

IDEAS *in* ACTION

External Oversight Board Meeting

January 6, 2026



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm: **Meeting Overview**
 - *Motion to adopt meeting minutes*
- 6:10 pm: **Upcoming EOB Meetings, Timeline, Staff Updates**
- 6:20 pm: **Evaluation Update**
- 6:30 pm: **Final Proposals for the PB Ballot**
- 7:10 pm: **PB Voting outreach and logistics**
- 7:20 pm: **Public Comment**
- 7:30 pm: **Closing**

MEETING MINUTES

- Sent to External Oversight Board members to review in advance of this meeting

Note: Minutes are posted in OPB's website, www.boston.gov/participatory-budgeting

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date	Details
Thursday, Feb 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>[In-Person] EOB Meeting to Announce Winning Projects!</i>• <i>Voting results</i>• <i>Progress on Cycle One Projects</i>• <i>Evaluation Activity</i>
March Email Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Proposed Rulebook Updates</i>• <i>Evaluation Report Updates</i>• <i>Nominees for EOB Co-Chairs</i>
Thursday, April 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Vote on EOB Co-Chairs</i>• <i>Rulebook Updates</i>• <i>Evaluation Report presentation</i>• <i>Preparing for Board report on Cycle Two</i>• <i>Updates on Cycle Two Projects and next steps</i>• <i>Logistics for Cycle Three</i>

CYCLE TWO PROPOSALS



DRAFT PROPOSALS

Community Resources

Immigrant Legal Defense Fund

Neighborhood Fresh Food Access Initiative

Bridging the Gap: Assistance for Housing Stability

Health and Wellbeing

Voices of Recovery: Sobriety Supports and Storytelling Pilot

Healing Through Art: Creative Pathways to Wellness

Education, Youth, Families, and Older Adults

Senior Caregiver Resources & Training Programs

Youth Financial Literacy and Empowerment Workshops

Arts & Culture

Immigrant Stories Through Art: Creating Belonging, Building Connections

Environment, Sustainability, and Food Access

Community Litter Reduction Campaign

Streets & Sidewalks

Green my Block

Local Economy and Workforce Development

Workforce Training Programs Focused on Trades

Immigrant Career Pathways: Bridging Language and Employment

Small Business Development Resource Program

Ballot Proposal 1

Immigrant Legal Defense Fund

This proposal provides grant funding for immigration legal services including consultations, application assistance, and legal representation for immigrants facing detention and deportation. This initiative will prioritize detained immigrants, those at heightened risk of detention, and immigrant youth.

Budget: \$400,000

Original Language: This proposal provides funding for immigration attorney services to support immigrants facing detention, deportation, and legal crises. Low-income immigrant families, detained community members, and immigrant youth will receive accessible legal representation through non-profit organizations receiving these grants. High demand for affordable legal services leaves many vulnerable residents without protection, and this initiative addresses that gap while promoting safety across the city. The program prioritizes those most at risk and directs resources to communities facing the greatest challenges.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advertise these resources widely (in schools, salons, barbershops, and nail centers), in communities where need is greatest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Due to departmental capacity, as much as possible, incorporate into existing legal access grants to increase nonprofit partners and resources to address resident needs and concerns.

Ballot Proposal 2

Neighborhood Fresh Food Access Initiative

This proposal provides funds to local organizations to increase access to healthy food in neighborhoods with higher food insecurity rates. Resources will be used to support food pantries, pop-up markets, farmers markets, food vouchers, or refrigerated food distribution.

Budget: \$500,000

Original Language: This proposal establishes accessible food pantries that provide fresh and refrigerated foods to neighborhoods through pop-up markets and community partnerships. By prioritizing marginalized communities, seniors, and residents facing accessibility barriers, the initiative addresses food insecurity, nutritional deficiencies, and health disparities across neighborhoods in Boston. The program will coordinate resource-sharing networks among local organizations to ensure equitable access to healthy food, fulfilling a fundamental need that supports community wellbeing.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on school-based distribution for non-HUB schools, and include food delivery for seniors that do not qualify for existing food services (due to restrictions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Looking forward to use PB funds in flexible ways to support communities based on their needs.

Ballot Proposal 3

Bridging the Gap: Assistance for Housing Stability

This proposal establishes a flexible funding pool to help Boston residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness to secure or maintain housing. Through grants to nonprofit organizations, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and those with intersecting marginalized identities would be able to receive one-time financial assistance for housing-related costs such as storage fees, arrears, moving costs, start-up expenses, and basic furniture.

Budget: \$200,000

Original Language: This proposal establishes a flexible funding pool to help Boston residents at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, to secure or maintain housing. The initiative prioritizes low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and those with intersecting marginalized identities who face limited housing options. The program provides funding to organizations to deliver comprehensive housing assistance to disproportionately impacted communities.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Suggestion to establish a dedicated subprogram or funding stream focused on housing prevention for young adults (ages 18-30).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Funds will help expand existing program/resources for residents in need of housing supports.</i>

Ballot Proposal 4

Voices of Recovery: Sobriety Supports and Storytelling Pilot

This proposal facilitates a pilot program providing recovery supports in a dedicated shelter space for guests experiencing homelessness who are interested in sobriety. As an option, the Recovery Specialist will work with guests to develop storytelling workshops that connect with local high school students, reducing stigma about homelessness and addiction. Participating schools will be encouraged to donate essential items to the shelters.

Budget: \$200,000

Original Language: This proposal facilitates a pilot program bridging homeless shelters with local high schools to connect people experiencing homelessness, youth, and people in recovery. The initiative empowers homeless individuals to contribute and share their lived experiences with students, removing stigma about homelessness and addiction while demonstrating valuable contributions to younger generations. Participants work with recovery specialists to share their stories in schools, while teachers and schools reciprocate by donating essentials.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BPHC staff member at the table remembers the emphasis in supporting shelter guests, and the school partnerships for storytelling as a component of the proposal, not the main objective. Proposal language was adjusted to ensure it serves the population in need, and explore BPS partnerships as part of it.

Ballot Proposal 5

Healing Through Art: Creative Pathways to Wellness

This proposal brings culturally rooted artists into neighborhood spaces to lead arts workshops centered on healing and wellness. The program offers diverse creative practices including singing, theater, painting, and music that honor different cultural traditions and pathways to wellness, expanding equitable access to mental health support. Workshops will be hosted in community settings such as parks, libraries, community centers, and places of worship.

Budget: \$300,000

Original Proposal: This proposal brings artists into community spaces to lead healing-focused art workshops for youth and adults facing substance use issues, mental health challenges, and trauma. Recognizing art as a universal language, the initiative offers diverse creative outlets including singing, theater, painting, and music. The program culminates in community showcases hosted at parks, libraries, food pantries, YMCAs, and churches, connecting participants with their neighborhoods through shared creative expression.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaboration between BPHC’s Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness and the Arts & Culture Cabinet.

Ballot Proposal 6

Senior Caregiver Resources & Training Programs

This proposal provides grants to equip caregivers with hands-on training, practical tools, education, respite, and support services to provide care for older family members. The initiative offers multilingual information and training that reflect diverse needs across gender, age, cultural background, and health conditions.

Budget: \$200,000

Original Language: This proposal establishes counseling and education programs for older adults and their caregivers, addressing isolation and resource gaps facing elderly residents. As the aging population grows, this initiative ensures deeper community engagement and access to vital support services. Older adults, caregivers, and healthcare providers will benefit from multilingual information sharing and training opportunities that address diverse needs across gender, age, and health conditions.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expand training programs to cover knowledge gaps identified by participants.Design to be more accessible (longer hours/more groups)New support groups based on interests, such as gastronomy or other social activities."Implement a process for individual surveys or personalized assessments to understand seniors' specific needs and priorities (e.g., to combat loneliness).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Original language was too broad in terms of populations served, and Age Strong clearly sees a gap in supports to caregivers. Through programs that provide resources to them, older family members will also benefit.

Ballot Proposal 7

Youth Financial Literacy and Empowerment Workshops

This proposal provides financial literacy workshops delivered at youth job sites, local events, and colleges for young people ages 14-24. Sessions cover banking, credit, investing, budgeting, and career readiness, empowering youth to build financial skills and grow their wealth.

Budget: \$250,000

Original Language: This proposal provides a series of financial literacy workshops delivered in-person at youth job sites and local events at colleges. Targeting youth ages 14-24 in Boston, these sessions will cover banking, credit, investing, budgeting, and paying for college. The initiative empowers young people to grow their wealth and expand their financial skills while addressing the impacts of wealth inequality,

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Formalize a partnership and promotion strategy targeting high school teachers and after-school programs to embed the workshops within existing youth structures.Add specialized workshops or content focused on entrepreneurship and small business creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Center for Working Families is excited and ready to dive into this program if selected, particularly by partnering with FutureBOS, the City’s youth jobs program, to reach youth who need these resources the most.

Ballot Proposal 8

Immigrant Stories Through Art: Creating Belonging, Building Connections

This proposal provides grants to showcase immigrant stories and contributions through public art installations and galleries. It will support free, accessible cultural programs that feature immigrant artists to challenge stereotypes, using transparent and inclusive processes to ensure diverse community participation.

Budget: \$300,000

Original Language: This proposal creates public art installations and galleries that showcase immigrant stories and contributions across Boston's neighborhoods. Immigrant residents, tourists, artists, students, and the broader community will access these highly visible, free spaces that celebrate the diverse narratives defining the city. By sharing immigrant experiences and challenging stereotypes, the initiative educates younger generations, fosters community pride, and elevates immigrant artists. The program connects neighborhoods through accessible public art spaces with transparent processes that create opportunities for all communities.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Suggestion to rewrite title and include participation of schools/ afterschool programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The City’s Arts & Culture Cabinet will lead this initiative through a grantmaking process, with MOIA providing guidance and support.

Ballot Proposal 9

Community Litter Reduction Campaign

This proposal establishes a tool-lending and community event grant program enabling residents and organizations to host neighborhood cleanups. These events will incorporate community-building activities like music, art, and athletics. Leveraging the Office of Civic Organizing's existing Neighborhood Cleanup and Love Your Block infrastructure, participating groups will receive the necessary tools and resources to host cleanup activities.

Budget: \$200,000

Original Language: This proposal creates neighborhood-based competitions that use athletics, games, and artistic activities to incentivize litter cleanup and environmental stewardship. The initiative engages city residents, students, local businesses, and community organizations in rebuilding civic pride while making neighborhoods cleaner and safer. A visible citywide point system rewards participating neighborhoods, strengthening community bonds and collecting data on how corporations impact local environments.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expand initiative to a comprehensive waste reduction and reuse program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Office of Civic Organizing is excited about this project idea, and while it keeps the original intent, the Legal Team had concerns about the implementation of a “reward point system” and the competition aspect between neighborhoods.

Ballot Proposal 10

Green my Block

This proposal transforms underutilized city-owned spaces along roadways and sidewalks through community-led greening initiatives. The program provides contracting opportunities and resources for residents, schools, community groups and organizations to adopt, beautify, and maintain local spaces with native plantings. This initiative will prioritize heat-vulnerable locations while remaining accessible to all neighborhoods.

Budget: \$100,000

Original Language: This proposal transforms underutilized spaces in the city's heat-vulnerable neighborhoods through community-led greening initiatives. By engaging neighbors, schools, community groups, families, and churches, the program provides micro-grants for residents to adopt, beautify, and maintain local spaces with native plantings. The initiative prioritizes heat-vulnerable locations, while remaining accessible to all neighborhoods to address environmental, health, and social needs. It fosters community pride and ownership across generations, especially among children and youth.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Suggestion to include native fruit trees and food-bearing bushes to provide dual purpose of climate/ food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emphasize the use of City-owned spaces for this initiative, as private spaces are not allowed to receive funds for improvement with City funds.

Ballot Proposal 11

Workshop Development Programs Focused on Trades

This proposal provides grants to expand vocational training in trades such as HVAC, automotive, computer skills, and cooking, with a focus on low-income residents. The initiative creates pathways to better-paying jobs while addressing the community's need for skilled workers.

Budget: \$300,000

Original Language: This proposal expands vocational training in carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, computer skills, and cooking to promote employment opportunities for people of all races and genders. Low-income residents who lack access to expensive training programs will particularly benefit. By providing pathways to better-paying jobs, this initiative supports families and addresses the community's need for skilled workers. Partnerships with middle and high schools will ensure accessible vocational training for underserved populations.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add high-cost, in-demand personal services trades to the workshop list, including manicure, cosmetology, and barbering.• Expand the scope to include early-age, hands-on learning (e.g., basic tool use, car mechanics for electric/hybrid systems, cooking, gardening, Lego building, and coding)."• Explore partnership models with community centers or libraries for after-school classes and consider creating a central, Foundry-like vocational hub in a neighborhood like Dorchester.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Office of Workforce Development will lead the implementation of this proposal through grants to organizations providing these types of vocational training to residents who need it most. Especial focus on trades/jobs with good paying salaries and worker protections.

Ballot Proposal 12

Immigrant Career Pathways: Bridging Language and Employment

This proposal provides grants for ESOL classes combined with skills training and certifications in childcare, construction, and small business development. The program addresses language barriers and workforce needs for immigrant residents while meeting the city's demand for qualified workers.

Budget: \$300,000

Original Language: This proposal provides contextualized ESOL classes combined with skills training and certifications in childcare, construction, and small business development to help immigrant Bostonians gain employment and grow their enterprises. Immigrant residents of all ages will benefit from this integrated approach that addresses both language barriers and workforce development needs. The initiative tackles economic challenges facing immigrant communities while meeting the city's demand for qualified workers, improving income and reducing poverty.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Integrate on-site or subsidized child care services for program participants.Commit to increasing the total number of class hours or the duration of the training cycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Office of Workforce Development will implement this proposal through grants to ESOL programs providing these types of training.

Ballot Proposal 13

Small Business Development Resource Program

This proposal offers technical assistance in relevant subject matter areas to support small business entrepreneurship across Boston. The goal is to create greater financial stability and capacity for small business, which will ultimately benefits communities citywide. Resources will be made available through avenues that will attempt to target entrepreneurs who have not benefited from City supports and resources in the past.

Budget: \$250,000

Original Language: This proposal offers technical assistance in relevant subject matter areas to support small business entrepreneurship across Boston. The goal is to create greater financial stability for the broader business community that ultimately benefit communities citywide. Resources will be made available through local churches, schools, and libraries, with enhanced communication through social media and financial education platforms to reach those who need it most.

Public Comment Proposal Considerations	Departmental Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Suggestion to expand the "technical assistance" definition to include structured support for the entire business lifecycle, encompassing operational, financial, and legal structuring.Launch a preliminary phase to conduct a small business needs survey and establish a network of community leader ambassadors to facilitate resource delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussing the types of TA that is allowed with City funds, such as education/training for entrepreneurs who want to start or expand their business. Other types of TA can be explored, as long as there is no direct private benefit with City resources.

Ballot Proposal 14

Interest-free loans for small businesses

This proposal establishes an interest-free loan program for small businesses that have been established for at least one year.

This proposal prioritizes youth, low-income individuals, and residents without bank access. The initiative creates a community-based safety network that brings financial resources directly to underserved areas, with eligibility determined by business location and demonstrated neighborhood impact.

Not considered.

- *City funds cannot be used to benefit or support private enterprises.*

PB VOTING PLATFORM



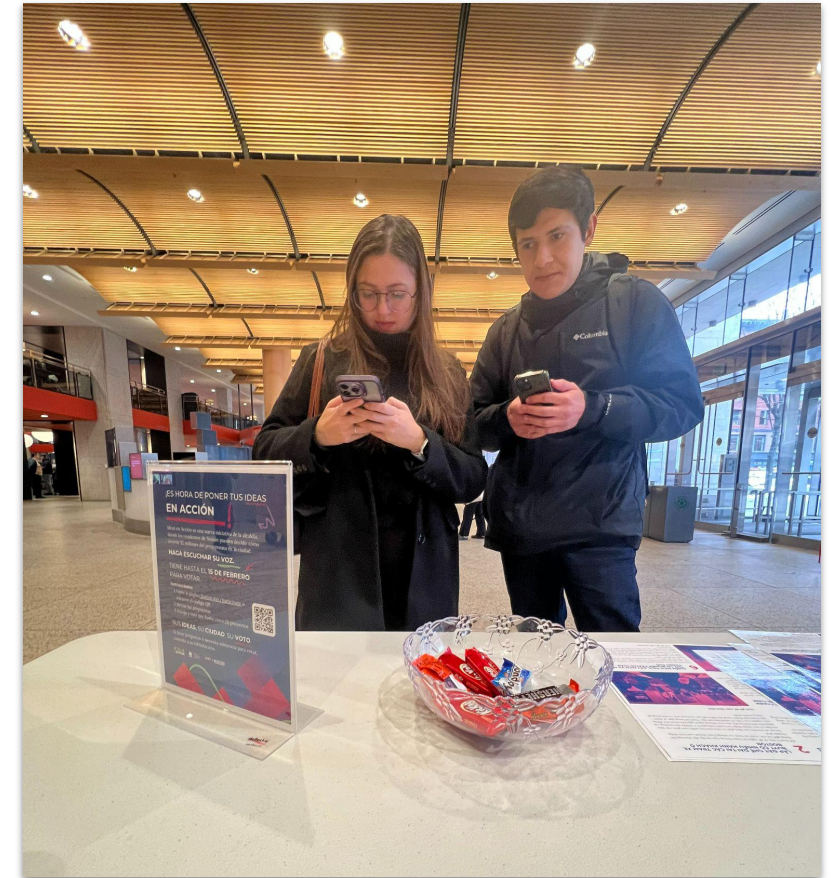
VOTING OVERVIEW

From **January 15 to February 15, 2026**, Boston residents will be able to vote **online** and **in-person** at City Hall for their top 5 proposals.

Who can vote and what is needed?

- Only City of Boston residents who are 11 years or older can vote.
- Only one vote per resident is allowed.
- **For online voting:** Voters need a valid cell phone number to vote, as they will receive a code that will give them access to the voting site.
 - If residents don't have a cell phone number, they can contact the Office of Participatory Budgeting to request a unique code. Residents can email pb@boston.gov or call 617-635-2381.

Note: The Office will fund up to \$2.2 million in project proposals. Implementation of the winning projects is expected to begin in the spring of 2026.



ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 1: INTRODUCTION / LANGUAGE SELECTION

- 1) Introduction to Ideas in Action and the voting process
- 2) Select a language for the voting website.



ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 2: VOTER ELIGIBILITY

1. Confirm voting requirements.
2. Enter your first and last name and neighborhood (drop down box).

(Of note, none of this information will be tied with voting, but is required as part of acknowledging voter eligibility requirements.)

3. Check the affirmation box and hit the “confirm” button to move to the next page.

Voter Eligibility

I understand that to vote in Participatory Budgeting 2026, I must:

- Be a City of Boston resident
- Only vote one time
- Be at least 11 years old (or at least in 6th grade)

First name

John

Last name

Smith

Neighborhood

select... ▼

☐ By checking this box, I affirm that these statements are true and that I meet the voting eligibility requirements

Confirm ✓

ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

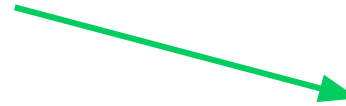
STEP 3: VOTER AUTHENTICATION

In order ensure access the voting ballot and ensure one vote per person participants will either need to:

1. **Provide their personal cell phone number to access a one time SMS code**

OR

2. **Those who do not have a cell phone will need to email the Office of Participatory Budgeting for a one time PIN code.**




Authentication

Ideas in Action

Select how you authenticate your vote.

To authenticate your vote, please enter your cell phone number.

Your phone number will be used to send you an SMS code to access a ballot and ensure one vote per person.

 +1

XXX-XXX-XXXX

For more info see user verification [terms of service](#).

I don't have a cell phone.

Have PIN from somewhere else?

← Back

ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 4: VOTE FOR PROJECTS

1. Please review all project proposals.
2. Participants can **select up to five (5) projects and a minimum of (1) one project.**
3. Once projects are selected, scroll to the bottom of the page.
4. Hit “confirm” to submit your vote.

Ideas in Action

Instructions:
Vote for up to five projects that will have the biggest impact on YOUR community!

Publicly Accessible Fruit Trees for Boston Residents



Cost: \$500,000

This proposal will offer grants to nonprofit organizations to plant fruit trees and bushes on underutilized land for public access and use. This will create healthier air, protect our green space, help with food insecurity, and be a cheaper source of organic produce.

Community organizations must prioritize areas that experience increased heat during the summer, as well as locations where there is limited access to affordable, nutritious food. Sustainable fruit cultivation practices should be used, and managing partners must have a robust rodent management plan.

Select ✓

Support and Education Programming for at Risk Youth Ages 10-13



Cost: \$300,000

This proposal will offer grants to nonprofit organizations to provide high-quality and engaging programming for Boston youth, aged 10 to 13, living in communities disproportionately affected by crime and violence.

The goal of these grants will be to increase the variety of youth programming in the city, offer a positive outlet for young people when they are not in school, and foster safe and supportive environments.

Select ✓

NOTE: Project examples from last year's PB cycle.

ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 5: THANK YOU + SURVEY

1. After submitting your vote you will reach the “Thank you” page.
2. For more information visit our website or email the Office of Participatory Budgeting.
3. Please fill out the optional evaluation survey to help improve Ideas in Action.

Ideas in Action

Instructions:
Please answer a few short questions to help the City of Boston understand who is participating and how. Your responses to the questions below will be anonymous. You can skip any questions you do not want to answer.

1. What is your age (in years)?

please write...

2. Do you identify with any of the following in terms of your race and/or ethnicity?

Check all that apply. Some choices below may not be perfect for you, but please answer as best you can. Use the write-in option to add more details or add another group you identify with.

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino/-a/-e/-x

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

White

Prefer not to answer

Race or ethnicity not listed here

Other (write-in)

3. What was your household income in the past 12 months?

Choose one:

Less than \$14,999

\$15,000 to \$34,999

\$35,000 to \$49,999

\$50,000 to \$74,999

\$75,000 to \$99,999


\$100,000 to \$149,999

\$150,000 or more

I don't know

Prefer not to answer

Continue →



Thank you for your submission!

Your vote has been counted.

For more information on Participatory Budgeting, please visit boston.gov/participate or email us at pb@boston.gov.

Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter with important PB updates, kindly provide your email address.



By submitting your email, you are consenting to join our mailing list and receive communications from us.

Your email address

john.doe@email.com

Submit ✓

Please share with your community!



← Back to the beginning

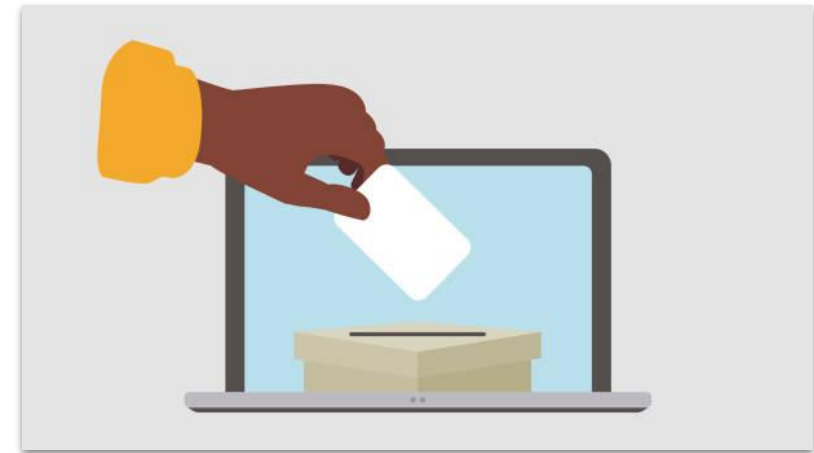
IN-PERSON VOTING

City Hall (Paper Ballots)

- **Locations:** Front entrance lobby desk and 2nd floor entrance desk (by the Credit Union).
- **Volunteers at the front desk will be ready** to hand out ballots to residents who request them.
- Each ballot will be accompanied by an optional evaluation survey.
- If not volunteers are present, residents can call **617-635-2381** to request assistance.

Selected BCYF Community Centers

- **Locations:** Martin Pino Community Center, Quincy Community Center/BPS Josiah Quincy Elementary School; Holland Community Center; Leahy Holloran Community Center, Hennigan Community Center; Vine Street Community Center.
- **BCYF staff will assist/guide residents** so they can cast their vote.



Note: Library branches across the City will have a poster displaying information on how to vote online via phone or computer.

IN-PERSON VOTING - Ballot

WELCOME TO IDEAS IN ACTION, THE CITY OF BOSTON'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING INITIATIVE!

From January 15 to February 15, 2026, Boston residents can VOTE and **decide on how \$2.2 million in Participatory Budgeting funds will be invested in community-driven projects across the City.**

Selected projects are a one-time, non-recurring investment, and will be implemented beginning this spring 2026.

Make your voice heard—vote for up to five (5) projects!

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Review all proposals
- Select up to five (5) ideas
- Drop the ballot into the box



Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. The goal of Participatory Budgeting in Boston is to empower residents to elevate community centered project ideas with an emphasis on social and racial equity.

By engaging in Participatory Budgeting, Bostonians of all ages and backgrounds can help inform priorities and future investments for the City's larger budget process.



IT'S TIME TO PUT YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

I understand that to vote in Participatory Budgeting 2026, I must:

- Be a City of Boston resident
- Only vote one time
- Be at least 11 years old (or at least in the 6th grade)

☐ By checking this box, I affirm that these statements are true and that I meet the voting eligibility requirements.



Office of Participatory Budgeting
CITY of BOSTON

PLEASE SHARE THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOU LIVE IN:

Select up to five (5) ideas

1 ☐ NEIGHBORHOOD FRESH FOOD ACCESS INITIATIVE
Proposed Funding: \$500,000

2 ☐ IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND
Proposed Funding: \$400,000

3 ☐ IMMIGRANT STORIES THROUGH ART: CREATING BELONGING, BUILDING CONNECTIONS
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

4 ☐ WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON TRADES
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

5 ☐ IMMIGRANT CAREER PATHWAYS: BRIDGING LANGUAGE AND EMPLOYMENT
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

6 ☐ YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY AND EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS
Proposed Funding: \$250,000

7 ☐ SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE PROGRAM
Proposed Funding: \$250,000

8 ☐ COMMUNITY LITTER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

9 ☐ GREEN MY BLOCK
Proposed Funding: \$100,000

10 ☐ VOICES OF RECOVERY: SOBRIETY SUPPORTS AND STORYTELLING PILOT
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

11 ☐ HEALING THROUGH ART: CREATIVE PATHWAYS TO WELLNESS
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

12 ☐ BRIDGING THE GAP: ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING STABILITY
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

13 ☐ SENIOR CAREGIVER RESOURCES & TRAINING PROGRAMS
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

IN-PERSON VOTING - Info Sheet *(Laminated)*



3 IMMIGRANT STORIES THROUGH ART: CREATING BELONGING, BUILDING CONNECTIONS

This proposal provides grants to showcase immigrant stories and contributions through public art installations and galleries. It will support free, accessible cultural programs that feature immigrant artists to challenge stereotypes, using transparent and inclusive processes to ensure diverse community participation.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000

5 IMMIGRANT CAREER PATHWAYS: BRIDGING LANGUAGE AND EMPLOYMENT

This proposal provides grants for ESOL classes combined with skills training and certifications in childcare, construction, and small business development.

The program addresses language barriers and workforce needs for immigrant residents while meeting the city's demand for qualified workers.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000

1 NEIGHBORHOOD FRESH FOOD ACCESS INITIATIVE

This proposal provides funds to local organizations to increase access to healthy food in neighborhoods with higher food insecurity rates.

Resources will be used to support food pantries, pop-up markets, farmers markets, food vouchers, or refrigerated food distribution.

Proposed Funding: \$500,000

4 WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON TRADES

This proposal provides grants to expand vocational training in trades such as HVAC, automotive, computer skills, and cooking, with a focus on low-income residents.

The initiative creates pathways to better-paying jobs while addressing the community's need for skilled workers.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000



2 IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

This proposal provides grant funding for immigration legal services including consultations, application assistance, and legal representation for immigrants facing detention and deportation.

This initiative will prioritize detained immigrants, those at heightened risk of detention, and immigrant youth.

Proposed Funding: \$400,000



6 YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY AND EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

This proposal provides financial literacy workshops delivered at youth job sites, local events, and colleges for young people ages 14-24.

Sessions cover banking, credit, investing, budgeting, and career readiness, empowering youth to build financial skills and grow their wealth.

Proposed Funding: \$250,000

7 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE PROGRAM

This proposal offers technical assistance in relevant subject matter areas to support small business entrepreneurship across Boston.

The goal is to create greater financial stability and capacity for small business, which will ultimately benefit communities citywide. Resources will be made available through avenues that will attempt to target entrepreneurs who have not benefited from City supports and resources in the past.

Proposed Funding: \$250,000

10 VOICES OF RECOVERY: SOBRIETY SUPPORTS AND STORYTELLING PILOT

This proposal facilitates a pilot program providing recovery supports in a dedicated shelter space for guests experiencing homelessness who are interested in sobriety.

As an option, the Recovery Specialist will work with guests to develop storytelling workshops that connect with local high school students, reducing stigma about homelessness and addiction. Participating schools will be encouraged to donate essential items to the shelters.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000

13 SENIOR CAREGIVER RESOURCES & TRAINING PROGRAMS

This proposal provides grants to equip caregivers with hands-on training, practical tools, education, respite, and support services to provide care for older family members.

The initiative offers multilingual information and training that reflect diverse needs across gender, age, cultural background, and health conditions.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000

8 COMMUNITY LITTER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

This proposal establishes a tool-lending and community event grant program enabling residents and organizations to host neighborhood cleanups. These events will incorporate community-building activities like music, art, and athletics.

Leveraging the Office of Civic Organizing's existing Neighborhood Cleanup and Love Your Block infrastructure, participating groups will receive the necessary tools and resources to host cleanup activities.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000

11 HEALING THROUGH ART: CREATIVE PATHWAYS TO WELLNESS

This proposal brings culturally rooted artists into neighborhood spaces to lead arts workshops centered on healing and wellness.

The program offers diverse creative practices including singing, theater, painting, and music that honor different cultural traditions and pathways to wellness, expanding equitable access to mental health support.

Workshops will be hosted in community settings such as parks, libraries, community centers, and places of worship.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000

9 GREEN MY BLOCK

This proposal transforms underutilized city-owned spaces along roadways and sidewalks through community-led greening initiatives. The program provides contracting opportunities and resources for residents, schools, community groups and organizations to adopt, beautify, and maintain local spaces with native plantings.

This initiative will prioritize heat-vulnerable locations while remaining accessible to all neighborhoods.

Proposed Funding: \$100,000

12 BRIDGING THE GAP: ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING STABILITY

This proposal establishes a flexible funding pool to help Boston residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness to secure or maintain housing.

Through grants to nonprofit organizations, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and those with intersecting marginalized identities would be able to receive one-time financial assistance for housing-related costs such as storage fees, arrears, moving costs, start-up expenses, and basic furniture.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000



IT'S TIME TO PUT YOUR → IDEAS INTO ACTION!

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VOTE FOR THE PROJECTS THAT WILL HAVE  
THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY:

 1. VISIT [BOSTON.GOV/PARTICIPATE](https://boston.gov/participate)

 2. GET TO KNOW THE IDEAS

 3. VOTE FOR UP TO 5 PROJECTS!

*Your Ideas, Your City, Your Vote.*

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CITY of BOSTON



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting



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PB VOTING OUTREACH



Earned and Paid Media

Earned Media

Coordinate with paid media to magnify message

- **Pitch mainstream & ethnic media** to generate awareness for Cycle 2 voting and updates on Cycle 1 in action
 - Align pitches with last cycle project updates
- **Maintain a simple earned media tracker** with target outlets, story angles, spokespeople, and timing so outreach is proactive and sequenced across mainstream, local, and ethnic media.

Paid Media

Traditional outreach and ethnic media outlets

- **Focused Zip Codes**
 - Repeat 11 ZIP Code focus from Submission Period
 - Chinatown, Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Hyde Park, Fairmount
- **Outfront (MBTA contract)**
 - Focused on Transit, especially bus interiors and tails
- **Print Partners**
 - El Mundo - Print and Digital [Spanish]
 - Dorchester Reporter - Print and Digital [English & Haitian Creole]
 - Sampan - Print and Digital [Simplified Chinese]
 - Run in whole city & for whole readership
- **Meta**
 - Focused on people with their Facebook set in Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, and Chinese
 - Geographic target on priority ZIP Codes

Voting Outreach and Marketing

City of Boston

- Press Release
- OPB and City of Boston Newsletters
- Digital Media/ Social Media

Community Partners

- Coordinate with Community Partners on messaging and outreach
- Community partners will implement their proposed plans for voting outreach, committing to collect 50-100 votes each



PUBLIC COMMENT

10 minutes, 3 minutes per person

