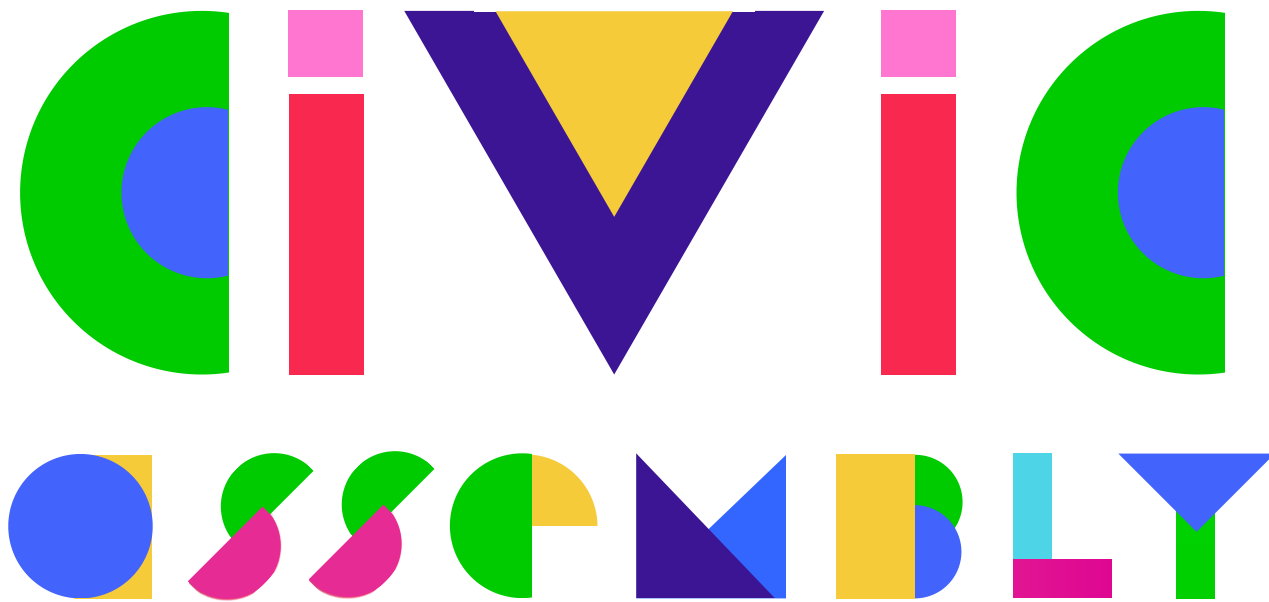


*Culver* CITY



ON INCREASING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
IN THE BUDGET PROCESS

Interim Update - June 2026





700 pages

30+ strangers

3 days...



What did we get ourselves into?!

**Culver CITY CIVIC ASSEMBLY**  
ON INCREASING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGET PROCESS

You're invited to join the applicant pool for the City of Culver City's Civic Assembly on Increasing Public Participation in the Budget Process - joining 29 other Culver City residents!

**The Civic Assembly will be held in person over three days: Thu. May 14, Fri. May 15, and Sat. May 16, 2026.**  
Volunteers must be able to participate all three days.

Thirty Culver City residents selected via lottery will receive a \$675 honorarium (\$30/hr for 7.5 hrs/day over three days).

Culver City residents (age 18+) with a range of personal and professional backgrounds are invited. **No high school degree, experience with local government, policy, or budgeting required!**

**ABOUT CNDP:**  
We are a nonpartisan, civic engagement org serving the City of Culver City to connect residents. We will not sell your information.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
JOIN THE CULVER CITY CIVIC ASSEMBLY ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGET PROCESS & RECEIVE \$675!

**LEARN MORE & VOLUNTEER:**  
CNDP.US/CULVER  
EN ESPAÑOL: CNDP.US/CULVER-SP

**Culver CITY CIVIC ASSEMBLY**  
CENTER FOR NEW DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES  
332 Minnesota Street Ste W1360  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Culver City Resident  
Culver City, CA

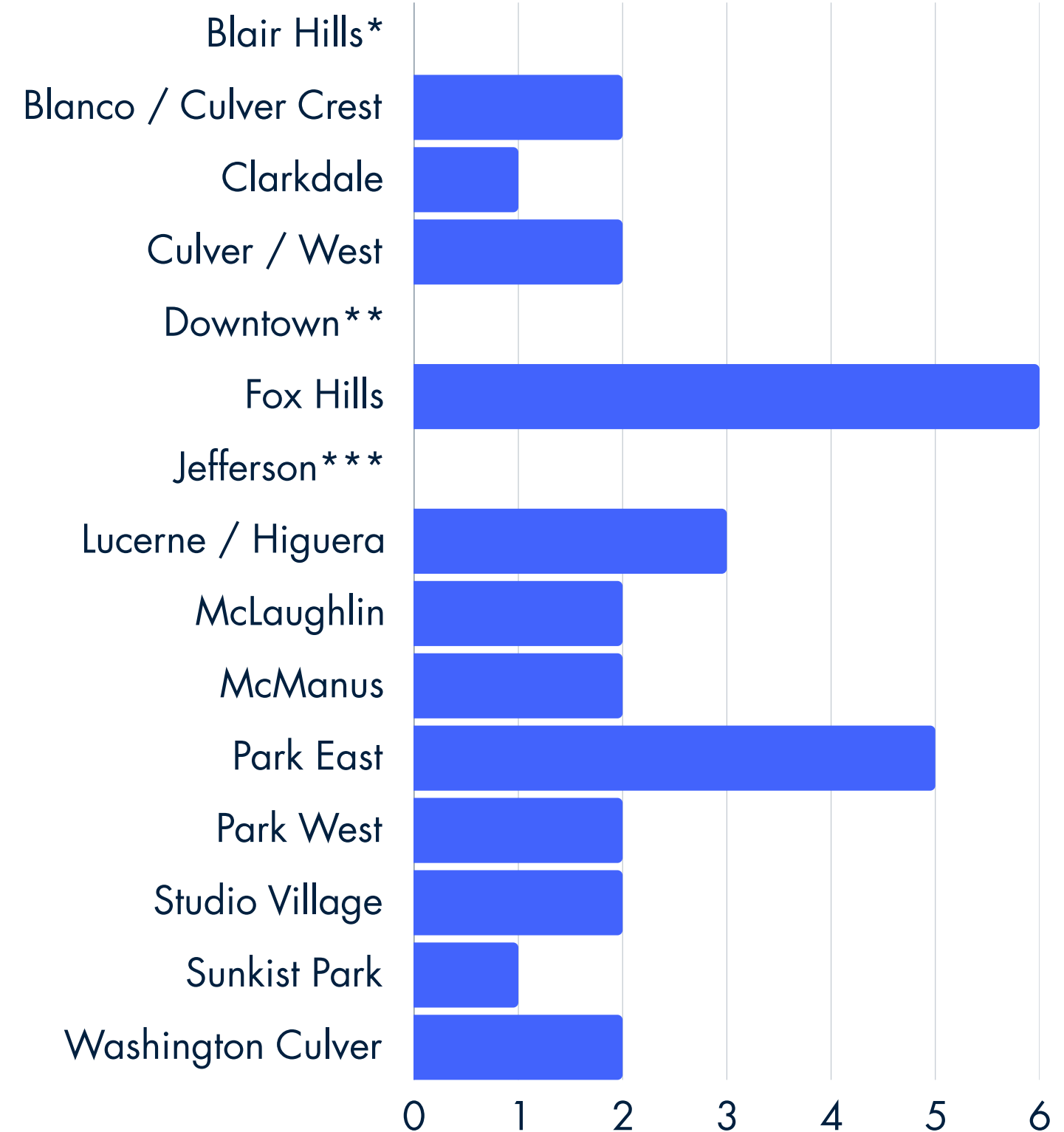
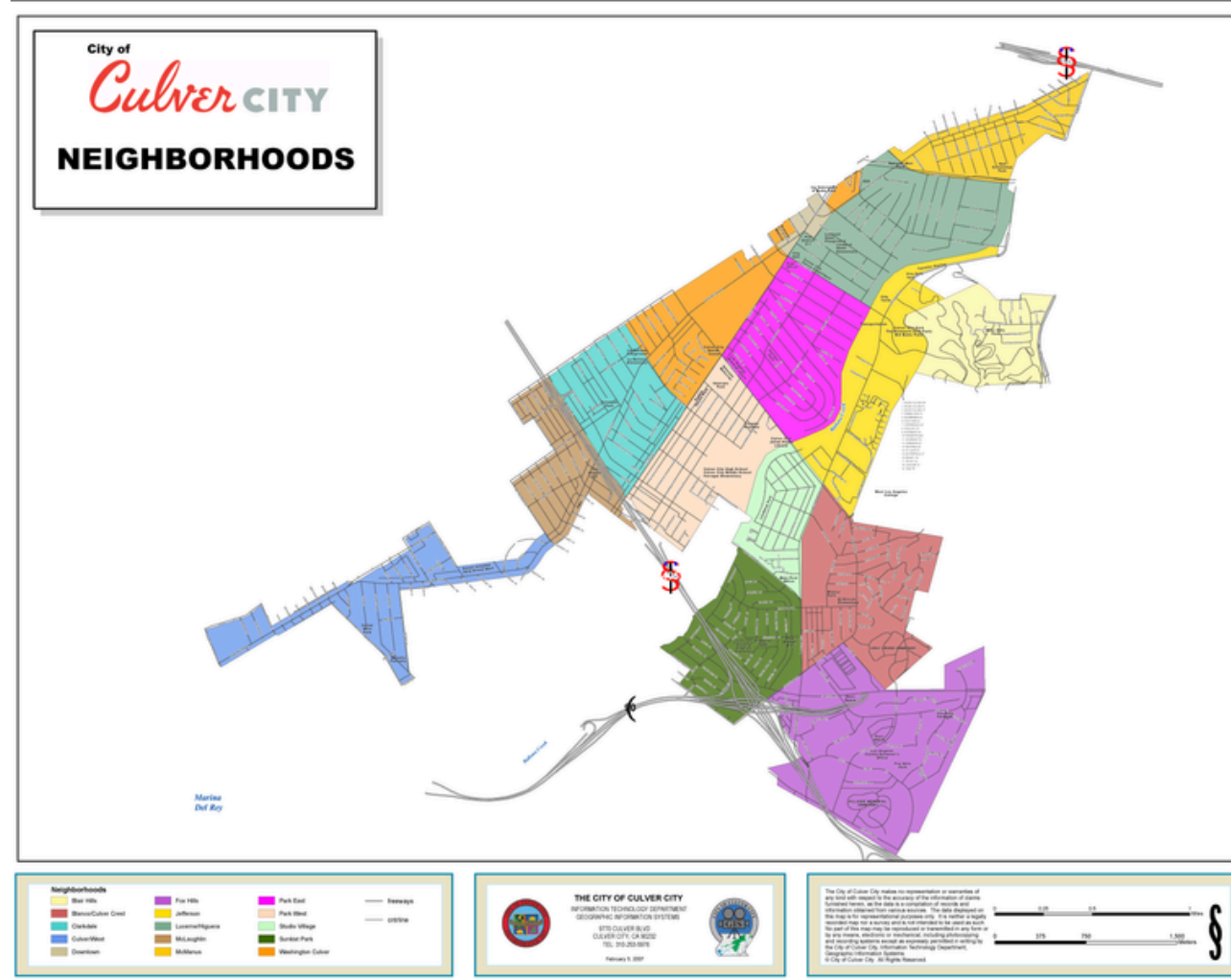
# Assembly DEMOGRAPHIC TARGETS

		# of Participants	Target Met
AGE COHORT (18+ pop.)			
	18-34	6	x
	35-64	17	x
	65+	7	x
GENDER			
	Female	15	x
	Male	13	x
	Non-binary / transgender / other	2	x
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT			
	High school or less	3	under*
	Some college / Associate's	11	over
	Bachelor's degree or higher	16	x
EMPLOYMENT STATUS			
	Full time (35+ hours/wk)	12	x
	Part time (less than 35 hrs/wk)	8	x
	Did not work in past 12 months	10	x

		# of Participants	Target Met
HOMEOWNER / RENTER			
	Homeowner	14	x
	Renter	16	x
PARTY AFFILIATION			
	Democratic Party	19	x
	Republican Party	3	x
	Independent / None / Other / Unaffiliated	8	x
RACE			
	American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, some other race alone, 2 or more races / other	5	x
	Asian alone	4	x
	Black or African-American alone	4	x
	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	4	x
	White / European-American alone	13	x

\*Educational attainment reflects gap between number of volunteers with "High school or less." Recruitment weighed "Some college / Associate's" heavier in order to account for a lower number of volunteers in the former category.

# Participant NEIGHBORHOODS



Participant residency was not included as a criteria in the lottery process due to the high number of neighborhoods, though residents were asked to include this information when they volunteered to participate.

\*No Assembly volunteers located in Blair Hills.

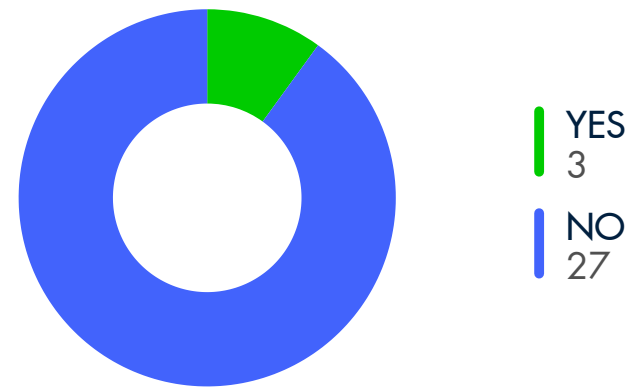
\*\*3 volunteers in Downtown; none selected by lottery.

\*\*\*10 volunteers in Jefferson; none selected by lottery.

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# Additional PARTICIPANT INFO

Service on a City Committee or Commission (ever)



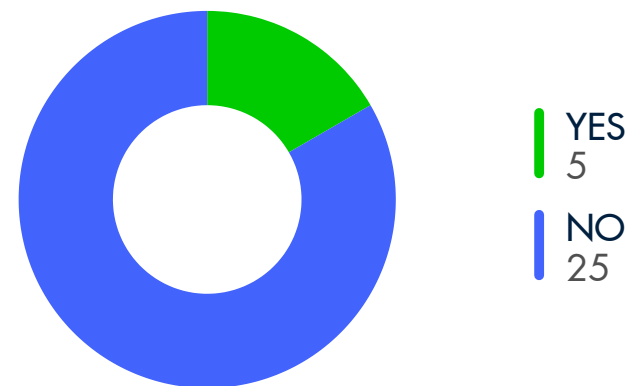
16

average number of years  
living in Culver City

From 1  
up to  
43 years

length of residency  
in Culver City

Prior Participation in City Budget Event



79%

of participants reported that they initially  
volunteered to support Culver City

100%

of Assembly members  
would join again

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# Learning Program ELEMENTS

- Introduction to the City of Culver City Government
- Culver City Finance Department & Budget Process
- Departmental Overview: Infrastructure & Innovation
- Departmental Overview: Economic Development, Vitality, & Equity
- Departmental Panel A: City Clerk | Talent Development, Labor, & Inclusion
- Departmental Panel B: City Attorney | Fire | Police



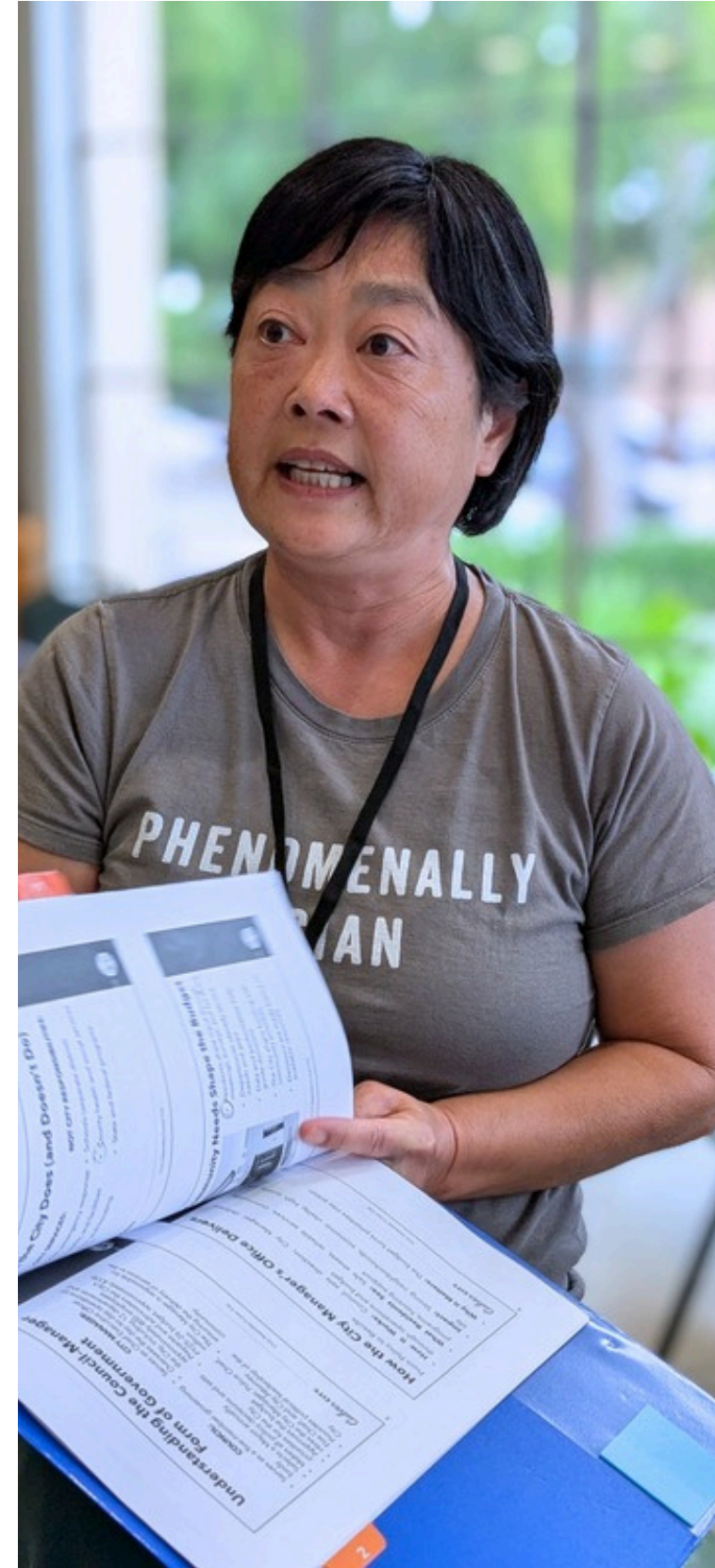


During the Civic Assembly, City Staff shared about the governance structure, operations, and services provided by the City. They also introduced participants to the budget, budget process, and discussed how community needs impact and shape the City's budget and budgeting process.





Participants and staff engaged in extensive question and answer sessions following each presentation, in order for participants to receive additional detail and clarification about Culver City's government, City budget, and budget process.



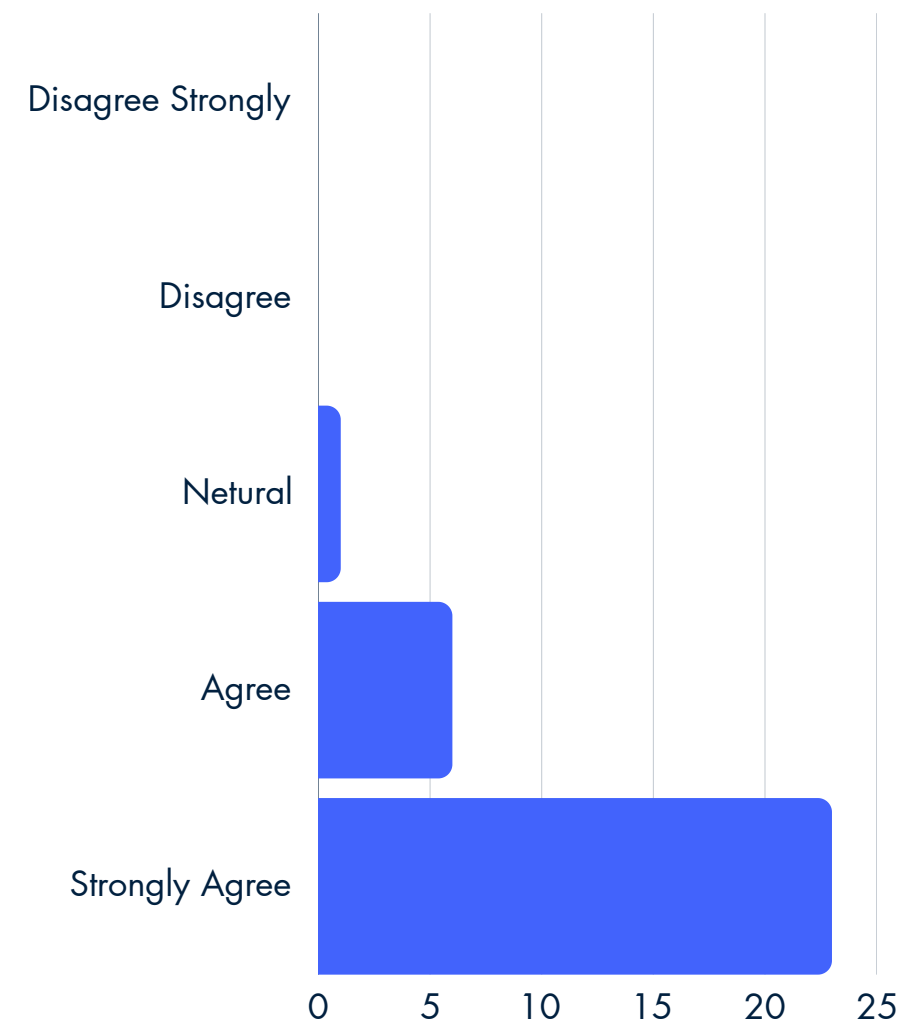
Participants learned how different City departments function, provide services, develop their annual budget requests, and engage with residents throughout both their day-to-day operations and the City budget process.



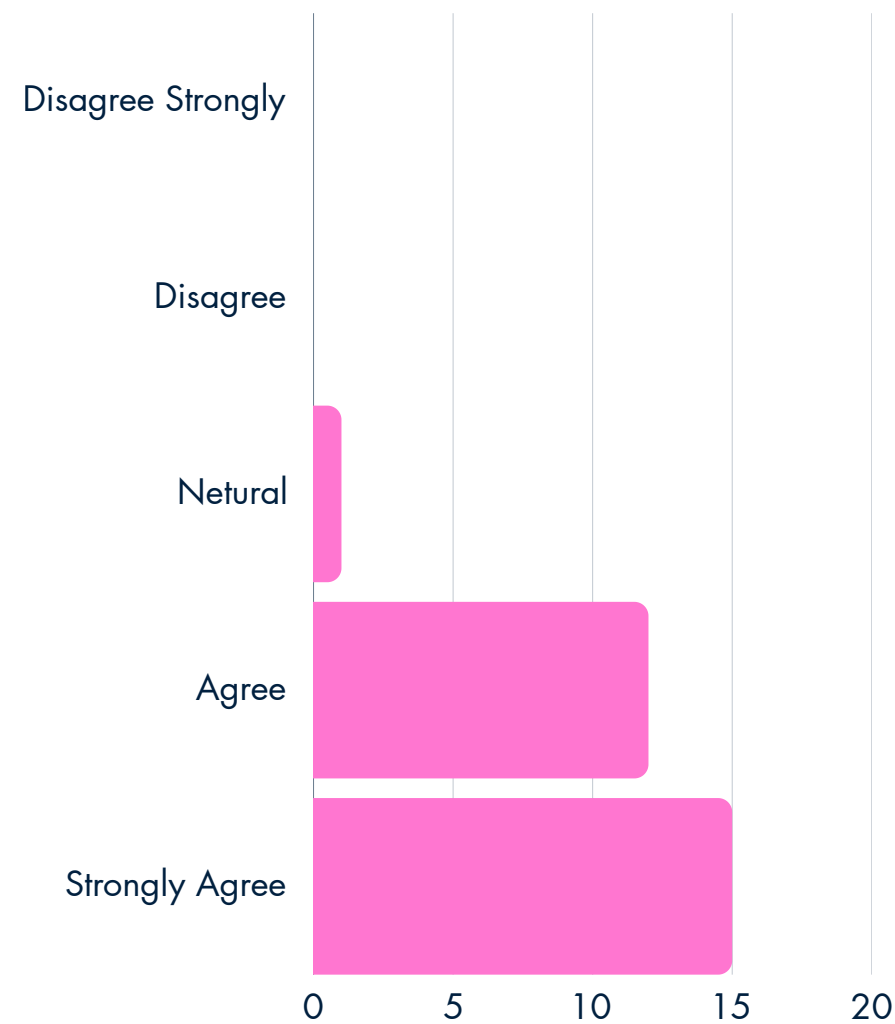
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# Participant Evaluation: INFORMATION

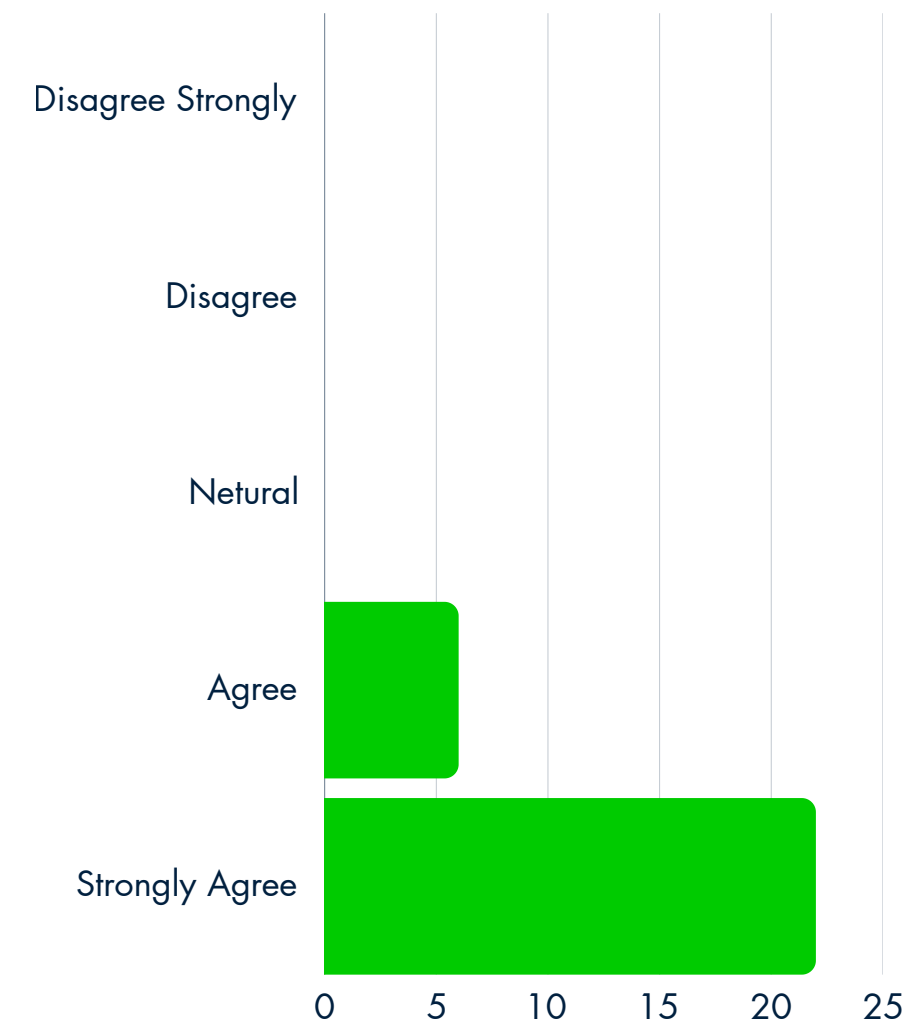
I learned a lot about the budget process and the challenges and opportunities the city faces.



The information I received helped me to participate effectively in the process.



The presenters delivered useful information.





Participants articulated challenges and opportunities related to increasing public participation in the budget process. They then deliberated and weighed competing tradeoffs in order to prioritize them.

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# SELECTED CHALLENGES

- Getting the voices of a diverse cross-section of the community is needed to truly represent the City's priorities, but connecting with specific demographics can take extra work (such as low-income individuals and immigrants).
- The public can be disconnected from how daily or regular interactions with the City lead to and inform budget development.
- There are places within the budget that residents do not have an opportunity to impact directly, so participation with the budget process on these items is not possible.
- People don't know about the budget, feel unqualified to participate, and are afraid to ask questions or get involved.
- Whether or not participation in the budget process is a priority for the general public: as long as services remain effective and satisfactory, the vast majority of the public probably doesn't have the time or inclination to drill down into the information.
- People may not recognize that their lack of participation in the budget and budget process may have negative consequences (for the things they care about) after the fact.
- The loudest voices should not always be considered the public majority.



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# SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES

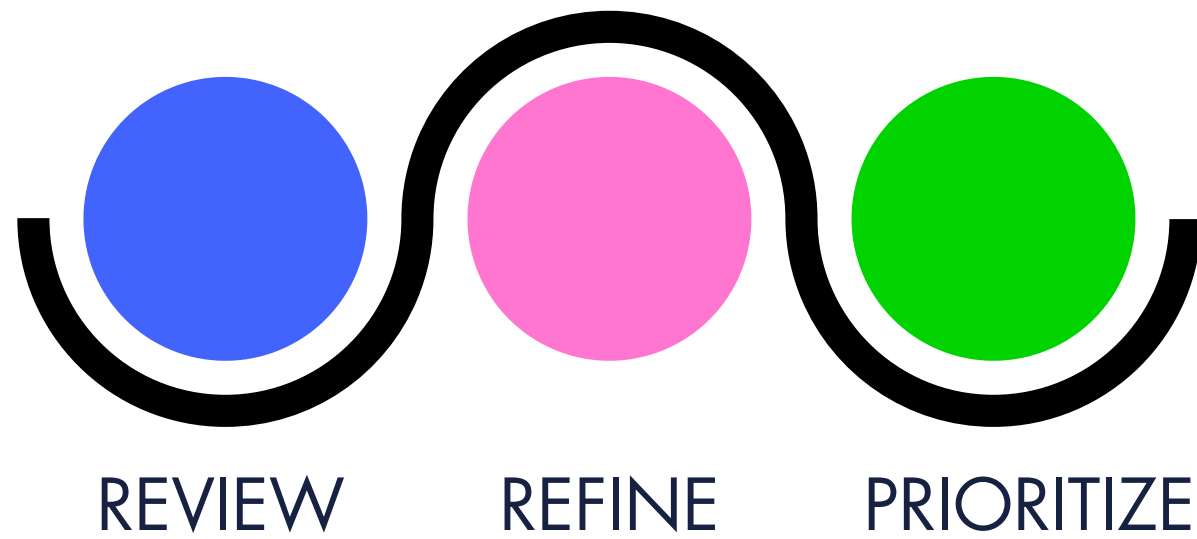
- Showing how participation resulted in nuanced or meaningful change based on the feedback the City received from the process. Promote the result and how the process shaped it.
- Meeting people where they are at (block parties, neighborhood coffee shops, social studies classes, PTAs, etc.) is an opportunity to hear from more / different residents.
- There are new ways to present budget information in simple, transparent, more accessible ways.
- An opportunity to increase participation in the budget process is the relatively small size of Culver City. Residents might actually have more ability to communicate than they believe and city employees more capacity to absorb their concerns and input.
- Perspectives from the small business community can supplement resident perspectives.
- Communicating about key performance indicators can help residents see priorities and progress.
- We have an opportunity to eliminate participation barriers within the budget process, so more residents' voices are heard by becoming conduits on behalf of our small neighborhood networks.



# POTENTIAL ACTIONS

# 100+

potential actions to increase participation  
in the budget process identified by  
participants in the May 2026 Assembly



participants in the July 2026 Civic Assembly  
will work with and prioritize actions



# Participant Evaluation: EXPERIENCE & PROCESS



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# The Participants' Experiences IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"This work is hopefully helpful for decision-makers in achieving their goals, but it was also greatly beneficial to me as a resident. It made me much more aware of the opportunity that exists to get involved with and contribute to the city, and was very educational in understanding how the city functions - I'm excited for more of these opportunities in the future."

"This assembly was very interesting and eye-opening as to how the budget is influenced and determined. At first it was a bit daunting to go into a room filled with strangers, who also might be my neighbors, and discuss opinions about how I think things should be run. But just like classic Culver, everyone was genuinely welcoming and so friendly. Made me feel so at ease so quickly."

"We, the residents of Culver City, desire to be co-creators with decision makers. We spent many days / hours coming up with ideas to help make that desire a reality. We care about our city and appreciate what you do to help make Culver City the place to be!"

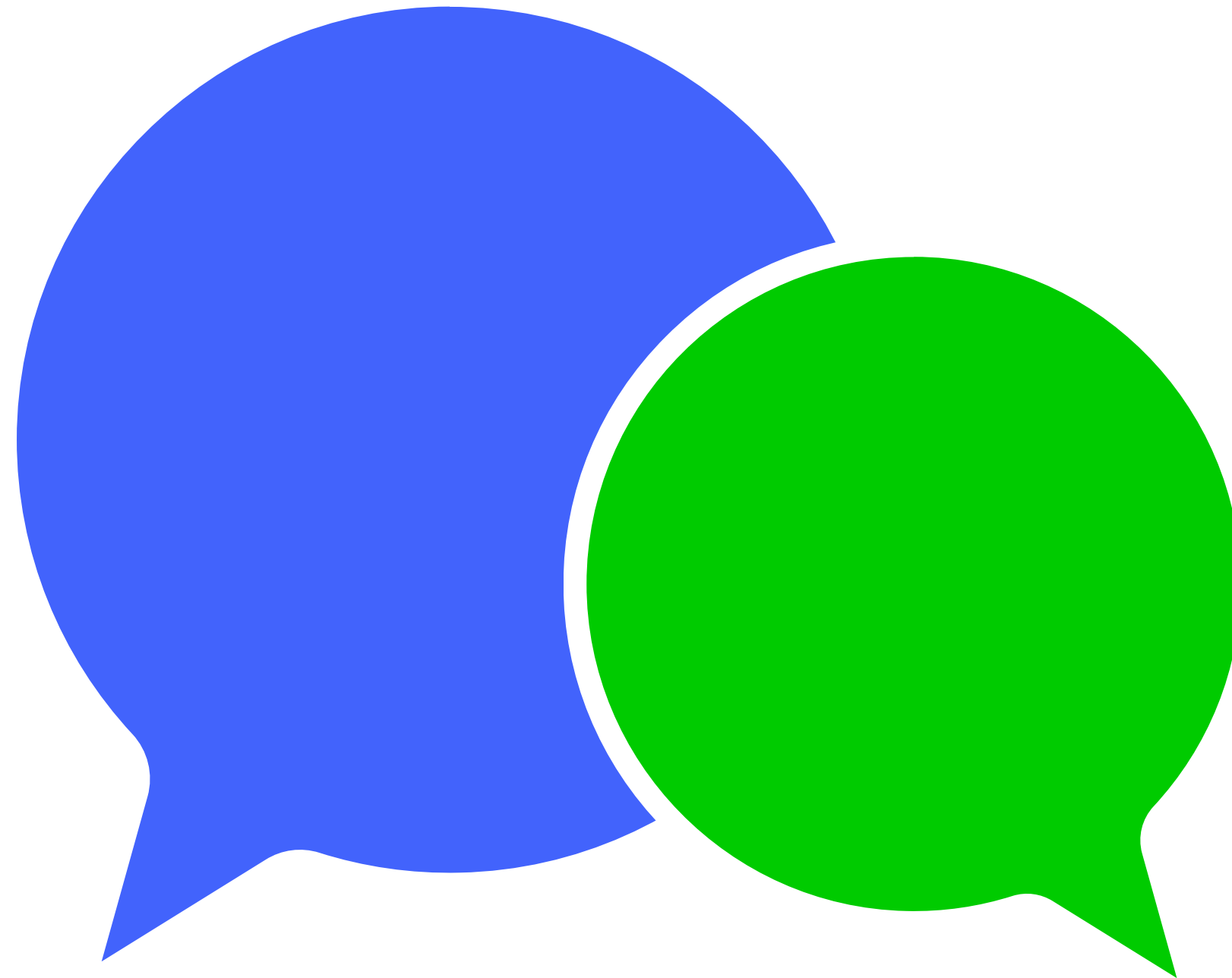
"The Civic Assembly was really instrumental in identifying the challenges, opportunities, and action steps to increase public participation in the budget process. The main thing is making residents aware that they can review and provide input on the budget either as a whole or on specific areas of the budget. It's important that executives do their part in increasing awareness for Culver City residents, as well."

"The city employees / managers care about what we, as residents, think to the point that they created this "think tank" to find out how they can reach us to get us involved. We spent three days actively working on getting more participation and the officials came down, spent time with us, and answered questions."

"As a result of the work accomplished by the Culver Civic Assembly, the groundwork has been established to make the budget process as equitable and inclusive as possible. From the suggestions that were made, the next Civic Assembly can refine the actual ways to include as many citizens as possible."

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# The Participants' Experiences IN THEIR OWN WORDS



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# WHAT'S NEXT?

- Next Assembly Session: July 16 - July 18
- Participant Recruitment
- Refining & Prioritizing Actions + Defining Success
- Final Report to Council
- Coordination with City Staff to disseminate Assembly results and respond to Assembly recommendations



# THANK YOU!

