

# Budget Priority Survey & Budget Challenge

City Council Meeting  
September 15, 2015



# Introduction

- The Budget Priority Survey and the Budget Challenge were implemented in response to the City Council's interest in obtaining resident feedback regarding their budget priorities prior to the adoption of the FY 16 Budget
- The survey tools went "live" on August 1, and the results were summarized based on the responses received as of September 14th
- The survey tools do not preclude multiple responses from a single individual, nor do they attempt to balance the responses from all segments of the community



# Budget Priority Survey

- Participants were asked to rate 35 City services as being:
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not very important
  - Not at all important
- Survey was available online and through hard copy handouts, which were distributed at community budget meetings. Hard copies were available in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog
- 610 survey responses had been received as of September 14th



# Budget Priority Survey

## Demographics of Respondents

### Council District

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non-Resident
13	47	136	77	105	17	34	34	17	62	11
2%	9%	25%	14%	19%	3%	6%	6%	3%	11%	2%

### Age

0-18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
2	28	75	85	121	158	112
0%	5%	13%	15%	21%	27%	19%

### Household Size

1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
112	251	101	75	32	10	2
19%	43%	17%	13%	6%	2%	0%



# Budget Priority Survey

- To provide a means for the comparison of the results, each response to each service was assigned a “weight”

Very important	4 points
Somewhat important	3 points
Not very important	2 points
Not at all important	1 point

- The total points for each service was divided by the number of responses received for each service to obtain a “weighted average”
- When considering the results, it is important to remember the general demographics of respondents. The results may have been different if a scientific sampling methodology had been utilized



# Budget Priority Survey

Service	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not at All Important	Weighted Average
Maintaining a low crime rate	80%	16%	2%	0%	3.79
Providing fire protection services	69%	25%	5%	0%	3.64
Maintaining and repairing streets (fixing potholes, etc.)	66%	29%	3%	1%	3.62
Maintaining and repairing public buildings (community and senior centers, fire stations, libraries, etc.)	67%	27%	5%	1%	3.62
Providing emergency medical services	68%	24%	6%	2%	3.60
Maintaining parks	55%	40%	4%	1%	3.51
Providing neighborhood police patrols	56%	33%	8%	1%	3.47
Preparing the community for emergencies or disasters	56%	34%	8%	1%	3.46
Keeping the City attractive and eliminating blight	52%	40%	6%	1%	3.45
Reducing ocean pollution by improving storm drains	54%	35%	8%	2%	3.43
Maintaining a police presence in neighborhoods	53%	37%	7%	2%	3.42
Planning for the future of the city	50%	39%	7%	1%	3.42
Maintaining and repairing sidewalks	51%	41%	8%	1%	3.41
Providing prompt graffiti removal services	50%	39%	9%	1%	3.38
Providing well-lit city streets	49%	40%	9%	1%	3.38
Providing nuisance abatement programs (loitering, illegal drug activity, excessive noise, etc.)	51%	36%	10%	2%	3.37
Providing free or low-cost recreation programs for youth	50%	36%	10%	2%	3.37
Providing access to libraries (hours of operation)	50%	35%	10%	4%	3.33



# Budget Priority Survey

Service	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not at All Important	Weighted Average
Providing specialized Police units (property crimes, directed enforcement, etc.)	47%	35%	13%	2%	3.31
Providing new Library books, ebooks, media and access to technology	45%	38%	12%	4%	3.24
Providing community park programs for youth and teens	41%	40%	14%	3%	3.21
Providing code enforcement services (citing blighted buildings, etc.)	37%	46%	13%	2%	3.21
Enforcing traffic laws	39%	37%	18%	4%	3.13
Providing services for the homeless	39%	39%	15%	5%	3.13
Providing library programs and services (reading, homework help, etc.)	39%	37%	17%	6%	3.09
Providing animal care/animal control services	34%	44%	18%	3%	3.09
Providing business assistance and supporting economic development	31%	44%	18%	4%	3.05
Providing environmental sustainability programs	34%	38%	19%	6%	3.02
Trimming trees on residential streets	25%	53%	19%	2%	3.01
Providing programs for seniors	26%	47%	20%	4%	2.97
Providing arts and cultural programs	31%	40%	21%	7%	2.96
Creating new parks and open space	24%	39%	27%	7%	2.82
Prosecuting all adult misdemeanor crimes committed in the City	25%	37%	25%	9%	2.81
Providing special events and programs for families	20%	41%	28%	7%	2.76
Providing translating services (Language Access)	13%	34%	29%	19%	2.43



# Budget Priority Survey

## Comments

- 321 written comments were received
- More than 40% of the comments expressed support for infrastructure improvements for Rancho Los Alamitos
- The remainder of the comments concerned a wide variety of issues, both big and small. Topics include:
  - Public Safety
  - Parking
  - Sidewalks
  - Traffic
  - Libraries
  - Survey format
  - Pensions





# Budget Challenge

- Provides the participant an opportunity to balance the City's General Fund budget, while deciding if existing funding levels should be changed
- For each department, or group of departments, participants could choose:
  - Status quo
  - Cut by 2%
  - Cut by 5%
  - Increase by 2%
  - Increase by 5%
- Participants could also choose to increase revenues to enhance services, without reducing services in others. Revenue options included a sales tax increase, a UUT increase, or a parcel tax



# Budget Challenge

- 200 responses had been received as of September 14th
- Only 60% (120) of the participants actually completed the challenge. Many simply abandoned the Budget Challenge after taking a look at it or completing one or two sections
- With such a small sample, the results should not be considered to be representative of the public at large



# Budget Challenge

## Demographics of Participants

### Council District

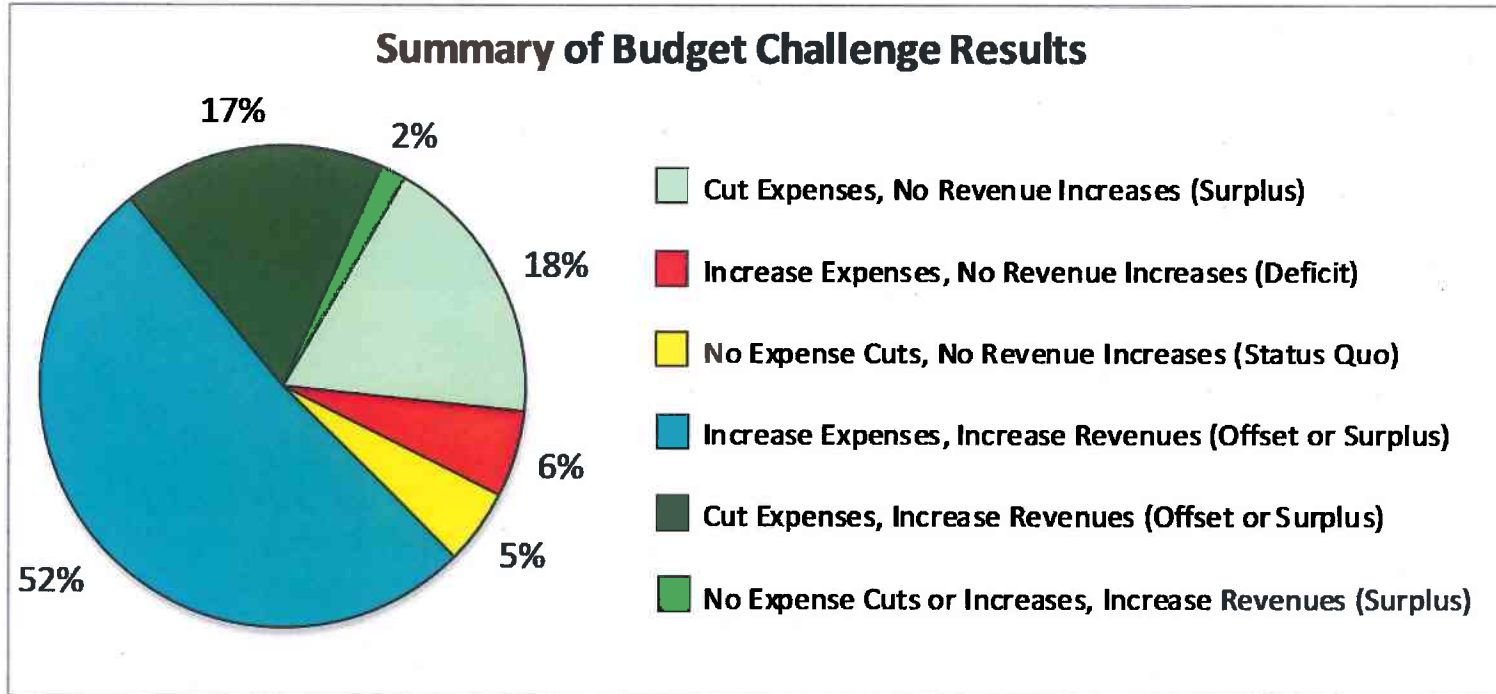
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified
6	12	34	6	18	5	6	4	5	24
5%	10%	28%	5%	15%	4%	5%	3%	4%	20%

### Age

0-18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Not Specified
1	13	23	20	43	20
1%	11%	19%	17%	36%	16%



# Budget Challenge



- 71% of participants increased revenues to support increased expenditures and/or to create a surplus.
- The previously provided report contains the results by department and revenue type



# Budget Challenge

## Comments

- 35 written comments were received. Topics include:
  - Police & Fire needs
  - Pensions & benefits
  - Budget Challenge format
  - Increased fees
  - Tax increases



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