



News Release

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Durham Seeks Resident Input on Participatory Budgeting Capital Projects

*Durham Is Now the Second City in the Southeast to Implement Participatory Budgeting;
Idea Submission Begins November 1*

DURHAM, N.C. – [Participatory Budgeting](#) is now underway, and the City of Durham is seeking resident input on how to spend the \$2.4 million designated by the City Council for one-time projects in each of the three City Council wards.

Participatory budgeting is a democratic process that allows residents to directly decide how to spend part of the City's public budget. Participatory budgeting involves a two-year cycle of meetings, voting, and project implementation to then become part of the broader budget decision-making process. Durham's participatory budgeting process is a series of five steps as follows:

1. Design the Process - A [steering committee](#), appointed by the Durham City Council, creates [the rules](#) in partnership with government officials to ensure the process is inclusive and meets local needs.
2. Brainstorm Ideas - Through meetings and [online tools](#), residents share and discuss ideas for projects.
3. Develop Proposals - Volunteers, usually called budget delegates, develop the ideas into feasible proposals, which are then vetted by experts.
4. Vote - Residents vote to divide the available budget between the proposals.
5. Project Implementation - The City implements the winning projects, such as bus shelters, Wi-Fi in public parks, or sidewalk improvements. The City and residents also track and monitor implementation.

Beginning Thursday, November 1 until Friday, December 21, the City is launching the idea collection phase, which allows residents to brainstorm and submit an idea. Residents are encouraged to submit their ideas in one-of-three ways:

1. Attend an idea collection assembly. The kick-off assembly is set for Thursday, November 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Birchwood Heights Community Center, located at 416 Walton St. The Participatory Budgeting team also plans to host at least five meetings in each of the three City Council wards in the coming weeks.
2. Visit <https://pbdurham.mapseed.org> and submit their idea online.
3. Stop by and share ideas when they see pop-up tables at existing community events, local grocery stores, and in the lobby of the Durham County Health and Human Services building throughout the idea collection phase. The Participatory Budgeting team also plans to attend a Durham for All event at The Durham Hotel, located at 315 E. Chapel Hill St., on Tuesday, December 4 from noon to 4 p.m.

According to Budget Engagement Manager Andrew Holland with the City's Budget and Management Services Department, Durham is the second city in the southeast to implement participatory budgeting, making the Bull City on the forefront of innovation in local government practices. "Residents now have the opportunity to directly decide how a portion of the public budget gets spent. Residents can identify needs in their community and submit their ideas for the solution," Holland said. "City Council has also allocated the largest percentage of their public budget to participatory budgeting at 0.005 percent, which is more than any other municipality, and further illustrates their commitment to this initiative."

For more information or to request a presentation, visit the [participatory budgeting project website](#) or contact Budget Engagement Coordinator Robin Baker at pbdurham@durhamnc.gov or (984) 227-3395. Residents may also follow Participatory Budgeting Durham on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for updates throughout this two-year process.

About the City of Durham Budget and Management Services Department

The City of Durham [Budget and Management Services Department](#) is responsible for the development and oversight of the City's annual budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The department is also responsible for performance management, continuous improvement, and strategic planning. A division of the department, the [Office of Performance and Innovation](#), serves as internal consultants, helping City departments accomplish Durham's "One Vision and Five Goals" through advancing the City's [Strategic Plan](#); providing framework for data-driven decisions; fostering a culture of innovation; and facilitating process improvements.

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