



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Final Survey Results

(English, Spanish and Portuguese versions)

City of Framingham

Conducted Online April 28, 2021 – July 30, 2021

Survey Introductory Text:

Over the next two years, Framingham should be receiving about \$27.9 million* in federal funding through the American Rescue Plan. The Act specifies that the City can use it for the following:

- Replace revenue lost or reduced as a result of the pandemic
- Restoration of municipal services
- Fund COVID 19-related costs
- Provide support to aid households and businesses impacted by the crisis
- Invest in economic recovery and renewal
- Fund investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure

The funds cannot be used for:

- Tax reductions or cuts
- Pension fund payments/deposits

The funds will be available and distributed in two payments for use through the end of 2024 (FY2025).**

The Treasury Department will provide specific guidance on allowable uses of the funds and will determine final allocations based on the most recent census data and the final language in the law.

**Survey read as above when it was available to the public, the more precise number has been confirmed since the survey was released and is \$26.8 million.*

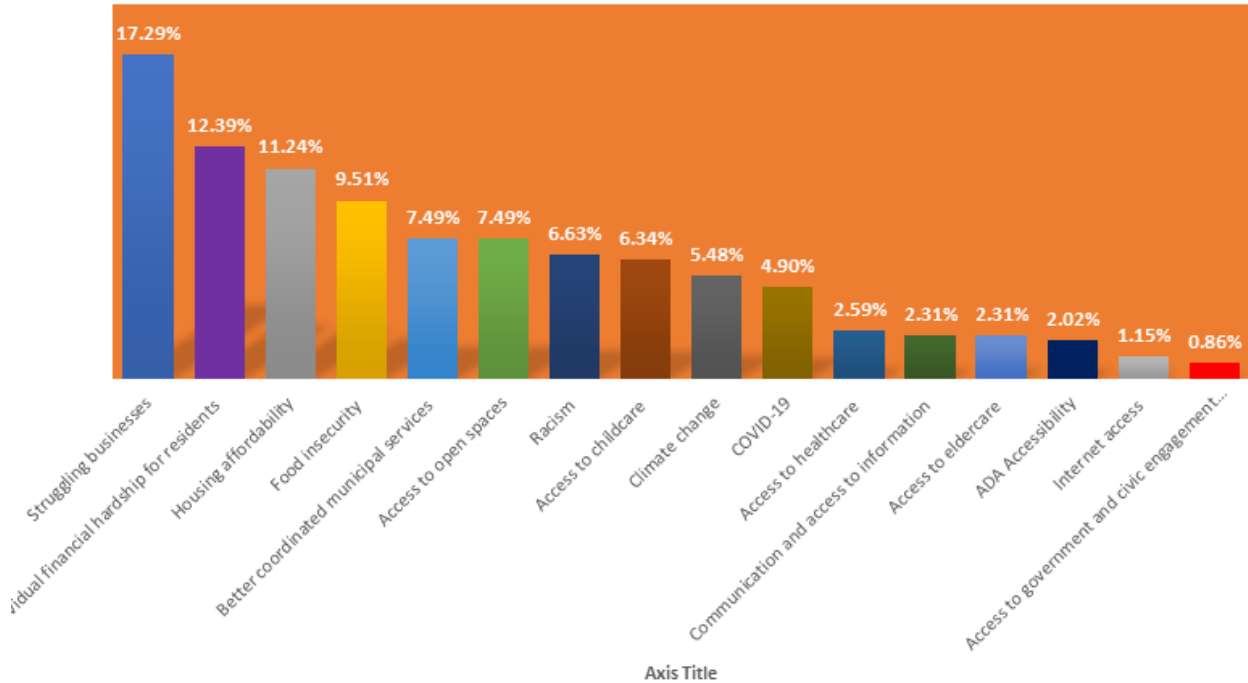
***Clarification since survey's release: Funds must be obligated by 12/31/24 and expended by 12/31/26.*

Survey Questions and Results:

- Which issue is the most important for these funds to address in Framingham? (Choose 1)

347 of 355 Answered (97.7%)

Most Important Issue



Struggling businesses (60 responses, 16.9%)

Individual financial hardship for residents (43 responses, 12.1%)

Housing affordability (39 responses, 11.0%)

Food insecurity (33 responses, 9.3%)

Access to open spaces (26 responses, 7.3%)

Better coordinated municipal services (26 responses, 7.3%)

Racism (23 responses, 6.5%)

Access to childcare (22 responses, 6.2%)

Climate change (19 responses, 5.4%)

COVID-19 (17 responses, 4.8%)

Access to eldercare (8 responses, 2.3%)

Access to healthcare (9 responses, 2.5%)

Communication and access to information (8 responses, 2.3%)

ADA Accessibility (7 responses, 2.0%)

Internet access (4 responses, 1.1%)

Access to government and civic engagement opportunities (3 responses, 0.8%)

• **Which issue is the second most important for these funds to address in Framingham?**

(Choose 1)

342 of 355 Answered (96.3%)

- Housing affordability (53 responses, 14.9%)
- Struggling businesses (42 responses, 11.8%)
- Better coordinated municipal services (34 responses, 9.6%)
- Access to open spaces (32 responses, 9.0%)
- Individual financial hardship for residents (31 responses, 8.7%)
- Food insecurity (29 responses, 8.2%)
- Access to childcare (24 responses, 6.8%)
- Access to healthcare (18 responses, 5.1%)
- Climate change (16 responses, 4.5%)
- Communication and access to information (13 responses, 3.7%)
- Access to eldercare (11 responses, 3.1%)
- Racism (11 responses, 3.1%)
- COVID-19 (10 responses, 2.8%)
- ADA Accessibility (8 responses, 2.3%)
- Access to government and civic engagement opportunities (5 responses, 1.4%)
- Internet access (5 responses, 1.4%)

• **What programs and services do you believe should be funded to address the issue you selected in question 1?** (Select all that apply)

343 of 355 Answered (96.6%)

- Financial assistance to residents (125 responses, 35.2%)
- Social services (105 responses, 29.6%)
- Road maintenance or upgrades (92 responses, 25.9%)
- Neighborhood services (89 responses, 25.1%)
- Financial assistance to businesses (86 responses, 24.2%)
- Youth services (67 responses, 18.9%)
- Recreation infrastructure (63 responses, 17.7%)
- Entrepreneurship and microbusiness initiatives (62 responses, 17.5%)
- Park maintenance (58 responses, 16.3%)
- Career services (57 responses, 16.1%)
- Park amenities (54 responses, 15.2%)
- Community-building events (51 responses, 14.4%)
- Health programming (48 responses, 13.5%)
- Senior-focused services (48 responses, 13.5%)
- Language services (47 responses, 13.2%)
- Anti-Racism Education & Consultation (47 responses, 13.2%)
- Arts and culture programming (35 responses, 9.9%)
- Technology services (like lending WIFI hotspots) (34 responses, 9.6%)

Civic leadership and engagement programming (33 responses, 9.3%)
Business programming (28 responses, 7.9%)

• **What programs and services do you believe should be funded to address the issue you selected in question 2? (Select all that apply)**

332 of 355 Answered (93.5%)

Financial assistance to residents (118 responses, 33.2%)
Neighborhood services (109 responses, 30.7%)
Social services (104 responses, 29.3%)
Road maintenance or upgrades (79 responses, 22.3%)
Recreation infrastructure (72 responses, 20.3%)
Financial assistance to businesses (69 responses, 19.4%)
Community-building events (67 responses, 18.9%)
Youth services (63 responses, 17.7%)
Park maintenance (62 responses, 17.5%)
Park amenities (60 responses, 16.9%)
Senior-focused services (52 responses, 14.6%)
Health programming (46 responses, 13.0%)
Language services (43 responses, 12.1%)
Entrepreneurship and microbusiness initiatives (42 responses, 11.8%)
Career services (41 responses, 11.5%)
Anti-Racism Education & Consultation (40 responses, 11.3%)
Technology services (like lending WIFI hotspots) (40 responses, 11.3%)
Arts and culture programming (40 responses, 11.3%)
Civic leadership and engagement programming (37 responses, 10.4%)
Business programming (33 responses, 9.3%)

• **What other thoughts do you have about how this money should be spent? [Open response]**

Long Answer

191 of 355 Answered (53.8%)

Responses provided at end of document.

• **What district do you live in?**

322 of 355 Answered (90.7%)

Radio Buttons

District 2 (57 responses, 16.1%)
District 1 (47 responses, 13.2%)
District 3 (49 responses, 13.8%)
District 6 (35 responses, 9.9%)
District 7 (31 responses, 8.7%)

District 4 (30 responses, 8.5%)
District 8 (30 responses, 8.5%)
District 5 (28 responses, 7.9%)
District 9 (15 responses, 4.2%)

• **What is your age range?**

346 of 355 Answered (97.5%)

35-44 (86 responses, 24.2%)
55-64 (75 responses, 21.1%)
45-54 (58 responses, 16.3%)
65-74 (57 responses, 16.1%)
25-34 (34 responses, 9.6%)
75 or over (27 responses, 7.6%)
18-24 (8 responses, 2.3%)
Under 18 (1 response, 0.3%)

• **What is your gender?**

310 of 355 Answered (87.3%)

Female (185 responses, 52.1%)
Male (115 responses, 32.4%)
Nonbinary (10 responses, 2.8%)

• **What is your preferred language? [type it in]**

Short Answer

238 of 355 Answered (67%)

English: 229
Spanish: 4
Portuguese: 3
English, German, Russian: 1
Bilingual English French: 1

• **Do you have a disability?**

343 of 355 Answered (96.6%)

No (305 responses, 85.9%)
Yes (38 responses, 10.7%)

• **Are you a veteran?**

331 of 355 Answered (93.2%)

No (308 responses, 86.8%)
Yes (23 responses, 6.5%)

•What is your Race? (Check all that apply)

325 of 355 Answered (91.5%)

- White (279 responses, 78.6%)
- Other Race (23 responses, 6.5%)
- Black or African American (16 responses, 4.5%)
- Asian (15 responses, 4.2%)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (4 responses, 1.1%)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (2 responses, 0.6%)

• What is your Ethnicity?

282 of 355 Answered (79.4%)

- Not Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin (253 responses, 71.3%)
- Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin (29 responses, 8.2%)

Responses to Open Response Question: What other thoughts do you have about how this money should be spent?

Rebuilding the City of Framingham's roads, and renovating the City's infrastructure, like water, sewer, and broadband. Target the downtown homelessness, and drug use, which may cause decreased business revenue.

I believe that residents need to be part of the discussion, and we must remember that this is a one time payment that will have to last for three years.

Put a plan together to either open a second High school or a bigger expansion. It's ridiculous that we are building yet another elementary and only have 1 high school.

Do something to help homeowners as we are the ones hardest hit and carry most of the burden for the city.

Fund a new Firefighter contract they worked through out Covid 19 No complaints just showed up to work every day. show some respect and do the right thing

Pay the first responders who worked through Covid 19.

Larger more modern senior center

It should NOT be spent on issues totally unrelated to the pandemic, like racism or park maintenance. Focus on economic recovery due to the pandemic!!

We also need to maintain our green spaces, we're headed in the right direction and need to keep up the momentum

These are federal funds. I believe these funds should be utilized for the most needy in our community and for those most pressing. HOUSING, HEALTH CARE, Programs that support diversity, increase funds for minority and Women owned business, (Hud funding). The funds should go directly or as quickly to as many people as possible. To have these funds be held up by internal City -infighting would defeat their purpose.

So many of these issues are interconnected. I want to funds to be used on programs that combat several of the issues listed at once like: COVID-19, racism, financial hardship for residents and small businesses, climate change, access to healthcare, childcare, and eldercare - these and many others are all related!

I love the wild spaces of Framingham. I would love more nature trails and things like that.

Pay off the existing water deficit

It would be nice if we turned our focus away from downtown. We have a beautiful Framingham centre, with a beautiful green, village hall, ice cream, bakeries, restaurants, and potential for walkability. This is the draw for members of our community and neighboring communities who are willing to invest dollars into these areas with shopping and patronage for restaurants. It's so close to being the gem of Framingham but it's not. I envision the coldwell banker building right down to trolley square as being the hub, rather than downtown. And just to say it, I know there isn't a lot of parking but natick and Ashland have no parking but they make it work.

This survey is a joke! Whoever formed these responses clearly has an agenda. These responses don't address the guidelines that were stated what this money can and can't be used for. Racism is the 1st response? Really? Climate change?! Shameful

Potholes on Route 9!!! Specifically near the Mass State Police building.

Public safety. Schools. Retaining services.

House costs are way too high. We need to build affordable houses for first time buyers. Our kids won't be able to afford to stay in Framingham. And I'm NOT talking about low income, rental apartments. There is plenty of land to be utilized by building ranch houses, instead of cramming in starter mansions, and apartment buildings.

Water and sewer rates

We should not be using the funds to provide significant new services that then increases the long term operating costs of Framingham. There could certainly be some temporary measures to aid the community in focused efforts but it would be great for these funds to be mainly used in strategic ways to cut into our CAPEX needs in strategic ways to take care of some of the background while also finding ways to lower the long term city operating costs - for example

solar panels or other investments to lower recurring maintenance costs for aging assets. Thank you.

It should be invested in local businesses, free or low cost programs for teenagers, and new trails to walk.

Framingham need to support businesses - big and small - that provide jobs for the local community. Couple that with affordable housing this will build a thriving community

Environmental Innovation that will benefit the town financially such as solar projects and waste management.

Put it towards first responders who have not stopped since day 1 of the pandemic and not received any additional aid or funds

Sidewalks and crosswalks

i think the money should be spent on programs that have been cut

For God's sake put it toward revitalization of DTF

Rail trail and business adjacent to rail trail.

Make sure the Framingham Health Department is staffed and funded with any infrastructure improvements needed to be better prepared for next pandemic. Emergency PPE stockpiles? Ability to do contact tracing etc

Spend any monies at businesses located in Framingham, and encourage them to hire local residents. Spend money to repair our local infrastructure and buildings, employing construction workers. Run a publicity campaign to bring customers, and new retailers to Framingham, replacing those who have left empty storefronts behind.

There was no program or service on the list to address climates change. Also, education, a key service provided by the city, was not mentioned. It is my number 1 concern.

COVID-19 impacts on public education/youth - fund school building upgrades if needed to ensure excellent air quality moving forward, continued pool and rapid COVID testing in schools as long as needed including additional nurse staffing if needed, additional interventionist/tutor positions, summer enrichment programming.

On real, tangible infrastructure improvements. Not political ideology of the mayor. M I'll

Education and mitigation efforts to reduce spread of covid and racism. Both are contagions.

Improvement of the public schools and building additional schools on the south part of Framingham. If you want to address racism and inequality, this can be done by addressing the fact that majority of minorities who live on the south have to commute to the north despite

majority of students living in the south side. Majority of minorities in Framingham cannot walk to their schools.

reducing water rates

New high school.

Buy the Bethany road property outright to finally build out south side school

There is a great need in Framingham for affordable senior housing in buildings with community spaces and social supports, and located near community resources and public transportation. Our seniors have few options to remain in Framingham as they get older, with very long waitlists for what limited barrier-free affordable housing that we have.

Do not use funds for departments that did not have furloughs or loss of staffing. There are many departments that kept all of their staff at full salary even though their services were decreased or closed. There could have been more belt tightening in a lot of departments.

Establish a department of youth and family services to coordinate efforts across the community
Establish a community fund for programs to access funds Fund a coordinator for the food provider network Use the funds to build systems that can be sustained and used to innovate in the city Make sure that everything that is needed to survive another pandemic is in place
Coordinated emergency services, centralized planning that is community wide, internet access and transportation across the community Establish a community needs phone line that is staffed ongoing and can coordinate services

Town infrastructure

Some should be added back to the city fund balance

1) The city should spend the money on upgrading the roads and sidewalks in the downtown area similar to the work they did in the Grant Street neighborhood in 2019/2020. This work is greatly needed and improves the overall access, residential parking, reinvestment in housing in the downtown neighborhoods along with helping the over all general appearance. 2) The city should spend the money creating and upgrading the parks and recreational areas, possibly creating a walkway around Farm Pond similar to the one at Jamaica Pond in Brookline. Over all the city has done a great job over the years expanding these areas which in turn has really added to the livability in the city.

The important thing is that there be as much input and collaboration as possible from residents, businesses, city council and other community leaders before City Hall decides how to spend this much money. Also, where is education in all of these choices? Having strong schools is important to the city and the residence in a doesn't different ways.

Helping community members live in affordable housing, supporting businesses, and promoting activities to stay and play in Framingham!

We need to build a multi-use path around Farm Pond, as well as more rail trails going from downtown Framingham to connect the Bruce Freeman trail, and we need it now.

ADA accessibility such as providing ASL interpreters at all city meetings and providing CLOSED CAPTIONS on all video announcements, all local city TV channels, school committee meetings, town meetings, etc...

Some portion of this money should go to the Framingham Public Library. The library has done an amazing job during the pandemic to keep their services running, to provide new services during the pandemic and to provide programming. These folks know how to create programs and provide essential services to Framingham residents. It would be a shame to not provide additional funding to the library.

Schools! The mayor keeps on taking more and more from the schools for the water and sewer deficit. If we don't invest in our schools, it hurts our community all around. How is the city helping struggling businesses? So many are closing. Not just restaurants. What is the city's strategic plan? Besides keep on bringing in more apartments after the 9 month pause. This city is busting at the seams. It's hurting the schools and traffic is really bad all around now that the pandemic is easing up Let's talk about the mess in Nobscot? All that's going to happen there is an over large CVS, traffic will not be fixed due to the elimination of the pre-approved right turn lane. Rose can't find a developer for the plaza now, so it will just end up becoming an empty parcel of land.

Framingham needs to maximize all of the great things that it has to offer and open it up to ALL residents.

Spending some into city Safety program. Adding more policemen and increasing to patrol the streets during nights !

Redo city website

State senior housing upgrade

Would love for us to investigate and install more solar panels in our city. Or to use the money to help fix buildings, roadways, and schools that are failing. We've neglected these big expenses for too long and they will catch up with us!

money should be spent to hold costs on water and sewer and real estate taxes especially for those of us on fixed incomes!

Critical vetting of struggling local businesses and financial aud specific to the need and best odds of future success and contribution to Framingham getting stronger

Free English classes for residence ! Lotto housing. Education ppl go college

Cover the water shortfall first before raising taxes and spending this on a fun but not critical program. While I am all for schools and seniors and child care these are short term results and this cash should go to longer term value programs.

Strengthen the police force if appropriate

Crime is on the rise in the city; we will never flourish unless this is under control. We need a strategic plan with investments to reduce crime.

Rental assistance for both residents and landlords to avoid evictions. Stricter penalties on landlords who don't maintain quality housing.

Pot holes on highway 9

This money needs to be invested in the people as it will be spent locally. A local tax credit would be popular with the people and directly help by putting money in the pockets of those struggling. Improve infrastructure to encourage those outside of Framingham to come in and share in it's businesses or create businesses locally.

Primary focus should be the basic needs (not wants) FOOD, SHELTER, and CLOTHING

Open space and access to it is very important. We all really need to get out and Framingham could go a long way to improving things in our community with this money. We really need to do something to support the businesses that have struggled and also support new businesses coming into the community. Some sort of startup fund for new ones and financial support for local ones that have struggled but survived. Infrastructure repair such as improved roads and sidewalks would go a long way to making things more attractive.

It would be nice to see the roads newly paved specifically the exit ramp getting off of mass pike, old exit 13.

Fix the culverts in flood zone

Direct financial assistance most directly helps families. Investment in low-income housing; supporting community farms; employment services all contribute to people being able to have reliable shelter, food, and income -- basic human needs.

Use it for public safety! Our Police and Fire are under paid and under staffed they worked through out the pandemic well the rest of us got to work from home safely

Please use this instead of raising our taxes or raising our assessed property value. People are struggling and the mayor's office doesn't seem to care and is bleeding us dry.

There is so much that can be done to improve life in Framingham, especially in downtown Framingham. There is a dearth of affordable housing: SSI is my sole source of income (~900USD/month). SMOG Housing is my only option. The rent on housing units set aside as "affordable" is more than my monthly income. There are next to no places to be outside of the

home in Framingham if you do not own a car. There is also potential to grow an artistic community, but the focus of the city government is on retail-businesses & rental properties. If I had the resources to relocate, I would. Framingham is a generic overpriced suburb, but it could be so much more.

Road maintenance or upgrades is only mentioned in these programs and services questions. Many Framingham road are in deplorable conditions and should be resurfaced. That is the only use I want to see the money used for.

To help businesses struggling after Co is 19

Rebuild Mary Dennison Park as approved in 2019.

Sabemos que o COVID-19 afetou milhões de famílias que ainda não conseguiram se recuperar completamente, acredito que o gasto com recursos para a comunidade seria o ideal, pois muitas empresas ainda não se recuperaram completamente e sabemos que o setor financeiro e o que suporta toda uma comunidade, acredito que programas de como empreender, métodos atuais de marketing e vendas, incentivo a produção e venda de produtos pode ajudar bastante, mas nada disso terá um bom final se os preços continuarem altos, pois os comerciantes saberão como vender seu produto mas a população não terá dinheiro para arcar com isso, pois existem necessidades básicas antes, outro ponto que gostaria de abordar é o preço dos aluguéis e vendas de imóveis na região, estão altíssimos, casas de 1.400sf sendo vendida por \$470.000, sabemos que o juro ainda continua baixo (apesar de ter subido um pouco nos últimos meses) mas mesmo assim essa pandemia destruiu o bolso de muita gente e infelizmente essa é a forma que as pessoas estão tentando recuperar seu dinheiro. Espero de verdade que possamos fazer algo pela comunidade.

English translation: We know that COVID-19 has affected millions of families that have not yet fully recovered, I believe that spending on resources for the community would be ideal, as many companies have not yet fully recovered and we know that the financial sector is what supports the entire a community, I believe that entrepreneurship programs, current marketing and sales methods, incentive to produce and sell products can help a lot, but none of this will have a good ending if the prices remain high, as traders will know how to sell their product but the population will not have the money to pay for it, because there are basic needs before, another point that I would like to address is the price of rents and sales of real estate in the region, they are very high, houses of 1,400sf being sold for \$ 470,000, we know that the interest still low (despite rising a little in the last few months) but even so this pandemic has destroyed many people's pockets and unfortunately this is the way that people are trying to get their money back. I really hope that we can do something for the community.

The past year has shown that dependable internet access is one a basic need similar to water or electricity. Many residents who did not have good internet access fell behind the ones who did. The way to get good internet service into all households is not so clear but we should devise

some policy so that all Framingham residents can have reliable internet access similar to how all have access to water and electricity.

I wish we invested some funds into Loring Arena, or found ways to expand our services. Towns like Natick, Wellesley, and Waltham are offering considerably more skating opportunities. Framingham has long been synonymous with high level ice hockey, but I feel we are losing our competitive advantage given the increased number of customers and limited ice opportunities. Other towns are using ice rinks to draw in additional businesses, so it's disappointing we have only the single rink, which is only open 8 months / year.

The ARPA does not actually prohibit cities and towns from reducing their taxes or charges for services. That restriction only applies to the States with respect to the State aid. It does not apply to the municipal aid. While I believe that many of the topics above are important to the long term success of Framingham, I do not think that all of them are of primary relevance when it comes to ARPA. While I agree that residents and businesses require financial assistance, that should be delivered by the federal government or the Commonwealth. At the municipal level, however, using ARPA money to fund additional services provides little more than a "sugar high" because the services will be financially unsustainable once the money runs out. Because the funds are limited, I believe that they should primarily be spent on capital investments that will improve the economic well being of residents and attract private business and investment. If we can do that, then the City's revenues should increase over time.

Having an green, equitable recovery

There is a real and genuine need for affordable housing in Framingham.

Framingham should prioritize the needs of the most marginalized, especially those historically impacted by systemic inequities that have made it impossible for them to get ahead, regardless of personal motivation or effort.

The following were not selected 1 or 2 above but are important to address:

Internet access

Access to government and civic engagement opportunities

Better coordinated municipal services

Access to open spaces

I would also like to see more city efforts on the following in addition to the areas listed above:

Park maintenance

Park amenities

Recreation infrastructure

The funds are intended to make up for losses due to COVID. They should cover temporary tax and water fee shortfalls so we (the City) don't lay off staff, make drastic budget changes, etc. After that is addressed, I would suggest we direct funds to most COVID damaged parts of our community. Restaurants and small businesses, individuals and landlords to address housing shortages. And of course, distribution of vaccine to the WHOLE community, including advocacy for the reluctant.

Fund investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure

Framingham spends more than most surrounding communities on things like social services. Taxpayer money received should be used judiciously to enhance life for all the residents of the city such as road repair and sidewalks.

1. improving connection between communities (eg. downtown Framingham vs. outside of downtown, north of Route 9 vs. south of Route 9)
2. Access to the Sudbury River / Farm Pond via ADA ramp access
3. Support of individual, non-chain local businesses to help them survive against online megastores
4. Improve community beaches

Infrastructure and supporting families, especially working mothers. Also, this form was hard to find. Shame on the Framingham mayor and council for not making this widely available and accessible!

Replenish reserves first, or trade with other money so that reserves can be replenished. (I don't like the way the choices were laid out - didn't seem to make sense to me.)

The mayor's office should consider bringing on a process improvement expert to streamline processes, reduce unnecessary redundancies and waste, increase accessibility to information and thereby transparency, and more. There is so much ""that's the way it's always been done"" in Framingham that burying information and access to services is challenging. Start with the root cause of the problem rather than throwing good money after bad.

Please use it to support those who need it the most (recent immigrants, families with young children, those who have been unemployed for a long time or lost their jobs due to Covid, those who do not speak English yet, those who do not have Internet and those who do not have transportation).

Free ESL Classes and accessible child care

It should not be spent on anything DPW or Parks & Rec related nor incentive money. It should be spent to directly support families in need. Housing insecurity is a huge issue in Framingham, particularly amongst undocumented families. Much govt support require a social security #. If

there are any funds that can be distributed for housing that would be helpful. Childcare keeps a lot of people from working. This is not about COVID funding but childcare could be addressed in small part by SMOC expanding and it is my belief that since SMOC has so much untaxed property in Framingham, they, and other social services and religious institutions, should be giving back to the city via a PILOT program. Childcare is an issue in particular for lower middle income families who are above the cutoff for a voucher or Head Start and for undocumented families. I would like to see targeted support for these groups. Thank you!

Invest in another public building, like Perini or Marian

bike lanes sidewalks How do the first 6 bullet points relate to the boxes that follow? Survey is confusing.

What ever monies are rec'd, the monies must be given directly to the people in need to help them get on their feet. There must be a set goal in place and the individual must attain that goal with a cut off of money within a specific time limit. Do not set up a new administrator for the use of the money, use current city workers to administer the program. Therefore very little money used in administration.. Use common sense . And make sure that programs are "inspected for what is expected" thanks.....

I am trying to identify one or two overarching programs that would have the broadest impact so more planning and discussion about affordable housing would be useful to help define the issue for all age groups. I think Cushing Park as a walking destination is a huge success. Does it need more parking? Can a similar area be developed in another part of the city?

Apoyar el programa The Latino Health Insurance Program para que puedan ayudar a mas personas.

English Translation: Support The Latino Health Insurance Program so they can help more people.

I think these should be invested in long-term yielding projects like broadband expansion or investing in energy resiliency and projects. We should continue to help those most in need but the majority of funds should go to investing in things that will change lives long-term: behavioral and emotional health support, child-care, energy affordability, housing affordability, elder care. Integrating health care with other support systems will maximize effectiveness.

If allowed to be spent on budget deficits

Spend money for non-recurring expenses, such as for long term investments, solving problems such as the water & sewer bills.

funds should be used to enhance the workforce conditions for business and residents to weather this and future pandemics. These funds will allow the city to enhance the socio-economic status of all households given the rise of prices for food, gas, housing, and medical

expenses. city might want to look at providing a monthly stipend to lmi residents to weather some of the costs.

Invest in Daniel's Table's efforts to identify food insecurity and end hunger in Framingham.

Secure parking downtown for commuters and people wanting to visit shops.

Creating a Levee Trail in Saxonville. Trail will connect the Cochituate Rail Trail to the Getchell Trail to the Weston Aqueduct. This will open up miles of connected trails in Framingham.

Secondly the Sudbury aqueduct south of Route 135 linking to Sherborn and Natick.

Youth programs - summer and after-school programs to help with childcare and engage youth

Renovate and upgrade City parks

Purchase & maintain open space

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Bridges & roadway

Public wifi

Environmental programs - support litter cleanup, tree plantings, etc.

I would like to see reductions in property taxes, which may help with housing affordability. also road and infrastructure improvements such as residential road improvements and the addition of sidewalks.

I want the funds to be used for long term improvements. This could be opening buildings, new programs. Not salaries, not admin.

Money should be spent to support outdoor recreation, tree plantings, perhap even the consideration of a street tree/shade commission, as the pandemic surely showed us how important outdoor space is to our health and well-being - both mental and physical. In addition, while direct funding to businesses is certainly one option for Framingham, I think the funds would need to be better tracked than they are at the federal level, and businesses should provide something in return for any financial assistance they receive. For example, incentives targeted to businesses that support their workers would be welcome, as even some of my favorite Framingham businesses reacted to the pandemic by laying off almost every staff member, but still asking for us to patronize them, or to donate to their business, which felt somewhat tone-deaf. I think policies more conducive to helping businesses recover, attract customers, and support its workers can create a more robust local economy better able to withstand economic challenges in the future, whether from a virus, or some other event. Small businesses could benefit from planning and budgeting assistance. Support could be provided for things like permanent outdoor dining, sidewalk sales, or creating attractive

commercial/retail landscaping....really anything that might make businesses more enjoyable and more resilient to upheavals in the future. Did people really 'miss' the experience of big box stores during the pandemic? I doubt it. But they likely missed the experience of their neighborhood bakery or coffee shop.

Use it to make sure taxes are spent wisely and economically and not raised so much. Seniors on a fixed income cannot bear this tax burden. Water and sewer prices have become too high.

Capitol projects - school roofs!!!!!!

The majority of the funds should be used to REPLACE LOST REVENUE from Water and sewer fees and Hotel & Room taxes. The Mayor must NOT also raise property taxes by 2.5%. This year residents will see their taxes increased for the Fuller Middle School and the CPA. They CANNOT afford another tax increase.

The above survey questions are incredibly limiting and not well done. That being said: this is a one time infusion of cash and should be used as such. Now is the opportunity to invest in programs and projects that will set Framingham on a good path for our post-covid recovery. First, invest in the capital improvement plan: school roofs, the Memorial Building. The city's capital list is going to severely overwhelm the city budget if we do not take this opportunity to knock some things off the list. Second, our small businesses need our help. Use some of the funds to wave all fees and licenses for the next two years. This could be a huge relief, especially our struggling restaurants. Then invest in an ambitious and proper marketing campaign that Framingham is open for business. Show our businesses that Framingham has their backs. The DC ad agency you pay for Choose Framingham should be let go, by the way.

It should not be given to Framingham Housing Authority UNLESS it is ONLY used to help tenants with arrears since they egregiously pilfered as much money as they could from tenants during the pandemic and plan to evict the ones who can't pay.

Water and sewer infrastructure are paramount! Water and sewer infrastructure are among the specified uses of the Act, but noticeably left out of options above. Much of the City's infrastructure is aging, and beyond its serviceable life. The City will pay exponentially more for emergency repairs than planned, systematic updates to the system. People take for granted what they cannot see, including the water and sewer pipes that underlie our City streets. Infrastructure has been ignored for far too long. This money needs to be used to address our everyday basic needs of running water and operational sewer system.

City infrastructure

Language access for Spanish and Portuguese-speaking residents is weak. Currently, a City of Framingham staff member, Renan Pinheiro, is helping translate and interpret for Portuguese-speaking residents, but more needs to be done. There needs to be in place either dedicated translator(s) or other kinds of services to help. One possibility may be something like what Metrowest Medical Center has: a telephone-based, translating service. Written materials

needs to be made available in Portuguese and Spanish so Brazilians and Latinos can participate in civic interactions and engagement, make their voices heard, and avail themselves of city services and programs. I am aware of and sensitive to language access issues because I study foreign languages as a hobby, including Spanish and Portuguese.

Update schools and neighborhood buildings

City Infrastructure

1) Distribute all the money by check, \$27.9 million to all City of Framingham adults equally (18 years and older, who are registered voters). Use the current voter list of the last election held. Estimate 35,000 voters would be \$797 for each voter who voted in the last election.

Or 2) Distribute All the \$27.9 million Equally to each United States Veteran that was Honorably Discharged (2,324 veterans). That would be approximately \$12,000 for each Veteran. Since only 2,324 Vets served to protect our Country out of 74,000 residents of Framingham (3.1% of Framingham residents cared enough to protect everyone else, \$12,000 seems the least we can do).

Youth services and working with CURRENT youth serving organizations to provide youth development and opportunities for youth, particularly youth and families that DO NOT have access or financial means to pay tuition's and fees.

VETERANS PARK NEEDS To BE ADDRESSED

The residents of Framingham should not get stuck with the water/sewer issues. That should be taken care of with this money The city could use a clean up, trash, roads

We need an anti-bullying organization in Framingham Public Schools for our children. Especially at the Middle school level.

Please try to use these funds to offset the proposed tax increase! Do not get us deeper in debt now! We have a mess with our water and sewer fund and increases coming up. While there are a lot of services proposed by the Mayor that sound good, I would like to have the chance to see the budget, and know when we will have a public hearing on what we are getting for our tax dollars.

I am frustrated and appalled that items like climate change and racism are even entertained on these lists. This is infrastructure spending. It is not to fight racism, which, even were it a major issue, could never be eliminated by just throwing money at it. Don't you DARE try it; you will only succeed in perpetuating racial hatred. The world doesn't need more of that, and certainly not our home city. Focus on things COVID actually effected. And stop trying to attract well-off commuters to move here; it's only driving out the locals who are being priced out. All the new housing should lead to price drops due to increased supply, but it doesn't, because they are overpriced high-end units (overpriced Skywalker for being so close to train tracks). So help out the folks paying an arm and a leg to live in squalor downtown. Inspect, and hold landlords

accountable. Keep the city a home for everyone. If that means throwing cash to landlords to keep rent low, so be it.

Put money into fixing parking lots. Roofs on schools and municipal buildings. Put money into capital projects of building envelope maintenance to maintain our current buildings.

No political sectors

Ensuring schools have proper ventilation and technology to support hybrid learning. Also student would need access to technology, (e.g., wi-fi, computer). Also consider having tutors on call to assist with the hybrid learning.

Keeping the streets safe and clean. More community based activities.

Infrastructure needs additional items restored or rebuilt, and littering addressed.

Architecturally significant pump houses on Farm Pond on decaying and just fencing them doesn't save them. Pride in ourselves starts with our surroundings. The Farm Pond park area was nicely done, but the historic pump houses ignored and citizens think it is acceptable to continue to litter this site and others.

The funds should be directed to where the greatest need for survival is. If people cannot put a roof over their head or food on the table, or pay the employees they have, they're less inclined to higher aspirations like career development or civic leadership and strategic planning. Thank you for seeking this input. I hope you hear from many residents.

Buy property at Bethany for a new school. This survey is awful

In priority order:

- Provide support to aid households and businesses impacted by the crisis

- Invest in economic recovery and renewal

- Fund investments in infrastructure

- Replace revenue lost or reduced as a result of the pandemic

- Restoration of municipal services

Public Works related projects

Securing public safety with police, first responder funding and recruitment, removing trash from public spaces (saw discarded hypodermic needles outside of Walgreens on rte 9 (next to AAA business), public education focusing on STEM and critical thinking to help USA improve in global competition, no taxpayer funds should go to critical race theory in schools, reasonable loans/incentives for entrepreneurs and small businesses

More money should be spent on buildings and homes to have families with section 8 or get affordable housing.

More translation services

If we have significant issues with our sewer system, we should use it to fix those issues.

We used to take pride in Framingham Roads there was no trash and everything looked nice for the most part and was kept clean and flowers planted and maintained on islands etc . Now there is trash every where, our main roads are race tracks and we need to do speed traps to get control of the 50 mile an hour drivers on roads like Edgell, Brook, Old Ct Path. Our History Center and Senior center are fabulous and we should have some sort of community center were people of all ages, races and genders can get together for City events. We should also have more programs to teach people to learn english instead of catering to people in their own language. when my grandparents came here years ago from Italy they spoke Italian at home but made sure my Mom learned and spoke english every where else.

Cover allowable costs for water /sewer shortfalls and small business losses due to covid.

primary focus should be to residents/workers within Framingham, not to support businesses but their employees first

Restoration of any municipal services that were cut during the pandemic is important, and all COVID 19 related costs that the schools incurred. So many small businesses may need help reopening, vital for our economy.

Water, sewer, broadband infrastructure

With the trending increase in crime in the city the safety and security of residents is paramount . I propose community based policing ie foot patrols ,bike patrols, hire more police, police body cams,remote surveillance cameras in high crime areas .Institute pro active "Broken Windows" law enforcement. With the near future increase in population a 1,000+ new apartments we will need to hire more police, fire.EMS which also means more equipment.

To the extent possible, after financial assistance directly to residents, we need to invest in economic recovery and renewal. Helping existing businesses and figuring out how to attract new businesses to make their home in Framingham.

I answered racism and covid-19 because the money should be used to focus on the two key issues that came to light in this pandemic, that many have and will continue to suffer the long term health and societal effects of covid-19, and that our broken systems are a result of long-term systematic racism that is pervasive in all aspects of our culture and systems. I believe that you cannot fully address the long term effects of covid-19 without also addressing the underlying racist structures that have created such terrible conditions for so many people in the first place.

Objective measurements and consistent communications addressing different sides of issues are needed. Mayor Spicer is bringing change to Framingham and higher standards.

I think early childhood education is important to fund. I don't see the choices that directly relate to that. Child care comes closest. I don't see education listed.

Maintain municipal buildings, school roofs

Work on making aqueduct public space for walking/biking

I built a bridge over a stream and so many people used it. It actually brought people together having this area open for multiple neighborhoods to use. Everyone was sad when MWRA took it away. I feel it's on the wrong side of town but it affected a large number of people without being officially open.

I would like to see a significant amount of money spent on the neglected schools in less affluent neighborhoods. There is a clear divide in the FPS system in which low income students and students of color have unequal elementary school facilities, from the grounds, to the buildings, to the teachers themselves being less qualified. This needs to change if Framingham is serious about combatting systemic racism.

Not direct to consumer handouts but improve communication and services so consumers can educate and avail themselves about the wonderful programs that already exist. Make Framingham one of the first cities to offer free wifi for all residents and businesses. This helps everyone's pocketbook and helps level the playing field regarding access and even improves communication initiatives from the city and the schools.

Prevent anti-discrimination in lending institutions.

Supporting access to early childhood education

Establish a smart, dedicated, multifunctional, passionate leadership team to define the most seriously troubling economic and social consequences impacting the people of Framingham as a result of the epidemic. Give the team a clear and measurable mandate equal to the urgency of the problem. Define objectives the team must complete as an accountable framework for its work.

Define the problem: Who in Framingham are those hurting most because of the coronavirus epidemic? Conduct professional research building on currently available data and new study to identify who they are (income levels, ages, ethnicity, languages, home locations, business locations, ...). Organize the data to show which people in Framingham have struggled most as a result of the epidemic, and what appear to be the most debilitating causes of their distress.

Conduct outreach (reach out!): Follow up directly and personally with people in the

community to engage them in conversation. Listen to their voices and descriptions of what their personal problems are. Invite their recommendations for actions that would help to mitigate and potentially resolve those problems.

Record these findings. Use this information along with other studies and ideas to develop a strategy and prioritized action plan. Sell it to city leaders, and then do the plan.

One idea that occurred relates to mitigating the housing crises facing so many in our community, including those currently facing eviction from their homes, the homeless, and others. How? Convert (re-imagine?) some of the numerous office buildings and other empty and potentially multi-purpose buildings in Framingham that prominently display "For Lease" signs (for example, those located along both sides of upper Speen Street and Old Connecticut Path that have been vacant for many years) into truly affordable housing for the poor and homeless; make them "affordable" for many in desperate need of homes and convenient services for themselves and their families. How? Use monies from the American Rescue Plan funds and reasonable zoning modifications to enable these changes to occur. For example, in addition to expanding the availability of affordable homes for many in the community, these currently idle properties also could be re-zoned to include on-site social services such as offices for medical care, personal and family counseling, job training, child care, transportation (vans for those without personal vehicles), after-school programs, and more.

Home and shelter, along with food and adequate financial resources (jobs), are primary needs for us all. These problems have hurt most during this exceptional time.

"Looking for the solution without listening to the problem is working in the dark."

Sperry billboard ad circa 2000.

Road work

When developing a questionnaire, questions should include "other" as an option to select and a text box for comment. The respondent is forced to select what options are available which could be considered bias on the part of the questionnaire developer. Also, there is no mention of veteran services in either question 1 or 2. Why? Lastly, I am a longtime resident of the Town of Framingham, and I have little to no confidence that these funds will be used by the present administration to best serve all the residents of the City. Trails, sidewalks, bike lanes and rail trails to make our parks (and state parks) and grocery stores accessible to all families, even young people that can't drive yet.

Getting families out of crowded housing without access to green space like the six-unit homes that take up the entire lot over on Washakum St and into healthy housing. Charging people to live in spaces like that should be illegal.

We could invest in creating a culture of innovation in Framingham by creating maker-spaces, workshops where residents, especially young people, can for a reasonable fee and after demonstrating necessary safety knowledge, use tools that allow them to realize their ideas in wood, metal, plastic and electronics. This would alleviate one of the great inequalities that is seldom spoken of: those without extra income don't have the space or money to get their own tools. They have to hire others or purchase ready made solutions to all their maintenance problems, and certainly don't get to experiment with creating. Would be great to attract entrepreneurs that want to run these maker spaces as privately owned businesses, but I fear we have chicken-egg problem of potential customers not even knowing places like this exist for them to use.

How this money is spent must be made transparent and accountable to the City residents. This is an opportunity also to measure impact of these funds and how well (or not) they are helping in the intended programs.

We need to invest to catch up with the sustainability actions of our neighboring communities

Some of the funds should be allocated to eliminate the city's water bill shortfall. Residents who pay for water and sewer should receive relief rather than rate increases. This would be a valid use of some of these funds. Time for proper management in Framingham.

Protect our water supply, electrical power grid, and other critical infrastructure from vulnerability.

Affordable access to healthcare so that parents can work. Also money needs to be put into education so that Framingham Public schools can elevate to top tiers

Child care is essential for those who cannot work from home. Child care is extremely expensive. There are so many families who cannot afford quality child care and thus are unable to have a stable, lucrative career.

Spend it preventing price increases on things like water & sewer that are coming and put a huge financial burden on residents.

There needs to be transparency from the beginning!

Please don't waste this money on giving it to individuals. We could make long lasting amenities (parks, schools, pantries with free food donations) that will upgrade the city.

"More money needs to be focused on the elderly and helping them so they can stay in there homes. Our neighborhoods need more police patrolling.

There needs to be better enforcement of the amount of people living in a home. "

Air conditioning in all the schools is an absolute necessity! All other public buildings and the newer schools have AC.

I retired from teaching 9 years ago, and even then the heat and humidity in May, June, September and October could get intolerable, and it's only getting worse with climate disruption. It's impossible to teach and learn in that unhealthy environment. We can't afford to lose those days of learning, especially after all that the children have missed out on during the pandemic.

I would also like to see a priority placed on the development of solar power. Climate disruption is our greatest challenge!

Framingham has come a long way towards being the city it's meant to be. I am looking forward to an effective focus on climate change. Addressing this issue will retool and engage young people. We all need to plan and hope realistically for the future. Racism is a blight which means that Communities of Color are more damaged than others by climate

Programs like Hoops and Homework and the YMCA are essential for supporting our youth. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will also provide a space for youth to exercise and travel on bicycle to school or work.

Help businesses that need capital to reopen doors. Support local people with skills development and support from community partners to match them to available jobs.

"I'd like to see the city use the money to make people whole again. Businesses and individuals were hit hard. Anything that can be done to heal the financial hurt is needed.

That being said I like seeing racism on this list and civil engagement. This is something Framingham needs to continue to address. I'm just not sure this money is the place to do it. But if a well thought out argument for that were presented I would be open.

The pandemic did highlight inequity both SEC and other Framingham should be working on bridging that gap for our citizens. It is not simply a North South bridge but that is a start. Unite the city!"

"I chose climate change for question 2, but there were no options under the Programs and Services item related to climate change. My suggestions are:

- 1) give out and promote free water-saving and energy-saving products (eg, shower heads, faucet attachments)
- 2) city initiatives to encourage recycling
- 3) preserving green space
- 4) renovating existing buildings rather than building new ones

Fund your water bill mess up.

To pay for the Water/Sewer rate hikes !! Especially on fixed incomes we cannot afford this

Buy Bethany for a new school

Some businesses have closed because of covid. The town misses revenues, and employees lose job opportunities. It would be wonderful to see a merger of entrepreneurship, career services, and strategic planning around how to increase opportunities for businesses while creating new job opportunities and training for those who need it.

"Money needs to be spent on our Roads, Bridges, water/ sewer, elder services and other Municipal services.

None of this money should go towards the School Department because they have received their own grants"

I don't see any item listed in "What programs and services do you believe should be funded to address the issues you selected in question 2" that would address my answer of climate change.

"I have believed for a long time that the cost of housing in our area creates some of the most intractable problems. Rent or mortgage costs eat up too much of household income and can make all the other expenses of life a crisis. I work in elder care and there is a huge worker shortage because people who would otherwise do the work can't afford to live here on a home health aide's income. I think the apartment ban as written was a mistake, because it was a blanket ban rather than focusing on very large developments or on luxury developments. I would like the city to work hard to encourage the development of lower-cost places to live.

I chose climate change for the second item because I think the city needs to plan ahead for higher energy costs, higher temperatures, and worse storms. It would be great if the city could use this chunk of money to reduce the cost of heating and cooling municipal buildings, repair or redesign infrastructure that is vulnerable to storm damage, and to prevent flooding after storms (Rt 9). We need more shade and cooling options in parks and neighborhoods - how about a splash pad or a public pool? I also think local building codes need to become more focused on energy efficiency. It would make sense to support homeowners through information and incentives to make these improvements to their own property. "

Save some for rain days that will come in future..... Money spent should be for all the people and not just the down and outs or programs we have more than one currently, like youth services, social services, career services.

Please consider reaching out to our student population regarding this opportunity. Our high school and middle school students offer invaluable insight, and once the fall semester begins FPS could facilitate the process of soliciting and gathering their input. Thank you.

"Our street, Nelson Street, just upgraded the water pipe and sewage which seems to be an improvement. I owned my own business but have been unemployed since last March. Also as a immunosuppressed patient, I have to be extra careful of Covid, variants, etc. We moved here Nov 2019 and it has been very sad to see restaurants and the like go out of business.

Access to testing facilities, vaccination sites, and making sure kids are safe in school come the fall are so important. The road on route 9 in front of the police station (between Oak St and Mens warehouse) has terrible pot holes that desperately need fixing.

We are also foster parents, and would really appreciate more funds dedicated to DCF and similar causes to keep children busy during this isolating time. We would LOVE to be more involved in the community !! I have found Rep Jack Patrick Lewis extremely responsive and helpful. "