

Policy Pulse: Municipal Budget Priorities

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Edmonton Chamber of Commerce

Advocate. Connect. Engage.

- For 135 years, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce has championed growth, innovation, and profitability in Edmonton's business community.
- Representing members ranging from small businesses to large enterprises across all sectors, we advocate for their interests at all levels of government, fostering a thriving and sustainable business environment.
- Our strategic partnerships and innovative services empower businesses to succeed and contribute to Edmonton's prosperity.



Municipal Budget Priorities Survey

Who participated?

- 1,971 businesses invited.
- 168 businesses responded.
 - 83.93% small businesses (1 – 99 employees)
 - 10.12% medium businesses (100 – 499 employees)
 - 5.95% large businesses (500+ employees)
- Most sectors represented.
 - No responses from “mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction”.
 - Construction, health care and social assistance, and technical / professional services had greatest number of responses.



Municipal Budget Priorities Survey

What are their views on city finances?

- 76.19% familiar with city finances.
 - 29.17% very familiar
 - 47.02% somewhat familiar
- 75% pessimistic about city finances.
 - 46.43% very weak
 - 28.57% somewhat weak
- 53.57% are dissatisfied with municipal services.
 - 27.38% very dissatisfied
 - 26.19% somewhat dissatisfied



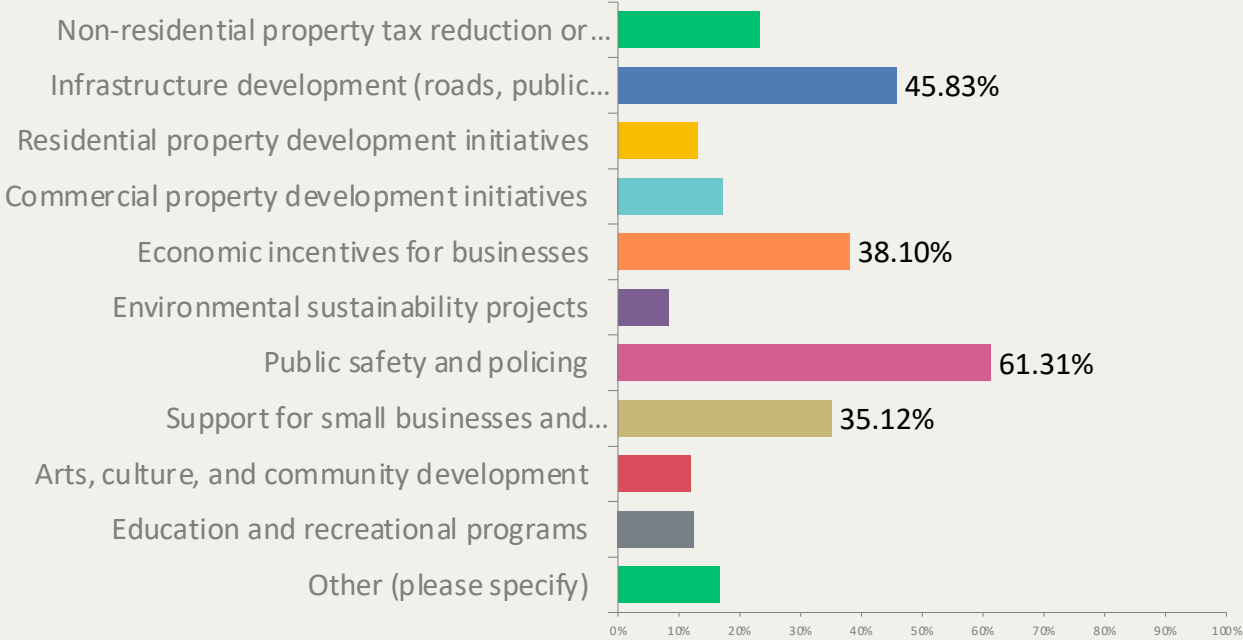
Municipal Budget Priorities Survey

How did/will their businesses respond?

- 46.43% absorbed 8.9% property tax increase in 2024.
 - 25% scaled back operations
 - 6.55% significantly scaled back operations
- 76.05% will adjust operations if 6% property tax increase in 2025.
 - 26.95% significant adjustments
 - 49.1% moderate or minor adjustments.
- Scaling back, increasing prices, reducing investments expected.
 - 61.45% would not absorb costs again.
 - 22.16% considering closing their businesses.
 - 54.17% very unlikely to vote for their elected official again.

Municipal Budget Priorities Survey

What are their top budget priorities?





Municipal Budget Priorities Survey

How did/will their businesses respond?

Where to increase spending?

- Edmonton Police Services
 - 59.76% significant/slight increase
 - 25.61% maintain existing
- Parks and Road Services
 - 34.15% significant/slight increase
 - 50.61% maintain existing

Where to decrease spending?

- Agencies, Boards, Commissions
 - 74.54% significant/slight decrease
 - 23.6% maintain existing
- Social Development
 - 42.85% significant/slight decrease
 - 27.33% maintain existing
- General Expenses
 - 63.29% significant/slight decrease

Thank You

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