

# 2010-11 Town of Falmouth Budget Survey

## 1. Introduction

Because of reduced State of Maine revenues, the Town of Falmouth will experience another challenging 2010-11 budget year. The Council is currently seeking feedback from Falmouth citizens to address these fiscal challenges. Your responses to these survey questions will help guide the Council in its decisions on budget priorities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please note that this survey will close on \_\_\_\_\_.

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## 2. Participant Information

First, please tell us a little bit about yourself.

1. What is your gender?

Female

Male

2. What is your age?

0-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

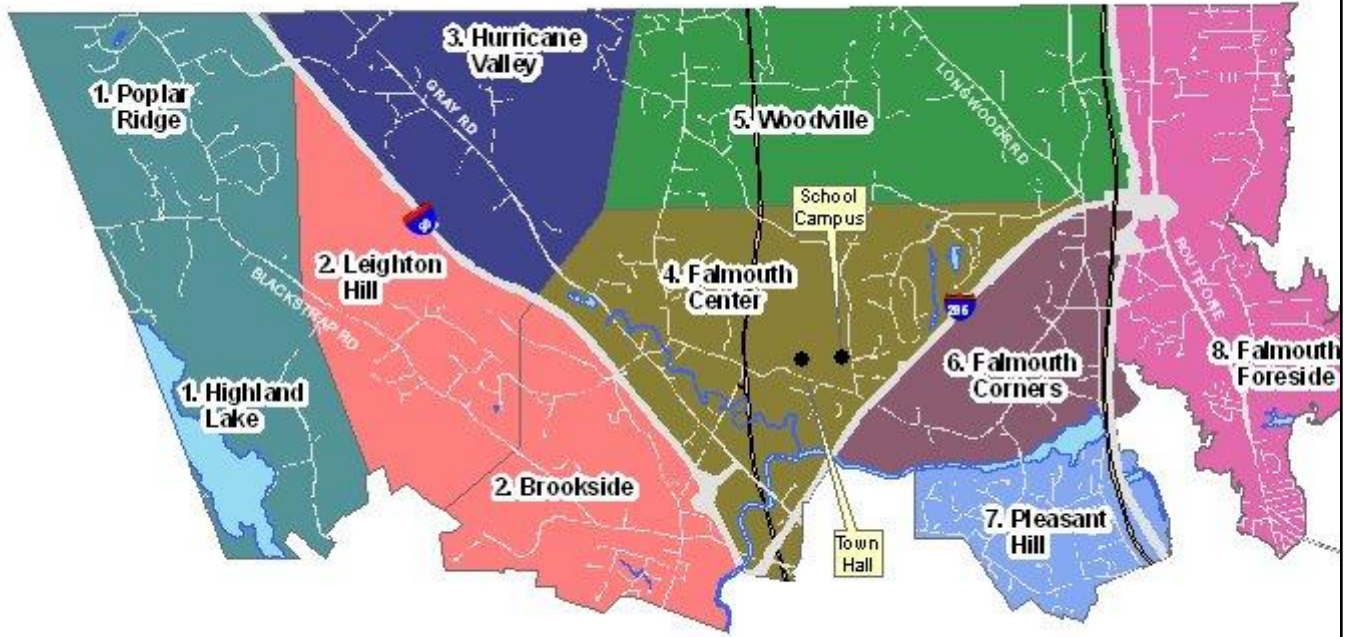
65-74

75+

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## 3. Participant Residence

Please review this Falmouth neighborhood map when answering the next question.



1. Where do you live?

- 1. Poplar Ridge/Highland Lake
- 2. Leighton Hill/Brookside
- 3. Hurricane Valley
- 4. Falmouth Center
- 5. Woodville
- 6. Falmouth Corners
- 7. Pleasant Hill
- 8. Falmouth Foreside

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2. How long have you lived in Falmouth?

Less than 1 year

1-5 years

5-10 years

10-25 years

Not applicable

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## 4. Town Services

Next, please tell us how you feel about some selected Town services that the Council is discussing.

1. How important is it for Falmouth to have the METRO bus service provided by the Town?

- Very important
- Important
- Not important
- Not important at all
- Don't know/No opinion/Am not aware of this service

Please add any comments you have about this service

2. How important is it for Falmouth to fund open space acquisition activities by the Town?

- Very important
- Important
- Not important
- Not important at all
- Don't know/No opinion/Am not aware of this service

Please add any comments you have about this service

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3. How important is it for Falmouth to have local public safety dispatching services provided by the Falmouth Police Station?

- Very important
- Important
- Not important
- Not important at all
- Don't know/No opinion/Am not aware of this service

Please add any comments you have on this service

4. How important is it for Falmouth to have curbside recycling services provided by the Town?

- Very important
- Important
- Not important
- Not important at all
- Don't know/No opinion/Am not aware of this service

Please add any comments you have on this service

5. How important is it for Falmouth to have the Woods Road Transfer Station where one can dispose of bulky wastes, brush, and other materials?

- Very important
- Important
- Not important
- Not important at all
- Don't know/No opinion/Am not aware of this service

Please add any comments you have on this service

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## 5. Town Service Alternatives

The Council is considering alternatives to the Town services mentioned on the previous page. Each of these alternatives would be a cost savings for the Town. Several questions follow regarding the possible alternatives being discussed.

The following table shows the potential impact on the mil rate and your annual taxes if the Town changed its taxable revenues to provide, or not provide, certain existing Town services.

<b>Taxable Expense Change</b>	<b>Mil Rate Change</b>	<b>Tax Change for \$200K Home</b>	<b>Tax Change for \$300K Home</b>	<b>Tax Change for \$400K Home</b>	<b>Tax Change for \$500K Home</b>	<b>Tax Change for \$600K Home</b>
<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0.03</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>
<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0.05</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$0.08</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>	<b>\$24.00</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>	<b>\$48.00</b>	<b>\$54.00</b>
<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$0.13</b>	<b>\$26.00</b>	<b>\$39.00</b>	<b>\$52.00</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>	<b>\$78.00</b>
<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$0.15</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$0.18</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>	<b>\$54.00</b>	<b>\$72.00</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>	<b>\$108.00</b>
<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
<b>\$450,000</b>	<b>\$0.23</b>	<b>\$46.00</b>	<b>\$69.00</b>	<b>\$92.00</b>	<b>\$115.00</b>	<b>\$138.00</b>
<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$0.25</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$0.30</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>\$700,000</b>	<b>\$0.35</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>	<b>\$210.00</b>
<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$0.40</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>
<b>\$900,000</b>	<b>\$0.45</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>	<b>\$135.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>	<b>\$270.00</b>
<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$0.50</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

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1. Do you support the elimination of the METRO bus service in Falmouth in order to save an estimated \$105,000 per year in future years? (Savings could start in January 2012.)

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, but only if it is required to balance the budget.

No, I'd rather see the Town save money elsewhere.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you have about this alternative.

2. Do you support the reduction of the METRO bus service route in Falmouth to serve Route One only in order to save an estimated \$50,000 per year?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, but only if it is required to balance the budget.

No, I'd rather see the Town save money elsewhere.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you have about this alternative



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3. Do you support the elimination of the current level of funding for open space acquisition until the economy recovers in order to save an estimated \$280,000 per year?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, but only if it is required to balance the budget.

No, I'd rather see the Town save money elsewhere.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you have about this alternative

4. Do you support the reduction of the level of funding for open space acquisition to \$100,000 in order to save an estimated \$180,000 per year?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, but only if it is required to balance the budget.

No, I'd rather see the Town save money elsewhere.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

5. Do you support the elimination of local public safety dispatching as currently provided by the Falmouth Police Station and rely on another agency to provide these services in order to save an estimated \$50,000-100,000 per year?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, but only if it is required to balance the budget.

No, I'd rather see the Town save money elsewhere.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you have about this alternative

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6. Do you support the elimination of curbside recycling in Falmouth, while retaining the "silver bullets" recycling containers that are located in the community, in order to save an estimated \$150,000 per year?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, but only if it is required to balance the budget.

No, I'd rather see the Town save money elsewhere.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you have about the alternative

7. Do you support the closure of the Woods Road Transfer Station in Falmouth and use the regional Riverside Recycling Facility in Portland in order to save an estimated \$50,000 per year?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, but only if it is required to balance the budget.

No, I'd rather see the Town save money elsewhere.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you have about this alternative

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## 6. Property Tax Increase

To maintain some of the current Town services, it may be necessary for the Council to raise property taxes.

1. Would you support an increase in property tax to maintain the METRO bus service in Falmouth?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, if there is no other choice.

No, not really.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you may have

2. Would you support an increase in property tax to maintain open space acquisition funding?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, if there is no other choice.

No, not really.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you may have

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3. Would you support an increase in property tax to maintain local public safety dispatching services as currently provided by the Falmouth Police Station?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, if there is no other choice.

No, not really.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you may have

4. Would you support an increase in property tax to maintain curbside recycling in Falmouth?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, if there is no other choice.

No, not really.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you may have

5. Would you support an increase in property tax to maintain the Woods Road Transfer Station in Falmouth?

Yes, absolutely.

Yes, if there is no other choice.

No, not really.

Absolutely not.

Don't know/No opinion.

Please add any comments you may have

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## 7. Town Service Ranking

Last, please tell us which of the selected Town services are most important to you.

1. Please place the Town services listed below in rank order, from most important (1) to least important (5).

Note: Only one response per column is permitted. No joint or even ranking of services is possible.

	1 (= most important)	2	3	4	5 (= least important)
Maintain the METRO bus service in Falmouth.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain open space acquisition funding.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain local public safety dispatching services.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain curbside recycling in Falmouth.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain the Transfer Station in Falmouth.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

Please add any comments you have

2. Would you be willing to accept an increase in property tax for any of the Town services listed below?

Please check all that apply.

	Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
Maintain the METRO bus service in Falmouth.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain open space acquisition funding.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain local public safety dispatching services.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain curbside recycling in Falmouth.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintain the Transfer Station in Falmouth.	jñ	jñ	jñ

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## 8. Conclusion

1. Do you have any other suggestions you would like the Council to consider in its 2010-11 budget process?

2. Do you think this survey was helpful for the Council in setting budget priorities?

Helpful

Somewhat helpful

Not helpful

Don't know/No opinion

Please add any comment you have