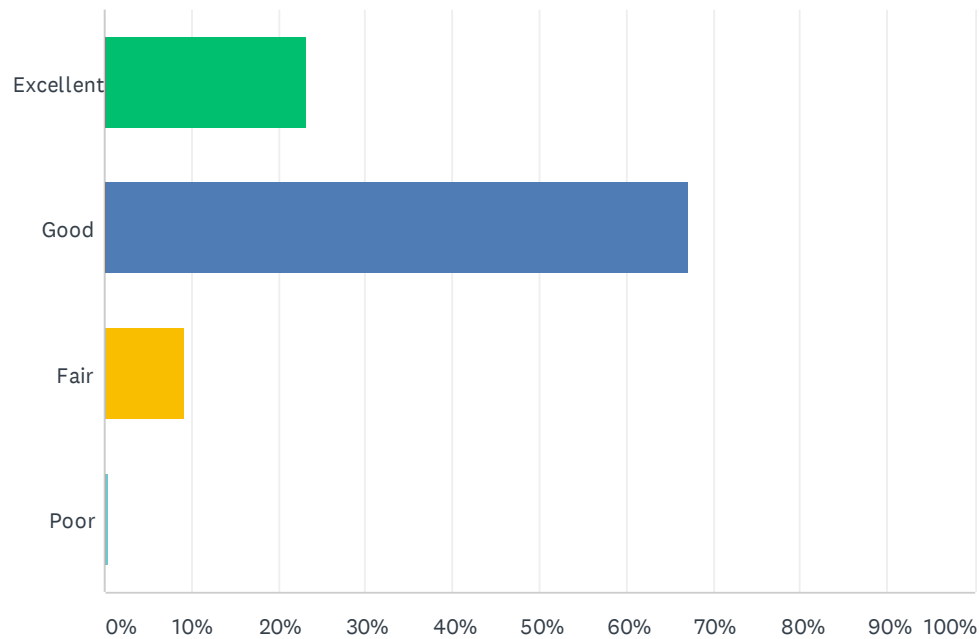


Q1 How do you rate the quality of life in Colchester?

Answered: 765 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	23.27%	178
Good	67.06%	513
Fair	9.28%	71
Poor	0.39%	3
TOTAL		765

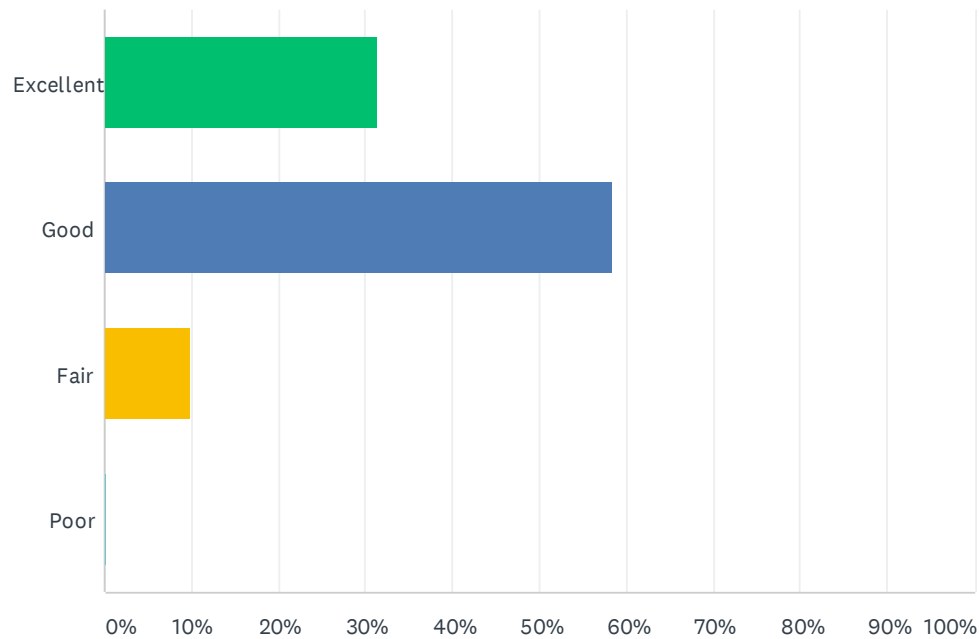
#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	Safe but lacks things to do for families	1/20/2021 4:20 PM
2	The first selectwoman is doing a great job making this town a horrible place to live.	1/18/2021 8:25 AM
3	Would prefer stronger police presence. Also trainings in Domestic Violence.	1/17/2021 9:11 PM
4	It use to be an excellent and very positive community.	1/17/2021 7:22 PM
5	Nothing really special about this town.	1/17/2021 9:40 AM
6	limited access to broad retail. there seems to be no "master plan" for commercial development and town branding/image. lots of great people but pretty much a bedroom community	1/17/2021 7:11 AM
7	too many vacant businesses	1/16/2021 6:05 PM
8	It has declined over the years.	1/16/2021 5:47 PM
9	There are a lot of store fronts in town which are empty. This generates a perception of a town on the decline. Traffic through town is often times congested which leads to unsafe conditions for pedestrians.	1/16/2021 9:36 AM
10	Many good businesses. Nice neighborhoods, great community park. Need to improve upon attracting commercial businesses: IE small corporations	1/15/2021 6:34 PM
11	The roads like Rte 16 and Buckley Hill intersection need a light, and smaller roads need more stop signs for safety- traffic studies should be done	1/15/2021 6:09 PM
12	We could use so better attractions as well as updates to the current recreational amenities.	1/15/2021 4:59 PM
13	Too expensive.	1/15/2021 4:36 PM
14	Budget seems out of control every year with a new crisis to blame. This is a reflection of poor long range planning by those town officials and department heads responsible.	1/15/2021 3:21 PM
15	There are certain things, such as businesses that I would love to see, municipal internet, or underground powerlines but those are more state wide than town centered. I missed some of the events on the green this year that make the town that much better.	1/15/2021 11:46 AM
16	I wish the center of town had more small businesses, restaurants and less blight.	1/15/2021 11:20 AM
17	Colchester has a good blend of active businesses, open space (including farmland), and community activities. Great farmers market and blend of locally owned quality businesses (Noel's Market, Louie's Seafood, Angelo's Bakery, Broadway Auto) and larger chain businesses such as Walgreens and Stop & Shop.	1/15/2021 11:01 AM
18	Still excellent though of course more fun pre Covid	1/13/2021 9:19 PM
19	Would like to see more businesses	1/13/2021 2:35 PM
20	Traffic in center is annoying and dangerous.	1/13/2021 11:14 AM
21	Great mix of residential, business, farming & open space.	1/13/2021 9:05 AM
22	I've been a resident of this town for nearby 23 years. I have continually been impressed with the quality of services, with reasonable tax rates.	1/12/2021 10:09 PM
23	Not at the level required for the kids to develop skills equal to other towns.	1/12/2021 8:52 PM
24	This comparison is to other towns in CT and not town or cities outside of CT.	1/12/2021 8:10 PM
25	We've lived here for more than thirty years and like everything about Colchester (except the intersection at Rt 16 at the Green!).	1/12/2021 6:09 PM
26	I Love this town. I'm so glad I moved here seven years ago. I live very close to all the stores and restaurants	1/12/2021 5:29 PM
27	Great town to raise a family.	1/12/2021 4:13 PM
28	I would appreciate more diversity	1/12/2021 3:19 PM
29	It used to be better. The town is looking tired. Facilities looking like they are not being kept up	1/12/2021 2:10 PM

	in a quality way.	
30	Moved here in the middle of covid restrictions. Hard to assess what it might be like in more normal circumstances.	1/12/2021 1:41 PM
31	nice place to live. Route 85 traffic seems to be getting noisier. Parts of downtown, especially Broadway, are looking pretty shabby. Please put a priority on the physical appearance of this town.	1/12/2021 11:47 AM
32	Town is a nice place- amenities are good and getting better.	1/12/2021 11:15 AM
33	I've only been here for 6 months all of which have been covid restricted.	1/12/2021 11:13 AM
34	over the past 2 years or so traffic has become increasingly heavy. Population seems to be growing faster than our roads allow for smooth traffic fluidity.	1/12/2021 11:08 AM
35	Very expensive to live in this town.	1/12/2021 10:47 AM
36	The traffic in the center of town has picked up and even gets backed up at times. I think it was a bad idea putting the apartments next to the RecPlex.	1/12/2021 10:33 AM
37	Need to develop more local shopping	1/12/2021 10:07 AM
38	More businesses, more restaurants need to move into our town and we need to have a better, easier, process in place for them to come.	1/12/2021 9:58 AM
39	The people are wonderful and there is true sense of community here that is very unique. It would be nice to have access to more shops, restaurants, and see a more diverse community in the future.	1/12/2021 9:38 AM
40	I like the small town feel, the town green, the recreational and open space availability, along with its location; close to Hartford but also close to the shore.	1/12/2021 8:58 AM
41	Great small town life, nice trails, good amenities, AWESOME First Selectwoman!	1/12/2021 8:41 AM
42	Understanding the culture to keep this a 'small town' it would be nice to have more Tax Revenue from business. There is no excuse for empty buildings. We should be taxing the owners to incite them to rent. In addition, it would be nice to see some 'chain' entering town.	1/12/2021 7:32 AM
43	I feel that it is a safe town and that most of our needs are met here. However, I do feel that we need a store that would carry more of our requarments than the ones we have now.	1/12/2021 6:20 AM
44	I find prices in colchester are higher than surrounding towns for stores and take out	1/11/2021 8:34 PM
45	Would love to see more businesses to patronize	1/11/2021 8:33 PM
46	If the taxes wert so high I would say Excelleht	1/11/2021 8:32 PM
47	Main road needs smoothing. Plz figure some way to Get Rid of that Eye Soar Building on Main Street.	1/11/2021 6:38 PM
48	Raised my family here. It's been 36 years and counting. My only regret: wish it could be less "white". Wondering how I can impact that change?	1/11/2021 6:29 PM
49	Wish we had more services for the kids including parks that are updated	1/11/2021 5:53 PM
50	Not enough services for amount of taxes	1/11/2021 5:02 PM
51	Besides police and EMS there are no services offered to show were the text money goes.	1/11/2021 4:32 PM
52	Taxes too high for seniors. Afraid they will be moving out lowering land value as no one will buy at the prices of homes now if they find out why the seniors are moving.	1/11/2021 3:55 PM
53	We LOVE Colchester ☺	1/11/2021 3:52 PM
54	Additional economic growth and increased business presence would make it even better.	1/11/2021 3:43 PM
55	Not enough varied restaurants, but if you love Chinese/Asian food, you're in heaven.lol	1/11/2021 3:31 PM
56	In general, taxes are too high.	1/11/2021 2:54 PM
57	Lived here for 54 years and I like fb ben	1/11/2021 2:42 PM

58	We are each and every day blessed to live in such a wonderful town	1/11/2021 2:18 PM
59	We need another grocery store...not everyone is rich and can afford the prices at Stop\$Shop. We also need a clothing store..NOT another coffee/donut, pizza, or doctors office.	1/11/2021 11:01 AM
60	Taxes too high. No services	1/10/2021 8:17 PM
61	Taxes are too high for services being given.	1/10/2021 3:30 PM
62	Quality would be excellent if we had awesome fields.	1/9/2021 7:52 AM
63	The pandemic/closure(s) has been going on for about a year now. Everyone knows the protocols. Everything needs to reopen fully and give the business owners the choice of how to run their business, whether that is with masks or without, whether social distancing or not. This feedback needs to go directly to Lamont since it's his EO that is ruining and destroying the state. People are inherently free by God. It's not up to, and it is not the role of, the "government" to control people, or to think "it's for your own good". You do that for yourself. People have the RIGHT to make their own choices, and that includes how to operate their businesses with the knowledge we all now have and are very familiar with.	1/9/2021 7:42 AM
64	The quality of life in Colchester is good! We are a beautiful town and our town has great schools! Our town works hard to maintain the beauty while continuing to pursue economic growth.	1/8/2021 6:32 PM
65	Colchester is a very nice town because the people here are kind and caring for the community.	1/8/2021 1:30 PM
66	I'm a new resident. The town is good, and even though travel times aren't always the greatest, the	1/7/2021 5:15 PM
67	I will like to see an investment into more small businesses that are not a chain, one town only needs so many Dunkins. Small business shops and restaurants with an opportunity to succeed from the town will only help to flourish.	1/7/2021 4:23 PM
68	Would love a sidewalk in Rte 16 from Bulkely Hill Road to the center of town.	1/7/2021 3:06 PM
69	Clean up the pollution, stop posting victims signs on our green, STOP THE CAR THEFTS, arrests those shooting videos on our schools roof tops!	1/7/2021 2:54 PM
70	Colchester has many wonderful outdoor spaces for recreation - walking, hiking, biking and more. The community is vibrant with volunteers and non profit organizations contributing in so many different ways. Generally safe although experienced vandalism on my property this year. I am concerned about increased crime affecting vehicles where citizens could do more to deter with increased precautions (locking cars/ removing valuables) and safety on roads seeing and hearing about increased volume of excessive speeding.	1/7/2021 10:17 AM
71	Life is pretty good here. It would be nice if we had a town provided power and gas utility like Norwich does, or at least a choice in who maintains our power grid. Also having fiber optic internet service like our neighboring states do would be a wonderful thing to keep us up to date with the technology of our time.	1/7/2021 7:47 AM
72	Its a nice small town	1/6/2021 8:05 PM
73	Need a full time police force to combat small crimes	1/6/2021 5:39 PM
74	Taxes very high for seniors. Need help in order to keep them in town	1/6/2021 5:03 PM
75	Traffic in the center of Town is a b---- Taxes too high for me Need to expand new businesses in our community	1/6/2021 4:32 PM
76	Colchester is a great place to live. The only reason I didn't rate excellent is because food (Stop and Shop) is extremely expensive versus other nearby locations (Noel's is great but doesn't have everything) and I would like to see more business/retail brought to town to lower the personal tax burden.	1/6/2021 4:27 PM

Q2 How do you rate Colchester as a place to raise children?

Answered: 737 Skipped: 29



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	31.48%	232
Good	58.34%	430
Fair	9.91%	73
Poor	0.27%	2
TOTAL		737

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	My kids haven't entered the school system yet - so cannot say completely.	1/17/2021 11:10 PM
2	I feel since the start of pandemic, compared to neighboring towns opportunities for kids are less in colchester. Pre Covid I would rate as good.	1/17/2021 9:53 PM
3	Playscape at the recreation complex needs an update. The skate park could be better.	1/17/2021 9:27 PM
4	Colchester is very behind when it comes to social and cultural awareness. There is not enough in place to enhance cultural diversity or to increase cultural equity.	1/17/2021 12:01 PM
5	Strong education system. Downfalls are no aquatic facility, & recreation fields are a a disgrace. It would also be nice to see year round morning and after school programs run by parks and rec for the large number of working families in turn keeping kids (grades 4 - 8) from going home to empty houses. Programs would also provide working opportunities for high school students.	1/17/2021 11:52 AM
6	No a fan of the school system that everyone boasts about, I guess they don't have a comparison but what do we really have for kids, and no pool.	1/17/2021 9:40 AM
7	schools are way out of wack on budget needs - the overall atmosphere for the town is good, but the park/rec and other youth services need a comprehensive plan and effort for kindergarten to offer programs to students and parents as the kids grow. this may again be a marketing/communications issues to families	1/17/2021 7:11 AM
8	There is a lack of options for children in the winter months and after dark. I enjoyed growing up in Colchester but I know too many kids that ended up involved with hard drugs. Problem isn't unique to Colchester clearly but it is disappointing that many kids in our town see poor outcomes	1/16/2021 8:09 PM
9	I believe that the HOT school is a valuable part and part of why I kept my children here.	1/16/2021 5:47 PM
10	Colchester could use more activity for children. A town pool would be amazing.	1/16/2021 4:45 PM
11	I don't have kids, doesn't matter to me	1/16/2021 3:53 PM
12	Do not have children	1/16/2021 2:48 PM
13	Not applicable.	1/16/2021 2:15 PM
14	Schools are really good, but recreational sports are not very good. There are limited field spaces for a town this size and they are usually not in very good shape.	1/15/2021 10:03 PM
15	Schools....teachers care!	1/15/2021 6:34 PM
16	Need to put more money into recreation places, town fields	1/15/2021 6:09 PM
17	To much politics in the system. It's pretty bad when a high school graduate who wants to join the military can't even pass a recruiting test, which is basically a GED test. So tell me what are you teaching these kids??	1/15/2021 5:37 PM
18	The schools have declined in the 27 years I've lived here. I was very dissatisfied with the school system when my daughter was in grade school & middle school. For that reason we chose a magnet school for high school. Not only did she excel, she was able to take courses that challenged her where as CPS didn't allow it.	1/15/2021 5:29 PM
19	The issue comes with the funding. There is always a call to cut program costs which means that as parents we have to pay more out of pocket. I am one that would rather those programs be funded like in the past.	1/15/2021 11:46 AM
20	I wish the Town owned Day Pond or had a municipal pool.	1/15/2021 11:20 AM
21	The school system definitely needs technology improvements.	1/15/2021 11:01 AM
22	~don't have any children, but it seems like a nice place to raise children.	1/14/2021 3:39 PM
23	Excellent schools. Mr Peel at Bacon is constantly going above and beyond	1/13/2021 9:19 PM
24	The town needs more field space for sports teams to play and practice.	1/13/2021 5:32 PM
25	Great school system. Great hiking/biking sports, and Rec programs. Ball Fields could use some work	1/13/2021 2:35 PM

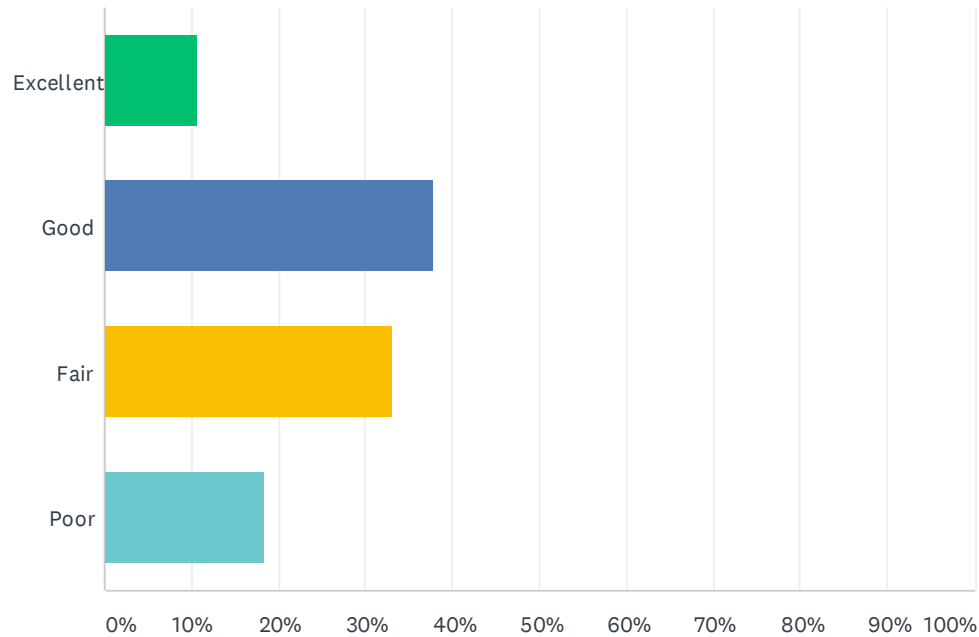
26	No children but most seem pleased	1/13/2021 12:54 PM
27	I have no idea - I'm over the age of 65 and my children did not grow up in Colchester. You need a N/A	1/13/2021 9:42 AM
28	While I have no personal experience of raising children in Colchester, my vicarious experience of other parents with children here is fairly positive.	1/12/2021 10:09 PM
29	See above.	1/12/2021 8:10 PM
30	We moved to this town 3 years ago for the schools and sports programming, but feel the fields and facilities need to be improved.	1/12/2021 8:05 PM
31	We raised two and they both flourished! AS adults, they were well-prepared in part by their colchester upbringing.	1/12/2021 6:09 PM
32	NA	1/12/2021 3:19 PM
33	N/A	1/12/2021 2:03 PM
34	Don't know much about the school system.	1/12/2021 1:41 PM
35	Never raised children in Colchester.	1/12/2021 12:31 PM
36	have no young children at home	1/12/2021 11:57 AM
37	really don't know have no children under 30	1/12/2021 11:53 AM
38	No children or grandchildren in Colchester, but do have both in neighboring towns. In general, Colchester, Hebron, East Haddam are all good places to live and raise families.	1/12/2021 11:47 AM
39	Need a community pool!	1/12/2021 11:37 AM
40	Can't comment on the schools as I have no experience with them.	1/12/2021 11:13 AM
41	No idea	1/12/2021 10:06 AM
42	I raised 3 sons here and have a step son and step daughter. Colchester was a good place to raise these children with a good school district.	1/12/2021 8:58 AM
43	Lots of opportunities for children to safely participate in activities.	1/12/2021 8:44 AM
44	Good childcare providers, plenty of activities, excellent school system, although I wish the playground at the RecPlex would get an upgrade.	1/12/2021 8:41 AM
45	Too much high density / low income	1/12/2021 8:38 AM
46	I think that our schools are excellant and that the children have many opportunities. The library does a great job of giving our children a place to go to have fun and also learn.	1/12/2021 6:20 AM
47	Not really sure as I don't have children here	1/11/2021 9:55 PM
48	i don't know	1/11/2021 9:46 PM
49	never having children I don't feel very qualified to answer this question, but I would suggest having a nice community center and pooletc would benefit the children and all other community members.	1/11/2021 9:23 PM
50	See above. To live in a diverse universe, it helps if kids grow up in a diverse space.	1/11/2021 6:29 PM
51	Not happy with the school system	1/11/2021 6:26 PM
52	I have two boys 8 and 5 and feel very safe and love the small town community. Have lived here 8 years and can always find a friend at a store.	1/11/2021 5:53 PM
53	Empty nesters	1/11/2021 4:14 PM
54	The rec place needs some work	1/11/2021 4:04 PM
55	NA	1/11/2021 3:55 PM
56	Ideal environment	1/11/2021 3:52 PM
57	We do not have children, so we'll leave this question for those with children to give an	1/11/2021 3:43 PM

	experienced response.	
58	n/a	1/11/2021 3:24 PM
59	I moved to Colchester after my kids were gone. But from what I see I would rate it "good".	1/11/2021 2:44 PM
60	Raised two children here in seventies and eighties. They had a great childhood here	1/11/2021 2:42 PM
61	I was a grandparent mentor in PreK. Loved giving to these children who so much need a special person to be there for them	1/11/2021 2:18 PM
62	I moved here from the big city. I think the city is a better place to raise children because they can be more independent. There is public transportation to take them places like museums, sports, extracurricular activities and more. The country is for old folks.	1/11/2021 2:17 PM
63	I'm new here as a Senior so I don't have information on schools.	1/11/2021 2:10 PM
64	Not applicable, do not have children.	1/11/2021 2:07 PM
65	We put an exorbitant amount of money in our schools without great results. The school system seems to find ways to spend money to keep their budget high without great results.	1/11/2021 11:01 AM
66	I have no children	1/11/2021 9:25 AM
67	Love this town but education needs to be greatly improved	1/10/2021 3:30 PM
68	With our family population, we need more recreational outlets for our youth	1/9/2021 9:38 AM
69	Would be excellent if we had awesome fields.	1/9/2021 7:52 AM
70	I've lived here for 36 1/2 years. I've seen it grow and do some minor changing for a long time. I was active in politics and even served on the BOE. I moved away for a year (2014-2015) and now I'm back. Circumstances warranted it. Some things never change. Same 'ol, same 'ol. Would be nice to see it not so stagnant. Bring in additional tax dollars. Not look so dreary at times. It used to be quite attractive and enjoyable.	1/9/2021 7:42 AM
71	We have great schools and sports programs here in Colchester.	1/8/2021 6:32 PM
72	Colchester is a safe town with great schools and a nice sense of community.	1/8/2021 1:30 PM
73	No kids	1/7/2021 7:56 PM
74	I don't have children yet but the early education school scores were a factor in choosing to move here. The high school's scores were a bit concerning, but there's ample time for the town to improve before that becomes relevant to us.	1/7/2021 5:15 PM
75	Unsure, no children	1/7/2021 4:51 PM
76	Great school system, especially for a child with autism, we are grateful we're we are.	1/7/2021 4:23 PM
77	There is nothing for them to do here	1/7/2021 3:30 PM
78	Mostly unknown, but the town seems friendly, and has decent/good schools.	1/7/2021 3:10 PM
79	While I do not have children, I have neighbors, friends and acquaintances that do and I have volunteered interacting with school aged children/Scouts. I see many of these children growing up happy, engaged, into responsible, employed and contributing adults. Schools seem to continue to provide necessary education and opportunities for child's personal development. There are many options for children's activities - Parks and Rec programs, library, sports, other recreation, Scouts, outdoor resources (parks, playgrounds, StoryWalk) and more.	1/7/2021 10:17 AM
80	I don't have kids, but my nephews live in town and it seems to me there's plenty for them to do. It seems our schools and educators are doing a great job considering what they've had to deal with in the last year.	1/7/2021 7:47 AM
81	Excellent schools	1/6/2021 9:18 PM
82	i do not have kids	1/6/2021 9:11 PM
83	your children get what the family puts into the quality of life items of the town.	1/6/2021 8:05 PM
84	Not applicable	1/6/2021 7:29 PM

85	Great school systems.	1/6/2021 4:50 PM
86	school districts are good, but I would like to see more focus on things related to families and communities in general. For example, why are we building a senior center that only focuses on a portion of our community? Why don't we build a community center that supports all members of our community? I've lived in other areas that had a community center and it was a fantastic resource for everyone and drove a tremendous sense of community for the town. I still have friends that are senior citizens, working professionals, and other families that I made through that community center.	1/6/2021 4:27 PM
87	need more local activities for families. Schools are terrific. Rec Plex needs attention	1/6/2021 12:44 PM

Q3 How do you rate Colchester as a place to retire?

Answered: 748 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	10.70%	80
Good	37.83%	283
Fair	33.02%	247
Poor	18.45%	138
TOTAL		748

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	CT? LOL. anyone with 2 brain cells to rub together moves out of this tax black hole ASAP.	1/18/2021 8:25 AM
2	Rising Property taxes on fixed income.	1/18/2021 6:18 AM
3	Unsure	1/17/2021 11:10 PM
4	The entire state is anti retirement. Cost of living, taxes, fees are suffocating the elderly.	1/17/2021 7:22 PM
5	This is a general answer about CT, not Colchester specifically. Colchester is wonderful and I'm heartbroken that neither of my (divorced) parents can afford to retire here, and are moving just as I plan to start my family :(1/17/2021 4:49 PM
6	High taxes and senior center is lacking appeal.	1/17/2021 11:52 AM
7	Again nothing special	1/17/2021 9:40 AM
8	define "retire"	1/17/2021 7:11 AM
9	taxes high for retirees	1/16/2021 6:05 PM
10	Connecticut in general places too much of a tax burden on retirees	1/16/2021 5:47 PM
11	Not retired yet	1/16/2021 4:15 PM
12	Expensive to live because of property taxes. Many towns have a senior reduction for taxes - something Colchester needs to consider and implement.	1/16/2021 3:56 PM
13	I wish I was even close to retirement age to even think about this question	1/16/2021 3:53 PM
14	Taxes have jumped too high.	1/16/2021 2:56 PM
15	Continual high taxes making this town a difficult place to live for fixed income seniors!	1/16/2021 2:15 PM
16	Nix the Senior Center. Give Seniors a property tax break.	1/16/2021 10:40 AM
17	Colchester is too expensive to live due to its high property taxes and numerous excessive state taxes.	1/16/2021 9:36 AM
18	High state and town taxes make it unappealing for most	1/16/2021 8:55 AM
19	The problem is the state's taxes.	1/16/2021 8:45 AM
20	Taxes too high	1/16/2021 7:48 AM
21	Very high taxes	1/16/2021 7:37 AM
22	I am a senior living on a fixed income and the taxes and prices of gas, grocery stores, restaurants are high.	1/16/2021 7:15 AM
23	Connecticut in general is unaffordable due to over taxation and waist full spending	1/15/2021 10:24 PM
24	Taxes are way to high especially when you have to pay for trash pick up and have your own well and septic.	1/15/2021 10:03 PM
25	The cost is terrible, to high taxes	1/15/2021 8:46 PM
26	State of CT has high taxes. Unable to retire on a teacher's salary.	1/15/2021 8:46 PM
27	Taxes on our property too high	1/15/2021 7:33 PM
28	The taxes in this state are out of control. I purchased property in another state in 2013 and can't wait to get there!!	1/15/2021 7:28 PM
29	Connecticut taxes are too high.	1/15/2021 7:17 PM
30	Need to improve community (Senior) center. New building with resources and volunteers	1/15/2021 6:34 PM
31	Taxes to high.	1/15/2021 5:37 PM
32	Unfortunately due to Colchester and Connecticut's current overall tax structure, i don't see how it is possible for my retirement dollars to be able to provide for a healthy and worry free	1/15/2021 5:11 PM

	retirement. Having lived in the midwest and have family, relatives in other states i believe my retirement dollars will be better spent elsewhere.	
33	Way too expensive.	1/15/2021 4:36 PM
34	Na	1/15/2021 3:37 PM
35	Budget constrained residents have to travel to find retailers with reasonable pricing policies to avoid the local overpriced goods and services.	1/15/2021 3:21 PM
36	Answer impacted by COVID... most of my retirement months restricted social life and programs due to the pandemic. However, we do look forward to getting back to senior center activities and HIGHLY RATE Colchester Senior Center communications and staff outreach.	1/15/2021 2:23 PM
37	CT taxes are too high	1/15/2021 2:00 PM
38	There does not seem to be much for those who do not want to congregate at a senior center. Activities, shopping, restaurants always involve driving.	1/15/2021 11:20 AM
39	It's a peaceful, beautiful place - rural but with good access to major travel arteries. The town green is a good focal point for the community. Traffic can be problematic at times but all in all nothing too challenging.	1/15/2021 11:01 AM
40	Seems expensive but that's by observation only	1/13/2021 9:19 PM
41	Has Senior Center with many programs..The staff is good at what they do.	1/13/2021 3:36 PM
42	CT not good in general due to taxes and might want warmer weather when I get that ikd	1/13/2021 2:35 PM
43	Not retired yet, so unsure	1/13/2021 1:47 PM
44	55+ and over North Woods has a variety of activities. Town Parks and Rec do as well.	1/13/2021 12:54 PM
45	55 and over communities are nice	1/13/2021 11:41 AM
46	CT overall is expensive for retirees	1/13/2021 9:42 AM
47	Nothing against Colchester, but CT is an expensive place to retire on a fixed income.	1/13/2021 9:05 AM
48	Expensive	1/13/2021 7:27 AM
49	CT is far too expensive a place for retirement. Not only as taxes sky high, but cost of electric and cable make retirement here out of the question.	1/13/2021 6:44 AM
50	I have been retired for the past 15 years and though I've thought about other options, I've been too comfortable here.	1/12/2021 10:09 PM
51	Anywhere in CT	1/12/2021 9:03 PM
52	I will be leaving the State of CT after my youngest child graduates Bacon Academy.	1/12/2021 8:10 PM
53	Actually, retirement has been a series of negatives: nothing to do with Colchester.	1/12/2021 6:09 PM
54	Too many options for working population, not enough affordable options for retirees	1/12/2021 4:51 PM
55	CT taxes and cost of living in CT	1/12/2021 4:13 PM
56	If we are all going to be locked down, yet pay high taxes, we see little reason to stay in this town. We are considering moving, as are many people we know.	1/12/2021 3:17 PM
57	Not sure	1/12/2021 3:15 PM
58	The town green needs to be more accessible and upto date. Pavers and upgraded lighting should be considered	1/12/2021 2:48 PM
59	There is no draw to retire necessarily in Colchester.	1/12/2021 2:10 PM
60	N/A	1/12/2021 2:03 PM
61	The Senior Center, Particularly its drivers, Sherri and Ginny have been great. Couldn't have stayed here except for them. No public transport, no cabs, no uber and generally too far to walk anywhere. Without a car it's a tough place to live. While there aren't many places to go, shopping and Dr visits still required even in covid restricted CT. Library is very good.	1/12/2021 1:41 PM

62	CT taxes are too high. My kids don't want to work in this state due to high taxes.	1/12/2021 1:27 PM
63	Except that it is in CT, a very expensive state!	1/12/2021 12:39 PM
64	Property taxes, especially for a senior condo community, are excessive. Add the auto/property tax, and the overall tax burden gets ridiculous. We are afraid to buy a new car so continue to keep plugging our 2007 Saturn. Our primary car is a 2016 Chevy and the yearly tax is \$571. The yearly tax on the 2007 is \$117. Too much.	1/12/2021 11:47 AM
65	I do not have enough information to answer this.	1/12/2021 11:45 AM
66	Taxes!! UGH!	1/12/2021 11:37 AM
67	I did!	1/12/2021 11:17 AM
68	Don't feel I have enough information to make this valid .	1/12/2021 11:15 AM
69	Covid restrictions have made it difficult to judge. Need something more than a closed senior center. Senior center people, especially drivers, Sherri and Ginny, have been true life savers. I don't drive anymore like a lot of seniors and couldn't have stayed here without those services. With no cabs, uber or public transportation in a town that is not very walkable that service is crucial. With restaurants and bars closed need some way to make human contact other than zoom.	1/12/2021 11:13 AM
70	Town has become too populated for me. Plan on moving out within the next 7-10 years.	1/12/2021 11:08 AM
71	Taxes are too high and the focus seems to be on school age children and not enough o senior citizens	1/12/2021 10:47 AM
72	The taxes in CT, in general are high not making a good state to retire in.	1/12/2021 10:33 AM
73	Taxes will be too high, no local shopping other than groceries. requires travel 20 + miles for anything outside of grocery pharmacy and alchol	1/12/2021 10:07 AM
74	A better senior center would be nice.	1/12/2021 9:58 AM
75	I am not retired but can imagine retired folks would want greater access to shops locally, and transportation around the town.	1/12/2021 9:38 AM
76	Not sure	1/12/2021 9:36 AM
77	Not affordable. Too far from major shopping.	1/12/2021 9:34 AM
78	Not retired yet but a warmer climate might be nice. Not sure the Town can do much about that.	1/12/2021 8:58 AM
79	Taxes are too high!	1/12/2021 8:41 AM
80	As stated before, I do think that it is a little hard for Seniors who don,t still drive to get some of the things that they need in their everyday life.	1/12/2021 6:20 AM
81	Taxes to high	1/11/2021 11:58 PM
82	it has lacked a decent senior center for far too many years	1/11/2021 9:23 PM
83	Seems like it will be nice because everything is close by but the property taxes could keep us from affording to stay	1/11/2021 8:34 PM
84	but not indicative of colchester exclusively- this is a CT issue where the state is expensive to retire	1/11/2021 8:33 PM
85	I would say Excellent if the taxes wert so high. When a senior homeowner turns 60 there taxes should be frozen and remain the same as long as they remain at the same property.	1/11/2021 8:32 PM
86	Because it is in CT	1/11/2021 8:00 PM
87	Connecticut is a very expensive state for everyone especially retirees. High cost of living, high taxes, high energy costs, etc. I retired from Pratt & Whitney 16 years ago. There is no COLA in the pension, so my pension (\$/month) is the same as it was 16 years ago. I received a letter from the Social Security Administration late last year informing me that my social security benefits would increase by only \$10 / month!	1/11/2021 8:00 PM
88	All of CT	1/11/2021 7:22 PM

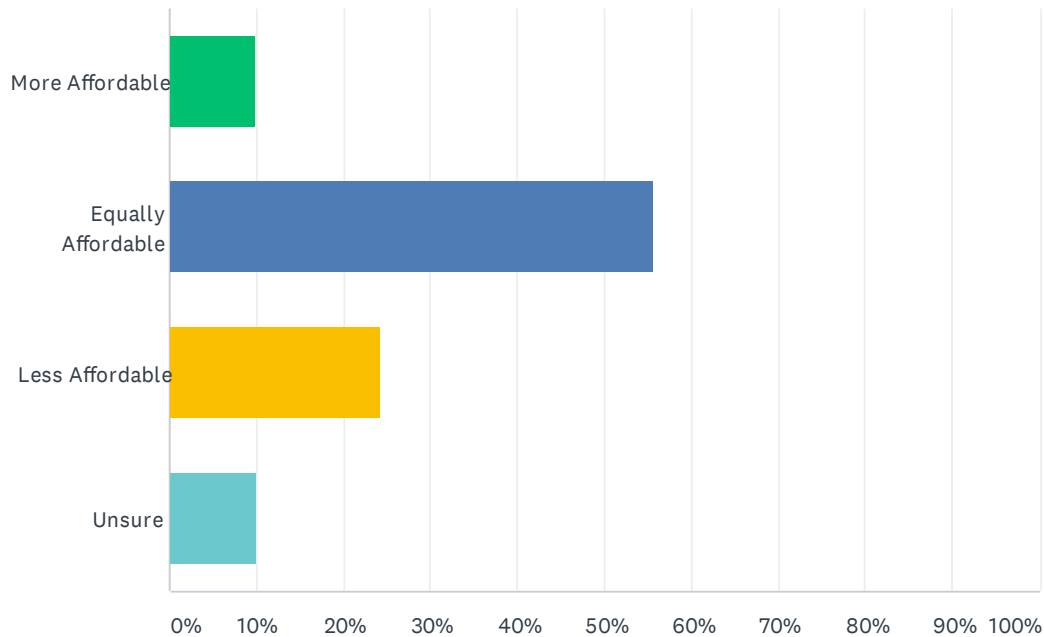
89	So far, so good. Services are accessible, senior programming is interesting, I can still drive myself around...	1/11/2021 6:29 PM
90	Only B/c the state is passing a tax relief on retirement	1/11/2021 5:53 PM
91	The taxes in this state prevent retiring here.	1/11/2021 5:38 PM
92	But Expensive	1/11/2021 5:14 PM
93	Will be excellent after we get are new senior center	1/11/2021 5:02 PM
94	Retired Seniors should not be paying much in taxes. Fixed incomes. We have payed our share.	1/11/2021 4:14 PM
95	Nice town, but with \$7500 taxes/year to pay on a 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath single family free standing home in an HOA community where we don't own any land, I find it it to be a very pricey town to live in.	1/11/2021 4:13 PM
96	High CT taxes are challenging	1/11/2021 4:04 PM
97	Taxes much too high for seniors.	1/11/2021 3:55 PM
98	Everything we need is here!	1/11/2021 3:52 PM
99	Increased pedestrian-friendly improvements would make it even better. There has been some effort in this area, recently so we are hopefully on our way! :)	1/11/2021 3:43 PM
100	Taxes TOO HIGH	1/11/2021 3:38 PM
101	Taxes and cost of living in Connecticut are high.	1/11/2021 3:00 PM
102	Taxes are to high for seniors	1/11/2021 3:00 PM
103	Rents are too high for fixed incomes.	1/11/2021 2:59 PM
104	Again, taxes are too high. They should be less for retirees, without fear of losing their homes.	1/11/2021 2:54 PM
105	Excessive property taxes.	1/11/2021 2:48 PM
106	The Senior Center is a big plus to retirement. Patty Watts has been a tremendous improvement.	1/11/2021 2:44 PM
107	I'm retired	1/11/2021 2:42 PM
108	Good services but increased tax rates would not be good for seniors on fixed incomes.	1/11/2021 2:21 PM
109	Its town we know all most everyone. There is so much kindness. Must remember you have to give to others first	1/11/2021 2:18 PM
110	I moved to Colchester after I retired. I have been happy. I only miss public transportation.	1/11/2021 2:17 PM
111	Need warmer weather. Global warming won't help enough in my lifetime.	1/11/2021 1:31 PM
112	Very expensive town to retire in...same goes for the state though. Nice people at the SR. center.	1/11/2021 11:01 AM
113	Too expensive. Elderly can't afford it	1/10/2021 8:17 PM
114	Taxes are too high for seniors to stay in their homes.	1/10/2021 3:30 PM
115	Need more activities for seniors	1/9/2021 12:38 PM
116	Taxes are too high	1/8/2021 10:34 PM
117	Hard to afford taxes on a fixed income. Seniors and those living on fixed incomes, need a tax relief program like surrounding towns.	1/8/2021 7:30 PM
118	Our cost of living is very high (though that is true for all of Connecticut).	1/8/2021 6:32 PM
119	CT State taxes including probate are far too high for a retirement state. It's not Colchester, it's CT	1/8/2021 2:05 PM
120	CT as a state is not the best place to retire in due to tax consequences but if you do choose to retire in CT I think Colchester is a great place to do so.	1/8/2021 1:30 PM

121	Not the Town's fault but CT is tough	1/8/2021 12:32 PM
122	It's the State taxes that will make us move when we retire.	1/8/2021 10:20 AM
123	Senior center building is old and not adequate for senior needs	1/8/2021 9:06 AM
124	Taxes too high for retired people	1/8/2021 4:11 AM
125	Senior center has been promised for years but funds seem to be directed to youth. Seniors have been paying property taxes for decades and should be able to have a comfortable center to congregate. A freeze on property taxes after a certain age should also be implemented.	1/7/2021 9:36 PM
126	It's more the state of CT and not necessarily Colchester.	1/7/2021 8:56 PM
127	We'll let you know in June!	1/7/2021 6:28 PM
128	Need stores to purchase needed clothing and home good needs.	1/7/2021 6:05 PM
129	The only thing I'm not sure on is how the town would be in retirement for medical treatment. There do seem to be a number of local activities and things to keep one busy, though.	1/7/2021 5:15 PM
130	Unsure, not retired	1/7/2021 4:51 PM
131	Too expensive, property tax is high	1/7/2021 4:36 PM
132	Any place in CT to retire is unfortunately not a great option, taxes are too high and I spend more money on other people than myself. I work too hard to lose so much money during retirement.	1/7/2021 4:23 PM
133	I am looking at retiring in a few years - this will probably be a time when I may need emergency service. How can I think about retiring in a town that does not properly fund their EMT & Fire Fighters. Safety should always be #1 on the list. When I hear of ambulances breaking down while transporting people	1/7/2021 3:30 PM
134	CT overall is a horrible place to retire due to the over taxation policies the legislature loves to implement.	1/7/2021 3:08 PM
135	CT in general	1/7/2021 3:01 PM
136	Colchester needs tax breaks or a tax freeze for seniors on fixed incomes.	1/7/2021 2:57 PM
137	So far with continued review of personal choices related to financial matters, Colchester is still affordable as a retiree. There are opportunities to continue to be engaged with the community - senior center, non profit organizations, other volunteer initiatives/activities, however an individual has to search for them, whereas a listing on town web site to inventory would be helpful to new residents to get involved/engaged. I personally think that there needs to be more available to senior for continue learning/education for retirees in town. Maybe a partnership with the local schools/BOE or area university or colleges to offer more/varied educational programs locally to seniors as they do in some other communities.	1/7/2021 10:17 AM
138	A commentary on Connecticut, unfortunately Colchester is in Connecticut	1/7/2021 9:54 AM
139	Probably to expensive to live here on a retiree's income, I'm too far away from retirement to know that though.	1/7/2021 7:47 AM
140	The tax benefit for retired people are for those who earn less than \$100,000. Are you trying to attract a lower class of people? Why not try to attract ones who would benefit the town with higher spending capability?	1/7/2021 6:34 AM
141	Taxes are too high	1/7/2021 4:07 AM
142	CT in general is undesirable, not Colchester specifically.	1/6/2021 10:06 PM
143	its not the warmest climate, state not the most financially friendly place to retire	1/6/2021 8:05 PM
144	Unfavorable tax climate and too cold	1/6/2021 7:36 PM
145	Could have better sidewalks and greater variety of restaurants	1/6/2021 7:29 PM
146	Do not plan on retiring in Connecticut	1/6/2021 6:58 PM
147	Taxes, weather - mostly taxes	1/6/2021 6:06 PM

148	Price/value ratio not favorable for retirees.	1/6/2021 5:42 PM
149	Taxes too high	1/6/2021 5:39 PM
150	Property taxes go up every year. Time to go the other way.	1/6/2021 5:19 PM
151	Taxes too high.	1/6/2021 5:03 PM
152	In the process now.	1/6/2021 4:50 PM
153	Property taxes are too high for someone retiring.	1/6/2021 4:43 PM
154	High taxes Medium diversity	1/6/2021 4:32 PM
155	It's mostly the state of CT. Colchester, however, is a nice town.	1/6/2021 4:28 PM
156	N/A - not retired.	1/6/2021 4:27 PM
157	Happy to know we are working to build a new senior center	1/6/2021 12:44 PM

Q4 How do you rate Colchester's affordability in comparison to similar towns in Connecticut?

Answered: 760 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More Affordable	9.87%	75
Equally Affordable	55.66%	423
Less Affordable	24.34%	185
Unsure	10.13%	77
TOTAL		760

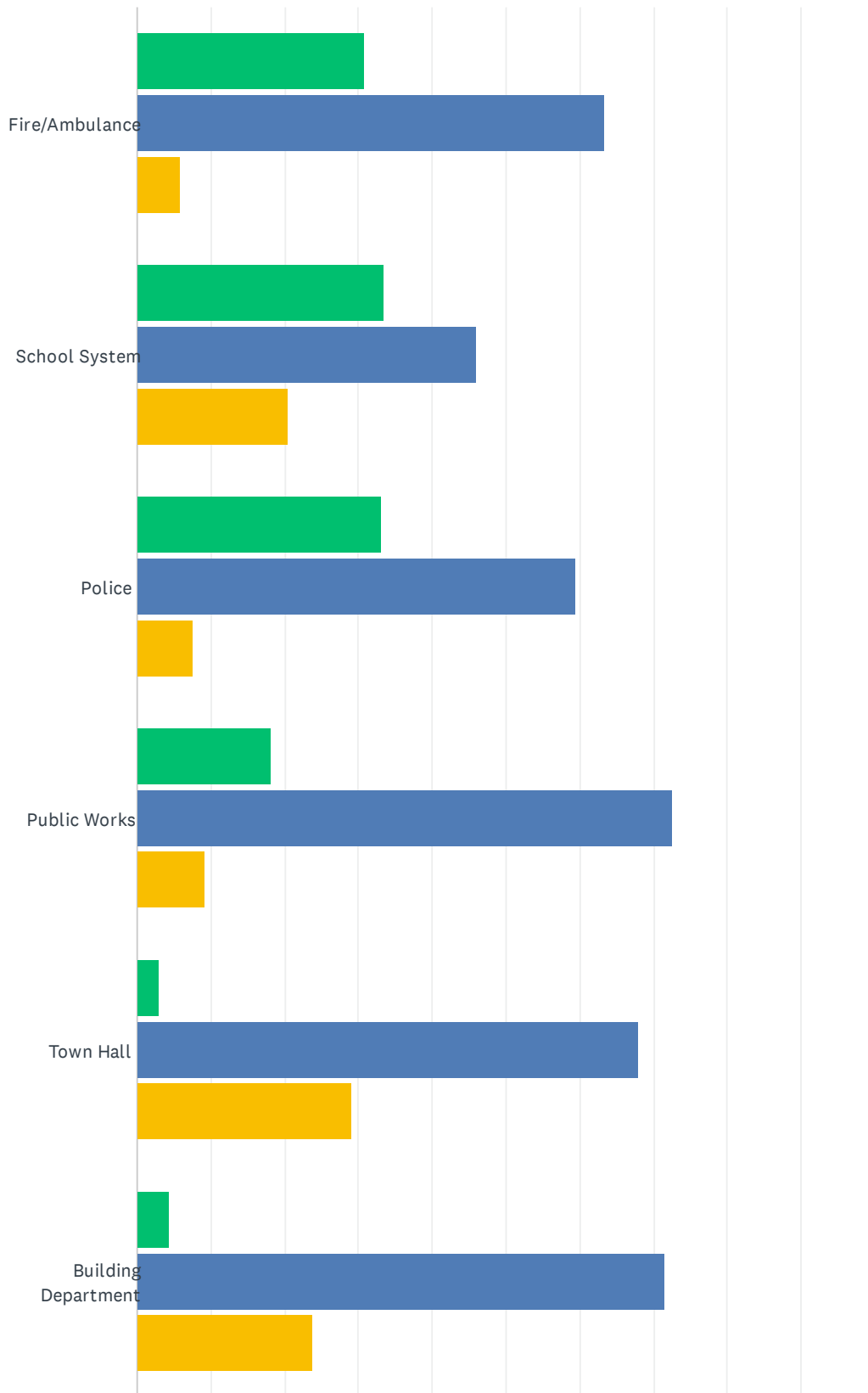
#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	Curious to know how someone even knows the budget or taxes of other towns or know what's similar. On the other hand the BOF could make time to 1.) list what it considers similar towns and 2.) show their taxes collected versus total spending. just saying,	1/18/2021 6:18 AM
2	Wages have not kept up with cost of living.	1/17/2021 9:11 PM
3	Rents are generally cheaper in surrounding towns. Income adjusted isn't an option for a single person with a job and no dependents.	1/17/2021 4:49 PM
4	housing and taxes for value of town services are probably a bit on the higher side but overall close	1/17/2021 7:11 AM
5	I have not evaluated due to plan to move out of state.	1/16/2021 5:47 PM
6	See above comment	1/16/2021 3:56 PM
7	Taxes go up every year and the taxpayer gets less and less in return. There is great need for a revenue neutral budget which is especially true for these pandemic times in which we now live. The pandemic is here to stay and therefore the need to keep small town businesses afloat can not be understated.	1/16/2021 9:36 AM
8	I find it similar to other towns, but affordable is not a word I would use	1/16/2021 8:55 AM
9	Over bloated budget	1/15/2021 10:24 PM
10	actually my answer is "equally un-affordable" but that is not an option. Connecticut's cost of living is becoming un-affordable.	1/15/2021 5:11 PM
11	If you want to live in a nice town with great schools you can expect to pay a little more. Colchester is were I would expect it to be cost of living.	1/15/2021 4:59 PM
12	Much too expensive.	1/15/2021 4:36 PM
13	People who have considered Colchester have stated the costs for real estate or rentals are higher than surrounding areas they have researched. It seems that business expansion by other entities may be hampered by persons or policies wanting to keep a closed market to only those existing businesses currently operating in the town.	1/15/2021 3:21 PM
14	~We lived in Southington before we moved to Colchester and it seems a little more affordable than Southington.	1/14/2021 3:39 PM
15	But I see it as a fair trade-off. Higher taxes here, fit better schools, roads, playgrounds, etc. I am happy to pay a little more in taxes, to make the town more enjoyable for all.	1/13/2021 6:50 PM
16	Taxes out of sight especially for a private community that has private roads and no Town trash pick up.	1/13/2021 12:54 PM
17	Rents are ridiculous	1/13/2021 11:14 AM
18	When I look at my house in other towns, like Glastonbury or East Lyme, I pay a lot less in taxes. Also less services, but give/take.	1/13/2021 9:53 AM
19	Mostly on the education side. In the past, Colchester has spent considerably less than peer towns, per student, with comparable educational results.	1/13/2021 9:05 AM
20	It also depends upon how much you are spending on your house. I am not sure of the vailabe housing market based on price. Meaning houses less then 150000, between 150000 and 200000, etc.	1/13/2021 6:49 AM
21	I appreciate that my taxes have stayed at a reasonable level over recent years.	1/12/2021 10:09 PM
22	CT is a terribly expensive state, but Colchester provides a good balance of affordability and basic amenities such as groceries, gas, restaurants and a hardware store.	1/12/2021 8:10 PM
23	Products sold on Colchester areore pricey. Driven by higher rental costs one would assume.	1/12/2021 2:48 PM
24	Equally unaffordable	1/12/2021 2:44 PM
25	It's a state issue that is driving people of all ages away.	1/12/2021 1:27 PM

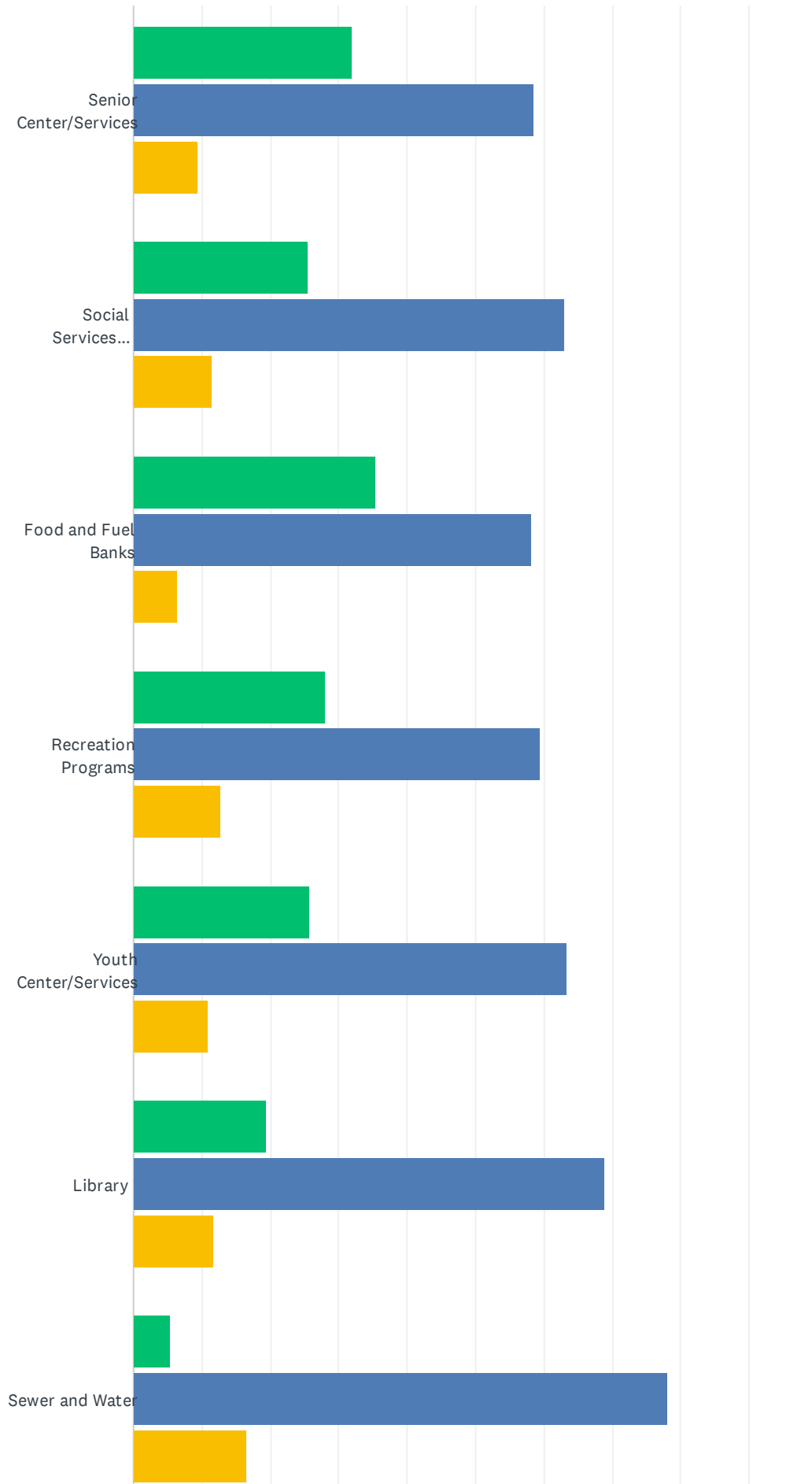
26	I pay over \$6k in property taxes with no trash pickup, no public utilities (water or sewer), not a lot of amenities besides the park with the splash pad (I do like the activities available). There certainly isn't as much money but into softball as there is baseball.	1/12/2021 10:33 AM
27	Colchester is very affordable compared to other quintessential CT towns.	1/12/2021 9:38 AM
28	Property taxes are quite high.	1/12/2021 6:21 AM
29	No idea. But it's still affordable.	1/11/2021 6:29 PM
30	I grew up on Long Island and Colchester is VERY affordable	1/11/2021 5:53 PM
31	Taxes too high especially as most seniors live in 55+ communities that have private roads- don't use town taxes to plow their roads, repair their roads, don't pay for city street lights, no garbage pick up, netc- there should be a tax break for seniors who live in communities that do not use town resources (and I am not talking about schools- everyone wants children educated)	1/11/2021 3:55 PM
32	Just right for us. No basis to make a comparison	1/11/2021 3:52 PM
33	One would have to define "similar towns." Having moved from Glastonbury, it is more affordable in Colchester. However, more efforts need to be made to attract businesses and appeal to a growing population in Colchester.	1/11/2021 3:43 PM
34	Property taxes are very high and food seems a little more expensive in restaurants and grocery stores.	1/11/2021 3:31 PM
35	Equally unaffordable	1/11/2021 2:54 PM
36	Except for stop n shop. Very expensive.	1/11/2021 2:49 PM
37	I have never lived in any comparable towns.	1/11/2021 2:44 PM
38	We are just lucky to be here	1/11/2021 2:18 PM
39	Tax to services ratio is unequal.	1/10/2021 3:30 PM
40	We would get more people to move here if our fields were in better shape.	1/9/2021 7:52 AM
41	Unsure about this anymore. Everything is expensive and tyrannical in this state, therefore, it reflects back to the town running itself in accordance with the state.	1/9/2021 7:42 AM
42	Using the word affordable was probably a poor choice. Maybe reconsider other ways to ask this question.	1/8/2021 11:19 PM
43	Hard to afford taxes on a fixed income. Seniors and those living on fixed incomes, need a tax relief program like surrounding towns.	1/8/2021 7:30 PM
44	In Connecticut I believe that we are on par with similar size towns.	1/8/2021 6:32 PM
45	Was very affordable in 1982 Don't know about now	1/7/2021 6:28 PM
46	We selected Colchester because of a lower mill rate than the surrounding area we were looking in.	1/7/2021 5:15 PM
47	I would love to see our taxes come down and not be taxes for everything I own, as if the town needs a portion of it. It would be great to know my taxes are specially helping my children in school and small business ventures and not fruitless endeavors.	1/7/2021 4:23 PM
48	The apartments are priced high as well as new housing coming into town.	1/7/2021 3:50 PM
49	Feel like our property taxes are high. We must pay for trash pickup. Lack community space for older residents.	1/7/2021 3:06 PM
50	There's a lot of other places that are cheaper to live nearby. For what we pay into, I think our town has a lot of nice amenities, and feels safer than those other areas.	1/7/2021 7:47 AM
51	A few years ago Darien lowered their Real Estate tax by thousands of dollars. Are we looking on how that was accomplished? East Haddam does not charge at their transfer station nor do other towns near by.	1/7/2021 6:34 AM
52	Less affordable when factoring staffing/coverage for police/fire.	1/6/2021 10:06 PM

53	Affordability how defined? Does that include value, opportunities, amenities?	1/6/2021 5:42 PM
54	Taxes too high for seniors	1/6/2021 5:03 PM
55	House price too high Services in Town need to be expanded	1/6/2021 4:32 PM
56	see grocery comment above.	1/6/2021 4:27 PM
57	I do think there are additional services which should be considered	1/6/2021 12:44 PM

Q5 In 2021-2022 Budget, what is your preference for funding the following areas?

Answered: 708 Skipped: 58







■ Increase Spending
 ■ Maintain Current Spending
 ■ Reduce Spending

	INCREASE SPENDING	MAINTAIN CURRENT SPENDING	REDUCE SPENDING	TOTAL
Fire/Ambulance	30.81% 216	63.34% 444	5.85% 41	701
School System	33.43% 236	46.03% 325	20.54% 145	706
Police	33.00% 231	59.43% 416	7.57% 53	700
Public Works	18.18% 128	72.59% 511	9.23% 65	704
Town Hall	3.00% 21	67.90% 476	29.10% 204	701
Building Department	4.47% 31	71.57% 496	23.95% 166	693
Senior Center/Services	32.01% 225	58.61% 412	9.39% 66	703
Social Services (excluding Food and Fuel Banks)	25.53% 180	62.98% 444	11.49% 81	705
Food and Fuel Banks	35.33% 248	58.26% 409	6.41% 45	702
Recreation Programs	28.02% 197	59.32% 417	12.66% 89	703
Youth Center/Services	25.78% 181	63.39% 445	10.83% 76	702
Library	19.40% 136	68.90% 483	11.70% 82	701
Sewer and Water	5.35% 37	78.03% 540	16.62% 115	692

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	These questions are nonsensical yet again. If we all say reduce fire and police, will you? Reduce sewer and water?	1/20/2021 4:21 PM
2	Increasing spending is an investment in our town	1/20/2021 4:18 PM
3	If you want people to move here you need to make the town attractive and not scare them off with bloated government.	1/18/2021 8:26 AM
4	Majority of town is private wells/septic	1/17/2021 9:58 PM
5	I'm not informed enough to know where the needs are. I support taxes required to meet the needs. especially education.	1/17/2021 9:15 PM
6	Fix or replace sewer line on airline trail.	1/17/2021 8:33 PM
7	I'm not familiar with how much the library actually provides in comparison to the other options on this list.	1/17/2021 4:52 PM
8	Building dept: hire an economic development officer	1/17/2021 3:35 PM
9	i cannot agree with the school superintendent asking for at least 1.5% increase already - the schools have increased spending over \$10M since 2008 with decreases in student counts by almost 20% administrative services and operations should be consolidated across all schools	1/17/2021 7:16 AM
10	Use the government money you get to actually fix your dirt roads	1/16/2021 4:33 PM
11	Put REAL effort into reducing spending	1/16/2021 9:10 AM
12	Overall we should maintain or reduce spending many families are struggling	1/16/2021 7:52 AM
13	Clean up the waist and bloated spending in the town budget	1/15/2021 10:52 PM
14	Close the library, it is obsolete.	1/15/2021 7:22 PM
15	We are in need to a community center. The Fire Dept. Is in great need of updated equipment and vehicles	1/15/2021 6:46 PM
16	Cut spending. Period.	1/15/2021 5:41 PM
17	I see a huge waste of resources when it comes to our public works department. Seeing plow trucks w/plows causing sparks on dry pavement is wasteful. When we do get snow our town plows do not come back and clean intersections of secondary roads and one half of a two way road only has half a lane & we risk getting hit by an incoming vehicle at the stop sign.	1/15/2021 5:38 PM
18	On well and sewer.	1/15/2021 5:31 PM
19	It is too expensive to live in this town. We homeschool our kids and get ZERO services for them, with no reduction in taxes.	1/15/2021 4:41 PM
20	It's difficult to say without the current budget in front of us. This is a show of our personal priorities. We need to invest in our recreation fields. They are sorely lacking in quality compared to other towns. We need at least one - but should have two turf fields in our town to compete with other towns. Glastonbury is getting more and more attractive as it grows and maintains great schools. Our kids compete with richer and poorer towns that have more updated recreational facilities including better fields.	1/15/2021 12:13 PM
21	~Haven't lived here long enough to really know my opinion regarding this section.	1/14/2021 3:48 PM
22	I	1/14/2021 12:01 PM
23	I'm guessing we shouldn't need to spend as much in recreation since everything has been closed...	1/13/2021 9:21 PM
24	I have a private well and septic. Not really sure	1/13/2021 2:39 PM
25	I'm not sure where this falls - but I do think the town maintained parks and fields need increased budget or time/attention. The fields at the rec plex could be much better with a better maintenance/improvement plan, more time committed to regular maintenance, and prioritization.	1/13/2021 12:48 PM

26	Look at staffing at this time. Is it necessary to have all the people employed since builds and programs are closed or very limited services being offered.	1/13/2021 12:29 PM
27	Recreation fields need better maintenance.	1/13/2021 11:46 AM
28	Less kids enrolled in school mean costs, other than fixed expenses, should decrease.	1/13/2021 6:48 AM
29	I don't use a lot of the services in town because they aren't really catered for our family! Despite that I answered to maintain funding to almost all areas!	1/12/2021 9:21 PM
30	It seems unfair that some schools offer full time in person whereas the higher grades are still hybrid. We all pay the same taxes. I would appreciate equal opportunity. Furthermore I find it totally unacceptable that special education gets extra funding when gifted programs have been gutted.	1/12/2021 8:30 PM
31	The Rec Plex and town fields have been neglected and need to be upgraded and better maintained for the safety of the children using them.	1/12/2021 8:06 PM
32	Frankly, I'm not really sure of spending issues, as I just go along with the fine work our Boards and Commissions do.	1/12/2021 6:13 PM
33	The library staff did so much work to provide services during Covid. I think their budget should be increased to purchase more books and other resources, pay for extended hours, and to provide more programming for youth and adults. Bravo for jobs well done!!	1/12/2021 4:49 PM
34	Additional funding should be allocated to fixing the fields at the Rec Plex. For the size of our town and tax base, our playing fields are embarrassing compared to the surrounding towns.	1/12/2021 4:18 PM
35	Sewer and water don't help me at all. Why do I pay the same taxes as those who have it?	1/12/2021 3:22 PM
36	If you all think that you can just keep going on higher and higher, I think you are going to encounter push back. People are frustrated with everything going on and if teachers are going to hide because of Covid, they will find that online teaching will move into their space and many parents are talking about homeschooling.	1/12/2021 3:22 PM
37	Take care of everyone. Everyone deserves being taken care of.	1/12/2021 2:50 PM
38	Unless you live with in Town Center, you more than likely have a well, as I do. Am I paying the same tax as the people/businesses why have town water supply? Doesn't seem fair...does it?	1/12/2021 2:49 PM
39	Senior center has been crucial. Needs broader coverage of transportation services which are not available otherwise. Expand some service to weekends or afternoons. Some transport to town for dinner or library would help. Food and fuel banks are needed for many in these hard times. Social services should be increased during covid and recovery. Schools are the largest expense and are way over funded as a rule. Having the newest and best is not needed to generate the best.	1/12/2021 1:53 PM
40	please maintain. We are not familiar enough to set priorities.	1/12/2021 11:47 AM
41	This town needs a community pool at the Rex Plex with an annual membership.	1/12/2021 11:38 AM
42	If we need to increase food/fuel banks we have over populated the town with individuals that can't afford to live in this community.	1/12/2021 11:24 AM
43	I've had little contact with the town services other than the senior center and the library both of which i rate excellent. I haven't seen any reason to increase the other basic services. Schools are the largest part of the budget and generally offer the most opportunities for budget decrease with minimal effects. Money should go to increases in food banks, fuel banks and social services in this time of crisis.	1/12/2021 11:24 AM
44	More funds towards public health department	1/12/2021 11:01 AM
45	Improve playground at Colchester Recreation complex.	1/12/2021 10:06 AM
46	Would love to see this expanded	1/12/2021 9:37 AM
47	Spending needs to address the immediate needs of our citizens in need given the situation with the pandemic first, then address the long term needs of the Town.	1/12/2021 9:02 AM
48	I would like to see the Veterans getting more recognition and even though their numbers are getting much lower, I would like to see them have a place of their own so that they could have	1/12/2021 6:32 AM

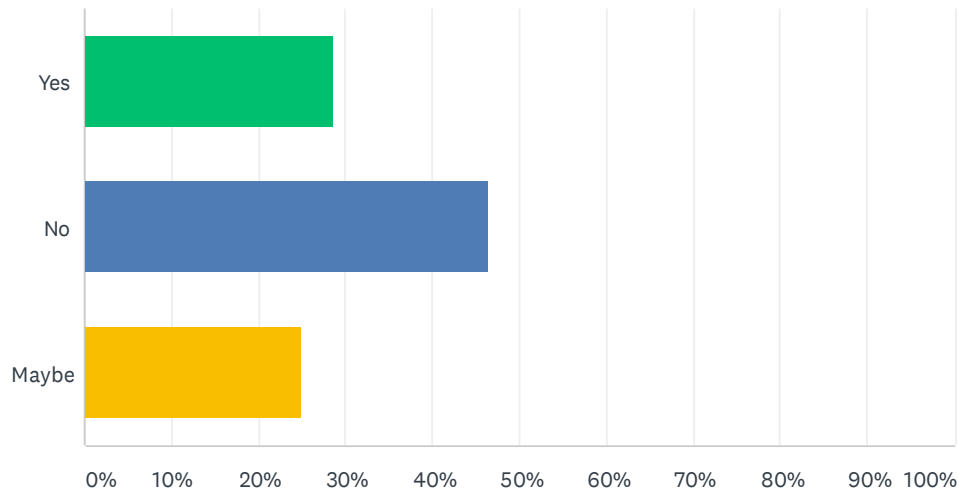
	a place for holding social events and enough room to keep their articles of importance to them.	
49	D	1/12/2021 4:53 AM
50	I have septic & my own well....so no benefit to me other than keeping hound waters clean	1/11/2021 8:52 PM
51	It seems like with the last year with not much going on there should be a large surplus of resources for the upcoming year	1/11/2021 8:37 PM
52	For a period of time i worked as sub teacher and as a sub para. One of the positions had no responsibilities at all. Not one... In another i spent hours shredding paper. A third position involved throwing shredded paper on the floor and watching a severely impaired student vacuum it up.	1/11/2021 8:32 PM
53	I am not very knowledgeable about town spending so I cannot really make a legitimate suggestion for any changes.	1/11/2021 8:04 PM
54	I am not familiar with each section of the budget to evaluate the above.	1/11/2021 6:47 PM
55	Can't afford some of the programs offered by the senior center. It seems that they cater to a certain number of people. We need to support the fire/ambulance and police for the safety and good health of everyone in the community.	1/11/2021 6:41 PM
56	Some of these departments (all, probably) have demonstrated their value to our community in the last 9 months, going above and beyond their traditional service models to keep Colchester active, engaged, healthy, sane, connected...	1/11/2021 6:34 PM
57	Building department has a lazy disrespectful employee doing the town a disservice. Move him along and hire someone that is for community service. Save money.	1/11/2021 6:11 PM
58	I believe that by increasing taxes our town will only improve. Do I think it should be a crazy amount no, but I understand everything cost more for all	1/11/2021 5:58 PM
59	We would like to see sidewalks starting from the center of town on Lebanon Ave, continuing to at least North Woods of Colchester. The blight in town is awful. The appearance of the town can be a deterrent to future home owners. a	1/11/2021 5:35 PM
60	Recreation fields and complex is in need of many upgrades! Please support the families and children in this town in efforts to improve these facilities to be on par with surrounding towns. Sports programming and outdoor recreation is so important for physical and mental health - now more than ever!	1/11/2021 5:12 PM
61	Water bills are too high.	1/11/2021 4:19 PM
62	WE need to work on the field quality in town	1/11/2021 4:07 PM
63	I have not carefully reviewed the budget and cannot make informed recommendations.	1/11/2021 3:58 PM
64	Due to COVID most people can not afford increase in taxes.	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
65	Glad to help those in need including kids, seniors, city workers	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
66	I do not believe this is the time with many people out of work and struggling to raises taxes/services; however, I would not like to see them taken away either. Therefore, I would suggest the status quo.	1/11/2021 3:38 PM
67	Please approve the building and funding of a new Senior Center.	1/11/2021 3:25 PM
68	Need police 24 hours a day	1/11/2021 3:04 PM
69	With less school enrollment, funding should be lowered.	1/11/2021 3:01 PM
70	We have the benefit of neither sewer nor water.	1/11/2021 2:54 PM
71	The reason for most of these answers. We so far have had good winter. As far most of these departments not run on full scale where expenses have been high. Since public not been involved do to the Virus	1/11/2021 2:27 PM
72	Libraries are less essential as most information is available online. However, libraries can be better used as a community social center, such as for clubs, guest lecturers, etc. Schools define the quality of a community and should be well-supported. It is very essential that technology be a major part of the curriculum.	1/11/2021 2:21 PM

73	As a new person I don't know too much about these items.	1/11/2021 2:14 PM
74	too many people at the brink of bankruptcy during these unprecedented times. Local governments need to buckle up and become smaller.	1/11/2021 11:27 AM
75	I trust our elected officials to make the right decisions.	1/11/2021 8:12 AM
76	No one is doing anything so there should be money be saved in a lot of areas	1/10/2021 8:20 PM
77	Police coverage needs to be expanded as well as firehouse equipment and personnel.	1/10/2021 3:37 PM
78	Many items are currently supplemented by volunteers and donations.	1/10/2021 3:33 PM
79	I am sure several departments need more resources but we are in the middle of a pandemic where residents are struggling to survive	1/9/2021 12:41 PM
80	Right now, with the pandemic/closure(s), no one can afford ANY tax increase. And, to impose one (whether because of union or not), would prove my point. Tyrannical. Not truly caring about people and their situations that they had NO CHOICE in making. Government imposed the restrictions/closures, government should pay the price and lack of revenue. This trickles down from services provided to the government, so the government has to impose on to the people. No tax increase. Cut programs/services and recreate a better budget with the people and situations truly in mind. Like I see all around town "We All Are In This Together". Then show it.	1/9/2021 7:57 AM
81	Without providing some level of context, these topics are completely subject and your data will be skewed. For example, I have zero knowledge of the senior center/services, what the needs are, or what any requests for funding look like. Please consider someone with a data analytics background to help develop the surveys in the future.	1/8/2021 11:32 PM
82	We don't need public water and sewer	1/8/2021 10:40 PM
83	The library needs funding as it is the only town place open to all residents.	1/8/2021 7:33 PM
84	I would like to increase spending to public works so that we can irrigate the fields at our rec plex and I would also like to see a new playscape. Our playscape is dated, the paint is chipping off and the plastic is well worn.	1/8/2021 6:44 PM
85	We need people (town hall workers and public) that are flexible with contractors to add revenue to our town	1/8/2021 5:22 PM
86	I realize Rt 2 passes through our town, but most towns this size have a volunteer FD.	1/8/2021 2:09 PM
87	Fields and Rec Plex are in great need of work. Fields are dangerous without maintenance - cracks on basketball and tennis courts are disheartening and dangerous. The condition of the fields and parks and rec facilities are only area where Colchester is below comparable towns.	1/8/2021 1:38 PM
88	Please irrigate the rec plex fields	1/8/2021 1:34 PM
89	People utilizing programming from various departments (youth, senior and recreation) should be charged more if they are from outside of the town.	1/7/2021 6:06 PM
90	Schools and food banks should definitely have more budget allocated over the next year. The high-school has room to improve, and foodbanks have become even more stressed since March last year.	1/7/2021 5:19 PM
91	The fire department has been left behind so now we have to spend a large amount of monies to catch up, we need to implement a paramedic program also. Police need body cameras yesterday. Social services are doing the work the senior center should be doing (renters and energy assistance) the senior center has more staff than other towns in the area and population. The senior center should be a place where seniors needs are taken care of in every area. The Social services fills the needs of almost 16K while the senior center serves 1300 with 20% living outside of town. I would like to see recreation programs for more age groups.	1/7/2021 4:00 PM
92		1/7/2021 3:36 PM
93	Since such a small portion of town actually is able to use public water and sewer, it's unfair for increased spending to be footed by the majority of town who can not make use of the services	1/7/2021 3:11 PM
94	As seen during pandemic can do without a lot of these services or at least reduced staffing	1/7/2021 3:04 PM
95	Hard to answer any of these if we don't have current spending amount on hand.	1/7/2021 2:58 PM

96	I would like to see more information shared during budget season on the changing demographics of our community and how the budget reflects meeting the needs of those various demographic groups. Also, with limited financial resources the needs of the town related to safety and services provided need to be carefully reviewed/evaluated. For example: our serious dead tree problem that may affect public safety and quality of life (e.g. electrical outages due to dead trees falling on lines that could have been avoided) and the need to put more budgeted funds towards this dangerous community situation.	1/7/2021 10:39 AM
97	The dept that takes care of what businesses in town is TERRIBLE and should be de-funded! It appears they only try to get auto parts / pizza or chinese restaurants / hair salons. NOT DOING THIER JOB !	1/7/2021 8:02 AM
98	I feel the budget this year should have no new programs or initiatives until we find out how the COVID situation impacts the town for 2021, and whether state funding stays the same or is decreased.	1/7/2021 7:06 AM
99	No overnight town police coverage is unfathomable. I believe there would be a tremendous benefit to taxpayers if the FD situation was evaluated and restructured, preferably by a new Chief or public safety director. Someone with NO allegiances to the town or it's politicians. Additional paid staff and consolidation of apparatus should be high priorities! Staff the Westchester station as residents in that area pay the same tax rate but routinely wait for units from Downtown to respond. Comparing Colchester to similar towns by size/population and the resources their public safety departments provide make you scratch your head. We're 20 years behind the times!	1/6/2021 10:19 PM
100	we have filter are water. The town water could be better.	1/6/2021 9:19 PM
101	No not utilize town water and sewer	1/6/2021 7:04 PM
102	High taxes mostly fault of state. property taxes double what they should be.	1/6/2021 6:11 PM
103	Why is the Library listed almost last? How was the order of these items determined? Why is Fire/Ambulance listed first?	1/6/2021 6:00 PM
104	Given the level of unpredictability we face in the next year, we should be looking to spend more only in areas that would support people through the pandemic.	1/6/2021 5:48 PM
105	The minute the teachers get their vaccination shots schools should open full time. Any teacher not willing to put in their time in the classroom needs to get laid off. I have spoken with junior high and high school students and they find their education a bit higher than worthless.	1/6/2021 5:31 PM
106	Elderly share too high for their income level	1/6/2021 4:37 PM
107	Keep the increase to a minimum. Every department is need of something. That's how things get and maintain a nice community of which people will want to come to.	1/6/2021 4:32 PM
108	We need more police coverage. People speeding a lot. We need resources to keep up the appearances of the town. We need to invest in growth. No budget for economic development	1/6/2021 12:48 PM

Q6 In order to maintain current levels of Town services would you be willing to pay higher taxes to cover any increase in operating costs?

Answered: 707 Skipped: 59



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		28.71%	203
No		46.39%	328
Maybe		24.89%	176
TOTAL			707

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	It's hard. My wages haven't gone up substantially in many years. I'm a single mom and homeowner. Sometimes it feels like everyone wants more but I don't get more because I'm an LCSW working in community mental health clinic.	1/17/2021 9:16 PM
2	In these hard times for all raising taxes should not be an option	1/17/2021 8:33 PM
3	Within reason	1/17/2021 10:23 AM
4	What am I getting for my money, don't see it	1/17/2021 9:43 AM
5	reduce spending - when my company needs money we either have to make more or reduce costs	1/17/2021 7:16 AM
6	Reallocate first. But this town has so much potential. Need more businesses in town that are more industrial. We don't need another hair salon or car garage but we need greater diversity in businesses so that folks don't have to go out of town for so many things.	1/17/2021 6:32 AM
7	within reason cut over time get people to help out with cleaning up the green and parks senior center people would like to get out to help few hours a day also people that are retired	1/16/2021 6:36 PM
8	Just as most, individual income has been impacted greatly and increases would cause a great negative impact on people's well-being	1/16/2021 5:52 PM
9	The town should be able to maintain with a flat budget - Corporations do it every year (actually increase services while decreasing expenses).	1/16/2021 5:43 PM
10	Spend our money more wisely, avoid waste	1/16/2021 4:05 PM
11	NO!!!!!!!!!!!! I'm very happy with how things are, would do anything to avoid increased taxes	1/16/2021 3:55 PM
12	Cut spending in some areas to increase spending in others.	1/16/2021 3:15 PM
13	I believe if we continue to increase taxes without first addressing the exorbitant amount of money already pouring out of local Gov the few who profit will continue to pad their pockets. I feel our police budget is outrageous for such a small town, as is the salary for those who hold an office.	1/16/2021 3:11 PM
14	You've got to be kidding!	1/16/2021 2:19 PM
15	We are over taxed as it is! Due to the pandemic, my earnings have decreased and thus my wife and I cannot afford higher taxes.	1/16/2021 9:42 AM
16	Property tax bills are as high as some mortgage payments, year after year taxes up After 35 or 40 yrs of paying, it should be exempt from further increased, and at certain age it should start to be reduced This done by reducing spending	1/16/2021 9:10 AM
17	Probably leaving CT due to the overall high cost of living.	1/16/2021 7:52 AM
18	Try cutting. The township will be better served with a reduced tax burden. Struggling families are better served when their hard earned income remains under their own control to be better spent to meet their own family needs.	1/15/2021 10:52 PM
19	Lower property tax. Focus on increase small businesses.	1/15/2021 8:54 PM
20	To create a great place to live or improve upon services, we must all pitch in. For to long we have cut spending. We need to build upon the town's future. To attract new people to Colchester to need to stand out a bit more than we do now. We do not have sufficient community place(s) Bacon Academy needs to increase technology	1/15/2021 6:46 PM
21	Taxes are to high already.	1/15/2021 5:41 PM
22	House was purchased at a decent price however taxes seem somewhat high.	1/15/2021 5:31 PM
23	No. No. No.	1/15/2021 4:41 PM
24	Absolutely not!!	1/15/2021 4:22 PM
25	Highly value transparency in all operating costs and transparency too around fiscal management and longterm obligations in light of the pandemic and associated hardships in all cohorts.	1/15/2021 2:33 PM

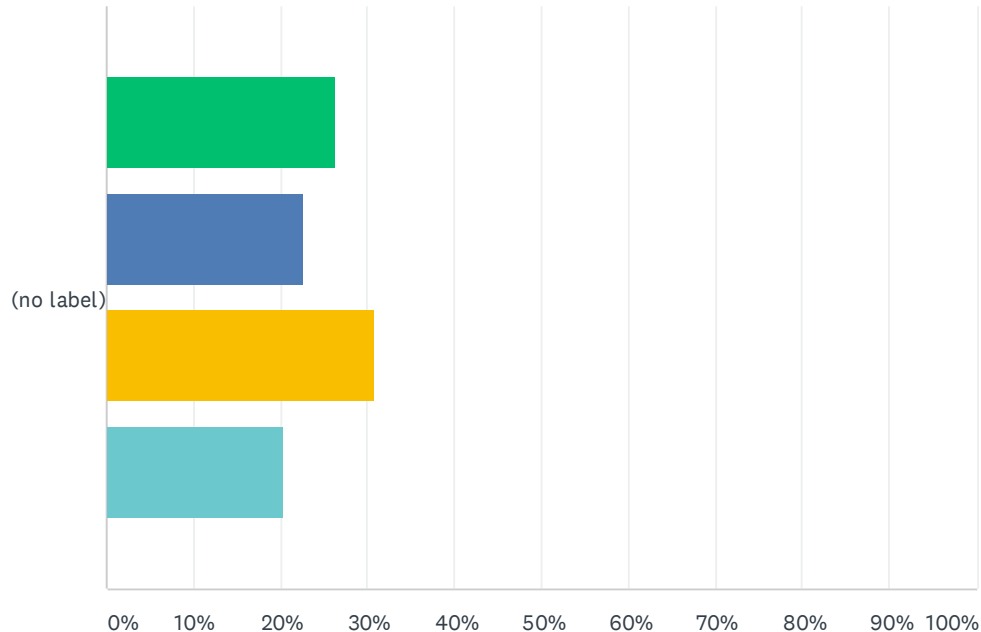
26	As a newer residence of Colchester Northwood 55 community, we pay the same tax rate as all Colchester residence but do not receive the same benefits such as snow removal, road repairs . As a Senior citizen and living on a limited budget why should we have to pay the same tax rate and receive less benefits?	1/15/2021 2:14 PM
27	It's unclear to me how some people expect quality of service, but are not willing to pay for it. We have no children, but we vote the BOE budget in every year. You want your town to be a place children want to settle in and raise their own families, and be taxpayers. Good school systems are one of the best attractions for new residents. Colchester/Hayward Fire & Rescue are second to none in their response, and saved my husband's life several years ago after he went into anaphylaxis. Good roads, lighting, policing, retention of open space all depend upon a healthy budget.	1/15/2021 11:08 AM
28	~We are already in low income, so we don't have extra to cover increases.	1/14/2021 3:48 PM
29	As a senior citizen living in a 55 and over community, I am paying very high taxes and not getting any services for them. I cannot afford to pay higher taxes and would have to consider moving out of Colchester.	1/13/2021 11:24 AM
30	Too expensive as it is now	1/13/2021 9:45 AM
31	Taxes are already too high	1/13/2021 7:31 AM
32	Absolutely no to higher taxes.	1/13/2021 6:48 AM
33	I am not sure why you even bother to ask this question. We all know that taxes have to increase every year because the unions that run this state and our town have guarantees raises every year of the one sided contracts they negotiate. Unions and leftists politicians are running CT into the ground. I am just keeping my fingers crossed that it doesn't get so bad that I am forced to leave before my youngest graduates	1/12/2021 8:35 PM
34	We've been retired 20+ years and for 2021 it may also be tough on families who are working due to the pandemic.	1/12/2021 8:21 PM
35	... but not too much!	1/12/2021 6:13 PM
36	Taxes are too high now, how much do you think people can afford now, most are not working or lost their jobs and business are suffering and some are closing , there is only so much you can expect to get	1/12/2021 5:07 PM
37	When I had children in school I willingly paid my taxes. As a retired senior citizen I can't afford to pay increased taxes for education, especially when so many families with children live in apts and don't pay local taxes	1/12/2021 4:58 PM
38	I believe you already have 4 months of my salary for house taxes alone..	1/12/2021 4:54 PM
39	depends on how much higher the taxes go and what exactly the money will go to.	1/12/2021 3:26 PM
40	That's a loaded question. What I don't understand here in Colchester and I've been living here for 20 years is why do we build something if we aren't going to maintain it? Those facilities start to look dated and sloppy and then before you know it you're spending more to start from scratch. Look at the gazebo on the town green and how the plantings are kept up - the center of our town looks so dated and homely. Tennis courts - just terrible. Our fields - do we have someone that is really qualified to maintain them and direct staff on how to fertilize and mow? Doesn't seem like it. Every year they get a little worse. Don't bother adding sports and activities if you don't have the capacity to do so. Thus, the answer isn't to raise taxes but more to spend wisely.	1/12/2021 2:25 PM
41	increases in taxes would only promote me to move earlier than anticipated.	1/12/2021 11:24 AM
42	A small amount more.	1/12/2021 10:40 AM
43	Taxes are high enough and a continuation of increased taxes will be cause for us to sell and move	1/12/2021 10:13 AM
44	Colchester needs to gain more revenue from companies versus taxing citizens all the time.	1/12/2021 7:34 AM
45	It would depend on what it is used for.	1/12/2021 6:32 AM
46	look deep - there are places that could be reduced!	1/12/2021 5:30 AM

47	Cut costs , Between all the taxes in Connecticut and the high taxes in the smaller towns people are being forced out of town. We have to stop waving the magic tax wand and control costs	1/11/2021 10:49 PM
48	Taxes are way to high already, they should be reduced	1/11/2021 9:50 PM
49	I live in a private community that benefits little from town services except fire, ambulance and police	1/11/2021 9:28 PM
50	depends on how much of an increase	1/11/2021 8:35 PM
51	It depends on the costs and whether or not the costs reflect necessary increases. Increased "operating costs" sometimes include cushions that can be used for other purposes if they are overestimates.	1/11/2021 8:32 PM
52	I am not the tax payer. My family is.	1/11/2021 6:47 PM
53	Can't at this time.	1/11/2021 6:41 PM
54	Cannot really afford present taxes now as a retiree	1/11/2021 5:20 PM
55	It depends on where the increases are.	1/11/2021 5:01 PM
56	Only for the schools, senior center and food & fuel banks.	1/11/2021 4:59 PM
57	You need to prove the higher taxes are needed!	1/11/2021 4:35 PM
58	Depends on if it benefits all or just one portion of the population.	1/11/2021 4:15 PM
59	Not at this time.	1/11/2021 3:58 PM
60	As long as there's a clear need and the increase isn't dramatic i don't mind paying a little more	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
61	I would have to understand why, with the enormous amount of expensive senior housing adding to the tax base, without adding to the education budget, why taxes need to increase. They should be declining, with all the additional senior taxpayers who do not burden the school budget.	1/11/2021 3:51 PM
62	Taxes are too high now	1/11/2021 3:38 PM
63	Too high already	1/11/2021 3:07 PM
64	Reduce Board of Education spending.	1/11/2021 2:54 PM
65	If The town came more in line with the atmosphere of being fair to all Residents. The attitude that they can pay higher because they can afford it is not the type of thinking that can be condoned. The building department needs to get into reality and stop being personal kingdom run by people that like to make them selves kings of their own importance. We see how well that worked in Washington.	1/11/2021 2:51 PM
66	Progress requires some money but people these days can't afford too much more	1/11/2021 2:45 PM
67	I believe we are at a moderate stand still	1/11/2021 2:27 PM
68	Depends upon what caused increased costs.	1/11/2021 2:17 PM
69	There is no money....the rich got richer...the poor and middle class are sinking. Lower town services.	1/11/2021 11:27 AM
70	The cost of doing business increases, so taxes should meet the need.	1/11/2021 8:12 AM
71	Not many town Services happening now	1/10/2021 8:20 PM
72	As seniors we pay enough	1/10/2021 6:16 PM
73	I think taxes are too high for what is offered. This comes from the First Selectmans independent choices not the taxpayers.	1/10/2021 3:37 PM
74	Some things like infrastructure must be maintained as well as the amenities people use and makes them want to live here.	1/10/2021 3:33 PM
75	Cut back/reduce current levels of Town services. Period.	1/9/2021 7:57 AM

76	I shouldn't have to pay more for services already provided. If the city isn't finding ways to be more efficient and manage costs within its programs, it is being poorly managed.	1/8/2021 11:32 PM
77	I can't afford to pay more taxes.	1/8/2021 7:33 PM
78	To a degree	1/8/2021 5:22 PM
79	Several roads are in severely deteriorated condition and need re-paving. Additional grass, weed, and tree clipping is needed and should happen more often.	1/8/2021 2:09 PM
80	Yes - in the short run taxes will go up but if we plan accordingly and make Colchester an attractive place to move to the tax base will increase and per capita taxes will eventually decrease or stabilize. If town does not make an effort to grow especially with families than consumer spending will decrease and taxes will only increase more.	1/8/2021 1:38 PM
81	Taxes are too high already	1/8/2021 4:16 AM
82	We pay too much already	1/7/2021 8:02 PM
83	Not sure	1/7/2021 6:30 PM
84	I just moved here for lower taxes. It'll be hard to stomach an immediate tax increase.	1/7/2021 5:19 PM
85	If levels are being maintained why should I be paying higher taxes?	1/7/2021 4:27 PM
86	This would depend on what is driving the taxes high, irrigation of rec fields is not one of them.	1/7/2021 4:00 PM
87	No one can afford an increase in taxes due to the pandemic.	1/7/2021 2:58 PM
88	This is NOT New Jersey!	1/7/2021 2:57 PM
89	Towns, just as individuals and families, must identify their needs and live within their means. Wants and desires have to be carefully evaluated to see if they are really necessary, determine if they are affordable and how they will be funded. I continue to personally make those tough choices, including sacrifices financially to continue to be able to live in Colchester. Having worked in a corporation, for most of my career, the leadership at all levels and the employees were charged with annual review of their job functions and other processes to see where the work could be done with more efficiency implementing cost saving measures, work groups were formed annually to identify then work on continuous quality improvement again to save time/effort/money. As my parents said, you can only spend money once, make certain that spending is necessary and will have value.	1/7/2021 10:39 AM
90	It would depend on the services.	1/7/2021 7:06 AM
91	My Social Security went up 1.3% which is gauged on the CPI. I don't think that the town's spending should be more than that.	1/7/2021 6:48 AM
92	Taxes are to high now for the level of service we receive.	1/6/2021 9:23 PM
93	Reduce costs	1/6/2021 7:39 PM
94	Within reason	1/6/2021 7:04 PM
95	Depends on justification provided.	1/6/2021 5:48 PM
96	Time to reduce taxes.	1/6/2021 5:31 PM
97	Seniors will be leaving due to high taxes.	1/6/2021 5:05 PM
98	We either pay now or later.....or both. Nothing is free.	1/6/2021 4:54 PM
99	Depends on where major spending increases occurred within the budget.	1/6/2021 4:46 PM
100	Make department more operationally more efficient to help reduce cost factors	1/6/2021 4:37 PM
101	I would like to refocus on balancing the budget and redirecting funds before increasing taxes. I would like to also continue to see a focus on increase the tax base (through businesses, etc) before raising taxes. Raising taxes is short sighted, its a short term gain for a long term loss (short term cover your operating costs, long term you reduce your tax base as people move out)	1/6/2021 4:35 PM

Q7 As the cost of most things goes up every year, maintaining current services generally requires an increase in the amount budgeted to pay for them. If there is not a great enough increase in the Grand List (the total value of all property in Colchester subject to Property Taxes) and/or state funding decreases, what percent of tax increase would you find acceptable, given the effect on services?

Answered: 699 Skipped: 67



- Decrease or No Increase (will reduce services)
- Less than 1% Increase (likely reduce services)
- 1% to 2% Increase (possible reduction in some services)
- Over 2% (may maintain or add services)

	DECREASE OR NO INCREASE (WILL REDUCE SERVICES)	LESS THAN 1% INCREASE (LIKELY REDUCE SERVICES)	1% TO 2% INCREASE (POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN SOME SERVICES)	OVER 2% (MAY MAINTAIN OR ADD SERVICES)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	26.32% 184	22.60% 158	30.76% 215	20.31% 142	699	1.00

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	Investing in our town will make us a more desirable place for businesses to move to thereby increasing our tax base over time	1/20/2021 4:18 PM
2	This question is misleading. It assumes, without providing evidence, that the only way to maintain services is through a >2% increase. The question has been similar every year, without evidence, and is disingenuous in my opinion.	1/17/2021 10:42 PM
3	So hard during these times to have an increase.	1/17/2021 9:58 PM
4	So your zero budgets, and the denial of essential life saving paramedic services still leaves us with these choices..	1/17/2021 7:31 PM
5	More than 2% depending on what the need is.	1/17/2021 3:35 PM
6	Done voting yes to increases with no real justification and just threats to cut school services, that is all that happens vote yes or we cut baseball or launguagr classes, we should be looking for ways to make our schools better and looking at where we can cut from other bloated services	1/17/2021 9:43 AM
7	reduce spending - when my company needs money we either have to make more or reduce costs	1/17/2021 7:16 AM
8	Again, I reject the assertion that services cannot be maintained with a flat budget. It actually bothers me that you pair the two together - tells me you're not even trying.	1/16/2021 5:43 PM
9	It may be appropriate to increase taxes on some resident but not on seniors who do not use the schools etc.	1/16/2021 3:59 PM
10	An assumption based question that there are annual increases does not mean that there are increases. Negotiate lower prices for services or research less expensive services - like the rest of us do.	1/16/2021 3:20 PM
11	Let's be real, reallocation of funds is more possible but to gain more income social programs are instead cut. This is not how we should care for our town.	1/16/2021 3:11 PM
12	Raising taxes is not the right and humane thing to due during a pandemic in which so many of us are struggling to put food on the table!	1/16/2021 9:42 AM
13	The town needs to trim the fat. No reason to keep increasing taxes when we are spending excessive money on unneeded items/positions.	1/16/2021 8:21 AM
14	Find efficiencies to reduce spending every company or organization can find more efficiency.	1/16/2021 7:52 AM
15	If there are tax increases it will be the property owners that bear the brunt of the costs. During this difficult time, I can ill afford to pay additional taxes.	1/16/2021 7:18 AM
16	Costs go up but so do taxes as property values increase. This question is so front loaded it should just read, well, we're still going to raise taxes so how much will you live with?	1/16/2021 12:13 AM
17	Better to decrease services, over increasing the tax burden on the township that is also adjusting their own family's budgets in order to cope with trying economic times. If the property and other taxes become to much of a burden families will leave and resettle in a more affordable location.	1/15/2021 10:52 PM
18	People are not working seniors are having issues what more do you want?	1/15/2021 8:48 PM
19	Reduce pay of teachers and other town employees. Leave the police alone.	1/15/2021 7:22 PM
20	Reduction, reduction....this does not grow the community. It is time to move Colchester forward with projects that bring us all together as townspeople. #1. Well planned Community Center that incorporates a Senior center and place for kid of all ages. We must stop limiting budgets for education. We have to expand education programs. We must move forward with current technologies that enhance student learning.	1/15/2021 6:46 PM
21	Not all residents receive raises and this makes it very difficult to pay our bills. Our senior population live on tight fixed incomes and they can't afford increased taxes.	1/15/2021 5:38 PM
22	Department heads and town officials need to sharpen their pencils and control spending responsibly. It would be nice sometime	1/15/2021 3:34 PM

23	Find efficiencies.	1/15/2021 2:48 PM
24	Would like to know where it is possible to tighten our belts in these challenging times e.g. fewer administrative / part-time staff at schools with reduced student populations... as an example. We foresee a significant increase in taxes overall with the incoming Biden administration, need for recovery and promised healthcare mandates as well as inflation as Trump trade agreements are overturned. Modest town projects and expectations for recovery must be clearly and fairly communicated to retirees as well as working or hoping-to-get-back-to-work citizens.	1/15/2021 2:33 PM
25	~Being on Social Security and Social Security disability our cost of living increase isn't even 2 or 3% and not even every year, so for us no town increase would be good or does Colchester offer a tax freeze for disabled or senior citizens?	1/14/2021 3:48 PM
26	If your equation is based off percentages then your tax rate shouldn't need to increase unless you are planning new spending. If you are increasing your tax rate because you can't afford to maintain costs that would generally mean people in town are yielding the same income while prices get higher. That would mean the cost of living is increasing without the income of families increasing. in this question you are asking for at least a 2% increase in taxes to maintain if not risk services. This might highlight a bigger problem.	1/14/2021 11:04 AM
27	I'm a renter	1/13/2021 2:13 PM
28	As a senior citizen, living in a 55 and over community, I am paying very high taxes and getting nothing in services for my money. If taxes are raised, I will have to consider moving out of Colchester.	1/13/2021 12:02 PM
29	No increase at all. The pandemic has brought on enough extra hardship.	1/13/2021 6:48 AM
30	I am a senior citizen on "fixed income", but I would pay more tax if needed for the good of the community. For example, I don't directly benefit from schools or playing fields, but recognize the importance of schools and sports for the children of our town.	1/12/2021 10:43 PM
31	All families are struggling, we have got to find ways to reduce spending by cutting out wasteful spending!	1/12/2021 9:21 PM
32	The municipalities need to band together and pressure the legislature to stop letting the unions run rough shod over everyone. CT is the poster child of a state that is overwhelmingly Democrats, who are beholden to the unions. Things will only get worse not better if you don't do anything.	1/12/2021 8:35 PM
33	It's a wonder there will be any money anywhere to pay for services in town, the state, or the country!	1/12/2021 6:13 PM
34	Our taxes are higher here than when we had a much larger house in Marlborough!!!	1/12/2021 5:22 PM
35	COVID has caused many families and businesses to struggle. This is not the time for a large tax increase.	1/12/2021 4:18 PM
36	Some services could be reduced to maintain others. I think a higher tax hike would need to happen gradually.	1/12/2021 3:26 PM
37	People have had a rough year, getting laid off, and trying help their children with a new way of schooling. People are struggling	1/12/2021 2:53 PM
38	Again, maybe no increase is necessary but see how we are spending the money.	1/12/2021 2:25 PM
39	Stop approving so many apartments and work on bringing in more businesses.	1/12/2021 10:40 AM
40	Our town can not go backwards. The safety of our citizens is priority, and the quality of our schools needs to be competitive as this is what attracts new families and makes our town attractive to new businesses that can share the tax burden.	1/12/2021 9:44 AM
41	As Federal Funding and State Funding has dropped as a portion of our revenue and support of services Town contributions towards meeting these needs has to increase.	1/12/2021 9:02 AM
42	We need an increase to school funding	1/12/2021 8:45 AM
43	Cut back on school and police	1/11/2021 9:50 PM
44	There should be a surplus with many places not being open or people working from home at	1/11/2021 8:37 PM

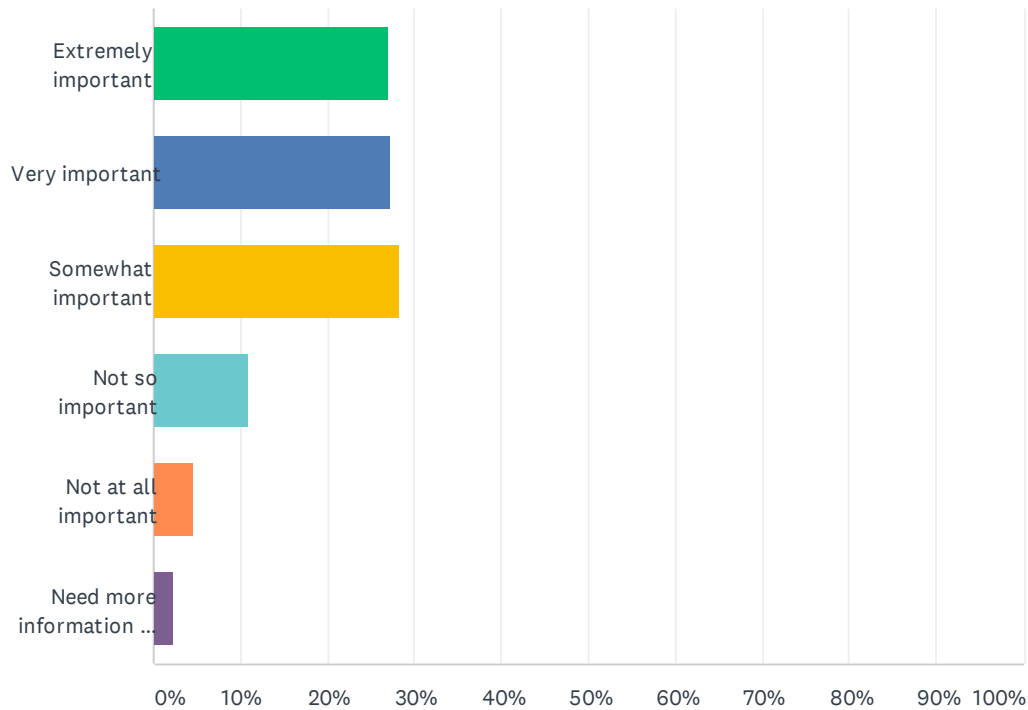
	this time	
45	Reduce spending in some categories to maintain services in other categories without increase in taxes.	1/11/2021 8:34 PM
46	See comment for #6.	1/11/2021 8:32 PM
47	people on fixed incomes and over 80 should have tax freezes.	1/11/2021 7:00 PM
48	I am not the tax payer. My family is.	1/11/2021 6:47 PM
49	I would like to see various department create partnerships to serve the community.	1/11/2021 6:41 PM
50	Tax churches.	1/11/2021 5:39 PM
51	Residents have all been hit incredibly hard with the economic situation of the past year. It would not be reasonable or responsible to expect residents to be able to afford increased expenditures this year. The town needs to reduce expenditures to only truly essential needs. The residents of Colchester have had to cut back and make sacrifices, the Town needs to as well.	1/11/2021 4:59 PM
52	Explain to me how the Grand List is NOT increasing!	1/11/2021 3:51 PM
53	There is fat in every budget. Selectma in office a few months and gets a raise	1/11/2021 3:04 PM
54	Increase the commercial development to pay taxes.	1/11/2021 2:53 PM
55	see #7	1/11/2021 2:51 PM
56	Its time the people with money in this and any town realize that increasing taxes is not the answer when people are struggling for basic needs. NOT everyone makes 6 figures.	1/11/2021 11:27 AM
57	There should be no increase.	1/10/2021 8:20 PM
58	People are out of work businesses have closed or revenue has been greatly decreased. How do you expect people to pay higher taxes when they can't pay their bills!!	1/10/2021 3:37 PM
59	Maybe you should develop programs that actually create value rather than sucking the life of the people in the community. Give people a reason to spend money in Colchester rather than spending their money everywhere else.	1/8/2021 11:32 PM
60	Many Colchester families have had to make sacrifices and budget cuts this year. We need to figure out how to do more with less.	1/8/2021 10:50 PM
61	I do think that given the current environment with COVID that the town needs to be very conservative with the budget - these are very trying financial times for our townspeople and businesses. There should hopefully be significant amounts of savings from the prior year budget in terms of operating expenses (I am thinking of the savings in the school budget alone). Also I would like to afford any increase in this years budget from the town's general fund.	1/8/2021 6:44 PM
62	There is tremendous waste. Cuts need to happen in departments being wasteful and the money will be there without a tax increase	1/7/2021 8:02 PM
63	Town employees need to be more productive and not waste the monies spent on them. Other companies do more with less while we do less with more.	1/7/2021 6:03 PM
64	Like the town, we're under a tight budget ourselves, and as you might guess, salaries aren't exactly going up right now.	1/7/2021 5:19 PM
65	Services have been reduced due to covid 19	1/7/2021 4:37 PM
66	I am not in agreement with raising taxes this year. This past year covid has hit our business's and many homes hard and they are still struggling daily. Instead of going out and spending more money lets take care of what we already have. I am in favor of taking money from our rainy day fund to keep the taxes from going up.	1/7/2021 3:36 PM
67	More needs to be done to bring commercial/ businesses to town. Room for development in industrial park, old jacks Chevrolet, movie theater area.	1/7/2021 3:11 PM
68	This is going to be a tough year for many due to the financial impact the pandemic has had on our community, state and nation. Where people are struggling financially to stay in their	1/7/2021 10:39 AM

homes/apartments, put food on the table, pay for heat/utilities, I cannot fathom a tax increase burden be implemented.

69	I will accept decreased services for NO increase in taxes	1/7/2021 8:02 AM
70	This is not the time to increase spending.	1/7/2021 7:06 AM
71	I think better financial management is the answer. If your concern is holding on to people, retired and high earners, to stay or move into Colchester then you can't keep raising taxes. The idea that someone living in an apartment with 3 children in Colchester who pays a few hundred dollars in taxes on an older car has the same voting rights as someone paying thousands in property tax well this is a problem.	1/7/2021 6:48 AM
72	Citizens and small businesses can not afford tax increases at this time. COVID has severely impacted both businesses and citizens financial stability.	1/6/2021 7:48 PM
73	Reduce costs not services	1/6/2021 7:39 PM
74	Inability to expand the grand list is almost inexcusable. Bad state policies may be a valid excuse but eventually services will suffer anyway.	1/6/2021 6:11 PM
75	The Connecticut Legislature spends money like a high school kid with a credit card. It is time to live within our means. Almost every year our taxes in Colchester have increased. (except last year). We have fewer students so our education budget should be flat or decreasing.	1/6/2021 5:31 PM
76	Regionalize Town services to cut cost factors	1/6/2021 4:37 PM
77	once again, this is short sighted. Lets make Colchester the most amazing place to live so that our tax base increases, not decreases, and we have more sources of revenue. Raising taxes will only drive the tax base lower as people leave.	1/6/2021 4:35 PM
78	We need to invest in the community to keep from falling behind	1/6/2021 12:48 PM

Q8 How important to you is preserving the rural character of Colchester through open space and farmland preservation efforts?

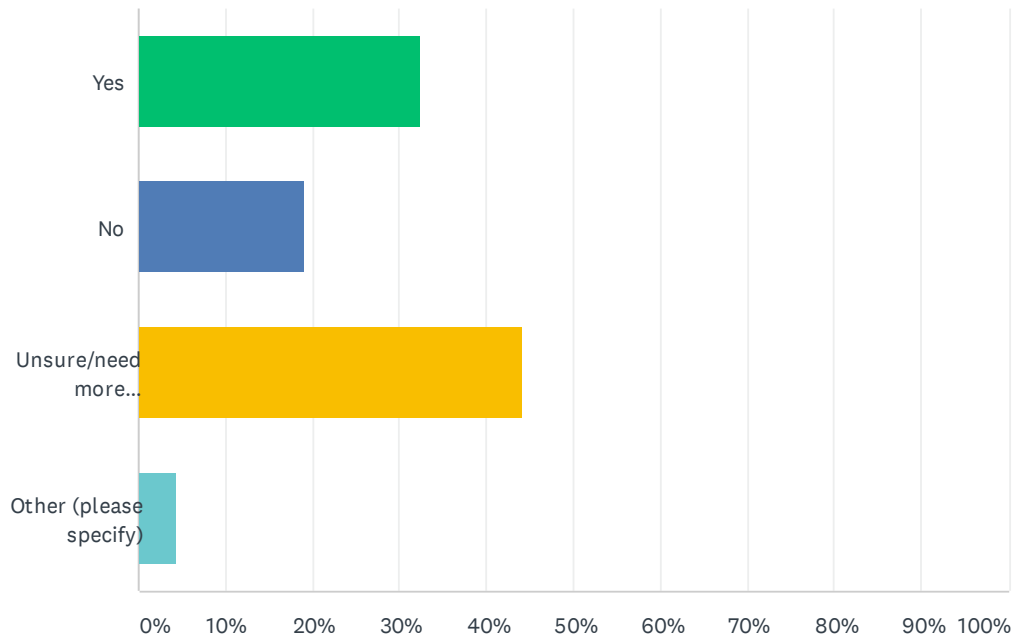
Answered: 710 Skipped: 56



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	27.04%	192
Very important	27.18%	193
Somewhat important	28.17%	200
Not so important	10.85%	77
Not at all important	4.51%	32
Need more information to decide	2.25%	16
TOTAL		710

Q9 Would you support spending by the Town of Colchester to fund open space and farmland preservation efforts?

Answered: 708 Skipped: 58

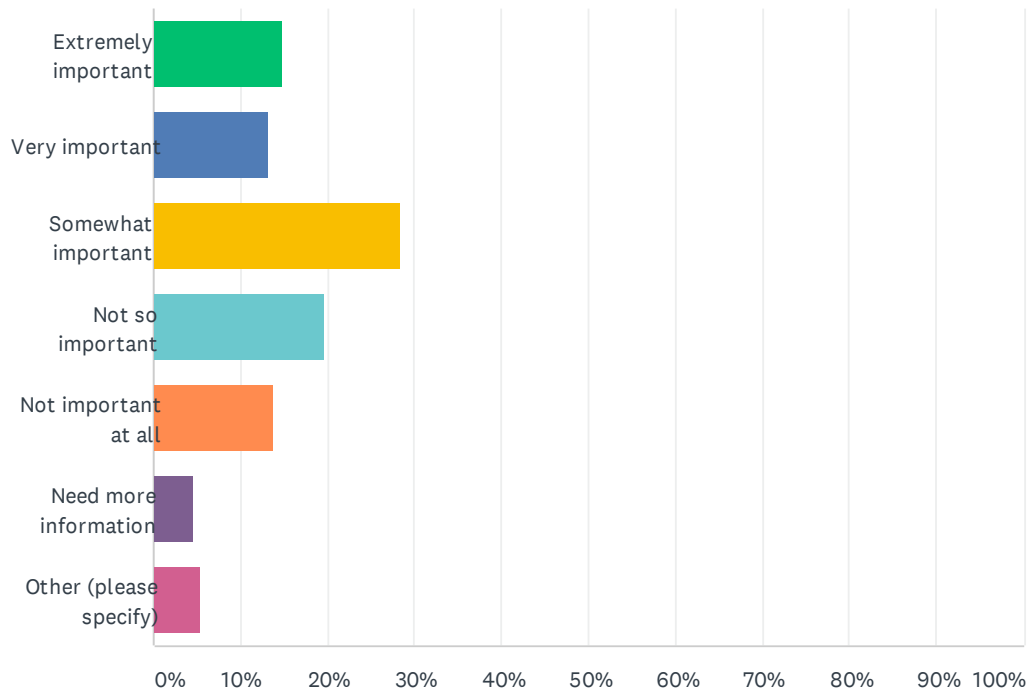


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	32.34%	229
No	19.07%	135
Unsure/need more information	44.21%	313
Other (please specify)	4.38%	31
TOTAL		708

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I would support a minimal amount.	1/17/2021 11:24 PM
2	8	1/17/2021 9:08 PM
3	How about asking the questions in # 8 separately.. as the are not related to each other and have different impacts.	1/17/2021 7:31 PM
4	While this is important, such spending is meaningless to me if we don't also take meaningful action to stop the practice of demolishing historic structures and also find ways to fund preservation of historic structures,	1/17/2021 3:35 PM
5	Not now	1/16/2021 10:42 AM
6	We are rural. We need to be able to also be forward thinking regarding places for Colchester citizens to go. Again, Community Center. Theater for plays, indoor sports field	1/15/2021 6:46 PM
7	We have plenty of open spaces and preserve spaces. The airline trails are very accessible to all residents.	1/15/2021 5:38 PM
8	By percentage how much is preserved presently.	1/15/2021 3:34 PM
9	Not sure.	1/14/2021 3:48 PM
10	Need more information	1/13/2021 7:31 AM
11	Not if it will increase taxes	1/13/2021 6:48 AM
12	Maybe after the pandemic.	1/12/2021 8:21 PM
13	Not at this time	1/12/2021 5:07 PM
14	I feel that there is enough preservation.	1/12/2021 2:49 PM
15	yes, but be reasonable	1/12/2021 11:47 AM
16	too many housing projects already	1/12/2021 11:23 AM
17	It would depend on what the project was.	1/12/2021 10:40 AM
18	control the cost of Government first	1/11/2021 10:49 PM
19	Let residents spend one what we choose and stop taxing us to do what you choose.	1/11/2021 6:11 PM
20	yes, but no additional expenditures in this fiscal year.	1/11/2021 4:59 PM
21	We need our local farmers	1/11/2021 2:27 PM
22	Depends on cost and tax impact	1/8/2021 7:33 PM
23	I feel we need more business for our taxes, farmland is usually a private affair	1/8/2021 5:22 PM
24	No - There is plenty of open space as it is - more development is needed if you want to attract property owners to reduce overall per capita taxes and increase tax base. Having too much land that prohibits development does not help the town. We have plenty of land to keep the rural feel and can easily do that while attracting business, families and consumer spending. It all take the right balance and can be done.	1/8/2021 1:38 PM
25	offer tax break to property owners to NOT develop	1/7/2021 9:38 PM
26	Purchase the 120 acres off Linwood cemetery Road for a town park to include a swimming area.	1/7/2021 4:12 PM
27	I would rather see my money go towards social services and the food bank this year.	1/7/2021 3:36 PM
28	Yes, but not at this time of financial insecurity due to the pandemic.	1/7/2021 10:39 AM
29	Absolutely not. Municipalities should not be real estate	1/7/2021 8:02 AM
30	We need to use that land for low income housing to end the racist nature of the town.	1/6/2021 5:31 PM
31	Need priorities first....fire and police.	1/6/2021 4:54 PM

Q10 How important to you is improving and increasing recreational field space in Colchester?

Answered: 710 Skipped: 56



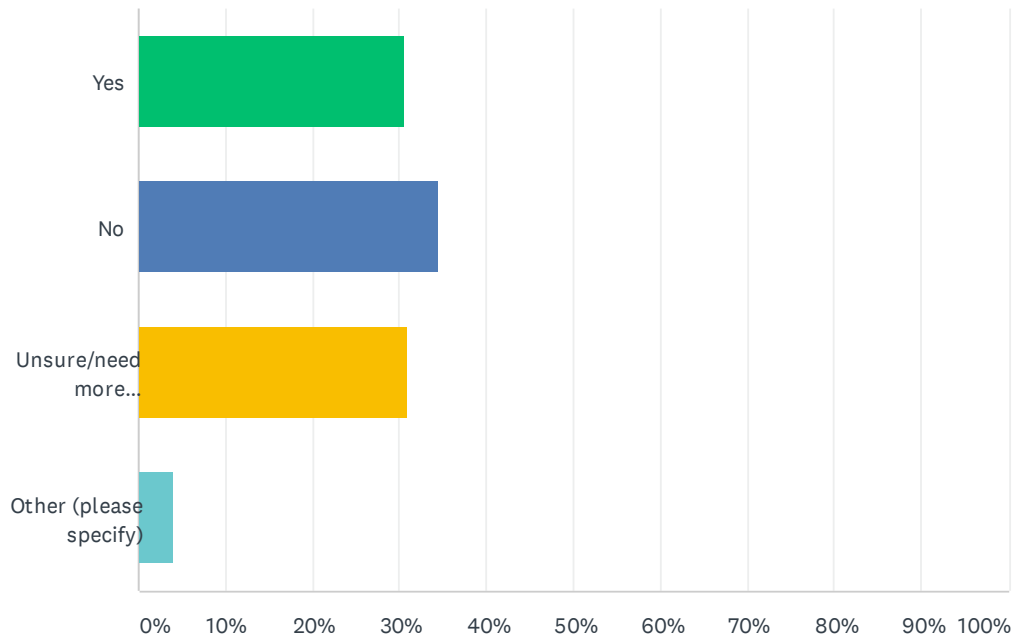
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	14.79%	105
Very important	13.24%	94
Somewhat important	28.45%	202
Not so important	19.72%	140
Not important at all	13.80%	98
Need more information	4.51%	32
Other (please specify)	5.49%	39
TOTAL		710

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I hate being the bad guy on this. The sports council let the parents crush the fields (This is James BTW). I sat in as liason. There was an initial agreement to have parents fund irrigation.	1/18/2021 6:49 AM
2	Don't think we need new, need to improve/maintain what we have	1/17/2021 9:58 PM
3	Fields are a disaster compared to many neighboring towns especially after rain. Could cause injury to players.	1/17/2021 10:23 AM
4	Can not use as we wish due to over regulation. So, it is a low priority	1/16/2021 5:52 PM
5	Not affordable in a struggling economy. Cannot feed a family with recreational field space	1/15/2021 10:52 PM
6	we have great rec fields, do not need any more	1/15/2021 7:22 PM
7	We need to ensure Colchester is attractive to potential people looking to move here.	1/15/2021 6:55 PM
8	Indoor sports center	1/15/2021 6:46 PM
9	There seems to be more than adequate space now.	1/15/2021 3:34 PM
10	This is extremely important as my kids are big into sports.	1/14/2021 12:01 PM
11	Extremely important - There are minimal community gathering spaces, indoor recreation or healthy living opportunities. (pools, bowling alleys, gyms, community centers, etc.)	1/14/2021 11:04 AM
12	Current fields need improvement	1/13/2021 8:08 PM
13	Need more information	1/13/2021 7:31 AM
14	Don't get pushed around by Tim Daniels and the soccer people. Colchester Soccer Club is ripping off residents with the exorbitant cost to participate. Tell Tim that he would have more money to improve the fields if he didn't spend so much money importing British coaches and paying the Lee Elliott a full time salary to be a "trainer." Ask Tim what his ROI has been with all the fancy pants Brit coaches? I don't see too many articles in the Rivereast about CSC teams winning anything.	1/12/2021 8:35 PM
15	If it's for open space, I support it. I think we have enough playing fields already.	1/12/2021 8:30 PM
16	Not for 2021, maybe 2022	1/12/2021 8:21 PM
17	My holster utilize these areas often	1/12/2021 7:05 PM
18	This would benefit everyone and bring the town up to par with other adjacent towns who have incredible fields.	1/12/2021 4:49 PM
19	I feel that there is enough recreational field space, especially with little or no increase in population	1/12/2021 2:49 PM
20	as a parent of 3 kids who play sports, our fields are very poor condition	1/12/2021 9:59 AM
21	Improving is fine, but do we really need to add more fields?	1/12/2021 8:43 AM
22	Maintenance is Always important & financially beneficial	1/11/2021 6:47 PM
23	I Would support public pool. It Could improve health and welfare of our senior citizens. Colchester has impressive recreation facilities for kids but very little for seniors.	1/11/2021 6:39 PM
24	Let residents spend one what we choose and stop taxing us to do what you choose.	1/11/2021 6:11 PM
25	This shows how much we care about our future. If we want families to move here we need to show them we care oboist our town, and that starts with parks and playgrounds. Maybe a target too!	1/11/2021 5:58 PM
26	Our fields are embarrassing compared to neighbor towns	1/11/2021 4:07 PM
27	Important ONLY if there is a public safety hazard and access must be maintained.	1/11/2021 3:58 PM
28	How many Colchester residences use these areas?	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
29	Use existing school facilities.	1/11/2021 2:54 PM
30	Looks to me there alot of areas available. If population increases then there be up grades	1/11/2021 2:27 PM

31	We don't take care of the fields we have.	1/8/2021 10:50 PM
32	Improving what we have, yes. Adding more, no.	1/8/2021 9:01 PM
33	Not the time to be spending money on recreational stuff when people are struggling to meet their basic living needs.	1/8/2021 7:33 PM
34	I have two boys and field space is always a huge issue	1/8/2021 5:22 PM
35	improve/maintain yes, increase no	1/7/2021 9:38 PM
36	Seems to be plenty of fields.	1/7/2021 3:11 PM
37	Need more information. However, at this time of financial insecurity/ and inability to use recreational field space, due to the pandemic, this should be a very low priority for this budget session.	1/7/2021 10:39 AM
38	Important, but should this be a priority right now?	1/6/2021 5:48 PM
39	We have great rec fields, lets not spend money we do not have.	1/6/2021 5:31 PM

Q11 Would you support spending by the Town of Colchester to add new recreational field space in Colchester?

Answered: 709 Skipped: 57

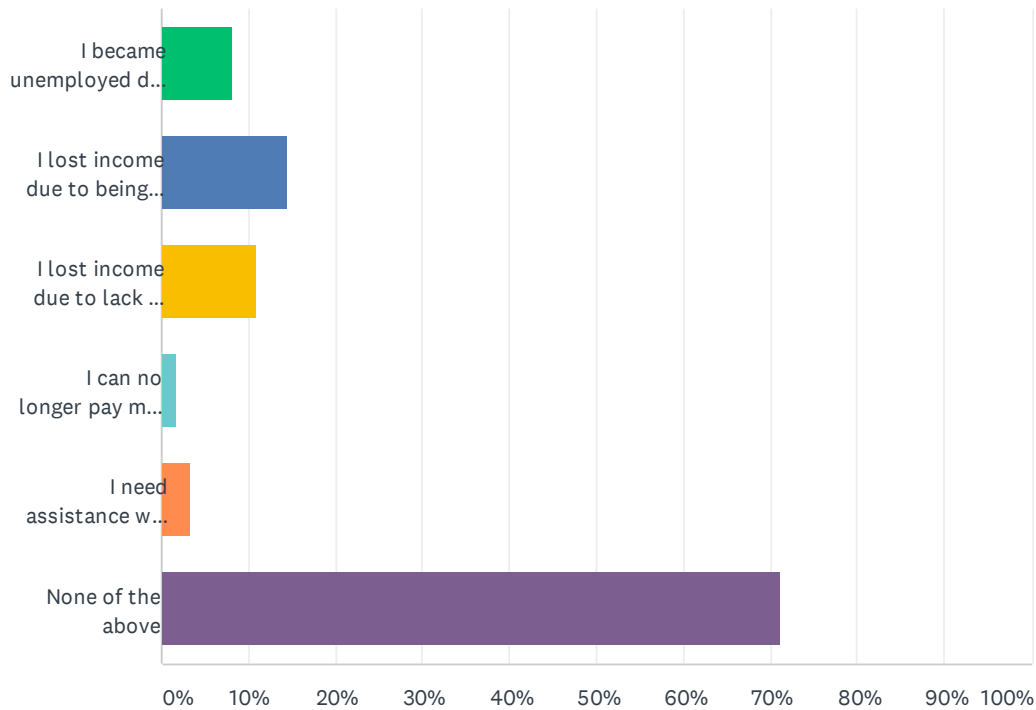


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	30.61%	217
No	34.56%	245
Unsure/need more information	30.89%	219
Other (please specify)	3.95%	28
TOTAL		709

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	First priority should be to improve current rec fields.	1/18/2021 5:46 AM
2	I would have to understand the need. There clearly was an opportunity to expand the recplex but it was missed and instead we have a tract of unsightly duplexes.	1/17/2021 3:35 PM
3	i have seen estimates to improve field conditions - the estimates hshow a lack of understanding what is required to properly maintain and sustain fields	1/17/2021 7:16 AM
4	not with all the projects needed to be repaired	1/16/2021 6:36 PM
5	See above	1/16/2021 5:52 PM
6	A local recreation center with indoor activities such as basketball, swimming, exercise and health education would be nice.	1/16/2021 3:15 PM
7	Fix what we have first school fields are abysmal especially high school baseball fields	1/16/2021 7:52 AM
8	We don't need to add but upgrades to existing fields would be nice	1/14/2021 3:08 PM
9	Maybe not a field but certainly a building. A YMCA with a basketball court and/or pool or sports dome.	1/14/2021 11:04 AM
10	If can maintain it properly	1/13/2021 2:39 PM
11	Unsure - the current fields/recreational field spaces are not maintained correctly - so adding more before proving we can improve the existing seems to be the incorrect order	1/13/2021 12:48 PM
12	Not for 2021, maybe 2022	1/12/2021 8:21 PM
13	Not for next year, maybe in years to come	1/12/2021 7:27 AM
14	Not at this time	1/11/2021 8:52 PM
15	Add lights at bacon academy	1/11/2021 7:08 PM
16	I think at present all is sufficient	1/11/2021 6:47 PM
17	Let residents spend one what we choose and stop taxing us to do what you choose.	1/11/2021 6:11 PM
18	Yes, we need this!!	1/11/2021 5:58 PM
19	Or spending to increase maintenance/improve current space	1/11/2021 5:12 PM
20	Why?	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
21	What is wrong with the present recreation fields. Show me the need for additional space	1/11/2021 2:51 PM
22	If needed	1/11/2021 2:27 PM
23	During this pandemic, and this ridiculous EO time from Lamont, NO increased spending at all. No matter how important. Important is a very "relative" term. We all have our ideas of what's "important". It doesn't really matter right now. People can barely afford the basic necessities let alone anything extra such as additional rec field space. I would like that, but, personally I believe it would be irresponsible at this time.	1/9/2021 7:57 AM
24	It's needed.	1/8/2021 5:22 PM
25	Not at this time	1/7/2021 9:56 AM
26	The	1/6/2021 7:48 PM
27	Not sure this is a priority right now.	1/6/2021 5:48 PM
28	Yes, in general, but need more information.	1/6/2021 4:35 PM

Q12 Please select the ways you have been challenged economically due to COVID-19? (Check any that apply)

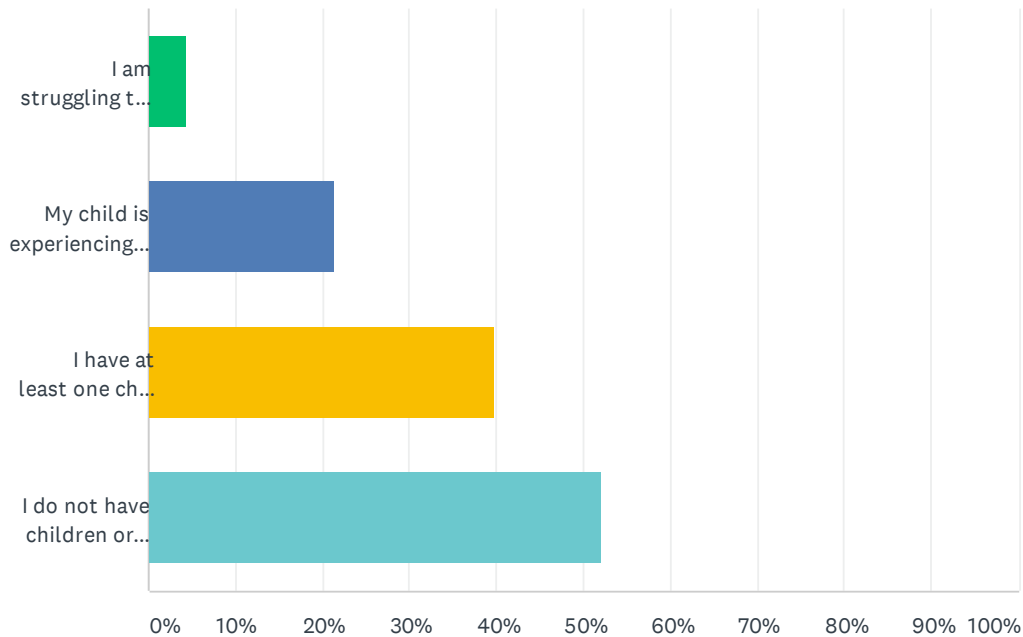
Answered: 702 Skipped: 64



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I became unemployed due to COVID-19	8.26%	58
I lost income due to being partially laid off/reduction in hours	14.39%	101
I lost income due to lack of business or a mandated shutdown	10.97%	77
I can no longer pay my mortgage or rent	1.71%	12
I need assistance with basic needs such as food	3.28%	23
None of the above	71.23%	500
Total Respondents: 702		

Q13 If you have children or grandchildren, please let us know if you have been affected in any of the following ways. (Check any that apply)

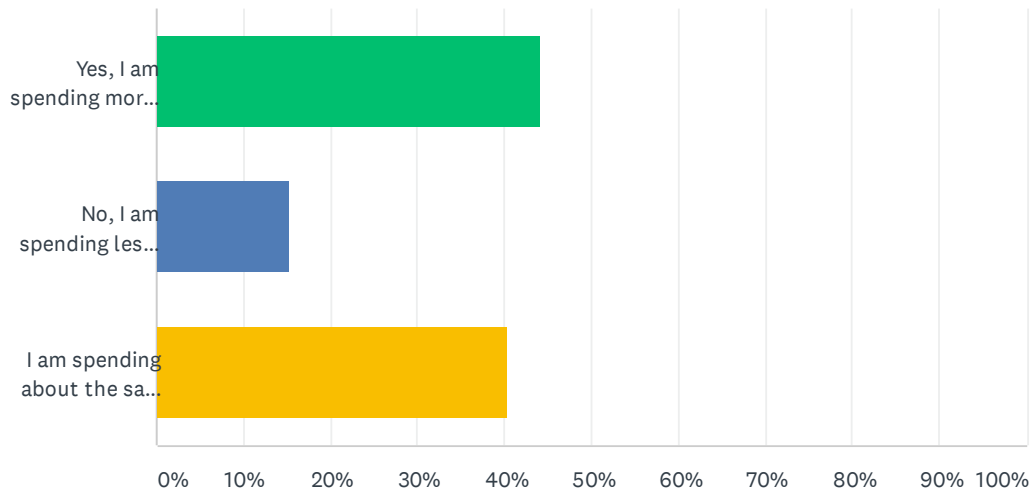
Answered: 602 Skipped: 164



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am struggling to find affordable childcare options	4.32%	26
My child is experiencing heightened emotional distress	21.43%	129
I have at least one child in the Colchester school system and found digital learning difficult	39.70%	239
I do not have children or grandchildren in Colchester	52.16%	314
Total Respondents: 602		

Q14 Have you found that you are spending more locally than you were before the pandemic began?

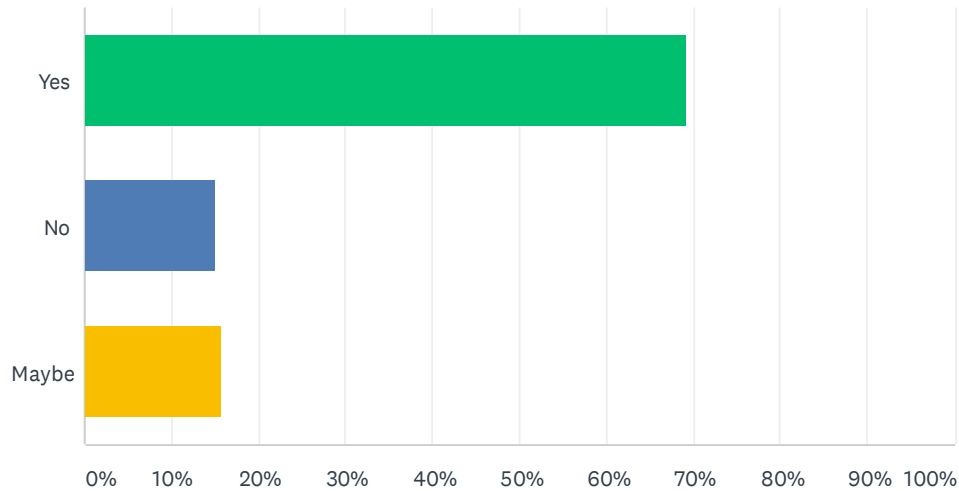
Answered: 703 Skipped: 63



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I am spending more locally	44.24%	311
No, I am spending less locally	15.36%	108
I am spending about the same locally	40.40%	284
TOTAL		703

Q15 Are you concerned about the impacts that COVID19 has had on the Colchester school system and the potential impacts on students' education?

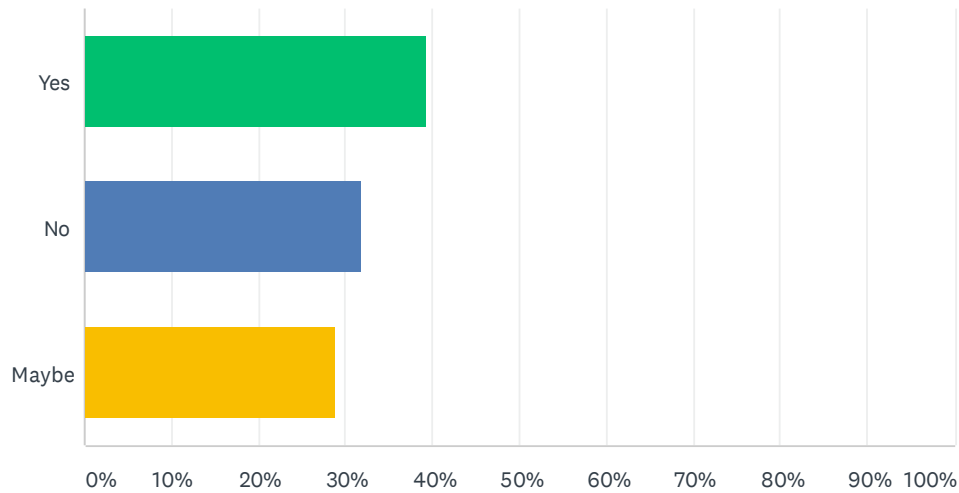
Answered: 701 Skipped: 65



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.33%	486
No	14.98%	105
Maybe	15.69%	110
TOTAL		701

Q16 Would you support an increase in school spending to fund programs to address these impacts?

Answered: 699 Skipped: 67



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		39.34%	275
No		31.76%	222
Maybe		28.90%	202
TOTAL			699

Q17 If there are other ways that COVID-19 has impacted your life that were not described above, please use this space to tell us about your experience.

Answered: 116 Skipped: 650

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The first selectwoman acting like a nazi shutting down local businesses didn't help. She needs a reality check.	1/18/2021 8:27 AM
2	My daughter, her husband and adult grandson who all live together lost their jobs due to covid. They live here in Colchester.	1/17/2021 9:37 PM
3	Is this a budget survey or a political survey?	1/17/2021 7:33 PM
4	#12 was difficult to answer. I was lucky to keep my full time job, but being a single adult renting in town, that income does not support my bills. I work two other jobs at night to meet the gap, and those jobs shut down. Since I was "employed", I was not eligible for financial assistance. It's a really sad reality, my savings is basically depleted as a result.	1/17/2021 4:56 PM
5	i cant get a part time job to help keep up with cost of living i am on a fixed income	1/16/2021 6:40 PM
6	COVID has not negatively impacted my life	1/16/2021 3:56 PM
7	I believe there should be events that bring all the schools together while observing social distancing and mask wearing but allows for some social interaction. This is the biggest issues students are facing, the social aspect that is missing due to distance learning.	1/16/2021 3:18 PM
8	Oil prices are rising every day, have to find ways to heat my home.	1/16/2021 9:59 AM
9	COVID-19 has impacted my wife's and mine emotional and mental health. We spend less time in grocery stores because we trying to protect not only our health, but also my mother in laws health who lives with us. My mother in law's mental and emotional health has also been negatively impacted.	1/16/2021 9:48 AM
10	I think we all miss social interaction and town events, the loss of the sense of community	1/16/2021 7:54 AM
11	Very concerned about how high school students will "catch up" on education, and how they can compare to surrounding towns that are five days a week in person.	1/16/2021 7:41 AM
12	work from home has increased utility costs	1/16/2021 12:14 AM
13	My industry was destroyed and I was forced into retirement seven year's early	1/15/2021 10:58 PM
14	Children's social/emotional well being have been affected	1/15/2021 10:27 PM
15	Stop taking advantage of the pandemic. Enough is enough. Stop shutting down small businesses and promoting online spending. Rules are not laws! Laws are created by the people's representatives please start representing what I stand for. I am very happy to see this questionnaire! Thank you!	1/15/2021 9:09 PM
16	We are unable to rent out apartment. Also afraid to rent because laws are protecting renters meaning they don't have to pay rent.	1/15/2021 9:02 PM
17	Covid has only shown me the overreach of our government. Government should be here to serve the citizen not dictate how we live.	1/15/2021 5:33 PM
18	it has been difficult for younger kids to interact with friends while learning from home.	1/15/2021 5:05 PM
19	More homeschooling should be done to cut down on schools and teachers.	1/15/2021 4:45 PM
20	Covid has changed everyone's life. Just look around, it needs no explaining.	1/15/2021 3:37 PM
21	Open the school full time for those students whom desire in-person teaching. Distance learning is not equal and will forever negatively impact a piece of a child's educational experience.	1/15/2021 3:04 PM
22	With out situation, we have had to work from home and learn from home (2 children) due to the high risk. We have had little to no contact with others in town because it is a high risk for us, so it is very important as we exit out of this pandemic that we invest in our community and provide opportunities for kids and adults in town to interact and see each other again. It is important that many have struggled but there are others that are willing to pay more to help exit out of this in a positive light. We need to invest in our future.	1/15/2021 11:53 AM
23	We stick closer to home, and we are grateful there are good store and eateries for take out as well as medical facilities and pharmacies close at hand.	1/15/2021 11:10 AM
24	Lost 100% of business income, have to walk around with a muzzle on, can't live life - life	1/15/2021 3:36 AM

	sucks thanks to government control!	
25	Although I became unemployed, I was only working less than part time and our overall family income wasn't affected.	1/14/2021 2:10 PM
26	Rent affordability	1/14/2021 11:05 AM
27	Overall stress at work and home. Several quarantines / lost vacation days / no work for teens while on quarantine	1/13/2021 9:24 PM
28	Can't afford all the extra cleaning products to ensure families and others safety sanitizer hand wash soap Lysol wipes Lysol sprays laundry soap and paying more on water and electricity due to washing more and electric bills supply fees are outrageous so very hard monetary	1/13/2021 1:54 PM
29	Need to help my family more.	1/13/2021 12:30 PM
30	More time spent at home and on-line	1/13/2021 11:44 AM
31	Shut down of senior center	1/13/2021 11:18 AM
32	The reduction or cancellation of local athletics, camps and townwide events has most definitely had a negative impact on my children's' social and physical wellbeing.	1/13/2021 9:17 AM
33	Worried about family members who have been working throughout this pandemic.	1/13/2021 6:50 AM
34	As a senior citizen, I've been sheltering in place except for essential errands. I appreciate being able to participate in Senior Center programs via Zoom. I very much hope we can move ahead with a new Senior Center once the pandemic is over.	1/12/2021 10:47 PM
35	I am not concerned about how my kids are doing in school because they are blessed with natural intelligence and parents who care about their education. I feel badly for all the many kids that do not enjoy the same circumstances and truly need the teachers and staff to assist them. Spending more money is never the solution to educational issues. It all starts in the home. Parents are the kids' number one teachers and we are putting unfair and unrealistic expectations on our teachers.	1/12/2021 8:39 PM
36	There are increased costs for food. I am afraid to grocery shop so I have to pay for delivery.	1/12/2021 6:27 PM
37	Concern that there are still folks who do not wear masks.	1/12/2021 5:23 PM
38	Other towns were able to carry on with baseball and other sports which were ceased due to Covid. Wondering what could be done to bring down the cost of insurance for town travel and recreation teams so that coaches could be covered for liability insurance? Something that these independent groups could leverage with the town to cover volunteers? Just some sort of creative solution-I know of some SWCT towns (Wilton, Darien) that managed to hold town/travel baseball in the summer with the coaches purchasing minimal insurance coverage (\$25). Obviously, these are Gold Coast towns but taking a look at how they managed liability concerns. I know there's bigger fish to fry during these times but trying to also address kids who need activities for mental health (parents too ;))!	1/12/2021 4:59 PM
39	Working remotely instead of traveling to work each day	1/12/2021 4:19 PM
40	Increasing funding for teachers to no longer have to drive in to teach my child, does not make any sense. They are now spending less one on one time, which my child desperately needs. Which is causing less spending on school supplies, school maint, and quality education. Though more technology may be used it is NOT benefiting my child. I am EXTREMELY concerned with the quality of education the town is now providing due to "Distance Learning"	1/12/2021 3:49 PM
41	I am sick of hearing from Brian Smith and Mary Bylone about Covid 19. A lot of people are aware that this is being excessively promoted for someone's benefit and for social control.	1/12/2021 3:24 PM
42	I have become much more isolated, in part by necessity. I am a senior with comorbidities. Shopping is a pain and dangerous, but delivery is frequently not available or expensive. You have no transportation systems except the senior center, which I can't live here without.	1/12/2021 1:58 PM
43	The shutdowns have destroyed so many families and businesses and infringed on basic freedoms and rights. Our children are the ones suffering the long term affects.	1/12/2021 1:31 PM
44	not being able to see family as often as we once did.	1/12/2021 11:48 AM
45	Not feeling safe to eat at Colchester restaurants.	1/12/2021 11:47 AM

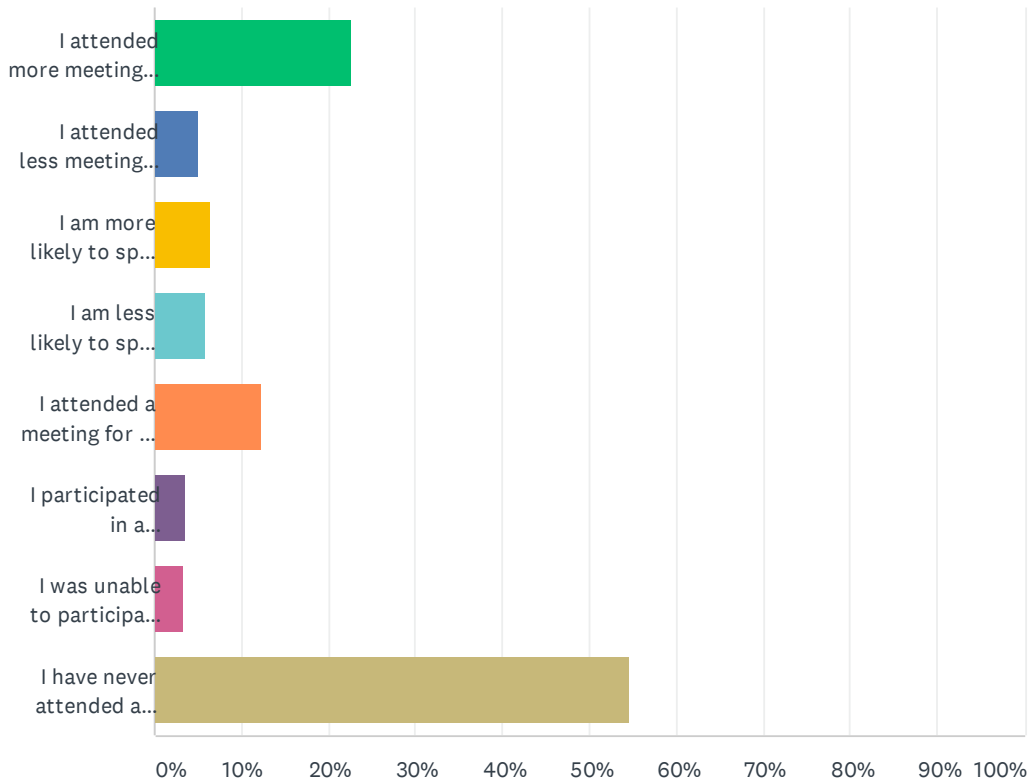
46	Working from home has made me more reliant on town businesses and services, like recreation. This has made me value the town and its offerings more and feel funding should help improve town quality of life efforts as I think working from home (for many) may become more flexible in the future based on what businesses are learning. So in general I would think more people will be spending more time in town	1/12/2021 11:47 AM
47	Social experience, SPORTS are needed for these kids	1/12/2021 11:40 AM
48	Increased isolation and depression	1/12/2021 11:38 AM
49	As a senior with comorbidities my life has become much more difficult, dangerous and restricted. Shopping is now a planned exercise. The delivery services frequently have long waits or are unavailable out here. library has been a big help.	1/12/2021 11:33 AM
50	Has effected me Socially	1/12/2021 11:25 AM
51	It would be a shame to see the movie theater close, if the state doesn't let them open. I am not quit comfortable seeing a movie but I would like to support them.	1/12/2021 10:39 AM
52	too many places backed out of their programs. Don't blame them.	1/12/2021 10:03 AM
53	Working from home, spending more time outside using recreational and open space like airline trail and Salmon River and Day Pond State Parks. Shopping locally.	1/12/2021 9:05 AM
54	Building department has been slow to act one specific member (if you would like a name glad to discuss) slowing a project down that pushed me way behind schedule in the end costing me tens of thousands of dollars.	1/12/2021 8:59 AM
55	Children need sports and activities ant taking this away has been terrible and unnecessary the transmission was low thru sports and schools!	1/12/2021 8:46 AM
56	#13 you did not have an option that my school age kids are doing wonderfully with remote learning and in fact are in BETTER mental health since Covid. The only options you gave were negative impacts	1/12/2021 8:43 AM
57	Anxiety when in public places	1/12/2021 7:24 AM
58	About the only thing so far is the lack of social contact. I miss going out with friends and the activities at the Senior centers and also being able to go shopping without worrying about the virus.	1/12/2021 6:36 AM
59	N/a	1/11/2021 10:13 PM
60	Now shopping more at CostCo and BJ's and almost never at local stores. Occasionally will stop by Noels and Stop and Shop only for prescriptions. Dunkin Donuts and McDonald's/Wendys occasionally.	1/11/2021 9:46 PM
61	increased isolation, increased anxiety, limited activities and travel,	1/11/2021 9:31 PM
62	It was emotionally difficult for me while the library was closed this past spring. I rely on reading as a way to reduce stress.	1/11/2021 8:58 PM
63	I would support measures to enhance meeting educational objectives. However, i do not believe that additional taxes necessarily result in improved services.	1/11/2021 8:46 PM
64	Due to having less money I find myself not shopping here because the prices are higher in town then other towns.	1/11/2021 8:39 PM
65	isolation,reduced travel opportunities,restricted normal business transactions,lack of social activities	1/11/2021 7:38 PM
66	we are pretty much confined to home. Miss the senior center and the people.	1/11/2021 7:03 PM
67	To be safe, I am required to stay at home due to age and health concern.	1/11/2021 6:58 PM
68	It limits travel and family gatherings and reduction in business clients.	1/11/2021 6:53 PM
69	More delivery services for those of us who are staying home. This could increase my local spending but as of now Amazon is my go to service	1/11/2021 6:46 PM
70	Like everyone, I am limited on where I can go for social engagement with others.	1/11/2021 6:43 PM

71	I own rental properties in town. Increase in sewer water expense and tax increase is increasing the rents when lease renewals come around.	1/11/2021 6:12 PM
72	As a senior on a fixed income, the increases in everything have really impacted my budget which leaves me having more difficulty in paying taxes, housing expenses, food, insurances, health care, etc.	1/11/2021 6:08 PM
73	With my kids being remote for 2020, my boys and I definitely had our challenges. I'm a stay at home mom, so we were fortunate that I was able to be home and teach my boys. Lots of tears and struggles, but we managed like so many.	1/11/2021 6:01 PM
74	People should be responsible for themselves! Open the schools and open the business and stop dictating what people can and can't do. The power grab over this pandemic is disheartening.	1/11/2021 5:43 PM
75	We follow the guide lines ; shelter in place; wear a mask when out to protect ourselves and others ; no hugs or handshakes.....await Vaccine protection.	1/11/2021 5:24 PM
76	As an educator and parent myself, I know students have suffered academic growth. If more funds are needed it does not need to spent on technology! Increase in staffing and money to fund additional salaries would be supported to allow for smaller class sizes, intervention etc.	1/11/2021 5:15 PM
77	Due 2 covid, the shutting down of the senior center, library has affected by socializing.	1/11/2021 5:10 PM
78	Don't go out as often to eat. Am shopping more at Big Y rather than Stop & Shop where people don't wear masks correctly, go the wrong way in aisles. No one at S&S enforces the rules.It's very scary at S&S.	1/11/2021 5:04 PM
79	The Town administration has been very anti-business during this time and has made Colchester a less attractive place to live.	1/11/2021 4:43 PM
80	The price of food in town has gotten very high! I have been ordering much more non food items online, usually Amazon, as the local supermarket prices have been much more expensive for the same products I can get online. That's a loss to money coming into Colchester in my mind.	1/11/2021 4:20 PM
81	I work in another district so its very difficult when each town is following their own guidelines for school closures and openings. I do feel that Colchester has tried to stay open more often and was risky going to full time at the time they chose to. I also while I feel that schools need more spending to help students recover I want that spending to be clear, transparent to know where services are going	1/11/2021 4:10 PM
82	Less local spend is mostly restaurant related	1/11/2021 4:08 PM
83	Many prices have gone up due to OVID but no increase in income.	1/11/2021 3:58 PM
84	Led to my appreciation of local businesses and a desire to keep them in business.	1/11/2021 3:53 PM
85	The senior center and it's staff have been life savers during 10 months of isolation.	1/11/2021 3:43 PM
86	I had a relative renting a room from me but was laid off and has been unable to pay me rent for the past 8 months.	1/11/2021 3:34 PM
87	Its has altered our way of life because we can't do our normal routine	1/11/2021 3:06 PM
88	The loss of people contact is depressing.	1/11/2021 3:02 PM
89	I will not shop at Noel's due to their lack of concern for the historical value of the town, We now use Ted's in Hebron. Number 1 they are concerned with Covid prevention and Noel's is not. Maybe they should take some lessons	1/11/2021 2:54 PM
90	We don't go out to eat, etc and are spending less.	1/11/2021 2:50 PM
91	Not being able to visit more,go to movie. Not being able to Volunteer etc	1/11/2021 2:30 PM
92	Being sequestered has been very difficult-not seeing friends and family for months takes a emotional toll.	1/11/2021 2:27 PM
93	I live alone and basically in isolation.	1/11/2021 2:16 PM
94	it seems the cost of living has gone up...food is outrageous	1/11/2021 11:29 AM

95	My granddaughter is being home schooled. I see the impact of not being around other children her age. That goes for the rest of us also!	1/10/2021 3:40 PM
96	In the beginning of Covid the whole family was laid off. Now we are working but has been a challenge because co-workers have had Covid Not a good time to increase taxes. Just living day to day like most	1/9/2021 11:11 PM
97	My mother died in June 2020, NOT of CV-19. The CV-19 restrictions were ridiculous and limited EVERYTHING about her wake and funeral. It had a HUGE negative impact on me emotionally and spiritually. Devastation. All because of the government trying to control the people. I have no fear of CV-19. It is here to stay, even with a vaccine. Get use to it and let loose of the restrictions completely. Government is destroying thousands of people one way or another, to different degrees. What's worse is that people are buying in to it. Very, very sad.	1/9/2021 8:04 AM
98	Rents in town have increased despite the economic impact of the pandemic. The rent commission should do more community outreach to help those unable to afford paying rent or experiencing landlords taking advantage and raising rents.	1/8/2021 7:36 PM
99	Middle school should allow the children to move from class to class similar to the high school. There is no cost to this but a huge social benefit for the middle school kids.	1/8/2021 4:12 PM
100	Yes - recreation - especially youth - but also adult -has been impacted due to COVID - people and kids not as active as they were before. Its important post-COVID we do all we can to encourage people to have recreation in town whether for youth, adults, dogs, etc. The Rec Plex is a gem but is poorly maintained. Cody Camp is even less maintained by the town - poor maintenance leads to injuries and that is not good.	1/8/2021 1:44 PM
101	Closure of town hall is making it difficult to pay taxes, get permits etc	1/8/2021 4:20 AM
102	boredom-eep due to lack of things in town	1/7/2021 10:29 PM
103	town hall not being open to public regularly	1/7/2021 9:39 PM
104	I have become incredibly concerned about the number of people in this town who believe conspiracy theories and have posted questionable remarks about violence. Very sad day for our country	1/7/2021 8:29 PM
105	The emotional well being of our young children in school. Maybe offer more support whether it may be a whole class exercise or individual. There is alot of mental health issues developing in these children.	1/7/2021 4:29 PM
106	The school system failed to provide adequate services to and for special needs children.	1/7/2021 4:14 PM
107	Stop making / dictating executive orders!	1/7/2021 2:59 PM
108	Physically, mentally, emotionally that comes with dramatic change in daily life due to pandemic's spread and need to shelter at home.	1/7/2021 10:43 AM
109	Increased emotional issues	1/7/2021 9:17 AM
110	COVID-19 has allowed us to spend more time outdoors and appreciate the rural setting of the town.	1/7/2021 8:18 AM
111	My children and grandchildren were unable to visit.	1/7/2021 6:50 AM
112	None	1/6/2021 8:04 PM
113	We are doing more remote work, it is not as efficient as working in a team environment.	1/6/2021 5:34 PM
114	Lonely at times.	1/6/2021 4:56 PM
115	My retirement funds has been reduced	1/6/2021 4:40 PM
116	social isolation created some depression. On the other hand, I have gotten many projects done and also spent more time with my family	1/6/2021 12:50 PM

Q18 How has the use of Zoom meetings impacted your participation in town board and commission meetings in the last year? (Check all that apply)

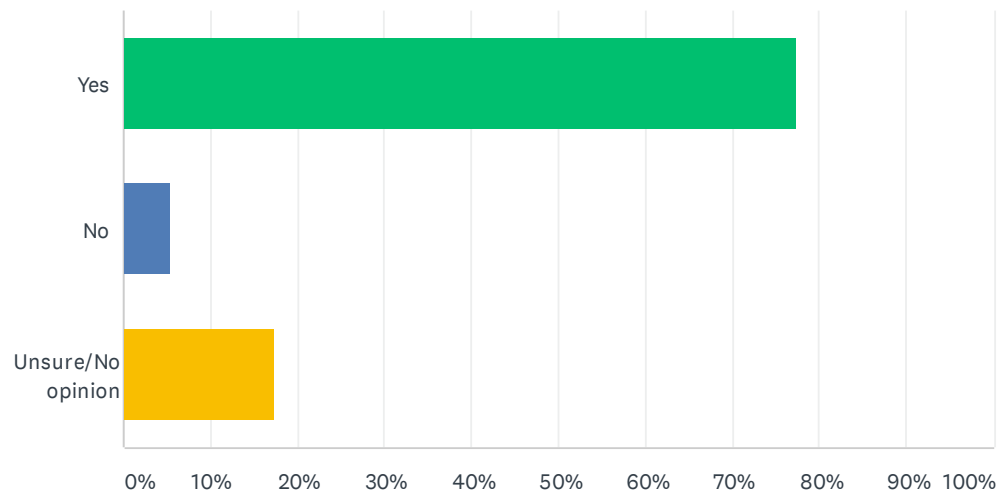
Answered: 629 Skipped: 137



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I attended more meetings because of Zoom	22.58%	142
I attended less meetings because of Zoom	4.93%	31
I am more likely to speak at a Zoom meeting than an in-person meeting	6.52%	41
I am less likely to speak at a Zoom meeting than an in-person meeting	5.88%	37
I attended a meeting for the first time because of Zoom	12.40%	78
I participated in a budget-related meeting for the first time because of Zoom	3.50%	22
I was unable to participate in a budget-related meeting because of Zoom	3.34%	21
I have never attended a meeting in-person or on Zoom	54.53%	343
Total Respondents: 629		

Q19 Should the town continue to allow Zoom participation at meetings when in-person meetings resume?

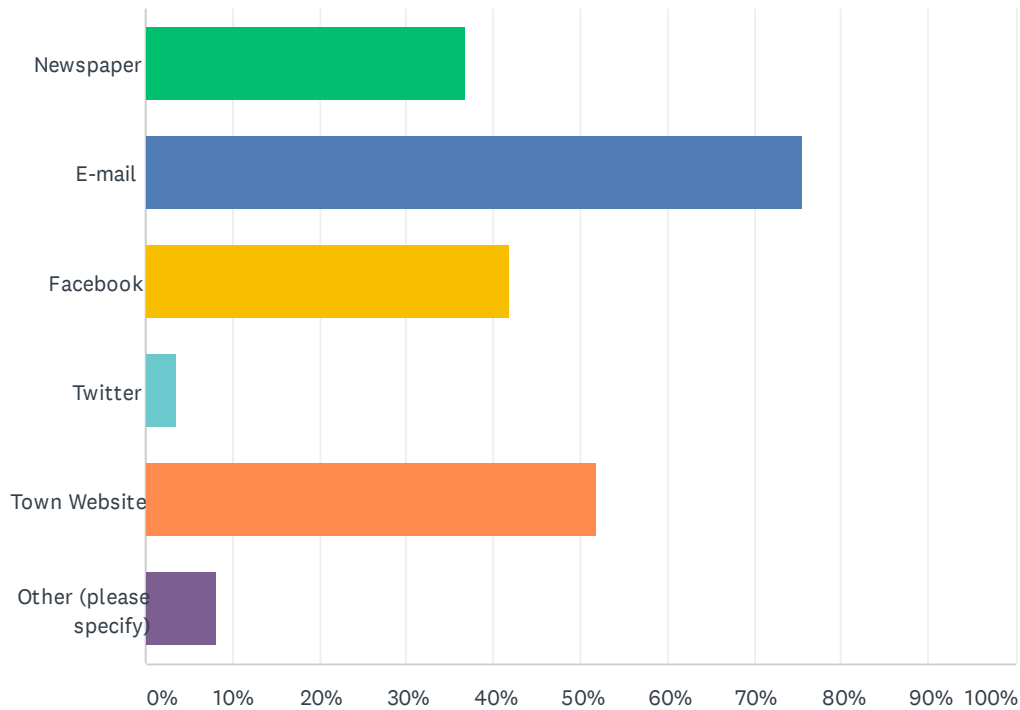
Answered: 692 Skipped: 74



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		77.31%	535
No		5.35%	37
Unsure/No opinion		17.34%	120
TOTAL			692

Q20 What is the best way for you to receive town information? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 694 Skipped: 72



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Newspaper	36.89%	256
E-mail	75.50%	524
Facebook	41.93%	291
Twitter	3.46%	24
Town Website	51.87%	360
Other (please specify)	8.07%	56
Total Respondents: 694		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Mail	1/17/2021 6:34 AM
2	Text	1/15/2021 10:28 PM
3	The town website because newspaper coverage isn't too in depth and limited at best from what I have seen. The weekly News Bulletin distributed here seems to have the best coverage from my perspective. Social media sites like Facebook and Twitter are too venerable to hacking and misleading, even fake, articles.	1/15/2021 3:50 PM
4	Texts and informational phone messages	1/15/2021 11:14 AM
5	I	1/13/2021 8:11 PM
6	Texts	1/13/2021 6:54 PM
7	All of the above!	1/13/2021 1:23 PM
8	Phone calls	1/13/2021 11:47 AM
9	Optional text alerts for town events	1/13/2021 8:55 AM
10	Optional Text notifications for town events	1/13/2021 7:00 AM
11	Facebook and the town website are sufficient	1/12/2021 7:07 PM
12	Mary's Sunday night meetings are great. Also, Rivereast articles.	1/12/2021 5:25 PM
13	I love getting up-to-date information from First Selectman Bylone's Facebook lives. Great transparency and accountability on every live. Well done!	1/12/2021 5:03 PM
14	If you send out emails via senior center I'll get them. I dont think I've ever gotten a text or email from anyone else except a library notice	1/12/2021 2:20 PM
15	Many people do not have high speed internet and we should not be making being on the internet the standard for getting information. This would not be inclusive based on affordability.	1/12/2021 1:34 PM
16	Phone call	1/12/2021 1:22 PM
17	Phone	1/12/2021 11:49 AM
18	The town personnel do a good job of communicating. Please keep it up.	1/12/2021 11:48 AM
19	See above	1/12/2021 11:40 AM
20	Mass text messages	1/12/2021 11:18 AM
21	NA	1/12/2021 9:11 AM
22	text message	1/12/2021 9:04 AM
23	Text message	1/12/2021 8:48 AM
24	News Bulletin	1/12/2021 7:28 AM
25	let's face it - anything on social media brings out the whackos and those who can't behave in public. I can't stand it.	1/12/2021 5:34 AM
26	My wife has facebook and shares things there with me. I occasionally read the Newspaper.	1/11/2021 9:52 PM
27	Look	1/11/2021 6:31 PM
28	Town wide recorded phone calls are also good	1/11/2021 6:13 PM
29	With big tech deciding what we can and can't do I'd suggest something that does not rely on one of their platforms.	1/11/2021 5:47 PM
30	I'm on email every day but not Facebook which is why i didn't check that option. I don't subscribe to a newspaper. I do most things online. Sending text messages would also work. That's how I heard about the water issue over the weekend.	1/11/2021 5:07 PM
31	Recorded phone calls	1/11/2021 4:45 PM

32	Email or text	1/11/2021 4:37 PM
33	Texts	1/11/2021 3:59 PM
34	Please realize that many seniors do not "trust" Facebook or Twitter and refuse to become members.	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
35	Free newspaper	1/11/2021 3:46 PM
36	Rivereast newspaper.	1/11/2021 3:01 PM
37	Text	1/11/2021 2:57 PM
38	Some	1/11/2021 2:50 PM
39	Its important people to be aware what's going on. If there help is needed.	1/11/2021 2:34 PM
40	No other	1/11/2021 2:31 PM
41	Website is ideal, but finding information is too difficult.	1/11/2021 2:23 PM
42	Phone	1/10/2021 3:24 PM
43	I like the calls I have been receiving Thank you! I would join a zoom meeting if told when they are thank you	1/9/2021 11:16 PM
44	Some town FB pages give out great budget information to residents.	1/8/2021 7:39 PM
45	facebook, email, text, River East - All of these above...	1/8/2021 1:37 PM
46	No social media for me	1/8/2021 9:26 AM
47	Having town hall be open	1/8/2021 4:26 AM
48	n/a	1/7/2021 4:17 PM
49	If you're going to spend money to better the town, perhaps a town-certified newspaper or bulletin would help increase awareness to those spending 90% of the "new normal" at home.	1/7/2021 4:16 PM
50	set up a texting alert.	1/7/2021 3:39 PM
51	Some Facebook groups do a great job of informing residents. Keeping it all in Colchester does a good job and does not have hate filled posts like All Things Colchester.	1/7/2021 3:01 PM
52	US Mail. I prefer to receive information rather than have to initiate search for it.	1/7/2021 10:48 AM
53	Like to increased communication that has occurred over the last year. Though I may not participate via meetings, I have read every email and appreciate being informed.	1/6/2021 7:12 PM
54	Eblasts	1/6/2021 5:09 PM
55	N/a	1/6/2021 4:44 PM
56	I enjoy the facebook live. Many of my friends tell me they like it also	1/6/2021 1:04 PM

Q21 Do you have any budget-related questions or comments not covered in your responses above?

Answered: 144 Skipped: 622

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	If we keep reducing spending eventually people who are looking for a real "community" will leave	1/20/2021 4:23 PM
2	Please be aware of the citizens of Colchester that have lost their jobs due to covid when deciding on the budget.	1/17/2021 9:39 PM
3	No	1/17/2021 9:34 PM
4	Cut all overtime from the police department	1/17/2021 7:17 PM
5	Money needs to be put towards improved rec field maintenance. The poor condition is laughable.	1/17/2021 10:31 AM
6	Please do not cut from our schools. Especially the parts for the health and wellness of our students. That can be more important than the reading and math.	1/17/2021 6:51 AM
7	no	1/16/2021 6:48 PM
8	More money toward town infrastructure, and recreation.	1/16/2021 3:20 PM
9	The recplex playground is in desperate need of improvements.	1/16/2021 3:03 PM
10	No	1/16/2021 2:58 PM
11	No	1/16/2021 2:23 PM
12	I understand the increase in the school budget of 1.5 percent due to capital investment, i.e., UST. However, the priority is to get the students back to school. They are failing, at best falling behind. Yet the Superintendent is talking about pay increases.	1/16/2021 10:51 AM
13	Why are the rec field lights allowed to be turned on at night during COVID? It's a waste of money!! Those lights are on at all times of the night. Why are we spending so much money for Baldi to do the plowing in town? Baldi seems to be the only subcontractor for everything in this town. This is still a Good Ole Boys Club town. If you are buddies with a town employee, etc., you can get a job in the Town Hall, get contracts for everything in town, etc. It's pathetic	1/16/2021 10:13 AM
14	None	1/16/2021 9:12 AM
15	When will the fire chief hiring process begin? It's been months.	1/16/2021 8:51 AM
16	Reduce spending and find efficiencies, priority should go to programs for kids	1/16/2021 7:56 AM
17	Living in a 55+ community, we do not use many town services, yet we are paying higher taxes on land we do not own. I pay more in taxes here than in the town I came from where i had a larger home and property. This town does not make it easy for a senior to retire here.	1/16/2021 7:24 AM
18	Lower taxes	1/16/2021 12:16 AM
19	Please reduce lights in schools at night, especially Wjms. Are they LED lights? Sidewalks needed on Norwich Ave from Bacon Academy towards Lebanon. Dangerous road for youths. Irrigation system at Bacon Fields. Need soil on football fields at Park and Rec and Bacon. Skatepark improvements.	1/15/2021 9:12 PM
20	Why is the school budget so high when students aren't in the class room	1/15/2021 8:25 PM
21	No	1/15/2021 8:00 PM
22	No	1/15/2021 7:33 PM
23	We need to increase our business tax base, which will help reduce taxpayer (citizens) liability.	1/15/2021 7:01 PM
24	We must increase education spending. Stop cutting Teachers. Increase technology resources. Offer pre college programs	1/15/2021 6:50 PM
25	No	1/15/2021 5:44 PM
26	Use fuel cell tax money to reduce taxes, for seniors, instead of more fire trucks...	1/15/2021 4:35 PM
27	With many people struggling, many people not getting typical yearly salary raises, town taxes most likely rising, no town worker should receive a yearly cost of living salary increase (COLA); excluding tenure raises...	1/15/2021 3:07 PM

28	Do we have a budget punch-list of priorities post-COVID that can be universally shared with our residents? (The unknown is a big fear factor in responding with requests for services and/or agreement to spend more in taxes.)	1/15/2021 2:43 PM
29	It is important for the town to come together and invest in the future. It is the local taxes that make the biggest difference. If we keep cutting costs and programs then more people will leave town.	1/15/2021 11:55 AM
30	No	1/15/2021 9:46 AM
31	Let's be honest here - you will do whatever you want !	1/15/2021 3:39 AM
32	n/a	1/14/2021 12:05 PM
33	No	1/14/2021 7:37 AM
34	No	1/13/2021 1:57 PM
35	Do not defend the police department!!	1/13/2021 1:23 PM
36	Support the new senior center	1/13/2021 12:58 PM
37	The youth center building is in rough shape - there should be effort, capacity, and budget put into improving the building structurally and visually.	1/13/2021 12:50 PM
38	We need to support the fire/ ambulance services along with the police. For the safety of all ages living in the community. If we build a senior center it must be a community center not just a senior center. That group is in the building for eight hours daily. Other community groups could use it on the off time. Seniors should be first.	1/13/2021 12:36 PM
39	The new senior center needs to be funded entirely.	1/13/2021 11:47 AM
40	no	1/13/2021 11:03 AM
41	No	1/13/2021 9:20 AM
42	No	1/12/2021 10:20 PM
43	No	1/12/2021 9:06 PM
44	Very concerned about the rec field situation, and keeping up with surrounding towns. We are severally behind, and that will impact multiple long term concerns.	1/12/2021 8:59 PM
45	Recreation fields and facilities need to be a top priority in the town budget. These programs are extremely important for the social, emotional & physical development of children and our town is lacking in the upkeep compared to surrounding towns.	1/12/2021 8:11 PM
46	No	1/12/2021 7:11 PM
47	No	1/12/2021 5:39 PM
48	yes why are we not seeing repairs been done to the senior center? when the building is empty to do the windows, bathrooms etc	1/12/2021 5:00 PM
49	Please fix the town green. The ball field needs to go, the paths paved, lighting improved, and parking refigured. The spots next to Mel's are bad...	1/12/2021 2:55 PM
50	I think you are going to get less state miney how are you going to compensate ?	1/12/2021 2:20 PM
51	This town needs a community pool for our kids!	1/12/2021 11:41 AM
52	No	1/12/2021 11:40 AM
53	Do not defund police or emergency services	1/12/2021 11:29 AM
54	No no	1/12/2021 11:13 AM
55	School needs to open full time and something needs to be done to reduce spending.	1/12/2021 10:15 AM
56	The town should purchase the old Lincoln lake property & renovate it to be a public swimming area. Local & non local membership.	1/12/2021 9:27 AM
57	NA	1/12/2021 9:11 AM

58	There are obvious areas of budget spending that I can see a way of making cuts, I feel if people were asked for specific input into areas that could be cut there could be some savings found.	1/12/2021 9:01 AM
59	We live in Westchester and do not receive town water or trash removal. It's unfair that I have to pay taxes for others to receive these services.	1/12/2021 7:30 AM
60	Is there any discussion regarding limiting tax increases for seniors or providing discounts for earlier payments	1/12/2021 7:28 AM
61	We have waste in this town and we do nothing about it. How many times does public works need to go up and down the same road for nothing? The OT because they have a gazillion breaks and do little. Why do things take so long to do and why does it take so many supervisors and so few actual workers. And its like that in other departments so let's get out act together and save some \$ that can go towards good things.	1/12/2021 5:34 AM
62	I see very limited town workers actually working. It's sad to say but it's the same handful that stand around and the same handful that actually work. Seen in many spots around town. Money should be put to better use. We need more police presence in this town especially at night. The amount of car break ins is unnecessary but colchester is an easy target due to lack of police presence. I work in Hartford and it is a known fact to many in that area, that is embarrassing.	1/11/2021 10:16 PM
63	Lower taxes decrease spending on police and schools	1/11/2021 9:55 PM
64	Retired people should not have property tax increases since they can't keep up with the incomes of people with jobs.	1/11/2021 8:46 PM
65	No	1/11/2021 8:23 PM
66	none off hand	1/11/2021 7:42 PM
67	no	1/11/2021 7:07 PM
68	Not at present	1/11/2021 6:56 PM
69	I think that various departments could provide programming to more people if they shared their talents.	1/11/2021 6:51 PM
70	Would support higher taxes if it meant having a 24 hour town police department.	1/11/2021 5:52 PM
71	With businesses shut down by the governor for months on end, how will this impact the monies coming into the town? How is the budget been adjusted for this? I know of two businesses that have lost between 600k and another a million dollars!	1/11/2021 5:47 PM
72	No	1/11/2021 5:10 PM
73	No	1/11/2021 5:07 PM
74	N/A	1/11/2021 4:45 PM
75	No	1/11/2021 4:44 PM
76	If the school enrollment goes down then so should the budget	1/11/2021 4:38 PM
77	No	1/11/2021 4:05 PM
78	How will the increased revenue generated by the new mill rate be applied to the budget?	1/11/2021 4:04 PM
79	Are new businesses expanding the tax base?	1/11/2021 4:00 PM
80	Why does our Grand List not increase with all the new senior housing?	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
81	Lower taxes- schools are palaces and not used	1/11/2021 3:46 PM
82	No	1/11/2021 3:42 PM
83	no	1/11/2021 3:14 PM
84	I believe property taxes for the elderly should be frozen when the homeowner turns 65. Cost of living increases are not enough to keep up with increasing taxes.	1/11/2021 3:04 PM

85	Spending must be controlled. Especially the BOE. It would be beneficial to have a broader tax base.	1/11/2021 3:01 PM
86	Please develop commercial business to reduce individual taxes.	1/11/2021 2:59 PM
87	No	1/11/2021 2:57 PM
88	no	1/11/2021 2:55 PM
89	No	1/11/2021 2:50 PM
90	No	1/11/2021 2:46 PM
91	No	1/11/2021 2:43 PM
92	Online learning has the potential to reduce educational costs while maintaining the quality of instruction. It should be investigated, especially as a hybrid alternative.	1/11/2021 2:36 PM
93	No	1/11/2021 2:32 PM
94	Not right now	1/11/2021 2:31 PM
95	No	1/11/2021 2:21 PM
96	No	1/11/2021 2:20 PM
97	No	1/11/2021 2:20 PM
98	No	1/11/2021 2:17 PM
99	no, just hold down the budget	1/11/2021 11:30 AM
100	The Firehouse hirings, firings and position changes need to be transparent period!	1/10/2021 3:44 PM
101	Regarding #18 above, my answer would be that I have not attended a meeting, Zoom or otherwise, since I moved back to Colchester. In the past, I attended many, many meetings along with participating in the meetings. I don't attend anymore because NOTHING has changed. Even with this survey, it still has the same questions asked as in the past, even with a pandemic going on! It should be common sense that there should NOT be a tax increase! People answer these questions and the taxes still go up. Same 'ol, same 'ol. With all this being said, the idea of continuing with Zoom when the in-person meetings begin in a good idea. It gives people a choice AND can encourage more participation - which might actually make a difference - but I really don't know.	1/9/2021 8:14 AM
102	To state that costs rise every year for the same level of service is false. The schools closed last March. Snow removal has been minimal. Your savings..just like a family's budget should pay for any extra expenses. Being responsible sometimes means going without . Adults understand this.	1/8/2021 10:51 PM
103	The town needs to look at giving seniors and those on fixed incomes tax relief. They should use the revenue from the fuel cell to start a local tax freeze program.	1/8/2021 7:39 PM
104	No	1/8/2021 6:00 PM
105	No	1/8/2021 5:27 PM
106	I would just impress upon the town that we have a great community here - we can balance the rural/suburban/farmland feel we have and want with thoughtful development of businesses; attract families through keeping the schools in the best condition and with the best curriculum we can; attract non-residents to spend in Colchester (Hop Culture a great example); maintain the fields as best we can to promote healthy recreational lifestyles for children, adults, dogs, etc.; keep the housing market vibrant in town through the aforementioned so as to attract demand to live in the town all of which will help grow the tax base and ultimately keep taxes per capita reasonable.	1/8/2021 1:53 PM
107	Time to give Seniors a break....we're isolated, lonely and are spending a lot more just to have the basics of life	1/8/2021 11:09 AM
108	How will we fund the school maintenance over the long haul-roofs, oil tank, boiler, pumps, etc.	1/8/2021 9:26 AM
109	The town green has a lot of potential to draw spending to Colchester. We need to invest in, and develop, the area. Make it more pedestrian friendly, develop better parking, support adjacent	1/8/2021 8:09 AM

	businesses (some are eyesores).	
110	questions and choices are not worded well..i.e # 18-I HAVE attended mtgs in person but have not on Zoom and the reason is NOT due to zoom--just 1 ex	1/7/2021 10:32 PM
111	.	1/7/2021 9:42 PM
112	What is the towns plan to fill the empty store fronts in town. I realize COVID had an impact on businesses but there were empty stores prior to that. How can we make it easier for businesses to come to Colchester?	1/7/2021 9:01 PM
113	I will not support new senior center unless it is near carbon neutral due to having solar panels. New school should have had solar panels.	1/7/2021 7:53 PM
114	I realize it is a big one but you have to support the Fire Department needs. People of all ages utilized their services to promote good health and safety for the people of the community.	1/7/2021 7:01 PM
115	Are town employees salaries public ? If not why not ?	1/7/2021 4:40 PM
116	No	1/7/2021 4:31 PM
117	no	1/7/2021 4:17 PM
118	Is there any additional spending going towards our struggling small businesses? How about honoring Noel's Market and providing more competition to Stop & Shop (the most expensive one in all of CT)	1/7/2021 4:16 PM
119	When is there going to be a public meeting on the senior center development project?	1/7/2021 4:15 PM
120	8 million for a stand alone senior center is too high I think it should be used as a senior/community center. The current senior center is not used in the afternoons with no busses running for transportation after 1pm. This leaves the center unused and should be open to the community.	1/7/2021 4:07 PM
121	No.	1/7/2021 3:37 PM
122	No	1/7/2021 3:15 PM
123	What does the recreation department do ? Most programs i.e. baseball, football etc are run by non profits. Do we need all the staffing at the Recreation department if they don't provide services?	1/7/2021 3:08 PM
124	How much is the false unsubstantiated claim of racism and prejudice costing our town	1/7/2021 3:05 PM
125	What have been identified as the critical needs of the town for this budget season to ensure those are met, while other "would like to have" are set aside for the future?	1/7/2021 10:48 AM
126	maintain current services and the budget to support them. This is not the time to be adding services or discretionary cost increases.	1/7/2021 9:59 AM
127	In favor of more town spending on open space.	1/7/2021 8:24 AM
128	did the town ask for covid \$ / fema \$???	1/7/2021 8:05 AM
129	Why hasn't the Fire Chief position been posted allowing a vital role remaining interim for so long? How come all qualified candidates weren't interviewed to fill the "temporary" position in the Fire Marshal's office?	1/6/2021 10:26 PM
130	N/A	1/6/2021 9:35 PM
131	Give a tax break to seniors and to residents that don't have children using the school system.	1/6/2021 9:27 PM
132	No	1/6/2021 8:12 PM
133	do not raise taxes	1/6/2021 8:10 PM
134	Are there any plans to reduce water and sewage bills?	1/6/2021 8:07 PM
135	No	1/6/2021 7:41 PM
136	Cut taxes.	1/6/2021 5:36 PM
137	Yes. You need to do something with the town dump. No receipts? Are those employees	1/6/2021 5:02 PM

bonded? How can one person pay \$\$ and another person not? I think you really need to check into where the money is going....Look at other towns. How do they work their waste management places? I think you will be surprised!!!

138	I understand Colchester only has so much money to spend, but it seems to me we have let things....fire apparatus/ police coverage fall by the wayside.	1/6/2021 5:02 PM
139	The focus should be on running the town with more efficiency. Need to control spending and stop with excuses. No new tax increases.	1/6/2021 4:56 PM
140	WE NEED TO INVEST IN OUR TOWN. There is a reason that high tax areas are desirable - they are nice!! Let's improve the town green area, breathe some new life into the surrounding businesses, manage pedestrians and parking, and attract people to the town. If we let the 'no new taxes' and 'small government' people win we will be left with nothing.	1/6/2021 4:47 PM
141	No.	1/6/2021 4:44 PM
142	Keep bottom line \$\$ figure low	1/6/2021 4:43 PM
143	Why not look at possibly giving seniors a reduction in their real estate/personal property taxes? Fixed income individuals are having difficulty keeping up with the higher cost of groceries/utility bills/perscriptions and taxes.	1/6/2021 4:38 PM
144	No	1/6/2021 4:34 PM

Q22 Do you have any comments that can help us better serve Colchester?
Are there services you wish Colchester provided that it currently does not?

Answered: 192 Skipped: 574

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The tennis courts are an absolute embarrassment. Investment in playground is abysmal. The youth center looks like a haunted house and is an embarrassment also	1/20/2021 4:23 PM
2	Get rid of Mary Bylone. Colchester claims to be "open for business" but it seems she is actively scaring businesses away and in general making it more difficult to operate.	1/18/2021 8:28 AM
3	More children programs	1/17/2021 9:34 PM
4	I support trainings regarding cultural competence/ domestic violence in town and police departments. Being told by officer Brown when I was feeling fearful for my life and asking for help, "you get more with honey than with vinegar" is unnecessarily unkind considering the circumstances.	1/17/2021 9:24 PM
5	No additional comment, but thank you for what you do. Gathering all these opinions isn't easy, and I don't envy your job.	1/17/2021 4:58 PM
6	The school system is doing a poor job with the virtual at home learning program. My at-home learners are not getting an equal education to those students who attend school in person. I understand this is an unprecedented situation, but the school system has had months of time to improve virtual at home learning, and we are very disappointed in the program. Many other nearby school systems are doing much more for the at-home learners. It is apparent to us that the school district is not investing the time and resources needed to make virtual at home learning successful. Rather their strategy seems to be just repeatedly encouraging parents to send the kids into school in person. Yes, in person school is the best educational environment, but some families have chosen not to send their children to school due to significant health risk - it feels like the school has written these students off for the year. The school system does not seem interested in ensuring the at-home learners keep up with the in-person learners. Prior to the pandemic, we were very happy with our school system here; this year has been quite a disappointment.	1/17/2021 3:53 PM
7	Build senior center. Provide swimming pool for all town resident's use. Make parents of team members responsible for paying all costs associated with chosen sports team and field use upkeep lighting etc for sports played indoor. Not every family has children in sports Why should we be responsible for these costs	1/17/2021 3:17 PM
8	I support the implementation of the diversity and equity commission.	1/17/2021 12:12 PM
9	An ice rink of the town green would be beneficial for all.	1/17/2021 10:31 AM
10	A pool. Where I grew up there was a pool for almost every part of town...where is the closest public pool. This is a service that would be of extreme benefit to the town.	1/17/2021 9:46 AM
11	blight committee? too many empty buildings, new or old litter the town	1/17/2021 7:19 AM
12	Trash pick up or the very least town dump pass for free dump access	1/16/2021 10:15 PM
13	you have to stop over spending workers should have been on a four day work week or layed off during this time of lost income to the town	1/16/2021 6:48 PM
14	trash pickup for areas that have wells and septic-we dont use city services but pay for them in taxes	1/16/2021 6:10 PM
15	Covid testing in town for all ages more frequently would be helpful.	1/16/2021 4:38 PM
16	More focus on seniors. More focus on increasing diversity in our community and changes to zoning laws that encourage more diversity.	1/16/2021 4:03 PM
17	Please keep this a farming community, I hate seeing more and more development	1/16/2021 3:57 PM
18	Swimming, exercising and activities for children and adults.	1/16/2021 3:20 PM
19	Trash pick up	1/16/2021 3:10 PM
20	Our town water should be fluoridated. Many communities have successfully implemented this public health benefit for more than 50 years.	1/16/2021 3:03 PM
21	More small businesses (retail)	1/16/2021 2:58 PM
22	Improve your grand list.	1/16/2021 2:23 PM

23	This town needs to focus on town and school operations not more services.	1/16/2021 10:51 AM
24	Far more services for ADULTS with Autism!!!	1/16/2021 10:13 AM
25	None	1/16/2021 9:12 AM
26	Allow the citizens to vote this year.	1/16/2021 8:51 AM
27	Need more diverse business in Colchester	1/16/2021 7:56 AM
28	If the taxes continue to increase, I will not be able to afford living in Colchester and will need to find other, more affordable, places.	1/16/2021 7:24 AM
29	Lower taxes, bring in more entrainment business and maybe a department store.	1/16/2021 12:16 AM
30	Bring in new business, something similar to a target	1/15/2021 8:25 PM
31	No	1/15/2021 8:00 PM
32	No	1/15/2021 7:33 PM
33	Figure out how to eliminate one of the schools.	1/15/2021 7:24 PM
34	we need to maintain schools or Colchester will not be desirable place to move for families. We need to encourage businesses to open to increase tax base. If I'm going to Waterford to shop bigger stores I tend to do all my shopping there. I work full time so my time on weekends to get things done is limited.	1/15/2021 7:01 PM
35	Community Center Community Pool Indoor sports center Improved education at all schools Increase town resources	1/15/2021 6:50 PM
36	Traffic studies to improve safety on Rte 16, 354, 85 etc	1/15/2021 6:14 PM
37	Lower taxes and stop over spending.	1/15/2021 5:44 PM
38	I feel the services provided here are accurate to the needs of our residents.	1/15/2021 5:34 PM
39	Allow homeschool kids to participate in services offered to the rest of the kids.	1/15/2021 4:48 PM
40	Is it possible to organize a ZOOM / telephonic panel to discuss fiscal policy and coordination: town, state, federal to address planning and pitfalls? Questions submitted in advance...	1/15/2021 2:43 PM
41	no	1/15/2021 9:46 AM
42	We already know you won't allow business growth so what does it matter!!	1/15/2021 3:39 AM
43	n/a	1/14/2021 12:05 PM
44	No	1/14/2021 7:37 AM
45	I wish the town had sports fields it could be proud of. I support raising taxes if the money goes toward the schools and towards the fields. Look at the towns around us and our fields are an embarrassment in comparison. Also the high school fields need work too, get those fields lights.	1/13/2021 7:04 PM
46	Not at moment	1/13/2021 1:57 PM
47	Do not defend the police department!!	1/13/2021 1:23 PM
48	We need to educate staff and keep equipment updated. Staff could reduces a small amount if departments tried to partner with programming.	1/13/2021 12:36 PM
49	More night programs at the senior center	1/13/2021 11:47 AM
50	no	1/13/2021 11:03 AM
51	Please bring more retail to town in order to increase the tax base and to reduce reasons to leave town. A multi-purpose, indoor sports venue would be incredibly beneficial to youth and adults.	1/13/2021 9:20 AM
52	I hope the town recognizes the importance of preserving open space. It make more sense than adding housing, both from an economic basis as well as a quality of life basis.	1/13/2021 9:13 AM
53	Can we build a public swimming pool?	1/12/2021 11:04 PM

54	I would like the Town to expand the Transfer Station into a full recycling center, especially for items that Williwaste no longer accepts (such as some numbered plastics) or never accepted. This should include every kind of batteries, especially rechargeable. It makes no sense to put recyclable and costly materials such as nickle, silver, and lithium into the trash stream. Similarly, mercury should be recovered from fluorescent lamps, rather than released into the environment.	1/12/2021 10:57 PM
55	Town pool or partner with another town or group such as camp hemlock to provide the service! I also would like to see more diversity in the business in town and restaurants, one town over Marlborough is a perfect example of a small town but good offerings of restaurants and stores! We are a central town to many smaller towns around us, we should really take advantage of this and have more business come to Colchester and increase our tax base!!	1/12/2021 9:29 PM
56	Need better social and recreational situations to make Colchester a better family friendly town.	1/12/2021 8:59 PM
57	Better maintained recreational facilities for the safety of the kids in town.	1/12/2021 8:11 PM
58	No	1/12/2021 7:11 PM
59	No	1/12/2021 5:39 PM
60	Town pool.	1/12/2021 5:03 PM
61	additional out of town transportation for medical and other since there are no public buses to Norwich etc	1/12/2021 5:00 PM
62	Colchester needs to do more for the over 55 population.	1/12/2021 3:29 PM
63	I would support a noise ordinance.	1/12/2021 3:25 PM
64	Please remove the baseball field from town green, move the Gazebo, and add a ice rink to where the field is. Get the town center more pedestrian friendly.bhave the green be a rotary to smooth out the traffic issues.	1/12/2021 2:55 PM
65	I wish that the people that run stop lights and stop signs everyday would be ticketed - That there was at least some attempt to stop the rampant abuses happening.	1/12/2021 2:52 PM
66	Fix the stuff that is broken and run down. Stop trying to be all things to everyone. Make the town look nice again. The friends that I associated with feel similarly.	1/12/2021 2:28 PM
67	I think you should expand the transportation services offered by the senior center to afternoons and or weekends. While there isn't much to go to now, I would have gone to a couple of things at cragin but couldn't get a ride. Would I've to try out the restaurant when that is available. Have on occasion needed a doctors visit and really didn't want to call an ambulance but with no urgent care in town and no transport might have to. I think thatthe senior center should help coordinate shoppingand delivery of food and medicines to seniors .I saw a couple of other local Senior center's are doing this using volunteers. I don't want to go to stop and shop or cvs unless I have to. It is the second most likely place to get covid after bars and restaurants. I think the town fell down on the job during the summers power outage the town could have helped a lot of people weather that trial but I didn't see anything from the town offering any kind of assistance.	1/12/2021 2:20 PM
68	Let's stay focused on the core values of small town America.	1/12/2021 1:34 PM
69	I am concerned about the removal of trees around town. Several examples in past year of tree removal in preparation for commercial building and then nothing happened. Too many vacant buildings.	1/12/2021 11:48 AM
70	Community Pool! Indoor Recreation Center	1/12/2021 11:41 AM
71	Not at this time	1/12/2021 11:40 AM
72	Can't think of anything.	1/12/2021 11:29 AM
73	No	1/12/2021 11:13 AM
74	More outdoor activities for kids such as mini golf. A bowling alley would be nice.	1/12/2021 11:06 AM
75	More money for public health services	1/12/2021 11:03 AM
76	I wish the Police Dept had 24 hour coverage. The blatant disregard for speed limits is	1/12/2021 10:38 AM

	maddening.	
77	local transportation	1/12/2021 9:46 AM
78	Colchester needs to offer a rent bank for people who cannot afford to pay rent at this time.	1/12/2021 9:42 AM
79	Find our children, top priority with everything they have been through.	1/12/2021 9:38 AM
80	NA	1/12/2021 9:11 AM
81	Swimming	1/12/2021 8:47 AM
82	Please fully update the playground at the RecPlex. East Hampton has a beautiful playground. Can we match their effort?	1/12/2021 8:44 AM
83	Trash pickup outside of "in town"	1/12/2021 7:28 AM
84	More police presence in the evenings, vastly undeserving the area at this time.	1/11/2021 10:16 PM
85	no	1/11/2021 9:55 PM
86	Fund the proposed senior center	1/11/2021 9:50 PM
87	See earlier comments about senior and community centers	1/11/2021 9:33 PM
88	A community pool with hours for senior citizens	1/11/2021 8:57 PM
89	Why increase services when people do not have as much money to pay the taxes for them.	1/11/2021 8:46 PM
90	A good senior	1/11/2021 8:46 PM
91	The playground in the recreation field is very worn down with punt chipping and not looking nice. Would be nice w the kids not having much to do right now to have a nice area to play.	1/11/2021 8:40 PM
92	Eliminate random fees charged at transfer station and replace with an annual fee.	1/11/2021 7:44 PM
93	Other than the obvious, perhaps when possible more informal town gatherings(ie: Concerts on the Green)	1/11/2021 7:42 PM
94	Could rec department and C3 utilize the rec plex more for continued programming outdoors?	1/11/2021 7:35 PM
95	If you are looking at adding rec fields serious consideration should be given to adding a turf field and lights at Bacon Academy. More organizations can also use this without wrecking the field	1/11/2021 7:12 PM
96	More retail	1/11/2021 7:07 PM
97	just to be able to attend classes in person.	1/11/2021 7:07 PM
98	I cannot think of any at present.	1/11/2021 6:56 PM
99	More community partnerships. Directors say they are working very hard but refuse to utilize people who offer to volunteer to support their goals.	1/11/2021 6:51 PM
100	Covid 19 vaccinations available here in town	1/11/2021 6:13 PM
101	I really wish we had more options for a grocery store. I do most of all my shopping outside of Colchester, as the prices are way to high. I use Amazon and target delivery weekly.	1/11/2021 6:03 PM
102	Programs for both children and adults with autism spectrum disorder	1/11/2021 5:47 PM
103	More affordable grocery store options like Aldi	1/11/2021 5:25 PM
104	Our town green needs a makeover!! It's the hub of our town and where so many gatherings take place (again soon hopefully) it looks run down and old. I'd love to see the town green taken into consideration as part of the budget.	1/11/2021 5:18 PM
105	Not that I can think of.	1/11/2021 5:07 PM
106	N/A	1/11/2021 4:45 PM
107	No	1/11/2021 4:44 PM
108	Yes how about town wide garage pick up	1/11/2021 4:38 PM

109	More warning signs at crosswalks. I'm tired of hearing 85 is a State road and we can't do anything about it.	1/11/2021 4:23 PM
110	Would appreciate a new Senior Center	1/11/2021 4:21 PM
111	Greater efforts to attract viable businesses to Colchester are critical, especially if the town wants to grow and attract more residents with families and spending power.	1/11/2021 4:04 PM
112	A better senior center. That old building is an insult to the large senior population.	1/11/2021 4:01 PM
113	Not at present- need to get over COVID problems first.	1/11/2021 3:59 PM
114	A real Senior Center to support the demography of your population.	1/11/2021 3:57 PM
115	No	1/11/2021 3:42 PM
116	no	1/11/2021 3:14 PM
117	Get some restaurants that are not pizza or chinese	1/11/2021 3:07 PM
118	No	1/11/2021 3:04 PM
119	No	1/11/2021 2:57 PM
120	see #7	1/11/2021 2:55 PM
121	Desperately need a new senior center	1/11/2021 2:50 PM
122	No	1/11/2021 2:43 PM
123	I am a retired K-12 educator experienced in technology applications to K-12 education. I would be willing to elaborate on my ideas. I can be reached at uconnron914@gmail.com	1/11/2021 2:36 PM
124	Changes Are Good and some need to be made better for our Town. Then a legacy is past on	1/11/2021 2:34 PM
125	No	1/11/2021 2:32 PM
126	No	1/11/2021 2:31 PM
127	Weekly movie nights at Sr Center	1/11/2021 2:21 PM
128	Mo	1/11/2021 2:20 PM
129	More town water.	1/11/2021 2:20 PM
130	No	1/11/2021 2:17 PM
131	again, we need another grocery store and a clothing store in town	1/11/2021 11:30 AM
132	To keep us competitive with surrounding towns, our recreational fields need to be quality, which has not been the case. Perhaps COVID will help. I don't feel that quantity is the issue.	1/11/2021 8:15 AM
133	It would be great if the Youth/Social Services Dept. could organize volunteers to collect new & gently used clothing for distribution to those in need in the Colchester community. A handful of local consignment stores (within a 30-40 mile radius) have closed due to the pandemic. I'd love to donate clothes that I would have previously consigned.	1/10/2021 4:18 PM
134	Yes! The First Selectman needs to STOP her behind closed door meetings making decisions behind taxpayers backs!!	1/10/2021 3:44 PM
135	wifi access points at green and rec fields	1/10/2021 3:34 PM
136	No comments but a compliment on how you have kept in touch with Covid testing and other issues with phone calls, much appreciated!	1/9/2021 11:16 PM
137	More recreational opportunities for our youth thus keeping them involved in outdoors recreation	1/9/2021 9:47 AM
138	Colchester does not need to be increasing "services" or even encouraging them. Colchester should be trying to get more businesses in here, according to laws and non-discrimination laws. This sleepy town doesn't ever seem to wake up. Sad really. :(1/9/2021 8:14 AM
139	Bring more commercial businesses to the area that would give people a reason to spend more in Colchester. The only money I spend in Colchester is at the gas station so I can go somewhere else to get what I need.	1/8/2021 11:39 PM

140	No. We should be looking to build up our private sector. We do not need to be funding a Utopia on the backs of homeowners.	1/8/2021 10:51 PM
141	More police coverage 24/7 to stop of wanton disregard for traffic laws. Speeding, running red lights, not stopping at stop signs, failing to yield at the HORRIFIC Noel's traffic light. The general fund would be increased exponentially by tickets issued if we have active police coverage in town.	1/8/2021 10:50 PM
142	Keep Colchester affordable for ALL citizens!	1/8/2021 7:39 PM
143	An indoor rec facility (separate from the rec pled) is needed. Some of the empty land could be used for that.	1/8/2021 6:00 PM
144	We need more businesses, and more restaurants. Buildings are two times more expensive in our town than they are in neighboring towns. That's crazy! Add businesses to lower taxes and make life easier for families. I'm tired of driving g half an hour to go to target or Walmart! I shouldnt be forced to shop local when the stores are not available in my town.	1/8/2021 5:27 PM
145	A late bus for middle/high school students for after school programs such as sports.	1/8/2021 4:13 PM
146	Many small buildings have been constructed without business agreements and remain empty. The likelihood of several small businesses filling these spaces is also limited based on the repeatability of existing services. We need bigger stakeholders / tax bases to increase Colchester's fiscal growth. We should not have passed on Walmart....	1/8/2021 2:15 PM
147	I think Colchester is a wonderful place to live and is a caring community that provides a lot of great services.	1/8/2021 1:53 PM
148	A government provides for all its citizens: seniors as well as its youth.	1/8/2021 9:26 AM
149	Stop the speeding. Get the police out there. Speeding & littering are out of control.	1/8/2021 8:09 AM
150	A plan is needed for accepting cash payments for taxes at town hall	1/8/2021 4:26 AM
151	more stores, recreational things like a town pool	1/7/2021 10:32 PM
152	I love the new sidewalk on halls hill! I'm a big fan of walkable infrastructure and policy (mixed use development zoning). On the flip side I'm not as satisfied with the bike lanes because I'm a little skeptical of their effectiveness. Maybe it'd be helpful to have a local information campaign about how to treat bicycles on the roadways when driving because we don't have too many people riding in my experience and I've seen people actually mad at bikers. Maybe could even include reasons to bike, ex I think I heard bikes wear down the road something like 1/100 the amount cars do.	1/7/2021 9:55 PM
153	Paramedic program needs to be established. It has been shown to be self sufficient in funding with insurance payment and has a direct impact on positive medical outcomes.	1/7/2021 9:42 PM
154	I asked the last 2 selectmen why we had no solar panels on municipal properties in Colchester and was told on the way, this was over 15 years ago when I saw Salem had the on their library. Another example of not caring about expenses and taking advantage of controlling expenses	1/7/2021 7:53 PM
155	I am interested in services and programs that support families with young children in Colchester.	1/7/2021 7:25 PM
156	Need more sidewalks.	1/7/2021 7:11 PM
157	There is discussion of a new Senior Center. The building should be called a community center since all the tax payers will have to support it. Senior activities could come first but they are in the building for eight hours a day, So many groups are in need of space.	1/7/2021 7:01 PM
158	Would like to see activities to open up. The children need to socialize even if it is socially distanced.	1/7/2021 4:31 PM
159	Colchester should have a vision of what we'd like our town to be and then we should work toward that vision. Grants, donations, fundraising and taxes could all be used to make the vision a reality. When a vision is clear, individuals and organizations can see where they fit and how they can contribute.	1/7/2021 4:18 PM
160	no	1/7/2021 4:17 PM

161	I wish Colchester provided individual special-needs services, such as PT/Speech and OT facilities in the town or as part of the school system (outside of school hours or zoom calls)	1/7/2021 4:16 PM
162	Yes - control speeding on side roads and near the schools	1/7/2021 4:10 PM
163	As I have previously stated all senior needs should be done by the center staff, we do not need the center to provide so many trips the work done for these trips should spent on senior needs.	1/7/2021 4:07 PM
164	No.	1/7/2021 3:37 PM
165	No	1/7/2021 3:15 PM
166	I appreciate all that our First Selectperson is doing. Mary has been an asset to our town, thank you fir all you are doing.	1/7/2021 3:09 PM
167	Arrest THIEVES! Cleanup and stop the pollution...Reduce Government, Stay out of local business affairs and post how many businesses we lost since the start of M.Bylone's start	1/7/2021 3:05 PM
168	More education/learning opportunities available for seniors locally.	1/7/2021 10:48 AM
169	24 hours police, more big business	1/7/2021 9:19 AM
170	No	1/7/2021 8:41 AM
171	Continue to pursue new senior citizen center with expanded services (fitness center) and hours and enhanced library services and hours, to increase likelihood of staying in town following retirement.	1/7/2021 8:24 AM
172	Public utilities, meaning the town supplies our electricity and gas. It would be nice if there was a company in town we could buy fiber optic internet service from.	1/7/2021 8:08 AM
173	I have a septic and a well and I pay to bring my waste to the transfer station and have no children in school. My taxes are a little over \$8,000. besides fire, police and snow removal what am I getting?	1/7/2021 6:57 AM
174	N/A	1/6/2021 9:35 PM
175	Town Pool	1/6/2021 9:23 PM
176	no	1/6/2021 8:12 PM
177	No	1/6/2021 8:07 PM
178	No comment	1/6/2021 7:41 PM
179	Fewer better services, do not spread resources thin.	1/6/2021 6:13 PM
180	Most of these questions do not reflect current and anticipated pandemic impacts.	1/6/2021 5:53 PM
181	Yes, 24 hour police protection. Our town is growing and there has been an increase in car thefts, break ins, etc and we need police to be on duty 24 hours.	1/6/2021 5:45 PM
182	No, more services mean more taxes.	1/6/2021 5:36 PM
183	Colchester is an up and coming town in Connecticut. Very proud to be part of it.	1/6/2021 5:02 PM
184	Committee members at ZOOM Meetings should be visible just as they are at a public in person meeting. THANK YOU !	1/6/2021 5:02 PM
185	The way the town is and has been run makes it impossible to retire here. Granted this is not solely on the town but also inefficiencies in the way the way the state is run as well.	1/6/2021 4:56 PM
186	Stop the speeding in town. Extend the sidewalk to the Rex Plex down Old Hebron Rd. Stop allowing crap developments like Nature Ave come into our town. We need more athletic fields. We need a public pool complex. Spending on our town has a payback.	1/6/2021 4:47 PM
187	We need more police protection	1/6/2021 4:46 PM
188	No.	1/6/2021 4:44 PM
189	Better content in town hall monthly newsletter from 1st Selectman	1/6/2021 4:43 PM

190	Expand food bank distributions to the needy. It is imperative in this pandemic situation that people have access to food for their families.	1/6/2021 4:38 PM
191	Just the community center comment - I really would like to see a more balanced view of how to develop the community versus just focusing on certain segments (e.g. seniors)	1/6/2021 4:38 PM
192	No	1/6/2021 4:34 PM