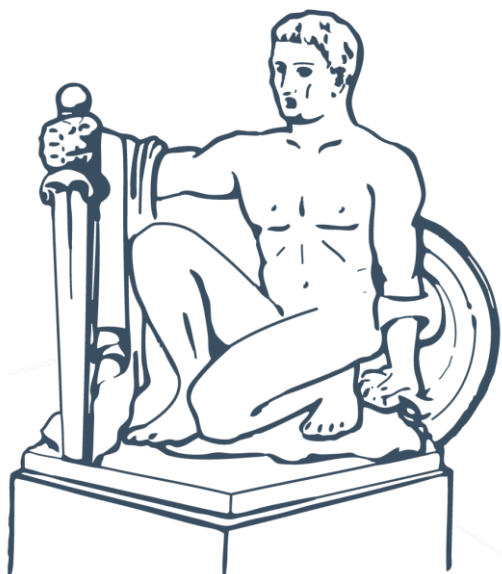
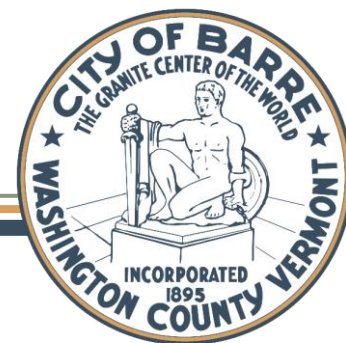


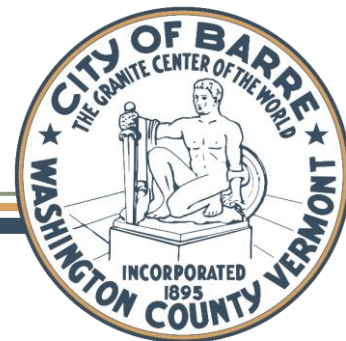
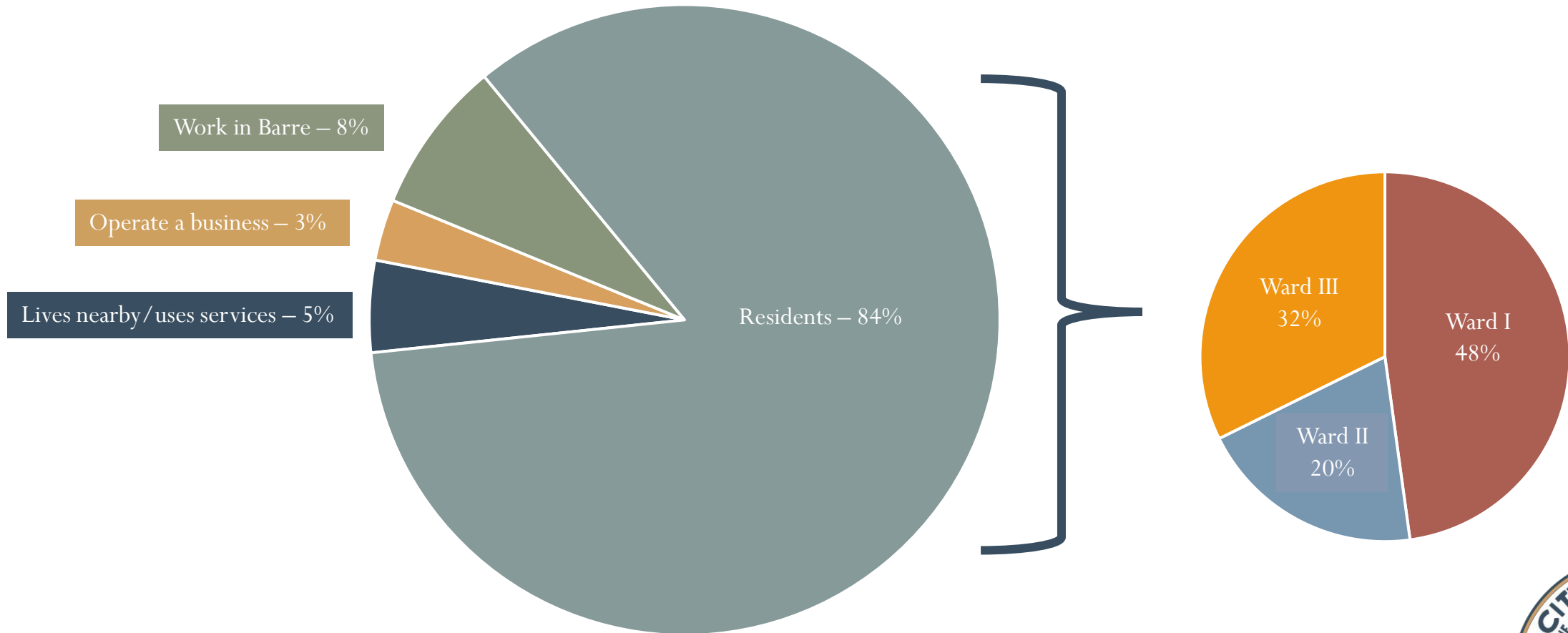


FY27 BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS

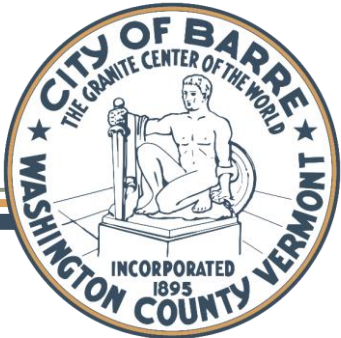
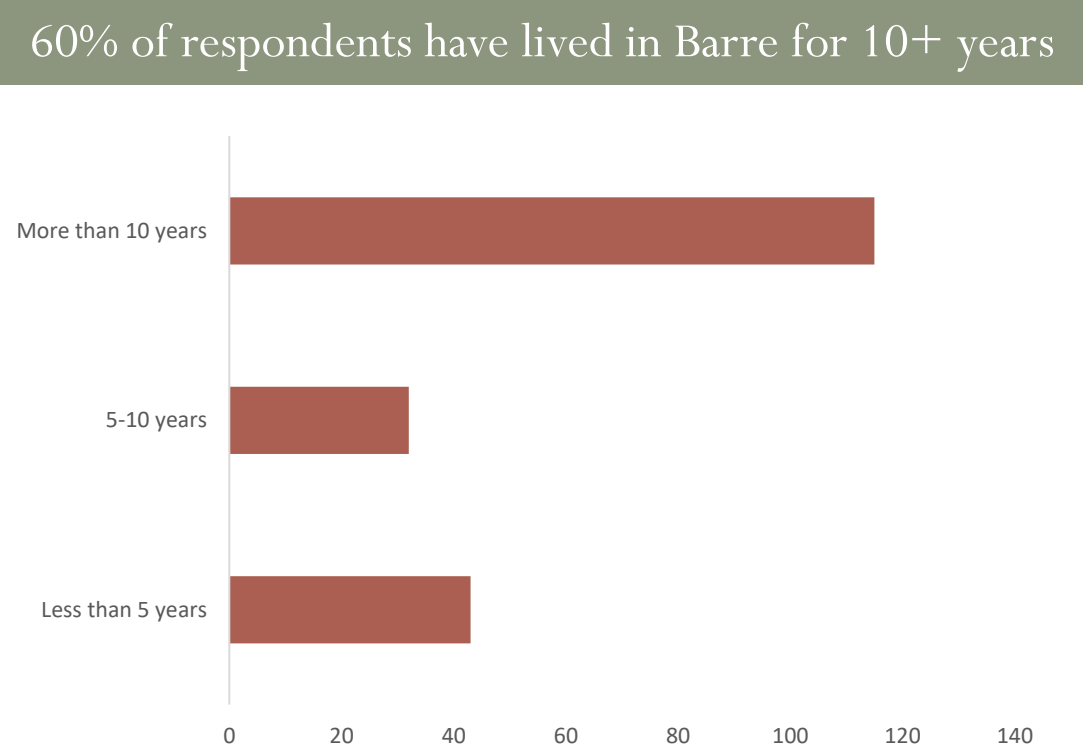
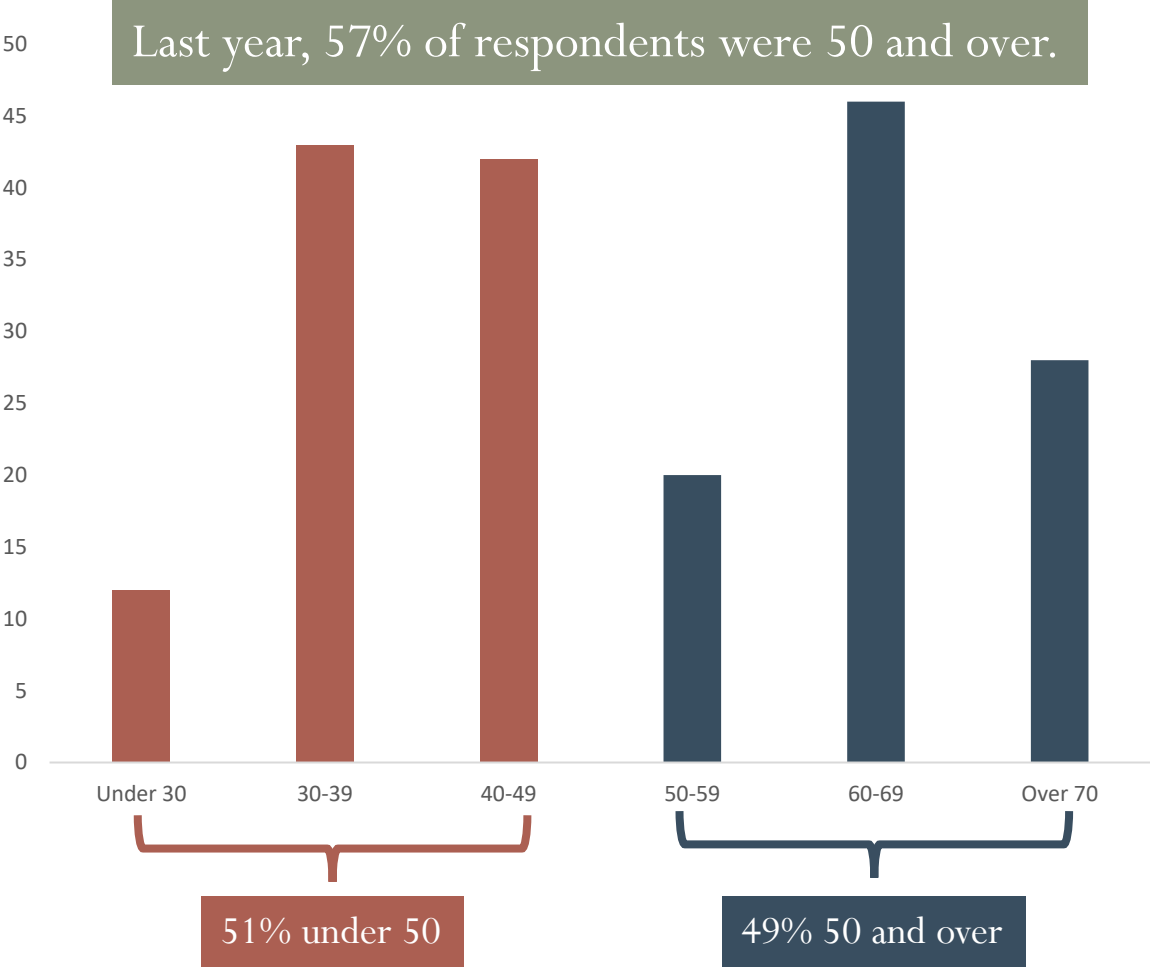
NICOLAS STORELLICASTRO
CITY MANAGER
FEBRUARY 10, 2026



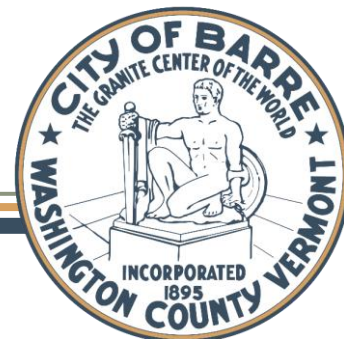
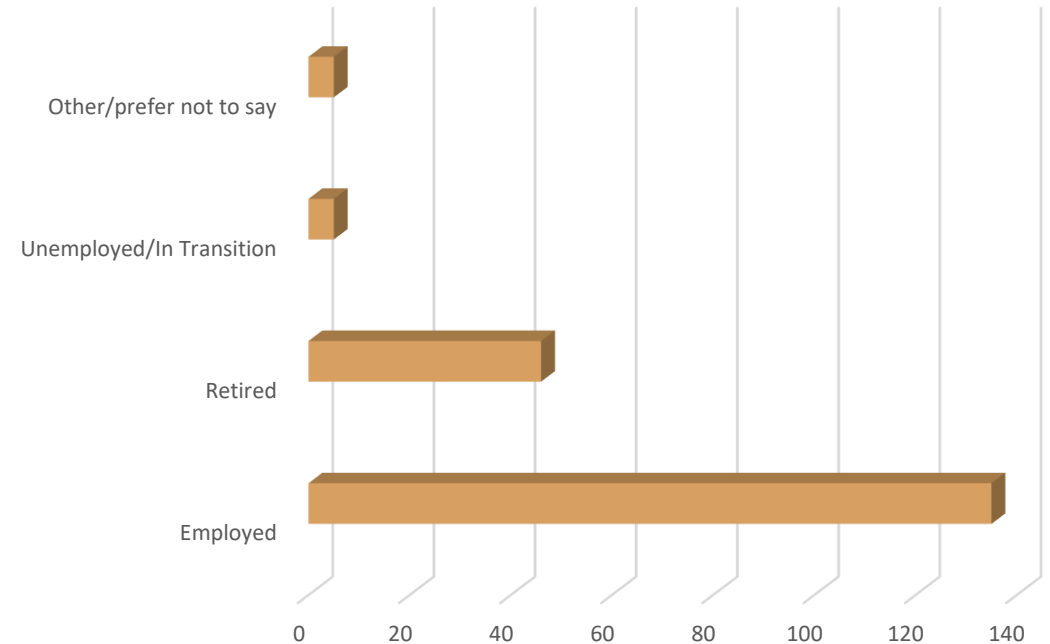
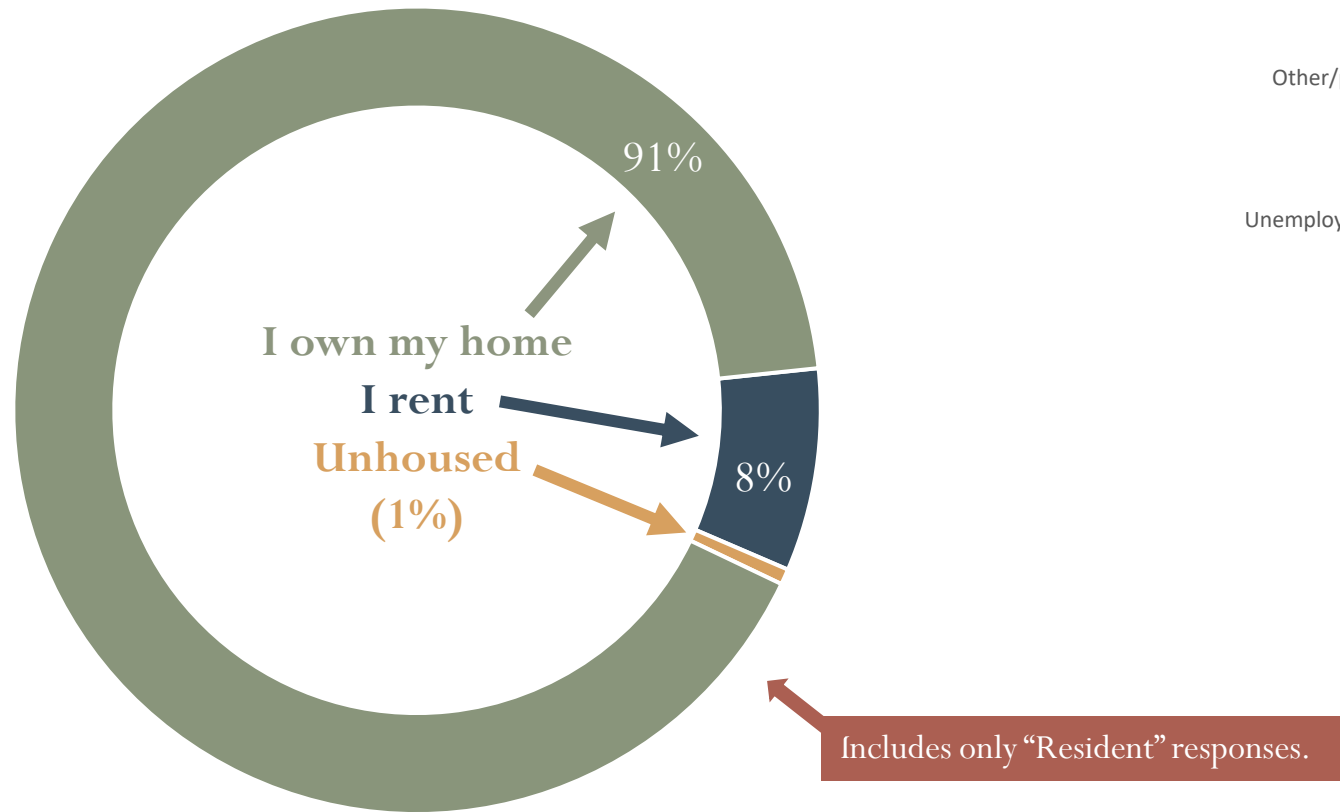
84% OF RESPONDENTS WERE RESIDENTS



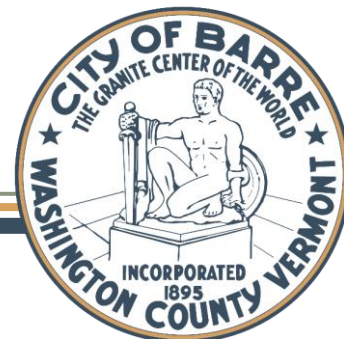
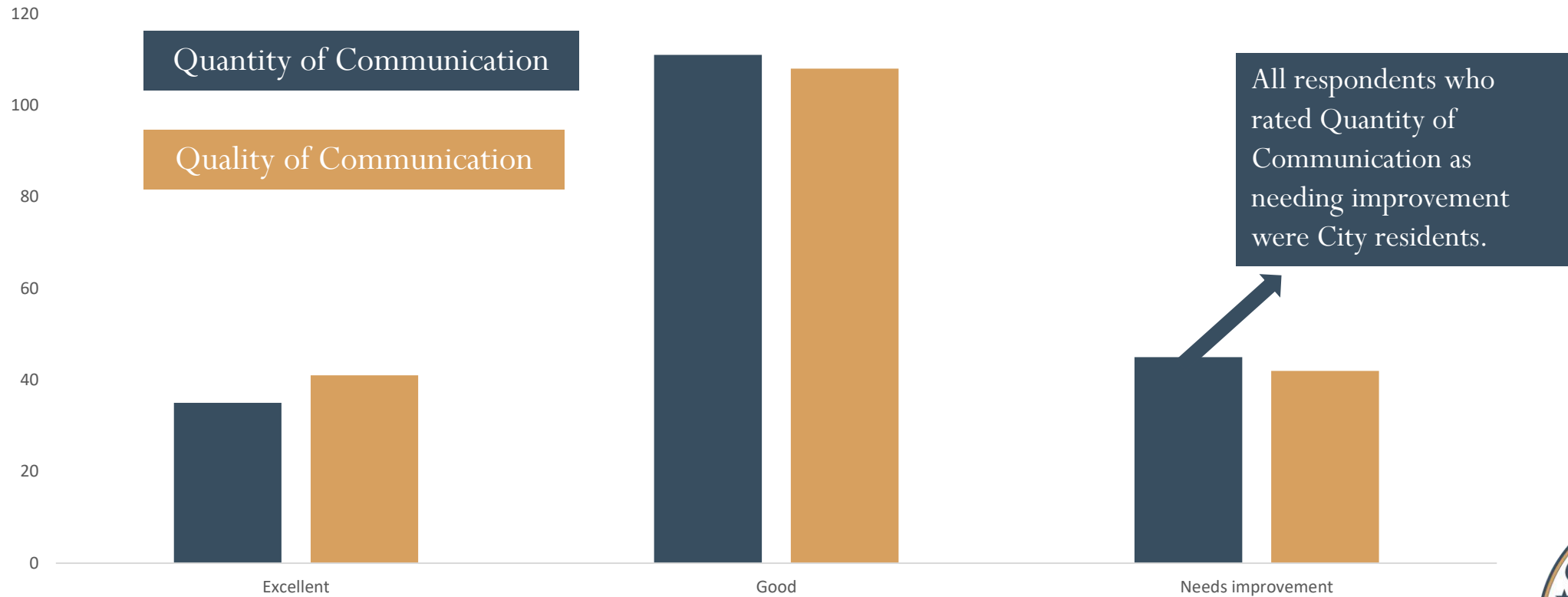
MOST RESPONDENTS UNDER 50 YEARS OLD AND HAVE LIVED IN BARRE OVER 10 YEARS



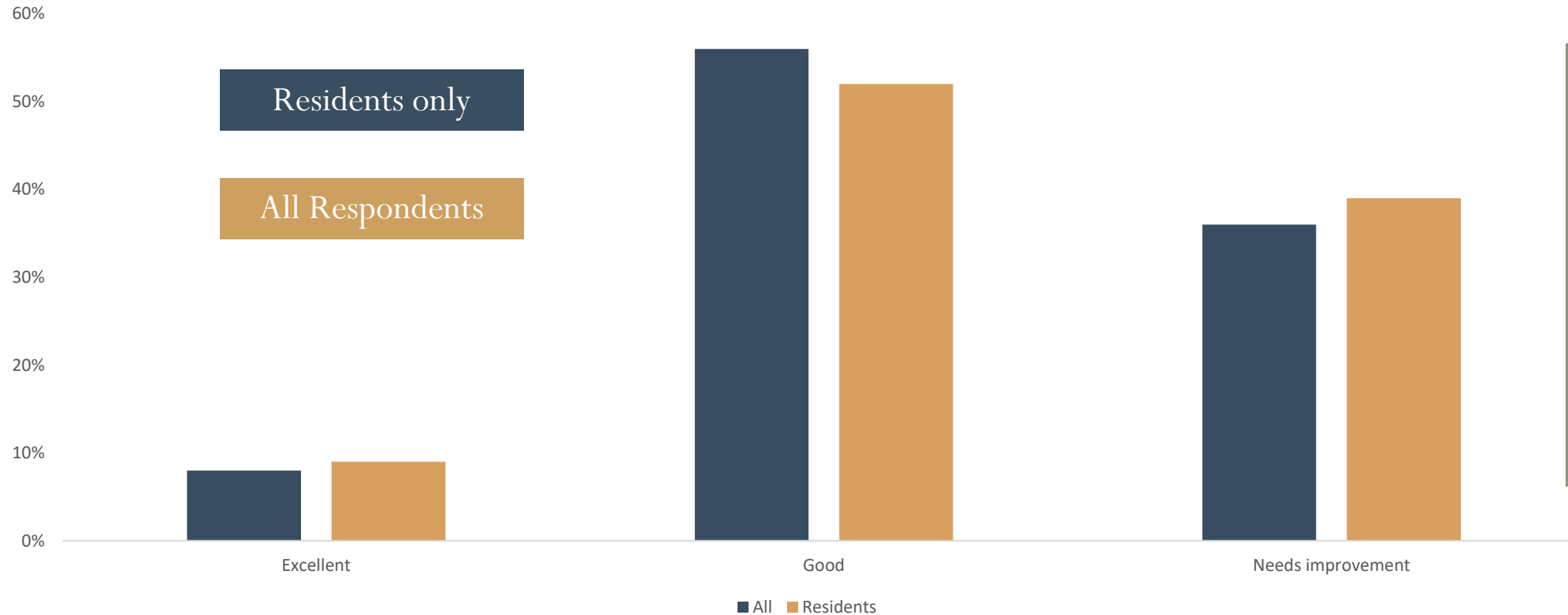
RESPONDENTS OWN THEIR OWN HOME AND CURRENTLY EMPLOYED



~75% OF RESIDENTS RATE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS AS EXCELLENT OR GOOD

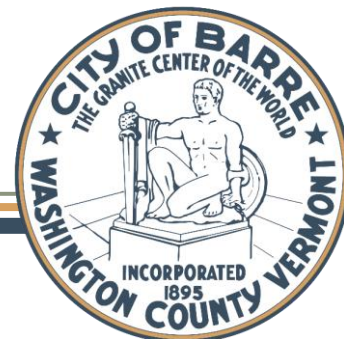


~60% OF RESPONDENTS RATE CITY SERVICES AS EXCELLENT OR GOOD



61% of Residents rate services highly.

64% of Non-Residents rate services highly.



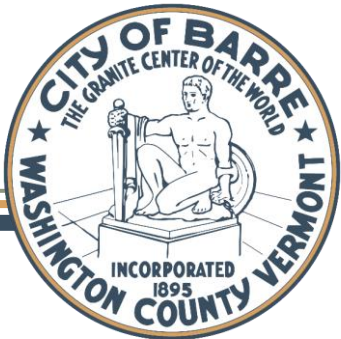
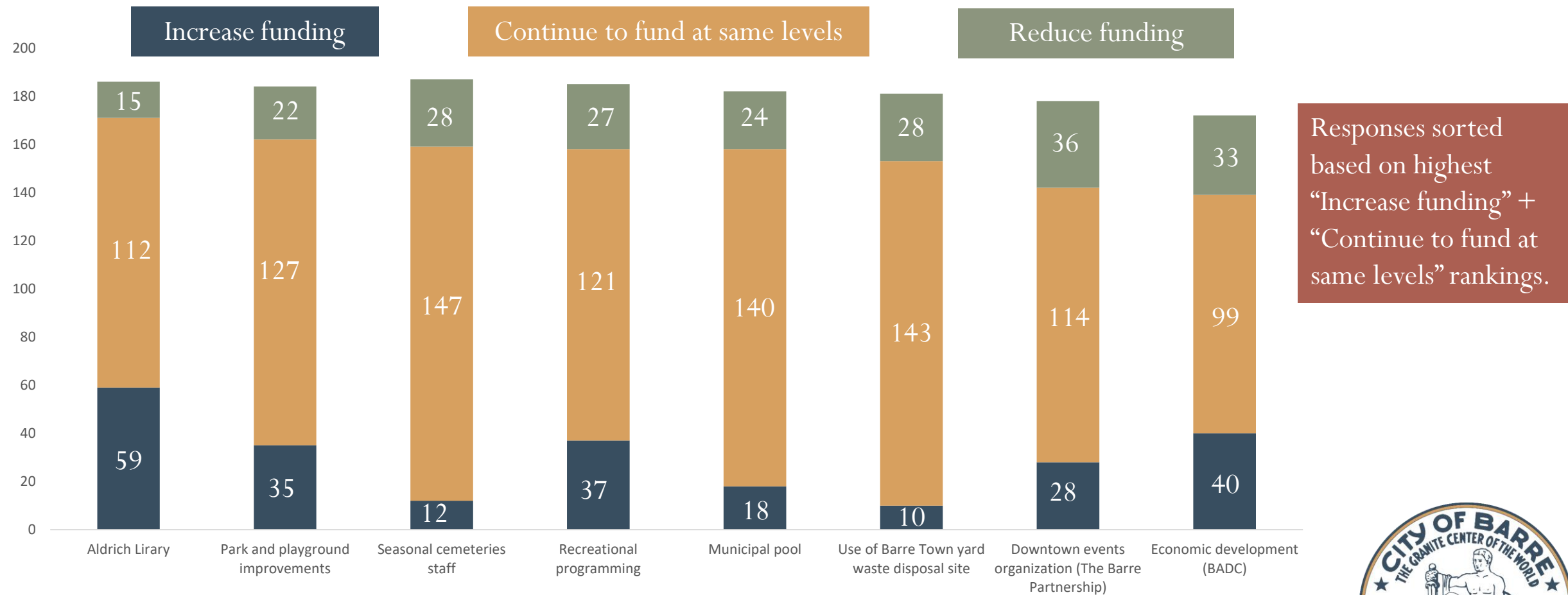
VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT SERVICES AND FUNDING LEVELS

Key:
Greener hues are more favorable;
Redder hues are less favorable.

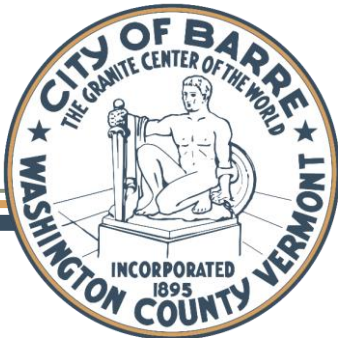
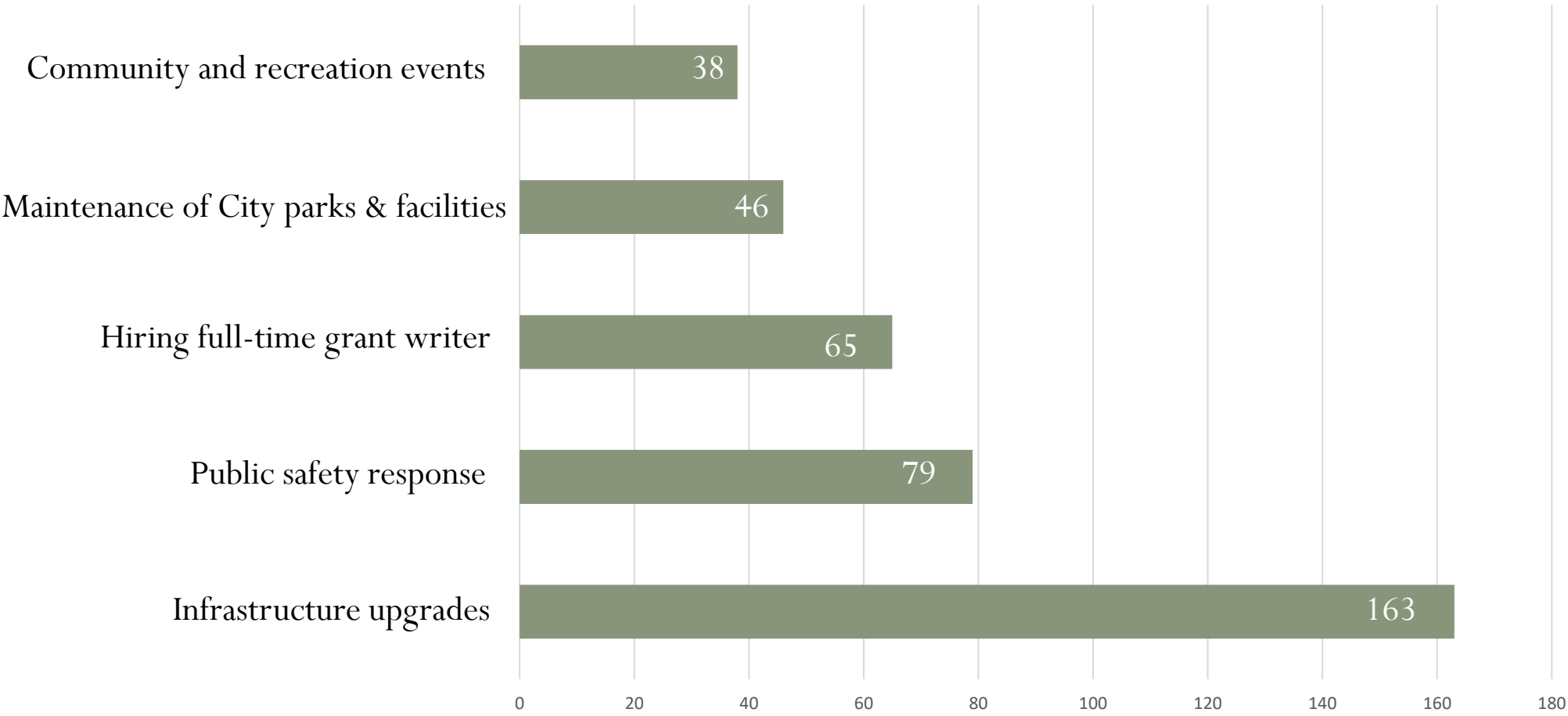
Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Service/Amenity	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
70	111	10	Fire/emergency medical services	64	123	4
38	115	38	Police	66	97	28
18	115	58	Parks and playgrounds	35	130	26
29	61	101	Street maintenance and plowing	112	69	10
26	137	28	Recreational facilities (BOR/Auditorium)	25	152	14
17	128	46	Zoning/permitting/planning/Clerk	20	150	21
26	142	23	City pool	14	151	26
53	121	17	Cemeteries	14	157	20
12	75	104	Capital improvement projects/public works upgrades	73	98	20
12	90	89	Traffic control/calming	62	111	18
10	69	112	Economic and housing development	101	55	35



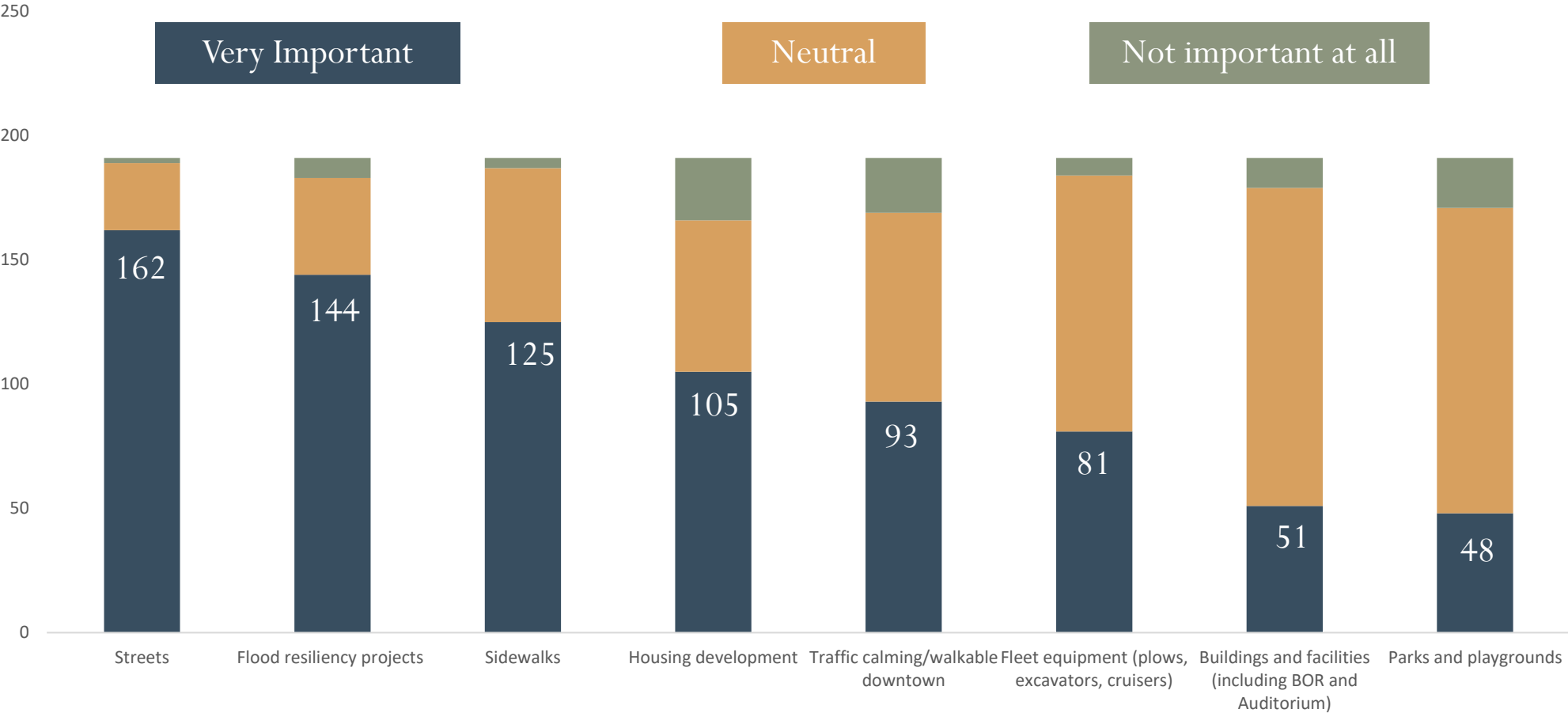
RESPONDENTS GENERALLY SUPPORT FUNDING NON-MANDATORY AMENITIES AT HIGHER OR SIMILAR LEVELS



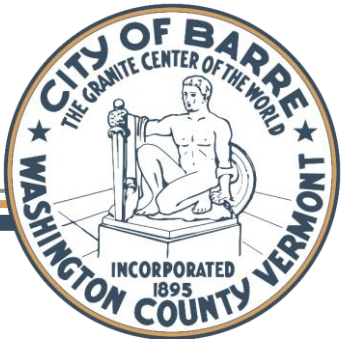
THE CITY SHOULD SPEND MORE ON INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



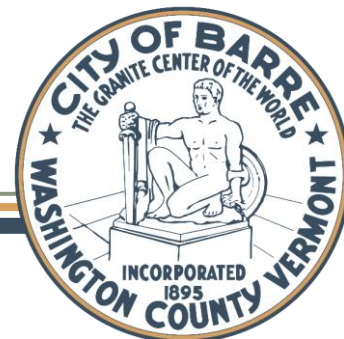
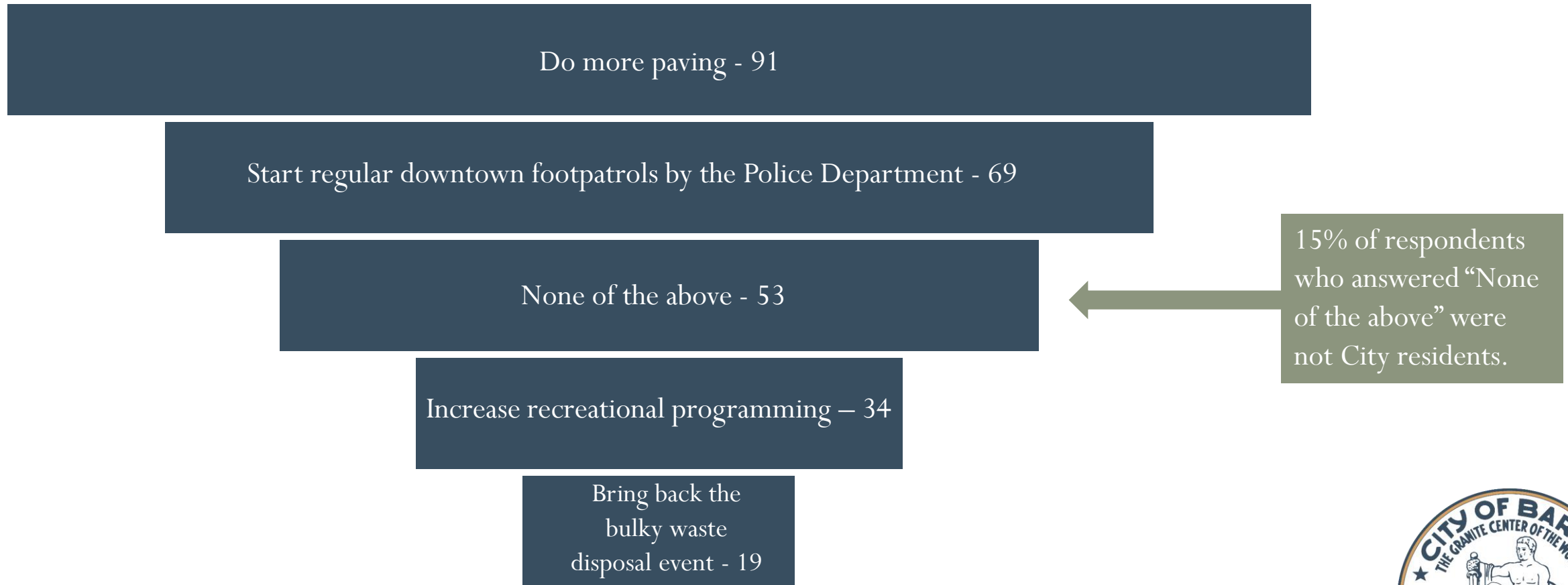
85% OF RESPONDENTS RATE STREETS INVESTMENTS AS “VERY IMPORTANT”



Responses sorted based on highest “Very Important” ranking.



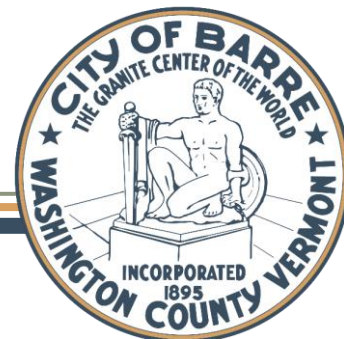
RESPONDENTS ARE WILLING TO PAY HIGHER TAXES FOR MORE PAVING AND DOWNTOWN FOOTPATROLS

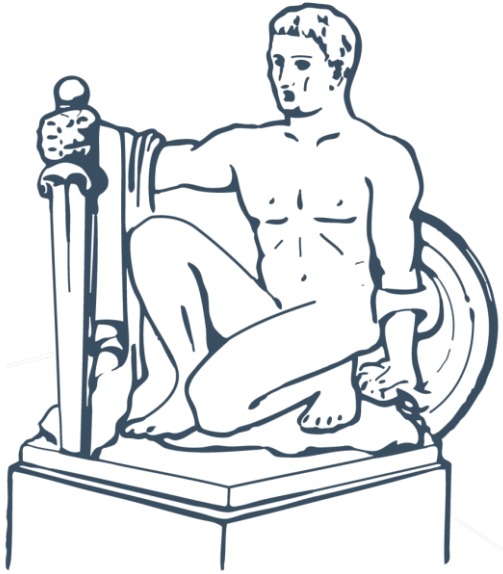


FY27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- January 2026
 - 1/6: Baseline FY27 Budget presentation
 - Week of 1/13: Staff budget congress
 - 1/27: Partner presentations, Department Head presentations (Admin, Facilities & Grounds, Recreation, Revenue)
- February 2026
 - 2/3: Department Head presentations (PD, FD)
 - **2/10: Department Head presentation (DPW), budget survey results**
- March 2026
 - 3/17: Proposed Budget
 - 3/24: Budget Seminar
 - 3/31: Final Review
- April 2026
 - 4/7: Warn budget for Town Meeting Day
- May 2026
 - 5/12: Town Meeting Day

You are
here





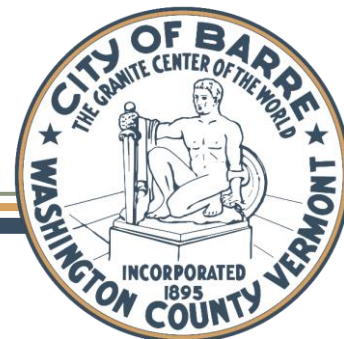
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION?

WWW.BARRECITY.ORG



@BARRECITYVT



If not listed above, which services would you be willing to pay higher taxes for?

Resident/Non-Resident

I am not willing to support higher taxes. Property taxes in Barre are already very high, and ongoing increases are unsustainable for property owners like us who own multiple rentals in the City. If the tax burden continues to rise, we will be forced to either significantly increase rents to cover operating costs or reconsider whether we can continue owning property here at all. Neither of those outcomes is good for long-term housing stability in Barre. The City should focus on responsible budgeting, improving public safety, and accountability for nuisance and criminal activity — not placing additional strain on taxpayers.
1. The Aldrich Public Library - which puts on a majority of the free community events offered. 2. Flood resiliency projects backed by thorough environmental review - and without the conflict of interest among certain local officials conducting personal business while in office - to reduce further potential downstream flood damages. 3. Pedestrian focused traffic projects - installing sidewalks, painting the sidewalk crossings, slowing traffic with signage.
3rd space community gathering places. Art and creativity. Youth programming. Community building events that focus on relationship, not patriotism or alienating civic pride.
ADA compliance throughout the city
Adding EMS personnel to the fire department to help cover EMS calls. Which would allow for paid cross trained EMS & Fire. Ability to fully staff one ambulance with EMS personnel which would allow cross trained firefighters to staff a second EMS call when/if necessary.
Additional funding for the library and their outreach and educational programming in connection with recreation.
Affordable and safe housing and utility options, programs (like downstreet) for renters and first time home buyers. If i could afford to pay more taxes for other things i would, but i work for 23\$ an hour and this only goes so far after healthcare expenses.
AFFORDABLE housing projects for neighbors
Assessors office Assistant city mgr Planning personnel i
Barre Bees
Barre firefighters and EMS services.
Before increasing taxes, I would like to see improvements in efficiency and maintenance of the services we already have.
Better salaries for teachers
City events, maybe. You already charge insane taxes, I'm tired of funding other people's children to go to school. I'd love for that money to go to the city and not schools, as a lesbian I'll never have kids and never see any benefit from it, so stop taxing us on it.
Education
EMS-Firefighter position to meet the increasing needs of the community. Mental health services. Less on supporting addiction and more on supporting recovery. More support for community events, including partnering with the local schools.
Fire and EMS.
FIRE/EMS and School supplies for students
Fix traffic lights so sensors and timers are actually working. Currently Main St thru traffic gets shortest duration green at Elm/Main/Washington and Main/Maple/62; seems opposite of what it should be. Left turn green from South Main to North Main is ridiculously long, seems like 3 minutes, at 7-8PM at night when there's little traffic. Also left turn greens are always triggered often with no traffic waiting at

Main/Elm/Washington. Lots of unnecessary pollution going into the air with traffic idling for extended periods because lights are not timed correctly or sensors do not work.
Flood mitigation, infrastructure improvements and traffic calming citywide. Striping on streets should be done first thing in spring, then pothole filling. Traffic throughout our city is problematic and unsafe for pedestrians. Much of this can be alleviated with more flashing speed limit signs, stand up "pedestrian crossing" signs in the middle of ALL crosswalks and line striping done early and kept up with all season long. Promotion of the Citywide speed limit could also help as education is key.
Flood resiliency projects, housing development, street maintenance
Flood resiliency, public infrastructure upgrades. Items that will pay off and save the city money in the long run. Putting in a roundabout in downtown Main Street to drastically help with traffic flow.
Flood resiliency, public infrastructure, items that will save the City money in the future. Roundabout in downtown Main Street to help drastically with traffic flow.
Funding for conservation including supporting and enhancing the Cow Pasture and critical access points to it that are unconserved and vulnerable to development. Would also love to see a buyout of properties in the flood zone and creation of a recreational greenway with trails and parks. I understand this is a hugely expensive and complex undertaking, but also an incredible opportunity. Hiring a grant writer for the city, as suggested above, would be imperative for getting something like this off the ground.
Getting all the homeless and or drug users that wander the streets mandatory help or relocation for the sake of our children and citizens who reside here. I personally feel very strong about this as my children seeing this behavior terrifies them. While I understand the situation at hand, those people chose the life to get where they are but can't seem to choose better to help themselves or our community, don't deserve free hand outs.
Home owners are taxed beyond belief now. I feel you need to learn to budget accordingly and stop relying on property tax payers to pull you out of your debt issues. Meanwhile, youve payed close to one million dollars for the Newburys building so realtor friends of a crooked mayor can get richer.
Housing and shelter
Housing Centers for the homeless. Warming centers. Soup Kitchens. Programs designed to help people get back on their feet and into affordable housing. Affordable housing projects. It's 12/11, just the beginning of winter and someone in Barre has already died from being homeless and in the cold and there are EMPTY buildings on main street? It's disgraceful. I see more people going above and beyond in the Barre resident Facebook group than the city/town does for it's resident's. Instead of just police officers, social workers and crisis managers- we need people who can work with our homeless, mentally ill populations and try to get them the services they desperately need, when they need them.
housing for homeless mental health access for people that need it
Housing solutions services, unhoused services, improved street cleaning
I am not willing to pay higher taxes. This state continues to tax the tax payers while not reviewing and fixing the state assistance programs. I have lived in THIS city for 34 years! I personally know way too many people who play the system and continue to get away with it while me and all other tax payers are forced to work harder to help pay for these programs through being taxed.
I don't know what the "bulky waste disposal event" was, so I do not know whether I would consider paying higher taxes for this line item. A clearer police presence toward drivers abiding by traffic laws as well as a more productive relationship between citizens and police officers / business owners and officers would be good developments. I would support increased taxes for recreational events if they are geared to drawing in people from other communities and/or are marketed to visitors to the state as well as for residents.
I would be willing to pay higher taxes for a vastly improved downtown business development and economic development authority. In actuality, an effective full time grant writer/grant manager could

replace the need for separate downtown partnership and area economic authority entities, saving the City's taxpayers some of the staff overhead. That we do not have an individual on staff writing grants like nobody's business is profoundly puzzling. The residents of Barre do not get enough in return for our taxpayer dollars, and we need a more smartly run city government.
I would not be willing to pay higher taxes for anything. Our taxes are already out of control.
I would pay more taxes to increase the workforce on the maintenance crew with the expectation that they focus in on detailed maintenance. Think of the city as their own yard. Keeping city grounds (parks, side walks, projects) clean, mowed, edged, weeded, well kept! I feel like city workers now have the mindset to get the job done instead of doing the job well. We need care to be put back into the look of the city to help increase others wanting to live here. People care about how things look.
I'm not willing to pay higher taxes, I want my taxes used more effectively on things that actually affect citizens of Barre on a day to day basis. I ABSOLUTELY would not pay more taxes for more cops and surveillance rather than actually addressing the material needs of residents and the disrepair of sidewalks, streets and facilities.
I'm less concerned about which specific services, more concerned about the benefits of these taxes going to everyone who lives here instead of some selfish asshole developer and his friends.
Improvements to infrastructure.
Increase on firefighting personal
Increased Fire department and EMT staffing. Both departments sound under staffed.
Increased Fire/EMS and Police staffing
Increased staffing for the fire department, specifically additional full time firefighter/emts
Increased staffing of fire/EMS personnel.
Infrastructure
Infrastructure (water and sewer) Sidewalk repair/replacement
I have been supportive of recreational programming in this survey. I want to be clear that in my mind, it includes programming across the lifespan, not just for children and families. There is too much emphasis on hockey.
Institute *traffic calming* street infrastructures that fosters traffic slowing, rather than focus on paving to speed traffic.
Investing in simple tent platforms, toilets, and seasonal storage for unhoused folks living in the city. Thanks, I know this is not easy.
It is incomprehensible, that the influx of narcotics into this small city continues to increase, while this year, Hartford Village had a major drug bust that included working with VT State Police. It doesn't look good for Barre, and raises many questions as to who is actually involved and profiting from this degradation of civil society and destruction of human lives, including generations of families in Barre. Every single available dollar should be put to use to stop the trafficking of drugs in Central VT and help return it to a civil society.
It would depend on how much of an increase but my priority would be street and parking lot paving (you didn't make that clear above).
Library
Mobile violent criminal execution squad who also holds judges accountable for the criminals they release.
Monitor and implement rent controls Figure out homelessness issue
More embedded social services in city government, including police department
More staff for Barre City EMS/Firefighters.

My dream is for there to be a splash pad in Barre City, perhaps at the Mathewson Playground as an accessible summertime activity for resident families and that would draw families from the area to recreate in Barre
N/A
None
NONE
None
None, make it work on current budget and eliminate other things.
None.
Nothing, manage the budget and stop pushing out tax payers.
Our infrastructure is crumbling. Everywhere you look in Barre, there is something that the City owns or is responsible for that needs repair, replacement, or upgrade. We have street signs that you cannot even read - check out the stop signs going to Summer Street - they are bleached white octagons that were once red. Fences around ball fields are falling down, leaning. Trash and recycling cans downtown are bent and damaged. Curbs are crumbling, sidewalks are broken and treacherous for everyone, but especially people with disabilities. Can we not fix and care for what we already own before investing and/or building something, anything new?
Our taxes are already ridiculously high, but we definitely need some major improvements in this city, specifically to the water system. I believe I remember taxes already being increased to resolve this, but it is still causing significant problems. This needs to be addressed asap.
Our taxes are already too high
Patrol the south end as well as the northend!
Plowing so called private roads. People pay taxes !
plowing that does not dump the entire street on my side of the road!
preventative maintenance on water and sewage line
PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE, FIRE & EMS
Public safety. Fire and ambulance. My question is where does the money go from the services provided by the fire department i.e. ambulance calls. Does that money go into the general fund or does it go towards building the fire department up? Increase recreational programming would be great if there was reliable transportation in the area. I feel the improvements already made to alumni hall should bring in some revenue for the recreation department. Perhaps a video tour of the rooms should be made available. One suggestion would be to have pool parties at the pool with lifeguards and music a couple times this summer. Perhaps a \$10 entrance fee, but it would give the young people something to do and look forward to. (Notify the neighbors!)
Removal of bridge structures over the City rivers that are too low and prevent flood water from moving through the city. Flood prone property buyouts should be a priority, it's only a matter of time until the next flood event that devastates our City. Increased trail maintenance at the Cow Pasture and Rotary Park trails. They both become overgrown (especially Rotary Park) and rely on volunteers for much of the maintenance. Increase of recreational programming: would be great to resurrect an outdoor ice skating rink. It was great to use it when I first moved to town, but it hasn't been opened for a few years. A rail trail for walking, running & biking between Barre City and Montpelier should be a priority. This would increase visitors to the city and help our local economy. And, riding a bike on 302 through Berlin is terrifying, even with a bike lane. Fixing our wastewater facility should also be a priority. That place smells and doesn't effectively treat the waste the city produces. If more housing is going to be added, the facility will be easily maxed out.
Safe water to drink and sidewalks for safe pedestrian travel

Services related to public safety; economic development - supporting our merchants to thrive; flood resiliency - North End housing in flood plain needs to be addressed sooner than later
Sidewalks & walkability maintenance improvements; better bus service & bus stop maintenance/improvements; crack down on speeding/traffic violations (this generates desperately needed revenue and increases driver & pedestrian safety!); supporting construction of housing - give more parking lots to Downstreet!
Sidewalks and other amenities for residents should be the number 1 priority. Invest in things that have the potential to generate real, tangible returns for us instead of expensive, wasteful projects like buying abandoned buildings or renting surveillance cameras.
Sorry, but this City is taxed to death with not much to show for it. Audit. Audit spending and be efficient and effective with the funding allocation. Stabilize our costs. We all have to be mindful of spending. I ask that our beloved City does too.
Stop raising my property taxes and instead trim the fat
taxes are already out of control and we may have to sell our house if they keep going up, i don't want higher taxes to pay for things i want smarter usage of the taxes already paid.
Taxes are already too high.
The Aldrich Public Library - which puts on a majority of free community events offered. Flood resiliency and housing projects backed by thorough environmental review - and without the conflict of interest among certain local elected officials conducting personal business while in office - to reduce potential downstream flood damages. Pedestrian focused traffic projects - such as installing sidewalks, and painting the sidewalk crossings.
The City needs to manage existing funds better, there is no need to increase taxes. We do not take care of what we have ,but we are willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on new acquisitions. I know several property owners, myself included, who are considering moving from the city due to property taxes and mismanagement of city funds.
The statement "willing to pay higher taxes for" is misleading you guys know it. We should be cutting funding for BS organizations like BADC and instead use that money to fund things like sidewalks and upgraded plumbing. An increase in services does not inherently imply that taxes will go up. Managing a budget and cutting out things that don't serve the average Barre City resident should be a priority to the city.
Traffic calming and ticketing
Traffic calming measures. I live and work in Barre City and walk to work. The number of people who speed through the crosswalk when people are in it is unacceptable.
WE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING IT IS NOT RIGHT TO CHARGE ONE PERSON MORE THSN \$600/m FOR AN APARTMENT. I am 24, and will NEVER be able to move out if my parents house if we dont put a cap on single income apartments. No i dont want roommates. No i dont want to kill myself eorking 100 hours a week i want safe affordable housing.

Additional comments.

Resident/Non-Resident

A friend tells me about city alerts, but soon Ill have regroup.
Aldrich Public Library is an absolute asset to this community. They don't get enough of our budget to begin with and if cuts are made to it, then I think it is absolutely clear what the City's agenda is and it isn't for the average resident. Also the inability to put a proper response to the Police budget question up top is frustrating. We need to move money away from policing and towards housing and food security. Police should gradually be defunded while funding for other necessities to human life are given the funding they deserve. Housing and food security are human rights we should all have access to regardless of our contribution to this violent system of capitalism we live under.
As to river maintenance mentioned above, for me that includes all waterways within the City such as Edgewood Brook that runs right by my home that has been severely affected by the recent flood events.
Collaboration with other municipalities for shared services or jobs that can be bid on together as a larger project - possibly better pricing with scale; with school districts to support youth and team sports - bring more people into the area to support local businesses while they are visiting the area to watch their children play sports
CONTROL THE PET PROJECTS LETS KEEP A FOCUS ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES WHO AFFECT POSITIVELY ON QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES
Eliminating or even decreasing any funding to the library is a incredibly poor city management decision. Studies show public libraries improve civic life, lower crime rates, act as retail anchors, and provide a ROI of up to \$5 for every tax dollar spent. Fix the waste water treatment facility.
Eliminating or even decreasing any funding to the library is an incredibly poor city management decision. Studies show public libraries improve civic life, lower crime rates, act as retail anchors, and provide an average ROI of \$5 for every tax dollar spent. Fix the waste water treatment facility.
Getting over taxed and nothing is getting done, the city is ignoring what the taxpayers are saying!
Help our most vulnerable populations, FIRST. Residents can live without the pool, recreation facilities, playgrounds, and pristine cemeteries. Resident's CAN'T live without housing, food and basic necessities, especially in the winter.
Honestly, before we build new housing, why don't we service this existing community. If you're replacing housing, that's one thing, but if you're trying to increase the population, the existing population is already being underserved. How is building more housing not going to strain the already strained municipal services?
I am one of the hundreds (perhaps thousands) of Barre residents who live on a fixed income, so increases in property taxes are always fearful, especially when Green Mountain Power is approved for a more than a 5% rate increase every year. I also encourage finding ways to reduce waste and improve efficiency in how our tax dollars are spent. Please adopt the principle of "getting more bang for the buck." I don't use all the amenities that Barre offers so i couldn't really answer some of your questions above. You should have included a "don't know" option. I answered neutral or keep the same in some cases because leaving no answer wasn't an option.
I have a single income and can not afford any more taxes without having to get a second job.
I really appreciate you soliciting feedback from the community and recognize what an enormous challenge you have during these difficult financial times. Thank you all for serving your community. Lastly, I am not sure where the fire hydrant upgrades/maintenance falls in the budget, but I hope that is fully funded for FY27. I was happy to see the hydrant replaced recently at Hersey Dr and Tremont but there are many others that need it, and it's concerning to think about all these old houses with old wiring

and wood heat (mine included) that have diminished access to fire hydrants. And the orange bags are an eye sore. Thanks for your consideration!
I really hope we aren't relying on the opinions of citizens for how we should be investing in flood resiliency. I understand doing this in some circumstances, but when it comes to complex issues like river dynamics, stream geomorphology, and stormwater science, we should be trusting experts, not soliciting opinions from everyday people that likely know very little about the topic, just what they've heard from their friends or what they've experienced anecdotally. That's why we use science - to tease out the noise and subjectivity.
I understand that the Fire Dept is critically understaffed and should be budgeted to hire more firefighters and EMTs. More staff means a safer working environment for everyone employed there, and better service for city residents. This is the most important part of the budget to me. I don't believe that more police patrols are the solution to issues people have been having downtown. People need support, housing, and to have their basic needs met, not to be penalized for their behavior. I always want to see more investment in parks and public recreation spaces, as a parent of a young child and a home childcare provider in the city. Thank you so much for making this survey!
I was extremely disappointed in the way councilor Routhier was allowed to share false claims and conspiracy theories while interrupting the library's budget presentation.
I work for the state in Retirement, retirees are taking their income and leaving because this state is too expensive to live in. The increase of Vermonters leaving will continue to increase if things don't change and the changes cannot be increase taxes.
I'd like to know that we are finding ways to promote home ownership, and that out of town landlords, or companies, invest in bettering housing stock. Landlords may think they pay, but they also make profits when turning over property, and should pay a tax for the privilege of doing business that is supported by community investments. Developing shared housing opportunities. Get the Governor to pay for services rendered on behalf of the many who come to Barre in need. I appreciate the challenges we face and while folks can tighten their belts, they need to have a belt. Advocate for federal funding through our Congressional delegation, and ask for citizen help to do advocacy. Maintain our precious wetlands. Collaborate to develop more child care.
If more tax money goes into paying for low income housing, the police budget should be equally adjusted for the increase of calls and issues that come with those developments.
I'm glad that recreation spending is higher in the proposed budget. How can we expect new people to want to move here unless there is good quality recreation to offer them? Along those lines, programming by the Aldrich Library is ALSO recreation. Please fund their requested increase so that they can continue to provide excellent resources for our entire community.
In key functions --assuming we pay competitive salaries-- city is not receiving requisite value from personnel. Council has authorized more committees than city can staff with qualified personnel.
Increasing road and sidewalk maintenance will increase traffic and business. This should be prioritized.
It is important to be clear about what the 75% is paying for as it relates to basic services. These services should be highlighted and promoted. If there is contractual obligations, these should be highlighted as to why an increase is necessary. Also, define the contracts with vendors and what they are paying for. Define any state or grant funds and what they are paying for. Only focusing on the changes does not show the entire picture of the city budget and what residents are paying for.
It would be helpful to provide a breakdown of how much taxpayer money is spent on public safety (police, fire, ambulance) versus everything else.
It's hard work you do

Just took a class through VTrans about how designing bridges for flood control also improves aquatic organism passage and wildlife connectivity that was really eye opening. If they open up the class for municipalities you should take it.
Keep Barre affordable. Let's not become Montpelier. I relocated to Barre from Montpelier (after 25 years as a resident) to avoid the ridiculous waste and property taxes. That's what makes Barre so desirable. As a fairly new resident of the city, I think Barre is run better than Montpelier. I think the quality of life is better than in Montpelier. Life is expensive enough right now as it is. You guys are doing a fantastic job running this city, and I will stay here as long as Barre remains affordable. Let's not make the same mistakes as Montpelier and keep Barre affordable and great. I am a high earner, remote tech worker, and I can pick up and move anywhere. I bought a home in Barre because I love the community, and I would prefer to stay here. Keep up the great work.
Last time we did this, people overwhelmingly said they wanted more sidewalks and yet the city government didn't seem at all interested in responding to that.
my husband and I are talking about moving from Barre next year We are senior citizens and still working part time. We have lived in Barre for 19 years and love it and it will be heartbreaking to have to leave. We just can't afford the taxes and cost of living. Prices need to be brought down somehow.
Need to review and eliminate programs that only provide/support to a small number of people.
NO TAX INCREASE
None
North end of Barre needs to be re-developed, and measures taken to mitigate flood risk.
Not sure why we need all these new apartments. The only increase in population that I can see is in the homeless. Are the new apartments government subsidized which will just attract more non contributing residents. Build some decent housing for the elderly and maintain strict control about an age limit.
Other than the fire and police department, I think the past budget we had was very well thought out. Maybe think about every other year doing the bulk trash somehow. Are we losing money because we don't have enough fire medics to cover the increase in ambulance calls and having to call in mutual aid?
Our community would benefit from increased support and investment in first responders to ensure adequate staffing and response capability. At the same time, I believe the City should consider consequences or deterrents for individuals who misuse emergency services for personal or neighbor disputes, as this wastes public resources and places unnecessary strain on emergency response teams.
Our little city has a lot to offer if offered to the right people that care for it, want to give back, and respect it. Enforce a high standard! The look of the city is very important. I think over all our city needs to have higher expectations and respect for the grounds and the building/ homes within it. We have a gem here if we up our standards.
Pave the roads...
Please give young adults apartments or tiny homes or something and stop letting people die on the street
Please incorporate healthy living communities strategies into your expenditures for infrastructure, housing, and recreation.
Please see above statement
Please send the homeless and repeat offenders to Los Angeles or Columbia.
Several questions needed a n/a option if they are going to be required. You may want to include a text field below some questions so folks can elaborate on why they answered the way they did. Several of the questions are more complicated and require a more nuanced response then checking a box can capture.
Some of the areas you are asking the public to respond to require increased insights to make an informed response - especially around flood mitigation.

Sorry, but this City is taxed to death with not much to show for it. Audit. Audit spending and be efficient and effective with the funding allocation. Stabilize our costs. We all have to be mindful of spending. I ask that our beloved City does too.
Stay within it!!!!
Stop wasting money buying buildings that landlords don't take care of. Beef up the requirements for vacant buildings and enforce them. Use our tax dollars to maintain infrastructure, and systematically, over time, fix aging systems. Mitigate future flooding disasters with the plan. Stop asking us to spend money on low priority things like the project with the lead pipes, which has gone silent. I'd like to hear where it's at and how it's making a difference. Or not. Seems a bit of a nuisance rather than an important project, especially considering you've placed the burden on residents, rather than the City taking responsibility for what the city pipes connecting to our homes look like.
Street maintenance -- we have an amazing array of potholes, some that appear annually. I avoid some streets entirely if there's an alternative. Is Nelson Street to remain blocked off forever or is there a plan to repair the culvert and re-open? Presumably there was a program to repair/replace deficient fire hydrants, but many are still out of service -- is this still going on? Does this affect the city's firefighting capacity? Cemetery maintenance needs improvement, especially in cemeteries other than Hope.
Thank you for all your work to make Barre City a vibrant place to live!
Thanks for putting this together! I think it's a great opportunity for the community to voice their opinions. If only more people had the opportunity to fill it out.
That the mayor, city manager and council continue doing the excellent job they have done since the floods. They have done an excellent job in all aspects.
The average taxpayer cannot absorb anymore. I understand we need to invest in the future but for a while we need time for incomes to catch up with all the increased expenses heaped upon us the last few years
The City is doing a good job with limited resources. This is a challenge as our fiscal capacity is limited. Maintaining existing facilities and equipment is a must in order to protect the investments that we have already made.
The condition of the streets in Barre is a disgrace. I understand there are great challenges around weather, heavy truck traffic, and the substrata of the streets where granite cobblestones have been paved over but these street conditions are dangerous and detrimental to attracting new residents and businesses. I live close by the high school and it amazes me that there is not greater concern for the safety of young people and teachers driving on Ayers, Boynton, and Circle Streets. The Bellavance truck yard and remaining granite sheds in this neighborhood add to the issue. Truck traffic in this neighborhood and down street should be better directed to mitigate the wear created by these heavy vehicles. For example, why can't trucks be routed down Summer Street instead of Main Street? At least during regular business hours, this would spread the load out and reduce wear on Main Street. I have entered my email address in the raffle primarily to identify myself to you in the event you feel motivated to reach out to me directly. Thank you.
The fire department has been promoting increased staffing, but I do not understand why the roll a fire truck every single time an ambulance is called out. This appears to use unnecessary additional staff. The City website is useless for public announcements and current events. The dates on nearly every announcement are incorrect. Please fix that.
The floors in the upstairs at the aud are a mess and desperately need to be replaced. They are a trip hazard that I myself have fallen on and seen others fall over. The tiles are very old and broken and a lot are loose or missing. This building is used a lot so it would be a good investment.
The library IS our social safety net. It literally saves lives, in addition to providing access to resources to everyone, regardless. Please grant their request for funding.

The Newberry building buyout was a boondoggle and massive gift to a property owner who let their building become a blight on our downtown. The property should have been surrendered to the city, not purchased. Very disappointing that the owner is receiving a massive payout after letting the place fall apart for years. Do better!

The number one area that needs more funding is adequately staffing our EMS services.

The pool has seemed to be a money pit for a number of years now. Curious on the actual numbers of people that utilize it each year. Eliminating this seems like a very easy way to reduce needless spending.

There are many facilities/categories listed in this survey that i have not yet engaged, like the pool or parks or cemeteries and i've yet to need fire services, because i've only lived here two years. however i had to give responses in order to to complete the survey. personally i would love for the library to have increased funding but we are living in difficult times and i think that projects of immediate survival regarding work, health, and affordable housing (new and old) probably need to be a priority for people in Barre. If funding was abundant i would love to see public educational resources from the library expanded for adults and children, and that career center improved and expanded. But man, times are tough. I just hope that Barre continues to support the lives of its residents practically, and not by increasing punishments for people struggling to make it on minimum wage and no healthcare or basic human rights protections, as is happening all over the country. I am grateful for the care, competency, and service i have seen the city of Barre provide in my time here thus far.

This is a tough question. Having recently relocated from Iowa where my annual property taxes were ~\$5800/yr to Barre City where my taxes are nearly DOUBLE, I am not entirely sure those funds are being spent wisely when I compare quality of life amenities and services. Yes, salary is important, but we're not paying people to get paid; we're paying to have a better place to live. Same complaint as we had in Iowa. As such, my kids live minutes up the street in Barre Town, and their streets are markedly in better condition than ours in Town. AND they pay less in taxes than we do.

To request input from City residents at 8:45a ON A WORK DAY with a 3.25-hour deadline is a farce. How can I consider the request to be of integrity with a few hours notice? How can I take the City government seriously when what goes into broadly gathering feedback for the budget process is given 3.25 hours on a day most residents are at work? I'd love to see a monthly state of the City address by the mayor. I'd love to see the mayor. I'd love to know who the hell was elected and what they are doing to improve the lives of all of Barre's residents. I'd love to know where he stands on various City-related issues as well as State-level issues that will particularly affect Barre City. I'd love to know what is being done to diversify Barre City's economic base, make the City attractive to businesses that would draw visitors from beyond Barre, and increase the base of residents that can afford to patronize our businesses more lucratively. Without regular periodic communication on these issues, all we have is a poor, social services city without mission, dream, or hope. I am grateful for the work of the City Manager, City Clerk, and every person who serves with good intent the City through public service.

We need a downtown that feels alive and cared for—not hollowed out by empty, decaying buildings. A downtown that reflects the people who live here and celebrates community, creativity, and connection. We signal a very right-wing, republican presence with so many American flags. That's not welcoming, and not safe. We need places where people actually belong. Spaces for gathering, listening, and being together—meetings and events that welcome many kinds of voices, not just the loudest or most comfortable. We need a teen center. We need places that say to young people: you matter here, and this city is yours too. Barre is asking for safety, and what we've been offered isn't working. Fear is rising, trust is eroding, and people are hurting. This is a leadership failure, not a community failure. Barre needs new leadership—leaders willing to invest in people, listen deeply, and rebuild a city rooted in care, accountability, and shared responsibility.

Where is the mayor? I want to hear from the person in the highest elected office in the city, regularly and not just when the person is interested in a particular issue. What is the "state of the city?" What are Barre City's challenges, as the mayor sees them and/or is informed of them by the City's residents, manager, and employees? What does the mayor see as the practicable mitigation measures to address those challenges? Where are we, as a city, making gains as well as where are we losing grounds? Are there partnerships, grant applications, or other alliances being developed and what are the goals of those efforts? How is the mayor working on behalf of all residents and business, and not just those with whom the person agrees? I would love to hear from the city manager regularly, too. A once-a-month review via ReGroup or Front Porch Forum on city works could be informative and community-building.

While the Barre Partnership is good for its members, I don't believe the city gets their money's worth - I think a part time consultant could do work for significantly less money and I have no idea what BAD brings to the table.