



THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

**FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

**AUTHORED BY THE
HOUSING HABITABILITY COALITION
INVEST IN YOUTH CAMPAIGN
LONG BEACH LANGUAGE ACCESS COALITION
SANCTUARY LONG BEACH CAMPAIGN**

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THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

The people who live in Long Beach have always valued diversity and belonging. Whether black, latino, white, Cambodian, or Filipino, we have been able to join together across racial differences to achieve the things we want: earning a good living, creating safe and healthy communities, and protecting our children's health.



Today, as always, Long Beach residents are working to make their lives better for themselves and their families. Despite wealthy special interests in this city who rig the rules and use their wealth to get rich off the profit we produce, it's been proven that our community's strength is grounded in our ability to form alliances.

For too long, certain neighborhoods in Long Beach have faced barriers to prosperity and wellbeing. The city's annual budget is the best opportunity for our elected officials to implement solutions that will prevent our communities from being left behind in the future.



This is why the undersigned organizations and individuals have joined together to create and endorse the People's Budget Proposal. Each year, the City of Long Beach adopts a budget that directs resources to the priorities that the Mayor and City Council vote on. A budget is not merely a spreadsheet, but a moral document that reflects our community's values and our government's commitment to the people.

The People's Budget Proposal ensures that working people struggling to make ends meet can support their families. We call on Mayor Garcia and the City Council to stand with the people of Long Beach and endorse the People's Budget Proposal for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2019 city budget.

1. IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

No matter where we were born, we all call Long Beach home and want to live in a safe, welcoming, and vibrant community. The targeted deportations and the separation of immigrants from their families have mercilessly continued to spread fear and perpetuate harmful family trauma.

Currently, there are 1,491 pending deportation cases in the Long Beach area according to the TRAC Immigration database. In the last 90 days alone, 92 deportation cases have opened up with only 17 of the individuals having legal representation. Research shows that people are 70% more likely to remain here when they have legal representation, especially within the first 24 hours of them being detained.



The guarantees of due process and representation are central to our constitutional rights – but there is no guarantee to legal representation in immigration court. The City of Long Beach’s proposed universal legal defense fund moves us closer to the vision that all people, no matter their background, should have a fair chance.

Legal representation helps protect the rights of all our residents, keeps more families together, and maintains a safe and strong community. Universal representation delivers justice for immigrants in complex proceedings that pit them against experienced government attorneys and tear communities apart every day. The fairest and most efficient way to bring order to these complex proceedings is to ensure legal representation for those whose future may well depend on it regardless of their background.

We ask for the adopted city budget to include the city council’s allocation of \$250,000 from the general fund to establish a universal legal defense fund for immigrant residents facing deportation.

2. LANGUAGE JUSTICE

Immigrants contribute to our culture and community to make Long Beach the international city that it is today. That cultural diversity includes dozens of languages that are people's connection to their culture and family. At the same time, our government should be responsive to the needs of the community and live up to our title as "The International City."



In Long Beach, 45.5% of residents speak a language other than English at home. Even more, nearly one in four residents in the city speak English less than "very well." This includes 62,814 Spanish speaking residents; 8,607 Khmer speaking residents; and 5,181 Tagalog speaking residents. For many of these residents, language becomes another barrier to community awareness and engagement.

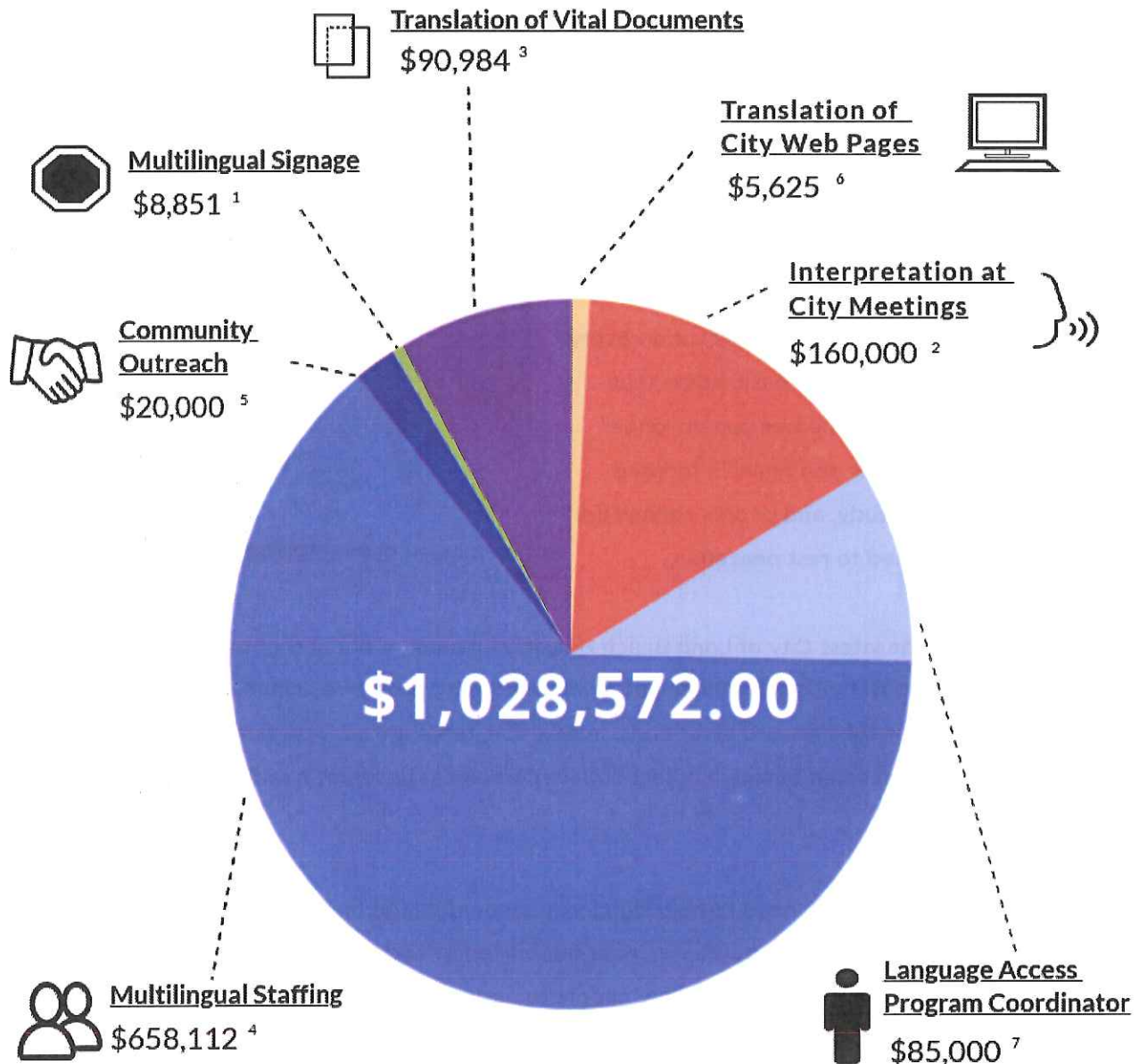
This was the basis of our city leaders adopting a Language Access Policy in 2013 to have city services and documents accessible in Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog. Providing government services to residents regardless of the language they speak increases community trust and ensures people can reliably get the help they need to be safe, participate in their community, and improve the quality of life.

Since 2013, the city council has approved limited funding that has prevented the policy from being fully implemented. This has resulted in limited access for non-English speaking residents at many city meetings, inconsistent and limited translation of documents across departments and service calls with long wait times or no staff member available to assist in the required language. With a fully implemented policy, each city department could begin to include language access in their proposed budgets so access can be consistent throughout the city.

To effectively follow through with the commitment to the city-wide Language Access Policy, we ask for the adopted city budget to include an allocation of \$1,028,572 for multilingual signage, interpretation needs, translation of vital documents and communications, and multilingual front desk staffing.

Funding the Language Access Policy for FY 2019

Long Beach Language Access Coalition



1 Required by LAP and dollar figure from LAP

2 Currently, the City spends approx. \$80,000 per year on interpretation services. Over the last 6 months, there has been a 78% increase in the demand for interpretation services. As more residents become aware of their rights pursuant to the LAP, the City will need even more resources for interpretation services.

3 Dollar figure from LAP. This is an ongoing process, as many documents still need to be translated and new documents are created by the City all the time, which need to be translated. Over the last 6 months, there has been a 22% increase in the demand for translated documents.

4 Dollar figure from LAP. Front Desk Staffing is critical because LEP residents are not being assisted in their primary language when they call or walk into the City.

5 Community outreach is desperately needed so that LEP residents are aware of their rights pursuant to the LAP. The LAP is underutilized because residents do not know about their rights. Outreach would include creating multi-lingual outreach materials, hosting community meetings, conducting outreach to partner organizations, interpretation at outreach meetings and Coalition member staff time to conduct outreach.

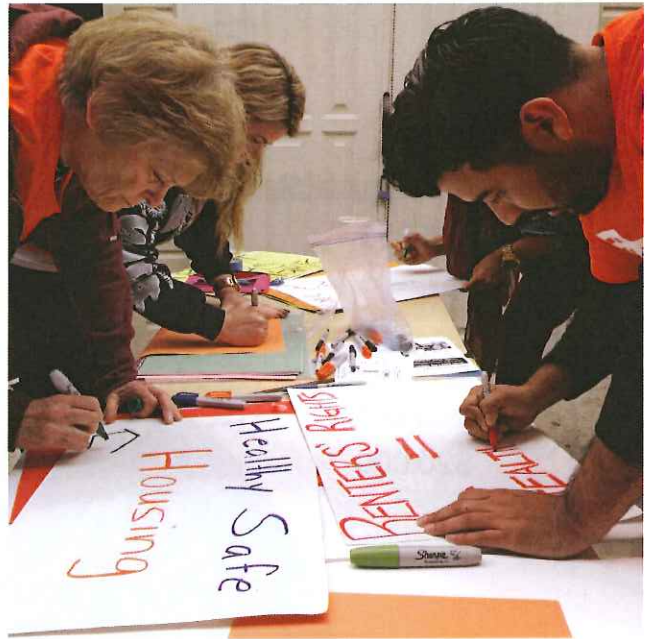
6 Dollar figure from City Staff report dated 8/12/14, which states that it costs \$75 per web page translation. \$75 x 3 (3 languages) adds up to \$5,625.

7 This position is currently funded by the city part-time, but the figure reflects transition to FTE needed to implement the policy.

3. SAFE HOUSING

Creating a safe environment for children and their families is a community-wide responsibility. That means not only ensuring our neighborhoods and streets are safe, but that the living conditions inside our homes are as well.

When the quality of the housing in our neighborhoods crumble, families suffer. Every infestation that festers or basic utility that goes unfixed means children can no longer safely play, students don't have a focused environment to study, and people cannot get the time they need to rest peacefully.



According to the latest City of Long Beach Housing Element, 4 out of 5 of the city's "Very Low Income" households experience one or more housing problems, including cost burden, overcrowding, or substandard conditions. In addition, there are no local tenant protections against retaliation when tenants contact code enforcement to report health and safety violations.

Although there is a clear need to hold slumlords accountable to improve housing conditions, the city's code enforcement bureau is under-supported to address the number of code violations that currently exist and allow people to easily get the information they need.

With a well-resourced and publicly accessible housing code enforcement and disclosure system, code inspectors would be able to effectively do their job and ensure fines are issued and collected appropriately. This would create a self-funded system that becomes more efficient over time and gives residents the peace of mind they deserve.

We ask the city council to adopt a city budget that includes initial funding for a well-resourced and publicly accessible housing code enforcement and disclosure system, including additional code enforcement staff.

4. YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Every young person deserves the support needed to reach their full potential – and it's our collective responsibility to make sure they get it. Supports like wellness centers, career development resources, after-school programs, community organizations, and local community spaces like parks and libraries are all essential to helping young people grow and thrive.



In fact, 7 out of 10 Long Beach residents who were recently surveyed by the Invest in Youth campaign support an increase of public funds for youth programs, and 80% believe that the best way to make our communities safer is to invest in community-based youth development programs.



The survey results revealed a disconnect between what residents valued as priorities and how our city plans to spend down public dollars. Only 5% of the city's 2018 adopted budget was allocated to youth programs and services. A closer look at how our city spends down public dollars shows that only \$204 is spent on positive development programs per youth but an overwhelming \$10,500 is spent on suppression for each youth arrest.

Our elected officials should respond to the values of our community and make youth development a top priority in our city budget. Prioritizing permanent funding for youth support and services will help ensure a better future for everyone.

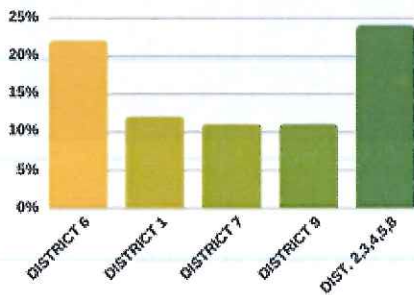
Through our Invest in Youth campaign, we call on the Long Beach City Council to 1) establish a Long Beach Children & Youth Fund supported by revenues from the general fund and the marijuana sales taxes and 2) protect funding for youth development and positive support programs and resources from any potential budget cuts.

TOTAL RESPONDENTS
757

INVEST IN YOUTH

SURVEY RESULTS

% OF RESPONDENTS WHO LIVE IN LONG BEACH DISTRICTS:



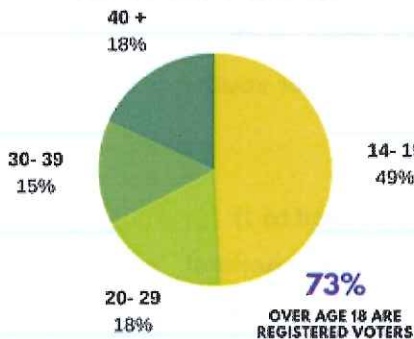
% OF RESPONDENTS IDENTIFY AS:

WOMEN	58%	LGBTQ	1%
CAMBODIAN	30%	LATINO	29%
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	12%	WHITE	8%

INCOME:

61%	ARE RENTERS
35%	REPORTED HOUSEHOLD INCOMES UNDER \$45,000/ YR

AGES OF RESPONDENTS:



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Resources, programs and mentorship that support the mental, physical and holistic well-being of youth and teens to reach their full potential and thrive.

83%

BELIEVE THAT COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ARE THE BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUTH

7 out of 10

SUPPORTED GREATER PUBLIC FUNDING FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS



FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- #1 SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
- #2 JOB TRAINING & YOUTH JOBS
- #3 YOUTH LEADERSHIP & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



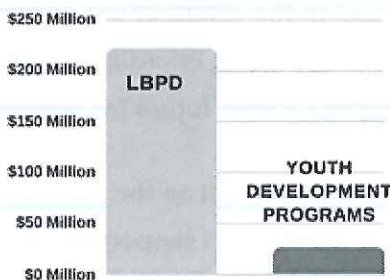
STRONG & SAFE COMMUNITIES

THE BEST WAY TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY SAFER IS TO INVEST IN...

COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS **80%**

INCREASING POLICE PRESENCE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS **18%**

CURRENT BUDGET PRIORITIES*:



% OF RESPONDENTS BELIEVE THE CITY SHOULD PRIORITIZE:

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT	80%
MENTAL HEALTH	78%
PARKS & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS	78%
LIBRARIES	69%
POLICE & SHERIFF	18%

*DATA ANALYSIS FROM THE ADVANCEMENT PROJECT



OUR CITY'S BUDGET REFLECTS OUR VALUES



We call on the Mayor and City Council to reflect the values of our community and make immigrant rights, language justice, safe housing, and youth opportunity the key priorities in this year's budget.

Interact with and endorse the People's Budget Proposal online at
lbforward.org/peoples-budget

Read the latest about the People's Budget on social media by following
#PeoplesBudgetLB

Learn more about the Sanctuary Long Beach campaign at **SanctuaryLB.com**

Learn more about the Invest in Youth campaign at **InvestInYouthLB.org**

Special thanks to:

Advancement Project

Khmer Girls in Action

Long Beach Forward

Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition

Long Beach Residents Empowered

United Cambodian Community

and all the residents and organization partners in the affiliated campaigns

#2 PC SUAZO