



Budgeting for *Justice*

**PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AS A MEANS OF
ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY IN LOS ANGELES**

Welcome!

Purpose:

- Shed light on how participatory budgeting (PB) can be used to advance racial equity in Los Angeles County

Outcomes: Shared understanding of the following:

- how public budgeting drives racial inequities;
- PB through a racial equity lens, including recommendations;
- opportunities to address racial inequities through PB.

Agenda

- ***Racial Inequities in Los Angeles***
 - Indicators
 - Key Drivers
- ***Participatory Budgeting through a Racial Equity Lens:***
 - Definition
 - Main Steps
 - Key Components
 - Three Models
 - Recommendations
- ***Potential Opportunities for PB in Los Angeles***

Racial Inequities in Los Angeles

RaceCounts.org shows that Angelenos of color are less likely to:

- have access to early childhood education
- have health insurance
- own a home
- feel safe in their neighborhoods

Recently we've seen significant racial disparities in:

- COVID-19 death rates
- unemployment rates
- the impact of police violence

Racial Inequities in Los Angeles

Key Drivers (RaceCounts.org):

- Inequitable systems that turn racial biases into disparities
- Exclusionary patterns of economic development
- Imbalance in political power
- Use of need- and color-blind policies that perpetuate disparities

Racial Inequities in Public Budgeting

Question: How do the drivers of racial inequity play out within the context of public budgets—both in terms of process and outcomes?

Share answers in chat room.

Participatory Budgeting

Definition: In general, PB is a process that allows residents to directly participate in budget decisionmaking.

Participatory Budgeting

Main Steps in PB:



Participatory Budgeting through a Racial Equity Lens

Key Design Components:

1. **Transparency** > process open and accessible to the public
2. **Civic Engagement** > robust community outreach and participation
3. **Community Decisionmaking** > over what projects are funded
4. **Equity** > empower marginalized people and shift resources to them

Participatory Budgeting through a Racial Equity Lens

PB Models:

| Key Components | Consultative | Democracy Reform | Social Justice |
|---|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Process readily made open and accessible to the public. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Civic Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robust community outreach and participation. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Community Decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community members decide which projects are funded, not elected officials. | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civic engagement targeted to marginalized community members.• Needs-based allocation of resources to marginalized communities.• Marginalized community members co-design program and determine rules. | | | ✓ |

Participatory Budgeting through a Racial Equity Lens

Consultative PB: primarily aims to enhance public trust. Does not include community decisionmaking power. In terms of the four drivers, generally:

- fails to account for systemic biases that result in racially disparate outcomes
- does not address exclusionary economic patterns
- fails to address racial disparities in political power
- does not meaningfully account for the interests of high-need communities

Participatory Budgeting through a Racial Equity Lens

Democracy Reform PB: prioritizes shifting power to community members in addition to improving public trust, but does not focus on marginalized communities. In terms of the four drivers, generally:

- fails to account for systemic biases that result in racially disparate outcomes
- does not address exclusionary economic patterns
- fails to address racial disparities in political power
- does not meaningfully account for the interests of high-need communities

Participatory Budgeting through a Racial Equity Lens

Social Justice PB: prioritizes increasing equity, in addition to improving trust in government and shifting power to community members. In terms of the four drivers, generally:

- minimizes systemic biases that result in racially disparate outcomes
- reduces exclusionary economic decisionmaking
- reduces political power imbalances
- provides for need- and color-conscious policymaking

Participatory Budgeting through a Racial Equity Lens

Recommendations:

- Adopt the Social Justice model (if politically feasible)
- Use the Social Justice model to transform budgeting systems overall
- Advocate for racial equity to be centered throughout the process
- Advocate for co-design from the outset
- Use PB to facilitate movement building and community empowerment

Opportunities to Organize and Advocate for PB

Utilize PB approaches to incorporating community voice and involvement

- Measure J implementation
- Alternatives to Incarceration
- AB109
- A second federal Coronavirus and economic relief package

Questions?

- Racial Inequities and Key Drivers?
- PB through a Racial Equity Lens?
- Opportunities to Organize and Advocate for PB?

Next Steps

- Workgroup on PB and racial equity in L.A.
- Policy Brief – *Budgeting for Justice: Participatory Budgeting as a Means of Advancing Racial Equity in California* (Oct. 2020)



Thank You!



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