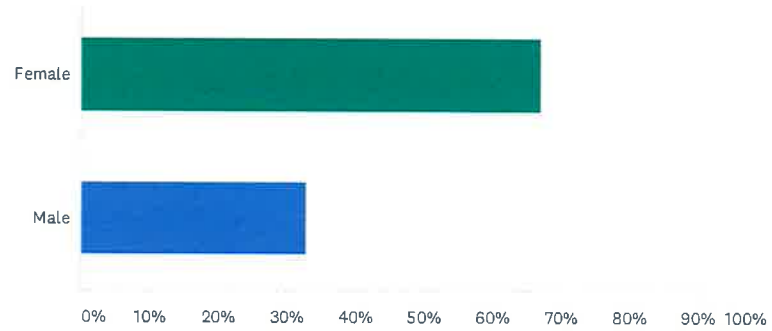


## Q1 Do you identify as

Answered: 430 Skipped: 9



### ANSWER CHOICES

Female

Male

TOTAL

### RESPONSES

67.21%

32.79%

2

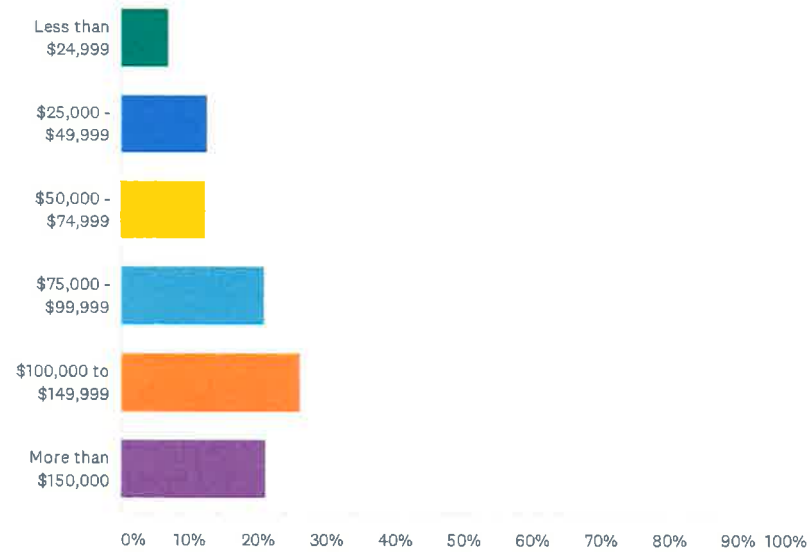
289

141

430

## Q2 Which level of income best describes your household income during the last year?

Answered: 424 Skipped: 15



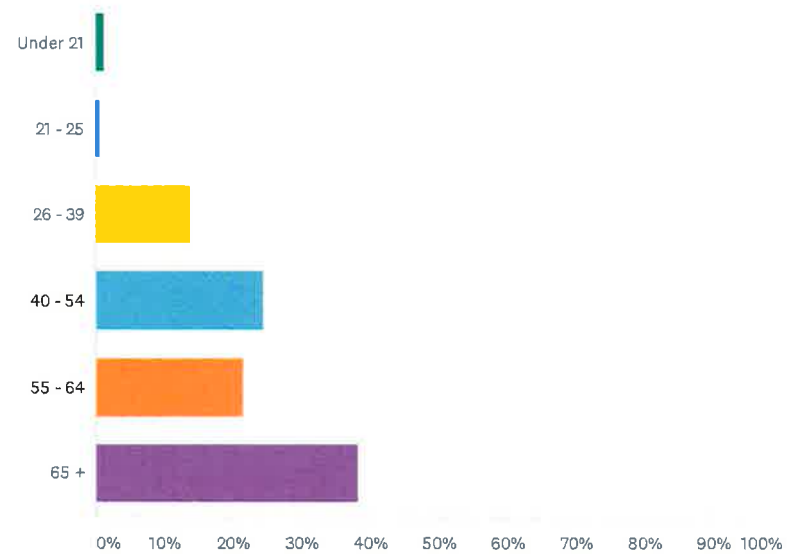
2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$24,999	6.84%	29
\$25,000 - \$49,999	12.50%	53
\$50,000 - \$74,999	12.26%	52
\$75,000 - \$99,999	20.99%	89
\$100,000 to \$149,999	26.18%	111
More than \$150,000	21.23%	90
TOTAL		424

### Q3 In what category is your age?

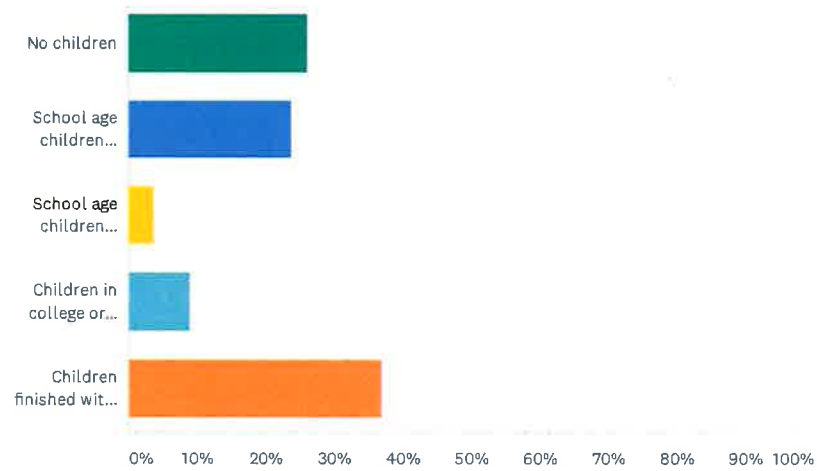
Answered: 433 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 21	1.15%	5
21 - 25	0.69%	3
26 - 39	13.86%	60
40 - 54	24.48%	106
55 - 64	21.48%	93
65 +	38.34%	166
TOTAL		433

## Q4 What best describes your situation?

Answered: 431 Skipped: 8



### ANSWER CHOICES

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

TOTAL

### RESPONSES

26.22% 113

23.90% 103

3.71% 16

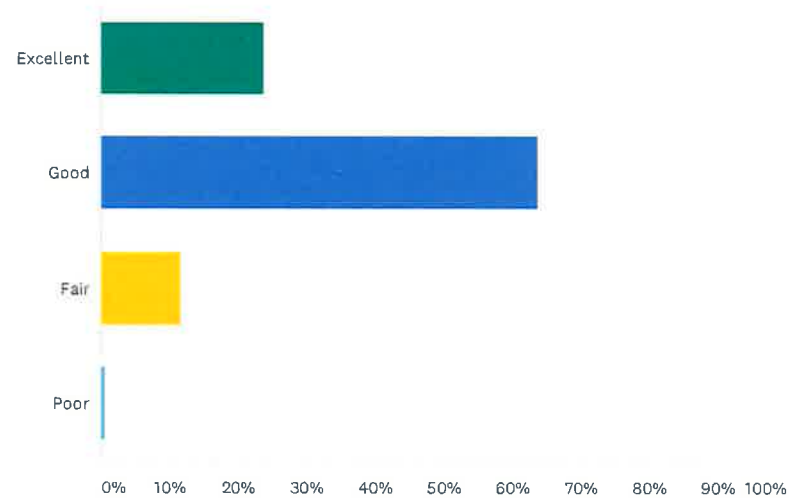
9.05% 39

37.12% 160

431

## Q5 How do you rate the quality of life in Colchester?

Answered: 433 Skipped: 6



### ANSWER CHOICES

Excellent	23.79%	103
Good	63.74%	276
Fair	11.78%	51
Poor	0.69%	3
TOTAL		433

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	No senior events held at night for those of us who still work during the day.	2/1/2020 7:12 PM
2	Lovely small town atmosphere with amenities and activities. Moved here to an over-55 community after 35 years in Marlborough. Very satisfied.	2/1/2020 5:53 PM
3	I would like to see more retail and restaurants (not pizza, Chinese or Dunkin).	2/1/2020 9:59 AM
4	Lack of central community center prevents the town from really coming together with senior activities, social programs, Fitness classes, health promotion events, and educational opportunities/workshops. One location for all is badly needed.	2/1/2020 9:51 AM
5	wish we had better transportation options	1/31/2020 10:45 PM
6	very happy living in Colchester. Well run town. Would like to see improvements to certain areas of town which appear run-down and neglected.	1/31/2020 8:26 PM
7	I do wish that the sidewalks between Norwich Ave and Pleasant Street were in better condition. There are a lot of children who use those sidewalks to walk from the Middle School down to the Youth Center as well as people who like to walk or run.	1/31/2020 5:54 PM
8	Could be better with more stores to compete and some clothing stores. So we dont have to use up gas every time we need apiece of clothing. And if tolls are added.. . Much worse for all.	1/31/2020 5:09 PM
9	Would be nice to have a few more entertainment, restaurant, shopping options	1/30/2020 5:00 PM
10	We need more recreational activities for senior and teenagers.	1/29/2020 10:32 PM
11	Highschool needs some help and we could use a little restaurant variety	1/29/2020 10:47 AM
12	I appreciate being in a town that balances small town agriculture community while being a regional hub with retail and businesses. However, I feel it could strengthen a little more as a regional hub	1/29/2020 6:46 AM
13	There is no public transportation. I use the Senior Center bus but there is no weekend service. It would be nice tyo go to church etc.	1/28/2020 8:58 PM
14	Poor recreational choices - no pool Senior center is inadequate programming is limited and age ist	1/28/2020 8:51 PM
15	Love we are going to build a new Sr. Center.	1/28/2020 6:42 PM
16	We need a WALMART In town	1/28/2020 5:08 PM
17	I would like to see more services for senior citizens.	1/28/2020 4:26 PM
18	I enjoy living in Colchester.	1/28/2020 3:58 PM
19	Sidewalks on Rt 85 would mean a lot to all the seniors you invited to buy property on that road in Colchester. We pay a lot of property tax with no kids in school.	1/28/2020 3:41 PM
20	lack of public transportation	1/28/2020 3:36 PM
21	just not a lot available for the taxes we pay.	1/28/2020 3:21 PM
22	Extremely high taxes for seniors on fixed incomes.	1/28/2020 2:27 PM
23	Taxes toooo high!!!!!!	1/28/2020 2:19 PM
24	Blight issues throughout town. Could use some something like a Costco and large shopping complex near highway away from center of town.	1/28/2020 2:14 PM



## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

25	I feel that Colchester offers a lot for young people through the volunteerism of parents. Grounds, fields are taken care of and buildings maintained	1/28/2020 2:13 PM
26	We moved to Colchester 35 years ago because it was a convenient location. We still live here because it was a great place to raise our kids and it still meets our needs for a community with small town amenities and good accessibility to cities with additional amenities.	1/28/2020 2:10 PM
27	Wish we had more indoor activities, especially open during the day for kids	1/28/2020 1:13 PM
28	From what I see the trajectory of colchester is flat to down. The town has not changed for the better since the 90s. The town always wants more money for schools when enrollment is declining. This does not add up. Also the addition of the dollar store is not good. The restaurants have improved (good).	1/26/2020 3:49 PM
29	No conveniences are available in this town. Must go out of town to shop and better restaurants. Spending money in Glastonbury, not in Colchester.	1/26/2020 2:54 PM
30	Need shopping, better restaurant selection, better plowing. Less residential development and small strip malls that are empty.	1/25/2020 7:56 PM
31	Awfully high taxes for senior citizens on Social Security.	1/25/2020 3:51 PM
32	would like different shopping and restaurant options.	1/25/2020 1:23 PM
33	If I have any complaint, it is that the town is too crowded. It really isn't, but I'm cranky and self-centered.	1/25/2020 11:48 AM
34	Taxes are too high.	1/25/2020 8:45 AM
35	Taxes to high	1/24/2020 8:15 PM
36	All in all it's a good place to live because there are some really good people. Yet, there is a constant attack on our schools every budget season. People are just unnecessarily mean on social media. Never any new business brought in no matter who is selectman. Taxes go up because it falls on the homeowners.	1/22/2020 6:54 PM
37	Tax burden on our citizens are disproportionate to services received.	1/22/2020 9:01 AM
38	Too expensive. Poor spending. Thank God we have a new selectman.	1/22/2020 8:49 AM
39	too many democrats	1/22/2020 8:16 AM
40	If taxes keep on being raised, I will have to move.	1/21/2020 4:19 AM
41	Colchester needs to reduce spending on things we do not need	1/20/2020 7:47 AM
42	I do not expect to be able to retire here as the cost of living is way to high for me to afford. It's sad because I love it here.	1/19/2020 11:24 PM
43	Very much lacking physical fitness. No gym in town. Rarely see anyone walking/running on the streets. But no crowds anywhere so easy lifestyle that way.	1/19/2020 6:52 PM
44	A better traffic pattern AROUND the common during events would be helpful.	1/19/2020 12:51 PM
45	Money is never spent on the greater good or the future of Colchester.	1/19/2020 11:27 AM
46	Property taxes are to high. How about some cuts.	1/18/2020 5:55 PM
47	We need more police services	1/18/2020 12:03 PM
48	Lots of free community activities like concerts and car shows.	1/18/2020 11:05 AM
49	I would have rated it excellent, but the lack of a more coverage-effective (improved SE CT coverage) and cost-effective public transportation system detracts from the quality of life in our town.	1/18/2020 10:39 AM

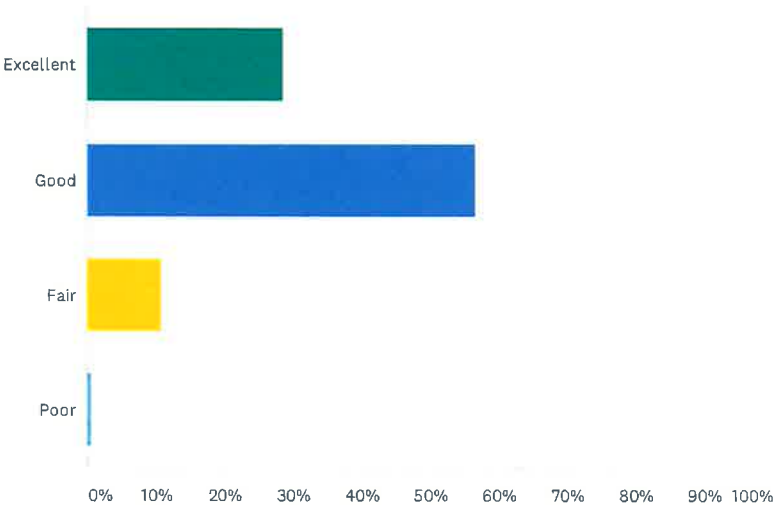
## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

50	Public safety is not at a peak level like 20 years ago	1/18/2020 10:34 AM
51	Lacking services like late bussing.	1/18/2020 10:23 AM
52	The socio-economic status seems to be on the downward. It feels like the town is attracting more low income families.	1/18/2020 10:05 AM
53	This is very open ended. Comments can't provide value	1/17/2020 10:19 PM
54	Miss the concerts on the green. Love the farmer's market and other tag sales	1/17/2020 6:39 PM

Q6 How do you rate Colchester as a place to raise kids?

Answered: 421 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES

Excellent	28.74%	121
Good	56.77%	239
Fair	10.93%	46
Poor	0.71%	3
TOTAL		421

RESPONSES

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	Very few recreational activities other than sports.	2/2/2020 1:26 PM
2	My children were grown when I moved here	2/2/2020 1:13 PM
3	The town things for children ages 10-16 work related work programs designed at building skills not preparing them for college. Farm work fire department work. Community policing etc	2/2/2020 7:09 AM
4	No children in the school system.	2/1/2020 7:12 PM
5	We had to send our children to private schools as the town schools did not provide the academic excellence we wanted.	2/1/2020 3:48 PM
6	It was much better when we moved to town in early 80's	2/1/2020 10:36 AM
7	When my kids went through the system In the early 2000. Teachers are pulled from their classrooms Way too much. I also see teachers leaving because of money,, are teachers are not paid enough and the superintendent is over paid.6	2/1/2020 10:23 AM
8	It's a good family community with a lot of choices for activities to be involved in.	2/1/2020 9:59 AM
9	My child had a very difficult time in both the middle and high school. I was frustrated and angry most days that he was in school because of actions of the educators and administration regarding my child and the IEP that was in place rarely being followed	2/1/2020 9:54 AM
10	See above. I like the small town feel but we need more businesses to support the tax base. I moved here from another town (Out of state) of similar size, and there's just no comparison to opportunities for children.	2/1/2020 9:51 AM
11	teen center, sports complex, new schools, safe. Transportation would be nice.	1/31/2020 10:45 PM
12	no grandkids in Colchester, but we do have some living in other areas of Ct.	1/31/2020 8:26 PM
13	I do hope that the playground at the RecPlex will get worked on soon. The metal pieces are rusting and some of the pieces are broken. The fields at the RecPlex also need to be addressed for safety concerns - holes in fields, bent fences, and drainage issues.	1/31/2020 5:54 PM
14	So far safe Not much entertainment for kids	1/31/2020 5:09 PM
15	OUR CHILDREN ARE IN THEIR LATE THIRTIES. WE HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH THE COLCHESTER SCHOOL SYSTEM.	1/29/2020 8:48 PM
16	We haven't lived here long enough to fairly assess this question and we are retired. However, previously involved in teaching, I know Colchester has a very goo school system. My sister-in-law's niece who is a Nurse Practitioner, chose this town to raise her children and loves it.	1/29/2020 7:59 PM
17	WJ is amazing!	1/29/2020 10:47 AM
18	N/A	1/29/2020 9:30 AM
19	Great for kids involved in team sports but lacks other positive activities for kids especially as kids hit their teenage years.	1/29/2020 6:46 AM
20	The school system is great and there are a lot of recreation opportunities for children	1/28/2020 8:58 PM
21	Love our library , parks and Rec events , the families that support eachother. C3 is an amazing program for having kids! Wish we had a community pool !	1/28/2020 8:32 PM
22	I did it and they got a wonderful education from caring teachers.	1/28/2020 6:42 PM
23	Did not raise our children here	1/28/2020 5:13 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

24	Our grandchildren are here in town and doing w,	1/28/2020 4:09 PM
25	No kids. This question doesn't fit here.	1/28/2020 3:47 PM
26	I have no interest in kids	1/28/2020 3:20 PM
27	N/a	1/28/2020 2:19 PM
28	Wouldn't know.	1/28/2020 2:14 PM
29	Schools are excellent and after school offerings fine	1/28/2020 2:13 PM
30	can't comment...I have no children	1/28/2020 2:04 PM
31	Wish there were more places to go in the winter in town.	1/28/2020 1:24 PM
32	C3 is amazing and the classes they provided have been instrumental to being a parent. The sports programs are amazing too, but could use more funding for fields and supplies to keep us competitive.	1/28/2020 1:13 PM
33	Don't have children	1/27/2020 8:55 AM
34	There are nice families here for sure but I would pick another town if I were starting g again. A coworker w a young family moved out fast to E Lyme recently because he did not want his kids to attend the schools	1/26/2020 3:49 PM
35	Drugs still remain a big problem in Colchester and crime is on the rise.	1/26/2020 2:54 PM
36	Schools are good but are leaning progressive more and more; rec activities are good; missing something for tweens and teens that aren't inclined towards athletics.	1/26/2020 1:54 PM
37	The town has gotten better about having more activities and programming for younger children since we moved here.	1/25/2020 10:21 PM
38	We do not have kids, never have, never will, so why do we have to pay such high taxes?	1/25/2020 3:51 PM
39	Both of our kids did very well in town recreation activities and in the school system. They grew up with friends and support. Both have left CT and will not likely return... nothing to do with Colchester, just better opportunities elsewhere.	1/25/2020 11:48 AM
40	It was a good place to raise our children but many thing have changed since our kids were in the schools. Our children have no desire to move back here or to the state of CT.	1/22/2020 6:54 PM
41	No experience with this	1/22/2020 2:39 PM
42	Biggest concern is the socialist agenda fostered on our school children.	1/22/2020 9:01 AM
43	No kids raised here. Need n/a answers	1/19/2020 12:51 PM
44	Education needs to focus on fundamentals/ Drug use in the schools are on the rise	1/19/2020 11:27 AM
45	Was ok 25 years ago. Don't know about now. Grown sons laugh about thinking to live in this town.	1/18/2020 5:55 PM
46	School system has gone down in quality in recent years.	1/18/2020 12:04 PM
47	I dont think the school system is well supported. Fields falling apart, huge classes 30 plus have occurred at middle and high school. Misplaced priorities..	1/18/2020 10:59 AM

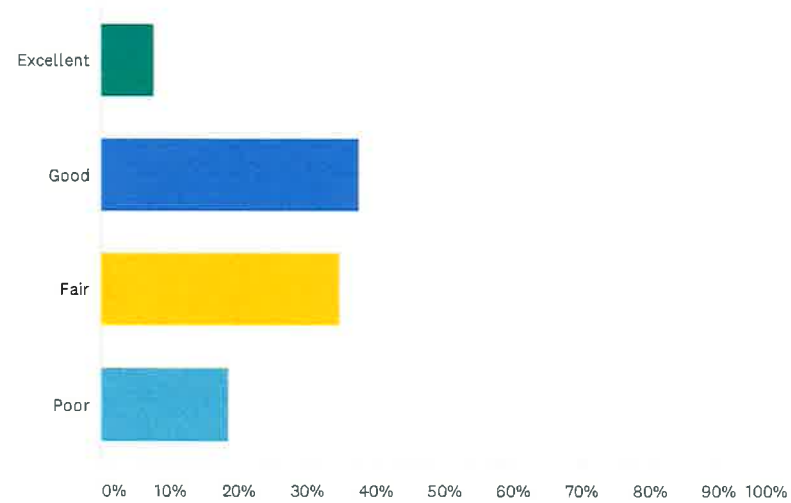
## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

48	It was a wonderful place for our children to grow-up, and I believe it remains so.	1/18/2020 10:39 AM
49	Need more money for sports	1/18/2020 10:23 AM
50	Pleased with school systems at the elementary level. Sports programs are important to our family, there are several programs offered, but concerned about the condition of the fields/maintenance at the Rec Plex.	1/18/2020 10:05 AM
51	I would have loved to live in colchester while raising my kids. It's a wonderful community.	1/18/2020 9:46 AM
52	This town was appealing because of the amount of activities available by the local rec leagues and the parks and rec department.	1/18/2020 9:43 AM
53	Kids are the main focus of everything in town. Which attracts families who raise their kid, leach off the other residents, and then leave.	1/17/2020 11:51 PM
54	High school lacking. Commercial resources for kids limited.	1/17/2020 10:19 PM
55	Moved here last year. Seems like there are good amount of activities for kids.	1/17/2020 9:36 PM
56	The constant educational budget cutting is not a reason for people to move to Colchester.	1/17/2020 9:21 PM
57	need more athletic fields and opportunities to do things with families. Need options for things other than sports and something during the dark, winter months	1/17/2020 6:39 PM

## Q7 How do you rate Colchester as a place to retire.

Answered: 426 Skipped: 13



## ANSWER CHOICES

Excellent	7.75%	33
Good	37.56%	160
Fair	34.98%	149
Poor	18.54%	79
TOTAL		426

## RESPONSES

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	too hard to get around when your older for shopping. no store such as Walmart for various needs	2/3/2020 7:49 PM
2	I think	2/3/2020 7:29 PM
3	its in ct too many taxes	2/3/2020 6:53 PM
4	Too expensive	2/2/2020 1:13 PM
5	Connecticut as a whole is a terrible place to retire due to taxes	2/2/2020 7:09 AM
6	Senior center not available for evening events.I love you	2/1/2020 7:12 PM
7	less taxes and less liberal leadership were make it better.	2/1/2020 3:48 PM
8	I can tell you June 2021	2/1/2020 10:36 AM
9	No opinion	2/1/2020 10:21 AM
10	It's not as much Colchester as the state of CT is not tax friendly to retirees.	2/1/2020 9:59 AM
11	It isn't Colchester it's Connecticut	2/1/2020 9:58 AM
12	Taxes in CT are driving us out of Colchester	2/1/2020 9:54 AM
13	Transportation too limited for seniors, not enough access to health specialists in town that are needed by the average senior with chronic health conditions. SENIOR CENTER IS BADLY NEEDED, with activities like PT etc to keep seniors independent in their own homes longer.	2/1/2020 9:51 AM
14	Businesses are centrally located, taxes are too high for many retired people.	1/31/2020 10:45 PM
15	All of CT is no place to retire. The Democrats are taxing us to death	1/31/2020 10:35 PM
16	Lack of public transit and walkable sidewalks	1/31/2020 9:34 PM
17	Nice living but expensive to live in Ct, not necessarily a Colchester problem. The state of Ct in general is a very expensive place for retirees. I am concerned that more and more people especially retirees will be moving out of state.	1/31/2020 8:26 PM
18	The cost of living here is too high,	1/31/2020 5:54 PM
19	Property taxes to high. Upon full retirement leaving colchester and the state for a less taxed state	1/31/2020 5:45 PM
20	Property taxes too high And not enough stores. We need clothing stores.	1/31/2020 5:09 PM
21	Taxes are too high in town and state. There are too many liberals.	1/31/2020 3:44 PM
22	Safer than some but way too expensive	1/30/2020 5:00 PM
23	We need a senior center desperately.	1/29/2020 10:32 PM
24	WE HAVE BEEN LIVING IN NORH WOODS SINCE 2014.WE ARE VERY HAPPY HERE.	1/29/2020 8:48 PM
25	Cost of living too high, taxes. Will move to Florida or South to retire.	1/29/2020 11:07 AM



## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

26	I just retired and have been participating in activities at the senior center. This building is very old and small and it's very disappointing that Colchester doesn't have something nicer for the seniors. I used to live in Waterford and they had a very nice community center that included the senior center.	1/29/2020 8:40 AM
27	My in-laws are considering moving here as they downsize. Retail and services are strong enough to provide them with their needs and the new developments are offering them some good options.	1/29/2020 6:46 AM
28	Though I am not qualified to answer this as I am not retired yet.	1/29/2020 4:46 AM
29	I'm not sure yet!	1/28/2020 11:30 PM
30	I say this because I have lived here all my life and am familiar with the town, I do think there is a need for more evening opportunities for Seniors - more activities at the Senior Center as well as transportation available. I think this is especially true in the summer months when the daytime light is longer.	1/28/2020 8:58 PM
31	Taxes too high. No access to big box store. No steak restaurants. Hard to get on Senior Trips on town buses. Same people always get there first.	1/28/2020 7:40 PM
32	Public transportation a problem	1/28/2020 7:37 PM
33	Cost of living in CT in general way too high for retirement.	1/28/2020 7:15 PM
34	High taxes	1/28/2020 6:42 PM
35	Everything we need is available in town. As well as recreation. A movie theater, a golf course, and a few different restaurants	1/28/2020 4:09 PM
36	I wish my taxes weren't so high, but otherwise I'm happy here.	1/28/2020 3:58 PM
37	would be excellent if the taxes weren't so high	1/28/2020 3:21 PM
38	Except property taxes are way too high and the schools are overfunded.	1/28/2020 3:20 PM
39	The taxes are very high. They don't give any breaks for seniors who are on a reduced income.	1/28/2020 3:14 PM
40	Too expensive.	1/28/2020 2:37 PM
41	Too far from everything but good sr ctr	1/28/2020 2:30 PM
42	Although it continues to a struggle with increased taxes and fees. I have to make serious financial choices being on a fixed income. While I have a PC, I don't have a tablet, iPhone, or cable (have rabbit ear antennae). My home is over 20 years old and is beginning to require larger, more costly repairs as well as tree work which all need to be planned and budgeted for which may put off needed works for months as save/reallocate money for expenditures. I have not taken a vacation out of state for over 8 years which I thought I would do regularly in my retirement. I have not been able to enjoy leisure activities on a regular basis (golf league, etc) due to large expense of membership and league fees. Further serious consideration of fees/taxes for seniors in comparison to the school budget is critical if want to retain seniors in the Colchester community which I have read is the fastest growing population in Colchester and is expected to be the largest in the next few years.	1/28/2020 2:28 PM
43	Again, taxes way too high	1/28/2020 2:27 PM
44	Not applicable	1/28/2020 2:19 PM
45	Taxes too high	1/28/2020 2:19 PM
46	The senior center is more like a assisted living facility than an active senior center. Activities seem to be older seniors than younger ones.	1/28/2020 2:14 PM
47	Not much to offer seniors, and taxes are quite high	1/28/2020 2:13 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

48	Still live in our own home and can drive to get to appointments, etc. At some point, we'll be looking for a community that provides "complete care". That doesn't exist in Colchester, and that is more of a regional need, not a local one. I'm not sure where the closest such community is. Colchester COULD provide that if it made sense.	1/28/2020 2:10 PM
49	No idea	1/28/2020 1:24 PM
50	Taxes are too high to stay here forever	1/28/2020 1:13 PM
51	Although I'm not of retirement age, I feel the liveliness and activities available in the town make it attractive for retired people. The upcoming senior center is something needed and positive. I do feel more local transportation would be a benefit, and keeping taxes stable.	1/28/2020 12:27 PM
52	taxes high for retirees. not much in return for taxes paid. my driveway is in better shape than my street. has not been repaved in the 23 years I have lived here.	1/26/2020 8:04 PM
53	The Town is not progressive and lives in the passed.	1/26/2020 2:54 PM
54	Tax burden of living in CT-not a reflection of Colchester	1/26/2020 1:54 PM
55	Entire state of CT is too expensive to live on retirement income.	1/26/2020 11:29 AM
56	Nees more shopping, resteraunts, and doctors	1/25/2020 7:56 PM
57	Need a better Senior Center with more programs	1/25/2020 7:50 PM
58	Affordability is not good in real estate taxes.	1/25/2020 3:51 PM
59	Taxes for retired population is a little high. We moved to Colchester to retire. Taxes consume a significant percent of our income.	1/25/2020 2:03 PM
60	Not enough information yet, after only two years being retired, during which I have been very busy.	1/25/2020 11:48 AM
61	New Senior Center needed ASAP!	1/25/2020 9:37 AM
62	Services & attractions/activities are minimal or not easy to get to.	1/25/2020 9:25 AM
63	Much more emphasis must be diverted towards seniors. While raising children, our focus is narrowed towards ourselves but with age comes a wiser and diverse knowledge. The senior population is growing, has no educational costs and add a strong diverse base for local government to tap into. Rather than focus on making Colchester an educational destination, we should focus on the rich, safe and beautiful environment to retire to.	1/25/2020 9:02 AM
64	Connecticut is too expensive	1/25/2020 8:59 AM
65	Taxes have become a burden for us.	1/25/2020 8:45 AM
66	Seniors need help with taxes	1/24/2020 8:15 PM
67	Real Estate taxes are disproportionate to value received.	1/24/2020 4:54 PM
68	For Connecticut tax purposes	1/24/2020 4:29 PM
69	State of CT too expensive to retire in	1/23/2020 4:44 PM
70	Connecticut is one of the least favorable spots to retire. Even New York doesn't tax Social Security and Pensions	1/23/2020 5:40 AM
71	Taxes in CT are just too high.	1/22/2020 6:54 PM

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

72	No experience with this	1/22/2020 2:39 PM
73	Retirees on fixed incomes are finding it harder to live in Colchester.	1/22/2020 9:01 AM
74	Unsure but thought provoking at this time.	1/21/2020 8:57 PM
75	Not enough options to downsize in town.	1/21/2020 6:58 PM
76	Rating is based on desire to retire outside of the state due to climate	1/20/2020 8:43 PM
77	Honestly how can you retire and pay 10K a years for a house you already own. Given our current tax rate a person taking 30 year note on a house will buy the house again in just the taxes they have paid this is insane	1/20/2020 7:47 AM
78	Taxes are way too high to retire here and not enough social outlets. Senior center is VERY outdated.	1/19/2020 6:52 PM
79	The Senior Center offers a lot. Looking forward to a better facility. The town needs more places to shop...something other than consignment stores...and a better variety of places to eat.	1/19/2020 1:07 PM
80	Taxes in this town/state are not worth living here	1/19/2020 11:27 AM
81	Too expensive. No decent shopping. Have to go to Norwich or Lisbon for that	1/18/2020 9:08 PM
82	It's a beautiful and quiet down for seniors to retire to. The town needs to start staffing the fire department 24 hours a day 7 days a week with at least 2 Firefighter/EMTS and one Firefighter/Paramedic at all times. This will ensure quick responses with advanced life support which will save a lot of lives. The town needs to take the paramedic program seriously and implement it. Staffing the fire station 24/7 will ensure that calls aren't missed. Please realize that it will also increase the amount of revenue brought in from the ambulance transports which will pay for the staffing and new equipment that is needed. The ambulances bring in over \$500,000 a year and will continue to increase if we consistently staff them. The fire chiefs, career staff and volunteers have all asked repeatedly for Firefighter/paramedics and more staffing but have been denied. Please support and encourage them from now on.	1/18/2020 7:08 PM
83	Because of Connecticut taxes	1/18/2020 6:36 PM
84	Still working.	1/18/2020 6:32 PM
85	If we didn't have grandchildren we would move South. This town and state are to blue.	1/18/2020 5:55 PM
86	As I approach retirement age, Colchester and CT in general appear to be what I am looking and where I wish to retire assuming that my health and financial circumstances allow. Should my circumstance change, then I might have to change my opinion for myself. Nonetheless, I believe our town makes for an excellent place to retire.	1/18/2020 10:39 AM
87	High taxes for retirement (or any kid-less really) so on a fixed income such as retirement I'm only rating us as Good.	1/18/2020 10:20 AM
88	The senior center does not receive funding for programs from the town which hinders the ability to have programs of substance which younger senior want and need.	1/18/2020 9:55 AM
89	A much richer cultural and arts environment would be most welcome--culture and arts are all around us, but the drive is usually in the half-hour (one-way), and for those of us who do not particularly like to drive long distances at night, this is an unfortunate lack in our town. If the movie theater on Old Hartford Road could show more films like those selected for showing at the CineStudio at Trinity College in Hartford rather than their focus on the big splashy (and often violent) blockbusters that are usually the main fare there, that could help to some degree. Also it would be nice to have a community gathering space that is more upscale than we currently enjoy for special events by community groups.	1/18/2020 8:01 AM
90	Will eventually move after retiring	1/18/2020 7:43 AM

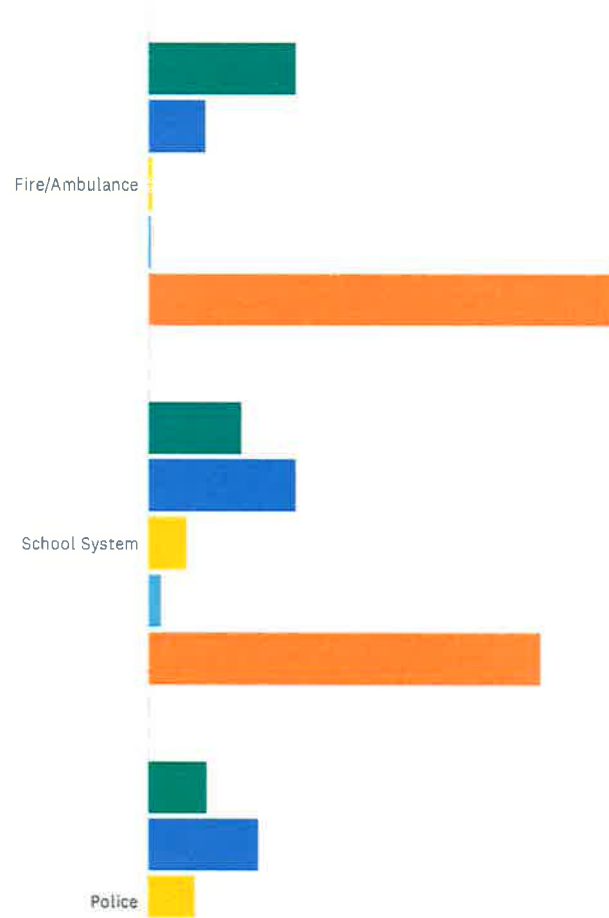
2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

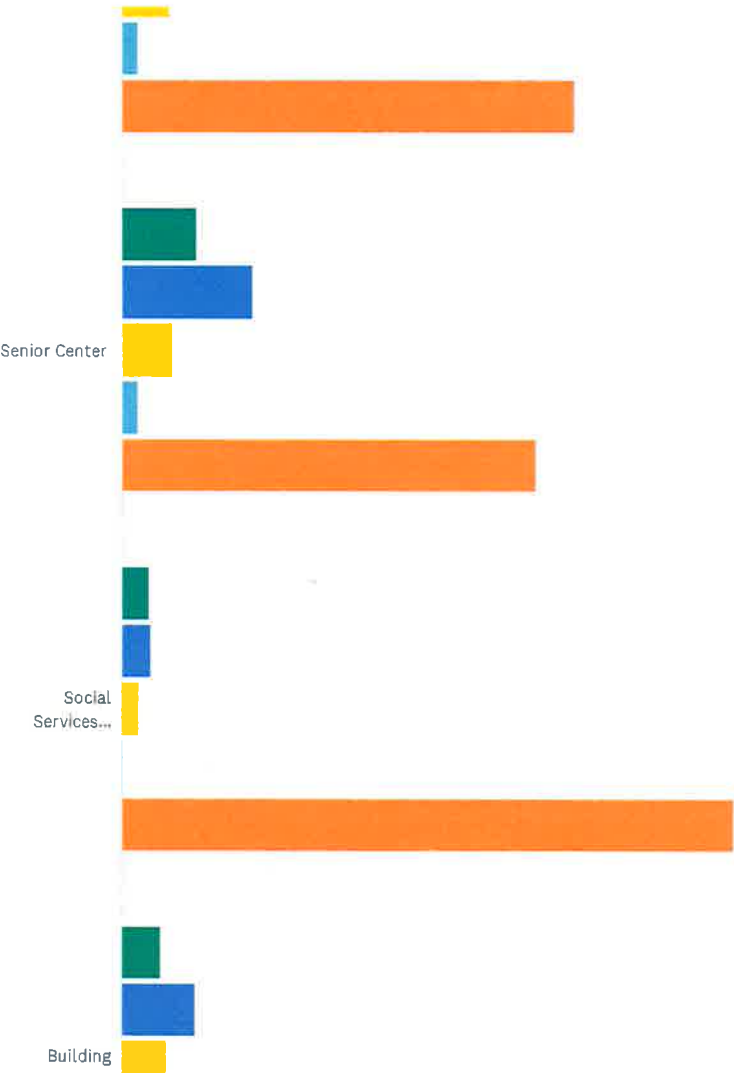
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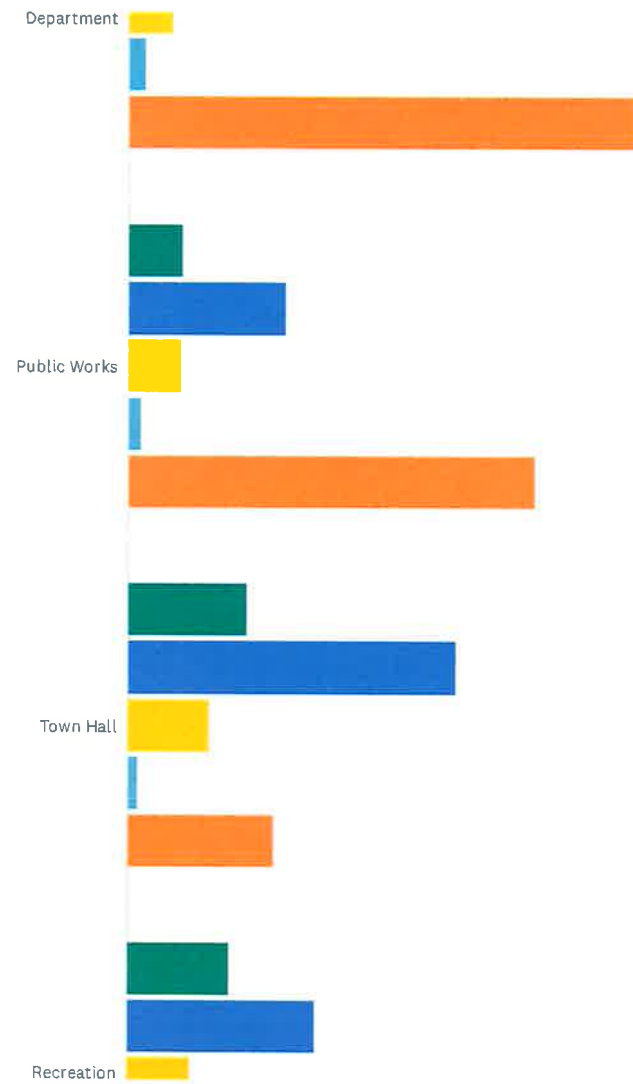
91	Too expensive...taxes are too high	1/18/2020 7:41 AM
92	This town sucks the taxes out of anyone without a child.	1/17/2020 11:51 PM
93	Taxes high. Resources low	1/17/2020 10:19 PM
94	Taxes are too high, no services	1/17/2020 9:55 PM
95	Plan to leave CT	1/17/2020 9:34 PM
96	Looking forward the to the Senior center. Want activities and programs in the evening and weekends for working seniors	1/17/2020 6:39 PM

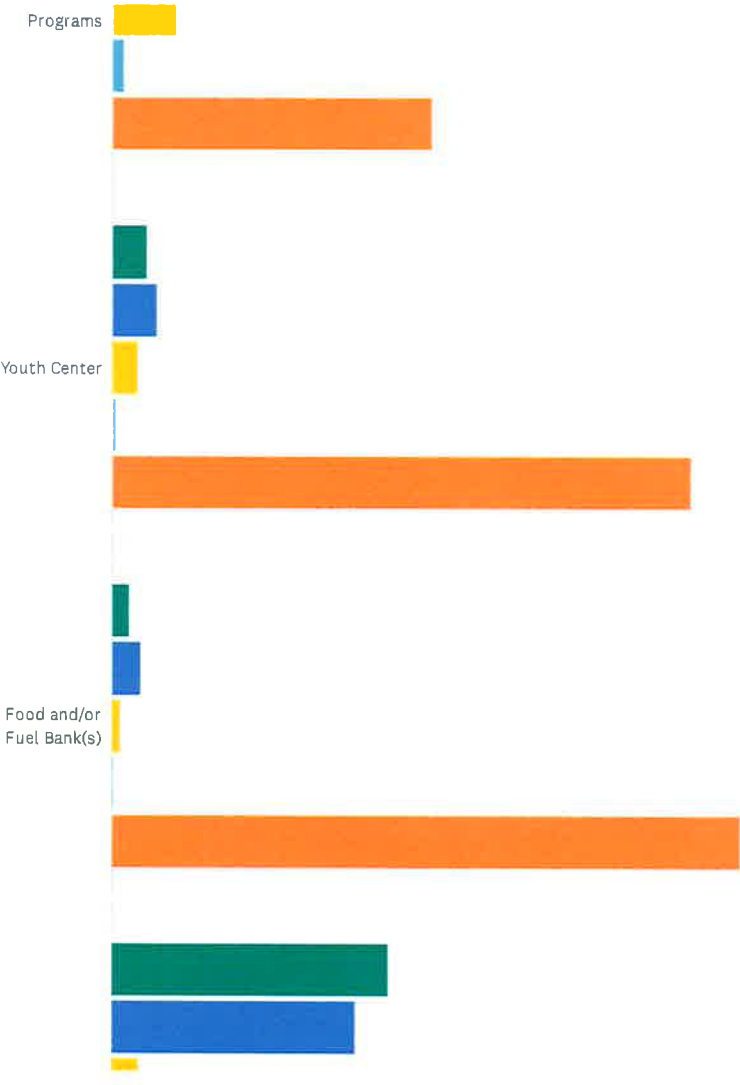
Q8 If you have used the services listed below in the last 3 years, please rate your experience and quality of service.

Answered: 436 Skipped: 3

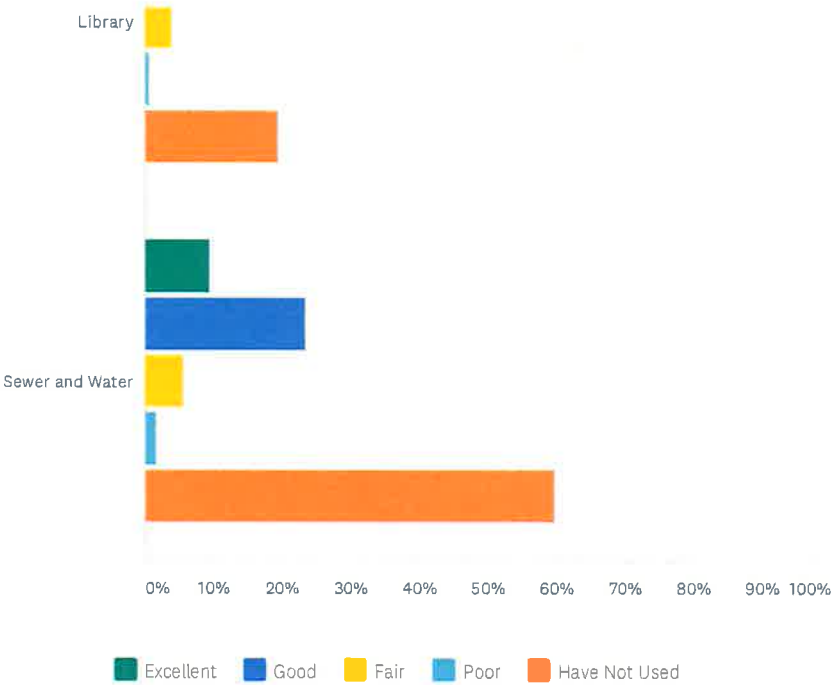












2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	HAVE NOT USED	TOTAL
Fire/Ambulance	21.58% 90	8.39% 35	0.72% 3	0.48% 2	68.82% 287	417
School System	13.58% 55	21.48% 87	5.68% 23	1.98% 8	57.28% 232	405
Police	8.66% 35	16.09% 65	6.93% 28	2.23% 9	66.09% 267	404
Senior Center	10.80% 46	19.01% 81	7.28% 31	2.35% 10	60.56% 258	426
Social Services [other than food and/or fuel bank(s)]	3.90% 16	4.15% 17	2.44% 10	0.24% 1	89.27% 366	410
Building Department	5.65% 23	10.57% 43	6.39% 26	2.46% 10	74.94% 305	407
Public Works	7.92% 32	23.02% 93	7.67% 31	1.98% 8	59.41% 240	404
Town Hall	17.42% 73	47.97% 201	11.93% 50	1.43% 6	21.24% 89	419
Recreation Programs	14.91% 61	27.38% 112	9.29% 38	1.71% 7	46.70% 191	409
Youth Center	4.94% 20	6.42% 26	3.70% 15	0.49% 2	84.44% 342	405
Food and/or Fuel Bank(s)	2.48% 10	4.22% 17	1.24% 5	0.25% 1	91.81% 370	403
Library	40.28% 172	35.60% 152	3.98% 17	0.70% 3	19.44% 83	427
Sewer and Water	9.42% 39	23.43% 97	5.56% 23	1.69% 7	59.90% 248	414

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	need to get after town works for using cell phones while using town vehicles. (see it all the time) School sucks glad my kids are done with it. They all talk.	2/3/2020 7:03 PM
2	Use the library all the time, Love it.	2/1/2020 5:53 PM
3	I love the library and hope they can continue to expand their programs, services, and hours.	2/1/2020 10:21 AM
4	Town employees generally are cold and unhelpful.	2/1/2020 5:05 AM
5	Public works. Snow plowing and transfer station,	1/31/2020 5:45 PM
6	The senior center, library, and recreational programs are exceptional	1/31/2020 5:07 PM
7	Recreation programs are very good but outside fields are just not up to level of other towns.	1/31/2020 4:19 PM
8	Do not have town water or sewage available in my area	1/30/2020 5:00 PM
9	Our water is nasty tasting	1/29/2020 4:45 PM
10	The water in town is horrible	1/29/2020 6:48 AM
11	Bring different businesses in town! No more pizza or Chinese restaurants! Please attract stores that we need. No more big box dups.	1/28/2020 10:03 PM
12	I gave Senior Center Fair only because we need a new facility! Which is coming! The staff is wonderful at Senior Center and variety of activities is great!	1/28/2020 8:24 PM
13	The senior center building is in disrepair. I am waiting for the ceiling to fall down. The room shared with veterans requires buckets to catch rain water, The hand washing water in the bathroom is too cold.	1/28/2020 7:54 PM
14	Senior Services are great....need larger building. I understand it's under planning.	1/28/2020 7:35 PM
15	It is a nice town with good services, wish public works were more responsive to obvious items needing attention, Believe direction may be issue, would like to know that if item were sent in to public works it would be corrected, police department is useless wish they were disbanded and use state police or resident troopers they do a great job as private duty jobs just totally disappointed	1/28/2020 6:53 PM
16	Colchester water where I live tastes terrible. The zoning and building codes are very Broad, pliable and non specific.	1/28/2020 3:14 PM
17	Do not have either sewer or water service.	1/28/2020 2:29 PM
18	To not es skew the results, I had 1 short interaction with fire dept marshall which was excellent.	1/28/2020 2:28 PM
19	For the amount of taxes we pay, there should be free trash pick up	1/28/2020 2:19 PM
20	Library does amazing events for our community.	1/28/2020 1:13 PM
21	The youth center programs are impressive however the building is not and is in need of repair/another space.	1/28/2020 12:27 PM
22	Lack of maintenance of street drainage resulted in substantial damage to my property and cost to repair	1/26/2020 4:46 PM
23	The Police Department is in need of equipment, more space, better working conditions, and is under paid compared to surrounding towns.	1/26/2020 2:54 PM
24	How about prorating taxes for seniors? We are not a burden on the school system, the most expensive part of the budget, have a fixed income and we do not have the increasing income of school age children's parents.	1/25/2020 3:51 PM

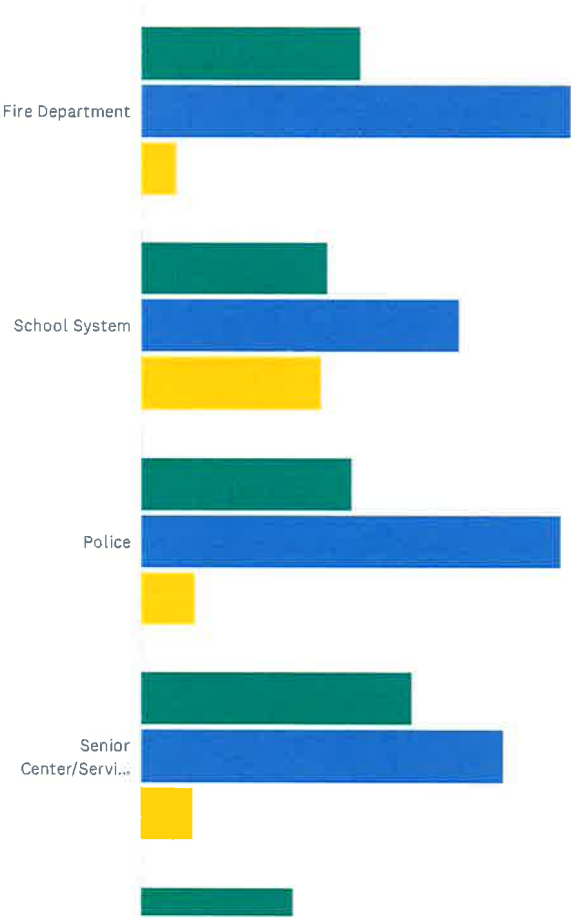
# 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

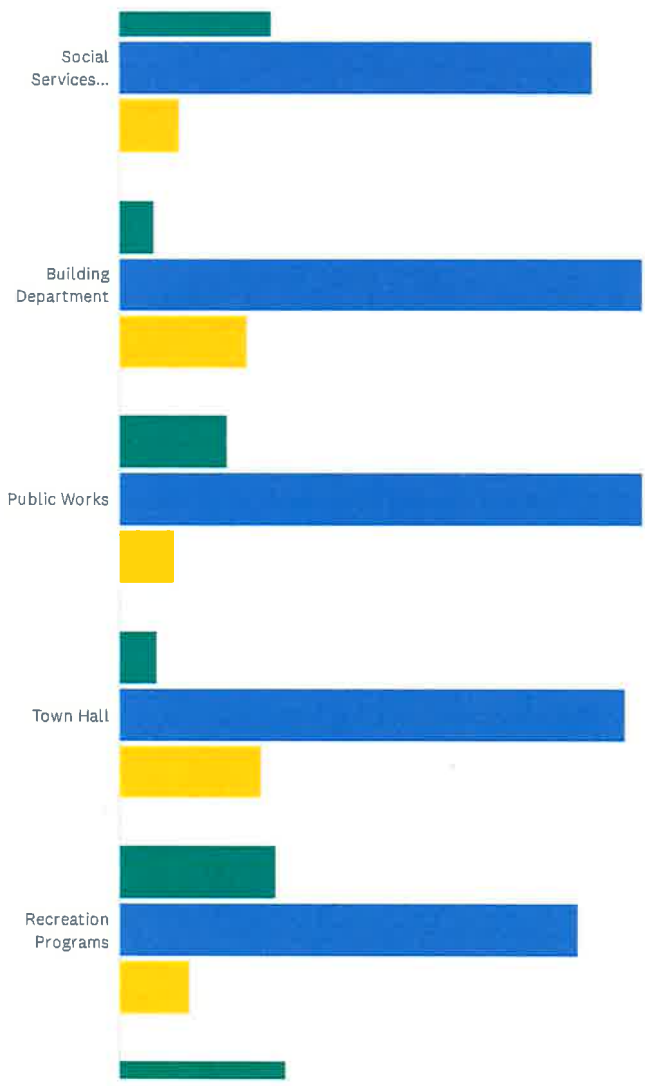
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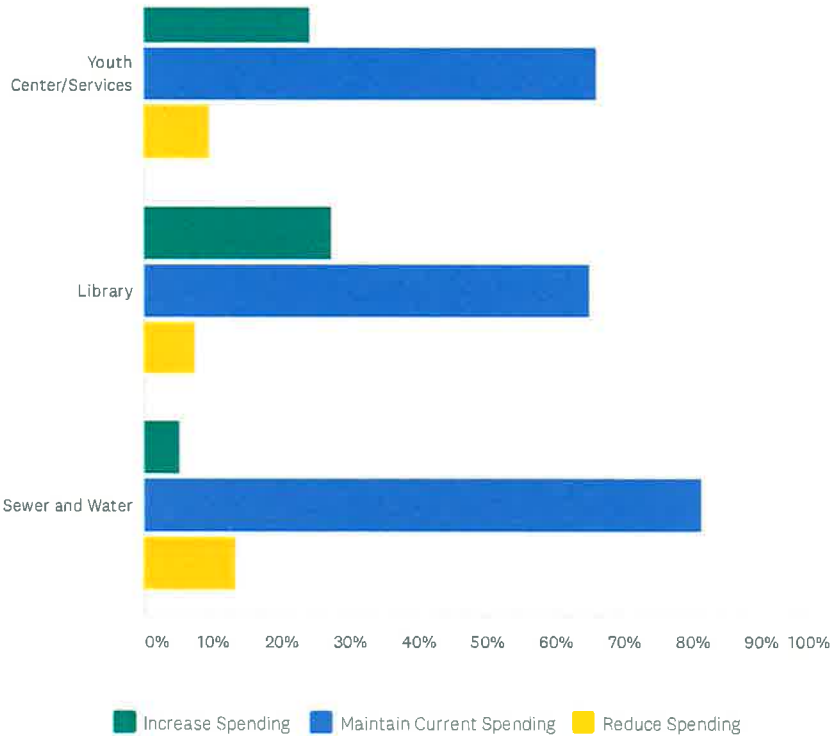
25	Town Hall employees are very helpful and friendly: specifically Jay Giolotti and Daphne Straub.	1/25/2020 11:48 AM
26	Town Hall employees lack professionalism, especially in how they dress. [REDACTED] is often confusing and rude.	1/25/2020 10:41 AM
27	Library hours too limited,	1/25/2020 8:59 AM
28	need to extend hours of library	1/24/2020 6:20 AM
29	I have first hand knowledge of the food bank as a volunteer. I have been a food pantry volunteer at various locations for over 20 years and have also been employed as management. Colchester food pantry could and should be run by volunteers. The young women who are social workers in that office pay no attention to the pantry until there is a problem they can't ignore. They have no ability to handle and direct volunteers and they seem to be very ageist. They will say the right things but no action is ever taken when there is a problem. I have no opinion about their work on the teen programs but the food pantry can and should be run by volunteers who care and not by the people in this office. It would also save money to not have their salaries.	1/22/2020 2:39 PM
30	Sewer and water needs to have online bill pay with no service fee	1/22/2020 9:15 AM
31	Recreation programs are great, but the facilities are in very poor condition (tennis courts, recplex fields).	1/20/2020 8:43 PM
32	Honestly things like senior centers are not something that tax payers should be responsible for	1/20/2020 7:47 AM
33	Would like to see more water mains throughout the town so homeowners don't have to rely on wells. It would also be nice to extend the hydrant system so our neighborhoods are better protected.	1/18/2020 7:08 PM
34	It's unbelievable that we can have put so much money into expanding our library and keeping it technically current, then not manage to find \$5000 that hours need to be cut (reason for the last cut in hours). The value of our jewel in this town is an OPEN LIBRARY. Libraries help even out inequalities for people have fewer resources (example: those who don't have internet at home, etc.)	1/18/2020 4:42 PM
35	Recreation should be better funded.	1/18/2020 2:18 PM
36	Senior Center needs a new and improved building and complete facility. Town Hall requires some fundamental physical maintenance to keep it in good repair. Sewer and water require regular maintenance. Public works dept does a good job on the roads and working diligently year in and year out.	1/18/2020 10:39 AM
37	Expensive!	1/18/2020 10:35 AM
38	When I reported an issue with a storm drain, public works had it fixed within a few days, which was great. I would have liked some type of confirmation or communication with them, but it wasn't critical. Cragin Library is great, but I would love to see more funding for them so they can provide more programs to the community, they've taken a beating the last few years in the budget.	1/18/2020 9:43 AM
39	Cragin Library needs to be open until 9:00 at night during the week (M thru Thu) so community groups can use the public meeting rooms for their civic purposes as originally designed and intended. Closing the library before then diminishes the effectiveness of this wonderful community resource and is really a waste of opportunity to use the library to its fullest potential.	1/18/2020 8:01 AM
40	Town hall needs a "face lift" The First Selectman's office is emabarassing with old carpet and old furniture.	1/18/2020 7:04 AM
41	Town Hall great service, inspection-permits, tax collector, assessor- very poor registrar (R) voting experience. No direct experience with Senior Center or Police, however all I have heard is good things compared to neighboring towns.	1/17/2020 9:18 PM

Q9 In 2020-2021 Budget, what is your preference for funding the following areas?

Answered: 416 Skipped: 23







2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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	INCREASE SPENDING	MAINTAIN CURRENT SPENDING	REDUCE SPENDING	TOTAL
Fire Department	32.02% 130	62.81% 255	5.17% 21	406
School System	27.27% 111	46.44% 189	26.29% 107	407
Police	30.69% 124	61.39% 248	7.92% 32	404
Senior Center/Services	39.51% 162	52.93% 217	7.56% 31	410
Social Services (includes Food and Fuel Banks)	22.11% 90	69.04% 281	8.85% 36	407
Building Department	4.96% 20	76.43% 308	18.61% 75	403
Public Works	15.67% 63	76.37% 307	7.96% 32	402
Town Hall	5.43% 22	73.83% 299	20.74% 84	405
Recreation Programs	22.89% 92	66.92% 269	10.20% 41	402
Youth Center/Services	24.19% 97	66.08% 265	9.73% 39	401
Library	27.34% 111	65.02% 264	7.64% 31	406
Sewer and Water	5.28% 21	81.41% 324	13.32% 53	398



## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	would like a swimming pool	2/3/2020 7:30 PM
2	The fire dept is falling apart. Each fire truck needs to replace after 20 years and it doesn't put any funds away to replace them	2/3/2020 7:06 PM
3	We need to make sure the Fire Department and EMS have equipment that can be counted on when needed, Many emergency programs around the country that rely on volunteers are folding and having to go to district-run or for-profit programs. We cannot let that happen.	2/1/2020 6:32 PM
4	We need 24 hour police patrol	2/1/2020 10:38 AM
5	We are not offered sewer or water	2/1/2020 10:25 AM
6	I'd like to see our tax dollars going to programs that help families and also maintain our parks & public spaces properly. Colchester has a lot to offer and can provide even more opportunities if we utilize our open spaces a little better.	2/1/2020 10:03 AM
7	schools are very expensive, hope they can live with the new buildings for some time to come. A huge burden is put on schools to be and do everything for the kids. The parents (working) it seems unfair that the tax payers must take up the slack to raise the kids. It takes a village, but it takes a lot of money.	1/31/2020 11:05 PM
8	Town roads and sidewalks are in terrible condition	1/31/2020 9:36 PM
9	in need of improved senior facility and offerings. I am currently going to the Hebron senior center for exercise programs. They offer more exercise programs and have a much nicer facility.	1/31/2020 8:32 PM
10	A new playground at the recplex is long overdue. It is unsafe in many areas including not even having enough of a base layer of woodchips.	1/31/2020 5:40 PM
11	Police and Fireservices are completely overemphasized.....sorry.	1/30/2020 10:17 AM
12	I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE TO COMMENT ON MOST AREAS	1/29/2020 8:48 PM
13	It is absolutely critical that we start investing funds in our town fields and get a cooperative agreement for line painting for all season sports> The Rec plex greens are embarrassing and some are dangerous	1/29/2020 10:50 AM
14	I am in favor of increased spreading. I know budgets have been run tight the past few years. I only noted "maintain current spending" where I am less familiar with past spending trends and needs. I support all areas where there is need to run quality services for the community.	1/29/2020 6:57 AM
15	I cannot recommend raising or lowering the budgets of departments until I saw what was planned.by each department. I know the fire department needs a new truck so I would be in favor of that. I know there are plans for a new Senior Center and I am in favor of that. I think we need more services for Seniors (see above) so I am in favor of raising that budget/	1/28/2020 9:02 PM
16	At least keep up with the cost of living.	1/28/2020 8:22 PM
17	Remember the new sr. cntr	1/28/2020 6:43 PM
18	Schools consume way too many tax dollars	1/28/2020 3:23 PM
19	Improve water quality, more Property tax breaks for Seniors	1/28/2020 3:20 PM
20	Expenses have to look at for the entire community in various ways and for benefit different groups I think also considering the size of each group. We have live within our means as individuals and families need to do. If sources of revenue decrease, or critical expense increase then we have to reassess whether we look to other sources (grants or fundraising), reduce services or expense in order to meet. If town raises taxes, for many this paying these increased costs are not coming out of discretionary income but rather being taken from other necessities or needs being reprioritized.	1/28/2020 3:09 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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21	quit building schools we do not need and paying teachers for mediocre performance.	1/26/2020 8:15 PM
22	DOE budget is way too high. The Finance Department is out of touch. More families moving in to this town does not help the tax base. It only puts more pressure on the ancillary services for Police and Fire since their budget does not increase. Shame on you!!!	1/26/2020 3:01 PM
23	It's really difficult to answer these questions. Of course I don't WANT to pay more for ANYthing!!! But if there is a genuine need, then I will stand behind any necessary budget increases.	1/25/2020 4:04 PM
24	We live on a well and septic so how about giving us a break from taxes used for water and sewer?	1/25/2020 3:55 PM
25	Basically, I'm rather neutral on these things. I always vote YES on budget referenda.	1/25/2020 11:51 AM
26	These questions are unrealistic. Last to first, sewer water is needed and as regulations and needs change, costs are affected, Library services are underutilized; warming/cooling center, weekend availability, modern computerized services, etc are needed. I don't go there because when their limited hours and my schedule have intersected, I feel like I'm walking into the 1980's.	1/25/2020 9:12 AM
27	Do you mean the 2020/21 budget? if so, I can respond. The 2018/19 budget has come and gone. So, I will assume it's the 2020/21 budget.	1/24/2020 6:24 AM
28	Have the police do their jobs not just want to work overtime road jobs and hiding behind the Westchester Fire House tapping into the WIFI for hours on end.	1/23/2020 1:52 PM
29	School enrollment has declined a lot, yet the budgets continue to increase. BOE has failed to explain why. You can't be all things to all people anymore, just don't have the scale. Must decide what you can provide based on the enrollment you have and what the taxpayer can afford.	1/23/2020 5:54 AM
30	I would really need to know what the current spending is for each to personally accurately rate these.	1/22/2020 6:27 PM
31	2018-2019 has passed by so how are these questions relevant??	1/19/2020 6:53 PM
32	I feel that there could be some 'waste' eliminated in town. Public works....these guys drive by my house a few dozen times a day....more efficiency maybe. Building dept....this area needs to learn how to talk to the others and vice versa. You leave a paper with building that needs to go to wellands and they can't even do that. Let's trim some fat!	1/19/2020 12:57 PM
33	Some of the questions are not applicable (I think). If I don't use the water/sewer services, why would I want to increase or maintain funding? I use well water	1/19/2020 11:38 AM
34	Without knowing the individual needs of each of these departments, it's impossible to vote on increase or reduce. I can only imagine that every department would benefit from an increase.	1/18/2020 6:38 PM
35	Please address the fields	1/18/2020 5:33 PM
36	Need more funding for DPW for field maintenance in town for rec fields	1/18/2020 3:51 PM
37	hard to answer question without knowing if tax increases are needed. For example, to maintain all spending would it be a 2% increase, 5% increase??	1/18/2020 11:30 AM
38	Taxes are too high. We already overspend on several aspects and they should be reduced. Other programs need to maintain current funding but nothing at all needs a budget increase.	1/18/2020 11:15 AM
39	We desperately need to replace fire equipment, add police patrols	1/18/2020 11:05 AM
40	Senior Center needs a new and improved building and complete facility. Town Hall requires some fundamental physical maintenance to keep it in good repair; otherwise, I believe Town Hall provides excellent service and its funding should be maintained, I believe the Library deserves additional funding to make it more effective and provide the necessary resources to properly serve all of Colchester's residents Sewer and water require regular maintenance and I am unaware of exceptional needs; however, additional testing may be required due to the occurrence of PFAS in supply groundwater. Public works dept does a good job on the roads and working diligently year in and year out.	1/18/2020 10:48 AM

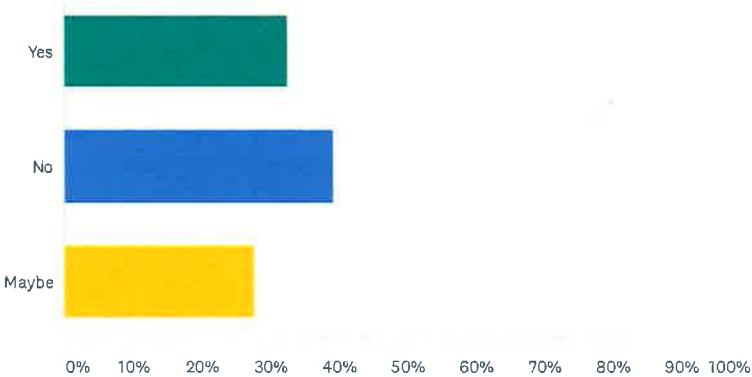
## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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41	Also salary freeze for managers and above in town. The mean income in town does change much. Most people don't get annual raises so can't pay to watch services decrease but salaries increase.	1/18/2020 10:27 AM
42	I'd like to see us shift towards a full time police department, or at least having a 3rd shift on full time, even if we remain under the resident trooper program. The town could better support our rec programs. While they do a great job, there are a lot of things they simply can't afford to do without raising registration rates dramatically. The library could also use additional funding.	1/18/2020 9:48 AM
43	I feel like Colchester wants to be good but doesn't want to pay for the needed improvements.	1/18/2020 6:43 AM
44	I'm not too familiar with senior services but my concern now is the recent car break ins/thefts in the middle of the night. Its scary. I hope we can get 24/7 police coverage in the near future. I would pay slighter more for that.	1/17/2020 9:43 PM
45	We need more police coverage at night.	1/17/2020 9:25 PM
46	We are barely keeping up much less growing in services. We are falling behind. Colchester is not living up to its full potential	1/17/2020 6:42 PM

Q10 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: 417 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		32.61%	136
No		39.33%	164
Maybe		27.82%	116
TOTAL			417

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	I don't pay taxes, only car	2/3/2020 7:47 PM
2	depends on the services	2/3/2020 7:37 PM
3	town should have been a better job is saving funds.	2/3/2020 7:06 PM
4	too many taxes already	2/3/2020 6:54 PM
5	Connecticut taxes are already to high, cannot afford the outrageous taxes we already pay	2/2/2020 1:18 PM
6	Taxes are to high for a town this size. As a senior citizen I am being taxed for a school tax that I don't use.	2/1/2020 10:37 AM
7	Quality of living improves with increased services. Increased services are a public good and require greater investment, especially from those who have greater resources. Making things better for those who have needs to meet makes things better for everyone.	2/1/2020 10:27 AM
8	Maybe not sure which services would be affected.	1/31/2020 11:05 PM
9	taxes for seniors, and everyone, are too high. I live in a senior condo facility and pay about \$6000 in property taxes along with the vehicle tax of another \$600 or so for two old cars. The vehicle tax in particular is not acceptable.	1/31/2020 8:32 PM
10	Taxes are too high now	1/31/2020 5:48 PM
11	But I'll have to anyway	1/30/2020 10:17 AM
12	WHAT SPECIFIC COSTS? HOW MUCH AND WHY	1/29/2020 8:48 PM
13	Don't have anymore money to give you!	1/29/2020 3:26 PM
14	Of course.	1/28/2020 8:22 PM
15	taxes are prohibitive as they are right now	1/28/2020 7:17 PM
16	Absolutely not, the property taxes are too high already.	1/28/2020 3:20 PM
17	Except for one year, the mil rate has been going up every year for quite a few years now. Enough is enough.	1/28/2020 3:10 PM
18	Again, need to look at full services to all groups across all budgets to be equitable to all groups for what is needed. School budget is exorbitant for the reduction of students over the years. This needs more serious review and adjustment.	1/28/2020 3:09 PM
19	Would rather see development come in and add to our tax base.	1/28/2020 2:18 PM
20	Taxes are high enough!	1/28/2020 2:11 PM
21	If I knew my increased taxes would be allocated to children and creating a more inviting community I would support	1/28/2020 1:17 PM
22	Some places will need to be reduced to help defray costs in other areas that prices go up. Balance it out like we do in our homes. We don't get raises but cost of all goods keep going up so we have to reduce spending in another area. Budget!	1/28/2020 11:58 AM
23	shift money from teachers and schools we do not need. get the teachers unions under control of the taxpayers.	1/26/2020 8:15 PM
24	Only if it goes towards Police and Fire!	1/26/2020 3:01 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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25	Same as above. If there is a need...	1/25/2020 4:04 PM
26	Only to those who use them.	1/25/2020 3:55 PM
27	I only say no to this because reviewing tax records I feel our taxes in NorthWoods are significantly about the average, of other homes or condos in town. We pay separately for snow and rubbish removal and no children in the schools. I do believe we need to keep a strong viable education system in place to attract potential new younger family population. We do support "Education". With good schools we will have a vibrant community.	1/25/2020 2:19 PM
28	Of course, I 'd rather not, but if reality dictates increases, then so be it.	1/25/2020 11:51 AM
29	As long as the increase is going toward education and public safety.	1/25/2020 10:37 AM
30	Since I am a senior I have a fixed income. I live in a private association, yet my taxes do not reflect that the town does not provide snow removal or road maintenance. I would like my taxes adjusted to reflect that. I don't mind paying taxes for schools and recreation because that improves the whole community. But I do care that there is no discount in my taxes to reflect that the town does not provide road services in my community. Fair is fair.	1/25/2020 9:45 AM
31	The culture at Town Hall needs to change from, "its not in the budget" to "this is how we can get this done". There is too much, "no, you can't do that".	1/25/2020 9:12 AM
32	Living with a fixed income is difficult enough without raising taxes.	1/25/2020 8:49 AM
33	It would depend on which 'town services' you are referring to.	1/24/2020 4:58 PM
34	If the cost per student had modest increases, the overall costs should be going down. I recognize that there are fixed costs, but a 30% decrease in students should more than offset increases in these fixed costs as well as the increased costs to maintain town services.	1/23/2020 5:54 AM
35	Costs go up but wages never do. Get more businesses in town to help. Can't have it both ways	1/22/2020 6:57 PM
36	My family has had to cut expenses in the current economy. The city should also work on being as efficient as possible.	1/22/2020 2:42 PM
37	find unnecessary costs to cut	1/22/2020 9:17 AM
38	First as we all know, nobody likes to pay more for anything especially taxes, however I feel small increases are reasonable, and I'm willing to contribute my share to maintain the services that are provided now.	1/22/2020 8:30 AM
39	Taxes, taxes, taxes. Other towns don't raise theirs. Has there ever been a year when we have never got taxed.	1/21/2020 4:21 AM
40	What choice do we have everything increases in cost it's the way of the world.	1/19/2020 11:33 PM
41	Make the case	1/19/2020 6:53 PM
42	Residents in Northwoods already pay huge taxes for the services they actually need.	1/19/2020 1:09 PM
43	With the gas line coming in let's use new tax money....let's stop bringing in Dollar Stores and get some decent restaurants that aren't pizza or asian fusion so we don't have to leave town. Industry is great but be careful what you wish for!	1/19/2020 12:57 PM
44	It would be nice to know what "Town services" includes? Other than snow removal and the transfer station, I would like to be reminded of the other services this town is performing.	1/19/2020 11:38 AM
45	Depends on how would be spent.	1/19/2020 6:20 AM
46	We pay enough of taxes!	1/18/2020 9:11 PM
47	I will happily pay more in taxes to staff the fire and police departments 24/7.	1/18/2020 7:14 PM

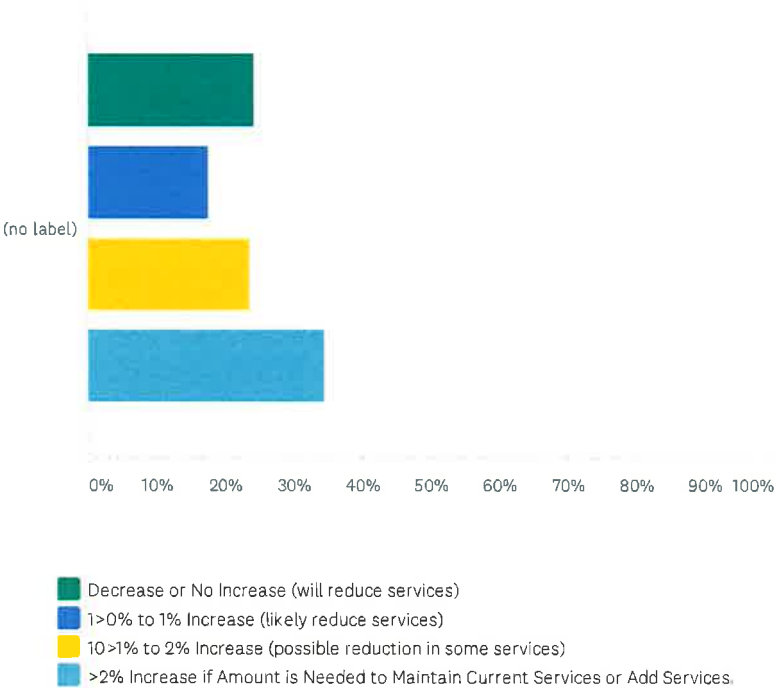
2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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48	It's not realistic to think that Colchester can maintain or improve services without funding. Voters need to understand cause and effect.	1/18/2020 6:38 PM
49	LoL	1/18/2020 5:58 PM
50	We pay a lot in taxes compared to neighboring towns.	1/18/2020 4:57 PM
51	Only to increase fire and police services. We live outside town limits and already pay to high a tax for no services!!	1/18/2020 12:05 PM
52	not convinced best efforts made to spend money or all efforts exhausted to improve spending efficiencies	1/18/2020 11:30 AM
53	Taxes are already too high. Find cuts where you can and leave other levels where they are. No increase.	1/18/2020 11:15 AM
54	I think we need to spend wisely. Adding at the top doesn't help what happens in classrooms. Where is the support especially at middle and high school levels. We cut in the wrong places, ask citizens, teachers their thoughts. I bet they would have had amazing suggestions if asked.	1/18/2020 11:05 AM
55	I am willing to pay for a new Truck for the Fire Department . I see no need for an increase in the Police department , especially a third shift .	1/18/2020 10:29 AM
56	I am worried that if there is a chance I could price me out of town with taxes.	1/18/2020 9:59 AM
57	I'd be willing to pay a small amount more, but along with that, I'd like to see a big pull to get more businesses in that are going to offset some of the residential taxes.	1/18/2020 9:48 AM
58	I was saddened to read the recent edition of the Parks & Rec letter saying they will have to cut down due to the raise in minimum wage. I hope they don't have to cut out a lot of offerings.	1/17/2020 9:43 PM
59	Looking to move out of town in the next few years, will be charged for pre-k next year & taxes have increased every year since we've moved here.	1/17/2020 9:37 PM
60	Yes, however I would expect more and not pay more to maintain.	1/17/2020 9:22 PM
61	Everything gets more expensive. How can we expect to have taxes stay the same??? Just a handful of people complain...they just complain a lot	1/17/2020 6:42 PM

Q11 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

Answered: 397    Skipped: 42



	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.	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	24.18% 96	17.63% 70	23.68% 94	34.51% 137	397	1.00



# 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	we don't increase, why should you	2/3/2020 7:06 PM
2	Eliminate many of the overpriced socialist programs we have	2/2/2020 1:18 PM
3	I'm fairly certain that putting a budget together for this town is like doing one for my home and children. Not every department needs top dollar items. Budgets require shopping around and eliminating waste or going with frivolous items. We need to find those items in the budget that can be eliminated or reduced. The quality of education cannot be reduced. The amount we spend certain things such as overtime and equipment and Christmas lights for example can be.	2/2/2020 7:13 AM
4	I believe it is important to work within the budgeted amount. With this logic of always needing to increase, it will become impossible to afford the property taxes to live in Colchester.	2/1/2020 5:41 PM
5	Again it depends which services? Sweeping roads before a snowstorm? Painting yellow lines on a rural road? Park maintenance? Town hall hours?	1/31/2020 11:05 PM
6	I CAN'T AFFORD IT NOW☹	1/31/2020 5:13 PM
7	We must invest in our community where it makes sense to do so. It is patently true that cuts in education and other services are very often not true savings long term and in fact can cost us dearly. We must assure we are spending wisely. Our town is worth investing in.	1/31/2020 4:23 PM
8	Can hardly afford the taxes now	1/30/2020 5:02 PM
9	EACH SERVICE MUST BE REVIEWED SEPARATELY.	1/29/2020 8:48 PM
10	Not that important to me as we will be moving out of Colchester after my husband retires in a few years.	1/29/2020 8:43 AM
11	I don't like this question. It is written to press for reduction and there should be one more option that reads - maintain current services AND add services. I lean towards this option, only note is to maintain current services that are working for the community and add additional services that have been left out in past years and need to be addressed.	1/29/2020 6:57 AM
12	Again, it depends on what is needed.	1/28/2020 9:02 PM
13	Education is so important. I do not favor reducing spending for the education budget. We appreciate our town services. Our road is treated promptly and often during storms. Budget what's necessary for us to be safe and proud of Colchester.	1/28/2020 4:15 PM
14	Any increase is unacceptable. Our newest school is a monstrosity that caters to the whims of the kids. Let's get them ready for the "real world".	1/28/2020 4:04 PM
15	I would like to see the tax base and distribution of funds and expenditures revised.	1/28/2020 3:20 PM
16	After working in a corporate setting for almost 30 years, we had annual reoccurring charges for most of them: Do more with less, process and system improvement initiatives where employees in every department worked in groups to identify and deliver improvements and cost savings to the company. Maybe this work method/ approach needs to be considered/ implemented in Colchester bringing various departments, boards, townspeople together to creatively consider how to manage/improve services, maintain/reduce expenses, pursue other sources of revenue, etc.	1/28/2020 3:09 PM
17	Add to tax base by growth in town.	1/28/2020 2:18 PM
18	We are willing to pay more if we can actually see what it's paying for	1/28/2020 1:17 PM
19	Answer same as above comment	1/28/2020 11:58 AM
20	Efficiencies also have to be used and not just budget and tax increases	1/26/2020 3:52 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

21	Decrease in DOE and an increase for Police and Fire.	1/26/2020 3:01 PM
22	We can't afford higher taxes. Why do you suppose the population of the state is DECREASING?	1/25/2020 3:55 PM
23	ditto above	1/25/2020 11:51 AM
24	I would be great to have someone critically look at each department and assess what their needs are and how they compare to other area towns. I'd like to see the money was spent differently, rather than always trying to maintain the status quo.	1/25/2020 10:03 AM
25	This question could be viewed as misleading. If the changes in property values and the grand list are commensurate with changes to the costs of all services, my answer would be 0% increase. That said, as the lion's share of municipal liability is the cost of public education, enrollment changes will have a proportionally more significant impact on the cost of services than other non-school related expenses.	1/25/2020 9:47 AM
26	There is no straight answer, it depends on many factors.	1/25/2020 9:12 AM
27	Perhaps make Colchester more attractive to businesses that can share the tax burden. Perception I've noticed is it's not business friendly. Also, Can Colchester fill the empty, recently built, Spaces and keep those businesses thriving?	1/25/2020 9:06 AM
28	Enough with the costs in this town,wasted money spent on foolish things	1/24/2020 8:18 PM
29	No. Figure out a way to maintain costs. We have to do it i our own homes. You should be doing it at the town level. Competitive bids etc	1/24/2020 4:31 PM
30	If school enrollment was stable, I could accept the assumption made in this question. With big drops in enrollment, we should be able to offset increases in non school costs with small decreases in a budget that is 75% of the total	1/23/2020 5:54 AM
31	Yes, >2% is reasonable. If my math is correct that would equate to about \$180.00 on my \$9,000 real estate tax bill. I think my household could handle an extra \$15.00 per month.	1/22/2020 8:30 AM
32	I don't get an increase in my retirement.	1/21/2020 4:21 AM
33	The towns operating raise is suppose to come from property value increases this is why taxes are tied to property value. Unfortunately Connecticut is so mismanaged our property values are decreasing while the rest of the country is increasing. This means out towns and state need to decrease service just as you would if you pay was cut at you job. Live within your budget suck it up butter cup cup	1/20/2020 7:56 AM
34	Is this a question and an effort to prepare us for paying more?	1/19/2020 11:33 PM
35	Make the case	1/19/2020 6:53 PM
36	again, let's trim up some fat.	1/19/2020 12:57 PM
37	mill rate is high enough in this town	1/19/2020 11:38 AM
38	Please look at regionalization of certain departments. Reduce the fleet of police cruisers. Look to email taxes instead of postal.	1/19/2020 8:37 AM
39	No increase	1/18/2020 9:11 PM
40	Add staffing to the fire and police departments. Quicker responses with more manpower from the fire department will save lives and property. Saving property allows families to stay in their homes and allows businesses to stay open to they continue paying taxes to our town. Increasing the staffing and adding fire hydrants will also improve our insurance ratings called ISO. This will save homeowners money on their insurance.	1/18/2020 7:14 PM
41	We need growth	1/18/2020 5:33 PM
42	Taxes need to either decrease or stay at the same level for many many years to become reasonable. The town keeps getting built up and I would rather see it	1/18/2020 11:15 AM

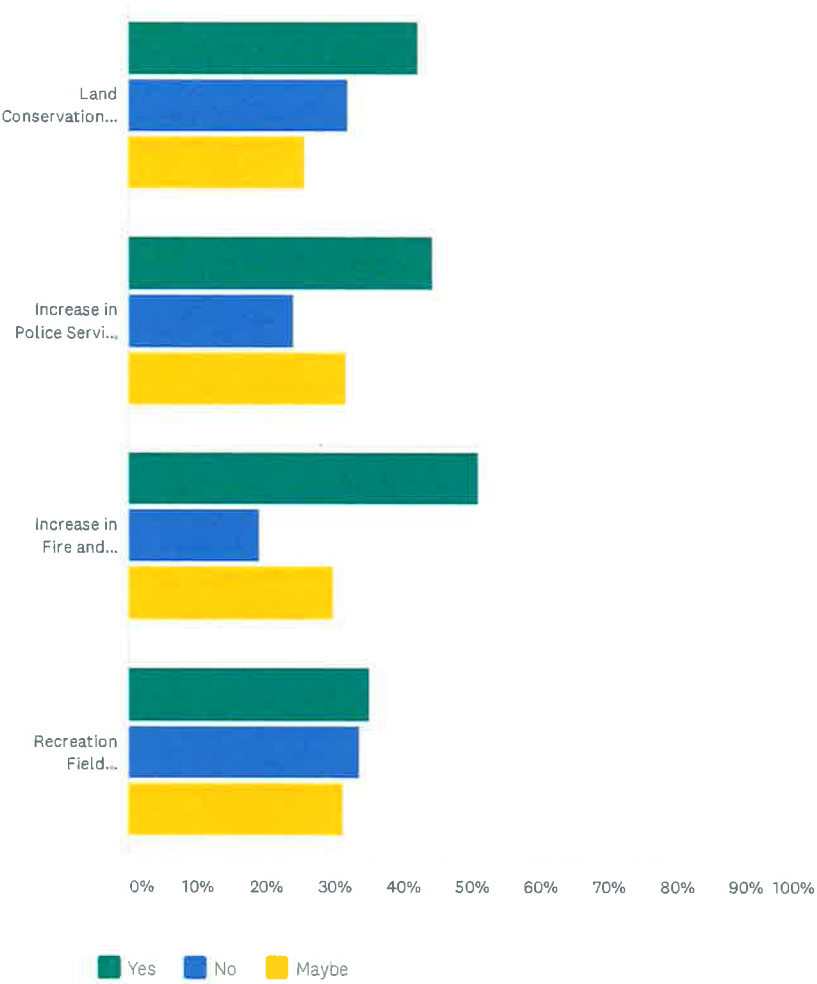
## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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	stay the same. Less people, no new roads, no new sub divisions, less to spend money on.	
43	Because Federal and State funding is increasingly stingy and hard to come by, Town residents must step up and properly fund the Town budget. Therefore, I believe that a 2+% increase may be absolutely necessary.	1/18/2020 10:48 AM
44	If enrollment in the schools are decreasing and the senior population is increasing a shift is needed on where we allocate monies in town.	1/18/2020 9:59 AM
45	No more than 3%	1/18/2020 7:45 AM
46	Since we have almost no services we don't pay for what's the difference?y	1/17/2020 10:22 PM
47	Find the funds in current budget	1/17/2020 10:06 PM

## Q12 In the future would you support spending for the following?

Answered: 411   Skipped: 28



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	YES	NO	MAYBE	TOTAL
Land Conservation/Open Space	42.30% 173	32.03% 131	25.67% 105	409
Increase in Police Services and Infrastructure	44.25% 181	23.96% 98	31.78% 130	409
Increase in Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Infrastructure	50.98% 208	19.12% 78	29.90% 122	408
Recreation Field Improvements	35.05% 143	33.58% 137	31.37% 128	408

# 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	walking paths at the rec fields	2/3/2020 7:40 PM
2	get people to volunteer	2/3/2020 7:06 PM
3	People are moving out of town, if they can sell their house, so expenses should go down to reflect this.	2/1/2020 10:37 AM
4	I think we have improved the 911 system and are training EMS, Happy with that.	1/31/2020 11:05 PM
5	please only do what is necessary.	1/31/2020 8:32 PM
6	Our recreation fields are horrible and are an embarrassment compared to many other local towns. With the amount of kids and the programs we offer why are our fields not cared for by more people/departments?	1/31/2020 3:53 PM
7	need to invest in road improvements	1/29/2020 7:10 PM
8	Are fields are embarrassing for the quality of competitiveness that our teams are	1/29/2020 10:50 AM
9	I only say "maybe" to fire because I believe this area has seen more attention than others in the past few budgets.	1/29/2020 6:57 AM
10	increase fire, emergency medical services and police, Have parents work with their kids as volunteers to handle conservation and rec field improvements,	1/28/2020 4:04 PM
11	Many of these things can be funded through other sources - grants, federal grants, usage fees, volunteerism, It depends what is basic and essential for the town, versus improvements as nice to have which needs very careful assessment and consideration before increasing costs to taxpayers. (NOTE related to #13, Need to balance rural character of open space and farm land preservation with ensuring attraction of other businesses that may also fit same (e.g canoe/kayak rental, other types of recreational businesses that would attract out of town visitors, more restaurants that would be favorable to healthy lifestyle visitors e.g. farm to table restaurants/events, Soup/salad restaurant, organic restaurant/store, outdoor recreation/sports store (e.g. REI outlet/smaller store version) near recreational sites (e.g near Airline Trail, near Airline Trail Spur, rte 149, etc)	1/28/2020 3:09 PM
12	Would have to decide on case by case. What is the money going for.	1/28/2020 2:18 PM
13	Park needs wood chips badly	1/28/2020 1:26 PM
14	Our fields are sad. If your a visiting town and you look at our sports fields one would think why would I want to move to colchester, it looks like they don't care for their kids,,which is not true...but perception	1/28/2020 1:17 PM
15	Too much open space is given up to residential developments. Current residents concerns should be taken into account when a new development is proposed.	1/25/2020 8:03 PM
16	I only say "maybe" to Police and Fire issues because I do not know enough about those.	1/25/2020 11:51 AM
17	Park and Recreation needs to increase what the charge private sports organizations to use the fields, Taxpayers should NOT be subsidizing all these private sports leagues.	1/25/2020 10:48 AM
18	Increases in Police Services and Infrastructure.....to me means a 24-7 Colchester Police Force and likely a stand alone police station. I might support that. However, Town-Police Union-Police Commission relations have been a contentious and political issue in the past. Just looking at the sorted history of the Police Commission with the town's kangaroo court about 10 years ago regarding a former (and now present) commission member speaks to this. Trust for me was greatly eroded. While I believe the Recreation Department does a good job with programs for kids and adults, I believe they have done a less than satisfactory job with Town sponsored Events. Year's ago, The Colchester Arts Commission and Arts Guild began the Summer Concerts on the Green on Sunday nights which were well attended, well run and self-funded. Stewardship of these concerts was passed on to the Colchester Recreation Department, when the Arts Commission disbanded. This past year that tradition of having a weekly concert series was effectively eliminated, replaced with a mishmash of events on	1/25/2020 9:47 AM

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scattered dates like a corn hole tournament. In addition, 57 Fest, while certainly something requiring revenue-funding to maintain, was a fiscal failure this year (with actual revenue generated by a car raffle falling woefully short). Due to the EEE situation last fall, an abbreviated event went off without fireworks which were then part of Trick-or-Trunk. Having fireworks at any event will be a welcome draw and so certainly they were welcome at Trick-or Trunk. But for the Director of Parks and Recreation to interpret that feedback as a reason to have fireworks at Trick-or Trunk, rather than Colchester's Annual 57 Fest, to me says that 57 Fest is soon to meet the fate of Colchester's Annual Summer Concerts on the Green.

19	Open space is critical to maintaining Colchester's character. I hope the town will become more active in that regard.	1/25/2020 9:28 AM
20	Start changing the culture to getting more done with less.	1/25/2020 9:12 AM
21	Recreation fields are in dire need of improvements, as are the fields at Bacon Academy!	1/24/2020 5:11 PM
22	Have the police do their jobs not just want to work overtime road jobs and hiding behind the Westchester Fire House tapping into the WIFI for hours on end.	1/23/2020 1:52 PM
23	With the recent school project that includes new recreation fields, I think it's important that the town follows through with their "promise" to properly maintain them. It's important for the safety of the kids who will be playing on them. Let's be PROUD of what we bought!	1/22/2020 8:30 AM
24	land conservation where it would save the town money we can't tax people enough to educate there children so stopping residential development is always beneficial. Any public property should always be open to hunting and fishing where applicable Recreational field improvements should be paid for by those using the fields it is called a users fee. I shoot and pay for my ranges why can't people who play softball and soccer do the same thing. If not you need to start giving the local gun clubs the same amount of money to maintain there facilities.	1/20/2020 7:56 AM
25	In addition, I would support the Town spending for sidewalk improvements and maintenance. For example, a large portion of the sidewalks on Norwich Ave in such poor condition that they are difficult to use with a stroller, kids bike, or scooter.	1/19/2020 6:27 PM
26	If you charge per player per session for upgrades they should use the money to have the town maintain as dragging fields such as baseball and softball fields to prevent injuries.	1/19/2020 6:04 PM
27	So the police don't come to this area unless there's an accident. It's more the state troopers so I'm not sure adding to their budget gets us anywhere. Fire - we need new equipment but again...isn't that the gas line money?? And open space - the building is ridiculous...there's no place for the wildlife to go and when they do come out people want to shoot them. This was there home so where do folks expect them to go???	1/19/2020 12:57 PM
28	Police have sufficient staffing at 10 to do 24-7 coverage at two person minimums. They need their own autonomy by having their own police chief. That could then begin to change the present culture to be more productive and professional.	1/19/2020 8:37 AM
29	Our fields are terrible and a disgrace to the town. We should be embarrassed our children have to play on these fields they are so bad. We also need to plan for a turf field as soon as possible.	1/19/2020 2:57 AM
30	Spending more on the fire and police is long overdue. We save millions by having volunteers. Please support them by giving them the staffing they say they need. They already dedicate a huge portion of their lives to helping community members. Now we need to support them.	1/18/2020 7:14 PM
31	Please continue to stand firm against the pressure to expand our police services and infrastructure to a full-time staff and standalone building. Reporting of calls to the police is inflated (not necessarily reflective of crime) and there needs to be a hard look at whether crime has truly increased (people yelling that it has isn't factual) that can't be handled by current police staffing, support from state police at night, and adjacent town support.	1/18/2020 4:46 PM
32	And field at Bacon Academy!	1/18/2020 3:51 PM
33	let parents bear some of the costs to maintain fields	1/18/2020 11:30 AM
34	More conservation land that is open to the public but does not require ongoing maintenance expenses like the rec complex.	1/18/2020 11:15 AM



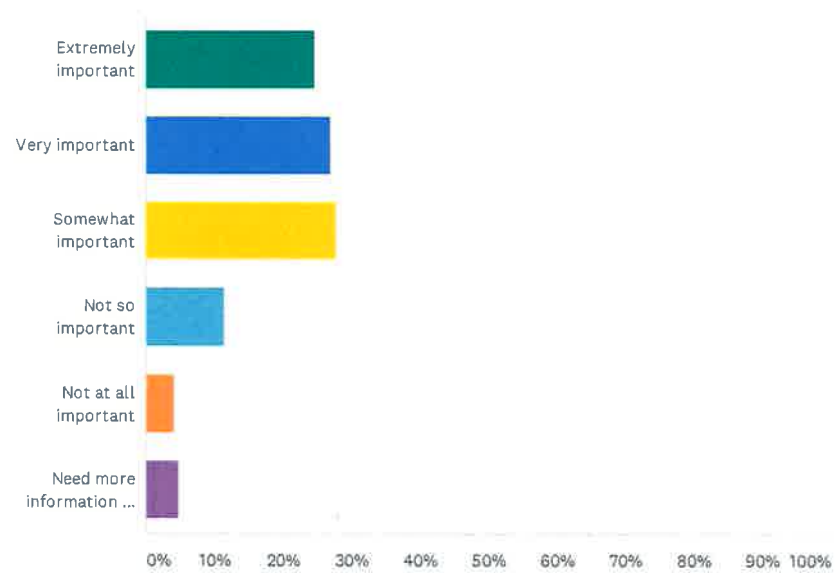
## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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35	Our school fields are embarrassing compared to any other school we play.	1/18/2020 11:05 AM
36	I know the subject of a Town pool as been discussed . I am totally against that idea . The financial burden of maintaining , life guard, and insurance is not worth my taxes going up . And many of the retired community can't afford that increase .	1/18/2020 10:29 AM
37	Town safety is important. Colchester is an easy access town for people from surrounding towns to come in and commit crimes. Increase in police presence should always be a priority. Rec fields need to be improved and maintained. Sports programs is essential for healthy mental and physical development of children. Our fields have been noticed by outsiders as run down.	1/18/2020 10:09 AM
38	Yes to all. I'm amazed how much land Hebron is able to conserve every year, I think we can do better as a community, even if its not outright purchases, but tax offsets for farmers, etc. I'd like to see our Paramedic program up and running as well as more police presence. Our fields need a lot of work at the Old Colchester Rd complex, and I'd love to see a community pool there at some point.	1/18/2020 9:48 AM
39	Police...I don't know, infrastructure yes....the roads are in bad shape	1/18/2020 7:45 AM
40	All of these increased expenditures could drive business into our town. We want people to come to Colchester	1/17/2020 6:42 PM

### Q13 How important to you is preserving the rural character of Colchester through open space and farmland preservation efforts?

Answered: 416 Skipped: 23



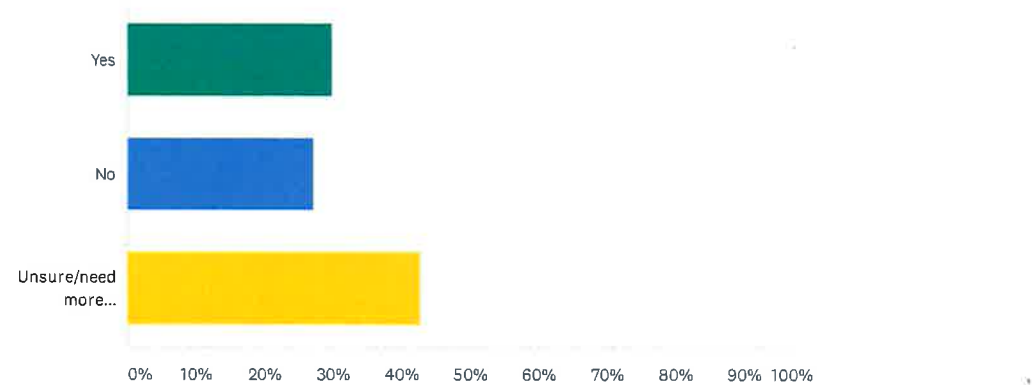
# 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	24.76%	103
Very important	26.92%	112
Somewhat important	27.88%	116
Not so important	11.54%	48
Not at all important	4.09%	17
Need more information to decide	4.81%	20
TOTAL		416

Q14 Would you support an expansion of paramedic services if it meant a significant increase in the mill rate?

Answered: 415 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES

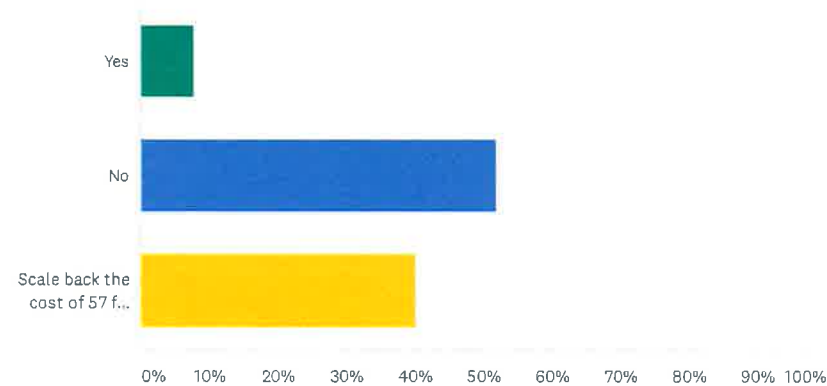
- Yes
- No
- Unsure/need more information
- TOTAL

RESPONSES

29.88%	124
27.23%	113
42.89%	178
	415

Q15 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?

Answered: 410 Skipped: 29

**ANSWER CHOICES**

Yes

No

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

TOTAL

**RESPONSES**

7.80% 32

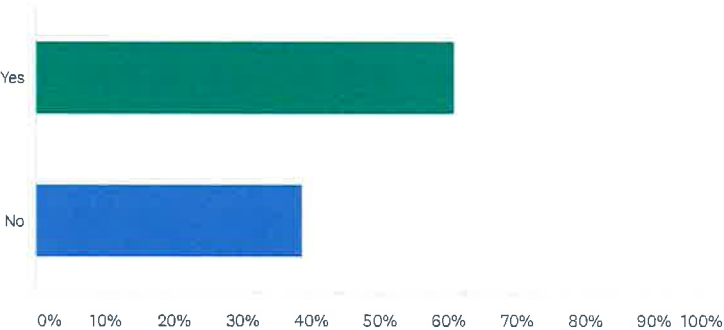
51.95% 213

40.24% 165

410

Q16 Do you feel the town has properly invested enough money in maintaining our recreational fields?

Answered: 390 Skipped: 49



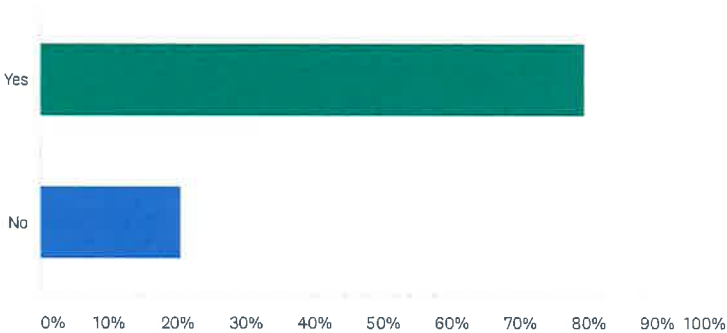
ANSWER CHOICES

Yes	61.03%	238
No	38.97%	152
TOTAL		390

RESPONSES

Q17 Did you vote in the last budget referendum?

Answered: 405 Skipped: 34



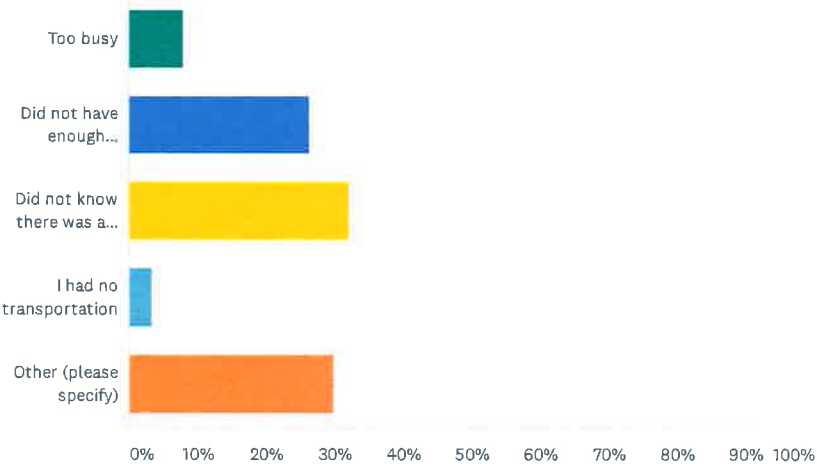
ANSWER CHOICES

Yes	79.51%	322
No	20.49%	83
TOTAL		405

RESPONSES

Q18 If you selected "No" please indicate why.

Answered: 87 Skipped: 352



ANSWER CHOICES

- Too busy
- Did not have enough information
- Did not know there was a referendum
- I had no transportation
- Other (please specify)
- TOTAL

RESPONSES

Too busy	8.05%	7
Did not have enough information	26.44%	23
Did not know there was a referendum	32.18%	28
I had no transportation	3.45%	3
Other (please specify)	29.89%	26
TOTAL		87



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#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	moved back here after 60 years	2/3/2020 7:54 PM
2	forgot	2/3/2020 7:31 PM
3	Forgot	2/1/2020 12:50 PM
4	Non citizen (Green card)	2/1/2020 10:04 AM
5	No solicitation	2/1/2020 9:58 AM
6	did not make it a priority. I don't know enough about the budget to make a responsible decision.	1/31/2020 8:34 PM
7	Didn't live here	1/29/2020 7:58 AM
8	I don't Pay taxes and live in senior facilities. Routine budgets should be controlled by the taxpayers	1/28/2020 9:04 PM
9	Not yet registered	1/28/2020 8:05 PM
10	I wasn't paying attention	1/28/2020 7:41 PM
11	Do not own property in Colchester	1/28/2020 2:28 PM
12	Don't think I did. Don't remember. I usually vote but not sure if this was a special voting day.	1/28/2020 2:22 PM
13	Was out of state during voting hours.	1/27/2020 7:17 AM
14	It was the first one I missed in ages	1/26/2020 3:55 PM
15	Did not live in town yet	1/21/2020 7:54 PM
16	A non vote is a yes vote. I had no problem with the budget as first presented. Why waste my time voting.	1/19/2020 11:51 PM
17	I was traveling for business.	1/19/2020 12:58 PM
18	Just moved to Colchester	1/19/2020 12:50 AM
19	Voted	1/18/2020 9:14 PM
20	Military	1/18/2020 8:24 PM
21	New to town	1/18/2020 11:35 AM
22	I was not home that week	1/18/2020 10:36 AM
23	CD	1/18/2020 6:11 AM
24	Not officially a homeowner	1/17/2020 11:53 PM
25	Didn't live here	1/17/2020 9:45 PM
26	I was out of town.	1/17/2020 9:33 PM

## Q19 What can the town do to increase participation in voting?

Answered: 157   Skipped: 282

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#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I don't know	2/3/2020 7:51 PM
2	?	2/3/2020 7:41 PM
3	more advertising	2/3/2020 7:34 PM
4	?	2/3/2020 7:31 PM
5	?	2/3/2020 7:20 PM
6	clean up town hall. looks like a dump outside. Thanks how you increase participation in voting.	2/3/2020 7:07 PM
7	?	2/3/2020 7:00 PM
8	get responsible people to run for office	2/3/2020 6:55 PM
9	Increase social media presence	2/2/2020 1:30 PM
10	Bus transportation maybe. Phone reminders. Banner on green with reminder.	2/2/2020 11:07 AM
11	Increase transparency	2/2/2020 7:14 AM
12	Don't count on the few people that come to a meeting at Town Hall to be your only feedback. Have community conversations at various places such as with the Seniors at the Senior Center. At the school where parents might feel less intimidated to come.	2/1/2020 6:37 PM
13	Reminders: email, phone	2/1/2020 12:50 PM
14	More general, public civic education and engagement opportunities for adults (not necessarily or in addition to partisan efforts). Too many people forget or don't understand how government works, especially locally, how it affects their daily lives, and how they can and should participate. People may be embarrassed to admit this or are anxious about where to start, and we all would benefit from inclusive, judgement-free, low barrier entry points. Sometimes people just need to feel invited into the process.	2/1/2020 10:42 AM
15	People are either going to vote or not. We vote religiously. Those that don't vote should not complain!	2/1/2020 10:40 AM
16	Make proposals that reduce spending, not increases.	2/1/2020 10:38 AM
17	Get young families involved	2/1/2020 10:28 AM
18	Don't know, hold the election on a Saturday.	2/1/2020 10:12 AM
19	Get more information out there as to where the money is going. More town meeting times so that people can attend.	2/1/2020 10:05 AM
20	Educate. Posters everywhere. We have SO MANY residents that moved from other systems of town government that have no idea that a board doesn't make the financial decisions for the town! When someone buys a house in town, educate them. Spend time educating students other than in one class about civics-a population that recognizes what it actually means to vote is more likely to do so when they graduate. So Many people wait until they have kids in the schools and then don't vote after their kids are out of the schools. When you send out tax bills, educate!	2/1/2020 10:04 AM
21	Unsure why people are so unwilling to utilize their privilege to vote. Seems as though they take it for granted	2/1/2020 9:59 AM
22	Ads...! Get out there. People need to have you in their face	2/1/2020 9:58 AM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

23	Put together a volunteer network to give people rides to the polls. Find a way to advertise and help home bound to use absentee ballots. But that would probably not be what the BOE would want as those are the people who want less spending on school.	2/1/2020 5:14 AM
24	Set an example for the kids. The kids need to know that voting is not a privilege, it's their responsibility to participate in this democracy. List the pros and cons of passing or rejecting the budget or the questions on the ballots. Advertise absentee ballots. It's scary that people can't bother to vote.	1/31/2020 11:38 PM
25	clearer information	1/31/2020 8:34 PM
26	LET SENIORS KNOW BY PUTTING MORE SIGNS UP.	1/31/2020 5:16 PM
27	Send out reminders with tax bills.	1/31/2020 4:38 PM
28	Allow Early voting. Broadcast upcoming votes in as many ways as possible	1/31/2020 4:24 PM
29	lived here for just a year	1/31/2020 8:44 AM
30	Try and engage younger generations	1/30/2020 5:05 PM
31	Nothing It's up to people to show up	1/30/2020 10:19 AM
32	A phone tree to call as many registered voters as possible in order to remind them to vote.	1/30/2020 9:58 AM
33	More details	1/29/2020 8:31 PM
34	Lower taxes.	1/29/2020 3:28 PM
35	More Media effect E-Mail Facebook and Twitter	1/28/2020 10:53 PM
36	Advertise more	1/28/2020 10:32 PM
37		1/28/2020 10:07 PM
38	I don't know.	1/28/2020 9:04 PM
39	Vote on Saturday. Make absentee ballots more available	1/28/2020 8:25 PM
40	More info to register. More info where to vote.	1/28/2020 8:05 PM
41	More info in Rivereast. Meet the candidates at a local school.	1/28/2020 7:45 PM
42	Perhaps early voting may allow folks to have a longer block of time to vote.	1/28/2020 7:44 PM
43	An email of the town budget would be a great help	1/28/2020 7:18 PM
44	People don't traditionally go out for local elections	1/28/2020 6:57 PM
45	Dont know	1/28/2020 6:47 PM
46	advertise, meet more places	1/28/2020 6:45 PM
47	Good question... I don't know...	1/28/2020 6:12 PM
48	Better communication	1/28/2020 5:42 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

## SurveyMonkey

49	Get the word out.	1/28/2020 5:23 PM
50	Great question but I have no answers.	1/28/2020 4:29 PM
51	offer ride share, promote absentee ballots	1/28/2020 4:06 PM
52	Provide detailed information about the subject being voted on and have public meetings to clarify the issues for the people in town.	1/28/2020 3:58 PM
53	More social media outreach	1/28/2020 3:54 PM
54	send to a vote the possibility of Lowering taxes	1/28/2020 3:27 PM
55	Do a feature news article on the importance of citizen participation in local town affairs - voting, volunteerism in town boards/committees, attending town meetings especially budget, etc. More signage at key locations in town (highway exits, town center, town hall, rec fields, school entrances for parents), email blasts through all town dept public emails as emails lists vary by dept. Notice in all town department newsletters (library, senior center, others?) Put up signage and notices for longer period of time. Include message - Your Vote Matters or Be Part of Colchester's Decision Making - Vote, OR something else that will appeal to individual's desire to be involved.	1/28/2020 3:18 PM
56	Advertise more	1/28/2020 3:03 PM
57	Prizes by voter lottery.	1/28/2020 2:45 PM
58	Post ballot sample in local free paper	1/28/2020 2:23 PM
59	advertise more	1/28/2020 2:22 PM
60	Good question.	1/28/2020 2:22 PM
61	I feel the town should emphasize where people should vote. People are confused as to voting districts and are upset if at wrong polling place	1/28/2020 2:18 PM
62	On-line voting? which could also be in advance of the day polls are open.	1/28/2020 2:16 PM
63	There seems to be a lack of knowledge about budget referendums in the Westchester area. More signage in that area is necessary.	1/28/2020 2:07 PM
64	Public discussion of issues, educating the public about how participation makes a difference.	1/28/2020 1:23 PM
65	I feel either your someone who votes and cares or your someone who thinks their vote does not count. Hard to change that person view if they don't care	1/28/2020 1:20 PM
66	Maybe a at home system to vote	1/28/2020 12:07 PM
67	social media presence	1/27/2020 11:08 AM
68	Electronic voting.	1/27/2020 7:17 AM
69	have only real property taxpayers vote on budgets	1/26/2020 8:22 PM
70	Not much really. Everyone knows when the vote is coming. You just have to do it	1/26/2020 3:55 PM
71	Listen to the residents, be more progressive and be less political.	1/26/2020 3:03 PM
72	Include large budget impacts as a separate yes/no vote with potential overall budget impact. An example would be separate vote for upgrade in Paramedic program or increase in Police Coverage. If we can't keep our town safe and secure, we are failing our next generation. Let the voters choose and not members of the board of finance. Sometimes personal agendas interfere with the best interests of the town.	1/26/2020 1:14 PM

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

73	Social media, emails, newsletters in mailboxes	1/26/2020 1:06 PM
74	The question every town is asking...	1/26/2020 11:32 AM
75	Better Candidates	1/26/2020 10:01 AM
76	Open polls later. Have online voting options1	1/25/2020 8:04 PM
77	Would the town be allowed to send home flyers with school children?	1/25/2020 4:08 PM
78	Give a tax break	1/25/2020 3:57 PM
79	I really don't have the answer but it is really sad when people don't vote and complain. The last special election I was #131 to vote and with 17,000 registered voters you would think that the number would have been much higher by 2 pm. I did not see the final number of voters that came out but would live to have 100% I know this is unrealistic but people need to participate. Maybe more info/articles in bold in Rivereast or posters around time. Tell people they can have a free coffee if they vote lol	1/25/2020 2:30 PM
80	Attract a more intelligent electorate. Educate voters on the importance of Town services and the people who run them.	1/25/2020 11:54 AM
81	Advertise more the NEED to VOTE whatever your leanings are.....America is one of the Worst % voting levels of participation.	1/25/2020 10:54 AM
82	Put up more signs around town especially in Westchester area.	1/25/2020 10:50 AM
83	Nothing, the town can't MAKE people vote. I don't think there is any reason that people don't vote other than lack of interest or ignorance.	1/25/2020 10:41 AM
84	I think people don't participate because they don't feel that anything changes. Start thinking outside the box and look at restructuring how we spend so that everyone feels that have a vested interest.	1/25/2020 10:05 AM
85	That's a tough one. People seem to increasingly take things for granted. I guess lobby the school system to teach civics K-12,	1/25/2020 9:50 AM
86	Reach out to volunteers to assist people to get to polling stations.	1/25/2020 9:30 AM
87	See suggestions already entered	1/25/2020 9:14 AM
88	Educate early and often	1/25/2020 9:07 AM
89	publicize everywhere: town hall, town green, email, River East, town website, social media like facebook	1/25/2020 9:01 AM
90	Continue to advertise over multiple mediums	1/25/2020 8:59 AM
91	Stop slander campaigns. Spend money properly.	1/24/2020 8:22 PM
92	I have no idea why folks do not vote	1/24/2020 8:20 PM
93	More information being put out	1/24/2020 5:15 PM
94	Voting is either important to you or it's not...keep government out of it,	1/24/2020 5:00 PM
95	If it just felt like the vote actually meant something it would help	1/24/2020 4:33 PM
96	The voting signs in front of the green and library are great. How about the Westchester area? How about signs at the Route 2 exits?	1/24/2020 6:30 AM
97	Be better about getting the word out.	1/23/2020 6:13 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

## SurveyMonkey

98	Stop having the board of finance spreading lies and false info.	1/23/2020 1:54 PM
99	Nothing. People do not see it as a responsibility.	1/23/2020 5:55 AM
100	Allow the schools to pass out information that says there is a vote. Not how to vote but when and where	1/22/2020 6:58 PM
101	Door to door knocking. Make special and fun events held.	1/22/2020 6:28 PM
102	Put more info on the town website	1/22/2020 2:43 PM
103	Extensive use of social media and press.	1/22/2020 9:05 AM
104	Nothing more then they are already doing	1/22/2020 8:50 AM
105	It's hopeless which is truly unfortunate. I also don't see it as solely a Colchester issue, it's really a national issue. With all due respect, good luck.	1/22/2020 8:37 AM
106	Find the topics that are important to voters, do personal outreach.	1/21/2020 7:54 PM
107	Send out postcards.	1/21/2020 7:01 PM
108	Social media.	1/21/2020 4:22 AM
109	Maybe incentives	1/20/2020 10:05 PM
110	I have no idea	1/20/2020 7:57 AM
111	Change the rules as stated above. We'll have 100% participation. All register voters who do not vote will be considered as a yes vote to the budget. Only those opposed to the budget as presented will have to cast a no vote. Majority rules.	1/19/2020 11:51 PM
112	Have voting at one location	1/19/2020 8:53 PM
113	Advertise when voting will be taking place!	1/19/2020 6:29 PM
114	Hard to fight apathy. More opportunities for residents to have contact with issues/candidates...Mary and Brian did a good job of meeting people and I am sure thus helped them to victory	1/19/2020 1:11 PM
115	One day isn't enough....for those working its just hard. It would require more volunteers but what if voting could happen over the weekend?	1/19/2020 12:58 PM
116	not sure	1/19/2020 11:41 AM
117	Better social media strategy	1/19/2020 8:39 AM
118	Listen to the people and get more info out to the busy households who cant make all the meetings	1/19/2020 2:58 AM
119	Signs other than in town	1/18/2020 9:14 PM
120	Make sure it's easier to get absentee ballot	1/18/2020 8:24 PM
121	Increase information blast.	1/18/2020 6:42 PM
122	People live on Facebook, push reminders there.	1/18/2020 6:39 PM
123	Not sure	1/18/2020 5:34 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

124	Don't spend money on this. The people who choose not to vote are adults making the choice not to.	1/18/2020 4:49 PM
125	Offer a volunteer based service to drive people who don't have transportation or create some sort of mail in ballot that is due before the referendum.	1/18/2020 3:48 PM
126	Town green banner, signs	1/18/2020 3:33 PM
127	More transparency regarding budget	1/18/2020 3:06 PM
128	Advertise, rides to the polls	1/18/2020 1:21 PM
129	Better publicity on the exact amounts	1/18/2020 12:07 PM
130	Register young people	1/18/2020 12:06 PM
131	I work second shift so making voting hours later may help	1/18/2020 12:05 PM
132	why bother. past efforts seem to have little impact. Voters turn out increases with changes in taxes too high or severe reduction in services.	1/18/2020 11:34 AM
133	Make the issues easier to hear about. I don't have time to go to a meeting but would read about it in the paper etc..	1/18/2020 11:18 AM
134	Advertising better	1/18/2020 10:57 AM
135	I believe that if you have to pay taxes (Federal, State, and Local), then one must vote. However, our tradition makes voting contingent not mandatory. I believe all we can do is inform the public about the importance of being involved and how to be involved via voting. I think the town should use every avenue to convey information (see #20 below).	1/18/2020 10:55 AM
136	I'm not sure there is anything you can do . Maybe have an email reminder with what the referendum entails . I would sign up for email reminders for voting .	1/18/2020 10:36 AM
137	Online/mobile voting options, if it's possible to do so without risking someone voting on both mobile and in person.	1/18/2020 10:23 AM
138	More communication with residents. Emails, facebook announcements (not allowing comments), flyers in the mail. People should also be more clearly informed on WHAT they are voting on, not just WHO or what party.	1/18/2020 10:11 AM
139	I'm sure the town published sufficient information regarding the budget referendum but I didn't know to search it out	1/18/2020 9:52 AM
140	Getting all the candidate information and viewpoints in a single unbiased area would be great. A single web page could be devoted to that and could link to each candidates campaign so people could seek out more information as they see fit.	1/18/2020 9:50 AM
141	Schedule referendum so that two votes could take place before the end of the school year.	1/18/2020 9:49 AM
142	Would like to see more information on social media	1/18/2020 9:34 AM
143	Give people a reason to vote beyond the fear of taxes or the fear of budget cuts	1/18/2020 8:58 AM
144	Text reminders.	1/18/2020 8:17 AM
145	Good question!	1/18/2020 8:09 AM
146	Not sure why most of the population doesnt vote, so hard to say	1/18/2020 7:46 AM
147	Need to capture the college age students.	1/18/2020 7:06 AM
148	Advertise what the budget will pay for specific examples of ideas that will help the town.	1/18/2020 6:45 AM



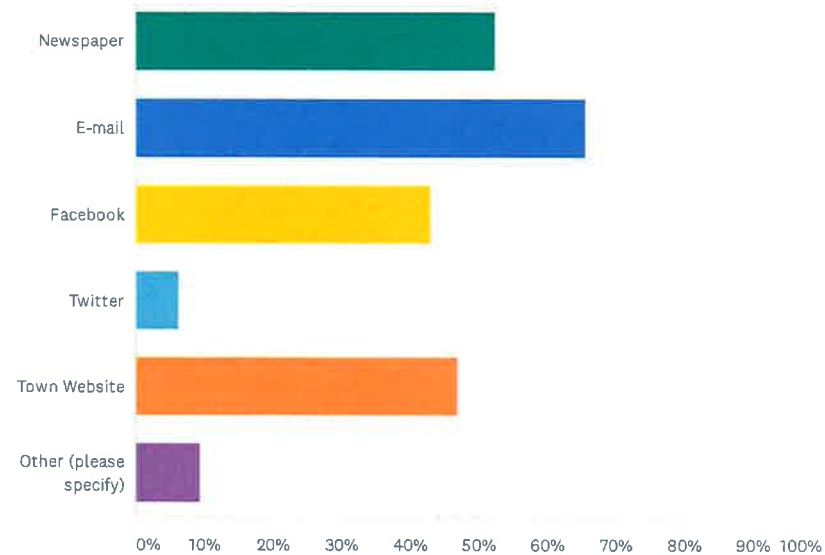
## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

149	Put signs up in advance. Email population	1/17/2020 10:23 PM
150	Do a better job at advertising what people are voting on	1/17/2020 10:09 PM
151	Bigger presence on Facebook	1/17/2020 9:48 PM
152	Every time I go to vote the person standing in front of me is at the wrong voting location. Maybe more info on where to vote, prior to voting would help.	1/17/2020 9:40 PM
153	Give more notice with more information. I did not see any coverage of details about budget last year.	1/17/2020 9:33 PM
154	Marketing budget to Explain what people are voting for.	1/17/2020 9:25 PM
155	Good question! It is certainly advertised plenty, n my opinion	1/17/2020 9:13 PM
156	Get people more involved	1/17/2020 9:12 PM
157	Increase notices about budget meetings. Hold meetings on a weekend	1/17/2020 6:43 PM

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

Answered: 402 Skipped: 37



2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

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**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Newspaper	52.49%	211
E-mail	65.67%	264
Facebook	43.03%	173
Twitter	6.22%	25
Town Website	47.01%	189
Other (please specify)	9.45%	38
Total Respondents: 402		

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	phone call	2/3/2020 7:51 PM
2	post a town sign. like other towns. electronic sign in front of town hall as a posting.	2/3/2020 7:07 PM
3	through the senior center	2/3/2020 7:00 PM
4	Banners on green	2/2/2020 11:07 AM
5	Other public notices such as on the town green and high visibility areas. MORE IMPORTANTLY (not for me specifically but I'm general): partnerships within the community to communicate the existence of important conversations and issues by word of mouth through trusted relationships.	2/1/2020 10:42 AM
6	With any town mailing, include info	2/1/2020 10:04 AM
7	Use everything you got!	2/1/2020 9:58 AM
8	I do not think I should have to open a Facebook account to read what's going on with the police or the town. This should be more easily accessible as the Town website is.	1/31/2020 8:05 PM
9	Fliers mailed out. Some people don't do computers.	1/31/2020 5:16 PM
10	Patch	1/30/2020 12:27 PM
11	Town Hall Bulletins	1/29/2020 8:31 PM
12	Meetings around the town	1/28/2020 10:32 PM
13	e mail	1/28/2020 9:04 PM
14	Txt messages	1/28/2020 8:34 PM
15	East of the River	1/28/2020 7:58 PM
16	Stevesicard@yahoo.com	1/28/2020 6:47 PM
17	text message	1/28/2020 3:45 PM
18	There is no one way to best communicate with all of Colchester townspeople considering differences in age groups, accessibility to various communication vehicles/social media. Also, email lists vary in town, many do not know town email lists exist for different purposes. Maybe do an EMAIL drive to sign people up for various ones. Some people don't have email, may not drive or get out much, may be very busy. Consider a full post card mailing to individual mail boxes for key critical information related to important voting or other areas needing citizen involvement or improvement (heard many people do not register their dogs....that may be another thing to put on a postcard doing out....could have multiple bulleted-messages. If you want to reach ALL registered voters, than a mailing/post card mailing would be the only true best communication approach. Also, list left off signage.	1/28/2020 3:18 PM
19	Multiple ways is best because our population uses various methods of news/info gathering.	1/28/2020 2:56 PM
20	Local free newspaper	1/28/2020 2:23 PM
21	internet as I never got original survey	1/28/2020 2:22 PM
22	Right now, I only get town info when I am seeking it. I hear that the Town Website has recently been beefed up (or at least kept more current) which, if true, would be an improvement. I'm not on a town email list, but it might be useful for me, especially if I can tailor the emails to be sent on certain subjects. I would	1/28/2020 2:16 PM

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SurveyMonkey

	hope that fewer and fewer people rely on Facebook for anything.	
23	Signs on town green that I see driving by	1/26/2020 3:55 PM
24	rivereast news buliten	1/25/2020 9:08 PM
25	Flyers in local businesses if not to expensive. Maybe at farmers market during summer, presentations at local communities, At NorthWoods I think if you approached the board/mgt company they would welcome business items/political issues/opportunities/stuff happening in town that will impact all residents.	1/25/2020 2:30 PM
26	public meetings	1/25/2020 10:38 AM
27	Town website is bulky and hard to navigate towards desired information.	1/25/2020 9:14 AM
28	Phone messages.	1/24/2020 6:02 PM
29	The only town news that we received is the Rivereast. The Norwich Bulletin carries Colchester news once in awhile and the Hartford Courant none.	1/24/2020 6:30 AM
30	When I select Newspaper I mean the Rivereast News Bulletin.	1/22/2020 8:37 AM
31	Texting	1/21/2020 7:54 PM
32	Through the schools systems Digital Backpack program. Other tech products used for parents to see via their children.	1/19/2020 11:37 AM
33	Share messages to inform everyone	1/18/2020 7:16 PM
34	Letter	1/18/2020 6:05 PM
35	Why do I need to comment?	1/18/2020 6:01 PM
36	Texts	1/18/2020 8:17 AM
37	I LOVE the emails from the First Selectman's office that come regularly to inform us of local happenings and issues.	1/18/2020 8:06 AM
38	Not everyone has social media. How about local TV	1/17/2020 10:09 PM

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

Answered: 135   Skipped: 304

# 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	no	2/3/2020 7:34 PM
2	No	2/3/2020 7:20 PM
3	what happened to town halls paving last year?	2/3/2020 7:08 PM
4	time to get going on the new senior center	2/3/2020 7:01 PM
5	Fed, state and town taxes are all out of control. At the town level you can do something. Cut and eliminate unneeded programs. Allow the people to keep some of their money	2/2/2020 1:25 PM
6	***On 57 Fest - I would be ok with funding the fireworks portion out of the Town Budget as that seems to be the part all ages enjoy the most. I feel Public Works needs more people available to mow and maintain during the summer. There are several locations where weeds have grown so high they are sticking out on the road and block visibility. In the last few years, my neighbors and I have mowed the sides of the roads because the town only gets to it once a year.	2/1/2020 6:42 PM
7	Not right now	2/1/2020 2:04 PM
8	no	2/1/2020 12:52 PM
9	Give breaks to Seniors like the SALT that his available in New York State.	2/1/2020 10:41 AM
10	Need to come up with a plan to keep food teachers in colchester	2/1/2020 10:29 AM
11	I'd like to see the town focus on filling the empty storefronts in Colchester and be more "budget " friendly to small business owners. Colchester has the advantage of location and can bring revenue in from surrounding towns by offering amenities here such as retail, restaurants and other services. Growth is ok if it's done properly.	2/1/2020 10:10 AM
12	People don't come out and vote. You need to come up with a way to make people vote. Amount of money being spent on a senior center compared to the amount of money that's been taken away from the school system is ridiculous. The youth should come first. Does anybody actually care about the fact that our high school is ranked quite poorly?	2/1/2020 10:01 AM
13	No	2/1/2020 10:00 AM
14	Be nice for senior citizens who have paid taxes forever, to get a break....	2/1/2020 9:58 AM
15	Reduce costs. Families are continuing to leave. The new school was not needed and is such an eyesore to our towns charm!	2/1/2020 9:00 AM
16	Please be more specific re: town services. We live in different parts of town. Big difference between the Borough, the lake, Westchester etc..	1/31/2020 11:42 PM
17	The proposed new senior center building will enrich so many lives in town. Please support this very important project.	1/31/2020 5:17 PM
18	No	1/31/2020 4:40 PM
19	No	1/30/2020 5:05 PM
20	no!	1/30/2020 9:58 AM
21	Construction of new senior center	1/30/2020 6:40 AM
22	Realistically, when will the proposed new Senior Center be in full operation	1/29/2020 8:34 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

23	no	1/29/2020 7:33 PM
24	public works employees are underpaid and the health insurance premium share is too expensive. The town has a dedicated crew and should pay them accordingly and compare what other surrounding towns pay.	1/29/2020 7:17 PM
25	no	1/29/2020 3:23 PM
26	Rec Plex Fields need to be maintained better, address safety issues, spend money that tax payers have been paying to use facilities. Public works had an increase of one last budget and services have not improved and gotten worse.	1/29/2020 11:12 AM
27	Would like to see more emphasis on the plans for a new senior center	1/29/2020 10:53 AM
28	WE need to pay attention to improving our fields and the Rec plex and the line painting by the town	1/29/2020 10:52 AM
29	no	1/29/2020 8:16 AM
30	No	1/29/2020 7:59 AM
31	Are we looking into green fuels? Like the wind, solar and Hydrogen? Do we have solar on all city buildings?	1/28/2020 11:00 PM
32	Scaled property taxes for older 55 communities. These citizens support town schools but do not have children utilizing the services from schools, teachers, etc. Our communities also do not utilize snow removal, trash pick up, road maintenance from the town as well.	1/28/2020 10:38 PM
33	No	1/28/2020 9:04 PM
34	Would love to see concert on the green back- would choose that over 57 fest!	1/28/2020 8:35 PM
35	no	1/28/2020 7:59 PM
36	Non	1/28/2020 7:46 PM
37	Not really. A good survey	1/28/2020 7:46 PM
38	Wish senior center had a better vibe, [REDACTED] is difficult	1/28/2020 7:00 PM
39	Nodont know	1/28/2020 6:48 PM
40	I did not see any mention of the Senior Center Builfing.	1/28/2020 6:46 PM
41	No	1/28/2020 6:12 PM
42	We need a Walmart or something similar for convenience. Have to drive to far for things u need!	1/28/2020 5:26 PM
43	Colchester Senior Center is long overdue and needs to be built not only to accommodate our seniors but also other segments of the community. There needs to be more free community meeting space for the many non profit organizations and volunteer groups in town. Those locations need to be available, during the day in the evening (some meetings to go 9pm) and Saturdays. Library only has Monday nights until 8pm for community groups in evening, due to budget cuts shortening their hours years ago (close at 5pm on Tues, Wed-movie night, Thurs - library public programming). Any new spaces need built in projection system like library for meetings as well as more public programming. Would be nice to have a town inventory of public spaces available in town buildings, schools, with services/equipment/, who to contact to use, requirements (fee, insurance, etc) to make this easier for groups needing space. Youth Center move from existing building to other town space OR consider to further economize use school buildings after hours since citizens are already paying for their use and upkeep, getting more use after hours to benefit Colchester students make perfect sense: why is a separate building only to be used after school on weekdays for the same students what we are doing or do in the future. The existing Youth Center on Norwich Avenue could be sold to return it to the tax roles and encourage	1/28/2020 4:46 PM



restaurant (over commercial/retail) to keep more people enjoying the center of town and unique character. Some access in the evening for senior programs. More educational/stimulating learning for Seniors either through high school resources OR setting up Colchester as a Senior Learning satellite for one of area universities or colleges. In many retirement articles people say want to move to college town for access to continuing higher educational, arts, and sports. Why not create a hub like this in Colchester for growing Colchester Sr population as well as surrounding towns. Jeff Burt mentioned something like this was done in Fairfield County (Westport) "Lifelong Learners?" Lifetime learning could be something Colchester becomes known for if develop...another reason to move to Colchester, along with open space/preservation of farmlands, excellent schools, many sources of recreation - nature and organized, lifelong learning (what else is being considering by current town administration for citizen's input?). I would like the town to develop/share VISION for town of Colchester to share for feedback/input which would be one that all citizens could identify with. The Motto of "where tradition meets future" is one thing, developing a common vision of various components ensuring representation/ applicability to all age groups that can be used as citizens'/town guidepost for planning, development, priority setting and budgeting setting is critical for meaningful future. Transfer stations hours/days have been cut with budget over the years. This creates hardship for many. There was once talk of restoring some hours or sharing days with Hebron on off colchester days since near by as alternative. I've noticed where Windshield stickers were once required to use the transfer station for only town residents, most cars/trucks going in do not have town sticker. Also, often have to request receipt where sign says not to continue without getting receipt. Portland had an excellent transfer station in the past., They had a drive-on scale, where if have bulky weight, drive on scale, get weight, and when empty, come back and weigh again to pay for what dropped off. Maybe consider this for more equitable and fair payment of bulky waste fees. The transfer station allows residents : BRUSH / TREE TRUNK / LIMBS / LEAVES / CHRISTMAS TREES Residential disposal only - no commercial disposal Wood Waste - \$5 per cu.yd Unbagged leaves only Leaves - No Charge. The material being dropped off includes a tremendous amount of invasive plant material/seeds which is ground up and then used as free mulch for townspeople to take,(and I've noticed commercial landscapers also) to take and it is used abundantly on town properties. The invasives include: Japanese Knotweed, Multiflora Rose, Oriental Bittersweet, and others, which were evidenced at Town Hall medians after transfer station mulch was spread on Spring Clean up Day months later, hundreds of seedlings came up. Could there be a designated section of Transfer station for invasive plant debris to be placed and maybe burned by the town periodically to help homeowners and our environment not to further spread invasive plants on town, private properties with possibility of further spreading to open spaces. This could be an educational initiative to identify invasives on home properties and how to safely remove (mechanical vs. chemical) and what may be done with debris.

44	I would like to see the funding increased for our library.	1/28/2020 4:29 PM
45	I would love to see Colchester have a modern senior center.	1/28/2020 4:18 PM
46	Money is well spent when provided for safety and social services for those folks who require them.	1/28/2020 4:05 PM
47	Na	1/28/2020 3:54 PM
48	Good luck!	1/28/2020 3:45 PM
49	no	1/28/2020 3:45 PM
50	LOWER TAXES	1/28/2020 3:27 PM
51	Would support new senior center building	1/28/2020 3:24 PM
52	No	1/28/2020 3:12 PM
53	Replace senior center building.	1/28/2020 3:05 PM
54	No	1/28/2020 3:03 PM
55	No.	1/28/2020 2:46 PM
56	Please find a way to help retirees with their high taxes. We can't work overtime to pay for the increasing amount of taxes. Our incomes are fixed.	1/28/2020 2:34 PM

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

57	Seniors shouldn't be paying educational costs in taxes. We have been paying all our lives. Most are on a fix income now.	1/28/2020 2:25 PM
58	What is 57 Fest!?!?	1/28/2020 2:23 PM
59	The senior center is long overdue.	1/28/2020 2:20 PM
60	No	1/28/2020 2:13 PM
61	Sports fields need to be ore cared for. We also need someone to line our fields like every other towns recreation department does.	1/28/2020 12:47 PM
62	No	1/28/2020 9:12 AM
63	The school system is largely underfunded for what I would consider maintaining expected programming and basic structures.	1/27/2020 11:09 AM
64	Show us you are a good steward of our money. Stop the games with the school budget. It's over protected from change. I have no idea how a town this size continues to get new big buildings with declining enrollment.	1/26/2020 3:58 PM
65	no	1/26/2020 3:04 PM
66	Are residents that do NOT own \$1000 in property allowed to vote on the budget? Are the property rolls or are the voting rolls used? Please see the Charter and the CT statutes.	1/26/2020 1:58 PM
67	Town recreation fields are not well maintained. Sports programs are important and fields need to be upkeep more, including new signage.	1/26/2020 1:08 PM
68	Senior center,post office both need attention	1/26/2020 11:36 AM
69	High taxes, Low Services, Over Populated town. Schools continue to fail with lower standards producing poorly educated kids	1/26/2020 10:04 AM
70	No	1/25/2020 4:13 PM
71	Tax assessments & educating everyone of town issues/opportunities/economic development	1/25/2020 2:33 PM
72	I believe that people should pay personally for services that they want, the ones that do not apply to everyone. one example is Rec fields should be pay-to-play. Residents should pay taxes for safety issues, not for everyone's pleasure.	1/25/2020 1:34 PM
73	no	1/25/2020 11:57 AM
74	The town needs the paramedic program. The senior population is increasing and we have many overdoses. Review the individual number of people who use Rec services. They don't offer programs that students want to go to.	1/25/2020 10:52 AM
75	No	1/25/2020 10:41 AM
76	We have a great park and rec department. It's the best service we have in town.	1/25/2020 10:07 AM
77	No	1/25/2020 10:03 AM
78	No	1/25/2020 9:14 AM
79	hoping construction of the new senior center gets going!	1/25/2020 9:03 AM
80	Felt the manner in which the paramedic question was worded (adding significant) was misleading and written to elicit a particular response. This is not an objective or fair question.	1/25/2020 9:01 AM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

81	No	1/25/2020 8:51 AM
82	They continue to increase taxes and look at the condition of the roads in town, and cut these education budgets, the qty of kids has decrease.	1/24/2020 8:22 PM
83	No	1/24/2020 5:15 PM
84	To maintain the quality of life that we currently enjoy, taxpayers will have a rate increase. We cannot let our roads and general maintenance of the town deteriorate. Since we have come to a point in our education that technology drives our school curriculum that is constantly in need of upgrading and improving and that will cost money. To do less is inadequate and we fail our students who will need those technological skills for jobs and security.	1/24/2020 6:40 AM
85	No	1/22/2020 6:29 PM
86	cut spending...if enrollment is down...cut staff	1/22/2020 9:19 AM
87	Is there an active effort to increase business investment in Colchester to reduce the burden on homeowners?	1/22/2020 8:51 AM
88	I wish the Board of Finance the best of luck with developing and gaining approval for a reasonable 2020 budget. I know it's not easy to make everyone happy!	1/22/2020 8:39 AM
89	I can't imagine why listing it here would any sense, it's the same thing each year.	1/21/2020 4:23 AM
90	Just that we need to do more for the future of kids and our town	1/20/2020 10:08 PM
91	no	1/20/2020 7:57 AM
92	Telling us that we must accept a greater than 2% increase in taxes each year or risk losing services isn't really a question is it? I think the average taxpayer understands how money flows we don't need the education on a survey..	1/19/2020 11:58 PM
93	Where has the town repeatedly indicated that an indoor recreational facility similar to a YMCA with indoor pool is desired, budget is allocated, and nothing has been built??	1/19/2020 6:56 PM
94	Transparency is key. Make all of the budget information easily available, make town leaders available in multiple forums for questions regarding the budget.	1/19/2020 2:43 PM
95	When will senior center be built?	1/19/2020 1:12 PM
96	I have faith in the new folks to take a good hard look at what is done today, where the money is going and clean up the waste.	1/19/2020 1:00 PM
97	no	1/19/2020 11:42 AM
98	Just look at where Department's can be more efficient. Look to improve performance through active change. No more status quo.	1/19/2020 8:41 AM
99	What about investment in economic development? Survey does not make distinction between costs and investments.	1/19/2020 6:26 AM
100	No	1/18/2020 9:14 PM
101	No	1/18/2020 8:24 PM
102	Funding to help maintain Colchester's architectural heritage.	1/18/2020 6:46 PM
103	We need more business tax base	1/18/2020 6:05 PM
104	No	1/18/2020 5:34 PM
105	Why is the revenue from the ambulance service not used to replace the fire apparatus?	1/18/2020 4:59 PM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

## SurveyMonkey

106	While I answered that the town has not spent enough \$ to maintain our fields, I am unwilling to see an increase in taxes to do anything other than bring the fields up (and maintain) to consistent playability. Some of the youth sports organizations (for example, Colchester Baseball) are quite flush with \$. Let the groups kick in more. Groups that cause the most wear to fields should also have to pay more to assist with maintenance and/or create more fields (Football and lacrosse share, but even individually, these sports wear fields to a high degree.)	1/18/2020 4:54 PM
107	The rec fields are a safety issue, More funding needs to be dedicated	1/18/2020 3:55 PM
108	Personally I don't believe that the police department should receive more funding. They don't do a great job solving the recent crime that has occurred in colchester such as stolen vehicles.	1/18/2020 3:50 PM
109	No	1/18/2020 3:33 PM
110	Will we be recovering the money that was embezzled \$23,000.00 +/- from the town clearks office. Are charges being filed	1/18/2020 1:24 PM
111	I believe it is important to prevent future costs by ensuring adequate funding for programming for children and youth through the schools and outside programs and services such as YSS and C3.	1/18/2020 1:24 PM
112	No	1/18/2020 12:08 PM
113	Provide advanced notice of budget hearings open to the public and what agenda items will be discussed. Maybe live stream the meeting for those that are unable to attend.	1/18/2020 11:16 AM
114	I see that we are adding positions but losing positions where it matters, in classrooms. Why do we always add full positions instead of adding part time help which saves the insurance cost. I see Human Relations at Town Hall added, Financial officer added, another facilities person? Where will this money come from? Huge classes, lack of student support. . .	1/18/2020 11:12 AM
115	While I think the RecPlex is a wonderful facility, I believe that it is in need to some improved drainage in certain areas of the fields and the walking/running path the goes around the facility, I think allowing excessive overland flow that scours sand and soil and causes heavy erosion or wet spots detracts from the usefulness and enjoyment of the complex. Therefore, I argue that some investment be made to correct these conditions.	1/18/2020 10:59 AM
116	Increase the support to the memorial day parade.	1/18/2020 10:40 AM
117	Other towns have a lower mill rate, less annual per household income but better services. Why? Where is the money going?	1/18/2020 10:34 AM
118	why are inside lights on in the middle of the night in the schools? if 57fest requires town funds GET RID OF IT	1/18/2020 10:19 AM
119	Why is 57 Fest free? Charge admission or parking fee to raise money. The type of crowd that "free" attracts may not be desirable. Sports fields need to be more well-kept. New signage at the RecPlex and signs to mark each individual field is necessary.	1/18/2020 10:15 AM
120	Paramedic program is not needed. Shared service (Medic 3) is more cost effective. Also the CHFD has serious issues with BLS coverage at nights and on weekends. Volunteer incentive program needs to be enhanced or consider EMS only per diem staffing	1/18/2020 9:52 AM
121	Capitol improvement plans need to be better managed, the current situation of the fire department fleet of apparatus is in distress due to poor fund management	1/18/2020 9:26 AM
122	Not sure that entire tax payers money should go to school system. We spend too much on school not enough anywhere else. Let's make sure we have properly founded emergency services in town.	1/18/2020 9:03 AM
123	The town owns 42 plots at Linwood cemetery. They do not have perpetual care. The town was supposed to take care of them and they have not.	1/18/2020 8:29 AM
124	We need a realistic economic development budget	1/18/2020 7:46 AM
125	With the investment in the middle school the high school technology is very out of date and needs to be updated.	1/18/2020 6:49 AM

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

126	Great education system in Colchester. Would be ok with a tax increase to sustain/continue to improve upon the school system.	1/18/2020 12:27 AM
127	Schools continue to get too much and still not perform	1/17/2020 10:24 PM
128	Would like to see more police coverage during the latenight shifts	1/17/2020 10:14 PM
129	I hope to see better information about the budget process in the future.	1/17/2020 9:46 PM
130	Why will the families who get into the pre-k program through the lottery be discriminated against & have to pay \$250/mo. while the other students do not need to pay this? Isn't my child without a disability providing a service to the other children by being a role model?	1/17/2020 9:43 PM
131	The questions seem to be inappropriate. For instance there is a specific question about paramedic program and if it had a significant impact to the mill rate. That is unfairly worded. There were not questions specific to education budget programs and how they impact mill rate	1/17/2020 9:35 PM
132	We need economic development	1/17/2020 9:24 PM
133	Move the police to 24/7	1/17/2020 9:20 PM
134	N/a	1/17/2020 9:14 PM
135	Increase fire dept spending to take care of aging and better support your volunteers	1/17/2020 9:13 PM

**Q22 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?**

Answered: 144 Skipped: 295

# 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	see comment separately due to length	2/3/2020 7:52 PM
2	comment on 57b fest: ask the venders to chip in. Build the Senior center	2/3/2020 7:42 PM
3	Kentucky fried chicken	2/3/2020 7:20 PM
4	submit separately due to length of content.	2/3/2020 7:08 PM
5	Cut unneeded "Nice to have" programs	2/2/2020 1:25 PM
6	Senior center to be opened later during the week and possibly for weekend events.	2/1/2020 7:19 PM
7	The main reason we are planning on moving out of town is that the taxes keep going up, education spending keeps going up (we have no kids) and we have to pay to bring garbage to the transfer station. Honestly, we aren't getting anything for our over 7 thousand per year in taxes.	2/1/2020 5:47 PM
8	Allow more commercial business into town, specific areas. Trash pickup or free transfer station access for regular household trash!	2/1/2020 2:04 PM
9	variety of small businesses	2/1/2020 12:52 PM
10	I have a few small ideas I'd love to share (working in conjunction with the public library or services like the food bank), but as referred to in a previous comment, I'm looking for where to start to be a part of the process myself.	2/1/2020 10:46 AM
11	Speed bumps in highly residential areas.	2/1/2020 10:13 AM
12	Retail or a small department store so that residents dont have to travel so far to meet those needs. Also te town should look into more field space as our recreation programs are a big draw for families.	2/1/2020 10:10 AM
13	Community center, including senior center in the building.	2/1/2020 10:05 AM
14	No	2/1/2020 10:00 AM
15	would love to have an indoor pool somewhere in town	2/1/2020 9:58 AM
16	Trash pickup, street lights in our neighborhood.	2/1/2020 9:48 AM
17	Need a Walmart or target type store	2/1/2020 9:04 AM
18	I think services are good. I think people need to realize that if you want to live in a small town, you can't expect big town services without paying for it. I look at the big houses being built and I ask myself how will they relate to me as a senior? One thing that really bothers me is the cars speeding down these small streets. Elm Street got speed bumps, can we get some cars to slow down?	1/31/2020 11:42 PM
19	Please clean up areas of town that look neglected, especially areas along Broadway. Corner of rt 85 and Broadway looks particularly bad.	1/31/2020 8:36 PM
20	Business development?	1/31/2020 5:49 PM
21	Go back to trash pick up. Or at least CHRISTMAS TREES. Us seniors cant get the ground up and can't affor to pay	1/31/2020 5:18 PM
22	No	1/31/2020 4:40 PM
23	There are many programs that other schools offer that Colchester has not had the resources to offer until now or have lost in recent years such as some of the gifted and talented programs. We must aim high and set stretch goals for bringing our schools to the next level. This has ramifications beyond our students and	1/31/2020 4:29 PM

2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

	staff. Quality of schools are by far the most listed reason when people are deciding where to live.	
24	swimming pool facility	1/31/2020 8:45 AM
25	No	1/30/2020 5:05 PM
26	no	1/30/2020 9:58 AM
27	Construction of new senior center	1/30/2020 6:40 AM
28	An New senior center	1/29/2020 10:35 PM
29	I BELIEVE THERE CAN BE BETTER LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWN HALL, LIBRARY AND SENIOR CENTER	1/29/2020 8:54 PM
30	More Concerts on the Green	1/29/2020 8:34 PM
31	not at this time	1/29/2020 7:33 PM
32	town wide trash pickup included in the tax bill	1/29/2020 7:17 PM
33	At one time in your budget you had an allotment of \$100,000 to have police coverage 24/7 by Colchester police and you decided to take it out of the budget.	1/29/2020 3:32 PM
34	Not that I can think of.	1/29/2020 3:23 PM
35	Our senior center is not adequate, extremely outdated. Our surrounding towns have much better facilities.	1/29/2020 2:36 PM
36	Maintain rec plex fields for all sports, to include field lining, and turf maintenance, irrigation.	1/29/2020 11:12 AM
37	We need a proper senior center with an exercise room.	1/29/2020 8:45 AM
38	no	1/29/2020 8:16 AM
39	Senior center activities in evening to serve 55+ who still work. Make the center more active for the younger seniors	1/29/2020 7:59 AM
40	Please we have to be investing in the green new deal.	1/28/2020 11:00 PM
41	Please, please, please concentrate on a new Senior Center for the increasing elder population in order to hold more services/classes. We need a cleaner, modern environment.	1/28/2020 10:38 PM
42	See previous answers. Also, I would like a CPR course provided free to residents.	1/28/2020 9:05 PM
43	No	1/28/2020 9:04 PM
44	Swimming pool or access to Hemlocks pool More diverse Senior Center programs	1/28/2020 8:55 PM
45	no - I live close to center of town and am pleased with services here	1/28/2020 7:59 PM
46	No	1/28/2020 7:46 PM
47	Better transportation.	1/28/2020 7:46 PM
48	Perhaps rec activities where people pay a bit to participate and other such rec programs, tai chi in the park. There are schools in other places where older children help younger children with schoolwork, providing positive experiences for both children at no cost. A dance company or performances open to the public of local theater and dance companies	1/28/2020 7:21 PM



## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

49	I don't think we can justify the paramedic program.	1/28/2020 7:00 PM
50	No	1/28/2020 6:48 PM
51	A new Senior center and more programs.	1/28/2020 6:46 PM
52	No	1/28/2020 6:12 PM
53	Up date Senior Center	1/28/2020 5:15 PM
54	Due to our 49 square mile size, very wooded areas, differences in service areas for internet companies and age of their equipment, is there anything that can be done by/through town, to research and offer an option of internet service to citizens through a town contract OR a collaborative/assn contract for better service throughout town. This is often source of series of comments on Colchester social media sites where service down often (Comcast/Frontier), or in my case My Frontier service for phone and internet is over \$80.00 with only 1MB of service where advertise in our area for 6MB. (Due to fixed income in retirement do not have cable tv/ economize) Aren't there other town(s) that has own electricity service provider. Why not something else to benefit citizens where there are problems in service?	1/28/2020 4:46 PM
55	public transportation, better exercise facilities for those out of school (ex: swimming pool)--fund it with \$\$\$ from school cutbacks.	1/28/2020 4:07 PM
56	Na	1/28/2020 3:54 PM
57	no	1/28/2020 3:45 PM
58	section 8 housing and or housing authority	1/28/2020 3:28 PM
59	no	1/28/2020 3:27 PM
60	No	1/28/2020 3:12 PM
61	new senior center	1/28/2020 3:11 PM
62	n/c	1/28/2020 3:05 PM
63	No	1/28/2020 3:03 PM
64	No.	1/28/2020 2:46 PM
65	We need to build the new senior center and make the town more walkable with sidewalk upgrades, especially on Lebanon Avenue. What happened to the Grant applied for new sidewalks on Lebanon Ave, from the Hideaway Bar and up the hill to the new Apartments being built?	1/28/2020 2:34 PM
66	We desperately need 24 hour Police Protection.	1/28/2020 2:33 PM
67	More open hours on town dump. Lower costs for dumping bulk items such as furniture, etc.	1/28/2020 2:25 PM
68	Sr financial counseling	1/28/2020 2:23 PM
69	Yes, there was a once a year bulky item pick-up many years ago. I would like to see that again even with a slight fee attached	1/28/2020 2:20 PM
70	No	1/28/2020 2:13 PM
71	I wish our town was more open to having additional business come here. I feel I end up leaving our town so much to get better prices and selection on stuff I need for my household b/c it's too expensive here or we just don't have it for sale. Please let more business come here!! Also PLEASE put money towards are	1/28/2020 1:24 PM

# 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

	fields, its an embarrassment how bad they are, especially our playground.	
72	Lining fields.	1/28/2020 12:47 PM
73	No	1/28/2020 9:12 AM
74	Again, an improved Police and Fire.	1/26/2020 3:04 PM
75	Keep us rural	1/26/2020 11:36 AM
76	More emphasis on culture and the arts	1/26/2020 10:19 AM
77	Leaf Pick-up. Snowplow Operators that do NOT destroy the curbing	1/26/2020 10:04 AM
78	24/7 police coverage. On a budget vote years back they said if budget passed 1st time we would get 24/7 police coverage. Budget passed and we didn't get the 24/7 police coverage	1/25/2020 10:25 PM
79	Change dump hours to better fit residents schedules. It is difficult to get to with current hours	1/25/2020 8:08 PM
80	New Senior Center	1/25/2020 7:53 PM
81	Town swimming pool - in conjunction with future improvements to Senior Center??	1/25/2020 4:13 PM
82	I like living in Colchester and have enjoyed the last 5 years	1/25/2020 2:33 PM
83	We need businesses to pay the taxes instead of increasing the personal mill rate. We need to get new businesses in Colchester. Stop and Shop needs a major competitor like Aldi or Whole Foods. We need a vegan restaurant like ION in Middletown. Thank you.	1/25/2020 1:34 PM
84	Provide more information regarding proposed developments of all kinds. The public notices are rather obscure and minimalist. If people know more about a new business or housing being proposed near their residence, they might more actively follow and comment on it.	1/25/2020 11:57 AM
85	No	1/25/2020 10:41 AM
86	new senior ctr.	1/25/2020 10:39 AM
87	N/A	1/25/2020 9:14 AM
88	I think the high school needs a turf field. It can't withstand all the sports played throughout the year. Not saying town needs to pay all of it, Major fundraising would be needed but it would increase the flexibility of use.	1/25/2020 9:10 AM
89	No	1/25/2020 8:51 AM
90	Freeze in taxes for seniors	1/24/2020 8:22 PM
91	No	1/24/2020 5:15 PM
92	For the amount of taxes we pay trash pick up should be included, as a bare minimum. You put so much money in eduction and ignore everything else.	1/24/2020 5:02 PM
93	Sunday Library Hours	1/23/2020 4:24 PM
94	24 hour policing	1/22/2020 6:29 PM
95	Not that I can think of.	1/22/2020 8:39 AM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

96	We need to find a way to attract more businesses to Colchester to increase our tax base, while at the same time maintain the sense of small town with open space that is a big part of what makes Colchester a great place to live.	1/21/2020 7:58 PM
97	I think we need to spend money to get money. This town has so much potential but money needs to be invested in the town. I am ok with a tax increase to have better services within town hall and throughout town.	1/21/2020 11:41 AM
98	Old car dealer across from post office: indoor skate, swimming, something to add to growing population	1/20/2020 10:08 PM
99	there are services I wish they didn't	1/20/2020 7:57 AM
100	I'd like to see the town pick up the trash instead of this current system. Secondly I honestly don't see the need for a police department but if were going to have one please get them safe vehicles someone is going to get hurt in those old pieces of junk one of these days and it's going to be our fault for not providing them the proper equipment.	1/19/2020 11:58 PM
101	Police dept after midnight	1/19/2020 8:53 PM
102	Listen to the top 3 desires.	1/19/2020 6:56 PM
103	I have been wishing for years that the Town would build a public pool. The closest public pool we can access is in Glastonbury.	1/19/2020 6:31 PM
104	can't think of anything at the moment	1/19/2020 1:00 PM
105	not without increasing or adding more to the budget	1/19/2020 11:42 AM
106	Ride services from private homes to local businesses; grocery stores, doctors offices. Taxis/Uber/Lyft Seniors relying on Senior transportation is limiting.	1/19/2020 11:41 AM
107	How to address demographic trends that will impact budget, services and quality of life. No questions about regional or shared services.	1/19/2020 6:26 AM
108	No	1/18/2020 9:14 PM
109	No	1/18/2020 8:24 PM
110	The town needs to start providing firefighter paramedics on duty 24/7.	1/18/2020 7:17 PM
111	Unsure	1/18/2020 6:46 PM
112	Unsure	1/18/2020 5:34 PM
113	Provide a larger variety of stores and restaurants.	1/18/2020 3:50 PM
114	Weekly concerts on the Green - we missed those. We wish there had been more last summer. Town rec center with an indoor pool? It would be great to have a local open swim area.	1/18/2020 3:38 PM
115	No	1/18/2020 3:33 PM
116	Colchester needs to be smart about its planning and growth to avoid an increase in housing that requires services and reduces open space which requires little to no services. We have plenty of small retail space and businesses should be sought to fill the vacancies in them.	1/18/2020 1:24 PM
117	Improve schools	1/18/2020 12:08 PM
118	I just think we have our priorities mixed up. Look at how other district's budget, how can we most effectively use our tax dollars? How can we make it easier to open and maintain a business in town?	1/18/2020 11:12 AM

## 2020-2021 Colchester Budget Survey

SurveyMonkey

119	Already mentioned. Money for sports and after school bussing	1/18/2020 10:34 AM
120	I wish we had a town pool and swim teams.	1/18/2020 10:28 AM
121	have a maintenance plan vs replacement plan for public buildings ie schools	1/18/2020 10:19 AM
122	Would love to see business development that is more up-scale: ie - no more fast food establishments and drive-thrus. Try to maintain a small town feel.	1/18/2020 10:15 AM
123	Marlborough Parks and rec. have connected with Hemlocks for aquacise classes can this become available for Colchester residents?	1/18/2020 10:04 AM
124	Please invest in public safety. Take a look at Hebron, they take care of their first responders and equipment despite having a much smaller tax base. The fact that we're borrowing fire trucks from other towns should be a big indicator that we haven't properly funded them. Colchester used to be the shining star for other agencies, now our aging fleet and lack of investment in our volunteers makes us a joke.	1/18/2020 9:55 AM
125	A paramedic program would greatly help the town	1/18/2020 9:26 AM
126	Safer main roads at night. We need to make sure town considers installing LED lights on main roads, Let's not wait until we get more accidents. There is no excuse to have route 16 as dark as it is now. It's so hard to drive on 16 at night. It's 2020 you know.	1/18/2020 9:03 AM
127	Better sidewalks for walk ability downtown, and more investment in economic development	1/18/2020 8:58 AM
128	Taxes need to stay at the current rate in lieu of all the CT state tax increases on its residents. Our school budget should also not increase with the decline in student population. However I would like to see a refurbished or new senior center for our aging population!	1/18/2020 8:48 AM
129	Cleaning your plots at Linwood cemetery	1/18/2020 8:29 AM
130	Fire apparatus might need replacing, but effort should be made to properly staff the firehouses! There is a severe shortage of consistent competent emergency responses.	1/18/2020 8:20 AM
131	24/7 police force. The crime at night while we sleep is very much a concern.	1/18/2020 8:19 AM
132	See other comments I made in this survey: all apply to this question.	1/18/2020 8:06 AM
133	Instead of focusing on a "senior center", we should be thinking of all ages and focus on a structure that would serve all ages	1/18/2020 7:07 AM
134	Provides way too much already. I should not be paying for some of the services that are 100% the responsibility of parents.	1/17/2020 11:54 PM
135	I'm not sure what the zoning allows as of now but I do wish Colchester promoted a denser and more walkable town center and surrounding areas. The reality is no one wants a tax increase but still wants more services and the same rural environment. Well I believe an avenue to consider is a denser town center and surrounding areas so we may have an increase in consumers and small business that will lead to more tax revenue. If people live near their needs and source of income, having a car becomes an option not a necessity. That means money that would be spent on the vehicle, gas, insurance, upkeep, would go to other things in our local economy.	1/17/2020 10:25 PM
136	Without monies to support no reason to ask	1/17/2020 10:24 PM
137	Garbage and how about the dump be open more than two days a week. When there is a little bit of snow or heavy rain, they don't open. What is up with that? I showed up there once at 3pm and they locked the gate on me and wouldnt let me in. It was 3PM. That is very frustrating especially when i was there early just had to wait my turn.	1/17/2020 10:14 PM
138	24/7 police shifts.	1/17/2020 9:47 PM
139	I have lived here for over 22 years and this is the first time I've seen a survey like this. I think it's a good tool. I'd like to see more transparency in local	1/17/2020 9:46 PM

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	government.	
140	None. No.	1/17/2020 9:43 PM
141	I believe that it is important to consider prioritizing spending and cutting we have neglected to spend money over the past several years that needs to be spent to provide safety security and infrastructure for residents while allowing overspending in other areas. We need to be ore fiscally responsible there is a difference between fiscally responsible and fiscally conservative. We need to be more responsible and spend more effectively.	1/17/2020 9:35 PM
142	N/a	1/17/2020 9:14 PM
143	Increase fire dept spending to better your volunteers	1/17/2020 9:13 PM
144	Wish we had an indoor pool.	1/17/2020 6:43 PM

## 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?

A new Senior Center, what we have is too small and doesn't provide enough parking. People from other towns are joining our Center which is proof that we have wonderful services. we also need more help to run this organization since it has grown so big. Our bus service for medical and social living is wonderful. And that goes for the staff as well, it is the reason I moved to Colchester and was the first place I stopped in at to see what it had to offer.

## Additional Comments

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what happen to hells hill paving last year,

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Get each Dept. To work together,  
other then saying not my job.

Tell your town  
workers people  
are listening to them,  
AND knock off the radio  
talks we don't need to hear  
now please look.

Town Needs a Town Center.

with a pool. A place to use if we need to put people  
in if power out, summer and winter a place where  
people can get food, in need, when (Town wide Emergency)  
A place to be used for town meeting, town plays,  
Seating for 500 people with a play stand,

We could move in youth Center, Senior Center, Town Services  
It could have town showers.

It could be used as a area EOC, for area towns,  
walk in Coldens and freezers, Big kitchen, storage area to hold materials  
read to eat,

why Don't town Do.

Get ready ahead of time when we all know that we could get  
hit with bad weather.

F.D. called out for tree down, F.D. calls T.P.W. and the show up and  
have to go back and get a saw, why didn't they get cones signs and  
tape, and saw with gas can in pickup. Before leaving at 3pm. to get called back.  
at 5:30pm. That. This to get P.W.G. then Drive out to other side of town to drive back to  
to get saw, and the back to cut tree and remove the tree.  
That to me is how you waste money and F.D. time.