



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a better way to manage public money. It is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget, and gives ordinary people real decision-making power over real money.

We are a nonprofit organization that empowers people to decide together how to spend public money. We create and support participatory budgeting processes that build stronger communities, make public budgets more equitable and effective, and deepen democracy.

What we do



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & TRAINING

We help governments, institutions, and organizations implement participatory budgeting processes and campaigns.



PARTICIPATION LAB

We research and develop new tools and practices to make participatory budgeting and democracy work better.



NETWORK BUILDING

We bring together diverse practitioners and community organizers to help participatory budgeting grow.

CITY / LEVEL OF PB

- Baltimore, MD / City
- Boston, MA / City
- Buffalo, NY / City
- Cambridge, MA / City
- Chicago, IL / District + School
- Dieppe, NB / City
- Greensboro, NC / City
- Hamilton, ON / District
- Hartford, CT / City
- Long Beach, CA / District
- New York City, NY / City + College
- Oakland, CA / District, CDGB
- Phoenix, AZ / School District
- Sacramento, CA / School
- San Francisco, CA / District
- San Jose, CA / School
- Seattle, WA / City
- St. Louis, MO / District
- Toronto, ON / Public Housing
- Vallejo, CA / City

We have engaged more than 200,000 PEOPLE in 17 CITIES to decide how to spend over \$170 MILLION.

Participatory budgeting has been endorsed by:



How participatory budgeting works

PB involves an annual cycle of meeting and voting, integrated into the broader budget decision-making process. Each community adapts PB to its specific needs, but it generally follows these steps:

Design *the process*

A steering committee, representative of the community, creates the rules in partnership with government officials to ensure the process is inclusive and meets local needs.

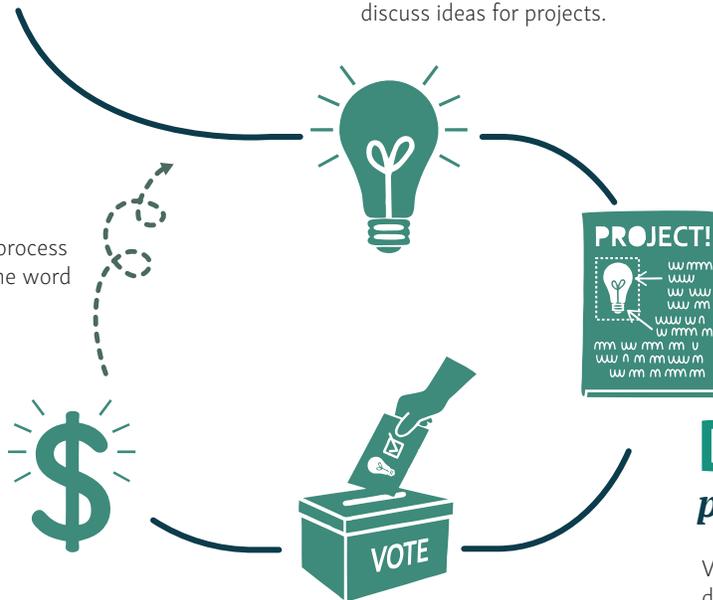
Brainstorm *ideas*

Through meetings and online tools, residents share and discuss ideas for projects.

OUTCOMES OF PB

- Increased civic engagement
- Broader political participation
- New community leaders and more active residents
- Stronger relationships between government, organizations, and residents
- Fairer and more effective spending

Improve the process and spread the word for next year!



Develop *proposals*

Volunteers, usually called budget delegates, develop the ideas into feasible proposals, which are then vetted by experts.

Fund *winning projects*

The government implements the winning projects, such as laptops in schools, Wi-Fi in public parks, or traffic safety improvements. The government and residents track and monitor implementation.

Vote

Residents vote to divide the available budget between the proposals. It's a direct, democratic voice in their community's future.

History of PB

The Brazilian city of Porto Alegre started the first full participatory budgeting process in 1989. Since then, **PB has spread to over 3,000 cities around the world**, and has been used in counties, states, housing authorities, schools, universities, and other institutions.

PBP launched the first PB process in the US in 2009.

To request a strategy meeting about beginning PB in your community, or to learn more about PB in general, please contact info@participatorybudgeting.org or visit:

www.participatorybudgeting.org