

CITIZEN BUDGET RESULTS
Town of Hinton, Alberta
November 13th, 2017



Online Budget Consultation Report

For the period September 14 to November 10, 2017

Prepared by Open North for: Town of Hinton

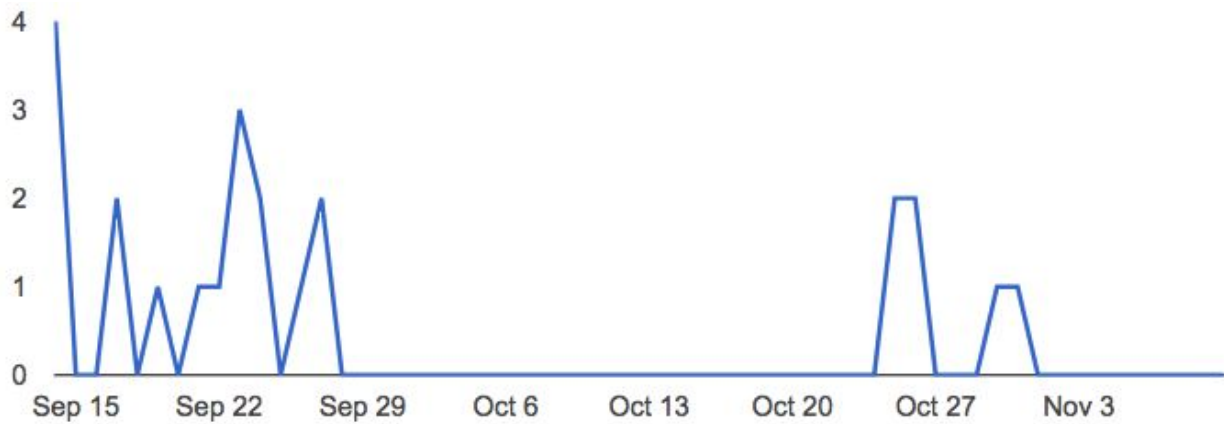
24

Responses

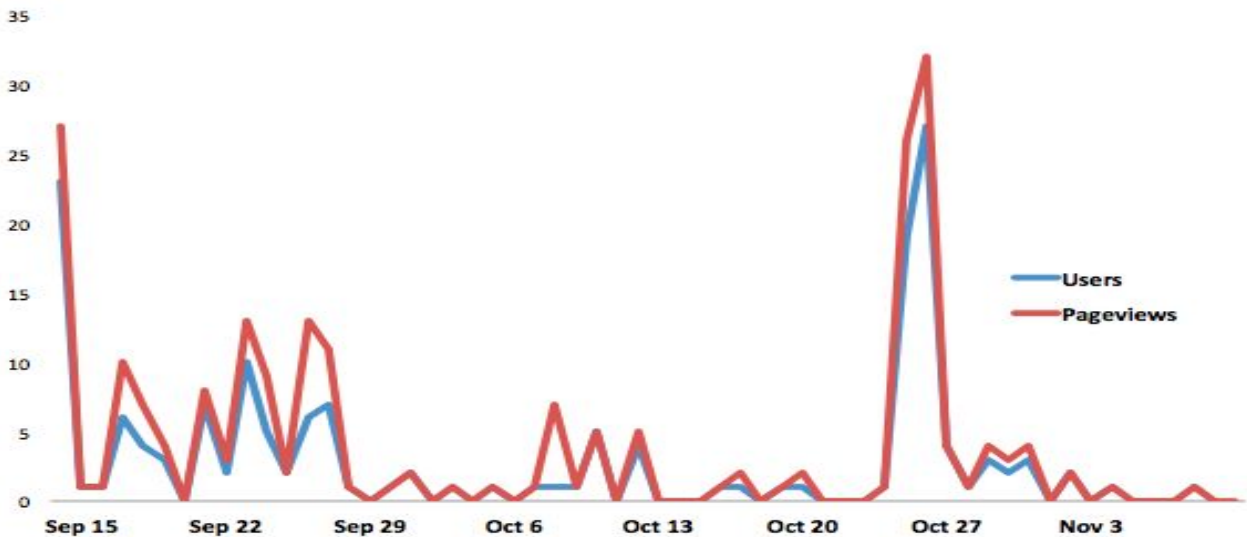
9 minutes

Median time to complete

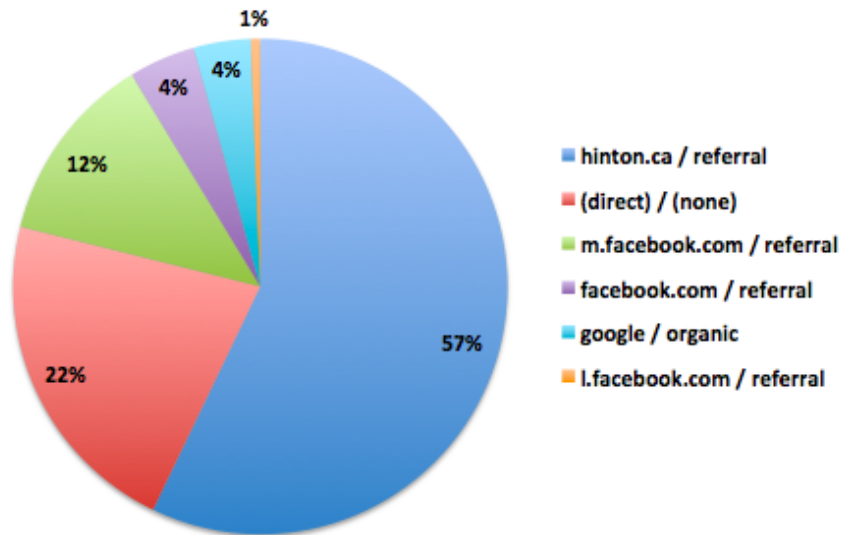
Responses per Day



Total Number Visitors: 163



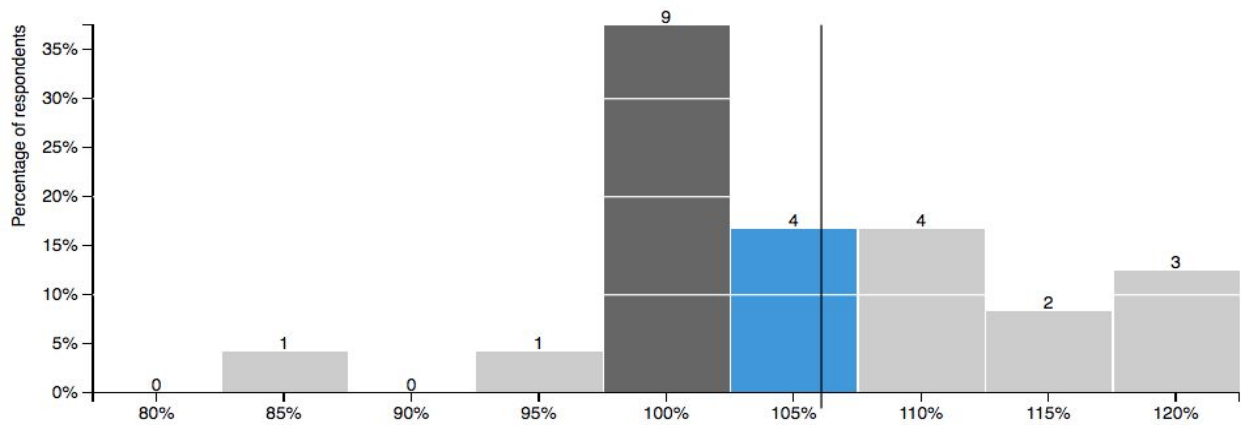
Web Traffic Sources



Questions

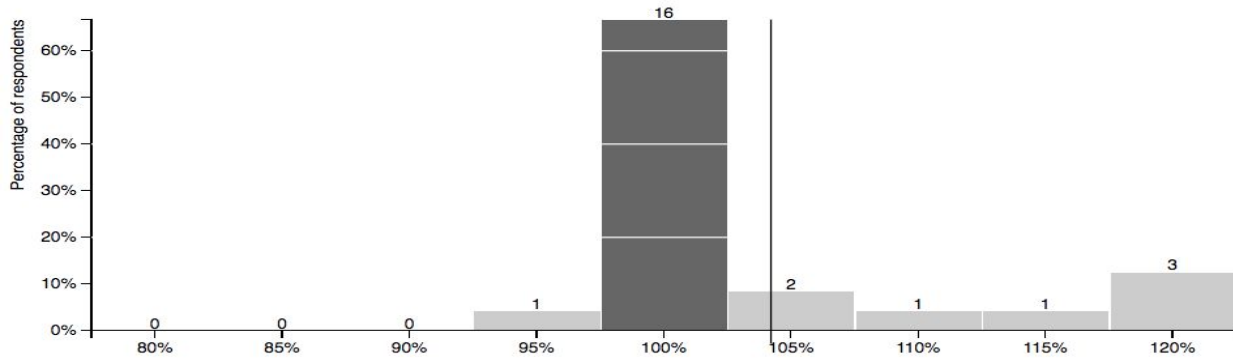
Road & Sidewalk Maintenance

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for roads, sidewalks, and snow removal?



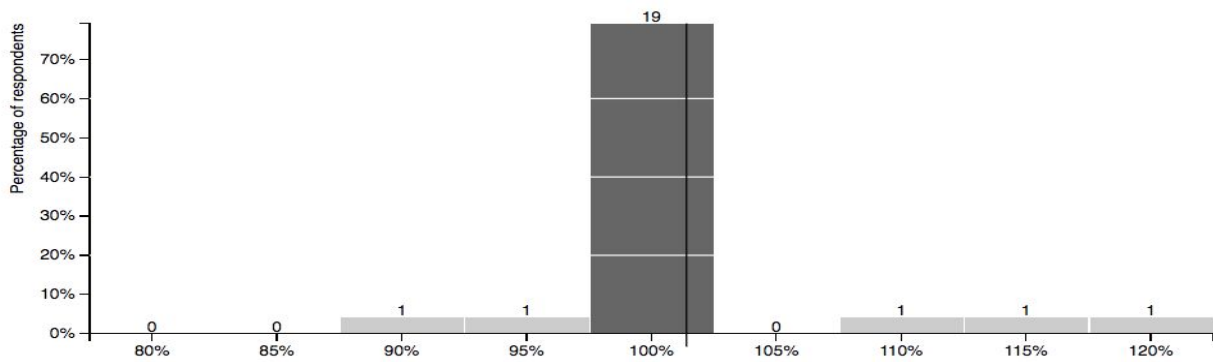
Waste Management

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for waste management?



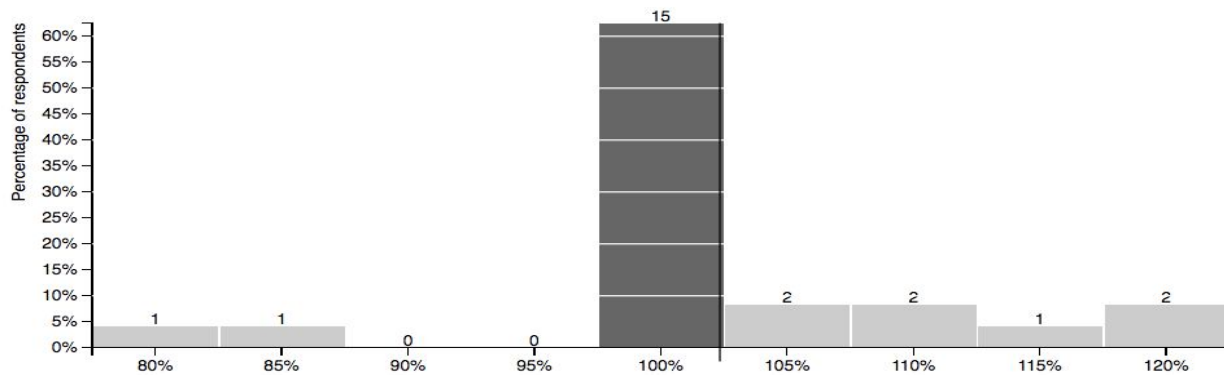
Fire Rescue Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for the fire department?



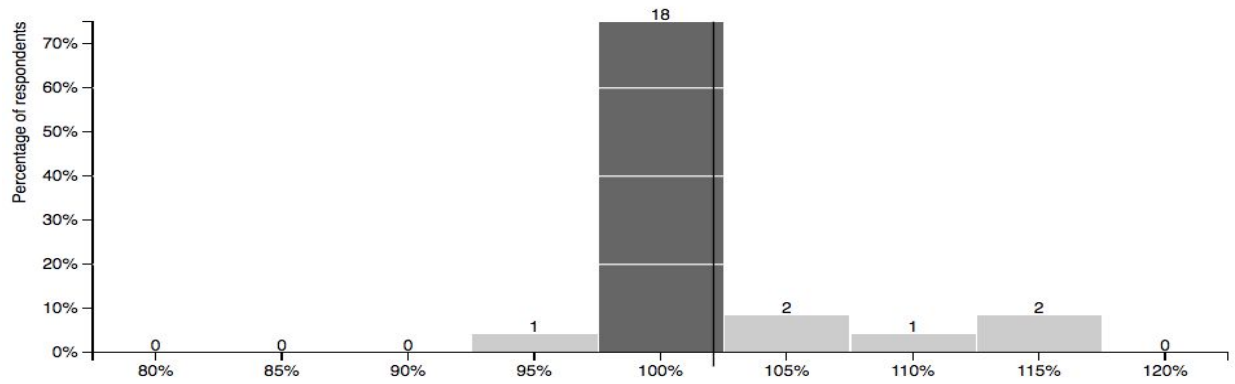
Protective Services (Bylaw)

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for protective services?



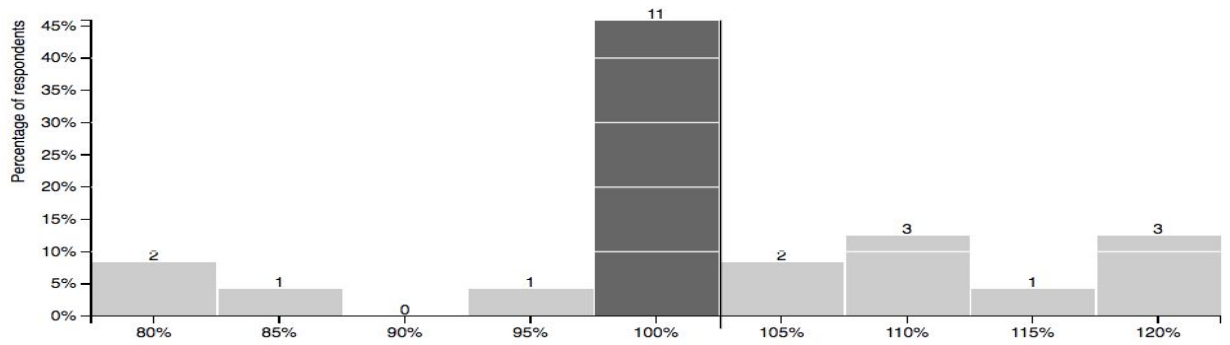
Policing Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for policing?



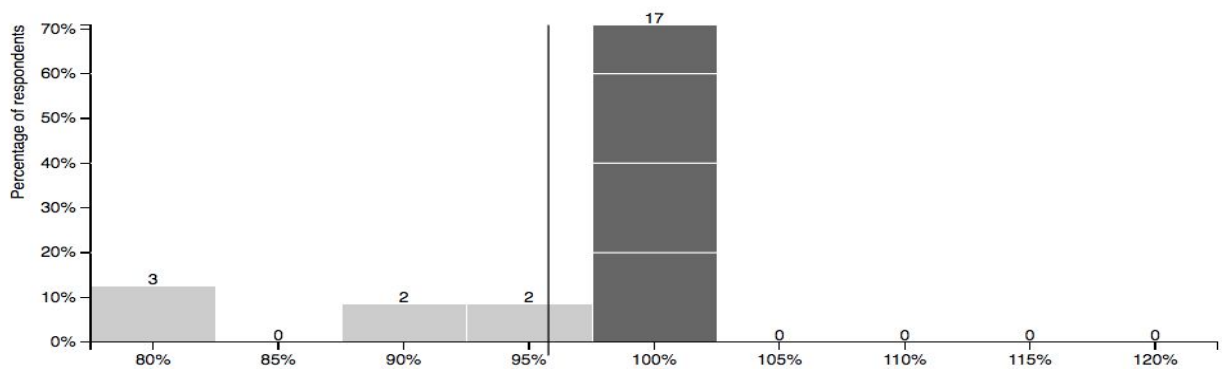
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for FCSS?



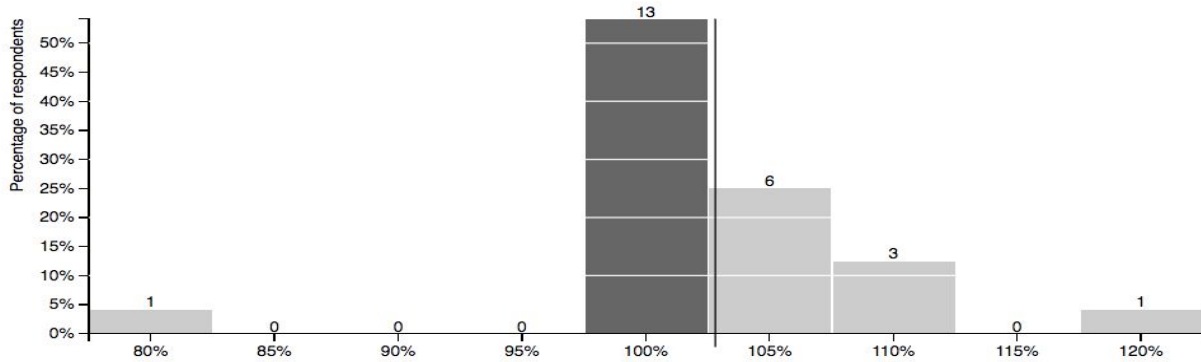
Transit System and Bussing

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for the transit system?



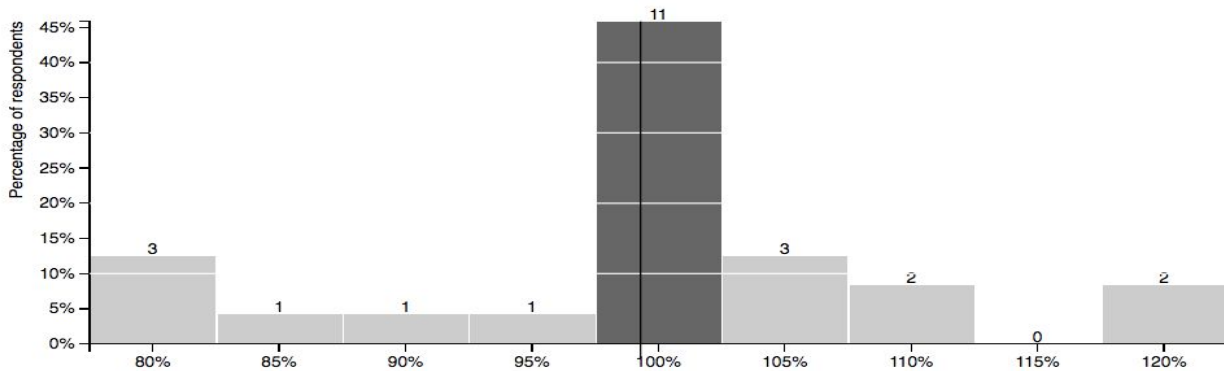
Parks & Recreation

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for parks and recreation?



Arts, Culture, Heritage & Library

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for arts, culture, heritage, and library initiatives?



What are your top three priorities for the Town of Hinton, in terms of municipal budgeting, over the next twelve months?

1. Curbside recycling	2. Better animal control	3. Investing in maintaining our infrastructure
Raise taxes while raising levels of service	Ensure a return on investment where possible	Be proactive with protection (Disaster and emergency management)

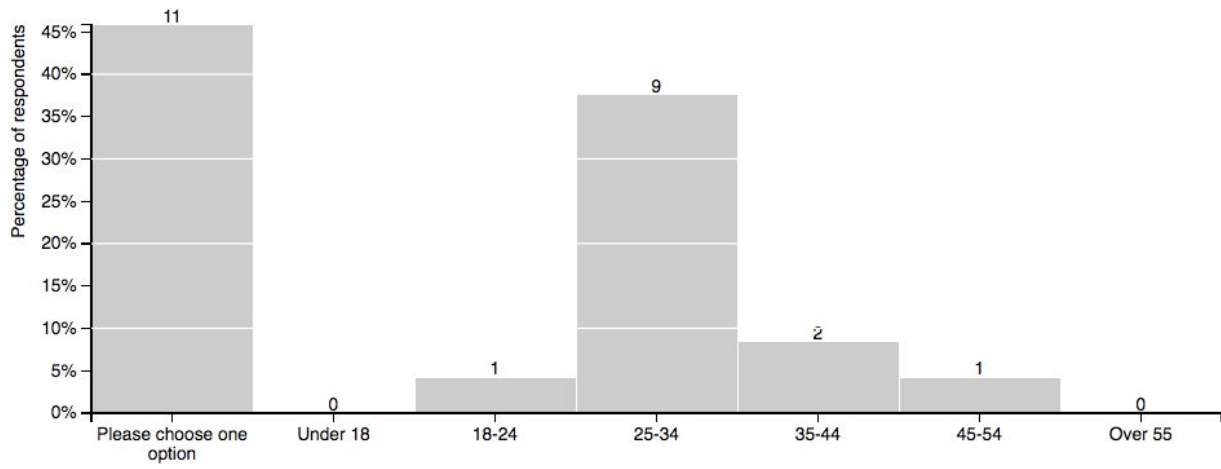
Get a handle on the rec centre money - no way we should be spending a great deal on this. Some, but let's remember Grande Cache.	Move ahead with innovative ideas - geothermal being one - support it through town budgeting	
Fire department services	Victim services increased	Snow removal
no more participatory budget	no more special interest group funding i.e. Spring hockey challenge	maintain public parks, paths and roads
Roads	Children activities	Police
Arts and Culture	Recreation complex	infrastructure
Have more kid friendly places	Trails	Bring more stores into town
A reasonable tax increase	Putting money aside for major projects	Maintaining services
Balanced budget	Bring underdeveloped lots up to average service levels	Improve town activity venues
Waste Management	Snow Removal	Community Support Services
Proper planning for a pool and rec centre upgrade	Continued support for the arts	Continued support for the outdoor trail system, and planning for future upgrades
Infrastructure maintenance	modest budget	public access to gov spending
Fix the beaverboardwalk by releveling--it's simple maintenance!!	Develop Riverfront Park as a year round facility	Pave the Curling club parking lot
Curbside recycling	Better animal control	Investing in maintaining our infrastructure

What are your budgeting priorities over the next four years?

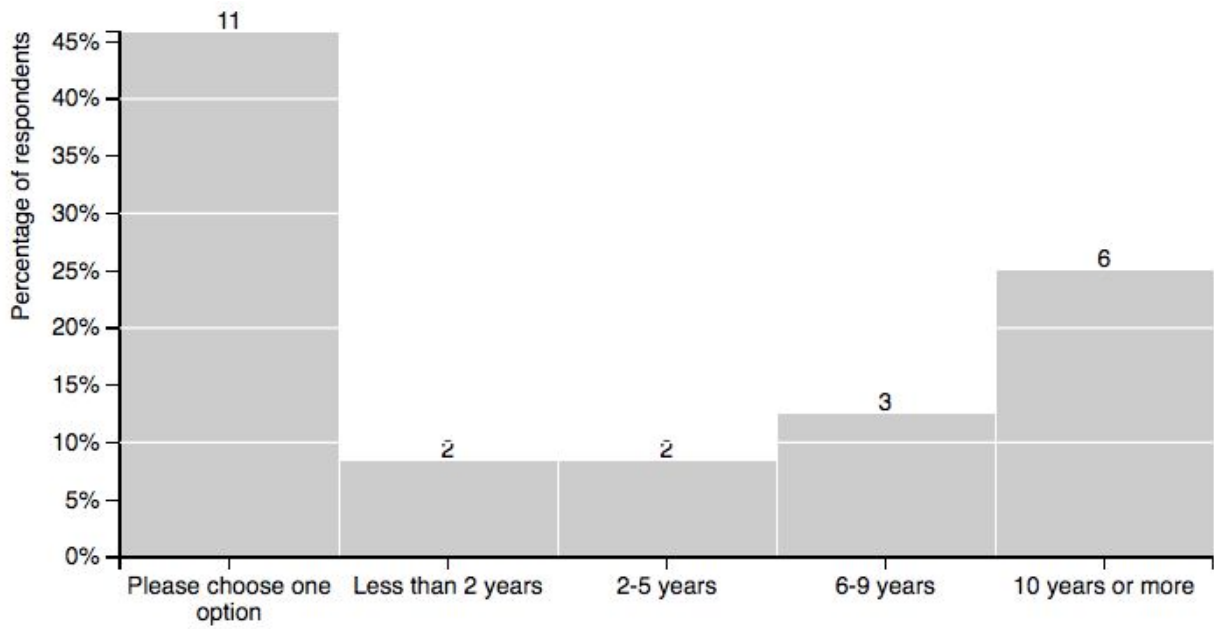
1. Raise taxes while raising levels of service	2. Be proactive with protection (Disaster and emergency management)	3. Ensure accountability of departments in their spending
Increased protective services as a whole	Family services (ie. Disabilities, seniors)	Water management
maintain public parks, paths and roads	no more geothermal spending	reduce debt before considering expanded facilities
Road repairs/snow removal	Children activities	Policing
infrastructure	Recreation complex	Arts and Culture
Save for a new pool	Replace aging underground infrastructure	Consistent, but minimal tax increases
Balanced budget	Bring underdeveloped lots up to average service levels	Improve town activity venues
Pay off debt	Support facilities in town	Administration of the town
Same as above		
Live within my means	move somewhere a normal person can afford an acreage	invest
Hold services at current levels generally, we are well served.	Let's be bold with environmental initiatives	Put funds away for the future Rec Centre renovation project

Contact Information

Age



Residency



Comments

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for roads, sidewalks, and snow removal?

I live on a busy street and I feel this would be justified
I think road and sidewalk maintenance is already great!
Roads like wanyandi and underdeveloped streets could use repairs and upgrades.
Seems steep for the once/year my street is plowed.
Side roads do not need to be cleared very often. I grew up in Calgary and the side roads were NEVER cleared.
Snow removal is not a major concern for me, it is fine as it is. The increase in this area needs to happen to fix outdated infrastructure that is going down hill. We need to be proactive in fixing this.

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for waste management?

Collect garbage every TWO weeks - this would encourage people to recycle, reduce and reuse. We have recycling facilities and people need to be pushed to use them. We encourage laziness and wastefulness by weekly pickups. Landfill is well maintained and organized - keep it up.
I am very happy with this service. I
I believe hinton's waste management system and recycling - although recently upgraded - is still embarrassing behind environmental needs. Having travelled through BC and AB this summer I'm so disheartened that we have to PAY for curbside recycling and that our town does not see a real problem with our garbage bins being the size they are. In communities with mandatory recycling and curb side pickup, their garbage bins are almost 1/3 of the size. Then we have the "dump" which is also outdated and in desperate need of modernization. As "the gateway to the Rockies" one would like to think we'd be doing more to preserve the nature we seem to be so proud of.
I suggest garbage collection and recycling rates move to FULL COST recovery, so we can use extra tax funds to pay for some minor capital items that are needed to fix up Hinton.
I would like to see municipal curbside recycling pickup.
Increase levels of recycle efforts across the town while lowering the amount of recyclable materials that are just put in the landfill.
Very reasonable.

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for the fire department?

Emergency management and disaster services need to become more proactive to avoid the disruptions that are caused by man-made and natural disasters. The town is situated on a significant rail and road transport corridor, we have several potential threats from industry, and Alberta has the most and costliest natural disasters of any province in Canada. What is happening in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with wildfires is not going to go away before things get worse and we need to be prepared across the board. This doesn't necessarily fit in Fire Rescue Services but should be a stand alone position ensuring that all departments, population demographics, and stakeholders are accounted for in planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. Emergency Social Services, public engagement, stakeholder relations, and hazard vulnerability risk assessments need to be should be expanded not only for direct effects of emergency situations but take into account our neighbouring communities that will be displaced to us in the event of issues in Jasper, Grande Cache, Edson, Yellowhead County. So many parts of this are not accounted for with time from current positions being used up with

existing priorities.
Maintain.
Overstaffed, and not proactive with fire inspections.
The fire department needs to attend to the Fire Smart area that is growing in and getting filled with pine beetle branches which should have been removed. These branches are a fire waiting to occur - especially in the bike park trail area that is heavily used.

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for protective services?

Better animal control
I would increase enforcement of off leash and at large animals. I often see dogs off leash that are not "under control" by their owners. If the dog is able to approach me or my children before they are recalled by their owner, I don't consider them "under control". I have no idea if the dog is friendly or not and it makes me nervous. We also have a neighbour that has a small dog that always uses our lawn to poo on. The owner does not have a fence nor does he ever tie up the dog.
If the peace officer did anything more than ticket minor traffic violations I can see the use for him. Other than that the RCMP does a fine job. More attention needs to be put on animal bylaws for sure.
Need more police and bylaw to take care of the insane amount of complaints bylaw doesn't take care of especially animal ones that's why I deal with the last few months the town sucks in responding to complaints!!!! And I am finished with it!
There is a serious lack of animal control in this town. There are repeat nuisance animal continuously loose in this town and never and NO system in place to deal with it. My understanding was there were issues keeping a control officer in place for a while, but there obviously needs to be a better system implemented for the towns safety.

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for policing?

I would also like a continued support from our town to STARS This is an essential service in rural Alberta
Need more police
Too many yard thefts, break-ins. More local patrolling needed.

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for FCSS?

I believe more support needs to go to things such as the Hinton Indoor Playground, or something like them. We have long winters and with all of the outdoor things available in this town - where are the little occupants of this town suppose to stay active and healthy during our long winters?
IF they are sponsoring community dinners they have too much money.
Indoor play ground
Under utalized services through FCSS

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for the transit system?

12.26 will get you a cab ride almost anywhere in town, 7 days a week, 24hrs a day. Probably a better way is to provide seniors cab fare?
Although I think the public transit system was an asset to put into the town, I've reccomended

some increases, so there has to be some decreases.
Seems too expensive
Subsidy is too high.

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for parks and recreation?

Access to our pool is continually limited and inaccessible to youth at risk as most evening/weekend slots were removed or restricted over all poorly managed with unbalanced access to services including aqua fit that is free during most people's hours of employment with no alternative offered
I think our parks are well maintained and that we have good access to recreational opportunities. Especially for a Town our size.
I would be interested in the new proposal of the recreation centre and how tax dollars would be spent there. I like how money is used for the outdoor trail system, but I am disappointed in the recreation centre, particularly the pool.
I'd reccomeded taking some of the funding from this sector and use it to help fund some sort of INDOOR PARK for our children. Let's be realistic - we live in a very cold climate 6 months do the year. So I'd decrease this and re direct it to FCSS.
If you build it (reasonably) they will come. In order to grow we need to offer facilities that are adequate for our needs now and in the future. We need to increase our spending here in order to move forward.
Indoor playground. Updates to indoor pool
Let's get the beaverboard walk fixed. It just takes some maintenance effort by the capable parks crew....not a study !!
More upkeep is needed at playgrounds around town. Better patrolling at night, clean up of vandalism, better lighting etc
Offset with user pay system. Why should struggling taxpayers pay for other peoples ice time?
Spend the extra where public have access not on groups like minor hockey. I hope user groups are entirely funding the silly early arena season. Maintain outdoor courts, paths, boardwalk.
Too top heavy - reduce the staff - Parks and Rec Supervisor does very little and should be replaced with many going into better quality trail maintenance and boardwalk care. Big step up needed in effort by two workers in this dept.
We really need more indoor activitys for the winter, our family really misses the indoor playground, it's hard to find activities for small children. We have swimming but for a family like mine I need two adults to do it safely. Our community needs somewhere affordable for us to bring our children expecially during the winter months. We really miss having the indoor playground. Parent link is great but it's just not the same as the indoor playground was.

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain funding for arts, culture, heritage, and library initiatives?

I can't tell you how many times I've heard from people in town "why don't we have this event here? Edson has way more community events." I don't think we're lacking volunteers to get things going, but what we are lacking are the funds to back up and support arts and culture. If we want top notch community events, we need to put money into it. Whether it be fixing infrastructure, recreation facilities or arts and culture, it doesn't matter, we need to increase taxes in order to keep young families in town. I'm a home-owner, family of 5, single income, and if my taxes went up \$200 a year, it wouldn't put me out in the slightest, but it would significantly improve the amenities of Hinton so that people would want to stay here and be apart of the exciting things we can accomplish.
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I support more the arts, culture and heritage initiatives, than the library.
Less towards the performing arts and more directed to the library. I know the world is leaning towards technology, but we need to keep books and those resources available to our children. My children enjoy our trips to the library - and they have iPads!
Let's ensure that these key services are adequately funded. The game played with the library board by last council was embarrassing.
More children programs at the library
Not interested in anything but the library
This web page is missing the last 3 categories of the budget.....