

Toronto **2015** **BUDGET**

How to Get Involved in the Budget Process

Every time you use a park or recreation centre, get a book from the library, have your garbage or recycling picked up, drink clean water, ride the TTC or have emergency services rush to your aid when you make a 911 call – you are using a City of Toronto service.

City services touch your life every day. That's why the City's budget is so important. More than just deciding what gets taxed and by how much, the budget is Council's plan for the City. City Council, through the budget, directs staff on how to fund its priorities for that year. It is aligned with the City's strategic plan and determines the level of service provided to Toronto residents. It also identifies what infrastructure – roads, buildings and public transit – we can afford to build, buy or repair.

Be informed

The first step is to be informed. You can learn about the budget process on our website at toronto.ca/budget2015 and in our Budget Basics brochure, "Understanding the Toronto City Budget."

The staff recommended tax and rate supported operating and capital budgets will be presented at Budget Committee on Tuesday, January 20. At that meeting, the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, and the Director of Financial Planning will present the staff recommended operating and capital budgets to Budget Committee members, the public, and the media.

After the launch of the budget, you will be able to find a copy of the presentations, along with supporting documents such as program service summaries and analyst notes for each City program and agency, at toronto.ca/budget2015.

Be engaged

You can follow the development of the budget as it is reviewed, debated, changed and approved by the Budget Committee, Executive Committee and then City Council. During this process, staff will present the budget and councillors will move motions and vote on the budget. Details on the when and where meetings are held are available at toronto.ca/council.

Timelines for the 2015 Budget

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Budget Launch

January 20

Briefings and Service Level Review

January 26-29

Public Presentations

(Deputations)

February 2 and 3

Program Reviews

February 4 and 5

Budget Committee Wrap Up

(Motions Placed)

February 13

Budget Committee Final Wrap Up

(Motions and Voting)

February 20

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Presentation to Committee

March 2

CITY COUNCIL

Presentation to Council

(Motions and Voting)

March 10 and 11

Be heard

There are several ways to share your views on the budget. You can:

1. Make a public presentation to the Budget subcommittee. There will be public consultation sessions held at:

City Hall, Committee Room 1

100 Queen St. West

February 2, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. onwards

Etobicoke Civic Centre, Council Chamber

399 The West Mall

February 2, 3 - 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. onwards

Scarborough Civic Centre, Council Chamber

150 Borough Drive

February 3, 3 - 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. onwards

North York Civic Centre, Council Chamber

5100 Yonge Street

February 3, 3 - 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. onwards

Individuals may only make one presentation at any of the consultation sessions. To register to speak, call 416-392-4666 or email buc@toronto.ca.

To find out more on how you can participate, visit toronto.ca/council.

2. Can't attend in person? Submit a written deputation to the Budget Committee by e-mail buc@toronto.ca, fax 416-392-1879 or mail to Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 10th floor, West Tower, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2.
3. Send a letter or email to your local City Councillor. For information on how to contact your City Councillor, call 311.

Toronto City Council will review and approve the final tax and rate supported operating budgets and the 2015-2024 capital budgets at its meeting on March 10 and 11.