



TOWN OF HARTFORD SPECIAL SELECTBOARD AGENDA

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 6:00pm

Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,

White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting will be conducted in person at Town Hall

Live stream the meeting on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@junctionartsandmedia>

I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting

II. Order of Agenda

III. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

The Selectboard welcomes public comments. In order to accommodate as many voices as possible, anyone making a comment will be given three minutes to speak. This is not a time for extended discussion, but the Selectboard is interested in hearing comments, concerns, and suggestions from the public.¹

2. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

1. Discussion of initiatives to address affordability in Hartford

a. Introductions and Opening Comments (5 min.)

b. Workshop Process Overview (3 min.)

c. Review of Survey Results (5 min.): Survey Results

d. Round One – Initial Proposals

Each committee presents ideas for new initiatives and potential cross-committee collaborations (~10 min./committee)

e. Round Two – Feedback & Refinement

Open discussion on Round One proposals, plus addition of new ideas that emerge (~30 min.)

f. Round Three – Shortlisting & Planning

Narrow the full list down to a shortlist of priority proposals, clarify point person/responsible committee and outline next steps for each (~20 min.)

IV. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

¹Public Comment:

Anyone making a comment can expect the Selectboard to respond in one of the following ways:

a. Thank the person with no further action planned

b. Provide an immediate response

c. Direct the Town Manager to contact and respond to the person

d. Seek clarification from the Town Manager at a specified meeting

e. Add the topic to a future Selectboard agenda

All Meetings of the Hartford Selectboard are open to the public. Persons who are seeking action by the Selectboard are asked to submit their request and/or materials to the Selectboard Chair or the Town Manager's office no later than 5pm on Tuesday two weeks prior to the meeting date. Requests received after that date will be addressed at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals wishing to address the board should do so during the Public Comment period. Please Note: The Hartford Selectboard offers public viewing of meetings live at Town Hall, and additionally as a courtesy generally on YouTube, Channel 1085, and Zoom. If a member of the public has technical difficulties accessing this meeting remotely, please alert us by emailing Selectboard@hartford-vt.org.

Summary of Responses to Hartford's Affordability Survey

August 12, 2026

Background

A link to the survey was included in a message that was in the August 5th Hartford Newsletter. The same message was posted to Hartford's social media accounts on August 4th.

Respondents were invited attend to the August 12, 2026 workshop to “Help Shape Hartford's Response to the Affordability Crisis” and to complete the survey if they could not attend or wanted to share their experiences, ideas, and questions in advance.

Thirteen (13) responses were received between August 4th and August 6th.

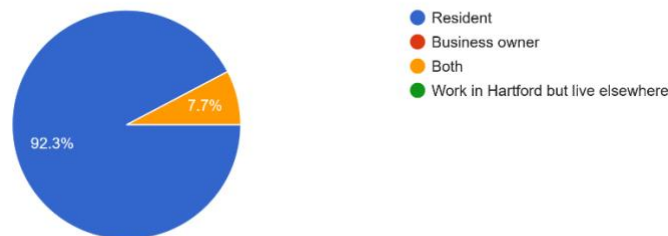
The raw data is here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xvgnGZEvfUERatKEBRGU7EluohBg59EHt5UPsR_dVqA/edit?usp=sharing

Summary of Demographic Information

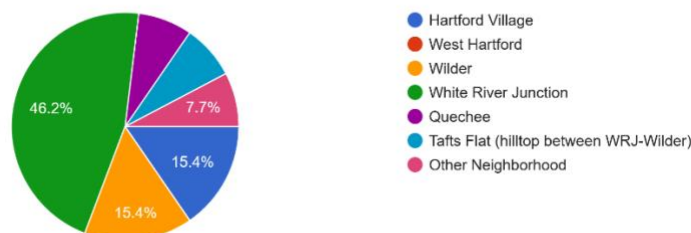
Your relationship to Hartford

13 responses

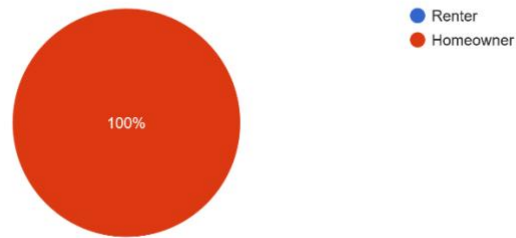


Village / Neighborhood where you live or own a business

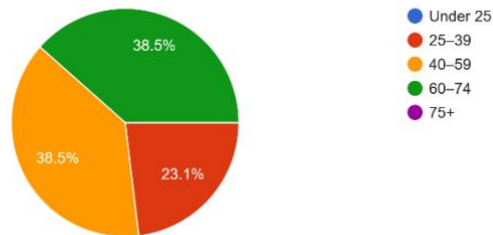
13 responses



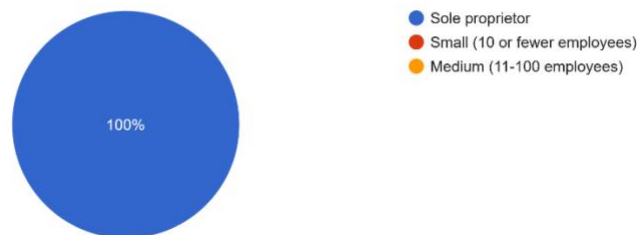
Household type
13 responses



Age range
13 responses



Approximate business size
1 response



Current Pain Points, Ideas, and Questions

1. What costs are affecting you the most right now?
 - a. Property tax is the dominant concern, mentioned in nearly every response
 - b. Heating fuel, gas, electricity, and food also came up frequently
 - c. Housing-related costs matter too; mortgage payments, home repairs, and construction

2. What's one action the Town could take?
 - a. Control property taxes and municipal spending, cutting "wants" over "needs"
 - b. Make housing easier to build: new rentals, homes, and ADU approvals
 - c. Specific asks: free downtown WiFi, mortgage assistance for new owners, requiring officials to live/pay taxes locally
3. Things other towns have done that Hartford should consider?
 - a. Land trust and cohousing models (examples from Michigan and Denver)
 - b. Easier ADU/housing construction processes and senior services support
 - c. Some respondents had no examples in mind, or felt neighboring towns overspend too
4. Questions for the Town related to affordability?
 - a. Why taxes keep rising and what's driving the increases
 - b. Does the town truly consider resident input in budget decisions
 - c. Questions about parking meters, second-home/rental policy, and public safety budgets