

# 2017 City Budget



# Why the City Budget Matters

- ▶ City services shape the quality of life of Toronto residents





# Budgets, Budgets, Budgets

## ▶ Rate-Supported Budgets

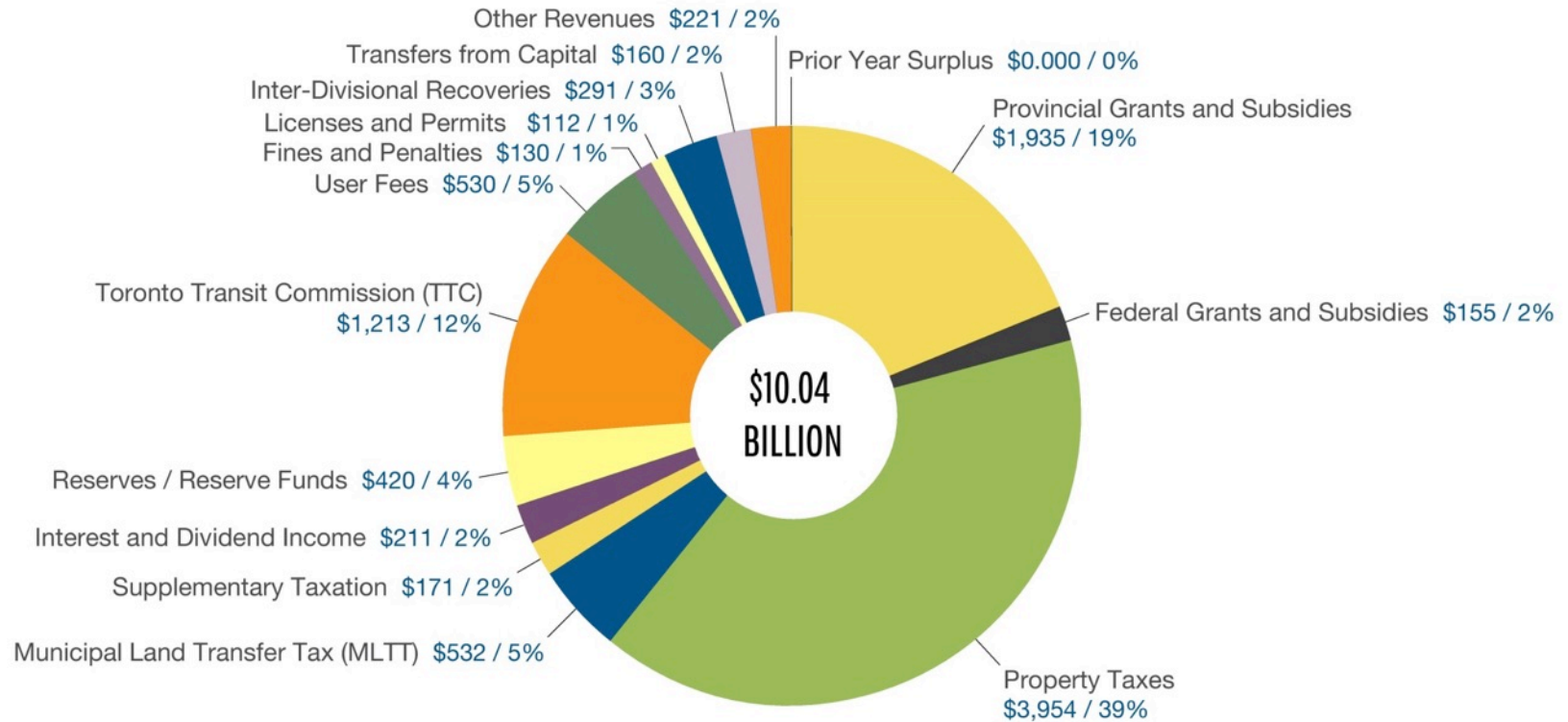
- Parking Authority, Toronto Water, Solid Waste Management
- Budget launch to final vote: November 4–December 13+14

## ▶ Tax-Supported Budgets

- **Capital Budget & 10-Year Capital Plan**
- Pays for construction and repair of transit, roads, bridges, public buildings such as libraries, community centres, shelters and fire stations, parks, streetcars, buses, subways
- **Operating Budget**
- Covers day-to-day spending on services such as recreation programs, parks maintenance, public health, shelter services, transit, police and other emergency services
- Budget launch to final vote: December 2–February 15+16

# WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

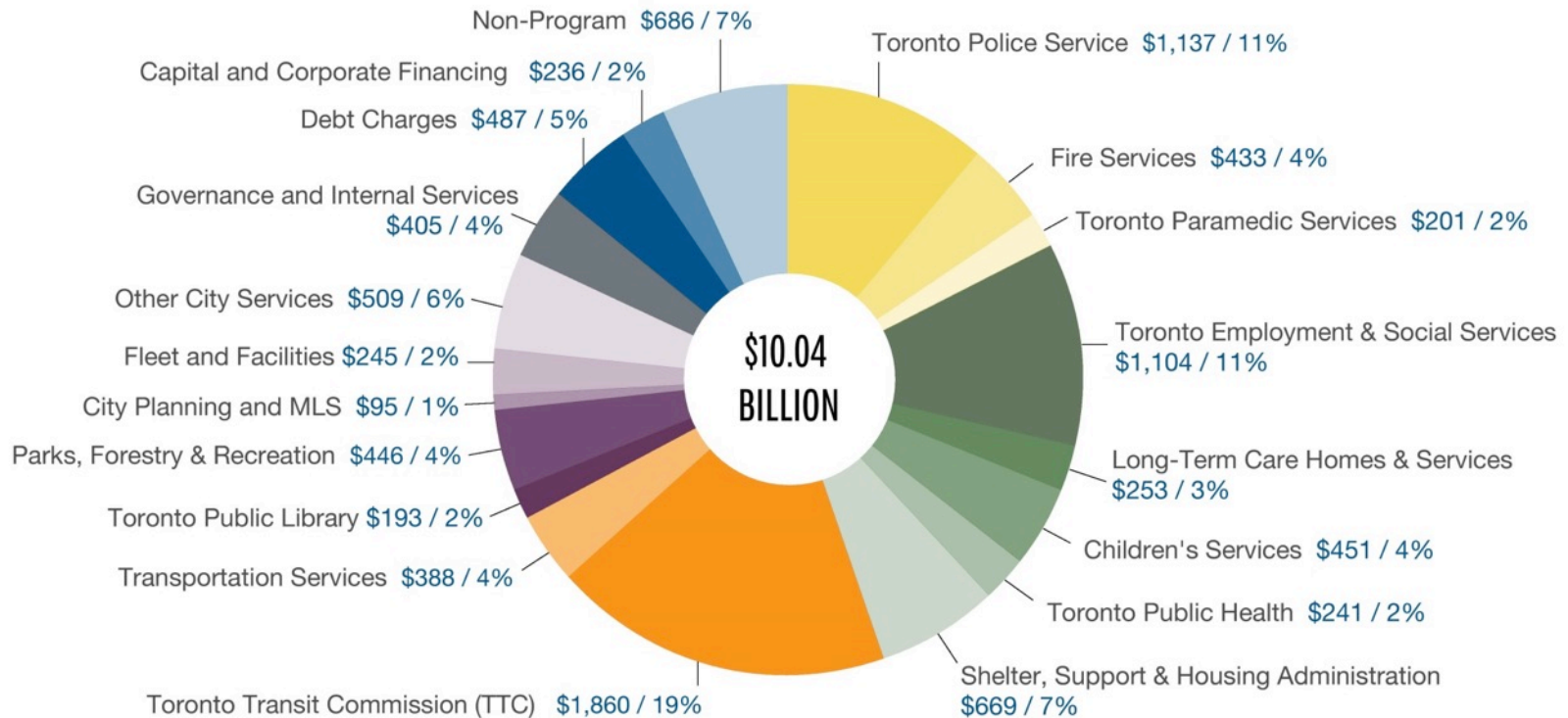
## 2016 Tax Supported Operating Budget (\$ Millions)



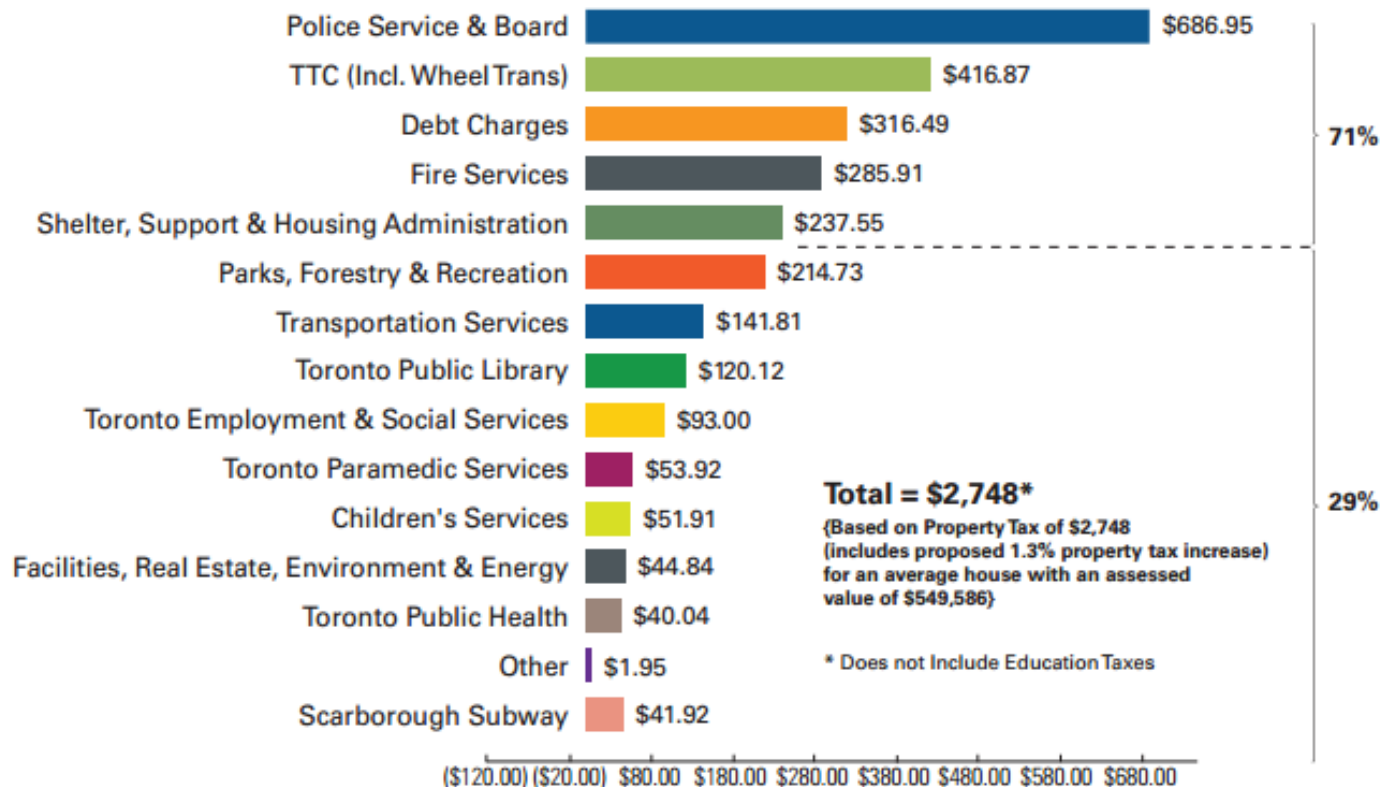


# WHERE THE MONEY GOES

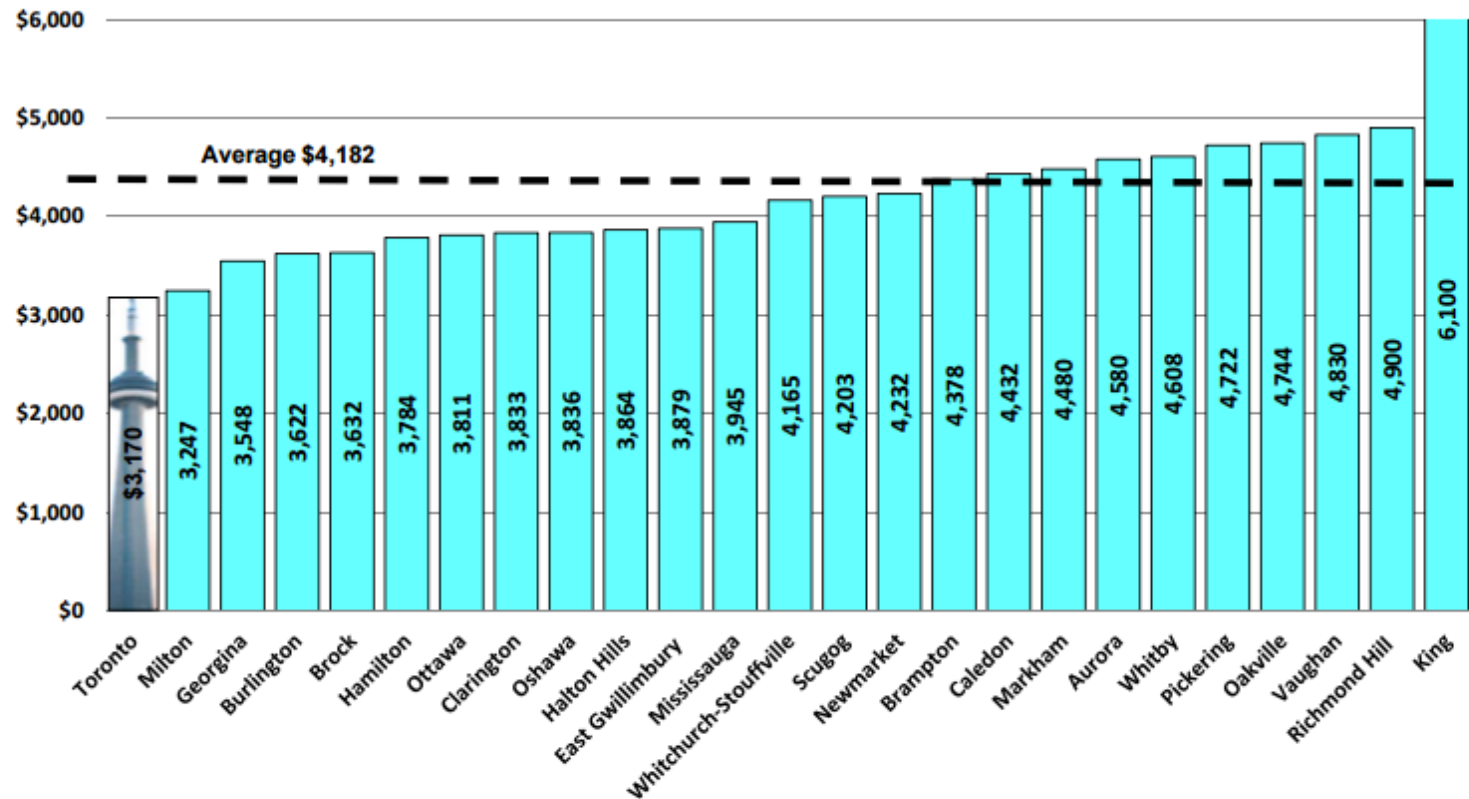
## 2016 Tax Supported Operating Budget (\$ Millions)



# HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS WORKED FOR YOU IN 2016



## COMPARISON OF 2015 AVERAGE PROPERTY TAXES GTHA MUNIS & OTTAWA - \$1,000 LESS THAN AVERAGE



Source: 2015 Municipal Study – BMA Consulting Inc.  
Includes Education Property Taxes



# Budget Process & Key Dates

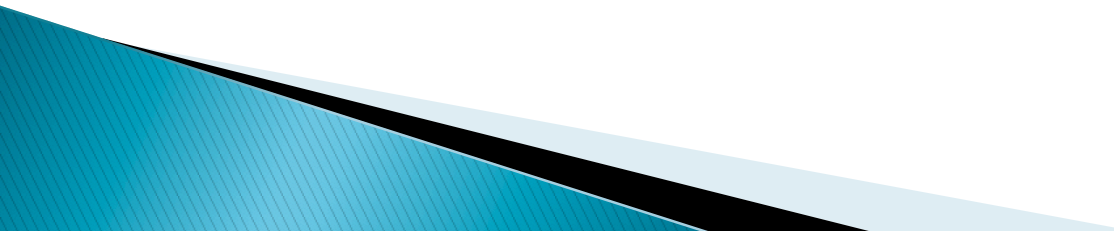
- ▶ Summer 2016:
  - Mayor and City Council set direction for budget (public)
  - City staff develop the budget (behind the scene)
- ▶ December 1: Executive Committee meets to discuss long-term fiscal plan (revenue tools) **Public can make deputations (short presentation) to the committee.**
- ▶ December 2: Public launch of the staff recommended (draft) budget
- ▶ Mid-December: SPT to host city budget forums
- ▶ December–February: City Councillors hold budget town halls for community members
- ▶ December 16, 19, 20, 21: Budget Committee reviews the budget
- ▶ **January 5, 9, 10: Members of the public make presentations (deputations) to the Budget Committee**
- ▶ January 12, 24: Budget Committee makes its budget recommendations
- ▶ February 7: Executive Committee reviews the budget, makes its recommendations
- ▶ February 15 & 16: Toronto City Council makes final decisions about the budget

# City Plans & Strategies

• Housing Opportunities Toronto: An Affordable Housing Action Plan, 2010–2020 • Housing Stability Service Planning Framework • Infrastructure and Service Improvement Plan for the Emergency Shelter System • Mayor's Task Force on Toronto Community Housing • George Street Revitalization

## .TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

• Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan, 2015–2019: A Healthy City for All • TTC Improvements • SmartTrack • Rail Deck Park • Toronto Middle Childhood Strategy • Parks Plan 2013–2017 • Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan • Toronto Children's Services Service Plan: 2015–2019 • "Working as One" Workforce Development Strategy • Youth Employment Action Plan • Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020 • Social Development Strategy • Seniors Strategy • Newcomers Strategy • Youth Equity Strategy




# Fairness Gap Widens

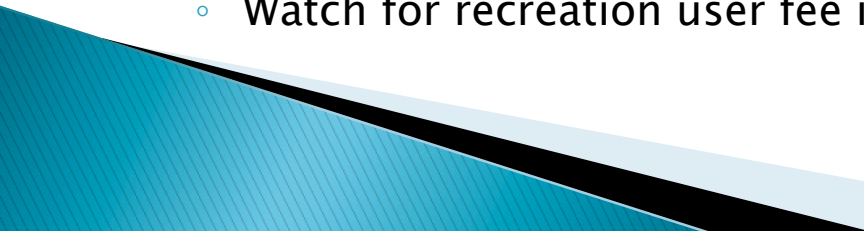
- ▶ Over the past 6 six years:
  - Property taxes decreased by 5%
  - \$60 vehicle registration tax eliminated while TTC fares increased by more than 18%
  - User fees increased by 9%
  - 8.9% cut to services



# Budget News

- ▶ City Council voted to direct City staff to:
    - Cut their budgets by 2.6% below the 2016 approved budget
    - Keep residential property taxes at or below inflation
    - Find “efficiencies”
    - Maximize user fee revenue up to full cost recovery
    - Pay for any new or enhanced services within existing budgets
  - ▶ It's more than a 2.6% cut – budgets also have to cover the increased cost of services due to inflation
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## ▶ What do we know about the cuts so far?

- Public Health – Medical Officer of Health identified options for reaching 2.6% cut – student nutrition programs – Board of Health voted against making this cut
  - TTC – a 2.6% cut = \$15.9 million, but they already need an additional \$190 million to maintain services and implement Council-directed service improvements
  - Increase fares, cut services = ridership loss and reduced revenue
  - Police – taskforce recommends \$100 million cut over 3 years; budget request shows a \$2 million reduction over the 2016 approved budget, 0.199% cut. An additional \$24 million cut would be needed to meet the 2.6% reduction
  - Toronto Public Library – requesting an additional 0.9% above the 2016 approved budget
  - Toronto Community Housing – CEO says a 2.6% cut would force the city to close units, cancel service improvements for tenants recommended by mayor's own taskforce
  - Worries about shelters and community grants
  - Watch for recreation user fee increases
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- ▶ Some Councillors tried to change the motion to protect communities
  - Maximize user fee revenue only if it is consistent with the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy
  - Avoid TTC fare increases above the rate of inflation
  - Avoid cuts to TTC bus, streetcar, Scarborough RT, subway routes
  - Avoid impacting the quality of life of TCHC tenants
  - Avoid the reduction of the 200 new child care spaces approved in 2016
  - Have a slightly higher property tax increase (3.4%) to reduce cuts to services
- ▶ BUT ... a majority of City Council voted against these protections



# What could the cuts mean?

- ▶ It will take some time to get the full story on what the cuts mean for communities. We will know more on December 2 when the draft budget is released, and we will learn more as the budget process advances.
- ▶ City recreation programs focus on children and youth, newcomers, seniors, low income residents and members of marginalized groups.
- ▶ What could cuts to recreation mean for our communities?

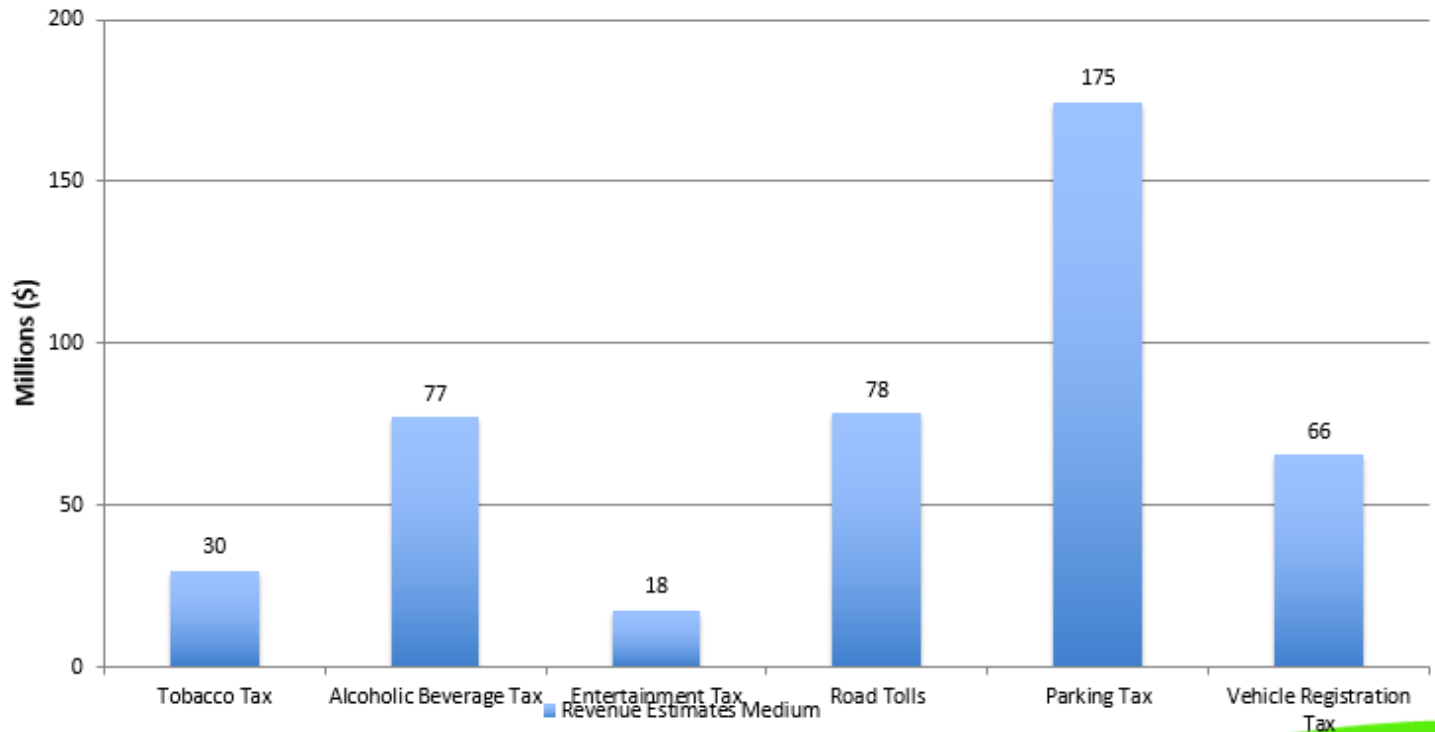
## For people using city recreation services

- it could mean higher recreation user fees that put recreation out of reach for individuals and families
- it could mean fewer recreation programs, or centres that close early or aren't open as often
- it could mean fewer staff to provide programs and services
- It could mean programs that are free now might start charging a fee
- It could mean fees for play fields could go up again, making it difficult for people to afford to play



# Another Budget is Possible

## How much they could raise



# Get Involved! Have Your Say!

- ▶ Join with others!

- Community Recreation for All
- Commitment to Community campaign

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(416) 351-0095 x212

- ▶ Speak with your City Councillor
- ▶ Attend your City Councillor's budget town hall
- ▶ Share your views with the Budget Committee –January 5, 9 & 10
- ▶ Sign up for City Budget Watch to get up-to-date info on the budget and how you can participate
  - Contact: Beth Wilson [beth@socialplanningtoronto.org](mailto:beth@socialplanningtoronto.org)  
(416) 351-0095 x257
- ▶ Check out the City of Toronto's 2017 Budget page  
[www.toronto.ca/budget2017](http://www.toronto.ca/budget2017) (not live yet as of Sept 2016)



# Thanks!

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