



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Ed Van Eenoo, Chief Financial Officer 

From: Kerri Lang, Director, Budget & Organizational Excellence 

Date: July 21, 2026

Subject: **Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Update: Budget Development and Engagement Reports**

Each year, Budget & Organizational Excellence (BOE) engages in a robust and multi-pronged effort to engage the Austin community in the development of the City's budget. Public input on the City's budget is sought year-round, with additional emphasis and outreach in January through August during the budget development and adoption processes. These efforts include curating the Boards' and Commissions' recommendation process, conducting an online budget survey and a City Council priorities survey, facilitating community budget conversations hosted by the city manager, supporting council district townhall meetings, and coordinating public hearings.

In addition to community engagement, an internal budget development process takes place in which departments may submit requests for funding enhancements, as well as a requirement that departments identify the five percent of their existing budget that provides services that are furthest from their core mission to be considered for reprioritization or reduction.

These elements and their respective processes are described in the sections below, followed by links to related budget reports.

Boards and Commission Recommendation Report

The City has historically used our Boards and Commissions as an opportunity to receive citizen input during the budget development process. Beginning with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Budget, the current Boards & Commission Recommendation process began, where each Board/Commission has an opportunity to submit recommendations through formal action to BOE by the end of March. These recommendations are reviewed and vetted by department staff to determine the viability of implementation. This year, 29 Boards and Commissions submitted 169 budget recommendations for City leadership to consider.

2026 Budget Priority Survey Results

To complement public input gathered through our public engagement opportunities, this year an online, interactive budget prioritization survey was made available to Austin residents. This tool

Date: July 21, 2026
Subject: Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Update: Budget Development and Engagement Reports

allowed participants to identify and prioritize the service areas associated with the General Fund. To increase residents' awareness, staff employed a marketing and outreach campaign that utilized a mix of digital and traditional outreach methods and ensured materials were accessible in multiple languages. The statistically significant survey included 852 respondents.

Community Budget Conversations Hosted by the City Manager

The Austin City Manager hosted 11 public meetings from February through April to gather community and employee input on their budget priorities for FY 2026-2027. The City Manager provided an overview of the City's budget and discussed the challenges of drafting the City's proposed budget under the current revenue caps imposed by the State. These meetings provided the community with a unique opportunity to learn more about the budgeting process and to offer feedback prior to the drafting of the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget.

City Council Priority Survey

This year City Council completed a budget priority survey that provided responses to three key areas: relative funding priority of each of the Citywide Strategic Plan's focus areas, perspective on proposed budget reductions, and ranking of Social Service Grants focus area. The survey also allowed open input from each office to provide insight on additional priorities. The report provides individual and aggregate responses to each question.

City Council District Townhall Meetings:

City Council Members will host district level community meetings on the proposed budget in July and August. A full list of meeting dates is available at: [AustinTexas.Gov/Budget](https://austintexas.gov/Budget).

Department Budget Development Documents (Enhancement & Service Prioritizations)

All departments submitted a list of requests for funding enhancements to further their departmental missions. This process is vetted and evaluated by City leadership through the budget development process. The Enhancement Report provides a full list of the requests submitted by departments.

Additionally, departments completed a review of all programs and services to determine the 5% of their budget that provides services that are furthest from their core mission. City leadership evaluated these submissions to identify opportunities to reallocate funding to higher departmental or City priorities. The Service Prioritization Report provides the full list of the items submitted by departments.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kerri Lang, Director of Budget & Organizational Excellence at kerri.lang@austintexas.gov.

Report Links:

[Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Service Prioritizations Report](#)
[Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Service Enhancements Report](#)
[Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Boards and Commissions Recommendations](#)
[Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Priority Survey](#)
[Fiscal Year 2026-2027 City Council Priority Survey](#)
[Fiscal Year 2026-2027 City Manager Budget Conversations](#)

Date: July 21, 2026
Subject: Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Update: Budget Development and Engagement Reports

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors