



Community Conversations

225

Invitations Sent



72

Responses Received



35

Attendees



40%

New to a City Planning Process

"We think people will be more passionate and more likely to get involved and contribute to their community if they know what's happening and they understand the issues..."

-Participant

The City of Olympia is committed to the nondiscriminatory treatment of all persons in the employment and the delivery of services and resources.

City Budget Priorities

Thank you for being a part of our first Community Conversation on Saturday, April 14! You were invited by the City Council's Finance Committee to be part of a conversation on our City's most important priorities.

Mayor Cheryl Selby, Councilmember Jessica Bateman, and Councilmember Lisa Parshley listened as you shared your thoughts and ideas on what is working well, what needs improvement, and what "better" would look like.

We heard you, and this handout is our way of letting you know what we learned. It's also how we will keep your priorities front and center as we move through this year's budget process. We invite you to continue to stay involved by visiting olympiawa.gov/budget



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We Listened

Below are the top 10 priorities we heard you say a

Priorities	What We Heard
1 Walkability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sidewalks • Maintain existing sidewalks • Provide walkable routes to downtown so people can do their shopping close to home • Connect walking paths
2 Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategy for alleviating homelessness • Olympia is too divided on homelessness...we need to come together with compassion • People who work downtown can't afford to live downtown
3 Mental Health and Drug Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address mental health issues • Those with the greatest health and mental health issues are under-served or not served • Train police and park staff in mental health awareness, response, and de-escalation techniques
4 Parks and Green-Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve urban green space in neighborhoods, including downtown • Maintain urban corridors for wildlife • Provide parks so that we all can enjoy our environment and gain [a greater] appreciation
5 Arts, Recreation, and Events for All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more free activities for all ages • We need a recreation center for teenagers • Support more family places all throughout Olympia
6 Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more walking and neighborhood patrols • Center on the needs of the most vulnerable and it will increase overall safety • Clean up the local well—not a safe place to go like it used to be • Reduce and slow down traffic in neighborhoods
7 Workforce Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, plan and prepare for the jobs of the future • Prepare current residents for jobs providing livable wages • How can the City help our current residents develop skills that support our local economy
8 Accessibility to Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need a grocery store downtown and in each quadrant of the City • Find ways to reduce stress...[with] access to transit and services • Provide more public restrooms • Encourage more neighborhood businesses
9 Transparency and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the data • Build more trust between the [Olympia Police Department] and community • Extend civic participation to all • Lack of transparency and listening to people who live in neighborhoods
10 Long-Term and Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep [the] small town feel • Growth for the sake of growth alone seems self-defeating related to the impacts • Provide more clarity from the City on what the long-term strategies are or economic development

COMMUNITY VISION

Community, Safety, & Health

- Inclusive, Respectful, Civic Participation
- A Safe and Prepared Community
- Health and Wellness
- A Quality Education
- Adequate Food and Shelter

Downtown

- A Safe and Welcoming Downtown for All
- A Mix of Urban Housing Options
- A Variety of Businesses
- Connections to Our Cultural and Historic Fabric
- Engaged Arts and Entertainment Experiences
- A Vibrant, Attractive, Urban Destination

re most important to consider during this year's budget process.

What's Already Happening	What We Need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown street improvement projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More sidewalks in neighborhoods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Fund Missing Middle Multi-family tax exemption Homeless response plan 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Response Program Enhanced training Home Fund 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park and green space acquisitions and improvements (Metropolitan Park District) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in green space used in every type of development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced downtown programming Support for the Olympia Downtown Association and Parking and Business Improvement Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More free, low-cost, and family-oriented events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police neighborhood liaison Enhanced code enforcement Downtown Walking Patrol Downtown Ambassadors and Clean Team 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business recruitment and retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long-term approach to workforce and economic development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public restrooms downtown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More services located in neighborhoods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Indicator Dashboard Community Conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More community conversations and earlier in a planning or decision-making process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown Strategy implementation Action Plan Regional Climate Action Plan; Sea Level Rise Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earlier and more consistent communication about plans and processes

Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abundant Local Products and Services A Thriving Arts and Entertainment Industry Sustainable Quality Infrastructure A Stable Thriving Economy 	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Water and Air A Daily Connection to Nature A Toxin-Free Community Preserved, Quality Natural Areas 	Neighborhoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive Places and Gathering Spaces Neighborhoods are Engaged in Community Decision Making Safe and Welcoming Places to Live Nearby Goods and Services
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Meet Your City Council



Cheryl Selby
Mayor



Nathaniel Jones
Mayor Pro Tem



Clark Gilman



Lisa Parshley*



Jessica Bateman*



Jim Cooper*



Renata Rollins

*Finance Committee Members



"Olympia as [a] whole [is] only the sum of its neighborhoods."

Better would look like..."More clarity from the City on what are the long-term strategies."

Better would look like..."More people of all income levels actively recreating outdoors."

"This is just the beginning...there's an interest to keep this kind of conversation going and expand it beyond the finance committee...what you said today will echo as we build this budget. Your voices will shape those decisions..." -Councilmember Lisa Parshley

"There is a lot of perception that downtown is worse, and we talked about how to change perception and also address [the] needs of everyone (people who want to come downtown and spend money, people who don't, and everyone in between."

