CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

2022 BUDGET ST. JOHN'S

Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of St. John's faces a number of challenges as we prepare for our 2022 Budget.

You can engage with us on budget planning: visit engagestjohns.ca to participate in our online discussion forum, generate a sample tax receipt that shows how your tax dollar is used to fund the City's operations and learn more about the the budget process. In October, ward-based sessions will be held as we prepare for the final budget in December, 2021.

Just the Facts...

1. The City of St. John's is required to submit a balanced budget annually.
2. 70% of our operations are funded from residential and commercial property tax.
3. The City of St. John's is committed to operational efficiency and is continuously looking for ways to improve operations and minimize costs.
4. Despite operational improvements, new programming and a continued commitment to maintaining service levels, the City's budget has only grown 1.2% annually for a total of 6% in the last five years. Mil rates have remained unchanged since 2019.
5. Our most important challenge is to ensure that you understand the fiscal pressures the municipality will face in 2022 and to provide an opportunity for you to tell us what matters most to you.

Revenue Crunch

4.5% ↓
decline in residential property values

2.6% ↓
decline in commercial property values

anticipated drop in revenue for 2022...

7.8M

Expenditure Increase: 2% ↑

anticipated additional expenses for 2022...

5M

LISTENING AND RESPONDING

2022 BUDGET
ST. JOHN'S

88%

...of citizens rated quality of life in St. John's a 7 out of 10 or higher

2020 Citizen Satisfaction Survey



85%

...rated the City a 7 out of 10 or higher for overall satisfaction with the services and programs provided to residents

Focus on Sustainability

Citizens strongly support the City's current strategic directions, especially our goal to be a Sustainable City.

Through engagement for Resilient St. John's, the Community Climate Change Plan, the public identified several actions that should be prioritized to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, including **public transit** and **active transportation**.

Q: How would you rate the overall value of what you receive for your tax dollars?

2020 Citizen Satisfaction Survey

88%

7 out of 10 or higher

87%

... of citizens want a balance between providing basic services and adding services to enhance quality of life.

Priority Areas

As part of the 2020 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, we asked respondents to identify one change they'd like to see implemented that would improve their overall quality of life. Top mentions included:

- Better snow-clearing – 25%
- Better road maintenance/signage – 10%
- Improved transit infrastructure – 7%
- Lower taxes – 5%
- Improved sidewalks and walking trails – 5%

your TOP 10

1. Garbage collection
2. Road snow clearing
3. Residential water/ sewer repairs
4. Road maintenance
5. Parks, open spaces, and trails
6. Curbside recycling
7. Sidewalk snow clearing
8. Recreation facilities/programs
9. Traffic planning
10. GoBus/Accessible taxi service