

### **Any Additional Comments?**

*These are the raw answers from the last question: "Any additional comments?" References to individual have been removed. Please excuse formatting – this is how it came out!*

no

We need to find a way to engage younger people and this type of pole should help.  
The Cowichan Valley is incredible in all its qualities and attributes. Many of the citizens are talented and active. We all need to work together!

thank you  
nope

Let us ask local aspiring politicians to think globally and act locally. What will you do domestically to make this a better world?

For me, local government is by far the most important level and should be making most of the decisions that directly affect the majority of local citizens. Sustainability is vitally important, especially on an island and there is no reason why Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands should not be able to supply the basic needs for all citizens. If this is not true, the population should be reduced until it is.

We need to be building resilient ecosystems in the Cowichan Valley, not stripping the mountains and paving the lowlands.

I am hopeful that our local governments will find ways to work together to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.

Organizing solar energy could deal with many of these issues directly or indirectly; such as native owned utilities to provide employment

Taxes are not being used wisely, or efficiently. More power to the public and employed staff, not the politicians. And especially listening to the majority of the public opinion, there are few issues that the politicians don't side with development or corporate interests. Politicians should have to submit a business resume to be able to stand.

I am relatively new to the community and am still getting up to speed on the concerns and issues that exist. I look forward to spending many years here and therefore shall take part in whatever ways I can to make this a sustainable and healthy community

Thank you for your work!! You folks are doing an awesome job!

thank you for this opportunity to think more seriously about community issues  
Natural habitat protection is also high on my list, protecting wild places!

I would like to see the CVRD boundaries revised. As a Culverton Rd resident we are in CVRD no-mans-land. Part of area F although we have nothing in common with Honeymoon Bay!

"Regarding taxation - the main problem that I can see is in the City of Duncan where the taxes are very high for businesses and homes. I do believe that amalgamation would ameliorate that to some extent. At the moment we (the valley) are maintaining 3 different administrations -- what is the point of that?

It was difficult to see any of the questions on the survey as not being high priority - they are all things we all need to work toward. Thank you for doing this and I hope that the conversation continues, the governments are interested and take heed, and the citizens get on board."

"About your question for youth - in addition to recreational programs, it would be vital to involve teens in meaningful work programs.

RE your question about water use, your order ""recreation, industry, agriculture..." etc. could be interpreted as being listed in order of importance. Is it?"

I think the local government should develop a green public utility (to gather and supply energy) using tax dollars and volunteers to service existing community buildings and new affordable housing projects. BC Hydro rates are unacceptably high, and our community deserves some forward thinking sustainable development to ensure that we have our energy needs met.

I believe the citizens should be brought together to develop Cowichan valley as an environmental destination like Portland was. Bring together and educate people that enough is better than more and encourage innovation.

I'm unable to 'go back' so the 3rd thing is water conservation has to be handled very much better; in fact, this is critical.

Taxes should be used for the good of every one in the Valley.

More traffic-calming and speed enforcement on the back roads, more litter clean-up and higher deposits on pop and beer cans/bottles. I am so tired of picking up Lucky Lager cans on Riverside Road for e.g. !

Why do we keep paying for libraries? they are an archaic infrastructure that eats valuable tax payer dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, well done!

Thanks for asking - quite the unique experience.

Protecting the environment, improving water management and conservation, maintaining existing jobs and creating environmentally friendly job opportunities are all important initiatives.

I lived in the Cowichan region for nine years before moving to Victoria two years ago. My responses are based on life experiences in the Cowichan area.

As my wife and I are not part of the Cowichan community we empathize with the issues that are confronting the citizens and those candidates for municipal elections. However, without taking care of the water resources and all the ancillary issues surrounding this resource, the Mid-Island are in jeopardy of continued ability to survive ie. think California and the present day drought conditions that are limiting the population in that state.

Taxes need to be used to promote the common good not for politicians' perks and subsidies to corps. our taxes have been going up for years with no noticable improvements. We can't even have proper lines painted on our roads to promote safe walking. No one seems to hold Highways responsible for anything in our area Our roads are not safe to walk on, not enough signage and a lack of maintenance on our rural roads. We don't see roundabouts here to promote safer driving and lower emissions. In my estimation our taxes are out of control for what we receive.

I would like to see a bus/commuter train service to Victoria and Nanaimo on an all day basis. Not just morning and evening. People need to go to Victoria/Nanaimo for many reasons like medical appointments, government services, ferry/airport connections, etc. It could connect with the transit systems in the larger areas.

All citizen groups have the interests of the Valley in mind- let's work together on areas of interest and work positively for change-Thanks for this opportunity to speak

Question 20 should have the choice for same or lower taxes with same or increased services by cutting district admin overheads.

Thank you for the work that your organization has done in the past couple of years. You rock!  
Local governments need to be more responsive to needs of local citizens

The local government needs to do what is right to preserve our beautiful Valley. If we don't have their support we will not have sustainability, health nor future generations living here.

keep the pressure on to make the changes that will provide an environment and society that will benefit us all

It would take the patience of a saint to be part of local government! We can't wait for action on climate change adaptations and prevention.

Councillors need to remember that they are working FOR the community, not for themselves!

Great survey! Keep up the good work.

The Cowichan Valley is a unique place that has historically not been served and protected by our local governments. Too much of our economy is based on urban sprawl rather than sustainable development. We need need to embrace sustainable innovation.

Thank you.

Listen to the people who pay you to run a tight ship!!!

Municipal taxes should be based on income as well as the size of land holdings. Farmers should not be taxed out of existence, and taxes for the lower income group should not be raised. But companies using and abusing our environment should be taxed at a much higher rate.

Thank you for your activism. Keep up the good work.

Very pleased to see this survey.

I'd like to see politicians and government services enact spending controls that show they are trying to do the most with the least amount of money instead of spending like the trough that feeds them will never be empty.

No

let me know when you need help with the salmon

Need to get easy recycling for sheet plastic - no longer accepted in pick-up.

Re: previous question - Taxes should be lower but services should not be reduced. Tax money should be spent differently from current practices.

My Area E has opted out of paying for the Duncan pool. As a pensioner, I cannot afford to use it anymore and was told I won't even be eligible for the low-income financial aid program. Why? I thought this problem was solved and we were equally allowed access.

"I didn't fill in comment on 3 most important, because it's clear we (I) want local government to deal with everything as fast as it can, efficiently AND with all sorts of citizen input, which is impossible.

also, re recycling, I'm all in favour, but I think the program is going backward, with blueboxes, and bins disappearing; I suspect recycling is contracted out to big national companies, and is being run for their convenience, not ours. Recycling should be a jobmaker here."  
Thanks for putting the survey together.

I would like to see the boundaries sorted out re Riverside Road and Mountain Road so that they make sense.

"I think a monthly tax bill might be a whole lot easier for families to manage than this ever expanding yearly bill. we pay our medical every month or two, our hydro, our gas bills. why not have the municipal taxes come out monthly? It would allow folk who have trouble budgeting manage their finances better, and would simply smooth the bump of the big tax bill.

PLEASE NOTE that this survey was a bit too 'obvious' and you might have received more usable responses if you had people actually rate their personal priorities regarding these issues. they could rate the issues 1-2-3 but also indicate if they are important. this survey had lots of things that I consider important, so you aren't getting much 'juicy data' from me, unless you wanted to slant the responses for political purposes.."

No thanks.

Our Council is completely out of control in my opinion.

no more clear cutting in the watersheds, promote sustainable forestry practices

We need to turn back to basics to rein in local costs and stop aspiring to take on responsibility for larger issues which are not being addressed properly by higher levels of government. Instead of downloading the issues, we need to use our local representatives to pressure government. Stop trying to take on more and more, and stop treating local residents as an inexhaustible source of funding for special interests. Protect the rural areas we have left and end the poorly planned and executed over-development of our valley.

Affordable daycare should be a Provincial and/or Federal matter because they are the beneficiaries of the tax revenue if more people (women) are working.

well, I can see your how you are an NGO pushing the globalist agenda and will not be taking any more of your bogus surveys and unsubscribing, what a waste of time. Say HI to Sharon for me.

Thanks for doing this.

Good start! get youth involved. Water Woman was a student of mine and having more people like her involved all year long....

It is easy to prioritize what we spend our tax dollars on in my opinion because if we do not have clean air, clean sustainable water and food then nothing else matters. If we focus and take care of our most vulnerable essential life giving resources then I believe everything else will fall into its rightful place.

Thanks for the good questions and the opportunity to express my opinions.

Thanks for the opportunity.

These questions were mostly fairly generic. Any politician could say they support many of these things in general terms and do nothing, sometimes due to limited budgets. I'd like to see more actual concrete proposals that people can vote on, and incentives to get public input and financial contribution to match government contributions. That way we will see if people are willing to also put some money where their mouth is.

Very happy that One Cowichan is spearheading this important work.

Too large and diverse a region to amalgamate. Some services could be shared however. There lies the problem.

Believe it or not, I think that the Cowichan Valley is ahead of many others with respect to subjects covered in this questionnaire.

"Supporting cooperatives has not been mentioned but is the antidote to corporate ownership.

Sustainable food production incentives

incentives for reducing and reusing packaging, and reducing waste disposal / "

Thanks for the survey!

"North Cowichan should not have subsidized the tax bill for the Crofton mill on the backs of homeowners. I don't get a break when I lose income.

Also, I don't like it when property developers get favoritism. If they want something built, they need to ADD to the community, not take advantage of it. "

Thank you for your efforts to help our community :)

I feel we don't get much for our taxes - in our case, no water, no sewer...

I'd like to see same taxes and better services through freezing or reducing excessive salaries (\$100,000+), while hiring more people in the \$50,000 - \$80,000 range

"SHAW, Sun FM, The New Leader and the Citizen have depleted news staff resulting in very poor coverage of what are local governments are doing.

The four year term for local elected officials will result in even less accountability than is the case today.

Ban 'free newspapers' and require subscription or purchase at retail outlets etc. Content would then become more important and those who provided news coverage would sell more papers."

"begin to implement 'clean & safe' water practices into our daily lives, starting in early education. teach permaculture practices in early education."

thank you for doing this!  
Thanks for what you are doing.

Think about the way our streets are re-designed please. Lovely new paving but what is the purpose of all the "bump-outs" that disrupt the bike lanes? They have bikers infuriated and seem needless.

A connector trail to galloping goose from shawnigan is something I'd really like to ride. :-)

Tax rate is too high for the services that are received.

solution for the problems at hand: put principals and ecology before personal preference and profit. Focus on community resilience! A health community will result in a healthy economy -- not the other way around. Change the Roberts rule of order and support candidates who put environment before economy. Vote for a radical mayor and council who thinks out of the box. Support One Cowichan.

"I think we need to halt the traffic flow on the TC HWY to demonstrate the flow of the Cowichan river this fall!

Then Parliament "

"Don't agree that local community should necessarily lobby against pipeline projects- way too much emotion and uninformed discussion. If HST fight was an example of positive involvement then I'm shocked.

Rescinding of HST was an absurd decision, driven by political agenda and very uninformed discussion about impact/outcomes"

Let's try to preserve and improve the quality and character of the Cowichan Valley. If taxes are raised, let them be spent on preserving and improving our environment. Water, land and air usage seem to be the focus of concerns in this valley. After all, what else is there?

"these questions should be reformulated before they go widely public, ie., answer only; PRIORITY, LOWER INTEREST, NO

ie., don't ask two questions in one, with only one response"

This is one of the most beautiful places to live and I would like to see more of us taking better care of this environment and producing more of our own healthy food.

TCH through Duncan. Dedicate 2 centre lanes to through traffic, Drinkwater Rd to Cow Bay turn off. Underpasses at Trunk Rd, James St, Coronation St. Co-ordinate input from 3 local governments to Provincial Dept Highways, and to MLA's.

No comments

Please review my comments 2 questions ago - thanks

Take back control of our natural resources and public utilities.

"We need more grass root organizations like yours.

What we need even more if to find a way to change our approach in keeping the various level of governments accountable to all citizen, not just to a few large corporations."

Run out of time. The survey is a good idea. Congratulations. We need to continue the conversation.

I believe that only a citizen sponsored initiative can motivate amalgamation of government services...because the privileged few who hold local government jobs are taking home to much of taxpayers hard earned income...to make any serious effort at putting their plush jobs at risk.

Not right now. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.

On taxes - ours are way too high. Public transport, solar panels, skate parks - all great ideas, but can we wait till the economy is stronger and we're all doing better?

I would support a reasonable higher tax rate if I saw enough sustainable, real jobs being created to support a higher tax rate.

The need to start addressing the growing negative health and environmental impacts of increasing radio frequency radiation. This includes cell towers, "smart" meters and the resulting grid networks, wireless and the increasing numbers of individuals suffering from electromagnetic radiation sickness.

OVER POPULATION recent influx of new development & overpopulation is causing a constant traffic crawl through Duncan ,mid-day our hospital can no longer handle crowded emergency room etc. OVERDEVELOPMENT is a problem. restrict building permits to developers  
The tax question is important and i think looking at the structure of pay for municipal employees. I do not mind paying more taxes if the important things are being looked after. I am disappointed by decisions being made at the local level to benefit a few vs. protecting space for wildlife and human wellbeing. Why do we have to work so hard to fight against the actions of our elected officials on topics that are important to us.

See above!! there are limits to growth and if we do not accept that, nature will surely remind us.

No

re services--transit ridership/utilization should be examined, and inefficient routes targetted for tax savings after announcing that changes will happen in (1) year if cost recovery doesn't reach (X ) %. These figures should be based on a reasonable cost to the taxpayer per rider. If it's costing anywhere close to or higher than what personal vehicles or taxis would cost, the route should have service reductions or cancellations. Taxpayers should not be paying for costly transport for a few individuals.

It is time to get on with sewage treatment facilities for the south end of the valley, Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill. The main problem I see is the very high cost to hook up which is unaffordable to most people. These hookups should be much lower in cost initially with higher monthly usage costs. This will allow densification and concentration of housing and new supplies of affordable rentals to be developed from simple duplexes to multiple units within the village cores where people can walk to services. It is very important these projects get financed before interest rates go up in the next several years.

Taxes are far to high and the services provided are questionable at best. In Lake Cowichan many side streets need repaving. Many schools are shut down and the buildings are left to ruin. This town has such great potential but the present members of council have lost their focus on what really is needed here and what is needed to reinvigorate the community.

The survey format allows for a lot of "high priority" answers. In reality, only one or two high priority items can be handled at a time, This makes it challenging to understand where the really high priorities are.

"Re: recycling

there has been such a fuss regarding the fact that the new recycling provider does not take film plastic. Talk, talk, talk about how we can get this service back...is is so big a leap to just stop allowing film plastic to be sold in our valley? Voila, problem solved."

Cowichan is unique, where small local and sustainable businesses can flourish. Let's keep it that way. Richard's Trail would be ruined by a gravel pit. Agricultural land should not be used for building houses with manicured lawns. Cowichan Tribes have looked after the land and water for centuries, so let's include them in talks referencing salmon runs and water. Land is far too expensive for those of us who value it.

One Cowichan needs to continue to be non-partisan (not be a supporter of the Green Party), except to call for proportional representation so that those of us who care about our communities and the environment can have our votes count, at all levels of government.

Many of the issues raised require more nuanced answers than the survey format allows, land use to serve water and agricultural interests is a case in point.

Need more of a social responsibility instead of the attitude that they are only responsible for roads, buildings, parks.

None

Good luck with this endeavor, onward and upward!

We need to focus on sustainable food resources and to get land and funding for farmers and entrepreneurs

As a former resident of the Lower Mainland, I have witnessed urban sprawl and seen once rural communities transformed into suburban monocultures. With development pressures rising, Cowichan residents and governments must be vigilant to ensure that we develop our land base in a way that facilitates the growth of diverse businesses, with diverse ownership, and encourage a mix of market and non market housing. We must use development to achieve the end of diversity and enhanced biodiversity in our region.

Keep up the good work One Cowichan

you need to re-do some of your questions to capture more of the ecological point of view.

I really don't support the idea of governance as it presently exists... we need to throw out the Maritime/corporate law which has been foisted upon us in the early part of the last century and return to Common Law of the land... our head of state is a convicted criminal and our top political leaders have been compromised and corrupted... I believe the whole system is rotten to the core and very little is worth saving... we need a new system based on love and the "Golden Rule"... we can't fix the problems with the same mindset that created them in the first place....

we need to pay our local politicians more so that we can get better candidates in. currently retirees and developers dominate the boards because younger voices can't afford to put their name forward even though they may bring great energy and ideas forward.

Excellent survey to make more people aware and get involved

We need to open this town's mind so that minorities such as gays don't feel like they have to move away once they graduate

Better urban planning to prevent sprawl

The Cowichan Valley has the worst waste management system of anywhere I've ever lived. I can't believe a place would claim to have a "zero waste" policy when people are THROWING THEIR GARBAGE IN THE WOODS because it is so difficult to access waste management services.

Thank you!

I said high priority for so many because without a solid plan that considers the health of our region, all the rest won't matter. I only said medium priority on the affordable child care because I think that people should also be supported in the option of raising their own children as well as having good quality affordable child care.

We live in one of the best places in BC, Canada and the world! Let's keep it that way!

Yes its about time you quit hitting the seniors with so much darn tax's their homes are all they have left and it is getting taxed to death!

no

Keep up your great work, One Cowichan.

No

As someone said, "Taxes are the cost we pay for living in a civilized society." We need to take a broader view of taxation and consider how many billions are lost in reducing corporate taxes and increasing service fees for individuals in BC. Attracting jobs to Cowichan means bringing well paying, sustainable jobs; not part-time or contract jobs.

Higher corporate taxes to fund independent over site of corporate impacts on environment e.g. tailing ponds and waste management

"Tax rates have certainly gone up at a much quicker ratio/percentage than the rise of an existing population... but there is an enigma here in that there is a move to see a more transparent tax system and a LOWERING OF RATES..which seem to have been raised to favor the bureaucracy in City Hall [N. Cowichan] at the expense of the local taxpayer. As to services... the existing bus system needs to be checked on a regular basis to see if the routes are in fact meeting the needs; the timing of the buses and frequency of them; and/ or whether new routes should be considered that would be more frequented and / or less expensive. This is an important factor if we want citizens to leave their cars/and gas in their carports and start using public services.

ALSO... our continuing ""love affair" with Catalyst Inc.Co. needs to be seen in the light of NOT putting all "our eggs in one basket" ; rather to encourage other light industries / corporations/small business entrepreneurs to be welcomed into the area as part of an OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN [ocp] . Any future ocp's I would encourage [cf my points made above] a tighter planning regime incorporating new business operations within closer proximity to the core city area and which includes bicycle/rail/bus even pedestrian connections."

A good portion of these questions are irrelevant to local government as they have very little control with the implementation and financing and where they do such as the skate park in Chemainus, there is a problem of where to put it because of opposition to having it near where anyone lives.

Tax rates should be higher for corporations and wealthier individuals, and less for those who make less money.

"I'd like to see our local government take the lead on reducing greenhouse gases and work with other local governments on the Island, including taking a stand on pipelines and fossil fuel production. i.e. Alberta oil sands and coal mining on VI.

Dumping of toxic soils into our area is ridiculous!

Recycling should be improved .... composting for all areas is a must."

Our local government must stand up to prevent environmental contamination occurring in other areas of the province...through poorly regulated oil/gas/mining industries.

I don't pay taxes, I'm First Nations working on reserve however I do own my own home, off reserve, and pay property taxes. I would like to see our roads in better shape and return to 2 garbage cans v.s. 1 every two weeks.

keep up the great work of raising awareness!

Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions.

Thank you to One Cowichan for the work you are doing.

thankyou we need to learn to work as a community cooperatively and find out of the box solutions then all shall benefit.

Some of the questions are two parters, could agree with with economic development focus on environmentally sound/sustainable/fair waged efforts, for instance, but would like to see that done through encouraging worker coops. Could agree with managing private land forestry, not sure if this level of gov't should be buying it back...etc

"Don't expand development until roads are widened, improved.

"

Good survey

"thank yu for your efforts to put this survey forward and raise level of awareness.

hopefully this is empowering and one cowichan gets results."

At this time when our world is in major conflicts wars etc. Our planet being destroyed by over pollution by burning of fossil fuels for sake of rapid expansion of world industry's to satisfy our needs for more commercial goods that we can learn to live without to save our planet.  
I'm only on island 3 years and in Canada for 5 so am not well versed in the politics

Any and all decision to be decided upon concerning the public interests must be decided by the people through referendum.

no

I said this before and I'll say it again. People will not stand around and answer these many questions. In fact I can see how this can turn people away from us. Focusing on one or two things is the way to go. We're not being realistic with these questions for the muni elections.

"You are doing a great job. I am a very senior senior (87) existing on a very small pension. However I would be happy to assist where Possible."

no

Increased taxes doesn't necessarily mean increased services--- or better services may vary in their definition. A study might be in order.

I think you need an addition option on your survey questions, ie the ability for the participant to expand or comment on any of the questions asked.

"I wouldn't mind paying more taxes IF what was promised was delivered and that's the thing once taxes are increase they are not decreased even if the promise is not realized.

Perhaps there should be incentive for people to volunteer their time to something that needs to be done in the community and for that there is some compensation.... (like the first time charity donators being given incentive) (perhaps that would also get people more involved in community and/or local issues)"

Some of these questions were too cut and dry. For instance, air quality. I do not object to backyard burning IF it is done responsibly. I have asthma but hot wood smoke does not affect me. Banning burning on rural properties especially would drastically increase the fire potential from heaped up wood waste and/or the emissions from the vehicles to take them to the land fill and/or the emissions from the chippers needed to chip -- if it were even possible -- the detritus from fallen branches, etc.

Please address the smoke in winter -often about 8 months of the year - there is nowhere in the valley (that I have found -in which to do my daily exercises

Good start.

My "three most important things facing local government" were the practical, physical things municipalities need to do. It left out the social aspects of urban living such as youth, immigrant and seniors supports, providing places for activities and supporting organizations that do outreach to these communities. With so much Provincial downloading, more and more is expected from local government with less and less funds to do those things.

We need to preserve the quality we have in the Cowichan Valley. Taking care of our waterways and groundwater is so important. More transit? Incentives to use more renewable energy. Support our less fortunate citizens.

Re the survey; would have liked to revisit / change answers...all seemed high priority

I appreciate the work that One Cowichan is doing in the Region - thank you!

As long as population continues to grow we will continue to see more and more struggle for fundamental resources required to survive.

Re Taxes - I think they should be lowered and I'd like to see services re-prioritized.  
lets help the salmon fisheries, and get rid of net boats.

yes

Nothing else. We're good. Thanks.

I found the survey included many loaded questions in support of a predetermined agenda. This was unfortunate. It would have been more useful if it was more balanced.

I think it's interesting to note that a few councillors find it hard to attend council meetings. I vote for someone based on the belief that they will be representing me and the general public, how can they do this if they are not at the meetings? I'm sure they all work hard behind the scenes but the 'general public's' only gauge is through public appearance.

"We need to see new faces with sharp minds this November on North Cowichan Council. A council that will take back control of spending, freeze tax increases, reduce the per resident debt(\$700.+) to zero.

Unfortunately it is always about the money. And the reality is when we are broke and penniless nothing will get done.

Just ask the city of Detroit, Michigan.

respectfully

"

"We need to stop letting builders claim to be building low income/affordable housing under false pretenses. An example is the project in Mill Bay. There are no easily accessible resources at this location, no bus service for starters, no one can get there. Even though this was pointed out at approval meetings by a board member it was ignored & passed through. Continuing to do this undermines the affordable housing need as now people can say we built it & no one came thus it is not needed.

I know there is a great community garden in Duncan. I would like to see a community garden in every community in the beautiful Cowichan Valley. "

As a relative newcomer to the Cowichan Valley I believe I am in a position to see those things that, for those who have lived here a long time, become commonplace, accepted and believed to be unchangeable. Much like we become used to the beauty around us, we also become apathetic about problems withing the bureaucracies and politics.

Fair taxation. Don't let corporations get away without paying their proportional share!

"Current local government structures do not properly represent the voice or the electorate. Changes in representation are needed across the entire region.

"

I think we have many high priority issues in our valley. We can't live if we have no water and we should be eating more local foods. We need jobs in order to afford a roof over our heads but there is not enough of either in the valley. Stop building on the floodplain! If we are to grow do so on higher ground. Lease Somenos Marsh to do it's job, no more encroachment. Too much wasted money spent on thinking about that already. Engage the taxpayers. It's us that live here too!

"We have a beautiful community, we just have to work together to keep it that way and to improve on it whenever we can.

"

Taxes are much too high. Local governments waste millions every year.

We need local government to cut spending and reduce taxes. They all want to buy it now pay for it later projects. We are being taxed to death.

salaries need to be brought into scope. comparing to what others get is like a monopoly. it is about value and comparing to average wages in the valley

I have several friends living in the area and find it difficult for people with disabilities to access services. For those without transportation it is difficult to access services and resources

We need better collaboration between Cowihan Valley cities and towns. Promote collaboration - we're in this together. Put all climate change policies into action NOW - there is no time to lose on this. Rewrite policies, by-laws etc. NOW NOW NOW. the writing is on the wall - please pay attention and move into action. Seniors, singles, families need decent, healthy, human friendly affordable housing 100K and less. Although it seems that way, it's not about making money anymore. It's about collaborating for survival. No amount of money will handle the climate disasters coming our way. So change now, direct us with this knowledge and wisdom and give us the tools we will all need to survive together. This is the government focus we need, most especially on this Island.

"I would like to see something more inviting to the west side beach in Shawnigan Lake, the kids go to the gov to jump off the dock but it is for boats, so why not put a dock at the west side beach and get the kids out of the way of boats. It is a beautiful beach, but my kids call it boring."  
"

The structure of the questions made it very difficult to prioritize the different issues - questions asking participants to rank their priorities against each other would give more meaningful results.

"Taxes are rising at an unsustainable rate,

much more transparent fiscal prudence is required!

Loyalty to constituents seems to be at an all time low!"

If a person is running for a position the track record for past interaction with First Nations needs to be known

some of the survey questions are a tad leading, but overall not bad for a survey

"in regards to the last question.

there should be an answer option: lower taxes, and at least maintaining if not expanding services.

"

"I like the roundabouts but their gardens creat an un necessary expense.

4way stops work just as we'll in lower traffic areas. "

regional recreation should move forward

GOOD LUCK!

"I thank you for doing this survey and encouraging all to get out and vote.

However I feel there is a large anti tax pro development segment of voters and there is a need for municipalities to employ new methods of raising funds.Your survey is great but a few more questions about finances would be great.

thankyou"

Your question about taxes vague. You assume that lower taxes means less services. That is wrong. We are paying taxes on the mortgage for the curling club an item we do not need. We are paying taxes for a 2nd theater, another item we do not need. We have been subsidizing logging for 5 of the last 6 years. We are paying taxes for the Island rail that does not have a hope in hell of operating, even with more taxes. In other words, we are wasting taxpayers dollars at an alarming rate.

"It is time for fresh blood on the various governing bodies

, they have become an ""old boys"" organization "

Spending by local governments is getting out of control and very often misplaced.

I'd support more public land with parks and trails but not if the land is used to support Municipal forestry activities. The irony of local government accepting international acclaim for it's green projects while clear cutting Municipal forests completely undermines their credibility.

Raise corporate tax rates. The burden of local costs should not be so heavily born by private individuals. Corporations have a responsibility to pay their share. They use the infrastructure just as do the rest of us. They should not be able to black mail us with threats of leaving are municipality if we do not provide them tax breaks.

great community to live in - like to see it kept that way please!

I'd like to see more accessible glass recycling! Please!

I would like information on the candidates platforms. Where do all the candidates stand on the issues you have asked in your survey.  
Enforce by laws re unmuffled boats on LC

Not a bad questionnaire, but too slanted toward a pre-determined set of parameters.

First, this is the most biased survey I could imagine and of absolutely not merit whatsoever statistically. OneCowichan hardly represents the opinions of the people that live here. We are not the high and mighty environmentalists that OneCowichan describes the people that live here to be. We are among the largest polluters and energy consumers on the planet. OneCowichan needs to take a more focussed look at the people that live here instead of trying to point the finger at everyone else. It is not Governments job to change people. It is their job to provide basic services. Change comes from the individuals behaving in a different way. The people of Cowichan are the ones that need to look in the mirror. This organization needs to do the same.

More help for lower income families. Higher pay with higher cost of living is ridiculous for everyone.

Lake Cowichan, and other areas of a Cowichan Valley, needs a very focused effort on building sustainable types of tourism in the area, to bring year-round employment. It's a beautiful area and people would come here in bigger numbers to enjoy the area if there were beautiful options for places to stay. We need some spas or resorts here and outdoor activities linked with these. This could bring people year-round, for peaceful getaways and rest and relaxation. This would bring people and money and much needed employment opportunities to the area. Less business would be shutting down and less of the ghost town effect we're seeing in some of our areas.

"More accountability from elected officials is needed, especially from those who do not attend council/board/committee meetings regularly perhaps by way of a quarterly report being made public.

I do not authorize my name to be associated (or circulated to others) with my comments or answers."

Generally i think our municipapl govt does a good job. I would like to see more support for community and social programs to combat the ever increasing poverty in BC. With current prov govt, we will see a huge increase in poverty and lack of services of the next few years. Also protecting water sheds and agricultural lands, aboriginal lands and parks from current govts destructive decisions will be necessary to keep the Cowichan Valleys morals and traditions alive. We all need to join together to protect our community from bad govt decisions, global warming and the mis-guided push for over-industrialization. We have good goals in the valley already established by our community, respect for first

nations traditions and lands, the interest in solar and alternative energies, the need to protect our water sheds and rivers, and the comfort of a community that works together for the benefit of all. Our municipal gov't needs to have the strength and determination to uphold our communities values and expectations.

The alternate approval process has to go. I'm tired of local gov't using it to get their projects approved with no effort or selling on their part. If they want something approved that will involve the spending of taxpayer money, then let them work for it and get permission from the taxpayers that they are supposed to represent. They need to remember that they are serving the community and not lording over it.

It is hard for people to understand the negative effects of shopping at Walmart et al., but educating people and creating opportunities to change their habits is a good way for local government to connect with local individuals continuously and effectively.

I would like to see a pool in the south end and I would like to see another hockey rink. It is important to keep your youth busy in a healthier way and we do not have much to offer south end.

Very frustrated with North Cowichan Council and CVRD leadership. The development permitted on Mt. Tzouhalem was disgraceful. Dike construction was questionable and Somenos should be left alone. Do we really need all these round-abouts, especially the one at Drinkwater and Lane?

Combined property taxes of the CVRD and North Cowichan have placed us at a competitive disadvantage with other towns. Our growth engine was our low taxes; it encouraged a lot of retirees to come here - no longer. We have a very wasteful local government. We spend money on all sorts of discretionary items that a local government should not be involved in - taxing us to fund the arts, flower pots, a failed railway, subsidized logging, development of the floodplain. All of this waste when young families are challenged to put their kids into their own activities of choice such as hockey or dance. Local government should not be taking from family choices. Incomes in North Cowichan are below the BC average and our town's leaders have no empathy for those folks.

"Make the municipal administration and political decision making more accountable"

"Currently Thetis island is part of CVRD and North Cowichan is the community where our kids go to school and where we do most of our business- it would make more sense for us to be part of North Cowichan.

"

I accidentally skipped a question and couldn't go back:({

In our area, the public has no voice or impact. Any new business ventures are blocked by local government. New business does not get any help or support from the town. New business is selective and non-consistant to new owners.

No

As taxes rise, services are being cut back. Salaries are high, and municipal offices bloated with staff. People just want to be left alone, and not unduly bothered with edicts and regulations.

Crofton Mill should be desalinating water for its own use.

We need to recognize that due to ageing and less births there is going to be enormous gaps in the work force and people buying homes therefore we need to start prioritizing how and what we spend our tax dollars on.

We are all going to need to contribute to the worlds issues and best if we can start local.

Your survey is skewed toward a green agenda and does not deal enough with municipal spending, waste and taxation. A lot of the priorities you ask about are out of the jurisdiction of local government - eg air quality, GHG, day care, and removing land from the ALR and yet you are proposing raising my taxes to fund items like that. That is financially irresponsible and has the potential to create a taxpayer funded sinkhole.

The taxpayers can not afford 4 years of the type of government spending that your topics of interest include in this survey. The only green item that I can agree with is local control of the watershed - that is clearly a local matter and should be under our control.

Lease land to young farmers and fund school programs on sustainability

"I hope this group stays politically neutral so that it can have an objective say on issues. Good work, so far ... don't get drawn into the politics!"

thank you for putting this together. Let's hope it makes a difference.

This survey is yet another in group of "well meaning socially correct" people tilting at an imagined "need". the endless socialist dogma that will no doubt be used for the inevitable solicitation for more of our tax \$\$ by a

"My whole concern is about the future of our young and the environment that we will be leaving for them. There has to be greater awareness. Highway traffic is a problem. Love all the roundabouts - need more! I'm concerned about all the Box stores and what it's doing to our lovely little town.

On the whole I think we do very well in our Duncan, and I thank those who work hard to make it even better."

You get what you pay for therefore I am for better services even if it is higher taxes

The live streaming of meetings and availability of videotaped CVRD board and committee meetings was a great idea; however, the number of times the audio is missing in the live feed when controversial issues are being discussed is unacceptable. Concerned community members who cannot physically attend meetings count on the live feed and the technical difficulties over the past year should be solved immediately.

North Cowichan council needs to start to be accountable an need to slow the rate of spending and seek public input for prioritizing spending  
no

We need to preserve/conserve our "nest" (environment), even at the expense of some jobs. If we don't, both the environment and the economy will suffer in the long term.

To many roundabouts being built. Need to control spending. Taxes have climbed too fast.

"Property taxes/vs services are high in Ladysmith  
Ladysmith Transit an embarrassment  
Current council ineffective  
Waterfront development in Ladysmith non existent... a travesty"

I would like to see our communist go green as much as possible. Be organic, support our farmers. Appreciate our water sheds.

"A more indepth REVIEW of salary's paid to CVRD top employees. VIHA, BC Ferrys etc.

Are they all really necessary? ???

The same for regular employees,you often see several at a work sight, some working and some just standing around. This also applys to Town of LC, highways dept. VIHA at CDH,and other facilities. But perhaps we are creating employment, which increases taxes. I could continue."

Don't raise the water in cowichan it will drown your shoreline bushes that clean your water and your shoreline will be eroded and damage will be done. Stop playing God with the planet. Conserve not store is the right thing to do.

I've said ask have to say, for now.

taxes could be lower if staff and council would get more of the peoples input about when and where moneys are used ex. how many traffic circles does this small town really need! ex. North Cowichan could have chosen a more affordable route as apposed to such an extravagant addition for staff. ex. how about that butt ugly, montrosity that has been plunked in the forest museum parking lot YIKES, not impressed my tax dollars went there!!! and many more... unfortunatley our tax dollars have gone down with these already, but I would like to see more wise choices being made with big dollar items also, increases of wages and benefits (benefits which most people don't have!) of local government and staff (most incomes do not keep going up every year, ex. fixed incomes, low incomes, disability incomes, but our taxes just keep going up up up.....

I agree with some points in the survey but some were slightly biased and directed the answer. I agree the focusing on environmental issues is a good priority and believe local resources and products is the better way.

Affordable solar power!

Local governments should have termed tenures for their staff to get some new minds in to the decision making and planning process , we need some new brains in all municipalities !!!!

Why does the local government give support to groups like One Cowichan which makes completely ill informed proposals such as stopping the transport of hydrocarons?

What is most concerning is to raise our property taxes to fight other levels of government over issues that are outside of municipal jurisdiction. The questionnaire asks for funding (taxes) to pursue Provincial and / or Federal jurisdiction on air quality, child day care, greenhouse gas emissions, and zero waste. Local bureaucrats will be the only beneficiaries as they raise their pay packets. The BIGGEST issues in Cowichan is taxes and water. STOP increasing our taxes. North Cowichan should be refunding us for the tax grab they did so the mill wouldn't have to pay. What a complete misinformation campaign. Put a traffic circle in at Mays Road at Beelzebub McKinnon before people die there. The recent implementation of the painted word "STOP" does nothing to stop those that are distracted or don't know the area.

"Many citizens and NGO's such as One Cowichan advocate to have Local Government assume responsibility for a service or need or issue...to often leaving the authority and underlying tax collected at the Federal-Provincial level. All of the responsibility\liability...none of the authority...high risk behaviour...in my opinion."

more public input before major decisions are made.

legal tree preservation and protection to preserve the quality of our community, as too many native trees are being cleared from residential and other areas

1. More taxes is okay if real services that are visible and providing jobs and services.

I am considering moving to the cowichan valley to pursue small agriculture. I am attracted by its relative affordability and the spirit of the residents. I already see loss of areas that should be managed for conservation of agriculture and nature as a whole, lost to less than stellar land use planning. Saltpring is starting some shared agriculture land and processing approaches that may be useful to the cowichan valley as well. I refer you to [www.ssifarmlandtrust.org](http://www.ssifarmlandtrust.org); [www.plantofarm.org](http://www.plantofarm.org); [www.ssifi.org](http://www.ssifi.org); and [www.cog.ca](http://www.cog.ca) Protect what you have left or you will look like Langford. Also re: the urban aesthetics of the town itself, congratulations on what you have done with the down town core. The highway strip however does not speak to the values and energy of the Cowichan valley as a specific place looking as it does like any badly planned strip anywhere. Hard to fix I know but worth the effort I think. Wishing you a focused and productive municipal election.

"Thanks for the opportunity to speak?

"

good luck

When is Electoral Area E going to receive access to our community pool at an affordable rate?  
Paint the sidewalks in Shawnigan Lake please, for everyone's safety!  
Highway through the city needs rerouting. All areas need to be involved in this.  
That's enough.

We need to make better use of the rich resources of our region. Capitalize and celebrate and protect what we have. We are unique in Canada, let's not try to look like a Vancouver suburb.  
I think there should be standardized guidelines about what election campaigning looks like - ie no signs, limits on spending so that there is a level playing field.

Thank-you

I don't want to see our taxes increase. We don't see much for our taxes as is.

I would happily pay more tax to fund hospitals, industry, and schools

lower costs, better local services

our children are our future, we must invest in them

"less taxes - less govt

Lake wide municipality

World class hotel on the Lake"

taxes are right, services are not

ban smart meters

lower taxes, same services

general public need to be accountable for what they want and demanded - become educated!