

Budget Day Report

The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates held a very successful Budget Day on Saturday, June 23rd and many board members and stakeholders remarked on how much they learned and that they found the subject matter, which many might consider rather boring, actually quite interesting.

The day started with speeches in the City Council Chamber, where a selection of the City's Councilmembers, department heads and Budget Advocates addressed Los Angeles budget of almost \$10 billion from different points of view. These were both entertaining and informative and were followed by breakout sessions where Budget Advocates, Budget Representatives and stakeholders had the opportunity to discuss what were the major concerns facing their regions.

By identifying the services each neighborhood feels important, it helps the Budget Advocates target what is lacking in the City's budget and push for change. At the close of these sessions, the Regions held elections to replace Budget Advocates who had stepped down over the past few months.

The full complement of Budget Advocates, continuing and newly elected, then met to elect their executives for the coming 2018-2019 fiscal year. Jay Handal of West LA and Liz Amsden of Highland Park will be continuing as Co-Chairs, Barbara Ringuette of Silver Lake stays on as Vice Chair of Administration as does John Di Grego as Vice Chair of Communications, Howard Katchan of Sherman Oaks as Treasurer and Carol Newman of Lake Balboa as Parliamentarian. Joining them are Erick Morales of Mid City as Secretary (Corresponding) and Chelsea McElwee of Zapata-King as Assistant Secretary (Administrative).

Next month the Budget Advocates will be assigning one of their number to each Neighborhood Councils to attend some meetings and work through the Budget Representatives relaying information from the Budget Advocates and soliciting input on each Neighborhood Council's concerns. Board members and stakeholders are encouraged to contact their Budget Advocate (or the Co-Chairs if appropriate) directly or through their Budget Representative.

If they have not done so already, Neighborhood Councils are urged to appoint two Budget Representatives to act as conduits to and from the Budget Advocates. These can be board members or stakeholders. Until the Co-Chairs are advised of these people's names and contact information, the Budget Advocates will reach out to the Treasurers and Presidents.