

QUESTION OF THE WEEK, WEEK 38 (20-24.9.2023)

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 485

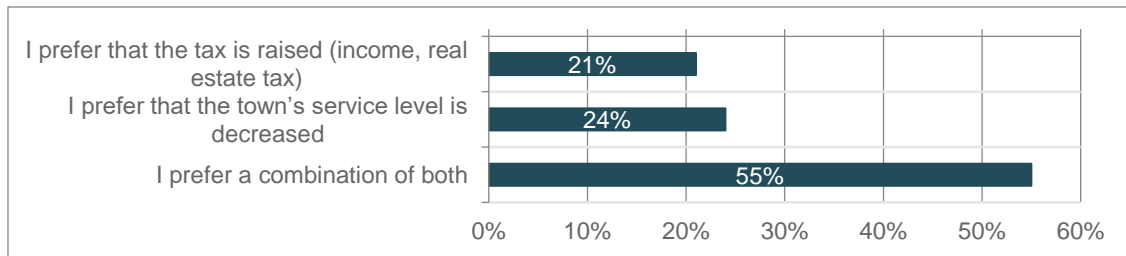
The margin of error is 4 % and thereby the answers are considered to reflect the opinions of the population in Jakobstad.

HOW SHOULD THE TOWN MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF INCOME?

In the Question of the Week the residents were asked: *“Due to the health and social services reform, the town will receive approximately 3,5 million euro less in central government transfers for basic services in 2024 compared to this year. The tax income is also expected to decline in 2024. The income loss must be compensated through lowering the costs and raising the income, since the budget needs to be in balance (not on minus).*

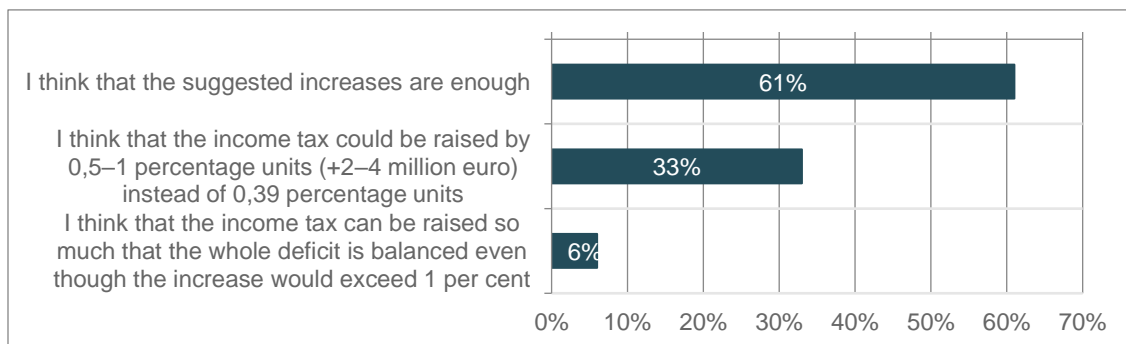
The costs can be cut down for example by decreasing the service level on statutory tasks, decreasing optional tasks, or ending some optional functions. The income can be increased by raising the taxes and raising or applying new charges.

What do you, as a resident in Jakobstad, think that the town should do to compensate for the loss of income for the basic services?”



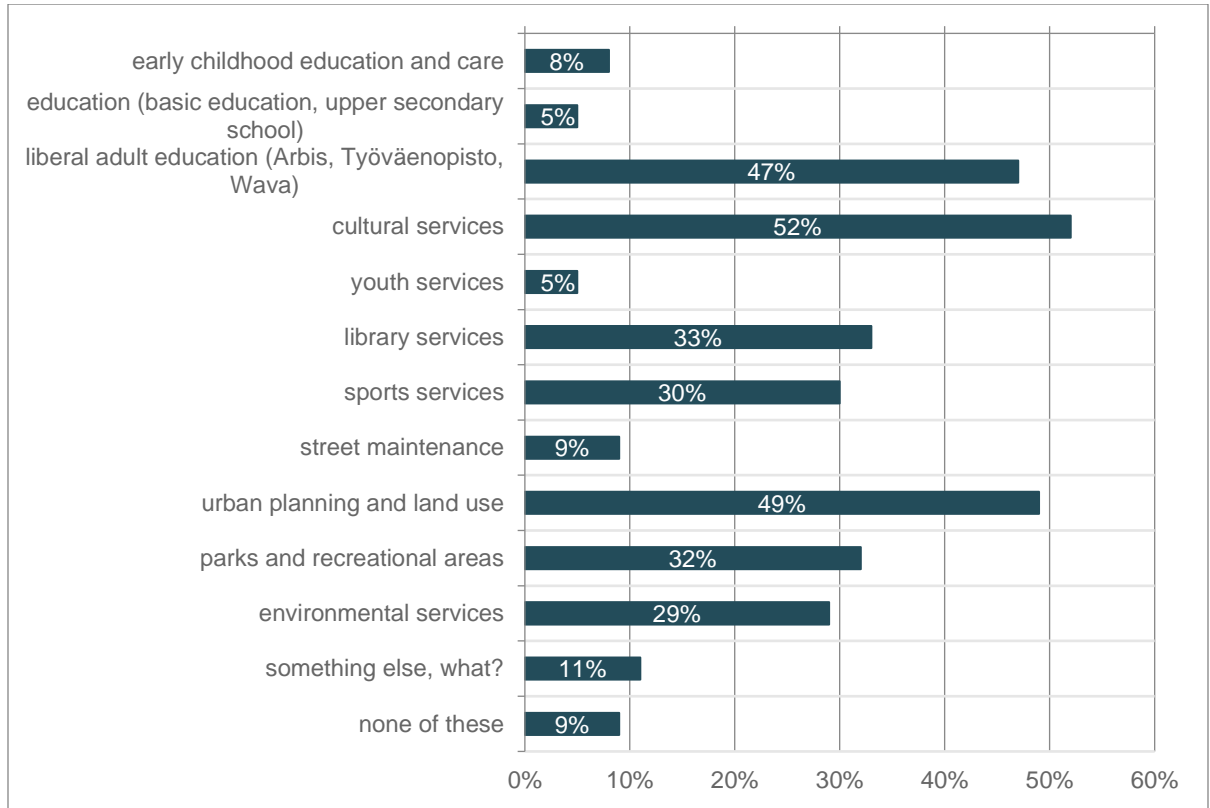
“In the financial framework for the budget there is an increase in income taxes from 8,61 per cent to 9 per cent (total tax rate 21,25 per cent -> 21,60 per cent), which gives an income of approximately 1,6 million euro. The increase of different real estate tax rates gives an income of approximately 0,4 million euro. Despite the increases there is still missing approximately 2 million euro in the financial framework for the service level to be kept at today's level.

How much do you, as a taxpayer in Jakobstad, think that the tax could be increased to finance the service?”



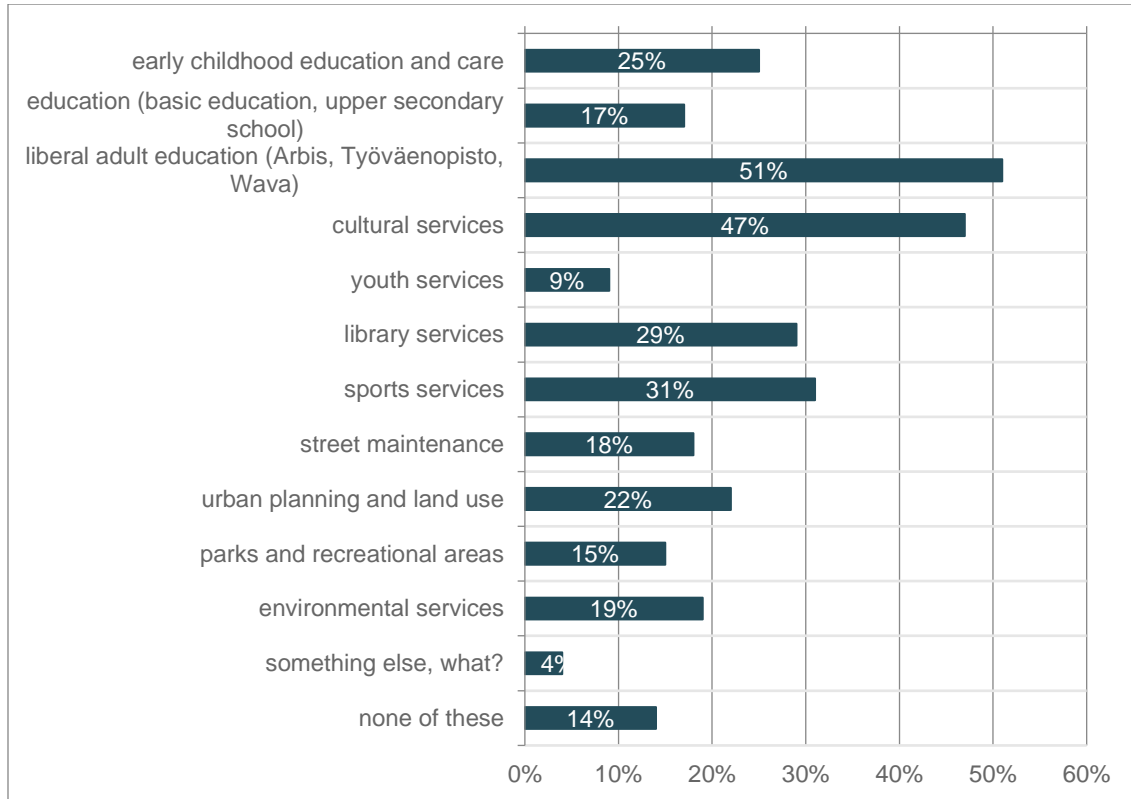
“A question in two parts: A. decreased service level, B. raised charges

A. Regarding the town’s basic services I am prepared to decrease the service level in the following sector(s)? (you can choose and comment several alternatives)”



“B. Regarding the town’s basic services I am prepared to raise the charges within the following sector(s)

(you can choose several alternatives and comment on them)”



The residents were finally also asked: ***“After the suggested tax increases in the financial framework, there is still a deficit of approximately 2 million euro.***

What is your solution to getting the 2 million needed to finance the town’s operation in 2024?”

NEXT STEP

The residents’ answers to the question how the town should make up for the loss of income have given valuable information to the town’s decision makers.

The report will be shared with the town’s management team and the town board. The most refinable suggestions will be shared with each committee in connection to the budget work.

More information:

Gunilla Höglund, Finance Director, tel: 044 785 1421, gunilla.hoglund@jakobstad.fi