What is participatory budgeting?

Participatory budgeting is a new way to make decisions about publicly funded projects in our neighborhoods.

Participatory budgeting gives ordinary people real decision-making power over real money. It’s already working in over 3,000 cities all over the world, and now participatory budgeting is being used in New York City.

This year, ten New York City Council Members asked their constituents to decide how to spend capital discretionary funds. Those are funds that can be used for physical improvements that benefit the public, and each district has committed at least $1 million.

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How does participatory budgeting work?

Last fall, district residents like you came to neighborhood assemblies to identify community needs and suggest projects. Then, volunteers joined delegate committees to develop those suggestions into project proposals, and worked with city agencies 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, up to at least $1 million, will be included in next year’s city budget, to be built or implemented over the next few years.

You’ll get to enjoy the improvements you help make happen. And hopefully, you’ll be a part of future participatory budgeting efforts in the city!

Credits:
This ballot was produced by the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), the design firm of MTWTF, and the PBNYC Citywide Steering Committee.

Special Thanks to The Participatory Budgeting Project, Community Voices Heard, the Budget Delegates, the members of the Citywide Steering Committee, and the District Committees.

The ten districts are:

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2014 Official Ballot

Participatory Budgeting in New York City

Council Member
Carlos Menchaca

District 38
Bay Ridge
Bensonhurst
Borough Park
Greenwood Heights
Red Hook
South Slope
Sunset Park
Windsor Terrace

Voting instructions
- All residents of the district, age 16 and up, can vote.
- You may vote for up to five (5) projects.
- You can not vote for the same project more than once.
- Ballots marked with more than five votes are invalid and will not be counted.
- Mark boxes clearly with an “X” or check mark, or fully shade them in.
- Use black or blue ink. Ballots marked in pencil will not be counted.

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### Community and Housing

1. **A Community Room at Sunset Park Library**
   - **Cost:** $60,000
   - **Description:** There is a need for a room where the community can hold meetings. Space would be open to the public to reserve for events.
   - **Location:** Sunset Park Library, 5108 4th Ave

2. **Charging Tables for Laptop Users at Sunset Park Library**
   - **Cost:** $120,000
   - **Description:** More people are dependent on using personal laptops and other electronic devices to get work done in the library. These tables will increase capacity.
   - **Location:** Sunset Park Library, 5108 4th Ave

3. **Red Hook Library Community Garden**
   - **Cost:** $85,000
   - **Description:** The new garden will be located at 7 Wolcott Street and will enrich the community with culture and provide space for the community. Red Hook Library, 7 Wolcott Street.

4. **Upgrade of Basketball Court in Red Hook**
   - **Cost:** $300,000
   - **Description:** The basketball courts in Red Hook are crucial to the community. This upgrade will keep children busy and driven with exercise.
   - **Location:** basketball Court at 70/80 Bush Street

### Education

5. **Access to the Future: Technology for Local Schools**
   - **Cost:** $675,000
   - **Description:** Improving access to technology for four neighborhood schools that serve diverse communities: PS 15, PS 24, PS 503, and MS 821.
   - **Location:** PS 15, 71 Sullivan Street; PS 24, 427 39th Street; PS 503 (330 50th Street); MS 821 (4004 4th Avenue).

6. **Air Conditioning Wiring for PS 10 and PS 15**
   - **Cost:** $400,000
   - **Description:** Cooling systems for two neighborhood schools. Improving conditions in hottest classrooms (PS 10) and use of auditorium (PS 15).
   - **Location:** PS 10 (511 7th Avenue) and PS 15 (71 Sullivan Street).

7. **A Place to Dance: Dance Studio for MS 88**
   - **Cost:** $150,000
   - **Description:** Construction of a dance studio in one of the larger classrooms. Includes hardwood dance floors, mirrors and ballet bars.
   - **Location:** MS 88 (54th 7th Avenue).

8. **Greening our Playground: PS 1 Playground Upgrade**
   - **Cost:** $650,000
   - **Description:** Includes new play structures, benches, mosaic artwork along wall and creation of rain garden to collect rainwater from playground.
   - **Location:** PS 1 (309 47th Street)

9. **New Greenhouse for PS 24**
   - **Cost:** $500,000
   - **Description:** The greenhouse would enable year long access for children to experience how to grow and care for plants at PS 24.
   - **Location:** PS 24 (427 39th Street)

10. **New Greenhouse for PS 503**
    - **Cost:** $500,000
    - **Description:** The greenhouse would enable year long access for children to experience how to grow and care for plants at PS 503.
    - **Location:** PS 503 (330 50th Street)

11. **Playground Upgrade for PS 24**
    - **Cost:** $400,000
    - **Description:** Students need a space during recess hours. The playground floor needs to be repaired and play structure upgraded.
    - **Location:** PS 24 (427 39th Street)

12. **Upgrade for Hundred Year Old Bathrooms at PS 172**
    - **Cost:** $250,000
    - **Description:** PS 172 just celebrated their 100th birthday. This upgrade will include new stalls and fixtures for bathrooms throughout the school.
    - **Location:** PS 172 (83 4th Avenue)

13. **Bioswales- Stormwater Greenstreet for Red Hook**
    - **Cost:** $900,000
    - **Description:** Greenstreet model for under the BQE would include canopy trees, flowering plants, perennials, and shrubs to collect storm water.
    - **Location:** Mill Street under the BQE- Brooklyn-Queens Expressway

14. **Bioswales- Stormwater Greenstreet for Sunset Park**
    - **Cost:** $900,000
    - **Description:** Greenstreet model for Sunset Park would include canopy trees, flowering plants, perennials, and shrubs to collect storm water.
    - **Location:** North Side of 39th Street

15. **New Equipment for Red Hook Fitness Park**
    - **Cost:** $500,000
    - **Description:** Fitness area to promote exercising and building strength to fight obesity and aging muscles for Red Hook, includes new equipment.
    - **Location:** Red Hook Park on Halleck Street between Clinton and Columbus Street.

### Parks and Environment

16. **Electronic “Bus Location” Signs at B61 Stops**
    - **Cost:** $200,000
    - **Description:** Install electronic signs along the B61 bus at busy stops that tell riders the location and arrival time of their bus.
    - **Location:** Along B61 Route

17. **NYPD Surveillance Cameras in Sunset Park**
    - **Cost:** $600,000
    - **Description:** Installation of cameras along 6th, 7th and 8th avenue between 42nd and 62nd street would provide extra security to the community.
    - **Location:** Along 6th, 7th and 8th avenue between 42nd and 62nd street.

18. **Pedestrian Safety: Sidewalk Extensions**
    - **Cost:** $800,000
    - **Description:** Increase the depth of the sidewalk portion of crosswalks at known dangerous intersections where fatal accidents have occurred.
    - **Location:** northwestern and southeastern corners of 5th Avenue at 53rd, 55th, and 60th Street.

19. **Street Improvements and Resurfacing of Roads in CB7**
    - **Cost:** $350,000
    - **Description:** The streets in our community are a mess making it dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. This would be potentially resurface 7th Avenue.
    - **Location:** Along 7th Avenue in Community Board 7

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