



Revenue Tools - Public Consultation

Date - May 23 2007

Location - Scarborough Civic Centre

Question # 1 - What is your opinion about any of these proposed new taxes? Why so?

( Note - question was reworded after May 7 consultation)

- 1 Handling financial - waste not efficient management.
- 2 Transportation - budget project lost; should give jobs to residence.
- 3 Waste not effective handle - twice bucket of garbage to pick up for one week; large money already spent but not efficient.
- 4 At present about 45% of taxpayers income is spent on taxes. It is a lot and there is not too much Toronto go up. In addition to this increase taxation will not solve the city revenue deficit which is caused by: unequal downloading by the province and low efficiency of running the city.
- 5 City behave first before raise tax city should how to cut back budget.
- 6 TTC should improve - Kingston Rd cannot afford subway. Think ... plan first.
- 7 Until more responsibility used in handling budget no more new taxes.
- 8 Street improvement - use property tax to improve instead of to raise tax.
- 9 No taxes are wanted by the people.
- 10 Tax payers want to see all details of the budget.
- 11 New taxes will lead to more taxes.
- 12 How can the mayor renovate his office when there is no money?
- 13 Run the government like a business.
- 14 Want councilors to make symbolic gestures (ie - free passes being revoked).
- 15 Get your own spending under control; get rid of frills spending, perks, Millers office reno's; no new taxes; we want transparency - devil is in the details of the Budget.
- 16 Get spending under control rather than increase taxes to fund every whim or special interest group.
- 17 I don't want to see any of these taxes. City of Toronto Councilors have a spending problem; how can C.O.T. renovate the Mayor's office when they say there's no money.
- 18 Stop catering to unions - outsource services at cost savings.
- 19 People want to stay in Toronto - make it affordable.
- 20 focus on how to cut costs. Not raise taxes.
- 21 Supplies in supply cabinet should be charged to Councilor's budget.
- 22 Accountability is not here.
- 23 No taxes.
- 24 We have more staff less service. Takes too long for service. We should de-amalgamation.
- 25 Since amalgamation we have double staff - City did not cut staff.
- 26 Go through budget, we don't need new taxes.
- 27 Stick it where the sun don't shine; shove it.
- 28 City should be using the money for needs and not wants.
- 29 Services need to be examined and chopped where there is abuse.
- 30 Jobs are not being completed as they should be.
- 31 Pet projects need to be eliminated or re-examined.
- 32 No taxes, no taxes, water goes up by 9%, hydro goes up, what about income.
- 33 You politicians should be accountable for taxpayers money. What are you willing to give up?
- 34 Inputs : 100 million, 1.5 million people; as pop declines payments/pop increase; Expenses : pensions (staff), salaries (staff), expenditures, services to users; as service demands go up (demographics) = less money for staff positions.



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### Suggestions

- 1 Billboards = Public Art
- 2 Cars = Public Transport
- 3 Parking = Environment
- 4 No new taxes, we need better management.
- 5 No new taxes. Better Financial MGMT is needed at city Hall!
- 6 Put the taxes to a referendum before implementation. All of these taxes, as well as the City of Toronto Act are a disgrace to the city and the citizens of Toronto. When Council is spending \$210 million on the homeless industry and not seeing any improvement in that field (which had a negative impact on tourism and related areas) you know something is wrong, especially given the numbers the census revealed. There are also some city services that can be done cheaper such as garbage collection in the private sector. The pay raise pushed through last year should also be repealed as it only further sucks into the financial well. Councillor Rob Ford has proven year after year that a council office budget does not need \$53000/yr. It should be slashed to less than \$10K. The size of council can also be shrunk as TO has 23 MP's and MPP's do we really need. The City needs a forensic audit and should be asking Dalton McGuinty to repeal the COTA and restore the 3yr municipal terms. No new taxes.
- 7 No road or congestion taxes London is losing business due to it, Toronto will too, cut your 9% pay rise. Clear up the backlog of road repairs, dump the 'transit city' policy.



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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 New Revenue should be spent towards the fiscal imbalance. You must advise the public where and how the new revenue has been spent  
If funds are raised for a location, it should be spent at that location. E.g. if \$ is for a community centre in Scarb., it should be spent in Scarb. For the
- 2 community centre. Not for across the City.
- 3 Any "New" Additional revenues should be used to reduce property tax. Seniors are loosing homes with taxes rising.
- 4 Fiscal imbalance
- 5 Any- should be put towards the fiscal imbalance - only the fiscal imbalance.
- 6 Debt reduction.
- 7 City Buildings - Parks & Rec. Think we should encourage community service in keeping the parkland areas clear of garbage.  
City Bldg. - Parks & Rec. Too bad golf course encroach on rivers & streams because it contributes to their pollution. If the rivers, etc., were moving it
- 8 would cut down on disease (West Nile)
- 9 City Bldg. - Parks & Rec. Plant more trees and monitor parks to stop people from abusing these areas.  
City Bldg. Programs - Parks & Rec. - Cleaning rivers and streams and make them interesting places to go. Which would stop people doing
- 10 unscrupulous things and the places will be more secure and safe.  
I want the City of T.O. not to have anything to do with climate change. I think the City should be environmentally responsible but I do not want my tax
- 11 dollars going to fund David Miller's pet projects.
- 12 Spend new monies on enhancing transportation, Parks & Rec., culture and climate.
- 13 Spend money on infrastructure.
- 14 Fix the roads.
- 15 Invest new revenues in projects that will raise revenues. All of the idea's for revenue will hurt business.
- 16 Build a Casino
- 17 Pay down the debt
- 18 Get money to build public playground. Improve good quality of life living
- 19 Set by-law to improve city beauty - reduce maintenance cost - set bill board tax only
- 20 Eliminate bill board - made city beauty - reduce budget to remove those illegal bill board
- 21 To solve fiscal imbalance
- 22 Set by-law to the illegal bill boards instead of reduce the tax expenditure.
- 23 To help solve the fiscal imbalance
- 24 Parking tax & road tax should be go to the public - transport, TTC etc.
- 25 Question #2 used for : City building programs.
- 26 Don't use any taxes for any new or old expenses.
- 27 No spending increases desired.



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#### Comments

- 1 Business can't have smoking rooms, yet the City gives out cigarettes
- 2 Noticed a down grading of City services over the years (i.e. garbage on the streets)
- 3 Ottawa is laughing at Toronto
- 4 No new taxes
- 5 It's expensive to live in Toronto
- 6 Want more public consultation
- 7 Recycle coffee cups
- 8 Question #2 is offensive and I will not give more taxes.
- 9 If I agree to new taxes, I would like to get rid of City waste.
- 10 We don't want nor agree with any new revenues. (Trick question deserves trick answer)
- 11 Please water your own plants.
- 12 Where did the reserve fund go?
- 13 For Why we need.
- 14 We don't believe City will use revenue wisely.
- 15 Consultations should be advertised more. Poor advertisement of these consultations,
- 16 Need to reduce Miller's staff.
- 17 We do not want new taxes.
- 18 Why is there an assumption that the new taxes are in place.
- 19 Miller seems to be talking for old Toronto area.
- 20 City should be run like a private Company.
- 21 Mayor is seeing everything linear and needs to look at things more circular.
- 22 Improve Library long hour for keeping young people to do right think after the school time.
- 23 Hockey games raise money for paying back to community (Take this as an example)
- 24 Discount transit - attract people to use public transport especially for University Students
- 25 If the City is asking me for \$, they should know what they want it for. It is irresponsible to ask us for more money without a plan.
- 26 If people will pay more taxes, they will complain and the whole City will have a revolution.
- 27 Businesses are going to be exempt from taxes.
- 28 The union should recognized that if there is not enough money - do not hire more people. Instead, they should hire volunteers.
- 29 The City is focusing on small things. Take too much taxes for security (police)
- 30 The City won't solve its Financial problems through this tax.
- 31 This is insulting tax payers - Tuition is affecting students.
- 32 Taxes should be allocated properly. Homeless people are suffering
- 33 Water rate is being increased every year.



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- 34 There is garbage everywhere. We are already paying a lot of taxes.
- 35 Mayor not at majority of meetings
- 36 Go to zero based budgeting
- 37 Cut sidewalk plowing/only for seniors request
- 38 Reduce expenditures today off Dec. 7 and trans/transportation
- 39 Mayor should not expand space, (office) to increase and waste the city budget.
- 40 Multi-zone transport fare should be introduced - made cheap tickets



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- 35 We will pay taxes if City has more credibility. How can they say more if they give themselves 90% salary increase.
- 36 C of T needs to focus on its spending rather than adding new taxes. Zero based financing. The City needs to lead by fiscal accountability! Get your house and spending in order!
- 37 City should look at cost savings that could be generated by opening contracts to non-union shops/service providers.
- 38 No new taxes
- 39 No new taxes, review the grants.
- 40 No new taxes are justified. Find new funds in budget.
- 41 Remove money from Councilor expenses to pay for budget items.
- 42 No new taxes.
- 43 Taxes are unfair. Cancel current programs to save money. Cut office expenses.
- 44 No new taxes. Work with private sector (i.e garbage collection).
- 45 Eliminate Councilor pay raise to save money.
- 46 Cut Council size in half. Toronto has 23 MP's 23 MPP's. Why do we need 44 councilors?
- 47 No new taxes. Cut pet projects.
- 48 Perks: cut them.
- 49 No new taxes : reduce spending.
- 50 Use volunteers for basic city services (i.e high school ) requirement.
- 51 Shame on them for saving only .7% on taxes.
- 52 Councilors use existing staff for gen. maintenance (ie plant watering)
- 53 Jail system - use inmates for City maintenance.
- 54 Wants from needs - councilor perks; NPS; Mayors office.
- 55 Is it true that spending is out of control.
- 56 City staff should work in private sector.
- 57 We have to take a more frugal approach.
- 58 Parking tax - only welcome tax on large car or truck and dangerous truck.
- 59 Vehicle Registration tax - only accept increase for big and heavy car.
- 60 With the exception of tax on cigarettes, do not tax more this city. Contract out, streamline, freeze existing taxes?
- 61 The city should consider a debt reduction tax.
- 62 No new land transfer taxes
- 63 First time home buyers be exempt from future land transfer taxes.
- 64 In favor of congestion taxes: time based ie rush hour - all major arteries - use electronic means.
- 65 Amusement tax - not agree the increase even at the present time. Tax still so high.
- 66 We have lower property tax rates - these are better than options.
- 67 Tax offshore buyers.
- 68 Vehicle Registration Tax - cannot raise up; only let people .... on TTC bus.
- 69 Cost for tourism - if tourist cannot afford resident also cannot pay for the high tax.
- 70 Concerned how new taxes will (all taxes) affect people on the outskirts of the City.
- 71 New taxes will impact on the buyer's market for real estate.
- 72 Land Transfer tax will affect new home buyers (force them out of the City).



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73 Charging taxes on products such as alcohol and cigarettes is a wrong idea. Someone can move products from point A to point B. If they think they can make profit out of it, they will buy products (cigarettes, beer, wine, liquor) from the place which is cheaper (905 area) and sell them at the other place (416 area) which he can make profit. It means we are asking for black market. Movable product with different tax rate will cause a lot of problem and crime.

74 We are going to shop at outside of Toronto. The small businesses are going to close down. I see more empty stores in the future. Especially mom and pop stores, movie theaters, restaurant and LCBO, ordinary people is the one suffer most. "we all are going to move out". We will see Harlem city like Washington. Out of City of Toronto.

75 New taxes on entertainment will reduce tourism and also reduce local people spending entertainment funds here.

76 Additions cost for retailer to implement new taxes ie cash machine. Independent owner cannot afford taxes if price go higher more insurance.

77 Increase taxes on tobacco. Higher prices on cigarettes the more crime. Create black market economy. City will lost taxes.

78 The restaurant / bar industries are taxed enough and losing business. New taxes will only cause more losses which they can't afford.

79 Entertainment already has incurred a 16% tax. adding anything in this queue would be to the detriment of the industry.

80 Theatres and industry is already challenged to get and keep customers and keep staff employed. Any new taxes will significantly hurt an already injured business sector. Low and mid income patrons will no longer have access to family entertainment.'

81

Movie industry is suffering because of tax increase. You want disappear our cultural events. Movie theater is suffering because of taxes. (CFIB) Land Transfer tax - no.

82 Small businesses will be affected for this new tax.

83 Taxes are unfairly focused on specific users. Tax burden is not shared equally.

84 Do not impose congestion charges, as they will kill downtown business. Business will move to 905.

85 C of T is will lose more to outside municipalities which will have more of a competitive edge to offer.'

86 The option you are adopting will hurt small businesses. This strategy will damage small businesses, no taxes.

87 1600 convenient stores will be directly affected, will go north (905) to get better tax break. Tempting to close and ..... Forcing small store owners especially near borders.

88 Small business are struggling now and new taxes will cause more closures and relocations of these family and entrepreneurial enterprises. If any new taxes are implemented many will leave the city to live, shop and be entertained elsewhere.

89 Keep taxing businesses kill the downtown.

90 House prices are already high/tough on buyers.



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Comments

- 1 Competition ... the City must face facts ... it is competing for industry bases, citizens, homes, service provision, product provision!
- 2 If the C of T cannot give a competitive edge to its "supporters" they will lose much more than \$ ... they'll lose sense and people.
- 3 Taxes do not increase proportion to salaries.
- 4 TTC expand - should expand TTC line from Sheppard to Scarborough.
- 5 I don't like GST on household utilities (gas, electricity etc.) It is like robbery.
- 6 Must of .. Younger crowd. They are our future to consultations. Too many ... program.
- 7 Nobody listen to us at these consultation meetings.
- 8 Tuitions at university are high, consider this.
- 9 Big businesses are depleting small businesses.
- 10 Tax increase if implemented - lose of high quality people stay in City like graduated children.
- 11 Should have been discussed during the last election. Media dropped the ball.
- 12 Forcing small store owners especially near borders.
- 13 Conservation, sustainability transportation are key issues change our life style.
- 14 Stop the charade of trying to disguise taxes as revenue tools.
- 15 Economics trump political stupidity at all levels.
- 16 Complaint about timing; the general manager should give her opinion; the Mayor is not present in this meeting.
- 17  
This could be called "taxes that shrink the economy"; looks at the balance between growing and technology; why the City is paying high cost when the city is in deficit?
- 18 Everyone will be leaving Toronto. All the money generated from taxes is useless.
- 19 Re new highrises: maintenance fees will go up 50%: should true figure be shown as of day! (after subsidies).
- 20 Need to get value for taxes - what will I get?
- 21 Scarborough was in the black.
- 22 Income tax deductions have been squeezed.
- 23 Should be more consultations.
- 24 Residents need business to work in.
- 25 City is letting ... driving them out
- 26 (Ford motions) Is FPD doing its job if these things slip through - is this the tip of the ice-berg?
- 27 Shouldn't be rushing too fast rail road.
- 28 some infill is instant slum.
- 29 Property tax made people to decrease mortgage afford by moving to low quality house.
- 30 Put money that is taxed back of where it is intended.
- 31 Have a special, high levy on parking for provincial workers.
- 32 To Mr. Miller - Why don't you go back to federal government and ask for 1% of GST back? If that amount is \$400 million dollars, then you do not have to do all this. Why you have to ask for money from little guys like us. You are seeking for only \$200 million dollar gain with this new tax from us.
- 33 We should charge for swimming. They do in Oshawa.
- 34 We don't mind paying but is our taxes actually going towards what the City needs?
- 35 You raise taxes we to 905 area.
- 36 Is this tax going towards the current debt? Wants or needs.



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37 With the new taxes being brought in the rise of the administration cost is going to be high causing the revenue to be reduced.

38 Single parents will be affected.

39 You want to charge for garbage. What do you think we are? Goose that lay the golden egg. Please don't kill the Goose!!!

40 Are there other taxes that could be applied.

41 Should reinstate user fees, if poorer people can not afford they should be subsidized.

42 No new taxes. Work with business partners to find new revenue sources.

43 No new taxes. Issue camp permits in parks and establish ski hills and tow tickets.

44 Independent Audit should be done to find revenue.

45 Accelerate the focus of reducing the tax load on commercial / industrial business.

46 No more taxes. This is really a crazy strategy. Gas is already high, and you want still increase taxes?

47 Free admission to parking; not taxes to exhibition place; I .... Moving outside of Toronto because of highest taxes. Congestion charges, don't do it in Toronto; not more taxes and cut spending.

48 Why should a buyer pay LTT - inefficient \$.. To get \$2K (all 1st mortgage - high ratio), interest, insurance.

49 LTT - pay when you buy not when you leave.

50 LTT - \$11K hit is 'worst case' probably \$8 - 11K.