

peoplesbudget™

CROWD-SOURCED BUDGET PLANNING

City of New Orleans 2016



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Introduction:

What is the People's Budget?

The People's Budget is the result of a crowd-sourced effort to gather data-driven insight into the budgetary priorities of New Orleans residents. The Big Easy Budget Game (bigeasybudgetgame.com) was launched in April 2016 as a first of its kind interactive website aimed at giving everyday New Orleanians a chance to learn how their budget works and to give input into the kind of spending they would like to see in their communities.

The Big Easy Budget Game is a budget simulation that effectively lets residents of New Orleans "play Mayor for a day." After logging in, users are shown a list of city departments that receive general fund dollars, sorted by "results areas," as defined by the city budget. Results areas are not actual funds, but a way of sorting city departments based on their primary objective, such as public safety or open and effective government. City department profiles include the minimum required spending amount, the amount the department received in the previous budget, and the amount of funding received from "other funds," typically state or federal dollars that are restricted to particular projects. Department profiles also include a "learn more" button that pops up a description of the departments' duties and consequences for providing more funding or decreasing funding. A link to most department websites can also be found under "Learn More." By clicking +/- signs, users can dedicate funding to each department as they choose.

Quick Polls

Some departments also include quick polls as a part of their department profile. Next to the "Learn More" button, users see a button indicating a quick poll. These polls ask users specific questions about spending within this department. Quick polls were designed to get users thinking about real life implications of these funding dollars and alternate ways to think about spending within a department.

Verification

Users must create an account to play; by verifying players with an email or Facebook account, each player is assigned a unique player identification number, allowing administrators to ensure that players do not play more than once and that no automation bots are being used to artificially inflate the data received.

Rules of Play

All users were required to spend their entire allotted budget. This allowed the Committee for a Better New Orleans to see exactly where residents wanted funds to be spend the most. In the future the option to have a surplus may be allowed. However, per the New Orleans City Charter, deficit spending is not allowed.

Users were initially given the entire general fund budget to spend— a total of \$602 million in 2016. However, in order to make the game realistic and to show how much funding is automatically allocated to required spending such as consent decrees and pension funds, minimum spending limits were added to departments. Minimum amounts are subjective, but meant to show a realistic bottom line approach to spending: how much does this department need to keep our city running? Minimums were created both to teach users how much of our budget is already spoken for on day one of budget season, but also to help us provide realistic, useable data to city leaders.

Who Created the People's Budget?

The People's Budget and the Big Easy Budget Game were created by the Committee for a Better New Orleans, a 50-year old non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Committee for a Better New Orleans is a result of a merger of the original Committee for a Better New Orleans and the Metropolitan Area Committee in 2002. The Metropolitan Area Committee was founded in 1966 as the first major community organization to reach across the lines of race and class. As other cities in the south grappled with the often violent effects of the civil rights era, the MAC was credited with beginning conversations between diverse local community, faith, business and higher education leaders. In 2016, CBNO celebrated its 50th Anniversary of creating opportunities for community voices and advocating for civic engagement in New Orleans.

Today the Committee for a Better New Orleans is governed by a board of local leaders from a diverse background of industries, interests, ages, faiths and cultures. CBNO was a founding and convening member of the Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative, Orleans Parish Education Network, and the New Orleans Coalition on Open Governance. Currently, CBNO is advocating to bring a formal citizen participation program, as called for by the city Master Plan, to fruition, and to further open our budget process through participatory budgeting.

The Big Easy Budget Game and the People's Budget were created as a part of CBNO's People's Budget campaign, aimed at bringing better education, transparency and resident input into the city budget process to create more equitable neighborhoods. More information on CBNO and its work can be found at cbno.org.

Who Participated in the People's Budget?

Over 600 New Orleanians participated in the Big Easy Budget Game. The data included in this report comes from their responses. Demographic information was collected by a third party survey. 67% of game players completed the survey.

Demographic Data

Users of the Big Easy Budget Game were fairly evenly split over gender, with 54% of users identifying as male and 41% identifying as female. 1% identified as another gender, and 5% preferred not to respond.

The age of users covered a wide variety of generations, with a concentration on young players who may have been more comfortable with an online format. 40% of users were between the ages of 28-38, 25% between the ages of 18-28, 18% between the ages of 38-48, 7% between the ages of 48-58, 5% between the ages of 58-68, 4% between the ages of 8-18 and 1% aged 68 and over.

Users were asked which race they identified with primarily. Responses show that 74% of users identified as White or Caucasian, 11% Black or African American, 9% as Other, 4% as Latino or Hispanic, and 2% as Asian or Pacific Islander. A statistically insignificant number of users who identify as Native American also responded to the survey. Despite substantial outreach by CBNO and its partners, the racial data collected from users does not align with the overall racial breakdown of New Orleans as a city. This shows the importance of targeted outreach to communities of color and will be a major focus for the Committee for a Better New Orleans as we look to the 2017 fiscal year Budget Game.

Household income of respondents also fell across a large span of socioeconomic statuses. 32% of respondents claimed a household income of over \$100,000. 19% of users surveyed reported an income of \$70,000 to \$99,000. 29% of users surveyed reported an income of \$40,000 to \$70,000. 17% of users surveyed reported income below \$40,000. The New Orleans Data Center identifies the 2011 media income of a household in Orleans Parish at \$37,726.

Users of the game tended to be more educated than the Orleans Parish average, with 77% of respondents claiming a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 47% reported by the New Orleans Data Center in 2011.

Homeownership by users was split exactly at 50% owned or under mortgage and 50% renters, which is in line with the New Orleans Data Center's 2011 report of 48% homeownership in Orleans Parish.

74% of users surveyed reported no children in their household, while 26% reported one or more child in the home. The New Orleans Data Center reported 41% of homes in New Orleans claimed children in 2011.

77% of users completed the Big Easy Budget Game on a laptop, compared to 19% who played on a smartphone, and 4% on a tablet. The average length of play was 11 minutes and 12 seconds. Data collected in the Big Easy Budget Game is available upon request.

Overview

A focus on infrastructure investments



On average, users dedicated 35% more funding to departments that maintain and improve city property, green space and infrastructure such as the Department of Public Works, Parks and Parkways, Property Management, and the City Planning Commission.

This investment by hundreds of New Orleanians is a vote for more thoughtful planning in our communities, better investment and maintenance in infrastructure such as public buildings, roads, sidewalks and water management, and essentially, a higher quality of life for neighborhoods.

Funding mental health care for at-risk populations

Perhaps a more proactive approach to New Orleans's violent crime epidemic, many users chose to increase spending for mental health care in the places it can be found in the city budget, namely the Department of Health and the Coroner's Office.*



Users chose to fund the Coroner's Office at 110% of its 2016 general fund allocation, with over half of poll respondents specifically requesting that funding to be spent on better and increased mental health screenings. The Health Department received a 43% increase over its 2016 budget, funding that would traditionally go to programs assisting families and individuals in need, such as the over 5,000 unduplicated homeless individuals that received health care through the department in 2015.

*The Coroner's Office, which manages all forensic investigations in addition to autopsies, is required by statute to evaluate any individual hospitalized during a mental health emergency in Orleans Parish hospitals

Smarter spending on juvenile justice



Users indicated a focus on juveniles in the criminal justice system at several points in the Big Easy Budget Game. The Youth Study Center, the housing center for youth awaiting criminal trials, received double the funding allocated in the 2016 budget. Similarly, over half of poll respondents indicated Juvenile Court as a priority spending area within all locally-funded courts. Drawing from the increased support for mental health care and public defender's office and lower spending on the Orleans Parish Prison, a reasonable conclusion could be drawn that users hope to see this funding spent on rehabilitating and diverting youth from the traditional prison system.

Reduced funding for administrative costs



In almost every instance, users chose to reduce funding for administrative departments such as the Law Department, the Finance Department, and the Chief Administrative Office. It is possible that because these departments are less visible in residents' day to day lives, they rank lower on the scale of spending priorities. It is also possible that users feel city government is overly bureaucratic and could operate more efficiently with a larger focus on capital projects as indicated by the increased spending in infrastructure. The two stand-out exceptions to the administrative cuts were the Office of the Inspector General and Civil Service, two offices whose chief responsibility is seeing that our city operates more effectively and efficiently. This supports the idea that residents feel city government could work better for them with less focus on internal workings and a more outward, community-based approach to the quality of life issues effecting New Orleanians across the city.

How Do New Orleanians Feel About Our Current Budget System?

As a part of the demographic survey included at the completion of the Big Easy Budget Game, users were asked to describe their relationship with the budget process in previous years. Overall, users reported feeling deeply disenfranchised by the budget process, despite reporting a moderate level of understanding of the budget itself, and a significantly higher than average voting history, showing the majority of users are traditionally civically engaged in other ways.

70% of survey respondents reported that they were not happy with the current budget process, and 80% do not feel that they are part of the decision making process that goes into creating the city budget each year.

Historically, New Orleanians have never had a formal opportunity to provide input into the city budget before the proposed budget's release and review by City Council, though the Landrieu administration has begun a series of budget town halls, held each year in each council district. In fact, 77% of respondents reported that they do not feel that their input at these meetings is valued. Certainly, attendance at the town halls, though standing room only in their first years, has diminished significantly. Often, the city employees, department heads, and elected officials in the room outnumber actual

residents. Moving the budget town hall meetings earlier in the year— to the late spring, when department heads make their initial budget offers— may provide residents a more meaningful experience in the budget process rather than waiting until the months before the budget is released to seek community input.

Overall, residents rated their understanding of the city budget at 5.42 on a scale of 1-10, with 0 being not at all, and 10 being extremely well. This slightly above average understanding of the local budget may be a product of the slightly higher than typical education rates reported by users, or a reflection of learning that took place throughout the experience of using the Big Easy Budget Game.

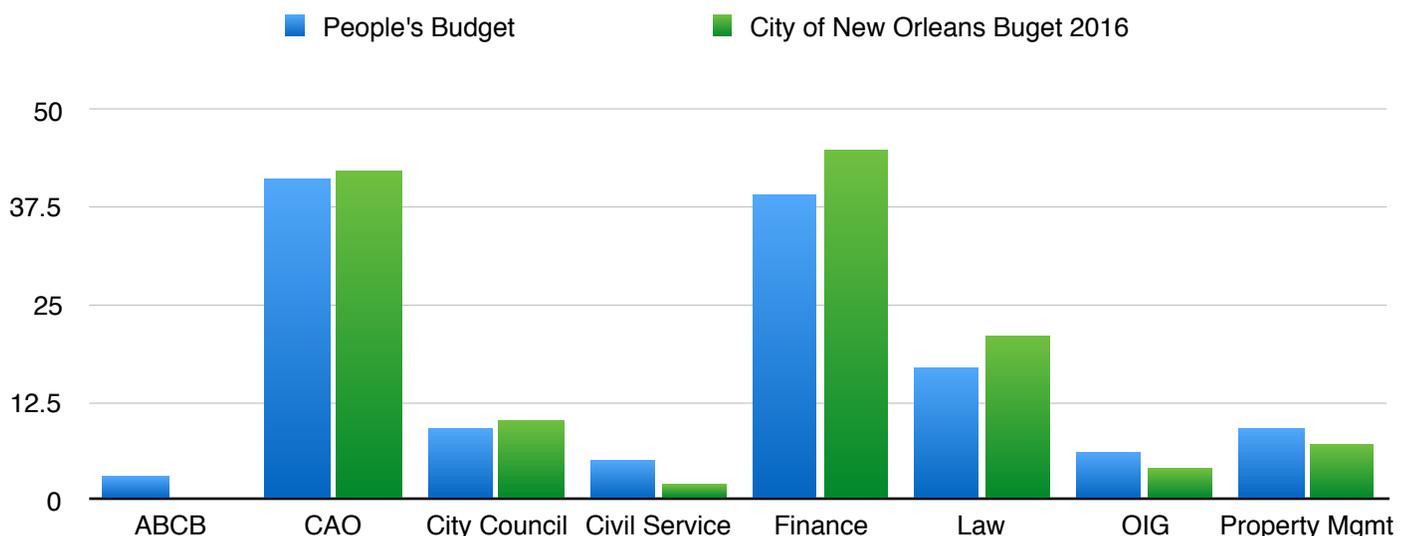
Perhaps one of the greatest successes of the Big Easy Budget Game is the successful reach into communities of users who had never participated in the city budget process before. 77% of users surveyed had never attended one of the mayor’s town hall budget meetings, meaning the feedback provided here is representative of a group of New Orleanians not traditionally heard from during budget conversations.

Spending Priorities by Results Area

Results areas are general areas of spending as defined by the City of New Orleans as a part of the Budgeting for Outcomes process. These results areas do not represent actual funds or departments in city government, but are used as a way of organizing and characterizing spending. In order to provide an analogous look at resident spending priorities and to help users play through the Big Easy Budget Game, the site was designed in keeping with a very similar structure. A few departments have been combined due to their similar functions or small budget allocations. These departments are noted in the report.

Open and Effective Government

As defined by city government, this results area ensures sound fiscal management and transparency, promotes effective, customer-driven services and fosters active citizen engagement in city government.



Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board received the smallest average funding amount from users at \$3 million. This is still a much larger amount than the department typically receives; in both the adopted 2016 operating budget and the proposed 2017 budget, the department received only \$1,500. Users were not required to fund this department at all, given the small funding they typically receive and the relatively large (\$1 million) increments available to players.

One possible reason for the significant increase in spending is that many players felt the need to allocate some funding to this department, but were not able to break down those funds to increments small enough to be comparable. Users' responses may also reflect concern about the number and character of ABOs throughout the city.

Chief Administrative Office

The Chief Administrative Office received an average of \$41 million from users, in line with the \$42 million the office received in the adopted 2016 budget, and just above the \$40 million the CAO is set to receive in the proposed 2017 budget.

City Council

On average, users allocated an average of \$9 million to the New Orleans City Council. In the adopted 2016 budget, city council received \$10,234,610, and the proposed 2017 budget allocates \$9,772,880.

Civil Service

The civil service department received an average of \$5 million from Big Easy Budget Game users, over twice what the department received in the adopted 2016 budget, where the department received \$2,172,353 and the proposed 2017 budget, which allocates \$2,400,000. Mayor Mitch Landrieu also gave civil service a raise this year, and in the opening letter of the proposed 2017 budget books, he says these funds are intended to put city employees to work in a "more efficient and effective manner." Users were only required to allocate \$1 million to civil service.

This increase in funding may be a sign that New Orleanians want to see continued investment in city employees to make interaction with city government easier and more effective and/or the desire to see easier hiring for city positions, making more jobs available to more New Orleanians through the local government.

Department of Finance

The Department of Finance received an average of \$39 million from users, making it the second most funded administrative department in city government after the Chief Administrative Office. Overall however, this is a decrease from both the 2016 adopted budget which allocated \$45,129,835 and the proposed 2017 budget, which allocates \$48,123,945 to the Department of Finance. Users were required to allocate at least \$28 million to the department.

Some possible reasons for the decrease in funding to the Department of Finance could be that average residents see much more tangible, pressing needs in their communities that they would rather see funded, or a general lack of prioritization for investment in long term financial health.

Users were asked if they would support increased funding to the Department of Finance if it meant greater revenues to the city from delinquent tax payers. 20% of users responded to a poll within the Department of Finance asking if they would support additional funding to the department if it meant greater city revenues from delinquent tax payers. 87% of respondents said that they would support this increase.

This decrease in funding to the Department of Finance comes at a time when the city has taken specific steps to invest in paying off old debts and ensuring better overall financial health.

Law Department

On average, the Law Department received \$17 million from users. Because funding for the Law Department was atypical in the adopted 2016 budget, it's crucial to take an overall look at the department's typical funding, funding received in 2016, and the input given by users.

Funding for the Law Department was relatively steady at around \$5 million for several years before increasing dramatically to just over \$21 million in 2016. In the proposed 2017 budget, the general fund allocation for the Law Department drops back down to the more typical \$5,985,275. Users were only required to allocate \$4 to the law department, however, the previous year's funding was shown as \$21 million, which certainly led some users to give higher than a long-term average amount of funding to the department.

Office of the Inspector General/Ethics Review Board

The Office of the Inspector General received an average of \$6 million from users, a 21.7% increase from the proposed \$4,928,809 allocated in the 2017 budget. Users

were required to allocate \$2 million to the OIG, showing a general commitment to additional funding from users. The increased funding could signal support in the community for a strong inspector general who can enforce accountability in government.

Property Management

Property management received an average of \$9 million from users, a 14% increase from the \$7,892,351 allocated in the proposed 2017 budget. Users were only required to allocate \$2 million to the department. The additional funding for the department could signal that residents want to see better investment and maintenance of city owned properties.

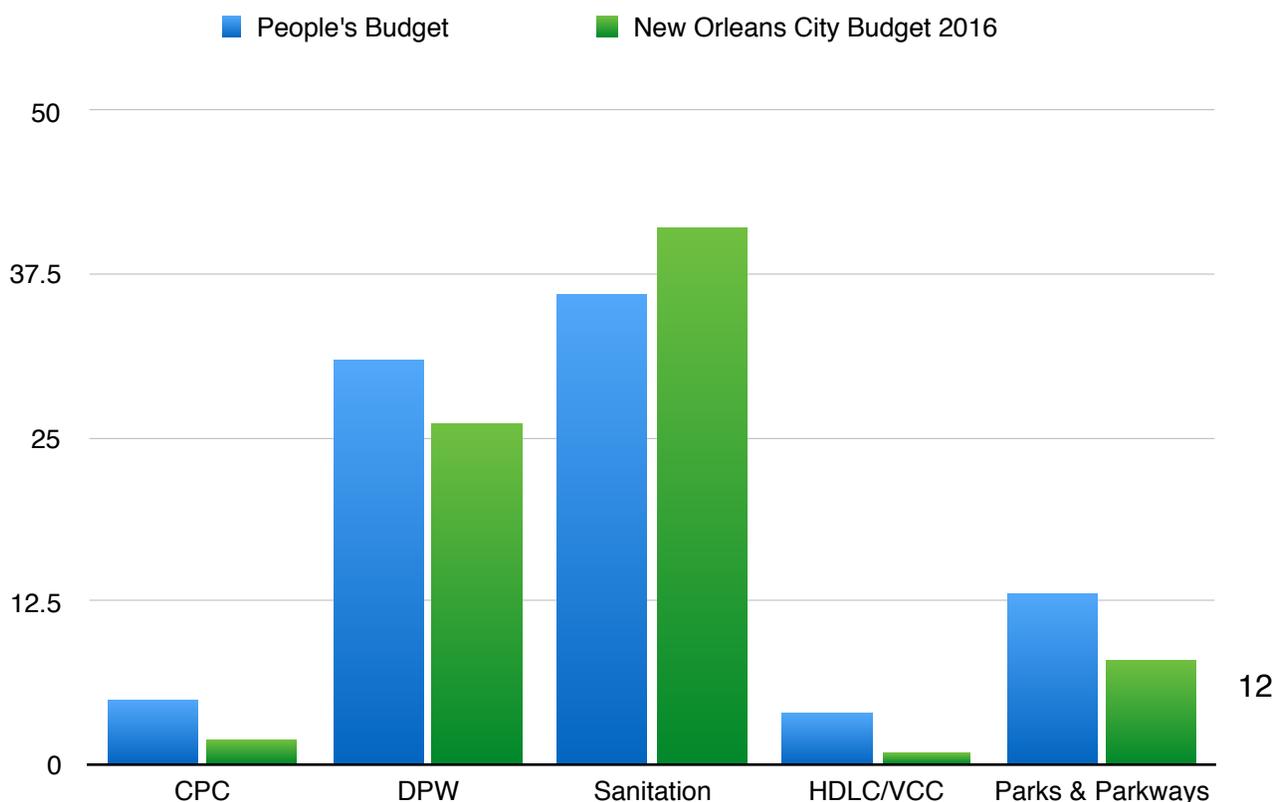
Safety and Permits

On average, safety and permits received \$8 million from users, a 43% increase over the 2016 budget. Users were only required to allocate \$3 million to Safety and Permits.

Additional funding for this department may indicate that users want to see more code enforcement on blighted properties, increased Efficiency at One Stop Shop, and/or better regulation of taxis.

Sustainable Communities

As defined by the city, this results area supports sustainable communities that integrate quality housing, transportation, schools, commercial development, energy efficiency, parks and green space, flood protection and cultural assets.



City Planning Commission

City Planning Commission received an average of \$5 million from users, a 150% increase over the proposed funding for the CPC in the proposed 2017 budget. Users were required to allocate \$1 million for the CPC. The significant increase in funding to CPC from residents may signal the desire for more comprehensive, thoughtful city planning techniques, such as better water management to reduce flooding or increased resident participation in the planning process in neighborhoods.

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works received an average of \$31 million from users, roughly twice the required minimum funding level and an increase of 16.5% from the 2016 adopted budget. Residents and the administration both agree that we need to do more to fix the infrastructure of New Orleans in 2017, as the proposed budget allocated \$32,543,485 to DPW.

Attendees of Mayor Mitch Landrieu's Budget Town Hall series can attest to the strong support among residents from all areas of the city to fix streets and fill potholes. It is encouraging to see the administration take that feedback to heart in this year's proposed budget, one that is clearly in line with resident spending priorities both from a quantifiable data standpoint and a qualitative one. In his introductory letter to the 2017 budget, Mayor Landrieu says the city will set aside \$3 million for pothole repairs and catch basin cleaning, and \$3 million for streetlight maintenance. The city will also plans to allocate \$3 million to a backlog of drainage repairs around the city. Overall, a record \$480 million is proposed for fixing streets, sewers, water management and drainage projects. It is important to note that much of this total comes from federal and state dollars not included in the general fund focused on in the Big Easy Budget Game.

Department of Sanitation

On average, residents allocated \$36 million to the Department of Sanitation. This is a 13% decrease from the funding the department received in 2016, but similar to the \$37 million the department will receive in the proposed 2017 budget.

It should be noted that the proposed reduction in funding to the Sanitation Department is the result of a newly negotiated contract that has lowered the cost of trash collection by removing the previous contract's built-in cost to purchase a garbage truck fleet, which was not a known savings at the time users participated in the Big Easy Budget Game. By coupling the reduced cost of the new sanitation contract with the data received from users, the city could realize significant savings in this department.

Specifically, a poll asked users if they would support cutting trash pick up to once a week if it meant greater savings in the Department of Sanitation. 54% of users would support once a week trash pick up, while 22% did not. Users were also allowed to provide a personalized response. Some responses received included “only if glass recycling was started again,” “only if it meant more efficient pickup with both recycling and trash on the same day,” “residential trash pick-up could be reduced to once a week. But commercial and other trash (restaurants, convenience stores, schools, etc.) should be picked up more than once,” “depends on how much money [would be saved],” “I would support this during the colder months...but not during summer.”

Historic Districts Landmarks Commission/Vieux Carre Commission

The HDLC and VCC departments were combined for the purpose of the Big Easy Budget Game because of their relatively small general fund allocations and the similarities between their work. On average, users allocated \$4 million to these two departments as a whole. In the proposed budget for 2017, HDLC receives \$944,755 and VCC is allocated \$420,131 for a combined allocation of just over \$1.3 million.

The almost four-fold increase in funding to these departments may be interpreted as a desired investment in the city’s historic infrastructure— mirroring a similar increase in infrastructure investment seen in the Department of Public Works, as an investment in our tourism market through our historic architecture, or as a call for better code enforcement in historic districts.

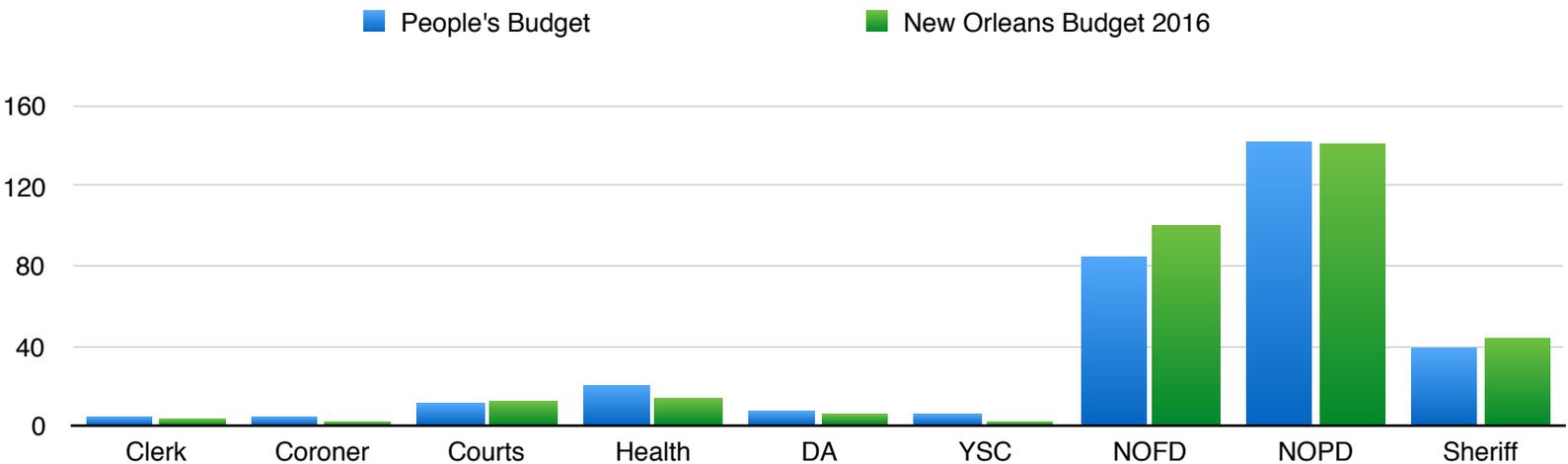
Parks and Parkways

Users allocated an average of \$13 million to the Department of Parks and Parkway, the department responsible for maintaining green space such as neutral grounds and public right of ways in New Orleans. Users were only required to allocate \$4 million to this department, showing an average two-fold investment in public green space over the lowest funding option.

This 46% increase over the \$8.9 million allocated in the proposed 2017 budget compliments similar spending by users on property management expenses. Residents have indicated that they would like better investment in public facilities such libraries and police stations, while also possibly indicating support for expanding the uses of our green spaces by funding more water management practices in flood prone neutral grounds, such as the inclusion of bioswales or rain gardens, and/or making better use of city-owned land under the purview of Parks and Parkway such as Armstrong Park or the long-delayed reopening of Bechtel Park in Algiers.

Public Safety

As defined by the city, departments under the Public Safety result area include police, fire, EMS, the Sheriff's Office, courts, and other departments that ensure New Orleans is safe.



Clerk of Criminal Court

The Clerk of Criminal Court received an average of \$5 million from users, a 34% increase over the \$3.7 million allocated in both 2016 and proposed for 2017.

The increased allocation to the Clerk of Court may be in response to the Clerk's public demands for additional staff and funding over the years, or an interest in an efficient court system and appropriate handling of evidence in criminal cases.

Coroner's Office

On average, the Coroner's Office received \$5 million from users. The 110% increase in funding over both 2016 funding and 2017 allocated funds may signify support for the recent improvements made to the Coroner's Office, for better handling of remains after death in the case of a crime, and/or for some of the Coroner's lesser known responsibilities such as rape kit testing or mental health screenings.

One of the more common questions asked by users was where they could find mental health care in the budget, and many were surprised to find forensic testing such as the handling of rape kits under the Coroner. Because one of the initial goals of the Big Easy Budget Game was to educate residents about how city government works, it is not

surprising to see additional funding for an office that provides more duties than residents may have originally believed.

Users were asked to answer a poll asking which programs within the Coroner's Office they would like to see additional funds allocated. 59% of respondents indicated that they would like more funding to mental health screenings, a statutorily mandated function of the Coroner's Office when offenders are admitted to hospitals in mental health crisis. This has also been a focus of funding requests by the Coroner's Office in the 2017 budget proposal. 11% favored funding to create efficiencies in record keeping, and 7% for faster cause of death reporting. Users were also allowed to submit other answers. Several responses focused on better handling of sexual assault forensics, such as "rape kit testing," "sexual assault evidence collection."

Courts

All courts that receive general fund dollars were combined for the purpose of the Big Easy Budget Game. These include Juvenile Court, First City Court, Civil District Court, Municipal Court, Traffic Court, Criminal District Court and the Judicial Retirement Fund, a pension plan no longer offered but continuing to pay out to retired judges and their widow/ers. Though the courts were consolidated, users can view specific funding for each court, as well as whether they receive funding from other sources such as the state.

On average, users allocated \$12 million to the court system. This is a decrease of \$1 million from the 2016 budget. In order to gather some additional insight into the funding allocated for courts by users, users were asked to indicate which court they felt they would give additional funding to. 51% of respondents indicated Juvenile Court, 38% Criminal District Court, 7% Municipal Court, 3% Civil Court, and 1% Traffic Court.

Department of Health

On average, users allocated \$20 million to the Department of Health, a 43% increase from the 2016 general fund allocation. Echoing priorities possibly seen in the Coroner's Office funding, many users wanted to invest in mental health care, access to health care for children, and programs to support vulnerable populations such as the homeless. Additional funding may also be a desire for shorter 911 response times, as addressed by the administration last year through changes to the Orleans Parish Communications District, or the 911 dispatch center.

District Attorney's Office

On average, users allocated \$8 million to the District Attorney's Office. This represents a 20% increase over both 2016 funding and the proposed funding for 2017. This funding may represent an interest in keeping criminal offenders off the street, or in alternatives to prison, such as diversion programs.

Users were asked which program within the DA's Office they would be most likely to give additional funding to. 49% indicated a focus on the diversion program meant to keep offenders out of prison, 31% indicated the Juvenile Division, 14% the Victim Witness Division, and 6% the Trial Division. Other responses focused largely on a drug turn-in program, prosecuting sexual assault, and "all of the above."

Human Services

On average, users allocated \$6 million to the Youth Study Center, called the Department of Human Services. This funding is almost double the \$3.2 million proposed for the center in 2017 and the \$2.8 million allocated in 2016. This funding choice by residents may signal a desire to keep juvenile offenders out of Orleans Parish Prison, where 15-year old Jaquin Thomas recently committed suicide and violence among adult inmates is common.

It is also possible that the titles such as Human Services and Youth Study Center do not accurately portray to some users the actual function of the center. A description of the center's function was included with the department profile.

New Orleans Fire Department

On average, users allocated \$84 million to the New Orleans Fire Department. This is roughly twice the minimum required spending, but less than the NOFD received last year. Users cut 16% from the 2016 allocation of \$100 million, and 23.6% from the \$110 million proposed spending for 2017.

The Big Easy Budget Game required a minimum allocation of \$45 million to the NOFD to fund the pension fund— a court mandated cost. CBNO felt it was important for users to understand how much of our general fund is already mandated by pensions and consent decrees before actual spending may begin. It is possible that users felt the minimum number was high enough, and opted not to give as much additional funding to the NOFD as other departments. Some users may have disagreed with the pension ruling and expressed that through their allocation. It is also possible that users just do not prioritize fire safety and preparedness as much as other issues facing their communities.

New Orleans Police Department

The New Orleans Police Department received the largest average allocation from users at \$142 million. Users chose to spend just over the \$141 million of funding received in 2016, but well below the proposed 2017 allocation of \$149.4 million. The \$8 million of additional money has been a highlight of the proposed budget, funding a 15% across-the-board pay raise for officers, the \$55 million federal consent decree, hiring an additional 150 officers to right-size our police force, and increasing security details during special events such as Mardi Gras.

While federal consent decree funding is mandatory, and the administration and police leaders have long sought to grow our police force, it seems that to a small degree the additional funding for NOPD is out of step with resident spending priorities in relation to spending on the whole.

Sheriff

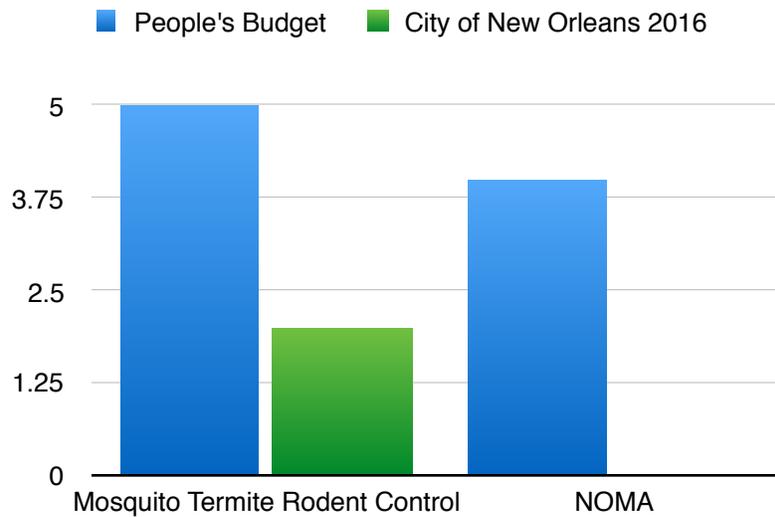
On average, the Sheriff's Office received \$39 million. This allocation represents an 11% decrease in spending on the Sheriff's Office from the 2016 budget, and a similar difference from the proposed 2017 budget.

The Big Easy Budget Game did clarify to users that the Sheriff's office no longer received funding on a per diem, or per inmate, basis. The minimum amount of funding for the Sheriff was \$28 million as a way of enforcing the funding of the federal consent decree. While users were required to give a fairly substantial amount of money—roughly the average operating budget for the prison before the consent decree was funded in full—average funding does not reflect the full investment made into the prison.

Most likely, the already-high mandatory spending amount did not encourage users to allocate significant amounts of additional funding to the prison. Also likely, many users did not want to give significant amounts of funding to a prison many in our city feel is too large, too violent, and too ineffective. A general sense of distrust for our prison system may have contributed to largest decrease in spending shown by users in the process.

Children and Families

As defined by the city, departments under Children and Families promote health and well-being of youth and families by ensuring that educational, economic, health and recreational programming opportunities are available for all.



Mosquito Termite and Rodent Control Board

On average, users allocated \$5 million to the Mosquito Termite and Rodent Control Board. This is 150% increase over the 2016 spending may be due to concerns about the Zika Virus effecting other cities and countries in tropical climates. Users were not required to allocate any funding to this department.

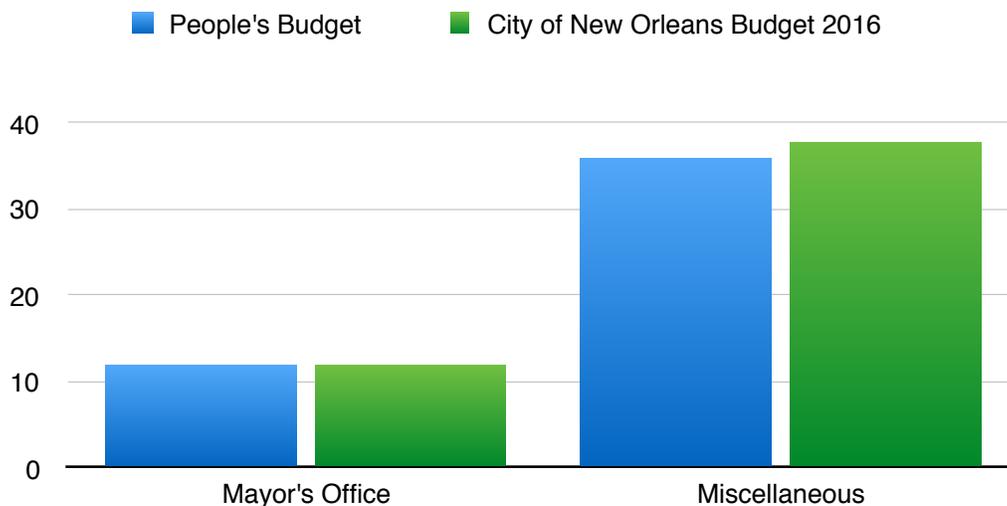
New Orleans Museum of Art

On average, users allocated \$4 million to the New Orleans Museum of Art. Typically, NOMA only receives about \$128,00 from the general fund to assist with the cost of school trips for local students and free admission to Louisiana residents on Wednesdays. Users were not required to allocate any money to the museum, and the minimal amount of typical funding was stated in the department profile.

Most likely, users allocated significant amounts of money to the museum because it represents the kind of institutions and culture that residents want to see in New Orleans, even though this funding is significantly out of step with current funding levels.

Other Offices and Services

Though not a result area as identified through the city budget process, we have identified two departments which allocate money fairly evenly across all results areas and have listed them as Other Offices and Services.



Mayor's Office

For the purposes of the Big Easy Budget Game, several departments that fall under the Mayor's Office have been combined. Included here are the traditional Mayor's Office: communications directors, staff, budget staff, etc., the Department of Homeland Security, Criminal Justice Coordination, the Office of Resilience & Sustainability, and the Office of Community Development.

On average, the Mayor's Office received \$12 million from users. This funding is in line with the \$12 million the Mayor's Office received from the general fund last year, and very close to the \$12.8 million the Mayor's Office and related offices are allocated in the 2017 proposed budget.

In order to get some insight into the spending priorities residents have within the many duties encompassed by the Mayor's Office, a quick poll asked users to identify where they would prefer to allocate additional funding. Within the Mayor's Office, 39% of residents prioritized spending for the Office of Community Development who focuses on providing affordable housing and fighting blight. 29% prioritized funding for Criminal Justice Coordination, the department that runs NOLA FOR LIFE. Both the Department of Homeland Security and the Mayor's core office, made up of communications, the Neighborhood Engagement Office, and others, received 16% of users prioritization.

Department of Miscellaneous

The Department of Miscellaneous includes funding for any organization or service not mandated by the city charter. While many residents may feel this could be an easy place to cut money, CBNO worked to directly call attention to the many important quality of life areas of the budget that are included in the Department of Miscellaneous, such as

the New Orleans Recreation Development Corporation, the Public Defender’s Office, and the Arts Council. In the department profile, divisions of the department were shown and explained.

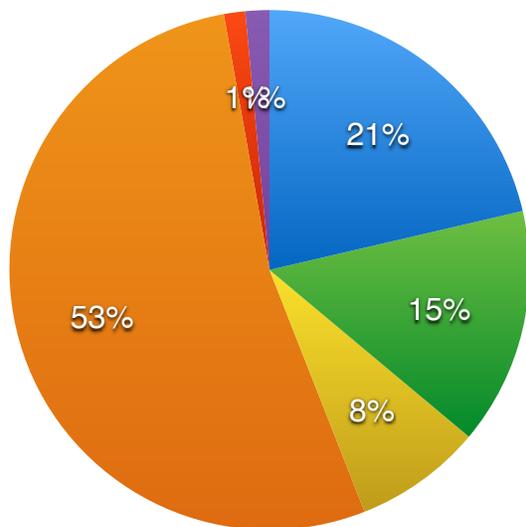
On average, residents dedicated \$36 million to the Department of Miscellaneous. This is slightly less than the department’s \$37.7 million allocation last year, and than the proposed nearly \$39 million allocation proposed for 2017. Users were required to spend \$25 million in the Department of Miscellaneous, much of which was required funding for the New Orleans Police Department Consent Decree.

As a way to gain insight into the specific priorities users had for funding in the Department of Miscellaneous, users were asked to chose one priority area for their funding to be focused. 47% of respondents wished to see additional funding go to the Public Defender’s Office. 19% of respondents prioritized funding to the New Orleans Recreation Development Corporation, 16% the Office of Performance and Accountability/Service and Innovation, 14% participation grants to local non-profit organizations that partner with the city to provide services to residents, and 10% to the NOPD consent decree.

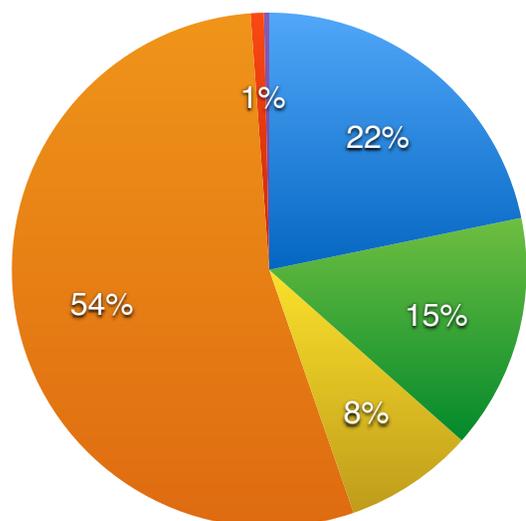
The lower level of funding for this department may have been a function of the seemingly trivial title of the Department of Miscellaneous, or an indication that residents want to see less focus on the programs housed under this budget area.

Conclusion

People's Budget by Results Area



City of New Orleans Budget by Results Area 2016



- Open & Effective Govt
- Other Programs
- Economic Development
- Sustainable Communities
- Public Safety
- Children & Families

In conclusion, the data supplied by hundreds of New Orleanians from across the city and from a variety of ages, races, and socioeconomic statuses, does not significantly contradict either the 2016 city budget or the proposed 2017 city budget. In many ways, the administration and the people of New Orleans have said with their money that they want the same things: a better quality of life. In the differences that do exist, much can be learned about the daily life of communities across New Orleans. This quantitative look at the needs of our neighborhoods is another way to approach solving the issues facing our city with limited funding.

This most basic common goal is exactly the reason that New Orleanians deserve a greater voice in their city budget. While the Landrieu administration's town hall budget meetings are a first step towards involving citizens in spending decisions, they are not fully serving that function, qualitatively and quantitatively. With better education about how city government works and how it spends money, residents can make better, more informed decisions, empowering local leaders to do what is best for our communities.

CBNO is proud to present this data from the people of New Orleans, and looks forward to further outreach to the community to provide even more insight into the needs of residents in the next fiscal year. We welcome all partners, public and private, to join us in making sure that the People's Budget is the first step to a more meaningful public input process into our city budget.