

Budget 2026:Creating our Budget – Survey Results

Tiffany Farrell, Director of Corporate Services
Heather Kepran, Manager of Strategic Communications

Middlesex Centre Municipal Council Meeting, September 3, 2025



About the 2026 Budget Survey

- 315 Total Responses
- THANK YOU to everyone that completed the survey!
- Opened July 7 to August 18, 2025
- Advertised via tax bill insert, posters at Komoka Wellness Centre and main office, website, social media, e-newsletter and the municipal pages in Middlesex Banner and in Ilderton Villager and Kilworth-Komoka-Delaware Villager
- Results will be used to inform the 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets for Middlesex Centre, as outlined in Budget Development Timeline

Approved Budget Development Timeline



Timeline	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	Post-Budget Approva 2026
Plan									
Mayor calls for budget preparation	61								
Develop budget guidlelines									
Strike budget committee									
Review multi-year plans Revise departmental workplans									
Discuss									
Post budget process to website & other media	B	YI.							
Conduct public budget survey									
Review budget survey results				Ī					
Develop									
inalize budget estimates									
Prepare draft budgets									
Review draft budgets with budget committee & refine as required									
Present & Approve									
Mayor presents budget to council									
Amendment, veto & override									
process Approval of budget & related									
Approval of budget & related by-laws by council						à			
Post draft & final budgets to vebsite									
Monitor & Review									
Review of budget-to-actuals by									
Council (operating - monthly, capital - quarterly)									
Present budget amendments to									

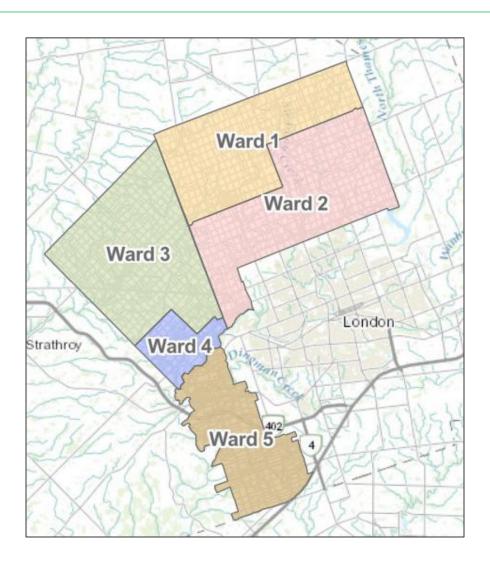


Budget Survey Structure

- Survey structure:
 - Similar to last year's survey, but with additional questions on asset management.
 - Two questions provided space for written responses:
 - One asked "Which infrastructure requires improvement?" for those that indicated that infrastructure was not always being maintained to an acceptable standard.
 - One asked for any additional comments that should be considered during the 2026 budget deliberations.
- Additional section as questions about customer service experiences. These results will be summarized for Council as part of the annual customer service update.
- Several questions provided demographic information.

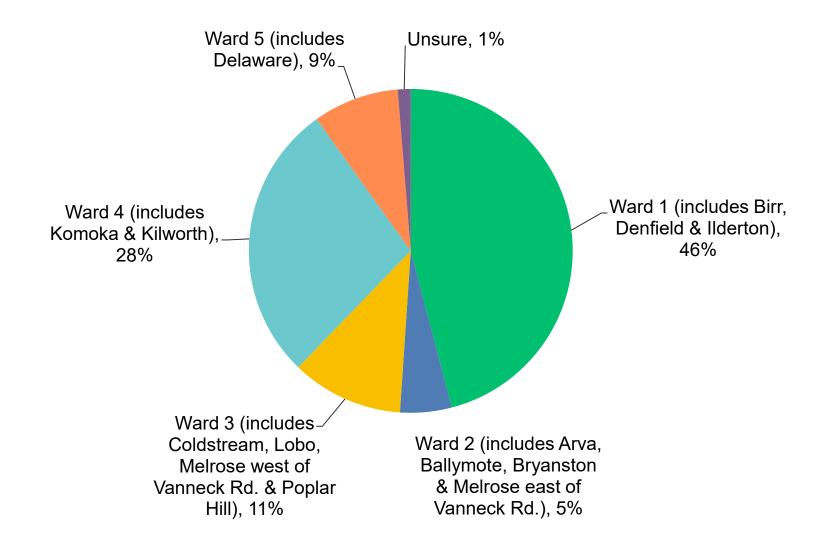


About the Responding Residents



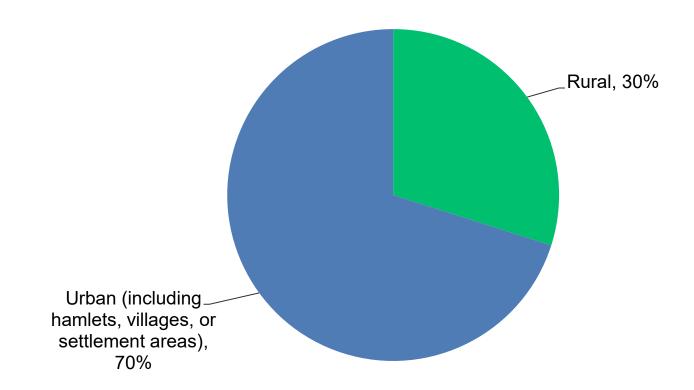
Q18: Where in Middlesex Centre do you live?

Answered: 233 Skipped: 82



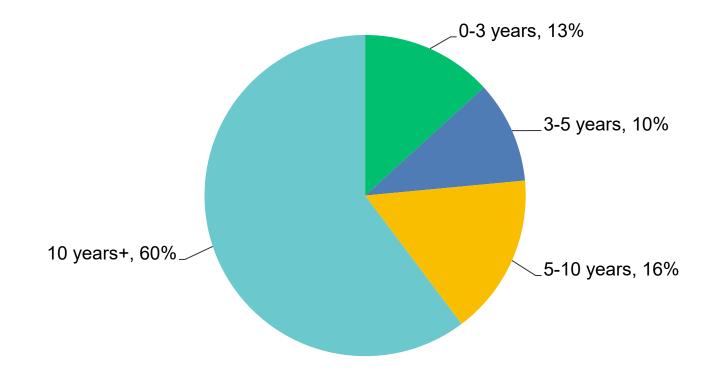
Q19: Would you describe your home as being in a rural or urban setting?

Answered: 234 Skipped: 81



Q20: How long have you lived in Middlesex Centre?

Answered: 234 Skipped: 81





What We Heard







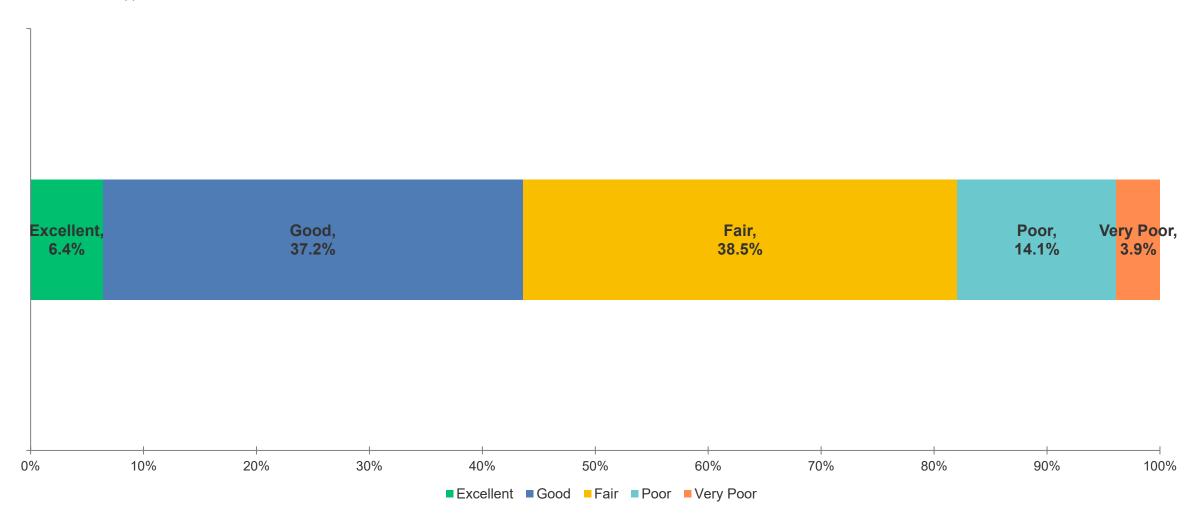






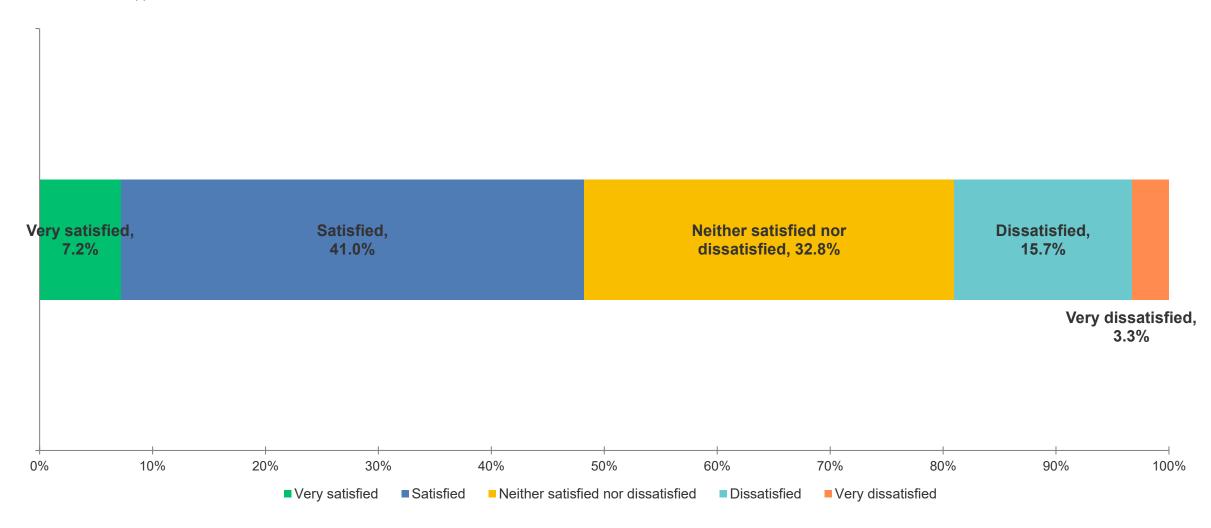
Q1: Thinking about the part of your taxes that go to Middlesex Centre, how would you rate the overall value you received for your tax dollars?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 3



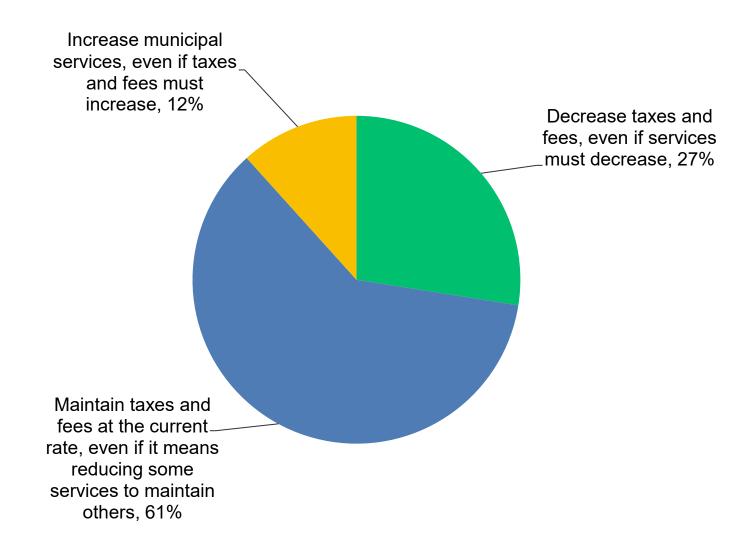
Q2: Overall, how satisfied are you with the delivery of all the services provided by Middlesex Centre?

Answered: 305 Skipped: 10



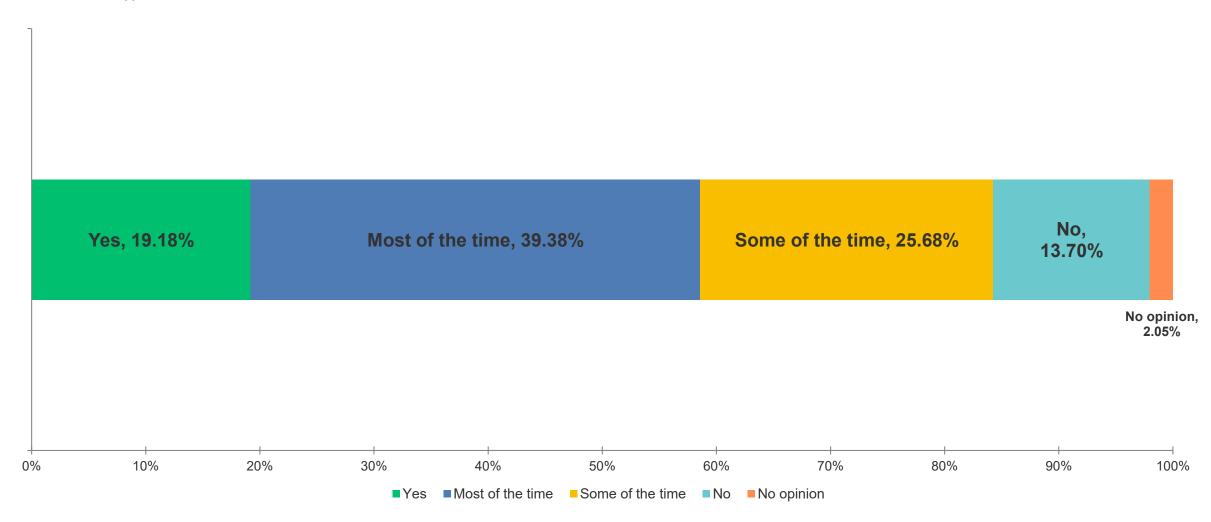
Q3: When thinking about the municipal budget and your tax dollars, which statement comes closest to your point of view?

Answered: 291 Skipped: 24



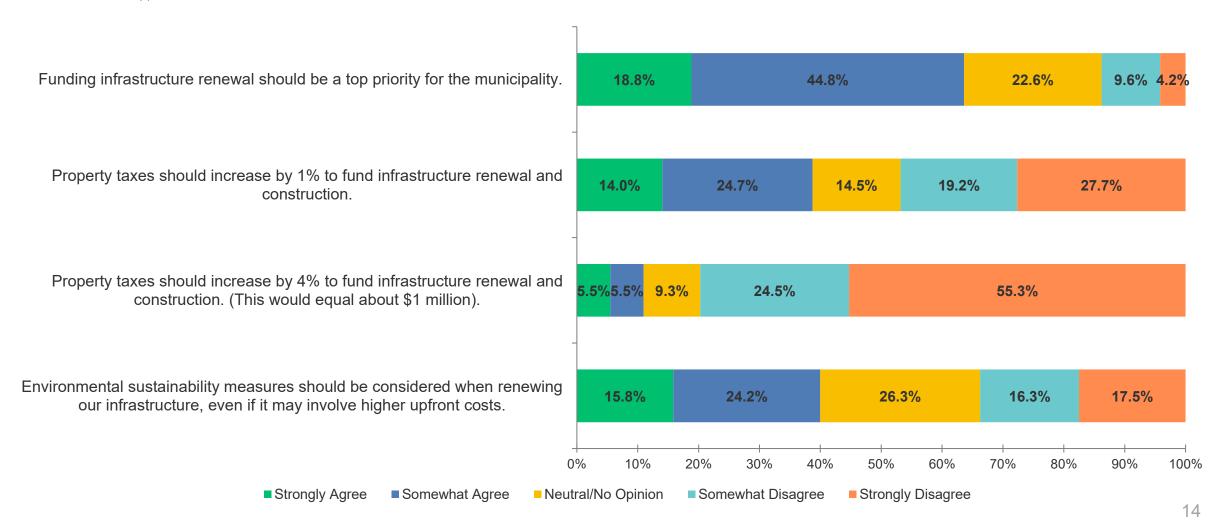
Q4: Overall, do you agree that the municipality is maintaining its infrastructure to an acceptable standard?

Answered: 291 Skipped: 24



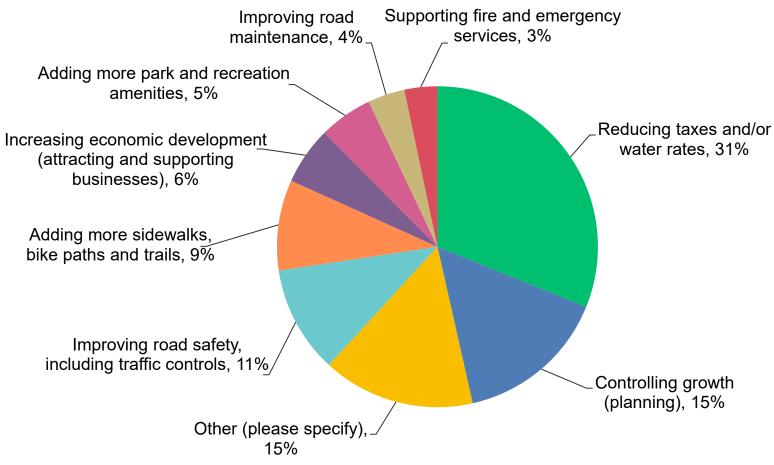
Q6: In 2025, Middlesex Centre has budgeted \$29.6 million for infrastructure renewal and construction. Our recently completed Long-Range Financial Plan suggests that we should be adding an additional \$1 million each year to our capital budget to start to close the infrastructure gap. With this in mind, how strongly do you agree with the following statements related to municipal infrastructure?

Answered: 241 Skipped: 71



Q7: If there was one thing that you'd like the budget to address in 2026, what would it be?

Answered: 241 Skipped: 74



Other included several comments on:

- Reducing spending, taxes and water rates
- Road safety concerns
- Growth and development issues



Written Comments from Survey

- Residents were asked two questions that required written responses:
 - Which infrastructure requires improvement? Please be specific as possible.(135 responses)
 - Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2026 Budget deliberations.(115 responses)
- Staff sorted and combined responses on similar issues / topics. If a resident commented on more than one issue in a response, their response was split to allow for response to each topic.
- Sharing the Comments:
 - All comments are compiled and provided to Middlesex Centre's departments for consideration in the budget preparations.
 - Comments received will be posted to the Budget 2026 webpage with this presentation. Overview follows.

Q5: Which infrastructure requires improvement?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 180

- Residents indicated that the following infrastructure categories could be improved by either adjusting practices or adding additional infrastructure:
 - Roads Maintenance & Improvements (including street lighting): 82 comments
 - Note, of these, 15 were specific to gravel roads (conversion or maintenance, 4 were related to train crossings, several seemed to be speaking about County roads or unassumed roads
 - Additionally, there were 12 comments about road safety (plus 2 against speed bumps)
 - Active Transportation Routes trails, sidewalks and bike paths: 23 comments
 - Parks & Recreation parks and facilities (including outdoor fields, playgrounds, arenas, recreation centres and a pool): 17 comments
 - Fire and Emergency Services: 3 comments
 - Water, Wastewater and Drainage: 14 comments
 - Other Comments: Taxes/Use of Municipal Funds (6), Infrastructure Project Timing (3), Power/Hydro Stability (3), Internet/Cell Service (2), Schools (2), Trees affected by Japanese Beetles (2)

Q8: Please provide any additional comments that you would like to be considered during the 2026 Budget deliberations.

Answered: 115 Skipped: 200

- Themes seen in the comments include:
 - Keeping government spending in check, reducing taxes and water rates: 48 comments

"Tough economic and employment times for people ahead. Cost cutting of the gov should be a prime focus to make out taxes more efficiently deployed."

"Focus on maintaining our current rates and reduce any increases in the tax levy."

"...Middlesex-Centre water and sewage rates are significantly more expensive, even with the minimum fees..."

Traffic and road safety concerns: 16 comments

"As a mother, it is shocking the lack of safe walking roads there are in this community..."

• Calls for active transportation routes (sidewalks, trails, etc.): 12 comments

"An increase in sidewalk and trails to promote active life styles. Provides many benefits for residents..."

Spending on parks and recreation programs and services: 11 comments

"It is a very difficult process as Middlesex Center covers such a large geographical area (I don't envy you the decision) but please consider building facilities and services either more central or more in outlying communities instead of areas already very close to other services..."

"More Pickleball courts with lights and wind control at them for evening play."

- · Concerns about the pace of growth and related infrastructure: 9 comments
 - "Before any more growth, existing infrastructure should be maintained and upgraded."
- There were a handful of positive comments too, including "Overall it's a great place to live."



Issues Outside of Municipal Control

- Some of the comments dealt with issues outside of municipal control:
 - Concerns about power outages
 - Calls for more schools and daycare facilities
 - Issues with unassumed municipal roads and infrastructure
 - Comments referencing other municipalities / levels of government
- Where appropriate, these issues will be shared with lead agency or government department.



Written Comments from Survey – Take Aways

- Controlling government spending and reducing taxes and water rates was topof-mind with residents.
- For the question on infrastructure, road-related issues were of concern, but it should be noted that several of the specific examples referenced by residents related to roads and crossings outside of Middlesex Centre's jurisdiction (e.g., county roads, train crossings). Several people mentioned the need for the municipality and the county to work together on these issues.
- The need for road safety, traffic management, and active transportation routes were stressed in both questions.
- A desire for improvements to parks and recreation facilities was seen in the comments on both questions.
- Within some topic areas we see conflicting responses for instance, some residents
 want more traffic calming measures, and some want the speed bumps removed.
 Similarly, some residents want more parks and recreation, and others want less.

Tiffany Farrell, CPA, CA

Director of Corporate Services

Stay in Touch:

T: 519-666-0190 ext 5224

E: farrell@middlesexcentre.ca

W: middlesexcentre.ca

Heather Kepran

Manager of Strategic Communications

Stay in Touch:

T: 519-666-0190 ext 5259

E: kepran@middlesexcentre.ca

W: middlesexcentre.ca

Alternative Formats:

If you require this document in a different format, please contact Middlesex Centre at customerservice@middlesexcentre.ca or 519-666-0190.