

What Is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) gives Columbus residents a direct voice in how public funds are spent.

Your City Council has approved \$9 million — \$1 million per district — for community-chosen capital improvement projects in 2026-2027.

Our Values & Principles



Community



Equity & Inclusion



Transparency,
Integrity & Trust



Empowerment



Sustainability

Learn More About Participatory Budgeting

For more information, visit:
common.oneproject.org/columbus

Contact our team at:
ParticipatoryBudgeting@columbus.gov

Volunteer As A Budget Delegate

Budget Delegates are community volunteers who take rough project ideas and transform them into actionable projects. They work in coordination with city staff to evaluate project ideas for cost, feasibility, practicality, and need, and they assemble refined proposals for community consideration. Any resident over the age of 14 can volunteer, please email us at the address above or complete the survey indicating interest after you submit your idea.

Find Your District



Find your district by
scanning the QR Code

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR



Our Voice, Our Choice Budget

Columbus' Participatory
Budgeting Program 2026

The Participatory Budgeting Process



1. Idea Collection

Submit project ideas for your District at community events or online.

Who: Columbus residents, all ages



2. Proposal Development

Budget delegates work with City departments to assess feasibility of ideas and shortlist projects for voting.

Who: Must be age 14+, and live, work or attend school in the district.



3. Voting

People vote for their top ranked projects in person or online. Votes are tallied.

Who: Must be age 16+, live in the district where voting, and self attest to eligibility



4. Implementation

Winning projects are built in 2027, and the cycle starts over for 2027-2028 if appropriated.

Meet Your Community Engagement Partners

District 1: Ohio Hispanic Coalition

District 2: Community Refugee & Immigration Services

District 3: Elevate Northland

District 4: Community of Caring Development Foundation

District 5: See Brilliance

District 6: Transit Columbus

District 7: Community for New Direction

District 8: South Side Thrive Collaboration

District 9: Columbus Literacy Council



What Are Capital Improvement Projects?



Long-lasting physical improvements



Investments in public infrastructure or facilities



Projects that benefit the community
(New sidewalks/curbs, shared-use paths, roads playgrounds, security cameras, lighting)



City employee salaries



City services or operating costs
(Snow removal, trash and recycling pick-up, 311 requests)

Get Involved In This Democratic Process!

"I'm excited about PB as a way to empower underserved voices. It allows our community - including youth - to directly shape how public funds are spent, creating a more inclusive, engaged, and representative process."

Gibika Sapkota
Columbus Alternative High
School Student
Steering Committee Member

Community of Caring chose to partner in the City's PB effort because it centers the voices of residents in shaping investments that directly impact their neighborhoods. This process aligns with our mission to build a more connected, equitable community by empowering people to co-create solutions and drive meaningful, community-led change."

Adam K. Troy
CEO
Community of Caring Development Foundation