

Public Engagement Overview

Those interested in providing input into the development of the 2023-2024 budget have opportunities to participate in the process between now and when the City Council adopts the budget this fall including:

Budget One 2023-2024 Website is available at: <https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/finance/budget-and-performance/budgets/public-involvement>

- Website provides links and contact information for anyone interested in further information.

Budget, Performance and Business Surveys (will be posted on the Budget One 2023-2024 website above as they are completed).

- **Budget Survey**
In preparation for the new budget, the City conducts a budget survey each biennium. The survey is designed to provide a statistically valid tool to enhance the City's knowledge of residents' perceptions about the City and to better understand community priorities and expectations regarding City services. This survey has been conducted biennially since 1998. The survey is currently in the field and results will be posted this spring. Previous budget surveys can be found [here](#).
- **Business Survey**
The City conducts a business survey to address Bellevue's key metrics, attitudes about operating and owning a business, starting a business, and questions relating to taxation. The survey has been conducted every year since 2015. Estimated publish date of this survey has been traditionally in the fall timeframe. As the Business Survey begins, staff will update the publication date. Previous business surveys can be found [here](#).
- **Performance Survey**
The Performance Survey is designed to gauge how the City meets the needs of its residents. The survey asks about: overall quality of life, overall quality of City services, comparability to other communities, direction the City is headed, and the value of services for tax dollars paid. The methodology for the Performance Survey is similar to that of the Budget Survey. Initial results of the 2021 Performance Survey were present to Council and the public on December 13, 2021 ([Agenda Materials](#)). Estimated publish date of this survey report is expected in Spring 2022. Previous performance surveys can be found [here](#).

Public Hearings

- The City Council historically holds three public hearings and will continue this practice as part of the 2023-2024 budget process to provide stakeholders multiple opportunities to officially comment on the operating and capital budgets. Generally, two public hearings are held prior to the submission of the Preliminary Budget to Council and offer residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to let the Council know what issues are important to them in advance of the Preliminary Budget. The third and final public hearing is held after the Preliminary Budget is transmitted to Council and, before Council adopts to budget to provide interested parties an opportunity to address new budget proposals and comment on budget issues.

Public Comment at any City Council Meeting

- The public is welcome to provide written comment to the Council by emailing Council@BellevueWA.gov, subject line “Written Communications” by 3PM on the day of each Council meeting.
- The public is welcome to speak during public comment periods at all regular Council meetings. Council agendas are posted on the Council website in advance of the meetings.

Boards and Commissions

Four City boards and commissions provide input into the budget process. The following outlines those commissions/boards, provide a description of their duties, the number of members and, their role within the budget process.

Commission / Board	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
Transportation Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports as required by the traffic standards code or requested by the City Council (BCC 3.63.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews City Manager’s Transportation Department proposed CIP budget and provides feedback to Council and the City Manager.
Parks & Community Services Board	The Board shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. With respect to City parks and community services facilities and programs, the board may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reported requested by the City Council. The Board shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on policies regarding parks and open space and community services issues (BCC 3.62.070)	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises the Council on the Parks’ CIP. • Reviews existing and potential new CIP projects. • Communicates CIP priorities to Council provides feedback to Council and the City Manager.

Commission / Board	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
Environmental Services Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Commission shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on city water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utility programs (BCC 3.55.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises Council on Utilities Department budget through the approval of Water, Sewer and Storm Drainage rates.
Human Services Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Commission shall review advise, and make recommendations to the Council on human services issues and policy (BCC 3.61.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews and recommends to the Council funding for various Human Services agencies (including Parks, Community Development, Development Services, Police, and Fire). The Commission's role includes reviewing City and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

E-mail/Contact Councilmembers Council@BellevueWA.gov

Comments to the full City Council may be made by email to the address above or by leaving a voicemail with the Council Office at 425-452-7810.

Email/Contact Finance & Asset Management FAM@BellevueWA.gov

- **Presentations To Neighborhood Groups, Business Associations and Others:**
The Finance & Asset Management Department will give presentations about the budget upon request to any group. Please contact us by phone, 425-452-5281 or at the email above.
- **Information Provide Upon Request:**
The Finance & Asset Management Department responds to any communication received regarding the budget process. Please contact us at 425-452-5281 or at the remail above.