Ward 5 Budget Forum

Friendship Armstrong PCS |
February 25, 2025 | 6:30 PM

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ZACHARY PARKER
DC COUNCIL | WARD 5

Welcome!

Agenda

01
Welcome!

02
Icebreakers

03
FY26 Challenges & Opportunities

04
Council Budget Process

05
Getting your input on FY26 Priorities

06
Thank you & Next Steps

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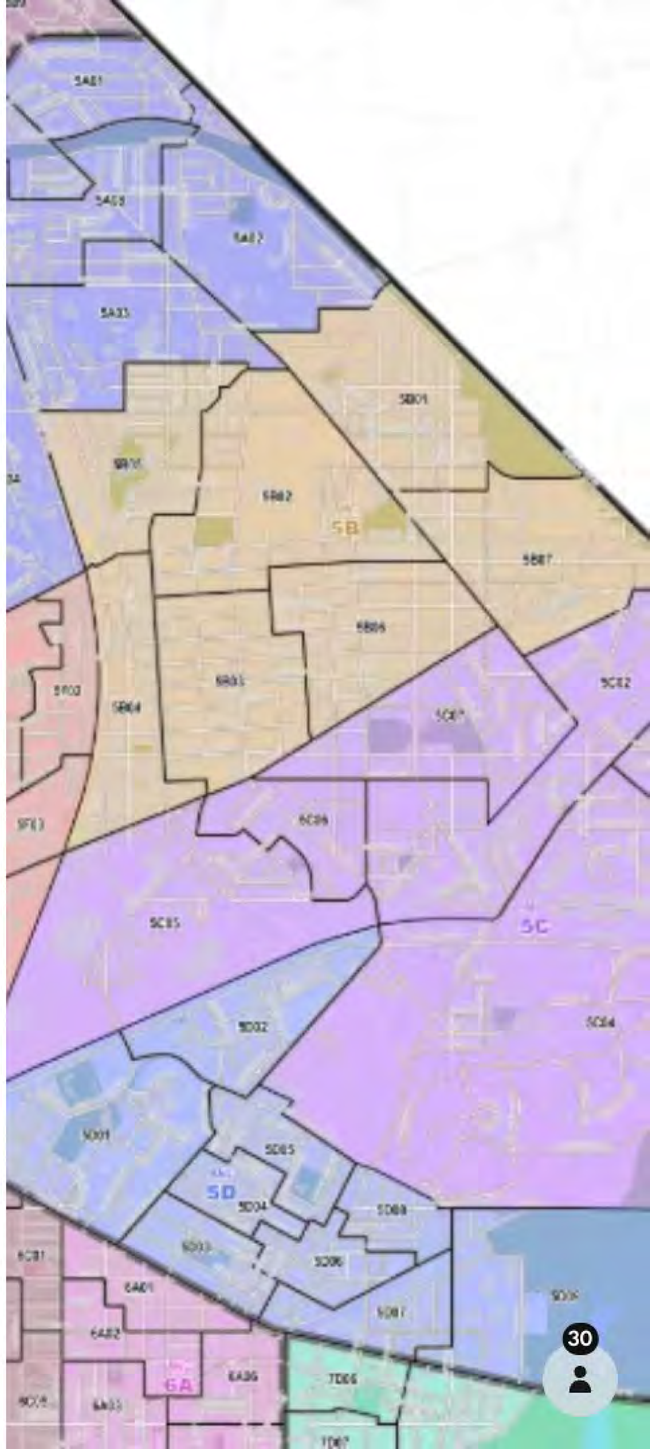
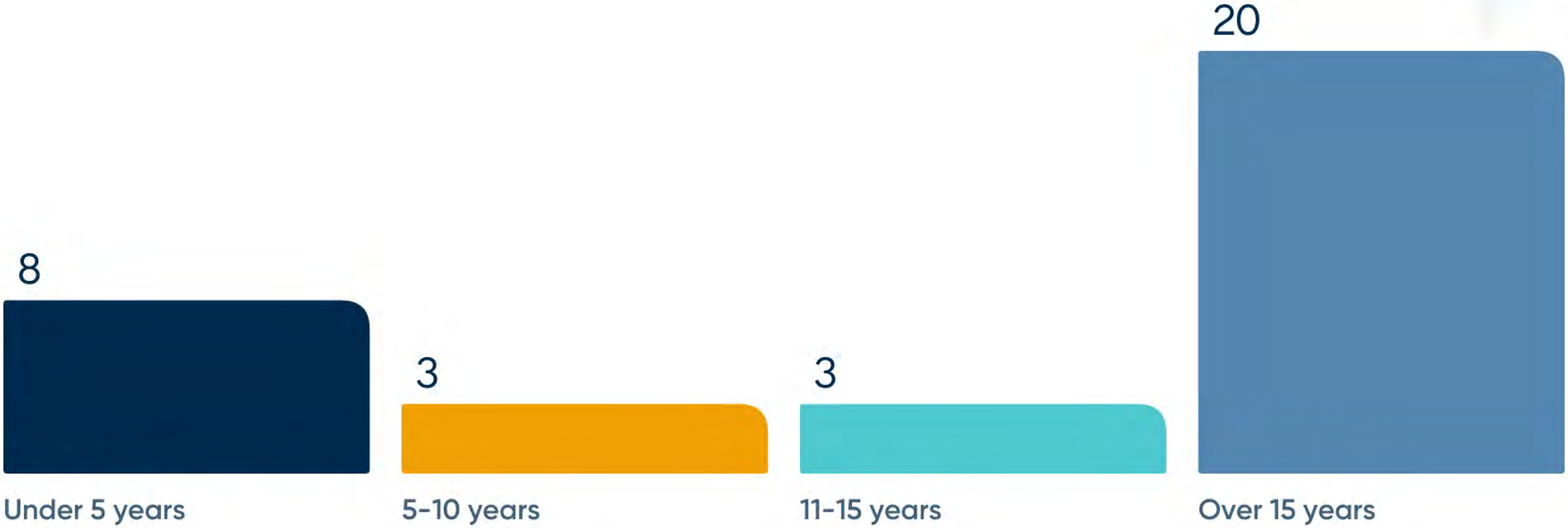
Icebreakers

Where in Ward 5 do you live?

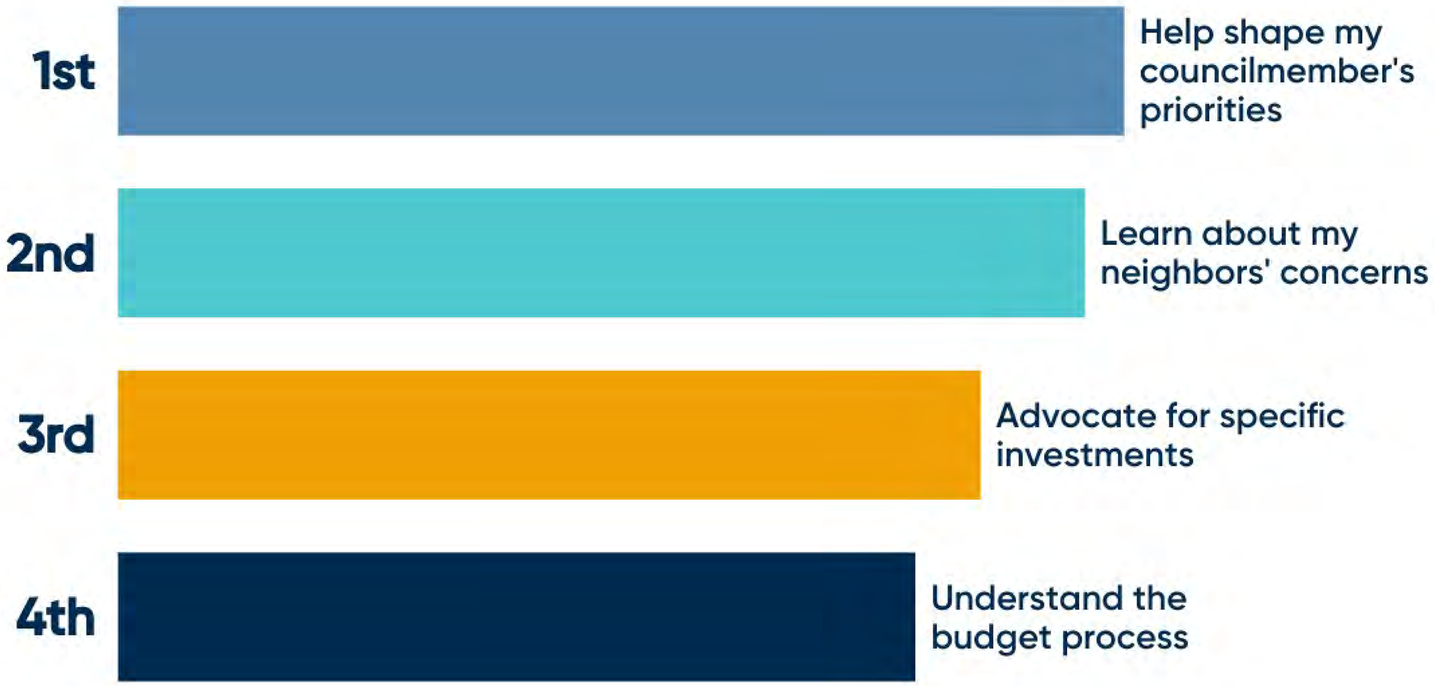
32 responses



How long have you lived in the District?



What are you hoping to get out of today's meeting?



Your input shapes our shared priorities

Top 2023 survey responses:
- Traffic safety
- Investments in parks and green space
- School safety

FY 24 Budget Wins
- South Dakota Avenue Study
- Pocket parks at 19th & L, Riggs and South Dakota
- School Safety Study

Top 2025 survey responses:
- More support for families
- Ensure Ft. Lincoln Rec Center fully funded
- Public safety

FY 25 Budget Wins
- Child tax credit for children under 6
- Ft. Lincoln groundbreaking expected this spring
- Safe Passage expanded to Brookland, Fort Totten

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FY26 Challenges & Opportunities

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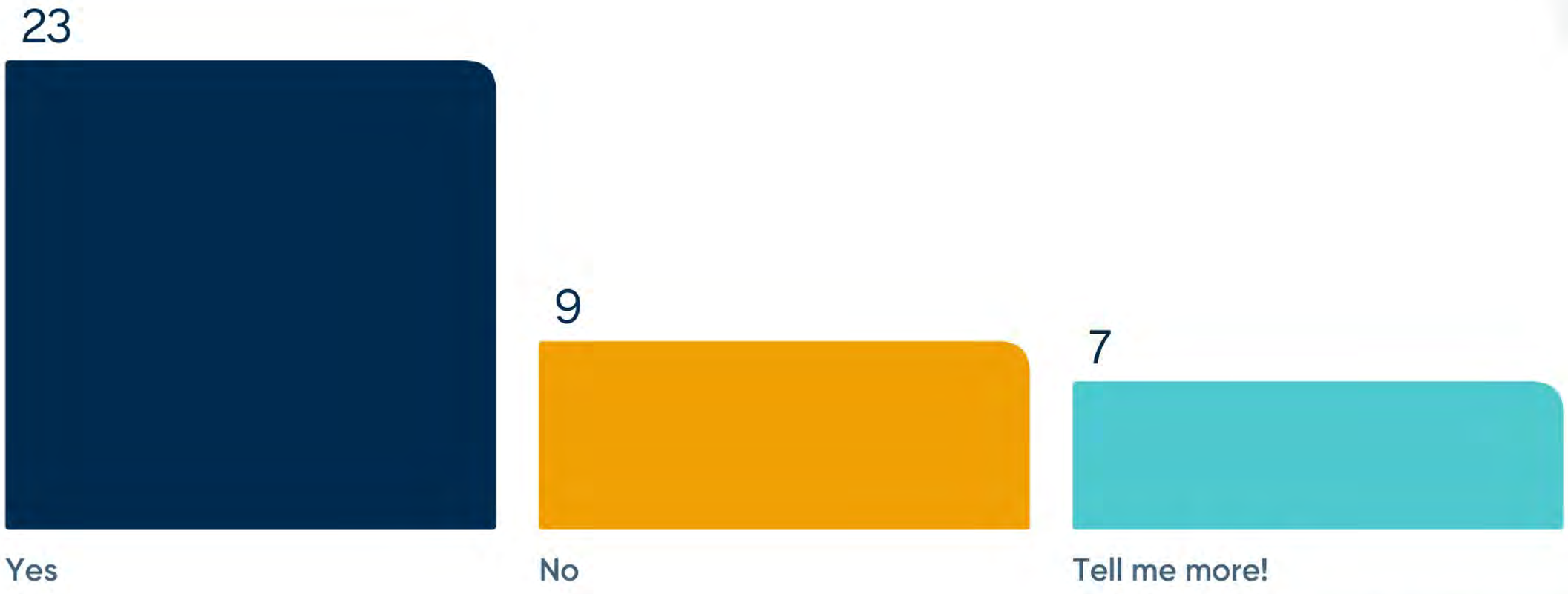
The FY 26 budget will be impacted by lower revenue growth, increased costs, and federal spending cuts. What should we prioritize in a tough budget?

68 responses

Do you support expanding the District Child Tax Credit that Councilmember Parker championed and secured last budget cycle?



As the District redevelops RFK, what features of a potential deal do you support?

What changes would make you more likely to spend time downtown?

none

More parking

Parking

Safety

More frequent bus service

None.

Safety

Free parking

What changes would make you more likely to spend time downtown?

More residences

More affordable parking

Delicious affordable restaurants and stores.

More clubs

Arts and culture

Less cars

Safety

I would like to open a family friendly business concept.

What changes would make you more likely to spend time downtown?

Revoke waiver on Inclusionary Zoning downtown!

Pedestrian friendly stuff

jazz venues

Safer

Good restaurants and shops with parking

More public transportation accessibility from ward 5

Nothing

Arts and culture programming
Affordable dining
Green space

What changes would make you more likely to spend time downtown?

more frequent bus service from Trinidad to downtown

Affordable entertainment and restaurants

Pedestrian areas

Family centered events

More green spaces (outside of the Mall)

Less Alcohol

Community events or services

Affordable housing that is truly affordable

What changes would make you more likely to spend time downtown?

arts, free parking

Reduced land use restrictions

Free parking!!!!

Affordable restaurants Grocery storees

Interesting things to do (open street, festivals)

Direct public transportation to downtown

affordable family friendly activities

Evening entertainment. Pedestrian walkways. shopping.

What changes would make you more likely to spend time downtown?

Parking

Pedestrian-friendly Less cars More affordable

Affordable places to eat

Tell landlords to lower the rent & downtown will be fine

Cleaner environment

Eliminate height act

Safety

Authentic DC Culture

What changes would make you more likely to spend time downtown?

Free parking Me activity

Family and budget friendly

More affordable Parking. Better public transportation.

We need to have more programs, affordable programs. Programs that we don't have to fight tooth and nail for to get a spot. i.e. summer programs, swimming programs, youth centers

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

- Trauma-informed CERTIFIED youth programs
- Truancy accountability
- Year round youth employment
- DC Connect for students
- Public safety
- Expanded rec center hours
- Technology that interests teenagers
- Leadership and Development

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

- employment
- Refugee and immigrant assistance
- DBH: mental / behavioral support for youth and adult caregivers
- Jobs
- Apprenticeship programs
- Education
- Expanded summer jobs and training opportunities
- Activities to keep them busy

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

Funding more school resource officers

Study abroad

Financial literacy

Youth development for children in DPR, configuring more partnerships in DC (dealing mental health, education, and sports)

Employment

Jail Parent accountability Harsher penalties Yoga and meditation ij sc

Extracurricular activities

Early childcare

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

Employment Job skill training Youth sports leagues Mentorship program

Career awareness pathways & work based learning supports

Hands on "all careers" type environmental education

Peer to peer strategies (a trauma-informed approach)

Training centers

Mental health supports

Longer hours and interesting classes at DPR facilities.

Mental health support for youth and new parents

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

Tutoring/educational opportunities

Art, Culture, Employment, Education of substance

Professional development for youth professionals

Juvenile rehabilitation

Jobs

Free bike rides more parks with lights. Open more hours for pool outdoor especially.

After School Program

Proactive support

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

creating opportunities for youth to do positive things (there is nothing for them to do in Trinidad)

Job training

Old school method that empowered young people for life skills

Stable housing for families

Teen parent support

Education Employment

I second the health support for youth and new parents.

Vocational programs

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

Youth sports leagues (for DC residents, not MD kids)

We should ask them! Public spaces for them. Mental support for youth and parents.

Intensive focus on core competencies Conflict resolution Increased safe spaces Address food and housing insecurity Parental assistance

Getting parents details on programs for their children

Anything that involves a safe space for youth

Public safety more parents responsibilities. Mental health programs

More Sunday Rec Center Hours (especially pools)

Out-of-school programs

What programs or services should the District focus on and invest in through these agencies to improve outcomes for District youth?

Mentors

Enhanced support services

Community Visioning

Extend MBSYEP beyond summer

Summer works similar for the Youth as if we were in the 90's (Mayor Barry Youth Leadership Program)

45

Strong global education initiatives, trade school opportunities, cultural exposure and education.

Council Budget Process

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What is "the budget"?

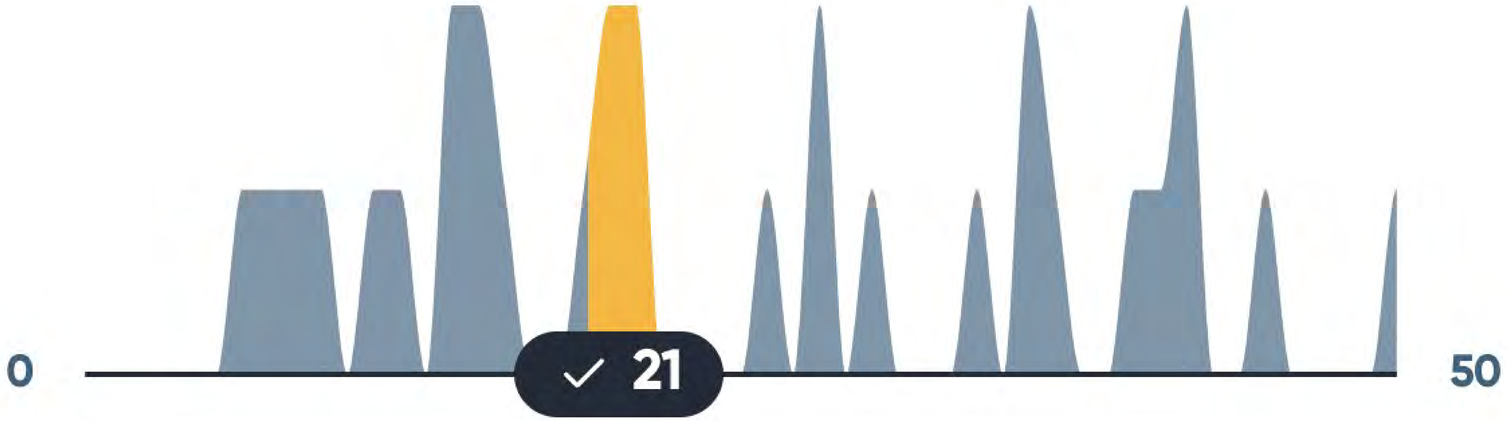
"The budget" is the District's spending plan for the fiscal year (October to September). It details (1) how much D.C. spends on programs and agencies and (2) what sources of funds we are using to pay for that spending.

"The budget" is comprised of four pieces of legislation:

- The FY26 local budget act (next year's spending and sources);
- The FY26 budget support act (budget-related changes to D.C. Code);
- The FY26 federal portion budget request act (requests for federal funding); and
- The FY25 supplemental budget act (changes to current year spending & sources).

Visit dccouncilbudget.com for more details about the budget

How much (in billions) does the District spend annually on operations?



Two types of spending

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Operating

Operating budget includes the funding necessary to keep the government running from day to day.

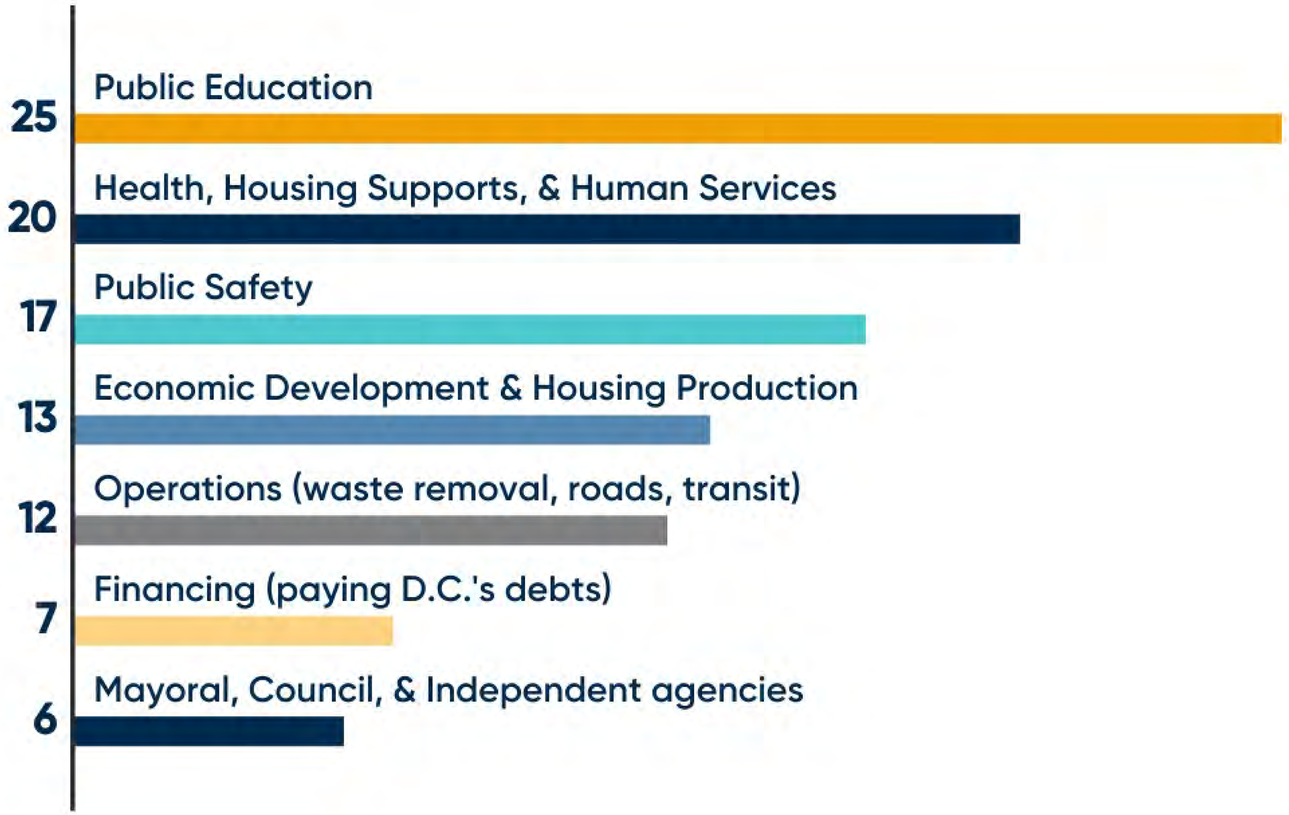
$21.2 billion
in FY 2025

Capital

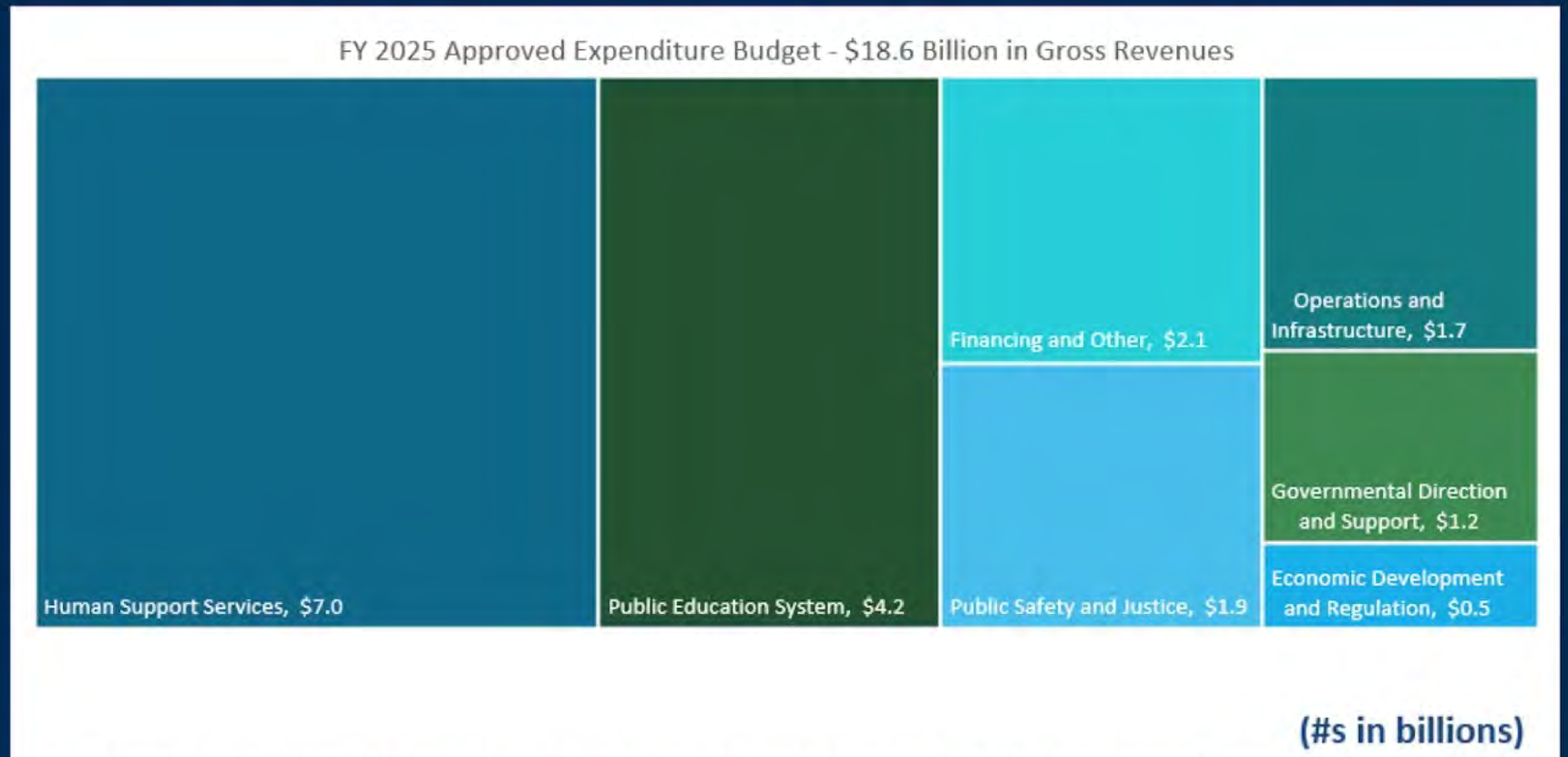
Capital budget includes the funding for procuring (buying), constructing, or renovating District-owned assets like schools, roads, vehicles, or IT systems.

$12 billion
over 6 years

If you were in charge of our operating budget, how would you allocate $100?



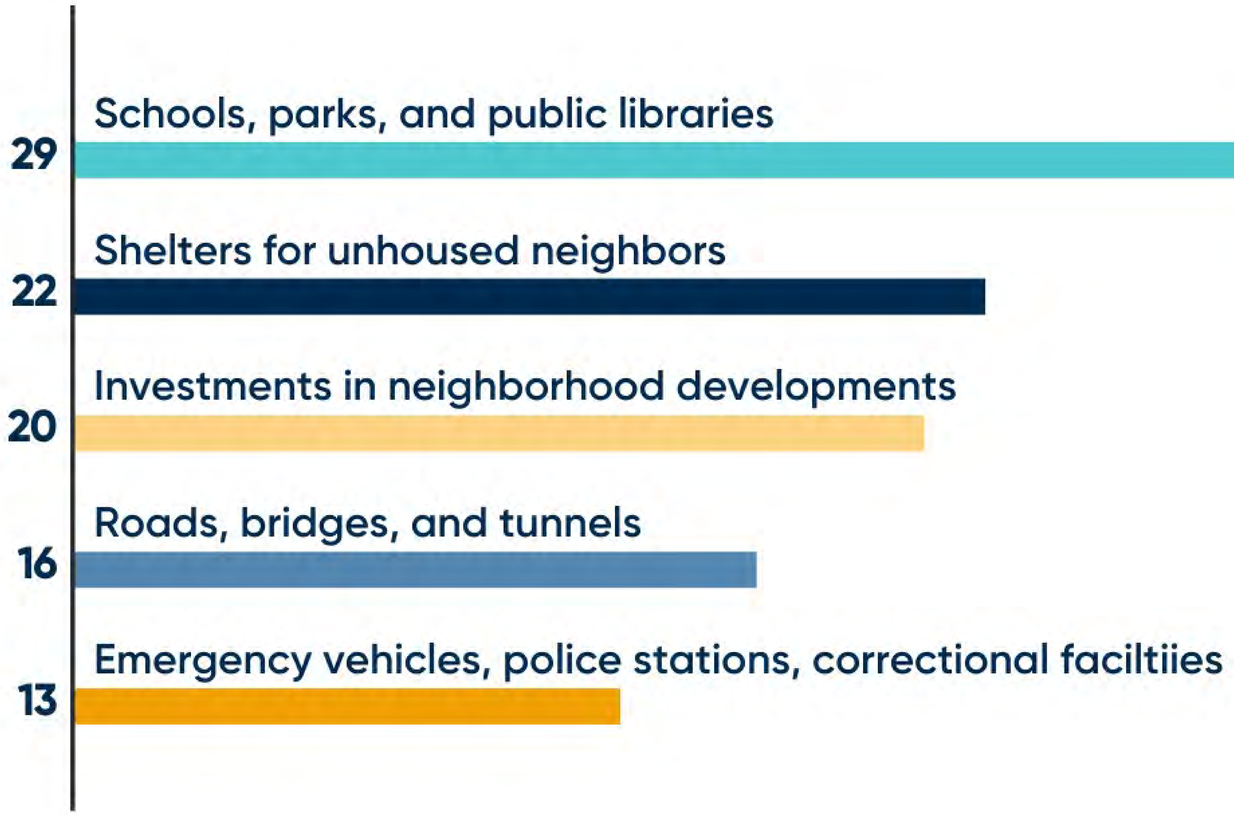
Where does our (operating) budget go?



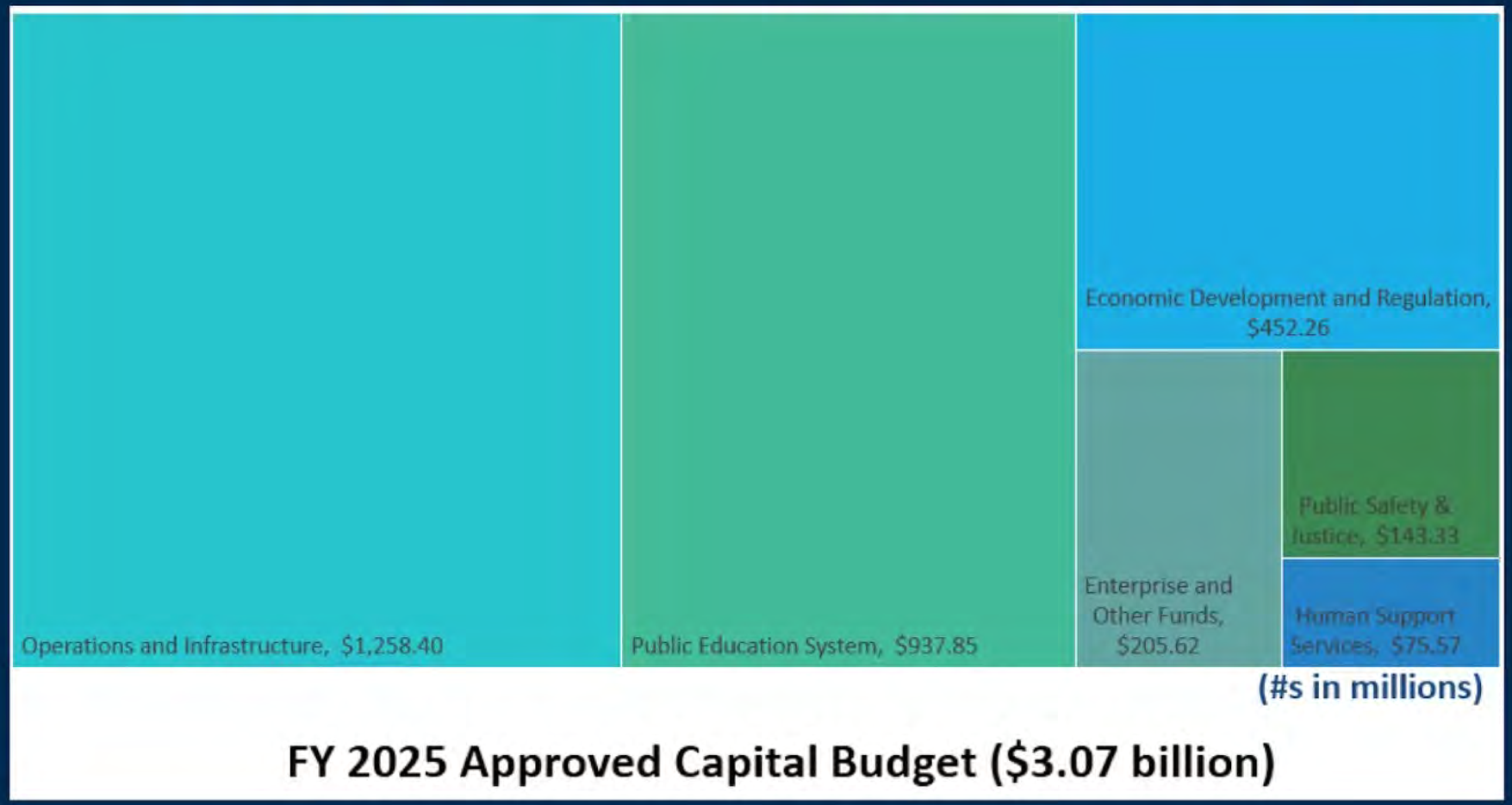
The District also spends $2.6B out of various Enterprise Funds, including: Proprietary Funds (e.g., the Not-For-Profit Hospital Corporation), Fiduciary Funds (e.g., Other Post-Employment Benefits), revenue generated by Component Units (e.g., the University of the District of Columbia), and the Housing Production Trust Fund

Nearly half of the District's operating budget is spent on human services (housing, health, etc) or public education (DCPS and public charter schools)

If you were in charge of our capital budget, how would you allocate $100?



Where does our (capital) budget go?



~60% of our capital budget is spent on roads, bridges, tunnels, and schools.

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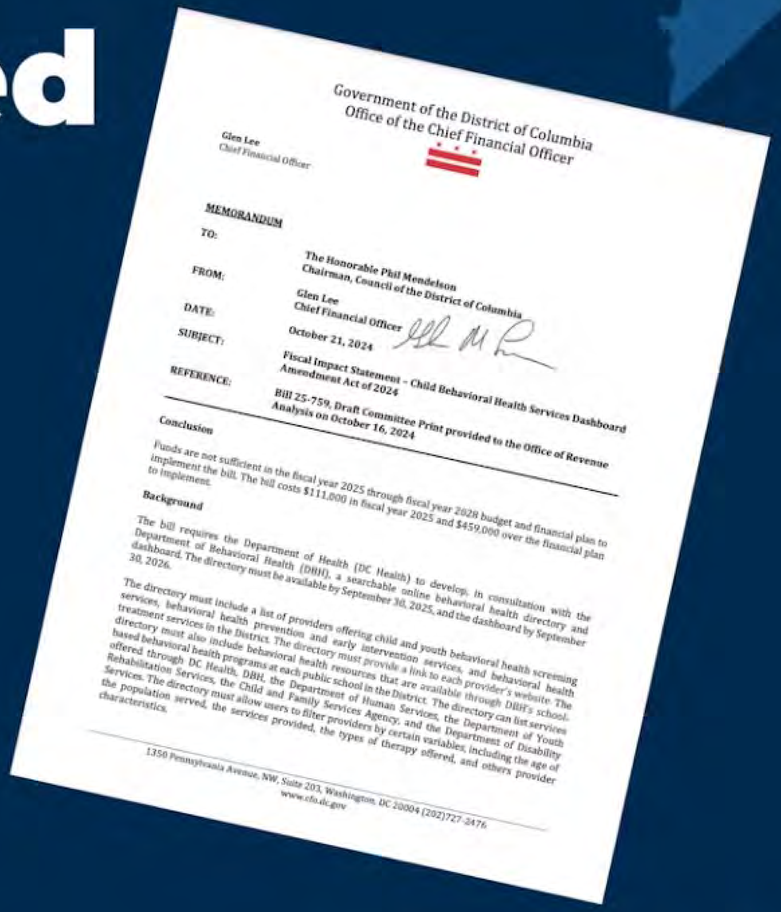
Legislation with a fiscal impact must be funded

For example, in 2024, the Council enacted and the Mayor signed Councilmember Parker's Child Behavioral Health Services Dashboard Act of 2024. While that bill is projected to become law on March 6, 2025 (when Congress's period of congressional review ends), it will not become effective until it is funded.



Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: October 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Child Behavioral Health Services Dashboard Amendment Act of 2024

REFERENCE: Bill 25-759, Draft Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 16, 2024

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill costs $111,000 in fiscal year 2025 and $459,000 over the financial plan to implement.

Background

The bill requires the Department of Health (DC Health) to develop, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), a searchable online behavioral health directory and dashboard. The directory must be available by September 30, 2025, and the dashboard by September 30, 2026.

The directory must include a list of providers offering child and youth behavioral health screening services, behavioral health prevention and early intervention services, and behavioral health treatment services in the District. The directory must provide a link to each provider's website. The directory must also include behavioral health resources that are available through DBH's school-based behavioral health programs at each public school in the District. The directory can list services offered through DC Health, DBH, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Child and Family Services Agency, and the Department of Disability Services. The directory must allow users to filter providers by certain variables, including the age of the population served, the services provided, the types of therapy offered, and others provider characteristics.

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 203, Washington, DC 20004 (202)727-2476
www.cfo.dc.gov

The Council Budget Office maintains a list of unfunded legislation.

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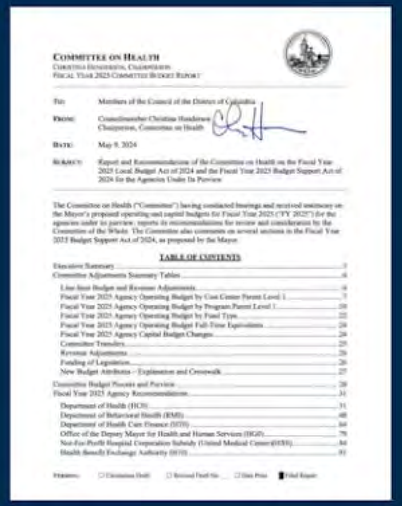
Budget Process

April → May → June → Summer/Fall



The Mayor introduces the budget.

Each Council committee modifies the budget under its jurisdiction.

Chairman Mendelson consolidates and modifies committee recommendations .

The full Council takes two votes on the budget, which include opportunities to amend.

Congress has opportunity to overturn budget.

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How to help shape the budget

Start early (now)

- The mayor and executive agencies are *already* thinking about what to prioritize this budget cycle

Engage offices in addition to ours

- Deputy mayors and council committee chairs are great targets for advocacy.
- If you're unsure who to approach, we can help.

Be direct and specific

- Submit written testimony and/or testify at hearings
- Describe the problem or need in terms that are easy for someone with no prior knowledge to understand.

Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good!

- Far better for policymakers to hear from you in a timely manner than for you to say the perfect thing *after* decisions have already been made

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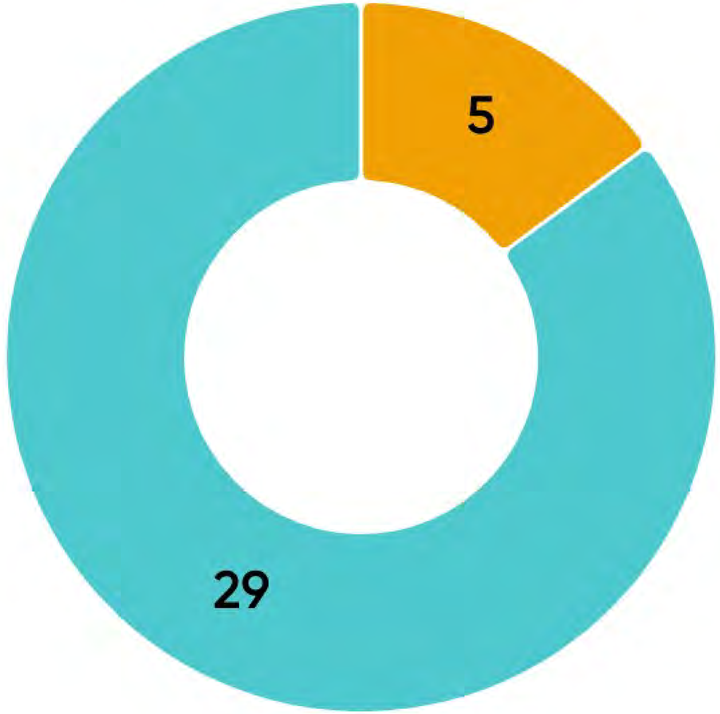
Has this presentation given you a better understanding of the District's budget process?



0	No
5	Somewhat
29	Yes

What questions do you have about the budget process?

19 questions
12 upvotes

Getting your input on the FY26 budget

Ward 5 Budget Forum

2.25.25

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What District programs, agencies, or resources have the had the greatest positive impact on you, your family, and your neighbors?

DC Healthy Families, Workforce Development

DDOT improvements to make our streets safer.

Free service. DC natives Riversmart and Anacostia Riverkeeper.

Bikeshare program

Dpr communal farms

This year, DC's unemployment benefits will have the biggest impact on me & neighbors as we are all terminated a result of the federal workforce reduction. We are also worried the benfits are to little

Traffic safety

DC Healthy Families Workforce Development

What District programs, agencies, or resources have the had the greatest positive impact on you, your family, and your neighbors?

Cabi bikeshare program

Bike program share. Bike lanes!!

ddot improvements

DC Healthy Families Workforce Development

DDOT - safer streets and protected bike lanes

MEDICAID

Greater Brookland International Village (DACL funded) Model Cities Senior Center, Woodridge Library

DPW compost program

What District programs, agencies, or resources have the had the greatest positive impact on you, your family, and your neighbors?

Bikeshare program

The public schools in Ward 5. Charter and DCPS schools

Free rec center brings the whole community together

Early Childcare reform for childcare workers

OPC

Sadly, DC offers little for the middle class. Most schools are not up to par, public safety is an issue, and new programs are always created while older programs still aren't 100%.

Transit improvements like MBT

DPW

What District programs, agencies, or resources have the had the greatest positive impact on you, your family, and your neighbors?

- Arts Education
- Bicycle infrastructure and safe streets
- DC Connect
- DMPED grants
- Services for seniors--DACL
- DOH Rodent control
- Parks and recreation
- First time home buyer program

What District programs, agencies, or resources have the had the greatest positive impact on you, your family, and your neighbors?

Yes, unemployment!

Rec centers!!

Education, across sectors and roles

Langdon Elementary is slated to have a few capital improvements but is also slated to be a summer school site. How can we advocate to get the location changed

No more protected bike lanes

Pilot compost

Services for Seniors - helped when dad was ill

Rec centers!

What District programs, agencies, or resources have the had the greatest positive impact on you, your family, and your neighbors?

DDOE inspectors for pollution in asphalt plants

MPD 5th District has been highly responsive

311 Diversified Communications, DC Healthy Families, Workforce Development, UI Benefits, DC free clinic

What Ward 5 facilities could benefit most from more investment?

Harry Thomas Rec

Edgewood recreation center!

Parks

Rec center

Langdon Elementary School

Parks and Recreation

Rec centers

Edgewood Recreation Center, Harry Thomas Recreation Center

What Ward 5 facilities could benefit most from more investment?

UDC Lamond-Riggs Campus needs a lot of love

Streets and sidewalks

Langdon Park Rec and Langdon Elementary

Recreation centers, senior centers

schools, recreation centers

Libraries! Do unemployment insurance support centers and jobs programs outreach there

Schools

Senior Center

What Ward 5 facilities could benefit most from more investment?

non-ADA accessible sidewalks.

Nothing pressing

Bike lane safety, U.S. National Arboretum long hours.

Turkey thicket - updated facilities, more classes

Turkey Thicket Playground - desperately needs renovation

Recreation center, municipal parking

Parks, roads, schools

Our schools DCSP and Charter in Ward 5

What Ward 5 facilities could benefit most from more investment?

Schools

Rec centers, especially Landon rec

Trinidad Rec center! What even happens there?

Roads

Langdon Elementary School Langdon Recreation Center

Shut down improperly zoned commercial in Ivy City - NEP

The entire DCPL system, but especially the Lamond-Riggs and Woodridge Libraries. Also, the return of police on the beat isn't a bad idea.

Harry Thomas Rec Center

What Ward 5 facilities could benefit most from more investment?

More protected bike lanes

Upgrading the Ward 5 recreation centers facilities and boosting the programming at the DPR sites Working with federal government Park service to improve the unimproved ward 5 parks

Protected bike lanes!!

Where do you think there is wasteful spending in the District's budget?

Mayor's staff

Green spaces

Street Sweeping

DCPS Central Office

Bike lanes

ONSE!!!

Economic development

mayors office

Where do you think there is wasteful spending in the District's budget?

Parking Enforcement

Protected bike lanes!!!

Bike lanes

Protected bike lanes

Downtown

Copious bike lanes Circulator Unvetted developer contracts

Trees in my neighborhood were just cut do n - why?

Enforcement

Where do you think there is wasteful spending in the District's budget?

protected bike lanes

Public funding / Give aways to the owners of professional sports teams

Incentives for real estate companies.

Speeding, stop sign and red light cameras!

DMPED!

Protected bike lane

Capital bikeshare

Building infrastructure with cars first. Police spending. Shorter timeframe for community engagement.

Where do you think there is wasteful spending in the District's budget?

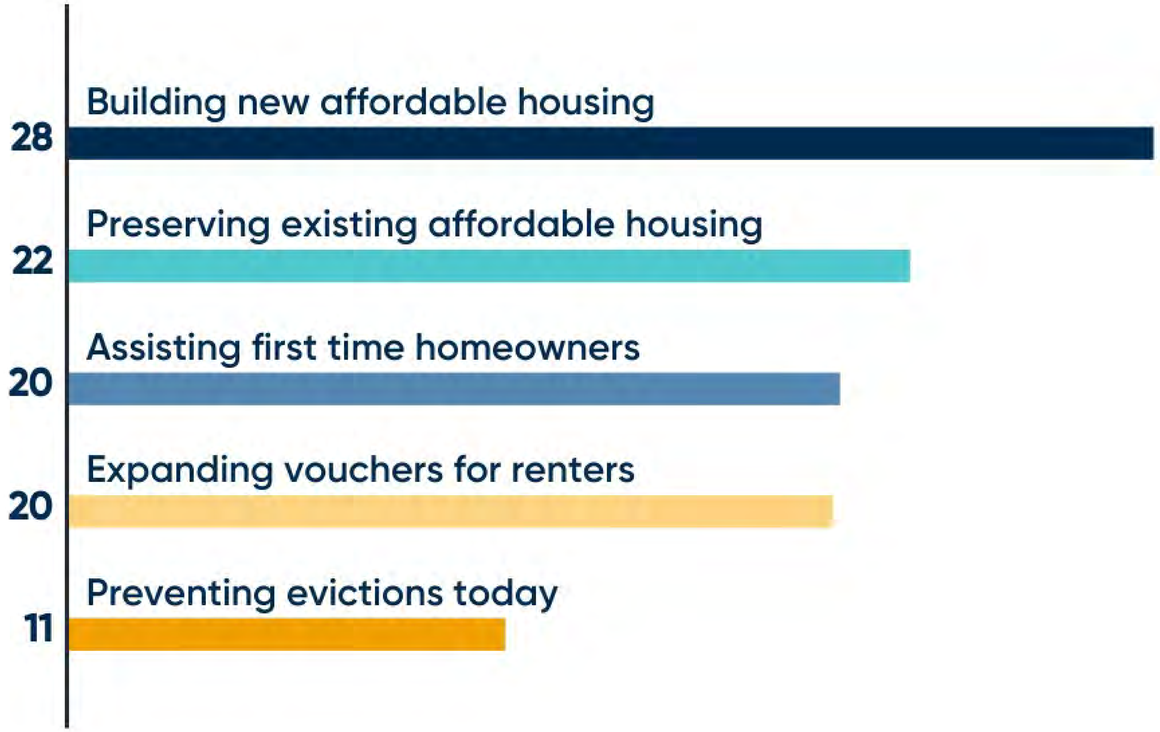
Capitol One Arena support for billionaires

The underutilized bike lanes. We need data on usage and better optimization for all road users. Also, grants management/compliance at ONSE and possibly others. Ensure programs are delivering

Incompetent district employees

Subsidies to developers

Residents are struggling to rent and purchase homes, while our existing supply of affordable housing in jeopardy. What would you prioritize:



How can we better support seniors through our budget?

More housing for seniors

Build more housing

Preserve senior daycare!

make bus stops more accessible (such as have benches at every stop)

housing for seniors

Health care

Innovative programming and estate/wealth planning

More programs and facilities for seniors

How can we better support seniors through our budget?

Expand the grandparent caregiver program

Youth and senior partnerships

Senior Centers

Programs that connect them with youth for mentoring them

Better, safe housing

Various resources

Walkable/accessible sidewalks

Intergenerational villages. Connect the generations

How can we better support seniors through our budget?

More centers and housing

Active aging programs, intergenerational activities, accessory dwelling units (move in with/by family)

Leisure space outdoors (green space)

Fund home improvement/mobility grant program

Advertise the current services for seniors

Activities for senior and supporting access to those activities

I think the District did a great job during the pandemic. It may be a matter of bring about awareness of resources.

Help by giving opportunities for shared housing.

How can we better support seniors through our budget?

By supporting the families supporting the seniors

More housing caregiver resources/support

Multi-generational housing & support

Maintain curbside access

Record their lived history

Accessibility concerns near construction sites (blocked sidewalks)

Fund public transit for the many seniors who can't drive

Services to help repair houses

How can we better support seniors through our budget?

Ensure that senior residences are safe and do not allow younger ex-offenders or youth to live there.

Turkey thicket investments - in facilities and classes

Continue strong support for programs that keep us physically active and connected to others

Help them live out their lives in their homes

Mailing updates, not just electronic distribution

Services to support caregivers

Help with home maintenence and repairs

Tax reduction at age 62

How can we better support seniors through our budget?

Fund memory care assistance for families

Caregiver support services

Safer sidewalks — many seniors have trouble getting around

Transportation

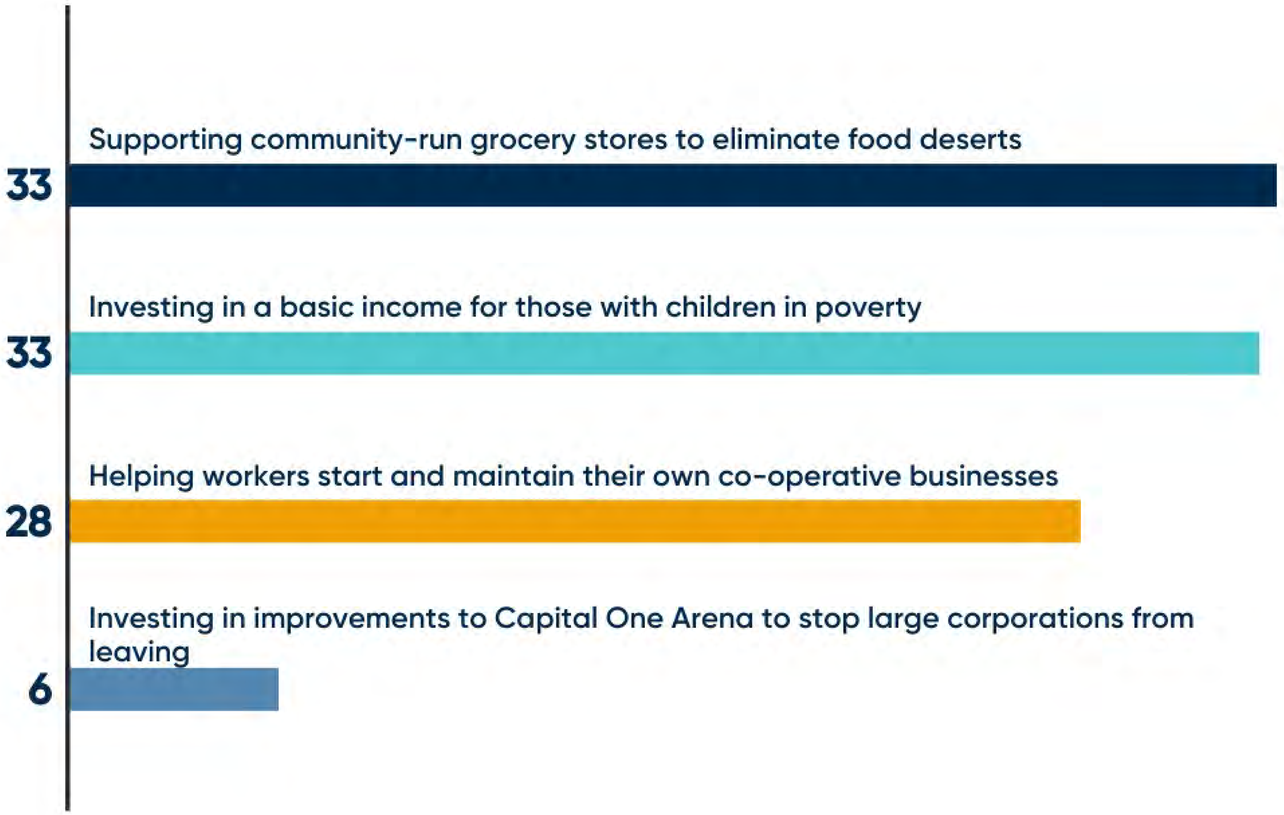
Transportation to appointments Basic computer skills training iT security

Support multigenerational housing

Increase services for financial counseling to prevent predatory fraud on their saving and homes. Multigenerational housing Establishing a senior council to engage them as experts

Provided carts through the city for seniorsc

If you had $100 to spend on economic development, what would you spend it on?



How can we better support District youth through our budget?

Jobs

Support TEACHERS

Jobs

Fund apprenticeship programs

Prevent them from skipping school

Develop OST staff

Identify youth deserts and target activities to those locations

Mentorship

How can we better support District youth through our budget?

Programs that appeal to teenagers like technology

More DPR facility run partnerships being pushed forward

Turkey thicket - better facilities, more classes available (it's impossible to register!)

Fund after school jobs

have yoga and meditation in schools

Hands on "All careers" environmental education

Scholarships

Get parents the information about resources to help them. Support family planning.

How can we better support District youth through our budget?

evening education programs

After-school programs

Engaging programming cradle to career!

Investments in neighborhoods where vulnerable District youth reside.

Improve the school system

Programs ran by CERTIFIED trauma-informed staff

Better education

Training

How can we better support District youth through our budget?

Trade schools Global education initiatives regardless of property taxes, educate all Regulate marajuana

Find HS and youth education programs

Out-of-school time programming & services

School outcomes are not strong - dcps need to do better

Education! Create a "Banneker" in each Ward!

Activities. Close streets on sat n Sundays. Kids can ride bikes. Put basketball on the street on the weekend.

Vocational education programs and jobs pipeline

Programs dealing with mental health and mentorship

How can we better support District youth through our budget?

School based mental health supports

Honing their hobbies and interests

Youth support and perception of opportunity

Afterschool programs, training for trades, mentoring, mental health care to address trauma

Bring back ARTS IN SCHOOLS! Innovative career exploration Programming, mental health guidance,

Mental health supports at the school level

By providing more economic activity for families

Improved schools

How can we better support District youth through our budget?

Safe transportation to & from school

Support refugee youth

More enrichment programs after school and weekend and summer times for youth K-12 such as art, sports, entrepreneurship. More counseling, mediation in all schools to support mental wellness

Comprehensive support, person by person finding solutions for that child with their family and teachers and mentors

Ask what they want! They need spaces that welcome them but we don't always know what is best for them. Trade programs, sports, art, etc.

Vocational education!

Safe public places or semi-supervised places that they can spend time (parks, rec centers, movie theaters)

Ask young people about what they want. Partner with charter and DCPS programs that serve high school and middle school students to gather data.

How can we better support District youth through our budget?

Conflict resolution skills

Mental health services
Lifeskills training
Employ

Focus on literacy & writing

Travel

None

FInd community base people who hold weight with teens who are not in school who could assist with getting input from teens not in school

We must recognize that parents need support, child care, and mental wellness.

Safe streets

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

The District needs to bolster enforcement of traffic laws.

Pursue faster & cheaper safety projects on neighborhood corridors like Franklin Street, N.E.

Beautify residential alleys

Repair broken sidewalks and install missing ones

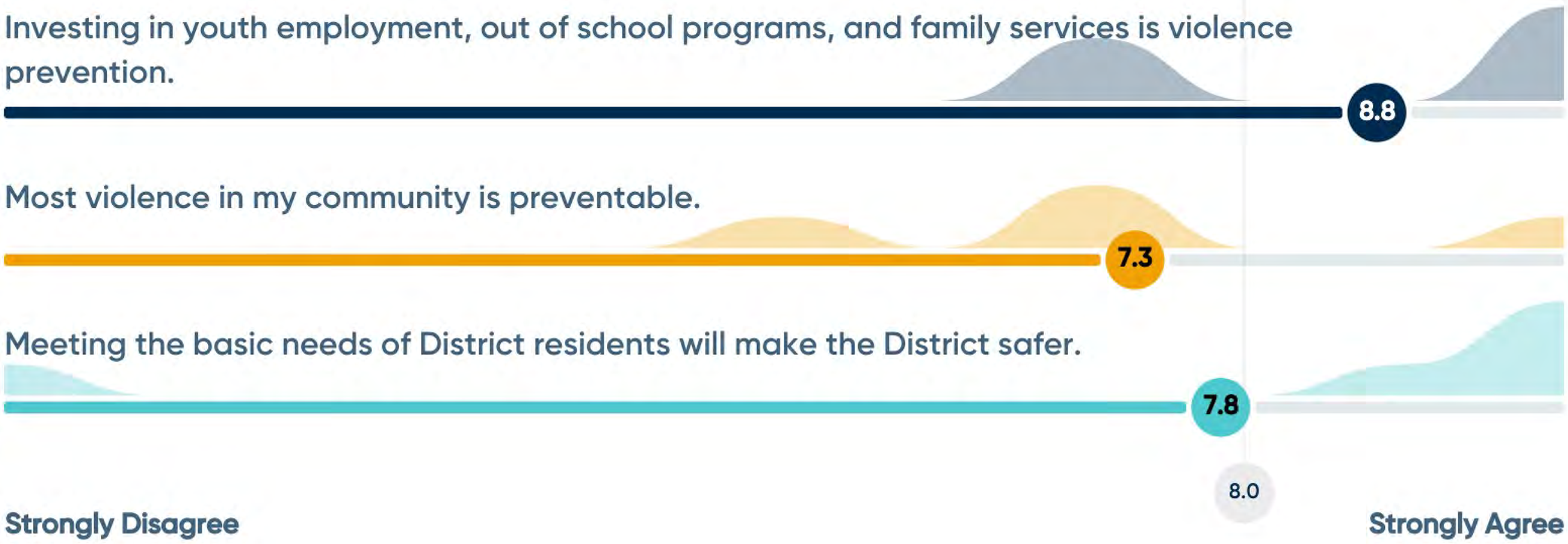
Make bus service faster and more reliable

Expand booting and towing of cars that are driven dangerously

Strongly Disagree **Strongly Agree**

What Ward 5 parks, recreation centers, or other facilities need improvement?

Please respond to the following statements:



What word best describes how you feel about DC as we enter the FY 26 budget process?

32 responses

If you could only choose one initiative or program to prioritize this budget cycle, what would it be?

Education

Increasing the unemployment amount

RI Ave safety/bus lane

I 83

Initiative 83

Harry Thomas Rec

Schools / education

Turkey Thicket

If you could only choose one initiative or program to prioritize this budget cycle, what would it be?

Safe streets

After school programs

Youth Development in Recreation centers

After school programs on wknds

Early childcare

Education

Senior programs I83

Medicaid - protect people's HEALTH

If you could only choose one initiative or program to prioritize this budget cycle, what would it be?

Schools

Fund Initiative 83

Education

UDC Lamond-Riggs Campus

Neighborhood economic development

Public safety

Stadium

More housing, more small businesses, less red tape

If you could only choose one initiative or program to prioritize this budget cycle, what would it be?

Schools

Safety

I 83 (democracy is the basis for it all!)

Pollution from industrial areas

Youth employment

No protected bike lanes

Affordable housing

Build more housing

If you could only choose one initiative or program to prioritize this budget cycle, what would it be?

Public safety. Support the MPD and their community outreach

Mental health programs

Social support services

Affordable housing

Neighborhood public schools like Langdon Elementary

Youth support

Turkey Thicket

Fully Funding DCPL!

If you could only choose one initiative or program to prioritize this budget cycle, what would it be?

Public Schools

UDC community college

Services

Public safety

Senior transportation services

Reservoir Park

Langdon Elementary school

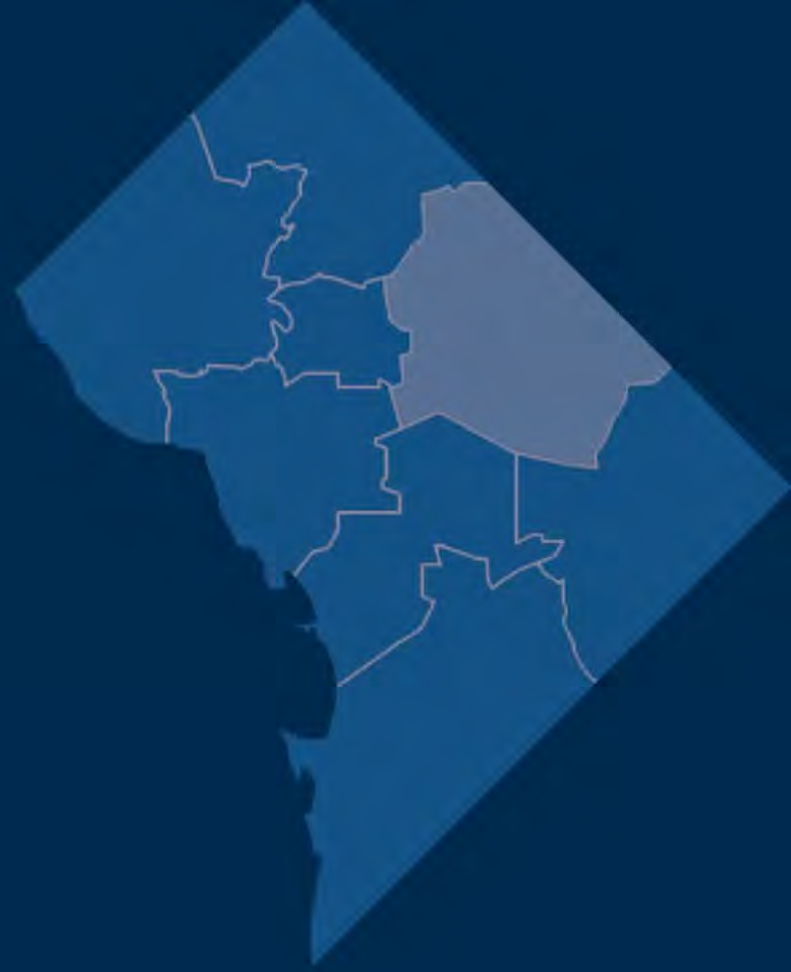
Need a UPS or FedEx!

If you could only choose one initiative or program to prioritize this budget cycle, what would it be?

DC Connect expansion

Teacher salary increase support for all teachers. DCSP and Charter. Your constituents attend charter and DCPS schools.

CONTACT US



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Thank you!

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