

Date: May 3, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Kevin Riper, Director of Financial Management 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) Budget Early Community Engagement Feedback**

In response to the Mayor and City Council's request to conduct a more robust and earlier community engagement process as part of the Fiscal Year 23 (FY 23) budget development, City staff conducted community engagement activities in January 2022, prior to the development of any budget proposals. The earlier engagement included two virtual community meetings, held on January 25, 2022 and January 27, 2022, and the distribution and collection of the FY 23 Budget Priority Survey from December 22, 2021 to January 28, 2022. This memorandum (memo) and attachments outline the outreach efforts, demographic results of community participants, and highlights of feedback gathered throughout the process.

Before reviewing the information provided below, it is important to note that the goal of this process is to make incremental progress towards more meaningful and robust community engagement by both providing information on the current status of the budget and budget process as well as receiving feedback that can be taken into consideration by City staff when creating a budget package. Neither the Budget Priority Survey nor the feedback synthesized from the virtual community meetings are statistically valid surveys and the results should not be interpreted as such. Additionally, the qualitative and quantitative data depended on the profile of the respondents.

### **Outreach and Language Access**

City staff were originally planning to conduct four in-person community meetings but were required to pivot to virtual meetings in response to COVID-19 pandemic concerns amidst the Omicron surge. This shortened the time period available for community outreach and may have had an impact on the level of engagement. The planning process involved collaboration across multiple City operations, including the Budget Bureau, Technology and Innovation Department, Public Affairs and Communications Office, and Office of Equity.

The community meetings were promoted on the FY 23 Budget website and the City Calendar, and widely distributed through social media and department newsletters, including the #GoLongBeach newsletter and the Neighborhood Resources Center listserv. Advertisements were purchased on the 405-freeway digital billboard and printed flyers for the community meetings were also made available at each of the library branches. A revised [memo](#) providing information on all these efforts was also distributed to the Mayor and Members of the City Council on January 10, 2022.

For both community meetings, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog interpretation services were provided. The FY 23 Budget Priority Survey and community meeting flyer were also made available in multiple languages.

### Demographic Information

A combined total of 141 participants attended the two virtual community meetings, excluding City staff and participants identified as attending both meetings. For the Budget Priority Survey, there were 723 total survey respondents. For both community meetings and the Budget Priority Survey, participants were asked to complete demographic questions (the same questions for both platforms available in multiple languages). While demographic questions had been included in the Budget Priority Survey in previous years, this was the first time demographic information was requested to be collected from community meeting participants. Additional demographic questions such as race/ethnicity, disabilities, gender, etc., were also added this year with the goal of starting to collect the data needed to better inform future engagement efforts and improvements to outreach outcomes.

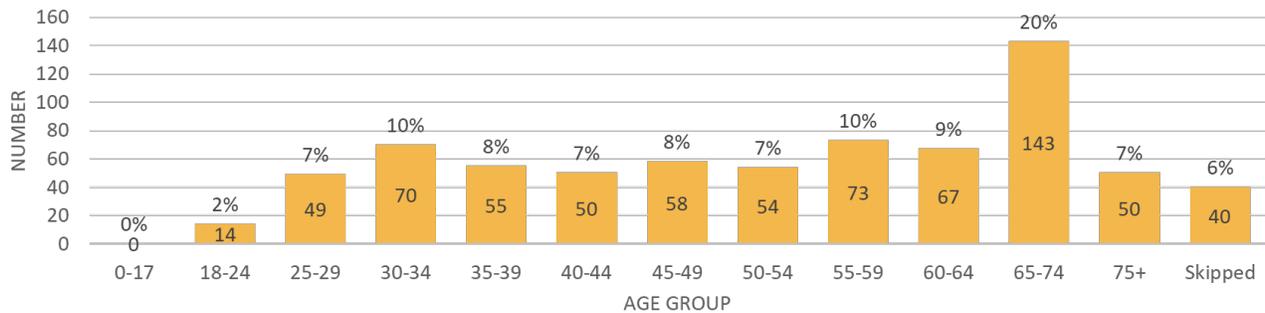
Of the 141 participants from the virtual community meetings, 62 completed the demographic survey. Of the 723 Budget Priority Survey respondents, a range of 600 to 700 responded to the various demographic questions. The data below highlights some of the demographic results from both the community meetings and Budget Priority Survey. Attachment A provides the full data of demographic question responses.

#### Budget Priority Survey Demographics

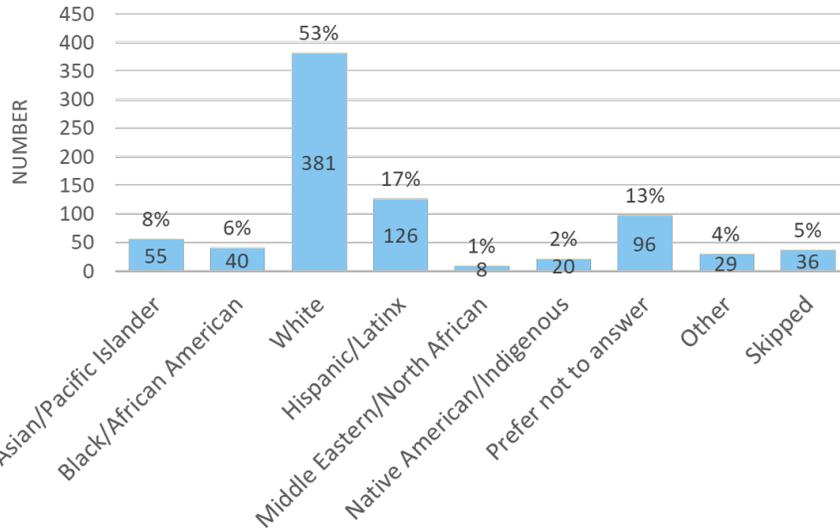
Survey Respondents by Council District: (674 total responses)

Council District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non-Resident	Skipped Question
#	47	82	210	90	105	26	25	35	19	32	3	49
%	6.5	11.3	29.0	12.4	14.5	3.6	3.5	4.8	2.6	4.4	0.4	6.8

Survey Respondents by Age: 683 total responses



Survey Respondents by Race/Ethnicity: 687 total responses

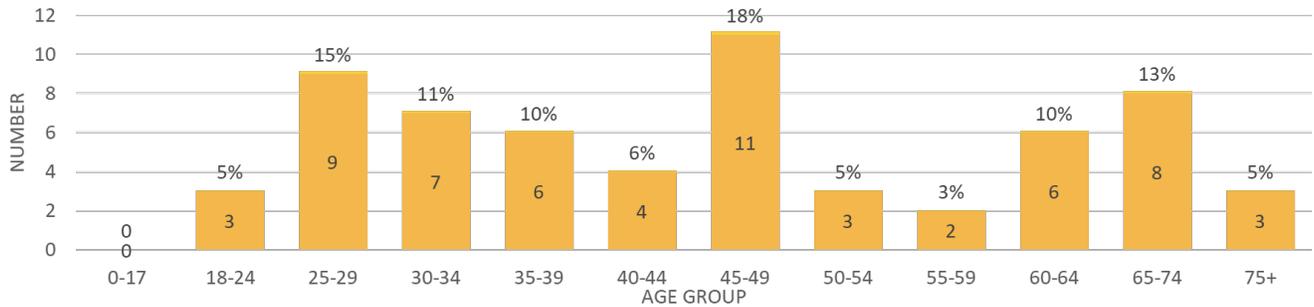


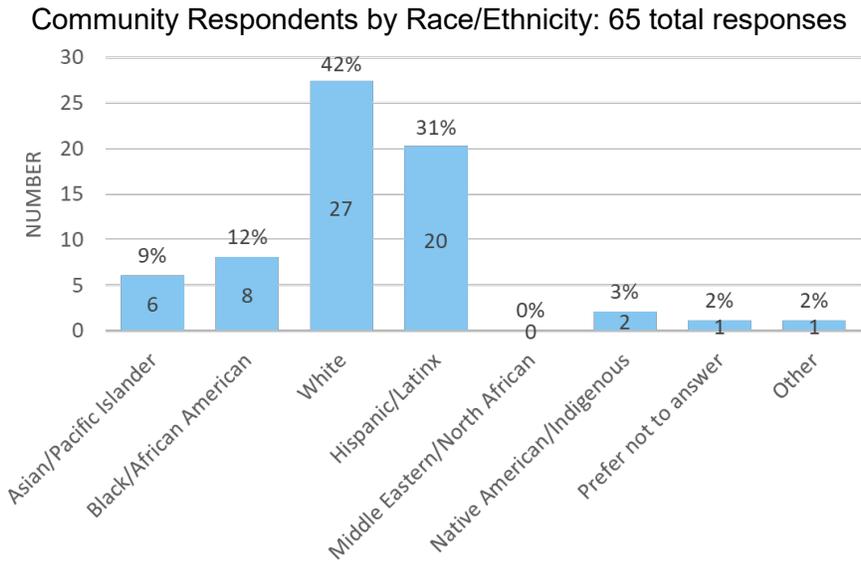
*Community Meeting Demographics*

Community Meeting Respondents by Council District: 62 total responses

Council District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non-Resident
#	14	5	8	8	9	3	3	7	3	1	1
%	22.6	8.1	12.9	12.9	14.5	4.8	4.8	11.3	4.8	1.6	1.6

Community Meeting Respondents by Age: 62 total responses





### Budget Priority Survey Results

The City Manager’s Office coordinated the distribution and analysis of the Budget Priority Survey, which asked participants to rate 39 different City services as being “very important,” “somewhat important,” “not very important,” or “not at all important.” This survey was available primarily online in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog on the City web pages, and was promoted via social media and at the citywide virtual community budget meetings. The summary of survey responses as well as the weighted average score for all 39 services listed in Question 1 of the Survey can be viewed in Attachment B. Each row shows the service listed, and each column shows the total number of ratings for each service. Respondents were not required to provide a response to every single service listed. In order to provide a means of comparison, a weighted average was calculated for each service, with a “very important” response receiving 3 points; a “somewhat important” response receiving 2 points; a “not very important” response receiving 1 point; and a “not at all important” response receiving 0 points. “No Opinion” responses were excluded from the weighted average.

Based on this weighted average, below are the top ten services from the FY 23 survey alongside the top ten services as rated by respondents in last year’s (FY 22) survey. Two services have been replaced in the top ten of the service rankings this year. Services in green in FY 23 have been newly ranked in the top ten, while items in red from FY 22 have dropped out of the top ten. Since the last Community Budget Survey in August 2021, the top three services, relating to infrastructure and public safety, continue to be top of mind for survey respondents. Police patrol and response makes a return to the top ten services ranked by weighted average of importance, and concerns relating to addressing homelessness and mental health services remain in the top ten.

Rank	February 2022 (FY 23)	August 2021 (FY 22)
1	Maintaining natural gas and water systems in good physical condition	Maintaining natural gas and water systems in good physical condition
2	Providing fire protection services	Providing fire protection services
3	Keeping streets in good repair	Keeping streets in good repair
4	<b>Providing police patrol and response</b>	Providing services that address and prevent homelessness
5	Providing ambulance services	Investing in mental health and domestic violence services and response
6	Maintaining bridges and alleys	Improving local air and water pollution
7	Providing services that address and prevent homelessness	<b>Maintaining public parks in good physical condition</b>
8	<b>Maintaining wastewater and flood prevention systems</b>	Providing ambulance services
9	Improving local air and water pollution	Maintaining bridges and alleys
10	Investing in mental health and domestic violence services and response	<b>Investing in emergency preparedness and response for earthquakes, wildfires, and other natural and man-made disasters</b>

*Budget Priority Survey Comments*

As with previous budget cycles, community members were asked to complete the Budget Priority Survey, which includes providing qualitative feedback on their city service priorities. A key element of partnering with Zencity is the collection and synthesis of that data. The list below organizes the comments from the Budget Priority Survey into 17 different service areas, ranked from most to least mentioned. Combatting crime, investing in public safety resources, improving the community’s overall sense of safety, alleviating the homelessness crisis, and investing in preventative measures were among the leading themes of priorities for the community. The list below provides the ordered service areas discussed.

- 1) **Combatting crime**, investing in **public safety resources**, and improving the community’s overall sense of safety
- 2) Alleviating the **homelessness crisis** and investing in preventative measures
- 3) **Road and sidewalk maintenance**, and overall improvements to the city’s infrastructure
- 4) Helping residents with **mental health and addiction**
- 5) **Redirecting funds** for the Long Beach Police Department to social services and other departments
- 6) Investing in the city’s **library**, with many explicitly calling for extended hours
- 7) Providing sufficient **affordable housing** opportunities for residents
- 8) Spending more on the city’s **parks** and overall beautification
- 9) Fostering a more **business-friendly environment** to attract investment in the city
- 10) Cleaning up **trash and graffiti**

- 11) Ensuring residents accessibility to **healthcare and public health resources**, especially as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 12) Enforcing **traffic and road safety** laws
- 13) Building more **parking structures** and making sure residents have easy **access to parking**
- 14) Investing in **education and youth programming** opportunities
- 15) **Stopping all funds directed toward preserving the Queen Mary** and redirecting them to other city services
- 16) Combatting **food insecurity** and funding local pantries
- 17) Ensuring **job opportunities and vocational training**

The full list of the comments submitted through the Budget Priority Survey can be found in Attachment C.

### *Community Meeting Comments*

In previous years, feedback from the community was collected in an informal manner. For the FY 23 Community Meetings, more proactive measures were taken to capture and analyze all verbal and written comments from the community. During the community meetings, attendees were asked to give their thoughts on City services and communicate which City services were most important to them. Attendees had the opportunity to cue up to speak to the whole group or put comments into the chatbox feature through the Zoom Webinar platform. The list below organizes the comments into 13 different service areas discussed by community members, ranked from most to least discussed. Addressing homelessness and providing necessary support, providing sufficient affordable housing options, and combatting crime and increasing the community's sense of safety garnered the most discussion. The list below provides the ordered service areas discussed. If the number of comments were the same for different service areas, they are listed as the same numbered item.

- 1) Addressing **homelessness** and providing necessary support
- 2) Providing sufficient **affordable housing** options
- 3) Combatting crime and increasing the community's sense of safety
- 4) Promoting arts and culture initiatives **AND** repairing and maintaining roads and infrastructure projects
- 5) Diverting police funds towards other city services
- 6) Alleviating traffic and parking issues
- 7) Elevating public health and mental health services **AND** ensuring equitable access and opportunity for all communities
- 8) Increasing library funding **AND** investing in preventative community support services
- 9) Strengthening LGBTQ support and outreach
- 10) Funding parks

The full list of the transcribed verbal or written comments made by the participants in the community meetings can be found in Attachment D.

For both the Community Meetings and Budget Priority Survey, addressing homelessness and crime and public safety were in the top three service areas of written and verbal comments. Attachment E is the full report from Zencity that provides the synthesis of the qualitative data from both the Virtual Community Meetings and Budget Priority Survey.

If you have any questions, please contact Budget Manager Grace H. Yoon at (562) 570-6408 or at [grace.yoon@longbeach.gov](mailto:grace.yoon@longbeach.gov).

ATTACHMENTS:   A – DEMOGRAPHICS  
                      B – COMMUNITY BUDGET SURVEY – QUESTION 1 RESULTS  
                      C – BUDGET PRIORITY SURVEY COMMENTS  
                      D – COMMUNITY MEETING COMMENTS  
                      E – ZENCITY COMMENTS REPORT

CC:           CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
              DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
              LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
              LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
              TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
              APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
              MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
              DEPARTMENT HEADS

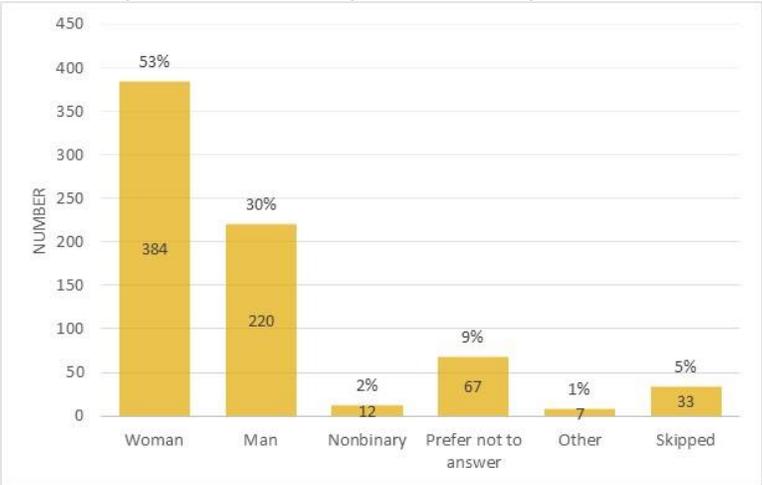
## Demographic Responses for FY 23 Budget Priority Survey and Virtual Community Meetings

**BUDGET PRIORITY SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC RESPONSES**

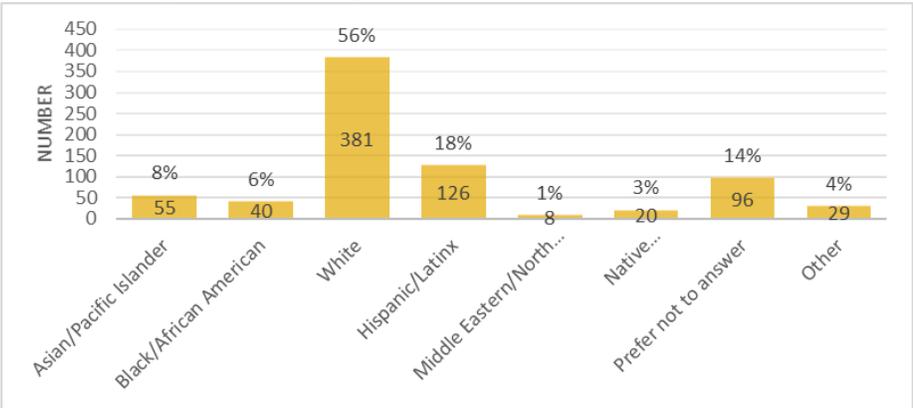
**1. Responses by Council District: 674 total responses**

Council District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non-Resident	Skipped Question
#	47	82	210	90	105	26	25	35	19	32	3	49
%	6.5	11.3	29.0	12.4	14.5	3.6	3.5	4.8	2.6	4.4	0.4	6.8

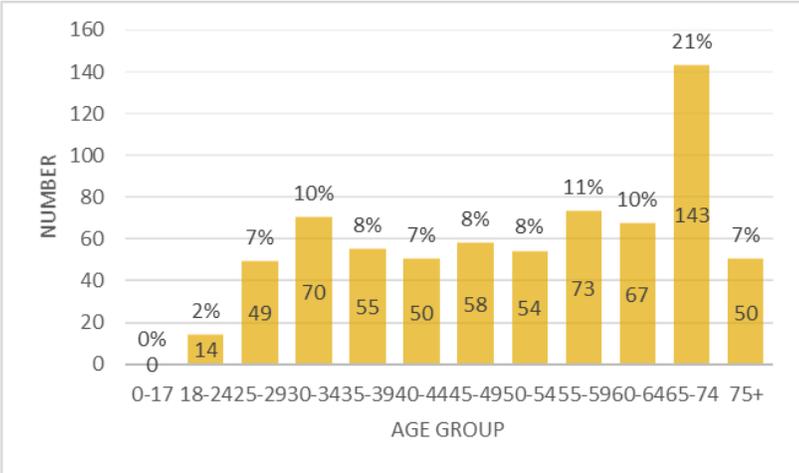
**2. Gender Expression or Identity: 690 total responses**



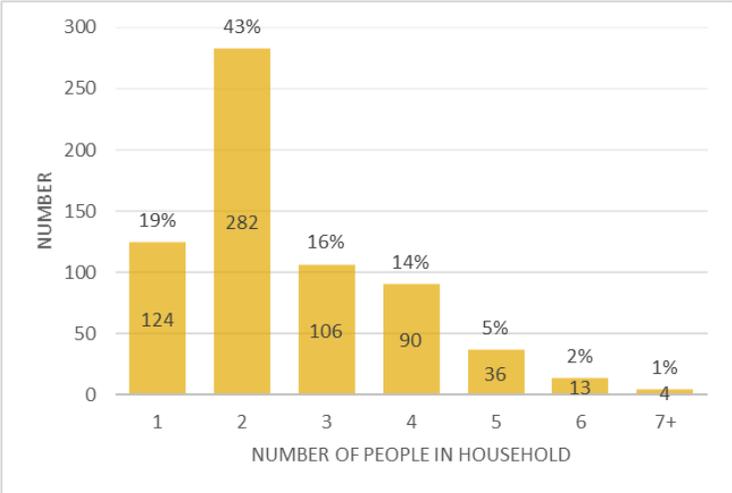
**3. Race/Ethnicity: 755 Total Responses**



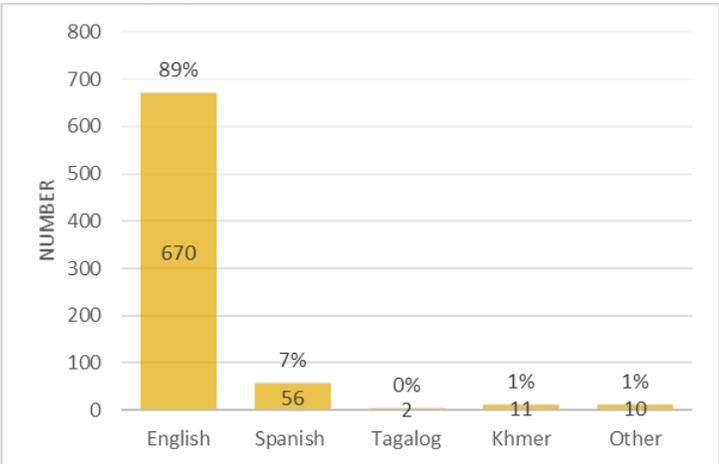
**4. Age: 683 Total Responses**



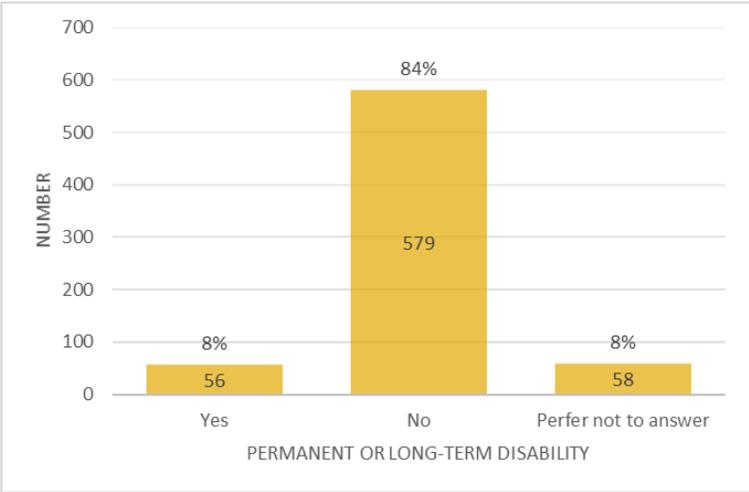
**5. Number of people in household: 655 Total Responses**



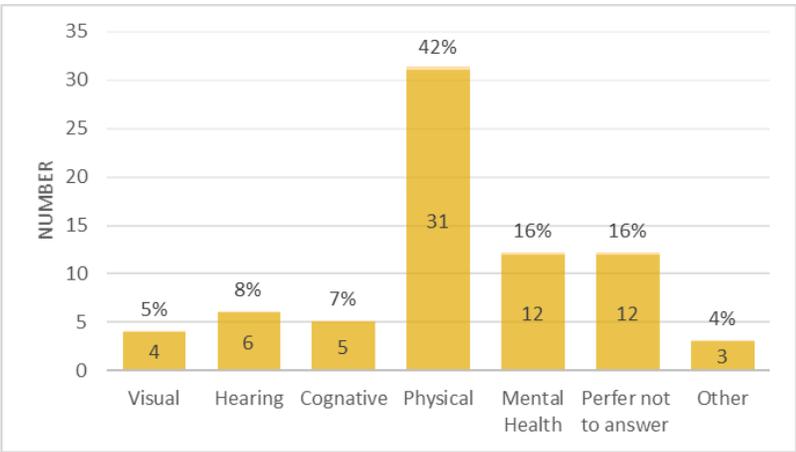
**6. Primary language spoken in the home: 749 Total Responses**



**7. Indication of having a disability: 693 Total Responses**



**8. If answered “Yes” to having a disability, indicate type of disability: 73 Total Responses**

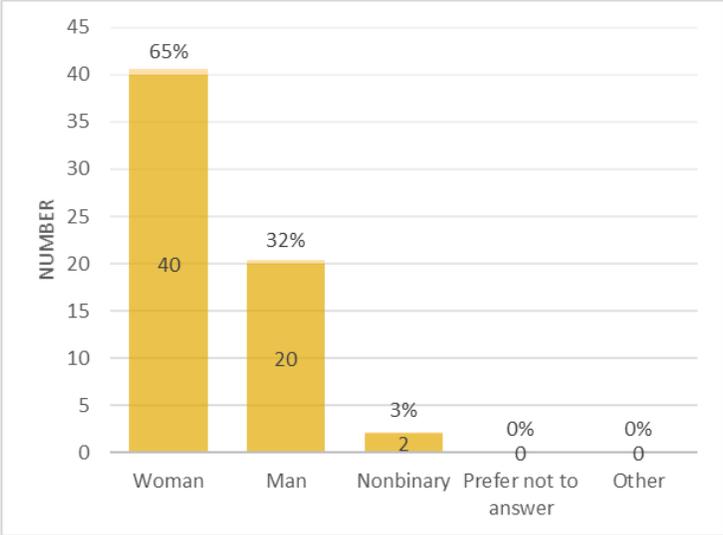


**COMMUNITY MEETING DEMOGRAPHIC RESPONSES**

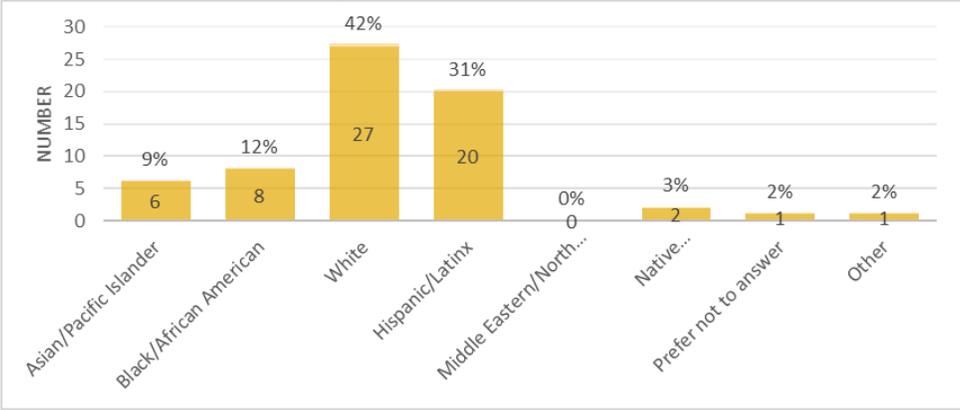
**1. Responses by Council District: 62 total responses**

Council District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non- Resident
#	14	5	8	8	9	3	3	7	3	1	1
%	22.6	8.1	12.9	12.9	14.5	4.8	4.8	11.3	4.8	1.6	1.6

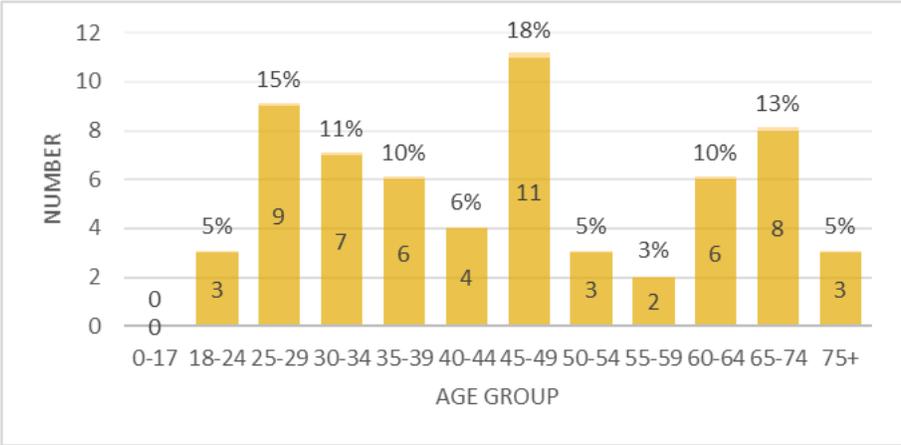
**2. Gender Expression or Identity: 62 total responses**



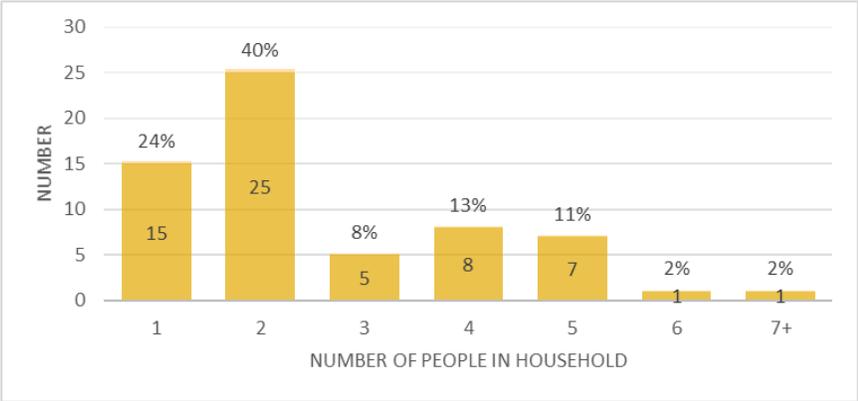
**3. Race/Ethnicity: 65 Total Responses**



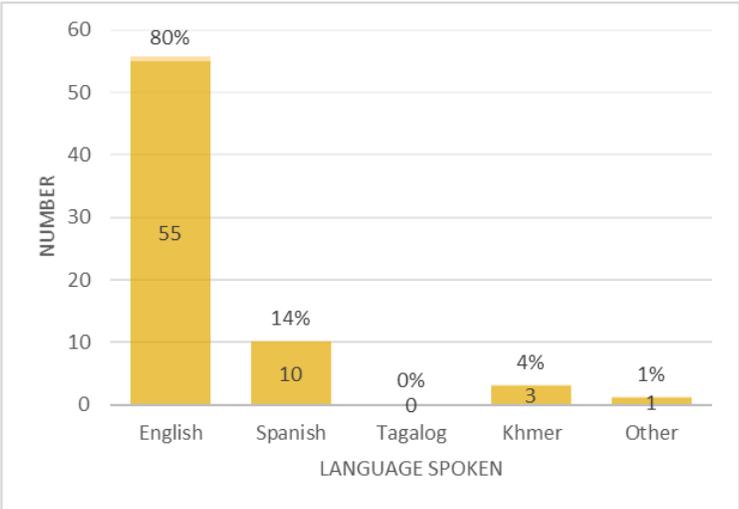
**4. Age: 62 Total Responses**



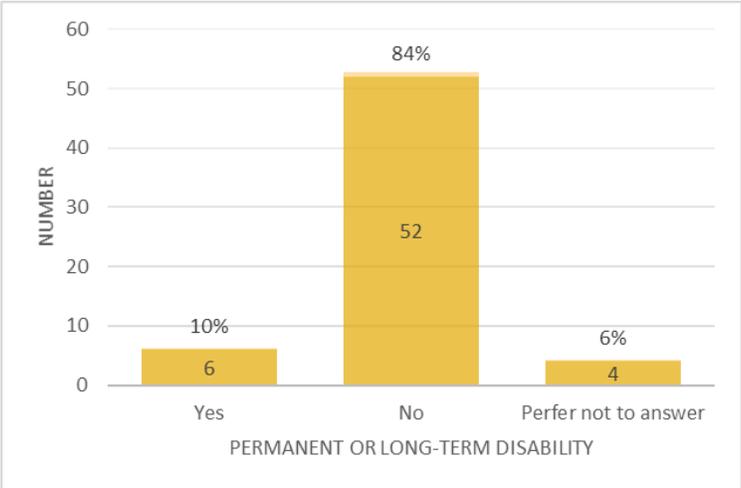
**5. Number of people in household: 62 Total Responses**



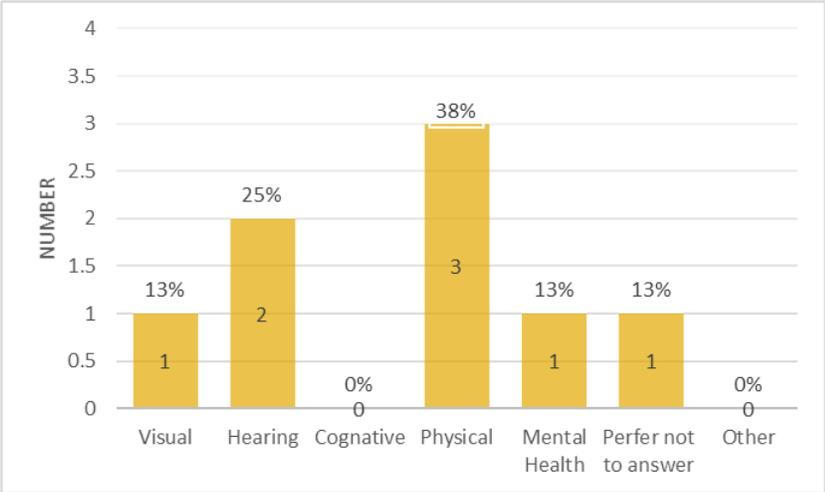
**6. Primary language spoken in the home: 69 Total Responses**



**7. Indication of having a disability: 62 Total Responses**



**8. If answered "Yes" to having a disability, indicate type of disability: 8 Total Responses**



Long Beach Budget Priority Survey Fiscal Year 2023

Please check one box for each service.

Service	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Too Important	No Opinion	Total Responses	Weighted Average
Maintaining natural gas and water systems in good physical condition	389	250	58	9	5	711	2.43
Providing fire protection services	398	231	62	17	3	711	2.42
Keeping streets in good repair	313	313	82	2	3	713	2.31
Providing police patrol and response	388	161	85	77	4	715	2.20
Providing ambulance services	309	252	112	27	5	705	2.19
Maintaining bridges and alleys	275	299	121	12	6	713	2.17
Providing services that address and prevent homelessness	330	199	127	46	4	706	2.15
Maintaining wastewater and flood prevention systems	260	310	117	13	8	708	2.14
Improving local air and water pollution	304	238	126	33	6	707	2.14
Investing in mental health and domestic violence services and response	306	223	137	31	7	704	2.13
Investing in emergency preparedness and response for earthquakes, wildfires, and other natural and man-made disasters	271	282	127	26	3	709	2.12
Maintaining police units focused on reducing gangs, drugs, and violence	344	181	107	69	7	708	2.12
Improving City technology to prevent hacking and cyberattacks that could disrupt city services	285	248	139	30	5	707	2.11
Maintaining public parks in good physical condition	230	329	147	7	2	715	2.09
Investing in public health disease prevention and control programs to prepare for and avert emergencies such as pandemics	299	227	116	67	3	712	2.06
Keeping sidewalks in good repair	234	284	173	14	3	708	2.04
Providing access to libraries and library programs	272	251	137	53	2	715	2.03
Providing nuisance abatement programs to address loitering, illegal drug activity, excessive noise, and illegally dumped items	284	222	148	51	5	710	2.03
Keeping the City attractive and removing blight	224	278	151	44	8	705	1.96
Enforcing traffic laws to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers	213	255	180	56	4	708	1.88
Providing after-school activities and programs for young people	205	264	149	74	13	705	1.83
Maintaining police work focused on property crimes	229	227	137	99	11	703	1.82
Providing graffiti removal	184	245	197	72	7	705	1.76
Providing health and wellness services to pregnant women, children, and families to ensure every Long Beach resident has a healthy start	192	209	199	98	10	708	1.69
Providing programs to retain, expand, and attract businesses to Long Beach	157	227	240	70	10	704	1.65
Providing affordable housing	239	144	161	153	11	708	1.65
Taking actions across City departments to address systemic racism and reduce inequities in access to services	237	141	151	164	16	709	1.61
Providing recreational opportunities and programs	135	246	235	82	4	702	1.61
Providing services and programs for seniors	141	230	254	74	11	710	1.60
Maintaining City's buildings in good physical condition	93	281	271	54	8	707	1.57
Building new parks in areas where there are few of them	168	209	175	137	15	704	1.56
Retaining and attracting small businesses and supporting tourism and the Convention Center	120	227	254	91	14	706	1.51
Enforcing zoning and building regulations	108	222	271	76	23	700	1.48
Supporting job-training and job-placement programs	113	198	239	137	15	702	1.39
Providing cultural and arts opportunities	103	176	251	159	11	700	1.30
Providing public access to the Internet	135	151	207	199	13	705	1.30
Rescuing animals and connecting them with new families	97	164	260	174	16	711	1.24
Making City documents and live meetings available in multiple languages	116	153	201	221	18	709	1.21
Providing legal advice and support for renters	109	98	223	254	19	703	1.06

Comment
The city should enforce protection laws against crimes such as theft and property destruction. We should financially support the police in order to ensure that the city is safe for the community and to attract businesses.
Guide the homeless into getting a job, every day there are more and more drug addicts and homeless on the bridge on Artesia and Atlantic. It is more unsafe everyday for students.
Please stop to give Licence to sell drug
More money is needed for food pantry. Hungry people will do desperate things for food. This can cause the crime rate to go up!
As a member of the LBCEI Food Network (Pantry) has been meeting the needs of the community since the start of the pandemic. The need has not abated, but rather has grown. While low cost food is still available to our pantry, we desperately need funds to pay for operations, transportation, staffing and training. Many pantries in Long Beach operate on a shoestring budget that does not sustain the overwhelming amount of work and labor that we shoulder. I ask the City of Long Beach to specifically allocate funds for pantry operational budgets as we continue to serve our community in COVID-19 relief and recovery. We need help!
Focus on homelessness prevention by providing significantly better services and not treating victims as criminals.
As a member of the LBCEI Food Network, (Pantry) has been meeting the food needs of the community since the start of the pandemic. The need has not abated, but rather, has grown. While free or low-cost food is still available to our pantry, we desperately need funds to pay for operations, transportation, staffing, and training. Many pantries in Long Beach operate on a shoestring budget, which is not sustainable for the overwhelming amount of work and labor we shoulder. I ask that the City of Long Beach specifically allocate funds for pantry operational budgets as we continue to support our communities in Covid-19 relief and recovery.
Those are all important issues to consider in the 2022 budget. I highlighted a few that are going to help me and my son, Joshua have a good life here, with you good people. I must thank the mayors office and the city manager for doing something that saved me from losing my home. That money could have gone to many important places, but it came to me in rent assistance and I won't forget that. It also provides me with motivation to participate and be useful to you and our city. Thank you city counsel members for working together to get the things done that may or may not be what you want. Thank you for having to sit through all the meetings energy resolving difficult items put before the counsel. I appreciate all of you and you've done a great job getting us through these uncharted waters. The Chrismans family in District 3 thanks Suzie Price for your service to us. Good luck to you, the vice mayor and the others running for mayor. DPSS has also been a major part of my pandemic story. Thank you County of Los Angeles, LBPd, LBFD and many others that serve our beach. Best regards, Paul Gerald C. Knowles 90804

Comment
<p>I relocated from HB a decade ago and moved to DTLB along Ocean. I was in awe, I could not believe this hidden gem at the time. For about the past 4 years I have watched city officials destroy this community in such an attempt for a LA Skyline. I work in LA daily therefore allowing me to compare. The daily traffic from over building begins at 430 am-8:45 pm along Ocean, it use to be 6 am - 7 pm. I can't even leave my windows open. Sirens all day and night, Drug dealers selling drugs at Shell on Ocean and 7 Elven on Broadway and Orange with zero regard, homeless on every corner, drug addicts having sex below my child's room on Ocean, women pulling out their crack pipes in plain site, zombies everywhere. Human crap along the streets and alleys.</p> <p>Last week I was attacked while in my car twice in one day. Each homeless male and female threw human crap at my car. The woman walked in front of my car and wouldn't allow me to go on the green light. She threaten to crack her wine bottle on the roof of my car. Yes my child was with me. Shootings are happening daily. Now we have robberies at restaurants like Leo's.</p> <p>SHAME ON YOU!!!!</p> <p>This town does not need anything more rainbow, no more lifeguard towers, no more painted side walks, we have enough parks, we have enough recreation centers. Hire more Police Officers to keep this city gorgeous. I can assure you that with the big tech companies in place they will want a leader with Republican values. I say with pure sincerity because of what I've witness with Mayra Garcia and these liberal officials. I will never vote blue again in this lifetime. I was born and raised a Democrat and it ends now. As a mother, as a professional and someone who cares about their community. I will vote RED for a leader who will take action.</p> <p>Fight to bring back the safety of the people who live here!</p>
<p>I wanted to answer this survey because libraries are very important. Then again, everything is important. Even though I don't live in Long Beach, I have friends who do and these issues are important to them.</p>
<p>It is not the city's job to ensure I am ready for a disaster. It is my job.</p>
<p>I am shocked that the city has chosen to spend millions on the Queen Mary when there are so many areas that need full financial support (see the above survey)</p> <p>I'm actually disgusted. I have always supported the city but they blew it big time.</p>
<p>Long Beach Public Libraries need more resources! We need to have the libraries open more than the 34-35 hours per week -- that is not enough access for people, especially youth who need the libraries for services such as internet that they do not have at home. We need to offer more materials in languages other than English. The pandemic has drastically hurt our libraries and the residents who use them. Please provide additional resources so the city can expand services cut during the pandemic. Thank you.</p>
<p>Move away from natural gas and fossil fuels.</p>
<p>Keep funding for Ranchos at current year levels. Facilities are extremely vulnerable to age thus continuous reinvestment is required in order that each may serve their public purposes. Reduced City funding may result in reductions from private funding which could spell disaster for each.</p>
<p>Top priority for me is keeping the city clean and free of emcampments that make the city look third world. Additionally, keeping streets safe and free of violence, theft and damage.</p>
<p>The LB public library has been immensely resourceful for my family and I. What's unfortunate is that their hour are very limiting compared to LA county public library system and their resources are ways in high demand. Please consider longer operating hours and a stronger budget. I'd be homeless if it wasn't for them.</p>

Comment
There is a need to address crime in various different ways, the old/usual method isn't effective and just injecting more funding into enforcement is not the answer to the rise in crime. One does not invest in something that isn't working, you find alternatives. Critical thinking and problem solving!
Can't do everything; the budget is not unlimited - so allocate the \$\$\$ against the biggest problems Some budget items belong to the state We are not a nanny state, but people do need help and indirect benefits need to be considered, not just the direct benefits of an investment
The City MUST address the homeless tent camps emerging on Alamitos Beach.
You need to address the elephant in the room - all aspects of the budget should be up for discussion not just the 20% or so that the "council" has influence over. If there are positions where the person does little to nothing or is just a place holder for future spending those must be eliminated to make room for more important budgetary concerns. You should not receive money simply because you had money the previous year. Spending money for the sake of spending money or else you "lose" it should not be allowed. In addition, the function of account management needs to be addressed to allow funds to flow where needed not because the money was "assigned". The city could reduce its budget substantially and LOWER taxes thereby increasing the overall income by enticing businesses into the area. I realize this is a foreign thought process to an "expense" entity such as government is and has no concept of profit motives - but, SOMEONE must stand up for this crazy budgetary process that simply leans on the citizens through taxes to cover the ridiculous spending spree of our politicians.
We need more protection walking in our neighborhood. If it is bad in Belmont Shore I can not imagine what it must be like else where in the city. The homeless/ mentally ill are scary. It also seems inhuman to allow them to sleep on the street during the winter. I have had two homeless people in my yard. I have been screamed at, followed and have witness human waste on 2nd street and surrounding areas many times. 2nd street is supposed to be a long beach draw for residents and visitors. Just this week a women was sleeping across the side walk and when she woke she became agitated and aggressive. The cops had to be called. How is that ok. She needs help and shelter. I love Long Beach but not what is becoming.
No comments
Maintaining our libraries should be top priority for future generations. Focus more on District 5. Long Beach is not just downtown and Belont Shore.
It's time to let the Queen Mary go.
Minimize police spending, invest in the week being of residents.
The City Prosecutor should be taking the misdemeanor cases the LADA is refusing to file (trespass, etc). Keeping residents safe should be the City's number 1 priority.
Keeping roads up and repaired - somewhat important
We need a safe, clean City to support current residents and businesses and to attract new businesses for a strong tax base
Please remove graffiti and address crime.
The survey does not cover about Khmer bilingual class since there's a Cambodian town in long beach too.
I care about fixing up The Queen Mary

Comment
Need the city to feel safe, need to let the Citizens of Long Beach to make there own decisions on there life, don't want to feel Controlled
Please provide more resources to the library and public programs that provide free or lowcost healthcare
Defund LBPD.
Please don't call us Latinx.
I believe in allocating funds from policing to positive social supports around housing, health, libraries, and quality of life
Divest from police and invest in the Black and Brown communities that have been grossly neglected for decades.
Please reduce the police budget and reinvest that budget into health equity, health department violence prevention, cooperative and mutualist business support, sustainable climate friendly infrastructure, racial equity, support for poor people.
Libraries are extremely important to the community. They create a space of equal access to education and learning. As Ray Bradbury said of our Long Beach main library, which is now gone, "Libraries are also an essential core service." With the suppression of knowledge currently plaguing our nation, let Long Beach be a bastion for learning and equity.
In tonight's meeting their was one question focusing in cleaning up our streets. I live in the fourth district there is graffiti under the pillars of the freeways 405 and 605. Trash everywhere under the freeways. It seems the issue never gets across. I am a resident over 50 years, Long Beach has gone through a lot of changes over my life time. It is a disappointment that our beautiful city of Long Beach being neglected trash and graffiti everywhere I observe.
Many of the budget items/considerations on the previous page can be addressed by funding our libraries. Please don't forego the opportunity to properly fund one of the few public spaces still in existence which meets the needs of our diverse population and all demographics.
I am interested in diverting money from the police budget to other areas, such as affordable housing, homelessness, mental health services, and quality of life.
Importance of enlivening the cultural arts through a city/neighborhood supported and understood process for permitting live street performing, including music, art, and dance.
The City should shift staffing to write grants for County, State and Federal funding to maximize federal and state funding to Long Beach. Shift funding from police to other services and operations that prevent crime (parks, libraries, public health). Fund the implementation of the recently-approved Parks Strategic Plan. Shift fire staffing to medical services based on the percent of calls that are medical. Create a vaccine mandate for all city employees, as is the standard for other required vaccines. Shift to more online and streamlined services (pay for park classes).
Need affordable housing and inclusionary housing CITYWIDE (not just downtown and central). Also, first-time home buyer program. 61% of city is renters and need more homeownership opportunities.
Providing access to fresh, healthy foods to community. Areas like North LB and West LB do not have grocery stores that provide fresh foods at an affordable price. Also increasing business and properties in these areas so development can assist in enriching community living.

Comment
Thanks for asking. I believe that survey information can be(come) very important when it comes to decision making.
More trees.
The city should invest in health, housing, and quality of life rather than policing, which causes great harms and diverts much needed resources in these other areas
Please please please stop giving all of our money to the worst-ranked police force in the entire state. They is no evidence that they are actually able to prevent crime, they do nothing to support our residents who are harmed when a crime occurs, and money that goes to our police department could be much better spent actually addressing the root causes of crime and violence: poverty, alienation, and our exploitative economic system! Please stop prioritizing the "property rights" of Eastsiders over the right to health, life, and freedom of our Westside residents. We desperately need CARE, not cops!
With our high sales tax, we should not need to cut any budgets, except perhaps police.
I look as top priorities for City government for safety, maintaining the physical infrastructure, thriving business environment, and support the local wellbeing of each neighborhood within the City; and the state, federal and other entities can take care of as their top priorities recreational, mental health and feel good services.
Provide more funding to LBPD & LBFD and less funding for "Nanny Government" programs which will snare the poor into reliance on the government dole.
More library hours and programs please. A no kill animal shelter as a priority.
Question the validity of this survey. Comparing apples to oranges. Loaded toward police. How can we say any of these are unimportant.
We need to increase and improve our police force in order to protect and serve our community adequately. We need to address the growing homeless encampments along the flood control. Thank You
Increase funding to increase library hours/days
Increase library hours -- it will help with crime, programming for children and seniors, and information for residents of Long Beach.
The cost of a city ambulance is insanely high, which I found out the hard way. I had no idea how expensive it was until I received my bill. Seems to me the city should have a way of letting people know. Our insurance (Aetna) paid barely anything since they were out of network. When you're faced with calling them, it's not what you are thinking of.
City of Long Beach should allocate some budget to support for citizen voluntary community engagement such as Neighborhood Association, Volunteer Team etc that not registered as 501(c)3. Many thanks in advance.
The library should be open more than the 25 hours or so they are currently open. All branches should be open.
It is time to remove Covid mandates that are doing more harm than good in our community.
Our food recovery programs need funding. The need for healthy food in our community is growing, but our funding is diminishing. People need to have access to healthy food, whether or not they can pay for it!

Comment
<p>There seems to be a lot of petty crime and vandalism in the city as a whole, and clearly the police are not the answer to that problem because they don't do anything about it. My preference would be to invest in deterrents for the people that are breaking car windows and stealing catalytic converters. Let's find out why they do these things and solve the underlying problem. But our police are paid way too much for the little effort they exert. And they set horrible examples regarding public safety by refusing to wear masks or get vaccinated.</p>
<p>1) police patrols for crimes and traffic safety needed .                  2) most streets in the City are atrocious! Good example is Studebaker from 2nd to Carson. Neighborhood streets just as bad.                  Priorities need desperately</p>
<p>Things I'd like to see - Dispersing ERAP funds sitting in limbo for some owners and renters with no effective assistance from the contractor Yardi. Providing relief for residents waking up to and living with the sounds and vibrations of construction daily. Providing immediate air purifiers to residents. Increasing safe affordable overnight parking options (manned by LBPD). Getting rid of pre-dawn street sweeping. Encouraging increased CERT training and re-certification. Facilitating city-wide participation in Long Beach's centennial celebration.</p>
<p>Despite the expected deficits and the huge BASIC needs of the community, city management and council continue to spend money wildly on unnecessary items like the planned mega pool on the beach, holding onto the Queen Mary, and giving away Community Hospital. At the same time you're not investing in what really matters, like the mental health of our public safety professionals. The most recent LBPD death by suicide was not the first. LBFD firefighters are holding their collective breath and hoping desperately none of their members follow suit. You have a responsibility to take care of city employees. THAT should come before spending on items that will advance individual political careers.</p>
<p>Property owners with 5 or less tenants and the rental assistance program. The application process takes long and you don't require applicants to provide all required docs within a certain time frame. We have a studio rental and can't make our mortgage now because our tenant has been slow to submit all her paperwork. We are penalized for lack of support to these individuals.</p>
<p>THE CITY MUST ADDRESS THE HOMELESS PROBLEM!!!</p>
<p>Safety is key!</p>
<p>I live in a neighborhood with absolutely no parking. It is almost impossible to find parking within a 1 to 2 block radius. I am unable to leave my home after 4 PM because I will not have parking after that. Is there something that can be done so we can have more parking in our area? We are so congested and it made me consider leaving Long Beach altogether.</p>
<p>Use a gun, go to prison.</p>
<p>Invest in fixing the horrible parking issue                  Make rent affordable and stop building apartments no one can afford, leaving empty buildings that could actually be used for something beneficial like a public library or park                  Stop gentrifying Long Beach                  Use your funding to get the kids out of the detention center in Long Beach and reunited with their families</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>The city should expand library hours.</p>

Comment
Too much crime. Im scared even to go shopping. We need more police and better response.
The survey did not cover accountability, oversight and project management for any of the programs and city government. There is too much waste and cost overruns, plus, mismanagement. . For example, the building of a "snack shack" upgrade, replacing Alfredo's down by Shoreline, has been in the process of rebuilding and expansion for over 2 years. At least the bathrooms could be opened for use while the other building activity on that site is in process. The rainbow crosswalks are unnecessary and a hazard. They get dirty fast and are not visible during rainy weather. Plus, they have to be constantly repainted and exorbitant costs. That money could be better used keeping the parks clear for riff-raff.....install park rangers for public safety.
It is crucial to continue strong funding for the public library in Long Beach. It offers education, information, creativity, job training and sourcing, homework help for students and adults, services for ability-challenged persons, and much more. It is an essential service that enhances the Long Beach community.
Too much money goes to the police department and too little goes to libraries, parks, and health departments
<p>Questions to consider: how is the budget addressing the climate crisis?</p> <p>How is the budget helping protect and support the most vulnerable in our communities, especially within the context of a once in a lifetime pandemic? Specifically: unhoused folks, elderly folks, incarcerated folks, folks with disabilities, low wage workers &amp; essential workers (regardless of pay; including healthcare workers, teachers, bus drivers, restaurant workers, etc), unvaccinated children, daycare &amp; preschool teachers, families — especially women who've taken on extra burdens of the pandemic in regards to childcare.</p> <p>Invest in community services &amp; divest in overpolicing &amp; managing "quality of life / broken windows" crimes. Prioritize people over property.</p> <p>Also continue good investments in clear pandemic communication &amp; mitigation. Great jobs on vaccine distribution. Vaccine+ strategy could include N95 mask distribution, investments in ventilation of schools &amp; other public buildings &amp; rebates on others updating ventilation &amp; focus on messaging around avoiding the three C's (see poster from WHO): limit time in/avoid closed spaces, crowded places, close contact settings.</p>
I think the city works well overall. I'm thankful that I live in a city that is not tainted by graft and paybacks like LA and so many other cities are. I appreciate the dedication of our elected officials to making Long Beach a great place to live! Thank you!
I think education is really important as well, and that is something that is being really affected right now because of the pandemic. Health, education, and public safety is really important right now. The homelessness issue is a difficult one, hopefully there is some resolution to it soon because it's becoming a bigger problem in LB. Thank you.
I think more cross walks are needed with the flashing lights. Public safety is very important.
I did not see any funding for Schools. Schools have been hit hard by the COVID-19.
You should not need to know what I identify as. Race should not matter. We are all one!
Providing a safe city should be #1 for all!
I don't believe it has to be all or nothing. Of course everything on the list is important, but some of the lowest funded city services could do so much more with just a little bit more money. And some of the most well funded could do just as much with a little less and some innovative thinking. Libraries and parks are more important than the police if the city really wants to change.

Comment
<p>The top issues in all urban areas of Southern California are homelessness, drugs, and rising crime levels. I have been living in Long Beach my entire life, I was born in Memorial Hospital, and aside from the gang war years of the early 90s around the time of the riots I have never felt more unsafe living in the city than I do now. Street racers take over intersections every night while thieves operate in both neighborhoods and local businesses with impunity because the police refuse to do their jobs, claiming they're not going to bother arresting someone the DA won't prosecute anyway. Meanwhile we are surrounded by third world conditions with people living in their own filth amassing giant piles of hoarded junk and starting fires among the squalor when they pass out from a little too much fentanyl being cut into their daily heroin fix. Our mayor washing his hands of the situation to go run for Congress on the back of what a good job he's done running the town is just the icing on the cake.</p>
<p>The libraries are the last public place where everyone is welcome and can seek help and knowledge without being asked for anything in return. They are a sanctuary for those in need, at any age. Please keep them and their programs funded.</p>
<p>Please repair and clean our streets!! District 1 is forgotten even though we pay same taxes as the richest area in Long Beach.</p>
<p>Long Beach Police department is OVER funded, there is so much money to address our unhoused community and residents of our city, but we spend it on needless police that murder and harass our communities. Youth need programs and families need food, i think its time to start funding preventative programs instead of the police.</p>
<p>The Long Beach Police Department can afford to be defunded in order to create, fund, and sustain programs for the community. Mental health services, youth services, vocational training/job skills, community centers, park restoration, de-escalation trainings, childcare programs for low-income families, and multilingual translation/interpretation for every city program, meeting, event, and paperwork.</p>
<p>My budget priorities by category: human services (housing, safety, education, health) &gt; infrastructure &gt; business &gt; everything else</p>
<p>We should expand our affordable housing efforts to include affordable AND accessible. It's very hard to find accessible (as defined by Fair Housing), affordable housing. What good is affordable if I can't access it?</p>
<p>Focusing on sanitation, removing/preventing blight, enforcing code on noncompliant buildings/owners, and restoring greenspace and landscaping will create a welcoming community which will by default increase tourism, build up local businesses and increase the city's tax income. The city should focus heavily on anti-littering campaigns, education on the consequences of littering on our environment and work to discourage the dumping culture some residents of LBC have relied on. Communicating clearly with the rental community about the proper way to dispose of unwanted furniture and bulky items (perhaps consider creating a 'dumping area' where people can unload their unwanted items); hold rental agencies and property management firms responsible for noncompliance with litter, dumpsters, and dumping. Effectively and consistently apply parking laws and no-parking/tow zones. Consider revisiting some 'grandfathered' approvals granted to legacy buildings/owners.</p>
<p>Consideration of strategies for police department and social services to work more effectively in dealing with issues of mental health in violators.</p>
<p>Affordable housing, homelessness &amp; community Healthcare should be the focus of the budget. Reducing police funding to focus on the roots of poverty (which is the root of crime).</p>
<p>Keep up the great work on making this a very LGBTQ friendly city!</p>

Comment
Crime needs to go way down in order for the other nice things to fall into place. Also too many cracker box houses lead to more crime...we went through this in the 90's don't do it.
unpleasant encounters with mentally ill homeless are on the rise in my neighborhood
Please provide services to keep the city clean: consistent street sweeping, pressure washing high tourist areas. Bring small business back to 2nd street: retail/shopping And, please pave Appian Way by Mother's Beach and Studebaker between 2nd street and the 22 freeway access.
Whenever you hire a new employee, especially in management, their salary should start at the bottom of the salary range for the position instead of the same salary the outgoing experienced person had. Let them build up experience in LB before moving up the salary scale! Stop wasting money!
Prioritize Black residents healthcare, housing, food and job needs. Defund the police, cut their budget. Give funding to the Black community and Black orgs. Defund the police and reinvest in community programs and parks.
Noise reduction should be a priority along with more deterring practices to minimize cars speeding along Ocean Blvd with modified mufflers that set off car alarms and disrupt the peace too frequently. Also on Bixby park and the grassy area by the Junipero parking lot there are a lot of unpermitted musicians and/or people with extremely loud Bluetooth speakers. We have been told that there is no budget to have personal from the noise reduction commission on the weekends which is when many of these events happen. Calling the no emergency police is what we have been told to do but the police doesn't issue fines because of both bad optics for them and because they need to see it happening on real time and by the same infringers more than a couple of times. There needs yo be clear ownership of this issue, either by Parks and Recreation or by the noise reduction people. Oh Cindy Allen has been included in multiple emails and she (or nobody from her office) has ever responded. Thank you for doing this survey.
Importance of council member's raises-not too important. Lowering the cost of everyone's utilities-very important. Removing homeless drug addicts from Long Beach -very important as they are causing a multitude of problems and safety hazards.
Changes based off of population survey
Police protection, mental health services, growth in business, education in math, reading, writing, science, arts, & physical education are the most important, keeping utilities' cost down, etc. are the most important services. Stop being a home for homeless and stop being a city easy on crime ... thank you.
Change laws if necessary to keep mentally ill/drug addicted people off the streets. It is a blight on our city and devalues property and feels less secure to be out and about.
The roads are screaming for some TLC 😞😞

Comment
<p>There are four streets in the Ranchos that have required repaving including Stevely Ave. We were informed three years ago that Stevely, as well as the remaining three other streets, would be repaved within 1-2 years with Measure A funds. To date this has not occurred and is not on the Public Works Department schedule for 2022 as well. The city has come out on at least three-four occasions just in front of our property alone to do temporary patchwork due to holes occurring due to rain, etc. but the street still remains without the necessary complete repaving. This is extremely disappointing and another example of Long Beach not fulfilling its obligations. There is always another excuse.</p>
<p>Ridiculous green lanes for bicycles that I rarely see anyone utilizing. Wasted money !!</p>
<p>Crime and vagrancy is completely out of control, FIX IT. Stop throwing millions and millions and millions of taxpayers' dollars at "homelessness" and hire more street patrol police officers. Get rid of liberal District Attorney, prosecute criminals, and put them in jail for their crimes.</p>
<p>Long Beach should change its title from the "International City" to "America's Most Mismanaged City." The business tax I pay because I have a one-person office in Downtown Long Beach (DLB) is absurd. Nearly \$1,000 vs. under \$50,000 income for the year. Why go to DLB for dinner or shop? You'll be charged for parking. Much rather go to Spectrum or Bella Terra or Southcoast Plaza or Fashion Island. It took a pandemic to close Pine Ave. to traffic in DLB. Keep it that way and bring in kiosks, entertainment, etc. Take a look at Fremont St. in Las Vegas. Come see the alley behind my house 1000 block of E. Claiborne Dr.; nothing but potholes and mosquito breeding grounds. Yet, it is the city's trucks (trash &amp; utility) that have torn up the alley over the years. The only time the 710 entrance to Long Beach looks good is before the Grand Prix when the City clears out the homeless who live near there. And, then to waste money on a giant "Long Beach" sign at that location. The last time I called the police because a person was looking into and touching the handle of one of my cars parked on the street, the police never came. I guess that is not a problem for me as I own a baseball bat. But other people have guns. Why? Because they know in Long Beach, police don't always respond. Drive on Orange Ave. north of Signal Hill or Del Amo just east of the new park the city did build (good!) near the 710 freeway and look at the potholes. I hit one several years ago and cost me \$400 for a new tire, but I was fortunate because the rim wasn't damaged. We have a worthless boat (Queen Mary) sitting in the harbor. Years ago, the thought was turn it into a casino. No, not for the "wise" people who run our City. One casino basically funds the entire city of Hawaiian Gardens, but that is too low class for Long Beach. I have lived in Long Beach for over 40 years and officed in DLB for over 20 years. Based thereon, I can conclude, Long Beach has well-earned the title of "America's Most Mismanaged City."</p>
<p>Your greatest failure is homelessness. Your second greatest failure is treating people differently based on their identity or race. Your third greatest failure is the economy, mostly due to needless or nonsensical restrictions related to covid. The last is the biggest threat to your support at the moment. There is no reason for the city to have an unemployment rate twice that of the national average, aside from draconian restrictions on everyday life. Garcia governed for his own political advancement. In the future, I would like to see local politics stay local, rather than conforming to ever-evolving DNC conceptions of social justice.</p>

Comment
<p>Typically, the climate crisis is very low priority or isn't given any consideration. This survey continues with this disregard of what I consider the most important issue in public policy. The issue of greenwaste collection or the status of the Long Beach trash incineration facility is not addressed specifically in the survey. These two subjects are among the greatest contributors to carbon emissions that the city of Long Beach has discretion over and rank the highest among my priorities for the city to address.</p>
<p>Defund the police</p>
<p>1. I would have made Police Patrols a high priority, but I have yet to see from the former and not new Police Chief address community based policing, (getting officers out of their vehicles once and a while and interact with their community so the residents know the officers that patrol their area. This would also help officers become part of the community they serve and address another concern (Racial Profiling).</p> <p>2. I've voiced concerns about PCH East between Atlantic Avenue and MLK, (Southside of PCH) to the police and was told to call Caltrans to address the pot holes, cracks, and damaged road. Finally this past week a very nice officer who answered the non-emergency number provided me with a phone number to "Street Repairs" something the previous officers should have done if they were not going to send my concerns to address this matter.</p> <p>3. Homelessness is a big problem in Long Beach. Reaching out and trying to provide services to those who want it is important and what our city leaders should be doing for those who were forced out of their house because of no fault of their own. However, those who just want to pitch tents and block sidewalks and not take assistance, the city should remove those types of encampments as soon as they go up. Don't want my Long Beach to begin looking like Skid Row in Los Angeles because those who are without won't let the city help them.</p> <p>4. Enforcing traffic Safety yes yes yes, not pulling people over because they have an expired tag or having something hanging in the rearview mirror (unnecessary and waste of tax dollars- more important things to address than those ticky tack issues). Make stops count such as persons being careless, throwing things out of the window, following too close, cutting off bicyclists and pedestrians running stop signs and red lights.</p> <p>5. Address fairness in hiring and promoting in city jobs. Address racial profiling in the Long Beach Police Department, finally I'm tired of seeing Long Beach Police Department being made fun of on Youtube because some of them seem to forget first amendment rights of an individual to record them. So what if a citizen is recording, if your doing your job right there is nothing to worry about. example was Officer Mora by Jordan High School, and Sergeant outside the downtown station on Broadway. When I did Public Safety, I was glad to be recorded because it reminds you to be professional at all times.</p> <p>Thank you CLW</p>
<p>Too much crime. Make it safe.</p>
<p>Crime prevention and response should be the primary focus of the budget. The city doesn't feel safe anymore. Support our police.</p>
<p>Spent a lot of money on homeless with little results. Spend money else where. Spend money on homeless kids in college or community college.</p>
<p>Please do not use your survey to promote increased property and sales taxes.</p>
<p>The city infrastructure is quickly falling apart and crime is out of control. Please help.</p>

Comment
It is extremely important to maintain increase funding for LBPd. I lived in San Jose all my life and chose to move to LB last year because this city is a gem! San Jose used to be one- now it's full of garbage and crime. Please don't let beautiful LB go downhill!
Repave the streets the correct way, no more slurry sealing. It's lipstick on a pig. Grind down the existing asphalt which can be recycled, lay 10" of treated crushed aggregate base, then pave with the recycled asphalt. On Clark Ave from Del Amo heading south to Carson street is in the worst shape it's ever been. Potholes that can blow out a tire. The city patches the potholes in a non effective way and each time it rains they get bigger and deeper as it washes out.
Fix streets please. Allow lights on at all parks at night. Physical activity is of great help during thiis times of isolation. Also some streetlights change when there is no traffic in the direction of the green light!?!? BIG WASTE of gas!!! Or they take too long to change !!
I love this city and have seen such amazing growth in the last 20 years. Thank you to everyone involved.
Reducing oil drilling and port emissions from idling truckd
Preservation of historic buildings and continuity of new buildings in existing neighborhoods i.e. requiring new buildings adhere to 1 of several styles such as craftsman, mission, or colonial like Pasadena requires. It would help the city look nicer and keep home values up like in Pasadena.
It's critical that residents continue to believe LB is a good place to live. The major reasons I hear for people considering moving out are: crime (mostly petty crime); homeless/transients/addicts living on the street, with associated safety and health issues. It's critical that business continue to believe LB is a good place for business. The major reasons I hear for people considering relocation are: local tax rates, approval processes for new construction and business.
The city needs to give it's rejection to the state on rezoning in our city. We already have trouble providing enough water,sewer and power for the number of people we have. Bigger is not better
My Priorities: 1) Police 2) Parks and Recreation 3) youth 4) re-investing in the City
Making sure city council has more town hall meeting that cover working class hours.
Particular concern re lack of responsiveness from police dept when notified/contacted re presence requested.
I'm hoping that Audio Description services would be included (braille good too?) in public arts and cultural experiences for those with low vision or no vision, thank you.
I think affordable housing is a key to keeping people in California. We've lost way too many young families to others states due to the high cost of homes in our state. These people who move to other states deplete our tax base and they make it hard for companies to find suitable employees to staff their operations.

Comment
In terms of ranking: 1) homelessness and mental health 2) gangs and criminal activities 3) healthcare for those who can't afford insurance 4) safety/infrastructure 5) after school activities for children and youth
Fix the Studabaker street spring to Westmister
My biggest gripe is the poor and shabby maintenance of our roadways. The repair of potholes is horrible leaving bumps that will jar your teeth when you drive over them. The roads and grounds people need to do better work and not overfill the pot holes. Basically the poor quality work done with slurry seal and grinding up the old roadways, remixing them and putting the asphalt back down is just not working.
Our sidewalk at 2844 San Vicente Ave in 90815 area is horrific and unsafe! I have requested help for years. I have watched many young and old trip and fall. What can be done to make it safe?!
Listen to your citizens before you just vote on policies the way you want them to go. Be transparent with facts and numbers - truth first
Clean up LB streets, alleys, public areas. It's an embarrassment.
We need to hear plans for the Queen Mary
Oppose SCE's money grab from solar owners! Save California's solar industry.
Extremely important to remove homeless encampments
Provide adequate parking in the the downtown area WITHOUT DESTROYING BEACH AREAS. Increase parking requirements for high rise construction.
I think the city could save money by doing street sweeping only 2x per month in certain areas based on amount of leaves/trash/etc. Long ago I served on a budget committee and we were told that the street sweeping was actually a revenue generator due to the fines levied on people who did not move their cars. Is this still true?
Important to maintain beaches, parks, roads, museums, libraries, city buildings & other assets we currently have. Not happy to encourage more density. Important to provide as many open green spaces/parks & trees as possible.
Affordable housing, help for people with mental health issues and drug addiction, education, pollution and jobs! Thanks for asking!
I just moved into North Long Beach and am happy to have my 1st home here. I hope to see changes in the neighborhood to see less homelessness and sex worker activity along Long Beach Blvd. The small motels and excessive liquor stores bring in the wrong crowds and do not attract an atmosphere of starting a family.
Fix our streets!!!!!! The roads are so horrible!
Low income housing availability, Parks and Recreation facilities in underserved areas, Police reform (MORE OFFICERS, LESS OVERTIME PAY)

Comment
<p>Having the libraries open more hours will improve fully 12 of the items listed on the previous page. Getting kids into library programs is an investment proven to reduce crime, increase employee skills, provide computer access, indoor place for homeless, some libraries elsewhere provide social services from their libraries,</p> <p>Gang prevention, domestic violence, mental illness should NOT be handled by the police but by people trained not to escalate problems and to try to resolve them where possible.</p> <p>Do not throw committees or studies at racial inequality, housing, jobs, increasing businesses.. DO something that someone else has already done the studies for.</p>
<p>Preventive services for youth to avoid police services.</p>
<p>Many of my high priority services (children's programs, STEM programs, job skills training and assistance, internet and technology access, resources for the homeless) are provided through access to the Library and increased Library hours will benefit everyone in the community.</p>
<p>Roads and driving conditions around the city all need to be improved and maintained. The main road of Wardlow that enables travelers from Orange Country to our great LB Airport is full of potholes and jolts many commuters and residents around on a daily basis. Please note the disrepair of a highly traveled main artery into our city. Police force is crucial as well in patrolling, which we see little of to help with speeding and other traffic violations, along with community wellbeing. Thank you for sending out this survey. Take care!</p>
<p>Quit wasting my tax dollars on "illegals" and programs for them. Same goes for homeless/drug addicts and the like. I (as with most tax payers/residents) are not getting what we "pay" for...i.e our roads are crap, property crime is out of control, we are paying highest local tax in nation, trash everywhere in city, police/fire unions are nothing but gangsters dictating their own over compensated payrolls and retirement, city council/Mayor ignore the tax payers and continue wasteful spending with no regard to tax payers. You want a city of blight, trash, drugs and crime...look no further than LB...keep up your ludicrous spending and us tax payers will be gone. I don't think your illegals, un-housed and drug addicts will be supporting your continued taxation and spending.</p>
<p>The city needs to focus on preventative measures for homelessness, safety, and cleanliness. The police aren't doing anything in terms of property crimes or nuisance abatement but wouldn't have to if you put more money towards improving the lives of people who live here and increasing services in a holistic way.</p>
<p>we are being victimized weekly, my car was stolen once and broken into twice in Long Beach in last year alone. Forget all the nice to have. We need Police, business, streets, sidewalks. No more parks. All parks we have are just homeless hangouts. So are libraries. Enforce the law like in Orange County. They have no homeless issue on the scale that Long Beach has.</p>
<p>Repairing our streets is my top priority.</p>
<p>Long Beach funnels far too much money to the police-with the LBPD being one of the worst departments in a state and country full of them-and not nearly enough to social programs, human rights like free or affordable housing, or environmental measures.</p>
<p>Investing in people should be the priority of the General Fund with a focus on those who have historically received little investment. I am willing to trade investment in police services to achieve this more equitable spending.</p>
<p>More park space on west side of city should be a higher priority than one big expensive aquatic project in Belmont Shore.</p>

Comment
<p>I think homelessness and blight are the critical issues in our city right now. It doesn't matter if the convention center looks good or small business owners get business loans when the streets are covered with trash and sidewalks are blocked by homeless people. I worked in a restaurant on Atlantic Avenue in Bixby Knolls and we'd occasionally have homeless people walk in. It made customers uncomfortable. Homelessness needs to be reduced in the city.</p>
<p>Get tougher on crime. Get the anti-gang unit back up. Get rid of bollards. All residential lots to remain R1. No high density neighborhoods and no low income housing.</p>
<p>Public Safety is our number one items for everyone...And our public Libraries are the key of opening doors of wealth of information for all of our citizens in our great city...this has to be a top priority in the budget. thank you</p>
<p>We need more street lighting in Long Beach. We need more infrastructure improvements outside of bridges and potholes please. Thank you to all the city employees and programs already providing great services.</p>
<p>Please keep our citizens safe, productive and keep our city clean and free of homeless people</p>
<p>Stop wasting money on drug addicted homeless. They are ruining the city and need to be put in facilities or jail. Stop making it easier for them to live free and get paid. It's now a hideous problem only enabled by the city. It's a massive public health and public safety issue. They don't want housing. They want to be high. It's sad but we should not all have to suffer in and near their filth.</p>
<p>The city (and state) is at a tipping point where criminals and transients are taking over and honest citizens are moving away, taking tax dollars with them. We need to aggressively suppress crime and get the transients off the street. Lax enforcement of drug laws has led to this epidemic of homelessness. They need to get sober and get jobs and pay taxes like everyone else... And they need to go to jail if they commit crime. There's transients doing heroin and meth and urinating frequently in the alley by my house... Where I pay \$8000+ a year in property tax. Work big to small. We wont have a city anymore if things continue as is. Empower the police to lock more people up and clean up the streets. Attract and keep business. The city treats tax payers and job creators like lootchests. But we can move at a moments notice.</p>
<p>Jobs, city Jobs, city jobs for all local residents, application process for jobs with the city, rental control, more home ownership programs for residents with less restrictions and more approval process and lenders for low income families to have ownership so that our city can thrive off it. Ownership creates community resilience.</p>
<p>Parking available with new building is important. Two parking spaces with each unit.</p>
<p>An appropriate part of police budget should go for social services rather than LBPD traditional response. The culture and art programs should have a line item in budget funded with percent of developer construction spending citywide. Libraries should be open seven days a week.</p>
<p>The greenway on Daisy between PCH and Hill could be divided into sections with borders formed by the intersecting roads. i.e., 19th St., 20th St., 21st St. Take one section and fence it for a dog park for area residents. One another, show xeriscaping and a wandering hardscape path suitable for canes and wheelchairs. Add park benches and signage for the design. The remaining section to be left as is for recreational activities, badminton, soccer, etc. Also of note: after much debate and delay, the new pine trees are installed. They suffered when planted with months of drought, many look dead and many do not have two-pole supports. It seems the crew ran short of poles and decided to make due with only one pole support for the last planted trees. Pines trees are not native and will suffer. Bad decision to replant this genus to appease vocal change-resistant residents.</p>

Comment
<p>As a mother of an 18 month old daughter i find it crucial to have up to date playgrounds in public parks. I have yet to find a playground that I find clean and safe. I have found the need to drive to nearby cities such Cerritos to have access to nice playgrounds. I was raised in Long Beach, I am now 33 years old and the parks have the same playgrounds from when I was a kid. It's time for an Upgrade. Also, the Los Altos Public Library is in desperate need for an upgrade/remodel.</p>
<p>After school programs</p>
<p>Please address the homeless/crime/drug problem. It has taken over our city, where I was born, and never saw this before. I cannot believe some of the crimes and encampments that consume our city!</p>
<p>We do not need more money being allocated to the police; please invest in the community, schools, mental health services, equitable housing and addressing systemic inequities.</p>
<p>I have lived here for over 15 years. The alley has not been improved the entire time. Parking in red zones are not enforced and they should be. It is a danger in regards to fire and emergency services but also create Blind spots when turning and someone is parked in the red on the corner of the street. Also, it is also a large source of missed revenue since the illegal parkers are not being ticketed</p>
<p>fix the roads and drainage in belmont heights. It's like a third world country</p>
<p>The Contracts the city has with its employees does not provide a suitable wage increase considering the inflation rate we have undergone over this past year. The City ought to consider a voluntary pay increase to retain its workforce, deferring to the next round of bargaining may have detrimental impacts to the city's workforce</p>
<p>Covid relief</p>
<p>Rebuild the economy and stop promoting racism through Marxist ideals and never promote or support illegal immigration or invasions by foreign nations regardless of the mayor's racist preference.</p>
<p>The city needs to attract secure, good paying, jobs, not just retail. Form business/educational partnerships with the local colleges. Stop building high rise buildings that contribute to congestion downtown. Increase crime prevention, police patrols so that residents and visitors feel safe. Eliminate trash and blight. Long Beach is becoming unsafe and unattractive.</p>
<p>When asked about removing blight I'm afraid you are referring to programs to address the houseless population by forcibly moving them. I see this as a waste of money and unproductive, I would much rather have the money go to housing solutions</p>
<p>Most importantly address the homeless population in the city and providing them with accessible help/shelter/resources not just have police kick them out to another street down the road. More appropriate call for mental health crises for individuals needing the help and not just call police as a catch all.</p>

Comment
<p>1)KEEPING STREETS &amp; ALLEYS IN GOOD CONDITION IS IMPORTANT. WHAT IS NOTICEABLE NOW AND AS USUAL IS THAT RICHER LONG BEACH NEIGHBORHOODS GET FREQUENT STREET REPAIRS, RE-PAVING MORE THAN AREAS NEAR EAST-VILLAGE/1ST DISRICT OR NORTH LONG BEACH. IT IS VERY UNFAIR AND NEEDS TO BE ADJUSTED SO ALL NEIGHBORHOODS' STREETS/ALLEYS GET ATTENTION, REPAVING, REPAIR AT SAME LEVEL OF ATTENTION AS THE RICHER AREAS. 2) I WISH CITY WOULD STOP SPENDING MONEY ON STUPID USELESS THINGS LIKE THE DUMB ROUND/CIRCLE ISLANDS AROUND CERTAIN NEIGHBORHOODS 3) I WISH LB WOULD SPEND MONEY TO FIX ALLEYS IN EAST VILLAGE 1ST DISTRICT, SPEND MORE MONEY/TIME IN NORTH LONG BEACH ALLEYS. FIX THE BAD ROADS ON WILLOW AND SPRING NEAR THE NATURE CENTER.3) ALLOW MORE ATTENTION ON ORGANIZING FREE GROCERIES FROM FOOD BANKS AT MANY MORE SITES. EXAMPLE USE THE PUBLIC PARKS OR LIBRARY PARKING LOTS TO ORGANIZE REAL FREE GROCERIES TO ANY PEOPLE WHOM ARE POORLY ABLE TO BUY FOOD. ITS IS ALWAYS CHURCHES AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES/PERSON HELPING PEOPLE IN THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES WITH FREE GROCERIES. WHY CAN'T LB CITY DO GOODWILL AND DISTRIBUTE ORGANIZE FREE GROCERIES TO ITS PEOPLE ? 4) I WISH LONG BEACH CITY WOULD HAVE A REAL SENIOR ADULTS EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTER TO HELP US GET JOBS FOR SENIORS. 5) PLEASE SETUP TO HIRE CITY LIAISONS, ASSIGN THEM ALL OVER LONG BEACH TO GO OUT TO HELP PERSONS HOMELESS IN GETTING THEM SETUP FOR HOUSING. THEY , HOMELESS individuals, GENERALLY CAN NOT DO IT ON THEIR OWN! THEY NEED A ONE ON ONE LIAISON TO HELP THEM WITH THE RED TAPE; HELP THEM GET THOSE FORMS, questionnaires AND DOCUMENTS COMPLETED. THERE IS HELP FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS HOWEVER IT TAKES A LOT OF MENTAL FOCUS TO COMPLETE ALL THE HOOPS THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH, SO IF CITY HIRED LIAISONS AND ORGANIZED, TRAINED LIASONS, TO GO OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS TO ACTUALLY HELP PEOPLE GET SIGNED UP FOR HOUSING IT WOULD BENEFICAL TO ALL HERE IN LB. IT WOULD DO ALL OUR HEARTS AND MINDS GOOD. PLEASE. 6) PLEASE SETUP FREE PET ADOPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHOM ARE SENIOR CITIZENS AND OR LOW INCOME PEOPLE. INCLUDING HELPING WITH FUNDING TO GET PETS THEIR VACCINES, NEUTER/SPAY DONE FOR FREE OR VERY LOW COST. FINALLY OPEN SEVERAL CITY TOURIST CENTERS THAT WE ALL CAN BE PROUD OF! I RECENTLY LOOKED ALL OVER LB JAN 15/16/17TH 2022 FOR A CITY OF LONG BEACH souvenir "WE LOVE LONG BEACH" OR ANY LONG BEACH CITY TSHIRTS NOR ANY LB MAPS OF LONG BEACH SITES, FOR MY SISTER VISITING FROM TEXAS. WE FOUND NO TOURIST CENTER. I MEAN A CENTER WITH CITY SOUVINIRS, MAPS, TSHIRTS, CAPS, CAFE/COFFEE TO RELAX, HOTEL BOOKING SERVICE, ETC. YOU ARE MISSING A BIG LOT OF OPPORTUNITY IN NOT HAVING TOURIST CENTERS TO SHOW OFF AND PROMOTE OUR CITY. DO IT ! LOVE YA. JOHANNA</p>
<p>It's important to stop creating new programs and raising taxes for the residents of Long Beach. Focus on the programs that the City implements and repurpose and/or improve a program. Actually audit/analyze the City's program and look to see what's working and what's not. Look to see if there is another way to pay for pensions, so that it's not drying up the budget. Raising taxes to cover new programs or for more monies to go to the General Fund puts residents of all classes at a disadvantage. (Our sales tax is 11% while neighboring cities in Orange County are at 8.75%). Commercial and residential rents are skyrocketing in Long Beach and businesses are shutting down. Bring back the beauty and essence of Long Beach.</p>
<p>Police budget is horribly overblown, use that money for services that actually prevent crime and reduce human suffering. Protect renters.</p>
<p>Do not invest any More of our hard earned taxes on the Queen Mary</p>

Comment
No Comments
Thank you for all of your hard work!
I think that the city should focus on the sources of city problems instead of the symptoms of these problems. Increasing police budgets and widening roads/increasing parking doesn't solve crime or traffic problems.
Homelessness is a huge issue in our community...as it is in many parts of the country. We need to ensure that those experiencing homelessness are not a danger to our residents and visitors. Homeless encampments need to be quickly cleaned up. Homeless sleeping in front of our businesses should be moved to shelters or provided an alternate place to sleep. The homeless with mental, drug and alcohol issues need to be helped and not allowed to spend most of their time in public spaces where they present a danger to themselves and to residents, our children and our visitors.
Homelessness, Addiction, and Mental Health - these issues are my highest priority. Please address these problems in Long Beach. Keep people out of the gutters, and from living in public places without shelter, without plumbing, without health services. Keep people from living in their cars or vans in public places. /We are better than this as a community.
I liked the question about blight. I think eliminating blight and "beautification" have an important psychological effect on what people think of their city and how they act within it. I live near Second St and was always appalled at the windows of the library--such a disconnect for our great city. Now they are going to be renovated--kudos. I've noticed, too, that Second St has become a "dog toilet" and that the sidewalks are filthy and need to be power washed. Small things, perhaps, but small things add up to an overall impression. So I was glad to see that the survey included many questions re: overall maintenance of the city which I think is very important and really adds up. Thank you.
On the issue of homelessness, we need services AND enforcement. Camping in parks and underpasses creates filth, crime and prevents hard-working residents from using public spaces.
Property crimes and physical safety must be a higher priority. We had 2 cars broken into 1/15, I witnessed and chased away the perp during the 2nd break-in. I was following the perp, called the police. They responded by phone one hour later. We later found the guy, followed him, called the cops, they responded 2 hours later. This perp was carrying letters and packages. He hit multiple locations. The cops told us nothing would be done to the perp, hence, they placed a low priority on it. I later went to an exercise class. There were 20 other women there. When I mentioned what happened, every one of the 20, plus an employee, plus an instructor had a similar story to tell. 22 people all affected by crimes and ignored by the City. 22 lives shaken up and upset, some missing irreplaceable family moments. All were shaking when they told their stories. Most said they no longer go out at night for brief walks, it is not safe. People reported being regularly accosted by others on the street. This is Belmont Heights we are talking about. We live behind gates, locked up, distrusting anyone walking down the street. Why is nothing being done to reduce crime? Why aren't these criminals punished? They certainly inflict pain and punishment on people that never harmed them. The City has done an awful job in this area. My daughter moved away for college and refuses to move back due to the high level of crime in LB.
QUIT THE BULLSHIT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING IN THIS CITY. BRING BACK THE POLICE AND GANG UNITS, HELICOPTERS AND K9. LOOK HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SHOT AND KILLED BECAUSE OF THIS ASSHOLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
The survey did not ask about any changes about the port, city college, or the structure of the city council.

Comment
Focus on the basics. Infrastructure, public safety, and community services like libraries. Our neighborhood libraries are old and could use some renovation.
Fireworks - especially the 'illegal everywhere in California' explosive (M-80+) are driving people with PTSD, autistic children and pets to abandon Long Beach. My family is planning on leaving EXCLUSIVELY because of that.
Please ban homeless encampments.
I want the oil wells capped and gone. You can't claim to support reducing pollution and keeping them. They are an eyesore on my community (yes, even tho use Disney-fied islands) and most of all they are poisoning our waters and air, you cannot claim to fight pollution and yet fill the harbor with oil and idle wasteful cruise ships at all hours of the day. Every surface of my home is covered in black soot. More police do not reduce drugs, addiction, or homelessness. LAPD and LBPD receive millions more in funding every year and do less for the community than the same share of money going to any other department. Police don't even follow simple mask requirements. Healthcare, money, immediate temporary shelter, social workers and counselors, public washroom facilities, and house keys— all without, or with minimal, strings and administrative barriers attached— are the only moral and dignified solution to our unhoused population the conditions imposed and worsened by a failing national health and economic system. STOP TRASHING PEOPLES' TENTS AND POSSESSIONS AND HELP THEM.
Reducing crime helps make the city attractive for investment and relocation and vice-versa. Environmental issues emanating from the Port must be addressed. Lots of talk, very little results. Important to engage in long term planning to protect the city and facilities from sea rise and tsunamis.
Be brilliant at the basics ...
Provide extensive foot patrols so people can be friends with officers. This will help with all kinds of problems.
More police and fire more mental health support.
Too much graffiti and trash every where. city is so dirty, trashy. you need to stop crimes and clean up this mess. beaches are dirty. El Dorado Park looking shabby. Get the police out to write tickets for littering.
Need to stop COVID restrictions. Why do we have our own Health Department if all they do is copy what LA county do? COVID over, stop the hysteria and get back to running the city. All city programs should return to in person like most private businesses are. City employees work for the city, so go back to were we can the residents can see you!
I think some of the groupings are ridiculous. While I think maintaining bridges is extremely important, maintaining alleys is only somewhat important. I believe attracting small business is extremely important but feel tourism is somewhat important.
Scrap the Queen Mary & allocate that \$ towards libraries, parks, senior & recreational services. It was a bad idea from the start. It's getting in the way of developing that area of the city & it would be great if future developments took the needs of residents into account: not just tourists.

Comment
<p>Do a better job of focusing on what all residents NEED, not what some residents want. For example, it is not the city's responsibility to provide services and programs for seniors, nor legal advice and support for renters. Those are "nice to have/offer" but can better be done by nonprofit groups set p to provide those services.</p> <p>Stick to the basics - police, fire, libraries, infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, alleys, bridges, water and sewer lines, trash pickups), parks. Those are the NEEDS.</p>
<p>Traffic Control. We need to SLOW down traffic in residential neighborhoods before people are killed.</p>
<p>Police response is already poor, they only appear when they want to and do very little to prevent crime or seek any justice when crimes are committed. I doubt they would improve even if given unlimited resources, they act as if they are entitled to our tax money so funding them is low on my priority list.</p>
<p>I think money should be spent on safety (police, fire) and infrastructure (alleys, sidewalks) needs as a priority. Any funds left after completing those projects should be spent on social projects (after school, internet, senior programs).</p>
<p>I am grateful to have the opportunity to complete the survey.                      I am a 40+ year resident in Belmont Heights.                      I am wanting our City to return to what it once was only better for the future.                      My wish is that we have an immediate solution to homelessness as many of the homeless have been rendered for legitimately sad reasons while others are addicted to drugs, alcohol and have mental illness. There should be no loitering allowed. And, we must have constructive and real/authentic programs to prevent this pervasive problem from continuing. We must also, please, work to support police, fireman and first responders. We must feel safe and be safe in our own city. We also do not like hearing cars and motorcycles at many hours of the day and night driving far too fast in the Heights. These are not residents doing this - it is morning afternoon and evening. We also do not like people who loiter in allies, go through trash, look over walls and in to windows. It is a sad sign of the times. We know and believe our city can do better. Thank you for listening. Thank you for all of the work you do. And, thank you to our wonderful Councilwoman, Suzie Price.</p>
<p>More money should be allocated to the Development Services Department to increase the salaries of City Planners of all levels.</p>
<p>Must repair the broken Welcome to Long Beach International sign at Heartwell Park on Woodruff. Undermines efforts to attract businesses to Long Beach if we can't even do a simple thing like that.</p>
<p>We are living in unprecedented times. People need more security, more peace of mind. That means higher wages, lower rents, in safe and secure living environments. Those should be a city's priorities because it will create more well-being among residents. Being business-friendly should result in tangible benefits for all residents. It shouldn't translate into new, exclusive condos that only a sliver of residents can afford. A great city will endeavor to secure the American Dream for all residents which in turn will create a more prosperous and livable city. Godspeed!</p>
<p>The police budget encompasses far too much of the city's budget. Long Beach has the brain power and resources to reimagine public safety to focus far more on offering mental health support and services. Long Beach must do better to assist and uplift the underserved. Please take a page from cities who respond to crises with social workers and or mental health professionals over police officers who lack the skill set or training for nuanced work like that.</p>

Comment
<p>Policing percentage of total budget is high                      Police should not try to be mental health Professionals. Let's get good helping the underserved.                      Let's work together to affect positive change</p>
<p>Because Dist 3 has many amenities-natural attractions. Residents shd have access to major events in third district: boat races/trials attract many visitors block visitor parking in our neighborhood and do away with view blocking fencing. We deal with the noise crowds and access to our own parking and screened fencing is punitive to residents....</p>
<p>How to address homelessness efficiently- I have lived in long beach over 25 years and never felt unsafe in my city until now. People cannot be allowed to live/camp on sidewalks, beaches, alley ways destroying business and stealing with no repercussion. Police need ot be able to enforce laws that provide safety to the majority. We dont need high rise expensive housing, simple, clean shelter &amp; mental health provided or a choice to go back home</p>
<p>Tree planting, maintenance health screenings and planning for neighborhoods and in parks &amp; center dividers</p>
<p>We know now that most people dying FROM covid have 4+ comorbidities. Why is the health dept not putting out guidelines informing our residents that there is something they can do to lessen the covid severity?</p>
<p>-clean up the city - many of my friends don't want to come to LB anymore, because it is perceived dirty, which is sad                      -fight back the increasing crime rates                      -make sure, traffic laws are obeyed - 7th street has become a race track with no consequences for reckless driving</p>
<p>I think a major focus in the next years should be improving and maintaining our parks. For example, I have been to parks in neighboring cities, and Long Beach parks seem much less maintained than parks in Lakewood and Cerritos in terms of facility maintenance and how well the trees are maintained. For example, go to Del Valle Park in Lakewood or Liberty Park in Cerritos and compare to Heartwell, Whaley or Rec Parks. Our facilities are run down and there are few is no newly planted trees to help shade the next generation of City residents.</p>
<p>Addressing Homelessness must have 2 basic components:                      1) Offer to connect individuals to existing programs/housing (and LB has some good things to offer here), and                      2) Remove encampments from our parks, streets and sideways. It's just no appropriate to have the sanitation, crime and other attendant issues visited upon our neighborhoods where the renters and owners pay taxes to have this basic level of security and enjoyment. PLEASE DON'T LET US TURN INTO VENICE BEACH OR L.A.-- crime, open sewage and all the rest. We are better than that.</p>
<p>Fund programs to prepare / fight global warming and its effects. Eliminate city sales-tax! HUGELY Oppose charges to customers with solar panels by utility companies (NEM 3.0)!</p>
<p>The Queen Mary has outlived its usefulness to the city. It is no longer an icon to the current population. It should be dismantled and sold for scrap or sunk at sea. The cost would one time, but over. The current status is an ongoing drag on the city finances that will never go away with the Ships current state.</p>
<p>We need to focus on community services. Every dollar spent criminalizing poverty creates a ew criminal.</p>

Comment
Everything Council does should, in some way, mitigate the gaps in services, income, housing opportunities, etc. in our city. This means paying greater attention to those who are underserved and have greater needs than others in the city.
Start ticketing cars park in red. Dangerous for exiting onto Ocean Blvd can't see oncoming traffic When call police have them respond to vagrants on property with drugs or other dangerous activities or people living in cars in street
Efforts to control/improve traffic flow in highly impacted areas such as District 3 (2nd/PCH). Wetlands preservation is another important issue and health of our beaches and waterways. Queen Mary - what shall the City do and how much shall the City commit to preserving her? How much of those dollars can be allocated to pressing matters...I love her, but it might be time to let her go.
Help return Belmont Shore to its former glory.
Focus the budget on safety and infrastructure. This is not the time to allocate taxpayer dollars to "warm and fuzzy" programs or addressing systemic racism where there is none. Also, do NOT allocated taxpayer dollars to people who come to our country (and city) illegally. No one is against immigrants, but they should follow our immigration laws. Taxpayers should not be paying for them.
Focus the budget on safety and infrastructure. This is not the time to allocate taxpayer dollars to "warm and fuzzy" programs. Do NOT allocate taxpayer dollars to illegals and services for them. Remove sanctuary status from Long Beach. If people want to come to the United States, they should do it legally, and citizens/taxpayers should not be paying for them.
We need more police protection and response to calls for safety and property damage.
Stop wasting money on social justice NONSENSE. Have someone who actually knows how to write UNBIASED surveys create surveys. Writing "so everyone gets a healthy start" etc is BIASED. It would be nice for a city of 500k to actually have someone that knows how to write create materials for the city.
The survey is not worded in a matter to let you know what someone really thinks. Going from "Not too Important" to "Don't Care" is a big jump. What if someone didn't want any funding to go to that project. That wouldn't show up. How about asking people what percentage of their taxes should go to each project, and never let the total percentage exceed 100%?
We need to re-evaluate Police Dept. funding, to provide more programs that support urgent community needs. The Long Beach police department needs to be reformed.
There are issues that need to be taken care of city government and some issues that need to be taken care of by other entities such as non-profit organizations.
Safety in my community is automatic. If I don't feel safe the other questions don't matter. I want my taxes to go to having safe streets, neighborhoods, streets, alleys and bridges. A good fire and police dept. after that it is lovely to have all the other choices on this questionnaire
In city planning, with so many new residential units being constructed in the downtown area, set aside space for multiple grocery and specialty retail outlets like Trader Joe's and BevMo. Having only one supermarket in the area has a negative impact on quality of life.
Please make repaving Studebaker Road you're number one priority this year.

Comment
Pedestrian safety - too much wild driving in Long Beach. Need cameras with auto-ticketing for speeders and those running stop lights and signs, need more aggressive efforts to get the homeless off the streets. The US is becoming a predator nation. Ridiculous.
Do not take the city into debt, build the plaza Pool, No Co-Ed Locker rooms in our schools, keep our children in school and as safe as possible
The City is involved in too many programs not related to the traditional services sought by its citizens. The redundancy of services offered by the state, counties, and cities is wasteful, and insures that the political approach to create redundant services does not work. Have city employees concerned with equity issues resign, they are the ones creating a problem.
Beautification of the entry ways to Long Beach, i.e. Studebaker Rd. from Westminster Ave to Atherton Ave. Add trees to center median from Atherton to Anaheim St. and make the generation plant beautify their entire stretch of land along Studebaker.
please make the city safe again.
MAINTAINING ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONEL IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME!
Your questions are too broad in nature. For example, the Police do NOT enforce traffic laws for bicyclists and scooters. Handicapped parking is arranged poorly, and is not enforced.
I wish you had a line item to improve or original parks and recreational facility
Libraries are VERY important because they provide many of the services included in this questionnaire.
I feel we need to stop all of the feel good programs in long beach and get back to strengthening our police, fire and infrastructure. Reduce restrictions on businesses lower city tax on industry and support our schools. Jet Blue should have never been hustled out of our city. I am tired of this city worrying about aligning with LA and the Governor for obvious kick backs and political climbing.
If I have a heart attack, the city sends a paramedic. If I have a mental health issue, the city sends a cop with a gun. Where is the mental health parity in that? In my neighborhood, the police have shot a single mother and a ten with a can of spray paint. I no longer call the police because of the risk of these extra-judicial killings. The city needs to outsource citations and social services from the police to less expensive service providers, rather than a cop that makes \$200,000 a year. A billion dollars a year is not acceptable.
Some of these were hard to answer, because I feel a lot of funds have been allocated to different items in your questionnaire, but it seems like no matter how much is provided, it never seems to help anything. It's not out of line for me to wonder where has all the money gone. I can no longer call my home in Belmont Shore, where I have lived for 15 years, my own slice of heaven. It's gone downhill both in its beauty, as well as its services quite rapidly. When you witness someone breaking into a neighbors home, call the police and he's standing in the living room with a bag of burglary tools and a crowbar when the police get there. And you are told he's been busted many times and he's going away this time, and then you go to work because you are subpoenaed to testify and a month later you see this person at 7-11....there is something terribly wrong.
Can we please create more Pickleball courts? We are so behind.
Hi, with respect to maintaining city buildings, the long beach police academy is a city building is in dire need of building a new police academy or at the very least, bring about the much much needed improvements.

Comment
<p>The words on the survey that use terms like “investing in the homeless,” are abundant and ridiculous with zero results. We, some of the citizens have continued to vote on Measure A and many other “investing” programs for the homeless and we, the citizens, have visualized zero results! The public health prevention has also been mismanaged and instead of treatment when you become positive with Covid, the local government and this state government is pushing mandates and restrictions that don’t work. Keep paying for test and than don’t offer treatment. The death rate for young adults, 18-49 has increased 55% in California, they don’t know why? How about suicide and fentanyl deaths? We, the citizens continue to vote for after school programs, again, no true investing on real programs that make a difference when a one party state allows open borders and sanctuary for further immigration? The Covid fatigue is real, stop the mandates and start learning to live again so we can invest in some quality programs! We also should talk about Southern Ca. edison, SCE, and the PUC and their new rules punishing homeowners with solar! Another investment that now has no result for alleged climate change, but punishment for those citizens who have tried to help the “climate.” Citizens have seen the ineffective measures and control government mandates have done to our “civilized” society!</p>
<p>Sponsor birth control</p>
<p>Respect of the original intentions of historic districts and doing the best when making city improvements to collaborate with those neighborhoods and follow historic guidelines.</p>
<p>keep city out of politics and social engineering</p>
<p>Eliminate parklets and restore Broadway to original configuration.</p>
<p>Please remove the "Parklets" everywhere, eliminate the "Bike Lanes" on Broadway and restore it to its' original configuration and usage. It is called "Broadway " for a reason. It has always been part of the original plan for cross town travel and the changes have only served to divert traffic to other less appropriate routes. The changes have also had an unfair and severe impact on adjacent businesses. The Parklets diminish the Shore for residents.</p>
<p>Belmont Heights need street, sidewalk, and storm water repairs badly. Pleas allocate resources for this.</p>
<p>Please help the mentally ill homeless find places to live, There are some violent homeless people all over Long Beach who make it difficult for people to enjoy their time in the city. This problem needs to be addressed as criminal.</p>
<p>Thank you for this opportunity. I can’t wait to get rid of Suzie Price as our councilperson. I firmly believe she hasn’t got a snowball’s chance in you know where to be elected mayor.</p>
<p>Animal control is non existent. Public areas are over run by off leash dogs and defecation.</p>
<p>I think we need to build a system that prevents trash and pollution from the waterways from running into the ocean. On the note, we should be recycling waste water and rain water run off.</p>
<p>We are tired of municipalities taking and using money from middle class to help the poor and homeless while the extremely rich pay very little. By BUDGETING to help the poor and homeless you are taking money mostly from middle class who cannot afford it. These items should NOT be in the city budget but corrected by the very wealthy through some other way.</p>
<p>Police protection, safety, crime prevention and prosecuting criminals are of paramount importance. Fire and ambulance response are vital.</p>

Comment
<p>The city, districts and police need to do more to enforce laws already on the books to discourage homeless camps that block alleys, sidewalks, and parks. All residents deserve to feel safe and in my area there has been an increase with break-ins that corollate to the increased homeless population. Also, the city needs to hold Caltrans accountable to keeping the freeways underpasses and surrounding ground clean of encampments for everyone's safety.</p>
<p>Remove homeless from living and sleeping in public areas such as sidewalks, streets, alleys, parking lots, store fronts, restrooms, parks and beaches!!</p>
<p>Fix the streets and patrol them. That is the role of city government. Thank you for asking. (The made-up term "Latinx" is offensive to Latinos, by the way. And American Indians do not normally refer to ourselves as "Indigenous.")</p>
<p>I cannot support spending millions on rescuing the Queen Mary while people are living on the streets. Recruit a philanthropist to fund the project, and name the surrounding park in that person's honor.</p>
<p>Help those who want help, but stop tolerating "homelessness" by those who refuse available services. Go after those who commit "petty" crimes like stealing bikes, and get them out of here.</p>
<p>The city's public works should be focused on building safe streets and reducing pollution caused by drivers. Almost no progress has been made on the city's vision zero plan, and time is almost up</p>
<p>There is lots of trash and homeless people doing heroine on the corner of streets where children or dogs can easily pick it up and become ill. Homeless people camping in the middle of the sidewalk leaving trash and an unsanitary area.</p>
<p>It did not cover Street Sweeping or Refuse. These are extremely important. We are billed and/or ticketed for these services, yet they are often unable to provide them. Clearly there is staffing and equipment shortages that may be due to the pandemic, but nevertheless they need more staff and equipment as we are being charged for a service that we expect to be delivered. This problem stems from budget and City Hall. I can't fault Therese departments as they are doing their best with what City Hall is providing them.</p>
<p>Please address west side Long Beach. The streets, parks, and pollution are always ignored.</p>
<p>Redirect police funding to address root causes, such as family violence, generational poverty, and lack of opportunities. Also invest in complete streets design and implement the bicycle master plan!</p>
<p>Defund the police</p>
<p>Although all may be important, of utmost importance is taking out City back and making it a safe place to live. Priorities need to exist and any nice to haves must take a back seat to the critical aspects such as law enforcement, prosecution, and getting a handle of the homeless. Shelters are not the answer. We need mental health facilities where many of these homeless drug addicts need to be housed and taken care of. State or county Mental Health hospitals need to be brought back. Many of our homeless population are not well, and may never be due to the synthetic drugs that have made them into walking zombies. Time to take back our streets from the petty thieves, as well!</p>
<p>Invest in the people of Long Beach not the wealthy or businesses. Focus on children and community programs along with the homeless. We're a rich Beach City that needs to invest more in our people. We want to see our tax money spent on us.</p>

Comment
Including more family friendly affordable activities, events and splash pads at parks or attract a small water park to long beach.
I would like to see property owners be given back the responsibility and costs of maintaining the sidewalks in front of their properties. This cost should not be the City's responsibility as that is a massive subsidy to wealthier single-family home owners. Also, please sunset the permit parking districts across the city or at least require affirmative annual renewals, organized not by the City but by residents. These are de facto privatizations of publicly-funded streets and should not be allowed except in rare and temporary cases.
No more multi units in district 6. Population is condensed with limited green space and parking.
The increases in costs for utilities are hard on people with fixed incomes. Is there any way to cap them?
Stop destroying trees, especially during nesting season and on the West Side where they are most needed. We need parks, open space and public areas not more super expensive high rise developments that do >nothing< for the vast majority of Long Beach residents. Where does the 10% (!!!!!) sales tax go? Reinvest in US, the people who already live, work and contribute to this city. Stop trying to become Orange County. Stop green lighting development projects that attract wealth but do not support the people struggling to live here and make Long Beach what it is.
I feel that we must reorganize the budget to provide much improved social services, especially for seniors and youth. Affordable housing must be a top priority along with environmental health.
We have too many long-term vacant big-box stores, derelict gas stations, and no real plans to fix that problem
Add city-run composting facility; compost collection
Please actually listen to the people and defund the police. We gave you that feedback for 2022 and you all invested more into it... shame on you.
Parking Enforcement, remove meters from apartment areas. It isn't fair to have to pay for meter parking when living in crowded neighborhoods.
It's frustrating that city unions are donating money to politicians and requiring signed agreements that the politicians will support union causes in exchange for the donation. This is bad for taxpayers and should be illegal. It puts honest politicians who refuse to sign at a disadvantage.
Regarding LBACS - need to focus on admission of found and surrendered animals. LBACS has denied intake of animals. Need to go back to being an open shelter.
Pre-Housing for Homeless along with affordable housing for students at CSULB. Adding a tax for apartment units that are empty, especially downtown.
I think it's important to fund initiatives that focus on decreasing homelessness, increasing affordable housing (\$2000 a month or less), retaining small businesses, decriminalizing street vendors, and making sure the city has enough people to help with mental health crises our neighbors may have.
survey option for more police patrolling on foot or bike. especially in higher crime and homeless areas. that is very important to our house.
Defund Police, Refund Libraries...
I am looking forward in working in making long beach better then before Covit and better for my grandchildern to call long beach home 🙏❤️ us
We need more Police.
Focus on improving services and support over police tactical equipment.

Comment
Please continue to fund the Municipal Band. It is a unifying force in our City.
Crime is out of hand and needs to be addressed. Period. Regarding homelessness, as someone who works with homeless, throwing more money into these programs isn't helpful. A very large portion of the homeless need mental health services and they cannot be forced to accept the help. They refuse housing options because they cannot or will not follow the rules (no drugs/alcohol). The laws regarding homelessness need to be tougher. It is not a safe situation for families with young children.
Need to address the transient issue based on the drug problem not a housing problem.
The survey only mentioned pedestrian, bicyclist, and driver safety in the context of "enforcement." Safety for all road users is incredibly important, but enforcement is proven not to be the most effective way to increase safety -- street design is much more impactful. I would like to see more resources dedicated to: safe crosswalks, bike lanes, road diets to smooth traffic flow all people, protected bike lanes, bike share expansion, curb extensions, and transit service to allow people to get around without a car (as car driving is the cause of danger on the streets).
<p>We need to focus more on helping existing small business, not just bringing in new.</p> <p>We need to invest in public health and health prevention. I am disappointed to learn how little the City invests in public health!</p> <p>We need to invest in neighborhoods who have less opportunities and provide more programs for teens and seniors.</p>

Comment
Main concern is community safety and part of the vision for community safety is broader non-punitive and supportive services (not policing). Community safety includes workforce development, quality of life, and mental health. We should envision community safety in a broad not punitive way.
New homeowner where homelessness and condition of City is most important. Degrading alleyways cited. Homeless shelters should work to allow homeless to keep possessions
All services are [mutually reinforcing] and we need technology/internet that facilitates city connectivity/community. Experience working with homelessness and supporting seniors on Emergency Tenant Assistance and doesn't know the progress of that program.
Housing and homelessness is the number one service area he prioritizes. Part of District 6 and is homeowner. Rising housing costs is concern and ability to achieve housing ownership for all. EWRAP program appreciated but has issue with focus on rental assistance and lack of focus on improving home ownership. Desire for lease home program.
We include in policy LGBTQ+ community that are typically excluded. Seeing first generation of LGBTQ seniors and those surviving long-term AIDS and HIV. There is a lack of education and community events; wants City to provide more services. Wants immersive technology for older adults. Wants to know how much Build Back Better funding will come back to Long Beach.
Need for infrastructure repair, like street/curb repairs.
Need for enforcement of traffic laws as we see high traffic deaths.
Should consider comments in light of climate issue and digital divide.
Community safety too focused on policing, investment in policing and incarcerated systems not effective, need to redirect funding to support affordable housing production, rental assistance, homelessness, home buying for first time buyers.
Lives in West side, and rise in case workers and social workers needed; double these workers to ensure people know about services available (e.g. disability)
When will the project on 14th street park begin. We haven't heard any updates.
Next Executive Director/CEO of Public Library Foundation. Ability to provide services limited because of structural budget cuts to library. Additional funding to library is needed.
The City tries to do too much with services. Community safety is most important. Most concerned about response times, especially with Community Hospital closed without an Emergency Room in the East side. Concern we are below number of officers needed and are we funding a Police Academy. Infrastructure is really important (e.g. streets).
Comment in Spanish. Need to support libraries and has constantly volunteered at libraries as they offer significant resources for children and as a crime prevention. Youth services limited because funding for staffing not available. Libraries support graduation rates. Investment in youth through services like art classes can provide preventative options.
Seniors are not included in emergency plans. City needs to work more across departments.
Homelessness and safety is a priority in my neighborhood.
Public safety is important. We can't defund them.

Comment
Part of team at MOLA. Pandemic continues to affect attendance at events. Hope we can count on city to support non-profits like MONA. We do offer things like art classes and community programs that we try to fund and make available for all residents. (Wants City to fund non-profits)
District 9 resident. Number 1 concern is community safety. Crime is increasing. Wants increase in officers and improved technology. Invest money in City Attorney to file more criminal cases and going after property owners that permit criminal activity to occur on their property.
Redirect funding away from policing towards supporting services in support of Black and Brown communities.
Economic support of LB non-profits. Representative of MOLA in consideration of pandemic where attendance is heavily impact by pandemic. Community programs that they hope to fund, but need funding.
Resident of District 8 and appreciates initiatives to use motels to provide homeless services. Wants more funding to providing shelters for the homeless. Unhappy with the City about discussing encampments as shelter.
Primary issue for public safety. Lack of police and firefighters will be a barrier for addressing crime, homelessness, and traffic issues.
Community Emergency Response Team needs training for LGBTQ community servicing. We want structural funding. LBRA funding missed LGBTQ business funding. Wants funding for workforce development of older adults. Need to ensure benches and coverings at bus stops in the face of extreme heat. Reframe reentry programs for homeless programs and partner with LB City College that provide blue collar job options. Any youth program should mirrored for seniors.
When will projects at 14th St. parks be initiated?
To address homelessness, is there an effort to minimize gentrification
Homelessness in front of public library near MLK library which causes fear for his kids. This library houses one of largest Cambodian library resources and has caused him to go to a different library in Signal Hill.
What is the City doing for Racial Reconciliation Initiative?
Lives next to Pacific Avenue Corridor with significant blight, with a lot of empty storefronts, where code enforcement is needed to address how these properties have been neglected. Broken windows theory.
Social workers at McArthur Park library...any desire to expand?
Wants to know if there is City funding to support Art/Creative Community safety
Is there an effort to fund climate resiliency and stop oil drilling
Diverting money from police budget to other areas of interest to housing and health equity. Parks Strategic Plan referenced. Parks underfunded.
President of Library Foundation. Referenced City Auditor report that libraries closed 80% of time and significant cuts to budget. Increase library funding.

Comment
In order of priority, I ask that my tax monies and our city budget are spent on Housing & Homelessness, Quality of Life, Health & Equity, Business Supportcontinued... and finally Infrastructure. Please fund these priorities by cutting LBPD. Equity must be criteria for all spending. Mirror People's Budget priorities! Many of our neighborhoods are 80% or higher people of color RENTERS. Affordable rental housing must be a priority.
District 1 resident where only one grocery is available. Significant elderly, disabled, veterans, LGBTQ populations in Downtown so seeking for LGBTQ center and more services. Caesar Chavez homeless encampments and at the Riverbed.
I am curious to know why the project: Parallel parking on Atlantic, going south from San Antonio to around Bixby Street, was abandoned?
Much like the first individual who shared, I feel strongly about cutting the police budget. That money should be reallocated towards mental health support, housing, education etc. Police don't prevent crime, they respond to it. Addressing root causes such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty, mental health, etc would be a better use of city funds.
Refuse worker for the City. Seeking in investing in ESB and refuse workers (not upper management). Struggling to afford rent. Currently short staffed. Compared to neighboring cities and private companies, city refuse workers are the lowest paid.
What an important point -- City must pay union-scale wages and benefits for ALL employees including part-timers. Quit contracting-out city jobs. Hire public sector WORKERS!
Resident/homeowner. Priority is safety which determine quality of life. Whatever that can be done to bring in businesses. Social worker by training and see that duplication of services. City government should ensure community safety, protect neighborhoods, and everything else should flow from that.
Increase the hours that Long Beach Animal Care Services is open and reduce or do away with the managed-door-admission policy.
Health, Equity, and Emergency Preparedness as well as Housing & Quality of Life are really critical to me as a Long Beach resident living in 90804 & educator working in higher education here. I agree with the comments about diverting funding from police. As a queer person of color, and many others, I stand with Black, Latinx, Southeast Asian, low-income, queer, and other communities who are not only not protected by, but are actively harmed by police. In addition, "community safety," would actually address the root causes of "crime," including the need for affordable housing, support for mental health, access to good paying jobs, and youth development programs. It's unconscionable that it's challenging to access such critical needs that can improve our lives while so much is spent on policing.
Candidate for mayor. Priority is safety and police is key. Protect the 300 officers up for termination due to vaccination mandate. Health equity to the bottom. Infrastructure is third places. And business is second place. Find it difficult to read the report and wants to meet with City staff on that.

Comment
<p>Much like the first individual who shared, I feel strongly about cutting the police budget. That money should be reallocated towards mental health support, housing, education etc. Police don't prevent crime, they respond to it. Addressing root causes such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty, mental health, etc would be a better use of city funds.</p>
<p>Health, Equity, and Emergency Preparedness as well as Housing &amp; Quality of Life are really critical to me as a Long Beach resident living in 90804 &amp; educator working in higher education here. I agree with the comments about diverting funding from police. As a queer person of color, and many others, I stand with Black, Latinx, Southeast Asian, low-income, queer, and other communities who are not only not protected by, but are actively harmed by police. In addition, "community safety," would actually address the root causes of "crime," including the need for affordable housing, support for mental health, access to good paying jobs, and youth development programs. It's unconscionable that it's challenging to access such critical needs that can improve our lives while so much is spent on policing.</p>
<p>Eliminate public library overdue fines and provide library funding.</p>
<p>ArtsLB rep and artist. CA Arts Council will reduce funding and LB arts will no longer receive funding. What will the City do to financially support arts and culture.</p>
<p>Homeless services are unfortunately not available at the Multi Services Center after normal business hours M-F or on weekends. Budgeting dollars to add hours of operation at the MSC would be really helpful.</p>
<p>I would like the city to focus its budget geared toward prevention services. Policing is more "after the fact." This is a recurring cycle that will continue if the city does not focus on prevention services such as affordable housing, resource centers for low income families and prioritizing communities that need resources. There are apparent discrepancies between the more affluent parts of long beach, rather than parts of LB where there are more BIPOC community members. Focus on rebuilding these areas with equitable resources.</p>
<p>This is Sayon Syraso euth, President of the Arts Council for Long Beach. Since the pandemic in 2020 many creatives have been greatly impacted. Through loss of jobs, gigs, performance etc. People like musicians, performers, artists and creatives in the community. These people contribute to the community, businesses, the city. How is Long Beach continue to make the arts, and artists a priority in Long Beach?</p>
<p>I am the executive director of the arts council of long beach. Since March 2020 we have distributed many funds to the arts sector and funding experiences for all ages. We were a leader in helping artists in the Country. The California Arts Council will be reducing funding to many organizations in Long Beach so it's vital that the City addresses this need. how can we fund the arts sector to pre-pandemic levels?</p>

Comment
<p>In my community a major concern regarding Infrastructure and Facilities in the area of street sweeper and tree trimming. Street sweepers will go around areas where trees hang over the curb. Therefore, the 7-10 year maintenance is not acceptable.</p> <p>Housing &amp; Homelessness                      Nuisance abatement programs response time need to be improved. Encampments are a health hazard and danger for our youth and senior citizens when they campout on sidewalks. An easier method of reporting would be through the "GO Long Beach" app rather than trying to figure out email messages.</p> <p>Community Safety                      In additional to - b) Police response for reducing gangs, drugs, and violence, Prostitution, Human Trafficking, and other illegal activities need more attention especially in the areas where there are schools.</p>
<p>Traffic enforcement is also important, drivers are speeding in great numbers and also running red lights. Recently a woman was killed by a hit and run that began at the promenade and drug to 4th and Pine. and the woman was drug to 4ht and Pine.</p>
<p>Executive Director of Immigrant Rights Coalition. Need to be more intentional with outreach to communities. Policing doesn't keep communties safe. Communities that are safest have the most services.</p>
<p>Undocumented person. Divert funding from police to support community, unhoused populations, creating new housing, and rental housing division with full-time employees. Refuse workers need to be paid more and supporting worker who spoke. Rechoing the need for arts and culture.</p>
<p>Resident in Belmont Shores. Police don't make him feel safe. Reduce and reallocate funding from police to support health equity.</p>
<p>District 7 resident. Does not own a car. Fund complete streets and affordable housing. City does not hold staff accountable for implementing plans. Redirect funding to root causes of crimes, like quality of infrastructure.</p> <p>When I look at the Service Areas, I believe the city is overinvested in "community safety" sufficient accountability measures. With great power comes great responsibility. So when we spend additional budget to settle litigation for police misconduct, it tells me our police are not being held to a standard of "community safety." For example, the City Council just approved a \$350,000 armored vehicle, even as they also declined a \$30,000 application for community solar. Please redirect police funding to the root causes of crime, rather than responses to crime.</p>
<p>I think the key to any safe, healthy, prosperous, well run community is to have enough police</p>
<p>Hello, this is Zander Collier, resident of Long Beach. As we are now living in a world of increasing temperatures, and as Long Beach is an urban area, this means that like most of the Los Angeles Basin, that Long Beach is also an urban heat locus. I would like to ask the city to make sure that there is a tree program to expand the existing number and quality of trees in the city. Done right, this should help Long Beach do its part to reduce global warming, capturing carbon, beautifying and cooling the city, and improving the quality of life for all. Thank you.</p>

Comment
<p>Older Adults                      \$1 Million structural funding                      Quality of Life                      Add LGBTQ+ films to Movies in the Park/Beach                      Add LGBTQ+ bands to Concerts in the Park                      Address LGBTQ+ Repatriations                      Business Support &amp; Other                      Add SCSEP – Senior Community Service Employment Program                      All workforce development programs/services to be intergenerational</p>
<p>I agree Bill                      Quality of Life                      Add LGBTQ+ films to Movies in the Park/Beach                      Add LGBTQ+ bands to Concerts in the Park                      Business Support &amp; Other                      Add SCSEP – Senior Community Service Employment Program                      All workforce development programs/services to be intergenerational</p>
<p>Line item to transition motels in central Long Beach to become affordable housing like operation roomkey</p>
<p>We'd like affordable housing and first time homebuyer programs</p>
<p>the project proposed on the budget meeting of 2020 included \$10 million for the market street project, which would save lives</p>
<p>Invest into immersive technology for older adults</p>
<p>Yes, everything Griselda from the Arts Council said! We need to ensure the city invests in supporting the Arts and Creative Economy to pre-pandemic levels.</p>
<p>I disagree with this view on crime prevention. Police do prevent/ deter crime, police capture violent criminals and therefore keep the streets safe. Criminals thrive on your sympathy and should be held accountable. This anti-police narrative is dangerous and unfounded. These progressive ideas have endangered more people and has not worked at all. Maybe when residents feel safer we can look at finding ways on reducing the police budget but as it stands, there is a lot of death, traffic fatalities and a heavy increase of property crimes. Crime reporting is also down because people don't feel there reports are effective.</p>
<p>I would like to talk about Health, Equity and Quality of life.</p>
<p>What district gets the most money? What district gets the least? Can the city tell us a breakdown of parking tickets for each district?</p>
<p>are there any plans for the Market street project?</p>
<p>I am curious to know why the project: Parallel parking on Atlantic, going south from San Antonio to around Bixby Street, was abandoned.</p>
<p>Supporting the LB Justice Fund at 600k</p>
<p>What outreach efforts will the city do to ensure participation from the most underserved communities in these meeting? Has the city done any canvassing?</p>

Comment
What is Long Beach’s total budget? Out of that total budget how much it will be available to invest in these community ideas? (ie. Not committed to existing legal obligations, staffing, benefits, etc.)
The significantly increased density downtown will increase the demand for a number of services - police, fire, lifeguards, public works, infrastructure. How will the budget address these additional demands on the system? What will be the effect on services to other parts to the city?
Curious to see what conversations Cities are having with economic corporations, development corporations, etc. Is City going to partner with EDC's?
Yes -- that area does need development -- very congested area as far as housing and parking. Roads need to be widened, more than cosmetics is needed in that area. I agree with Senay
In terms of expanding outreach, perhaps enlisting the help of property managers and HOAs in the city to get signs and notifications posted for forthcoming community forums. You can capture multiple eyeballs with one flyer or email. I should add that I am a president of a 21-unit HOA and would be happy to post community forum notices in our lobby for homeowners and renters to see. Unfortunately, while I’m signed up on all the city email blast lists (or so I thought) I learned about this meeting from the Arts Council - not from any city notification.
Priority should be policing we need to focus on loss of life. We need to focus on keeping the 300 officers up for termination due to the vaccine mandate. Want to talk with City staff to understand how funds are used
Vaccine mandates pushed by CM. 40% of PD will be terminated. Will the City pursue this? Will there be lighting at Los Coyotes diagonal to protect pedestrians?
City needs more concrete accountability for those finalizing city budget and some form of oversight that it genuinely reflects community priorities. How do our City address community priority to defund police.
Please increase support for our libraries.

# Long Beach

Community Budget Priorities FY23

February 2022



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# Executive Summary

- Improving the community’s sense of safety and ensuring residents are sheltered and can afford housing predominated resident priorities for the FY2023 budget in both the survey responses and community input meetings.
- Although a sizable share of residents called for diverting municipal funds from the police department to other city services, a greater number expressed explicit concern about neighborhood safety and local crime.
- Older residents placed a higher priority on housing, safety, and infrastructure, whereas younger residents were more vocal about health issues and diverting funds from the police.
- Residents of color prioritized health issues and the local economy.

## Introduction

The following report reviews resident input about priorities for the City of Long Beach’s FY2023 budget by analyzing responses to a survey designed and deployed by the City — which received 723 responses — and notes from two community meetings. The findings are complemented by an overview of the relevant social media discourse.

## Methodology

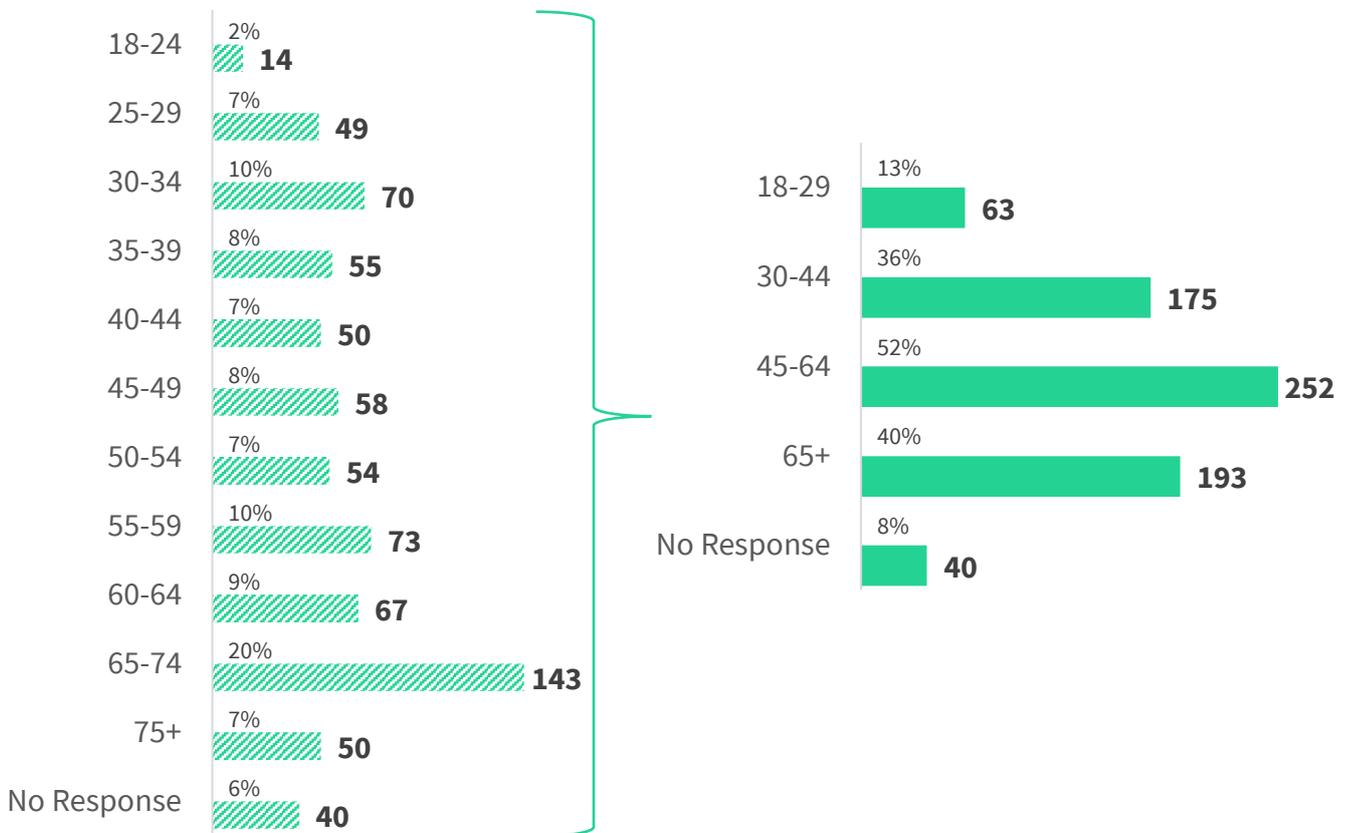
- The report offers an analysis of data collected from the City’s survey, social media, and news outlets. As such, it reflects the view and sentiment expressed by residents using these data sources.
- The analysis does not include sentiment and opinions expressed on private social media discussion boards and groups, only those expressed in fully public forums.
- The Zencity interaction count consists of all social media engagements (posts, tweets, likes, comments, shares, etc.). Therefore, the number of interactions reflects the discourse volume and the level of interest among residents expressing their views online.
- Our machine-learning algorithm classifies large amounts of interactions according to topic and sentiment — positive, negative, or neutral — which indicate satisfaction or dissatisfaction levels with particular issues. This model enables us to measure the attention or interest that specific issues attract and understand how community members perceived these issues.

# Budget Priority Survey

## Demographics

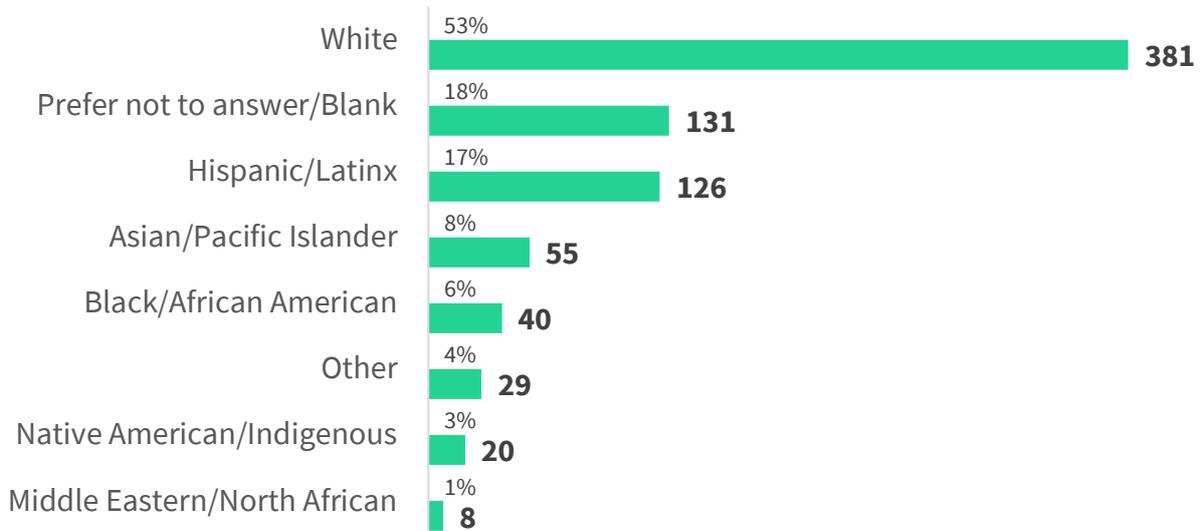
### Age

At 20%, **the 65-74 age group represented the largest cohort amongst respondents**, followed by 55-59 and 30-34 (10% each).



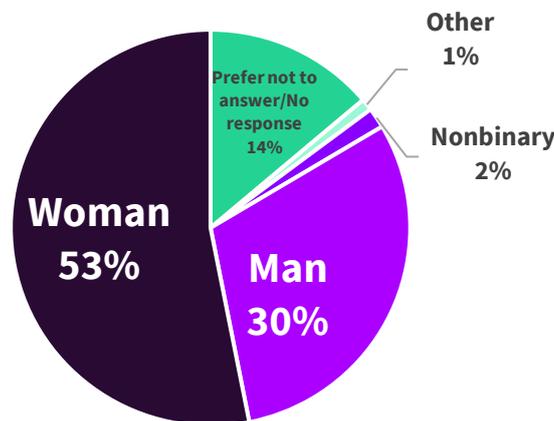
For clarity purposes, when analyzing the open-ended responses by demographic group, Zencity condensed the age responses to four separate groups and one for those who did not respond. As seen in the graph on the right, **the 45-64 age group made up more than half (52%) of all respondents**. Additionally, the 30-44 and 65+ age groups accounted for similar shares (36% and 40%, respectively).

Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>



Overall, **slightly more than half (53%) of respondents identified as white** and, at 18%, the second-largest cohort preferred not to answer or did not respond. Excluding those who selected “Other”, **just over a third (34%) of respondents came from communities of color.**

Gender Identity

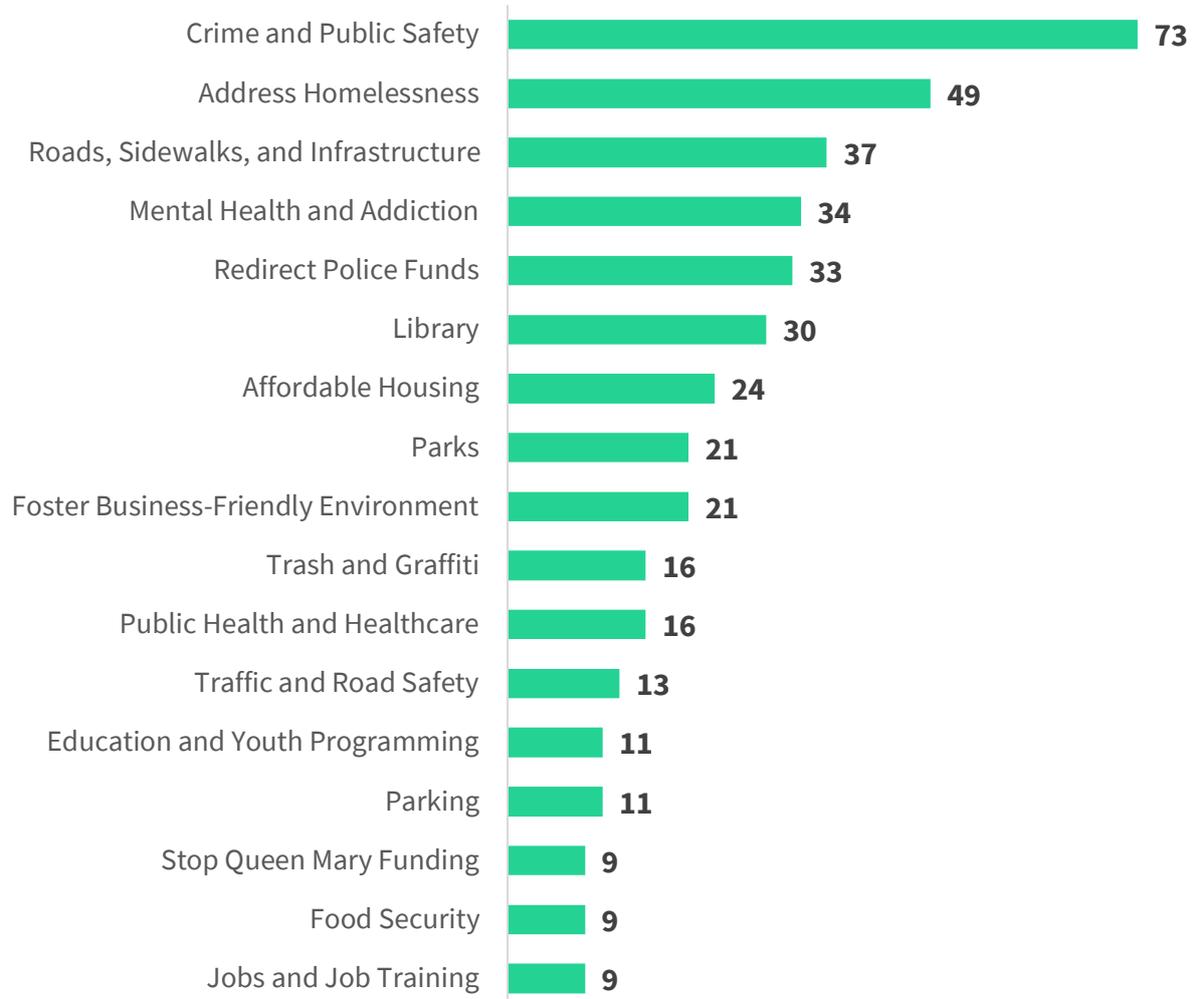


**Just over half (53%) of respondents identified as women** — 1.8x more than male respondents. Another 14% did not disclose their gender identity and 3% chose “Other” or “Nonbinary.”

<sup>1</sup> 53 respondents (7%) chose more than one ethnicity.

## Open-Ended Responses – All

When asked to provide additional comments about the survey items or general input about budget priorities, 310 respondents (43%) provided input through open-ended responses.



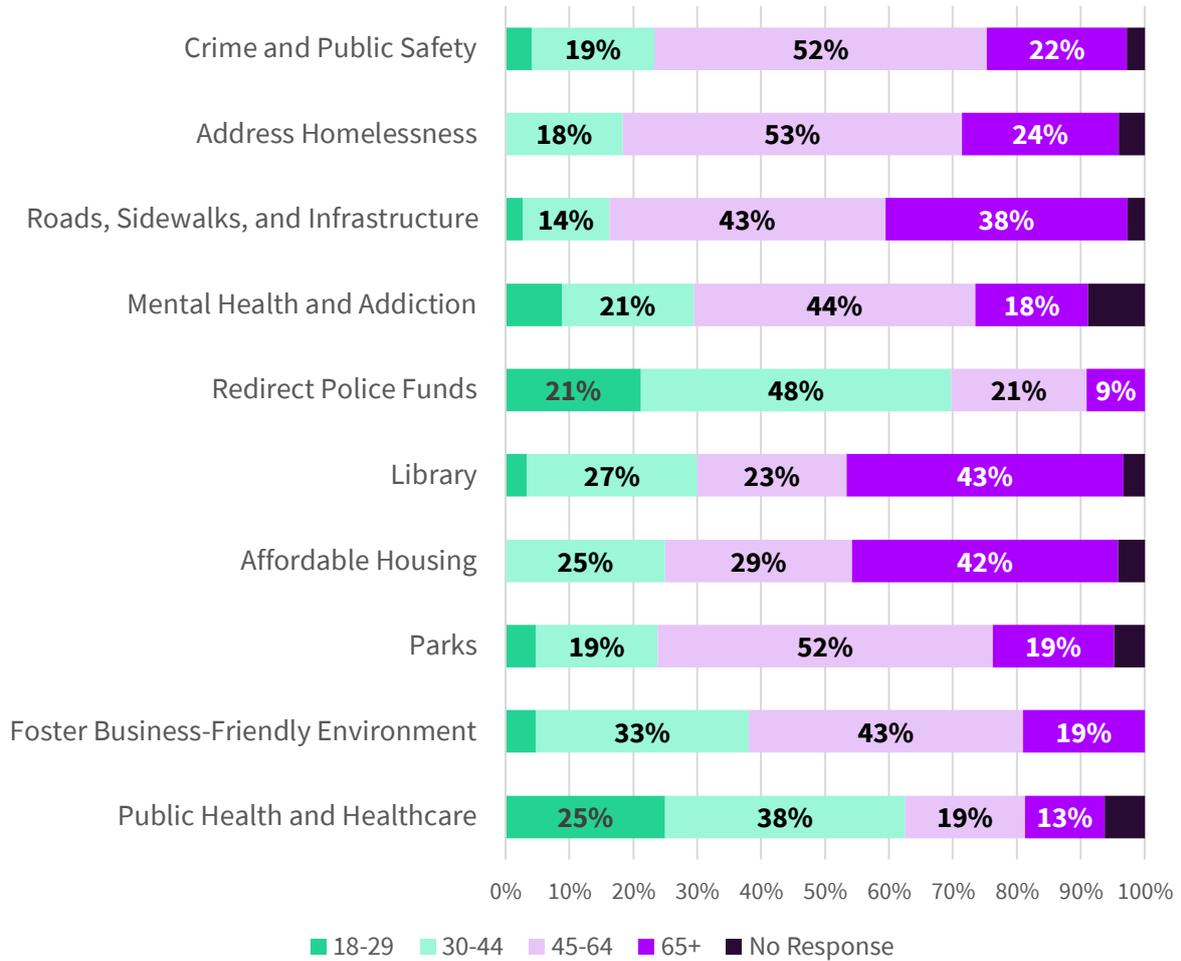
Analysis of these responses reveals that most input revolved around the leading themes outlined in the graph above:

- 🕒 **Combatting crime**, investing in **public safety resources**, and improving the community's overall sense of safety ([73 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Alleviating the **homelessness crisis** and investing in preventative measures ([49 responses](#)).
- 🕒 **Road and sidewalk maintenance**, and overall improvements to the city's infrastructure ([37 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Helping residents with **mental health and addiction** ([34 responses](#)).

- 🕒 **Redirecting funds** for the Long Beach Police Department to social services and other departments ([33 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Investing in the city's **library**, with many explicitly calling for extended hours ([30 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Providing sufficient **affordable housing** opportunities for residents ([24 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Spending more on the city's **parks** and overall beautification ([21 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Fostering a more **business-friendly environment** in order to attract investment in the city ([21 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Cleaning up **trash and graffiti** ([16 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Ensuring residents accessibility to **healthcare and public health resources**, especially as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic ([16 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Enforcing **traffic and road safety** laws ([13 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Building more **parking structures** and making sure residents have easy **access to parking** ([11 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Investing in **education and youth programming** opportunities ([11 responses](#)).
- 🕒 **Stopping all funds directed toward preserving the Queen Mary** and redirecting them to other city services ([9 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Combatting **food insecurity** and funding local pantries ([9 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Ensuring **job opportunities and vocational training** ([9 responses](#)).

In the following three sections, we show the leading ten themes among the open-ended responses by share of demographic group. A breakdown of the number of respondents for each group and the overall demographic characteristics of open-ended respondents can be found in the Appendix.

Open-Ended Responses – by Age Group

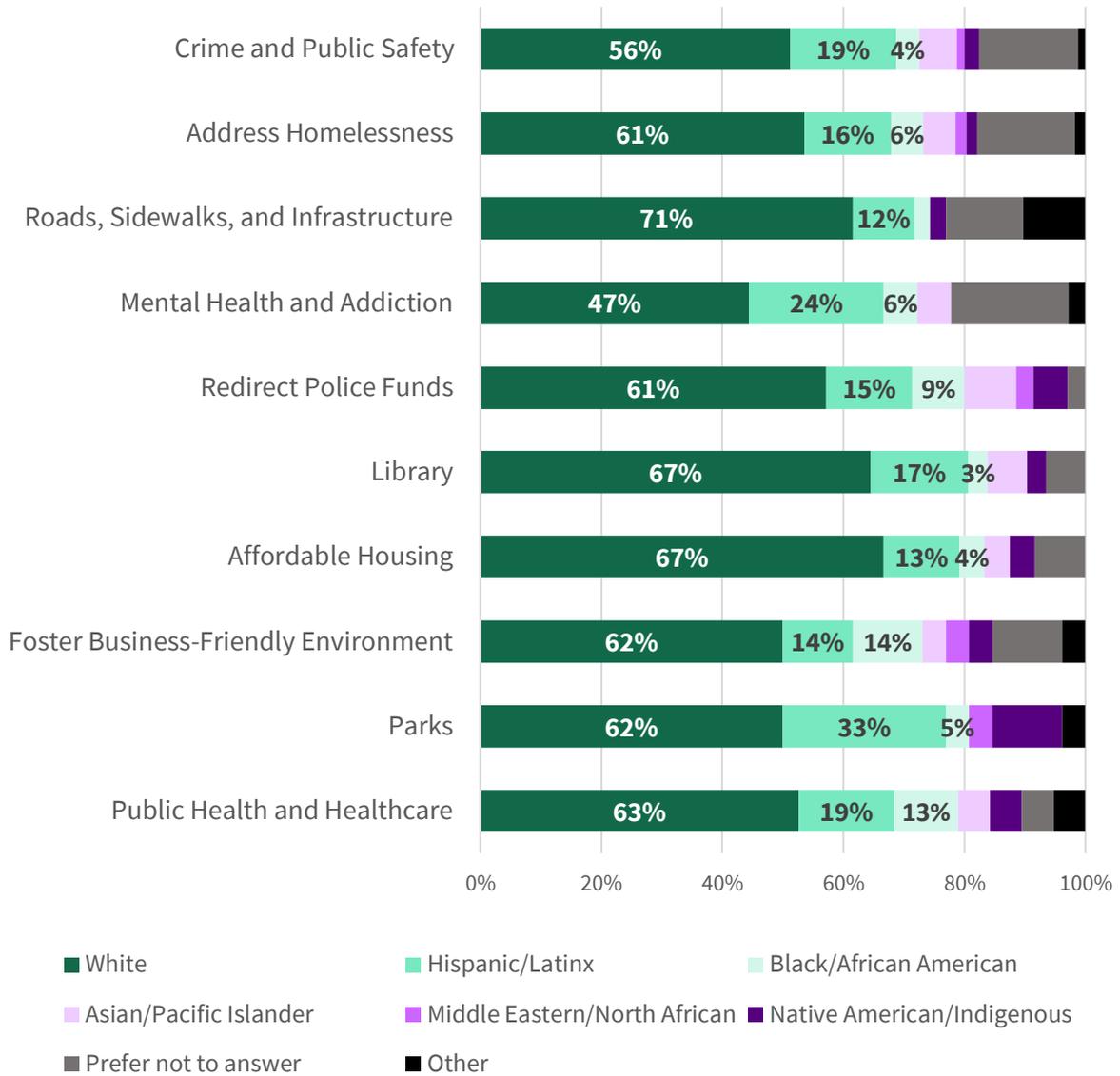


As shown above, the 45-64 age group — which represented the largest cohort among all survey respondents and open-ended respondents — were most concerned with homelessness (53%), Crime and Public Safety (52%), and Parks (52%).

Comparatively, the 65+ age group made up a large share of responses who called for increased library investment (43%) and affordable housing options (42%).

Whereas the 18-29 age group accounted for only 7% of all open-ended respondents, they accounted for a share more than 3x larger among responses to Public Health and Healthcare (25%) and Redirect Police Funds (21%).

Open-Ended Responses – by Ethnicity

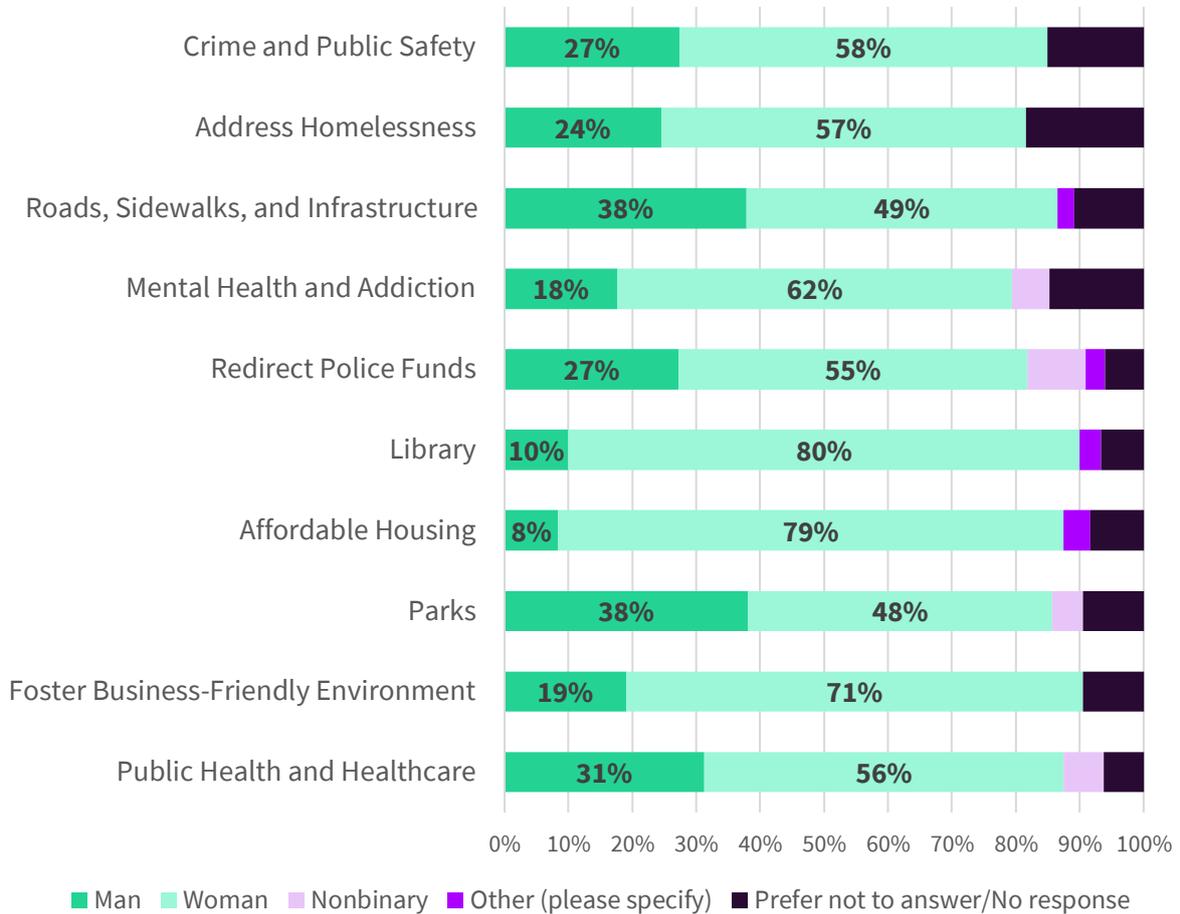


White respondents — who accounted for 55% of all open-ended respondents — were particularly vocal about Road, Sidewalks, and Infrastructure (71%), the Long Beach Public Library (62%), and Affordable Housing (62%).

Although accounting for only 16% of open-ended respondents, Hispanic/Latinx residents represented 33% of respondents calling for increased investment in parks and 24% of Mental Health and Addiction responses.

Black/African American respondents accounted for 7% of all open-ended respondents but 14% of those who called to foster a more business-friendly environment and 13% who requested more resources toward public health and healthcare.

**Responses – by Gender Identity**



Men accounted for 30% of open-ended respondents, but 38% of all residents who cited Road, Sidewalks, and Infrastructure, as well as Parks.

On the other hand, women (54% of open-ended respondents) were particularly interested in seeing funds allocated toward Libraries (80%), Affordable Housing (79%), and fostering a business-friendly environment (71%).

Finally, among those who chose “Other” or identified as nonbinary (2% of open-ended respondents), redirecting police funds (12%), Public Health and Healthcare (6%), and Mental Health and Addiction (6%) were of particular importance.

# Community Budget Meetings

63 residents also provided input about the city’s budget priorities at two community engagement meetings, on January 25 and 27. As seen in the word cloud below, **many of the areas reflected in the open-ended responses of the survey were also salient at the meetings**, including public safety, health, homelessness and housing, and the library.



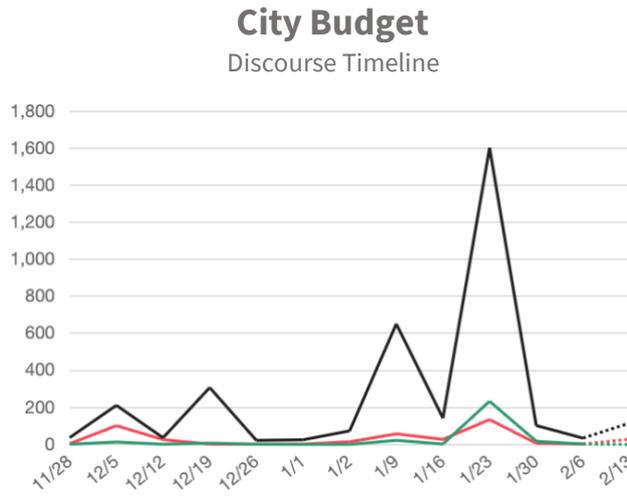
Among [all pieces of input provided at these meetings](#), the most popular areas included:

- 🕒 Addressing **homelessness** and providing necessary support ([14 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Providing sufficient **affordable housing** options ([13 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Combatting **crime** and increasing the community’s **sense of safety** ([12 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Promoting **arts and culture** initiatives ([11 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Repairing and maintaining **roads and infrastructure projects** ([11 responses](#)).
- 🕒 **Diverting police funds** toward other city services ([10 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Alleviating **traffic and parking** issues ([9 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Elevating **public health and mental health** services ([8 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Ensuring **equitable access and opportunity** for all communities ([8 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Increasing **library funding** ([6 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Investing in **preventative community support services** ([6 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Strengthening **LGBTQ support and outreach** ([5 responses](#)).
- 🕒 Funding **parks** ([3 responses](#)).

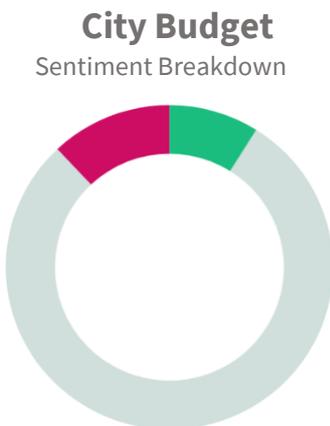
# Social Media Discourse

In order to complement the results of the analyses above, Zencity also analyzed the **organic social media discourse about the city’s FY23 budget** in the past two and a half months.

Since December 1, 2021, [3,357 interactions](#) in Long Beach’s online discourse concerned discussions around the City’s budget — representing approximately 0.3% of the overall social media discourse. The discourse **spiked during the week of January 23** (1.6K interactions) following a [post](#) about the City regaining control of the Queen Mary thanks to the FY 2022 budget and official-channel posts about the budget priorities survey and community meetings.



**Slightly more than a third (35%) of interactions came from official City channels**, primarily from the City’s Instagram page (20% of discourse interactions). On unofficial channels, the discourse mainly stemmed from a [community Facebook page](#) and [organic Twitter discourse](#).



Overall, social media content about the budget exhibited **1.3x more negative sentiment than positive** (12% and 9%, respectively). Negative sentiment primarily came from residents expressing disapproval with the City’s fiscal responsibility and calls to cut municipal spending to reduce the deficit, and at the same time, commenters sharing input about areas in which they felt could use more funding.

On the other hand, most (70%) positive sentiment came from the post recognizing the City’s regaining control of the Queen Mary rather than discussions about the FY 2023 budget process.

## Conclusion and Takeaways

- 🕒 **Public Safety and housing-related issues** — such as the homelessness crisis and availability of affordable housing — predominated resident priorities expressed in both the survey responses and community input meetings.
- 🕒 Although a sizable share of residents called for diverting municipal funds from the police department to other city services, **a greater number expressed explicit concern about neighborhood safety and local crime.**
- 🕒 **Younger residents were more interested in health causes and redirecting police funds.** On the other hand, older residents placed a higher priority on housing, safety, and infrastructure.
- 🕒 **Residents of color prioritized health and the local economy,** whereas white residents were more interested in infrastructure and housing. Both groups called for increased investment in community spaces, such as libraries and parks.
- 🕒 Men were especially interested in funding **parks and infrastructure,** while women were the same for **libraries and housing.**

# Appendix: Open-Ended Responses by Demographic Group

## Demographic Breakdown of Open-Ended Respondents

	<b>Number of Open-Ended Respondents</b>	<b>Share of Open-Ended Respondents</b>
<b>18-29</b>	23	7%
<b>30-44</b>	73	24%
<b>45-64</b>	119	38%
<b>65+</b>	83	27%
<b>No Response</b>	12	4%
<b>Man</b>	94	30%
<b>Nonbinary</b>	3	1%
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	4	1%
<b>Prefer not to answer/No response</b>	41	13%
<b>Woman</b>	168	54%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	18	6%
<b>Black/African American</b>	21	7%
<b>White</b>	169	55%
<b>Hispanic/Latinx</b>	51	16%
<b>Middle Eastern/North African</b>	4	1%
<b>Native American/Indigenous</b>	9	3%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	49	16%
<b>Other</b>	14	5%

## By Age Group

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	No Response	Total Respondents
<b>Crime and Public Safety</b>	3	14	38	16	2	<b>73</b>
<b>Address Homelessness</b>	0	9	26	12	2	<b>49</b>
<b>Roads, Sidewalks, and Infrastructure</b>	1	5	16	14	1	<b>37</b>
<b>Mental Health and Addiction</b>	3	7	15	6	3	<b>34</b>
<b>Redirect Police Funds</b>	7	16	7	3	0	<b>33</b>
<b>Library</b>	1	8	7	13	1	<b>30</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	0	6	7	10	1	<b>24</b>
<b>Foster Business-Friendly Environment</b>	1	7	9	4	0	<b>21</b>
<b>Parks</b>	1	4	11	4	1	<b>21</b>
<b>Health and Healthcare</b>	4	6	3	2	1	<b>16</b>

By Ethnicity

	White	Hispanic/ Latinx	Black/ African American	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern/ North African	Native American/ Indigenous	Prefer not to answer	Other	<b>Total Respondents<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Crime and Public Safety</b>	41	14	3	5	1	2	13	1	<b>73</b>
<b>Address Homelessness</b>	30	8	3	3	1	1	9	1	<b>49</b>
<b>Mental Health and Addiction</b>	16	8	2	2	0	0	7	1	<b>34</b>
<b>Roads, Sidewalks, and Infrastructure</b>	24	4	1	0	0	1	5	4	<b>34</b>
<b>Redirect Police Funds</b>	20	5	3	3	1	2	1	0	<b>33</b>
<b>Library</b>	20	5	1	2	0	1	2	0	<b>30</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	16	3	1	1	0	1	2	0	<b>24</b>
<b>Parks</b>	13	7	1	0	1	3	0	1	<b>21</b>
<b>Foster Business- Friendly Environment</b>	13	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	<b>21</b>
<b>Health and Healthcare</b>	10	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	<b>16</b>

<sup>2</sup> Respondents could choose more than one ethnicity.

By Gender Identity

	Man	Woman	Nonbinary	Other (please specify)	Prefer not to answer/No response	Total Respondents
<b>Crime and Public Safety</b>	20	42	0	0	11	<b>73</b>
<b>Address Homelessness</b>	12	28	0	0	9	<b>49</b>
<b>Roads, Sidewalks, and Infrastructure</b>	14	18	0	1	4	<b>37</b>
<b>Mental Health and Addiction</b>	6	21	2	0	5	<b>34</b>
<b>Redirect Police Funds</b>	9	18	3	1	2	<b>33</b>
<b>Library</b>	3	24	0	1	2	<b>30</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	2	19	0	1	2	<b>24</b>
<b>Foster Business-Friendly Environment</b>	4	15	0	0	2	<b>21</b>
<b>Parks</b>	8	10	1	0	2	<b>21</b>
<b>Health and Healthcare</b>	5	9	1	0	1	<b>16</b>

