



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

Board of Commissioners
324 East Pine Street
Tarpon Spring, Florida 34689
(727) 938-3711

<http://www.ctsfl.us/agenda.htm>

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025
6:30 PM - CITY HALL AUDITORIUM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Introductory Comments (**Charles Rudd City Manager**)
2. Overview of FY 2026 Budget Process (**Ron Harring Finance Director**)
3. Public Comments on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
4. Commission Comments

ADJOURNMENT

City of Tarpon Springs

No. 2 Referendum Question

Shall the City Conduct a Public Hearing Before June 30 of Each Budget Cycle

Currently, public hearings for the budget are conducted as prescribed by law after the Board of Commissioners have reviewed the budget. Shall the City's Charter be amended to provide for a public hearing no later than June 30 of each budget cycle for budget priorities?

Yes

No

Referendum No. 2 passed with 88% of the 2,704 total votes voting Yes.

FY 2026 proposed Budget/public hearing Additional Information / Participation

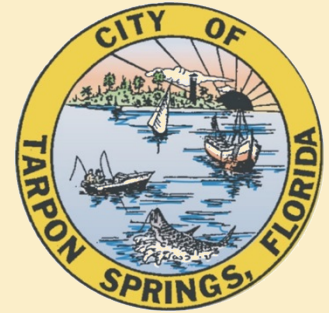
Participate in a short survey about budget priorities on the City's community engagement site (Connect Tarpon Springs) at the link below:

[Fiscal Year 2026 Budget | Connect Tarpon Springs](#)

Or go to "connecttarponsprings.com"

Under "Fiscal Year 2026 Budget" click on "Take the Online Survey!"

The link for the Proposed Budget for FY 2026 is also on this site.



CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA

**PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET
JUNE 17, 2025**

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

City Charter:

Section 8 (e) – To conduct a **Public Hearing** *[this meeting]* at the beginning of each budget cycle, no later than June 30th, to obtain public input on budget priorities.

Section 8 (i) – To review and update, every three fiscal years beginning October 1, 2023, a citywide **Strategic Plan**. The Strategic Plan shall be implemented and utilized for creating city policy, budgeting and capital project planning, consistent with its mission statement, core values, and vision statement.

CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission

To protect, preserve, and enrich the heritage, traditions, and independence of the City through quality services and a commitment to excellence.

Vision

An inclusive and prosperous community guided by our history, traditions, and natural environment.

Core Values

Fiscal Accountability – Community First – Visionary Leadership – Communication & Transparency



Infrastructure



Community
Engagement



Quality of Life



Culture, Heritage, &
Preservation



Smart Growth &
Redevelopment



Good
Governance

Strategic Plan Goal F.2; Objective 1: Utilize the Strategic Plan as a tool to prioritize budgeting, annual and long-range capital expenditures

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

FY 2026 Budget Process to date:

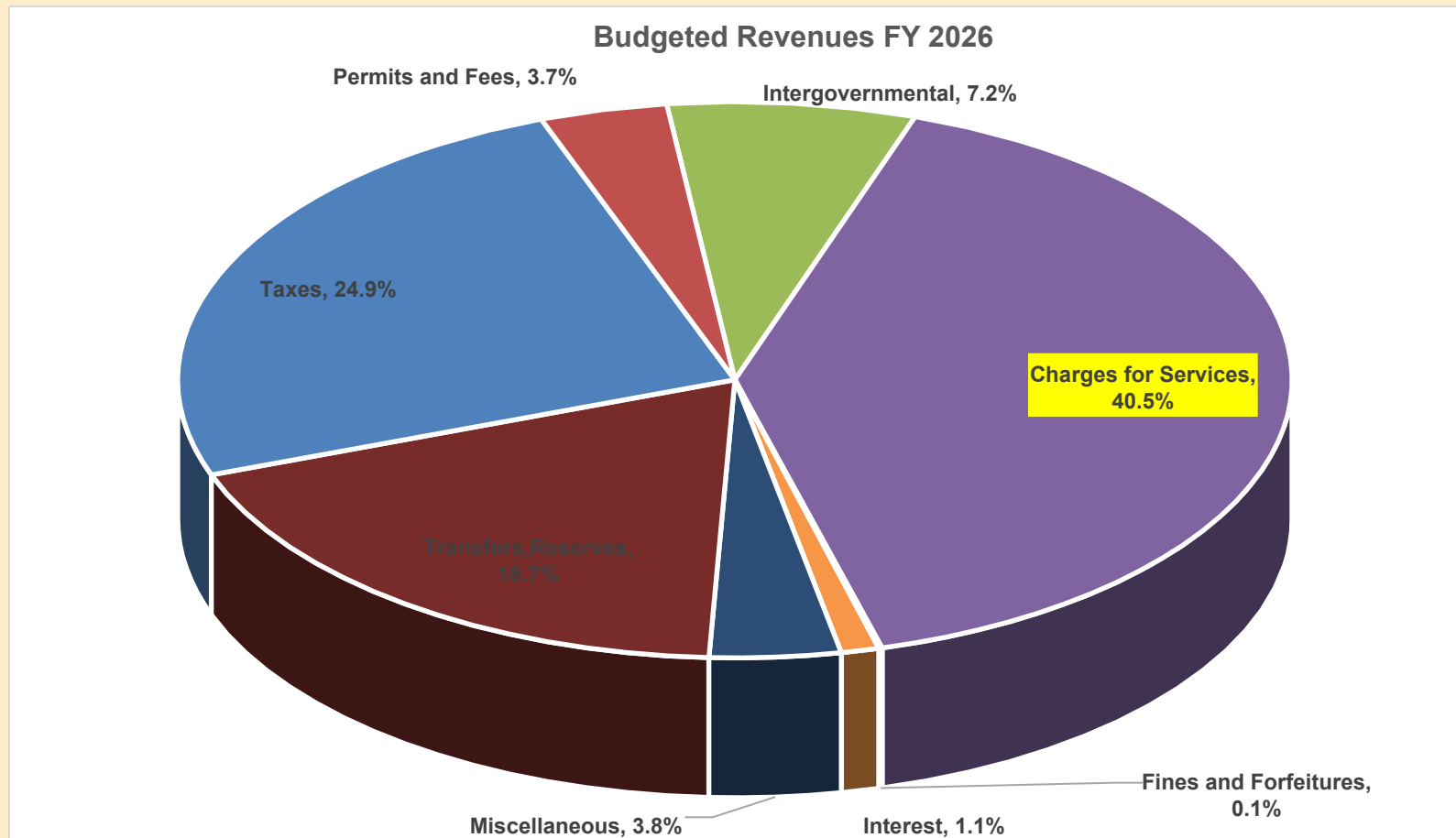
- Departments have entered their requests
- Funds have been balanced
- CIP (Capital Improvement Program) is in process
- General Fund balanced with no use of unassigned fund balance (unrestricted reserves).
- Budget Advisory Committee meetings with Departments just completed.

FY 2026 BUDGET PROCESS TIMETABLE

- June 17, 2025 Budget Public Hearing
- July 15, 2025 First Budget Workshop with BOC
- July 29, 2025 Second Budget Workshop with BOC
- August 7, 2025 Third Budget Workshop “BOC” if necessary
- Sept. 3, 2025 First Public Hearing on Tentative Millage and Budget
- Sept. 17, 2025 Second and Final Public Hearing

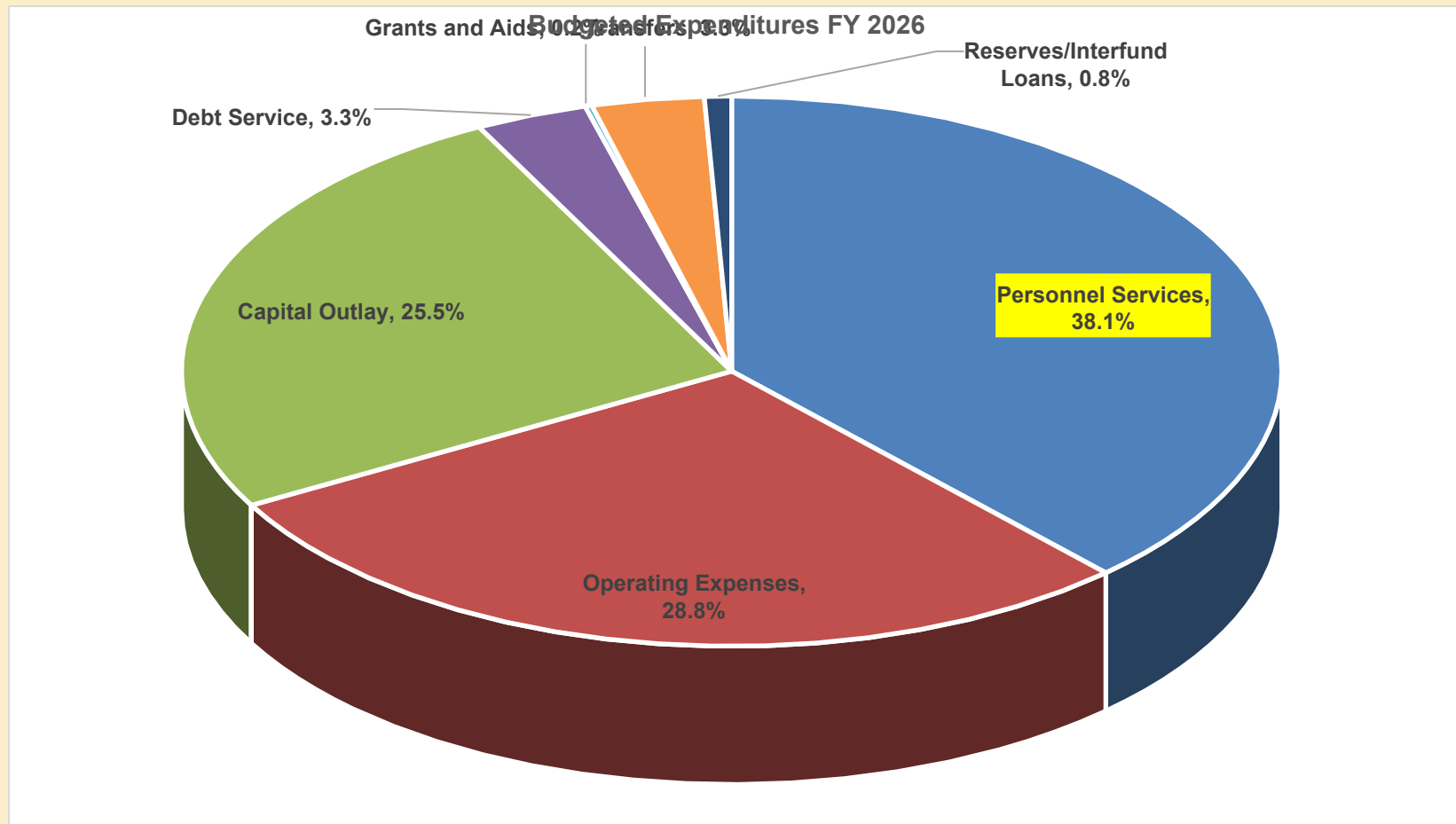
PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET AS OF 5/12/25

FY 2026 Proposed Budget \$100,417,934



PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET AS OF 5/12/25

FY 2026 Proposed Budget \$100,417,934



FY 2026 Budget - Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

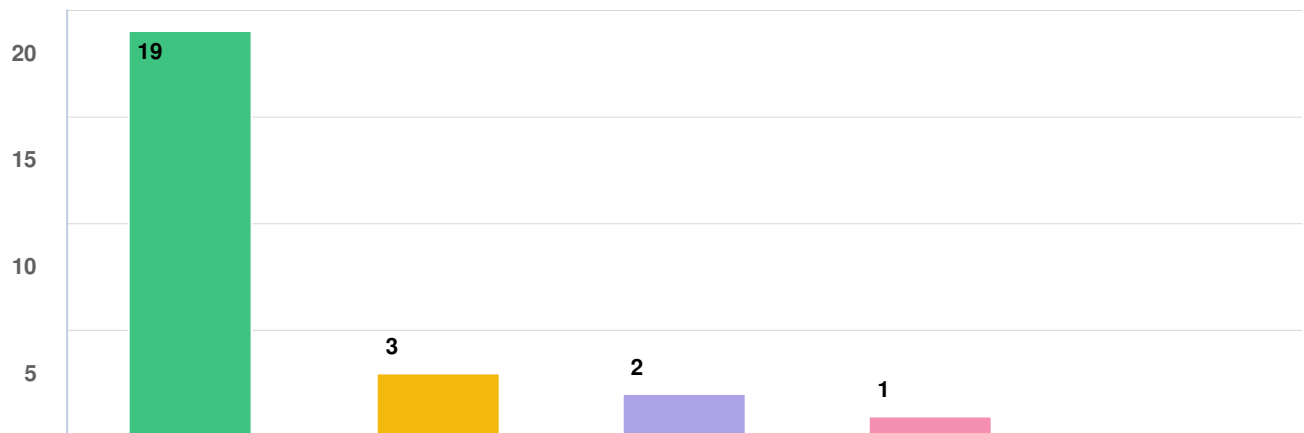
03 June 2025 - 15 June 2025

PROJECT NAME:

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

Q1 What is your connection to Tarpon Springs?



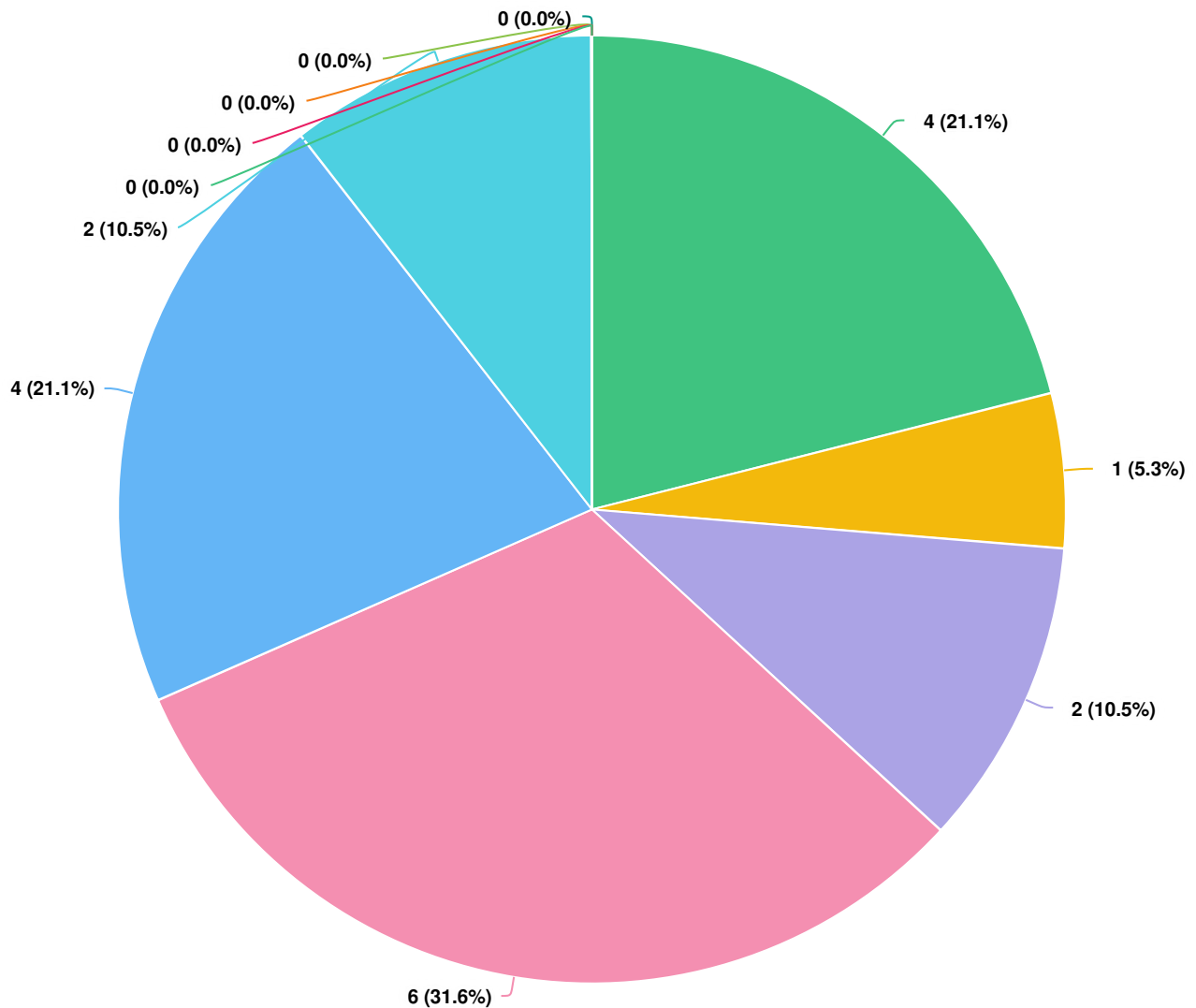
Question options

- I live in Tarpon Springs.
- I work in Tarpon Springs.
- I own a business in Tarpon Springs.
- I visit Tarpon Springs.
- I am a seasonal resident in Tarpon Springs.

Mandatory Question (19 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 In which geographic area do you live (see map below)?



Question options

A C G H I J B D E F I do not live in Tarpon Springs.

Mandatory Question (19 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q3 | If you identify with a specific neighborhood, please specify the name of that neighborhood.

Screen Name Redacted Bayshore Drive
3/04/2021 05:37 AM

Screen Name Redacted Rolling Oaks
3/30/2021 07:00 PM

Screen Name Redacted Harbor Oaks
5/03/2021 08:42 AM

Screen Name Redacted Athens St
4/21/2022 07:41 AM

Screen Name Redacted HarborWatch
7/14/2022 12:02 PM

Screen Name Redacted Sunset ridge
6/07/2023 07:36 AM

Screen Name Redacted Weatwinds Village
10/02/2024 07:44 AM

Screen Name Redacted westwinds
10/02/2024 08:15 AM

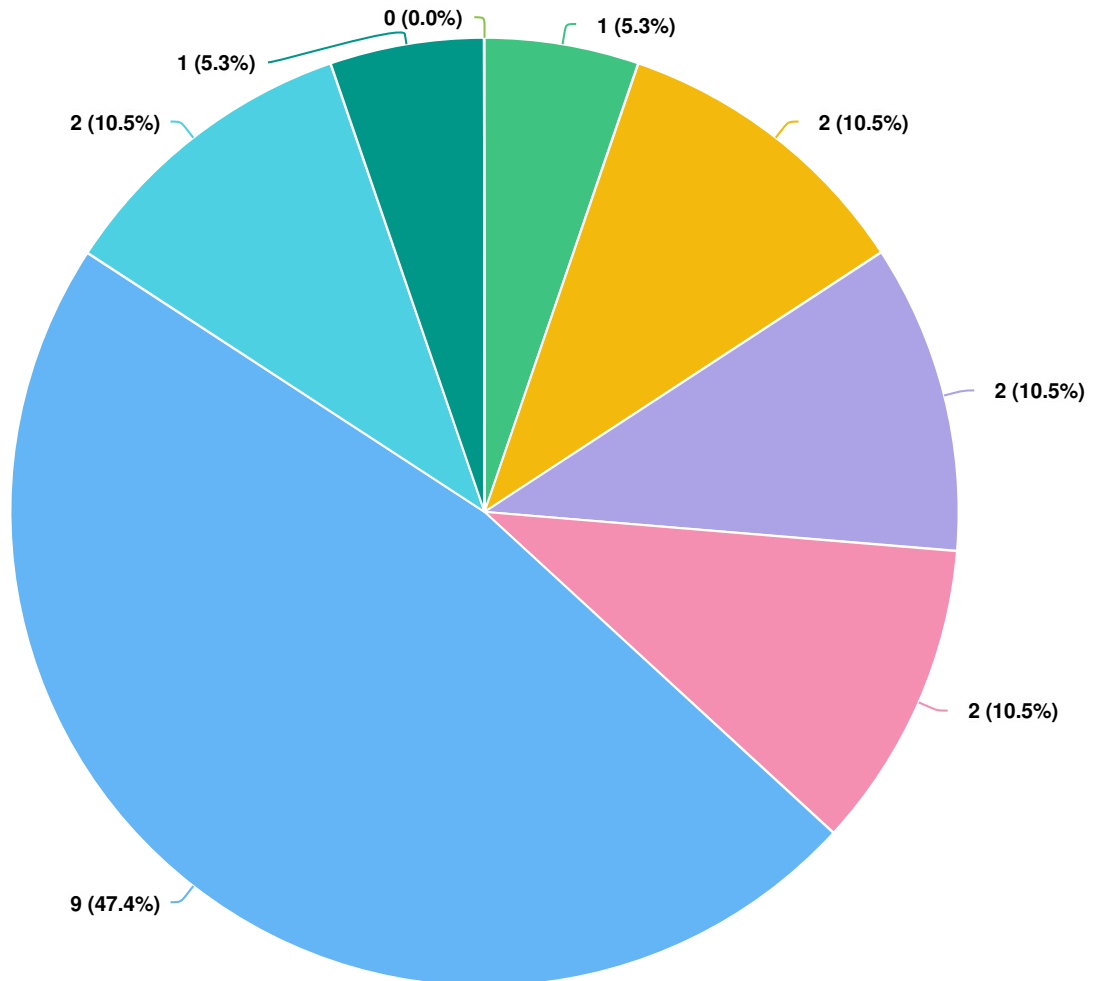
Screen Name Redacted Sunset Hills
2/01/2025 05:10 AM

Screen Name Redacted Stonehedge on the Hill
6/03/2025 06:51 PM

Optional question (10 response(s), 9 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Q4 In which decade were you born?



Question options

● 1990 - 1999
 ● 1980 - 1989
 ● 1970 - 1979
 ● 1960 - 1969
 ● 1950 - 1959
 ● 1940 - 1949
● 1939 or Earlier
 ● After 2000

Mandatory Question (19 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | Please provide your ideas and priorities for the City of Tarpon Springs's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

Screen Name Redacted

Stormwater and storm mitigation needs to be our primary concern

6/03/2025 09:31 AM

with a great deal of focus and expenditure until we can experience a normal summer storm that doesn't result in flooded streets. We presently have significantly flooded streets in areas even when it's not high tide.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 09:33 AM

Spend more on code enforcement. Falling down fences, trash, houses storing junk in front yards. Demolition of building that have been half torn down and remainder stands. Check rt19 N before Klosterman. Building half down for years. Police enforcement of speeding and motorcycle racing Homeless enforcement , downtown at night scary place

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 09:40 AM

The current Commissioners and City Manager have punted on spending a lot more on floodwater mitigation for late September and October in the current year. This needs to improve by referendum for a dedicated tax increase just like water utility fees that went down for no good reason before they went back up.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 10:14 AM

Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Infrastructure. Please make sidewalk and road repairs a priority. Drainage pipes cleaned/open for better water removal. My biggest concerns for my city.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 10:19 AM

Connect Disston Ave.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 10:35 AM

The city should spend on essential services and hardening the city against flooding. Then should consider other spending.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 10:36 AM

Infrastructure!!

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 10:50 AM

Develop the property on SE corner of Tarpon Ave and Spring Blvd. The City commissioned a study for best use of the property and nothing has been done based on recommendations. A small boutique hotel with coffee/wine bar overlooking the bayou would be lovely. Connect Disston. People are concerned about shortcuts thru town, but it wouldn't be worth it once you have to cross Tarpon Ave. Put a sidewalk on corner of Spring Blvd and Central Ct. It's dangerous to walk to bayou.

Screen Name Redacted

The budget is well detailed but overwhelming in detail. I think our

6/03/2025 11:13 AM

local government is doing a good job with things it controls. I would still like to see more improvement in the dock areas to attract repeat visitors. We need a solution to the old Pappas restaurant. Buy it. Lease out its restaurant facilities, bar facilities, and promote weddings at the docks.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 01:23 PM

Resources for homeless population in tarpon, more lighting on Pinellas trail, marketing events, more traffic enforcement in high pedestrian traffic areas, more parking

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 01:34 PM

Spent all available dollars on infrastructure to help protect our community from storm damage

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 01:51 PM

Before cops and kids building Storm Water- General infrastructure - Opening Diston Ave between Alderman and Meres Dredging the Bayous Finishing the Craig Park Seawall Project Sponge Docks Flooding Abatement Project (Piping and Vault Pumping Station) A Parking Garage Downtown

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 02:08 PM

Environmental protections, parks and preservation, library funding, tree planting, mangrove protection

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 02:10 PM

Green areas, building revitalization, library and other public service support

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 04:16 PM

Focus on infrastructure.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 04:45 PM

We need some sort of help making sure bikers and cars come to a complete stop at the trail signs. It's the law for both.

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 05:42 PM

Improve curb appeal (clean up curbs, landscaping, sidewalks, etc), economic development, infrastructure maintenance

Screen Name Redacted

6/03/2025 06:59 PM

I would like to see the section of "Mango St." from Hwy 19 to Diston have it's name changed to Mears. There are no physical addresses for that road and it will be so much easier for signage, Google maps, directions to the beaches, etc.

Screen Name Redacted

6/04/2025 06:25 AM

Stormwater and flooding management.

Screen Name Redacted

6/04/2025 07:15 AM

Open Disston Avenue to provide alternate travel options. This will benefit everyone especially when an accident or construction closes Klosterman and alternate 19. It will also shorten the time for EMS to reach the Curlew Street area. The few residents on that small island of Disston who protest should not impact the safety of the many more who will benefit.

Screen Name Redacted

6/04/2025 08:13 AM

The environment is presenting great challenges: Heat and rising waters to name a couple. So, ensure that the tree canopy gets enlarged. Work with enhancing storm drains as much as possible. Focus on drainage on roads that flood too often (eg., Riverside just west of Beckett Bridge and Sponge Docks), Make Bicycle Lanes a priority for both safety and less CO2 emissions. Work closely with the Community Alliance Neighborhood - funds to improve affordable housing, small businesses, number of trees, etc. Continue to Invest in Downtown Tarpon. Clean up and dredge our bayous. They are an asset and need to be revived. Enhance and maintain our infrastructure. Install solar as much as possible. Thank you for caring about our City.

Screen Name Redacted

6/05/2025 03:05 AM

I encourage the BOC to watch the recent Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings. The BAC members have been asking some very good questions; but the responses to those questions often leave much to be desired. I'm sure the BOC will receive more thoughtful responses to similar questions. But if the BOC has to ask the same questions, that defeats the purpose of the BAC. Also, quite a few departments had presentations to the BAC with no backup material uploaded to the Agenda portal. The BAC met 3 times in the month of May; in the middle of the work day. The least the department heads could do is upload some documentation; as they would if they were making a presentation to the BOC. I also think the Police Department budget increase could use some further scrutiny. I found the explanation for the multi-million dollar increase over the past few years to be woefully inadequate. Thanks! Keep up the good work! :)

Screen Name Redacted

6/05/2025 05:24 AM

I'd like to see the streets in Tarpon Springs fixed and repaved. Our street and numerous others are full of pot holes. Also wish something could be done about flooding on Riverside Dr whenever there is a heavy rain. Would also like US 19 in Tarpon Springs to become safer, more pedestrian friendly. It also needs a huge makeover, remove buildings that are partially taken down, sitting for years, update run down shopping centers, plant trees especially in center strip,

enhance entry into Tarpon Springs on Tarpon Ave and 19. Thank you!

Screen Name Redacted

6/06/2025 07:26 PM

Fix flooded streets. Lower golf fees for residents. Infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure.

Screen Name Redacted

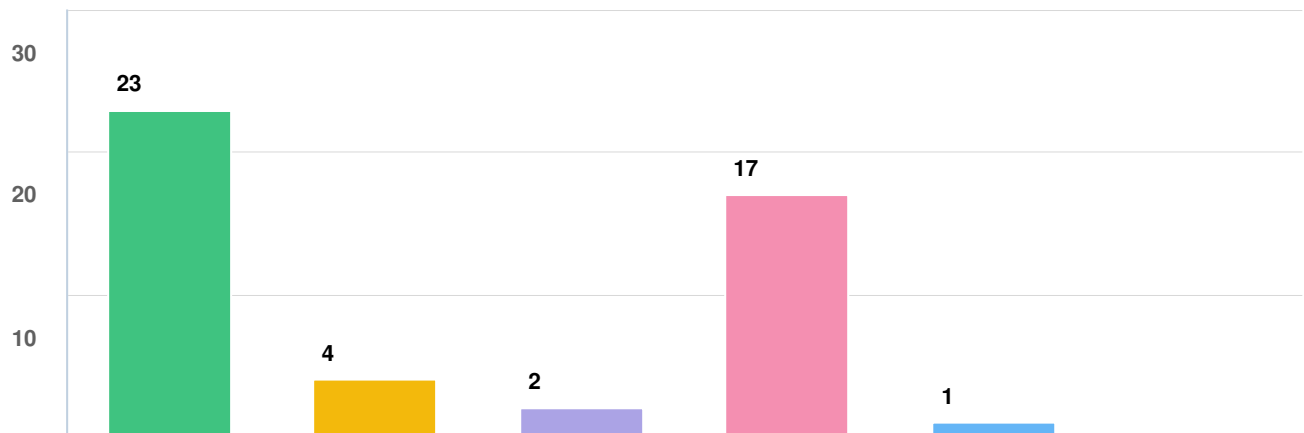
6/08/2025 03:28 PM

Take the traffic light at Alt.19 and Dixie Hwy, and convert it from a flashing into a conventional solid light. Trying to get out at that intersection in the mornings is absolutely horrible. Improvements to drainage in low lying areas such as are seen in downtown.

Mandatory Question (25 response(s))

Question type: Essay Question

Q2 Please tell us your relationship to Tarpon Springs. (Check all that apply)



Question options

- I live in Tarpon Springs. ● I work in Tarpon Springs ● I own a business in Tarpon Springs.
- I own property in Tarpon Springs. ● Other (please specify) ● I visit/vacation in Tarpon Springs.

Mandatory Question (25 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question