

The purpose of this survey is to provide an additional channel for Colchester taxpayers to share their opinions on town and school priorities, taxes, voting, and communications. The results of this survey will be shared with town officials and board members, along with other citizen input (comments in meetings, emails, conversations) to assess voter opinions. All Town of Colchester taxpayers are encouraged to take the survey once and the results will be available on the Town website a couple days after the survey closes at 8:00 am on February 3, 2020. (www.colchesterct.gov).

In advance, thank you for your willingness to complete the survey and for your time doing so.

The survey is divided into 4 parts: demographic questions, budget related questions, voting and communications, additional comments.

Tell us about you:

The following questions tell us who is taking the survey. The responses are not linked to specific questions.

1. Do you identify as

- Female
- Male

2. Which level of income best describes your household income during the last year?

- Less than \$24,999
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- More than \$150,000

3. In what category is your age?

- Under 21
- 21 - 25
- 26 - 39
- 40 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 +

4. What best describes your situation?

- No children
- School age children enrolled in Colchester
- School age children enrolled outside of Colchester
- Children in college or other post-secondary program
- Children finished with school

5. How do you rate the quality of life in Colchester?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Additional Comments

6. How do you rate Colchester as a place to raise kids?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Additional Comments

7. How do you rate Colchester as a place to retire.

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Additional Comments

8. If you have used the services listed below in the last 3 years, please rate your experience and quality of service.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Have Not Used
Fire/Ambulance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School System	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Services [other than food and/or fuel bank(s)]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food and/or Fuel Bank(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sewer and Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional Comments

Budget Related Questions

9. In 2018-2019 Budget, what is your preference for funding the following areas?

	Increase Spending	Maintain Current Spending	Reduce Spending
Fire Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School System	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center/Services	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Services (includes Food and Fuel Banks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Works	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Center/Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sewer and Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional Comments

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Additional Comments

11. 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. What percent of tax increase would you find acceptable, given the effect on services

Decrease or No Increase (will reduce services)	1-0% to 1% Increase (likely reduce services)	10-1% to 2% Increase (possible reduction in some services)	>2% Increase if Amount is Needed to Maintain Current Services or Add Services.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional Comments

12. In the future would you support spending for the following?

	Yes	No	Maybe
Land Conservation/Open Space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Increase in Police Services and Infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Increase in Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Recreation Field Improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Additional Comments

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

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not so important
- Not at all important
- Need more information to decide

The Town is considering an expansion of our paramedic service from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advanced Life Support (ALS).

14. Would you support an expansion of paramedic services if it meant a significant increase in the mill rate?

Yes

No

Unsure/need more information

15. Currently 57 Fest is unsustainable through its fund raising efforts. The cost of 57 Fest is roughly \$20,000-\$25,000. Do you feel tax payer dollars should be spent to continue 57 Fest?

Yes

No

Scale back the cost of 57 fest to meet fundraising capabilities without using taxpayer dollars

16. Do you feel the town has properly invested enough money in maintaining our recreational fields?

Yes

No

Voting and Communication Questions

17. Did you vote in the last budget referendum?

Yes

No

18. If you selected "No" please indicate why.

Too busy

Did not have enough information

Did not know there was a referendum

I had no transportation

Other (please specify)

19. What can the town do to increase participation in voting?

20. What is the best way for you to receive town information?(check all that apply)

Newspaper

E-mail

Facebook

Twitter

Town Website

Other (please specify)

Additional Comments

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

22. Do you have any comments that can help us better serve Colchester? Are there any services that Colchester does not provide and you wish it did?

Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey. Results will be made available on the Town's website (www.colchesterct.gov). If you wish to receive Town news and information you can sign up at <http://www.colchesterct.gov/subscriber>. Choosing any of the information items on that page will also enroll you to receive the First Selectman's weekly information email. These e-mails and the Town web site will update voters on current budget information. You can also follow the First Selectman on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/firstselectmansoffice>

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