

June 26, 2002

Dear Wausau Resident:

As a result of potential State revenue cuts, Wausau City Government could be facing a huge budget crisis in the foreseeable future. If the State cuts our funds, the City will be forced to severely reduce the quality of services you receive such as police patrols, fire inspections, paramedic training, parks operations, street maintenance, snow removal, and many others.

To help give City officials an idea of how a cross-section of our community feels about these cuts, we are asking you to complete the enclosed survey. **The results of the survey will be used by me, the Common Council, and City staff to help us identify where we should reduce or eliminate services.** This will be a very painful process for the City since we have already eliminated the “fat” in our programs and activities over the last several years. We are now down to “muscle and bone” and the State of Wisconsin may be forcing us to “amputate”.

The survey looks long, but it is easy to complete. Please help us by taking about 10 minutes to fill it out and then return it in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope **BY JULY 15**. Your participation is critical to ensuring that we make our service cuts in the most appropriate and least painful areas.

Thank you in advance for participating in this community effort!

Sincerely,

Linda Lawrence, Mayor
City of Wausau

Enclosures

Wausau Budget/Services/Facilities Survey

June 26, 2002

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
1) How would you rate the overall quality of life in the City of Wausau? (Please check only one response.)						

2) **Below is a list of City services and facilities. We would like to know how IMPORTANT each of these is to you and other members of your household. We are trying to determine what level of value or significance you place on each of these services and facilities. (Please check only one response for each service/facility.)**

Services/Facilities	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Opinion
Police Patrols/Police Protection					
Enforcement of Traffic Laws					
Paramedic (Ambulance) Service					
Fire Protection					
Garbage Collection					
Collection of Recyclables					
Yard Waste Drop-Off Site					
Fall Leaf Collection					
Spring Clean-Up Collection					
City Bus Service					
Maintaining/Improving the Downtown					
Street Repair					
Street Reconstruction					
Snow Plowing					
Snow Removal from Boulevards					
Street Sweeping					
Street Lighting					
Planting and Maintaining Street Trees					
Sidewalk Construction and Replacement					

(OVER)

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Services/Facilities	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Opinion
City Newsletter					
City Cable Access Channel					
Developing New Parks					
Maintaining Our Existing Parks					
Operating Three Outdoor Swimming Pools					
Expanding the River Edge Walkway					
Expanding/Maintaining the Municipal Airport					
Enforcement of Building/Housing Codes					
Helping Businesses Grow/Expanding Job Opportunities					
Expanding the Industrial Park					
Providing Low- Interest Home Improvement Loans					
Providing Housing for the Elderly					
City Financial Contribution for Public Festivals and Events					

3) **Now that you have told us how important many of the City services and facilities are to you, we would like to know how SATISFIED you are with the existing services and facilities. By SATISFIED, we mean do these services and facilities meet your needs, expectations, and/or desires? (Again, please check only one response for each service/facility.)**

Services/Facilities	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion
Police Patrols/Police Protection					
Enforcement of Traffic Laws					
Paramedic (Ambulance) Service					
Fire Protection					
Garbage Collection					
Collection of Recyclables					
Yard Waste Drop-Off Site					
Fall Leaf Collection					
Spring Clean-Up Collection					
City Bus Service					

Maintaining/Improving the Downtown					
Street Repair					
Street Reconstruction					
Snow Plowing					
Snow Removal from Boulevards					
Street Sweeping					
Street Lighting					
Planting and Maintaining Street Trees					
Sidewalk Construction and Replacement					
City Newsletter					
City Cable Access Channel					
Developing New Parks					
Maintaining Our Existing Parks					
Operating Three Outdoor Swimming Pools					
Expanding the River Edge Walkway					
Expanding/Maintaining the Municipal Airport					
Enforcement of Building/Housing Codes					
Helping Businesses Grow/Expanding Job Opportunities					
Expanding the Industrial Park					
Providing Low Interest Home Improvement Loans					
Providing Housing for the Elderly					
City Financial Contribution for Public Festivals and Events					

4) Now let's say you were given the job of cutting \$5 million (about 15%) from the Wausau City budget. To what extent, if any, would you cut the following City services? (Again, please check only one response for each service/facility.)

Services/Facilities	Cut Funding Significantly	Cut Funding A Little	Don't Cut At All	No Opinion
Police Patrols/Police Protection				

Services/Facilities	Cut Funding Significantly	Cut Funding A Little	Don't Cut At All	No Opinion
Enforcement of Traffic Laws				
Paramedic (Ambulance) Service				
Fire Protection				
Garbage Collection				
Collection of Recyclables				
Yard Waste Drop-Off Site				
Fall Leaf Collection				
Spring Clean-Up Collection				
City Bus Service				
Maintaining/Improving the Downtown				
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Expanding the Industrial Park				
Providing Low Interest Home Improvement Loans				
Providing Housing for the Elderly				

Services/Facilities	Cut Funding Significantly	Cut Funding A Little	Don't Cut At All	No Opinion
City Financial Contribution for Public Festivals and Events				

5) If the State does cut revenue to the City of Wausau, which of the following tax/revenue increases, IF ANY, would you support? (Please check only one response for each type of tax/revenue.)

Type of Tax/Revenue Increase	Yes	No	No Opinion
A. Increase property taxes			
B. Establish a City sales tax of 1 percent			
C. Establish a \$10 motor vehicle registration fee similar to the \$40 per year presently paid to the State			
D. Increase the fees charged for City services, licenses, and permits			
E. Have residents pay for garbage collection and recycling directly			
F. Establish a local income tax			
G. Attempt to locate a gambling casino in the City			

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Below are a number of questions that we would like you to answer about yourself and your household. These questions help us to determine if our survey results are representative of the entire community.

Your age: _____ years old.	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you <input type="checkbox"/> own or <input type="checkbox"/> rent your residence?	About how long have you lived in Wausau? ____ years
What is your marital status? (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Including yourself, how many people live in your household? _____	
How many children live with you? (Include any college students) _____	
Check your highest level of formal education: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than high school graduate <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Some college <input type="checkbox"/> College graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Post-graduate	
What was your approximate total household income in 2001 from all sources? <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$20,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,001 to \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 to \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$100,000	

Please include any comments you have on the back of this page.

Please return the completed survey (by JULY 15, 2002) to:

**City of Wausau
Planning Department
407 Grant St.
Wausau, WI 54403-4783**

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