

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	18-34	D	1	The government over taxes and over spends frivolously already. If the government can't control spending, we can always vote no on taxing .. or leave the city all together. Look up Detroit if you want reference material.
F	35-44	D	1	Money is already tight. Taxes paid should already be sufficient. Loss of trust in city council member decisions after this years rezoning initiative.
F	35-44	D	1	Reject any increase in cost of living! We're already paying MORE sales tax on these HIGHER costs of goods! Absolutely incredible that the city council or the budget board is that disconnected from economic reality. >>Really unfortunate that city council races aren't on the next ballot.<< And hopefully the budget and audit board - recommending higher taxes - reads this and knows they aren't doing their job if they have to ask for ANOTHER tax increase! The city hiked taxes in 2024 - remember?
F	35-44	D	1	Unclear what portion of the funding goes to policing, which I would not want my tax dollars to expand. Also would be better to include exemptions for critical toiletry or childcare products like tampons, diapers and toothpaste, in addition to groceries.
M	35-44	D	1	I would rather see money go to incentives for businesses to move to Lakewood. Lakewood has little to offer. It seems our thriving industries are extended stays and vape shops.
M	35-44	D	1	The city of Lakewood had mismanaged budgets for years. Why anyone would ever give them more money is insane. The fact that they can't balance a budget and build more than 1 mile of sidewalk a year is a clear sign of their incompetence. But all the uninformed dogmatic liberal residents will probably vote again to raise taxes on themselves and nothing will change.
F	45-54	D	1	I would like to see what efforts have been made by Lakewood for strategic budgeting to meet existing needs with existing funds. I work for a local government facing these same issues and we're taking a close look at every aspect of our budget. Raising the sales tax rate hurts lower income people much more than higher income people.
F	55-64	D	1	An increase in taxes is not an answer to everything, yet government from every sector keeps raising taxes. Bring business to Lakewood and reduce the constraints on business to keep current businesses here. No more residential development without places for residents to earn a decent income. Stop working backwards.
F	55-64	D	1	Because you can't be trusted
F	55-64	D	1	The information is too vague - we need specifics about projects and how those will impact our community. A raise in taxes needs benefits to be very clearly spelled out - specifically which streets will be upgraded and when. More of a city plan less general raise of resident taxes.

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M	65+	D	1	Not happy with the way Lakewood approves multi family units. It is destroying the single family homes into big ugly units.
M	45-54	R	1	The City of Lakewood is currently not fiscally responsible with the current revenue from taxes, why give them more to spend irresponsibly.
F	65+	R	1	I think the City of Lakewood can be more efficient in their spending and work within their means
M	65+	R	1	Already did. The city wastes money right now. Why give them more
M	65+	R	1	As a senior times get harder. Everything going up except our funds. I think Lakewood could do a better job finding the extra funds they need or just cut back like the people have to. Bring someone in to find waste. You probably get more than a half percent. Thank you
M	65+	R	1	As an individual I don't get to increase my income because my expenses rise, I have to prioritize and cut back. I expect my government to do the same. And while I am prioritizing and cutting back on my expenses, Lakewood wants to increase my expenses by increasing the sales tax? No, cut back, be more efficient, prioritize. Side note: Why has there been such a dramatic increase in the number of homeless "drug addicts/mentally ill" on Lakewood's streets? I've lived here from my childhood in the 1960s and watched Lakewood slowly turn from a nice suburban neighborhood to a decaying, run-down, homeless encampment. This is sickening. Is Colfax safe anymore? I don't want Lakewood trying to solve (spend money) on homelessness or housing affordability. But I do want Lakewood to clean up the homeless encampments and strongly discourage vagrancy.
M	65+	R	1	No more raising taxes
M	65+	R	1	Politicians continue to ask for more money yet nothing seems to get done. Instead of asking for more money why don't our city leaders budget more responsibly and work with what they have.
M	65+	R	1	Taxes are already too high, government is too bloated, reduce employee s save money balance through economy
M	65+	R	1	The mayor, city Council, and city manager should do a better job of budgeting and allocating the funds currently collected
M	65+	R	1	We're in social security we can't afford a tax increase. I don't trust current mayor or city council
M	65+	R	1	You should live with in the current budget. The financial shortfall is due to poor management

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F	18-34	U	1	The initiatives all sound great, I agree with solving the problems. Notes: The homeless programs need more focus on drug and alcohol recovery/therapy. ADDICTION doesn't just disappear, when you give someone food or a roof. And they ultimately need jobs, so funding needs to go to companies willing to higher homeless people. Sidewalks are great, but I don't give a shit about bike lanes. Move to wheatridge if you bike. "Affordable house" just means big ass apartment buildings whose units cost well over the naturally occurring affordability price to purchase. Cap the rent or mortgages at actual affordability (30% of the average household income in Lakewood). Then I'd vote to build. Grocery exemption is stellar! But people still buy food at restaurants and purchase items like contact solution, deodorant, soap... basic hygiene that will have more tax. The costs to build are increasing? No shit Sherlock, the cost to survive is increasing. I don't believe you'll win any votes with that argument.
M	18-34	U	1	The city hasn't demonstrated a good track record of managing the millions of tax dollars it already collects. Additional tax money won't make management better. The city should be finding ways to cut taxes to increase investment in Lakewood.
F	35-44	U	1	I cannot afford increased sales tax. If taxes were increased, I would buy even less than I am now. Increasing our sales tax will not help the problem; it would make it worse.
F	35-44	U	1	I have to budget money. The city is foolishly spending
F	35-44	U	1	Sales tax hurts struggling families more than any other kind of tax. I also oppose any additional funds to policing
M	35-44	U	1	Almost none of those things are things I want tax dollars spent on. Essential things like Infrastructure (roads bridges, parks) and Law Enforcement should be funded. Homeless assistance is best handled by charitable organizations. Housing can be made more affordable by reducing the regulatory burden (the cost and time of zoning, permitting and inspections). I'd like you to reduce sales tax by .5%, not increase it.
M	35-44	U	1	Highlands ranch and centennial have lower tax rates. These are communities with safe neighborhoods and some of the best schools. What evidence is there that causing increased financial strain on Lakewood residents by increasing taxes would result in improved city services? Are centennial and highlands ranch less desirable and do they have less services due to their lower tax rate?
M	35-44	U	1	You were allowed to keep all TABOR money. Sales tax is the least progressive means. It hurts the lower income families. In these difficult times everyone needs to scale back. Let's not forget that the state is asking to increase sales tax for COCO.

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F	45-54	U	1	Our city council needs to quit wasting money then asking for more. The amount of money paid to our city manager is ridiculous. Stop trying to make Lakewood Denver. We want space, yards, and trees. Stop catering to drug addicts and criminals.
F	45-54	U	1	The economy is very poor. Inflation is horrid. Interest rates are still extremely high. We are at war that will likely drive down investments. This is just not the time folks.
M	45-54	U	1	Its something that will set Lakewood apart from the trend in surrounding cities
M	45-54	U	1	LAKEWOOD RESIDENTS ARE ALREADY FINANCIALLY STRAPPED. MORE TAXES OR GOVERNMENT FEES WILL ONLY ADD TO HOMELESS AND HUNGRY ISSUES FOR RESIDENTS
M	45-54	U	1	Please take care of the homes that already exist and stop trying to focus on over populating our small town without addressing needed services for the existing communities.
M	45-54	U	1	THE CITY SHOULD BUDGET BETTER WITH THE FUNDS ALREADY IN THE CITY COFFERS. STOP TRYING TO NICKEL AND DIME YOUR CONSTITUENTS WITH FEES AND TAX INCREASES
M	45-54	U	1	This only exasperates the affordability crisis.
F	55-64	U	1	I do not believe things will actually be improved by any of the initiatives. I see more housing but not more affordable housing. More housing has caused so many traffic issues and none of the money is going towards improving traffic.
F	55-64	U	1	Sales tax is the most regressive tax. You are asking people who can afford it the least to pay more. Some groceries may be exempt but toilet paper and diapers, to name just two, are not. Unclear the reasons a progressive council would want to support such a regressive tax
F	55-64	U	1	There is no specificity about what percentage of the money will go to which projects.
F	55-64	U	1	While I think public safety, crime prevention, and dealing with the homeless are very important - I do not agree with the actions identified in this survey to accomplish these objectives. Therefore, I do not believe anything will change. Further, I do not agree with more subsidized housing (which is being portrayed as "affordable" housing).
M	55-64	U	1	Government already gets too much money.
M	55-64	U	1	The money would probably not be used wisely but rather squandered on hidden agenda items.
M	55-64	U	1	We get taxed enough. And it seems like a we are always being asked for more. When does it end, money always gets siphoned off to pet projects and low income people. I want to see an actual plan to deal with these issues instead of just throwing money at problems.

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F	65+	U	1	I watched what the City recently did with our TABOR funds that were suppose to be for parks, police and potholes. Instead it went to a court settlement. The city has shown themselves to be fiscally irresponsible and untrustworthy. Until that changes I will not vote to give them more funds. This sales tax increase affects everyone, even those now struggling to make ends meet. Also no guarantees where the money will be spent, mere suggestions and no oversight provided.
F	65+	U	1	Inflation is high. Cost of living is high. Everything has gone up, no one can afford anything anymore. Everything has dollar matters, stop raising everything.
F	65+	U	1	The City doesn't manage the money it has particularly well. The soon to be retired City Manager was paid over \$400,000/year. The City charges developers \$432,000/acre for fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication. Average land costs in Lakewood are about \$880,000.
M	65+	U	1	Send the "homeless" to Denver. They're a blight on our fair city. The "affordable housing" of today is the slums of tomorrow. Add more police.
M	65+	U	1	The City, Green Mountain Water, JeffCo, and Xcel Energy are all increasing taxes, rates, and "fees", which are taxes, every year to a cumulative total far beyond the inflation rate. Enough is enough. NO NEW TAXES!!!!
M	65+	U	1	The tax referendums put to voters usually are open ended and allow the tax to continue unstopped and used by the government leaders as they please. If there was a sunset clause in the tax or if there was very clear usage I would be more open to vote yes. The number of people wanting to get rid of Tabor is high but the taxes in our state are such that many businesses are leaving. There comes a piont when higher taxes result in less money overall.
M	65+	U	1	To many programs. The City is not your Mother. The more you provide the ,the more people expect.
M	65+	U	1	With the current inflation and high cost of living, this is not the time to raise taxes.
O	65+	U	1	We approved a ballot initiative promising sidewalks several years ago and still have seen nothing. Will never vote for a tax increase from Lakewood ever again. Find the money you need by cutting wasteful spending and buying one way bus tickets to California for the homeless, and work with ICE to deport illegal aliens soaking up city funds, both very inexpensive yet highly effective options.
F	18-34	D	2	💎💎police" is the first thing listed for what the tax will be used for. I would vote it if and only if all revenue goes towards affordable housing.

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F	35-44	D	2	Take out the stupid affordable housing bullshit. That doesn't exist in Colorado, stop making Lakewood ugly and gross, we want the drug addicted homeless people to go away and stop shooting up outside of our neighborhoods, especially on alameda and Sheridan. I see a ton of "affordable housing apartments on 1st between Sheridan and wads that are always for rent. Stop with the affordable housing, we can all see that shit is a scam. If this excluded affordable housing and included everything else I would 100% vote yes.
F	35-44	D	2	Would like to research current laws to before deciding. Would like to see the final language before deciding. Would like to see other ballot measures pertaining to homeless and public safety
M	45-54	D	2	I don't see a correlation between a city's tax rate and the safety or appearance of the city
M	55-64	D	2	Because you already have our Tabor money \$\$
F	65+	D	2	Building an apartment building next to Belmar park and cutting down trees has soured me on Lakewood's affordable housing initiative. I don't want Lakewood to become overcrowded and need more money for crime etc that too much crowded housing will bring. Fund what we have, including our schools. Don't add more.
F	65+	D	2	Everything going up and stressing our budget. The City needs to live within its budget as my household does.
F	65+	D	2	I would vote for an increase if it also included efforts toward sustainability, in particular the adoption of clean energy technology.
F	65+	D	2	Need to find ways to reduce spending with an analysis and cost efficiency expert by dept. The lights on 6th Ave RTD bridge is one example of unnecessary spending. The # of new electric vehicles could be reduced. The solar at Whitlock Rec Ctr will not recoup for 25 yrs - it doesn't even have a pool! Have seen exaggerated # of emergency vehicles and responders for one homeless person with a dog bite sitting on curb! Overkill, and where is accountability? How many Lakewood Requests were repetitive? City employee benefits are overstated compared to public jobs. Pierce St was entirely repaved prior to the tearup for American West to lay flood pipes! Do you know what all that repavement COST? Do better Lakewood as you waste major dollars! Code Enforcement could send a courtesy letter first and the request could be cancelled without a trip. On-line non-emergency police requests could be canceled before a trip if there was a faster way to cancel. Do you know how long it takes to try to Cancel? Common sense could definitely help zoning by having a standard building example to follow that appeals to residents. Look at the millions in repairs of drainage under City Hall and the heating element under the exterior courtyard over the short time since it was built that could have been avoided. Where is the transparency in the bids received for city contracts? Small local businesses should be used.

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M	65+	D	2	Affordable housing is a joke. Unless you believe Affordable Housing costs are \$900,000.00.
M	55-64	O	2	An item costing \$10 a few years ago would generate \$.30 in sales tax that same item cost \$12 today would generate \$0.36 in sales tax at the 3% rate a rate increase isn't needed as your revenues are increasing because everything cost more
M	65+	O	2	The city of Lakewood needs to live within its budget. Quit wasting funds on programs that don't work like all the measures the city takes on homelessness. You spend more money and homelessness increases.
M	55-64	R	2	Make do with the money you have, and quit spending so much to try and rezone the city into something we don't want. How much did that cost us? Stop wasting money and you won't keep having to ask for more
M	65+	R	2	I'm primarily against a tax and spend political environment. As with a small business or household budget we need to control spending to within our expected income. If income is reduced we need to reduce spending on expenses!
M	65+	R	2	We have to live within our budget. Our money is not increasing. The homeless problem was added to us from Denver-how about we send them back by using the same laws they issued. Add to that, you wasted all that money changing the speed limit on the residential streets. Removal of perfectly good signs with new ones to change the original speed limit that was not enforced in the first place. How about you enforce those laws and the license plate laws and make extra money that way?
M	65+	R	2	We have to live within our means so should our government
M	18-34	U	2	REGRESSIVE TAXATION. We should be looking at generating tax revenue based on rent seeking behaviors. Land value tax would be ideal. Start taxing/charging people for using public street parking (roads are expensive). Start taxing gasoline at a higher rate. Add taxes to car washes. Don't regressively tax people. Tax people based on behavior we want to discourage long term. I will never approve a new sales tax. I will approve taxes on behavior that has negative social consequences (burning gas, taking up public space with private property). Increase the sales tax on car dealers. TAX ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR.
O	18-34	U	2	Lakewood, citizens are already taxed too much. When you add all of the taxes together from state federal and local. We do not trust the city to use these additional taxes for the stated purposes. We believe that there is already too much waste of taxpayers. Money on useless or inefficient progress instead of using it For basic needs for existing residents, like police, public safety and infrastructure.
F	35-44	U	2	We have enough budget to address the issue. Drug use and crime.
M	35-44	U	2	Making communism illegal would solve all these problems and save money at the same time.
M	35-44	U	2	The city need to allocate existing funds for these services.

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O	35-44	U	2	Our police force is a drain of money. they don't respond adequately or timely or often at all. also your sales tax revenue will increase as cost of goods increases. just cut the useless police budget
F	45-54	U	2	20 dollars a month is what you're quoting Utility bills, water, groceries, hoa fees, gas, all of those are going up "just a small amount". These small amounts are all adding up and creating harder economic situations. Create improvements with what you have, not by continued fleecing of all of us.
F	45-54	U	2	Depends on how the economy is, I may need all the extra money I can get to keep up
M	45-54	U	2	Stop wasting money on immigrants and non citizens. The current administration has wasted so much of the tax payers' money and only wants more. Learn to create a budget and cut programs until it's balanced.
M	45-54	U	2	This isn't a plan to a solution, just a money grab by politicians. Start by effectively using the existing tax revenue. Succeed there and we can talk.
F	55-64	U	2	Because as usual there is very little actual clarity on where the allocation of the funds would be used. At the discretion of the council and city? The only thing that seems to be a priority is affordable housing and services for the homeless. There is no priority on economic development and support of businesses. If they thrive then there are more funds available for everything else. Businesses are leaving Lakewood because has a difficult place to operate- safety concerns, permitting nightmares, and no priority other than increasing density and Lakewood operating their own real estate business at a loss which we all have to pay for. Maybe quit buying schools and selling them at a loss, lending 0% loans to select developers, city financed homeless shelters, \$40,000 grants to the arts district that select city councilors are invested in, and surveys that cost \$150,000 to ask residents to pay more taxes with no governmental accountability for EXACTLY where it goes...like the TABOR funds that were supposed to go only to potholes, police, and parks and wound up being applied to the telecom tax fiasco that found the city 43 million in the hole.
F	55-64	U	2	Government can't produce the results you are promising with this amount of increased revenue.
F	55-64	U	2	I think the city needs to manage current funds better .
F	65+	U	2	The money is never spent on what they claim it's intended for. Time for Lakewood to tighten it's belt just like we have to do st home. Find other solutions than constantly raising taxes.
M	65+	U	2	Affordable housing as defined by the city is not in the best interest of property owners and has not proven to solve homelessness and other services that invite the drug users to diminish the value of our homes and property. Mirror Denver's mistakes is not a solution to Lakewood's challenges

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M	65+	U	2	At this point I do not know enough to vote yes. So I would vote no at this time. Now that I aware of the proposal to increase sales tax by .5% I will research and educate myself more to make a better informed decision.
M	65+	U	2	Current spending needs to be refocused with no increases.
M	65+	U	2	Lakewood needs to prioritize spending for community needs within the current revenue. Just because some other cities charge a higher rate in not a good justification.
M	18-34	D	3	More funding for parks and rec. remove police funding to fund homeless initiatives and mental health. Low income housing should be guaranteed by the developer before any plan to develop space is approved with income caps tied to inflation.
F	45-54	D	3	I don't have a spare \$20 for the city to "maybe or maybe not" actually spend the \$ to make our lives better. Invest in teachers so that the next time someone sends out a ballot measure proposal it contains thoughtful & thorough specifics & binding limitations.
F	55-64	D	3	The crime statistics continue to decrease - so that is some fear-mongering to pay for higher taxes. Our city can help the housing affordability through easing restrictions and coding so more houses/apartments/condos/townhomes can be build. Cities do not house people, they make the community livable for the housed people. There are too many goverment workers already. We have to change our budget, desires and needs during these times, our cities need to do that also.
F	55-64	D	3	Too much focus on affordable housing. You completely ignored lakewood voters regarding multi-housing. You found a way around and disenfranchised voters in the process. Why would we trust anything you propose? Focus on infrastructure which will create jobs. Stop acting like you care about mental health and affordable housing when you completely disregard souls like Jax Gratton. She paid taxes, had a business, contributed. Raise taxes here and I'll gladly shop in another city that knows how to treat their residents. Get your budget in order and stop expecting those of us who keep Lakewood commerce moving to pay for everything. Property taxes are whats getting worse! Fix the streets, lay some sidewalks and clean a street once in awhile.
F	65+	D	3	Everything could be used for. Tell me what it will be used for!!
F	65+	D	3	Lakewood needs to tighten their belts! Every household is currently struggling to put food on their table, pay their mortgage or rent payments, utilities, health and auto insurance. They cannot afford any other increases. Decrease the salaries of county planners, etc. Quit using funding to provide for more bike lanes which only help a small percentage of people. Do more to put money back in people's pockets not take more away!!!'

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F	65+	D	3	This is another info- bs survey that is used to sway opinions. This is not actually a survey. You did this before. These hijinx and manipulative techniques are why Myself and many other people in Lakewood do not trust our government. They're out to spend more money but not out to actually take care of the people or listen to us. Which is why we have a great big apartment building go up in the middle of Belmar Park! Phony surveys. And under the table deals.
F	65+	D	3	You kept out Tabor funds and I see no improvements around the city!
F	65+	D	3	You waste the resources you have. where you spend what you have has provided the worst customer service each year that passes.
M	65+	D	3	Residents of Lakewood are paying more than 50% of their hard earned wages in taxes my guess is one of the highest in the nation and the working people cannot afford it any more it is time to start lowering taxes only
M	35-44	O	3	The total sales tax paid by Lakewood residents is already 7.5% when you add county and state sales tax to the city's current rate. I go out of my way, when possible, to make big purchases at businesses in unincorporated Jeffco to pay just 5% sales tax because my perception is that taxes are already too high. We need fiscal responsibility, not an increase in tax revenue. All of these stated initiatives are important, but we need a budget audit before trying to take more money from taxpayers. Moreover, sales tax increases disproportionately affect the poor than they do wealthier residents.
F	35-44	R	3	Increasing taxes is not the answer. Audits and DOGE, AI evaluation of spending is essential before anyone asks for more money
M	35-44	R	3	- Because it will raise the cost of living. -
M	35-44	R	3	Trust and transparency with local government. What about our schools? School sport programs are proven to help our youth stay out of trouble and focused on academic goals. Can some money go back to local school sports programs? What about of money would go to the specific programs talked about? Are there caps or limits?
F	65+	R	3	Increasing salaries, insurance etc costs outlined at the beginning of the survey don't seem to be addressed in the proposals for spending. Budget cuts are not presented, only tax increases to us.
F	65+	R	3	Lakewood commissioners have failed at using the money they already have from over building and none of it does what they claim it goes for, my opinion

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F	65+	R	3	Sure, it's only \$20 dollars a month potentially but that is \$240 per year. Then there is the increase in energy costs, food prices, and inflation. Those "it's only \$___ add up for the average family. There needs to be a better way to do this rather than nickel and diming the residents. Colorado is already too expensive thanks to all of the California imports! Stop the madness and find better ways to accomplish these things. And of course let's not forget when this money doesn't go far enough, along comes another increase. Definitely would vote no on any increase.
F	65+	R	3	We don't need affordable housing, don't want sidewalks in Glennon Heights and the homeless already got a brand new shelter on Colfax.
M	65+	R	3	Funding homelessness is a magnet for homelessness. See Los Angeles! Govt getting involved in rehabilitation of private property is a no- no
M	65+	R	3	I don't trust the current mayor and alderman. I am angry that an employee of Lakewood, that I don't even get to vote for/against is way overpaid and overrated!
M	65+	R	3	Taxes don't need to go up to provide common sense solutions to these problems. lakewood needs to allocate the funds better in my opinion.
M	65+	R	3	The problem is not that government lacks revenue. The problem is excessive spending and poor fiscal discipline. Like the federal government, local government should focus on prioritizing essential services, eliminating waste, controlling administrative growth, and managing taxpayer dollars responsibly before considering any tax increase.
F	18-34	U	3	Cost of living is high and rising
F	35-44	U	3	I don't want low income housing in my area. I don't want my taxes going to that.
F	35-44	U	3	In allllll those scenarios you just ran me through not one of them address that the single word "police" was included in the ballot language. Historically, we know the police hiring and equipment (more semi automatics, we assume) has been packaged with more palatable uses for the money and then received the lions share of the increase. Take the police out of it OR promise in the bill language percentage caps for how much can be used for weapons or vehicles and police hiring or training and then I will be like to approve.
M	35-44	U	3	Affordable housing is a scam and Lakewood has no record of success on this subject. Anything that's affordable is either run down or built along busy roads where no one really wants to live and this will always be the case.
M	35-44	U	3	Council approach to addressing homelessness is ineffective and overly expensive. Don't like the housing fund idea
M	35-44	U	3	Prioritization of defined objectives

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F	45-54	U	3	Cut your spending. Programs for wealthy children every day at the heritage center, more wasted money on concerts no one wants, too many police and services that don't serve the tax payers. You already charge a lot more than 3% you added taxes on top of that for failed belmar and gave it to developers. You spent money destroying hotels on colfax that housed people so you can give away money to developers to take public land under the guide of affordable housing yet prices increase. No one has money to buy anything so raising sales tax just means even less from us.
M	45-54	U	3	Do not to increased taxes without a full understanding of the TABOR limited "budget cap" and full transparency from our city counsel (elected) and officials (staff). Unless you've all been lying, tax revenue have always outperformed budget caps, so where are our TABOR refunds??? Oh that's right, the County's propaganda consultant (Petersons husband) convinced the county to vote to give up the excess revenue.
M	45-54	U	3	Exemption of food is great but this is still going to be a new and regressive tax on people in an affordability crisis that is likely heading to a SUPPLY SIDE recession because of international events. Supply side shocks are exasperated by sales tax increases (see tariffs which operate on the same math) and will drive down spending, resulting in little gains. The 'average' metric cited is meaningless because that lay word is interchangeable with three different types of calculations (mode, mean, and median) that will all give wildly different results unless you have a perfect (bell curve shaped) distribution of disposable income. We have a K-shaped economy. Stop trying to squeeze blood from a stone. 'Average' residents don't have money. If you want to tax someone for these great programs you propose, tax the people, like me, that have the money (i.e. high incomes and existing wealth) with a progressive tax (taxes on property valued over 700-800k, for example).
M	45-54	U	3	Government doesn't have a revenue problem government has a spending problem.
M	45-54	U	3	The Lakewood government is already wasting money and is inefficient allocating money that they already receive. So, giving the government more money is not the solution. Finances are already hard, so taking more money from Lakewood residents is not right.
F	55-64	U	3	I do not trust that the money raised will be managed efficiently. Thus, each year more and more would be asked of citizens. We need to address the competency if budgeting what we have. Denver has the highest taxes by your chart and is in the red!
F	55-64	U	3	I feel City of Lwd miss manages their budget!! They need to do better for the majority!!
F	55-64	U	3	The city receives plenty of tax revenue from the citizens. I suggest lowering the income you pay the city leaders and functioning your means like the rest of us have to.
M	55-64	U	3	Enough taxes already every year it's how can we suck the tax payers a little more.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
O	55-64	U	3	No more money for socialist inspired programs. Taxes are already too high. Need to cut fraud, waste and abuse of public funds instead.
F	65+	U	3	I don't agree with spending as much on homelessness without concrete plans in place for behavioral modification and standards for receiving assistance. I also do not feel that tax dollars should be spent on bike lanes without somehow making cyclists accountable for part of the expenditure via bike licensing similar to automobile licensing.
F	65+	U	3	I'm not convinced that the City Leaders are good financial stewards with the money they receive today. The bicycle lane project on Garrison is a total waste of money. They can't even spend money to put up new residential 25 MPH speed signs which was approved last year. They have failed to define "affordable housing" and "sustainability" over and over. Asking for additional money without a track record of responsible spending is a tough sell.
F	65+	U	3	The City of Lakewood leadership has demonstrated a tendency to overreach the authority we have granted to them. There have been other proposed ballot initiatives that have been sneakily worded to get around Tabor. We voted for that. I feel like saying, "Asked and answered. Please respect our wishes."
M	65+	U	3	Affordable housing is not important to me nor my family
M	65+	U	3	Government waste and corruption
M	65+	U	3	I am taxed enough now
M	65+	U	3	I just don't like the approach that the only solution to these problems is to raise revenue. If you offered additional actions that would be implemented in conjunction with the new revenue then maybe I would have more confidence in these types of initiatives.
M	65+	U	3	If the city practiced sensible fiscal responsibility there wouldn't be a budget problem in my view
M	65+	U	3	Just maintain current services
M	65+	U	3	Looks like the City wants to be proactive on these issues, which is great, but the economy is not that great and resources are tight. You have not demonstrated that these are pending critical or crisis situations, and I probably won't support an increase until they are
M	65+	U	3	Miss use of road and maintenance equipment and personnel. Business owners can't run their businesses with increase to cover operations. We need to increase productivity and value for the dollar spent. Not seen in our street crews Summer or winter. Waste waste waste
M	65+	U	3	Retaining excess funds collected in violation of TABOR.
F	18-34	D	4	I don't want the incremental revenue to go to the police. If it's clear where the extra funds would go, with very transparent details, I'd be more inclined to approve the measure

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	18-34	D	4	The city has plenty of money. They need to be more fiscally responsible with what they have and focus on programs and needs that the residence actually want. Affordable housing was voted down in a big way recently, but it is listed as an item that would be funded by this. As one example.
F	35-44	D	4	Because of the taxes on out house now, the thought of raising taxes for anything is ridiculous. We can barely afford our mortgages because of the increase. I feel there should be plenty of money coming in from that. You are charging us taxes for a \$650,000 dollar house that we mortgage \$200,000. Doesn't seem fair.
F	35-44	D	4	I care about the affordable housing crisis but I'd rather see the money be used for sustainability. I'd pay for that. And I think Lakewood is currently safe enough so that's why that didn't sway me in 2026.
F	35-44	D	4	There are higher priority reasons that additional tax collected should go towards.
M	35-44	D	4	I don't like the idea of funds going to subsidize rent. That's not a long term solution and is a waste of funds. I also don't want excess funding going towards homelessness. Will that incentive more homeless to come from Denver? I think these are bigger issues that cannot be funded at the municipal level. I support those measures being funded at the state or federal level.
M	35-44	D	4	No more money to law enforcement. If the law absolutely precluded that (it doesn't as written) then I'd vote for it
M	35-44	D	4	You all are terrible at managing the money you have. Stop the increases and allocate funds correctly.
F	55-64	D	4	Lakewood is doing well with the way we are.
M	55-64	D	4	Because we are taxed enough already. The city could find other sources of revenue instead.
F	65+	D	4	As prices go up the city should be getting MORE in sales tax revenue. That could be increased by having more stores and shopping in Lakewood. A half percent is \$200 more on a \$40000 new car. In case you haven't noticed something has to give and I'd rather it not be me.
F	65+	D	4	Lakewood does not know how to budget money in a responsible way.
F	65+	D	4	Our economy with the current Federal Government makes it difficult for families to continue meeting their bills and providing food and educational needs. Some members of our immediate family have already left CO due to high cost of living. It is going to take a long time to recover from the impact of the war on cost of living - ie gas costs!
F	65+	D	4	Too many high taxes already, the city has poor money management and only takes and takes. No confidence in city officials
M	65+	D	4	City is wasting money in other places that should be cut

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	65+	D	4	Get off the affordable housing kick. Instead of a .5% sales tax increase, do a 1.5% increase and get more police, better roads, crime prevention. This far far left stuff has got to stop just as the far far right stuff needs to stop.
M	65+	D	4	If the City of Lakewood had proposed this before asking to keep our TABOR refunds forever, I would gladly have supported this tax increase. If Lakewood would also include a ballot measure to undo the request to retain TABOR refunds forever, I would vote yes to both.
M	65+	D	4	The impression is that current tax revenue is being mishandled and those in charge are not being held accountable. There needs to be more transparency in the use and manipulation of these taxpayer dollars. Especially when you see various city workers not being responsible with their tax paid salaries and other with higher salaries than they should be paid for the actual work being done.
M	65+	N	4	Your priorities are a hot mess! You can't budget for a single miles of sidewalk in a year, but you can buy hotels for the homeless?!
F	35-44	O	4	BECAUSE YOU MORONS ALREADY TAKE MORE THAN YOU SHOULD AND MISUSE IT!!!!!!!!!!
M	35-44	O	4	I don't see the need to collect more tax revenue, every time taxes go up it lines someone's pockets and doesn't go back to any of the things that this ballot measure describes. If we saw tangible evidence of tax revenue being used wisely then maybe but until then it's a no. Get smarter with how we budget and pay city officials and maybe then you'll find some additional tax revenue to put towards these ballot measures.
M	35-44	O	4	The city should be able to provide the services without an increase. They want more money to not solve the problem. If the money was to go towards solving the problem I am all for it. They are trying to put a band aid on the issues. There is not one mention about creating more hiking trails or support for the TAXPAYERS and not the non taxpayers. Please don't increase our taxes the burden is already heavy enough. Why don't we ever talk about reducing taxes.
O	35-44	O	4	Affordable housing initiatives is too open ended, and the City has already shown a lack of care for the integrity of our neighborhoods with the recent (failed) zoning change. The City should use market tools, not taxes, to make this a good place to live and by its nature a new tax is exactly contrary to an affordable community
M	45-54	O	4	We already pay too many taxes & fees
F	55-64	O	4	No faith in how government will actually spend it
M	55-64	O	4	Because the Mayor!! And Council Have Proven they can't be Trusted!!! Until there is a New Regime!! Then Maybe.
M	65+	O	4	City of Lakewood's waste and mismanagement of resources.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	18-34	R	4	I think the city has enough money as it is and it's poorly managed. This should not fall on the citizens to fix.
F	35-44	R	4	Because raising taxes isn't the answer. We are not never ending cash cows. Start operating with in your means. Perhaps pressure the state government to get spending under control. No tax increases. I will never vote yes on them. Stop funding illegals and giving our money to people who do not pay into the system.
M	35-44	R	4	Because we all know there is NO REAL TRANSPARENCY IN WHAT THE CITY OR STATE FOR THAT MATTER SPENDS PUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS ON DOWN TO THE VERY PENNY AND THERE IS TONS OF WASTE AND FRAUD THAT THE DEMOCRATS WHO RUN THE CITY AND STATE COMMIT WITH THE MONEY THEY RECEIVE FROM TAXES FOR THEIR OWN PET PROJECTS OR THEMSELVES AS WELL AS WE DO NOT NEED TO BRING MORE PEOPLE INTO LAKEWOOD AND WE DON'T NEED IRRESPONSIBLE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT THAT IS DESTROYING OUR ECOSYSTEM AND CITY AS WELL AS RAISING THE COST OF LIVING AND OTHER PROBLEMS INCLUDING CRIME RATE AND EXHAUSTED WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES BECAUSE OF THE MASS GENTRIFICATION. REINSTATE GROWTH CAPS ON DEVELOPMENT, BAN XERISCAPING AS IT DESTROYS OUR ECOSYSTEM AND RAISES UHI LEVELS AND GAS ABSOLUTELY NO BENEFIT TO COOLER AND MOIST WEATHER PATTERS, WE DO NOT NEED ANYMORE SIDEWALKS SINCE ABOUT 90% OF LAKEWOOD POPULATION DO NOT USE SIDEWALKS AS WELL AS BICYCLISTS DO NOT EVEN RIDE THEIR BIKES ON SIDEWALKS OR BIKE LANES AS THEY RIDE THEIR STUPID BIKES ON THE ROAD IN TRAFFIC. WE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATING ON FIXING ALL THE DAMN POTHOLES AND REPAVING THE ROADS THAT ARE AWFULL BECAUSE WE HAVE SO MUCH TRAFFIC. IF YOU HAVE MONEY FOR STUPID DRONE LIGHT SHOWS INSTEAD REAL FIREWORKS FOR OUR 250th BIRTHDAY OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL AND FREE ENTERPRISE REPUBLIC OR PUT UP NEW FOUNTAINS, OR THE CITY COUNCILS OWN PERSONAL PTTY CASH FUND TO GET THEIR LUNCHES THEN YOU DON'T NEED TO RAISE SALES TAXES. THE CITY COUNCIL OR TOWN PLANNER WHOEVER IS CHARGE NEEDS TO FIRED AS WELL ESPECIALLY WITH THE city 250th Birthday celebration for Independence Day, if you spent the money on Real Fireworks, Lakewood on Parade, Carnival and fair with rides, or Flyover by our great United States Air Force or The Thunderbirds then I Wouldn't mind having the money spent but for a stupid Light show for Independence Day is just laziness and stupidity. I wholeheartedly will campaign and make sure the ballot Measure does not pass because it will do absolutely nothing to help the good citizens of the City Lakewood but increase cost of living and waste more taxpayers funds.
M	35-44	R	4	No new taxes. I'm not in favor of giving my money to idiot who waste it.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	35-44	R	4	The cost of living is already too high. It's not the citizens fault that the City improperly taxed telecommunications and now has to pay millions back that you improperly collected. Government should provide essential services and that is it. Live within your means and cut wasteful and unnecessary spending.
F	45-54	R	4	Taxes to high, spending to to reckless
F	45-54	R	4	This increase is targeting too many topics. Trust in Lakewood governance is very low and giving authority to use the money for any of these items is not sitting well with voters. Please remove affordable housing from all tax increases. I will always vote no since Lakewood is so out of touch on this topic and needs to support and keep the existing residents in Lakewood. The zoning changes if passes would have caused me to consider moving out of Lakewood. Thus losing that tax base.
M	45-54	R	4	Correct allocations of the current funds will address all these issues. The waste of tax money is evident in Lakewood with many of the issues voted on in the past few years not addressed. Taxing people who are already overtaxed in this area will make people move out and change the charm Lakewood has.
M	45-54	R	4	I'm taxed enough already.
M	45-54	R	4	The city does nothing but waste tax dollars on pet projects and "affordable housing", which lines the pockets of city council members and the mayor. At minimum the affordable housing supports are financially supporting current officials' election bids. This is nothing more than governmental waste. If the city wants a yes vote they need to guarantee in writing the homeless issue will get fixed. It wouldn't be hard to pass initiatives the restrict camping and panhandling. The city council was able to pass rezoning behind closed doors, so pass something the citizens of Lakewood want.
F	55-64	R	4	Directing funds to wrong projects. Get funds from other services like free lunch or social swrvices
F	55-64	R	4	Our very high property taxes are so expensive this should be enough money to fund everything you need that helps Lakewood residents.
F	55-64	R	4	That is a very generalized description of where the money would go and there are too many places it could go
F	55-64	R	4	We have already paid way too much for ugly monstrosities of affordable housing buildings everywhere in Lakewood. You have ruined all our parks and open land in Lakewood. There have been no roads fixed with our money we pay on owning a vehicle, all this money has been devoted to other projects that the citizens don't want. There should be plenty of money already to keep Lakewood safe and crime free!!

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	55-64	R	4	Because the language appears it's written in such a way as to continually increase. I have zero interest in the city of Lakewood increasing any kinds of tax when the current city council and mayor don't appear to have any sense of fiscal responsibility. I am tired of the left-leaning policies at the state, county, and city level - the answer is apparently always a tax or fee increase instead of fiscal accountability.
M	55-64	R	4	Current revenue is improperly used for un needed programs like climate change initiatives etc. Affordable housing is a nebulous term, and not a core function of government. Breakout the public safety portions and I would possible support- this is a Christmas tree with a couple of things I'd support but with many elements I oppose city spending money on. Do better with what you have.
M	55-64	R	4	I believe there to be other ways to provide services. For example reduce development approval time, fees, and make development and redevelopment more achievable.
M	55-64	R	4	I would not support using taxes to fund governmental programs which do not require ownership and responsibility. I would support areas for improved roads and increased funding of the police department to aid in a safer city.
M	55-64	R	4	Stop throwing good money after bad on homeless drug addicts and lazy abusing the system. Help those under employed.
M	55-64	R	4	There is only one side to creativeness
M	55-64	R	4	Too much stupid ripping off people ☹️ I leaving Colorado now because our entire government is full of stupid people!
M	55-64	R	4	Your solution to everything is tax more. Do better with what you have
O	55-64	R	4	It's not fair for me to have to pay \$20 a month more for taxes so that people who don't want to work can have housing. We don't need sidewalks because people can walk on the dirt. We're in a crisis everywhere and I don't feel safe. Stop putting up silly little white poles up and down Garrison and other streets and stop spending weeks months doing stuff with the intersection at 8th and Quail putting in push buttons for people to cross the street, and stop doing all these kinds of things when there are people who don't feel safe and people who need counseling. Find someone who knows how to use funds properly. The city doesn't need more money but needs to learn how to manage the money It has.
F	65+	R	4	Because money is being misused to fund illegal immigrants in our schools and health expenses and much more. Use that money instead of increasing US Citizens taxes.
F	65+	R	4	CO is a very high tax state already. Find cost savings. No illegal immigrant support. No green energy initiatives. Reduce regulations.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	65+	R	4	Everything is more expensive! my house payment just went up \$90.00 a month due to higher escrow costs, taxes and insurance. car insurance is through the roof. As a senior on a limited income, I don't think I can afford to live here anymore!
F	65+	R	4	I am not convinced that we don't pay enough taxes already to meet the needs of the community. By nature, the Gov. always wants more - but I am not convinced that with rising energy and food and insurance costs that it is fair to raise taxes on people right now. I know I don't want to pay to care for the homeless - there should be a work program for them. I moved to the suburbs to avoid those kinds of issues. I don't think caring for them - which will encourage more, is the right approach - and taxing people more is only likely to create more homeless.
F	65+	R	4	I have no confidence that the tax money would go to the listed. It would probably all go to fighting ICE and helping illegals.
F	65+	R	4	Lakewood needs to find other ways to meet their budget. It is already a very expensive place to live.
F	65+	R	4	Use the money that you have allocated more efficiently. Stop taxing us. Go after fraud and stop supporting non citizens.
F	65+	R	4	We have already given up Tabor. NO NEW TAXES
F	65+	R	4	We need to fix streets. Sidewalks are less a priority because most people are not out walking. The idea that we should all increase our tax load to pay for "affordable housing" (nebulous term) is unfair to seniors already struggling. When you say "affordable housing" I suspect you intend to build future ghettos on every spare lot, which brings more noise, crowding, anonymity, and crime to peaceful established neighborhoods. The majority of homeless are addicted to drugs or alcohol and those people made their choices - to try to turn their lives around while still rejecting spiritual faith is an endless sea of expensive "fixes" with no accountability or change in character. The city loves to spend oodles on the latest bike lanes and thus narrow usable streets with soon-to-be-trashed white cones. That doesn't persuade the vast majority of people to use bikes for transportation in view of age, disability, children, shopping needs, etc. In short, they city is extremely woke and wastes our tax money on the latest progressive fads.
M	65+	R	4	3 to 3.5% is a 17% increase. More likely to go along with 3.25%.
M	65+	R	4	All tax should be eliminated from food. Lakewood needs to cut City office staff by 30%.
M	65+	R	4	I pay federal, state, local, property, gas and numerous other taxes on services. Higher taxes are not the answer. Efficient use of current taxes are the answer.
M	65+	R	4	I think the sales tax would be used primarily to assist homeless and illegals. Give the legal homeless residents needed mental health care and get the undocumented out of our city.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	65+	R	4	Live within your means . Higher local tax is unattractive to future potential residents . Spend money wisely , and focus on savings and community
M	65+	R	4	The more you tax the less people can spend. Not a hard concept to grasp.
M	65+	R	4	There is a MISSING CHOICE, you ask if information increases or decreases my interest, you should also ask if it has NO EFFECT on my opinion. INSUFFICIENT information about where current \$\$\$ go.
F	18-34	U	4	Increasing taxes on residents during a time of financial difficulty does not seem advantageous without immediate benefits able to be provided to the residents funding the tax increase.
F	18-34	U	4	New York City was able to fix a 12 billion dollar deficit in 6 months. I think we can figure this out without taxing residents more to funnel even more money to the police department under the guise of public safety. The answer should be taking a really hard look at the budget, not a tax increase in the middle of a recession.
F	18-34	U	4	Thus far, there is minimal confidence in government using funding for things that are actually needed. Fixing sidewalks is nice, but we live in a society built for cars. Roads need vast improvement. I drive down Alameda, Kipling, and Union nearly every day and I have the potholes almost memorized. And if you hit a few of them, it could wreck a low riding car and even a truck. Homelessness is a serious issue and raising taxes on everything but food seems like a sure way to increase homelessness or bring people closer to it. What about people with children? Babies? School age kids? Is school supplies exempt? Is baby care? What about people with pets? Is pet food exempt? And what about clothing? Every body needs clothing, and it would be incredibly classist to tax people who are replacing tattered old clothes or shoes with holes at the same rate as people buying high end clothing for one time occasions. Additionally, the one thing that could truly motivate me to say yes is seeing an actual sustainability and water conservation plan but that wasn't proposed here or used as additional information to try to get me to vote. Meanwhile, crime was one of the big ones. And sure... crime is an issue. But that is an issue to appeal to old racist voters. It won't work on a younger demographic because we don't see positives from giving more money to police and efforts that are supposed to offer support to help lower crime don't have anywhere near the funding to be effective because of how much goes onwards police instead. Last - don't ever say it's just \$20 a month. That ends of being \$240 a year. Plus it's condescending and presumptuous. \$20 may be the margin that a household has at the end of the month. Why would they want it to go to taxes that are unpredictable?

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	18-34	U	4	While I believe affordable housing is important, I do not think the additional funding should go towards that. I think there are other more important uses for additional funding. I also would like to better understand why the current funding is not enough and how it is being used wisely. Overall, I am not opposed to a tax increase if it is used appropriately.
M	18-34	U	4	A sales tax is a regressive tax, meaning it disproportionately impacts lower income residents. I agree that we need more income for these projects, but they should be financed by individuals and businesses who can easiest spare the change.
M	18-34	U	4	Everything is already expensive enough and I don't need taxes to increase and further drain my finances. Learn to budget better and prioritize actual needs for the city and not feel-good half measures.
M	18-34	U	4	Property taxes have already increased even though the majority of that revenue is for schools...and we have closed multiple schools. We need to do an audit on what we are doing with the other revenue we receive as a city and prioritize how we spend. I am sure there is a lot of money being spent in ways that is unwise and wasteful. Our first idea should always be "how can we save money in some areas to spend more in the most important areas" rather than "lets tax more".
M	18-34	U	4	Taxes are already too high. I will always vote no to higher taxes.
M	18-34	U	4	While I appreciate the desire to continue to "improve" Lakewood, that is not a top priority. Not every city needs to be the Nicest or Cleanest. Having some admittedly minuscule but present "rough edges" such as a dirt walking path instead of a brand new concrete sidewalk is a waste of money and carbon emissions and resources. We the people of Lakewood like a stretch of dirt between sidewalks, who cares! If I wanted to live in a fairytale wonderland I'd do that instead. I feel it is much more important to provide work training resources to high school students. I feel it is more important to provide opportunities for community members to serve each other, rather than spend money on expensive hired labor. Expansion and beauty are what Americans traditionally think of when it comes to "growth." But we need to learn to be happy with what we have, and improve our community ourselves. We should engage our neighbors to find happiness and safety within our communities.
M	18-34	U	4	You already waste the money you take from me, why would I want to give you more?
F	35-44	U	4	A .5% increase is still a 16% increase to the current taxes. While I could afford this, many of our residents probably cannot. Why don't we start with a small increase, say to 3.25%, to start with and re-evaluate in 5 or 10 years?

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	35-44	U	4	Funding for the police should not be included. Also the 'not limited to.' I no longer trust the city council to make decisions according to what people want. I object to them allowing developers to force through projects like Belmar Park apartments, high density housing in areas of single family homes. I am fine with the tax increase, I am not fine with the non-specificity of the use and the use for police.
F	35-44	U	4	I am already struggling financially and a home owner so this would only hurt me. Parents need more support!
F	35-44	U	4	While the wording SEEMS like the ballot would help problems, it looks like the money wouldn't actually help improve what it claims - i.e., none of the questions were about Rec Centers and the need for more of them and improvements (ie Green Mountain Rec center is in terrible shape and TINY for the amount of residents in that area), or actual improvements to roads (like Kipling between Jewell and Quincy!). Look at Denver's high tax, and yet all of these problems are WORSE there. I get the sense the money is being wasted on "initiatives", bureaucracy, pet projects, corruption, and red tape... what can show me otherwise?
M	35-44	U	4	Allocation of funding to proposed categories is not defined. Define what percentage of the 0.5% increase goes to each category. How do we prevent all of our from going to one category?
M	35-44	U	4	Appropriate limits on government growth
M	35-44	U	4	Because it's too open ended and is likely to be spent on things I don't care about. If it were only going to rec centers and employees then maybe I could vote yes, but the fact it is so broad leads me to think it will be spent unwisely
M	35-44	U	4	I don't support more low income housing or housing for homeless.
M	35-44	U	4	I'm voting NO on the proposed 0.5% sales tax increase. Families are already being squeezed by rising costs everywhere — groceries, housing, insurance, utilities, and everyday essentials. The answer cannot always be "raise taxes again." Before asking taxpayers for more money, government should focus on accountability and efficiency. It's time to bring government employees back into the office, fill the buildings taxpayers already paid for, and restore in-person service and oversight. Remote work may have served a purpose temporarily, but permanent bureaucracy-by-Zoom is not what residents are paying for. Government should also examine administrative bloat, unnecessary programs, and golden parachutes before reaching deeper into working families' pockets. Tight budgets are a reality for households across the community — government should be expected to make the same hard decisions everyone else does. Taxpayers deserve responsible spending, real transparency, and proof that existing dollars are being used effectively before any new taxes are approved.

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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	35-44	U	4	No improvements for amenities for green mountain rec center were mentioned. Also the sidewalk on the corner of my house wasn't built correctly and has terrible drainage. Which causes freezing in the winter no matter how much salt is used. This gives me low confidence that sidewalk projects will be done correctly.
F	45-54	U	4	I do not agree with funding the homeless using tax payor money. The city of Lakewood should also conduct an internal audit of services to identify wasted spending before asking voters to increase taxes.
F	45-54	U	4	Inflation
F	45-54	U	4	My thought is that the cost of goods and services have gone up, therefore the city IS receiving more money. In addition, the more money you throw at something doesn't always fix it, especially when it comes to the homeless. We need to figure out a way to empower this population. If I kept giving my kids money for nothing that's exactly what they would continue to do...nothing. Its tough love but it works.
F	45-54	U	4	Putting in sidewalks doesn't seem like it should be a priority. The city has shown a lack of initiative in dealing with current homeless encampments and blatant public drug use. Until the city shows a change in tactics and stops ignoring this problem, throwing more money at this problem won't make it go away.
F	45-54	U	4	The city has not done well to manage within budget and does not listen well to its residents. Waste exists and until that gets under control the city should not be asking for more money.
M	45-54	U	4	Affordble housing is a market issue not a government issue. Homelessness subsidies increase homelessness
M	45-54	U	4	Do better with the taxes revenue you already have. Raising taxes doesn't fix poor budgeting
M	45-54	U	4	It isn't aligned with what I consider priorities - fighting crime and improved infrastructure I support but I don't want more of my tax dollars used to support homeless drug addicts or handouts to certain populations. Improved recreation, parks, infrastructure and policing are things that benefit EVERYONE.
M	45-54	U	4	Make the tax increase .25%. Remove the unclear homeless/affordable housing portion
M	45-54	U	4	The city of Denver and the state of Colorado should be taxing those with an income of \$150,000 or more and should also include a tax percentage on home purchased by the wealthy intended to be used for either a second home or an investment property. Your common blue collar worker cannot afford these taxes. The city of Denver and the state of Colorado are taxing the wrong people.
M	45-54	U	4	The city of Lakewood has failed To demonstrate fiscal responsibility, the TABOT fine was well known and that a reconciliation was coming. Additionally, we have allowed roles like the city manager higher than normal salaries, compared not just with cities of similar but also larger sizes. Lakewood has given away real estate value to the Action Center and a list of other polices that have wasted our money.

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"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	45-54	U	4	There is no tax I would vote for as the City needs to cut spending and mismanagement of existing tax revenue. The City as with the State of Colorado has a spending problem, not a revenue generation problem
O	45-54	U	4	Taxes paid by gainfully employed residents shouldn't go to social parasites
F	55-64	U	4	As a conservative liberal I can't believe I'm saying this but I don't believe the city of Lakewood is using their funds wisely. We currently reeling from inflation, rising gas prices, and the bull s@&t coming out of Washington. Now is not a good time to ask for more money.
F	55-64	U	4	Each year we give more and more money for roads, schools, low income housing. I see money not used for the intended purposes. Our labor money is kept and not considered a tax increase. It is. I feel the tax increases are deceptive. Using language to say it is for something, but it is used for other things. IE) paying back utility company for being overcharged. I do not want to give more money until there is more accountability.
F	55-64	U	4	I do not trust Lakewood leadership. Affordable housing means more high density, expensive apartments not ownership for example.
M	55-64	U	4	❖❖Not limited to " means everything following the phrase is meaningless. You will spend it on anything you want.
M	55-64	U	4	Absolutely no new taxes. Get homeless off the streets by enforcing existing drug laws.
M	55-64	U	4	Address crime and public safety before housing
M	55-64	U	4	Be better stewards of the money already available
M	55-64	U	4	Enough is enough! Property taxes have gone up tremendously, worthless XCel continues to increase their fees every year and yet our roads are horrible condition and there is zero accountability by these corrupt and worthless so-called leaders for where all the money is going.
M	55-64	U	4	Fix the fraud before you confiscate more taxes
M	55-64	U	4	I have a hard time supporting homeless people because the majority of them that I see and meet are more interested in drugs. Or booze and are looking for a handout than taking responsibility to make their life better.
M	55-64	U	4	Lakewood government has been proven untrustworthy and inefficient. Why have them waste more money. We need turnover.
M	55-64	U	4	My priorities differ
M	55-64	U	4	My property taxes have doubled in the last 5 years, where has that revenue gone? When is the last time the City looked for inefficiencies and chopped those programs? Run government like a private business.
M	55-64	U	4	Sales tax is a regressive tax and I will never vote yes for it.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	55-64	U	4	The city has been irresponsible with taxes collected, focused too much attention on items that affect a few instead of the many residents.
M	55-64	U	4	YOU DON'T NEED MORE MONEY YOU NEED TO BUDGET AND FIND FRAUD!
F	65+	U	4	❖❖ Including but not limited to" implies unrestricted use by the county not approved by voters.
F	65+	U	4	Cost of many items is higher, especially if you won a fixed income, or young
F	65+	U	4	Difficult time for many with other rising costs especially gas
F	65+	U	4	I would like to see the total budget. How much is spent on other unnecessary programs of salaries that could be used to fund these programs without a tax increase?
F	65+	U	4	POOR - I barley make ends meet each month
F	65+	U	4	Rather see better oversight of current city spending
F	65+	U	4	The city council used our TABOR refund for a penalty while ignoring the three reasons for the TABOR refund. Police, streets (speed bumps) and parks. Trust is a large issue. Fix the trust issue first.
F	65+	U	4	The City has proven itself to NOT be fiscally responsible. FIRST BRING THE NEW CITY MANAGER'S COMPENSATION PACKAGE IN LINE WITH OTHER CITIES THE SAME SIZE. Lower the salaries in the Planning Dept. They are doing a terrible job. The City Council should've listened to the citizens about the zoning change and voted NO in Oct. 2025. That would've saved the City the cost of the special election. The City should NOT have filed a frivolous lawsuit against Green Mtn Water & Sanitation over "electioneering" that the hearing officer dismissed. Lakewood paid taxpayer dollars for an outside attorney. Lakewood screwed up and lost a lawsuit that cost us citizens ... was it \$42 million. Lakewood gave away MILLIONS of dollars worth of real estate. That's our money!! Are you getting the picture? Lakewood doesn't deserve more of our money. They'll just waste it.
F	65+	U	4	The city needs to be smarter about spending taxpayer money. Eliminate the waste and excessive salary of the city manager. Eliminate the fluff and then there will be more money for necessities. That's how we stay within our budget.
F	65+	U	4	The measure is not definitive enough on the allocation of money among purposes and too open ended.
F	65+	U	4	There is a state initiative that passed a few years ago that provide money for affordable housing. I don't want to fund more bike lanes. They aren't practical here in Lakewood. Tabor has already been waived for the City. I voted to fund the Rec Centers better but they still look junky. I am concerned that the adage "if you build it they will come" applies to the unhoused population as well as highways. I just read that the Jeffco Schools are also contemplating a tax increase that is exactly the same amount - \$20/month on a \$550K home. How many of those are there in Lakewood - really? Instead we have endless apartments with high vacancy. Very sad.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	65+	U	4	Will not vote blindly, need to see a plan and be assured it will be adhered to with no surprises. Also this is a very expensive state to live in. Again need a solid plan for homelessness, mental health , etc before I will support affordable housing.
F	65+	U	4	You must be investing in the homeless wisely as I see more now than ever in areas we never saw them before - could we please give them back to Denver - I have worked around mental illness and drug related homelessness - for vets there are apartments available with VA - drug addicts don't want help and the dealers live among them I have seen the drugs pass hands and I would prefer you not bring here but as the mayor stated we want to be good friends with Denver - how sad this direction Lakewood is going in
M	65+	U	4	Costs for families and seniors are up as they are for the City. We have to tighten our belts and reduce our spending. Can you show us where you could cut some expenditures? Perhaps we could be more amenable to some increase - something smaller perhaps, if you make some reductions. This does not happen in a vacuum as Jeffco Schools wants another bond issue and Jefferson County wants to "debruce". Your \$20 per month is not isolated from other issues. For example our property tax increased by \$400 this year. Many are just getting by. No new taxes- please!
M	65+	U	4	Don't trust the current city admini
M	65+	U	4	I believe in low taxation and a limited government.
M	65+	U	4	I do not trust the City Council
M	65+	U	4	I'm on a fixed income.
M	65+	U	4	Like every citizen in Lakewood, the city needs to learn to live with the money they have. Start cutting the administrative fat, cut unnecessary programs and tighten your belts like the rest of us have to do. Why is the first solution always taking more of taxpayers money?
M	65+	U	4	The City is EXTREMELY inefficient and wastes money. They need to get their act together, be more efficient and become a better managed, well-run municipality before I will approve any type of tax increase. I do not trust the City to use any additional funds responsibly until the City gets its act together. There is SO MUCH WASTE in their current day to day activities.
M	65+	U	4	The costs of "affordable housing" should be reduced and used for other needs.
M	65+	U	4	Throw more money at a problem and expect it to be resolved. It doesn't work.
M	65+	U	4	Too much spending on unnecessary things. There will be no end to more spending and higher taxes unless voters sat no more.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
O	18-34	D	5	Sales taxes are regressive. You're proposing to tax the poor to give their money to cops. It's insulting really. Defund the police. There's your revenue. Also, literally making things less affordable is not going to be our way out of an affordability crisis. You're not going to tax your way out of this problem, especially with a regressive tax. It's asinine to purpose a tax that disproportionately hurts the poor to pay for cops and to help the poor. I repeat. Defund the police. Colorado Newsline says we spend almost 45% of our budget on policing already. Does that make you more or less likely to vote no?
F	35-44	D	5	I don't feel that the description matches what was just in the explanation break outs. The estimated cost per household per month was by far the most convincing of the points.
F	35-44	D	5	I would be concerned that the sales tax is intended to exist in perpetuity. Sales taxes are also regressive in that they affect the working class more than the upper classes.
F	45-54	D	5	The city needs to appropriately and transparently use the money it already has- tax increases end up being squandered with no real results to show for what was collected.
F	45-54	D	5	The public should keep their hard earned money.
F	55-64	D	5	Prices on everything are too high. I have not had a raise in two years. So, while this small amount of money doesn't seem like a lot, it is actually a huge amount for someone like me. I work full time for Jeffco Schools, and pay my taxes. All the other costs up, but my income does not. So no, I cannot afford to pay more in taxes.
M	55-64	D	5	Mostly, because I don't trust the City to implement the improvements properly. The development at the Green Gables golf course, and Belmar Lake are perfect examples. The first was done without any infrastructure improvements, leaving us with higher traffic. In the second, there's no way the apartments being constructed will be low income, and again, no infrastructure improvements to address the traffic (on the nearby streets or the park itself).
F	65+	D	5	Property taxes went up, the city spends money on buying more parks and i cannot afford \$20 a month in this tax. i'm drowning.
F	65+	D	5	Taxing something that is vital to living is ludicrous right now. I am a senior on a fixed income. Everything is too expensive. Cut costs someplace else like salaries of Mayor, city manager etc.
F	65+	D	5	Why doesn't Gen Mtn /Denver Water company could call the IRF "fee" a TAX to repair the infrastructure? Same goes for fees for sewer which I feel is a TAX. XCel continues to raise the rates for my electric use yet my net metering payment have never increased...

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	65+	D	5	As a single person, I pay extremely high taxes to the federal and state governments. Property taxes went up by double digit percentages again and I already pay sales tax online and to brick and mortar stores. Recently the City of Lakewood increased the storm water fee by 50% without any meaningful public notice. I think we as a society have to rethink the idea that everyone should be able to buy a home. In many European countries about 50% of the population lives permanently in flats or apartments.
M	65+	D	5	Inefficient use of tax dollars when raised
M	65+	D	5	See earlier free form response.
M	65+	D	5	The city is wasting too much money as it is. The city council and mayor need to become better stewards of our taxpayor money and do better with the funds already being collected.
O	35-44	O	5	I don't think the city of Lakewood is using its current funding in an efficient manner.
M	65+	O	5	Increase in revenue is not the answer to the issues you have brought up. You have to address the root cause of the problem. Raising sales tax is like putting band aid on a bleeding artery. Identify and then address the root cause of the problem to arrive at the solution.
F	35-44	R	5	No information on here about how Lakewood will cut costs and spending.
M	35-44	R	5	Increasing sales tax does not directly increase revenue for the city. Based on inflation alone, the city should already be seeing increased revenue due to the higher cost of goods and services being purchased. If the city is experiencing budget issues, that points to problems with how funds are being allocated and managed. Increased spending and wasteful projects, such as affordable housing developments that are not financially sustainable, contribute more to the problem than a lack of tax revenue. prevalent. Denver has raised their taxes over the past decade and it has not increased the quality of government, in fact it almost seems to be an inverse relationship.
F	45-54	R	5	Our taxes in Lakewood are high enough, I think a lot of the funds that have been used in Lakewood have been abused, And I do think there needs to be an audit of where things have gone, and if that money has even made a difference, I'm tired of paying more taxes, More property taxes, And seeing more crime, More homeless, Nothing is resolved.
F	45-54	R	5	You entice people by a low annual amount and then continue to do the same things you've done for years. Making our City more like Denver. We hate it.
M	45-54	R	5	We are already taxed too much. Use the money you already take from us more wisely. Your not making our lives better by making us poorer.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	55-64	R	5	I don't believe the City (we tax payers) need to be responsible for funding so many of the programs and projects that should be user or market-funded. I don't like the cost-benefit of bike lanes, who should decide what and where for affordable housing, and money should be spent on locking up criminals instead of the laundry detergent.
F	55-64	R	5	The city can not balance their budget & needs to relax on getting my \$
F	55-64	R	5	The city wastes money constantly. Look at the city manager salary. Ridiculous! The city tore up and repaved Estes, and it wasn't that bad.
F	65+	R	5	I think the revenue would be siphoned off for other projects
M	65+	R	5	Decrease city administration salaries across the board. homelessness will never be solved. there is no definition of affordable housing
M	65+	R	5	I don't believe the city is frugal. Root out waste and fraud. Spend more wisely. Never use an NGO. Lower taxes to spur investment
M	65+	R	5	Lakewood has demonstrated the management skills of a band of jackals. I'm over giving money to this totally corrupt bureaucracy. And now this further attack on the constituents is proof of it. What did you do with all the money you scammed out of your beloved developers. Are they pissed and stil expecting you thieves to pull a rabbit out of the hat.
M	65+	R	5	No more bike lanes! Nothing more for 'homeless' Look at cutting expenses, rather than ogling our wallets!
M	65+	R	5	Poor fiscal management. Incorrect policy goals and understanding of issues and solutions, especially homelessness, affordable housing, and immigrant populations.
F	18-34	U	5	Concern for misappropriation of funds to be directly used for affordable housing initiatives and programs that do not ultimately solve homelessness.
F	18-34	U	5	Living is expensive enough and cost of living continues to increase while salaries do not
M	18-34	U	5	Majority of the cities with higher sales tax are in worse shape than the ones with lower sales tax.
M	18-34	U	5	You are not focused on anything that I care about with this sales tax increase
M	35-44	U	5	Government fraud and waste
M	35-44	U	5	No tax increase period!! Just because the city miss uses funds the citizens shouldn't be punished. Arrest the criminals and collect the money!! New leadership is needed if the problem can't be solved with the outrageous amount of money already in the budget

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	45-54	U	5	Lakewood needs to tighten their belt like the rest of us. I understand sales tax is flat and potentially will decrease. However, if we need a sales tax increase why would we then take part of it to fund more bike lanes, affordable housing and whatever other pet projects council and staff want to fund? When you take from one (via sales tax) and give to another (affordable housing) that sounds a lot like socialism. As well, we need true economic development in this city. Economic development is not paying for artwork, bridge lights etc, it is attracting more businesses/attractions to Lakewood and give people a reason to come to Lakewood from nearby cities.
M	45-54	U	5	Failure on the cities part is not a reason to increase taxes. We are not your personal piggy bank.
M	45-54	U	5	I filled out the earlier survey where I ranked homeless as a high priority. I meant getting rid of them. I don't want them in my community. Giving them free stuff will make them want to stick around. I definitely do not want to pay for a place for them to crash in between binges
M	45-54	U	5	I have enough taxes being taken from my income with no results to show for it.
M	45-54	U	5	I would like to understand where all the current fund go before committing, on average, to \$240+ annually on already inflated prices for everything
M	45-54	U	5	Incomplete information on how the city is managing its current budget. How allocations are decided and how those projects have been managed with efficiency and effectiveness.
M	45-54	U	5	Lakewood does not need more money. Get out of the growth mindset and become a sustainable city. Don't use deceptive practices, listing Lakewood at the bottom of the 3% to make it look worse. Ommitting the mill leveys compared to other cities.
M	45-54	U	5	Raising taxes does not solve the problems.
M	45-54	U	5	We can't spend our way out of this. We need to make better use of the resources we already have. Waste is everywhere, and despite the billions spent, homelessness has continued to get worse rather than better.
M	45-54	U	5	We have enough money. Use it better
F	55-64	U	5	Has Lakewood shown they are capable of belt tightening in some areas to free up money for other projects? That's what our family does.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	55-64	U	5	I am so opposed to increasing taxes at this point. This is not affordability. There have been way too many fees and taxes increased in Colorado from bag fees, to paying for services (eventbrite & now video gaming). It's ridiculous and out of hand. Give us Tabor back. Make government more efficient. And I would like to see reports on the status of the homeless and services offered hotels purchased and has that improved the homelessness rate. These programs need a baseline and to be monitored for feasibility and success. Otherwise how do we know if it's working? I do not like the trend of Lakewood and progressive policies and continual increase on taxes. You see what has happened to states with lower tax rates? People are flocking to those states while blue states with high tax rates, people and businesses are leaving. Raising fees and taxes generally does not help the locals. This is a time to cut costs, not increase free programs.
F	55-64	U	5	It's another way to sneak in the refining for "affordable housing" that we have rejected already. Take that out and I would say ok.
F	55-64	U	5	Raising taxes lowers sales. Interest rates are high now.
F	55-64	U	5	The city has lost my trust. Before we increase taxes, we should investigate and confirm the current tax funds are being used properly. Budget should be reviewed and any NGOs receiving funds should be audited to ensure funds are being properly spent. Fraud is real and the citizens of Lakewood should have transparency to feel confident our tax money is being used properly.
M	55-64	U	5	Been living in Lakewood for 35 years now, we've done fine without unnecessary funds transfer to lower income non-residents.
M	55-64	U	5	Lack of trust that the City of Lakewood would do what they say they will do with the increased funding.
M	55-64	U	5	Lakewood just got a windfall with our TABOR money and saved a bundle with Kathy Hogdson leaving. It doesn't need any more money. Love within y6means like the rest of us.
M	55-64	U	5	No new taxes
F	65+	U	5	Cumulative taxes are too high. I would rather see belt-tightening and through a review of expenditures and elimination of unnecessary expenditures.
F	65+	U	5	I don't believe Lakewood needs more money to mishandle
F	65+	U	5	The city has not proven to be good stewards of our tax monies!

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	65+	U	5	There are no discussions about what can be done differently to reduce costs. The homelessness approach currently used does not work but costs thousands. Affordable housing is a socialist concept and it does not work. Building units that will soon have to be destroyed because of poor quality "affordable" construction is a waste. There is a building at Wadsworth and Lt Rail offering 10 weeks free rent. Utilize current buildings instead of adding more unsightly Eastern Communist Country building designs for housing. It is also time to review city employee salaries and benefits. We have a city manager who has been so overpaid that it is embarrassing to discuss with other city residents.
F	65+	U	5	Trust has Eroded . You need to rebuild Trust with citizens to get support. City council & city Managers are overpaid. Bias towards DEVELOPERS is obvious and must Stop. We expect FULL TRANSPARENCY. Affordable Housing is needed, and our DEFINITIONS of what Affordable means must become aligned. No more word games. We all know what Affordable should mean. And we know DEVELOPERS don't like it.
F	65+	U	5	We are already paying too much for everything in the city of Lakewood.
M	65+	U	5	City has repeatedly rejected clear citizen input and continues to waste money on low priorities to most while not keeping up with basics. What happened to our last ineffective mayor? Ended up with a high paying cushy job under grifter Polis.
M	65+	U	5	Cost of everything else has increased and can't more taxes.
M	65+	U	5	Do not need to raise more taxes work within the budget
M	65+	U	5	Don't like automatic increases each year.
M	65+	U	5	Lakewood mayor and city council are out of control and money hungry!
M	65+	U	5	Language "including but not limited to" Set up clear benchmarks / approach and commit to public reporting on status / progress / failure
M	65+	U	5	Proposing a tax increase during a time of high cost of living is tone deaf. Lakewood has shown little effort to improve the efficiency of government in order to free up funds for the activities to be funded by this sales tax effort. The saga around the recently defeated zoning ordinances damaged the credibility of Lakewood leadership.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	65+	U	5	The City does not have a shortage of money, it has an excess of expensives that do not support the core purpose of a city government. For instance, money should not be spent on affordable housing when the City can easily support this by REDUCING the costs to live in Lakewood; reduce the crazy costs given to the city to build here, the ridiculous annual stormwater tax (and yearly increases), wasted money on the pursuit of "sustainability" (not a City responsibility), cut back on the cultural events (and associated expenses) that only subsidize a small portion of Lakewood citizens, and the list goes on. Additionally, the City just "took away" some of our Tabor money, supposedly to be used for some of the items you are now saying you need more taxes for...you should have used that money for this purposes instead of using it to pay for a penalty for Tabor violations (I hope the city attorney was released because of this). Bottom line, the city needs to prioritize the money it has to more narrowly support the core purpose of a City
M	65+	U	5	The cost of living is already too high, and we have seen Lakewood descend into Denver-like out-of-touch city council
M	65+	U	5	The council is totally out of control and the mayor is the WORST socialist we have ever had.
M	65+	U	5	The democrats love to mis spent taxpayer dollars
M	65+	U	5	The Lakewood city government's primary responsibilities include maintaining public safety (police and fire departments), managing public works (roads, water, and trash), overseeing zoning and land use, providing parks and recreation, and regulating local businesses.
M	65+	U	5	With the cost of everything increasing, I do not want to approve an increase in any tax.
O	65+	U	5	We want No growth, more open spaces.
F	18-34	D	U	The increased cost of services, albeit true, are also taken into account with the cost of current items under the sales tax. So things I used to pay \$10 for has gone up, and therefore the 3% tax has gone up as well. I would need more concrete data on crime and homelessness in Lakewood compared to the other cities who have a higher sales tax already in place. If the sales tax could potentially go up it feels like there needs to be more definitive action plans on where the money would go (not just generic addressing homelessness and crime statements).
F	45-54	D	U	Tax money is already coming in, but it's being misused and mismanaged
F	45-54	D	U	We are taxed to death while income brackets of government officials rise and corruption abounds. The lack of transparency in government spending causes mistrust.. If more money is needed, officials need to take a pay cut.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	45-54	D	U	I like the topic areas that the survey questions discuss and I fully support providing more money to go to them, but the ballot language is open-ended so that the money could be spent on things completely unrelated to these issues. That's why I indicated I would likely vote no.
F	55-64	D	U	Already pay a lot in taxes and do not see where this money is going. Lots of fraud, waste and abuse and the City needs to budget like the rest of us and not spend on unnecessary things that benefit nobody but administrators.
M	65+	D	U	Is question 19 accurate at \$20 per month average? If so that's \$240 extra per year in taxes. That is unsustainable in the current economy we're in at the moment.
M	65+	D	U	These cost of living is way too high as it is right now and the city needs to find ways to lower the cost of living and or equalize the cost of living. If they're going to build hotels or apartments make sure that everybody can afford the apartments that rent will not be more than \$1,200 a month at that for two bedroom or \$900 a month for one bedroom that would be more appropriate use of the money.
M	65+	D	U	We are already over taxed. I don't feel the money is spent efficiently. I do not take law-enforcement supported properly.
M	18-34	O	U	All this talk about crime prevention, fighting homelessness, Public safety etc. Tells me that this is a Trojan horse. What does ballot measure sounds like to me is demanding I pay a tax increase so that Lakewood PD can continue to collect paychecks and, I assume, use more tax dollars to harass the homeless and working poor, increase patrols and more than likely quotas for things like tickets and arrests, and pretend it's about public safety. I don't want my tax dollars going to that, I want them going towards things that actually make the city better to live in not worse- like maintaining our park system which is top-notch, or incentivizing skilled workers to move here including but not limited to educators, sustainability consultants, medical staff, and public works. I will not vote for someone to take money out of my paycheck and in exchange make me more likely to receive a superfluous traffic infraction by an officer with a quota to fill
O	35-44	O	U	Manage the taxes being collected now. Get out of the developers' pockets. Take care of colfax now. There is no need to keep building when there are so many existing spaces not being utilized.
M	45-54	O	U	Because you have already raised my property 5.6k in the last 3 years. You want to fund other people living in Lakewood and allow developers to build and lower the safety of residents living in your city with out pay taxes and pass it on the the residents of Lakewood. All the taxes you are promoting are nothing but slush finds for other special projects. Current people are moving out do to the tax rate increases and business are folding due to to this

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	55-64	O	U	Live within current budget, quit burdening tax payers with shortfalls council and city have created with mismanagement
F	55-64	O	U	My vote will remain a NO! Too much is being expected already from tax paying citizens! The City has to learn to balance existing budget just like us citizens do! City wants Citizens to continue coughing up money while the big city officials earnings are going up and up compared to the average earnings! No the City is pushing ideas that residents and communities don't agree with! The City is dividing communities by way of how they are approaching housing and affordable housing projects! Every citizen has been asked to conserve more water and energy sources therefore why is it ok for the City to continue building and using water and energy resources ? Please just slow down and scale back the planning until further review of City budget to cover all this fast past change the City so desires!
M	65+	O	U	Cut city spending. We don't need to be paying the city manager \$465,000 per year - more than the President, Senators, Supreme Court Justices and the Governor!
M	65+	O	U	Taxes are too high now, and we do not want our taxes to the illegal. A said use our taxes more responsibility.
M	18-34	R	U	Taxation is theft
M	35-44	R	U	I will not vote for higher taxes. The city needs to cut wasteful spending.
M	35-44	R	U	You all cant stick to a single budget ever. More more more more is all you ever say. Show people you know how to use the budget you get or scoot down the bench. For those who are thick, if you cant do the job with what you got, we got the wrong person for the job. Groceries are grossly expensive, gas is climbing. You are ruining colorado with how expensive it is. Keep pushing up the taxes, colorado WILL follow California again and everyone will start leaving.....
M	35-44	R	U	You have plenty of money already. If it's been misappropriated that's not something we should be paying for with an increase in taxes. JD Vance will be looking into CO soon. I suggested you get your act together. Surely an increase in taxes will only draw more attention to the fraud in this state.
F	45-54	R	U	Because the people in charge have very big salaries, they took the Tabor from us, they tax mariguana for this too and they continue to ask for more money. First be transparent in what are you using all the money you already receive.
F	45-54	R	U	It is not an answer to fix all of the before mentioned issues by raising sales tax. Cut welfare benefits and free benefits for homeless and non citizens before we tax citizens and taxpayers
F	45-54	R	U	The City is run by liberals who will just give people "free" things in their mind to keep voting blue.
M	45-54	R	U	I do not trust the Coty to allocate funds responsibly.
M	45-54	R	U	What you say and what you do it 2 different things, I don't trust you!

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
"Please describe the reasons why you would vote no and reject the ballot measure."

Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	55-64	R	U	Need to look at the budget, but would reallocate current spending to cover these expenses that you've noted.
F	55-64	R	U	You already have enough tax money. Stop mishandling it and you will have enough.
F	55-64	R	U	You need to work with what you have. Put it into infrastructure and police. Get private funding for homeless projects. This ballot is asking that landlords can't evict a none paying tentants? Who comes up with these ideas. How should their failure to make money be the landlords problem? Thats just so toxic to the business owners. Quit punishing entrepreneurship. Lets say we have a 20 unit bldg. 5 of the 20 stop paying. Are you saying it should be on the landlord or tax payers plate to hold them up? That would be like saying, I am moving in with you. Pay my bills for a year. I doubt you would say yes or any of your staff. I think you all are going too far with expectations.
M	55-64	R	U	Jail all homeless
M	55-64	R	U	Learn how to spend our tax dollars better without asking for more, quit funding Marxist socialist agendas America first
F	65+	R	U	Because although I agree with many of the identified issues being a priority, I don't necessarily agree with the solutions you propose, or the priorities within the priorities. Also, I am unconvinced that you can't find ways to be more efficient. As costs rise, the amount of money you collect from sales tax automatically rises - it is built into inflation.
F	65+	R	U	I don't want to pay more taxes. Please try to manage the money you have
F	65+	R	U	Lakewood is not honest about their use of money
F	65+	R	U	Money needs to be accounted for and used properly. No one is held accountable.
F	65+	R	U	Officials more concerned about their bonuses and raises than for the people. You all are horrible budgetary and managers
F	65+	R	U	On a fixed income. My income does not go up nearly enough to afford any increase in anything
M	65+	R	U	After reading the proposal and knowing the history of decisions by the city counsel, the increase will be used solely to fund low income or homeless housing and other liberal agendas. The counsel is losing the trust and respect of the Lakewood community.
M	65+	R	U	First eliminate waste
M	65+	R	U	High taxes don't bring prosperity; low taxes do. Also, your proposed approaches to homeless, "sustainability," etc. are all wrong. Finally, you shouldn't keep cluttering up the budget with revenue dedicated to specific items.
M	65+	R	U	I no longer trust the city/council after the ba k door zoning fiasco. stop wasting the money you already have. use that money to do these things fir which they are supposed to be.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	65+	R	U	I'm on a fixed income and I'm already taxed to the limit. I would like to keep some of my money don't California Colorado.
M	65+	R	U	No tax increases , lakewood will squander the money
M	65+	R	U	Taxes are already too high. City council should be looking for ways to decrease the budget. No new taxes!!
M	65+	R	U	Too many unmeasurable items mostly on the woke "nice to have but not necessary or does not solve the underlying problems" list. Example: curing homelessness without curing the drug addictions that fuel it is a complete waste of money. It hasn't worked ANYWHERE.
F	18-34	U	U	I don't trust the city to use this money to fix the problems facing the city... with finances as they are now, an extra \$20 is not something I'm willing to lose. I would rather keep that money and still deal with some of the problems we are facing as a city. Taking more of the tax payers money is not a solution.
F	18-34	U	U	Taxes are already too high. The solution is not to spend more. The solution is to cut the budget and spend less. So much is already wasted, why collect more? Cut back on waste, spend the tax dollars you already receive responsibly, and you'll probably have money leftover.
M	18-34	U	U	Everything you are proposing isn't going to fix it's just going to inflate and destroy the neighborhoods by bringing in unwanted and unmannered people
M	18-34	U	U	I want no more money for police in our communities and a general sales tax is going to disproportionately affect underprivileged groups rather than taking the money from people who can afford it.
M	18-34	U	U	You don't use the money wisely. Too much emphasis on the homeless and affordable housing. Not enough emphasis on crime prevention and prosecuting those who break the law.
O	18-34	U	U	False pretenses
O	18-34	U	U	I do not trust this city administration. I feel that you would place all of the homeless services on Colfax and run off the remaining businesses. I fear that any funds will be spent elsewhere where- see the monies going towards the ruling against the city phone fee. You don't have my faith that you will use this well or that you will spend it on the uses outlined. Trim the city manager salary. Use a local business to cut the lawns in city parks.
M	35-44	U	U	Because fuck you. Learn how to execute a budget like a business has to in order to remain profitable. How come when the government fails at budgeting they decide to tax us more instead of fixing the problem? You get free money from me and suck dick at managing it then try to take more. Fuck you.

City of Lakewood 2026 Ballot Measure Survey
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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	35-44	U	U	I would need better optics on the current budget and program efficiencies to see if the increase would be worth while on sales tax, which affects lower income households more heavily than property tax, which helps boost the benefits of those at or around the poverty line more so than harm.
M	35-44	U	U	The city is currently in a lawsuit for the mismanagement of funds to A tech company. Appropriating Any more funds of any type at this time would be flat out irresponsible.
O	35-44	U	U	I'm against any tax increase. Everything is so expensive and none of it will help us. It seems like every measure is a handout to developers who want to build those horrible ugly apartment buildings that you see so around Denver. Our insurance and property tax increased our escrow payment by \$500 a month Starting in January. Because of Trump and his complete failure we're facing high prices on literally everything. We may end up stuck in a house that is too expensive to ever rent out. Groceries are insanely high and so is gas. I'm not voting to make anything more expensive for me and to make Colorado developers money to build cheap crappy housing and destroy what's left of the beauty of this place.
O	35-44	U	U	Many reasons.
F	45-54	U	U	I have very little money and a majority of my pay goes towards taxes already
F	45-54	U	U	I will not support anything that allows for people to take advantage of housing. Evictions should be easier and tenant accountability restored.
F	45-54	U	U	The City has received substantial funding, yet much of it has not been utilized for the intended public purposes. As a result, continued financial contributions may not be forthcoming from taxpayers, especially when pressing issues like road conditions remain terrible. Legal action may be necessary to ensure the City fulfills its obligations. Additionally, a reevaluation of staffing levels may be warranted, as there seems to be excessive personnel and compensation, leading to inefficiencies and a lack of progress. \$29,000,000 wasted \$7,000,000 to Action Center \$5,000,000 property given to developer Belmar Park Zoning. No More Trust No TAX Increases PERIOD!
F	45-54	U	U	The city is not using the money that it already collects appropriately, so I am not in favor of it collecting more.
F	45-54	U	U	You already mismanage the funding you get. Fix that before you ask for more

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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
F	45-54	U	U	You have enough money. You choose to spend it the wrong way. You try to take money from contractors and try to fool people by saying it was affordable money. Lakewood isn't buying it or you. By the way, you have enough money. You keep increasing the value of our homes so that Our home taxes are ridiculously expensive. In the last five years Colorado's budget has doubled. In the last five years, we have had only a 5% increase. Figure it out, look at the money and where it's going and stop keeping it in your pocket. I hope you all get voted out.
M	45-54	U	U	I don't believe the tax dollars that have being taken right now from me are being maximized. My councilwoman has been a total disaster with the homeless. It has gotten much worse since she has been in office.
M	45-54	U	U	I feel the city should use their current resources more effectively and target waste and ridiculous initiatives (like putting bumps on the sidewalk at every intersection) and make police/public safety, teachers, and infrastructure the priorities.
M	45-54	U	U	Much more efficient ways to spend the money
O	45-54	U	U	It is a percentage increase, which means that you already keeping up with inflation. I want to see better allocation of existing resources before approving additional.
F	55-64	U	U	Affordable housing is hard for me to fund when I'm having issues affording my own home.
F	55-64	U	U	Not the year to ask more of me, I'm still surviving and digging myself out of the Biden years
F	55-64	U	U	The city needs to budget better. There is federal money for homelessness programs and federal grants the city can get busy applying for. You all forgot a majority of the people benefitting and only focused on a few departments receiving benefits.
F	55-64	U	U	You got approx 40M in Tabor money. Use that to fund the additional support.
M	55-64	U	U	Because the city gets enough money already they don't need any more of my money. I'm sick of paying taxes and it's always more and more and more you guys never budget for the what we have. It's time to get rid of you. Idiots.
M	55-64	U	U	City government has taken on too many projects that should not be addressed by government. While I might agree that revenues have declined. At the same time prices have increased and as a result the taxes received have increased
M	55-64	U	U	It is unclear to me what has caused city expenses to increase relative to revenue since the last sales tax increase.

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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	55-64	U	U	Lakewood is poorly managing current tax revenues and needs to be more accountable for doing expensive maintenance projects more efficiently and effectively. Get a consultant to assess your processes. A private company would not survive being run the way Lakewood is run. Fix your high cost inefficiencies and then do what you want with the savings- I only gave you 2 examples- there are numerous examples
M	55-64	U	U	Sales tax is unfair to the lower income and I do not support it.
M	55-64	U	U	You don't need more money you need to spend the money you have in a smarter fashion.
M	55-64	U	U	You have plenty of tax dollars relocate your resources
O	55-64	U	U	Raising sales tax rates only depresses sales.
F	65+	U	U	City is already spending significant more money than other cities on homelessness, and has overbuilt apartments. Lakewood is definitely more affordable than other metro Denver cities. City Council needs to prioritize the needs of tax paying Lakewood home and business owners and maintaining quality of life.
F	65+	U	U	I don't have extra money for things I'm lucky to get by with the money I have coming in
F	65+	U	U	I don't support the city being responsible for some of the objectives where the money will be spent. Not clear enough how decisions will be made. Overall sales taxes are high already. Just because other cities have higher sales taxes rates doesn't mean everyone should follow that path.
F	65+	U	U	I see no mention of maintaining the integrity of current, well-established neighborhoods
F	65+	U	U	It isn't the lack of funds it is the way it is being used and the representation that doesn't allocate what it was meant for all along. Stop the bleeding of lakewood residence and allocate what is already being forced to give where it was meant to be idea and all these items would be covered
F	65+	U	U	Lakewood wastes money.
F	65+	U	U	We are retired and we have the same money we had in retirement to live on. I think you should tighten your budget just as we have had to do! Thank you for asking!
M	65+	U	U	Because Lakewood like every city ran by liberals overspends on these liberal projects. The city needs to have a balanced budget just like every household that lives in Lakewood. Over taxing and overspend is it not a responsible way to run the government?
M	65+	U	U	Belmar has special taxes and fees - works out to about 10%. No more taxes or fees.
M	65+	U	U	History of bad financial handling by the city in the past
M	65+	U	U	No dollars should be allocated for homeless and subsidized housing. Money should be allocated for infrastructure and safety. Provide for essential services not social that benefit non citizens and attracts same.

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Sex	Range	Party	Ward	Response
M	65+	U	U	No more tax increases for paying additional money for Xcel energy. We're paying additional money for water. I'm not agreeing to any more price increases.
M	65+	U	U	Raising taxes each year is easy. All of these issues listed projects are good things to do. The challenge for any Budget Committee is to make the difficult decisions. This is often deciding where to slow the growth and cost of projects and expenditures. That is your job. Have you done a Survey, or asked the tax paying residents - "Are you under-Taxed?" "Do you feel strongly that you should pay more in taxes each year?" Your Survey questions are skewed. If your committee has integrity and is being honest, you know that these questions are biased. My guess is that the committee will use this invalid survey with loaded questions, to justify increasing taxes and fees. This is a cowardly manner to hide behind your goal to increase the tax. If you poll your committee, I'll bet most, or all, have already made your decision.
M	65+	U	U	This measure includes homelessness along with Streets, traffic...etc. How is a citizen know if a higher percentage goes to homelessness than streets?
M	65+	U	U	Very poor governance and focus on safety and reduction on crime by government officials.
O	65+	U	U	City officials make way too much \$\$\$ Reduce salaries instead of raising taxes on everything!
O	65+	U	U	I DONT trust the spending in Colorado government You need more consumer protection laws If people would communicate with other Cities Solutions people here would have more secure lives With ur high taxes - where the Hell does it go People protection laws would lower crime insurance Food (King Soop a Monopoly here) Add more competition & less people on the street Im 73 no family not well worked since 16 raised a child all alone no child support + NEVER asked for financial help NOW Im within \$30 to \$50 each mth of living in my 22 yr old car I have no idea what will be done with my body when I die Just in the past 4 mths I have spent over 400. In copays Thx for noticing Huh No trust
O	65+	U	U	It's simple, really. See previous comment. SHOW US THE CUTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROPOSED to support the new (old) issues suggested that have been previously approved and remain in the current budget. And don't use "It's for the children" because that one has been overtaxed without positive data gains. Get rid of data centers and stop allowing building without viable water capability studies for which city planners are failing our futures. Get it together, Lakewood. This place used to be so much better. WHO is the NME. Defund UNagendas.
O	65+	U	U	Poor stewardship of previous money. Homeless situation has worsened dramatically.