

From: [Danilo Jimenez](#)
To: [budget](#)
Subject: Draft 2025 Budget
Date: December 4, 2024 9:45:19 PM

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Dear Wilmot Township Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$580 annual increase in the 2025 tax bill for Wilmot residents. While I understand the necessity of maintaining critical infrastructure, this significant financial burden raises several concerns that warrant a thorough reassessment.

Inflationary Pressures Are Already Overwhelming:

Residents are grappling with unprecedented inflation in essential goods and services, from groceries to utilities. Adding a substantial tax increase to this mix only exacerbates the financial strain on families. While the township cites inflation as one reason for this increase, the proposed tax burden appears disconnected from the reality that many families face: stagnant wages and skyrocketing living costs. Not to mention a Trump presidency next year brings many unknowns to jobs and our overall economy, Canadian dollar etc.

Like cmon, how does adding \$48.35 per month offset inflationary pressures for residents? It seems counterproductive to ask households to tighten their belts further when many in our community are already struggling to make ends meet.

Erosion of Work-Life Balance:

Higher taxes inevitably reduce disposable income, leaving families with fewer resources to invest in their well-being. Whether it's affording extracurricular activities for children, supporting local businesses, or simply enjoying leisure time, this proposal risks diminishing the quality of life for residents. The council should prioritize sustainable solutions that do not place undue financial stress on the community.

A Result of Pathetic Thinking:

This budget reflects short-term thinking rather than long-term strategic planning. Resorting to a one-time, drastic tax hike instead of finding incremental or diversified funding solutions is, frankly, a disservice to residents. The township should explore alternative funding methods, such as grants, public-private partnerships, or phased investment strategies that minimize immediate financial shock. If you proceed with this, it just shows that you don't give a F**k about people.

Transparency on Staff Salaries

I would like to know how staff salaries, particularly for council and leadership roles, have increased over the past few years including for 2025. If staff salaries have seen significant growth, it raises the question of why residents are being asked to shoulder an ever-larger burden. Perhaps there should be no salary increases for council or senior staff as part of this budget for the next 5 years. Leadership should model fiscal restraint in solidarity with the community they serve.

Recommendations

*Reevaluate the proposed tax increase to align with realistic household budgets.

*Identify alternative revenue streams to reduce the reliance on residents' tax dollars.

*Implement a phased approach to infrastructure upgrades that balances fiscal responsibility with community needs.

*Disclose and assess staff salary increases and consider freezing council salaries in 2025.

*While I respect the council's efforts to ensure high-quality services, this proposal must be reconsidered to reflect a fairer and more sustainable solution for Wilmot residents.

Thank you for considering this perspective.

Sincerely,

Danilo Jimenez

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Sent from my iPhone