

2026 Pre-Budget Survey

Could you please take 5 minutes to complete this anonymous survey? We would like to find out what you think are the most important issues for the upcoming 2026 Budget. This will assist us greatly in preparing a Pre-Budget Submission to Government that truly represents the lived experiences of older people.

Financial:

1. In which of the following areas has the cost-of-living increases impacted you the most.
(Please rank in order of impact from 1 to 4)

- Ability to pay utility bills
- Food and Grocery shopping
- Ability to run a car
- Purchasing seasonal Clothing *e.g., Winter Coat, Boots etc.*

2. Have you been under pressure to give up one or more of the following in the past year:

- Social Events/Leisure/Going out for a meal
- Weekend Break/Holiday
- Supporting a cause/Membership

3. Do you feel financially secure

- [] Current needs [] For future needs [] Not at all

Please explain

4. Which budgetary measures have the greatest negative impact on your financial security? (e.g. Tax, Pension rate, Inflation, Means-Testing Social Welfare Payments etc.)

Please give maximum of 3 and reasons

Housing:

5. Is your home

- Rented by you
 Owned by you
 Owned by the State (Council Housing)
 Other, please detail _____

6. Has your rent/mortgage/housing assistance payment increased since the last budget?

[] Yes [] No [] N/A

7. Have you had to seek out a mortgage/housing assistance payment/rent relief for the first time, within the past year?

[] Yes [] No [] N/A

8. Have you ever been able to avail of any grants to improve or refurbish your home?

[] Yes [] No [] N/A

Please explain: _____

9. Have you or someone you know, that is age 65+, had to rent out a room in their home in order to pay bills and meet necessary expenses?

[] Yes [] No [] N/A

Transport:

10. Do you rely on public transport to get around?

Yes

No

N/A

11. How frequently would you avail of public transport?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Less frequently

12. Is there access to public transport within walking distance of your home?

Yes

No

N/A

13. Is the public transport in your area reliable?

Yes

No

N/A

14. Would you avail of public transport if it was more accessible and readily available to you?

Yes

No

N/A

15. Outline improvements to public transport which would encourage you to use it;
(e.g. booking system)

Quality of life:

16. Which budgetary areas listed below are of most importance to you for Budget 2026.
*Please rank below in order of importance from 1 to 5. Allocate **1 to the area of most importance with 5 being the area of least importance** from the list provided.*

Health Services

Transport

Lower Taxes

Pension/ Cost-of-living Supports

Housing

17. Please list any areas not covered in question 16 above that you consider important for Budget 2026

18. Please outline services in order of importance which are essential to you for living a full life.
(Please rank in order of importance from 1 to 5.)

1. _____ (most Important)
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____ (least important)

19. Which of the following best describes where you live?

- Rural area (population less than 1,500 persons)
- Town (Population 1,500 or more)
- City

20. To which gender do you most identify?

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- Non-Binary
- Other

21. Indicate your age group

- 41 - 50
- 51 - 60
- 61 - 70
- 71 - 80
- 81 - 90
- 91+

Any feedback or additional information regarding this survey can be provided below.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return as soon as possible **by post** to the address above or **by e-mail** to office@seniors.ie **By 16 May 2025**



Rialtas na hÉireann
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