

From: [Melissa Ryan](#)
To: "Vincenzo"
Cc: Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca; Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org; [Sandra Zwiers](#)
Subject: RE: 2025 Budget
Date: November 22, 2024 1:04:00 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out to share your concerns regarding the proposed 2025 County budget. I understand the frustration and financial strain many residents are experiencing, and your feedback is important as we work to balance community needs with affordability.

The initial levy increase of \$17.3M reflected all departmental requests. However, this was carefully reduced to \$11.1M after significant prioritization, focusing on critical services and infrastructure.

While the resulting 6.37% increase is higher than desired, it addresses inflation, growth pressures, and past funding gaps, ensuring we can maintain essential services like road maintenance, emergency response, and social services and housing.

Moving forward, we will continue to explore new revenue sources, efficiency measures, and service-level reviews to mitigate future tax impacts. Collaboration with other levels of government will also be key in addressing systemic issues like housing affordability and infrastructure funding.

Thank you for your input.

MR

From: Vincenzo
Sent: November 22, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Melissa Ryan <MRyan@countyofessex.ca>
Cc: Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca; Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org
Subject: 2025 Budget

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Hi,

This email is in response to the 2025 proposed budget. After i reviewed the budget I am dismayed by the over 6% increase requested. I am not sure where administration and council expects taxpayers to find this amount from and what i am seeing is that we should expect same going forward as no one is talking about how we do things differently.

After reading the sentence "*gathering all departmental requests, the initial levy increase was a total of \$17,313,080*" i felt sick to my stomach. How can administration even think of asking to spend that amount of taxpayers money. Do they not read the papers or listen to the news where people are struggling to put food on their table. Hopefully, that was only a ploy to make the, also unacceptable, amount of \$11,114,240 seem palatable.

Most people in Essex county are not getting salary increase even close to 6%, so where does Administration and Council expect us to find that extra money. Well all we can do is reduce our spending in other ways, whether reducing our food budget, lowering the heat in our residence, forgoing activities with our family, etc. Do you think this will help our businesses because when we reduce our spending, they see a reduction in their sales. We don't have the ability to say to our employer or the government (cpp/oas) you need to pay us more because my property taxes are higher. Why do you think that food banks have seen a huge increase in usage, the homeless population is increasing or donations to charities are falling. Housing affordability is bad and its getting worse, do you believe that raising property taxes by such an amount makes it more affordable or less affordable. This is also true for rentals as property taxes that landlords pay eventually end up in the rent. For most, property taxes are now the second or third highest expense in their household, rivalling interest payments on a mortgage. A home with assessed value of 500\$K means property taxes are over 9,000\$ per year (2024), 750\$ per month (LaSalle where i live).

It is unfortunate to say but maybe we have to make sacrifices at the County of Essex. These increases are not sustainable. As an avid cyclist i use the bike lanes that the county has built throughout the years but i understand that we must stop spending money on nice to haves and make do when we are spending so much and people can't afford to sustain themselves. I don't expect other taxpayers to subsidize my choice of recreation. It is todays reality.

What is going to change in 2026/27/28 that will bring property tax increases to a more manageable level. How about service fee increases to bring in more revenue, for those that can afford to do those extracurricular activities or doing the same with less, contracting out work, we need to do something different to get a different result.

I have included the members of our respective Parliments on this email so that they can understand how we are feeling. All these rebates cheques being offered by the provincial and federal governments is just moving money around the different levels, what one giveth the other taketh away. Those rebates have already been spent by municipal governments with property tax increases. For MPP Leardi, we need to put in place legislation to protect taxpayers against unsustainable tax hikes, similar to what is in place for school boards running deficits. For MP Lewis, hopefully you will share my concerns with our next prime minister, Mr. Poilievre, so he can get an understanding of some of the reasons why our housing is unaffordable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vincenzo 
