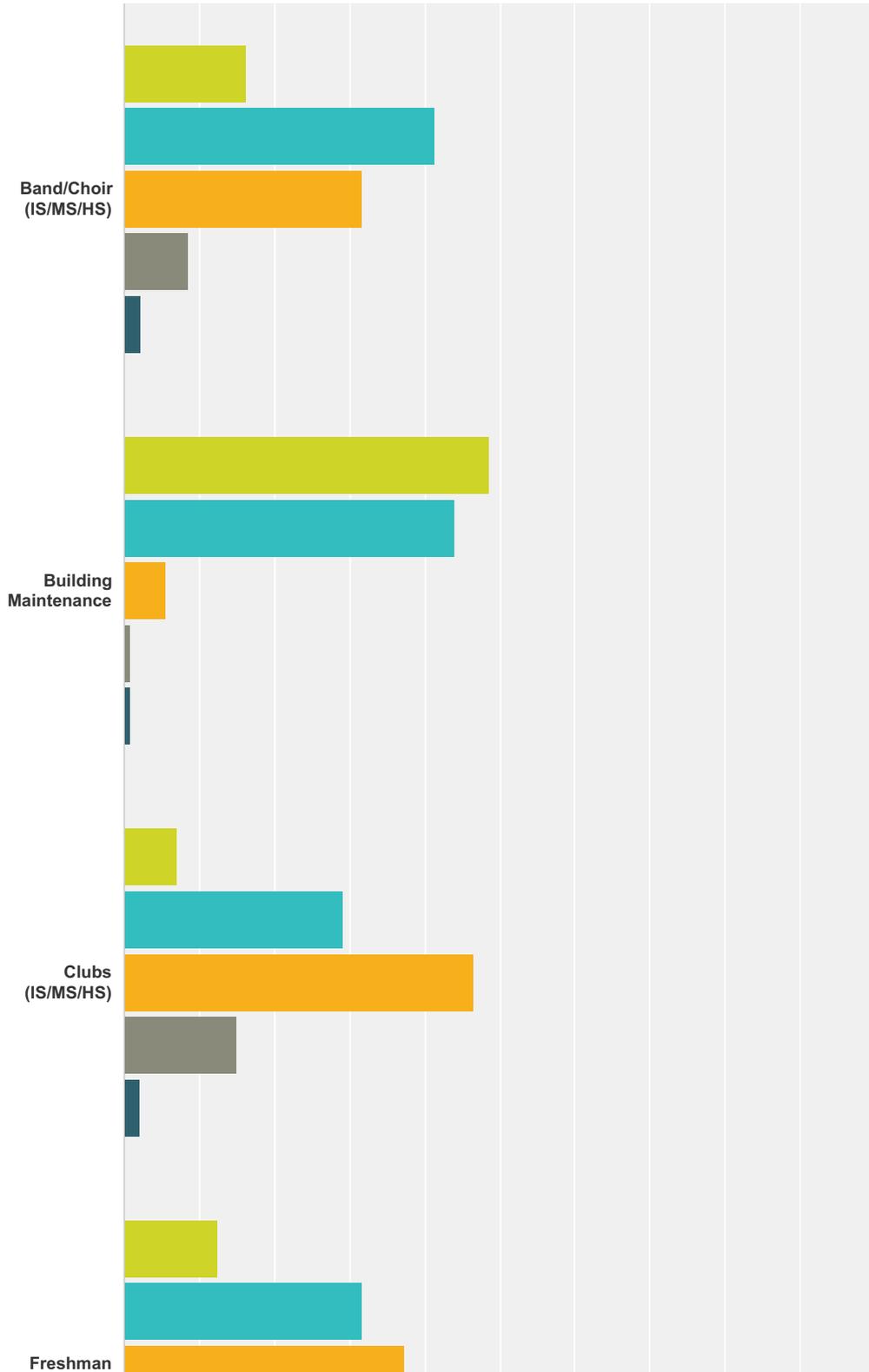
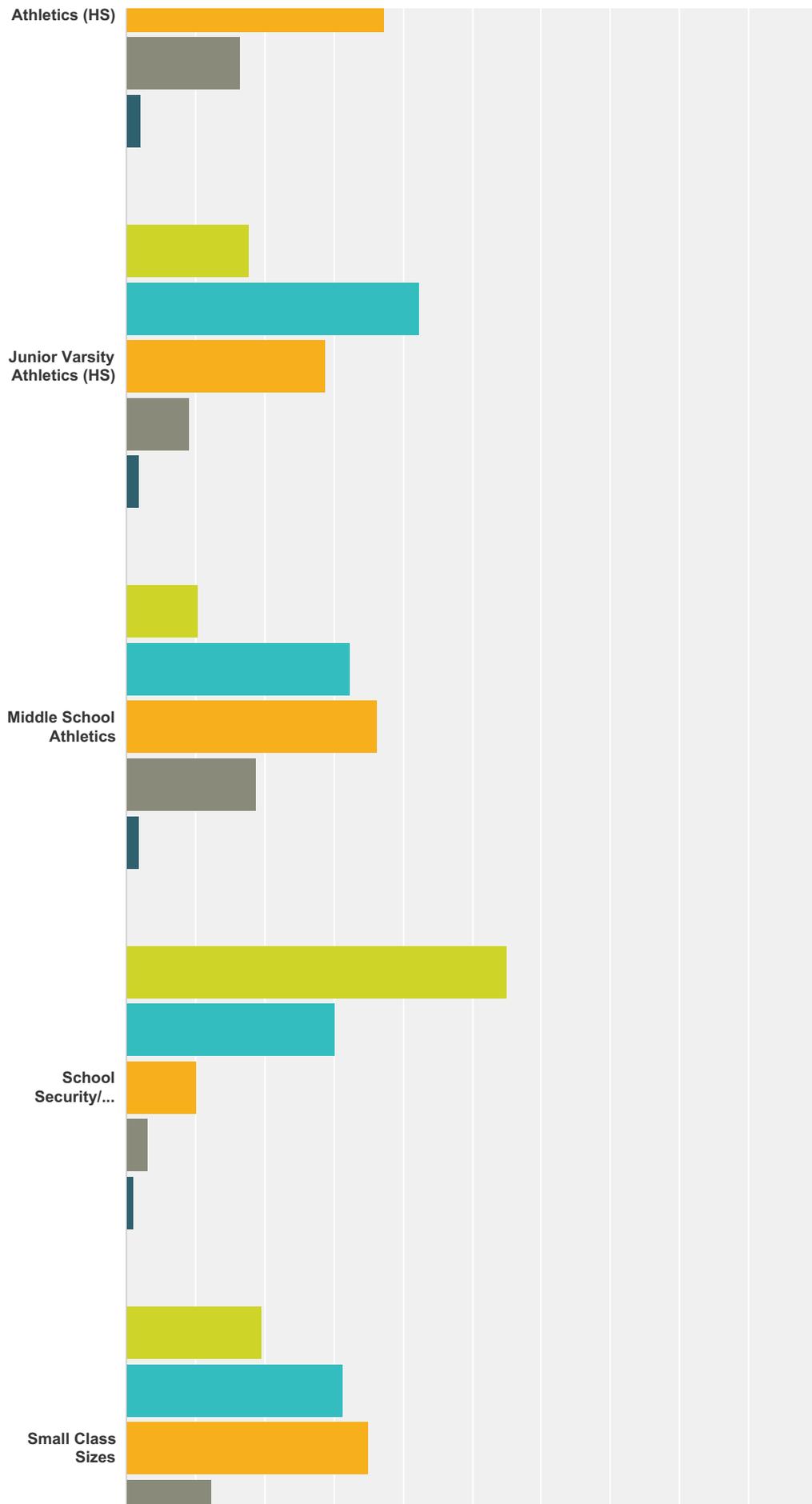
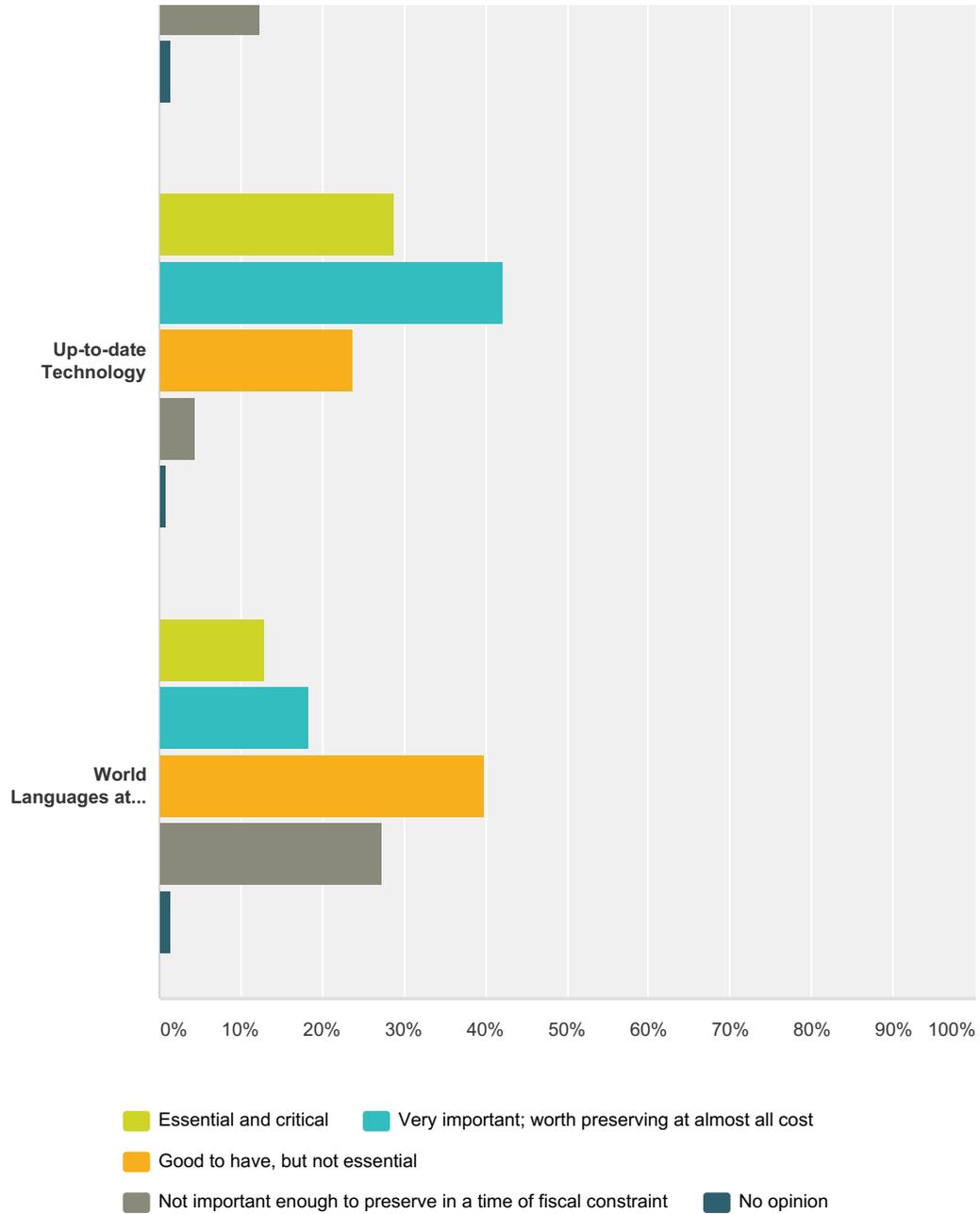


Q1 Please rate each item on its importance for Colchester schools.(ES=Elementary School IS = Intermediate School MS=Middle school HS=High school)

Answered: 657 Skipped: 1





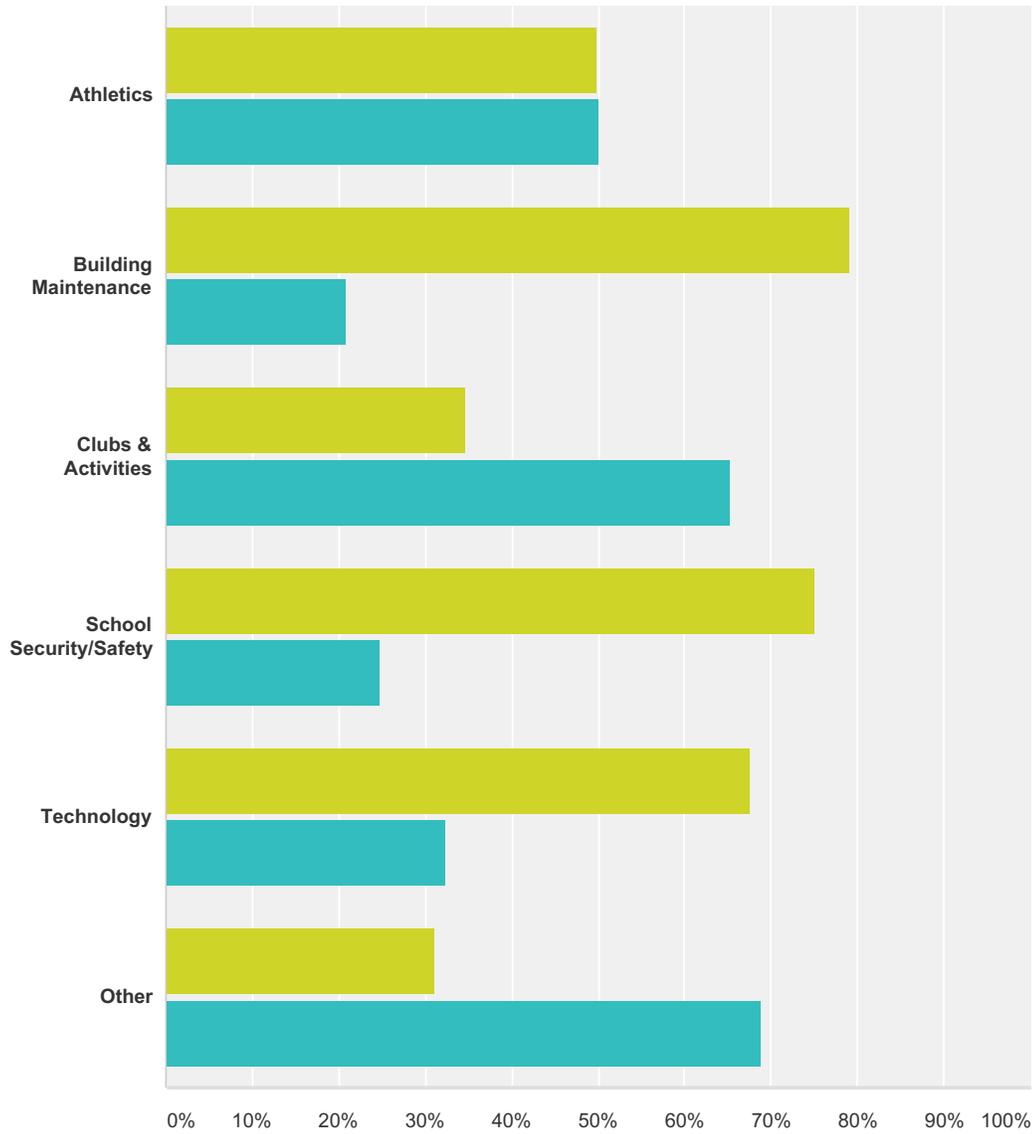


	Essential and critical	Very important; worth preserving at almost all cost	Good to have, but not essential	Not important enough to preserve in a time of fiscal constraint	No opinion	Total
Band/Choir (IS/MS/HS)	16.21% 106	41.28% 270	31.65% 207	8.56% 56	2.29% 15	654
Building Maintenance	48.70% 318	43.95% 287	5.67% 37	0.92% 6	0.77% 5	653
Clubs (IS/MS/HS)	7.15% 46	29.24% 188	46.66% 300	14.93% 96	2.02% 13	643
Freshman Athletics (HS)	12.42% 81	31.75% 207	37.27% 243	16.56% 108	1.99% 13	652
Junior Varsity Athletics (HS)	17.74% 116	42.35% 277	28.90% 189	9.17% 60	1.83% 12	654

Middle School Athletics	10.49% 68	32.41% 210	36.42% 236	18.83% 122	1.85% 12	648
School Security/ Safety	55.13% 360	30.32% 198	10.26% 67	3.22% 21	1.07% 7	653
Small Class Sizes	19.72% 129	31.35% 205	35.17% 230	12.39% 81	1.38% 9	654
Up-to-date Technology	28.79% 188	42.11% 275	23.74% 155	4.44% 29	0.92% 6	653
World Languages at Lower Grades	12.98% 85	18.32% 120	39.85% 261	27.33% 179	1.53% 10	655

Q2 For each of the items listed below, please indicate your support of additional funding in the upcoming year's school budget to maintain current services:

Answered: 651 Skipped: 7



■ I would support additional funding to maintain current programming/services
■ I would not support additional funding to maintain current programming/services

	I would support additional funding to maintain current programming/services	I would not support additional funding to maintain current programming/services	Total
Athletics	49.92% 324	50.08% 325	649
Building Maintenance	79.20% 514	20.80% 135	649

Clubs & Activities	34.59% 221	65.41% 418	639
School Security/Safety	75.19% 485	24.81% 160	645
Technology	67.65% 437	32.35% 209	646
Other	31.09% 60	68.91% 133	193

#	(please specify)	Date
1	Finding money to build a community/school indoor swimming pool is very important to me. This town needs up-to-date/trendy indoor exercise and pool community center!	2/1/2015 9:19 PM
2	Art department and graphic design needs funding	1/31/2015 8:04 PM
3	Programs that will help our schools meet and exceed state science standards	1/31/2015 5:18 PM
4	Continue to support the arts, subject matter such as Health, Physical Education, Art, Music, Technology, and Media. Health and well-being should be a priority for all schools. Improving fitness will improve upon the overall well-being and learning capacity of children and young adults.	1/31/2015 5:09 PM
5	Music department	1/31/2015 4:50 PM
6	Academics	1/31/2015 2:02 PM
7	arts	1/31/2015 1:34 PM
8	Football	1/31/2015 12:41 PM
9	Foreign language	1/31/2015 9:55 AM
10	Allocate more money to maintain the fields. Please take a look at Groton, east Lyme & Glastonbury for non turf field maintenance	1/31/2015 7:23 AM
11	Music/The Arts	1/30/2015 7:29 PM
12	Gifted Program	1/30/2015 7:15 PM
13	Music	1/30/2015 7:01 PM
14	Small classes	1/30/2015 4:41 PM
15	No additional fees.	1/30/2015 4:12 PM
16	It seems there is only one option here since there are no specific definitions. I am not sure of the value of this section .	1/28/2015 4:42 PM
17	NA	1/26/2015 9:15 PM
18	HIGH LEVEL ACADEMICS!!! This is the primary responsibility of our school system! Why is it not even listed above????	1/24/2015 8:40 PM
19	Nutrition, personal finance classes	1/24/2015 12:42 PM
20	Transportation for those living within walking distance to their school of attendance	1/23/2015 3:36 PM
21	Music and Arts and Mental Health needs	1/23/2015 3:34 PM
22	I highly support additional funding to not only maintain but improve the schools.	1/22/2015 11:42 AM
23	Arts and music	1/20/2015 9:29 PM
24	World Languages	1/19/2015 2:55 PM
25	Management Salary Increases	1/19/2015 12:08 PM
26	band	1/19/2015 8:27 AM

27	adequate school counseling services for students, adequate increases for our teachers	1/17/2015 3:01 PM
28	School libraries	1/17/2015 11:01 AM
29	mental health	1/17/2015 6:35 AM
30	Building upgrades at WJJMS	1/16/2015 9:50 PM
31	NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ANYTHING!!!	1/16/2015 6:42 PM
32	better school supplies, ie. paper, copiers, hole punchers!	1/16/2015 6:37 PM
33	music programs MUST be supported...also Languages in lower grades.	1/16/2015 4:35 PM
34	Cut budget	1/16/2015 4:05 PM
35	Special Education	1/15/2015 9:56 PM
36	Special Education Services	1/15/2015 6:35 PM
37	if this is going to require more taxation to just maintain the programs, then something needs to change. We cannot afford more taxes!	1/14/2015 9:23 PM
38	There are several unused classrooms equipped smart boards. Unnecessary money spent.	1/14/2015 1:24 PM
39	Advanced (Honors) and AP Classes	1/13/2015 4:38 PM
40	staff to teach/utilize current/available technology to students as it relates to academic learning and homework	1/13/2015 12:18 PM
41	social services for students	1/13/2015 10:21 AM
42	Additional language courses	1/13/2015 7:57 AM
43	band/chorus	1/12/2015 7:14 PM
44	Arts education for all students	1/12/2015 6:15 PM
45	Raises & hiring for Administrators,	1/12/2015 5:03 PM
46	Additional counseling services at WJ	1/12/2015 1:51 PM
47	Salary increases for all school personnel.	1/12/2015 1:44 PM
48	Small class size	1/12/2015 1:10 PM
49	Special education	1/12/2015 12:07 PM
50	Enrichment	1/12/2015 12:03 PM
51	ways of reducing utility costs	1/12/2015 11:20 AM
52	figure out how to do more with less money.	1/11/2015 4:18 PM
53	Library staff shortages	1/11/2015 11:17 AM
54	Foreign language at younger grades	1/11/2015 9:06 AM
55	Band/chorus	1/11/2015 8:04 AM
56	We don't need to increase building maintenance just to increase the budget; we need to increase the benchmark for maintenance and begin to take care of our assets. the key word is begin!!	1/11/2015 7:58 AM
57	More teachers for smaller classes; less Admin or nonessential	1/10/2015 4:57 PM
58	Increase increase Salaries to maintain quite teachers	1/10/2015 2:07 PM
59	library services and specials	1/10/2015 11:59 AM
60	Music and the Arts	1/10/2015 11:16 AM

Q3 Please use this space to add additional comments about school priorities and budget.

Answered: 141 Skipped: 517

#	Responses	Date
1	Bring back focus on basic academics!	2/1/2015 2:19 PM
2	1. Why does C3 need 10k? I was not of the impression that this was a "school" program. 2. Does the State reimburse for the cost of the new "required" 86k addition as noted in the proposed budget? 3. Can any board determine what is a true "mandate" and what is "nice to have?", especially when considering special ed and magnet school attendance - can we charge for the extra cost of transportation outside of the district?	2/1/2015 2:15 PM
3	Priorities should be academic and student performance. Outcomes are not about class size, but teaching/curriculum quality. I did fine in a class of 32.	2/1/2015 12:20 PM
4	Live within current budgets, similar to other organizations that have learned to control costs. Colchester Schools are relatively underperforming. Freeze/cut salaries, focus on core priorities - the same as any organization.	2/1/2015 11:58 AM
5	School priority should be on securing the best teacher talent available and look to redefine seniority. Sports rounds out a child's schooling as well as music and after school clubs.	2/1/2015 11:52 AM
6	1. If not done already, ALL programs should have a pay to play as with athletics - band,robotics, etc. Call it a school use fee. 2. Eliminate the free athletic play for families with more than 2 kids - financial assistance can be made available. 3. Please do not ask taxpayers to buy Apple products for a class. I feel it is insulting to ask taxpayers to support a company with ALL manufacturing in China, hidden accounts in Ireland (which they have been fined for), and a platform which does not allow other venues to participate in - they don't play nice. I feel due diligence would include researching companies that are bringing manufacturing back into the States.	1/31/2015 9:52 PM
7	It is important to keep the arts in the school.	1/31/2015 8:04 PM
8	We need real gifted programs, that includes teaching administration, and teachers how to spot gifted vs A students. We need to find ways to make drive science since every school is currently failing to meet the state target of 88 (except JJIS)	1/31/2015 5:18 PM
9	Each and every year we seek funding on the public school budgeting process. Yes, many struggle financially but it's imperative to maintain staff, buildings, and to provide what's best for our students. It's a double edged sword but it's important to provide for the future of our children. We must be prudent with our spending and honest in the approach.	1/31/2015 5:09 PM
10	Many people, based on the nature of the survey, will place a great deal of emphasis on school safety and security as critical. However, the current safety precautions taken are more than enough and cost a great deal without any tangible results in student safety. Regardless of a school safety officer, locked doors/gates, etc. no where is ever completely safe and secure and spending enormous amounts of resources as a result of fear isn't an effective policy	1/31/2015 2:02 PM
11	Teachers and their needs (excluding technology). Opportunities for advanced kids	1/31/2015 12:41 PM
12	Building maintenance should not be presented as a new item to fund. This is neglect of the Town's infrastructure.	1/31/2015 11:39 AM
13	Our schools should offer foreign languages being used now in big business (Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, etc.) Although French is a beautiful language, it's not in demand as much as some of the other languages.	1/31/2015 9:55 AM
14	Need to consider improvements at WJJMS. The heating system needs investment.	1/31/2015 7:23 AM
15	Cut the Boe budget!!! What about added positions and pay increases???? The BOE is taxing us non student families to death! I thought the BOF was supposed to be impartial???? Sure doesn't seem that way!!!!	1/30/2015 7:58 PM
16	They seriously need to cut Administrative Expenses.	1/30/2015 7:29 PM
17	Schools should be able to provide a return on investment.	1/30/2015 7:15 PM
18	Parent of middle school student. Too much emphasis on Technology	1/30/2015 7:02 PM

19	Stop wasting paper & look into why teachers call out sick a lot when they aren't. Look at how much is spent in substitutes. Are schools are important and having two children that completed their education here I can say it was ok though my youngest my go private.	1/30/2015 5:42 PM
20	Is there plenty of supervision or not enough for all studentz?	1/30/2015 5:07 PM
21	Why does this survey assume that maintaining current levels is automatically going to increase costs? This is a poor survey.	1/30/2015 4:56 PM
22	New studies have revealed that larger class sizes are actually beneficial to students learning.	1/28/2015 5:56 PM
23	NA	1/26/2015 9:15 PM
24	Class size and building maintenance are top priorities	1/26/2015 11:32 AM
25	School is a place for learning class sizes and the Arts such as band and choir have been proven to have a beneficial effect on learning. Leave it to Colchester to think about cutting a program that is already covered by the parent; parents rent or buy instruments and choir is an individual talent, doesn't cost a thing. I believe that the parks department is where the money should be spent for sports through middle school and I believe that Colchester does a great job at that level. I support JV and varsity sports at the high school level only but do NOT feel that freshman sports are necessary.	1/25/2015 4:09 PM
26	athletics have become the be all and end all of our society - let kids focus on building their brains	1/24/2015 8:55 PM
27	1)The Colchester Public Schools states its mission is "promoting student well-being and the highest level of academic excellence", and the priority is ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. That means high level classes (AP/UCONN/Honors) MUST be maintained at all cost. 2)Small class size and QUALIFIED teachers MUST be a priority. 3)The goal of our schools is to challenge students to exceed expectations and to ultimately go on to further higher education. For that reason, High School services such as Bacon Academy Guidance staff MUST be brought back up in size; it is essential to have enough guidance counselors to appropriately aid all students in their college search and application process. As for sports, the Town of Colchester offers a large number and variety of sports through the various recreation and independent leagues. Therefore, if these types of programs under the BOE budget are cut, these students still have plenty of other opportunities to take part in athletics. However, if you cut academic programs (high level courses, quality education, and staff) there is no place to make up for the shortfall for our students. The PRIORITY of the BOE and its budget MUST ALWAYS BE ACADEMICS!	1/24/2015 8:40 PM
28	Provide more tutoring for students in need of extra help. Guidance counselors need to be more proactive.	1/24/2015 6:57 PM
29	These questions are structured in a manner which would lead the respondent to select an opinion which might not necessarily reflect their true feeling about the issue. "At almost all cost" is too strong a statement.	1/24/2015 11:21 AM
30	For the expenses of sports, we need coaches that coach kids. Not coaches that undermine kids.	1/24/2015 8:00 AM
31	Why is this survey being put out so late? Budget presentation is in four days. Superintendent's plan is likely complete already, so these comments won't be reflected, and we haven't seen the plan so can't give specific feedback. This is the wrong time for the survey. Community feedback is not being adequately considered.	1/23/2015 6:53 PM
32	WJJMS needs replacing	1/23/2015 5:39 PM
33	No tax increase.	1/23/2015 5:01 PM
34	Tired of our schools and athletics being used as a scapegoat for tax increases. Colchester residents pay a very high amount of taxes, yet schools are pay to play (and payable to Town of Colchester instead of Bacon Athletics??), we have no town trash service. Homes continue to be built and the town is expanding, so where does all the money go?	1/23/2015 3:58 PM
35	Need to adopt more progressive school policies in order to attract people to our schools.	1/23/2015 3:36 PM
36	My daughter graduated from Bacon and is pursuing a music degree. I feel the arts are a necessary part of education. I also feel that students' mental health needs are of the highest priority.	1/23/2015 3:34 PM
37	School budgets should focus on the good for all . not gifted and talented or specials but on providing the basics of education. If the people want more for their children they can pay the costs at a private school.	1/23/2015 3:25 PM
38	Education is important. Administration... Not so much. If you want to impact the budget cut duplicate administration positions.	1/23/2015 3:12 PM
39	It can't be that impossible to figure this all out for everyone.	1/23/2015 3:09 PM

40	The buildings are in need of many repairs. If we keep putting it off we'll end up with another WJJMS. Make repairs now!	1/22/2015 5:35 AM
41	Why do we have a decrease of almost one third in enrollment - yet the budget has increased by over 5 million? When will you start making the schools operate to reflect thye decrease? Why do you rubber stamp these unjustified million dollar increases in our tax's. I fully supported the additional spending when we were growing, but I have voted no for the last 3 years and will continue to do so, even if it impacts our son - time to get your education budget under control!	1/21/2015 3:09 PM
42	I support additional funding but the money has to come from somewhere else. I DO NOT support a budget increase to make this happen	1/20/2015 10:49 AM
43	The additional funding needs to come from the money that the town has already from the tax payers without tax increases. This means that the town needs to go through the money being spent and see where there is waste. I don't want to hear that there is none because I know that there is. There always is. When I worked I saved the company almost 1 million dollars off of their phone expenses in their northeast district in one year by getting rid of stuff they did not need and making sure we were getting charged correctly. If I as one person could go in after working at a place for a month and see what was wasteful and did through and save that much in a district that had approximately 40 locations I am sure this town could find places to save money as well we just aren't trying!	1/20/2015 10:21 AM
44	I support a pay to play policy where appropriate to maintain programs such as clubs and freshman sports.	1/19/2015 8:48 PM
45	I'm having difficulty believing that our education costs should not decrease with the market decrease in the number of students	1/19/2015 4:22 PM
46	I support any and all experiences that might encourage the most positive and tolerant attitudes of our young people.	1/19/2015 2:55 PM
47	no increase in school spending	1/19/2015 2:55 PM
48	Positive student interaction with faculty members, outside the classroom, is one of the highest predictors of student success in school. Extra-curricular activities are critical to student success	1/19/2015 2:46 PM
49	More Teachers OK, Less Administrators Required	1/19/2015 12:08 PM
50	Our culture needs to change to ask the older children to mentor the younger children in Sports. It could be part of a leadership class. Senior Class members to teach, and support the younger kids in various sports activities. Perhaps the younger kids might learn respect and the Senior kids learn responsibility as well as leadership skills.	1/19/2015 11:10 AM
51	I am all for funding of extra curricular to expand the kids beyond the everyday. I want to be clear though that there is funding, and then there are unnecessary spends. I want to be sure the monies are being used in a responsible way.	1/19/2015 8:27 AM
52	Pay what good teachers are worth & get rid of the one's who don't want to get on board with our community goals.	1/18/2015 10:04 AM
53	Assumes that every program is effective and properly monitored and supervised. Giving the Town reasonable return for the investment.	1/18/2015 9:24 AM
54	teachers salaries need to be addressed	1/18/2015 8:33 AM
55	Music & arts are important for the students. Sports are also important but not so much as technology.	1/18/2015 7:04 AM
56	I don't think that we a teachers helper in so many classes.	1/17/2015 9:36 PM
57	I support the schools even though I no longer have children in the school system. However, I feel there is a lot of waste in the budget. I feel teachers are getting short changed, and many spend their own money for books and supplies for students.	1/17/2015 3:07 PM
58	I am not a teacher, just a community member who feels that maintaining excellent standards of education in our schools is key to maintaining our property values and making Colchester a desirable place to raise our children.	1/17/2015 3:01 PM
59	Building maintance should be priority especially T WJJMS	1/17/2015 9:33 AM
60	Time to think about trimming budget for most expensive sport programs higher pay to play fee	1/17/2015 8:04 AM
61	The exposure and activities for school-age is ESSENTIALS for them to compete in a global world. Not all families can afford to separately fund these opportunities, so denying funding would only widen the socioeconomic gap. That is not the Colchester way!	1/17/2015 6:39 AM
62	Better & more computers in middle school.	1/16/2015 8:07 PM

63	In a time where many of us have to get by on less, I feel the town should get by on what it is currently getting. No more! Less would be better. It can be done.	1/16/2015 6:42 PM
64	better mathematics teachers	1/16/2015 6:37 PM
65	Pay to play fees for sports are shameful reality for this town. Our child plays a varsity sport for which the school has never provided a uniform, jacket, socks or any team emblem. Embarrassing as a parent and demoralizing for the student athlete. I suggest that pay to play fees go directly to the individual team budget. School athletic directors should make an effort to attend at least one match, meet or game from ALL varsity sports events. Additionally, student athletes should not have to store their team and personal equipment in a JANITORS closet. All pay to play sports should be provided an adequate place to practice. No sports team should have to practice in a cafeteria or hallway (dangerous to student athletes) All of this is actually happening as of this writing.	1/16/2015 5:12 PM
66	Art and Music are essential parts of a balanced curriculum. support needed in these areas.	1/16/2015 4:35 PM
67	An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If the buildings are well maintained the the need to replace them can be put off, for example any catholic school; They maintain their buildings and grounds, and make them last. Yes we would all like to see the most advanced buildings and technology however Colchester is not as well endowed as Yale.	1/16/2015 4:22 PM
68	Although MS sports is a wonderful component, most children are able to play through private clubs or rec programs. It is often difficult for MS students to get home without access to an after school bus, so it is not as important. Freshmen sports, however, are important as most students have aged out of rec programs and may not yet be strong enough to make a JV or Varsity team	1/16/2015 4:21 PM
69	We moved to Colchester with our high-level son to take part in the "Enrichment Program" offered. Our son thrived with this Program for years 1 & 2, but now the program has been removed....due to budget cuts. We MUST always offer resources for the top students to continue to excel.	1/16/2015 4:15 PM
70	I believe in a good education and support the "Necessary" requirements. I believe that we have to have the parents & students accountable for education. A little more focus on homework at home!!	1/16/2015 9:21 AM
71	I would need more specific information regarding the programs and services before agreeing to additional funding. The question "as is" impacts the direct people in the programs.	1/15/2015 6:22 PM
72	Class size at the high school should be maintained if not reduced. More electives should be added to give students more choices. Electives absolutely should not be cut or reduced simply due to declining enrollment numbers. That is not effective management of a high school curriculum.	1/14/2015 7:46 PM
73	These issues have been discussed as far back as my daughters freshman year. Clubs can be funded by the parents if they want to know where their children are. Obesity is on the uprise so why cancel clubs like sports.	1/14/2015 6:25 PM
74	Sports are an important outlet for all children. Are there 3 separate teams at the high school level? Freshmen, JV and Varsity? I feel that JV and varsity are sufficient.	1/14/2015 1:24 PM
75	I have no childremn in school and do not want to support	1/14/2015 9:47 AM
76	Your items are too vague. For Instance "Building Maintenance", Our town is infamous for wanting a new school building when all was needed was a new light bulb.	1/14/2015 6:09 AM
77	Fixing the middle school is a priority	1/14/2015 4:15 AM
78	Keep in mind that not all students are athletes. The money should be spread to other extra curricular areas and other curriculum areas as well.	1/13/2015 10:52 PM
79	I though most athletics were "pay to play?"	1/13/2015 7:49 PM
80	Increase computer:student ratio through the purchase of low cost computers such as Chromebooks.	1/13/2015 6:19 PM
81	consideration to how integrated classrooms are being compromised by severe/disruptive behaviors, impacting learning of others and effectiveness of teacher's ability to manage class.. would additional paraprofessionals be a low-cost option, as teachers responsibilities continue to rise?	1/13/2015 12:18 PM
82	If you don't maintain the buildings, we will pay more in the long run.	1/13/2015 11:37 AM
83	cannot afford an increase in taxes do more fund raising. Have parents/guardians pay out of pocket for sports, clubs ect.. They have to pay for outside dance, martial arts and others activities unfortunately there is no more to give	1/13/2015 11:05 AM

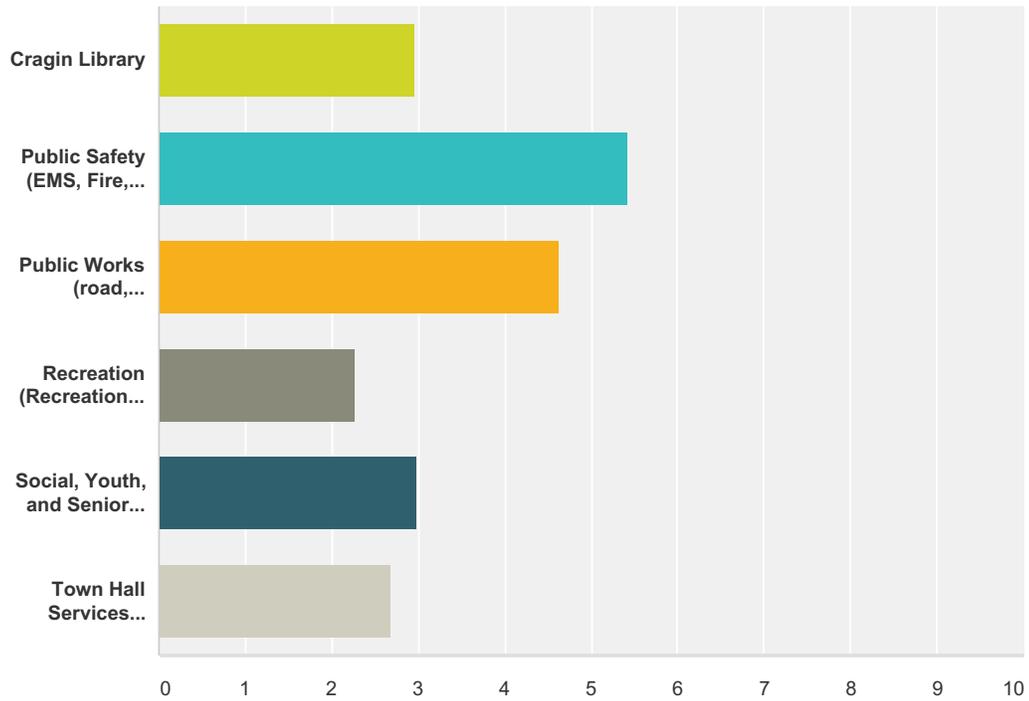
84	Students need assistance such as social skills, preschool, schools are doing what should be done at home. They need the finances to do these.	1/13/2015 10:21 AM
85	The priorities should remain focused on basic learning and learning skills that teach kids to solve problems and not look like deer in the head lights. All the other stuff is fluff. The kids already know more about technology then they will learn in high school. Waste of money. focus on reading writing and mathematics Get class sizes to 25 and keep tthem there. Stop striving to solve every issue for every special interest and focus on the common good.	1/13/2015 8:33 AM
86	I fully support building maintenance, however expenses and costs need to managed better to reduce wasteful spending.	1/12/2015 9:44 PM
87	I went to school in Colchester. We didn't have sports in middle school, they got cut. We survived! Let's be fiscally responsible!	1/12/2015 8:59 PM
88	Town & School employees earn excellent money. It does not make sense that every person with the same job title makes the same pay. There does not appear to be any demands or accountability to do your best, when everyone is paid the same, including those that perform under par and have less responsibility than others, including custodians. There is a common, ongoing, and out of control practice of nepotism in this town. Is it any wonder residents don't want to keep paying more and more for less!	1/12/2015 8:39 PM
89	Most school activities are "pay to play". There is no reason why athletics should be cut from any budget. When I see these types of things happening I vote 'No' during the referendum.	1/12/2015 7:23 PM
90	Teach the basics	1/12/2015 6:28 PM
91	Academics come before athletics	1/12/2015 6:02 PM
92	clubs/athletics should be given space/facilities and allowed to self-fund where appropriate.	1/12/2015 5:42 PM
93	the school budget is what I believe is bankrupting this town. The "town" side of the budget always operates within its means... whereas the school side is astronomical in comparison. the taxpayers cannot support this.	1/12/2015 5:28 PM
94	Maintaining quality teachers and supporting them are a priority. The schools are well maintained and secure and I do not feel additional funding is needed here.	1/12/2015 2:44 PM
95	pay to play	1/12/2015 2:00 PM
96	Improve staffing and maintainence at WJ	1/12/2015 1:51 PM
97	There should be no "pay to play" It is wrong the money goes into a general fund and it discourages activities	1/12/2015 1:38 PM
98	All students gr. 3-12 should have computer access. Not necessary to purchase expensive systems. Chromebook laptops at \$200-\$300 are an excellent choice.	1/12/2015 1:13 PM
99	Need to reduce non-teaching overhead. Do we really need four principles and four vice principles?	1/12/2015 1:04 PM
100	The arts and physical activity are important parts of any education. Physical activity helps keep the mind sharp.	1/12/2015 12:59 PM
101	We spend too much on our local schools. Good education isn't based on how much you spend on the school. Way too much is spent on administrative costs and salaries. Just another excuse for our town to spend our hard earned tax dollars.	1/12/2015 12:40 PM
102	Get rid of the "spend it or lose it" mentality---this accounts for any and all increases annually. Different entities should be somehow rewarded if they beat their budget plans vs. spending \$\$ to ensure they receive the same amount the following year	1/12/2015 12:38 PM
103	It must be balanced with all of the town priorities. For example, 24 hour police.	1/12/2015 12:28 PM
104	I would assume clubs are self funding and therefore would not be an expense in the budget. Athletics are pay to play clubs could/should be as well so there was not additional expense.	1/12/2015 12:14 PM
105	Tutoring services	1/12/2015 12:07 PM
106	Gym should not b required of HS students playing sports There is no reason for them to take gym Give fitness test Eliminate gym teachers with less kids No reason to have MS athletics Many opportunities in town recreation and if u only do MS sports u wont make HS team for long anyway	1/12/2015 12:01 PM
107	With population declining why not add things within existing funding levels? Why always more money?!	1/12/2015 11:56 AM

108	With declining enrollment there must be a clear and substantiated rationale for asking for any increases in the budget. Every teacher & administrator need to justify their existence.	1/12/2015 11:52 AM
109	School budget should allot equivalent programs for students at all spectrums, from those who have special needs all the way to high achievers. Right now, special needs students receive higher educational programming than State mandates require while high achievers no longer have TAG programs. The culture of the school board is that if you think your gifted child needs special consideration, send them to a private school. More people are doing that and the taxpayers are now forced to foot the bill. Why not provide a good education for ALL students, not just for children with special needs. In the long run, I think keeping all children in our district would be most cost effective.	1/12/2015 11:50 AM
110	The High School fields are an embarrassment to the town. If we are going to support sports, then let's do it for real.	1/12/2015 11:43 AM
111	Yes, music and athletics are needed and should be funded. Pay to play do away with please fund it. Cost discourages. Many towns surrounding dont pay to play for school sports it included in your taxes.	1/12/2015 11:42 AM
112	The fine arts and music are really important as well as athletics and should be treated with as much importance.	1/12/2015 11:41 AM
113	I think that we should work hard to maintain "specials" at current levels if not increase. I think there should be more opportunities for integrated arts as well as fostering growth with those students really interested in a certain area. As well as providing extra help for those that struggle.	1/12/2015 11:35 AM
114	buying materials with other towns in and effort to reduce costs. also teachers nurses ect.	1/12/2015 11:20 AM
115	The questions being asked are so black and white they require a person to agree or disagree with the writers opinion. This is not allowing much of an opinion. What is the budget request and what is the requirement? Is there a middle ground to be met. WHat Building maintenance items are required? What grade atheltic programs? School security is #1 for me. Athletics and Clubs would be next. Our kids need activity to express themselves.	1/12/2015 11:19 AM
116	Safety comes first then all else can follow	1/12/2015 11:19 AM
117	WJJMS building project is critical and essential, improvements must be funded	1/12/2015 11:15 AM
118	Not sure I understand why additional funding is needed to maintain current activities...	1/12/2015 11:12 AM
119	No additional funding. Use within your allowance.	1/12/2015 11:12 AM
120	I'm already paying more than \$800 per month in property taxes on my home. Do NOT ask me to pay any more!!!	1/12/2015 11:12 AM
121	Building Maintenance And School Security/Safety should be the highest priorities.	1/12/2015 11:09 AM
122	Consideration of BA moving to magnet school - gives us more funding.	1/12/2015 11:08 AM
123	Need to look for efficiencies and cost savings wherever possible. Don't need reward cards printed on special paper. Need to look at personnel costs and benefits packages.	1/12/2015 11:06 AM
124	We are having a child this year and these kind of budget issues are going to impact whether we choose to stay in Colchester in the long term. Even if I didn't have a child, I think that schools with good resources matter.	1/12/2015 11:03 AM
125	Would love to see the WJJMS building project happen.	1/12/2015 11:02 AM
126	Please stop hiring double dippers. There are plenty of young people and unemployed people who need jobs.	1/11/2015 6:21 PM
127	William J. Johnston is in deplorable shape. It desperately needs to be renovated.	1/11/2015 4:37 PM
128	Stop threatening to always take away sports and activities from the schools. It is pay to play anyway.	1/11/2015 4:18 PM
129	I believe that this town should provide annual cost of living adjustments to all part time staff.	1/11/2015 11:17 AM
130	You really need to start looking at what surrounding schools, magnet, and private schools are offering. Schools are like businesses now- you need to start to compete and be attractive to parents to keep your students. Applying for technology grants or adding foreign languages allows your students to be prepared for the world in which we live.	1/11/2015 9:06 AM
131	Everything is important and needs moderation.	1/11/2015 12:44 AM
132	The middle school needs to be rebuilt. Its shameful.	1/10/2015 10:36 PM
133	Too much money spent on technology, gadgets, non essential personnel not specific to academics or paras.	1/10/2015 4:57 PM
134	My child's education is of the utmost importance as well as funding a new middle school project.	1/10/2015 4:33 PM

135	It always seems to come down to cutting certain programs out of the school system that we're accustomed to having as a natural part of the school experience--sports, music, etc. I'm unclear why these things suddenly seem dispensable and are always what ends up on the chopping block. Our school system will be irreparably damaged if we don't include these things. I believe that will affect property values and continue our slide in enrollment as folks won't want their kids in a school system that is so stripped down. I don't understand how something like clubs or jv sports or even band can cost all that much, and I would say they need to be preserved even if its as part of the pay to play type set up.	1/10/2015 4:16 PM
136	The more you cut, the more families will leave for magnet schools, at a cost to the town.	1/10/2015 3:32 PM
137	Is the town spending too much on school employees' health insurance? Up-to-date technology is not essential to good learning, good teachers are essential to good learning. Remove bad school employees. Class size should not matter, the quality of the teacher should matter.	1/10/2015 2:18 PM
138	I would focus on maintaining our facilities and providing activities for the kids (like sports/band). Spending money on top technology is less important; it will be old technology in 2 years anyways.	1/10/2015 1:35 PM
139	more opportunities and connections to local resources from the community are needed.	1/10/2015 11:59 AM
140	Schools are there to teach. And while the extracurricular activities are great at rounding out our students, we need to be sure we have the core functions nailed down before we do extras.	1/10/2015 11:20 AM
141	Need metrics to show how well money being spent	1/10/2015 10:41 AM

Q4 4. Creating a budget is a balance between providing needed and/or desired services and their tax cost. Please prioritize these major town budget categories from 1 to 6, where 1 is the highest priority and 6 is the lowest priority. (Use each number once)

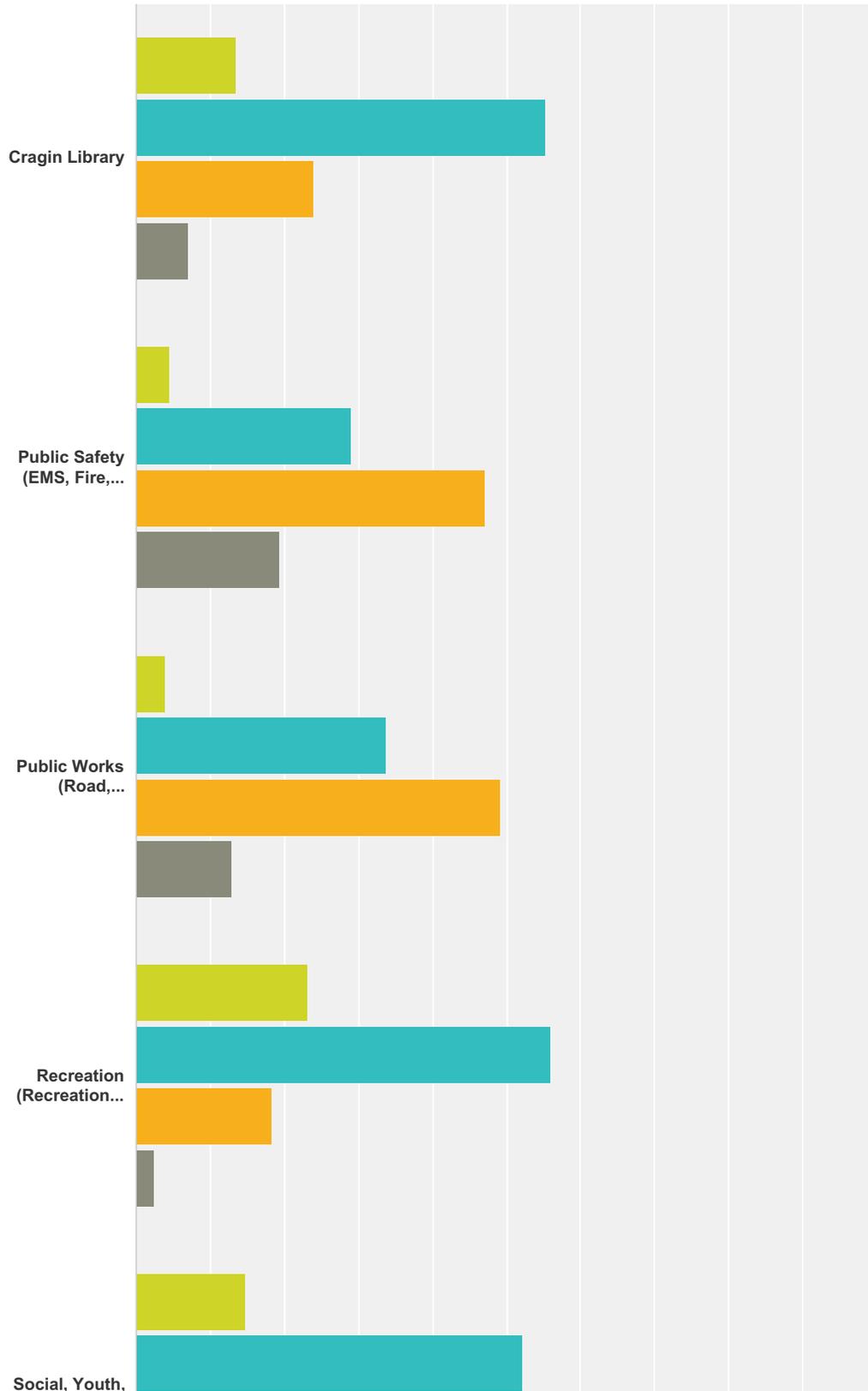
Answered: 615 Skipped: 43

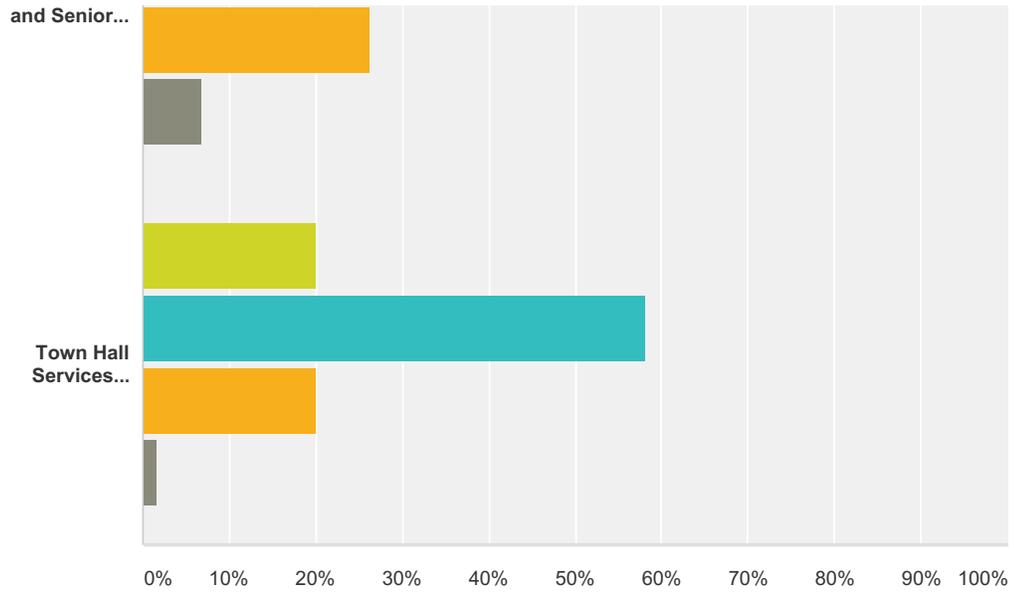


	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Score
Cragin Library	4.39% 27	9.59% 59	21.30% 131	26.50% 163	19.67% 121	18.54% 114	615	2.97
Public Safety (EMS, Fire, Police)	69.27% 426	16.42% 101	7.80% 48	2.93% 18	1.14% 7	2.44% 15	615	5.42
Public Works (road, building, equipment, vehicles, field maintenance)	15.28% 94	51.38% 316	20.98% 129	7.48% 46	3.74% 23	1.14% 7	615	4.64
Recreation (Recreation staff and administration)	1.63% 10	3.74% 23	9.11% 56	24.07% 148	29.59% 182	31.87% 196	615	2.28
Social, Youth, and Senior Services	4.88% 30	10.08% 62	20.00% 123	23.41% 144	27.48% 169	14.15% 87	615	2.99
Town Hall Services (Building Dept, Finance, Town Clerk, Assessor, Tax Collector)	4.55% 28	8.78% 54	20.81% 128	15.61% 96	18.37% 113	31.87% 196	615	2.70

Q5 When considering each of the following Town service categories, how do you believe each should be funded?

Answered: 622 Skipped: 36





- Decrease funding (resulting in a decrease in services)
- Maintain funding (which may result in a decrease in services)
- Increase funding (to maintain services)
- Increase funding (to increase services)

	Decrease funding (resulting in a decrease in services)	Maintain funding (which may result in a decrease in services)	Increase funding (to maintain services)	Increase funding (to increase services)	Total
Cragin Library	13.57% 84	55.41% 343	23.91% 148	7.11% 44	619
Public Safety (EMS, Fire, Police)	4.52% 28	28.92% 179	47.17% 292	19.39% 120	619
Public Works (Road, Building, Equipment, Vehicles, Field Maintenance)	4.05% 25	33.82% 209	49.19% 304	12.94% 80	618
Recreation (Recreation staff and administration)	23.19% 144	55.88% 347	18.36% 114	2.58% 16	621
Social, Youth, and Senior Services	14.89% 92	52.10% 322	26.21% 162	6.80% 42	618
Town Hall Services (Building Dept, Finance, Town Clerk, Assessor, Tax Collector)	20.06% 124	58.25% 360	20.06% 124	1.62% 10	618

Q6 Please use this space to add additional comments about Town priorities and budget.

Answered: 85 Skipped: 573

#	Responses	Date
1	My Ranking of Recreation (as 2nd priority out of 6) and to increase funding is specific to strong need for this town to have an up-to-date/trendy indoor recreations and community center with indoor pool. Very needed to continue improving the atmosphere of Colchester as an up and coming suburban town (much desired, think Glastonbury and West Hartford Center) vs a run down old farm town (I'd want to move away).	2/1/2015 10:05 PM
2	Resuming weekend hours at the library in the summer is a high priority for our family. Maintaining a late night for Town Hall (at least once a month) is also a high priority.	2/1/2015 9:02 PM
3	Town budget needs increases - school budget not so much.	2/1/2015 2:17 PM
4	It's about time town government recognizes that many people who live here have not received wage or salary increases in years.	2/1/2015 12:25 PM
5	Stay within flat annual budget. Do not award raises. I am willing to accept mediocre or reduced town services as a result of no increase in taxation - with no increase in services resulting. Focus on core quality of life for most residents. Don't seek to expand tax base by commercial growth.	2/1/2015 12:06 PM
6	I feel EVERY town department could use additional funding. However, I have to live within my budget which does not favor additional taxes.	1/31/2015 10:00 PM
7	Attracting businesses means attracting people which means fixing all of the towns failing town properties and programs. At the same time a tax increase of more than 3% should include language that would return it to a maintain rate within 3 years. This would allow the capital to properly repair that which needs to be fixed, but not be a blank check for fiscal inefficiency there after. In the end, we need to return Colchester to an attractive place to live and raise children and the best place to start is with the forward thinking schools that put us on the map more than 200 years ago. That means challenging our beliefs and embracing change management to the point of ensuring we has a forward thinking administration and leaders not only capable of thinking outside the box, but acting outside the box embracing change leadership.	1/31/2015 5:32 PM
8	Not going by your parentheses assuming decrease in service. We all must maintain with the same salaries. Why not the Town?	1/31/2015 11:48 AM
9	I think we need to evaluate improvements to WJJMS seperately from a senior center. Eventually we need to consider a town pool. Maybe senior center could also be a community center.	1/31/2015 7:33 AM
10	Amenities and services need to be brought back to the condition they should be rather than putting a band-aid on them. Unfortunately, this NOW needs to be tempered for those residents already struggling. If not, we become a town of run down/ failed amenities, closed businesses, diminished resident count and too many empty houses...a downward spiral.	1/30/2015 7:38 PM
11	Limiting town hall services might sound extreme but shorter hours shifted later in the day would bias availability toward actual availability of working families (most of us). None of our wages are growing so we all need to understand that we can't expand services without losing ground elsewhere.	1/30/2015 7:11 PM
12	How about combining some of the jobs in the building/planning office? The Library is the heart of the community. Where else do all generations come together under one roof every day to learn, grow, share. The staff is wonderful. Curtailing hours and funds for resources just pisses me off.	1/30/2015 6:23 PM
13	We need a Senior Center! Time to stop dragging our feet and start getting it done. There's alot of inflation to many budgets to get what any agency wants.	1/30/2015 5:16 PM
14	We don't need new trucks every couple of years, most towns make the most of their trucks for years. Remember our budgets go up too and our pay does not, so higher taxes is not an option for a lot of us.	1/30/2015 4:55 PM
15	we need 24/7 police in this town	1/29/2015 10:38 PM

16	a reduction or elimination of non-essential services may assist. I know easier said then done. Reduction of waste. Working in business i've seen so much waste and rework. Usually due to a broken process, not fulling understanding workflow and handoffs, staff not working to full potential, and rework.	1/27/2015 2:33 PM
17	Pursuing grant money is essential for our town	1/24/2015 3:18 PM
18	I'm tired of being taxed to death with little services.	1/24/2015 8:04 AM
19	Do more with less.	1/23/2015 5:04 PM
20	Find better ways to cut expenses. Does the First Selectmen need to have a car that is fully funded by tax payers? This is just a minor example. Are garages with town equipment stored in them heated for no reason?	1/23/2015 4:03 PM
21	The youth center and Library should coordinate on service that are offered that are alike so as to reduce spending on same services.	1/23/2015 3:43 PM
22	Make the appropriate cuts on services that do not provide equal benefits to all. Very few people as a percentage go to the concerts on the green. Cut them. Cut all the counselor in training programs . that results in people payinfg for these kids to be busy and be baby sat. Not appropriate for our tax money.	1/23/2015 3:32 PM
23	Do not add to the services available until we see an increase in tax revenues	1/23/2015 3:16 PM
24	The town has grown in population and need yet the budget to each department has not reflected this growth. All departments need an increase in fudning to support the needs of the community.	1/22/2015 11:47 AM
25	Every year you cut and cut and cut our Fire Dept/ems, yet we see big increases for the schools, even though they have a lot lfewer kids-WHY?	1/21/2015 3:09 PM
26	Rec has potential to bring in income and should look for programming options that help to offset expenses.	1/20/2015 9:34 PM
27	The town is going to be needing 2 new ambulances in the near future. One has almost 150,000 miles on it and the other is nearing 100,000 miles. Both are in the shop frequently for some sort of repairs. Last week one needed a new heater, I believe. When they start breaking down that often means it's time to start planning for new.	1/20/2015 11:14 AM
28	I would be willing to have a cut in hours at the town hall if it meant it would cost the tax payers less money	1/20/2015 10:31 AM
29	Prioritizing these categories is paramount to pitting these needs and the people of the town against one another.	1/19/2015 3:07 PM
30	Some Increase is required, Better Long Term Planning, should help level peaks, Valley's should take care of themselves... I know you won't let that happen....	1/19/2015 12:24 PM
31	People are leaving CT, have you seen all the houses up for sale. CT is in the top numbers for not a good place to live because of tax's yet, CT increases Tax and the teachers are suffering, the police and public safety people are suffering etc.. Higher taxes is not the answer. People need jobs. Companies are leaving CT. Working people are getting less to feed and house their families and CT seems to want everyone to be dependent on the State for handouts. People need those handouts because they can't afford to live in their own state. People cannot have heat they need because they cannot afford it due to the high tax on heating. It gets cold in CT, there are elderly who need heat. I could go on, but will stop I think you get the picture. Its a tough job setting the budget but over the last three years I have seen a lot of houses for sale and people leaving Colchester and CT and its because they cannot afford to live in their home, where they were brought up, in an area their families have called home for centuries and I think that is appalling.	1/19/2015 11:23 AM
32	Again, responsible spending is the key.	1/19/2015 8:30 AM
33	make payments & licensing permits available online where possible. Why do I need to come in for a \$6 dog license?	1/18/2015 10:14 AM
34	I don't think it is necessary for the fire department to be driving Firetrucks to the donut shop or for the police to go into stores on in town and leave their vehicles running. I don't believe we need so many people working in the town hall. I also think the town public work department can be run and managed more effceny.	1/17/2015 9:48 PM
35	Our biggest priorities should be the safety of our citizens and road maintenance.	1/17/2015 3:10 PM
36	Public safety should always be priority	1/17/2015 9:36 AM

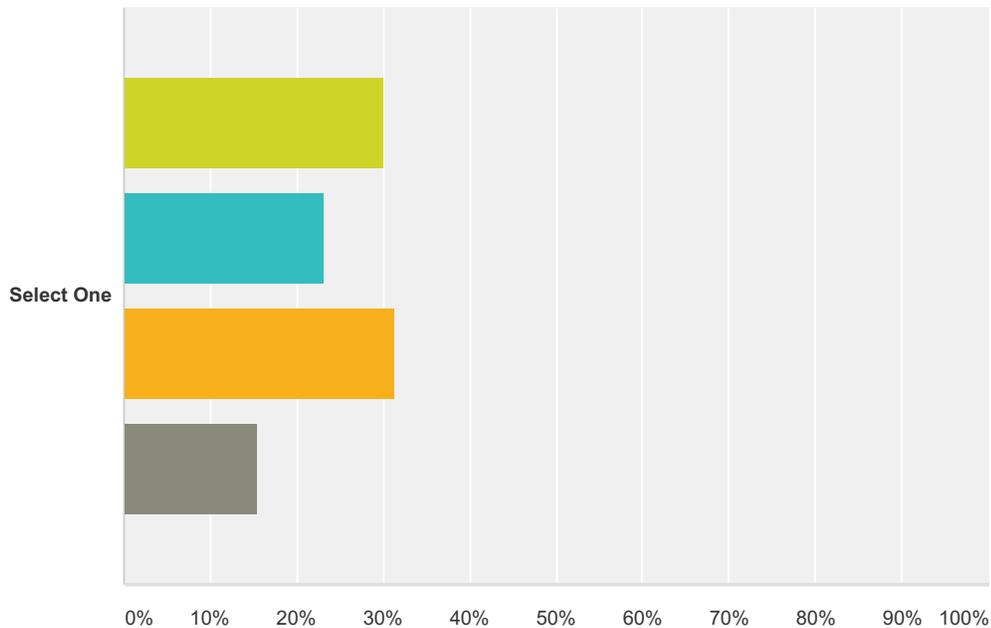
37	It still seems redundant to have local and State police barracks within a few blocks of each other. Most of the Rec programs are revenue-generating, so reducing the office staffing and would reduce participation - slippery slope. The phrasing of "maintaining services = increased costs" should not be accurate in all cases. This seems unnecessarily aggressive and will impact responses based on a reaction to the way the question was asked rather than the true necessity of the function/dept.	1/17/2015 6:49 AM
38	We want a pool for the HS so we can have a swim team. Not everyone likes football and baseball. We don't want to hear about a new Senior Center!	1/16/2015 6:48 PM
39	Priority: the police department is over staffed and if the town wants a third shift, then move officers from first and second into third.	1/15/2015 6:49 PM
40	The town continues to overspend on public safety. There are too many officers on duty at many times. We need to cut back our spending and bring services to an appropriate level where officers are not redundant and unoccupied especially considering that the CSP is based in town.	1/15/2015 3:51 PM
41	Need for overnight police.	1/15/2015 10:07 AM
42	Seniors are being squeezed . They have no way to make more money to support themselves Medical, housing, taxes, supporting their homes.	1/14/2015 9:29 PM
43	Cragin Library is an underutilized facility, its many fine meeting rooms not being used to fullest capacity because of the 8:00 P.M. or earlier closing hour. Please budget to keep library open until 9:00 P.M. M-Th so civic groups can effectively utilize the meeting spaces in the building.	1/14/2015 4:58 PM
44	Our town should take a page out of the private sector's playbook. Do more with less.	1/14/2015 6:15 AM
45	If areas need to be cut, I feel strongly that the library not be affected. It has been cut every year that I've lived here and is such an important resource, especially for those who need the services that they may not have at home.	1/13/2015 10:56 PM
46	What does "decrease in services" entail for each area?	1/13/2015 7:53 PM
47	No more raising taxes!!!	1/13/2015 11:10 AM
48	Seniors, Seniors, SENIORS. Are you listening??? Continue to write grants also for additional funding.	1/13/2015 10:27 AM
49	The manner in which town funds are utilized exhibit huge amounts of waste. The town and the education budget could be maintained at current levels and utilized properly to maintain or even increase services. Its not all about funds. People need to do their jobs.	1/13/2015 8:37 AM
50	If the town learns how to spend the money wisely, perhaps funds can be given to services that need them more.	1/13/2015 8:01 AM
51	FD Budget is out of control. Time to privatize?	1/13/2015 6:37 AM
52	We need to make sure that our tax dollars are going towards people who actually work for it! I'm sick of seeing town vehicles used as personal vehicles around town, out to lunch etc. It's. Even going on for years. It's time to Crack down.	1/12/2015 9:06 PM
53	Our property value has decreased every year for the past several years. Taxes go up every year. Nothing seems to change.....Who is cutting back and where? When are Colchester town and school employees going to be required to pay more for benefits like the rest of the population? We don't even have a pension and haven't for 15 yrs now. We have to save for our retirement - no one else to rely on but ourselves.	1/12/2015 8:46 PM
54	Colchester has some of the worst athletic fields in the state. Every recreation complex we go to is better maintained, has better facilities, and has food/bathrooms centrally located. Not a mile away from most fields. The owner of The Dugout has done a great job with the food this past year and making sure he is open during activities. It would be nice if he was able to do that in the center of the RecPlex.	1/12/2015 7:33 PM
55	infrastructure key	1/12/2015 6:33 PM
56	Need to make sure savings from fuel price drops are passed along to taxpayers and not considered "found money" available for added spending on "wish list" items.	1/12/2015 6:16 PM
57	aren't there some services that could be regionalized and save duplication of services working with other towns? Also, can't we encourage broadening of the tax base and get some industry or commercial business to move into town?	1/12/2015 6:02 PM
58	Public safety funding and teacher's salaries are always #1	1/12/2015 5:35 PM

59	We do not need a 24/7 police department. We have troop K and many State Troopers living in town. We have police cars and officers (State and local) observing and coursing through the town 24/7.	1/12/2015 3:20 PM
60	Might want to survey employees for ways to save money or boost productivity	1/12/2015 2:59 PM
61	I would not support a budget that increased a police presence in Colchester. You need to spend money for training, professional development, and maintenance of vehicles and equipment, but not a single penny for more staff.	1/12/2015 2:43 PM
62	stop spending	1/12/2015 2:03 PM
63	We have to do more with less. We simply cannot keep asking CT taxpayers to give more. I know so many good families that plan to leave due to how costly it is to live in this state and town.	1/12/2015 1:11 PM
64	Public safety and public works are the priorities.	1/12/2015 1:06 PM
65	The way these questions are presented implies cuts to services...If those in charge would cut the WASTE and the "spend it or lose it" mentality we could keep all the services listed above without an increase in taxes--- application of a little common sense here would be beneficial---	1/12/2015 12:51 PM
66	Town police are a joke. They don't respond or slow respond to calls. Same with fire. Getting along without them so leave well enough alone.	1/12/2015 12:47 PM
67	We need are part time fire fighters back.	1/12/2015 12:30 PM
68	Town needs to look at how we can maintain or lower costs, yet maintain or improve services.	1/12/2015 12:27 PM
69	There are plenty of recreation opportunities through the numerous volunteer run youth athletics. Town offered rec programs often times compete with the private sector ie, group fitness, dance that pay taxes to the town and should not have publicly funded programs competing with them.	1/12/2015 12:22 PM
70	Cragin and the Rec Department are the two areas in which user fees can be implement or increased to maintain current programs or offer new ones.	1/12/2015 11:50 AM
71	I think Social and Youth Services are important, but I don't believe the money is spent wisely. Also, we have way too many cops.	1/12/2015 11:47 AM
72	i would like to see a list of all employs wages for 2014	1/12/2015 11:42 AM
73	WJJMS Building project is critical and essential; improvements must be funded	1/12/2015 11:19 AM
74	Again, I'm troubled by the assumption that the budget needs to go up to maintain services. Working for a Fortune 500 company here in CT, we're tasked with cutting budget and maintaining services (and we do).	1/12/2015 11:16 AM
75	Stay within your means.	1/12/2015 11:15 AM
76	I'm already paying more than \$800 per month in property taxes! Do NOT ask me to pay any more!!! It is disgusting that you are not able to run this town on the amount of taxes you are collecting!	1/12/2015 11:15 AM
77	Maintenance of school grounds, needs to have some effort put into it. They are not inviting, no curb appeal. Be proud of the building we have, not rip out all of the plants paid for by taxpayers because they're "too much work." Disgraceful.	1/12/2015 11:14 AM
78	Choices are strange. Simply cannot afford to pay higher taxes.	1/11/2015 6:26 PM
79	Question for will not allow me to switch numbers around.	1/11/2015 9:15 AM
80	I think we need to reevaluate whether laying down salt when there is no bad weather is cost effective. Also, bringing in more support and services for our youth if not, this town is going to have bigger problems such as drugs and alcohol.	1/11/2015 9:14 AM
81	Embrace the public sector motto of; do more with less instead of give me more and i will do the same; the second is the perceived motto	1/11/2015 8:04 AM
82	Please do not sacrifice our safety. Cost should not matter when it comes to lives.	1/10/2015 7:48 PM

83	Too much money is spent on nonessential personnel and people who already have a pension and are paid in addition to that pension. This is not fair and overburdening young families and seniors not on public payrolls or pensions. Eventually only townies on the town payroll or highly paid admin who live out of town will be able to afford the taxes, and then Colchester will be in fiscal trouble. There is far too much money wasted on Parks and Recs programs that draw less than 100 families and cost too much in terms of managers and directors, ditto with other departments. Schools must hire teachers and paras and stop funding discretionary positions not essential to academics, guidance, arts, music, languages, or intramural PE. The rest is nonessential.	1/10/2015 5:27 PM
84	I would support increased taxes to maintain and improve services in town. If we all spend a little more, we can do great thing together.	1/10/2015 1:38 PM
85	Is there a way to invest in technology to have more self service to save costs.	1/10/2015 11:20 AM

Q7 As the cost of most things goes up every year, maintaining current services generally requires an increase in the amount budgeted to pay for them. Revenue used to pay for services is comprised of “non-tax” revenues (State Aid – Town, State Aid – Education, and local fees) and tax revenues, a function of the grand list (the valuation of all real property, personal property and motor vehicles) and the taxation rate. Our best estimate at this time as to the impact of revenues on our ability to maintain services is estimated below. The actual amount when the budgets are finalized could be lower or higher than these estimates. What percent of a tax increase would you find acceptable, given the effect on services? (Choose one)

Answered: 615 Skipped: 43



- No increase: Will Reduce Services
- 0.1 to 2% increase: Likely Reduce Services
- 2.1 to 3% increase: Estimated to Possibly Maintain Services
- >3% increase: Possibly Increase Services

No increase: Will Reduce Services	0.1 to 2% increase: Likely Reduce Services	2.1 to 3% increase: Estimated to Possibly Maintain Services	>3% increase: Possibly Increase Services	Total
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Select One	30.08% 185	23.25% 143	31.22% 192	15.45% 95	615
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Q8 Additional Comments regarding question 7:

Answered: 114 Skipped: 544

#	Responses	Date
1	Important, if a ban on dogs is placed, I will vote against any budget until the ban is lifted. Although I realize this has nothing to do with budget, it does however reduce my trust in those who run the town.	2/1/2015 11:31 PM
2	I want library and indoor community center (parks & rec) services increased. Try cutting town employee salary and benefits and town legal/attorney fees as areas for savings	2/1/2015 10:05 PM
3	Would like to see some services increased without increasing the overall budget by more than 2%.	2/1/2015 9:02 PM
4	The same costs have increased in my budget. I've not had a corresponding increase in my pay. Stop taxing me more.	2/1/2015 12:25 PM
5	I'm tired of subsidizing other people's salary increases (largest portion of any budget) through annual tax increases with no corresponding improvement/increase in services - at a time of flat income growth for many.	2/1/2015 12:06 PM
6	most employed people receive around a 2% salary increase. The town should be held to the same accountability.	2/1/2015 11:57 AM
7	I saw a comment about moving the Town from being self insured to joining a group to carry the insurance. I wonder if that is correct - being self insured - and if so, have other options been explored? Are there any cost savings in looking at items such as benefits and possibly realigning them?	1/31/2015 10:00 PM
8	We a town shows it needs to increase the tax rate by 2, 3 or 5 percent it triggers an alarm within the mind. People see how much it increases the budget line for the town but makes it hard for people to see what percentage they are responsible for. It would be advantageous for the town to include in each residents tax bill what the cost would be at a 2,3 and 5% increase.	1/31/2015 5:32 PM
9	From what I've seen in the past, the budget tends to contain excess in areas where it is unnecessary in order to have areas to cut when the budget is shot down. Perhaps eliminating those in the first place would help with the ability to budget better and provide less of a necessity to increase revenue	1/31/2015 2:08 PM
10	Colchester taxes are already far too high for the minimal services it's residents receive. If things continue on the current trajectory, we will no longer be able to attract young people to our town. You should offer incentives to new businesses to help offset the tax base and consider plans to make town water and sewer available to residents.	1/31/2015 10:05 AM
11	We really need a seperate group to do a bottom up funding processs to evaluate which services can be reduced or better negotiation with funding services with other towns	1/31/2015 7:33 AM
12	We need to put more money into our schools and town services. WJJS should not be operating with windows that don't open much and no air conditioning. Until we fix and maintain our infrastructure we will lose students and revenue when students enter grade 6.	1/30/2015 10:40 PM
13	If I we had measures/people in place that had a solid vision for the town, Committing to 4-6% increase would not be a difficult choice. But as long as the political parties continue to give us the same old status quo, visionless leaders to choose from, like Schuster and Coyle, then you will continue to have residents unwilling to blindly give their money to a lost cause. The only light at the end of the tunnel seems to be Soby.	1/30/2015 7:38 PM
14	Although everyone would like to have better services, I feel that with the continued financially difficult times, our goal should be to maintain existing services.	1/30/2015 7:37 PM
15	All of our buying power is being eroded by low wage growth. We all need to understand that we can't expand services without losing ground elsewhere. We can't expect to manage town government differently than our homes. When costs go up and income doesn't we eat more hot dogs and less steaks. That's just how it has to be.	1/30/2015 7:11 PM
16	Look I've lived here for almost 10 years, my taxes when we first moved here were \$2200.00 a year , it's partly why we moved here. Almost every year our taxes have increased. When does it stop? At some put maybe the town should rethink its self. See what they have for revenue and spend that instead of trying to say it's short all the time. If we ran out home budgets that way wed be broke.	1/30/2015 5:49 PM
17	Many agencies get more than what they need. Alot of waste should also be considered.	1/30/2015 5:16 PM

18	The job of the Town and all Town departments, including schools need to start from scratch - not just ADD 1% or 2% or whatever to the prior years budget - which is what appears to be the way the budget is determined. "Well, here, we had X number of dollars last year and we need these new things - so we'll just add the amounts to last years amounts."	1/30/2015 5:03 PM
19	Remember our budgets go up too and our pay does not, so higher taxes is not an option for a lot of us. We already pay more taxes here then anywhere else I have ever lived. Lets reduce the size of our town government, for example, why do we hae two Assistant Fire Marshals?.	1/30/2015 4:55 PM
20	Look at staff and evaluate possible change work assignments. Make sure all employees work the appropriate hours they are assigned.	1/30/2015 4:54 PM
21	Colchester has had an increase in taxes every year. Other towns have not. Our school budget needs to be lowered. There are fewer children in the school system now than before. Also, test scores have not been gotten better - so giving teachers raises does not help or adding more administration.	1/30/2015 4:49 PM
22	Will have to move out of Colchester if taxes are raised again	1/30/2015 11:27 AM
23	taxes too much to survive	1/29/2015 10:45 PM
24	Taxes are starting to greatly exceed other towns that give their residents trash full time fire and police and also many other ammenitis. If taxes continue to rapidly increase by 3 or more percent while most people are only getting a 1 or 2 percent raise if any at all. Families are tightening their belt, time for government to weather the storm with us. If taxes keep increasing you will scare more businesses away to cheaper towns.	1/29/2015 9:28 AM
25	The taxes in this tie. Have increased enough. I have seen property values plummet and businesses run out of town or not let in because of all the red tape this town puts on business here. If you want to generate more tax income let some businesses come to town	1/29/2015 7:28 AM
26	If you can afford a \$450,000 house you should be able to manage a \$290. per year increase in taxes.	1/28/2015 6:04 PM
27	People aren't getting raises; please don't increase the mill rate.	1/28/2015 2:53 AM
28	My salray has not increased over the last few years and I don not feel that salaries paid with my taxes should go up either.	1/27/2015 11:27 AM
29	The town wants a raise while residents are struggling just to maintain. UNREASONABLE	1/25/2015 4:14 PM
30	There is so much money wasted. Get rid of waste before telling citizens more needs to be spent. For example: Lower the heat in all of the town buildings and schools! It is a common complaint amongst residents that all buildings are kept ridiculously HOT in the winter. There is no reason for this. It would save the town money and keep people healthier if heating temperatures were kept down in the winter. Homeowners keep their temps in the low 60's, so should the town.	1/24/2015 8:40 PM
31	Before asking what % of tax increase would I favor, show me what cuts are being contemplated to responsibly manage town finances. Doesn't seem like anyone in town government ever proposes areas where, through analysis of the current and past budgets, monies budgeted were not spent wisely or the desired outcome realized. The mentality of spend it or lose it is killing the taxpayer of Colchester.	1/24/2015 11:32 AM
32	Ridiculous how increases to budget to maintain services are always so EXTREME.	1/24/2015 8:04 AM
33	Stop taxes.	1/23/2015 5:04 PM
34	This question is nuts. Do you want to pay more or not? People need to know how far our current asset values have dropped and what it will cost to bring everything up to par before they are all in. Even then, they will ask what are we getting in exchange for already living in a town with a cost of living that is almost 25% above the national average?	1/23/2015 3:43 PM
35	Everything doesnt cost more. how is the town reconciling all the savings on energy bills based on consumption of fuels that cost less now? There are many ways to save money and cut costs. The people involved just arent interested in doing it.	1/23/2015 3:32 PM
36	COLA trends are trick to hammer down, some items increase while others stagnate. A 2% increase to the MIL should cover that variability for a town like colchester	1/23/2015 3:16 PM
37	Do a better job of managing the money. We all deal with prices going up and make it. Town should be no different.	1/23/2015 3:13 PM
38	The absolute minimum increase to maintain services across the board is what I consider acceptable in these times. But, too many people continue to struggle to stay afloat to justify anything else.	1/23/2015 8:46 AM

39	I would like to see Colchester grow and flourish.I support a 3% or more tax increase.	1/22/2015 11:47 AM
40	Voting NO increase - you want a \$50 million dollar school And a tax increase, No Way will I or my wife support continued increases .	1/21/2015 3:09 PM
41	I haven't gotten a raise in 4 years. My taxes keep going up to give other people more money. In essence I am moving closer to the poverty line every year. Nobody in town government is willing to make that type sacrifice but they expect us to so their projects can get funded.	1/20/2015 10:52 AM
42	We. An not keep increasing taxes the way this town is doing. We are driving people out if this town. As I drive around town I see more and more vacant homes. I also see more and more homes going up for sale that sit on the market for longer periods of time. People who want out if town cause they no,linger can afford to live in this town have to "give their home away" cause they can't sell their homes for what they used to be able to. I moved to this town cause of the small town feel and the low taxes and now I certainly can not say Colchester is that anymore. It really is sad what this town has turned into. I just hope that the elected officials wake up and realize you can't keep going town this path of spending	1/20/2015 10:31 AM
43	This town routinely asks for percent increase in revenue from taxes that far outstrip pay raise in the private sector. This simply cannot be done year after year	1/19/2015 4:27 PM
44	In This economy, 2.0%-2.5+ should maintain, 2.5+ Should allow for some increases..... You accept too much as Just Maintaining.. (EMPLOYEE Benefits (Not all Salaries) are too HIGH.). Everyone should be responsible for participating in lowering their medical cost. (ie. higher Co-Pay.)	1/19/2015 12:24 PM
45	Comment 6 sums it up	1/19/2015 11:23 AM
46	My income does not support an increase nor should the towns.	1/19/2015 9:54 AM
47	With town & school employees having high deductible health care with minimal savings on premiums to save the town/boe money, I'd like to see exactly what the savings is as they are self insured & how it will help the budget. Can't balance the budget at the cost of teachers & town employees.	1/18/2015 10:14 AM
48	Overall increase should not be more than the cost of living increase. In the private sector this has been on the order of 2% or less.	1/18/2015 9:29 AM
49	taxes are high enough	1/18/2015 7:08 AM
50	We want to make Colchester an affordable place to live but not at the expense of compromising town properties (recreation parks, roads, buildings) or not having adequate public safety services.	1/17/2015 3:05 PM
51	I'm not confident that the responses to these questions will elicit accurate gauging on taxpayer sentiment, due to the aggressive nature of the questions. Currently, oil prices are down (which should positively impact all town buildings), there is economic improvement (hopefully more residents are gainfully employed and can participate in revenue-generating activities, and we have a substantial amount of non-profit clubs that supplement services and the budget that should be recognized.	1/17/2015 6:49 AM
52	no tax increase. i can no longer afford to pay taxes and maintain my own house. When will commercial base taxed businesss begin to compensate here?	1/17/2015 5:52 AM
53	Given the current low price of fuel, do you really think prices will be up quite so much??	1/16/2015 9:53 PM
54	My budget does not increase tear to year. As prices go up I must make cuts somewhere in order to maintain myself and my home.	1/16/2015 7:40 PM
55	MILL RATE IS WAY TOO HIGH FOR WHAT THE PEOPLE RECIEVE IN RETURN, WE ARE JUST FUNDING TEACHER PENISONS & INSURANCES AT AN EVER INCREASING RATE.....	1/16/2015 4:16 PM
56	Lower taxss	1/16/2015 4:07 PM
57	Find savings & reduce depts to shift monies to where there is critical needs - ie reduce P&R & town hall employees - Shift money to Public Safety & Senior & Social services Reduce salaries of elected officials across the board - New officials should not be started with salaries which the previous official "earned" via many years of public service. Combine services - have one Dept Head for Human Services In which senior/youth/social/P&R services fall under one umbrella. All contracts for transportation & activities should be planned via a planner - P&R & YOUTH Services & Senior services currently have separate contracts with multiple vendors - consolidate - establish approved vendors & look for cost savings P&R dept programs are too vast & cost the town far to much \$\$ Major sports programs are NOT run via the P&R - if a program or event does not at least break even in revenue it should be cancelled!!	1/16/2015 12:55 PM
58	Let's face it when my personal costs increase my paycheck doesn't automatically.	1/15/2015 6:49 PM

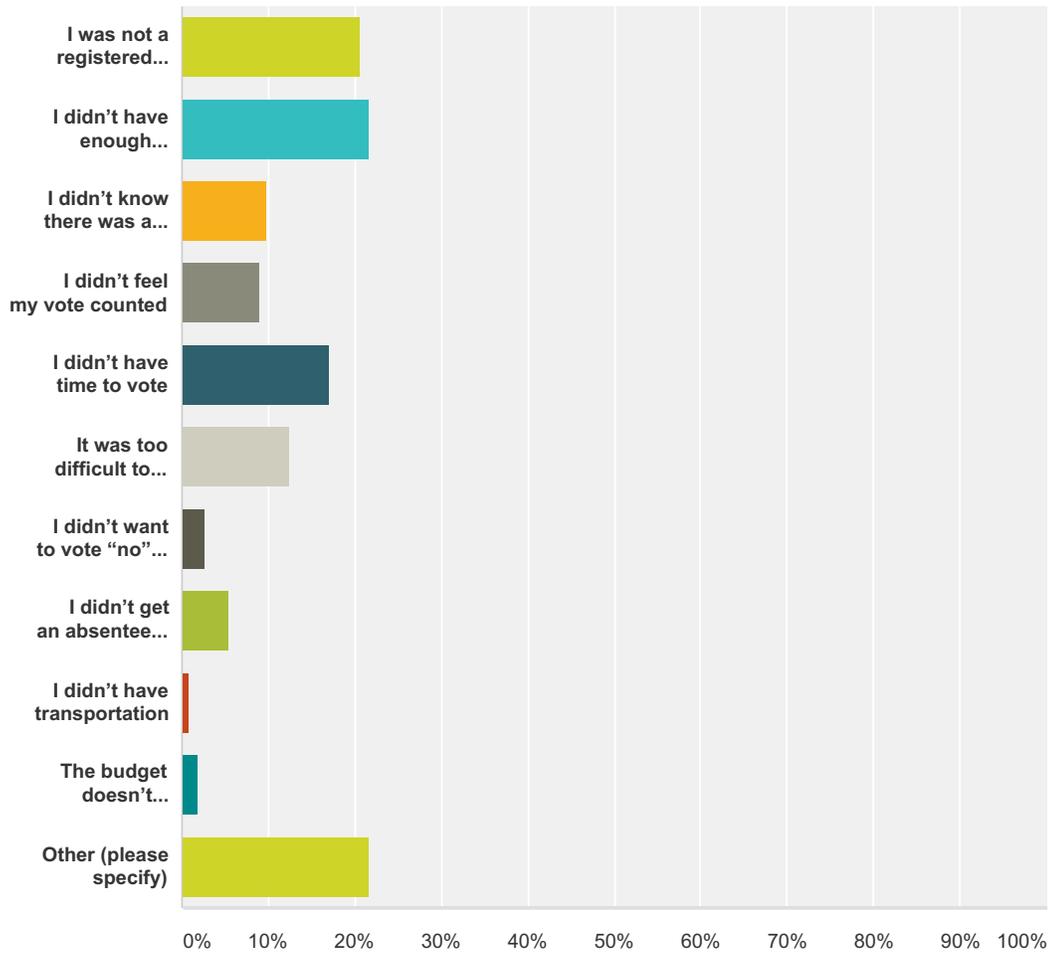
59	Education budget should be number one priority.	1/15/2015 9:10 AM
60	Cragin needs to be open more hours. I shouldn't have to look up or guess if the library is open or not. It should have consistent hours Monday - Friday and more hours on Saturday so that families can make use of it's resources.	1/14/2015 7:49 PM
61	I have not have a raise in 6 years and I have worked for the same co for 26 years. Each year you keep raising taxes. I have lived in this town for 30 years. There has never been a decrease in taxes!!!	1/14/2015 6:28 PM
62	Automatic pay increases every year for our town employees has to be stopped. The current formula is unsustainable. Also the state needs to put an end to the binding arbitration concept for negotiating labor pay raises. This is ruining our towns and cities and the state itself!	1/14/2015 4:58 PM
63	Our family is in no position to pay additional taxes. I own a home, rental property and a business in this town. Our combined taxes are outrageous.	1/14/2015 1:38 PM
64	I don't get a cost of living raise that meets your percentages. So how can I afford extra taxes	1/14/2015 11:21 AM
65	enough of increasing our taxes, I have had enough and no one can afford it	1/14/2015 9:52 AM
66	I enjoy your one sided doom and gloom paragraph. Is there anybody in our government that does not believe that spending other people's money is always the answer?	1/14/2015 6:15 AM
67	Property owners in Colchester have been taxed too much already!	1/13/2015 9:09 PM
68	How to renters contribute to the tax base if at all?	1/13/2015 7:53 PM
69	No more taxes!!! We need to stop the tax increases, my property taxes are approaching the same cost as my mortgage payment.	1/13/2015 6:04 PM
70	The property taxes are going to drive me out of Colchester!	1/13/2015 4:25 PM
71	Tax increases should not focus on a singular budget. How much have taxes been increased over the last 10 years?	1/13/2015 11:36 AM
72	Also write frants to assist.	1/13/2015 10:27 AM
73	The town needs to budget expenses based upon revenues. Look for other cost savings, such as reducing staff and benefits.	1/12/2015 9:47 PM
74	I'm pretty sure our taxes just keep going up and we get nothing in return anyhow. It's time to learn how to do more with less or at the very least to get by with less! Most people in this state don't get raises each hear to cover the cost of the increase in taxes, yet they have to pay the increasing bills. Stop the madness	1/12/2015 9:06 PM
75	The amount that you want us to believe is 'small' is added to a large amount that gets bigger every year!	1/12/2015 8:46 PM
76	Businesses are cutting costs for unessential services and Colchester needs to do the same. We need to reduce the health insurance costs by having employees pick up a greater share of the premium/costs. This is what the rest of the business world does. We need to reduce the liability for school and town employees accrued vacation/sick time. Sick time should be lost if not used at the end of each year and the amount of vacation time available to carry over from year to year should be no more than 40 hours. Again, this is what the rest of the world does. Having these liabilities continue in their current form puts Colchester at risk for having to pay out large sums at any given time.	1/12/2015 7:33 PM
77	cannot increase taxes to burden residents	1/12/2015 7:18 PM
78	cut costs.....male things more efficient with les overhead.....no raises like our Governor did	1/12/2015 6:33 PM
79	People are being taxed out of their homes, there has to be a way of holding down increases to taxes.	1/12/2015 6:02 PM
80	This question is unclear. I don't understand what each value is for. Priorities must be given to different services.	1/12/2015 4:08 PM
81	Cut the unnecessary to fund schools, they are our future	1/12/2015 2:57 PM
82	As home owner in the town who receives no town services other than water and sewers I would like my taxes reduced in the the amount that shows this.	1/12/2015 2:30 PM
83	stop spending	1/12/2015 2:03 PM
84	The town needs to wake up and attract more commercial business to increase the tax base. Until than nothing will change	1/12/2015 1:41 PM

85	you need to attract more businesses to help fund the taxes this town needs to run, taxpayers can't keep giving. I have a modest home and already pay more than \$6k per year. there is no way I can stay here and afford food, shelter, college and retirement.	1/12/2015 1:11 PM
86	Reduce the school budget and transfer savings to increase town services	1/12/2015 1:08 PM
87	Some provision needed for those struggling to pay their property taxes. Maybe liens to be paid when property is sold?	1/12/2015 1:06 PM
88	Do more with less.	1/12/2015 12:53 PM
89	Cut wasteful spending (ex: 5 public works employees talking on side of road while 1 or 2 others working---staff job as if it were your own business and the funds were coming out of your personal account...because guess what, they are coming out of my account. Maintaining the current budget (even with the increases in costs) while cutting the fat and the waste in current spending will = an increase in revenue. The first things to be cut are those activities which hurt families the most---education/school sports, etc...maybe the cuts should start where all the fat is!! Look for where \$\$ is wasted and cut there 1st!!	1/12/2015 12:51 PM
90	I will do with little to no services. What we only get now is snow removal and that is fair service. We need a much broader commercial/industrial tax base. Until then chop services. What ever it takes to not raise or lower local taxes.	1/12/2015 12:47 PM
91	Come on, this town's leaders can ot find ways to improve efficiencies, dig down and find ways to lower costs. We have had nothing but increases. My income doesn't have the kind of increases that this town has had. I'm tired of hearing how costs have gone up and we need to increae tax to maintain services.	1/12/2015 12:27 PM
92	Every year we are told "it's a nominal increase". I understand expenses increase, as do household expenses. At the household level people make choices on how to "fund" their necessities and then have to prioritize the extras. I doubt household income has increased at the same rate as tax increases over the last decade. There are many times it seems town departments overlap in their "extras". The library offers programs, rec offers programs, senior center, etc.... As well, we should be looking at ways to save on expenses. Why are lights on at the schools when no one is there?	1/12/2015 12:22 PM
93	Retired, cannot support an increase in property taxes. With the exception of police & Fire, I get very little value in return for the taxes I pay.	1/12/2015 12:11 PM
94	It's too bad that every year we have to do this dance. Everyone wants to live in a nice town but nobody wants to come to the adult realization that you get what you pay for.	1/12/2015 12:11 PM
95	Private communities that do not have road maintenace/plowing should not be paying the same amt. of taxes as other areas in town.	1/12/2015 11:56 AM
96	The answer to this question depends on the mix of services that will be impacted.	1/12/2015 11:47 AM
97	NO tax increase. NONE.	1/12/2015 11:37 AM
98	Our town is our best investment.	1/12/2015 11:29 AM
99	The Market indeces and have not risen more than 2%. Our costs should also not see much more of an increase.	1/12/2015 11:24 AM
100	government has to stop hitting up the people for more and more Connecticut has the highest taxes and its getting worse everyone wants to leave the state what that means is there will never be enough money for social programs we need more jobs and people in state to add to tax base	1/12/2015 11:24 AM
101	Property tax is getting ridiculously high	1/12/2015 11:22 AM
102	WJJMS Building project is critical and essential; improvements must be funded	1/12/2015 11:19 AM
103	See comments on #6 - I find this survey just further proof that our town leaders just "don't get it".	1/12/2015 11:16 AM
104	I'm already paying more than \$800 per month in property taxes! Do NOT ask me to pay any more!!! It is disgusting that you are not able to run this town on the amount of taxes you are collecting!	1/12/2015 11:15 AM
105	Can't afford to pay more. We have been going in reverse for years.	1/11/2015 6:26 PM
106	The more you raise taxes the more you are going to drive out people. This town needs to start accepting business that can share the tax base with the general folks. The taxes in this town are outrageous for the services actually delivered. I'd like to see local leaders and those in charge of creating the budget go to other towns and see how they spend their money.	1/11/2015 9:14 AM

107	I don't understand why every year taxes have to increase with less services - do more with less. Everyone from the top down should value their secure jobs and give a little extra	1/11/2015 8:04 AM
108	No Tax Increase - Reduce your costs - reduce unnecessary staff & programs Increase efficiency! Where's the savings from utilities? Oil costs have drastically decreased Where are the savings from our energy efficient savings plans??	1/10/2015 10:10 PM
109	Property taxes should be 1-2% of the market value; when you exceed 3%, it causes foreclosures due to the negative amortization and compounding. Businesses will not come to a town unless you give away million dollar tax incentives and since most businesses fail within five years, how wise is that for startups? New buyers of existing houses or new construction will not qualify for loans when the taxes exceed the annual mortgage payment interest charges. Look at your own math tables above. You are charging modest homes which do not appreciate much other than for land value or have as much equity (your \$450K house has \$135K equity built in; the \$170K house has \$49K equity built in and therein lies the rub -- you are setting this segment up for foreclosure by being bottom up) just as much or more than high end homes both in how you assess the values and how much taxes are charged. \$4,922 x 30 years means the town owns all the equity of modest homes without even considering compounding or tax increases. Consider that a \$288.89 annual compounded increase is easy for a household that qualified for a \$450,000 valued home (earnings presumed at over \$250K); but it is the cost of medicine and milk for the person who retired in 1990 with a \$12,000 income. This is a regressive if not punitive property tax formula and stubborn adherence to an annual 3% increase is what will turn Colchester into a foreclosure-ridden town where then the survivors will have to pick up the tab. But then again, that is how many became Monopoly house owners in the 1960s-1980s. The only solution is to cut bottom line spending and try to bring the annual combined budget spending plan down below current levels and reduce taxes; then we could work ourselves out of the hole. You can do it if you reallocate how \$50 million is spent annually and set a goal of \$49 million as the bottom line. Yes, some departments will have to disappear or be brought back under the schools and intramural sports will have to replace Parks and Rec sports, but that is how other communities deal with the shrinking numbers of children and taxpayers; and so must we, before we implode fiscally and we are all overburdened. Surely no new school or major renovation will pass under any scenario that includes a tax increase.	1/10/2015 5:27 PM
110	I'm not sure I believe that simply maintaining services necessarily means a tax increase every year of 3% and more than that to increase service. As people retire others can often be hired at a lower rate, contracts seem like they could be restructured as they come up for renewal, new vendors can be used who might offer lower rates, etc. I think with increases in our state and federal taxes an increase every single year in property taxes is a huge burden. While its always portrayed as a small increase, when added year over year its getting awfully expensive. What else can we do?	1/10/2015 4:25 PM
111	Great question - the examples help illustrate the affect of a 1%/2%/3% increase and help make the effect of that clear.	1/10/2015 2:45 PM
112	I cannot afford a tax increase I have essential home repairs I have to pay for.	1/10/2015 2:26 PM
113	I would support increased taxes to maintain and improve services in town. If we all spend a little more, we can do great thing together.	1/10/2015 1:38 PM
114	Tax revenue increases with new/more businesses to help offset the costs to the residences.	1/10/2015 11:20 AM

Q9 [Please answer questions 9 and 10 if you did not vote in the last Colchester budget referendum, otherwise, skip to question 11.]Please indicate the reason(s) you did not vote in the last Colchester budget referendum.(Choose all that apply)

Answered: 111 Skipped: 547



Answer Choices	Responses
I was not a registered voter	20.72% 23
I didn't have enough information to vote	21.62% 24
I didn't know there was a vote that day	9.91% 11
I didn't feel my vote counted	9.01% 10
I didn't have time to vote	17.12% 19
It was too difficult to make it to the polls	12.61% 14

I didn't want to vote "no" so I didn't vote at all	2.70%	3
I didn't get an absentee ballot	5.41%	6
I didn't have transportation	0.90%	1
The budget doesn't interest me	1.80%	2
Other (please specify)	21.62%	24
Total Respondents: 111		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	I wasn't a Colchester resident at the time.	2/1/2015 10:15 AM
2	I don't like voting in a church	1/31/2015 3:47 PM
3	I didn't get home from work early enough.	1/30/2015 7:42 PM
4	I am disgusted with past no votes and did not think my vote matters.	1/30/2015 7:32 PM
5	I didn't understand what was at stake. Didn't have the information	1/23/2015 3:15 PM
6	I did vote. I have never missed one	1/20/2015 10:32 AM
7	Out of town for the day	1/19/2015 9:17 PM
8	If your job has you on a temporary reassignment it is difficult to know when votes are occurring to get an absentee ballot.	1/19/2015 11:32 AM
9	Was not a resident	1/18/2015 10:54 PM
10	non citizen	1/18/2015 8:34 AM
11	voted	1/17/2015 5:54 AM
12	I had surgery that day	1/16/2015 7:14 PM
13	Where is the answer - "I didn't want to vote Yes, so I didn't vote at all.? There is built in bias in this question- with the omission of this choice for an answer!!	1/16/2015 1:07 PM
14	In hospital	1/14/2015 4:21 AM
15	missed voting due to illness	1/13/2015 5:14 PM
16	I voted	1/12/2015 3:39 PM
17	just moved to town	1/12/2015 1:28 PM
18	i missed the first vote because i didn't know about it. however, i voted in the subsequent one.	1/12/2015 12:59 PM
19	voting has been choosing the lesser of 2 evils...as it was intentionally setup by the powers that be!! It should not be that way	1/12/2015 12:57 PM
20	Had just moved to town and did not feel I was well informed on the issues.	1/12/2015 12:56 PM
21	I did vote but don't see that as an option	1/12/2015 12:32 PM
22	Medical emergency	1/12/2015 12:07 PM
23	I am a Green Card holder, so I pay my taxes but don't get to vote.	1/12/2015 11:05 AM
24	Can not vote because I am not a resident of CT. Own a home in Colchester.	1/11/2015 11:52 AM

Q10 If you did not vote in the last Colchester budget referendum, what could be done to assist you - or what barriers removed - to ensure you vote in the next budget referendum?

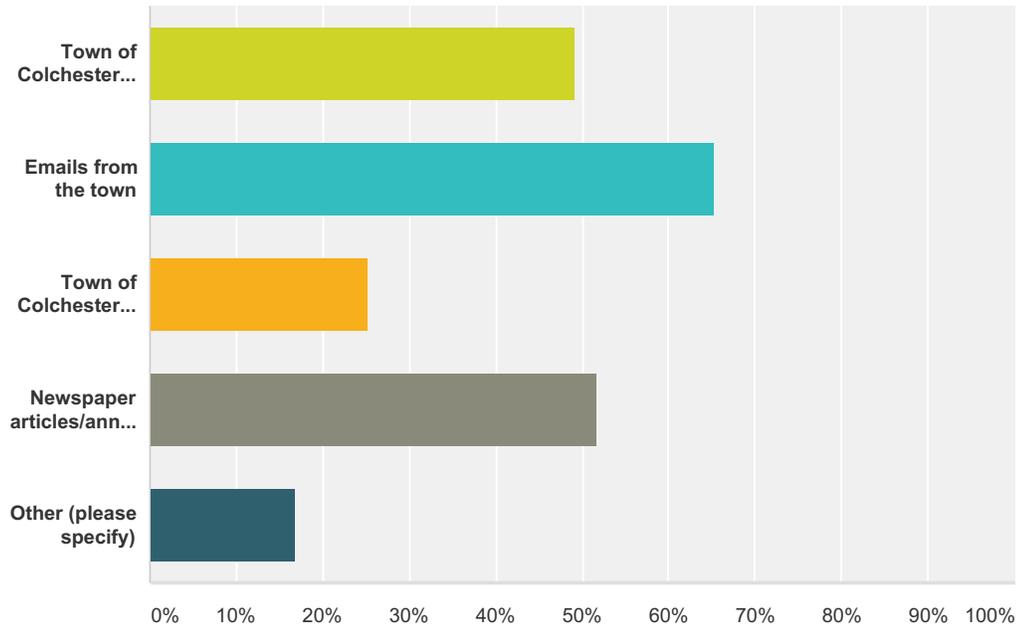
Answered: 41 Skipped: 617

#	Responses	Date
1	electronic ballots	1/31/2015 5:27 PM
2	Clearly state if voting is in district location or at the town hall	1/31/2015 5:02 PM
3	remove voting in a church	1/31/2015 3:47 PM
4	More alerts about the date of the vote.	1/30/2015 10:14 PM
5	Have the BOF stop being yes men to the school budget!!!!	1/30/2015 8:00 PM
6	Absentee ballots or mail in voting.	1/30/2015 7:32 PM
7	Hold the vote on a weekend so that the working people of Colchester who work outside of Colchester business hours have the opportunity to vote without having to miss valuable hours of work which cause a loss of pay.	1/30/2015 4:21 PM
8	Doesn't matter if I vote or not, the budget always goes through with a tax increase	1/30/2015 11:28 AM
9	N/a	1/24/2015 8:40 AM
10	I take ownership on this. I should have cared more and tried harder to understand what was at stake.	1/23/2015 3:15 PM
11	na	1/23/2015 3:12 PM
12	Inform town people better on meeting	1/19/2015 7:45 PM
13	I will be voting	1/19/2015 4:28 PM
14	For those in the military or those that are out on temporary reassignment perhaps more than one week notice about the vote by email might give us a chance to email a request for an absentee ballot. Time needs to be allotted to give residents time to request the ballot, receive the ballot and mail the ballot back. We should all have the right to vote.	1/19/2015 11:32 AM
15	n/a	1/19/2015 9:55 AM
16	Allow permanent US resident, tax paying, property owners to vote	1/18/2015 8:34 AM
17	We use the robo-call function for a lot of community announcements - would it be a violation to use it for referendum votes?	1/17/2015 6:51 AM
18	None, I will be voting.	1/16/2015 7:14 PM
19	Elected officials run in the promise to curtail taxes - in Fact the Democrats criticized Greg for "the highest taxes in 20 years" blah blah blah - & no they are leading the charge for more taxes Just like Malloy!! How about elected officials listen to the people - No new taxes!! Each year elected officials, board members & Political hacks orchestrate a campaign of fear mongering & beg people to pass a budget (by all means necessary - to the point of actively soliciting people to fill out absentee ballots for their kids at college & other questionable ways etc...) perhaps they should understand that when the budget doesn't pass the first time - LISTEN & make the cuts!! Better yet put forth a real budget that people can support - Colchester citizens will work to defeat a budget that imposes another increase in taxes!! Cut the deadwood !!!	1/16/2015 1:07 PM
20	Just moved to town	1/16/2015 9:28 AM
21	ill be there	1/14/2015 4:21 AM
22	Mail in or online ballots.	1/13/2015 6:46 PM

23	I didn't research enough on my own	1/13/2015 6:38 PM
24	More information maybe in the bulletin	1/13/2015 12:48 PM
25	We recently moved to Colchester, so I was not informed enough to make an educated vote.	1/13/2015 7:52 AM
26	I vote at every referendum	1/12/2015 10:51 PM
27	allow to go to any location in town. Most of us coming from work in Hartford, it is easier in the town hall.	1/12/2015 9:06 PM
28	reduce my property taxes	1/12/2015 6:35 PM
29	Keep polls open later	1/12/2015 6:22 PM
30	Explain what we would be voting on in simple language.	1/12/2015 3:27 PM
31	I think the town does a fine job in this area. Thank you	1/12/2015 3:22 PM
32	When there are multiple referenda I did not secure an absentee ballot in time.	1/12/2015 2:50 PM
33	more publicity - town fb page, news releases, digital backpack	1/12/2015 12:59 PM
34	Show the people living in this town that you are trying to control costs and stop any wasteful spending before threatening to cut services to our youth.	1/12/2015 12:57 PM
35	I have always been a conscientious voter and will become informed about my new town and vote in all future opportunities.	1/12/2015 12:56 PM
36	Information as to when the vote was taking place	1/12/2015 12:04 PM
37	no barriers have to be removed for me personally, I just wasn't old enough to vote yet.	1/12/2015 11:48 AM
38	my husband votes so we get a collective input	1/12/2015 11:23 AM
39	I work all day. My focus is on my job and family. Voting after work becomes difficult when you work all day and have a family at night that needs your attention.	1/12/2015 11:17 AM
40	I will become a citizen next year and will begin to vote.	1/12/2015 11:05 AM
41	n/a - I did vote	1/10/2015 2:48 PM

Q11 What is/are your preferred source(s) of information to learn about the town budget, school budget, referendums and when to vote? (Choose all that apply)

Answered: 595 Skipped: 63



Answer Choices	Responses
Town of Colchester website	49.24% 293
Emails from the town	65.38% 389
Town of Colchester First Selectman's Facebook page	25.21% 150
Newspaper articles/announcements (please specify preferred newspaper)	51.76% 308
Other (please specify)	16.97% 101
Total Respondents: 595	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Only local paper I read is free Rivereast	2/1/2015 10:05 PM
2	Preferred newspaper: Rivereast	2/1/2015 9:03 PM
3	Rivereast News Bulletin	2/1/2015 12:07 PM
4	The River East Bulletin	2/1/2015 11:57 AM
5	river east	2/1/2015 11:37 AM
6	Rivereast	2/1/2015 8:43 AM
7	Facebook sites created by concerned residents.	1/31/2015 5:33 PM

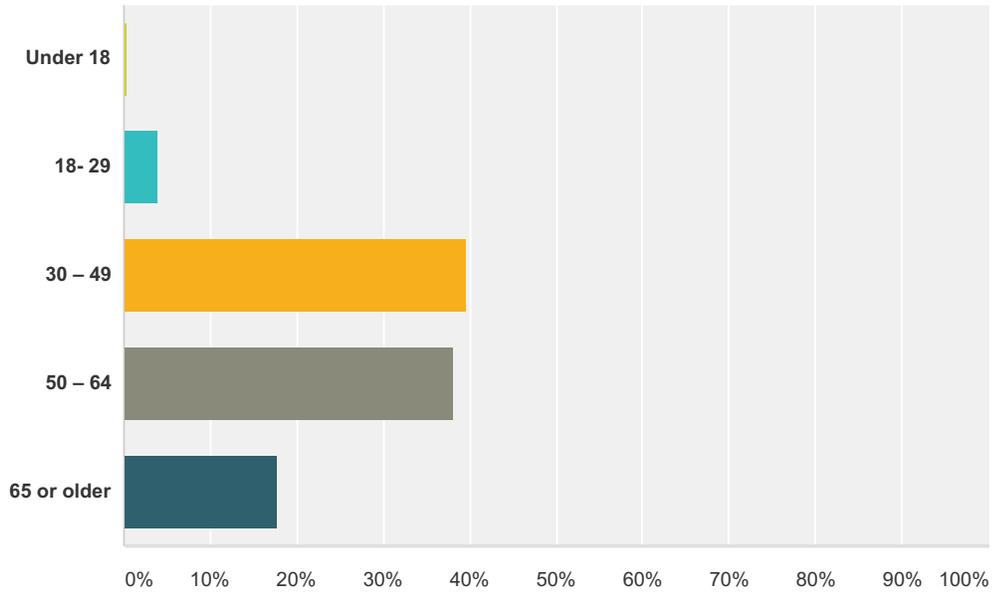
8	Face to face contact and meetings. Question and answers with prospective members of the finance board, Board of Education, and the like works for me.	1/31/2015 5:15 PM
9	Twitter	1/31/2015 5:02 PM
10	Town halls	1/31/2015 2:09 PM
11	News bulletin	1/31/2015 8:28 AM
12	We need more methods of push and passive electronic communication. Place all info on town website. Make it mobile and alert push friendly with optin preferences. Finally someone needs to use Twitter on a super regular basis to let people know what's happening in town. Former selectman have done a better job at this and it's absolutely critical. The town police Facebook page is great and it works even if you don't have a Facebook account. Twitter should be used and as I said before push alert prompts are critical for website changes.	1/31/2015 7:40 AM
13	Independent web sites	1/30/2015 8:28 PM
14	FB	1/30/2015 7:51 PM
15	Rivereast	1/30/2015 7:40 PM
16	RiverEast articles	1/30/2015 7:12 PM
17	Hartford Courant Rivereast	1/30/2015 6:05 PM
18	meetings	1/30/2015 5:26 PM
19	I have signed up but never get emails	1/30/2015 4:49 PM
20	Norwich Bulletin	1/30/2015 10:42 AM
21	other facebook discussions	1/29/2015 10:38 PM
22	Many can't understand or don't read the whole budget, for the most part if you don't understand you vote no. Make a small document stating what the additional funds will be used for and don't give generic answers.	1/29/2015 9:31 AM
23	river east, reminder.	1/29/2015 7:33 AM
24	River East	1/28/2015 6:05 PM
25	Rivereast	1/28/2015 2:54 AM
26	The Rivereast	1/26/2015 9:14 PM
27	River East	1/26/2015 8:47 PM
28	River East	1/26/2015 12:16 PM
29	rivereast	1/25/2015 1:57 PM
30	Local Signs	1/24/2015 8:40 PM
31	Twitter	1/24/2015 7:34 PM
32	Connecting Colchester, PTO and Education Matters	1/23/2015 3:44 PM
33	Town paper	1/23/2015 3:37 PM
34	Cant believe 90% of what is in the paper. Cant believe any of the crap put out by the Twon website. The paper is a voice for the town selectmen and the gloom and doom tactics always utilized by the boards is really overdone. So I prefer to use my research and findings to find the truth.	1/23/2015 3:34 PM
35	Rivereast News Bulletin	1/23/2015 8:47 AM
36	river east	1/23/2015 8:15 AM
37	Rivereast	1/23/2015 7:44 AM
38	Colchester Connections is my best source of information on the town. Perhaps a blurb in there about the budget. The Connecitons stays on my coffee table for a whole season. There are so many great events and programs in there.	1/22/2015 11:49 AM
39	Norwich Bulletin	1/21/2015 11:45 AM

40	RiverEast	1/20/2015 7:28 PM
41	put it on the town green and in Westchester four corners	1/19/2015 7:45 PM
42	Valuable Presentation Media. via website....	1/19/2015 12:26 PM
43	Rivereast	1/19/2015 8:31 AM
44	Rivereast	1/18/2015 9:30 AM
45	Word of mouth	1/17/2015 9:49 PM
46	Rivereast	1/17/2015 5:32 PM
47	Facebook pages of others involved in budget/town news.	1/17/2015 3:11 PM
48	Norwich bulletin	1/17/2015 8:09 AM
49	Selectman's email & school digital backpack	1/17/2015 6:51 AM
50	Hartford Courrant	1/16/2015 7:14 PM
51	River East	1/16/2015 6:48 PM
52	Rivereast News Bulletin	1/16/2015 4:52 PM
53	Town Meeting	1/16/2015 4:26 PM
54	public meetings	1/15/2015 7:50 PM
55	RiverEast	1/15/2015 10:09 AM
56	Twitter	1/14/2015 11:22 AM
57	Rivereast	1/14/2015 6:15 AM
58	I don't always see the RiverEast notices with very much notice. Same with the fb page. Advance notice on fb would be ideal...ie one week ahead or the week before.	1/13/2015 10:58 PM
59	Signs on Rte 16, 85 and center of town	1/13/2015 7:54 PM
60	Rivereast	1/13/2015 7:51 PM
61	I listen to the audit files of the town meetings.	1/13/2015 6:05 PM
62	NO extra mailings!!!!Cost too much.	1/13/2015 10:28 AM
63	All the information in the local papers is propaganda pushed by the boards and the towns. Fear and doom and woe is me are all that is reported. a familiar formula that the town utilizes to scare people. I dont trust any of the information posted by the boards or the heads of the boards. I read the budget and look at demographics and cover my ears to all the rhetoric.	1/13/2015 8:40 AM
64	Reminder	1/13/2015 7:52 AM
65	Hartford Courant	1/12/2015 9:06 PM
66	Unbiased 3rd party, not the people who make a living off the taxes paid.	1/12/2015 8:48 PM
67	Rivereast	1/12/2015 7:46 PM
68	social media/internet sources	1/12/2015 6:35 PM
69	Rivereast	1/12/2015 6:31 PM
70	A consolidated overview via all methods above and video or conference call in ability to all meetings.	1/12/2015 5:26 PM
71	RiverEast	1/12/2015 5:14 PM
72	Social Media	1/12/2015 5:11 PM
73	Bulletin	1/12/2015 3:22 PM
74	Rivereast	1/12/2015 2:50 PM
75	Rivereast	1/12/2015 1:49 PM

76	RiverEast	1/12/2015 1:09 PM
77	Its hard to make it to town meetings working 2 jobs.	1/12/2015 12:49 PM
78	Rivereast	1/12/2015 12:43 PM
79	River East	1/12/2015 12:38 PM
80	Norwich Bulletin	1/12/2015 12:13 PM
81	Norwich Bulletin	1/12/2015 12:07 PM
82	River East Newspaper that is mailed to us, and special meetings where there is a presentation about budget, then we can ask questions.	1/12/2015 11:58 AM
83	Meetings that board of education members are so kind to present	1/12/2015 11:20 AM
84	Norwich Bulletin	1/12/2015 11:19 AM
85	Rivereast News	1/12/2015 11:17 AM
86	Town Facebook sites	1/12/2015 11:17 AM
87	signs around town	1/12/2015 11:12 AM
88	Rivereast News	1/12/2015 11:05 AM
89	Connecting Colchester FB page	1/12/2015 6:12 AM
90	1 FB page for all town departments & committees, no posting by public	1/12/2015 2:18 AM
91	Common knowledge v	1/11/2015 6:27 PM
92	River east	1/11/2015 6:19 PM
93	Other facebook postings	1/11/2015 12:47 PM
94	Attend meetings	1/11/2015 12:43 PM
95	Stream the meetings live	1/11/2015 11:20 AM
96	Jim McNair	1/11/2015 8:05 AM
97	Connecting Colchester Facebook Page	1/10/2015 3:38 PM
98	talking to board members at meetings	1/10/2015 2:27 PM
99	Put signs on the town green	1/10/2015 1:39 PM
100	Connecting Colchester Facebook Page	1/10/2015 12:03 PM
101	RiverEast	1/10/2015 11:22 AM

Q12 What is your age group? (Choose one)

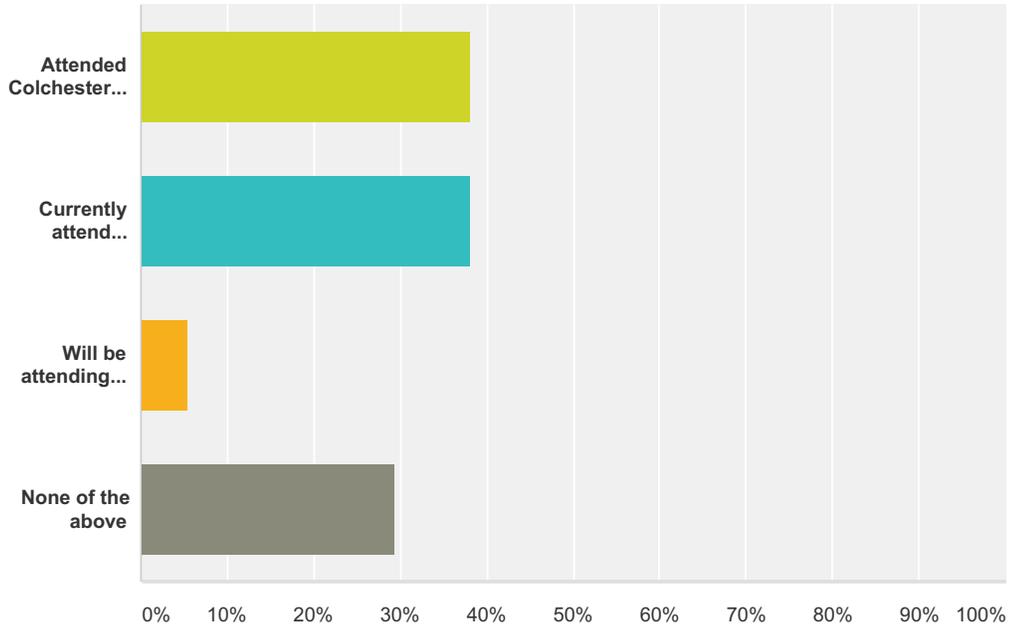
Answered: 618 Skipped: 40



Answer Choices	Responses
Under 18	0.32% 2
18-29	4.05% 25
30-49	39.64% 245
50-64	38.19% 236
65 or older	17.80% 110
Total	618

Q13 Please share information about any children in your household.(Choose all that apply)

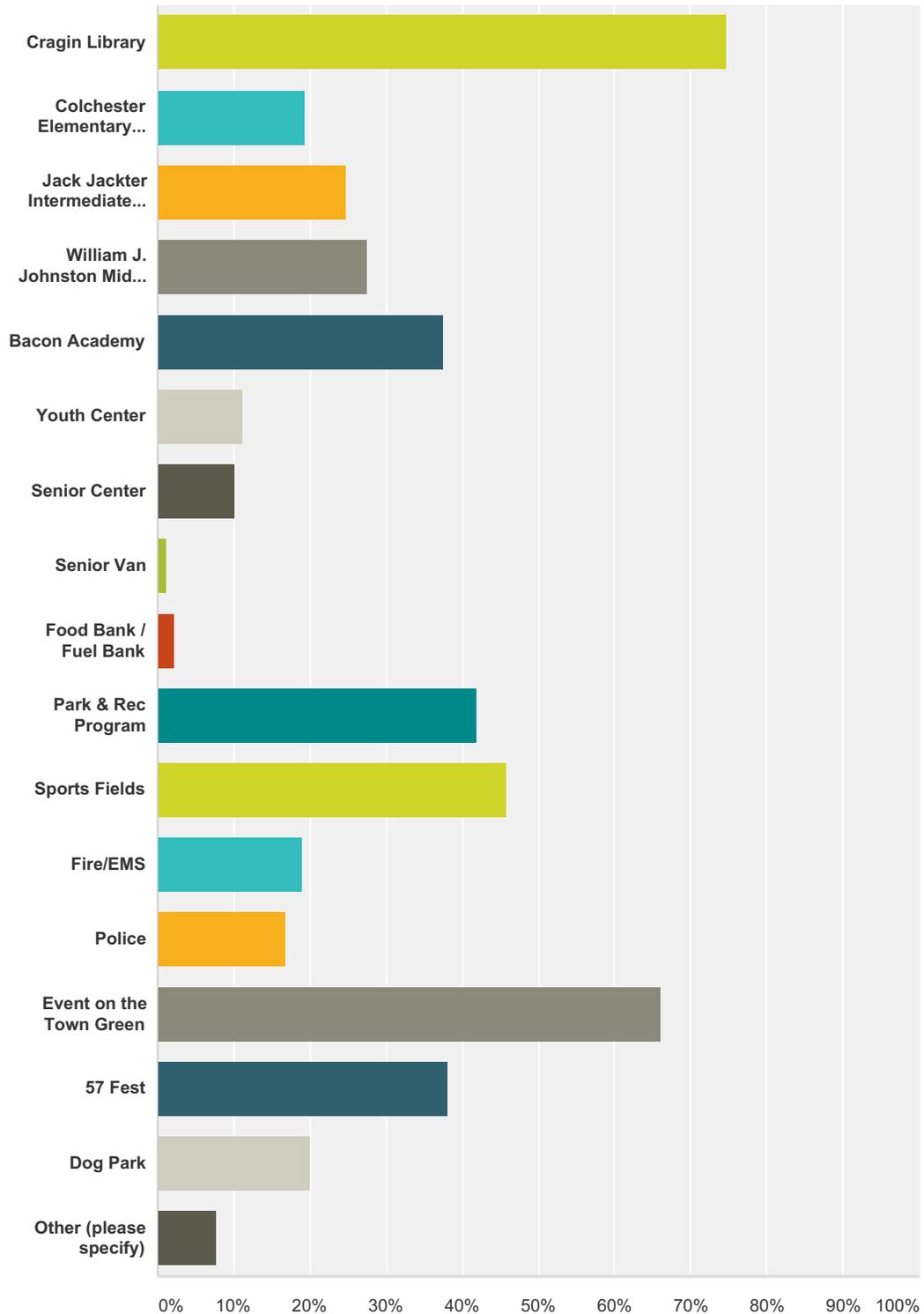
Answered: 611 Skipped: 47



Answer Choices	Responses
Attended Colchester schools	38.13% 233
Currently attend Colchester schools	38.13% 233
Will be attending Colchester schools	5.40% 33
None of the above	29.46% 180
Total Respondents: 611	

Q14 Please indicate the services you and/or your family have used or events in town attended in the past year. (Check all that apply)

Answered: 590 Skipped: 68



Answer Choices	Responses
Cragin Library	74.75% 441
Colchester Elementary School	19.49% 115
Jack Jackter Intermediate School	24.75% 146
William J. Johnston Middle School	27.46% 162
Bacon Academy	37.63% 222
Youth Center	11.36% 67
Senior Center	10.17% 60
Senior Van	1.19% 7
Food Bank / Fuel Bank	2.20% 13
Park & Rec Program	42.03% 248
Sports Fields	45.93% 271
Fire/EMS	18.98% 112
Police	16.95% 100
Event on the Town Green	66.10% 390
57 Fest	38.14% 225
Dog Park	20.00% 118
Other (please specify)	7.63% 45
Total Respondents: 590	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Walking/hiking with dogs/baby at Ruby Cohen & Rec Plex, & using playgrounds at Rec Plex & schools	2/1/2015 10:05 PM
2	None	2/1/2015 12:07 PM
3	Sidewalks	2/1/2015 8:44 AM
4	Anytime you drive the roads of Colchester, are protected by the fire department, police department, use the schools, the town green, attend events you are utilizing many services. It is what makes a community grow and prosper. We must continue to maintain programs and to meet the needs of all citizens.	1/31/2015 5:16 PM
5	Town sand	1/31/2015 7:42 AM
6	I donate to food bank	1/30/2015 4:50 PM
7	None	1/30/2015 4:14 PM
8	where is there plans for the middle age people; not senior not junior, tots.	1/29/2015 10:48 PM
9	NONE	1/29/2015 1:51 PM
10	transfer station	1/28/2015 2:54 AM
11	Neither	1/24/2015 12:18 PM
12	Roads/Maintenance, Twn Hall & its services, Bldg Dept	1/24/2015 9:00 AM
13	C3	1/23/2015 3:59 PM

14	Transfer station	1/23/2015 3:17 PM
15	Road's, the Rest is My Responsibility	1/19/2015 12:28 PM
16	ebooks online through library	1/18/2015 10:16 AM
17	Town Hall services	1/17/2015 5:01 PM
18	Student busing to Norwich Tech	1/17/2015 2:13 PM
19	none of the above	1/17/2015 9:04 AM
20	Worked at Pumpkins and Pooches, Trick or Trunk & Bunny Blast. Contribute to the food bank and fuel bank on a regular basis.	1/17/2015 6:53 AM
21	Landfill	1/16/2015 9:13 PM
22	none used	1/16/2015 4:41 PM
23	NONE OF THE ABOVE	1/16/2015 4:19 PM
24	None of your business!!	1/16/2015 1:08 PM
25	I think the dog park is great and very important to our town	1/13/2015 6:47 PM
26	Boy Scout campout at Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands	1/13/2015 4:44 PM
27	town roads	1/13/2015 8:40 AM
28	Rec Plex	1/13/2015 7:53 AM
29	NONE!	1/12/2015 8:49 PM
30	none	1/12/2015 6:44 PM
31	Notta.....work 3 jobs-no time for frills	1/12/2015 6:37 PM
32	Dogs should be prohibited from public events since we have a dog park for socializing.	1/12/2015 5:01 PM
33	None	1/12/2015 1:53 PM
34	I was amazed how much the bill was volunteer ambulance service.	1/12/2015 12:55 PM
35	Town and State Parks	1/12/2015 12:51 PM
36	Working 2 jobs no time for fun. You people don't get it more taxes mean less to eat, less for the essentials to live.	1/12/2015 12:51 PM
37	None of the above	1/12/2015 12:14 PM
38	none	1/12/2015 11:25 AM
39	Airline trail	1/12/2015 11:14 AM
40	Airline Trail and public lands	1/12/2015 11:06 AM
41	Basketball games	1/11/2015 12:45 PM
42	Air Line trail	1/10/2015 1:40 PM
43	Shakespeare on the Colchester Green	1/10/2015 12:05 PM
44	Airline trail	1/10/2015 11:15 AM
45	Transfer station, building/zoning permits	1/10/2015 11:06 AM

Q15 Please use this space for additional comments you would like to share with town or school officials.

Answered: 150 Skipped: 508

#	Responses	Date
1	It is bad enough CT is not a dog friendly state. I will not stand for Colchester following suit. As stated before: if a ban on dogs is placed, I will vote against any budget until the ban is lifted. Although I realize this has nothing to do with budget, it does however reduce my trust in those who run the town.	2/1/2015 11:33 PM
2	I would enjoy Colchester more if it had a Target store (or Kmart or Walmart etc), a good Mexican restaurant (small town or chain) and a trendy chain restaurant (like Chilis or Apple-bees), and a nice/small motel (holiday inn, red roof inn etc). Encourage development of these business types, especially restaurants. What an improvement to the character of the town when we got a Star Bucks and more recently the hip Asian restaurants. Encourage more development like this!! If the proposed private venture indoor soccer/fitness facility comes through please use that as a springboard to make Colchester more hip-suburban. See earlier comment on new/hip indoor community center and indoor pool. My main priority. Also, Colchester needs to better maintain many/most town owned opened spaces to encourage recreational use. Mow them to allow kids/hikers to enjoy the open space rather than letting them turn into overgrown bramble empty fields. Put up signs that they are town open space parks and put in benches and a few swings or some playscape items. We could have pocket parks all over town (mini versions of the mowed area of Ruby Cohen open space) and have one in every neighborhood to be enjoyed for recreation. Very little costs, just mowing, and street signage/hiking signage and maps/on-line publicity to show all of the "pocket parks" for recreation use. Enjoyable parks rather than just empty field eye-sores, that everyone can enjoy with minimal town public works cost (accept additional mowing). Two comments on streets/town planning of street layout. (i) Colchester desperately needs more through streets with connections between neighborhoods (to make town more walker/jogger friendly) rather than dead-end cul-de-sacs off of 45mph+ state routes (that are walker/jogger unfriendly). Any new subdivisions should be required to put in as many through streets as possible to connect existing town roads. (ii) About 10 years ago the street signs were changed to only having the more major road signed rather than both streets at all intersections. This was an illogical change. Please put back street signage that indicates both street names at every intersection!	2/1/2015 10:06 PM
3	Colchester should market the town to entice new businesses to move here. We have the space. New businesses will be profitable here. We need an Aldi's supermarket and an Evergreen Walk-type shopping area. There is plenty of land to be developed and we have easy access off Route 2 and Route 11. People moved here in the 80's because of the location. The only thing changing is the increase in taxes. We need commercial businesses to help pay the taxes. As people age, they are not going to want to drive out of town to go shopping, to go to dinner, or out for entertainment. We need dining choices besides pizza and Asian food. Cafe Mangia is too expensive for a whole family and I would not recommend the food at NuNu's. We need food and a bar and entertainment- think the 99 Restaurant, Buffalo Wild Wings, Corey's Catsup and Mustard, Moes Southwestern Grill, fern bars, sports bars, etc. We are tired of driving out of town just to have dinner. Thank you for listening.	2/1/2015 2:51 PM
4	The school budget increases every year without noticeable performance/outcome improvements. Pay attention to the numbers of people who have voted for no tax increase at every recent referendum. The town's tactic appears to be to exhaust opposition by repeated budget revisions with only minor changes - until obtaining the desired result. No budget increase and no tax increase!	2/1/2015 12:14 PM
5	Thank you for all you do for the town.	1/31/2015 10:03 PM
6	Good Luck	1/31/2015 5:34 PM
7	Roads need better plowing in the winter. It seems like if schools are closed plowing is pushed off, which affect people that still have to commute to work in the morning.	1/31/2015 5:29 PM
8	Keep services intact, be prudent, seek out grant money, and bring in economic growth, it will make Colchester a place where people will stay and prosper.	1/31/2015 5:18 PM
9	If we are lucky enough to attract new businesses, and the growth in grand list that goes with that, please do not use that increase as an excuse to add new programs and new costs. Use any growth to help curtail tax increases. I have lived in town for 15 years in the same house and my taxes have close to doubled. It is too much. I cannot force my employer to give me a raise to cover the increase in taxes you force on us.	1/31/2015 3:05 PM

10	This town collectors more than ample tax dollars from it's residents but isn't spending them wisely. Change your spending habits! Larger cities charge considerably lower taxes yet offer many, many more services to its residents. Please get us on public water and sewer. It's time!!	1/31/2015 10:10 AM
11	Need to consider town police vs state police. We are very fortunate to have one of a few barracks in the state. This should be counted on as a contributing factor of defining an adequate size necessary for town police. They are not exclusive rather more complimentary than it currently appears	1/31/2015 7:44 AM
12	Seems like every year when the budget comes up athletics is used as a chip to get people to vote. Sports and other extracurricular activities are important to the students being well rounded. When the students go to college the colleges look to see that they are well rounded.	1/31/2015 6:35 AM
13	This town wastes too much money, personnel and equipment.	1/30/2015 8:31 PM
14	Stop the huge BOE spending!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	1/30/2015 8:01 PM
15	Teaching does not require the latest technology. Teaching is about conveying understanding of principles. Technology is only one suite of tools to support teaching. Arts foster creativity which is necessary in trade, business and scientific careers. Athletics (winning seasons or not) foster teamwork which is part citizenship. We need set priorities based on outcomes not desires or interests.	1/30/2015 7:20 PM
16	Please dont forget large difference in Colchester wage earners. Some are very well off. Some are fixed income. Thre are schools that are doing well with "pay to play" according to income. Music and athletics are important	1/30/2015 6:09 PM
17	Colchester a great town but needs to be managed better. Our schools need the same. I like to see teachers to be held accountable and not just parents and kids. Install a staff dress code. No flip flops or shorts. It's to lax, bring back domd old traditions. Dress like adults and maybe the older kids will treat and respect teachers as adults instead of piers.	1/30/2015 5:54 PM
18	First Town, please get all agencies to give more detailed information into why they need what they need. Second School. Consider a negotiator to help with salaries and benefits.	1/30/2015 5:22 PM
19	Our spending is out of control. We need to get a handle on it. Our taxes are over \$10,000/year and that is ridiculous!	1/30/2015 5:01 PM
20	The town needs to either keep the taxes the same or lower.	1/30/2015 4:51 PM
21	Enrollment is down, sart thinking about consolidating buildings Ana sell a building.	1/30/2015 4:15 PM
22	You are squeezing the poorer and elderly people out of town. When is someone going to take care of ALL of the people not just the rich ones with lots of kids.	1/30/2015 11:30 AM
23	If taxes continue to go up rapidly while the economy goes up slowly in about 10 years we will be in a similar position as ct's City's.	1/29/2015 9:39 AM
24	Athletics funding should be prioritized to activities which can be enjoyed throughout life rather than in youth only	1/29/2015 9:35 AM
25	Although I'm all for maintaining or increasing service levels in town, youth programs, and town events, I am also of the mind that, at all times, inefficiencies should be minimized, extraneous positions limited and where possible, activities should be sponsored by community groups and businesses whenever possible. The tax burden residents is growing, and should be reduced where possible.	1/29/2015 7:37 AM
26	No new taxes! Families are losing their homes to foreclosures and many more are thinking of leaving Colchester. The cost of living is not affordable!	1/29/2015 7:19 AM
27	no increase to mill rate.	1/28/2015 2:55 AM
28	more emphasis on youth drug issues.. More youth sports fields.. And I have NO children	1/27/2015 8:25 PM
29	no tax increase	1/27/2015 2:58 PM
30	It would be of value to know what and how much is spent in other areas. A list of all expenses would be valuable for review.	1/24/2015 11:51 PM
31	Thank you for the opportunity for citizens to express opinions, however I wonder how many citizens are aware of this survey. Isn't the timing of the survey a little late? Shouldn't the survey have been conducted well in advance of the town budget planning process which is already under way? I still don't understand why Academic Programs/Courses (other than class size in question 1) are not even listed as a possible priority for the Schools Budget.	1/24/2015 8:42 PM

32	Please research and pilot the newest Common Core text books before we invest our limited tax dollars. Listen to the teachers that pilot these programs and look at more than one option.	1/24/2015 3:29 PM
33	This town cannot survive without additional commercial development to boost the tax base instead of hitting the property tax year after year. Secondly, this town needs a new school like it needs a hole in the head. No school in this town should have the maintenance issues we hear about every year. Whose in charge of that budget item and where has the money gone all these past years?	1/24/2015 11:40 AM
34	Planning on leaving Colchester after kids are out of school. Can't afford to live here.	1/24/2015 8:07 AM
35	We appreciate all the work school administrators and elected officials do on the budget.	1/23/2015 6:54 PM
36	Live with in your means. You can not raise taxes every year.	1/23/2015 5:05 PM
37	Question 13 should include "Attending an out of town school partially or fully paid by town" and "Home Schooling"	1/23/2015 3:47 PM
38	Replace the head of pupil services and special education	1/23/2015 3:40 PM
39	Get rid of the waste. Wake up. We dont need police with assault rifles in this town. Cut the police department. Cut the education budget. Cut staff. Live within your means. The state wont be increasing funding so start doing what taxpayers need to do. Make decisions and cut out stuff they want but cant afford.	1/23/2015 3:36 PM
40	Be smart with your budgets.	1/23/2015 3:18 PM
41	Taxes are much too high for seniors. Colchester is a great town and I don't want to be forced to move south because of high taxes, but I'm thinking about it.	1/23/2015 3:15 PM
42	tax increases every year are putting a burden on retired residents look into ways to reduce the rate on this group	1/23/2015 1:33 PM
43	I think Colchester schools do great with the money they have, it was however so disappointing to see the CLIMB program get cut, especially considering the very low cost of that program.	1/23/2015 8:49 AM
44	First we should approve the town budget and education budget separately, as well as tax separately. Second the town needs to provide a tax credit/discount on the education budget for seniors. Many seniors in town have educated our children in Colchester Schools and now find economic times more stressful. (much higher taxes). In short supporting the town budget is much more important for seniors. The education budget is for families with children to manage the changing times and needs to meet future goals. Seniors will contribute but at a discounted amount.(??)	1/22/2015 3:30 PM
45	Please do not cut the service departments when decisions get tough- (Library, Recreation, Parks, Youth and Social Services, Senior Center) I moved to Colchester because I heard about the great parks, the great events on the town green, the beautiful library and the services. I heard about the supportive community and the great schools. I like the small town feel, yet I appreciate the services and am willing to pay for them. Times are tough but I budget to have these items. I feel blessed to live in such a beautiful town and love the outdoor amenities for my family such as the airline trail, splash pad, dog park and fitness and sports programs for my family. Cutting these items will only cause less people to move here in the future and less of a tax base. Please keep this in mind. Thank you!	1/22/2015 11:56 AM
46	lower taxes for seniors, stop driving them out of town. we don't use the facilities so we need a break	1/21/2015 9:10 PM
47	I read in the paper that they brought in an expert to talk about future enrollment, then argued with him when he said enrollment would continue to be low for the next five years. Do all our elected officials think voters are stupid sheep? This was another example of Town Hall thinking that really bothers us. You have a real credibility issue about budget matters.	1/21/2015 3:09 PM
48	Please fund open space! Preserving land saves money in the long run. A \$5,000 budget line item is far too little. We won't have any funding when a key parcel comes available.	1/20/2015 7:31 PM
49	As said previously, the town will be needing new ambulances in the very near future	1/20/2015 11:17 AM

50	I am very disappointed in the way the middle school is run. I think the children are degraded the way they are treated. I am tired of the excuses that are given every time I have brought up an issue with them. I would like to say that I am the only parent that is not satisfied with the administration with the middle school but I am not. After speaking with the parents I have found that I am not the only one that feels this way. I think the school district should be doing things the same as one another. Each school seems to use different social media or ways of contacting parents. We have power school in the district and I think all schools should use that throughout the school instead of having parents using multiple accounts for multiple kids. It is very time consuming and a pain for parents that have more than one child. As for the town side you need to get a grip on the spending. Even if this means scrapping the budget all together and starting from scratch. I think as a town we really need to dig through all our expenses. There is waste. We have lots of stay at home moms in town if all of us could loose a paycheck not stay home and we figured out how to cut expenses yet still survive without things so can the town. It's just a matter of finding the waste and figuring out what we can do without and where we can find better deals.	1/20/2015 10:42 AM
51	The town is getting too big for just an elected official (which can change every 2 years). We need to switch to a Town Manager.	1/19/2015 7:54 PM
52	Town officials do not give me confidence that they're telling me the whole story or making tough choices to reduce the rate of increase of taxes when they propose budgets	1/19/2015 4:30 PM
53	In comparison with towns around us, we are vastly under funding our public safety commitments. The fire apparatus are very outdated with the exception of the new Rescue coming in. The Police department could also use some upgrades, more manpower and responsibilities. We're the largest town in the area, yet many others around us are providing higher quality of living than we are.	1/19/2015 1:31 PM
54	Understandably this is a difficult job, I applaud you all for your service. Good luck.	1/19/2015 11:33 AM
55	Publicly funded positions should be transferred over to a 401K instead of a pension and salary increases should match those being received by the majority of all Americans right now - little to none. Health care coverage should also match what most American Companies offer.	1/19/2015 9:58 AM
56	attract new businesses to fill the empty retail space. Colchester is losing it's appeal...what's keeping people here? Why Colchester why would people stay here?	1/18/2015 10:18 AM
57	A school tax break for seniors, similar to the SALT program in New York, who no longer have children using the school facilities.	1/18/2015 9:27 AM
58	someone needs to be appointed to run the food bank, from what I hear it is not run properly.	1/18/2015 7:10 AM
59	I thank you for all you do to work on this difficult process and continue to make Colchester the best place to live. It is an awesome community. I have many many concerns about the middle school and the state of that building. It doesn't reflect well on our community. I have no concerns about the quality of instruction there at all, just the poor state of the building and lack of technology our kids need to continue to become engaged and capable citizens in a competitive world. I know that this is being worked on. I find many families on my street, many of whom have very young children, are already opting for magnet schools and that is concerning to me. Middle school is another time when parents begin to make decisions about high school, and we need to have a school building that can accommodate state of the art instruction, cutting edge technology so that families feel good about continuing at Bacon. Otherwise, I fear more will choose alternative school and be less engaged in voting for budgets that support the needs of our schools.	1/17/2015 3:13 PM
60	57 Fest should be re-designed or eliminated. Sports fields at park & Rec need serious maintenance all year long. It's embarrassing when traveling to other towns and it's dangerous to have kids playing on such horrible fields. Programming thru parks & rev could be decreased.	1/17/2015 9:39 AM
61	What made me move to Colchester several years ago was the incredible sense of community - balanced support of children and senior citizens. We have some very strong non-profit groups (Lions, Rotary, Antique Veterans) that do so much for the community and help us offer so many more opportunities than the town budget covers. I recognize it's not possible to have every resource paid for by the town, but I want to be sure that the young men and women that complete their education here are well prepared for the "real world", which means that all extracurricular activities cannot be an incremental cost, or additional socio-economic gaps will widen. We have plenty of opportunities to collaborate so this doesn't happen - I just want to see our "best in class" reputation survive the economic turmoil. Thank you for all you do to serve!	1/17/2015 6:59 AM
62	Wasteful bus system. revamp it, especially houses in downtown area do not need bus. instead before school drop off and more parents drive their child	1/17/2015 5:59 AM
63	Combine superintendent and staff with other towns, save money in salaries. A superintendent with 3! schools is wasteful. Charge a fee to use the dog park.	1/16/2015 10:37 PM

64	Updates at WJJMS..	1/16/2015 9:14 PM
65	I think the town should be concerned about areas of blithe in some neighborhoods and in town. More businesses should be encouraged to come to town. Especially some competition for the present supermarket.	1/16/2015 8:02 PM
66	Please build a new Senior Center. We are always last in the town on the list.	1/16/2015 7:20 PM
67	Real estate values are sinking and people looking to buy a home do not want to look in Colchester. They express to realtors a concern about drug use and the lack of leisure or employment opportunities for teens.	1/16/2015 6:58 PM
68	Please! No more tax increases for a while. My property tax has doubled in the last 15 years and I am making half what I made then. I'm not alone. I understand we may lose some services but many of us have learned to get by with less. I know the town can also.	1/16/2015 6:54 PM
69	I believe the first selectman and his assistant wear too many hats. There should be dedicated staff for positions such as human resources, police chief, etc...	1/16/2015 5:25 PM
70	Do something about reducing property taxes for owners > 65 years old. On fixed incomes yet taxes increase	1/16/2015 4:40 PM
71	HOLD THE LINE. STOP THE BLEEDING. RE-NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS DOWN/SHARING COST	1/16/2015 4:21 PM
72	If you think you can pass on another tax increase & then try to pass the new school you are sadly mistaken!! Be prepared for true fiscal conservatives to send you a clear message once again.	1/16/2015 1:09 PM
73	I don't mind increasing taxes to fund more services as long as there is transparency and true accountability in planning and spending.	1/15/2015 10:03 PM
74	Run the town budget as if it was your home budget.	1/15/2015 10:13 AM
75	Keep the Education budget the number one priority.	1/15/2015 9:14 AM
76	Please remember so many people do not have the recourses needed to afford higher taxation. I do not understand why the politicians seem completely unaware of what is happening in Connecticut. Drive through town and see all the for sale signs.	1/14/2015 9:35 PM
77	The high school should add (back) a guidance counselor. Students do not have access to their counselor as much as they should due to the counselor's large case load. I don't care what the "industry-standard" is for case loads. Colchester isn't an industry-standard kind of community. We do what is right for our citizens. Students need access to counselors not for just scheduling issues but for guidance in any area of their lives. Counselors have very little if any time to offer this kind of mental health support to their students.	1/14/2015 7:59 PM
78	Listen to the input people provide to you. Just like the Senior Citizen referendum that you are trying to pass. There are not enough seniors to take advantage of the improvements you need to make.	1/14/2015 6:31 PM
79	Our town and the state need to get on a responsible and sustainable budget footing. No more smoke and mirrors: the citizens need transparency from their branches of government. The public simply cannot keep up with the annual automatic pay increases for municipal and state employees.	1/14/2015 5:04 PM
80	I would like to see a survey about how much residents support other surrounding towns in terms of retail.	1/14/2015 1:32 PM
81	stop raising taxes, people can not afford them	1/14/2015 9:55 AM
82	Small class sizes are of the utmost importance.	1/13/2015 11:00 PM
83	Voting attendance needs to be improved to ensure all residents' interests are represented.	1/13/2015 7:55 PM
84	The BOE spending is completely out of control. A declining enrollment should not lead to a budget increase. Now is the time to cut.	1/13/2015 6:07 PM
85	Good luck and thank you for your work on the Town's behalf!	1/13/2015 3:44 PM
86	Time to due away with the 57th activies	1/13/2015 11:44 AM
87	Hard to deal with fiscal conservation and tax increases when we pay a full time salary to a part time first selectmen. Not a lot of money but certainly sends the wrong message.	1/13/2015 11:40 AM
88	The Seniors and the young are the best place for our money. We have long needed a senior center and that should be a priority even before the school renovations are completed.	1/13/2015 10:31 AM
89	KEEP OUR TAXES LEVEL	1/13/2015 9:24 AM

90	Cut the budget. Hold it at zero growth by cutting non-essentail personnel. Get rid of the police department. Or at least stop bowing down to their demands / requests. They should never have hd assault rifles purchased for them. You people have no backbone and wont stand up to foolishness. If you are afraid to make a hard decision call me i will make it for you.	1/13/2015 8:42 AM
91	I appreciate the fact that Colchester wants to draw businesses, but I don't appreciate carelessly destroying forested areas to do so. The environment is much more important than we think, and to destroyed green space, zoned for commerical use or not, is wrong. We must be more sensible with the land we use and stop clear cutting forested areas. Colchester should be fined heavily for doing so.	1/13/2015 8:05 AM
92	While I don't want to see our taxes increase, one of the reasons my husband and I moved here with our toddler was because we felt that Colchester is an up and coming town. We have heard good things about the school system, and events offered through the town. As we make investments in our community, we will see our equity in our homes and our town increase. Most importantly, I want Colchester to be a healthy, safe, fun place for my son, with a good school system, to grow up.	1/13/2015 7:55 AM
93	Continuing raising the mill rate is not the answer to our fiscal problems. This town zoning and planning committees need to be more friendly to businesses: attract new business, and keep the existing businesses in town. Low income housing and senior housing doesn't add tax payers to the payroll.	1/12/2015 9:52 PM
94	I'm pretty sure no one reads this or takes what people think seriously. After all whoever reads this must get a paycheck from my tax dollars. Why would you care that I can't afford to pay for an increase in your salary?! What a joke	1/12/2015 9:11 PM
95	Good luck and I do appreciate that the job is challenging.	1/12/2015 8:50 PM
96	Probably time to put the 57 fest money to better use.	1/12/2015 7:50 PM
97	Increase businesses in town to keep residential taxes down	1/12/2015 7:22 PM
98	Mil rate jumped in response to crash in property values/ decrease in Grand List. As GL recovers/grows mil should be adjusted downward as much as possible to maintain necessary services, not kept level to provide funding for new, "would be nice if we had...". Taxpayer incomes still haven't recovered to the extent costs and taxes have increased in recent years. Ditto energy savings- vehicle and heating fuel prices have dropped by around 1/3 since last budget, next budget must reflect this drop (with a reasonable cushion of course) and not simply maintained with 'boast' of no increase.	1/12/2015 6:49 PM
99	Better management in town offices to reduce cost base Superintendent doing fine by me---keep costs structure at bay	1/12/2015 6:38 PM
100	A large group of civics students were astonished to watch James McNair play on his phone throughout a BOF meeting recently. Bad example!	1/12/2015 6:13 PM
101	Small class sizes are essential to quality education. Keep school and town hall employees salaries competitive so we don't talent to higher paying neighboring towns.	1/12/2015 5:48 PM
102	#1: Public Safety (would like to see the PD get a few GOOD years of funding to catch up with the ABUNDANT funding the FD gets) #2 Maintain scheduled increases in teacher's salaries - but that's it for the schools. Would like to see cuts. This small town (~17k residents) cannot afford 4 schools. #3 The highway dept to fix our roads in town. Sure the state roads are all nice, but several dirt roads and POORLY paved roads NEED IMPROVEMENT. Give them the funding to FIX IT RIGHT, not just repave it with "asphalt chips" like what has been done in recent years. (that looks terrible, is terrible to drive on once freshly put down, and is only a band-aid on the problem)	1/12/2015 5:40 PM
103	I'm not sure if this survey registered my responses!	1/12/2015 5:06 PM
104	I sense a feeling that the only way to maintain services is to increase taxes. Not true.	1/12/2015 4:26 PM
105	I don't think this survey is helpful in deciding spending priorities in the town budget. Too ambiguous.	1/12/2015 4:10 PM
106	Thank you for your interest.	1/12/2015 3:23 PM
107	Why are town employees driving town vehicles home? There is a cost and risk associated with this.	1/12/2015 3:02 PM
108	No more cuts to the schools budget, it will cost us our future	1/12/2015 2:59 PM
109	I live in Northwoods and we pay for many of our services separately. We also have no school children and are retired. How about a special tax rate or reduced property valuation in this area?	1/12/2015 2:32 PM
110	I believe one worry, is that the town is not being careful when itemizing budget items and will raise the mill rate without trying to cut extraneous items that may not have been noted in this survey.	1/12/2015 2:29 PM

111	The water main breaks in front of our house on Beechwood street year after year. It floods our basement and needs to be fixed. The town patches it but it most need more work.	1/12/2015 2:10 PM
112	WJ has only 1 part time social worker. Last year we cut 1/2 guidance counselor. Middle school years are arguably the most (socially and emotionally) difficult for students. Please reverse the trend and support our students by making the WJJMS school social worker a full time position.	1/12/2015 2:05 PM
113	stop spending - cut the budget - people are unemployed and underemployed!!!!	1/12/2015 2:04 PM
114	I would like to see the town of Colchester move forward, not maintain services nor cut services. I have lived in Colchester since 1979 and have always supported the budgets and have always voted. I initially purchased a home I knew I could afford for the long term.	1/12/2015 1:53 PM
115	Keeping all adults informed of progress in our schools.	1/12/2015 1:21 PM
116	You must reduce expenses and find other ways to generate revenue than hiking fees and taxes, attract business to help defray town costs. don't take away from the students or sports there are other ways to reduce expenses. I run a business and I know where you need to find efficiencies and reduce payroll and benefits as the largest expense.	1/12/2015 1:14 PM
117	Teaching to the individual student needs rather than to test outcomes would seem a better use of school time.	1/12/2015 1:10 PM
118	cut wasteful spending...	1/12/2015 12:59 PM
119	Reduce spending, employee benefits. Get give backs from the town unions like the stat did with their employees.	1/12/2015 12:56 PM
120	Again, just want to say the average Colchester tax payer has no monies to pay more taxes. Cut, cut, and cut more to reduce taxes. We don't see a doctor, eat less, don't buy anything unless absolutely necessary to pay bills. We've tried to sell our home just to cover the mortgage, and even that doesn't work. Stop spending our money that we don't have.	1/12/2015 12:54 PM
121	Gregg did an amazing job with the Facebook page - we need more attention to that for the First Selectman.	1/12/2015 12:51 PM
122	The town needs to do a better job balancing resources for schools--and everything else in this town. Even residents with kids in the schools have to drive on the roads, call the police or fire department, use the library, etc. Residents deserve some "quality of life" for the taxes they pay. The town also needs to pressure the state to adequately fund its mandates--and to challenge assumptions that what works (or is necessary) in a large city--also applies to a small town.	1/12/2015 12:44 PM
123	We need to fix structural costs in contracts for those entering the system. Pensions, benefits, etc. The private sector took the hit years ago.	1/12/2015 12:35 PM
124	Incentives for each department/department head should be offered to come in below budget per fiscal year. Please continue offering these surveys, thank you for all your time.	1/12/2015 12:28 PM
125	Would like a tax break of some sort, retired with fixed income, no kids in school, get no real services from town except for fire and police. Do very little shopping in town due to higher prices. Don't mind paying my fair share, just think we deserve a break.	1/12/2015 12:19 PM
126	I pay over \$1000 more in taxes/yr for my home in Northwoods than I did in my previous residence worth \$100,000 more than my present house, plus had 1.5 acres of land. Since we are on a fixed income and pay \$198/month for condo fees, which includes road maintenance, I feel that Colchester is insensitive to Seniors. We pay for road maintenance for our neighborhood twice, by town taxes and condo fees. I realize we need to pay maintenance fees for common town roads, but some deduction should be made to our assessment. I want a good education for children in the town even though I do not have a child attending town schools. We worked hard all our lives to be able to retire comfortably without needing town hand-outs, but our reward is to have our fixed retirement funds slowly disappear each year. There are programs for indigent seniors which we also contribute to. How about cutting some slack for the rest of us?	1/12/2015 12:14 PM
127	run your town/school /state like a business. No company gives employees accumulated sick time. Year after year on the books. Some have 60-180 days available . That's has to come to an end. Use it or lose it. Union is out of control. Those days are over. Many are making a good and decent salary.	1/12/2015 12:00 PM

128	I feel that budgets are submitted by departments who are interested in protecting their interest. They are not honest and have extra in case of budgets getting shot down. Until we can get honest budget submittals the process is flawed. A classic example is once the budgets get shot down a few times suddenly we find insurance savings in the education budget. When cuts are necessary immediately departments offer up the services that will cause the most hurt instead of finding less difficult cuts. It is a classic move to discourage cutting budgets. I saw it for years when I worked for the state. Sound bites to make the public panic. I can tell you with certainty that departments could make cuts that the public would not feel if it was done honestly. That can only be done with honest, strongly committed leadership. I've worked State, Municipal and private industry. All had wasteful spending. When people looked for cuts they put the most important services up for the cut backs so the public would be covered into passing the next budget.	1/12/2015 11:53 AM
129	Thanks for taking the time to ask for resident opinions. Good luck in creating the new budget.	1/12/2015 11:52 AM
130	on fix income i live with what i have got 30 dollar increase ss but clp, health ins. hoa fee up up up keep taxes DOWN	1/12/2015 11:50 AM
131	I was very disappointing with Chip and Tar paving of McDonald. This is not a sustainable surface. The winter weather is causing it to deteriorate rapidly. It causes greater wear on vehicles and will likely have to be resurfaced. A waste of Tax Payer money.	1/12/2015 11:28 AM
132	you cant get blood from a stone	1/12/2015 11:26 AM
133	WJJMS Building project is critical and essential; improvements must be funded	1/12/2015 11:20 AM
134	I would like to see funds in the budget dedicated to the preservation of open space in town.	1/12/2015 11:16 AM
135	Thank you for seeking out residents' thoughts and opinions.	1/12/2015 11:16 AM
136	We Love 57 fest! We need a town pool or a YMCA.	1/12/2015 11:16 AM
137	I'm already paying more than \$800 per month in property taxes! Do NOT ask me to pay any more!!! It is disgusting that you are not able to run this town on the amount of taxes you are collecting!	1/12/2015 11:16 AM
138	Please don't cut budgets; services matter!	1/12/2015 11:06 AM
139	stop combining all levels in 1 classroom - have upper and middle together and then middle and lower together different plan for kids with behavioral issues that impact rest of classroom	1/12/2015 2:21 AM
140	Don't pad the budget. Most cannot afford to pay higher taxes.	1/11/2015 6:29 PM
141	This town needs a drastic overhaul of town expenses and the schools need to wake up and really listen to why students are leaving. Schools are becoming like businesses for parents. If we don't like what you offer than we will choose to go elsewhere and very happily. Please I urge you to look I to your special ed department and that needs to go through a major overhaul. You are losing students left and right because of the Director of Pupil Services and if something isn't done immediately to let her retire your numbers in the schools are going to continue to drastically decrease. However, you may look at that as a good sign, but it's going to cost the school board MORE in the long run. I'm urging you to take a look at what other schools are offering their students. As parents we know we have choices and if Colchester can't deliver than we will seek other opportunities on your dime.	1/11/2015 9:21 AM
142	I pay a lot of taxes and have no children. I would love to see some support for the dog park.	1/10/2015 7:50 PM
143	Please be realistic; each year you ask for 3% and it gets cut back. You can win the budget battles; but the townspeople who pay your salaries will lose their homes one by one. Do not act like a bird with its head in the sand. Be human and remember it is not just your pay raise at stake; it is other people's ability to maintain their homes and feed their families. This attitude you have all adopted to go for the 1-3% annual increase is only increasing demand for social services, and that is unconscionable and a real shame.	1/10/2015 5:32 PM
144	I was under the impression that Park and Rec is self supporting, which it should be, with no drain on the budget. If it does cost the town then I think that is an area to trim (people can pay for what they want to use). Typically studies show there is some amount of fraud/misuse of certain forms of social service, so I wonder how we monitor that in order to keep it cost efficient and supporting the neediest folks. Colchester is a typical CT town facing the same problems as other towns--ever rising costs and residents fed up with ever rising property taxes. How do we get to the root of fixing this problem? I'm unclear if we spend any time trying to address this systemic problem during the year, or if every year its just this unpleasant battle of what do we have to cut to balance the budget. I'm not in favor of any move to remove the public from voting on the budget annually either.	1/10/2015 4:32 PM
145	Thank you for continuing to support collecting information from the residents with this survey.	1/10/2015 2:50 PM

146	I would support increased taxes to maintain and improve services in town. If we all spend a little more, we can do great things together.	1/10/2015 1:40 PM
147	Get the cost of health ins for town employees in line with the rest of us. I'd love a small co-pay, no deductible and low monthly premiums but that's not today's reality (for most).	1/10/2015 12:16 PM
148	There are lots of good, established events, organizations and activities in town, but there needs to be some established guidelines for new ones to be tried out. This goes for the schools and the town.	1/10/2015 12:07 PM
149	Thank you for your service to our town!	1/10/2015 11:21 AM
150	Need performance metrics to show how well money is being spent.	1/10/2015 10:45 AM