



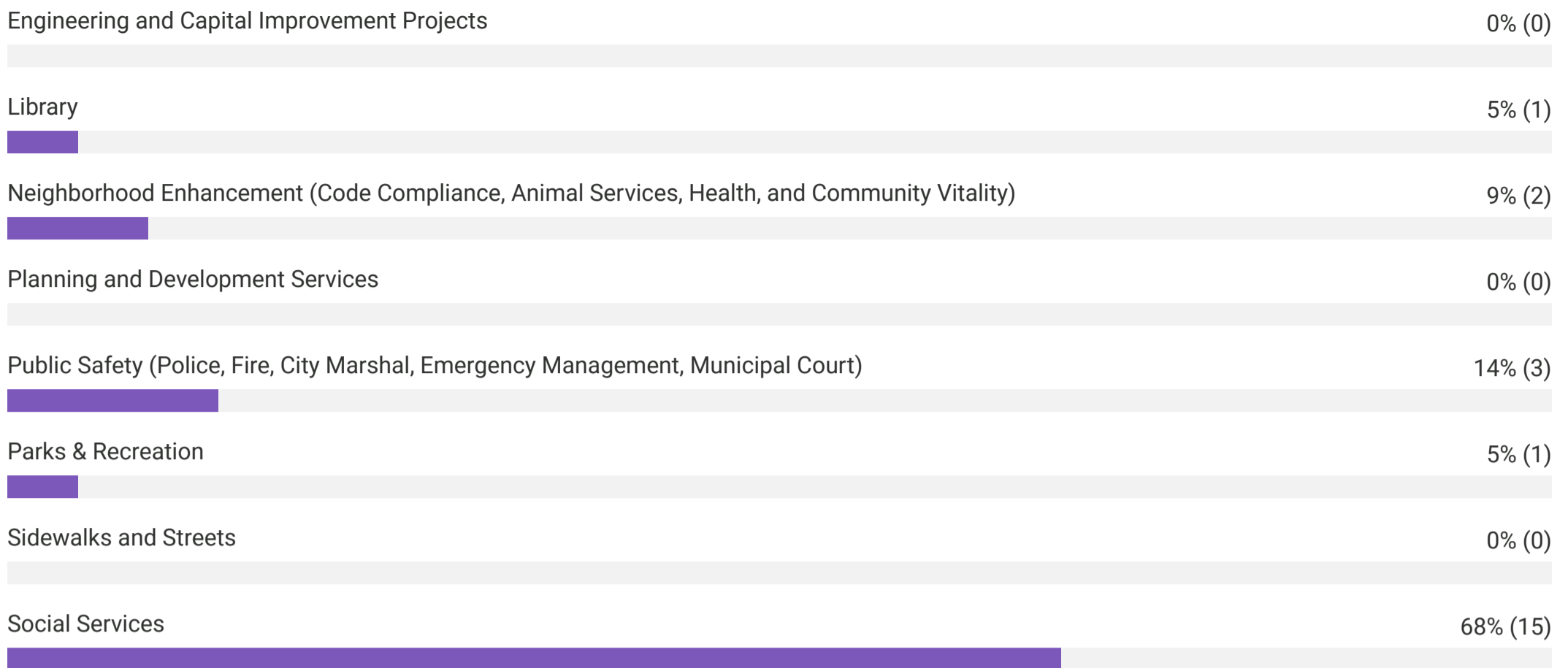
Community Town Hall on the City's Budget (June 8 Town Hall)

Survey Results
FINAL

06/09/2026

Based on what is most important to you, what should be prioritized if resources are limited?

Number of votes per option:



Text Responses:

I think it's interesting that social services is the highest voted but the least funded by the city

Social service budget should increase at same portion to other department budgets

There is a significant need for an increase in social services to our community. I would like the city to find ways to allocate more funding for social services.

Police should not be the single biggest item of the public safety budget. Police do not prevent crime and instead increase probabilities of communities experiencing violence. Is there a way to lower the budget for police and allocate it to social services, the library, or more accessibility for our neighborhoods through upgrading sidewalks etc.

i find it ridiculous that police consumes 7 times of the budget than the average department. i would like to see a huge decrease in their budget.

Increase in funding social services helps the overall health for the entire community of San Marcos. 900 city employees need significant wage increases to match inflation.

While I did select neighborhood enhancement- I am also very interested in us funding social services. In my mind those go hand in hand

What's the most important thing for you in the budget?

Text Responses:

Library, social services

I would like to see more funding towards to social services, library, parks, and streets/sidewalks

social services, library services, and park services

Transparency

Housing stability, food insecurity, community safety

Incremental steps to make the budget match the goal of ensuring that every resident of COSM has access to a healthy, stable, enjoyable life

A balanced budget that will leave us a surplus that can be saved for the future.

Social Services

Resident services for quality of life support. We should be building our social services programs as the fed government is cutting services. Our most vulnerable neighbors are struggling for basic needs to thrive

Social services are most important and it is underfunded. I'm concerned that public safety takes up such an overwhelming percentage of the total budget. Increasing funding in other areas would decrease the need for so much money to be spent on policing.

Decreasing significantly the police budget and allocating it to social services, libraries, and sidewalks etc.

DefundPolice

- How did the amounts get allocated to the different buckets?
- Have we explored other revenue streams?
- Are there identifiable areas where we over/under perform compared to other cities?
- What % does the outlet mall make up on sales tax?
- Are Fee & Permits able to be used elsewhere like social services?
- How much are we losing from the University [because of tax exempt property]?
- Do we prioritize getting any grants?
- Can we see how proportionate social services is to departments budgets over the last several years?
- A \$200K increase [in social services funding] was a significant increase, what was the driver?
- How much is Police & Fire within Public Safety?
- Does Public Safety [budget area] include EMS?
- What is the role of the City Marshal?
- The City Marshal house at Rio Vista is sealed off, not very welcoming, tried to turn in something?
- Could City Marshals be given a potential break from parks what about providing security at Library inside?
- How much is our sales tax and property tax in revenue? Commercial versus residential?
- Buc-ee's & HEB are considered retail and lower paying industries, what else are we looking at bringing into the city? What do they require from us?
- Are we still paying for the external services for economic development?
- How can we get the word out better?
- Paying off conference center in a few years, what's the intention with venue tax after it's paid off?
- Budget book is around 500 pages, is there a way to have an interactive dashboard?
- When the sales tax rate increased did we accomplish the goal?
- Do we lobby the state to get PS vehicles funded?
- Are we looking at how AI will impact the City, services, residents, staff? Are we looking into a resilience program?
- How much effort have we done to address City workers overlapping with privately owned operations (e.g. Sights and Sounds and Lions Club)?
- With fencing revenue coming in from entrance to river, will money be set aside for parks, what estimate do we have, what's the payoff?
- Will the costs of labor [at River] be offset, are we looking at this, are we doing more damage?

- When we consider the library, what does security in children's area look like?
- The buses are not operable during these meetings. Can we have these meetings during afternoons and evenings for more attendance?
- Live in city part of Willow creek, don't have storm or sewer, can we add in future budget cycles?
- What would it look like to have overnight staff [Neighborhood Enhancement] to handle noise issues instead of being addressed by the Police department?
- Are all participatory budgeting initiatives going to be funded?
- Will hostile architecture be reconsidered?
- If IP addresses are not tracked, how are we controlling repetitive votes in participatory budgeting?
- Is there an update on ADA accessibility [website]?
- What is the timeline for meeting minutes?