

2026 BUDGET COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Budget Challenge Comments



As part of the online Budget Challenge, where participants were able to allocate an additional 1% on the Levy Operating Budget to service areas of most importance to them, there was an opportunity to provide open-ended comments. These comments are provided below:

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| If all other operations are considered sufficient, public quality of life operations like parks, rec and road maintenance along with appropriate administration to accommodate additional service |
| Pit one against the other , leaves no room for compassion . We must save the poorest amongst us while not disenchanting the most of us as there is almost none of the best (richest of us left) . |
| More library funding and we need a new pool. |
| It's no surprise that a lot of the buildings in Norfolk are getting older and costing more than what they can earn. The band aid solutions while temporary do not fix that bigger underlying issue that continues to pull funds away from other areas. I believe we need to accept that for a few years, funds are going to be allocated to these areas so that we can stop the bleeding and then be able to focus on other areas where the funds will go further. |
| There should be no increase, inflation costs must be found from within the 2025 budget amount. |
| Our roads, parks, trails, libraries and conservation areas are underfunded. |
| The Pond Street and Water Street areas in downtown Simcoe have been completely neglected and now stand out as a glaring eyesore. With strategic investment, the potential upside is enormous, ranging from a possible park extension and improved connection to the rail trail, to the restoration of historic buildings that could revitalize the entire district. |
| Need better policing to fight the crime, need a way better hospital (not administrative but good doctors and a good working hospital, not a pretty one) |
| 1.4 million dollars isn't very much money. What would adding and maintaining community portable toilets be classified as? |
| Recreational programming is minimal and doesn't meet the needs of the masses...private sports team create their own recreational activities as do service club donation |
| The county is replicating the school system not designating cost effective programs at multiple times in day and evenings and low arts programs |
| As taxpayers we're consistently told by the Mayor and Council members, the County needs more money (etc.). It's become a tiresome song. I would respectfully suggest, from my detailed reviews of the yearly budgets, funds continue to be wasted on unnecessary expenses (ex: Norfolk sign/trailer, fleet vehicles, staff/management positions). If the financial situation of the County requires restraint, the staff and council members are accountable to only be spending taxpayer money on absolutely NECESSARY expenses (garbage, roads, emergency services, water). Personally, from all I've observed, I don't believe the Council or County staff actually know how to manage or operate a budget properly. As part of my position in the private sector, I am responsible to manage a budget of higher dollar value to that of Norfolk County. If |

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| I and my staff managed that budget, in the same manner as the County, I would have been FIRED a long time ago. |
| What is the plan with Water? We need to upgrade infrastructure, but keep seeing costs going up with no clear and viable plan...need clarity on what the plan is! |
| The focus should always be on making Norfolk the most healthy, safe and enjoyable place to live possible. If you achieve that, the people and businesses will come. Also, do we really need WEEKLY garbage and recycling collection? Could recycling be reduced to every other week all year, and garbage reduced to every other week in Winter months? |
| Need more businesses and good paying jobs. Why does Brantford get all the good jobs? |
| You could always give that 1.4 million back to the people that gave it to you. I would like a tax rebate and reduction! |
| eliminate police and bylaw enforcement. Neither one does anything. |
| If Norfolk Country has debt, I first use the 1% extra budget for debt reduction, even if this uses up the entire \$1,400,000. |
| Concrete is a much better spend than social programs |
| The process for getting a building permit, etc. needs to be faster. Can more online applications help? |
| Need more help to the unfortunate before it gets too late |
| Quit wasting money on consultants. We pay our elected officials and staff to do their job, not farm it out. If they cannot do the job fire them!!!!!!! |
| I am not in favour of moving garbage collection to every 2 weeks (and reducing the # of bags in half). I think for the seasonal area of Long Point we should have weekly collection in the summer and perhaps every other week in the fall, winter and spring. Alternatively, there could be a household waste bin located somewhere on Long Point. This would need to be hauled away weekly but you'd save the property to property collection costs. |
| Priority campaign to attract and retain new businesses - small (especially for downtown) and large. Also offering whatever enticements possible to attract additional doctors. |
| Fix the Teeterville dam instead of the conservation authority wasting money on consultants. |
| Planning to REDUCE growth and become more self sufficient not to increase growth and development |
| I am new to Norfolk. I love this place, I love the small town feel and the people. Especially love the quiet. What I learned though is how badly mismanaged this place was or currently still is if the poor people of Norfolk have to pay double for their water bills because of lack of or falling apart infrastructure and not doing anything about it until it was too late. Everything is getting more and more expensive, and these water bills are insane. You need to do more to get help and investment from our government. |
| Give the money back to the tax payers! Disappointing to see that isn't even an option. |
| I think the environment is most important in sustaining Norfolk county so that it can thrive in all areas. |
| Stop cutting the grass in rural areas along roads! There is no reason to cut down the |

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amazing native wild flowers and plants that grow in the ditches and along the sides of the road in the country. This affects the bee populations, which then impacts farmers. The ecosystem is fully connected to a thriving population and economy. Taxes should not pay for people and equipment and fuel to cut these areas, use the funds for something else like removing invasive plants or social services

You CANNOT police your way out of social issues. We should not be providing private business with public funds without guarantees and specific goals.

Investments need to be made in the west end of Norfolk, there are many investments into community needs that all go to Simcoe and more local areas while the West end is expected to travel to utilize the services, example the fire department is a shame in rural Norfolk risking our homes due to lack of response and manpower. Also there are funded ball diamonds in many areas in Norfolk excluding the only diamond in the west end (Walsingham). It definitely seems that the West end pays taxes just to help areas more central to Simcoe and there is nothing for the West end.

We need to stop wasteful spending and keep money spent in the county.

Also add funding to garbage collection. The proposed by-weekly pickup is ridiculous.

I would love to see the paid summer beach parking go away, surely the money can be found elsewhere, and the charm of the towns would be maintained.

Efficiency must be gained similar to private industry.

Take the extra money for Parks, Facilities and Recreation and upgrade the Trail from Lions park to Waterford. Pave the whole trail and clean up the over growth which is making it not safe for users. The trail is not being maintain. Something needs to be done.

Management should sharpen their observation skills of what employees are doing during their working hours. Community notices when workers are 'killing time' and not being productive.

I think investing in healthcare at the municipal level is important if they wont look out for us at the provincial level.

Speed cameras and red light cameras would generate a lot of revenue and keep the roads safe.

I think the strength of our community is the natural area we live in. Improving access to health care as the population ages is important.

No sense spending on anything health, as you can't get doctor. Donations made to get health center going and doctors run with the money. Now I drive 3/4 hr to get to a dr.

Eliminate woke services, programs and positions that no one asked for. Hire a few key strategic thinkers who can set things straight for the county so we are not such a joke.

Parks, recreation and culture is what young families want for their kids.

Fire trucks and ambulances need to be kept updated so we are safe.

Make due with the budget that you have ! Just like most households. We just can't go our our employer or government (CPP/OldAge) and ask for more money when we want to buy a new car, new appliances, etc... we have to scrimp and save or do without. Norfolk County must do the same.

I would put more in health and environmnet and less in policing