

Introduction

In September 2026, the Grumpy Taxpayer\$ of Victoria conducted a survey to check-in with current members and better understand their views, priorities and concerns ahead of the October 17, 2026 BC municipal elections.

Response Rate

The survey was delivered to 908 emails (436 were opened), 89 members responded.

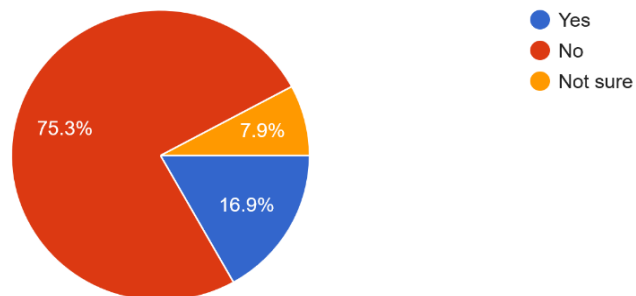
Municipality	# of Respondents	% of total
Victoria	41	46.1%
Saanich	21	23.6%
Oak Bay	9	10.1%
North Saanich	7	7.9%
Sidney	5	5.6%
Colwood	2	2.2%
View Royal	1	1.1%
Central Saanich	1	1.1%
Highlands	1	1.1%
Other	1	1.1%
Esquimalt	0	0

Summary of Results

Question 1:

Do you think your municipal government has been going in the right direction?

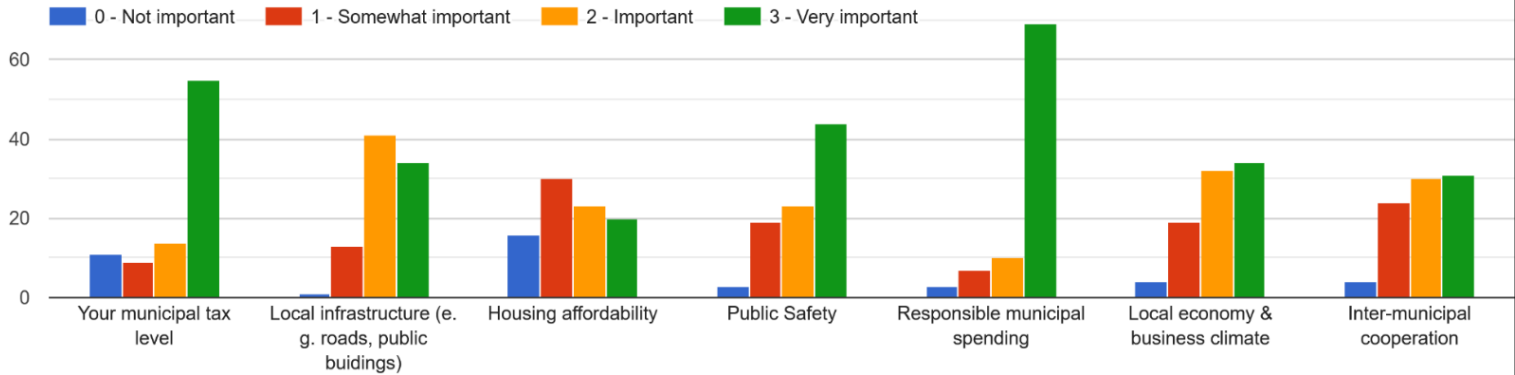
89 responses



The majority of respondents (75.3%) do not think their municipal government is going in the right direction.

Question 2

How important are the following issues to you right now?



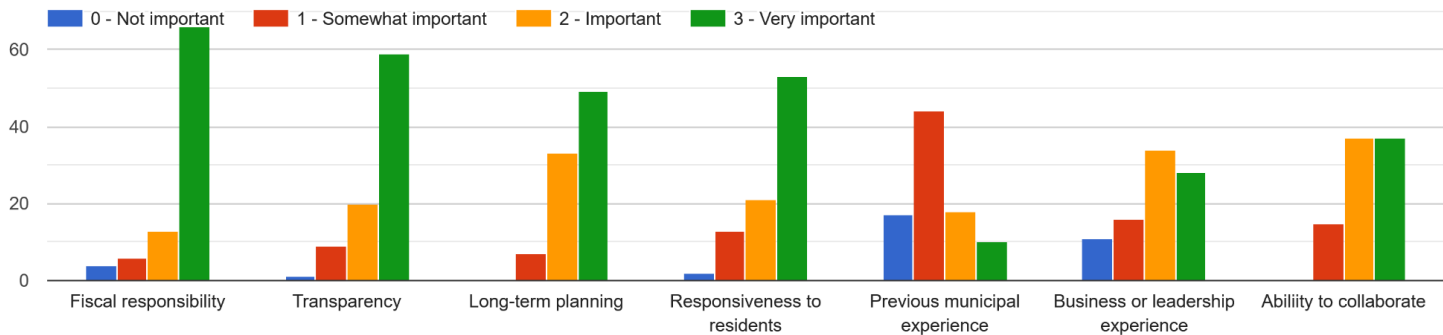
Results clearly indicate that “responsible municipal spending” and “your municipal tax level” are of utmost importance to members right now.

Members were also asked if there are any other municipal issues which are more important to them right now. 39 members supplied comments. The following bullets represent a themed summary of those comments:

- **Fiscal control/spending (largest cluster):** e.g. tax & utility increases, zero-based budgeting, police/roads spending critiques
- **Transportation & traffic:** e.g. bike lanes, coordinated regional transit, road safety
- **Housing & growth:** e.g. zoning liberalization, affordable housing supply, managing growth
- **Amalgamation:** explicit mentions
- **Governance conduct:** e.g. accountability, staying within municipal mandate vs. ideology
- **Scattered:** e.g. water/sewer infrastructure, food security, emergency preparedness, health care.

Question 3

How important are the following qualities when considering municipal candidates in the October 17, 2026 election?



Results for this question indicate that **“Fiscal responsibility”, “Transparency”, “Long-term planning” and “Responsiveness to residents”** are all very important to members. Having previous municipal experience or even business/leadership experience appears to be less important when considering municipal candidates.

Members were also asked if there are other more important candidate qualities. 32 members supplied comments. The following bullets represent a themed summary of those comments:

- **Integrity/honesty** (most frequently mentioned single trait)
- **Independence from ideology/partisanship:** e.g. not a 'yes man', no party slates
- **Competence/expertise:** e.g. financial acumen, economics literacy, governance experience
- **Engagement & accountability:** e.g. availability to residents, holding staff accountable, active listening
- **A few respondents challenged specific rating items:** e.g., 'relevant' vs. 'previous' experience, or posed policy questions directly

Question 4

What one issue would you most like candidates to address in the October 17, 2026 municipal election?

75 members provided their comments to this question. The following bullets represent a themed summary of those comments.

- **Taxes/fiscal responsibility:** dominant theme, roughly a third of responses
- **Transportation & traffic:** e.g. potholes, congestion, bike lanes (opinions split both ways)
- **Housing & affordability:** e.g. supply, zoning, affordability for seniors
- **Public safety / homelessness:** e.g. street disorder, policing budget debates
- **Transparency/governance:** e.g. in-camera meetings, communication with taxpayers