



2024 Budget Consultation

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Toronto’s budget is a reflection of the City’s priorities, current needs and future goals. The budget is stronger when it considers the diversity of residents, communities, and businesses that make up our city and how to deliver the best municipal services within our local, regional and intergovernmental context.

City Council will be considering Toronto’s 2024 budget soon, making critical decisions about services, the City’s financial challenges and securing a New Deal for Toronto from the provincial and federal governments. These decisions impact Toronto’s ability to deliver services and programs that support an equitable and affordable quality of life for all.

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Thank you for your participation!
Learn more at www.toronto.ca/budget



Ways to share your input

Provide your feedback and join the online discussion

- [ThoughtExchange](#) is an interactive online tool to tell the City what's most important to you and see and comment on others' ideas.
- You'll be invited to answer a short confidential survey and to openly share and comment on ideas with other Torontonians.

Participate in public sessions in person or online

- Meet the Budget Chair, other Members of City Council and senior City staff
- Ask questions and learn about this year's budget process and financial challenges
- Share your ideas and hear the ideas of other Torontonians in breakout discussions
- Contribute to and hear the latest updates from the online ThoughtExchange discussions

Host your own conversations

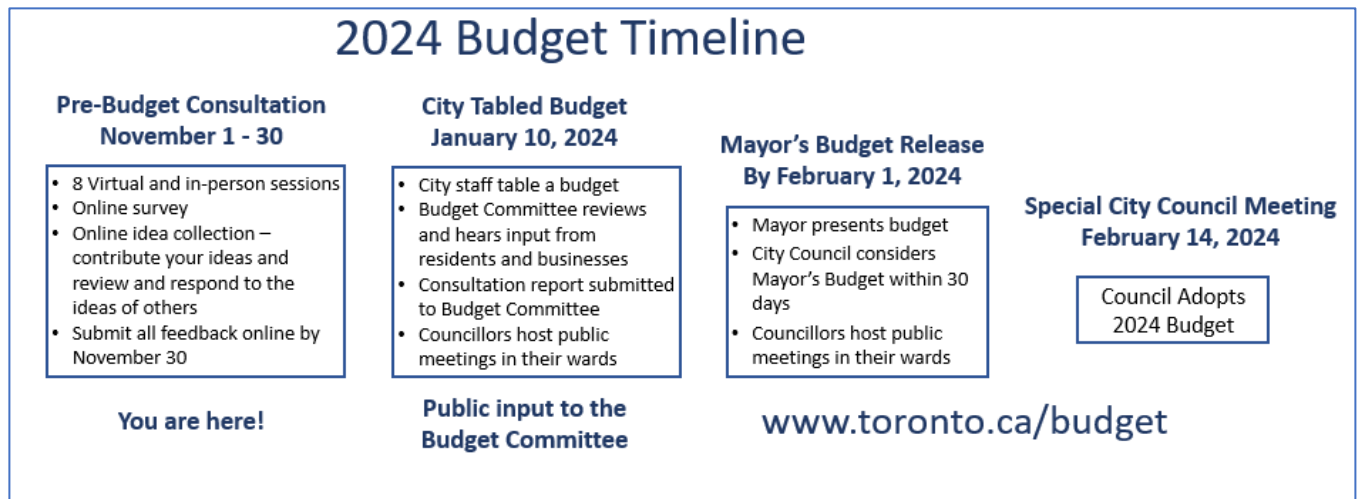
- Meet with your neighbours, and if you're a member of a community group or organization you can spread the word at any meeting they may be hosting.
- Use this guide to support your discussions and submit feedback online through [ThoughtExchange](#).

Stay Informed and Involved

- If you want to stay involved and informed on a New Deal for Toronto or have additional thoughts on the 2024 budget, email Mayor Olivia Chow and Budget Chair Shelley Carroll at NewDeal@toronto.ca

Who's Listening?

- **Mayor Chow** is currently working to secure agreements, funding and long-term financial sustainability for Toronto with the Federal and Provincial governments
- **City and agency staff** are preparing the budget that is tabled in January for Council and Budget Committee review
- **This consultation runs from November 1-30** and public input will be provided to Budget Committee and the public in January
- The **Budget Committee**, chaired by Councillor Shelley Carroll, meets in January to review the budget, hear more from the public, and finalize their budget recommendations
- In **February**, the Mayor will present her Budget and Council will meet to adopt the 2024 budget. The 2024 Budget Committee members are:
 - Councillor Shelley Carroll, Chair
 - Councillor Gord Perks, Vice-Chair
 - Councillor Lily Cheng
 - Councillor Chris Moise
 - Deputy Mayor Amber Morley
 - Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie
- To find out who your Councillor is call 311 or visit www.toronto.ca/members-of-council



Questions

The consultation questions are the same whether you choose to participate online, at a public meeting, or if you are hosting your own discussions.

Question 1: The City delivers important services which are funded through its budget. Each year, City Council makes decisions about the budget for each service. Some budgets are increased, others are decreased, and the rest stay the same.

**I think City Council should consider increasing the budget for the following service:
(Select one):**

- Affordable housing and shelters
- Animal services
- Arts, culture, entertainment and attractions
- Building permits and inspections
- Child care
- Community grants, partnerships and programs for youth
- Employment and social services
- Enforcement of bylaws and licensing
- Environment and climate
- Fire services
- Garbage, recycling and green bin
- Libraries
- Long-term care homes and services for seniors
- Maintaining roads, bike lanes and sidewalks
- Paramedics
- Parking
- Parks and recreation
- Planning and development
- Police
- Promoting and supporting Toronto businesses
- Public health
- TTC and Wheel Trans
- Water treatment and distribution

**Question 2: Please tell us why you selected this service.
(Select all that apply)**

- Supports environmental and climate action
- Supports truth, justice and reconciliation
- Makes sure everyone in Toronto has equitable access to services and supports
- Makes it easier to get around
- Supports social, physical and mental well-being
- Makes life easier or more affordable
- Helps build the economy, supports businesses, job creation or employment

- Makes Toronto safer
- Supports the city's development and prepares for future growth
- This is a fundamental municipal service
- Is a good use of my property taxes or user fees
- Other: _____

**Question 3: The service I think the City should decrease funding to is:
(Select one):**

- Affordable housing and shelters
- Animal services
- Arts, culture, entertainment and attractions
- Building permits and inspections
- Child care
- Community grants, partnerships and programs for youth
- Employment and social services
- Enforcement of bylaws and licensing
- Environment and climate
- Fire services
- Garbage, recycling and green bin
- Libraries
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- Water treatment and distribution

**Question 4: Please tell us why you selected this service.
(Select all that apply)**

- The money should go to another program or service
- Enough of my money goes to this service already
- Benefits some Toronto residents more than others
- The money to support it should come from another level of government
- The City should not deliver this service anymore
- It needs to be more effective before the City spends more money on this service
- It no longer meets the needs of Toronto's residents
- Other: _____

Question 5: The Mayor is seeking a New Deal with the Province of Ontario to achieve long-term stability and sustainability of Toronto's finances.

The City of Toronto continues to fill the gap in funding for services that are within the Provincial Government's responsibilities, resulting in a \$1.5 billion operating budget shortfall. These services should be properly funded by them. These services include housing and emergency shelters, highways, public safety, refugees and transit.

Do you agree that the provincial government should step up and pay for their responsibilities?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Question 6: The City of Toronto continues to fill the gap in funding for services that are within the Federal Government's responsibilities and should be properly funded by them. These services include housing, transit, health and refugee settlement.

Do you agree that the federal government should step up and pay for their responsibilities?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Question 7: What actions would you take with your neighbours to get a New Deal and achieve long-term stability and sustainability of Toronto's finances (select all that apply)

- Meet and speak with my local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) and Member of Parliament (MP)
- Ask friends to also contact their MPP and MP to support a New Deal
- Participate in the provincial budget consultations
- Participate in the federal budget consultations
- Sign a petition to the provincial and federal parliaments

Question 8: Please provide the first three characters of your postal code (e.g. M5H)

Question 9: What is your age?

- Under 10
- 10-19
- 20-29
- 30-54
- 55-65

- 65+
- Prefer not to answer

Question 9: Please select any of the following lived experience descriptions that you identify with. (Select all that apply)

- Identify as Indigenous to Canada (First Nations, Inuit or Metis)
- From a racialized community
- New to Canada (less than 5 years)
- Have lived experience of homelessness
- Member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community
- Living with disability
- Low income
- My primary language is not English or French
- None of these apply to me or prefer not to answer
- Other

Question 10: What is the most important action the City needs to take to make Toronto affordable, livable and equitable for all?

Background Information

Toronto faces unprecedented financial challenges.

The City faces a known \$46.5 billion pressure over 10 years due to:

- Continued impacts of COVID-19
- Rising inflation
- Increased interest rates
- Supply chain disruptions, specialized labour shortages, competitive labour market
- Obligations associated with transit expansion
- Growing demand for services
- Unanticipated legislative changes

The City, federal and provincial governments work together but have different responsibilities.

- **Municipal: City of Toronto**
The City of Toronto is responsible for water treatment, parks, libraries, garbage collection, public transit, land use planning, traffic signals, police, paramedics, fire services, sewers, homeless shelters, childcare, recreation centres and more. Powers are defined by the [City of Toronto Act, 2006](#).
- **Provincial: Government of Ontario**
The Government of Ontario is responsible for: health, education, energy, human rights, natural resources, environment, social services, driver and vehicle licensing and more. Powers are defined by the Constitution Act, 1867.
- **Federal: Government of Canada**
The Government of Canada is responsible for: national defence and Canadian Armed Forces, postal service, banking, employment, citizenship and immigration, census, foreign affairs and international trade, agriculture and more. Powers defined by the Constitution Act, 1867.

www.Toronto.ca/budget – introductory information as well as detailed budget documents, notes, reports and presentations for every City service

www.Toronto.ca/council – for current information on City Council and Committees meetings including the Budget Committee

www.Toronto.ca/intergovernmental-affairs - for information on key agreements, programs and relationships between the City of Toronto and other levels of government

www.Toronto.ca/subscribe - to receive email notices about the City including Council and committees

Budget terms

Balancing the Budget: Surpluses and Deficits: The City is required by provincial law to balance its operating and capital budget each year – which means that the money spent must be equal to the money raised.

- To **balance** the budget, the City can either increase its taxes and fees or change or reduce the cost or amount of services provided.
- When the City spends less or raises more money than it thought it would, it might end up with a **surplus**. 75 percent of operating budget surpluses must go to the Capital Budget for infrastructure projects and 25 percent to top-up reserves.
- The City has **never had a deficit** - never spent more than its existing revenues.
- Ontario municipalities may issue long-term debt **only for capital** and not operating expenses.

Capital Budget: The Capital Budget pays for the City's infrastructure, construction and repair of transit, roads, bridges, parks and public buildings including libraries, community centres and fire stations. The 10-year Capital Budget and Plan is updated and presented each year as part of the budget process. The Capital Budget is primarily funded from reserves, development charges, other governments and through borrowing.

Cost-shared Services: Several City services are paid for through agreements between the City and other governments. For example, shelters, daycare, emergency medical services, public health and income support programs are funded by both the City and the Province of Ontario.

Gross and Net: The **Gross** budget is the total cost to deliver programs and services. Once any funding and subsidies for cost-shared services and fees and charges for programs and services are subtracted, the remaining amount is the Net. The **Net** budget is the amount of the operating budget paid for by taxes and fees

Operating Budget: The Operating Budget covers day-to-day spending on services such as recreation programs, parks maintenance, public health, roads, transit, police and other emergency services. Approximately 32 percent of the Operating Budget comes from property taxes, the rest from provincial grants and subsidies, and user fees.

Rate-supported Programs: The City also has three rate supported programs funded almost entirely by **user fees**: Toronto Water, Solid Waste Management and the Toronto Parking Authority. For example, water fees are based on how much water you use, and households pay different fees depending on the size of garbage bins they have. User fees pay for all or some of the services and the infrastructure to deliver them.

Reserves: Funds set aside by City Council to save over time for capital expenses, protect against fluctuating markets, or respond to unbudgeted or unforeseen events. Council may direct reserve funds to be for general or specific purposes.

Toronto's Actions for Long-Term Financial Sustainability

City Council recently approved an updated Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) that identified immediate and long-term options including reviewing what we spend money on now, new ways to raise revenue, deciding what capital projects we should prioritize, selling or leasing assets, and intergovernmental funding arrangements.

Council approved the following immediate actions:

- a graduated land transfer tax for high-value residential properties (valued at \$3 million and higher)
- removing the \$5.00 cap for on-street parking hourly rates and
- adjusting the Vacant Home Tax from 1.0% of assessed property value to 3.0%

Council also approved a list of other potential actions for staff to review further including:

- Commercial parking levy
- New levy to pay for 911 next-generation technology
- Foreign Buyer Land Transfer Tax
- Remove the non-residential non-ground floor development charge exemptions
- Review surplus and underutilized assets
- An emissions performance charge for buildings
- Additional residential land transfer tax where the purchaser owns more than one property
- A levy per passenger from Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport
- Graduated property taxes for high-value properties that are not the owner's primary residence
- A municipal lottery
- Funding to ensure the City can deliver 978 new long-term care beds
- New funding model for the TTC and future provincial transit expansion projects
- Operation and maintenance funding for Eglinton Crosstown and Finch West
- Request Province upload responsibility and costs for Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway.

Find out more at www.toronto.ca/long-term-financial-plan

