

peoplesbudget™

CROWD-SOURCED BUDGET PLANNING

City of New Orleans 2017



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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 city 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 are 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 \$614 million in 2017. 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, and 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 51-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 550 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 48% of users identifying as male and 43% identifying as female. 2% identified as another gender and 7% 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. 33% of users were between the ages of 29-38, 13% between the ages of 19-28, 12% between the ages of 38-48, 10% between the ages of 48-58, 7% between the ages of 58-68, 18% between the ages of 8-18 and 7% aged 69 and over. Compared to the 2016 data, participation in seniors over the age of 69 increased 6%. There was also a 14% increase in users between the ages of 8 and 18. In part, this can be contributed to a concentrated effort to reach older users at local senior centers and to engage with youth through local youth advocacy groups.

Users were asked which race they identified with primarily. Responses show that 62% of users identified as White or Caucasian, 21% Black or African American, 11% as Other, 2% as Latino or Hispanic, and 3% as Asian or Pacific Islander. A statistically insignificant number of users who identify as Native American also responded to the survey. While this data is still not racially representative of the population of the City of New Orleans, it does reflect an improvement over the 2016 racial demographic results. Compared to 2016 results, 10% more Black/African American users participated this year. Continuing to ensure that the data provided by the Big Easy Budget Game is representative of the population of our city is a key goal of the Committee for a Better New Orleans, and we will continue to work over the coming years to ensure equity in access to this site, and to ensure that our data is as representative as possible.

Household income of respondents also fell across a large span of socioeconomic statuses. 38% of respondents claimed a household income of over \$100,000. 11% of users surveyed reported an income of \$70,000 to \$99,000. 27% of users surveyed reported an income of \$40,000 to \$70,000. 46% of users surveyed reported income below \$40,000. The largest change in income demographics can be seen in the under \$40,000 household income group, which increased by 29% this year, in part due to a significant push to actively engage lower income users.

The New Orleans Data Center identifies the 2011 median 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 61% of respondents claiming a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 47% reported by the New Orleans Data Center in 2011. 13% of users had not completed high school degree or equivalent, in line with the 14.9% reported by the New Orleans Data Center.

Homeownership by users showed 61% owned their own home and 39% of users rent, near the the New Orleans Data Center's 2011 report of 48% homeownership in Orleans Parish.

6% more parents or guardians participated in 2017, with 68% of users surveyed reporting no children in their household, while 32% reported one or more child in the home. The New Orleans Data Center reported 41% of homes in New Orleans claimed children in 2011.

68% of users completed the Big Easy Budget Game on a laptop, compared to 28% who played on a smartphone, and 4% on a tablet. The average length of play was 10 minutes and 36 seconds. Raw data collected in the Big Easy Budget Game is available upon request.

Overview

A focus on transparency and accountability



Notably, users gave significant additional funding and focus to all departments and polls related to government transparency and accountability. On average, users dedicated 275% more funding to these departments, including the Office of the Inspector General and the Office of the Independent Police Monitor. Additionally, the quick poll for the New Orleans Police Department found that 18% of respondents wanted the department to focus on better community relations and 4% of respondents wanted a focus on better accountability above all else.

The focus on improved transparency and accountability is not particularly surprising in a city with generations of mistrust between local government and community. Statistically, this distrust can be seen again in the very high number—81%— of New Orleanians who do not feel that their voice is reflected in the budget process.

Improved planning, regulation, and enforcement



On average, users dedicated an additional 215% to departments like City Planning, Safety and Permits, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Vieux Carré Commission and the Historic Districts Landmarks Commission. Additional funding across the board to departments who regulate, enforce, and plan our communities shows a general interest and support for a city that is more thoughtful, intentional city.

The large increase in funding to these organizations also shows a clear desire for better implementation and enforcement of existing regulations. For many New Orleanians, blight remains a problem on a street level, and while many agencies are tasked with

combating this issue, there is not enough manpower to adequately enforce codes across the city.

It's also possible that this increase in funding for regulation is directly related to the new regulations surrounding short term rentals. As rents in New Orleans remain unaffordable and short term rentals displace residents from homes across the city, residents may be voicing a desire to strictly enforce the regulations placed on these rentals by City Council.

Reduced funding for traditional public safety

In almost every instance, users chose to reduce funding for departments related to traditional public safety such as the New Orleans Police Department, the New Orleans Fire Department, courts, and most notably, the Sheriff's Office. On average, users cut about 19% from these departments, out of step with the city's effort to grow its police force and recent mayoral and city council candidate platforms to invest significantly in our criminal justice system. The largest cut, 39%, was taken from the Sheriff's Office.

These cuts were countered with additional funding for offices such as the Coroner and Health Department, both of whom work directly with mental health. These focuses on proactive public safety as opposed to the traditional, reactive approach employed in the City of New Orleans over the past decades are directly in line with similar results from the 2016 People's Budget Report.

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.

66% of survey respondents reported that they were not happy with the current budget process, and 81% 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, 80% of respondents reported that they do not feel that their input at these meetings is valued. This data is slightly higher than the 2016 number, possibly due to the budget town halls telephone-only format this year.

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. While the telephone-only format cut the opportunity for community members to meet face-to-face with city leaders, it may be a good option for residents with work conflicts or mobility issues to give input as part of a much larger, more robust budget input system.

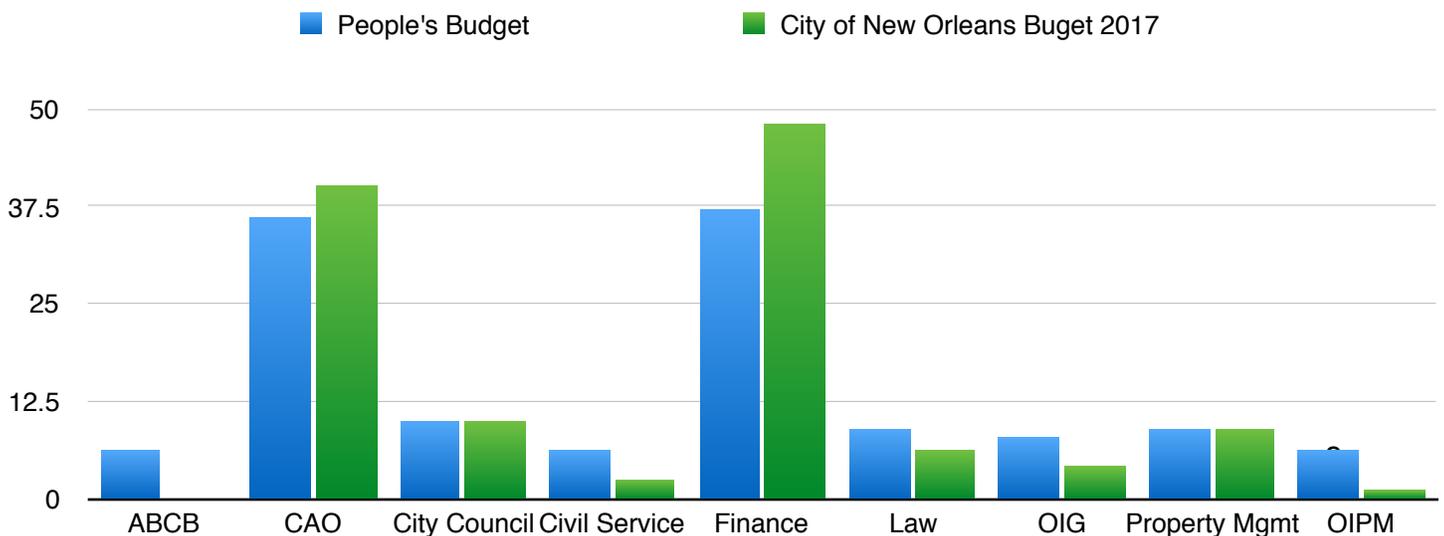
Overall, residents rated their understanding of the city budget at 5.27 on a scale of 1-10, with 0 being not at all, and 10 being extremely well. This average understanding of the local budget may be a product of the slightly higher than typical education rates reported by users, or a reflection of learning that took place throughout the experience of using the Big Easy Budget Game the previous year.

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. 73% 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 a 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 an average of \$6 million from users. This is a much larger amount than the department typically receives; in both the adopted 2017 operating budget and the proposed 2018 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. One goal of the Big Easy Budget Game is to educate users about the function of city departments; it may be that the city and the ABC Board need to better communicate the duties and scope of the responsibilities of this office to help users understand what can — or cannot— be achieved by this high level of funding for this organization.

Chief Administrative Office

The Chief Administrative Office received an average of \$36 million from users, just short of the \$40 million the office received in the adopted 2017 budget and the \$43 million the CAO is set to receive in the proposed 2018 budget.

City Council

On average, users allocated an average of \$10 million to the New Orleans City Council. Both the adopted 2017 and the proposed 2018 budgets allocate \$9,772,880, directly in line with user funding.

Civil Service

The civil service department received an average of \$6 million, about three times what the department received in the adopted 2017 budget, where the department received \$2.4 million and the proposed 2018 budget, which allocates \$2.8 million. 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 \$37 million from users, making it the most funded administrative department in city government. Overall, however, this is a decrease from both the 2017 adopted budget which allocated \$48,123,945 and the proposed 2018 budget, which allocates \$55.6 million 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 or understanding of investment in long term financial health.

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.

Users were asked in a quick poll if they would support taxing property owned by non-profit entities that is being used for for-profit purposes. To be clear, this does not include property owned by non-profits that is used to further the mission of their non-profit. Currently non-profits, including some of the largest property owners in the City of New Orleans such as the Archdiocese, Tulane University, and others can use property for for-profit purposes without paying taxes on that property.

80.5% of users said they would support taxing non-profit property used for for-profit purposes, while 19.5% said that they would not support this tax.

Law Department

On average, the Law Department received \$9 million from users. Funding for the Law. In both the adopted 2017 budget and the proposed 2018 budget, the Law Department returns to a more typical \$6 million in funding. Users were only required to allocate \$4 million to the law department.

The ability to fight blight was a common theme among many users, and it's likely that the slight increase in funding to the Law Department is related to the city attorney's office's ability to adjudicate more blight cases, leading to visible improvements on the ground level in many communities.

Office of the Inspector General/Ethics Review Board

The Office of the Inspector General received an average of \$8 million from users, almost twice the proposed \$4,197,877 allocated in the 2018 budget. Users were required to allocate \$2 million to the OIG, showing a general commitment to additional funding from users. The increased funding, coupled with raised funding levels for the Independent Police Monitor could signal support in the community for a significant investment in government accountability and transparency.

Office of the Independent Police Monitor

This was the first year that the Office of the Independent Police Monitor has been included in the Big Easy Budget Game separately from the Office of the Inspector General. Following the April 2016 vote to separate these offices, CBNO felt it was appropriate to give users the option to fund each office separately as well.

The OIPM received an average of \$6 million from users, well over the \$1 million received in the 2017 adopted budget. This major increase in funding is in line with similar increases in the Office of the Inspector General, and signals a strong desire for more accountability in government. Coupled with overall decreases in spending by users in departments related to traditional public safety, users most likely want to see a substantial change in the accountability mechanisms in our criminal justice system.

Property Management

Property management received an average of \$9 million from users, in line almost exactly with the amount allocated in the proposed 2018 budget. Users were only required to allocate \$2 million to the department.

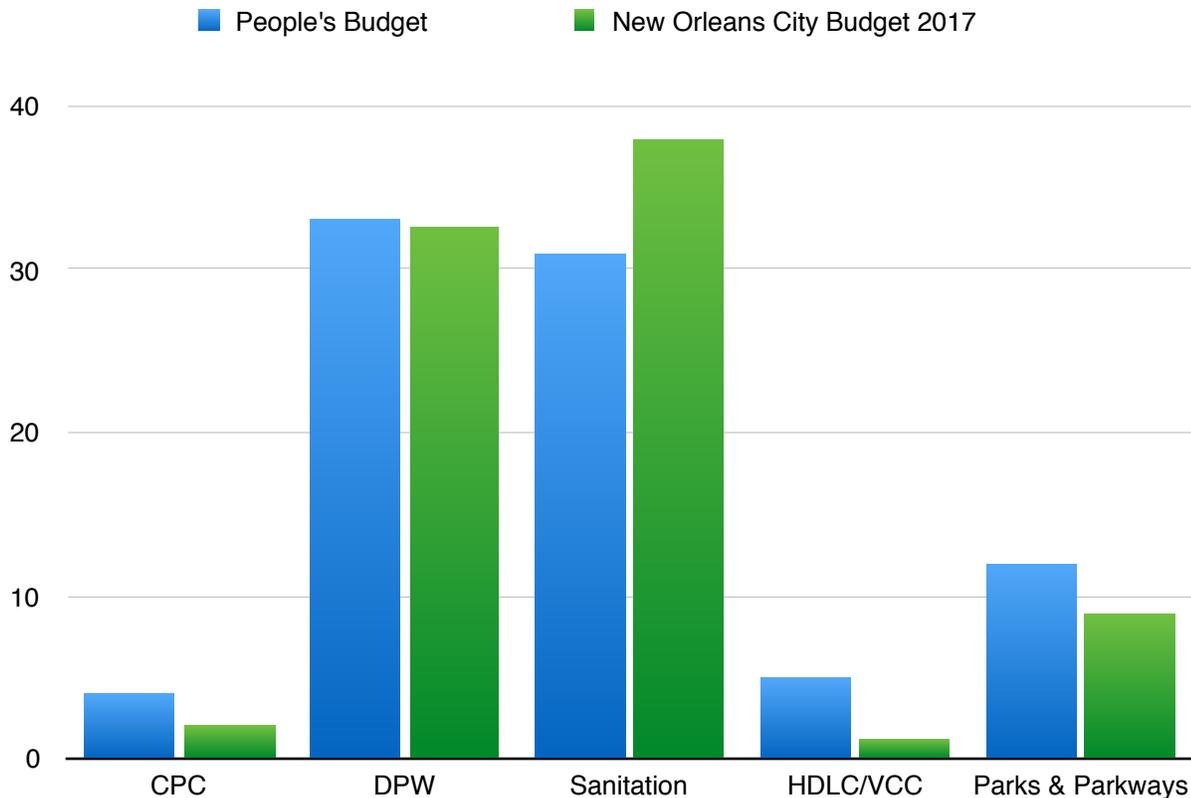
Safety and Permits

On average, safety and permits received \$9 million from users, a 33% increase over the 2017 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, or more enforcement of illegal short term rentals.

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 \$4 million from users, a 43% increase over the proposed funding for the CPC in the proposed 2018 budget. Users were required to allocate \$1 million for the CPC. The 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 \$33 million from users, exactly in line with the proposed funding for 2018. Residents and the administration both agree

that we need to do more to fix the infrastructure of New Orleans in 2018, and the department has seen a rough increase of 25% over the past several years.

The 2018 budget allocates a record number of dollars for infrastructure improvements for the second year in a row. In his introductory letter to the 2018 budget, Mayor Landrieu says the city will invest \$2.4 million in road 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.

In a quick poll, users were asked which of the following make them feel the safest when walking/biking/driving on public streets: well maintained sidewalks, better water management features to reduce street flooding, bike lanes, or ease of traffic flow with more signage, or all of the above. 50% of respondents replied all of the above, 19% responded better water management to reduce flooding, 9% responded well maintained sidewalks, 9% responded bike lanes, and 5% responded ease of traffic flow and signage. Several users chose to write in responses, mostly focused on street repair.

Department of Sanitation

On average, residents allocated \$31 million to the Department of Sanitation. This is a 6% decrease from the funding the department is allocated in the 2018 proposed budget.

In a quick poll, users were asked if they would support additional funding to the Department of Sanitation if it meant all New Orleans neighborhoods would have curbside glass recycling. 73% of respondents said yes, 26% said no.

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 \$5 million to these two departments as a whole. In the proposed budget for 2018, HDLC receives \$944,755 and VCC is allocated \$420,131 for a combined allocation of just over \$1.3 million.

The almost five-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

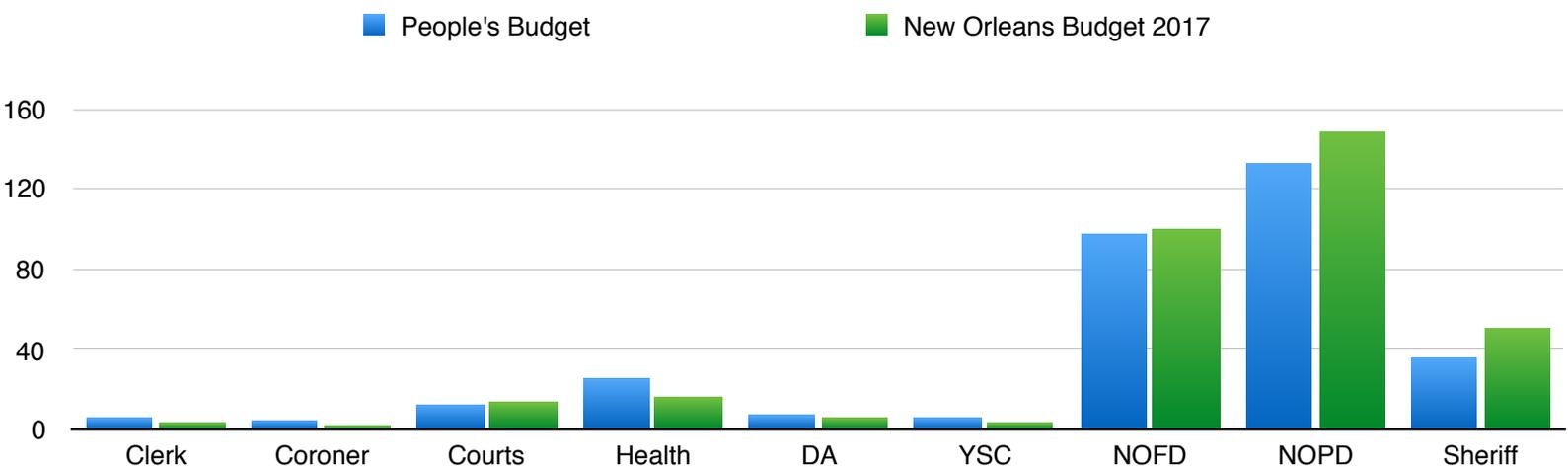
Users allocated an average of \$12 million to the Department of Parks and Parkways, the department responsible for maintaining green space such as neutral grounds and public right of ways in New Orleans. Users were only required to allocate \$4 million to this department, showing an average three-fold investment in public green space over the lowest funding option.

This 35% increase over the \$8.9 million allocated in the proposed 2018 budget compliments similar spending by users on property management, public works, and code enforcement 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 Parkways such as Armstrong Park or the long-delayed reopening of Bechtel Park in Algiers.

In fact, users were asked in a quick poll if they would support including water management strategies such as rain gardens or bioswales on neutral grounds to reduce street flooding and extend the life of the street even if it meant rising the cost of a project. 88.6% of users said that they would support this kind of spending for longer-term flooding reduction and water management. Only 5% responded no, while four respondents replied with write in answers including, “be more efficient.”

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 \$6 million from users, a 62% increase over the \$3.7 million allocated over the past two years and proposed for 2018.

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 108% increase in funding over both 2017 funding and 2018 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. 77% 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. 9% favored funding to create efficiencies in record keeping, and 6% for faster cause of death reporting and 6% for faster testing of rape kits, and to address the rape kit testing backlog.

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 \$13 million to the court system. 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. 52% of respondents indicated Juvenile Court, 36% Criminal District Court, 5% Civil Court, and 1% Traffic Court. Some users wrote in responses including “none of them,” “pre-trial services and alternatives to the criminal process,” and “none, decrease their budgets.”

Department of Health

On average, users allocated \$25 million to the Department of Health, a 39% increase from the 2018 proposed 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.

This raise in funding has also been mirrored in the actual city budget, with \$1 million of additional funds allocated in the proposed budget for the construction and operation of a low barrier shelter to house some of the most at-risk New Orleanians.

District Attorney’s Office

On average, users allocated \$7 million to the District Attorney’s Office. This represents a slight increase over both 2018 proposed funding. 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. 29% indicated a focus on the diversion program meant to keep offenders out of prison, 34% indicated the Juvenile Division, 23% the Victim Witness Division, and 10% the Trial Division. Other responses included “decriminalize small quantities of marijuana,” and “domestic violence division. The public’s focus on diversion and juvenile programs comes at a time when the City Council has been especially direct in demands for more transparency in these very programs.

Human Services

On average, users allocated \$6 million to the Youth Study Center, called the Department of Human Services. This funding is roughly in line with the \$5 million allocated in the proposed 2018 budget. Historically, the Youth Study Center has only received about \$2 million, but will receive more in 2018 as the new facility comes online. This funding

choice by residents may signal a desire to keep juvenile offenders out of Orleans Parish Prison, where 15-year old Jaquin Thomas committed suicide in 2016 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 \$98 million to the New Orleans Fire Department. Users cut just slightly from the 2017 allocation of \$100 million and 15% from the \$115 million proposed spending for 2018.

The Big Easy Budget Game required a minimum allocation of \$80 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 the 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 \$133 million. Users chose to spend under the \$149 million of funding received in 2017 and the proposed 2018 allocation of \$151 million.

While federal consent decree funding is mandatory, the administration, mayoral candidates, 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. This decrease in police funding may also be a reflection of heated police/community relations across the country, though these tensions have been less evident in New Orleans.

Users were asked to give some insight into their funding decisions in a quick poll. Asked what should be the priority for the NOPD, 40% answered crime prevention, 26% responded hiring more officers, 18% answered improve community relations, 8% answered solving open cases, and 4% answered improving accountability.

Sheriff

On average, the Sheriff's Office received \$36 million. This allocation represents an 39% decrease in spending on the Sheriff's Office from the 2017 budget, and a similar difference from the proposed 2017 budget.

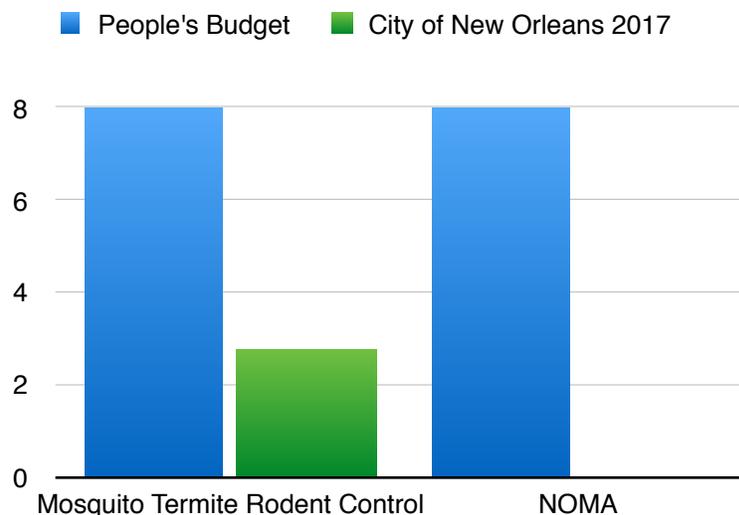
The Big Easy Budget Game did clarify to users that the Sheriff's office no longer received funding on a per diem, or per inmate, basis. The minimum amount of funding for the Sheriff was \$28 million as a way of enforcing the funding of the federal consent decree. While users were required to give a fairly 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.

Users were asked if they felt the Sheriff's Office should be operating an 89 bed mental health facility despite the 1,438 prisoner cap agreed upon in the consent decree. 57% of respondents said no, while 30% said yes. The other 13% chose to write in answers, almost entirely focused on the need for such a mental health facility, but questioning or pushing back against the idea that the Sheriff's Office should run it. Some responses include, "I would have to know more. I don't trust the sheriff," "mental health professionals should run it, whether it is under the sheriff or separate," "not at all, but a mental health facility/resource is needed," and "should be a mental health facility, not a jail for people needing mental health services."

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 \$8 million to the Mosquito Termite and Rodent Control Board. This is 186% increase over the proposed 2018 is the second large increase for this department by game users in two years. In an effort to understand this large increase in what is a fairly small department, we asked users if they were concerned about health impacts from the Zika Virus. With total responses almost double that of the other poll questions, 74% of users responded that yes, they would support additional funding to combat Zika.

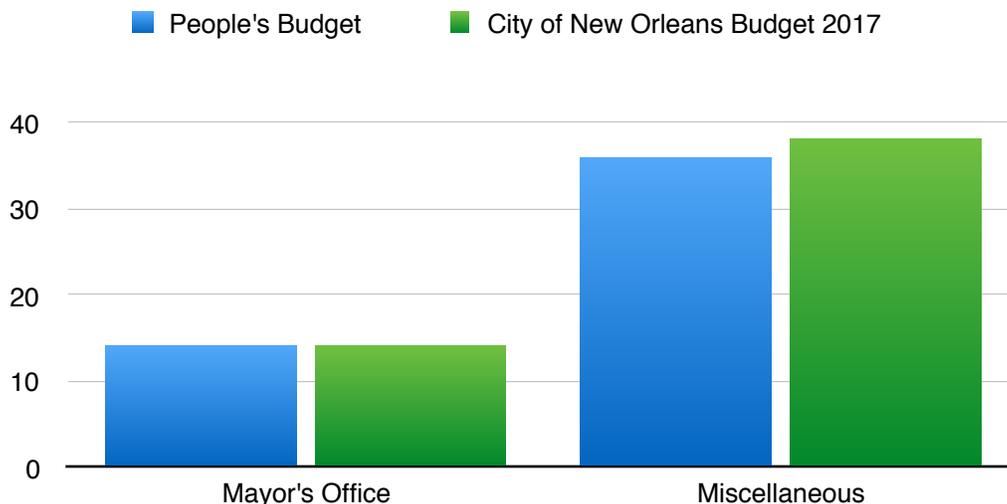
New Orleans Museum of Art

On average, users allocated \$8 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 \$14 million from users. This funding is in line with the \$14 million the Mayor's Office received from the general fund last year, and the \$15 million the Mayor's Office and related offices are allocated in the 2018 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, 42% 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. The Department of Homeland Security received 19% of responses, and 10% of responses were directed at the Mayor's Office's core tasks, such as the Neighborhood Engagement Office and communications.

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.

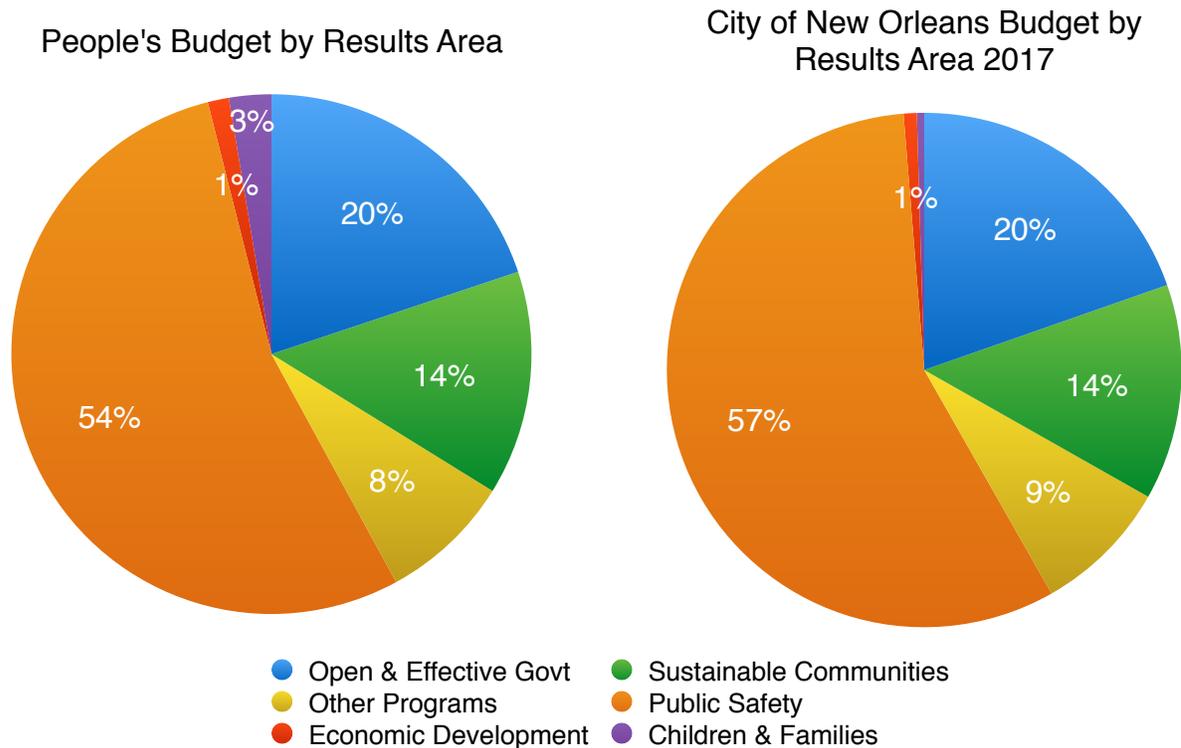
On average, residents dedicated \$36 million to the Department of Miscellaneous. This is slightly less than the department's \$38 million allocation last year, and than the proposed nearly \$40 million allocation proposed for 2018. Users were required to spend \$25 million in the Department of Miscellaneous, 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. 36% of respondents wished to see additional funding go to the Public Defender's Office. 23% of respondents prioritized funding to the New Orleans Recreation Development Corporation, 13% the Office of Performance and

Accountability/Service and Innovation, 15% participation grants to local non-profit organizations that partner with the city to provide services to residents, and 5% 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



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 2017 city budget or the proposed 2018 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.