



REPORT TITLE									
2026 Budget Survey Results									
FROM (Name and Position)									
Johnny Pereira, CPA, CGA, Treasurer									
Council Meeting Date:	October 20, 2025				Report Date:	October 13, 2025			
Decision Required:	Yes		No	X	Type of Meeting:	Open	X	Closed	
Outcome:	Information Only	X	Direction		Priority:	High		Low	X

## **BACKGROUND**

The Township conducted its annual budget survey to gather community feedback for consideration in the development of the 2026 municipal budget. As part of the Township's public engagement efforts, the survey was hosted online and promoted through the Township website, social media channels, and the final tax billing newsletter. The survey was open from August 8 to September 14, providing residents with an opportunity to share their perspectives on municipal services, priorities, and spending.

## **ANALYSIS**

### Budget Survey Highlights:

- The Township received 41 responses (46 in 2025, 25 in 2024, 33 in 2023, 104 in 2022).
- 51% of respondents selected the tax bill newsletters as their preferred type of communication, with digital methods at 44%.
- 44% of respondents indicated that satisfaction with municipal services has improved over the past year (up slightly from 42% in 2025). Another 44% rated their satisfaction as neutral, consistent with last year's results.
- 63% of respondents indicated they would not support a green bin (organics) program if offered in the future, suggesting limited community interest at this time.
- 80% of respondents indicated that the Township is maintaining its infrastructure to an acceptable standard, including 56% who agreed and 24% who felt this was the case most of the time, demonstrating overall satisfaction with infrastructure maintenance and renewal.
- 44% of respondents supported increasing property taxes to fund infrastructure renewal, including 17% who felt it should be a top priority and 27% who supported modest increases of up to 2%. Meanwhile, 51% indicated they are supportive of renewal efforts but do not support further tax increases beyond current levels.

- 44% of respondents supported reasonable tax increases to maintain existing service levels (i.e., inflationary adjustments), while 32% preferred to cut services to maintain current tax levels. Meanwhile, 20% favoured increasing taxes to enhance or expand municipal services, and only 5% supported cutting services to reduce taxes
- The majority of respondents (75% on average) supported maintaining current service levels, while 22% preferred to see enhancements in select areas such as by-law enforcement, building services, and communications. Only 3% of respondents suggested any service reductions.

A full breakdown of the survey results and a copy of the online survey are included in the attachment.

Survey results have been distributed to Managers for consideration in building their respective departments' 2026 budget and will be made available to the public on the Township's website.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 2026 Budget Survey Results
- 2026 Budget Survey Questions

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the 2026 Budget Survey Results report be received for information.**

<b>APPROVED by the Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Morgan Calvert</b>

Responses Overview Closed

Responses

41

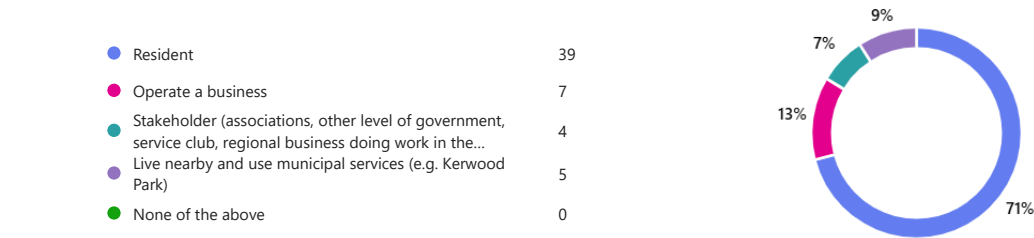
Average Time

10:11

Duration

37 Days

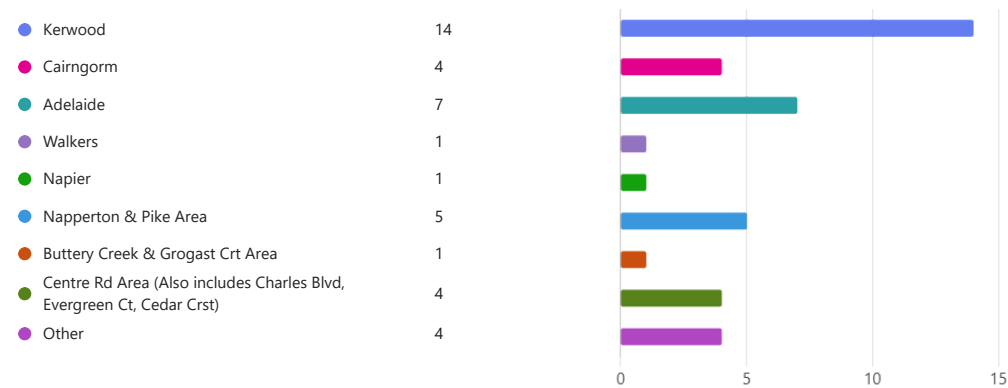
1. Which of the following statements describes your connection to the Township?



2. How long have you resided in Adelaide Metcalfe?

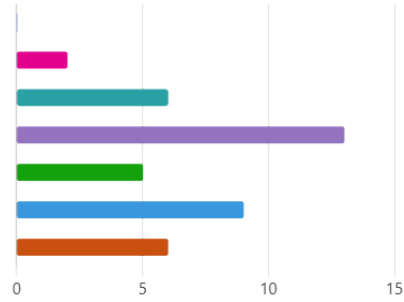


3. Where do you live (or own property) in Adelaide Metcalfe?



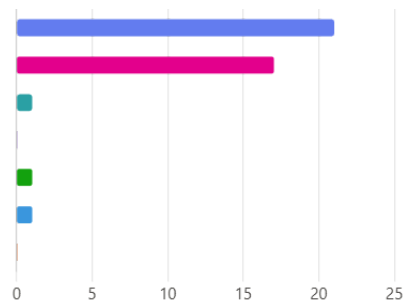
4. What is your age bracket?

Under 18	0
18-24	2
25-34	6
35-44	13
45-54	5
55-64	9
65+	6



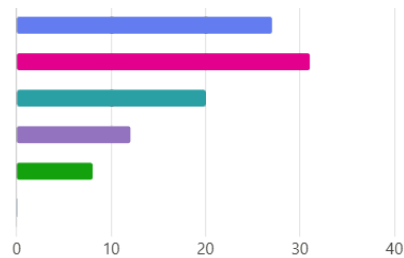
5. How did you hear about this survey?

Tax bill newsletter	21
Social media	17
News media, newspaper	1
Council meeting	0
Website	1
From someone else	1
Other	0



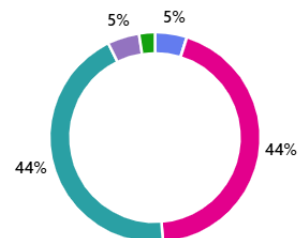
6. Current Communication Methods

Social media (Facebook/Twitter)	27
Tax bill newsletters	31
Website (adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca)	20
Live support (in person, phone, email)	12
Newspaper (Middlesex Banner)	8
Other	0



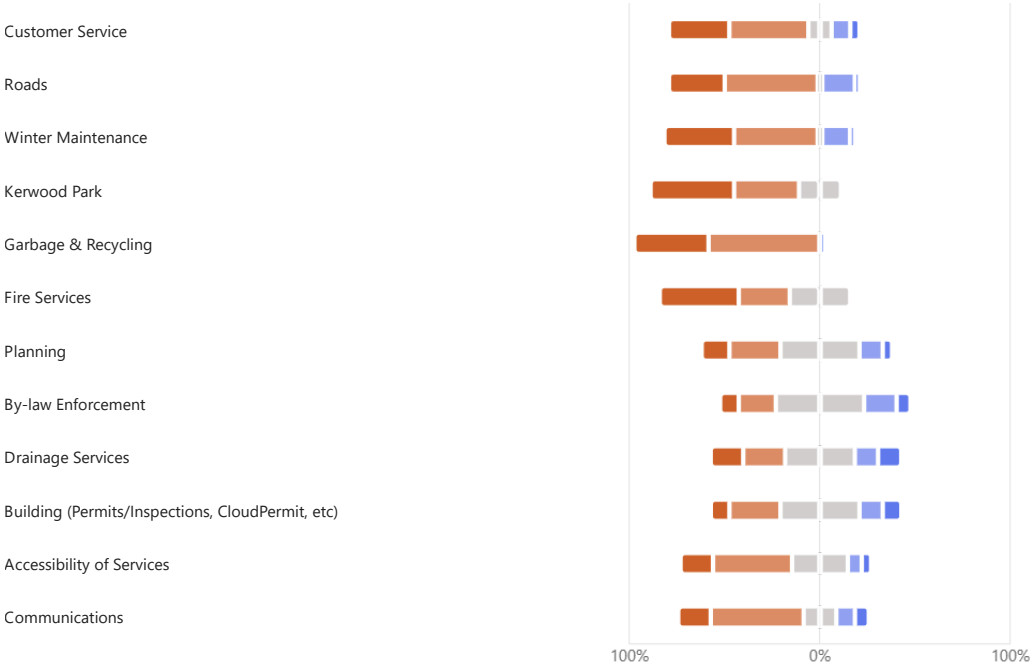
7. Overall Satisfaction with Services

Significantly Improved	2
Improved	18
Neutral	18
Worsened	2
Significantly Worsened	1



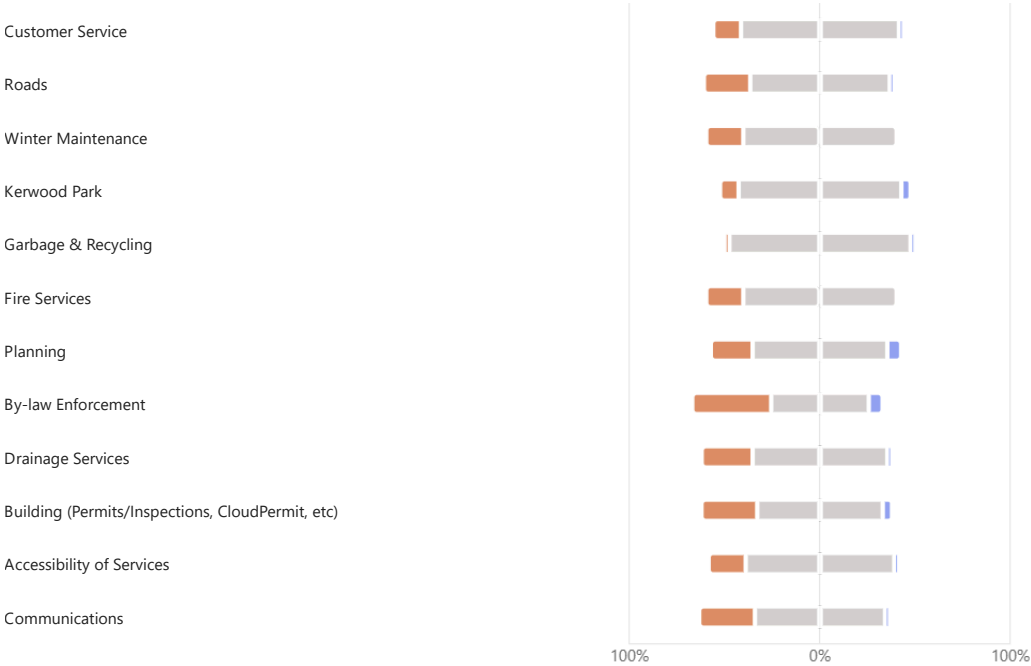
8. Rate Your Experience

Very Satisfied   Satisfied   Don't Know   Somewhat Unsatisfied   Very Unsatisfied



9. 2026 Approach to Services

Enhanced   Maintained   Reduced



10. Please share any additional comments about the Township services you would like to be enhanced, maintained, or reduced.

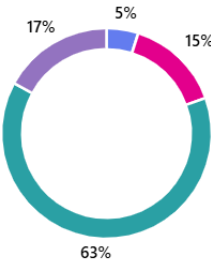
## 14

### Responses

- Monthly email newsletter or council updates via email/social media
- Only service we have is garbage pickup the rest we never use
- The gravel roads in the community could use more attention, especially in areas where there is a lot of traffic. Some roads are not safe at intersections, with large trees and branches blocking a person's view when they are driving.
- This township needs to be more inclusive of non-farming families & businesses. Farming is important & the backbone of this community, but there are other long-term residents that pay taxes too. Tax funded programs (community improvement) grants should be accessible to ALL members, not just farmers or farm based businesses.
- keep exploring bylaw enforcement strategies; extend municipal water supply westward along Napperton
- Not sure if it's by-laws responsibility, but something needs to be done about trucks parking in front of the no parking signs in front of Tim Hortons. The fire department has been dispatched to multiple collisions there due to parked trucks blocking the view to turn out of the parking lot.
- The Township should ensure that residents who violate bylaws are held accountable through transparent and fair enforcement. Clear communication on violations and penalties would build trust. maintaining consistency in applying these rules and providing residents with the necessary support for compliance would be beneficial.
- I would like to see more opportunities for affordable housing in the township. Move forward with the county to allow some multi unit dwellings.
- Overall quite satisfied.....total tax bill is high based on services provided however.
- I believe everything is well maintained. I chose enhanced on roads as I would like the train tracks in Kerwood to be fixed to be able to go over smoother. Thank you.
- Need a local building inspector that is easy to access
- The Overall consistency of the Kerwood sewerage plant should be looked at and invested to proper size for amount of usage and households.
- Additional tax revenue from energy facilities should be highly considered and embraced
- Customer enquiries need to be better. I had asked on 2 separate visits to office while paying taxes about the Scotchmere Rd being resurfaced and fibre lines, both when happening. Info taken at office and told someone would get back to me with but never heard from anyone.

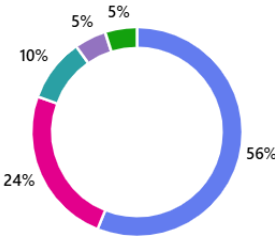
11. Green Bin (Organics Collection) Program

● Yes – I live in an urban area and would be interested in participating in a green bin program.	2
● Yes – I live in a rural area and would be interested, if a program was made available.	6
● No – I do not support a green bin program in the Township.	26
● Not sure / No opinion	7



12. Managing our Infrastructure

● Yes	23
● Most of the time	10
● Some of the time	4
● No	2
● No opinion	2



**13. Managing our Infrastructure**

Which infrastructure requires improvement? Please be as specific as possible.

13

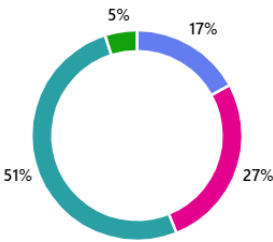
Responses

- Why do we need so much equipment when we hire contractors to do road construction and other projects
- N/A
- women's bathroom at the park
- It would be a very large expense but if development keeps happening on Centre Rd, I see the need for a possible second fire station in the township closer to that area possibly. The township is a large geographical area and it must take the Fire Service at least 15 minutes to reach certain corners of it.
- Roads and visibility at intersections
- I support infrastructure renewal but believe any tax increase should align with previous budgets. Priority improvements should focus on roads, bridges, and making roads safer around parks to protect pedestrians and cyclists. Given the high rates in some areas, considering residents' income is crucial, further increases would be burdensome.
- Explore bringing pipeline water to Adelaide village and Kerwood.
- Water and Natural gas lines down all roadways
- Sewage system in Kerwood
- Additional parks in different location of the township such as Adelaide, Cairngorm and other dense areas. Install water services to residents of the township. With and increase in wildfire and drier and hotter summers it might be best to increase emergency budget.
- Keep saving for a rainy day and try to keep rates stable. I see other communities with big tax rate spikes.
- Stop paving so many roads this is a rural community keep gravel.
- Keep up the good work



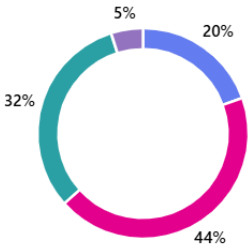
14. Funding Infrastructure

Yes - This should be a top priority for the Township.	7
Yes - I'm supportive, but tax rate increases to specifically support infrastructure renewal should b...	11
No - While I'm supportive of infrastructural renewal, I do not support a tax increase beyond what we've...	21
No - I would rather the Township wait and impose large, unexpected tax hikes when infrastructure fails...	0
Not sure / No opinion	2



15. Your Approach to Budgeting

Increase taxes to enhance or expand municipal services	8
Increase taxes to maintain services at current levels (i.e inflationary increase)	18
Cut services enough to maintain current tax levels	13
Cut services enough to reduce taxes	2



**16. Final Thoughts**

Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2026 Budget deliberations.

13

Responses

- VOTE NO TO WIND TURBINES - council can make a choice this time, we don't need or want anymore.
- Some of these road projects could be tender out grass cutting could be tendered maybe keep equipment longer
- Thank you for the opportunity to complete and submit this survey online. It was an easy and helpful way to contribute to the community.
- Farm equipment shouldn't be running us off the road (happened twice this year so far to myself and my husband) Lights should be utilized on wagons and implements at nighttime! Loads should be properly secured! Township needs to do some education to the farmers and safe operations, not solely for the passerby to "take notice and have patience" with farmers.
- make sure all administrative improvements/spending is made for the benefit of Township residents, with grant monies if possible. Consider a communications/feedback strategy specifically for highway 81 businesses, mainly to understand how the Township could support their endeavors.
- You guys are doing a great job overall. The mayor and councillors are very supportive, along with everyone in the office. I've dealt with fire chief Dan and Roads superintendent Coulter and they have been absolutely great to speak with and very helpful. Keep up the good work.
- We had an increase in our property taxes this year and have seen nothing that would be considered value for money. Our winter maintenance is contracted to Strathroy. We get told to contact Strathroy when we have problems.
- Tax vs. services are too high. Reduce cost so taxes can be reduced.
- I find council and all employees very accessible. Once upon a time it was thought of only an agricultural township.
- Time waits for no one. Grow Baby Grow Thank you
- Get kerwood cleaned up. Junk yard neighbors. Enforce building permits, decks, buildings etc no permits no inspections. Have an anonymous holiness.
- In these challenging times, Keep up the good work!
- As inflation and renewal of infrastructure is understood to maintain our current levels, the current tax rate is extremely high compared to local municipalities. This will deter residential newcomers to our township as it grows. having the opportunity for large plots of land to be broken up/severed could assist with new lots for new residential builds that will add additional taxes.
- If increasing taxes be sure that funds and allocated towards infrastructure and enhanced services and not councils pockets.



## Township of Adelaide Metcalfe 2026 Budget Survey

The budget is a key policy and planning document that outlines our Township's priorities for services, programs and infrastructure. Setting the budget is a balancing act between competing priorities – providing the high level of services that residents deserve and expect versus what we can afford.

As we begin building the 2026 municipal budget, we want to hear from you!

Please complete this brief survey and help us create a budget that reflects the priorities of local residents and businesses.

As you answer these questions, please remember:

1. Your annual tax bill is made up of taxes from Adelaide Metcalfe, Middlesex County, and taxes paid to your preferred school board. This survey is just about the Adelaide Metcalfe portion.
2. There are some services that municipalities are required to provide by legislation and some that may be limited by the amount of room there is to reduce costs.

Results from this survey will be presented to Council and will be posted on the Township website.

Thank you for taking the time to comment.

\* Required

### About You

1. Which of the following statements describes your connection to the Township? \*

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Operate a business
- ☐ Stakeholder (associations, other level of government, service club, regional business doing work in the Township)
- ☐ Live nearby and use municipal services (e.g. Kerwood Park)
- ☐ None of the above

2. How long have you resided in Adelaide Metcalfe? \*

- ☐ 0-3 years
- ☐ 4-10 years
- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 16-25 years
- ☐ 25 or more years

3. Where do you live (or own property) in Adelaide Metcalfe? \*

- ☐ Kerwood
- ☐ Cairngorm
- ☐ Adelaide
- ☐ Walkers
- ☐ Napier
- ☐ Napperton & Pike Area
- ☐ Buttery Creek & Grogast Crt Area
- ☐ Centre Rd Area (Also includes Charles Blvd, Evergreen Ct, Cedar Crst)
- ☐ Other

4. What is your age bracket? \*

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+

## Information Sharing

5. How did you hear about this survey? \*

- ☐ Tax bill newsletter
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ News media, newspaper
- ☐ Council meeting
- ☐ Website
- ☐ From someone else
- ☐ Other

6. **Current Communication Methods** \*

The Township of Adelaide Metcalfe currently uses the following communication methods to share information about our services. Which are your preferred methods of receiving information? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Social media (Facebook/Twitter)
- ☐ Tax bill newsletters
- ☐ Website ([adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca](https://adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca))
- ☐ Live support (in person, phone, email)
- ☐ Newspaper (Middlesex Banner)
- ☐ Other

## Municipal Services

### 7. Overall Satisfaction with Services \*

How would you describe the quality of services in Adelaide Metcalfe over the last year?

- ☐ Significantly Improved
- ☐ Improved
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Worsened
- ☐ Significantly Worsened

**8. Rate Your Experience \***

How would you rate the following municipal services based on how well you think the municipally funded services are being delivered in our community?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Don't Know	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Customer Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kerwood Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Garbage & Recycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By-law Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drainage Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building (Permits/Inspections, CloudPermit, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility of Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**9. 2026 Approach to Services \***

Should the following municipal services be:

- Enhanced (increase service level or funding)
- Maintained (same amount of service level or funding)
- Reduced (decrease service level or funding)

	Enhanced	Maintained	Reduced
Customer Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kerwood Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Garbage & Recycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By-law Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drainage Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building (Permits/Inspections, CloudPermit, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility of Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Please share any additional comments about the Township services you would like to be enhanced, maintained, or reduced.

Please enter at most 400 characters



**11. Green Bin (Organics Collection) Program**

The Township is gathering feedback to better understand if there is community interest in a green bin program for the collection of household organics (e.g., food waste, compostable materials).

While there are no current plans to introduce this service, it has been suggested by some residents and would likely only be feasible in urban areas of the Township. If ever pursued, the program would be delivered by the Bluewater Recycling Association (BRA).

Would you be interested in a green bin (organics) program if it became available in your area?

Select one:

- ☐ Yes – I live in an urban area and would be interested in participating in a green bin program.
- ☐ Yes – I live in a rural area and would be interested, if a program was made available.
- ☐ No – I do not support a green bin program in the Township.
- ☐ Not sure / No opinion

## Infrastructure

### 12. Managing our Infrastructure \*

Along with provincial and federal grants, some of what you pay in property taxes goes towards repairing and renewing our infrastructure. This includes our roads, bridges, culverts, Kerwood Park, and large equipment like fire trucks, among other items.

Overall, do you agree that the Township is maintaining its infrastructure to an acceptable standard?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

### 13. Managing our Infrastructure

Which infrastructure requires improvement? Please be as specific as possible.

Please enter at most 400 characters

### 14. Funding Infrastructure \*

The Township has a comprehensive, multi-year Asset Management Plan for infrastructure. This plan reveals an "infrastructure gap" between our savings for infrastructure repair and renewal and the expected costs.

Would you support increasing property taxes specifically for infrastructure renewal?

*Note: This relates to replacing existing, aging infrastructure and equipment only.*

- ☐ Yes - This should be a top priority for the Township.
- ☐ Yes - I'm supportive, but tax rate increases to specifically support infrastructure renewal should be kept to under 2%.
- ☐ No - While I'm supportive of infrastructural renewal, I do not support a tax increase beyond what we've been doing already in past budgets.
- ☐ No - I would rather the Township wait and impose large, unexpected tax hikes when infrastructure fails, instead of gradually building reserves through modest annual increases
- ☐ Not sure / No opinion

## Your Approach to Budgeting

### 15. Your Approach to Budgeting \*

The Township faces many of the same budget pressures as you do at home, including inflation and rising costs for goods and services such as insurance and construction materials, among others.

We work to find efficiencies and savings, and seek out grants to offset these increases. In 2025, 19% of the municipal budget revenues came from grants, investment income and other sources outside of property taxes and user fees.

When the Township is creating the municipal budget, please indicate which statement comes closest to your point of view.

The Township should:

- ☐ Increase taxes to enhance or expand municipal services
- ☐ Increase taxes to maintain services at current levels (i.e inflationary increase)
- ☐ Cut services enough to maintain current tax levels
- ☐ Cut services enough to reduce taxes

## Final Thoughts

### 16. Final Thoughts

Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2026 Budget deliberations.

Please enter at most 400 characters

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