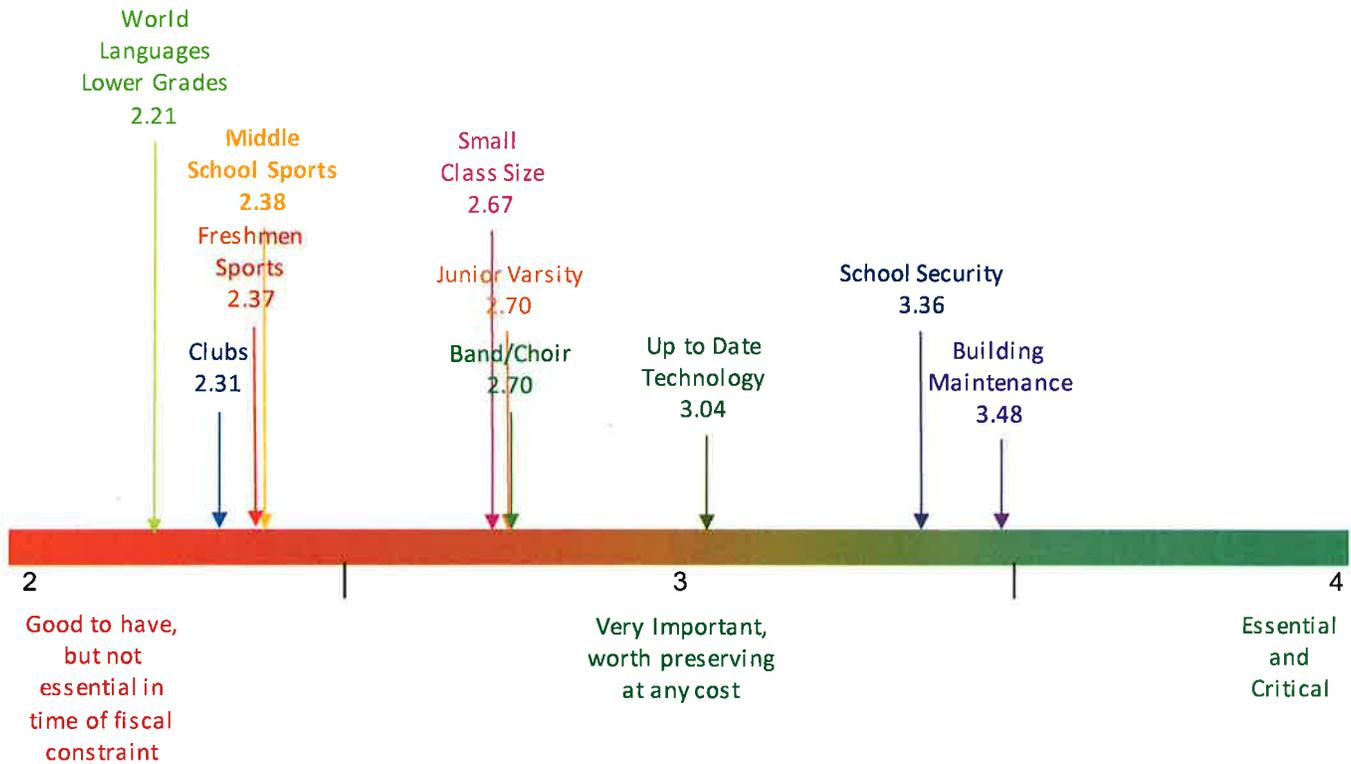


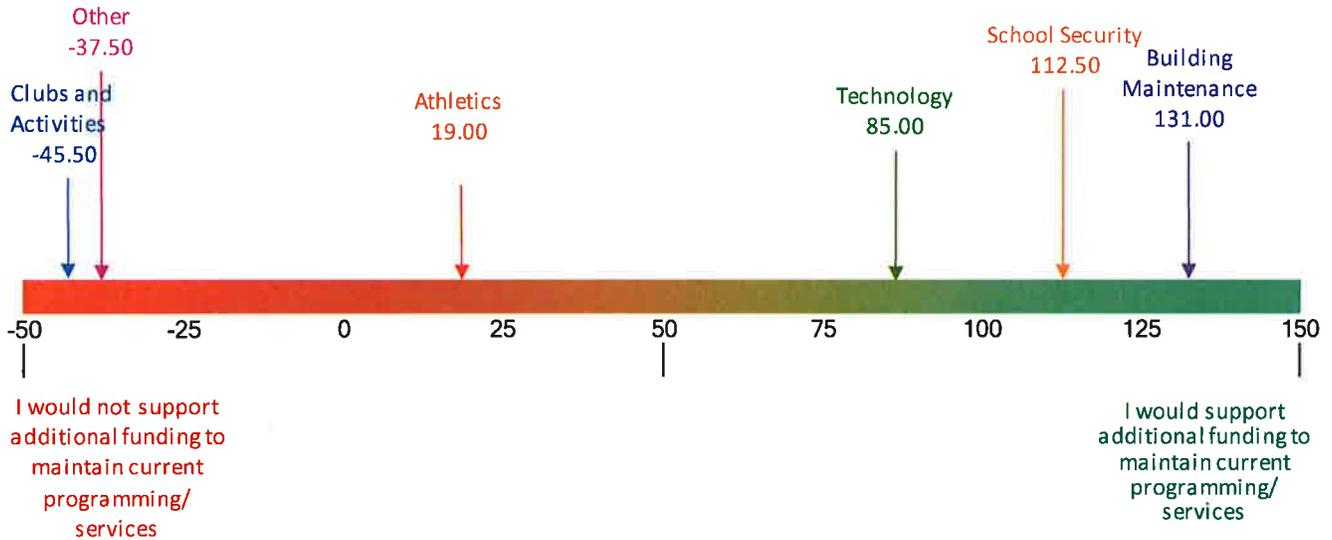
2016-2017 Budget Survey Question 1 - Schools: Responder Priorities



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

Answer Options	Essential and critical	Very important, worth preserving at almost any cost	Good to have, but not essential	Not important enough to preserve in a time of fiscal constraint	No opinion	Response Count
Band/ Choir (IS/ MS/ HS)	85	185	162	30	5	462
Building Maintenance	259	171	34	1	3	465
Clubs (IS/ MS/ HS)	32	142	223	62	5	459
Freshman Athletics (HS)	57	135	191	78	8	461
Junior Varsity Athletics	79	193	158	30	8	460
Middle School Athletics	50	147	185	75	9	457
School Security/ Safety	252	149	48	17	4	466
Small Class Sizes	101	154	159	46	8	460
Up-to-date Technology	159	182	103	19	5	463
World Languages/ Lower Grades	55	98	196	113	9	462
	1129	1556	1459	471	64	
	24%	33%	31%	10%	1%	
Weighting	4	3	2	1	0	
				answered/ questions	skipped/ questions	473 5

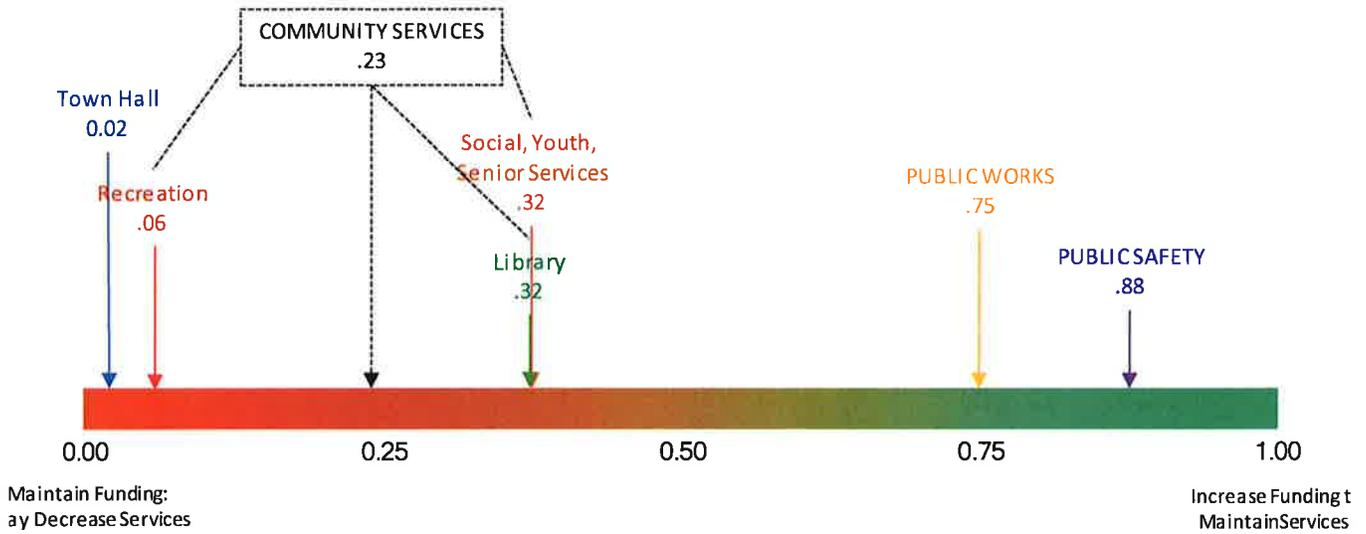
2016-2017 Budget Survey Question 2 - Schools: Funding Levels



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:

Answer Options	I would support additional funding to maintain current programming/ services	I would not support additional funding to maintain current programming/ services	Response Count
Athletics	249	211	460
Building Maintenance	361	99	460
Clubs & Activities	184	275	459
School Security/ Safety	345	120	465
Technology	316	146	462
Other	38	113	151
(please specify)			20
	answered question		470
	skipped question		8

2016-2017 Budget Survey Question 5 - Funding/Levels of Service

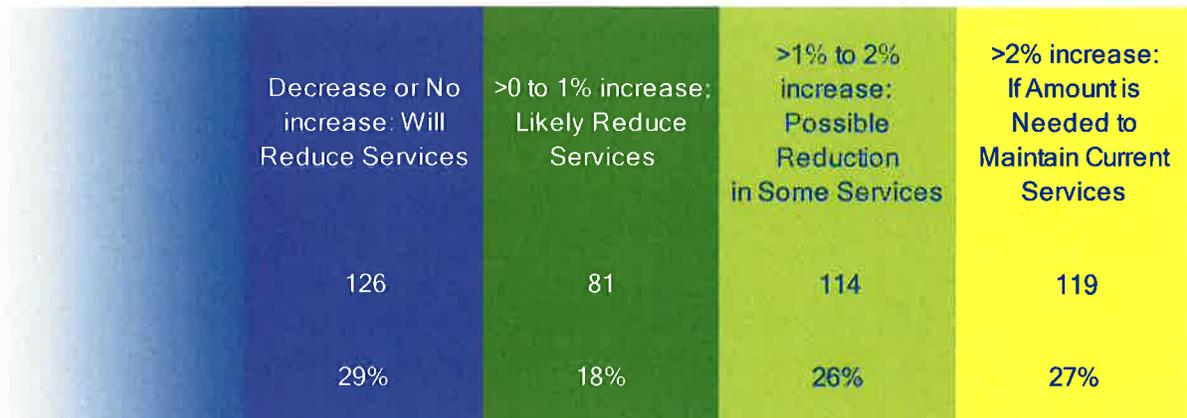


When considering each of the following Town service categories, how do you believe each should be funded?

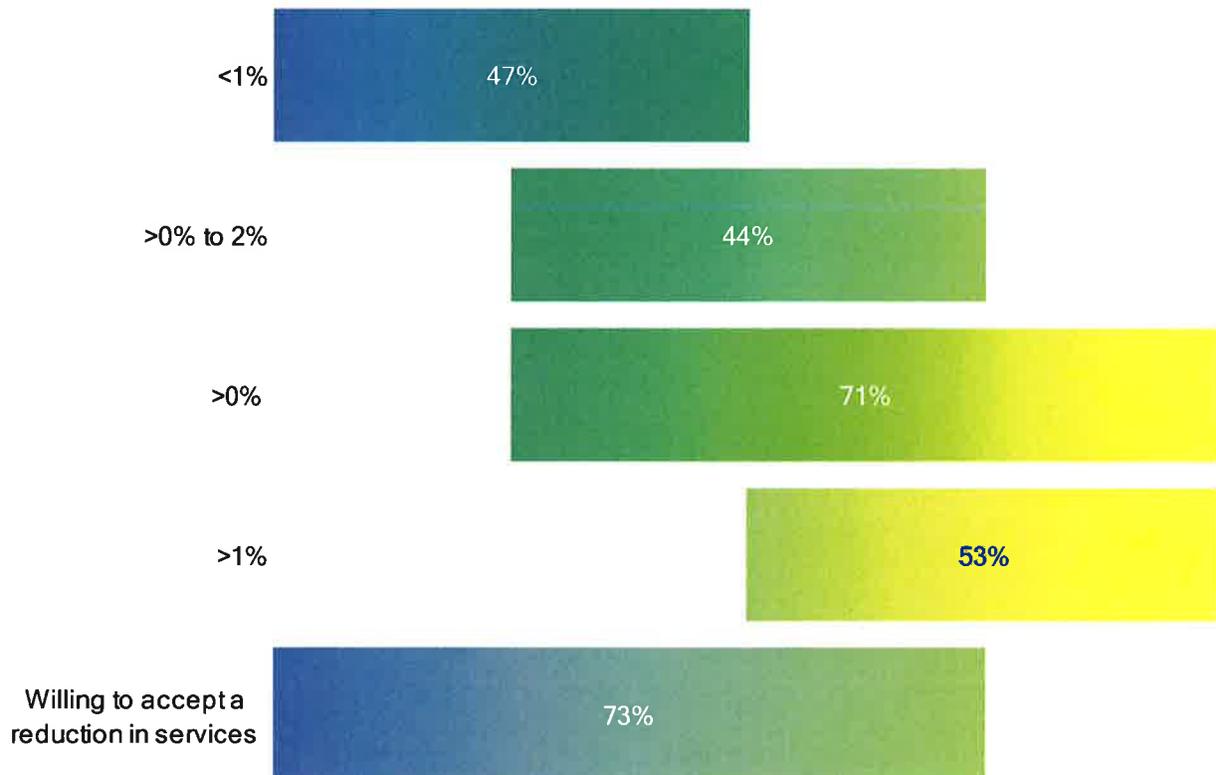
Answer Options	Decrease funding (resulting in a decrease in services)	Maintain funding (which may result in a decrease in services)	Increase funding (to maintain services)	Increase funding (to increase services)	Response Count
	-1	0	1	2	
Cragin Library	55	237	106	45	443
Public Safety (EMS, Fire, Police)	15	124	202	101	442
Public Works (Road, Building, Equipment, Vehicles, Field Maintenance)	16	147	216	66	445
Recreation (Recreation staff and administration)	94	243	89	15	441
Social, Youth, and Senior Services	64	212	131	38	445
Town Hall Services: Building Dept, Finance, Town Clerk, Assessor, Tax Collector	97	253	85	10	445
Total Responses	341	1216	829	275	
Average Responses	57	203	138	46	
			answered question		446
			skipped question		32

2016-2017 Budget Survey Town Services: Funding/Service Levels

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?



answered question 440
skipped question 38



Question 2 Comments

#	(please specify)	Date
1	Healthier options in cafeterias	1/24/2016 7:05 PM
2	\$40 million is more than enough with a lot less kids! What about the Special Education mess - did I not read you are hiring another manager?	1/24/2016 12:02 PM
3	Administrative positions	1/24/2016 10:03 AM
4	Appropriate levels of paraprofessional support	1/22/2016 5:01 PM
5	No need to add additional programs or after school activities	1/22/2016 9:09 AM
6	Did you purposely leave music off this list!? Shame on you.	1/22/2016 8:03 AM
7	Arts, music, and theater	1/22/2016 6:03 AM
8	Sports	1/21/2016 6:37 PM
9	rifle team	1/21/2016 6:33 PM
10	Cut out school trips that taxpayers pay for.	1/21/2016 5:59 PM
11	unsure what you mean by other, so it must not be that important.	1/21/2016 5:50 PM
12	teacher ratios	1/21/2016 3:42 PM
13	Small Class Sizes	1/21/2016 1:53 PM
14	Preschool Services	1/20/2016 1:26 PM
15	With shrinking population current funding should be enough to support priorities	1/19/2016 7:36 AM
16	What exactly does the "pay to play" cover?? Thought that was to defray costs!?	1/18/2016 11:23 AM
17	World Languages, Band/Choir, Clubs	1/18/2016 9:40 AM
18	Kids need after school activites, keeps the out of trouble	1/18/2016 8:55 AM
19	Athletics and club activities are as critical to the college application process as are the students grades and taking AP and Honors courses. This is critical for these kids to be competitive when applying for college. School safety goes without saylng as does technology. Building maintenance is important or we will pay for it at a higher cost down the road.	1/17/2016 3:45 PM
20	Foreign languages	1/17/2016 9:20 AM
21	all other programs	1/16/2016 11:12 PM
22	More opportunity for intramural sports.	1/16/2016 10:23 AM
23	Mental health services	1/16/2016 7:30 AM
24	pay to play	1/16/2016 7:29 AM
25	On those items not marked, it would depend on how much additional funding would be required	1/15/2016 8:09 PM
26	Live within your means!	1/15/2016 5:34 PM
27	All music activities	1/15/2016 4:09 PM
28	Music and Arts	1/14/2016 1:24 PM
29	music and arts	1/10/2016 12:17 PM
30	learn to do more with less!!	1/10/2016 10:31 AM

31	ELA block in MS	1/10/2016 9:57 AM
32	Work within the current budget	1/9/2016 5:35 PM
33	\$50,000,000 for the town and schools is plenty.	1/9/2016 2:12 PM
34	Department reps at Bacon Academy need to be restored.	1/9/2016 9:33 AM
35	The school seems to be very safe and doesn't appear to need anymore security staff.	1/9/2016 8:46 AM
36	Foreign language should be a number 1 priority	1/9/2016 6:34 AM
37	Varsity Athletics	1/8/2016 10:48 PM
38	BA fields need to be addressed. Football field needs lights.	1/8/2016 5:26 PM
39	More preschool classes or full day class	1/8/2016 4:51 PM
40	Staffing needs to be cut to reflect reduced student census	1/8/2016 3:46 PM
41	More workers cleaning the schools I know a few of them are running with shorthanded crews	1/8/2016 3:41 PM
42	We should not need additional funding in any of these areas	1/8/2016 12:55 PM
43	Anything realted to the Arts & Shop	1/8/2016 12:20 PM
44	The Arts	1/8/2016 11:22 AM
45	Some clubs - not all.	1/8/2016 9:32 AM
46	Additional teachers, smaller class sizes	1/8/2016 8:57 AM
47	Hard choices need to be made!! We are spending way too much money in this town with unnecessary expenses	1/8/2016 8:13 AM
48	Band/Choir	1/8/2016 7:11 AM

Question 3 Comments

#	Responses	Date
1	Stop using school sports as a tactic to get budgets passed.	1/24/2016 10:57 PM
2	-more math and science -much less world languages, takes up way too much time	1/24/2016 3:11 PM
3	What's pay to play \$\$ used for??? Class size..unfair question, regulated by contract & some classes already small. How about BA, AP classes?? Lower grade foreign lang.,teach English first or penmanship.,maybe cursive.,spelling if computer breaks!!	1/24/2016 2:39 PM
4	I have no opinion on class size..that's unfair to ask..class sizes are small & controlled by contract! Many times they are under contract size..how about BA...AP classes??? Foreign Lang in lower grades?? Offer other than French/Spanish??? Why..that's all they offer in MS/HS..students have a hard enough time mastering English basics... spend more time on penmanship, & teach cursive & how about spelling in case spell check doesn't wor	1/24/2016 2:35 PM
5	Why do my taxes keep going up? The newspaper shows a lot of empty classrooms and a lot less kids. It jsut does not make any sense. What is going on?	1/24/2016 12:02 PM
6	Spending should not exceed tax payer abilities nor student results.	1/24/2016 10:03 AM
7	I do not understand the logic of approving millions to build a new school but not being willing to spend thousands for programs in the same school...middle school sports should be reinstated.	1/24/2016 9:17 AM
8	MS sports - cross country and track and field are what I support in MS	1/24/2016 9:06 AM
9	Get rid of some of the administrator. And everyones town paid cell phones have 2 in each school that is shared	1/24/2016 9:06 AM
10	Security - WJMS -	1/24/2016 8:52 AM
11	we need to cut back there are less kids so stop with the extra funding, cut back like everyone else	1/23/2016 12:59 PM
12	School budget is inflated, about time Colchester give tax payers relief.	1/23/2016 10:50 AM
13	Pay to play is too high. Need to start Spanish lessons in CES, or at least JJIS. More gym time for JJIS. Fix the heating and AC at Bacon.	1/23/2016 9:47 AM
14	We cannot continue with zero increase budgets. Costs rise annually, so must the budget or the town is actually regressing.	1/22/2016 5:01 PM
15	I would support some increases as outlined in question 2 but cuts need to be made elsewhere.	1/22/2016 9:32 AM
16	School priority should be you math, English, social studies. Absolutely no Muslim programs or teachings.	1/22/2016 9:09 AM
17	Any sport not paid for by school needs school administration in order to establish budgets / not inflate costs to parents and kids that participate. These sports are managed by NON mgrs w/o business experience and costs to parents are out of control.	1/22/2016 8:57 AM
18	Music and Art are essential subjects as it allows children to use a different part of their brain. If it weren't important, there would not be a drive for adult art therapy.	1/22/2016 8:03 AM
19	In this diverse world, it is important to start languages in a much younger grade! Our kids are behind some of the surrounding towns who have Spanish in their curriculum in the elementary schools. I also feel very strongly that Deca at the high school should be a full year club. It is nationally known and has been around for many years. We are doing a disservice to our kids to only have it for 1/2 the year.	1/22/2016 6:53 AM
20	Too much has been lost over the years, more students will leave for magnets if essential programs and services are removed.	1/22/2016 6:03 AM
21	It is absolutely necessary for the highschool to have a better guidance department. The current guidance staff are fantastic for the circumstances in which they work. However, when nearly a quarter of a graduating class- over 50 kids- do not report enrolling in any college you have to wonder if the lack of college application involvement due to volume of students has anything to do with it.	1/22/2016 12:15 AM

22	Please don't cut money from our schools. As we deplete extracurriculars, we will fall in rankings of CT public schools, and house prices in the town will suffer. It is really short sighted not to prioritize education spending. Great schools will ensure that families want to settle in Colchester.	1/21/2016 10:28 PM
23	While it was a great lesson for the students to raise money to support their sports programs at WJJMS, I consider these minimal expenses that should be funded. Partial pay to play is fine, but it is not helpful to cut an athletic program and then have students fight until mid-season to restore it. If this is the intent, have the students work to create a revolving self-sustaining fund in advance of the budget year so they are not pawns in the process every year.	1/21/2016 9:26 PM
24	Additional funding is not needed. The town and school budget are well funded	1/21/2016 7:17 PM
25	The school system needs to provide students with as many educational opportunities as possible.	1/21/2016 6:20 PM
26	With declining enrollment I will not support any increase in school spending.	1/21/2016 5:59 PM
27	Schools need to find areas to save money and prioritize to ensure our students get the proper education. Balance the school budget to provide more funding to programs, books, computers, etc and cut increases for insurance, pay raises, and retirement funds.	1/21/2016 5:50 PM
28	instead of cutting individual programs why not cut funding by what ever % ACROSS THE BOARD---so all feel the pinch instead of just the programs that hurt our children---there is a lot of fat in the budget...stop pretending the only place we can cut is where our children are concerned---stop playing games!!!	1/21/2016 4:28 PM
29	Don't make technology mandatory - not everyone can get to a printer during the week.	1/21/2016 4:00 PM
30	(1)Don't like the wording"worth preserving at almost any cost" (2) Regionalize where it makes fiscal sense.	1/21/2016 3:47 PM
31	I would like to see the school budget reflect the fact that our students should be getting a well-rounded education. Recess is essential, music is essential, life-sciences are essential, sports are essential, etc.	1/21/2016 3:42 PM
32	1. Plan on the State of Connecticut going bankrupt and the town of Colchester getting stuck with all of their unfunded projects as liabilities. 2. Allow the School union contract to expire without renewal. Open teaching positions to free market and stop the redistribution of wealth to socialists. 3. Stop the useless spending on technology you do not need and claim that it's free because of state contributions! The taxpayers are liable to your poor judgment! 4. Grow a set of Allow your teachers to conceal carry with proper training.	1/21/2016 3:10 PM
33	Sports & Music are extremely important to the education of our students, too important to lose. I do not support providing more money for "current levels" of maintenance at the schools when the schools are not being maintained satisfactorily. I want to see the money that has been allocated for these efforts spent appropriately and wisely before giving more money for this effort.	1/21/2016 3:02 PM
34	I grew up in this town and we didn't have athletics in middle school. We survived. Maintaining our buildings is critical. Look what is happening in Michigan!!	1/21/2016 2:54 PM
35	Over the past ten years the school budget has been cut to the bare minimum. It is long overdue that the Superintendent gets the required funding that he feels is necessary to educate the students of Colchester. The fact that the above questions included Athletics and Clubs is irresponsible in my opinion. The tax payers of Colchester need to support extracurricular activities which define this town.	1/21/2016 2:24 PM
36	funding the building improvement at WJJMS is my top priority, followed by small class sizes at all levels	1/21/2016 1:53 PM
37	I think there needs to be a deep dive into where the current money is being applied. I also think we need to figure out a way to make pay merit based.	1/21/2016 1:47 PM
38	We need to keep our schools and curriculum updated and state of the art. I support spending to improve our school system.	1/21/2016 1:12 PM
39	It has always bothered me that there is not the level of line item detail required on the BOE side of the budget that is required in the town side. It makes me feel that there is less transparency on the BOE side.	1/20/2016 10:34 PM
40	who wrote this survey? very poor- answers are very self serving on either side of answer.	1/20/2016 3:01 PM
41	Committees made of administrators, teachers, parents, students, and other tax-paying community members must evaluate the effectiveness of various town-funded programs. Presentations of findings must occur in a way to engage all our tax-paying citizens.	1/20/2016 1:26 PM
42	There is a lot of confusion of where the pay per play money goes. Therefore, confusion when the athletics in middle school are taken away out of the budget.	1/20/2016 12:22 PM
43	Taxes are ridiculous for services provided in Colchester. This is one of the reasons home sales are declining. Colchester is in a taxincrease versus desirability death spiral.	1/19/2016 4:03 PM

44	Pay to play is a joke. 180 per sport!! but teams still have to fundraise!? Gas prices are down so the whole bus fuel excuse is gone.	1/19/2016 10:49 AM
45	We need to address the shrinking population and reallocate current funds. Time to stop increasing funding every year.	1/19/2016 7:36 AM
46	The taxes are way to high in this town, and you have families who have lived here their entire lives. Then you have families who move here for schooling and then move away once their children are done with school it's not a well-balanced system and personally education needs to revolve around solid foundation of reading, writing, mathematics, and maintenance/safety.	1/18/2016 11:00 PM
47	The Town of Colchester needs to provide a quality educational opportunity to all of the students attending school. Opportunities to reduce costs or to streamline processes is always to be considered but the overall quality must be maintained for our youth.	1/18/2016 6:03 PM
48	There is to much money spent on the schools	1/18/2016 1:17 PM
49	Taxes are already high. The cost for services that select students enjoy should be transferred to the families that are gaining the value of the activity. The school should make every effort to cut waste and deliver a safe environment for learning and student enrichment.	1/18/2016 12:38 PM
50	Why is "Small Class Sizes" even listed above when it's controlled by teachers' contracts??? That's very misleading!! Does teaching lower level languages really help when students get into MS & HS??...and they are offered only French & Spanish?? (Where's the German, Chinese, Latin, etc if you're going for foreign languages like other districts..)	1/18/2016 11:23 AM
51	Please figure out a way to utilize resources better. There should be a way to have sports & clubs with the current budget	1/18/2016 10:52 AM
52	TAX, TAX TAX that's all Colchester does.	1/18/2016 8:55 AM
53	Increased spending with declining enrollment makes no sense whatsoever.	1/17/2016 5:21 PM
54	As a side note, I have been told that many people don't vote on the first budget because they feel it is padded. My husband and I are not of that mindset but you should consider that when planning your budget. Our kids deserve a quality education and to be as competitive as possible for college. Grades are no longer enough to be competitive. Please be mindful of that when making your budget decisions. We pay to play already and for some of us that is a challenge. We have to fund raise for the kids uniforms and extra items that the teams may need and that can become a challenge. We pay to then watch our children participate in their said sport. So to us, it doesn't just cost \$180 for a child to participate in a sport but an awful lot more than that.	1/17/2016 3:45 PM
55	Education budget is out of control - for sports activity, parents should pay this cost. If taxes keep rising, will have to consider moving elsewhere	1/17/2016 1:15 PM
56	The school budget is so sparse that we need to preserve, at a minimum, current funding. The town needs to acknowledge the changes that have been made to address declining enrollment and recognize there is not a one to one parity, especially at the middle and high school. We need to support the incredible efforts that are made in our education system while spending per pupil is significantly less than other towns. Teachers are the machines that run our school and without them their would be no educational system so they should be paid for the work they do and not criticized for their salaries and benefits.	1/16/2016 12:59 PM
57	Can Colchester collaborate w/ nearby towns to cut costs for education, arts and sports? e.g. regional teams, sharing of facilities and technology	1/16/2016 12:38 PM
58	When requesting input the use of such wording as "critical" and "at any cost" is I feel inappropriate.	1/16/2016 11:44 AM
59	The Dept of Ed receives raises every year but we don't see it going to their infrastructure or expanding knowledge. Its used for staff and catch up programs.	1/16/2016 10:57 AM
60	Not everyone thinks that sports are the means to the end for college. If we don't we don't even have an opportunity to play. Open the gym to some friendly games for students. Better math teachers. A class on government and how it works should be mandatory. So many HS students have no idea about the branches of gov't.	1/16/2016 10:23 AM
61	With strategic planning and budgeting, these should be considered and funded to attract more students to stay in Colchester. The amount going to magnet schools just shows we are not providing enough to keep our kids in town.	1/16/2016 9:21 AM
62	I think it is irresponsible to ask schools to present a 0% increase in the budget. The reality is that costs that cannot be controlled i.e. contractual obligations, energy, electricity, etc. will rise and the only way to offset would be in staff cuts. The majority of the schools' budget is for personnel. Colchester has two relatively new buildings CES and JJIS and failure to maintain this buildings would be a mistake. Bacon Academy is now over twenty years old and needs maintenance as well that has not been funded in past budgets because of cuts. My child is a music major in college and is currently interning in Manhattan. It would be a MAJOR error to cut arts and music. This benefits all children and would take away opportunities that my child had in the Colchester Schools. My daughter also competed in sports and was a 4 year letter winner, this was an important part fo her development as a student and person.	1/16/2016 7:45 AM

63	cut - massive building to support declining enrollment - why?	1/16/2016 7:29 AM
64	Naturally, safety is of prime importance...Would support other activities depending on what the costs would be	1/15/2016 8:09 PM
65	Your education spending is out of bounds. We know that most of the money goes to salaries and benefits. If every thing was slashed maybe the rich people would get it.	1/15/2016 8:02 PM
66	We need to start looking at salaries. Especially that of our Superintendent. We give him a raise after he knew about what went on with the Director of Pupil Services. He is a disgrace to this district. As long as he is Superintendent, I will not support the educational budget. Learn to use what you've got. Make cuts in salaries of high paid employees NOT things that affect the kids. Stop threatening to take stuff away, like sports then having kids come out and beg for their sports back. Then you say "oh look we have sports!" Stop threatening. Look closer at the budget. If I can live off one income with a family of five by budgeting then so can this school district.	1/15/2016 6:12 PM
67	With no increase in living and lower paying jobs the town needs to survive on a tuff budget.	1/15/2016 5:34 PM
68	A high quality School system brings in new residents & businesses, which provides additional taxes	1/15/2016 5:10 PM
69	School population is decreasing yet our taxes have continued to increase.	1/15/2016 4:45 PM
70	With a shrinking enrollment in student numbers, we need to be fiscally responsible in providing good and affordable education. With shift in demographics have to assess what is critical for each group and what is "nice to have".	1/15/2016 4:44 PM
71	I would hope that maintenance @ technology are well covered in current budget leaving additional funding for athletics	1/15/2016 4:43 PM
72	I do not have children in these schools but believe security and safety is utmost important for these kids.	1/15/2016 4:14 PM
73	I know that each year costs seem to go public; however, please take into account the declining enrollment and the space available at CES	1/15/2016 4:08 PM
74	The education budget should be significantly lower with decreased enrollment	1/15/2016 2:03 PM
75	School priority should be centered around learning with several spin off of lesser concern ie: drama, sports.	1/15/2016 1:18 PM
76	Colchester must evaluate educational/town admin staffing levels to assure we are not funding unneeded positions. Also, both areas must work to eliminate automatic salary increases. These increases are not justifiable in this economy.	1/13/2016 3:36 PM
77	Watching 'State of The Union' - How can Obama cut college costs for students when the wages of people who work in the colleges will continue to rise! My opinion is that the workers (colleges, local schools, etc) must take on more of their benefit costs (higher deductibles, less coverage, etc) the same as it is for everyone else.	1/12/2016 9:32 PM
78	I feel we have the minimum (activities, sports, music) nothing should be cut.	1/10/2016 6:17 PM
79	Until there is more disclosure on where funds go, such as maintenance funds for window repairs at the middle school that are never done, I won't support higher funding in that area. Money was set aside and never used for the repairs it was allocated for. That breaches taxpayer trust and puts our students and faculty at WJJMS in subpar conditions.	1/10/2016 5:39 PM
80	I don't see why we always have to add additional funding to maintain current services? We have a declining number of students why do we never have any reduced costs from having less students? Our schools already have a huge budget. I think we need to find a way to spend it more wisely.	1/10/2016 1:57 PM
81	Wholesale attitude changes are needed; in the public sector budgets have shrunk, staffing has been reduced while productivity has been increased. Why are Yale and Harvard the leading educational institutions while relying on hundred year old buildings and Colchester in need of replacement of a 40 year old middle school to ensure adequate education? Something smells very fishy!!	1/10/2016 10:31 AM
82	I believe the ELA block is critical to preserve in the MS. Its success has been proven with test scores.	1/10/2016 9:57 AM
83	Would like to see the two blocks of English at the middle school stay intact longer than projected and not cut in a few years. It's essential.	1/10/2016 9:29 AM
84	Lets do the right things for the children. No threats about taking away sports to get ppl to vote. Reduce waste maybe hire expert to look for wasteful areas.	1/10/2016 8:40 AM
85	Stop spending so much with enrollment down, the school budget is ridiculous and has nearly doubled in size since moving to town 13 years ago	1/9/2016 5:35 PM
86	Live within our families' means not your desires.	1/9/2016 2:12 PM
87	I'm not sure why we have just "freshman" sport teams when most play either on the Jv or varsity teams	1/9/2016 1:30 PM

88	Bacon Academy is entering into a NEASC evaluation. There is a significant amount of work to be done to complete the self-study. For quality work to be done, teachers and staff will need to spend a lot of additional hours preparing documentation for the NEASC review. Funding needs to be supplied to compensate teachers for the significant additional hours of work they will need to put in to prepare adequately for accreditation.	1/9/2016 9:33 AM
89	We have a decrease in students, Costs should decrease! We should NOT be bringing in outside students. Consolidate our student population in 3 schools. We can NOT AFFORD another new school!!!	1/9/2016 7:45 AM
90	The more we underfund education, the long it will take for a housing recovery in our town. We need to make Colchester a desirable place to live, and schools are a top priority for the young families we need to attract in this aging town.	1/9/2016 12:32 AM
91	I think athletics are important, but first and foremost for us, would be a top quality education and the safety of my children with the use of competitive technology and I would love to see STEM integration.	1/8/2016 10:23 PM
92	It is essential to keep the buildings in good working order. It is ashamed we let William J Johnston go the way it did and now we have to build new. Had we maintained it properly, we wouldn't have to be paying for a new one, would we?	1/8/2016 7:18 PM
93	With decreasing enrollment the budget needs to be critically evaluated. Stop thinking about maintaining current programs and way of doing business and think how things can be done differently.	1/8/2016 7:04 PM
94	The school should be prioritizing resources to students and ensuring that teachers are given the support they need to teach effectively. I think school safety will get a lot of responses as a high priority for people, but it tends to be more motivated by a conceptual idea of safety rather than realistic steps that should be taken toward safety. Such steps tend to take the form of safety officers, new fences, cameras, locks, etc that cost a great deal but do little to nothing to actually ensure student safety. Yes, safety is important, but measures such as these aren't going to ensure it but rather take away from students' education.	1/8/2016 6:37 PM
95	A break to seniors and non-child tax payers.	1/8/2016 4:03 PM
96	Adjust you budget to reflect the smaller student body	1/8/2016 3:46 PM
97	Basic educational skills are the key.....athletics are nice but must be strategic in keeping the most critical ones only....security is utmost in our society today.....must place priority on teaching life skills especially in junior and senior years.	1/8/2016 3:25 PM
98	Let's look at administrative costs first	1/8/2016 3:17 PM
99	Spend money more wisely. Too many high salaries for people not directly teaching children.	1/8/2016 2:51 PM
100	fiscal constraint should be top priority and lowering costs before any additional funds should be allocated.	1/8/2016 2:20 PM
101	need to focus more on tax relief than adding programs to keep jobs.	1/8/2016 2:02 PM
102	You spend too much already classes are too small and Colechester.	1/8/2016 1:24 PM
103	I don't understand why "additional funding" is required to "maintain current services". Why can't these be maintained at current cost?	1/8/2016 1:16 PM
104	School Security should be the #1 priority for each school. Building Maintenance will save us money in the long run. Technology is the future and we want our children to be ready.	1/8/2016 1:12 PM
105	We need to be given a five year budget. Every year our athletics and specials are threatened! When will we be given a future for the BOE budget ? This is a must and the community needs to be able to be heard in regards to the spending never being correct. When we are told, if the budget doesn't pass we won't have sports, music, arts?	1/8/2016 12:55 PM
106	I'm an engineer, gadget-geek, and millennial, and I think technology should be the least important item in a classroom. Having exposure to basic sciences, mathematics, languages, art, music, and sports is far more important than iPads or updated laptops for kids. Those items may make the teacher's job easier, but they do not impact someone's education. Not having art, gym, or music classes effectively cuts them off from experiencing those subjects. Kids have enough technology at home and likely more familiar with personal computing than most teachers.	1/8/2016 12:49 PM
107	If Jeff Mathieu is unable to present a working, viable strategic plan (not the wish list they provided, but an actual plan) by February 1, 2016 he should be FIRED! There should be an immediate freeze on administrative hires until which time the BOE and Mr. Mathieu are willing to bring budgets forward with no hidden agenda, no fluff and without holding teachers or students hostage.	1/8/2016 11:22 AM
108	n/a	1/8/2016 10:07 AM
109	Small class sizes are critical. The trend of larger class sizes must end.	1/8/2016 8:57 AM
110	no BOE five year plan, no yes vote from me	1/8/2016 8:46 AM
111	lower amounts of children enrolled means no increases necessary	1/8/2016 8:41 AM

112	Cannot vote yes to any school budget until a 5 year plan is well researched and presented. A rising group of friends feel the same	1/8/2016 8:39 AM
113	This year I would like to see this budget ripped apart and really take out the unnecessary expenses. I don't want to hear how there is none cause there is. Tough choices need to be made and I don't want the normal holding sports hostage like they have been in the past. Really show the tax payers the kids matter instead of the top people making money.	1/8/2016 8:13 AM
114	Maintaining building an safety so we don't have to keep building new schools. Sports and music are not as important than a child learning how to add an subtract.	1/8/2016 8:04 AM
115	Seniors deserve a break from the school budget!	1/8/2016 8:00 AM
116	The district should prioritize in serving their students not their pockets.	1/8/2016 7:59 AM
117	We need to keep our children safe in our schools and stop bullying.	1/8/2016 7:57 AM
118	Please live within the budget you have. You were unable to spend all the money given to you in the past fiscal year. You need to spend money wisely, not keep asking for more.	1/8/2016 7:49 AM
119	Maintenance should be a top priority vs letting systems and buildings deteriorate to the point of no repair and need complete replacement.	1/8/2016 7:16 AM
120	Need to adopt a "more up to date program" for teaching computer programming at the high school level. Python is not a main stream language. Need to find a "programming" teacher for that position rather than relying on the math teacher to teach this course. He does not know what he is doing and he is losing students due to his teaching style.	1/8/2016 7:11 AM
121	We spend less per student than most other districts in CT. We need to step up our spending and try to improve every aspect of our public schools system.	1/8/2016 7:09 AM
122	too many specialized teachers, not everyone needs a para.	1/8/2016 6:34 AM

Question 6 Comments

#	Responses	Date
1	Let parents help w/fields like they used to. fields were great then. Doesn't pay 2 play cover anything? Have more town svcs offered by computer. hours aren't available now. You have to be retired to use them. Library needs more hours for students & seniors.	1/24/2016 2:47 PM
2	The Town suffers at the expense of the Schools. IF enrollment is down as much as I read, why is that?	1/24/2016 12:02 PM
3	Taxes are already too high making it difficult to live in this town.	1/24/2016 9:30 AM
4	Parks and rec should be largely self funded. Fields need more maintenance...leagues should be charged a per player fee which they could pass on thru registration fees.	1/24/2016 9:27 AM
5	move funding from youth to growing senior services	1/23/2016 10:54 AM
6	Many,many,many towns around CT CLOSE their town hall ONE day during the week, HUGE savings. The residents would get used to it quicker than you think. Youth and social services helps so many needy. They need to at least maintain their budget. Park and Rec office staff is too big. Have their hours shortened as well. The hours and money taken from them should shift to Youth Services.	1/23/2016 9:55 AM
7	our rec fields are an embarrassment compared to surrounding towns	1/22/2016 8:25 PM
8	Town salary for employees should not raise. Elected officials salary to stay the same along with teachers salary.	1/22/2016 9:14 AM
9	A few town hall services can be changed to self service (copies of town clerk records) -do we really need 3 people in assessors office? - do we really need to pay for police dept that only enforces STATE laws - no revenue for the town? do we really need 5 people in youth services that don't do anything?	1/22/2016 9:02 AM
10	Why don't town selectmen and boards learn how to decrease spending without losing services. Clubs at school should be part of teachers pay and contract...to volunteer.. Give back time to community so clubs aren't lost. Enrollment is down yet budget keeps going up. Public works should give up maintenance of fields to the organizations that use the fields...fields are in horrible condition and it is an embarrassment to have other teams come to play. Plus most coaches have to come upkeep fields anyway.	1/22/2016 7:13 AM
11	If we don't fund these items now and we have a decrease in services, we will probably not get the funding down the road. It will cost more in the years to come if we don't maintain what we have now.	1/22/2016 6:58 AM
12	Recreational is essential as parks and rec programs bring in income. And the library and social programs are critical for many and are quality of life resources that are difficult to compare against safety and roads.	1/22/2016 6:14 AM
13	All of these services are essential!	1/21/2016 10:30 PM
14	Field maintenance has to be a priority. Please review the potential to allow the leagues to create an independent fund to maintain the fields and to work through bargaining agreements that restrict volunteers from supporting field maintenance. Our fields can be dangerous, the facilities are in disrepair and are not comparable to regional ones. Rec facilities can be an economic driver and should be an investment for the town.	1/21/2016 9:41 PM
15	As much as I understand the need for the school and town services, the Finance committee cannot continue to raise taxes on the residents. The property taxes on our home and cars are almost \$10,000 per year. As we look to retire, we cannot afford to stay in Colchester. High taxes are driving residents out of town.	1/21/2016 7:14 PM
16	sect 4 no. 4 did not work properly	1/21/2016 6:39 PM
17	With both budgets it might help to know what items are mandated and can't be changed.	1/21/2016 6:25 PM
18	Our BOE is totally out of control. You extended the supt. of schools contract and gave him a raise as well! With all the \$ he cost this town he should not have had his contract extended. Besides, he is arrogant, obnoxious and condescending. Is this the best you can do?	1/21/2016 6:11 PM
19	Time to tighten the belt. Keep funding levels and find areas to cut costs. I have not gotten an increase in 5 years, time for the town to do the same.	1/21/2016 5:54 PM
20	Do the right thing!! Cut the fat out of the budget...we must lose the "spend it or lose it attitude"--let's start there	1/21/2016 4:36 PM

47	property taxes can not continue to rise year in and out this is a burden on people on fixed incomes	1/16/2016 2:01 PM
48	Why is there not maintain funding to maintain services like the city I work?	1/16/2016 11:07 AM
49	I don't like that yo have grouped the youth services with senior services. I support more services for youth but less toward seniors. I do not support a new senior center. Funds would be better spent on the youth of this town. The surrounding towns have new senior centers and they are empty most of the day. They are not money well spent.	1/16/2016 10:32 AM
50	Senior issues shouldn't be combined with youth services, seniors always end up last.	1/16/2016 10:09 AM
51	We need a safe community and programs to attract people to Colchester and keep them here.	1/16/2016 9:27 AM
52	I do not believe that the youth and seniors should be lumped together in this survey. Parent are responsible for their children; we are ALL responsible for the seniors.	1/16/2016 8:17 AM
53	Roads in town are appalling. Funding needs to be increased to improve the infrastructure.	1/16/2016 7:48 AM
54	empty halls, poorly designed tow hall building- don't spent any more money on it.	1/16/2016 7:33 AM
55	Roles and responsibilities for the assistant to the children's librarian do not appear to align with salary and the full time hours. Suggest this position is eliminated and replaced with a part time (or two) clerks position.	1/15/2016 8:17 PM
56	Too many variables to answer questions accurately. Don't know what the services are presently, and what the costs would be to maintain or increase.	1/15/2016 8:16 PM
57	There are town vehicles that I've seen that are used unnecessarily. There is so much waste in this town. Stop changing street signs every few years- that is not necessary.	1/15/2016 6:17 PM
58	An analysis of hours needed for jobs could give supervisors the possibility of moving jobs to part-time. In the same vein, do all departments need to be open during business hours -- when many work -- when they could be closed on a Tuesday but open on a Saturday to accommodate residents.	1/15/2016 4:11 PM
59	I believe the town does a good job atr what they do but could find ways to improve without increases, like corporations do today and in the past.	1/15/2016 1:22 PM
60	Cragin Library should be open at least four nights a week until 9:00 to allow use of the meeting rooms for various civic groups. Currently these wonderful public meeting spaces are an underutilized town resource. It's a real shame.	1/13/2016 3:17 PM
61	We have one of the lowest crime rates per capita in the state. Why does this police budget keep going up?	1/12/2016 11:16 PM
62	The growth in the number of employees at Town Hall and the Board of Ed has grown from the minimum to the outrageous. Growth is stagnant, if not in decline, and school enrollment is much less that it was 5 yrs ago. Allowing kids into Bacon from Norwich needs to provide more income than cost - is this the case or not because I have not heard this addressed by the BOE or BOF.	1/12/2016 9:43 PM
63	You could consider eliminating the full time Assistant to the Children's Librarian position and replace it with two part-time circulation clerks. That would save the library a minimum of 15K a year and maintain services.	1/10/2016 5:47 PM
64	I think the town should investigate areas where we might be able to save money. I would also be willing to spend more money on the town side of the budget if we got the school side more under control and stopped the endless increases.	1/10/2016 2:20 PM
65	Back to #4; all six categories are of equal value! A good leader instills cross training while sharing a feeling of responsibility. Roll up your sleeves, do the right thing and get the job done without using the excuse of more money!! As for #5; decrease funding or stay the course BUT INCREASE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES! I remember a quote at a management seminar years ago, 'the keep the garden strong we must consistently pull the weeds'. If a town/school employee does not buy into this, its time for a change!	1/10/2016 10:41 AM
66	The town fields need some tlc and a priority shops be the R8 field. During spring, it's been like a dust bowl while playing sports. This has many concerns, but could be a concern for children with asthma etc. Also, on a lesser scale, it's an embarrassment to the town when other towns come to play.	1/10/2016 9:33 AM
67	Too much fat. There is foolish spending and too much of a penny-wise dollar foolish mentality for over 30 years now. Wake up and smell the coffee. The 1980s are history. Live within your means and mine. We are not living to work so town employees can maintain a \$50+ million corporation. The library deserves \$2 million. The schools could survive and thrive with 28 to 29 million. That is where the waste is along with too many shared services chiefs in town hall. We are not living and working so a select few can enjoy six figures and on top of former pensions from the town or state. Enough already. The hoax is over that notion the, \$100k individuals save us millions. They do not. And yet they leave as public service sector millionaires. No more. Cut the budget and face reality.	1/9/2016 2:25 PM
68	Cragin library should be open more hours, especially on Saturday.	1/9/2016 9:38 AM

69	Regionalism needs to be strongly considered and implemented to share services whenever possible. Pursue state and private grants aggressively for security, local transportation and Econ development needs, and library. Sports fund needs to be permitted to allow leagues to begin to complement town maintenance organizations of fields. Other towns do it successfully and our leagues seem to be turned away by town on this concept. Growing rec in town will expan Econ development in town	1/9/2016 9:27 AM
70	A balanced budget is important but we have to take care of our existing grounds and properties. Ex. Use the schools for the social activities so that the overgrown fence lines at wijms can be maintained.	1/9/2016 8:58 AM
71	Consolidate Tax Collector & Tax Assessor Office. Create a one Stop/Info Desk for citizens to preform many functions - Pay Taxes, Register for Program, etc this will decrease number of Admin Asst/Office Clerks -NO need for Office Clerk in every dept. Park & REC can be scaled way back to save \$\$\$ There are enough programs runs by private organizations FOOD BANK should be removed from Town Hall - temperature control of can goods in attic is a Health & Safety Issue Ask Lions/Rotary or Local Churches to run food bank. Hebron is a good role model for Social Services/Food Bank.	1/9/2016 7:52 AM
72	Reduce/eliminate pensions and increase benefits cost like all private sector jobs are	1/9/2016 6:39 AM
73	The town is starting to show defered maintenance in many places. Roads are #1. When roads are newer and crisp, free of cracks and bumps, the entire town looks modern and inviting. When roadways age, we look like a "hick town." Services for youth and for recreation are very important. We have cut them for many years and we now need to start investing again. Public Safety is important, but our forces are doing a good job today. Unless there are issues internally I am unaware of, it would be ok to maintain this finding level. I would certainly not want to see it decline. Personally, I think we can close the library. It is nice, but not as important anymore. Maybe we can regionalize libraries?	1/9/2016 12:43 AM
74	No increase in police staffing.	1/8/2016 7:38 PM
75	Town needs to address poor athletic field conditions. We don't have enough fields and what we have are overused.	1/8/2016 5:29 PM
76	Senior Center is terrible. Poor building, few offerings. Needs more funding	1/8/2016 5:19 PM
77	Police are overfunded and should be cut back/re-prioritized. We have too many officers being idle not to mention the Resident Troopers in town. We are not getting value from the expenses.	1/8/2016 5:04 PM
78	Can public works save money by buying smaller Ford F550 dump trucks instead of the current ones? Town of East Hampton has a few and seem to operate fine.	1/8/2016 4:42 PM
79	Need more area coordination between local towns on services that may be shared based on usage by citizenry of these towns....central complex initiatives	1/8/2016 3:36 PM
80	Education is top priority too	1/8/2016 2:42 PM
81	Again, fiscal constraint needed first.	1/8/2016 2:23 PM
82	I am a Finance Director where I work, and we are challenged every year to provide more services with a lower budget, and we do it. Based on the questions being asked, that is clearly not your thinking here, and that needs to change.	1/8/2016 1:21 PM
83	Full time police force	1/8/2016 12:57 PM
84	If the cost of everything 'goes up every year', then that would imply that town income should go up proportionally. If income is not going up accordingly, then the the town should focus on improvements that increase value for everyone, not just cover costs.	1/8/2016 12:55 PM
85	Our infrastructure is in bad shape and needs to be addressed if we want to attract people and businesses to our town. Our priorities are out of balance and our budgets are poorly managed.	1/8/2016 11:28 AM
86	Are ever audits done on town employee mileage reimbursement requests? I overheard someone who works in a town department say people in that dept have submitted different mileage to the same destination (schools or recplex). If there is no system of double-checking, aren't town employees robbing us blind?!	1/8/2016 10:12 AM
87	In today's society, you cannot SKIMP on the SAFETY of the residents and essential services. Everything else is 'nice', but let's take care of ourselves first.	1/8/2016 9:24 AM
88	Please increase the education budget to increase services	1/8/2016 9:22 AM
89	The town budget just like the school budget has ballooned out of control over the years. We have pushed people out of this town and will continue to do so if we don't start finding ways to cut expenses. We also need to rip apart this budget and start getting rid of the waste. If everyone's job depending on them finding a way to save 20 percent in each department I guarantee they would find a way to find that savings. No one wants to do it cause they haven't been forced to. It's about time the town is forced to make the tough decisions and really dig into the budget. Determine what really isn't used anymore because technology is used to do things better. Families that go from two incomes to one incomes find ways to cut back and so can the town the town just has to want to	1/8/2016 8:24 AM

90	They need to be honest with taxpayers to get them to vote. And listen to the way taxpayers vote.	1/8/2016 8:11 AM
91	Need a property tax break for seniors!	1/8/2016 8:01 AM
92	New senior center and more activities for our youth	1/8/2016 8:01 AM
93	Would like to know what the hold up is on the replacement of the town hall driveway that was so essential that it trumped giving extra funding to other town programs. From what I could see you patched the entrance wasting more money and did not replace it as built into the budget when you were saying that it was essential to the town to repair and that the pricing of oil meant we had to seize the opportunity now. This is why people vote NO.	1/8/2016 7:57 AM
94	secondary roads are in poor shape need to be repaved	1/8/2016 7:18 AM
95	We need 24/7 local police coverage. Any additional money spent on maintenance (roads, buildings, fields) is money well spent.	1/8/2016 7:13 AM
96	I believe public safety is #1 when it comes to the well being/safety of our town. I believe road maintenance is #2 which directly correlates with our safety.	1/8/2016 6:48 AM

Question 8 Additional Comments on Question 7

#	Responses	Date
1	Tax payers can't continue to sustain tax increases every year. This year must be a zero tax increase.	1/24/2016 11:00 PM
2	How about acting like the private sector for once and looking for sacrifices from employees -- higher insurance co-pays, furloughs, etc. -- instead of always posing a Hobson's choice to taxpayers?	1/24/2016 10:30 PM
3	Can't the School system be cut and the money be used for Town services?	1/24/2016 12:02 PM
4	There should be a simultaneous examination of how we can do more with less to minimize need to increase taxes to maintain services. There is a public perception that priorities are sometimes misguided and that there is sometimes wasteful spending. Regionalizing services where possible would seem to make sense utilizing greater economies of scale.	1/24/2016 9:27 AM
5	Again, we need to give tax payers relief...tax have gone up every year for the last 10-12 years. Stop this nonsense...live within a budget. Cut school, police, fire etc...whatever it takes.	1/23/2016 10:54 AM
6	Should have made an option of just a 2% increase only as well.	1/23/2016 9:55 AM
7	Coming from the Mid west where we pay 10% of the taxes paid here and no Grand tax and have better city services, just makes me wonder how things are done here in New England and where all the money goes?	1/23/2016 9:50 AM
8	I have lived in town for 16 years and my taxes have more than doubled in that time. That is too much.	1/22/2016 9:38 AM
9	I'm not a homeowner	1/22/2016 9:34 AM
10	NO TAX INCREASE ON ASSESSED VALUE IS ACCEPTABLE	1/22/2016 9:02 AM
11	You would need to provide solid evidence to support why a tax increase is necessary. It would have to include easy to read, but descriptive graphs, an easy table to read, and detailed ideas for the public to easily read. I would like to see the results of brainstorming and justifications as to why an idea would or wouldn't work.	1/22/2016 8:09 AM
12	Most everyone has seen an increase in amount for services, yet we all figure out how to budget on same or less finances... Cutting out things that are not necessary. More solar panels on town buildings, rec field lights, automatic lights in public buildings that turn off if no one in room.	1/22/2016 7:13 AM
13	With a drop in enrollment for schools, education budget should be lower, not higher. They keep asking for more. This needs to stop. If this is used for sports programs, let the parents that have kids in sports pay for it. It isn't fair for residents that don't have kids in school or are on fixed incomes to have to subsidize for these programs.	1/21/2016 11:59 PM
14	The >2% increase seems reasonable to support high-quality services in our town.	1/21/2016 10:30 PM
15	no tax increase please	1/21/2016 6:39 PM
16	Hey, has anyone on the BOF and BOE ever hear the words, "I just can't afford it!"	1/21/2016 6:11 PM
17	Not rocket science. Stop raising taxes!!!!!!	1/21/2016 5:54 PM
18	At over \$7,000/yr, my taxes are high enough (not including car tax). And, I have a well and septic, so not using town resources.	1/21/2016 3:55 PM
19	It is true that the cost of goods increases yearly! However, you must also realize that most of the community that you server have not been seeing pay increases to keep up with the cost of living. So in asking for money, you are really asking us to go without. Is it going to be a meal(s)? Is it going to be a prescription(s) or doctor's visits? Is it going to be oil to heat our homes?	1/21/2016 3:26 PM
20	As the sizes of our classrooms get smaller, how is it the budget goes up? Also, we desperately need more businesses, NOT MORE STUPID DUPLEX HOUSING!!!!	1/21/2016 2:59 PM
21	In my opinion, our taxes are very high now. We need to be much more careful with how we're spending our tax dollars...	1/21/2016 2:33 PM

22	This is misleading. What we need to do is focus on maintaining services at a lower cost. There is so much waste in this town! We need a hard look at all of the people getting paid that do almost nothing. And Again we need to look at paying teachers based on merit. We have a lot of great teachers, they should make more than the crappy ones and those with kids in town know that we do have some crappy ones.	1/21/2016 2:01 PM
23	Stop the co-mingling of funds for school athletics and the town if we are going to have to remain a pay to play town. If parent write checks to fund school athletics, it should go to the school athletics department, not the town. Eliminate pay to play and then it becomes a moot point.	1/21/2016 1:39 PM
24	I think services need to improve in this town and I support spending more tax money to see these improvements. The town departments have very small budgets and are are therefore very restricted in what they can accomplish. The IT dept needs a full time director and each dept. has a very small staff. I would like to see an increase to many areas in Colchester.	1/21/2016 1:18 PM
25	i have a difficult time identifying my "services" from the town in respect o my taxes paid. outside of critical elements and the town hall staff, i see no additional services that i don't pay for out of pocket.	1/20/2016 3:05 PM
26	Taxes are too high in this town.	1/20/2016 12:25 PM
27	NO MORE TAXES!	1/19/2016 4:06 PM
28	Colchester taxes have increased tremendously over the years I have lived here, with very little in the expansion of businesses. It is time to expand the town with new businesses or people will be moving...	1/19/2016 11:14 AM
29	You get poor services in (parks, roads, trash etc) Colchester for what taxes have increased to. I would like to see improvements if taxes go up	1/19/2016 10:54 AM
30	I do not see any correlation between the numbers above and my house value and current taxes. This chart is either deliberately misleading or downright wrong. If not, then you have been grossly overtaxing me!	1/19/2016 7:42 AM
31	Taxes are way too high in this town	1/18/2016 11:03 PM
32	A two percent increase is a reasonable adjustment as we go into the next year.	1/18/2016 6:13 PM
33	Seniors are looking for a home. sooner not later	1/18/2016 4:32 PM
34	We can not afford higher taxes in this town, you constantly increase the taxes what is wrong with you with this poor economy.	1/18/2016 1:20 PM
35	Freeze salaries and cut benefits to all town employees. Match private sector levels.	1/18/2016 8:39 AM
36	Not sure where this chart comes from, but based on the values given Colchester is over charging my family by more than \$1,000!	1/17/2016 5:23 PM
37	As a town, we need to encourage business to move to Colchester. I would like to see a business that is competition to Stop and Shop and also a business such as a target or walmart. If I have to spend a Saturday shopping in Waterford, I am getting everything while I am there. Working full time makes my time on the weekends limited. We don't need more pizza or Chinese restaurants nor do we need another coffee shop. How about a restaurant that is casual and not super expensive. We need business brought in so we can help cut our property taxes.	1/17/2016 3:51 PM
38	social security increase for this year 0 social security increase for this year 0% increase of 1% in budget more than fair	1/16/2016 2:01 PM
39	Property taxes are already too high. Be frugal with my money as I have to be.	1/16/2016 12:45 PM
40	YOU CAN EXPECT THE USUAL RESPONSE REGARDING INCREASED TAXES. PERHAPS LOOKING INTO GIVING SENIOR HOME OWNERS THAT HAVE LIVED IN TOWN A CERTAIN NUMBER OF YEARS AND TRULY ARE STRAPPED A TAX BREAK. JUST A THOUGHT	1/16/2016 12:29 PM
41	We must learn to live within our means - NO TAX INCREASE!	1/16/2016 11:51 AM
42	You are forcing seniors to leave the town by offering no tax concessions, and not providing an adequate senior center.	1/16/2016 10:09 AM
43	I fully support increased taxes to maintain services and schools in town. We no longer have children in the schools, but believe that the schools are the backbone of the community.	1/16/2016 7:48 AM
44	stop raising taxes!	1/16/2016 7:33 AM
45	On average, not counting food, cost of goods has been flat the last 3 years. Many workers have not gotten a raise in many years. Yet cost of services has risen. Why? Who and why are we paying more?	1/16/2016 6:42 AM
46	Services can be improved by the replacement of certain town staff. Employees who's performance is lacking should not be allowed to keep there job simply because. Continued re-evaluations should be made regarding employees skills and daily efforts. Drop dead weight. There are many highly skilled people eager for work.	1/15/2016 8:17 PM
47	somewhat of a confusing question...	1/15/2016 8:16 PM

48	You are chasing the workers out of town.	1/15/2016 8:04 PM
49	Stop raising our taxes every year. You are forcing families out of this town real quickly.	1/15/2016 6:17 PM
50	All area of town government needs to review the services they provide to determine if delivering most efficient and quality service, as well as volume of services provided. Innovation, change management should be looked at annually, semi annually even quarterly to determine where services are acceptable or improvements may need to be made to continue deliver services at a more reasonable cost. Corporations do this all the time as part of an employees job responsibilities on a project basis. If town population is not using a service may need to consider adjustment/change.	1/15/2016 4:50 PM
51	Taxes are too high now. Find ways to reduce the tax burden on homeowners in Colchester.	1/15/2016 4:48 PM
52	Zero-based budgeting is needed to determine essentials, secondary needs and wants.	1/15/2016 4:11 PM
53	I don't understand what question 7 is asking.	1/15/2016 3:16 PM
54	I don't believe we need to increase spending and support by increasing revenue. We have a spending issue not a revenue issue.	1/15/2016 1:22 PM
55	Reduce administrative costs in the schools Colchester's school-age population is shrinking. therefore the education budget and number of administrative personnel should shrink proportionately.	1/13/2016 3:17 PM
56	ALL Town and BOE employees must bear more responsibility for their cost of benefits - needs to be in line with the residents of this town paying the taxes. Worker contracts are out of control - nepotism is out of control - this town cannot move forward while it remains the same (as 15 yrs ago).	1/12/2016 9:43 PM
57	Tax revenues are a function of the grand list so why don't you operate accordingly instead of working backwards. All we hear is that if we don't support the budget it will affect our property values. Well the homes in Colchester have been consistently decreasing in value. So much for that theory.	1/11/2016 1:46 PM
58	Least amount possible to maintain. Households have to "maintain" on incomes with little to no increase, town should too.	1/10/2016 6:20 PM
59	No new taxes; increase services! STOP CONNECTING THE TWO! You can fill a tooth with or without pain; increase services and do not raise taxes!!!	1/10/2016 10:41 AM
60	Revisit your assumptions. You have a basic flaw in assuming all costs go up so services must be cut. That is what drove American cities to fail. Rethink the basic assumptions and your premise.	1/9/2016 2:25 PM
61	I like that you included this question. Very enlightening.	1/9/2016 9:38 AM
62	NO MORE TAX INCREASES LOOK FOR SAVINGS & REDUCE SPENDING!!	1/9/2016 7:52 AM
63	Need to stop pensions and high benefit cost taxes are already to high in colchester for what we get	1/9/2016 6:39 AM
64	I do not want to pay any more taxes that I have to, but I feel as a town, we just need to start paying more in taxes. Ideally we can introduce new ways to generate tax revenue so the burden of existing tax payers does not increase, or we can find a way to drive out cost. Perhaps more district or county government services are needed? We need a strategic investment that will attract development in the right parts of town. We have so much land available for development now. Perhaps the town needs to invest in something with the state that can create jobs. How about a community college? An office park? Something that will lift our way of life, not just another big retailer (although that would help, too, at this point.)	1/9/2016 12:43 AM
65	No tax increase	1/8/2016 7:38 PM
66	When is enough enough? I am sure that Colchester is no different than any other town... When the end of May or June rolls around, there are so many extra dollars hanging around in the school budget...so the superintendent and board of finance have to find ways to spend it so they can close the books out at zero and balance... It happens in EVERY town but absolutely no one brings it up... No do they? And some of the senseless things these valuable dollars are spent on... What a shame...	1/8/2016 7:27 PM
67	This survey (as all surveys are) is good at indicating a broader concept of people's perception of each of these departments and services, but as you all know these issues are nuanced. Yes, to maintain services we currently have it is worth while to increase revenue for them, but it's also important for the town to be looking at areas where cuts can be made within these areas.	1/8/2016 6:42 PM
68	People are leaving town because the budget doesn't meet our needs and continues to be voted down anyway. We need to have adequate services to maintain our community.	1/8/2016 5:20 PM
69	Diversify tax base	1/8/2016 5:19 PM
70	It is important to have high quality programs in schools and programs must be fully funded to be successful. A town must provide a wide range of services or people will not choose to buy houses here or bring their business here.	1/8/2016 4:56 PM

71	We need to work with what we have. The town gets a raise every year but most tax payers do not.	1/8/2016 4:42 PM
72	Give breakout of what our taxes pay for by category in both dollars and percentage of these total dollars.....CT taxes and living costs are too high and need to be brought under control	1/8/2016 3:36 PM
73	Again, fiscal constraint needed first.	1/8/2016 2:23 PM
74	Colchester taxes are too high already that's why a lot of residents are leaving call customer and the state.	1/8/2016 1:28 PM
75	Not sure where the numbers came from in this question, but I pay more in taxes then listed here for current value of my home.	1/8/2016 1:23 PM
76	This hole survey is a joke. Only in government circles would a flat budget mean a reduction in services. In the private sector, management wouldn't survive with that thinking.	1/8/2016 1:21 PM
77	If the cost of everything 'goes up every year', then that would imply that town income should go up proportionally. If income is not going up accordingly, then the the town should focus on improvements that increase value for everyone, not just cover costs. I would rather pay more in taxes to attract companies to bring in more revenue, or to add measurable value to the town to attract homebuyers, than just raise taxes to keep things at the status quo.	1/8/2016 12:55 PM
78	The increases don't look bad, but most businesses and people are not in the habit of tossing more money at things that are not run well to start with.	1/8/2016 11:28 AM
79	I'm not sure I believe we have to increase the budget to preserve services as they are. Gas and oil prices are way down which should result in some pretty nice cost savings on a wide array of things for the town and the schools.	1/8/2016 10:58 AM
80	n/a	1/8/2016 10:12 AM
81	I'm encouraging an even larger increase in order to increase services rather than simply maintain the same level of services.	1/8/2016 9:22 AM
82	We only lease our properties. Can not do what you want without permits.	1/8/2016 8:11 AM
83	Need some consideration for seniors on a fixed income!	1/8/2016 8:01 AM
84	Amazing that this town continues to claim that it needs to raise taxes to provide the same services in the next fiscal year. When will this town live within it's budget?	1/8/2016 7:57 AM
85	My income does not increase I need to make decisions to decrease in non-essential areas. Same as a business owner, if income does not increase then I work for less to maintain the service expected but may not be able to buy an upgrade.	1/8/2016 7:20 AM
86	still looking for our town leadership to bring in more business to add to the towns tax revenue.	1/8/2016 7:18 AM
87	I would like to improve services across the board to make this town a great place to live. I'm willing to pay my share of the increases to make this happen.	1/8/2016 7:13 AM
88	how about no raises in pay?	1/8/2016 6:37 AM

Question 10 Comments

#	Responses	Date
1	Parties need to start a pointing people representative of the entire community and stop silencing those who do not share their views. Simply put, stop using democracy to create dictatorships, it 8s anti-American.	1/24/2016 10:15 AM
2	I will vote.	1/22/2016 5:10 PM
3	Nothing, really - just a reflection of my odd work schedule.	1/22/2016 1:22 PM
4	Make voting online or offer voting on multiple days	1/22/2016 12:13 PM
5	A flyer w/ the information should be available. An article in the newspaper would be helpful also	1/22/2016 9:04 AM
6	Although I voted in the budget, I did not vote during the school referendum. Reason being is that the information necessary to make an informed decision was removed from the town web site. People claimed that voting laws required it. Fine. The town needs to put in place an independent solution so that this information is always available. In essence, my right to vote was removed by the town as voting requires an informed decision. Otherwise, what is the point? Although information was up, it was taken down at the critical decision making point. The town needs to find a way to have this information available without town resources if that is the case. It is possible. Be creative. Should this happen again I will vote and I will vote against any budget.	1/22/2016 8:15 AM
7	I will become a U.S. citizen in a couple of years. My husband always votes.	1/21/2016 10:56 PM
8	no excuse	1/21/2016 6:40 PM
9	Give us all the facts---show us where all the \$ is spent	1/21/2016 4:36 PM
10	Make the info known without the long & drawn out issues. Bullet points rather than a book to read. Not fun stuff so easily bored	1/21/2016 4:06 PM
11	Give vouchers to families whose children do not attend public schools.	1/21/2016 3:37 PM
12	Make absentee ballot easier. We were out of town and left before it was finalized (for the last vote)	1/21/2016 2:18 PM
13	The information was available, I just didn't have the time to read it.	1/18/2016 10:44 AM
14	More reminders on the main roads. A sign in front of the town hall with meeting dates, and voting dates. Illuminated signage would be great, and more visible.	1/18/2016 8:58 AM
15	I will be voting in the next referendum.	1/16/2016 10:11 AM
16	all finance decisions should have a 2/3 majority to pass - this couple of vote majority makes no sense. The simplistic concept of Majority rules is nonsense on spending issues.	1/16/2016 7:38 AM
17	Online voting	1/15/2016 4:25 PM
18	I voted at each referendum.	1/10/2016 10:44 AM
19	Was out of town, but having to vote multiple times can decrease the participation	1/9/2016 4:02 PM
20	To be able to sign up to vote outside of the "intimidating" town hall	1/8/2016 4:44 PM
21	Did not choose to vote	1/8/2016 3:45 PM
22	My plan is to move out the State to an area more kind to my standard of living and income level.	1/8/2016 3:38 PM

Question 11 – Responses to “Other”

Other (please specify)	20.79%	90
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#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Meetings	1/25/2016 6:36 AM
2	Rivereast for this stuff.	1/24/2016 10:31 PM
3	New Facebook Page - Keeping it all in Colchester	1/24/2016 8:51 PM
4	hearings	1/24/2016 8:30 PM
5	RiverEast Newspaper	1/24/2016 2:48 PM
6	Town paper	1/24/2016 9:49 AM
7	Twitter	1/24/2016 9:13 AM
8	Rivereast	1/23/2016 12:49 PM
9	all that servic area.	1/23/2016 10:55 AM

10	Meetings	1/22/2016 10:36 PM
11	norwich bulletin	1/22/2016 8:26 PM
12	Rivereast	1/22/2016 12:13 PM
13	flyers / handouts / dept handouts	1/22/2016 9:04 AM
14	Independent site	1/22/2016 8:15 AM
15	whatever method is least expensive. Signs constructed by volunteers and placed at public sites.	1/22/2016 7:14 AM
16	Rivereast is the preferred newspaper to attain information	1/22/2016 6:59 AM
17	Rivereast News	1/21/2016 10:56 PM
18	Talking to elected officials	1/21/2016 9:42 PM
19	Twitter	1/21/2016 9:38 PM
20	colchester schools dligital backpack	1/21/2016 7:44 PM
21	Kids holding Vote Yes signs to pass the school budget! Stupid!	1/21/2016 6:13 PM
22	Meetings with town officials at Northwoods of Colchester	1/21/2016 5:18 PM
23	Local news papers	1/21/2016 5:01 PM
24	Twitter	1/21/2016 4:13 PM
25	Connecting Colchester Facebook page - I know its lame	1/21/2016 4:06 PM
26	Hartford Courant	1/21/2016 3:57 PM
27	Rivereast	1/21/2016 3:22 PM
28	Word of mouth / signage	1/21/2016 12:59 PM
29	Colchester paper--can't remember the name	1/20/2016 3:37 PM
30	ok - i rarely never read selectmans FB page - had no idea he had one, i dont get emails from the town, so i read river east	1/20/2016 3:07 PM
31	Rivereast	1/20/2016 11:36 AM
32	Rivereast	1/20/2016 8:28 AM
33	Posters in town.	1/19/2016 4:08 PM
34	riverast	1/19/2016 3:13 PM
35	Hartford Courant, Rivereast	1/19/2016 8:30 AM
36	Rivereast	1/18/2016 11:05 PM
37	Please, no Facebook	1/18/2016 8:47 PM
38	river east	1/18/2016 5:37 PM
39	word of mouth	1/18/2016 4:33 PM
40	Rivereast, open meetings at each of the school finding a tlme when parents are available, when rumors or misinformation begins to surface, especially on websites (Facebook) address them publicly to defuse it & get the TRUE FACTS/INFO out there.	1/18/2016 11:37 AM
41	Colchester needs a public information board posted in town	1/18/2016 9:56 AM
42	public budget metings	1/18/2016 9:05 AM
43	There is'nt enough emphasis put on letting the public know. That's why the turn out is so small and the budget easily gets passed.	1/18/2016 9:00 AM
44	Rivereast newspaper	1/18/2016 8:47 AM
45	Rivereast	1/18/2016 8:45 AM
46	Norwich Bulletin	1/17/2016 3:52 PM
47	Twitter	1/17/2016 9:22 AM

48	News Bulletin	1/17/2016 8:58 AM
49	Billboards/sandwich boards	1/17/2016 2:12 AM
50	Budget meetings and presentations	1/16/2016 7:22 PM
51	Rivereast	1/16/2016 1:03 PM
52	Rivereast	1/16/2016 11:58 AM
53	Town meetings too. It changes	1/16/2016 11:08 AM
54	All of the above.	1/16/2016 10:11 AM
55	Rivereast	1/16/2016 7:38 AM
56	Town meetings / school	1/15/2016 9:08 PM
57	Rivereast newspaper	1/15/2016 8:17 PM
58	Reminder	1/15/2016 8:05 PM
59	do not use facebook	1/15/2016 7:41 PM
60	Norwich bulletin	1/15/2016 5:22 PM
61	RiverEast	1/15/2016 5:17 PM
62	hartford courant & the River East Bullitin	1/15/2016 5:16 PM
63	The Bulletin has the best Colchester news coverage; The River East has the most penetration as a free weekly.	1/15/2016 4:12 PM
64	Norwich Bulletin	1/15/2016 2:57 PM
65	Courant, Rivereast	1/15/2016 2:07 PM
66	twitter	1/14/2016 1:27 PM
67	Htfd Courant/attending town meetings	1/13/2016 3:43 PM
68	Rivereast	1/12/2016 9:47 PM
69	Rivereast	1/11/2016 1:49 PM
70	I would like to see more posts using social media.	1/10/2016 2:21 PM
71	stop hiding expenses behind general headings and start an open dialogue	1/10/2016 10:42 AM
72	River East	1/9/2016 5:39 PM
73	River east and Norwich Bulletin.	1/9/2016 2:26 PM
74	I think a voting reminder card should be mailed (USPS) to each household that has a registered voter.	1/9/2016 9:40 AM
75	Attending meetings	1/9/2016 9:32 AM
76	Meetings & Minutes - We should Televisе Meetings on Public Access - MINUTES need to be UNIFORM FOR ALL BOARDS & COMMISSIONS	1/9/2016 7:54 AM
77	Email, Facebook, and LinkedIn are my main 3. A lot of people like Twitter.	1/9/2016 12:44 AM
78	River East	1/8/2016 7:15 PM
79	Website just for budget information. Town site is too difficult to find any information on. It is a jumble. We no longer receive the Reminder.	1/8/2016 5:21 PM
80	Rivereast Bulletin	1/8/2016 5:05 PM
81	Rivereast	1/8/2016 4:59 PM
82	Social media resources meet my needs.	1/8/2016 3:38 PM
83	Rivereast.	1/8/2016 12:58 PM
84	Facebook	1/8/2016 11:32 AM
85	Signs around town	1/8/2016 11:11 AM
86	Non-bias information online or email	1/8/2016 9:28 AM

87	Norwich bulletin.	1/8/2016 8:02 AM
88	River East	1/8/2016 7:57 AM
89	other social media such as a twitter feed	1/8/2016 7:19 AM
90	other Facebook pages as well	1/8/2016 6:38 AM

Question 14 – Responses for “Other”

Other (please specify)

8.69%

37

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	none of above	1/24/2016 8:33 PM
2	Landfill...needs better hours!!	1/24/2016 2:50 PM
3	C3 programs	1/23/2016 11:01 AM
4	found that police and fire dept are useless in this town	1/23/2016 10:57 AM
5	Youth services field trips and volunteer trips and drug awareness programs at the schools.	1/23/2016 9:57 AM
6	Airline Trail	1/22/2016 5:11 PM
7	None - indirectly protected by emergency services.	1/22/2016 1:24 PM
8	energy assistance and renters rebate	1/22/2016 9:36 AM
9	rail trail, Cohen woodlands, trails at rec field	1/21/2016 7:47 PM
10	Town Hall meeting rooms	1/21/2016 5:39 PM
11	Santa Homecoming, Trick or Trunk	1/21/2016 4:06 PM
12	Farmers market on the green	1/21/2016 3:29 PM
13	Town Transfer Station (dump)	1/20/2016 1:34 PM
14	none of the above	1/19/2016 11:16 AM
15	Dump but no longer use it because of ridiculous hours, which is also a reason for so much litter and illegal dumping.	1/19/2016 10:57 AM
16	None	1/19/2016 8:23 AM
17	Air Line Trail	1/18/2016 8:48 PM

18	Public Forums, Budget hearings, BoE mtgs, Various town departments offices, department mtgs	1/18/2016 11:42 AM
19	It would be nice if the dog park could recieve some budgeted funds	1/18/2016 10:56 AM
20	None. I wasn't a Colchester resident	1/18/2016 7:32 AM
21	Attended town meetings at the town hall	1/16/2016 8:10 PM
22	Tennis courts @ Bacon.	1/16/2016 12:46 PM
23	Parks and trails	1/16/2016 11:11 AM
24	Airline Trail and Spur, Transfer Station, Town Green, Cohen Woodlands and trails, Spring Volunteer Clean up Day, Holiday Homecoming	1/15/2016 4:53 PM
25	Rail trail, sidewalks In town (Norwich Ave. in need of repair), Ruby Cohen pond, Recplex walking paths.	1/15/2016 4:14 PM
26	Colchester Farmer's Market - FABULOUS!	1/13/2016 3:19 PM
27	We haven't "used" police directly but indirectly...	1/10/2016 6:21 PM
28	I have also attended a couple evening meetings at the youth center, but my children have not attended any activities there.	1/10/2016 2:24 PM
29	We spend many hours a week in Town and appreciate Colchester's services to all demographics.	1/10/2016 10:44 AM
30	Park and rec has very limited activities for older people who enjoy team type sports. Program consists of exercise classes. Would be nice if something like floor hockey was offered.	1/9/2016 9:04 AM
31	Family Fun Day at Zagray Farm	1/8/2016 5:22 PM
32	No time to attend town events....too busy earning a living	1/8/2016 3:40 PM
33	After using AMS that would not take me to the hospital then I want to go to the bill for my insurance company for \$1300 someone from being a volunteer paramedic service. I will never use them again I will call private ambulance this way do not have to pay for two ambulances to go to the hospital choice.	1/8/2016 1:30 PM
34	We participate in many park and rec activities and the annual town clean up. Donate to the local food bank& senior center	1/8/2016 12:58 PM
35	none	1/8/2016 12:58 PM
36	Town hall offices helped me resolove a property issue	1/8/2016 9:25 AM
37	None of the above.	1/8/2016 8:03 AM

Question 15 -- Additional Comments

#	Responses	Date
1	Colchester needs a big box/chain store so we do not have to travel to other towns and a big supermarket for competition with stop and shop	1/24/2016 9:23 PM
2	We moved to colchester 5 years ago because we are a family with young children and want to see our tax money spent on education and services for families. It would be a mistake to short cut the needs of our schools.	1/24/2016 7:56 PM
3	The school budget needs to get passed on the first vote before more cuts are made & MORE ITEMS are removed. The students end suffering. People have to understand teacher contracts are the major cost in the budget, misinformation is always spread to the seniors & must be clarified early on, & budget info meeting might be offered at a time other than evenings..interfere w/too many other events going on in town & at schools...	1/24/2016 3:01 PM
4	Why does Colchester have only one cable television provider?	1/24/2016 1:33 PM
5	Cut the fat for heavens sake! I looked at the last 3 budgets and if there are really so many fewer kids, why do my taxes keep going up?	1/24/2016 12:05 PM
6	We need to stop cutting direct service programs like athletics as our first line of attack... otherwise there will be a mass exodus from our school system because folks have other options today.	1/24/2016 9:31 AM
7	Paying very high taxes for NO services except for baldi flying by in the winter to barely clear our road...pot holes even today not fixed. Have called police in the past with no return. Called fire dept. by the time they came husband and I had the fire out. All they did then was make a mess. Again high taxes for nothing.	1/23/2016 10:59 AM
8	Get more info out about the WJJMS renovation please.	1/23/2016 9:58 AM
9	Good survey	1/22/2016 10:37 PM
10	I feel town officials do a good job disseminating information, but frequently heard excuses I hear for not voting involve kids activities. I would like to offer the suggestion that no after school sports, practices, or civic meetings be scheduled on referendum day. Perhaps, more people would vote.	1/22/2016 5:17 PM
11	The Recreation Department is really good. The snow clearing is really good. The police department shutting down Saturdays seems nuts.	1/22/2016 4:27 PM
12	Thanks for the opportunity to sound off and good luck with the process.	1/22/2016 1:24 PM
13	As a senior I'm most concerned about the building of a new Senior Center and safety for all. The Sr Ctr is long overdue and should be a #1 priority.	1/22/2016 9:38 AM
14	Taxes in this town are too high. Need to make cuts across the board in all depts by 10%	1/22/2016 9:17 AM
15	I can't find a colchester policeman when needed - have to call the state police barracks to do so???	1/22/2016 9:05 AM
16	People are moving from this town due to high taxes for what little services are provided... Decreasing library hours not helpful when looking for something free to takes kids on rainy day and not open later on Friday evening is nuts for those wanting to grab some books for weekend. For town events on green/57 fest..why not have local establishments/clubs/organizations as food vendors instead of letting outsiders come to make money. Need to get community more involved with volunteering for things to decrease costs.	1/22/2016 7:20 AM
17	As stated earlier in the survey, we need languages in the curriculum beginning at CES and DECA to be a full year at Bacon.	1/22/2016 7:01 AM
18	Thank you for all the time you volunteer to do this challenging work. It's appreciated!!!	1/22/2016 6:19 AM
19	Bacon is a truly special place- a family (as are the other schools). Please keep in mind all cuts to staffing pull a thread from the quilt. At some point it will no longer resemble the quilt it started as.	1/22/2016 12:24 AM
20	Town needs Friday night football. So please include lights in this budget.	1/21/2016 8:30 PM
21	Thank you for your hard work & dedication to Colchester, esp if you are a volunteer.	1/21/2016 7:48 PM

22	The Finance committee must find alternative funding sources other than continuing to raise taxes on the residents. The property taxes on our home and cars is over \$9,000 annually. As we look to retire, we cannot afford to stay in Colchester. Property taxes are driving us from our home and out of town. And we are not alone.	1/21/2016 7:23 PM
23	Look inside for ways to save money ... The "use it or lose it" mentality of municipal budgets has got to go!! Employee reimbursements are typically exaggerated. Are mileage reports accurate? Are employees being reimbursed for their actual expense (I.e. cell phones) or for the max allowed?!	1/21/2016 6:59 PM
24	wonderful town and people excellent fire, police, ems	1/21/2016 6:43 PM
25	A town with a good school system tends to have better property values and lower crime rates. We have used more services in previous years than this year. Our school's success makes us more attractive for responsible development.	1/21/2016 6:29 PM
26	LET'S GET MOVING ON A NEW SENIOR CENTER ALREADY!	1/21/2016 6:16 PM
27	Begin with the idea that there will be no increase in the budget exceeding any increase in the grand list. That is the only way to get an actual "NEED" for each dept. Then be able to JUSTIFY any requests for increases. Stand firm on pay increases. Watch those dollars!! Dollars from the state still come from tax payers, don't ever think that is FREE money.	1/21/2016 5:58 PM
28	Taxation should be less for people living in neighborhoods where the town does not maintain their private roads in any way.	1/21/2016 5:20 PM
29	We must lose the mentality of "spend it or lose it" at the town, state, and federal levels---this is why we are in debt.	1/21/2016 4:38 PM
30	There needs to be a significant effort to draw more commercial enterprise into town. As I understand it, Stop & Shop purchased a right to build or whatever it is called on significant acreage in town, presumably to prevent competition. I think the town should try to get this property back into market so it can be available for a tax paying business.	1/21/2016 4:09 PM
31	I know its tough but the Pay to Play fee is hard to pay. Especially if you have more than 1 kid. I know there is a cap at \$540 but \$180 is a lot nevermind \$360...	1/21/2016 4:07 PM
32	I am concerned over the relationship between the town and the youth sports leagues and the overall inattention to the field conditions. Blaming it all on overuse, with no clear plan to improve is not productive. Work better with the leagues and improve conditions or take over the leagues as a town run function.	1/21/2016 3:48 PM
33	The largest portion of the town's budget goes to the schools and the largest portion of that goes to the teachers union. Do that math and figure it out. Attack the largest expense first.	1/21/2016 3:36 PM
34	The most important thing a town can do is take care of their children. I would support increased taxes if it means improvements in the programs offered at schools, athletics, recreation, etc.	1/21/2016 3:24 PM
35	Get more businesses into our town ASAP	1/21/2016 3:00 PM
36	We need to cut the number of town employees! Especially the ones working on the fields. We can take that money and hire a third party landscaper to take MUCH better care of the land. We need to cut the police force. Anyone following the incident numbers knows that our police have nothing to do in Colchester. Plus we have Troop K. Finally, we need to base teachers' pay on merit not tenure. We have some great young teachers that make way less than some crappy old ones. We need to lure more business into town. We don't need to raise the budget, we just need to prioritize where we spend what's coming in and find new sources of revenue rather than over-taxing the current sources.	1/21/2016 2:09 PM
37	End Pay to Play!	1/21/2016 1:50 PM
38	Colchester is a beautiful place to live, work and play. The town green is historic and amazing, the Recreation Complex is a great feature to this town yet there is so little funding for upkeep. Let's keep what we have looking beautiful and at the same time expand the town by bringing in more businesses and families. I have no issues supporting Colchester which I know will be an increase in my taxes.	1/21/2016 1:26 PM
39	No increase	1/21/2016 1:26 PM
40	if schools are decreasing in population, there should be some degree of reduction in spending, not student to average cost but something. I am not a fan of the schools after having two out of three go thru the system, our third is going to private schools because of Bacon issues. this town needs an UNDERSTANDING of economic development and expansion of tax base in order to grow the base. communication from town hall to new business is poor at best (personal experience) and the content of business brought in are marginal. as with business, the town needs a series of 3/5 year plans in economic development and structuring of schools. I dont see that happening	1/20/2016 3:12 PM

41	Keep fighting to make our town remain special. Support, through voting, is needed from all families! Find ways to streamline information to enlighten and urge people to participate in the process. Don't ignore the town's non-profit athletic clubs' input and revenue streams when making decisions regarding fields, maintenance, etc. The volunteers in nearly all those groups want to help make our town great!	1/20/2016 1:42 PM
42	To keep threatening the removal of sports programs in school in horrible. I hate that it is the first item that is leveraged in budget battle. It is already pay to play for middle school and high school. What additional funds are allocated from the town budget after the pay to play fees are collected. The breakdowns for people to review would be appreciated.	1/20/2016 12:28 PM
43	We should try to attract more business.	1/20/2016 11:40 AM
44	We need to consider a way to preclude tax increases for those who do not use services, or who are seniors with the ability to afford taxes/increases. PLEASE stop increasing taxes, your killing us.	1/19/2016 4:11 PM
45	PLEASE get rid of the 57 fest. It is a waste of money. I'd like to see 24/7 police coverage for Colchester	1/19/2016 3:15 PM
46	I don't mind paying additional taxes but when I see poor road conditions or sloppy patch work, parks not having grass cut. Town buildings that are not kept well it makes me vote NO, and as long as the "pay to play" continues to go up, I will NEVER vote yes on a BOE budget again. The kids get no return and still have to pay for equipment and fundraise. Shamefull	1/19/2016 11:00 AM
47	Sewing, cooking, budget management are life skills. Hear you are eliminating that class for robotics. Reinforces perception I have that school management is out of touch with reality - like the ever increasing budget for the ever decreasing population.	1/19/2016 7:47 AM
48	Please lower taxes I do not want to leave this town.	1/18/2016 11:06 PM
49	Seniors MUST be a priority	1/18/2016 4:34 PM
50	Salaries need to stop rising and lets cut back on your spending, it is way overboard.	1/18/2016 1:22 PM
51	Cut administration costs. Government employees at all levels are overpaid.	1/18/2016 9:57 AM
52	We need more businesses that can create more quality jobs. Not just more liquor stores, Chinese and pizza restaurants.	1/18/2016 8:43 AM
53	In the 8 years I have lived in Colchester, the taxes on my house have increased by \$4,000. However, the value of my home has decreased by more than \$100,000. On what planet does that make sense?	1/17/2016 5:27 PM
54	Thank you for focusing on education and the library. We love the library.	1/17/2016 9:23 AM
55	I believe there are a number of ways to save money in this town. In the public safety department I don't think that police cars should be left idling when officers go into stores or when parked at events for hours at a time. I have been told that they must be left on due to all the electronic equipment on the car. What happens when car is off duty? Does the car run all night? I also see small fire truck and town ambulance parked at local restaurants in town. Who is paying for fuel to go on coffee runs? Plus wear and tear on vehicles. Would like to see town do away with Chatham health. Not sure what the cost to town is but as a builder in town I find it very unnecessary to pay a fee to Chatham to shingle a roof or build a deck. The building department is very difficult to work with, too many hoops to jump through and very poor communication with applicants. If mild weather should hold through winter what is the town's plan for surplus of funds from snow removal and with the cost of fuel down there should be a surplus there.	1/16/2016 8:31 PM
56	With new development increasing in town and continued declines in school enrollment taxes should reflect these changes	1/16/2016 2:05 PM
57	It is very disappointing to see programs that students clearly need for personal growth, and are needed on college applications, continue to be cut to do budget constraints. Clubs, music and sports help children remain happy and healthy. It is unfair to ask the community to continue to contribute and the students to continue to be denied their activities while teachers and administrators are taking yearly raises. Working families in the community have had health benefits reduced, salaries cut and jobs lost due to the state of the economy. Teachers and administrators have felt this on a very minimal basis. Please stop asking the community for more than the BOE employees are willing to do themselves. Sincerely, a former BOE employee	1/16/2016 1:22 PM
58	Listen to all voices not just the ones who speak loudly at meetings or in the newspaper. Many do not agree with those voices and decisions should be made on what's in the best interest for all citizens.	1/16/2016 1:05 PM
59	I think we should think regionally and share resources with other towns/ cities. e.g. Does everytown need to support a town garage or can we share w/ nearby towns? How about a regional sports complex for H.S. and public recreation. Be smart. Be frugal. No increase in taxes.	1/16/2016 12:50 PM
60	The BOE better sharpen their pencils as I just can't understand with significant student enrollment their cost have totally gone out of control. Mr. Kelly's comments re: a long range plan really should be addressed.	1/16/2016 12:02 PM
61	Good luck	1/16/2016 11:12 AM

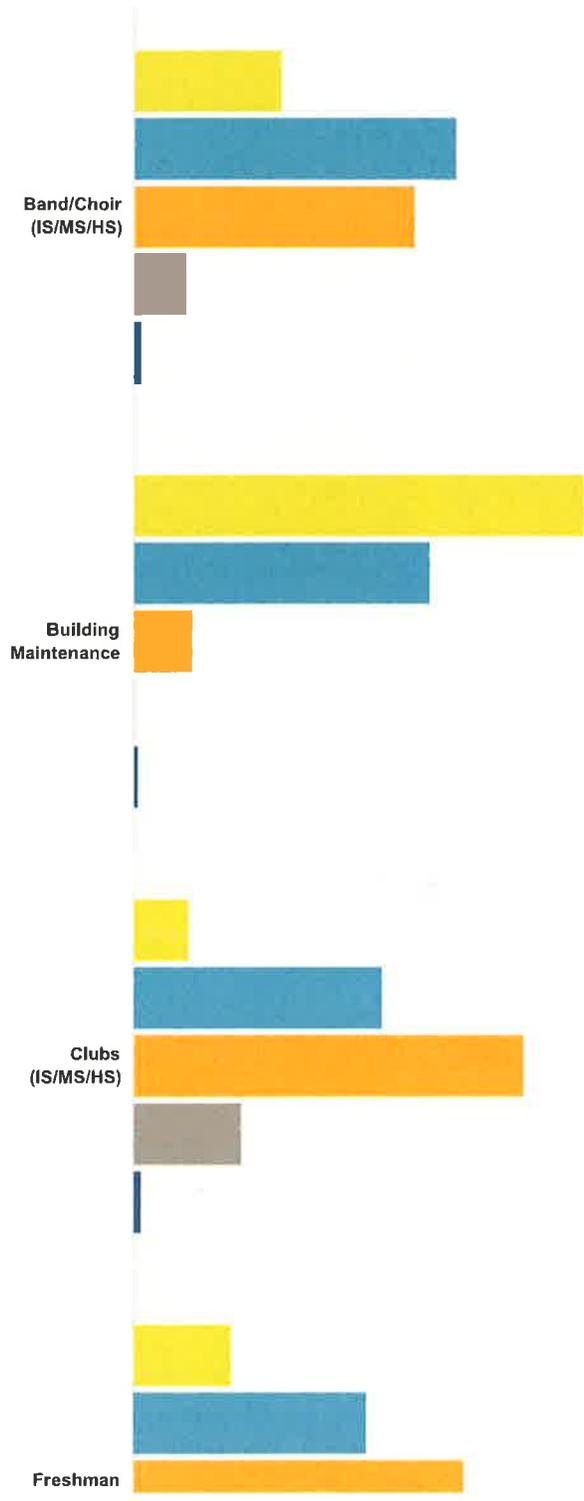
62	Is it possible that the Lions club could maintain the small pond on Halls Hill road as a place to ice skate?	1/16/2016 10:36 AM
63	Please give something to the seniors for a change. We don't want to leave the community, but may be forced to if we don't get some tax relief.	1/16/2016 10:15 AM
64	We love the schools and teachers!	1/16/2016 10:00 AM
65	Thank you for collecting thoughts of residents.	1/16/2016 9:29 AM
66	cut taxes!, cut spending!	1/16/2016 7:40 AM
67	Let's get the Town moving ahead on the Senior Center Project.	1/15/2016 9:23 PM
68	We are putting our house on the market and moving south. My husband has lived in this town on family land since 1949. It is devastating to him. You win.	1/15/2016 8:07 PM
69	Please research if there is any way to reduce or negotiate any town employee annual increments.	1/15/2016 5:19 PM
70	Education & living in a well managed SAFE environment makes Colchester THE place to live	1/15/2016 5:19 PM
71	There seem to be many people who use transfer station that do not have Colchester windshield stickers. Would like to see more articles in weekly newspaper on actions of town, selectmen meetings/board meeting outcomes, issues facing the town to be better informed and have more public flow of information.	1/15/2016 4:56 PM
72	Thanks for your effort in getting input from residents, and good luck in your quest to create a budget that fulfills absolute needs while minimizing impact on residents. It's a daunting task.	1/15/2016 4:16 PM
73	Colchester is not unique in that there are inefficient areas. No one wants to make changes that will upset staff but could make things work better. I am a frustrated commission member who just can't believe what I see.	1/15/2016 4:15 PM
74	Given the economic climate, I am willing to support a fair, comprehensive budget that puts school and town needs at the forefront	1/15/2016 4:14 PM
75	Run the school system and town like a business. Make decisions about expenditures as if the money were coming out of your own pocket. It's so easy to spend others' money without thinking about the necessity of the expense.	1/15/2016 2:12 PM
76	Need to improve the athletic fields. We cannot keep ignoring this. I hope hit enemy formed park & rec commission will do something and not just talk about it. Bring reps from baseball, soccer, lacrosse & football together and let them help. Resisting help from non-town employees due to union regulations is ridiculous. (I've heard this is happening - I hope it is not true). Unions have no place holding our town back.	1/15/2016 2:10 PM
77	You all need to set the budget and underlying assumptions about it as if it was all coming out of your own pocket.	1/13/2016 3:20 PM
78	Schools do a wonderful job, many top notch teachers.	1/10/2016 6:22 PM
79	The school budget is grossly overstuffed as a result of poor management, lack of leadership and a general dishonesty of spending priorities. The honorary BOE and volunteers are greatly appreciated but a cleanup is needed from the Superintendent on down.	1/10/2016 10:47 AM
80	I like the chart you included to show the impact of an increase in taxes. That should be distributed to as many outlets as possible. When stretched over a year, an additional \$100 or so doesn't seem as scary. Thank you!	1/10/2016 10:15 AM
81	Stop spending, cut your budget! Decreased enrollment and fuel prices should allow for this. The budget has nearly doubled in the last 15 years but education isn't better and we now have to pay \$180 for kids to participate in any sport! GET RID OF PAY TO PLAY!	1/9/2016 5:42 PM
82	If you do the same old thing for the last several years you have done, expect the same results. You are the ones who have never had courage to face the fact you ate our lunch and are spending for things as though we gained revenues from a mall that never came AND all you did was increase taxes. Two options left...you will face more shortfalls and the town faces fiscal losses and bond rates increase or you change and give tax relief and a low, ..below 19 , a mill rate spurs growth. Your paradigm limits light industrial or commercial growth , increases the burden on families as on small business and drives the town to increasingly higher income bedroom community members and residents. That is why drugs are more prevalent and there us, a group of parents who only want the new schools fo Rd their children k through 12. It is so obvious that is who you cater to, every year. So fewer people vote. It is insane to keep voting when you increase taxes even when voters say no. You are not smart as you think. You want to be liked by a few people. That is not why Republicans were elected. It was to cut the budget!	1/9/2016 2:41 PM

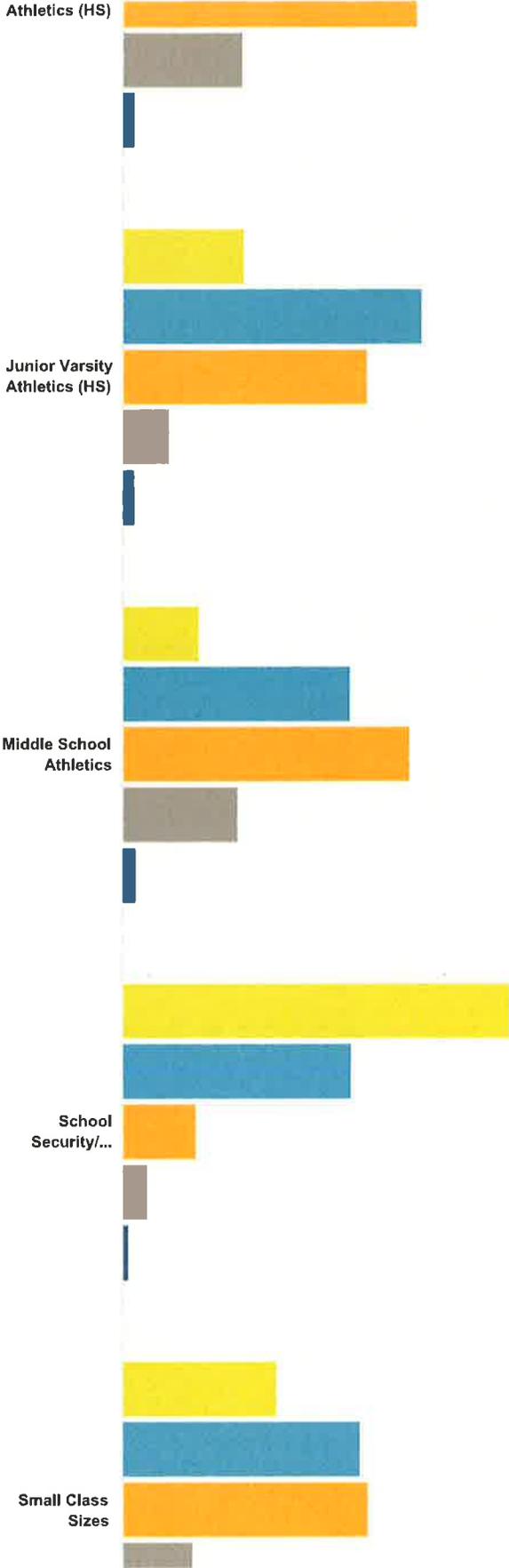
83	Some of the oldest teachers in the school system that can't be fired because of contracts and legal reasons are hindering progress for students and school programs. An entire elective course at Bacon Academy is in jeopardy because there is only one teacher for the program and that teacher is uninterested in the subject and hostile towards the students. The teacher discourages students from asking questions and is only interested in the students that easily earn an A because they have previous knowledge in the subject. Students are dropping the elective, some before completing the semester, many after the first semester feeling like they will never be able to work or play in that field. The administration may not be able to fire this teacher, but they could look for other classes that would be more suitable for him/her to teach instead of turning off an entire generation of students going through the school to the subject. It is very disappointing.	1/9/2016 2:06 PM
84	The BOE needs to be replaced with members who listen to the public. Stop asking for more money with decreased enrollment. And we certainly don't need other towns children in our school system! We need 24/7 police service in this town.	1/9/2016 1:20 PM
85	More signs should be put around town to advertise BOE and town budget meeting dates/times, and voting dates/time. Not everyone drives by the green or the town hall. These meeting dates and time should be published in The RiverEast and Norwich Bulletin. Something needs to be done to get people who have concerns about the budget to go to the meetings and be proactive instead of just voting no and causing a lot of rework. You can't rely on social media to advertise. We have a lot of older people in town who do not use these methods. You should send a postcard to each household with the dates, times and locations of budget meetings, both BOE and Town. Also I got an email about this survey. Hopefully you are publishing this information in the newspapers and around the town businesses to reach those who are not online to get a lot of participation in this survey.	1/9/2016 9:47 AM
86	Thanks for the opportunity to participate.	1/9/2016 9:05 AM
87	CITIZENS want Fiscal Restraint Stop the unnecessary spending. Audit the Town - regionalize services when possible - Parks & Rec needs to downsize Food Bank can be run by local civic organizations or churches Review Youth Services - lots of \$\$\$ being spent on small number of people Combine Tax Assessor/Collector Stop the outsourcing of Tax Collection to Attys Review the WJJMS project it's too expensive for the decrease in student population & the maintenance of a new building Combine the student pop in the existing Newer schools Use WJJMS for A Town Building Senior Center/Youth Center/Parks & Rec	1/9/2016 8:00 AM
88	Need to reduce teacher health care costs. Raise copays, premium and deductibles like private sector and Reduce pensions before raising taxes. It's a shame ever budget you threaten to cut service to kids, but teachers working more hours or reducing health care and pension cost aren't discussed.	1/9/2016 6:44 AM
89	Can we please stop calling it the 57 fest? That was so long ago we won that award. It sounds corny now. I am embarrassed by it. When people ask me why we call it 57 fest, I hate telling them that several years ago we were voted the 57th best place to live in America. If we are going to do anything, call it Colchester Day. That is what a lot of towns do in CT. It might bring more success to the event, too. Another thing to consider is changing the timing to not be in October. The weather is hit and miss at that point. We need to start promoting our town. We have great geographic benefits to offer. It makes perfect sense to see our town as the next epicenter in the region. We should take better advantage of that. Maybe we need to start a marketing campaign? The investment we will be making in WJJMS is a great one. We need to capitalize on that by showing we are investing in our town's future and that we're eager to make it friendly to investors. Running a town becomes a lot easier when money is flowing through it.	1/9/2016 12:50 AM
90	Be creative. Think before you spend. Want? Need? Think.	1/8/2016 7:29 PM
91	Town needs to address sports fields. We need more fields. Town needs to designate a LAX field as they destroy every field they touch.	1/8/2016 5:32 PM
92	Please do not reduce the school budget. Declining enrollment is an opportunity to finally increase our per pupil expenditure. Families are leaving town or using other schools (many times magnets) because they no longer trust the quality of our schools.	1/8/2016 5:23 PM
93	Does the Fire Department need a paid Deputy Chief? Can the firefighters that take the ambulance to get lunch or breakfast take the ambulance to the town hall to clean it instead of hiring janitors? If they can respond from starbucks why can't they respond from the town hall?	1/8/2016 4:47 PM
94	Assess means to cut all unnecessary costs and reduce government size....move to more regional government programs and services....reduce study time on projects and services to bring changes to the table quicker....more social media interaction with our citizenry to gain insights on their insights on town issues....reassess traffic light timing structures in town, especially at Town Green area....bring in more businesses to increase tax revenues....change school hours and schedules to meet current recognized educational patterns....be more inventive in doing things	1/8/2016 3:51 PM
95	No one wants to spend anymore money, but if the public feels you are truly working in their best interests and it is needed they will vote yes for it.	1/8/2016 2:26 PM
96	We do not get enough for the money that we spend on the students are ready you need to warrant to live with in your means. Individuals on disability and Social Security tax credit from the town has many states to an individual towns.	1/8/2016 1:31 PM

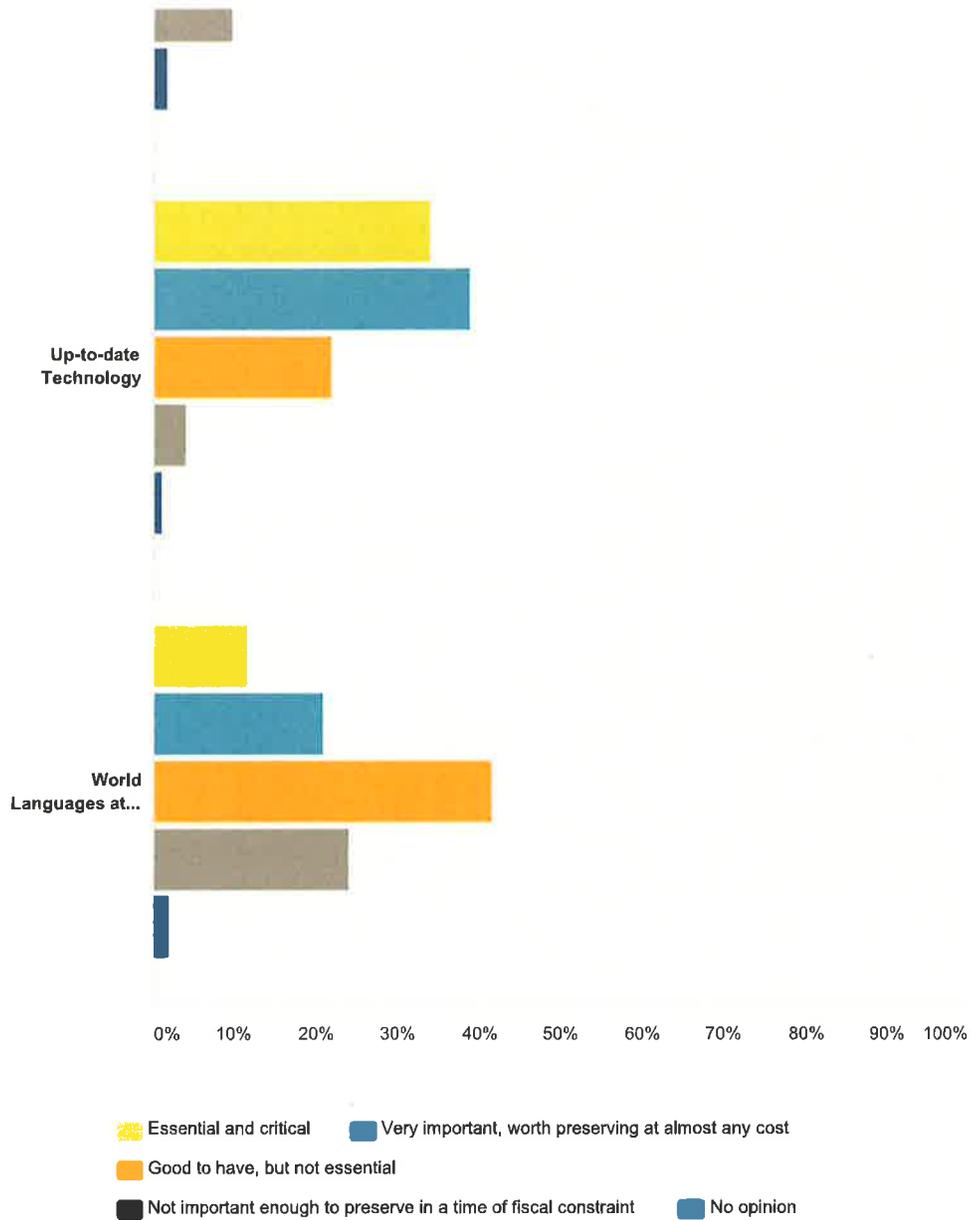
97	Put a more abridged and viewer friendly version of the budget proposal on the website,	1/8/2016 1:03 PM
98	Do we participate in 'buying clubs' to cut down on disposable supplies? if not, please do,	1/8/2016 12:24 PM
99	When will the BOE be holding the public hearing that residents signed up for two separate times?	1/8/2016 11:34 AM
100	n/a	1/8/2016 10:13 AM
101	Taking away from the kids is the wrong idea. The youth center should be open everyday after school for middle and high school students. The building sitting empty cost money.	1/8/2016 9:31 AM
102	BOE must devise a 5 year plan to address decrease population	1/8/2016 8:50 AM
103	Since I don't use any of the services, I should not be forced to pay for them	1/8/2016 8:44 AM
104	Every day I get noticed from Zillow showing houses going up on the market or prices being reduced. It saddens me that my kids friends and family are moving because they can no longer afford to live here or choose not to live here because it is so expensive. Something has to change. When my husband I decided to move here in 1999 we chose Colchester for the quiet country feel and the reasonable taxes. If we knew that our taxes were gonna spiral out of control like they have in this short amount of time not so sure we would have settled here. Taxes are a big thing when choosing where you live and I can say taxes for us are a mortgage payment for most. That is just plain crazy!!!	1/8/2016 8:41 AM
105	I think it's pretty obvious that the goal of the budget process is for the town and schools to bring forth a padded budget full of extras and wish list items. Then the people go out and vote and say NO and then all those wish lists get weeded out. If you want to reduce the amount of referendum votes you should probably make the budgets more easily understood, what does OTHER stand for? In the school budget these vague items appear multiple times without any explanation or understanding what the tens of thousands is for. You can't expect the public to attend all of the meetings held in this town. It should all be audio or video taped and posted in a you tube video online. This is quite ridiculous that other small towns are doing this and not Colchester. No taxpayer who votes NO is going to show up at your meetings and make their feelings know for a very important reason, you have ignored, belittled and intimidated those who oppose additional spending and question line items. This type of behavior is divisive and not inclusive nor do you appear to intend to make it inclusive. It appears to me that the town and schools just want the public to give them total control over our weekly paychecks to pay for every little wish list you have. Not the real world. You have to listen to the 5900 households paying taxes, enough is enough, we are tired to being poor because of the taxes in this town. We work hard and you are not putting the same effort into trying to save thousands of dollars as you are trying to invent reasons to charge me thousands more.	1/8/2016 8:06 AM
106	Another year of no increase in social security or retirement income. Please give the seniors a break on property tax increases,	1/8/2016 8:05 AM
107	We need to make education a important part of our budget but be realistic and try to cut spending where possible.	1/8/2016 8:04 AM
108	A majority of the town's taxpayers can not afford any additional tax burdens with a new, refurbished school being built next year.	1/8/2016 8:04 AM
109	Each year we are asked to make just a "small" increase in our taxes, this has added up substantially over the last 10 yrs. Property taxes as an individual and business owner are an increasing burden making it difficult to remain in Colchester. Building codes should be changed to make it more difficult to build new homes/rentals ie new development going in Old Hebron Rd, which increase the drain on town resources without adding substantial counter income. Business development should be easier and more inviting to investors.	1/8/2016 7:25 AM
110	Need to adopt a "more up to date program" for teaching computer programming at the high school level. Python is not a main stream language. Need to find a "programming" teacher for that position rather than relying on the math teacher to teach this course. He does not know what he is doing and he is loosing students due to his teaching style. roads are in poor shape town leader ship needs to attack more businesses to the town to in crease the towns tax revenue and reduce the tax burden on the townspeople.	1/8/2016 7:21 AM
111	Please spend the money that is required to make Colchester a great place to live. A small increase in taxes can pay for great things!	1/8/2016 7:15 AM
112	Good luck!	1/8/2016 6:41 AM
113	Since SS has not received a cost of living increase Seniors should not have to pay increase taxes	1/8/2016 6:18 AM

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

Answered: 473 Skipped: 5







	Essential and critical	Very important, worth preserving at almost any 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)	18.20% 85	39.61% 185	34.69% 162	6.42% 30	1.07% 5	467
Building Maintenance	55.34% 259	36.54% 171	7.26% 34	0.21% 1	0.64% 3	468
Clubs (IS/MS/HS)	6.90% 32	30.60% 142	48.06% 223	13.36% 62	1.08% 5	464
Freshman Athletics (HS)	12.15% 57	28.78% 135	40.72% 191	16.63% 78	1.71% 8	469
Junior Varsity Athletics (HS)	16.88% 79	41.24% 193	33.76% 158	6.41% 30	1.71% 8	468
Middle School Athletics	10.73% 50	31.55% 147	39.70% 185	16.09% 75	1.93% 9	466

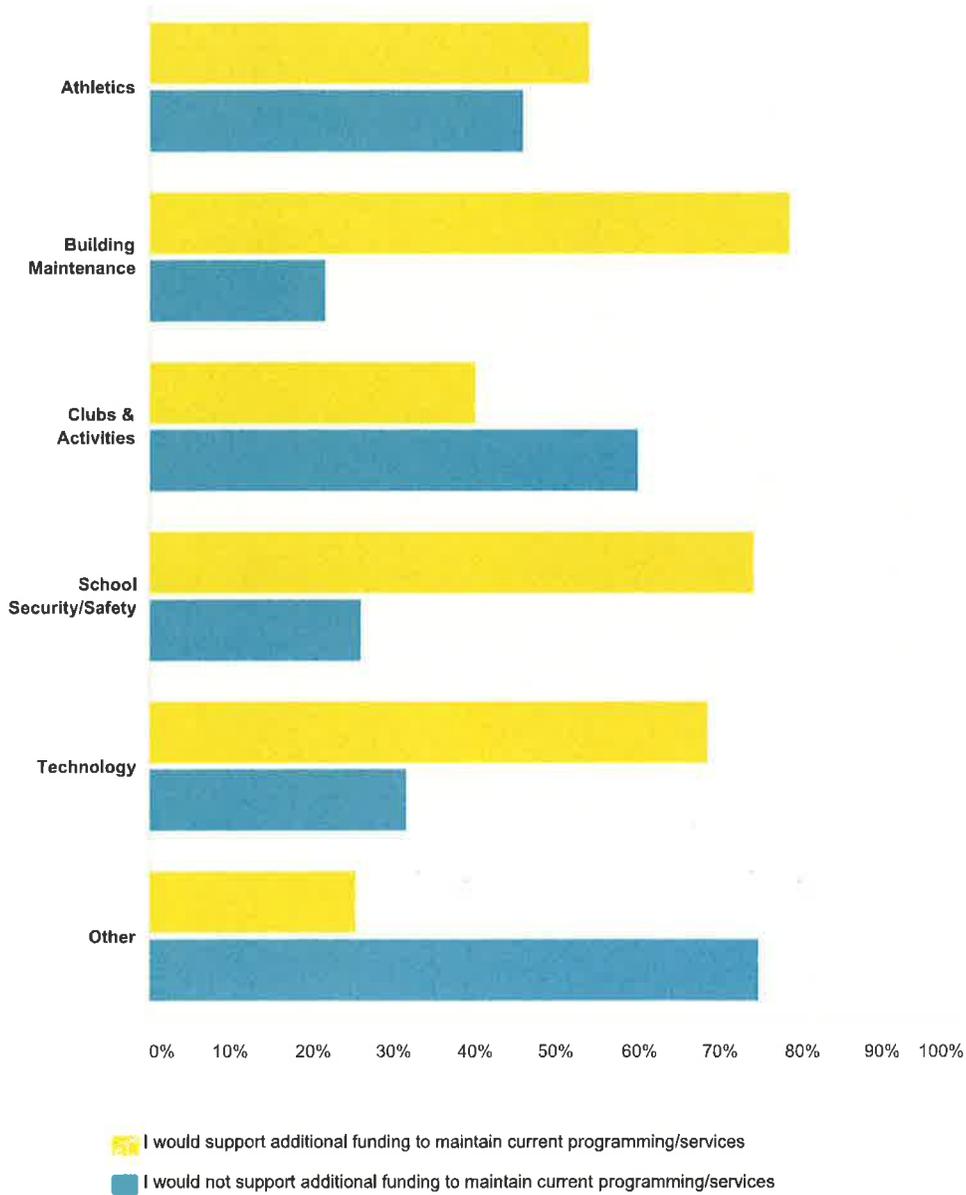
2016-2017 Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

School Security/ Safety	53.62% 252	31.70% 149	10.21% 48	3.62% 17	0.85% 4	470
Small Class Sizes	21.58% 101	32.91% 154	33.97% 159	9.83% 46	1.71% 8	468
Up-to-date Technology	33.97% 159	38.89% 182	22.01% 103	4.06% 19	1.07% 5	468
World Languages at Lower Grades	11.68% 55	20.81% 98	41.61% 196	23.99% 113	1.91% 9	471

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: 470 Skipped: 8



	I would support additional funding to maintain current programming/services	I would not support additional funding to maintain current programming/services	Total
Athletics	54.13% 249	45.87% 211	460
Building Maintenance	78.48% 361	21.52% 99	460

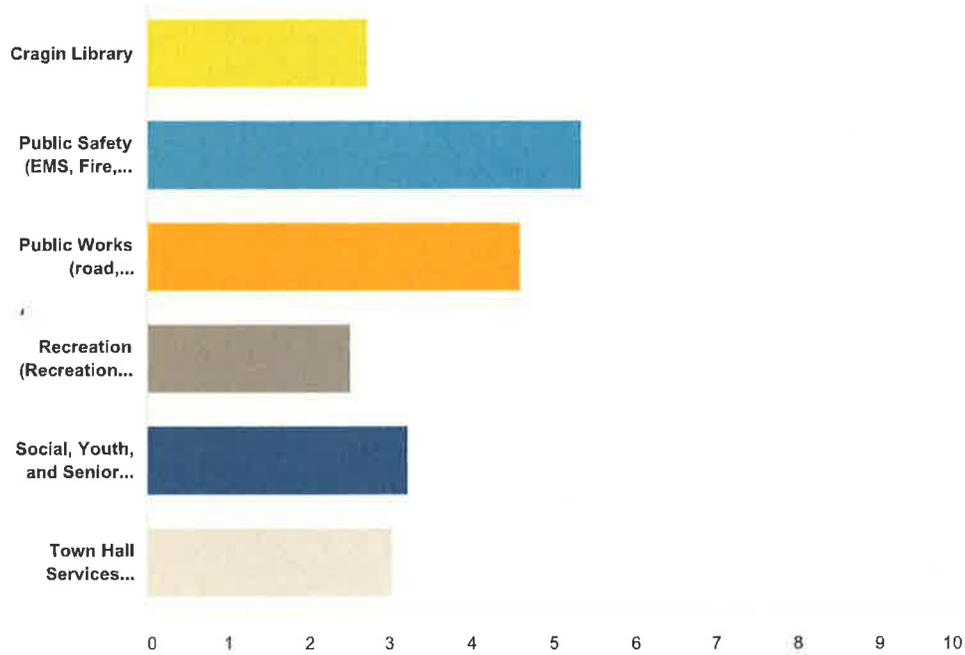
2016-2017 Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

Clubs & Activities	40.09% 184	59.91% 275	459
School Security/Safety	74.19% 345	25.81% 120	465
Technology	68.40% 316	31.60% 146	462
Other	25.17% 38	74.83% 113	151

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)

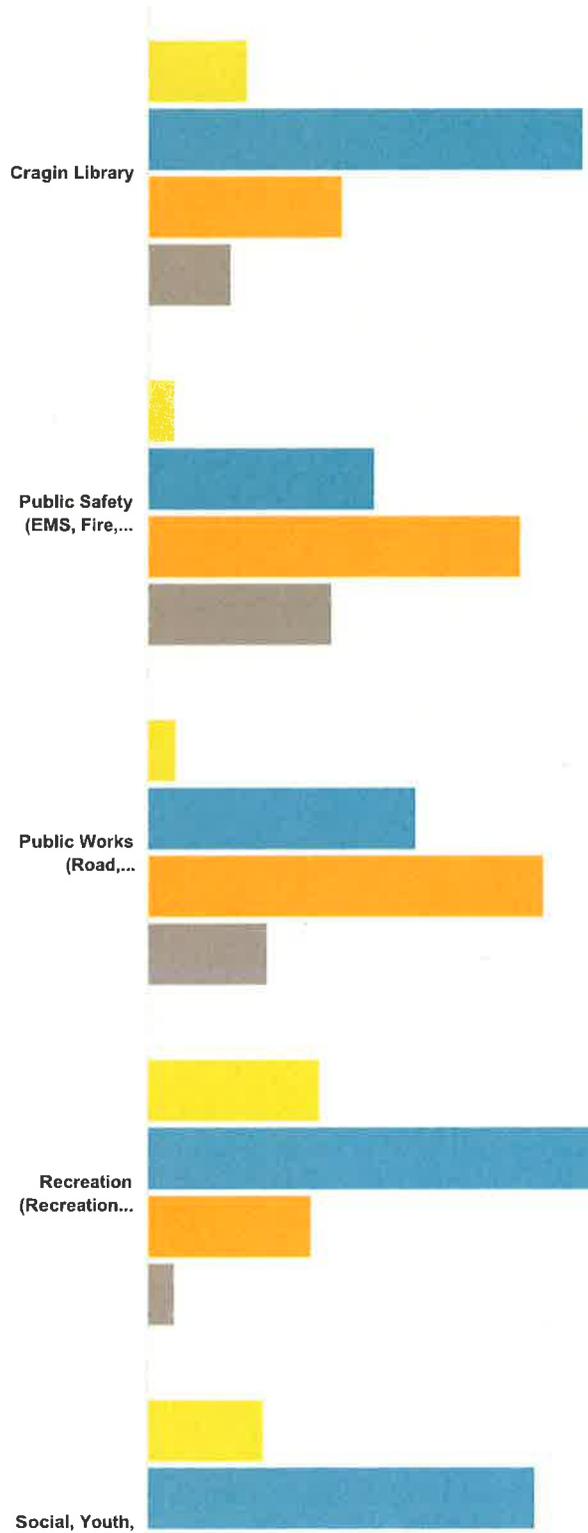
Answered: 446 Skipped: 32

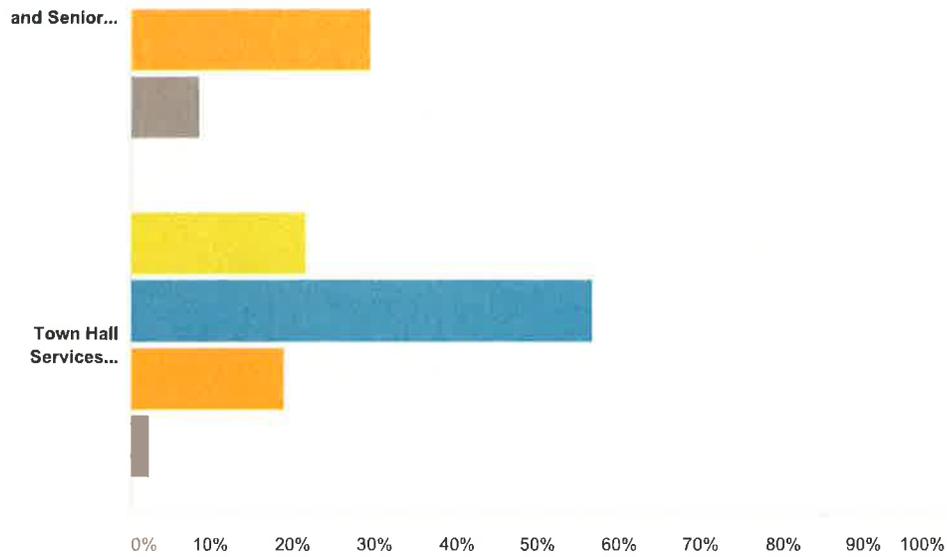


	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Score
Cragin Library	2.76% 11	6.78% 27	18.84% 75	23.87% 95	26.13% 104	21.61% 86	398	2.71
Public Safety (EMS, Fire, Police)	68.70% 281	15.16% 62	6.11% 25	3.67% 15	2.44% 10	3.91% 16	409	5.32
Public Works (road, building, equipment, vehicles, field maintenance)	15.76% 64	49.75% 202	19.21% 78	8.62% 35	5.17% 21	1.48% 6	406	4.58
Recreation (Recreation staff and administration)	3.59% 15	6.46% 27	14.83% 62	18.90% 79	23.92% 100	32.30% 135	418	2.50
Social, Youth, and Senior Services	6.53% 28	13.05% 56	20.51% 88	25.41% 109	23.54% 101	10.96% 47	429	3.21
Town Hall Services (Building Dept, Finance, Town Clerk, Assessor, Tax Collector)	6.36% 28	12.27% 54	23.86% 105	17.05% 75	16.36% 72	24.09% 106	440	3.03

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

Answered: 446 Skipped: 32



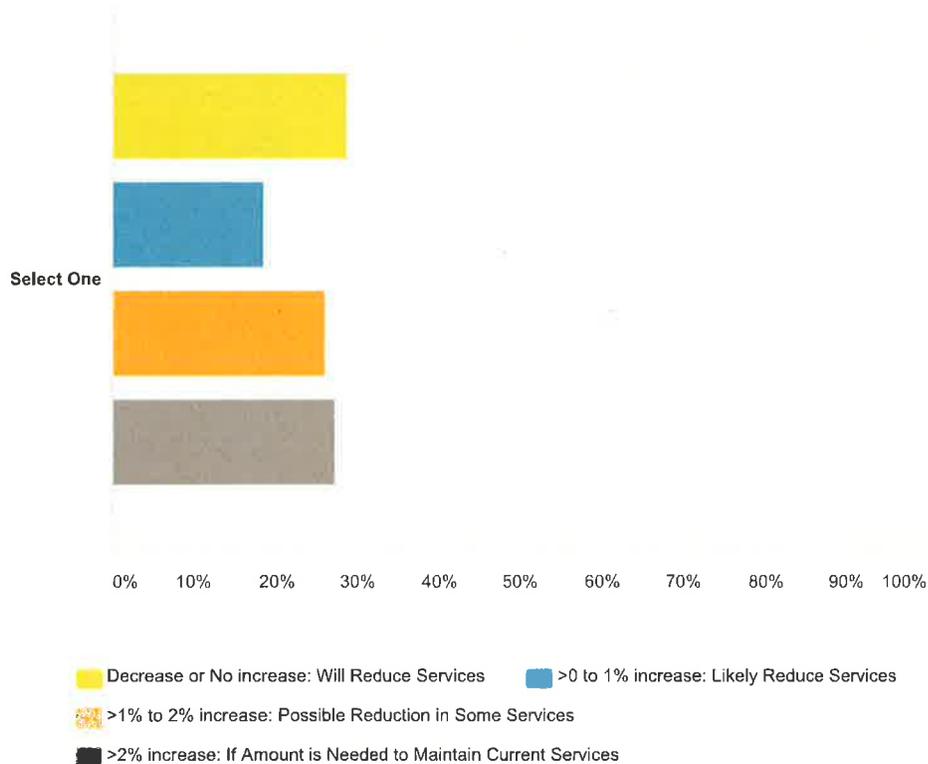


- Decrease funding (resulting in a decrease in services)
- Maintain funding (which may result in a decrease in services)
- Increase funding (to maintain services)
- Increase funding (to increase services)

	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	12.42% 55	53.50% 237	23.93% 106	10.16% 45	443
Public Safety (EMS, Fire, Police)	3.39% 15	28.05% 124	45.70% 202	22.85% 101	442
Public Works (Road, Building, Equipment, Vehicles, Field Maintenance)	3.60% 16	33.03% 147	48.54% 216	14.83% 66	445
Recreation (Recreation staff and administration)	21.32% 94	55.10% 243	20.18% 89	3.40% 15	441
Social, Youth, and Senior Services	14.38% 64	47.64% 212	29.44% 131	8.54% 38	445
Town Hall Services (Building Dept, Finance, Town Clerk, Assessor, Tax Collector)	21.80% 97	56.85% 253	19.10% 85	2.25% 10	445

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: 440 Skipped: 38

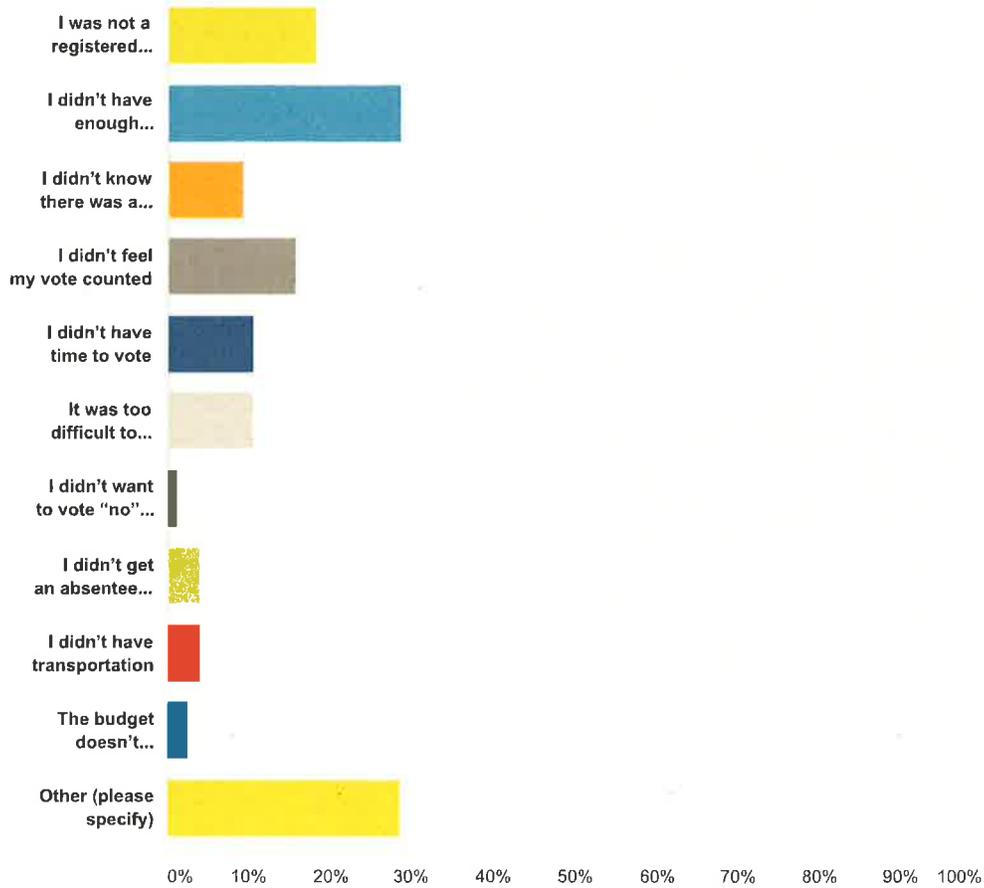


Decrease or No increase: Will Reduce Services	>0 to 1% increase: Likely Reduce Services	>1% to 2% increase: Possible Reduction in Some Services	>2% increase: If Amount is Needed to Maintain Current Services	Total
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Select	28.64%	18.41%	25.91%	27.05%	
One	126	81	114	119	440

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: 77 Skipped: 401



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
I was not a registered voter	18.18%	14
I didn't have enough information to vote	28.57%	22
I didn't know there was a vote that day	9.09%	7
I didn't feel my vote counted	15.58%	12
I didn't have time to vote	10.39%	8
It was too difficult to make it to the polls	10.39%	8
I didn't want to vote "no" so I didn't vote at all	1.30%	1

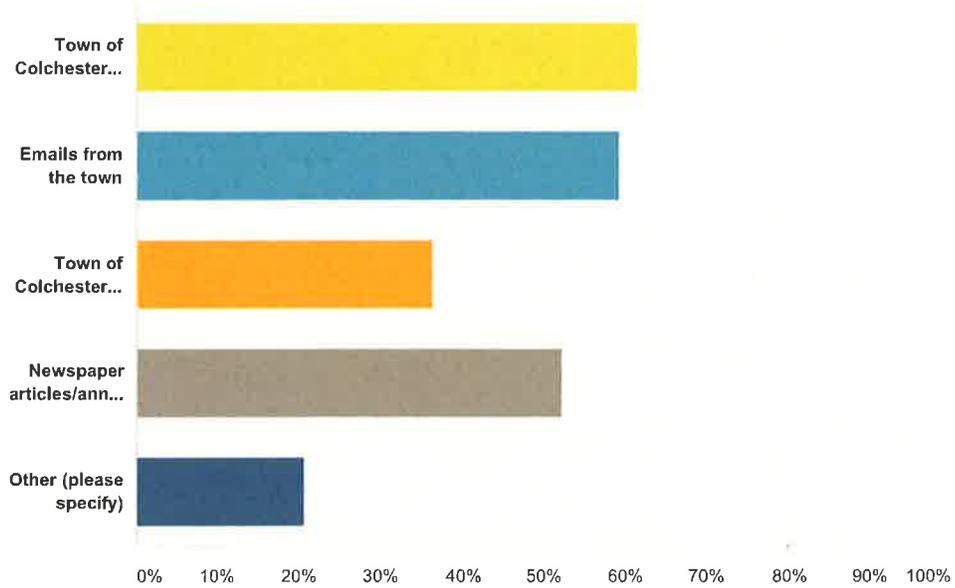
2016-2017 Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

I didn't get an absentee ballot	3.90%	3
I didn't have transportation	3.90%	3
The budget doesn't interest me	2.60%	2
Other (please specify)	28.57%	22
Total Respondents: 77		

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)

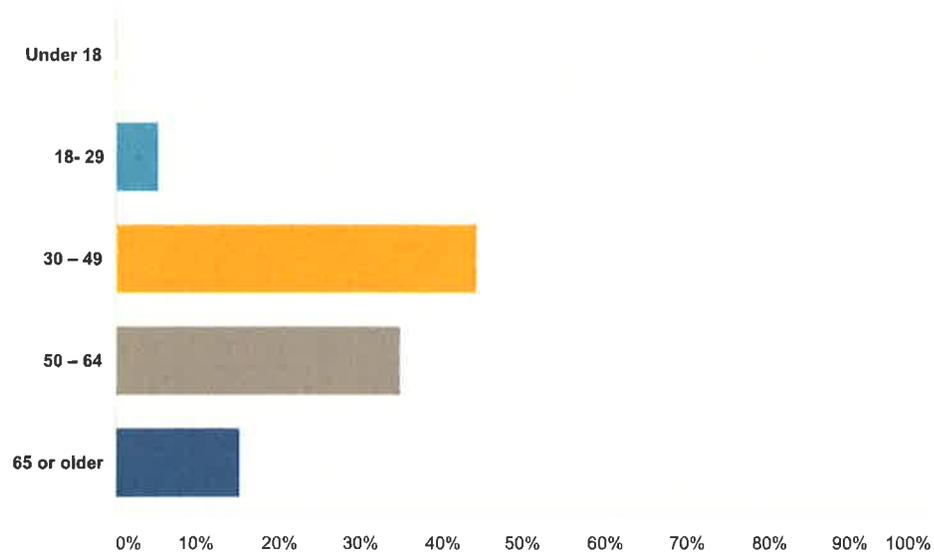
Answered: 430 Skipped: 48



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Town of Colchester website	61.63%	265
Emails from the town	59.30%	255
Town of Colchester First Selectman's Facebook page	36.28%	156
Newspaper articles/announcements (please specify preferred newspaper)	52.09%	224
Other (please specify)	20.70%	89
Total Respondents: 430		

Q12 What is your age group? (Choose one)

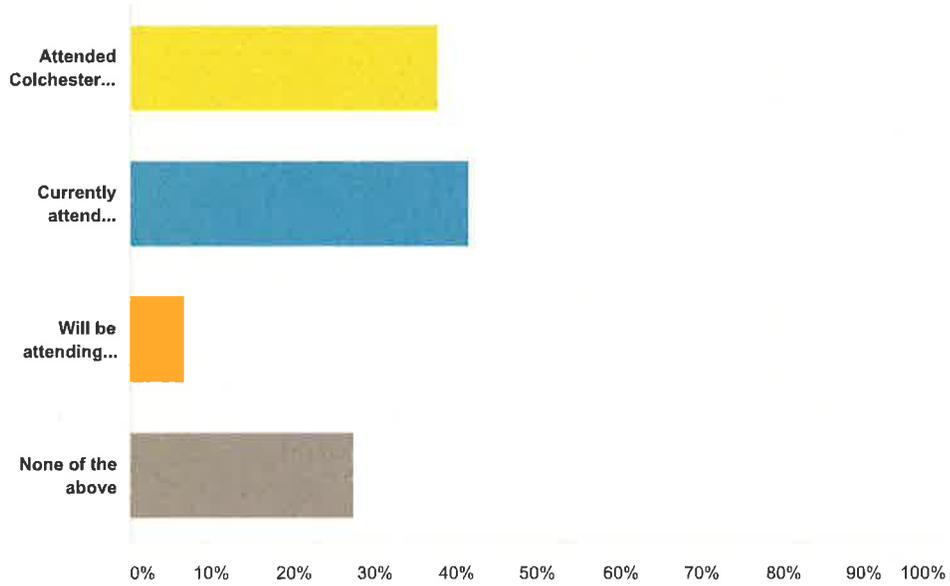
Answered: 438 Skipped: 40



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Under 18	0.23%	1
18-29	5.25%	23
30-49	44.29%	194
50-64	34.93%	153
65 or older	15.30%	67
Total		438

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

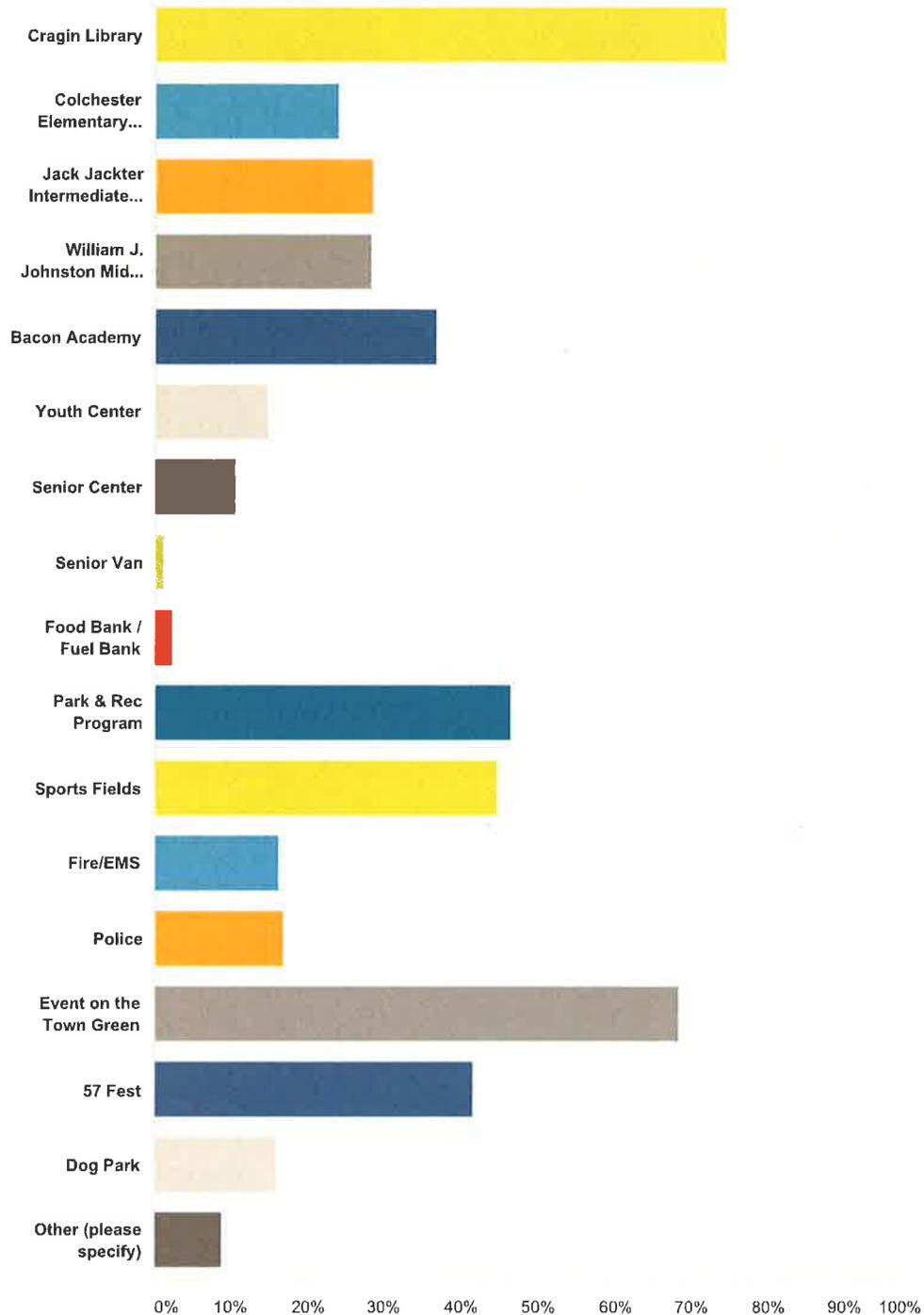
Answered: 435 Skipped: 43



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Attended Colchester schools	37.70%	164
Currently attend Colchester schools	41.61%	181
Will be attending Colchester schools	6.67%	29
None of the above	27.36%	119
Total Respondents: 435		

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: 423 Skipped: 55



Answer Choices	Responses	
Cragin Library	74.23%	314
Colchester Elementary School	23.88%	101
Jack Jackter Intermediate School	28.37%	120
William J. Johnston Middle School	28.13%	119
Bacon Academy	36.64%	155
Youth Center	14.66%	62
Senior Center	10.40%	44
Senior Van	1.18%	5
Food Bank / Fuel Bank	2.36%	10
Park & Rec Program	46.34%	196
Sports Fields	44.68%	189
Fire/EMS	16.08%	68
Police	16.78%	71
Event on the Town Green	68.32%	289
57 Fest	41.61%	176
Dog Park	15.84%	67
Other (please specify)	8.75%	37
Total Respondents: 423		