

RCL 2013 Survey

Survey of residents
December 2013

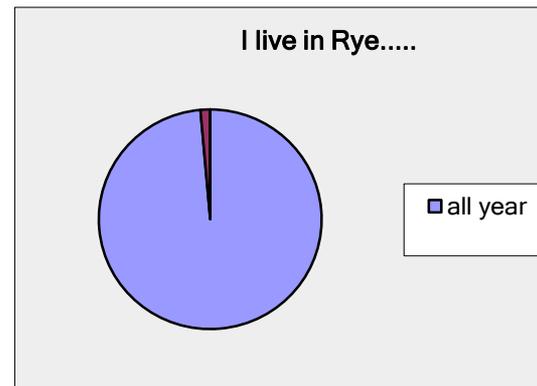
www.ryecivicleague.org

The Survey was open for two weeks and was only promoted in the December Civic News and a dedicated e-mail one week later.

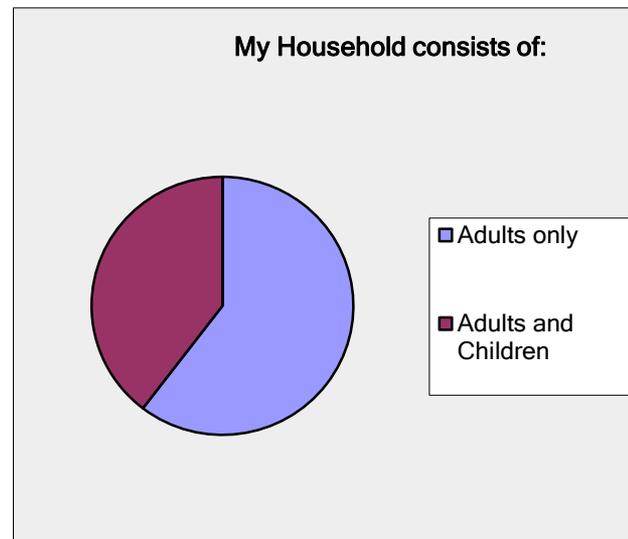
Considering the 1,400 people who vote in town elections and N = 139

Margin of error: 7.9% Confidence factor of 78.5

I live in Rye.....		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
all year	98.6%	137
part time resident	1.4%	2
no, I do not live in Rye	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		139
<i>skipped question</i>		0

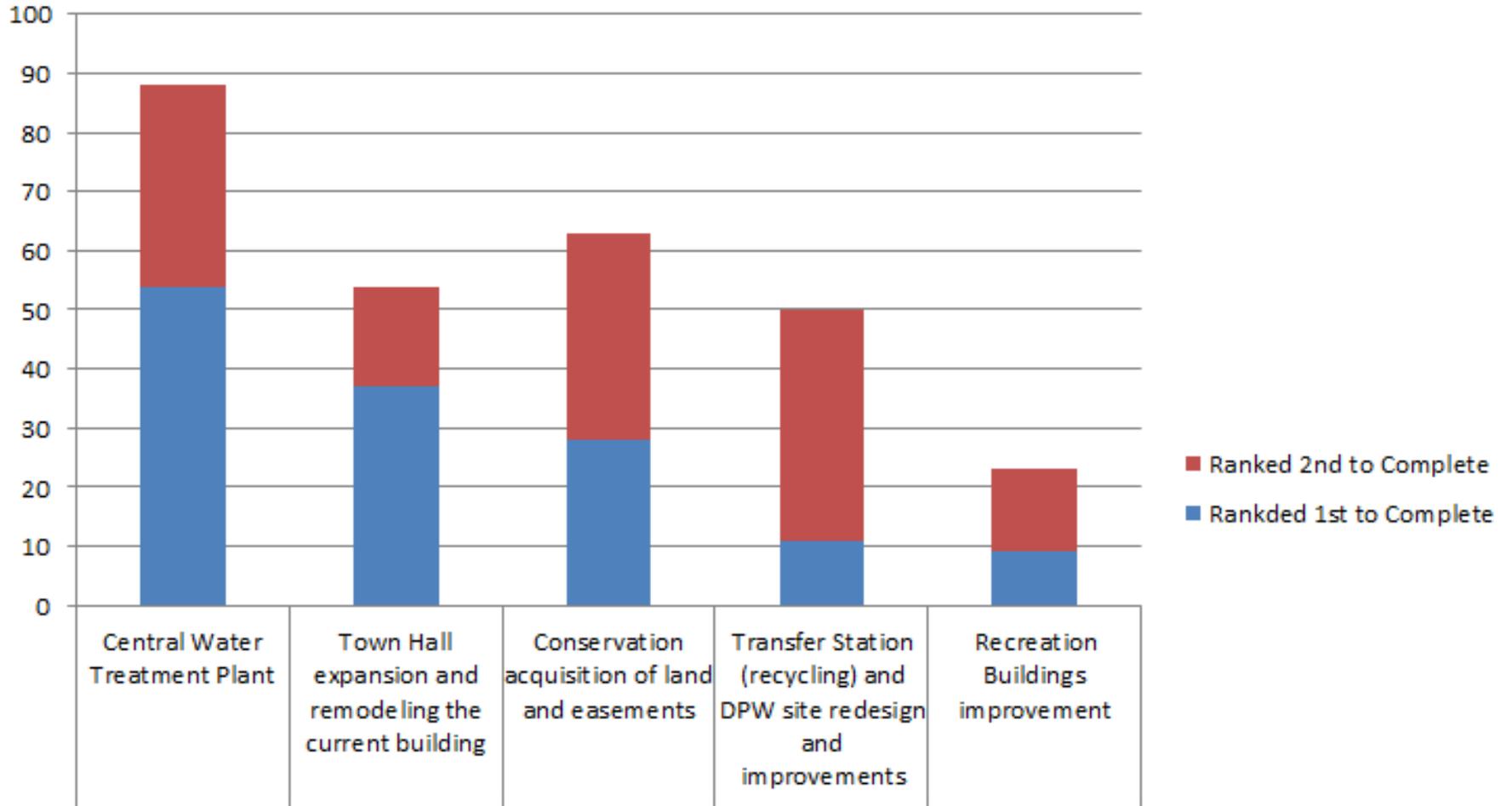


My Household consists of:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Adults only	60.4%	84
Adults and Children	39.6%	55
Not Applicable, I don't live in Rye	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		139
<i>skipped question</i>		0



There are five large projects in the Capital Improvement Plan, plus improving the DPW site/Transfer Station (dump) that require borrowing money (bonds). If it were your decision, please list the order in which you would complete these projects (1 = top priority, 5= last priority).

No links or detail was provided, so just the notion of safe water, made this the top priority



There may be potential polarization with Town Hall and Conservation as they had almost equal 1's and 5s

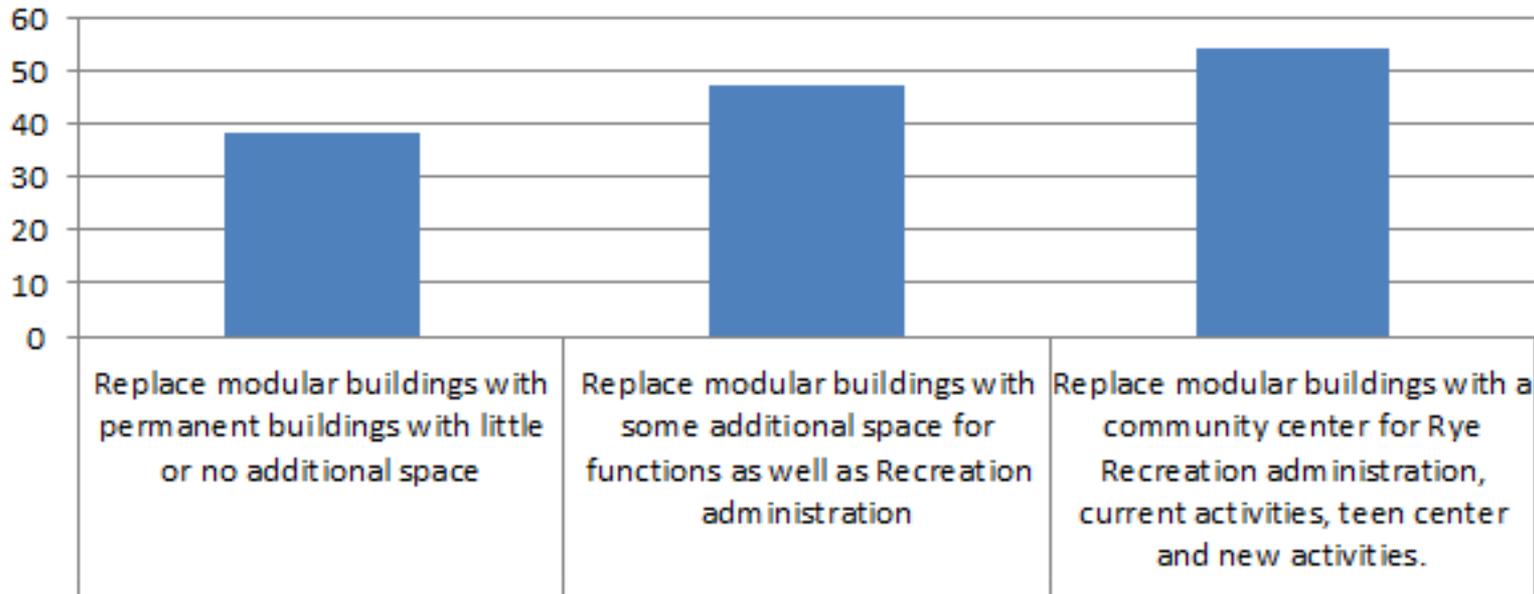
While Recreation was less popular, many did not have it as the last priority

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5
Central Water Treatment Plant	54	34	18	21	12
Conservation acquisition of land and easements	28	35	29	19	28
Recreation Buildings improvement	9	14	29	50	37
Transfer Station (recycling) and DPW site redesign	11	39	36	23	30
Town Hall expansion and remodeling the current	37	17	27	26	32

If the town were to invest in the Rye Recreation buildings (at the Recreation fields), please rank your preference for these three options. Rank 1:- first choice, 2: Second choice, 3: Third choice

Increasing the space or facilities for Rye Recreation is preferred over just replacing the modular buildings.

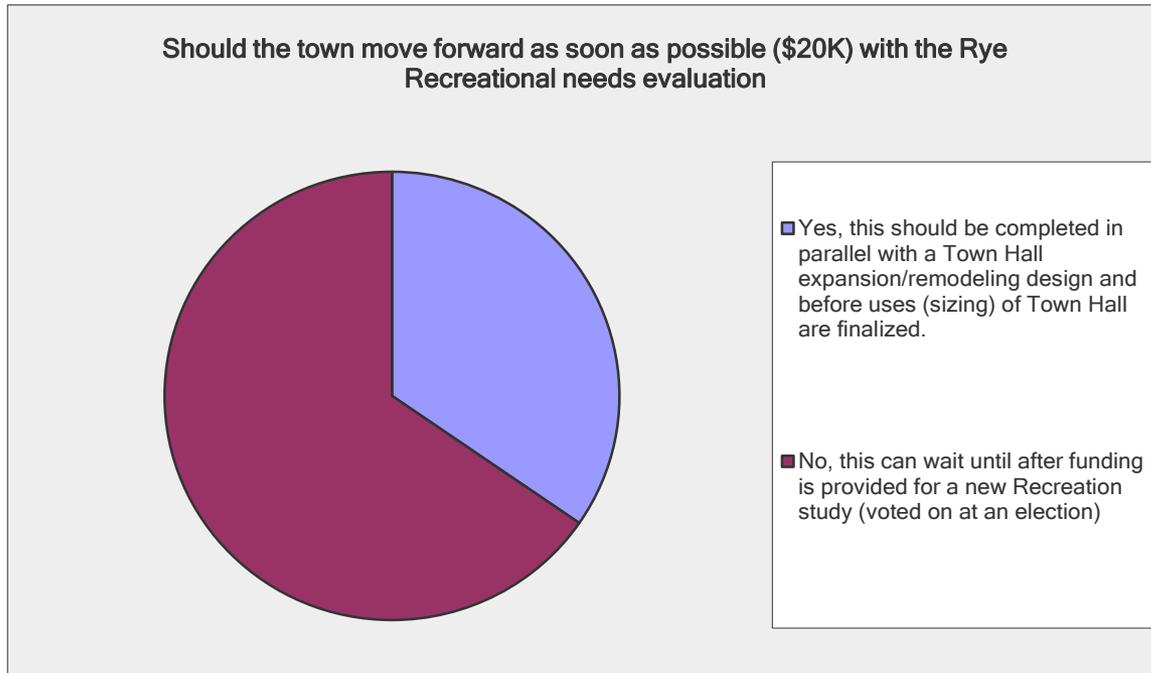
Top Choice



Should the town move forward as soon as possible (\$20K) with the Rye Recreational needs evaluation

About 2/3 of the respondents feel this can wait for the funds to be appropriated. However, how many respondents understand the correlation with Town Hall space?

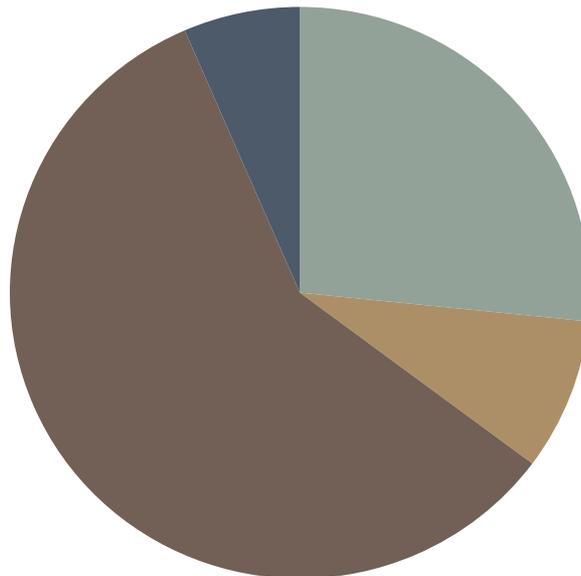
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, this should be completed in parallel with a Town Hall expansion/remodeling design and before uses (sizing) of Town Hall are finalized.	34.6%	47
No, this can wait until after funding is provided for a new Recreation study (voted on at an election)	65.4%	89
<i>answered question</i>		136
<i>skipped question</i>		3



Would you like to see a different process for recycling at the transfer station(dump)?

While most people said the system is fine as is, almost 1/3 of respondents said they would like to see a change.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, make the recycling more convenient, as I do recycle at the transfer station	26.6%	37
Yes, if it were more convenient I would recycle (or recycle more) at the transfer station	8.6%	12
No, the current system is fine	58.3%	81
No, I do not recycle at the transfer station	6.5%	9

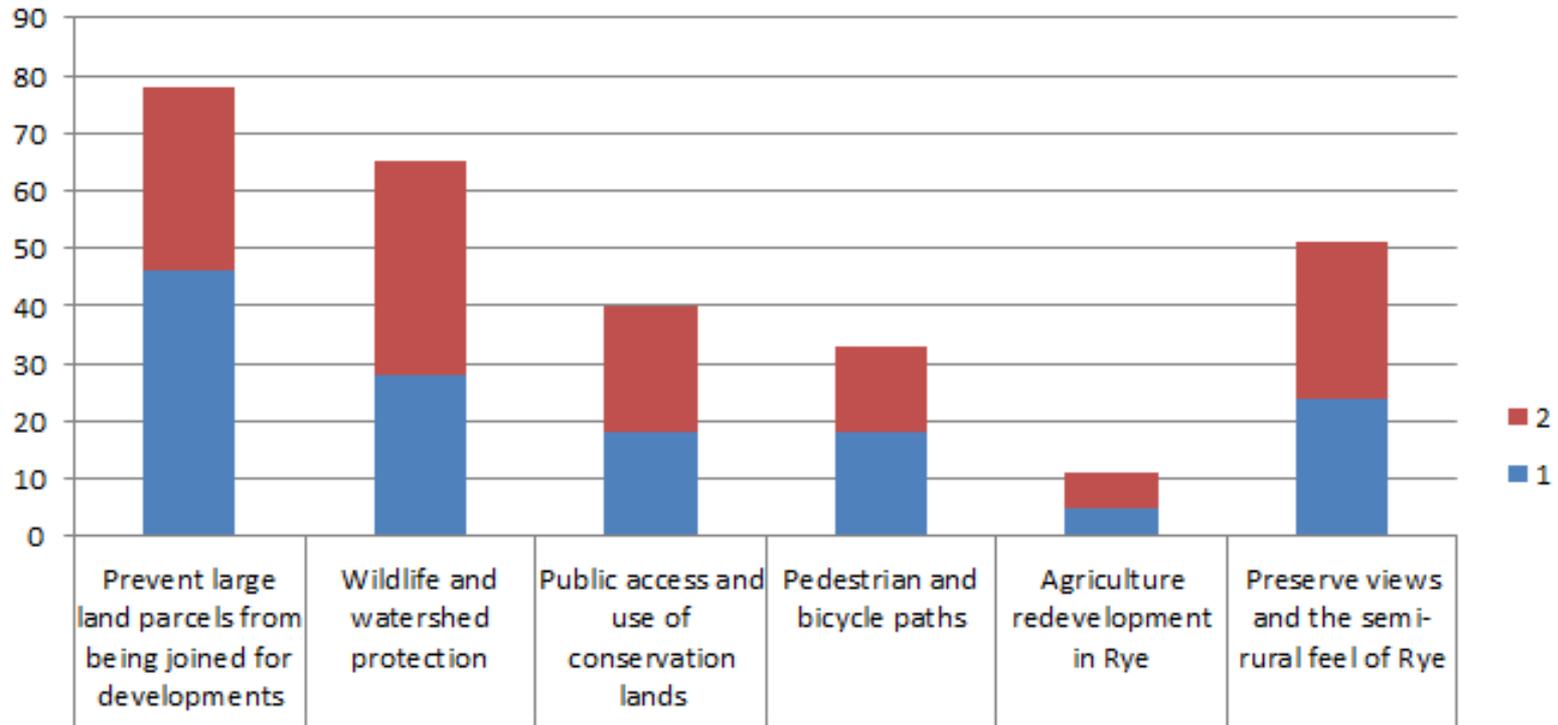


- Yes, make the recycling more convenient, as I do recycle at the transfer station
- Yes, if it were more convenient I would recycle (or recycle more) at the transfer station
- No, the current system is fine
- No, I do not recycle at the transfer station

If additional funding is approved for the Conservation commission, what would be your priorities for the utilization of those funds (please rank with 1= most important, 6 = least important)

Preventing large developments, wildlife and scenic Rye are the priorities.

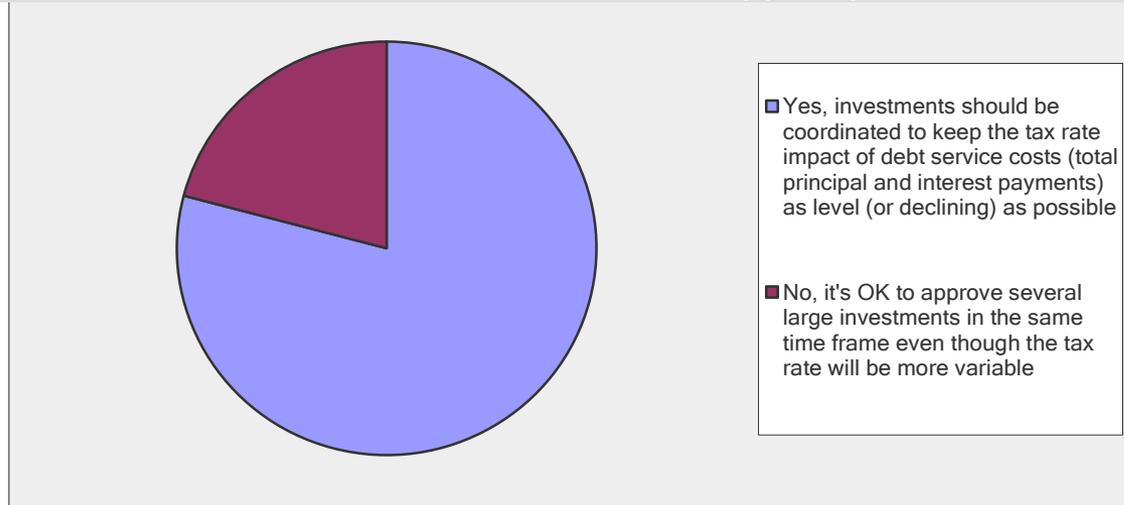
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6
Prevent large land parcels from being joined for	46	32	13	16	17	15
Wildlife and watershed protection	28	37	34	22	14	4
Public access and use of conservation lands	18	22	35	38	18	8
Pedestrian and bicycle paths	18	15	13	30	43	20
Agriculture redevelopment in Rye	5	6	13	20	32	63
Preserve views and the semi-rural feel of Rye	24	27	31	13	15	29



Our local government (town, school, water, conservation, ...) borrows money (issues bonds) for large investments add up to give the town a yearly "debt service cost" (principal and interest) that impacts our annual tax rate. Should there be a debt ceiling or debt service ceiling, so that our annual cost for debt service is relatively flat or declining year to year?

About 80% of people would like to see Rye balance all of the investments impacting residents.

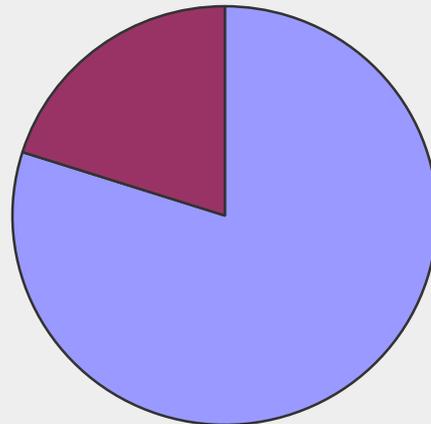
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, investments should be coordinated to keep the tax rate impact of debt service costs (total principal and interest payments) as level (or declining) as possible	79.1%	110
No, it's OK to approve several large investments in the same time frame even though the tax rate will be more variable	20.9%	29
answered question		139
skipped question		0



Should part of the town planning process include a long term debt plan that includes all of the activities that could impact resident tax rates?

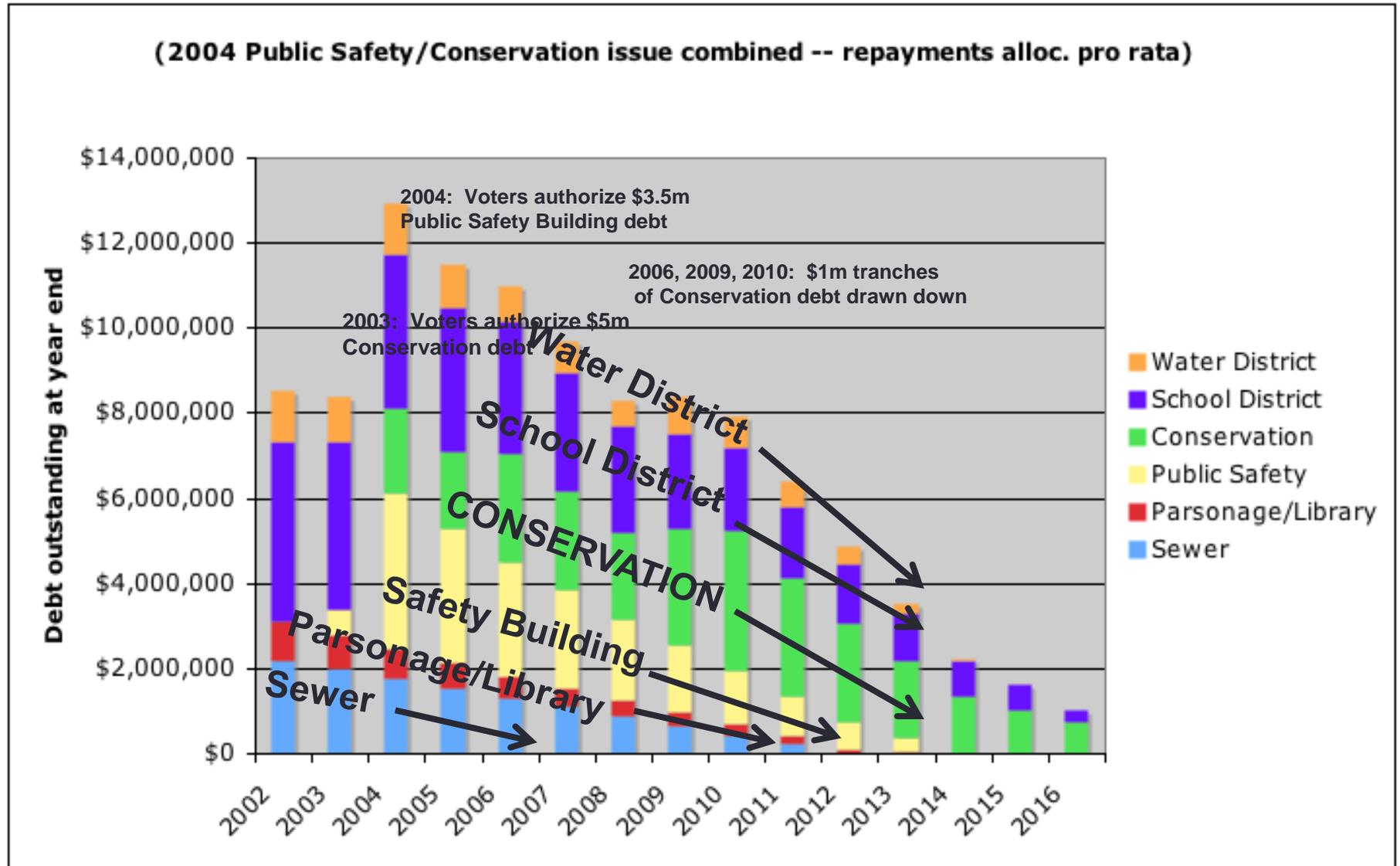
Not surprising that 80% want to see one group looking out for total town investments

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, some group in town should coordinate across all groups who could request large investments	79.9%	111
No, we do not need this coordination across independent entities	20.1%	28
<i>answered question</i>		139
<i>skipped question</i>		0



- Yes, some group in town should coordinate across all groups who could request large investments
- No, we do not need this coordination across independent entities

The spike in Town debt is subsiding, creating room for investment. However – these savings have been offsetting other cost increases



Comments on the Civic News and the Survey

I think I've had to look up several topics via the town site. I think more people could access the important documents with direct links in your emails.
I would be wonderful to provide a Rec Center for the youth in our town. However, it should wait in line behind the town hall project as to not increase the tax rate. One project at a time.
We appreciate the information provided and the notification surrounding issues of interest to citizens.
Thank you for the Rye Civic News email.
Thank you for providing a forum
The Rye Civic News is appreciated, especially the summary and insight into different town meetings.
I would like to help with a few tasks
During elections it is so difficult to find out information about all the candidates...this would be a great forum.
I am pleased with the information you provide, and I am thankful for your hard work in keeping citizens informed.
Thank you for your effort and strong communication.[]
Good service! It is good to be able to keep track of town actions. Hope you can keep it up.
Thank you for all your efforts. We enjoy reading your enewsletters.
I enjoy receiving the information and look forward to the news.
I feel this source of communication is fantastic.[]
Thank you. I appreciate your efforts.
Nothing, I do get my emails on a timely basis, good job !
I love the newsletter!!!
Keeps you informed of events.
You provide an invaluable service to the residents and Town in bringing the big picture into view.
This is a good questionnaire but please know I answered 3 & 4 but do not know the financial impacts. Not sure ppl who answer this do. That may effect answers. Thank yo u. Nice job.
As a newer member of the community this has been a helpful tool and avenue of information. Perhaps in the future I will do more to help.
Some effort needs to be applied to stop the over[r]egulation from the planning board with the continual[]mandates. The town needs to adhere to the state [] standards regarding regulation instead of over[]burdening the voters of Rye with new laws on what []they can and can't do on their own property.
All of the questions that needed a rating automatically went in the order they were listed and could not be fixed to my rating??Makes these questions invalid.i tried several times to do this.
Appreciate all you do. Lets all work together regardless of our beliefs to keep Rye a great place to live, work and play!
I appreciate the information: Thank You!
You are doing an excellent job
Very informative and appreciated

Comments on the Civic News and the Survey

Great service
Great service to the democratic process in Rye.
We think that the Rye Civic League provides valuable information for the residents. It is important to have another independent source of information without bias.
Think you're doing a great job of informing the residents of town news.
why don't they look at making public safety building more efficient for the town hall use v a new town hall? put the lounge on a new floor above the engines. use the emergency room in the basement...
In the future - I would like to be able to skip survey questions that I feel I'm not informed enough to answer such as 8 and 9. Thanks!
This survey is a great idea. I'll be interested in the outcome.
thank you so much for all that you do to inform us citizens what is taking place in our local government. keep up the great work.
I'm constantly amazed that the town does not seem to understand that we need to operate within our means. The current capital projects are out of line at this time. Everyone has cut back on spending with the exception of government, both locally and nationally. It is NOT free money. I would give each of these projects a 5 on the scale, but this form does not allow for that. I guess we are just becoming an extension of Massachusetts.
Excellent job making it easy and convenient!
GREAT JOB
RCL is on point...as always!
On line availability.
Great job! Thanks
add none of the above or not important to some of the questions on this list. Question 4 and 9 or a different answer would have been better. I think nothing should happen on so please do not count my answers on those You all do a great job but less words, more to the point would get more readers. Know this is hard on some issues. Thanks for all the hard work you do for all of us!

This Presentation

Was created by the Rye Civic League to communicate the results of our initial survey.

The Rye Civic League publishes the monthly Rye Civic News. You can add yourself to the Rye Civic News at www.ryecivicleague.org