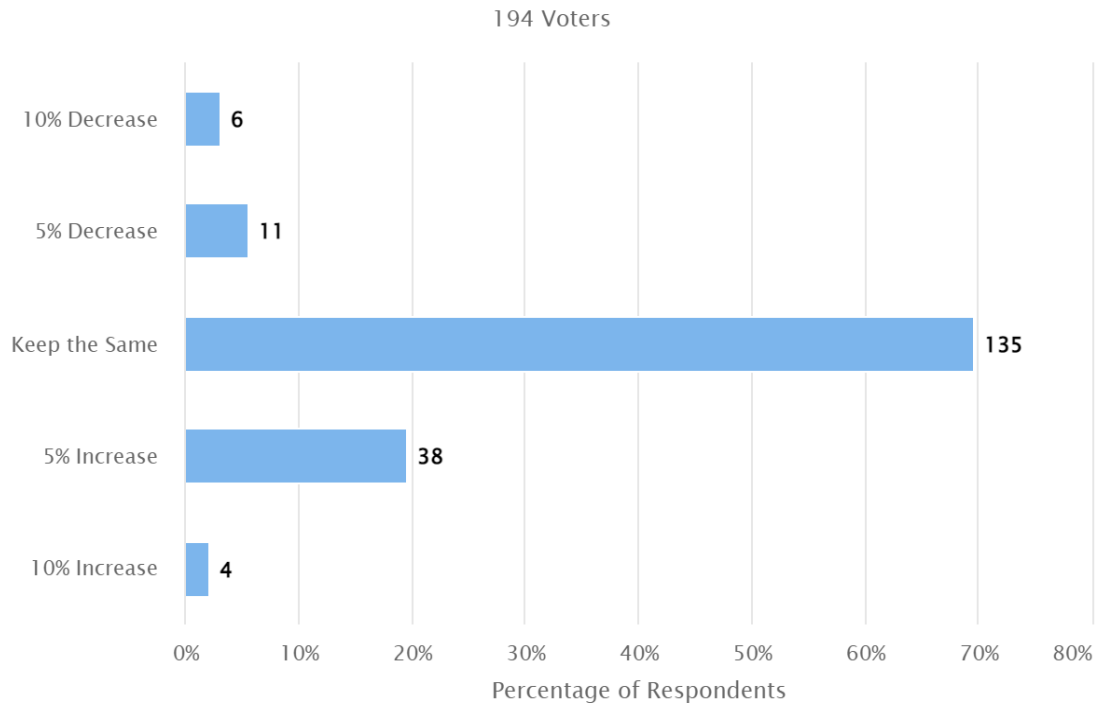


2023 Citizen Budget Engagement Results

(Conducted July 4 – July 28 2022)

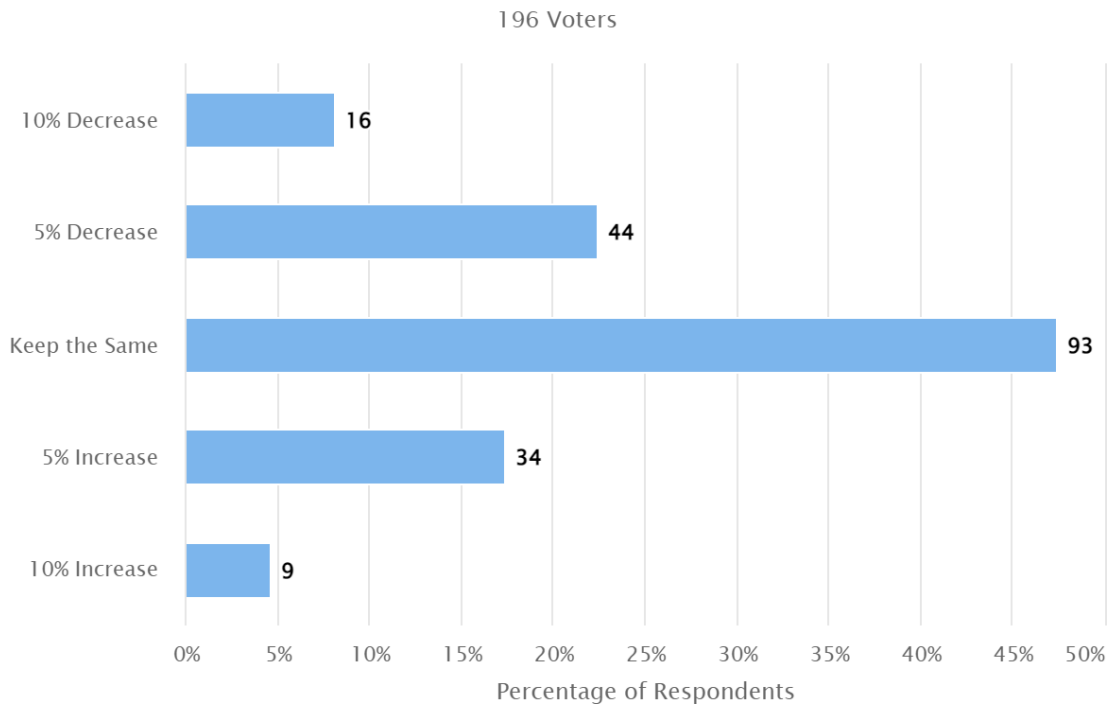
Protective Services

Fire Department



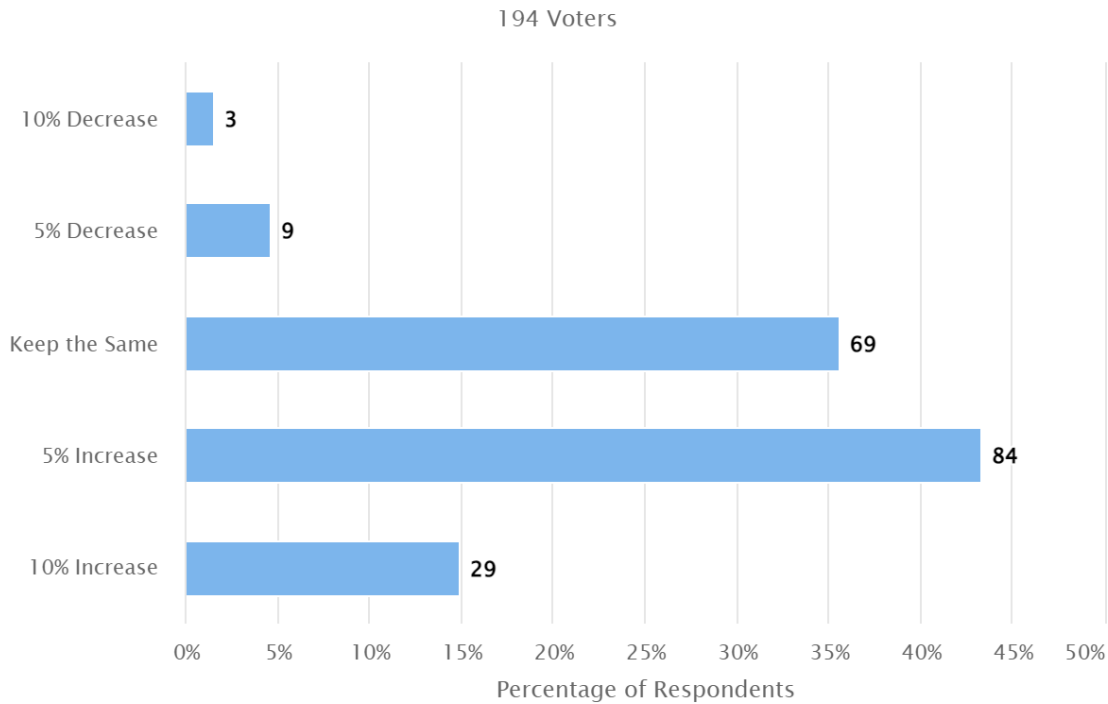
- Our fire department does a great job. They are always out in the community volunteering. If anything I think they require more full time staff to handle their demands.
- Train to higher standards.
- The fire department goes to way to many things that they are NOT needed at. Such as Omega car accidents, and mutual aids with EMS
- I feel our RCMP is undermanned slightly.
- Lower
- Fire department goes to much more then they should. When they arrive on scene to 75% of calls they get stood down or cleared as arriving on scene. I believe fire should not be attended as many mutual aids as they do a year.
- Same
- Same
- Same
- Same level of service, question why we have a town and county services/department in town. Are we doubling up on service?

Community Enforcement (Bylaw)



- With the community opening up again and a lot more visitors arriving every day, we need a higher visual presence of our police.
- They are useless
- Same as above, the RCMP are undermanned to look after priority incidents, never mind fire and ems support. Also the entire system needs to change to enable RCMP as a whole so repeat offenders aren't repeat. Yes I mean the system needs to be quicker with decisions and all decisions harsher 10 fold. That way the next repeat will think twice. The punishment is not equal the crime and a certain group of individuals think if they can see it, it is theirs for the taking, first offense miss a hand, and that is a life of reminder and knowledge for everyone after.
- Bylaw needs to have some days be on alternate hours, not all violations happen 8-5
- seems to be a hit and miss in this area.
- Seems to be heavy in management and light on workers. Need more vehicles towed in the winter during snow removal, tall grass in yards in the summer as well as unsightly properties dealt with.
- Higher
- I don't see them Making much of a difference. More focus on cleaning up property that is dirty and unappealing to the rest of us.
- Lower
- I don't think the bylaw are helpful at all. Lots of sidewalks don't get cleared in the winter and bylaw do nothing
- Do we need to spend more money to have more enforcement of bylaws? Eg: unsightly property, vehicles illegally parked, weed control, snow removal, invest in Cameras to catch vandals!

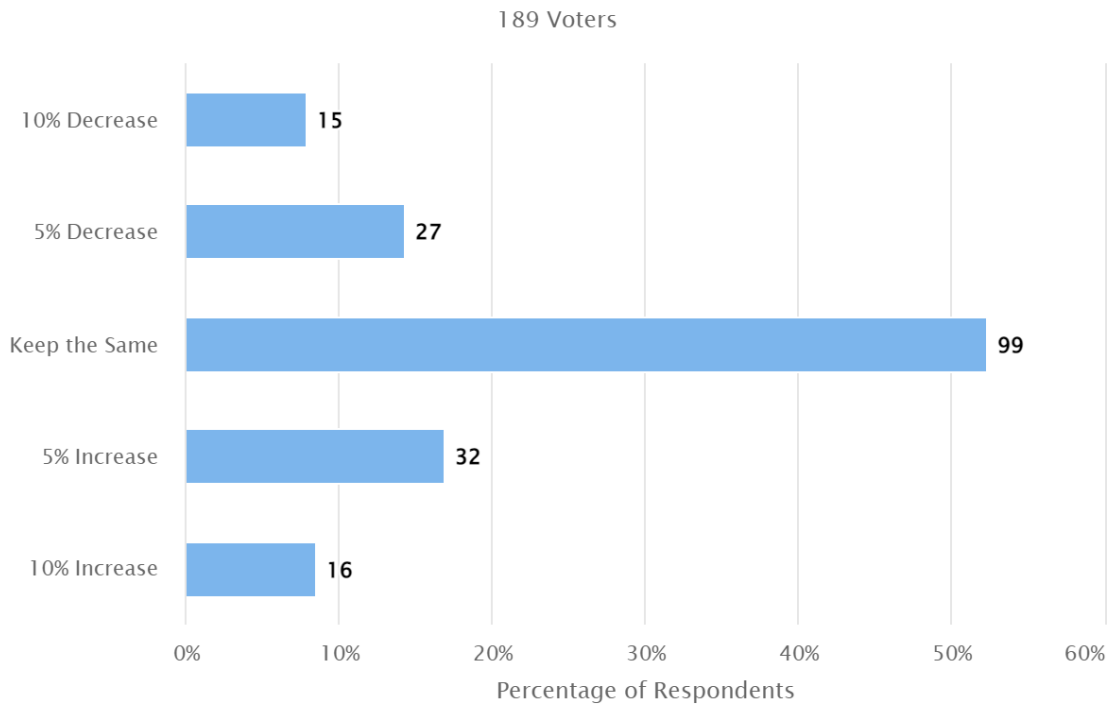
RCMP Services



- **THINGS NEED TO CHANGE1** Their are global issues right now that aren't going away anytime soon and we like other communities are still putting critical time and effort to waste for nothing. Crime this day and age should be almost a non issue. For those that want to free up RCMP tax dollars need to make a stance now with much stronger attitude toward punishment. The rights of individuals end when the line is crossed. And the line is thin. Has to be!
- Prosecutors must prosecute or the RCMP are left defeated
- far too much petty crime. When the offender is picked up the judicial system is far too lax
- Good work by RCMP. Appreciate town halls and community engagement. Just need the crown to stop releasing the criminals back to the streets.
- If the increase will increase the number of members in our community so crime rates can be reduced. However, charges don't seem to stick or keep them Locked up.
- As a new person in our community the crime is very evident and they could use our support.

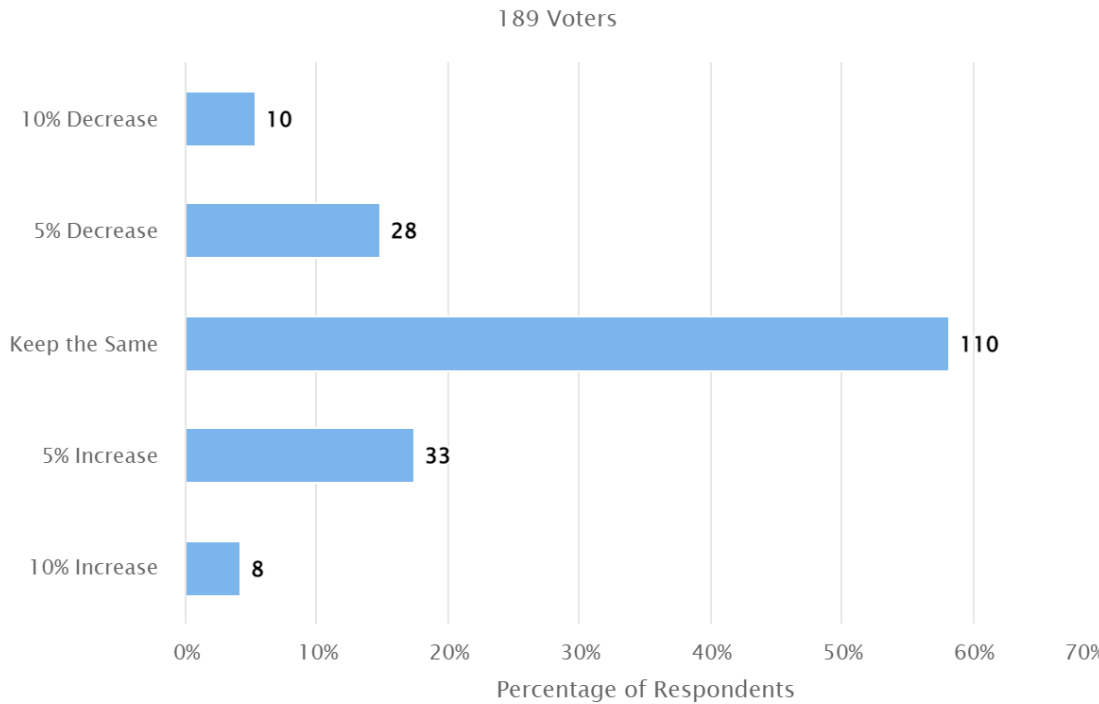
Community Services

Family and Community Support Services



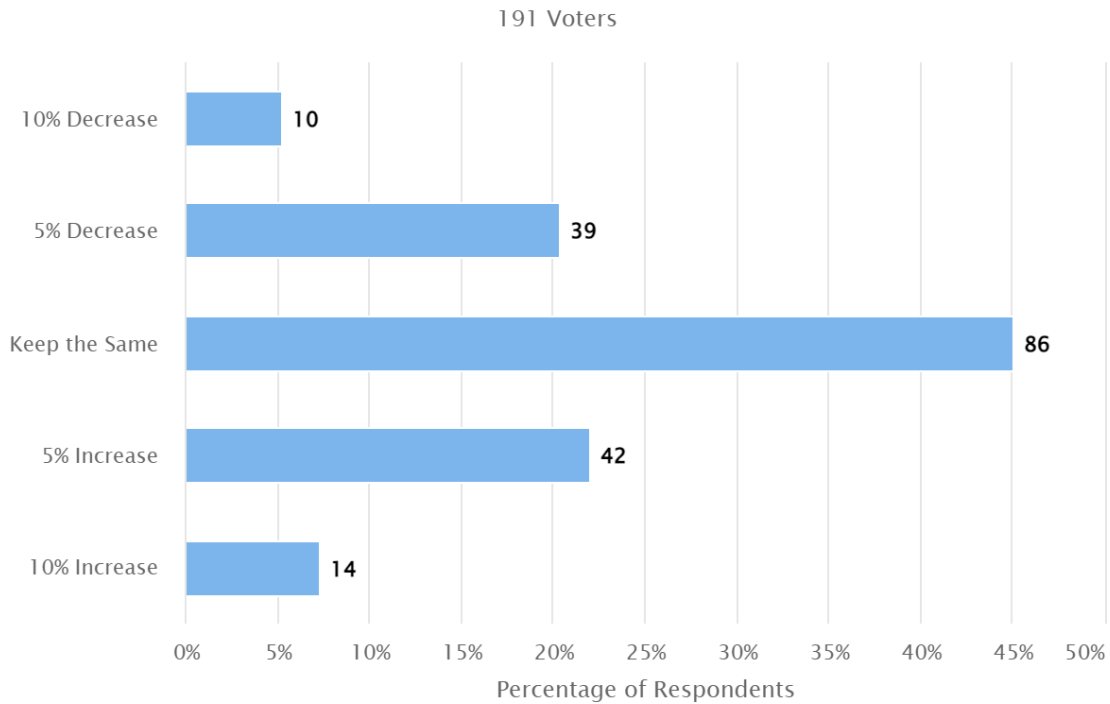
- More supports for our vulnerable population are needed, which may include more staff or other funding areas such as grants.
- We do not have the money for so much
- this department has done well with the funds available
- Higher
- I think lots of families in our area rely on the FCSS

Parks



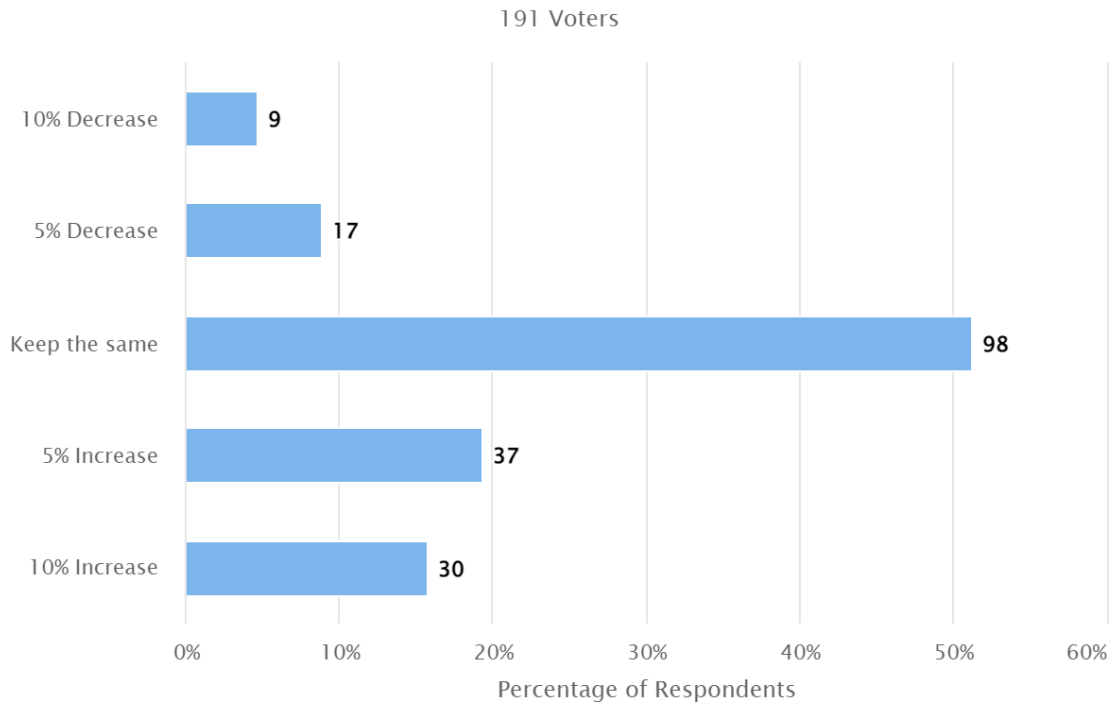
- Grass doesn't need to be cut constantly or flowers watered in the rain
- the mowing of grass is done well. The care of parks leaves a bit to be desired
- We have green spaces all over town except downtown. People flock to green spaces and having one in downtown would benefit. Although, with that in mind, other areas of town have too many green spaces to maintain and some could be reduced. Overall, once you get off the main highway, Edson has some beautiful parks to enjoy.
- The spray for park water could be a little warmer for toddlers
- Same
- I would like to see more parks and recreation for older teens and adults, such as a park core centre and adult swings
- Would love to see improvements in the trails and adding more trails in and around town.
- Parks does a great job of keeping grassy areas mowed and town walks cleared in winter. It would be nice to see more perennials planted through town. Look at Rocky Mountain House downtown core for inspiration.
- Too many areas have been landscaped and then not maintained. The round about and hillendale is an example. More man hours need to be spent on maintaining the parks around town.

Community Development



- I think we have a sufficient amount of events and programs for a community our size.
- We dont have the money for it
- Same
- The new direction of [REDACTED] has made a incredible difference in programming for our community. Increase if it goes to the number of programming , FOIP s. 17(1)
- Would like to see more facilities/activities geared towards kids 18 and under. More specifically 0-5 years of age. Having more option for swimming lessons would be great as the current times are not feasible for working parents

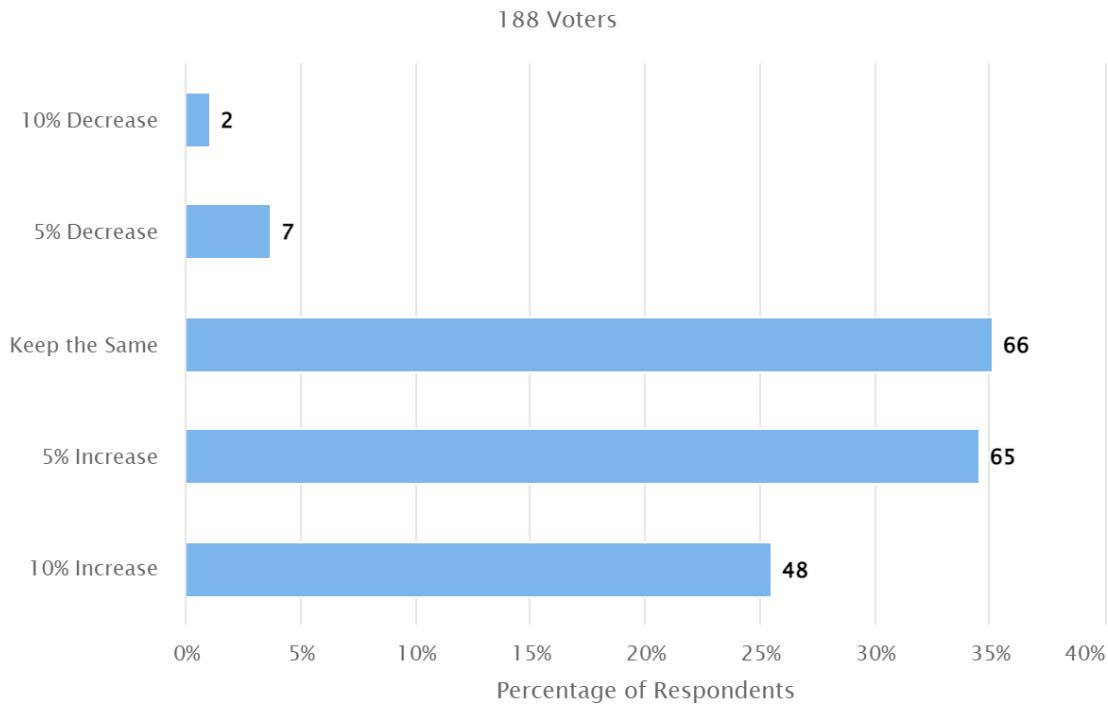
Edson & District Leisure Centre



- Build the multi-plex!
- A focus for the resources should be on maintaining the current infrastructure until the time comes that we are able to build a multiplex. I would be willing to pay more in user fees if needed as I think that the facility fees are very reasonable if not too low.
- Funds should be allotted to spruce up and upgrade the old leisure center. The new proposed center is going to cost way more the longer it's delayed in today's market.
- I would love to see a new centre being planned and hopefully happening within the next few years
- This should be one of the highlights of Edson
- The new project is far too expensive to proceed with at this time . look at better less costly options. start to think outside the box
- scrap the new leisure center its not needed repair or upgrade the old one
- The water could be warmer in the kids section
- Same
- This is a tough one, increase only of that gets a new facility or current facility upgraded. Enough of the Assessments and stalls to this department.

Infrastructure Services

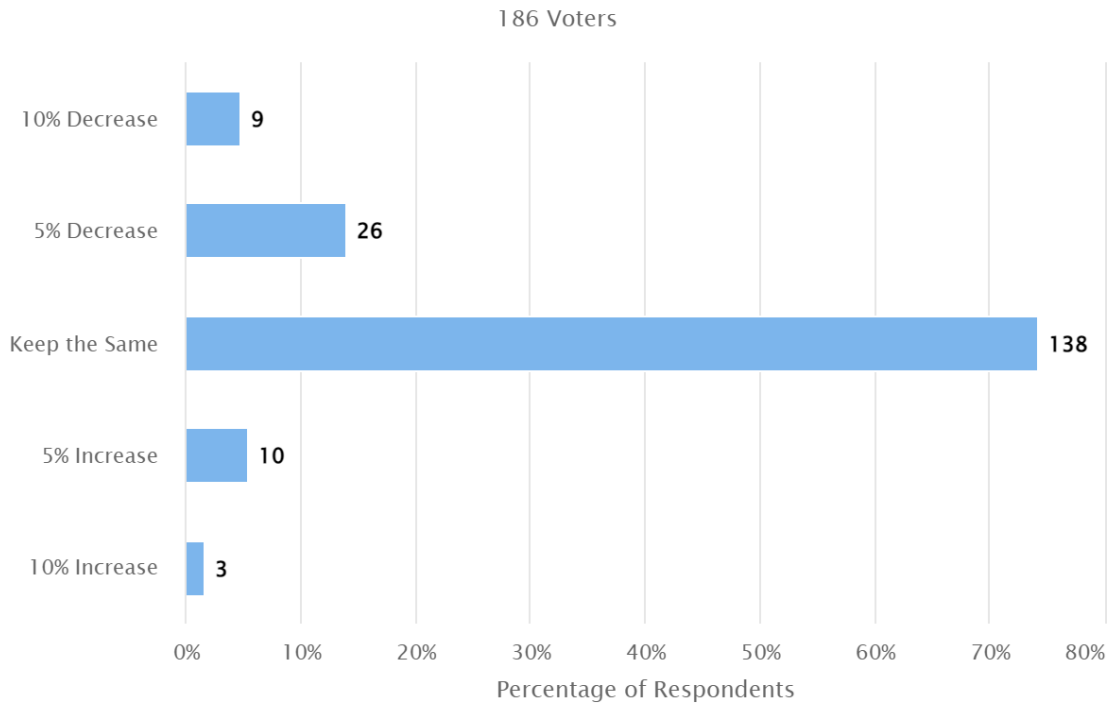
Roads and Sidewalks/Snow Removal



- I think the staff do a great job with the resources (\$, staff) that they have.
- I would like to see Edson put a ice melt box somewhere in town where residents could and fill there containers and do there sidewalks. Whitecourt has this and it works quite well.
- The return to 'normal' means higher costs of maintenance. This should also be reflected with wages.
- We don't have near enough people/resources allocated to infrastructure
- Is this a budget issue or a personnel management issue
- Town roads are horrid to travel.
- The roads in town are a mess,nothing to be proud of. Highway through town is a sad excuse for the provincial highway grid.
- Have vehicles towed during snow removal. It's done elsewhere and people learn to figure it out. I quite enjoy the sidewalk on the airport loop trail and appreciate it is maintained in the winter for safe walking.
- Please fill the pot holes it cost lots of money to maintain our cars for simple road neglect.
- In the winter time I understand sometimes it's hard to get a truck out while it's snowing for two days. But we should have more then just one going at a time.
- Higher
- Deploy them better
- I believe the current way of managing snow removal is being poorly executed and can be done more effectively without adding to the tax burden. Consider alternate side parking measures to be able to clear both sides of the streets on alternates days. Consider adding plow blades to existing sand trucks and have them do 2 jobs at once. Plow to the side of the street that have no sidewalks as there are many streets in town without them.

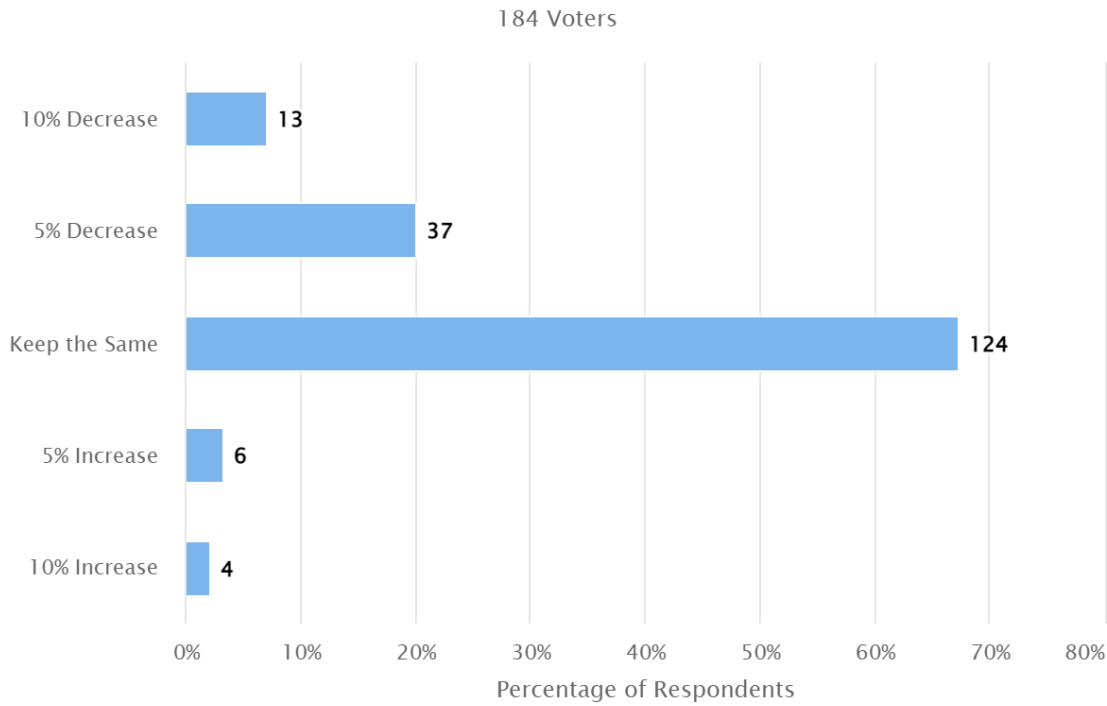
- Better management of the Road clearing in winter. Stop redoing areas that have been done when it snows a few centimetres. Look after the community as a whole. We all pay the taxes and deserve to be able to get out of our street. Increase only if using to hire private community contractors to look after the community areas in heavy snowfall situations.
- It was a tough year they need more money to do a more efficient job.
- Snow removal has been poor over the past few years, and I see the street sweeper maybe twice a year. The storm sewers are falling apart and the pot holes around town are deep.

Waste Collection



- I would like to see a curbside recycling program.
- I would like my garbage picked up every week same as before and compost every 2 nd week. I pay twice as much for less service than years ago.
- The fact that we pay more for half the service we had years ago is bologna
- Collect organics 1/2 as much?
- During summer months, regular household waste collection should be EVERY WEEK, not every other week!
- This is a wonderful service
- Garbage days should be every week
- I feel that during summer months garbage should be picked up every week
- Same
- Increase only if adding street side Recycling
- Weekly garbage collection would be amazing. Hinton is the same size with the same bins and does weekly pick up.

Landfill



- I think that it should be open on Sunday and closed one day during the week to counteract that.
- Every year you say you will look into the trailer courts in the spring clean up. Every year we get left out. You don't do our garbage pick up as is. Tired of paying taxes just to get second class services from the town because we live in a trailer court.
- Same

Feedback Questions on the Process

Where can it improve?

- Add more departments
- More specific questions that relate to the broad categories listed.
- There should be a spot where you can take from one budget to put to another.
- Some of the ask points were too generic, break them down perhaps
- Na
- Recycling system seems to waste money
- Generic
- Nothing to add
- The roads
- Maybe some more detail or examples of specific things the funding/taxes are going towards. Get real personal about it and pull people in to make them care. EDIT: Allow us to enter comments below the above questions to clarify/justify our selections. For example: I don't support the group result for the collective budget, but if it came down to me being the odd one out, I would support the community's decision on the budget.
- Doesn't dig into the financial situation of the Town. Also, keeping the service levels the same, it doesn't account for an inflationary figure so the end tax increase is really out of whack. With regular inflation at 2%, everyone should have that at a minimum, as an increase, if they want to keep service levels the same. As we know, inflation is through the roof, so this is not an accurate picture of consistent levels of service, with the proposed tax change.
- Final button? Stuck on this page
- none
- Some aspects should be taken as a vote
- More detail on where funds would go, what kinds of programs
- Can't think of any
- It was well thought out
- An itemized list showing how much was spent in each division would help. We would all like our taxes to be lower. We have no idea how much money is allocated for everything just how much we as a taxpayer pay.
- N/A
- None
- More detailed items to look at instead of general services
- none
- Happy
- No
- N/A
- None was very easy to follow

What did you like?

- I liked being able to have my say. It's good that the public is asked.
- I like the idea. More questions.
- Easy to use
- The ability to be honest with answers, squeaky wheel gets the grease?
- Na
- Infrastructure wage costs
- at least there was an opportunity to make comment
- No
- Active percentage gauging
- Nopw
- Nothing to add
- Maybe some more detail or examples of specific things the funding/taxes are going towards. Get real personal about it and pull people in to make them care.
- n
- It's great that the community can be involved in decisions
- I liked the updating slider showing if I was over budget or not
- RCMP
- The information about each service
- no
- N/a
- Easy to use
- None
- Happy
- Everything
- Everything
- N/A
- Very basic but understandable

Final Comments

- Participated in all of these so far, and think the addition of them was a great idea. It does seem that council don't take the results into consideration, even heard them say because it's not a huge amount of people they won't use it. That is discouraging but I still have my say in the hopes that it will one day be enough to be able to make change.
- Do more of these!
- Keep it up.
- Nicely done
- having lived here since 1955 it still is a great place to live
- No
- O
- Nope
- Nope
- Keep up the good work
- I can see the potential of this tool and I like where the heads are at of the people who implemented this. Keep it up.
- I think in the case of snow removal it's almost be nice in a sense to see what previous two years where to better Gauge whether a 5% or 10% increase is needed. Because it's a tough call when you don't really see numbers to compare
- Not all people have the ability to use the internet
- no
- When 80% or more says no to a project...ie. dog park town should listen and not just go ahead and do it anyway
- B
- N
- I like this way to give feedback
- Great survey
- Great survey
- Great survey
- I feel the public's numbers dictate how much the town is going to allocate to each area regardless of whether its in the ballpark or not. If residents vote higher and it doesn't cost that much the town may use that number anyways. How do we know?
- I need more information for a fully informed vote
- N/a
- No
- none
- none
- No
- No
- No
- None
- N/A
- Was great to be able to have input
- :)
- Town office is a joke, employees need to work there not at home, be more attentive to the public's needs,