

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Majority Approve of Mayor's Across-the-Board Budget Cut

Cutting costs widely preferred to raising taxes

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 882 Toronto voters, just more than one half (54%) approve of Mayor Tory's requirement that all city departments and agencies cut 2.6% of their budgets, while just 3-in-10 disapprove (30%). Approval is highest among boomers (55 to 64 - 62%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 63%), in Etobicoke (64%), among the best educated (post grad - 61%) and among those who commute by car (60%). Past voters for Mayor Tory are especially likely to approve (68%)

Two thirds prefer cutting costs; one quarter prefer raising taxes

When asked the best way to balance the city's budget, the clear majority, two thirds, opts for cutting costs (63%) whereas just one quarter picks raising taxes (26%), a recommendation common to the oldest (33%), the very wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 38%), in the downtown (39%) and East York (34%), among the best educated (34%) and especially among Olivia Chow voters (55%).

Neither TTC nor library seen to be able to afford 2.6% cut; not so police

One half of Toronto voters say the TTC cannot afford to cut 2.6% of its budget (50%), whereas just one third think this is possible (37%), Just fewer, more than 4-in-10 (44%) think the Toronto Public Library can't afford to make the cuts, while somewhat fewer think it can (38%). In contrast, more than half think the Toronto Police Service can afford to trim its budget (54%), and just less than half think it cannot (44%).

"While most agree with his across-the-board approach to budget cutting, it is interesting to note the one group in favour of raising taxes over cutting spending is the oldest, a very important cohort to Mayor Tory's electoral success" said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

TORONTO

October 1st, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just more than one half (54%) approve of Mayor Tory's requirement that all city departments and agencies cut 2.6% of their budgets
- The clear majority, two thirds opts for cutting costs (63%) whereas just one quarter picks raising taxes (26%)
- One half of Toronto voters say the TTC cannot afford to cut 2.6% of its budget (50%)
- "While most agree with his across-the-board approach to budget cutting, it is interesting to note the one group in favour of raising taxes over cutting spending is the oldest, a very important cohort to Mayor Tory's electoral success"

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 882 randomly selected Toronto adults. The poll was conducted on September 30 and October 1, 2016.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Balancing the City Budget

Mayor Tory has asked all city departments and agencies to find savings equal to 2.6% of their budgets. Do you approve or disapprove of this approach to balancing the city budget?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	882	189	142	170	174	207	461	393
Approve	54	49	52	57	62	57	60	51
Disapprove	30	26	34	32	27	30	28	30
Don't know	16	24	14	11	11	14	12	19

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	882	89	127	109	101	107	181
Approve	54	43	41	44	63	60	62
Disapprove	30	32	35	30	25	27	31
Don't know	16	25	23	25	12	13	8

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	882	300	58	173	137	49	165
Approve	54	51	53	55	64	44	53
Disapprove	30	34	26	30	20	37	31
Don't know	16	16	20	15	16	19	17

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	882	98	197	364	223
Approve	54	43	58	51	61
Disapprove	30	35	24	31	30
Don't know	16	22	18	18	9

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Mode of Transportation

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	882	338	248	53	60	31	152
Approve	54	60	50	45	54	33	57
Disapprove	30	28	29	36	27	47	28
Don't know	16	11	21	19	19	21	15

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Past Mayoral Vote Preference

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	882	131	392	144	47
Approve	54	58	68	29	33
Disapprove	30	31	21	53	29
Don't know	16	11	11	18	38

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Cutting Costs vs. Increasing Taxes

Which is the better course of action to balance the city budget, cutting costs or increasing taxes?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	882	189	142	170	174	207	461	393
Cutting costs	63	64	56	72	69	54	64	63
Increasing taxes	26	27	29	20	21	33	26	26
Don't know	11	9	16	7	11	13	9	12

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	882	89	127	109	101	107	181
Cutting costs	63	66	65	66	65	58	56
Increasing taxes	26	15	20	25	28	28	38
Don't know	11	19	15	9	6	14	6

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	882	300	58	173	137	49	165
Cutting costs	63	50	51	68	71	75	66
Increasing taxes	26	39	34	19	20	12	28
Don't know	11	11	15	13	9	14	7

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	882	98	197	364	223
Cutting costs	63	63	75	61	55
Increasing taxes	26	18	17	29	34
Don't know	11	19	8	10	10

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Mode of Transportation

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	882	338	248	53	60	31	152
Cutting costs	63	73	58	44	52	69	55
Increasing taxes	26	19	31	41	35	5	32
Don't know	11	8	11	15	14	27	13

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Past Mayoral Vote Preference

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	882	131	392	144	47
Cutting costs	63	85	61	31	63
Increasing taxes	26	9	29	55	17
Don't know	11	6	10	15	20

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TTC Budget Cuts

Do you agree or disagree the TTC can afford to cut 2.6% of its budget?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	882	189	142	170	174	207	461	393
Agree	37	32	35	47	45	28	44	30
Disagree	50	56	55	42	40	52	47	54
Don't know	13	12	11	11	15	20	9	17

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	882	89	127	109	101	107	181
Agree	37	37	33	36	43	43	39
Disagree	50	45	49	48	44	50	55
Don't know	13	18	18	16	13	7	6

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	882	300	58	173	137	49	165
Agree	37	30	36	43	38	32	36
Disagree	50	60	54	41	42	58	53
Don't know	13	9	10	16	20	10	10

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	882	98	197	364	223
Agree	37	25	41	41	30
Disagree	50	50	44	48	60
Don't know	13	25	15	11	10

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Mode of Transportation

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	882	338	248	53	60	31	152
Agree	37	46	33	26	24	33	28
Disagree	50	43	56	63	65	49	48
Don't know	13	11	12	12	11	18	24

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Past Mayoral Vote Preference

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	882	131	392	144	47
Agree	37	50	36	18	22
Disagree	50	33	53	71	48
Don't know	13	17	11	10	30

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Toronto Police Service Cuts

Do you agree or disagree the Toronto Police Service can afford to cut 2.6% of its budget?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	882	189	142	170	174	207	461	393
Agree	54	56	57	54	52	50	67	42
Disagree	32	26	32	39	36	30	25	37
Don't know	14	18	12	8	13	20	8	21

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	882	89	127	109	101	107	181
Agree	54	47	41	54	65	65	61
Disagree	32	31	32	28	26	29	33
Don't know	14	22	27	17	9	6	6

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	882	300	58	173	137	49	165
Agree	54	63	54	52	45	51	54
Disagree	32	24	27	33	41	27	32
Don't know	14	13	19	15	13	22	13

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	882	98	197	364	223
Agree	54	42	49	55	62
Disagree	32	35	35	32	26
Don't know	14	23	16	13	11

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Agree	54	57	51	68	60	50	41
Disagree	32	35	33	16	19	34	30
Don't know	14	8	15	16	21	15	29

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Past Mayoral Vote Preference

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Sample	882	131	392	144	47
Agree	54	47	57	60	48
Disagree	32	41	32	23	24
Don't know	14	13	11	17	28

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Toronto Public Library Cuts

Do you agree or disagree the Toronto Public Library can afford to cut 2.6% of its budget?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	882	189	142	170	174	207	461	393
Agree	38	40	35	44	42	29	46	32
Disagree	44	42	51	38	45	45	40	47
Don't know	18	18	15	18	14	26	14	21

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	882	89	127	109	101	107	181
Agree	38	44	26	35	45	39	41
Disagree	44	42	50	43	38	44	46
Don't know	18	14	24	23	17	17	12

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	882	300	58	173	137	49	165
Agree	38	30	32	45	36	38	42
Disagree	44	52	47	37	37	52	45
Don't know	18	18	21	18	26	9	12

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Agree	38	48	35	20	28	42	26
Disagree	44	36	51	60	55	27	44
Don't know	18	16	14	20	18	30	30

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%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	882	131	392	144	47
Agree	38	48	37	25	35
Disagree	44	29	45	61	38
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