



What We Heard

Your comments from the Ward 1 budget open house

What City services are most important to you?

“Basic caretaking operations – roads, waste, parks, water, fire, police. Transit – but at reduces fares, use a fare zone model. Operations must be relentlessly focused on cost reduction. Stay out of social equity.”

“Basic utilities (garbage, compost, recycling, sewage) and at a reasonable cost: water and electricity. Basic services only.”

“Waste management, roads, and infrastructure.”

“City streets being maintained. Upgrade and maintaining of infrastructure. Safety of our community – more police funding.”

“Making transit safer. If Peace Officers routinely checked people for tickets, there would be a possibility to hire more staff while also reducing vagrancy.”

“Parks, greenspace, recreational options, ease of travel around our city.”

“City parks and green spaces, arts and culture, emergency services, thoughtful urban planning, and protecting communities.”

How concerned is your family about affordability?

“Somewhat concerned. The City of Calgary must strive to deliver services for lower costs.”

“Very concerned. This Council is spending my taxes on superficial and ideological issues.”

“Very. Cost of housing is driving density. It is not the one-sized solution.”

Very concerned. Senior on fixed income with costs increasing is not sustainable.”

“Very concerned. We would like to see the local access fee for power pills, for both businesses and residential dwellings, operate on a fixed rate, like Edmonton and other municipalities. With Enmax, making incredible profits, more attention should be paid to the increasing ancillary fees they charge that aren’t related directly to consumption.”

“Very concerned. It’s getting harder and harder to live on a fixed income.”

“Very concerned.”



"My household absolutely cannot take further increases to our costs. We must renew our mortgage this year and even if we extend the term we will be paying more. Our property taxes have also increased 350% since purchasing our home 8 years ago. This is an insane amount that we did not see coming."

What do you expect to see in return for your tax dollars?

"Better, more effective, and less costly basic services. Stay in your lane, don't assume responsibility for Provincial matters."

"Proper representation"

"A vibrant and safe city. A place to enjoy life that include culture, parks, and outdoor spaces."

"Value for tax dollars. Tracking cost of key savings. Looking at better ways to deliver or not deliver services."

"Reduce the property tax burden on commercial property."

"Outdoor gyms in City parks should be more prominent. Quality public art projects, like the '21 swings' piece from Montreal could be easily adopted. Assist with more warming centers so that the unhoused in the downtown area are able to stay somewhere without adversely impacting transit, parks, and local businesses."

"Councillors protecting and engaging with the communities they represent, arts and culture, parks and recreation, safety."

Where should Council spend more? Where does it need to spend less?

"Council needs to spend less. It does not need to spend more."

"Less."

"Council needs to understand cost of delivery and look at where to reduce. Council also needs to understand zero-based budgeting, using data analysis to reduce excess costs."

"Council needs to spend less."

"More on police and less on expanding bike lanes that are not used 365 days of the year."

"We certainly do not need extra facilities to add fluoride to water. There would be no dosage control. Therefore, it should be illegal."



“Council should spend more on integrative school planning, in tandem with school boards, to design communities that can be supplied by local students. Council should spend less on greenfield development and annexing remote land. Council should freeze residential parking rates.”

“Rethink this push to bring in more people and densify the city. Densification will cause more issues and problems.”

“They need to spend more money on thoughtful urban planning. Consultation with communities, working together, to create solutions to issues – rather than developers coming into communities and densifying for profit under the guise of affordable housing.”

“The answer is not to shift those taxes onto residents! The solution is to cut spending so that the City can cut taxes for businesses and residents alike.”

“With respect to which investments should be prioritized and funded, I would argue vehemently that NONE should be. Vote in favour of these investments, any of them, at your professional peril. Municipal elections are 2 years away and the overtaxed voter’s memories are long (please remind the mayor). In addition, how many more people does Council want to make homeless thru taxation increases? How many more does Council want to send to the Food Bank? How many more does Council want to see default on their mortgages? Any increase in residential taxes will be passed onto tenants by landlords.... the biggest cause of rent inflation. Do NOT raise residential taxes.”

“All families and residents of Calgary have been forced to budget to meet these increases. Salaries are not keeping up with these drastic increases. I feel that this council needs to do what every household I know has had to do. Make do with less. Yes, we all want new things. But, as I tell my children, there is a difference between wants and needs. Calgarians need to live within our means.”

“I am opposed to any increase in taxes.”

“We are very concerned about proposed additions of housing and the incorporation of major transit safety measures resulting in tax increases. Especially considering Calgarians and businesses recovering from the pandemic and government over spending inflation at the Federal, Provincial, and municipal level. Now Council wants to increase our taxes on top of the 25 percent inflation we are already experiencing. Council needs to stay on point and manage the scope of its spending to municipal matters more now than ever.”



2023 Budget Adjustments Open House

What is Council deciding?

- Council approves a budget for The City of Calgary every four years. To ensure it continues to meet the needs of a changing city, Council considers adjustments to the budget each November.
- To support the 2024, budget that Council approved last year, **The City already plans to collect 3.4% more in property taxes from residents and businesses** (Note that the actual amount of taxes you pay still depends on the assessed value of your home or businesses. Your individual tax bill could still go up or down by a different amount).
- Over the last year, Council has debated new plans and enhanced services, like the Transit Safety Strategy, the Housing Strategy, RouteAhead, and more social funding. **Supporting these new plans requires more funding.**
- Council also needs decide whether to change the share of property taxes it collects that comes from homes versus businesses.

What are Councillor Sharp's priorities?

- Councillor Sharp believes we need to keep taxes as low as possible while delivering the services Calgarians need and depend on.
- We should prioritize essential issues like safety and affordability.
- We should also prioritize investments that make Calgary an attractive place to live and to do business. Solid investments bring The City more revenue, and make it easier to support more services for Calgarians.

Where can I learn more and share my feedback?

- Visit calgary.ca/adjustments to learn more about this November's decisions.
- Visit calgary.ca/ward1 to share your opinion with Councillor Sharp and the rest of Council.