

## **Budgeting for the City of Toronto's Future**

**Date:** January 11, 2022  
**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** City Council  
**Wards:** Ward: All

### **CITY COUNCIL DECISION**

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City Council on December 15, 16 and 17, 2021, referred Motion MM38.4 to the Executive Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to prepare a report of outstanding Council approved budget requests, operational costs, and capital improvements in advance of determining the tax-supported budget.
2. City Council direct the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to recommend options for additional revenue streams to support meeting the above budget necessities in advance of determining the tax support budget, including, but not limited to, options for:
  - a. Sales Revenue Tax; and
  - b. Vehicle Registration Tax.

### **SUMMARY**

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COVID-19 has laid bare systemic inequalities and has left the City of Toronto scrambling to fill services gaps. Chronic underfunding of necessary services is rampant and leaves residents without essential services. In order to adequately address service gaps, and chronic underfunding, the City of Toronto needs to re-evaluate how we determine the tax-supported budget.

Historically, the City of Toronto evaluated budgetary needs and then determined the tax-supported rate for residents. In 2010, Mayor Rob Ford changed this process. Since then, the City of Toronto has determined the tax-supported budget rate and then discussed which services get funded through the budget. As we recover from COVID-19, it is critical that this process be re-evaluated.

The Federal and Provincial governments have not sufficiently responded to the City's continued calls for financial support around integral services like supportive, affordable, and transitional housing and mental health and addictions services. In order to support the needs of the residents of Toronto, we need to consider how we can better address underserved City divisions. If we truly wish to have a recovery for all, we each need to invest in our future and the vision of our City.