

Fiscal year 2024 budget survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

22 February 2022 - 09 February 2023

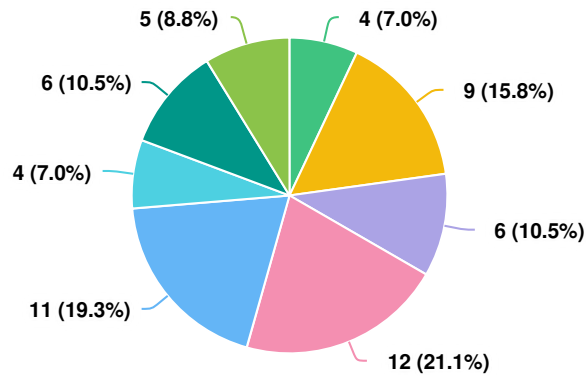
PROJECT NAME:

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Survey



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 In which City of Columbia ward do you live?



Question options

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5
- Ward 6
- I don't know
- I don't live in the City of Columbia

*Mandatory Question (57 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q2 Rank the following service areas based on how you would allocate City funds (1 being highest priority; 7 being lowest priority).

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Infrastructure (Public Works, Community Development)	2.30
Utilities	3.21
Public Health and Human Services	3.26
Public Safety (Police, Fire, Municipal Court)	3.42
Economic Development	4.42
Parks and Recreation	4.96
Public Art	6.42

*Mandatory Question (57 response(s))
Question type: Ranking Question*

Q3 Please explain your ranking from question 2.

Anonymous

1/04/2023 04:12 PM

Our city cannot run without a strong infrastructure. Public works aren't sexy, but it is what the City is there for ... and public safety - hence #2. I ranked parks lower as it has a dedicated sales tax and shouldn't need GR funds. And while I love the art, we have more important problems that PHHS handles for our most vulnerable citizens.

Anonymous

1/04/2023 04:50 PM

I think public safety and infrastructure are the most critical roles of government. I don't feel like tax dollars should go towards public art at all. If people would like to donate to the City to fund items like public art, I think that is great, but inflation is at multi-year highs, personal property taxes are at all-time highs, and I think most citizens would prefer taxes be spent on tangible community improvements/maintenance like infrastructure.

Anonymous

1/04/2023 08:20 PM

The pandemic clearly showed a need for better public health funding. The health department should be as well funded as the police department if not more since they have an opportunity to help our community thrive.

Anonymous

1/05/2023 09:55 AM

Why is education not on here? That's number 1.

Fwatso00

1/05/2023 10:16 AM

Crime is running rampant and we need more police officers who actually have time on their hands to investigate the crimes and catch the criminals. Theft, car break ins, etc. are becoming a huge issue and when reported to the police, nothing is ever done about it. We need more patrol units as well. The lawless driving and speeding is out of hand.

Anonymous

1/09/2023 01:56 PM

More interested in funding quality of life issues like parks, special events, festivals, arts, trails, etc.

MA

1/10/2023 07:41 PM

Ward 1 is in terrible disrepair. Art and parks are a great goal, but immediate needs of citizens to live safely in their homes and get to work and school have to come first.

rakaufmann

1/18/2023 11:16 AM

In order to thrive, people need to feel safe, be able to commute safely and efficiently, and have their basic needs met.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:39 AM

Infrastructure, utilities and public safety should be core focus before other things. If these aren't strong we're in trouble. And take care of the employees before adding new things.

Tru424

1/18/2023 11:40 AM

I feel safety and utilities are the services every citizen needs. Everything else is for special interests and/or smaller groups.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:27 PM

Infrastructure is top. Parks & Rec are only last due to our dedicated parks tax. I do believe public art is important as it definitely contributes to the livability of the city and a sense of place that is still unique.

LittleFish

1/18/2023 04:50 PM

Increasing Public Health funding would work to get at the root of many of the issues we are facing in our community (community violence, mental health decline, poverty, etc). I believe that we need systemic changes to address many of these issues.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 06:30 PM

It is important to me that we have a clean and well maintained city with green space and recreation.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 09:50 PM

Columbia has lots of wonderful artwork and green spaces including parks. More attention should be paid to public safety and the aging infrastructure of this community

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:18 PM

Our Police deserve the tools they need to do their job. Parks & Rec get enough funding. Social services are needed but feel as a hard working middle class resident, we are ignored. I want a safe, clean and welcoming community offering opportunities for all walks of life. Many city roadways and intersections have been ignored and look terrible. Crumbling curbs, tall weeds, trash and gravel. I've been living here since the early 80's and in the past few years have seen a decline in beautifying our city. No more street cleaners, city property often has taller weeds than manicured neighboring businesses. Need to focus on the basics and expand on the issues as financials allow. Safety, sufficient utilities to meet the needs, beautification.

Anonymous

1/19/2023 09:42 AM

If you provide a community with good infrastructure, utilities, P&R ops, safety, and health service, then economic development and art will follow on its own. People will invest on their

own in places that provide a high standard of living.

Anonymous

1/19/2023 03:56 PM

(Under infrastructure) TRANSPORTATION, especially disability/senior transportation. Can't do anything if we can't get there. Longer bus hours--why should disabled people have a curfew of ~6pm? Buses should run on Sundays--people go places on Sundays!

Anonymous

1/19/2023 08:41 PM

Infrastructure is in need of attention and economic development and public safety need support.

SteveBaumann

1/20/2023 06:14 AM

Common sense

Anonymous

1/20/2023 08:56 AM

Too much money going to policing and not enough to infrastructure, public health and utility costs that affect and drive public safety and well-being.

Anonymous

1/21/2023 10:03 PM

We need to give our 1st responders what they need to do their jobs and keep the public safe. This will help people feel more comfortable coming into downtown, which will help businesses. We also need to work to make it profitable for businesses to be in Columbia. Get out of their way and let them grow! Spending money on public art, social projects that are better handled privately take away from things the city should actually be doing (see priorities 1 & 2)

Anonymous

1/22/2023 11:41 AM

I ranked public safety last because you have police covered there. Police don't make us safer. They are designed to act after the fact. Public health and human services has been defunded to give more money to policing. There are models that depend less on police and more on resources and interventions that have better outcomes.

Anonymous

1/22/2023 01:18 PM

We need a string tax base to pay for #2-7.....meeting peoples basic needs enables them to be able to work (housing assistance, child care assistance, basic medical/food needs)

Anonymous

1/22/2023 02:24 PM

Health and Human Services, Infrastructure, Utilities have all been neglected in favor of increasing incentives for economic development and Police. The budget requests don't reflect actual needs or demographics. Yes, we need economic development but not at the cost of over taxing residents, eliminating affordable housing or valuing development (economic or otherwise) over meeting basic

needs of citizens . Yes, we also need police services and more well trained officers...looking at how funds are being allocated and utilized in both these areas will go a long way in identifying solutions based on information.

Anonymous

1/23/2023 09:05 AM

I did not rank police and fire as their unions are highly citizen adverse. The passage of SB26 and the behavior of the police chief at the Citizens Police Review Board last Spring was just awful. It was embarrassing. I encouraged my neighbors to watch too and they were perplexed. I do not get the impression that the city or the police department is committed to community violence intervention.

Anonymous

1/23/2023 11:42 AM

I would like funding allocated towards the Fire Department & Municipal court, but the Police Department on a funding hold until an independent investigation of the Police Department is fulfilled.

Anonymous

1/23/2023 11:56 AM

Police get way too much. They have an overage right now. They do not use their non lethal options and instead kill citizens having mental health crises. Instead more money should go to things like low income housing, affordable housing, paying workers a living wage, programs to help those in crisis, the unsheltered.

Anonymous

1/24/2023 06:20 PM

Simply ranked by what city services I feel are most important to quality of life, beginning with the basic services for protection and safety.

Anonymous

1/26/2023 09:33 AM

Crime and young families leaving and not wanting to raise families here

Anonymous

1/26/2023 07:05 PM

Public safety due to shootings is at risk. More funds for armed,well trained officers should be priority.

Anonymous

1/26/2023 07:24 PM

I ranked phhs number one because there's a growing number of people who can't afford to live here without these services. Rents, groceries, healthcare have gone up in price.

Anonymous

1/26/2023 07:35 PM

Crime didn't used to be a real issue but now it's in your face a few times a week and that's very bad for the city . If you have high crime and not on top of it ,anything else you spend money on is a waste. Second the city needs to move on addressing Columbia s water and

electrical systems NOW.

Anonymous

1/27/2023 09:07 AM

The job of city government is to provide basic services that are more efficient when managed and supplied centrally. It should not be into any other services or business.

Anonymous

1/27/2023 09:19 AM

By importance

Anonymous

1/27/2023 06:13 PM

I want less money to go to the police, more money to the community.

Anonymous

1/28/2023 10:09 AM

Invest in people and marginalized communities.

Anonymous

1/28/2023 10:32 AM

We have a public health crisis in our community. Unhoused people are dying at an alarming rate.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 07:23 PM

More services for people experiencing homelessness, improved infrastructure especially roads

Anonymous

2/01/2023 07:34 PM

Focus on nuts and bolts first.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 08:41 PM

The cities utility systems are failing public works, and streets are in disrepair. Look at towns in Johnson county, Kansas or Iowa. They're actually clean and don't look bad. Look at Springfield and the surrounding communities.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 09:16 PM

Public safety is essential for welfare of citizens. Parks are essential for enjoyment of life.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 09:30 PM

I think we likely need more police for crime reduction/prevention and community involvement/engagement. Also, the parks were our #1 reason for moving to COMO, so maintaining and improving those is a top priority for my family. Some of the rest, IDK, yes for infrastructure and utilities if they need maintenance, etc.

Anonymous

Without safety and security, there can be no community.

2/04/2023 08:50 AM

Anonymous

Fund the MUST haves, not the NICE TO HAVE.

2/05/2023 03:29 PM

Anonymous

The City should provide Infrastructure not public assistance. It is not the job of the City to give my tax dollars to support other citizens.

2/07/2023 04:10 PM

Anonymous

Economic development will help Columbia grow, which will lead to private investments in the lower ranked items.

2/08/2023 12:48 AM

Anonymous

If we've learned anything in the last three years, it's that our public health programs and services deserve better funding.

2/08/2023 11:54 PM

Optional question (47 response(s), 10 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q4 | What is the most important thing the City can do to improve the livability of the community?

Anonymous

Improve public safety

1/04/2023 04:12 PM

Anonymous

Lower personal property taxes and focus on infrastructure projects.

1/04/2023 04:50 PM

MJHecate

Do a better job of taking care of the disabled and aging population.

1/04/2023 05:26 PM

Anonymous

Hiring more police officers

1/04/2023 06:09 PM

Anonymous

More affordable housing

1/04/2023 08:20 PM

Anonymous

Change the trash system

1/05/2023 09:55 AM

Fwatso00

Get crime under control. Not a place a want my child growing up in at this point. Fix the roads, pot holes, paint new lines, work on

1/05/2023 10:16 AM

landscaping.

Anonymous

1/09/2023 01:56 PM

Fund quality of life programs

wright.matt.a

1/10/2023 12:09 PM

Infrastructure spending that prioritizes PEOPLE OVER CARS, or we'll never meet our climate goals as our city becomes more and more car-centric. Should be finishing the 30-mile trail loop, funding the Sidewalk Master Plan, and funding transit appropriately

MA

1/10/2023 07:41 PM

Update water and sewers to improve safety of existing homes in our oldest neighborhoods

rakaufmann

1/18/2023 11:16 AM

Give people confidence that they can live, work and pursue their interests here in Columbia, safely and efficiently.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:39 AM

People need to feel safe to go anywhere.

Tru424

1/18/2023 11:40 AM

Better safety in all areas of the city.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:27 PM

Develop an honest and compelling narrative about the safety and livability of our city. Then share it widely. Go into every ward and neighborhood to do so. Engage all communities in the process. It's multi-faceted and multi-vocal.

LittleFish

1/18/2023 04:50 PM

Invest in people. If we focus on preventative programs maybe we can get out of the repetitive process of reactionary spending and planning.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 06:30 PM

Repair roads, add sidewalks and create a more pedestrian and bike friendly city.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 09:50 PM

Provide better safety

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:18 PM

Represent all constituents and stop making it too welcoming for our homeless . Your new project will be attracting men and women from all over the state. It was a poor decision and wish more research

would have been done. I hope I'm wrong, but think i

Anonymous

1/19/2023 09:42 AM

Provide save and shortcut transportation choices and routes for those who don't drive. This would connect all with job, health and social opprotunities. A connected city is a healthy city.

Anonymous

1/19/2023 03:56 PM

TRANSPORTATION, especially disability/senior transportation. Can't do anything if we can't get there. Longer bus hours--why should disabled people have a curfew of ~6pm? Buses should run on Sundays--people go places on Sundays!

Bobh

1/19/2023 04:14 PM

Public transit is horrible. For years ago it was fine. Since, lost shelters at stops, routes were cut, now there's talk of 90 minute waits. Not acceptable

Anonymous

1/19/2023 08:41 PM

Add funding for infrastructure and law enforcement

SteveBaumann

1/20/2023 06:14 AM

Lower costs

Anonymous

1/20/2023 08:56 AM

As someone of privilege, I find Columbia extremely livable. I am concerned about those without financial privilege.

Anonymous

1/21/2023 10:03 PM

Support 1st responders!

Anonymous

1/22/2023 11:41 AM

Add resources for citizens, address the unhoused, and make our streets livable.

Anonymous

1/22/2023 01:18 PM

Increase public transportation availability. Many good jobs but no way to get there.....

Anonymous

1/22/2023 02:24 PM

1. Affordable housing 2. Public transit 3. Community policing/violence prevention

Anonymous

1/23/2023 09:05 AM

The city has had so many meetings getting feedback from citizens. It is tiresome to keep answering this question. Focus on understanding the roots of our social problems like homelessness and violence

Anonymous 1/23/2023 11:42 AM	Increase direct services to community members, especially those in low-income and marginalized communities. Train city staff and council members on D.E.I training that is Black & Brown led. Re-look at the way that the city does "community outreach".
Anonymous 1/23/2023 11:56 AM	Affordable housing.
Anonymous 1/24/2023 06:20 PM	Maintain critical infrastructure.
Anonymous 1/26/2023 07:05 PM	Anything to deter shootings.
Anonymous 1/26/2023 07:24 PM	Make it more affordable for low income families and seniors. Also, do something to help the homeless get back on their feet. Fund organizations that do
Anonymous 1/26/2023 07:35 PM	Quit attracting homeless people.
Anonymous 1/27/2023 09:07 AM	More police, better infrastructure.
Anonymous 1/27/2023 09:19 AM	Increase Economic Growth and that will open many doors on its own.
Anonymous 1/27/2023 06:13 PM	Invest in the people, not the police
Anonymous 1/28/2023 10:09 AM	Improve public transit.
Anonymous 1/28/2023 10:32 AM	Improve bus service to serve those who need it to access crucial services. Bussing poor people to retail areas makes no sense at all.
Anonymous 2/01/2023 07:34 PM	Beautify the city - clean up intersections and street corners. Fix busted curbs, eliminate weeds, paint, fix streets.

Anonymous
2/01/2023 08:41 PM
Increase public safety get rid of the gangs, get the baggers off the corners

Anonymous
2/01/2023 09:16 PM
Light and cameras in downtown.

Anonymous
2/01/2023 09:30 PM
Continued parks expansion/improvements. Also, Columbia has very little indoor activities for when the weather is bad, such as an ice rink or museums. It would be nice to see the city put funds towards a museum or indoor activity such as ice/roller rink

Anonymous
2/04/2023 08:50 AM
Give the true backbone of the city, the blue collar workers like police, utilities, public works, the salaries they deserve, and quit spending all our tax money on homeless services.

Anonymous
2/05/2023 03:29 PM
Increase policing

Anonymous
2/08/2023 12:48 AM
Make Columbia as financially and culturally competitive with St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield as possible

Anonymous
2/08/2023 11:54 PM
Affordable housing

Optional question (48 response(s), 9 skipped)
Question type: Single Line Question

Q5 | How would you like to see the City better engage residents during the budget process?

Anonymous
1/04/2023 04:12 PM
hold an actual engagement process in neighborhoods, churches or with large employers

Anonymous
1/04/2023 04:50 PM
Continue to offer surveys like this. I think the ability to offer my opinion remotely is a great service. I will find it harder to attend public sessions such as the recent one on solid waste, so I really appreciate the City offering these surveys.

MJHecate
Email notifications or send surveys with web addresses in with utility

1/04/2023 05:26 PM

bills

Anonymous

1/04/2023 08:20 PM

Well it sure doesn't seem like you do anything now so you can only go up from here.

Fwatso00

1/05/2023 10:16 AM

Keep doing surveys and read them. Hold FB live discussions or something where you can get people to watch online and chime in real time.

Anonymous

1/09/2023 01:56 PM

Make budget easier to read by summarizing departments so citizens can understand the budget of each department.

wright.matt.a

1/10/2023 12:09 PM

Make things clearer for residents. A hundred or more page PDF is very hard to interpret, even for our council members. An interactive solution would be great!

MA

1/10/2023 07:41 PM

Mailed literature

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:39 AM

Sure

Tru424

1/18/2023 11:40 AM

I don't think the residents should be more engaged in the budget process because most residents are not concerned with the common good but rather their own special interests. Columbia has to many special interests fighting for the few funds available.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 01:27 PM

Provide public access to voice opinions in a variety of venues at a variety of times in a variety of formats. Not everyone has the technology, the tech savvy, and the time to engage here.

LittleFish

1/18/2023 04:50 PM

Hold meetings during more accessible times, allow remote participation and questions to be submitted online for live Q&A.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 06:30 PM

Be more specific when you have us rank budget priorities.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 09:50 PM

Send out information. Newspaper not a good source as many no longer subscribe

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:18 PM

You offer enough opportunities. Do your job, make decisions, vote and move on. If the public doesn't like it, they can vote for someone else

Anonymous

1/19/2023 09:42 AM

Perhaps advertise the surveys on local radion shows.

Anonymous

1/19/2023 03:56 PM

Provide better (and more) accessible transportation

Anonymous

1/19/2023 08:41 PM

This works

SteveBaumann

1/20/2023 06:14 AM

Become mainstream to engage the masses.

Anonymous

1/20/2023 08:56 AM

social media coverage of budget process and priotities. I don't subscribe to a local paper and that is where this news is published.

Anonymous

1/21/2023 10:03 PM

LISTEN!! I'm filling out this survey, I don't have any confidence that you're actually going to give anything I say any consideration. This is based on past meetings, emails, etc.

Anonymous

1/22/2023 11:41 AM

Go to the citizens door to door. Volunteers are willing to help. Ask them.

Anonymous

1/22/2023 01:18 PM

Ask the people in the 1st ward about their employment barriers. Take a strong stance on keeping high school students enrolled and able to get credits required to graduate.

Anonymous

1/22/2023 02:24 PM

Budgets are complex. Community education about the budget and allocation process followed by Q & A sessions. Using information gathered to make decisions and not just from a form like this that will over/under represent certain groups .

Anonymous

1/23/2023 09:05 AM

Begin earlier in the season and provide Zoom access so the public can participate via remote. Provide food and child care at community meetings. Host a series of budget meetings in each ward.

Anonymous

1/23/2023 11:42 AM

Community outreach goes beyond press releases and e-mails. Boots on the ground is needed. Expand who is considered a stakeholder. Grassroots, community organizers need to be included. Indigenous & Latinx people are currently severely underrepresented.

Anonymous

1/23/2023 11:56 AM

Go where the people are. Canvas. Tables at the library, the soup kitchen, City housing developments, senior centers. Email it to people who you have their email address and local help orgs, ask local news to do stories. Not everyone has internet access.

Anonymous

1/24/2023 06:20 PM

It's hard to educate people when they really don't care to understand the process before complaining about it. Although I wish I had an answer for you.

Anonymous

1/26/2023 07:05 PM

More public meetings and social media post on the budget. I like this idea of public surveys for more than just the budget.

Anonymous

1/26/2023 07:24 PM

The only way I can think of is to put info explaining the budget in cheese language on the city website. Maybe a whole section explaining the budget would be helpful to folks who can't make council meetings or still have questions

Anonymous

1/27/2023 09:07 AM

Explain why you prioritize things and how those priorities affect ALL citizens, not just niche groups.

Anonymous

1/27/2023 09:19 AM

Call more meetings and at different times so more people are available to attend.

Anonymous

1/27/2023 06:13 PM

Listen to us

Anonymous

1/28/2023 10:32 AM

Stop making ARPA requests closed records. That's shady.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 08:41 PM

Actually use common sense versus political platforms and platitudes

Anonymous

Encourage people to take advantage of information available.

2/01/2023 09:16 PM

Anonymous

This is fine and enough.

2/01/2023 09:30 PM

Anonymous

Get more citizens with financial backgrounds to analyze and suggest cuts and reallocations.

2/05/2023 03:29 PM

Anonymous

Communicate in the monthly utility bill

2/07/2023 04:10 PM

Anonymous

Make information about the budget more accessible, I.e. on social media, in the newspaper, at each city council meeting, etc.

2/08/2023 12:48 AM

Anonymous

Literally anything since it seems nothing is done currently.

2/08/2023 11:54 PM

Optional question (41 response(s), 16 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question