Budget 2025 Public Survey

What We Heard

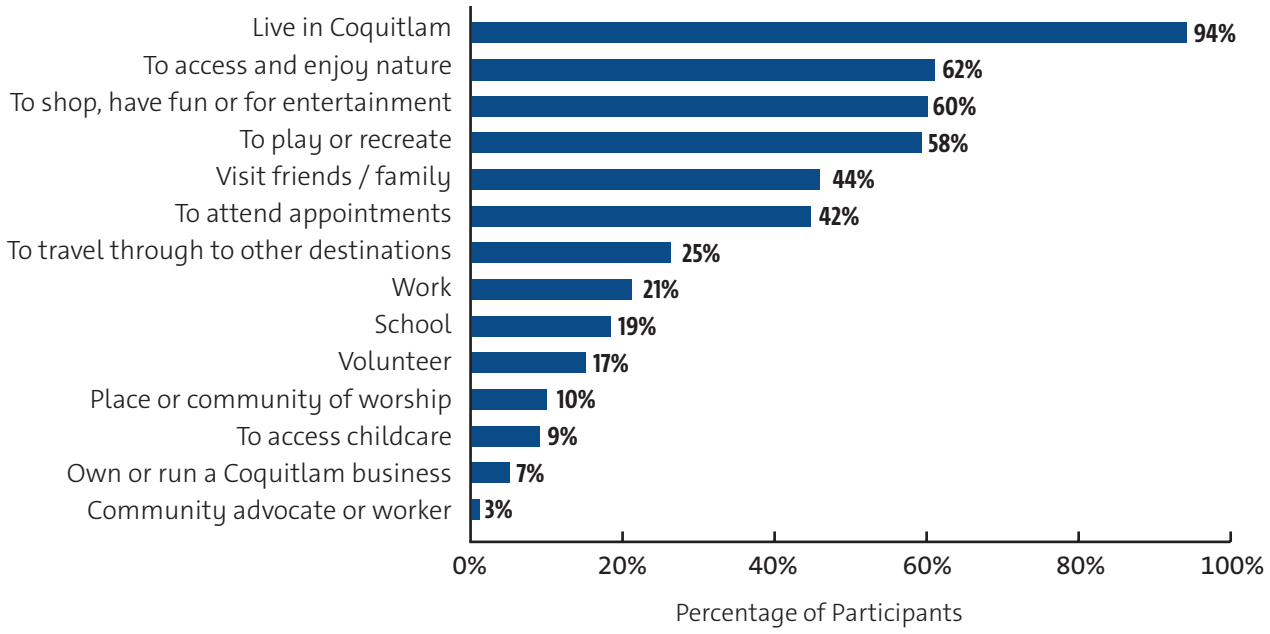
From September 1 – 15, 2024, the City engaged the public in an online survey to inform the 2025 budget. The goals of this engagement are to educate residents about the City's budget planning process, and to allow community members to indicate their preferences for how Council might make budget choices on their behalf.

Who Participated

For the Budget 2025 public survey, we heard from a wide variety of participants (**548** total), including:

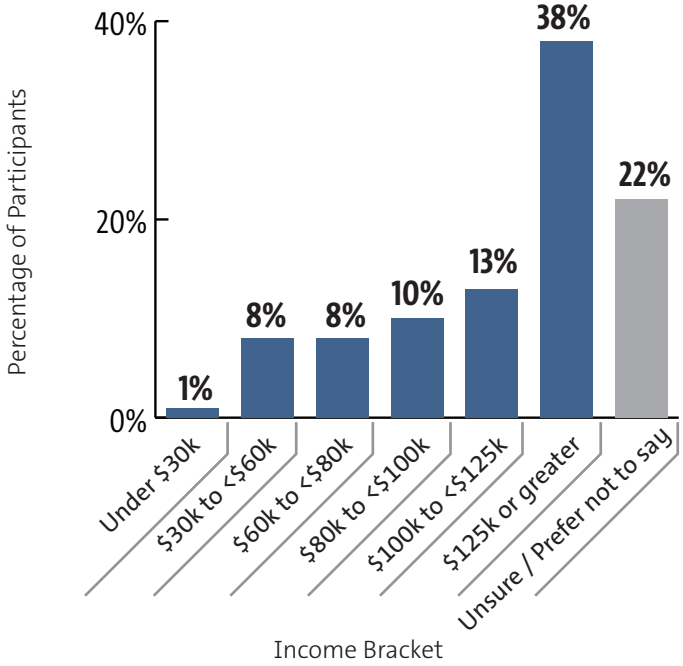
- Individuals with various connections to Coquitlam, including residents (**94%**), those who work in Coquitlam (**21%**), and those who own or run Coquitlam businesses (**7%**).
- Residents from all over Coquitlam, with the five most represented neighbourhoods being: City Centre (**14%**), Central Coquitlam (**14%**), Westwood Plateau (**13%**), Northeast Coquitlam / Burke Mountain (**12%**), and Burquitlam Lougheed (**12%**).
- Residents who are new to Coquitlam as well as those who have lived here for many years. The majority of residents who engaged reporting living in Coquitlam for 10 or more years (**66%**).
- Individuals with a wide variety of characteristics, identities, and experiences, including households with children or youth (**27%**), those from racialized communities (**20%**), single-income households (**18%**), those living with a disability (**12%**), and those where the primary language spoken at home is a language other than English or French (**11%**).

Participants' Connection to Coquitlam

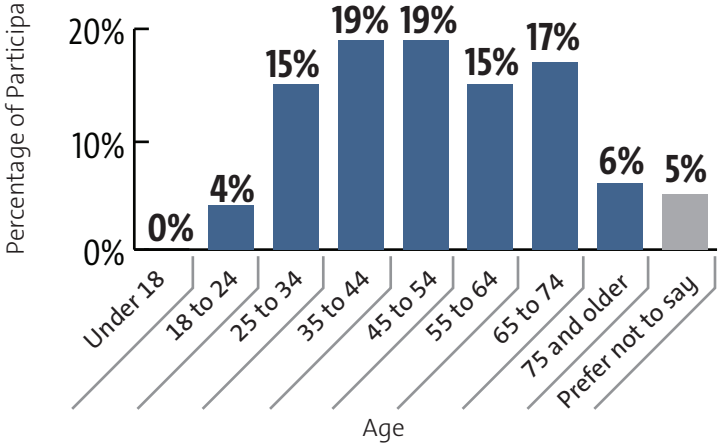


Demographic Overview (Survey Participants)

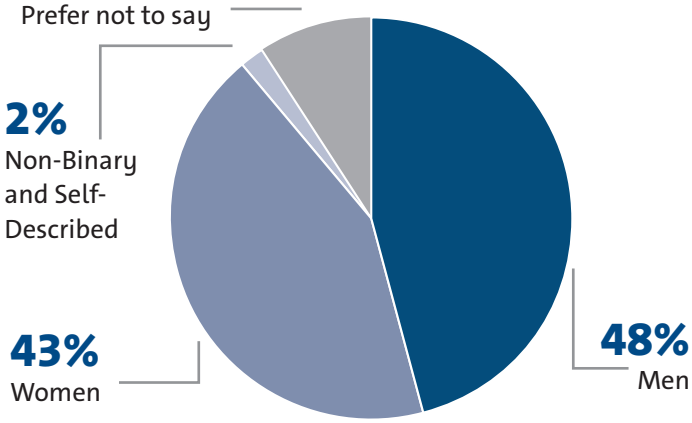
Gross Annual Household Income



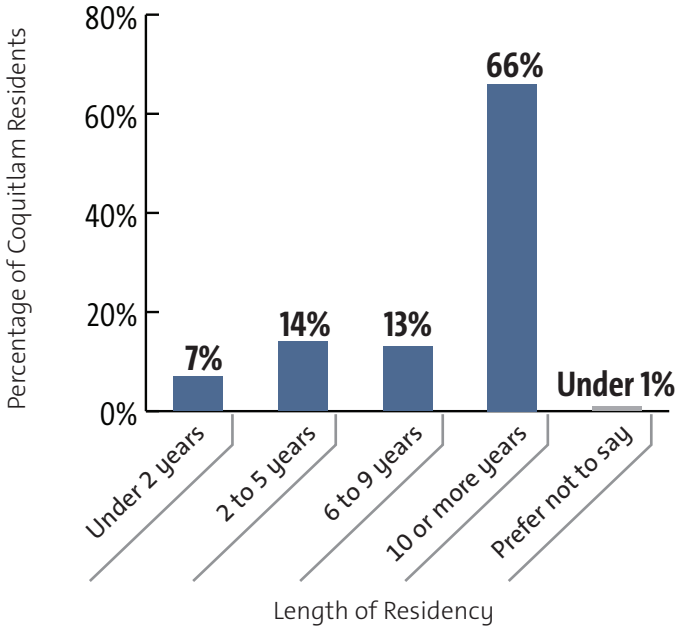
Age



Gender Identity



Length of Residency (Coquitlam Residents)



Housing Tenure of Residents

Homeowners (**81%**)

Renters (**12%**)

Neither rent nor own (**4%**)

Prefer not to say (**3%**)

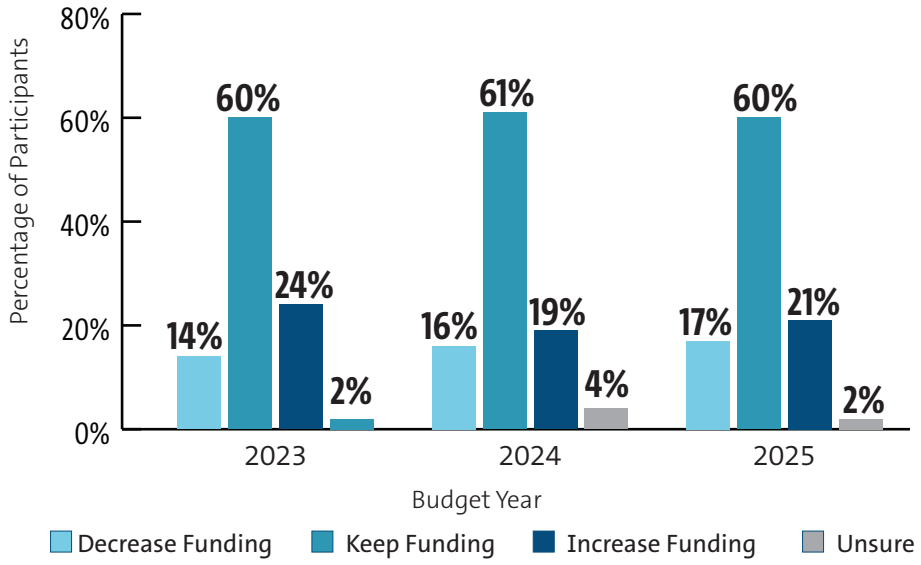
Budget Feedback Overview

Participants were provided a summary of the eight service areas and the average cost per household for each. When given the opportunity to provide feedback on how they would adjust the funding, participants were asked to consider the importance for the community, as well as for their household, and recognize that a change in funding will impact the level of service.

- Police (Coquitlam RCMP)
- Fire and Rescue
- Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities
- Roads and Transportation Services
- Planning and Development
- Capital Construction
- Water, Sewage and Drainage
- Solid Waste

Averages

Year Over Year Comparison (2023, 2024, 2025)



On average, across all eight service areas, the majority (**60%**) want to keep funding as proposed, **21%** want funding increased, and **17%** want funding decreased. *On average, 2% were unsure.*

Top three service area where participants want to keep funding as is:

1. Solid Waste Services (**74%**)
2. Water, Sewage and Drainage Services (**71%**)
3. Fire and Rescue Services (**67%**)

Top three service areas where participants want funding to increase:

1. Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Services (**33%**)
2. Roads and Transportation Services (**32%**)
3. Police Services (**27%**)

Top three service areas where participants want funding to decrease:

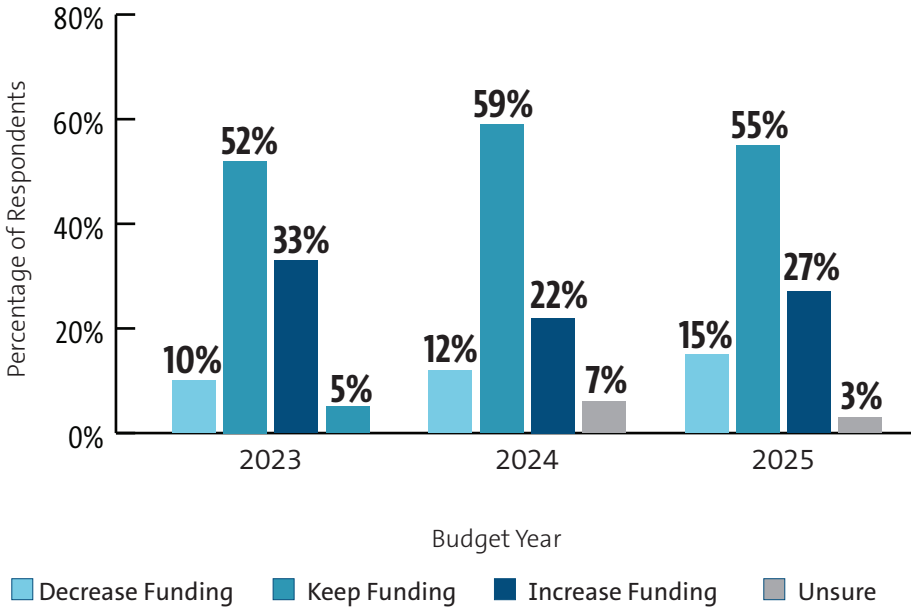
1. Planning and Development Services (**25%**)
2. Capital Construction Services (**25%**)
3. Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Services (**18%**)

Funding Breakdown by Service Area

Here is how survey participants indicated their preferences for funding levels on each of the different City service areas:

Police Services

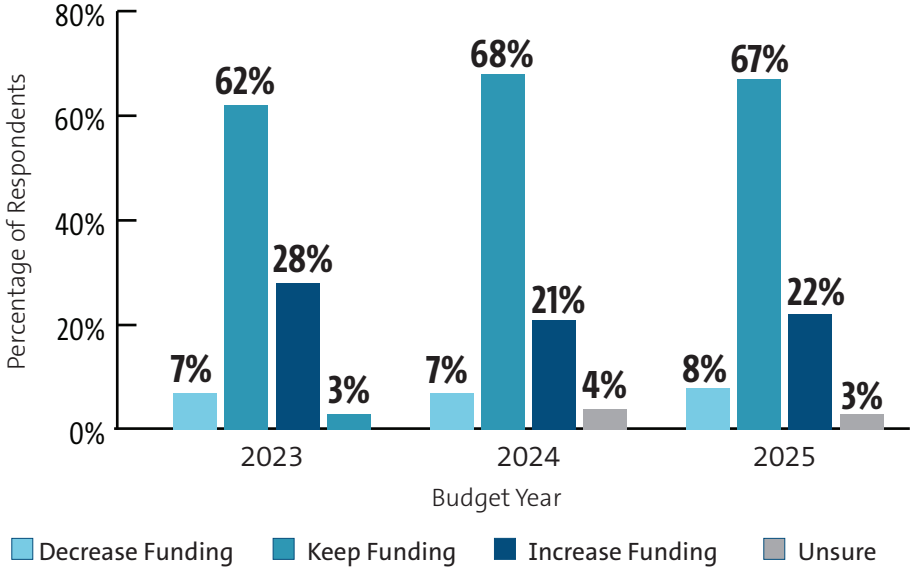
An average $653 per household



Police Services was the third highest area where participants want to see an increase in funding. The majority of participants (**55%**) wanted to keep funding as is. **27%** want funding increased. **15%** want funding decreased. *3% were unsure.*

Fire and Rescue Services

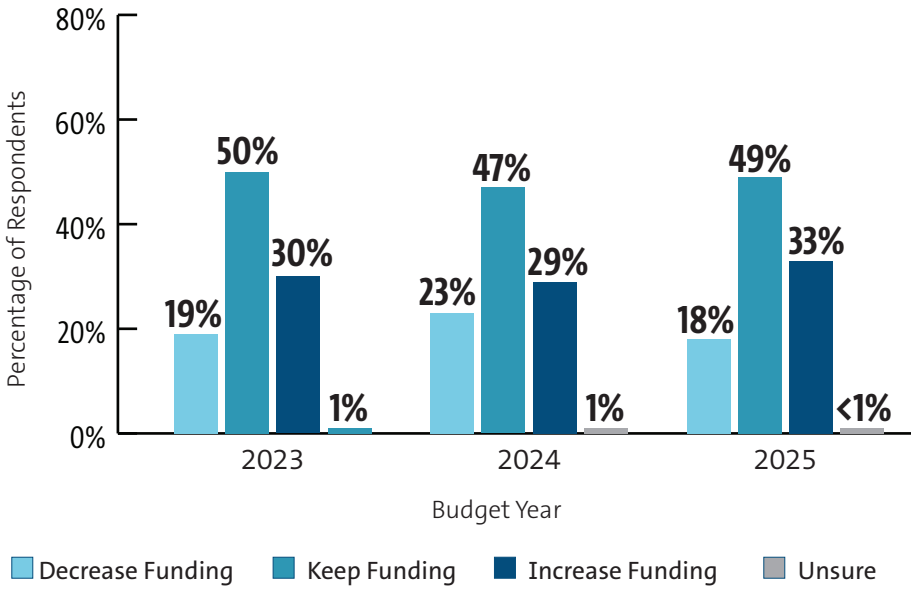
An average $493 per household



Fire and Rescue Services ranked as the third highest area where participants want to see funding kept as proposed. The majority of participants (**67%**) want to keep funding as is. **22%** want funding increased. **8%** want funding decreased. *3% were unsure.*

Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Services

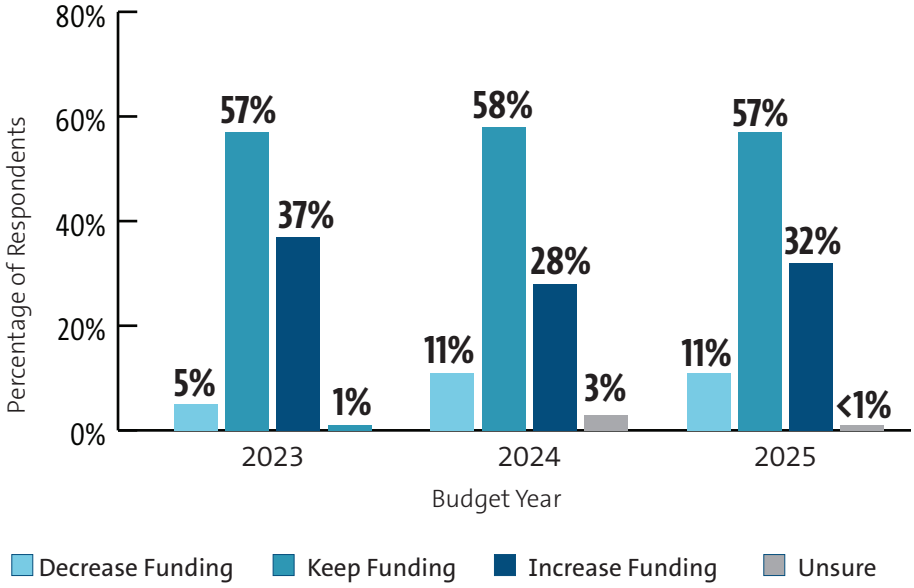
An average $714 per household



Participants were divided when it comes to the funding of Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Services: it ranked as the highest area where participants want to see funding increased as well as the third highest area where participants would like to see funding decreased. Almost half of the participants (**49%**) want to keep funding as is. **33%** want funding increased. **18%** want funding decreased. *Under 1% were unsure.*

Roads and Transportation Services

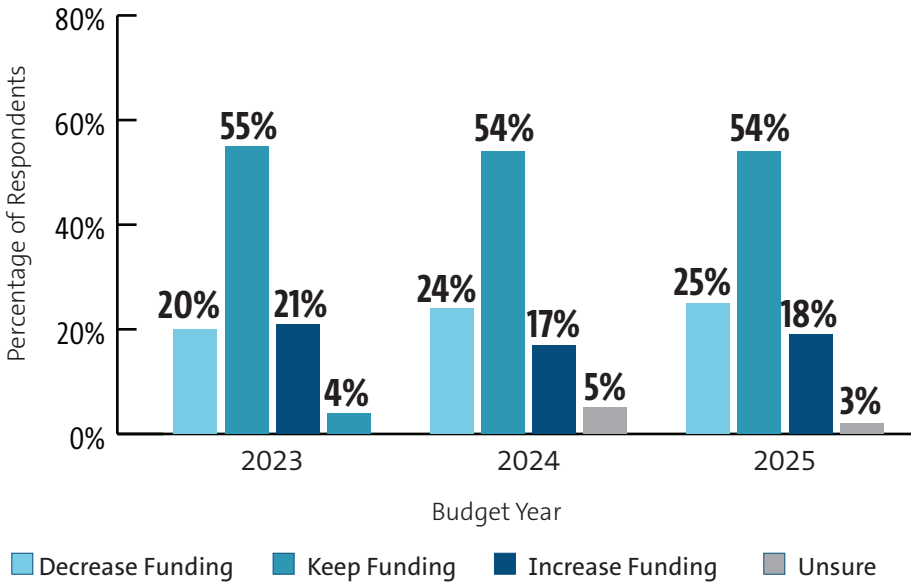
An average $224 per household



Roads and Transportation Services ranked as the second highest area where participants want to see an increase in funding. Over half of the participants (**57%**) want to keep funding as is. **32%** want funding increased. **11%** want funding decreased. *Under 1% were unsure.*

Capital Construction Services

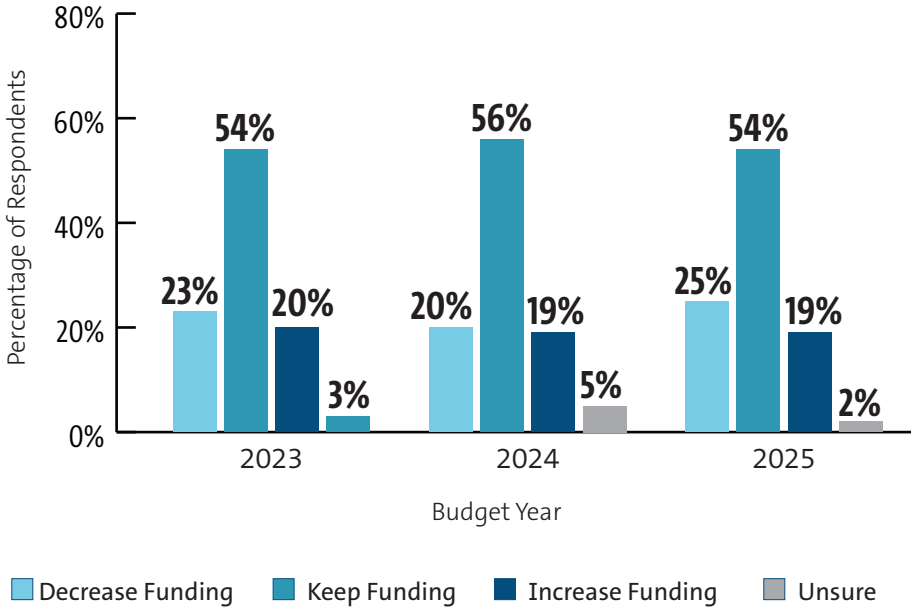
An average $443 per household



Capital Construction Services ranked as the second highest area where participants want to see a decrease in funding. Over half of the participants (**54%**) want to keep funding as is. **18%** want funding increased. **25%** want funding decreased. *3% were unsure.*

Planning and Development Services

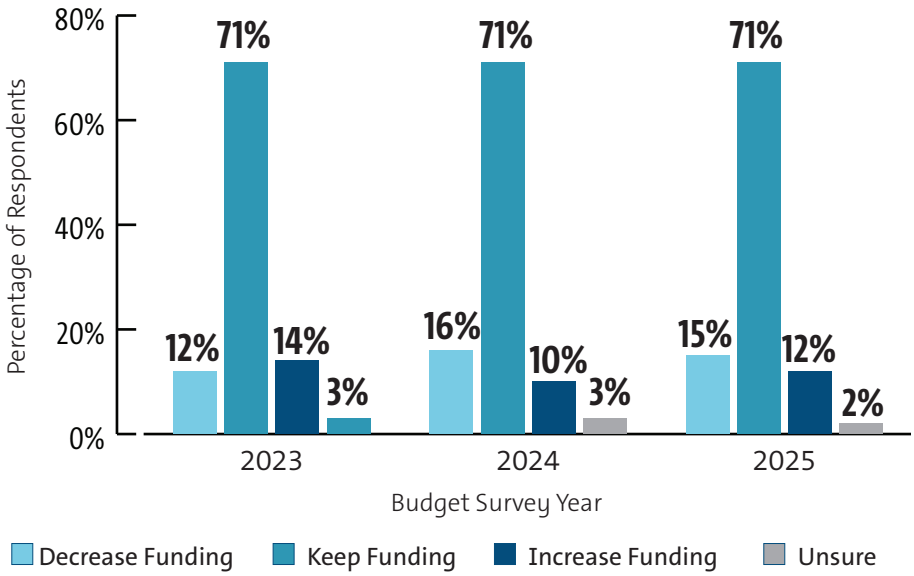
An average $37 per household



Planning and Development Services ranked as the highest area where participants want to see a decrease in funding. Over half of the participants (**54%**) want to keep funding as is. **19%** want funding increased. **25%** want funding decreased. *2% were unsure.*

Water, Sewage and Drainage Services

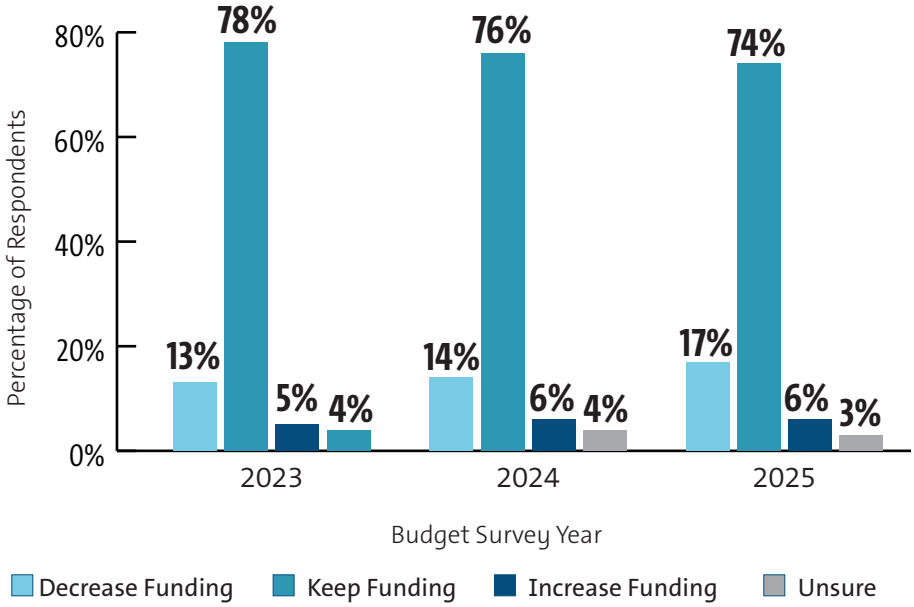
An average $1,170 per household



Water, Sewage and Drainage Services ranked as the second highest area where participants want to see funding kept as proposed. The majority of participants (**71%**) want to keep funding as is. **12%** want funding increased. **15%** want funding decreased. *2% were unsure.*

Solid Waste Services

An average $371 per household



Solid Waste Services ranked as the third highest area where participants want to see funding kept as proposed. The majority of participants (**74%**) want to keep funding as is. **6%** want funding increased. **17%** want funding decreased. *3% were unsure.*

Engagement Summary

Almost 550 survey participants

44% of participants provided open-ended feedback (**238** responses). Most of this feedback (**63%**) mentioned multiple service areas. The responses focused on the following service areas:

- Capital Construction (**47%**)
- Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities (**41%**)
- Roads and Transportation Services (**35%**)
- Planning and Development (**28%**)
- Police (Coquitlam RCMP) (**12%**)
- Solid Waste (**6%**)
- Fire and Rescue (**5%**)
- Water, Sewage and Drainage (**4%**)

The majority (**63%**) of the open-ended feedback called for more or better infrastructure and services.

Additionally, a quarter (**25%**) mentioned the budget more generally and another quarter (**26%**) discussed other topics in addition to the budget or the service areas.

Almost **2,000 page views** from over **1,500** visitors on the LetsTalkCoquitlam 'Budget 2025' project page while the survey was live in September.

During the campaign, there were four Budget 2025 related social media posts across the City's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, X).

- Over **60,000** unique people saw the posts on Facebook, Instagram, and X.
- The posts appeared on users' feeds almost **116,000** times.