AT A GLANCE

Four things the dots tell us

70%

of millage dots landed ABOVE today's rate — 49 of 70

57%

landed above 3.3833 — where adoption needs a unanimous 5 of 5 vote

71%

of the $3M dots went to storm drainage, seawalls and streets

56%

kept the $250K district pot for beautification; 44% would redirect it

The headline

Residents who engaged were willing to pay more — but they want the money in the ground, not on the ground. Drainage, seawalls and streets outdrew parks and beautification by roughly 6 to 1 on the $3 million board.

Counts tallied from board photographs. 326 total dots across the millage thermometer, three $3M boards, and four district boards.

METHOD

How the exercise worked

1

The Millage Thermometer

One board. Residents placed a dot at the millage rate they would support, from the rolled-back rate up to a 3.6715 top of scale. Dot color identified the district.

70 dots recorded

2

"$3 Million a Year"

Three boards. If the City did raise about $3 million, where should it go? Six categories; three dots per participant, spread or stacked.

134 dots recorded

3

District Beautification

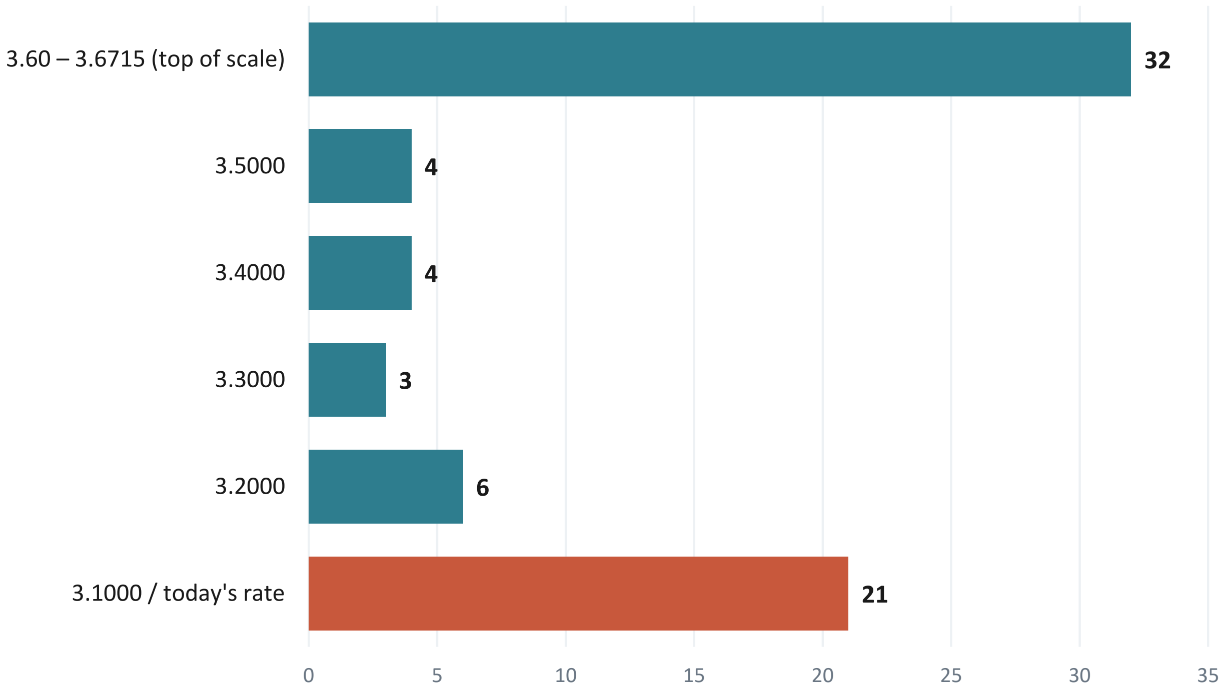
Four boards, one per district. How to spend that district's $250,000 — or redirect it to streets, stormwater or seawalls instead.

122 dots recorded

Part One of this deck counts physical dot stickers on those boards — a straw poll of who showed up. Part Two reports the 520-response online survey separately; the two are never combined.

WHERE RESIDENTS SET THE RATE

The millage thermometer



46%

of all dots went to the very top of the thermometer

30%

stayed at today's rate — the second-largest single cluster

3.60

is the median dot: half the room sat at or above 3.60 mills

Current operating millage is 3.0913. The 3.1000 tick and the current flat rate are financially indistinguishable ($44,984 apart), so they are read together as "no meaningful change."

DOTS TRANSLATED TO DOLLARS

What each step on the thermometer buys

Millage	Avg. home / yr	City budget	Dots	Vote required
3.6715 (top of scale)	+$261.09	≈ +$3,000,000	32	**Unanimous 5 of 5**
3.6000	+$228.91	+$2,630,292		
3.5000	+$183.91	+$2,113,231	4	**Unanimous 5 of 5**
3.4000	+$138.91	+$1,596,169	4	**Unanimous 5 of 5**
3.3833 (110% of rolled-back)				*threshold*
3.3000	+$93.91	+$1,079,108	3	**Two-thirds 4 of 5**
3.2000	+$48.91	+$562,046	6	**Two-thirds 4 of 5**
3.1000	+$3.91	+$44,984	21	**Two-thirds 4 of 5**
3.0913 (current, flat)	no change	—		**Two-thirds 4 of 5**
3.0757 (rolled-back)	−$7.02	−$80,662	0	**Majority 3 of 5**

Weighted average of every dot

3.386 mills

≈ +$1.5 million to the budget · ≈ +$132 a year on the average homesteaded home — and just above the unanimity line

The distribution is barbell-shaped

Three-quarters of the dots sat at one of the two ends — top of scale or no change. Only 17 of 70 chose a middle step. There is no natural consensus point between them.

Dollar figures are the values printed on the roadshow board. Weighted average treats the top band conservatively as 3.60 mills; at 3.6715 it would be 3.418.

VOTE THRESHOLDS

What it takes to adopt each rate

Above 3.3833 mills Unanimous · 5 of 5 Commissioners	**40** 57% of dots	
Flat rate 3.0913 through 3.3833 Two-thirds · 4 of 5 Commissioners	**30** 43% of dots	
Rolled-back rate 3.0757 Simple majority · 3 of 5 Commissioners	**0** no dots placed	

3.3833 — 110% of the rolled-back rate — the line above which every Commissioner has to vote yes. The board's 3.4000 step is the first rung past it.

57% — of resident dots landed above that line, including all 32 at the top of the scale. The most popular position on the board is unanimous-vote territory.

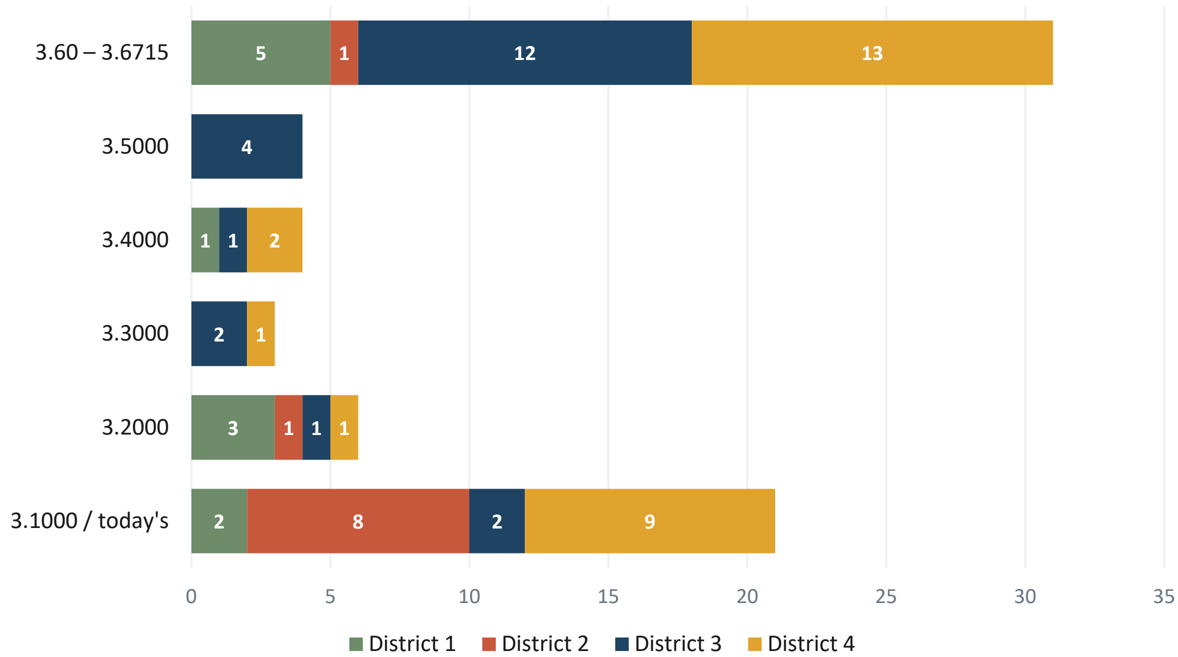
0.0024 — mills separate the resident weighted average (3.386) from the threshold. The midpoint of what residents asked for sits barely on the unanimous side.

No dot was placed at the rolled-back rate — the only rate a simple majority can adopt. Every position residents actually chose needs at least four votes.

3.3833 = 110% of the rolled-back rate of 3.0757. Adoption thresholds as they apply to the FY2027 millage vote.

THERMOMETER BY DISTRICT

The same board, four different rooms



District 3 · 22 dots

18 of 22 above today’s rate — the strongest appetite in the City

District 4 · 26 dots

Most polarized: 13 at the top of the scale, 9 at no change

District 1 · 11 dots

Leans up, but clustered lower — 3 dots stopped at 3.2000

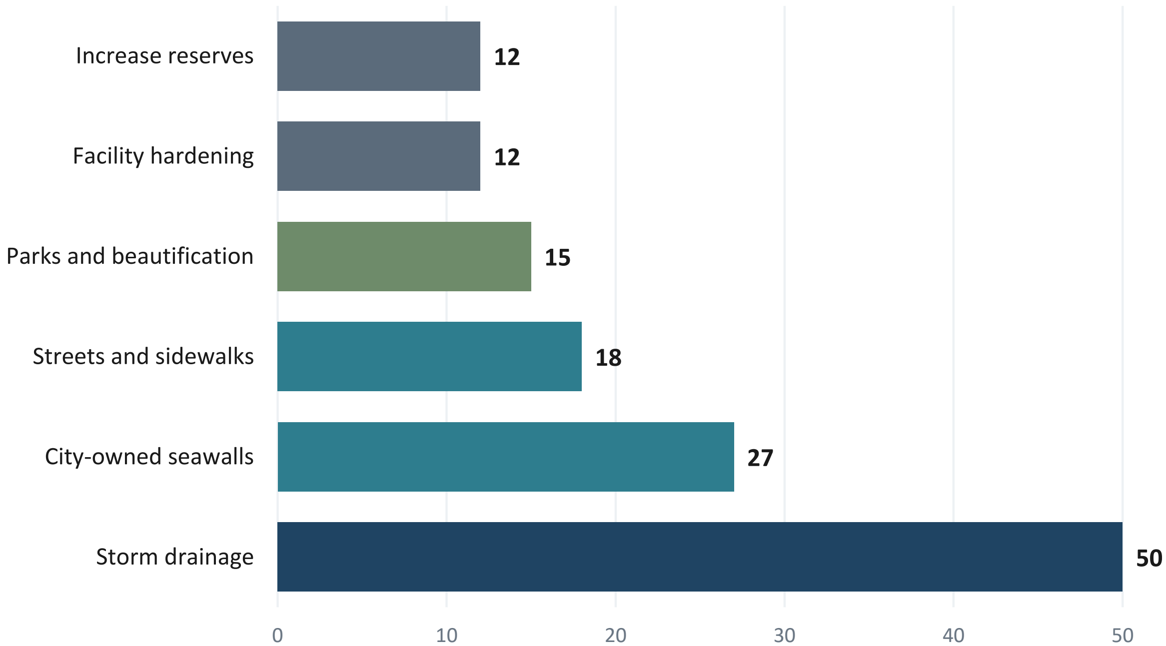
District 2 · 10 dots

8 of 10 dots stayed at today’s rate — the clearest "hold" signal

Dot colors on the board identified the participant’s district: green = D1, red = D2, blue = D3, yellow = D4. One dot could not be attributed.

CITYWIDE · ALL THREE BOARDS COMBINED

If the City raised $3 million, where would it go?



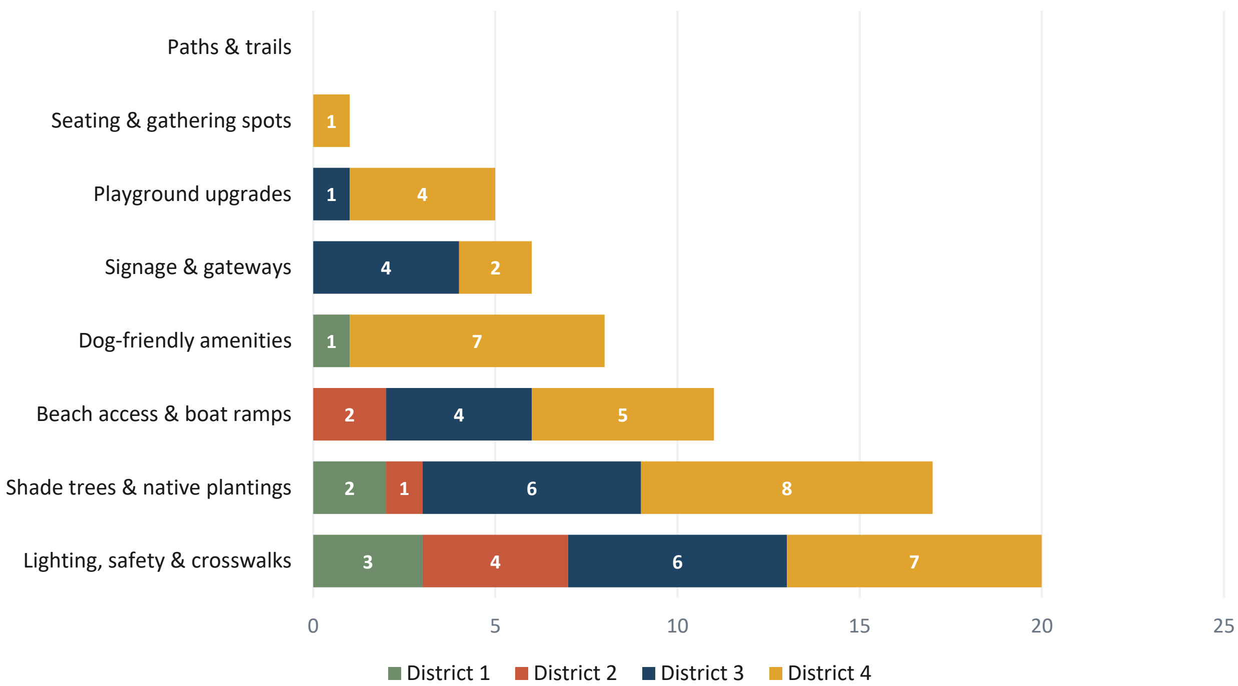
If $3,000,000 followed the dots

Storm drainage	**$1,119,000**	37.3%
City-owned seawalls	**$604,000**	20.1%
Streets and sidewalks	**$403,000**	13.4%
Parks and beautification	**$336,000**	11.2%
Facility hardening	**$269,000**	9.0%
Increase reserves	**$269,000**	9.0%

Illustrative only — a proportional split of the board's own $3M premise, not a proposed allocation.

134 dots across three boards. Participants could stack all three dots in one category or spread them.

The $250,000 district pot



Lighting and shade lead

Lighting, safety and crosswalks (20 dots) and shade trees and native plantings (17) drew more than half of all beautification dots. Both showed up in every district.

Paths and trails drew zero

Not a single dot in four districts. Seating and gathering spots managed one. The survey rated both low as well, though not at zero.

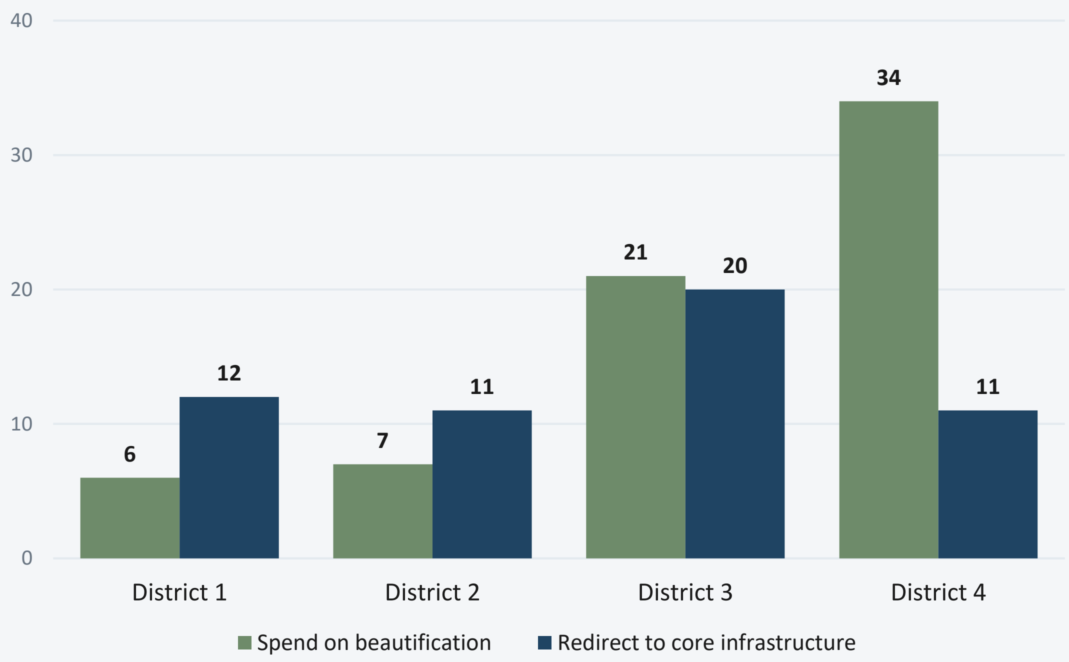
District 4 carried the board

Half of all beautification dots (34 of 68) came from one district — and it was the only district to support playgrounds and dog amenities at scale.

68 beautification dots across the four district boards.

EVERY DISTRICT BOARD OFFERED AN OPT-OUT

…or would you rather we didn’t?



68 vs 54

Beautification edged out redirection citywide — but only because of District 4. In District 1 residents voted two to one, and in District 2 three to two, to send the $250,000 to streets, stormwater and seawalls instead.

Where the redirected dots went

Same ranking as the citywide $3M board: drainage first, streets second, seawalls third.

WHAT EACH ROOM ASKED FOR

District snapshots

District 1

18 dots on the district board · 11 on the thermometer

Redirect it. Two-thirds of D1's district dots went to core infrastructure — 8 of them to stormwater alone. On the thermometer, D1 leaned up but stopped short of the top: 3 dots parked at 3.2000.

District 2

18 dots on the district board · 10 on the thermometer

Hold the line. The clearest "no increase" signal in the City: 8 of 10 thermometer dots stayed at today's rate. On the district board, streets and roads (5) and stormwater (4) beat every beautification item.

District 3

41 dots on the district board · 22 on the thermometer

Willing to pay. 18 of 22 dots above today's rate, 12 at the top of the scale. Split almost evenly on the $250K — 21 dots to beautification, 20 to redirect — with stormwater (10) the single biggest ask.

District 4

45 dots on the district board · 26 on the thermometer

Most engaged, most divided. The busiest board in the City and the only district where beautification clearly won (34 to 11) — led by shade trees, lighting and dog amenities. But 9 thermometer dots still said no change.

District attribution on the thermometer comes from dot color; district boards were physically separate boards at each meeting.

PART TWO

The online survey

520 responses · collected alongside the roadshow · reported separately from the boards

Never combined

Survey percentages and board dot counts are two different measurements of two different groups. No figure in this deck mixes them.

Different reach

The boards captured the people who came to a meeting. The survey reached anyone who opened the link — a larger and, as the results show, more skeptical audience.

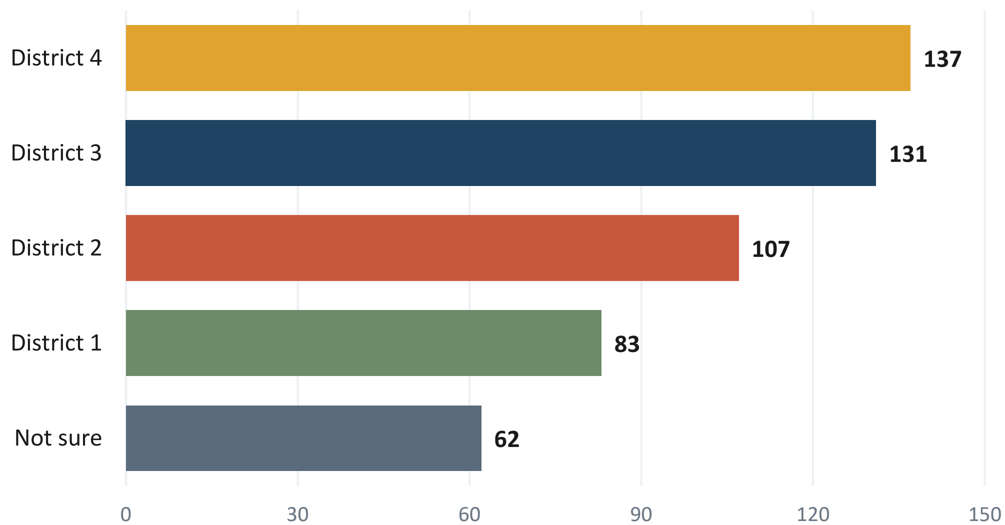
Read them together

Where the two point the same way, that is corroboration. Where they diverge, both numbers are shown and the gap is the finding.

SURVEY · 520 RESPONSES

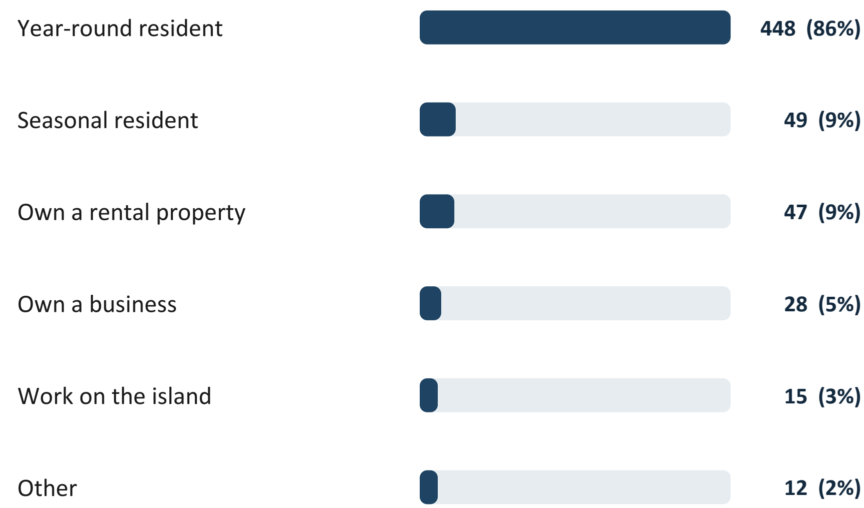
Who answered the survey

Responses by election district



Every district is represented. District 4 and District 3 together supplied just over half of all responses; 62 respondents were unsure of their district.

How respondents connect to St. Pete Beach

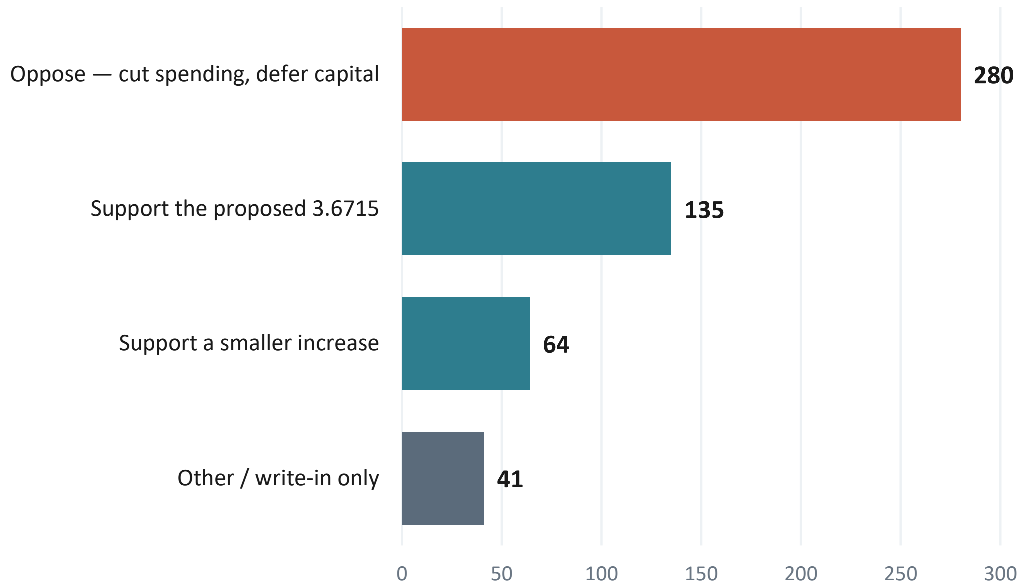


Select all that apply, so shares total more than 100%. Nearly nine in ten respondents live here year-round.

Survey data. Not combined with board dot counts anywhere in this deck.

SURVEY · WHERE RESPONDENTS LANDED

The $3 million question



54% opposed · 38% supported some increase · 199 of 520 supported a rate above today's

54% opposed — 280 of 520 chose "cut spending and defer capital projects," the most-chosen answer citywide.

What the 85 write-ins asked for

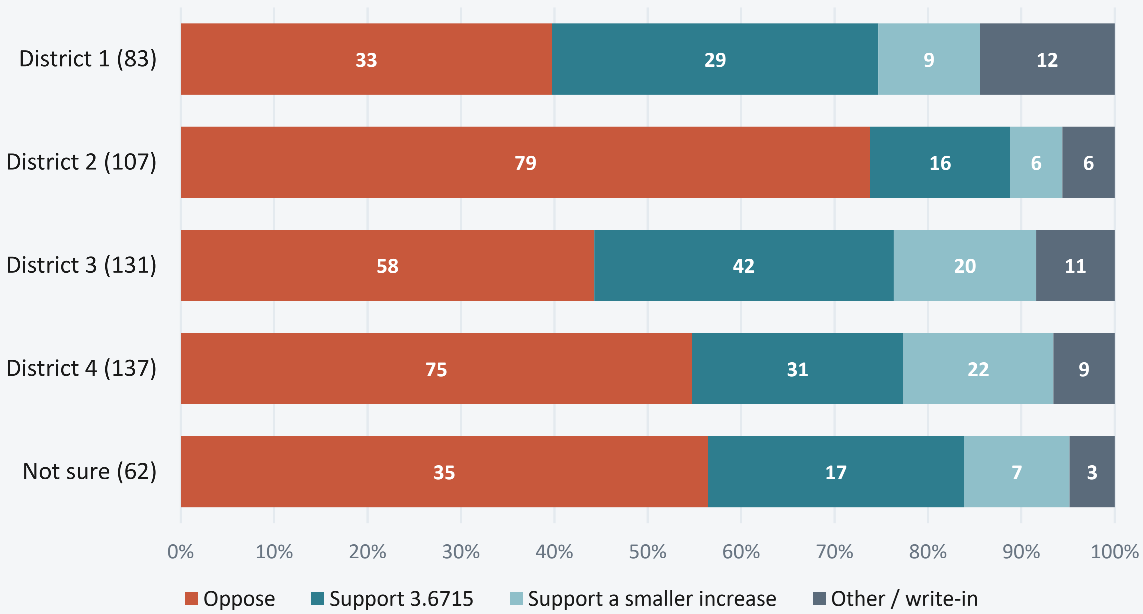
A specific rate instead (3.00 – 3.45)	**22**
Cut spending and find waste first	**12**
Make hotels, business and new development pay	**9**
Tie the money to a named project	**7**
Chase grants and other revenue first	**6**
Only if temporary or phased in	**5**

85 respondents (16%) used the write-in box. Comments coded to the recurring themes above; 21 further comments did not fit one.

Survey data. n = 520.

SURVEY · MILLAGE POSITION BY DISTRICT

Only two districts leaned toward paying



District 2 · Opposed 74% to 21%

The hardest no in the City, and the same district whose thermometer dots stayed at today's rate.

Districts 1 and 3 · Support edged out opposition

D1: 38 support to 33 oppose. D3: 62 to 58. The only two districts where more respondents backed an increase than opposed one.

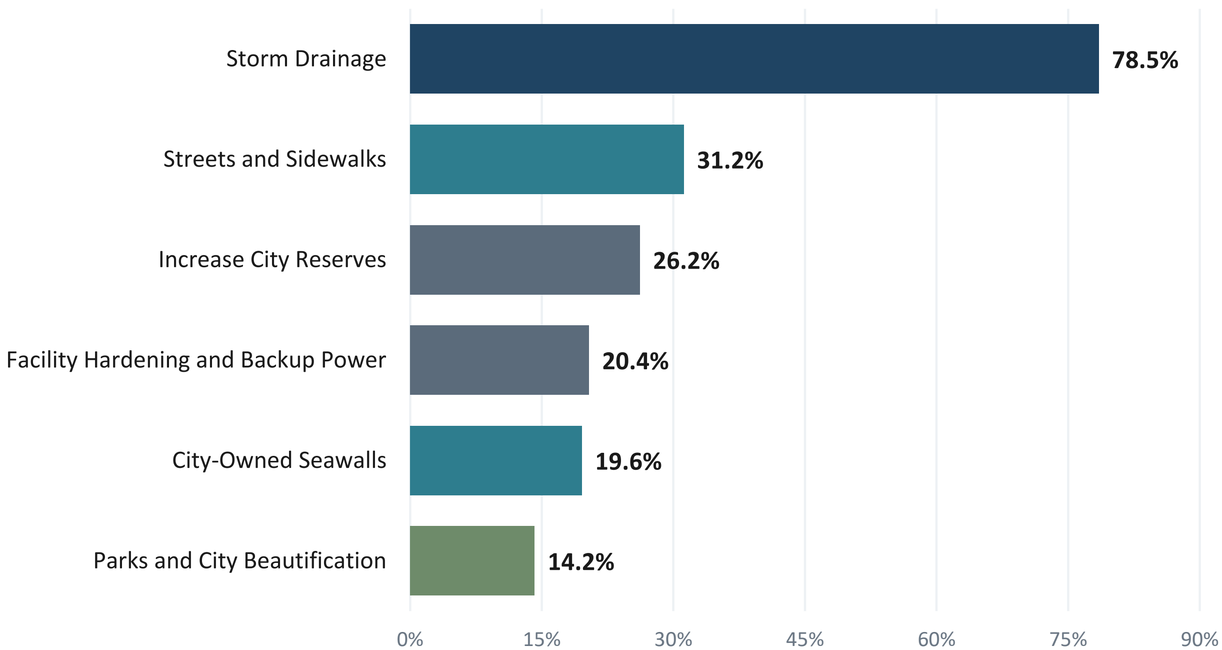
District 4 · Opposed 55% to 39%

The largest response group, and the same district that filled its beautification board — engaged, but not on the rate.

Survey data. Bars show each district's responses as percentages; counts in the district labels.

SURVEY · IF THE CITY RAISED $3 MILLION

Storm drainage, and then a long gap



78% of respondents put storm drainage in their top two — 408 of 520. No other category cleared a third.

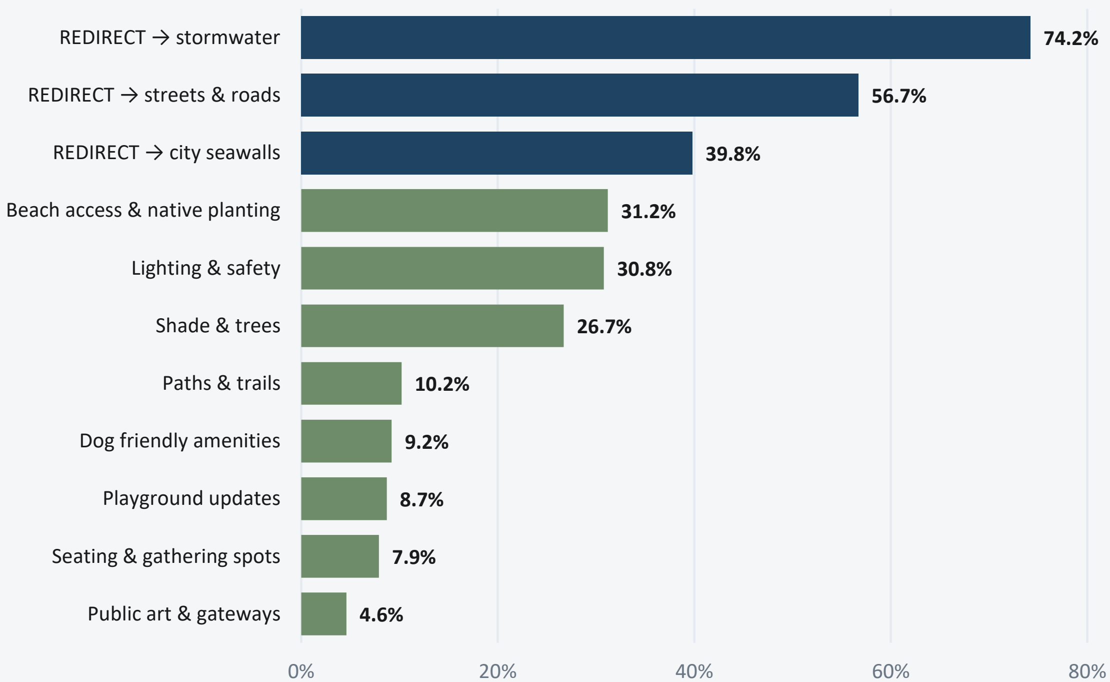
26% chose building reserves, ahead of seawalls and hardening. The survey values savings more than the boards did.

14% chose parks and beautification, the lowest-ranked option — the same last place it took on the boards.

Survey data. Each respondent selected two categories, so shares total about 200%. n = 520, 1,040 selections.

SURVEY · THE $250,000 QUESTION

The survey would redirect the district pot



57 / 43

Of all 1,560 selections, 57% were redirect options and 43% were beautification items — the mirror image of the district boards, which kept the pot 56–44.

82% of respondents chose at least one redirect option

27% used all three of their picks on redirect options

69% of beautification picks went to just three lines: beach access, lighting and safety, and shade and trees

Survey data. Each respondent selected up to three options; n = 520, 1,560 selections. Survey option names differ slightly from the board categories.

SIDE BY SIDE · NEVER COMBINED

Where the boards and the survey agree

	THE BOARDS	THE SURVEY
Sample	70 thermometer dots 326 dots in total	520 responses
Appetite for a higher rate	70% of dots above today's rate	**38% supported an increase; 54% opposed**
Top spending priority	Storm drainage — 37% of $3M dots	Storm drainage — named by 78%
Second priority	City-owned seawalls — 20%	**Streets and sidewalks — 31% (seawalls fifth at 20%)**
Lowest spending priority	Parks and beautification — 11%	Parks and beautification — 14%
The $250,000 district pot	Kept for beautification, 56–44	**Redirected to infrastructure, 57–43**
Top beautification lines	Lighting & safety, shade & trees, beach access	Beach access, lighting & safety, shade & trees

They agree on what to fix. They disagree on whether to pay for it — and on whether the district pot should be spent on beautification at all.

What this means for FY2027

1. **The two instruments disagree about the rate**

On the boards, 70% of dots landed above today's rate. In the survey, 54% opposed any increase and 38% supported one. The boards captured the room; the survey reached a wider and more skeptical audience. Both belong in the record — the survey is the broader signal, the boards the more engaged one.

2. **They agree completely about the priority**

Storm drainage ranked first on every board and in the survey — 37% of $3M dots and named by 78% of survey respondents. Nothing else came close in either instrument. If new revenue is raised, this is the version residents endorsed.

3. **Where residents landed, the votes get harder**

Only 30 of 70 dots sit in territory a two-thirds vote (4 of 5) can adopt. The other 40 — 57% — are above 3.3833 and would need a unanimous Commission. The dot weighted average of 3.386 falls on the unanimous side by 0.0024 mills.

4. **The $250,000 district pot is the clearest reversal**

The boards kept it for beautification 56–44; the survey redirected it 57–43, with 82% of respondents choosing at least one redirect option. Where the pot is spent on beautification, both instruments point to the same three lines: lighting and safety, shade and trees, and beach access.

5. **Support, where it exists, is conditional**

One in six survey respondents used the write-in box, and the recurring conditions were consistent: cut spending first, make hotels and new development pay more, or tie the money to a named project. General support for "investment" is thin; project-specific support is not.

Drawn from both instruments. Board and survey figures are stated separately throughout and are never combined. For public input only — no decision has been made.

The decision before the Commission

	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D
Rate	**3.0757** Rolled-back rate	**3.0913** Flat — no change	**up to 3.3833** Above flat, at or below 110% of rolled-back	**above 3.3833** Up to the 3.6715 top of scale
VOTE REQUIRED	**Simple majority** 3 of 5 Commissioners	**Two-thirds** 4 of 5 Commissioners	**Two-thirds** 4 of 5 Commissioners	**Unanimous** 5 of 5 Commissioners
LEVY IMPACT	−$80,662	no change	up to +$1.51M	+$1.51M to +$3.0M
AVG. HOME / YEAR	−$7.02	no change	up to +$131	+$131 to +$261
WHAT WE HEARD	No dot was placed here, and survey opponents did not ask for a rate cut — they asked for spending cuts.	The largest single survey position: 54% opposed any increase. 21 of 70 dots (30%) sat at today's rate.	9 dots (13%) landed in the 3.20–3.30 band. 64 survey respondents (12%) backed a smaller increase; write-ins clustered 3.20–3.35.	The most-chosen board position — 40 dots (57%), 32 at the very top. 135 survey respondents (26%) backed 3.6715.

Direction requested

Which band should staff bring back for the proposed millage? The proposed rate sets the ceiling — it can be lowered at the public hearings, but not raised.

HOW WE COUNTED

Method and caveats

Boards	Part One counts physical dot stickers on the eight roadshow boards, tallied from board photographs: one millage thermometer (70 dots), three "$3 Million a Year" boards (134), and four district beautification boards (122) — 326 dots in all.
Survey	Part Two reports 520 responses to the online budget survey. Respondents chose one millage position, two $3M categories, and up to three district-pot options, so selection shares total more than 100%.
Kept apart	No figure combines the two. Board results are reported as dots and dot shares; survey results as responses and response shares. Category names differ slightly between the two instruments and are not force-matched.
Attribution	The thermometer used color-coded dots by district (green D1, red D2, blue D3, yellow D4); one dot could not be attributed. The $3M boards were not district-coded. Survey respondents self-reported district; 62 were unsure.
What neither is	Both are self-selected: the boards capture meeting attendees, the survey captures whoever opened the link. Neither is a statistically representative sample and neither should be reported as a measure of citywide opinion.

CITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH
COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Agenda Report

Agenda Title Name:	First Reading Ordinance 2026-20: Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2027
Action Request:	Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-20 on first reading.
Strategic Objective:	Operational Excellence
Date:	September 9, 2026
Prepared By:	Devon Schmidt, Director of Finance
Through:	Frances Robustelli, City Manager

Summary of Issue: The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 proposed budget was developed through a series of public budget workshops beginning in May 2026 and concluding with Budget Workshop #5 on August 25, 2026. The budget process included review of revenues and reserves, the Capital Improvement Plan, departmental operating budgets, staffing, and the proposed millage rate. The City also conducted Budget Roadshows during July and August to provide additional opportunities for community input. The first public hearing on the FY2027 millage rate and budget is scheduled for September 9, 2026, with final adoption scheduled for September 21, 2026.

The FY2027 proposed budget maintains the City's current millage rate of 3.0913 mills per $1,000 of taxable value, unchanged since FY2024. The General Fund includes approximately $15.0 million in projected ad valorem revenue for FY2027. The FY2027 rolled-back rate is 3.0757 mills. Maintaining the current millage rate of 3.0913 would represent a millage rate approximately 0.51% above the rolled-back rate. The City Commission previously established a higher proposed millage rate for purposes of the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice, preserving the Commission's ability to consider the appropriate rate through the budget process. At the September 9, 2026 public hearing, the Commission will consider and adopt the tentative millage rate for FY2027. While the Commission retains the ability to reduce the rate from the amount previously noticed, the FY2027 operating budget presented for consideration was built using the current 3.0913 millage rate.

The FY2027 budget includes a significant capital program totaling approximately $62.2 million across all funds. Major projects include:

- Fire Station 22 Replacement – $8.0 million
- Boca Ciega Drive Reconstruction – $4.15 million
- Gulf Way Rehabilitation – $4.10 million
- Gulf Boulevard Utility Undergrounding – $3.87 million
- Pass-a-Grille Way Seawall Replacement – $3.80 million
- Don CeSar and Boca Ciega Resiliency Adaptation – $3.70 million
- Community Center Seawall Replacement – $3.27 million
- Wastewater Pump and Lift Station Rehabilitations – $3.12 million
- Wastewater Collection System Improvements – $2.80 million
- Wastewater Pump Station 1 Rehabilitation – $2.38 million

The capital program also includes additional roadway, shoreline protection, stormwater, reclaimed water, fleet, parking, and other infrastructure projects.

The Budget is a planning document and a living document that is subject to change with Commission approval. FY2027 is a particularly capital-intensive year, with a portion of planned expenditures funded from balances accumulated in prior years for capital projects and other designated purposes.

The FY2027 proposed budget provides for revenues and other funding sources totaling $85,895,859 and expenditures and other funding uses totaling $118,119,999. The difference of approximately $32.2 million primarily reflects the planned use of accumulated fund balances for capital projects funded in prior years. The General Fund itself is projected to add approximately $930,593 to fund balance during FY2027.

The FY2027 budget maintains 159.60 authorized full-time equivalent positions, unchanged from the FY2026 adopted budget, consistent with Commission direction to hold overall staffing levels flat while addressing mission-critical needs and converting certain contractual services to City positions where cost savings can be achieved

Funding: Adoption of the FY2027 Budget establishes the City's spending authority for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026. The proposed budget includes $85,895,859 in revenues and other funding sources and $118,119,999 in expenditures and other funding uses, with the difference primarily funded through accumulated fund balances designated for capital projects and other planned expenditures.

Attachments:

1. Budget Adoption Ordinance_2026
2. Exhibit A 09022026 BUDGET BOOK
3. Budget_in_Brief_FY2027_1
4. StPeteBeach_FY2027_Budget_Adoption_Presentation