

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tanya Stoudemire, Chief Financial Officer
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

THRU: Council Member James Tate, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: March 27, 2026

RE: Participatory Budgeting expansion

Residents have been in touch with my office regarding the City's public engagement on budget priorities, and have shared information about alternative models, that can be more robust and inclusive, reflecting a deeper practice of and commitment to democratic governance. The Brennan Center for Justice and the Participatory Budgeting Project are two advocacy organizations whose research underscores the local benefits of implementing this process.

Can you share how much it would cost for the Budget Department to:

- a. Solicit a program design for participatory budgeting that is reflective of contemporary best practices.
- b. Implement a yearly engagement process following the outline of the designed program.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison