



MAYOR'S BUDGET SURVEY: "Tough Choices for a Brighter Future"

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. Please answer as best you can, given the options presented. Once you have completed the survey, return it to the designated person in your Neighborhood Council.

Name of Your Neighborhood Council:

Please tell us in what group(s) you would consider yourself a member. (Please select as many as apply)

- Homeowners
- Property Owners (other than homeowners)
- Community Organization
- Renters
- Student
- Business Owners
- Employee of a Neighborhood Business

Name _____

How would you shape the budget to best serve Los Angeles?

Please rank the general budget priorities from 1 to 4. (1 being your highest priority and 4 being your lowest priority)

_____ **Economic Development**

Includes Affordable Housing, Homeless Services, City Planning, Code Enforcement, Job Training, and Business Assistance

_____ **Homeland Security and Public Safety**

Includes Emergency Preparedness and Counter-Terrorism Services, Police Services, and Fire Services

_____ **Liveable Neighborhoods**

Includes Support for Schools (Example: Before and After-School Programs) Library Services, Recreation Services, Parks, Senior Services, Sanitation, and Sidewalk Repair

_____ **Improved Traffic Flow**

Includes Parking Enforcement, Signal Synchronization, Public Transit, and Street Resurfacing and Widening

Education

The City of Los Angeles invested almost \$15 million on key education initiatives directed towards elementary and middle school students in Fiscal Year 2005-06 (LA's Best and LA Bridges). The City also provides services to school-aged children through its parks, recreation centers, and libraries.

If the City of Los Angeles is able to fund additional education initiatives for students in this age group and older (high school) in Fiscal Year 2006-07, which type of program do you think should be the first priority for receiving additional money?

(Please select one)

- Safe School Environment
- Secure Passage for Students through Neighborhoods
- Gang Prevention Programs
- Safe School Environment
- After-School Enrichment Programs
- School Site Mediation Programs (Conflict Resolution and Human Relations Services)
- Joint-Use Programs with LAUSD (City Sponsored Programs and Events at School Facilities)

Citywide Priorities

Regional Priorities

Transportation

The City of Los Angeles invested over \$200 million in Fiscal Year 2005-06 on transportation services, including several to reduce traffic congestion. If the City of Los Angeles is able to fund additional transportation initiatives in Fiscal Year 2006-07, which type of program do you think should be the first priority for receiving additional money?

(Please select one)

- Rail Transit, including Red Line Extension, Gold Line Extension, and Exposition Line Completion
- Expanded Bus Service, including Commuter Express and Local DASH Service
- Traffic Light Improvements, including Signal Synchronization
- Street Improvements, including Resurfacing and Widening



Trash Disposal

It currently costs the City of Los Angeles almost \$315 million a year to dispose of trash. Of this amount residents pay \$104 million (33%) and the City pays \$209 million (67%). The portion paid by residents comes from a monthly fee of approximately \$11. The portion that the City pays comes from the same funding sources that are used to pay for fire, library, recreational, transit, and police services. As the cost of trash disposal increases, the City has to cover those costs.

Do you think the City of Los Angeles should: **(Please select one)**

- Raise the monthly trash disposal fee by about \$7 so that residents and the City are each paying half of the costs, including increases.
- Increase the monthly disposal fee by about \$28 over a 4-year period so that residents are paying for most of the trash disposal cost like many other major cities.
- Keep the trash fees at the current level for residents and continue having the City pay the additional disposal costs by cutting other services.

Police Protection

The City of Los Angeles with 25 police officers per 10,000 residents has fewer than other major cities such as San Francisco (29), Philadelphia (46), and New York (50) (Source: OJP 2000). The City can add over 1,000 police officers over the period of 4 years (30 per 10,000 residents) at a cost of \$206 million.

Do you think the City of Los Angeles should: **(Please select one)**

- Expand the force by over 1,000 officers over 4 years by raising the county-wide sales tax by ½ cent. (which could also fund fire and gang prevention/intervention programs)
- Expand the force by over 1,000 officers over 4 years through a combination of budget efficiencies and an increase on the county-wide sales tax by less than ½ cent.
- Expand the force by over 1,000 officers over 4 years by cutting back on library hours, recreational services, street maintenance, tree trimming and other City services.
- Expand the force by 400 officers over 4 years by freezing the level of spending on ALL other City services including fire, parks, libraries, streets, and housing at their current service level and funding.
- Maintain the police force at its current size of 9,300 officers.

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Sidewalk Repair

Los Angeles sidewalks are falling apart and require repair. Last year, the City provided funding for repairing 90 miles of sidewalks. This includes a voluntary cost sharing program where homeowners pay for 50% of the costs. At the current rate of funding, it will take more than 50 years to address the current 4,600 miles of sidewalk that require repair.

Do you think Los Angeles should: (Please select one)

- Increase spending on sidewalk repairs by **requiring** homeowners to share the costs of repairing sidewalks in front and around their property.
- Increase spending on sidewalk repairs by charging a fee on all properties of \$.01 per square foot, approximately \$15 annually on a typical 1,500 square foot home.
- Increase spending on sidewalk repairs by cutting back on other City services such as tree-trimming and street repaving.
- Continue the current funding level and **voluntary** cost-sharing program.

Given the tough choices that may face our City, in which priority area would you decrease funding?

(Please select one)

- Economic Development**
Includes Affordable Housing, Homeless Services, City Planning, Code Enforcement, Job Training, and Business Assistance
- Homeland Security and Public Safety**
Includes Emergency Preparedness and Counter-Terrorism Services, Police Services, and Fire Services
- Livable Neighborhoods**
Includes Support for Schools (Example: Before and After-School Programs) Library Services, Recreation Services, Parks, Senior Services, Sanitation, and Sidewalk Repair
- Improved Traffic Flow**
Includes Parking Enforcement, Signal Synchronization, Public Transit, and Street Resurfacing and Widening

Please identify any specific issue area for cost cutting:

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