



The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie  
Budget Meeting of City Council  
Revised Agenda

Monday, December 8, 2025

5:00 pm

Council Chambers and Video Conference

Meetings may be viewed live on the City's YouTube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SaultSteMarieOntario>

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Pages

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

**2. Approve Agenda as Presented**

Mover Councillor R. Zagordo

Seconder Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that the Agenda for December 8, 2025 Budget Meeting as presented be approved.

**3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

**4. Ontario Regulation 284/09**

6 - 8

A report of the Manager of Finance is attached for the consideration of Council.

Mover Councillor A. Caputo

Seconder Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Finance dated December 8, 2025 concerning Ontario Regulation 284/09 be approved for the budget year 2026.

**5. Budget 2026 Community Engagement**

9 - 152

A report of the Manager of Communications is attached for the information of Council.

Mover Councillor R. Zagordo

Seconder Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Communications dated December 8, 2025, regarding Budget 2026 Community Engagement be received as information.

#### **5.1 Sault Trails Advocacy Committee Submission**

153 - 153

### **6. 2026 Proposed Budget**

2026 Proposed Budget was tabled on November 17, 2025 and can be found at the following link: [2026 Proposed Budget](#)

Mover Councillor R. Zagordo

Seconder Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that City Council now proceed into the Committee of the Whole to consider the following matter referred to it for consideration – 2026 Budget Deliberations.

#### **6.1 2026 Operating Budget**

154 - 156

A report of the CAO is attached for the information of Council.

Mover Councillor A. Caputo

Seconder Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that the report of the CAO concerning 2026 Budget Additional Information be received as information.

##### **6.1.1 Proposed Amendments by Members of Council Including Service Level Changes**

*Members of Council to submit any motions amending the budget so that they can be placed on Consent (and excepted for recorded votes (if requested)).*

Mover Councillor M. Scott

Seconder Mayor M. Shoemaker

Be It Resolved that the Public Works winter control budget be increased by \$800,000 in 2026 at a savings from the proposed budget of \$135,300.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor S. Spina

Be It Resolved that the budgeted increase of \$550,000 for Public Works Fleet Financing Strategy be spread over 2 years at a savings in 2026 of \$275,000.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Be It Resolved that operational funding of \$95,913 be removed from the Downtown Ambassador Program but that the operations be continued in 2026 with one-time funding allocated to the City of Sault Ste. Marie from the District Social Services Administration Board.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor M. Bruni

Be It Resolved that the inflationary increases to capital accounts be set at \$450,000 in 2026 at a savings of \$62,353.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor M. Bruni

Be It Resolved that the use of the tax stabilization reserve approved in the 2024 budget that phased in policing cost increases over three years be spread over four years for a savings in the 2026 budget of \$66,667.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor A. Caputo

Be It Resolved that \$50,000 be added to the Downtown operational budget.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor R. Zagordo

Be It Resolved that Council direct staff to add \$400,000 to the revenue line item for Casino revenue sharing based on average increase over the last two years.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor L. Dufour

Be It Resolved that the Landfill Business and Implementation annual reserve allocation be reduced at an annual savings of \$1,825,000.

Mover Councillor C. Gardi

Seconder Mayor M. Shoemaker

Be It Resolved that the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library be granted \$75,000 as an operational increase.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor C. Gardi

Be It Resolved that the streetlighting increase for PUC be set at \$145,000 in the 2026 budget at a savings of \$50,000.

Mover Councillor L. Dufour

Seconder Councillor A. Caputo

Be It Resolved that staff be directed to add two Public Works staff dedicated to downtown maintenance and beautification in 2026 without a budgetary impact in 2026 by drawing from existing resources.

Mover Mayor M. Shoemaker

Seconder Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Be It Resolved that the security foot patrols be maintained in 2026 utilizing the balance of the Special Council Community Fund.

**6.1.2 *Additional Proposed Amendments by Members of Council Including Service level Changes***

Mover Councillor C. Gardi

Seconder Councillor M. Scott

Resolved that the City of Sault Ste. Marie's taxpayers no longer fund the PeeWee Arena annually, for a savings in 2026 of \$25,503.

Mover Councillor C. Gardi

Seconder Councillor M. Scott

Resolved that requested Service Level Changes Numbers 1 (Active Transportation Master Plan) and 2 (Northern Avenue Intersection Improvements) included in Budget 2026 be deferred for deliberation during the 2027 budget.

**6.2 Capital Budget Deliberations**

*Members of Council may amend the capital budget as well as account for any changes made from operating budget decisions.*

**6.3 Sanitary Rate Supported Budget**

*Members of Council may amend the sanitary rate-supported budget, including both operating and capital aspects.*

**7. Rise and Report**

Mover Councillor A. Caputo

Seconder Councillor S. Spina

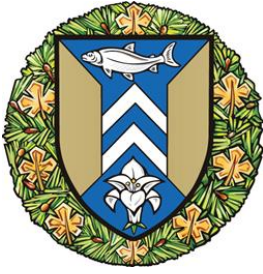
Resolved that the Committee of the Whole Council now rise and report on the matter referred to it by City Council – 2026 budget deliberations.

**8. Adjournment**

Mover Councillor R. Zagordo

Seconder Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that this Council shall now adjourn.



**The Corporation of the  
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

**COUNCIL REPORT**

December 8, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council  
AUTHOR: Steve Facey, Manager of Finance  
DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services  
RE: Ontario Regulation 284/09

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**Purpose**

This report is presented in accordance with Ontario Regulation 284/09. Staff is seeking Council approval of the report as required by the Regulation.

**Background**

Ontario Regulation 284/09 allows municipalities to exclude amortization expenses, solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses, and post-employment benefit expenses from the annual budget. If municipalities do not budget for these expenses a report is to be submitted to Council with respect to the exclusions.

**Analysis**

The effect of the excluded expenses from the City's budget is as follows:

1. Amortization is the asset cost allocated to the periods in which it is used. Under PSAB reporting guidelines, the City's accumulated surplus would be decreased by approximately \$22.8 million. Asset additions, which are expected to increase accumulated net revenue, are estimated at \$47.8 million.
2. The landfill closure and post-closure costs are being partially funded through a reserve transfer included in the levy. Future costs will be levied as required. The City has a reserve of approximately \$13.8 million at the end of 2024 to contribute towards these expenses.
3. Post employment benefits are based upon an actuarial valuation. These costs will fluctuate based upon the average age of city workers. The City operating budget includes the current year actual cost only.

**Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The presentation of this information represents a reconciliation between the budget process that municipalities use and the presentation of financial statements. The effect of excluding these items in the budget is an increase in the City's accumulated net revenue. The attached schedule sets out the effect of each.

**Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact**

This is an operational matter not articulated in the Strategic Plan.

**Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Finance, dated December 8, 2025, concerning Ontario Regulation 284/09 be approved for the budget year 2026.

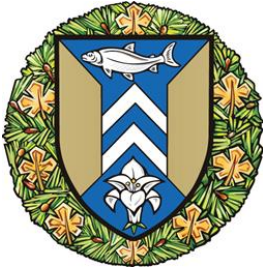
Respectfully submitted,

Steve Facey  
Manager of Finance  
705.759.5356  
[s.facey@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:s.facey@cityssm.on.ca)

## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

Ontario Regulation 284/09: Budget Restatement  
Year ended December 31, 2026

	<u>\$(000)</u>
<b>Capital Assets and Amortization:</b>	
Estimated Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets Net of Dispositions	\$ 47,847
Amortization estimate for 2026	<u>(22,855)</u>
Increase to 2026 accumulated net revenue	<u>24,992</u>
<b>Landfill Closure/Post Closure Expenses:</b>	
Increase to Landfill Closure Liability	\$ (2,240)
Reserve transfer included in budget	<u>2,793</u>
Increase to 2026 accumulated net revenue	<u>553</u>
<b>Post Employment Benefits Liability:</b>	
Increase to 2026 accumulated net revenue	<u>(922)</u>
<b>Debenture Principal Repayments</b>	(196)
<b>Net Reserve/Capital Fund Transfers</b>	3,993
<b>Total increase/(decrease) to accumulated net revenue</b>	<u><b>28,420</b></u>



**The Corporation of the  
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

**COUNCIL REPORT**

December 8, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council  
AUTHOR: Tessa Vecchio, Manager of Communications  
DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services  
RE: Budget 2026 Community Engagement

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the community feedback received as part of the 2026 Budget.

**Background**

Ahead of the 2026 municipal budget, residents and business owners were asked to participate in the budget process by providing feedback on priorities and key considerations. From November 17 to November 28, the City accepted feedback.

There were several ways feedback was received, including:

- An online survey was available. Paper copies of the survey could be completed at the Bay Street Active Living Centre, the North Branch Library, the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library, and the Ronald A. Irwin Civic Centre.
- A budget open house was held on November 27 at the Ronald A. Irwin Civic Centre in the lobby from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Posts on the City's social media sites encouraged followers to get involved with the budget process on Facebook and Instagram using the handles @CitySSM #saultbudget
- Comments and questions could be received through [budgetinput@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:budgetinput@cityssm.on.ca)
- The Finance Department office phones were available for feedback and suggestions at 705-759-5350.
- Suggestions could be mailed to the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Finance Department at 99 Foster Drive.

**Analysis**

The following is an overview of the feedback received:

- Staff created a survey through [PublicInput.ca](https://publicinput.ca). Participants were asked questions pertaining to community development, quality of life, infrastructure, and service delivery, as reflected in the core pillars of the City's Corporate Strategic Plan.

A total of 600 participants (compared to 137 in 2005) completed the online survey. Feedback is included in Appendix A. There were 13 surveys that were received by mail. Feedback is included in Appendix B

- An online survey was administered through the City's Flashvote focus group at [www.flashvote.com/cityssm](http://www.flashvote.com/cityssm). A total of 283 participants completed the survey. Feedback is included in Appendix C
- Budget 2026 social media content engaged over 650 Facebook users and over 3,500 Instagram users. This refers to the number of times the content was interacted with (e.g., liked, shared). Social media content is attached in Appendix D
- A budget open house was held on November 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ronald A. Irwin Civic Centre lobby. Staff created information boards to educate the public about the budget and facilitate discussions. These boards are included in Appendix E. Two residents attended the meeting.
- Staff, including CAO Vair and CFO Schell, provided a budget information session with local media on November 17, 2025. This provided the opportunity for the media to ask budget-related questions, helping the community understand this year's budget.

### **Financial Implications**

The investment in the 2026 budget feedback included advertising costs to boost social media posts. The total spent was approximately \$200, which was charged to the City's Corporate Advertising account.

### **Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact**

This matter is directly related to the strategic focus areas of service delivery, providing accessible communications, customer service practices, and regularly collecting and reviewing customer feedback for continuous improvement. his matter.

### **Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Communications dated December 8, 2025, regarding Budget 2026 Community Engagement be received as information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Vecchio  
Communications Manager  
705-759-5396  
[t.vecchio@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:t.vecchio@cityssm.on.ca)

# Budget Input 2026

## Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
1,116	600	12,064	631

## What matters most to you in the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 budget

Looking ahead to 2026, which City services matter most to you?  
Please select your **top three** priorities.

46%	Roads and sidewalks	272 ✓
38%	Police Service	221 ✓
36%	Winter maintenance	213 ✓
25%	Economic and industrial development	146 ✓
24%	Recreation facilities and programming (e.g., arenas, sports facilities, seniors programming)	139 ✓
16%	Parks and outdoor areas	96 ✓
13%	Fire Service	74 ✓
11%	Festivals and events	65 ✓
11%	Sewers, water, and stormwater management	65 ✓
9%	Tourism	53 ✓
9%	Public transit	51 ✓
8%	Building permits, inspection, and by-law enforcement	47 ✓
8%	Other	46 ✓
7%	Building a greener more sustainable community	43 ✓
7%	Planning and designing neighbourhoods	40 ✓

6%	Waste management (garbage and recycling)	37 ✓
5%	Bike lanes and pathways	30 ✓
4%	Library Service	22 ✓
3%	Arts and Culture	19 ✓

589 Respondents

In Canada, municipalities look after more than 60% of public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, transit, water and wastewater systems, and recreation facilities. However, they receive only 8 to 12 cents of all tax dollars collected by federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

This funding gap makes it difficult for communities to properly operate, maintain, and replace essential infrastructure, especially since most local revenue comes from property taxes.

Knowing that not all things are within municipal control, what issues do you feel are most important for our community today?

57%	Crime and public safety	321 ✓
54%	Cost of living	307 ✓
46%	Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)	258 ✓
40%	Property tax affordability	224 ✓
39%	Economy and jobs	219 ✓
38%	General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)	215 ✓
35%	Healthcare recruitment	198 ✓
29%	Housing/accommodations	162 ✓
17%	Growth, development, and sustainability	96 ✓
16%	Public Health	92 ✓
15%	Governance and transparency	85 ✓
10%	Access to recreation, parks, and trails	56 ✓
6%	Environment/climate sustainability	36 ✓

0%

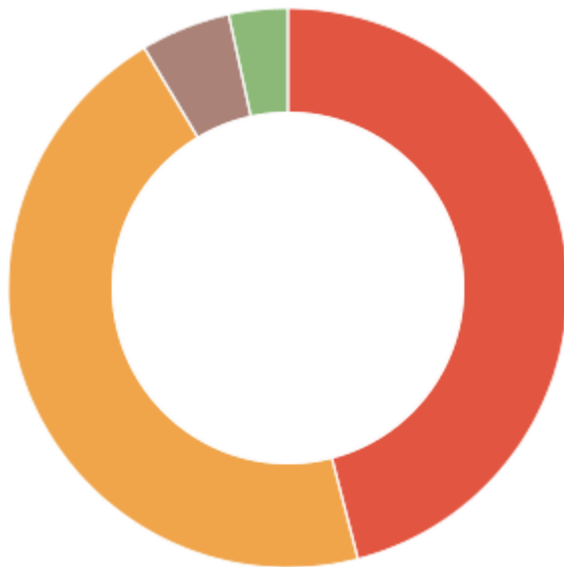
Other

1 ✓

566 Respondents

### Community Development

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

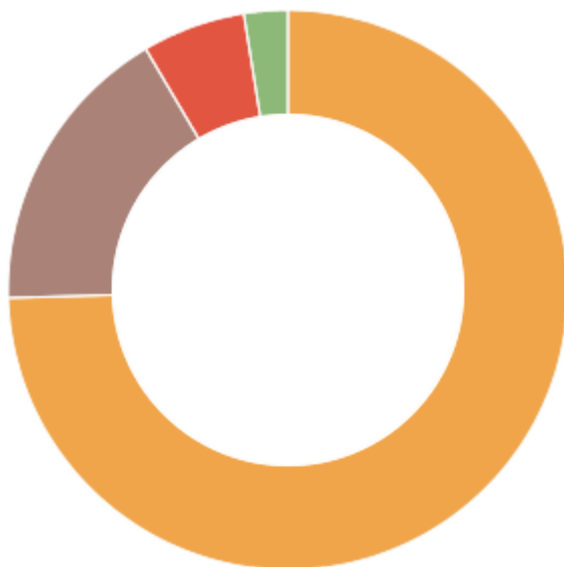


- 46% **\*Community Well-being:** Promoting a healthy, safe community through collaborative programs and services.
- 45% **\*Economic Activity:** Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
- 5% **\*Social Equity:** Ensuring fair access to opportunities for marginalized groups.
- 3% **\*Truth and Reconciliation:** Building respectful, meaningful relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

559 respondents

### Quality of Life

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

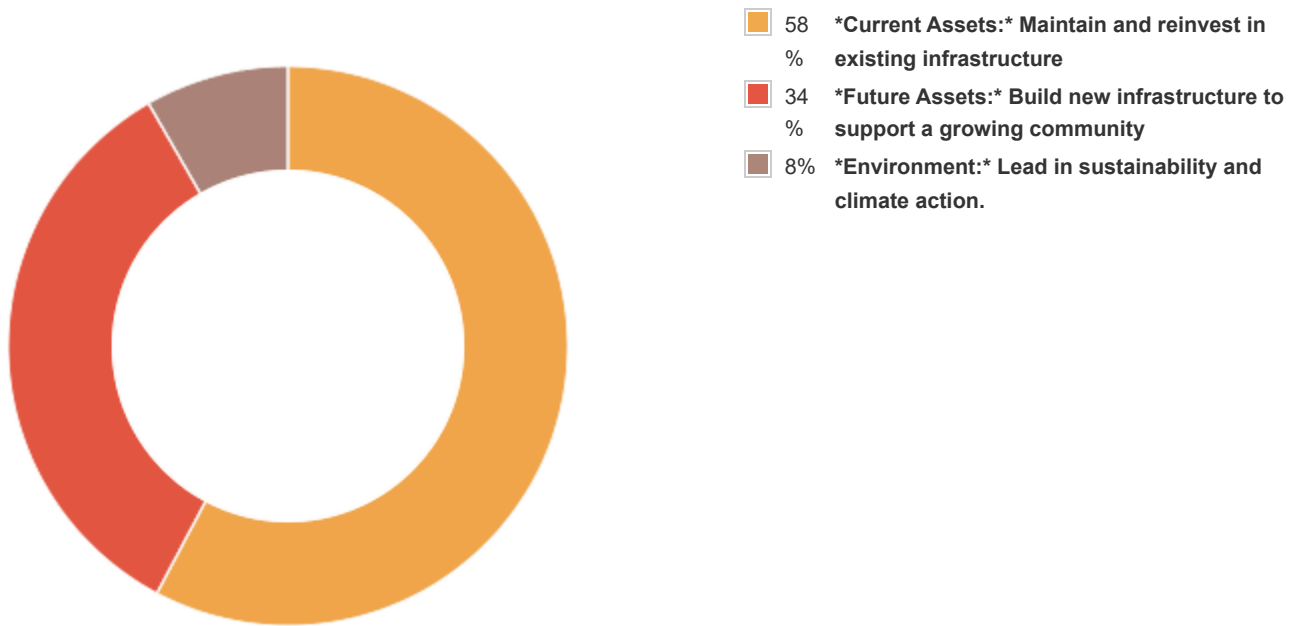


- 75% **\*Work-Life Balance:** Maintaining an affordable community with recreational opportunities for all seasons.
- 17% **\*Vibrant Downtown:** Strengthening shops, events, and amenities that bring people together.
- 6% **\*Welcoming Community:** Embracing diversity, fostering belonging, and celebrating culture.
- 3% **\*Arts and Culture:** Encouraging creativity and supporting cultural growth.

554 respondents

## Infrastructure

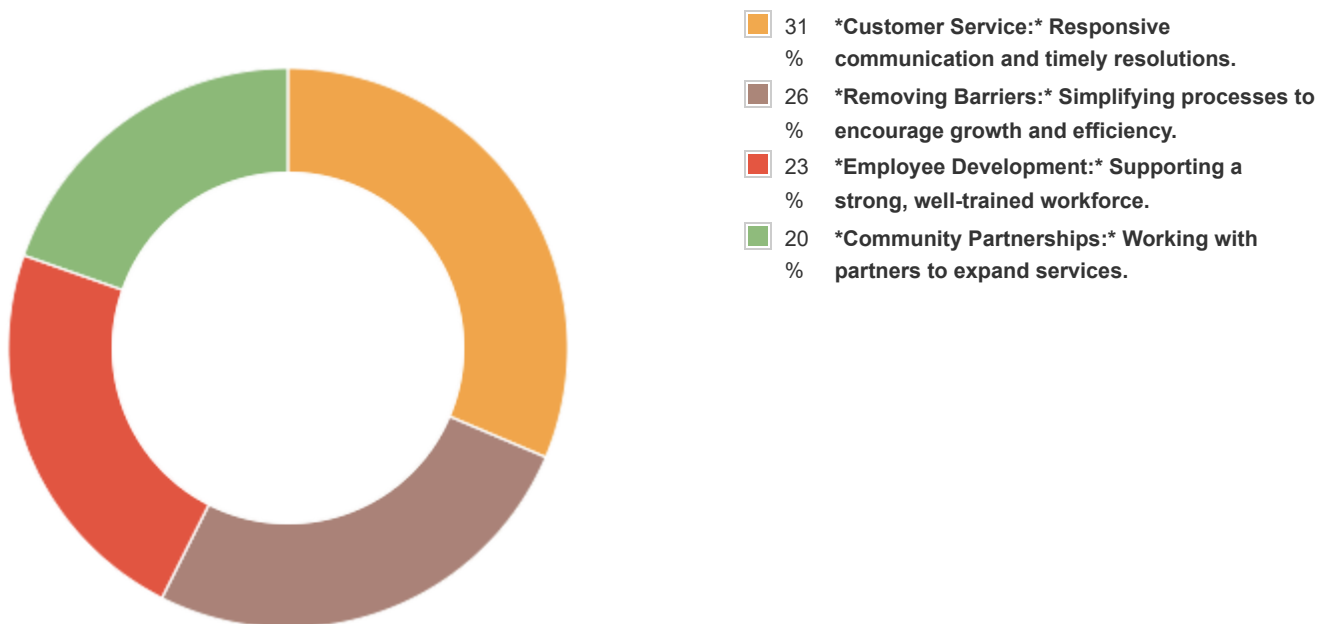
Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:



554 respondents

## Service Delivery

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

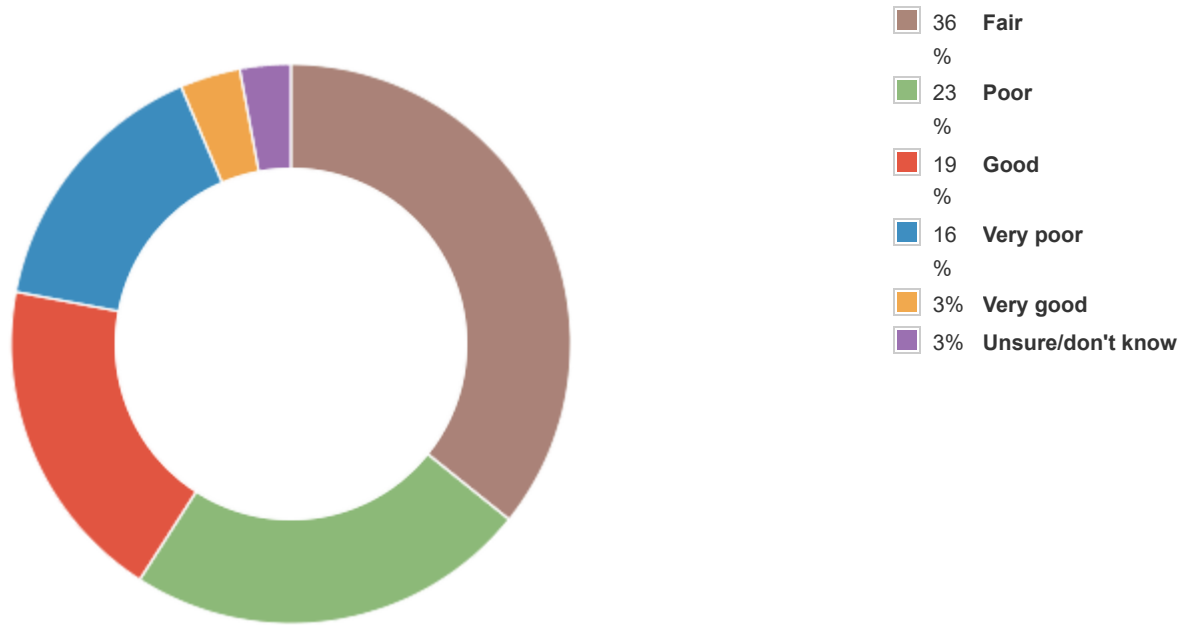


545 respondents

### Value for money from property taxes

Your tax dollars support everyday services like plowed roads, garbage pickup, parks, public transit, libraries, and more.

How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

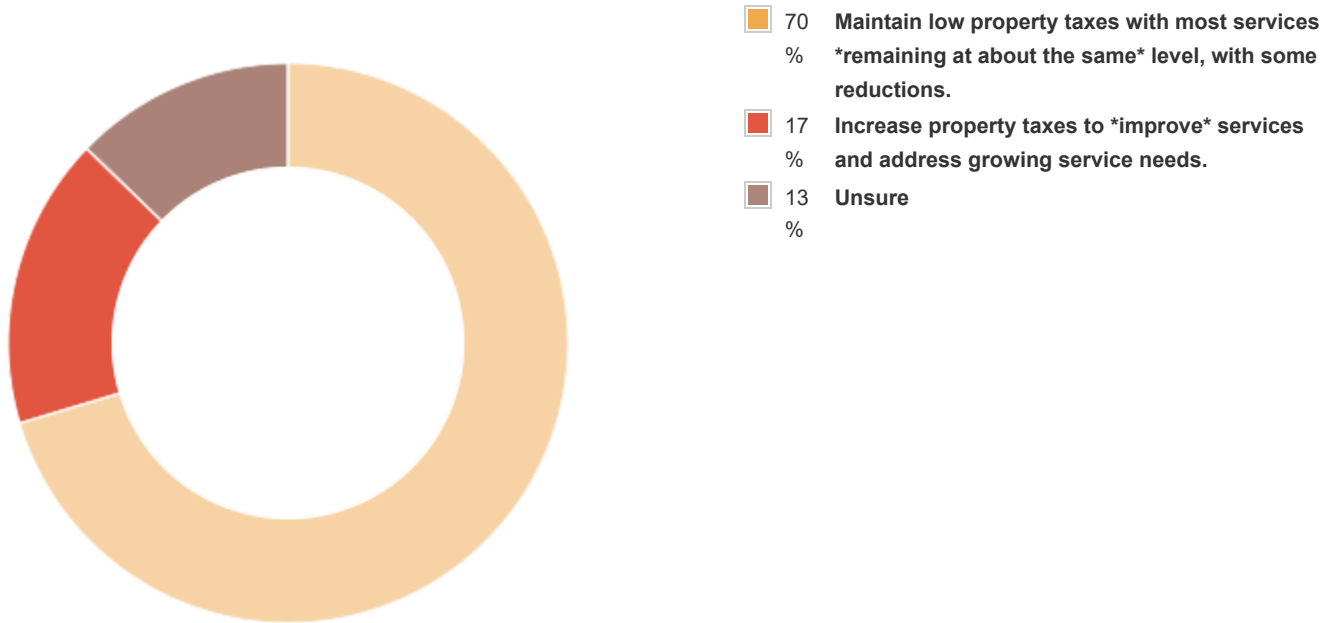


545 respondents

## Taxation and Levels of Service

Property taxes are the City's main source of funding for essential services. Unlike other levels of government, the City has very few sources of funding that grow with the economy. The City must consider how property taxes might change to keep services running to meet growing needs.

In your opinion, how should property taxes be adjusted in 2026?



540 respondents

### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)	23% Increase	51% Maintain	27% Decrease
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)	18% Increase	50% Maintain	32% Decrease
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)	47% Increase	51% Maintain	2% Decrease
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)	20% Increase	71% Maintain	8% Decrease
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)	26% Increase	58% Maintain	16% Decrease
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)	32% Increase	53% Maintain	15% Decrease
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)	23% Increase	63% Maintain	14% Decrease
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)	27% Increase	63% Maintain	10% Decrease
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)	21% Increase	66% Maintain	13% Decrease

538 responses

What is the **most important** action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

Attract more people to live and work here

11/30/2025

Lower the cost of living

11/30/2025

Removal of open drug use and social desobidience. Strict police inforcement!

11/30/2025

Stop spending tax dollars on downtown and instead, how about maintain and improve waterfront, Bellevue Park & Bellevue Marina. Also, bring back fountain on the river instead of putting a fountain at the plaza—such a waste! Citizens and tourists prefer it river side! Keep things simple and beautiful—maintain and upkeep what we have and what we had and it will save money in the end! Stop adding more things to maintain because eventually they will get ignored through lack of funds and become dilapidated and ugly!

11/30/2025

Find a way to remove drug addicts that aren't seeking treatment. The ones serious about getting clean need support, the rest just drain our city, they attacked the owner of [REDACTED] for asking them to move from [REDACTED]. Those people are not safe for our city.

11/28/2025

Empathy and a shift in perspective, realizing when someone works full time with overtime and STILL cannot afford BASIC NEEDS something is wrong.

11/28/2025

Effective money management.

11/28/2025

Look for ways to maintain property taxes without having increases every year.

11/28/2025

Hire marginalized people.

11/28/2025

There really needs to be both a private and City tree bylaw in this city. In well-established, even before Amalgamated into Sault Ste Marie, areas of the city are finding that their tree canopies are disappearing because of [REDACTED] that don't like trees in their yards. They're not used to them. There should no there needs to be a law that says no you can't take a tree down just because you don't like it and you don't want to rake leaves. If you don't want to rake leaves then don't move into a house with trees.

11/28/2025

Stop squandering money on useless studies. There are such things as preliminary studies, too, you know? You don't have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for full report when a preliminary report will tell you whether it's feasible or not in the first place. I can hardly wait to swim in the pool by our River big whoop what a waste of money.

11/28/2025

Stop wasting money on the downtown and frivolous traffic studies

11/28/2025

Stop raising taxes. Stop wasting money on ridiculous downtown initiatives. Until you make it safe down there- it isn't worth the money. Stay within your budget. If you have money for a pool on the river why can't you put money into Pointe Des Chene?

11/28/2025

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Control the taxes, increase wage rate

11/28/2025

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Increase the quality and safety of livable space by reducing drug problem

11/28/2025

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Deal with the drug problems

11/28/2025

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Improve pickleball courts at Snowdon Park

11/28/2025

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I'm not sure

11/27/2025

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Stop expanding. Stop adding useless things. Fix what we have.

11/27/2025

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Stop spending money on more things to maintain when you don't maintain what we already have!

11/27/2025

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Make it safer. Less drugs . Less homeless.

11/27/2025

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Decrease the crime and addicts downtown.

11/27/2025

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MORE PICKLEBALL COIURTS FIXED INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SNOWDON

11/27/2025

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The pickleball courts the new one that was built Elliot fields needs to be resurfaced with the right surface not like playing in a parking lot. The rubber surface that should be on there is easier on your joints. The little towns outside of the Soo have it which is embarrassing ex Blind River - Desbarats - St Joes Island some peoples back yard courts all have the right surface. It is the biggest sport for all ages that is hit all countries, especially for seniors to get out there and play.

11/27/2025

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NA

11/27/2025

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prevent property taxes from rising for residents. many live off of a fixed income and will not be able to maintain basic living expenses

11/27/2025

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Listen to public feedback.

11/27/2025

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Reduce Police and Fire wages. Deal with inordinate amount of accommodations and reduce overtime.

11/27/2025

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INCREASE PUBLIC BUS ROUTES

11/27/2025

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Better public transit & Zoning laws allowing for increased density relieving our housing market

11/27/2025

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Attract businesses that create well paying jobs and long term careers; investment outside of restaurant chains.

11/27/2025

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Increase the amount of affordable housing.

Make sure there's accountability from any wrong doings that City bylaw is involved in.

Make sure buildings/ houses that are boarded up stay that way or make the homeowners responsible!

11/27/2025

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Sport Facility for multi-use - outdoor Turf with outdoor track (not cement) - use for hosting tournaments such as track and field, soccer, pickleball, football etc....

11/27/2025

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Working mote collaboratively with the industries in the Soo to create networked channels throughout the Algoma region for education, work, innovation and life. A more concerted and deliberate approach would enhance economic development.

11/27/2025

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Add more outdoor and indoor pickleball facilities. Resurface courts on Shannon road.

11/27/2025

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Our city has seen an unacceptable increase in crime, violence and unsafe living. Something needs to be done to make our city safe and controlled again. Consequences for trespassing, stealing and breaking the law.

11/27/2025

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Attract more large industry to help increase the tax base. We have a port, we have rail, how are we not a prime location for manufacturing?

11/27/2025

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Shared appreciate the survey

11/27/2025

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More affordable housing decrease fire increase police. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms decrease the need for expensive firefighters

11/27/2025

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Our soccer fields need to be at a much higher standard! The completion of the soccer 🌐 indoor facility to full field size as promised long before the twin pads were added!

11/26/2025

Increase more outdoor tourism opportunities which in turn increases dollars to our city. Local fish hatchery should be revisited.

11/26/2025

Stop raising taxes, and make it easier for people to build and want to spend their money here in town

11/26/2025

Bring in more doctors!

11/26/2025

Do that make it more affordable for young adults .

11/26/2025

Listen to the people of Sault Ste Marie, especially seniors. Stop useless spending and before thinking about useless spending consult the people of SSM

11/25/2025

Public safety

11/25/2025

School board taxes should be removed from seniors paying property taxes.

11/25/2025

No comment

11/25/2025

Give more help to the police to take people of the streets that commit crime so people feel more safe when walking around downtown areas

11/25/2025

The city of Sault Ste. Marie is becoming such a scary city because of all crime.i think the police should be given rights to actually protect us. Also prices of houses and groceries, taxes need to be more accessible to the younger generation

11/24/2025

An election should change the people in power and not just shuffle them around the desk..

11/24/2025

I love the city need more young people, night life and bus service 🧑

11/24/2025

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Quit raising house taxes, lower food gouging!!

11/24/2025

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Affordable housing

Use your current facilities with a more business like approach for profit.

11/24/2025

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Public transit.

11/24/2025

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Strive for a better return on investment. Make your current assets work for you, rather than relying solely on property tax increases. Remove road blocks to affordable housing in order address homelessness, addiction and making life easier for young families. Keep young people here. The future!

11/24/2025

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Crack down on rampant crime and drug related issues. Penalize offenders to the letter of the law.

11/24/2025

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Provide incentive for investment in our downtown core. For example creating "opportunity zones" where investors, developers and businesses are exempt from taxes for 3,5,7,10 years if they take on the risk of building new housing or opening new businesses in our problem areas.

This will empower risk takers by reducing their bottom line and encourage gentrification. There have been few new developments for years and will continue to be so if nothing changes.

This would only be for NEW construction and thus not hurt the current property tax income. Not to mention at some point in the future they would be paying property tax. Which is income you would otherwise never have. You could also consider tax exemption on a case by case basis for repurposing old buildings/renovating structure's.

I believe this is the most important action. Others will say to reduce property tax to make the city more affordable but we need to look long term. Creating housing and businesses to fuel economic growth and compete with other municipalities is arguably more important.

11/24/2025

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decrease property taxes

11/24/2025

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Increase hospital funding, make drugs illegal again, put a stop to catch and release on crimes,

11/24/2025

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Find ways to lower gas prices and taxes so that the younger generation can afford things that they need to survive and build a family in this town

11/24/2025

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Support for mental health and drug addiction issues should be high priority.

11/24/2025

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Our roads need an overhaul and property taxes are far too high considering the pure lack of infrastructure/ road maintenance

11/24/2025

Start taking some action by not spending money on useless projects. I'am sorry but the downtown plaza was a waste of money. No one goes downtown, you need to fix the root of the problem first. Downtown is decrepit and out dates. Spray paint everywhere, store fronts empty, buildings not kept up to date, traffic should not be two lanes one way, weeds and grass growing out of the side walks and store fronts. The whole city is stuck in 1980 and everything from the roads, downtown, parks, sidewalks, houses are all decrepit and it makes me wonder where has property tax money been going all these years. SSM is to far gone and the housing is cheap here because you get what you pay for, just look around.

11/24/2025

Make downtown safe , people are afraid

11/23/2025

Our taxes from our property tax should be spent on repairing the roads, making sure that winter time they're clear and making sure that it is safe to be on the streets with more police. It shouldn't be going towards to beautify the city. That's not gonna keep us safe.

11/23/2025

Addressing cost of living/affordable housing for marginalized community members/access to addictions and mental health treatment

11/23/2025

Building houses to make affordable

11/23/2025

Hold your federal government accountable.

11/23/2025

People don't have extra money to spend on the extra stuff that they don't need

11/23/2025

City hall transparency

11/23/2025

Make downtown safe again.

11/23/2025

Make sure the community has homes to live in, even when they can't afford it.

11/23/2025

Build more accommodations for our most vulnerable

11/23/2025

Repurposing derelict or vacant properties for affordable housing

11/23/2025

Property sales of derelict or vacant buildings and repurpose them for affordable housing

11/23/2025

Quit wasting tax money on stupid projects like the tent and downtown plaza

11/23/2025

Bring more jobs here- need more industry and good paying jobs

11/22/2025

Voting for any major projects been done in city. Example beach down on water front.

11/22/2025

Maintain a low tax rate while maintaining services through all means necessary

11/22/2025

Affordability

11/22/2025

decrease taxes, stop spending money on insane things like the road lanes from the underpass west. leave it 4 lane and move the bike lanes to Douglas St!! increase police money to combat drugs, illegal people, illegal firearms, child trafficking because The Sault is the 5th most dangetous city in Canada 🤬 🤬 🤬 🤬 🤬

11/22/2025

No comment

11/22/2025

Have more affordable housing look at other cities and how they're eliminating homelessness and follow suit

11/22/2025

Investments in daycare

11/22/2025

Maintain

11/22/2025

Don't raise taxes

11/22/2025

Stop raising taxes then spending them of nonessential projects.... That cost \$\$\$\$

11/22/2025

Opening the community to new businesses like Costco and other large companies will attract more visibility and reinforce the community's value in the region. I understand that with these small changes, the current population will benefit, in addition to attracting new families and further expanding the city.

11/22/2025

Start taking the input from taxpayers. The roads are atrocious. Current infrastructure needs repair. We need to stop relying on the city board of works and their poor work ethics getting roads maintained and patched. Contracted out. Use tar that's soft and seals the road properly for future erosion issues stop raising taxes to continually cover Services not everybody uses start charging for the rink in pool to be a self-sufficient businesses as well as the city needs to run it like a business there should also be a tax cap. I've said this since provenzano was in office locally we shouldn't have a tax higher than 7200 a year per residential home need to bring up the lower value homes on the bottom end to a more reasonable rate or a standard minimum rate stop asking higher end houses to pay for all of the stuff that none of them use

11/22/2025

Affordable housing, less big companies and out of town people owning houses, apartments etc. there are so many empty houses that are just sitting there unoccupied, and with the price of apartments continuing to climb, even for basic small apartments it's no wonder the city has so many unhoused people. We need to take care of each other, it's hard to stay safe when you have nowhere to go.

11/22/2025

We need to break free from the [REDACTED] and allow more businesses to come to Sault Ste Marie.

11/22/2025

Some money wisely. Reduce the bureaucracy! So of the highest paid property taxes in a poorly run city. It's embarrassing.

11/22/2025

Less time wasted with meetings to leave time for more action.

11/22/2025

Decrease the number of employees.

11/22/2025

Reduce property taxes

11/22/2025

Deceased drug use

11/22/2025

li am happy we do not have homeless encampment. I think safety is very important. Maintaining the roads, sidewalks and parks is important. Maintaining a healthy community.

11/22/2025

Not sure if its possible to do something to make housing more affordable, but we have an absolute crisis right now. At the very least we need both low barrier shelters for those struggling with addictions and then sober shelters for those who are now clean. We need these shelters for men, women, and youth. Im a teacher and the number of homeless students I have in a year, with no hope of safe support, is soul crushing.

11/21/2025

More geared to income housing, more programs and assistance to encourage people to get off of welfare, look into the hiring processes for low level jobs (tims, McDonald's) ensure equality when individuals are applying for jobs especially our young people. High schoolers need these jobs to gain experience and to become productive members of society.

11/21/2025

Limit immigration to keep the job opportunities for our local citizens. This would greatly lessen the strain on our local health care and social services. More job opportunities for Canadian born citizens would decrease our local homeless and therefore reduce the crime on our streets. We are not bringing skilled new comers to community. With the slow down coming from reductions at the steel plant, thus will cause a trickle affect. The minimum wage jobs that the new comers are filling, can make the difference by keeping our your employed.

11/21/2025

Get your eyes off of ridiculous imaginary community enhancement projects (waterfront park and pool?) and focus on the nuts and bolts of our existing functioning community systems.

11/21/2025

Start listening to the taxpayers who want you to stop spending on projects that only cater to the few. like the pool in the river idea.

11/21/2025

New service delivery models should be considered such as a composite fire service and composite ambulance service. Perhaps contracting out more snow removal from low use side streets and city owned parking lots. Contract out road repair work instead of city workers shoddy asphalt patch jobs . Full review of city staffing levels across the board. Use attrition to remove high paying redundant supervisory positions. Remove all high paying deputy positions ie CAO police fire etc.

11/21/2025

Stop promoting immigration into our city, it is vastly increasing cost of housing/living and taking jobs away from people born and raised in the Sault. The Sault was a strong, safe, cost friendly community but now it has become dangerous for the youth and unaffordable for 20-30 year olds. An increase in budget for First Responders should be considered as well.

11/21/2025

Stop the nepotism at city hall and stop hiring people that do not have the experience required for their job

11/21/2025

This isnt southern Ontario, housing costs are too high. Seniors cant afford to live comfortably

11/21/2025

Prioritize affordable housing

11/21/2025

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Limit out of town landlords buying up houses that just turn into dumps anyways.

11/21/2025

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Road maintenance and making the community feel safer.

11/21/2025

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Reduce rental costs or add more subsidies. Minimum wage earners can't afford market rents. Add more affordable rental apartments. I can't afford to wait 3-5 years for affordable housing.

11/21/2025

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Not so much affordable, but making SSM more livable requires more police and judicial intervention into bi-law and crime enforcement. I have lived in SSM all my life, and the last 5 years I have stopped walking downtown or in the fort creek trails due to the amount of drug users and transient people. I understand bail reform is not a municipal responsibility, however having competent and present MPPs is crucial to having our voices heard at the higher level of government. The mayor and councilors must call upon Chris Scott to resign and give his seat to someone who will represent SSM and demand bail reform to ensure violent offenders are not walking free. On November 17, 2025 a person attacked someone with a shovel and sent them to the hospital with critical injuries, and he was RELEASED on an undertaking. He is charged with assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon, and he is walking around free, walking past our grandparents, young women, recent immigrants and other vulnerable people. We can't ask residents of SSM how we can make all these great changes to our city without addressing the exact reason the city is dying. I lived in Southern Ontario and chose to return to SSM in 2018, only to watch the town I love so much begin to decay.

11/21/2025

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Cut all unnecessary spending. My tax rates are absolutely insane.

11/21/2025

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Staff reductions through attrition

Hiring Freeze

11/21/2025

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Invest quicker in affordable houses and apartments and create more job opportunities.

11/21/2025

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the cost of living is making it hard for everyone

11/21/2025

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Stop spending on things like

The downtown plaza, urban beach and bike lanes

11/21/2025

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11/21/2025

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A safer community/downtown

11/21/2025

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Crime and the drug problem

11/21/2025

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Communicate with individual who suffer from poverty... my landlord raised my rent 400.00 after I moved in ... that is wrong ... rent increases are ridiculous and a five year waiting list for housing support .. absolutely one huge slap in the face ... my community does not care about me

11/21/2025

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Focus on ways to minimize tax hikes to keep cost of living attractive in our city. focus funds on core municipal activities and charge user fees to help offset cost increases. Re-look at fire and EMS for overlapping services and inefficiency (particularly @fire). Also evaluate neighbouring townships that use SSM services regularly to check they are contributing equitably

11/21/2025

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Implement a municipal compost collection to improve environmental sustainability and divert waste from our landfill

11/21/2025

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More environmentally friendly initiatives that anyone can participate in

11/21/2025

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Encourage vacant property owners to use the space. Through more penalties or tax breaks to turn the property into rental units at fair rates.

11/21/2025

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Na

11/21/2025

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More affordable housing, especially in the east end.

11/21/2025

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Figure out your plan. Current development activities are too scattered. How can you not see that you promoting the north at the cost of downtown?

11/21/2025

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Reduce property taxes. They are already outrageously high making my family seriously consider moving.

11/20/2025

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Maintain what we have...don't grow if we can't afford it...it just puts more people out of their houses and can't afford to pay to live

11/20/2025

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City planning and infrastructure should reflect the needs of the population that promotes safety, equity, and climate/environmental sustainability. As a growing city, it is important to consider how to accommodate the community and plan for the future. Suburban sprawl is known to increase vehicle emissions, traffic, and unsafe conditions where people are unable to travel around without a car, creating barriers to access to essential services such as health care and groceries, as well as reducing community connectiveness.

I am a recent college graduate living on my own. I can barely afford rent. I walk, bike, and use public transit to travel around the city. Sometimes, it takes 2-3 hours to do groceries when factoring commuting time.

Installing bike lanes is great, I use them, but they can appear unsafe when the majority of surrounding traffic are cars. The city could be looking at Zoning bylaws to increase density in residential areas (more mid-rise apartment buildings, multiplex, or townhomes houses), as well as increase access to essential services such as pharmacies, food markets, or community areas like libraries, parks, and cafes within 1 km of residential areas. These can help disincentivize driving (especially in the winter). The city could also include increasing transit services and adding routes to reduce commute times and promote transit usage. The less people drive, the more space that can be used for businesses and park land. Walking around the Sault, especially, downtown, will be safer when more people are seen walking. Safer walking spaces encourages people to get outside which is important for children and youth.

Maintaining personal vehicles is a major expense for many. Smart Urban design and planning will subsequently help reduce costs for folks. If they are living in higher density areas, this can lower rent costs, and they do not need to drive. This can be beneficial for folks who are of low, or fixed income, as well as promoting safer roads. The Community bus service and taxi service are beneficial, especially how 25% of Sault Ste Marie's population is 65 and older (2021 census). I have neighbours who are in their 70s, 80s and 90s who must drive to get to appointments and don't feel safe doing so in winter.

Thank you for considering my comment. I look forward to seeing how city leadership works towards cultivating a safe Sault Ste Marie.

11/20/2025

Get the public drug use off the streets. Putting a men's shelter in the middle of 4000 seniors doesn't make sense. Look at the number of apartment buildings downtown and who lives there.

11/20/2025

The city should maintain what we already have. Clearing snow from parks and walking paths in a timely manner would be appreciated by the many walkers we have. Also lights need to be replaced when they burn out. Eg. The lights from Bay Street to the library have been burned out for 2 years.

11/20/2025

Support development and business investment. The city building department needs to work more like a supporting partner and not be a barrier to development and business growth.

11/20/2025

Clean up the downtown - take care of the homeless and drug addict.

11/20/2025

Keeping locals active working on mental health and wellness ❤️

11/20/2025

N/A

11/20/2025

More mental health support and health care. ( recruitment))

11/20/2025

Listen to what the people actually want

11/20/2025

Crime everywhere, invest in more security or police. Enough with the social programs and free stuff for people with heavy addictions. Giving out free housing, clothing, food, crack pipes at everyone else's expense does not encourage change but enables current behaviour and attracts more of it. Treatment is needed, not enabling. They know how to work the system. Stop putting shelters in residential neighbourhoods. Stop dumping money into a plaza. Invest in Gardens or Tent. Stop with consulting fees to lawyers/integrity commissioners enriching these firms on our dime. Enough with the truth and reconciliation. The more labels you put, the more you divide. We are all human beings. Plenty of different cultures here which contributed to our history, do you hire a policy and advisor for each one. Invest in the employees you already have and improve current core services. Stop disrupting traffic flow everywhere. More people and less lanes = more lineups and multiple light cycles. Stop wasting money on reducing lanes of traffic for bike lanes that very few use. The city is in financial trouble yet you're going to put a swimming pool in st Mary's river. Less spending, lower taxes.

11/20/2025

make it more affordable for the house market

11/20/2025

Make the city more walkable and accessible by bike! It's so horrible to get around without a vehicle so most choose to drive. By improving trail and pathways you'll encourage people to drive less, putting less strain on roadways and their maintenance.

11/20/2025

Stop going into private business like buying a hospital; making a plaza instead of adding programs at the Pavilion; giving away prime real estate on waterfront to businesses for almost nothing; swimming pool in st Mary's river is not worth anyone's money-pure crazy; investing money to private company's like YmCA - it's their business and not ours and all these just raise taxes which is unfair

11/20/2025

stop wasting money on frills - everything built requires tax dollars to maintain how about building something that is self sustaining

11/20/2025

Priorities should be investing in access to business so that more money can flow in the local economy so that people don't have to rely so much on big corporations like Walmart and Amazon and the development of local business can boost the life quality of people here

11/20/2025

We need to increase policing this city everyday I see crime happening and the police force isn't big enough to handle everything as it stands, we should be able to walk around this city and feel nothing but safe and we don't so something major needs to happen

11/20/2025

deal somehow with homeless drug users and thieves petty crime

11/20/2025

Build appropriate detention and treatment centers away from the public sector. Have safe access in school areas for children to walk

11/20/2025

Don't build more recreational things downtown. Put those dollars in the roadways.

11/20/2025

Reduce red tape for businesses to grow and invest.

11/20/2025

The creation of jobs that can allow for a family to live.

11/20/2025

Affordable living

11/20/2025

There is no draw to go downtown. The shops are lame. Spending money to beautify downtown still won't draw people there... Just a thought.

And get rid of the drug addicts!

11/20/2025

Increased police surveillance, presence and enforcement in all areas of town to reduce the crime rate, thefts, murders etc.

11/20/2025

lower property taxes even if it means lower services. The city's population is aging and Algoma Steel will be cutting many good paying jobs. Like it or not, this city is heading into rough times, there will be much less wealth among the residents who will not be able to afford the large tax increases

11/20/2025

Get the city its tourism back, we are a border town and in the middle of Ontario it should be booming, the plant is a decent economic stimulant. But we cannot rely on solely that. The down town needs to be cleaned up, there should be something to do or experience for visitors on over corner and more importantly you should be able to walk down the street without a junkie asking for change. A clean and active city will be a thriving one.

11/20/2025

Mental health issues

11/20/2025

Start paying attention to the amount of money being spent on unnecessary salaries and ideas like a pool in st. Mary's river. We need better infrastructure and affordable housing than a pool.

11/20/2025

Homelessness/addiction

Cost of living

11/20/2025

Development of secondary industries

11/20/2025

11/20/2025

Better marketing and promoting what we have in and around this city and area.

We live in such a beautiful area...way nicer than even the muskokas but it seems to be a big secret.

11/20/2025

Need to bring different business to town. Bid on companies to bring there business town give tax breaks and incentives

11/19/2025

Improve traffic congestion

11/19/2025

Stop reducing lanes of traffic to put bike lanes. Wallace terrace is terrible now, traffic is backed up, put a turning lane with no streets to turn, traffic is backed up, why??

11/19/2025

Improve the quality of our water

11/19/2025

Reinvest in our community.

11/19/2025

Stop wasting tax dollars on useless projects(removing/replacing traffic lights). Hiring and spending on unesassary positions that come with inflamed city salaries/raises/bonuses. Try scaling back on such jobs. And save hundreds of thousands. Most are bursting at the seams already. We can not afford higher taxes. Also consider fixing roads that havent been touched in 30 years, before even dreaming about repaving neighborhoods that have already been done in the last decade. We all pay our property taxes and we all deserve the same services....I can say many are about at their wits end with the waste and mismanagement of our tax dollars. Bottom line,You have to scale back. We do not need to pay more.

11/19/2025

Housing. Housing. Housing. There have to be creative ideas already tried and proven in other communities. Making life affordable starts with people being able to afford, and secure safe and reliable housing for themselves.

11/19/2025

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Restructure government services and focus on services.

11/19/2025

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11/19/2025

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Quit wasting money on things tax payers don't approve of. Council works for us not the other way around

11/19/2025

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Respond to the changing recreational needs in the community . Plans must be flexible to provide response to growth in the community . One example growth t in pickleball and the lack of outdoor and indoor facilities to address growth. Be flexible to change programming at the northern centre . Better use of facility Consider recreation as important as hard services in the community. Realize a healthy community is a priority .

11/19/2025

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Difficult to answer many of the above (increase, maintain, decrease or unsure as many of these aren't imposed now)

My top property to make this city more livable is safety. It's extremely sad the danger I feel when walking anywhere or even on transit, watching drug transactions or addicts passed out in common areas.

11/19/2025

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More diverse economic landscape. Too reliant on Algoma Steel etc.

Stop participating in the immigration program as we do not have adequate housing, jobs etc. for additional population at this time. Review again possibly after a 10year time frame to stabilize and reinvest in infrastructure etc.

11/19/2025

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Stop using public funds to build so called "tourism" attractions and instead invest in maintaining infrastructure, law enforcement and basic services.

11/19/2025

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Reduce crime and make it safer to walk down the street esp at night

11/19/2025

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Stop spending on trying to fix the downtown core. The real issues need to be addressed first.

The city needs to spend more on roads and maintaining a place for people to work when the plant switches to EAF

11/19/2025

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Building more housing units and get more supports for the addiction crisis in the Sault.

11/19/2025

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Open more business hours especially mall timings.

Conduct a concert in soo twice in a month. So that the people from neighbouring community will come and invest

11/19/2025

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Need to address the mental health issues and drug addiction as well as the homeless problems. Programs that actually work need to be introduced and funded. What is currently in place is largely ineffective . More downtown plaza's ect is not helping anyone!

11/19/2025

Animal control should be more implemented through out the city. Many animals are being abused and neglected and not enough authority inflate to take animals away from people who are abusing their priveledges to own animals. Need more animal welfare agents in our city as I would love to see this.

11/19/2025

We need to make ourselves known as a border city with many opportunities for industry and development and pursue those goals aggressively

11/19/2025

N/A

11/19/2025

Stop hateful spending and utilize existing spaces (Bellevue Park) for community enrichment

11/19/2025

Lower cost of living/rent. Increase wages. Reduce taxes for anyone who lives below middle class, raise taxes for anyone who is above upper middle class; especially those in power and government officials.

11/19/2025

Soo needs more events to stimulate trade. For example, we are entering the Christmas season and we have the tree and the parade. That's not enough. There should be, say, a closure of Queen Street every Sunday and it should be opened up to food trucks, local trade stalls, more activities related to Christmas, Halloween, etc.  
Competitions between traders, best hot chocolate, best pizza... But a constant activity.

11/19/2025

Get to work! This council does not know the meaning of work.

11/19/2025

Taxation and demolition of vacant properties. Putting shelters/sad/mental health/drug facilites in its own area, away from neighbourhoods

11/19/2025

Affordable single family home developments. Not having the only houses being built constngba few hundred thousand dollars

11/19/2025

Revamp what we already have. Putting money into new things downtown where regular people will not go because of the risk isn't a good use of our money. I would like to see the John Rhodes field turfed and dressing rooms fixed so that we can attract athletes to our city and then make money on these types of events.

11/19/2025

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Stop Algoma Steel's pollution now.

11/19/2025

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keep property taxes low, promote what we already have, no more needless spending on things like the proposed waterpark

11/19/2025

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Enforce laws and bylaws.

11/19/2025

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I'll need to live here for a while longer to make a determination.

11/19/2025

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Keep taxes lower

11/19/2025

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Assistance for seniors living in their own homes

11/19/2025

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Stop out of town companies from boosting the rent to astronomical prices!

11/19/2025

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N/a

11/19/2025

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make lower rental units available, auction off vacant properties, and stop sending 5 guys to fill a pot hole.

11/19/2025

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More houses/apartments in good areas

11/19/2025

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Stop wasting tax dollars on "downtown improvement" such as pools in the river and focus on making the roads safe for drivers in the winter, start repairing potholes and painting lines earlier in the season, stop removing stoplights which is causing accidents, restore lanes and remove bike lanes

11/19/2025

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The most important action the City can take is to increase the availability of affordable housing — speeding up approvals, encouraging mixed-income developments, and making it easier for people to find a reasonably priced place to live.

We need to do a better job of attracting major companies to Sault Ste. Marie, bringing in quality jobs and giving people a real reason to stay.

And honestly, we need more fun, family-friendly attractions. An indoor water park, for example, would be amazing for local families and a huge boost for tourism. Right now, there's really nothing fun to do in SSM, and adding something like that would make a big difference for quality of life and our local economy.

11/19/2025

Stop rental raises make land Lord fix buildings stop credit checks and start doing criminal record checks as having free credit never happens I have student loans I struggle to pay 10 years later

11/19/2025

An election

11/19/2025

Making the sault safe  
Affordable groceries

11/19/2025

Multi dwelling housing. Lower income can't support house maintenance, property taxes etc so apartments with 3 bedrooms reduces desperate families.

11/19/2025

Lower taxes and stop frivolous spending

11/19/2025

Tax landlords more without increasing rent rates, as the wealth gap is enormous in SSM

11/19/2025

Resolve the homeless issue, many cities throughout the province have dealt with this issue and have had success. It appears this city is doing nothing. The downtown is a large issue still as it relates to attracting homelessness and crime, more needs to be done. Lastly, dogs on leashes in this city is also a problem, the city really needs to start enforcing its dog leash bylaw!

11/19/2025

Take care of the [REDACTED] problem and police service. I live a block from the police station and it took them 4 hrs to respond to someone in my yard threatening to kill me and my family and trying to get in

11/19/2025

Need available and affordable housing! There's no where to move other than poor neighbourhoods, which are also unaffordable!

11/19/2025

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Cut any expense that is not necessary to the function of the city. Cut DEI, climate programs, and smart city tech. Lower property tax and clean up downtown.

11/19/2025

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Scrap the whole idea of building a pool or beach idea in the St. Mary's River. This is a very expensive idea that the money could be much better spent improving our Parks and Point de Chaine

11/19/2025

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Move the resources for the homeless out of our downtown core so people can feel safe to walk at night again

11/19/2025

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Make economic commitments that create new jobs for the city either under municipal control or in partnership with other developers or governments

11/19/2025

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Stop with the bike lanes. We are not Amsterdam. I drive Queen everyday from and to work and can count on one hand the number of bikers in a week! Our city is facing an existential crisis. Focus on bringing new business/industries to the city, meaningfully and lucrative employment. Stop with all the fluff and get down to growing and supporting our economic development. Too many socialist representatives on city council who only know how to use tax money for projects and development. The city should focus on attracting new businesses, and grow the tax base organically.

11/19/2025

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Na

11/19/2025

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Create affordable housing especially for low income families and seniors, and keep them from being homeless.

11/19/2025

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Move out the low barrier community housing in downtown and revive downtown safety to encourage people to come and support businesses. Right now, many are avoiding even just driving in downtown because of the bad image it has due to high crime rates, junkies and dilapidated houses surrounding it.

11/19/2025

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Diversify the industry to create more jobs. Retain the Downtown Association to work with them to create a vibrant downtown through collaboration!

11/19/2025

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Keep the Downtown Association... dissolving it is a huge mistake that will hurt downtown growth, keep this important partnership that would benefit the community. Thx City will not be able to keep up with its own priorities let alone take on promoting and programming downtown. Shame on the Mayor, City Council and City staff for letting a bruised ego when inefficiencies were pointed out guide their decision to dissolve the Downtown Association . The 50 50 model proposed by the DTA that the Mayor refused to offer as an option for voting was the best most logical option and shameful that his ego showed.. Do not approve the floating beach at the waterfront ... this part of the project is ill advised when we already have access to beautiful beaches nearby and due to our short summers ... instead add a family friendly indoor marquee attraction that locals and visitors can enjoy all year round. Budget for police and security downtown... visible presence is needed and still lacking. Plaza needs more seating near the stage to get more usage.. also would benefit with more sun coverage to attract more people and participation in hosting events there. Public bathrooms needed downtown even if the self cleaning ones to cut back on the bio waste issues downtown that currently the Downtown Association takes care of for their members via a local contractor... who will do this now??

11/19/2025

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11/19/2025

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Focus on strategies to reduce drug abuse and criminal activity related to drug cultures in the community

11/19/2025

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Create a system that rehabilitates people who struggle with homelessness or addiction. A comprehensive system that leads people from where they are at and provides a complete rehab to stable living will promote less crime, and less drug use. Education in elementary and high schools needs to be up to date and less "scare tactic" based. Factual effects of drug and alcohol abuse, along with more access to counseling will heed better results than we have now looking 5-10 years into the future.

Corporations should not have the ability to purchase residential property. This will allow the city to hold homeowners accountable for taxes, bylaws and landlord tenant + rent increase caps.

Infrastructure new + upgrade contracts should be without space for delays or unnecessary risk. To add, adding a beach front in clergue park without addressing the rampant drug issue in our city is only pushing a percentage of our population to another area of the city. Families do not wish to mingle with people who are unsafe and possess illegal substances. Point du Chesnes or another beach like it would be more appropriate to put a budget towards.

Advocate for our police force to have more ground to arrest people who are using drugs in public. To hold people who are caught for theft, on private property, possession of even smaller amounts of illegal substances to enter them into a mandatory detox and rehab program. This is where change and chance begins. Continued AA and NA programs should follow, along with housing and social worker. Some city labour jobs should be for people who are re-entering the work force to give them an income, complete probation and for resume and reference purposes.

11/19/2025

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Ensure provincial support for adequate health services

11/19/2025

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Clean up the neighborhoods, remove all waste around the streets all the time like mattresses and furniture and tear down every abandoned building immediately. No one wants to come here and people that live here hate walking around and being social when the city looks like a huge landfill.

11/19/2025

Address social issues and crime and maintain programming and events.

11/19/2025

The city needs to stop wasting money on putting in a new beach/pool and adding to the plaza. We need to focus on more policing to make our community safe again. We need more access to treatment for those on drugs, more affordable housing to get people off the streets and we need to focus our attention back on making our streets safe again. I don't feel safe in my city to enjoy shopping downtown or at the mall or to walk on the boardwalk or on the trails. We need to bring our focus back to safer communities and once achieved then bring more to the city.

11/19/2025

No wasted dollars on large projects such as the proposed water fountain in the downtown plaza, or pools in the river.

11/19/2025

Reduce property taxes

11/19/2025

Increased supports and collaboration for homelessness and community well-being.

Continue to build up downtown to draw residents to events and stores in the core

11/19/2025

Stop wasting money!!!! Queen street revitalization is trash. Ooo let's make downtown pretty.... AND LESS ACCESSIBILITY BY TAKING AWAY PARKING. jeez you guys running this city are dumb.

11/19/2025

Lower costing housing so that people can afford the necessities and more low income housing.

11/19/2025

The city offers a lot in most areas but lacks in my belief supporting seniors and disabled persons with arthritis, mobility issues etc. Access and outreach to seniors is lacking or at least not well known which includes transportation, low income activities etc. Activities are not considered low income if the senior center is charging \$12-15 for an activity. The apartment buildings for seniors and families need desperately needed maintenance.

11/19/2025

100% the city needs to stop increasing property taxes and building things just so each elected council can take credit for building something. Homelessness and addiction services is definitely an issue. Where are these people expected to go to the bathroom?

11/19/2025

Jobs

11/19/2025

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Do not increase property taxes.

11/19/2025

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Affordable housing

11/19/2025

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Lower property taxes

11/19/2025

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Keep our existing outdoor space and activities as is and maintain properly. We don't need MORE venues. We need the ones we have maintained properly

11/19/2025

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More livable - making the city safety.

More affordable - supporting work training, employment solutions, etc

11/18/2025

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Audit and see where the city is wasting money and put the money in other places where it is really needed

11/18/2025

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Reducing property taxes. They do not attract new professionals here.

11/18/2025

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Reduce spending money on only items a small percentage of the community use

11/18/2025

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Not raising taxes for home owners .

11/18/2025

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Stop coming up with ideas like the floating water pad downtown. The biggest part of taxpayers are seniors in the Sault. We will never use this.

11/18/2025

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Crime reduction

11/18/2025

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Deal with the addiction and homelessness issues - every single day i have people sleeping on my property and dumping garbage all over my downtown property. Why do I pay taxes and then have to clean up after others that no one will deal with. Why should anyone want to invest in the city if they get no support in dealing with people sleeping all over their properties, throwing garbage all over etc.

11/18/2025

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Need to be open to all types of businesses and encourage mores locally owned businesses with help from city council

11/18/2025

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Invest deeply in mixed-income, missing-middle housing. - fast track approvals for duplexes, offer incentives, use city owned land, update zoning. Please prioritize policies that make it easier to build the kinds of homes working people can actually afford. This is essential to keeping the Sault livable and vibrant.

11/18/2025

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Take back the downtown. Make the streets safe.

11/18/2025

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Limit property tax increases to the absolute minimum, As it is.

Increasingly difficult for seniors who are retired to pay the increased amount, especially with the cost of living Increases over the past ten years. It is possible that with all the increased costs seniors are going to be forced to move out of their home that they have been familiar with causing extreme anguish.

11/18/2025

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Budgetary transparency

11/18/2025

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Maintain taxes at or near inflation

Maintain infrastructure particularly roads, sewage

Public safety for residents and visitors

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11/18/2025

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Allow and enforce some kind of safety procedure for our community members especially in the down town core area.

Offer more activities not just for children or teens, but for young adults, adults and seniors

11/18/2025

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Lower taxes and getting roads redone

11/18/2025

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Lower taxes

11/18/2025

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More housing

11/18/2025

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keep taxes as low as possible and keep focusing on finding more affordable housing. If taxes need to go up it should reflect in the improved services. I think the huge plan to develop the waterfront is admerable but maybe not realistic when we have upwards of 300 people per day who sleep outside.

11/18/2025

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Make it safe and you will attract better citizens

11/18/2025

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Get rid of the trash, needles, human waste and provide jobs instead of handouts

11/18/2025

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Stop putting money into the dead downtown

11/18/2025

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Listen to the residents. We should not be spending money on projects like the downtown plaza or swimming pool in the river. People need help with BASIC needs - food, shelter and housing - not recreational spaces! Get your priorities straight.

11/18/2025

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Keeping taxes down and attracting new business

11/18/2025

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Larger fines for out-of-town property owners who failed manage their properties a dn bring down value and neighbourhood

11/18/2025

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Listen to the public input instead of following through with ideals that are so out of reach for this particular area. We need safety at home and in our streets before we give the downtown a public bathtub.

11/18/2025

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Economic growth

11/18/2025

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re invest in steel plant

11/18/2025

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quit wasting taxpayers dollars on pie in the sky projects

11/18/2025

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Ensure that people can afford to live here. Property taxes for residents are too high!!!! That needs to change. In these times Council needs to direct available funds to absolutely necessary services and needs. Vanity projects and nice to have projects (ie downtown plaza, fountain, etc) cannot be a priority at this time. We cannot afford these niceities at this time. IT IS TIME TO MAKE THE TOUGH CHOICES.

It is time to find out what is going on with the over budget expenditures of the police services. Where is the money going? What can be done to bring these costs back in line. You rarely see police monitoring traffic and pulling drivers over for infractions. We all know that driver behaviour in this community has gotten ridiculous. Speeding, road rage, accidents...it is unbelievable how terrible driver behaviour has become since COVID. I don't know where the revenue goes from tickets but a small fortune could be recouped if the police would start traffic enforcement- not to mention the huge improvement that would be, and needs to be, made to community safety.

I agree with the idea of having a 5 year rolling budget for winter maintenance so that in years where the winter is milder and the costs are lower, that those savings could be saved and used in the years when more money is needed during harsh winters. Also someone needs to look into why some city employees are using city vehicles for personal use (bringing home dump trucks, tri-axle trucks, graders to commute home for lunch everyday). I'm sure, and I would hope, this is not being done by everyone but it is being done by some, and I don't want my tax dollars being used for this purpose- at any time.

This will not be an easy budget time but it is necessary for city staff and Council to be good stewards and to make the tough decisions to find savings, and tow the line on no tax increase or very low increase - and by low I mean no more than 1%.

11/18/2025

- We need diverse economic industry and jobs here
- Create a task force that goes out and sells our city to create new jobs
- Seems like the city is failing at this especially with Algoma Steel downturning

11/18/2025

Affordable property taxes, stop increasing them, find money elsewhere, stop spending money on unnecessary things, focus on what is needed now, affordability for seniors to stay in their own homes, easier access to home care services, better communication between health services, changes need to happen for people with no family doctor to access health care promptly...sick people need to be looked after in home town instead of worry how and who going to get them there etc etc...utilized our medical facilities better. Thank you

11/18/2025

Gain control of abandoned dwellings, fix them the sell the hem or use as affordable housing when possible. Increase difficulty in allowing building abandonment

11/18/2025

Affordability for seniors to afford living and staying in their homes, tax cuts for seniors, easier access to home health care, easier network for people without a family doctor, definitely better wait times at hospital...communication to all necessary

11/18/2025

Need to look at labour costs as that is one of the most costly things. Hiring all these event managers, have a rink facility which barely hosts anything but hockey and having such a large staff with high salaries makes no sense. Paying close to 350000\$ just for four staff not counting the other and then hiring event manager for downtown plaza seems a little extreme. Where are all the events and cant the GFL staff handle those events as nothing happens there in the summer.

11/18/2025

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#### Partnerships

11/18/2025

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Our extremely high property tax rate (one of the highest in the country) yields a poor return on investment. The current fiscal strategy is misaligned: millions are spent on non-essential projects (e.g., bike lanes) while core services collapse. We face crumbling roads and rampant crime, yet City Hall priorities seem focused on internal compensation (Sunshine List, Council raises). We demand immediate redirection of funds to vital infrastructure maintenance and public safety. Priorities must shift to benefit the majority of taxpayers.

11/18/2025

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Increase affordable housing . Not just issue building permits but follow up to make sure construction is proceeding as per compliance and completion.

11/18/2025

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#### Reduce property taxes, Reduce PUC water/sewage waste fees

11/18/2025

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#### Reduce property taxes, reduce PUC water/sewage charges,

11/18/2025

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The city needs to actively pursue and support more diversity of local industry. A stronger, diverse economy will increase the municipal tax base, employ young people and allow for the expansion of local services without significant tax burden to current taxpayers.

11/18/2025

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strengthen public health infrastructure, find alternative tax sources (e.g., implement vacancy tax, apply for more grants)

11/18/2025

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Stop wasting taxpayer dollars on foolish ideas like the beach and swimming pool in St Mary's River.

11/18/2025

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#### Lower prices

11/18/2025

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Reduce crime and remove addicts from the downtown are so citizens feel safer to visit the shops. Stiffer penalties for drug crimes.

11/18/2025

Invest in attracting businesses. Shops that are geared to the demographic of our population. We are essentially a community of older people.

11/18/2025

find a way to keep tax increases as minimal as possible even if it means reduction of service in some area. Every department has areas where they could save, start doing that.

11/18/2025

Maintain the properties and services that are established. Do not create outstanding tourist attractions, eg. Swimming pool in river and a beach in the Clergue Park area.

11/18/2025

We need to build community lead housing initiatives and come down hard on slum lords

11/18/2025

Stop frivolous spending, no one wants a pool in the river put that money into attracting festivals that bring people to the community and cleaning up areas we already have. Expand Bellevue park, clergue park etc make what we have a place people want to go and spend their time

11/18/2025

The city should not be putting money into building waterfront facilities that can only be used for 3-4 months of the year. If that money went into affordable housing or road maintenance then maybe they wouldn't have to increase property taxes

11/18/2025

More money spent on road maintenance would make the city more livable for everyone.

11/18/2025

Transparency in budget. During times like this management wages should be frozen- or at least not increased by percentage but by a fixed amount across the management spectrum, discretionary spending very limited, ensure levy boards are also not over using discretionary spending.. make them accountable via public scrutiny of budget. Rid wasteful spending if there isn't significant successful results.

11/18/2025

Cut salaries from employees that would rather work from home than go to their office. (You can't service the public in person, if you're not in the office. Let's not forget who your bosses are.)

11/18/2025

Deal with all the crime and drug addicts

11/18/2025

Continue to encourage economic growth in the community, as a stronger tax base allows us to provide more services for those in need.

11/18/2025

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Develop more effective resources for dealing with addictions, as they cost our city a great deal of time, effort, and expense. The waiting lists for help are long and the choices are few. Addiction prevention, including more opportunities for youth and marginalized people to find connections to the community, are needed.

11/18/2025

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Crack down on absentee landlords and encourage the construction of more multi-use apartments and tiny home neighbourhoods.

11/18/2025

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Provide more safe recreational and job opportunities for our youth to help them find hope for their futures. Helping them engage in the community and find meaningful employment opportunities is vital to their mental, social, and financial well-being.

11/18/2025

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Look at necessary positions and reduce unnecessary staffing. I am sure there is some wasteful spending at the city that can be reduced to limit how much taxes need to be raised. What would the budget look like if taxes were not raised? Are there any easy savings wins that can be found in all departments?

11/18/2025

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Have security guard added to North Branch Library during opening hours, so the staff are safe.

11/18/2025

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Lower property taxes

11/18/2025

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support services for elderly, remove or reduce barriers to an active, healthy aging demographic

11/18/2025

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To make life more affordable, the city should be pushing for more geared to income housing and should take a "need" or "want" attitude when it comes to spending. Increased police presence in the downtown and neighborhoods is needed as citizens need to feel safe when walking in our community which is not the case today. Also, city should look at restructuring at city hall and amalgamating departments to reduce labour costs.

11/18/2025

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Focus on safety and existing infrastructure as opposed to adding more

11/18/2025

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Don't waste our tax dollars on silly things like plazas. Keep our property taxes down.

11/18/2025

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Cut fire jobs

11/18/2025

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More affordable housing. Safer downtown.

11/18/2025

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eliminate ridiculous projects

11/18/2025

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Reduce taxes

11/18/2025

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Attract businesses, manufacturing to create jobs in order to grow and support the local economy first

11/18/2025

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Safety. There is no one fighting the government from our city about the laws that do not protect our persons, hence random acts of violence and murder. Our homes, and property we pay taxes for but not protected. People that move here see the beautiful part

11/18/2025

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Help the homeless, the mentally and the addicted to get off the streets of downtown. Create true affordable housing for them, and provide the mental health supports that are needed.

11/18/2025

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Attract tourists by cleaning up our streets so addicts can't use in public spaces and get tougher on theft. Improve the waterfront to draw boaters and tourists to the area.

11/18/2025

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Need an election to get rid of the current council and mayor

11/18/2025

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Affordable housing

11/18/2025

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Stop giving tax incentives to business and property owners.

11/18/2025

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Stop chasing rainbows (waterfront pool). Take back our city, make it safe and freeze taxes which are much higher than other communities.

11/18/2025

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The City of Sault Ste. Marie continues to face the growing challenges shared by communities across Canada: increasing homelessness, addiction, and mental health crises. While these are federal and provincial priorities, municipalities play a pivotal role in shaping the daily experience of residents. The city's leadership and investments set the tone for what kind of community we create together.

As the city plans its budget, consideration should go beyond basic infrastructure maintenance. Sidewalk and road repairs, while essential, will not address the deeper issues affecting quality of life. Sustainable progress depends on how we support our most vulnerable residents and foster a sense of belonging for all.

There should be a continued focus on reassessing and reimagining downtown Sault Ste. Marie as a healthy, safe, and vibrant gathering space; a place that celebrates the community's creativity and strengthens its already dynamic arts and culture sector. The city has made impressive strides in revitalizing the downtown core, and it is important to keep that momentum going.

I also recognize that police and fire services now play a growing role in responding to mental health and addiction-related emergencies. Building an innovative, coordinated network of care, across municipal services, health agencies, and community partners, is critical to creating long-term solutions.

At the same time, the community's economic resilience depends on how we adapt to shifting industrial and employment landscapes. We hope the city will continue to lead by fostering partnerships that support the modernization of Algoma Steel and its spinoff industries, while also encouraging the diversification of the local economy. Attracting and supporting new industries will strengthen the community, ensuring stability and opportunity for residents across all sectors.

Moving forward, I encourage the city to maintain its leadership in collaboration, compassion, and innovation; investing in people and partnerships to build a stronger, more inclusive future for everyone.

11/18/2025

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Consider past community growth efforts a failure and look for a model city with successful growth to emulate. Considerable focussed and resources effort is needed to maintain population level and more effort than ever in the expended in the past will be required to achieve even modest growth. A 100,000 population is not an achievable target.

11/18/2025

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Dealing with the crime and drug problem

11/18/2025

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Create an additional tax for investment properties that are owned by a non-Sault residents. If the property is occupied by somebody other than the property owner or one of their immediate family members, they would be subject to additional tax, similar to a vacant home tax.

11/18/2025

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U cannot please everyone, we should all realize where we choose to live, there will always be snow and challenges we face with road conditions, I live in an area in the city where I have no sidewalks, even though my property ends at city, I always keep my property clean to the street, where as other owners do not

11/18/2025

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Be more realistic with municipal spending to create revenue

11/18/2025

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Look at demographics—SSM is not all made of healthy, vibrant and active people. There is a very large population of adults with disabilities, cognitive decline, mobility issues and lack of accessible housing and supports to manage at home. Focus on making SSM accessible for those who are aging and those with disabilities. The city tends to focus on recreational activities for children and young families but it's those without family support or the financial means and who have physical or cognitive function that require the city's help. Improve transportation services for the home bound... we only have Voyago to take people to hospital appts . Why not offer a service so those people can get out in a wheelchair to look at Xmas lights or attend a family function perhaps? Parabus is curb to curb service... many people need help getting out of their houses or apartments. Look at building neighbourhoods that cater to the elderly or to those with disabilities where accessibility is not an issue, where yardwork and snow removal is managed and that encourages building community and supports amongst each other. Look at demographics... it's not just about the young and healthy but those who need support and a sense of community.

11/18/2025

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Bring more jobs to our community for those who are born here and stop bringing refugees here as we don't have the economy to support them.

11/18/2025

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Start recruiting for more doctors so people who pay property taxes have access to a doctor.

11/18/2025

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Affordable housing- do not rely on developers to offer it. Look at other ways such as co-ops etc. Look at alternative living arrangements for seniors. The status quo is nor working for ordinary people- be bold and look for solutions that work in other places.

11/18/2025

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Ask people as a survey to fill out. The community has good ideas and no one wants to swim in the St. Mary's River off the boardwalk

11/18/2025

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Increase our tax base to the areas that use our services but don't pay into our tax base. Example , prince township and Goulais River.

Support a safer community by supporting police and other services (Canadian mental health ect.). It's great to have events downtown but not when you don't feel safe enough to attend.

11/18/2025

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Attract more industry. Especially with the steel plant laying off 1000+ people

11/18/2025

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More adult things to do in winter seasons besides bars and food. IE: indoor climbing bouldering facility more indoor activities for adults and youth

11/18/2025

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Stop sprawl and road expansion projects. Implement paid parking for city staff. Optimize parking management through demand based pricing. Sell underused parking or convert to community green spaces.

11/18/2025

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Do not increase property taxes. Stop spending money on dumb vanity projects. Just spend less money.

11/18/2025

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Stop wasting tax dollars on foolishly overpriced vanity projects such as the downtown plaza, the waterfront Beach idea, etc. Focus on community safety, the opioid epidemic & related crime, housing & economic development.

11/18/2025

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Not increase property tax

11/18/2025

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Don't spend money we don't have. We don't need anymore vanity projects. Don't need a pool on the river. Don't need the downtown plaza. For the life of me I don't understand why we don't utilize the Bondar tent more. Stop removing 4 lane roads to add bike lanes. The city is small enough if you want to bike places use side streets not main arteries. Wallace terrace and goulia Ave are a step back, please stop removing traffic lanes for bikes lanes. You're only making traffic worse.

11/18/2025

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Clean up the crime and drug problem. The laws are already in place, enforce them.

11/18/2025

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Fix our streets. Never mind improving downtown as people can't get there on substandard streets

11/18/2025

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Fight crime. There's too much crime here. It's unsafe.

11/18/2025

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I am deeply disappointed with our council's decisions. First off, the Soo Market was fine in the old location and had MUCH better parking. I am not sure why our city didn't just update the previous building? Second off, why do we need so many "water" activities like numerous splash pads and fountains when we live in NORTHERN ONTARIO! We get 2 months of warm weather. The remaining 10 months are cold, windy, rainy, snowy. Why haven't we invested in something indoors at the Station Mall???? Help invest in something like a trampoline park for the kids? Instead of these ridiculously expensive water activities that are used never. And why are we building more "stadiums" for concerts etc? When we have FANTASTIC ones who need tender loving care (pavillion, bellevue park). All the money spent on building new things rather than upgrading our amenities makes it seem like you all are lining a friends' pockets. That is the word around town. Start listening to the PEOPLE of SSM before making decisions YOU think are good. You don't ask for our input? It's simple enough to send some surveys explaining the ideas you have and the approximate cost and have the community vote and put forward opinions. But you don't do that? You make choices for yourselves or what you believe the community needs. I haven't heard of ONE person who supports any of these costly decisions.

11/18/2025

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Bring more industry and investment

11/18/2025

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Investing in housing, attraction business and employers to the Sault. Investing in means to address social issues in the Sault, especially the opioid crisis.

11/18/2025

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11/18/2025

Stop crime and drugs

11/18/2025

Stop wasting tax dollars on climate/social justice/DEI initiatives & ridiculous consultants

11/18/2025

Quit spending tax dollars on pie in the sky projects.

11/18/2025

Too many people. Culture is welcomed but I think it's gone over board

11/18/2025

Na

11/18/2025

Na

11/17/2025

Reduce taxes! Make departments more efficient not throw money at them... police for instance do not need another 4 million dollars they need to be more efficient

11/17/2025

The most important action the City should take is to address the combination of rising living costs, limited employment opportunities, and the shortage of affordable housing, because these pressures directly contribute to mental health challenges and overall community instability. By increasing access to affordable housing, supporting job creation and skill-building programs, and strengthening mental health and social services, the City can help residents manage essential costs such as rent, transportation, and basic needs. Improving these areas together would make Sault Ste. Marie more affordable, stable, and livable for everyone.

11/17/2025

Healthcare and more jobs. More jobs to attract people to get more tax money. Health care because we have aging boomers and lots of people without family doctors.

11/17/2025

There needs to be affordable housing that isn't just in the rental sector. Coordinating with the dssab the city should implement a first time home buyers initiative in the form of a forgivable loan for an average home to those who qualify for a mortgage. A modest investment in this program can put people in homes vs rentals. \$300,000 will put a few families or people in homes.

11/17/2025

I think there is some wasted money on winter road maintenance and fire and police services. The amount of money put towards winter road maintenance is quite extreme. I live on Queen Street and they are plowing down the the pavement everyday. I also see some maintenance being done pre maturely. I also see issues with the amount of money invested in police services and not seeing positive results. I also saw extra money go towards a downtown police precinct and I have seen less police presence downtown. I just feel like the tax payers investment in police services isn't being used appropriately or adequately. I am not in support of increasing property taxes this year. Cost of living is really high right now and the city needs to adjust to meet its tax payers needs.

11/17/2025

Make treatment mandatory for addicted individuals, charge people for vagrancy and keep all offenders in jail. For public safety and to pay their debt owed to society. Also, there should be safe, affordable, housing for seniors. Not mixed in with ODSP and younger people. 55 and up only. And do frequent inspections with consequences for not adhering to the rules.

11/17/2025

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## Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026–2027 budget.

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Safe city and affordable living should be number one , I hate I can't go anywhere and feel safe and when I have to do adulting so much is not affordable

11/30/2025

Keep taxes as low as possible.

11/30/2025

Improve and maintain what we already have because both citizens and tourists just want to enjoy beautiful spaces and simple amenities. Put the fountain back in the river where everyone enjoyed sitting and looking at, or walking past it, leaning on railing gazing at it, and taking pictures with it in the background. Stop saying it's too expensive when you're spending crazy amounts of money putting one in at the downtown plaza! Not everyone wants to go there! Take a walk and see how many people enjoy walking, cycling, running, or dog walking along the river boardwalk, all the way through to the library, bush plane museum, Bellevue marina, Bellevue Park, and Top Sail Island! Have you even ever gone out to see for yourselves. Well I have gone in the morning, afternoon and evenings and that's where people enjoy spending time the most, not at the Plaza!! Please stop this downtown spending and wake up to the beautiful potential your ignoring by the waterfront! Other cities have done just that and what a difference!

11/30/2025

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DO SOMETHING WITH THE STATION MALL ASAP. RECREATIONAL CENTRE

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11/30/2025

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Increase police driving around by Number 1 focusing on the crime and addicts running around terrifying the public and elderly. 2nd bus shelters for people who work 5 days a week and stand in minus 30 for 2 hrs when buses don't show up. You punish the wrong people! Make us safe and jail the criminals. Common sense please.

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11/29/2025

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I'm strongly considering moving. I'm sure there are many others that also have thought about it. I can't take my kids to the park because there's dirty needles, broken glass and what ever else they leave around. I don't feel safe here. That's what people NEED, that's what parents NEED.

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11/28/2025

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Look at the root of problems and stop using bandaids

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11/28/2025

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If work is done right the first time and the staff work effectively, could save money. An example, our streets shouldn't be down to minimal passage in the winter. Main arteries are barely 2 lanes.

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11/28/2025

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Consider by weekly garbage pickup during winter months

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11/28/2025

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Why no question about decreasing police budget ?

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11/28/2025

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I'm tired of watching my taxes go up for little reward other than to see how many hundreds of thousands of dollars get squandered on taking traffic lights out and then putting them back in mere months later. Those actions are not cheap and they are waste of money stop acting on whims.

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11/28/2025

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Stop wasting money on the downtown. Until you deal with the drug problem and housing shortage - there is no point. Stay in the budget.

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11/28/2025

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Create more rcip jobs for immigrants since immigrants are the ones who is going to develop the city and the nation.

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11/28/2025

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Try to remove abandoned structures. An empty lot looks far better than a boarded up and vandalized building

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11/28/2025

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I am born, raised, college, and all my employment in SSM. I used to be proud of our little city. Now it doesn't even feel like Canada anymore. 41 years in this city and I don't feel safe here anymore. Overall I am disappointed.

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11/27/2025

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N/A

11/27/2025

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Reduce the number of councilors at the next election. Only 8 cities in all of Ontario have 2 councilors per ward! Larger municipalities manage just fine with only 1 per ward. It will save money, time and show the city is serious about affordability and it's tax payers!

11/27/2025

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Other cities have come up with solutions for drug and homeless issues. We have to make our streets and back yards safe for all.

11/27/2025

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Improve social activities for older adults.. not seniors

11/27/2025

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affordable in door courts for pickleball one court with low ceiling at bay street not enough

11/27/2025

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We spend taxpayers money on building pools and stuff that's never ever used. Go check all the Pickleball courts in the summer. They are full. All seniors are out there playing, and it keeps your health cost down resurface them properly.

11/27/2025

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NA

11/27/2025

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Police services and Fire services have become too big of a burden on our taxes. I suggest the police find a way to reduce fleet costs. Europeans use smaller more efficient cars. I see way to many pickup trucks and sassy SUV's. These are not required.

11/27/2025

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NEED A DEDICATED PICKLEBALL COURT - IT IS THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT, GREAT FOR ALL AGES

11/27/2025

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Free Educational initiative for the public on how city budgets are allocated and function (i.e. downtown plaza investment does not mean less supports for mental health/addictions). Maybe partner with Sault College for a micro-credential or online training or Algoma U. I see there is a Q&A at the bottom of this page but it is only reaching those who move through the survey.

11/27/2025

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I would like to see an external audit done on our city spending, including value for dollars spent, contracting practices etc.

11/27/2025

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Do not raise taxes so the city can attempt to run the downtown. That is not our problem. We don't need taxes raised for something that didn't need to happen.

11/27/2025

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Please consider upgrading our outdoor pickleball courts and having a permanent, proper indoor pickleball facility would be a great asset to our city.

11/27/2025

Please consider upgrading our outdoor pickleball courts and having a permanent, proper indoor pickleball facility would be a great plus for our city.

11/27/2025

Can I get my road plowed before 48 hours after a snow storm? I would also like it if they could put the snow evenly on both sides and not 75% on this side EVERY TIME. I understand they plow to the right, but switch the direction every second time

11/27/2025

Increase accessibility and safety

11/27/2025

None keep up the good work running the city in these trying times!

11/27/2025

cost of living is hurting our residents and it seems the council is concentrating on vanity projects that are on their wish lists while some people are having to choose whether to feed their families or pay bills its time to be responsible when spending our tax dollars,

11/26/2025

Stop adding methadone clinics and shelters to the downtown you are trying to rebuild. It's like trying to build a swimming pool in the steel plant slag pit and wondering why no one is swimming.

11/26/2025

We have youth soccer competing in provincial leagues on substandard fields!  
Complete the indoor soccer to full size field! Let us not repeat history!

11/26/2025

Pushing for when land is purchase, 5-10% of existing landscape to stay on it. And once building is complete additional 5-10% landscape needs to be added back

11/26/2025

Make our local economy stronger and promote new industry

11/26/2025

Stop the useless spending, you are here for the people of SSM not your wishlists like the downtown plaza and the pools in the river. This will not bring tourism in.

11/25/2025

To keep in mind...this city needs a rubberized track!! John Rhodes??...

11/25/2025

People are losing their jobs with little hope of new opportunities in the future. Keep this city we grew up in strong, no jobs, no people. And down town is NOT a safe place for the elderly and children, open your eyes.

11/25/2025

None at this time

11/25/2025

Speed bumps on Dacey traffic light at Dacey and trunk

11/25/2025

Take better care of the street maintenance and try to bring in more small shops for tourism on Queen Street we are a border city we should attract the USA people to come over

11/25/2025

I would like city council to take into consideration and increase laws to protect its citizens.

11/24/2025

Quit waisting our tax dollars!!

11/24/2025

Our City streets are embarrassing. Fix our infrastructure rather than building new projects.

11/24/2025

A monthly news letter from each councillor to their constituents as part of transparency.

11/24/2025

More focus on generating profits. A little more businesslike.

Festivals, events, and things that encourage community belonging for young people.

11/24/2025

Fire, Police, road maintenance, EMT most important services for our city.

11/24/2025

Consider the younger generation who has decades longer to work, to buy a house, build a family. It seems like this city caters to the older generation who has already been able to do all that but not to the younger generation who has yet to begin anything

11/24/2025

The city has made a lot of good progress over the years especially around reducing the number of lanes on Bay and Lyons. The investments into downtown are also appreciated. The Soo has been victim to a number of bad planning decisions over the decades but I see some efforts to fix these challenges.

11/24/2025

We deserve a clear itemized breakdown of where taxes are going because nothing about this city shows proof that taxes are being properly utilized by the city

11/24/2025

Stop wasting money on your downtown and fix the root of the problem first then invest down there. Fix the roads, city officials should be ashamed of the state of the roads in this city. Fix the roads, get some property standards going in this city, fix the parks and tennis courts, clean up downtown and make it look presentable. This city has a lot of potential but I think it is to far gone and the basic needs of this city has been neglected for decades, just drive around. Now you want to put pool in the st Mary's River? Where has property tax money been going for the last two decades because if you drive around it looks like this city is stuck in the 80's

11/24/2025

Coordination of services and community partnerships

11/23/2025

Give housing permit as fast as possible

11/23/2025

Move the Sacred Heart site drug site so tourists and children don't have to see the craziness and how our city allows users shooting up on the sidewalk

11/23/2025

Stop spending millions investing in our downtown when there is a large population of addicted and homeless people around constantly. It's not safe. I avoid downtown unless I absolutely have to. People are getting randomly attacked. It's not right. Also I pay very high taxes and I saw a snow plow on my street maybe 3 times all winter. And it is possible to get the equipment to stop putting ice mountains at the end of peoples driveways. It is extremely dangerous and not right that that happens. You're preventing emergency responders from getting access to houses in the event of an emergency. I don't pay 5 grand in taxes to have a heart attack trying to clear the massive ice Chunks left in my driveway. Thank you.

11/23/2025

Do better. Make our city safer.

11/23/2025

Our houseless population need homes, we need affordable and free shelter available to every single person in our city.

11/23/2025

Efficiencies can create more room in the budget to pay for or contribute to social programs.

11/23/2025

Not comment

11/22/2025

The Sault has gone downhill so much that I don't even want to live here anymore we need more help for those with addictions or bring back public intoxication charges if I can't have a drink in public my kids shouldn't see people basically overdosing in public I don't recommend anyone moving here to the city I used to love anymore

11/22/2025

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Physician recruitment is important but keeping us healthy to begin with is more important. Cities can play a big role in that

11/22/2025

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None

11/22/2025

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Please look at Snowdon park for updates and improvements on the pickle ball courts

11/22/2025

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Look to fix and maintain roads.

Support police to fight drugs and all crimes .

Look to bring new industries and businesses to boost employment.

Stop frivolous spending!!!

11/22/2025

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Would like better& proper road repairs.and winter maintenance. Plant more trees in some of the forgotten parks ... keep supporting policing for

Crime, drugs & human trafficking .

Support mental health programs .

11/22/2025

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No more feasibility studies unless it's voted by the public. The pool idea at Clerguq Park is absolutely insane. But here we're throwing 250 grand at a study, which I don't think ever should've been done or approved . Leave it as a park if you want to invest in a good investment, get to work on the RV park that provided annual income run it as a profitable business business at point to Chenes easy money maker set the fees people will go more revenue and self-sufficient business

Make all the pools all the rinks everything be self-sufficient as they're already built charge the fees so that they're able to stay open on their own if they aren't they don't operate properly

11/22/2025

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Put a crosswalk in on Dacey Rd. Stop wasting money on traffic efficiency when known safety issues are already on the radar.

11/22/2025

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On a budget breakdown please include revenue generated by enforcement agency from tickets rather than just a lump sum.

11/22/2025

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Utilize local employers to maintain city services rather than hiring its own workers.

11/22/2025

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The city is not keeping up with infrastructure improvements when compared to the value of property taxes collected. Everything is expensive these days, however I want my tax dollars to support tangible improvements to infrastructure including water, roads, snow removal and mulch collection

11/22/2025

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No

11/22/2025

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It's important to have safe places for our youth to hang out, stay out of trouble, have many fun activities they will enjoy. Gardening city properties, flower beds around the city for school volunteering. Have a Help Needed list of people offering their help for minimum wage or free; seniors or handicapped, anyone needing help in the city. Could be connected to high-school volunteering. It would be great to have a pool in the west end.

11/22/2025

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Please do not waste our money on a water front pool. This is the last thing that we need and it will resolve nothing. I have young kids and that isn't even a draw for me.

11/21/2025

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See previous comment

11/21/2025

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make the different city depts more accountable for the services they provide

11/21/2025

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Increase in all First Responder budgets.

11/21/2025

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Have a survey every 6 months from your employees to grade the job that your well paid managers are doing.

11/21/2025

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The biggest thing for me is to have a safe clean community. Money should be invested in public safety, police and fire. And an effort should be made to make current buildings and areas that are owned and operated by the city looking good and clean and efficient. I like what was done to the city hall but many other building and areas are in need of updating and modernization. This brings me to my next point of not cutting corners when doing things. Historically the city has done this, I don't think I need to give examples. Our current buildings and grounds are hanging on by a thread, invest and do proper work that will last and be efficient and save the city money in the long run. Running a city is no different than running a personal house, just on a larger scale. In my home if I notice a deficiency, I invest the money to make my home efficient and save money in the long run. I like being able to look at my home and see efficiency and updated looks, and my guests enjoy it too. I know I'm simplifying it a great deal but the message is the same. Invest in your safety (police/Fire) and buildings and the public will be proud not to mention the city staff will be happy to be in them and long term savings with modernization is huge. This is our home and we want to be proud of it. Hopefully the trickle down effect will hit other businesses and homes to want to match the looks of the city and they will do their part to work on private buildings that the city obviously has no authority on. Thank you, I hope this message is actually considered.

11/21/2025

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We have a serious drug problem that needs to be dealt with

11/21/2025

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11/21/2025

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Get rid of catch and release criminal programs. Criminals should face time in jail.

11/21/2025

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See above, every year I ask the same thing; make our city safer then I will give my input on how we can improve tourism, immigration, recreation, events, green spaces, public works etc.,

11/21/2025

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Keep properly taxes to 0% or very close to it

It's not a revenue problem it's a spending problem

Spend on essential services reduce spending on non essential services

Limit or prohibit new projects that will result in new on going operational costs. (For example even if a swimming pool on the St Marys river was fully funded by other levels of government, on going city operational costs need to be made public before any decision to proceed)

11/21/2025

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Assist homeowners that have ongoing water issues in their neighbourhood (high water table). City staff (public works) are aware of the "problem areas" but are limited in what they do. Property taxes should be used to assist homeowners in "problem areas" that experience ongoing water damage, round the clock reliance on sump pumps, maintenance costs, sand pipe wells or other solutions. Public education on who to reach out to for help (public works, engineers, possibly other city staff) and guidance.

11/21/2025

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Please stop the wasteful spending on things like the downtown plaza and urban beach.

11/21/2025

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11/21/2025

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Safety first, always. Including roads, downtown, children, elderly, you get the gist

11/21/2025

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More help for the poor

11/21/2025

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Please focus on homeless people .. it will save large amounts t of tax dollars

11/21/2025

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11/21/2025

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Na

11/21/2025

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Please start being fiscally responsible with your constituents' money

11/20/2025

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Tax increases are necessary every year just to provide funding to wage adjustments. Focus on that and limit the "gravy" in the budget.

11/20/2025

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Why spent all this money downtown when they is so much to clean up.

11/20/2025

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N/A

11/20/2025

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Na

11/20/2025

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Crime everywhere, invest in more security or police. Enough with the social programs and free stuff for people with heavy addictions. Giving out free housing, clothing, food, crack pipes at everyone else's expense does not encourage change but enables current behaviour and attracts more of it. Treatment is needed, not enabling. They know how to work the system. Stop putting shelters in residential neighbourhoods. Stop dumping money into a plaza. Invest in Gardens or Tent. Stop with consulting fees to lawyers/integrity commissioners enriching these firms on our dime. Enough with the truth and reconciliation. The more labels you put, the more you divide. We are all human beings. Plenty of different cultures here which contributed to our history, do you hire a policy and advisor for each one. Invest in the employees you already have and improve current core services. Stop disrupting traffic flow everywhere. More people and less lanes = more lineups and multiple light cycles. Stop wasting money on reducing lanes of traffic for bike lanes that very few use. The city is in financial trouble yet you're going to put a swimming pool in st Mary's river. Less spending, lower taxes.

11/20/2025

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make houses more affordable

11/20/2025

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More bike trails! I live hilltop and it's a shame I have to drive to be able to bike anywhere!

11/20/2025

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Keep tax rate below the avg increase of wages in the community

11/20/2025

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we have zero dollars for an increase period

11/20/2025

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11/20/2025

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Now is not the time to worry about beautification and tourism because no one is coming here to walk around and not feel safe ! Make safety a priority then once we handle the drug addiction and homelessness in our city the we can worry about tourism and beautification because people will come ! Start realizing we have a mint issue in this town and stop trying to brush it aside !

11/20/2025

Better train staff to perform duties within their job scope. Clean up the drug crime, build detention and detox centres away from the public eye fund the police services to perform the act of law and clean up our city.

11/20/2025

The improvement of downtown core residential situation needs to be addressed as it looks very bad for new persons coming into the city.

11/20/2025

No beach

11/20/2025

Please repave Florwin Drive.

11/20/2025

Support new/small businesses by sharing advertisements and information. Make it easier for start ups to survive by providing tax breaks in the first 1-3 years.

11/20/2025

The budget is already spread thin, we don't need the government meddling in art and culture. Stick to finite things like the down town and roads where change can be made. A new native art piece on the waterfront helps no one, but everyone can benefit from cheaper taxes and better resource management

11/20/2025

Addiction

11/20/2025

Clean up downtown area and make it safer.No need to keep spending on extravagant plaza area-firstly make safe

11/20/2025

None

11/20/2025

Consider resurfacing/restructuring Snowden park. That's my favorite spot to play pickleball all summer long. I really enjoy playing and the social aspect of pickleball. It's a great way to get active but the court is falling apart.

11/20/2025

I think Snowden Park pickleball and tennis courts should be a priority for service.  
The surface is dangerous and the only outdoors pickleball court in the Eastend.

11/20/2025

The Snowden Park Tennis Court is well used. To enhance the safety of users, the surface ought to be replaced.

11/20/2025

11/20/2025

We done need a pool in the st Mary's river- continue the city buses out to point dechen.

11/19/2025

Na

11/19/2025

More high quality large scale events. GFL is doing a great job, keep it up!

11/19/2025

Please stop wasting money on bike lanes that are rarely used.

11/19/2025

Reinvest in our community.

11/19/2025

Eliminate all unnecessary spending.

11/19/2025

Please do not increase taxes. Taxes are currently higher than mortgage rates, which is incredibly unfair.

11/19/2025

11/19/2025

City council needs to address aging outdoor recreation facilities in light of increase interest from the community . Outdoor courts are unsafe and need to be improved to accelerate multi sport pickleball tennis and basketball . Multi use design to maximize use of.

11/19/2025

I'm curious as to how police services have such a deficit from 2024 and 2025 requiring them an 11% increase in 2026 budget.

11/19/2025

Save more money and account for more "overflow" if there is another extreme winter like last year.

Increase police budget, seems like we don't have enough police for our changing city.

11/19/2025

The city should make sure they have enough fire suppression staff to protect the east end at all times not just sometimes. Ridiculous if a house caught on fire on dacy rd or further east they wouldn't get the response they are entitled to as a tax payer. Maybe reduce the amount of management and public education officers and other jobs in offices to compensate. Dangerous and irresponsible. Also don't get rid of open air burning with a fire permit. And look over your agreement on police officers being off on mental health leave and how much they get compensated it's insane.

11/19/2025

Use the budget to better support our local saultites. Preferably those who are homeless and heavy in addiction. Look into more geared to income housing units being built here. The housing crisis is bad and YOU as a council need to consider this.

11/19/2025

Downtown should be shining.

Eventhough it has shining lights and all people scared to go there past 5 o clock

11/19/2025

Increase the redevelopment of the downtown area and initiate a regeneration project for the west side area.

11/19/2025

Please don't raise our taxes any more. We cannot afford it like places in southern Ontario with many more people in their communities contributing to the tax fund.

11/19/2025

remember that there are alot of people that are struggling and increasing property taxes fees will just become an added stress, especially with with layoffs everywhere and especially the steel plant

11/19/2025

You can't build a prosperous flourishing city full of drug addicts. Get a grip on the drugs and remove the addicts from public places. Stop facilitating their issues and start treating them - or remove them to some place that will.

11/19/2025

N/a

11/19/2025

As the City prepares the 2026 budget, I hope they focus on projects that actually benefit residents. Some suggestions include:

- Tax incentives to attract new businesses and support local entrepreneurs.
- Investment in recreation and tourism, like an indoor water park, updated sports facilities, and year-round attractions.
- More funding for road and infrastructure repairs, instead of constant patchwork fixes.
- Expanding public transit options, especially for seniors and students.
- Supporting community safety, including better lighting, clean-up initiatives, and neighbourhood programs.

We need the budget to reflect what people actually need — affordability, opportunity, and a city that feels alive and worth staying in.

11/19/2025

If it's near the [REDACTED] it can wait 🙏

11/19/2025

Have a safer community

11/19/2025

Just ensure that city labourers are paid fairly and that this does not come out of their wages. I know there are some managers who are taking money from their labourers' wages without fair notice or communication and that's not right.

11/19/2025

Clean up the streets I'm tired of drug dens hearing that someone got stabbed or lit on fire. I'm told this used to be a nice safe place to live

11/19/2025

Should have take a survey to the community on what should be built or vote

11/19/2025

Give more money to the improvement of what we have and make it so people feel safe in town again

11/19/2025

Keep taxes low. Folks are defaulting on their mortgages due to the economic crisis in our city. Make the city workers more efficient and accountable for their productivity. This proposed waterfront development is insanity and completely out of touch with the reality of this city.

11/19/2025

A multi use curling and pickleball facility

11/19/2025

More police presence and tougher crime punishment to deter crimes. More CCTV across the city to easily identify crime doers, and hopefully easier identification to give jail time.

11/19/2025

Budget for security patrols downtown. Keep transit at its current location just rebuild there. Lessen the red tape for investors in our city and offer incentives to attract more companies to set up here to create jobs. Move the addiction facilities out of downtown. add public washrooms downtown.

11/19/2025

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11/19/2025

I recognize the job is tough and often thankless. It is important to continue working towards a safe community that residents can be proud to call home. We want to keep our youth here!

11/19/2025

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Do not spend any additional money on Downtown, until fully utilized

11/19/2025

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Focus on governing and stop infighting and making everything a personal agenda. No one cares about your personal politics. This is why no one wants to get involved anymore or volunteer.

11/19/2025

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The budget needs to focus its attention to side road maintenance. Streets in the West end have been forgotten this year, while second line has been resurfaced yet again. Roads such as East Balfour, side streets like 1st Ave., off of Douglas Street. Streets keep getting patched like Rowell Ave.,(last Winter water main break fixed) but then never replaced after they get packed down. The city works department is not good at follow up and our roads have suffered greatly this year.

11/19/2025

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No more wasted tax dollars on projects while increasing taxes. Pay off debts and be financially responsible. Not every mayor and concil need some grand legacy project.

11/19/2025

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No more bike lanes and decreasing roadways to 2 lanes instead of 3 or 4.

11/19/2025

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You all should be ashamed of yourselves. Padding your pockets while bickering over non-issues and quit dumping money into stupid projects. How much money has to go into city hall???? Like honestly. Redo the crumbling tile outside of gfl gardens. Bring back ways to entertain our youth, like mini golf (flabbergasted there isn't one here) and not silly things

11/19/2025

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The drug problem is extremely serious in the city and area, a lot more resources are needed.

11/19/2025

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Property tax increases should be frozen to the cpi index.

11/19/2025

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Na

11/19/2025

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We need to pause unnecessary new projects to hold taxes and focus on needed infrastructure repairs.

11/19/2025

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It's getting expensive to live here. Makes southern Ontario more appealing.

11/19/2025

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Many people do not feel safe anymore, especially downtown. More focus is needed on community safety - lowering crime, cleaning up the streets (literal garbage & hazardous materials) and protecting citizens and businesses

11/18/2025

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Cut top heavy waged supervisory positions and use that money for front lone workers to provide better customer service

11/18/2025

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Cut some of the top heavy supervisory positions and take that money and put it to use on the front line workers to increase customer service.

11/18/2025

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Reduce property taxes.

11/18/2025

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Would like to see an efficiency study for the city as we need to get rid of areas that are not worth their while

11/18/2025

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Property taxes are the same as a home in the city of Vaughn Ontario. They have much more access and services yet we pay the same amount of property taxes. Moving home to the Sault was a great idea when the cost of living was affordable. Now not do much City SSM .

11/18/2025

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Continue the reconciliation agenda. Building relationships and educating the public about the Anishnaabek and Metis history in this area don't have to cost money, just good will and commitment to dialogue.

11/18/2025

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Please cut down on new recreational and cultural development projects that are designed to bring in more tourism.

11/18/2025

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I'm prepared to pay more in property taxes if it helps the city improve winter maintenance, expand road reconstruction, host arts/culture events, maintain parks, etc. What I pay in yearly taxes feels so small, compared to what the city provides me on a daily basis.

11/18/2025

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Council needs to demonstrate stronger fiscal responsibility. Too often, spending choices do not reflect residents' priorities or offer good value for taxpayers.

11/18/2025

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Transparency

11/18/2025

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Performance measurement compared to other municipalities and private sector

Value for money

Priorities of need to expenditures versus nice to have

11/18/2025

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Some sort of program and facility for people with drug addiction issues that is going to get the help that they really need, instead of facilities helping those individuals detox and going back to those drug addictions and repeating those same routine

11/18/2025

Roads

11/18/2025

Families of all income status r working to stay above. Keeping taxes down and growing the economic outlook of our city will keep families happy and invested in our community.

11/18/2025

Composting system, improved recycling system

11/18/2025

Unhoused individuals roaming downtown . People doing drugs openly on the streets. Economic development and job creation.

11/18/2025

Please stop thinking what will better your business and start thinking of how we can better the people around us. The ones that work every day and still can't afford a plumber or nutritious groceries. The same individuals who get a package delivered to their house and have porch pirates steeling everything in sight. Let's make our community safe and welcoming for the ones who live and spend our hard-earned money here, first and foremost, before trying to attract people from outside of our Municipality.

11/18/2025

No more bike lanes ! No more subsidizing businesses , YMCA and charitable groups with my tax dollars

11/18/2025

na

11/18/2025

- We aim at being a tourist city but the lack of care in the Summer of cutting grass/weeds around the whole city is embarrassing. The city of SSM staff should be maintaining all sidewalks, walkways, roads and making the streets impeccable so when tourists come here, they will feel the city is on top of appearance. I can't believe nobody has noticed or cared to focus on our unattractive the city is during Summer tourism months. Put pressure on homes and businesses to do the same. We lack on making the city attractive, that's for sure.

11/18/2025

Increase cities IT/Network capabilities to allow tech center growth

11/18/2025

Open communication lines to community tax payers . Call or email citizens when an online issue is sent in . Transparency who is doing what and when will it be done. Especially from elected councillors and the mayor's office as well .

11/18/2025

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N/A

11/18/2025

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We need to spend money to clean up downtown area and enforce laws to make it safer in order to bring new businesses. Spending money on the new police services for downtown area during daytime only should be extended to include nighttime.

11/18/2025

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n/a

11/18/2025

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If the Police Board is "totally new and transparent"...why is [REDACTED] there after ?? many years

11/18/2025

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Dont spend money on useless stuff like splash pads or pool in st Mary's river and cut funding on lbtq+ non sense

11/18/2025

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11/18/2025

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Contribute to the Bushplane and the Sault 49th Regiment Museum. They contribute to the community as educational and entertainment sources. The Library receives large government funding. Support a diversified community

11/18/2025

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We are not a healthy community. We have higher incidence of chronic diseases. We need to have a better master plan of how we structure our community to be more inclusive of all. Trendy parks along an unsafe waterfront is short sighted. The boardwalk is beautiful but unsafe for tourists and local people to walk. People with mental health and addiction conditions frequent the boardwalk. If this is acceptable then more security is required.

11/18/2025

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Attract more jobs, industrial or administrative. Make this a place people want to build their head offices. The more people in the community the more tax base for other things.

Create community activity centres that everyone can use, add a fitness facility, actual walking tracks for walking and running, dance studios etc stop doing things half way

11/18/2025

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To listen to the residents in terms of what is needed, to stop discretionary spending, review for efficiency in process and spending, return to ensuring effective and responsible spending of tax payer dollars.

11/18/2025

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how much money and staff time has been wasted in this past year, removing traffic signals and doing extraneous studies, causing accidents and then reinstalling the traffic signals, please stop doing this.

11/18/2025

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Stop the urban pool and walking road ideas

11/18/2025

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Thank you for this opportunity to express our thoughts and opinions.

11/18/2025

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Going to be difficult to maintain services if population declines with Algoma Steel layoffs and decline in student population. I believe the city subsidizes admission to JR pool etc. Maybe need to start charging more for services in the community.

11/18/2025

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Have security guard added to North Branch Library during opening hours, so the staff are safe.

11/18/2025

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Increased access to healthcare, lower wait times for not only scute services but also for diagnostics. The HART hub needs to be harm reduction based and not abstinence based, we know that abstinence based doesn't work for most people.

11/18/2025

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The planned waterfront expansion should be put to a referendum at the next election. With the soon to be negative effect of job loss at Algoma Steel, the impact to the community could be severe and will take some time to recover, if Algoma survives.

11/18/2025

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More fireman then we need, but need more police. Need more balance for call volume

11/18/2025

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Levy boards are important.

11/18/2025

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unemployment will be a big issue shortly. Tighten up money spending

11/18/2025

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Reduce spending

11/18/2025

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We can't say we are shocked when the police spend more than they have budgeted for. Our city is running rampant with violent crime, assaults, and IPV. We complain when they don't do enough to stop this trend, so they respond by paying OT to allow for coverage during urgent situations, murders, violent crimes. If we aren't helping with housing and mental health support, and drug rehab we need to rely heavily on our police force.

11/18/2025

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Public safety specially in Downtown, expand child care facilities.

11/18/2025

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The police and fire department salaries and pensions are killing our tax payers

Protect our wetlands, lakes , rivers,ecosystems,wildlife and plant life at all costs. No development is worth risking the future health and safety of our children and generations that follow. Climate change is real Get us doctors

11/18/2025

.

11/18/2025

Taxes too high for residents' ability to pay. Much spent on social programs with questionable results.

11/18/2025

NA

11/18/2025

I know this is not an easy job - kudos to the staff and the 12 people around the council chambers. I admire you for your commitment to the community; it does not go unnoticed.

11/18/2025

Invest in a strategic communications plan. What's happening now is not informing, engaging. Look at what other cities are doing including presentation of Council meetings. Smaller communities are producing watchable meetings that engage citizens. Engaged citizens will contribute and help advance their community.

11/18/2025

As a senior and home owner I would like to like to be able to afford to live in my house of 33 years.

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

11/18/2025

Taxes in the Sault are out of control and too much money is being spent on low income housing focus more on making our community self sufficient by bringing in more industry and higher paying jobs so there is a reduced need for low income housing that costs tax payers money I work hard for every cent I make and can barely make ends meet because my city taxes are power and water bills are way out of control

11/18/2025

Axe the swim pad. Not healthy. Not needed.

11/18/2025

Get rid of the drug filled [REDACTED] downtown! It's unacceptable to have a police force \$3 million of a budget and still have these drug addicts sprawling in our streets making the downtown unsafe for pedestrians

11/18/2025

Treat this budget like its actually your money. Stop talking about millions of dollars like its pocket change. If you are over budget, start slashing services.

11/18/2025

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We need to make climate conscious choices while promoting growth

11/18/2025

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Start charging employees parking at city hall. Health care workers have to pay at the hospital. Citizens have to pay to park on certain roadways (queen st) city employees should have to pay at all city owned places of employment.

11/18/2025

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Eliminate the fire department

11/18/2025

---

We need traffic lights at Trunk Rd and Dacey Rd. And in light of a pedestrian being killed on Dacey Rd there needs to be a pedestrian activated crosswalk. I can't believe a high school student from White Pines hasn't been hit trying to cross Dacey Rd.

11/18/2025

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Fight crime. There's too much crime here. It's unsafe. Crime against people and property crime. It's too much

11/18/2025

---

ASK and consult with the community first. Consider low budget options that don't raise our cost of living. We can barely afford property tax

11/18/2025

---

attract and keep young people

11/18/2025

---

Y

11/18/2025

---

The city needs a Dog leash enforcer at parks and trails.

11/18/2025

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It's our money, not your slush fund. Please be mindful of the precarious economic situation a lot of people are in and be wise stewards.

11/18/2025

---

Young people cannot afford the tax burden when buying a house. Houses are toooo expensive.

11/18/2025

---

Na

11/18/2025

---

Taxes need to go down not up! Efficiency is the key.

11/17/2025

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Na

11/17/2025

---

As City Council prepares the 2026 budget, I hope you will continue prioritizing the well-being of residents by focusing on affordability, essential services, and long-term sustainability. Many people in the community are struggling with rising living costs, housing challenges, and limited employment opportunities. Continued investment in housing, job development, public transportation, and mental health supports would help create a more stable and inclusive city. I encourage the City to consider solutions that balance fiscal responsibility with the everyday needs of residents.

11/17/2025

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The ploughs that don't leave 3 feet of snow at end of driveways. Helps us able bodied people and def helps the elderly who can't tackle it.

11/17/2025

---

A Community is defined a  
by the people living there as are needs and priorities through inclusive community consultation and an environmental scan from an expert.  
What do we need to improve things for everyone? Diversity equity and inclusion are about a lot more than race. Its about everything that makes it more difficult to get needs met over a spectrum. The more things like poverty chronic illness mental health disability the more support those individuals need.

Let's level the playing field

11/17/2025

---

The downtown river pool is a terrible investment and waste of taxpayer money. There is already a public pool downtown and splash pad.

11/17/2025

---

Think creativity about new revenue sources and how we can lower the burden of tax payers. Cost of living is high and is really hard for some to make it. I'd like the council to consider this when asking for for for services and projects that increase our taxes.

11/17/2025

---

City Council works very hard, and I'm thankful for all the individuals who give selflessly of their time on Council. Stop beautifying and pouring money into parks and downtown attractions, without dealing with the homeless and addicted. Improve our snow removal and plowing so that there aren't large chunks of ice and snow at the end of peoples driveways. By helping people stay in their homes longer, it will assist with our housing shortage.

11/17/2025

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**What matters most to you in the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 budget.**

Please select your **top three** priorities.

- ☒ Recreation facilities and programming (e.g. arenas, sports facilities, seniors programming)
  - ☐ Arts and Culture
  - ☐ Festivals and events
  - ☐ Parks and outdoor areas
  - ☐ Bike lanes and pathways
  - ☐ Building a greener more sustainable community
  - ☐ Roads and sidewalks
  - ☐ Winter maintenance
  - ☐ Waste management (garbage and recycling)
  - ☐ Public transit
  - ☐ Fire Services
- ☒ Police Service
  - ☐ Library Service
  - ☐ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement
  - ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
  - ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
  - ☐ Economic and industrial development
  - ☐ Tourism
  - ☐ Other: Please specify

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This funding gap makes it difficult for communities to properly operate, maintain, and replace essential infrastructure, especially since most local revenue comes from property taxes.

Knowing that not all challenges are within municipal control, what issues do you feel are most important for our community today?

- ☐ Cost of living
- ☐ General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)
- ☐ Housing/accommodations
- ☐ Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)
- ☒ Economy and jobs
- ☐ Growth, development, and sustainability
- ☐ Crime and public safety
- ☒ Public Health and health issues
- ☐ Healthcare recruitment
- ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
- ☒ Property tax affordability
- ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
- ☐ Governance and transparency
- ☐ Other

### Community Development

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
- ☐ Community Well-being: Promoting a healthy, safe community through collaborative programs and services.
- ☐ Social Equity: Ensuring fair access to opportunities for marginalized groups.
- ☐ Truth and Reconciliation: Building respectful, meaningful relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

### Quality of Life

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Work-Life Balance: Maintaining an affordable community with recreational opportunities for all seasons.
- ☐ Welcoming Community: Embracing diversity, fostering belonging, and celebrating culture.
- ☐ Vibrant Downtown: Strengthening shops, events, and amenities that bring people together.
- ☐ Arts and Culture: Encouraging creativity and supporting cultural growth.

### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Current Assets – Maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructure
- ☒ Future Assets – Build new infrastructure to support a growing community
- ☐ Environment – Lead in sustainability and climate action.

### Service Delivery

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Customer Service: Responsive communication and timely resolutions.
- ☐ Employee Development: Supporting a strong, well-trained workforce.
- ☐ Removing Barriers: Simplifying processes to encourage growth and efficiency.
- ☒ Community Partnerships: Working with partners to expand services.

### Value for money from property taxes

Your tax dollars support everyday services like plowed roads, garbage pickup, parks, public transit, libraries, and more.

How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

- ☐ Very good
- ☒ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Unsure/don't know

### Taxation and Levels of Service

Property taxes are the City's main source of funding for essential services. Unlike other levels of government, the City has very few sources of funding that grow with the economy. The City must consider how property taxes might change to keep services running to meet growing needs.

In your opinion, how should property taxes be adjusted in 2026?

- ☒ Maintain low property taxes with most services **remaining at about the same** level, with some reductions.
- ☐ Increase property taxes to **improve** services and address growing service needs.
- ☐ Unsure

### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)			
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)		✓	
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)		✓	
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		✓	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)		✓	
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)	✓		
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		✓	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)	✓		
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		✓	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

- Recreational
- Affordable Housing for Retirees - Increase Condo/Rental options

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026-2027 budget.

Snowdon Court development, Increase courts

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## Budget Input 2026



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### **What matters most to you in the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 budget.**

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- ☐ Winter maintenance
- ☐ Waste management (garbage and recycling)
- ☐ Public transit
- ☐ Fire Services
- ☐ Police Service
- ☐ Library Service
- ☐ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement
- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
- ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
- ☐ Economic and industrial development
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Other: Please specify

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This funding gap makes it difficult for communities to properly operate, maintain, and replace essential infrastructure, especially since most local revenue comes from property taxes.

Knowing that not all challenges are within municipal control, what issues do you feel are most important for our community today?

- ☐ Cost of living
- ☐ General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)
- ☐ Housing/accommodations
- ☐ Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)
- ☐ Economy and jobs
- ☐ Growth, development, and sustainability
- ☐ Crime and public safety
- ☐ Public Health and health issues
- ☐ Healthcare recruitment
- ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
- ☒ Property tax affordability
- ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
- ☐ Governance and transparency
- ☐ Other

### **Community Development**

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
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### **Quality of Life**

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

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### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

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### Service Delivery

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### Value for money from property taxes

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How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

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- ☐ Very poor
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### Taxation and Levels of Service

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**Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels**

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)		✓	
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Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)		✓	
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		✓	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)		✓	
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)		✓	
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		✓	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)	✓		
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)	✓		

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

*resurfacing of Shannon Court for pickleball  
at Snowden Park*

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*resurfacing of Snowden Park for pickleball use*

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- ☐ Fire Services
- ☐ Police Service
- ☐ Library Service
- ☐ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement
- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
- ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
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- ☐ Tourism
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- ☐ Public Health and health issues
- ☐ Healthcare recruitment
- ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
- ☐ Property tax affordability
- ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
- ☐ Governance and transparency
- ☐ Other

### **Community Development**

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### Infrastructure

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Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)	↘		
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Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)	↘	↘	
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		↘	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)	↘		
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)	↘		

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

More pickleball Courts  
Outside + Inside

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Indoor Courts

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### Infrastructure

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Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)		✓	
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		✓	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)	✓		
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		✓	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

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- ☐ Roads and sidewalks
- ☒ Winter maintenance
- ☐ Waste management (garbage and recycling)
- ☒ Public transit
- ☐ Fire Services
- ☒ Police Service
- ☐ Library Service
- ☐ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement
- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
- ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
- ☐ Economic and industrial development
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Other: Please specify

In Canada, municipalities look after more than 60% of public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, transit, water and wastewater systems, and recreation facilities. However, they receive only 8 to 12% of all tax dollars collected by federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

This funding gap makes it difficult for communities to properly operate, maintain, and replace essential infrastructure, especially since most local revenue comes from property taxes.

Knowing that not all challenges are within municipal control, what issues do you feel are most important for our community today?

- \* ☒ Cost of living
  - ☒ General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)
  - ☒ Housing/accommodations
  - ☐ Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)
  - ☒ Economy and jobs
  - ☐ Growth, development, and sustainability
  - ☒ Crime and public safety
  - ☒ Public Health and health issues
  - ☒ Healthcare recruitment
  - ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
  - ☐ Property tax affordability
  - ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
  - ☒ Governance and transparency
  - ☐ Other

### Community Development

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
- ☒ Community Well-being: Promoting a healthy, safe community through collaborative programs and services.
- ☐ Social Equity: Ensuring fair access to opportunities for marginalized groups.
- ☐ Truth and Reconciliation: Building respectful, meaningful relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

### Quality of Life

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Work-Life Balance: Maintaining an affordable community with recreational opportunities for all seasons.
- ☐ Welcoming Community: Embracing diversity, fostering belonging, and celebrating culture.
- ☐ Vibrant Downtown: Strengthening shops, events, and amenities that bring people together.
- ☐ Arts and Culture: Encouraging creativity and supporting cultural growth.

Keeping  
Youngsters  
+ Youth  
"occupied"  
safe  
(out of  
trouble).

### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Current Assets – Maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructure
- ☐ Future Assets – Build new infrastructure to support a growing community
- ☐ Environment – Lead in sustainability and climate action.

### Service Delivery

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Customer Service: Responsive communication and timely resolutions.
- ☒ Employee Development: Supporting a strong, well-trained workforce.
- ☐ Removing Barriers: Simplifying processes to encourage growth and efficiency.
- ☐ Community Partnerships: Working with partners to expand services.

### Value for money from property taxes

Your tax dollars support everyday services like plowed roads, garbage pickup, parks, public transit, libraries, and more.

How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

- ☒ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Unsure/don't know

### Taxation and Levels of Service

Property taxes are the City's main source of funding for essential services. Unlike other levels of government, the City has very few sources of funding that grow with the economy. The City must consider how property taxes might change to keep services running to meet growing needs.

In your opinion, how should property taxes be adjusted in 2026?

- ☐ Maintain low property taxes with most services **remaining at about the same** level, with some reductions.
- ☐ Increase property taxes to **improve** services and address growing service needs.
- ☒ Unsure

*ALWAYS be maintained, especially for side streets etc.*

### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)		✓	
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)		✓	
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting) <i>You do a good job but it should</i>	✓		
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		✓	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)		✓	
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)		✓	
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		✓	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)		✓	
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		✓	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

*\* Maintain housing availability & affordability*

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026–2027 budget.

*Get community to help support food banks.*

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## Budget Input 2026



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### **What matters most to you in the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 budget.**

Please select your **top three** priorities.

- ☐ Recreation facilities and programming (e.g. arenas, sports facilities, seniors programming)
- ☐ Arts and Culture
- ☐ Festivals and events
- ☐ Parks and outdoor areas
- ☐ Bike lanes and pathways
- ☐ Building a greener more sustainable community
- ☐ Roads and sidewalks
- ☐ Winter maintenance
- ☐ Waste management (garbage and recycling)
- ☐ Public transit
- ☐ Fire Services
- ☐ Police Service
- ☐ ~~Library Service~~
- ☒ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement
- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
- ☒ Sewers, water, stormwater management
- ☐ Economic and industrial development
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Other: Please specify

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- ☒ Cost of living
- ☒ General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)
  - ☐ Housing/accommodations
  - ☐ Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)
- ☒ Economy and jobs
  - ☐ Growth, development, and sustainability
  - ☐ Crime and public safety
- ☒ Public Health and health issues
- ☒ Healthcare recruitment
  - ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
  - ☐ Property tax affordability
  - ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
  - ☐ Governance and transparency
  - ☐ Other

### Community Development

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
- ☒ Community Well-being: Promoting a healthy, safe community through collaborative programs and services.
- ☐ Social Equity: Ensuring fair access to opportunities for marginalized groups.
- ☐ Truth and Reconciliation: Building respectful, meaningful relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

### Quality of Life

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Work-Life Balance: Maintaining an affordable community with recreational opportunities for all seasons.
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- ☒ Vibrant Downtown: Strengthening shops, events, and amenities that bring people together.
- ☐ Arts and Culture: Encouraging creativity and supporting cultural growth.

### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Current Assets – Maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructure
- ☐ Future Assets – Build new infrastructure to support a growing community
- ☐ Environment – Lead in sustainability and climate action.

### Service Delivery

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Customer Service: Responsive communication and timely resolutions.
- ☐ Employee Development: Supporting a strong, well-trained workforce.
- ☐ Removing Barriers: Simplifying processes to encourage growth and efficiency.
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### Value for money from property taxes

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How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

- ☐ Very good
- ☒ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Unsure/don't know

### Taxation and Levels of Service

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In your opinion, how should property taxes be adjusted in 2026?

- ☒ Maintain low property taxes with most services **remaining at about the same** level, with some reductions.
- ☐ Increase property taxes to **improve** services and address growing service needs.
- ☐ Unsure

### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)		✓	
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)		✓	
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)		✓	
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)			
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)			
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)	✓		
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)			
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)		✓	
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		✓	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

*Don't develop tourist-interest sites. Maintain existing trails, put benches with sun covers on boardwalk route. Have an outside facility for toilet use along Boardwalk. Available - bring other mall type businesses in - Walmart, etc.*

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026-2027 budget.

- When a city open house is being held, check the city's schedule for other events being held, eg. Moonlight Madness, Community Centre, Goddard Ave. in Nov/25*
- Don't move bus terminal -*
- Garbage containers at bus stops, plus a dependable garbage pickup service. I pickup garbage at bus stops*

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## Budget Input 2026



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### **What matters most to you in the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 budget.**

Please select your **top three** priorities.

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- ☐ Arts and Culture
- ☐ Festivals and events
- ☐ Parks and outdoor areas
- ☐ Bike lanes and pathways
- ☐ Building a greener more sustainable community
- ☒ Roads and sidewalks
- ☒ Winter maintenance
- ☒ Waste management (garbage and recycling)
- ☐ Public transit
- ☐ Fire Services
- ☐ Police Service
- ☐ Library Service
- ☐ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement
- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
- ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
- ☐ Economic and industrial development
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Other: Please specify

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Knowing that not all challenges are within municipal control, what issues do you feel are most important for our community today?

- 1  Cost of living
- 2  General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)
  - Housing/accommodations
  - Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)
  - Economy and jobs
  - Growth, development, and sustainability
  - Crime and public safety
  - Public Health and health issues
  - Healthcare recruitment
  - Environment/climate sustainability
  - Property tax affordability
  - Access to recreation, parks, and trails
  - Governance and transparency
  - Other


### Community Development

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
-  Community Well-being: Promoting a healthy, safe community through collaborative programs and services.
- Social Equity: Ensuring fair access to opportunities for marginalized groups.
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### Quality of Life

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

-  Work-Life Balance: Maintaining an affordable community with recreational opportunities for all seasons.
- Welcoming Community: Embracing diversity, fostering belonging, and celebrating culture.
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- Arts and Culture: Encouraging creativity and supporting cultural growth.

### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Current Assets – Maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructure
- ☐ Future Assets – Build new infrastructure to support a growing community
- ☐ Environment – Lead in sustainability and climate action.

### Service Delivery

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Customer Service: Responsive communication and timely resolutions.
- ☐ Employee Development: Supporting a strong, well-trained workforce.
- ☐ Removing Barriers: Simplifying processes to encourage growth and efficiency.
- ☐ Community Partnerships: Working with partners to expand services.

### Value for money from property taxes

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How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

- ☐ Very good
- ☒ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Unsure/don't know

### Taxation and Levels of Service

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In your opinion, how should property taxes be adjusted in 2026?

- ☒ Maintain low property taxes with most services **remaining at about the same** level, with some reductions.
- ☐ Increase property taxes to **improve** services and address growing service needs.
- ☐ Unsure

### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)			/
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)			/
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)	/	/	
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		/	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)			/
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)	/		
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		/	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)		/	
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		/	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026–2027 budget.

*- at least we are being asked!  
not something that is handed down from on high  
I do not like to give over my thoughts on reports  
my name: [redacted] [signature]*

Thank you for participating in and helping shape the future of Sault Ste. Marie.  
Your feedback is valued and appreciated.

## Budget Input 2026



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### What matters most to you in the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 budget.

Please select your **top three** priorities.

- ☐ Recreation facilities and programming (e.g. arenas, sports facilities, seniors programming)
- ☒ Arts and Culture (3)
- ☐ Festivals and events (9)
- ☐ Parks and outdoor areas (8)
- ☐ Bike lanes and pathways (10)
- ☐ Building a greener more sustainable community
- ☐ Roads and sidewalks (5)
- ☐ Winter maintenance (4)
- ☐ Waste management (garbage and recycling) (7)
- ☐ Public transit (6)
- ☐ Fire Services
- ☒ Police Service (2)
- ☐ Library Service (5)
- ☐ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement (10)
- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods (6)
- ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
- ☐ Economic and industrial development (2)
- ☐ Tourism (3)
- ☒ Other: Please specify  
SENIORS #1

In Canada, municipalities look after more than 60% of public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, transit, water and wastewater systems, and recreation facilities. However, they receive only 8 to 12% of all tax dollars collected by federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

This funding gap makes it difficult for communities to properly operate, maintain, and replace essential infrastructure, especially since most local revenue comes from property taxes.

Knowing that not all challenges are within municipal control, what issues do you feel are most important for our community today?

- most wanted*
- ① Cost of living
  - ⑤ General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)
  - ③ Housing/accommodations
  - ② Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)
  - ③ Economy and jobs
  - ④ Growth, development, and sustainability
  - ④ Crime and public safety
  - ⑤ Public Health and health issues
  - ⑤ Healthcare recruitment
  - ⑤ Environment/climate sustainability
  - ⑤ Property tax affordability
  - ⑤ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
  - ⑤ Governance and transparency
  - ⑤ Other

*all are important  
choosing is hard!  
thank you*

- Import*
- 1 Cost of L
  - 2 Social issues
  - 3 Economy/jobs
  - 4 Growth
  - 5 Health Recruit
  - 6
  - 7
  - 8

### Community Development

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ① Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
- Community Well-being: Promoting a healthy, safe community through collaborative programs and services.
- Social Equity: Ensuring fair access to opportunities for marginalized groups.
- Truth and Reconciliation: Building respectful, meaningful relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

### Quality of Life

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- Work-Life Balance: Maintaining an affordable community with recreational opportunities for all seasons.
- Welcoming Community: Embracing diversity, fostering belonging, and celebrating culture.
- Vibrant Downtown: Strengthening shops, events, and amenities that bring people together.
- ① Arts and Culture: Encouraging creativity and supporting cultural growth.

*bring in \$ + visitors  
& respectful of our  
diversity*

### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Current Assets – Maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructure
- ☒ Future Assets – Build new infrastructure to support a growing community
- ☐ Environment – Lead in sustainability and climate action.

### Service Delivery

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Customer Service: Responsive communication and timely resolutions.
- ☒ Employee Development: Supporting a strong, well-trained workforce.
- ☐ Removing Barriers: Simplifying processes to encourage growth and efficiency.
- ☐ Community Partnerships: Working with partners to expand services.

*more jobs for young people*

### Value for money from property taxes

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How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
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- ☐ Very poor
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- ☐ Increase property taxes to **improve** services and address growing service needs.
- ☒ Unsure

### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)			X
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)		X	
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)		X	
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)			
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)		X	
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)		X	
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		X	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)		X	
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		X	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

*our diversity matters, activities which enable low skilled ~~us~~ people to work and pay their own way.*

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026–2027 budget.

*Volunteers seem maxed out about volunteering. I am disabled myself.*

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  - ☐ Winter maintenance
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  - ☐ Police Service
  - ☐ Library Service
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- ☒ Economy and jobs
- ☒ Growth, development, and sustainability
- ☒ Crime and public safety
- ☒ Public Health and health issues
- ☒ Healthcare recruitment
- ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
- ☐ Property tax affordability
- ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
- ☐ Governance and transparency
- ☐ Other

### Community Development

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

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### Quality of Life

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- ☐ Increase property taxes to **improve** services and address growing service needs.
- ☒ Unsure

### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)	✓	.	
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)		✓	
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)		✓	
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		✓	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)	✓		
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)		✓	
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)	✓		
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)		✓	
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		✓	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

- Help with housing for the homeless
- Support for those with an addiction to narcotics
- Stiffer penalties for speeders and erratic drivers on our streets
- bring back speed cameras

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026–2027 budget.

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## Budget Input 2026



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### **What matters most to you in the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 budget.**

Please select your **top three** priorities.

- ☒ Recreation facilities and programming (e.g. arenas, sports facilities, seniors programming)
- ☐ Arts and Culture
- ☐ Festivals and events
- ☒ Parks and outdoor areas
- ☐ Bike lanes and pathways
- ☐ Building a greener more sustainable community
- ☒ Roads and sidewalks
- ☒ Winter maintenance
- ☐ Waste management (garbage and recycling)
- ☐ Public transit
- ☐ Fire Services
- ☐ Police Service
- ☐ Library Service
- ☐ Building permits, inspection, and enforcement
- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
- ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
- ☐ Economic and industrial development
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Other: Please specify

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This funding gap makes it difficult for communities to properly operate, maintain, and replace essential infrastructure, especially since most local revenue comes from property taxes.

Knowing that not all challenges are within municipal control, what issues do you feel are most important for our community today?

- ☒ Cost of living
- ☐ General infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water/sewer pipes, buildings)
- ☒ Housing/accommodations
- ☐ Social issues (poverty, mental health, addictions)
- ☐ Economy and jobs
- ☐ Growth, development, and sustainability
- ☐ Crime and public safety
- ☐ Public Health and health issues
- ☒ Healthcare recruitment
- ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
- ☐ Property tax affordability
- ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
- ☐ Governance and transparency
- ☐ Other

### **Community Development**

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
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- ☐ Social Equity: Ensuring fair access to opportunities for marginalized groups.
- ☐ Truth and Reconciliation: Building respectful, meaningful relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

### **Quality of Life**

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Work-Life Balance: Maintaining an affordable community with recreational opportunities for all seasons.
- ☐ Welcoming Community: Embracing diversity, fostering belonging, and celebrating culture.
- ☐ Vibrant Downtown: Strengthening shops, events, and amenities that bring people together.
- ☐ Arts and Culture: Encouraging creativity and supporting cultural growth.

### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☒ Current Assets – Maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructure
- ☒ Future Assets – Build new infrastructure to support a growing community
- ☐ Environment – Lead in sustainability and climate action.

### Service Delivery

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Customer Service: Responsive communication and timely resolutions.
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- ☐ Removing Barriers: Simplifying processes to encourage growth and efficiency.
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### Value for money from property taxes

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How would you rate the overall value you receive for your municipal tax dollars?

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☒ Poor
- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Unsure/don't know

### Taxation and Levels of Service

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- ☒ Maintain low property taxes with most services **remaining at about the same** level, with some reductions.
- ☐ Increase property taxes to **improve** services and address growing service needs.
- ☐ Unsure

**Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels**

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Maintain</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)			
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)			
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)	X		
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		X	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)		X	
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)		X	
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		X	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)	X		
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)	X		

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026–2027 budget.

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- ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
- ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
- ☐ Economic and industrial development
- ☐ Tourism
- ☒ Other: Please specify

*porta potty availability for city  
courts*

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- ☒ Crime and public safety
- ☒ Public Health and health issues
- ☐ Healthcare recruitment
- ☐ Environment/climate sustainability
- ☒ Property tax affordability
- ☐ Access to recreation, parks, and trails
- ☐ Governance and transparency
- ☐ Other

### **Community Development**

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

- ☐ Economic Activity: Supporting a diverse and resilient, growing local business and attracting investment.
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### Infrastructure

Which is your top priority? Please **select one** option:

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**Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels**

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Maintain</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)		✓	
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)		✓	
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)	✓		
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		✓	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)		✓	
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)	✓		
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)		✓	
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)	✓		
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  - ☐ Planning and designing neighbourhoods
  - ☐ Sewers, water, stormwater management
  - ☐ Economic and industrial development
  - ☐ Tourism
  - ☐ Other: Please specify

Very limited to choose only 3 especially  
in regards to Police & Fire Services  
Economic & Industrial development  
Library services Public Transit  
Waste Management all of these are vital to  
a safe community

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### Community Development

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### Increase/Maintain/Decrease service levels

For each of the following areas, would you prefer to increase, maintain, or decrease service levels?

	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
Climate change initiatives (energy-efficient buildings, tree planting, active transportation, preparing for extreme weather events)		✓	
Arts and Culture (public art, festivals, cultural programming)		✓	
Winter maintenance (road and sidewalk plowing, sanding, salting)	✓		
Fire Service (fire prevention and education, emergency response)		✓	
Municipal by-law enforcement and animal control (property standards, parking enforcement, noise complaints)	✓		
Road network (ease of getting around, traffic flow, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)	✓		
City transit (service availability, frequency, and accessibility of transit buses)	✓		
Recreation services (swimming, adult programming, sports fields)		✓	
Parks and trails (multiuse paths, playgrounds, splash pads, parkland)		✓	

What is the most important action the City should take to make Sault Ste. Marie, more affordable and livable for everyone?


*affordable housing*

Please share any additional thoughts you would like City Council to consider while preparing the 2026–2027 budget.

*Snowden Repair Pickle ball court  
affordable housing*

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# Survey Results: Budget Priorities

 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Sault Ste. Marie to the FlashVote community for Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

## 283

**Total Participants**

251 of 467 initially invited (54%)  
32 others

Margin of error: ± 6%

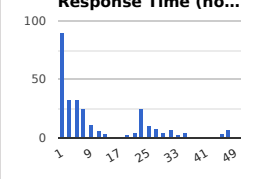
Applied Filter:

**All Responses**

Participants for filter:

**279**

**Response Time (ho...**



Started:  
**Nov 26, 2025 11:06am EST**

Ended:  
**Nov 28, 2025 11:00am EST**

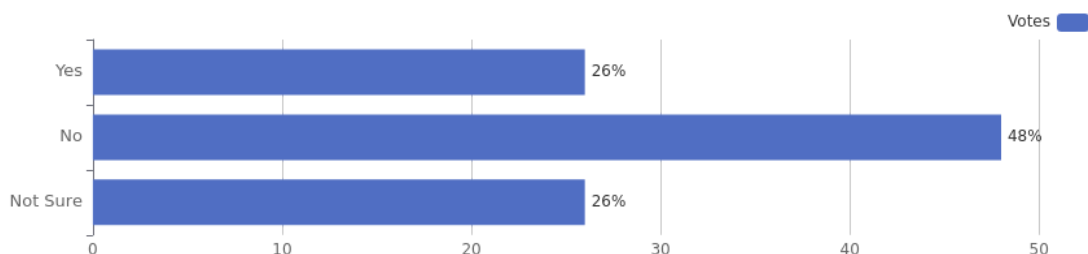
Target Participants:  
**All Sault Ste. Marie**

Q1 The City of Sault Ste. Marie provides public services like roads, bridges, sidewalks, stormwater management, police, fire, parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs, and by-law enforcement. Think about the value you receive from these services and the cost you pay in taxes.

Do you feel that you are getting your money's worth for your tax dollars?

(279 responses)

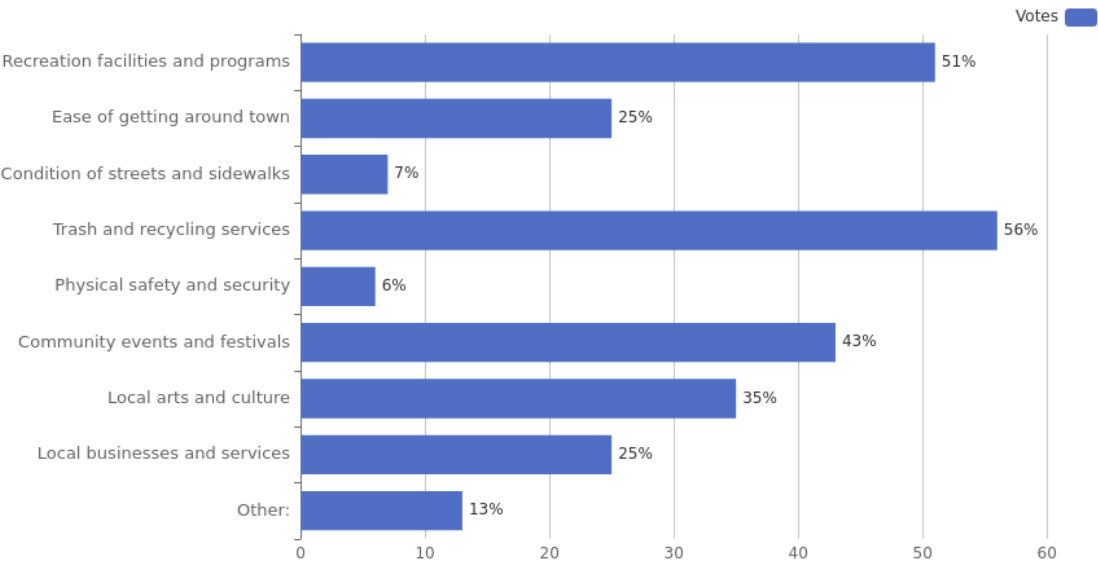
Options	Votes (279)
Yes	26% (72)
No	48% (135)
Not Sure	26% (72)



Q2 Which of the following do you think are a STRENGTH of Sault Ste. Marie, if any? (Choose all that apply)

(254 responses)

Options	Votes (254)
Recreation facilities and programs	51% (129)
Ease of getting around town	25% (64)
Condition of streets and sidewalks	7% (18)
Trash and recycling services	56% (141)
Physical safety and security	6% (16)
Community events and festivals	43% (109)
Local arts and culture	35% (90)
Local businesses and services	25% (64)
Other:	13% (34)



Responses for "Other":

cycling strength needs  
 access city trail activity  
 highlands hub  
 infrastructure outdoor hiawatha  
 snow taxes removal  
 nature

Rec facilities and programs for kids but less so for adults

The surrounding nature

Waterfront, hockey, entertainment

None of the above

Trail systems

Small city advantages - no traffic jams, 10 minute access to most of city

none of these are managed correctly

Bottom line... I don't believe for the taxes we pay that SSM gives priority to the needs of SSM

Airport

Soon has lost its character. Sites get built then not maintained or made to look better.

snow removal

Accessibility

Environment (around us, not including ASC!)

Snow removal

None that i see as being strength

Hiawatha Highlands, Hub Trail

Hiawatha Highlands and the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure being implemented.

The Board Walk, Bellevue Park, splash pads,

Hiawatha highlands, skiing and cycling spaces

Hub trail

Cycling infrastructure

None

Mountain bike trails

Citizen's who care are a major strength, what is a service compared to the person who wields it?

None

Being an affordable place to live. Taxes are too high.

Natural beauty and rivers and lakes

Winter snow ploughing/removal

---

Proximity to outdoor activities

---

another pool in the west end would be beneficial and arts + culture needs more city support

---

At this not sure, I would like to do comparison with successful cities

---

Outdoor activity ie. Boating and fishing is the biggest strength .

---

Hiawatha Highlands within city limits

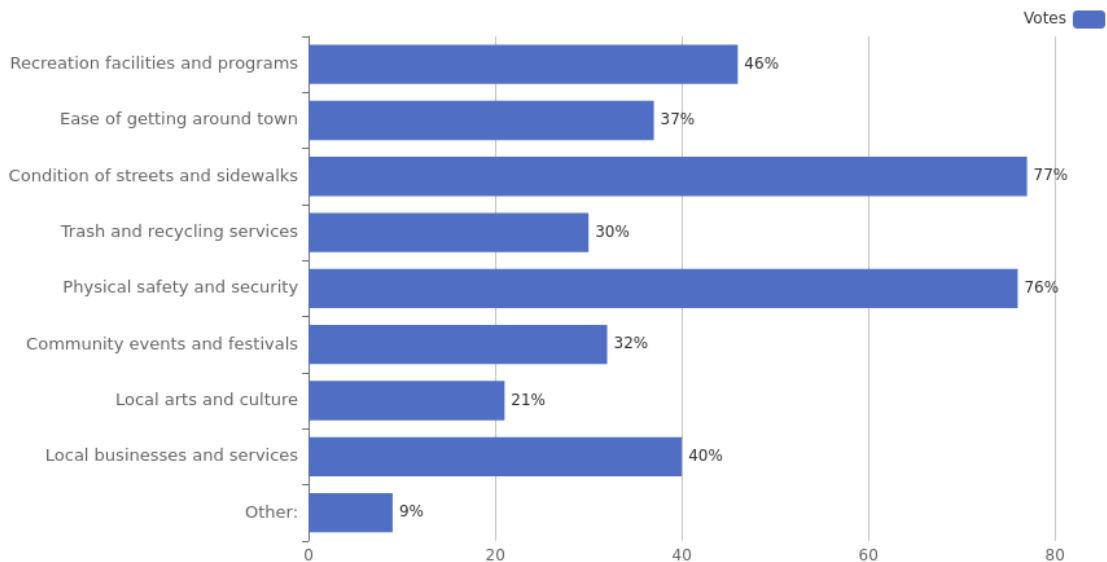
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Hiawatha Highlands

---

**Q3** Which of the following aspects of Sault Ste. Marie are most IMPORTANT to you, if any? (You can choose up to FOUR)  
(252 responses)

Options	Votes (252)
Recreation facilities and programs	46% (115)
Ease of getting around town	37% (94)
Condition of streets and sidewalks	77% (195)
Trash and recycling services	30% (75)
Physical safety and security	76% (192)
Community events and festivals	32% (80)
Local arts and culture	21% (52)
Local businesses and services	40% (101)
Other:	9% (22)



Responses for "Other":

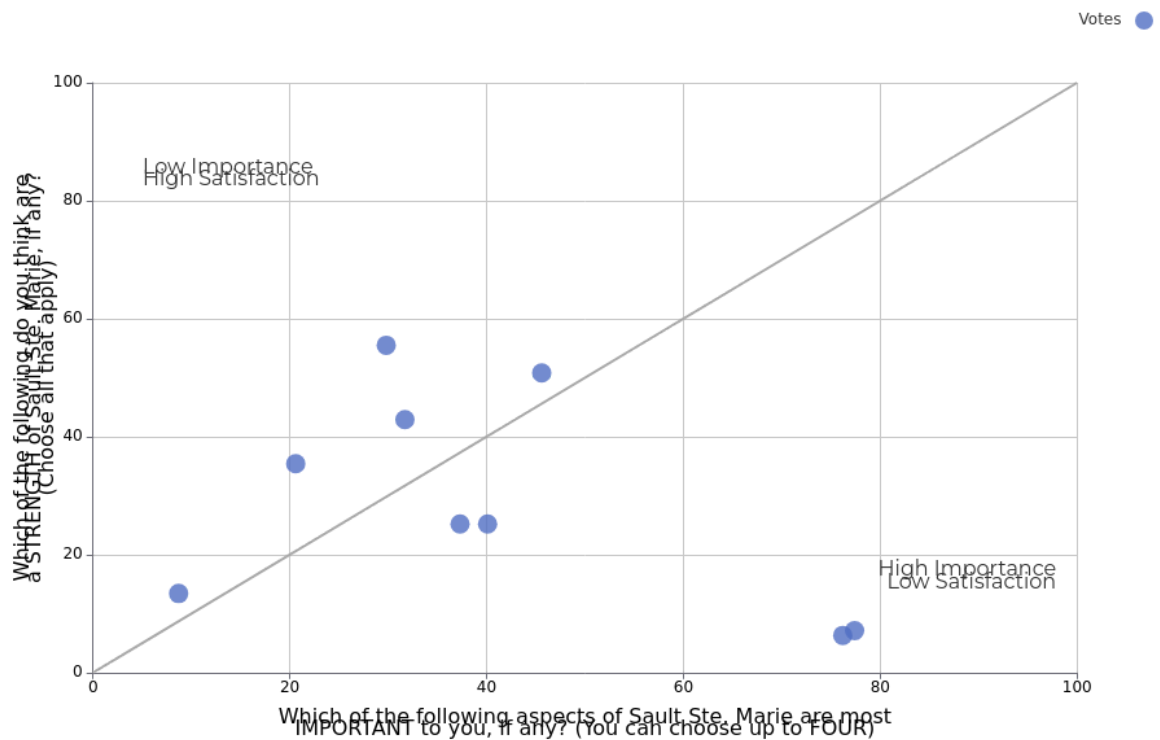
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## Importance vs. Satisfaction Comparison

(254 responses)

Options	Votes (252)	
	Importance	Satisfaction
Recreation facilities and programs	46% (115)	51% (129)
Ease of getting around town	37% (94)	25% (64)
Condition of streets and sidewalks	77% (195)	7% (18)
Trash and recycling services	30% (75)	56% (141)
Physical safety and security	76% (192)	6% (16)
Community events and festivals	32% (80)	43% (109)
Local arts and culture	21% (52)	35% (90)
Local businesses and services	40% (101)	25% (64)
Other:	9% (22)	13% (34)

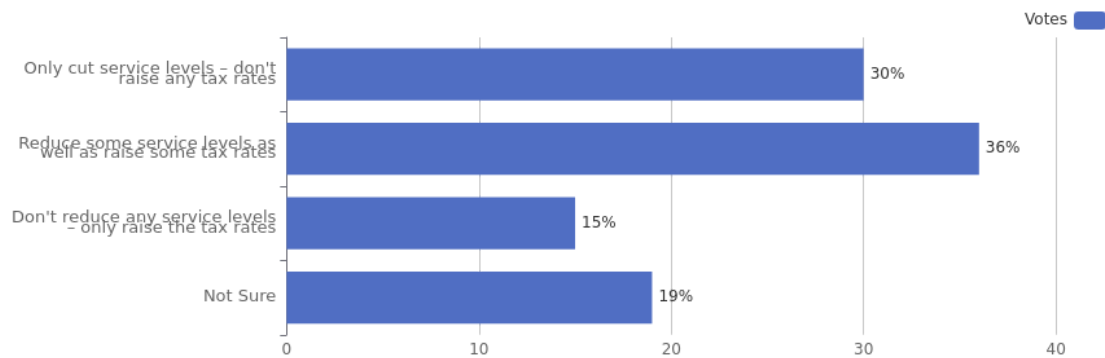


Q4 In recent years the City's revenues (which pay for most services) have increased, but not as much as the costs to provide the current level of services. This has led to a budget gap now.

Which of the following best describes how you think the City of Sault Ste. Marie should close this budget gap?

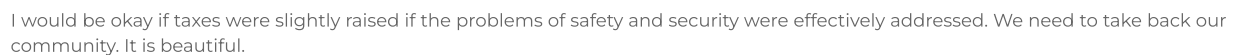
(261 responses)

Options	Votes (261)
Only cut service levels – don't raise any tax rates	30% (79)
Reduce some service levels as well as raise some tax rates	36% (94)
Don't reduce any service levels – only raise the tax rates	15% (39)
Not Sure	19% (49)



(126 responses)

## AI-Generated Summary



Look at how police services are organized. Is there a way to better utilize police and civilian resources?

Too many city staff being paid to do not much. Time to cut full time jobs down to part time or eliminated. Some city workers are on the sunshine list.

This is a challenging budget year, and we appreciate that you're doing everything possible to keep costs down.

Green bins!

Priority one is safety, two is infrastructure

Our roads are in awful condition. Continuing to reduce the amount of lanes in high traffic areas is asinine & whoever made that decision should be fired. Great Northern Rd is a disaster with all the traffic lights- you can't even get through one green light before stopping for the next red light

As a family, if we find ourselves tight on cash, we cut back on some extras (things that are not necessary) until we can balance out and/or get ahead a little. The City needs to cut back on some unnecessary spending, postponing projects/ideas until we have balanced budget and/or have created a surplus/reserve to do some of the extras. Not using this approach, and raising taxes to cover unnecessary

items/services, is like parents taking from their kids piggy bank to buy take-out when they could've just made something at home. Sorry kids, no happy meal tonight, but you have a roof over your head!

I think it is important to clearly identify values and prioritize essential and non-essential services when allocating budget funds. An important consideration is what proportion of the tax base is benefiting from each of these services.

I can't say as I can not really see exactly were \$\$\$ is spent

Citizens seem to always want more services and less taxes, which clearly isn't possible or sustainable. We need Council to be honest about the realities of this.

Stop outsourcing if possible, actually make your sidewalk crews in winter time uh do their job, that article [REDACTED] was correct at the time, and still very valid with how the side walk cleaners just dump in one area and do nothing all day.

Efficiency is always a good approach to reduce costs. Potential process mapping some of the most expensive systems, understanding staff levels are likely some of the highest costs. It's always easy to suggest changes from the outside. Good luck.

Seniors as you know are on a fixed income and do not keep in line with property tax rates, I think the local government should make sure taxes do not increase or cut some services.

drugs, crime, homelessness

Redirect great funds to address poverty, homelessness, drugs in the community. Spending on tourism is important but these human services are a far greater need at this time.

I would like to see a "DOGE" equivalent to audit city expenditures and trim unnecessary/wasteful/fraudulent/low-return municipal operational costs.

Our police services continues to draw down on our city budget. It seems we get less police service yet their budget continues to increase (in leaps and bounds). Our streets are unsafe. Police enforcement is next to nil. Drivers continue to be more aggressive. Our legal and court systems continue to struggle to keep repeat offenders off our streets... the same criminals that lessen our safety continue to be the core of many problems threatening the safety of our citizens. And I know this is not a SSM problem in general... it is a societal problem that requires some difficult decisions to incarcerate known habitual criminals to the full extent of the law.

[REDACTED]

Please stop spending our tax money on studies provided by individuals that don't reside in our community. I do not believe we receive value for the dollars spent.

Every department head should be reviewing for efficiency. Discretionary spending should be limited. Levy boards, although there is not much city control, should be reviewed not only in terms of programming but also in terms of administrative spending (positions added-discretionary spending etc) so that the tax payers are well informed. It was nice to see levy boards presenting but some were not questioned on management admin position spending whether it has decreased/increased. All departments do great work but still should be scrutinized since it is the tax payer dollars being utilized.

Traffic safety and effective traffic management needs to be taken more seriously. Stop and go traffic due to poor traffic light timing causes impatience and increased risk taking while there is limited usage of traffic initiatives to slow but maintain a steady flow of traffic. A Hwy 17 bypass needs to be a priority from East to North with an access to 550 / 2nd Line to fix capacity issues at GNR.

Don't waste money on Clergue park redesign/structures or waterfront pool. Need food trucks / ccans to provide food services or boutique eateries. Encourage businesses to establish downtown. Too much open space on Queen. Visit some other communities that are more progressive. Look to our neighbors to the south (Petoskey, Traverse City, etc.)

STOP spending our tax money on [REDACTED] like traffic light studies, events at the plaza, redoing the downtown, swimming pool in the contaminated river, consultants etc etc. Spend money on what people want like maintaining roads including high quality asphalt so it's not potholed within a year, good line painters with focus on traffic flow not reduction like the mess we now have on Wallace terrace. Getting west through this city is a nightmare and needs major improvements. Snow clearing last year was poor roads were snow/ice rutted all winter. Jail/ticket/send to rehab/send home all the people doing drugs and setting up encampments. People have made it clear what they want to see yet council does the opposite and doesn't do it. It's embarrassing. Tourists want nice roads to drive on. We just came back from vacation and the city we went to have the most lovely roads. What a positive impression we were left with wanting to go back. Please listen to your people.

Fundraising or higher taxes for upper tax brackets may be a more equitable solution for needed services without causing additional stress for those with the greatest need. To solve our biggest crises in town, we need to take care of people and meet social, economic, and health needs proactively (rather than reacting to the crises that happen when we don't meet those needs earlier).

Nothing at this time

Use common sense when spending my money

Quit spending money on new things and maintain what we presently have! Forget the fountain in the plaza and the new tourism dream!

Tax dollars need to be spent more wisely. Priority should be given to our main roads and city services. Stop wasting money on cement parks and trying to revitalize the downtown core. Enough money has been spent with little or no tangible benefits to the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie . That money would be better spent addressing the bigger issues such as homelessness, safety and security, city infrastructure, and programs.

It's time to put through a zero property tax increase budget. Enough is enough with the taxes. Decide which services or projects get scaled back, cut or delayed. Also, in an article about Police overtime, it was said there were fewer Police retirements than expected resulting in a higher than expected headcount, yet overtime went way up. As in any organization, when employees get accustomed to

a higher income through perpetual overtime (writing their own ticket to overtime), it is hard to take away. I would suggest starting to whittle down the overtime in city services.

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Overages are an issue and all departments need to be held accountable for this.

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Adopt a park, let business sponsor outdoor facilities. Focus on the city core services, recreation is optional as most green space remains minimal use, downsize parks and sell less utilized land for housing projects.

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Taxes here are already some of the highest in the province and yet our roads aren't great. Cut the extras - don't care about downtown plaza or waterfront development

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██████████ waste money on senseless things like the new skate park/recreation park on Queen St. I have not seen anyone use it. The change of Bay St & Queen St from 4 to 2 lanes was unnecessary, a waste of tax dollars. Too much is spent on unused recreation. Bike lanes are a ██████████ are very few cyclists at an added cost. Our taxes have continued to rise due to the ridiculous spending. Our roads are ██████████ but not a priority with this local government. Changes to Queenstown to make it more attractive is nonsense. It has been changed several times to no avail. I stopped shopping downtown and seldom go there plus I even changed banks so I don't have to go downtown for any reason. There is too much crim budget police dept. are ineffective or the courts are too lenient. Too much drugs and creating "safe" environment for ██████████ instead of arresting their butts and putting them in rehab. Excess tax burden.

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Major projects are fine....but not at "any cost", e.g. downtown plaza; a good thing, but far too much spent on it.

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I am Hink too much money has gone into things that I would consider a luxury; nice to have if all the essential things have been covered. Like the downtown plaza, streetscaping on Bay and Queen when some major roadways and many, many residential streets are barely drivable.

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I understand that tax revenues are not keeping pace with existing services, but difficult choices need to be made. We are facing serious economic challenges, with many layoffs coming. These layoffs will not only be at Algoma, but will also affect contractors and many local businesses. We need an austerity budget that focuses on required municipal services (roads, snow removal, for example) and cuts "nice to have" services (or transfers them to other local organizations), freezes management wages (perhaps anyone making \$100,000?) and sets aside surplus dollars for emergency contingencies that are bound to arise in the coming year. Projects that have not been committed to (like waterfront redevelopment, more money on the downtown, etc.) should be stalled or shelved until other funding sources can be found or until the local economy improves.

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All legacy projects should be budgeted over years . City and council should prioritize restraint on spending frivolously. They should create the illusion to care about taxpayers.

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Stop with the absurd and expensive traffic studies. Learn from other similar communities as to what works or doesn't. Put in more pedestrian cross signals. Photo radar cameras work for stopping all the idiots in a hurry who run red lights, drive way over the speed limit and cause accidents. Having lived in Calgary I can attest to their success. Also, learn how to fix potholes once and for all. Crazy that patches are put on every year in the same exact spots. Spend the money to fix the roads properly.

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You need to deal with workers contracts that in some cases allow only a half days work due to agreements regarding lunch breaks and end of the day showers. I watched a crew of 6 work nearly a week on a project on Alagash drive, that took 3 men and equipment in Lake of Bays do in 1 day! To fix potholes out here they return three times to get a one day job done!

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Good luck. Balancing the increase to taxes versus reduction of services cannot be easy. No one will be happy!

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I would prefer them cut thing like park enhancements, the downtown plaza, things like that over out services. The last thing we need right now is tax hikes. Most of us work full-time jobs and are barely making it. Increasing taxes is going to hurt people more than ever right now.

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I don't think we need a swimming pool in the St. Mary's River. I also do not think anymore bike lanes are necessary.

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Quit spending money on things nobody wants! No one wanted the Plaza except for a select few! We already had venues for public events! Get rid of bike lanes and put formerly 4 lane roads back to 4 lanes! There is a reason they were 4 lane to begin with! Just repave the roads and leave the number of lanes alone! Whoever comes up with these ridiculous ideas should be fired from the city and never be allowed to work in the public sector ever again! Also, there should never EVER be a consultant hired from outside of this city. No one outside of the city knows better than people living here. If you think that, YOU shouldnt be allowed to work for the city. Give your head a shake!

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Our taxes are really high compared to other communities in Ontario. There are many ways to save money. Possibly all the six figure salaries at City Hall or paying Firemen six figures for working 7 days a month should be looked at. Some Municipal salaries have gotten out of control. Time to start looking at other options even if they are a little difficult!

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I a d nearly every retired person in this community that I have talked to deeply resents the money wasted on the ridiculous downtown plaza and if this council spends millions on a stupid swimming pool in the Ste. Mary's river then you should plan on not being re-elected. Spend what money we have on essential services and leave the supposed tourist traps to the service industry to pay for. The percentage of seniors in this community is increasing and we are on fixed incomes. We cannot afford big tax increases to pay for ridiculous thing when we can't drive on our roads.

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This is a challenging task!

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Roads are a problem, my road you can hardly drive more than 10km/h as it is so uneven. Money needs to be invested in our current infrastructure and not new. Get what we have right then move to new items.

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Focus on services for the majority. Municipal should not prioritized for the support of criminals and their activities. The Justice system should be used instead for managing drug abuse and the resulting homelessness.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

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This is not really a budget issue, to improve the ease of getting around town, the one way streets should be marked better. I see a car going the wrong direction on Bay Street at least once a week.

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Is police budget comparable with other municipalities? If not, why not?

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Consider the whole community, not just certain areas/neighborhoods. The west end often doesn't get the same services, level of service, or options (e.g. stores and businesses) as central and east-end.

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Pare down the waterfront redevelopment project and eliminate that ridiculous swimming pool. And if the downtown police depot is open only 9-5 on weekdays, it isn't worth having and could be dispensed with. Reinstate development fees so existing taxpayers aren't subsidizing people buying big, new homes in the suburbs.

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Cut out the wasteful studies and limited value projects and frivolous expenditures, such as downtown items that most do not use, and focus on high value return items.

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Lifestyle, along with a sense of security, are key to growth of a city culture that encourages visits, population growth, and an overall feeling of contentment in the city.

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Lines on streets should be painted as soon as the snow is gone. It's very difficult to see the lines on roads especially when the city waits til summer is almost over

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As a single senior citizen that lives in the downtown core.... Safety is one of my prime concerns. I do not feel safe, leaving my apartment building after dark. In addition to this several vehicles in our apartment complex parking lot have had their windows smashed during the night.

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Stop expanding and focus on developing on existing roads. Stop expanding the road system and implement a transportation demand management plan to incentivize a modal shift.

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We don't need bike lanes. We don't need to move the transit depot. We don't need the swimming pool by St. Mary's River. Let's just stick to priority issues, like roads and safety!!!!

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We need to keep advocating for recreational activities to keep the young busy and away from drugs.

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tax the wealthiest residents proportionally. fund services to end income inequality. trial a ubi.

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Please plow the hub trail for winter activities. Winter is so long and people have fat bikes. We need access to the hub trail!

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Looking at the proposed tax hike for 2026 - it's way too much for the service that this city council provides. Drop all that useless water front swimming pool etc. upgrades and use our tax money to provide more adequate coverage of our basic needs - like the snowplowing that leaves 2 foot of ice packs at the end of our driveways. These use to be removed back a few years ago - our taxes kept going up and the services keep going down. Reallocate the funding from swimming pools to driveway cleanups. Everyone would be soooooooooo grateful!!

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Needs are increasing - it is reasonable that taxes should too

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Stop the useless tourist ideas. Look after the roads, cleanup the boulevards and garage on the streets. Then tourists will come.

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Focus more on services and not so much on downtown tourism until we can grow our population to have these non essential amenities

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Hiawatha Highlands is a gem that the local community derives a great deal of benefit from, and additionally it's become a significant draw for tourists, with its world class mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing networks. There's a huge disconnect between the benefits to the city, and the amount of investment made by the city in that infrastructure. In the absence of city support, the development and maintenance of the Hiawatha Highlands recreation area has been left to volunteer organisations such as the Kinsmen, the Cycling Club and the Soo Finnish Ski Club. All these organisations are struggling under dwindling volunteer participation and funds. When you consider the funds spent by the city to support hockey (which has become a sport that only the well-off can afford), it's a shame that it couldn't give even a fraction of that kind of support to the more affordable recreation activities and the associated infrastructure found at Hiawatha Highlands.

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Clear the Hub trail in the winter.

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We need reliable intercity train service, homelessness assistance, and facilities for treating mental health and addictions to drugs.

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Make the process more transparent and accessible to comment by providing continuous updates. Research what other communities do to engage taxpayers.

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Don't fix things that don't need fixing i.e. don't keep narrowing streets. Address the safety problems downtown.

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Need to cut superfluous administration staff and programs that are not essential.

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SSM's biggest problem is the size of its tax base and the second problem is the sprawl for a city of its size. Nothing is truly organized when it comes to traveling in the city. It is like "Topsy" ; it was allowed to grow any which way and when changes should have be made, those who could have created an organized city, chose to put themselves or their businesses first. Thus the mess at 2nd line and Great Northern as well as other locations!

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Need to be more efficient and cost conscious in all aspects of city services and responsibilities. Better supervision all around for work

productivity and quality of work. Wages and benefits for city employees need to be brought under control.

We need the city police to continue busting aggressive drivers and speeders in our city to keep drivers and cyclists safe.

The safety and security of this community is by far the most important thing. We NEED to address the increase in violent crimes and make the downtown area safer.

Hard drugs have gotten a very secure grip on the Sault over the last ten years. Our social landscape is suffering tremendously. It is a losing battle to fight the symptoms. Instead we must discover the sources (both why people are using them and how they are being made available bottom to top) and overcome them if we are to get our city back. I feel we should also foster innovation in education with an AI educational centre that focus's on using new technologies to teach students with minimal human help, and our city should have shares in it's profits. Lochner and Moretti (2004) in a highly influential study in economics established a causal link between education and crime. The highest cost of doing business is labor. A school ran by AI successfully delivering college and university level accredited classes that favored local students who could maintain the required average would result in higher earning citizens, declining crime rates, declining hard drug use and could be duplicated.

The owners of empty buildings & houses especially in the downtown area should be responsible for maintaining a certain standard of appearance on their property or be charged taxed for the city doing it. The downtown area of this city should look a heck of a lot better than it does to attract more doctors, nurses & professional to the area.

We already have city taxes that are too high the highest in Ontario yet we have the worst roads

Improve winter access to the hub trail. Improve enforcement of parking rules, I regularly find people parked in bike lanes. Particularly dangerous around schools.

Its time to trim and trim hard.

Please tighten the belt on wasteful spending like insane salaries!

I feel some of the serious missteps regarding the deterioration of our downtown are directly related to not placing more pressure on PUC and on Algoma public health to locate their offices in the downtown core. And if feasible when the Sault police needs new headquarters it should be located downtown. Downtown would look much different if these entities were located there (including more foot traffic, people going out to lunch and shopping and spending in the area, etc). . In the case of aph many of the most pressing needs re medical determinants of health are in the downtown area. I also feel that priority should be placed on essential services, such as roads and public safety. I am not getting the sense that city tax dollars are being valued as much as they need to be, especially with the economic headwinds the city currently faces.

Stay on budget... spend money on needed projects not wanted wish lists like plazas that don't generate revenue...

More options for homeless and drug dependent

The city needs to enforce it's by-laws and do something with all of the boarded up houses on Wellington and Albert streets

Recycle could be done every second week

This is a time when ALL departments of city government should be focusing on reducing costs through increased efficiencies to help fill the gap. Status quo performance only contributes to service cuts.

Improvements to the hub trail and further safety measures and considerations for cyclists would be great!

Please attend to our housing issues and addiction issues. We need more affordable housing and addiction services and the provincial government needs to step up. We also need more funding for our hospital and the Groux Health Centre. Again - lobbying the provincial government is in order. Without a healthy housed population our community will not thrive.

Stop wasting money on unnecessary studies and unwanted ventures and ideas like a pool in the river or all these bike lanes which barely get used. Fix the roads.

a reduction in staff would save alot and probably not affect services.

Safety is number one priority.

When I moved in my house in 1997 the Snow ploughing services were excellent. Today they're horrible. at one time when they ploughed big giant chunks of ice into your driveway there was a payloader behind, just scooped it up and put it on your lawn. no they just leave it there and I have to figure out how to get rid of it. I call the city and they say they can't do nothing about it. But they seem to have time to have two graders go down north Street back to back ploughing pavement it's ridiculous.

stop investing money into the sinking ship of the downtown

Safety and security intertwines with so many of the other aspects mentioned. Downtown businesses cannot prosper in an environment that customers do not feel safe being in. When businesses need to lock their doors during operational hours that is a big red flag that needs to be addressed. As well, people will not feel safe attending community events regardless of what the event is. This is having such a financial impact on our downtown area as it is sad to see so many businesses start up only to close down with in a year or two due to lack of business.

Stop wasting money downtown. No one wants to bring their families down there to see what sault ste. Marie lacks in services and housing.

The recent Police Service budget overexpenditure matter was inexcusable. The overexpenditure itself was not the biggest problem. It was how Police dealt with it. The Board Chair and Acting Chief's attendance at City Council totally unprepared was inexcusable and a waste of time. I read thoroughly the Police Services' responses to questions posed by Council members. They were evasive and incomplete. As a result, citizens speculated to fill in the blanks, leading to inaccuracies. Nonetheless, we have to move forward from

this unfortunate debacle. And finally ... Police Service should use a spell/grammar checker prior to posting any material for public viewing. These errors add to the unprofessionalism from this poorly managed and flawed entity.

all Canadians have felt the impact of higher costs. We would hope that our local government could help curb that for us rather than be another thing we have to pay more for. Same things for more money which is the common theme now. I'm not sure what the answer is but government should be the one to help with this not make it worse.

we pay all this tax and we never fully see the streets safe and clean and in full repair. I also read about Group Health Centre not allowing same-day clinic appts. if you already have a doc. there - I hope this is just a rumour as I would find it quite sickening if this were the truth seeing as we pay tax dollars for GHC

Gaps in the budget is due to mismanagment of our tax money. ie ..previous owners of steelplant NOT paying their taxes for years .. hidden by city council until they needed to raise the taxes to cover the lost .. lack of foresight and ingenuity.. future opportunities are up for grabs ..ie milling our steel product for other industries

A downtown grocery store

The important thing is value for money

Fix the roads and increase snow removal budgets. I pay almost \$5000 in property taxes and my road is horrible, and it has been since I purchased the property in 2018.

Please get the streets fixed. Stop filling the potholes with tar and rocks in an annual make-work program. Thank you

We need better mental health supports for our first responders.. city of ssm police We need to get more public input on ALL city of SSM projects. Like who wants to go to the "plaza" when it doesn't feel safe or comfortable. Community safety is a top priority. And attracting people to move to the city.

The need for a safer community. Treatment facilities/shelters and the like should NOT be in the downtown core. Discourages residents and tourists from wanting to go there.

Review capital vs operating budget as well as how capital budget is spent. Less needs to be spent expanding service/offering through capital expenses as opposed to increased funds towards operating budget and/or renewal of existing core infrastructure.

Reminder to focus on all of Sault Ste. Marie and not just the downtown core. It will take time for the recent investments to pay off.

It is well known we have higher property taxes than most of our fellow Canadian cities. We do not have a safe community any more and our City council wastes tax payer dollars on non-essential items and creates difficulties for city residents. Taxes should not be raised. Stop the wasting of dollars, essential things like snow removal and refuse collection should not be reduced but items like a pool in at the waterfront are ridiculous to consider at this time. Focus on what actually residents need to live in a safe, comfortable community and an in water pool, a splash pad, etc not needed. Also, the delays and inconvenience created with street closures, like Peoples Road were very poorly handled. This affected a lot of residents for almost 7 months. Stop patting yourselves on the back for things that caused hardship and really understand the issues that get created.

I know the city , for years, have held many services at bay. And those have suffered bad. But it is unreasonable to think that this can be fixed by no raise in taxes when prices continue to raise across the board. However, it seems that we continue to feed special interest when our city gets rougher by the day

Need to prioritize public safety and upgrading the infrastructure. Stop spending time and money on the so called beautification projects and tourist attractions.

Counselors need to listen better to the citizens. This survey is rather useless

Keep the hun trail cleared op snow in winter

Reduce wasteful spending and the mindset of a 'lets spend' budget model to a priority balanced budget that reduces or eliminated expensive unnessecary projects. Get down to core business and streamline it first. Its not hard to do. Please stop sliding embarrassing projects through the process. Its a waste of money and of course consultants will say yes this multi million dollar study will benefit the city tourism. A multi million dollar study will always come up with benefits but come on. Please. That money can be used to be a unique model to address and correct crime and lift up the heads of all people in this town. Good things will naturally flow from a healthy society .

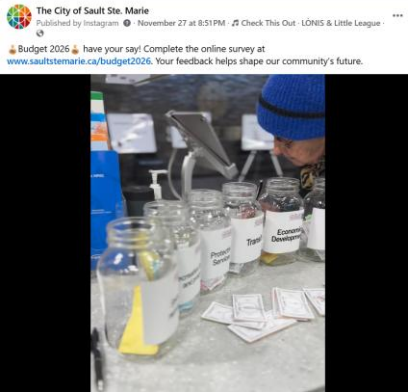

Spend money's more wisely. Million dollar stairs to city hall ? ? ?



Figure out how to best address our homelessness and our drug problems.









[Additional survey reports](#)

## Appendix D

### Facebook/Instagram Posts:

 <p>The City of Sault Ste. Marie Published by Instagram · November 27 at 8:51PM · #CheckThisOut · LONIS &amp; Little League ·</p> <p>Budget 2026 🗳️ have your say! Complete the online survey at <a href="http://www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026">www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026</a>. Your feedback helps shape our community's future.</p>	<p>🗳️ Budget 2026 🗳️ have your say! Complete the online survey at <a href="http://www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026">www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026</a>. Your feedback helps shape our community's future.</p>	<p>November 27, 2025</p>	<p>Facebook Engagement 15 Views 2,336</p> <p>Instagram Engagement 23 Views 4,162</p>
 <p><b>SAULT STE. MARIE</b></p> <p><b>Open House</b> Thursday, November 27, 2026 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Civic Centre lobby</p> <p>2026 <b>BUDGET</b></p>	<p>Attend the Budget Open House today 🗳️ We want your input as we plan the 2026 municipal budget. Have your say through any of these options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍️ Take the Survey: <a href="http://www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026">www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026</a></li> <li>🏠 Open House: Nov. 27, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Civic Centre lobby</li> <li>💬 Share on Social: Use <a href="https://twitter.com/saultbudget">#saultbudget</a> and tag @CitySSM</li> <li>💰 Tax Calculator: See how your tax dollars support City services <a href="https://cityssm.github.io/property-tax-calculator/">https://cityssm.github.io/property-tax-calculator/</a></li> <li>✉️ Email: <a href="mailto:info@cityssm.on.ca">info@cityssm.on.ca</a></li> <li>☎️ Call: 705-759-5350</li> <li>📮 Mail: 99 Foster Drive, SSM, ON P6A 5X6</li> </ul>	<p>November 27, 2025</p>	<p>Facebook Post Engagement: 320 Views 3,999</p>

	Your feedback helps shape our community's future.		
 <p><b>Take the Survey</b> www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026</p> <p>2026 <b>BUDGET</b></p>	<p>Complete the online Budget 2026 survey at <a href="http://saultstemarie.ca/budget2026">saultstemarie.ca/budget2026</a>. Paper copies are also available: Bay Street Active Living Centre (619 Bay St) Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave) North Branch Library (Northern Ave E) James L. McIntyre Centennial Library (50 East St) Ronald A. Irwin Civic Centre (99 Foster Dr) Survey will be available until November 28, 2025</p>	November 18	<p>Facebook Engagement 146 Views 1,744</p> <p>Instagram Engagement 399 Views 11,836</p>
 <p><b>Open House</b> Thursday, November 27, 2026 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Civic Centre lobby</p> <p>2026 <b>BUDGET</b></p>	<p>It's time. Help shape Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 Budget! We want your input as we plan the 2026 municipal budget.</p> <p>📌 Open House: Nov. 27, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Civic Centre lobby Speak with City staff and learn more about budget priorities at a come-and-go open house on November 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ronald A. Irwin Civic Centre lobby.</p> <p>Share your thoughts on Social: Use <a href="#">#saultbudget</a> and tag @CitySSM Tax Calculator: See how your tax dollars support City services <a href="https://cityssm.github.io/property-">https://cityssm.github.io/property-</a></p>	November 18	<p>Facebook Engagement 168 Views 3,466</p> <p>Instagram Engagement 238 Views 10,028</p>

	<p><a href="#">tax-calculator/</a>  Email: info@cityssm.on.ca  Call: 705-759-5350  Mail: 99 Foster Drive, SSM, ON P6A 5X6</p> <p>Your feedback helps shape our community's future.</p>		
	<p>It's time. Help shape Sault Ste. Marie's 2026 Budget!</p> <p>We want your input as we plan the 2026 municipal budget. Have your say through any of these options:</p> <p> Take the Survey:  <a href="http://www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026">www.saultstemarie.ca/budget2026</a></p> <p> Open House: Nov. 27, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Civic Centre lobby</p> <p> Share on Social: Use <a href="#">#saultbudget</a> and tag @CitySSM</p> <p> Tax Calculator: See how your tax dollars support City services  <a href="https://cityssm.github.io/property-tax-calculator/">https://cityssm.github.io/property-tax-calculator/</a></p> <p> Email: info@cityssm.on.ca   Call: 705-759-5350   Mail: 99 Foster Drive, SSM, ON P6A 5X6</p> <p>Your feedback helps shape our community's future.</p>	November 17, 2025	<p>FB Views 9,408</p> <p>Instagram Views 2,852</p>



# Levels of Government in Canada

## Roles and Responsibilities in Government Services

**Municipal Government**  
**City of Sault Ste. Marie**



**Led by the Mayor**  
**Elected every four years**

- Road maintenance and snow clearing
- Drinking water, wastewater, stormwater
- Garbage, recycling & landfill
- Transit
- Fire Services
- Police
- Parks, trails, and playgrounds
- Libraries
- Land-use planning and zoning
- Building permits and by-law enforcement
- Animal control
- Economic development
- Property taxes (City portion)
- Provincial offences administration
- Recreation, community centres and facilities

**These services affect the City of Sault Ste. Marie**

**Provincial Government**  
**Government of Ontario**



**Led by the Premier**  
**Elected every four years**

- Education
- Health care
- Colleges and universities
- Social Services
- Housing
- Highway maintenance and transportation regulation
- Childcare regulation
- Driver licensing; vehicle registration (ServiceOntario)
- Natural resources, mining and forestry
- Provincial Policing (OPP)
- Provincial parks
- Labour laws and employment standards
- OHIP health coverage
- Sales tax

**These services affect the province**

**Federal Government**  
**Government of Canada**

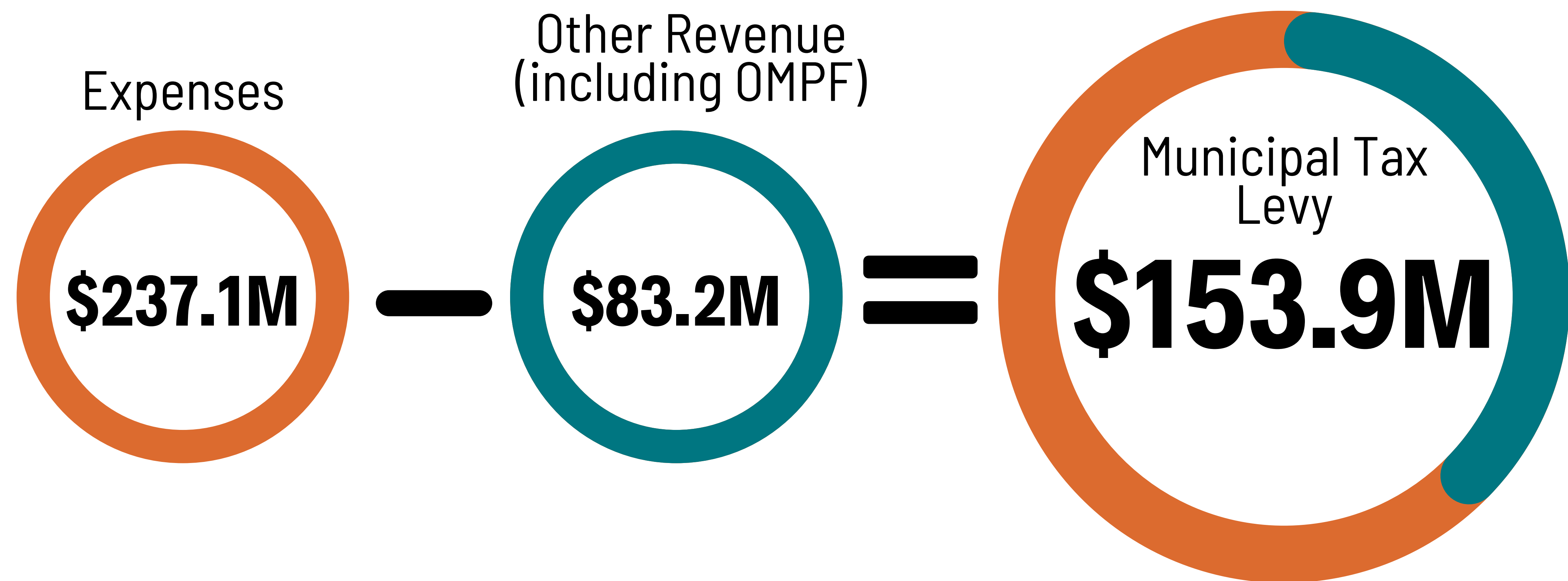


**Led by the Prime Minister**  
**Elected every four years**

- National defence
- Immigration and citizenship
- Indigenous relations
- Criminal law
- National Policing (RCMP)
- National parks
- Fisheries and oceans
- Currency and banking regulation
- International trade
- National transportation and aviation
- Canada Post
- Income tax
- Environmental regulation (shared with provinces)

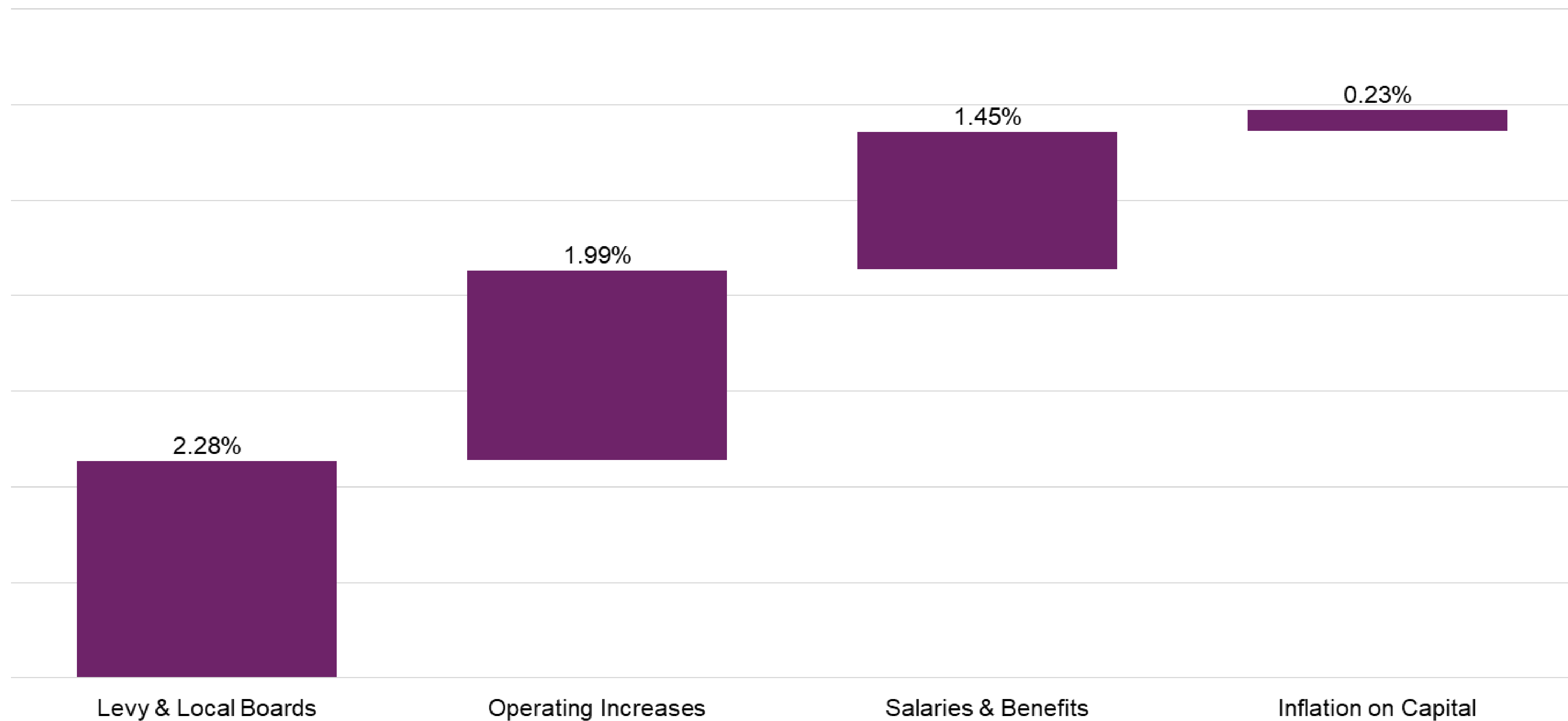
**These services affect the country**

# Municipal Levy (millions)

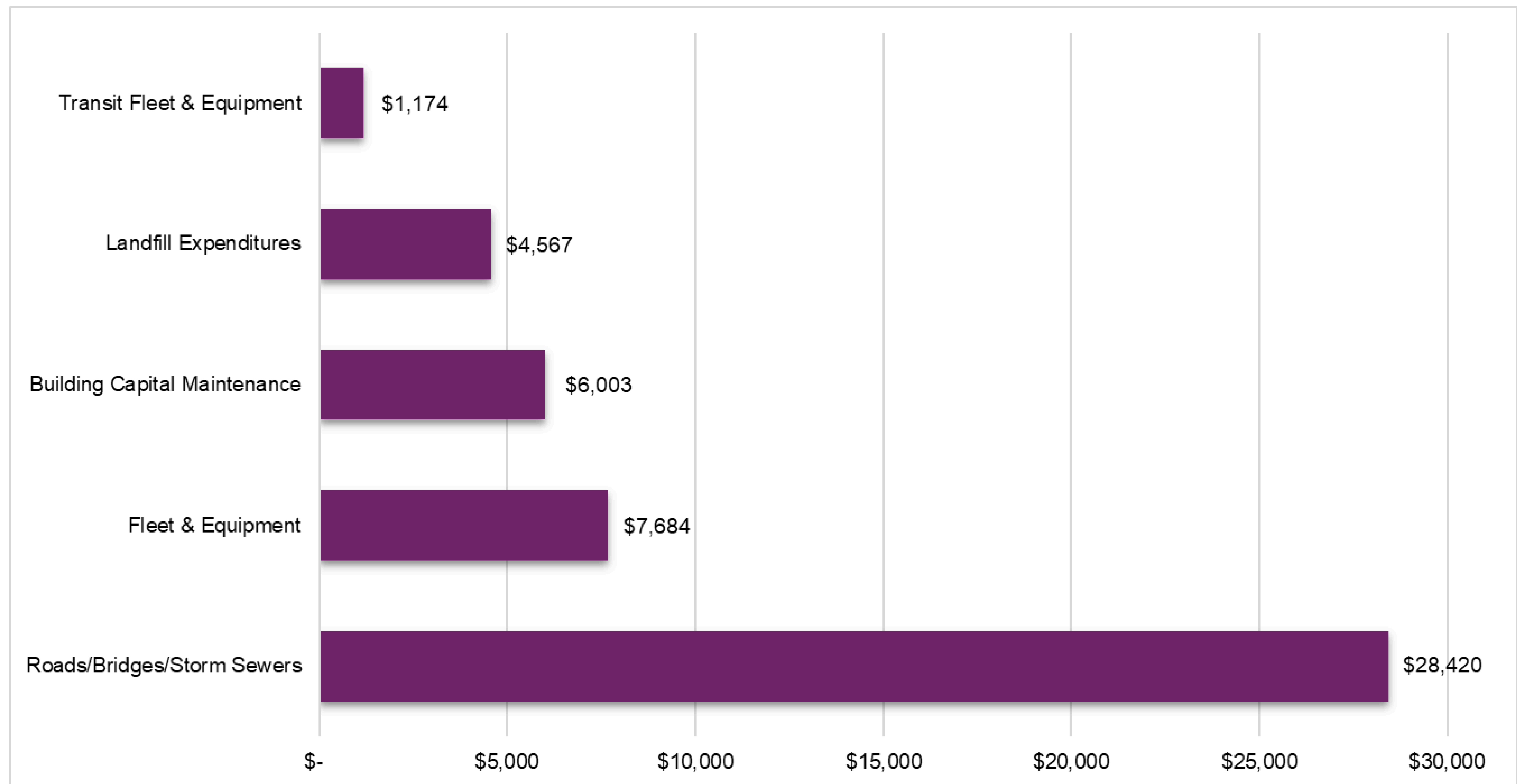


# Total Expenses - \$237.1 Million

Expense Increase 2025 to 2026



# 2026 Capital Budget (\$000)



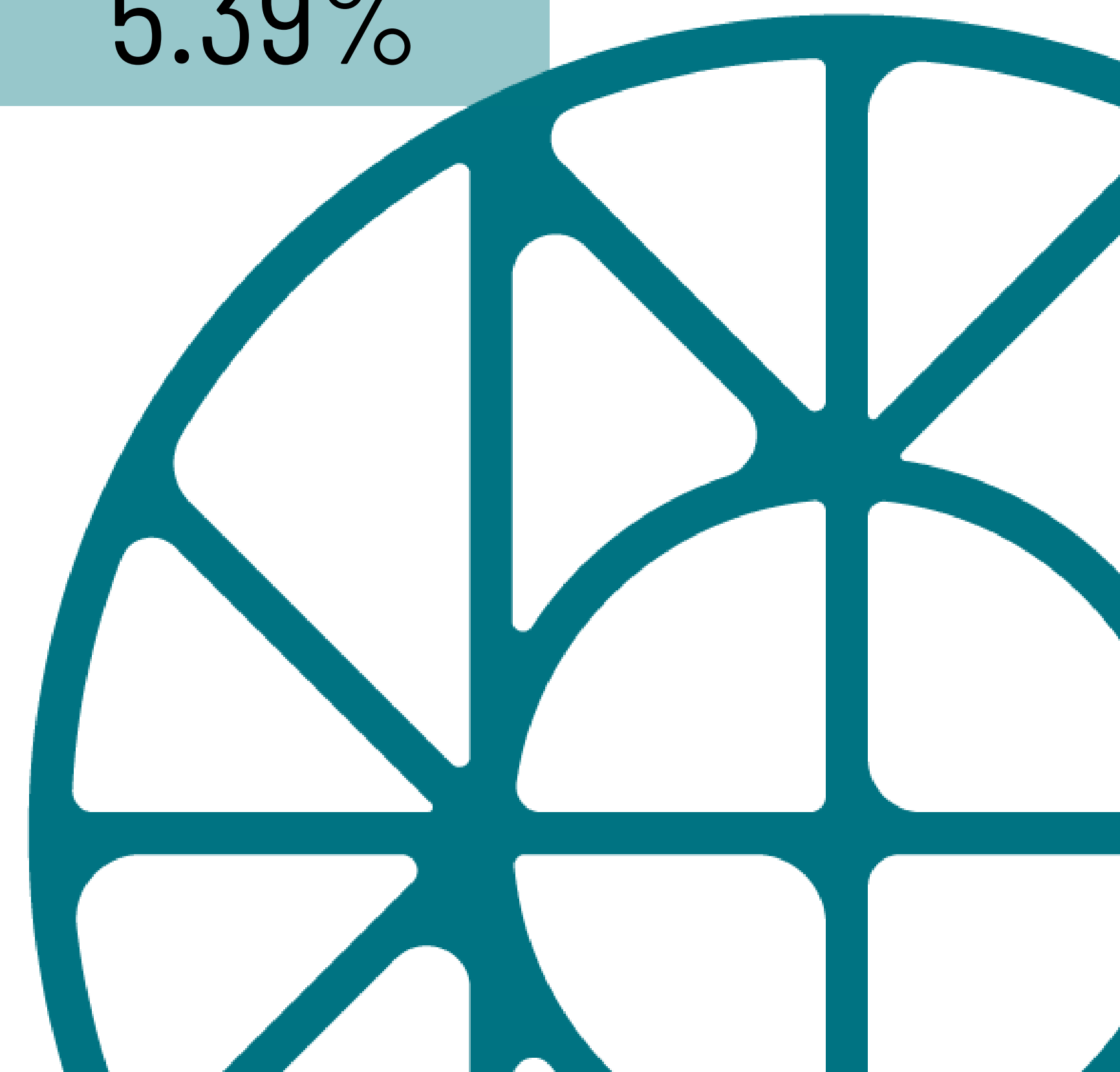
# Challenges / Risks

- Existing municipal funding framework
- Asset management plan requirements
- Assessment growth
- Grants from other levels of government

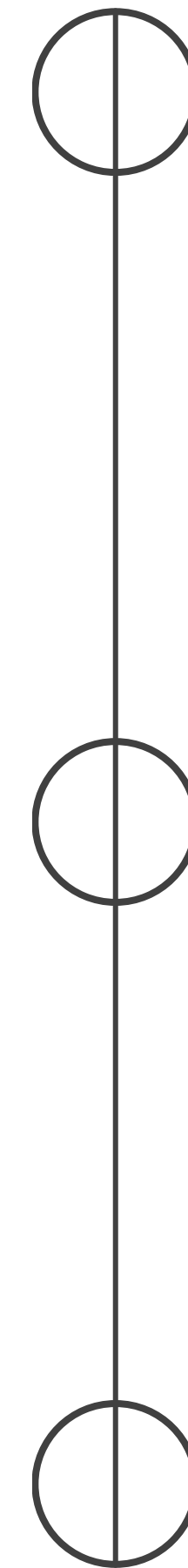


# Preliminary Corporate Summary

City Levy	1.89%
Levy & Local Boards	3.5%
Total Municipal Levy	5.39%



# 2026 Proposed Budget



## **\$237.1 million Operating Budget**

Includes costs for delivering municipal services and outside boards

## **\$47.8 million Capital Budget**

## **Tabled draft budget is a 5.39% property tax levy increase**

- Contains 1.89% increase as a result of City services
- An additional 3.5% increase for levy and local boards



# 2026 Capital Highlights

01 Capital Program totaling \$47.8 million

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02 A significant amount of road work –  
over one-half of the capital budget

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03 Substantial asset renewal work in  
other asset categories (Transit,  
Fleet, Landfill, etc.)

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04 Utilizing \$22 million in funding from  
senior levels of government

**December 1, 2025**

**Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of Council  
Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie  
99 Foster Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6**

Good day Mayor Shoemaker and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Sault Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), we are writing to reaffirm our support for the City's Active Transportation Plan and to urge Council to approve the full annual budget request of \$711,000 to begin its implementation.

The need for safe, connected active transportation infrastructure has never been more urgent. In 2025 alone, our community experienced two tragic cyclist–pedestrian fatalities, along with other incidents involving vulnerable road users. These losses highlight the unacceptable gaps in our current network and the necessity of acting now to prevent further tragedies.

The Active Transportation Plan provides a clear, evidence-based roadmap to improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity year-round. Building on the success of the John Rowsell Hub Trail, the plan proposes targeted investments that support health, tourism, climate resiliency, and overall community livability. It has already demonstrated that investing in active transportation yields significant community benefits, encouraging healthy living, supporting tourism, and improving neighbourhood connectivity. The Active Transportation Plan builds on this success with targeted, prioritized actions that will make active travel safer and more accessible year-round.

To implement the Plan effectively, STAC strongly supports the recommendations to:

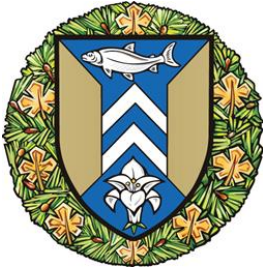
- Hiring a dedicated Active Transportation Coordinator
- Establishing a Transportation Committee of Council
- Investing in the prioritized infrastructure, safety improvements, education, and maintenance standards identified in the Plan

The proposed annual investment of \$711,000 is not only reasonable—it is necessary. Delaying or underfunding implementation will prolong preventable safety risks, weaken public confidence, and increase long-term costs as infrastructure gaps grow wider. Evidence proves that increasing capacity to solve congestion only generates more traffic in the long term. Investments that focus on sustainable transportation choices are the most effective and fiscally prudent. Fully funding the plan now will allow the City to take immediate, coordinated action to improve four-season accessibility, enhance road safety, support climate resiliency, and strengthen Sault Ste. Marie's ability to attract and retain residents, workers, and visitors who value a livable, connected community.

STAC commends City staff, consultants, and residents who contributed to this important work. We respectfully urge Council to demonstrate leadership by approving the full annual budget and advancing this critical plan to make Sault Ste. Marie a safer, healthier community for all.

With thanks,

*Donna Hilsinger* - Chair, Sault Trails Advisory Committee



**The Corporation of the  
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

**COUNCIL REPORT**

December 8, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council  
AUTHOR: Tom Vair, CAO  
DEPARTMENT: Chief Administrative Officer  
RE: 2026 Budget – Additional Information

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council for their consideration in their 2026 budget deliberations.

**Background**

Since the tabling of the preliminary budget, there have been further adjustments to the City, and Levy and Local Board budgets:

The preliminary budget showed a 5.39% increase, which has been increased to 5.78% given the following changes:

- Algoma Public Health - budget impact of \$208,720 addition to the levy. We anticipated a 2.8% increase using our inflationary factor, and the approved budget reflected a 9% increase (for the second consecutive year).
- District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (Social Services) – budget impact of \$302,532 addition to the levy. The City anticipated a 2.8% increase using our inflationary factor, and the approved budget reflected a 4.21% increase.
- Sault Ste. Marie Police Services – a \$50,000 reduction was provided to the City given anticipated revenues in 2026. The Police budget represents an approximate 10.9% increase over 2025.
- An increase of \$111,000 for an additional firefighter as approved by the November 17, 2025 Council report to avoid overtime costs as a result of anticipated absences due to illness, injury, WSIB, parental, and/or maternity leave.

With these changes, the City's levy impact is 1.96%, still below the rate of inflation, and the Levy and Local Board budgets result in a 3.82% increase to the levy. The total proposed levy increase adds to 5.78%.

With the announcement from Algoma Steel regarding the layoffs, a message was sent to the executives at Police Services, Algoma Public Health, and Social

Services to determine if any reduction could be provided to their 2026 budget requests. Social Services provided \$99,999 to support the Downtown Ambassador program in 2026. As mentioned above, Police Services provided a \$50,000 reduction. The organizations have indicated that they are unable to provide any other reductions at this time, citing cost pressures they are experiencing.

In preparation of the 2026 budget, City staff planned for a difficult year ahead with anticipated job losses at Algoma Steel and the additional uncertainty created with the tariffs imposed by the United States across a number of sectors. Staff developed the 2026 budget with these factors in mind.

Requests for service level changes were pared down significantly to include only those items referred to budget from Council reports in 2025 and items requested by Council. Only one staff complement change was brought forward in 2026 which has no levy impact.

These efforts, along with an additional increase in the Ontario Municipal Fund, enabled staff to bring forward a budget request below the level of inflation. The 2025 City levy increase was also below the level of inflation.

### **Analysis**

The emerging trend of City budget deliberations starting with significant cost increases from local and levy boards that result in City levy adjustments below the level of inflation is concerning.

As previously presented to Council, the recommended capital reserve growth based on the long-term financial plan was a 1.3% levy increase. The 2026 budget includes a 0.3% levy increase for inflation. Adding the previously approved increase for the PW fleet requirement of \$550,000 results in a total levy increase of 0.7%. This is less than the 1.3% recommended levy increase for capital reserve growth.

The City operates with the same inflationary pressures as local and levy boards. If the City continues to absorb budget reductions (not keeping up with the cost of inflation), it will lead to greater shortfalls for future budgets.

Staff caution that budgets that fail to address reserve requirements, current operational needs, and service level requirements (winter control, roads, etc.) will place the City in an increasingly difficult budget situation in years to come.

Staff recognizes the current economic situation in the community and has taken steps to reduce the levy impacts from City operations for the 2026 budget.

### **Financial Implications**

Any adjustments to the 2026 Budget based on the information provided will be incorporated into the approvals of the 2026 Budget.

**Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact**

These items pertain to the 2025 Budget deliberations and are in support of the focus areas articulated in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2024-2027.

**Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the CAO concerning 2026 Budget Additional Information be received as information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Vair

CAO

705.759.5264

[cao.vair@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:cao.vair@cityssm.on.ca)