



**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
FISCAL PRIORITIES SURVEY**

INTRODUCTION

This survey was adopted from a survey conducted in Grosse Pointe City to examine and make recommendations about the severe budget deficits facing the City government due to the continued significant decline in residential property assessments and state revenue sharing. Each household in the Shores is requested to respond to the survey and return it to City Hall by **mail or by dropping this survey off at 795 Lake Shore no later than March 26, 2010**. Knowing your priorities for future Shores services and revenues will be very helpful to the City Council at this critical juncture.

SECTION ONE: RATING THE IMPORTANCE OF BASIC SERVICES

Please rate the importance to you of each of the following services provided by Grosse Pointe Shores. Answer by marking each service on a scale from 1 to 5, where **1 means "Not Important"** and **5 means "Very Important"**.

	1 = Not important	2 = Slightly important	3 = Moderately important	4 = Important	5 = Very important
Crime control	1 (0%)	5 (1%)	14 (2%)	75 (13%)	464 (82%)
Firefighting Services	1 (0%)	9 (2%)	26 (5%)	57 (10%)	464 (82%)
Garbage Pickup	5 (1%)	11 (2%)	32 (6%)	105 (19%)	408 (72%)
Emergency Ambulance	6 (1%)	16 (3%)	47 (8%)	103 (18%)	392 (69%)
Snow Removal	5 (1%)	21 (4%)	62 (11%)	166 (29%)	295 (52%)
Street Maintenance	4 (1%)	17 (3%)	112 (20%)	194 (34%)	227 (40%)
Street Repairs	4 (1%)	15 (3%)	131 (23%)	234 (41%)	169 (30%)
Household Water Service	12 (2%)	29 (5%)	85 (15%)	148 (26%)	253 (45%)
Response to citizen inquiries	17 (3%)	58 (10%)	137 (24%)	195 (34%)	155 (27%)
Yard Waste/Leaf Pickup	23 (4%)	54 (10%)	126 (22%)	179 (32%)	173 (31%)
Park Facilities Upkeep	13 (2%)	56 (10%)	160 (28%)	188 (33%)	141 (25%)
Elections/Voter Registration	37 (7%)	81 (14%)	126 (22%)	154 (27%)	154 (27%)
Housing Code Enforcement	31 (5%)	77 (14%)	150 (26%)	149 (26%)	146 (26%)
City Hall Buildings Upkeep	22 (4%)	89 (16%)	194 (34%)	164 (29%)	89 (16%)
Recycling Pickup	64 (11%)	72 (13%)	126 (22%)	151 (27%)	136 (24%)
Building Permits/Inspections	40 (7%)	99 (17%)	154 (27%)	159 (28%)	105 (19%)
Tree Trimming/Replacement	29 (5%)	125 (22%)	221 (39%)	120 (21%)	62 (11%)
Municipal Court	84 (15%)	106 (19%)	130 (23%)	129 (23%)	100 (18%)
In House Dispatching	40 (7%)	57 (10%)	131 (23%)	116 (20%)	133 (23%)
Planting Beds and Flowers	74 (13%)	150 (26%)	156 (28%)	124 (22%)	51 (9%)
Recreational Programs	103 (18%)	138 (24%)	168 (30%)	102 (18%)	49 (9%)
City Newsletters/website	113 (20%)	173 (31%)	164 (29%)	74 (13%)	38 (7%)
Community Events/Decorations	126 (22%)	157 (28%)	148 (26%)	92 (16%)	30 (5%)

SECTION TWO: BUDGET PLANNING

To address the estimated \$350,000 – \$400,000 shortfall between projected expenditures and revenues, the City may consider various options to reduce expenditures, create efficiencies, and increase revenues. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following ideas.

EXPENDITURES	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Don't Know	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Reduce the number of police and fire personnel on duty per shift	54 10%	74 13%	76 13%	48 8%	298 53%
Institute curbside garbage pickup only	260 46%	97 17%	22 4%	46 8%	145 26%
Charge fees for pickup of more than a set sized garbage container per week (e.g. 64 gallon cart)	104 18%	95 17%	37 7%	82 14%	238 42%
Eliminate sidewalk snow clearing	127 22%	83 15%	32 6%	97 17%	217 38%
Reduce pool operations/hours	119 21%	156 28%	60 11%	72 13%	155 27%
Eliminate City supported Community Events in the Park and at City Hall (e.g. Boo Fest, Tree lighting)	229 40%	142 25%	48 8%	72 13%	69 12%
Reduce benefits and/or pay for City employees	245 43%	122 22%	84 15%	57 10%	53 9%
Reduce housing and property maintenance code enforcement	65 11%	113 20%	69 12%	137 24%	173 31%
Reduce parkway and tree maintenance programs	80 14%	207 37%	51 9%	122 22%	99 17%
Reduce frequency of street sweeping and road maintenance	89 16%	198 35%	45 8%	116 20%	107 19%
Reduce upkeep of the Lake Shore Road median and lakefront (i.e. South of Vernier is Wayne County's jurisdiction)	76 13%	148 26%	47 8%	143 25%	146 26%
Defer upkeep of City buildings (City Hall, Police/Fire station, Public Works, Park office)	77 14%	168 30%	74 13%	135 24%	107 19%
Defer purchases of City vehicles and equipment	171 30%	206 36%	74 13%	65 11%	43 8%
Reduce or eliminate recreation programs (e.g. swim team, lessons)	130 23%	140 25%	50 9%	98 17%	144 25%
Reduce City Hall Administrative/ Front Office customer service levels	127 22%	188 33%	72 13%	91 16%	85 15%

SECTION TWO: BUDGET PLANNING (continued)

REVENUES	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Don't Know	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Increase service fees for licenses, permits, inspections, facility rentals, recreation programs	242 43%	174 31%	34 6%	37 7%	71 13%
Collect only as much property taxes next year as this year	200 35%	95 17%	90 16%	64 11%	85 15%
Collect more property taxes next year than this year	32 6%	40 7%	76 13%	62 11%	331 58%
Collect less property taxes next year than this year	165 29%	64 11%	110 19%	67 12%	144 25%
Add a property tax levy dedicated for police and fire services	47 8%	65 11%	87 15%	61 11%	300 53%
Add a property tax levy dedicated to park facilities and recreational programs	25 4%	50 9%	53 9%	87 15%	346 61%
Add a property tax levy dedicated to road repairs	37 7%	64 11%	70 12%	94 17%	294 52%

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Don't Know	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Jointly operate some or all of the Grosse Pointes' Parks & Recreations programs	271 48%	120 21%	48 8%	31 5%	90 16%
Create a Public Safety Agency for police and fire that covers some or all of the Grosse Pointes	219 39%	118 21%	59 10%	50 9%	115 20%
Eliminate the Shores municipal court and establish a Grosse Pointe wide District Court	336 59%	120 21%	42 7%	25 4%	52 9%
Enter into agreements with neighboring communities to provide fire protection for the City	224 40%	132 23%	57 10%	46 8%	106 19%
Jointly coordinate and share in cost of fire equipment and vehicles with other Grosse Pointes	285 50%	129 23%	51 9%	36 6%	60 11%
Enter into agreements with neighboring communities to provide Public Works services	227 40%	140 25%	62 11%	50 9%	79 14%
Consolidate 911 call taking into a single dispatch center for some or all of the Grosse Pointes	239 42%	113 20%	45 8%	56 10%	109 19%
Combine some or all of the Grosse Pointe municipalities into one local government	142 25%	80 14%	65 11%	70 12%	205 36%
Enter into service sharing arrangements with other Grosse Pointes, but keep Grosse Pointe Shores autonomy	299 53%	118 21%	60 11%	30 5%	54 10%

SECTION THREE: OVERALL QUESTION

When considering the Shores financial challenge of an estimated \$350,000 - \$400,000 deficit due primarily to decreased property tax collections in the upcoming budget year starting July 1, a deficit is projected to widen in future years, which of the following best characterizes your opinion:

- 83__15% A) I am willing to pay more property taxes than I currently do, if it preserves GP Shores services at the levels I currently receive.
- 291__51% B) I am willing to pay the same amount of property taxes as I currently do, if most, but not all, GP Shores services could be maintained.
- 125__22% C) I am willing to reduce and eliminate GP Shores services, if my property taxes are reduced.
- 44__8% D) I am willing to significantly reduce and eliminate GP Shores services if I pay significantly less property taxes than I currently do.
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