



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE

Public Engagement in the Budget Process

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Commitment to Meaningful Public Engagement

1

Engage the
Community

2

Build
longstanding
community
relationships

3

Understand
the
community's
wants and
needs

4

Involve broad
representation
of community

5

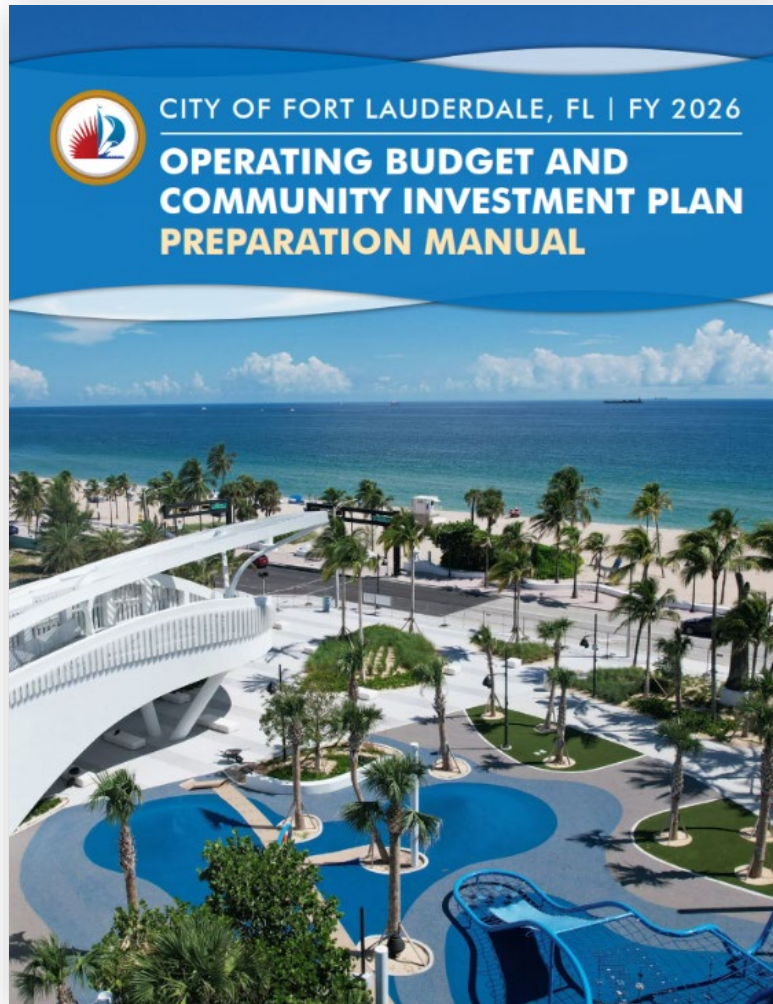
Utilize a variety
of community
engagement
techniques

6

Track and
share
community's
feedback over
time



Why Involve the Public In Budgeting?

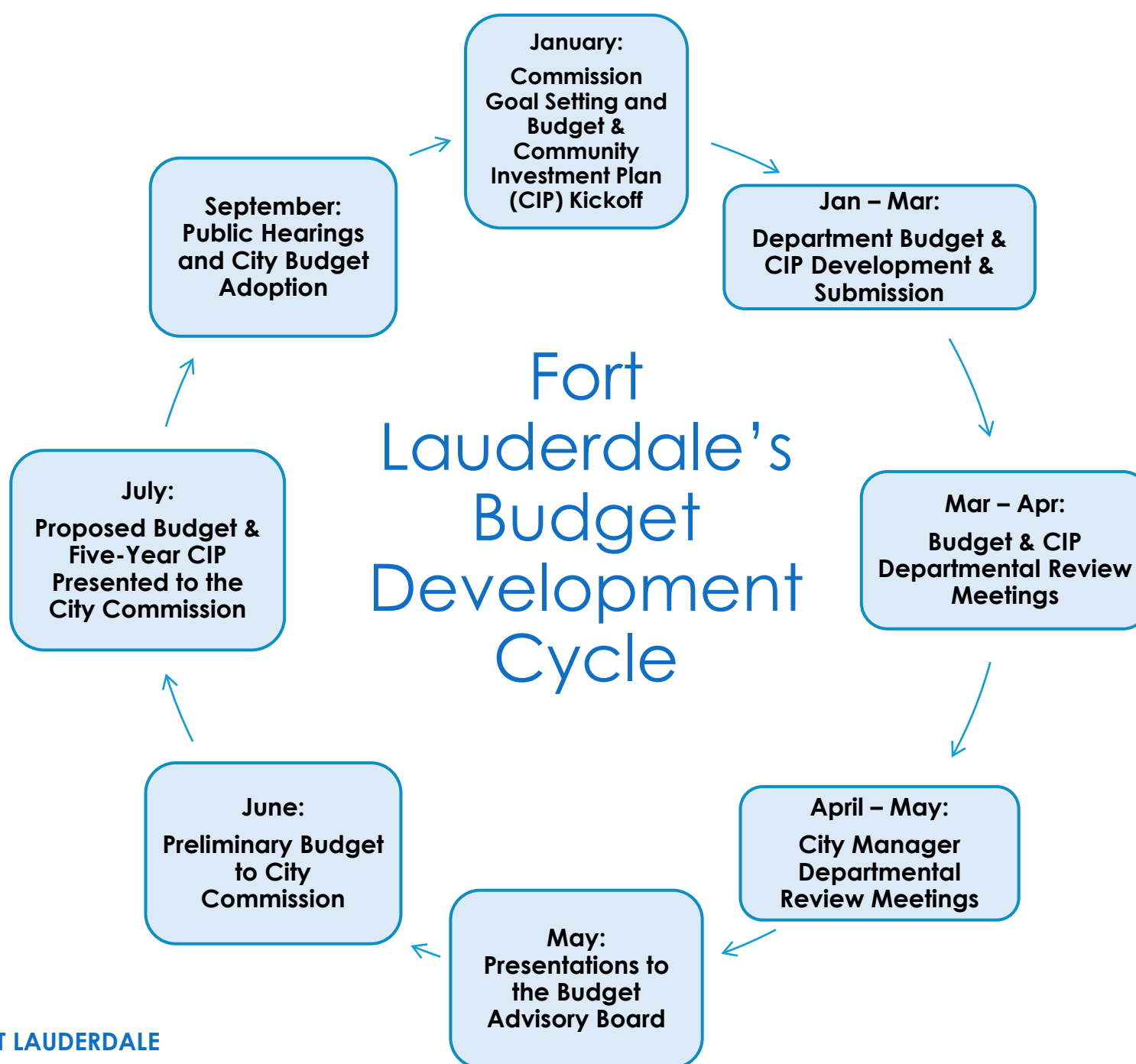


- The **annual budget** is typically the **strongest statement of the City's priorities** for the coming year. As such, it is important that the community is involved in the process
- Meaningful public involvement can **help residents understand the hard choices** that budgeting entails and assist elected officials in better understanding the programs and services the residents value the most
- Transparency about the government's budget and decision making **promotes public trust and confidence** that the City's public dollars are well spent

Strategic Design and Approach



Fort Lauderdale's Budget Development Cycle



Overview of Key Meetings

Prioritization and Goal Setting with the City Commission	January 21 st
Revenue Estimating Conference Committee	March 26 th , April 2 nd
Joint City Commission Meeting / Budget Advisory Board #1	April 15 th
Departmental Presentations to the Budget Advisory Board	May 7 th , 14 th , 21 st
Joint City Commission Meeting / Budget Advisory Board #2	June 17 th
Preliminary Budget to City Commission	June 17 th
Proposed Budget & Five-Year CIP to City Commission and Preliminary Rates Set by the City Commission	July 1st
City Auditor Review of Proposed Budget	August
Joint City Commission Meeting / Budget Advisory Board #3	August 19 th
Public Hearing (1 & 2) and Adoption of City Budget	September 2 nd , 12 th

Budget Advisory Board (BAB)

The purpose of the BAB:

- Provide the City with input regarding the taxpayer's perspective in the development of the annual operating budget
- To review projections and estimates from the City Manager regarding revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year
- To advise the City Commission on service levels and priorities and fiscal solvency.
- To submit recommendations to the City Commission no later than August 15 of each year regarding a budget for the upcoming fiscal year



Budget Advisory Board

Key Annual Meeting:

What Keeps You Up at Night?

Operating Budget Requests

Recommendations to the City Manager

Members:

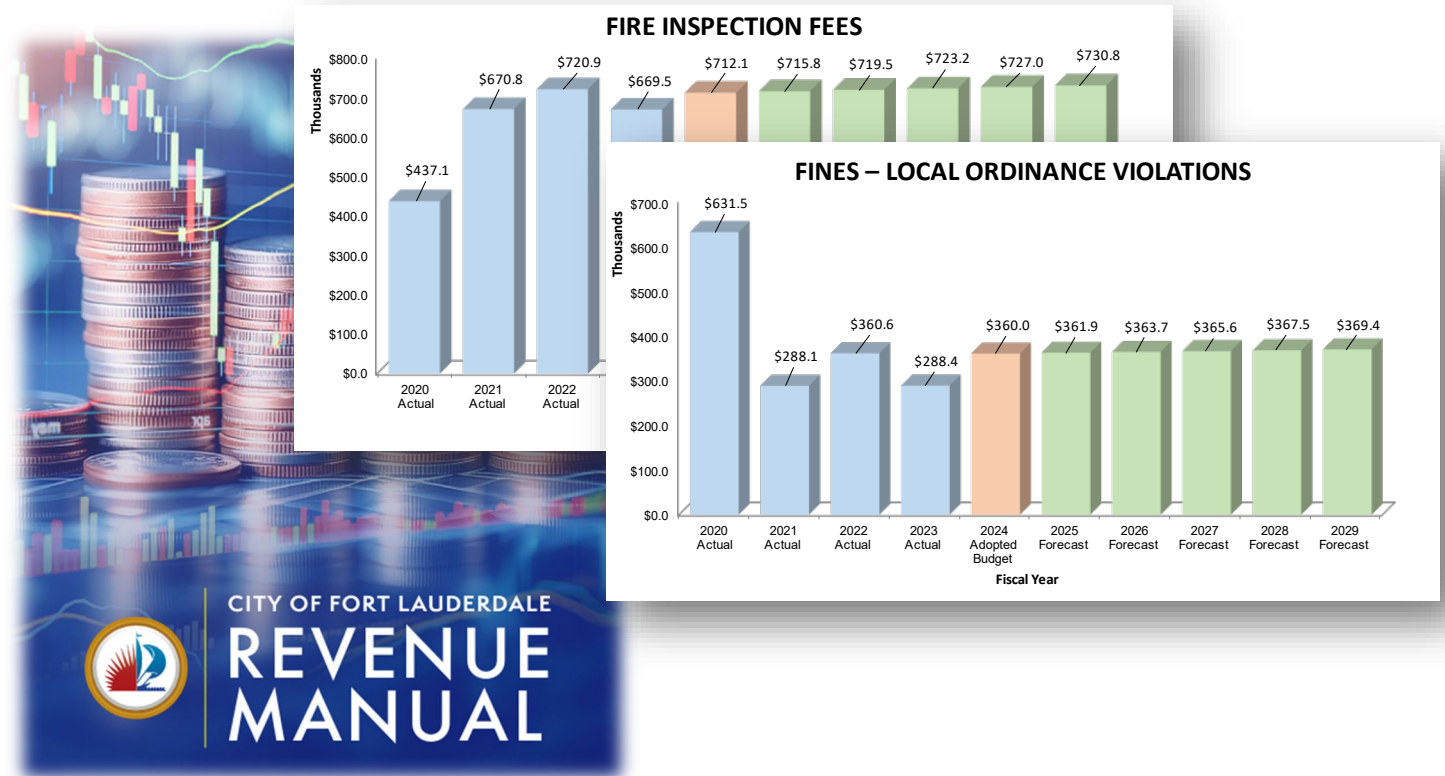
- Ten (10) members appointed by resolution to the City Commission

Recent Accomplishments:

- Helped maintain the City's consistent, low millage rate
- Championed strategically enhancing public safety
- Advocated for changing how credit card processing fees are managed
- Garnered support for voter approved bonds for Public Safety Headquarters and Park Improvement Projects

Revenue Estimating Conference Committee (RECC)

- The City's Revenue Estimating Conference Committee (RECC) convenes every spring to conduct an in depth review and establish consensus regarding General Fund revenue estimates
- RECC consists of **four members**:
 - An appointment from the Budget Advisory Board
 - An appointment from the Audit Advisory Board
 - One staff member from the Office of Management and Budget
 - One staff member from the Finance Department



Resources on City's Website

The City's Office of Management and Budget website provides a variety of resources to promote transparency about the City's budgeting process, including:

- **Preliminary Budgets by Departments** – includes line-item details
- **City Replacement Plans** – All plans are published for review including the City's vehicle replacement plan, public safety equipment plans, and ITS equipment plans
- **Real-Time Financial Data** – Updated daily allowing residents to segment financials by department, fund, and program
- **Adopted Budget Books** – GFOA Distinguished Adopted Budget Books going all the way back to FY 2002



Explore Financial Data



Balancing Act



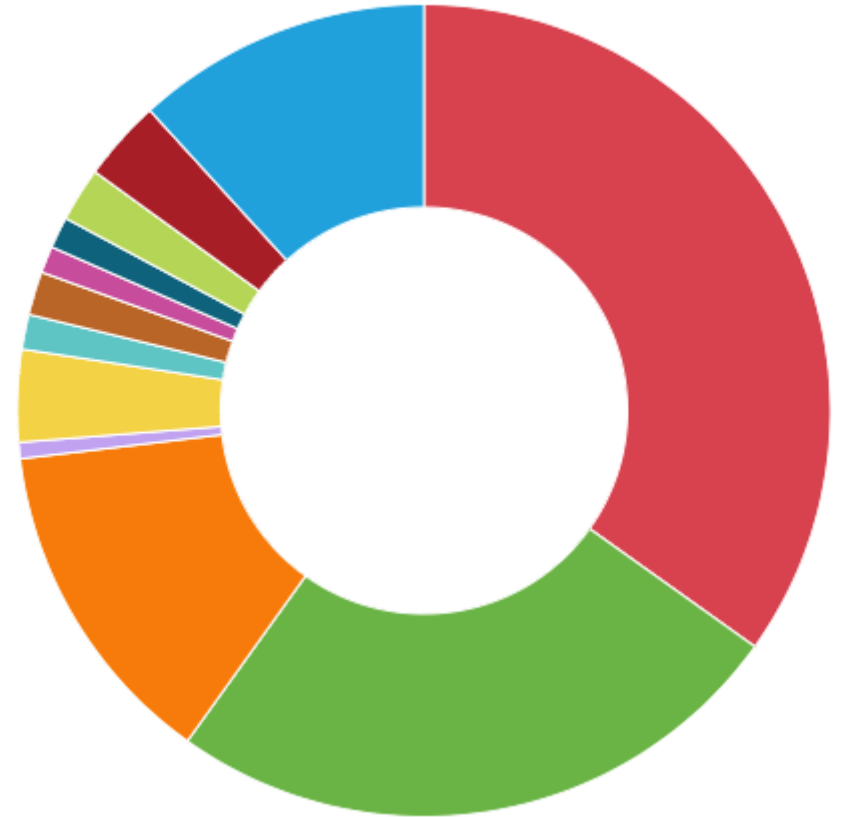
Frequently Asked Questions

Balancing Act

The City provides a live simulation of the City's proposed General Fund budget, offering residents a way to explore and understand the budget. This tool promotes:

- **Transparency:**
 - Gives residents full visibility of the year's proposed decision packages, helping them understand the budgetary context.
 - Connects budget decisions with service levels and policy choices.
- **Accountability:**
 - Shows residents exactly how their property taxes are allocated.
 - Highlights the value and impact of governmental services
- **Participation:**
 - Empowers residents to adjust funding allocations and explore trade-offs.
 - Residents step into the role of City Manager – approving or rejecting enhanced funding requests
 - Allows residents to submit their preferred budget directly to the Office of Management and Budget for review.

Where the Money Goes



Revenue



Budget Development – Citizen Engagement Portal

OMB launched a new Citizen Engagement landing page for the City's Budget Process – with the following resources:

- **Overview of Process:**

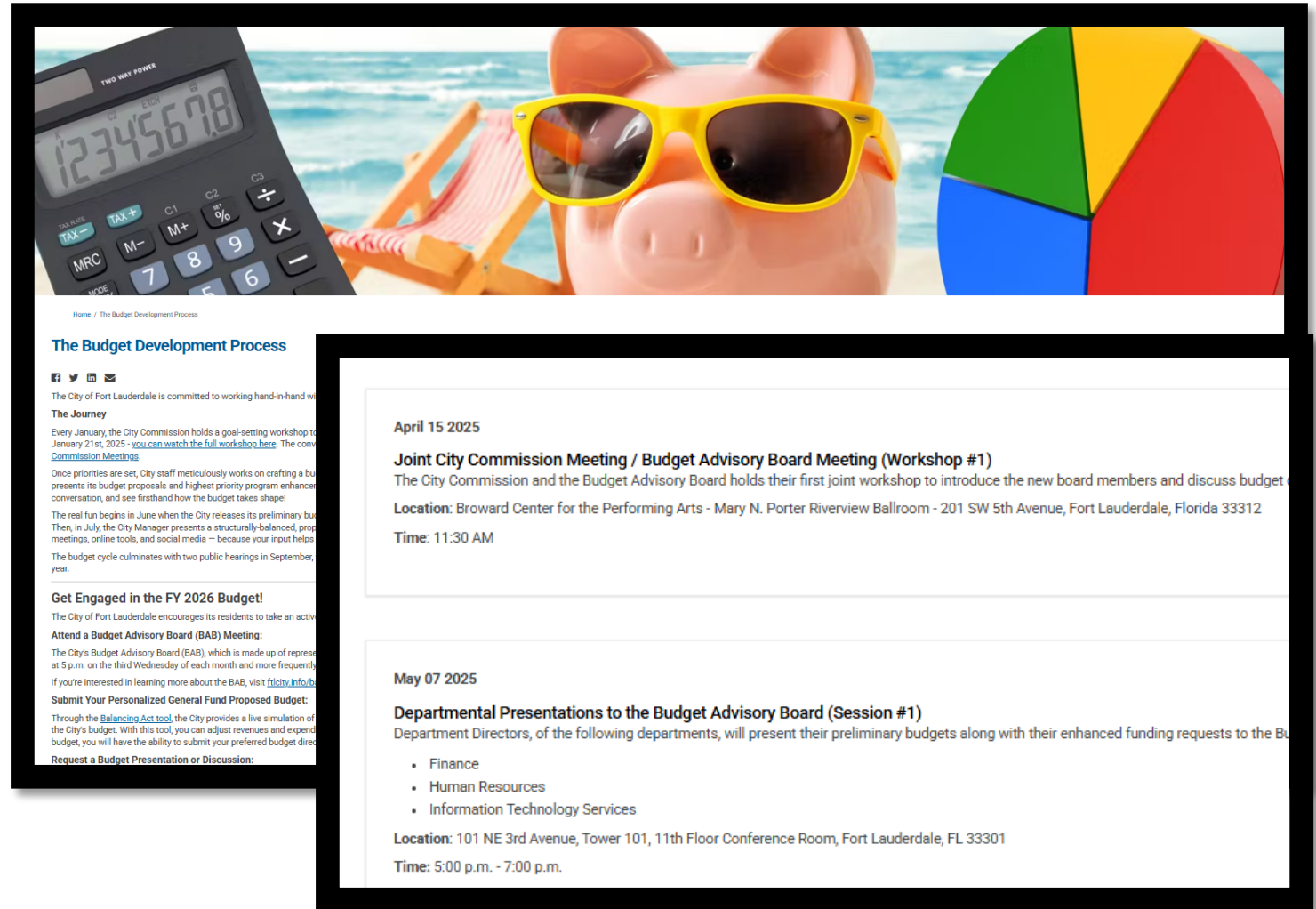
- Detailed step-by-step overview of the budget development with engagement ideas at different stages

- **Key Meeting Dates:**

- All key meeting dates, including times and locations, have been listed

- **Engagement Opportunities:**

- Overview, and links, to various engagement opportunities
- Information on how to connect with Budget Advisory Board (BAB) and OMB Staff
- Polls - What areas should the City prioritize for funding enhancements in the FY 2026 budget?



Engage in the Budget Process

- ✓ Attend the Annual Commission Prioritization Workshop
- ✓ Attend any of the sixteen Budget Advisory Board or Revenue Estimating Conference Committee Meetings
- ✓ Engage with budget data via the tools on OMB's website
- ✓ Communicate with your elected officials about your priorities
- ✓ Attend a September Public Budget Hearing
- ✓ Request a budget presentation through your civic group and homeowner's association





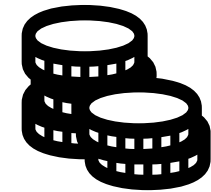
MISSION



VISION



STRATEGY



BUDGET

