



Participatory Budgeting

City of Tacoma | Office of Management & Budget

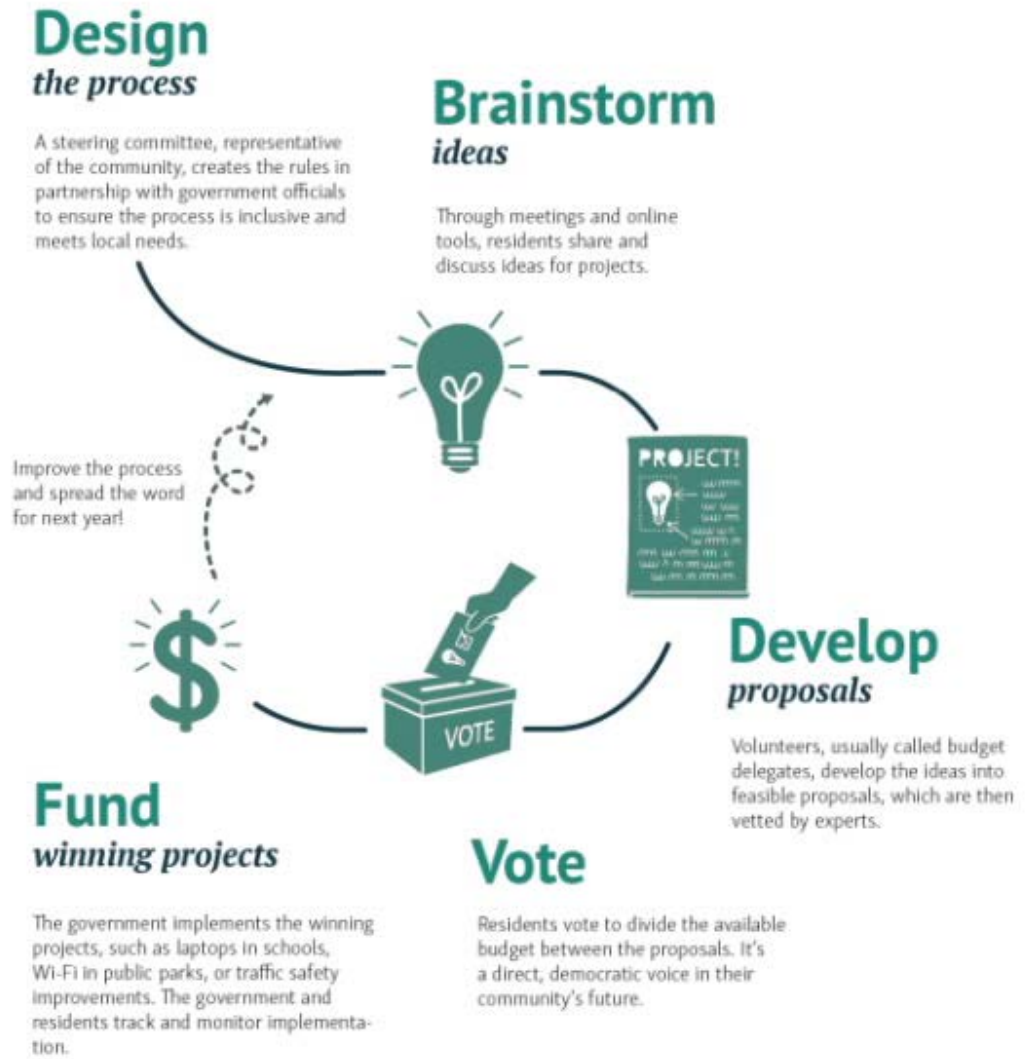
Government Performance & Finance Committee

April 12, 2018





Participatory Budgeting Approach



Goals

- Transparency & Accountability
- Education
- Public Based Decisions
- Fairer Spending
- Community Building & Empowerment



Lincoln High School
Participatory
Budgeting in
Schools –
Tacoma-Pierce
County Health
Department





Participatory Budgeting Approach



Funding for Process

- Discretionary Funds of Electeds
- City Budgets
 - Capital and Operating
- Youth
- K-12 Schools
- Colleges and Universities
- Federal – HUD Community Development Block Grant
- Public Institutions – Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.

Resources Needed

- Community Outreach and Partnerships
- Group Facilitation and Training
- Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination
- Administrative and Logistical Support
- Budgeting and Technical Support
- Communications and Promotions
- Digital Technology Coordination
- Research and Evaluation

Lessons Learned



- Communication is key to instill trust.
- Staff should vet applications before they go to the citywide ballot.
- Many cities required the work to be implemented by the City, on city property.
- Some cities adopt rules that projects can not have ongoing costs, and almost all cities focused on Capital projects or improvements.
- Cities also described it as an iterative process, where initially they had some very wide open rules and lofty goals and then refined the process overtime.





Key Questions



- What problems in your city could Participatory Budgeting help address?
- What impacts would you want Participatory Budgeting to have for individuals, the community, and government?
- Are there existing public engagement processes that should connect with Participatory Budgeting ?
- What budgets have faced the greatest demands for more transparency?
- Which communities have historically been most marginalized from government decision-making, and which organizations have deep roots in those communities?





Existing Funding Processes

Innovative Grants

- Funding: General Fund
- Goals: Projects are not tied to specific goals
- Process: Decisions made by Councils and limited advertisements

Human Service Contracting

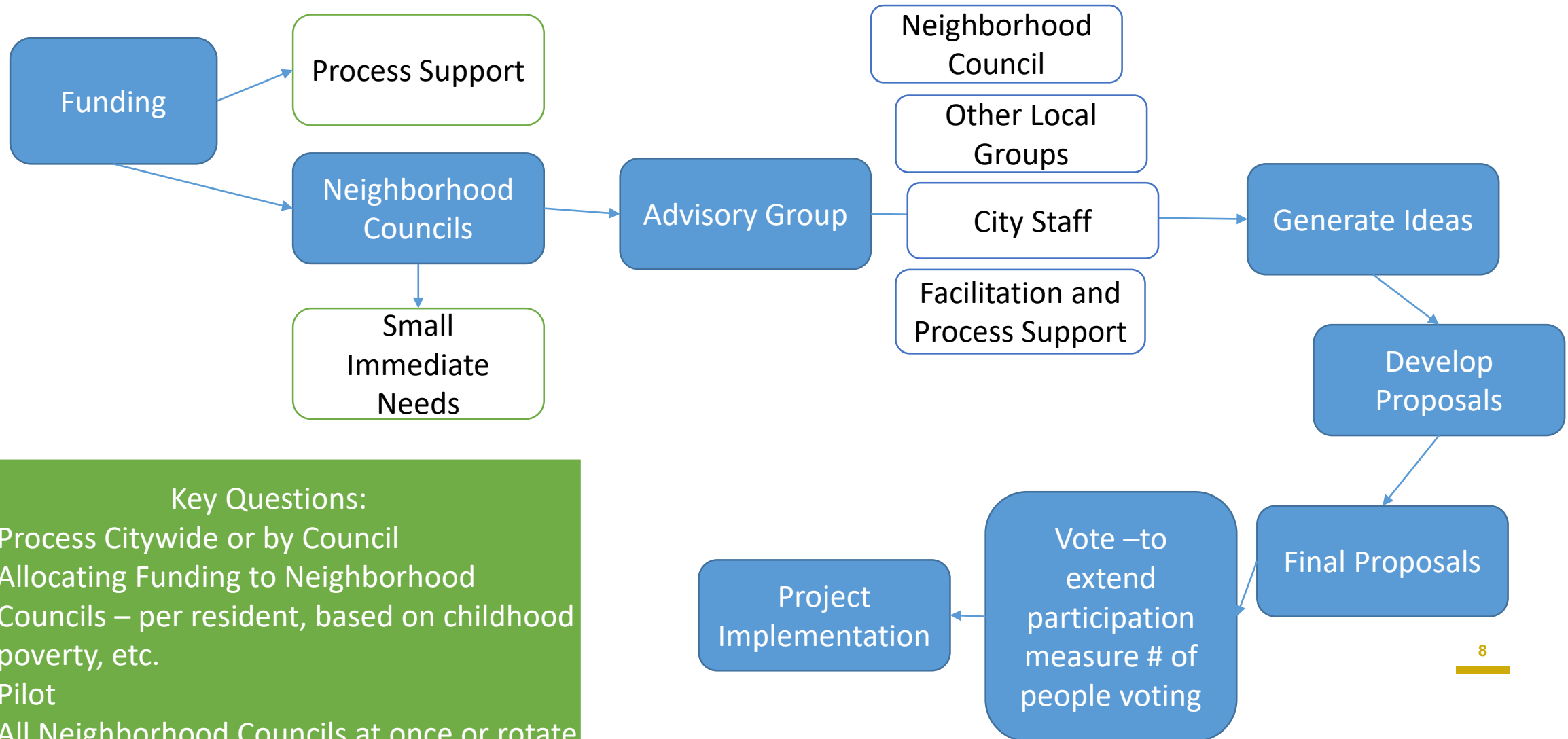
- Funding: General Fund and Mental Health Funding
- Goals: Goals outlined in Human Services Strategic Plan
- Process: Committee based process that includes training and well advertised with non-profit community

City Budgeting Process

- Funding: All Funds
- Goals: Established by the City Council
- Process: Community outreach through events, voting on priorities (events and online), well advertised, decision making by City Manager proposal and City Council adoption.



Alternative Approach



Key Questions:

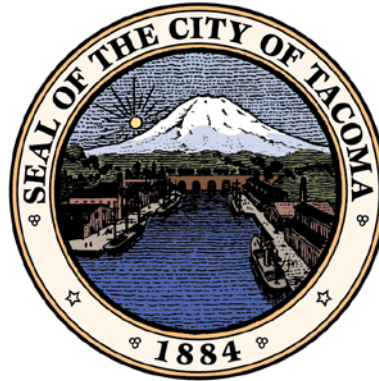
- Process Citywide or by Council
- Allocating Funding to Neighborhood Councils – per resident, based on childhood poverty, etc.
- Pilot
- All Neighborhood Councils at once or rotate



Next Steps



- Neighborhood Council Review
- Start an exploratory committee
- Identify “pots of money” and implementation funds
- Build community support



Ordinance Name/Policy Name

City of Tacoma | Department Name

City Council Meeting/Committee Name

DATE

ITEM #

