

City Budget Process 2015

Why it matters to you and your community

Decisions about the City Budget affect our day to day lives.

Many of us told candidates in the municipal election about issues that matter to us.

- Affordable Housing
- Food Security
- Employment
- Affordable and Safe Transit

Now, it is time to continue these important conversations.

Let your City Councillor know what you think needs to be addressed in the 2015 City Budget.



What's New with this Budget? There may be more flexibility

In the last term of Council, all committees had a set envelope of money to spend and had to work within that envelope. This year, City Council has clarified that the amount in a committee's envelope could change if the City Council votes to do so.

The same is true with a tax increase. City Council has already voted to propose a 2% tax increase but if the input in the consultation process leads members of Council to see that 2% is not enough to meet the needs of the City, City Council could vote to increase it.

Your input could be what makes the difference.

How can you give input?

Before the draft budget is released

Mayor Jim Watson has launched an online pre-budget public consultation, asking residents to provide input via email at budget2015@ottawa.ca and through Twitter by using hash tag #ottbudget. You can submit your comments up until January 15th.

Watch to see what is in the draft budget

The draft 2015 City Budget will be presented on Wednesday, February 4th at the City Council meeting at City Hall. You are welcome to be present in the public gallery to listen to this presentation. Can't get to City Hall? Not a problem, you can watch it live on Rogers 22 or the [city web-site](#). Or read what the paper reports on February 5th.

Present your views at Public Consultations:

Attend one or more of the four regional public consultations, or watch for announcements as to whether your Councillor will sponsor one in your ward. Go with a question you would like to ask, or use it as a chance to form your own opinion.

- Central – Monday, February 9, 7 to 9 p.m. City Hall, Andrew S. Haydon Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa
- West – Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Catholic High School Cafetorium , 180 Katimavik Road, Kanata
- South – Wednesday, February 11, 7 to 9 p.m., Nepean Sportsplex, Hall A, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean
- East – Thursday, February 12, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Shenkman Arts Centre, Richcraft Theatre, 245 Centrum Boulevard, Orléans

Present your views at a Standing Committee:

All Standing Committees of Council, along with the Transit Commission, Police Services Board, Library Board and Board of Public Health, will hold meetings to consider the 2015 draft budget for their respective areas. Any resident or organization can make a 5 minute presentation on budget issues related to the committee's area:

- Environment Committee – Tax-supported – Tuesday, February 17
- Transit Commission – Wednesday, February 18
- Community and Protective Services Committee – Thursday, February 19
- Police Services Board – Monday, February 23
- Planning Committee – Tuesday, February 24
- Finance and Economic Development Committee – Tuesday, March 3
- Transportation Committee – Wednesday, March 4
- Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee – Thursday, March 5

Contact the [Mayor and your City Councillor](#) directly to let them know your views. You can send them an e-mail or call their office.

Making Votes Count Where You Live

City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)
Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres

