

# Fiscal year 2023 budget survey

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

22 February 2022 - 09 February 2023

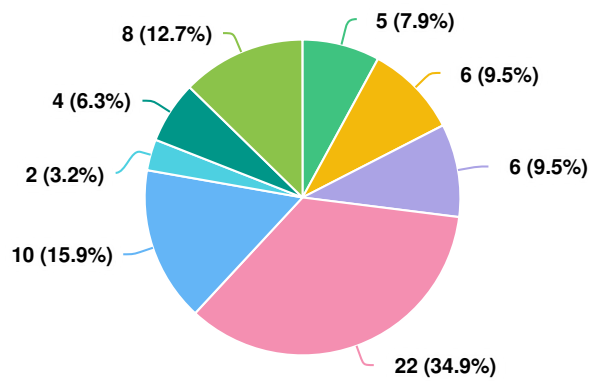
### **PROJECT NAME:**

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Survey



SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1 In which City of Columbia ward do you live?**

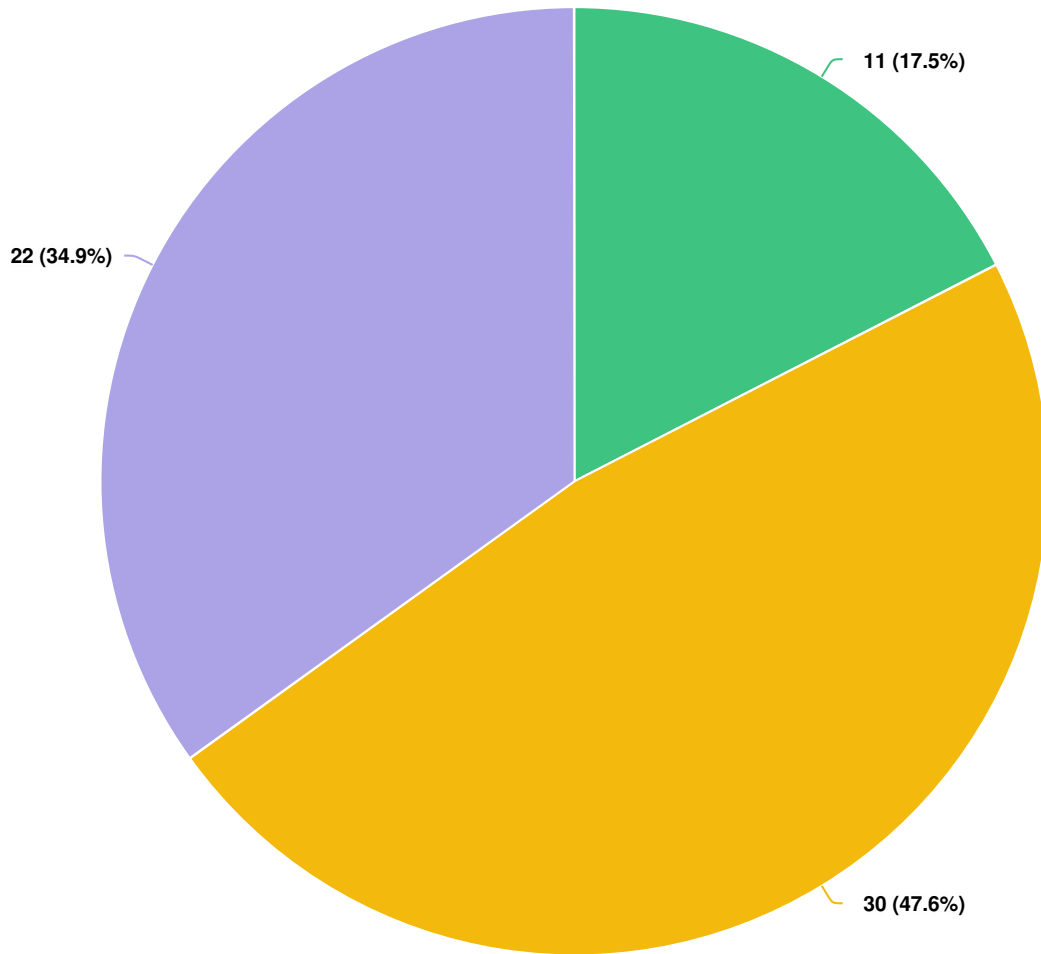


**Question options**

- 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 (63 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q2** How well do you feel you understand the fiscal year 2023 budget and how the City allocates tax dollars?



**Question options**

- Very well
- Somewhat
- Not at all

Mandatory Question (63 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q3 How could the City better educate residents about the budget process?**

Anonymous

1/04/2023 04:07 PM

So many people don't understand budgets, I don't know. Many Council members hosting workshops/feedback sessions?

Anonymous

1/04/2023 08:17 PM

Post easy to understand information on social media with graphics and charts about how money is spent.

Anonymous

1/05/2023 05:06 AM

Provide detailed published listing detailing where money comes from and where it will go.

Anonymous

1/07/2023 11:42 PM

Better public information without having to understand the budget document.

Anonymous

1/09/2023 01:38 PM

Better summaries for each department.

wright.matt.a

1/10/2023 12:04 PM

Make the process simpler and more interactive. I know the city is looking into some options already, but there are other cities who have a fully interactive website for the budget, rather than a static PDF that's way too many pages.

Andrew.Longley

1/12/2023 10:07 PM

Mailers.

Anonymous

1/15/2023 10:39 AM

Break it down in outline form with definitions.

TCIslandTime

1/17/2023 12:41 PM

Push notifications regarding original and updated budget information.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:21 AM

I think the City has done a good job with this. Some people just don't understand the complicity and the importance of reserve funds.

Tru424

1/18/2023 11:30 AM

Provide information via the CoMo app or this website.

Anonymous 1/18/2023 11:55 AM	The budget process shouldn't exist. We should abolish the city government and secede from the nation
Anonymous 1/18/2023 09:46 PM	Share more information directly to the public
Anonymous 1/19/2023 07:03 AM	Publish it
Anonymous 1/19/2023 09:31 AM	not sure
Anonymous 1/19/2023 03:56 PM	idk
Anonymous 1/19/2023 08:42 PM	Have the mayor spend more time in discussion about this
SteveBaumann 1/20/2023 06:11 AM	Most don't care, keep it simple and intuitive.
Anonymous 1/20/2023 08:51 AM	Not sure - this is not a topic I've followed until this survey.
Anonymous 1/21/2023 06:38 AM	Unsure. Perhaps posting on social media. Perhaps links to City website.
Anonymous 1/24/2023 06:15 PM	More circulation of budget info on website via social and traditional media. Use a QR code for quick links.
Anonymous 1/26/2023 07:57 PM	Send out budget information via mail.
Anonymous 1/28/2023 06:34 AM	Make a commercial or a news interview covering this topic.
Anonymous 1/28/2023 10:07 AM	More transparency and meaningful community engagement.
Anonymous	Post it on the city website

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2/01/2023 07:08 PM

Anonymous

Illustrate how a single tax dollar gets allocated.

2/01/2023 07:33 PM

Anonymous

Public Meetings and mailings

2/01/2023 07:56 PM

Anonymous

Information is there if citizens will take advantage.

2/01/2023 09:02 PM

Anonymous

Newsletter or online info with specifics.

2/01/2023 09:17 PM

Anonymous

Posters at places like park bathrooms.

2/01/2023 09:22 PM

Anonymous

Not sure

2/02/2023 08:17 AM

Anonymous

Publish simple color and line item charts. Don't get up on fund accounting

2/05/2023 03:25 PM

Anonymous

Mail with electric/water bill

2/07/2023 04:02 PM

Anonymous

Put out updates with proposed changes as they are recommended

2/07/2023 07:10 PM

Anonymous

Informational emails/social media campaigns

2/08/2023 12:45 AM

Anonymous

Actually talk about it. I don't think I've seen anything on the city's Facebook page or in the utility bill newsletter about the budget process and how it works.

2/08/2023 11:51 PM

**Optional question** (36 response(s), 27 skipped)

**Question type:** Single Line Question

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**Q4** Based on the fiscal year 2023 budget, what would you like to see the City change about

## its spending going in the future?

Anonymous

1/04/2023 04:07 PM

More support of employees and infrastructure.

Anonymous

1/04/2023 05:23 PM

Step pay for non exempt employees with yearly cost of living increases.

Anonymous

1/04/2023 08:17 PM

Less money going to police

Anonymous

1/04/2023 09:13 PM

More on infrastructure. Less on social services

Anonymous

1/05/2023 05:06 AM

Need more money going for infrastructure. I don't live in the city but live in Boone County and visit Columbia multiple times a week (shopping doctors, other facilities).

Anonymous

1/07/2023 04:24 AM

More spending towards police and emergency services

Anonymous

1/07/2023 11:42 PM

More care for people.

Anonymous

1/09/2023 01:38 PM

Spend more on quality of life items like parks, arts, trails, special events, tourism attractions etc.

wright.matt.a

1/10/2023 12:04 PM

Prioritize people. That means increased spending to increase wages and improve retention of staff (see recent issues with transit, and historical issues with solid waste), as well as increased spending for sidewalk/trails/parks over street (prioritizing people over cars), and social services spending (mental health and homelessness primarily, which the city has done a good job of prioritizing recently!).

MA

1/10/2023 07:35 PM

More spending on infrastructure (sewers, water, streets).

Mmanie

1/10/2023 10:25 PM

Get trash collection and recycling figured out!



Andrew.Longley

1/12/2023 10:07 PM

Roads are pretty rough. Let's fix those.

Anonymous

1/15/2023 10:39 AM

Pick up the trash! The highways, the streets, and sidewalks are so littered. It is appalling. First time visitors receive a sad and ugly first impression. Leave the trash as it is for those that want it. Allow private trash company in that does rolling cans for those that want them. Use the prisoners, volunteers, and teen programs, as well as community challenges to get and keep the trash cleaned up.

TCIslandTime

1/17/2023 12:41 PM

Less on social services and more on infrastructure.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:21 AM

More focus on the basic infrastructure items. It's nice to have fluffy items, but the City is failing at basic services, sewer, electric, water, streets, fire and police. The tax payers already approved improvements to the electrical system and sewer, but the council failed us and now rates are going up to make up the difference. No, it's time to hold the city government accountable. Maybe stop giving money to a homeless shelter and fix what's broke already. Without getting these taken care of the city will eventually become like St Louis metro area. Columbia uses to be a great city, but it's starting to go the wrong way.

Tru424

1/18/2023 11:30 AM

Better pay and support for essential services such as police, fire department, waste. Less money spent on social issues such as equality, social awareness and identity issues.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 11:55 AM

I would like the city to stop spending. That's my fuckin money and I want it back you crooks

Anonymous

1/18/2023 09:00 PM

Fewer new parks. Stop frivolous spending like diversity office.

Anonymous

1/18/2023 09:46 PM

Don't know enough but law enforcement agencies need funding for more officers

Anonymous

1/19/2023 09:31 AM

We are spending millions on an airport that only benefits a small number of residents, all of whom have the financial means to choose other travel options. At the same time, we are completely neglecting our transit bus system, which serves people who do not have another transportation choice. The bus system is for many residents the only

means to get to and from work. My own family had to turn down job after job, because we could not afford reliable transportation and there was no bus service or safe bike route to get to those potential jobs. This meant we were constantly one eviction notice away from homelessness. If you want to reduce homelessness and increase City revenue at the same time, provide an adequate transit system and safe non-motorized travel routes for all our residents. I keep hearing that Columbia is not the "right size". I suggest you Google European cities of similar size and their transit systems and you can see this argument is just an excuse not to put funding where it's needed - our local transit system. For example, look at Goettingen, Germany, which has a population of 118,000 and serves the city as well as outlying areas with a great number of routes. Here is the map: [https://www.goevb.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Web\\_TLNP\\_Goettingen\\_600x630\\_08-2022.pdf](https://www.goevb.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Web_TLNP_Goettingen_600x630_08-2022.pdf) and here are the schedules: <https://www.goevb.de/fahrplaene/linien>. Service runs roughly from 5:00 to midnight. We can most certainly do better than we are! In short, vastly increase funding for our bus system.

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!

Anonymous

1/19/2023 08:42 PM

Law enforcement

SteveBaumann

1/20/2023 06:11 AM

Spend less, cut costs, lower taxes to single family homeowners.

Anonymous

1/21/2023 06:38 AM

Road improvement in my neighborhood. Our street is a patchwork of potholes and has been for many years. Before that, bury power lines so that squirrels quit killing themselves and the power at the same time.

Anonymous

1/24/2023 06:15 PM

N/a

Anonymous

1/26/2023 07:28 PM

Less money spent on social programs and recreational items.

Anonymous

1/26/2023 07:57 PM

No idea.

Anonymous

1/26/2023 09:43 PM

Fund our public transit system and our solid waste division

Anonymous

1/27/2023 06:10 PM

Less money for the police, more money for the community

Anonymous

1/28/2023 06:34 AM

Higher pay and funding for law enforcement. Also lowering taxes for citizens and raising taxes in business' in Columbia.

Anonymous

1/28/2023 10:07 AM

More funding to address poverty.

Anonymous

1/28/2023 12:07 PM

Do NOT provide more funding to police

Anonymous

1/30/2023 08:35 PM

Would like to see a bike path on Forum Blvd

Anonymous

2/01/2023 07:08 PM

Infrastructure needs need more priority

Anonymous

2/01/2023 07:33 PM

Focus on core city services.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 07:56 PM

Add more paid holidays similar to the State of Missouri. Design in grade step increases.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 08:37 PM

Spend less money on wasted services and emphasize infrastructure. Clean the city streets and get the beggars off the corners. Worry less about a citizens police review board and actually get public safety and police officers.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 09:02 PM

Too many social programs. The more homeless programs and facilities we provide, the more homeless will come to town.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 09:17 PM

I know it would be a huge undertaking, but the I 70/State Rd. 63 interchange needs to be rebuilt for smooth traffic flow. I won't pretend even begin. I understand what it would take to make that happen, but that should be a goal. Also, hire more police to take care of the

increasing crime in the city. Make it happen.....

Anonymous

2/01/2023 09:22 PM

More money towards public safety and cleaning up the business loop.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 11:41 PM

Stop social engineering, income redistribution, and attracting more homeless to town.

Anonymous

2/01/2023 11:43 PM

Stop social engineering, income redistribution, and attracting more homeless people to town.

Anonymous

2/02/2023 04:04 AM

More money needs to be invested in Public Safety and the Office of Neighborhood Services should have more money for it's Volunteer program and neighborhood clean up projects.

Anonymous

2/02/2023 08:17 AM

More infrastructure less social justice.

Anonymous

2/05/2023 12:22 PM

Reduce utility cost with surplus cut buses

Anonymous

2/05/2023 03:25 PM

More money for police and trash.

Kobbst

2/06/2023 08:58 PM

More for parks and rec, public transport and bike infrastructure.

Anonymous

2/07/2023 04:02 PM

More infrastructure, less public housing, busing, homeless relief

Anonymous

2/07/2023 07:10 PM

Higher pay for first responders

Anonymous

2/08/2023 12:45 AM

More spending on public transportation and social welfare programs

Anonymous

2/08/2023 11:51 PM

First of all, this sentence doesn't make sense...I'd suggest proofreading. More money for public health, affordable housing and social programs. Less money for police.

**Optional question** (51 response(s), 12 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question