

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vancouver City Council votes to approve zero percent property tax increase for 2026

VANCOUVER, B.C. – Today, Vancouver City Council approved a motion from Mayor Ken Sim that will see the City deliver a zero percent property tax increase for 2026. The motion directs City staff to protect core services while continuing to invest in Vancouver’s long-term infrastructure priorities.

“Across Canada, families and businesses are facing growing uncertainty with rising costs putting pressure on household budgets,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “This motion ensures that the City of Vancouver does its part to ease the burden on residents and businesses by finding efficiencies and managing taxpayer dollars more responsibly.”

As a result of the motion, City staff will prepare a 2026 budget that protects essential and core services including:

- Libraries
- Community centres
- Arts & culture/community grants
- Police, fire, and emergency services
- Road and sidewalk maintenance
- Garbage pickup

Earlier this year, City staff had recommended a property tax increase of 6-7% which included a 1% levy for infrastructure renewal. Following a thorough assessment of the City’s finances, Mayor Sim introduced a motion that would see no overall tax increase in 2026 while still maintaining the City’s ongoing infrastructure investments.

“We want to be exceptionally clear: zero means zero,” continued Sim. “We’re maintaining vital investments in our City’s infrastructure, while giving families and local businesses the confidence they need heading into 2026.”

Prior to Mayor Sim and the ABC majority on Council being elected, the City faced depleted reserve funds and a growing infrastructure gap following years of deferred maintenance. Early in their term, Council chose to rebuild reserves, invest in infrastructure, and fully fund police and fire services for the first time in decades.

“Vancouver is now in a position to provide meaningful relief and stability to taxpayers without compromising the important services people rely on every day,” concluded Sim. “We are fundamentally changing the way we do things at City Hall and with this upcoming budget, we’ll show what’s possible when we stay focused. We’re proud to deliver a zero percent tax increase in 2026, and our goal is to continue this approach in the years ahead.”

To achieve the zero percent tax increase, City staff will identify approximately \$120 million in cost savings under the leadership of newly appointed City Manager Donny van Dyk.

Support for 'Zero means zero' from the business community:

"Implemented strategically, a property tax freeze could be welcome relief for downtown businesses facing immense cost pressures. We support this proposal to explore efficiencies that maintain essential City services like public safety and sanitation while keeping downtown competitive and welcoming."

Jane Talbot – President & CEO, Downtown Van (DV BIA)

"A zero percent property tax increase is welcome news for Yaletown's small business community. Our local shops, restaurants, and service providers are the heart of the neighbourhood, and this measure offers some much-needed stability as they continue to recover and reinvest in our city's vibrancy. We appreciate Mayor Sim and Council for listening to the concerns of business owners and supporting a thriving, resilient Vancouver."

Sarah Valley – Executive Director, Yaletown Business Improvement Association

"Small businesses across Vancouver are under immense cost pressures, and stability matters more than ever. Holding the line on property taxes helps restore predictability. This motion gives businesses and residents a moment to breathe, plan, and rebuild capacity during this challenging economic period while the city continues to deliver core services efficiently. This decision helps protect the economic and civic capacity our city depends on."

Vincent Kwan – Executive Director, Strathcona Business Improvement Association

"Restaurants around the province are facing new challenges and it's encouraging to see the City of Vancouver take a leadership role on making life for affordable for restaurants and foodservice establishments. BCRFA is proud to support this decision to see a zero percent tax increase in the coming year and we are confident that this will be a positive step towards a stronger, more vibrant local economy."

Ian Tostenson – President & CEO, BC Restaurants & Foodservices Association

"This is welcomed news. The 0% increase in property tax will help provide Vancouverites and the small business community, a confident financial outlook and stability during uncertain times."

Bo Chen – Executive Director, BC's Alliance of Beverage Licensees (ABLE BC)

"Exceptionally high property tax inflation has been a prominent contributor to affordability challenges in B.C. over the past decade or more, driven by excessive growth in municipal operating spending. It's important that municipalities refocus on delivering core services efficiently. Vancouver's motion for a 0% property tax increase next year is an important step toward restoring fiscal discipline and we hope other municipalities follow its example."

David Williams – Vice President of Policy, Business Council of British Columbia

Jairo Yunis – Director of Policy, Business Council of British Columbia

"We applaud Mayor Ken Sim and Vancouver City Council for passing this motion. A true zero percent tax increase is the gold standard for local governments across British Columbia. CFIB's latest Business Barometer® data shows that taxes and red tape are the main cost constraint for 72 percent of small businesses in B.C. At a time when small businesses are struggling to survive a trade war and economic headwinds, controlling costs and keeping taxes low will help them succeed."

Ryan Mitton – Director of Legislative Affairs (BC), Canadian Federation of Independent Business

"Sunset on Fraser Business Association members have endured instability in cost pressures for many years. From

Covid and its consequences to this day, and increased cost pressures from taxation, regulations, permits, and licencing, our businesses are looking for stability and predictability. We support a 0% increase to the 2026 budget and we support planned, stable future budgets that focus on core services and actual civic government responsibilities.”

Rob Nijjar – Executive Director, Sunset on Fraser Business Association

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