



Resort Municipality
of Whistler

Add Your  Voice

What We Heard

2025 BUDGET INSIGHTS SURVEY



Introduction

This “What We Heard” report summarizes results of the 2026 “Your Budget Insights” survey conducted April 1 to June 9. Community members had the opportunity to share their satisfaction levels with municipal services and provide input on how municipal staff are prioritizing work, indicating which trade-offs should be made to maximize tax dollars and where they would prefer to see funds spent.

Council and staff can use this report to inform their understanding of public sentiment as the 2026 budgeting cycle begins.

Communications + marketing

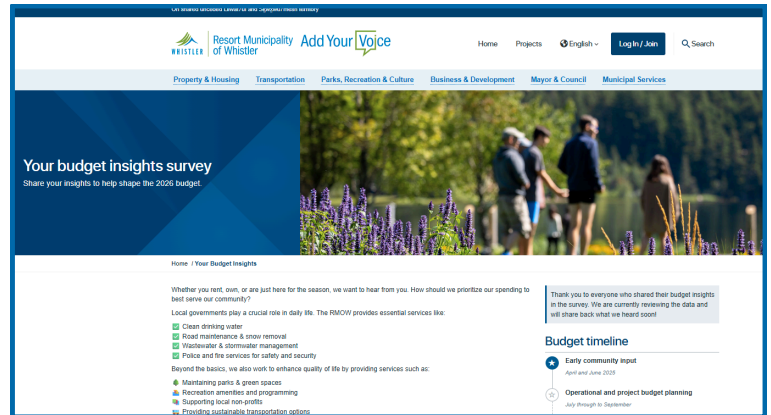
Budget landing page

814 | **412**
Views | Visitors

Budget survey page

375 | **318**
Views | Visitors

April 1 to June 9



Digital

2,710 Whistler This Week subscribers

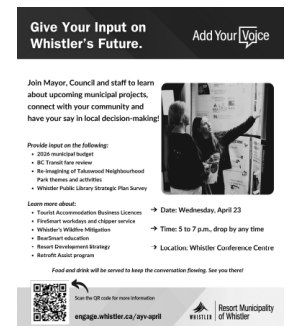
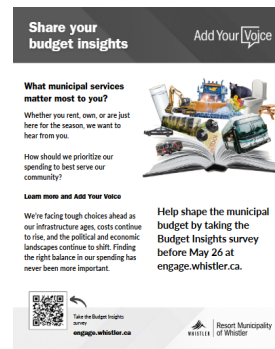
17,497 Meta ad impressions

2,414 Facebook impressions

2,767 Instagram impressions



Print



~15,000 copies
of the Pique distributed in Whistler

Add Your **Voice**

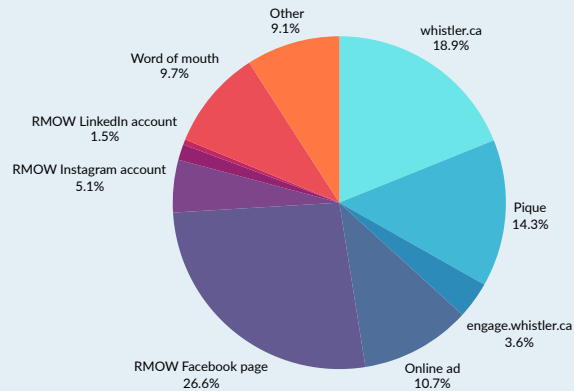
April 23 event: 80 attendees

June 4 event: 90 attendees

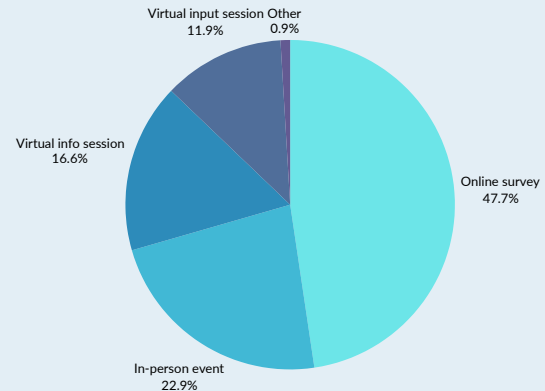
Communications + marketing



Respondents were asked how they heard about the *Your Budget Insights* survey



Respondents were asked what events they would participate in or attend for budget



Who we reached

2024
245
Respondents

2025
214
Respondents

2025 survey live: April 21 to June 9



How respondents identified

41%

Man

51%

Woman

1%

Non-binary

7% said 'prefer not to answer' or 'other'



Housing status

42%

Permanent resident,
owns market home

19%

Permanent resident,
owns employee housing

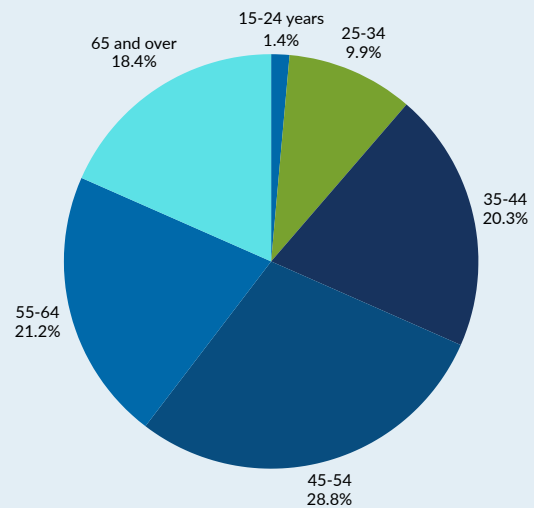
14%

Permanent resident,
rents market home

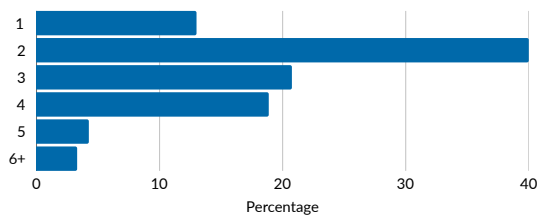
9% Second homeowner
6% Permanent resident, rents employee restricted home
1% Seasonal/temporary resident
8% Other



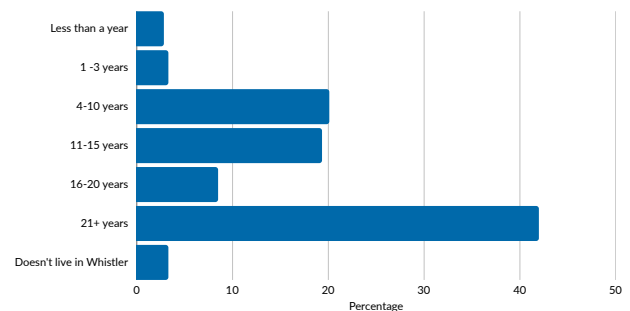
Age



Number in household



Time lived in Whistler



Who we reached

21%

Respondents

44

Respondents

Business owners



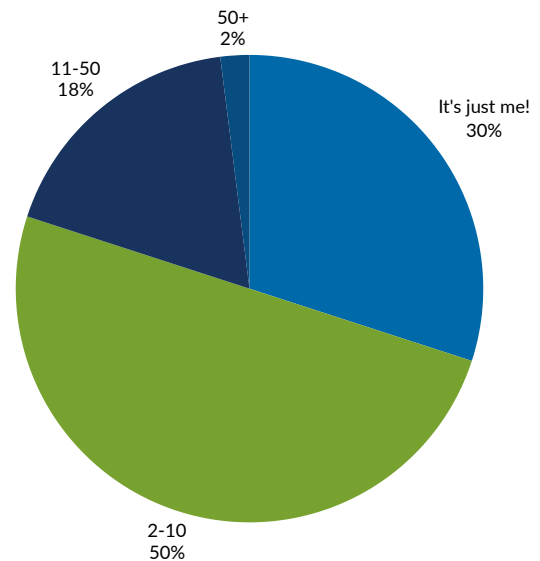
Do you own the property that
your business resides on?

50%

own the property their
business resides on



Number of employees



Results at a glance



Level of understanding of the budget process

42% Good understanding

51% Somewhat understand

7% Do not understand



Overall, we saw an increase in the level of understanding of the budget process from last year.



Themes

Parts of the budget the public would like to learn about:

- how decisions are made and who holds the RMOW accountable
- how the RMOW prioritizes projects that are put forward in the budget
- municipal spending vs. tourism spending
- staff remuneration
- infrastructure spending and savings
- how input is used for decision-making
- non-taxation revenues
- desire for more transparency on the budget and process

“

“I think it would be great to have the budget summarized in layperson's terms and in clear categories.”

“...how priorities for projects and maintenance are set.”

“Why we need to spend so much money on park upgrades and public bathrooms”

“What is ‘smart tourism’ and how are the funds prioritized?”

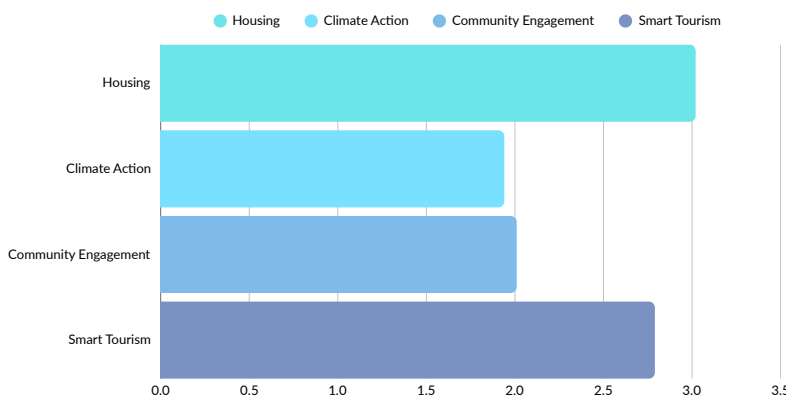
Council priorities

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines our high-level direction to help shape community progress during this Council term. Council established four priority areas: Housing, Climate Action, Community Engagement and Smart Tourism.

Respondents were asked to rank the Council priorities in order of importance.



Learn more
about Council's
strategic plan



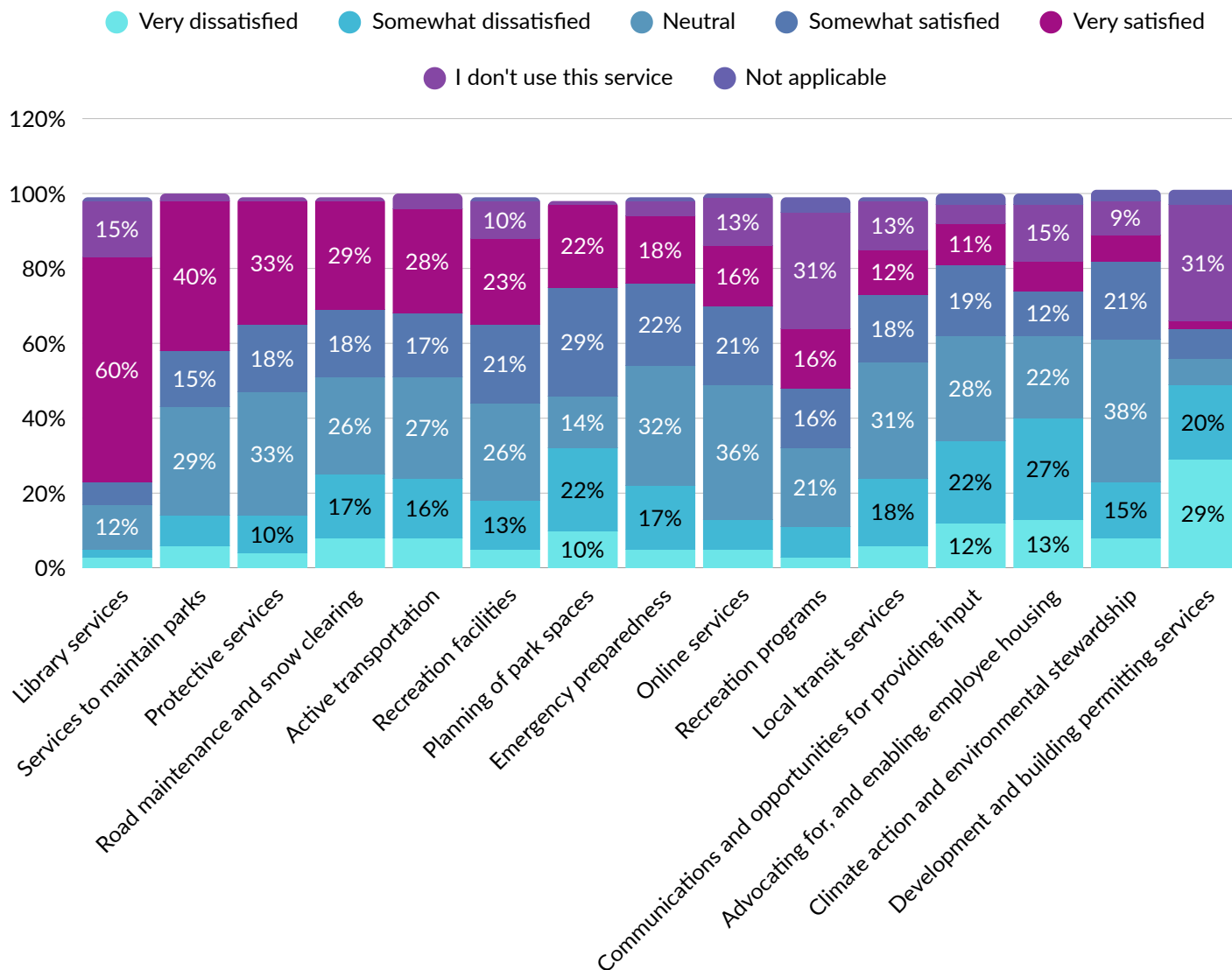
A participant's most preferred choice (which they rank as #1) has the largest weight and their least preferred choice (which they rank in the last position) has a weight of 1.

Consistent with years past, housing is ranked as the #1 Council priority.

This year, we see Smart Tourism ranking higher than Climate Action and Community Engagement. Last year, Climate Action, Community Engagement and Smart Tourism were all closely tied for the #2 Council Priority.

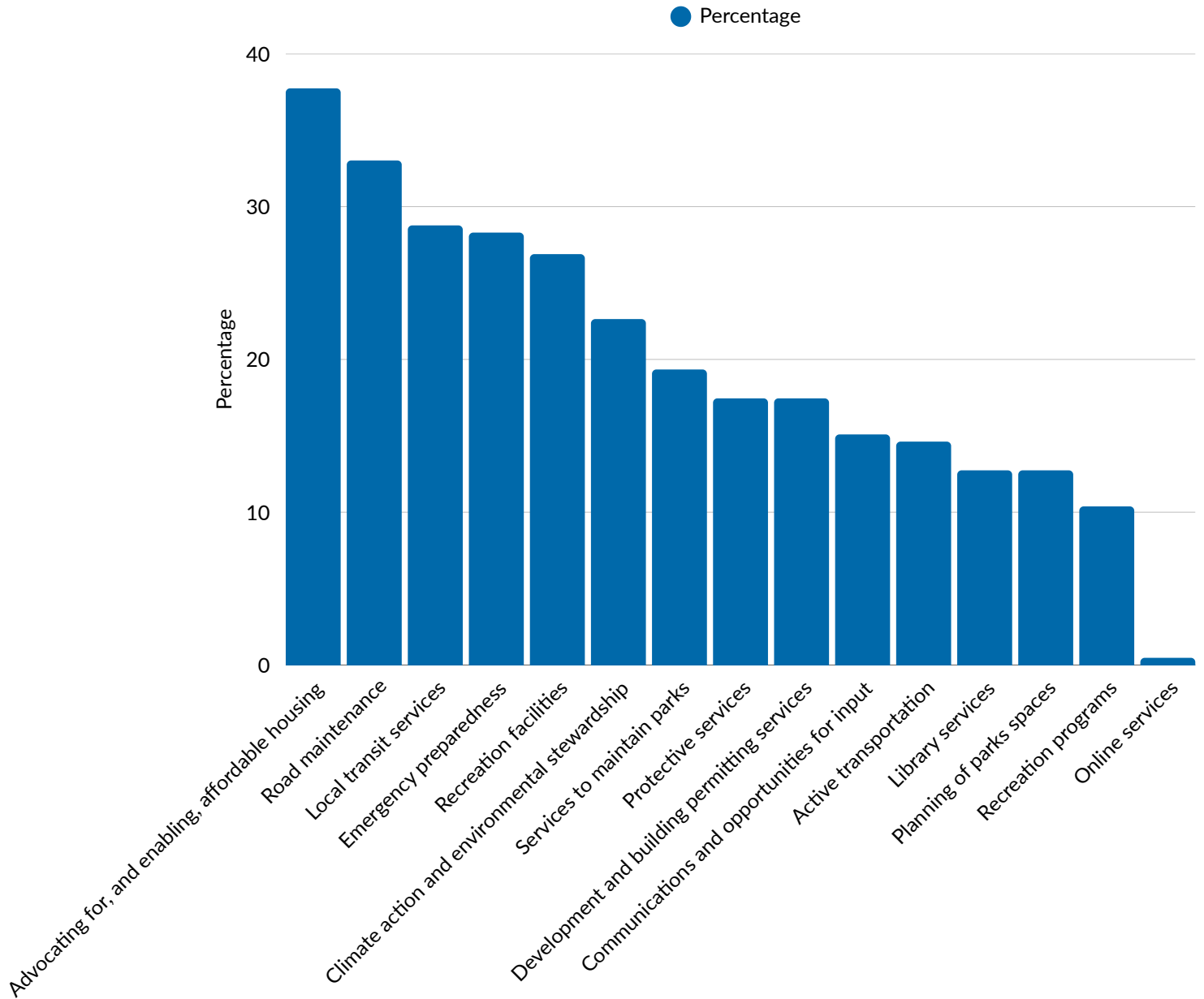
Satisfaction with services

Approximately 212 respondents provided their satisfaction with each of the below services. Consistent with previous years, high satisfaction levels were reported for library services, while *Development and Planning* received lower satisfaction levels. The latter had just launched a new engagement program when these results were obtained and this work is receiving positive feedback from its key demographic, the building industry. An update of the RMOW's Building Bylaw was also underway generating news headlines and focusing sentiment.



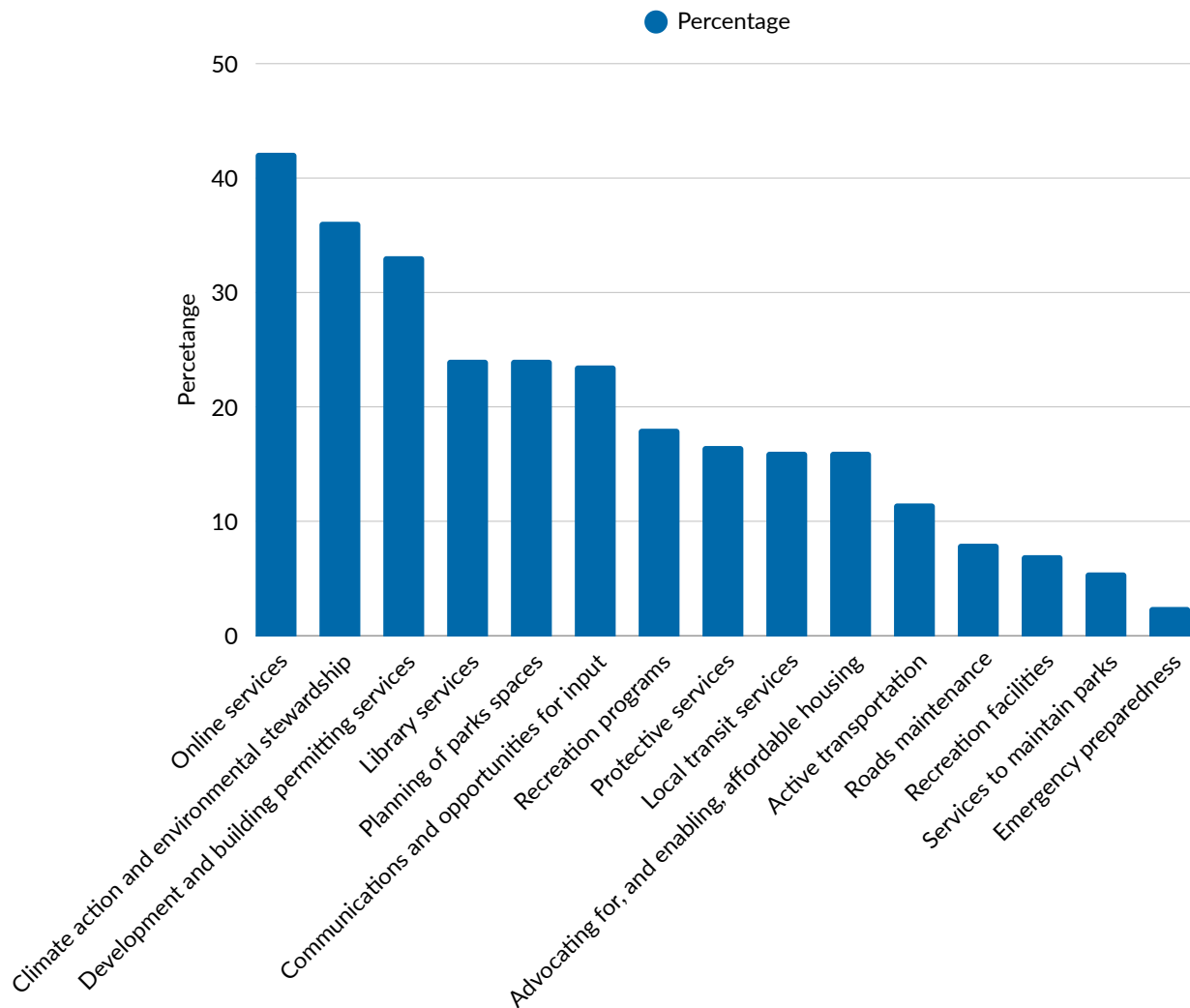
Satisfaction with services

In this question, respondents were asked to indicate the three services that were MOST IMPORTANT to them.



Satisfaction with services

In this question, respondents were asked to indicate the three services that were LEAST IMPORTANT to them. Higher percentage indicates least important service.



NOTES

If a service was listed as a “least important service” or a service to reduce or cut, it didn’t necessarily mean they were dissatisfied or wanted to cut the service entirely. For example, when we look at those who selected “climate action and environmental stewardship” as their least important service or as a service to cut or reduce, 22 per cent felt it wasn’t the RMOW’s responsibility, 11 per cent does not support the RMOW’s climate action work and while 36 percent supported the RMOW’s “climate action and environmental stewardship” work they indicated these as a low priority or a service to cut because:

- they are happy with the current level of investment;
- they feel the program needs more balance with other municipal programs;
- they feel climate action work is at odds with tourism; or
- they feel it may need to be defunded for affordability sake and for balancing the budget.

Satisfaction with services

“

3 most important services: in their words

Affordable housing

- *For livability for full-time residents, we need to be able to have a home (or rent) that we can afford and have facilities and services that allow us to remain healthy and fulfilled.*
- *More housing is needed to ensure Whistler continues to be a great place.*
- *If the lower end employees cannot stay, the town cannot run.*
- *I'd like to continue being a part of the community, but if I get pushed out of town due to my housing cost being outrageous, then I'd have to leave.*

Roads maintenance

- *I use these in my day to day*
- *in winter, the clearing of neighbourhood streets to get to that one road in and out, is very important - RMOW does a good job on that*
- *Roads are critical for transportation in Whistler*
- *Snow clearing is super important so that traffic continues flowing and I can enjoy my weekends*

Local Transit

- *Good transit solves many issues*
- *Use this in my day to day*
- *Non car owner. Transportation is important to me, but reliability and safety are an issue*
- *Because moving people and road(s) are critical to daily life for locals and tourists*
- *Local (and regional!) transit is the best way Whistler can address climate action*

“

3 least important services: in their words

Online services

- *I don't use online services*
- *These services are adequate and don't need attention currently*
- *If in-person service is efficient, the online service is not my priority*
- *Our online presence is not as important as our community's ability to house and preserve our natural environment*

Climate action and environmental stewardship

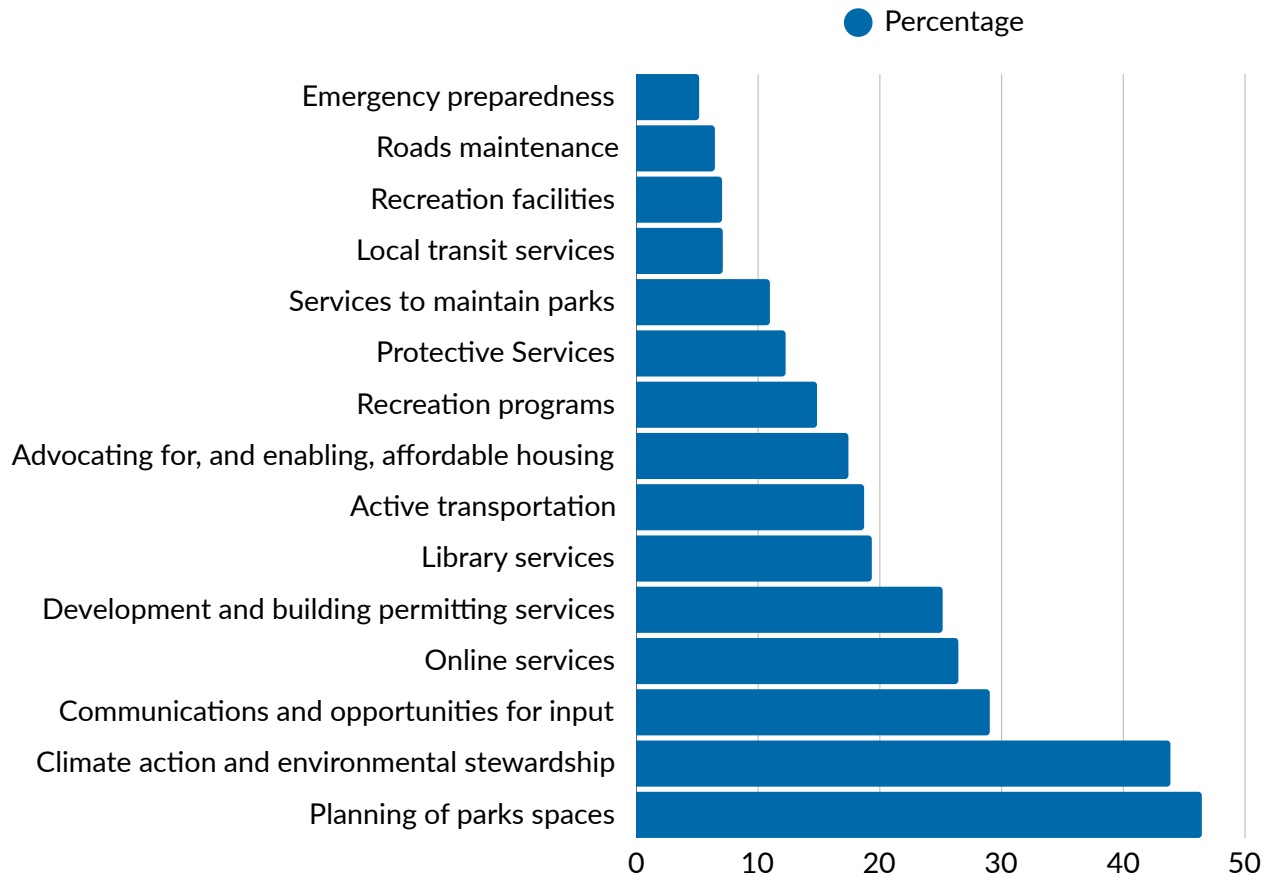
- *Already do a good job*
- *Climate action is a provincial responsibility not municipal*
- *Whatever Whistler does won't matter in the big scheme of things as it is such a small community.*
- *I am an environmental advocate and so climate action and environmental stewardship is important to me. It's not quite correct to say this service is least important to me. The problem is that I believe the pendulum has swung too far in Whistler.*

Development and building permitting services

- *RMOW needs to rethink many of its systems and processes like building permits, business licensing and the consultation processes can be delivered in a more transparent and streamlined way...with less budget allocation.*
- *Development services are not important to me personally as I don't use/need them*
- *Current sufficient*

Trade-offs

If we want to invest more in one area, we can increase taxes, try to recover costs through user fees or find savings by cutting other services. Respondents were asked what services they would reduce or cut.



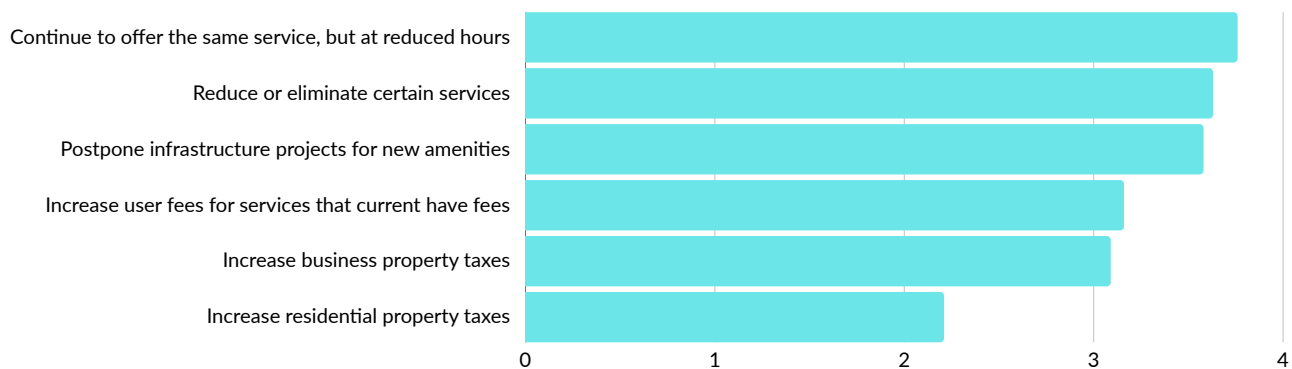
“Trade-offs: in their words

- We can only do so much to affect climate change; it cannot change overnight, but employee housing building permits etc can be changed now!
- Can't help you here, these are difficult choices!
- Reduce postpone or eliminate all non critical projects. Focus on maintenance of existing.
- The municipality should focus on core municipal services.
- Cover the basics (utilities, housing, basic infrastructure, including cheap local transit to unblock the highway) before getting the nice things.
- Local transit isn't our responsibility neither. Let the province handle it.
- I don't think much money should be spent on municipal social media, other than for emergency and other such essential reasons.
- Our parks are beautiful, but overplayed. Keep it simple. Create parks that need less maintenance such as lawn mowing, weeding, replanting flower beds.
- A difficult answer. A pause or plateau on some projects to get the basics good is my position. I would also accept some more user paid or slight increase in those for those that can afford it.
- You are over board with your climate agenda
- I picked three, but I don't think you could reduce or cut any.
- Maybe reduce the flower budget and encourage more natural wildflowers in those spaces.
- The library isn't as valuable a resource now due to the internet and online accessibility.
- We are a municipal government. Focus on municipal needs, optimize and ensure sustainable programs into the future
- Most programming and recreation is targeted towards tourism and younger people so it feels my age group is not relevant enough to receive any services.
- Employee housing should be the responsibility of the Employer and should not be subsidized by taxes.
- Climate initiatives and communications are over invested at a municipal level.
- Less use of expensive outside consultants to tell us what staff already know. Use the talents of our dedicated staff to do long range planning
- There are lots of program providers that can step up if RMOW reduces.



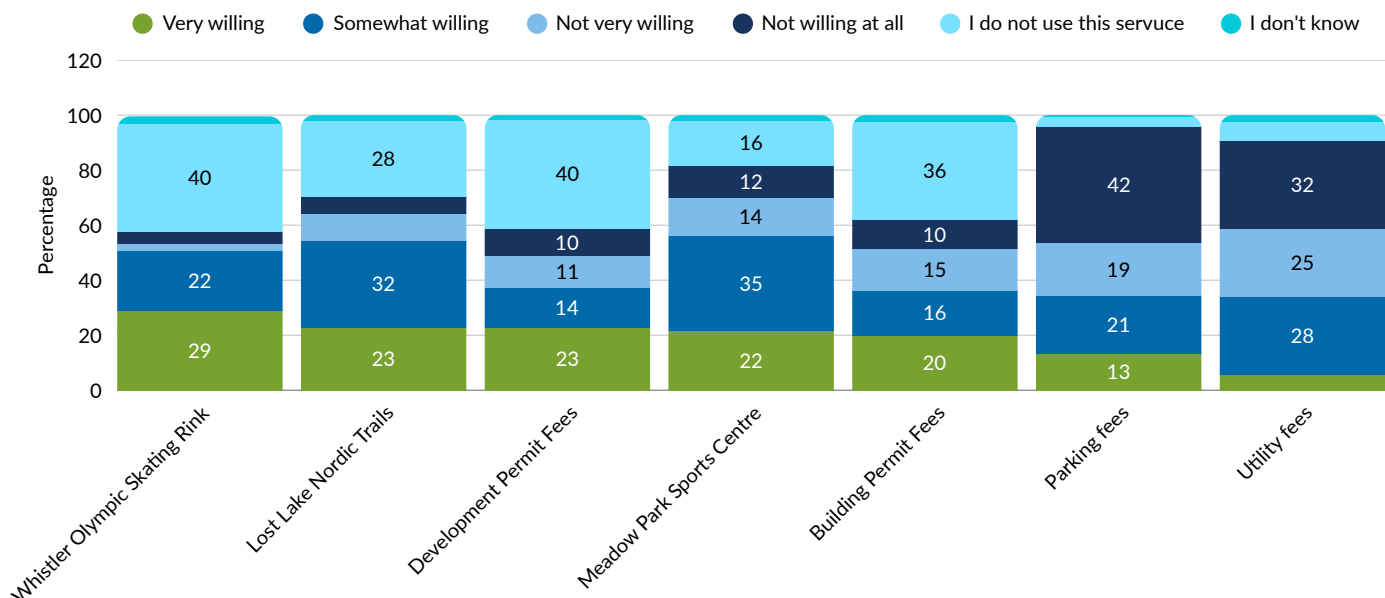
Trade offs: balancing the budget

To balance the 2026 budget, as required by the *Local Government Act*, the RMOW has several options to consider. Respondents were asked to rank the following options:

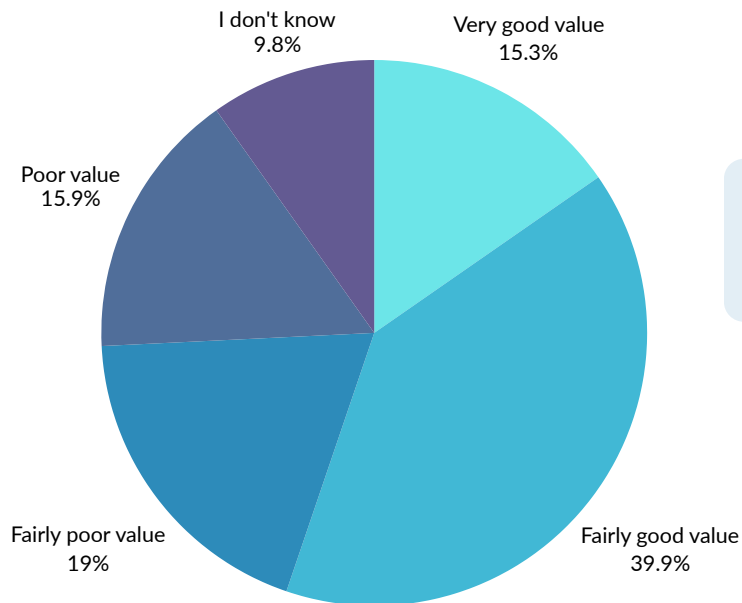


Note, the lower the number, the lower it was ranked. Therefore, 'continue to offer the same service but at reduced hours' was ranked the highest and is most preferred option and 'increase residential property taxes' was the ranked the lowest and is the least preferred option.

Respondents were asked to think about the services they use, and how willing they would be to pay more for user fees to maintain or improve them.

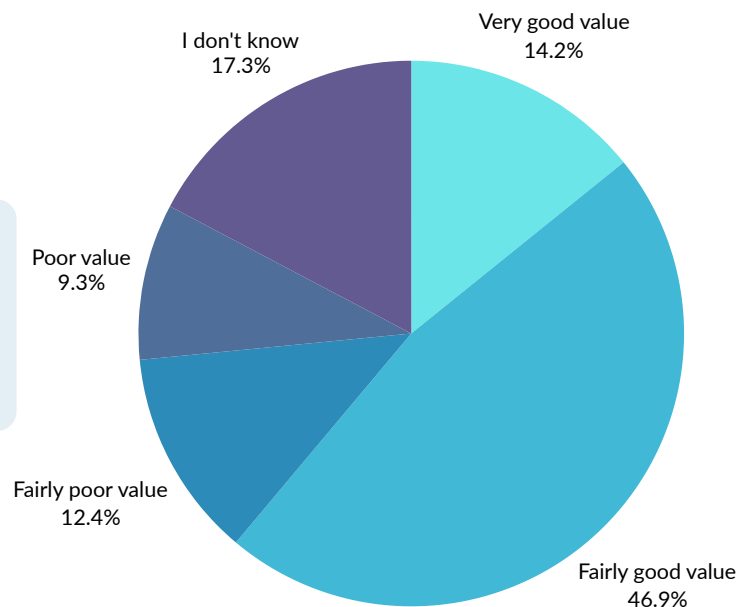


Overall value



Perceived overall value
received for **tax dollars**

Perceived overall value
received for
utility user fees



Community comments: themes

Respondents were given the opportunity to share their budget insights in their own words. Below is a summary of themes heard. Verbatim responses are included at the end of this report.

If you had one key message to share regarding the 2026 budget, what would it be?

Climate

- Overspending on climate
- Requests to strike a balance between climate and other needs
- Climate is a provincial and federal responsibility
- Without climate action, we will not have a tourism industry
- Prioritization of environment over growth

Housing

- Need for more employee-restricted housing outside of Cheakamus
- Need for more enforcement for WHA housing rules
- Rental housing demand is high
- Infrastructure capacity is a concern with growing demand for housing

Taxes

- Implement empty homes tax
- Reduce property taxes
- Stop property tax increases
- Seek non-taxation revenues
- We may need property tax increases to keep up with rising costs and maintain services
- Increased taxation and utility rates for large industry is preferred
- Grants to offset reliance on tax dollars are welcome

Ops

- Calls to reduce staffing and remuneration
- Requests to use internal expertise over consultants
- Find staffing efficiencies
- Reduce permitting red tape, improve permitting times
- Improve transparency
- Consider automation, where possible

Community comments: themes

Spending

- Return to core services delivery
- Invest in repairing/replacing existing infrastructure, not adding inventory
- Focus on need, rather than nice to haves
- Budget for reconciliation actions
- Reduce spending on tourism amenities, focus spending on residents
- Maintain and invest in Whistler, infrastructure and recreation offerings
- Hold decision-makers and staff accountable
- More funding for aging in place

Tourism

- Invest in world-class sport facilities
- Consider a visitor surcharge
- Define resort capacity
- Communicate how RMI/MRDT funds are spent better
- Less funding for tourism; more focus on servicing locals

Transport.

- Expanding transit services will help solve our climate and congestion issues
- Calls for free transit year-round
- Requests to increase transit reliability and service times
- Decrease parking fees or stop increasing them
- Congestion is a problem, especially on peak days
- Create incentives to use active transportation and transit

Affordability

- High cost of living in Whistler
- Increased fees are unaffordable for residents
- Loss of workforce given high cost of living in Whistler

Other

- Management of e-bikes on Valley Trail
- Transparency and data is important for decision-making and accepting change
- Consider all voices, not just the loudest
- Need more options for childcare
- Take a solutions-based approach
- Present budget in laymen terms

Community comments

The following pages are respondents' complete answers to the open-ended question of "If you had one key message to share regarding the 2026 budget, what would it be?"

Please note, any responses with derogatory, slanderous or private information were removed.

- Get moving on employee rental housing....better accountability for use of employee restricted ownership projects already in use...ie who is living in them are the still in whistler full time do they work do they rent or house swap do they now work in Pemberton or Squamish or are they just weekend places
- The option missing from this survey is to manage salary costs at the RMOW. It is well-known in the community that the RMOW pays excellent wages and yet, the whole survey is about cutting services instead of looking at that expense. I strongly believe in paying people well, but it has to be on the table, if everything else is too.
- Keep tax increases to the cost of living. You've had 2 years way above the cost of living- Enough! Why does the RMOW deserve more than other Canadian services.
- "Respect the high cost of living that Whistler residents face and focus on providing core municipal services rather than overlapping into Provincial Government controlled services.
- Take a stronger approach with municipal unions and the bloated wages, benefits, pension demands which have driven up the municipal budgets more than any other sector, far outstripping the private sector.
- And as a single example, look at the cost of parking in the village where municipal hourly parking rates , (Main Street, Lots 1-3, Parks) are higher than privately run hourly parking rates in most areas (such as Marketplace), and how this detracts from the lifestyle experience of residents and tourists alike. Similarly, with Transit fees, where a standard \$2.50 single use ticket is valid on average for 3 km travel.
- The tax increase should be no more than 2%....
- Cover the basic infrastructure so Whistler can handle the influx of tourists out sees. Transportation around town is a huge issue & pay parking won't fix it. Please create real monetary incentives to use the bus or bike, don't penalize workers with more expensive pay parking when they have to drive due to odd late shift hours.
- "Fix the infrastructure to ensure there are no emergency situations. Paint the roadway lines to ensure safety.
- Focus on the must haves, but not the extras.
- Do not increase residential or business property taxes. Not everybody has a bottomless pit of money. Already many businesses are shutting down in the village. Costs are getting out of control. Make your municipal staff work leaner, harder and smarter - hiring more staff doesn't always result in efficiencies. Take a good hard look at the bureaucracy you have and see if you can streamline functions. Start at the top and work down."
- "Key message is: RMOW needs to be bold in the next few years and make changes that drive best outcomes for our community, people, and businesses. Every single conversation I've had with RMOW in relation to permits, building, licenses, bylaws is around what can't be done or how it will be hard because 'this is the way it is here'... it's not solutions oriented. In my experience its across multiple departments and I would challenge the RMOW and Council to look at what CAN be done... Even if it means pissing off a few people along the way, making tough decisions about your internal staffing structure and size, or simply accepting that moving quickly on some things — in a transparent way — will have issues and mistakes will be made. With proper planning and communication this can all be managed for the greater good.
- I'm going to give a few examples on how I'd like my Council / Muni to be operating in our community's best interest and in a way that helps drive both your budget needs & supports some of the major issues your constituents are facing (if I'm offering up a solution that may not be possible for reasons I'm unaware of given I'm not an expert on local/Provincial laws

and zoning, for example — please still view them as how I hope our local leaders are approaching complex problems)

REVENUE: Create two classes of property tax for single detached units: double property taxes on all of these addresses that are not lived in full time with at least one permanent local resident. As stated in your survey: our property taxes are roughly half the BC average anyway so bring owners of their second- or third-homes taxes in line with the norm. These owners will inevitably argue they use RMOW services less because they drive fewer KMs on our roads but it's easy to counter that their parcel of land is costing the community much more being largely vacant in a time of housing crisis (no input into rental inventory with additional unit, no day-to-day local economic expenditure, no human working at a local business or in a school, etc.). Out of city & country property ownership here is a choice and it's not an appreciating asset to sit on - if they don't like they have to pay an extra couple grand tax simply sell the place, look at a tax deferment program, or make changes to bring their property into the current taxation bracket (see #2). This immediately increases RMOW income via tax, somewhat mitigates for any sudden or significant decrease in property values over the next 5 years, and puts a direct incentive on these types of owners to consider adding a rental unit to their property.

2. HOUSING/BUILDING: Fast track property permitting / development for secondary units for all properties in Whistler for all addresses it's appropriate with a program tied directly to local affordable long-term housing for residents. RMOW could go as far as having pre-approved modular or kitset style builds and relationships with the companies who deliver these (and RMOW could set up agreements for remuneration with these companies for sales made via this process). This streamlines building applications, potentially adds a new revenue stream to RMOW, makes owning a house more attainable for new local buyers so they can be approved for a gigantic mortgage in an effort to try and afford to live here, and still gives the holiday home owners a solution to getting into the lower tax bracket (i.e. it's their choice not to do).

3. EFFICIENCY: RMOW should be taking a serious look at the matrix of building, permit, business, licensing, bylaws etc. and identify how things can be streamlined or consolidated where possible and relevant (i.e. how to reduce current costs and drive efficiency with refreshed SOPs and better automation). When multiple departments are involved in something from the side of a home or business owner it means duplicate/triplicate conversations of the same subject, constant follow ups and chasing of singular individual employees (not a singular RMOW rep or overall 'system/setup' responsible for this from start to finish), bottlenecks tend to be based on an individual employee. When something involves several rounds between departments the inefficiency and lack of a rigid process by RMOW is evident. The faster things get approved (permit for new dwelling / unit that adds +1 unit to rental inventory or a business gets a license to operate or amends to a current license to do more than it already does) the better it is for all stakeholders."

- Fix the roads and signs, Whistler looks like sh&t when you're driving in. Fix the traffic problems with a massive parking lot in Callaghan and have shuttles. Like Banff. Research Banff's solution.
- . You can't do both.
- "In your section entitled ""Value for Tax Dollars"", should the phrase: ""residential property owners in Whistler paid approximately \$1,510 per million dollars in property taxes"" not be

...\$1,510 per million dollars in property VALUES? Also, I answered that question and the following question: ""I don't know"" because I believe the value to be adequate (not good value or bad value) and that was not an available answer. It is not correct to compare Whistler's property tax percentage with other communities when Whistler's property values are outlandishly high in comparison with the property values in other communities. This is a very misleading comparison as any accountant would tell you."

- I would like to see a change in the corporate culture at the RMOW. Staff are getting paid too much to do too little.
- Reduce red tape and bloated local government to stream line services and reduce cost.
- Recognize early on that the performance of council has been substandard as it relates to the last few budgets - Whistler is of a size now where new professionals need to be driving budget challenges and approvals- pet projects need to be dropped, think more about improving what we have and not about trying to jam more people into the resort and for once recognise highway 99 is ill equipped to handle the shear volume of local and tourist traffic all year round. Your killing the golden goose.
- The amount of taxes I pay for my home and my business are too much. I am sad to say I don't think I can afford to retire in Whistler.
- "I think my answers are clear. The focus that is put on climate preparedness and keeping people out of cars should start with making the transportation easier and more pleasant and safe to use.
- Increase rates where possible for the luxury and privileged segment of whistler. Keeping things the same for the working class.
- Make those that can afford to own a multi-million dollar home left empty 90% of the time. Pay a fair share of not already. Those people bring little to the community other than coming on vacation."
- "Consider locals. We love whistler and I know it is a privilege to live here, but it gets increasingly hard each year. I have lived here since 2017 and the increase in parking fees/ places that now require paid parking is crazy for locals. It surprises me that there isn't a process in place for a locals parking pass similar to what Tofino has. I am not recommending being able to park in the day lots for 8 hours for free, more so being able to park in marketplace for 1-2 hours to run errands or something similar.
- I don't leave my house unless on foot on Sundays due to the traffic which is frustrating when trying to run normal errands on a day off. Turning left out of Nordic onto hwy 99 is becoming extremely dangerous and a stop light or roundabout is desperately needed, especially with the new 'The Landing' townhouse developments in Nordic that will add even more local traffic.
- Finally, it is extremely concerning how difficult it is to secure childcare. I know so many people that have had to leave Whistler due to this, and fear that will be the same case for myself in the next few years. I know it is likely not in the scope of RMOW to handle childcare, but it is such a huge issue that needs addressing as a community.
- On a lighter note, the valley trail is very well maintained and I'm grateful for this service. I also think the RMOW does a good job maintaining parks/rec spaces, and appreciate the involvement of the community in the past few weeks to provide feedback on utilization or revamping of park spaces needing attention. I also think things like the community gardens in cheakamus are great initiatives."

- In light of climate change and the threat of natural disasters, we need to focus spending on crucial issues such as fire rescue and emergency response, rather than aesthetic issues such as park improvements and fancy public washrooms.
- "Tighten your belt and curb esoteric spending. Be responsible for safety and well-being of those you serve."
- Stop funding a second full-time fire hall; it is an absolute waste of taxpayers' money. The current fire service is overstaffed and more than capable of meeting the needs of our growing community. We should start examining the actual calls made, rather than just focusing on the number of call responses. It is not uncommon for two fully staffed fire apparatus to respond to a single automatic alarm multiple times a day. For every emergency, there are many paid-on-call members who respond but are left "standing by at the hall." This is clearly a misuse of taxpayers' money. It's important to note that the cost of two full-time firefighters is equivalent to that of 60 paid-on-call firefighters per year.
- increase fees to people who do not live here permanently, meaning visitors, tourists and second home owners. f.e. permanent residents should get a sticker/badge/passport and be except from any RMOW fees like parking, recreational fees, discount on property taxes for WHA housing, or have reduced fees because we pay for living here by not earning much money compared to people who live elsewhere esp. cities, US or abroad.
- Make whistler great again!
- "Start investing in roads and getting building permits done in a timely manner It is embarrassing how badly the Rmow is at this"
- "Too many workers at the muni and too many unjustified expenses at the muni...Free bus transit for locals would help or free parking pass for locals that work in the village and pay parking for the tourists."
- "I appreciate how difficult it is to maintain services and facilities without having the funding to do so. Pursue grants. Ensure that people understand how we get a lot of amenities supported by RMI/MRDT"
- reduce the flower budget, don't cut community services.
- "We need a system to keep more of \$\$ spent by tourists in Whistler to STAY in Whistler. We are supporting the entire provincial system while ours is struggling.
- Keep the \$\$ in Whistler. Make it easier (cheaper) for those living here!"
- Taxes are getting highish, but I do not suggest cutting services
- Think about the locals first! We are your workers. Make it easier for us to live here!!!!
- Spend RMI money on the stroll not parks. Parks are great already and only a small % of guests go there. everyone goes to the stroll and its tired. Olympic plaza is great, that new waterfall by the keg is cool - the rest of the village needs to be at this level!
- The discrepancy between people established themselves in Whistler 15 years ago vs lately has been very difficult and nearly no future. I don't earn enough to have a family. If I rent/ buy something in 10 years that I can afford. I see qualified and great people leave because they don't see a future for themselves in Whistler anymore. The WHA rental program was suppose to allow people to save to buy something. Now I see lots of people struggling and having two jobs to pay WHA rent. Work live balance is gravitating to be not what it is suppose to be.
- "Don't do unnecessary projects. You've just planted about 20 new trees beside the BMX track in Cheakamus that serve absolutely no purpose. Why did you bother? Why now when the budget is tight?"
- Hang in there
- Keep the residential property taxes increase to less than 5%

- The proposed tax increase to support a second fully staffed fire hall is not justified. The fire department has never failed to respond to any incident and has consistently achieved successful outcomes. Currently, both full-time trucks from Hall 1 and Hall 3 respond to the same incidents, with 90% of these calls being for automatic alarm activations. Each activation is recorded as a separate event for each truck, resulting in the call volume being logged as twice as high as it actually is. Additionally, 60 paid-on-call firefighters often find themselves standing down during most of their calls. The resources are available but are not being fully utilized. The demand for our taxes to pay a second fully staffed fire hall 24 hours a day is absolutely unjustified. Whistler firefighters have never failed to attend an incident, never been late to an incident and certainly don't need a 2nd fully staffed hall. Paid on call are capable, available and under-utilized.
- Please have housing as a priority. We have always struggled with housing but it is worse now and people are not coming like they used to. Also, continue offering great recreation facilities and programs as they are much needed in this town. Increasing facilities to the south end of town would be great.
- Support the environment, if we don't have that nothing else is a priority
- Do something about ebikes and having no rules on the Valley Trail before someone gets killed or an ebike battery fire on the Worca trails burns the entire resort down.
- Thank you to our council!
- To find people who want to work full-time and eliminate part-time positions where possible. Find people that want to work, and that have an attitude to serve others instead of their own self-interests.
- We have many great services. We need to get more contributions from businesses that profit from our community like Vail. They should not have a tax holiday. Vail, hotels, golf courses should pay a higher rate for water and sewer to make them think seriously about conservation.
- Increase the tax for Vail
- Fix the building dept and permits. Takes too long, too much red tape and expense. Reduce rules.
- Partner with the business community. They employ locals and welcome visitors. Recognize that we are a resort municipality.
- Please add a permanent line item for reconciliation actions. Partner with the SLCC to determine this item's parameters.
- Thank you for all the good work. :)
- There appears to be a lack of support for anyone aging in place in Whistler. Tax dollars are targeted to younger residents and younger families and volunteers left to manage with no amenities unless one is into biking or skiing. There is no gathering space or recreation for this growing demographic in Whistler.
- i think you are not focusing on the staff and reality of most people in Whistler. The council and RMOW staff leaders are looking at everything from a place of entitlement, great paychecks, secure housing and an environmental focus that only comes from people who are well off - lots of talk, lots of idealism and no reality of what it is like to live here and struggle.
- Let's make every dollar count and be useful! And the same for every hour worked! Thank you
- With costs soaring on almost everything, we need to be sure not to overload the residents of Whistler. It there was a way to charge a tourist usage fee, that would seem fair. We see so many people that come up from the lower mainland to just enjoy the free and cheap benefits of Whistler, the parks, the Valley Trail, the Village Stroll, but they pay next to nothing, aren't

using hotels, restaurants, or shops to any significant amount. They clog the highway. I wish there could be a user fee. I'm sure you have thought of this but it is difficult to accomplish.

- Look at cutting personal and salaries of employees and consultants of the RMOW too.
- Quit making life harder for the people who live here! And waste no more money in FireSmarting! It doesn't work!!
- Thank you for the efficient bus service, excellent library facilities, and maintaining of parks and hiking trails, etc. RMOW should not be subsidizing Vail in any way. The village walks did get quite sloppy this Winter, so perhaps additional clearing work could be scheduled/budgeted. The Meadow Park Sports Centre is very economical, so user fees could be increased while still providing value for dollar. Investing in tap payment ability on the busses would likely increase funds and ease for riders.
- Fiscal responsibility is key. We rely heavily on local tourism. Trim the fat and don't do it on the backs of the property owners and business owners.
- "We should be fiscally responsible. Find wasted money. And be budget conscious"
- The permit process could easily be expedited without more fees. A change in leadership is needed. You can't find one person that thinks there is any level of competence in that department. In a town with a housing crisis, there is clearly no path to fix it with the current systems and people in place.
- Balanced budget with no increase to residential property taxes or utility fees - enforce limits on population and development - there is not enough infrastructure to support current demand let alone any expansion- STOP IT!
- "Contain spending. My Whistler taxes are 60% HIGHER THAN MY VANCOUVER PROPERTY (\$13K vs \$8K). And for that I do not get garbage pickup, I have to pay to maintain my local road, I have to pay for local snow removal. Even tho I do not do short-term rentals I have to pay a resort tax on top of my property tax. When I compare my Vancouver services to my Whistler services, my taxes in Whistler should be LESS than Vancouver. So what gives? Where is the money going?"
- Cut the extra managers that do nothing but go to meetings. They micromanage and will never change.
- Operating budget cannot solely fall on residents of whistler, (which I understand it doesn't) but a balance that reflects the support that residents give to maintain the needs of the community also needs to be acknowledged.
- Make decisions based on long term not to be popular
- "If you are to raise property tax please be mindful some people have major mortgages vs. the people who own vacation homes or multiple residences.
- If you put up business tax please be mindful there is a beautiful small town opportunity for entrepreneurs but they may struggle vs. the large chain business"
- "Learn between needs and wants - treat money as your own. Stop wasting money on consultants. Extras like meeting food, every penny counts. Cut staff numbers like in private business. Use technology to improve productivity. Encourage business by reducing permit times=more permit fees. More businesses = more tax dollars."
- Add foreign owners tax and tax multimillion dollar properties (\$3M+). Millionaires don't work so don't pay income tax to support the country; they can afford to pay more.
- Don't spend money on useless projects or at least wait until we all forget about the s**tshow you made of Rainbow Park and the other parks you are planning on going after. More is Not better.

- Get back to core service delivery. Eliminate excessive costly upgrades to municipal infrastructure in the quest of CO2 emission reductions. Reduce staffing levels in redundant dept. roles. Especially environmental dept.
- "Let's get more housing built and fast.
- Keep cracking down on illegal nightly rentals, it's working.
- Let's get rebates to homeowners who install rooftop sprinklers for fire suppression and government funded industrial size mega sprinklers. Water does NOT have to be potable. Just like snowmaking lines."
- Spend less
- Housing housing housing
- Cut back on spending for nonessential services. Increase infrastructure spending.
- Keep it simple. Whistler is a beautiful place - we don't need to make it Disneyland. Maintain the infrastructure before doing new things.
- "Find a way to balance budget but prioritize environment overgrowth and development. Whistler is big enough. and may end up too big when we no longer get snow. just stop. also get electric bikes off the valley trail before someone dies!!!!"
- on the community piece, we need to service our demographic - what is there for seniors?
- Free transit
- We must improve ghg performance and solid waste standards. We must define resort and municipal capacity.
- I would really like to see the #10 bus become a high frequency bus that would run every 10 mins or so. This way people would not have to look at a schedule when they want to take the bus knowing one is coming soon (similar to the sky train). I would also like to see a system where riders have the options of paying with their debit/credit cards instead of having to download an app. I think these two things would increase ridership from tourists and reduce car congestion.
- If you need to increase pricing for RMOW amenities, why don't you have a local price and a regular price.
- RMOW. Please start cutting the fat. How many high-paid people do you have that are not productive at all? Maybe you need Elon Musk to start asking RMOW staff what they have accomplished each week?
- Meadow park is in great need of an upgrade. This is of benefit to the entire Whistler community and should be a priority for what resident tax dollars are spent on. Thank u for your great maintenance of the parks and the amazing summer community events (like the concert and movie nights...however there should be the opportunity for local input of suggestions of movies and bands etc).
- Spent less on municipal vehicles and stop building more structures to house municipal vehicles all over such as lot 5, library parking lot, nesters area. Make garbage and recycling program more accessible and user friendly
- "To me a big issue is staff housing and keeping it affordable. Without staff serves grind to a halt or are not available. For example, Vail extends time to open the alpine due to ski patrol shortages on hill food services are residue to staffing issues. Othe local business find it increasingly difficult to get staff."
- Without the natural beauty of Whistler there is no 'Whistler' - continued efforts to protect and support our natural environment is essential for the survival of this town.
- So many tough choices. Taxpayers want the RMOW to spend less, but not have it affect them personally. I appreciate all the work RMOW staff do to make Whistler a great place to live.

- "Less wasteful government rather than reducing our services. Thanks to insane federal government the cost of living are exploding. And your plan is reduce the quality of services to locals AND make them pay more!
- Maybe the foreign corporations that operate in this town should contribute to town rather than just take away. That's Vail if you didn't figure!
- Maybe the wealthy tourists that flock here can contribute to the services they use?
- Maybe the mega rich with 2nd homes should be heavily taxed rather than the seasonal worker with 2 jobs."
- Good luck!
- "Please consider increasing recreation program fees to support greater program availability and adequate staffing, while limiting burden on general taxation. Current programs are oversubscribed, clearly demonstrating unmet demand. Despite this, there is a pattern to maintain artificially low fees. While affordability is important to some degree, this strategy overlooks the broader fiscal context—specifically, that subsidizing high-demand programs with limited capacity restricts access and places undue pressure on general taxation. A more balanced approach is needed to align service levels with actual community demand and financial sustainability.

Additionally, please consider reducing staffing and service levels in climate and communications programs to help maintain affordability and limit future tax increases. In a constrained fiscal environment, priority should be given to core infrastructure investment and maintaining adequate reserves. Aligning resource allocation with core community priorities and core municipal functions is essential to long-term financial sustainability."

- Perhaps look at your staffing levels, and do time audits, review wage packages, and then look realistically at how everything serves the community of people, rather than the tourists who visit and then leave.
- Airbnbs and vacant homes should pay significantly more property taxes. Locals who live here full time in their house and DO NOT airbnb it out shouldn't have to pay more property taxes.
- People are more willing to accept change if they know more about the issues at the table (and of course can see that there is evidence behind it).
- Make people who can afford to pay pay more (eg monster homeowners) as well as charge for usage (eg hotels with pools or HTub should pay hefty filling and disposal charges). Get hotels to invite clients to reduce their water (sewage output) use more than just in towel washing (eg ask them to reduce shower times). Invite hotels to provide e-bikes and maps for valley trail (to reduce impacts on roads with driving).
- Fix the roads! Stop the high parking fees, its impossible for locals to live here.
- If transit were cheaper than parking I would use it more.
- It would be nice if we could figure out a way to get regional contributions to our parks.
- "The Resort Municipality of Whistler's building department requires significant improvements to better support local businesses. Currently, renovation and building permit approvals often take months, which is excessively long for small businesses needing timely decisions. This delay hampers economic activity and growth.
- To truly support Whistler businesses, the building department must further expedite approvals by standardizing document requests, improving transparency, and continuing to enhance staffing and digital application systems. Small businesses should not face prolonged

delays that impede their operations and growth. Prompt, predictable, and efficient permit processing is essential for a thriving local economy."

- RMOW...act like a business...perform like a business. Hold yourself and your workers accountable to be more productive, effective and efficient.
- "The tax burden placed on homeowners is reaching the breaking point. Taxes ARE one of the causes of local inflation"
- One important area of municipal focus not included is the overall planning, stewardship and shaping of the future of the municipality. I believe this is the most important role of the organization and perhaps it should be included or identified in budget planning in some way.
- Stop spending like drunken sailors. Look after our existing infrastructure stop wasting money on stupid projects. Other government grants are taxpayer money, where else do you think it comes from? The never-ending tax increases in Whistler are unsustainable.
- Concentrate on employee housing
- I'd like to see more money go towards protecting nature and specific goals communicated and worked on. Less money towards tracking GHGs. If you're not tracking the GHGs for travel to Whistler or food choices (Animal based food has way more than plant based) then what's the point?
- Please consider what might do the most good for the most people, not just for the loudest voices or those who are able to vote in Municipal elections. It takes all 15 odd thousand of us to make Whistler what it is, many of those who contribute may not be here for a long time but we should try to give them all equal opportunities to enjoy Whistler.
- Don't give our money to teams and clubs or anything having to do with more trails through the forest. Let these people fundraise for themselves or do it themselves.
- "Good job on advocating for permanent resident housing. We are in better shape than most places. It is now time to focus on making this a great place for everyone to live. It is time to think about building another recreation Center"
- For any major projects such as the main bus station, the new village public bathrooms, and the soccer field in Cheakamus, there needs to be accountability with staying on budget. If construction companies are bidding on jobs, then they need to stay within budget and not just low ball the project just to get the contract, and then not be penalized for going way over budget.
- Recent Property tax increases are unacceptable.
- Focus on core municipal services and stay in that in that lane. Look to reducing bureaucratic costs.
- Please prioritize what directly affects taxpayers- ie increasing the quality of life in Whistler for taxpayers.
- RMOW...please stop wasting our money. You have too many workers and most get paid a lot and do not do anything. Worker value for dollars paid is VERY low.
- Tax the sh&t out of empty homes, including mansions that get used 3 or 4 times a year and have leaf blowing landscapers twice a week.
- Any possibility of using budget to create accessible daycare for local families?
- "Not once was there any mention of increasing tourism fees. Nor empty home taxes or other ways to recoup money that didn't come from local pockets. No mention of reducing or removing municipal wages or benefits that are in most people's opinions excessive"
- Continue to maintain and invest in Whistler, infrastructure and recreation offerings. Look at more ways to spend RMI money on visitor activities that also benefit residence such as Lost

Lake Nordic trails. Seems the majority of the people out there are visitors but my understanding is that it receives no RMI money.

- "1. Plant more trees along the highway - fill in the gaps - the highway noise is much louder without trees, this affects quality of life and sleeping - so much of this town is based around the highway, And it is very, very busy.

2. I don't have children but I pay for the school system, maybe one day I will have kids and maybe property taxes paid for my schooling when I was a kid but still. I don't mind supporting kids as this is the way Canada works but honestly I never thought property taxes paid for schools, really makes it more difficult for the ones without children. Just seems strange and should be discussed. If I own a house for 30 Years without kids, I sure pay a lot for them!

3. Water seems really cheap and seems to be overused because of this, it is our greatest resource. I love that it is high quality and basically free but this is not the case in the majority of the world."

- It's nice to say nice things but when you put detours in effect on the valley trail that force people to go twice as far or block it entirely (rainbow park for a year) your showing us you don't actually care about the things you pretend to care about.
- Cut back on waste. Lower scope on new projects by eliminating the nice-to-have but not necessary components. Cut back on parks maintenance. Let grass grow and be mowed. Reduce flow beds in playground parks. or put in low maintenance crops, etc.
- Build more WHA units (sale & rent) outside of Cheakamus
- No more tax increases, cut back and find savings
- Find cost savings, there are numerous opportunities to cut costs, but I'm seeing frivolous spending around town regularly. Bus shelter, landscaping projects, cost of public washrooms, banners, and services that could be contracted out to private companies, for example landscaping
- Stop wasting taxpayer dollars- start thinking about collecting more money from tourism and visitors and less money from locals. Give locals tax breaks and parking passes as well as recreational passes for free including free transit for locals.
- Please use the powers the province have given you to increase employee housing and use it to tax second homes. If you bike through the neighbourhoods it opens your eyes to how many empty houses there are. There's no reason we should have a housing crisis.
- It might be a reality to break into double digits for property tax increases to keep up with rising costs if we want to maintain current service levels in all areas
- Thank you for everything you do!
- Free transit will solve many challenges. Increase parking and user fees.
- Whistler is an Olympian producing factory where athletes come from all around the world to train. This shouldn't only be true for winter sports. The sports facilities of Whistler should be world class and attract a new sector of tourism. Team training. As an athlete growing up and traveling to different facilities for training weeks, etc, I can show you how this is a very lucrative industry. Basically, a small version of Disney world's ESPN wide world of sports facility..... we at least need a proper aquatics facility with a diving well
- "Good luck. This is not an easy job. Educate the youth or invite youth to be a part of this process.

- Of the 4 pillars at the start - climate action should be being integrated into the other 3 pillars regardless - building housing can be done with sustainability and climate resiliency at the forefront. Increased housing means needs for increased transportation - an opportunity to strengthen active transportation access and access to key services that reduce reliance on cars etc. building our communities so they are built for the future is key to climate resilience. Continuing to include this as a separate line item means, like we are seeing in this 'ranking' process that the ball can easily be dropped on this 'priority'. Accelerating climate action, is a collaborative effort, and should not be seen that something else has to lose out because of it."
- Compare with last year to where can you cut. And More Importantly consult with RMOW employees to see which of budget are not used wisely and can be saved for other budgets.
- Invest in public safety and emergency program
- You are making Whistler too expensive to own and visit. More we have visitors, more revenue is generated , less tax needed
- don't be wasteful in spending tax dollars
- Please prioritize the community's safety and ability to access the village area with more ease as car traffic is ridiculous
- "Currently the RMOW is over- reacting and over spending on climate action and needs to balance other needs. I am not saying to stop climate action - I am saying stop being so reactionary and spending money poorly just because something sounds environmental....not all the projects that have been environmentally pushed are actually any good or actually used."