

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

REAL MONEY, REAL POWER



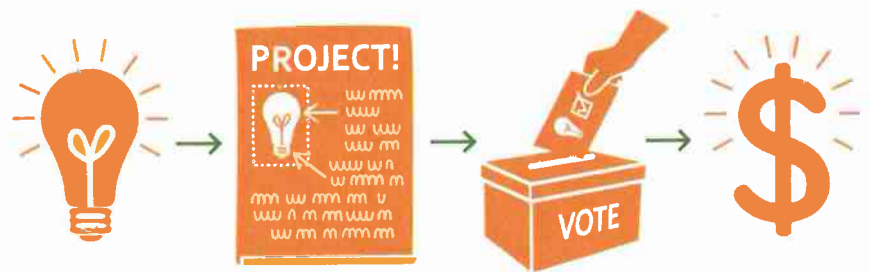
PBP
PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING
PROJECT

WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a different way to manage public money. It is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. PB gives ordinary people real decision-making power over real money.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Local people make budget decisions through an annual cycle of meetings and voting. Most experiences follow a similar basic process: Residents brainstorm spending ideas, volunteer budget delegates develop proposals based on these ideas, residents vote on proposals, and the government funds the top projects.



WHERE HAS IT WORKED?

The Brazilian city of **Porto Alegre** started the first full PB process in 1989, for its municipal budget. As many as 50,000 people have participated each year, to decide as much as 20% of the city budget.

Since then, PB has spread to **over 1,500 city budgets** in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America. States, counties, housing authorities, schools, universities, and community organizations have also used PB for their budgets.



WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES?

Elected officials, community organizations, academics, and even the United Nations have declared PB a model for democratic government. Why?

- **Gives community members a say**
Ordinary people have more voice – and they get to make real decisions.
- **Makes for better and fairer decisions**
Local residents know best what their neighborhood needs. When they meet face to face, they often decide to focus budget proposals on communities with the greatest needs.
- **Develops active and democratic citizens**
Community members, staff, and officials learn democracy by doing it. They gain more understanding of complex political issues and community needs.
- **Builds communities and strengthens community organizations**
People get to know their neighbors and feel more connected to their city. Local organizations get to spend less time lobbying, and more time deciding policies themselves. Budget assemblies connect groups and attract new members.
- **Makes government more accountable and efficient**
When community members decide spending through democratic voting, there are fewer opportunities for corruption, waste, or costly public backlash.
- **Connects politicians and constituents**
Politicians build closer relationships with their constituents. Community members get to know their elected officials and local governments.

PB IN ACTION

New York City

In 2011, four New York City Council Members launched a PB process to let residents allocate part of their capital discretionary funds. In 2013, five more Council Members joined PBNYC, giving the community decision-making power over around \$12 million in taxpayer money.

Vallejo, California

The City of Vallejo launched the first city-wide PB process in the US, for \$3.2 million in sales tax revenues. PB Vallejo began with public assemblies in October 2012 and concluded with a vote in May 2013.

Toronto Community Housing

In 2001, Toronto's public housing authority began to engage tenants in allocating \$9 million of capital funding per year. Tenants identify local infrastructure priorities in building meetings, and then budget delegates from each building meet to decide which priorities receive funding.

Guelph Neighborhood Support Coalition

A coalition of grassroots neighborhood groups in Guelph, Ontario, has been allocating around \$250,000 of public and foundation funds since

PARTICIPATE!

To learn more and get involved, contact The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) at the addresses below. PBP is a non-profit organization that empowers communities to decide how to spend public money, by working with governments and organizations to develop PB processes.

www.participatorybudgeting.org
info@participatorybudgeting.org
1-347-554-7357
55 Washington Street Suite 724
Brooklyn, New York 11201 USA



PBP
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WHO WE ARE

The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) is a non-profit organization that empowers communities to decide how to spend public money.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to empower community members to make informed, democratic, and fair decisions about public spending and revenue. We pursue this goal by working with governments and organizations to develop participatory budgeting processes, in which local people directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.

WHAT WE DO

Public Education

- Public talks
- Demo workshops
- Facilitator trainings
- Development of educational materials

Technical Assistance

- Participatory rule-making and process design
- Training & capacity-building
- Planning and facilitation of workshops & meetings
- Development of tools for deliberation & engagement
- Preparation of publicity & educational materials

Research & Evaluation

- Feasibility & scoping studies
- Development of evaluation frameworks, tools, and reports
- Participatory evaluation and research
- Facilitation of evaluation workshops
- Research on best practices

OUR IMPACT



CONTACT US

www.participatorybudgeting.org • info@participatorybudgeting.org • 1-347-554-7357 • @PBProject
55 Washington Street Suite 724, Brooklyn, New York 11201 USA

The New York Times

Putting In Their 2 Cents

By SONI SANGHA – March 30, 2012

ON a weeknight in mid-March, a room in the Park Slope Armory Y.M.C.A. that is frequently used for children’s birthday parties was packed with tables draped in pale yellow, 99-cent-store, vinyl coverings and topped with propped-up tri-fold poster boards.

About 100 people bumped and jostled their way to the snack table lined with bowls of popcorn and pretzels. Eager presenters button-holed passers-by. It looked like a middle-school science fair. But the buzz in the room wasn’t over homemade solar system models or photosynthesis; it was the sound of revolutionary civics in action.

The event in Brooklyn was part of something called participatory budgeting, in which constituents in four City Council districts were given control over a slice of their council members’ discretionary budgets — \$1 million in each district. In a process that began in October, they proposed projects, researched their viability and ran them by city agencies. This week, voters will finish choosing which of the proposals can move forward. Results are expected to be released this week.

When Keith Christiansen volunteered to take part, he didn’t expect to become the patron saint of Public School 124 bathrooms in Park Slope. Yet, whenever someone lingered near his display at the Armory, Mr. Christiansen pounced, beginning a fiery pitch about how one little vote might fix an architectural wrong that left children with little privacy in the school’s restrooms. The backdrop to his argument: photographs of toilets in stalls barely wider than the toilets themselves, where a child and a door cannot co-exist. The solution, apparently, was to omit the doors.

Under a proposal that Mr. Christiansen is championing, the girls’ bathrooms would be adjusted to include stall doors, and missing tile in the boys’ bathroom would be replaced, all at a cost of \$150,000.

“I can’t believe that this has to be on the ballot,” Mr. Christiansen said.

This is only the second time that participatory budgeting, originally developed in Brazil, has been tried in the United States, and the first time in New York City, said Josh Lerner,

executive director of the Participatory Budgeting Project, a nonprofit organization. Whether it will become entrenched here is unclear. But what is known is that over the past six months, 250 regular New Yorkers jumped into the trenches and dirtied their hands with democracy. The point of the experiment in October was to counter people's cynical view of government by inviting them to participate in the very process they mistrust. To some extent, it worked.

Of the more than a dozen participants interviewed for this article, all said the process had emboldened them to stay involved in their communities and to continue pushing their representatives to work on the projects they thought would benefit their neighborhoods. Still, skepticism runs deep. Some said they were concerned that they would ultimately be defeated by the powers that be.

"So far, I love feeling like we have some say in what is done," said Maggie Tobin, a participant from Kensington, Brooklyn, in Council District 39. But as the ideas pass to the city agencies involved, she said, "I find myself already being distrustful."

PARTICIPATORY budgeting was created in 1989, when the city government in Porto Alegre, Brazil, responded to a call by civic groups for more input into government decisions. Used as a way to introduce transparency and restore faith in the system, it involved residents who were on the fringes of the democratic process, like poor people. Over the years, the residents were able to build clinics and develop sewage systems in villages.

In 2004, the government leadership shifted, and local experts say that fewer people are taking part and that more than 1,000 approved projects have been stalled. Nonetheless, the practice continues in Porto Alegre and has expanded to about 300 cities in Brazil and elsewhere.

"Despite its limitations, there are strong elements that can contribute to the American society — particularly because there is a crisis and the debate about distribution of wealth is on the agenda," said Adalmir Antonio Marquetti, a professor of economics at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil and an authority on participatory budgeting.

Except for an alderman in Chicago who started the process in his district two years ago, politicians haven't exactly been champing at the bit to hand over control of their budgets. But there has been a gentle nudge by the Participatory Budgeting Project to introduce the concept to other cities. It hosted talks in New York City, where the Chicago alderman, Joe Moore, and other experts discussed the process.

Ultimately, Mr. Lerner painted a compelling picture of engaged residents that persuaded four council members to take part: Brad Lander of Brooklyn, who represents Ms. Tobin and Mr. Christiansen; Melissa Mark-Viverito, whose district includes the Upper West Side, East Harlem and Mott Haven in the Bronx; Eric A. Ulrich, who represents the Rockaways in Queens; and Jumaane D. Williams, whose district stretches from East Flatbush to Midwood, Brooklyn.

The proposals gave a clear picture of each district's priorities. In Ms. Mark-Viverito's district, park, school and public-housing improvements were common topics. In Mr. Ulrich's district, beachfront and parks projects dominated. For Mr. Lander's district, schools were a main concern. And in Mr. Williams's area, projects involving security cameras, lighting, youth programs and schools were proposed.

One of the goals of the process was to involve people who weren't already active in politics. That seems to have been at least partially achieved: While some of the participants were affiliated with civic-minded organizations, almost 40 percent said they rarely voted in elections, according to data from the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, an advocacy group that collected information throughout the participatory budget process. About 20 percent of participants had household incomes under \$25,000, and more than half were female.

Ms. Tobin, of Kensington, is what some would call a squeaky wheel. After a car accident left a neighborhood boy in a wheelchair and another car crashed into another neighbor's home, she has been lobbying the Transportation Department to put a stop sign at Chester Avenue and Louisa Street, using a barrage of phone calls, pictures and e-mails. She has contacted the department so often, she said, that officials know her by name; she thinks they recognize her by sight, too, since they seem to duck her at community board meetings.

The participants became part of the budget process in different ways. Some heard about it by word of mouth. Others were invited by a civics group or their council members, as in Ms. Tobin's case. "I feel like Kensington has been overlooked by politicians for many years now," she said, adding that her goal was to change that.

Ms. Tobin's stop-sign project wasn't big enough for the budget process: projects had to be able to last at least five years with minimal maintenance, and each proposal had to cost at least \$35,000. Ideas for how to spend the money came from seemingly everywhere, not just

the people who signed on to participate. There was a Web site that allowed people to submit ideas, and there were neighborhood assemblies, where more proposals were gathered.

At the initial meetings in October, council members and people working with the Participatory Budgeting Project laid out the process for constituents, and from there, some people volunteered to be budget delegates. The delegates broke into smaller committees based on their interests and the scope of the proposals — transportation, parks, education and more. They spent the next five months looking into every suggestion that came their way.

Ms. Tobin seized the opportunity to address the absence of green space in Kensington. To illustrate, she animatedly explained that about 20 children practiced Mexican folk dancing for hours every week on the sidewalk on her block. Around the corner on low-traffic Sabbath days, Ecuadoreans play soccer in the middle of a street near a synagogue.

One way to increase green space, Ms. Tobin thought, would be to expand a traffic triangle that had recently been created and landscaped at Church Avenue and 35th Street. She proposed making it larger and adding a human sundial, through which a person's shadow will tell time from cities across the world. Not everyone on her streets and sidewalks committee believed that was the best use of public money.

Another group wanted to create a safer way to cross the intersection at Ocean Parkway and Church Avenue, which the group called a deathtrap, saying that the lights change before pedestrians can clear the street.

“It wasn't always about Wi-Fi in the park or rosebuds on every corner,” Colin Klebanoff of Kensington said, adding that he uses that crosswalk regularly and had nearly been run down more times than he could count. That kicked off a debate over whether the community first needed a place to congregate or a safe way to get to a place to congregate.

“Sometimes the discussions got uncomfortable,” Ms. Tobin said, adding that she often bit her lip to keep from screaming. “It seemed like our group was torn between form over function or function over form.”

Though they couldn't always see eye to eye, they united over a common bond: a feeling that government agencies — in this case, the Transportation Department — weren't really interested in their ideas.

For Ms. Tobin, that feeling was encapsulated by the department's response to her proposal, which felt like a dismissal, even if it didn't directly turn her down. "The 35th Street Triangle Public Space Proposal will continue to be developed as local groups work to meet Department of Transportation requirements for pedestrian plazas," the department wrote in an e-mail. (Later, it told her that her plan would require an agreement with a nonprofit agency willing to maintain the space and that it also didn't have time to study the feasibility of closing the nearby street before the voting was scheduled.)

At the onset of the participatory budgeting process, Councilman Lander shared Ms. Tobin's concern about dealing with the agencies. But he felt different at the end.

"I understand why people might have found the system bureaucratic or slow to get responses out," he said. "But I found the agencies kind of excited."

FOR a project to make it onto the ballot, government agencies were supposed to give a thumbs up. Generally, initial ideas were vetted by the delegates through at least one face-to-face meeting with a representative of the appropriate agency. After that, most committees relied on council members' staff to serve as liaisons.

Some delegates wouldn't be swayed from their goals, even if the government agencies were less than enthusiastic. In East Flatbush, a parks committee envisioned a green wonderland for children. It had in mind a series of landscaped areas livening up the streets that neighborhood children use to walk to school. The vision included gardens where students would grow and sell vegetables, some needing greenhouses, vertical walls for plants or pavilions. The plan also involved better use of existing gardens, like the one on the playground next to Public School 152.

When the committee sent the idea to the parks department, it was told that the plan couldn't be financed through the participatory budgeting process, said Susannah Laskaris, who worked on the proposal and who teaches gardening at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Ms. Laskaris said she was told that some elements of the proposal didn't fall under the parks department's jurisdiction, but that other aspects might be appropriate for alternative sources like Grow NYC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental issues.

Ms. Laskaris and her committee, originally invigorated with a vision, felt defeated. "Our conversations started to get to the point of, What are we doing this for? Just potholes?" she said.

They also felt that there were parts of the plan, especially improvements for infrastructure like fencing and a water fountain, that could make an existing garden more useable and that fell within the scope of participatory budgeting, Ms. Laskaris said.

Vickie Karp, a parks department spokeswoman, said the agency had no direct role in the project or authority over it, “so it’s not about our agency per se.”

The group said it believed strongly that its neighborhood needed a proposal like this, and it would not scale back. In the end, Councilman Williams added it to the ballot. Now, Mr. Williams said, his constituents “understand the hurdles and obstacles they have to get through” for the project. “If, as a community, they decide they want to get through them together,” he added, “I’m all for that.”

GETTING your council member to sign on is one thing, but swaying voters is another. That is Mr. Christiansen’s concern. In a district where schools are everything, he says, he will have to make a leap of faith to trust that his neighbors will look beyond their zoned school in voting for projects. But if he can make that jump, he says, there’s no reason others can’t.

Mr. Christiansen’s original idea was to create a green laboratory and outdoor teaching space at Middle School 88 in Park Slope, where he teaches English. But when he saw the needs at other schools, he pulled his own project from his committee. During the budgeting process, every committee was asked to whittle its proposals to roughly five that would get on the ballot. To get there, Mr. Christiansen and his fellow committee members decided to use need — which they collectively decided to measure by the percentage of students in the schools receiving free lunches — as the deciding factor. They also looked for projects at schools that had no advocates on the committee, which is how Mr. Christiansen became the champion for a project at a school in which he had never set foot.

Throughout the process, there was argument and debate, some heated and some healthy. But that is exactly what Mr. Christiansen and other participants said was the most positive part. Agencies and politicians aside, strangers found a way to work together and commit to honoring one another’s priorities, while considering the good of their neighborhoods. And that ultimately was the point. “Maybe I should’ve fought for the garden at my school and ducked for cover,” Mr. Christiansen said. “Now I’m arguing for some complete strangers’ toilets.”

Luis Vieira contributed reporting from Porto Alegre, Brazil.

More Information on Project Implementation & the 49th Ward Participatory Budgeting Process

Alderman Moore will submit the projects that win the most votes, up to \$1 million, to the City of Chicago and its sister agencies for implementation. All the projects listed on the ballot are feasible to the best of our knowledge, yet most require final approval from the City of Chicago or its sister agencies. Thus, while Alderman Moore pledges to request funding and advocate for the winning projects, he cannot guarantee that the government agencies will grant final approval to each and every project request.

Reasons that projects may not be approved include: interference with previously planned projects, legal restrictions, and policy decisions of the governmental entities. If a winning project cannot be implemented for any reason, Alderman Moore will use the allocated money to fund the next runner-up project that falls within the budget.

Not all of the funded projects will be completed in the 2012 construction season. Required project approval procedures or construction work by utilities or other agencies may prevent some projects from being completed this year. Funds for projects not completed this year will be held in reserve and used to complete the projects in the following year(s). For up-to-date information on the status of the various projects, visit participatorybudgeting49.wordpress.com, call (773) 338-5796 or email ward49@cityofchicago.org.

representatives and participatory budgeting leadership committee members for their dedication and service to this bold experiment in direct democracy. Also thanks to the many dedicated employees at the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra and Union Pacific for their expertise; and to ODA Creative Partners for their generous contribution of design services.

All projects on the ballot were suggested and vetted by 49th Ward residents. Initial suggestions for projects came out of brainstorming sessions at a series of nine neighborhood assemblies held throughout the Ward in October and November 2011. The suggestions were then debated and researched by over 60 neighborhood residents who volunteered at the neighborhood assemblies to serve as "community representatives."

From December 2011 through April 2012, the community representatives met regularly in 5 committees (Arts & Innovation, Parks & Environment, Streets, Traffic and Public Safety, and Transportation) to decide which project proposals to place on this year's ballot. The proposals were submitted to 49th Ward residents for final input and review at three neighborhood assemblies in April 2012.

Participation in the 49th Ward participatory budgeting process as a community representative and/or as an attendee at a neighborhood assembly was entirely voluntary and open to all 49th Ward residents age 16 and over, regardless of citizenship or voter registration status.

The 49th Ward participatory budgeting leadership committee developed the rules and procedures for this process. For a list of all members of the community-led leadership committee, visit participatorybudgeting49.wordpress.com.

Many thanks to the community

Participatory Budgeting in the 49th Ward

BALLOT

VOTING ASSEMBLY

Saturday, April 28, 2012
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Chicago Math and Science Academy
7212 N. Clark St.

EARLY VOTING

Monday, April 23 – Friday, April 27, 2012
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Wednesday & Friday until 7 p.m.)
Ward 49 Service Office, 7356 N. Greenview Ave.
And at other selected locations, www.ward49.com

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Please note, you will be asked to vote on two separate ballot questions.

First, you will be asked to cast one (1) vote on the percentage of the 2012 49th Ward aldermanic menu budget that you believe should be devoted exclusively to street resurfacing. The average of all the votes cast on this question will determine the percentage of the menu budget that will be allocated to street resurfacing.

Second, you will be asked to vote on how the remainder of the 2012 49th Ward menu money should be allocated. You may vote for up to six (6) projects. Only one vote may be cast for each project – no weighted voting. Ballots marked with more than 6 votes are invalid and will be voided. All 49th Ward residents, age 16 and over are eligible to vote.

HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTES:

Mark boxes clearly with an "X" or check mark, or fully shade them in, with black or blue ink. No ballots marked in pencil will be accepted.

The projects that win the most votes, up to \$1 million, will be submitted to the City of Chicago and its sister agencies for implementation. See the back of the ballot for more details.

Alderman Joe Moore and the 49th Ward Participatory Budgeting Leadership Committee

STREETS *Prioritized by the Streets Committee*

BALLOT QUESTION NUMBER 1

What percentage of the total budget should go toward street resurfacing? (Select One)

Note: The average cost for the first five blocks of resurfaced streets is \$36,000 per block. Due to federal requirements for handicapped ramps, the average cost for any street resurfaced after the first five blocks is \$58,000 per block.

PERCENTAGE of Budget that Should Be Spent on Street Resurfacing	COST	NUMBER of Blocks Repaved
<input type="checkbox"/> 100%	\$ 1,000,000	19
<input type="checkbox"/> 90%	\$ 900,000	17
<input type="checkbox"/> 80%	\$ 800,000	15
<input type="checkbox"/> 70%	\$ 700,000	14
<input type="checkbox"/> 60%	\$ 600,000	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 50%	\$ 500,000	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 40%	\$ 400,000	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 30%	\$ 300,000	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 20%	\$ 200,000	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 10%	\$ 100,000	3
<input type="checkbox"/> 0%	\$ -	0

Note: The Streets Committee of the 49th Ward Participatory Budgeting Initiative identified and prioritized the streets most in need of resurfacing. The following streets will be resurfaced in priority order depending on the percentage of this year's budget that will be devoted to streets.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 2000 W Jarvis Ave - Damen Ave to Seeley Ave | 11. 6800 N Ravenswood Ave -west side - Pratt Ave to Farwell Ave |
| 2. 2050 W Jarvis Ave - Seeley Ave to Hoyne Ave | 12. 6900 N Ravenswood Ave -west side - Farwell Ave to Morse Ave |
| 3. 2100 W Jarvis Ave - Hoyne Ave | 13. 7100 N Paulina Ave - Estes Ave to Touhy Ave |
| 4. 1750 W Morse Ave - Clark St to Ravenswood Ave | 14. 7500 N Claremont Ave - Birchwood Ave to Howard St |
| 5. 1734 W North Shore Ave - Hermitage Ave to Ravenswood Ave | 15. 1800 W Estes Ave - Ravenswood Ave to Wolcott Ave |
| 6. 1700 W North Shore Ave - Clark St to Hermitage Ave | 16. 1600 W Greenleaf Ave - Ashland Ave to Paulina Ave |
| 7. 7600 N Bosworth Ave - Howard St to Jonquil Ter | 17. 7051 N Clark St (Alley north of Greenleaf Ave) |
| 8. 7050 N Glenwood Ave - Greenleaf Ave to Estes Ave | 18. 7400 N Seeley Ave - Jarvis Ave to Fargo Ave |
| 9. 7100 N Glenwood Ave - Estes Ave to Touhy Ave | 19. 1700 W Wallen Ave (share with 40th Ward) - Clark St to Metra |
| 10. 7600 N Marshfield Ave (Alley north of Howard St) | 20. 7400 N Damen Ave - Jarvis Ave to Fargo Ave |

BALLOT QUESTION NUMBER 2

How should the remaining portion of the 49th Ward menu money be allocated?

You may vote for up to six (6) projects from the 21 projects below/right. (Select no more than six)

TRAFFIC & PUBLIC SAFETY

COST

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. New Residential Street Lights: West Juneway Terrace, from Ashland Ave. to Sheridan Rd.
Install new lights to this narrow, one-way street with old lighting and heavy tree coverage. | \$130,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. New Residential Street Lights: Estes Ave., from Ashland Ave. to Glenwood Ave.
Install new lights to this two-way street with old lighting and heavy tree coverage. | \$130,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. New Residential Street Lights: North Glenwood Ave, east of CTA tracks, Lunt Ave. to Touhy Ave.
Install new lights to this heavily trafficked area on the east side of the CTA Red-line tracks. | \$128,000 |

TRAFFIC & PUBLIC SAFETY (CONT.)

COST

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. New Residential Street Lights: West Sherwin Ave. from Sheridan Rd. east to the Lake.
Install new lights to a block used by many senior citizens from nearby residential facilities. | \$65,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Flood Lights: Chase and Birchwood Aves, from Ridge Blvd. to Damen Ave.
Install flood lights to 2 locations for a total of 4 lights to eliminate dark spots and address safety concerns. | \$2,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Relieve Parking and Traffic Congestion Eastbound on Jarvis Ave. at Clark Street.
Alleviate congestion and traffic back-up by removing three parking spaces closest to Clark. | \$16,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Improve Pedestrian Safety at 4 Ridge Avenue Pedestrian Crossings.
Standardize the four pedestrian crosswalks without traffic lights on Ridge Ave. at Fargo, Chase, Estes, and Greenleaf. | \$70,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Improve Pedestrian Safety Crossing at Howard Street CTA Transportation Center
Restripe the crosswalk on the west side of the intersection and add pedestrian crossing signals to the current traffic light. | \$17,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Pottawattomie Park Pedestrian Safety
Restripe crosswalks and add "state law is to stop for pedestrians in crosswalk" signs to Wolcott and Rogers Avenues, and restripe and install ADA pedestrian ramps on Honore Street. | \$22,000 |

PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. New Playground at Touhy Park
This money would complete the funding package to replace the current 22-year-old playground and create a new rubber-surface playground with separate play spaces for younger and older children. | \$125,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Albion Lakeside Park
Transform an isolated, unused gravel parking lot at end of Albion by Lake Michigan into a dune restoration area and garden. | \$150,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Pottawattomie Park Water Feature
Replace the old, often non-functioning feature with a new water activity installation, giving kids a break from summer heat. | \$75,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. New Drinking Fountains at Paschen and Loyola Parks
Install three new drinking fountains. One at Paschen Park and two at Loyola Park. | \$24,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Leone Beach Path Extension
Improve Leone Beach by adding a ramp for wheelchair and stroller accessibility. | \$42,000 |

ARTS & INNOVATION

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Art = Rogers Park: Underpass Mural Project
Create new murals at 20+ remaining, un-painted viaducts and the embankment wall next to Dubkin Park. | \$120,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Leaf Out the 49th Ward: Trees for Rogers Park
Plant 100+ replacement trees in the parkways of Ashland, Damen, Farwell, and Rogers to provide beauty and relief from summer heat. | \$75,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17. You Are Here: Visitor Information Stations
Install 5 info sites (CTA and Metra stations) with a Rogers Park map, that includes artistic, historical, & geographical highlights. | \$175,000 |

TRANSPORTATION

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Urgent Sidewalk Repairs
Repair six locations in the most critical need of replacement, where whole missing sections of pavement or large cracks create risks. | \$150,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Metra Station Platform - New shelter and benches
Install a new three-sided, glass-and-metal shelter running half the length of the inbound platform, with full bench, to protect south-bound riders from the wind and rain. | \$125,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Bus Stop Benches.
Place new black metal benches with contor armrest at 16 bus stops, especially on Howard and Clark. | \$39,200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Shared Bike Lane on Clark, from Howard to Wallen
Apply striping indicating a shared lane for bicycles along 1.25 miles of Clark Street in both directions. | \$60,000 |

More Information on Participatory Budgeting in the City of Vallejo, CA

What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process that was first developed in Brazil in 1989, and is now practiced in over 1,500 cities around the world. In these cities, PB lets community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. Though each PB initiative looks different, the process generally involves several months of public meetings, discussions, and voting, so that the public has time to make wise decisions.

How does Participatory Budgeting work in Vallejo?

In 2012, the Vallejo City Council established the first citywide Participatory Budgeting process in the United States. Through PB, the community is invited to help decide how to spend a minimum of 30% of the revenue generated by the Measure B sales tax - approximately \$3.2 million, collected over a 15 month period from April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Last fall, residents like you came to assemblies to identify community needs and suggest projects. Then, volunteers joined delegate committees to develop those suggestions into project proposals, and worked with city departments to estimate project costs. They put together the proposals you will vote on today.

Now is your chance to vote for the projects you think should get funded. The projects with the most votes, will be submitted to City Council for consideration and will be appropriated into the city's budget in Fiscal Year 2013-14.

You'll get to enjoy the improvements you help make happen.



Credits

Special thanks to the Vallejo City Council, PB Vallejo Steering Committee, The Participatory Budgeting Project, the Budget Delegates, and all the volunteers and participants!

For more information:

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(347) 554-7357



Your City. Your Ideas. Your Vote.

Participatory Budgeting Vallejo OFFICIAL BALLOT 2013

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- All residents of Vallejo ages 16 and older may vote.
- You may vote for up to six (6) projects.
- You cannot vote for the same project more than once.
- Ballots marked with more than six votes are invalid and will not be counted.
- Mark boxes clearly with an "X," a check mark, or fully shade them in.
- Use black or blue ink. Ballots marked in pencil will not be counted.

STREETS & TRANSPORTATION

COST

<input type="checkbox"/>	A1. Potholes and Street Repair This project supplements the Public Works budget for street repair/maintenance. Vote for a smooth ride and improve Vallejo's image!	\$550,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	A2. Traffic Calming Measures (Bike Lanes included) More traffic calming measures, including additional bike lanes, will create a safer city for pedestrians, drivers and bike riders.	\$415,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	A3. Street Cleaning & City Cleanup This project would contract with California Conservation Corps to hire local youth for neighborhood cleanups.	\$120,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	A4. Mare Island Way Welcome Arch A downtown entry arch will establish Vallejo as a great destination rich in culture, arts, history, poised for a bright future. <i>Mare Island Way & Georgia Street</i>	\$130,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	A5. Public Sidewalks Around Hillcrest Area Replacing these sidewalks will bring them up to standard code, safe for public use and usable for all disabled people. <i>Vallejo Heights Hillcrest Subdivision</i>	\$870,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

<input type="checkbox"/>	B1. Small Business Grants for Mare Island and Downtown Multiple \$5-30K grants are proposed to help with start-up costs or improvements for businesses on Mare Island or Downtown Vallejo. <i>Downtown & Mare Island</i>	\$300,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	B2. College Bound Vallejo 2 College Counselors & 30 4-year scholarships. Goal: serve all Vallejo students; double number of Vallejo students going to college. <i>Vallejo High Schools</i>	\$320,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	B3. The Vallejo Flea Market The Solano AIDS Coalition will plan and operate a weekly flea market in downtown Vallejo. The market will operate on Saturdays and is open to all. <i>301 Georgia Street</i>	\$25,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	B4. Community Discovery Project to Brand Vallejo A communitywide program to discover & brand the good things you say about Vallejo, which will create a better image for our home!	\$230,500
<input type="checkbox"/>	B5. Small Business Planning Training in Spanish Solano College Small Business Development Center will deliver two 12-week classes for 20 micro entrepreneurs, in Spanish. <i>Solano Community College</i>	\$33,000

COMMUNITY & CULTURE

<input type="checkbox"/>	C1. Vallejo Blues & Heritage Festival To bring back what was once a successful Blues Festival, which honored the great music history of the City of Vallejo. <i>Waterfront</i>	\$92,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	C2. Florence Douglas & Conversations Senior Centers FDSC - Emergency lighting, flooring and energy efficient windows. CSL - Seniors socialize, listen/play live music, games and dance. <i>FDSC, 333 Amador Street; Conversations Senior Lounge, 312 Georgia Street</i>	\$109,150
<input type="checkbox"/>	C3. Bring Back the Vallejo Pow-Wow Funding for Vallejo Intertribal Council's Native American Pow-Wow gathering. <i>Waterfront</i>	\$20,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	C4. Public Art Project to Honor Vallejo's Music Legends Artwork will honor "Music Legends of Vallejo" and will be placed in public venues to promote a positive image of Vallejo. <i>Vallejo City Hall, Libraries, Public Health Department, Courts</i>	\$50,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	C5. Volunteer and Community Resource Coordinator New staff position at the City to research & maintain info on volunteer opportunities and needs, and other community activities. <i>Vallejo City Hall</i>	\$75,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	C6. The Spay Neuter Project Remodel former Glen Cove Veterinary Office to Vallejo's 1st high volume, high quality, low and no cost Spay and Neuter Clinic. <i>1235 Warren Avenue</i>	\$165,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	C7. Community Center Space at Mira Theater - New Roof Replace roof to preserve historic community center and theater with approximately 15,000 sq ft of mixed-use facilities. <i>Bay Terrace Theater, 51 Daniels Avenue</i>	\$80,000

PUBLIC SAFETY

COST

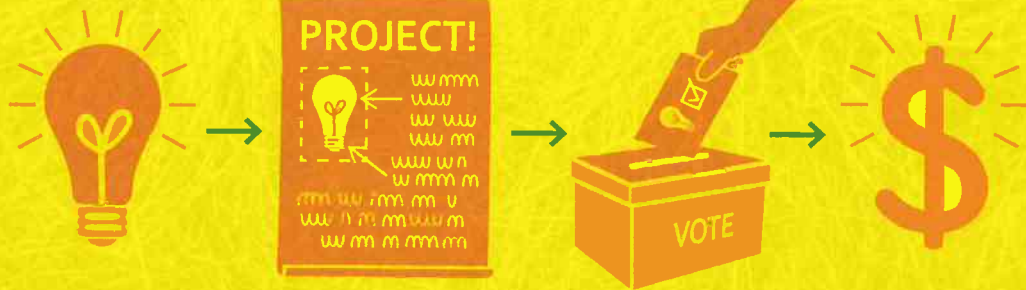
<input type="checkbox"/>	D1. Light Up Vallejo! A Lighting Improvement Project In an effort to improve public safety, 40 new street light poles and decorative tree lights will be installed across Vallejo. <i>Public and Residential Areas</i>	\$170,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	D2. 150 Camera Pilot with Intelligent Archives One year Pilot evaluates use of intelligent archives to watch cameras & license plates, by detectives, prosecutors, and police. <i>Waterfront, Downtown and High Crime areas, as prioritized by VPD.</i>	\$450,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	D3. Make our Streets Safer with a Driving Simulator To reduce the number of police-involved collisions, a driving simulator for the VPD will enhance their emergency driving skills. <i>Vallejo Police Department</i>	\$100,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	D4. New Armored Rescue and Communications Vehicles Purchase an armored rescue vehicle and a tactical communications vehicle to improve emergency response and combat violent crime.	\$270,000

PARKS & RECREATION

<input type="checkbox"/>	E1. Outdoor Fitness Equipment at Waterfront Family-friendly, free fitness equipment to help complete your full cardio workout at the Waterfront.	\$50,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	E2. GVRD Tennis Facilities Improvement Resurface all GVRD supported courts, fix lights/fencing/hitting walls. PB funding combines with matching \$225K. <i>Amador, Castlewood, Glen Cove, Setterquist Parks</i>	\$130,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	E3. Mare Island Heritage Preserve and Historic Park Your vote will ensure needed safety upgrades, repairs and beautification improvements to both city-owned, nonprofit-run parks. <i>800 & 822 Walnut Avenue; 1100 & 1595 Railroad Avenue, Mare Island</i>	\$280,500
<input type="checkbox"/>	E4. Parks and Recreation Improvements Facilities at Vallejo's parks & recreation sites need repair and upgrades. This project includes improvements at 13 sites. <i>Beverly Hills Park, Blue Rock Springs, Borges Park, Crest Ranch Park, Delta Meadows Park, Grant Mahoney Park, Hanns Memorial Park, N. Vallejo Park, Richardson Park, Terrace Park, Washington Park, Bocce Courts, PAL Soccer Fields</i>	\$621,500
<input type="checkbox"/>	E5. Community Gardens and Nutrition Education Develop ten gardens across Vallejo to serve as safe spaces to grow food, beautify neighborhoods, educate kids, and decrease crime. <i>Jesse Bethel High, Loma Vista Farm, Omega Boys & Girls Club, Cave Language Academy, Cal Maritime, Global Center for Success, Renaissance Family Center, Mira Theater Guild, Kyle's Temple, St. Vinnie's Community Garden</i>	\$146,500
<input type="checkbox"/>	E6. After School Program Facilities & Mobile Rec Unit Repairs to Hogan Middle School facilities and purchase of a mobile recreation unit to provide new GVRD programming in locations citywide. <i>After School Program Facilities: Hogan Middle School, Castlewood Park & Cunningham Pool; Mobile Rec Unit: Parks, Schools, & Community Centers</i>	\$170,000

EDUCATION

<input type="checkbox"/>	F1. Vallejo Museum: Community Outreach & Education The project will educate Vallejoans about Vallejo's history with pop-up banner exhibits, displays in the community, & oral history. <i>734 Marin Street</i>	\$29,450
<input type="checkbox"/>	F2. VallejoPROUD VallejoPROUD produces 12 free lectures on Vallejo at the Empress Theatre. Recordings will be distributed via VCAT and on DVD. <i>Empress Theatre, VCAT, Vallejo Architectural Heritage Foundation</i>	\$136,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	F3. Vallejo School Marching Band Programs This project proposes to enhance the band programs at our schools through the purchase of instruments and materials. <i>Hogan, Solano & Franklin Middle Schools; Vallejo, Jesse Bethel High Schools</i>	\$200,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	F4. Mira Theatre Guild Summer Arts Education Program 12-week summer program for kids ages 8-17 focusing on the arts. The program (M-F, 7am-6pm) promises a learning environment. <i>Bay Terrace Theater, 51 Daniels Avenue</i>	\$80,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	F5. Support School Libraries & STEAM Program Funding for school libraries & equipment for Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts & Math (S.T.E.A.M.) program at middle schools. <i>Vallejo, Jesse Bethel HS Libraries; Hogan, Solano & Franklin Middle Schools, Loma Vista & Highland Elementary Schools</i>	\$270,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	F6. Omega Boys & Girls Club Gym Renovation The gym needs repairs to the floor, upgrade to stage with lighting & sound, a drop down screen, projector, and stage drapes. <i>1 Positive Place</i>	\$60,000



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