

Mayor Malik's 2024 Operating Budget Engagement and Feedback

On Monday, March 11, our administration introduced the proposed 2024 operating budget to City Council, with budget hearings on [Tuesday](#), [Wednesday](#), and [Thursday](#) (linked [here](#)).

We made it a priority to get feedback from Akron residents in addition to City Council, in the following ways:

- We created a [Zencity Engage page](#) to allow members of the community to offer their comments online.
- We regularly posted on social media channels to help educate residents on the budget process and offer highlights from this year's proposed budget.
- On Wednesday, March 20, I held a [Facebook Live](#) with Finance Director Steve Fricker to present details from the budget and answer questions live
- Later that same day, we held a town-hall at Firestone CLC where they presented the budget in more depth and had residents break into small groups with city representatives to ask questions.

Below, you'll see a breakdown of the feedback the city received from residents throughout this engagement period. The items residents expressed caring most about were education and support for Akron's youth, public safety, housing, access to food, and homelessness, and diversity and opportunity. The areas of concern that were expressed most often were spending for public safety, city debt and status of cash on hand, money unspent from last year's budget, the city's plans for ARPA expenditures after that funding is gone, how the sale of Summa might impact the budget, and the city's efforts around DEI.

We are interested in incorporating some form of participatory budgeting in next year's budget process and so several questions at the townhall centered on residents' thoughts on that. In general, residents were very supportive of the idea.

Finally, on Friday, March 22nd, after consulting with City Council, we introduced an amended budget proposal, moving funding from three proposed roles in the mayor's office to several other priorities across the city. Learn more [here](#).

A big thank you to everyone who has weighed in on the budget process for 2024 – public engagement is critical to our vision of city government, and every thought and comment is deeply appreciated.


Mayor Shammas Malik



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What would you like to see prioritized in this year's budget?
What do you care most about in your neighborhood and in Akron?

#1 Education and Youth Support

#2 Public Safety

#3 Housing, Food Access, & Homelessness

#4 Diversity and Opportunity

What questions do you have about this year's budget?

#1 Public Safety

#2 City Debt & Spending

#3 City Cash-on-Hand Cushion

#4 Money Unspent in 2023

#5 ARPA Money

#6 Summa Sale

#7 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

What do you think of when you hear "participatory budgeting?"

#1 Input from Diverse Voices, Various Ways

#2 Giving Time

#3 Using Technology

#4 Akronites Having a Say

#5 Formal Participation Process

What parts of the budget should Akron's Residents get to weigh in on?

Special Funding, ex: ARPA

Housing & Homelessness

Giving Input into Projects

How is the Money Used?

How do you think the city administration should get feedback from residents about the budget?

#1 Use Technology & Follow Up

#2 Engage in Various Ways

#3 Go to Wards & Neighborhoods

#4 Give Time, Consider Narrative

