



City Council Budget Policy Working Session

Budget and Policy Committee

August 7, 2023

City Council 2023 Budget Priorities

1. Focus on improving Community Engagement and Customer Service to support residents navigating city services, resources, and accessibility including language access.
2. Increase affordable housing and support those experiencing homelessness throughout our city. Mitigate and reduce involuntary displacement of community members and businesses.
3. Strengthen community safety, decrease youth violence, and foster healthy families by investing in community-supported, data-driven, and anti-racist public health strategies, addressing root causes, and implementing interventions that ensure appropriate resources are allocated to the most suitable responders, following comprehensive de-escalation and race sensitivity training.
4. Support a robust infrastructure within our city and a strong network of partners throughout the community to sustain a thriving workforce, a flourishing local business sector, and a resilient network of community organizations upon which our community relies.
5. Protect our natural environment through policy, public education, and investment in communities to combat climate change.
6. Increase complete, safe, and predictable multimodal transportation connections throughout the city including community outreach and education about these transportation options.

Denver City Council Racial Equity Lens

1. Are all historically disadvantaged groups who are affected by the decision we are making currently represented in this process including those who have been historically oppressed because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, immigration status and age? Have we heard the voices of those who are affected?
2. How will the proposed decision affect each group?
3. How will the proposed decision be perceived by each group?
4. Does the decision advance racial equity or mitigate unintended consequences?

Today's Assumptions/Expectations

- Today is for newly elected council members to briefly present on their newly proposed budget policies.
- Council may debate or discuss proposed policies.
- Following each presentation and discussion council will hold a straw poll vote on each item.
- Policy proposals that receive 7 or more votes will be included as an addendum to the May Budget Retreat letter.

Budget Priority: Focus on improving Community Engagement and Customer Service to support residents navigating city services, resources, and accessibility including language access.

Potential Additions: (No New Policies)

- No new proposals

Budget Priority: Increase affordable housing and support those experiencing homelessness throughout our city. Mitigate and reduce involuntary displacement of community members and businesses.

Potential Additions: (18-27 Minutes – 9 New Policies)

- Romero Campbell - Include language for priorities that are inclusive of older adults/seniors
- Lewis & Parady - Funding for basic income project and expand the populations the program serves
- Lewis - Funding a study how to stand up a social housing program in Denver
- Lewis - Funding to provide financial incentives for landlords to keep senior citizens in their homes long term
- Lewis - Funding to create an apartment acquisition fund
- Lewis & Parady - Funding for public restrooms, laundry trucks, trash collection, water fountains, showers, charging, and bi-weekly cleanups (no sweeps) at encampments
- Lewis - Funding to study the implementation of a real estate transaction fee for all real estate transactions
- Lewis - Increased funding for CPD to streamline permitting process for affordable housing projects
- Parady - More funds for Eviction Relief

Budget Priority: Strengthen community safety, decrease youth violence, and foster healthy families by investing in community-supported, data-driven, and anti-racist public health strategies, addressing root causes, and implementing interventions that ensure appropriate resources are allocated to the most suitable responders, following comprehensive de-escalation and race sensitivity training.

Potential Additions: (6-9 Minutes – 3 New Policies)

- Lewis - Funding to develop a youth advisory committee for DPS and community most impacted by youth and adult violence
- Lewis & Parady - Funding for the city to be able to pay off outstanding medical debt for all Denver residents
- Lewis - Funding to expand scholarships from Denver Prosperity Fund to full ride or at minimum \$20k

Budget Priority: Support a robust infrastructure within our city and a strong network of partners throughout the community to sustain a thriving workforce, a flourishing local business sector, and a resilient network of community organizations upon which our community relies.

Potential Additions: (8-12 Minutes – 4 New Policies)

- Romero Campbell - Prepare nonprofit partners for collaboration grants to address needs for the state of emergencies of Homelessness and recent Migrants
- Lewis - Funding for after school programs to educate high school aged students about alternate career pathways through apprenticeships and trades
- Lewis - Increased funding for NEST
- Parady - Send Denver to participate in Putting Assets to Work's 2023-24 cohort

Budget Priority: Protect our natural environment through policy, public education, and investment in communities to combat climate change.

Potential Additions: (6-9 Minutes – 3 New Policies)

- Romero Campbell - Allocate the funds for continued maintenance of The Highline Canal and transfer (no cost) from Denver Water to Denver Parks and Rec with DOTI
- Lewis - Increased funding to respond to odor complaints and ensure compliance with odor ordinances for facilities that are impacting air pollution
- Lewis - Funding to electrify homes neighborhoods (solar panels, electric stoves, heat pumps)

Budget Priority: Increase complete, safe, and predictable multimodal transportation connections throughout the city including community outreach and education about these transportation options.

Potential Additions: (2-4 Minutes – 1 New Policy)

- Lewis - Funding for RTD to expand Free Fair program for the general public, or specifically for students, senior citizens, and people with disabilities to ride the bus for free year-round

Next Steps

- Micro (District-Specific) Policies – The class of 2023 will receive a survey link on Tuesday August 8
- Addendum Letter to the Mayor – August 22
- Budget Hearings – September 18 - 25
- Budget Proposal Workshops – October 5 & 6
- Budget Hearing – October 23