



Community Budgeting for All

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Community Budgeting for All Initiative Petition Seeks to Expand Democracy in Portland

PORTLAND, OR – Grassroots organizations Next Up, East County Rising, and Participatory Budgeting Oregon are proud to announce the launch of the Community Budgeting for All initiative petition ([PDX23OL-03](#)) to give Portlanders a greater voice and vote in our city government.

“This collaborative effort aims to bring [participatory budgeting](#) to Portland through a voter-approved measure on the November 2024 ballot. Participatory budgeting is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget, giving people real power over real money. Currently, Portlanders have a very limited voice in the City’s current budget process beyond a few “budget listening sessions” and budget hearings attended by a small cross-section of the public.” said **Danny Cage, Co-Chief Petitioner and Youth Liaison at Participatory Budgeting Oregon**

Portlanders deserve a greater voice in our city government to see our tax dollars making our lives better, and Community Budgeting for All delivers on that promise. The initiative petition would provide all residents the opportunity to allocate 2 percent (an estimated \$15.6 million in FY 26-27) of the city’s general fund discretionary budget through an annual or biannual participatory budgeting process.

[Thousands of governments](#) around the globe are successfully using participatory budgeting to deepen and broaden democracy. Originating in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1989 as an anti-poverty measure it has since been used in over a dozen U.S. cities including Seattle, New York, Chicago, and Vallejo.

“East County youth implemented a successful Participatory Budgeting process in 2022-23 that put the decision-making and budget process in the hands of the community, with emphasis on voices that are routinely shut out from government budgeting processes. This is an opportunity to extend this important democratic process to East Portlanders,” said **Robin Ye, Political Director at East County Rising**.

We are far more likely to find creative and effective solutions that better meet community needs when we have a diversity of voices directly shaping our decision-making. Residents of all ages and backgrounds – including young people, immigrants, and refugees – would have a recurring and comprehensive avenue to come together to propose solutions to issues they are seeing in their communities. Projects would be vetted for feasibility - including assigning a cost and combining similar projects - and then finalized projects would appear on a ballot open and accessible to all residents to cast binding votes to determine winning projects for Portland to implement. The initiative petition includes funding for implementation and requires the city to evaluate the process over time to improve the participation of historically and currently excluded communities in all phases of the process. This collaborative and transparent process fosters greater trust, equity, and accountability in Portland's government.

Participatory budgeting has funded countless projects that reflect real-time community needs. Such winning projects include [Youth Affordable Housing Support](#), [Community Based Violence Reduction Initiatives](#) (Grand Rapids, MI), [Critical Resource Kits for the Homeless](#) (Cambridge, MA), [Fire Fighter Youth Academy](#) (Vallejo, CA), [New Trees and Guards for Side Walks](#) (NY, NY), and many more. Ultimately, participatory budgeting deepens democracy, builds stronger communities, and ensures a more equitable distribution of public resources.

“As the last major West Coast city without a community-led budgeting process, Portland needs participatory budgeting to ensure historically and currently excluded communities – who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, low-income, homeless, young people, and immigrants and refugees – have an active opportunity to use our tax dollars to shape our communities future for the better,” said **Elona Wilson, Co-Chief Petitioner and Executive Director of Next Up**

For more information on the initiative petition visit communitybudgetingforall.com

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