



**SHAPE**



**YOUR**



**BUDGET**

**HALIFAX**



## 2019 Shape your Budget Survey

Welcome to the **2019 Shape Your Budget Survey!** Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in this survey. Your responses will help guide the Halifax Regional Municipality with its immediate and long-term planning. The results from this survey will be available on the municipality's website at [www.halifax.ca/citizensurvey](http://www.halifax.ca/citizensurvey).

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The deadline for completing this survey is **September 30, 2019**.

Responses will be kept strictly confidential and the results of the survey will not be used in any way that will allow anyone to identify you or your responses. Your participation is voluntary, and you can discontinue your participation at any time.

Q1. What are the first 3 digits of your postal code? \_\_\_\_\_

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Q2. The municipality provides a wide range of services, including police and fire protection, garbage collection and disposal, recreation facilities and programming, transit, road and street maintenance, etc.

Thinking about all the programs and services you receive from the municipality, please indicate the degree to which you believe you receive good or poor value for the level of property taxes that you currently pay?

*Please check only one*

- Very good value
  - Good value
  - Poor value
  - Very poor value
  - No opinion / Don't know
  - Do Not Pay Property Tax (example: rent, live with parents)
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Q3. When the municipality is creating the municipal budget, please indicate which of the statements comes closest to your point of view. The municipality should:

*Please check only one*

- Decrease taxes and fees, even if municipal services must decrease
- Maintain taxes and fees, even if it means reducing some services to maintain others
- Increase municipal services, even if taxes or fees must increase

Q4. Please tell us **how satisfied you are** with each of the following services and programming provided by the municipality. If you don't know or have not had any experience with the service to provide a rating, please choose Don't Know / No Opinion.

Service	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know / No Opinion
Accessibility programming (example: physical / intellectual / emotional access to facilities, services, and programs)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Affordability / Free programming	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Arts and cultural facilities and programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Bike lanes / Cycling facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Business support services (example: permits)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Cleanliness (example: litter & graffiti removal)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Community planning / Land use planning and approvals	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Community standards (example: by-law enforcement)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Diversity and inclusiveness programs (example: language and culture programming)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Economic development (promoting and connecting Halifax to grow and get business, talent, and investment)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Emergency preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Environmental protection and sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fire services					

Garbage, recycling, and organics collection	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Halifax Public Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Overall city maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Parking enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public engagement (example: consultation on projects like Cogswell District)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public transit – Conventional bus & ferry (example: reliability)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public transit - Access-A-Bus (example: reliability)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Overall transit service	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor recreation facilities (example: community centres, pools)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor recreation facilities (example: sports fields)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Recreation programming (example: swimming, camps)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sidewalk maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Street / road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Traffic management (example: signals)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Traffic / Pedestrian safety	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Winter maintenance (example: snow and ice control)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Q5. Overall, how satisfied are you with the delivery of all the services provided by the municipality?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know/No opinion

Q6. In 2017, Regional Council approved six Council Priorities. Please rate them in terms of their importance to you. Included are some examples of the focus for each priority.

Council Priorities	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Not at all Important
<b>Governance and Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making good decisions about how to run the City</li> <li>• Managing tax dollars and spending on services and programs</li> <li>• Communicating about city affairs</li> <li>• Engaging with the public on local and regional issues</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Economic Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing red tape / making it easier to do business with the municipality</li> <li>• Keeping and attracting businesses and talent</li> <li>• Supporting arts, heritage, and culture</li> <li>• Supporting the rural economy</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Healthy Liveable Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the public's safety</li> <li>• Providing recreation and leisure programming and facilities</li> <li>• Protecting the environment</li> <li>• Supporting community well-being</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Transportation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting in all modes of transportation including public transit, cycling, walking, and motor vehicles</li> <li>• Maintaining HRM's roads and sidewalks</li> <li>• Ensuring the transportation system is safe and accessible</li> <li>• Ensuring pedestrian safety</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Service Delivery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements focused on making service to people and businesses better.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Social Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making it easier for all persons to be able to access programs and services</li> <li>• Partnering to support affordable housing options</li> <li>• Supporting a diverse and inclusive city</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## A NOTE ON MUNICIPAL BUDGETING

The cost of delivering municipal services is rising, and even the cost of *maintaining* some service levels is increasing. Maintaining or increasing some service levels without additional revenues may require reducing other services.

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- Q7. For each of the following **Governance & Engagement services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

*Please check the box that corresponds with your response*

<b>Governance &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Increase service levels</b>	<b>Maintain service levels</b>	<b>Reduce service levels</b>
Public engagement (consultations like this one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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- Q8. For each of the following **Economic Development services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

*Please check the box that corresponds with your response*

<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Increase service levels</b>	<b>Maintain service levels</b>	<b>Reduce service levels</b>
Business support services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community planning / Development Approvals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Q9. For each of the following **Transportation services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

*Please check the box that corresponds with your response*

<b>Transportation Services</b>	<b>Increase service levels</b>	<b>Maintain service levels</b>	<b>Reduce service levels</b>
Bike lanes / Cycling facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transit – conventional bus / ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transit - Access-A-Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall transit service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sidewalk maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street / Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic / Pedestrian safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10. For each of the following **Healthy, Liveable Communities services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

<b>Healthy, Liveable Communities Services</b>	<b>Increase service levels</b>	<b>Maintain service levels</b>	<b>Reduce service levels</b>
Arts and cultural facilities and programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness (litter and graffiti removal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community beautification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental protection and sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garbage, recycling, and organics collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Halifax Public Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall city maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks, playgrounds, and green spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor Recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11. For each of the following **Social Development services**, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service.

*Please check the box that corresponds with your response*

<b>Social Development</b>	<b>Increase service levels</b>	<b>Maintain service levels</b>	<b>Reduce service levels</b>
Accessibility programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordability / Free programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversity and inclusiveness programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12. Are there any additional things you can think of that have not been addressed in the survey that you think the municipality should consider when attempting to balance the expectations of residents with the need to deliver critical programs and services?

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## ABOUT YOU

Our last questions are about you and your household. As a reminder, your responses to this survey are anonymous, and the results of the survey will be reported in aggregate only. The municipality is collecting this data to better understand the overall priorities and expectations of residents, and to determine where there are differences and how we can best service our diverse communities.

D1. What gender identity do you most associate with?

- Man
  - Woman
  - Non-binary
  - Prefer not to say
- 

D2. How old are you?

- 18 – 34 years old
  - 35 – 54 years old
  - 55 and older
  - Prefer not to say
- 

D3. What was your 2018 total household income, before taxes?

*Your best estimate is fine.*

- Less than \$30,000
  - \$30,000 to less than \$50,000
  - \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
  - \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
  - \$100,000 to less than \$125,000
  - \$125,000 to less than \$150,000
  - Over \$150,000
  - Prefer not to say
-

D4. What is your current employment status?

- Employed full time
  - Employed part time
  - Unemployed and currently looking for work
  - Unemployed and not currently looking for work
  - Student
  - Retired
  - Homemaker
  - Self-employed
  - Unable to work
  - Prefer not to say
- 

D5. Do you identify as a person with disabilities?

- Yes
  - No
  - Prefer not to say
- 

D6. Do you identify as Acadian or Francophone?

- Yes - Acadian
  - Yes – Francophone
  - No
  - Prefer not to say
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- D7. The Halifax Regional Municipality has identified valuing diversity and inclusion as a corporate priority. To support this, we are asking you to please self-identify based on the ethnicity categories of the Canadian Census.

What is your ethnic identity?

Check all that apply

- White
- South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- Chinese
- Black (African Nova Scotian)
- Black (African Canadian)
- Filipino
- Latin American
- Arab
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)
- West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
- Korean
- Japanese
- First Nations (North American Indian; includes Status and Non-Status Indians)
- Métis
- Inuk (Inuit)
- Other
- Prefer not to say