



Section 2-129 Participatory Budgeting Program

To further public engagement and democratic involvement in City spending, the City must create by ordinance a Participatory Budgeting Program with an annual or bi-annual participatory budgeting (PB) process open to all residents, consistent with the Oregon Local Budget Law. Annual funding for the Program must be an amount from the City's current General Fund discretionary ongoing resources equal to no less than 2% of adopted General Fund discretionary ongoing expenses from the previous fiscal year. Funding allocation decisions made by city residents through the PB process defined in this Section shall be binding on the City. Program funding can cover staffing and initial and ongoing PB process implementation and evaluation. The PB Program funding shall begin no later than the 2026-2027 fiscal year and the first PB Process shall begin no later than July 2027.

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a deliberative democratic process that allows residents to decide, within certain parameters, how to spend a portion of a public budget. The Participatory Budgeting Program (PB) created by ordinance must include a PB process with the following elements:

- Steering Committee.** *A Steering Committee representative of city residents from all city districts shall be selected by a process determined by the City Council. The Steering Committee shall establish the broad goals and elements for each stage of the PB process, with an emphasis on making the process transparent and accessible to all City residents. In addition, the Steering Committee shall evaluate the PB program, in collaboration with the City Auditor, and recommend changes in the process to the City Council as needed.*
- Idea Collection.** *All residents of the City are invited and encouraged to submit project ideas on how to spend available funds through public meetings and other forums that are open and accessible to all residents.*
- Project Development.** *A transparent process wherein City staff and budget delegates representative of all City district residents review, assess, and refine project ideas into a limited number of PB qualified projects that can be feasibly implemented by the City government. PB qualified projects can be specific to a city district or apply city wide.*
- Project Voting.** *The PB qualified projects are placed on a ballot and subject to a binding vote open and accessible to all residents. Ballots may be citywide and/or specific to city districts. Voting on PB qualified projects will be administered by the City's PB Program.*
- Project Implementation.** *The winning PB projects are implemented by the City government or its agents. To account for unforeseen circumstances, the PB program can include a limited process for potentially amending winning PB projects after the vote, but only to ensure the feasibility and the intent of residents. City staff shall consult the Steering Committee in making any changes to winning PB projects.*
- Program Evaluation.** *The City Auditor shall provide technical assistance to the Steering Committee to evaluate the Participatory Budgeting Program to improve desired impacts and outcomes and to increase participation of historically underrepresented communities in all phases of the process. In addition, at least once every five years, the City Auditor shall conduct an independent performance audit of the Participating Budgeting Program.*