

Appendix A – Statistical survey results

Report on public engagement for Budget 2026 – Scientific survey results

Prepared by PRA Inc.

November 2025

Section 1: Survey methodology and demographics

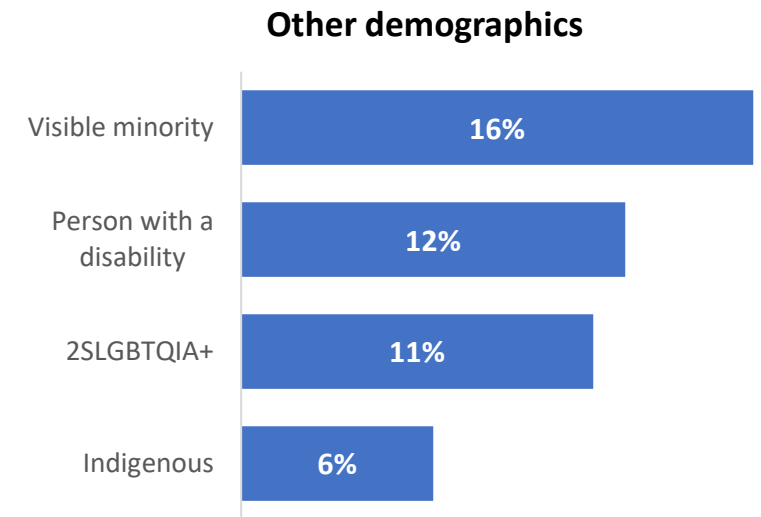
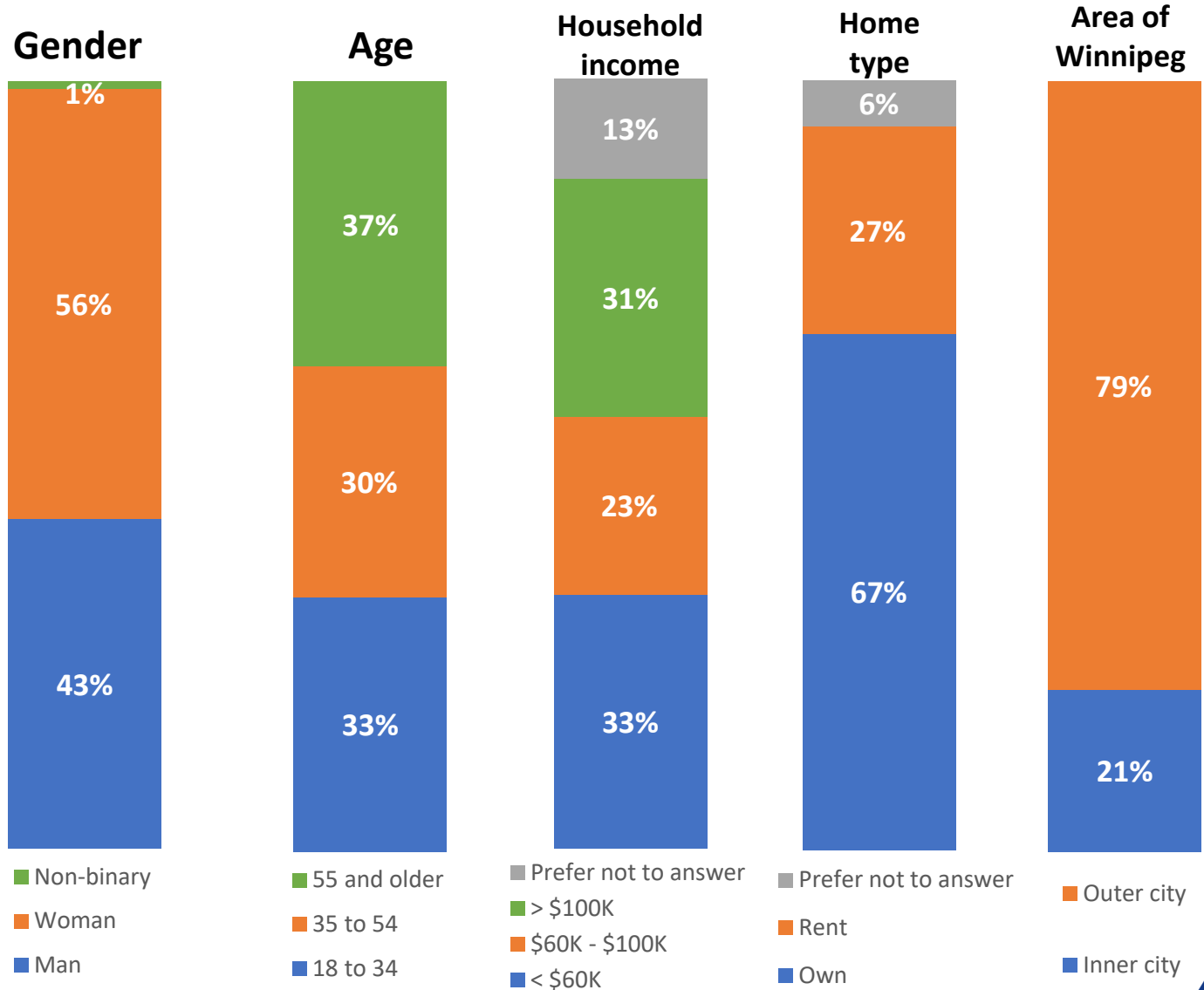
Background and methodology

- PRA conducted the survey from November 14 to 18, 2025 with Winnipeg residents 18 years and older via its online panel. The final results in this survey are weighted by age, gender, and income of Winnipeg residents according to 2021 Statistics Canada census data.
- Because the survey was not conducted with a random sample, a theoretical error cannot be applied to this survey. However, the theoretical margin-of-error for a random survey of this size (n = 800) is +/- 3.6% (based on a 95% confidence interval).
- Of the 800 respondents, 790 completed it in English (99%) and 10 completed it in French (1%)

Report notes:

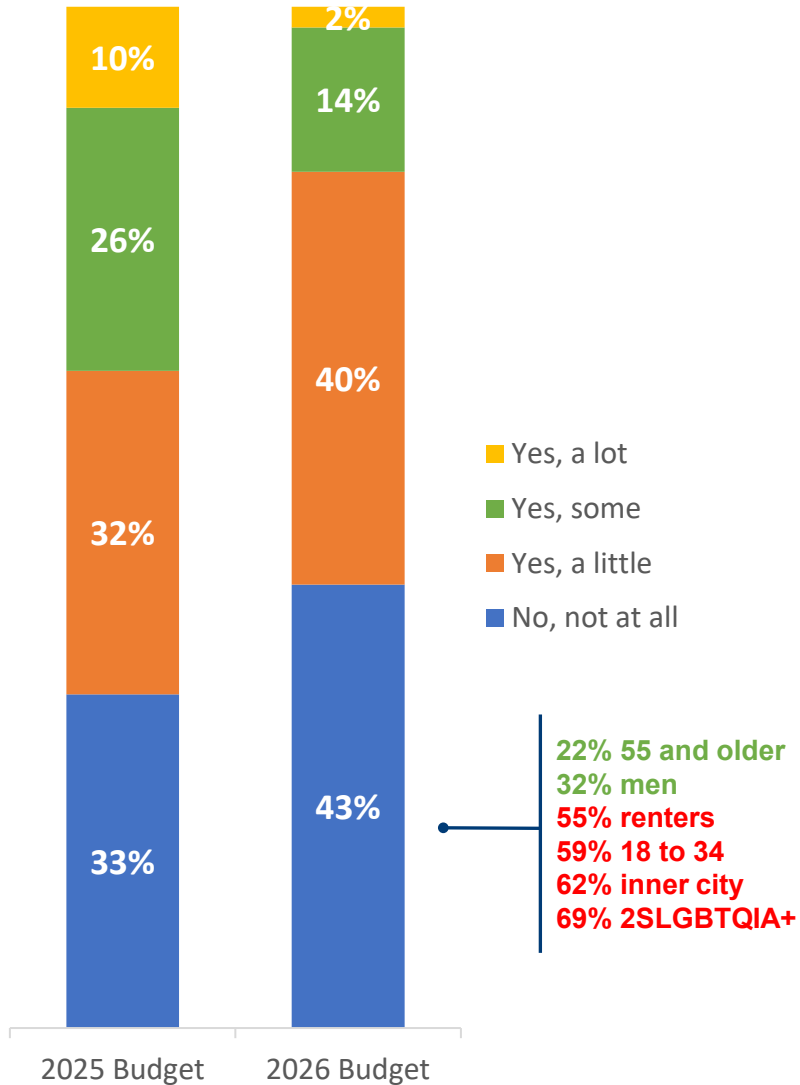
- Percentages in graphs may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
- Differences between groups were identified using chi-square tests with a p-value of less than .001 and at least a 10% difference between the group and the overall result. Text highlighted in **green** indicates a response that is more positive than the overall (aggregate) rating and text highlighted in **red** indicates a response that is more negative than the overall (aggregate) rating.

Demographics



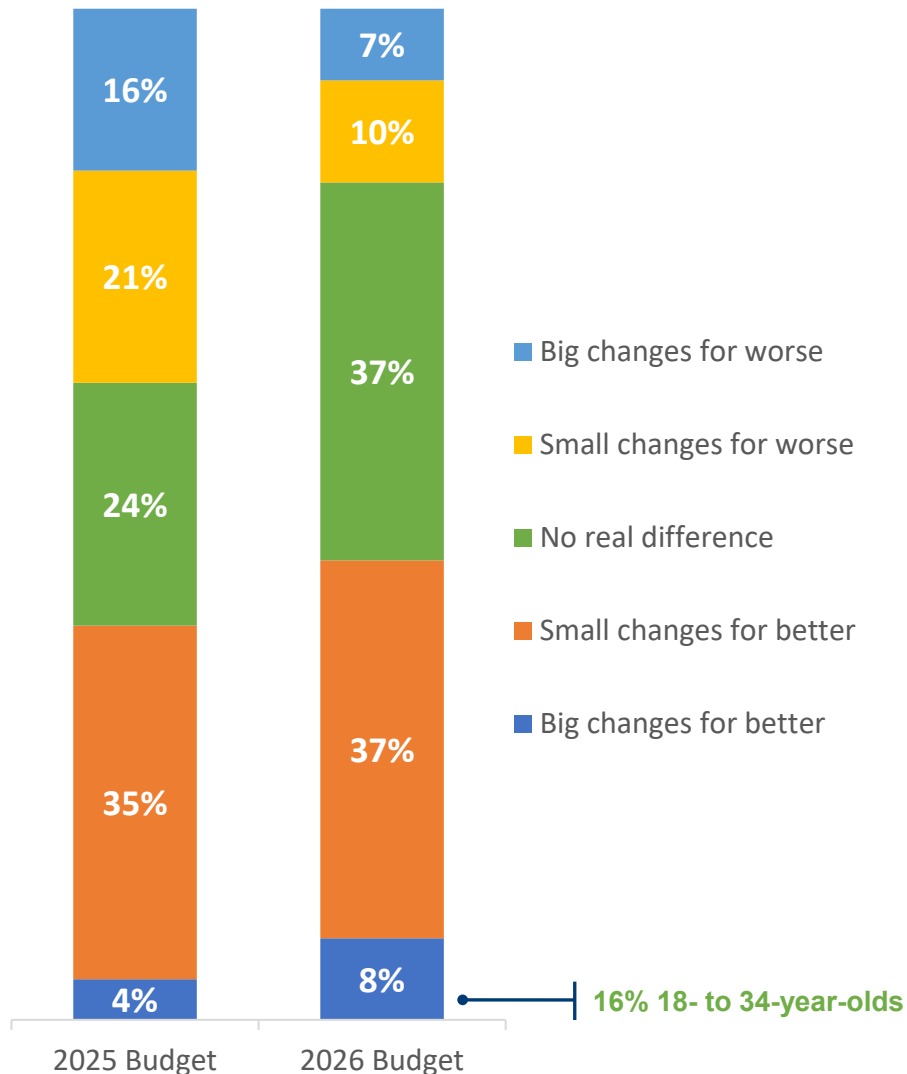
Section 2: Survey results

Awareness of City's budget



- When asked what they had seen, read or heard about the City's 2026 budget recently, 57% had heard something including 2% who **had heard a lot**.
- Awareness of the budget is lower than last year, when 67% had heard at least a little about the budget.

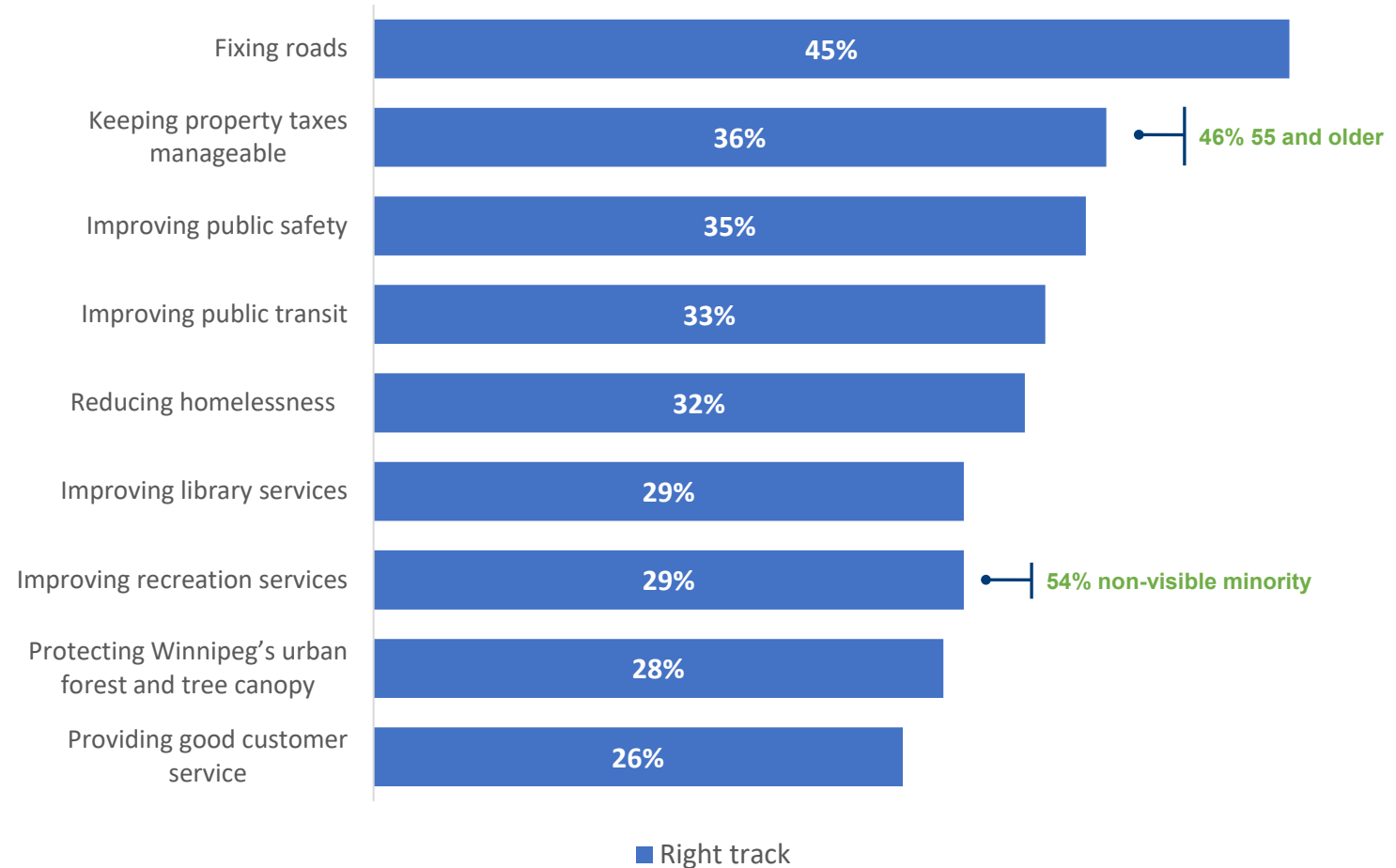
Perception of budget



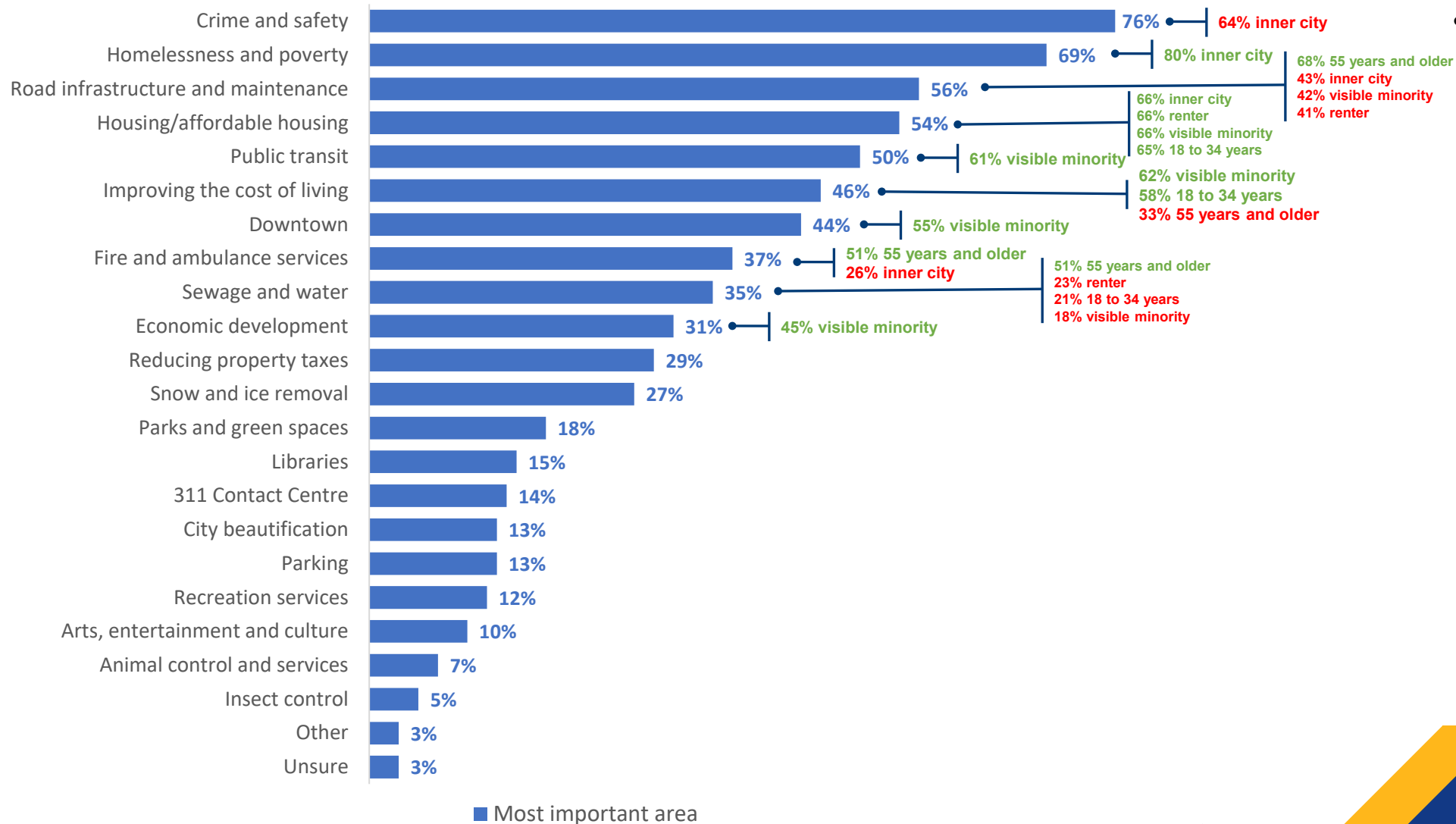
- When asked if they think the Budget will bring change for better or worse, residents are more likely to say it will **bring change for the better** (46%) than **change for the worse** (18%) for the 2026 budget.
- The proportion who say the budget will **bring change for the worse** decreased from the 2025 budget from 37% to 17%. This change was primarily offset by an increase in those who said it will have **no real difference** – up from 24% to 37%.

Right or wrong track for 2026 budget

- Among nine service areas, residents are most likely to say Budget 2026 is on the **right track** for fixing roads.
- Due to a significant change in how this question was asked, comparisons to results from 2025 are not appropriate.



Most important areas for 2026 budget



- When asked to select the most important areas for the City to focus on for the 2026 budget, residents were most likely to select **crime and safety** followed by **homeless and poverty**.

Most important areas by year

Area	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	Change
Crime and safety	76%	76%	0%
Homelessness and poverty	62%	69%	+7%
Road infrastructure and maintenance	65%	56%	-9%
Housing/affordable housing	62%	54%	-8%
Public transit	46%	50%	+4%
Improving the cost of living	47%	46%	-1%
Downtown	-	44%	-
Fire and ambulance services	34%	37%	+3%
Sewage and water	36%	35%	-1%
Economic development	30%	31%	+1%
Reducing property taxes	29%	29%	0%
Snow and ice removal	45%	27%	-18%
Parks and green spaces	19%	18%	-1%
Libraries	17%	15%	-2%
311 Contact Centre	13%	14%	+1%
City beautification	10%	13%	+3%
Parking	9%	13%	+4%
Recreation services	16%	12%	-4%
Arts, entertainment and culture	12%	10%	-2%
Animal control and services	8%	7%	-1%
Insect control	8%	5%	-3%

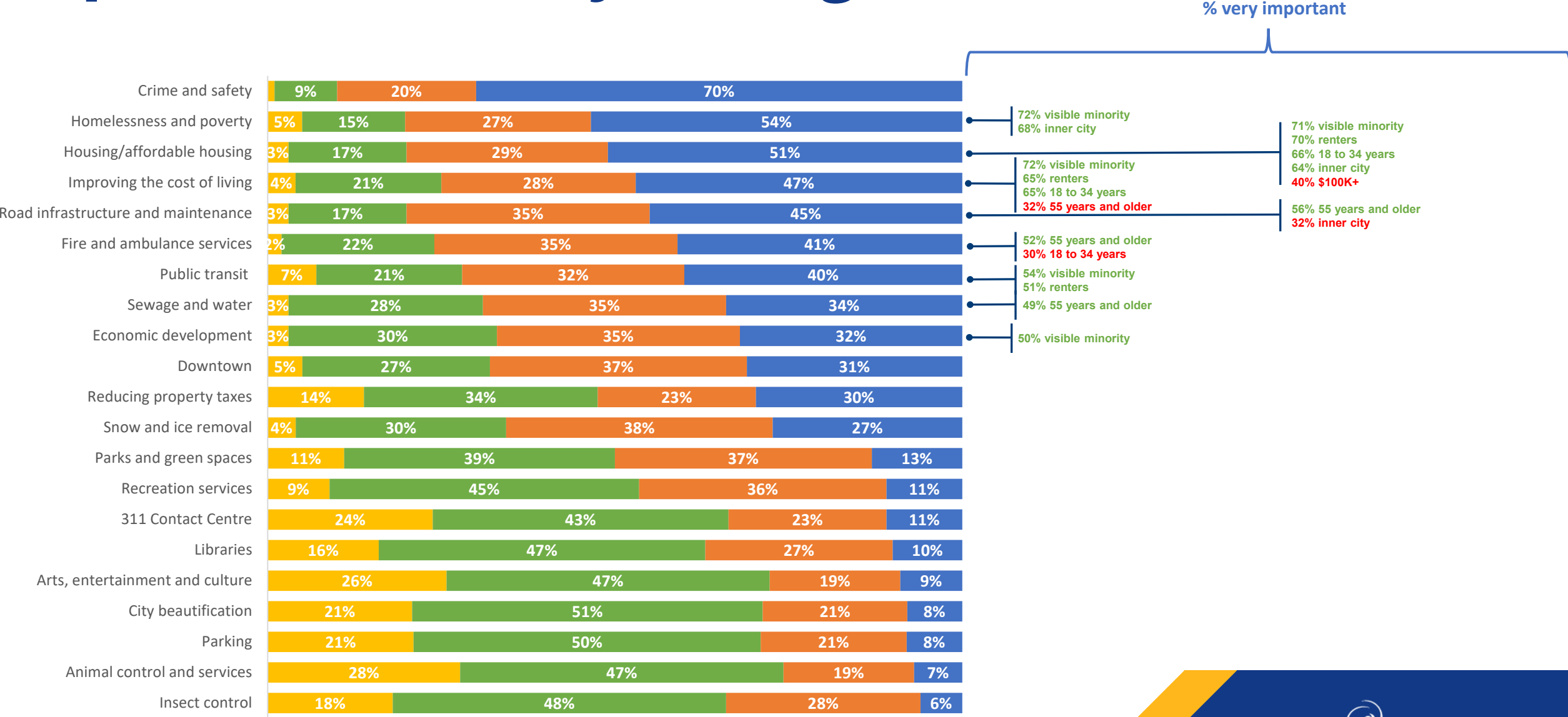
- Relative to last year, the biggest change in importance was for **snow and ice removal**, which dropped 18%. This change may be due to two factors: the survey for the 2025 Budget was conducted in mid-December versus mid-November for the 2026 Budget and the preliminary 2025 Budget had changes to residential street snow clearing that were not included in the Council-approved 2025 Budget.

Q5: Thinking of the City of Winnipeg’s 2026 budget, what are the most important priority areas the City’s budget must address? Select all that apply.
 Note: Residents could select more than one area.

Importance for City's budget 2026

- The next page shows how residents rated the importance of 21 different areas for the City's 2026 budget using a scale from 1 (not at all important) to 10 (very important).
- Similar to the previous results, the most important area is **crime and safety**, with 70% rating it a 9 or 10 out of 10.
- This was followed by two other areas where more than half of residents rate them a 9 or 10 out of 10 – **homelessness and poverty** and **housing/affordable housing**.
- At the lower end, two areas seem to rank lower than others, with 7% or fewer rating them as a 9 or 10 out of 10. These include **animal control** and **insect control**.

Importance for City's budget 2026

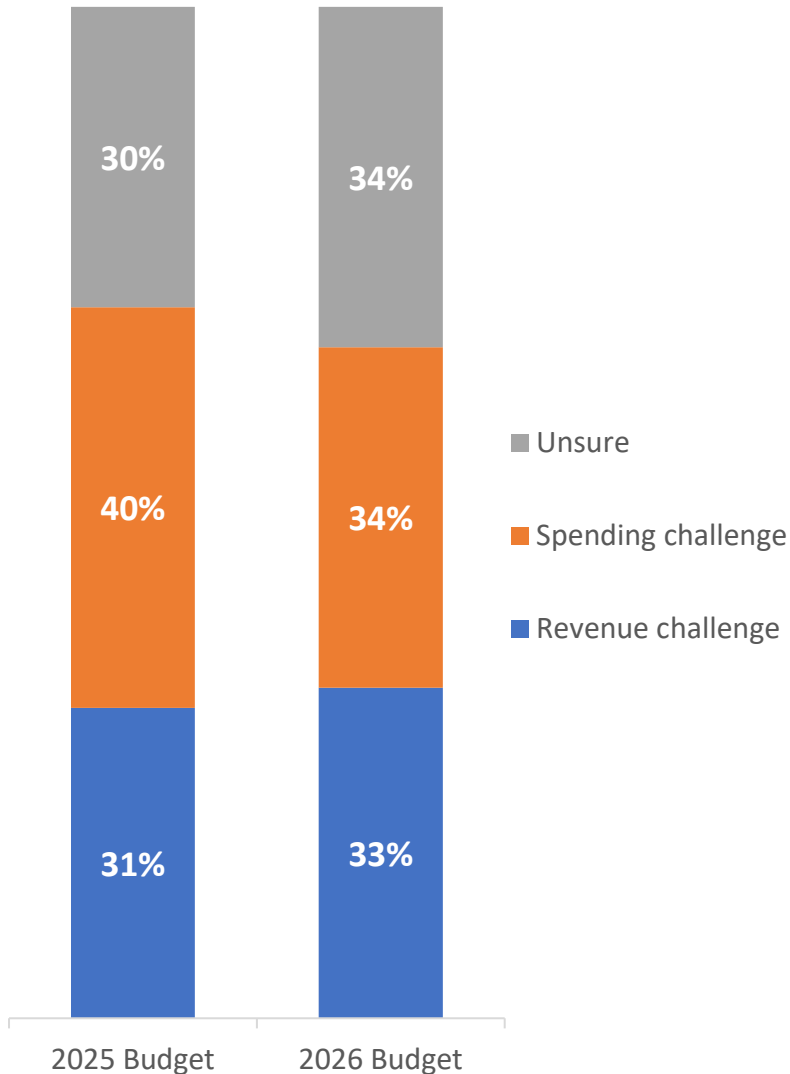


Very important for City's budget by year

Area	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	Change
Crime and safety	69%	70%	+1%
Homelessness and poverty	51%	54%	+3%
Housing/affordable housing	52%	51%	-1%
Improving the cost of living	46%	47%	+1%
Road infrastructure and maintenance	51%	45%	-6%
Fire and ambulance services	39%	41%	+2%
Public transit	37%	40%	+3%
Sewage and water	38%	34%	-4%
Economic development	30%	32%	-2%
Downtown	-	31%	-
Reducing property taxes	35%	30%	-5%
Snow and ice removal	38%	27%	-11%
Parks and green spaces	15%	13%	-2%
Recreation services	12%	11%	-1%
311 Contact Centre	11%	11%	0%
Libraries	15%	10%	-5%
Arts, entertainment and culture	7%	9%	+2%
City beautification	7%	8%	+1%
Parking	7%	8%	+1%
Animal control and services	9%	7%	-2%
Insect control	9%	6%	-3%

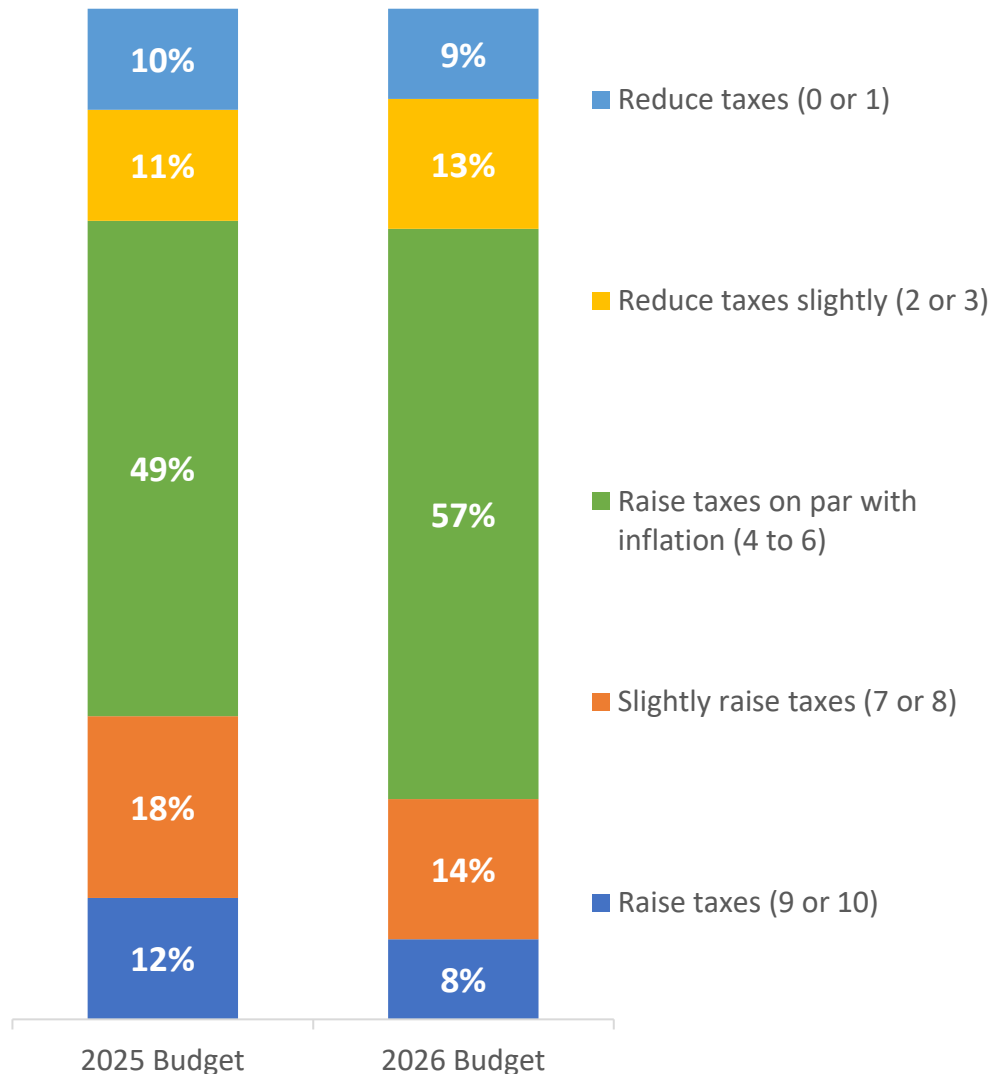
- Looking at the percentage of residents who rated each area as very important, the largest change was for **snow and ice removal**, which as discussed may be impacted by a few reasons.
- Otherwise, the only factor to change by more than five percentage points was **roads and infrastructure**, which declined by six percentage points from the 2025 Budget.

Revenue versus spending challenge



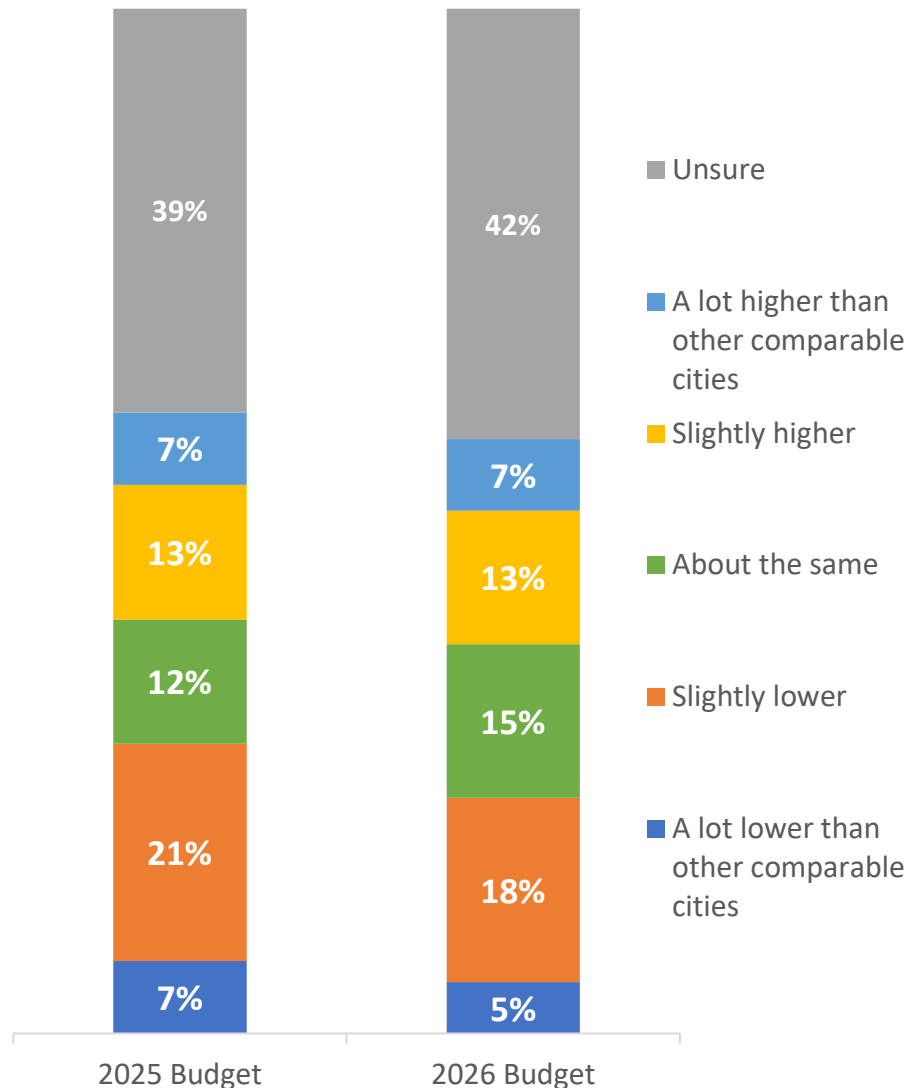
- For the 2026 Budget, residents are virtually split equally between those who say **the City has a revenue challenge (that is, not raising enough money to provide the level of service they want)** versus a **spending challenge (the City spends too much on programs and services and should look for ways to trim)**.
- Results are similar to the 2025 Budget survey.

Increasing versus reducing property taxes



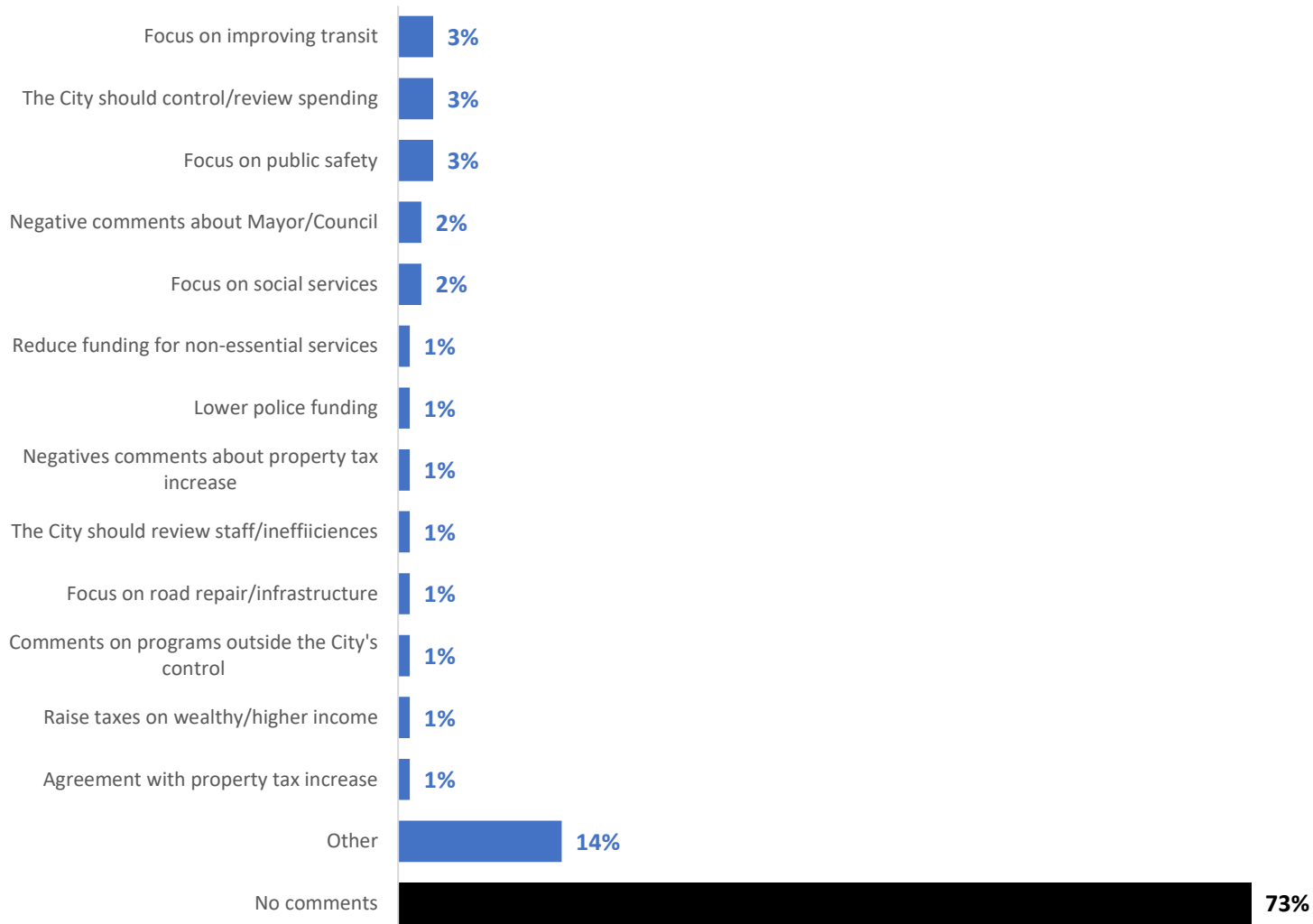
- When asked what best reflects their opinion about how the City should consider property taxes, residents are equally split between **raising property taxes above inflation to improve City services over reducing taxes with cuts to City services** by 22% versus 22% for the 2026 Budget.
- However, the largest group are those who say **increase taxes at the rate of inflation to maintain current service** at 57%.
- Results are similar to the 2025 Budget, with a slight shift from those who said to raise taxes above inflation to those who say to raise taxes on par with inflation.

Comparison to other Canadian cities



- When asked how they believe the City's property taxes compare to other comparable cities in Canada, residents tend to believe they are **lower than other comparable cities** than **higher** – 23% versus 20% - with 15% saying they are **about the same**.
- However, the largest group are those who are unsure at 42%.
- Results for the 2026 Budget are similar to the 2025 Budget.

Other comments on City's budget



- When asked for any comments on the City's budget, 27% provided a comment.
- No single comment or theme was mentioned by more than 3% of residents.

Appendix B – Online survey results

Report on public engagement for Budget 2026 - Online survey results

Prepared by City of Winnipeg

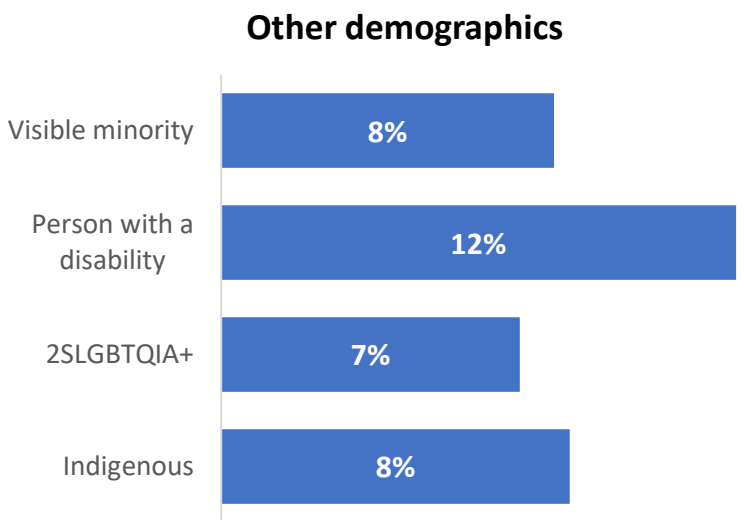
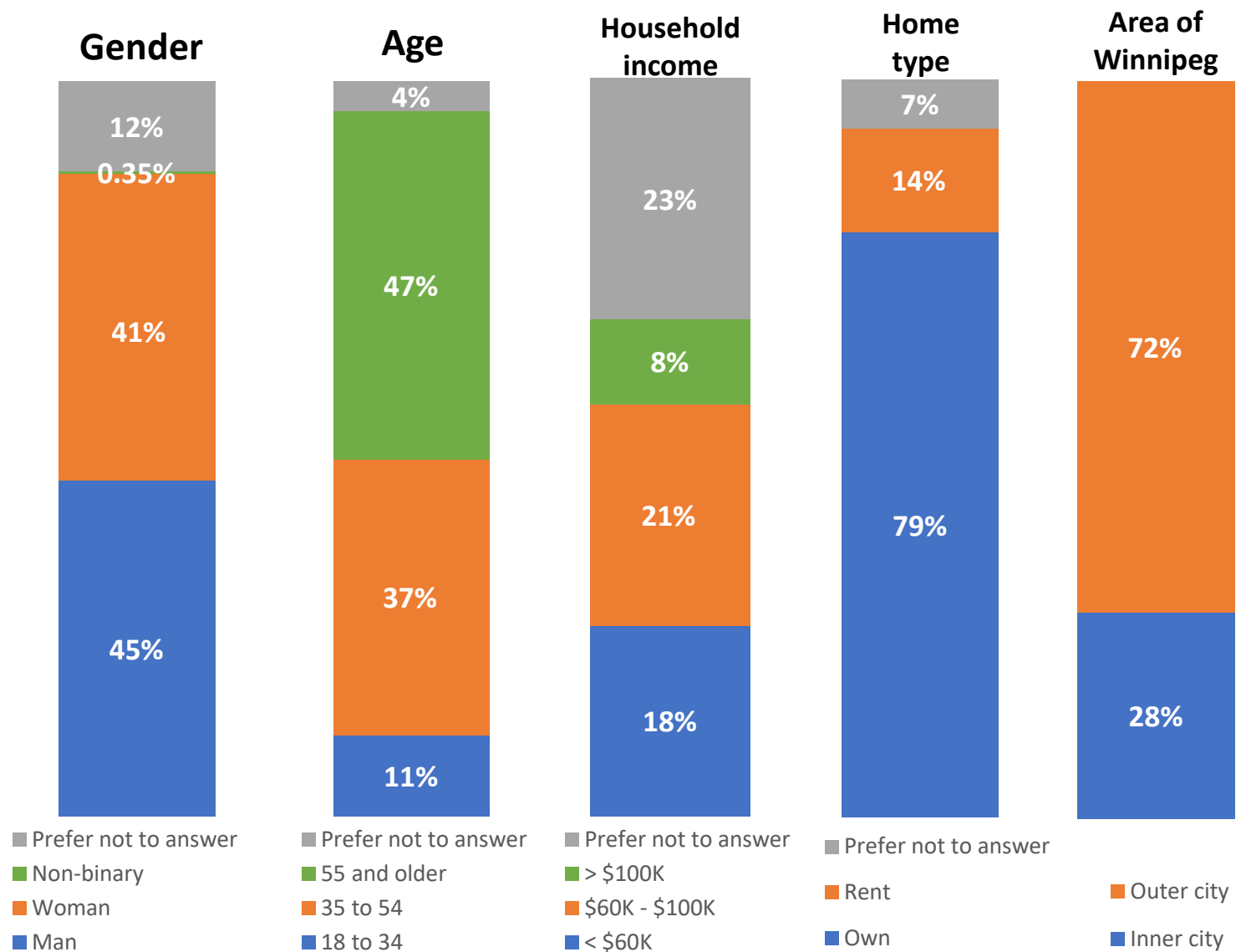
December 2025

Section 1: Survey methodology and demographics

Background and methodology

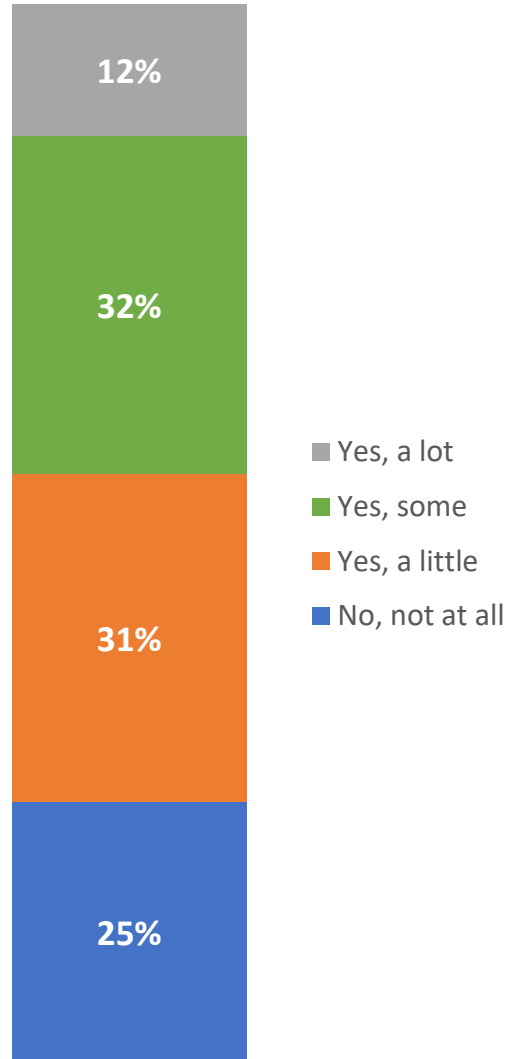
- PRA conducted the survey from November 14 to November 30, 2025.
- The survey was available online and open to all Winnipeg residents.
- Survey respondents were voluntary and self-selected (and therefore not representative)
- A total of 563 surveys were completed.

Demographics



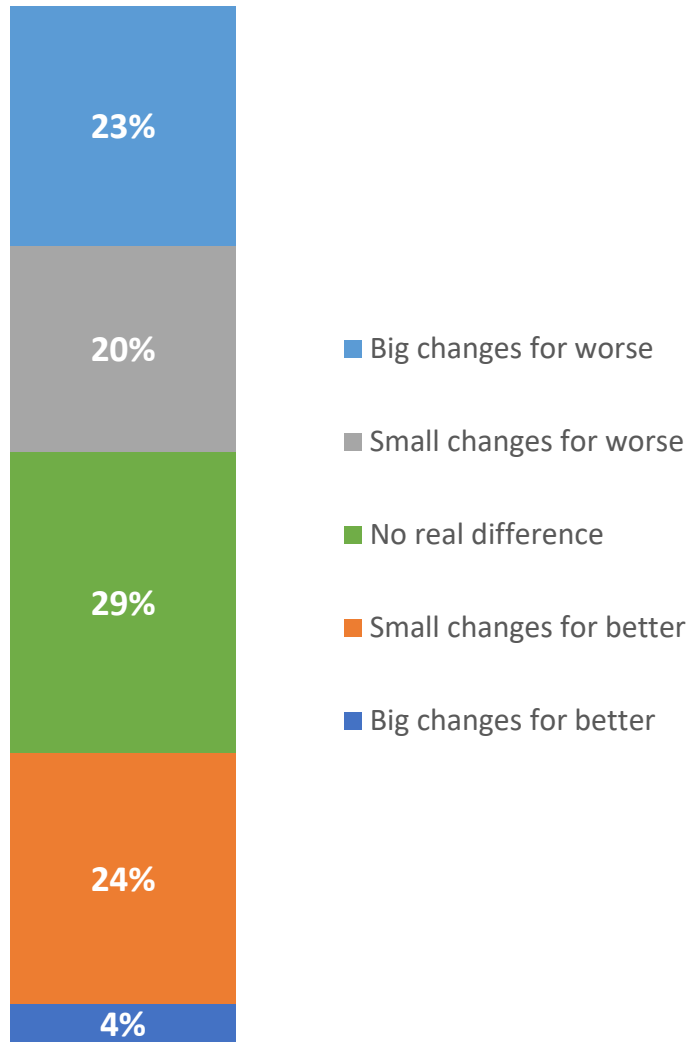
Section 3: Survey results

Awareness of City's 2026 budget



- When asked what they had seen, read or heard about the City's 2026 budget recently, 75% of respondents had heard at least something (compared to 88% last year), including 12% who had heard **a lot** about the budget.

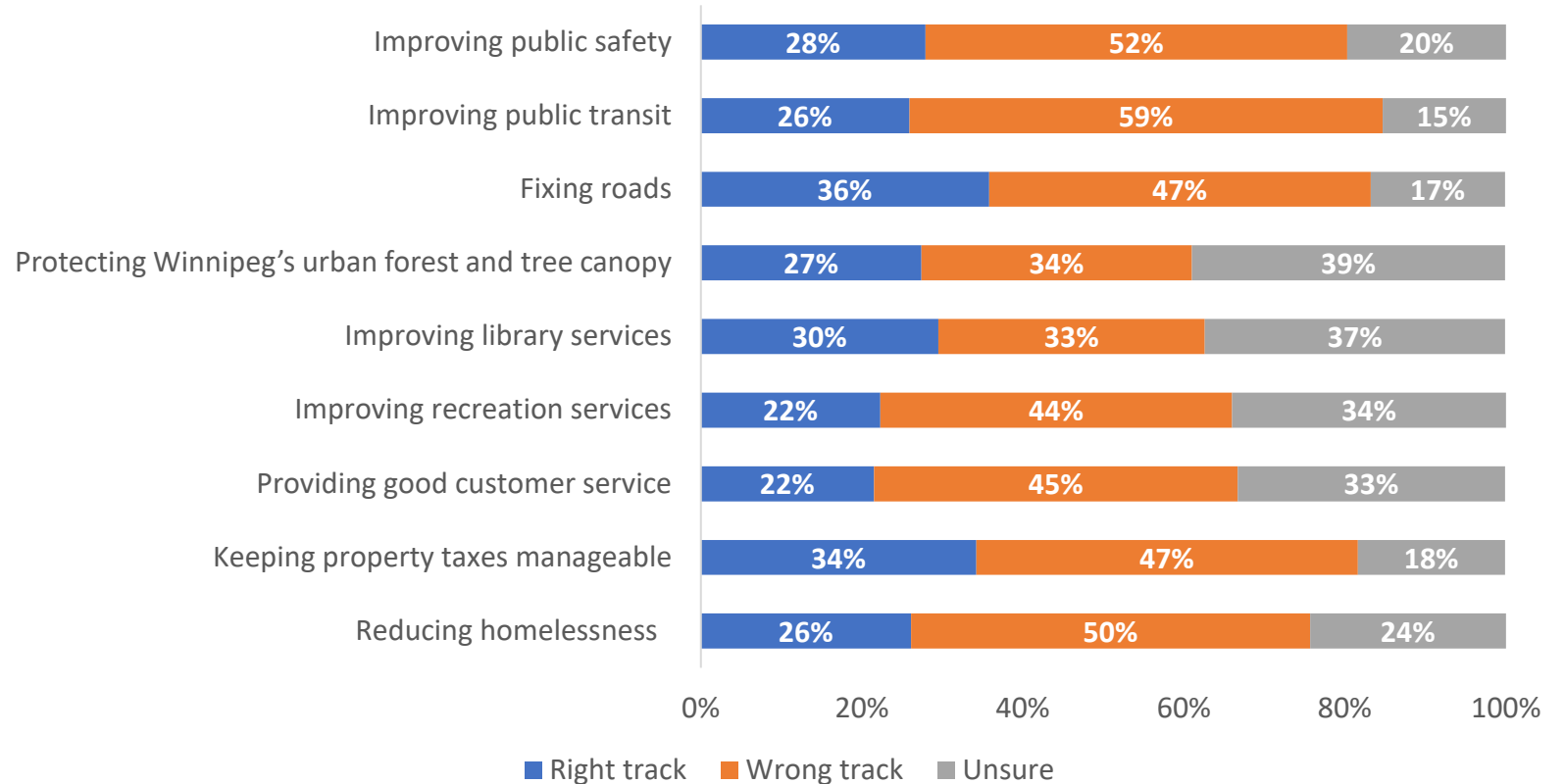
Perception of 2026 Budget



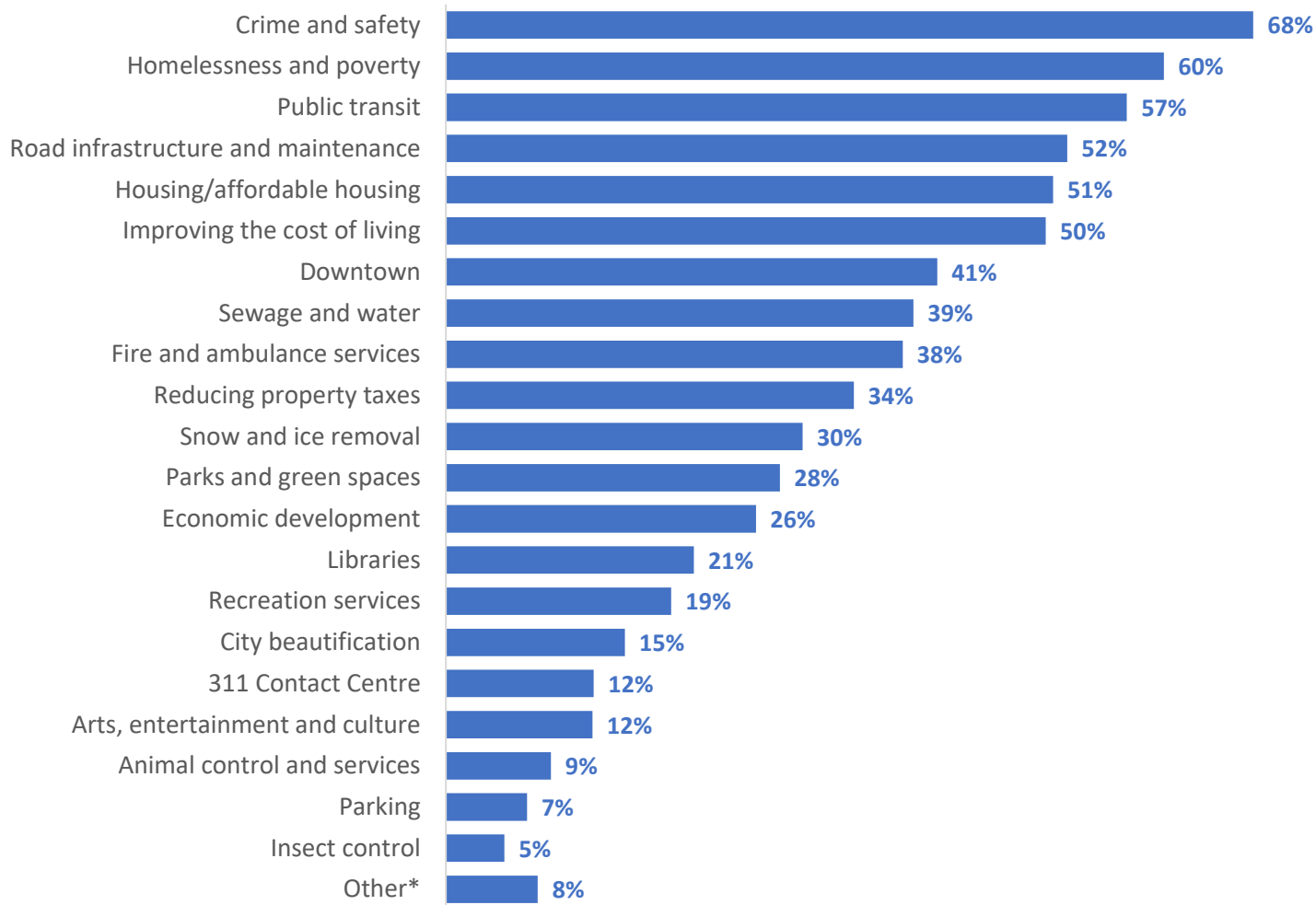
- When asked if they think the 2026 Budget will bring change for better or worse, **28% of respondents said it will bring change for the better** (compared to 26% last year) and **43% said it will be bring change for the worse** (compared to 52% last year).
- About 30% believe it will **have no real difference**.

Right or wrong track for Budget 2026

- Respondents are generally split on nine areas of the 2026 budget in terms of being on the right or wrong track, with no single area rated on the right track by more than 36%.
- **Improving public safety and improving public transit** stand out being identified as on the wrong track.



Most important areas for Budget 2026



- When asked to select the most important areas for the City to focus on for the 2026 budget, respondents were most likely to select **crime and safety**, followed by **homelessness and poverty**, and **public transit**.

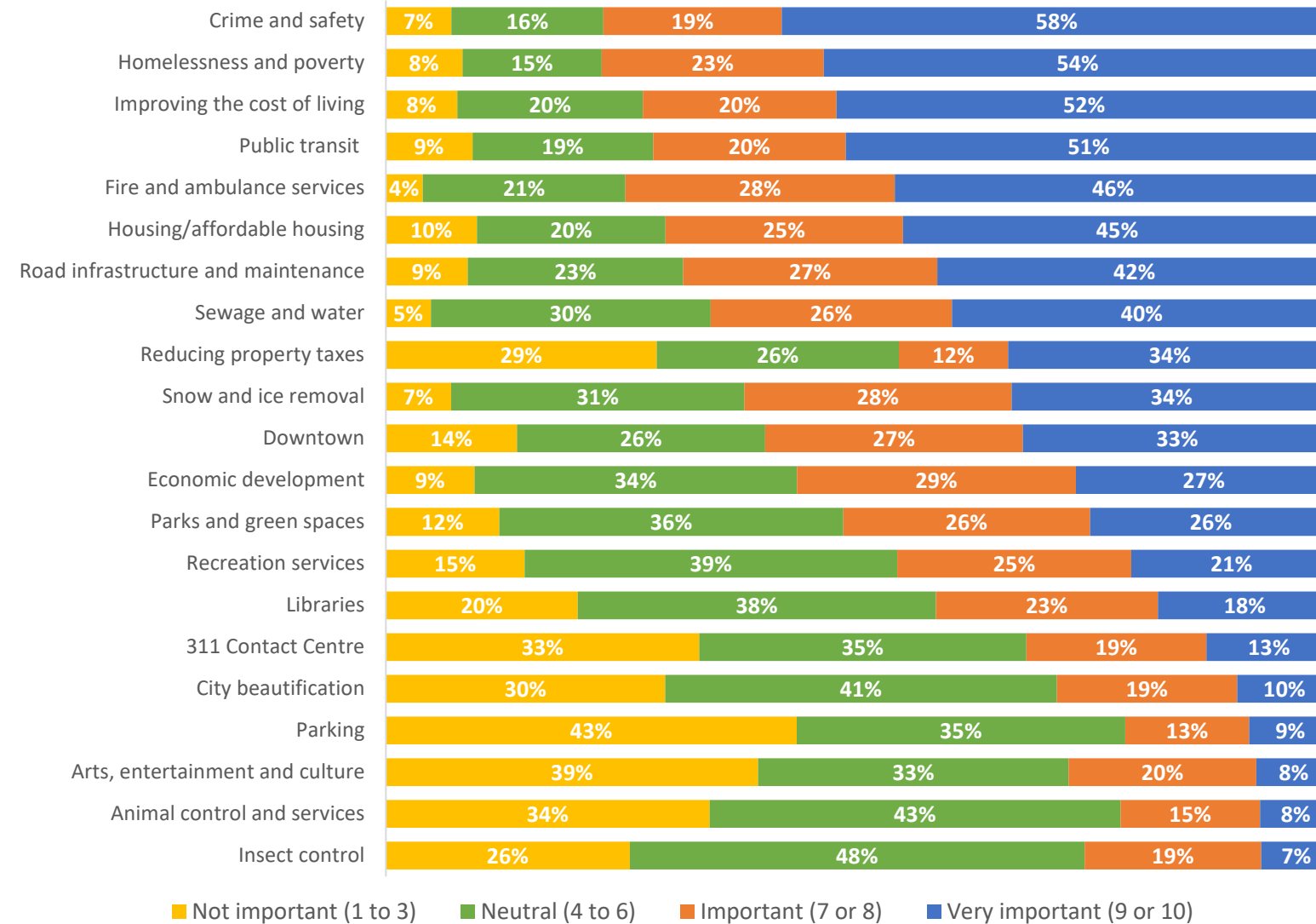
Note: Residents could select more than one area.

* The top themes submitted as “other” were: Invest in active transportation, road repair, road expansion, environment and sustainability, and dog parks.

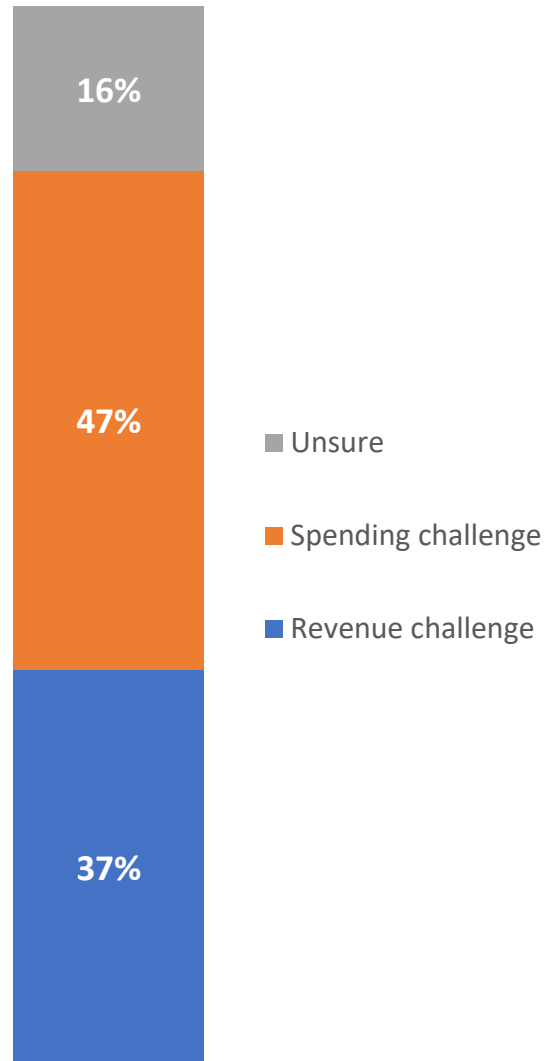
Importance for City's budget 2026

- The next page shows how respondents rated the importance of 21 different areas for the City's 2026 budget using a scale from 1 (not at all important) to 10 (very important).
- Similar to the previous question, the most important area was **crime and safety**, with 58% rating it a 9 or 10 out of 10.
- This was followed by three other areas where about half of residents rate them a 9 or 10 out of 10 – **homelessness and poverty, improving the cost of living, and public transit**.
- At the lower end, **insect control** ranked lower than others, with just 7% rating it as a 9 or 10 out of 10.

Importance for City's budget 2025

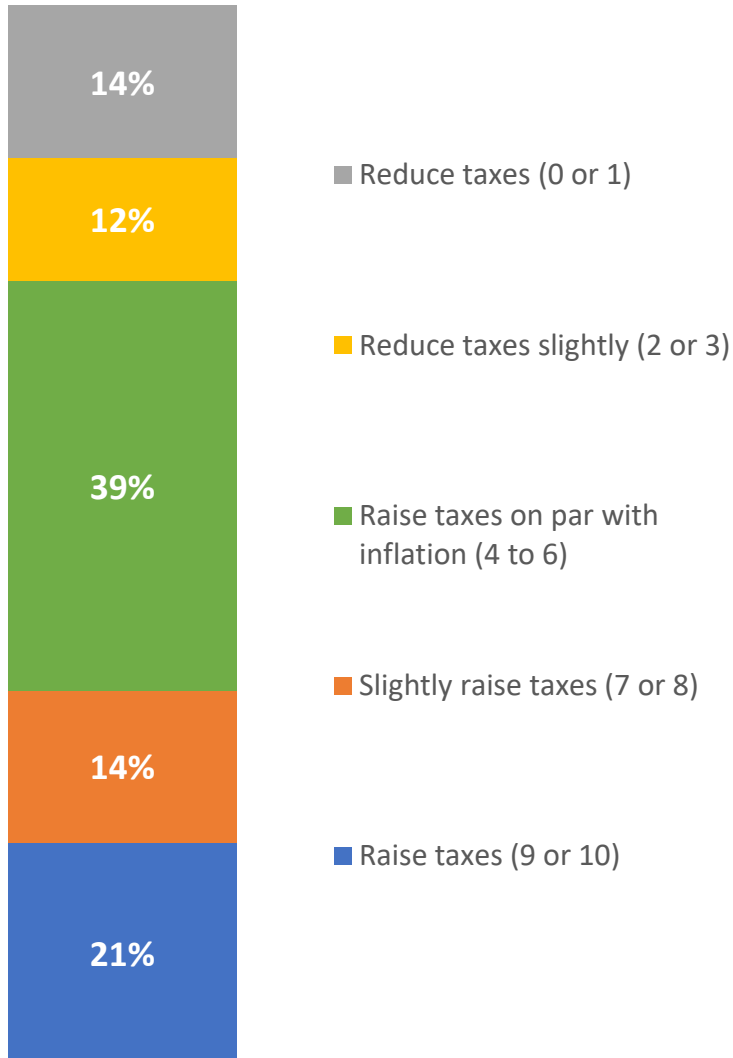


Revenue versus spending challenge



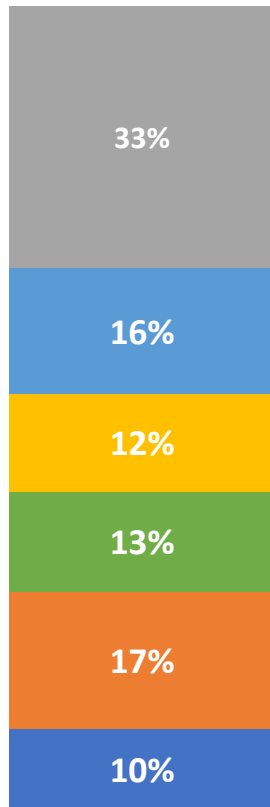
- Respondents are more likely to say the City has a **spending challenge** – the City spends too much on programs – than a **revenue challenge** – the City isn't raising enough money through property taxes.

Increasing versus reducing property taxes



- When asked what best reflects their opinion about how the City should consider property taxes, respondents favour **raising property taxes above inflation to improve city services over reducing taxes with cuts to city services** by 35% versus 26%.
- However, the largest group are those who say **increase taxes at the rate of inflation to maintain current service** at 39%.

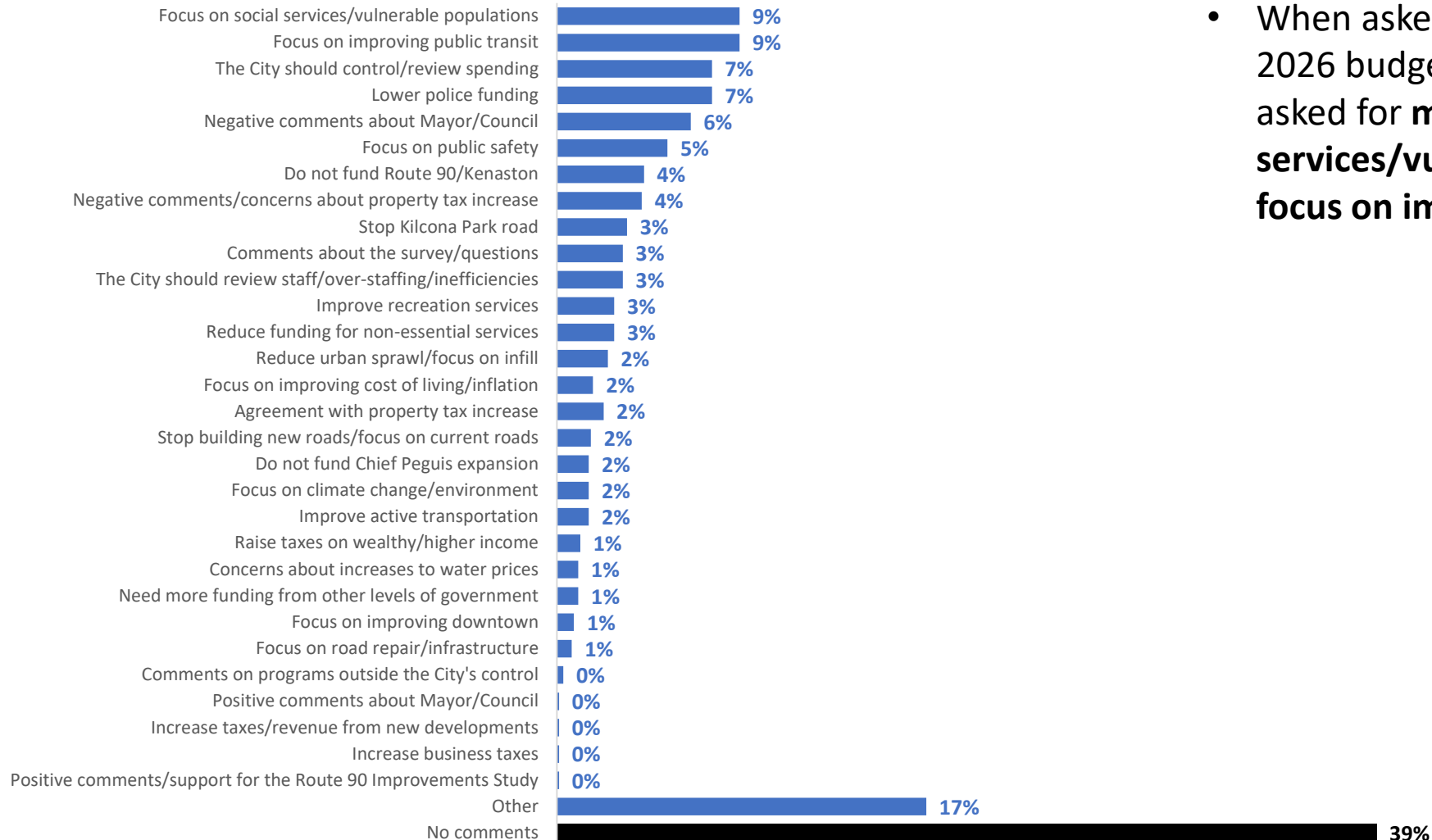
Comparison to other Canadian cities



- Unsure
- A lot higher than other comparable cities
- Slightly higher
- About the same
- Slightly lower
- A lot lower than other comparable cities

- When asked how they believe the City's property taxes compare to other comparable cities in Canada, respondents are divided with 28% saying **lower than other comparable cities** and 27% saying **higher than other comparable**.
- However, the largest group are those who are unsure at 33%.

Other comments on City's budget



- When asked for any comments on the City's 2026 budget, 9% provided a comment that asked for **more focus on social services/vulnerable populations** and **more focus on improving public transit**.

Note: Respondents provided an open-ended comment response and some comments contained feedback on more than one topic area, so the total does not equal 100%.

Appendix C - Focus groups results

Report on public engagement for Budget 2026: Focus groups

Prepared by PRA Inc.

November 2025

Section 1: Focus group methodology

Background and methodology

- As part of gathering feedback from Winnipeg residents on its 2026 Budget, the City of Winnipeg hired PRA Inc. to conduct focus groups.
- PRA conducted four online focus groups, two with the general population and two with equity populations. Equity populations included women, Indigenous peoples, racialized peoples, persons with disabilities, newcomers and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons.
- To qualify, participants must have been 18 years of age or older and a Winnipeg resident.
- Participants were recruited from randomly selecting respondents from the City's 2026 Budget surveys who put their name forward to participate in focus group discussions.
- In total, 33 residents participated across the four groups. A copy of the questions can be found in Section 3.
- It is important to remember that, while focus groups provide insight into participants' attitudes and opinions, they cannot be said to be representative of the population as a whole. Any quantification of the results refers only to group participants and cannot necessarily be extrapolated to the entire sample population represented.

Section 2: Focus group themes

Budget priorities

- To start the discussion, participants were asked to identify their priority areas for the 2026 Budget. Three strong themes emerged.



- **Winnipeg Transit.** Winnipeg Transit was mentioned across groups, with participants saying that the changes made to Winnipeg Transit in the summer have made taking transit worse, primarily due to decreased reliability with bus schedules and increased time on buses due to additional transfers required to reach their destination. Participants did not necessarily indicate that Transit required greater funding in the 2026 Budget, but it should be a priority for the City to fix.

“I would say buses that come reliably and on time is the main thing for me because we need to be able to get to work, get to school on time like other cities have.”



- **Roads.** wanted to see the City focus on improving the current roads rather than invest in build. Providing additional funding to improving Winnipeg’s roads was a consistent priority area across groups; however, participants ing new roads, specifically mentioning the widening of Kenaston or extending the Chief Peguis Trail. They also wanted to see money allocated to having roads fixed quicker through better planning and 24-hour construction to reduce the impact on traffic during road construction season.

“Just better planning and scheduling of the construction. I feel like it's always all at once in one area and then it's a detour to another construction area.”

Budget priorities (continued)



- **Public safety.** Increasing funding towards public safety was consistent across groups; however, participants said that increasing public safety was not necessarily about increasing funding to the police. Rather, participants suggested that more money should be put towards services that they believe would address some of the causes of crime, such as mental health services and drug treatment services. They also mentioned public safety in relations to transit use, and wanted the City to ensure transit users were safe.

“It's not a safe mode of transportation. You get on a bus and you risk being assaulted pretty much every day.”



- **Areas to reduce budget.** In terms of reducing budget, no single area was consistently mentioned across groups; however, within groups there were strong opinions about areas that the City could reduce funding. In one group, participants mentioned policing, and shifting funding from the police to services that would benefit vulnerable populations, such as housing, mental health services, and drug treatment. In another group, participants thought the City should spend less on funding the arts, while another group suggested the City should spend less on beautification.

“Instead of directing funds to policing, to redirect them to mental health services because police shouldn't be showing up to calls about mental health. There should be mental health professionals who act instead.”

Approach to property taxes

Question: Which statement most closely matches your views – increase property taxes to help improve services, keep property tax increase relative to inflation and keep services as is, or cut property taxes and cut back on services?

- Participants tended to be split between increasing property taxes above inflation or keeping them at the rate of inflation. Most participants did not want the City's services to decrease in any areas, especially in their identified priority areas.
- One issue participants had when answering this question was that many did not feel that the City managed its spending well and would be hesitant to pay more in property taxes because they did not believe the City would provide them value for their additional tax dollars.

"I was just thinking of how much it was going up and how we were getting nothing in return."

- Across groups, a few participants suggested alternate ways for the City to raise money rather than increasing property taxes above inflation, such as increased user fees for City services, adding toll roads to toll users from outside Winnipeg who make use of the City's roads, and increasing taxes on people who own multiple properties.
- When asked how Winnipeg's property taxes compared to other cities in Canada, participants did not have a good sense of how they compare. Among those who had an idea about the comparison, these participants tended to be split between those who thought it was higher and those who thought it was lower.

Impressions of the City's 2026 budget

- Most participants had heard very little about the City's 2026 budget. When they had heard things about the City's budget, it was primarily around some of the larger infrastructure projects they believed the City had announced, such as upgrades to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre, widening of Kenaston, and extending the Chief Peguis Trail.
- Some had recalled that the property tax increase for 2026 was proposed to be between 3% to 4%; however, many just recalled that it was increasing, but did not recall the percentage.
- Most participants said they had heard about the City's budget through the media, primarily local news (e.g., CTV news, Winnipeg Free Press, CBC, etc.); however, younger participants mentioned that they had seen information about the budget through social media through non-traditional media accounts (e.g., @winnipegdigest).
- Because of low awareness of the City's 2026 budget, participants did not have a very strong opinion of whether the budget was on the right track or wrong track.
- A few participants mentioned that they thought the 2026 budget did not speak to some of the priority areas they were concerned with, specifically mentioning a lack of changes for Winnipeg Transit, but also no funding towards major infrastructure projects they felt were necessary, such as replacing the Arlington or Louise bridges.

Aspects of the City's budget – Public Safety

- Participants were given the following information: *The 2026 budget includes funding for 18 additional police officer full-time positions, 40 additional firefighter full-time positions and 11 new paramedic full-time positions supported by the Province. The budget also includes expanding Neighbourhood Action Teams by 17 full-time positions.*
- Participants were generally in favour of the City adding more full-time positions for police officers, firefighters, and paramedics; however, some questioned why the City was adding more firefighters than police officers or paramedics, as they felt that the police and its impact on public safety would be more impactful than the other positions.

“Only 18 police officers? I mean, I don't think that's enough, especially for the downtown area.”

- Some participants thought that hiring more full-time positions would potentially be cost neutral for the City because they assumed that it may reduce the number of overtime hours worked in these departments.
- Participants in a few groups had not heard of Neighbourhood Action Teams, and were unsure of the value of adding 17 full-time positions because they did not know what the Teams did or how many people were currently employed full-time on the Teams.

Aspects of the City's budget - Infrastructure

- Participants were given the following information: *The 2026 budget includes funding for one-third of the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) project 3, design funding for the replacement of the Route 90 bridge and land acquisition for the Chief Peguis Trail extension.*
- Most participants were in favour of funding for the NEWPCC, as they saw this as a vital component of the City's infrastructure and a requirement to ensure future growth for the City.
- However, participants were concerned that the City was directing the funds to the 'right' projects, as participants said they would rather see funds going towards fixing the City's current roads rather than building new ones. However, many participants confused the replacement of the Route 90 bridge with discussions of expanding Kenaston, which they felt expanding Kenaston was an unnecessary expense for the City.

"So, Louise Bridge, Arlington Bridge, those are necessary. The Route 90, maybe with the exception of the lane expansion could be arguably unnecessary, but the bridge needs to be repaired."

- A few participants mentioned that rather than extending Chief Peguis Trail, they would rather see the funds used to replace or repair other major infrastructure in northern Winnipeg, such as the Arlington or Louise bridges.



Aspects of the City's budget - Property taxes

- Participants were given the following information: *A 3.5% increase in property taxes. About 1% of the 3.5% increase is dedicated to the renewal of local and regional streets, lanes, sidewalks and bridges as well as road safety improvement program, pedestrian and cycling programs and tree replacement and preservation on road renewal projects; the other 2.5% is dedicated to the tax-supported operating budget.*
- As noted earlier, most participants were okay with property tax increases at inflation, especially if it meant improving the City's services, with a specific focus on infrastructure.
- A few mentioned that they would rather see the allocation of 3.5% inversed, with 2.5% going towards roads and infrastructure, and 1% to operating budget.
- When discussing the impact of the property tax increase, most participants did not think the increase would have any impact on their household or its finances; however, many participants who rent did not think it would have any impact because they do not pay property taxes, and did not seem to consider the impact the increase may have on their rent when they renew their lease.

“And maybe it's just my personal situation where I am, but honestly, property taxes is not a huge line item for me and looking at the City of Winnipeg, it needs a lot of work.”

Aspects of the City's budget - Transit

- Participants were given the following information: *Transit is extending late-night Transit service on 11 routes and 11 on-request service areas.*
- Participants were fairly indifferent to the proposed components of the 2026 budget related to Winnipeg Transit because they could not picture how these specific changes would improve transit for themselves or other users.
- Part of the issue is that most participants did not use Winnipeg Transit frequently, and those who did use it frequently said they rarely required transit service late at night. Many participants also did not understand how the on-request service worked or if it impacted busing in their area or if the 11 areas identified were in their neighbourhood.
- As discussed, most participants believe that Winnipeg Transit service has declined since the changes in the summer of 2025, and do not believe that these proposed changes will help to meet the perceived or actual deficits in the new system, as most say they experience or heard about difficulties with transit during peak times and not late-night or on-request service.



“I think transit has got bigger issues at hand. It sounds like they really botched that system and it's not nearly as efficient as it once was. And it seems that most of the ridership isn't happy with it or at least there's a very vocal portion of the ridership. I think before they start doing expansions, they need to step back and try and restore the service that they once had and improve on that.”

Recommendations for 2026 budget

- Each focus group ended with participants able to provide their recommendation to the City about what it should focus on for its 2026 budget.
- Even after discussing their priority areas at the onset and then reviewing specific components of the proposed budget, participants' recommendations aligned with their initial priority areas, that is, Winnipeg Transit, roads, and public safety.
- If anything, Winnipeg Transit came up slightly more often as a priority area after the discussion than other areas, especially after participants seemed underwhelmed by what had been outlined in the preliminary budget.

Section 3: Focus group questions

Focus group questions

1. Imagine you were the Mayor, what areas would you make a greater priority for funding in the City's budget?
2. What areas are of importance that need funding, but you would choose not increase funding?
3. What areas would you consider lower or cutting funding to?
4. Which of these statements would best reflect how you would approach the budget – increase property taxes to help improve services, keep property tax increase relative to inflation and keep services as is, or cut property taxes and cut back on services? Why is this your view?
5. Generally, how do you think Winnipeg's property taxes compare to other cities? Do you think our property taxes are generally higher, lower or the same as similar sized cities in Canada?
6. Before today's group, how much had you heard about the City of Winnipeg's 2026 budget? What have you heard about it?
7. Where have you heard about the City's budget? What sources do you trust most for getting information about the City's budget?
8. In what areas do you think the City's budget is on the right track?
9. In what areas do you think the City's budget is on the wrong track?

Focus group questions

Public safety – The 2026 budget includes funding for 18 additional police officer full-time positions, 40 additional firefighter full-time positions and 11 new paramedic full-time positions supported by the Province. The budget also includes expanding Neighbourhood Action Teams by 17 full-time positions.

10. What are people's thoughts about this aspect of the budget?

11. Is this too much, too little or the right amount invested in this area?

Investing in infrastructure – The 2026 budget includes funding for one-third of the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) project 3, design funding for the replacement of the Route 90 bridge and land acquisition for the Chief Peguis Trail extension.

12. What are people's thoughts about this aspect of the budget?

13. Do you think the City is investing too much, too little or the right amount in long-term infrastructure projects?

Focus group questions

Property taxes – A 3.5% increase in property taxes. About 1% of the 3.5% increase is dedicated to the renewal of local and regional streets, lanes, sidewalks and bridges as well as road safety improvement program, pedestrian and cycling programs and tree replacement and preservation on road renewal projects; the other 2.5% is dedicated to the tax-supported operating budget. [IF NEEDED: This represents an increase of roughly \$6.25 per month for the typical home.]

14. What are people's thoughts about this aspect of the budget?

15. Is this increase too little, too much, or the right amount?

16. How do you anticipate this increase will affect you?

Transit – Transit is extending late-night Transit service on 11 routes and 11 on-request service areas.

17. What are people's thoughts about this aspect of the budget?

18. Is this increase too little, too much, or the right amount?

19. Finally, to wrap up, if you could make one recommendation to the City about its budget what would it be?