



Participatory Budgeting Overview and Next Steps

Office of Management and Budget
City Council Study Session
June 2, 2026
Item 2



Agenda

Participatory Budgeting

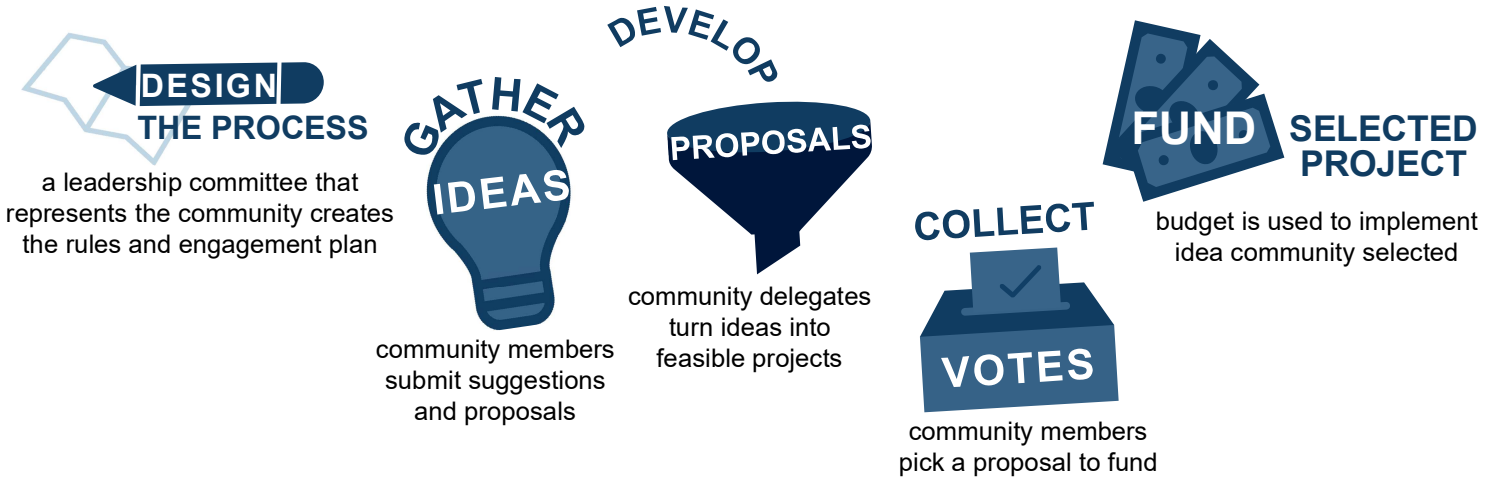
Participatory Budgeting in Tacoma
Thus Far

Participatory Budgeting in Tacoma
Moving Forward



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend a portion of the public budget



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Participatory Budgeting

in Tacoma; Thus Far

in Tacoma; Moving Forward



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AND TACOMA 2035 VALUES

Belief and Trust

Builds trust by engaging historically marginalized communities

Access, Opportunity, and Belonging

Fosters sense of ownership over local priorities and services

Fiscal Responsibility

Promotes public awareness of budget constraints and priorities

Resilience

Improves decision making by ensuring those closest to the issues help shape the solutions

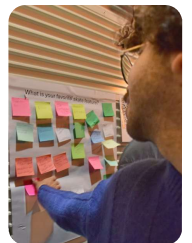
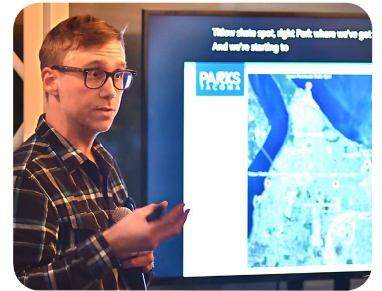


Photo credit: Parks Tacoma

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Participatory Budgeting

in Tacoma; Thus Far

in Tacoma; Moving Forward



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN TACOMA

THUS FAR *Project Outcomes*

Council District 4

Council District 2

Ideas Submitted	1,000+ Aug 2022 – Mar 2023	2,500+ Jan – Apr 2024
On the Ballot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural events, out-of-school youth programming, and community activities (<i>selected</i>) • Climate action job training program for East Tacoma residents • Lincoln Playfield and Lincoln Park improvements • Community garden expansion and collaborative work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered skate park featuring public art under I-705 (<i>selected</i>) • Youth programming for Tacoma Public Library's Main branch • Upgrades at the City's Puyallup Avenue emergency shelter stability site
Votes Cast	12,389 30% under 18; 84% communities of color Jun – Sep 2023	6,174 24% under 18; 60% communities of color Jun – Sep 2024
Implementation Partner	Foundation for Tacoma Students 2024 - 2028	Parks Tacoma 2026 – 2028(?)

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Participatory Budgeting

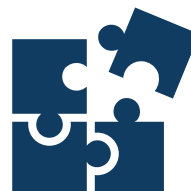
in Tacoma; Thus Far

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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN TACOMA

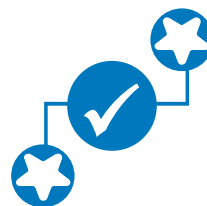
THUS FAR *Community Outcomes*



Mutual learning opportunities



Utilizer of community language ambassadors



Stronger community partnerships

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Participatory Budgeting

in Tacoma; Thus Far

in Tacoma; Moving Forward



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN TACOMA

MOVING FORWARD *Grant Overview*



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WHY TACOMA?

- Communities overburdened by environmental harms
- Participatory budgeting experience

\$650,000

PROCESS ADMINISTRATION
Operating costs, supplies, and 2.0 FTEs

\$1.6 MILLION



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Participatory Budgeting

in Tacoma; Thus Far

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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN TACOMA

MOVING FORWARD *in District 5*

Council District 5 is a strong candidate...

For climate resilience and environmental justice-focused funding, with areas:

- Ranked “low” or “very low” by the Equity Index’s Environmental Health category
- Located in the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District
- Negatively impacted by I-5’s air pollution

For this grant’s abbreviated timeline, because of its:

- Familiarity with participatory budgeting, as a result of the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan
- Large middle and high schools
- Strong community leadership structures ie neighborhood councils, business associations

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Participatory Budgeting

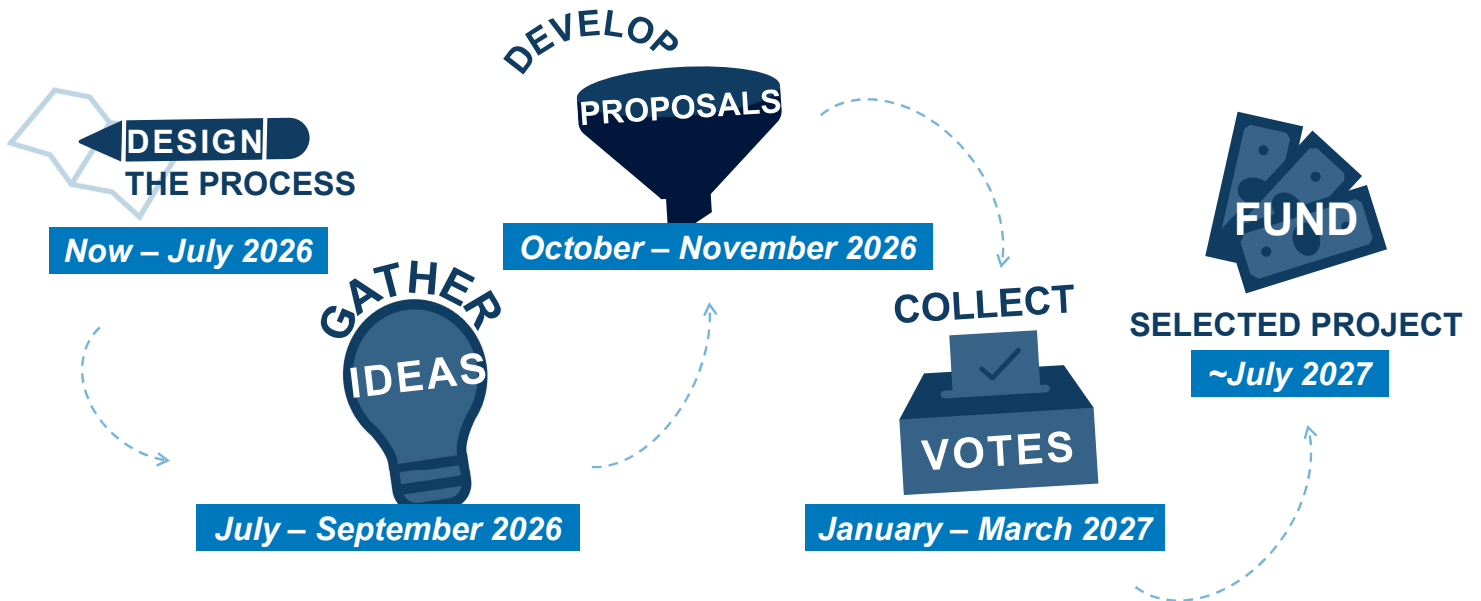
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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN TACOMA

MOVING FORWARD *Timeline*



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN TACOMA

MOVING FORWARD *How to Participate*

Live, work, learn, or play in District 5?



Council and the Public

- Recommend communities for outreach and partnership opportunities
- Promote participation and refer community leaders at all stages

Council has an open invitation to attend community leadership team meetings!

bit.ly/district5participatorybudgeting