

# 2026 BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS

Conducted and analyzed by Frazier Fathers  
- Ward 2 Councillor



## FORWARD BY FRAZIER

The following survey results were gathered from December 12th through December 24th conducted online via SurveyMonkey to gather input from residents across the City of Windsor on their perceptions and priorities related to the 2026 City Budget.

The data is available for you to download on my website should you wish. I did do a pass reviewing and removing any responses I felt that could potentially identify respondents or singled out identifiable individuals as the source of an issue.

AI was leveraged to support the analysis that I conducted, particularly validating my review of responses to open text questions. I have tagged where this occurs in the analysis. Some tests of feeding the raw data into major AI platforms finds some inconsistencies in outputs produced. I would use it with caution if you wish to conduct your analysis. I will be using this report and my own analysis as the basis for my decision-making.

As mentioned in the survey, this data is being used to help inform my priorities related to the City Budget. This is not the only source input I am gathering: my platform from the campaign, conversations in the community, my colleagues around the council table, feedback from administration, and my judgement will inform my final decision on budget items.

This document was written between Christmas Eve and December 27th with the goal of releasing the survey results in alignment with the budget documents so the mayor, council and the public could review them side by side. As a result, the design and proofing of this summary and analysis may not be as thorough as it would be with more time, please forgive any typos or grammar issue you come across.

If you have questions please reach out to my email [ffathers@citywindsor.ca](mailto:ffathers@citywindsor.ca) or on my [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).



All analysis was supervised by Izzy, who demanded many scratches and treats for her support.

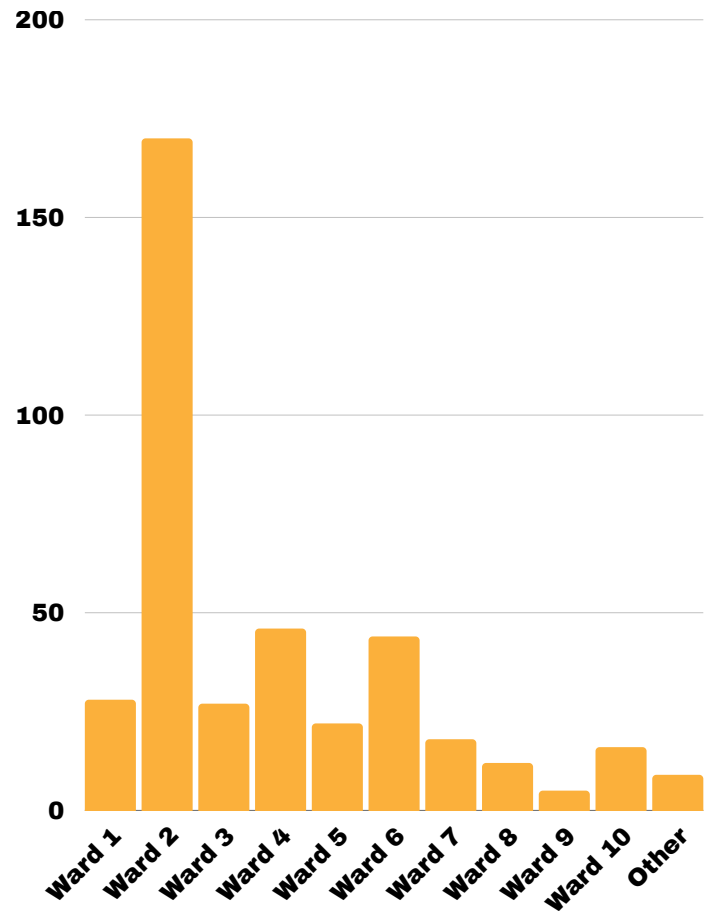
Happy New Year to Everyone!

## WHO RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY

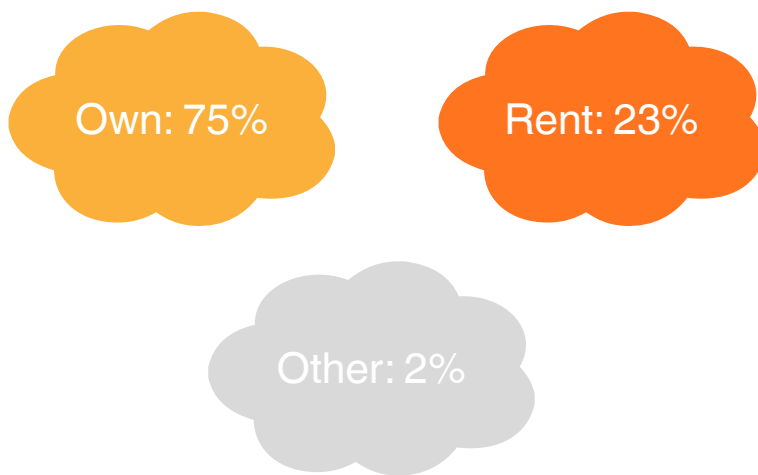
A total of 402 respondents entered the survey with 397 answering questions. Of those respondents **42%** were from Ward 2 followed by **11%** from Ward 4 and Ward 6 respectively. For purposes of analysis on subsequent pages, I am grouping responses into clusters of *Ward 2* – 170 responses; the “*Rest of the Core*” (Ward 3, 4 and 5) with 95 responses; “*East Windsor*” (Ward 6, 7, and 8) with 74 responses and “*Central/South Windsor*” (Ward 1, 9 and 10) with 49 responses.

From a gender perspective, **58%** of respondents identified as female, **38%** identified as male and **3%** self-identified. From a housing perspective **75%** of respondents were homeowners, **23%** renters and **2%** were “Other”. Several of the “Other” respondents indicated they were “living at home”.

## RESPONSES BY WARD

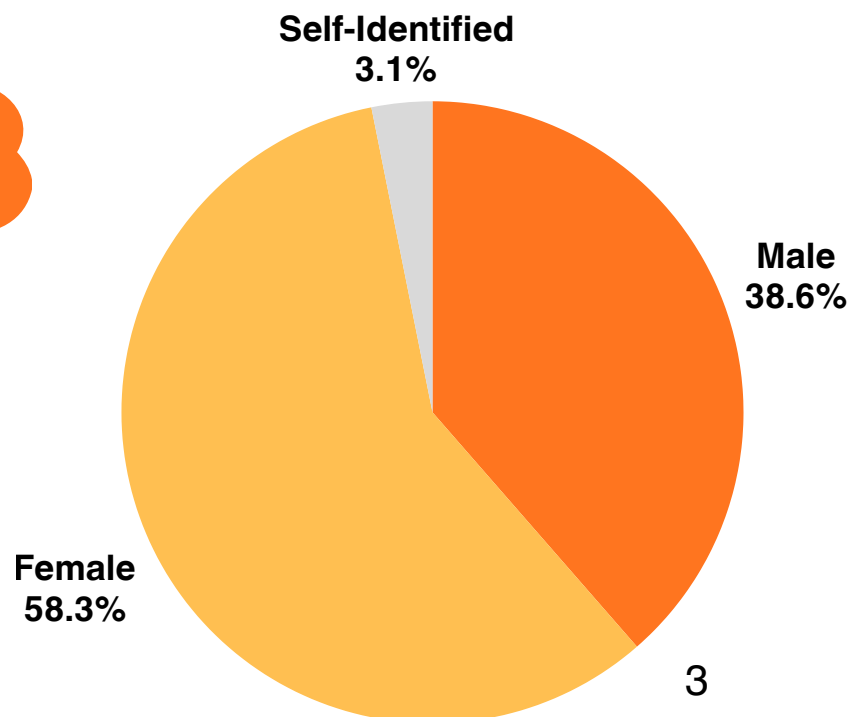


## HOUSING SITUATION



City of Windsor 2021 Census:  
72% of households are homeowners vs  
28% renters.

## RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED GENDER



## GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

The first section of questions related to respondents perceptions of the City and their personal thoughts as we head into 2026. On the next page you can see a full breakdown of responses based on Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree set of responses.

The responses were for the most part consistent across the City with a couple of areas where there were difference. When asked are we doing enough to support those who are struggling - *Ward 2* and the *Rest of the Core* had an average of **5%** higher rates of disagreeing or strongly disagreeing compared to *East* and *South/Central Windsor*. *East* and *South/Central* had a **10%** higher rate of believing we are doing enough than *Ward 2* or the *Rest of the Core*.

Another area of interest related to the question of “Access to services should not depend on the ability to pay user fees” - **79.54%** strongly agree or agree that this should be true. The single largest response came **54%** from respondents strongly agreeing that the City should prioritize its resources better.

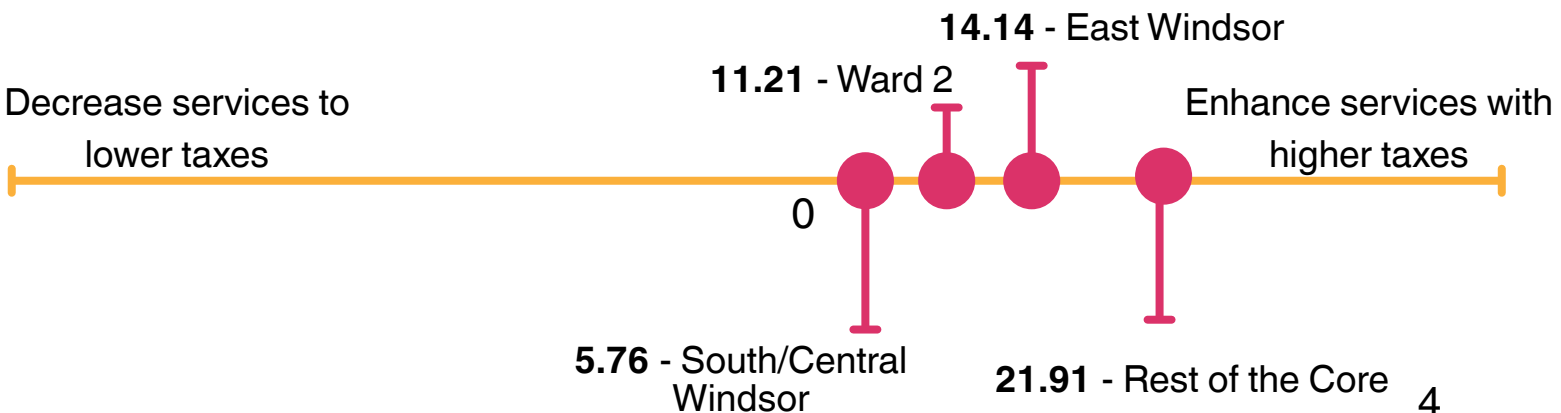
Looking more broadly, a majority of respondents (**56%**) disagreed that the economy would improve in 2026.

### MUNICIPAL TAXES ARE MANAGEABLE FOR MOST HOUSEHOLDS

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree or Strongly
East Windsor	30%	42%	28%
Rest of Core	29%	38%	33%
South/Central Windsor	16%	35%	49%
Ward 2	22%	36%	42%

## SPECTRUM RATING

The spectrum rating question asked individuals to place themselves on a spectrum between a preference of decreasing services to lower taxes or increasing taxes to enhance services. For purposes of the rating below I adjusted the raw data from a 0-100 scale to a -50 to +50 scale. The average scores by areas are plotted below the overall response average was **13.55**.



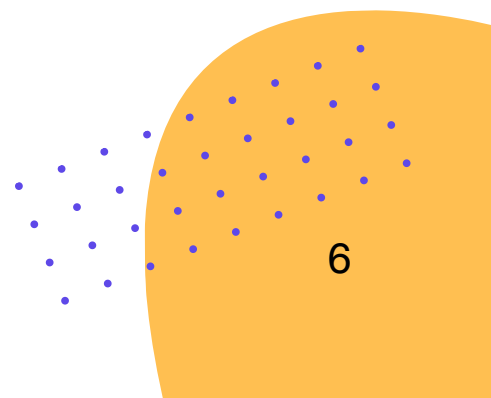
Share your perceptions of things right now in Windsor	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
Access to services should not depend on the ability to pay user fees	3.32%	4.86%	12.28%	31.71%	<b>47.83%</b>	391
City services are convenient to access	8.16%	30.10%	<b>38.52%</b>	19.64%	3.57%	392
Municipal taxes are manageable for most households	11.96%	26.72%	<b>37.15%</b>	21.88%	2.29%	393
I am confident in my financial situation for 2026	17.05%	18.32%	23.92%	<b>29.26%</b>	11.45%	393
I feel I get good value for the municipal services I receive	15.78%	<b>37.15%</b>	26.72%	19.08%	1.27%	393
I feel the City could better prioritize how some resources are used.	1.02%	0.51%	3.81%	39.85%	<b>54.82%</b>	394
I feel the City is built/building in a sustainable way	23.41%	<b>38.93%</b>	27.74%	8.65%	1.27%	393
I feel safe in my neighbourhood	7.61%	15.74%	25.89%	<b>41.12%</b>	9.64%	394
The local economy will improve in 2026	18.88%	<b>37.50%</b>	27.81%	14.03%	1.79%	392
There is too much construction going on	8.63%	28.68%	<b>29.44%</b>	20.30%	12.94%	394
We are doing enough to support those who are struggling	<b>43.77%</b>	31.55%	11.45%	9.67%	3.56%	393

## TOP PRIORITIES

The survey asked for respondents to highlight their top priorities in a sentence or two. Over 340 responses were shared, many of which had multiple parts or comments. Reviewing the comments a number of priority areas emerged which are listed below grouped by theme based on most commented response element:

- Homelessness + supportive housing: getting people housed; shelters/warming; encampments; wraparound supports.
- Affordable housing supply + affordability: high rents, low-income housing, seniors/disabled, infill/density.
- Mental health + addictions services: prevention, treatment, supportive housing; crisis response.
- Roads, sewers, and basic infrastructure repair: potholes, collapsing sewers, deferred maintenance.
- Traffic and road safety: speeding, crosswalks, lights, Vision Zero, bike/ped safety.
- Public transit improvements: frequency, reliability, hours, coverage.
- Public safety and community safety: perceptions of downtown safety, neighbourhood safety.
- Cleanliness and by-law enforcement: litter/needles/alleyways, property standards, garbage enforcement, abandoned/boarded buildings.
- Stop/limit “vanity/legacy projects” and refocus spending on essentials to enhance perceptions of value of services.

Across the different parts of the City there is some variation in these comments/priorities but they are largely consistent in their presence.



## WARD 2 PRIORITIES

Ward 2 residents were asked a slate of questions about the ward, specifically issues and priorities building off of many of the conversations from the election and beyond.

State your level of agreement with the following states (Ward 2)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I can get to where I need to go in Ward 2 on my bike and feel safe	14%	27%	<b>35%</b>	19%	5%	151
I can get to where I need to go on transit from Ward 2 in a timely manner	11%	25%	<b>49%</b>	12%	3%	148
Should the city raise taxes slightly to ensure all neighbourhoods, including Ward 2, receive the services they deserve?	8%	11%	23%	<b>40%</b>	19%	151
There are problematic intersections and crossings where it is dangerous to cross the street	2%	3%	24%	<b>36%</b>	34%	151
There is too much student housing	3%	9%	<b>37%</b>	24%	26%	151
We are doing enough for individuals experiencing homelessness	<b>44%</b>	34%	12%	5%	5%	152
We have a rodent and pest issue	1%	3%	17%	32%	<b>46%</b>	152
We have sufficient policing	17%	<b>29%</b>	23%	22%	9%	151
We need a system to hold landlords accountable for the state of their properties, safety of tenants and neighbourhoods	0%	1%	3%	21%	<b>76%</b>	152
We need additional by-law enforcement	3%	5%	19%	31%	<b>42%</b>	151
We need investment in feature/regional parks - Malden, MicMac, Riverfront etc.	5%	13%	22%	30%	<b>31%</b>	152
We need investment in our neighbourhood parks - Bradley Park, Curry Playlot, South Marritt etc.	2%	9%	25%	<b>42%</b>	21%	150

## WARD 2 PRIORITIES CONT.

Ward 2 residents were asked a slate of questions about the ward specifically issues and priorities building off of many of the conversations from the election and beyond.

State your level of agreement with the following states (Ward 2 respondents only)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
We need more affordable housing	1%	1%	8%	28%	<b>62%</b>	151
We need to attract families to live in Ward 2	1%	4%	22%	34%	<b>39%</b>	150
We need to enhance library services	2%	6%	<b>39%</b>	29%	24%	152
We need to fix the roads	1%	1%	17%	<b>42%</b>	40%	151
We need to get the next phase of University Ave construction underway.	1%	7%	<b>33%</b>	31%	27%	150
We need to plant more trees	1%	7%	22%	32%	<b>38%</b>	151
We need to slow traffic on major roads	5%	13%	24%	<b>31%</b>	27%	152
We need traffic calming on residential side streets	2%	11%	22%	<b>36%</b>	29%	152
We should naturalize more parks	7%	12%	25%	<b>31%</b>	26%	152
We should re-imagine Huron Church Road after the Gordie Howe Bridge opens	3%	7%	22%	30%	<b>38%</b>	152
We should support and expand events in the Sandwich BIA with the Gordie Howe Bridge opening	1%	3%	17%	<b>41%</b>	37%	150

## WARD 2 TOP PRIORITIES

Ward 2 residents were asked to rank select their top 3 priorities - which they may be willing to pay a slight tax increase to see progress on these issue. A total of 383 comments were shared, most of which contained 2 or 3 elements so the estimated mentions are much higher than the total comments given. AI was leveraged in this assessment.

Rank	Priority Theme	Estimated Mentions	Share of Mentions
1	Affordable Housing & Housing Supply	~86	~18%
2	Landlord Accountability & Rental Enforcement	70	~15%
3	Roads, Infrastructure & Construction Completion	~74	16%
4	Homelessness & Social / Mental Health Supports	~59	12%
5	Traffic Calming, Road Safety & Parking	~55	11%
6	Bylaw Enforcement & Property Standards	~48	10%
7	Policing, Crime & Community Safety	~41	9%
8	Transit & Alternative Transportation	~38	8%
9	Parks, Trees, Environment & Neighbourhood Livability	~36	7%
10	Community Services, Libraries, Recreation & Amenities	~27	6%

Counts above reflect thematic coding rather than literal word frequency; for example responses referencing library services without using the word 'library' were included in Community Services, Libraries, Recreation & Amenities. "Fix College Ave" is found in the Roads, Infrastructure & Construction Completion

## WARD 2: LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER

Through the campaign, I talked about the “Little Things that Matter” - whether a garbage can in the park, a pothole that needs filling or a light in a dark area. Some of these can be tackled outside of the budget while also informing broader priorities. The Top 10 “Little Things” are:

- **Traffic calming on residential streets**
  - Speed bumps, better markings, stop-sign enforcement, and fixes at dangerous intersections to slow speeding and protect kids, seniors, pets, and cyclists.
- **More garbage cans and better waste management in public spaces**
  - Especially in parks, along trails, on College, Wyandotte, and the waterfront —plus locked bins where dumping and mess are chronic.
- **Improved street and pathway lighting**
  - Fixing lights that are out and adding lighting on dark corridors to improve safety, visibility, and comfort when walking at night.
- **Stronger by-law enforcement and follow-up**
  - Property standards, rental upkeep, noise, litter, parking, and pet issues— residents want responses that actually result in action.
- **Cleaner parks, waterfronts, and alleys**
  - Regular litter pickup, goose-dropping cleanup on river paths, alley maintenance, and more frequent cleaning in high-use areas.
- **Benches, shade, and small park amenities**
  - Shaded seating, shade sails at playgrounds, restored play equipment, and small comfort upgrades that make parks usable for everyone.
- **Fixing small but persistent infrastructure problems**
  - Potholes, damaged sewer grates, washboard roads, unfinished crosswalks, and long-reported repairs that haven’t been addressed.
- **Safer walking and cycling conditions**
  - Bike racks in the right locations, better crossings, accessible traffic lights, sidewalks where none exist, and basic cycling safety improvements.
- **Better management of alleys and side streets**
  - Improved maintenance, clearer rules for closing or purchasing unused alleys, and reducing dumping and rat problems.
- **Community pride, communication, and visibility**
  - Public art, neighbourhood identity, support for local youth sports, and better communication like a simple Ward newsletter to show progress on small wins.

## TOP CITY-WIDE PRIORITIES

Similar to the Ward 2 priorities, respondents were asked to share their agreement/disagreement with a range of city-wide issues and comments.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Acquiring land near Ojibway Park and the Eco-overpass	9%	9%	29%	<b>32%</b>	22%	335
Building the infrastructure to support Sandwich South and the Battery Plant	7%	8%	32%	<b>44%</b>	10%	337
Continue "Strengthening the Core"	8%	9%	22%	<b>40%</b>	22%	336
Cut city staff and programs to save taxpayer money	29%	<b>33%</b>	21%	10%	7%	340
Enhancing our parks and greenspaces	2%	8%	20%	<b>43%</b>	28%	337
Enhancing transit services	2%	3%	22%	31%	<b>41%</b>	339
Ensure rental units are safe and properly maintained	0%	1%	7%	38%	<b>54%</b>	339
Fund infrastructure to prevent basement flooding	1%	3%	20%	<b>46%</b>	30%	338
Funding for new affordable housing builds	3%	5%	12%	35%	<b>45%</b>	338
Implement Vision Zero	5%	5%	<b>57%</b>	13%	20%	318

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Increase by-law enforcement to enforce property standards.	4%	6%	18%	<b>39%</b>	34%	336
Invest in additional amenities (parks, playgrounds, community centres)	4%	8%	25%	<b>43%</b>	20%	338
Move forward the next phase of the Civic Esplanade	20%	24%	<b>43%</b>	10%	4%	331
Move forward the next phase of University Ave.	4%	8%	34%	<b>36%</b>	18%	336
New Central Library and supporting library services	4%	9%	24%	<b>34%</b>	29%	337
Perseving and protecting Peche Island	5%	10%	28%	<b>41%</b>	17%	338
Support Jackson Park Bandshell	10%	12%	<b>34%</b>	28%	16%	337
Supporting active transit with additional infrastructure	3%	5%	25%	32%	<b>35%</b>	336
Tackling mental health and homelessness	3%	2%	5%	31%	<b>59%</b>	336

## TOP PRIORITIES

There is some minor variation across the different parts of the City around specific responses for the most part areas are within a few percentage points with *Ward 2* often being a minor outlier. A couple responses that stood out were:

- “Ensuring that rental units are inspected and safe” a total of **3 of 339** responses responded negatively to this statement. There is broad consensus on this issue in the respondents and although not necessarily a budget item, maybe it should be?
  - Liked to the above, an average of 89% of respondents across the City want to “Ensure rental units are safe and properly maintained”. 95% in *Rest of the Core* and a low of 83% in *South/Central Windsor*.
- “Implementing Vision Zero” seems to be disconnected from more specific traffic calming and safety measures. The **57%** neutral responses is likely due to the respondents not being sure what it means specifically.
  - Subsequent open text questions and *Ward 2* specific questions see support for traffic calming and other pedestrian/cyclist protection measures.
- Support for “Enhancing Transit Services” sees the *Rest of the Core* being a outlier in “strongly agree” responses at **68%** almost double the second area *South/Central Windsor* at **35%** strongly agree.
- *East* and *South/Central Windsor* both see more than **60%** agreeing or strongly agreeing with the “build out of Infrastructure in Sandwich South”. Support is weaker in more established areas of the city.
- The *Rest of the Core* most strongly agrees (agree + strongly agree) with the “Preservation and Protection of Peche Island” - **69%**; **15%** more than *Ward 2* position and **25%** higher than *Central* and *South Windsor*. It even exceeds *East Windsor* at **58%**.
- Increasing by-law enforcement a majority of every part of the City “agree” or “strongly agree”. Unsurprisingly *Ward 2* sees over **46%** strongly agreeing with this statement followed by *South/Central Windsor* at **30%**. Proximity to student housing and Post-Secondary institutions could have something to do with this.
- “Tackling mental health and homelessness” averaged **89%** agree or strongly agree across all regions of Windsor as a priority.

## TOP 3 - PRIORITIES

Like Ward 2 residents, all respondents were asked to rank their top three priorities. My assumption is that if you are ranking a top priority you would like to see some action in this area and as a result you would will to potentially support a modest tax increase to tackle the issue. A total of **831** comments were shared, most of which contained 2 or 3 elements so the estimated mentions are much higher than the total comments given. AI was leveraged in this assessment.

Rank	Priority Theme	Estimated Mentions	Share of Mentions
1	Mental Health, Homelessness & Addictions	~265	~21%
2	Affordable Housing & Rental Safety	~235	~19%
3	Transit, Active Transportation & Traffic Calming	~210	~17%
4	Roads, Sewers, & Core Infrastructure	~190	~15%
5	Bylaw Enforcement & Property Standards	~170	~13%
6	Parks, Green Spaces & Natural Areas	~150	~12%
7	Libraries & Community Facilities	~110	~9%
8	Downtown Revitalization / Strengthening the Core	~95	~8%
9	Policing, Traffic Enforcement & Community Safety	~85	~7%
10	Governance, Transparency, Taxes & Accountability	~80	~6%

Counts above reflect thematic coding rather than literal word frequency; for example responses referencing library services without using the word “library” were included in Library and Community Services. “Fix X Road” is found in the Roads, Sewers and Core Infrastructure.

## A FEW THOUGHTS:

Traditionally on my blog Gingerpolitics.com I had in the past offered a few thoughts on the budget so I will share a few thoughts on this data leading into the budget. The above is a summary of over **23,000** individual comments and data points, this is not an exhaustive review since it was completed in just over 4 days by a “part-time” councillor. There is certainly some deeper details that I have likely missed on this first pass but here are some of my takeaways at a city-wide level:

- People are willing to invest in Windsor and better services particularly if they are targeted, a reasonable expenditure and can show tangible results.
  - Many do not want to see existing services eroded or outsourced but they are cynical about the value for the services they currently receive.
- Affordability is important but comes in many forms. The comments about “Access to services should not depend on the ability to pay user fees” point to user fees may not being the pathway to keeping taxes lower.
- The “**little things matter**” not just in *Ward 2* but in the city-wide comments - less about big projects more about a speed bump on their road, a light in their alley, a bench on a walking path.
- We have to build out Lauzon and SS - the dice has been cast - but I don’t think the city comprehends the costs that will come with it and how it will potentially delay projects in other parts of the City - particularly from 2026-30.
- There are some items that are not municipal jurisdiction (mental health and addictions) where the community is looking for leadership and action.
  - If the province isn’t willing to step up, are we?
- Both from *Ward 2* respondents and City Wide - the lack of disagreement with some form of regulation on rental housing is an important consideration as we consider the future form of the Residential Rental Licensing.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey and share your thoughts. You are helping make Windsor a better place. If you wish to download the cleaned data, you can find it on my website [frazierfathers.ca](http://frazierfathers.ca). If you have questions your can find my contact information on the [City Website](#) or on my social media channels.