



City Council Budget Retreat Working Session

Budget and Policy Committee

May 12, 2025

Denver City Council Commitment to Equity and Inclusion

Denver City Council is committed to advancing equity by ensuring that historically disadvantaged communities are prioritized in decision-making and are co-creators of decision outcomes. Our policies and actions must actively include those who have been marginalized due to race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, disability, immigration status, and age. We prioritize listening to these communities, analyzing the impact of our decisions on each group, and considering how our actions will be perceived. Every decision we make must strive to advance racial and social equity and mobility while eliminating unintended consequences. By embedding equity into our policymaking, we build a more just, intentionally inclusive, and representative Denver for all.

Today's Assumptions/Expectations

- Today is for Council members to briefly present on a select few of their newly proposed budget policies and funding proposals.
- Council members will have 20 minutes each to present their policies.
- Members are explaining the proposal, not making a pitch.
- Members should follow up offline with questions.
- Council will not discuss the micro (district-specific) priorities or budget expansions.

City Council 2026 Budget Goals

Community Safety - Invest in programs and methods that continue the city's trend of reducing crime. Prioritize prevention by addressing root causes. Engage directly with neighborhoods, enhance information sharing, and ensure investment in community-supported, anti-racist, public health strategies.

Empower Communities - Improve customer service by listening to and learning from residents. Ensure open access to information and opportunities to participate and co-create. Protect civil and human rights and communities vulnerable to discrimination and oppression.

Address Denver's Housing Needs - Ensure the people of Denver are housed. Improve the availability, diversity, and stability of housing. Meet the needs of those vulnerable to homelessness and implement proven and innovative methods to mitigate involuntary displacement.

Support Workers and Businesses - Improve economic mobility and opportunity. Empower workers and incubate businesses citywide. Focus on our small and local business sectors. Support a strong network of community organizations.

City Council 2026 Budget Goals

Prioritize Climate Response - Treat climate change as an emergency. Protect our communities and natural environment through collaborative action and investment. Address historical environmental injustices while aiming to prevent future burdens and harm.

Improve Denver's Infrastructure - Create complete neighborhoods through safe multimodal transportation connections. Reduce traffic deaths by 25% by the end of 2026 with a focus on the high-injury network. Invest in flood and stormwater mitigation, and bridge and road maintenance.

Strengthen Families, Youth, and Older Adults - Invest in the well-being of Denver's most vulnerable residents. Support, educate, and engage them to meet their multifaceted, multigenerational needs.

Build Healthy Communities - Increase access to physical, mental, and addiction health care. Invest in the social determinants of health. Achieve a seamless continuum of services through expanded collaboration between providers and partners.

Presentation Order

1. Parady
2. Lewis
3. Gonzales-Gutierrez
4. Torres



Next Steps

- Budget Retreat – May 16, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Letter to the Mayor – no later than May 23