

Ari Brielle  
Angela Faz  
Eva Arreguin  
Jodi Voice Yellowfish  
Kristian Hernandez  
Mayra Fierro  
Nora Soto  
Pat Arreguin  
Sara Mokuria

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# 2020 OUR CITY OUR FUTURE BUDGET REPORT

**BUILDING A SAFER DALLAS FOR ALL**

[WWW.OCOFDALLAS.COM](http://WWW.OCOFDALLAS.COM)



# WHO WE ARE

“Our City, Our Future” is a collective of women and gender non-conforming Dallasites founded in 2019. We are a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) organization dedicated to empowering our fellow community members to come together and fight for what is already possible: our communities finding power through civic engagement. We strive to do this in a way that celebrates and honors our cultures, our art, our imagination, and our vision for a world where justice wins.

We are committed to fighting for courageous and moral demands that put people first, while ensuring our communities understand how and why the archaic framework of white supremacy and racism is not one that serves us.

# WHAT WE DO & HOW WE DO IT

Our City, Our Future exists as a vehicle for helping regular people collectively navigate the often confusing process of local governance. We want to root our communities in power so they can understand it, confront it, and build it together. We do this in several ways:

The Elsie Faye Heggins School of Civic Education, our training program, creates how-to sessions and videos that delve into the questions people are often too afraid to ask and also prepares them for speaking truth to power. Civil rights activist Elsie Faye Heggins served two terms on the Dallas City Council. Back in the day, she would host meetings on Tuesday nights before council meetings, go through the agenda, and explain it to the community. Her “each one, teach one” approach in the style of Ella Baker is one that inspires us to do the same for our fellow residents.

We support other local organizations who are fighting the systems that are hurting our communities. We engage in strategic campaigns against cruel ordinances like the juvenile curfew, the environmental racism of Shingle Mountain, and the inequity driven by the lack of mass, free public transit.

OCOF also aims to do all this with our own style. We’re not about the politics as usual approach, but rather a culture of collaboration, creativity, and camaraderie.

We are serious about the work we do which is why we make sure to have fun, take breaks, and grow with as many people as possible. We know it’s going to take all of us if we are gonna win!

“Elsie Faye Heggins at the podium during the celebration that renames Forest Avenue Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.,” June 1982.



# WHY WE DO THIS

We do this work, not because we think the system is failing us, but because we know the systems are working exactly as they were designed. Capitalism continues to crush us in its grasp and remind us that in a profit-driven system, we are all disposable. Every day, we witness the ways in which our communities are hurt and harmed. Many of us came together against the juvenile curfew, however, it was not until Muhlaysia Booker's murder that we realized we needed to fight back in a more strategic way. That's when Our City, Our Budget was born.

We realized the City budget was the key to ending the disinvestment of our communities and a concrete way to help ensure the safety of all of us. It put us against the Dallas Police Association, who was demanding more and more for an already bloated police budget. We showed up that day to solve the same problem but in different ways: the DPA aimed to solve crime with more cops and policing while we knew the answer relied on refunding our communities so that our basic needs were met and that people could live with dignity.

Ultimately, the priorities of the City Council compromised the ability for our communities to thrive during a global pandemic. The uprising that resulted after the public murder of George Floyd recentered our focus on taking back what belongs to us: a budget that reflects the will of the people. We went from reimagining public safety to calling for the City of Dallas to defund the police.

We changed our name to Our City, Our Future after a discussion around why we were doing this work. It wasn't just about getting people involved in the budget process. It was also about fighting for a future we could believe in: one that would give us care, not cops.



**FUND THIS:**

- YOUTH**  
24HR Rec Centers Fri/Sat  
Park/cultural center programming
- HOMELESS**  
Remove barriers for shelters
- LGBTQIA+**  
Trans specific housing
- FAMILIES**  
Legal Defense to Keep Families Together  
Ticket Forgiveness  
Benefit Coordinators
- ELDERLY**  
Ombudsman for Seniors

A screenshot of a Facebook post. The post is from Matt Rushing, dated February 16, 2013. The text of the post says: "Texas was glad to assist Florida in this man's Capitol punishment trial, oh wait, there wasn't a trial...we just killed his @\$\$.well, YAY for saving tax dollars!". Below the post, there is a comment from WFAA dated February 16, 2013, which says: "We have a crew on the scene near Lake Grapevine where Morales was killed by law enforcement tonight. Taking pictures and gathering info for News 8 Daybreak!". The post has 11 likes and 1 comment. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a comment from a user named "Like a boss" with 2 likes, dated 5 years ago.

**WHAT OTHER WAYS COULD WE SPEND THOSE DOLLARS TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY FEEL SAFE?**

# METHODOLOGY

In 2019, Our City, Our Future (OCOF) held community meetings with Districts 2, 3, and 6 to discuss what public safety meant to Dallas residents and how they would spend the \$36 million that the Dallas Police Department was asking for in order to hire new officers. Community members had other ideas with what to do with the money.

This year, we went even deeper. We created a bilingual ambassador program where residents throughout the city held vision sessions to discuss their dreams for Dallas.

We equipped our ambassadors with a toolkit that outlined current city spending and offered ways to think critically about how the City could better meet their needs and wants.

Then, we created a bilingual survey that was shared online and was not exclusive to our ambassadors. In it, we asked how participants felt about the current budget and how they rank different issues, like public safety, built environments, and policing.

**In total, we received input from 728 people through a combination of our Ambassador Program, which had 212 participants, and an online Budget Survey, which was completed by 516 individuals.**

We return these observations to the community, however, it is not rigid. We believe this to be a living document, that will be updated as we move forward in the budget process and more Dallas residents make their voices heard.



**Through this process, more than 728 Dallas community members came together to ask themselves five pivotal questions:**

- **What makes you and your community/people feel safe?**
- **What do you love about your neighborhood and why?**
- **What's one thing that could improve about your neighborhood?**
- **What do you feel our current budget spending says about us as a city?**
- **What are your top priorities for the Dallas City Budget?**

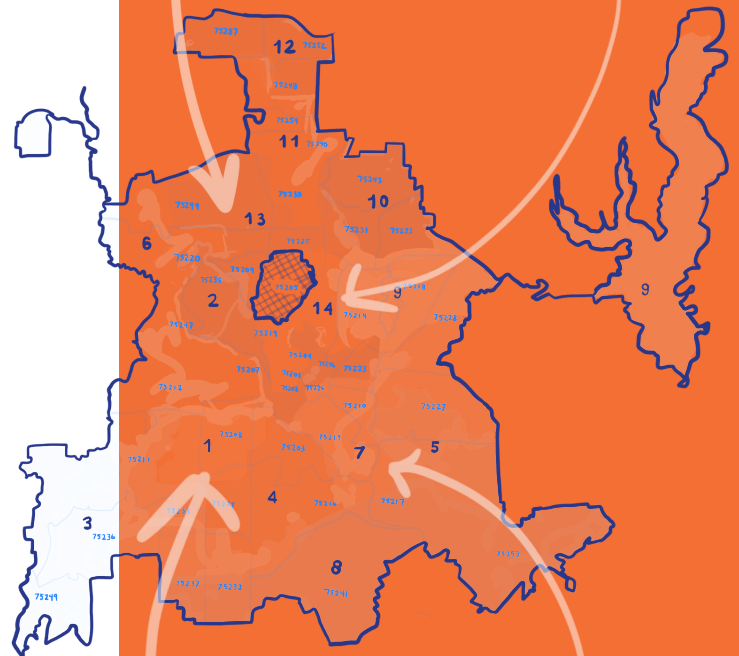
These answers, while varied and nuanced, created a very clear pattern: we feel safe when we know our neighbors, when our basic needs are met, and when we live in an area that is well-resourced.

"I won't ever feel safe until everyone feels safe – my safe world is a fantasy when those around me are not safe."

Ambassador, District 13

"Folks had a lot of questions and ideas for defunding. Even the people who were 'against' the idea of abolishing the police just needed to understand what would happen instead of policing."

Ambassador, District 14

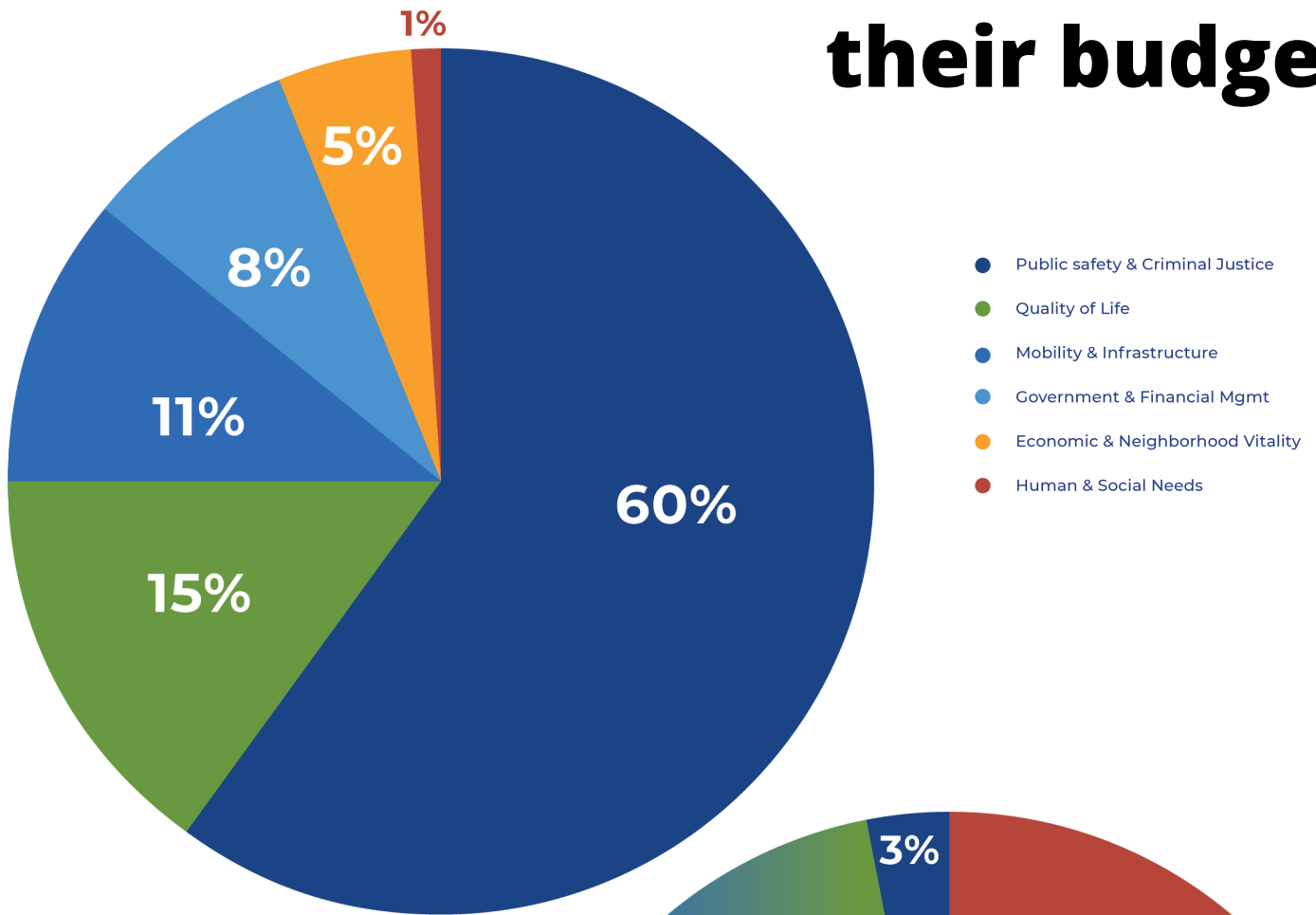


"My neighbors are fierce advocates of defunding the police and reinvesting in community services."

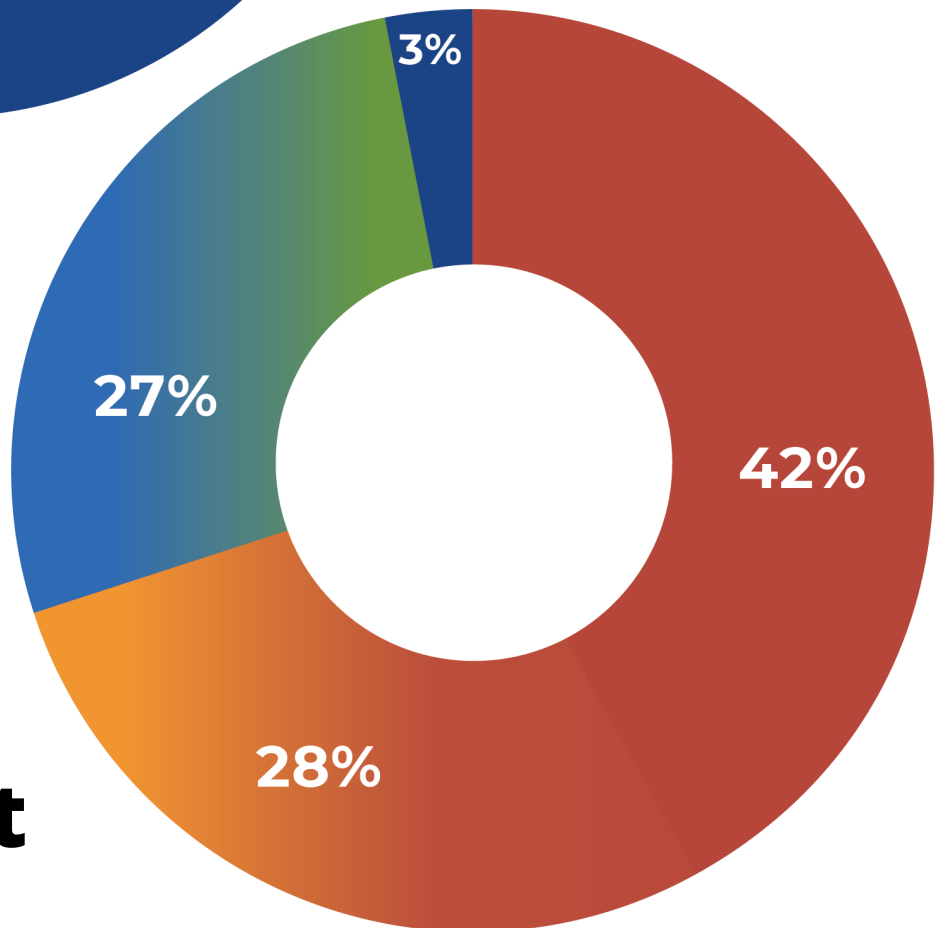
Ambassador, District 7

"We need free public transportation and bike lanes." Ambassador, District 1

# their budget



# our budget



# PUBLIC PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT



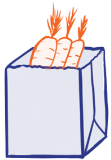
Public Health, Healthcare & Mental Health

Community Care Workers (Domestic & Violence intervention)



Housing security

Child & Youth Development (after school programs, youth rec centers, childcare)



Food security (wage & income support)

Restorative justice



Economic assistance

Public transportation



Parks & Recreation; Libraries

Arts & Culture



Public works (fixing pot holes, maintaining streets)

# AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

## ABOUT

Our Ambassador program helped Dallas residents host their own vision sessions and talk to members of their community about their ideas for a better Dallas. These sessions inspired discussions and activities to help them imagine the kind of city they'd like to live in.

After their sessions, they reported back on what their neighbors, friends, and family were passionate about funding, what kept them safe, and what they needed to thrive. This program allowed us to expand beyond our own networks and let ambassadors be their own agents of change, as we saw reflected in the testimony of many participants who left these sessions with a deeper understanding not just of the systems but of each other.

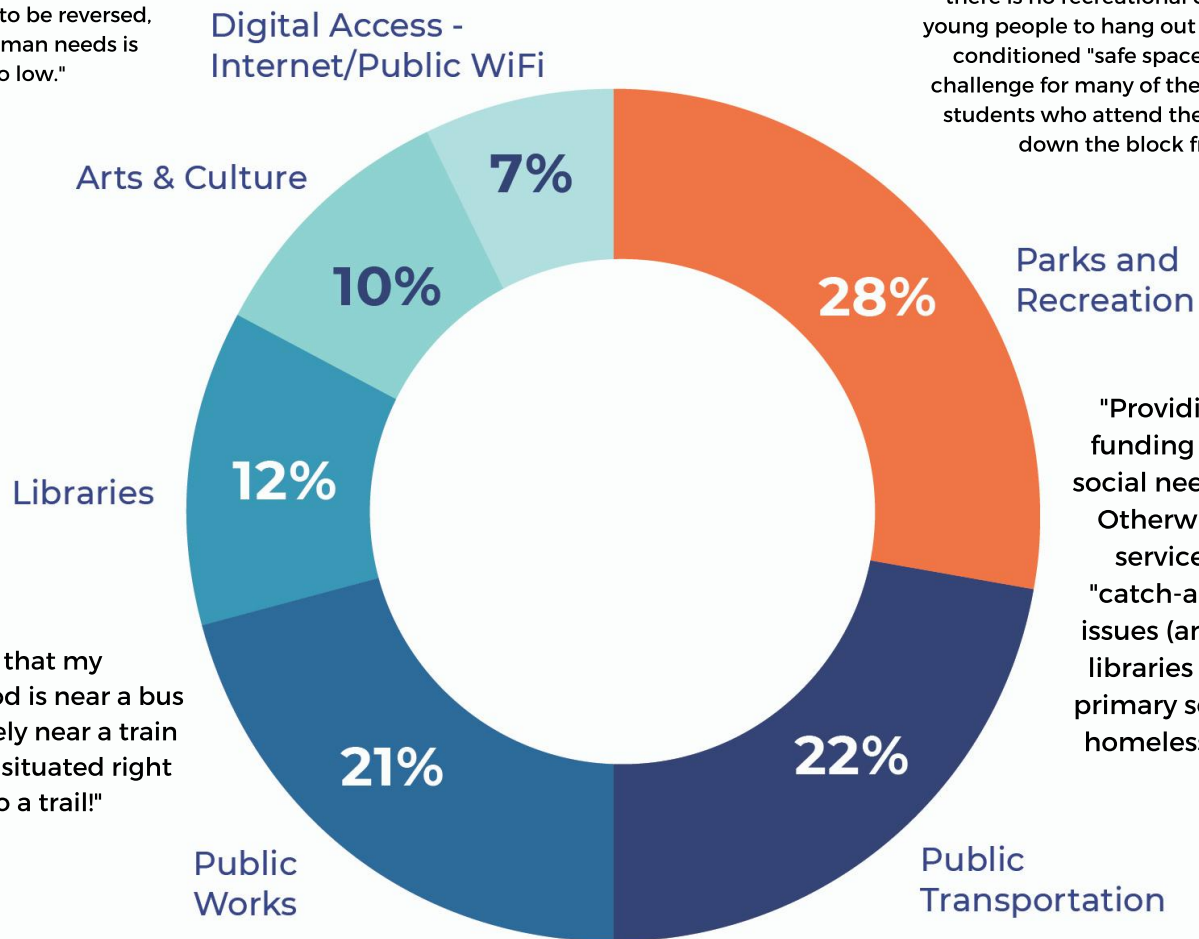




## Built Environment

"People want more community based services - local hubs that serve local needs, a place for people - especially youth and seniors can go. More variety in green spaces. Places for people. People felt that, generally, our priorities need to be reversed, that 1% for human needs is way too low."

"The city could offer more physical hangout spaces and/or drop-in centers for local teens in my neighborhood. Despite our blocks' proximity to a playground and ballfields, there is no recreational center nearby for young people to hang out in. (This lack of air-conditioned "safe space" is a significant challenge for many of the housing-insecure students who attend the high school just down the block from me)."



"I love that my neighborhood is near a bus stop, relatively near a train station and situated right next to a trail!"

"Providing adequate funding to cover each social need is important. Otherwise, other city services end up as "catch-alls" for various issues (an example was libraries serving as the primary service point for homeless individuals)."

This section really speaks to the type of city we want to live, work, and play in.

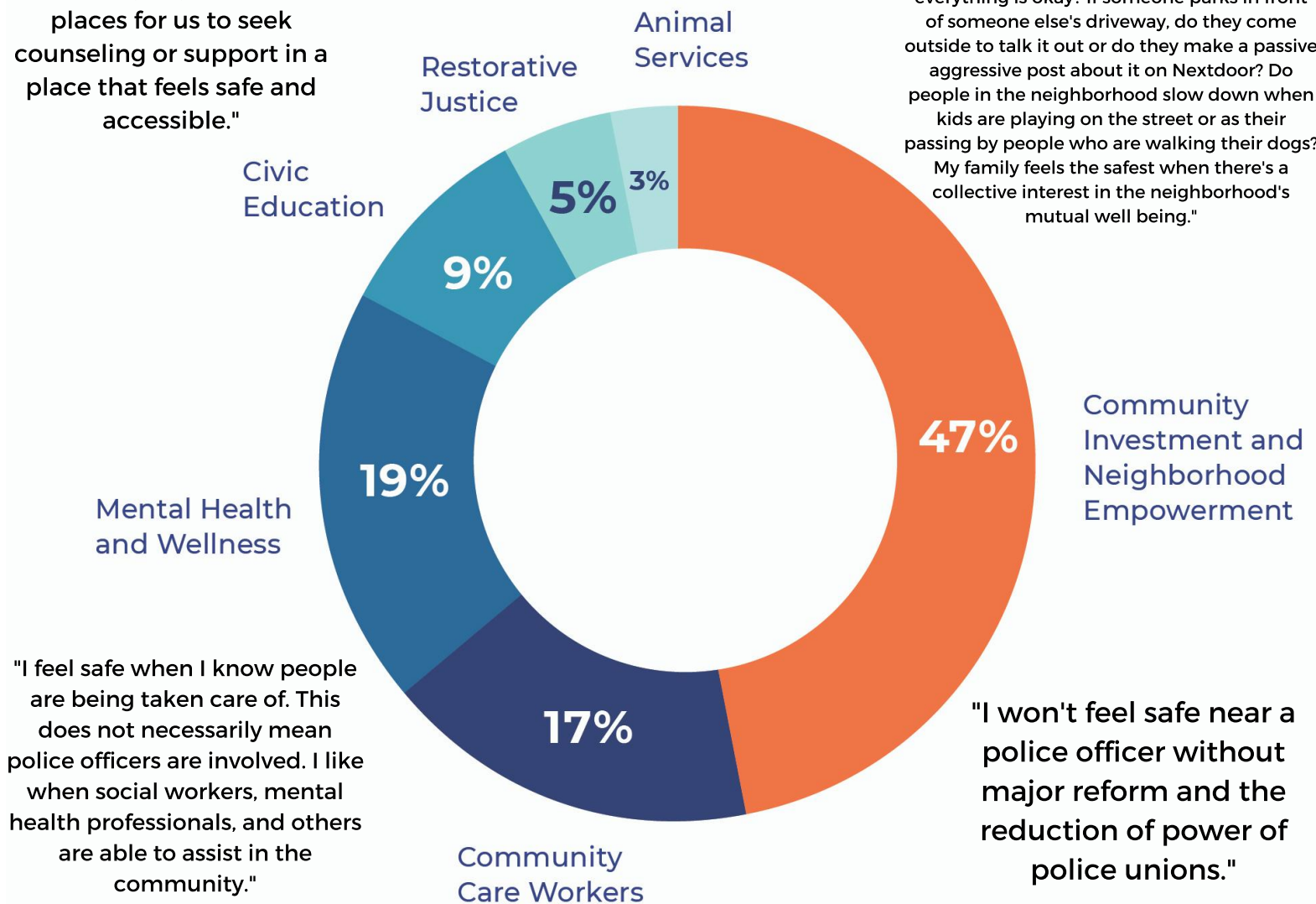
**Parks and Recreation is the biggest chunk**, followed closely by Public Transportation and Public Works. We heard over and over again how much people enjoy being able to enjoy green spaces, interact with their neighbors, and get around the city easily. This is clear with the prioritization of parks, the support for mass, free public transit, and the call for our roads to be updated, as well as bikeable and walkable.

Many participants also brought up the **importance of libraries, museums, and cultural centers as a way of staying connected to others**. And lastly, the inclusion of public WiFi signals how vital this service could be in making our city more equitable and accessible.

## Reimagined Public Safety

"Harm reduction. We have a lot of gun violence, drug abuse, gangs, and no places for us to seek counseling or support in a place that feels safe and accessible."

"If an emergency vehicle appears on the street, do neighbors approach the house to see if everything is okay? If someone parks in front of someone else's driveway, do they come outside to talk it out or do they make a passive aggressive post about it on Nextdoor? Do people in the neighborhood slow down when kids are playing on the street or as their passing by people who are walking their dogs? My family feels the safest when there's a collective interest in the neighborhood's mutual well being."



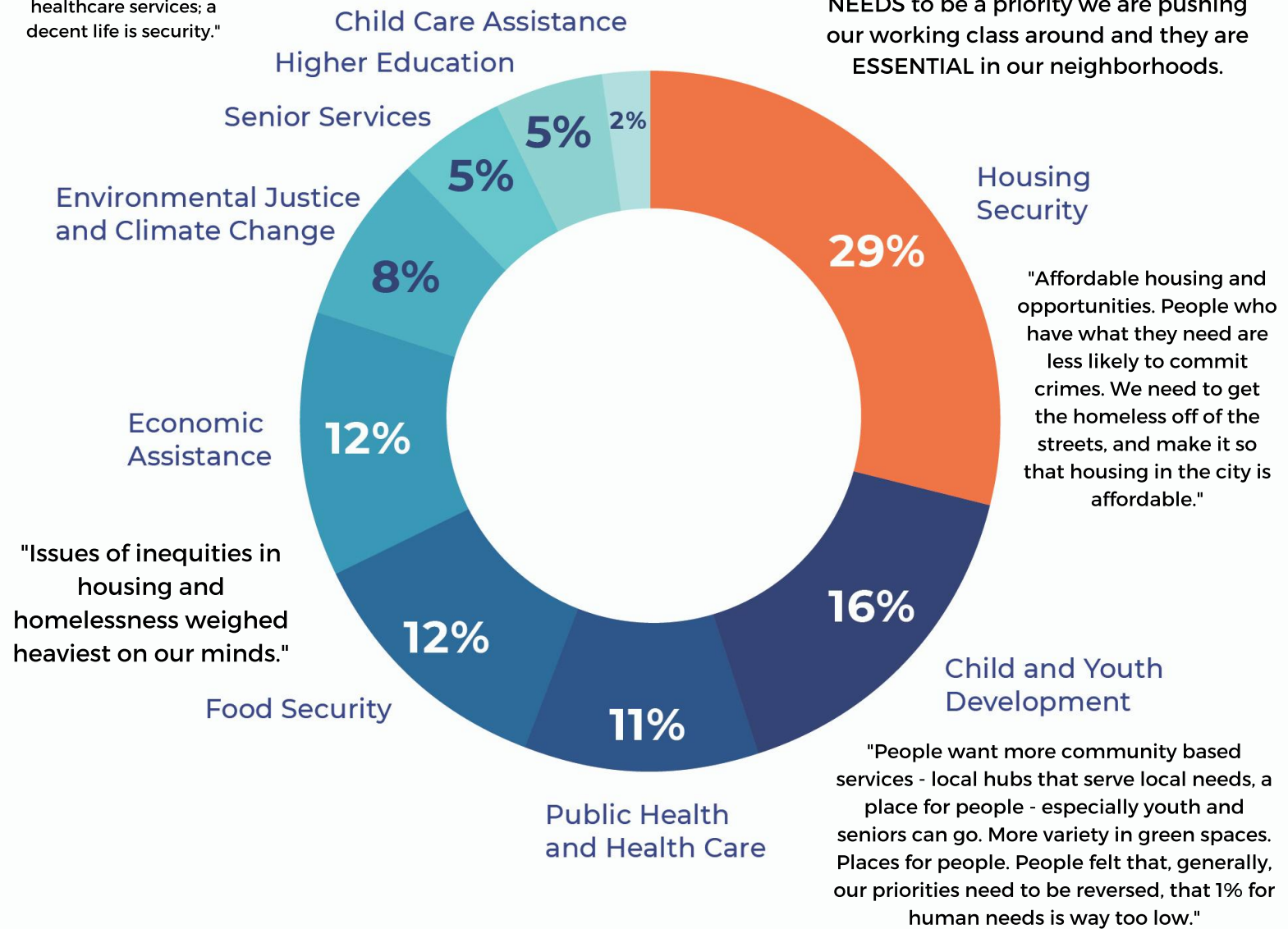
Public safety was a huge theme for the 2019-2020 budget: every City Council member talked about its importance. Unfortunately, **there was not a shared definition or understanding** around what public safety actually meant.

The City chose to fund the police. What these discussions, both in 2019 and 2020 showcase, however, is that **people feel safest when they know their neighbors, when their neighbors needs are met, and when solutions are rooted in care and healing and not criminalization and punishment.**

# Universal Aid and Crisis Management

"Not having to worry about where to sleep, when the next meal will come, or how to access needed healthcare services; a decent life is security."

"Grocery stores, providing help to the homeless community that lives in/near our neighborhood, affordable housing **NEEDS** to be a priority we are pushing our working class around and they are **ESSENTIAL** in our neighborhoods."



Housing was by far the one issue that came up in **every single session**. People see the disparities between the North and South parts of the city. Dallas residents want funding for long-term housing, support for tenants, emergency housing, food assistance, support for small businesses, providing public health care, offering youth programs and supporting youth centers, and fighting the impacts of climate change.

A lack of housing resources is felt particularly during the global pandemic and during an era with a massive percentage of unemployment. **People feel safe when their needs are met.**



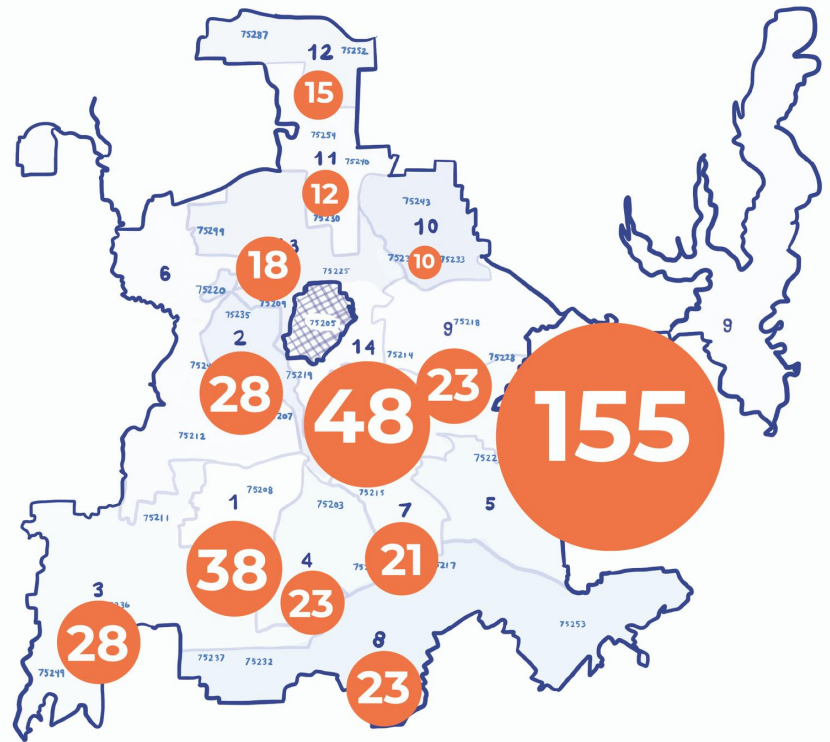
*People don't want their community members to struggle or to be punished for trying to survive.*

*We need to look beyond survival...*

*It is necessary for every person in our community to have the means to find happiness.*



- DALLAS RESIDENT



# SURVEY

## ABOUT

Once our Ambassador program concluded, we felt that we needed to be talking to even more people about what they wanted out of their city budget. So we undertook an urgent public process, in the style of participatory budgeting, to ask for input from Dallas residents on what exactly their priorities are for the city budget and how they would like public resources to be spent. While the vision sessions were important and crucial to people coming together from all walks of life and understanding each other, we needed more voices to be heard.

We crafted an individual survey that asked all the same questions as the sessions did and included categories of funding, loosely based off the City categories, the ambassador sessions, and our friends over at the People's Budget LA, a coalition convened by Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles that includes community organizations, faith leaders, parents, teachers, students, nonprofit leaders, and individuals from across LA. We didn't preface these surveys with much context, outside of the fact that it was budget season and that this was an opportunity to weigh in.

# PROCESS

This next section will detail the answers to the following questions, split up by district. These conversation starters were **invaluable** to deepening our own understanding of what we actually value about our communities and what needs are not being met.

**What makes you and your community/ people feel safe?**

**What's one thing that could improve about your neighborhood?**

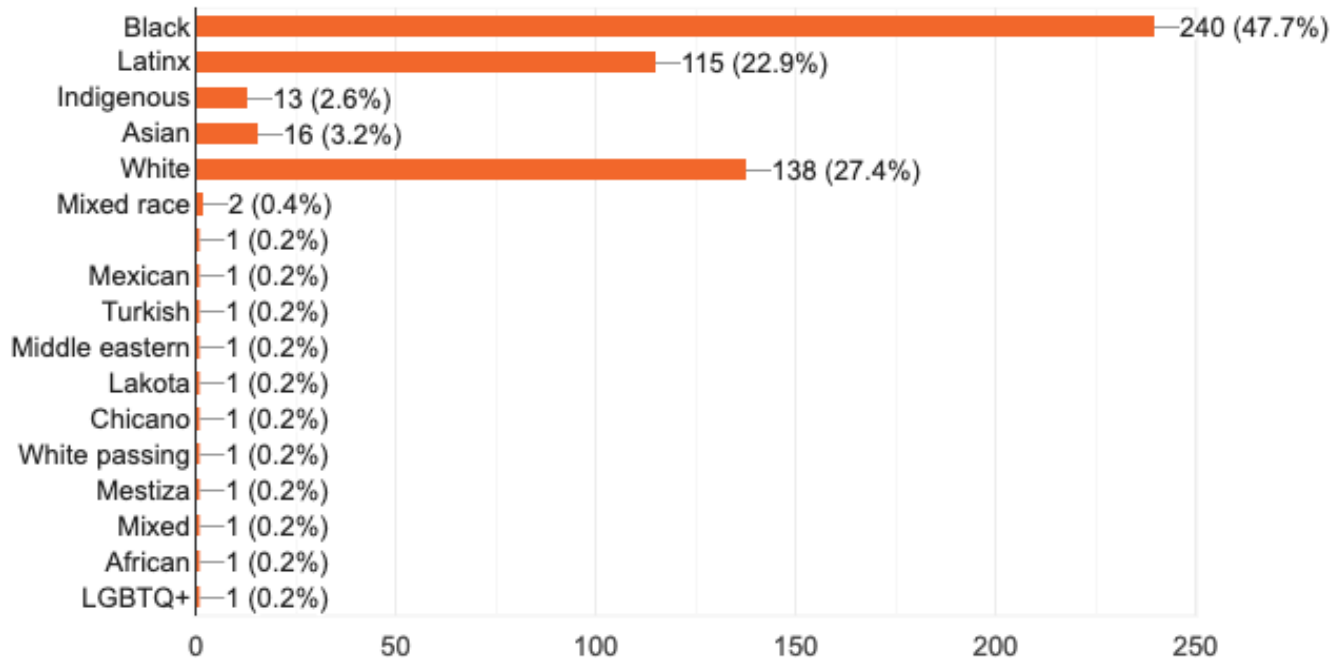
**What do you love about your neighborhood and why?**

One thing we didn't emphasize enough in the Ambassador program was asking about people's gender and racial identity. While it is only one indicator of how a person experiences the city, it is an important one.

The responses skewed white, so we were intentionally about ensuring Black Dallas residents were prioritized in the individual survey portion. We felt this was especially crucial in a moment when Black people do not feel safe and when Black lives matter is not reflected in our city budget.

## How do you identify? (OPTIONAL)

503 responses



## OUR CITY OUR FUTURE



### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Healthier food options
- affordable housing & progressive zoning policy
- renters protections especially for long-standing Oak Cliff/Trinity/West Dallas communities
- city investment in streets and lighting
- better grocery stores
- less new, fancy apartment buildings
- access to better WiFi
- multi-modal transportation/bike lanes

### WHAT WE LOVE

- Diversity
- community
- green spaces
- small businesses
- history
- walkability

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Looking out for each other
- street lights
- resources
- clean streets
- culture
- community center
- neighbors checking on each other instead of police



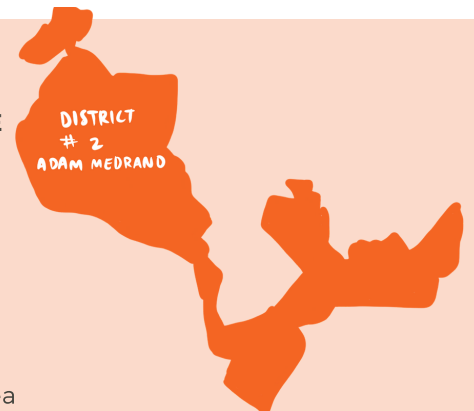
### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Public transit
- rent assistance
- walkability between residence and groceries
- affordable housing
- infrastructure
- resources for unhoused
- helping people with groceries
- make sure Dallas has no-kill animal shelters
- mental health resources
- street lighting
- fixing potholes
- street vendor protections
- community land trusts
- more trees



### WHAT WE LOVE

- The density
- diversity
- trails
- parks
- walkability
- our library
- recreation area



### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Sidewalks
- bike lanes
- no police/surveillance
- knowing our neighbors
- low police encounters
- shelter and mental healthcare for unhoused
- street lights
- crosswalks
- green spaces



## OUR CITY OUR FUTURE

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- We pay the same taxes but get less
- some streets with no sidewalks or lighting making it dangerous to walk
- more parks would be nice
- more focus on homelessness
- street lighting
- more grocery store and quality food options
- more feeding elderly
- reading programs
- knowledge of local elections and agendas being voted on
- have more community together events
- fiber optics
- liveable wages/jobs
- tax rates (we pay to both Denton and Dallas county)
- youth programs
- mental health center
- better jobs for youth
- jobs for people formerly incarcerated the lack of importance place on community from the city of Dallas

### WHAT WE LOVE

- I love that everyone knows each other and takes care of each other
- relatively quiet
- park nearby
- nice wide roads so can go for a run
- bike ride
- it's an active neighborhood
- sense of community
- diverse races
- accessibility to resources
- all of the minority small business
- old homes and tree lined streets

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Knowing that there are resources to help the community regardless of what the concern is
- neighbors knowing each other and looking out for each other
- less police and more community work
- activism
- reduction of gun violence
- community volunteers having a seat at the table
- being able to care for my family every day
- jobs
- social services
- if we had better and fair policing and healthcare equal treatment
- mental healthcare center
- economic opportunities
- camaraderie among neighbors
- police having policies in place to protect minorities
- programming where facilitators are mindful and inclusive of those often ignored
- and rent assistance during the pandemic
- clean public spaces where families can gather comfortably

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

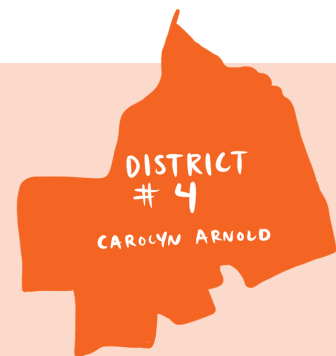
- Fix the streets
- arts and culture
- crosswalks and speed bumps
- defunding the police
- arts and culture
- more jobs
- better libraries
- helping the homeless
- more after school activities and community outreach
- faster Internet service and broader access is crucial as lots of our kids will be doing online learning during the pandemic
- adding a farmers market or events like that at Kiest Park
- having empty storefronts filled with local POC businesses
- access to better school programs
- having better maintain parks that has programming to activate it
- more grocery stores with fresh food
- vegetables, and fruit and less convenience stores
- more healthy restaurants
- clean and regulate trash in the creek

### WHAT WE LOVE

- The care
- rich history
- the families
- people are proud to live here
- they're here for me
- that my neighborhood has a park nearby
- the small businesses and family restaurants
- the nature and beauty
- that there is a sense of community
- the joy people have sitting on their porches
- the simple hellos that reassure me that if ever I need something
- that we can gather with our neighbors and dogs

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- No trash
- Community activism
- access to public transportation
- work security
- financial security
- access to child care
- interactive art areas
- more street lights
- knowing people
- affordable housing



"A strong community, affordable housing, mental healthcare center, spaces for people to gather and share stories and cultural knowledge. Spaces where art is created, public parks that are comfortable, well kept and accessible to all people."





*I learned though we are from all over the city, it is our neighbors who make us feel safe, not police.*

*The want for a reallocation of funds from policing to more community investment and people's needs is what we had in common.*



- DALLAS RESIDENT



## OUR CITY OUR FUTURE

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Defunding the police
- streets and alleys maintenance
- street racing
- street lighting
- infrastructure
- feels safe and accessible
- better school budgets
- more free kids programs
- social service assistance for homeless
- mental health services that actually work
- the maintenance of public spaces
- no places for us to seek counseling or support in a place that
- sidewalks that are complete and don't just stop
- better access to parks and for our natural areas to be maintained and conserved
- less development that wipes out our natural environment

### WHAT WE LOVE

- The community activities and opportunities
- the way we pull together in hard times
- cleanliness, fruterias and how abundant they are
- I love that it is predominantly a community of black and brown families
- quality of life in seeing entire families going for walks around the neighborhood
- having so Black and brown businesses to choose where I spend my money; usually don't see much police on my street so it should stay that way
- trees and green spaces

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Less police, clean and peaceful neighborhoods
- looking out for one another, being able to enjoy the commodities in our neighborhood
- a cultural center
- more opportunities for jobs
- and resources for substance abuse
- strong community programs to keep kids busy
- stimulated and learning
- income security for all
- adequate housing for all
- access to transportation
- community town halls to discuss how to better our neighborhoods

"Better community resources; we deserve a cultural center, more opportunities for jobs, and resources for substance abuse. Better food options."

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- It would feel safer if I knew I wasn't at risk of eviction over the coming months due to covid-related unemployment
- make housing affordable, defunding the police and investing in social workers
- air quality in our neighborhood is terrible, more restaurants, walkable infrastructure
- sidewalks that meet ADA requirements
- after-school programs for children
- more places to gather like small parks
- places for our homeless to get help and food

### WHAT WE LOVE

- There is a little bit of everything and everyone that makes up Dallas here
- I love that kids play on the streets and families have cookouts and play music outside
- It gives our neighborhood character! I love that people have been living here for years.
- People know each other here and support each other. The local businesses are a part of us; the togetherness from neighborhood looking out for each other
- that I can ride my bike around
- proximity to local restaurants and parks



"I love that people have been living here for years. People know each other here and support each other. The local businesses are a part of us."

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Affordable housing
- healthcare
- healthy food
- when our council member
- mayor and city manager truly care and want to be a part of the community and change it for the better
- clean air
- access to affordable transit
- community-led events
- freedom within our community to create
- to celebrate

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Knowing my neighbors
- understanding what resources are available when I'm in need and how to access them
- economic stability
- well-lit areas and nicer roads
- after-school programs would also be a huge help since our community has a lot of children
- green recreation areas
- neighborhood traffic control
- my community makes me feel safe: not the police; community led organizations.
- diversity, awareness and communication with people in the community



## OUR CITY OUR FUTURE

### WHAT WE LOVE

- So many families, friendly neighbors and a lot of small local businesses in the area
- community focused, working class spirit
- diverse community of good hard working people that care about the neighborhood
- the Children's Aquarium at Fair Park: it allows us lower income people to experience the ocean and learn
- our parks and the nature, recreational activities, and potential to connect with our neighbors
- easy access to stores and restaurants

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- The air quality
- more accessible activities
- better roads
- better schools
- less industrial businesses
- few walkable pathways
- which make it impossible to exercise while socially distancing
- I have to drive over 15 minutes to get to a grocery store
- rent prices are skyrocketing
- access to affordable housing

- Access to good healthy food and restaurants not just fast food everywhere
- homeless shelter (preferably free of charge)
- less police and more social workers
- community creative classes (free of charge)
- parks and rec area, and a marketplace
- more cultural and environmental development would be nice as well—public art projects
- support for small local businesses,
- trash clean-up programs

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Knowing that I feel accepted in my community when I walk outside of my house
- keeping an eye on neighbors, affordable housing and opportunities; people who have what they need are less likely to commit crimes
- accountability for our elected officials and public servants
- after school programs for kids
- secure jobs
- community communication
- knowing that everyone in the community's needs are being met without violence
- mental health programs
- recreation centers, not being harassed by crooked police officers

"Our neighborhood would benefit from more community resources for the unhoused and those struggling to make rent. More cultural and environmental development would be nice as well—public art projects, support for small local businesses, trash clean-up programs."

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Gentrification, economic development
- more technology and internet options
- having a walkable area that has lots of art and small businesses to support
- a farmer's market that makes healthy food choices more affordable and accessible to all of my neighbors
- bringing jobs and revenue to the area
- less policing- cops just park at the elementary school right next to our house
- which makes all of us nervous and avoid going outside when they are there
- street repair/rebuild
- better community centers for the youth in the neighborhood
- remove Shingle mountain
- environmental equality

"I love that we have a splash pad walking distance (I hope we get to use it next year, when it is safer). We have also have a rec center and baseball fields nearby. I love the quietness but also how everyone comes outside in the evening to walk, ride bikes etc."

### WHAT WE LOVE

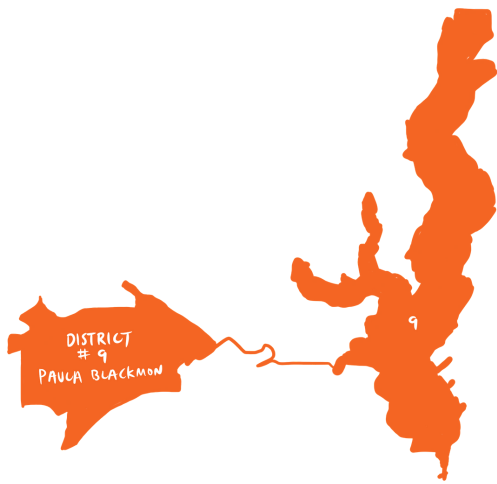
- The history
- easy access to all parts of Dallas, diversity
- the family owned restaurants
- splash pad, rec center and baseball fields, parks/trails libraries and community centers
- proximity to church
- the culture, the love of everything black
- the uprising of social justice groups
- the people of the community
- multi-generational family households

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Less cops, when neighbors work together as a unit
- all members of the community being able to afford housing and make a living wage on top of it
- knowing that all of my neighbors have an equal chance at living up to their full potential and can access the resources/support they need to do so

- Parks, dog parks, trails, soccer fields, drive-able streets, kids and youth after school programs
- adequate health care
- unlimited Covid19 testing
- grocery stores
- when people can go out and about without racial profiling adequate financial support
- diversity





## OUR CITY OUR FUTURE

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Less cops
- less thru traffic
- more services for people experiencing housing insecurity that don't include cops
- invest in covered seating areas at bus stops
- It's disgusting that we force the most vulnerable in our community to stand in the blazing Texas sun with no reprieve while they wait for a bus
- fair pricing and opportunity to slow gentrification
- wider access to affordable, healthier food
- our roads need to be repaved
- more community building initiatives in our neighborhood
- addressing abandoned houses
- wish it was less car-focused and more inclusive for disabled folks

### WHAT WE LOVE

- White Rock Lake Park, deeply engaged and friendly neighbors
- the mix of ages and cultures
- greenery,
- local shops and restaurants
- proximity to diverse food
- I love that we all have driveways out front and chain link fences
- It makes it so easy to talk and get to know your neighbors because you see each other coming and going all the time
- full of beautiful trees
- that my neighbors don't call the cops on petty shit like loud music, fireworks or chickens
- that my neighbors are willing to band together for the better of our area when they need to (recently they got together to fight against a cement plant that was set to be built right beside a residential neighborhood).

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Lighting at night
- working traffic lights,
- 24 hour food access
- reliable public transportation
- ability to peacefully protest without being shot with rubber bullets and tear gas by a militarized
- undertrained police force, knowing each of our neighbors and staying up to date with events/issues in our neighborhood
- easy access to mental health resources
- no cops in schools
- avenues to keep survivors safe while not increasing mass incarceration
- getting to know each other as neighbors, everyone having the resources they need



- Having each other's backs when we're in need
- LGBTQ inclusive public policy
- safe and subsidized housing
- visible and involved city leadership
- crisis intervention teams who can de-escalate situations that usually involve police
- positive relationships with neighbors and mutual aid

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Not much of a community feel to it; there are homeless people on nearly every street corner. They need somewhere safe and comfortable too
- Extreme income disparity, grocery stores, affordable housing NEEDS to be a priority we are pushing our working class around and they are ESSENTIAL in our neighborhoods
- make it more walkable



### WHAT WE LOVE

- The diversity, it's great to meet people from all walks of life and coexist with them
- proximity to nature and amazing parks.

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Being around other people makes me feel safe
- knowing my neighbors
- parks
- grocery stores
- seeing everyone safe and happy/not desperate, talking to each other
- clean neighborhood
- walkable neighborhoods with strong social services to decrease crime and defunding the police

**"We need walkable neighborhoods with strong social services to decrease crime and defunding the police."**



*People want more of a sense of community.*

*But you can't have a sense of community if public services (schools, parks, libraries, rec centers, affordable housing, policing, health care, etc.) are so below standard that the only people who use them are those who can't afford to opt out.*



- DALLAS RESIDENT

## OUR CITY OUR FUTURE



### WHAT WE LOVE

- Walkability, proximity to resources and businesses
- open green space
- near a bus stop
- relatively near a train station and situated right next to a trail and lots of trees
- I loved my Dallas neighborhood for its proximity to small businesses and recreational activities, close to parks, trails, libraries, and rec center
- friendly people.

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- A sense of trust and accountability and less scarcity
- more education
- fair and transparent communities and policing
- when I take the time to know my neighbors
- when folks in my neighborhood are fed housed and paid living wages because that means we are fostering and prioritizing safety as a city
- street lights
- community gardens
- farmers markets
- robust recycling
- community art programs
- interactive and diverse events that increase wellness protections for queer and trans people

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Racial diversity (majority white, wealthy, older)
- more multi family housing
- shaded bus stop for our bus riders
- bicycle lanes for my neighbors who love to bike and housing for my neighbors who are currently unhoused
- bury power lines to avoid storm issues,
- more public recreational areas like basketball courts
- tennis courts, public pools.
- send all but the pothole fixing money to other areas

"I feel safe when I take the time to know my neighbors. I feel safe when folks in my neighborhood are fed, housed and paid living wages because that means we are fostering and prioritizing safety as a city."

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- More covid testing sites
- improved transportation
- more events where we could convene outside
- food trucks at the community center, or maybe an outdoor movie night in the grass by the playground
- more community spaces for people to gather and build bonds, more street lights!
- I wish there were more walkable things, like being able to walk to a coffee shop or something
- I also wish there was more community involvement/programs.

"Many of my neighbors come from various backgrounds and it's fun to learn about their traditions."

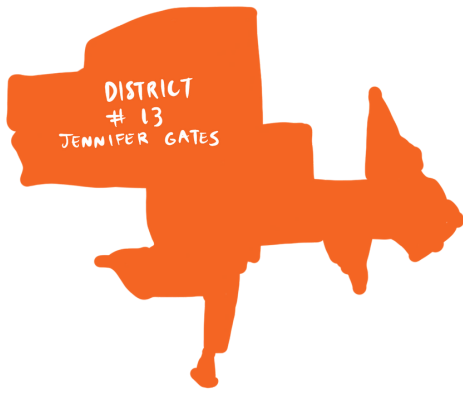
### WHAT WE LOVE

- The sense of community and togetherness, more diversity here than in my previous neighborhood,
- community pool is awesome
- neighbors look out for one another
- everyone is friendly and is open to chatting
- parks within walking distance
- lots of places to visit: restaurants, museums, theaters; love our local businesses, no waste dump sites, peaceful.

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Funding and resources for housing
- poverty, mental health services
- good, positive interactions with my neighbors
- lots of people out walking and greeting each other
- a strong online neighborhood group on Facebook and Next Door where we discuss important matters of safety and citizenship
- clean parks, communicative
- community-oriented neighbors
- following the law, trusting people to treat each other kindly
- access to community resources
- community inclusion of POC.





## OUR CITY OUR FUTURE

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- The parts of the neighborhood where the tornado hit a year ago needs to be addressed.
- The neighborhood seriously needs sidewalks and leveled streets.
- A lot of my neighbors are carless and/or enjoy walking. We should be able to safely and comfortably walk throughout our neighborhood.
- We need more diversity of all kinds.
- Have more activities and social gatherings for neighbors to get together, students to have a place to go after school and on weekends that don't cost anything.
- More street lights so it's not so dark at night.
- I think my community can use more single family homes in the area.
- Better restaurants, jobs.

### WHAT WE LOVE

- Very walkable, we all know each other and make a point to keep in touch
- access to diverse foods and goods, love the diversity
- low presence of officers, friendly neighbors
- the history, the people and Bachman Lake
- love the biking and walking lanes with ample lighting that allow me to walk around at night
- love the park space where my neighbors and I run
- not too populated/no congestion, clean.

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Great public schools from elementary to high school
- Accessible roads, streets. I will feel safe when I know that I can drive around without the fear that an officer will pull me over and racially profile me by asking about my citizenship
- Strong relationships with neighbors. The absence of crime.
- When the community is guarded by people that actually care about the wellbeing of everyone and everything.
- After school programming, equal work opportunities.
- Lights, caring and resourced community members.
- Community parks/shaded areas, walking and biking lanes, no vacant lots, well maintained streets/sidewalks, reliable electricity.
- Police presence.

**“The neighborhood seriously needs sidewalks and leveled streets. A lot of my neighbors are carless and/or enjoy walking. We should be able to safely and comfortably walk throughout our neighborhood.”**

### WHAT WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- More green space for people living in apartments, less gentrification
- more preservation of small businesses
- house less folks deserve to experience what I love about my neighborhood
- preserve the older buildings rather than letting development change everything
- grocery stores
- roads and sidewalks
- physical hangout spaces and/or drop-in centers for local teens in my neighborhood
- no recreational center nearby for young people to hang out in, not enough resources for our trans community.

**“I feel safe when I know who to call for a problem/issue and do not have to worry that the helpers will escalate the situation with violence.”**

### WHAT WE LOVE

- Keep an eye out on each other, sense of community
- diversity and economic opportunity
- love that everyone is generally friendly and progressive
- retail, multi-family homes, and single-family homes, greenery and mature trees
- investment in infrastructure and recreation, folks look out for each other and kids run freely without worry
- love the historic buildings and character
- transit oriented
- mixed development
- relatively bikeable
- a lot of small gestures of community ie. little free library, leaving water out for delivery workers.

### WHAT MAKES US FEEL SAFE

- Everyone having their basic needs met
- diverse inclusion, when social workers mental health professionals, and others are able to assist in the community
- health care, mental health care
- affordable and accessible public transportation
- affordable housing
- access to fresh foods
- absence of militarized police, no cops
- money for social services, bailing out the unemployed
- clean streets
- clean streets
- parks
- libraries
- equity in housing
- labor
- justice
- my neighborhood is close to a fire station
- outside activity
- protections for LGBTQ people
- public health resources and beautiful neighborhoods, well lit walkways.



# UNIVERSAL AID

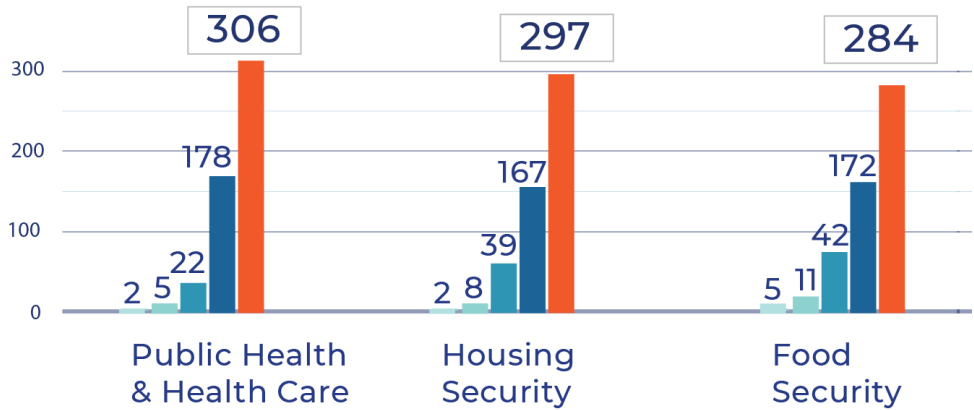
Our data reveals a clear referendum: invest in universal needs and divest from traditional forms of policing. Ensuring everyone in Dallas has access to a safe home, food, water, healthcare, education and transportation.

## UNIVERSAL AID AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

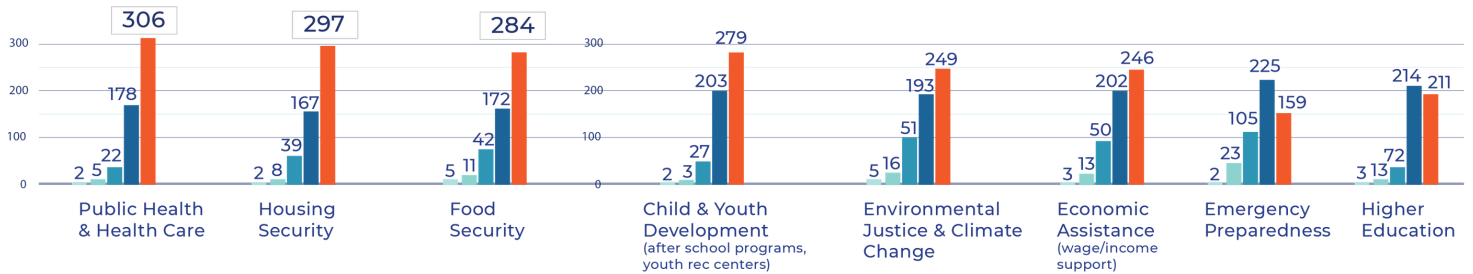
We asked Dallas folks based on a scale of 0-4 to rank their priorities for the Dallas Budget season 2020.



0 Least Prioritized — 4 Most Prioritized



### Universal Aid and Crisis Management



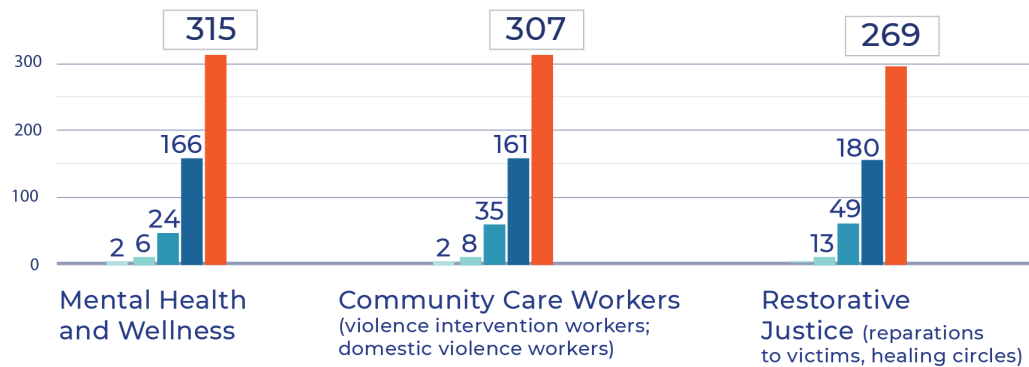


# REIMAGINED PUBLIC SAFETY

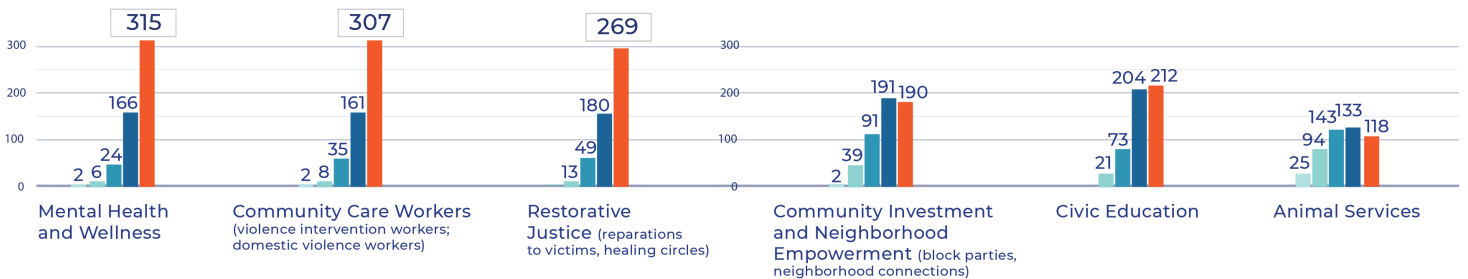
Reimagining public safety in Dallas, Texas is about working with communities. It is about investing in prevention not just reaction. Preventing crisis by funding mental health and community investment and empowerment initiatives. Reimagined public safety means we respond to crisis with a range of providers including social workers, mediators, and counselors to all Dallasites.

## REIMAGINED PUBLIC SAFETY

We asked Dallas folks based on a scale of 0-4 to rank their priorities for the Dallas Budget season 2020.



### Reimagined Public Safety

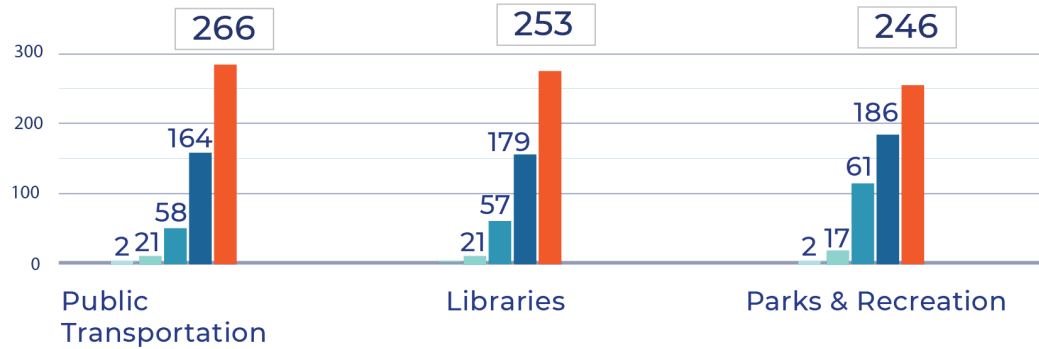


# BUILT ENVIRONMENT

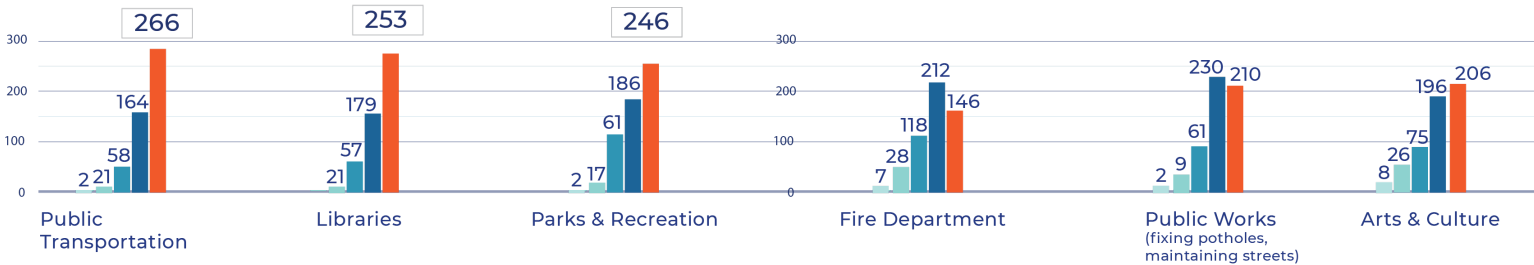
Covid-19 has changed the way we interact and has not changed our need for culture online and recreation. Our data reveals that people have a real need for free accessible public wifi to handle everyday business and to not be left behind the digital divide as most jobs are increasingly remote.

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

We asked Dallas folks based on a scale of 0-4 to rank their priorities for the Dallas Budget season 2020.



### Built Environment

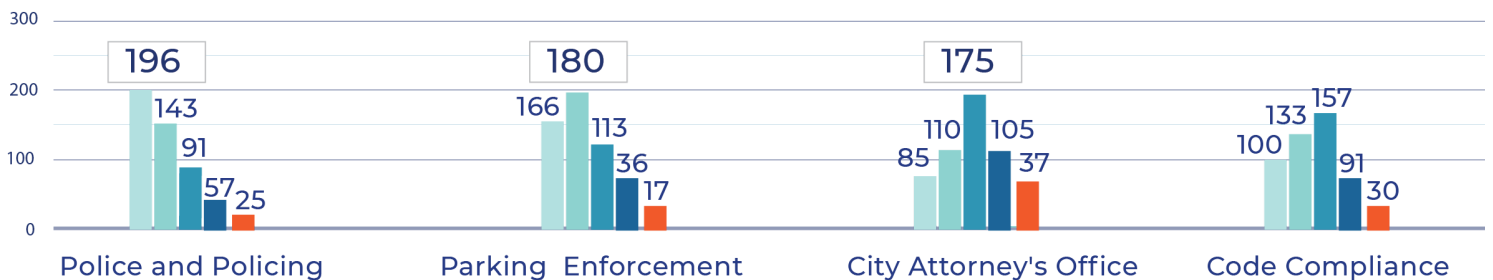
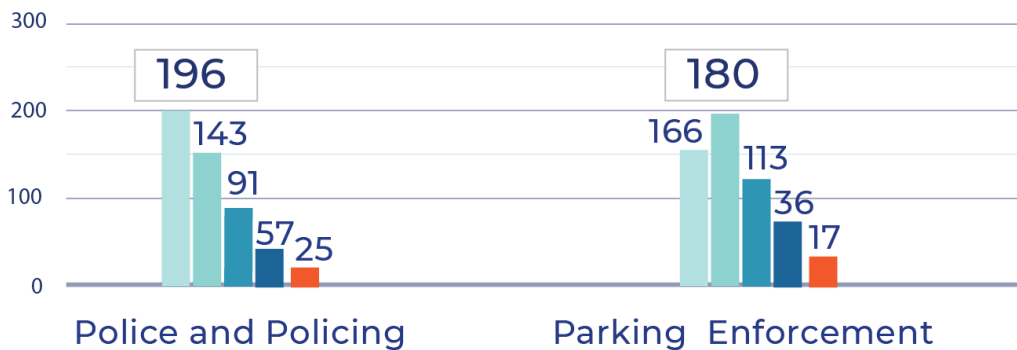


# LAW ENFORCEMENT

While there were people who expressed the desire for faster response from police or more of a police presence in their neighborhoods, the overwhelming number of Dallas residents are ready to try something new and divest from the police. There was a deep understanding that the scope of policing in Dallas is too wide and that criminalization should not be the default solution for the issues that arise in our communities. Less policing, more funding for our communities.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AND POLICING

We asked Dallas folks based on a scale of 0-4 to rank their priorities for the Dallas Budget season 2020.



# It's time to adopt a People's Budget

This report highlights residents' desire for transformative change. There is a chasm between the priorities proposed in the city's FY21 budget and the one envisioned by residents from across the city of Dallas. In the proposed budget while some of the numbers have changed slightly, the structure of the Dallas police department has remained basically the same with cuts to critical programs and resources our communities need. The budget is a critical component in determining the future of our city; this is about our collective survival, sustaining, and safety.

Now more than ever courage is required from the Mayor and council to eliminate systems that reinforce inequalities and align the city's budget with the people's will. It is resoundingly clear the people want a complete shift of power from police and punishment to people and care. No more surveillance, intimidation, brutalization, and murder in the name of "public safety." Now is the time to invest in a safe, liberated future for our city. Defunding means divesting funds from the police department and reallocating the funds into non-police forms of public safety and community support.

We know that the Dallas Police Department has never carried out their duty to keep everyone safe despite receiving the lion share of resources every year. We want all residents to thrive. People of every gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, ethnic background, class, origin, country of birth, region, religion, age, shape, and size--everyone in, nobody out.

This is only the beginning of this process, we will continue engaging residents and listening to their priorities and adding voices to this living document. We add our voice to the loud call to pass a budget that serves the interest of all of Dallas, not a select few.

- Our City, Our Future

**NOW**  
is THE Time  
**TO INVEST**  
in a **SAFE,**  
**LIBERATED**  
**FUTURE**  
**FOR OUR**  
**CITY**



# appendix

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM EXERCISES

Divide the Pie Exercise: Ambassadors went through the following activity. Ambassadors asked participants to take a few minutes to list key ingredients for their ideal city.

**FY 2020-21 Divide the Pie Exercise**



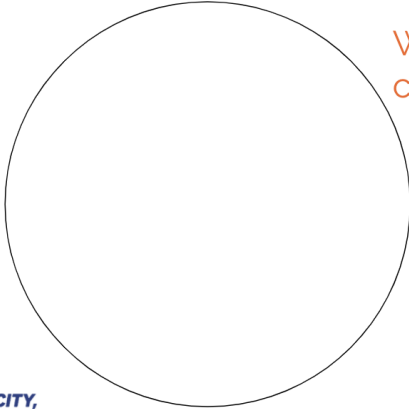
OUR CITY,  
OUR FUTURE

Activity #2

What does your ideal city look like?

Hint:  
WE DESERVE A BRIGHT FUTURE ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨

**FY 2020-21 Divide the Pie Exercise**



OUR CITY,  
OUR FUTURE

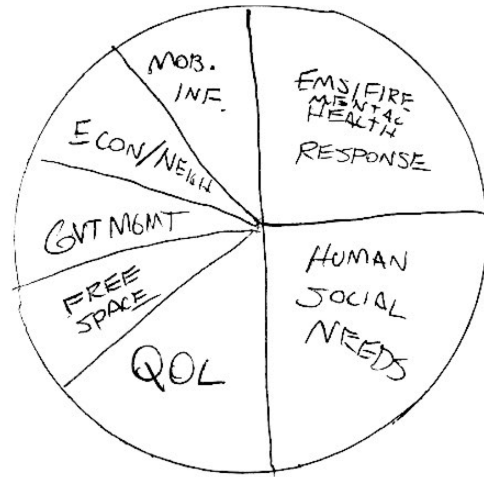
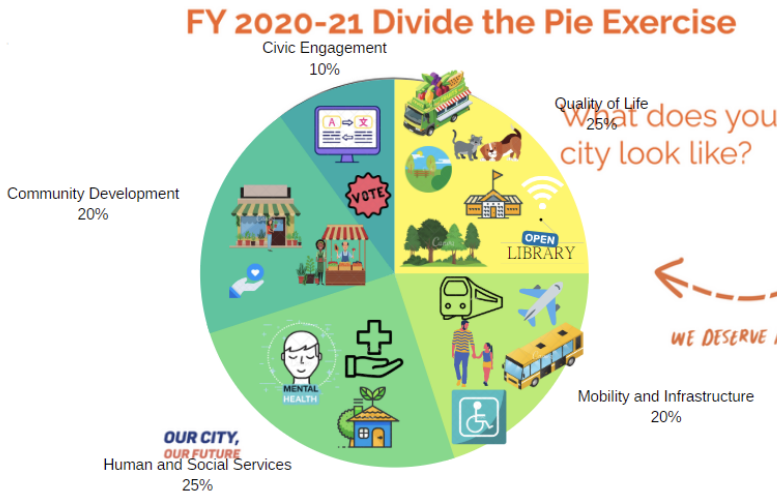
Activity #2

What does your ideal city look like?

WE DESERVE A BRIGHT FUTURE ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨

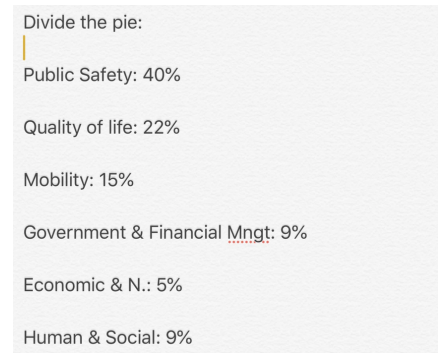
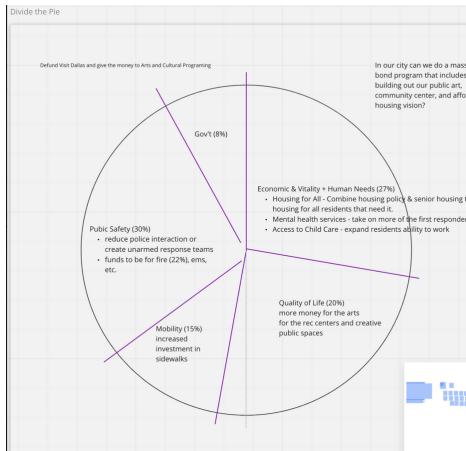
# DIVIDE THE PIE EXERCISE

We asked ambassadors to show us what the ideal recipe for the city looks like.



District 2 Ambassador R.T.

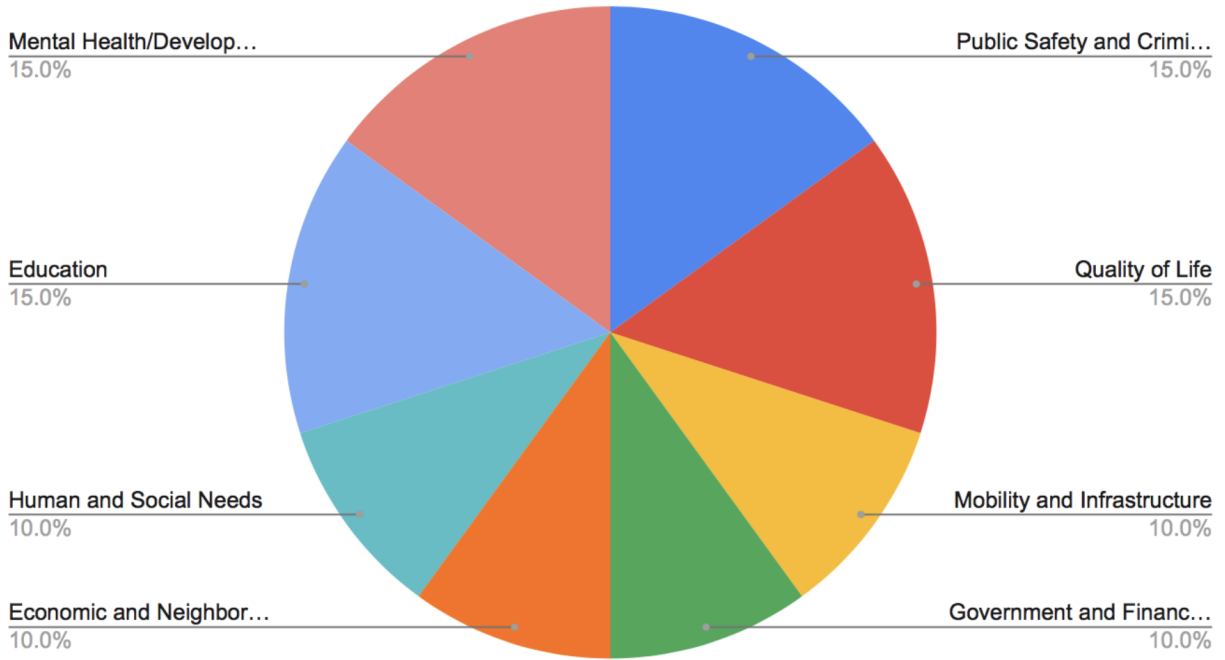
District 1, Ambassador B.P.



District 1, Ambassador L.M.

District unknown, A.T.

Allocation of City Funds Proposal



**District 3, Ambassador K.M.**

DIVIDE the pie:

Public Safety: capped at 30%

Quality of Life: 16%

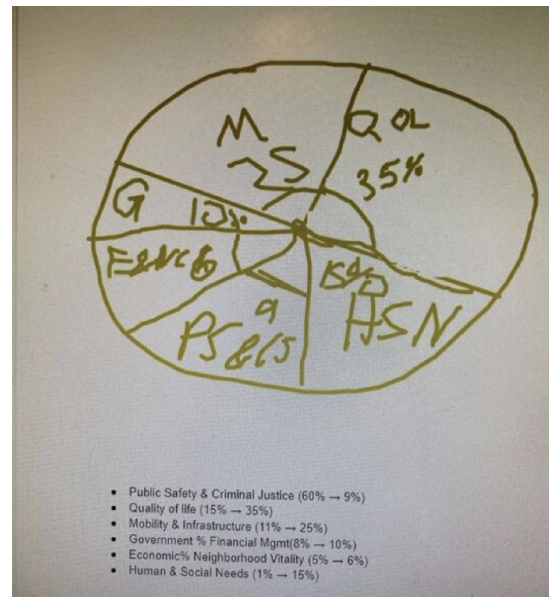
Mobility & Infrastructure: 11%

Government & Financial Management: 8%

Economic & Neighborhood vitality: 15%

Human & Social Need: 20%

**District 7, Ambassador V.M.**



**District 1, Ambassador A.M.**

## INDIVIDUAL SURVEY

### Survey

In this moment of crisis, Our City, Our Future is calling on Dallas' elected officials and leadership to put people first.

We've linked a shortened version of our budget presentation available here to watch (optional) before you complete the survey: [bit.ly/ocofmini](https://bit.ly/ocofmini)

We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on how we can improve Dallas! Tell us what you think!  
Survey will be closed August 10th!

EN ESPANOL: [bit.ly/ocofsurveyspa](https://bit.ly/ocofsurveyspa)

## QUESTIONS

1. Name
2. City Council District
3. Zipcode
4. Email Address
5. How do you identify? (OPTIONAL)
6. What makes you and your community/people feel safe?
7. What do you love about your neighborhood and why?
8. What's one thing that could improve about your neighborhood?
9. What do you feel our current budget spending says about us as a city?
10. Based on a scale of 0-4, Please rank your priorities. Maximum possible investment, 3: Moderate possible investment, 2: Minimum possible investment, 1: No investment at all, 0: Take money away from this item
11. Universal Aid and Crisis Management
12. Reimagined Public Safety
13. Built Environment
14. Law Enforcement & Policing
15. What are your top priorities for the Dallas City Budget (feel free to be as specific as possible)?
16. Are you interested in getting updated about upcoming budget sessions and how-tos?
17. How did you hear about this survey?
18. Anything else you think we should know?

**INDIVIDUAL SURVEY** **OUR CITY, OUR FUTURE**  
[bit.ly/ocofsurvey20](https://bit.ly/ocofsurvey20) DALLAS PEOPLE'S BUDGET 2020

---

**Individual Survey** 🌐

EN ESPAÑOL: [bit.ly/ocofsurveyspa](https://bit.ly/ocofsurveyspa)

---

**Name \***

Short answer text

---

City Council District

---

How do you identify? (OPTIONAL)

Black

Latinx

Indigenous

Asian

White

Other...

---

What makes you and your community/people feel safe?

Long answer text

---

What do you love about your neighborhood and why?

Long answer text

---

What's one thing that could improve about your neighborhood?

Long answer text

---

What do you feel our current budget spending says about us as a city?

Long answer text

---

Based on a scale of 0-4, Please rank your priorities.

4: Maximum possible investment, 3: Moderate possible investment, 2: Minimum possible investment, 1: No investment at all, 0: Take money away from this item

---

**Universal Aid and Crisis Management**

	0	1	2	3	4
Child & Youth D...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic Assl...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Pre...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Health & ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Higher Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

---

**Reimagined Public Safety**

	0	1	2	3	4
Community Car...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Inv...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health a...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restorative Jus...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civic Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Animal Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

---

**Built Environment**

	0	1	2	3	4
Fire Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks & Recrea...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Transpor...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Works (I...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arts & Culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

---

**Law Enforcement & Policing**

	0	1	2	3	4
City Attorney's ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking Enforce...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Code Complian...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police and Poli...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

---

What are your top priorities for the Dallas City Budget (feel free to be as specific as possible)?

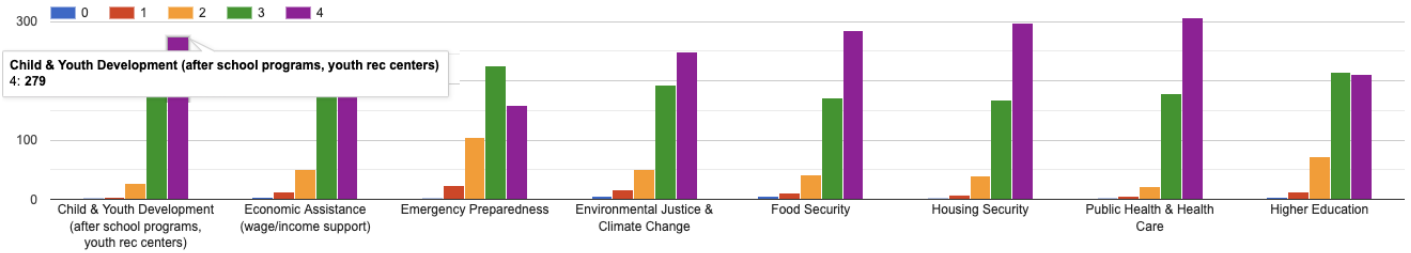
Long answer text



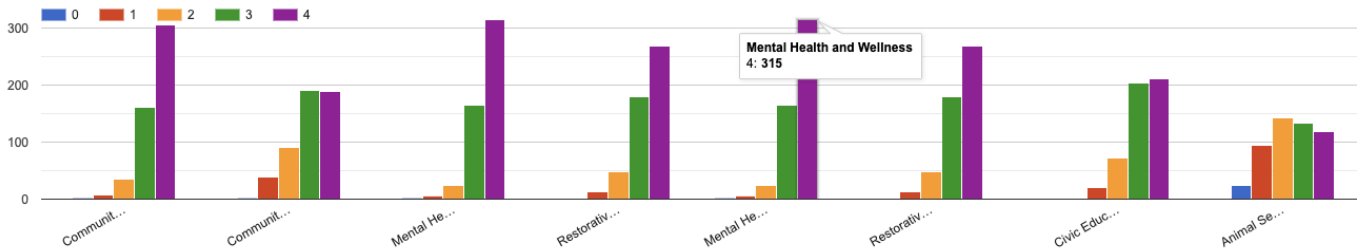
# GOOGLE FORM SURVEY RESULTS

We asked Dallas folks based on a scale of 0-4 to rank priorities for the Dallas Budget season 2020.

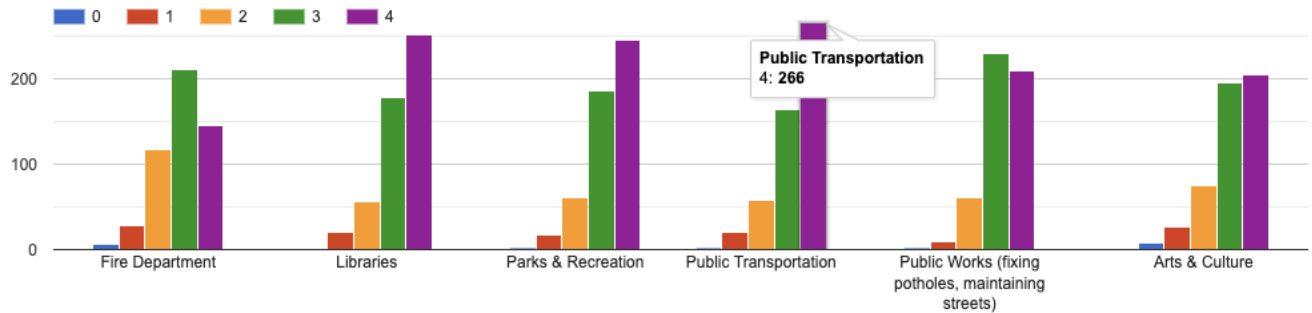
## Universal Aid and Crisis Management



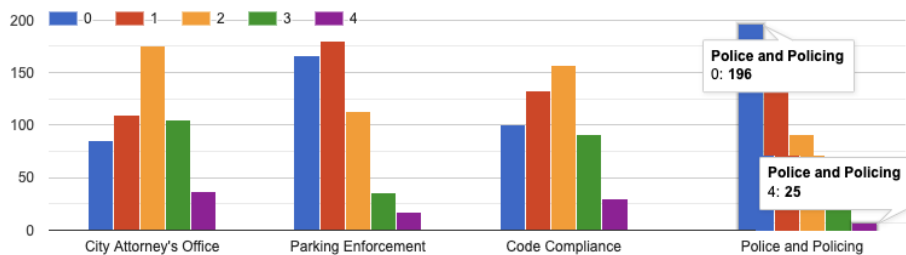
## Reimagined Public Safety



## Built Environment



## Law Enforcement & Policing

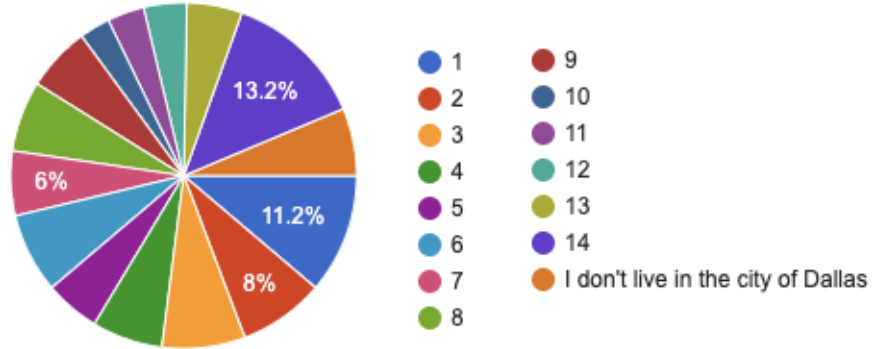


# GOOGLE FORM SURVEY RESULTS

Demographics of respondents for the survey.

## City Council District

348 responses



Demographics by zipcode.

75227	75115	75243	75212	78751	75150
75226	75114	75241	75210	78232	75149
75225	75104	75240	75209	76201	75146
75224	75098	75238	75208	76140	75137
75223	75094	75237	75207	76063	75134
75220	75082	75236	75206	76036	75115
75219	75074	75235	75205	76017	75114
75218	75070	75233	75204	76014	75104
75217	75067	75232	75203	76010	75098
75216	75063	75231	75201	76002	75094
75215	75062	75230	75181	76001	75082
75214	75061	75229	75154	75840	75074
75212	75052	75228	75150	75754	75070
75211	75050	75227	75149	75704	75067
75210	75044	75226	75146	75287	75063
75209	75043	75225	75137	75261	75062
75208	75039	75224	75134	75254	75061
75207	75038	75223	75115	75253	75052
75206	75036	75220	75114	75252	75050
75205	75035	75219	75104	75249	75044
75204	75019	75218	75098	75248	75043
75203	75013	75216	75094	75244	75039
75201	75007	75215	75082	75243	75038
75181	75001	75214	75074	75241	75036
75154	71208	75044	75070	75240	75035
75043	75035	75231	75067	75238	75019
75039	75019	75230	75063	75237	75013
75038	75013	75229	75062	75236	75007
75036	75007	75228	75061	75235	75001
71208	75001	75050	75052	75233	71208
					75232

**SUPPORTING LINKS**

[peoplesbudgetla.com](http://peoplesbudgetla.com)

[nashvillepeoplesbudget.org](http://nashvillepeoplesbudget.org)