



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barrie's 2022 budget: Share what's important to you through the budget allocator tool *How would you spend your tax dollars?*

Barrie, ON – It's budget time at the City of Barrie, which means it's time for taxpayers to share what's important to them through the budget allocator tool. The online tool allows residents to test spending options for many City services by increasing or decreasing the budget for each area, all while trying to maintain a balanced budget.

"With the ongoing effects of COVID and the financial pressures facing our City, it's more important than ever to understand the priorities of our residents when it comes to spending on City services," notes Mayor Jeff Lehman. "The budget allocator tool allows residents to help Council with the choices around these services — after all, it's your money, so tell us how you want it spent and help us chart a course for Barrie's future."

Like other municipalities, the City of Barrie continues to face aggressive financial pressures from the pandemic. In 2021, Council approved a 0.92 per cent tax increase, the lowest Barrie residents have seen in 20 years to help provide financial relief for residents. Throughout the budget process, the City pursues opportunities for efficiencies to maintain services with minimal tax increases.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about City services and share what is important to them through the budget allocator tool, which will be open until October 27. In addition to the budget allocator tool, City of Barrie homeowners can also learn how the City invested their 2021 tax dollars with a personalized, estimated receipt that provides a breakdown of how their money was used to fund City and partner services.

Budget allocator results will be shared with Council during the 2022 Business Plan & Budget deliberations, which will help provide insight into the public's priorities. Subject to Council's discussions, the budget is scheduled to be approved on December 6, 2021.

To share your feedback through the budget allocator tool or to try the taxpayer receipt, visit buildingbarrie.ca/budget.

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