

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Final Public Hearing on the Preliminary 2025-2026 Operating Budget and the 2025-2030 Capital Investment Program Plan.

John Resha, Chief Financial Officer/Director, 452-2567
Evan Phillips, Financial Strategy & Performance Director, 452-2831
Finance & Asset Management Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**INFORMATION
ONLY**

This final public hearing is an opportunity for residents and other stakeholders to provide input on the budget update, including all proposed levies, taxes, fees, and rates to aid the City Council and staff prior to development of the City's 2025-2026 Budget and 2025-2030 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. The full preliminary budget document will be an interactive electronic budget book, including the Executive Summary, and is available at BellevueWA.gov/Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Hold the third and final public hearing on the 2025-2026 Budget and 2025-2030 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Bellevue's budget is produced every two years and includes a six-year capital budget, which aligns with biennial appropriations. It serves as a major policy document and describes how the City intends to finance its services and infrastructure. A public hearing on the City's budget is required by State law to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback to the Council before a final decision is made. This public hearing marks another step in a process that launched earlier this year at the April 8 Budget Workshop.

Tonight is the third of three public hearings planned for the City's 2025-2026 Budget and 2025-2030 CIP Plan. The purpose of this public hearing is to enable the City Council and City management to hear public comment prior to adoption of the City's 2025-2026 Budget and 2025-2030 CIP Plan. This public hearing is in keeping with Bellevue's long history of overall citizen involvement with the budget process.

Staff notes that the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget Book includes a 2025-2030 CIP Plan, which aligns with State requirements for an adopted CIP Plan. While the public notice identifies a CIP Plan period of 2025-2034, the transition to our new format and plan initially has restricted our ability to produce this plan beyond 2025-2030. The final public hearing in November will reflect the 2025-2030 CIP Plan.

On April 8, the City Council provided guidance on the update to the Comprehensive Financial Policies. Thereafter, on July 9, Council held the first public hearing on the 2025-2026 Budget for purposes of early community input into budget development. After transmitting the 2025-2026 Budget and CIP Plan to the City Council, a second public hearing was

held on September 24, 2024. Each public hearing has been advertised in the Seattle Times the preceding two weeks for broad dissemination.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Revised Code of Washington RCW 35A.34.090 provides that prior to a final hearing on the budget, the legislative body shall schedule hearings on the budget or parts of it.

RCW 35A.34.110 requires that the City Council hold a public hearing pertaining to the budget for the City. This legally required public hearing must be held not later than 25 days prior to commencement of the fiscal biennium.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this public hearing.

OPTIONS

1. Hold the Final Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Budget and 2025-2030 Capital Investment Program Plan.
2. Do not hold the Final Public Hearing and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Public Hearing Notice

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A