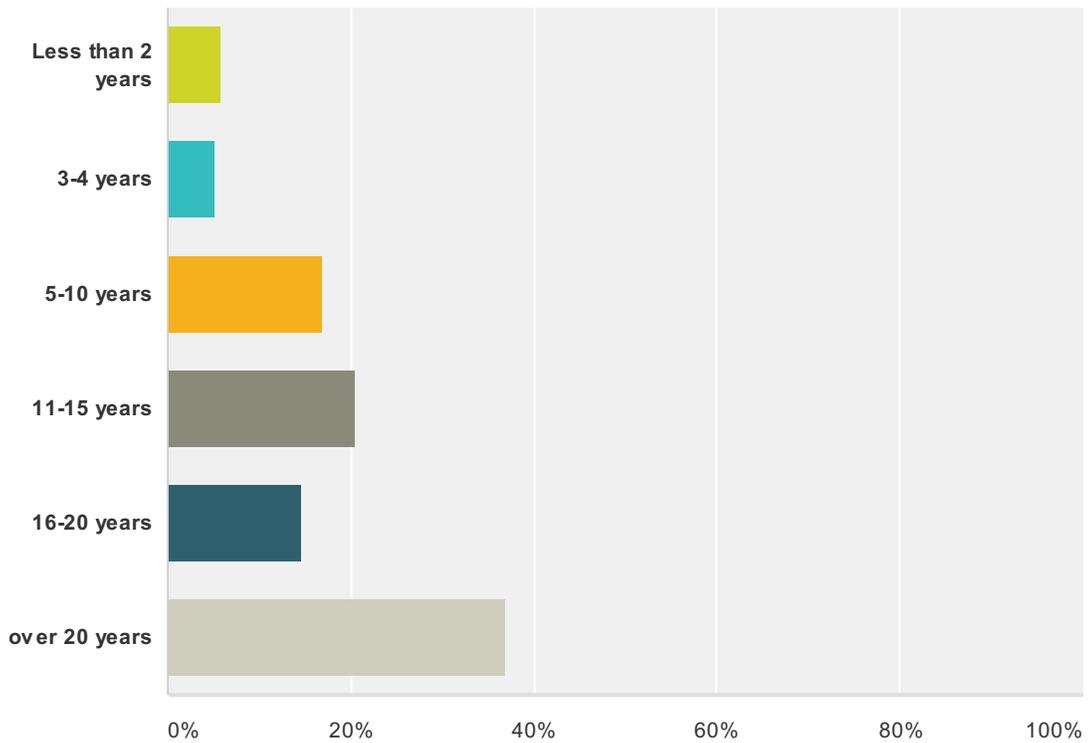


### Q1 How long have you lived in Colchester?

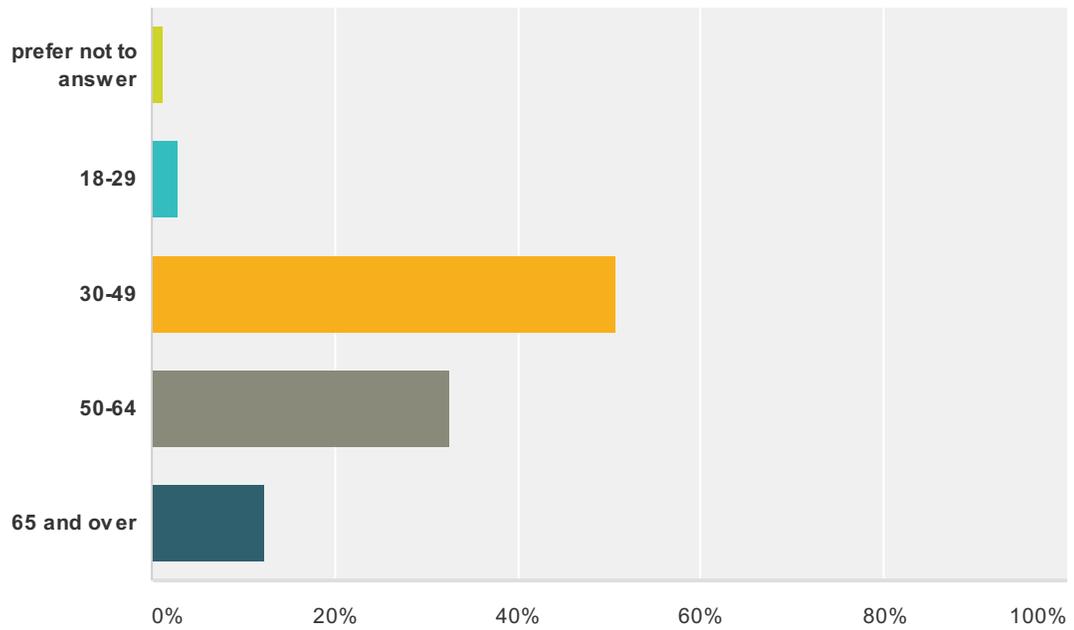
Answered: 604 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 2 years	5.79% 35
3-4 years	5.30% 32
5-10 years	16.89% 102
11-15 years	20.53% 124
16-20 years	14.57% 88
over 20 years	36.92% 223
<b>Total</b>	<b>604</b>

## Q2 Please indicate your age group

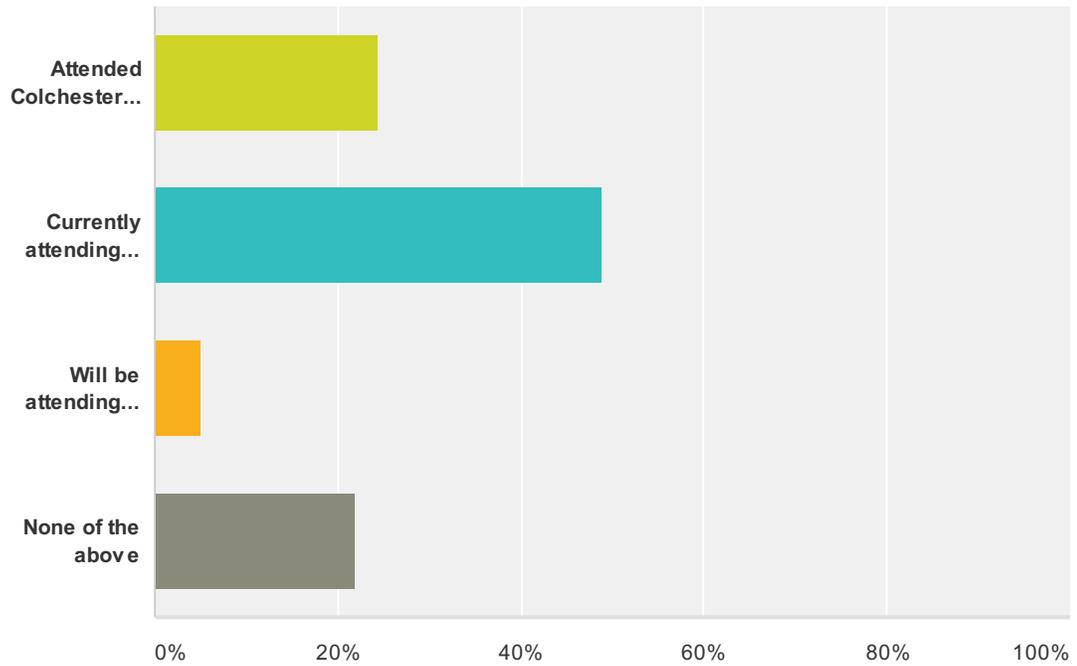
Answered: 603 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
prefer not to answer	1.33%	8
18-29	2.99%	18
30-49	50.75%	306
50-64	32.67%	197
65 and over	12.27%	74
<b>Total</b>		<b>603</b>

### Q3 Children in the Colchester school system?

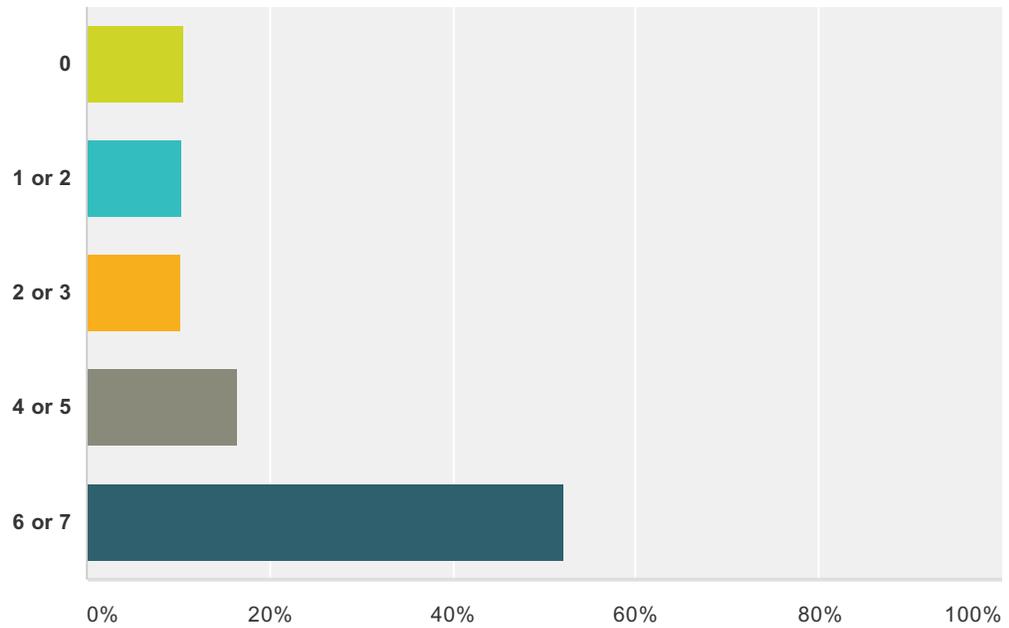
Answered: 604 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses
Attended Colchester schools in the past	24.34% 147
Currently attending Colchester schools	48.84% 295
Will be attending Colchester schools in the future	4.97% 30
None of the above	21.85% 132
<b>Total</b>	<b>604</b>

**Q4 Over the last five years, we had 7 budget referendums. In how many did you vote?**

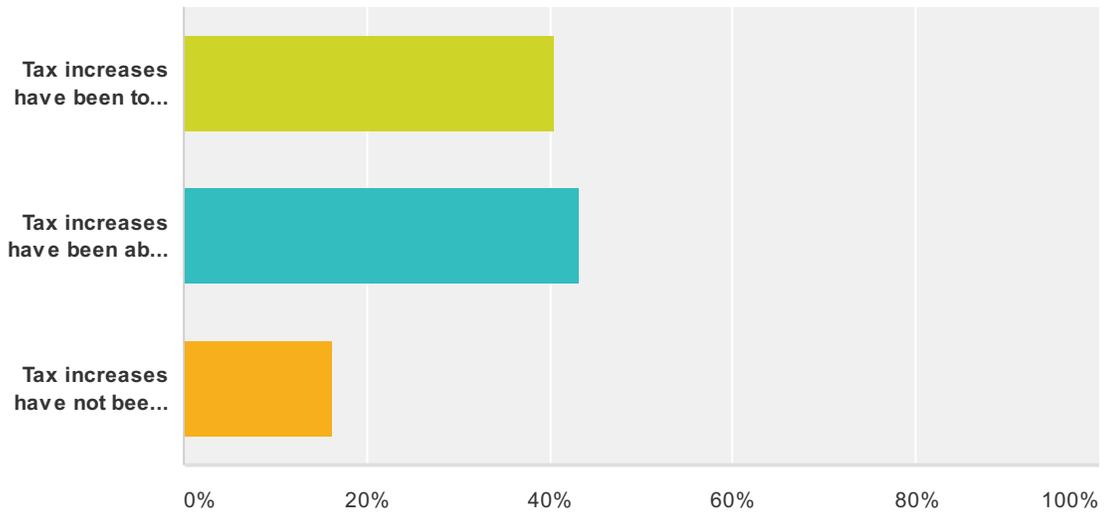
Answered: 607 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
0	10.71% 65
1 or 2	10.38% 63
2 or 3	10.21% 62
4 or 5	16.47% 100
6 or 7	52.22% 317
<b>Total</b>	<b>607</b>

### Q5 Which comment best describes your feelings about local tax increases over the last 5 years?

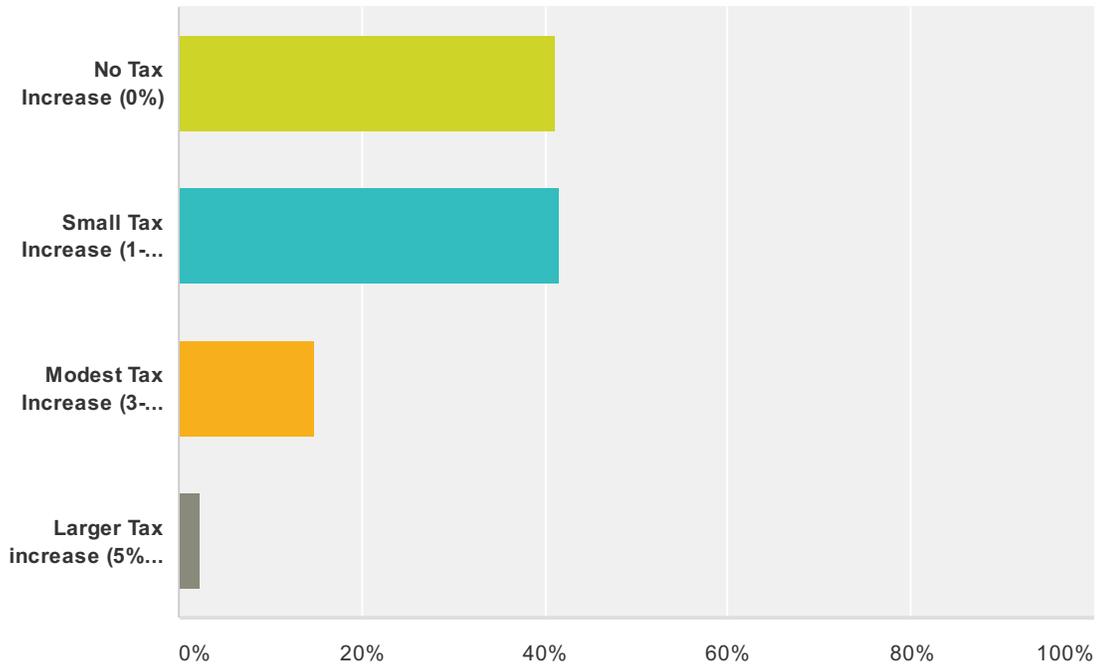
Answered: 589 Skipped: 21



Answer Choices	Responses	
Tax increases have been too high for the services we get, cut services	40.41%	238
Tax increases have been about right for the services we get, maintain services	43.29%	255
Tax increases have not been enough for the services we need, increase services	16.30%	96
<b>Total</b>		<b>589</b>

### Q6 To maintain services, what amount of tax increase are you willing or able to afford?

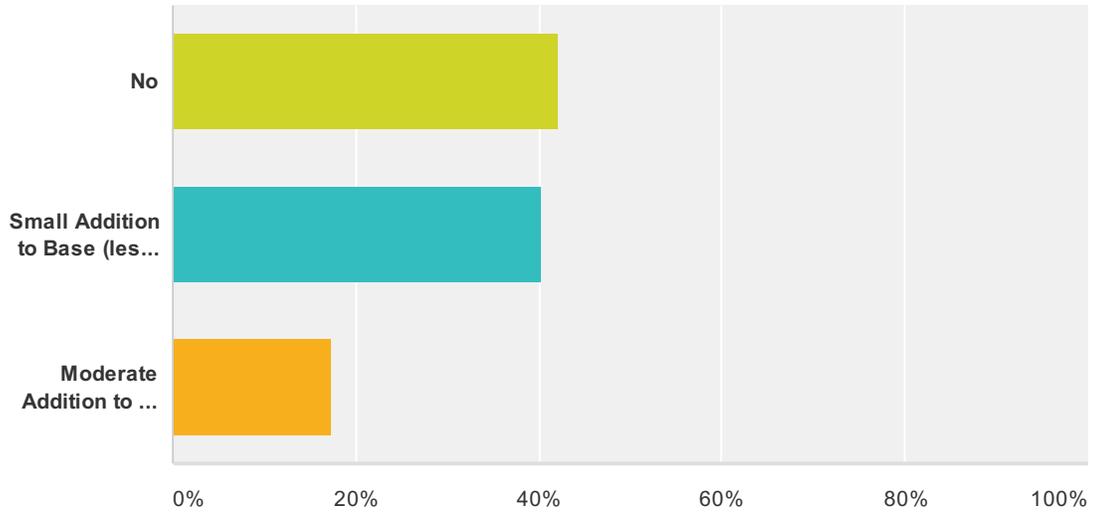
Answered: 587 Skipped: 23



Answer Choices	Responses
No Tax Increase (0%)	41.23% 242
Small Tax Increase (1-2 %)	41.57% 244
Modest Tax Increase (3- 4%)	14.82% 87
Larger Tax increase (5% or more)	2.39% 14
<b>Total</b>	<b>587</b>

**Q7 If the Board felt a new service was of value to the Town, are you willing to accept an additional tax increase to pay for it?**

Answered: 587 Skipped: 23



Answer Choices	Responses
No	42.25% 248
Small Addition to Base (less than 1%)	40.37% 237
Moderate Addition to the Base (1-2%)	17.38% 102
<b>Total</b>	<b>587</b>

# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

## Q8 Please feel free to make comments about this section.

Answered: 219 Skipped: 391

#	Responses	Date
1	Stay within the budget please or cut back	3/12/2014 11:52 AM
2	Every once in awhile we should get a year of no increase. We used to but its been awhile.	3/12/2014 11:07 AM
3	Q-7 Subject is Not AT ALL Clear	3/12/2014 10:29 AM
4	It time to reset our focus. BOE has been the budget pigs and town services have suffered for the past ten years. You won't cut BOE but you have problem cutting town services. Stand up and support the town budget or is it only the quality of education and not the quality of living that defines Colchester.	3/11/2014 11:45 PM
5	I think our town truly does more with less. My biggest concern in education cuts that could increase classroom size and lack of 24/7 police protection	3/11/2014 8:29 PM
6	We need to bring in a couple businesses to help pay for the increase in taxes. We desperately need to increase the school budget.	3/11/2014 8:12 PM
7	Depends on the what the new service is ...	3/11/2014 6:02 PM
8	I think the town needs to feel that the service is of value as I have little respect for what the board may think! This town has not been very well represented by its board members	3/11/2014 5:12 PM
9	Be more specific about which services you mean.	3/11/2014 2:03 PM
10	for the amount of taxes we pay were not getting enough of services	3/11/2014 1:00 PM
11	We definitely need a new youth center for the kids. I'm extremely disappointed that the youth center was not part of the new building plan.	3/11/2014 12:01 PM
12	My sons are involved in sports in Colchester, our fields need to be maintained and repaired, especially the football field. Other towns keep theirs up so much nicer. I know many parents would even volunteer time.	3/11/2014 11:48 AM
13	Please consider allocating monies in the town budget for field repair and maintenance, particularly R8	3/11/2014 10:34 AM
14	Town side spending are much more reasonable than board of ed spending	3/11/2014 10:15 AM
15	There should be absolutely no cuts to the education budget, there is no unnecessary "meat" or "fat" to that proposed budget. As someone who has two children in the school systems, I have seen how William J needs to be updated, I can see how advisors and teachers need to get paid at Bacon (I read the article by the Student reporter how the Boards are violating the teacher contract). I know that we need to supply our children with the best possible education and if we make any cuts, that education will be no longer. I am 100% willing to pay for the future generation to be education.	3/11/2014 10:14 AM
16	Our grand list only Improved by .6%-does this offset the salary paid for the "economic developer"?	3/11/2014 9:54 AM
17	There are many aspects of this town that are ignored and need to be addressed. Our children need sufficient playing fields and to ignore all of these grounds is shameful. If your going to install them you need to maintain them as well. We rely on the town to keep up our public property and this has not been done.	3/11/2014 9:08 AM
18	question 7 is way too general. 'service' can mean anything.	3/11/2014 9:05 AM
19	With a growing town, we need to make sure we are maintaining what we hold dear. Safety and education should be top priority.	3/11/2014 8:58 AM
20	These questions are not valid! For example, what type of new service? How much of an increase. Question 5 offers two choices per answer - which makes my answer invalid and of no use to you. My REAL answer actually is a combination of part of 5 and 6. However, when you do the data analysis you are not going to get that. This is another poorly constructed survey.	3/11/2014 8:50 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

21	As a retired couple it seems every time we turn around the State, Federal and Town need more money. How much more can people on fixed incomes afford. "time to cut budgets"	3/11/2014 8:30 AM
22	Enough tax raising!	3/11/2014 8:28 AM
23	A zero percent increase isn't reasonable, but an increase should be for inflation, not new line items.	3/10/2014 9:05 PM
24	I do not wish to see the proposed "service center" model adopted to save money. There are valid reasons for the current 3 offices to remain separated.	3/10/2014 8:49 PM
25	I don't believe we get our tax money's worth of services in the town.	3/10/2014 8:27 PM
26	We need to maintain our schools and their budgets, can not afford staff cuts	3/10/2014 6:52 PM
27	Maintain what we have- no new service is needed.	3/10/2014 6:21 PM
28	We planned to move to Colchester when the taxes were based about 25 mill and when we moved here it was more than 30.	3/10/2014 3:25 PM
29	If it is for the future of our children (ie education, parks & rec maintenance at sports fields) then our family is willing to support it.	3/10/2014 3:02 PM
30	I think it depends on the service. I see a lot of things come into town that are not helpful to my family at all.	3/10/2014 2:48 PM
31	I think it would depend on what the service is. I also do think that a tax increase is always the answer. We should be looking at many ways to fund the things we need or want in town.	3/10/2014 2:40 PM
32	We cut and add in the wrong places each year and are simply not run efficiently. The school could use half the amount of paper. The town employees can be found at eating establishments at most any given time of day. We are told we need extra police but the ones we have sit in parking lots on their phones. Maybe the money used for the police to remodel their office should've been used elsewhere. Libraries (schools and town) could seek used books from the public to increase their collection. I realize these might seem like tiny things but that is my point. There are tiny things that could be cut or made more efficient. Bit by bit those tiny changes add up just like a daily trip to Dunkin Donuts adds up.	3/10/2014 2:37 PM
33	Believe Q 7 is too vague to yield meaningful feedback	3/10/2014 2:19 PM
34	It is a priority to fix WJJMS and provide a youth center for our kids	3/10/2014 1:57 PM
35	I do not agree with your assumption that most things go up every year. You should be able to maintain service without raising taxes. Or maybe everything but my salary and value of my home are the only things not going up.	3/10/2014 1:10 PM
36	Save! Stop spending! Enrollment is down!	3/10/2014 12:05 PM
37	Our taxes are too high for the lack of services we get	3/10/2014 10:57 AM
38	The taxes are way too high in this town a lot of waste	3/10/2014 8:30 AM
39	Town needs to more clearly articulate the short term and long term impact of capital improvements. For example, the vote on the new school building failed, in my opinion, because the alternative cost to fix the existing building was not defined and communicated. With respect to the school budget, can we become more aggressive about defending the Town against potentially non-merit based requests to provide educational services outside of our district? My understanding is that we spend close to \$1M annually for a handful of kids; are all of these outside services truly needed?	3/10/2014 8:07 AM
40	What services would I get for a tax increase? garbage pick up? better plowing? better response to emergencies??	3/10/2014 7:33 AM
41	You ask if we are willing to pay for additional services. Depends on what these "new services" are???	3/10/2014 7:10 AM
42	I have seen tax increases over the last 7 years, but I haven't seen much done for the schools. Put money into our future, not some stupid building complex near the entrance of route 2. And stop tearing down trees for these types of buildings. Preserve our land!	3/10/2014 6:01 AM
43	The BOE is totally out of control. The BOF needs to reel them in as they will never do it themselves!	3/10/2014 4:16 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

44	Proposed new senior center project should be downsized. Do we really need a fencing team? Lets make this pay if you use.	3/9/2014 11:58 PM
45	Questions 6 and 7 are DEPENDENT on MANY things and can NOT be answered as an absolute. I seriously question the qualifications of the finance board if they seriously think these two questions are appropriate. Furthermore, there are certain actions that MUST be taken by the finance board for me to consider higher taxes. Unfortunately, until the state of CT changes how property taxes are done, the Town of Colchester MUST allow automotive property taxes to be paid at will over the course of the year. CT allows interest, that is fine. But the decision of the BOF to send things to a collection agency PREVENTS me from voting for any tax increase. Change this abominable practice and I will be able to vote for increases. Should they not, I take a personal vote of no-confidence on the BOF and will react accordingly.	3/9/2014 11:13 PM
46	I feel the town should let more businesses in.	3/9/2014 10:20 PM
47	Would love to finance a community center where all ages can receive services and use the facilities!	3/9/2014 9:34 PM
48	colchester should concentrate on building our commercial tax base and promote business at every opportunity.	3/9/2014 6:29 PM
49	Do not micromanage department budgets. Let the department heads do this please. They know their needs better than you.	3/9/2014 4:05 PM
50	I typically do not support the first round of tax increases because I feel the board is not doing enough to present the least cost options. It appears that the second tax proposal is more reasonable. I want Colchester to remain a great place to live. We should promote some level of light industry to help pay the tax bill in this town and relieve the burden from residents.	3/9/2014 1:25 PM
51	Question #7 is really too vague to answer properly. Although I indicated a small addition would be acceptable, the true answer depends entirely on what new service the Board felt was of value to the Town. If it is a service that Board feels is valuable but one that I don't agree with or one that may only benefit a small percentage of the residents, I may not support the new service and any increase to taxes that it would require.	3/9/2014 1:01 PM
52	we have literally NO levels of services in this town to begin with that warrant the current tax load - we pay for all "services" other than plowing.	3/9/2014 10:36 AM
53	Bof needs to stop supporting BOE spending at the expense of the town budget	3/9/2014 7:55 AM
54	People are getting older in town and feeling the pinch of taxation. Let's move forward to a truly functional senior center.	3/9/2014 6:26 AM
55	How can you answer this without knowing what that is. This is not a good question	3/8/2014 9:46 PM
56	At what point do you think we'll no longer be able to live in Colchester if taxes keep getting higher? We can't sell our homes because values are down, but the assessments of our homes keep going up, and our taxes as a result. Enough with the tax raises already.	3/8/2014 5:51 PM
57	If the Board finds a new costly service they should present it to the citizens before spending more.	3/8/2014 4:11 PM
58	School budget should NOT be cut	3/8/2014 2:05 PM
59	It would all depend on what the new service was.	3/8/2014 1:42 PM
60	rf Ques#6 .. are you willing or able to afford... I feel the board and the town should always be striving to reduce costs e.g., the energy program that is being instituted in the town, I would like to know what saving we have seen or will be seeing...	3/8/2014 11:22 AM
61	Don't feel that question 5 had enough choices. Is the only way to reduce budget by cutting services?	3/8/2014 11:14 AM
62	If you don't have kids in the school system, the taxes are outrageous!!!!!!!	3/8/2014 10:03 AM
63	Build a proper middle school.	3/8/2014 9:25 AM
64	#7 - I would have to know what the new service was before I could evaluate it.	3/8/2014 9:09 AM
65	This town has lost it's sense of community. And the schools, particularly the high school, are not living up to high enough standards.	3/8/2014 8:27 AM
66	#5. Taxes too high. Services are crap.	3/8/2014 8:17 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

67	If the town was the only tax increase my opinion would be different, however, the huge state tax increase last year, the Federal increase, cost of living etc. is killing people on fixed income and the middle class.	3/8/2014 8:06 AM
68	for Q7, it depends on the service. Overall, each year the town always asks for tax increases that far outpace my pay raises % and you are unwilling to lay people off like the private sector or look for efficiencies. you guys are really out of touch. start working FOR us vs looking for ways to wedge on group off of the other to get the highest tax increase you can get.	3/8/2014 7:50 AM
69	Like many taxpayers, I too am left wondering where the money goes. Outside of education, police and fire, why aren't our roads better paved? Why do we have 5 Chinese restaurants? What can be given back to the town?	3/8/2014 7:07 AM
70	Coming from the Mid west where taxes are half that of here and services are more than double, where is the money going?	3/8/2014 7:01 AM
71	We need to pay our teachers more money.	3/8/2014 6:21 AM
72	Penny wise, pound foolish will deteriorate our town's infrastructure.	3/8/2014 6:18 AM
73	The taxes are way too high for the minimal services we get. We need to get more businesses in here to get a broader tax base. Colchester is infamous for rejecting big business and then turning all tax burden on its residents. We really need better business planning. Also, not too happy about prices at the transfer station. We shouldn't have to pay. The pay rates are too subjective and differ depending on who is working and I have yet to get a receipt for my payment.	3/8/2014 6:12 AM
74	Questions have limited options. There are some services I believe to be more essential than others. Educating the next generation, keeping vibrant arts programs, hiring outstanding teachers, etc. Having enriching programs for youth while not wasting money on less important services are worth tax increases to me.	3/8/2014 4:57 AM
75	The boards judgement on what is best for the town does not reflect what citizens feel is best : example the money wasted on the building project!!	3/8/2014 2:25 AM
76	FOCUS ON SCHOOL INITIATIVES & IMPROVEMENTS TO WJMS!!	3/7/2014 10:24 PM
77	I think it depends on what the service is and how it would benefit me or the town.	3/7/2014 10:15 PM
78	I recently found out my house was assessed differently than it had been in the past, which allowed the town to increase property tax. Had we not had an issue with our homeowners policy and gone to our agent, we would not have known about the house assessment change.	3/7/2014 9:44 PM
79	To much wasteful spending in town.	3/7/2014 9:01 PM
80	I am all for a reasonable tax increase but it depends on the new service that would be provided. I think it is important to make Colchester one of the best towns in Connecticut.	3/7/2014 8:32 PM
81	Depends on the service. Really wanted to see the middle school re-built and a teen center upgrade.	3/7/2014 8:10 PM
82	taxes are too high for the services that I receive	3/7/2014 8:06 PM
83	My husband and I are Senior Citizens. I'm not eligible for SS until 2016 so I'm using my savings for living expenses. I will deplete my savings this year. I have to live on a reduced budget and so should the town.	3/7/2014 7:03 PM
84	we need a new middle school. please make it happen.	3/7/2014 7:01 PM
85	I lived in Massachusetts for 30 years and saw local services whittled away by Proposition 2 1/2. I don't want to see the same thing happen here.	3/7/2014 6:34 PM
86	As my bills go up and my pay doesn't I find ways to cut to live in budget and so should town stop spending frivolously and cut all areas not school sports and seniors like the town does every year	3/7/2014 6:28 PM
87	My house floods every year because of water drain and no one can claim responsibility to clean and maintain it	3/7/2014 6:01 PM
88	I would be agreeable to a tax increase to support 24/7 police in town	3/7/2014 5:33 PM
89	It would depend on what the new service was.	3/7/2014 5:21 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

90	Please consider all voices, not just those (that sometimes just seem to speak louder, but not in greater number) that say "no takes ever" many of us feel that taxes are worth the investment in the community.	3/7/2014 5:08 PM
91	Retired on fixed income. Due to affordable health my premiums for mine and my wife's secondary insurance have increased by about 800%	3/7/2014 5:06 PM
92	I would support new services to fire, police, education or the library.	3/7/2014 4:49 PM
93	It seems we have increase in taxes or the mill rate every other year. We don't have very many services for what we pay for! We need more businesses!! Taxpayers can't sustain this town at this rate!	3/7/2014 4:47 PM
94	taxes have gone up it is now time to hold pat and let people absorb all of the increases	3/7/2014 4:44 PM
95	What kind of new service?	3/7/2014 4:34 PM
96	cut taxes this year and the next 20 years as well	3/7/2014 4:32 PM
97	Current taxes are already too high given the fact that there's no waste removal services and most residents have no access to public water. Might be willing to pay additional taxes for new services, depending on what those services are. Town should provide trash removal and public water based on current tax rate.	3/7/2014 4:16 PM
98	I believe we need 24 hour police protection.	3/7/2014 3:58 PM
99	The economy is killing us and companies are not giving raises. I haven't received a raise in two years. I am sure I am not the only one. Our company has also downsized and I am lucky to have a job. Don't raise the taxes. We need our money to go towards the increase in the cost of living. Obama didn't make things easy for the middle class. Taxes are killing us. :(	3/7/2014 3:57 PM
100	Question 7 really depends on what the new service would be	3/7/2014 3:55 PM
101	The focus should be on cutting services and taxes. not finding reasons to raise taxes. The town only plows the roads, poorly this year and maintains them. Poorly again. Get rid of the police services. They do nothing and cost the town huge dollars. Scale them back. And show us all the savings from this energy plan. Budgets should be lower due to all this savings and due to 500 less students than we used to have.	3/7/2014 3:54 PM
102	I'm sorry but the level of taxation and spending is too high, we like this state but do not foresee staying here because we simply cannot afford the taxes, property as well as income taxes. The taxes have more than tripled since living in Colchester and I live in an average home.	3/7/2014 3:43 PM
103	most people have not had A RAISE in years people are losing their jobs ,but every one just expects tax increases its crazy my income has not gone up the towns should not either	3/7/2014 3:41 PM
104	I am a senior on a fixed income I cannot afford a increase. All you do is focus on education and not on help for seniors	3/7/2014 3:40 PM
105	NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL NEEDED	3/7/2014 3:36 PM
106	Just because school enrollment is heading downward doesn't mean we should drastically cut the budget, but rather the money should be reallocated for much-needed maintenance or technology upgrades.	3/7/2014 11:50 AM
107	Middle school and youth center should be the project. Get it done without the hangers on	3/6/2014 11:04 PM
108	I would want to know who wants and who will benefit from any new service before increasing taxes comes up.	3/6/2014 10:25 PM
109	If raising taxes can help the town become a better place to live and work, then fine..But if not, then, work with what is already there and budget appropriately.	3/6/2014 8:58 PM
110	I would like to see an increase in field maintenance and upkeep. Many many children in town use these fields and they are becoming unsafe due to their deterioration.	3/6/2014 7:04 PM
111	We are living on one income we can't afford more taxes!	3/6/2014 6:57 PM
112	Can not afford any tax increases look for savings	3/6/2014 6:44 PM
113	Don't make cuts to board of Ed budget.	3/6/2014 6:23 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

114	We do NOT need a 24-hour town police force, with Troop C right in town. We should NOT bond more \$ for more toys for the fire department, and we should instead depends and plan more for mutual aid with our adjoining neighbor towns.	3/6/2014 5:47 PM
115	depends on what the new service is...	3/6/2014 4:34 PM
116	We do not receive our fair share of services from the city. We live in North Woods without snow plowing, have not kids in the schools, no trash services and many of the other services provided to others in the community	3/6/2014 12:32 PM
117	I think we have been short-sided on our budgets. Items that could have been maintained are now past that point and may need replacement. Roads are now awful, WJJMS is failing apart. My daughter is in a classroom that leaks water from the roof and has not been fixed. The school is in dire need of renovation. We missed a great opportunity to consolidate buildings which would have helped the long term expenditures but our town was too short-sided to see this. Now foolishly we are looking at purchasing a senior center that needs renovating and will not meet all the needs of our seniors. I believe it will cost us more money than if we had people with a long term view.	3/6/2014 7:13 AM
118	Question #5 - taxes have been raised but services have not been provided in equal measure. Each year budgets are put forth, voted down and then cut immediately 2 or 3 times and then passed. Put forward the budget that does not need to be cut to be passed not a wishful thinking budget.	3/5/2014 5:32 PM
119	Enough with increasing taxes every year. Learn to live on a budget like the rest of us. I haven't had a raise in 5 years but I still have a job:) A lot of small businesses are struggling! How about giving it a try!	3/5/2014 3:26 PM
120	It would depend on the service	3/5/2014 7:15 AM
121	Tax increases have increased by over five percent each of the last six years. That's more than three times the cost of living increase. Do the math.	3/4/2014 5:22 PM
122	I understand that even though I am pleased with the services Colchester provides at this time, I think it's imperative to maintain expenses and services as they are without increase.	3/4/2014 2:46 PM
123	No tax increases, please! As school population declines, reduce the education budget.	3/4/2014 2:07 PM
124	I'm willing to accept higher taxes provided the services purchased with that money helps attract new businesses and home owners to town, which would eventually lead to a decrease in taxes as more revenue comes in.	3/4/2014 12:39 PM
125	I would have to know what that service would be.	3/4/2014 12:13 PM
126	I feel confident that Colchester elected officials make good decisions regarding services offered and costs associated with those services.	3/4/2014 10:01 AM
127	I would like to know more about any new service that might be of value before determining my position on questions #7. There are many services currently that have been reduced as a result of the budget. Before a new service is added, existing services should be brought up to par.	3/4/2014 9:07 AM
128	The current programs are useful. Any increases or additional programs NOT involving the schools or parks and rec. (i.e. new senior center) will NOT be supported by me.	3/3/2014 11:41 PM
129	Can't afford real estate taxes now	3/3/2014 6:58 PM
130	It was hard to answer given the options listed. It would have been nice to have a text area to explain an answer.	3/3/2014 6:28 PM
131	I am most concerned with the ever increasing budget from the Board of Ed. We have a budget curve that is counter to the number of enrolled students.	3/3/2014 3:19 PM
132	This town has gone really gone downhill since we moved here and our taxes have increased by more than 25%.	3/3/2014 12:26 PM
133	Colchester needs to attract more commercial tax payers to ease the load carried by homeowners.	3/3/2014 11:13 AM
134	We believe that taxes in Colchester are ridiculously high and the education services to our family were less than desirable to the point we had to pay independently for private catholic schooling and tutoring services. We have had to out of pocket so much in this town, yet pay such high taxes. Colchester is going to start losing people if all it offers are high taxes without any benefits to its tax payers. The last thing we need in our town is a Dollar Store--why wouldn't the town bring in some desirable vendors to keep with the integrity of the town and help with taxes? A decent department store on the outskirts of town would have been desirable...not a "Dollar Store."	3/3/2014 10:49 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

135	IF the public were to vote that this service was necessary I would accept the tax raise. Sometimes what the Board feels is necessary is not so by the public.	3/3/2014 9:13 AM
136	it would depend on the type of service being provided	3/3/2014 8:43 AM
137	there should be an option for no tax or low tax increase - no cutting of services	3/3/2014 8:42 AM
138	Hard to answer #7 without knowing what the service is!	3/2/2014 9:33 PM
139	I see inefficiencies in many departments in town. Supervision and efficiency is not a priority.	3/2/2014 7:35 PM
140	I have lived in Colchester my entire life and I can not afford to pay thee high taxes any longer, this has gotten out of hand and you need to start cutting taxes. There is no hlep for seniors like other town, why not? please consider us seniors, we can not afford this	3/2/2014 4:20 PM
141	Depends on the service.	3/2/2014 4:01 PM
142	Continue to look for increased senior services....current space does not allow it!	3/2/2014 3:20 PM
143	Please find ways to decrease taxes and spend less instead of more every year. Seniors on a fixed income cannot afford these increases every year.	3/2/2014 2:38 PM
144	Hard to answer question #7 without fully understanding the value of the new service and community benefit.	3/2/2014 11:46 AM
145	wait until the economy improves, stay with what we have	3/2/2014 11:39 AM
146	School enrollment going down year-on-year and budget going up. Makes no sense.	3/2/2014 10:29 AM
147	NC	3/2/2014 10:29 AM
148	Lots of waste and wants - find ways to save money - stop looking for new ways to spend money	3/2/2014 8:00 AM
149	I understand the schools are in major need of repairs; I certainly believe this is a priority, but that this has to be funded by cuts elsewhere. I am uncomfortable supporting the \$1.5 million school budget because it is unclear exactly what "cuts" were included, if any. That said, I have always supported budget votes in the past, but am starting to "feel the pinch."	3/2/2014 7:31 AM
150	N/A	3/1/2014 6:36 PM
151	taxes are too high for the services in this town. Bring in bigger industry, not retail. Maintain what we have in terms of taxes AND services so we can all take a breather.	3/1/2014 5:47 PM
152	When the federal gov. stops or reduces how much it gives to the states and the states reduce how much it gives to the towns how does the town continue to function stop spending now.	3/1/2014 5:25 PM
153	We need a town pool.	3/1/2014 2:43 PM
154	Need to maintain rev fields better or add additional practice fields.	3/1/2014 2:40 PM
155	Cutting services is presented as the only option for containing taxes. What about other options such as cutting staff and/or combining functions?	3/1/2014 1:11 PM
156	not that I am against better/more services, we just won't be able to afford to live here if taxes increase much more. Make it easier for businesses open/stay open who will take some of the tax burden.	3/1/2014 12:45 PM
157	Find ways to get more industry in town. People can not afford any increase in taxes.	3/1/2014 10:26 AM
158	I am willing to pay to maintain current services and/or new services, but give us an idea of what they are and justify them with facts please. For instance, I am in favor of a new Senior Center-new, not in the existing site. After a lot of careful evaluation and facts, I think the taxpayers in this town will support it. But, again, let's present it to the taxpayers factually and in a way that makes sense.	3/1/2014 10:11 AM
159	Board of Education budget needs to be carefully looked at 3-5% increases every year with declining enrollment is unacceptable. The only increase they need is for capital improvements	3/1/2014 10:05 AM
160	I feel the town needs to be more fiscally responsible in what they spend.	3/1/2014 9:48 AM
161	I upset that a volunteer fire department is being paid to cover ambulances. The point of volunteering is to give your time freely	3/1/2014 9:13 AM
162	depends on the service. first the town should validate the money spent on salaries of the employees who are not at work, but get paid for being present.	3/1/2014 9:09 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

163	A new middle school is a top priority!!	3/1/2014 9:07 AM
164	I live in a condo community and don't get the same services for my tax dollars as other residents, e.g., plowed roads. I would like to see an adjustment in tax rate, OR, full services.	3/1/2014 8:25 AM
165	Hard to answer #7 without specifics - what service? what benefit? what cost?	3/1/2014 8:19 AM
166	Taxes are too high here. Cut them.	3/1/2014 7:32 AM
167	Look for savings - we can not afford new taxes - the unprecedented freezing temperatures together with drastic energy prices has caused undue hardship on families - can't not afford an increase in taxes!!	3/1/2014 7:22 AM
168	Senior Center needs to be a priority.	3/1/2014 7:12 AM
169	I'm on a fixed income and get raises on my pension and Social Security which are less than the CPI rate. Taxes and the price of necessities have gone up more than my increases. When I can't cut my expenses enough to live here I will move to a state which is more favorable to retired people and will try to vote the present administration out of office as soon as possible.	3/1/2014 7:11 AM
170	All businesses have to tighten their belts and consider reducing services in order to control costs. So long as the tax base includes so little business, I think Colchester needs to do this. Need to become a more business friendly town if you want to grow the govt.	3/1/2014 6:52 AM
171	Fire Dept needs more financial help.	3/1/2014 12:38 AM
172	WE CANNOT AFFORD OUR TAX'S AS IT IS... NO MORE RAISE IN TAX'S, NO MORE RAISE IN TAX'S DO NOT RAISE TAXES AGAIN!!!! ITS RIDICULOUS TO CHASE PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR HOMES BECAUSE WE CANNOT AFFORD MORE TAX'S!!!! STOP IT. DO NOT RAISE TAX'S AGAIN!!!! WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO SAY!!!!	2/28/2014 10:56 PM
173	This town needs to start controlling their spending. I am tired of the out of control spending this town does!	2/28/2014 10:01 PM
174	depends on the new service needed	2/28/2014 9:06 PM
175	I believe their is. Lot of opportunity to create efficiencies and emergency services. Needs to be funded at higher levels to support the increasing burden on volunteer FD and police	2/28/2014 8:46 PM
176	Question 5, 6 & 7, based on survey standards, are poorly formatted. That is they do not allow the town to collect accurate information making the section mute! Q5 should be split into to parts. Q6 tells us that the town is currently anticipating a tax increase or it will eliminate programs. and Q7 is asking permission for a blank check of x%. So a real answer would be: Q5a - Generally happy with services used Q5b - No increase in taxes, no decrease in services Q6 - Find ways to keep services w/o tax increase.... Q7 - depends entirely on what is offered	2/28/2014 8:13 PM
177	Let tax payers have a say on how to spend money ...what services they need or want and are willing to pay for.	2/28/2014 7:52 PM
178	Perhaps a survey about additional services would be most appropriate to understand the acceptability of tax increases.	2/28/2014 7:33 PM
179	Taxes are but one of the many costs of living. Families have wages frozen at 2008 or 2009 levels and see other costs rising. With essentially negative raises, no new service is affordable unless it replaces an obsoleted service.	2/28/2014 7:33 PM
180	Some emergency calls are covered by insurance, therefore an increase for these services is not needed.	2/28/2014 7:28 PM
181	Depends on what the item in 7 was. Would prefer referendum on any new service or at least a town meeting	2/28/2014 7:28 PM
182	The town wastes money on projects that are nonsense like school landscapes that they later mow down. This is only one example of continue waste. One hand not knowing what the other is doing. Money needs to be spent wisely instead of foolishly.	2/28/2014 7:27 PM
183	Colchester (and CT) have the highest taxes I have ever seen in my life. Taxes are way too high for the services we get and cutting the little services that we get is not the answer either. I pay 4 times more taxes here than I did on my last house and I received free trash pick up with 1/4 the taxes.	2/28/2014 7:24 PM
184	If I feel the taxes are too high for the services I get I would expect you to cut the taxes not the services!!! If the value is poor, reducing what you get will lower the value even more!!!!	2/28/2014 7:10 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

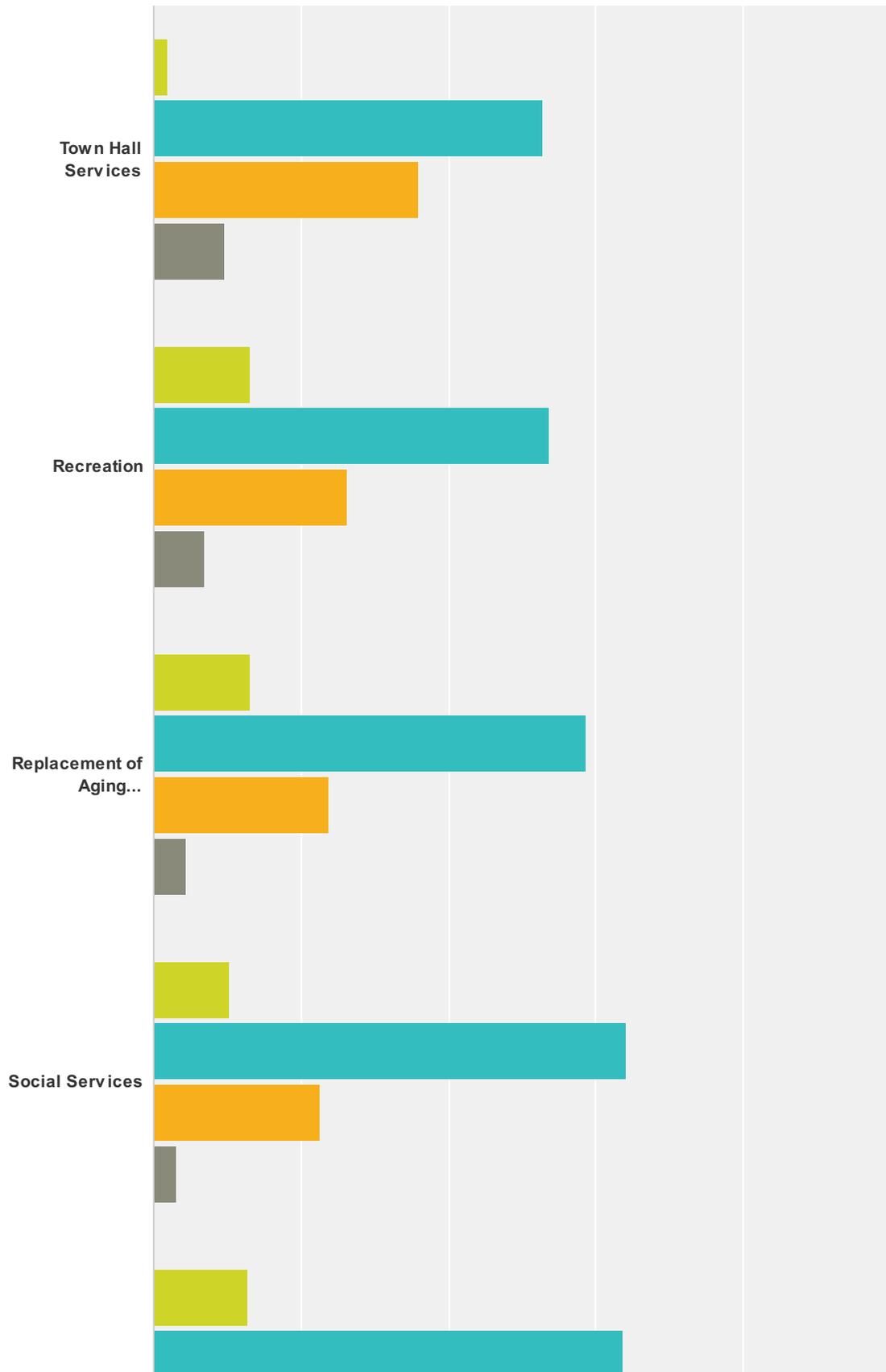
185	Our current property taxes are so high that we put our house on the market and plan to move south, where property taxes are literally 1/4 of what we pay now. Disgusting!	2/28/2014 7:02 PM
186	Try to run this town like a business. If the money is not there don't overspend.	2/28/2014 6:22 PM
187	You need to make the hard decisions to reduce pension and medical benefits to Town employees to reduce the expense to those who no longer can afford anymore increases.	2/28/2014 6:12 PM
188	we pay too much in taxes now for very little return	2/28/2014 6:09 PM
189	its clear we need to invest in schools and we have low balled this in the past.	2/28/2014 6:02 PM
190	The school side of the budget is way to high. Enrollment is dropping and salaries line item is going up.	2/28/2014 5:42 PM
191	For the education budget, since the WJSS project has been delayed quite a bit, there needs to be more attention and action to make many long-overdue repairs in that building.	2/28/2014 5:31 PM
192	We are retired and think that people who are collecting social security should pay 20% less for property taxes.	2/28/2014 5:25 PM
193	Stop spending as much and learn to live within a budget. I can't remember a time where a board said "no, we can't afford this." Instead it is spend more.	2/28/2014 5:22 PM
194	Our tax dollars are not spent wisely. If the Town were a for-profit business, expenses would be handled much differently.	2/28/2014 4:47 PM
195	It would depend on the proposed new service.	2/28/2014 4:41 PM
196	Social Security was 1.5%. How do I keep up when you keep exceeding what the government or the banks give me. Time to stop presumed increases year after year!!! Time to cut pampering the children with multitudes of "cutsey" courses, when they still can't spell and do arithmetic or know anything about history or know what is happening in the world. When I went to school, I had gym and women's hockey. Today you have too many sports; everyone HAS to join; and the public babysits for children because parents give them too much and want the rest of us to pay to babysit or entertain them. Societal values where everyone has every choice at the expense of seniors and non parents are not mine.	2/28/2014 4:38 PM
197	Taxes are unfair in this town. The newer developments get slammed, while other houses with large land amounts are not even close in comparison.	2/28/2014 4:31 PM
198	We need to look at cutting back, not adding more services.	2/28/2014 4:27 PM
199	We need more businesses to share the love of taxes with to defray homeowners share.	2/28/2014 4:22 PM
200	\$7500 tax on my home is outrageous. My mortgage is constantly going up due to tax increases. My salary increases aren't enough to keep up with my property tax increases. Really thinking of moving out of town.	2/28/2014 4:21 PM
201	More funding needs to go towards making repairs to the Rec Plex fields. Fields are in bad shape and can be a safety hazard. More fields are also needed to meet the current need. Also more gyms are needed in town to meet the indoor needs of youth sports and the recreation dept programs. The Recreation Dept does an amazing job but they are limited with their current resources.	2/28/2014 4:20 PM
202	Where is the option to cut taxes, you have plenty options about raising taxes. This will skew the vote, but then again, that is what you want. Lower taxes and cut services, cut positions, cut salaries. Pretend for once that the government is a for profit business. If a business is losing money, they have options, one of which is to raise prices, but when you raise prices, people buy less of your stuff. You need to become more efficient with less people. Maybe you need to take a business class or two to understand this.	2/28/2014 4:17 PM
203	#7 Poor question, too open ended. A list of hypothetical services would have helped. Don't forget the senior center. Develop a project specification form a committee and put them to work. Keep the ideas flowing but don't put any handcuffs on the next Senior Building Committee.	2/28/2014 4:13 PM
204	I would support a tax increase for more staff at the library, for more programs at Youth and Social Services and for a proper Human Resources department for employees of the town of Colchester	2/28/2014 4:09 PM
205	if the voters feel a new service would be of value... It'd need to be put to a Town Meeting.	2/28/2014 4:02 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

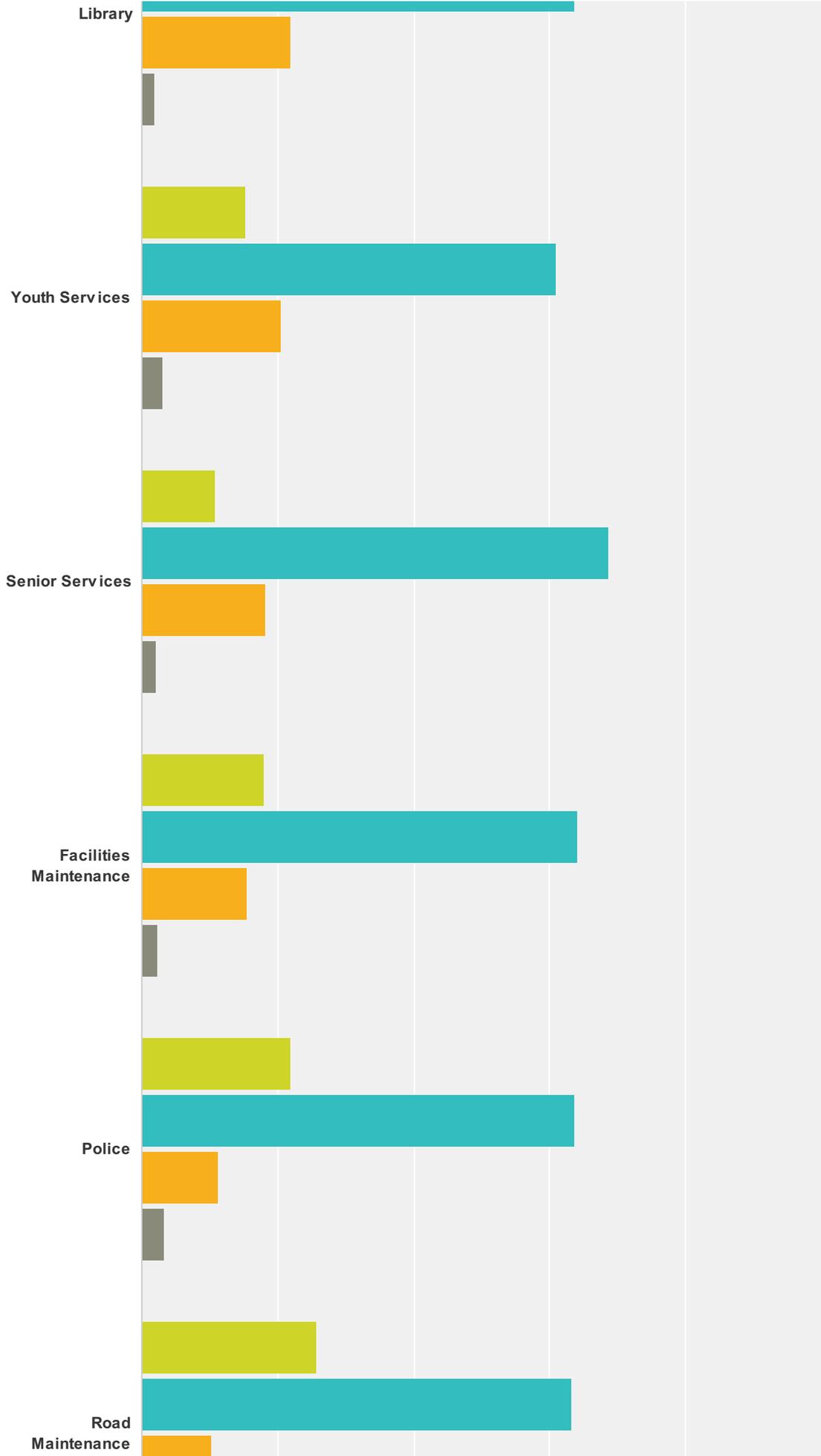
206	I reject the general premise of this section, which I find very telling about the wrong mindset going into this. I work for a Fortune 500 company (in Finance) and every year we have to come up with ways to maintain/expand services AND cut costs. Town budgeting should have the same mindset.	2/28/2014 4:00 PM
207	Willing to pay small tax increases for services, but would like to see more services for those of us with no children in the school anymore - community swimming pool, expand library hours and collections, adult ed classes for adults that are not only sports but things like art or cooking or educational like music appreciation, etc.	2/28/2014 3:52 PM
208	Depends on what the service is	2/28/2014 3:52 PM
209	Being mature citizen.....services in town give me minimal returns at this time in my life.....pay my taxes as you ask me to but most services have little impact on my life style....I work two jobs just to get by.....can you list each service provide in this town and age group it impacts and cost of same for the year? Thanks for listening!	2/28/2014 3:49 PM
210	SERVICES ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR RESIDENTS WITH SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN, HOWEVER, FOR THE SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS WITHOUT CHILDREN ARE POOR AND TAXES INCREASES CAN NO LONGER BE TOLERATED.	2/28/2014 3:49 PM
211	Services of value to be added s/b decided by the consumer along with the board	2/28/2014 3:46 PM
212	Why is it always an increase to "maintain"? Having observed town government for years, I know there are ways to streamline the way things are done without making the residents 'suffer.'	2/28/2014 3:45 PM
213	We should look at other services to be cut or eliminated, before adding to our tax burden.	2/28/2014 3:42 PM
214	I'd like to see things like snow removal fully budgeted for and library hours increased before anything new.	2/28/2014 3:41 PM
215	I the last 25 years taxes have gone up every year - it's time to stop all tax increase - or I will move!	2/28/2014 3:38 PM
216	No new taxes, we are all ready over taxed.	2/28/2014 3:34 PM
217	We really need a new middle school. And a town pool would be perfect for this type of town.	2/28/2014 3:34 PM
218	Every referendum taxes go up "just \$100 a household". Start cutting spending vs increasing expenses.	2/28/2014 9:44 AM
219	"new service" is vague. Can't assess cost versus benefit.	2/28/2014 7:18 AM

**Q9 When looking at the following Town services, the Board of Finance should do what for the following:**

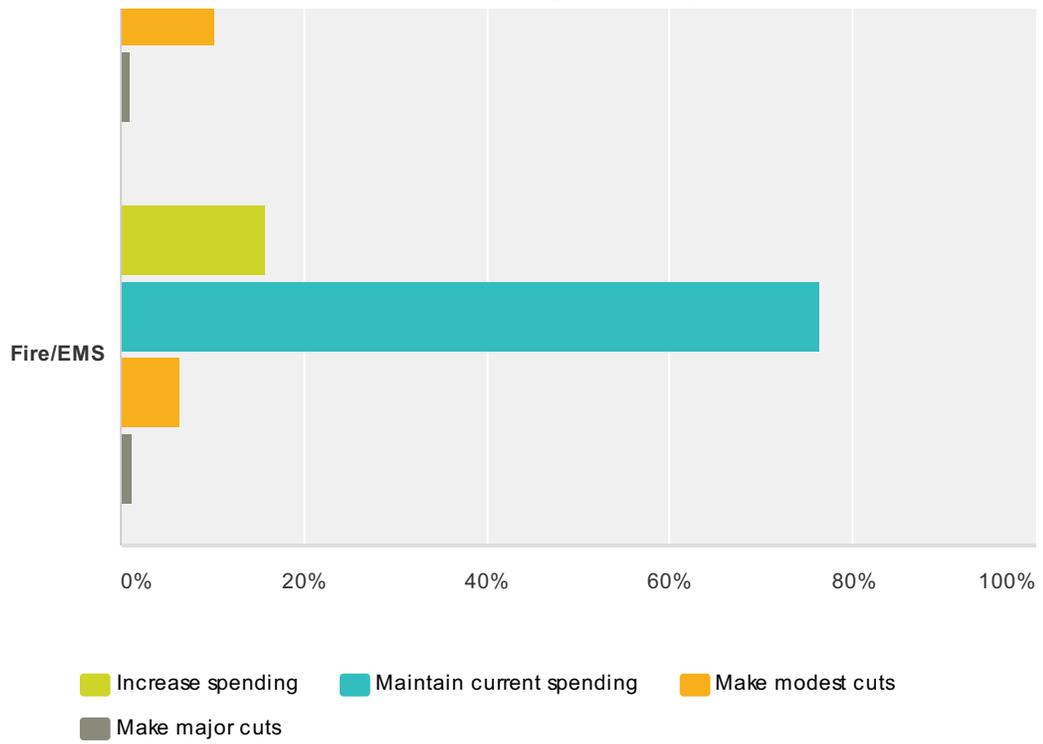
Answered: 567 Skipped: 43



# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey



## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey



	Increase spending	Maintain current spending	Make modest cuts	Make major cuts	Total
Town Hall Services	1.78% 10	52.76% 296	35.83% 201	9.63% 54	561
Recreation	13.24% 74	53.67% 300	26.30% 147	6.80% 38	559
Replacement of Aging Vehicles/Equipment	13.19% 74	58.65% 329	23.71% 133	4.46% 25	561
Social Services	10.16% 57	63.99% 359	22.64% 127	3.21% 18	561
Library	12.63% 71	63.70% 358	21.89% 123	1.78% 10	562
Youth Services	15.33% 86	60.96% 342	20.50% 115	3.21% 18	561
Senior Services	10.91% 61	68.69% 384	18.25% 102	2.15% 12	559
Facilities Maintenance	18.00% 101	64.17% 360	15.51% 87	2.32% 13	561
Police	21.85% 123	63.59% 358	11.19% 63	3.37% 19	563
Road Maintenance	25.62% 144	63.17% 355	10.14% 57	1.07% 6	562
Fire/EMS	15.89% 89	76.43% 428	6.43% 36	1.25% 7	560

# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

## Q10 Please feel free to make comments about this section.

Answered: 95 Skipped: 515

#	Responses	Date
1	Please stop making decisions without public knowledge or input. This is directed at the 1st Selectman.	3/12/2014 10:40 AM
2	Increase / Maintain / Cuts Where?	3/12/2014 10:31 AM
3	Maintenance of all sport fields should be done by recreation department	3/12/2014 10:28 AM
4	The choices in this section are painful to choose. Go back and look at past budgets. YOU the BOF and BOS have allowed these services and needs to be molested with cuts year after year. Now we have a real mess. Road are coming apart, facilities are crumbling and equipment and town vehicles are in shambles. You should look at the past and not repeat it again in this budget. Stand Up admit to the past mistakes and failures it ok	3/11/2014 11:58 PM
5	We have way too many cops for such a small town, and very little crime.	3/11/2014 6:04 PM
6	Fire and EMS services in this town have diminished from where they were 5 years ago, this is due to the lack of yearly capital investments into the service by the town. This leaves these services with outdated equipment that is expensive to maintain and not capable of providing the best possible service the the population in town	3/11/2014 5:16 PM
7	We need to increase money for the fire dept. Replace the fire trucks that are aging. Keep the full time and part time firefighters that we have.	3/11/2014 5:15 PM
8	The public safety budget has taken huge hits over the last few years. We are lagging behind our neighboring towns in replacing out dated apparatus and maintaining adequate staffing levels. Hebron has replaced nearly every piece of fire apparatus they own in the last 10 years. How does Colchester stack up to that smaller, and far quieter town?	3/11/2014 4:23 PM
9	Why are we paying VOLUNTEERS!	3/11/2014 3:58 PM
10	none	3/11/2014 1:02 PM
11	Again, do NOT cut anything in education because if anything, we need to increase that spending unit. I am willing to pay	3/11/2014 10:16 AM
12	these are not easy to comment on when there is no breakout as to what may be under each of these headings. ex; what is included in 'town hall services'?	3/11/2014 9:11 AM
13	I cannot answer these. There is no way of knowing what you are going to cut or increase spending on. So, my answer is "it depends."	3/11/2014 8:52 AM
14	Schedule police services better so that they aren't wasting time and money sitting in side roads and parking lots. Stop resurfacing roads that don't need it.	3/10/2014 7:16 PM
15	Library should be open more hours! Especially nights and weekends	3/10/2014 6:25 PM
16	Saefty is a main priority as well as maintaining a 3rd shift police officer for the town.	3/10/2014 3:07 PM
17	Would like to see more police on duty for our town, especially at night.	3/10/2014 1:44 PM
18	The roads and parks have declined significantly since I have lived in town.	3/10/2014 11:03 AM
19	How many fire trucks does this town really need? How many REAL fires have there been?	3/10/2014 7:35 AM
20	Town hall services have been EXCELLENT in my experiences. Keep up the good work!	3/10/2014 12:01 AM
21	Really need a new senior center.	3/9/2014 9:35 PM
22	maintain spending until tax base grows beyond residential property tax	3/9/2014 6:31 PM
23	we pay out of pocket for mostly all recreation programs already - this town has a significant amount of new vehicles and equipment already	3/9/2014 10:46 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

24	Capital equipment needs to be maintained...no more WJJS fiascos	3/9/2014 7:57 AM
25	Our infrastructure needs help.	3/9/2014 6:27 AM
26	The heroin problem in Colchester is very well known. We need support for those affected.	3/8/2014 8:02 PM
27	Too general to say cuts. My only increases are based on the news. Seemingly we need updating changes here.	3/8/2014 4:21 PM
28	I understand that in order to maintain services, the spending may need to increase. So I am willing to support modest increases.	3/8/2014 1:52 PM
29	This is very misleading. For example: how old are "aging vehicles/equipment" what are they? Can we cut and do without the equipment? Is it more economical to maintain than replace or vice versa? Recreation: charges are made for use, why aren't these fees used to maintain facilities? I belong to the tennis league, so I pay yo play. Why are light bulbs not replaces? Why are nets in disrepair? Why are there very large and dangerous cracks not repaired? I pay extra but do not get the services.	3/8/2014 1:49 PM
30	you have a staffed town garage, yet the town sends vehicles out to be fixed. No routine maintenance done. Towns solution is to buy new instead of maintain and repair.	3/8/2014 12:56 PM
31	The town should increase spending so our services are not cut. Town budget spending has remained flat and we are not making appropriate investments. If it is pay me now is pay me more later... I say pay me now.	3/8/2014 12:15 PM
32	What/how much can we afford?	3/8/2014 8:13 AM
33	continual expansion of services when the economy in CT is stagnant or down year after year is not sustainable. cut services and foster economic growth	3/8/2014 8:06 AM
34	Facilities maintenance is the worst ever! They are the slowest workers and the fields look terrible. They are responsible for the school fields and it's evident that the maintence is minimal, at best. Don't they realize that when people come for sporting events, they see the poor conditions of the fields and thank god they don't live in our town. Our fields have been a joke among other towns for years! In the off seasons when the fields need to be treated, effort is minimal. How about our opening day of football and there weren't any bleachers for anyone to sit on!! It's not like they didn't know when the season was going to to start either! Poor planning!	3/8/2014 6:34 AM
35	Fund what the town needs; not what officials want!	3/8/2014 2:29 AM
36	I'm certainly no expert in these matters, but with costs always escalating, it's hard to cut back, even when we advocate lower taxes.	3/7/2014 10:03 PM
37	Take the timjto walk around the exterior of the schools and recreational areas and you will see that they are really not very well maintained.. Seniors have asked for and deserve better services.Why can't we use the schools for the youth activities?	3/7/2014 7:12 PM
38	athletic fields are over used, fatigued and unable to be kept properly.	3/7/2014 7:03 PM
39	I am open to spending more where it is needed, and to paying more taxes if that is necessary to maintain or improve services.	3/7/2014 6:44 PM
40	Make town employees pay more for healthcare	3/7/2014 6:35 PM
41	Some of the above questions should be answered with "it depends.".What is condition of current fire/ems and police? Are they "up to par" or is the town suffering because of lack of funding.	3/7/2014 6:24 PM
42	I think Colchester has many services that young families are looking for. It is these types of services, library, recreation, youth services etc that make Colchester a great place to live. If we cut these things (which are the things people want to see cut first for some reason) then we lose some things that makes us special- and able to attract new young families that help out town prosper and grow.	3/7/2014 5:16 PM
43	I for one am sick if looking at new town vehicles around town because the old ones are not good enough. Funny how most people can maintain their cars for at least ten years!! Also sick of watching town employees using said cars as personal vehicles!!	3/7/2014 4:52 PM
44	I see a lot of wasted time in road and facilities. I believe there is room for cuts.	3/7/2014 4:32 PM
45	Senior & Youth Services appear to be seriously underfunded. Roads are in need of maintenance. Cuts could be made in library services due to advances in technology requiring lesser need for staffing.	3/7/2014 4:23 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

46	Our parks and rec in particular our sports fields are in the worst shape they have ever been in. The youth football field is now an embarrassment to our town and is now considered the worst field in the league. Bring back Wendy Rubin she was the only one who knew how to keep everything up on a shoestring.	3/7/2014 4:06 PM
47	Get rid of the fat. And don't say there isn't any. There is fat everywhere. Go out and price real insurance plans every year like companies do. Stop this self insurance game that you play. It doesn't pay off. Even when you spin the numbers...	3/7/2014 4:02 PM
48	Don't increase or decrease but start asking for people to donate where donations can be made. Like donating supplies to the schools.	3/7/2014 4:00 PM
49	Maintain what we have so we are not always needing replacements	3/7/2014 4:00 PM
50	Why must services be cut, why can't more efficiencies be found? On a daily basis we have to do more with less and I think the town can too.	3/7/2014 3:47 PM
51	The roads on Bull Hill area stink just down the street in Marlborough the roads are salted and sanded major improvement just 1 street away Colchester does not put the correct mix of material on the roads	3/7/2014 3:45 PM
52	There is no such thing as zero increase in the budget! Inflation causes us to go backward, making it more expensive in the long run to maintain, repair, and upgrade our existing services/equipment.	3/7/2014 11:57 AM
53	I would like to see the library open on Sundays and more use of the land where the RecPlex is such as maybe a skate park, bike track, pool, basketball/tennis/volleyball courts, track and of course, more parking!!!!	3/6/2014 9:03 PM
54	Town Hall services can be streamlined a little which should realize cost savings. Roads are in dire need.	3/6/2014 7:20 AM
55	The library can be closed one day per week, for example on a Monday. Many towns do this and can help with costs. I think the facilities and road maintenance needs to be overhauled and streamlined. Systems of management of equipment and personnel seem antiquated.	3/5/2014 5:45 PM
56	Here's a simple idea. Trim 50k plus by not mailing home 2x a week letters from school. Scan them in instead.	3/4/2014 5:26 PM
57	Any cut is difficult, but would prefer we cut on some maintenance vs. social services.	3/4/2014 10:04 AM
58	I am speaking about the operational budget. I did support the school/senior center capital plan.	3/3/2014 3:24 PM
59	Keeping roads from deteriorating is one of the basic services local government supplies	3/2/2014 5:51 PM
60	Please explain why the police take their cars home and drive around with kids in their cars, and we pay for the gas? This is wrong, they need to use their own cars like everyone else does, cut this out!	3/2/2014 4:24 PM
61	The facilities we now have need to be maintained for the best use and longevity.	3/2/2014 3:23 PM
62	I was shocked to learn of the pay increases given to the town clerk and others -- it doesn't seem fair when so many are hurting in this economy	3/2/2014 2:42 PM
63	Public safety costs too high for what we get	3/2/2014 11:41 AM
64	NC	3/2/2014 10:36 AM
65	Should be able to do more on-line in order to reduce hiring e.g., town hall and library.	3/2/2014 10:32 AM
66	Too much overlap between town services, you need to consolidate. Too many wasteful parks & EEC programs that lose money. Waste look to cut the waste	3/2/2014 8:05 AM
67	N/A	3/1/2014 6:37 PM
68	The town needs to take care of the rec fields. We pay too much money to have the fields in the condition they are in. It is embarrassing to have towns come play here. We deserve better. Private clubs shouldn't have to support "town fields"	3/1/2014 11:54 AM
69	How are we supposed to honestly answer these questions when we do not know what the current budget for these services is now? Should we attend a board meeting and question the Board of Finance about each of these line items?	3/1/2014 10:17 AM
70	All employees should be held responsible for damage to vehicles. Managers should review the logs and departments shouldn't be rewarded with new vehicles for damage previously done.	3/1/2014 9:14 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

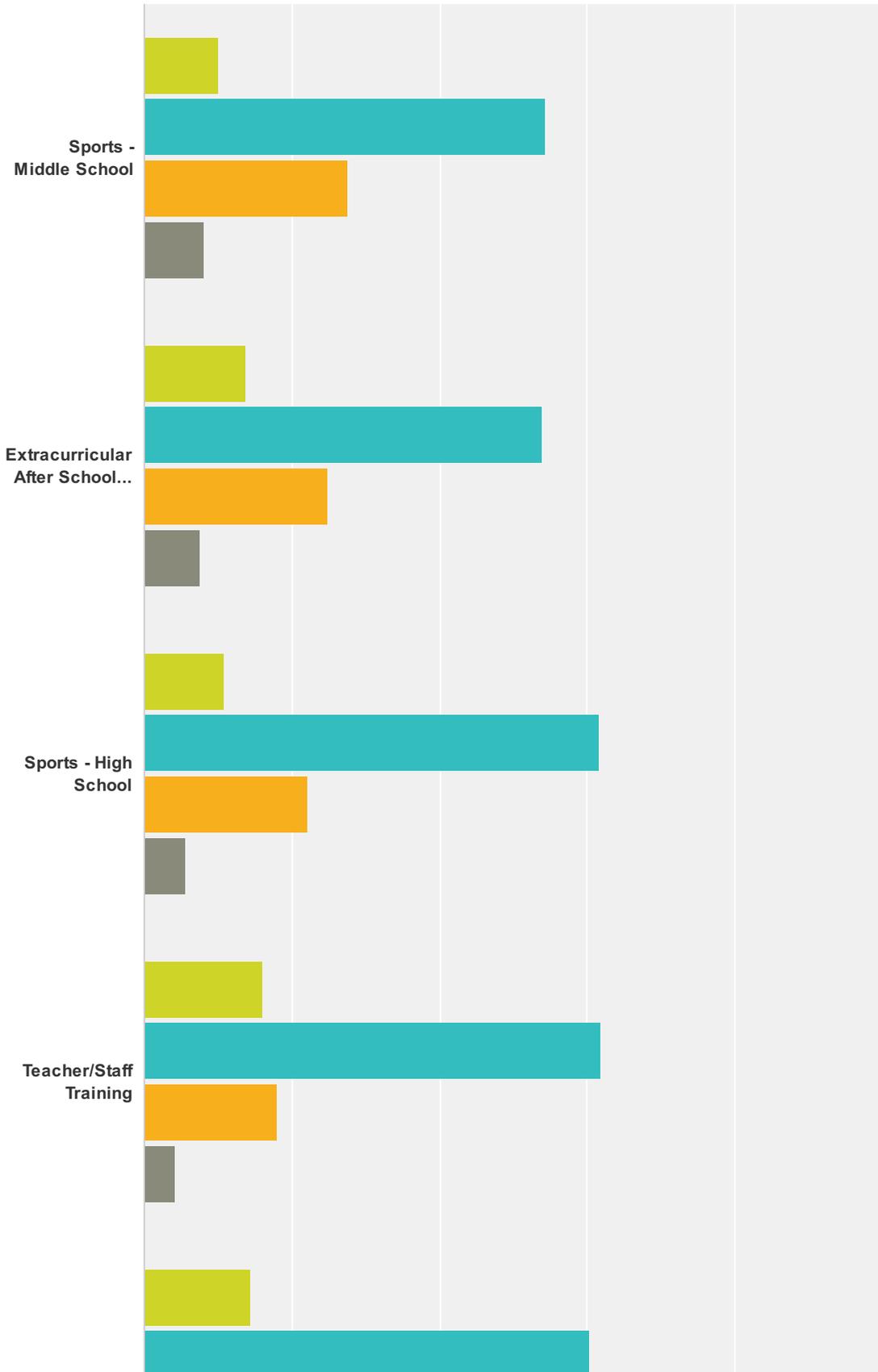
71	Fair is across the board	3/1/2014 8:37 AM
72	We have an aging populations in this town, and a declining school population. The town could address this shift without disadvantaging school age kids	3/1/2014 8:29 AM
73	Specifics of each of these areas needs to be looked at to make informed choices, serving immediate and longer term goals for the Town.	3/1/2014 8:25 AM
74	Consolidate town services - lots of town employees have time to "chat" which to me means that we have too many town employees	3/1/2014 7:26 AM
75	Proper maintenance makes things last longer.	3/1/2014 6:57 AM
76	Close the library on half day on Monday & Tuesday Mornings. Cut Recreation. I am a Senior and I do not want Senior Service. As a Senior we want to be able to STAY IN OUR HOMES! Raise our taxes and we have to sell and move out! DO NOT RAISE TAXES	2/28/2014 11:02 PM
77	Reductions are hard choices but I have to live within my means and do should the town. If we aren't taking in money to cover the expenses then the hard choices need to be made and things need to be cut even if that means jobs.	2/28/2014 10:05 PM
78	money can be cut everywhere	2/28/2014 9:07 PM
79	Logically, if the more crime happens at night then most of our police department should be on nights. There should be no gaurentee of shift assignment and as such police should be shifted to reflect the percentage of incident requiring them. ie if 15%day, 20%early morning, 30% early evening and 35% late evening to early morning then staffing should be the same.	2/28/2014 8:20 PM
80	We as a town must spend money on high school athletic fields! Embarrising conditions!! Girls softball field is in dire need of repair!! We need to maintain and upgrade fields they are run down.	2/28/2014 7:59 PM
81	Recreation and senior services are not quite luxury services but are eligible for "pay to play" subsidies from users. They can't be justified as offsetting support for people in need. I love libraries, but internet resources can be potential offsets. Town Hall Services are another area where user fees can offset costs (higher fees for permits, etc.). Maintaining spending is actually a cut in the face of rising costs. So, across the board cuts aren't practical. An increase in social services is needed for our most needy families.	2/28/2014 7:41 PM
82	Town Hall Budget is way too high. Staffing in some departments needs to cut.	2/28/2014 7:31 PM
83	Why are my taxes so high??????	2/28/2014 7:26 PM
84	You are already getting \$10K per year from our family alone. You have lost your minds if you think we would stick around for you to make them go higher!	2/28/2014 7:07 PM
85	Whenever I go to Town Hall, everyone is pleasant. but then there seems to always be a low key and slower moving style than my experience in the private sector. I do not sense an urgency or any reaction to the fact that the average family is hurting under the pressure of this economy.	2/28/2014 4:45 PM
86	Current economy and social issues (e.g. drugs) require more services for those in need.	2/28/2014 4:44 PM
87	More funding needs to go towards making repairs to the Rec Plex fields. Fields are in bad shape and can be a safety hazard. More fields are also needed to meet the current need. Also more gyms are needed in town to meet the indoor needs of youth sports and the recreation dept programs. The Recreation Dept does an amazing job but they are limited with their current resources of staff and facility space.	2/28/2014 4:22 PM
88	The library currently runs on a skeleton crew. Part time employees could be given more hours to increase the services for the public and the strain on existing employees. I would like to see more money allotted to teen programs through Youth Services during the summer. C3 receives tax dollars for children under 8 years of age. Let's start supporting services for children OVER the age of 8.	2/28/2014 4:14 PM
89	See prior comments. What Productivity initiatives do each of the organizations responsible for these services have in place for 2014/15? I'd rather be discussing those.	2/28/2014 4:04 PM
90	Does this list every service for our town.....if others let me know asap.	2/28/2014 3:59 PM
91	a more organized approach to maintenance of roads and facilities is needed. Regular maintenance is essential to insure larger more expensive problems are avoided.	2/28/2014 3:51 PM
92	Quality of life matters and public services impact people's lives in a positive direction.	2/28/2014 3:45 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

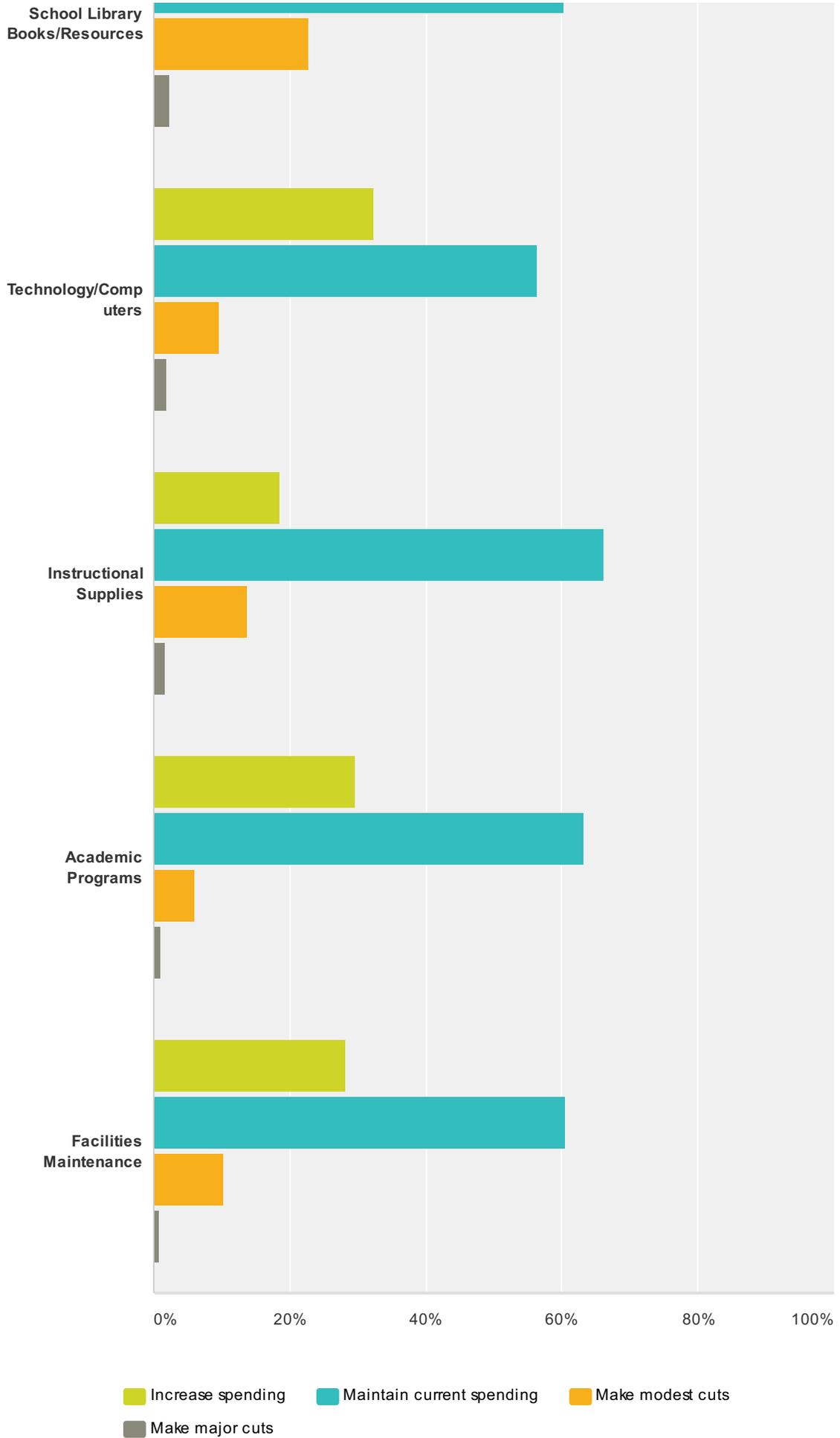
93	I don't have enough information to answer these. What do we spend now? What needed improvements are there?	2/28/2014 3:35 PM
94	Maintenance should be the goal not replacement.	2/28/2014 9:47 AM
95	It would be extremely difficult for any survey taker to know whether or not "current spending" is meeting the needs in each category. For instance, how do we know what new Social Services may be absolutely necessary, or how much a new Youth Services program may benefit the children/young adults? How can "we" make that determination through a survey like this one, which is the same year after year after year? If a vehicle needs to be replaced, or needs extensive repair, how can we expect to "maintain current spending." How about providing a fact sheet (prior to sending the survey) with additional information about each category so we can make more informed decisions?	2/28/2014 8:58 AM

### Q11 When looking at the Education, the Board of Education should do what for the following school cost areas?

Answered: 563 Skipped: 47



# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey



## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

	<b>Increase spending</b>	<b>Maintain current spending</b>	<b>Make modest cuts</b>	<b>Make major cuts</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sports - Middle School	<b>10.09%</b> 56	<b>54.23%</b> 301	<b>27.57%</b> 153	<b>8.11%</b> 45	555
Extracurricular After School Programs	<b>13.77%</b> 77	<b>53.85%</b> 301	<b>24.87%</b> 139	<b>7.51%</b> 42	559
Sports - High School	<b>10.77%</b> 60	<b>61.58%</b> 343	<b>22.08%</b> 123	<b>5.57%</b> 31	557
Teacher/Staff Training	<b>16.16%</b> 90	<b>61.76%</b> 344	<b>17.95%</b> 100	<b>4.13%</b> 23	557
School Library Books/Resources	<b>14.39%</b> 80	<b>60.43%</b> 336	<b>22.84%</b> 127	<b>2.34%</b> 13	556
Technology/Computers	<b>32.26%</b> 180	<b>56.27%</b> 314	<b>9.68%</b> 54	<b>1.79%</b> 10	558
Instructional Supplies	<b>18.56%</b> 103	<b>66.13%</b> 367	<b>13.69%</b> 76	<b>1.62%</b> 9	555
Academic Programs	<b>29.62%</b> 165	<b>63.20%</b> 352	<b>6.10%</b> 34	<b>1.08%</b> 6	557
Facilities Maintenance	<b>28.24%</b> 157	<b>60.61%</b> 337	<b>10.25%</b> 57	<b>0.90%</b> 5	556

# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

## Q12 Please feel free to share opinions about this section.

Answered: 113 Skipped: 497

#	Responses	Date
1	STOP CUTS WHICH EFFECT THE EDUCATION OF OUR NEXT GENERATION. LOOK ELSEWHERE IN THE COMMUNITY TO TO SHAVE COSTS.	3/12/2014 10:40 AM
2	BOE Has Too Much "Can't Cut Attitude" CUT....	3/12/2014 10:31 AM
3	NO new programs.. No new sports. Any new incentives or increases in spending needs to be on the town side NOT BOE!!!!!!!	3/11/2014 11:58 PM
4	Please consider the implications of common core implementation when discussing making cuts to our education budget. Teachers should NOT be expected to do more with less. Nor should they shoulder a greater burden with increased class sizes because we are unwilling to provide the financial backing for a good education. Please stop cutting education and look at other places in the budget that can be trimmed.	3/11/2014 9:04 PM
5	I moved here 3 years ago because of the school system. It make me sad to think that I may have not made the right decision. It is frustrating to know that Colchester is on the lower end of what they spend per child. And it is even more upsetting to know that the Town is considering increasing the number of students in a class. How much can these kids and teachers take. First there is Common Core requirements and then Teacher evaluations. Now there is a possibility that the class size is going to increase? This is too much change. We need our children to succeed in school, we're not giving them the tools or the time to. Also, look at the number of students that have left our school system to go to another town, This costs us money. When are we going to stop giving our money to other towns and keep it here in our town? If nothing is done then more students are going to leave on an annual basis. We need to tum things around now.	3/11/2014 8:22 PM
6	The Board of Education has spent enough money over the past several years it is time for them to learn how to make due with what they have	3/11/2014 5:16 PM
7	clean up 8th grade hall it smells bad!	3/11/2014 1:02 PM
8	Combine school and town library. Parents should pay for child sports, not town.	3/11/2014 12:18 PM
9	Please do NOT increase classroom size!	3/11/2014 10:52 AM
10	Stop saying the increases are due to contracts, you are the one who agree to these contracts. STOP!	3/11/2014 10:25 AM
11	Teachers are what we should be paying for, not technology. Pay them as they are suppose to because there should not be any violations of the teacher contract. Do not replace people with technology.	3/11/2014 10:16 AM
12	To what extent do the teacher contracts allow any of this?	3/11/2014 9:56 AM
13	I think more science/technology should be added to the Elementary school as a weekly class (like Art, PE etc, instead of having two PE classes). I think this would make our schools more competitive with the magnet schools, the kids LOVE science and it is good to start then when they are young to develop the love of science in technologies specially since these are the upcoming jobs in the future.	3/11/2014 9:46 AM
14	same as comment #10.	3/11/2014 9:11 AM
15	If we do not continue to support our educational system we will continue to see parents go elsewhere for education (magnet & crec schools).	3/11/2014 9:03 AM
16	Ditto my answer above. However, in this area, I have a couple of opinions as I think the schools spend way too much money on things parents should provide.	3/11/2014 8:52 AM
17	Provide a teacher's aide in every classroom.	3/11/2014 8:39 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

18	Until parents take personal responsibility for keeping their kids off television and electronic gadgets, there is no amount of spending that will likely increase academic achievement. We are experienced parents and have seen first hand that these distractions are a major factor in kids losing interest in schoolwork.	3/10/2014 9:19 PM
19	The maintenance of WJJMS hasn't been what it should have been over the years and now we are paying for it.	3/10/2014 9:07 PM
20	Implementation of common core- teachers need training. No money should be spent on testing. If federal law mandates it then federal money should find it.	3/10/2014 6:25 PM
21	PLEASE maintain the other schools so as to NOT end up with the mess we currently have with WJJMS	3/10/2014 3:07 PM
22	Middle School is in dire need of renovations.	3/10/2014 1:44 PM
23	Get rid of PAY TO PLAY !! 180 for a kid to play a sport is wrong. Multiple organizations and the U.S. government are promoting exercise and playing sports. No other schools in the area charge let alone 180 and a family cap of 540. I will never vote yes on a budget until this "tax" is removed.	3/10/2014 11:03 AM
24	We should have a better evaluation process for teaches so that we are keeping the best and getting rid of the lousy ones.	3/10/2014 9:01 AM
25	See earleir comments regarding outplacement costs. Need to address middle school physical condition.	3/10/2014 8:41 AM
26	get tablets for kids - cut down on books!	3/10/2014 7:35 AM
27	Ruduce staff NOW! Eliminate step increases in furure contracts. Let them go on strike if they threaten. That will show the pubic that they are only interested in THEIR pocketbooks!	3/10/2014 4:20 AM
28	Really need renovation at the middle school.	3/9/2014 9:35 PM
29	after seeing the results of putting 2 kids through the system and another in middle school - i am DREADING sending the 3thd to Bacon - parents are sending kids to private, STEM and charter schools wherever possible - don't you get the fact yet that we do NOT have a good system? the high school academic programs are minimal at best, where under performing and poor teachers are coddled until retirement. new teachers come in, see whats going on and leave for other districts - its not about pay, its about quality. and why do we never hear about where our graduates go after they leave? in an "academic focused" environment, you would think the BofE would brag about where our graduates go and what percent go to university or 4 year colleges - but we never hear about it. we hear about graduation % but nothing about after. Bacon processes students, it does not cultivate students - this started with the change to our old Superintendent Karen, and moved now to the new one - who helped foster this processing environment while he was in charge at Bacon. Throwing money at a broken system doesn't fix it - fixing it takes the right people and the right attitudes - money cant buy that and neither will IPads.	3/9/2014 10:46 AM
30	BOE needs to reduce staffing levels to reflect a much smaller student enrollment. Millions more with a lot fewer kids is crazy. BOE has no fiscal common sense.	3/9/2014 7:57 AM
31	Common Core is killing us.	3/9/2014 6:27 AM
32	WJJMS obviously needs something, so that would be an increase. Indtructional supplies & technology may need to increase with new requirements & depending on a plan for a replacement cycle, technology updates may need an increase. Teacher/staff training is probably at its highest need in the past 10 years.	3/8/2014 7:37 PM
33	Poor Question - Facilities should be maintained in the school budget. It is not currently adequate leaving the Town with a run down building. Leases penalize lessors for excessive maintenance. Also good luck maintaining Teacher/Staff spending. They seem to achieve raises annually when the majority of municipalities have not due to budgeting.	3/8/2014 4:21 PM
34	I am not supported major increases, but ones that are needed to maintain the level of educational services the town currently offers. Education is the core of society and we need to support that in order to develop as a society and people.	3/8/2014 1:52 PM
35	Money is allocated poorly in the schools. Teachers deserve to get paid fairly for hteir jobs, good teachers more, bad teachers need to go. Taxpayers deserve to get the best for what they pay for. Frankly, my wife VOLUNTEERED to run the invention convention for JJES. MANY hours with no reimbursement. If it's good enough for her to volunteer, it's good enough for EVERYBODY.	3/8/2014 1:49 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

36	How many football coaches did the town "find" jobs for?	3/8/2014 12:56 PM
37	While enrollment is decreasing, I understand current proposed increases and their logic. Please move the proposed budget for my vote.	3/8/2014 12:15 PM
38	The middle school can't support/maintain the technology it has now. Stop wasting money on it. Maintain in the other schools as needed	3/8/2014 9:32 AM
39	Doing more with less has a bottom limit, and we have reached it.	3/8/2014 9:27 AM
40	It's not about the "stuff" the school has, it's about the curriculum and the abilities of the teaching staff.	3/8/2014 8:30 AM
41	why is the school budget increasing when enrollment is decling?? I was skeptical of the need to offer all day kindergarten. to me it seemed more like a program to save teaching jobs when incoming student numbers declined vs a real teaching need. these are the types of moves that make me think town leaders simply want to expand services every year vs do what is right for the economic times and right-size services. Start to use private sector principles instead of continual expansion with no productivity gains. CT is at the bottom of most categories of national economic growth surveys because we ignore economics in policy. Please start to admit when a service is no longer needed and cut it. show us productivity increases and you will build credibility. fyi - a relative lives in the best school district in Pennsylvania and his taxes are half of mine in Colchester and his house is worth more than mine. CT does not get it. Pls study Detroit as a case study of what not to do and Texas for what TO do.	3/8/2014 8:06 AM
42	Lots of waste in education nugget we have see enrollment decrease but budgets increase? Reduce the administration costs via positions that can be combined or eliminated; we have to many asst principals and admin in the superintendent office.	3/8/2014 2:29 AM
43	Facilities maintenance is a problem in this town. Our middle school is in need of serious costly repairs due to putting off maintenance to "save money", now, obviously, it's going to cost even more to correct the problems.	3/7/2014 10:03 PM
44	Middle school students can utilize the Town's recreational sports programs. Not sure why we need duplicate services.	3/7/2014 7:12 PM
45	we still need a new middle school.	3/7/2014 7:03 PM
46	We should give our children the best education we can. If that requires spending more, then we will have to pay more taxes. If cuts cannot be avoided, I would reluctantly suggest modest cuts in sports.	3/7/2014 6:44 PM
47	If every department did their share and cut 5 percent or so across the board then just one area won't feel the affects as much	3/7/2014 6:35 PM
48	With the new State of CT mandates for student testing, computers need to be updated. Cost sharing directed to technology from the state dedicated toward these needs would be wonderful!	3/7/2014 5:25 PM
49	Investment in our schools attracts families, and generates economic growth in the right way for our town. I am a proponent of a strong school system, as I said - it is an investment in town development, even if you do not have kids in the school system.	3/7/2014 5:16 PM
50	Get rid of the ridiculous teacher training crap!	3/7/2014 4:52 PM
51	WJMS has been left in disrepair for years and must be fixed. Our school libraries have neglected for several years. Our computers are aging and often cannot handle new technology.	3/7/2014 4:52 PM
52	I think that the administrators are paid too much and I am against pay to play in school sports.	3/7/2014 4:32 PM
53	Kids in our schools should have access to iPads and other updated media outlets to remain relevant in today's technology driven society.	3/7/2014 4:23 PM
54	Other then fire and police what is more important then the children's development	3/7/2014 4:06 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

55	Look, you are not addressing the real issues. Cut staff. We have less students and therefore dont need the staff. Increase class sizes to 25 students and get rid of all the extra teachers we dont need. The town has to look at this like a business. When businesses dont need staff anymore they cut. Mercilessly. There shoud be no whining about laying them off. Tough luck . it happens. this is a tough time and the towns and states act like they cant cut because it is someones job. Guess what it happens all the time in the private sector. Suck it u; and be leaders. This cuts salaries, this cuts insurance costs. There is enough technology in the schools now. if you want let them use their Iphones since they all have them. And the method of procuring insurance for the system needs to change too. Get rid of the self insurance program. show us other options.	3/7/2014 4:02 PM
56	Don't change anything. Try to do on what you have. We all have personal budget. Try to stay in the amount set aside.	3/7/2014 4:00 PM
57	WJJMS has been sadly neglected. Maintaining things is cheaper than replacing them ( usually )	3/7/2014 4:00 PM
58	Sports are already pay to play so how can you cut sports. I have a middle schooler and there is no baseball team many towns around us have middle school baseball. how is that other towns can swing these things and we can't? Where is the choice to cut administration salary or renegotiate benefits and pension contributions? Why aren't these in the survey?	3/7/2014 3:47 PM
59	Technology at the high school is laughable, which is the one place we should be preparing students to enter the real world!	3/7/2014 11:57 AM
60	Sports players can bear more burden of cost associated with playing. Facilities ABSOLUTELY must be maintained!! Schools - WJJMS and Bacon are in horrible condition - disgraceful.	3/7/2014 7:23 AM
61	Teachers are always needing to also be educated with the latest information and resources necessary to instruct in the best possible manner and to promote self-confidence and self-esteem in each student while presenting/teaching the material.	3/6/2014 9:03 PM
62	WJJMS needs to be brought up to code, new windows, new furnace, etc. Teachers need to be trained well. Technology used correctly can make efficiencies. On that subject there are much less expensive technologies that do just as much, if not more than IPADs, that the library should be looking at. Devices that take advantage of Google Education. Apple doesn't offer these services to the same extent.	3/6/2014 7:20 AM
63	Teacher training should not be provided by the school. As with other professions, teachers and staff should be required to keep up with what their professions require of them at their own cost. Sports should be fully funded. Research has shown time and again the link between healthy active students and success in education. If a sports program is offered to the students as a school activity it should be fully funded by the school. The pay-to-play is outrageously expensive and should not be only available to the students able to afford it. Most of the extracurricular after school programs my children have been involved in are pay to participated and are not inexpensive. I am not sure what funds are set aside for these programs but I do not see these as essential for our schools or children. These funds are needed much more for supplies and technology.	3/5/2014 5:45 PM
64	Why is it that you have to update things every year? You don't. Suck it up this year	3/4/2014 5:26 PM
65	Although I know it is extremely difficult to "maintain expenses" It's what I prefer the town does.	3/4/2014 2:49 PM
66	Cuts should be targeted at maintenance and supplies vs. academics and technology	3/4/2014 10:04 AM
67	Avoid getting sucked into the Common Core nonsense of buying useless, corporate, canned programs. Trust the teachers to make good academic choices for our children. Offer them good training and development, not useless, expensive, corporate CCSS professional development. Lots of free technology exists for schools; don't be a slave to Microsoft systems.	3/3/2014 11:50 PM
68	More money should be spent on the children and not on teachers.	3/3/2014 6:35 PM
69	We have reduced our student enrollment by 260 students over the last two years, but the number of teachers has not proportionally reflected this. I will not support the budget unless this is addressed	3/3/2014 3:24 PM
70	There is no need for sports at the middle school level. They can participate in the town sports. These need to be cut.	3/3/2014 2:31 PM
71	Private schools require purchasing of books, laptops, etc., and that's an added cost on top of what we already have to pay for our child in the Town. Perhaps having ability to download books is an option, but families should buy their own computers and bring them to school.	3/3/2014 10:51 AM
72	Don't need iPads and new computers when WJJMS is falling apart.	3/3/2014 10:36 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

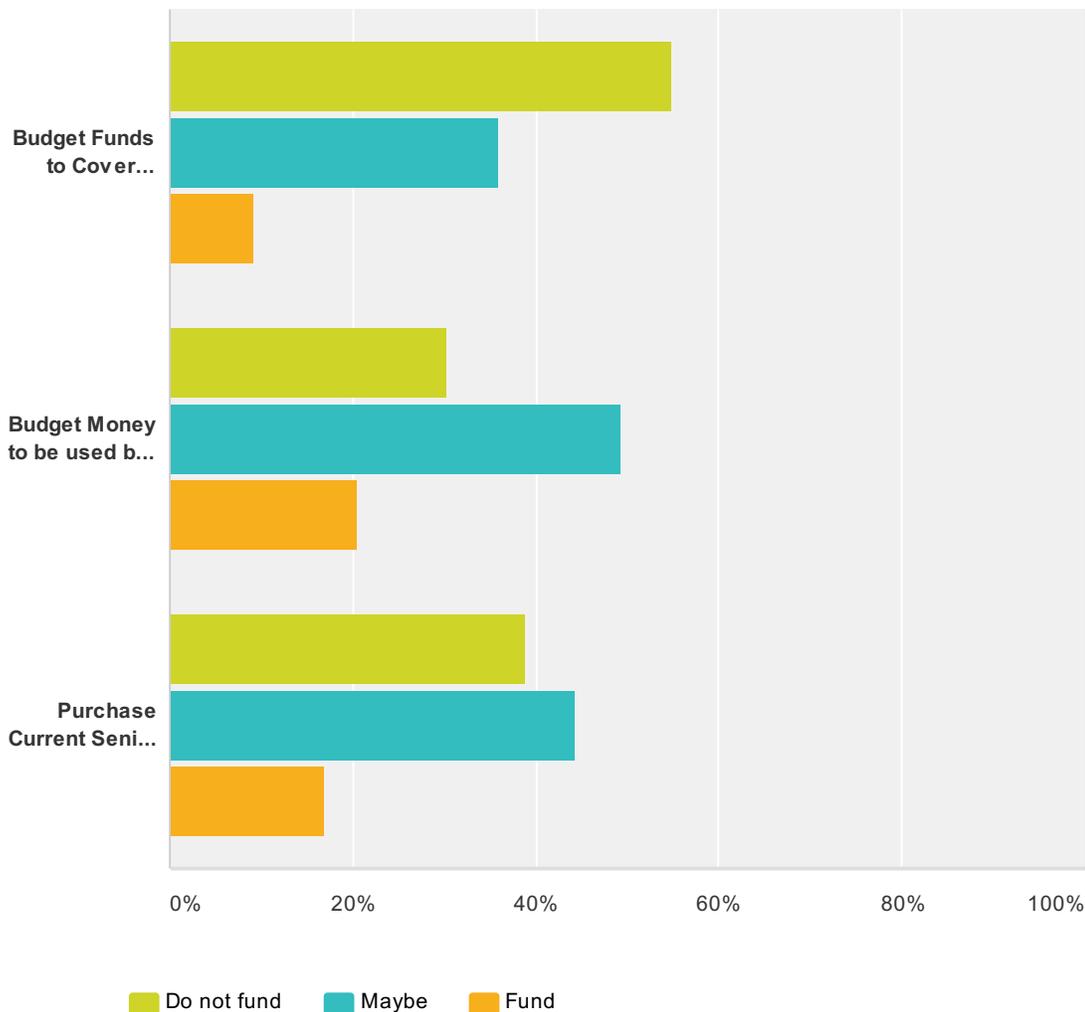
73	I think the biggest problem with the school district is the staff. You either have really great teachers or ones who are extremely lacking in the ability to teach.	3/3/2014 8:20 AM
74	Cut from special education services; more services for general education students	3/2/2014 8:10 PM
75	Let our schools continue to the best and maximize our resources.	3/2/2014 3:23 PM
76	Why can't parents be responsible for more of the activities and sports costs rather than taxpayers without children in the schools supporting them?	3/2/2014 2:42 PM
77	time to start scaling back the staff	3/2/2014 11:41 AM
78	The school district should consider purchasing low cost computers like the Samsung Chromebook (\$250). Keyboarding should be taught beginning in 3rd grade.	3/2/2014 10:36 AM
79	Enrollment is Decreasing!!! So why is the budget increasing? Look for new innovative insurance plans to save \$\$\$. Time to stop self-insurance by the town and BOE	3/2/2014 8:05 AM
80	N/A	3/1/2014 6:37 PM
81	If the student population is decreasing then staff cuts would be logical.	3/1/2014 1:24 PM
82	Again, how can we answer these questions when we do not know what the current budget is? This survey is very subjective. Is it really going to be able to give you a good feel for how to go forward with a budget?	3/1/2014 10:17 AM
83	review expenses and reimbursement receipts keep an eye on buying bulk to get a discount.	3/1/2014 9:14 AM
84	New middle school building!	3/1/2014 9:10 AM
85	Fewer kids = fewer teachers. Spend money on the quality of the education, not staff.	3/1/2014 8:29 AM
86	I think the grounds and buildings in the case of the High School are looking a bit shabby - investing a little more in landscaping and building appearance - inside and out - can increase pride and even performance.	3/1/2014 8:25 AM
87	Teacher/staff training can be done "in house" we have educators with many skills use our own resources - too many school administrators and principals - asst principals. - switch to lead teacher model as asst principals	3/1/2014 7:26 AM
88	With smart phones, kids have a library at their fingertips. Many also have computers there too. Some families may need tablets from school. A funding mechanism should be set up for that.	3/1/2014 6:57 AM
89	Education budget is WAY out of budget and should be cut. Either it isn't managed well or just not realistic for the current economic conditions.	3/1/2014 6:57 AM
90	Funny how certain people, McNair-Kelly, had no problem with educational spending and increases to educational spending when their kids were in Colchester's schools. as soon as their kids graduated, been railing against the school budgets ever since. Hypocrites!	2/28/2014 9:42 PM
91	Education should not be a value of spending to a child but rather performance of the child internationally against the best public schools.	2/28/2014 8:20 PM
92	Spend money on upgrades and maintenance of high school sports fields	2/28/2014 7:59 PM
93	Where is all of our tax money going? Just on our street alone, you are getting approximately \$60,000 and there are only 7 houses!	2/28/2014 7:07 PM
94	WJMS needs many repairs, teachers need more training in CommonCore, the computer network in the WJMS building needs to be upgraded.	2/28/2014 5:34 PM
95	Enrollment is down and continuing to decrease. Adjust staff to match this. The BOE exercises zero fiscal management. Very poor.	2/28/2014 5:24 PM
96	I understand Bacon Academy is getting a bunch of new iPads next year. If that is correct information, the money would be more wisely spent in upgrading the existing computer technology in the media centers.	2/28/2014 4:49 PM
97	Given that I had met enough students from Colchester, I don't feel sports funding for the masses is justified. The focus should be on education in "reading, writing and arithmetic". Given our continued lowering of standards and the US' placement academically in the world, we need to stress the preparation of our children to face the world and compete with the best possible background from their education.	2/28/2014 4:45 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

98	It's hard to say because I am not fully aware of current spending levels,	2/28/2014 4:44 PM
99	Teachers in Colchester make very good money...some would say 'too much'. Pay grades are out of control and accountability is minimal to nil.	2/28/2014 4:27 PM
100	School computers are ancient and not working. CES computers are horrible. Need to be replaced.	2/28/2014 4:22 PM
101	The schools are excellent in Colchester and I would like for them to continue to be supported at the current level.	2/28/2014 4:22 PM
102	Most of the school budget is tied up in payroll. I am not sure why we need paraprofessionals in every class, if I recall correctly, people of over age had one teacher per class and that seemed to work out ok for us.	2/28/2014 4:20 PM
103	I presume costs are declining along with enrollment, no?	2/28/2014 4:04 PM
104	With techno advances most kids have smartphones/lappads/etc to access internet and its piles of knowledge.....so impact on Library resources should be minimal, I feel, and do we know what resources are used most in library? How about more teacher training online to reduce inhouse time usage.....spend that time on student class time....do you know impact of inhouse teacher training? How is it measured? Do you still use inhouse study halls in schools? Why? How about regional libraries to reduce in town ones?	2/28/2014 3:59 PM
105	Make cuts here or negotiate with the Unions	2/28/2014 3:51 PM
106	Sports and organized acitivities are great, but kids need to be ready for college and work. Quality schools attract families and keep property values strong.	2/28/2014 3:45 PM
107	It's truly sad when my daughter comes home and states that the school can't afford something as simple as paper.	2/28/2014 3:44 PM
108	kids want sports then ask them to pay for it!	2/28/2014 3:40 PM
109	Let the children pay to plat, and the families that use the after school services pay for those services not all the tax payers.	2/28/2014 3:38 PM
110	Again, without knowing the current budget and needs, it's hard to answer this.	2/28/2014 3:35 PM
111	Teachers have advanced degrees in order to hold their positions. The basic reading, writing, arithmetic material does not change why is training necessary to re-teach what they learned in prep for their careers?	2/28/2014 9:47 AM
112	I have the same opinion about the education part of this survey as I do the town piece. It would be extremely difficult for any survey taker to know whether or not "current spending" is meeting the needs in each category. For instance, how do we know what the impact may be if students were offered more extracurricular activities? It seems it would be very positive especially today when kids need motivation to be outdoors. In the case of academic programs, are there courses we should be offering to be on an even level with other CT schools? Do we want to be level or should be exceed other schools - how do we compare in courses offered? How do we know how many students need to have updated computers/iPads/software to meet the technology demands of today? Determination cannot be made through a survey like this one, which is the same every year.	2/28/2014 8:58 AM
113	You can cut staff without cutting programs. Also, this assumes all programs are equal in value. Should list the major programs.	2/28/2014 7:21 AM

### Q13 Would you support the use of Town Funds to cover expenses of the historic building as well as provide funds to match potential grants to repair the buildings?

Answered: 555 Skipped: 55



	Do not fund	Maybe	Fund	Total
Budget Funds to Cover Expenses of the Historic Buildings, not being used by the Town.	54.93% 301	35.95% 197	9.12% 50	548
Budget Money to be used by Trustees to obtain grants.	30.29% 166	49.27% 270	20.44% 112	548
Purchase Current Senior Center Property, as a temporary solution for Town needs, and as an alternative to budgeting for the above.	38.83% 212	44.32% 242	16.85% 92	546

## Q14 Please feel free to share comments about this section.

Answered: 95 Skipped: 515

#	Responses	Date
1	There are empty buildings now maybe try renting them out for the cost of up keep and tax.	3/12/2014 11:56 AM
2	I'm not clear what the current arrangement is for the current senior center, thought the town was leasing it for like \$1 per year. I don't know that it makes sense to buy it given what was said about the condition of it when the town was saying we needed a new senior center. It was made to sound like its really a pit in need of a lot of repair. I don't support buying a bunch of problems if we can continue to rent it. Maybe we could put some money toward repairing it in conjunction with the trustees paying for part of the repairs if repairing is worth it. My answer also depends on the purchase price proposed for the property/building. Not clear what the upside of purchasing the property is.	3/12/2014 11:14 AM
3	Make a Better PLAN	3/12/2014 10:32 AM
4	The Senior center property would make since if we build the new facility there. The let the board of trustees use that money for their projects. Could be a win, win for both	3/12/2014 12:01 AM
5	The senior center building is an absolute joke! If the town is not willing to invest in its aging population then it has bigger problems than one could imagine! I recommend kicking all the tenants out of the town hall facilities and let them work out of the current senior center building! I bet they would not recommend purchasing it! Build a dam senior center and dont forget to put it on the same block everthing else is even though colcheste ris the third biggest town in CT?? go figure	3/11/2014 5:20 PM
6	knock them down for real stores	3/11/2014 1:04 PM
7	If already looking to increase the mill rate, why look for more items to spend money on?	3/11/2014 9:57 AM
8	Build a new senior center	3/11/2014 9:18 AM
9	I feel that I do not know enough information to answer 100% and answered maybe.	3/11/2014 9:17 AM
10	Why in the world would we want to buy a building that is not adequate for our use now? Spend money on a "temporary" solution?!! The Senior Center study group ended up being a sham. Somehow out of that we are now not building a Senior Center, but instead are building a new school.	3/11/2014 8:54 AM
11	The firehouse that was restored by the old Chevy dealership sat there for years with a piece of paper with the address written on it. Very hard to support other projects when something as simple as that wasn't taken care of for years.	3/11/2014 8:41 AM
12	Spend money only where it is needed. Buildings not owned by the town is not a need.	3/10/2014 10:59 PM
13	I'm not knowledgeable on these issues.	3/10/2014 9:20 PM
14	can't we re-purpose some of the town owned buildings for the senior center. give them ample parking?	3/10/2014 1:26 PM
15	Perform cost benefit analysis to compare cost of (1) buying and repairing existing buidlings, (2) renting a different facility from a different landlord, and (3) building a new facility. Asking the town ot make a decision without quantifying the cost of our alternatives is not reasonable. These buildings are the Trustees problem, not ours. We should buy and fix the buildings only if they meet our needs in the long term and all other options cost more without a commensurate improvement in qauality of services.	3/10/2014 8:45 AM
16	I would like to see hard #s to compare the option of building a new facility w/o structural issues vs BUYING a bldg fraught w/ issues!!!	3/10/2014 7:36 AM
17	The seniors need a new building along side of Town Hall. DO NOT purchase the current senior center building.	3/10/2014 4:22 AM
18	The Senior Center is not in a good location, inadequate parking, etc. Sell and use money.	3/9/2014 9:36 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

19	#3, why put money into a "temporary" solution. That would be a waste. Either put money into a permanent solution or do not spend.	3/9/2014 7:52 PM
20	More information on costs would be needed to make more informed decisions	3/9/2014 6:59 PM
21	confusing question	3/9/2014 4:07 PM
22	If the Historic Building provides no real value other than tourism. then the community that believes in these should be responsible for developing a plan to maintain these through private donations and fund raising. Our town is not a tourist location. Take pictures and dedicate a hall in the library to their memory. The current economy does not support such philanthropic efforts. Put the funds to education and homeless. A much better investment.	3/9/2014 1:37 PM
23	let the trustees figure out how to fund and maintain their own buildings and get grants. isn't that why these properties were set up under a trustee format and not relinquished to the town?	3/9/2014 10:49 AM
24	Property, where current senior center is located, is a prime piece of land for the town to get.	3/9/2014 6:29 AM
25	Don't know how much funding goes to Historic buildings. Grants - depends on what it is. Nothing frivolous (solar panels that are going to be pointing into growing trees in three years down town). And, what's the savings for purchasing the senior center?	3/8/2014 4:25 PM
26	need to know more information to make a more informed decision regarding funding each project	3/8/2014 2:46 PM
27	Our historical buildings are the towns history and part of the charm and tradition of the town. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. It is not even a choice for us to think of not maintaining them. That is a huge diservice to the future generations.	3/8/2014 1:53 PM
28	We seem to have a lot of inventory to choose from in town regarding potential senior center sites. Building new should never have even been considered.	3/8/2014 8:31 AM
29	stop sending good money after bad. sell or demolish any property that has outlived its purpose or expense. we can not fund sinkholes - that is destroying value and taxpayer dollars. Do not buy properties (ownership of senior center) or prop them up artificially if they have no sustainable need. these can be tough decisions but once made everything will start to get better because that money can be redeployed to valued avenues or savings. we must break with the past and be selective for truly valueable capital deployment	3/8/2014 8:14 AM
30	Why would the town consider buying the old senior center when all the selectman and bldg committee and bldg officials have stated on record that the bldg is in disrepair, in fact they stated the seniors should not even be in the bldg?	3/8/2014 2:31 AM
31	If it's only temporary, why waste the money to purchase	3/7/2014 11:19 PM
32	WHAT GRANTS? WHY DO THEY NEED MONEY TO APPLY FOR GRANTS? HOW WILL THE CURRENT SR CENTER BE A TEMP SOLUTION FOR TOWN NEEDS?	3/7/2014 10:32 PM
33	Maybe fund raisers should be considered for the historic buildings to help offset the cost.	3/7/2014 10:08 PM
34	Build a new senior / community center.	3/7/2014 9:03 PM
35	use the old chevy place as a senior center. it's got great views and easy, safe access and throw a pool in there for the community. make some money off it.	3/7/2014 7:07 PM
36	The town needs a comprehensive long-term plan for historic preservation, rather than "a temporary solution for Town needs". Meanwhile, it makes more sense to help fund selected historic buildings owned by a non-profit rather than to own a building for which the town does not have a long-term use.	3/7/2014 6:44 PM
37	In this economy, perhaps the historic buildings should be sold....	3/7/2014 6:25 PM
38	Seniors are doing fine fix road drainage at my house	3/7/2014 6:03 PM
39	I think more plans are needed to use these properties if the town is to help fund them. I do not think we should maintain just to maintain.	3/7/2014 5:20 PM
40	I was told that there is property and plans in place but someone opted not to use either	3/7/2014 5:10 PM
41	That's a no brainer to purchase the senior center!! Makes the most sense and in future we can update it!	3/7/2014 4:53 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

42	I would be willing to support this effort if the Senior Senior were to be purchased and renovated as a PERMANENT solution to the Town's need, but I would not support this funding effort as a temporary stop gap.	3/7/2014 4:28 PM
43	This is a poorly worded section.	3/7/2014 4:20 PM
44	Look for grants or have historical society raise the money on their own as so many other towns do	3/7/2014 4:08 PM
45	There is no reason to give away money to private ownership. If someone owns an old building it is their responsibility to keep up with the repairs. Buildings not being used by the town by owned by the town should be sold off.	3/7/2014 4:04 PM
46	You dont have the monies to do this now. Too bad. Only do things that are good for all residents. not just some residents	3/7/2014 4:02 PM
47	Money on the old firehouse seemed silly as it is not much more than a garage	3/7/2014 4:02 PM
48	I don't have enough information to provide definitive answers to these questions.	3/7/2014 3:49 PM
49	We need a better senior center other towns have been able to give the seniors a nice senior center why is colchester always lacking it was the same with the library but we finally had one built	3/7/2014 3:46 PM
50	Would need to see more specifics before making any decision.	3/7/2014 11:59 AM
51	I believe if the current Senior Center is purchased that there will not be an attempt by the town to provide a Senior Center that would be more appropriate for a changing senior demographic with different needs and expectations. Our current center is an embarrassment when you look at what surrounding towns have provided.	3/6/2014 10:40 PM
52	Keep the Senior Center somehow someway, even it it means building a new one or updating/remodeling another old/abandoned building and using that for them.	3/6/2014 9:05 PM
53	Need new Senior Center - why would we buy a building that the Selectman and building official Saudi was in "desperate need of repair" Build a new center!!!	3/6/2014 6:47 PM
54	IF the town is going to purchase more buildings they have to have a specific use and the funds to renovate them need to be included in the cost. The problem is that we already have buildings that are not being properly maintained. Where is the money going to come from to maintain more buildings?	3/6/2014 7:22 AM
55	The first two sections of this question are not clear. I cannot answer them. If the town is using the buildings then we should budget money. We should also then make the buildings available for public use perhaps - renting them out as venues for events, etc. Regarding the senior center - if we purchase the senior center from the trustees wouldn't they then have some funds to repair the other buildings they own?	3/5/2014 5:51 PM
56	My fear would be that the Town purchases the current Senior Center property then builds a new facility. Then we are stuck with an aging building in disrepair.	3/5/2014 7:20 AM
57	The Senior Center needs to be replaced, why spend money on a building that the entire town knows needs to be replaced and we don't own it. DO NOT FUND THIS CONCEPT - SPEND OUR MONEY TO PURCHASE THE OLD JACK'S DEALERSHIP ON S. MAIN ST FOR A NEW SENIOR CENTER.	3/4/2014 2:55 PM
58	Need to know more about some aspects of question 13.	3/4/2014 9:12 AM
59	We should use tax money to fix buildings owned and used by the town.	3/3/2014 6:38 PM
60	I don't have enough information to make an informed decision on this item.	3/3/2014 8:46 AM
61	maintaining towns history is important but should be done via grants. Senior center is not historically significant	3/2/2014 5:57 PM
62	stop spending our money, when we can not afford it	3/2/2014 4:25 PM
63	Is the Senior Center building an historic building? We should NOT continue to fund it through rent or purchase. Rather build a new one. Let the trustees sell the Center!	3/2/2014 3:25 PM
64	NC	3/2/2014 10:40 AM
65	Why would/should the taxpayers take on the burden of a building that needs so much repair (the senior center) . Better to temporarily move to a better structure. We can and should do better for our seniors.	3/2/2014 10:39 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

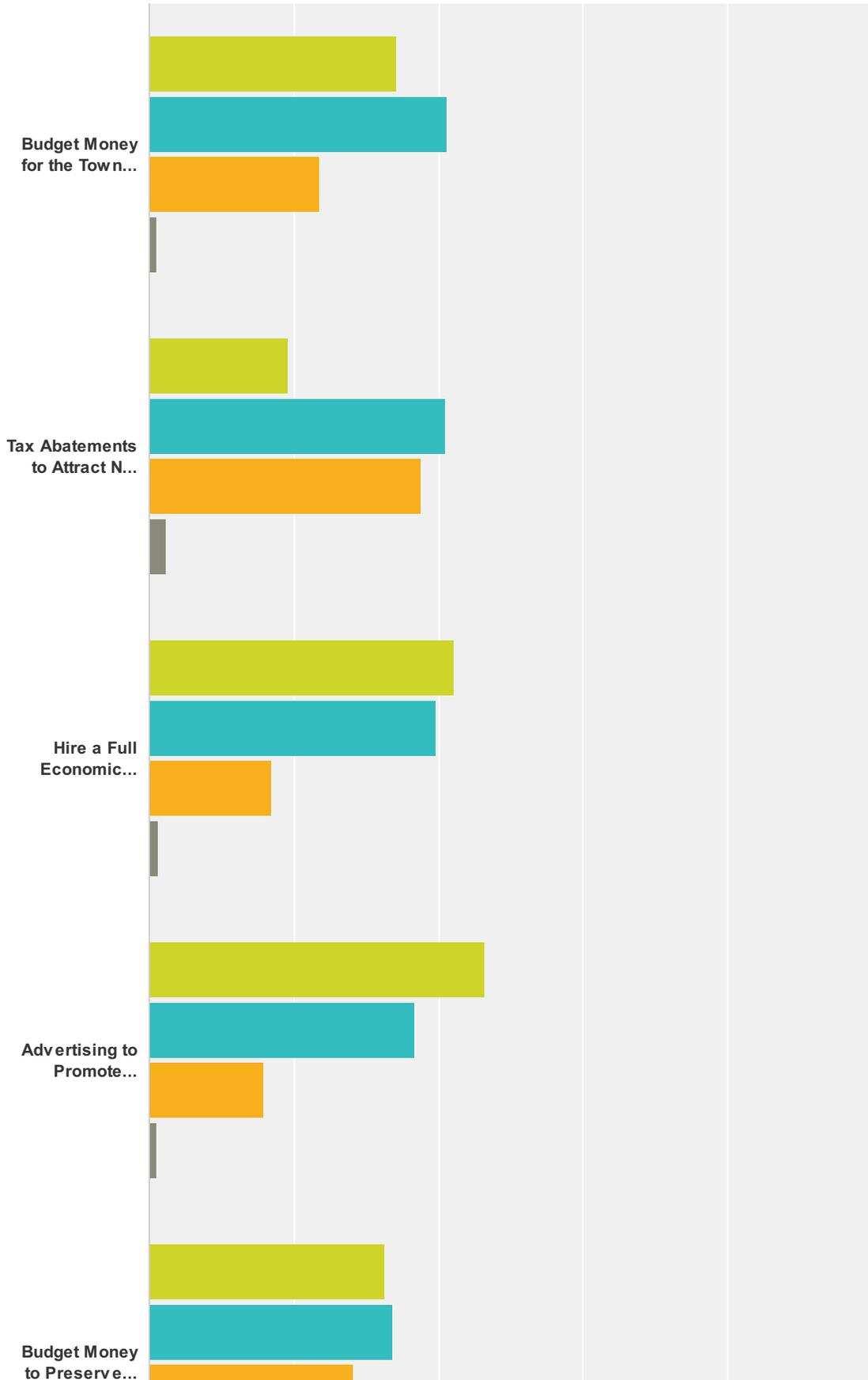
66	Go back and read Selectman Coyles remarks about how dilapidated the senior center is - she claimed it was beyond repair and now she wants the town to buy it! WHY??	3/2/2014 8:07 AM
67	N/A	3/1/2014 6:38 PM
68	why would the town want to own a building such as the senior cntr that has already been deemed too inadequate for the present seniors' needs? It's just a money pit!	3/1/2014 5:57 PM
69	We can't take care of the buildings we own - why would we buy a building in need of such repair?	3/1/2014 11:56 AM
70	It may be time for "letting go" of these "historic" (old) buildings. They are in commercial zones and the land could be sold to a developer or business to increase the tax base. The historic character of the area could still be maintained, if your zoning regulations are set up that way.	3/1/2014 8:28 AM
71	In q 13 which historic building. The description and questions are confusing and misleading just like that illegal (town funds used) biased paper survey you took at the November election.	3/1/2014 8:06 AM
72	Build a senior/community center - stop throwing money into a building that does not meet the needs of seniors - make seniors a priority!	3/1/2014 7:28 AM
73	build a new senior center ....on currently town owned property?	3/1/2014 7:17 AM
74	Sr center itself should be tom down. If you want to build a new one there, buy the land and do so. Fed funds should help pay for a stand alone Sr center. Whoever these "trustees" are should not make it rich off selling a worthless building.	3/1/2014 7:00 AM
75	IF IT MEANS RAISING TAX'S THEN NO TO ANY OF IT. NO MORE RAISE OF TAXES! I WANT TO LIVE IN MY HOME.. NO MORE RAISE OF TAXES!!	2/28/2014 11:05 PM
76	Buying the current senior center when you don't want to be there and when you have to put so much money into it is insane. It is a waste of money! Based on what they want for the building and what needs to be done the town would be over paying for a building as everyone has said is "falling apart". If it is so bad either get it dirt cheap and fix it up or get another option but don't over pay or do t use as a quick fix and over pay. Waste of the tax payer money. Tired of the wasteful spending in this town and buying the current building would be just that!	2/28/2014 10:11 PM
77	I have no problem making sure the rent covers their expenses and increasing the rent as expenses increase. Would not favor paying out on buildings the town does not use.	2/28/2014 9:48 PM
78	Although I greatly value the preservation of our towns history I do not believe we should use taxpayer money to purchase the land back with no defined purpose. It appears the town is already paying the maintenance of the buildings. I believe the effort should be to seeks tenants that can utilize the space while preserving the historic character and then we could discuss subsidizing.	2/28/2014 8:52 PM
79	We should explore properties that are located near bordering towns to split costs with them. We should also explore the vast number of empty business building in town as other options for the senior center.	2/28/2014 8:24 PM
80	Build new senior center 1 floor millon\$ or less!!!	2/28/2014 8:01 PM
81	Trustees charge non profit groups to use their side of the green, which town taxes pay to maintain.	2/28/2014 7:33 PM
82	Lower the taxes!!!!	2/28/2014 7:27 PM
83	I find it extremely hard to believe that our town has such financial difficulties. The sickening amount of property taxes that you receiving from homeowners is obviously being mismanaged!	2/28/2014 7:10 PM
84	Don't know enough about the plan to purchase the senior center. What would be the annual cost of the expenses of the historic buildings? Why would we budget money to obtain grants? We have expertise in the town to write grants.	2/28/2014 5:39 PM
85	No! We cannot afford what we have.	2/28/2014 5:25 PM
86	We have a new and large high school (I've not been to the other schools in Town). Why do we have to have everything therein solely dedicated to the children. And why do the seniors have to have their own center. As a senior, I don't use the facilities, but I don't expect to pay for others to be entertained at my expense. If we are experiencing budget issues, then I think it is time we tightened our belt. When I was 8 during the 1950's recession, I can still remember my Mom and Dad sitting me down and saying that money was not available to buy me my own new bike. My Dad painted my sister's old one and I was thankful. Time to stop pampering the world and trying to save everyone. Time to expect quite a few people to stand on their own feet and abrogate the responsaibility to someone else besides every taxpayer in town who does stand on their own 2 feet.	2/28/2014 4:51 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

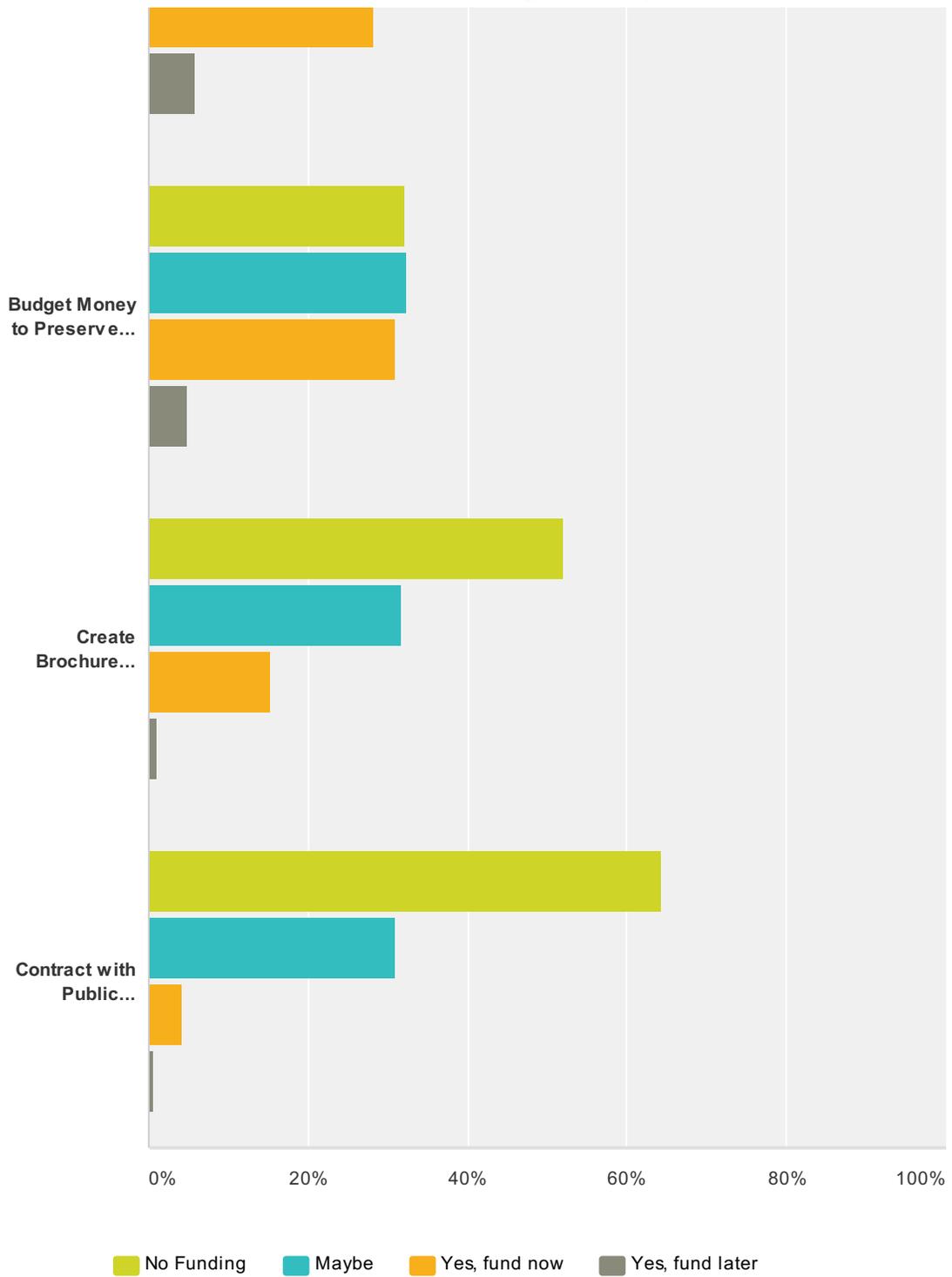
87	I do not know enough to have an opinion on the senior center.	2/28/2014 4:44 PM
88	Allow the senior center to be purchased/run by a private firm. By the way your last sentence is not written correctly. As it is written the town must sell the Senior Center not the Bacon Academy Trust.	2/28/2014 4:26 PM
89	A new senior center is badly needed.	2/28/2014 4:22 PM
90	The purchase of the exiting site should not be done for a senior center building until after a specific senior center site is chosen. However, there are several dilapidated houses and the senior center that could become part of a municipal campus (land for future expansion)between Norwich Ave. and Mill St.	2/28/2014 4:19 PM
91	Consider purchasing a new property, such as the empty car dealership across the street from the post office as an alternative should the current senior center not be viable.	2/28/2014 4:17 PM
92	I don't view the current Sr. Ctr. (where I went to grade school) to be a historically significant building - If someone wants to buy it, by all means go ahead and let them.	2/28/2014 4:08 PM
93	Must historic buildings be maintained by law? Everything has a life span.....maybe their time has come.....let pictures/videos/social media storage of historic places be their legacy to the public.....I certainly do not visit any of them today. Let Trustees raise funds or obtain grants to preserve as needed.....	2/28/2014 4:04 PM
94	We need a new Senior Center! I hate to pour money into such a dated and unsuitable space. The old Bacon Academy Building, Day Hall, and DAR house are important parts of Colchester's history and should be preserved.	2/28/2014 3:48 PM
95	I'd err on the side of do not fund, as I don't see the significance of these expenses over, say, needed educational and safety expenses.	2/28/2014 3:37 PM

### Q15 Would you support funding for the following?

Answered: 556 Skipped: 54



## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey



	No Funding	Maybe	Yes, fund now	Yes, fund later	Total
Budget Money for the Town's Economic Development Commission to Promote Colchester	34.24% 188	41.17% 226	23.50% 129	1.09% 6	549
Tax Abatements to Attract New Business	19.23% 105	40.84% 223	37.55% 205	2.38% 13	546
Hire a Full Economic Development Coordinator	42.15% 231	39.60% 217	16.97% 93	1.28% 7	548
Advertising to Promote Colchester	46.35% 254	36.68% 201	15.88% 87	1.09% 6	548
Budget Money to Preserve Other Open Spaces	32.48%	33.58%	28.10%	5.84%	

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

Budget Money to Preserve Other Open Spaces	32.45% 178	33.33% 184	28.18% 154	3.04% 32	548
Budget Money to Preserve Town Farmland	<b>32.12%</b> 177	<b>32.30%</b> 178	<b>30.85%</b> 170	<b>4.72%</b> 26	551
Create Brochure Promoting Colchester	<b>51.94%</b> 281	<b>31.79%</b> 172	<b>15.16%</b> 82	<b>1.11%</b> 6	541
Contract with Public Relations Consultant	<b>64.23%</b> 352	<b>30.84%</b> 169	<b>4.20%</b> 23	<b>0.73%</b> 4	548

# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

## Q16 Please add any comments you have about this section.

Answered: 127 Skipped: 483

#	Responses	Date
1	I think we should support keeping the rural character of Colchester in place and not advertise it as a destination. Taxes are high enough already so as a general rule I don't support having business move in who don't want to pay taxes. Why have them if they only want to take and not be part of the community?	3/12/2014 11:17 AM
2	We Need BUSINESS Development.	3/12/2014 10:34 AM
3	Promoting Colchester is a great idea. Yes we need to invest in our future development to bring tax relief. Again, BOE and BOF get up and support this concept.	3/12/2014 12:06 AM
4	Please consider working in creative ways to attract new business to town.	3/11/2014 9:06 PM
5	Your premise in this section is incorrect.	3/11/2014 6:06 PM
6	Why would the town want to spend any money on attracting anyone to a town that cannot afford the population it has?? Spend the money squaring away your own house before you go inviting the neighbors over!! This town has had opportunities to introduce a bigger business tax base into the community yet it chose not to embrace them, now you want to spend money on a flyer to attract someone else here to try and establish a business?? I knew this town had a drug problem but I was not aware that the town managers were on them!!	3/11/2014 5:25 PM
7	I'm heavily involved in marketing, I don't feel anything the town would spend money on to 'promote' itself would really bring in businesses. I do however think that we should be promoting more small business owners to take up shop in the already vacant store fronts that abound in the Linwood Ave corridor. I'm also very partial to preserving open space and farm land since that's a big reason I love this area. If the town were to get over developed commercially, I would relocate my family.	3/11/2014 4:28 PM
8	A brochure is not the way to go - get a strong website and social media, maybe some print ads to get the word out.	3/11/2014 4:22 PM
9	There is nothing in Colchester to promote. The town needs entertainment services.	3/11/2014 3:59 PM
10	bring real businesses to town so people don't have to go to Lisbon and Norwich to shop	3/11/2014 1:06 PM
11	We need to do something to promote more businesses (other than what we already have) to come to Colchester and fill some of the empty buildings. The public should be heard in what type of businesses are needed so that we are not traveling out of town to buy clothes.	3/11/2014 12:08 PM
12	We need to remove the tax burden from the residents and bring in commercial tax revenue FAST. I've lived here for 13 years and it's been the same issues with no major improvement. Residents can't keep affording to pay higher taxes, but we don't want our schools/town services to suffer, We want new tax revenue but want to keep the rural character. The only new businesses I've seen come to Colchester compete with existing small businesses. (i.e. Tractor Supply vs. Mackey's, Gano's, and John Deer). Any other options for businesses besides retail or restaurants (please NO MORE Italian or Asian!!)? What about a business center with office space? Or a indoor recreation facility (lazer tag, bounce house, etc)? So many kids in town! Where do parents spend their money? Not in Colchester.	3/11/2014 11:12 AM
13	I think we need to encourage more businesses to come to colchester. I think the taxes are too high for residential. There seem to be a lot of buildings that are empty I heard it might be because they are charging too high of rent to attract new business. Perhaps the tax on empty buildings should be higher to encourage the owners to lower the rent and get new business in these empty buildings!	3/11/2014 9:52 AM
14	who do you want to advertise to? the town does not need more people, it needs more business but the people seem to get in the way. colchester is no longer a small town.	3/11/2014 9:17 AM
15	Another EDC with NO experience?! These are all "nice to have." Right now, it's all too expensive. We have enough people in town hall to make much of this happen. We don't need to hire more people.	3/11/2014 8:56 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

16	It would be really beneficial to hire someone with an urban planning background. Someone with lots of experience.	3/11/2014 8:43 AM
17	I would like to see the town hold on to what we have already. Don't sell out, NO MORE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS. The only thing I'd like to see come to Colchester for business(s) is office / corporate type. NO RETAIL. Retail generally brings a lot of TRASH with it.	3/11/2014 12:35 AM
18	The schools are sucking money without need given that technology has made education virtually free for those who want it. Schools are really daycare centers. There's little point in economic development since there are so few reasons to create more businesses. The ones that exist are having trouble keeping afloat. Who is going to start businesses in a state like ours, with all the excessive regulation? My father and my father in law were both economic developers during the 60's to the 90's and they talked about these issues all the time. Your strategies to bring in business are from the past.	3/10/2014 9:25 PM
19	The economic development commission should already have a budget and produce a brochure as their duties. They should be promoting Colchester already.	3/10/2014 9:10 PM
20	Survey residents to see what businesses they want in town. Provide information to residents on what's required to get some of these businesses in town.	3/10/2014 8:35 PM
21	Let the public donate and fundraiser for land preservation.	3/10/2014 6:28 PM
22	Use more of the town's residents who are skilled and wish to volunteer to offer services to the town community. This is an under-utilized resource. We have commercial space available, but it is priced too high for starting businesses to utilize.	3/10/2014 3:55 PM
23	Tax Abatements have not been properly utilized. They have been given to companies that were building/remolding in Colchester regardless. It should only be utilized as an "incentive". CIP should only be offered to ensure economic growth.	3/10/2014 1:53 PM
24	We can do some if these things without having to budget money. Elected officials should be promoting the town, isn't that their job	3/10/2014 12:08 PM
25	Our town is known for its restrictive approach to zoning and planning. Create an environment in which businesses find it easier to build and upgrade without costly town mandated requirements. Tax abatements need to be tied to contractual commitments in terms of incremental jobs. Typically, enforcement of such commitments rarely occurs.	3/10/2014 8:48 AM
26	Making phone calls does not cost \$\$\$. We need someone on staff doing the work - not pretty pictures.	3/10/2014 7:38 AM
27	ABSOLUTELY NO BIG BOX STORES!!!! I moved TO Colchester to get away from the overcrowding that comes with big commercial. Bringing business to Colchester is great, so long as it doesn't bring out of town people with it.	3/9/2014 11:17 PM
28	We have to be careful about too many business and what business come in to town. I was shocked to see Dollar General being built. Do we want a dollar store? Why not use one of the existing empty buildings?	3/9/2014 9:46 PM
29	Focus on the businesses we have in town and how to keep business here!!!! Development on PARum Road is going to create more traffic.	3/9/2014 9:38 PM
30	I do not feel a need to advertise Colchester. I do not want it to become too developed and turn into a city. Needs to stay quaint feel with open space.	3/9/2014 7:54 PM
31	Again more detailed information on cost/benefit is needed to make an informed decision on what to fund	3/9/2014 7:02 PM
32	Economic development should be promoted based on the taxes it will bring. We do not need another strip mall. I am not an expert in this area but I would imagine that a small manufacturing plant would be more valuable to us.	3/9/2014 1:41 PM
33	I support the concept of many of funding many of the items in #15. I don't support funding them presently, as budgets in the past 5 to 6 years have not been responsible with respect to increasing funds for capital needs and replacing depreciated equipment, particularly on the town side of the budget, and until those are addressed, I will not support expenditures for preservation, public relations or economic development programs/staff.	3/9/2014 1:07 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

34	i have had 2 new companies in this town for the past few years - i have had ZERO contact from town hall form ANYONE even to say "welcome to Colchester here is a list of resources as a business owner you may be interested in" i shopped other towns for space (which Colchester has a LOT of empty space) and other towns bent over backwards to try and get me to move my business there. the end decision was based off proximity to the schools as i still have a child in them but if not for that, i would not have located my business here. economic development is not printing a pretty brochure - it is a long range strategic plan and process with targeted goals of what types of businesses to bring in and the proper locating of those businesses in town. a Dollar General store says a lot of the type of businesses we want to bring in and the "image" as a town we want to project.	3/9/2014 10:55 AM
35	Tax abatements are a maybe. What is hte business? Another fast food restaurant, no! A viable growth business (manufacturing) sure!	3/8/2014 1:52 PM
36	The top two "no fund" answers: these are part of existing staff responsibilities. What is the First Selectman doing to promote the town? Brochures are outdated. What are we doing on our web presence? What are we doing on other organizations' web sites?	3/8/2014 12:18 PM
37	If we already have a town's economic development commission, why do we need a economic development coordinator (this is bureaucracy at its worst) they should be advertising, creating a brochure i.e. doing their job. Why should we budget to let nature takes it's course, farmland will remain farmland unless demand is so great to make it residential ... this is capitalism is that not what we in the USA promote.	3/8/2014 11:30 AM
38	Hard to answer yes since we don't have cost of these items and how they will effect our taxes.	3/8/2014 11:25 AM
39	Would like a town pool.	3/8/2014 10:05 AM
40	Town has not taken advantage of free marketing provided by the East. CT Reg. Tourism District. Shouldn't pay for marketing when it is provided for free or, at a discount.	3/8/2014 9:17 AM
41	Isn't the first selectman supposed to be our "full economic development coordinator"? And good schools would be advertisement enough for Colchester. Work on that.	3/8/2014 8:33 AM
42	if you hire an economic developer, then the ROI needs to be there and you should layoff someone else. Also, I expect that the best way to get businesses is to meet with them knee to knee - brochures and advertising is not as effective. Personal calls and meetings to recruit and meet the individual needs of businesses is the best way. I expect that's what successful, competing towns will do and a brochure will not compete with that.	3/8/2014 8:20 AM
43	I would like to see a portion of the town set aside for businesses to move it. Lisbon landing and Waterford commons got it right and colchester missed out when Walmart wanted to come through and we made it so difficult for them so that they pulled out. We could've taken full advantage and created a place where other towns would come and want to do their shopping. Instead we are rejecting businesses and putting our money into preserving buildings that are useless (the old firehouse). Our money and investments need to be in our youth and creating a well planned out place that is attractive to businesses.	3/8/2014 6:45 AM
44	It is the job of Schuster to promote Colchester, maybe he can tweet that!	3/8/2014 2:32 AM
45	I don't see where a brochure or advertising will bring in businesses. We have suggested lots of ideas of businesses and none of them ever get contacted to consider opening here in town. One big box type store won't kill us. You can't say that one mile in any direction of Lisbon landing is not still farm country.	3/7/2014 10:44 PM
46	I could support some of these initiatives if done intelligently. An economic development coordinator would probably be a good idea.	3/7/2014 10:13 PM
47	Colchester needs to attract a Costco or BJs store. (I would avoid Walmart or Sams) Having a CostCo or BJs would pull traffic from surrounding towns. Having a Costcos or Bjs would allow for other niche business.	3/7/2014 9:20 PM
48	I think developing Colchester is very important and it would be nice to see tasteful businesses come into Colchester. While doing this it is very important to maintain Colchester's appealing features and not overdevelop as many towns tend to do.	3/7/2014 8:35 PM
49	make it less difficult for new quality businesses. preferably not another auto parts, chinese food, bank or pizza place please. I'd like to stay in Colchester for clothes, dry goods, shoes, etc.	3/7/2014 7:10 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

50	The Cost of Services study does not include the indirect costs of businesses, which are far higher than those for open space or farmland. We should try to bring businesses back to the many existing vacant commercial buildings in town, but we should not sacrifice open space or farmland for commercial use.	3/7/2014 6:44 PM
51	We need more business to help with taxes	3/7/2014 6:37 PM
52	This all depends on the current economic situation/budget of the town	3/7/2014 6:27 PM
53	I think it is important we maintain the "charm" of Colchester and not overly develop the town. I would hope a town developer would strive to keep this balance in mind. I also think funding PR or any advertising now would be a waste, before we have a solid plan of what we want or need to promote. I think we need a plan first - to attract the "right" kind of businesses, balance the "charm," of Colchester, and invest in what would make this town more attractive to businesses - then promote those things. That seems to be the right way, rather than just to, say, offer tax incentives that don't take other factors into account. I'm sure we could sell a developer the rights to build a successful office park in the middle of the town green, but would it help our town in the long run?	3/7/2014 5:33 PM
54	If you are going to hire an economic development coordinator or PR consultant, you need to be sure we get something for our investment.	3/7/2014 4:56 PM
55	We NEED businesses!! It may cost money now but will save us in the long run!! Think of the future	3/7/2014 4:55 PM
56	I am against letting new businesses in town without paying their taxes. I own a business and pay my taxes.	3/7/2014 4:37 PM
57	I would be interested in knowing what kind of revenues the farmlands produce for the Town and what other ways they benefit local residents. Open spaces are situational, depending on benefit of maintaining versus the benefit of developing a particular space. Allowing for more commercial business would help to offset the tax base and fund necessary services (such as Senior & Youth services).	3/7/2014 4:36 PM
58	Colchester is a great place to live and a better place to have a business. This is a well known fact in the business community	3/7/2014 4:14 PM
59	I think we should rent out what we are not using to gain additional money to fix what needs to be fixed. Home owners should not take on all this additional expenses. We have our own budget we need to pay for. If the town needs money find a way to rent and collect it. We did not allow Walmart to come into our town which could have added a lot of money and would have promoted people to come to Colchester. Why is the town expecting the home owners to pick up the tab?	3/7/2014 4:09 PM
60	The program in place for open space is adequate and the Town has already purchased several parcels that are now preserved. We don't need more. We don't need to spend to promote it. Lower the taxes by adjusting services required to the levels required. Get rid of teachers that are not needed. If the place is affordable they will come. If it isn't nothing will get them here. And we don't have the financial wherewithal to woo people to come and pay them to set up shop. Ridiculous idea proposed above that are wastes of money.	3/7/2014 4:05 PM
61	Consultants and brochures seem wasteful, but someone to actually contact potential new business investors could be helpful	3/7/2014 4:05 PM
62	The promotions above you suggest could be incorporated into the curriculum at Bacon Academy. Many of the faculty and students are creative and could handle creating advertisements, brochures, video productions and other such promotions.	3/7/2014 3:53 PM
63	We have businesses in town that charge more than if you went out of town that is why the businesses are in trouble. Attracting new businesses may offer some competition and prices may go down the way the new tractor place has lowered prices at Mackey's.	3/7/2014 3:51 PM
64	we are not serious about bringing any new business into town every time a major wants to come in its like the storm of the century going on	3/7/2014 3:47 PM
65	It's crucial to Colchester's future that businesses ("Big Box" included) be encouraged to locate here. That's a smarter way to increase taxes than adding more and more residential areas.	3/7/2014 12:03 PM
66	Absolutely hire a PR pro. This town really needs it. But if you don't fund upgrading the schools, there's no strength in the argument to move here. And a good grantwriter would pay for themselves, possibly many times over.	3/7/2014 7:50 AM
67	Without a clear vision of what this town is to be in the future it isn't clear how the funding would be used	3/6/2014 10:45 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

68	Use any land to build appropriately. This town is slowly booming and businesses also need to come to town to boom also...It will help the economy and keep residents in town to buy in town and not have to travel elsewhere for items.	3/6/2014 9:08 PM
69	Attract new business so taxes for residential decreases. Taxes are too high in Colchester. I would like to see a Target or something similar, Bruegger's Bagels and different things they we already have (no more hardware stores, pizza places, auto supply places etc.	3/6/2014 7:12 PM
70	There are plenty of people in town who could provide some of these services free of charge. Use student artwork, etc for brochures and advertising	3/6/2014 6:59 PM
71	The First Selectman had time to tweet and post to Facebook - maybe he should do more to promote Colchester and less to promote himself!	3/6/2014 6:48 PM
72	The concept of a brochure is dated and wasteful. Beef up and make the town website join present day web design and promote the town electronically. Brochures are a ridiculous waste of money.	3/6/2014 5:52 PM
73	If you have to offer tax abatements or incentives for businesses to come here, then the taxes are too high. Residential growth should be better controlled in the future if business growth will not increase accordingly. The burden on homeowners has increased over the last twenty years while business growth has remained stagnant.	3/6/2014 5:10 PM
74	advertise to promote what about Colchester?	3/6/2014 4:43 PM
75	Most of these questions would require specifics. Creating a brochure for the sake of creating one is useless. What would be done with the brochure? Also, why not use our web site to promote Colchester? Make a video that shows why Colchester is a great place to bring a business.	3/6/2014 7:26 AM
76	With social media and the strong community base in this town, a lot can get done with social networking (The Real Housewives of Colchester for example). Empower the community with some of these tasks which will keep costs down.	3/5/2014 6:04 PM
77	Help to draw businesses to fill the empty spaces in the existing retail buildings. Split the costs with the property owner. We shouldn't have to cover all the expense to fill those buildings, but we do need the tax dollars they would generate.	3/4/2014 2:58 PM
78	I'm all for having some open space. I don't want our town to be crowded like a Rocky Hill but we should be willing to let some open space get used for tax generating endeavors.	3/4/2014 12:44 PM
79	Much of the PR work can be done through collaborative partnerships/volunteers and therefore, funds (short of possibly printing costs) do not need allocation at this time.	3/4/2014 9:15 AM
80	NO tax incentives for businesses unless they are tied to longevity. We already have too many empty storefronts built with the promise of new business in exchange for tax incentives. Once the businesses decide to move on, we are left with the empty shells and have gained nothing.	3/4/2014 8:56 AM
81	Is the land trust a separate entity?	3/3/2014 11:54 PM
82	No point hiring an economic development coordinator if we have no strategy. I am hopeful the Economic Development Commission will begin anew to bring business and industry to Colchester.	3/3/2014 3:27 PM
83	If you are going to buy open land, then you should use it for field spaces for sports. It should not be another place that is open to the public and you can be with nature. We have enough of these spaces.	3/3/2014 2:33 PM
84	Dollar General is a HORRIBLE addition!!!! Anyone who believes this is the type of economic development this town needs should move.	3/3/2014 12:27 PM
85	Get rid of 57 fest.	3/2/2014 9:49 PM
86	Please stop wasting our money on things we do not need	3/2/2014 4:26 PM
87	Focus on widening the tax base with new businesses, and also bring business in to vacant office/shop locations without increasing residential areas.	3/2/2014 2:47 PM
88	NC	3/2/2014 10:40 AM
89	The First Selectman job is to "promote" Colchester - we should not have to hire an outside person to do this. He is always claiming his accomplishments on doing just this, so why would we hire and spend money to do this? A brochure? Have a town wide contest - use our resources, we have lots of talented individuals living in Colchester, start using them!!	3/2/2014 8:12 AM
90	N/A	3/1/2014 6:38 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

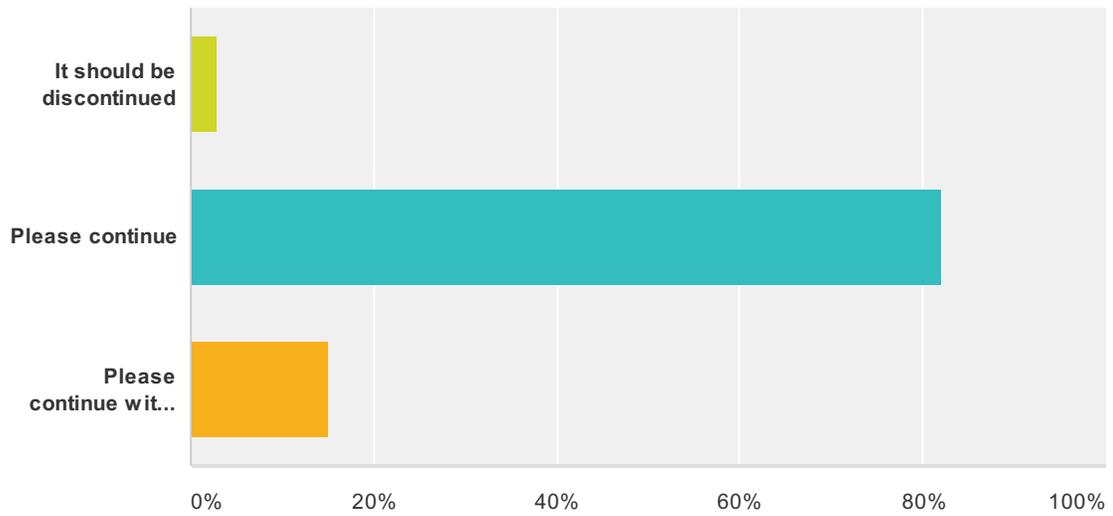
91	No sane co. is coming to CT. the state and towns are spending out of control get the gov. institutons under control and co. will come the rest is nothingness	3/1/2014 5:32 PM
92	Land preservion can be done by private entities such as Colchester Land Trust.	3/1/2014 1:32 PM
93	Hire a grant writer	3/1/2014 11:59 AM
94	I do not know about anybody else, but I did not quite understand some of these options. What is a full time economic development coordinator? I think this town should have an open forum meeting to explain some of the questions on this questionnaire.	3/1/2014 10:26 AM
95	This town needs to be on better financial ground before spending money for consulting and advertising.	3/1/2014 10:04 AM
96	review fee structures and don't give away tax money in order to get businesses.	3/1/2014 9:16 AM
97	Balancing local character with economic growth is always tricky; usually local character is subsumed by development over time. How much business is enough? where should it be located? How much of our small-Town lifestyle are we willing to give up to get more tax revenue? Would residents rather pay more residential taxes or grow the commercial base, eroding the local character? It's a balancing act.	3/1/2014 8:36 AM
98	Advertise as what. We need to keep from becoming Glastonbury south overrun with entitled yuppies with children	3/1/2014 8:08 AM
99	The First Selectman should be promoting our town - we do not need to hire out for this - we can create our own brochure - we have many employees with skills - use our own resources or better yet make it a contest with high school graphic students - we don't always have to create or pay for services. - use town resources!!	3/1/2014 7:31 AM
100	Stream line processes that would make it easier to start a business in town.	3/1/2014 7:20 AM
101	I think Colchester has a decent amount of open space and farmland. We Need business in town. That will solve a lot of our problems. Advertising or hiring planners will not change our reputation as a town that gives business a hard time. Changing our practices will.	3/1/2014 7:05 AM
102	IF IT MEANS RAISING TAXES THEN NO TO ANY OF IT. NO MORE RAISE IN OUR TAXES. I WANT TO LIVE IN MY HOME!!!!	2/28/2014 11:06 PM
103	You want to attract people and businesses to Colchester stop ripping off the tax payers! You give us nothing for the taxes we pay. You keep raising our taxes and let everything fall apart. You increase everyone salaries but still give the tax payers nothing in return. Why would anyone want to come here? You make it difficult for businesses and developers to come to town. Maybe you should look at the way you do things here.	2/28/2014 10:16 PM
104	If a full time EDC is hired they have to be more than the clerk the last one was. Nice person, but over her head. Any tax abatements need to be short term and small discounts, not long term and large discounts	2/28/2014 9:48 PM
105	We need to attract business to Colchester. I do not feel a brochure is sufficient however I do not feel that a full time position needs to be funded either.	2/28/2014 8:54 PM
106	Spending money on brochures is a joke, could be done for free in house or even as a senior project; that would make the most sense. Additionally, once you have a brochure you need to get it out to the public and that means more money. The consolidate web page has limited access and position. If we run the town like a business then we would have an IT department and they would have the skills to better position the town. At this point it might be better to turn this over to the high school as well.	2/28/2014 8:30 PM
107	Only qualified personnel should be considered unlike previous experiment. Spending money on Farmland and Open Space only justified if all grant opportunities are also pursued.	2/28/2014 7:33 PM
108	What do you want to promote about Colchester????? Stop giving tax incentives to companies, make them pay their share instead of us paying them.	2/28/2014 7:30 PM
109	The town shouldn't have to beg business to come here. That is ridiculous. You want to give a tax break to a new big business, but raise the taxes of homeowners who are experiencing difficulty getting by because of the current cost of living? On what planet does that make any sense? You will be literally forcing families to move out of Colchester because they can no longer afford to stay here. Such is the case with our own family. When will you people learn that raising taxes is not the answer?	2/28/2014 7:13 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

110	We have passed great opportunities to allow businesses into our town...this must stop and we need to start allowing them in and reduce our taxes.	2/28/2014 6:15 PM
111	Need a big box store in Town, perhaps more. The small stores presently in town are not enough to grow our tax base. Tractor Supply should be the beginning of growth. Perhaps competition to expensive Stop & Shop would help the town. Many residents go to grocery stores in Norwich rather than pay for expensive groceries in town.	2/28/2014 6:01 PM
112	The town budget does not currently fund the open space acquisition fund as suggested/recommended in the current POCD. It is embarrassing short!! Until adequate money is budgeted for this purpose (up to 2 mils), there is no commitment from the town to preserve farmland and open spaces.	2/28/2014 5:42 PM
113	Creating a brochure, given today's Internet, does not need to be undertaken by an outsider. The Economic Development Commission should be able to handle that. Funding open space and preservation of farmlands are worth every penny.	2/28/2014 4:53 PM
114	Preservation of open space is a very high priority	2/28/2014 4:46 PM
115	Fund to preserve town farmland only if land is town owned - not privately owned property. I think Colchester has adequate open space.	2/28/2014 4:32 PM
116	Perhaps, you should have let Wal-Mart in when you had the chance. I believe that major stores such as Wal-Mart saw the difficulties that Wal-Mart had and will chose to go elsewhere when they want to open a new store. Become more friendly to business, both retail and industrial. Stop putting road blocks up that can be easily solved for the greater good and not just for the few people who may be affected by it.	2/28/2014 4:30 PM
117	Colchester needs more businesses!	2/28/2014 4:24 PM
118	So much can be done online	2/28/2014 4:23 PM
119	With all social media and website development t and techno devices in place today let our website carry the load on this....how big do you want our town to get? Small is good by me, just look at our Federal gov't growth-you kidding me! Our Industrial Park has not grown much in 40 years I have lived here---why not? And U think an economic developer will help---come on.....let it be a high school business class project, in fact why not use our educational community to provide input on key town issues as class projects for grades?	2/28/2014 4:10 PM
120	All important things to do, but not in these tight economic times. Fund from budget surplus, if/when they occur.	2/28/2014 4:10 PM
121	tax abatement to attract new business completely misses the point of attracting the business, which is to augment the commercial portion of the grand list.	2/28/2014 4:05 PM
122	WE NEED BUSINESSES THAT WITH HELP WITH OUR TAX BASE AND ADD TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN TOWN - WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER AUTO PARTS STORE, TRACTOR PLACE, PIZZA JOINT, CHINESE RESTAURANT, WE NEED A FAMILY ORIENTED (CHAIN) RESTAURANT TO HELP ENTICE VISITORS TO COME TO OUR TOWN. NOT SURE WHY WE HAVE A PROBLEM ATTRACTING THESE TYPES OF BUSINESSES...	2/28/2014 4:00 PM
123	IF WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO DEVELOP THE TOWN, WE NEED TO DRAW NEW BUSINESSES, NOT MORE OF THE SAME. WE SHOULD REVISTS THE WALMART THAT WAS BEING CONSIDERED NEAR BACON ACADEMY. THERE IS SOME DEVELOPMENT OCCURRING NEAR LAKE HAYWARD ROAD, BUT THIS IS TOO CLOSE TO WETLANDS, AND THE SELECTION PROCESS SHOULD CONSIDER AREAS FURTHER REMOVED FROM WETLANDS.	2/28/2014 3:57 PM
124	We would need good reporting on the value received for the investment made in an Economic Development Coordinator and promotional projects.	2/28/2014 3:51 PM
125	Any funding in this area must be made with a clearly defined plan and specific usage of the funds. Only expend if there is a way to show the ROI on the funding spent.	2/28/2014 3:50 PM
126	Increase building lot size to slow down housing development. Historically increasing taxes is never going to entice new business to develop in town.	2/28/2014 9:49 AM
127	Didn't we hire a part time coordinator? There is no comment about costs associated with these questions. You talking about thousands or tens of thousands. This questions seems misleading without giving price tag.	2/28/2014 7:25 AM

### Q17 What do you think about this survey?

Answered: 532 Skipped: 78



Answer Choices	Responses
It should be discontinued	2.82% 15
Please continue	82.14% 437
Please continue with modifications	15.04% 80
<b>Total</b>	<b>532</b>

# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

## Q18 Do you have any suggestions to improve survey.

Answered: 112 Skipped: 498

#	Responses	Date
1	Are you really listening to the surveys most do not want an increase in taxes	3/12/2014 11:58 AM
2	GET IT OUT TO ALL TOWN EMPLOYEES! MANY DO NOT KNOW IT IS LOCATED ON THE TOWN WEBSITE. THE LINK SHOULD BE EMAILED TO ALL-ALL-ALL TOWN EMPLOYEES!	3/12/2014 10:44 AM
3	More SPECIFIC ?'s Cut Medical Benefit COST.	3/12/2014 10:35 AM
4	The questions are so hard to answer without details.	3/11/2014 5:27 PM
5	I would recommend a more open forum, where town citizens can articulate on the issues.	3/11/2014 5:26 PM
6	Have surveys more often	3/11/2014 4:24 PM
7	It's nice to have a place to give feedback	3/11/2014 4:00 PM
8	take a survey on what kind of stores/businesses colchester wants like walmart, ruby tues, anything	3/11/2014 1:07 PM
9	Make it more specific	3/11/2014 10:20 AM
10	-Add more information instead of the percentage increases. What will they be gaining/losing at X percent increase or Y percent decrease. So on and so forth. -Explain exactly the pros and cons in the education dept. from all points of view (teachers, students, citizens)	3/11/2014 10:19 AM
11	understanding this is a general survey, any additional information on the questions would be helpful even if it is a link that you can go review and come back better educated on the issue.	3/11/2014 9:25 AM
12	Get seniors involved with taking survey; go to the 55+ communities. Elected officials only seek seniors votes during election but forget about them and their needs quickly after they get elected. Keep your promises to seniors.	3/11/2014 9:21 AM
13	This survey is vague. More information is needed to support the questions.	3/11/2014 9:19 AM
14	This is the last time I will take this survey if it is not redesigned. You cannot get good data on which to make budgetary or program decisions from this survey.	3/11/2014 8:57 AM
15	Specifically address the forecasted major increases in the budget and put them on this survey. Specifically what is each department asking to do.. put it up here and let the residents decide.	3/11/2014 12:36 AM
16	It sucks	3/10/2014 11:00 PM
17	We should be able to choose more than one option for students in town, as some of ours have graduated so we qualify for several choices.	3/10/2014 9:10 PM
18	A little more detail for the education budget, such as staff.	3/10/2014 6:59 PM
19	You should ask for ideas for creating more business in town and what may be stopping people from starting businesses in town.	3/10/2014 4:00 PM
20	I am not a senior but will be someday. More should be done as a local option to make remaining in Colchester an affordable option for seniors unless you wish for them to move to NC or FL and sell to a family with four kids that will go into our school system. Preserving farmland lowers taxes for all, but so does preserving our seniors in their housing.	3/10/2014 1:57 PM
21	Make sure this gets out to as many citizens as possible, not just the same small "yes" group that attempts to control everything.	3/10/2014 12:10 PM
22	Great idea.	3/10/2014 8:49 AM
23	You need to take these surveys and see what people really want, instead of making your own rules	3/10/2014 8:33 AM
24	Same old, same old, same old survey. Spend some money and hire someone to develop a REAL (aka non-bias) survey which would give the town some REAL answers.	3/10/2014 8:05 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

25	There are so many questions left un-asked....	3/10/2014 7:39 AM
26	Describe what is being done or in process.	3/9/2014 9:38 PM
27	Any more detailed information that you could include would be helpful. For example, what is the cost of buying the senior center? What are the ages of vehicles being considered for replacement and costs of replacement?	3/9/2014 7:06 PM
28	More detail on some of the options would be helpful to be able to say "yes" or "no" instead of "maybe.	3/9/2014 1:27 PM
29	The survey is too basic and vague to really serve as a tool to help elected officials. Additional thought and work needs to be put into future surveys in order to truly have utilitarian value beyond getting a general sense of how residents feel about the budget. Need to get away from peoples/ feelings and get more on how they really think about details about the services that they want for the town and about funding priorities.	3/9/2014 1:11 PM
30	did we budget for this survey too?	3/9/2014 11:00 AM
31	Great idea. Gives the BOF the support they need to slow down the spending spree that is the BOE budget	3/9/2014 7:59 AM
32	The question in the beginning I said I didn't like	3/8/2014 10:01 PM
33	This survey can be taken multiple times. This will impact the results.	3/8/2014 4:54 PM
34	Give a link to the subject matter. Costs or Savings in the category. Any specific information pertaining to the question. You want informed results.	3/8/2014 4:28 PM
35	The survey should only allow one response per participant and should lock you out if you have already responded.	3/8/2014 3:11 PM
36	I realize this is a short survey and doesn't contain a lot of information but I believe more information is required to make informed decisions regarding where to spend money in the town.	3/8/2014 3:03 PM
37	We need to advertise the survey better so more people can complete it. Very few residents are aware of it and therefore it skews the results.	3/8/2014 1:55 PM
38	I do not buy the opening statement that costs of services continue to rise so taxes must. Not true. There are creative ways to cut costs and get more for the dollar than the town is doing. I say to cut spending in keys areas and increase services in others without increasing, or VERY modestly, increasing.	3/8/2014 1:54 PM
39	not at this time ... BUT I do want to Thank You for this survey it is a good way to get feedback and I hope you use it well P.S. I think Colchester is a cool town and I hope it continue open government	3/8/2014 11:33 AM
40	Cost of said items	3/8/2014 11:26 AM
41	Do a better job of promoting the survey start and end dates, and hold all decisions until the data is complete. Consider that the majority of your respondents are senior citizen cumudgeons who would have our kids in one room school houses.	3/8/2014 9:37 AM
42	If the survey produces results, then it is worthwhile.	3/8/2014 8:41 AM
43	this was a good one.	3/8/2014 8:24 AM
44	Give real dollar amounts and stop trying to sell citizens a budget full of wants! No tax increases! if there are I will be fighting the budget and so will lots of others; learn from the past! Look for savings!!	3/8/2014 2:36 AM
45	Need to expound on the survey questions with links as to what costs may entail (like printing a brochure - \$1000 or \$5000 would make a difference in response) for example.	3/7/2014 10:35 PM
46	Focus on how to grow Colchester and reduce the Mill rate. (Less mill rate will draw more residents) Currently the closest BJ's or Costco type store is about 30 mins away. Having that here would draw more traffic and almost everyone in CT says harrys when you talk about Colchester. I think having a big draw establishment on people to come here like BJ's or Costco would allow for many niche businesses to thrive. In addition a place to workout for residents with a pool, racquetball courts and decent rates would be helpful. (LA Fitness??) Even a cardio express might help draw residents.	3/7/2014 9:30 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

47	A survey is only as good as the end result to which it contributes. Too many surveys simply look to confirm preconceived opinions. Are you really going to pay attention to the results of the survey and tailor your policies accordingly? Forgive me if I believe the results of this survey will carry no weight whatsoever.	3/7/2014 9:27 PM
48	Need real questions about specific areas and dollar amounts; survey is very vague.	3/7/2014 9:05 PM
49	I think it's very important to poll our citizens. I believe we need to find additional revenue in order to offer more services. Perhaps bringing in a Walmart or Chili's may be helpful. East Hampton, Marlborough & Hebron residents would shop there as well. We have a great Town but taxes are making it difficult to continue to enjoy it.	3/7/2014 7:16 PM
50	Ask building a new middle school costs almost as much as maintaining the old school "why did you vote against the middle school project?"	3/7/2014 7:12 PM
51	Statements requiring decisions are too broad and open to a variety of interpretations. Include specifics in the questions.	3/7/2014 7:11 PM
52	While this survey is primarily about the budget, many of the questions also relate to the town's goals and priorities, which are important input for the revision of the POCD. It could be useful to add questions about the POCD next time, or even to have a separate POCD survey.	3/7/2014 6:49 PM
53	I am all for the survey if it is helpful in any way and if it does not increase costs to the town.	3/7/2014 6:29 PM
54	No	3/7/2014 5:18 PM
55	Yes. Ask the people who you are sending this to if they could donate items to the food bank or schools.	3/7/2014 4:11 PM
56	Ask if respondents might have any ideas about businesses that might do well in Colchester and if they might have any people they know in said businesses	3/7/2014 4:08 PM
57	Add line items about cutting staff and rspecific services to these surveys.	3/7/2014 4:06 PM
58	I would appreciate more choices. Cutting services or raising taxes as the only options is misleading. There should be efficiencies and savings that every department can come up with that would help to reduce taxes. What about less administration and buracracy, is all of it necessary at the educational level. Why not ask the townspeople for suggestions on business development? Solicit volunteers from the community many of them probably have experience in these areas.	3/7/2014 3:58 PM
59	listen to what people are saying and it seems that the people with children in schools squak the most but that is probally really a minority of the town population	3/7/2014 3:49 PM
60	I would like to know what purpose the survey serves for you other than knowing some people are unwilling to pay more taxes and some might be willing before making any suggestions.	3/6/2014 10:52 PM
61	Why is it that when campaigning you send multiple majnfs to all households but when it comes to a survey you only post online? send a survey to every household & business in Colchester - that is if you really want to "hear" what "the people " have to say!!	3/6/2014 6:51 PM
62	Please ensure only 1 response / person, so that you are sure of getting a representative sample of answers.	3/6/2014 5:54 PM
63	Let's get more specifics in the questions. Ask about actual expenditures more instead of so many hypotheticals.	3/6/2014 7:28 AM
64	Before putting out the survey ask for input.	3/5/2014 6:11 PM
65	Seemed pretty comprehensive	3/4/2014 10:06 AM
66	I always thought a good exercise would be to ask people what percentage of their taxes they would like to see go to support different categories of services. That would give a good idea of how much people value each of the services and how on target the town is with applying its spending.	3/4/2014 8:58 AM
67	N/A	3/3/2014 11:55 PM
68	Offer an "other" option for your miltiple choice questions that you can text in.	3/3/2014 6:42 PM
69	The timing is wrong.....too late to impact this budget cycle, and will be forgotten...or worse by the time we get to next year.	3/3/2014 3:32 PM
70	More school questions should be asked. Why is the budget for school not be cut more?	3/3/2014 2:33 PM
71	great idea!	3/3/2014 11:44 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

72	Don't make survey any longer!	3/2/2014 8:12 PM
73	Since serving on a commission I am concerned with what appears to be a system that is more concerned with protecting its turf than seeking a right solution	3/2/2014 7:39 PM
74	no	3/2/2014 2:48 PM
75	None at this time	3/2/2014 2:35 PM
76	NC	3/2/2014 10:40 AM
77	Once again a poorly designed survey that does not give much data. James McNair you always critiqued these very surveys & now your elected and doing the same as the others? Where is your voice???? Create a survey to get "real usable data"!!!	3/2/2014 8:15 AM
78	N/A	3/1/2014 6:38 PM
79	Seems like it would have been a good vehicle to propose options for a new senior center.	3/1/2014 1:39 PM
80	Yes, send it out after a public meeting that gives concrete information about all the questions on the survey, then people taking it will understand what they are supposed to be answering.	3/1/2014 10:33 AM
81	Get absent landlords to take care their property	3/1/2014 10:28 AM
82	I think in many cases it needs to be more specific. It is too general in nature.	3/1/2014 10:08 AM
83	The survey has a bias to it. Create a non biased survey. I.e. I believe the town has the ability to streamline some functions to save money. Would people be willing to wait longer for some services if we combined functions to save money?	3/1/2014 9:00 AM
84	You could use actual budget issues that have come up in the past or are pending to illustrate your questions, or even short paragraphs giving background on a question.	3/1/2014 8:38 AM
85	Put a summary at the front and disclose plans you are considering so we do not have to guess what your "leading" questions are getting at.	3/1/2014 8:10 AM
86	The questions are too vague - stop trying to "sell" the budget - look for savings First!!	3/1/2014 7:33 AM
87	Survey allowed for comments and opinions. Well written survey.	3/1/2014 7:10 AM
88	Add links to more detailed description or background info.	3/1/2014 12:44 AM
89	NO MORE RAISE IN OUR TAXES I WANT TO STAY IN MY HOME! NO MORE RAISE IN OUR TAXES I WANT TO LIVE IN MY OWN HOME NOT CHASED OUT BECAUSE OF TAXES!!	2/28/2014 11:08 PM
90	Why is it that we have employees in this town that make more money than our first selectman? What have we let the spending spiral out of control? Why can't we upkeep our buildings instead of letting them fall apart? Why do we feel we need to constantly buy new vehicles? Why is it do hard to have to town to stop spending uncontrollably when I have to live within my means? Take some accountability!	2/28/2014 10:22 PM
91	Q4 -	2/28/2014 10:18 PM
92	Not statistically valid. If you want ot do a survey, hire someone who knows how to do it right.	2/28/2014 10:09 PM
93	way too late in the process. just gives the No Block a chance to vent. If there is to be a survey it needs to be done at the beginning of the process not in March.	2/28/2014 9:51 PM
94	I should be able to select multiple spots when asked about children in schools as I have a graduate, and two in school and I'm sure other families are in similar situations	2/28/2014 9:19 PM
95	made them throughout. Creating surveys takes real care otherwise you do not get the answers you need, but rather the answers you want.	2/28/2014 8:34 PM
96	Survey is weak interview of the public. This is not the way to get a 'feeling' of the town.	2/28/2014 7:58 PM
97	I think more of these surveys would be useful especially for economic growth of the town. Everyone has a different opinion of a 5-10 year plan for our town. I would be interested in seeing what others think about growing our town while keeping the small town character.	2/28/2014 7:39 PM
98	study the survey results, and use the results in the budget process.	2/28/2014 7:36 PM
99	It should explain where all our tax money goes and why do we pay so much????	2/28/2014 7:31 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

100	I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the survey as I have a non-traditional work schedule and am not able to attend your meetings.	2/28/2014 7:18 PM
101	I've been filling this survey out for several years. I have never seen the results of this survey published. What do the people say? My ideas/suggestions have never translated into recommendations. We do not need a Colchester Police Force. We do not need to pay for the acquisition or maintenance of police cars.	2/28/2014 5:45 PM
102	It was wonderful and well written! Great job.	2/28/2014 5:31 PM
103	After budget is passed how does it compare to response. Publish responses and budget changes.	2/28/2014 5:25 PM
104	The question regarding tax increases and services: Should be an option to say Tax increases have not been enough for the services we need, increase services while reducing other expenditures	2/28/2014 4:42 PM
105	Only add the option to decrease taxes as recommended earlier.	2/28/2014 4:30 PM
106	Make it ongoing process used more than at budget time.....and for key issues that arise beyond the budget crisis each year.....again let educational community fine tune it for future use....	2/28/2014 4:20 PM
107	Ask about specific cost saving / productivity initiatives. Each year every department should be tasked with coming up with initiatives to cut their budget by 10%, which then get review by BOF and BOS. Those that make sense get enacted.	2/28/2014 4:15 PM
108	work hard to avoid bias in the questions re: taxes and services	2/28/2014 4:06 PM
109	RESULTS SHOULD BE SHARED WITH THE COMMUNITY	2/28/2014 4:01 PM
110	We have kids that are in the school system but travel to a CREC school, you might want to add that into the demographic fields. Also there should be a Do Not Use or Have No Knowledge option. I had to answer some questions when actually that would have been my choice. It also tells you where education of the voter base is needed on issues.	2/28/2014 3:53 PM
111	No tax increase.	2/28/2014 3:39 PM
112	Suggestions covered in previous comment sections.	2/28/2014 9:03 AM

# 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

## Q19 Do you have any comments not covered by the survey questions?

Answered: 91 Skipped: 519

#	Responses	Date
1	Please stop making decisions without public knowledge or input. This is directed at the 1st Selectman. It is ridiculous how he uses his position to do what he wants - when he wants - with support ONLY from his small group of followers.	3/12/2014 10:44 AM
2	With the amount of taxes the residents pay, the recreation department should maintain all sport fields including football. They are the experts on maintaining a nice field. It reflects on Colchester when other towns come to Colchester to play our teams. Other towns have very nice groomed fields. Colchester seems to have the money.	3/12/2014 10:32 AM
3	YES.... Get behind the local government budget. Lets start moving forward and make Colchester a safe and secure community that provides quality public services.	3/12/2014 12:09 AM
4	First Selectman doesn't need to worry about smoke shops, etc. Not his job.	3/11/2014 6:07 PM
5	Gregg Schuster does an amazing job at social media - this should get some more PR and can indirectly promote Colchester	3/11/2014 4:24 PM
6	none	3/11/2014 1:07 PM
7	Modify services in town to be more equatable. Disable half of streetlights etc.	3/11/2014 12:21 PM
8	Town football field needs repairs badly	3/11/2014 10:20 AM
9	-Class Sizes if they do not fund for more teachers -Tech/Magnet Schools and the impact on our district	3/11/2014 10:19 AM
10	In summary, We can't afford to have taxes raised anymore, we only have one income currently as to many people in Colchester with young families. If we keep raising taxes people are going to start moving out of town. I think education is very important in this town. I think we need to be more competitive with Magnet schools, add to the curriculum for a more well balanced education. I also think we need to add more businesses to Colchester so more people shop in town and also it will lower the taxes for residential. Some businesses I would love to see in Colchester are more family friendly places (perhaps something like a bounce place or somewhere to have children's birthday parties). A YMCA or some place with a pool for family swim classes and activities. Also business that are not currently in Colchester (Whole foods or trader joes, Target or walmart (for houseware things, and clothes), different types of restaurants, I would love a bagel place such as Bruegger's since we visit that often in glastonbury.	3/11/2014 10:06 AM
11	when it comes to the school budget, i am not convinced there is any real effort in looking at maintaining the current budget or saving money. when i see posts, before the budget is even up for vote, about increased class size and cutting of teachers, i view that as a scare tactic. this just to get people riled up. with regards to the town budgets and taxes, when we had one of the biggest tax increases in the history (around 6%, if i recall correctly, with another 3% the year after) of the town during the biggest recession since the depression, i have to wonder about the financial advisor in the town. doesn't seem like they want to work that hard. granted, it passed so i guess they don't have to.	3/11/2014 9:25 AM
12	Cleaning up main street would make such a difference. The buildings and houses really make the town look poor. The McDonalds arches are way too big and some of the business signs need to be regulated for size and appearance. The strip from the town green down to McDonalds could really be so much more attractive.	3/11/2014 8:46 AM
13	Please do more to FORCE / educate the public to GET OUT AND VOTE. staying home is not the same as a vote...	3/11/2014 12:36 AM
14	We have adult children and grandchildren who are deciding whether to stay in Colchester or move for a better economic climate. The housing costs and the likely curve upward of property taxes is scaring them.	3/10/2014 9:34 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

15	We have the start to a commercial base in Colchester, but there are too many unused storefronts here. The reasons for that should be looked into before trying to attract more commercial building to the town.	3/10/2014 4:00 PM
16	The parks & rec fields are a mess, particularly R8 (the football field) It is an embarrassment to this town and a disservice to our athletic youth who put so much time into practicing and preparing for their sports. Please consider this in the budget. Perhaps there is open land that wants town funding that could be turned into an additional sports field??? Thank you	3/10/2014 3:10 PM
17	Have the First Selectman spend more time getting new businesses in town for tax revenue and less time giving the weather report on Facebook or communicating with teenagers on Twitter. If I want the weather I will watch the news. And frankly I don't give a crap about his cat.	3/10/2014 2:45 PM
18	I remember growing up as a kid and the roads did not get plowed until there was 4 inches of snow on the ground. It seems like our trucks are on the road sanding/salting as the storm begins. I wonder if monies could be saved by holding off a little bit on each storm and coming out a little later?	3/10/2014 1:57 PM
19	Should we look to cut BOE administration to save money due to decrease enrollment!	3/10/2014 12:10 PM
20	only works if you listen to the people and follow what they request	3/10/2014 8:48 AM
21	yes relief for seniors and there taxes!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We can not afford to live in this town	3/10/2014 8:33 AM
22	Do you know that any person can take this survey multiple times? That couldn't happen with a REAL survey.	3/10/2014 8:05 AM
23	areas citizens WOULD fund or want to see financially supported.	3/10/2014 7:39 AM
24	I think for the taxes we pay the roads should be plowed better. I noticed after a lot of storms there is about 2 inches on the road to melt causing icy and slippery conditions. Some years plowing is better than others, but it is not dependent on the numbers of storms.	3/9/2014 9:48 PM
25	I appreciate you asking for my opinion. I often do not have time to attend public meetings but this is a great way for my voice to be heard. Thank you	3/9/2014 1:44 PM
26	generally I am not happy here - our taxes have gone up as a town over the past 10 years by almost 20 Million dollars and we basically are pretty much the same except for the new school and the reno of Jjacter. We have lived all over the country before coming back to CT and when we moved here in 1998, the town had a strategic vision, a sense of community, a core of quality education principles and a promise of being a long term place to live. I know everyone in TH works hard and the Boards as well - but there seems to be a disconnect between the planning for the future and dealing with the current - money does not solve all problems.	3/9/2014 11:00 AM
27	Use current services to beautify (aesthetics) of Colcheshet. Such as, mowing grass near sidewalks. People use the sidewalks and walking through tall grass and/pr poison ivy doesn't cut it. Make the sidewalks even. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that uneven walkways can cause injuries.	3/9/2014 6:34 AM
28	I do not want taxes to go up.	3/8/2014 10:01 PM
29	Do not decide on a fixed percentage and shoot for that. Make decisions on what is in the best interest of the town and allow the voters to decide if they want to fund the increase.	3/8/2014 3:11 PM
30	We moved here in 1998 because the schools had a very good reputation. That is no longer the case. The high school is not holding students to a high enough standard. Teachers are more interested in being "friends" with the students than teaching. Honors programs have been dropped, community service hours are no longer required for graduation, students are told to aim for a state school - UCONN being a "reach" school. . . . This is not what we signed up for when moving here. I have sent 2 children off to college and both say they were ill prepared for the rigor of studies. With one child still in the system, we are considering alternatives for high school - and that is after paying over \$8000 in taxes here!	3/8/2014 8:41 AM
31	I think there is a credibility gap in town. Its not so great that I cant be recovered. I think your heart is in the right place but when it comes to tough shrewd action that will permit us move forward, the town tends to revert to the comfort zone of what is known and change very little and then just ask for the tax increases hoping to get it. You must act differently and show everyone you are. Our current path in CT is still slow economic and population decline while other states that adapt to change well are recovering robustly. Its no accident CT is where it is and Colchester is a microcosm of that statewide stagnation.	3/8/2014 8:24 AM
32	look harder to cut waste.	3/8/2014 8:20 AM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

33	How about spending money or asking people who know how to design a survey so we can get real usable data, these surveys are a waste of time because elected officials never listen!	3/8/2014 2:36 AM
34	Perhaps ask the public what they think about the opportunities to shop and eat and eat within Town. I think a restaurant such as 99's would be welcomed.	3/7/2014 7:18 PM
35	How about a Sr. Tax break? We have no kids in school, live on a fixed income, get water from our private well, no sidewalks, no street lights, no garbage pickup.	3/7/2014 7:11 PM
36	There is not enough information given in order to answer all the questions ..	3/7/2014 6:29 PM
37	Personal property taxes are not good for the economy.Prevents people from buying new cars etc.	3/7/2014 5:37 PM
38	Just that our town is more than a budget (or more precisely the drive to have the lowest possible budget). If we forget that, we will jeopardize everything that makes Colchester a great place to live.	3/7/2014 5:35 PM
39	No	3/7/2014 5:18 PM
40	The position if Tax Collector MUST not be elected any longer....haven't we leaned our lesson with Trish. Also Suzie should be the acting Tax Collector NOT Mike which has had issues during his short collection profession. I bet you don't like this suggestion:)	3/7/2014 4:59 PM
41	I worry that only the results of responses from this survey will drive budget decisions. This survey needs to be published sooner than the last week in February to get public opinion. After all, the budget discussions started months ago.	3/7/2014 4:57 PM
42	Run your Town as you would any other business... Realize that your best talent (citizens) won't remain if you're not offering a competitive salary (tax rate) and benefits (services). Offer incentives to those who bring in strong revenues (local businesses). Reward loyalty (our seniors) and innovation (our youth). Follow these simple rules and your business (Town) will surely realize success!	3/7/2014 4:46 PM
43	cut taxes in a significant way for next 20 years the same way you have increased them in the last 20 years.	3/7/2014 4:35 PM
44	Try to stay within your budget.	3/7/2014 4:11 PM
45	More detail as to what people might want or believe we need as regards the schools, senior center, etc	3/7/2014 4:08 PM
46	Budgets too high. Too much waste. foolish programs taken on that are not needed. Lower the number of police. they leave for other departments and we pay to train new ones. Go back to Resident Trooper	3/7/2014 4:06 PM
47	Don't assume that everyone in town always wants budget cuts every year -- I've voted yes for every budget since moving here in 1997. I totally appreciate the wonderful services we have in town, and hope that the high level of commitment through the social contract we have with each other will continue to allow us to be a strong and vibrant community now and into the future.	3/7/2014 12:17 PM
48	There needs to be more parking spaces at the library and it also needs to be repaved or have the lines painted for parking spots. There also needs to be more lighting at Stop and Shop and a repaved parking lot will also help too. I know it's not in the works or budget yet, but a community center would be greatly appreciated by all to enjoy.	3/6/2014 9:11 PM
49	I know this isn't budget related but I think they should add more science into the elementary school. Alot of people are going out of town for education and I think one of the reasons is the lack of balanced education it is all Math and Reading which are important but so is science in technology.	3/6/2014 7:14 PM
50	very vague	3/6/2014 7:00 PM
51	See above	3/6/2014 6:51 PM
52	Good job overall with the survey and covering hot button issues.	3/5/2014 6:11 PM
53	I want to thank the BOF and BOS for all the time and hard work that goes into presenting a budget.	3/5/2014 7:25 AM
54	I wish you all the best of luck with the budget. Thank you for all your efforts and the personal time you give up for our town.	3/4/2014 3:07 PM
55	I suggest a modern high-tech approach to education of children, making the most of a few great teachers via the internet, assisted by lower-skilled (and lower-compensated) aides to take care of the paperwork and administration.	3/4/2014 2:20 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

56	N/A	3/3/2014 11:55 PM
57	I would like to know how to get in front of the contractual negotiations with public employee unions. The ongoing structural obligations are not sustainable, and is what needs to change with the Board of Ed.	3/3/2014 3:32 PM
58	Every year we go through this issue of indicating the budget is going up due to this and that. But something needs to be cut to offset those increases. The town and education budget needs to work within the current tax base to fund the budget..not keep going back to the people to ask for more money. When I need to buy a car or put a new roof on my house, I don't go to my employer and ask for a raise. I look at my current budget and cut back here or there to make it work. We've seen too many increases in the last years..we can't keep footing the bill.	3/3/2014 10:42 AM
59	Thank you for allowing input!!! Much appreciated!	3/3/2014 9:15 AM
60	Colchester is a great town that needs to add several larger national and regional businesses to the towns tax base. It's a great central location along Route 2 and there's not much else in the area. We can still manage to keep the small town character if we limit the growth but I think it is necessary for the taxes it will bring in.	3/2/2014 4:40 PM
61	Our taxes are way to high, you need to stop spending and giveing raises	3/2/2014 4:27 PM
62	no	3/2/2014 2:48 PM
63	Not at this time	3/2/2014 2:35 PM
64	NC	3/2/2014 10:40 AM
65	Yes what about the Senior Center????	3/2/2014 8:15 AM
66	This was a really neat idea! not only did it give me a chance to express my opinion, it also gave me some insight as to the difficult decisions our town is faced with. Thank you to our town leaders for all of your hard work!	3/2/2014 7:38 AM
67	N/A	3/1/2014 6:38 PM
68	Yes, since school enrollment is projected to decrease the next few years, why are there no planned reductions of staff ? Please do not allow taxes to reach levels like those of Long Island where we used to live. It is too much of a hardship.	3/1/2014 10:25 AM
69	Field maintenance should be increased for both Bacon Academy and the recreation fields. The recreation area is a very good spot, the fields should be taken care of. You have youth leagues playing there, Bacon Academy JV baseball and softball teams and other groups using the area. It should be a show place.	3/1/2014 9:10 AM
70	Good idea - thanks for seeking input.	3/1/2014 8:38 AM
71	Public works does a fantastic job clearing roads during snowstorms. Many thanks!	3/1/2014 8:10 AM
72	Ask every department to look for 10 % savings across the board - then start from there - instead of asking depts for their optimal budge requests	3/1/2014 7:33 AM
73	In our state there are lots of half empty buses because parents drive their kids to school. Would love to see that whole process analyzed. Smaller busses cost less? Charge parents who do not use buses provided? Charge for parking spaces at the HS? Bussing is a large budget item. If we could save money there we would have more money for other school expenses.	3/1/2014 7:10 AM
74	YOU SHOULD HAVE A BOX FOR WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY RAISE IN TAXES BECAUSE I WANT TO STAY IN MY HOME	2/28/2014 11:08 PM
75	Cut administrative costs for BOE as a way to save - we have too many principals / vice principals - look to Tolland and their use of experienced teachers to act as Lead/asst principals - with a decrease in enrollment we can look to decrease educational admin	2/28/2014 9:48 PM
76	What hours should be kept for: a) assessor b) building inspector... Should we invest in the following technology: video of town meeting on-line live interactive access to town meeting Regular online survey of all town meeting agendas...	2/28/2014 8:34 PM
77	Please share all results with all of us towns people both good and bad. Share all comments and ideas of others...	2/28/2014 8:04 PM

## 2014 Colchester Budget Survey

78	We have a beautiful new 2 story library which can easily be converted to one floor. Another floor can be made into separate rooms to accommodate senior center. Think out of the box.its already being paid for.	2/28/2014 7:57 PM
79	Lower our taxes....	2/28/2014 7:31 PM
80	Can we reduce the taxes or improve our services by spending our money more wisely? The answer is yes. Focus on that. This survey is a step in the right direction.	2/28/2014 7:22 PM
81	It doesn't make sense that other parts of the country, homeowners pay significantly lower property taxes. Why is it 4 times more here and we don't even get garbage pick up? There has got to be some complete mismanagement of the taxes if you seem to think you need more!	2/28/2014 7:18 PM
82	Need more categories for the school side of the budget. Its not about cutting programs. Its salaries and benefits and union contracts that are out of control.	2/28/2014 5:54 PM
83	I fell that if a resident and taxpayer of Colchester who is not a US national should be allowed to vote on town spending issues and also that someone who pays no taxes in this town should not be allowed to vote on town financial matters.	2/28/2014 4:28 PM
84	Who reads this and how do they react to it? Need 4 more regional operations on common ground issues like library. Do you go outside the box to get others input on key issues—say CA towns? Give evidence of need for budget expansions—i.e, stats on police, etal..... Reducing size of our town operations—if corporation do it to survive... small gov't. should follow suit How does our town rate against CT towns on governing issues/costs? R we cutting it?	2/28/2014 4:20 PM
85	Is there any thought to hiring a town manager or a human resources professional?	2/28/2014 4:20 PM
86	Don't come to voters off-cycle and ask for Bond approvals. that should be part of the budget discussion, and it should be made VERY CLEAR what the annual debt service impact will be to the budget and to the average household.	2/28/2014 4:15 PM
87	A MOJORITY OF COLCHESTER GETS ITS WATER SUPPLY FROM WELLS. IT APPEARS THAT SINCE THE ELECTION OF CURRENT LEADERSHIP, THERE IS LESS CONCERN ABOUT WETLANDS. IF COLCHESTER IS GOING TO DEVELOP TO DRAW IN BUSINESSES, IT NEEDS TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING ITS' OWN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.	2/28/2014 4:01 PM
88	I'm in favor of a community center that will include the senior center and an indoor pool. I know various versions of this have been proposed for years (but shot down by voters). I would still like to see something like this put in town.	2/28/2014 3:58 PM
89	We need a public pool.	2/28/2014 3:51 PM
90	There are a small percentage of seniors who use senior center services, It would serve all the seniors if their taxes were frozen instead of just taken care of a few of them. This should be considered very strongly. Thank you Bill Cone	2/28/2014 3:49 PM
91	No tax increase.	2/28/2014 3:39 PM