



OUR VALUE IS COMMUNITY. OUR VISION IS LOCAL.

The People's Budget Review is a coalition of community activists, local business owners, neighborhood advocates, union members, and everyday people working to ensure that all residents have a voice in the decisions that affect the health of our communities.

WWW.PEOPLESBUDGETREVIEW.ORG
INFO@PEOPLESBUDGETREVIEW.ORG
727.279.5660



PEOPLE —NOT— POLITICS

Community Budgeting Project

Imagine a whole new approach to the way we manage public money at the local level, where community members directly decide how to spend a portion of the City Budget. What if the next time you went to vote for your favorite candidate for Mayor and City Council, you could also cast your ballot on specific projects that would improve your neighborhood, start a community garden, or provide summer jobs for at-risk youth?

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HOW WOULD IT WORK?

A steering committee of local residents would establish a process to allow for people to vote directly on a portion of the general budget. In many cities, the process looks something like this:



1. BRAINSTORM

At community meetings, residents meet in small groups to brainstorm project ideas and volunteer as budget delegates.



2. DEVELOP PROPOSALS

Delegates meet in committees to turn the community's initial project ideas into full proposals, with support from experts.



3. RESIDENTS VOTE

Delegates return to the community and present final project proposals. The projects with the most votes get funding.



4. TOP PROJECTS RECEIVE FUNDING

Delegates and other participants evaluate the process and monitor the implementation of projects.

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. REAL MONEY.

The concept is called Participatory Budgeting and in many cities it's been used to give power to everyday people, while helping elected officials better represent the interests of their constituents by providing them direct contact with people's local knowledge and values. Some benefits of this new approach include:

Increased Democracy

Residents have a real say and get to make final decisions about how to improve their communities

Transparency & Accountability

Fewer opportunities for corruption and waste as residents decide on spending in a public process

Public Education

Participants become more active and informed citizens with a deeper understanding of complex issues

More Informed Decision Making

Better budget decisions are made when they rely on resident's values and priorities

Fair Spending

Everyone gets equal access to decision-making, which creates a level playing field

HOW DO WE WIN?

CHANGING THE CITY CHARTER

We're going directly to the people to make direct democracy a reality in St. Petersburg. Our goal is to get Participatory Budgeting on the ballot by collecting more than 16,000 petitions from registered voters. If we're successful, residents would directly control up to 3% of the general budget, or about \$6 million. If you think everyday people should have a say over how their tax dollars are spent, get involved and help us make history in the Sunshine City!

1 VOLUNTEER

Team up with local PBR organizers and help us gather petitions at public events, canvass neighborhoods, or organize community workshops.

2 HOST A PETITION COLLECTION SITE

Help us get Participatory Budgeting on the ballot by collecting petitions from your neighbors, friends, and family. We'll even provide you with a PBR yard sign so people know you're proud to support local democracy!

3 INTRODUCE US TO YOUR NETWORK

Want to support the cause? Invite one of our speakers to come before your church, neighborhood or civic association. We're always available to answer questions and hear feedback from interested residents.