

# Budget Priority Survey & Budget Challenge

Budget Oversight Committee  
September 1, 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 by August 27th
- 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
- 438 survey responses had been received as of August 27th





# Budget Priority Survey



## Demographics of Respondents

### Council District

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non-Resident
		36	103	50	55	14	27	26	14	48	8
	3%	9%	26%	13%	14%	4%	7%	7%	4%	12%	2%

### Age

	0-18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
		22	68	67	92	100	68
	1%	5%	16%	16%	22%	24%	16%

### Household Size

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
		183	79	55	26	6	2
	17%	44%	19%	13%	6%	1%	1%





# 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%	17%	1%	0%	3.79
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%	26%	5%	1%	3.62
Providing fire protection services	68%	25%	6%	0%	3.62
Providing emergency medical services	67%	24%	7%	2%	3.57
Maintaining parks	55%	41%	4%	0%	3.51
Providing neighborhood police patrols	56%	34%	7%	1%	3.47
Keeping the City attractive and eliminating blight	53%	40%	5%	1%	3.47
Planning for the future of the city	54%	38%	6%	1%	3.47
Preparing the community for emergencies or disasters	56%	35%	7%	2%	3.45
Maintaining and repairing sidewalks	51%	40%	8%	1%	3.42
Reducing ocean pollution by improving storm drains	54%	34%	9%	2%	3.42
Maintaining a police presence in neighborhoods	52%	38%	7%	2%	3.41
Providing prompt graffiti removal services	51%	38%	9%	1%	3.40
Providing well-lit city streets	49%	39%	9%	1%	3.38
Providing free or low-cost recreation programs for youth	50%	37%	10%	2%	3.37
Providing nuisance abatement programs (loitering, illegal drug activity, excessive noise, etc.)	50%	36%	10%	2%	3.36
Providing specialized Police units (property crimes, directed enforcement, etc.)	50%	34%	12%	2%	3.34





# Budget Priority Survey

Service	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not at All Important	Weighted Average
Providing community park programs for youth & teens	42%	42%	12%	2%	3.25
Providing code enforcement services (citing blighted buildings, etc.)	39%	46%	10%	2%	3.25
Providing access to libraries (hours of operation)	41%	42%	11%	4%	3.22
Providing new Library books, ebooks, media and access to technology	36%	45%	14%	5%	3.12
Enforcing traffic laws	37%	37%	19%	5%	3.09
Providing services for the homeless	37%	38%	17%	6%	3.08
Providing business assistance and supporting economic development	32%	44%	17%	4%	3.08
Providing environmental sustainability programs	35%	38%	18%	6%	3.04
Trimming trees on residential streets	26%	53%	18%	2%	3.04
Providing animal care/animal control services	31%	44%	20%	4%	3.03
Providing arts and cultural programs	31%	42%	20%	7%	2.98
Providing library programs and services (reading, homework help, etc.)	31%	40%	20%	7%	2.97
Providing programs for seniors	24%	48%	21%	4%	2.96
Creating new parks and open space	24%	38%	29%	6%	2.83
Providing special events and programs for families	22%	41%	27%	7%	2.80
Prosecuting all adult misdemeanor crimes committed in the City	25%	36%	26%	10%	2.80





# Budget Priority Survey

## Comments

- 231 written comments were received
- More than 50% 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:
  - Medical marijuana
  - Parking
  - Sidewalks
  - Traffic
  - Sustainability
  - Survey format







# 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

- 151 responses had been received as of August 27th
- Only 60% (90) 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
		11	29	2	5	4	6	2	9	16
5%	12%	31%	2%	5%	4%	6%	2%	10%	17%	

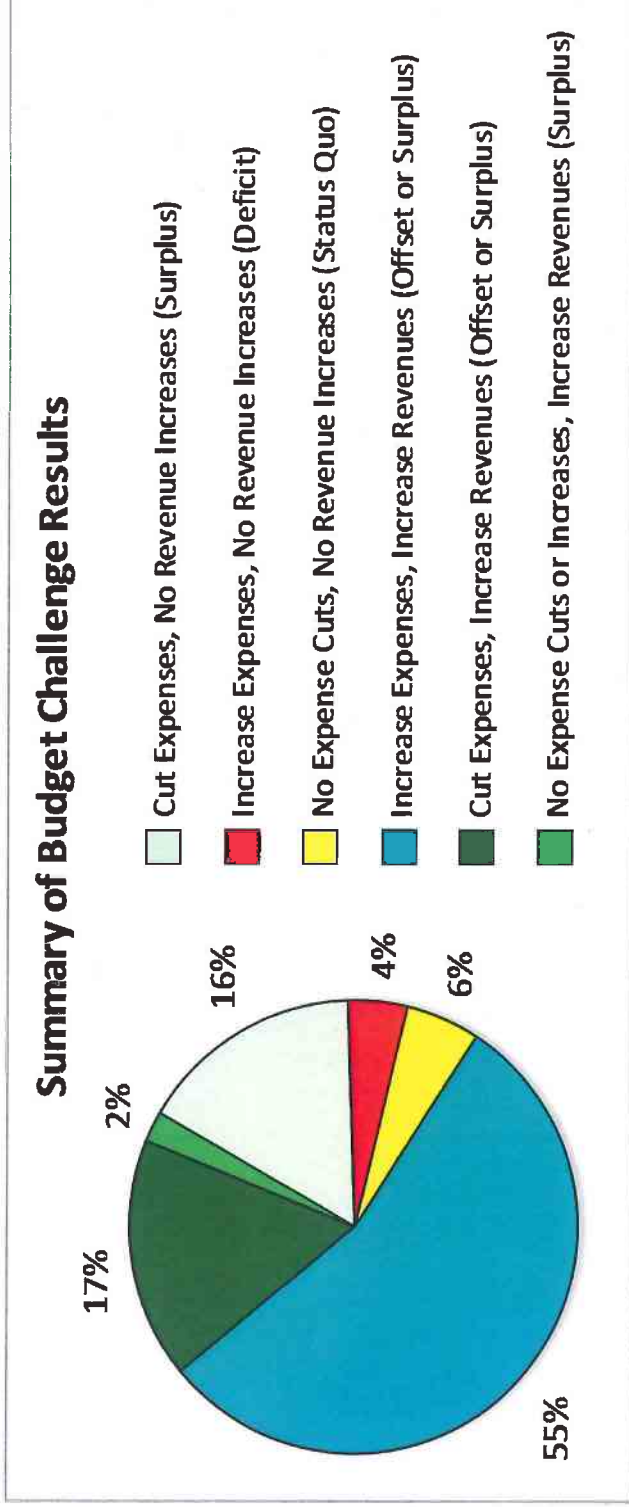
### Age

	0-18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Not Specified
1	1	11	21	17	29	14
1%	12%	23%	18%	31%	15%	





# Budget Challenge



- 74% of participants increased revenues to support increased expenditures and/or to create a surplus
- The report contains the results by department and revenue type







# Budget Challenge

## Comments

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





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