Committee, the 2019 preliminary budget will be reviewed by Council and subsequently adopted.

What service areas should the City focus on the most? Choose your top three priorities.



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