

State of the Cities – Fiscal Update Part II

In June 2009, finance directors and clerk-treasurers at all 281 cities and towns were asked to complete this survey. One hundred eighty-nine cities completed the survey; representing 67% of cities and 82% of the state's incorporated population.

In terms of your city's general financial outlook overall, is your city better or less able to... (173 Responses)

	Less Able	About the Same	Better Able
Meet financial needs in FY 2009 compared to four years ago (2005)?	109 (63.01%)	45 (26.01%)	19 (10.98%)
Meet financial needs in the next fiscal year (FY 2010) compared to this fiscal year?	102 (58.96%)	66 (38.15%)	4 (2.31%)
Meet financial needs in the next four years (2013) compared to this fiscal year?	101 (58.38%)	54 (31.21%)	17 (9.83%)

Since the beginning of the year (January 2009) has your city re-opened the budget or decreased expenditures due to a reduction in revenues? (185 Responses)

Yes (count: 66; 36%)

Not yet, but it is likely (count: 58; 31%)

No, and likely will not need to (count: 61; 33%)

In the 2009 budget (under which you are currently operating), please indicate which department received the biggest cut in dollars? (185 Responses)

My city did not cut any services (count: 81; 44%)

General Administration (count: 38; 21%)

Permitting/planning (count: 29; 16%)

Business recruitment (count: 2; 1%)

Recreation/youth/senior services (count: 8; 4%)

Library (count: 5; 3%)

Human/social services (count: 1; 1%)

Police (count: 32; 17%)

Jail (count: 1; 1%)

Courts (count: 3; 2%)

EMS (count: 2; 1%)

Fire (count: 10; 5%)

Streets (count 32; 17%)

Sewer (count 8; 4%)

Water (count 9; 5%)

Stormwater (count: 3; 2%)

Parks (count 25; 14%)

Solid waste/recycling (count 1: 1%)

Other (count 11; 6%)

In the 2009 budget (under which you are currently operating), please indicate which department received the biggest cut in proportion to the department's overall budget? (183 Responses)

My city did not cut any services (count 78; 43%)

General Administration (count: 42; 23%)

Permitting/planning (count: 27; 15%)

Business recruitment (count: 2; 1%)

Recreation/youth/senior services (count: 3; 2%)

Library (count: 2; 1%)

Human services (count: 0; 0%)
 Police (count 20; 11%)
 Jail (count: 0; 0%)
 Courts (count: 2; 1%)
 EMS (count 1; 1%)
 Fire (count: 7; 4%)
 Streets (count: 17; 9%)
 Sewer (count: 8; 4%)
 Water (count: 8; 4%)
 Stormwater (count: 3; 2%)
 Parks (count: 19; 10%)
 Solid waste/recycling (count 2; 1%)
 Other (count: 15; 8%)

Has your city increased or imposed any new taxes (sales tax, utility tax, admissions tax, etc.) since January 2009? (185 Responses)

Yes (count: 17; 9%)
 No (but am planning to implement a tax increase within the next couple of months) (count: 5; 3%)
 No (and will not consider doing so until 2010 budget process) (count: 163; 88%)

Has your city increased any fees (business license, utility rates, recreation, etc.) since January 2009? (185 Responses)

Yes (count 68; 37%)
 No (but planning to implement a fee increase within the next couple of months) (count 14; 8%)
 No (and will not consider doing so until 2010 budget process) (count 103; 56%)

RESERVES: Compared to the previous four years, please indicate your city's use of reserves this year. (182 Responses)

-	<u>Significant increase</u>	<u>Slight increase</u>	<u>Maintain</u>	<u>Slight decrease</u>	<u>Significant decrease</u>	<u>Not authorized in your city</u>
Use of ending cash balance	49 (26.63%)	52 (28.26%)	52 (28.26%)	18 (9.78%)	4 (2.17%)	7 (3.80%)
Use of operating reserve	27 (14.67%)	38 (20.65%)	72 (39.13%)	12 (6.52%)	3 (1.63%)	16 (8.70%)
Use of capital reserves	32 (17.39%)	32 (17.39%)	78 (42.39%)	10 (5.43%)	4 (2.17%)	21 (11.41%)
Other	4 (2.17%)	3 (1.63%)	22 (11.96%)	1 (0.54%)	0 (0.00%)	27 (14.67%)

In a previous question [On the previous page], you indicated your city has or is likely to amend budgeted expenditures as a result of decreased revenues. Please indicate which actions your city is taking to balance the budget for the remainder of the year. (118 Responses)

-	<u>Significant increase</u>	<u>Slight increase</u>	<u>Maintain</u>	<u>Slight decrease</u>	<u>Significant decrease</u>	<u>Not authorized in your city</u>
Infrastructure spending	3 (2.50%)	3 (2.50%)	34 (28.33%)	44 (36.67%)	28 (23.33%)	3 (2.50%)
Public safety spending	3 (2.50%)	6 (5.00%)	44 (36.67%)	45 (37.50%)	10 (8.33%)	4 (3.33%)
General government spending	3 (2.50%)	3 (2.50%)	15 (12.50%)	75 (62.50%)	21 (17.50%)	1 (0.83%)
Scope of services	1 (0.83%)	1 (0.83%)	52 (43.33%)	51 (42.50%)	8 (6.67%)	1 (0.83%)
Size of workforce	0 (0.00%)	3 (2.50%)	59 (49.17%)	38 (31.67%)	10 (8.33%)	2 (1.67%)

In a previous question [On the previous page], you indicated your city either has or is planning a tax or fee increase, please identify which service(s) your city is trying to preserve. (86 Responses)

No increase (count: 7; 8%)

Public safety (count: 32; 37%)

Streets/transportation (count: 27; 31%)

Parks/recreation (count: 26; 30%)

Other infrastructure (count: 22; 26%)

General government (count: 37; 43%)

Other (count: 19; 22%)

CAPITAL BUDGET INFORMATION: Has your 2009 capital budget increase, decreased or remained about the same over the 2008 capital budget? (185 Responses)

Increased (count: 48; 26%)

Decreased (count: 70; 38%)

Remained about the same (count: 67; 36%)