

What You Need to Know About Seattle's Budget



Councilmember Sally Bagshaw | Budget Committee Chair

Participating in the Budget Process

We want to hear from Seattleites everywhere about your budget priorities. The best ways to communicate your insights to Council are to:

Provide Public Testimony

The Budget Committee will meet from September to November and there are opportunities for public testimony, typically at the end of the meeting through early Nov. Times vary so check the budget webpage: seattle.gov/council/budget

Attend a Public Hearing

Oct. 4 @ 5:30 pm at City Hall
Oct. 23 @ 5:30 pm at City Hall

Email Us

council@seattle.gov
sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov

Chair Bagshaw's Budget Principles

- Fiscal Sustainability
- Effectiveness & Efficiency
- Race, Gender, Age, Ability & Social Justice Considerations
- Transparency, Accountability & Civility

Sally's Budget Priorities

- Getting more people off the streets and into housing
- Creating cleaner and safer neighborhoods
- Providing behavioral health treatment and access to quality health care

How the City Spends Your Money

The City operates on a biennial budget, with a two-year spending proposal developed every other year.

Most of the City's money - about 86% - is used to pay for utilities, transportation, administration and public safety.

Total Expenditures - \$5.9 Billion



56%  **Utilities & Transportation**
\$3,262,800,000

18%  **Administration**
\$1,034,100,000

12%  **Public Safety**
\$695,100,000

6%  **Arts, Culture, Parks & Recreation**
\$376,800,000

5%  **Health & Human Services**
\$298,500,000

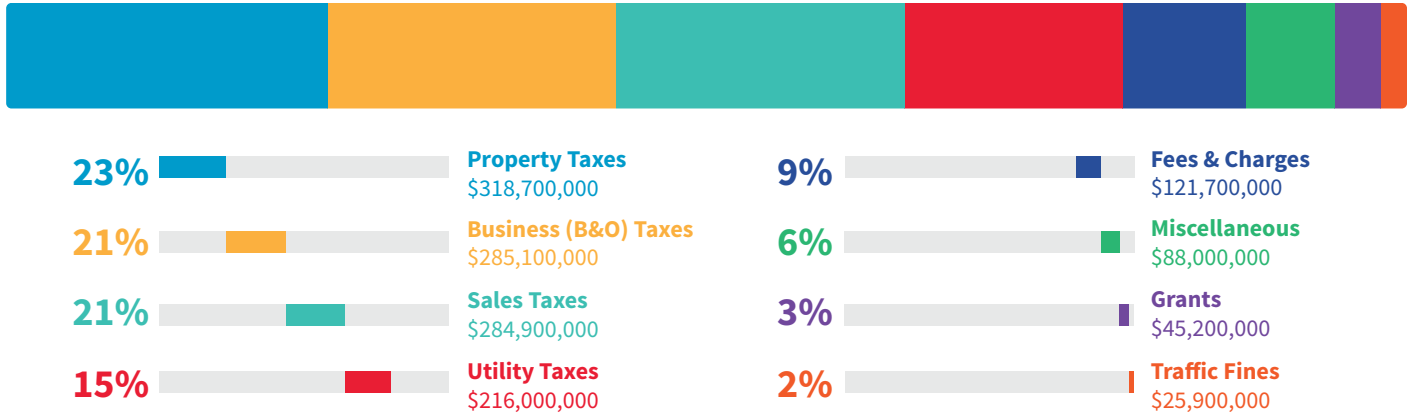
3%  **Neighborhoods & Development**
\$188,600,000

Where the City's Money Comes From

The City's money is split into funds. These funds help us promote accountability for how we're raising and spending money. The primary and most flexible fund is called the

General Fund. About two-thirds of the General Fund's revenue comes from property, business, and sales taxes.

General Fund Revenue - \$1.4 Billion



Who's Involved



Mayor

The Mayor manages City operations, including how money is spent. She must submit a balanced budget proposal by October 3. The City Budget Office and other departments work with her to put this proposal together.



Council

The Council determines how much money to spend on programs & projects (not necessarily how it's spent, which is up to the Mayor) and makes changes to the law. The Council must approve a balanced budget by December 2.



Public

You! Your interaction with elected officials helps shape the city's budget priorities. Please share your insight via email, phone calls or attending budget meetings.

The Budget Process

