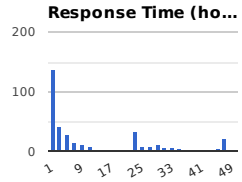
Survey Results: Funding

🏛 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of University Place to the FlashVote community for University Place, WA.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

360
Total Participants
354 of 650 initially invited (54%)
6 others
Margin of error: ± 5%

Applied Filter:
Locals only
Participants for filter:
315



Started:
Jan 18, 2023 11:07am PST
Ended:
Jan 20, 2023 11:06am PST
Target Participants:
All University Place

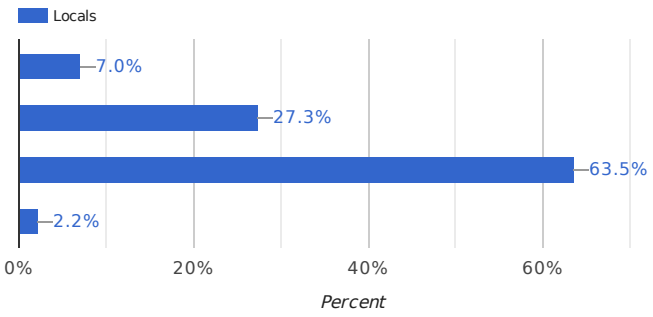
Q1

In November 2022, the City of University Place had a vote (Proposition 1) to increase the City property tax rate from about $0.78 to $1.29 per $1,000 of assessed value - an increase of about $22 per month for the average household. The Proposition failed with 50.4% NO and 49.6% YES.

Prior to reading this, which best describes what you knew about Proposition 1 in November 2022?

(315 responses by)

Options	**Locals** (315)
Didn't know about it	7.0% (22)
I'd heard about it, but didn't know it failed	27.3% (86)
I knew about it and knew that it failed	63.5% (200)
Not Sure	2.2% (7)

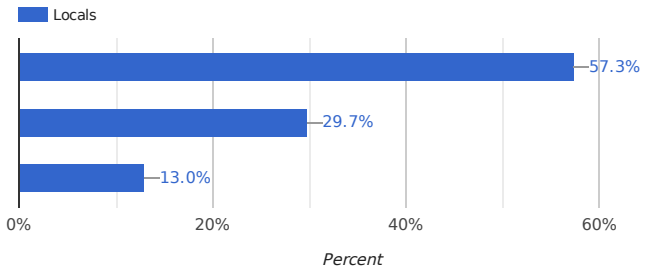


Q2

If you remember, did you vote Yes or No on Proposition 1?

(293 responses by)

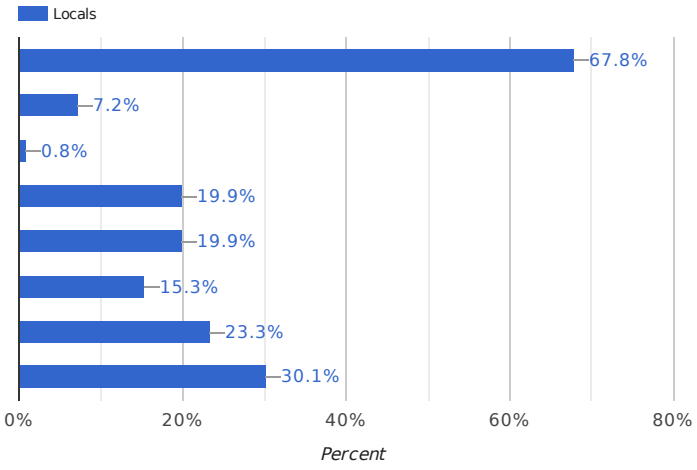
Options	**Locals** (293)
I voted Yes, in favor	57.3% (168)
I voted No, against	29.7% (87)
Didn't vote/Not Sure/Prefer not to answer	13.0% (38)

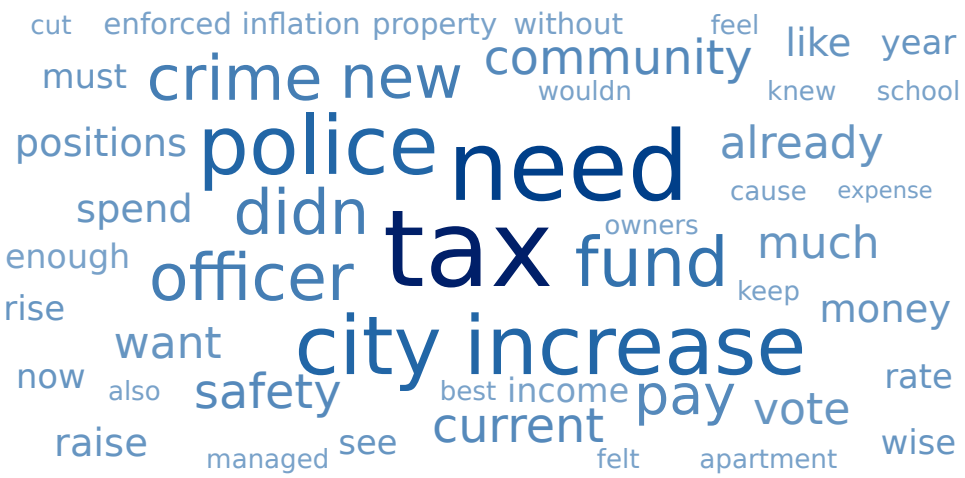


Q3 Which of the following were the biggest factors for you in thinking about how to vote? (You can choose up to FOUR, if any)

(236 responses by)

Options	Locals (236)
I liked that the tax increase would fund 10 new police officers and 2 community safety positions	67.8% (160)
I didn't like that the tax increase would fund 10 new police officers and 2 community safety positions	7.2% (17)
I didn't know the tax increase would fund 10 new police officers and 2 community safety positions	0.8% (2)
I didn't trust the City to spend the money wisely	19.9% (47)
I thought the City would do good things with the money	19.9% (47)
I didn't like that the tax increase had no expiration date	15.3% (36)
I just didn't want to pay any more taxes	23.3% (55)
I thought:	30.1% (71)





Even with my reservations about no expiration date & my concern about spending we need more police
Police =/= crime prevention. But voted Y bc our pop is growing and no other solution is proposed
It was a large increase when many families are already struggling with inflation.
Don't need for more cops. Define "community safety positions"?
I thought that it’s unfortunate that the City is in such a situation that this measure is needed.
Why spend $$ for what can't be enforced?
according to the argument against the city has budget surplus and could reallocate funds.
It seems that the council likes every chance to raise taxes in UP.
I knew the new tax would increase police funding though don't recall seeing the no. of officers
I liked that this would fund community safety positions DESPITE it also funding new police officers
That is a drastic raise in taxes for a city already drowning in them. Less might have passed.
Big percentage increase.
Felt we didn't need the officers now but would in the future, so I voted for the future.
addressing social determinants of crime should have parity with any increase in law enforcement
The city has brand new income from utility taxes. What happened to that money??? Also the promo was
The increase was too much. Would vote for a lesser amount.
public safety was worth the investment
it was justified by ratio of officers to ppopulation
We are already taxed to death with the stupid school junk and the city is collecting money from tab
I wish the city would have made bigger information outreach for prop 1
There needs to be greater promotion of Vote Yes on this proposition next time.
I’m not convinced that our tax money is being spent wisely. All of just had a 50% and now more?
I support increased police - with the current tax rate
I’m not paying more taxes in one of the highest taxed areas
The council brought it on themselves.. They didn’t realize that adding population without adand noo
Crime is becoming more of a problem and we should do something about it.

we need more officer as the city has grom so much and is stii growing.

With all the new construction in UP the increased tax base should be enough to fund police/safety

I didn't ever see a great justification for the need, but would like to learn more

If we aren’t willing to pay for city services and public safety, nothing will improve.

The tax increase was far too much. The need for more police was caused by additional population..

UP has plenty of officer currently and needs to utilize them better

I oppose UP overbuilding at expense of our residential community amenities. Cut school taxes

The increased taxes are too much too soon . Tone deaf to the inflation we face. More room is needed

I don't want to pay higher taxes, but we must keep up with the needs for safety.

UP is building more homes and should be able to fund extra police WITHOUT raising taxes!

I didn’t want to pay any more taxes! However, I knew the UPPD a

I wanted the City to guarantee that these new positions & the CURRENT positions would not be cut!

It was much needed since we have an increased amount of crime in our city.

The City MUST control spending FIRST, then seek other/increased funding.

Charge the apartment owners more. All those small, new apartments are the cause of our crime.

WA State should have decreased tax rate 1% so that citizens could afford to fund local needs!.

Not another prop tax! Inequitable and unfair.

We need to evaluate our current spending and stop adding tax increases as an option for funding.

My taxes are high enough in this city. I think that all seniors should have reduced property taxes

more police officers in UP was a good idea

I feel UP police need to be more visible in the community

Funding for Chambers Creek Village was very poorly managed!

UP didn’t need to increase taxes now to pay for more police. ALL of the new construction will soon

City wouldn’t allow the officers to police effectively, so why bother.

I’d love the officers- but not at the sole expense of property owners.

The City of University Place needs and must make wise decisions with our hard-earned tax dollars.

No issue with the tax, but didn’t feel it was the best strategy for raising the required funding.

Doubtful hiring more officers reduce crime.

I am aware of the skills and the commitment of our elected officials to do for his best for the cit

that the community would be more interested in keeping UP safe and preventing rising crime rates.

Our taxes are already one of the highest, how are the leaders managing funds?

If we want services, we need to be willing to pay for them. We certainly need more law enforcement

We are retired and struggling with inflation, etc. And, yet, adequate police staffing is critical.

I didn’t have enough information about of all current police positions were currently filled.

The city has been trying to force anyone who isn't wealthy out of town for years.

there should be enough tax money to use where the greatest need is and not asking for more from peo

We need police reform before we increase the police numbers.

You have done enormous building, increasing your tax base already and that should be paying new pol

Disliked that there was no attention to ongoing racial bias training/mental health

With assessed values on homes rising 100% in the last 6 years didn't city income rise as well?

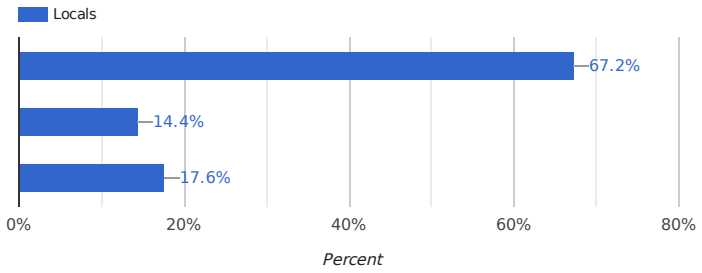
the marketing for the initiative wasn't effective. Never should have failed.

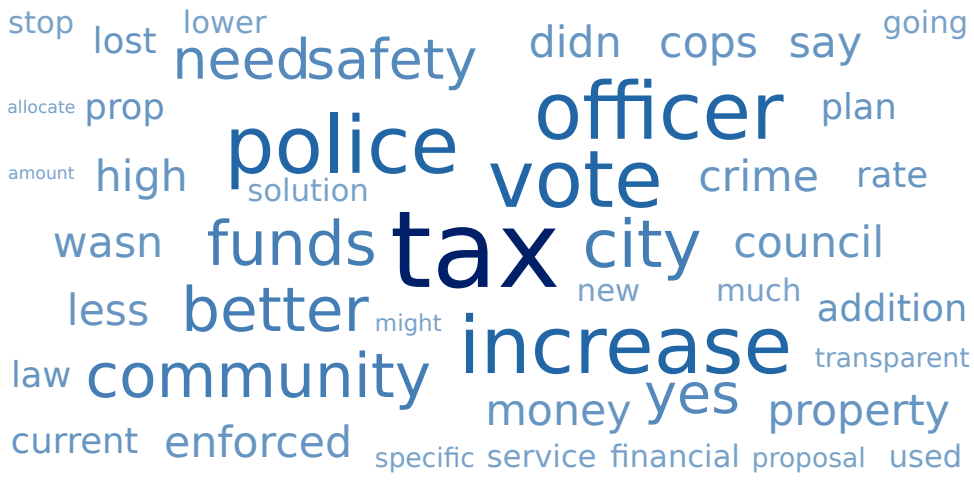
Most people didn't see the selection because it was hidden on the back.
Running one person cars to a call is not safe. We needed more deputies to fight the surge in crime.
I voted in favor but waver as I didn’t trust what was said would happen would happen.
everyone in our community would benefit from more police presence.

Q4 Is there anything that might have changed how you voted?

(250 responses by)

Options	**Locals** (250)
No	67.2% (168)
Not Sure	14.4% (36)
Maybe if:	17.6% (44)





There was a more specific plan of what the police officers would do.
Less officers
No more police officers, more community service.
If the $ was funding another solution (not cops) to prevent crime more people would have voted yes
The council was not so tax happy.
The tax increase wasn't as steep and more diversified.
I didn't have to pay an additional $300 per year if this was approved

would have voted no if it didn't include funding for community safety officers

It hadn't been so high and the city hadn't already lost a ton of money developing Chambers Bay Ctr

Many UP friends didn't see the city officials taking action to connect with voters about it.

Yes, if lesser amount.

Better communication not hard sell. The idea that funding UP Police is restricted to prop tax is bs

the marginal return & effectiveness ratings were better

If I saw more proactive policing being done to begin with

….the amount wasn’t so expensive.

Property taxes were lowered and money spent is transparent.

More outreach about the proposal and why exactly it was needed, including financial analysis

I voted for it, but would have been more confident in my vote if I'd hear more about the need

If the City Council continues to mismanage the coffers, I may not vote YES for the next Prop.

I fully supported this expenditure. However our city government has lost a lot of trust.

Much lower tax increase

There was a better ratio of police officer to community safety positions.

There are so many apartments going in and though there is tax on owner of complex the population is

There was an expiration to the tax proposal, and how the 10 police officers would be allocated

More information on how increased law enforcement would provide better public safety

They needed to say that the current FTE's would always remain and the new FTE's are in addition

the state would stop overspending and increasing taxes when they have a surplus of revenue!

If the burden was spread out more equitably and our laws would be better enforced.

I would have voted no if the funds were not specifically tied to funding additional police personne

There was full financial transparency on how taxes are being used to date

With all the new apartment buildings going up why not tax the landlords more not seniors

If the money went to other community services

please consider raising other taxes as well, perhaps not the property tax so much. the

There was evidence presented that more officers = less crime. Or Other solutions presented

I voted yes bc not enough officers. I’m skeptical bc we need a community plan, not just more cops

If I’d thought there were police out there to be hired in a timely fashion-

We would have better educated and more intelligent council members.

If our current tax rate would not be increased.

There had been acknowledgment that we need to rethink approach to community safety

Tax increase wasn't so large. Say, 1/2 of what was requested.

If the tax increase was not added to property tax.

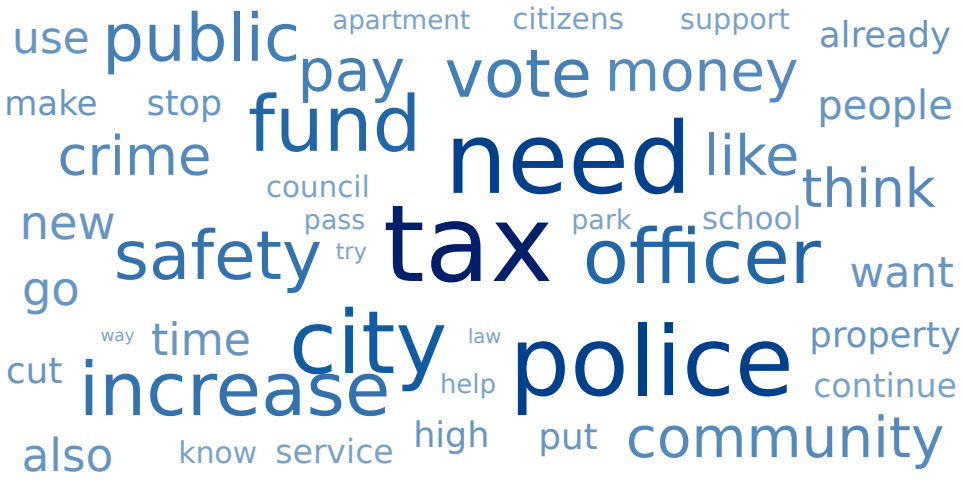
Mental Health Professionals instead of police.

The city had a more credible reputation for using funds wisely.

The tax increase had been unreasonably high, then I would have voted “no”

Q5 Any other comments or suggestions about taxes or public safety funding in University Place?

(145 responses by)



In Pierce County university place the only solution to a problem is to raise taxes. The politicians can deny it but that in fact is true now and it’s been true for the last 2 1/2 decades at a minimum.

We need to have a better police presence throughout the city at all times. Which obviously means we need to hire more patrol officers

Try living within your budget and stop over taxing us.

I wish it had passed.

We have speeding, drag race speeding, on Bridgeport and the City does nothing! We have drunks/drug users stumbling down Bridgeport and the City does nothing! Put a speed camera up! The speeding fines will pay for the camera in no time!

Please be concerned for all citizens when proposing new taxes. Efficiency is always appreciated.

UP needs to find ways to increase funding without raising the citizens taxes especially property taxes which are already very high for our county. I am all for funding public safety but would like to hear a more detailed plan of how these officers would be addressing city needs. Do not want police officers sitting on the side of the road looking for speeders. We have more important issues to tackle.

Not easy; but our city really needs more income coming in that is not just taxing citizens. We need more business it appears.

Because of the placement on the ballot, the back, I think this might have contributed to the failure. I believe we need more police and this could pass.

I'm more likely to vote for taxes that support the schools than I am for expanded law enforcement

I wish that the proposition had passed!!! Maybe next time.

UP is a safe community and the right wing uninformed media frenzy over "increased" crime is propaganda. I never saw any statistics or data that showed real need for more police. Also, I never saw anything that defined was was meant by community service personnel. What would be their job? To whom would they report? If they're police, we don't need them. If they are independent and their jobs are centered around providing services to people in need of mental health and housing assistance, I would be more inclined to support a small tax increase. But $20 a month for more unneeded police? Never!

Our community is generally pro-police, however we’ve seen that police have become less effective at preventing crime. The response from police when crime is happening is usually un-helpful. The community can’t be convinced to spend our $$ on an institution that has increasingly been shown to have really dangerous impact on minorities. Our UP police are actually Pierce County Sheriff’s officers and with the absolute debacle caused by Ed Troyer in the past year, faith in that organization is diminished greatly. I and my neighbor want to fund crime prevention rather than funding police. The two are not the same.

I am on board with anything you decide to get more police in University Place. Then we need the governor to fix what he broke so the officers can do their job to keep us safe!

If we don't have sufficient police officers in this day and age, the quality of life in University Place will be in jeopardy. You can build all the new housing and bring all the new residents into this city that you want. However, without more police officers, these new residents will likely to become crime victims. This is something you already know. I'm sorry the measure didn't pass. Really sorry!

It's time for UP to stop growth all the new properties and where are the kids going to go to school as ours are over crowded as it is.

Push our district representatives to fix our state's law enforcement issues before seeking more tax dollars from already over taxed citizens.

I voted for the tax increase but was concerned about the size of the increase and how others would react to the amount. Also, did not like that the promotion material was solely about community policing. Though not exactly what I wanted to support it, I felt the city would work to spend the money in a reasonable manner.

The city faced the same funding shortage with city parks and failed to address that issue in a creative way as well - in my view, the end result did not need to happen the way it did. Our tax burden in this state and city is already high and inflation/COVID hasn't helped most working class citizens. Asking for an additional tax burden at this time is quite frankly out of touch. I agree we need more policing, but at the same time I think other forms of revenue should be looked at - to that point, I am glad the city is considering parking meters at Town Center.

Taxes are very high in this city. Many people did not want to pay extra especially since they didn't feel it was going to be allocated correctly.

We have some of the highest taxes in the county with some of the most over rated overcrowded schools. You're creating your own crime problems and population problems with more apartments. How about some actual places for the population to eat and gather. But we keep adding fast food.

Make proper funding of the police a component of the UP City Government annual budget to be voted upon by our city council.

I want us to have more police. Everyone knows we only have a couple of officers and have to borrow from other cities, so criminals have no reason to fear because chances are they won't get caught. What I don't want is for the property taxes to go up so high that people can't pay their taxes, would lose their homes, or see rent skyrocket to make up for it. There needs to be a restructuring of the way the budget is designed so that the property tax increase requested wouldn't be so high. It's already impossible to buy a home here and nearly as impossible to pay homes already purchased here. There's just no more money to be had.

Stop building apartments that causes more crime in the area.

Communication about how funds would be used was extremely confusing. Had to look through meeting minutes to find specifics about the plan (the "yes on..." website was not authoritative). Lots of confusion from other voters how this money would be used (many "no" votes I talked to were simply worried the city would use the tax money for something else because the ballot promised nothing about how the funds would be used). Next time, focus more on prevention than on enforcement. Ratio of new officers to community outreach was pitiful. I know the terrible name stuck, but "defund the police" and put those funds to other programs/positions proven to work.

The city has made cuts (like Parks & Rec) that should free the much needed police officers. The city has also approved many new apartment style projects but is looking at homeowners to support the resources needed to run a larger community. UP already overpays for fire/emergency services that are primarily serving Lakewood. UP needs more officers and the City Council should be responsible for funding that with established income streams.

Police should strive to be visible, i.e. flashing lights on when parked but conducting business, etc

It is important to put out more signs earlier. City council could attend UP events, such as school events, and have a table & answer questions/talk about the issue. Volunteers could canvass neighborhoods with fliers. If you want it to pass, make the effort to reach out - it's not just a money grab.

I saw a lot of misinformation about the proposition on social media. The City needs to find away to keep the truth in front of the voters.

Install speed cameras. That would save costs on traffic officers, increase safety, and generate money too.

I'm truly disappointed that this did not pass. I'm tired of the constant complaining about lack of public safety officers and then when the rubber hits the road, they vote against it because "our taxes are already too high." If you voted no, then you have no right to complain.

Love the UP and believe we need additional police and safety protection - just a more reasonable amount.

People seem to have a hard time voting for their self-interest.

Please, lets get the funding somehow !

We obviously need more police to stop the onslaught of crime, safety issues and increased violence in the area. Also, stop building apartments. We are becoming/became the area where you wait for multiple lights before you make it through an intersection.

Please put on the ballot again

There needs to be some accountability for no proactive policing especially in tickets. They hang out at the station and coffee instead of doing it

We need to find money to support more police and the associated support personnel to deal with crime, homelessness, safety, and traffic enforcement!!!!!! We can't be ostriches!

Bring back the UP parks progam that sponsored summer t ball and baseball.

Given the political climate of western WA the city council must take a bolder approach in putting out information that concerns an increase in law enforcement. Simply having “vote yes on prop 1” sign and town halls from the chief won’t cut it. Each council member has to be vocal to overcome prejudice against law enforcement

We do need more officers & public safety resource allocation in U.P. but it's folly to increase funding there but continue to dodge going after what drives crime: inequity, scarcity, & an absence of social services mitigating hunger, homelessness, substance dependency, and socioeconomic mobility. Invest in our community with proactive prevention instead of just continuing the reactive public safety paradigm.

try again, it may take a specific cause to pass it, as land use zoning up for vote in Pierce County years ago failed, then passed easily maybe a year later, after a series of obnoxious developments rankled voters. The public also became more aware of the issues and benefits of land use zoning laws, albeit too late to pass the first time.

We need more police! We also maybe need to have large apartment complexes pay more in police protection due to the person per unit increase. It would be fair since homeowners have maybe 3 to 4 people living in a single family home but in large apartment buildings they have 3 or 4 people living in one unit times 300 units (for example) 3 per unit x 300 units= 900 people....all those people may need police protection. Are the apartment complex/owners paying enough taxes in police tax to cover the police needed to cover that complex. I don't think it is fair for the homeowner to pay for the increased apartment influx. I do however think we need to have more police per our growing city.

Look for other revenue streams like all the multi family or apartment complexes going up.

There must be more promotion of Vote Yes for this proposition. Needs hard work, lots of signs, promotions in all community communications to voters. Get business to support and promote with signs and promotions on bags. Promote vote early and vote yes.

Safety is an issue however the cost of living continues to skyrocket so every cent counts. I have had to go without and perhaps the city will have to reevaluate how they spend money.

U.P. is known for high taxes. The City Council has not impressed me by it's approach to this issue and I think they could have anticipated dividing the community in a spectacular fashion. I've seen a few Council meetings, but have not seen dialog between Council members & citizens. (No, sending Chief Premo to conduct those informational meetings is not the same thing because at that point, it was a selling campaign.) I wonder how much the city spent trying to sell this tax. Then there was some kind of PAC? It left me wondering where did the PAC get it's money, and was the PAC taxed by the city (like they tax businesses). Also, please stop using the graphic of allocation of property tax to plead lack of funding for the PD - it only serves to give the false impression that it's the only way the PD can be funded. In my opinion, the Council shouldn't have to rely on that kind of tactic. The bottom line is: if Chief Premo said we need more funding for his dept, the Council needs to co

NO MORE TAXES!

Flushing the city council and starting all over again.

Please try again! We need more law enforcement officers to keep our citizens safe with thefts and break ins on the rise. Maybe this is time for the mayor to make a statement like “Folks you get what you pay for.”

There are multiple new apartment complexes being built. How can their additional tax income not support additional officers? UP does not have enough officers to deal with the exploding population. Public safety should be a top priority.

We need a more visible police department and one that actually responds when needed.

It seems people don,t understand how their taxes are being allocated. Don,t know how that could be addressed.

I liked that 2 community safety officers were part of the plan, which is especially important for dealing with mental health crises and homelessness issues where police involvement can be counter-productive.

I don't think the public felt confident the money would be spent as stated. The proposal needed to emphasize commitment to use the money as indicated.

The City Council needs to find a way to run the City with the very high taxes that we are already paying.

I’m willing to Pay to Protect

I’m dead tired of feeling like the city has to continue to explain itself for the shortage of certain municipal services. If we don’t shut up, vote yes, and pay more taxes nothing will improve. The $22/month is the annual equivalent of two monthly cell phone bills for a family of five. Or several tanks of gas. Or 2-3 dinners in a restaurant for a family. It’s just not that much money for the average UP resident, especially those of us who pay property taxes. Lower income families who can’t afford this are usually renters, not paying the increase in taxes. We need more public safety, we need to maintain city services and, as residents of UP, we need to pay for them. I wish the city would be a little more firm in this message. I know that when the Chief of Police has spoken to residents in town hall meetings, he’s been straightforward about this, which is good. But everyone needs to hear it, unequivocally: you don’t pay for it, you don’t get it. Vote yes or stop whining.

I fully support roads, infrastructure, police, fire, EMS, and community activities such as parades and centers for adults and youth. However, it seems we have spent a lot of money on large shiny buildings and ridiculous pay and benefits for our elected officials. We are still a small community and need to act like it.

Too expensive

I am retired and although I want a secure city, I also don’t want to be taxed out of here and am getting close.

With all the new apartments being built, why aren’t they funding the new positions?

I will not vote for any tax increase as long as my rent continues to be increased all the time.

Law enforcement funding should not be up to the whims of the voting public. Elected officials should make these decisions and pull funds from other areas within the general budget to cover it if needed. Move funds from other popular human service areas. Then ask the public to vote to re-fund the more popular services. This would ensure voter approval of the overall funding necessary to keep UP a desirable community.

University Place is one of the highest taxed cities in this state. The city council and mayor need to prioritize spending for safety and cut the other useless money they spend. They need to learn how to live within a budget. The tax payers are tapped out. There is plenty of money in the budget to fund these 10 new officers, but our city council does not know how to budget, prioritize or put safety first. You cannot continue to increase taxes. You need to prioritize safety, everything else is secondary. Cut, cut, cut and reduce taxes! We are sick and tired of being taxed to oblivion from city, state and federal, not to mention the evil Sound Transit and the RTA tax, which needs to be repealed and we the people want our $30 car tabs! This city has and will continue to go to hell because our city council and mayor only want more and more apartments built so they can collect more taxes, too bad they do not have the foresight to see how horrible traffic is now and how much worse it will be.

We are a pro-police household (my husband was a police officer for 23 years). The only time we see a police car in UP, it’s parked at a coffee shop - usually with 1 or 2 other marked patrol cars there, as well. We do not see the police in this town out hustling and being proactive. No presence at the schools. No traffic stops. The solution is NOT to hire more cops but utilize the existing resources better.

Homeowner paying the cost for changing apt. Dwellers. It isn't quite fair

I hope we rerun this levy vote. I was one of those that in November did not vote because it was on the back with a bunch of uncontested races.

Taxes and spending are out of control. The continued increase of high density housing is ruining this city and traffic is already getting unbearable.

With more homes being built, the city is collecting more taxes! UP should be able to use the tax money already collected to fund police and safety!

We have to take some action. The citizens need more police presence.

More communication about results

I was not satisfied that the increases would result in mor public safety

Do over.....we need this Pro folks need to do more education

Perhaps business & city could work together to increase the number of taxable businesses.

We need to build our force and it costs money to do that!

Decrease out of school district tax expense, cut number of out of district students. Expand scope and use of mutual aid agreements for police services. Current police org is of marginal value. Reduce property tax basis, ever increasing utilities charges and all future payments for Chambers Bay golf course . Decrease property tax burden and city utility surcharges which some council members claimed would not increase utility bills. . Decrease number of non-resident city executives and staff members. Follow incorporation vision and master plan - stop GMA actions and grants ,made in exchange for commitments to overbuild and made at the expense of community values and quality of life. Institute no exception term limits for City Council. Reduce city staff salary structure. Follow through with infrastructure commitments made to communities impacted by the Town Center to include sidewalks and traffic control along 35th street West. Out law all fireworks in residential areas.

Am not sure whether passing this would have made a difference in crime or not but it was worth trying. UP used to feel so safe and now I read constantly about car theft, mail box theft, car break-ins, etc , plus frequent bad accidents, people running red lights. We need more police and enforcement of laws.

Property taxes in UP are already high. If this proposition goes through, the city will assume that they can continue to tax home owners and taxes will continually increase.

I did not want to see us approve the new FTE's and then when the budget cuts come around they go cutting positions that were prior to these new FTE's. In essence going backwards with number of FTE's and offsetting the budget with this new tax instead.

So, I'm PRO-Government. I'm anti Politicians. The City MUST prioritize and control spending FIRST before seeking other public funding. That includes REALLOCATING budgets from other departments whose budgets are inflated. I don't think that responsible prioritizing is happening. I think Politicians for too long have concerned themselves with their own Legacies, personal ideals and reelections. I get that realigning department budgets alone won't pay for 10 Police officers, but it's a start and shows responsible, good faith that might warrant voter approval in the future.

Stop allowing apartments to be built, we have too many now!

Should hav passed:(wished I voted

UP property taxes are already very high, as property values continue to quickly rise. So, too, are we seeing tax increases by UP, for our utilities, etc. Maybe a discussion could include how we more equitably distribute our tax dollars, between fire & police. Re: the explosion of rental units, apartment buildings - where are the tax dollars from the builders/developers, to compensate the City for future public safety needs (as well as schools, traffic/road expansion/improvements).

The population growth in U.P. will encumber the homeowners with another tax increase. There should have been an impact study done to see how the new housing and businesses will ADD revenue instead of costing us more.

Many voters simply don't understand the difference between school, fire, and city taxes. Additionally, many don't grasp that small unreliable funding sources, like parking meters, are insufficient to pay for a single police officer. I think the city needs to give an understanding of why a new revenue source is required for funding more officers. Putting it in FTE equivalents would likely help people understand the scale. Such as currently, 1 FTE = $X, and that parking meter net revenues would at best be maybe 10% of an FTE officer. Additionally, citizens seem to be under the belief that the city can just stop paying for other things to pay for more officers. Again, explaining both how many officers such costs would pay for (maybe 5% of an FTE officer), and addressing clearly what things are mandated by the state to pay for. And possibly highlighting that if the council were to forgo their pay for their job, how that still might only pay for less than 1 FTE officer.

With the increase in housing being added to UP, I am certain that taxes will also increase when more people take up residency here.

We pay some of the highest taxes in the county and as I’m retired and more than a $1000.00 a month I believe that is more than enough money

I am not against funding for police or fire services. I do think, however, that the city should take from the budget they already have; in other words, balance the budget like we balance ours. This may mean shuffling the percentages of the tax dollar around, even if only temporarily. Schools receive a huge chunk, could they give up some in order to hire more officers when needed? The property taxes here are already high and some seniors don't meet the strict criteria Pierce County has to have them lessened. Thank you for listening to the concerns of all your citizens not just the affluent ones.

Try again. We need more police officers.

I am very much in favor of funding public safety. It is necessary and important. Witness the highest homicide rate in Tacoma’s history (where I proudly served as an officer for 26 years). UP is right next door!

University Place is now on par with Tacoma in terms of crime. When my car was broken into, the police were able to tell me who performed the task and where he was located but that was all they could do besides provide a report. When I enquired through the city I was told to "park my privilege since I had auto insurance and that my car and that that the only reason that my car was broken into was because the offenders needs were not being met by society. This is pure bull crap!

We need to get ahead of the game and officers. Do not consider a decrease if going for another vote, educate the citizens, get out in the neighborhoods and go to HOAs, churches, PTAs, etc and spread the word. By the time citizens feel completely overtaken by crime, IT'S TOO LATE.

We MUST have more police!!! Crime is up and nothing can be done!!

I didn't see the proposition on the ballot because it was up in the 3rd column of the ballot. I thought I was done voting because there was all this space under the second column. I would have voted for it if I had seen it. I wonder if other people missed it like me.

It is illogical to me how our tax rate is the highest in the state (SmartAsset) and that we don't have money for police officers

No

Not enough space before to say that the new construction/apartments taxes should be used to help bring in more police help soon!

i do not understand how the council cannot consider raising other taxes instead of just property taxes. please show some real leadership instead of pure cowardice.

Allow police officers to actually police and arrest people and hold people accountable.

Tax the apartments that are flooding UP. I’ll be priced out of my house.

I don't think the city did a good enough job about telling residents about why the tax increase was needed instead of using other city funds to add police staffing. Also, the timing turned out to be bad. The vote happened when inflation had hit a high point, and many families were feeling maxed out financially.

I agree we need more police, but there has to be another way to receive funds other than continuing to raise our property taxes. We already pay extremely high taxes as it is.

n/a

Council must get control of our public safety in UP!

Voting choices are private. Ask different questions.

Please find a way to fund those police officers to aid all citizens!

Is UP allowed to have other funding resources? Could you build infrastructure and charge for its use? With the advances in warehouse delivery systems, could tracks the size of a tote be used to automatically deliver goods and remove trash? Lots of money in "last mile" delivery. Throw solar panels on top and generate your own energy. Put gutters on it and funnel the water down for vertical hydroponic growing.

I'm all for public safety. But we need to find wiser ways to spend the money than just officers. I like the community safety positions, but is there something more we could do? We need to focus on preventing crime. When citizens report car prowls or suspicious activity, we want to know someone (doesn't have to be an armed officer) will investigate. We know organized crime happens and we know the police know exactly who and where they are, but we need a system in place to stop them before the crime happens, because it does matter if the criminals are caught and charged. They don't even care because they'll be right back on the street. Crime prevention is the most important thing, and the citizens need to be educated to do their part.

I think you should run it again. We definitely need more police

More lead time to explain to public why this tax is necessary? More forums & speakers joining community events to' put in a plug" (such as...'our community is for safety & safety means costs...please vote!')?

Create three classes of property tax: 1 owner occupant; 2 non-owner occupant (owner resident of UP); 3 corporation owned/non-owner occupant (owner, not resident of UP). Then, develop a property tax structure where the non-owner occupant classes are taxed at a higher rate than the owner occupant class. Rationale for this: owner occupants tend to invest themselves more in the safety and security of their own neighborhoods. Police disproportionately respond to non-owner occupant residences. Owner occupants, proportionally turn out at higher numbers to vote. Corporate owned residences have a net negative affect on a community, this structure attempts to restore equity. Lastly, there is precedent for different property tax classes. Honolulu did this over 10 years ago. I am an owner, occupant, and I own investment real estate. I think this tech structure is fair. I’m telling you this so that you don’t think I’m just trying to benefit myself as an owner occupa

I want public safety and to feel safe. But I think there are deeper issues at hand and just hiring officers won’t solve.

Public safety sounds like a good thing, but I'm not sure that hiring more police personnel is the answer.

Crime is increasing at an alarming rate. I do not feel as though we are getting our moneys worth when it comes to our taxes.

We need to fund more for public safety. But we are also at a crucial point in how and what we fund. Our officers need training, our communities need to be included -more bodies won’t make our communities safer for everyone. We can be the example for HOW to ensure public safety while considering communities and individuals who are black, disabled, indigenous, and all the other identities that are profiled and underserved.

We desperately need more police in the area as crime is rampant in our area. Please put this up for vote again.

Citizens need to be made aware of basic governmental processes such as legitimate sources of funding, property tax breakdowns, audits to ensure Prop 1 money goes to fund what it should, etc.

I think a lot of people didn't know what it was for so voted no. More publicity next time might help.

Keep trying! For my entire life, certain groups have consistently cut public services, claiming financial need. Obviously, tax cuts for the wealthy simply do not justify cutting public safety budgets. Thanks for your efforts.

It seems difficult to get info out since many people aren’t reading public newspapers, written info. But a lot of people seem concerned about safety and wanting more police. I think a bigger campaign, letters to home, signs at grocery stores parks, about what the funding would provide would help people make a better choice.

The extra taxes and fees that the City of University Place has been putting on everything is diminishing the lives of some people who have lived here for many, many years. We know that the rich new residents moving here don't want us here anymore. They tell us so. Adding insult to injury.

Many of the UP residents work hard to make tax payments and other bills. We can't keep increasing what we have to pay in taxes and continue to pay for food, meds, gas. I say this as a very liberal Democrat!

The obvious need in University Place is safety and security. Hazardous driving, children riding unlicensed vehicles, parking lot smash-and-grabs, home invasion attempts, and more make it abundantly clear that George Curtis's "family friendly" U.P. of the 1990s is transforming into an rental community with little to no accountability for property conditions or neighborliness. You want better schools? Create fruitful neighborhoods. You want fruitful neighborhoods? Cultivate neighborliness. You want neighborliness? Increase accountability. Never underestimate people's desire to live with dignity. Raise the bar and people rise to meet it. Lower the bar, and people behave like animals. In short, increase public safety and many improvements will follow.

The city cut officers 13-14 years ago because of budget issues, why hasn't the city increased the number of officers as our budget situation improved.

We need reform before we increase spending for new officers. More cops doing the same thing will not help.

I just know we need resources especially with public safety. The area is getting worse.

Our taxes are high enough. No more apartments. We incorporated to stop more apartments from being built in our city. The present council ignores our wishes to have a nice residential community instead of transient residents.

You have shown no inclination to really address your budget changes needed to fund more police. You make everything else volunteer positions, you have the funds already for additional officers.
I would have supported this if it didn’t just feel like more of the same. Our sheriff is a danger to the community and we contract through the PCSD. I would like to see UP lead with innovative new approaches including mental health first responders, ongoing bias/anti-racism training for officers, etc. 10 more police officers does not make me feel more safe.
Please try again, funding to bring our law enforcement levels of service to adequate levels is needed.
I don’t think more police officer will solve anything. More funding needs to be put into de-escalation training, mental health education and support
22 dollars per household adds up. Maybe start out smaller. Inflation has been hard on everybody.
Stop having property owners be the ones to pay for services. Everyone benefits from extra police protection. Find a way Everyone pays for it.
My property taxes are well over $1000 / month. That is more than my mortgage. They go up every year, which means city income does too. Since I bought in 2015, they have more than doubled. These increases have been well above the inflation rates, so I assume that means inflation adjusted income to the city has already gone up.
We need to support our law enforcement -- and I'm writing as a liberal Democrat.
Taxes are already too high.
Other than schools which I am all for, where does this funding go. Other than chambers bay we have no draws other than chain stores. What is the identity of University Place?
Wrap Around and Functional Family programs are more effective than law enforcement.
We support public safety and our officers and EMS services!
Better marketing expertise. No reason for this to fail considering all the complaints about inadequate police presence and activity in UP. I have no empathy for anyone who failed to vote. Next time.
Stop wasteful spending by Counsel and its members. Tax payers shouldn't be paying for your lunches and dinners, among other things. Choose wisely on public works projects. Add more speed bumps on through residential (short cut) streets near the schools.
I think it was effected by the defund police movement. It needs more resources to explain why more resources are needed to address violent crime. I realize Hatch act, but Police need to be the face of the campaign, tell their story. If you don’t run another campaign you need to reallocate more city resources to public safety.
I would like to understand why the City can't adequately staff it's police department when it has some of the highest property tax rates in the state. I would also like to know more about how the city is funding other crime prevention strategies such as mental health programs and drug rehabilitation programs.
Keep the town clean and safe - remove graffiti, no people sleeping/loitering in Homestead park, no car camping and dumping trash, pick up garbage people dump, especially in that lot on corner of Bridgeport and 35th. That’s what I hoped the funds would help with.

Additional survey reports