

City Budget



What's in the budget?

Preparing the 2009 operating budget was challenging this year due to the economic downturn, and factors such as:

- removing one-time savings used in 2008 from the 2007 work stoppage,*
- the costs of increased police staffing (96 officers and 22 civilians) approved by Council in 2008, and
- increases associated with collective agreements signed in 2007.

These factors would have resulted in a property tax increase of 11% before making any adjustments. During the fall of 2008, City staff completed an intensive review of the budget to look for ways to reduce expenditures without impacting services and staff. The City identified \$26.3 million of savings during this review, bringing the potential tax increase down to 6.3%.

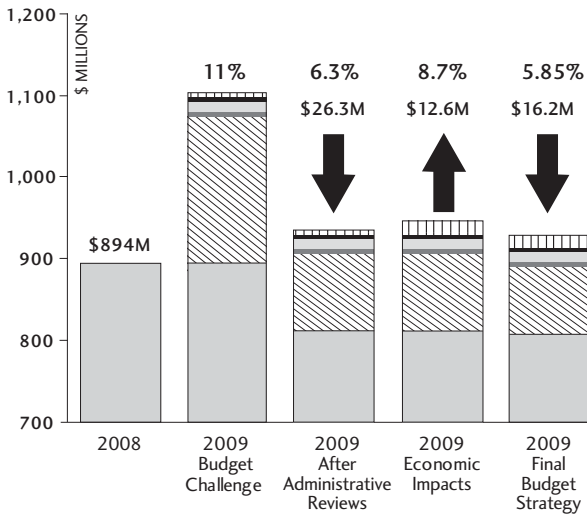
These estimates, however, did not anticipate the unprecedented decline in

development activity and related revenues in early 2009. This resulted in reduced income of \$12.6 million, which would have required bringing the tax increase to 8.7% to balance the budget.

In response, Council passed a motion on February 3, 2009, directing the City Manager to immediately take all necessary steps to produce a 2009 operating budget to minimize tax increases without compromising key City services. Steps included a hiring freeze, review of all contracts and projects, and a reassessment of all major budget items and methodologies. These measures resulted in a further \$16.2 million in savings.

The budget now contains a general tax increase of 5.85%. Once adjusted for the redistribution of taxes between residential and non-residential property owners, the net tax increase for residential property owners is 7.89% and 3.89% for non-residential properties.

TAX INCREASE SCENARIOS



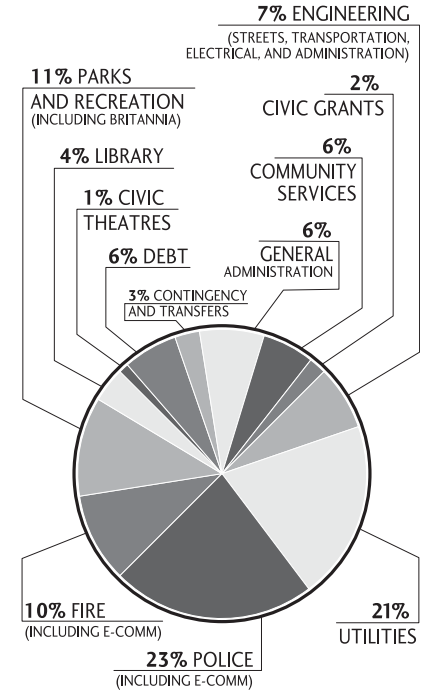
CHALLENGES

- Economic Impacts
- Outside Agencies
- Work Stoppage
- 2008 Approvals
- Salary
- Base Operating Budget

* **work stoppage:** In 2008, savings of \$11.8 million from the 12-week work stoppage by the City's major unions in the previous year were used to reduce 2008 property taxes. A portion of the 2009 tax increase is due to those one-time strike savings; in 2009, 2.3% of the property tax increase is actually a deferred tax increase from 2008.

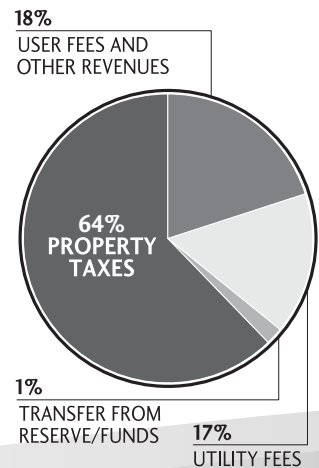
2009 OPERATING EXPENDITURE BUDGET

\$923 Million



2009 OPERATING REVENUE BUDGET

\$923 Million



HAVING YOUR SAY

The City conducts consultations every year to hear feedback on public priorities.

The 2009 consultations were extensive, and used new feedback tools such as an online forum, online survey, e-mail listserv, community group/stakeholder meetings, and focus groups. Additional activities included advertising, public meetings, mailings to taxpayers, and a telephone survey. Advertising was placed in English-

language newspapers and radio, as well as in Chinese-language newspapers and on Punjabi-language radio.

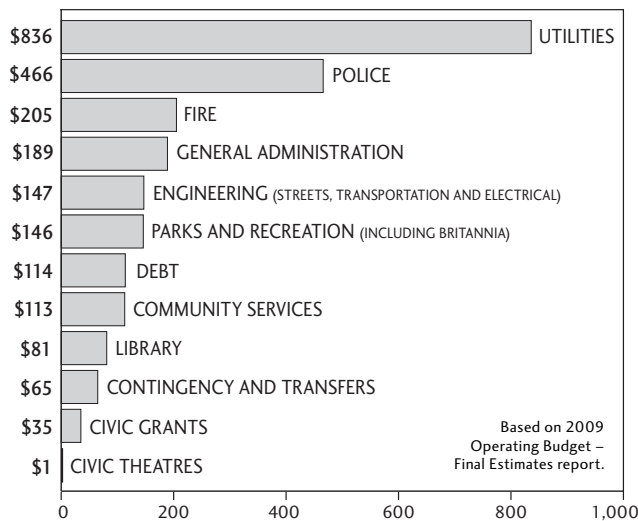


The City thanks everyone who participated for their time and ideas.

To participate in public consultations for the 2010 operating budget, join the City's e-mail listserv. Visit vancouver.ca and go to the "Have Your Say" section.

WHAT DOES THE MUNICIPAL PORTION OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS BUY YOU?

For a home with an assessed value of \$783,000, the municipal tax and utility charges are \$2,398. Most of the property owners' tax and utility dollars go to fund utilities and public safety (fire and police). Here is how that money is divided up to pay for the City's services and programs.



Property tax redistribution

In 2008, based on the recommendations of a Property Tax Policy Review Commission, Council approved redistributing 1% of the property tax levy between residential and non-residential properties over five years. For 2009, this means a 2% increase for residential property taxes and a 2% decrease for non-residential property taxes.

Find out what's happening in your city

Keep up to date on City happenings. Look for the **Vancouver Matters** ad in the *Vancouver Courier* on Fridays. You'll find information on City news and events, open houses, public meetings, opportunities to share your ideas and opinions and more! You can also visit the City of Vancouver website at vancouver.ca. It's updated regularly with all the latest about what's going on at the City.

How to pay and apply for the homeowner grant

Check the back of your tax notice to find out ways to submit your payment.



The City's website also has information on how to pay, and how to check your tax account balance, at

vancouver.ca/propertytax. Property owners can also apply online for the provincial home owner grant. Have your tax notice handy to reference your folio number and access code.

What else is on the bill?

In addition to municipal property tax, your bill may include user fees to pay for solid waste, sanitation, sewer and water services. For businesses, these costs are billed separately by the City or private service providers.



The City also collects levies for other organizations: the provincial government for schools,

BC Assessment Authority, Municipal Finance Authority, Metro Vancouver, and TransLink.

Multilingual phone lines

For more information about the City in these languages, call:

資料查詢 ॐॐॐॐॐॐ
604.871.6868 604.871.6565

Hỏi chi tiết ॐॐॐॐॐॐ
604.871.6969 604.871.6464

For more information on the 2009 operating budget, please visit our website: vancouver.ca/together

Questions about your tax bill? Call **604.873.7633** or e-mail: propertytax@vancouver.ca