

-PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING-

A dark blue money bag with a large green dollar sign (\$) on its front, tied at the top with a blue cord. It is positioned on the left side of the orange text box.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB) IS A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WHERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS DECIDE HOW TO SPEND PUBLIC MONEY—

BUILT ON THE BELIEF THAT THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PROBLEM ARE THE CLOSEST TO THE SOLUTION.

ANY COMMUNITY THAT VALUES ITS CITIZENS' VOICES CAN UTILIZE A PB PROCESS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT PB IS A NON-PARTISAN APPROACH TO HANDLING PUBLIC MONEY THAT WILL DIRECTLY IMPACT THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS.

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ENGAGEMENT IS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN PB. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENGAGE THOSE HARDEST TO REACH AND EASIEST TO IGNORE. THIS MEANS MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE AT. THE PB COMMITTEE CAN SET UP VOTING LOCATIONS IN PLACES LIKE THE DMV, GROCERY STORES, LOCAL PARKS, AND OTHER AREAS FREQUENTLY VISITED BY PEOPLE DAILY. WE WANT THE VOTING PROCESS TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INCLUDING REMOVING BARRIERS LIKE CHILDCARE OR TRANSPORTATION.

ULTIMATELY, THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEADING THE PB PROCESS ARE THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT EXPERTS AND KNOW HOW TO REACH THEIR TARGET COMMUNITY BEST.

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STEP 1

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DESIGN PROCESS.

THE PREPARATION FOR A PB PROCESS IS TRANSPARENT AND NON-HIERARCHICAL, MEANING ALL PARTICIPANTS' VOICES MATTER IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS. A SPACE FOR VISION AND SHARING OF IDEAS IS THE STARTING POINT FOR DIRECT ACTION BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE. THE COLLECTION OF IDEAS FROM THE COMMUNITY MUST MEANINGFULLY INVOLVE MARGINALIZED GROUPS WHO ARE NOT TYPICALLY INVOLVED IN POLITICS OR VOTING. FACILITATORS REACH OUT TO KEY COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO WILL ADVOCATE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY.

STEP 2

THE DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS INTO PROPOSALS.

ONCE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE COME TOGETHER, THESE IDEAS GO THROUGH VETTING. THE PROPOSALS NEED TO BE DETAILED, WITH PRICE TAGS, REASONING, AND ACTIONABLE STEPS. PEOPLE WILL REFINE THEIR IDEAS AND DECIDE WHICH PROPOSALS MAKE IT ONTO THE FINAL BALLOT.

STEP 3

THE VOTING PHASE.

A FINALIZED BALLOT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC FOR THE COMMUNITY TO VOTE. UNLIKE THE CONVENTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM, THE PB VOTE GOES OUT TO WHERE THE PEOPLE WILL ALREADY BE. THE VOTES ARE COUNTED, AND THE PROPOSALS WITH THE MOST VOTES MOVE TO THE NEXT STEP OF IMPLEMENTATION.

REFERENCE:

SHARI DAVIS ON THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING [VIDEO FILE]. (2019, DECEMBER 19). RETRIEVED SEPTEMBER 18, 2020, FROM [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/OUPLZYPKLOA](https://youtu.be/ouplzypkloa)