QUESTION OF THE WEEK, WEEK 39–40 (23.9–4.10.2026)

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 361

The margin of error is 5 % and thereby the answers are considered to reflect the opinions of the population in Jakobstad.

THE TOWN'S ECONOMY

In the Question of the Week the residents were asked: ***"Question from the finance director: What do you think the town should do to address the debt burden? (Rank the alternatives in order of importance, with 1 being the most important. Please rank at least two alternatives.)"***

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Average
Increase the municipal tax rate	25,1%	13,0%	10,0%	7,5%	5,9%	6,3%	2,9%	7,9%	21,3%	4,5
Reduce investments within municipal engineering (infrastructure)	13,2%	14,6%	16,5%	16,0%	12,3%	9,0%	10,4%	6,1%	1,9%	4,1
Reduce investments within facility management (reduce investments in the town's properties)	23,5%	26,5%	19,6%	13,8%	5,4%	5,0%	3,1%	2,3%	0,8%	2,9
Reduce investments in water supply infrastructure	2,2%	6,0%	7,1%	11,0%	18,1%	13,2%	18,1%	15,4%	8,8%	5,8
Reduce street maintenance costs	2,0%	3,5%	7,0%	9,0%	16,1%	20,1%	21,1%	15,1%	6,0%	5,9
Reduce property maintenance costs	3,6%	16,7%	14,9%	16,7%	17,2%	16,3%	9,5%	3,6%	1,4%	4,4
Reduce external rental costs	38,5%	29,0%	14,2%	4,7%	3,8%	2,5%	3,2%	2,5%	1,6%	2,5
Reduce lesson hour quota (less teacher resources for schools)	5,5%	3,5%	4,0%	2,5%	5,0%	4,5%	8,5%	23,4%	43,3%	7,2
Reduce grants to associations and organisations	18,7%	19,5%	14,0%	7,8%	5,1%	6,2%	8,6%	12,8%	7,4%	4,2

The results show clear support for measures that reduce the town's external costs and limit investments. Reducing external rental costs is highlighted as the most important measure, while reducing investments in the town's properties also enjoys broad support. Views on tax increases are more divided. A large share of respondents considers them an important measure, while almost as many rank them among the least desirable alternatives. Measures affecting school resources, however, face clear opposition, and savings in water supply and street maintenance are also given low priority. Overall, the results indicate that residents primarily prefer the town to seek savings through greater efficiency and reduced costs rather than through cuts to basic services or infrastructure.

NEXT STEP

The responses will be considered, where possible, in the preparation of the 2027 budget and the 2027–2029 financial plan.

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