



Revenue Tools - Public Consultation

Date - May 17 2007

Location - North York Civic Centre

Question - What is your opinion about any of these proposed new taxes? Why so?

(Note - question was reworded after May 7 consultation)

- 1 Worried that the money is not being managed properly and that council will just waste the new money
- 2 This is total B.S. - cut the spending with \$450 million the next 12 months.
- 3 Upload Social services.
- 4 Internal inefficiency - no communication across city - need to clean up house.
- 5 Lack of accountability - childish to be blaming province - Miller.
- 6 City should look for internal efficiencies to achieve the shortfall / debt
- 7 No new taxes - unanimous table feeling - very passionate! Get your house in order Toronto Council! If Council cuts their perks like citizens have to cut their budgets, the savings would be enormous!
- 8 Toronto citizens must get involved in the decision making process. 100,000 jobs lost in C of T in last 15 years. 905 area has gained 100,000 jobs. 5 of new taxes increases cost to consumers to come to TO.
- 9 Get fiscal house in order.
- 10 Need to upload the social services back to the Province
- 11 Reduce borrowing - roll over to Bank of Canada savings.
- 12 I object to all proposed taxes. We pay to much tax. Please reduce taxes. I expect a tax reduction.
- 13 Same millions should reduce # of Councilors to 22 to match Province and Fed.
- 14 We don't need new taxes we need better management at City Hall.
- 15 Not until City Hall is efficient does City Hall come to us for taxes.
- 16 It all boils down to fiscal responsibility.
- 17 People appose unnecessary expenditure.
- 18 Manage this government effectively.
- 19 Expense tools?
- 20 Don't spend if we don't have the money (new transit system)
- 21 Debt of the City keeps increasing each year.
- 22 You can only spend what you have and not borrow money.
- 23 Costing more to get less.
- 24 Reconsider philosophy of spending.
- 25 Rid of out of control spending before increases.
- 26 More fiscal responsibility at City Hall.
- 27 If the City were being run effectively, then people would gladly pay increased taxes.
- 28 Reduce spending as a first priority - efficiencies.
- 29 Eliminate waste.
- 30 End Councilor perks. (even though they are small, they add up)



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Suggestions

- ¹ City officials - Leadership by example - O based Budget - Transparency - Enforce existing By-Laws, permits, connection, Cost Controls. Use of Reserves for operations is criminal. Tax the offenders e.g. Spray paint - impacts graffiti, garbage & litter, disposable paper cups.
- ² More positive suggestions to assist council. Re: Tax moneys. If we want the services, we have to pay. New revenues should be used - A) Existing services - Don't forget the poor B) City building C) Fiscal imbalance.
- ³ A very poorly run meeting and time limits per speaker. This should be called Tax Tools Consultation. There is something called competition, Sales and people will flee the City.
- ⁴ Fiscal responsibility is necessary. Land transfer taxes will discourage buyers of homes in Toronto and adversely affect property values in the long term. Alcohol and amusement taxes will discourage patrons and drive them north and west of the city - Businesses will suffer deeply by lost revenue. Businesses will continue relocating north of the city and beyond to avoid all these unnecessary taxes.
- ⁵

I am concerned that there are other sources of untapped revenue that were available before City of Toronto Act, and should be used first: e.g. Development Charges on new construction. The Priorities should be: Help solve the fiscal imbalance, and Restore existing services - Road, Weeds, Trash in public places.
- ⁶ Before any question of new taxes, we must have transparency and accountability over our current taxes. Our tax dollars are not currently used respectfully or carefully. The mayor and many councilors do not want to hear that they must clean up their own back yard first. We need public sources, publicly provided and honestly administered. No new taxes until we have proper accountability and clean up of current taxes.
- ⁷ I'm all for them. Too many people believe we can have a functioning City without investing into it. I am in favor of tax billboards as long as the money only goes back into the enforcement and administration of a billboard licensing system.
- ⁸ I am opposed to these new tax proposals. Instead of a "Revenue Tools Consultation" why aren't you holding an "Expense Tools Consultation". Mayor Miller cries for more money from the Feds and the Province on the very first day after his re-election. He then sets an awful example by spending several million renovating his office and adding more staff. A 905 Mayor, stated that "with his new tax proposals, Miller is driving business to us faster than anything we could do on our own". Does the City have a hiring freeze? You are actually adding staff. A 10% reduction in the budget would save a lot, but would not be noticed in reduced services.
- ⁹ 3% Tax on all corporate season tickets for M.L.G.E. at the Air Canada Centre. 81% of Leaf season tickets are corporate owned. License scalpers and limit the amount of tickets they can possess and sell for any given event. Use current chambers in the old city hall for events and parties. Implement a designated fee for sticker renewals on the plates of SUV's and old cars. Room service meals that are over \$20 in hotels would be subject to a tax.



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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 City building type initiatives - allocate \$6 dollar per sq. foot on billboards and relocate funds to public art.
- 2 Go after developers.
- 3 Find more corporate sponsors.
- 4 Tax on consumer goods will force people to drive to 905.
- 5 Movie industry is being boycott by international film makers due to lack of policing pirating activity.
- 6 Entertainment major employer of students.
- 7 Any additional tax will force entertainment industry into bankruptcy. Piracy (MLS issue?) is not enforced is there a method to go after pirates.
- 8 Don't spend any money just pay your debt.
- 9 Short term solutions - elasticity of demand - people will travel outside city.
- 10 Rethinking the way the \$ is spent instead of increasing how its is spent.
- 11 Bad policies.
- 12 \$ ill spent.
- 13 Not the right value for the \$; increasing taxes, lower services.
- 14 Existing services are deteriorating - roads.
- 15 Don't want any new services.
- 16 Increase support of the arts.
- 17 Greener GTA.
- 18 City Council has not demonstrated fiscal responsibility with existing funds, therefore not entitled to new revenue.
- 19 Giving it back to taxpayers (or letting us keep it)
- 20 If they are raised for a purpose they should be used for that purpose.
- 21 Funds to parks & rec.
- 22 Land transfer will create a hole in the donut.
- 23 New revenues should be raised by savings.
- 24 High occupancy transit should be priority.
- 25 We want trains. Trains require less staff to operate.
- 26 It's a shame that debt management is our 2nd worst problem. If debt management was reduced, money can be used in the future.
- 27 All of the above.
- 28 No 2nd question.
- 29 Non issue. Taxes should not be collected.
- 30 To solve the fiscal imbalance.
- 31 To restore the city services that have been cancelled.



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32 Put the money into what it was planned for.

33 Pedestrian - number one service (Morningside / Elle mere) - bicycle cyclist should be safe on street; City should enforce pedestrian, vehicle and bicycle in track like other Regions. Eg. Bike way, pedestrians cross walk separate with road traffic.

34 Quality Services - vehicle registration fee already paid; vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle should receive number one quality of services.

35 Fiscal Imbalance - 2.2 billions budget not feel comfortable so please not hit the - due to the high price of gas, people store gas in house that easy to catch fire, co solve the most urgent problems first instead of think of new issue.



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Comments

- 1 Reconfigure City management to save money. No new taxes.
- 2 Eliminate the SWM calendar that cost 1 million to produce and force everyone to use the internet.
- 3 The City should move to zero based budget.
- 4 Introduce user fees.
- 5 Eliminate union only contracting to increase revenue (open it to all businesses)
- 6 City priorities out of touch with people; new taxes unfair.
- 7 Communication gap between dept's and utilities.
- 8 By-Law reaction time is too slow!
- 9 Re-negotiate contract with TTC.
- 10 Don't believe \$ is used effectively.
- 11 Allow volunteers when we cannot fund (ie union restrictions)
- 12 Little guy will move out - tax revenue down, land values down, jobs down.
- 13 We are in competition with York/Peel/Durham
- 14 Farce
- 15 I don't want taxes so there is no money to spend.
- 16 People must get to work quick more time spent on the way to work is less time spending on the job.
- 17 Will move out of the City.
- 18 Similar to the U.S. cities of the 60's and 70's.
- 19 The Land tax is completely the wrong idea.
- 20 Providing opportunities for people to buy from other places to sell in Toronto.
- 21 Will encourage the onset of illegal sales of cigarettes and alcohol.
- 22 Not thinking of the common man who will come up with innovative ways to beat the taxes.
- 23 Eroding of industrial / commercially zoned areas by residential development.
- 24 Data is very selective, bad presentation.
- 25 Toronto is like the Big 3 and 905 is like Japan.



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- 31 First strip away excesses, strip to the bone, then talk new taxes.
- 32 Compared to other cities - too many public employees doing consultation. This is not efficient.
- 33 Follow Mississauga's example - efficiencies.
- 34 Expenditures on historical property acquisition is a waste.
- 35 Should not be collected, instead tax rebates should be offered.
- 36 Get rid of grants to community organizations.
- 37 Taxes have already been increasing (ie A - Taxes) hurting small business. Do not continue this trend.
- 38 Spend less, don't tax more.
- 39 Cut out Councilor business trips.
- 40 Taxes on sporting events - revenue generating potential from packages for seasons tickets.
- 41 Land transfer - greening, parks which will in turn increase property values
- 42 Congestion taxes during business hours is good (as done in London, Japan).
- 43 Taxes will harm Toronto = \$60 to 905.
- 44 Taxes driving business out of Toronto.
- 45 Restaurants run on 0% margins.
- 46 Will be forced to buy my cigarettes and alcohol from the 905 area.
- 47 Buying from 905 area will save \$126M for 5000 people who buy from the 905 area.
- 48 Get my relatives to buy for me and pick later.
- 49 Land Transfer Tax will make houses less affordable.
- 50 To keep houses affordable, the homeowner will have to drop the price of their house.
- 51 New taxes will hurt business.
- 52 Paying more taxes lowers amount you can choose to spend
- 53 Higher taxes kill jobs
- 54 Entertainment taxes - less hires and theatres - especially summer jobs
- 55 Entertainment tax - hits youth and families
- 56 Land transfer taxes will only affect a small # of people. This is not fair.
- 57 Higher land transfer taxes will negatively affect people who want to live in Toronto
- 58 Any tax increase will effectively eliminate the film industry.
- 59 Small business - will drive sales outside of GTA.
- 60 Meter parking increases have been hurtful. What happened to these revenues.



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- 1 Transportation - improve good transportation services like GO train rather to think new items that's not essential to resident.
- 2 Budget - consider family with no / zero expensive to promote tax. Why no money still to build beautiful sidewalk. That not essential. Should make good decisions for bus rolling eg to Montreal, London. To buy more bus both in GTA and outside GTA.
- 3 City infrastructure By Provincial push City Toronto paid more for 10 years. So bus rolling should be considered. Should consider preliminary design carefully and in good order.
- 4 TTC - to form a bond % city and TTC for a new subway train. To build a subway to outside GTA if no why still paid tax to Provincial.
- 5 Toronto Hydro are charging more, increasing hundred millions dollars. Why still add additional interest to the city. That's why asking ways to increase money right now.
- 6 Bottom up revenue for 6 billions dollars losing. Is that using the money wisely, suppose to see what they are improving.
- 7 Not agree as 75% the city structure related to money issue when determine the budget. Look for the expenditure in 2007/08.
- 8 Concerned that the feedback from these discussions will be ignored.
- 9 Concerned that the City will focus only on a select few items and ignore the more important items.
- 10 Greater expenditures for infrastructure ... - supplement federally and provincially.
- 11 Seminar on Bank of Canada credits.
- 12 Needs to be a series of public meetings - tax rates 416 vs 905
- 13 Tools set out to show max and min raised by applying these
- 14 Infrastructure is so bad that no current value assessment - income from property taxes + services to properties.
- 15 We don't want businesses to move north.
- 16 I will go north for a automatic discount north of Steeles.
- 17 Mayor is driving people away from living and enjoying the City.
- 18 New taxes will drive people away.
- 19 Provincial and Federal government should loc paying not taxpayers.
- 20 The public is not dumb
- 21 Too late to discuss to raise taxes.
- 22 Should have group meetings across city
- 23 No point of having meeting as City will make own decision.
- 24 Feel the City only has these consultation to say they receive / consulted the Public!!
- 25 No future for the City of Toronto especially the ordinary guy.
- 26 Don't trust this public consultation process.
- 27 There should be referendum on this.
- 28 I didn't vote for this.
- 29 Higher taxes have not correlated with quality of life in the city.



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- 30 Too much stress.
- 31 Council angst factor.
- 32 Amalgamation causing duplication of taxes
- 33 This venue and the timing is suspect. Thursday before long weekend.
- 34 Why is Mayor in NY. While we are here discussing the fact that he wants to raise taxes.
- 35 Structure of the consultation is to create support for unacceptable taxes.
- 36 Not providing multiple language services.
- 37 When saying Toronto is competitive in service delivery, make sure the same thing is being compared (ie trash pickup)
- 38 Trash pick-up should be private..as most other big cities do.
- 39 Administrative costs. What does this cover and how does it compare to other cities?
- 40 Why is the cost of water greater... have they built a new water plant.
- 41 Services are great but taxes are too high.
- 42 Impressed with how effectively animal services works (very quick)
- 43 TTC is always full .. How can it be losing money.
- 44 Feels like Council has already made its decision.
- 45 Non starter
- 46 Don't punish people for having to work a regular 9-5 schedule.
- 47 More teleconferencing.
- 48 Is this a "braud" waste of time.
- 49 Keep track of developers who cheat or work without permit / or better way to collect money (fines)
- 50 City should do a better job of enforcing By-Laws than asking for better way of charging taxes
- 51 City is not collecting all money that is owed to them
- 52 Collect the \$250 million outstanding.
- 53 Strongly oppose the taxes.
- 54 No more new taxes.
- 55 City of Toronto Act is Provincially imposed; no new taxes.
- 56 De-link H2O and sewage from H2O rate. Pipe system should be a service charge not part of H2O bill.
- 57 I don't want any new taxes.
- 58 No new taxes.
- 59 New taxes are garbage.
- 60 Entertainment taxes ?
- 61 Penalties for not adhering to Building By-Laws.
- 62 Penalties need to be looked at too small!
- 63 Builders to make payments for public usage (using sidewalks).
- 64 Development charge to be more realistic. Only \$4000 now should be closer to the real cost \$20,000 or so.



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- 65 Any higher GFA or floors above that allowed by the Official Plan and By-Laws: That these be charged full development costs that the City incurs - Maybe even a premium beyond a certain level.
- 66 No taxes.
- 67 They can't raise the money needed from these taxes.
- 68 Don't believe that taxes will go to cover the types of expenses the City says they will.
- 69 No new taxes.
- 70 Not recovering bad debts (i.e parking tickets, unpaid taxes)
- 71 No new taxes.
- 72 No new taxes.
- 73 Everyone is against these new taxes.
- 74 Belgium -> graduated employee exit strategy as a way of reducing congestion - companies fired for not doing so.
- 75 Most of the taxes could be circumvented (ie exodus to 905 to purchase these goods)
- 76 Land transfer tax? Connection to services not really clear / tenuous
- 77 Need a reliable transit system before forcing people out of their cars.
- 78 7 increase cost of living to TO residents. All 8 taxes increase the operating costs to all TO business. Do the math! It doesn't add up. TO doesn't gain