

What is participatory budgeting?

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. In other words, the people who pay taxes decide how tax dollars get spent. Participatory budgeting is grassroots democracy at its best. It helps make budget decisions clear and accessible. It gives real power to people who have never before been involved in the political process. And it results in better budget decisions - because who better knows the needs of our community than the people who live there?

In 2011, four New York City Council Members launched a PB process to let residents allocate part of their capital discretionary funds. Those are funds that can be used for physical improvements that benefit the public, and each district has committed at least \$1 million. This year, twenty-four Council Members are participating in the process, giving the community real decision-making power over more than \$25 million in taxpayer money.

How does participatory budgeting work?

Last fall, district residents like you came to neighborhood assemblies to identify community needs and suggest projects. Then, volunteers joined delegate committees to develop those suggestions into project proposals, and worked with city agencies to estimate project costs. They put together the proposals you will vote on today.

Now is your chance to vote for the projects you think should get funded. The projects with the most votes will be included in next year's city budget, to be built or implemented over the next few years.

You'll get to enjoy the improvements you help make happen. And hopefully, you'll be a part of future participatory budgeting efforts in the city!

Special Thanks To:

The budget delegates, facilitators, and district committees

The staff of the City Council Members' offices
The Participatory Budgeting Project
Community Voices Heard

The PBNYC Citywide Steering Committee

The PBNYC Research Board

PB Fellows Class of 2014-15 & the CUNY Service Corps

Participating Members:

Manhattan

Corey Johnson (District 3)
Ben Kallos (District 5)
Mark Levine (District 7)
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (District 8)
Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)
Helen Rosenthal (District 6)

Brooklyn

David Greenfield (District 44)
Brad Lander (District 39)
Steve Levin (District 33)
Carlos Menchaca (District 38)
Antonio Reynoso (District 34)
Mark Treyger (District 47)
Jumaane D. Williams (District 45)

Queens

Costa Constantinides (District 22)
Julissa Ferreras (District 21)
Karen Koslowitz (District 29)
I. Daneek Miller (District 27)
Donovan Richards (District 31)
Eric Ulrich (District 32)
Paul Vallone (District 19)
Jimmy Van Bramer (District 26)
Mark Weprin (District 23)

Bronx

Andrew Cohen (District 11)
Ritchie Torres (District 15)
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (District 8)

Outreach partners: Desis Rising Up and Moving, the Fortune Society, the LGBT Center, Brooklyn Community Pride Center & MinKwon Center for Community Action

Technology partners: Stanford Crowdsourced Democracy Team, Democracy 2.1, Textizen, Captricity & OpenPlans

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Credits

This ballot was produced by the design firm MTWTF and the Center for Urban Pedagogy.

2015 Official Ballot

Participatory Budgeting in New York City

Council Member
Costa
Constantinides

District 22
Astoria
Long Island City
Woodside
East Elmhurst
Jackson Heights

Voting instructions

- Your vote will help decide how \$1,000,000 is spent on improvements to your community.
- All residents of the district, age 16 and up, can vote.
- You may vote for up to five (5) projects.
- You can not vote for the same project more than once.
- Ballots marked with more than five votes are invalid and will not be counted.
- Use black or blue ink. Ballots marked in pencil will not be counted.
- Shade in the entire box next to the project description to indicate your choice.
- Do not use an "X" or a "✓." Do not circle the box or the project description.
- Correct: Incorrect:



Find out where to vote!

Text "PBNYC" to 212-676-8384*

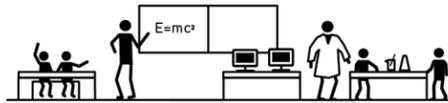
Visit council.nyc.gov/PB

Email pbnyc@council.nyc.gov

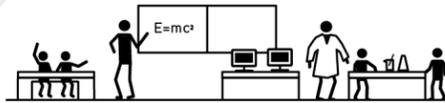
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*Standard messaging rates apply.

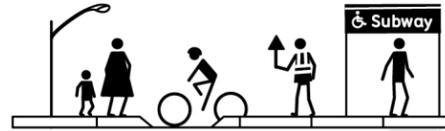
Public Schools



Public Schools



Streets, Sidewalks, and Transportation



Parks and Recreation



Public Housing



1. I.S. 126 Playground

\$500,000

Transformation of I.S. 126's parking lot into a recreational playground for the school and the entire community.

31-51 21 Street (Astoria)

6. P.S. 2 Wheelchair Ramp Access

\$200,000

Build a ramp to allow for wheelchair access into the school - allowing the school to be designated once again as a polling site for voters.

75-10 21 Avenue (East Elmhurst)

11. Newtown Plaza

\$400,000

This project would begin the process of redesigning the streetscape on Newtown Avenue between 32nd and 33rd Street so that a pedestrian plaza could be constructed at that location.

Newtown Ave, b/w 32 & 33 Sts. (Astoria)

13. Dog Run in Astoria

\$500,000

Turn Triborough Lot C under the RFK Bridge in Astoria into a dog run.

Hoyt Ave. bet. 23 St. & 24 St. (Astoria)

18. Renovate Astoria Houses Basketball Court

\$350,000

Purpose of the project is to renovate the Astoria Houses basketball court so that it is a safe and attractive facility for the community residents.

4-25 Astoria Blvd (Astoria)

2. P.S. 84 Electrical Upgrades

\$100,000

Upgrade the school's electrical system in order to support existing technology.

22-45 41 Street (Astoria)

7. P.S. 2 Music Room

\$200,000

Create a music room for students at P.S. 2. This will create a special space for students to receive a music and arts education.

75-10 21 Avenue (East Elmhurst)

12. Redesign 21 Street at Astoria Blvd

\$500,000

This project would add curb extensions to the 21st Street/Astoria Boulevard intersection, and shorten the distance that pedestrians need to cross.

21st Street/Astoria Boulevard (Astoria)

14. Fitness Upgrade: Whitey Ford Field

\$300,000

Upgrade the fitness equipment, enhancing the public health benefits of the playground.

26 Ave. and 2nd St. (Astoria)

3. P.S. 84 Cafeteria Upgrade

\$150,000

Renovate the school's cafeteria with new flooring, drop-ceiling, along with cafeteria benches and tables.

22-45 41 Street (Astoria)

8. P.S. 166 Rooftop Playground

\$100,000

Building a playground on the roof of P.S. 166 to give students a recreational space to play.

33-09 35 Avenue (Long Island City)

15. Play for All: Hallets Cove Playground

\$375,000

Upgrade playground and install equipment for children with special needs.

30 Ave. and Vernon Blvd. (Astoria)

4. P.S. 122 Cafeteria Soundproofing

\$100,000

Soundproof the school's cafeteria. The school was built nearly a century ago and the cafeteria was not designed to mitigate noise levels. Currently, students complain of headaches.

21-21 Ditmars Boulevard (Astoria)

9. Public School District-wide Tech Upgrade

\$245,000

Technology upgrades of \$35,000 each for the following schools: P.S. 84, P.S. 122, P.S. 234, I.S. 235, P.S. 17, P.S. 2, and I.S. 141.

District-wide (Astoria)

16. Basketball Court: Woodtree Playground

\$375,000

Upgrade the basketball court at Woodtree Playground, enhancing the fitness benefits of the playground.

20 Ave. bet. 37 St. and 38 St. (Astoria)

5. P.S. 151 Bathroom Renovations

\$300,000

Renovations will update the bathroom's plumbing system and aesthetics - making the facilities safer and cleaner.

50-05 31 Avenue (Woodside)

10. P.S. 70 Science Lab Upgrade

\$500,000

Renovate the science lab facility at P.S. 70. to provide students with the best tools to learn about the sciences.

30-45 42 Street (Astoria)

17. Dog Run in Jackson Heights

\$500,000

Turn the lot on 78 Street into a dog run.

78 St. bet. 25 Ave. and 30 Ave (Jackson Heights)

You may vote for up to five (5) projects.