



Budget Advocate Report to Neighborhood Councils #6

The state of the City Budget

Last fall the City Council approved union contracts that created a budget deficit. It also resulted in a Structural Deficit over the next four years of \$1.2 billion. Beginning in March, the pandemic severely impacted the revenue stream from the hotel, sales and other economically sensitive taxes upon which the City depends on to balance its budget. On September 2, the City Council approved a Declaration of Fiscal Emergency which will allow the City to cut more costs through furloughs and layoffs. The City Administrative Officer is projecting a shortfall of \$200 to \$400 million over the year. The Budget Advocates suspect that the shortfall will exceed \$400 million.

The Mayor and the City Council have not adequately addressed how to finance the projected budget deficit, but it will almost certainly impact the services the City provides to neighborhoods and stakeholders.

The Budget Advocates call on the Mayor and City Council to implement a policy of transparency through which they share with Angelenos on a monthly basis, information on revenues, expenditures, deficits, the Reserve Fund, and an updated Placeholder Budget as well as the Four Year Budget Outlook. The City should also provide information on Covid-19 expenditures plus actual and anticipated reimbursements from the County, State and Federal governments.

We, along with the Neighborhood Councils and their stakeholders, have a right to this information on a timely basis

Events

The Budget Advocates will be hosting a segment on the City's budget in the morning session of the Congress of Neighborhoods on September 26th and will moderate a participatory networking event with Ron Galperin on the budget and City services afterwards.

The first of a series of Town Halls scheduled for the year will be in November tentatively addressing the challenges of allocating services and budget resources equitably across Los Angeles. More than calling out the problems, we want people across the City to focus on constructive recommendations and solutions.

CityWatch

The Budget Advocates have extended their participation with CityWatch as a platform to distribute our concerns both to the Neighborhood Council system and to the broader groups of stakeholders who follow politics in Los Angeles.

Updated Web Site

The Budget Advocate' new website – <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/> - will be live by the end of the month. Until then, we can be seen at <http://ncbala.com/>, and it will automatically redirect when the new website goes live. Information from the previous website will be transferred over, sometimes in more relevant categories. As well, there will be expanded information for Neighborhood Councils, including how to find and contact your Budget Advocate, a list of the ad-hoc committees through which we are pursuing our work this year, and how board members and stakeholders can get involved.

Budget Advocate Ad-Hoc Committees

Our committees are addressing various issues raised by Neighborhood Councils, Budget Advocates, Budget Representatives, and/or stakeholders. We expect to have initial drafts of several papers in the near future. New committees will be formed as new issues arise.

Neighborhood Council and Stakeholder Issues; City Budget Cuts; Planning & Public Works; Emergency Management Resources; Homelessness and Affordable Housing; Housing; the LAPD; the impact of Covid-19 on the City's budget; Recreation and Parks; Undocumented Immigrants; Pensions; Budget Policies and Goals, Opportunity Zones and Redlining; Cannabis; the People's Budget Los Angeles; Animal Services; HHH Funds; DONE; Equity; and the City Council.

Urgent

Get everyone in your community – including the unhoused and undocumented – to respond to the census at <https://2020census.gov/> or by phone in English at (844) 330-2020 or Spanish at (844) 468-2020 (other languages on the census website).

This is ESSENTIAL if Los Angeles is to receive its share of the \$115 billion in federal funds spent every year on California schools, healthcare, housing, transportation, and other vital programs in our neighborhoods, and equitable representation in Washington for the next ten YEARS.

Neighborhood Council Budget Executive Committee

Co-Chairs: Liz Amsden and Jack Humphreville

Vice-Chair, Development: Albert Farias

Vice-Chairs, Outreach: John DiGregorio and Julia Moser

Corresponding Secretary: Glenn Bailey

Administrative Secretary: Jennifer Goodie

Treasurer: Lanira Murphy

Parliamentarian: Carol Newman

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