

# Portsmouth Budget Suggestions



## 1. How frequently do you or your family use the following Town services?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Annually	Occasionally	Never	Response Count
Transfer Station	0.0% (0)	<b>59.0% (23)</b>	12.8% (5)	0.0% (0)	12.8% (5)	15.4% (6)	39
Portsmouth Senior Center	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	13.2% (5)	<b>84.2% (32)</b>	38
Fire Department non-emergency services (permits, etc.)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	12.8% (5)	28.2% (11)	<b>56.4% (22)</b>	39
Police Department non-emergency services (police reports, etc.)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	<b>60.5% (23)</b>	36.8% (14)	38
Town Clerk (personal visits or phone calls/e-mails for information)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	12.8% (5)	12.8% (5)	<b>53.8% (21)</b>	17.9% (7)	39
Building Inspector (inquiries, services)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	<b>65.8% (25)</b>	31.6% (12)	38
Town Planner (inquiries, services)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (2)	2.6% (1)	28.2% (11)	<b>64.1% (25)</b>	39
Town business director (inquiries, services)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (3)	2.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (3)	<b>82.1% (32)</b>	39
Public Works (special visits, requests)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.7% (1)	2.7% (1)	27.0% (10)	<b>67.6% (25)</b>	37
Portsmouth Public Library	2.6% (1)	23.1% (9)	<b>30.8% (12)</b>	2.6% (1)	25.6% (10)	15.4% (6)	39
Melville Recreation Area	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (3)	5.1% (2)	25.6% (10)	<b>61.5% (24)</b>	39
Melville Campground	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	15.8% (6)	<b>81.6% (31)</b>	38
Sandy Point Beach	0.0% (0)	10.3% (4)	5.1% (2)	2.6% (1)	<b>51.3% (20)</b>	30.8% (12)	39
Town Finance Department (inquiries, services)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	5.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	39.5% (15)	<b>52.6% (20)</b>	38





Tax Collector (inquiries, services)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	12.8% (5)	<b>48.7% (19)</b>	38.5% (15)	39
Glen Park	5.1% (2)	10.3% (4)	12.8% (5)	12.8% (5)	<b>43.6% (17)</b>	15.4% (6)	39
Other town parks (e.g., Patriots Park, Founder's Brook)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (2)	2.6% (1)	2.6% (1)	41.0% (16)	<b>48.7% (19)</b>	39
Glen Farm Complex	0.0% (0)	7.9% (3)	2.6% (1)	13.2% (5)	<b>47.4% (18)</b>	28.9% (11)	38
Gardner Seveney Sports Complex	0.0% (0)	15.4% (6)	5.1% (2)	10.3% (4)	23.1% (9)	<b>46.2% (18)</b>	39
Other Town sports fields	0.0% (0)	7.7% (3)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (2)	30.8% (12)	<b>56.4% (22)</b>	39
Town website (online services, documents)	0.0% (0)	12.8% (5)	23.1% (9)	12.8% (5)	<b>41.0% (16)</b>	10.3% (4)	39
Town mooring	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	5.3% (2)	7.9% (3)	5.3% (2)	<b>78.9% (30)</b>	38
Weaver Cove Boat Ramp	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (1)	2.6% (1)	7.9% (3)	<b>86.8% (33)</b>	38
Other Town boat ramps (e.g., Cedar Cove, Stone Bridge)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (3)	<b>92.3% (36)</b>	39
Harbormaster (inquiries, services)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (2)	7.7% (3)	<b>87.2% (34)</b>	39

Other (please specify) (Please separate each item with a semicolon (;))

6

<b>answered question</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>

**2. How many children in your household attend Portsmouth Public Schools?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
None		66.7%	26
1		17.9%	7
2		12.8%	5
3		0.0%	0
4		2.6%	1
5+		0.0%	0
Other (please specify)			8
answered question			39
skipped question			1

**3. Do you have suggestions on how the Town or the School Department can reduce expenses? Are there current services that can be eliminated or cut back? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

	Response Count
	33
answered question	33
skipped question	7




**4. Are there any services or programs that either the Town or the School Department offer that you feel should NOT be reduced or eliminated? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

	Response Count
	30
answered question	30
skipped question	10

**5. Do you have any ideas on creating new revenue or increasing current revenue for the Town or School Department? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

	Response Count
	27
<b>answered question</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>13</b>

**6. If revenues have to be raised to meet expenses, would you prefer: Raising fees for Town services, Raising taxes, or a Combination of both.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Raising fees for town services (specify in comment box below)		27.8%	10
Raising taxes		16.7%	6
<b>A combination of raising fees and taxes</b>		<b>55.6%</b>	<b>20</b>

Comment (please separate comments with a semicolon (;)) 25

<b>answered question</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>4</b>

**7. What are your suggestions on how Portsmouth can maintain the current level of services without increasing taxes or fees? (Please separate each item with a semicolon (;))**

	Response Count
	30
<b>answered question</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>10</b>

**Q1. How frequently do you or your family use the following Town services?**

1	Mccorrie Beach;Mccorrie Mooring Field	Apr 9, 2011 8:08 AM
2	Portsmouth Playground - often	Apr 3, 2011 11:13 AM
3	regularly watch Town Council & school committee meeting on line	Mar 21, 2011 2:12 PM
4	some of my input reflects town committee work I know many people do not license their dogs ... we loose revenue there .... loose dogs fines are way too low ... considering the negative influence they have while loose	Mar 19, 2011 9:04 AM
5	my family uses McCorrie Point weekly in the summer for fishing and kayaking; we use Gull Cove for fishing and kayaking weekly in the summer;	Mar 14, 2011 8:56 AM
6	The greenbelt walking trail that begins behind the old "Brown" house at the sports complex and extends towards Middletown	Mar 3, 2011 11:12 AM

**Q2. How many children in your household attend Portsmouth Public Schools?**

1	Two graduated from Portsmouth High	Apr 9, 2011 12:56 PM
2	2 attend private school	Apr 7, 2011 8:18 AM
3	I have 7 grandchildren who are or will be in Public School.	Apr 3, 2011 11:13 AM
4	But we have two who graduated from there.	Mar 26, 2011 7:55 AM
5	Grandchildren 2 graduated, 1 will graduate 2011	Mar 12, 2011 11:02 PM
6	I did previously have 3 that attended	Mar 10, 2011 2:14 PM
7	2 children sent to private schools	Mar 9, 2011 8:49 PM
8	My children are still little but they will attend Portsmouth Schools	Mar 4, 2011 4:07 PM

**Q3. Do you have suggestions on how the Town or the School Department can reduce expenses? Are there current services that can be eliminated or cut back? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

1	Regionalize non-critical services - regionalize such things as road repair, provision for office space, insurance, fuel, contracts for office supplies etc., but maintain separate police, fire, education, etc.	May 3, 2011 12:26 AM
2	How about looking at the administrators salaries; do we have too many administrators?	May 2, 2011 1:39 PM
3	Merge school administration and purchasing departments with other towns on island.	Apr 11, 2011 2:24 PM
4	Coordinate purchase of supplies with Newport and Middletown.	Apr 10, 2011 12:16 PM
5	Based on my direct involvement with otehr municipalities, I am confident that a detailed review of each Town department, operation and service would lead to discovery of many oppourtunities for streamlining, including more effective use of existing technology) that can lead to direct cost savings and/or future cost avoidance. The Town would benefit from establishing a plan for conducting such a review over a multi-year periodm so that the cost of the review can be affordable. Note that the cost of the review is a one-time cost, whereas the savings from process improvements will be long-term.	Apr 10, 2011 10:46 AM
6	Move towards a partially volunteer fire department.	Apr 9, 2011 5:20 PM
7	I think the Town and School Dept have done all they can but I think all of the funds generated from ambulance runs should go to the general fund.	Apr 9, 2011 12:56 PM
8	Some of the PHS sports teams have expensive coaches/programs	Apr 9, 2011 12:45 PM
9	Pay cuts just like the rest of the world in order to keep your job you must sacrifice a little.	Apr 9, 2011 8:40 AM
10	Current school services are inadequate;	Apr 8, 2011 5:41 PM
11	individuals can pay for extracurricular activities. Residents have been paying for Pirate soccer,baseball,dance,music lessons, we can continue paying through high school.	Apr 7, 2011 8:18 AM
12	Through contract negotiations	Apr 3, 2011 11:13 AM
13	I think we have cut all we can/should cut; We MUST be willing to raise revenue if we're going to have a town that feels like a community and protects both its private and public property values.	Mar 26, 2011 7:55 AM
14	Combine the financial & business operations to the Town & Schools; investigate Aquidneck Island wide regionalization of following public services public works, fire, police & tax assessor.	Mar 21, 2011 2:12 PM
15	Regionalize; Union makes concessions	Mar 18, 2011 3:19 PM
16	send out tax bills via imail; stop further confrontations with DEM recquiring legal services and alinating that state dept; charge more for moorings;encourage and support compassion center that has state approval for our town.	Mar 18, 2011 12:56 PM
17	Do not spend \$20,000 on a search for a new superintendent - that is what the search subcommittee is for.	Mar 14, 2011 3:39 PM

**Q3. Do you have suggestions on how the Town or the School Department can reduce expenses? Are there current services that can be eliminated or cut back? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

18	Decrease the number of substitutes. Arrange meetings, calendar, school hours to accomodate conferences, training without hiring substitutes. Decrease the testing...pick one test and perhaps test every other year...scores stay relatively the same in 12 mths. and testing is probably expensive. - testing every other year would save time & money.	Mar 14, 2011 8:57 AM
19	I think our town has a very lean budget as it is. I would not like to see any services eliminated or cut back at this time; I am happy to see the police/fire departments have looked at their health/pension plans. Though I know the teacher's plans are more on a state level, I am hoping that we'll be able to do the same with the teacher unions because the pension plans are unsustainable and a burden to all tax payers.	Mar 14, 2011 8:56 AM
20	get rid of the transfer station and either use town pick up or have residents hire their own pick up	Mar 12, 2011 11:02 PM
21	Model new hires retirement system after Federal government FERS program.	Mar 11, 2011 5:39 PM
22	Reduce # of teachers and school staff. Use more volunteer firemen. Stop using police at roadwork sites. Don't use them to direct traffic at private functions. Severely limit overtime for all Town employees.	Mar 11, 2011 4:17 PM
23	We need to be able to charge for buses at the high school. Buses are near empty because most of the students drive.	Mar 10, 2011 2:14 PM
24	School Labor contract - increase co-pay medical insurance to 20% for parity with industry. Increase employee retirement contributions to 10-15% to reduce unfunded liabilities. Add user fees to sports and non-academic programs like Private Schools and Universities and focus on core academics. Regionalize non-core services (e.g., busing, janitorial, grounds/maintenance) with other Aquidneck towns. Regionalize special education programs in Npt County schools. Consolidate/close surplus school facilities. Fire/Police - reduce overtime budgets to 10% of labor budget. No fill open positions. Reduce equipment and capital budgets 10%. Increase building permit fees to reduce impact to tax base for increased services. Increase Outsourcing of town services to private industry where possible.	Mar 9, 2011 8:49 PM
25	We should eliminate town-subsidized trash removal. (and institute a pay-per bag system, with free disposal of recyclables.	Mar 9, 2011 8:06 PM
26	Public Unions: Contribute to their retirement. Establish 401/403b. Use pay as you throw at the transfer station.	Mar 9, 2011 1:40 PM
27	Streamline bus stops; eliminate every-corner stops;	Mar 6, 2011 9:23 AM
28	The transfer station must pay for itself. Prudence Island must cover the cost of their trash service.; The school dept must be held to a zero growth budget; Consideration should be given to consolidating island administrative services.	Mar 5, 2011 12:22 PM
29	Reduce non teaching positions. Combine with other area systems for group purchasing. Negotiate more rational teacher contracts to reduce costs for health care and bring salaries in line with private industry in the area.	Mar 4, 2011 8:03 PM

**Q3. Do you have suggestions on how the Town or the School Department can reduce expenses? Are there current services that can be eliminated or cut back? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

30	reduce hours at transfer station to two afternoon/ evenings per week (say, noon to 8 pm) plus one weekend day; raise transfer station fees; bill every household without proof of private wate disposal for transfer station; eliminate longevity payments for school and municipal employees; reduce administrative staff in schools; combine school bus routes better; eliminate Prudence Island school once and for all; combine with other island towns for purchasing power; combine non-emergency service with other island towns (DPW, etc.)	Mar 4, 2011 12:05 PM
31	Eliminate the mandatory second adult on the busses	Mar 3, 2011 11:12 AM
32	Transition all public employees into a 401K type pension plan; examine feasibility of sharing Police, Fire and other services with Middlletown to save money; make harbormaster a volunteer job; consider a volunteer fire department; maximize usefullness of Town website for services, allowing cuts in Town staff (e.g. transfer station fees/stickers); establish volunteers to assist with Town services during peak periods; shorten hours that Town Hall is open (only if money can be saved)	Mar 3, 2011 9:50 AM
33	Consolidate Services (IT, Finance, Admin) Replace Planning Board Secretary with Stenographer for meetings only Eliminate one more day per week transfer station open days. Long-Term teacher contracts that are in line with the private sector (benefits, healthcare co-pays, retirement accounts)	Mar 2, 2011 9:06 AM

**Q4. Are there any services or programs that either the Town or the School Department offer that you feel should NOT be reduced or eliminated? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

1	Sports should not be reduced; Music should not be reduced; Gate/support for advanced students should be expanded.; Math and science should be expanded.	May 3, 2011 12:26 AM
2	The schools have already paid there fair share in the past few years. No more cuts! We have great schools let's settle that contract now!	May 2, 2011 1:39 PM
3	fire and emergency staff	Apr 11, 2011 2:24 PM
4	Basic public safety and education must be priorities; however, I think all services should be considered for elimination, reduction or changing to a fee for service model. Many services, such as the Transfer Station and department services, could have their days and/or hours reduced without a serious impact on users of those services. I believe the silent majority of taxpayers would rather see reduced convenience than higher taxes in this economic climate.	Apr 10, 2011 10:46 AM
5	Portsmouth Free Public Library	Apr 9, 2011 12:56 PM
6	Please save the transfer station	Apr 9, 2011 12:45 PM
7	Dump The schools have already had enough cuts my child is now at hathaway that does NOT compare to elmhurst there are way too many children per teacher in these classrooms	Apr 9, 2011 8:40 AM
8	Gifted and Talent program; Band; Late Busses;	Apr 8, 2011 5:41 PM
9	Schools: academic offerings, sports (not reduced) Town: trash, beach,DPW, Police and Fire (only through contracts should they be reduced)	Apr 3, 2011 11:13 AM
10	We should not cut teachers to save money and raise class sizes; This is totally counterproductive and will begin erasing the educational gains we have worked so hard to achieve; our elected officials need to treat the town employees with more dignity and respect than has been shown lately	Mar 26, 2011 7:55 AM
11	The most important function of the town is to educate our young in a safe environment	Mar 21, 2011 2:12 PM
12	Sports; Arts	Mar 18, 2011 3:19 PM
13	the funding for library should not be cut.	Mar 18, 2011 12:56 PM
14	no funding cuts to schools; library	Mar 16, 2011 8:57 PM
15	Please do NOT cut art and music again at elementary schools	Mar 14, 2011 3:39 PM
16	Extra Cirrucular Activities - Portsmouth has very limited Recreation Department & doesn't have a town center, after school activities should not be cut.	Mar 14, 2011 8:57 AM
17	I think our Town and School Departments have been cut into so deeply already, that I believe there is nothing left to cut. Though some residents believe we can continue cutting into the school budget, I do not believe this to be true. As a parent, we already help raise funds or pay to purchase books, performances, field trips, after school activities, technology for classrooms, etc; keep cutting into the school and you'll have decreased house values and children who have nothing to do after school.	Mar 14, 2011 8:56 AM

**Q4. Are there any services or programs that either the Town or the School Department offer that you feel should NOT be reduced or eliminated? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

18	school sports;music;arts;drama	Mar 12, 2011 11:02 PM
19	schools	Mar 12, 2011 8:07 AM
20	NO	Mar 11, 2011 5:39 PM
21	We need more money in department budgets We need more money for text books	Mar 10, 2011 2:14 PM
22	Highway maintenance - roads are in poor condition. Recycling/transfer station services - excellent improvements.	Mar 9, 2011 8:49 PM
23	School budget should not be reduced.	Mar 9, 2011 8:06 PM
24	Library; snow removal; transfer station; street/pot hole maintenance	Mar 9, 2011 1:40 PM
25	No cuts to police or fire services.	Mar 5, 2011 12:22 PM
26	Schools; law enforcement; fire; emergency health services; recreation; road repair; recreation.	Mar 4, 2011 8:03 PM
27	no academic program or high school sport should be touched	Mar 4, 2011 12:05 PM
28	Library hours should not be further reduced	Mar 3, 2011 11:12 AM
29	Library; Senior Center; transfer station	Mar 3, 2011 9:50 AM
30	Maintain a strong Finance Director and Staff Keep the Assistant Town Planner Position Maintain the Director of Business Development Town Web Site	Mar 2, 2011 9:06 AM

**Q5. Do you have any ideas on creating new revenue or increasing current revenue for the Town or School Department? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (:))**

1	How about a small local sales tax akin to what Middletown charges (if there is a real net gain to the town)?; How about reducing "Tax Expenditures"? Maybe we should take a real close look at eliminating reduced taxes for various classes of property owners.	May 3, 2011 12:26 AM
2	Allow several select Big Businesses, we are too picky about the stores we allow in our town. They help pay the taxes too! Not to mention the job creation.	May 2, 2011 1:39 PM
3	Restore Elmherst School chapel for use with weddings at Glen Manor House; turn Elmherst school into a B&B for weddings, room rentals.	Apr 11, 2011 2:24 PM
4	Charge for School extra-curricular activities, except for those that are unable to pay.	Apr 10, 2011 10:46 AM
5	School Dept should seek more grants. When they eliminated the Director of Grants it was a big mistake.	Apr 9, 2011 12:56 PM
6	No pay increases must like the real world in order to keep you job these days there're no pay increases or be wiling to take a pay cut	Apr 9, 2011 8:40 AM
7	Open up the schools to other districts students and charge tuition;	Apr 8, 2011 5:41 PM
8	Designate an area and allow some bigger businesses to come into town. Very difficult however, without sewers. Raise parking fee at Sandy Point for non-residents. Utilize Elmhurst School for something that ties in with the Manor House and creates revenue.	Apr 3, 2011 11:13 AM
9	I am willing to see my taxes increase if it means providing, improving, and maintaining current services and infrastructure; I know the push is to cut the budget by cutting services, letting things go that need maintenance, and choosing an austere path, followed by magical thinking that this will somehow attract new businesses; I am not sure what processes will attract new business but it isn't by creating a divided community; there is a small but vocal special interest group in town that controls too much of the agenda and sees the fact that they were elected as a mandate from EVERYONE but this is false; find ways to attract small and medium-sized business and perhaps make new construction permits more expensive since homes do not generate revenue; at the same time, keep permit fees for renovations and improvements to existing homes at their current levels; provide tax exemptions for those who are truly at risk of losing their homes but only if it is the taxes that are the tipping point.	Mar 26, 2011 7:55 AM
10	Implement means testing for the 5% senior property tax break. Well to do seniors should not be subsidized by working families; Means testing for the 5% veterans property tax break. If we veterans are as patriotic as we claim to be then well to do veterans should not be subsidized by working families.	Mar 21, 2011 2:12 PM
11	involved with RGSC	Mar 18, 2011 3:19 PM
12	see #4;	Mar 18, 2011 12:56 PM
13	Not off the top of my head, but might be worth looking at other towns & see what/how they increase revenue without increasing taxes.	Mar 14, 2011 8:57 AM

**Q5. Do you have any ideas on creating new revenue or increasing current revenue for the Town or School Department? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (:))**

14	advertising on school lockers; to increase recycling, I think the town should have free recycling days where Portsmouth residents can bring their recyclables to the transfer station without having to purchase a sticker; my family uses McCorrie Point and Gull Cove to fish and kayak. We see a huge majority of Massachusetts residents using these 2 areas. What if we charged non-Portsmouth residents a sticker fee to use these 2 areas? It wouldn't have to be a large fee, but it could create a small amount of revenue even if it helps to pay for any clean up necessary that is left by all these people every summer;	Mar 14, 2011 8:56 AM
15	a small fee for rec facilities that are not used by all residents	Mar 12, 2011 11:02 PM
16	Speed & fine enforcement!! Safety on Portsmouth main roads is terrible and not widely enforced with a fine payment adequate to subsidize cost of enforcement	Mar 11, 2011 5:39 PM
17	Levy 25% property tax levy on all non-profits if allowed by legislature. Sell excess properties. School regionalization with other Island towns.	Mar 11, 2011 4:17 PM
18	We need to renovate Elmhurst to do something similar to what is being done at the Glen Manor House. We need more lodging in town. Why not at the old Sea Fare Inn? Stop giving tax breaks to facilities such as Carnegie Abbey.	Mar 10, 2011 2:14 PM
19	Sell Town beach, recreation facility passes (annual). User fee for sports and recreation leagues using town fields/sports complex.	Mar 9, 2011 8:49 PM
20	We should eliminate town-subsidized trash removal. (and institute a pay-per bag system, with free disposal of recyclables.	Mar 9, 2011 8:06 PM
21	Build another wind turbine; install hockey rink	Mar 6, 2011 9:23 AM
22	Move the island DMV to Portsmouth; Close the Middle school by moving 7th & 8th to the high school and returning the lower grades to neighborhood elementary schools. Lease the Middle school to a charter school.	Mar 5, 2011 12:22 PM
23	There should be a sticker for each bag of trash at the transfer station. Create areas to recycle yard waste and sell resulting mulch. Make Sandy Point a nicer area to use for moored boats and or create a town marina facility that would make money for the town. Charge Little Compton the full amount to educate their students. Enforce regulations. Make short term seasonal rentals pay a room tax just like hotel taxes that are currently applied in Newport and other areas; make landlords register leases for each seasonal rental; charge a fee for each registration. Promote the use of Glen Farms more to businesses and out of town users. Make Portsmouth a better place to live thus increasing property values; let's be known for efficient government that governs openly.	Mar 4, 2011 8:03 PM
24	Look at what Newport does in the winter for families. The beach bounce, the Hut indoor rec center. I drive to Newport every week to use these services (and the city of Newport is getting my money). All we have is story hour at the library. We need more activities like these for families.	Mar 4, 2011 4:07 PM
25	Traffic Court; Also Consider leasing town shoreline fro use as a marina that pays fees to the town	Mar 3, 2011 11:12 AM
26	Charge fees for school bus use; charge sports and activities fees; charge student parking fees at PHS; streamline new business permit process;	Mar 3, 2011 9:50 AM

**Q5. Do you have any ideas on creating new revenue or increasing current revenue for the Town or School Department? (Please separate comments with a semicolon (;))**

27	Stand up Town Municipal Court Effective entrepreneural use of Elmhurst School Increase speeding surveillance in School Zones (along with a local municipal court)	Mar 2, 2011 9:06 AM
----	--	---------------------

**Q6. If revenues have to be raised to meet expenses, would you prefer: Raising fees for Town services, Raising taxes, or a Combination of both.**

1	Fees for services should as closely as possible reflect the actual cost - for example, trash transfer facility services and harbor/mooring fees should support the cost of the facilities. Once services that only a few use pay for themselves, maybe taxes should be raised to fill gaps.	May 3, 2011 12:26 AM
2	Let's face it if I am paying more to heat/cool my home or put gas in my car or buy food, the town needs to spend more to do the same to town owned and operated buildings. You can't level fund year after year... Taxes need to go up. What happened to all that money we were supposed to save with the wind turbine?????;	May 2, 2011 1:39 PM
3	Be sure to make fees appropriate to real costs. Change system to 'pay as you throw' at Transfer Station. Incentivise recycling by charging more for traditional 'trash', make recycling and composting free. People will recycle and separate compost. See San Francisco, CA's programs at <a href="http://www.recologysf.com/residentialCompost.htm">http://www.recologysf.com/residentialCompost.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.recologysf.com/residentialRecycling.htm">http://www.recologysf.com/residentialRecycling.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.recologysf.com/residentialLandfill.htm">http://www.recologysf.com/residentialLandfill.htm</a> .	Apr 11, 2011 2:24 PM
4	Many home owners are being forced to consider relocation due to sk-rocketing taxes. In my personal life, I have had to cut the private services I use because I can no longer afford them. I should have that choice for non-essential (e.g. public safety) municipal services as well. And I don;t feel that I should have to subsidize other's use of services that I cannot afford.	Apr 10, 2011 10:46 AM
5	I would prefer neither! When is the answer to stick to a given budget ever going to apply. If a family has to used a budget due to rising costs of living, then why not a budget be used for services.	Apr 9, 2011 8:32 AM
6	Raising taxes for trash Collection and having town pick up. I feel that people should pay for their septic systems to be updated if necessary. Other homeowners had to pay double figure amounts to put in the correct systems when they built their homes or replaced systems.	Apr 3, 2011 11:13 AM
7	I have voiced my opinions about the transfer station elsewhere, but I don't think paying more in fees there is the answer as it will just continue to encourage those who won't pay to discard their trash illegally and/or unethically in vacant land or businesses and town dumpsters; Interestingly, I don't see any call for instituting fees for the senior center.	Mar 26, 2011 7:55 AM
8	The transfer station as an enterprise fund should be self-sufficient covered by fees without infusion from the Town budget; Before raising fees serious studies of possible cost savings from regionalization should be conducted.	Mar 21, 2011 2:12 PM
9	all are really taxes but at least with " town services " one has some control as to what services they use & the frequency they use them ..	Mar 19, 2011 9:04 AM
10	neither	Mar 18, 2011 3:19 PM
11	unpopular position --but would help with raising prices on gas, maintaining all town structures and improve senior center which looks ugly inside and out and probable inefficient heating.	Mar 18, 2011 12:56 PM

**Q6. If revenues have to be raised to meet expenses, would you prefer: Raising fees for Town services, Raising taxes, or a Combination of both.**

12	If you want it to be fair, taxes should be raised instead of raising fees for services. Obviously, the transfer station sticker is not working out correctly since some residents do not purchase a sticker and use neighbors or friends to bring their trash. If every resident had to pay their share of taxes for the transfer station and other services, it would be equal among everyone instead of just some of the residents paying for a sticker; We are all in this together, so believe we all have the responsibility to help each other (whether it be for the senior center, the schools, the parks, etc). It may be difficult for a low income/elderly resident living in a small home to pay \$125/year for a transfer station sticker, but maybe paying \$50 more a year in taxes wouldn't be as burdensome for them. I worry more about our town as a whole than I do my own wallet. Unfortunately, there are many people in this town who only care about themselves.	Mar 14, 2011 8:56 AM
13	fees for things that are not used by all residents	Mar 12, 2011 11:02 PM
14	Please make it clear that the taxes are rising mostly because the state funding is dropping, not because of spending increases. And show what are taxes are in comparison to similar communities in RI.	Mar 12, 2011 8:07 AM
15	Also suggest bidding all work and procurements. I have listened often to procurement info alleged to be available only by sole source when in fact in my work for the government right here on the island there are multiple sources for or as potential bidders!!	Mar 11, 2011 5:39 PM
16	Transfer station & all other user fees.	Mar 11, 2011 4:17 PM
17	For a few more cents each year we could have a lot more services.	Mar 10, 2011 2:14 PM
18	As above, I strongly favor eliminating town-subsidized trash removal. (And instituting a pay-per bag system, with free disposal of recyclables).	Mar 9, 2011 8:06 PM
19	Concentrate on reducing services/revenue. We are in a difficult economic period. Why should the Town continue to spend more when all of the citizens are spending less?; Zero base the budget each year and only fund programs that are essential. If it doesn't have to be done, cut it.	Mar 9, 2011 1:40 PM
20	Perhaps initiate boat fees for all owners who's boat remains in Portsmouth year-round	Mar 6, 2011 9:23 AM
21	Raise the fees or cut back on the availability of services (fewer days/wk or hrs/day). Let the people that frequently use those services choose.	Mar 5, 2011 12:22 PM
22	Lower expenses.	Mar 4, 2011 8:03 PM
23	I don't mind if my taxes go up some to pay for full day kindergarten.	Mar 4, 2011 4:07 PM
24	Fees for essential services and service we want to encourage (like the transfer station) should be kept low so I would favor a modest increase in Property taxes	Mar 3, 2011 11:12 AM
25	Taxes have to be used to ensure that services that all residents benefit from (e.g., Police, Fire, Street Paving, etc.). Fees (that are actually taxes) should only be used for specialized services that only a few people use (e.g., hard copy documents from the Town Clerk, building inspections for construction, etc.)	Mar 2, 2011 9:06 AM

**Q7. What are your suggestions on how Portsmouth can maintain the current level of services without increasing taxes or fees? (Please separate each item with a semicolon ;))**

1	Do a real, serious analysis of whether our salary, benefits, medical, and pension costs are truly on par with commercial labor costs and adjust pay packages accordingly.; Seriously review town service contracts and make absolutely sure they are needed and truly competitive.; Look closely at overtime in the various departments and verify that these expenses are justified relative to hiring additional full or part time employees and paying less overtime (this might also help create more jobs).; There is no field in the survey for general comments so I add this here ... I hope that the contact information collected in this survey will be tightly held - I have been spammed in the past as a result of submitting my name/email/phone in support of previous town activities.	May 3, 2011 12:26 AM
2	Sell property we no long use to be developed and put on the tax base!	May 2, 2011 1:39 PM
3	Maybe town staff will have to work smarter and 'do more with less' like every other businessperson these days. Perhaps the town will need to cut a few positions. Perhaps those who keep their jobs will have to work a full 8.5 to 9 hour day like people in regular business jobs. (unlike town clerks, tax collectors and other admin. staff who seem to have shorter work days.)	Apr 11, 2011 2:24 PM
4	Continue to look for ways in which to achieve greater efficiency while not increasing staff size; continue to negotiate with unions in an effort to control pension liability and with larger emp contributions in benefits.	Apr 10, 2011 12:16 PM
5	I don't believe it is possible to maintain the current level of service without increasing taxes or fees.	Apr 10, 2011 10:46 AM
6	That is impossible!	Apr 9, 2011 12:56 PM
7	Bill every household for use of the transfer station and then waive the bill if they can provide proof of alternative waste disposal (e.g., private trash collector)	Apr 9, 2011 12:45 PM
8	No pay increases must like the real world in order to keep you job these days there're no pay increases or be wiling to take a pay cut	Apr 9, 2011 8:40 AM
9	Through contract negotiations with the Unions.	Apr 3, 2011 11:13 AM
10	We can't; it's that simple; invest in the community and recognize it is no longer "the old days" where there were potato farms.	Mar 26, 2011 7:55 AM
11	Every tax year the town council should zero tax base one department, requiring justification of all functions and this process should be continued with a different dept. each tax year; Move to a 2-year operating budget to better foresee and deal with future costs; require town departments and the school to develop and track benchmarked performance indicators for all functions	Mar 21, 2011 2:12 PM
12	Town Committees can be useful ... listen to their comments .. ask them to come up with with money saving suggestions ( based on their committee work & knowledge	Mar 19, 2011 9:04 AM
13	involved with RGSC	Mar 18, 2011 3:19 PM
14	increase energy savers where it can be done.	Mar 18, 2011 12:56 PM

**Q7. What are your suggestions on how Portsmouth can maintain the current level of services without increasing taxes or fees? (Please separate each item with a semicolon ;))**

15	somehow, we need to influence businesses to come to Portsmouth; I would love to see businesses that are family friendly (bowling alley, roller rink, indoor sporting facilities). I think there is a real need for these type of businesses here on the island....why not in Portsmouth?;	Mar 14, 2011 8:56 AM
16	we shoule be able to combine services such as snow plowing, inside building cleaning with schools, librarrys etc	Mar 12, 2011 11:02 PM
17	iT CAN NOT!! Portsmouth needs to go to a graduated tax rate.Homes of high dollar value must pay a larger fee than less valued homes. Simple economy of scale it cost dollars to provide an appropriate enviroment and to maintain a mix of folks te cost have to be fairly shared based on ability to pay.	Mar 11, 2011 5:39 PM
18	See # 6.	Mar 11, 2011 4:17 PM
19	We need to utilize land near the post office better. Why couldn't we have had a big box store or DMV there? We can't have it both ways, no business and no increase in taxes. Let the winery have events! Let the farms sell things!	Mar 10, 2011 2:14 PM
20	Control school budgets - - fastest growing, largest budget item while student population declines.	Mar 9, 2011 8:49 PM
21	Do what ever we can to promote marine and other use of the Town's Northwest shoreline area. Continue to pursue funding for the Town Center plan which could stimulate tax-paying business development in that area.	Mar 9, 2011 8:06 PM
22	Charge people who use services in order to pay for them;	Mar 9, 2011 1:40 PM
23	Bring in at least one big business to utilize empty lots along East & West Main Roads	Mar 6, 2011 9:23 AM
24	Consolidate services with the rest of the island.	Mar 5, 2011 12:22 PM
25	Encourage Commercial Enterprizes	Mar 5, 2011 10:01 AM
26	Negotiate new contracts that bring costs in line with reality. Salaries and benefits must be rationalized to current conditions. Levels of wasteful supervision must be reduced in the schools; merit pay should be implemented to reward good teachers and town workers; underperforming teachers and town workers should go.	Mar 4, 2011 8:03 PM
27	Attract new business	Mar 4, 2011 12:05 PM
28	Consider a voluntary fire department; combine police forces with Middletown	Mar 3, 2011 11:12 AM
29	Cannot be done over the long haul as costs will continue to rise; need to renegotiate all public employee contracts to keep any raises at or below the CPI and eliminate pension liabilities	Mar 3, 2011 9:50 AM
30	Make Portsmouth more business friendly Invest in new revenue generation initiatives (like the WTG)	Mar 2, 2011 9:06 AM