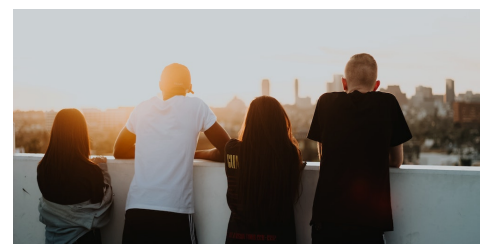




The People's Budget

Los Angeles 2020-2021

PEOPLES  BUDGET  LA
peoplesbudgetla.com



INTRODUCTION

The People's Budget LA Coalition has undertaken an urgent public process of participatory budgeting to solicit input of Angelenos on their priorities for the city and how they would like public resources to be spent. This project emerged rapidly and in direct response to the secretive, undemocratic process and draconian spending plan introduced by Mayor Eric Garcetti, and left unchallenged by City Council.

This report details our findings and presents a People's Budget alternative to the Mayor's proposed 2020-21 budget. **Our document and data both reveal a clear referendum: invest in universal needs (e.g., housing security, public health/health care, mental health and wellness, etc.) and divest from traditional forms of policing.**

Here's a summary of our methodology and results:

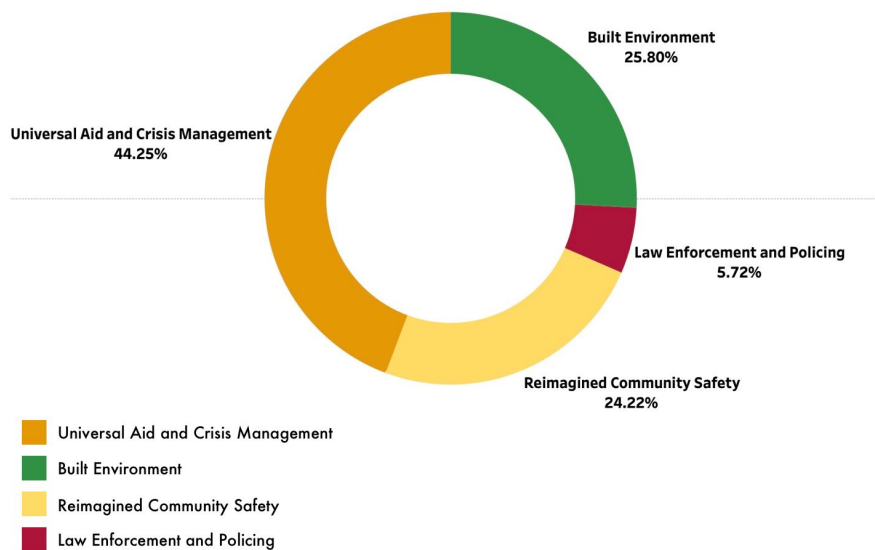
- More than 10,000 people were engaged in the drafting of the People's Budget. This includes 1,470 Angelenos who took our survey, 3,300 participants who engaged in our participatory budgeting process in real time on May 24, 2020 (via Zoom and Facebook Live), and 10,000 viewers who have watched the session after-the-fact.
- The top priorities for investment include housing, mental health and wellness, and public health and healthcare.
- The top priorities for divestment include parking enforcement, police and policing, and the City Attorney's Office.
- The People's Budget allocates just 5.7% of general funds to law enforcement and policing - just about one-tenth of the 54% given to the LAPD in the Mayor's proposed budget.
- The People's Budget allocates the largest amount of money to Universal Aid and Crisis Management (44.25%), followed by Built Environment (25.80%), then Reimagined Community Safety (24.22%), and finally Law Enforcement and Police (5.72%).

We implore the Los Angeles City Council to take action and adopt a budget that aligns with the priorities of the people who they have been elected to represent.

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

The People's Budget Priorities



SPENDING AREAS

UNIVERSAL AID AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The Universal Aid and Crisis Management funding category supports the basic needs of Angelenos like housing, food, healthcare, economic assistance and emergency relief. Both survey participants and those participating in our participatory budgeting session emphasized universal aid and crisis management as their top priority, with a particular focus on housing.

This funding area includes funding for long-term housing, renter support and emergency housing, food assistance, support for those seeking work, support for small businesses, providing public health care, offering youth development programs and supporting youth centers, fighting the impacts of climate change and ensuring our city's environment is protected. This area also includes emergency preparedness for natural disasters like earthquakes and fire as well as the public health disasters.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Built Environment funding category focuses on our city's physical infrastructure like public transportation, libraries, parks, public works and the fire department. Based on our survey results, these are essential public goods for Angelenos.

REIMAGINED COMMUNITY SAFETY

Participants were also committed to reimagining community safety and building and resourcing restorative justice practices that enable strong communities without law enforcement presence or intervention. The Reimagined Community Safety funding category supports a community-led safety model including investing in mental health and harm reduction approaches. Rather than funding police that bring violence and harm into our communities, Reimagined Community Safety invests in communities themselves to determine what they need and to offer them support in executing those programs.

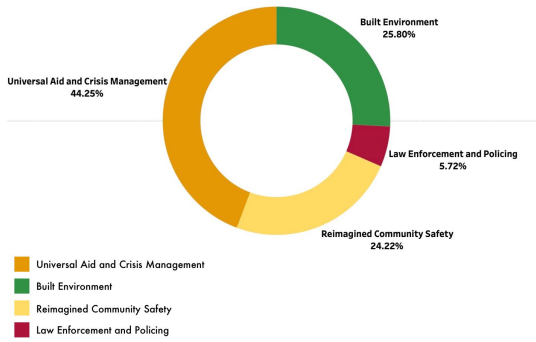
Specific initiatives that could be included in this category are family counseling, restorative justice programs, reparations to victims and their families, community-led crisis response programs, gang prevention/intervention/recovery without police involvement, and domestic violence prevention/intervention/recovery without police involvement. This category also includes building stronger connections among neighbors through investing in community-led events.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The law enforcement category included all traditional approaches, including police, City Attorney, and traffic enforcement. Across all demographics of survey respondents, this was ranked as the lowest priority for spending.

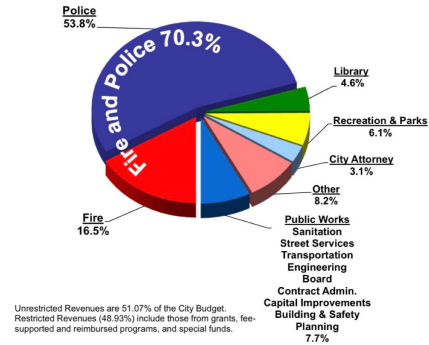
COMPARISON WITH THE MAYOR'S BUDGET

The People's Budget



The Mayor's Budget

2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET
UNRESTRICTED REVENUES (\$5.4 Billion)



The People's Budget Allocations

Universal Aid and Crisis Management	44.25%
Built Environment	25.80%
Reimagined Community Safety	24.22%
Law Enforcement and Policing	5.72%

The Mayor's Budget Allocations

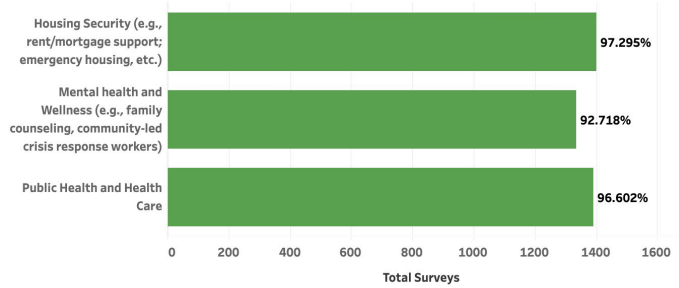
Police	53.8%
Fire	16.5%
Other	8.2%
Public Works	7.7%
Recreation & Parks	6.1%
Library	4.6%
City Attorney	3.1%

TOP PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT

Top areas where People’s Budget survey respondents wanted to see **investment** are:

- **Housing Security**
Ensuring people have housing and can stay in housing
- **Mental Health and Wellness**
Supporting mental health needs with counseling and community-led crisis response
- **Public Health and Healthcare**
Offering public healthcare and ensuring everyone can stay healthy

Top Priorities for Investment

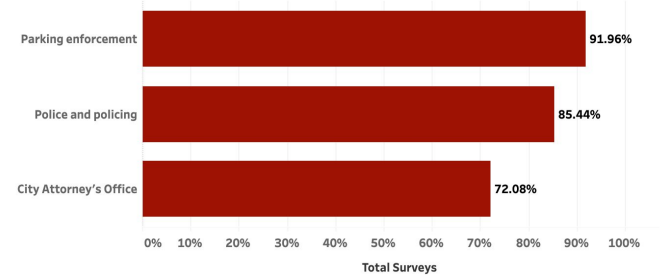


TOP PRIORITIES FOR DIVESTMENT

Top areas where People’s Budget survey respondents wanted to see **divestment** are:

- **Parking Enforcement**
- **Police and Policing**
- **City Attorney’s Office**

Top Priorities for Divestment



PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

A survey was sent out by dozens of community organizations, with city-wide presence and representing neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles. The survey was also posted on more than 100 social media accounts and People’s Budget LA’s website. Responses were only accepted from residents of the City of Los Angeles who could identify their area of residence on an interactive map. Beyond the solicitation of survey responses, the coalition held a two-hour, online participatory budgeting session on Sunday, May 24, 2020 to share information about the city budgeting process and to gather public input. More than 10,000 people have viewed the session so far.

**1470 Angelenos responded to the survey and we are continuing to collect results
3300 participants engaged in the participatory budgeting session in real time and an additional 10,000 viewers watched the session after-the-fact.**

Survey responses included constituents from all 15 council districts. The survey data is available for exploration in a Tableau dashboard (linked at PeoplesBudgetLA.com)

ADOPT A PEOPLE’S BUDGET

We believe that the government should be responsive to the needs, priorities, and demands of the people. There is clearly a wide chasm between the budget proposed by the Mayor (and directly or indirectly endorsed by the City Council) and the one envisioned by Los Angeles residents. The City Charter enables Council to pass or revise the Mayor’s budget proposal or submit a new budget for implementation. In a democracy, the Council should listen to the will of the people and pass a People’s Budget that centers the priorities that Angelenos have listed as central to them by June 1, 2020.

ABOUT THE PEOPLE’S BUDGET LA COALITION

The People’s Budget LA is a coalition convened by Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles. The coalition includes community organizations, faith leaders, parents, teachers, students, nonprofit leaders, and individuals from across Los Angeles.

Organizations who have signed onto the People’s Budget LA initiative include:

Africa Town Coalition
Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles
Community Coalition
Crenshaw Subway Coalition
Dignity and Power NOW
Ground Game LA

The Justice Collaborative
Ktown for All
LA Defensa
LA Voice
Labor/Community Strategy Center
Los Angeles Community Action Network

People’s City Council
Stop LAPD Spying
Street Watch LA/DSA
Students Deserve
Sunrise Movement LA
White People 4 Black Lives