

## 2026 Draft Survey Questions

Q.1 Who are you?

Q.2 How old are you?

Q.3 In which ward are you located? – [Link to ward map?](#)

Q.4 How familiar are you with how the Town develops its annual budget?

### **Q.5 The Town follows a multi-year operating budget approval process**

The Town creates a multi-year budget aligned with the Council's term, ensuring strategic planning and tax levy stability. In year one, Council receives a one-year operating budget with a three-year outlook. In year two, a three-year operating budget is proposed. In the final two years, the budget review's focus is on necessary changes to what was previously endorsed.

**Q.5.1** How familiar are you with the process used to develop the Town's annual budget?

### **Q.6 The operating budget allocates funds to provide a large number of services to residents and businesses**

Inflation and growth challenge the Town's ability to maintain service levels that its citizens expect, increasing budget needs. Growth costs are balanced by new development property taxes, while inflation or new services may lead to tax levy increases. The Town works hard to reduce inflation impacts through seeking efficiency savings but setting tax increases too low could lead to necessary service reductions.

**Q. 6.1** Which of the following options would you most prefer the Town use to balance its increasing costs?

- a. Increase taxes a little above the rate of inflation to provide for enhanced service levels such as expanded recreation amenities, without the need to cut services elsewhere to offset.
- b. Increase taxes by the rate of inflation; if services are enhanced in one area, these should be offset by a reduction to services elsewhere.
- c. Reduce existing service levels to have a tax increase below the rate of inflation.
- d. Don't know

The following table presents a summary of the Town's key service categories, including the proportion of each tax dollar collected that is allocated to each category.

	<b>Allocation of \$1.00</b>
Road Network Operations	\$ 0.10
Winter Management	\$ 0.04
Solid Waste Management	\$ 0.06
Town Facilities	\$ 0.16
Community Programs	\$ 0.08
Parks, Trails & Open Space	\$ 0.08
Cultural Services	\$ 0.04
Enforcement & Licencing	\$ 0.02
Animal Control	\$ 0.01
Community Planning	\$ (0.01)
Asset Renewal	\$ 0.14
Fire Services	\$ 0.21
Aurora Public Library	\$ 0.07
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 1.00</b>

**Q. 6.2** If you would like to reduce any existing service levels, for which services would you like to see a reduction? (list services above, including an option for none)

**Q. 6.3** Are there any services for which you would like to see a level of service enhancement? (list services above with an option for none)

**Q.6.4** Are there any NEW services that you would like the Town to offer? le. Windrow removal.

**Q.7 The Town strives to minimize the financial impact to taxpayers through maximizing the use of non-tax levy funding sources**

In addition to regularly seeking operating efficiencies, the Town strives to maximize the use of non-tax revenues such as grants and user fees.

**Q. 7.1** An alternative to increasing taxes is charging user fees for services. The Town typically increases all its fees annually in line with inflation. Would you be interested in increasing these fees further or creating new user fees for the following list of services?

- a) Increase recreation user fees (e.g. swimming, fitness classes, camps)
- b) Increase parking fines
- c) Increase facility rental fees
- d) New revenue from automated speed enforcement

- e) Increase administrative fees (e.g. documents, reminder notices on tax accounts, etc.)
- f) Increase in fees for garbage bag tags
- g) New fee for paper bill printing and postage where an e-billing option is provided
- h) Don't increase fees beyond inflation
- i) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.8 The goal of asset management is to deliver an adequate level of service in the most cost-effective manner**

Aurora manages \$2.3 billion in assets, all requiring future repairs or replacement. Like many Ontario municipalities, the Town's funding in support of its asset management is unsustainable, risking infrastructure performance decline. To maintain the Town's roads, streetlights, sidewalks, outdoor spaces, and facilities at their current levels of service a 1.63% dedicated annual tax increase for 15 years (\$41/year per resident) is needed. The Town is experiencing similar asset management funding challenges for its water, wastewater and storm water services.

**Q. 8.1** Do you support maintaining the existing levels of service for the Town's assets? For example, are you happy with the present condition of the Town's roads and facilities?

- a) I would like to maintain the Town's assets as they are today
- b) No, we need to improve the condition of Town assets (e.g. roads, facilities etc.)
- c) I think we should let our assets degrade further and reduce service levels

**Q 8.2** Would you be supportive of paying, on average, an additional \$41.00 per year in support of the Town's long term asset sustainability?

- a) Yes, I support this
- b) I would support a higher investment to maintain/improve asset conditions
- c) No, I don't support this

**Q. 9** Any other general feedback?