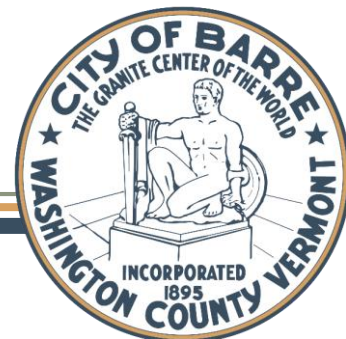
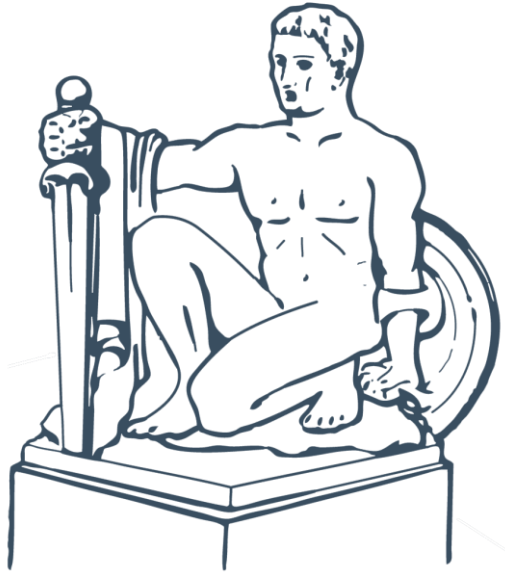
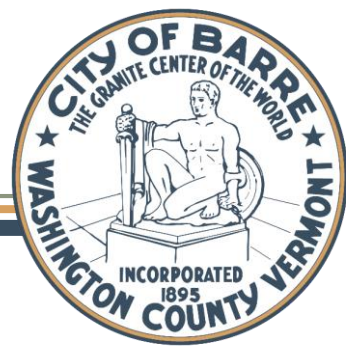
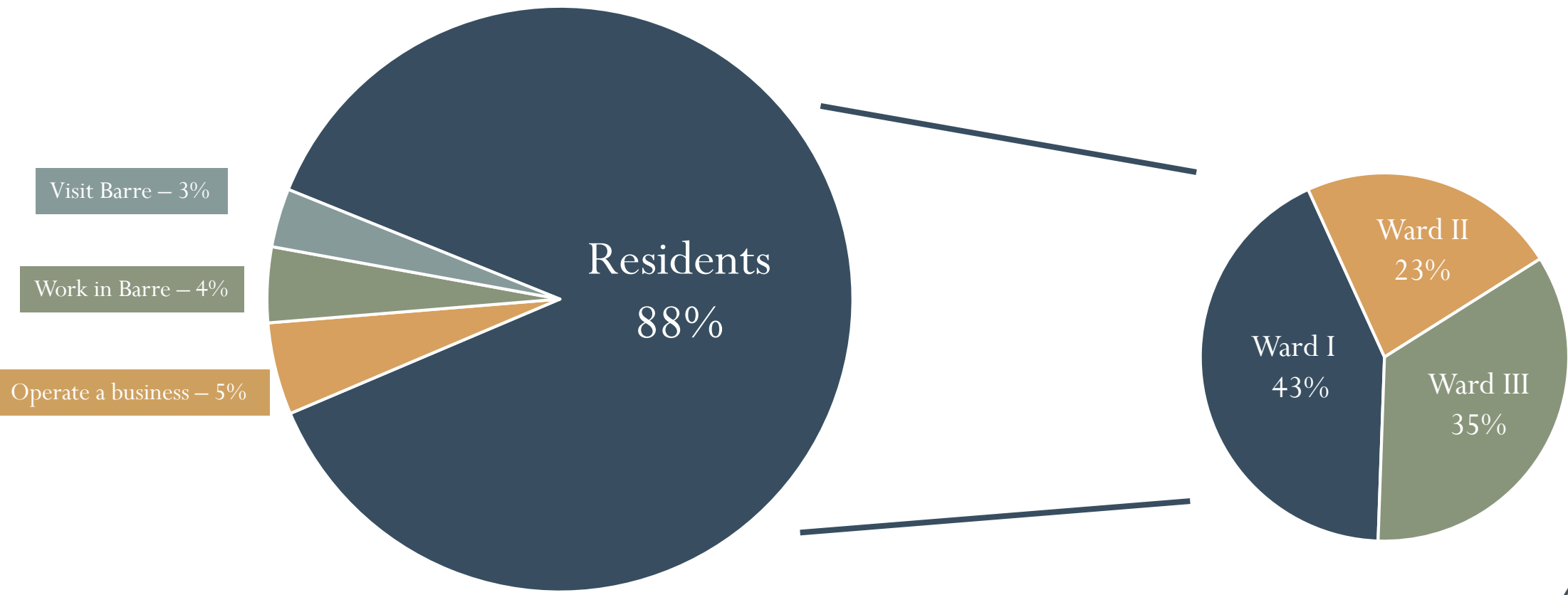


FY26 BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS



88% OF RESPONDENTS WERE RESIDENTS

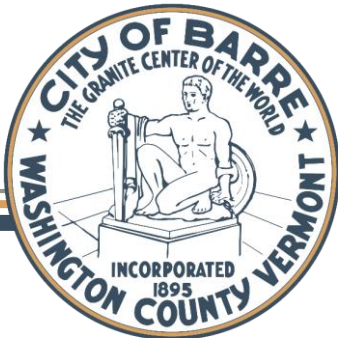
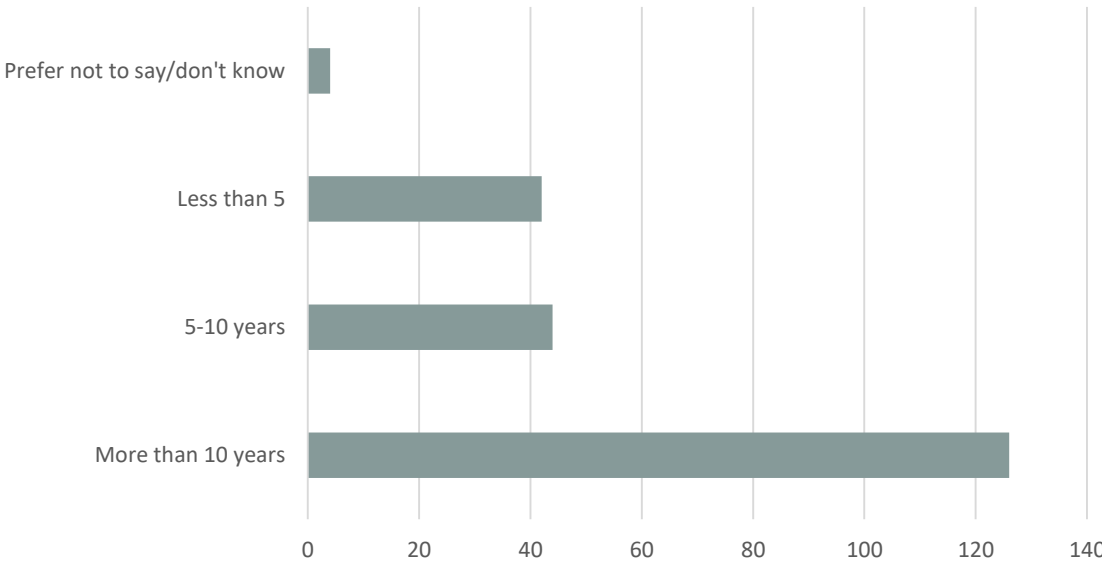


MOST RESPONDENTS OVER 50 YEARS OLD AND HAVE LIVED IN BARRE OVER 10 YEARS

57% of respondents over 50 years old

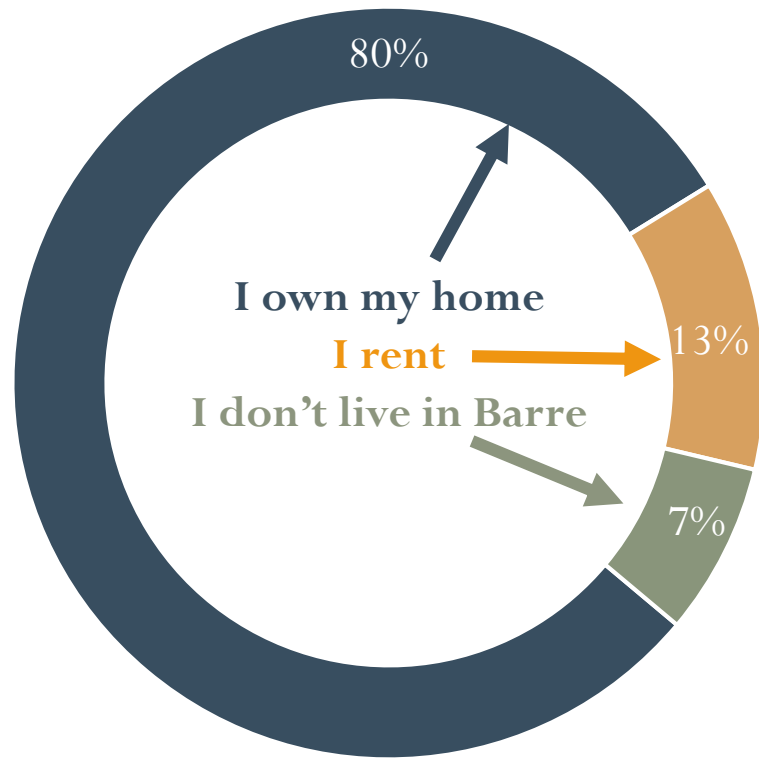


58% of respondents have lived in Barre more than 10 years

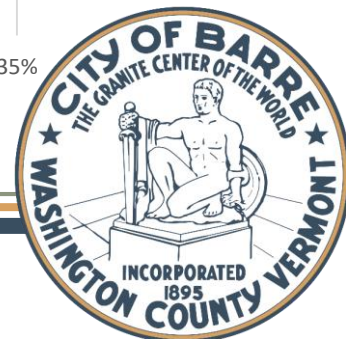
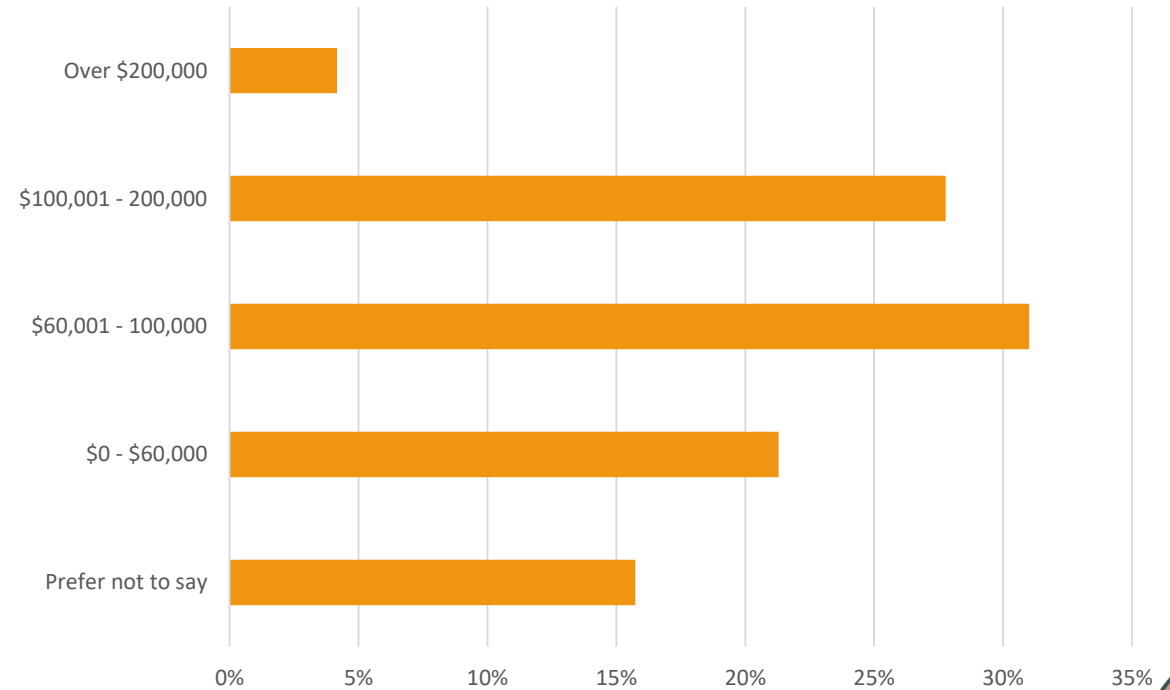


VAST MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS OWN THEIR OWN HOME

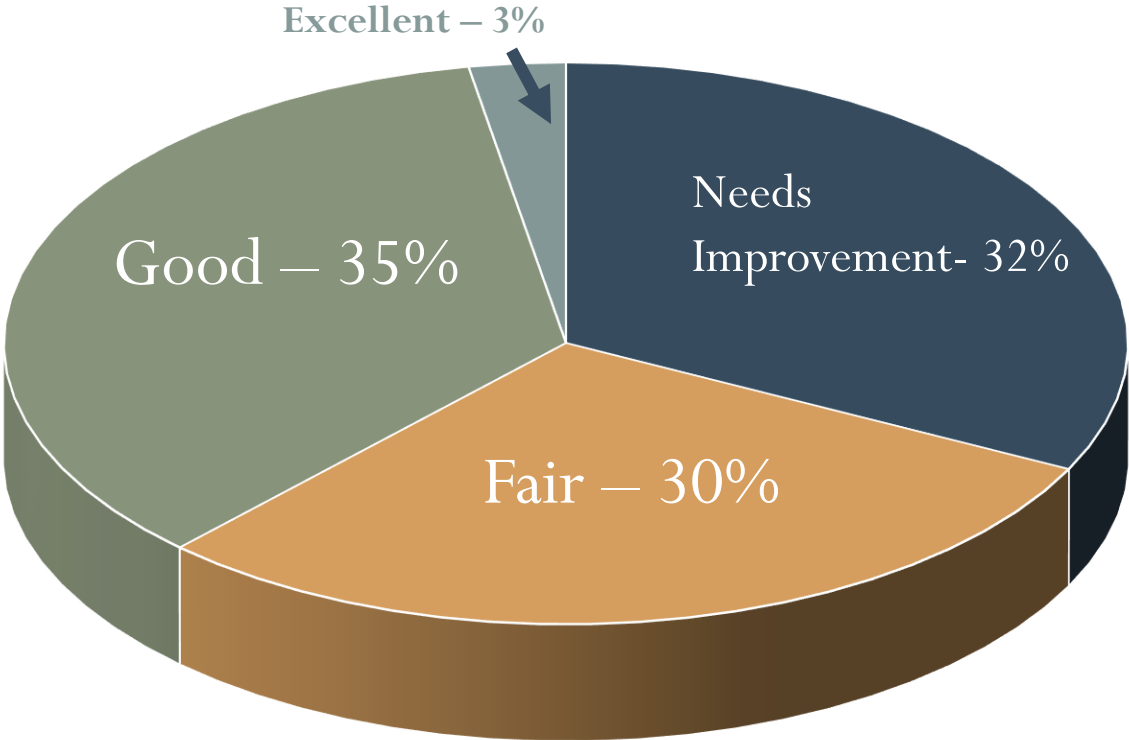
Housing Status



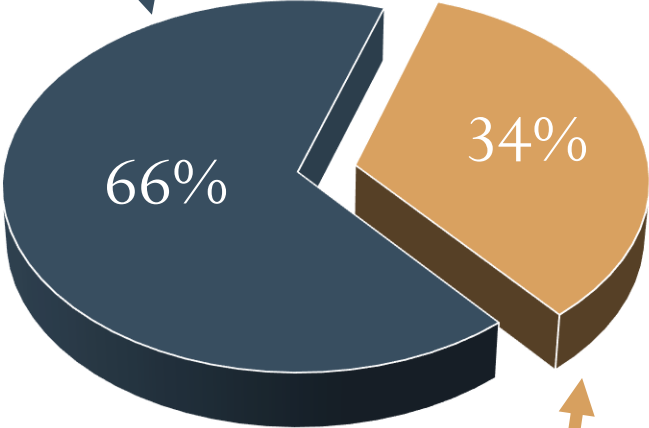
Income Level



65% OF RESIDENTS RATE CITY SERVICES AS FAIR OR GOOD AND 66% WANT THEM MAINTAINED



Maintain or increase municipal services, even if it means higher taxes



Decrease taxes, even if it results in reduced City services

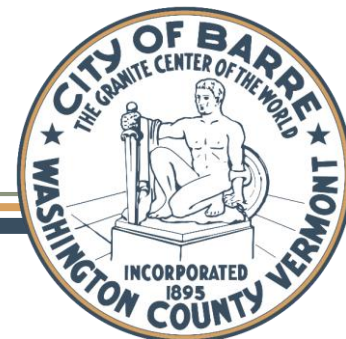


RESIDENT VIEWS OF DEPARTMENTS

Needs Improvement	Good	Excellent		Decrease \$	Maintain \$	Increase \$
1	129	86	Fire & EMS	9	174	33
41	122	53	Police	20	109	87
62	129	25	Parks & Playgrounds	19	144	53
134	60	22	Streets Maintenance	7	79	130
119	80	17	Water/Wastewater	6	90	120
32	154	30	Recreational Facilities	26	161	29
54	147	15	Permitting	26	164	26
23	159	34	City Pool	32	173	11
11	98	107	Library	17	150	49
16	115	85	Cemeteries	26	178	12
93	115	8	Capital Improvement Projects	20	119	77
100	103	13	Traffic Control/Calming	17	126	73
156	54	6	Economic & Housing Development	30	66	120

Key:

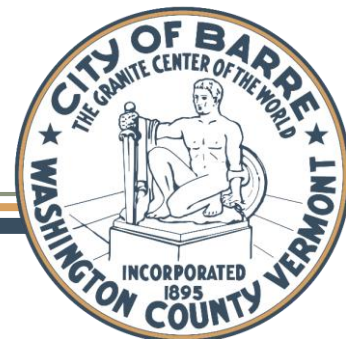
Greener hues are more favorable;
Redder hues are less favorable.



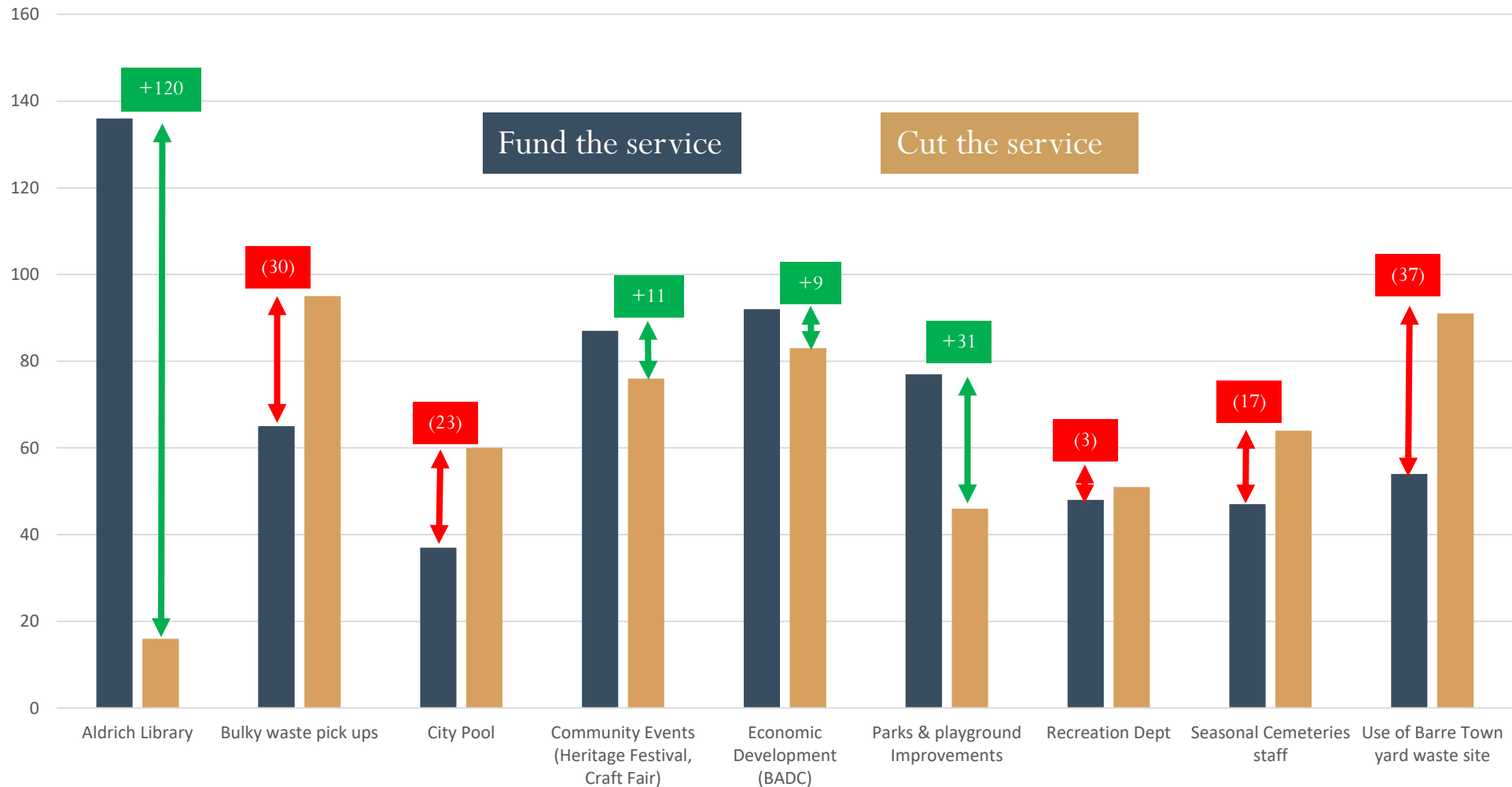
HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU THAT THE CITY INVEST IN THE FOLLOWING?

	Not important	Neutral	Very important
Buildings & Facilities	21	127	68
Sidewalks	2	16	198
Parks & Playgrounds	23	119	74
Traffic Calming	31	107	78
Equipment	10	118	88
Flood Resilience Projects	6	37	173
Non-FEMA Buyouts	43	120	53
Housing Development	24	59	133
Water/Wastewater	1	72	143

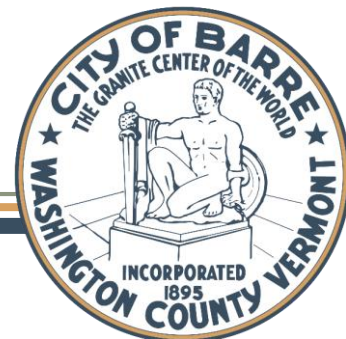
Key:
Greener hues are more favorable;
Redder hues are less favorable.

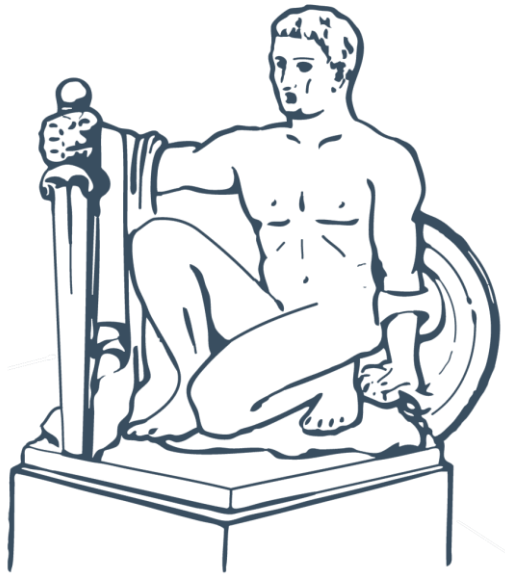


VIEWS ON NON-MANDATORY SERVICES



Respondents were asked to list the 3 “non-mandatory” services they would continue to fund and the 3 they would eliminate.



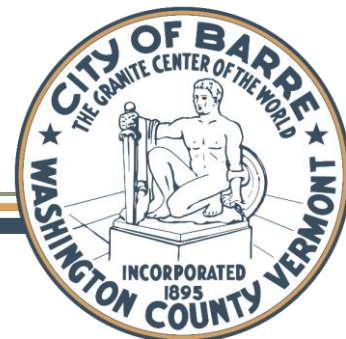


THANK YOU.

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Budget Survey "Additional Comments"

It's all about safety and quality of life. Thank you for asking for our input!

Nicolas, I answered the best I could with the knowledge (or lack thereof) I have!

Public safety and infrastructure investments spurs development and increases visitors to the city to spend money if people don't feel safe they won't visit and spend time, money and be attracted to live and invest here ...

The top priority should be fixing the roads. Business and people do not want to drive in areas that will destroy their car. Patch work does not hold.

No more money should be put into the BOR. Money needs to be put into making municipal buildings accessible to all, all the time.

Stop helping druggies

People, especially the elderly who built this community, are being taxed out of their homes.

Where is the Barre Partnership in this? The lackluster results of BADC and the Partnership should speak for themselves. To compare them to maintaining our infrastructure, recreation department, and library is very chilling. I have lived other places where economic development agencies do so much more to promote community events and attract new residents and businesses. BADC and the Partnership feel catered towards a limited clique in Barre- not all residents. At the very least, those two organizations should be merged for cost savings and efficiency.

I'm excited that the city has someone to focus on grant writing. And if we had more support for zoning, that might help increase the collection of fees and enforcement. Overall I don't want us to focus on just increasing fees and fines, but actually enforcing the current zoning and collecting those fees, I think would be important. We don't want people to think that increasing taxes is the only way to deal with our budget.

Adopted the suggestions made by Ed Stanac at the 12/30 council meeting regarding vacant buildings. We have a lot of vacant buildings and cannot afford to waste City money on them! Fix the water mains, find a new home for the DPW, stop giving money to BADC and invest in simple, low cost traffic calming measures, such as stop signs and speed bumps, and painting lines in our roads in early spring. Fines for speeding, charge tolls for roads that are pass thrus, such as Hill St, Prospect St and Main St/302 and 14

I'm happy to pay additional property tax for the betterment of the entire community — continued library funding, improvements to emergency warming spaces and shelters, more affordable housing, improvements to roads, affordable and accessible community spaces for all to enjoy. Thank you.

Bike paths and protected bike lanes better sidewalks stop making everything car oriented

We have a great fire and police department we just need more of them to keep up with the crime and fires...we need all the roads and pot holes fixed. We need to maintain the infrastructure we have. We need to install a curfew at 9pm for safety reasons. Until the crime is under control we should not be having any events.

Be smarter when spending our money. Learn to live with in.our means we had to the city should as well.

I am always thankful for all the work the public works does. They are always on top of it and so helpful during any issues that arises.

It feels like increasing property taxes more than the Cuty already has is less viable — continued increases can be crippling. But would fee/fine increases raise enough?? Just unsure what the trade-off is there — Kudos to very hard-working city services staffs — thank you.

More money for housing and economic development would be good, but I'd be wary of giving more to BADC. I don't think they've demonstrated a track record of success and seem to have already bitten off more than they can chew.

I tried to leave areas blank where I don't have first-hand knowledge. Rating city services and allocating funds, if I didn't know, I rated good. Of the city increasing or decreasing \$ to 3 areas, I have no opinion on the items listed. Infrastructure categories, I marked Neutral. It would be good if people were allowed to comment only on areas of knowledge and interest. Thank you I fully support police and fire needs. I have a lot of safety concerns recently. Lots of transients, drugs and crime. It is statewide, but Barre City has gotten worse lately. I have stopped walking up Main Street. Roads need to be taken care of, some of the potholes could damage a car. Buy out repeat flood properties, if possible. Let those people start a new life. Don't buy that pick of crap building on Main Street. The owner is asking for way too much money for the condition it is in. Put the money towards services that will help the citizens. Thank you for listening and thank you for the work you do.

Common sense and realization that the taxpayers do have a bottom to their pockets. Stop thinking we have endless amounts to fund anything city government wants. Stop buying properties and then giving them away. 2 parking lots for a dollar?. Where do shoppers park? Oh, let's build a parking garage (taxpayer again) or, go park at the Audi. Downtown isn't at the Audi. Housing doesn't belong where businesses might one day resume and need parking. All government, city, state and federal, think pockets are bottomless. Just stop. I pray downtown will be alive with business one day. So, can we think business for downtown. People walking, safely, down the street looking in all the windows and buying in our own town again, minus the extra tax that penalizes city residents?. my 2 cents. I have a few more but another day.

I support raising taxes on wealthy business and property owners, and specifically second home owners and absentee landlords. I support the city ending funding to BADC and hiring a full-time economic development director. My selection of non-FEMA buyouts is based on my belief that the those buyouts refer to flood-affected homeowners - not commercial property owners getting bailed out of blighted properties.

I think our streets need work and that their present condition is deplorable. We need to make it easier to build more taxable housing to improve our tax base. Improvements should be made to the north Main Street section of the city to help people relocate out of the flood zone and to remove many of the buildings in that area.

Lower taxes and stop spending on administrative expenses.

I have gotten so little out of living in Barre. It's not as I remembered as a kid (1970s-1980s). If it had not been for spiking housing costs in the Burlington area, I would not have returned. After a long delay due to Covid, I will move out of state, hopefully this year, may have to build a home or set up a mobile home on a slab because they too are short on housing. Not only will I get health care and USABLE TRANSPORTATION (stopped driving in 2020 due to vision), but hope to closely replicate my life in Burlington, where I could walk and bus most of the county and had AMPLE access to shopping and restaurants and events, no matter if it was dark or not (important when I was still driving). Only the other armpit of Vermont, Winooski, has snowbanks obstructing access to sidewalks leading to bus stops and crappy brown drinking water. I was a returning resident when the Mathewson School playground was voted on. I remember how busy the playground was in my youth so I voted yes. More than 95 percent of the time that playground has zero people using it, and when I was a driver, I passed it at least twice a day, nearly 365 days a year.

Just want to put a plug in for the bulk waste events. These are really important to prevent people from dumping their trash into the river and other areas along the side of the road. It would also help people get rid of things that they may not be able to afford to get rid of. Services to improve and maintain our infrastructure as well as our community, such as the library, are vitally important, as well. These need to be funded far more than the Partnership or Development Corporation.

You need to take a hard look at the condition of the streets and underlying infrastructure. The street conditions (pavement) are pathetic. Constant water line breakage.

Budget for more Police or pass a no panhandling ordinance.

Property taxes are forcing me to consider leaving Vermont. So I urge caution in anything that would raise them more than 2%.

This is a tough budget year. If we want services we need to find a way to pay for them. We should view long-term goals/needs such as housing and economic development as investments in our future and fund them.

This was a poorly framed survey in terms of the things considered discretionary.

Cut unnecessary programs and repave the roads.

Thank you for your work on the budget. I know there's no easy answers and often lots of backlash no matter what you decide, but this work is so critical to our community. You're appreciated.

The city should definitely support economic development and have buildings and storefronts on Main Street that support commerce and vibrancy. City and their local economic development organizations should work together in these efforts. Flood resiliency - although it's hard the areas of Barre city that are prone to flooding need to be rebuilt with structures that can endure future flooding versus fixing property and homes for yet another flood to happen and everything that was put into cleanup and reconstruction to be lost again. Gov Scott's plan should be reconsidered, modified and moved forward. I don't want to pay higher property taxes for fixes that continue to get destroyed and then pay more again to replace again.

For the last question, I support finding grants and using city money for a match. I don't support increasing fines, that seems unfair. Property taxes are already extremely high here. I didn't know that we have a yard waste site in Barre town, if ppl are paying for this it should be publicized better. I do support community events, but don't support the Barre Partnership, their events are generally pretty lame and for the "old-timers". Overall, this is a poorly designed survey, should be more options for "n/a", space for additional commenting, and more clarity about how much is spent, for example, my opinion about whether to fund the fire or police should be based on data, not feelings (ie provide the % or total \$ the PD & FD receive for me to provide useful feedback). Thanks!

I bought my home in 2024, which as we all know was the worst time to buy. Both me and my wife work full time. Me as a full time nurse. If our property taxes were to increase we would no longer be able to afford our bills.

I'm happy to pay for more services, as long as we get those services.

Surveys like this provide lots of clean numerical data, but I doubt they really capture the critical nuances of public opinion. Especially in those cases where categories/questions are too broad. It would be nice to be able to elaborate at least minimally on many of these items. To do so in a single"

additional comments" area is not very practical. Barring that, open forums with breakout groups seems reasonable.

I'm unfamiliar with how your budget is pieced together. But I cannot imagine it's properly distributed. Your roads are a joke! I'm mean horrible. I mean embarrassingly terrible. And there is very minimal being done to care for them. The infrastructure is in shambles. Water pipes are crumbling. Roads are falling apart. They're barely maintained during storms. There has to be a better way to care for the city. Those who are responsible need to do a better job because it's those who live in the city or frequent it that suffer !

The middle class is struggling. Soon to be forced into the lower class. It's sad that the elderly work hard all their life and now many struggle to keep their homes, buy food, and afford medication. The Welfare System is broken and abused. It should help people get back on their feet and become productive members of society within a limited time. Instead it has turned into a generational expected handout. Also, we have people moving here from out of state because of all the free help they get. What do the people who were born and raised here, that have worked hard all their life get? I certainly don't agree to raise taxes to improve municipal services, and I don't agree to lower taxes and get reduced city services. Make everyone who is physically able to work do so, to give back to their community like the rest of us do.

Difficult decisions, I think you need to be as honest as possible with citizens about why these decisions are so difficult. It is expensive for most right now and everything feels uncertain. Private fundraising for community "wants" is something to consider. Aldrich is a necessity in a community with no other warming shelter.

Property taxes are higher than they should be.

Make Barre attractive again. North Main Street as a focus. Find some grants for fixing our water system. Thank you for working so hard with little to work with and constant complaints.

We dump so much money into BADC, the Partnership and other initiatives (\$400k!!!!) in what seems like futile efforts to bring economic growth, which is just not happening. The city is facing a bleak future. Who do we keep throwing taxpayer money at the same old things, trying to make Barre what it *used* to be? Has anyone considered that perhaps we should accept that we will never be that again, and look realistically at what we could be with resources we have? Focus on quality of life issues for residents and neighborhoods not always downtown and business interests. Our needs as residents and taxpayers should be prioritized over those. Also, please make all these comments available to the public.

Why are we funding useless businesses like the BADC and the Barre partnership. Also i do not approve of the addition of police cruisers in the city "equipment" list. Cruisers absolutely do not support our infrastructure and the police do not need anymore of our hard earned money.

People (like myself) are moving away from Facebook. It is time the City of Barre look for different social media platforms to provide information on (Bluesky, specifically). And fix the dam water system once and for all!!!!

A large portion of the property taxes is due to educational funding. Something needs to be done to address this as the City can't afford to raise taxes because of educational State funding mandates

Thank you for your service. At the moment, housing development feels like perhaps the most important issue on my mind. A more secure population will lead to a better community, a revitalized downtown, and a better environment for everyone.

As the last question offers only three choices, I'd like to add a fourth. Encourage private investment in the city. Businesses and people who benefit from a well run, prosperous, growing community should understand the need to support it and stimulate its continuance. Taxes disproportionately affect the less well off than the more well off, the latter having benefited most from maintaining a vibrant community. Let's see the better off step up to do a bigger share. Responsibility isn't a bureaucratic action, it's a moral one. Pay it forward. We shouldn't need a disaster, i.e. flood, to bring out the good in those with means. Didn't appreciate having to check all the boxes. Some of these I don't participate in and wasn't going to offer an opinion was going to leave blank. Now I have been forced to create a false support....

Priorities seem to be wrong on what funding goes towards. Increase staffing for emergency services to cut back on the high overtime cost. Even if it adds overall cost, it will increase services to make everyone safer. Fix West Patterson Street for vehicles and the timing of the Ayer's Street traffic light for school timing to reduce traffic buildup. Pave more streets and don't wait until the end of the season. Fix the fire hydrants that need it. I am very concerned about the fire department not having water should there be a fire at my house. Where are the priorities? You can't put a number on safety and health. Crime is through the roof and everything aims at enabling the problem.

Property taxes need to be lowered. No spending in the city of Barre should come with the raising of property taxes. Tax junk food, soda, weed, smokes, and anything else that isn't required to love but is fun. Create a new tax on Air BnB's as well at 100%. These remove housing opportunities for people to pad the pockets of the rich. They should be illegal but taxing them to death is a good start. Tax empty buildings at 100% as well. Make being a slum lord hurt the slum lord in the pocket book. Empty store fronts on Main Street should be a concern for the owner. Something they will scramble to fill or pay the city tons of money for keeping them empty. Property taxes are getting so high our family may need to sell and leave the city. If you keep bleeding the people dry you will lose your best and brightest. We will take our money and spend it somewhere else.

Increasing housing is a priority. More houses mean more property taxes. Why can't the defunct marble sheds be torn down and replaced with flood mitigated plattenbau with commercial space on the ground floor with housing units in the upper floors.

The sidewalks and streets need serious attention. There are sidewalks that cannot be navigated by an able bodied person, let alone used for a wheelchair. For example, up Wellington Street past Mathewson Paly Area. "Extra" funds should be used to improve these type of areas before being spent on building developments. Residents deserve safe sidewalks and streets. Lots of areas were never properly repaired after the July 2023 flooding.

What is the purpose of age discrimination here? AUD - support repairs, BOR - get more funds from other sources. Pool - continue support, increase out of town fees. Don't give residents who try to bring serious concerns about traffic conditions such a hard time. Many have been trying to get attention to the "pass through" traffic disregard for Barre citizens/pedestrians/kids for a long time. DPW needs better funding. Seems like emergency services/cruisers get all the funding requested, so lumping with DPW doesn't make sense. Definitely flood resilience and attention to the failing stinky sewer treatment that is the failing of PAST city mgr to correct. Current City Mgr has faced many challenges due to flooding, and to lack of due diligence by former leadership. The development of a capital plan is the best way/and was beginning to work, in addressing major projects, allows for grants, and equity around the city. I hope more work will go back into a 5 year plan to avert the big ticket "surprises" that foul a solid budget. That being said, City Mgr needs to apologize to residents for name calling many residents recently in the press who acted lawfully and responsibly in the recent challenge to OML. The city mgr has done a lot of good work for the city, and I appreciate his thoughtfulness in surveying the community, as well as the efforts to inform the community, ReGroup, and outreach. I would like to see "economic" and "housing" development as 2 items in first section. Thank you.

Every year, we approve a line item for capital improvements of streets and sidewalks. But we never see where that money is spent. I recently saw an article in Montpelier Bridge that listed all streets that would be improved in the coming year. Barre City government should provide/publish a similar list.

Overall the city does a decent job with budgeting. I do think employees need to realize they cannot "have it all," with high salaries and a full benefit package paid for by the city. City employees should pay a larger contribution toward insurance and other benefits, especially if every position seems to also receive a salary in the \$60-\$100K range. Most ordinary citizens are not making anywhere near that salary and many have to contribute a significant percentage toward their insurance costs with their employers.

Thank you for all the hard work that went into creating this survey and helping citizens understand and prioritize these critical questions. I know there are no easy answers here and that City staff often hear about the bad and don't get the acknowledgement you deserve for all the efforts and all the care you put towards make the town the best place it can be. I'm not sure I'm confident on my answer to raise property taxes above, as I'm not 100% sure I understand the impact of increasing fees/fines but property tax seems like the biggest bang for the buck, meaning that it would drive the most revenue at once across everyone.

The above question isn't a multiple select. I support either/both property taxes or fees/fines. Whatever it takes.

The city isn't serious about helping the residents of Barre. The city manager and council are fiscally irresponsible. We have dozens of fire hydrants out of service, roads in horrible conditions, residents still living in substandard housing from floods, and they spend \$400,000 to give a multi millionaire who should be fined. We need people who really care about the people, not a manager who pretends to care.

I would like to see the taxes either stay the same or increase only a little bit, but the roads really need some work- the potholes and uneven surfaces are getting out of hand

Increase taxes on high income households, owners of multiple homes

My family, extended family and I are all three of the following options in your first question; Resident, Operate a business/own property in Barre, Work in Barre. We are all very disappointed in the way that our city is managed and we vote. We all hope that the correct people are in place and that they have the experience and skill set to do what is needed to get Barre out of it's derelict status without continuing to raising property taxes excessively year over year - it's unsustainable and isn't working. Be innovative, think outside the box, be respectful of those who are tax paying citizens (residents and business owners). Make Barre an attractive place to do business, combine schools that have low headcounts to get education tax under control, work with landlords instead of against them, work with state legislators to get healthcare costs under control.

i would also support increased taxes, along with a campaign that makes it more clear how tax dollars improve our shared spaces and quality of life. i feel so many are anti-tax because they do not believe they see or feel the benefits - which is not true!

It seems like every year there is substantial funding for street repair and improvements, but very little to show for it, especially in residential neighborhoods. If requesting funding for this category, please be more transparent about where this spending is going.

I'm so grateful to all our city workers and to those holding down this budgeting process! I wish we could raise revenue via an income tax rather than property tax, and I'm not opposed to increasing some kinds of fees but don't approve of increasing fines.

I would like to see less crime, drugs. I understand that this is not the sole responsibility of the city. I am very concerned about my safety and of my community safety. I don't know how to remedy this, but I am unhappy with our little city I call home. I cannot afford higher property taxes. Water and sewer bill is also challenging. I have to reduce my expenses in order to afford my home, I feel some difficult cuts must be made. Please listen to the people that are contributing with property tax and water/sewer revenue.

Repair the roads ! The endless potholes and damage they are causing to vehicles is unacceptable. Reopen the access road from Spaulding HS to Washington Street to lessen the traffic congestion.

I feel an improvement in our road, opportunities for our young people to grow The future. I increase taxes are not what we really need.

I would strongly support an increase in police and EMS personnel if it came with at least one unarmed Mental Health specialist position and MH training for the other positions.

The city has an aging population that is on a fixed income, it comes down to buying food or paying their property taxes. It shouldn't be like that for the elderly they should be getting some breaks and I know they can get the homestead rebate but that isn't much.

No more misuse of city funds for things like the J J Newberry fiasco.

This question is leading to an answer that is not my selection..... Which of the following best reflects your point of view? * I don't want decreased services OR higher taxes! I accidentally checked one of the choices and it would not allow me to UNcheck it! Big mistake with this survey! There should be a choice that said maintain services within the tax budgets you have to work with now!! Work more efficiently with what you have!!!

The side road conditions are an embarrassment. Ayers St., Prospect St. Currier Park area. I have not seen these roads receive any paving beyond poor patch jobs in over 20 years. It truly is embarrassing and the city should be ashamed of itself for not having a paving project plan like Barre Town does. Unacceptable.

The budget needs to reflect the needs of the people who pay the taxes here in Barre.- that includes the property owners as well as renters as their rents pay the property taxes. Most landlords rent their units in order to maintain their buildings and not to make a huge profit. Increasing fees/fines hopefully won't cause an increase in the workload of City Hall workers to collect those monies. also, the fees and fines need to be attached to something tangible that if not paid, the person would be susceptible to losing property, access or privilege. As a property owner, I cannot afford much more in property taxes. Clean Main Street and the sidewalks. Paint the crosswalks, parking spaces and lines for public safety and education. Shut the power off to the gazebo in the park when not being used for activities supported by the city. Let's be "city proud"! City Council needs to stop the political divide that exist. You all need to work together for the people not for your personal agenda. Some of the ideas that are presented are irrelevant to the needs of the city at this time. We certainly need to take care of the people who are homeless, but if we didn't provide so many services in this area, we wouldn't have so many homeless people around. Due to the overstepping of the JEDIB committee, I propose eliminating it or curtailing their power that seems to lead to attacks on the city government. This committee seems to be focused on only one group of people and not the entire community. They are not a positive reflection of what Barre really is and can be. The Recreation Department

needs someone with youthful ambition and imagination. This isn't necessarily a 9-to-5 job. The playgrounds are under utilized; there's no organized activities for children in these areas that don't have transportation to the main playground pool area. Years ago, we had high school in college students leading playground activities and events. We need something like YMCA or even see if an Internship program with the State College system could be established and participating families could assist in keeping the playground clean and safe. Barre Town has ice cream socials in the evenings at area playgrounds.

Where has the additional one percent sales tax been spent? How much revenue has it generated? Residential property owners in Barre City shoulder an unfair burden of taxation for municipal services. Barre City has some of the highest, if not the highest, municipal taxes in the state. Barre City's municipal taxes are repeatedly higher than its school taxes. Such is not the situation with other cities and towns in Vermont--the inverse is true. How did the residential municipal tax rate in Barre City become so lopsided?

I now live in the town of Barre, but only recently, but only recently moved after 21 years in the city. I think the town of Barre should have to contribute to the cost of the BOR. I'm sure if you look at the makeup of the hockey teams, who use it the most and are not charged, you will see most of the kids are from families in the town. I believe Stowe has a similar ice rink in the village. I think I read they charge the school district to use it. That way the district has it as a budget item. The district includes more than just the village. Therefore everyone in the district is paying in to maintain the building.

We need housing, clean water, drivable roads.

I would like to see the services come up to the level equal to what we pay in Taxes The problems is there are way to few paying for way to many There are citizens that live here that are not property owners and only use services and contribute nothing in return

Please follow the law about meetings so we don't have to pay for lawyers to point out obvious misconduct . And stop blaming the people who pointed out YOUR mistake!.

First, this is a very poorly designed survey! For starters, the ranking of the first time goes from least to best, then all following rank from most important to least. This can easily skew how people fill out the survey unless they read carefully, which surprisingly few people do. Also, why is the Barre Partnership not on the list as a "not mandatory" item to be funded? Compared to what these types of organizations do in other communities, the BP is a sad state of affairs. So much of what they do and promote is NOT downtown economic development - why are we paying for this?? Also, I object to the binary concept that it is either: 1) maintain services and increase taxes, or 2) decrease services and decrease taxes. Why can't we reallocate the funds that we have to pay for things that are a priority for residents and their quality of life (ahem, \$460k to the disgraceful BADC! And, their annual handout, which is substantial! For starters). I would like to see the City of Barre invest in itself by just fixing ALL the things that are wrong and broken all around town. Everywhere you look, things are crumbling (roads, sidewalks, curbs). Everywhere in our parks and recreation areas signs are falling down, fences are leaning, things are old and crappy. Street signs around down are so old and faded as to be illegible - even if you know a stop sign is an octagon, when it's faded to white, shouldn't it be replaced? And please stop calling the "Heritage Festival" that - it's not heritage anymore. If I were a tourist to Vermont and I came to see a "heritage" festival (like BP advertised in Seven Days), I'd be sorely disappointed and would never come back. Also, I don't get the point of this survey overall, because the city has demonstrated for a really long time that it DOES NOT LISTEN TO RESIDENTS - ESPECIALLY SINCE LAUZON IS MAYOR AGAIN so why would you listen to this? Lastly, what is the plan for a public works facility, or any capital plan whatsoever, it seems like we don't talk about that anymore, ever.

Maybe under each question there should have been a place for comments. Streets are full of holes, this needs to be addressed. Sewers are not working properly in times of heavy rain and need work.

Never go to the park due to the activity of peddles and drugs. Down down flooding needs to be addressed. Question on maintain or decrease is very unfair to answer, needed to have a 3rd line.

It seems as though most municipal and education budgets consistently increase, but residents' budgets don't. I'm concerned that BADC in this survey is considered "non mandatory". I hope we don't cut BADC because I'm not sure what the City's backup plan for economic development. Also there is no grading of the Barre Partnership in this survey.

The City of Barre shouldn't have awarded \$400,000.00 for a toxic waste dump property and instead should make private commercial property owners pay a vacancy tax on buildings that remain unoccupied and allowed to fall into disrepair. Buying a property like that was absolutely horrible and a slap in the face to the taxpayers who already pay the highest taxes in the State of Vermont.

Fund the capital budget, realistically. And refrain from cutting that account to 'buy' a lower property tax rate. commit to a new dignified, efficient work space for DPW. It is time. Emergency services came first, but DPW keeps 'the lights on.'

I'd love to see a extremely transparent budget available to the community including all money coming and and going out

The roads around the high school are in incredibly rough shape. It is an embarrassment for those of us hosting sporting events and other events at the school. The street light on Ayers St often doesn't get triggered to stay green as high schoolers are leaving and will cause a backup of up to 25-30 cars within minutes of school dismissals. It would be a HUGE improvement to fix the roads around our public schools and to fix the street light on Ayers St to accommodate the amount of traffic during school dismissal times (this increased significantly with the prolonged closure of West Patterson and needs a serious review). I would highly approve of increased fees/fines and/or taxes if our roads could be in better shape. There are many parking tickets and such that I am sure have gone unpaid for many years. Let's crack down on this! Hope Cemetery was a mess last year with the grub issue and I am very thankful for the staff who take care of our cemeteries where our loved ones rest. I do not think funds should be cut from our cemeteries.

Start limiting or removing all the funding for low income. I pay enough in state taxes for them, we don't need to give them city money too..

The possibility of increased Flood Disaster events and the impact that they may arise such as continued water main breaks, repairs needed to streetways and infrastructures, after the recent flood damages from the last couple of years, have me concerned. Also such reflects in kind to police/emergency medical services due to continued events.

There are so many opportunities for an increase in revenue for Barre, small infractions of the law that if paid attention to would bring in capital and reduce stress in day to day life for the people who live here. A new trend in neighborhoods has been for people to park on the opposite side of the street facing on-going traffic. It appears as if a car is driving down the wrong side of the street, creating a panic reaction. It's everywhere in neighborhoods, and without thoughts to other drivers reactions and safety. It's a perfect situation for a summons and/or ticket. And how about stopping drivers with outrageously loud exhaust systems, and giving summons...? These are but a few ways to improve the quality of life in Barre and bring in funds to pay for a more productive police force. With many thanks for your consideration.

Perhaps Barre Town could pay their fair share for their shared use of city facilities. This includes BOR, Aud, library, water...

After this new reassessment is Completed our taxes will be high enough without adding a burden to the taxpayer.. Back in the 90's When I returned from living on the West Coast it seemed that most of

the homes in the city were well maintained with evident pride, even the multifamily buildings now it appears many people cannot afford what it cost to maintain their homes in safe and decent condition due to higher property taxes, as well as consumer prices following the pandemic. For people with a fixed income many times it's not enough to cover the taxes alone so they must sell and relocate to affordable housing, which is difficult to find in Vermont.

The last question did not give the option for "other". I support increasing revenue by increasing the tax base. In addition, I would like to see an updated city strategic plan (easy to find and updated quarterly on the main page of the city website) that incorporates intentional capex and other initiatives planning with (1) estimated costs associated with each and (2) data-driven scoring to demonstrate alignment with the city's and voters' priorities. Also, there is no clear feedback loop or balanced scorecard that demonstrates how the city is doing, the outcomes versus the policy intentions, and what iterations are needed and will be taken to continue moving forward on the strategic plan. There appear to be more anecdotes than details in the information easiest to find.

> How do you get City news/alerts?* - was leaving Front Porch Forum off an intentional omission? > Which of the following best reflects your point of view? [Maintain or increase municipal services, even if it means higher taxes. Decrease taxes, even if it results in reduced City services] - I would like to answer this in the affirmative; however, I do not know the results of the property reassessment performed by the City. The entirety of the lack of economic development cannot be borne by the taxpayers without decreasing taxes. The commercial tax base must be developed into a robust, vibrant source of income for the City. > quantity and quality of communication from the City needs to improve - That we went through another flood without a word from the Mayor was confounding and a wholly-missed opportunity. There was nothing to suggest we would get through this together. Local non-profits so far exceeded leadership's communication as to be an embarrassment. > cemeteries - Our city is incredibly unfriendly to pedestrians and grossly uninviting to walkers. We have long stretches of poorly-maintained sidewalks, and many, many drivers exceed the speed limit and run stop signs with impunity. In the absence of enforcing traffic laws consistently, residents at least should be allowed to walk their dogs through the cemeteries we pay taxes to support. > Capital improvement projects - are there so few that I have not heard about them, or does PR/communications need improvement? > Economic development (Barre Area Development) - I strongly support economic development. I DO NOT support the lack of transparency and communication about BADC's budget, goals, and performance. The oligarchy that is much of Barre City's legacy business community serves primarily to keep the city residents beholden to social services support, without vibrant development, and suffering from a languishing tax base without professionals and remote/tele workers to seek and pay for a diversity of local services. This is economics, city planning and development, and social structure 101. === The emphasis must be on bringing to the City new businesses to the City, such as large professional firms, large technology developers, and financial services groups. We need (Vermont-scale) large employers of workers who spend money on Main Street, live locally, have children in the school system, and get involved in the community. What roughly comparable cities elsewhere around the country are being researched for creative ways to rehabilitate their municipalities? Are decisions made with consideration for making Barre much more attractive to middle income families? Where is the investor to buy a vacant Main Street building and condo-size (not Air BnB) something higher end residential for upper middle income individuals, couples, and families? There are so many cities that are digging deep creatively to revive. Part of being attractive to homebuyers from elsewhere is to actually present attractively. Our Main Street is dirty, heavily trafficked with large commercial vehicles, looks like a Third Reich parade ground from Memorial Day to past Veterans' Day (even reducing the flags to every-other light pole would be much less of a scream-fest), and is off-putting in many other ways. For many wonderful reasons, we are not a Montpelier; but, we might take a page from the book of a small city that is appealing in which to spend time and money.

A street sweeper (wet) would go a long way in making the city feel like dramatic improvements have been made.

The playgrounds, parks and sidewalks need a lot of work. The city needs to be walkable and safe for families.

I think community volunteers could do some work around the city to improve things. volunteers to mow the cemeteries. learn new skills. Help people do their community service. Have more people involved in working together to fix things up.

increase quality and amount of communications so folks understand what tax dollars support.

Stop handing out money to BADC. They never have and never will be of much use to the City. You say salaries are fixed costs, but you agree to union contracts that pay well above prevailing private sector wages for similar jobs. Decertify the unions and make the city employees live on what the rest of us do. Time to stop catering to just a few wealthy individuals (I am looking at you Mr. Mayor) and make this city livable for the rest of us.

Depressing, our roads & sidewalks oh dear. I don't see how blind people can use our sidewalks any longer and the streets, you have your calming measure lol ty

Our roads are a disgrace. Filling pot holes needs to be learned and done right. If you don't square the hole, the trucks push the new tar right out. Most of circle st., is about to collapse. And south main is going to cost the city millions in insurance payouts when the roads eat my 60,000. New car!

Of course the amount of money allocated to the above is important to keep taxes within a reasonable limit

An updated, city-wide property tax assessment is needed with outside consultants. There is uneven (unfair differences) taxation among property owners. Please eliminate unnecessary political influence on such work.

More transparency from City Government officials and leaders-less Executive Session deal making.

It would be wonderful if Barre City would really repair the roads and not just put "a dressing" on them only to be torn up by the first snow plow that comes through. I remember when the new fire/police building was on the ballot and the police promised a downtown presence. Where is it? How about the police walk a beat and see first hand what really goes on downtown? As far as facilities- a little regular preventative maintenance can sure avoid the cost of major renovations.

I think the money pledged in the "emergency" council meeting a while back should be refunded to Barre citizens.

a number of years ago when the city was pitching the approval of the options tax,, they did so expecting it to pass and the sales pitch was those funds would go to paving roads. To do this they cut the paving budget by 50% expecting that options tax would make up that 50% reduction. That was a huge mistake and the city streets show it.

my property taxes are very high for as much land as I have and it is getting increasingly expensive to live in Barre, and Vermont.