



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FISCAL PRIORITIES SURVEY

**INTERNET
VERSION**

INTRODUCTION

This survey was developed by the committee of citizens appointed by the City of Grosse Pointe to examine and make recommendations about the severe budget deficits facing the City government due to the continued significant decline in residential property assessments and state revenue sharing. Each household in the City is requested to respond to the survey and return it to City Hall **by mail or by dropping this survey off at 17147 Maumee no later than the end of January.** Knowing your priorities for future City services and revenues will be very helpful to the Committee and the City Council at this critical juncture.

SECTION ONE: RATING THE IMPORTANCE OF BASIC SERVICES

Please rate the importance to you of each of the following services provided by the City of Grosse Pointe. Answer by marking each service on a scale from 1 to 5, where **1 means "Not Important"** and **5 means "Very Important"**.

	1 = Not important	2 = Slightly important	3 = Moderately important	4 = Important	5 = Very important
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Garbage Pickup	1	2	3	4	5
Snow Removal	1	2	3	4	5
Firefighting Services	1	2	3	4	5
Street Maintenance	1	2	3	4	5
Crime control	1	2	3	4	5
Park Facilities Upkeep	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency Ambulance	1	2	3	4	5
Street Repairs	1	2	3	4	5
Tree Trimming/Replacement	1	2	3	4	5
Yard Waste/Leaf Pickup	1	2	3	4	5
Business Development	1	2	3	4	5
Household Water Service	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling Pickup	1	2	3	4	5
City Hall Buildings Upkeep	1	2	3	4	5
Housing Code Enforcement	1	2	3	4	5
Community Events/Concerts	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational Programs	1	2	3	4	5
Village Upkeep	1	2	3	4	5
Municipal Court	1	2	3	4	5
Building Permits/Inspections	1	2	3	4	5
City Newsletters/website	1	2	3	4	5
Elections/Voter Registration	1	2	3	4	5
Response to citizen inquiries	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION TWO: BUDGET PLANNING

To address the estimated million dollar shortfall between projected expenditures and revenues, the City may consider various options to reduce expenditures, create efficiencies, and increase revenues. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following ideas.

EXPENDITURES	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Don't Know	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Reduce the number of police and fire personnel on duty per shift					
Institute curbside garbage pickup only					
Charge fees for pickup of more than a set garbage container size per week (e.g. 64 gallon cart)					
Eliminate sidewalk snow clearing					
Reduce pool operations/hours					
Eliminate City supported Community Festivals/Events/Concerts in Park and the Village					
Reduce benefits and/or pay for City employees					
Reduce housing code enforcement					
Reduce parkway and tree maintenance programs					
Reduce frequency of street sweeping and road maintenance					
Reduce upkeep of the Village (maintenance, litter pickup, replacement/repairs to streetscape)					
Defer upkeep of City buildings (City Hall, Police/Fire station, Public Works, Park office)					
Defer purchases of City vehicles and equipment					
Reduce or eliminate recreation programs					
Reduce City Hall Administrative/ Front Office customer service levels					

SECTION TWO: BUDGET PLANNING (continued)

REVENUES	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Don't Know	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Increase service fees for licenses, permits, inspections, facility rentals, recreation programs					
Collect only as much property taxes next year as this year					
Collect more property taxes next year than this year					
Collect less property taxes next year than this year					
Add a property tax levy dedicated for police and fire services					
Add a property tax levy dedicated to park facilities and recreational programs					
Add a property tax levy dedicated to road repairs					
Increase the property tax levy to cover the full cost of refuse services					
Increase the property tax levy to cover the full cost of repaying the pool construction bond					

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Don't Know	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Jointly operate some or all of the Grosse Pointes' Parks & Recreations programs					
Create a Public Safety Agency for police and fire that covers some or all of the Grosse Pointes					
Eliminate the City's municipal court and establish a Grosse Pointe wide District Court					
Enter into agreements with neighboring communities to provide fire protection for the City					
Jointly coordinate and share in cost of fire equipment and vehicles with other Grosse Pointes					
Enter into agreements with neighboring communities to provide Public Works services					
Consolidate 911 call taking into a single dispatch center for some or all of the Grosse Pointes					
Combine some or all of the Grosse Pointe municipalities into one local government					
Enter into service sharing arrangements with other Grosse Pointes, but don't eliminate City					

SECTION THREE: OVERALL QUESTION

When considering the City's financial challenge of a projected \$1 million deficit due primarily to decreased property tax collections in the upcoming budget year starting July 1, a deficit is projected to widen in future years, which of the following best characterizes your opinion:

- _____ A) I am willing to pay more property taxes than I currently do, if it preserved City services at the levels I currently receive
- _____ B) I am willing to pay the same amount of property taxes as I currently do, if most, but not all, City services could be maintained
- _____ C) I am willing to reduce and eliminate City services, if my property taxes are reduced
- _____ D) I am willing to significantly reduce and eliminate City services if I pay significantly less property taxes than I currently do

SECTION FOUR: OPEN RESPONSE

Please provide your suggestion(s) to reduce budget expenditures and your thoughts regarding revenue and spending priorities:

BACKGROUND

How many years have you lived in the City?

- A) 0-5 yrs. _____ C) 11-20 yrs. _____
- B) 6-10 yrs. _____ D) 21-30 yrs. _____ E) 30+ yrs. _____

Do you own or rent/lease your residence?

- A) Own _____ B) Rent/Lease _____

Mark the selection(s) that describe the people other than yourself living in your residence:

- A) Child 12 or under _____ C) Spouse/Partner _____
- B) Child over age 12 _____ D) Parent 65 or older _____ E) Other _____