



Revenue Tools - Public Consultation

Date - May 7 2007

Location - Harbourfront

Question # 1 - Which revenue tools are best suited to help make service improvement and/or City building initiatives financially possible?

- 1 Don't tax to keep people out of City.
- 2 Cut taxes to increase consumer spending.
- 3 Redirect existing budgets to new programs
- 4 \$300M road repair backlog. 5 million was dedicated from capital budget. Can't manage budget. No new taxes.
- 5 Concrete falling from Gardiner.
- 6 The City is stealing from families to pay for their own golf.
- 7 MFP - money should be recouped.
- 8 Too much spending City has a spending problem not a revenue shortage.
- 9 Eliminate union only contracts and tender process.
- 10 Wait to improve Mayor's office and City Square until its affordable.
- 11 Fiscal responsibility.
- 12 Increase accountability as to how the City uses revenues.
- 13 Welfare reform.
- 14 Politicians are politicians to help the people but they forget and after they're elected they help themselves (raises - does the general public get raises and perks?)
- 15 Mr. Miller and Councilors quit giving themselves raises and renovating offices and we would save \$.
- 16 Uploading and downloading taxes - we still pay.
- 17 Open bidding for City contracts.
- 18 For every dollar raised through taxation the City has to cut 1 dollar from spending.
- 19 Assumes Toronto Act gives power to only increase taxation - no mention of reduction.
- 20 Greater transparency on tax / expenditure.
- 21 Rather see small, concise (decline) of spending.
- 22 Haven't convinced table of need for more taxes.
- 23 Assumes taxing is the answer.
- 24 Assumes table agrees with continued taxing.
- 25 Question is leading.
- 26 You can move north of Steeles it's the same client but pay a lot less taxes. Homes 100% business 300%. City is losing taxes whenever business is moving out.
- 27 Industry is moving out of Toronto which takes away employment and taxes Hydro, gas, rent and taxes are going up. Business location.
- 28 Can't afford to pay taxes when you increase their..... You have picked up easy targets "tobacco and alcohol"
- 29 The is an exit of business from the City. How do you expect to encourage back when you tax?
- 30 Questions re: priority of spending.
- 31 Where does the money go?
- 32 Concerns over how \$ is spent.
- 33 Use existing housing (shelter allowances) to meet social housing needs.
- 34 No taxes. Reduce not increase.
- 35 Overlapping of services requires scrutiny.
- 36 Operating cost reduction.
- 37 Look at saving before asking for revenue.



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Suggestions

1 Would like to see vendors signs on Yonge St cleaned up. Empress & Yonge - has 7 signs for a restaurant (Chinese noodle place blocking sidewalks)

2 What happens if Dalton McGuinty is not re-elected?

If as you say we are competing with other N.A. cities, why of all the major cities Toronto spending the smallest amount on Economic Development? i.e.

3 Chicago \$23.46 per person, Toronto \$2.47.

City of Toronto Act is a wrong headed attempt by the province to avoid its responsibility in appropriately funding this City. The taxing powers are inadequate

4 and ultimately disastrous for the economy of this City.

5 Where is the Mayor?

With all of the new high rise condos being built last year and in the next 5 yrs how will you be short on revenues? You will have so much money from property
6 taxes.

How to add a potential revenue tool - Sue the federal government for a fair share (i.e. 40%) of federal income tax points. There's a legal precedent for
challenging the federal monopoly on income taxes - the provinces sued for a share of tax points in the 1930's and they won. Communities band together to sue

7 for a share of income tax points we could win this lawsuit, simply by challenging the assumed federal monopoly on income taxes.

Subject: A) raise parking rates by 25% in City owned parking lots. B) revenue for City services from privately owned parking lots to go up by 25%. Reason:

Discourage cars from the downtown core - south of Bloor, East of Spadina, West of Jarvis to the Lakefront. Use the funds thus raised for environmental work
on 1) wetland rehabilitation and re-establishment 2) shoreline remediation on the edge inter-face between the water and the land - on Lake Ontario and on the
Lower Don, Lower Humber and Lower Rouge. In addition, City staff be encouraged to leave their cars at home and take the TTC. City staff be encouraged to

8 provide feedback on how to improve the equality of the ridership experience.



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Question # 2- What type of expenditures should new revenues be used for: enhanced existing services? City building type initiatives? To help solve the fiscal imbalance?

- 1 Solve the Fiscal Imbalance (2 people at table)
- 2 City Building (2 people at table)
- 3 Best answer, some \$'s for all 3 (4 people at table agreed)
- 4 Solve the Fiscal Imbalance first.
- 5 Build more subway to increase ridership and generate revenues, reduce cost in comparison to buses.
- 6 Enhancing existing services
- 7 Fiscal imbalance
- 8 None
- 9 No to # 3
- 10 Current revenues should fund expenditures providing they are properly prioritized.
- 11 Ensure that new taxes do not make it unaffordable and will end up driving seniors and homeless out.
- 12 Money should be invested in small business.
- 13 Out of the three choices is solve the fiscal imbalance. Rather how many more people have the city reduced after amalgamation.
- 14 Redirect existing funds for new projects.
- 15 Use new revenues to reduce another tax?
- 16 Don't need to enhance existing services.
- 17 Don't enhance City services.
- 18 Fiscal imbalance should be focused on without new taxes.
- 19 Taxes to improve public transit.
- 20 In addition to solve fiscal imbalance, encourage economic development. (how can you attract business and compete when taxes are so high.



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Comments

- 1 Services first need to be uploaded before we can think about implementing new tax.
- 2 City and province need to sort out imbalances before City implements new taxes in order to be fair.
- 3 Billboard tax less direct impact on individual.
- 4 Have input on consultation process prior to hosting them. Don't assume that this format will be accepted or will be acceptable.
- 5 Need more civic involvement; open forum - real open ears.
Look at creative options that the backs of the residents aren't charged for. Continue lobbying province (if we are managing their programs they should pay us accordingly) and feds for monies to support Toronto.
- 6 pay us accordingly) and feds for monies to support Toronto.
- 7 Think city should go bankrupt and then Province would step in.
Does this city council and mayor truly believe that the citizens of Toronto will appreciate or agree to the increase of taxes by hold 4 , unadvertised public meetings as pacifiers?
- 8 public meetings as pacifiers?
- 9 How many new supervisory jobs been created since amalgamation.
- 10 How many unionized jobs have been created since amalgamation?
- 11 Deal with waste and become more efficient.
- 12 How can we use tax revenues towards new initiatives when we have a hard time balancing our budget.
- 13 How can you even ask this question?
- 14 No new tax. No new revenue therefore no spending in any services.
- 15 When you run out of \$, stop spending.
- 16 When social services are uploaded to Province, what is the \$ going to go to?
- 17 Make sure City remains the vibrant mix it is economically, socially and ethically. It's not all about new condos and bars.
- 18 The City already has enough tools to raise taxes so no new taxes required.
- 19 Curitiba, Brazil, may have a different, and more efficient way to get City services. (a mix of union and private)
- 20 Spend current revenue more responsibly. Research current options more thoroughly prior to implementation.
- 21 Zero based budgeting.
- 22 If social programs are taken by Province City will not increase taxes?
- 23 Pressure the Province to reduce the time frame for reduction of commercial taxes.
- 24 Reduce taxes across the board.
- 25 Re-structure the City governments model.
- 26 Priority should be given to reducing expenditure.
- 27 Support Rob Ford's motions for saving money.



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- 38 Fairness to the taxes where its being spent.
- 39 No mention in plan to reduce cost. Reduce cost as a revenue tool.
- 40 More public private partnerships. Contracting out.
- 41 Concern on impact on employment. With new transit restrictions - costs.
- 42 Concern to not use tools to reduce traffic (entertainment) from 905 downtown.
- 43 Toll roads will force vehicles onto local roads therefore increase safety issues, create smog.
- 44 Parking tax will affect small business negatively.
- 45 Land Transfer Taxes - Ontario buyers already pay transfer taxes. Buyers should not be penalized any more than that.
- 46 New revenue tools target small business.
- 47 Land transfer tax would be x's 2. Province & municipal.
- 48 Small business entertainment tax would put owners out of business.
- 49 Vehicle registration - not fair to the occasional driver.
- 50 Parking rates up 25% - make harder to drive downtown.
- 51 In support of billboard tax as tool.
- 52 More emphasis on cars taxes.
- 53 In support of vehicle registration tax, to support better public transportation. Shouldn't be building roads. Lowest income families would benefit from improved public transit. Also would improve air quality.
- 54 Supporting billboard tax. Because advertising is popping up in spaces it shouldn't be. Many are illegal.
- 55 Tax vehicles, parking, road pricing, and put \$'s into dedicated taxes (environment).
- 56 Think we need to consider alternate revenue generators (but not land transfer) so when we go to province and feds we can ask for our share (GST) of funding and show that we are acting in good faith on our side.
- 57 Tax slot machines or gambling.
- 58 Road taxes.
- 59 Vehicle registration.
- 60 Income tax shifting from income tax to all communities.
- 61 Tax packaging generated from big business.
- 62 Sell the TTC privatize it.
- 63 Vehicle registration tax - good for climate.
- 64 Vehicle registration may be based on value of car.



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Comments

- 1 Why do we think that Dalton McGuinty gave Toronto the ability to raise taxes with new rules. Why does he..... Agree to accept the upload of financial services, but not for a year or two. In reality he is not going to give the City anything till after he is re-elected. And he may not be so nothing changes.
- 2 Departments own study showed there has been an exodus of businesses and jobs to 905 (100,000). How can increasing taxes stem those losses? It won't. More taxes will drive jobs and businesses out.
- 3 Revoke the City new tax power.
- 4 The family visiting Toronto drive into the city (new tax) drink beverage (new tax) purchase Blue Jay tickets (new tax). Business goes under needs to sell (new tax). Taxes create job losses.
- 5 Too many rules in City government.
- 6 Too much self interest in Council
- 7 Use natural water for day to day use of sisterns.
- 8 Using too much treated water.
- 9 Different attitudes between union and management
- 10 Credibility problem - voters don't believe what City says.
Have referendum (instituted by Council at next election). A) opening options that province closed (those that were excluded in the Act). B) Repeal / total reform of property assessment in the City.
- 11 Proposal: For raising revenues without imposing new taxes. Communities across Canada should sue the federal government for income tax points. The provinces sued for income tax points in the 1930's, and they received 30% of income tax revenues. Cities and towns should sue the feds for 40% of income tax revenues. Based on the precedent of the provincial lawsuit, of the 1930's, communities could with this lawsuit.
- 12 Presumption that "revenue tools" will be implemented.
- 13 City of Toronto Act is a "bad deal".
- 14 Growth Plans and intensification targets will not be met.
- 15 Investigation of building department.
- 17 Obvious that government has only self interest - not interested in public.
- 18 This is patchwork approach and what is going to happen next time you run out of money.
- 19 Property tax.
- 20 Does it apply to non-profit arts and welfare programs?
- 21 What happens once services are uploaded. Do taxes go away?
- 22 How do Torontonians pay tax in comparison to other cities?
- 23 Need longer time frame for serious analysis.
- 24 Timing introduced March break is it being railroaded - short timeline?
- 25 First discuss what kind of City we want before we discuss what taxes to implement if any because implications to all decisions.
- 26 If the City didn't ask for them then why are we here?
- 27 More expensive to live, work / business and visit.... How can help city?
- 28 Will send spending outside GTA?
- 29 Expect more analysis, creativity from Municipal government re: spending money. So as to use what is already received more effectively.
- 30 No tools
- 31 No smartcard system in Toronto re: public transit.



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32 Increase densification but not by increasing taxes.

33 Don't have different taxing systems - inequities in residential taxes.

34 Revoke new taxing system.

Condo's taxes run approximately 2500-3000 per suite. Seems out of whack with detached homes. Should like city (councilors) to look at themselves and set an

35 example. Then people wouldn't be so angry. Cigarettes, alcohol, billboards OK.

36 Be creative. So \$ doesn't land on public. If everyone holds back \$.1 then we would benefit.

37 Consider taxpayers acceptance of tax.

38 Should charge for services being offered currently such ie. Enterprise Toronto seminars.

39 Need detailed analysis of impacts of new taxes prior to implementation specifically on liquor and amusement.

40 No new taxes.

41 Reduce business realty tax to draw business back to create more jobs.

42 Needs to be more creative - advertise on side of buses etc.

43 How much is it going to cost a family to have a house, go out? How much will it cost me?

44 NO, none of the tools are good.

45 People who don't pay for our services should be taxed.

46 Eliminate 50% of election signs tax election signs.

47 None.

48 None.

49 No new taxes

50 No new tax.